



# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP  
Devoted to the Study  
of the Postal History  
of Germany 1933-1945

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## Contents:

Page 3	Combat Division Profile: 285th Security Division - J. Lewis
Page 4	Story Behind the Stamp: Parsifal - K. Stefanacci
Page 5	Combat Division Profile: 295th Infantry Division - J. Lewis
Page 6	Rejected by Censor: Commercial Meter Mail - M. Fox
Page 7	Feldpost Fundamentals: Mute Feldpost Cancels (Section I) - J. Lewis
Page 16	Special Cancels "1936 Olympic Games" - B. Ferguson
Page 17	Two Late Third Reich Stamps: Mi. 795A & Mi. 908 - B. Beede
Page 20	Combat Division Profile: 340th Infantry Division - J. Lewis
Page 21	Navy Log: Auxiliary Minelayer 'Kaiser' - R. Dunn
Page 22	Combat Division Profile: 252nd Infantry Division - J. Lewis
Page 23	TRSG Auction No. 89



## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**U-180 Mail:** –TRSGer Ben Beede asks “When the U-180 met the Japanese submarine I-29 in the Indian Ocean in 1943 to transfer Chandra Gupta Bose, the Indian nationalist leader, the two submarines exchanged cargo. The cargo transferred to U-180 from I-29 included ‘over half a ton of mail, documents, and drawings from the German embassy in Tokyo.’ (1) Does anyone know anything more about the “mail” exchanged during this meeting?”

(1) Clay Blair, **Hitler’s U-Boat War: The Hunted 1942-1945** (New York: Random House, 1996), p.232.

**Feldgrau.com** – this is a web site for non-political military history research. It contains much detailed information on the German Armed Forces between 1919-1945 and is highly recommended.

**Ration Strength of the Wehrmacht on September 1, 1943** -TRSGer John Painter supplied the following report found on microfilm from Personnel Office of the General Staff in Zossen showing the actual number of persons receiving rations from the Wehrmacht.

	Army	Luftwaffe	Navy	Waffen-SS	Totals
Feldheer (Field Army)	4,497,000	150,000			4,647,000
Luftwaffe Flak units with Feldheer		990,000			990,000
Naval units attached to the Feldheer			170,000		170,000
Feldheer in Occupied Eastern Areas	526,000				526,000
Luftwaffe units in Greater Germany		393,000			393,000
Kriegsmarine (Navy)	39,000	106,000	472,000		617,000
Waffen-SS				280,000	280,000
Ersatzheer (Replacement Army)	1,734,000		33,000		1,767,000
Ersatz Luftwaffe		363,000			363,000
Ersatz SS				70,000	70,000
	<b>6,769,000</b>	<b>2,002,000</b>	<b>675,000</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>9,823,000</b>
Special SS Units and Police Regiments	600,000		Italian Divisional Formations		60,000
Osttruppen, Legions with Feldheer	670,752		RAD, OT and NSKK Units		966,823
In Reich, General Govt., Ostland & Ukraine	207,647		POWs working for Military		1,225,421
Osttruppen with the Navy	822				2,249,244
	<b>1,478,221</b>		→	→	<b>1,478,221</b>
					<b>3,732,464</b>
				<b>Total</b>	<b>13,555,000</b>

### Prices Realized – Auction # 88

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
2	\$ 35.00	42	\$ 25.00	52	\$12.00	60	\$ 9.00	69	\$ 26.00
5	105.00	43	25.00	53	12.00	61	10.00	70	26.00
8	105.00	45	12.00	54	17.00	62	25.00	71	26.00
9	15.00	46	12.00	55	17.00	63	27.00	72	25.00
11	65.00	47	16.00	56	18.00	64	9.00	73	28.00
18	25.00	48	27.00	57	12.00	65	9.00	74	38.00
25	25.00	49	12.00	58	25.00	66	12.00	75	27.00
28	25.00	50	17.00	59	17.00	67	17.00	76	10.00
32	60.00	51	12.00	60	9.00	68	26.00	77	18.00

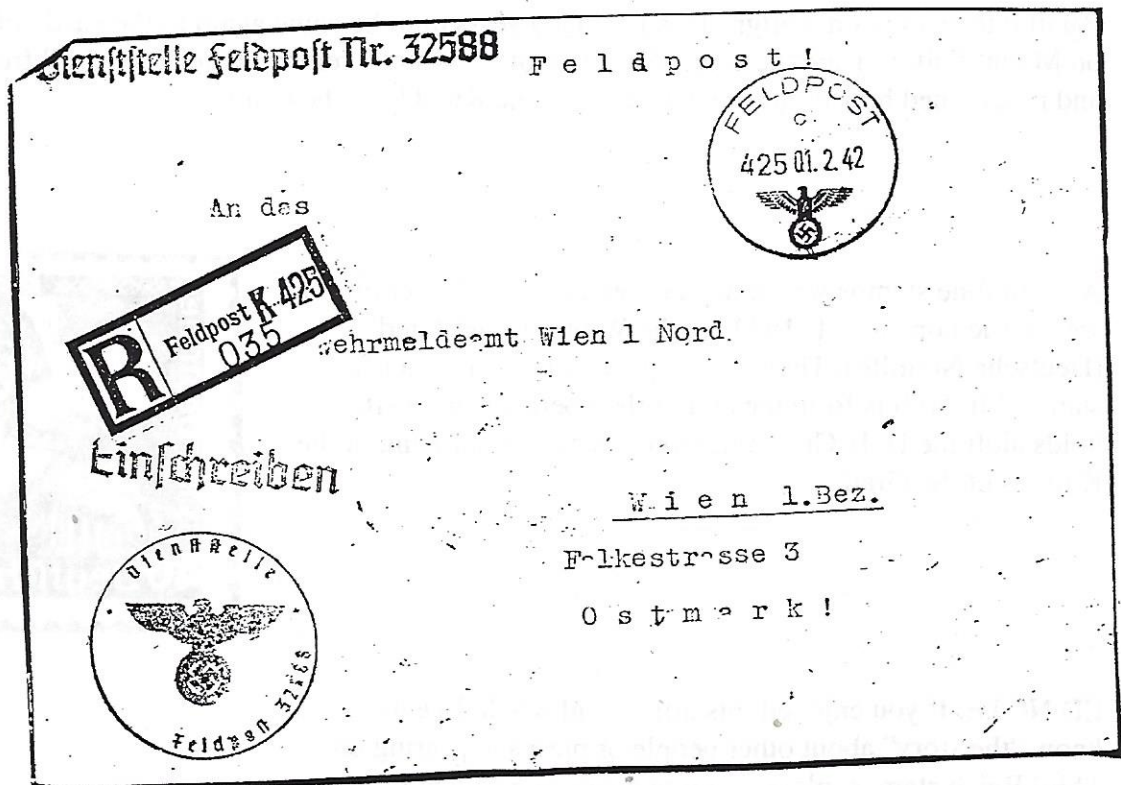
**Cover Illustration** - posted in Berlin on April 10, 1945, this registered cover with a copy of Mi. 908 (Volkssturm semi-postal) could not be delivered and was returned to sender on September 8, 1945. The article beginning on Page 17 details the known usage of two late Third Reich stamps.

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 285th Security Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS		COMPANIES	
TACT.	KENN	SECURITY		FUSILIER	AUXIL
322	425	113	322	285	285

This "Sicherungs" (Security) division was formed in April/May 1941 in Gross-Born. The division post office was assigned Feldpost # 32588 to be used as a return address. In addition, this post office was assigned Kenn 425 for registered mail in lieu of its tactical designation FpA 322. Transferred to the Eastern Front in June 1941, it performed rear area and Lines of Communication duties for Army Group North. Elements of this division were encircled in Kholm from January to May 1942 along with elements of the 281st Security Division.

The 285th Security Division remained in the rear areas for the next two years. It engaged in anti-partisan operations and then in the Leningrad withdrawal. It was sent into the front line to oppose the Soviet summer offensive of 1944 and was virtually annihilated. While remnants of the 285th division were placed under operational control of the 20th SS Grenadier Division in September 1944, the division was disbanded on November 9, 1944.



Cover sent to Military District Command in Vienna in January 1942 from Fp. # 32588 (Battalion IV of 113th Security Regiment) via Field P.O. 322 (K-425).

## Story Behind the Stamp: Wagner's "Parsifal"

by Kelly Stefanacci

Richard Wagner's last opera was "Parsifal", whose name in English is Galahad. He was born in France during the time when Arthur was King of Britain. According to legend he was the son of Gahmuret, a younger son of the royal house of Anjou, and his second wife Herzeloide, a princess of France. His father died soon after his birth and the boy grew up at the French court, being educated as a prince of the royal blood.

When he came of age, Parsifal traveled to the court of King Arthur, where he was knighted and where he married the beautiful Kondwiramur. This marriage produced a son, Lohengrin, but soon after Parsifal left King Arthur's court to seek his mother at the castle of the Holy Grail. There he found that Amfortas, chief guardian of the Grail, had been seriously wounded with his own high badge of office, the sacred spear that had pierced the side of Christ. Amfortas had allowed the spear to come into the hands of the magician Klingsor, who had wounded him so badly, that he was unable to perform the ceremonies of the Grail, which was the chalice used at the Last Supper.

In Wagner's opera, Parsifal went in search of Klingsor and the spear. The temptations, which the witch Kundry had used to turn aside all of the knights who had come to fight Klingsor, were of no avail against Parsifal the Pure. When Klingson hurled the spear at him with great force, it halted in mid-air and floated gently into Parsifal's hand, which then made the sign of the cross with it. When this happened, an earthquake destroyed Klingsor's palace.

Parsifal then went on a pilgrimage for many years until he came again to the castle of the Holy Grail on Mount Salvat. There he cured Amfortas of his wound, removed the Holy Grail from the tabernacle and proclaimed himself as the new King of the Knights of the Grail.

A set of nine stamps which depict scenes from Wagner operas were issued on Nov. 1, 1933 for the Winter Relief Fund (Deutsche Nothilfe). The scene depicted on the 40+35 Pfg. stamp (Mi. 507) is from the end of the opera when Parsifal holds aloft the Holy Grail and pronounces himself King of the Knights of the Grail.



ED NOTE: If you enjoyed this article and would like to know "the story" about other people or places appearing on Third Reich stamps, please send requests to Ye Olde Ed.

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

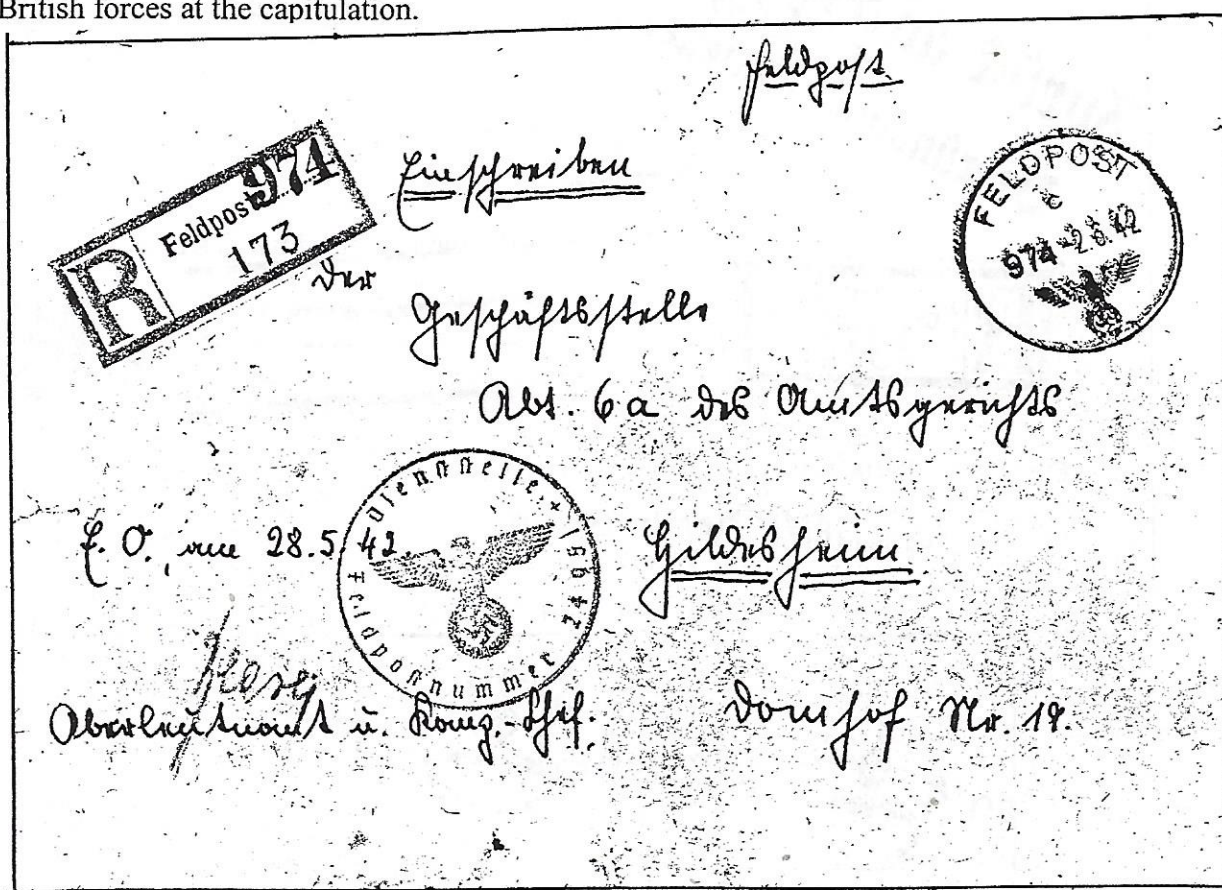
### 295th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
295	974	516	517	518	295	295

The 295th Infantry Division was formed in April 1940 from newly trained soldiers in Wehrkreis XI. Their post office was assigned Fp.# 38388 as a mailing address and Kenn 974 for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 295. This division first saw action in the southern sector of the Russian Front in 1941 and then advanced across the Ukraine and Donets until turned back by the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42. In 1942 the 295th Infantry Division took part in the Kharkov-Izyum battles, Voronezh and Kalach. By November 1942 it had advanced on Stalingrad as an element of LI Army Corps. At Stalingrad it was surrounded and surrendered to the Red Army in late January 1943.

A second 295th Infantry Division was organized in Norway in late 1943 to replace the division destroyed at Stalingrad. The new Post Office was assigned Fp# 36510 and Kenn 199. This division remained in the Molde area of Norway for the remainder of the war, except for the 518th Grenadier Regiment, which was sent to the Lofoten Islands in the summer of 1944. The division surrendered to British forces at the capitulation.



Cover sent in June 1942 from Fp. # 24951 (Kompanie 1 of Pionier Bataillon 295) via P.O. 295 (K-974).

# Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Myron Fox

## Meter Mail Rejected

Section 3. Supplementary order of May 13, 1940: "The sender is expressly advised that the Reichspost has no authority for determining admissibility of mail according to regulations. The intelligence officers of the military districts are responsible for such decisions. Return of fees for returned mail does not occur in any case."

This registered commercial cover sent from Berlin to Switzerland in August 1942 has 55 Pfg. postage applied via meter. It was forwarded to the Berlin Censor office which rejected it after adding sealing tape printed 'Geöffnet' (Opened) and "Geprüft" (Examined) hand stamps to the backside. The front side is hand stamped "Return to Sender. Reason Enclosed". Note the Berlin-Steglitz P.O. back stamp.



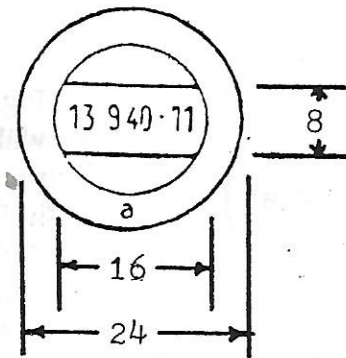
# Fundamentals of Feldpost Collecting

## Part 12. Mute Feldpost Cancels

by Jim Lewis

In an earlier section dealing with Feldpost dispatched by civilian post offices the use of special **stummenstempel** (mute cancels) on Feldpost with 5-digit return addresses was discussed. These **stumme** Cancels exist in many varieties and offer many collecting possibilities. In his classic "**Kleines Handbuch der Deutschen Feldpost**" (Little Handbook for German Feldpost), Alfred Clements included an appendix listing mute cancels. These cancels are listed according to design and size measured in millimeters.

Clement lists cancel sizes in terms of outer diameter, inner diameter and date bridge width. For example, the double-ring/date bridge design shown below is listed in Clement as "24/16/8".



Were this cancel a single ring/date bridge design, Clement would have listed the size as "24/0/8".

His method provides a ready means for identifying cancels in one's collection.

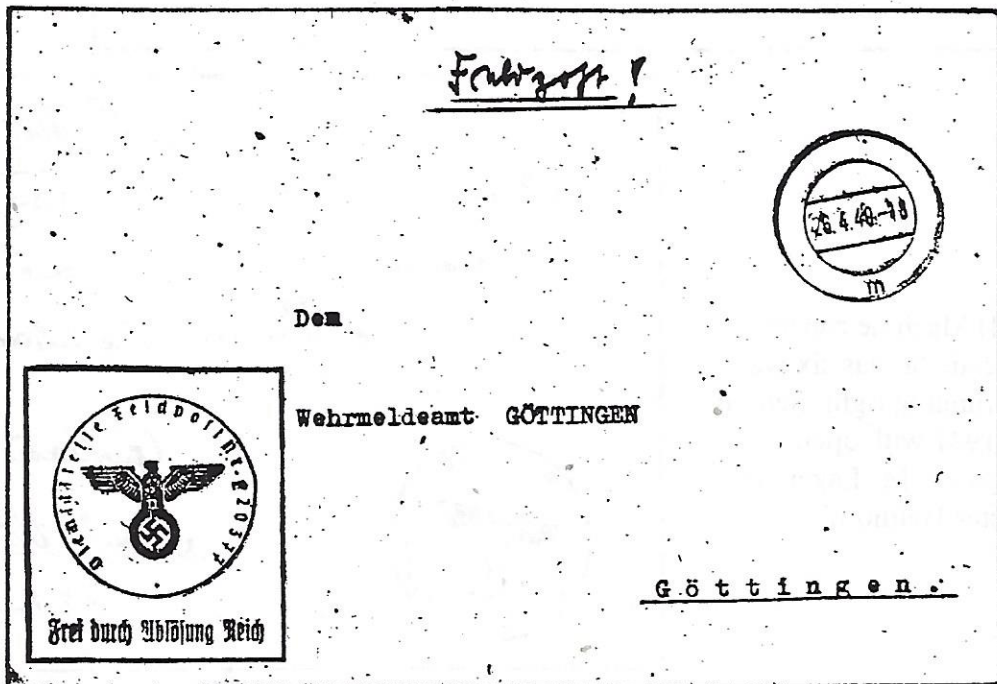
Further identification is possible on those cancels with **Schalterbuchstaben** (counter letters). These are usually located at the bottom portion of the cancel. Finally, machine and roller cancels also differ in the number, location and shape of the lines found adjacent to the date cancel.

With all of this physical design information defined, we can now proceed with a review of all the major mute cancel designs.

### I.) Double-ring/date bridge

This **Ringsteg** cancel is one of the commonest types and is found in hand, machine, slogan and roller styles. Shown below (Fig. 1) is an official Feldpost cover sent in April '40 from Fp. # L20377 (4. Flughafen Betr. Kp./Kampf Geschwader 4). Note the letter code "m" which Clements lists as having been used in Austria.

Fig. 1



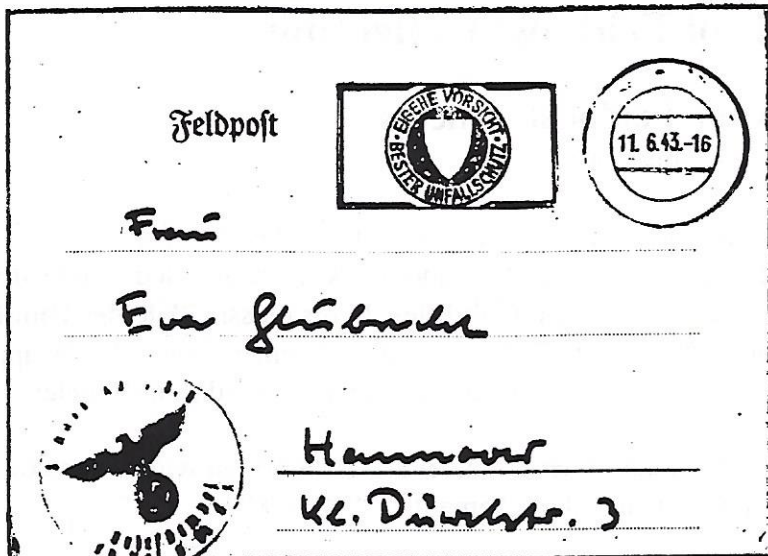


Fig. 2) Slogan cancel on cover sent in June 1943 with open unit identity of Luftwaffe Signals Regiment. Clement lists this cancel as used in Mainz..

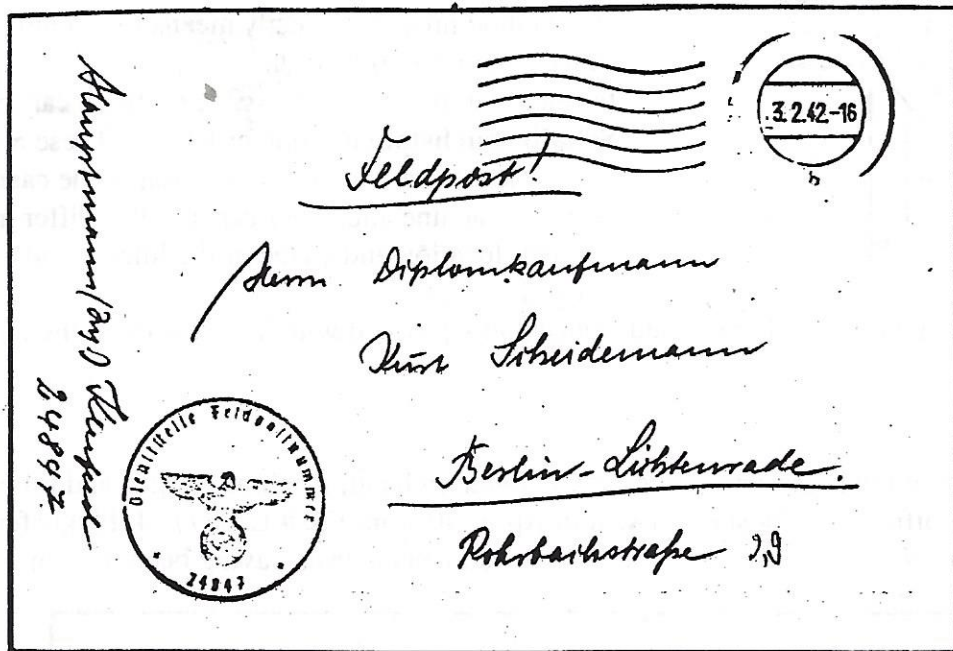
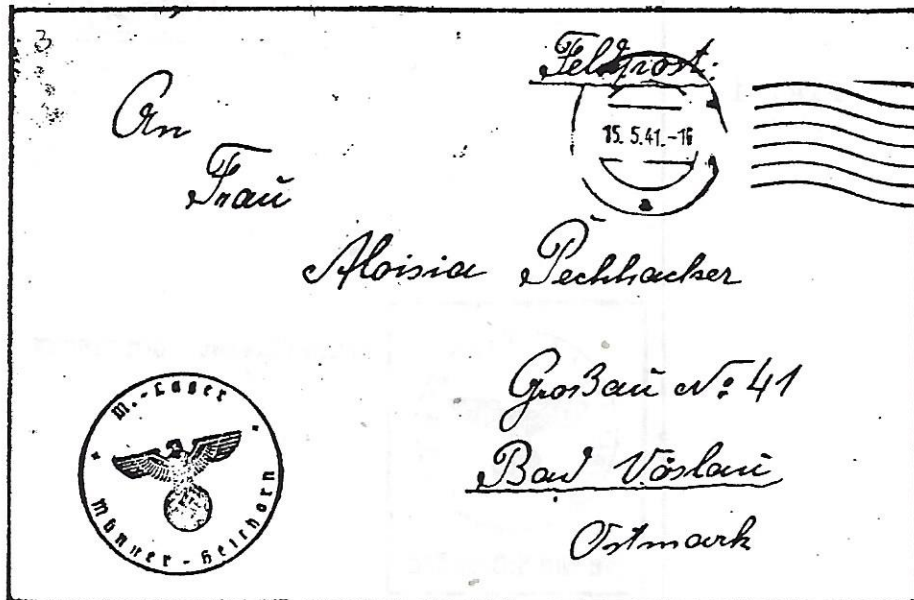


Fig. 3) Machine cancel with six wavy lines running left. Cover sent in Feb. '42 from Fp.# 24847 (Stab Beobachtung Abtl. 1). Clements doesn't identify this code 'b' cancel.

Fig. 4) Machine cancel with code 'a' has six wavy lines running right. Sent in May 1941 with open address of "M.-Lager" in Münster-Heithorn.





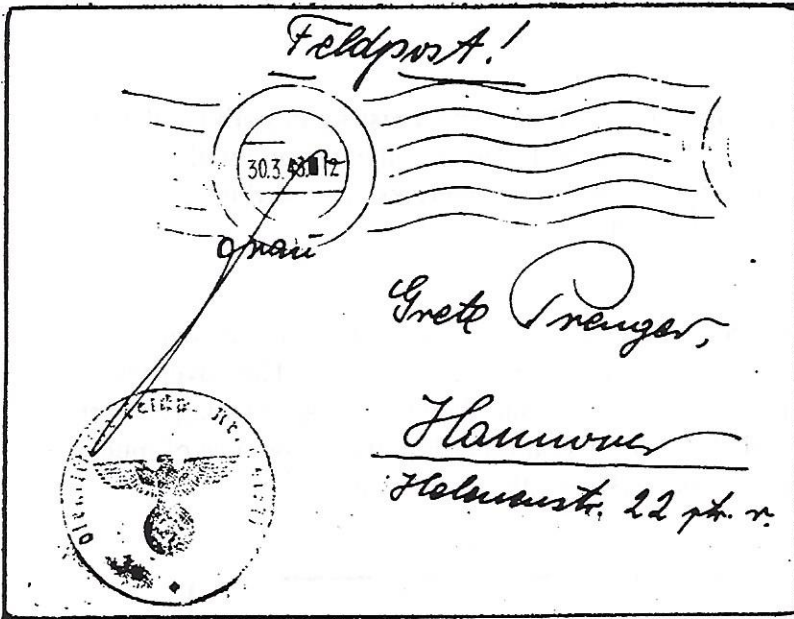


Fig. 5) Roller cancel with six wavy lines on cover sent in March 1943 from Fp.# L41371 (Transport Column III/Air Signals Regiment 14).

Clement lists this cancel as being used in the General Gouvernement.

Fig. 6) Roller cancel with six straight lines on cover sent in July 1940 with open unit "3. Luftwaffe-Bau Kp. 13/XI" in Hamburg-Riffen.

Clement lists this cancel as used in Hannover.

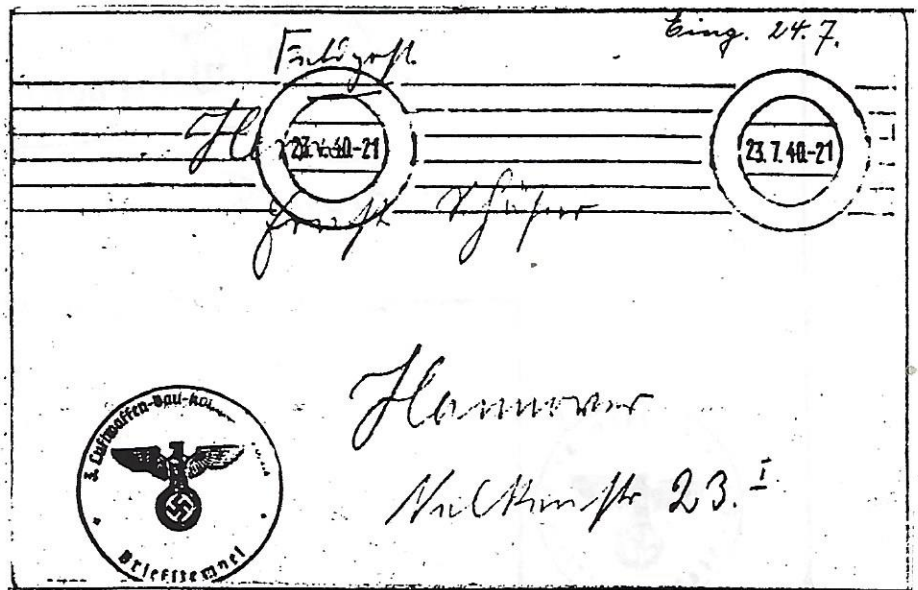


Fig. 7) Unusual roller cancel with seven broken lines is a modified city cancel with top & bottom of circles removed. Cover sent in March 1943 from Fp.# L16516 (HQ of (reserve) Heavy Flak Battalion 222).

Clement lists this cancel as used in Berlin-Charlottenburg.



## II.) Ring/segment/date bridge

The **Kreisbrücke** cancel is the second most common mute type, existing in both hand and roller style. The majorities of these cancels measure 26/15/9mm and are found with combinations of letters, numerals and asterisks. Those with asterisks are noted in Clements as having been used by civil post offices in Poland.

Fig. 8) An early item, this cover sent in September 1939 has an open unit seal which identifies the sender as a member of Abtl. III of Flak Regiment 36. The cover was hand stamped at sub-post office Wolfenbüttel B and then forwarded to a larger post office that applied a mute cancel. Such confusion regarding the proper use of mute cancels was not uncommon during the early months of the war.

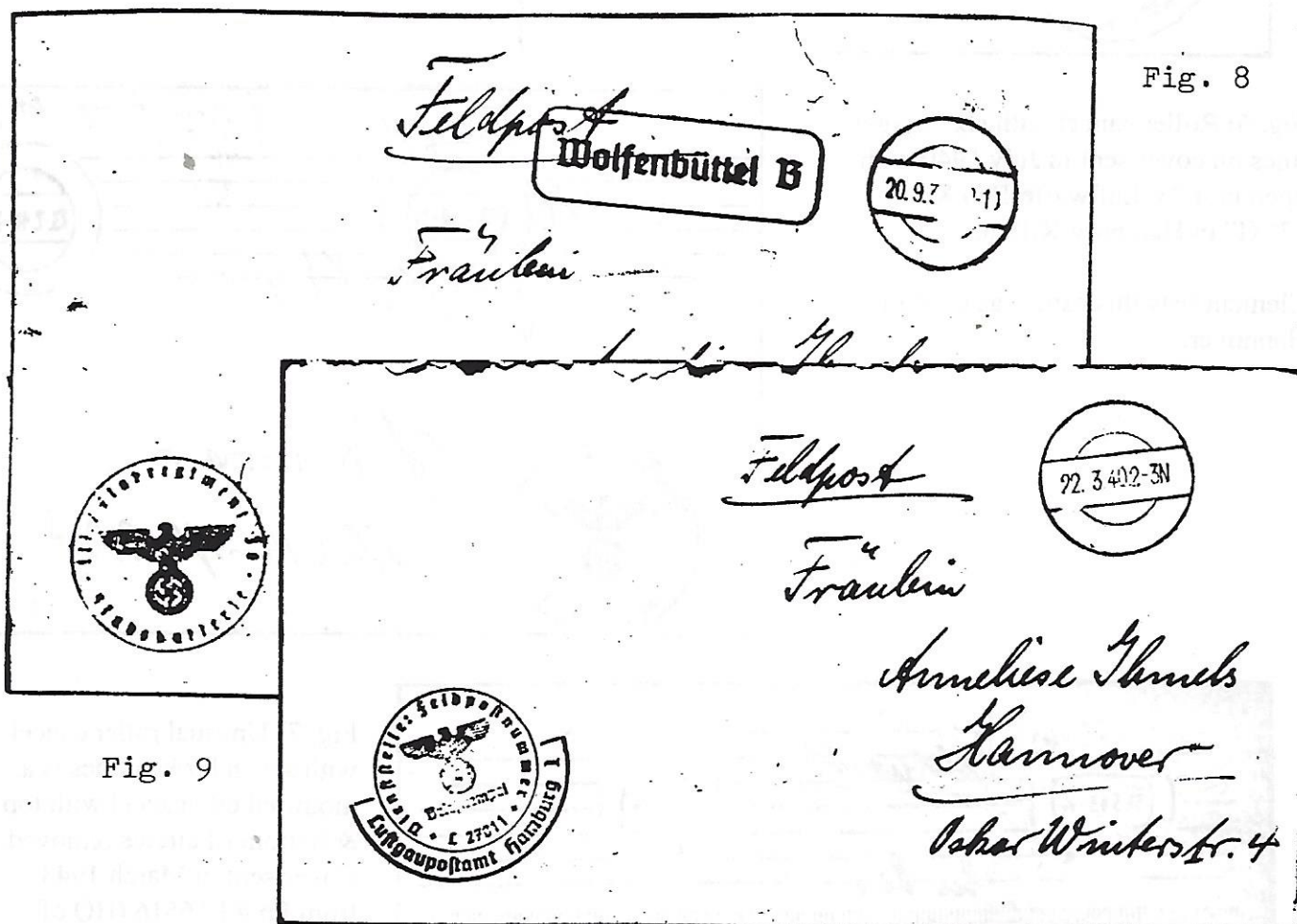


Fig. 9) Correct use of a mute cancel on a cover sent March 1940 from Fp.# L27011 (Headquarters of Searchlight Battalion 369). Lacking any "code" markings in the lower portion of the cancel, it is impossible to identify the originating post office.

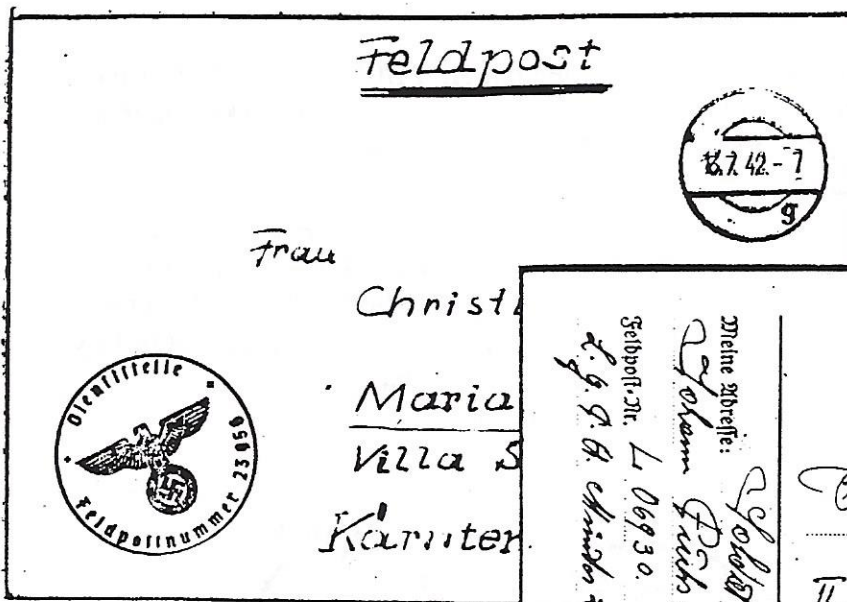


Fig. 10) Cancel code "g" on cover posted in July 1942 from Fp.# 239561(Higher Artillery Command 310). Clement lists this cancel used in Berlin & General Government.

Fig. 11) Letters "H" & "P" on postcard sent in June 1941 from Fp.# L06930 (Battery 4/Reserve Flak Battalion 542). Clement doesn't list this cancel.

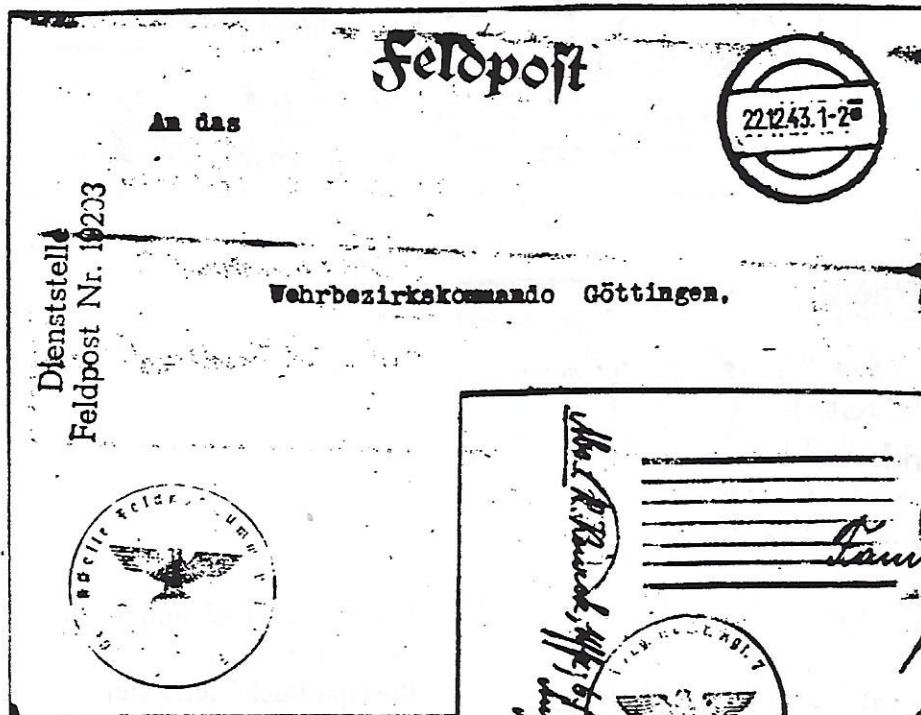
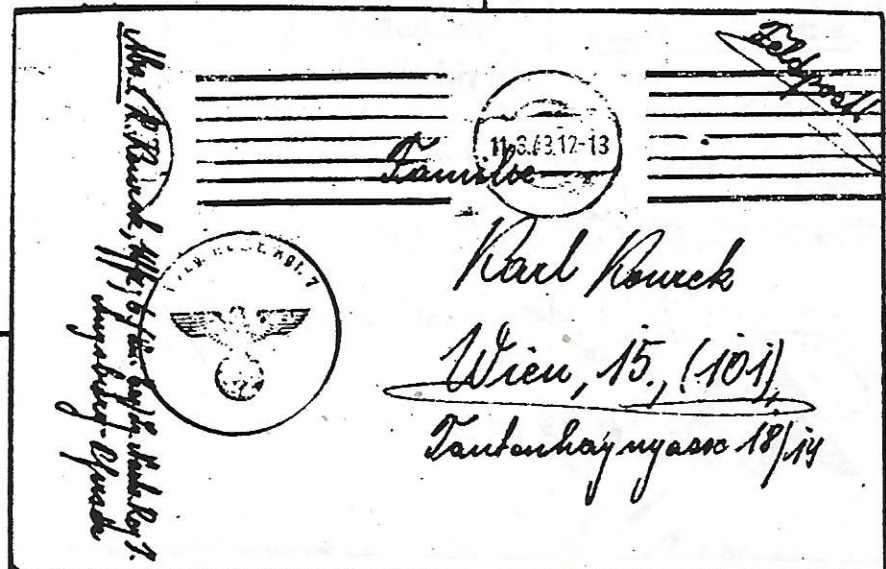


Fig. 12) Official Feldpost with unusual 29/20/10mm cancel sent December 1943 from Fp.# 19203 (Stab/Zugwach Abtl. 514).

Fig. 13) Roller cancel with seven lines and 25/14/9 date stamp sent March 1943 from Company 6/Air District Signals Regiment 7 located in Augsburg-Pfersde.



III.) Circle Cancel

The four different size **Kreis** mute cancels listed by Clement are 21/0/0, 23/0/0, 24/0/0 and 28/0/0. These circle cancels are found with various letters, numerals and asterisks. There are also several machine types with straight lines, wavy lines and slogans.

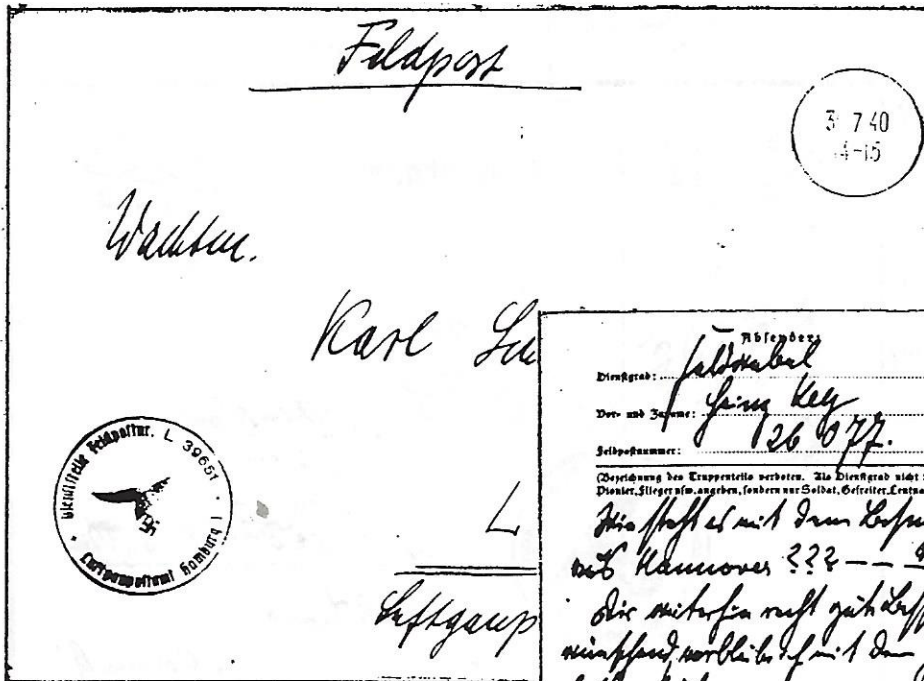


Fig. 14) A 23/0/0mm cancel on a cover from Fp# L39651 (Battr. 5/Reserve Flak Abtl. 461) sent in July 1940.

Fig. 15) A 23/0/0mm cancel with code "a" on Feldpost card sent in Feb. '42 has Fp# 26077 & open unit seal identifying sender unit as "Ausbildungsstab Ungarn" (Training Staff - Hungary).

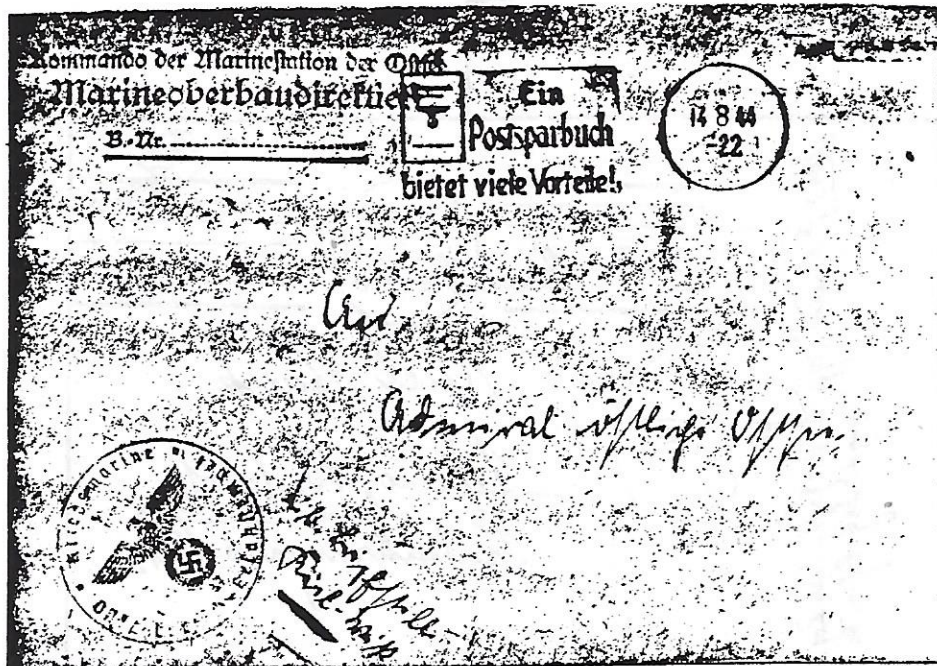
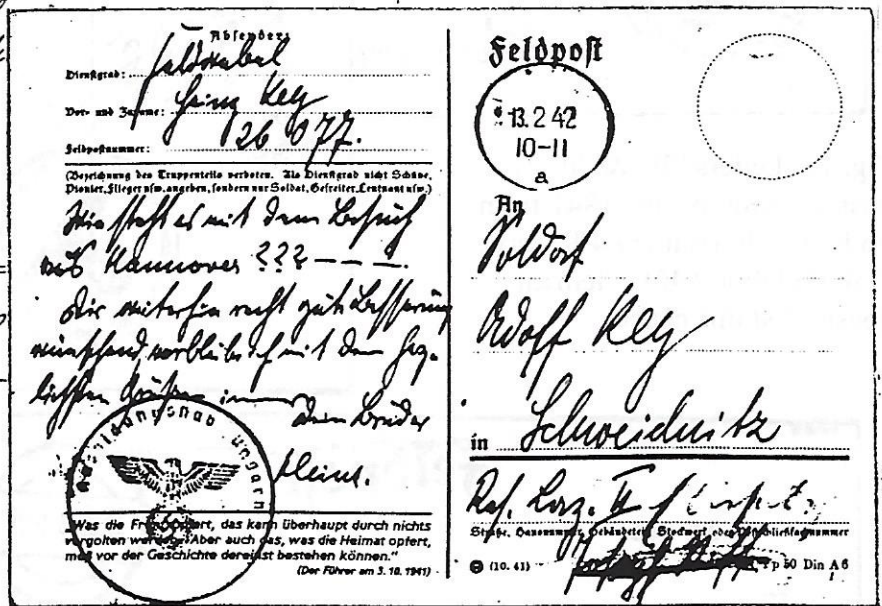


Fig. 16) A 21/0/0mm machine slogan cancel "Ein/ Postspargbuch/bietet viel Vorteile!" on an official Navy cover is listed by Clements as having been used in Kiel.

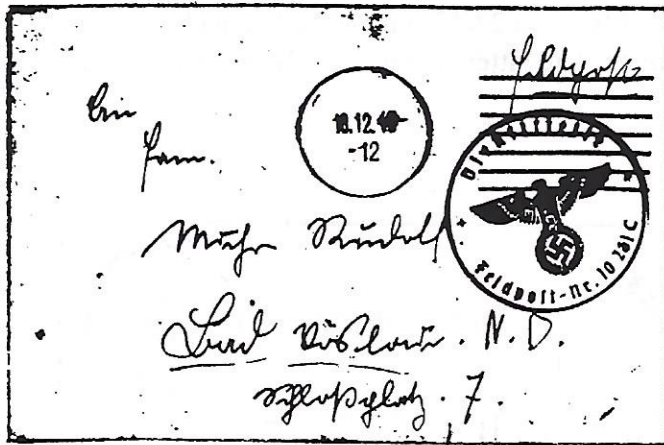


Fig. 17) Small cover sent from Fp.# 10261 (Battalion I/ Infantry Regiment 462 of 262nd Infantry Division) in December 1940 has 21mm machine cancel with seven straight lines running right.

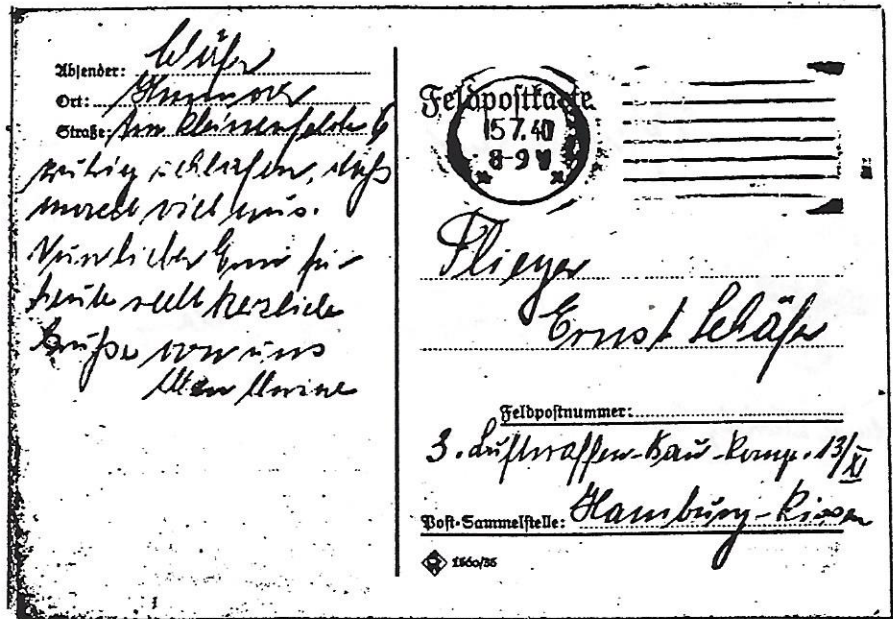


Fig. 18) A similar cancel but with two asterisks (\*) at bottom sent to airman in Hamburg from Hannover in July 1940.

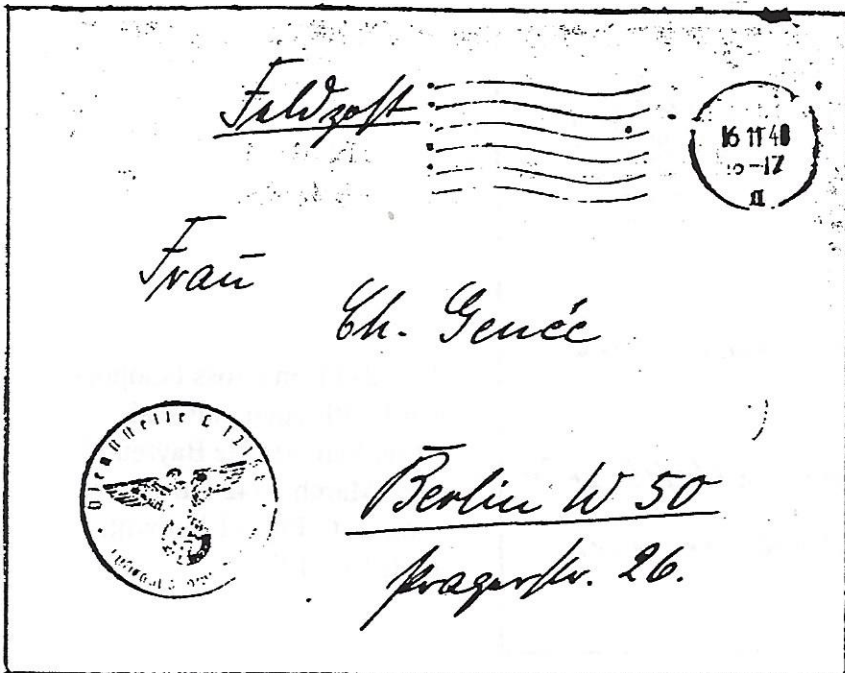


Fig. 19) Cover sent from Fp.# L12158 (Battery 5/Reserve Flak Battalion 522) in November 1940 has 21mm machine cancel with seven wavy lines running left.

IV. Double-ring

Clement lists **Ring** mute cancels in two sizes and types, a 27/13/0 mm hand cancel and a 21/18/0mm machine cancel with seven wavy lines. The latter was used only in East Prussia and Riga, Latvia.

Fig. 20) Early use of mute cancel on official sent September 1939 with open unit seal "Stab/Pi. Btl. 195".

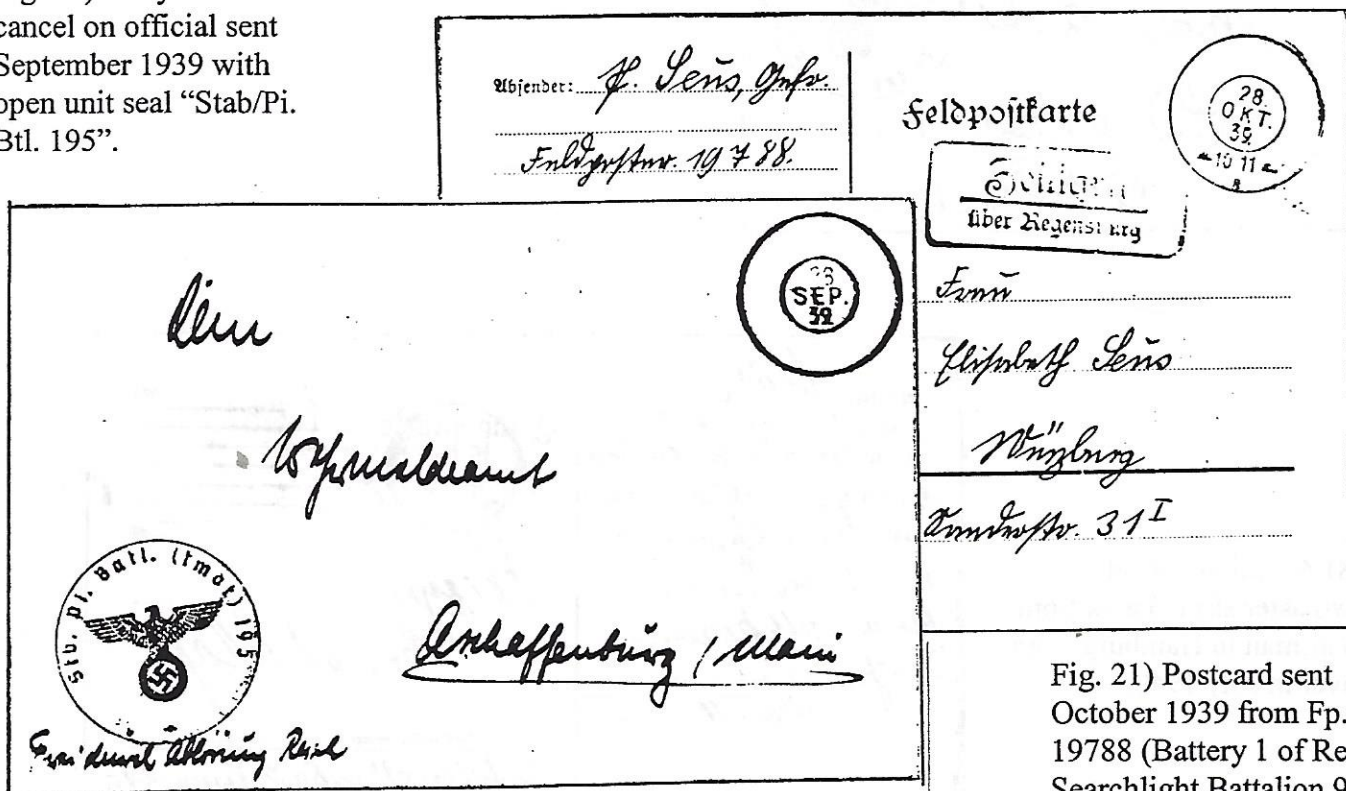


Fig. 21) Postcard sent October 1939 from Fp.# 19788 (Battery 1 of Reserve Searchlight Battalion 909) has rural P.O. hand stamp and mute cancel with code "\*10 11\*" and "R" used in Regensburg.

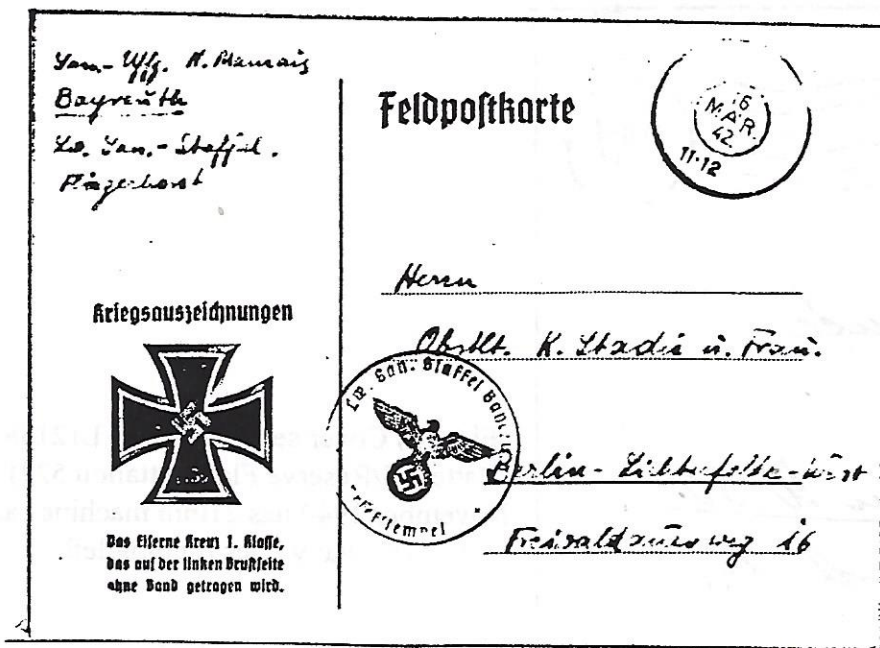


Fig. 22) Iron Cross Feldpost card with open unit seal "Lw. San. Staffle Bayreuth" sent March 1942 has cancel similar to Fig. 21 but with code "11-12".

V.) Circle/bridge/fence

Clements lists two size **Kreisbrückengitter** cancels, 25/15/9 and 28/17/9 mm, that are found plain and with combinations of letters, numbers and asterisks.

Fig. 23) Official Feldpost cover with open seal of HQ/ XI Army Corps" sent in September 1941 has cancel code "1 f" that Clement lists as having been used in Hannover.

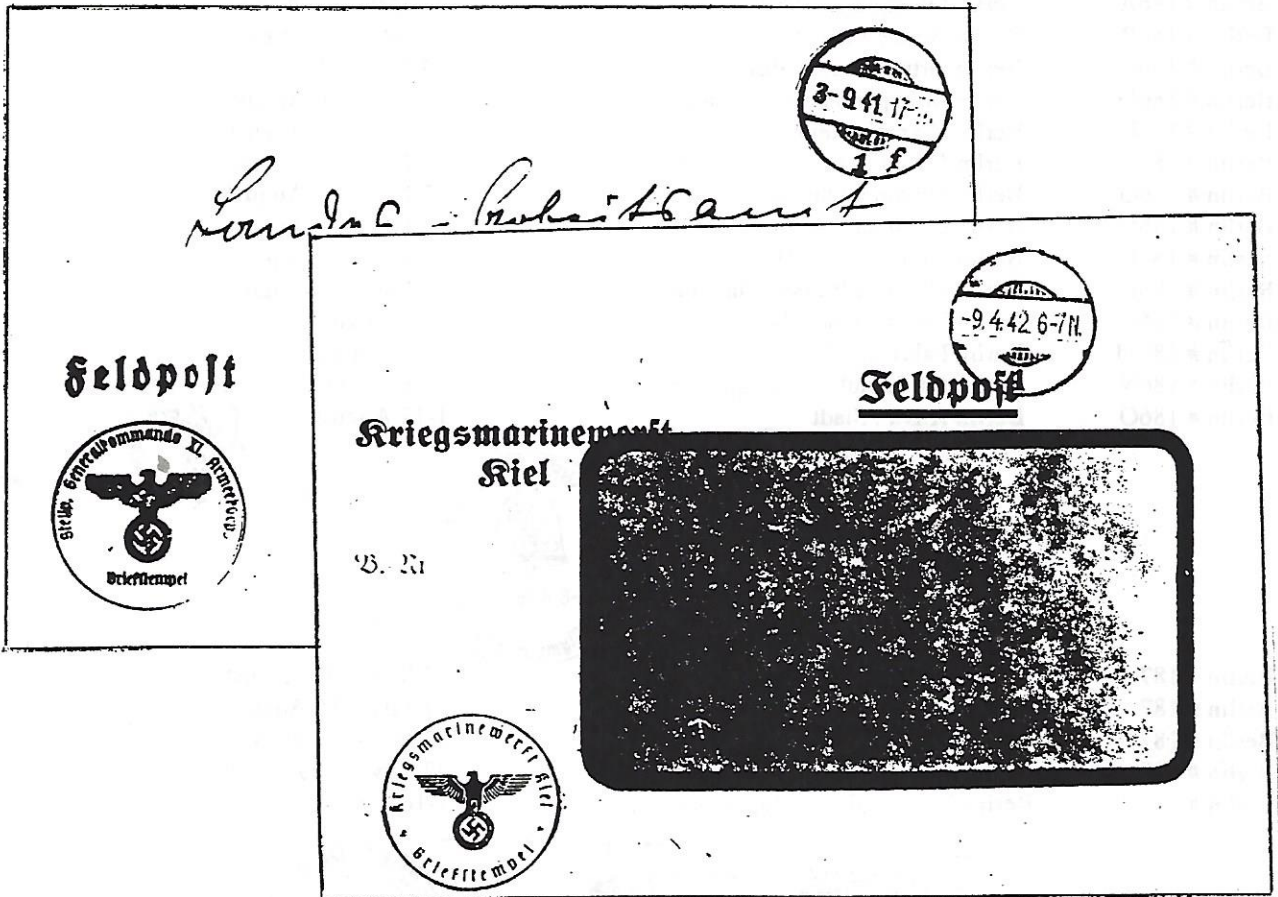


Fig. 24) Official Kriegsmarine window envelope has unit seal of Navy Warf in Kiel. This cover sent in May 1942 has cancel code "1" that Clement lists as having been used in Kiel.

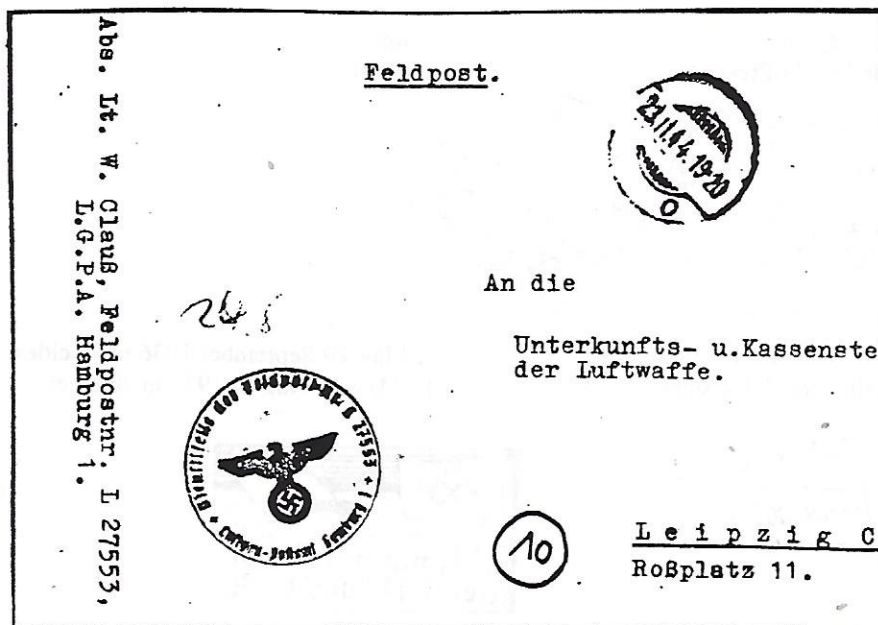


Fig. 25) Official Luftwaffe cover sent in November 1944 from Fp. # 27553 (HQ/ Reserve Flak Battalion 461) has cancel code "O" that Clement lists as used in Oslo, Norway.

To be continued

## Special Cancels – 1936 Summer Olympics

by Bob Ferguson

Cancel numbering scheme from Julius Bochmann's work "Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel". lists 14 different cancels depicting the Olympic Bell and 6 meter marks, all with different descriptions for the temporary post offices where they were used.

Berlin # 186A	Berlin Olympisches Dorf	27 May – 22 August
Berlin # 186B	Berlin Ausstellung Deutschland	18 July – 17 August
Berlin # 186C	Berlin Grunau Regattabahn	23 July – 16 August
Berlin # 186D	Berlin Int. Sportstudenten-Lager	23 July – 16 August
Berlin # 186E	Berlin Olympia Reiterplatz	27 July – 17 August
Berlin # 186F	Berlin Olympia Schwimmstadion	27 July – 17 August
Berlin # 186G	Berlin Olympia Stadion	27 July - 17 August
Berlin # 186H	Berlin Olympia Stadion (Presse)	27 July - 17 August
Berlin # 186I	Berlin Olympialager Heerstrasse	27 July - 18 August
Berlin # 186K	Berlin Olympia Pressehauptquartier	27 July - 18 August
Berlin # 186L	Berlin Deutschlandhalle	1-16 August
Berlin # 186M	Berlin Fahrbares Postamt	1-16 August
Berlin # 186N	Berlin Int. Kanulager Muggelsee	1-16 August
Berlin # 186O	Berlin K.D.F. Stadt	1-17 August



Berlin # 187	Berlin Olympisches Dorf	27 May – 11 August
Berlin # 187	Berlin Grunau Regattabahn	23 July – 16 August
Berlin # 187	Berlin Olympia Stadion	27 July - 17 August
Berlin # 187	Berlin Olympialager Heerstrasse	27 July - 18 August
Berlin # 187	Berlin Int. Kanulager Muggelsee	1-16 August



Kiel # 34	Kiel XI Olympiade Segeln	1-15 August
Kiel # 35	Kiel XI Olympiade Segeln-Press	1-15 August



Machine Can. 207	Olympische Spiele/Berlin, 1-16 August 1936	2 May-29 September 1936 in 91 cities
Machine Can. 210	Olympiade-Segeln/Kiel, 4-14 August 1936	15 May-14 August 1936 in 20 cities





## Two Late Third Reich Stamps: Mi 795A & Mi 908

by Benjamin R. Beede

This article discusses two very late Third Reich stamps. They are the 42 Rpf. Hitler stamp of late 1944 (Mi. 795A), the *Volkssturm* commemorative semi-postal stamp of 1945 (Mi. 908) and, more specifically, their use on cover. These stamps have intrigued me for some time, although, finally, I decided against attempting to form special collections of them. Nevertheless, while neither developing special collections of them nor preparing tabulations on their use on cover, I follow their appearance in auction catalogs and feel reasonably confident about making observations about their use on cover.

### The Hitler 42 Rpf. (Mi. 795A)

Mi. 795A was issued specifically for payment of the basic 12 Rpf out-of-town letter rate plus the 30 Rpf. registration fee. (1). That the stamp was needed seems to be shown by the fact that the vast majority of covers that bear this stamp paid precisely these fees. Certainly, public use of registration service increased dramatically during the war years. The percentage of letter mail that was registered was 1.9% in 1940, 2.2% in 1941, 2.8% in 1942 and 3.1% in 1943. During the first three quarters of 1944, there was a further increase as follows: 3.2%, 3.5% and 3.7%. (2). The percentages may seem small, but they represent a great many letters that required special attention. Ironically, about two months after the issuance of this stamp, which was intended to facilitate use of registration services, the *Reichspost* reversed course and tried to discourage the sending of registered mail. Indeed, early in 1945, the goal was to eliminate approximately 75% of registered mail by permitting only a few such letters to be posted at the same time (3). Late in January 1945, an even more stringent effort was made to reduce the amount of registered mail (4), although these attempts do not seem to have had much practical impact.

Although Mi. 759A was announced and illustrated in the September 29, 1944 issue of the *Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium*, I have never found a cover with an October, let alone a September, 1944 date. The earliest cover known to me is a philatelic cover cancelled on November 1, 1944.

The *Michel Briefe Katalog Deutschland 1999/2000* prices multiple uses of Mi. 759A at ten times a single use, but I think this is very much an understatement of the scarcity of covers with more than one example of the stamp. Judging by what is offered in a number of German auction catalogs, I suspect that there are a hundred or more solo usages to every multiple use.

Indeed, only two double uses have come to my attention. One was a post-World war II money order from Saxony. Very recently, a German auction house offered an insured letter with two examples of Mi. 795A. The only other multiple I have encountered was an insured letter with five copies of this stamp. The franking was exactly right, and, thus, the cover did not bear any other stamps. After some thought, I did not bid on this item because it was addressed to a prominent philatelist. Other multiples surely exist, but they are very elusive. This surprises me somewhat because two of the stamps would have paid a second level out-of-town rate for registered cover with return receipt.

Mi 795A appears on some philatelic covers sent abroad, usually with one or more semi-postal stamps added. It also appears, but probably less frequently, as the only stamp on a registered cover sent to a foreign country for which domestic German rates applied. Very occasionally, Mi. 795A can be found on an insured cover with one or more Hitler definitive stamps.

Even covers with a copy of Mi. 795A and one or more other Hitler stamps to make up the second level of out-of-town registered rate, that is, 54 *Reichspfennig*, are not common. Usually in 1944-45, such a cover bore a 30 Rpf. Hitler head and other definitives, not a copy of Mi. 795A with other stamps. Covers with mixed franks between meter stamps and copies of Mi. 795A seem to be completely unknown. There seems to be no reason why the stamp would have been used on *Feldpost* mail, but it was occasionally used at *Dienstpost* offices.

Some covers with Mi. 795A reflect Germany's deteriorating military situation. The least dramatic, perhaps, but nevertheless interesting, such covers carry provisional registration labels or, less often, provisional or emergency cancellations. Other covers could not reach their addresses because of the Allied advances, and were duly marked *Zur Zeit nicht zustellbar* or similar texts. Still other covers could not get to the addresses before the end of the war and were generally delayed at least to some extent before their delivery, often having been censored by Allied forces.

#### **The *Volkssturm* Semi-Postal. (Mi. 908)**

A first day usage has not been established for this stamp. The Reichspost announced it on January 30, 1945. (5) It was noted that there would be newspaper announcements when the stamp was available at postal windows. In my opinion, most uses of the *Volkssturm* stamp occurred between mid-February and early or mid-March 1945. Very occasionally, an apparent set of four color proofs of the stamp appears in German auctions.

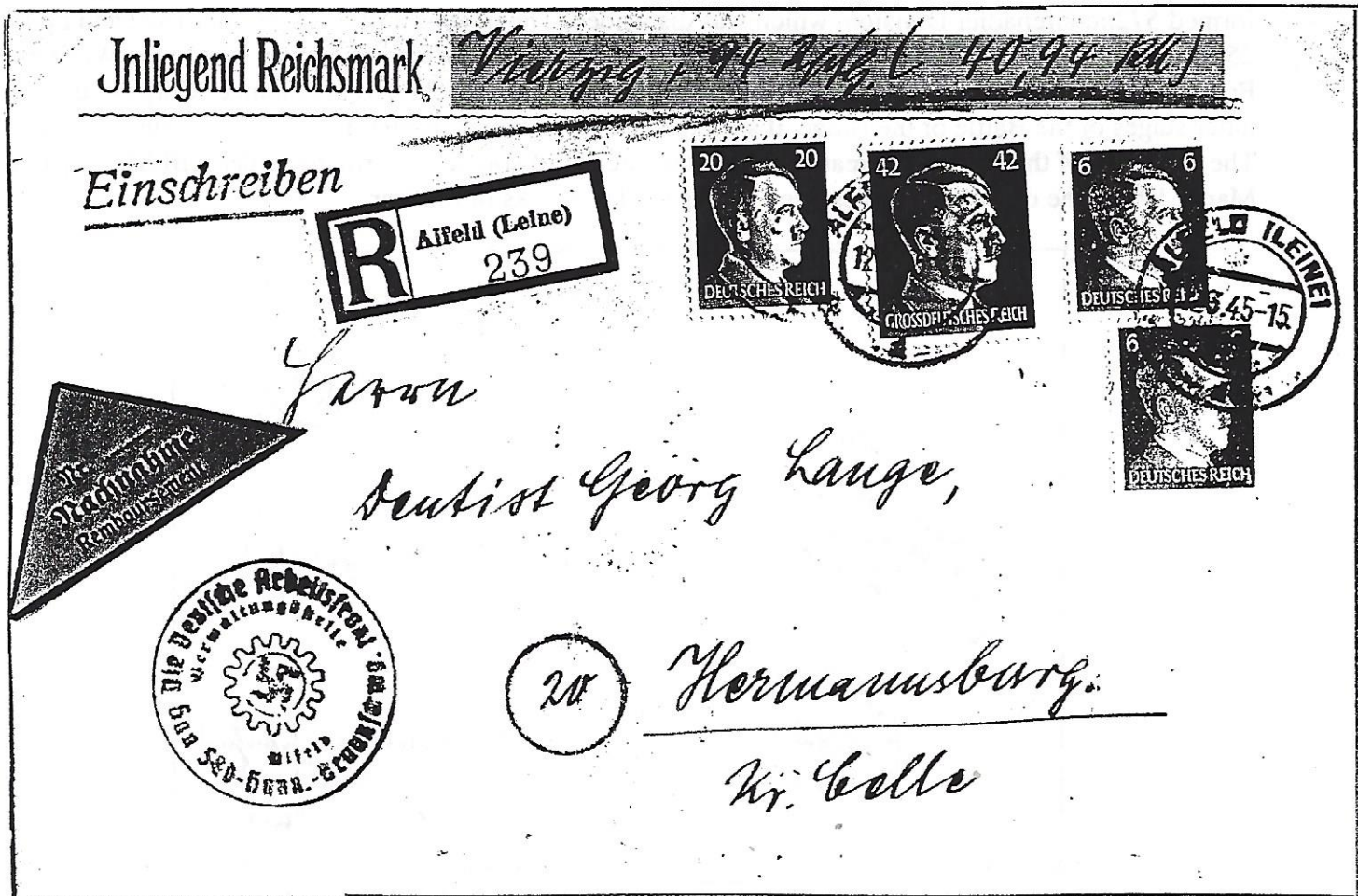
Like Mi. 795A, the *Volkssturm* stamp seems to have been used primarily to fulfill the implied franking function, that is, to pay postage on an out-of-town letter. There seem to be a fair number of covers with two examples of this stamp to pay the double out-of-town letter rate, but other uses are scarce. It does occur on mail to foreign countries, either on post cards or letters, and on *Dienstpost* mail but not too often in either case. Some apparent *Feldpost* covers exist bearing a copy of the *Volkssturm* stamp and a *Volkssturm* unit seal used instead of a postal cancel. Such items probably were souvenirs rather than covers that actually passed through postal channels. One seemingly exceptional cover came to my attention several years ago that was franked with nine copies of the *Volkssturm* semi-postal (108 Rpf.) and, allegedly, the urban special delivery fee (40 Rpf.). However, as special delivery service had ended in August 1944, this was simply an overfranked letter.

Like Mi. 795A, the *Volkssturm* semi-postal appears on so-called *Überrollerpost*, but much less frequently than the Hitler head. In his study of *Überrollerpost* in Germany, Alfred Meschenmoser made much of such items with *Volkssturm* stamps, writing that covers in this category are similar to maximum cards (6). He did not explain his thinking. But probably what he had in mind was that the *Volkssturm* was a desperate wartime expedient, while *Überrollerpost* marks the end of the entire Third Reich.

### References

1. Nr. 324/1944, 29 September, *Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium*, p. 419.
2. Bundesministerium für das Post-und Fernmeldewesen, *Zahlenspiegel der Deutschen Reichspost, 1871 bis 1945*, 2nd. Ed. (Frankfurt am Main: Bundesdruckerei, 1957), pp. 36, 42.
3. Karl Sautter, *Geschichte der deutschen Post: Deutschen Reichspost 1871 bis 1945*(Frankfurt am Main: Bundesdruckerei, 1951), pp. 85, 86.
4. Gerd R. Überschaf, *Die Deutschen Reichspost 1933 –1945: eine politische Verwaltungsgeschichte: Band 2. 1939-1945* (Berlin: Nicoli, 1999) p.284. *Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium*, 30/1945, 29 Januar 1945, pp. 27-30.
5. *Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium*, 31/1945, 29 Januar 1945, p. 31
6. Alfred Meschenmoser, *Überrollerpost 1945-1949 vom 'Dritten Reich'in das 'Nachkriegs-Deutschland'* (Dusseldorf: Postsetempelgilde "Rhein-Donau" e. V. 1984), pp. 68, 135.

Illustrated below is an unusual use of Mi. 795A on a registered *Nachnahme* (C.O.D.) letter posted in Alfeld on March 12, 1945.



Note: See Page 1 for an illustration of Mi. 908 used on an *Überroller* registered cover posted in April 1945 and returned to sender in September 1945.

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

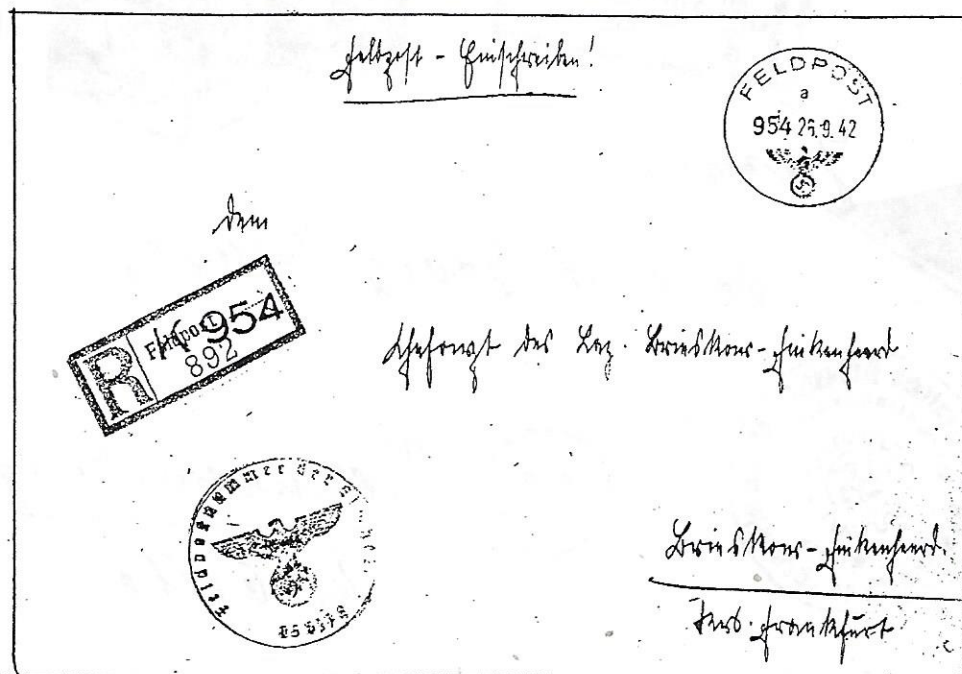
### 340th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	INFANTRY			ARTY	UNITS
340	954	694	695	696	340	340

Formed at Königsberg in January 1941 (11th Wave), the 340th Infantry Division was stationed in the Hamburg District (Wehrkreis X) until mid-1941, when it was sent on occupation duty to the Calais area of France. The post office unit was assigned Fp.# 46644 as a return address and Kenn 954 as a coded address for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 340. In the summer of 1942 it was transferred to the southern sector of the Eastern Front. The division fought in a number of bitter engagements and suffered heavy losses in the withdrawal from Kiev in the autumn of 1943. By early February 1944 it had been reduced to three infantry battalions and two artillery battalions but defended the extreme left flank of Army Group South during a Soviet offensive. In June 1944 the 340th Infantry Division was largely destroyed after being encircled east of Lovov.

The remnants of the division were sent to the Thorn Maneuver area in September 1944 and formed the cadre for a new 340th Volksgrenadier Division. The ranks were filled with recruits for the partially formed 572nd Grenadier Division, which was disbanded. The new post office unit FpA 1572 and Fp.# 25045 were reassigned to FpA 340 along with Kenn-995. This new formation was sent to the Western Front and in November 1944 fought in battles east of Aachen. Attached to I SS Panzer Corps in the latter stages of the Battle of the Bulge, it suffered heavy casualties during the American counter attack. The remnants of the division retreated toward the interior of southern Germany under XIII SS Corps in March 1945. The division was dissolved during the last weeks of the war.

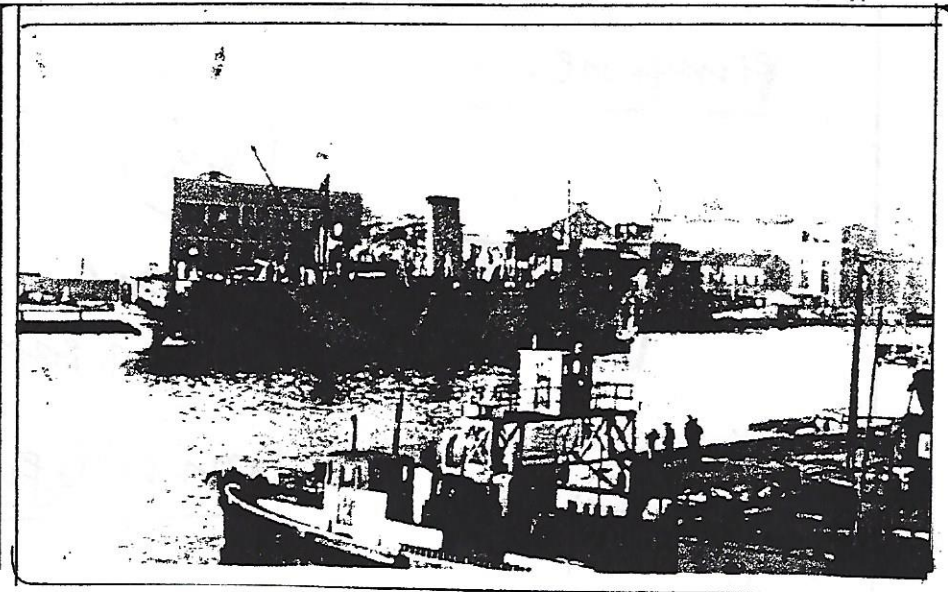
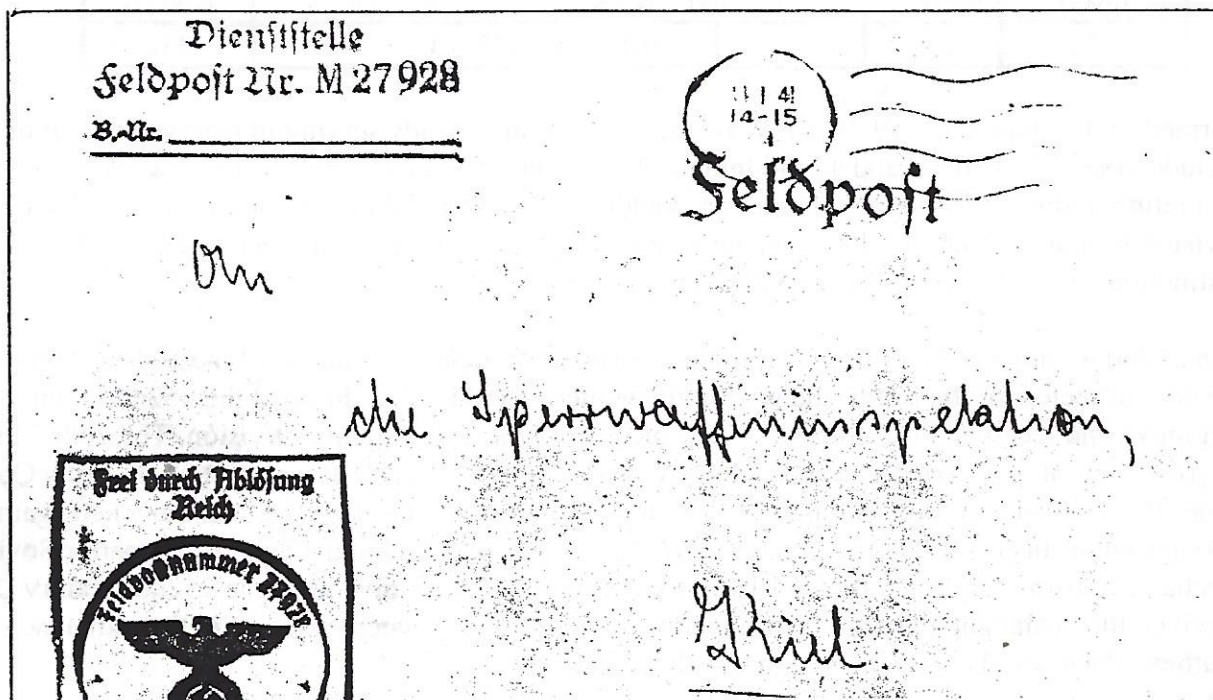


Cover sent to Hospital at Leverkusen in September 1942 from Fp. # 05617 (Battalion I/Infantry Regiment 695) via Field Post Office 340 (K-954).

# NAVY LOG

By Robert Dunn

Auxiliary Minelayer 'Kaiser' - Feldpost # 27928



This ex-merchantman was built in 1905. Displacement: 1,911 gross tons. Armament: four 20mm AA guns and 180 mines. She survived the war and was subsequently given to Poland where she became the merchantman "Beniowski".

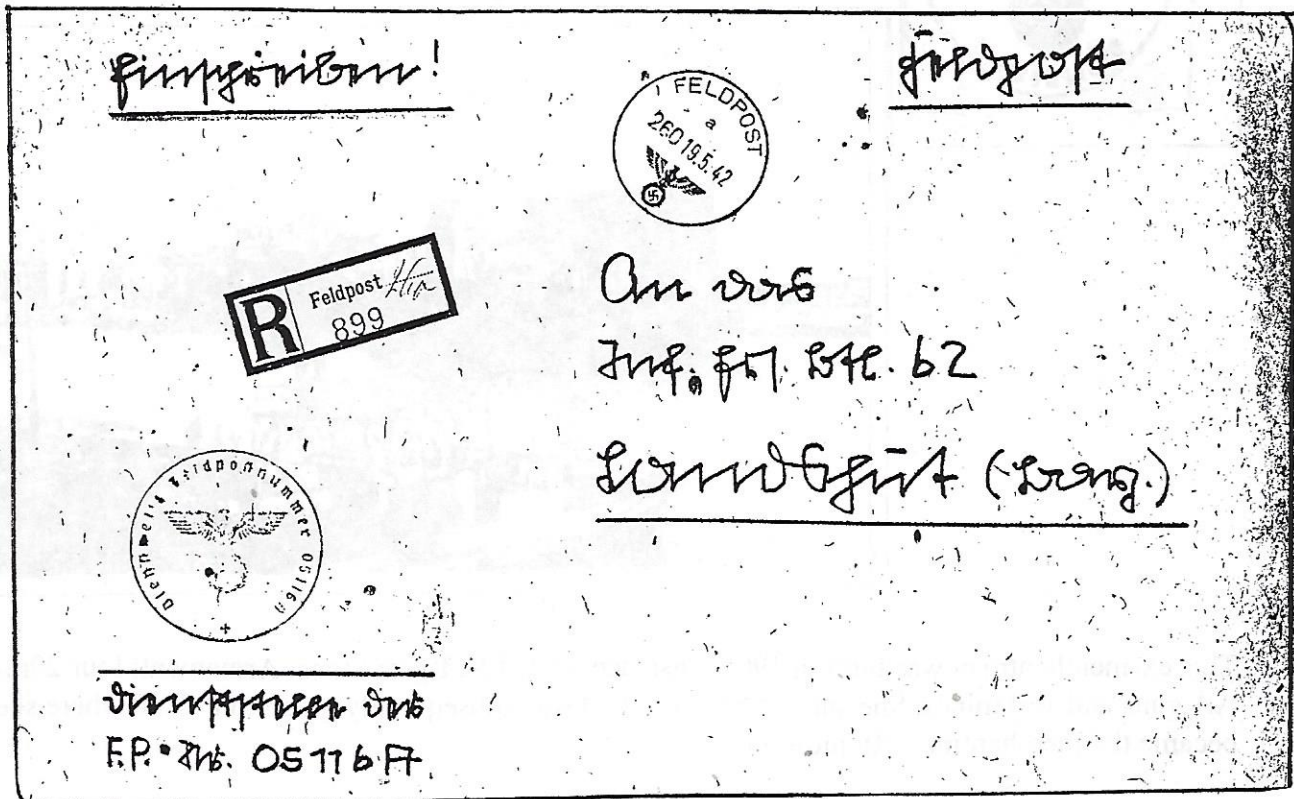
This cover sent to mine inspection facility in Kiel. The mute machine cancellation is the circle variety.

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 252nd Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	INFANTRY		ARTY	UNITS	
252	260	7	461	472	252	252

Formed in the summer of 1939 (4th Wave) from Silesians already serving in reserve units. It originally included the 452nd, 461st and 472nd Infantry Regiments. The post office unit was assigned Fp.# 36815 as a return address and Kenn 260 as a coded address for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 252. The division fought in Poland in 1939, on the Saar Front in 1939-40 and in France in 1940, where it gained distinction by a successful attack on the Maginot Line.

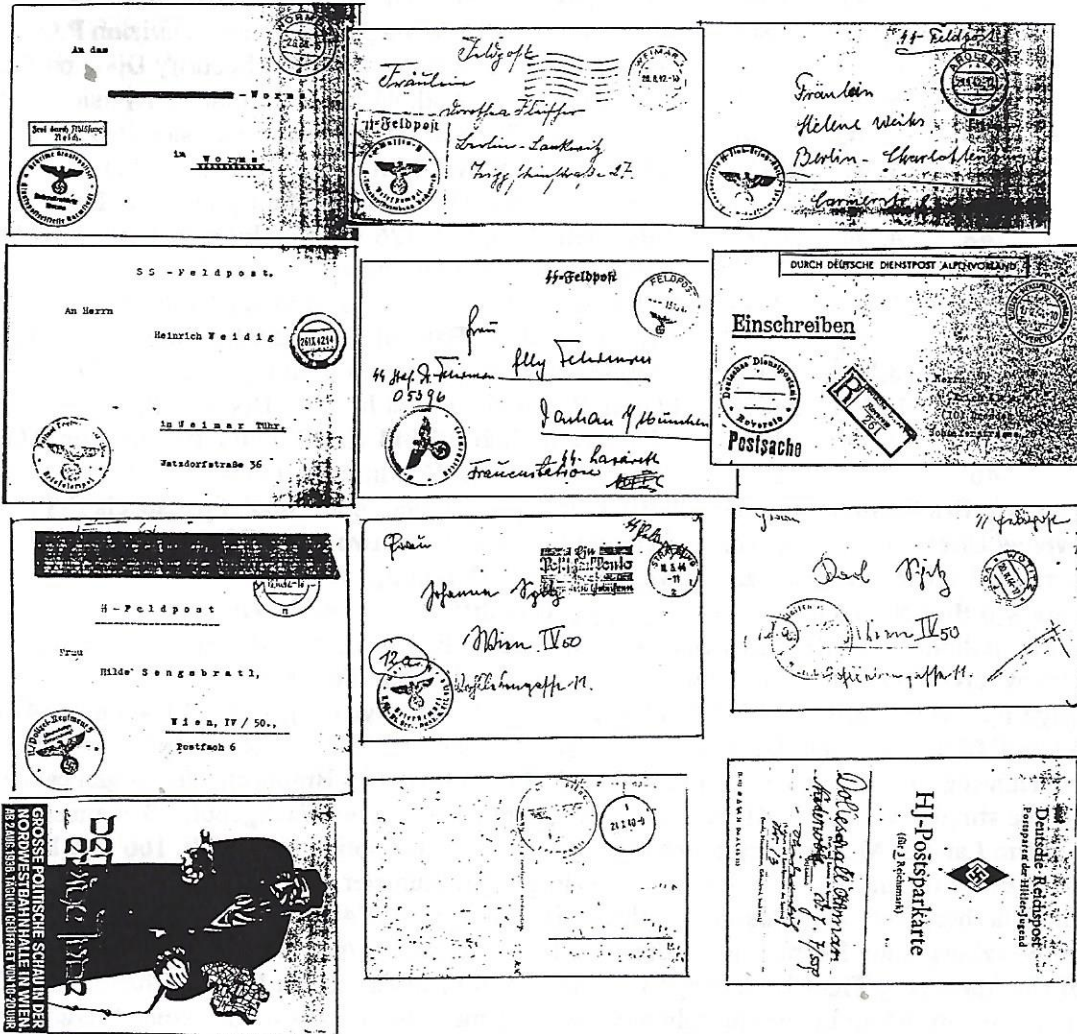
The 252nd infantry division took part in the invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 and remained in the central sector for the rest of the war. In the winter of 1941-42, it dropped the 452nd Infantry Regiment and received the 7th Infantry Regiment from the 28th Infantry Division. The 252nd Infantry Division fought at Vyazma-Bryansk, Moscow, Rzhev and Smolensk. It was part of IX Army Corps under the 3rd Panzer Army in June 1944 when the Soviet summer offensive was launched against Army Group Center. In July 1944, it gained official commendation for conduct against a superior Soviet mechanized formation west of Vitebsk. Unlike many of its sister divisions, the 252nd Infantry Division survived the onslaught although it sustained heavy casualties. It later took part in the retreat across southern Poland and ended the war in Czechoslovakia.



Cover sent to Infantry Replacement Battalion 62 at Landshut in May 1942 from Fp. # 05116 (Battalion II/Infantry Regiment 62) via Field Post Office 252 (K-260).

# TRSG Auction No. 89

Lot	Description	Min. Bid
	<b>First 9 lots SS-Feldpost.</b> Lots note illustrations by row & position i.e. 1st Row Center = (1C), etc.	
1.	Pre-war Gestapo cvr Darmstadt Main Office – Worms Sub-Office 6 '38 F-VF (See 1L)	\$35.00
2.	Cvr frm member SS Totenkopf Sturmabteilung at Buchenwald KZL 8.'42 F-VF (See 1C)	40.00
3.	Cvr frm SS-Mann training at SS Flak Ersatz Abtl. in Arolsen, Germany 9.'42 F-VF (See 1R)	35.00
4.	Cvr frm Police Regiment 22 in Warsaw w/mute GG can 11.'42 F-VF (See 2 L)	50.00
5.	Fp cvr frm Fp # 05396 (SS Kreigsb. San. Abtl) of 6th SS Div. 'Nord' 10.'42 F-VF (See 2 C)	45.00
6.	Cvr frm Cilli 10.'42 w/Briefstemple "II./Polizei Regiment - Auswärtung Verwendung" VF (3L)	35.00
7.	Cvr frm Stralsund 5.44 w/Briefstemple "Waffen-SS 3. SS Pz.Gren Ausb. U. Ers. Btl. 9 VF (3C)	75.00
8.	Cvr frm Wotitz, Bohemia 11.44 w/ Lt.Briefstemple "Waffen-SS 7. SS Stu. Gesch.Ausb. Abt.F (3 R)	40.00
9.	Posted. frm Krakow 10.'40 w/ VF Briefstemple "10. SS Totenkopf-Stdandarte/1. Kp". (4 C)	120.00
10.	Stampless R-cvr."Postsache" (Postal Business) w/DDP Alpenvorland Roverteto 2.'44 F-VF (2R)	40.00
11.	Cvr w/Mi. 827 sent w/DDP Alpenvorland Meran cancel 9.'43 F-VF	35.00
12.	Exhibition "The Eternal Jew" Color Postcard w/15.8.'38 SPC (Philatelic but VF Condition) (4 L)	75.00
13.	Hitler Youth Postal Savings dated 5.3.42, partially filled w/10 & 20 Pfg. Hitlerhead stamps. (4 R)	90.00



14.	Official cvr w/Mi. 827 frm Reichskommissariat Berlin to Oslo via DDP Oslo frm Berlin 2.45. F-VF	20.00
15.	Gen. Govt. cvr, w/Mi/ 71,72 & 76 frm Reserve Hospital in Lemberg via DDP Osten 9.'43. F-VF	15.00
16.	Cens. Luftpo cvr to Goldman Sachs NY w/meter can & Frankfurt tape (E-53) exhibit mounted F-VF	15.00
17.	Mint post-war cards: 8 diff for tracing POWs, Soldiers, etc. (sim. Borek Brit. Zone #12) VF	20.00
18.	Two R-Official Cvr w/Dienst. 172 & 175 frm Province President Munich circa 1944. V-VF	15.00

## Next 31 lots: R-Feldpost covers on exhibit sheets w/emblem, brief history, etc. F-VF unless noted o'wise

	Kenn #.	FpA	Date	Fp. #.	Description	
19.	100	268	5.'43	09769	I/Gren. Rgt. 499 via 268th Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
20.	135	82	10.'42	17578	Stab/Pi. Btl. 42 via 3rd Panzer Division P.O.	12.00
21.	219	383	5.'44	10361	II/Gren. Rgt. 532 via 383rd Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
22.	242	44	2.'42	26132	I/Gren. Rgt 134 via 44th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
23.	272	253	3.'41	37380	FpA 238 via 134 via 44th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
24.	278	93	11.'44	30417	Kol/ Nachr. Abtl. 229 via 23rd Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
25.	322	3	4.'43	08450	Stab/Pz Jäger Abtl. 131 via 3rd Pz Gren. Division P.O.	12.00
26.	349	373	7.'43	13150	Stab/Art. Abtl. 373 via 373rd (Croatian) Inf. Div. P.O	19.00
27.	355	58	7.'41	46390	11 Kp./Panzer Rgt. 25 via 7th Panzer Division P.O	12.00
28.	468	100	2.'42	38904	2.kl. Kw. Kol./ Inf. Div. Kol.100 via 100th Jäger Div. P.O	12.00
29.	469	198	9.'42	32521	Kartenlager 571 via 98th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
30.	475	139	7.'42	02455	Pz. Jag. Kp. 113 via 39th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
31.	489	20	2.'40	28570	2.kl. Kw. Zug 36 via 20th Panzer Grenadier Division P.O	12.00
32.	527	195	8.'42	23913	I/Gren. Rgt. 280 via 95th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
33.	548	59	3.'41	16559	Feldzeug Kp. 59 via 8th Panzer Division P.O.	12.00
34.	551	11	2.'42	45515	II/Gren. Rgt. 607 via 11th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
35.	562	1	3.'43	26567	Rgts. Stab/ Art Rgt. 1 via 1st Infantry Division P.O	12.00
36.	606	376	8.'42	20800	3 Kp./Pionier Btl.376 via 376th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
37.	616	354	11.'42	27811	Stab III/Security. Rgt. 61 via 286th Security Division P.O	10.00
38.	630	45	5.'43	18399	1 Schwdr. Aufkl. Abtl. 45 via 45th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
39.	643	330	12.'43	48702	II/Gren. Rgt. 759 via 338th Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
40.	665	15	9.'41	09154	II/Gren. Rgt. 106 via 15th Infantry Division P.O	9.00
41.	713	188	8.'44	32027	Schw. Art. Abtl. 737 via 88th Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
42.	717	148	4.'44	20188	Rgts. Stab/Gren. Rgt. 126 via 48th Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
43.	750	8	2.'44	21332	I/ Jäger Rgt. 38 via 8th Jäger Division P.O	12.00
44.	752	331	5.'42	32944	Stab I/Art. Rgt. 331 via 331st Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
45.	819	193	4.'43	11394	1 Kp./le. Radfahr Bau Btl. 502 via 93rd Infantry Div. P.O	9.00
46.	900	9	8.'42	16371	Stab I/Pionier Btl. 9 via 9th Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
47.	926	191	12.'44	24678	I/Gren. Rgt. 985 via 91st Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
48.	936	49	3.'44	13086	1 Kp./Nachschub Btl.144 via 49th Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
49.	970	46	8.'42	38421	I/Gren. Rgt. 97 via 46th Infantry Division P.O.	9.00
50.	7 Fp. cvrs w/o Briefstemple, Fp. can. all different Fp. #s includes one "000" Fp. cancels F-VF					14.00
51.	8 Fp. cvrs w/ Briefstempel, Fp. can. all different Fp. #s includes two "mute" Fp. cancels F-VF					20.00
52.	5 Fp. cvrs w/ Briefstempel, Fp. can. all w/contents & different Fp. #s F-VF					16.00
53.	8 Fp. cvrs w/o Briefstempel, Fp. can. all w/contents & different Fp. #s. F-VF					15.00
54.	8 items Fp. Stationery: 5 diff. Letter Sheets, 3 diff. design Fp. cards. All different Fp. #s F-VF					20.00
55.	4 Fp. cvrs w/ civil P.O. cancels incl. two w/contents. All different Fp. #s. F-VF					10.00
56.	<u>Handmade</u> Fp. cvrs: 1 Luftfp. 12.'44 frm Fp. 25510 (Geb. Jag. Rgt 141), 1. 4.'43 frm Fp.44847 F-VF					10.00
<b>Next 6 lots Official mail frm German Govt. agencies, most w/Mi. Dienst stamps. Condition VF</b>						
57.	Cvr. frm Hunting Master w/pair Mi. 132 tied by 5.'35 Bach-Handel Braunschweig slogan cancel.					14.00
58.	Postage due stmpls cvr. sent 2.'41 frm Police President Hamburg w/"Nachgebuhr"& manuscript "8"					16.00
59.	Reply cd frm Landrat Memmingen to insurance office re pastor policy w/pair Mi. 166 tied 1.'43 can.					13.00
60.	Registered cvr frm Landrat Kreis Sonthofen to Hospital Administer w/Mi. 170 & 175 cancelled 4.'44					20.00
61.	Cvr. frm Würzburg Pathology Institute w/three Mi. 137 tied by 7.'44 Schweinfurt slogan cancel					16.00
62.	Cvr frm Würzburg State Hospital to Medical Plan Bad Neustadt w/pair Mi. 169 tied 7.'44 slogan can.					14.00
63.	<b>War of the Springing Tiger</b> by Jeffrey Markham. Story of Indian leader Subhas Chandra Bose's effort to recruit an Indian Legion to fight alongside Germany has details on un-issued "Azad Hind" legion stamps. Also covered is Bose's leadership of Indian National Army fighting alongside Japanese in Burma and post-war treatment of Indian 'turncoats'. This illustrated book has a soft cover binder and covers a period of TR history unknown to many collectors. VF					14.00

**PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 89 is February 14, 2003.**

**SEND ALL BIDS TO: Jim Lewis, 111 Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070**