



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

October 2026, Volume LXI, Number 4, (#241)

The best in German Philately:

- The Norwegian Legion
- Stalag 17B's Postal History by Kurt Stauffer
- A Danish Propaganda Label
- Phil Miller's Unique North African Feldpost sheet
- Trivia: Is it even fair?
- And of course, AuctionWatch, Danzig, and even more!

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Look what's inside:

The Norwegian Legion- Nearly 1,900 soldiers came from Norway to fight in Leningrad. Explore their history and look at the semi-postal stamp that commemorated them. Also, look at a fake cancellation on those stamps, with tips on how to better spot fake cancellations before you buy!

Stalag 17B's Posta History by Kurt Stauffer- What incredible material he has! Our colleague from the Military History Postal Society shares his slides on their postal material, showing the best we have of their trials and tribulations as prisoners of war.

A Tunis Feldpost Stamp Sheet- Phil Miller shows us his one-of-a-kind find. I didn't even know it existed, but Phil is kind enough to show us his discovery!

And so much more. We have articles on the inventor of the watch, a Kurland irregular, and a British propaganda stamp included as well. Plus, *Danzig*, *Trivia* and *AuctionWatch*! Enjoy!

Help! I strive to keep this website and journal free and accessible for everyone. I do not want to begin charging dues or putting up passwords and firewalls on this website. Philately should be for everyone! However, I could use a few dollars to cover expenses. You can support us by donating through PayPal on our website or by sending a check made out to Chris Kolker to 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360. Thank you for your continued support. You are what makes our study group great!

We invite submissions of all article types, including long and short pieces, as well as introductory material and expert contributions. We need them all! Please email your articles, scans, or ideas to kolkermd@att.net.

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Table of Contents

Editor's Letter.....	4
The Norwegian Legion of WWII.....	5
A Unique Norwegian Propaganda Stamp.....	16
A Kurland Error.....	17
Stalag 17B Postal History by Kurt Stauffer.....	18
Aage Andersen's Danish Propaganda Label.....	42
Phil Miller's Tunis Block.....	48
Peter Henlein- the Forgotten Genius.....	51
Danzig.....	54
AuctionWatch!.....	64
Trivia.....	79
For Sale.....	96

Editor's Letter

To our esteemed readers:

We are taking a jaunt to Scandinavia this issue, with a look at the Norwegian Legion and a glance at one of the most unique WWII propaganda stamps you will ever see. We then head down to Denmark to discuss Aage Andersen's Danish propaganda label.

This issue also features Kurt Stauffer's presentation of Stalag 17B's postal history. Kurt is a major contributor to the Military History Postal Society on Facebook, and you will find some incredible items on display.

Not to be outdone, Phil Miller shows us his one-of-a-kind Tunis block. I've never seen it, and a survey of readers also found no one with this exact piece. You must see to believe.

And please remember that while I don't charge for this, I do need a bit of financial assistance. Think about a small donation- just click on the "Donate Now" button at <http://www.trsg-usa.com> and get that done.

One more thing: my book, *Collecting Third Reich Material: A Systematic Review*, is out on Amazon and Barnes & Noble. Buy the book!!! I put my heart and soul into it, so hit "Control" and click [here](#) to go to Amazon, where you can get a comprehensive overview of Third Reich Philately for just a few dollars.

But for now, sit back and enjoy the latest issue of the *Bulletin*, this time with a Scandinavian twist! Enjoy!

Chris

The Norwegian Legion of World War II – A Stamp, Its Legacy, and a Fraudulent Cancellation

Christopher Kolker MD



Norway, Scott B24, 1941

Germany invaded Norway on 9 April 1940 under Operation Weserübung, a surprise campaign designed to secure strategic advantages in the North Atlantic and protect vital iron-ore shipments from Sweden that traveled via the ice-free Norwegian port of Narvik. Control of Norway's long coastline provided submarine bases, airfields, and fjord anchorages that threatened Britain's sea lanes and extended Germany's naval and air reach. The operation unfolded simultaneously with the swift occupation of Denmark, ensuring unhindered access to the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

The attack struck multiple Norwegian ports at once—Oslo, Kristiansand, Stavanger, Bergen, Trondheim, and Narvik—using combined air, sea, and airborne forces. A defining moment occurred in the Oslofjord, where the coastal fortress at Oscarsborg sank the German heavy cruiser *Blücher*, temporarily delaying the capture of the capital and allowing King Haakon VII, the cabinet, and the Storting's leadership to escape. Despite this setback, German troops soon moved into Oslo, aided by airborne landings at Fornebu airfield, one of the war's earliest large-scale uses of paratroopers and air-landing infantry. At Stavanger, the Luftwaffe captured Sola airfield, quickly establishing air superiority that proved decisive throughout the campaign.

Fascist politician Vidkun Quisling exploited the initial confusion to proclaim a coup and declare himself prime minister. The King refused to appoint him, and the legitimate government retreated inland, issuing the Elverum Authorization to enable continued governance during wartime. Norwegian forces, though mobilizing under severe constraints, mounted resistance across the country. British and French forces, later joined by Polish units, intervened to support Norway, landing at Namsos, Åndalsnes, Harstad, and other points in central and northern Norway.

Naval engagements were fierce. The Royal Navy inflicted significant losses on the Kriegsmarine, including the sinking of the light cruiser *Königsberg* at Bergen and heavy

fighting in the Battles of Narvik, where German destroyer flotillas suffered heavy attrition. Nonetheless, German control of nearby airfields allowed the Luftwaffe to dominate the battlespace, bombing Allied shipping and supply lines. This air supremacy undermined Allied lodgments at Namsos and Åndalsnes, forcing evacuations. In the north, Allied and Norwegian forces achieved a temporary success by recapturing Narvik in late May, threatening the ore route that had motivated the invasion.

Strategic developments elsewhere doomed the campaign. With Germany's breakthrough in France in May 1940, the Allies redirected resources and evacuated Norway. The Royal Navy evacuation included tragic losses, notably the carrier HMS Glorious and two destroyers sunk by German battlecruisers on 8 June. Left without external support and overwhelmed by German forces enjoying superior air power and logistics, Norway capitulated on 10 June 1940, ending the two-month Norwegian Campaign.

Casualties were substantial on all sides, and the Kriegsmarine emerged weakened despite victory at sea—its destroyer force, in particular, was badly mauled at Narvik. However, Germany achieved its strategic aims: access to Norwegian bases, protection of the ore route (at least temporarily), and an extended Atlantic perimeter. Politically, the invasion set the stage for five years of occupation. Reichskommissar Josef Terboven would rule Norway, while Quisling later headed a collaborationist regime with limited real power.

The invasion of Norway demonstrated the effectiveness of coordinated joint operations—naval, air, and airborne—executed with speed and surprise. It also highlighted the critical role of air superiority in modern warfare and the vulnerability of maritime operations to land-based air attack. Despite moments of Norwegian and Allied success, Germany's control of the skies and rapid operational tempo secured a decisive, if costly, victory that reshaped the strategic geography of Northern Europe for the remainder of the war.

Civil administration fell under Reichskommissar Josef Terboven, who ruled as Hitler's plenipotentiary and sidelined Norway's institutions. Quisling's NS regime became the only legal party in 1942, but real power remained with the German occupation apparatus: the Reichskommissariat, the Wehrmacht, the Gestapo and Sicherheitsdienst (SD), and the German-controlled Norwegian State Police (Statspolitiet). Quisling's paramilitary, Hirden, aided repression. Prisons and camps—including Grini near Oslo and Falstad in Trøndelag—held political prisoners, resistance members, and forced laborers. The Gestapo's headquarters at Victoria Terrasse in Oslo symbolized the regime's terror.

Strategically, Norway became a fortress and forward base:

- The Kriegsmarine used fjords as secure anchorages; the battleship Tirpitz tied down Allied naval resources until its sinking near Tromsø in 1944.
- U-boat pens, radar and airfields dotted the coast, integrating Norway into the Atlantic Wall.
- Weather stations in the Arctic supported German operations.
- The Lofoten Islands and northern ports serviced and threatened Arctic convoys to the Soviet Union.
- Heavy water production at Vemork (Rjukan) was pivotal to German nuclear research, prompting Allied-Norwegian sabotage.

The occupation reshaped daily life. Rationing, requisitions, and black markets characterized the economy; German garrisons—peaking at several hundred thousand troops—strained resources but also drove infrastructure projects (roads, airfields, fortifications), often with forced labor. NS attempted ideological “Norwegianization” aligned with Nazi racial doctrine, including youth mobilization and the Lebensborn program. The Lutheran Church, teachers, and civil servants mounted notable nonviolent resistance: the 1942 teachers’ strike and church protests forced the regime to retreat from some indoctrination plans.

Persecution intensified, especially against Norway’s small Jewish community. From 1942, anti-Jewish decrees culminated in mass arrests and deportations. On 26 November 1942, the SS Donau transported most of the deported Norwegian Jews to Auschwitz. Approximately 772 Jews were deported; only a few dozen survived. Norwegian police collaboration played a significant role, though thousands of Jews and other targeted individuals escaped to Sweden with help from resistance networks.

Armed resistance evolved from scattered groups into a more coordinated movement:

- Milorg (the main military organization) developed clandestine cells, trained cadres, and prepared for liberation.
- XU gathered intelligence for Britain.
- The “Shetland Bus” used small boats to ferry agents, refugees, and supplies between Shetland and the Norwegian coast.
- Sabotage operations struck industry, shipping, and communications. The most famous was Operation Gunnerside (1943), which crippled heavy-water production at Vemork; follow-up actions helped prevent its restoration and thwarted shipment efforts.

German reprisals were severe. Collective punishments included village burnings and executions—most infamously after the resistance-linked incident in Telavåg (1942). Political prisoners faced torture and execution; many Norwegians were sent to German camps. Soviet and other POWs endured brutal conditions in Norwegian labor camps, constructing the “Blood Road” and coastal defenses, with high mortality.

The war’s northern front shaped late-occupation violence. After the Soviet Petsamo–Kirkenes offensive in October 1944, German forces retreated from Finnmark and northern Troms, implementing a scorched-earth policy that destroyed towns, infrastructure, and homes, displacing tens of thousands in one of Norway’s greatest wartime traumas.

Norway’s merchant marine (Nortraship), operating under the government-in-exile, was crucial to the Allied logistics chain; thousands of Norwegian seamen died in the Battle of the Atlantic. Allied raids—such as the Lofoten raid (Operation Claymore, 1941)—yielded intelligence, destroyed facilities, and boosted morale. Strategic bombing targeted German shipping, bases, and the Tirpitz.

Liberation came with Germany’s surrender on 8 May 1945. King Haakon returned, and a provisional government reasserted sovereignty. The postwar legal purge (rettsoppgjøret) prosecuted collaborators for treason and war crimes; Quisling was convicted and executed in October 1945. Women accused of relationships with German soldiers faced social sanctions and, in some cases, punitive hair-shearing or internment; children born of these unions often suffered stigma for decades. Reconstruction focused on rebuilding the north, reintegrating society, and honoring resistance while grappling with the complexities of occupation, collaboration, and survival.

The occupation left a layered legacy: strategic importance that drew overwhelming German force; a resilient, multifaceted resistance; grievous persecution of Jews and others; and deep scars from reprisals and scorched-earth destruction—counterbalanced by a postwar national narrative grounded in constitutional legitimacy and democratic restoration.



The Norwegian Legion Stamp: Philately, Propaganda, and Collaboration During the Second World War

The stamp shown is a Norwegian semi-postal issue connected with *Den Norske Legion*, or the Norwegian Legion, during the German occupation of Norway in the Second World War.

Issued on 1 August 1941, it carried a basic postal value of 20 øre and an additional surcharge of 80 øre. The extra amount was intended to support the Norwegian Legion. As a result, the stamp functioned in two different ways: it could be used for postage, but it also served as a fundraising instrument and a piece of political propaganda.

Although small and ordinary in appearance, the stamp reflects some of the most difficult issues in Norway's wartime history. It represents the occupation of the country, the recruitment of Norwegian volunteers by Nazi Germany, the political activities of the collaborationist Nasjonal Samling movement, and the use of everyday objects to promote military and ideological causes.

The Creation of the Norwegian Legion

The Norwegian Legion was established in June 1941, shortly after Germany invaded the Soviet Union in Operation Barbarossa. The formation was presented by its supporters as a Norwegian contribution to the struggle against communism. Nazi Germany described its war against the Soviet Union as a broader European "crusade against Bolshevism," and recruitment propaganda attempted to persuade volunteers that they were defending Europe, Christianity, and Norwegian civilization.

In practical terms, the Norwegian Legion was a collaborationist formation associated with the Waffen-SS. It consisted of Norwegian volunteers who fought on the German side, primarily on the Eastern Front. Recruitment drew support from Nasjonal Samling and from pro-German networks within occupied Norway. Volunteers came from different backgrounds and were motivated by a combination of anti-communism, fascist convictions, nationalism, adventure, personal loyalty, or hopes of military advancement.



The Legion's existence also exposed a contradiction in Nazi propaganda. Germany sought to present its war as a multinational European movement, yet the volunteers served within a German-dominated military and political system. The Norwegian Legion was described as a national formation, but it was part of the wider Waffen-SS structure and participated in Germany's war against the Soviet Union.

The stamp as a fundraising device

The most immediately recognizable feature of the stamp is its 20+80 øre denomination. The 20 øre represented the postage value, while the additional 80 øre was a surcharge. In semi-postal issues, this surcharge allowed governments, organizations, or political

authorities to raise money through stamp sales. Buyers paid more than the amount strictly required to send a letter, and the difference was assigned to a stated cause.

In this case, the surcharge connected ordinary postal activity with support for the Norwegian Legion. The Norwegian Legion (June 1941 - March 1943) was a force of approximately 1900 (total, over time) pro-Nazi Norwegian volunteers who had been promised to be commanded by Norwegian officers and to fight in Finland against Russia (as Norwegian volunteers had done during the 1939-1940 Winter War between Finland and Russia). Instead, the force was sent to the Eastern Front and participated in the Siege of Leningrad, and was commanded mostly by German officers. The stamp depicts a Norwegian Legion soldier alongside the Norwegian and Finnish flags.

The stamp's design reinforced this message. It depicts a military figure, generally understood as a legionnaire, together with symbols associated with the formation and its Norwegian identity. The imagery presents the volunteer as disciplined, heroic, and patriotic. It does not emphasize the occupation's political repression or the Eastern Front's destructive reality. Instead, it creates an idealized visual narrative of service and sacrifice.

Such imagery was typical of wartime propaganda. Political movements often used uniforms, flags, heroic poses, and national symbols to transform military participation into a moral duty. The stamp's compact format made it especially suitable for a simple message: a Norwegian soldier was serving a supposedly noble cause, and the public was encouraged to help him.

The Stamp

From JaySmith.com, a specialized dealer in Scandinavian stamps:

*Other than the decade digit of "4", the year date is not showing. I cannot guarantee in which 1940s year this cancellation was struck, but it is NOT a typical type of philatelic or late-use cancellation. **In 53 years, I have never had an example of this style of cancellation (from any town) on this stamp and I have only had less than ten of this style of cancellation (from any town) on any semi-postal stamp.***

There were several offices in Trondheim where this style of postmark was used, in a few different type -- this example does not show enough of the postmark to



determine the office or type -- however, most are so scarce that actual date ranges of known use have not been fully recorded beyond the manufacturing date. However, some offices and types of the Trondheim miniature postmarks HAVE BEEN recorded as used during the normal period of validity of this stamp (1 Aug 1941 thru 14 May 1945). Though often called "thimble" postmarks -- because the size of the impression is small enough that it can be imagined to be a thimble-mounted device -- the more correct name is "miniature" postmark; they were hand operated devices, not finger-operated devices.

These postmarks were specifically designed for use on multi-line postal forms, small postal receipts, etc., where there was very limited space for a dated postmark.

The regulations specifically stated that this type of postmark was NOT to be struck as a normal cancellation on postage stamps. However, it is said that may have been occasionally used in accounting functions to void stamps.

Postal forms bearing this type of postmark are very seldom seen. The examples of uses as postmarks or cancellations on covers that I have seen have mostly been as a: 1) cancellation on postage that was added to a cover (after original mailing, as part of a postage collection process) to make up the total correct amount of postage needed; 2) to cancel accidentally uncanceled stamps (sometimes called "skips") on covers; c) and as an accounting or processing postmark on parcel cards, money orders, COD cards, etc., usually not on a stamp.

Examples of miniature cancellations struck on stamps (or on any other objects) are "quite scarce" but represent a fascinating and very under-appreciated area of Norwegian postmark collecting.

The vast majority of genuinely canceled examples of this stamp on the market bear a partial official first-day postmark (having been soaked off a first-day cover). Most other canceled examples of single #B24 stamps do not show a full year date and must therefore be assumed to have philatelic or late-use cancellations. This is a key Norwegian stamp from the WWII era and is missing from many collections. Scott 2026 has a used value is \$100, but this is an exceptional example, "rare" with this style of cancellation.

But not all its cancellations are real!



A legitimate cancellation



A forged cancellation

How do you tell the difference between a real cancellation and a fake?

A postmark can be one of the most appealing—and most easily misunderstood—features of a stamp. A convincing cancellation may add historical interest and value, while a forged one can make an unused stamp appear to have traveled through the mail. Unfortunately, no single visual clue proves a cancellation is genuine. The best approach is to examine several features together, using magnification and good lighting, and to compare the mark with known examples from the same place and period.

1. Start with the overall appearance

A genuine cancellation was typically applied with a handstamp or other postal device. Pressure, ink supply, and the surface beneath the stamp can vary, so the mark may not look perfectly uniform. Some letters may be darker than others; a portion of the circular date mark may be faint or incomplete; and the ink density may change across the design.

A laser-printed imitation may look unusually consistent. The circle can be perfectly complete, the letters equally sharp, and the darkness uniform from one side of the mark to the other. Such regularity can be suspicious—but it is not proof of forgery. Some authentic machine cancellations are remarkably even, and genuine handstamps can produce clear, regular impressions. Overall appearance is a useful first impression, not a final verdict.

At low magnification, around 5× to 10×, a fake may even seem more attractive than a genuine cancellation because its lines appear crisp and tidy. That is why cleanliness alone should not be mistaken for authenticity.

2. Examine the ink edges and paper surface

The edges of the cancellation can reveal how the mark was made. Under stronger magnification—often around 20×—genuine postal ink may show small irregularities. The edges can appear slightly feathered, and the ink may follow or settle among the paper fibers. Absorption can vary, leaving some parts of the mark darker or more deeply embedded than others.

A laser-printed imitation may have sharply defined, mechanically regular edges. On some examples, magnification reveals toner particles or a surface texture that appears deposited on top of the paper rather than absorbed into it. The boundary may look smooth and consistent.

These observations depend on the stamp's paper, ink, age, condition, and printing process. Some genuine inks leave little visible penetration, while other printing methods can imitate irregular edges. Magnification can provide clues, but it cannot identify every forgery on its own.

3. See how the cancellation interacts with the stamp design

A genuine postmark was applied to an already printed stamp, so it crosses the stamp's design and paper as they existed at the time of mailing. As the mark passes over different areas—such as a portrait, a flag, or the denomination tablet—its appearance may change slightly. The underlying colors, printing, and surface can affect how the cancellation looks or how much ink is visible.

A fabricated mark printed as part of a later alteration may appear equally dark and sharply defined across both the stamp design and the unprinted paper. That uniformity can raise questions, especially when the mark seems to ignore the texture or color beneath it.

However, a consistent appearance does not automatically mean the cancellation is fake. The type of ink, the amount applied, and the condition of the stamp all matter. Look for a natural, plausible relationship between the cancellation and the design rather than expecting a particular pattern of fading.

4. Inspect the perforations

Perforations are often useful because they provide a physical edge and small recessed spaces that can be examined closely. If a cancellation was applied after the stamp was perforated, the mark may continue over the perforation tips. Ink may also extend slightly into some holes, with uneven coverage from one tooth to another.

A suspicious cancellation may stop abruptly at the stamp's edge, leaving the perforation tips and holes unusually clean even where the design suggests the mark should continue. Under magnification, a printed imitation may also fail to show a convincing relationship between the mark and the uneven perforated edge.

This test must be used carefully. A genuine cancellation may not cross the perforations at all, depending on where the stamp was positioned in the postmark. Trimming, damage, washing, or later handling may also alter what is visible.

5. Look at the back of the stamp

Turn the stamp over and inspect it under bright lighting. Some genuine cancellations leave faint discoloration or slight evidence of ink penetration on the reverse. Strong, angled light can sometimes make these traces easier to see.

A laser-printed imitation may leave no corresponding mark on the back because the toner remains largely at the surface. Still, many authentic cancellations do not show through, and paper thickness, ink formulation, and stamp condition can affect the result. A clean back is therefore not, by itself, evidence of a fake.

6. Compare the cancellation with reliable examples

One of the most useful steps is comparison. Check the date, wording, device, and layout against authenticated examples from the same postal service, office, and period. Ask whether the postmark style existed at that time and whether the date and location are historically plausible. A mark that looks convincing in isolation may contain an incorrect date, an unusual lettering style, or a design that does not match known postal equipment.

Also consider the stamp's full history and condition. Cleaning, chemical treatment, repairs, or other alterations may affect the appearance of the ink and paper. When value or authenticity matters, a reputable expert or recognized certificate service can provide a more dependable assessment than visual inspection alone.

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<https://www.jaysmith.com/>



*Keep Calm and Keep
Collecting!*

Norwegian Propaganda Stamp of World War II – A Truly Unique Item



Once more from Jay Smith & Associates:

Norwegian WWII Air Drop Propaganda Stamps: Orange (third) design showing Norwegian sailor plucking up Nazi soldiers, commemorating the British/Norwegian 4 March 1941 naval raid on Lofoten. Dropped by the British Royal Air Force during night-time flights over Norwegian coastal cities, usually during bad weather (to avoid being spot-lighted), such leaflets/stamps often fell into the water and/or were otherwise destroyed. If a Norwegian was discovered by the Nazis to possess one of these leaflets/stamps, the consequences could be very serious indeed. As a result, the few existing examples are almost always without gum and almost always have at least minor defects. This example is the full, intact orange sheet with the large design and three stamps. Without gum, with only minor perforation separations, and with only minor defects. It must be the nicest looking example of one of these that I have had in 35 years. Seldom offered; spectacular appearance!

This one is new to me! If you have other occupation stamps that are truly unique, please scan them and email them to me at kolkermd@att.net. I have scores of readers who would love to see them!

And here is one you can take to the bank: An easy-to-spot print flaw:



We are all looking for that great deal, and so much of our material has greater value with printing flaws. However, they're hard to spot when you are looking through a dealer's table.

Here is one you can catch at a glance: Michel 1 type VI, German occupation of Kurland.

All you need to know is that if there is a **large** hole on each of the black squares, the value goes up from around \$40 dollars to \$340 in the current catalog listing.

Sometimes, philately is easy!

Stalag 17B's Postal History- A slideshow by Kurt Stauffer

Editor's Note: The Military Postal History Society (MPHS) presents Kurt Stauffer's slideshow below. Kurt was gracious enough to allow us to view his slideshow. Thank you, Kurt!

To show your gratitude, check out their excellent Facebook page!

WW II Postal History of American POW's in Stalag 17B

Nr: 99.873	PIEDMONT	D.J.	BARACKEN: 37B.
 	GEB. DATUM: 5.1.22	AMERIK. MATR. Nr. 12,138,505	
	FÜHRUNG:	BEURTEILUNG:	
	STRAFEN:	STRAFBARE HANDLUNGEN:	

Presented by Kurt Stauffer

Stalag 17B

Located near Krems Austria.

3



Stalag 17B



Stalag 17B

- 5 Compounds held Americans.
- 30 Barracks were numbered:
 - 13-16 B only
 - 17-19 A and B
 - 29-32 A and B
 - 34-39 A and B
 - Barracks numbers written on incoming mail by Stalag 17B mailroom staff.



Stalag 17B

OUTGOING MAIL 1943 - 1945



Stalag 17B

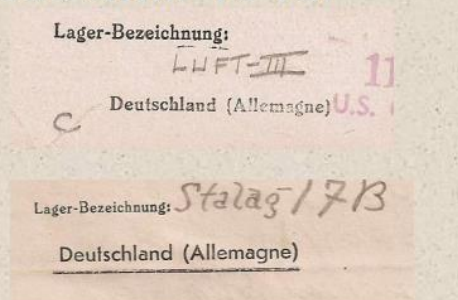
STATIONARY

- Folded letter sheets
- Postcards
- Prisoners allowed to write on average two letters sheets and two postcards a month. Sometimes this was increased or decreased.



STATIONARY

- Stalag 17B mainly used Stalag Luft III stationary.
- When 17B stationary was used, Luft III was used as the return address until 1945.



Stalag 17B

CENSORSHIP

US Censor

11755
U.S. CENSOR

Stalag Luft III Censor

GEPRÜFT
72

Stalag 17B Censor

STALAG
297 XVII
GEPRÜFT

All mail outgoing and incoming Stalag 17B mail was censored at Stalag Luft III
Until @ December 1944. After that time the mail was censored at Stalag 17B.

Stalag 17B

CAMP POSTMARKS



Stalag Luft III dummy hand cancel used 1944 to Jan 1945.



Stalag 17B dummy machine cancel used Feb-March 1945.

Stalag 17B

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte

An 2

MR. W. H. TURNER

Gebührenfrei

Abwesend

Vor- und Zuname: MR. W. H. TURNER

Empfangsort: FATONVILLE, WASH.

Gefangenennummer: 27424

Straße: ARMY ST

Land: UNITED STATES

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Kriegsgefangenenlager

Datum: 1-27-44

Dear Dad, - glad to hear you're feeling
fine and still on the job. Always pleased
to hear from you, although I realize you don't
have much time for writing a few lines
helps a lot. I had a better time than
you could imagine for a (X) weeks. I miss
the good parcells you send. Love your Son, Bob

Postcard from early 1944. Luft III stationary.

Stalag 17B

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte
85

Miss ARITA TURNER

Gebührenfrei!

Abwesender:
Vor- und Zuname: SSgt ROBERT J TURNER
Gefangenennummer: 27424
Lager-Bezeichnung: M. Stammlager 2000 3
LUFT III
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort: EATONVILLE, WASH
Straße: Rd. No. 1 Box 53
Land: USA
Landesfil (Profil size)

1226
U.S. CENSOR

Kriegsgefangenenlager

Datum: 4-22-44

My dear sister Arita,
Received your and mom's letter just a few
days after Easter. Glad to hear all as well.
You must be quite a young lady now. Maybe
I will see you again if I ever get home.
Several of us are planting little gardens & get
some seed the hard way. Be good Rob.

POW postcard from early 1944. 17B stationary.

Stalag 17B

MID 1944
 Post Office
 Kriegsgefangenen
 224-13
 Taxe perche
 INT 403
 Ka JOHN W. H. TURNER
 12264
 U.S. CENSOR
 Gebührentreilf
 GEPROBT
 12
 Empfangsort: FAIRFAX, WASH.
 Straße: 2421 T 8453
 Kreis:
 Land: USA
 (Indicate Province area)
 Absender:
 Vor- und Nachname: JOHN W. H. TURNER
 M. I. 1
 Gefangenennummer: 275 003
 1.3.3. Bereich: M. Stenograph (VH-1)
LWT III
 Deutschland (Allemagne)

Letter sheet from mid 1944. 17B stationary.

Stalag 17B

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Mit Luftpost
Par Avion

Postkarte

Taxe perçue
An RM 40/100

GEPRÜFT
72

1484-9

Gebührenfrei

1102
U.S. CENS.

Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: JOE ROBERT A. HENDERSON

Gefangenenummer: 79712

Lager-Bezeichnung: Stalag 17B

Deutschland (4" square)

Empfangsort: HAFSLUND

Straße: POW

Land: USA

Ländertel. Prefix: 00

Kriegsgefangenenlager

Write legibly to avoid delay

Date: June 10th, 1944

Dear Ruth & Henry, Have just finished reading and decided to write before turning in. Everything is still OK with me. I've been playing "softball" and taking sun baths nearly every day. Hope things are alright with you, give my love to Tommy. As ever - Bob.

U.S. POW. G. 446 84124

Postcard from mid 1944. Stalag XIA stationary.

Stalag 17B

Mit Luftpost
Par Avion

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Taxe perçue

1st Pl.

An Mrs. David B. Crosby

Empfangsort: Medford, Oregon

Straße: 775 Murray Avenue

Kreis: Tasman

Land: United States of America

Landesrat (Provinz usw.)

11755
U.S. CENSOR
Gebührenfrei

Absender:

Vor- und Nachname: Cpl. Raymond B. Crosby

Gefangenennummer: 111850

Lager-Bezeichnung: Luft III

Deutschland (Allemagne)

Letter sheet from late 1944. 17B stationary.

Stalag 17B

Mit Luftpost
Par Avion
Postkarte
Taxe perçu
An RM 40 171

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Empfänger: Mrs. Mrs. David B. Crosby

Gebührenfrei

Absenders
Vor- und Zuname: Ed. Raymond C. Crosby
Gefangenenummer: 111850
Lager-Bezeichnung: LHPT-III
Deutschland (A) 11133 U.S. 45508

Empfängerort: Medford, Oregon
Straße: 945 Murray Avenue
Land: United States of America
Landsteil (Previous use):

Kriegsgefangenenlager Datum: JUN 1 1945 - 11:16 AM

Happy New Year's Eve! I am very
relieved to hear from you. I hope you
are together and well. I am
well & hope this finds you well.
In Portland as it is together. Tell all
hello. I am waiting and hope you should
get more mail. Love my wife & kids. Love Ed.

Postcard from early 1945. Generic stationary.

Stalag 17B

Mit Luftpost **Kriegsgefangenenpost**
1.2. 1945
Taxe perçue
10.3.45-2
Harry C. Clark

Empfangsort: Dodge,
Straße: Mass.
Kreis: U.S.A.
Land: U.S.A.
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Gebührenfrei

Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: 1st Alfred M. Clark
Gefangenenummer: 113499
Lager-Bezeichnung: Stalag 17B
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Letter sheet from early 1945. Generic stationary.
17B return address.

Stalag 17B

Kriegsgefangenenpost
Postkarte
551 Taraval
Miss BETTY SMITH
46
Gebührenfrei!
Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: **Sgt. WALTER GESSER**
Gefangenennummer: **113358**
Lager-Bezeichnung: **17-B**
Deutschland (Allemagne)
Empfängerort: **2374 29th Ave.**
Strasse: **SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.**
Land: **U.S.A.**
Landesl. (Previous use.)

Kriegsgefangenenlager
Datum: **February 23, 1945**
Dear Betty: Am still okay and fine. Just you are also just finished listening to some recordings which I do just about every day, when you write, be sure to let me know the names of the new songs that are out back here. Have some time since I've heard from you and am looking forward to some more correspondence. Hope you have a send a few snap shots of yourself. Remember you. Walt.

Postcard from early 1945. Generic stationary.
 17B return address.

Stalag 17B

INCOMING MAIL 1944-1945



Stalag 17B

148

From Faye		Letters From Home		Miscellaneous	
Received	Post Mark	Received	Post Mark	Received	Post Mark
May 11	Aug 26 1944	May 11	Aug 26	From Maxine Post Mark	May 3 Received Oct 3
May 15	Sept 13	May 15	Sept 13	From Elsie Post Mark	June 26 Received Oct 10
May 22	Oct 10	May 22	Oct 10	From Maxine Post Mark	June 15 Received Oct 16
May 25	Oct 10	May 25	Oct 10	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
May 31	Oct 10	May 31	Oct 10	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
June 5	Oct 16	June 5	Oct 16	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
June 12	Oct 16	June 12	Oct 16	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
June 21	Oct 16	June 21	Oct 16	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
June 27	Oct 16	June 27	Oct 16	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
July 1	Nov 2	July 1	Nov 2	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
July 8	Nov 2	July 8	Nov 2	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
July 17	Nov 2	July 17	Nov 2	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
July 31	Nov 3	July 31	Nov 3	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Sept 11	Nov 3	Sept 11	Nov 3	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Sept 27	Dec 3	Sept 27	Dec 3	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Aug 13	Dec 23	Aug 13	Dec 23	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Aug 29	Dec 23	Aug 29	Dec 23	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Sept 1	Dec 23	Sept 1	Dec 23	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Aug 23	Jan 5 1945	Aug 23	Jan 5	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Oct 7	Jan 5	Oct 7	Jan 5	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Aug 17	Jan 23	Aug 17	Jan 23	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Dec 4	Feb 19	Dec 4	Feb 19	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Dec 15	March 10	Dec 15	March 10	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Nov 16	March 28	Nov 16	March 28	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Nov 12	March 27	Nov 12	March 27	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2
Dec 27	March 28	Dec 27	March 28	From Mrs L.H.M. Post Mark	May 28 Received Nov 2

Parcels	
Received	Post Mark
July 17	Nov 2
Aug 13	Dec 23
Aug 29	Dec 23
Sept 1	Dec 23
Aug 23	Jan 5 1945
Oct 7	Jan 5
Aug 17	Jan 23
Dec 4	Feb 19
Dec 15	March 10
Nov 16	March 28
Nov 12	March 27
Dec 27	March 28

- Average in transit time 3-5 months.
- All mail processed and censored at Stalag Luft III until late 1944.

Stalag 17B



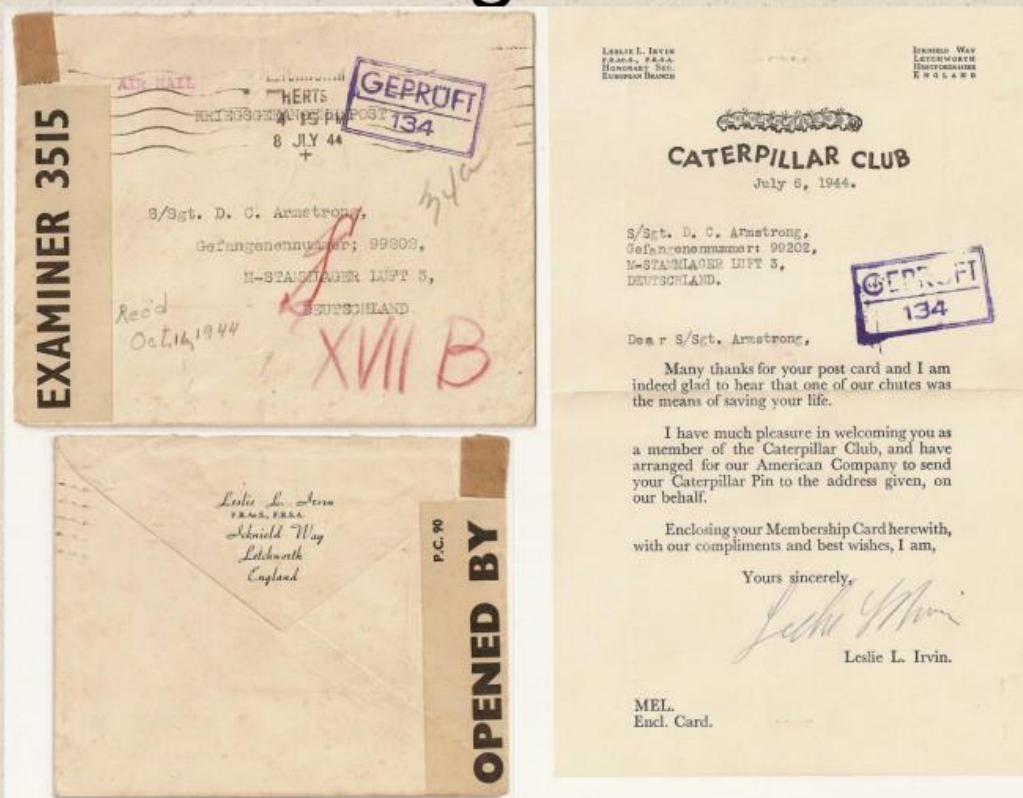
Earliest incoming example I have found. Sent to a POW in barracks 34A. Postmarked 12/8/43. Docketed 6/22/44. It spent 6 months in transit.

Stalag 17B



Letter received 12/22/44 at barracks 16 after spending 7 months in transit. Red Cross Geneve mark in conjunction with German censor tape (Berlin). Censored again by the Germans at Stalag 17B rather than at Luft III.

Stalag 17B



Notice of membership in the Caterpillar Club. It was awarded by the Irvin parachute company to people who had "used" their products.

Stalag 17B

PRISONER OF WAR POST
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

AFFIX
6¢
POSTAGE

NEW YORK
MAY 18
1 PM
1944

RANK AND NAME SGT. MILTON SELDIN
(CAPITAL LETTERS) UNITED STATES PRISONER OF WAR.

PRISONER OF WAR No. 113461
(SEE NOTE ON FLAP)

CAMP NAME AND No. STALAG LUFT 3

SUBSIDIARY CAMP No. (STALAG 7A)

11339
U.S. CENSOR

COUNTRY GERMANY. Luft III

VIA NEW YORK, N. Y.

WD PMG Form no. 111 to a POW in barracks 18B.
Postmarked 5/18/44. Missent to Stalag IVB. Docketed 12/5/44.
7 months in transit.

Stalag 17B

PRISONER OF WAR POST
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

AFFIX
6¢
POSTAGE

RANK AND NAME SGT. RAYMOND SELL
(CAPITAL LETTERS) UNITED STATES PRISONER OF WAR.

PRISONER OF WAR No. 100 644
(SEE NOTE ON FLAP)

CAMP NAME AND No. STALAG 17B

SUBSIDIARY CAMP No. GERMANY LUFT

COUNTRY GERMANY LUFT

VIA NEW YORK, N. Y.

FROM (SENDER'S FULL NAME AND ADDRESS)

MISS ELEANOR SELL
14816 TELEGRAPH ROAD
INKSTER MICHIGAN

March 15, 1945

W. D., P. 36, G. 111
APR 1945

IMPORTANT: FOR PRISONERS IN GERMAN HANDS THE PRISONER OF WAR NUMBER SHOULD
BE CLEARLY INDICATED IF KNOWN. IT MUST NOT BE CONFUSED WITH THE ARMY SIGNAL NUMBER.

WD PMG Form no. 111 to a POW in barracks 16.
Postmarked 12/4/44. Docketed 3/15/45. 3 months in transit.

Stalag 17B

Prisoner of War Mail
Civilian Internee Mail
(Cross out one.)

Postage Free

POST CARD

AUG 25
10 AM
1944
CALIF.

GEPROFT
83

1181
CENSOR

1/5gt Leo D. Bennett
(NAME)
U.S. P.O.W. 100507
Stalag Luft III, Germany
Stalag 17B
Via New York, New York

FORM 2277
JUNE 1944

From: Mrs. Dean Bennett
Post Office Box 1363
Visalia, California, U.S.A.
(FULL NAME AND ADDRESS)

August 24, 1944
(DATE)

Dear est Dean:

Edna got a letter from Leonard dated May 13 so
maybe I will get one soon. Everyone is still
O.K. here. Hope you are making it alright. I miss
you very much and am greatly looking forward
to seeing you. Am always thinking of you.
Tell Leonard hello. All my love - Louise

Private purchase postcard to a POW in barracks 18B.
Posted 8/25/44.

Stalag 17B

郵便 便房
 PRISONER OF WAR POST
 KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
 SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE
 POSTAGE FREE
 GEFANGENENEREI
 FRANC DE PORT

INDICATE NATIONALITY OF PRISONER OF WAR
 U. S. ☒ BRITISH ☐ CANADIAN ☐ OTHER (Specify) ☐
 NAME AND GRADE OF PRISONER OF WAR
 S/SGT ROBERT J. TURNER 27424
 PRISONER OF WAR NO.
 ADDRESS
 STALAG XVII B
 GERMANY
 RETURNED TO
 By Direction of the War Department.
 Undeliverable as Addressed.
 VIA NEW YORK, N. Y.

IMPORTANT: This form may be used in writing to United States and allied prisoners of war, civilian internees, and to American-owned military interests in neutral countries. For prisoners in German hands the prisoner of war number should be stated clearly, if known. It must not be confused with the Army serial number.
 3-PM
 1945
 W. D. P. M. G. Form 112
 1 December 1944

FROM (Sender's full name and address)
 MRS. W. H. T. RAY
 ROUTE 1, BOX 53
 EATONVILLE, WASHINGTON

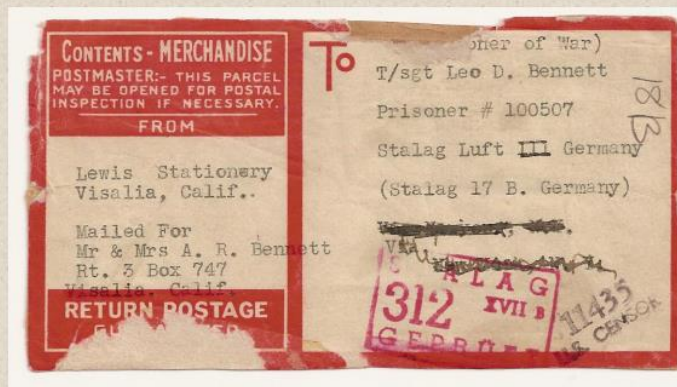
WD PMG form no. 112 posted 4/8/45. It was returned because the war was over and it could not be delivered.

Stalag 17B

PARCELS



Stalag 17B



Label from a book parcel received January 1945 in Stalag 17B.

Stalag 17B

On 8 April 1945 Stalag 17B was evacuated and the POW's began an 18-day march to Braunau, Austria.



Liberation! May 3, 1945 by the US 13th Armored Division.

“Til Kamp! – For Sejr!”: A Danish Nazi Propaganda Label Associated with Aage H. Andersen

Christopher Kolker MD



Will the propaganda ever end? Apparently not.

The Nazis were not the first nor the last to use propaganda labels; however, they took it to a whole new level. This full sheet of Aage H. Andersen political propaganda labels, or *propagandamærkat*, was issued in connection with the Danish National Socialist Workers' Party (*National-Socialistisk Arbejder-Parti*, or N.S.A.P.) and its leader, Aage H. Andersen.

The labels bear the slogan “*Til Kamp! – For Sejr!*”, meaning “*To the struggle! – For victory!*”. Beneath the slogan appear the initials “*N.S.A.P.*” and the name “*AAGE H. ANDERSEN.*” The obscure structure in the background is an image of a Danish burial mound called a *Hünengrab*. Legend had it that these were the burial mounds of ancient giants, and they served as a source of nationalistic wonder and awe.

What a story this piece can tell:

Aage H. Andersen and the NSAP

By all accounts, Andersen was incredibly radical. He began his political life by joining

Wilfred Peterson's National Socialist Party in 1933. This party essentially carried out small terrorist attacks in the name of Danish fascism. By 1934, Andersen switched allegiance and joined the Danish National Socialist Workers Party (DNSAP). This party was a bit more "mainstream", and was the more official branch of Danish Nazism during the German occupation of Denmark from 1940 to 1945.

How radical was Andersen? He managed to get himself kicked out of the DNSAP for being too racist against Jews in 1935.

Finding himself alone, Andersen subsequently founded the National-Socialistisk Arbejder-Parti (NSAP) on October 31, 1935. Andersen identified himself as its "Partifører," or party leader.

Even after being sentenced by a local court to 80 days in prison in 1938 for insulting another religion, Andersen began publishing the antisemitic magazine *Kamptegnet* in 1939. By 1941, with the German occupation, Andersen was welcomed back to the now more radical DNSAP, where he became chief of staff for the Race Policy Central Office.

By 1944, Andersen joined the Danish Corps of the German Army, becoming their head of the Central Office for Race Issues.

But justice was finally served after the war. By 1948, a Danish appellate court sentenced Andersen to ten years in prison for his wartime activities. From there, Andersen's activities disappear from history until his death in 1968.



Aage H. Andersen in 1935

The Label

This dated postal usage is especially interesting because the date of its printing is uncertain.

When was it printed?

This is one of the most interesting aspects of the item, because the dating is not entirely straightforward. Auction houses have attributed this label's printing to 1941 or 1942.

The association with 1941 is understandable. Aage H. Andersen was documented as leading the NSAP then, and the label belongs to the political environment of the Danish occupation period. However, some specialist philatelic catalogs have assigned the vignette to 1942.

For example, an old Reinhard Fischer auction catalog (1955) describes it as:

“1942, ‘Til Kamp!-For Sejr!’, seltene mehrfarbige PROPAGANDA-VIGNETTE der NSAP”

—that is, a rare multicolored NSAP propaganda vignette, from Reinhard Fischer Auktionen.

And ABPhilea shows us this for sale at one of their 2009 auctions:



The date is hard to see, but the postmark is for July 15, 1942, raising the possibility that this label was printed in 1942.

But just because the label is on a 1942 cover does not mean that it was printed in 1942. That would be extremely doubtful, as Andersen had left the NSAP by then to the DNSAP, so this can be ruled out.



Furthermore, with a little investigating, I found direct evidence that this particular label was used on earlier correspondence. A Bruun Rasmussen auction catalog records an example of **“Til Kamp! – For Sejr”** on a postcard sent locally in Copenhagen on Christmas Eve, 1939. The auction

house described that example as *særdeles sjældent*—“particularly rare.”

Consequently, it would be unwise to state categorically that the sheet itself was “issued in 1941.” The available evidence shows examples in circulation by 1939.

The complete sheet (is it one of a kind?)

From the Rasmussen Auction House in 2019:

“Postfriskt helark med 10 mærker og intakt arkrand”

—essentially, a mint complete sheet of ten labels with intact sheet margin.

The Rasmussen auction house described the sheet as “Meget sjældent,” or “very rare,” and estimated it at 5,000 Danish kroner / €670 in 2019.

A sheet (is it the same sheet?) comes up for auction on lot-art.com in 2021:



(They don't tell us what it sold for.)

A subsequent search turned up on Hipstamps:



But are they the same sheet, or are they two or three different sheets? Look at the puncture marks in the left margin. All three sheets have the same punctures and paper wear, which strongly supports the possibility that they are all from the same sheet. However, the puncture marks are not at the same level in at least two pieces. It appears that, at least in the marketplace, this may be a two-of-a-kind piece.

If you have this sheet, please let me know at kolkermd@att.net.

In short, the item pictured is best described as a **Danish NSAP propaganda vignette, “Til Kamp! – For Sejr!”**, associated with **Aage H. Andersen** from 1939. Furthermore, when printed, it may have been stapled together somewhat haphazardly on the left margin. Its exact production date remains an interesting cataloging question, since surviving evidence shows use in Copenhagen in 1939, while some auction houses date it as late as 1942. Let me know if you have more information.

References:

1. [Bruun RasmussenFRIMÆRKER](#)
2. [UUUser LibraryKraks Vejviser 1941 Handelsregister - Page 170](#)
3. [AAbcdoczHøjreekstremister i Danmark 1922-1945](#)
4. [RReinhard Fischer Auktionen7 Literatur Allgemein 90,— 1 1955 „Anleitung z.](#)
5. [LLOT-ARTSOLD. Propaganda label "Til Kamp! - For Sejr" issued by N.S.A.P...](#)
6. [PPhilea108 AB PHILEA Svartensgatan 6, SE-116 20 Stockholm](#)

Phil Miller's Tunis Block

Hello Chris,

Did you ever get some response and feedback about the Tunis block of nine stamp? There can't be that many of these around. I asked Mike Peter, who's an exhibitor and philatelic judge. He thought perhaps two or three. I also asked the auction house that I obtained this from. They didn't reply, so I'll ask again.

This Tunis block of nine stamps will go into my Africa Korps exhibit. Jude's don't like the word "rare." Instead, they want "one of X known to exist." It's hard to put a number like that on material — because there could be some collectors who have some items stashed away. Without anyone knowing.

Attached are images of the Tunis block again. This time, with the reverse and gum. Also attached is the Hanfried Müller certificate of authenticity.

Best regards,

Phil

Phil, just to let you know, we had several replies, and nobody has ever seen anything like this. Congratulations on your truly distinctive piece!

-The Editor





ATTEST
HANFRIED MÜLLER
 Verbandsprüfer
 im Bund Philatelistischer Prüfer e. V.
 D-69126 Heidelberg, Konstanzer Str. 39, Tel. (0 62 21) 30 27 49

Nr. 668/01 Datum 30.06.2001

Der im Foto abgebildete Neunerblock Zulassungsmarken für Feldpostpäckchen aus Nordafrika auf hellgraugelbem, dickem Papier, **Mi.-Nr. 5 a**, ist **e c h t**.

Die Marken stammen von den Bogenfeldern 65, 66, 67 (oben), 75, 76, 77 (Mitte) und 85, 86, 87 (unten).

Diese Zulassungsmarken dienten im April 1943, kurz vor Beendigung der Kämpfe in Nordafrika, zur Steuerung des Päckchenversandes aus dem Brückenkopf Tunesien in die Heimat.

Zum Zeitpunkt der Vorlage hatten die ungebrauchten Zulassungsmarken Originalgummierungen in der typischen Struktur ohne Falze oder Falzspuren mit unterschiedlich abgebröckelten Stellen oder leichten Druckabklatschen.

Im übrigen war die Erhaltung der Zulassungsmarken bis auf teilweise dünne Stellen, leichte Bugspuren einzelner und eine bildseitige Anhaftung einer Marke gut. Die Zähnungen sind im Hinblick auf ihre improvisierte Herstellung normal und einwandfrei.

Rückseitig befinden sich keinerlei Signaturen/HM.

Hanfried Müller

Prüfgebiet: Deutsche Feldpost II. Weltkrieg Mi.-Nr. -12 und 14-17
 und Feldpostbelege ohne Zulassungsmarken

Die Prüfung erfolgte auf Grund der Prüfordnung des Bundes Philatelistischer Prüfer e.V.

OTEC

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Peter Henlein – The Forgotten Genius

Christopher Kolker MD



When considering the origin of the watch, most people would struggle to pinpoint its inventor. Today, watches are so deeply ingrained in society that their history often gets overshadowed by their everyday use. However, a dive into historical records shows that the watch's invention can be attributed to the innovative mind of Peter Henlein, a skilled artisan from Nuremberg in the early 16th century.

The German stamp issued in August 1942 (Mi.819; Scott B208) commemorates the 400th anniversary of Henlein's death. This stamp features an image of a memorial dedicated to him, which was erected in Nuremberg in 1903, further immortalizing his contributions to horology, the study of time measurement and the art of producing timekeeping devices. The narrative surrounding Henlein's work is briefly encapsulated in the Harper & Scheck handbook and explored in greater detail in J. F. Giblin's publication, "People on German Stamps." Intrigued by the story behind such an unassuming yet significant stamp, I undertook a thorough investigation to separate the factual details from the myths surrounding Henlein's achievements.

As I delved deeper into Henlein's life, I discovered several key elements that challenge the mainstream narrative. Peter Henlein was born in 1480 in the bustling city of Nuremberg, a center of commerce and culture during the Renaissance, where he spent his entire life honing his craft. He was a contemporary of the famous painter and printmaker Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528), renowned for his detailed and innovative works. Henlein likely knew of Dürer's artistic contributions; however, no documented evidence shows their paths ever crossed or that they collaborated in any way.

Henlein began his career as an apprentice locksmith, which laid the foundation for his technical skills and mechanical understanding. Around the turn of the century, in 1500, he shifted his focus from locks to the more ambitious realm of clocks and clock mechanisms.

This shift marked the beginning of a decade-long period of experimentation and innovation as he sought to create a portable timekeeping device.

The breakthrough moment of Henlein's career occurred when he crafted his first spring-driven clock, an astonishing feat of engineering for the time. This invention is vital to his legacy, as it introduced the mainspring—a critical component that would later become the heart of every mechanical watch.

Henlein's portable timepiece measured several inches in diameter and featured a top-mounted face, presenting an elegant yet functional design for its period. It included only a single hour hand and remarkably lacked a protective glass cover, which would not appear on watches until much later. The absence of a minute hand was also notable; such features would not appear in timepieces until after 1670. The sheer size and weight of this device made it only marginally portable, as humorously illustrated in contemporary prints showing gentlemen walking with a servant tasked with carrying the unwieldy clock behind them. This scenario underscores the societal importance of timekeeping in an era when punctuality was emerging as a valued trait.

The design and construction of this bulky timepiece differed sharply from today's sleek, lightweight digital watches. Henlein's creation featured steel wheels and a hand-forged mainspring, which he meticulously crafted from a single piece of steel wire. The process was anything but simple, as he faced significant challenges in achieving uniform thickness throughout the spring, a crucial factor for ensuring consistent power and accuracy. This precision required delicate preheating techniques and considerable skill, reflecting both Henlein's expertise and determination.

In his later years, Henlein established himself as a master clockmaker, expanding his work to include ornate wall and table clocks while also taking responsibility for maintaining the town and church clocks throughout Nuremberg. His influence in the field was substantial, lasting until his death in 1542. While the commemorative stamp issued on August 29, 1942, suggests he died in August, Encyclopedia Britannica lists November 14, 1542, as his official death date. Adding another layer of complexity to his timeline, a unique hand stamp bearing Henlein's name and the dates 1542 to 1942 was used in Nuremberg for a single day, September 6, 1942, to commemorate his impact.

Most brief biographies of Henlein credit him with inventing and manufacturing a whimsical timepiece known as the “Nuremberg Egg,” reputed to be oval-shaped. The “egg” was a

portable timepiece designed to be worn around the neck on a chain or carried in a pouch or purse.

However, my own research found no reliable evidence substantiating the existence of this artifact, let alone any established link to Henlein himself. If the Nuremberg Egg indeed existed, it was likely an automaton (a self-operating machine) or a mechanical toy rather than a functioning timepiece. The term “egg” likely was a linguistic corruption of *Ueurlein* (“little clock” in Middle Low German) into the Franconian dialect word *Eierlein*, rather than describing the shape. True egg-shaped variants appeared around 1580, nearly 40 years after Henlein’s death.

Ultimately, what should resonate most in Peter Henlein's legacy is his invention of the mainspring—the ingenious mechanism that would revolutionize the design of mechanical clocks and watches, forever changing humanity's relationship with timekeeping. His contributions deserve celebration not only for their historical significance but also for their impact on the timepieces we still use today.



The Peter Henlein stamp
with the First Day Cover
cancellation, September 6,
1942

Believe It Or Not --- Ripley Does It Again!

DAPOSTA 1937



1. DANZIGER
LANDESPOSTWERTZEICHEN
AUSSTELLUNG

A couple of reports back, we illustrated a Third Reich revenue stamp that GPS Chapter 16's own Dave Ripley found at a bourse. Since then, it has been identified and cataloged. Now Dave has found three copies of the DAPOSTA 1937 block which show a wedge-shaped point under the left serif of the letter T. Also, there are additional variations of wide spots and notches on some of the S letters. The notch can be explained, but the wide spots are possibly dried ink globs that form periodically on the metal plate. Can any of you find these anomalies (or others) on your blocks?

1

POSTA

2

POSTA

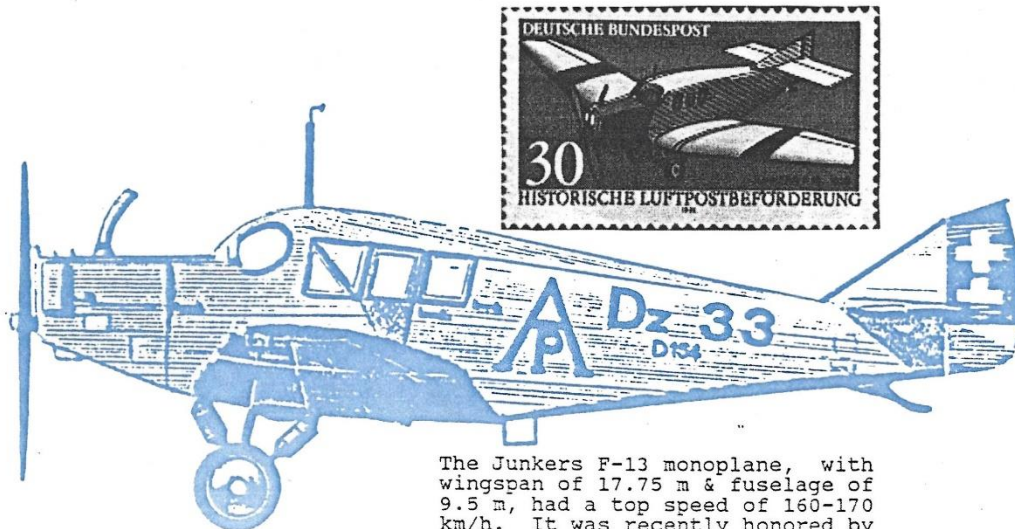


Two Additional Views of T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K.

Roger Szymanski has sent another explanation and more details on the T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K. article from D.R.No.73. John Kovalski and Ernie Solit collaborated to bring us copies of John's extensive collection of the subject, and it, along with Karl Kniep's letter to Giles du Boulay, provided us with enough trepidation about forgeries and reprints to cause anxiety. Roger has called our attention to a publication entitled: Die Flugmarken der Aero Targ GmbH Poznan 1921, which contains additional information on this unique air service. The publication is from the Arge Segelflugpost, Raumforschung und Raketenpost (July 1964 issue from the study group of glider mail, aero-space research and rocket mail.) The study is based on the report of Sf. Maciej Perzynski, a member of the Expert Committee of the Polish Philatelic Society (date is unknown). In the article translated below, Wolfgang Tornow provides a supplement and corrections to the original write-up by Perzynski. Perhaps from this we may gain additional insights into T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K.

1 Ikarus spanning the world is the symbol of Poznan's festival as well as the Junkers F-13 airplane [see below] flying over a panorama of the city, are the two illustrations for the AERO-TARG stamps. In the tab at the bottom row, the initials T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K. are printed.

Between the air corporation AEROTARG G.m.b.H. in Poznan - representing the members of the company are Herren Glowacki and Szewczykowski - and the Telegraphen Ministerium, developed the agreement of 6 May 1921.



The Junkers F-13 monoplane, with wingspan of 17.75 m & fuselage of 9.5 m, had a top speed of 160-170 km/h. It was recently honored by a newly released Bundespost stamp.

Two Additional Views of T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K.

The company AEROTARG underwrote the cost of the organization to provide air service on these lines:

- a. Poznan to Warsaw and Warsaw to Poznan
- b. Poznan to Lodz and Lodz to Poznan
- c. Poznan to Gdansk and Gdansk to Poznan

During the Poznan Fair, reported from 30.5.1921, until suitable aircraft could be put into service, there was a limit on the permitted sendings. Initially, there were limits of 100 kg for letters and 100 kg for packages.

In response to requests, the air forwarding was to include Express, carried at an additional charge. The mark of the AEROTARG was to be used as a special cancel for the post offices at Warsaw, Poznan, Lodz and Krakow.

Registered mail was not permitted to be placed in mail boxes (Aus den Briefkasten). Mail was to be separated into the following categories: Letters, Cards, Printed Matter, Commercial Paper and Samples, separated further into ordinary and registered consignments. Ordinary or insured parcels, up to 20,000 Mark value and weighing up to 10 Kilograms and packages up to 60 x 60 x 60 centimeters are not passed over. The following are forbidden: Securities, Mail subject to inspection, especially packages between Poland and Danzig.

The supplementary postal rate for the air transit, stamped with special cancels of the AEROTARG, are:

- a. For letters up to 20 grams.....25 Mark
- For letters up to 250 grams.....100 Mark
- b. For post cards.....25 Mark
- c. For printed matter up to 250 grams..100 Mark
- For printed matter to 1,000 grams...200 Mark
- d. For commercial paper to 1,000 grams..50 Mark
- e. For samples up to 5,000 grams.....100 Mark
- f. For packages up to 1 kilogram.....200 Mark
- For each additional kilogram.....100 Mark
- For each additional sending.....400 Mark
- For each 1000 Mk additional value...200 Mark

Any legal action that can arise on the basis of this agreement between the Aerotarg in Posen and the Post and Telegraph Ministry, becomes final through the action of the Court.

In agreement with the Treaty, the following gentlemen of the airline affix their signature: Dobrzycki - President of the Polish Railroads; Kordian Glowacki, Czeslaw Szewczykowski, Wilhelm Rudy, and Waselewski.

The initial larger plan of the Company, flying between Poznan and Lodz, Bytom and Krakow, was not realized due to financial difficulties. The air route connection with Lodz can not be valid, since at this time no air field existed. It happens, therefore, that only two air line connections were in use: Poznan to Warsaw and Poznan to Gdansk.

Two Additional Views of T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K.

The date of 29 May 1921 saw the starting operation of the twice-daily air route connection between the above locations. The final flight originated on 16 June 1921, which was the last fair day. Even though additional air routes were intended, connections were not obtained because of various problems.

Carries totaled three hundred passengers and 3,000 kg mail and packages in 58 flights. The exact amount of forwarded mail and the resulting quantities of air mail stamps makes the statistics inaccurate. The manufacture of the air mail stamps in sheets to 56 pieces took place in the lithographic shop of a gentleman named Pilożak in Posen. It consisted of two different values for distribution: 25 and 100 Marks. Both values utilized a line perf 11-1/2. The draft for the Aerotarg Marks originated with Wilhelm Rudy, a member of this airline. The initials of the designer are at the bottom left, above the A of the word AEROTARG.

A further description of the two values:

- 25 M(ark) black-blue/ dark orange; thick yellowish-gray paper; yellowish gum.
- 100 M(ark) black/blue; thick grayish paper; yellowish gum.

The Post offices Warsaw 1 - Counter Nr. 17 - and Poznan - Counters 1, 3, and 9, sold the stamps. The cancellation of the company indicating Lodz and Krakow never came about, however. The cancel colors in green, red, violet and gray-black are forged and are found only in reprints and forgeries. Faulty printing and accidents in the printing process provide constant recurrent errors in the printed sheet's registers.

Known varieties of the two stamps:

25 Mark Stamp:

- Field No. 7 crumpled peak of the Oberschlesischen Tower.
- 12 the letter W of the initials WR condensed.
- 14 top right airplane damaged. The 2 in numeral of value at right detached.
- 19 in date 1921, the numerals 1 and 2 are torn.
- 23 top right airplane damaged.
- 29 top half of the P in Poznan damaged.
- 30 left airplane damaged wing. The 2 in 1921 below is faulty.
- 31 lacking top half of the G in AEROTARG. Missing double dots between TARG and Poznan. Letter B in the landing gear appears as R.
- 43 top half of the G in TARG missing. P in Poznan damaged.
- 44 top loop of the left 5 torn. The first 1 of 1921 torn. In the right numeral of value, top part of the 2 and 5 damaged.
- 45 left numeral of value lacks the flag of the 5.
- 46 A in Poznan damaged.
- 47 O in AERO damaged near C. Left numeral of value lacks flag of the 5.

Two Additional Views of T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K.

- 50 in 1921, the last 1 is damaged in two places.
Missing point in right numeral of value.
- 52 damaged 9 in 1921.
- 56 damaged 0 in Poznan near U. Incomplete 2 in
left numeral of value.

100 Mark Stamp.

- Field No. 26 Letter E in Aero damaged.
- 27 frame damaged next to left 1 in the numeral of
value.
- 50 Letter A in Aero damaged. Letter K and T in the
word TABROMIK in landing gear with additive
foreign matter.
- 54 Frame at top left damaged.

Next to farther breaks in the frame line, main point by the 25 Mark Value. Too many perforation errors. For example, there are found unilateral imperfs or whole stamps without perforations. Also, there is too little space between Mark and landing gear.

Within a short time after the last implemented postal flight on 16.6.1921, intensive interest was aroused for philatelic proof of the special air mail flights and for the unusual Mark stamps. Since then, there has been an unbroken rise in prices for these air mail stamps; as a consequence, the forger is again active.

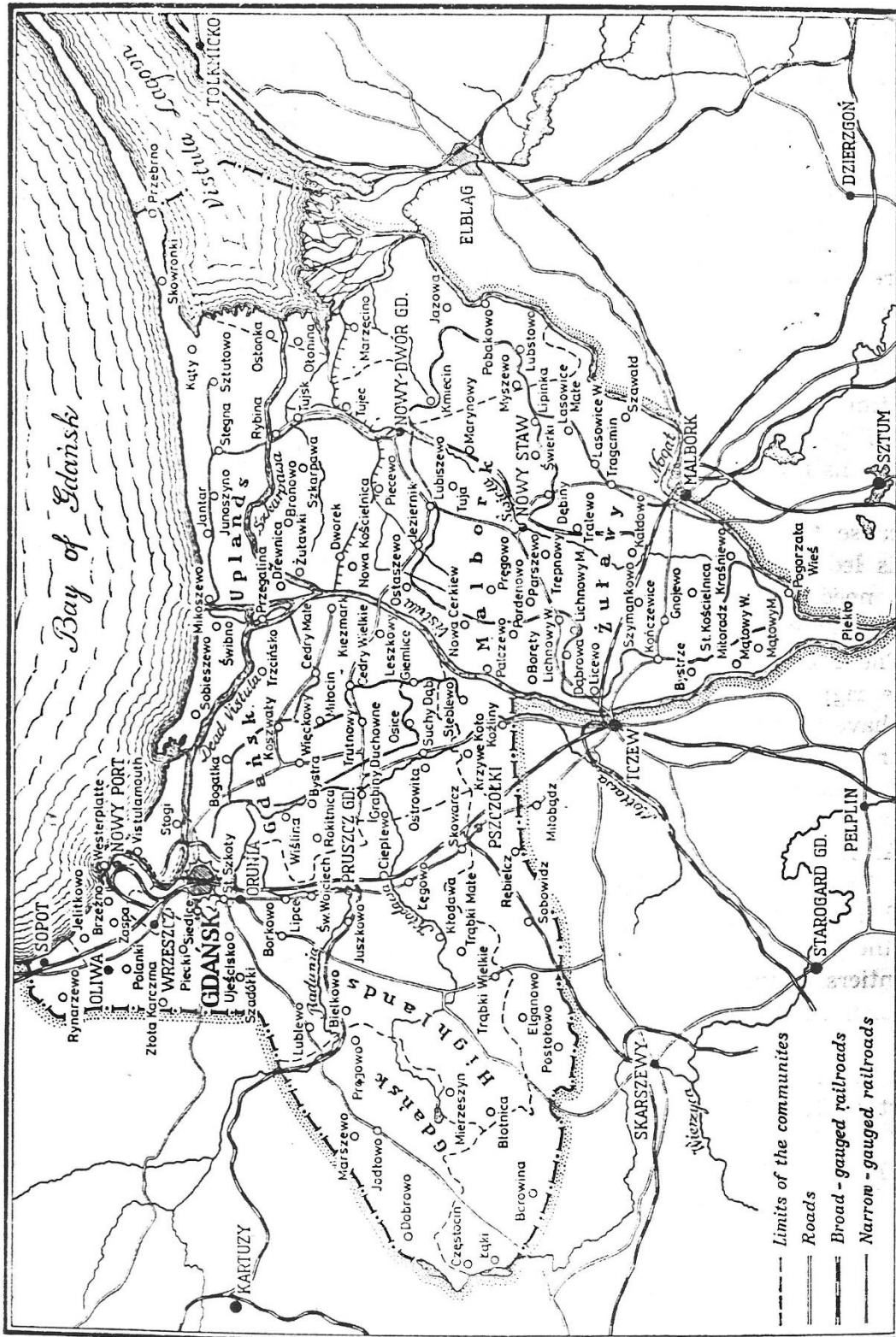
It is mainly the 100 Mark stamp that is forged. Not only must one be careful of forgeries, but one must be capable of recognizing the original stamps. Within six months of the last official printing, there appeared succeeding reprints in the trade. Today they are very frequently in collections and in ignorance are offered as originals.

Our second supplement comes from Hans Vogels of Nuenen, the Netherlands. Hans says that all of the literature indicates that the initials P.K.P. meant Polskie Koleje Pantstwowe for Polish Railroads. John Kowalski seems to have found the correct translation. In addition to the information on the forgeries and other that follows, Hans has provided the drawing of the Junkers F-13 (on Page 16), the plane that flew the routes under discussion. One correction in the D.R.73 article: On Pg.11, reverse designations Genuine and Forged. The following is Hans Vogels' report on the T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K.:

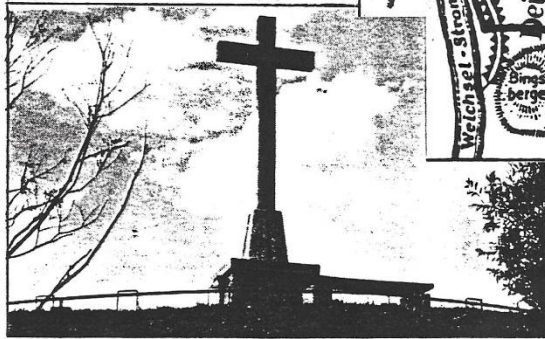
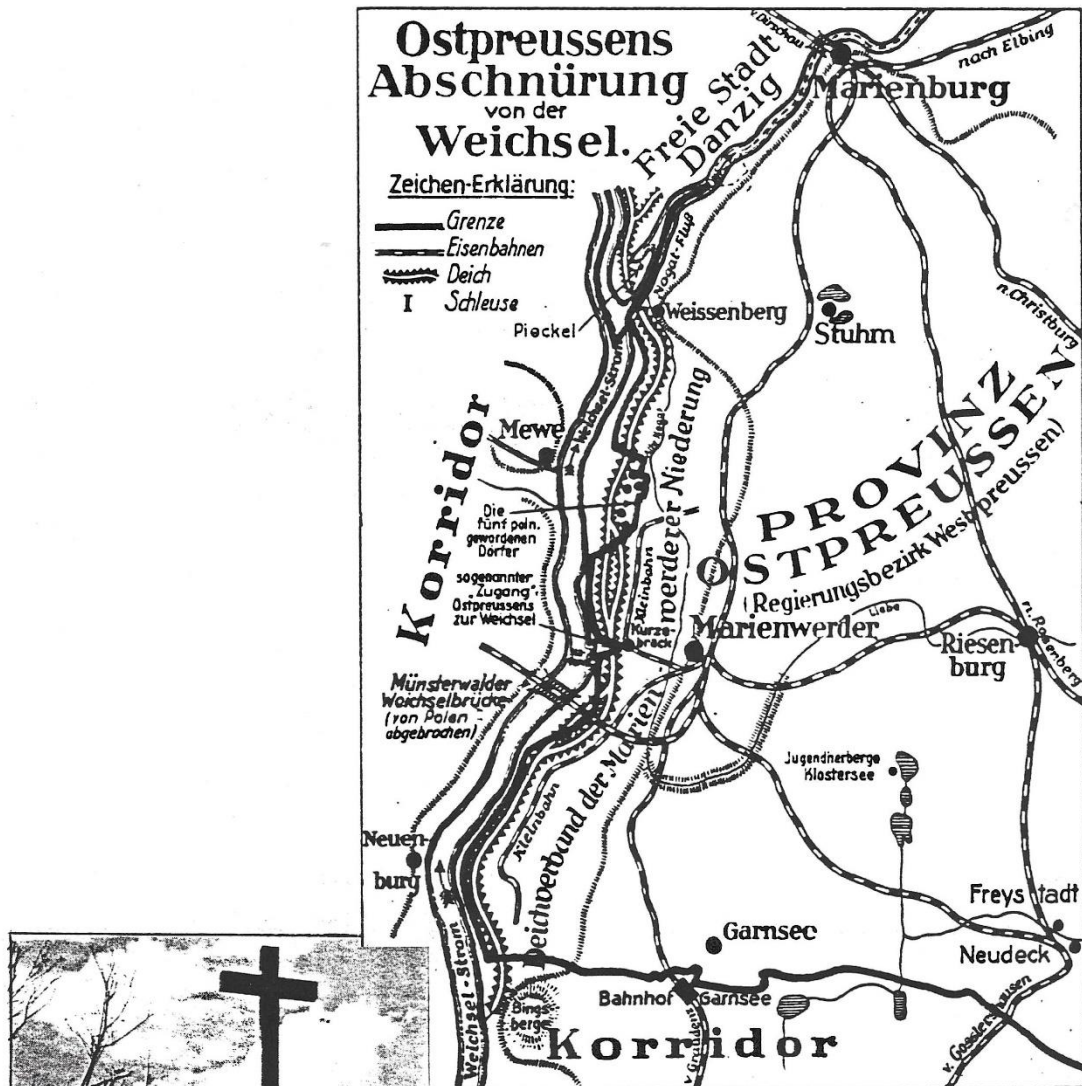
2 The Aerotarg Company hired six planes (Junkers F-13) from the Danziger Luftpost (therewith the relationship with Danzig!), writes Adam Jonca in his book: Barwa w lotnictwie Polskim. 2. Samoloty linii lotniczych 1919-1930. The large A with small P letters on the plane stands for Aerotarg Poznan. During my research on covers from Danzig, I found that most of the labels were reprints, with the small lines near the corners of the labels. These lines were used only for the reprints, in order to register the perforations at the right place. However, most of the stamps with the perforations through the labels (misperfs) are reprints. See anomalies on next page.

Two Additional Views of T.A.B.R.O.M.I.K.





der Weichsel: Historic Problems

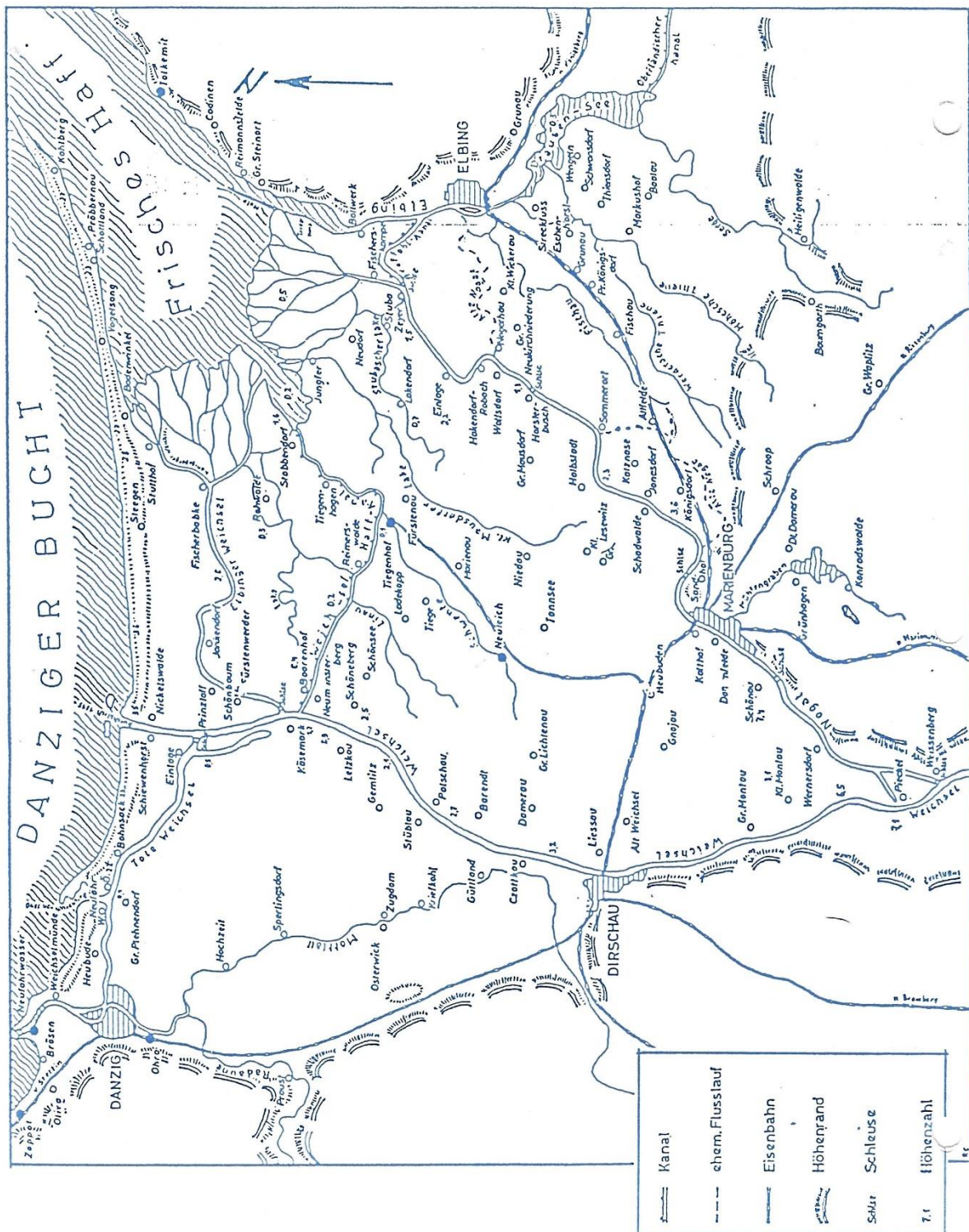


Das Westpreußenkreuz bei Weissenberg im Kreis Stuhm erinnerte an die Volksabstimmung am 11. Juli 1920, als nach dem Ersten Weltkrieg in einem Teil Westpreussens das Selbstbestimmungsrecht zur Anwendung kam. 70 Jahre später, 45 Jahre nach dem Ende des Zweiten Weltkrieges, wird zwar viel vom Selbstbestimmungsrecht geredet, doch für Ostdeutschland und seine vertriebenen Menschen soll es nicht gelten.

Bibliography:

- 1) *Kleine Weichsel Zeitung*, 1969-1989, periodical of the Marienwerder/Wpr. Homeland Assoc., Hamburger Str.74, 2060 Bad Oldesloe, Germany.
- 2) *Der Kreis Marienwerder/Wpr.*, Hamburg 1985, a homeland book of the above assoc.
- 3) *Westpreussen-Jahrbuch*, 1970-1998, yearbook of the Landsmannschaft Westpreussen, 4400 Munster, Germany.





A Favorite Cover

Christopher Kolker MD



1933 (4 Nov) 'Night rocket launch Hasselfelde', Germany, Gerhard Zucker Pioneer Rocket Mail, Airmail Torpedo Cover to Hasselfelde-Harz, violet inscriptions 'Destination: Hexentanzplatz-Rosstrappe', 'Launched during a night flight of the missile', Commemorative Postmark, Signature

Looking at one of the auction houses, I came across this cover: it is an example of “rocket mail,” where covers were placed in experimental rockets in the hope of one day blasting mail to far-flung places with a single rocket blast.

While this has been written about recently in this journal, it’s been noted that these covers rarely come up at auction. Why? I would suggest that it is such a memorable and distinctive story about a bygone era and an example of its naivete that makes it almost bittersweet. Collectors just seem to want to hang on to these, even though thousands of these covers were packed into each experimental rocket launch.

If you have a favorite, let me know at kolkermd@att.net.

AuctionWatch

It's a great time to be alive! So much history, so much selection, and all with reasonable prices. Take a look:

Old Louis Auctions:



SOLD for \$3250

1944 Insepost Rarity Postcard, Reich Military Mail, Feldpost, Germany,
Certificate

Germany / WWII Occupations (1939-1945)

Rare commemorative postcard from the Panzergrenadier Brigade and Military
Administration of Rhodes.

Admission stamps for military mail with overprints Insepost or Weihnachten
1944, on stationery postcard of the Italian post in Rhodes - Michel-No. 6, 8 II, 9,
10 B II, 12 III on GA P 51 -

The Michel-Nos. 6, 8 II, 9 and 10 B b II have genuine overprints. The postal
stationery Postcard and the military mail standard postmarks, which were
canceled for philatelic purposes and dated 25.12.44, as well as the " Rodi * EGEO
* " postmarks, are also genuine.

Regarding Michel-No. 12, this is a private reprint made using the original overprint
plate.

Michel-Nos. 6 and 10 B show color abrasions. Michel-No. 9 has a round corner.
The remaining condition is flawless.

•••

Catalog: Michel 6, 8 II, 9, 10 B b II, 12 III

Catalog value: \$3,000 **SOLD** for \$3250

Condition: MH. current certificate Brunel

OSTPREUSSEN-FELDPOST

Diese Karte wird bevorzugt befördert

Es gibt in diesem Schicksals-
kampf für uns nur ein Ge-
bot: Wer ehrenhaft kämpft,
kann damit das Leben für
sich und seine Lieben retten!

ADOLF HITLER

UNSERE PAROLE:

TAPFER und TREU!

An

Frau

Fransard Witzke

Feldpost b. Rochlitz

Sachsen



Abs.:

oppr. R. Witzke, F.W. 13736

2. März 1945.

Liebe Heidi!

Hungste Brüder und beste
Krieger! Hoffentlich er-
reicht mich einmal Post
von Dir.

In aller Herzlichkeit!

Dein
Vati.

1945 (4 Mar) 'Courageous and Faithful! In this fateful struggle, there is only one commandment for us: he who fights honestly can save his own life and the lives of his loved ones! - Adolf Hitler.' Third Reich, Germany, Censored Military Mail East Prussian Field Post Feldpost Postcard addressed in Zellsteig (near Rochlitz), with purple round Official Handstamp of a military unit with a field post number '13736', censored control number '10' in a black circle

Germany / Third Reich (1933-1945)

Catalog: Michel P 2 a

Catalog value: \$720

SOLD for \$1000



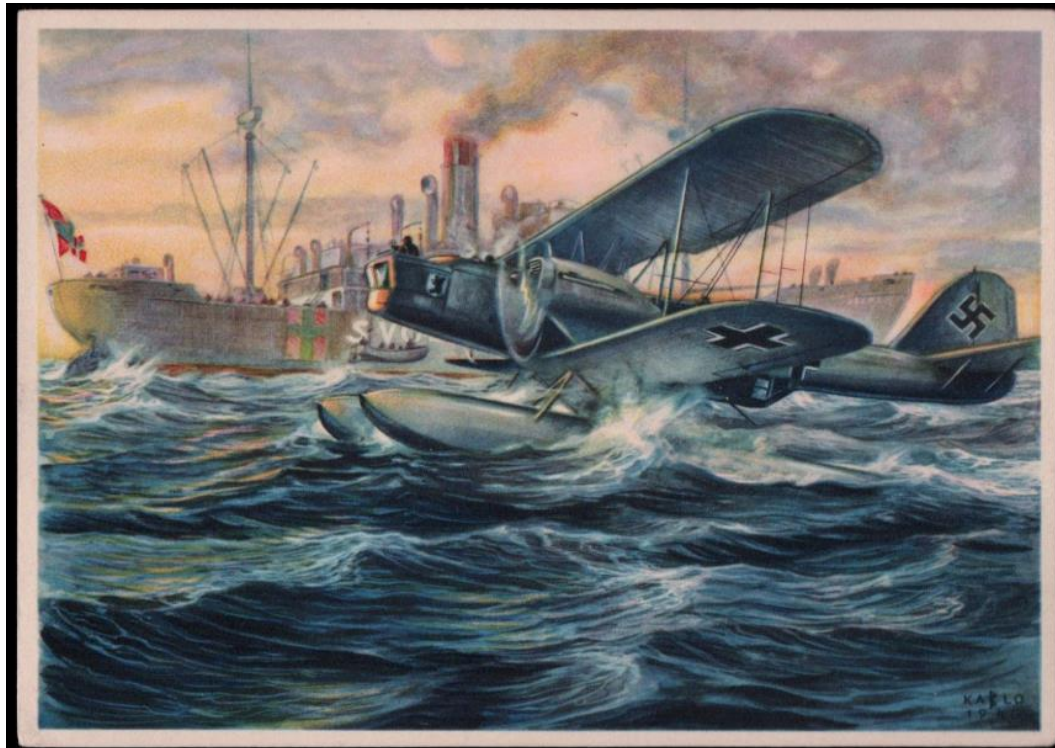
1933 (17 Jun) Cover catapult mail from the ship "Europa" to Regensburg (Germany), franked with 20 cents (USA), was canceled with a special postmark of the ship's service "U.S. sea post s.s. Europa" of the post office of the ship "Europa". On June 21, 1931, it was sent by catapult mail to Southampton, green cached "Deutscher schleuderflug dampfer "Europa" – Southampton.

Then it was sent by airmail to Nuremberg, cached "Mit Luftpost befördert. Flughafen Nürnberg/Fürth" (in translation, "Transported by airmail. Nuremberg/Fürth Airport"). Arrived in Nuremberg on June 22, 1933. The postmark of the place of receipt is missing. Extremely rare. The cover bears the autograph of the ship "Europa" captain, Oskar Scharf. **SOLD** for \$110



1933 (6 Jun) Stamped postcard catapult mail from the ship "Westfalen" to Natal (Brazil), franked: 15pf stamped postcard was canceled special postmark of the ship's servic "Luftpost — D. Westfalen" (Airmail D. Westfalen) by the post office of the ship "Westfalen." On June 6, 1933, it was sent by catapult mail to Natal. The purple rectangular cached "1. Flug vom Katapultdampfer Westfalen nach Südamerika" in translate "1st flight from the catapult steamship Westfalen to South America"

This was the first successful airmail flight on the Stuttgart-Natal route (across the Atlantic). Arrived in the state of Pernambuco on June 6, 1933. Extremely rare; cover sent on the first experimental launch of catapult mail to Brazil from the ship "Westfalen". **SOLD** for \$75

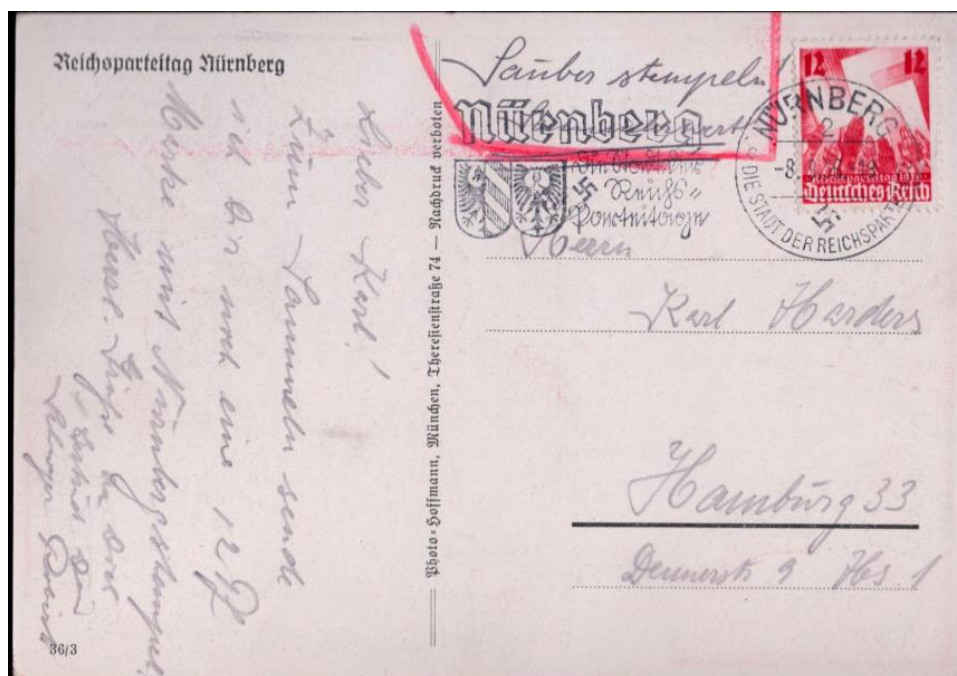


1933-1945 'Search of a Neutral Steamer for Banned Goods', Military Aircraft Air Force Luftwaffe, Third Reich Nazi Propaganda Postcard
SOLD for \$16



1936 'Nazi Party Rally -
Nuremberg', Third Reich Nazi
Propaganda Postcard

SOLD for \$110







GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES Belgium - Flemish Legion 1943 Flemish Kings, set of six sheetlets of four, n.h., fine-v.f. (Mi.IX-XIV, Euro 1,100 **SOLD** for \$230



GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES Belgium - Flemish Legion (Mi.XVIII Bvar) 1943 sheetlet, +50fr blue, imperforate except horizontal perfs through the middle, n.h., v.f., signed Krischke **SOLD** for \$140



GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES Estonia - Moisakula 1941 1.20k on 3a orange red, n.h., faint toning, still v.f., signed Pickenpack and Krischke, with 1981 certificate. A rare stamp, only 80 issued (Mi.5, Euro 4,000) **SOLD** for \$3250

Dr. Reinhard Fischer Auctions:



Occupied Karlsbad 20 Heller national coat of arms with hand stamp overprint \Karlový Vary 1. X. 1938 plus swastika\, with first day postmark Karlový Vary 1. X. 38 4 d on impeccable blank propaganda card with representation of the German-speaking Command, unsigned, photo expertized by Osper (2016) \perfect. a scarce first-day card\, Michel 300.- (3AEST)

SOLD for 150 Euros



Occupied Serbia 1 D. - 12 D. airmail, complete in mint never-hinged block of four, all from margin of sheet, Michel 480.-

SOLD 140 Euros



Occupied Serbia 0.50 plus 1.50 Din to 4 plus 12 Din prisoners of war 1941 network overprint with the tips downward, no letter \C\ in of the stamps middle (= type A I), faultless mint never hinged condition, attest Brunel VP (54 A I-57 A I) **SOLD** 40 Euros



Occupied Dunkirk - 50 cent postal stamp with vertical incomplete overprint of the type II on single stamp, mint never hinged, very fine, only approximate five unused / mint never hinged examples known, expertized Roumet, expertise Lothar Herbst VP (2025) \the condition is perfect. \, Michel 3.000.- (2IlsF)

SOLD for 1000 Euros



Ghetto Stamp/ Lodz -Not-issued stamps: insurgents in front of the Freedom Sun in all 5 various colors- blue, brown, and green with affixed spots; red and pale brown mint, never hinged; blue with a small corner crease and red with a stronger trace of crease; perforated; owner-signed; Michel 1550.-, least often offered issue. **SOLD** for 760 Euros



0, 50 liras on 10 cent to 10 liras on 20 cent postal stamps, complete set, mint, never hinged set with the overprint types 1 / 2 III, 3 II, and 4 / 6 I and 1 liras with inverted watermark, very fine, expertized Ludin BPP, photo expertized Brunel VP (2020) \the condition is perfect\, Michel 1300.- (1/6) **SOLD** for 300 Euros

6 on 5 Pfg 12
rouletted
without 12
perforated, in
mint never
hinged block of
four, expertized
van Loo BPP,
Michel 800
SOLD for 150
Euros





1 d. vertical strip of six with overprint
Liquidation OF Empire style a, d - h,
t neat canceled, rare! (10IV)

SOLD for 400 Euros

Trivia

“Your trivia is always about the same thing!” wrote a disgruntled reader.

“You need more than just ten questions!” wrote another.

I understand. After all, this is a narrow-topic journal. So, in that light, I have decided to open up trivia to the breadth of World War II in twenty-five questions

Hang on to your hats; it doesn’t mean I made the questions simple. It just means there is even more trivia to test you with. Enjoy!

1. In which of these battles did the British and Indian troops register a victory over the Japanese?

- A. Cape Spartivento
- B. Imphal
- C. Admin Box
- D. Kohima

2. Who remarked, 'There was no room for maneuver and no scope for cleverness; I had to blast my way through three defensive systems, the center of which was the Siegfried Line'?

- A. Anthony McAuliffe
- B. Max Beaverbrook
- C. Brian Horrocks
- D. George Patton

3. What was the German defensive line in Italy during WWII called?

- A. Siegfried Line
- B. Gustav Line
- C. Odoacer Line
- D. Vandals' Line

4. Which battle is regarded as the biggest naval battle in history?

- A. Battle of the Leyte Gulf
- B. Battle of the Coral Sea
- C. Battle of Midway
- D. Battle of the Java Sea

5. After losing which naval battle did Hitler relieve Admiral Erich Raeder of his post as commander-in-chief of the German Fleet?

- A. Battle of the Barents Sea
- B. Battle of Philippine Sea
- C. Battle of the Atlantic
- D. Battle of the River Plate

6. During World War II, what British destroyer intercepted the German auxiliary cruiser Altmark?

- A. HMS Glowworm
- B. HMS Cossack
- C. HMS Hood
- D. HMS Jervis Bay

7. Which German admiral was the originator of the wolf-pack submarine technique?

- A. Franz von Hipper

- B. Hans von Friedeburg
- C. Karl Dönitz
- D. Erich Raeder

8. The British inflicted a crushing defeat on the Italians during the North African Campaign in 1941. Which battle?

- A. Tobruk
- B. Beda Fomm
- C. Barbarossa
- D. Litani River

9. What inconclusive naval battle was fought between the US and Japanese fleet in 1943?

- A. Battle of Kolombangara
- B. Battle of Santa Cruz
- C. Battle of the Komandorski Islands
- D. Battle of the Philippine Sea

10. At which place did the Germans find the grave of 4,500 Polish officers in 1943 who were supposedly killed by the Soviets?

- A. Kock
- B. Poznań
- C. Kielce
- D. Katyn Forest

11. Which British commander founded the modern Indian and Pakistani armies during the course of the Second World War?

- A. Geoffrey Alan Scoones

- B. Claude John Auchinleck
- C. Archibald Percival Wavell
- D. Harold Rupert Alexander

12. Whose army was nicknamed the 'Desert Rats'?

- A. Claude John Auchinleck
- B. Bernard Law Montgomery
- C. Alan Gordon Cunningham
- D. Oliver Hargreaves Leese

13. During the war, a large number of artificial harbors were constructed to be towed across the English Channel to the coast of France. What were these harbors called?

- A. Swinging Harbor
- B. Governor's Harbor
- C. Old Harbor
- D. Mulberry Harbor

14. During the war, what did the word Pluto mean (what does it stand for)?

- A. Plans for Underground Operations
- B. Plans for Underwater Organization
- C. Pipeline Under the Ocean
- D. Preparation for Ultimate Terrestrial Operations

15. Some neo-Nazi youths wear shirts with the number '88'. What is the significance of this number?

- A. Rise of the Third Reich

- B. Supremacy of Nazis
- C. Supremacy of Aryan Race
- D. Heil Hitler

16. Who was in command of the British XIII Corps in Sicily and Italy?

- A. Montagu George Stopford
- B. Miles Christopher Dempsey
- C. Richard Nugent O'Connor
- D. Henry Maitland Wilson

17. During which naval battle between the US and Japan did America lose the cruisers Quincy, Vincennes, and Astoria?

- A. Battle of the Coral Sea
- B. Battle of Guadalcanal
- C. Battle of the Eastern Solomons
- D. Battle of Savo Island

18. What name was given to the American Volunteer Group of fighter airplane pilots during the war?

- A. The Flying Tigers
- B. The Air Apaches
- C. The Hell's Angels
- D. The Wild Weasels

19. During the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese bombarded several cruisers, navy airplanes, and destroyed or severely damaged five major battleships. Four of them were the USS Arizona, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and California. Which was the fifth one (later repaired)?

- A. USS Ohio
- B. USS Nevada
- C. USS Montpelier
- D. USS Tennessee

20. Which British cruiser ultimately sank the German battleship Bismarck in 1941?

- A. HMS Rodney
- B. HMS King George V
- C. HMS Dorsetshire
- D. HMS Ark Royal

21. Who remarked, 'I'm glad we've been bombed. It makes me feel I can look the East End in the face'?

- A. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother
- B. Douglas MacArthur
- C. Franklin Delano Roosevelt
- D. Winston Churchill

22. Who was the commander of the Fast Carrier Striking Force which attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941?

- A. Mineichi Koga
- B. Isoroku Yamamoto
- C. Nobutaki Kondo
- D. Chuichi Nagumo

23. Who commanded the Japanese forces in the Battle of Iwo Jima?

- A. Tomoyuki Yamashita
- B. Hazato Adachi
- C. Renya Mutaguchi
- D. Tadamichi Kuribayashi

24. Who proclaimed himself as the Führer of Germany after the death of Hitler in 1945?

- A. Erhard Milch
- B. Karl Dönitz
- C. Kurt Zeitzler
- D. Friedrich von Paulus

25. What was the total cost of World War II (in dollars, direct expenditures only)?

- A. \$6,719,351,377,000
- B. \$2,400,968,594,000
- C. \$3,569,742,000,000
- D. \$1,192,491,000,000

Answers

Is this where you learn a lesson in humility? Check your answers against the correct ones below!

1. In which of these battles did the British and Indian troops register a victory over the Japanese?

Answer: **C. Admin Box**

The battle was fought at Sinzewa in Burma in Feb 1944. The 'Admin(istration) Box' was the administrative and base area of the 7th Indian Division, which the Japanese 55th Division besieged from 5 to 23 Feb 1944. The siege ended when the 5th Indian Division took the Japanese in the rear while advancing over Ngakyedauk Pass.

2. Who remarked, 'There was no room for maneuver and no scope for cleverness; I had to blast my way through three defensive systems, the center of which was the Siegfried Line'?

Answer: **C. Brian Horrocks**

He was a British general in World War II. He said this while referring to his tactics in the battle for the Reichswald Forest in 1945.

3. What was the German defensive line in Italy during WWII called?

Answer: **B. Gustav Line**

It ran from the mouth of the Garigliano River through Cassino and across the Apennines to a point south of Ortona. After the US 5th Army's breakout from the Salerno beachhead and the British 8th Army's advance from Taranto, the Germans fell back to this line and put up a stubborn defense.

The Allies landed at Anzio on 22 Jan 1944 to outflank it, but German counterattacks quickly contained the invasion, and the line did not fall until the capture of Cassino in May 1944.

4. Which battle is regarded as the biggest naval battle in history?

Answer: **A. Battle of the Leyte Gulf**

In World War II, the US naval victory over Japan occurred from 17-25 Oct 1944, to the east of the Philippines. This battle involved 216 US warships, 2 Australian vessels, and 64 Japanese warships. Several separate actions occurred as elements of these forces met and diverged, but the overall result was the destruction of the Japanese Navy.

They lost some 500 aircraft, 3 battleships, 4 carriers, 10 cruisers, 11 destroyers, and 1 submarine. Of the surviving Japanese warships, few, if any, had escaped damage.

In contrast, the Americans lost 3 light carriers, 2 destroyers, 1 destroyer

escort, and 200 aircraft. While the naval battle was raging, General Krueger landed the 6th US Army on Leyte Island, which was secured on 25 Dec 1944.

5. After losing which naval battle did Hitler relieve Admiral Erich Raeder of his post as commander-in-chief of the German Fleet?

Answer: **A. Battle of the Barents Sea**

This was an important British naval victory over German forces north of Murmansk, on 30 Dec 1942. The German force, including the cruisers Lutzow and Admiral Hipper, and six destroyers, attacked a British convoy en route to Murmansk. The convoy was protected by six British destroyers and five smaller escort vessels, which launched a vigorous counterattack, enabling it to turn away, but then they themselves ran into part of the German force.

The Germans could not tell whether the vessels were British or German because of poor visibility, and they hesitated long enough for the destroyers to lay a smoke screen.

The British ships were severely damaged, and two were sunk, but were saved by two cruisers from Murmansk, which sank one German destroyer and damaged the Admiral Hipper.

The German commander broke off the fight and retired.

6. During World War II, what British destroyer intercepted the German auxiliary cruiser Altmark?

Answer: **B. HMS Cossack**

7. Which German admiral was the originator of the wolf-pack submarine technique?

Answer: **C. Karl Dönitz**

The wolf-pack submarine technique sank 15 million tons of Allied shipping in World War II. He succeeded Hitler in 1945, capitulated, and was imprisoned 1946-56.

8. The British inflicted a crushing defeat on the Italians during the North African Campaign in 1941. Which battle?

Answer: **B. Beda Fomm**

The battle was fought on 7 February 1941. Elements of the British 7th Armored Division had cut across the desert and set up a roadblock, where the retreating 10th Italian Army was ambushed. Over 25,000 prisoners, 100 tanks, 216 guns, and 1,500 other vehicles were captured.

9. What inconclusive naval battle was fought between the US and Japanese fleet in 1943?

Answer: **A. Battle of Kolombangara**

Kolombangara was one of the Solomon Islands. Four Japanese transports escorted by a cruiser and four destroyers were attempting to resupply the Japanese garrison on Kolombangara when they were intercepted by three US cruisers and nine destroyers. The US vessels opened fire, sinking the Japanese cruiser.

In reply, the Japanese destroyers launched a torpedo attack which crippled one US cruiser. About two hours later, the two forces met once more, and the Japanese torpedoes crippled the two remaining US cruisers and sank one destroyer. By this time, the Japanese had landed their troops and supplies, and so they withdrew.

10. At which place did the Germans find the grave of 4,500 Polish officers in 1943 who were supposedly killed by the Soviets?

Answer: **Katyn Forest**

The corpses were found in the Katyn Forest near Smolensk, SW of Moscow, Russia. These Polish officer prisoners of war were captured in the German-Soviet partition of Poland in 1940. 10,000 others were killed elsewhere. In 1989, the USSR accepted responsibility for the massacre.

11. Which British commander founded the modern Indian and Pakistani armies during the course of the Second World War?

Answer: **B. Claude John Auchinleck**

He commanded the British 8th Army in the first Battle of El Alamein in 1942 in North Egypt. He inflicted a crushing defeat on the German troops under Erwin Rommel. He became commander-in- chief in India. In 1946 he was promoted to Field Marshal, and he retired the next year. He was nicknamed 'the Auk'.

12. Whose army was nicknamed the 'Desert Rats'?

Answer: **B. Bernard Law Montgomery**

'The Desert Rats' was the nickname of the 7th Armored Division, not the 8th Army under Montgomery, which emerged victorious in the second Battle of El Alamein in November 1942.

13. During the war, many artificial harbors were constructed to be towed across the English Channel to the coast of France. What were these harbors called?

Answer: **D. Mulberry Harbor**

They were prefabricated floating harbors used on D-Day to support the assault on the German-held French coast of Normandy.

14. During the war, what did the word Pluto mean (what does it stand for)?

Answer: **Pipeline Under the Ocean**

These pipes transported fuel under the ocean and supplied petrol to the invading armies.

15. Some neo-Nazi youths wear shirts with the number '88'. What is the significance of this number?

Answer: **D. Heil Hitler**

8 refers to the eighth letter of the (Roman) alphabet, 'H'. Therefore, 88 means HH, or Heil Hitler, i.e., the Nazi salute.

16. Who was in command of the British XIII Corps in Sicily and Italy?

Answer: **B. Miles Christopher Dempsey**

He returned to Britain in 1944 and took command of the British 2nd Army for the D-Day invasion, leading them through NW Europe to the final surrender.

17. During which naval battle between the US and Japan did America lose the cruisers Quincy, Vincennes, and Astoria?

Answer: **D. Battle of Savo Island**

It was a surprise night attack by the Japanese on 9 August 1942, but it was repulsed.

18. What name was given to the American Volunteer Group of fighter airplane pilots during the war?

Answer: **A. Flying Tigers**

This group of US pilots was recruited to fight in China by Major-General Chennault in 1940-41. The group proved an effective force against the Japanese over S China and Burma in 1941-42, destroying some 300 enemy aircraft. It was absorbed into the regular US air forces as the 14th Air Force with Chennault as its commander in 1942.

19. During the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese bombarded several cruisers, Navy airplanes, and destroyed or severely damaged five major battleships. Four of them were the USS Arizona, Oklahoma, West Virginia, and California. Which was the fifth one (later repaired)?

Answer: **B. USS Nevada**

It was one of several US vessels that were scuttled in the Pacific Ocean on December 7, 1941, by the Japanese.

20. Which British cruiser ultimately sank the German battleship Bismarck in 1941?

Answer: **C. HMS Dorsetshire**

The Bismarck was launched in February 1939. After setting out with the heavy cruiser Prinz Eugen to attack convoys in the Atlantic in May 1941, the

Bismarck was attacked by HMS Hood and HMS Prince of Wales on 24 May. The Hood was sunk, and the Prince of Wales was forced to withdraw, although they inflicted some damage.

The Bismarck turned back toward Brest and was attacked by torpedo bombers from HMS Ark Royal on 26 May, which damaged the steering gear. The final blow came on 27 May when HMS King George V and HMS Rodney attacked and virtually wrecked the German vessel.

The job was finished with a torpedo attack by HMS Dorsetshire, which finally sank the ship. Only 107 of the 2,192 crew members survived. Admiral Gunther Lutjens was among the casualties.

21. Who remarked, 'I'm glad we've been bombed. It makes me feel I can look the East End in the face'?

Answer: **A. Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother**

She said this to a policeman on September 13, 1940, following the German bombing of Buckingham Palace.

22. Who was the commander of the Fast Carrier Striking Force which attacked Pearl Harbor in Dec 1941?

Answer: **D. Chuichi Nagumo**

Nagumo entered the Indian Ocean in April 1942, attacked British naval bases in Ceylon, and sank several British warships. He was decisively defeated at

the Battle of Midway in May 1942, but fared better in the Solomons and at Santa Cruz, although he lost much of his aircraft strength.

23. Who commanded the Japanese forces in the Battle of Iwo Jima?

Answer: **D. Tadamichi Kuribayashi**

He constructed a powerful series of defensive positions held by some 23,000 troops.

24. Who proclaimed himself as the Führer of Germany after the death of Hitler in 1945?

Answer: **B. Karl Dönitz**

After Hitler was reported dead, Dönitz proclaimed himself the Führer in accordance with Hitler's wishes on May 1, 1945. He was imprisoned for war crimes from 1946-56, during which he wrote 'Memoirs'.

25. What was the total cost of World War II (in dollars, direct expenditures only)?

Answer: **D. 1,192,491,000,000**

This was the total amount of money the Axis and Allied Powers spent from 1939-45 on various operations and offensives.

For Sale

We do have a few items for sale. They have recently been rebounded and redone. They look great and are definitely worth the price:

Mail Surveillance under the Third Reich by R.J. Houston. 35 pages. \$15.

German Feldpost Operations in the West 1940-1944 by John Painter. 2004. 60 total pages. \$20.

The War of the Springing Tiger by Jeffrey Markem is about Azad Hind stamps and the fight for India's Independence. \$10.

Composition Listing of Organic German Military Units, 1980. \$15.

Each of these is expertly written, filled with details that took scores of hours to research. All proceeds go only to the Third Reich Study Group. It is first-come, first-served, and if we get down to one copy, I will have more printed (but that could delay shipping by a week or so if it happens).



*Keep Calm and Keep
Collecting!*