



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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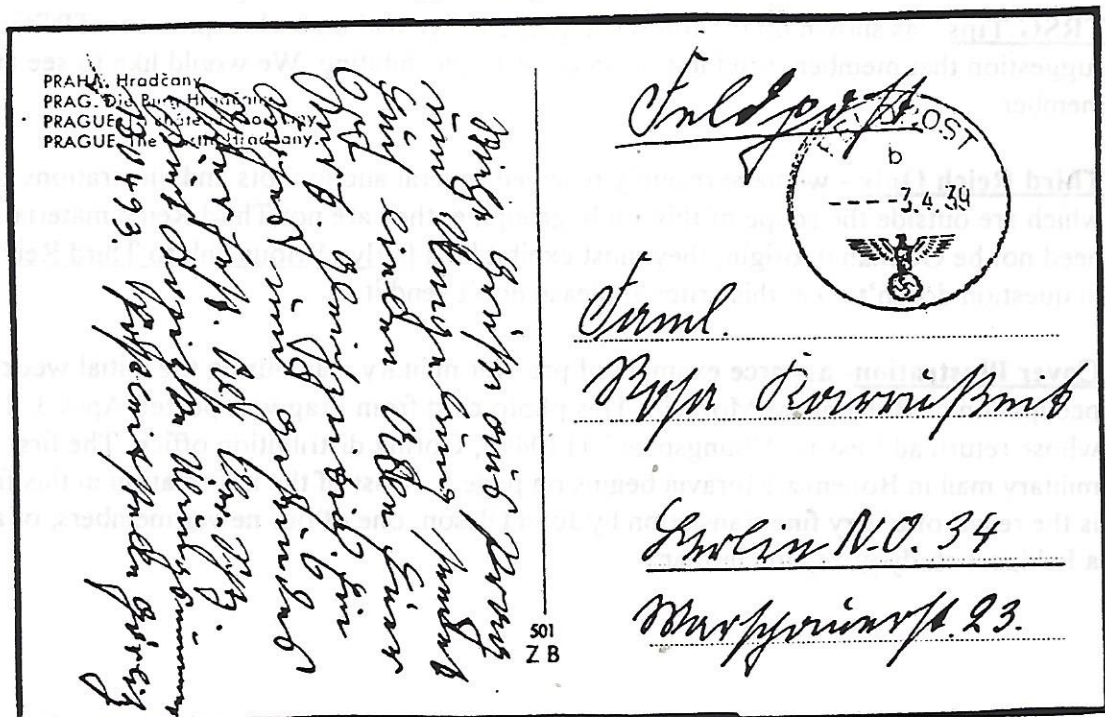
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STUDY GROUP NOTES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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According to FREUDE - member Joseph Adler detected a small mistake in the article "Germany Calling", which appeared in Bulletin #111. On page 10, the slogan cancel "Rundfunk bringt 'FREUDE' ein Haus" is translated by the author as "Radio brings a FRIEND into the house". Mr. Adler believes that a better translation of FREUDE would be JOY or PLEASURE.

TRSG Exhibit & Meeting ?- we have been extended an invitation to sponsor a section of Third Reich Postal History exhibits and to conduct a study group meeting at NOJEX '95 to be held at the Hilton Hotel (across from Giants Stadium) in Secaucus, New Jersey on May 27 - 29, 1995. Many of you have asked if we could ever have a full blown TRSG get-together complete with speakers, a swap meet, refreshments etc. Well, this is that opportunity, gang. Before we can accept the invitation, however, we need to know which members could attend the meeting and/or enter exhibits. A survey letter concerning the TRSG Meeting will be sent by Sec.-Treasurer Fred Willshaw with Bulletin #113 in October. In the meanwhile, please write to Ye Olde Editor if you would consider entering an exhibit but have questions about exhibit rules, etc.

TRSG Tips - as shown on the following page, we've had a good response to TRSGer Arno Karnapke's suggestion that members send in tips on collecting/exhibiting. We would like to see an entry from every member.

Third Reich Only - we have recently received several auction lots and illustrations of postal history items which are outside the scope of this study group i.e. they are not Third Reich material. While such items, need not be German in origin, they must exhibit be a fairly obvious link to Third Reich Germany. If an item in question doesn't meet this criteria, please don't send it in.

Cover Illustration- a scarce example of pre-war military mail during the initial weeks of the German occupation of Bohemia & Moravia. This photo card from Prag was posted April 3, 1939 by a private whose return address is "Übungspost" #130493, Görlitz distribution office. The first part of an article on military mail in Bohemia-Moravia begins on page 5. Most of the information in this first part of the article is the result of a very fine translation by John Olsson, one of our newer members, of an article published by a Feldpost study group in Germany.

TRSG Tips: Creating Postal History Album Pages

by Rex Dixon

As follow up to Arno Karnapke's suggestion that members send in photocopies of album pages, here are two album pages which I recently wrote up. I lightly annotate in pencil on the reverse of these pages with details such as source, English translation of text, etc.

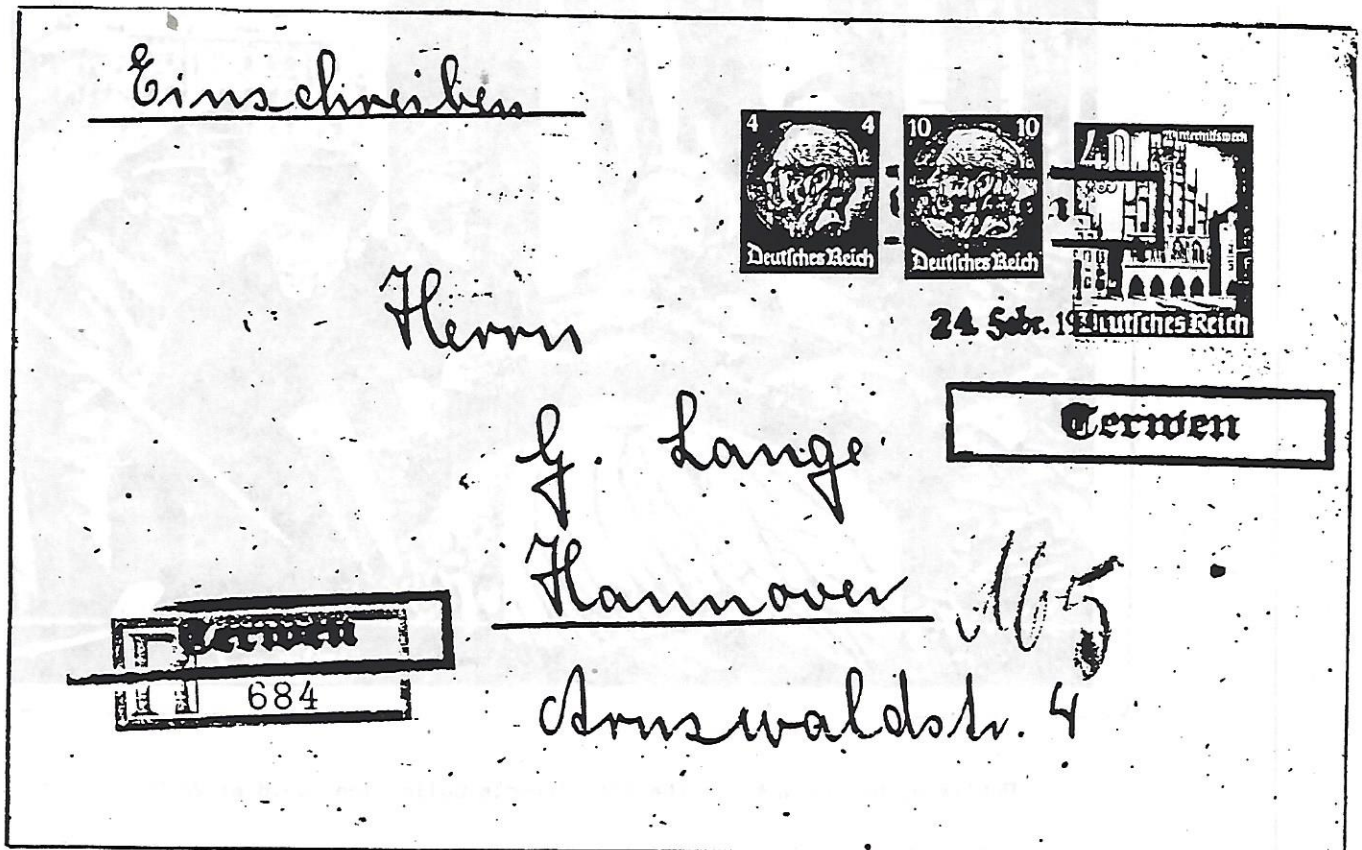
LORRAINE

Use of unoverprinted stamp

Unoverprinted stamps in civil post valid only from
15 July 1941

The one exception: WHW stamps issued 5 Nov 1940

24 Febr. 1941



Terwen / Terville is a PSt I just SW of Diedenhofen / Thionville

The same regulations applied in Alsace, but in Luxemburg the exception did not prevail; they overprinted the WHW series instead.

POLAND

Return of the Volksdeutsche from eastern Poland

Legend: **On the San Bridge at Przemysl**
Reichsführer SS Heinrich Himmler
greets the last of the Germans
returning to the Reich from
former Eastern Poland



Published by the VDA for the 1940 Schools Collection, sold at 20 Pf

- 16 Nov 1939: Treaty for exchange of populations, excluded Poles & Jews.
- 8 Dec 1939: Unit of 308 SS men arrived to organise evacuation of ethnic Germans.
- 9 Feb 1940: Completed evacuation of 128 000 ethnic Germans. Included 15 000 Poles masquerading as such.

GERMAN MILITARY MAIL IN BOHEMIA-MORAVIA 1939-1945

by Jim Lewis

I.) Introduction

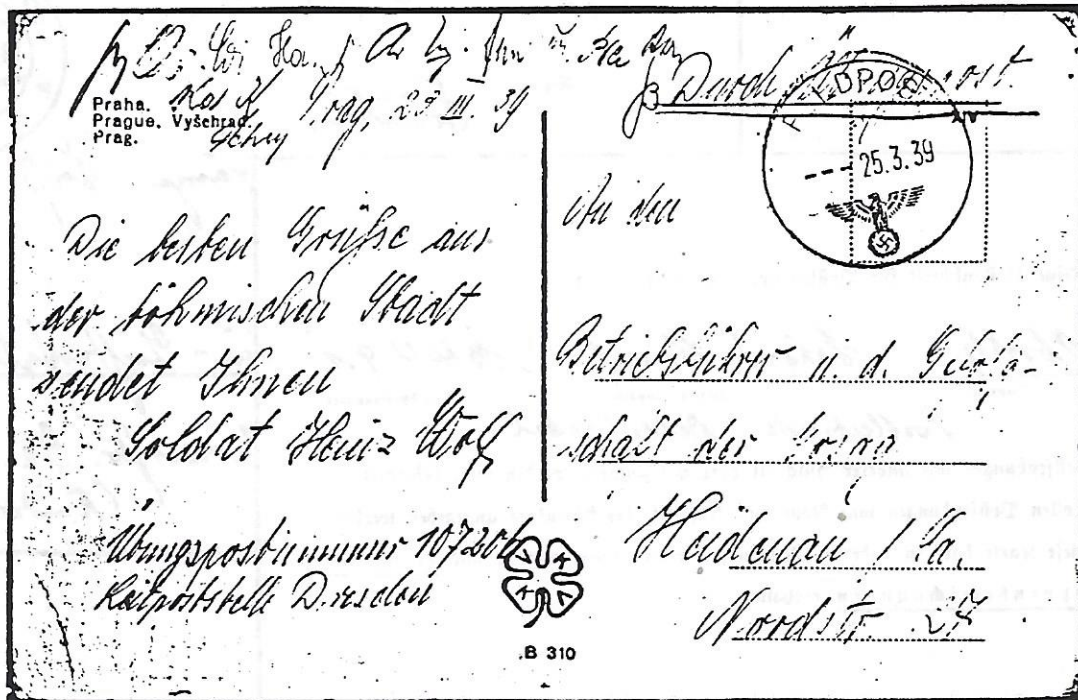
The Munich Agreement which truncated Czechoslovakia in the fall of 1938 was simply a prelude to the German occupation of that nation which was soon to follow. Under threat of imminent military invasion, the Czech government agreed to a partition which would place the historic lands of Bohemia and Moravia under German "protection".

On the morning of March 15, 1939, the German army marched in and occupied Bohemia and Moravia. The important Moravian industrial and mining region around the town of Ostravia had been occupied by German military units during the preceding night. The military occupation was immediately followed by the declaration of the Protectorate Bohemia-Moravia and a series of appropriate administrative measures. One of them was the establishment of German currency, the Reichsmark, as valid legal tender in the occupied territory with the fixed exchange rate of 1 Reichsmark to 10 Czech crowns.

II.) Initial Paramilitary Postal Service

During the early months of the occupation, German army and occupation authorities employed a paramilitary postal system for their mail. This postal service used a single-circle postmark displaying the legend "FELDPOST", the date and the insignia of the German "Wehrmacht" (Armed Forces). To lessen the reality of military occupation, German military personnel were assigned 6-digit "Übungspost" (Training Exercise Mail) numbers and instructed to inscribe this designation on mail sent through these post offices.

Fig. 1) Post card of Prag sent to Germany on March 25, 1939 has notation "Durch Übungspost" (via Training Exercise Mail) in upper right corner. Sender's return address "Übungspostnummer 107206" and "Leitpoststelle" (Routing Office) Dresden appear in lower left corner.




Shortly before the invasion, a number of postal districts in Germany received orders to establish and equip Postal Training Offices (UpA or Übungspostämter). These UpA were attached to the Corps and Divisions and were in service in the occupied areas between March 15 and April 30, 1939. The name "Übungspostamt" had been selected because the occupation was not regarded as a general mobilization, in which case the description "Feldpostamt" would have been used. For this reason the employees of the affiliated offices were not in military uniform. However, later photos show that road signs refer to "Deutsche Feldpost" and that the front of a UpA post office bus is marked "Deutsche Feldpost".

Identical to the later FpA, the crew of a UpA was 18 men. The leader and his second in command wore civilian clothes while all other personnel wore postal uniforms. A journal from UpA 44 shows that this UpA, together with three others, had been established by the Stuttgart Riechspostdienst (RPD) and assigned to XVII Army Corps, which in turn was under command of the 5th Army. The numeral designation came about when this UpA was allotted to the 44th Infantry Division.

At the beginning of its service at Lundenburg 2, this UpA received a list of assigned training exercise numbers (Übungspostnummern). These consisted of six digit numbers, to which the soldiers, as senders, had to add rank, first and last name and name of the postal forwarding office (Postleitstelle) in the Reich. Military units supplied pre-printed cards on which the soldiers could notify their dependents of the correct way of addressing mail to them. As an example, the complete and correct address should read:

"Soldat Kurt Müller
Übungspostnummer 123 456
Postleitstelle Liegnitz"

Fig. 2) Front and back of notification card posted at Prag civil P.O. on March 18, 1939.

Feldpostkarte		
An	<i>Fräulein</i>	
		<i>Fräulein Käthe</i>
Keine Postanschrift für Postsendungen jeglicher Art lautet:		
<i>Abt. 2</i>	<i>Erhard Hriegel</i>	<i>104491</i>
<small>Postfach</small>	<small>Ver. u. Name</small>	<small>Feldpostnummer</small>
<i>Postleitstelle Deutschgabel</i>		
Postsendungen mit anderer Anschrift oder mit Zusätzen werden nicht befördert. — Auf allen Postsendungen muß Name und Anschrift des Absenders angegeben werden. Diese Karte darf zu anderen Mitteilungen nicht benutzt werden und <u>keinerlei</u> <u>Truppenbezeichnungen</u> enthalten.		
		<i>in - Gießengalder - Post</i> <i>Postfach 92</i> <i>(Künderlinien)</i>
<small>© 1912. BY. W.B.</small>		

In essence, these measures contributed to a postal organization which functioned in an efficient manner. It appears that the postal service for military personnel in this operation was far superior to that found during the occupation of the Sudetenland in October 1938, where participating units had not been assigned Übungspost numbers.

No information can be found in the Postal Gazettes ("Amtsblattern") of the former RPM regarding the original mission in conjunction with the occupation of the remainder of Czechoslovakia but there are specific orders given to an RPD ("Reichspostdirektion") which have been found - see pages 9 & 10.

According to these orders, all letters and post cards sent from the occupied territories to the Reich required no postal fee if they carried a Feldpost cancellation. Mail from the homeland, however, required the standard Reich postal fees of 12 Pfg. for letters and 6 Pfg. for post cards.

Parcels could not be sent from the occupied area during the time of the invasion up to the end of April 1939. Parcels from the homeland were allowed and were admitted duty free as domestic parcel post.

The report also mentions that registered mail and parcels for military personnel were received on a daily basis even if forwarding was not allowed. On one day in early April 1939, a mail audit of UpA 44 showed receipts of 1,470 letters and 99 parcels. On the same day, 4,953 letters were sent to the Reich.

The local post offices in the Reich repeatedly instructed patrons that mail to Army personnel should not be sent via the Czechoslovakian postal service. Mail to Luftwaffe personnel was treated differently. According to orders, the mail would initially be routed to the regional postal centers in the Reich which then re-directed the mail to the appropriate UpA. The regional postal centers must have had access to the complete list of available Übungspost numbers and their locations. Unfortunately, these lists no longer exist so we cannot decode these UpA numbers nor ascertain the total number of UpA numbers assigned.

The following cancel types were used:

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|--|---------|
| a. | Feldpost Cancel | with dashes before the date | (-----) |
| b. | “ “ | with block(s) before the date | ■ |
| c. | “ “ | with zeros before the date | (000) |
| d. | “ “ | with one number before the date. | |
| e. | double circle Feldpost Cancel | “Feldpost” with distinguishing letter codes. | |
| f. | Czech city date cancels | | |

Cancellations with dates from March 15, 1939 to April 30, 1939 are possible. The cards and covers I have seen originate almost exclusively on mail sent from the occupied area to the Reich. There is little evidence of mail sent to foreign countries. Examples of mail from the Reich to the occupied area with cancellation dates March 15-April 30 are very rare.

Type b. Feldpost Cancel



Type e. Feldpost Cancel



Kameraden!

Der Oberbefehlshaber der Heeresgruppe 3, General der Infanterie Blaskowitz, hat folgendes Schreiben an mich gerichtet:

Sehr geehrter Herr Reichsminister!

Bei Abschluß meiner Tätigkeit als Inhaber der vollziehenden Gewalt im Protektorat Böhmen-Mähren möchte ich nicht verfehlen, der vorzüglichen Leistungen zu gedenken, die von den von Ihnen zur Verfügung gestellten Übungspostämtern unter schwierigsten Verhältnissen vollbracht wurden.

Für die große Unterstützung, die mir durch die Dienststellen der Reichspost zuteil wurde, bitte ich Sie, sehr geehrter Herr Reichsminister, meinen ganz besonderen Dank entgegenzunehmen und denselben zugleich an die beteiligten Beamten zu übermitteln.

Heil Hitler!

gez. Blaskowitz, General der Infanterie

Ich gebe freudigen Herzens diesen Dank an alle Kameraden und Kameradinnen der Deutschen Reichspost wieder, die bei dem Einsatz in Böhme und Mähren beteiligt waren und verbinde damit meine eigene Anerkennung für Ihre Leistungen.

Berlin, am 17. April 1939.

Ohnesorge

Comrades!

The Commander of Army Group 3, General of the Infantry Blaskowitz, has sent the following letter to me:

Dear Herr Reichsminister!

At the conclusion of my service as Chief Executive in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, I must not neglect to acknowledge the excellent performance and accomplishments of the Übungspost offices which were carried out under the most difficult circumstances.

I am asking you, dear Herr Reichsminister, to accept my special thanks for the generous support which I received from the offices of the Reichspost and to convey the same to all of the officials involved.

signed Blaskowitz, General of the Infantry

It is with the greatest pleasure that I forward this thank you to all comrades in the German Reichspost who took part in the mission in Bohemia and Moravia. I add my own thanks for their performance.

Berlin, April 17, 1939.

signed Ohnesorge (Reichspostminister)

The following excerpts were issued by the Reich Regional Directorate of Posts ("Reichspostdirektion"):

President of RPD
I c 4 2190-OB/G

March 17, 1939

To Post Offices
Subject: Postal Service for Troops in Training

To eliminate any doubts, it is reiterated that the PVW is exclusively valid during troops maneuvers and special service missions. By a change of ruling number 63 aa0, it has been decided that private parcels from military personnel who have left their garrisons are henceforth neither to be accepted nor forwarded. Exceptions are only permissible with the authorization of the Reichspost Ministry.

With reference to this directive, information on troop unit maneuvers etc. is to be forwarded immediately.

(signature)

President of RPD
I c 4 2190-OB/G

March 25, 1939

To Post Offices and Postal Agencies
Subject: Mail from Armed Forces Personnel

Complaints from various sources indicate that the arrangement whereby letters with "Feldpost" cancellations are to be delivered without any attempt to collect postage due is not being observed everywhere. Mail to Armed Forces personnel in Bohemia & Moravia which indicate the Übungspost number and postal distribution center are to be forwarded based on rates for domestic mail and not rates for foreign countries.

on behalf of (signature)

President of RPD
I c 4 2190-OB/G (RPM v 24/3 I 2190-0/6 Böh)

March 29, 1939

To Post Offices
Subject: Mail Shipments to Armed Forces Personnel

- I.) From March 27th, as has been announced through the press and radio, parcels to Armed Forces personnel who have left their garrisons may be accepted ... the postal rates will follow domestic rates. However, parcels from Armed Forces personnel stationed in Bohemia & Moravia are not allowed.
- II.) It has been noted repeatedly that the Czech postal service has been used for sending mail to and from Armed Forces offices and personnel in the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia. This is not permitted. The Armed Forces High Command (OKW) has indicated that the troops and offices in questions should deposit all mail at the Übungspost offices.

Mail shipments from Altreich, Ostmark and Sudetenland addressed to Armed Forces offices or personnel which indicate a destination in Bohemia & Moravia instead of the mandatory Übungspost number and postal distribution center are not permitted and should be returned to sender marked "Address not allowed". All letters and postcards to German Armed Forces and their personnel in Bohemia & Moravia must carry the Übungspost number and designate the correct postal distribution center.

on behalf of (signature)

President of RPD
I c 4 2190-OB/G (429)

April 6, 1939

To Post Offices

Subject: Postal Service to Civilian Official Agencies in Bohemia & Moravia.

Postal shipments to German Armed Forces and civil official agencies in Bohemia & Moravia must be forwarded via the postal distribution centers ("Postleitstellen") and Übungspost offices.

The designated postal distribution centers for mail shipments to recipients in the area of:

Unit Identification	Location	Postal Distribution Center
High Command 3rd Army	Prag	Dresden
HQ IV Army Corps	Prag	Dresden
HQ XVI Army Corps	Prag	Görlitz
HQ XIII Army Corps	Budweis	Regensburg
HQ XIV Army Corps	Pardubitz	Liegnitz
HQ VIII Army Corps	Olmütz	Oppeln
High Command 5th Army	Brünn	Wien
HQ XVII Army Corps	Ung. Hradisch	Wien

It is to be understood that, under all circumstances, mail shipments with addresses clearly directed to German official agencies are to be forwarded via the postal distribution centers. If it is not clear from the address which postal distribution center is to be used, the item of mail is to be forwarded to the Inquiry Center for Soldier's Mail at Berlin Post Office SW11. Under no circumstances is German official mail to be handled by Czech post offices or postal agencies.

on behalf of (signature)

These Übungspost numbers from individual postal distribution centers are known:

Dresden - 3rd Army High Command + IV Army Corps		Görlitz - XVI Army Corps	
103 616	107 227	108 788	108 898
107 369	110 654	112 727	120 490
111 205	111 303	128 957	138 679
112 920	117 454	Regensburg - XIII Army Corps	
122 650	122 760	101 020	102 761
122 976	163 112	109 028	109 379
163 124		111 834	111 985
Liegnitz - XIV Army Corps		115 669	129 781
105 013	105 205	Oppeln - VIII Army Corps	
121 556	124 567	105 029	106 935
125 062	135 080	110 128	124 036
135 212	137 102	129 377	
Wien - 5th Army High Command + XVII Army Corps			
126 363	129 912	130 104	130 202
130 398	132 274		

A conclusive numbering system cannot be decoded from the allocated Übungspost numbers and postal distribution centers. These numbers were evidently allocated in an arbitrary manner, as was the case with the 5 digit Feldpost numbers used during World War II.

Note: The information in this article was derived from the article Deutsche Feldpost aus Anlaß der Besetzung der Tschechoslovakei im Frühjahr 1939 by Erich Sauer which appeared in Rundbrief 24 of the ARGE Deutsche Feldpost 1939-1945 in September 1981.

Many thanks to TRSGer **John Olsson** for providing an excellent translation of this original German text.

To date postal historians have not uncovered any documentation equivalent to the "Feldpostübersicht" (Feldpost Directory) which identifies military units by their 5 digit Feldpost numbers and vice-versa. Until such information comes to light, we have no way of identifying the coded postal addresses of military units which participated in the initial occupation of Bohemia & Moravia.

Shown below are two additional examples of occupation mail sent via the Übungspost. Note: All illustrations in this article except Fig. 2 were supplied by the TRSG.

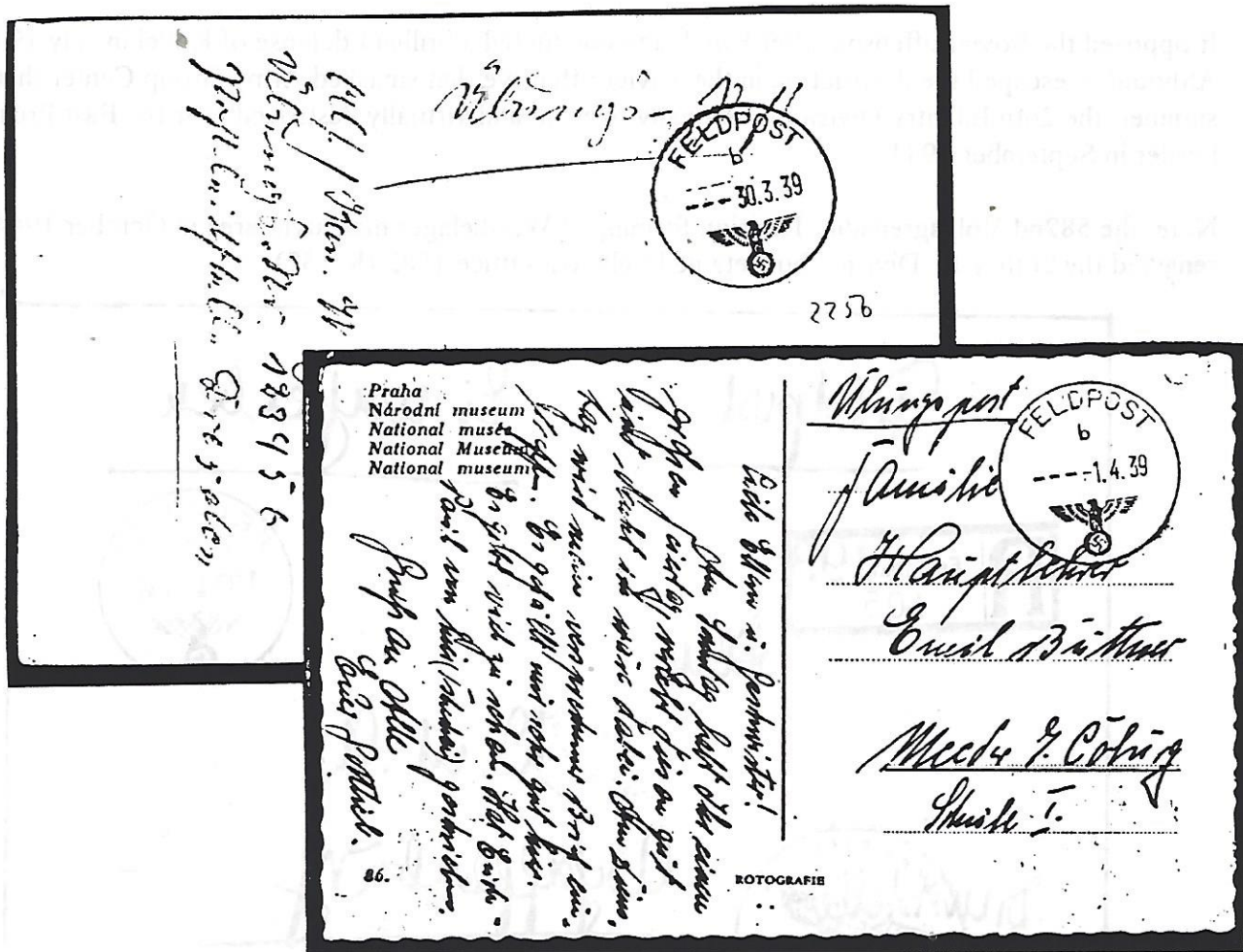


Fig. 3. (Top); Post card sent March 30th from German Army officer has return address Übungspost Nr. 123456 and "Postleitstelle" Dresden. Fig. 4 (Bottom) Picture card of Prag sent to Coburg on April 1st via Übungspost from member of German civil administration.

COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

26th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

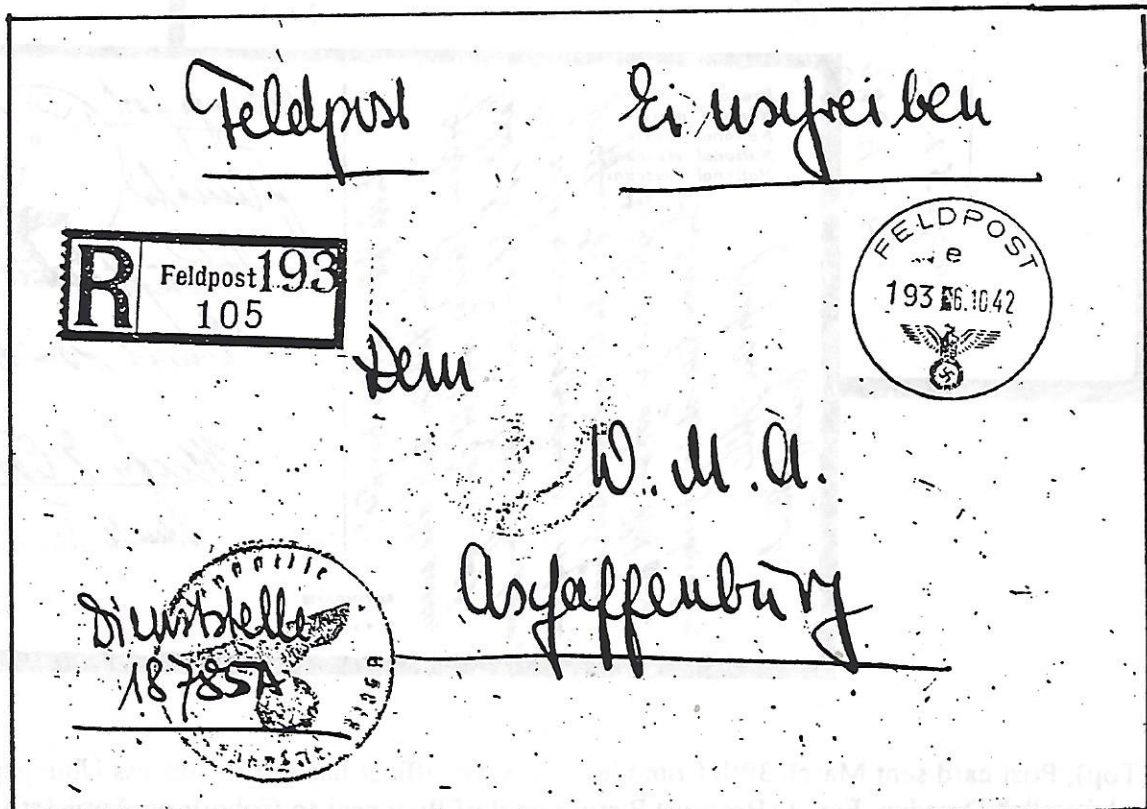
POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
26	193	39	77	78	26	26

Known as the "Dom" (Cathedral) Division because their emblem was patterned after the Cologne Cathedral, this division was raised in 1936 from mainly Westphalian Rhinelanders. It did not take part in the invasion of Poland and was only lightly engaged in the western campaign of 1940.

It distinguished itself during the Russian campaign in 1941 when it crossed the Volga between Moscow and Leningrad and stormed Rzev. It was heavily engaged against the Russian winter offensive of 1941-42. Although relatively undamaged in the defensive fighting on the central sector, it suffered heavy casualties during the battle of Kursk in the summer of 1943.

It opposed the Soviet offensive after Kursk and conducted a brilliant defense of Kovel in July 1944. Although it escaped the destruction in the Soviet offensive that smashed Army Group Center that summer, the 26th Infantry Division was finally overrun and virtually destroyed near the East Prussian border in September 1944.

Note: the 582nd Volksgrenadier Division forming at Warthelager maneuver area in October 1944 was renamed the 26th V.G. Division but retained Feldpost Office 1582 (K-152).



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Aschaffenburg in October 1942 from Fp.# 18785A

French Inter-Zone Mail 1940-42

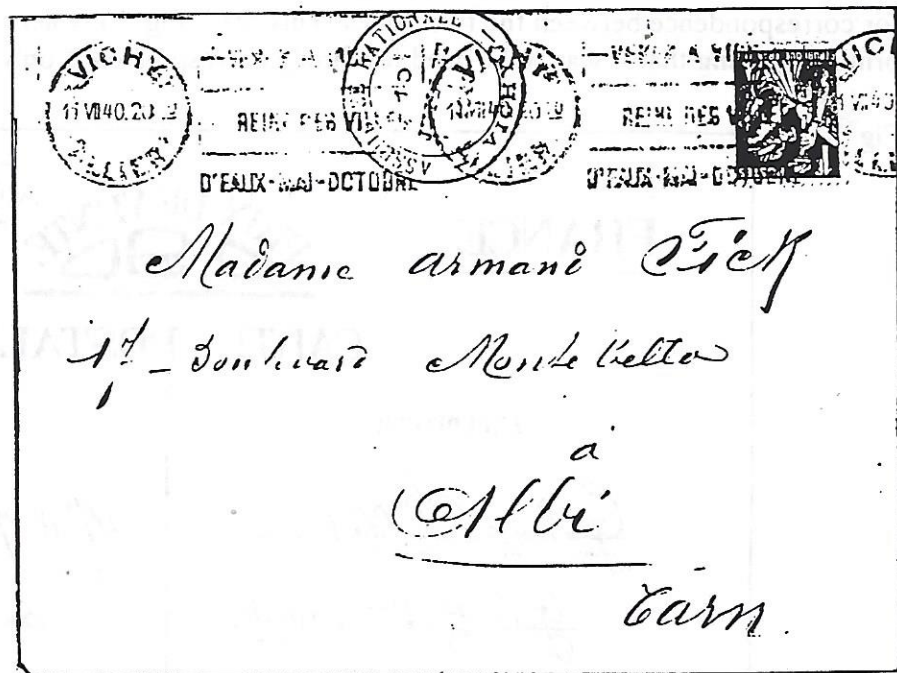
by Jack Miskevich

In the spring of 1940, Germany initiated Operation "Sichelschnitt" (Sickle Cut), their plan for the defeat of France. On May 10th, while Army Group C simulated preparations for a frontal assault against the Maginot Line, Army Group B invaded Holland and Belgium. The British Expeditionary Force and the flower of the French Army were rushed into Belgium to blunt what appeared to be a repeat of the von Schlieffen Plan of WW I, a right hook through Belgium to by-pass Paris.

On May 12th, after the British and French had been drawn northeast, the panzer divisions of Army Group A, which had deployed through the "impenetrable" Ardennes, launched a left hook across the Meuse River at Sedan. Rapidly slicing north across the French countryside, by May 17th the combined German Armies had completed the envelopment of the British and French forces in Belgium. After the remnants of the Allied forces had been evacuated by sea at Dunkirk, the German forces turned and attacked south on a wide arc from Sedan to Abbeville.

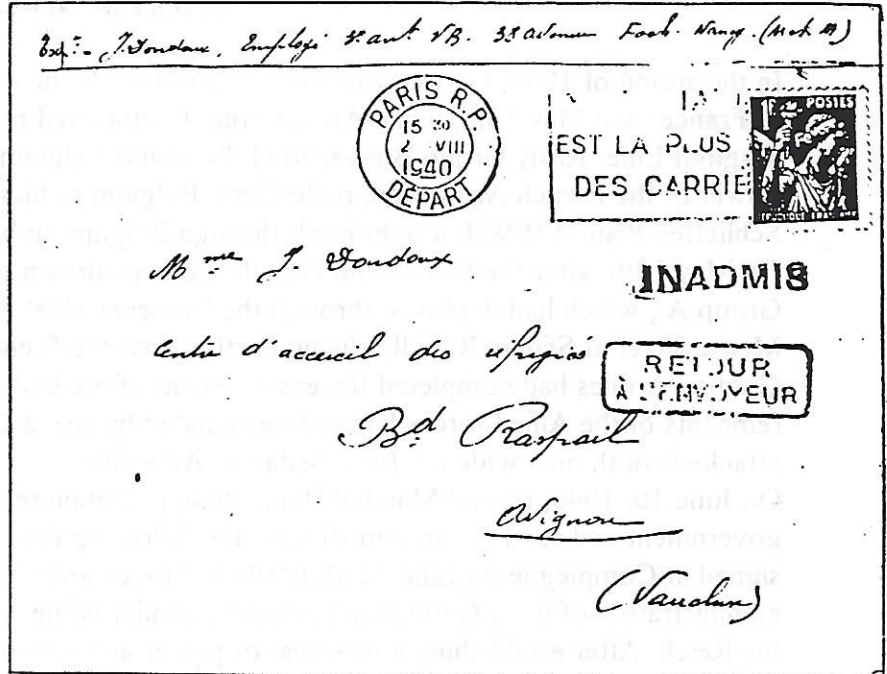
On June 16, 1940, retired Marshal Henri-Philippe Petain replaced Paul Reynaud as head of the French government and sued for an armistice on the following day. After the Armistice Agreement which was signed at Compiègne on June 22nd, northern France and the Pas-de-Calais were placed under the administration of the a German military commander while Alsace and Lorraine were incorporated into the Reich. After establishing a new seat of power at Vichy on July 2nd, the National Assembly voted on July 10th to abolish the Constitution of the Third Republic of France and granted Marshal Petain authorization to promulgate a new constitution for the French state.

Fig. 1) Special hand cancel "ASSEMBLEE NATIONALE/VICHY 10 JUILLET 1940" on cover with Vichy machine cancel dated July 11, 1940.



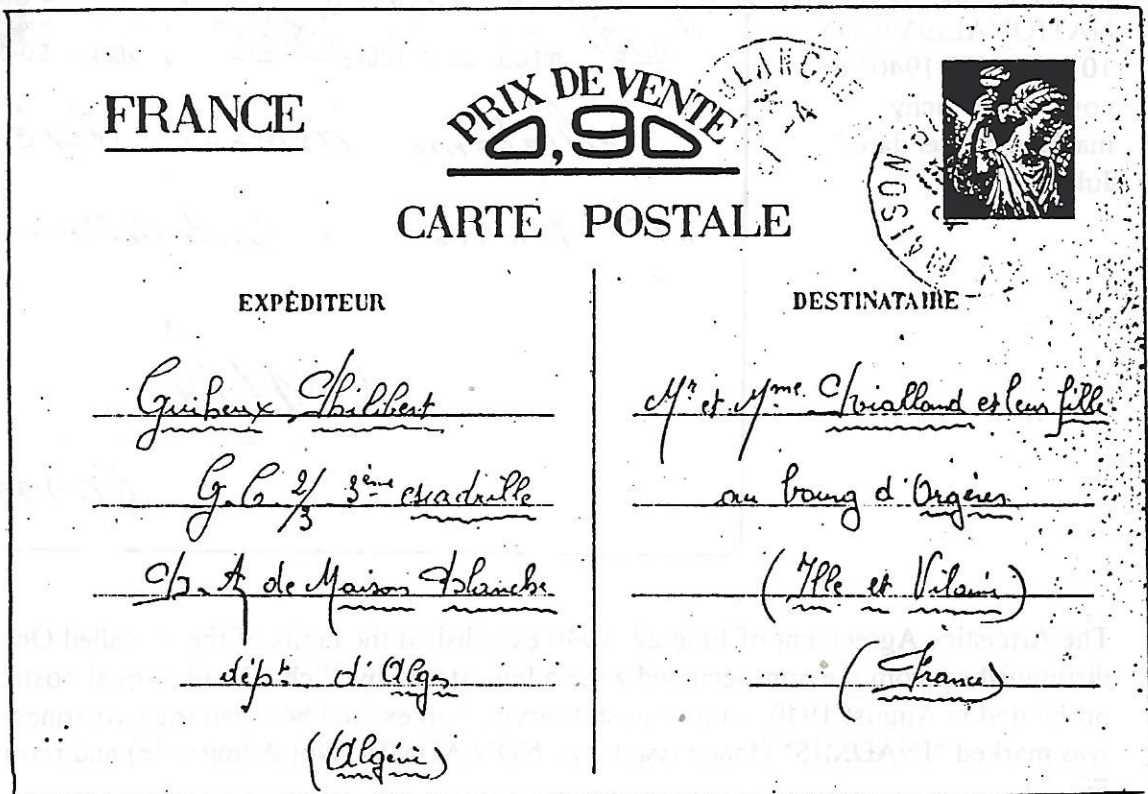
The Armistice Agreement of June 22, 1940 established the limits of the so-called Occupied Zone as distinguished from the non-occupied zone administered by Vichy. Until normal postal service was prohibited in August 1940, a loose postal service had existed between the two zones. Thereafter, mail was marked "INADMIS" (Inadmissible) or NON ADMIS (Not Admissible) and returned to sender (See Fig. 2).

Fig. 2) Cover addressed to Avignon in Vichy zone posted in Paris on August 2, 1940 was stamped "Inadmissible" and "Return to Sender".



In September 1940, French Postal Authorities announced the availability of a special formula postal card for correspondence between the two zones. This card (Fig. 3) which went on sale in October contained a printed warning that it was to be used for family correspondence only.

Fig. 3)



There was no room on this card for observations regarding politics, the condition of business or public order. The back of the card (Fig. 4) was preprinted to restrict the sender to the limited communications permitted. The following is an English translation of the message portion of this card:

(Date line) _____ " _____, the _____ 194_____

.....is in good healthis fatigued.

.....is slightly, seriously, ill, wounded.

.....has died.....without news of.

the-the familyis doing well.

.....needs provisions.....money.

news, baggage.has returned to

.....works at-.....is going

to enter school at.....-.....has been received.....will go

to.....

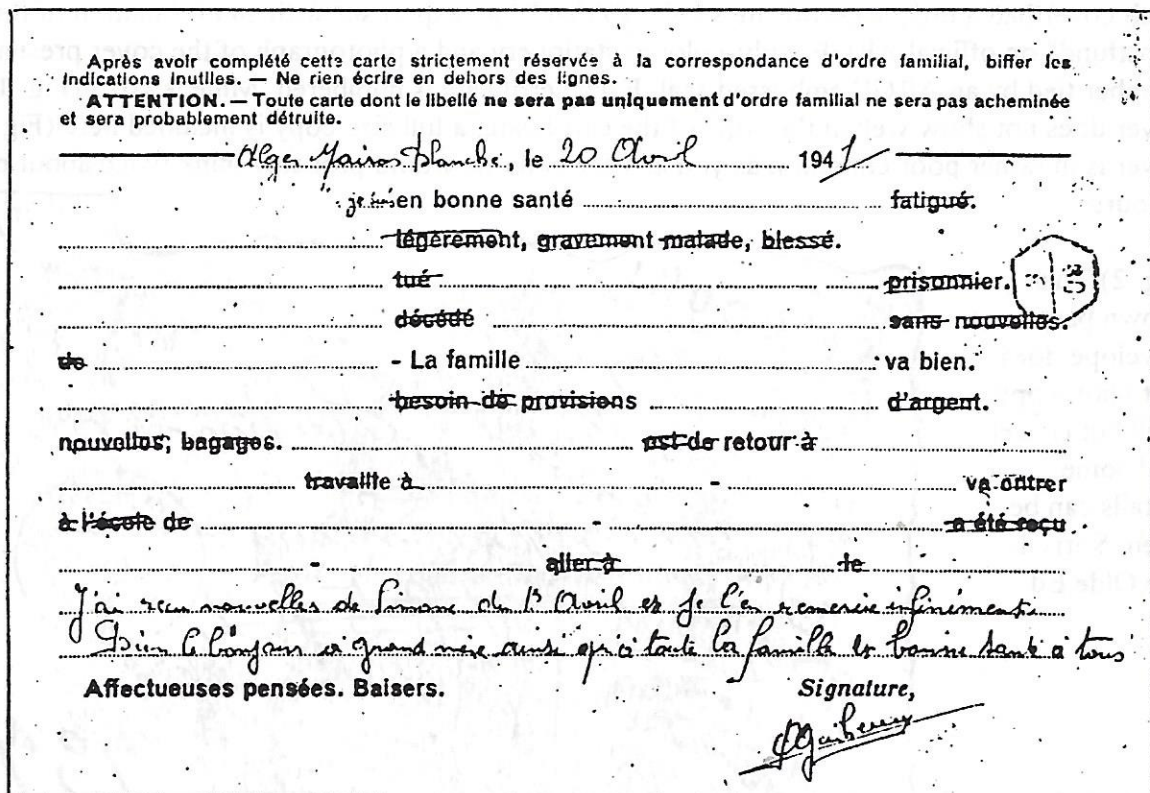
.....(date).....the.....

.....

Affectionate thoughts. Kisses. Signature,

At the bottom of the card a printed line provided a choice of closings: "Affectionate thoughts" or "Kisses". The sender might leave one or both, or, according to the instructions printed to top, strike out any expressions which were inappropriate to the message. Sold at French post offices for 90 centimes (about 3 cents), these cards were used exclusively as mail between the zones until July 1941 when other kinds of postal communication began to be accepted.

Fig. 4) Reverse side of card shown as Fig. 3.



The Hamburg Mail Discovery

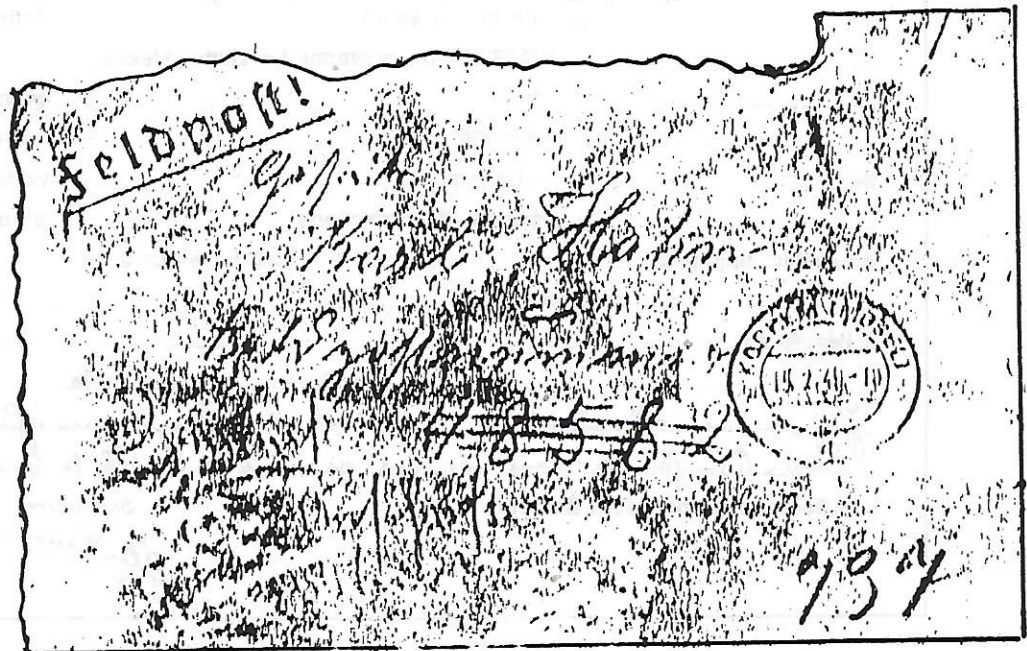
by Myron Fox

In 1979 a Captain Schadewitz of the Bundeswehr, as the current German military is designated, found a rather soiled postcard before the entrance to the building used by his 3rd Company, 174th Panzer Battalion at the Hamburg-Rahlstedt Graf-Goltz-Kaserne. As he was about to throw away the card he noticed that it bore the word "Feldpost". He then saw additional mail and paper blowing in the wind. It happened that construction workers doing renovations on the Kaserne (barracks) had been taking construction trash to the street. Among this trash was some 1,000 undelivered letters from 1945 which had apparently been in the walls of the building for 35 years. It is believed that the letters were from the postwar British censorship office that had occupied the Kaserne and was supposed to have burned tons of such undeliverable letters after reviewing them for intelligence data. The so-called "Ueberroller" (literally 'rolled over' but the meaning perhaps better indicated by 'recovered' mail) covers which often display German Third Reich postal markings and/or censorship and Allied censorship are a result of this process. It is thought that some of the censor office support staff may have stolen the letters looking for valuables from the closing days of the war and then hid them in the walls of the building. The letters found in Hamburg were turned over to the State Search Service at the Hamburg Red Cross office for possible delivery and/or status updating on missing soldiers. The work was especially difficult not only because of the passage of time, but due to the delicate condition of the letters after years of improper storage. (1)

The German 'Arbeitsgemeinschaft' (or ARGE) Deutsche Feldpost 1939-1945 e.V. in Bund Deutsches Philatelisten (BDPh) e. V. made arrangements with the authorities dealing with the mail to receive those covers that were of no further interest to them. (To members unfamiliar with the German organizations, ARGE essentially denotes a Study Group. It is associated with the Gilde Rhein Donau and the association of German Philatelists (BDPh) which is akin to our A.P.S. The ARGE is an outstanding organization and I recommend membership for those interested in Feldpost, even if their German is weak).

The leadership of ARGE then presented one of these covers to every member of the ARGE in 1980. Each cover had a unique certificate similar to that of an expertiser with an explanation of the Hamburger "Postfund" on official ARGE multi-colored stationery and a photograph of the cover presented to the member tied by an ARGE embossed seal. Each certificate is numbered. Mine is #025 (Fig. 1). Since the cover does not show well in the copy of the certificate, a full size copy is included here (Fig. 2). The cover is in rather poor condition as you can see and one would probably think twice about picking it up at a bourse.

Fig. 2) This brown paper envelope does not photocopy well but cancel and some details can be seen. Sorry !-.
Ye Olde Ed



My cover was mailed by a Karl Hahn c/o Frau Mueller at Kochem on the Mosel on February 15, 1945. I believe this town is now called Cochem? It was sent to "Gefreiter" (Acting Corporal) Karl Hahn at Feldpost #48582. This was the "security" return address of Co. 2. of Infantry "Nachrichten Abteilung" (Signals Battalion) 23.(2) This was part of the 23rd Infantry Division of the XXIII Army Corps of the 2nd Army which was engaged in the Danzig-Graudenz area in February and March of 1945.(3,4).

As it would have been quite difficult to forward this letter to its intended destination in the closing days of the war, it ended up in Hamburg, a main logistics area. As can be seen, the number 737 was written below the cancel. This was the "Kenn" or code number for FpA ("Feldpostamt" or Field Post Office) 23 of the 23rd Infantry Division (5). To the left of the crossed out Feldpost number there appears in light red pencil the notation "Zurueck/Neue Abschrift Abzuwarten" (Return, wait for new address).

These covers with accompanying certificates are interesting historic documents and, with the aging of the ARGE membership, they are seen from time to time in German auctions.

References:

1. Hans G. Stark, "Handwerken fanden die Post bei Renovierungsarbeiten 35 Jahre alte Feldpost flatterte im Dezember-Wind," *Hamburger Abendblatt*, 24 December 1979 as reported in *ARGE Zensurpost Rundbrief* 27, p.25
2. Norbert Kannapin, *Die deutsche Feldpost Uebersicht 1939-45* (Osnabrueck: Biblio Verlag, 1982), Volume III, p.136.
3. Georg Tessin, *Verbände und Truppen der deutschen Wehrmacht und Waffen-SS 1939-1945* (Frankfurt/Main: E.S. Mittler & Sohn Verlag., undated in between 1965 to 1972), Volume IV, p.193.
4. Same as above but Volume II, pp. 83-88.
5. Norbert Kannapin, *Die deutsche Feldpost Organisation und Lokalisation 1939-45* (Osnabrueck: Biblio Verlag, 1979), p. 52.

Editor's Note: The ARGE certification letter (Fig. 1) is shown on the following page 86% of actual size. JEL



Vorsitzender, Stellvertreter,
Schriftführer, Schatzmeister,
Schriftleiter-Rundbriefe

G. Mogler, Kh. Gutekunst

A. Knauf, H. Müller

E. Sauer

ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT

DEUTSCHE FELDPOST 1939-1945 e. V.
im Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e. V.
Studiengruppe der Poststempelgilde Rhein-Donau e. V.

Im August 1980

Expertise

025

Der Vorstand der Arbeitsgemeinschaft bestätigt mit dieser Expertise, daß der im Foto abgebildete Feldpost-Brief aus dem "Hamburger Postfund" stammt. Diese Post wurde im Dezember 1979 - nach 35 Jahren - bei Renovierungsarbeiten in der Graf-Goltz-Kaserne von Handwerkern gefunden.

In den letzten Kriegswochen des Jahres 1945 konnten diese Briefe den Empfängern nicht mehr zugeleitet werden, da sie durch die herannahenden Fronten und der damit verbundenen Einschnürung des Reichsgebietes nicht mehr leitfähig waren.

Erwiesenermaßen hat dieser Feldpost-Brief einen Teil der Beförderungsstrecke - bis mindestens zu einer Postsammelstelle - zurückgelegt.

Nach der Kapitulation im Mai 1945 wurden diese, von den Alliierten beschlagnahmten Feldpost-Briefe, während der Zensur von Hilfskräften gestohlen. Vorrangig wurde die private Feldpost auf brauchbaren Inhalt wie Geld, Lebensmittelmarken u.s.w. geplündert und dann auf dem Kasernengelände in Lüftungsschächten und auf dem Dachboden versteckt.

Wohlwollende Behörden gaben unserem Ersuchen letztlich statt und überließen unserer Arbeitsgemeinschaft den Teil der aufgefundenen Briefe, der feldpostalische Vermerke trug.



G. Mogler Kh. Gutekunst

(G. Mogler) (Kh. Gutekunst)

A. Knauf H. Müller

(A. Knauf) (H. Müller)

E. Sauer

(E. Sauer)

BOOK REVIEW

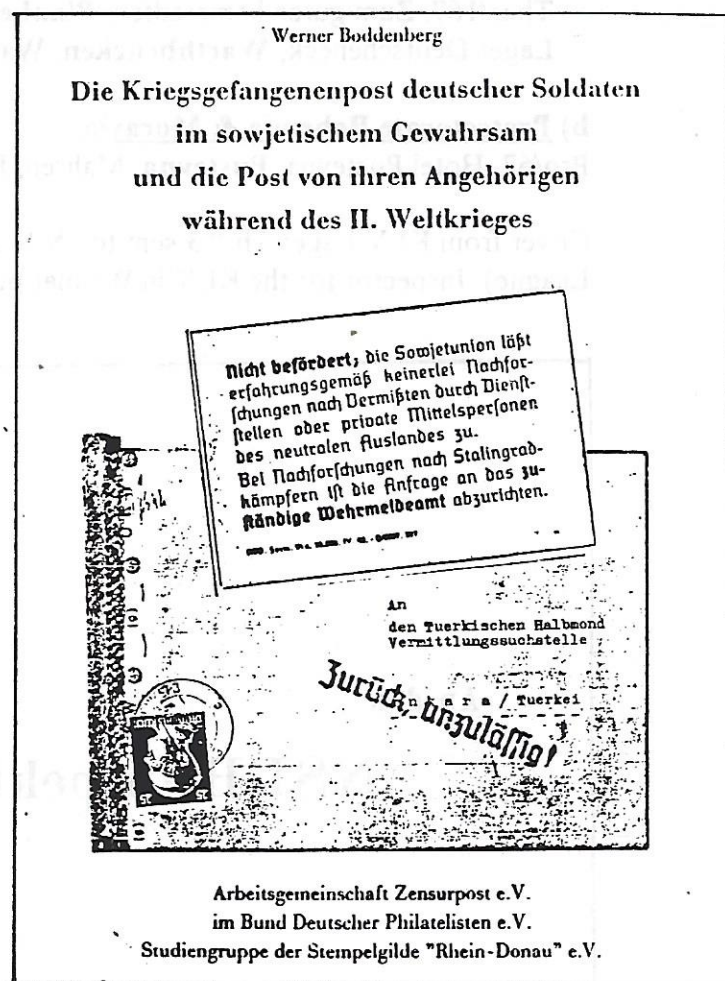
W. Boddenberg, *'Die Kriegsgefangenenpost deutscher Soldaten im sowjetischem Gewahrsam und die Post von ihren Angehörigen während des II. Weltkrieges'* (POW Mail of German Soldiers in Soviet Captivity and their next of kin during WW II.). A publication of the AGZ (German Censorship Study Group). Published by Werner Boddenberg, Ravenberger Str. 3, D-1000 Berlin, Germany. 115 pages A5, price DM 26.60 incl. postage and handling, air mail to overseas please add DM 3

Following his work on the POW mail of German soldiers in Soviet captivity and their next of kin after WW II, published in AGZ-Rundbrief 38/83, the author now turns to the more difficult task of POW mail for Germans in the USSR during WW II. This type of mail from German POWs is almost unknown. It did not fit into the political picture of those times for a German soldier to become a POW of the Soviets. Officially it was made known "The Russians are not taking any prisoners of war". Since no prisoners were taken, no mail could arrive at the addresses of their next of kin in Germany.

From the beginning of the German-Soviet war on June 22, 1941, German soldiers were being captured by the Russians, comparably few in 1941, more in 1942 and in 1943, after the defeat of besieged Stalingrad their number exceeded 200,000 with a rising tendency. Although the Soviet Union was not a signatory of the 1929 Geneva Convention, she agreed to deliver to the IRC list with dates of captured POWs, provided countries at war with Soviets did the same. The IRC initiated negotiations between the German and Soviet Red Cross Organizations in order to reach agreements on the exchange of mail for POWs. An agreement could not be reached and talks were broken off in 1942. In spite of the non-existing agreement, POW cards from Russia began to arrive at the addresses of next of kin in Germany, causing considerable embarrassment for the authorities. Censorship stations were instructed to stop mail to and from POWs in Russia. Now and again some cards slipped through and were delivered to the next of kin. POW cards also were dropped by Soviet aircraft, the finders forwarded them to the addresses of destination via the German post office.

Especially after Stalingrad, leaflets with names and addresses of German POWs in USSR were dropped from planes over Germany. Also, Radio Moscow broadcast names and addresses of German POWs. In spite of counter measures by the authorities, these news spread to all parts of the Reich whenever a POW card arrived or names of POWs were mentioned on leaflets or in broadcasts.

All correspondence between the authorities concerned and addresses of POW mail from Russia was declared secret at the time. After the war it landed in archives, in some cases via the USA. The author took the trouble to search for these documents, selected and exploited them for this study. The result is condensed in this book together with copies of quite a few of these interesting documents. Since the book is in German, a command of that language, however slight, would be a great help. ED. NOTE: this review by Alfred Klaves (AGZ)



K.L.V. Lager Update #11

by Jack Miskevich

a) Germany/Austria

Lager Hotel Schweizerhof, **Oberhof** in Thuringen. (1943)

Thur./53, Hotel zur Tanne, **Ilfeld/Sudharz** (1943)

Lager Nr. 2, D.J.H., **Brotterode**, Thuringen (1943)

Lager Hotel Kurhaus, **Masserberg**, Thuringen (1945)

Lager Nr. 186, Haus in der Sonne, **Oberhof/Thuringen** (1943)

Lager Nr. 116, Haus Veronika, **Tabarz**, Thuringen Wald (1942)

Lager Nr. 99, Haus Herta, **Masserberg**, Thuringen (1943)

Thur/44, HJ-Bannfuhrerschule, **Winterstein/Kreis Goha**, Thuringen (1943)

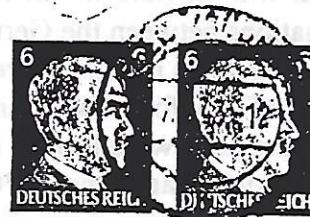
Thur/167, Zum guten kameradfen, **Blankenhain**, Thuringen (1943)

Lager Deutscheneck, **Warthbrucken**, Wartegau (1944)

b) Protectorate Bohemia & Moravia

Pro/67, Hotèl Pustevna, **Pustevna**, Mahren, Post Frankstadt unter dem Radhost (1943)

Cover from KLV Lager Th./53 sent to "N.S. Lehrer Bund" (National Socialist Teacher League) Inspector for the KLV in Weimar posted in Ilfeld in February 1943.



An den

NSLB-Inspekteur für KLV.

KLV.-Lager (Th./53)
Hotel zur Tanne
Ilfeld / Sudharz
 Ilgerstr.

WEIMAR

Adolf Bartels-Strasse 37

"BLITZ FLUG" - THE STORY BEHIND THE CANCEL

by John Rawlings

In 1935 the publicity cancellation illustrated below was introduced into the strip canceling machine at Mannheim 2 post office.



Literally translated, the words mean "Lightening flight - Two Hours from Mannheim to Berlin". However, the cancellation was commemorating not merely the speed of the flight but also the new airplane depicted in the design whose prototype, the "Blitz" (Lightening) had captured the imagination of the German public.

The aircraft in question, the Heinkel HE 70, is depicted on the stamp (Mi. 603) issued in January 1936 to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the founding of Lufthansa Airline.

It was a single-engine monoplane, with a cockpit oddly offset to the left, designed as a short range passenger and mail carrier. It could carry four passengers and 1058 Lbs. of mail over a range of 621 miles at a maximum speed of 223.7 mph and was thus one of the world's fastest aircraft of its day. It first flew in the summer of 1933 and the second of the prototypes, HE 70A (V2) bearing the recognition letters D-2537, christened "Blitz", rapidly made the headlines.



On February 3, 1934, an HE 70 flew from Stuttgart, via Barcelona, to Seville in Spain on the first leg of the new German trans-Atlantic airmail service to South America, a flight that it was to perform on a regular basis for the next few years. Early in the same year the aircraft had flown from Berlin, via Seville, to Las Palmas in 13 hours 25 minutes.

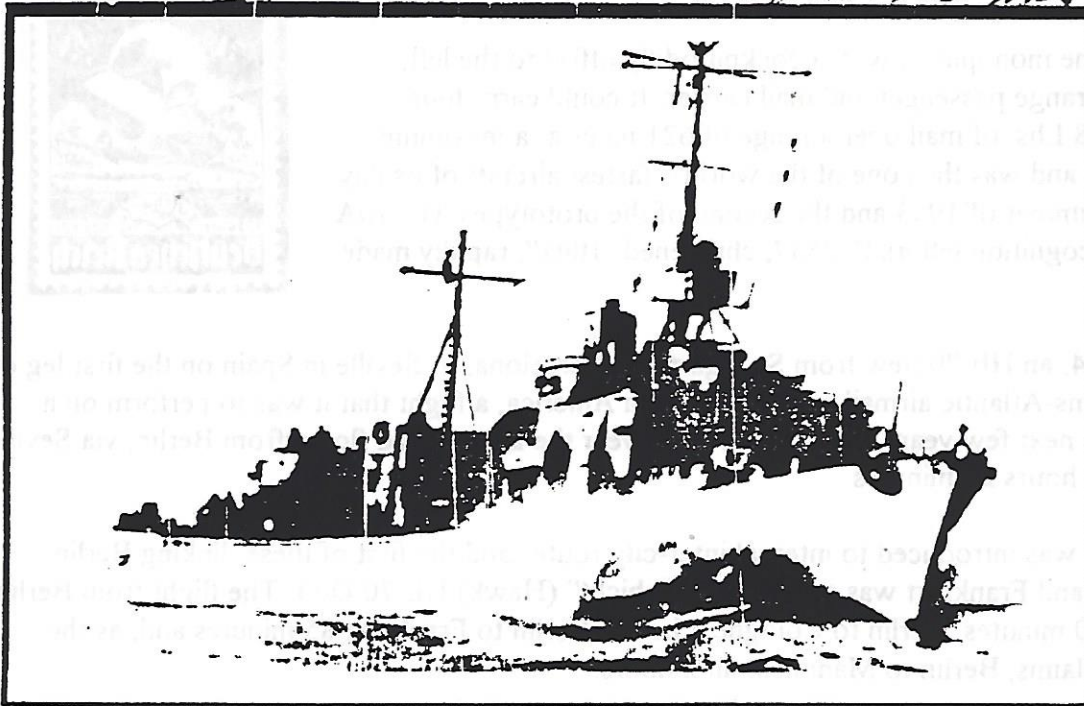
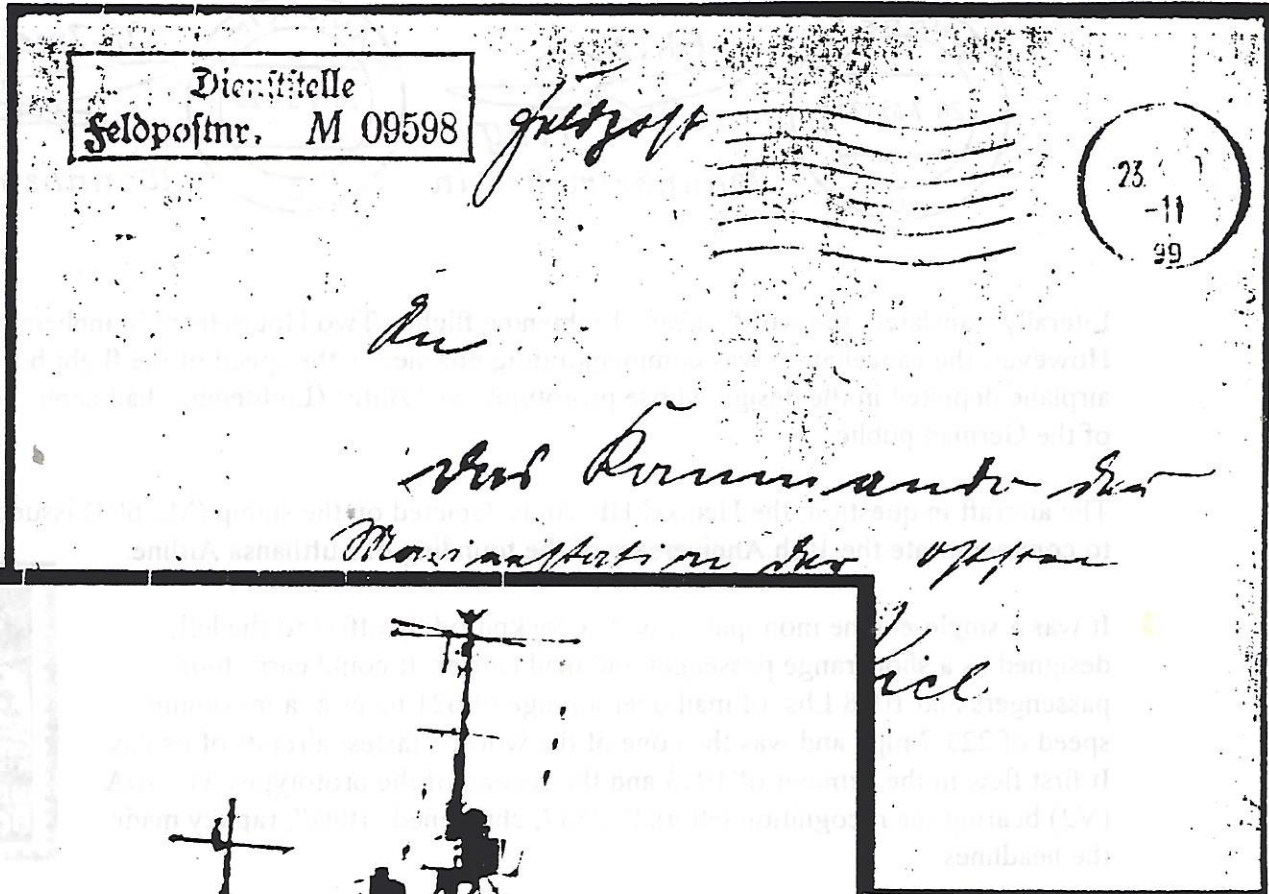
On June 15, 1934 it was introduced to internal inter-city routes and the first of these, linking Berlin, Hamburg, Cologne and Frankfurt was opened by "Habicht" (Hawk) HE 70 D-O. The flight from Berlin to Hamburg took 50 minutes, Berlin to Cologne 2 hours, Berlin to Frankfurt 85 minutes and, as the cancel proudly proclaims, Berlin to Mannheim in 2 hours.

By the end of 1935 twelve HE-70s were operating on ten domestic Lufthansa routes but it was to be superseded within a few short years by newer, larger aircraft such as the Heinkel HE 111. By the summer of 1937 only five machines remained in service on the inter-city routes from Berlin to Bremen, Cologne to Essen, Mulheim to Hamburg, Karlsruhe to Mannheim, and Stuttgart to to Munich. During the following year all of the aircraft were withdrawn from service.

ED NOTE: This article first appeared in Volume 2, No. 3 (June 1976) of the German Collectors Group newsheet and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the author.

NAVY LOG

Torpedo Boat "T-2" - Feldpost #09598



Class T1-12 torpedo boats were built by Schichau (Elbing) and launched in 1938.
 Displacement: 844 tons; four Wagner boilers (pressure: 1,028 Lbs.). Crew: 119.
 Armament: one 4.1", three 20 mm AA. guns (3 x 1); six 21" torpedo tubes; 30 mines.


Bombed and sunk by U.S.A.A.F. air craft at Bremen on July 29, 1944. Cover above sent to Baltic Sea Naval HQ, Kiel in April 1940 has "stumme" (mute) cancel "gg" (Kiel).

TRSG AUCTION NO. 66

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Min. Bid</u>
1.	"Eilnachricht" (Sign of Life) card, Borek I, #1 (Red) from Lehrte b. Hannover w/Lehrte can. Sept. 13, 1944. XF	\$15.00
2	Same, Borek I, #3 (Red) sent to Erfurt Nov. 11, 1944. but w/o cancel. F	10.00
3.	Same, Borek II, #1 (Green) sent to Berlin Feb. 2, 1944 frm Fp#16863 but w/o cancel VF	15.00
4.	Re-used official cvr, orig. to DAF Pirna 12'44, o'label w/Pirna DAF red slogan mach. can 1'45 F	6.00
	Next 21 lots have A. Hitler theme, philatelic usage & cond. F-VF unless noted otherwise:	
5.	Mint graduation certificate w/color dwg AH & color print frm speech "Alone we're nothing etc." A Beauty!	45.00
6.	Cvr w/Mi. 672, 691 & 694, each tied diff. Munich SPC for 9.11.'38, 1.5.'39 & 20.4.'39 (AH B'day)	33.00
7.	AH B'day cvr has Maroon/Silver cachet "Ein Volk etc." w/Mi.664 tied Berchtesgaden SPC 20.4.'38	12.00
8.	Same as Lot 7 but w/Branau SPC 20.4.'39.	12.00
9.	Bedarfs color p'cd "Am Anfang war das Wort"(early AH addressing Beer Hall crowd) w/Mi.813 can. 20.4.'42. F	25.00
10.	B&W cd AH & map "Ein Volk etc."(Verlag Obermayer) w/Mi.662 tied SPC Branau B'day20.4.'38	15.00
11.	Bedarfs R- card w/Mi.622,623646,663 (3) & 664 tied SPC Berlin AH B'day 20.4.'37. VF	12.00
12.	Mint B&W cd (Verlag Rob.Rohr #3350) - AH receiving B'day wishes from four smiling ladies.	12.00
13.	Rally B&W cd (Verlag Riffelmacher) w/Mi.622 tied '38 Rally SPC, also Raly slogan can.in message area.	15.00
14.	Same, B&W cd (Hoffmann 38/20) w/Mi.622 tied '38 Rally SPC	15.00
15.	B&W cd AH in oval frame (Manner der Zeit Nr. 91) w/Mi.665-8 set tied Munich Brown Band slogan SPC	15.00
16.	B&W cd AH (Verlag Koenig #524) w/blk 4 Mi. 763 tied Berlin SPC "United Europe Against Bols." 25.11.'41.	15.00
17.	B&W cd Hoffmann #651, bedarfs w/Mi.887 tied Berlin can. 3.'35. VF	12.00
18.	Same, Hoffmann #676 w/Mi. 864 tied Berlin SPC Robt. Koch	12.00
19.	HDK Color cd "Fuehrer im Kampfgelende" (painting of AH in Napoleonic pose) posted in France 7.'43, VF	18.00
20.	Hoffmann color cd #915 (painting of AH w/generals on bluff at Dunkirk) Fp usage 2.'42, bedarfs F-VF	30.00
21.	B&W cd AH in party uniform (H.K.#82, Dr.T.V. Loz) w/Mi. 660 tied Pasewalk SPC 4.'38	15.00
22.	Lot of 3 diff. B&W cds (Hoffmann #s 772, 1191 & 1200) AH w/children, 2 bedarfs circa '41,1w/Mi.886 SPC VF	40.00
23.	B&W cd (Hoffmann) AH & Muss. taking SS salute during Muss. 1937 visit to Germany. Bedarfs VF	20.00
24.	Same, AH touring battleship 'Cavour' during '38 visit to Italy, San Marino usage w/Fuhrer-Dux box h'stamp	20.00
25.	Bedarfs p'cd to Graz w/Mi.692-3 tied SPC Vienna Colonial Bund Meet 15-20 May '39.	12.00
26	Iron Cross color card (Hoffmann) w/Mi.812 tied SPC Vienna 15.3.'42.	12.00
27.	B&W cd for von Schonerer exhibit Wien Messepalast 26/9-8/11/'42 w/Mi. 818 tied Vienna exhibit SPC	15.00
28.	B&W cd Olympics (Klink #10w) w/Mi.611 tied Berlin SPC Olympic Stadion 16.8.'36. Bedarfs & VF	8.00
29.	B&W cd 1938 Berlin Auto Show w/Mi.660 tied Berlin show SPC.	15.00
30.	Phil. cvr w/Mi. 660-1 tied Berlin SPC 30.1.'38 "Party Mobilization"	6.00
31.	R-cvr w/Mi.894-8 tied Koenigsberg SPC 400th Anniversary	10.00
32.	Mint Feldpost song card "Lilly Marleen" w/photo sentry on guard (R. Franke #1350)	12.00
33.	Three diff. Munich color post cards, 2 used, 1 mint. Attractive lot. F-VF	15.00
34.	Mint Willrich VDA color cd depicting General Erwin Rommel VF	30.00
35.	KWHW B&W Fp cd SS troops on roof raising German flag over Krakau. Bedarfs Fp & scarce item. VF	20.00
36.	HDK (House German Art) B&W cd.#433 showing crew of light machine gun. Bedarfs usage. F-VF	15.00
37.	Italian color Feldpost cd depicting German SA & Italian Blackshirt attacking w/knives ,b'ground has massed Axis flags & troops. Very dramatic propaganda card circa 1941 but somewhat tatty!	18.00
38.	Same, Text "1941" depicting German & Italian soldiers pulling pudgy John Bull's teeth with pliers! F	25.00
39.	Lot of 40 cut squares w/various TR.stamps tied by different SPCs, over \$100.Michel value! VF	30.00
40.	Lot of 4 diff.post-war items commem. Dachau liberation, meeting Russians at Torgau, nice AMC Sheet. VF	8.00

Next six lots from Occupied Poland Exhibit are mounted on exhibit pages with write ups

41	Posted from short lived DDP Bezirk Bialystok cans. Nov. '41 (See p.18 of Bulletin #109)	\$45.00
42.	Upper Silesia - R-cvr to Deutsche Volkslist frm Kattowitz (See p.10 of Bulletin #109)	35.00
43.	Zichenau - parcel cd from Szelkow to Labor Camp Drutte May'44 (See p.13 in Bulletin	35.00
44.	Reg.-Off. Fp cvr sent 12.'43 to Berlin w/D'sgl & line stp Flak Training Unit in Radom, GG VF	15.00
45.	Reg Official Fp cvr sent 7.'42 frm Fp#L43245 (Luftw. Defense Btl.462) w/Mielec 2 (Dist.Krakau) cancel & hand stamped blank field R- label. All markings VF	12.00
46.	Fp cvr to Army Ordnance Vienna frm Fp#16384 (Anti-Tank Btl of 137th Inf. div.) has scarce red date stamp "22.Jan. 1941" (instead altered Polish can) from DDP Off. Jaroslau (Krakau) VF	15.00
47.	Boh.-Mor.Feldpost Easter cd w/ D'sgl Air Base Command Brünn via DDP Brünn 5.'40. VF	7.00
48.	Hitler souvenir sheet (Mi. 648) plus Mi. 529 & 533 on bedarfs R-cvr to Bremen tied by several Nuremburg Rally SPCs dated 12.9.'37. R label "Nürnberg 2 BA". All markings VF.	18.00
49.	Reused Boh.-Mor.Fp cvr.: orig. to Army Ordnance frm Fp#45273 (Wehrm.Procurement) w/Fp can. 16.9.'44. Form o'label frm Gren. Ausb. Btl.481 w/10.'44 civil can. Jitschin (Boh.)VF	12.00
50.	Reused Off. cvr used twice as Dienstpost w/6 Pfg. & 10 Pfg. Officials tied Landshut 6.'44	7.00
51.	Off. cvr frm Oberbürgermeister Flensburg sent 1.'37 opened by P.O.Resealed w/Flensburg 1 P.O. seal & explanatory.4-line purple hansstamp w/initials postal clerk. Scarce marking & VF.	14.00
52.	Fp ltrshd frm FP#24190 cans. 2.'43 has "Russland, Pleskau" & date inside (not allowed!).VF	12.00
53.	Nazi Party cvr to M.D. frm NSDAP Health Office w/12 Pfg. Party stmps tied Itzehoe 5.'42. VF	7.00
54.	1936 Munich-Riem Souvenir Sheet (Mi. 621 Block 4) Mint & VF	8.00
55.	Hungarian units in Wehrmacht -Feldpost formula cd to Luftwaffe hospital sent 2.'42 frm Fp#26077 (Trsp. Bev. Ungarn-Deutsch) w/D'sgl."Ausbildungstab Ungarn". Scarce & VF	25.00
56.	Three postal stationery cds (Borek #s 221, 262/6 & 284) all w/diff. SPC.Two bedarfs F-VF	7.00
57.	Censored cvr sent 3.28.'44 frm Dresden to German POW in Camp Livingston, Louisiana. Germ. & US cens. tapes & stamps plus camp receiving "clock" stamp 6.14.'44. All markings VF	12.00
58.	C. mess Königsberg mint postal card set (Borek 269/270) VF	6.00
59.	Early TR Reg. cvr sent to USA 28.4.'33 w/Mi. 444, 479(4), 483(2) & 485(5) tied M.Gladbach h/s & roller cans. US Customs .10 postage due stmps & .33 meter stmps. Nice markings. F	12.00
60.	"Remaining Effects" Parcel card for woundee's personal effects sent 3.'43 frm Fp.#03474 (Mtn. Rgt. 100 of 5th Mountain Div. in No. Russia) via FpA 785 (K-936) of 18th Army. Scarce usage with blank field R-label h/s"Feldpostamt K-936" (See illustration below). VF	25.00

9960postamt K 936		Zum Aufkleben der Freimarken durch
Absender: Dienststelle 03474 B		
Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (s. Rückseite): Eigensachen verwindeter Wert 500.-RM Lth. u. Kp. Frh.		
An		
Freigebühr (RM)	Frau	
Postgewicht (kg)	Maria Manger	
24	in G r a z	
	Straßoldergasse 3	
	(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk)	
1.6.127.	C 29 De 44	

THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 66 IS SEPT. 16 1994. SEND ALL BIDS TO:

JIM LEWIS, 111 MONTROSS AVE., RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070