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THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

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CONTENTS

- 7 Director's Report--by Benjamin R. Beede
- 8 A Note from the Literature Coordinator--by Richard Imus  
A Special Cancellation, Comments--by Professor Marion Miller
- 9 Third Reich Postal Fees--contributed by Benjamin R. Beede
- 10 Abstracts-German Occupation Issues--by Benjamin R. Beede
  - (1) "Philatelistisches aus der Untersteiermark"
  - (2) "Die Postkartenprovisorien von Kolomea"
  - (3) "Das Rote Kreuz im Dienste der Post"
- 11 Fee Privileges in Military Mail Service--contributed by B. Beede
- 15 Third Reich Study Group Information Bureau--by Donald Boese  
"Returned" Crete "Inselpost" Cover--from Jim Duffy
- 16 Financial Report June 1968 to March 1969

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

This will be a brief report this time, happily. The Third Reich Study Group has attracted enough support to survive. My thanks to all those who contributed more than the minimum membership fee. I have been slightly out of touch with many members for the past several months, due to other concerns. However, it is my impression that all is going well with the various projects that have been mentioned in the past few Bulletins. So far, our most active project seems to be Edwin Hope's registration program for printed-to-private-order postal stationery of the Third Reich period. He is receiving considerable assistance from many collectors, even from those who are not GPS members. If you have even one of these items, please contact Mr. Hope for instructions on reporting your holdings.

The thought has occurred to me that it might be of interest if certain very basic postal documents were translated in the Bulletin, pending the preparation of extensive articles for either the Bulletin or the Specialist. Hopefully we can translate one document for each Bulletin. Moreover, the abstracts of various articles which have appeared in the German Philatelic press in the January and April Bulletins may be of assistance to our readers. Jim Duffy and I are hoping to provide much more information for all of you this year. In return, we do want each member to "sell" the Third Reich Study Group. If you are a member of a GPS chapter take along a Bulletin to one of the meetings and pass it around. When we have slide talks prepared, borrow them from the GPS Library or urge your GPS chapter or other philatelic groups to ask for them.

A NOTE FROM THE LITERATURE COORDINATOR

Professors Miller's literature abstracts contained in the January issue of the Study Group Bulletin were indeed a useful contribution to a study of the postal history of the German occupation of Russia. As many members are aware, there exists a substantial amount of philatelic literature covering most aspects of the 1933-1945 period, but only a small fraction is in English. Unfortunately, translation of complete articles is a difficult and exacting task which can consume inordinate amounts of time--more time usually than most of us can spare. Professor Miller's idea of abstracts, containing basic details is, therefore, an interesting and welcome approach to the problem of bridging the "literature gap" of what exists in German and what is available to the English speaking collector. As a follow-up on Dr. Miller's contribution, individuals interested in the subject of the German occupation of Russia in World War II may also wish to consult Eberhard Keiler's article "The Dienstpost Forerunners of the Ukraine 1941/42" which originally appeared in the Michel Nachtrdge, 1951-4 and which was republished in a complete English translation in the German Philatelic Review (Vol. 3, No. 2, March 1955). The German Philatelic Review also contains an interesting article by Mr. Keiler on "The Postal Stationery of Alexanderstadt" (Vol. I, No. 1, January, 1953). Both articles are available from the G.P.S. Librarian, Mrs. Henriette B. Schulz, 2858 Winterhaven Lane, Altadena, California 91001.

In an attempt to obtain somewhat of a grasp on the philatelic literature of the 1933-45 period, your Literature Coordinator has developed an extensive index to numerous books and articles in half a dozen European languages. In addition, this file is supplemented by the numerous bibliographical aids which the Germans themselves have published in recent years. Members having literature questions are invited to submit them to the Coordinator (stamped, addressed envelope, please). Although at the moment your Coordinator's index covers several thousand entries, a serious gap exists for articles published in the German philatelic press prior to 1949. Does anyone else have any information to help out? (Richard Imus, Department of State (Beirut), Washington, D.C. 20521).

There is an interesting item in the December issue of Mauritius for those specializing in special cancellations. It pertains to a cover with two Hitler regular issues and the semi-postal Hitler-Mussolini. The item is of interest because of the special cancellation on the semi-postal; dated 15.3.1942 with Munich as the place of origin, the inscription reads "Sie starben für Grossdeutschland" (in English "They died for greater Germany"). As the item states the postal official took a great risk (and was most likely intentionally done; abstractor's comment) because the two Hitler heads have a typical special cancellation for that time and have dates which differ from that on the Hitler-Mussolini stamp, namely 20.4.1941 and 20.4.1942. No other copy of this curiosity exists to the best knowledge of the writer of the article. The item is also for sale and those interested may write in care of Mauritius, 811 Murnau (Obb.), Bahnhofstrasse 2, West Germany. Ref.: Mauritius, No. 12, December 1968, p. 8. (Abstract by Professor Marion Miller).

## THIRD REICH POSTAL FEES

Contributed by Benjamin R. Beede

From time to time one is tempted to start a collection of individual postage stamps on cover. For the Third Reich as for other periods this is easier said than done, for some of the stamps are hard to obtain used singly on cover or package wrapping. The following list will give readers an idea of the possible complexity of such a collection, for it shows how particular denominations were used in 1933;

- 3 Rpf. Printed Matter cards; addition to 5 and 12 Rpf. braille.
- 4 Rpf. Printed matter up to 20 grams; 2 for local letters; addition to 8 Rpf; and 50 Rpf. with letters with delivery document.
- 5 Rpf. Local Postcard; printed matter 20 to 50 gm.; checking acct. letter.
- 6 Rpf. Domestic postcard; 2 on letters up to 20 gm.; addition to 40 Rpf. for local letter with delivery document.
- 8 Rpf. Local letter to 20 gm.; printed matter 50 to 100 gm.
- 10 Rpf. Postcard to Czechoslovakia and Hungary; foreign printed matter 50 to 100 gm.; money order forms to 10 RM; additional stamp for package fee and foreign letters.
- 12 Rpf. Letter to 20 grams.
- 15 Rpf. Local letter 20 to 250 gm.; foreign postcard; printed matter to 250 gm.; foreign printed matter, third level; samples, etc. to 250 gm.; money order forms 10 to 25 RM; addition to foreign letter.
- 20 Rpf. Local letter 250 to 500 gm.; letters to 20 gm. to Czechoslovakia and Hungary; commercial papers to Hungary; money order form 25 to 100 RM; postal money orders to 10 RM; for. printed matter, 4th level.
- 25 Rpf. Foreign letters 20 to 250 gm.; foreign commercial papers, 5th level; money order forms 100 to 250 RM.
- 30 Rpf. Printed Matter 250 to 500 gm.; foreign printed matter, 6th level; parcels to 5 kilograms, 1st zone; money order forms 250 to 500 RM postal money orders 10 to 25 RM.
- 40 Rpf. Letters 250 to 500 gm.; large parcels, 5 to 6 kg, 1st Zone; for. printed matter, 8th level; commercial papers to 500 gm.; packages to 1 kg to Austria and Luxemburg; parcels to 5 kg, 2nd zone; money order forms 500 to 750 RM; postal money orders 25 to 100 RM.
- 45 Rpf. Parcels 7 to 8 kg, 1st zone; large parcel (multiple).
- 50 Rpf. Minimum amount for foreign packages; parcels 5 to 6 kg. 2nd zone; money order forms 750 to 1000 RM; for formation of higher fees.
- 60 Rpf. Letter packages; parcels (multiple); large parcels (multiple); money order forms 1000 to 1750 RM; postal money orders 100-250 RM.
- 80 Rpf. Parcels 8 to 9 Kg, 2nd zone; large parcels 5 to 6 kg, 4th zone; parcel to 5 kg, to Saar, Luxemburg, Austria, Czechoslovakia; fee for rural delivery; airmail surtax; postal money orders above 500 Rm; money order forms above 1750 RM.<sup>1</sup>

To be sure, this list is not complete and there were rate changes again on December 1, 1933. However, this does give an indication of some uses for various denominations of Third Reich stamps. There are many special fees to be discussed, and hopefully, all these can be tracked down in the near future. Information on postal rates is essential, if we are to evaluate many postal history items.

<sup>1</sup> Postnachrichtenblatt, February 4, 1933, p. 42.

## Abstracts (German Occupation Issues)

by Benjamin R. Beede

- (1) H. Kramer, "Philatelistisches aus der Untersteiermark", Sammler Schau, XXII (June 20, 1941), pp. 187-8.

Pre-war Yugoslavia was shattered into a number of small states and occupied territories by the Axis invasion of April, 1941. Only a small portion of the country was, however, directly annexed by Germany. In the Untersteiermark area, the first postoffices were opened on April 15, 1941, and within three days thirteen offices were handling mail. Service was initially limited solely to official mail. Interestingly, the notation "Durch Deutsche Dienstpost" was not required, and the marking "Einsatz Südost" was used instead. Service for the general public began on May 1, 1941, and at that time additional postoffices were opened. A variety of provisional cancellations were utilized. Yugoslav stamps were not utilized after the German occupation, and therefore there could be no mixed franks between German and Yugoslav stamps.

- (2) I. Czerniaswski, "Die Postkartenprovisorien von Kolomea", Die Ganzsache, XXII (November, 1942), p. 25.

On July 8, 1941, a Ukrainian committee undertook control of the Kolomea area of the Ukraine, which was then under Hungarian occupation. Efforts were made to restore postal service. The only available postal materials consisted of 7000 twenty kopek postcards issued by the Soviets. The original documents are translated into German from the original Ukrainian. All the postcards did receive an overprint, and some were used in correspondence. They remained in use even after a Deutsche Dienstpostamt was opened in Kolomea. However, then they were used merely as blank cards, and valid postage stamps had to be added to pay postage.

Comment: I have been searching for the text of this article for some time, for the write-up of the Kolomea issue in the Neuer Ganzsachen Katalog, Lieferung 5.u6., "Besetzte Gebiete 1938-1945", p. 13 intrigued me. It is evident from the illustration in the catalog that this issue was inspired by Ukrainian nationalists rather than by the occupying Germans. In view of the contents of this article it is surprising that the standard German postal stationery catalog lists this item as a German occupation issue at all. Since it was the Hungarians rather than the Germans who held this part of the Ukraine anyway, it is even more difficult to understand the rationale behind this listing. Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

- (3) W.V. Rachmanow, "Das Rote Kreuz im Dienste der Post", Der Sammlerfreund, XIV (August, 1940), p. 28.

This article chronicles the story of a special postal system existing in the Staszow area of Poland between Dec. 18, 1939, and the end of April, 1940. It seems that the local Red Cross committee undertook postal service for a number of towns in the General-Gouvernement. Ordinary German occupation stamps were used. However, and this is significant, they were sold at a higher price to provide funds for the Red Cross. This was not a case of using German semi-postals, either. The stamps in question were the Hindenberg stamps with the well-known "Deutsche Post Osten" overprints.

Abstracts (German Occupation Issues) continued from Page 10.

Comment: From the text of this article it is apparent that the Red Cross operated very much like a local postal system, taking mail to and from real postoffices. Does anyone have covers from this period with Red Cross seals?

## FEE PRIVILEGES IN MILITARY MAIL SERVICE

### I. Concept of Military Mail.

The military mail system is intended to maintain postal communications between the field army and the homeland as well as within the field army.

The military mail system forwards as military mail, charge free or with fee reductions:

1. Official military mail.
2. Private mail of members of the armed forces as senders or recipients.

In addition to 1) Official mail is mail, which proceeds from armed forces agencies and is provided with the imprint of the letter seal or office seal on the outside; also package waybills.

In addition to 2) Private mail is mail, which is sent on private business of such members of the armed forces or is directed to those who are separated from their families by service.

### II. Sphere of Authorized Persons.

Besides the agencies of the armed forces on a war footing the following have claim to the fee privileges of the military postal system:

1. Members of the field army (army, navy, air force). In this are counted:
  - a) Soldiers who are in active military service and officers, noncommissioned officers, and men called from reserve status to active military service.
  - b) Armed forces officials called up from reserve status.
  - c) Members of the SS-Verfügungstruppen-Division, SS-Totenkopf-Division and Polizeidivision as well as independent units of the SS-Verfügungstruppe.
  - d) Civilians who are equated to members of the armed forces in accordance with Section 35\* of the National Defence Regulations of May 21, 1935.
2. Members of the National Labor Service who are employed in whole formations or units in operational areas.

## FEE PRIVILEGES IN MILITARY MAIL SERVICE, continued from Page 11.

3. Other civilians, who are either used in whole formations or units in operational areas for the purposes of the armed forces, or individuals in a service relationship with agencies or units of the field army and who mess with it in billets.

\* Section 35 reads: The War Minister can subject civilians in the area of the armed forces to legal prescriptions applying to the troops wholly or in part, when and as long as military necessity requires it. They are members of the armed forces in the meaning of Section 21 for the duration of this decision.

## III. Presumption for Fee Privileges.

Fee privileges of the military postal system will only be accorded, when

1. The agency or the unit to which the soldier, armed forces official or civilian belongs is assigned a Feldpost number.
2. With use of an open address, the soldier, armed forces official, or the civilian is in billets and messing with the armed forces. Thereby, it is of no account whether shelter and rations are conferred in kind or through substance allowances, lodging, and maintenance allowance.

## IV. Types of Military Mail

1. Admitted to military mail transmission:
  - a) ordinary postcards;
  - b) ordinary letters, open or sealed, up to 250 grams;
  - c) ordinary packages to 1000 grams;
  - d) postal and money orders from the field to 1000 Reichsmarks;
  - e) newspapers.

The precise regulations concerning newspaper subscriptions (newspaper orders through the agency of the military post-offices, remittance of newspapers to members of the armed forces in the field) are contained in Amts. Bl. Vf. Nr. 432/1939, p. 655 and in the Feldpostamtsblatt Vf. Nr. 7/1939, p. 3 and Nr. 15, p. 9.

- f) military mail newspaper parcels up to 5 kilograms.
- g) telegrams, except specially handled telegrams with notes like "urgent", "answer paid", "ornamental blanks", etc. Only open German language admitted, stipulated and coded expressions prohibited.

In addition to b) and c), weight offenses up to 25 grams with letters and up to 100 grams with packages disregarded. For military mail packages the following maximum dimensions apply:

- in rectangular form: length, width, and height together  
60 centimeters.
- in rolled form: length and the simple diameter together  
60 centimeters.

FEE PRIVILEGES IN MILITARY MAIL SERVICE, continued from Page 12.

2. Besides the mail detailed under 1., registered letters and insured letters as well as parcels are admitted to military mail transmission from military agencies.
3. Excluded from military mail transmission at all, are postal collection orders, postal COD services, certified mail, acknowledgement of recipient, telegraphic and payment orders and telegraphic payment cards.

Private parcels just as private registered and insured mail are not admitted to military mail transmission.

V. Fees

1. Official military mail need neither be provided with the exemption note nor franked. (Peacetime exemption note read "Frei durch Ablösung Reich")) } ---Free of Charge
2. Private mail
  - a) postcards
  - b) letters up to a weight of 250 grams } ---Free of Charge
  - c) packages up to a weight of 1000 grams) -20 Rpf. Charge
  - d) postal and payment orders to the field
  - e) military mail money orders and payment cards from the field } -----Domestic Fees
  - f) telegrams
  - g) newspapers) -----Forwarding and delivery of newspapers free of charge. For the efforts connected with the delivery of newspapers, however, the publisher has to pay half the newspaper fee calculated in accordance with the principles of the postal ordinance.
  - h) military mail newspaper parcels) -----20 Rpf. each initial kilogram.

In addition to c), packages from the homeland to a soldier must be franked. Un- or insufficiently franked packages will be returned to the sender. Military mail packages from a soldier should be franked, whether they are directed to a recipient in the homeland or to a soldier of another unit. For unfranked or insufficiently franked packages the simple postage due without surtax will be collected from the recipient. If he refuses payment, then the package will be returned to the sender with an appropriate notation.

## FEE PRIVILEGES IN MILITARY MAIL SERVICE, continued from Page 13.

## VI. Marking and Posting of Military Mail.

1. All mail, for which the fee privileges of the military mail system are claimed, has to bear the note "Feldpost" and the precise address of the sender. On mail from offices and members of units with concealed address, only the Feldpost number may be placed as a return address.
2. Military mail from members of the armed forces must:
  - a) either be posted at a military post office or,
  - b) if it is not forwarded through a military post office, bear the letter seal or official seal of the unit to which the sender belongs. The units have to post outgoing mail, after the imprinting of the letter seal or official seal, at a post office for forwarding; posting through letter boxes is to be limited as much as possible.

All mail which is neither posted through a military post office nor bears a letter seal or official seal of the sender's unit is subject to the fees of the public postal service.

3. Mail from persons on leave, which is not directed to persons designated under II, enjoy fee reductions for military mail service only if they bear the official seal or letter seal imprint of an armed forces unit.
4. In the address of mail to persons designated under II, must be stated: grade and name of recipient and either
  - a) with concealed address, the five-digit Feldpost number (with or without additions) of his troop unit or
  - b) with open address the full official address of his armed forces unit. Mail with the private address of the recipient is subject to the fees of the public postal service.

## VII. Misuse of Military Mail Privileges.

In accordance with the stipulations of the postal law or the penal code

1. Those who use the fee privileges of the military mail system without being justified in it:
2. Those who forward mail to units of the field army or their members in purely commercial matters by claiming a fee privilege.

can be punished. It should not be considered misuse of the fee privileges of the military mail system, if members of the field army claim freedom from fees or the reductions of the military mail system in their own business, commercial, or professional affairs.

## VIII. Entrance into Force.

The stipulations enter into force on April 1, 1940; on this day Amtsbl. Vf. Nr. 415/1939, p. 619 and Nr. 543/1939, p. 757 and Fp. Amtsbl.



FEE PRIVILEGES IN MILITARY MAIL SERVICE, continued from Page 14.

Vf. Nr. 2/1939, p. 1 and Nr. 28/1939, p. 21, similar in content, go out of force. The Supreme Commander of the Army has enacted the corresponding regulations for the armed forces sphere on March 1, 1940 (Heeresverordnungsblatt-HVBL-1940, Teil C., pp. 117 and 127), which likewise enter into force on April 1, 1940.

In the first fourteen days after implementation postage due is to be collected only in matters of obvious abuse.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Feldpostamtsblatt, 39/1940, 1 April 1940, pp. 21-3; this regulation was also widely reprinted.

#### NOTES

1. Reichspostministerium, Feldpostamtsblatt, 11 Sept. 1939, 1/1939, p.1.
2. Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, Merkblatt über die Postversorgung der Wehrmacht im Kriege (Feldpost-Merkblatt). vom 1.3.44, Merkblatt 49/1; Lw. Merkblatt 83, p. 3; Feldpostvorschrift (FpV). vom 22.7.1938. Berlin: Reichsdruckerei, 1938, p. 15.
3. Postvorschrift für die Reichswehr. 18 Dec. 1930. Berlin: E. H. Mittler & Sohn, 1931, p. 11.
4. Alfred Clement, Kleines Handbuch der deutschen Feldpost. Graz: Selbstverlag, 1952, p. 5.
5. Oberkommando der Wehrmacht, Abfindung bei besonderen Einsatz der Wehrmacht. Berlin: Verlag Bernard & Gracé, 1940-2, Vol. II, p.252.
6. Ibid., II, pp. 247-8.
7. Reichspostministerium, Postnachrichtenblatt, Dec. 2, 1939, p. 428.
8. Reichspostministerium, Feldpostamtsblatt, 18 Jun. 1940, 68/1940, p.43
9. Ibid., 11 Sept. 1939, 2/1939, pp. 1-2.
10. Ibid., 29 Sept. 1939, 11/1939, p. 7.
11. Ibid., 27 Oct. 1939, 29/1939, p.22.
12. Ibid., 15 Dec. 1939, 73/1939, p. 49.
13. Ibid., 1 Dec. 1939, 53/1939, p. 43.
14. Feldpostvorschrift, p. 4.
15. Ibid., pp. 16-17.
16. Reichspostministerium, Feldpostamtsblatt, 27 Oct. 1939, 28/1939, pp. 21-3.
17. Feldpostvorschrift, p. 3.
18. Reichspostministerium, Feldpostamtsblatt, 27 Oct. 1939, 29/1939, p.22
19. Ibid., 24 Nov. 1939, 58/1939, p. 45.
20. Ibid., 16 Jan. 1940, 6/1940, p. 5.
21. Ibid., 1 Apr. 1940, 39/1940, pp. 21-3.

(Through the Courtesy of Benjamin R. Beede).

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP INFORMATION BUREAU by Donald Boese

Sometime ago, a cover with a blue "Luftfeldpost" stamp overprinted "Inselpost" (Michel 7A) was sent to the Bureau. The stamp was tied to the cover with a LITZENDORF über BAMBERG cancel (32 miles north of NÜRNBERG) dated March 31, 1945. The cover was addressed to F.P. Nr. (Field-post number) 68 011 B, Lg.I.A. (Luftgaupostamt) WIEN (Vienna),

TRSG INFORMATION BUREAU, continued from Page 15.

and roller-stamped with a 3-line "ZURÜCK / AN DEN / ABSENDER" (Return to the Sender). The sender in this case was a woman with a Litzendorf address. This cover was part of an approval lot which had been sent from Germany to a G.P.S. member. He was most intrigued by the cover, but he didn't understand it. Knowing that this "Inselpost" stamp had been prepared for use on the island of Crete, he wanted to know how a Bamberg cancel could appear on an "Inselpost" cover. He also was curious about a date as late as March 31, 1945, in connection with German troops on Crete.

According to General Walter Warlimont (Inside Hitler's Headquarters) Hitler ordered all German troops out of the Greek area in October 1944. However, due to a lack of air and sea transport, approximately 16,000 troops were left stranded on the Island of Crete. A provisional permit stamp ("INSELPOST" overprinted on remaining stocks of "Luftfeldpost" stamps) was issued in October 1944. Each soldier was given 8 stamps per month, half of which was meant to be sent back to Germany to be used by family or friends on return airmail to Crete. The permit stamps were used to regulate the quantity of airmail to and from the island.

Hence, the cover in question is legitimate. The woman who mailed the letter had received the stamp from Crete, and now at this late period in the war was attempting to write to her friend or relative remaining on Crete. The cover either left Bamberg and went an undetermined distance before being turned back as impossible to deliver, or upon arrival at the Bamberg post office was simply cancelled and stamped "Return to the Sender" as airmail facilities to Crete were no longer available. (Information from Jim Duffy).

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP Financial Statement June 1968 - March 1969.  
Submitted by R. J. Houston, Treasurer:

Receipts

|   |         |          |
|---|---------|----------|
| Balance brought forward from 1966               | \$31.15 |          |
| 1969 Dues payments received                     | 50.00   |          |
| Additional income from contributory memberships | 46.00   |          |
| Total Receipts                                  |         | \$127.15 |

Expenses

|                                      |         |              |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Bulletin No. 12 June 1968 (J. Duffy) | \$ 8.74 |              |
| Bulletin No. 13 Sept. 1968 "         | 9.74    |              |
| Bulletin No. 14 Jan. 1969 "          | 12.14   |              |
| TRSG Award - NOJEX, Oct. 1968        | 10.00   |              |
| Total Expenses                       | 40.62   | <u>40.62</u> |

|         |  |          |
|---------|--|----------|
| Balance |  | \$ 86.53 |
|---------|--|----------|

The balance of \$86.53 will be used to bring 3 more issues to you this year, plus financing a slide talk. This is your money in action. Subgroup projects are in the mill, and future bulletins will carry the results of their research. Comments and helpful suggestions are always invited. We hope you will find the 15th Bulletin of interest. (Ed.)  
Special thanks to all those members who contributed the extra dollar or more.