



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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KAROLINE SCHAICH Wohnungen, Geschäfte, Kredite-Vermittlung VIII. Lerchenfelderstr. 32 Tel. A 29-0-82	POSTSACHE 17.VI.38 20 * 2 VERSENDER EURE PAKETE DURCH DIE POST
Handwritten: arische firma	Handwritten: Maria Decsey M, Bürggasse 71 I/II, 6

Qolf 365

STUDY GROUP NOTES

Prosit Neujahr! - Welcome to another year of study group activities. We've received several e-mails from members pleased with the new "Undercover Corner" feature. We also appreciate expressions of your concern about how we fared during Superstorm "Sandy" last November. We were very fortunate in that the only damage to TRSG HQ was a couple of fallen trees and no electrical power for a week.

A "Fugazy" Postcard - This postcard was sent in by one of our newer members because he wondered what the red arrow-in-shield hand stamp signified. While 24 Pfg postage on a card from Vienna to Berlin might be rationalized as "philatelic zeal", the real problem is the Vienna cancels dated April 14, 1941 on Hitler head definitives that were not issued until August 1, 1941. Remember gang, Caveat Emptor!



Rev. Isaac Dunbar- to supplement TRSGer Ed Fraser's fine Box 506 article on page 13, shown below is an article published in the Australian *Courier-Mail* in May 1943 sent in by Ed that details how Mr. Dunbar evaded capture while hiding out in Tunis during the German occupation of that city.

Hid From Germans Six Months

Wednesday 12 May 1943

By W. J. MUNDAY, *Courier-Mail* War Correspondent.

TUNIS, May 11.—For six months the Rev. Isaac Dunbar, of the English Church at Tunis, lived in darkness, hiding from the Germans and Italians, who wanted to take him from the city as a hostage.

French, Greek, and Jewish families gave him shelter, and one of the eight homes in which he lived was next door to the villa into which the Axis Commander in North Tunisia, von Arnim moved.

"I got out of there pretty quickly," Mr. Dunbar told me.

On Sunday he conducted the first service that he had been able to hold in his church for six months. It was about the first time, too, that he had seen daylight since the Germans poured into the town during the week after the Allied landing in North Africa on November 8, 1942.

Mr. Dunbar was warned on November 14 that his name was on the list of hostages whom the Germans intended to take from the city. "Next morning," he said, "I took my last service in the church, then closed its doors, said

good-bye to my wife, and went into hiding."

Some of his congregation, including an Englishman, also in danger, "disappeared" too.

The staff of the United States Consulate, however, hesitated, and a few hours later were arrested and taken to Germany.

One night during his hiding Mr. Dunbar felt ill. He went through the blacked-out streets to his home and got medicine. During his absence German soldiers were billeted in the house he had left and took the room in which he had been sleeping.

Later he lived in a flat in a building almost adjoining the Majestic Hotel, which was the German Army's main headquarters in Tunis. Another time British bombs fell near the house in which he was hiding.

On Christmas Eve he returned to his home in the church grounds. In the darkened drawing-room of the parsonage on Christmas Day he held a service and communion, attended by friends. In darkness he slipped away again to another hiding place.

At 5.45 p.m. last Friday he heard cheering. He peeped through a tiny hole in a window screen and saw four German armoured cars racing through the streets with two British tanks 200 yards behind them.

He could not be certain of what he had seen, but at 5.30 a.m. the next morning a reassuring message was brought him.

Mr. Dunbar then put on his hat and his clerical collar, and stepped out into the streets and into the daylight again to hurry home to his wife.

Cover Illustration: The 'Anschluss' (Union) of Austria and Germany in April 1938 resulted in the extension of Germany's "racial laws" aimed against Jews. This postcard sent in June 1938 has a boxed hand stamp with swastika and text "*arische firma*" (Aryan business) added to return address of a Vienna realtor to denote racial status and loyalty to the Nazi Party.

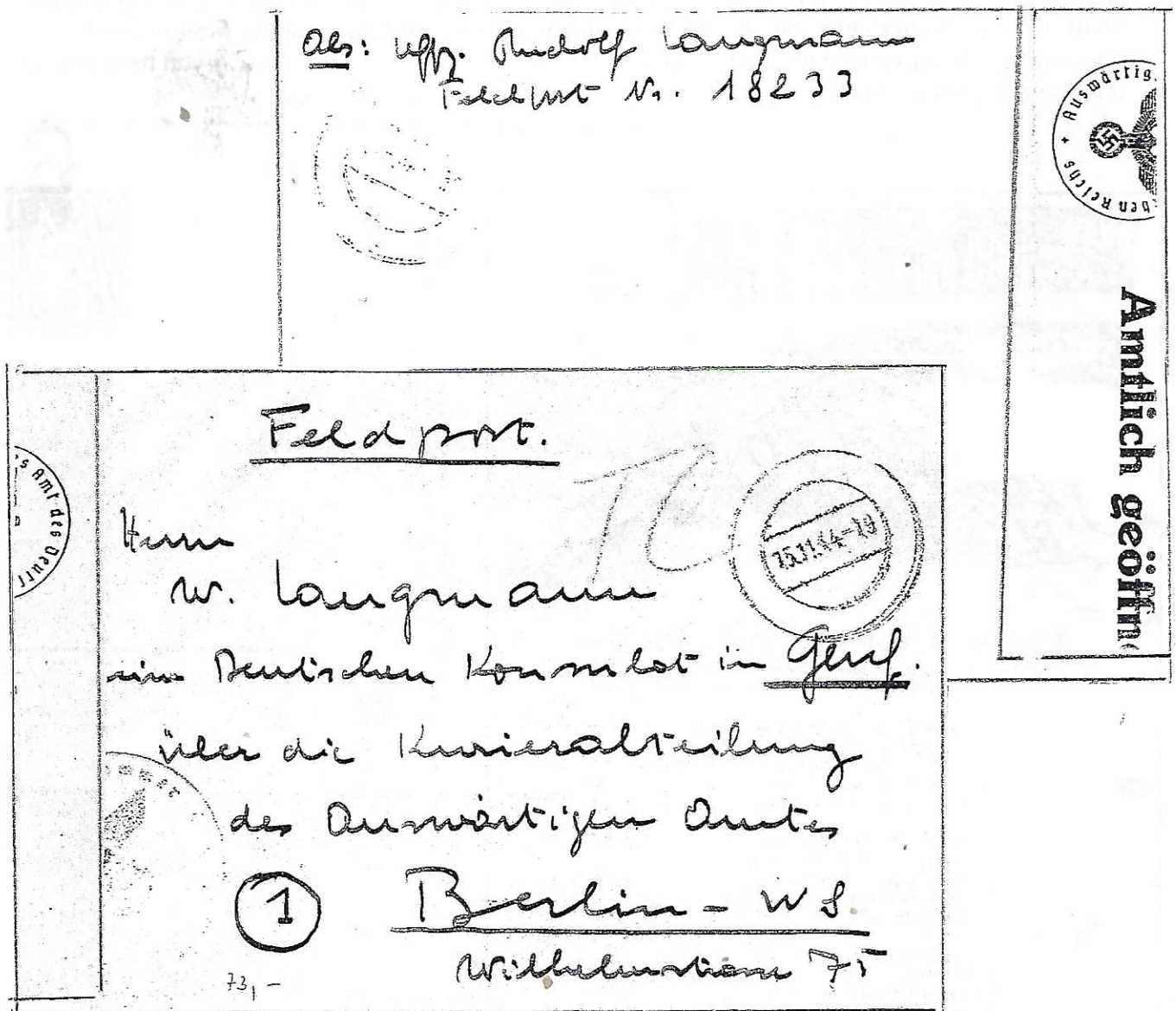
Feldpost Facets 1937-1945

Foreign Ministry Censorship of Feldpost Cover Sent Abroad

by Benjamin R. Beede

The logic in the handling of this cover is apparent, but the item is worth noting. This is the first Feldpost cover I have seen with Foreign Ministry censorship. It was posted in November 1944 to someone at the German Consulate in Geneva, Switzerland through the courier section of the Foreign Ministry. The censorship tape is said by Landsmann (page 385) to have been used between September 1943 and November 1944.

The sender was an "Unteroffizier" (non-commissioned officer) at Fp.# 18233, which on September 27, 1944 was assigned to Front Reconnaissance Troop 248.



Reference:


Landsmann, Horst, *Die Zensur von Zivilpost im 2. Weltkrieg.*

Parody Propaganda Card "Lied der 9th Volks-Grenadier-Division"

by Kelly Stefanacci

This parody of a German military song card was supposedly produced by the Soviets but I have no specifics. The address side gives the printer as special publisher Robert Frank, Hamburg 36. The photograph, attributed to PK Brenner-Presse-Hoffmann, shows dead German soldiers lying in a snowy field. Text beneath the title notes that this song was written for Colonel Werner Kolb. The stanzas, each describing the terrible conditions faced by the soldiers, ends with the line "Der Oberst will die Schwerter!" (The Colonel wants the swords!). I assume this refers to the Iron Cross with Swords.

What is puzzling about this card is that the 9th Volksgrenadier Division was formed in Denmark in the late summer of 1944 from remnants of the 9th Infantry Division which had been nearly destroyed in August 1944 during its retreat across Rumania. After absorbing the partially formed 584th Volksgrenadier Division, the 9th Volksgrenadier Division fought on the western front, opposing the American thrust across Luxembourg and then southern Germany. If you have any info on this card, please send it to Ye Olde Ed so we can share it with our group.



Lied der 9. Volks-Grenadier-Division
Dem Kommandeur, Herrn Oberst Pg. Werner Kolb von einem seiner Volksgrenadiere ins Soldbuch geschrieben

Volksgrenadier greif an! Greif an!
Wir müssen an den Feind heran!
Besinn Dich nicht! Sprung auf! Marsch-Marsch!
Sonst tritt der Leutnant Dich am Arsch!
— Der Oberst will die Schwerter!

Des Feindes Artillerie ist schwer,
Und Du hast nur Dein Beunruhigt,
Die Panzerfaust — das Obstschiff?
Frag nicht danach, geh' vor, geh' vor!
— Der Oberst will die Schwerter!

Die eignen Röhren werden leicht,
Volksgrenadiere zählt man nicht!
Solang ein Grenadier noch lebt,
die Division am Feinde lebt,
— Der Oberst will die Schwerter!

Volksgrenadier Sprung auf! Sprung auf!
Die ganze Division geht drauf,
Wenn Dich die Kugel trifft sei stolz!
Du kriegst ein Kreuz aus Tannenholz!
— Der Oberst will die Schwerter!

Special-Verlag Robert Frank, Hamburg 36
Mitt. Gerhart-Punkt des Musikverlages Samsonow, Wilkes & Co., Berlin-
Wilmersdorf. — Foto: PK Brenner-Presse-Hoffmann, Fr. OKW.



R 10151

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

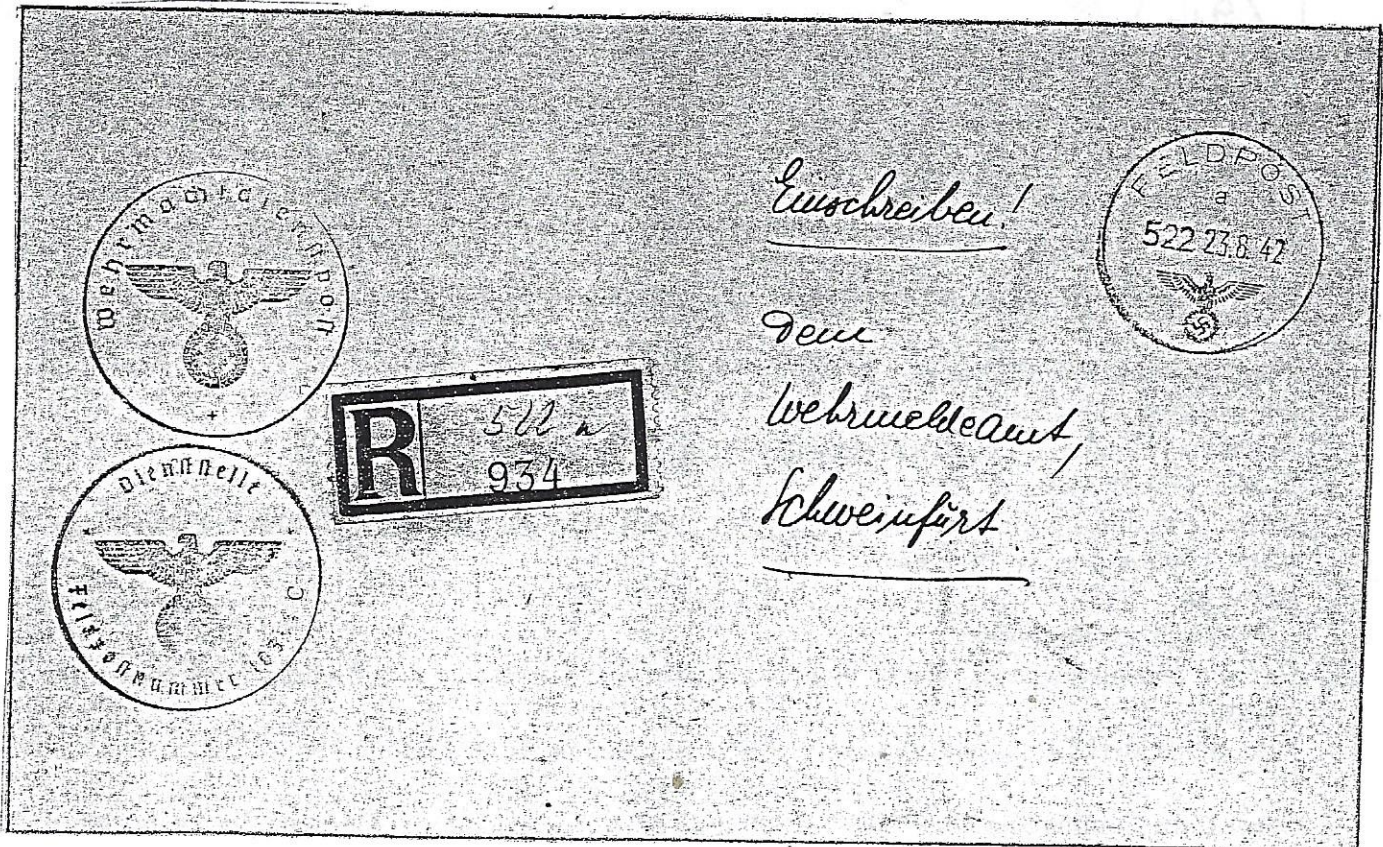
113th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
113	522	260	261	268	87	113

Formed in October 1940 (12th Wave), this division remained in Germany until the winter of 1941-42, when it was sent to perform occupation duties in the Balkans. The P.O. was assigned Fp. # 46900 as a return address and Kenn 522 as a coded identity in lieu of Tactical FpA 113. In the spring of 1942 the 113th Infantry Division was transferred to 6th Army in Russia. It fought in the Kharkov-Izyum, Voronezh and Kalach battles during the advance to the Volga. Surrounded at Stalingrad in November 1942, the division was destroyed in late January 1943.

A new 113th Infantry Division was formed in Brittany in the spring of 1943. The new FpA 113 was assigned Fp. # 42110 and Kenn 264. Sent to Army Group Center that summer, the division suffered such heavy losses during the Dnieper withdrawal that it was broken up. Remaining personnel were sent as reinforcements to the 337th Infantry, 18th Panzer Grenadier and 256th Infantry Divisions. The 113th Infantry Division was formally disbanded in October 1943.

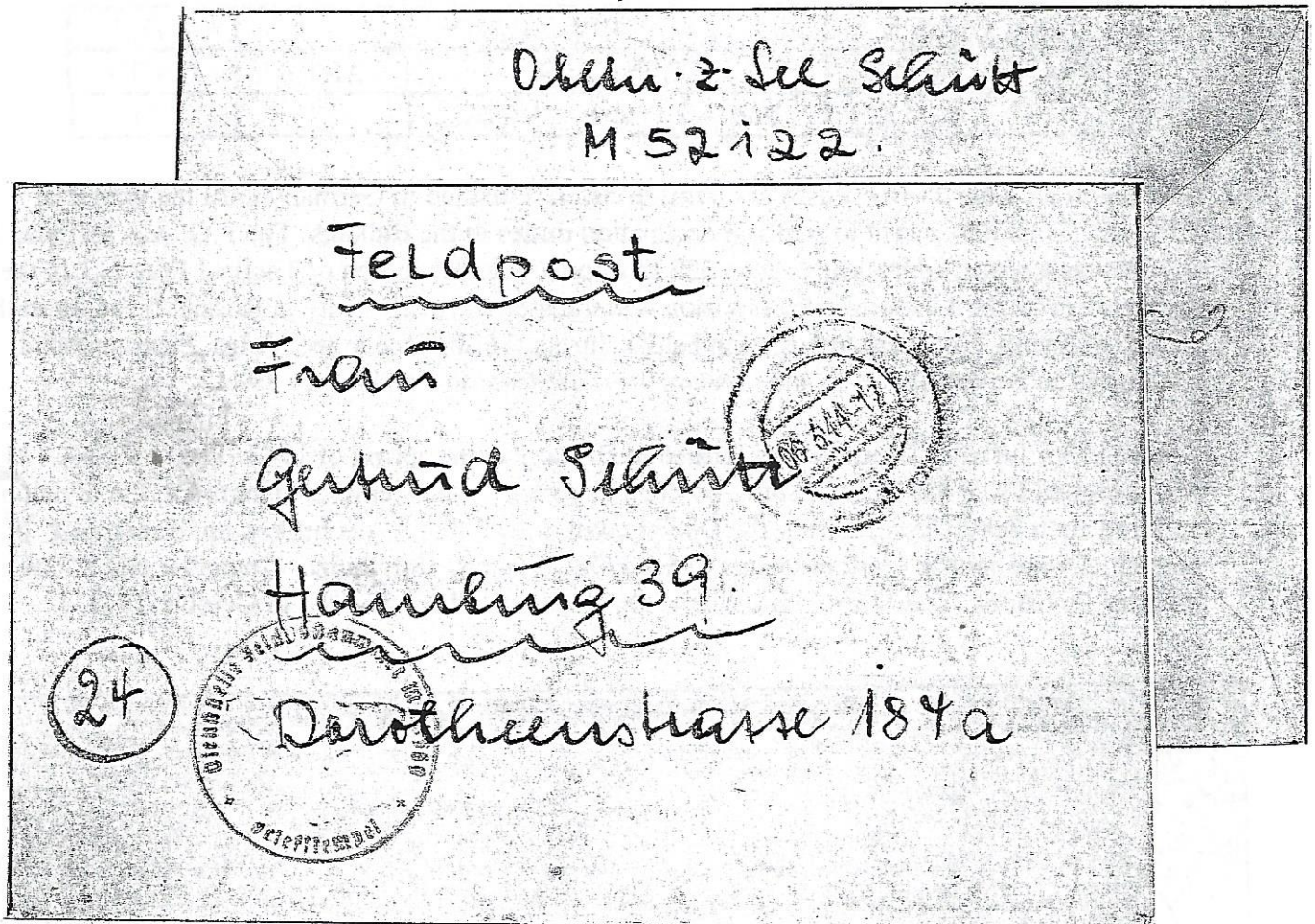


Cover sent to Military Records Office in Schweinfurt in August 1942 from Fp. # 10328 (Felddepot Kremenschug d. Wi. Insp. Süd) via Field P.O. 113 (K-522).

NAVY LOG

by Phil Miller

U-Boat 294 - Feldpost # 52122



U-Boat Type VIIC/41 built by Bremer Vulkan (Vegesacker) and launched August 27, 1943.

Displacement: 796/871* tons

Dimensions: 218.25 x 20.25 x 15.5 feet

Machinery: 2-shaft 6-cyl. diesel electric motors, BHP 2800/750

Speed: 17/7.5* knots

Armament: one 3.5 in., one 37mm A.A., two 20mm A.A. guns, five 21 in. (4 bow, 1 stern) torpedo tubes, 14 torpedoes or 39 mines

Crew: 44

(* Surface/submerged.

History: During her career she went on 5 war patrols (65 days at sea) but neither sank nor damaged any ships.

Fate: Surrendered at Narvik on May 19, 1945. Scuttled in North Atlantic 1945.

Cover from Commander Oberlt. Heinz Schütt to his wife in Hamburg. Germany has mute cancel dated March 6, 1944.

Note: Fp. # M52122 appears on back, front has unclear briefstempel of depot ship.

German Book Week Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

The following special cancels pertaining to German Book Week (Woche des Deutschen Buches) are listed in Julius Bochmann's **Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**.

	1936	
Series # 233	Woche des Deutschen Buches 1936 (used in Berlin, Halle, Leipzig and Weimar)	25. Oct. - 1. Nov. 1936
	1938	
Munchen # 120	Woche des Deutschen Buches 1938	30. Oct. - 5. Nov. 1938
Weimar # 16	Woche des Deutschen Buches 1938 Grossdeutsches Dichtertreffen	3-12 November 1938
Wien # 20	Woche des Deutschen Buches 1938 Buchausstellung 3-12 November 1938	3-12 November 1938
Series # 300	1. Grossdeutsche Buchwoche - Das Buch ein Kraftquell der Nation (used in Berlin, Leipzig, Munchen, Weimar and Wien)	27.Oct. - 12. Nov. 1938
	1940	
Frankfurt (M) #100A	Buch und Schwert/Sinnbild unserer Zeit Buchausstellung "Jugend und Buch"	28 Oct. - 3 Nov. 1940
Weimar # 20	Buch und Schwert/Sinnbild unserer Zeit Grossdeutsches Dichtertreffen	24 - 27 October 1940
Series # 365	Buch und Schwert/Sinnbild unserer Zeit Woche des Deutschen Buches 1940 (used in Frankfurt/M, Leipzig, Posen, Stuttgart, Weimar and Wien)	30. Oct. - 3. Nov. 1940
	1941	
Weimar # 22	Kriegsbuchwoche 1941 Grossdeutsches Dichtertreffen	24 - 26 October 1941

Munich # 120



Weimar # 16



Wien # 20



Series # 300 Slogan



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**22nd Panzer Division**

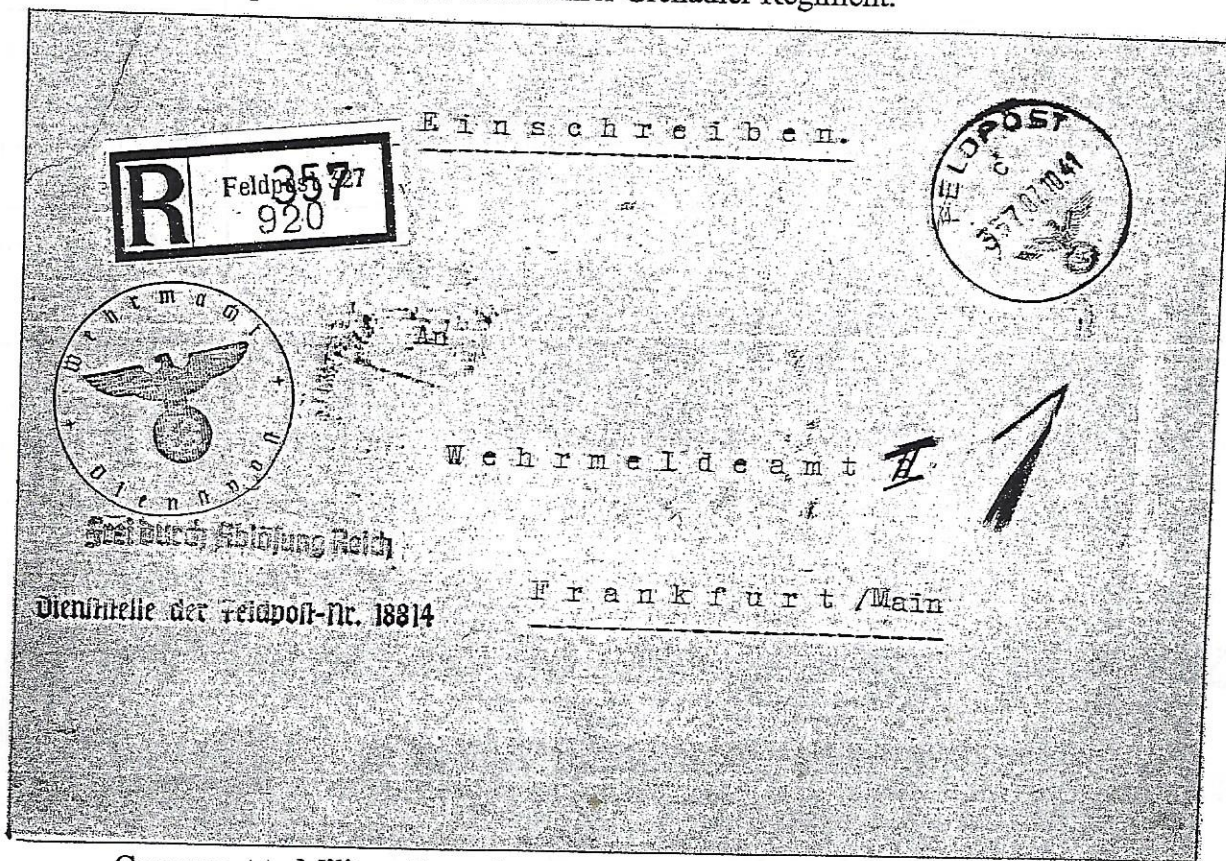
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS	
140	357	204	129	140	140	

This division began forming in France in October 1940 but was not completely trained until autumn of 1941. The division P.O. was assigned Fp.# 46216 as a return address and Kenn 357 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 140.

The 22nd Panzer Division was sent to the Crimea on the Eastern Front early in 1942. It was badly mauled in the Battle of Parpatch on March 20 but two months later it broke through the Soviet 10th Army on the Kerch Peninsula and sealed off the escape of ten Red Army divisions. It then fought at Rostov in July and by November 1942, as part of XLVIII Panzer Corps, attempted unsuccessfully to prevent the encirclement of the German 6th Army at Stalingrad. By December 1942, when it retreated to the Don it had only ninety-six tanks left and most of these were not in good working order.

By the end of 1942 Field Marshal von Manstein described the 22nd Panzer Division as "a complete wreck". When the division was disbanded in January 1943, the remnant of the 129th Panzer Grenadier Regiment was incorporated into the 15th Panzer Grenadier Regiment.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Frankfurt in October 1941 from Fp. # 18814 (Armee Pferde Lazarett 592) via P.O. 140 (K-357).

German POWs in North America Camps in Indiana

by Jim Lewis

Camp Atterbury (Code 39) located near Edinburg, Indiana was constructed early in 1942 and served as the training grounds for the U.S. 30th, 83rd, 92nd and ill-fated 106th Infantry Divisions. A POW compound to accommodate 3,000 prisoners was added in a secluded valley at the west edge of camp during the summer of 1943. Initially this compound housed Italian prisoners who worked on farms only within a 25-mile radius of the camp. Following the surrender of Italy on September 8, 1943, all Italians were transferred to other camps. The first German POWs arrived at Atterbury on May 8, 1944.

There were 2,940 Germans in the camp by June 30 and 5,700 by September 19. The maximum was reached on October 15 when there were 8,898 prisoners at Atterbury with 3,700 of these in branch camps throughout the state. Like the Italians, they were hired out as agricultural laborers and as workers in the canning factories. Earnings of these German prisoners in the month of October 1944 reached \$135,000. During the height of the canning season, branch camps were established at Austin, Windfall, Vincennes, Eaton and Morristown so that workers would be available in those areas. These branch camps continued to be maintained during the winter months in order to prevent overcrowding at Camp Atterbury. POWs in these branch camps lived in large tents rather than barracks and life was a bit more Spartan (see Fig. 2).

In Austin, several packing plants applied to use POWs from Atterbury when the 1944 canning season arrived and established a branch camp in the large Morgan Packing Company. The prisoners, by their work on near-by farms and canning factories, were credited as being a major aid in helping to meet boosted wartime food goals.

In addition to agricultural labor, in the spring of 1944, 300 German POWs were moved to a camp in Fort Benjamin Harrison. They were responsible for the work on a new Officer's Club as well as maintaining and repairing other post buildings. When this temporary POW camp was closed in February 1945, the prisoners were moved to the POW camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

The main camp and branch camps in Indiana are listed below

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Atterbury	Edinburgh	-----	Morristown	Shelby	Atterbury
Austin	Scott	Atterbury	Indiana Ordnance	Clark	Fort Knox, KY
Eaton	Delaware	Atterbury	Vincennes.	Knox	Atterbury
Harrison, Fort	Marion	-----	Windfall	Tipton	Atterbury
Jeffersonville	Clark	Fort Knox, KY			

Note): POWs worked at Billings General Hospital (Fort Benjamin Harrison), Construction Detachment (branch camp of Fort Leonard Wood, MO). Cemetery: Camp Atterbury (transferred to Camp Butler National Cemetery in Illinois).

In all, some 15,000 enemy soldiers had been received at the Atterbury POW camp during the three years and two months of its existence. During this period there were no escapes, no strikes, no labor troubles, no murders; there were only six deaths. It was over a year before all the German POWs were removed from Atterbury. On July 10, 1946, it was announced that the camp had been formally inactivated on June 27 and the last of the prisoners sent back to their homeland or to other camps. The last to be dispatched were five patients in the Wakeman hospital who were sent to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey on June 28, 1946.

Fig. 1) Postcard to Trennfeld, Germany posted at Camp Atterbury in Oct. 1944 has NYC machine cancel and German censor hand stamp from Hof office (Code 'h').

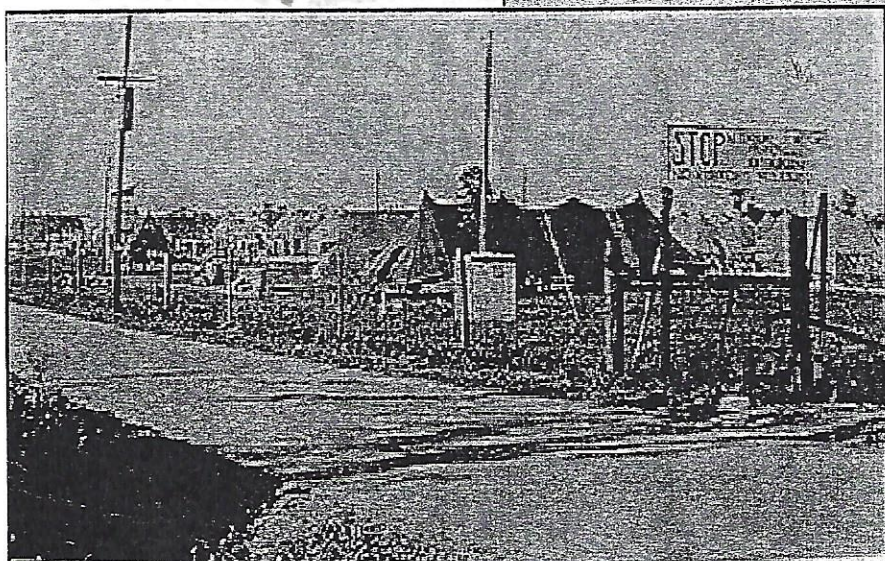
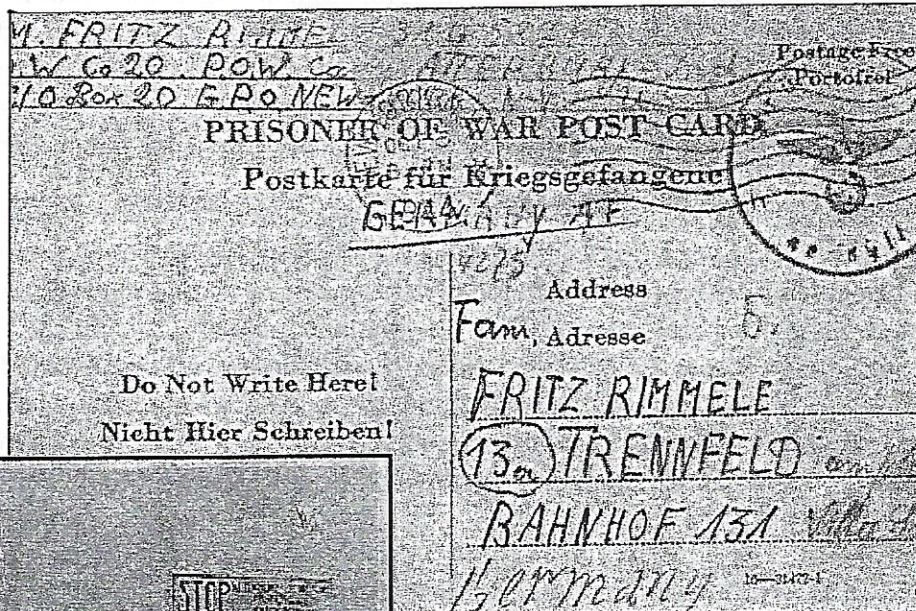
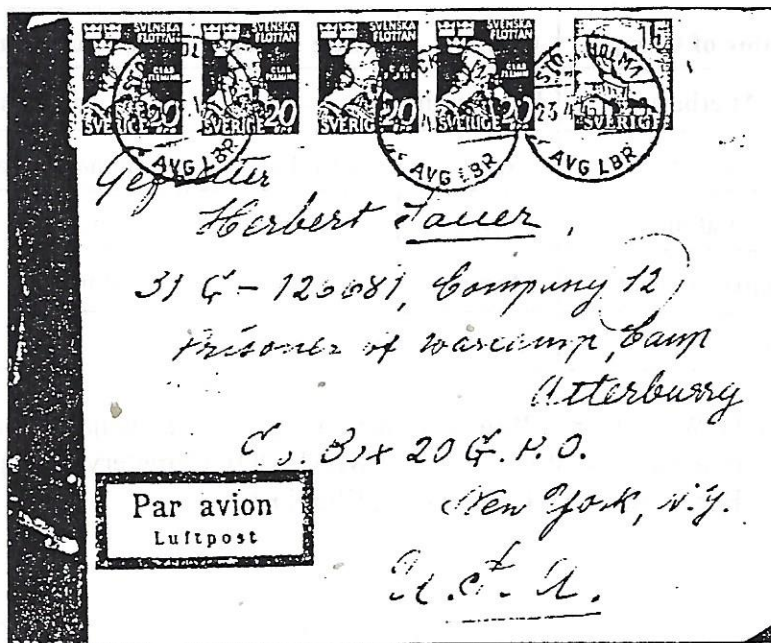


Fig. 2) View of road into branch camp at Eton shows tents used by POWs in canning factory.

Fig. 3) Cover sent to German POW at Camp Atterbury from Stockholm, Sweden in June 1944.



Story Behind the Cancel: Hitler-Mussolini Meeting in June 1940

by Kelly Stefanacci

The relationship between Hitler and Mussolini began to deteriorate in the early summer of 1940 with the Duce's reluctance to enter the war against France. In March 1940, the two dictators had met at the Brenner Pass on the Austrian-Italian border to formalize their alliance. During this meeting, Mussolini promised to commit his troops the moment Germany's attack on France appeared successful. This moment came sooner than expected. On June 10, as France fell to German forces, Mussolini declared war on Great Britain and France with this statement: "This is the struggle of the peoples who are poor and eager to work against the greedy who hold a ruthless monopoly of all the wealth and gold of the earth." Appointing himself the new commander of Italian armed forces, Mussolini ordered his troops to attack France from across the Alps. Italy's first assault on southern France resulted in the acquisition of very little territory, as Italian troops were pushed back by the smaller but better prepared French forces. On June 17, word reached Hitler that France desired an armistice and that Marshall Petain wanted to know the German terms. To insure Italian compliance, Hitler arranged a meeting with Mussolini in Munich the next day. Mussolini arrived in Munich with foreign minister Count Ciano determined to exploit the advantage he had in France by demanding total surrender and occupying the southern portion still free. However, Hitler was in no mood for risk and was determined to put forward rather mild terms for peace with France. He needed to be sure that the French fleet remained neutral and that a government-in-exile was not formed in North Africa or London determined to prosecute the war. He denied Mussolini's request that Italian troops occupy the Rhone Valley, and that Corsica, Tunisia and Djibouti (adjacent to Italian-occupied Ethiopia) be disarmed.

Following this meeting, the German foreign ministry made a sardonic comparison between Mussolini and the traditional circus clown who rolled up the mats after the acrobats completed their performance and then demanded that the audience applaud him.

The special cancel shown below was used in Munich on June 18, 1940 to commemorate the Hitler-Mussolini meeting.



Sara Letter to Shanghai

by Kelly Stefanacci

The desperation of German Jews after the accession of the Nazi party to power on January 1, 1933 may be measured by the fact that more than 14,000 had fled to Shanghai, China by 1939, when the Japanese occupiers closed the city to further immigration. The reason for the exodus to Shanghai was that until August 1939 Shanghai was regarded as an "open city", requiring no entry visa and no documents. Therefore, those Jews who had the money to travel made the journey from Germany by rail through Poland, Russia and Siberia to the coast of China to reach Shanghai, a distance of 5,220 miles. The wealthiest Jews went to Genoa and made the trip on Italian and Japanese cruise ships. Upon arrival, Jews were required to live in the "Restricted Sector for Stateless Refugees", an area of approximately one square mile in the poor Hongkou District.

This cover, posted in Vienna in February 21, 1940, was sent by a Jewish woman using the obligatory middle name "Sara" to a relative whose address is a post office box in Shanghai. The back side shows German censor markings plus boxed and circular hand stamps applied in China. The front has one line stamps "25 MAR, 1940" which may be the date of receipt but I am not certain. If any members have information about these date stamps (or the Chinese or Japanese markings on the back side) please send it to our bulletin editor.

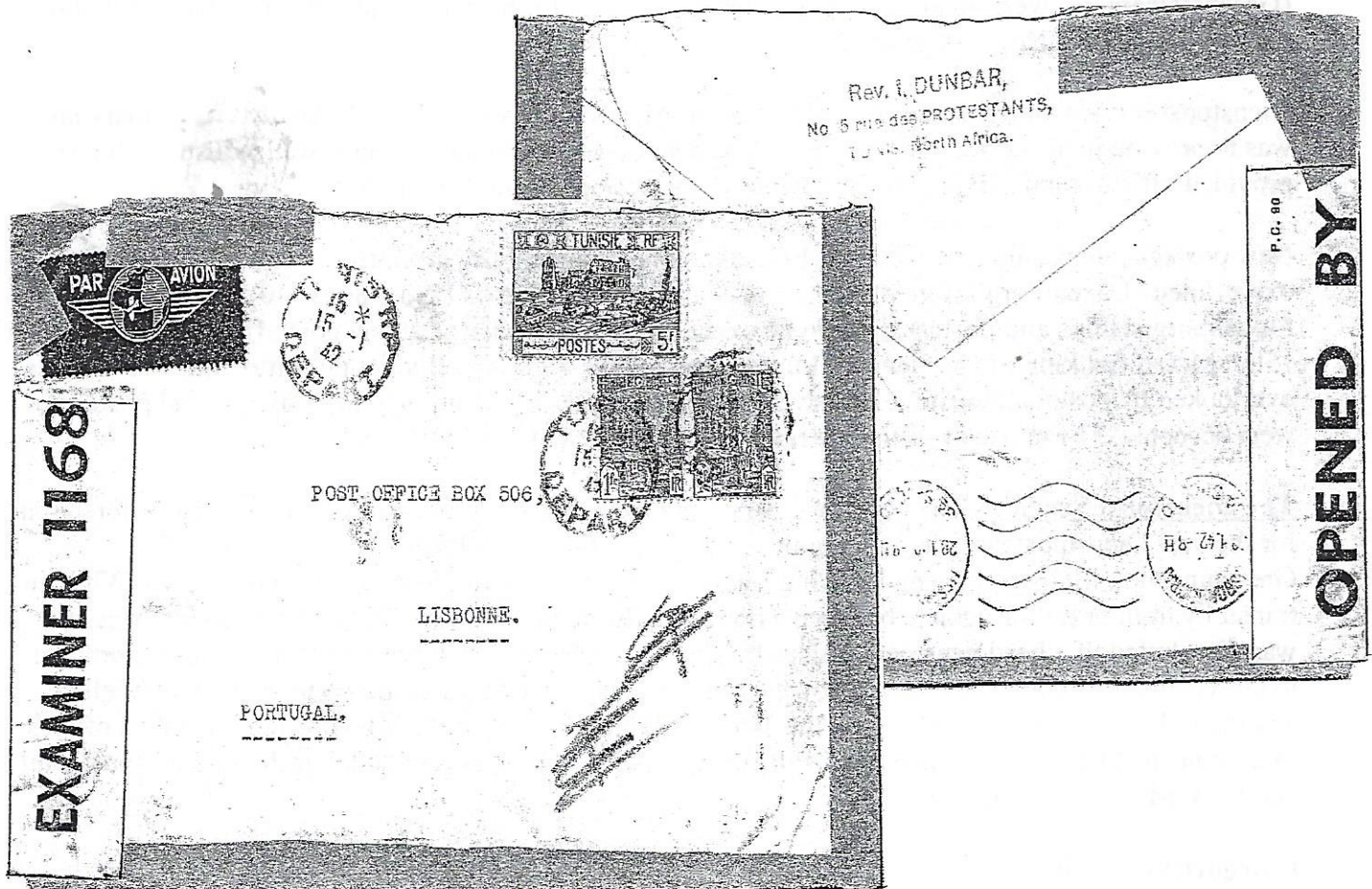


Undercover Collector's Corner: P.O. Box 506 Cover from Tunisia

by Ed Fraser

The article on page 19 in TRSG Bulletin 185 notes that 270 Americans were rounded up in North Africa and held as hostages in Germany. In reaction to the Allied landings in North Africa in November 1942, German forces occupied Tunis. They had with them a list of potential hostages which included the sender of the cover shown below.

Fig. 1) Airmail cover mailed from Tunis on January 15, 1942 has sender hand stamp on back side reading "Rev. I. DUNBAR/No. 5 rue des PROTESTANTS, Tunis, North Africa." and a Lisbon machine receiving cancel dated January 28, 1942. The British censor sealing tape on left side identifies Examiner 1168.



This cover aroused my curiosity and I proceeded to conduct a Google search on the sender. I found that the Rev. Isaac Dunbar was vicar of the English Church of St. George in Tunis. This church had to close in November 1942 following the German occupation of Tunis. The English and Jewish connections made St. Georges, the Mission and those who worked there too easy a target. Rev. Dunbar went into hiding and was given shelter by French, Greek and Jewish families. After the liberation of Tunis in May 1943, the church was reopened and was much used by British Armed Forces, to the extent that it acquired the title "The Westminster Abbey of North Africa". Rev. Isaac Dunbar acted as chaplain to the British Forces and did great work for which he was awarded the MBE (British Empire Medal) in 1944.

Note: An article on Rev. Dunbar published in the Australian Courier-Mail in May 1943 appears on page 2.

The Dienstpost Service in Luxemburg

by Ernst Konigsfeld

After the occupation of the Grand Duchy by troops of Army Group A under General von Rundstedt on May 10th, 1940, the entire postal system for the area was reorganized. On June 3rd German military authorities permitted the resumption of a normal service for letters and postcards to Germany and, from June 30th, similar services were introduced in Holland and Belgium. Such correspondence had to be in German, French or Flemish and was forwarded via the Cologne censor office where items inspected received a handstamp (or hand stamps) bearing the office code letter 'c'.

On August 15th it was announced in the official Postal Gazette (Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium 15/8/40) that full services were to be restored under the supervision of the RPD (Reichspostdirektion) in Trier. From August 20th registered letters and parcels, printed matter and business papers (Geschäftspapiere) were again accepted. A limited service for heavier items was announced two days later (Amtsblatt Vf No. 547, Aug. 1940).

Dienstpost service under the same head office in Trier was established on 20 August. Its primary task was to provide mail service for local institutions involved in finance, defense, war industries. It also provided official mail service for the various organizations of the Nazi Party.

New postage rates came into effect on 1 October when Hindenburg definitive stamps (Mi. 1-16) overprinted "Luxemburg" were placed on sale (Amtsblatt No. 84 Vf No. 486, 1940). The old Luxemburg stamps and postcards could be exchanged without charge at any post office until November 15th. Mixed franking of German and Luxemburg stamps was officially not permitted but was initially overlooked by postal authorities. However, after October 3, 1940, only German stamps and postcards were accepted. The currency exchange rate was established at 10 Fr. (Lux.) = 1 Rm.

The Dienstpost Service - The main post office in Luxemburg City became the central collection point for the new Dienstpost service with regional offices established in Esch/Alzig, Diekirk and Grevenmacher. Mail entering and leaving Luxemburg was handled by the Trier 2 post office. While in transit by train or motor vehicle between Trier and Luxemburg City, mail traveled in sealed bags and was distributed to other Dienstpost offices by similar means. The exception to this was mail from and to Grevenmacher which was handled by the railway post office at the nearby border town of Wellen and the railway (Bahnpost) offices on the Trier-Perl line. Courier services connected local post offices to their nearest Dienstpost office and the former could, therefore, accept and distribute Dienstpost mail and forward it for cancellation.

Categories of Mail

1.) For officials and Nazi Party organizations:

Postcards; Letters up to 100 gr.; Registered letters; Value letters (Wertbriefe) and Parcels up to 5 Kgs.

2.) For Private Mail for Locally Employed Staff:

Postcards; Letters up to 250 gram; Printed Matter up to 500 gram but no parcel or packet service.

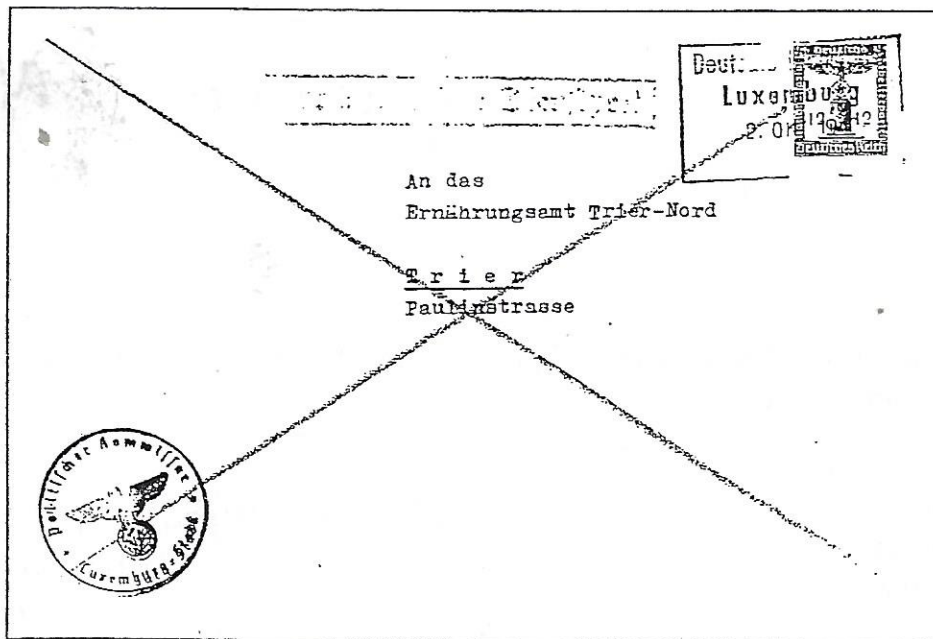
Official mail could only be sent free of charge if it bore the instructional marking "Frei durch Ablosung Reich" (Free by National Decree) and the authenticating seal of the sender's office.

Private mail of all kinds bearing German stamps at normal German inland postal rates was accepted. Although franking with "Luxemburg" overprints was contrary to regulations, such items were often allowed through. All valid German stamps, including Official stamps (Mi. 132-154), could be used.

Correspondence from German postal officials in Luxemburg went postage-free and such mail was marked "Deutsche Dienstpost, Postsache, Einsatz Westen". Special postmarks were normally applied to letters with commemorative stamps but seldom to those with definitive stamps.

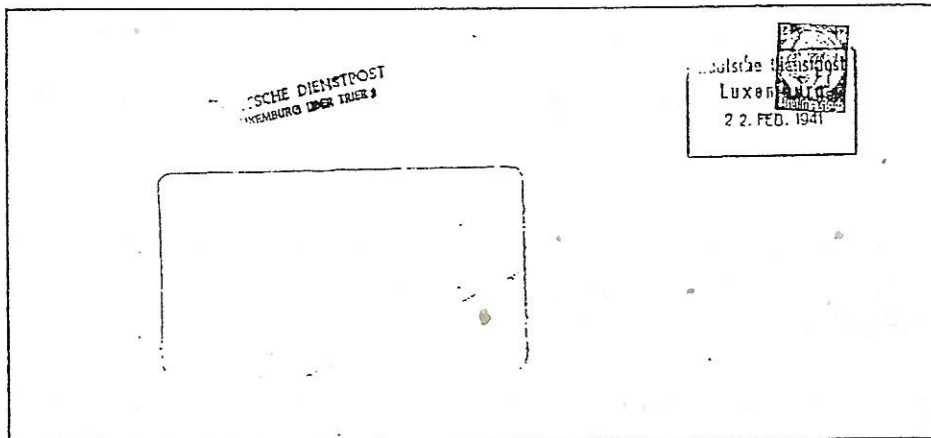
To make Dienstpost mail clearly recognizable to postal workers, each item had to bear the inscription "Durch Deutsche Dienstpost" or "Durch Deutsche Dienstpost Luxemburg" in a red rectangle above the address (violet and blue were sometimes used) and a diagonal cross in blue across the face of the envelope. Each of these offices supplied their own postmarks.

Fig. 1) Official cover with office seal of German Political Commissioner in Luxemburg City also has DDP rectangular hand stamp at top center.



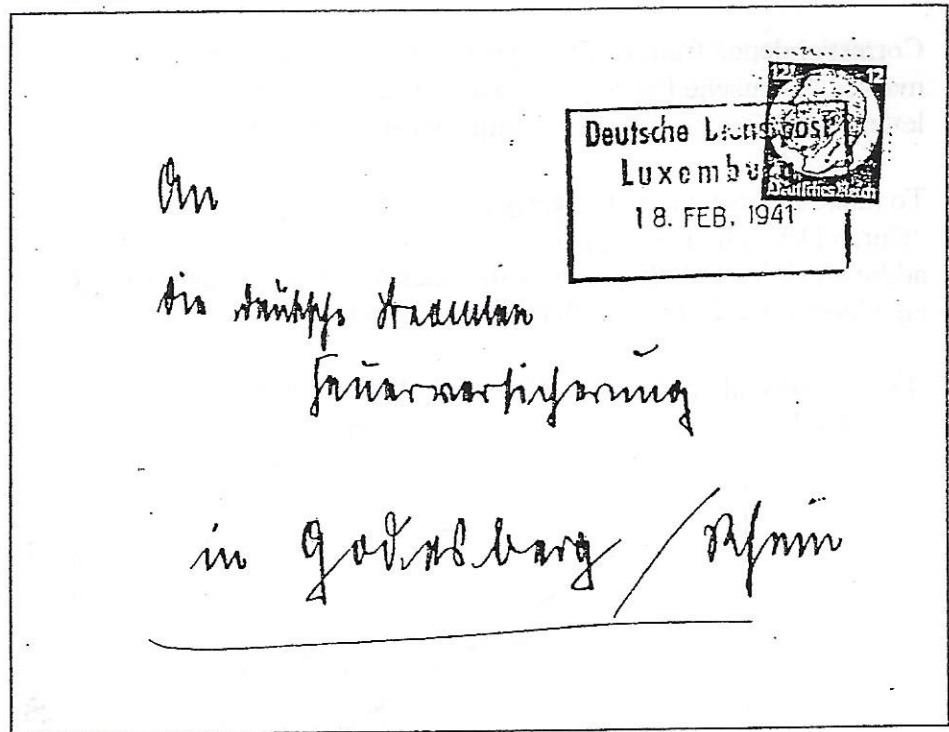
To avoid delay in forwarding mail, an additional instructional DDP handstamp was often used.

Fig. 2) Window cover with "DDP/ Luxemburg "Über Trier 2" sent in February 1941.



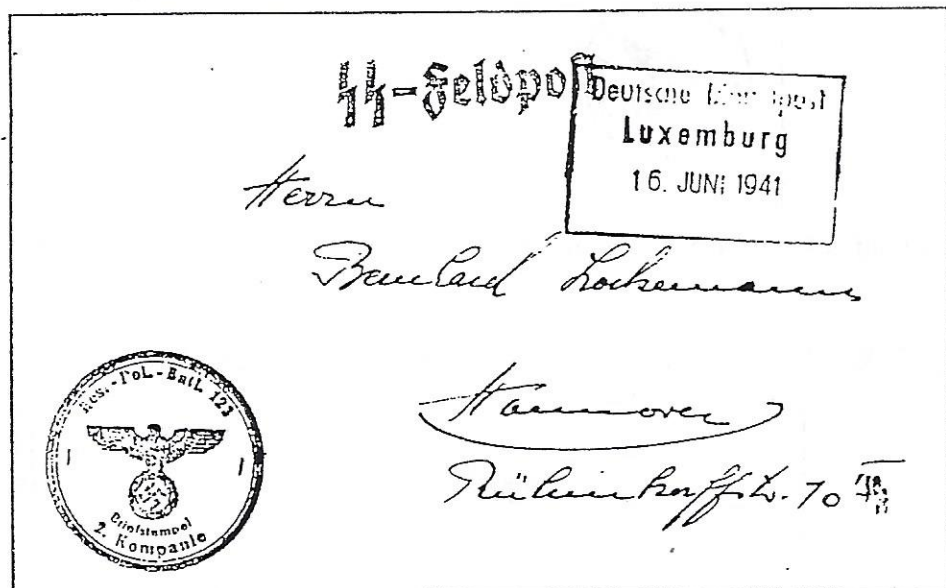
From the beginning, DDP offices used a standard rectangular 45 x 28mm hand cancel with 3-line text in violet ink. A one-line hand stamp with town name was also used sometimes. All confidential matter had to be sent via the Dienstpost and any such material found in the civil post would be confiscated.

Fig. 3) Typical DDP cover with rectangular cancellation was sent in February 1941



Mail to and from members of the armed forces that was carried postage free by the German Feldpost could also be sent postage free via the Dienstpost.

Fig. 4) SS-Feldpost cover from Reserve Police Battalion 123 sent via the Dienstpost in June 1941.



Postal services in Luxemburg were taken over by the German Reichspost on April 24, 1941 (Amtsblatt No. 57 Mitt der RPM No.1191/1941). The Grevenmacher DDP office had closed on November 10, 1940 and all remaining DDP offices closed on October 31, 1941.

Ref: "Das Postwesen in Luxemburg während der Deutschen Bestzung im 2 Weltkrieg" by Marcel Staar.
Ed. Note: This article ran in TRSG (UK) News Sheet 94 and appears here with their permission..

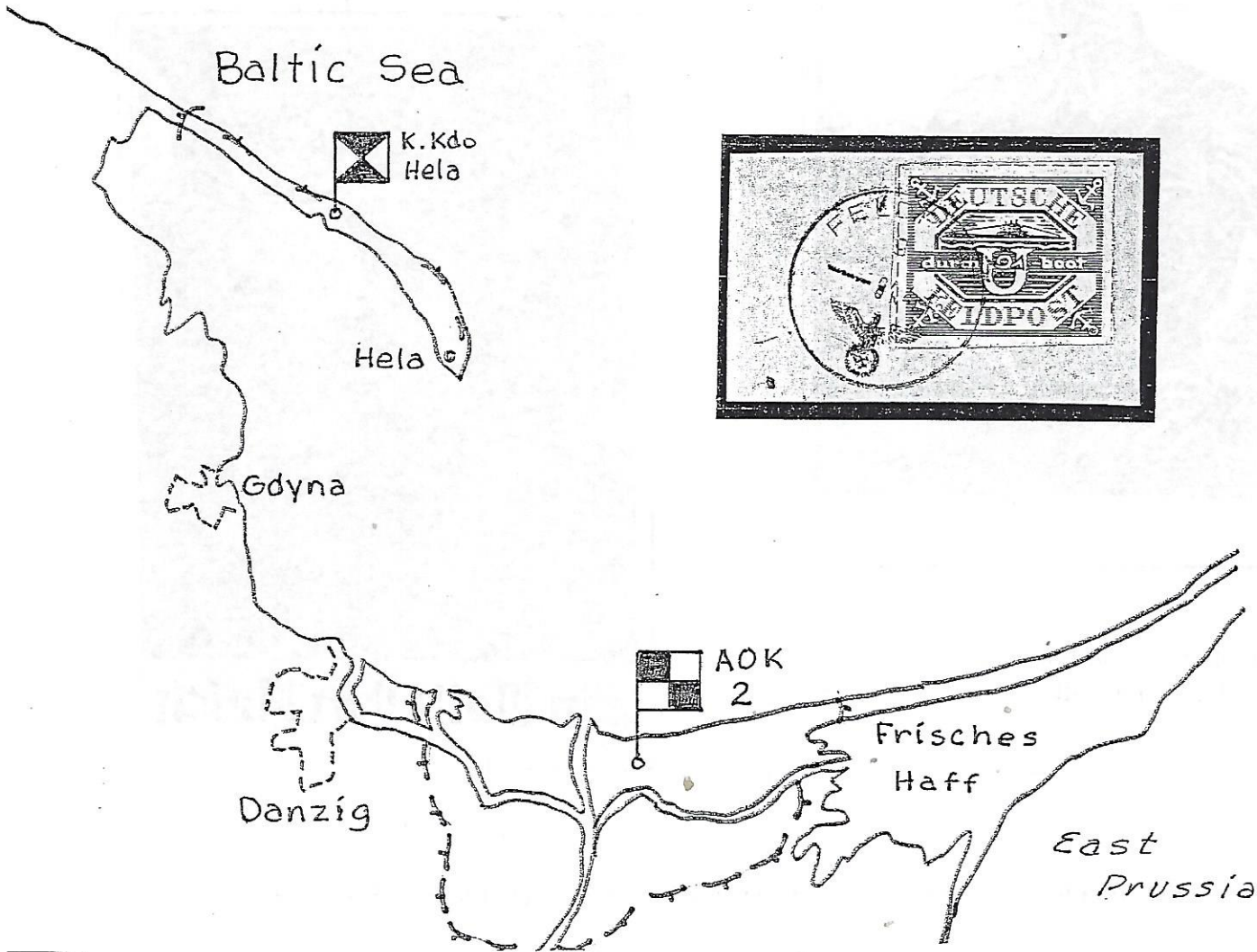
TRSG Map: The Hela Peninsula

by Kelly Stefanacci

The Red Army's February 1945 offensive swept Pomeranian clear of German forces. In March 1945 General Dietrich von Saucken was given command of the 7th Infantry Division and other surviving German units fighting in the encircled region of East Prussia. There he skillfully organized defensive actions that enabled thousands of civilians and troops to escape by boat from the Soviet onslaught. Driven back to the Danzig area and the Hela Peninsula by the end of March, the only postal link with the Reich was via ship or airplane. As a boost to morale, a special blue Feldpost admission label designed by Brune Paetsch of Danzig was produced in imperforate sheets by a Corps map printing unit in Hela. As the original proposal envisioned the use of submarines to transport mail, the designer used a U-Boat motif.

However, operational needs precluded using submarines. Between 1 April and 15 April a total of 243,000 people were evacuated from Hela, including 162,000 servicemen. No estimate is available of the amount of mail that did get through. With the end approaching, the German High Command sent both an airplane and a boat to rescue von Saucken but he refused to leave and stayed with his troops until the final surrender in the Hela peninsula on May 8, 1945.

The admission label shown below was provided by our TRSG Editor from his Feldpost exhibit.



The 'Graz' Reunion Propaganda Card Set

by John Ziegelhofer

One of the scarcest set of color propaganda cards was published by Leopold Stocker of Graz, Austria to commemorate the reunion of Germany and Austria in 1938. There are 10 cards in this set. Shown below is card #1 in the set and the reverse side showing the publisher's address (this address line is shown enlarged above the card). The other nine cards in the set are shown in accordance with the number which appears after the address line. Any text that appears below the illustration is shown under the card.

Leopold Stocker Verlag, Graz. Dieses Bild ist als Kunstblatt, 70 x 53 cm, erschienen (RM 8.—).

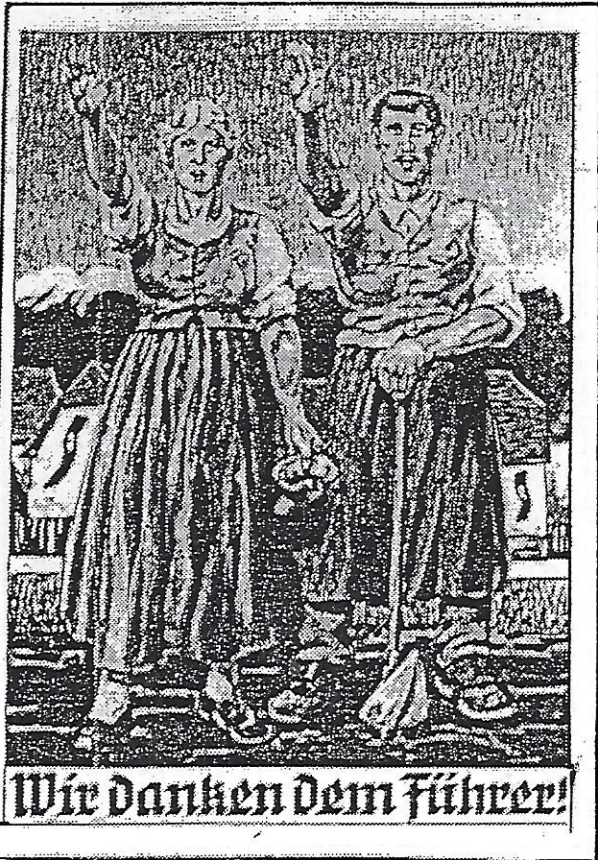


#1 "Der Befreier und Einiger
des deutschen Volkes"

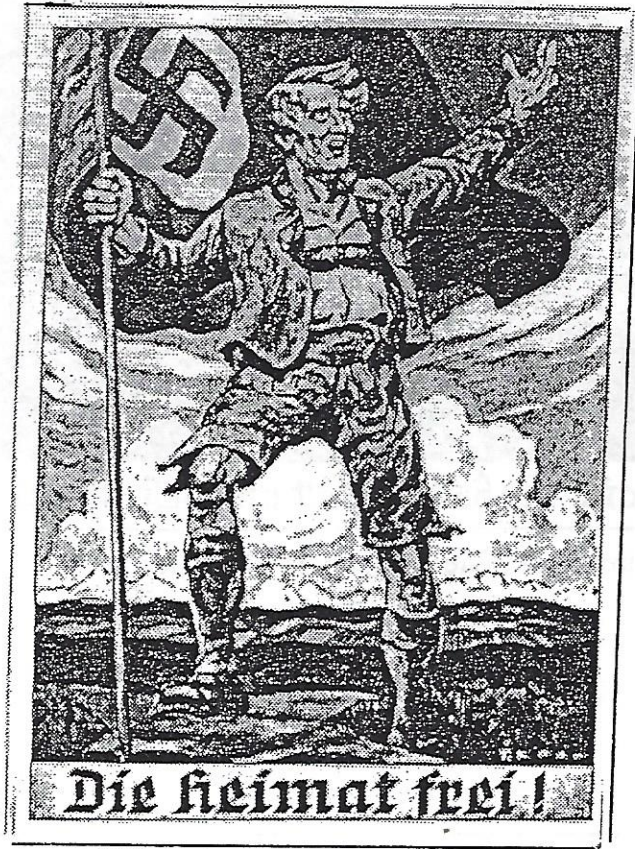


2 "Ein Volk-Ein Reich"

ED NOTE: This article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin No. 93 in 1989



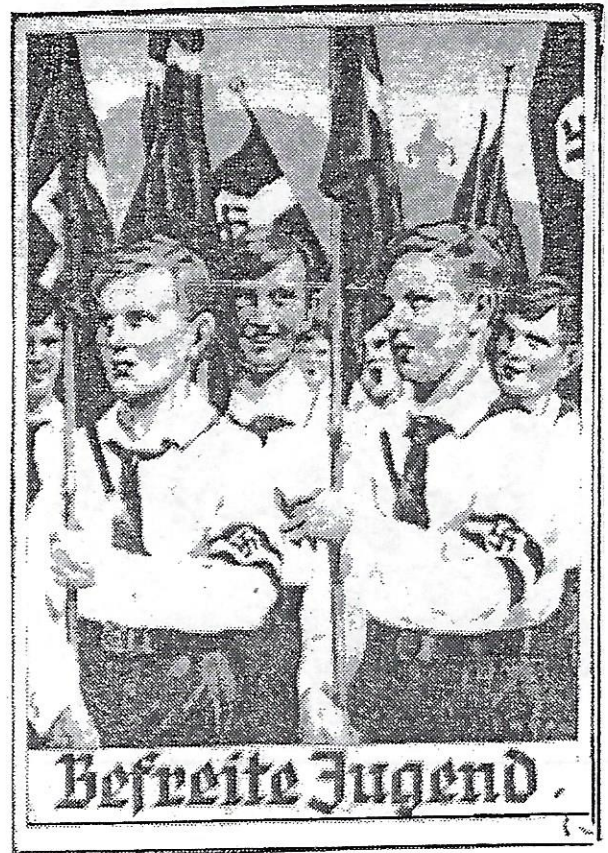
3 "Wir danken dem Führer!"



4 "Die Heimat frei!"



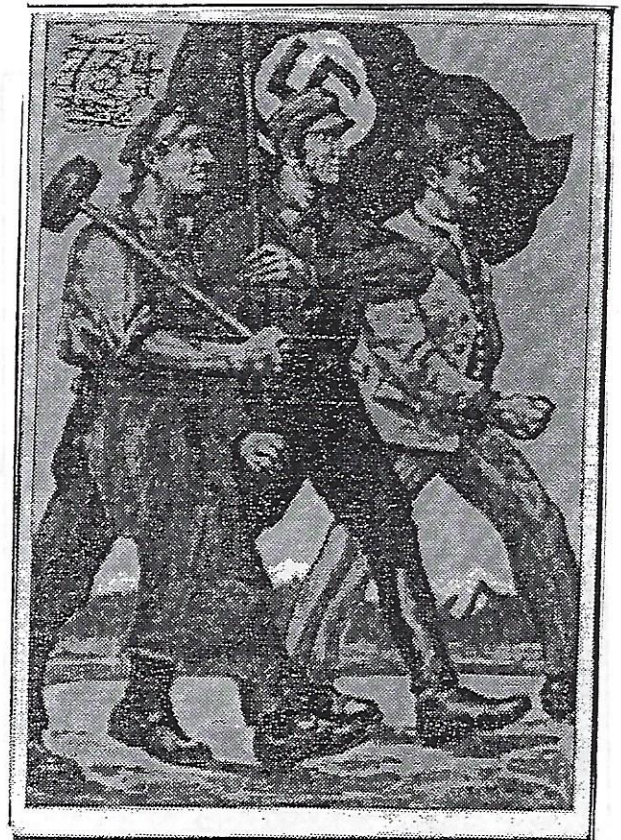
#5 "Befreites glückliches Volk!"



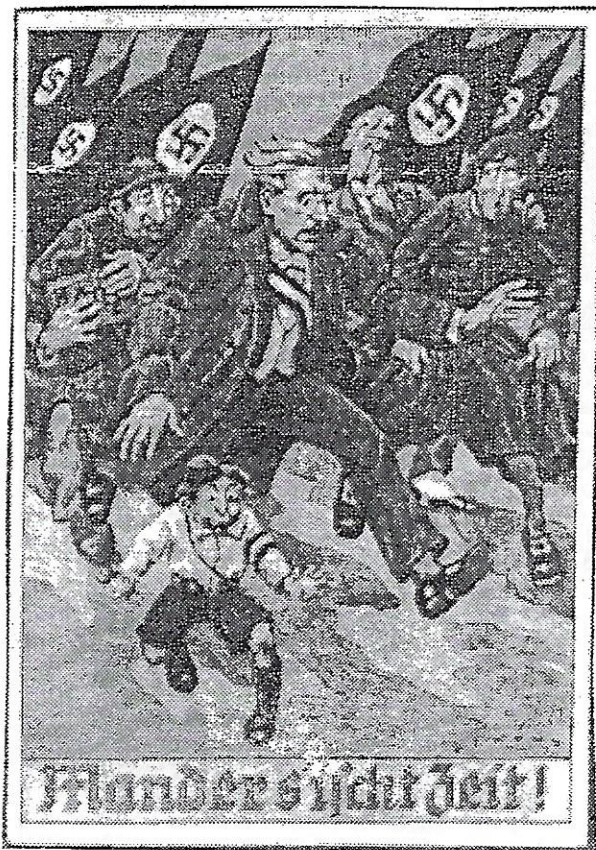
#6 "Befreite Jugend"



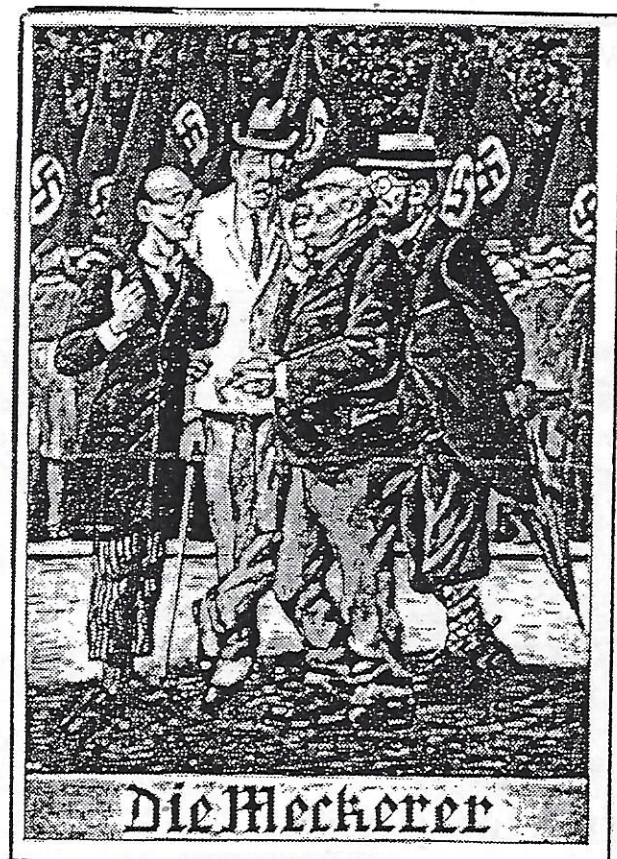
7 "Im Streite zur Seite ist Gott uns Gestanden"



8 (No text)



9 "Mander sischt Zeit!"



#10 "Die Meckerer"

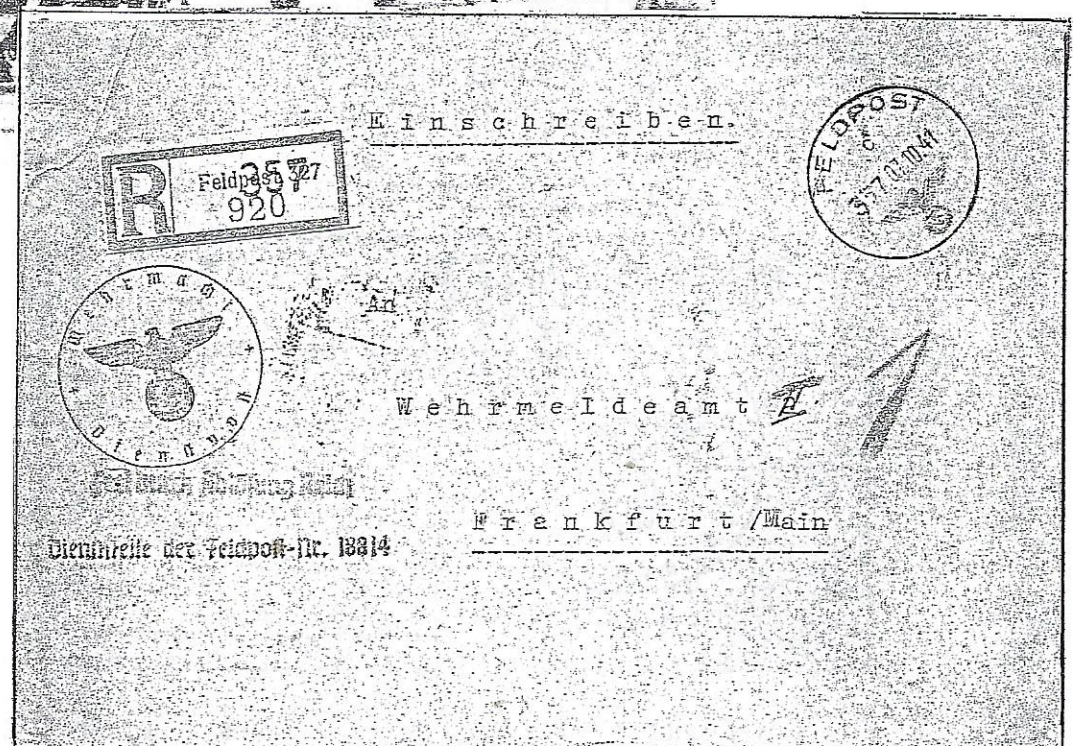
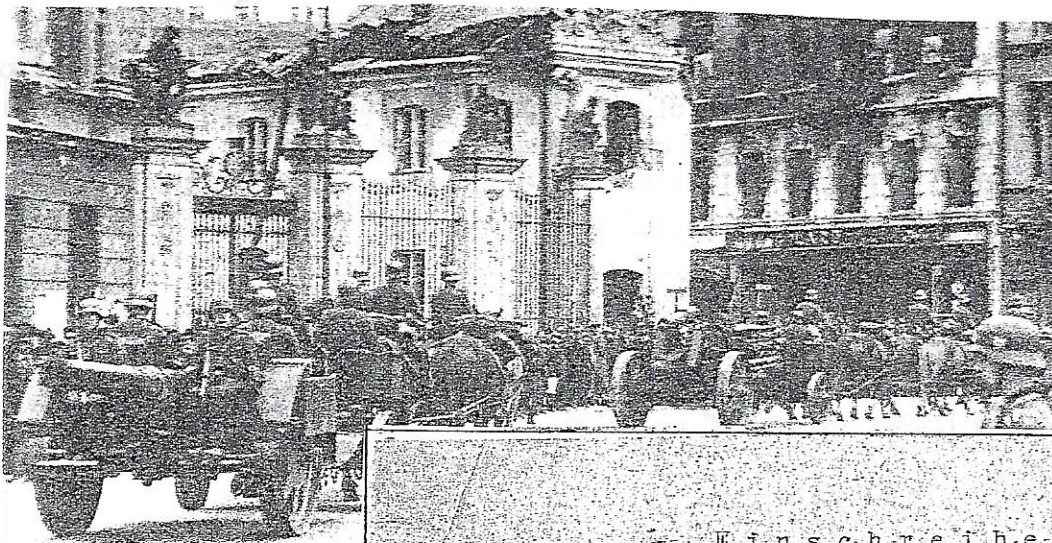
One of My Favorite Covers: Horses in a Panzer Division?

by Joseph Chervenyak

While this registered Feldpost cover is not markedly different from the others in my exhibit "*Feldpost Offices of Germany Panzer Division During WWII*", it is a reminder of a comment made by an exhibit judge some years ago. The cover, selected because of its exhibit quality i.e. all postal markings clear and legible, was sent to the Military Records Office in Frankfurt in October 1941 from Fp.# 18814 (Army Horse Hospital 592) via FpA 140 (K-357) of the 22nd Panzer Division.

During a meeting with the judges, I asked if they saw any particular problems with my exhibit that I might change to improve my chances for a higher award. One judge recalled this particular cover and wanted to know "why a German panzer division would require a horse hospital?"

I explained that even though the German army was "mechanized", this level of transport never equaled the Allied formations, especially the British and Americans. In 1940, only one of the two Panzer Grenadier regiments was fully mechanized, the other was still partially dependent on horse transport. Even a panzer division could have horse-drawn artillery as shown in the photo below. So, there were horses in a panzer division and, like all of us, they got sick on occasion and required hospitalization.



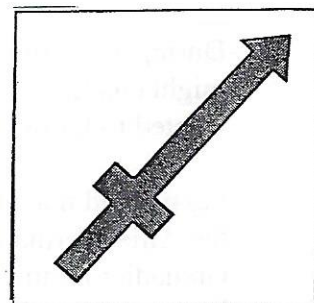
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

23rd Panzer Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS
128	788	201	126	128	128

Formed in France in autumn 1941. P.O. was assigned Fp.# 42550 as a return address and K-788 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 128. The division emblem was a yellow arrow with single bar on the shaft. The division was sent to Russia in the spring of 1942 and fought in the fierce battles for Kharkov and Terek that spring and narrowly escaped encirclement near Stalingrad that November. It took part in 4th Panzer Army's attempt to relieve the city but was unsuccessful. By spring 1943, with only twenty serviceable tanks, the division was placed in the new 6th Army's reserve. It took part in the Mius withdrawal that summer and was heavily engaged in the battles of the Dneiper Bend in autumn.



Encircled west of the Dneiper River in March 1944, it broke out with heavy losses and reduced to battle group strength. It fought in Poland in the fall of 1944, then was sent to Hungary to lead the 6th Army counterattack on Nyiregyhaza in late October, capturing the town and destroying nearly 600 Soviet tanks. A large part of the 23rd Panzer Division was trapped in the medieval town of Szekesfehervas and destroyed when 6th Army in Hungary collapsed. Remnants were fighting in Austria when war ended.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Vienna in June 1943 from Fp. # 20150 (Panzer Aufklarungs Abtl. 23) via P.O. 128 (K-788).

Pages from My Exhibit: The Azad Hind 1 Rupee Stamp










by N. O. Good (*)

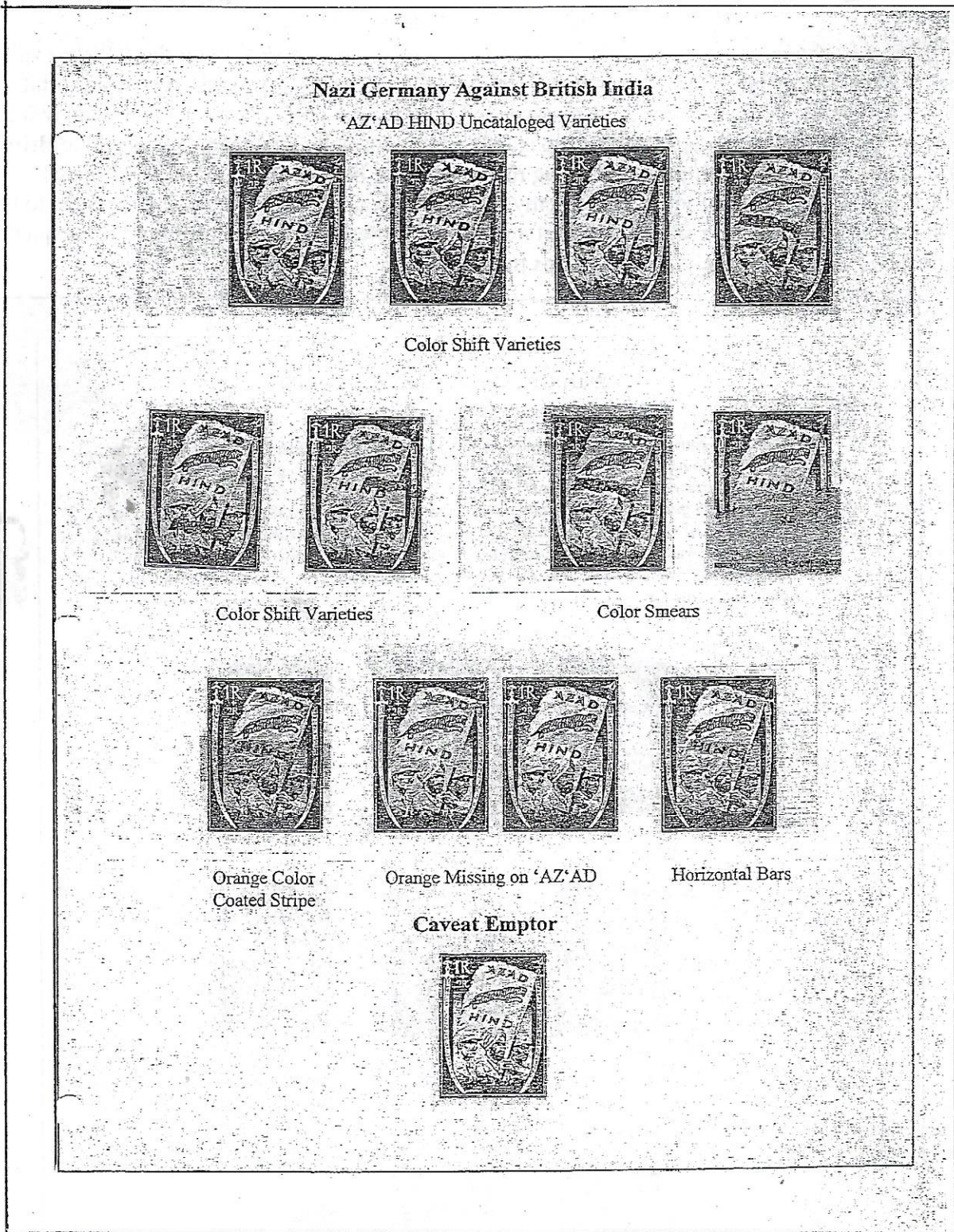
I read with interest the note on Page 2 of Bulletin No. 185 regarding the design on the 1 Rupee value of the unissued set of stamps for the Indian Legion. Shown below are the two pages from my exhibit "A Message to the Enemy", which concerns espionage and propaganda philately associated with WWII Europe, detailing this particular stamp. As propaganda issues basically designed to undermine British rule in India, the Azad Hind stamps had a strong message to the British. From Azad Hind leader Subhas Chandra Bose's point of view, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend" was the message to send. None of the other legion issues carried as potent a message as these nor had as profound consequences. Because of this, these are the only legion stamps in the exhibit.

Nazi Germany Against British India

'AZ'AD HIND

From many countries and ethnic groups, the Nazis recruited sympathizers to participate in the struggle for Europe. Most of these legions issued fund-raising labels glorifying the cause. Of all the issues produced, none have a more profound propaganda purpose than the 'AZ'AD HIND or Free Indian Legion stamps. In an attempt to create dissention against British rule in India, an Indian National Government under the leadership of Subhas Chandra Bose was conceived and a set of stamps was prepared but never issued. The 1 Rupee values depict the most well-known martyrs of the time, Sukhdev Thapar at left, Bhagat Singh as flag bearer and Shivaram Rajguru at right. They were all hanged on March 23, 1931 for acts of reprisal against harsh British rule.

1 Rupee Values		
		
Color Proofs		
		
Dark violet	Violet	Black on Orange Color Coated Paper
Proofs on Card		
		
Black	Black with Orange And Green	Black on Reverse of Printed Card



Editor's Note: "N. O. Good" is the Nom-de-plum of a TRSG member who prefers to use this name when showing this particular exhibit and we respect his right of privacy.

Ye Olde Ed