



# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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

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## Contents:

- Page 3 Across Enemy Lines - To England via Sweden - J. Lewis  
Page 4 Special Cancels: Cancels for German Law - B. Ferguson  
Page 5 German POW Camps in North America: Camps in Utah - J. Lewis  
Page 7 Reused Feldpost Facing Slip - J. Painter  
Page 8 Parcel Card to Polish Slave Laborer - J. Painter  
Page 9 Scarce Covers from Vienna Censorship Office - M. Fox  
Page 12 "Missing" Combat Division Covers - Part 1 - J. Lewis  
Page 13 Navy Log: Minesweeper 'M102' - R. Dunn  
Page 14 One of my Favorite Covers: Ersatz Battalion Routing - C. Blunck  
Page 15 Story Behind the Cancel: 'Europe's United Front Against Bolshevism' - K. Stefanacci  
Page 16 The Lost Legions: The Walloon Legion - K. Stefanacci  
Page 17 Provisional Deutsche Dienstpost Cancels in Ukraine - J. Lewis  
Page 21 Postsachen and Other Free Franks - B. Ferguson  
Page 23 Official Mail Corner: Early Nazi Party Mail - J. Lewis  
Page 24 SS Feldpost: Ordnungspolizei in Russia - J. Painter



## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**Least Used Hitler Head Postal Card** - Ben Beede writes "In the January 2014 TRSG Bulletin, Bob Ferguson noted that his postcard was "the least used" of the Hitler Head postal cards. Apparently, according to a postal order from March 20, 1945, some of these postcards were sold for 6 Rpf. rather than 15 Rpf. because a greater need for cards at the domestic rate than at the international rate. I've never seen a copy of this order, however, and I wonder if anyone in the TRSG has the precise text".

**Combat Division Profiles** - as noted in Bulletin 190, we're trying to obtain from our membership illustrations of registered Feldpost covers so we may continue this feature. To date we have profiled 239 German divisions in these pages but there are still quite a few to go. By contrast, during WWII the U.S. Army fielded 91 divisions (68 Infantry, 1 Mountain, 16 Armored, 5 Airborne and 2 Cavalry). There were also 6 Marine Divisions deployed in the Pacific. These "missing" German combat divisions will be listed in 1-page installments beginning on page 12 in this bulletin.

**German Official & NSDAP Mail** - When Hitler came to power in 1933, the NSDAP was lacking men with administrative and managerial capacity. While the Nazis had an administrative apparatus throughout the Reich before 1933 organized by 'Gau' (District) and 'Kreis' (County), Hitler's plan was to parallel and control the existing state bureaucracy, not to destroy it. Postally, there were two distinct categories of official mail. The first is official mail for the civil service which had used special 'Dienstmarken' (Official stamps) for many years. The second type is NSDAP official mail. Prior to January, 1938, most Nazi Party agencies were not granted any special postal privileges and were required to use ordinary postage stamps. As this subject has received very little attention in our bulletins, we are adding a new feature "Official Mail Corner" which appears on page 23 of this issue. We hope this will spur our members to dig through their mountains of covers and send us additional illustrations for this new corner.

**Urgent Parcel Service** - we received an inquiry as to the meaning of the word "*Dringend*" that is often found on parcel cards. For an extra 1 RM, a sender could request that their parcel be expedited to the designated post office by the fastest surface route available. This is not to be confused with express delivery service which concerned expedited delivery from the designated post office.

**Sources for Third Reich material** - while we haven't visited many stamp shows lately, we did attend a couple of ASDA shows in New York City in 2013, where we observed that there was very little Third Reich material to be found in dealer boxes. Frequently we receive inquiries from our members as to the best sources for cards and covers. However, as "senior citizens", our collections were mostly formed during the 1970s and '80s, long before this era of internet and e-bay. However, as we assume that our younger and more vigorous members are much more experienced in these areas, we hope that some of you can provide insights on your experiences with these sources or any other you'd care to share with our membership.

**Cover Illustration:** This unusual Feldpost cover to Hungary has a Sonneberg cancel dated February 16, 1945. Sent from a Hungarian soldier, cover has 'Feldpost' hand stamp and letter seal of Hungarian War Hospital No. 205 located in Sonneberg/ Thuringia. Note Hungarian 'Zensuriert' hand stamp initialed by a Hungarian censor using #240445.

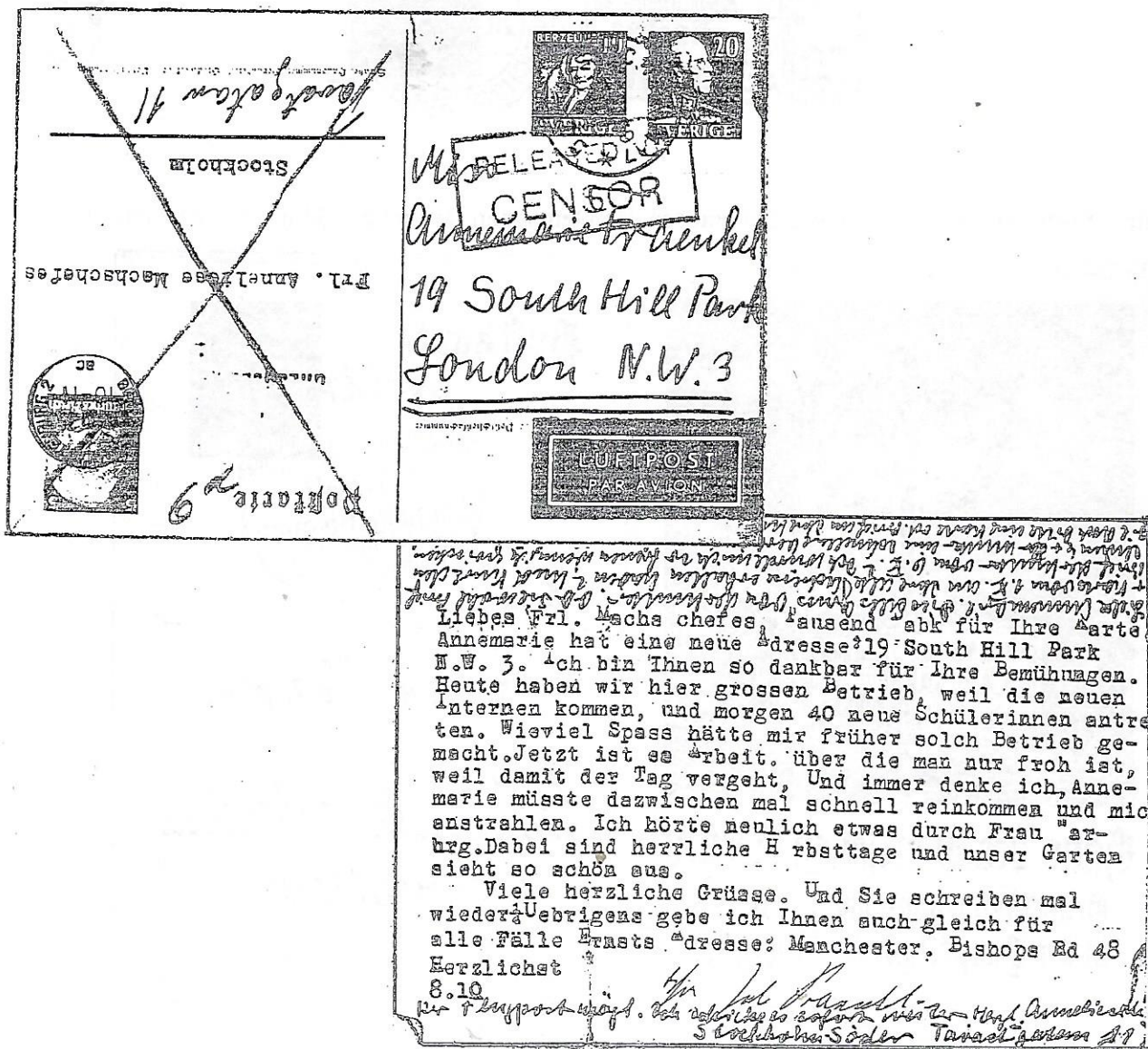
# Undercover Collector's Corner: Across Enemy Lines - To England via Sweden

by Jim Lewis

The purpose of this article is to illustrate an example of mail sent from Germany to England during the early days of World War II. Our members are familiar with the more complex undercover schemes that came into use after the publication of the German Communications Directive of April 2, 1940, the best known being the Thomas Cook & Son's message service via P.O. Box 506 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The German 5 Pfg. postal card below shows the ease with which mail could be sent to enemy territory via a third party living in a neutral country. Posted at Berlin Charlottenburg P.O. 2 on October 10, 1939, the card was addressed to a woman in Stockholm, Sweden and sent via airmail. The typed message mentions the new address of a mutual friend living in London. The Swedish recipient simply voided the original address portion of the card and added the London address on the adjacent portion. Sent by airmail, the card was passed by British censors who added the boxed "Released by Censor" hand stamp.

Examination of the card reveals that a label had been placed under "Postkarte" and hand stamped. Part of the hand stamp text that overlapped this label can be seen to the left of the Berlin cancel. As the Berlin sender had not included the street address in Stockholm, the label was probably added by the Swedish post office advising the recipient to inform her German correspondent of her full address.



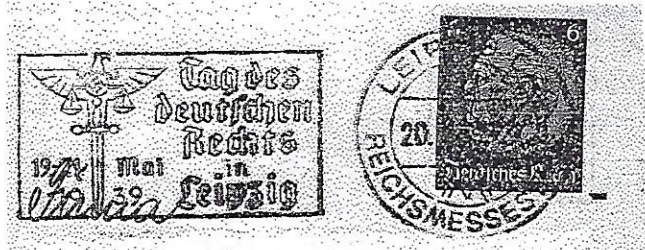
## Cancels for German Law

by Bob Ferguson

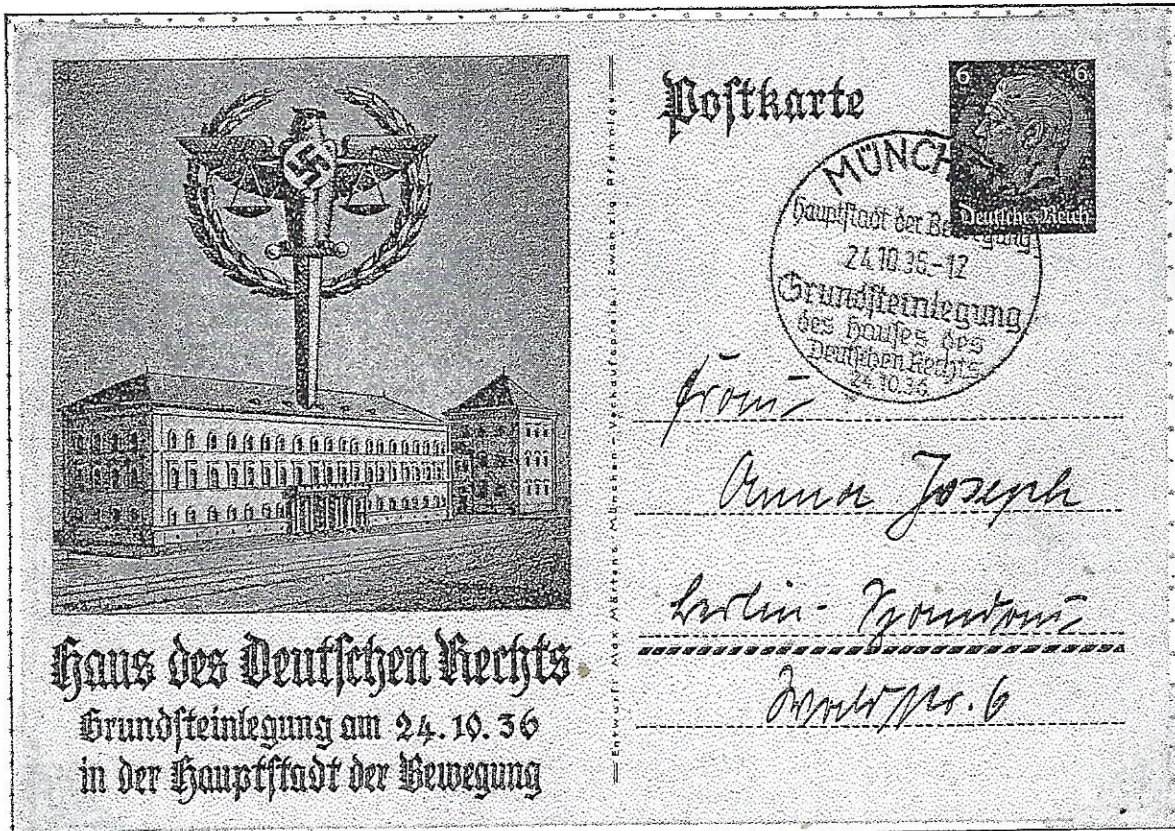
The following special cancels pertaining to German Law are listed in Julius Bochmann's **Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel.**

Berlin # 188	Int. Kongress für Gewerblichen Rechtsschutz Berlin, 1-6 Juni 1936	1-6 June 1936
Leipzig # 148	Tag der deutschen Rechts in Leipzig 7-9 Okt. 1938 (machine can)	1938
Leipzig # 161	Tag der deutschen Rechts in Leipzig 19 -21 Mai 1939 (machine can)	1939
München # 88	Grundsteinlegung des Hauses der Deutschen Rechts 24.10.38	23.-24. Oktober 1936
Series # 202	Deutsches Juristentag/Leipzig, 16.-19. Mai 1936	used 17. Februar -19 Mai 1936 in 29 cities

Leipzig # 161



Privately printed Grundsteinlegung des Hauses des Deutschen Rechts has München # 88 cancel



## German POWs in North America

### Camps in Utah

by Jim Lewis

German POWs were considered a security problem to the U.S. Army in 1942, a necessary result of warfare and a drain on manpower because they had to furnish guards and administrative overhead to run these camps. The POWs were locked up behind barbed wire enclosures, had guards posted around the fence and were fed, clothed and housed. In return, the POWs contributed nothing for this effort except for the insignificant labor they performed within the enclosure.

However, as the war progressed, the thousands of new German POWs began to look like an untouched pool of available manpower. They were in America at a time when manpower was a desperately needed commodity. In 1943, the government initiated the so-called labor contract program which allowed farmers and contractors to use POW labor if: 1) private labor could not be found, 2) the employers would not use POWs at a lower wage than that paid to civilians. While the POW earned 80 cents a day from the hourly wage paid by the contractor, the contractor's check was deposited directly into the treasury of the United States.

Utah was an ideal location for POWs as it was a remote area in contrast to other states with heavy industries. POWs in Utah were generally interned close to military depots or at distant farming areas. It was government policy that POW labor could not be used in dangerous work or for the promotion of war operations. They could also not be used for the manufacture and transportation of arms or munitions. POW laborers were often housed on the grounds of ordnance facilities such as the Deseret Chemical Weapons Depot, Ogden Depot (Code 56), Dugway Proving Grounds, Clearfield Navy Depot, Hill Field Air Force Base and Camp Warner (Code 87) located on the grounds of Tooele Ordnance Depot. Most of these camps were situated in the northern part of the state.

In 1943, Tooele Ordnance Depot was designated a reserve depot for truck and combat vehicles tools and equipment, as well as a supply center for material required by the Ogden Arsenal. The Army chose the desert site near Tooele because it was adjacent to the Great Salt Lake Desert where artillery pieces and vehicles were less vulnerable to rust and corrosion in the dry climate. The nearby POW Camp Warner consisted of a barbed wire enclosure with 29 barracks. The Deseret Chemical Depot, constructed in 1942 about 20 miles from the city of Tooele, was designed for the storage and shipment of all types of chemical warfare materials, especially poison gases, chemicals and chemically-filled ammunition.

The main camps and branch camps in Utah are listed below

Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Clearfield Depot	Davis	-----	Ogden Arsenal	Weber	-----
Deseret Depot	Tooele	-----	Ogden Depot	Weber	-----
Douglas, Fort	Salt Lake	-----	Orem, Camp	Salt Lake	Ogden Depot
Dugway Grounds	Tooele	-----	Salina, Camp	Douglas, Fort	Ogden Depot
Hill Air Field	Weber	-----	Tremonton, Camp	Tooele	Dugway Grounds
Logan, Camp	Cache	-----	Warner, Camp	Tooele	-----

German POWs also worked at Kearns Army Air Force Hospital and Bushnell Hospital. All POWs who died in captivity are buried at the Fort Douglas cemetery.

Hill Field, near Salt Lake City, was selected to supply west coast aeronautical logistics requests because the confluence of highways and railroads in this area ensured that the base would be easily accessible as the site was essentially equidistant from the three major military centers on the west coast - Seattle-Portland, San Francisco and Los Angeles-San Diego. Opened late in 1940, at its wartime peak, Hill Field employed 15,000 civilians, 6,000 military and several thousand German POWs, making it the largest employer in Utah.

After the ardent Nazis and malcontents had been separated and sent to Camp Alva in Oklahoma, life became routine for German POWs in Utah. Many complained about being POWs - no girlfriends, no contact with family, but the food was excellent and the clothing adequate. Such diversions as sports, theater, chess games and books made life behind barbed wire fairly pleasant. However, the following incident forever tarnished the history of POW camps in Utah.

A branch camp of Ogden Depot was established in the south central part of the state in the town of Salina in Sevier County. The 250 POWs lived in 43 tents and provided labor for large turkey farms and other livestock operations in this area. This was also the site of the worst massacre of German POWs at a U.S. camp during the war. On July 8, 1945, a guard private who had gone on duty at midnight opened fire with a .30 Cal. machine gun and hit 30 tents in a 15 second rampage. By the time he was disarmed by a corporal, six POWs were dead and twenty-two were wounded (one would later die from his injuries). The deceased POWs were buried with honors at the Fort Douglas cemetery. The shooter was court marshaled and judged to be insane. He spent the rest of his life in a mental hospital in Mississippi.

Criminal under any circumstances, these killings were especially senseless, because Germany had surrendered two months earlier. The German POWs plucking turkeys and picking beets in Salina were the sons of a defeated nation in U.S. Army custody, waiting to be returned to their homes.

Fig. 1) Form card from a German POW in Camp Ogden, Utah to his aunt in Pennsylvania has camp receiving stamp dated January 15, 1945 and U.S. censor 12,736 stamp on left side. Card was forwarded at New York City per machine cancel dated February 7, 1945.

<p><i>Meine liebe Tante!</i>  <i>15. Januar 1945.</i>  <i>Nachdem ich zwischen den Weihnachts- und Neujahrstagen nach hier in den Staat Utah veretzt wurde und ich mich auch schon gut eingelebt habe, erhielt ich heute mit grösster Freude Deine Glückwünsche zu den Feiertagen so wie die beiden netten Photos alles recht herzlich. - In der heilich immer besser gehen auf Deine nächsten Zeiten. -</i></p>	<p>FROM: UFFZ. ROBERT MIMRA, FWG-46189, / 10          OGDEN, PRISONER OF WAR CAMP,          c/o G.P.O., BOX 20,          NEW-YORK, N.Y.,          U.S.A.</p> <p>PRISONER OF WAR POST CARD          Postkarte für Kriegsgefangene          GERMAN-A</p> <p>Postage Free          Portofrei</p> <p>DEGREE OF RELATIONSHIP:          Address <u>          </u>          Adresse <u>          </u></p> <p>MRS. MARIE BRODERS          212 South 7 St          DARBY - PA          U.S.A.</p> <p>Do Not Write Here!          Nicht Hier Schreiben!</p> <p>12,736          U.S. CENSOR          W. D., P. M. G., Form No. 0-1          November 1, 1912</p>
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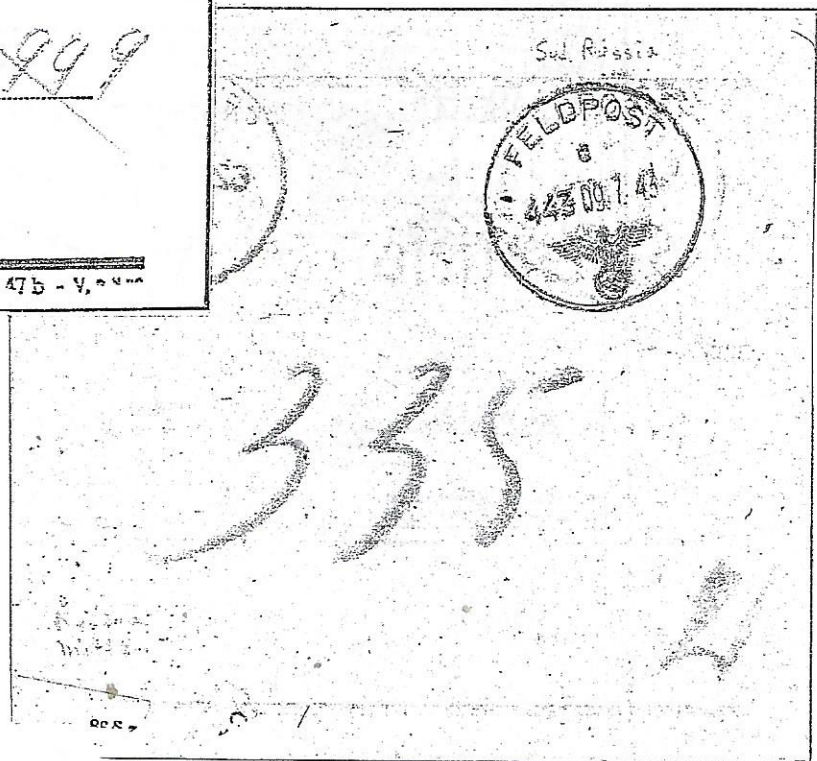
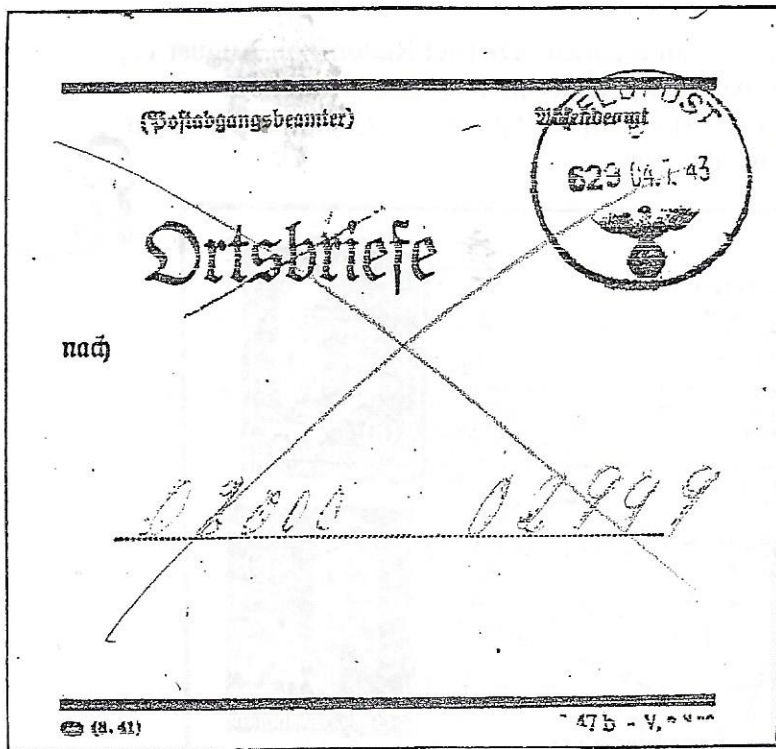
# Reused Feldpost Facing Slip

by John Painter

Feldpost collectors treasure the facing slips which were placed on sorted bundles of Feldpost covers. Due to paper shortages, these facing slips were often reused by adding routing instructions to the unprinted side.

The original use of this facing slip on July 4, 1943 was to forward sorted letters (Fp. #s 02000 - 02999) from FpA 239 (K-629) of the 239th Infantry Division to a **Leitstelle** (Routing office).

Reused on July 9, 1943 by Kenn 443, coded identity of **Armeebriefstelle 590** (Army Letter Office of the 1st Panzer Army) located at Dn'epropetrovsk in southern Russia. This reused slip is addressed to K-335, coded identity of the 294th Infantry Division in southern Russia.



## Parcel Card to Polish Slave Laborer

by John Painter

A *Zivilarbeiter* was primarily a Polish captive from the General Gouvovernment who was regulated by strict Polish decrees and sent to Germany as a laborer. These slave laborers received lower wages than other European nationals working in Germany. They could not use public conveniences (such as public transportation), or visit many public spaces and businesses. They were denied holidays and had to work seven days a week. They worked longer hours and received smaller food rations. They were not allowed to marry without a permit, could not possess many objects of value : bicycles, cameras or even cigarette lighters. They were required to wear a sign, the Polish "P" on their clothing.

In 1939 there were about 300,000 Polish *Zivilarbeiter* in Germany. By 1944 this work force had increased to about 1.7 million. To conserve on food and clothing for these workers, they were allowed to receive such supplies from their families.

This receipt card is for a 5 kilogram package posted in Konskie (District Radom) on August 15, 1942. The recipient is a Polish *Zivilarbeiter* in Altenburg, a city in Thüringa located 40 kilometers south of Leipzig. Note the circular hand stamp of the "Zollamt" (Customs Office) in Altenburg and boxed "Zoll" (Customs) violet hand stamp.

Zur Aufkleben des Aufgabezettels Miejsce na nalepkę nadawczą	
Aufgabeland: <b>Generalgouvernement</b> Pays Kraj	<b>Konskie</b> (Distr Radom) Generalgouvernement
<b>498</b>	<b>6264</b>
Wertangabe valeur déclarée Wartość	(In Buchstaben und in lateinischer Schrift) (in arabischen Ziffern) (Les unités en toutes lettres et en caractères latins) (en chiffres arabes) (w cyfrach arabskich)
<b>5</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Paketkarte</b> — <b>Carte d'expédition</b> — <b>Adres Pomocniczy</b>	
Zahl der Nombre de illegé	Art der Verpackung Nature de l'emballage Rodzaj opakowania
Pakete colis — Zollinhalt déclaration Bescheinigungen oder Rechnungen certificats	Art der Verpackung Nature de l'emballage Rodzaj opakowania
An <b>Huberz Stanislaw</b>	
A-Do <b>Altenburg Thür. A. G. Auslan</b>	
<b>Zimmer 12</b>	<b>Niemcy</b>
(Bestimmungsort) (Lieu de destination) — (Miejsce przeznaczenia)	(Bestimmungsland) (Pays de destination) — (Kraj przeznaczenia)
(Straße und Hausnummer) (Rue et numéro) — (ul. i nr domu)	
Gewicht — Poids — Waga	Leitvermerk: — Acheminement: — Kierunek:
kg ..... g	Weg — Voie — Droga
Zollgebühren <sup>1)</sup> Droits de douane — Oplaty celne	Auswechslungs-Postanstalt Bureau d'échange — Pocztowy Urząd Wymiany
	<sup>1)</sup> Auszufüllen von der Eingangs-Postanstalt oder der Zollverwaltung des Bestimmungslandes Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination Wypełnia Pocztowy Urząd nadejścia lub Urząd Celny Kraju przeznaczenia

DPO 443 (3.41)



## Scarce Covers from Vienna Censorship Office

by Myron Fox

The purpose of this article is to provide examples of mail censored at the Vienna Office (Code 'g') which display some the scarcer markings and an example of censored mail requiring additional handling by the Reichspost due to an error by the censor.

Fig. 1) Feldpost mail from *Auslandbriefstelle* (Foreign Letter Examining Office) in Vienna with official handstamp of this office. This handstamp is only known on official correspondence.

Ref: Reimer G-5 (Abb. 346) or Landesmann GA2.1

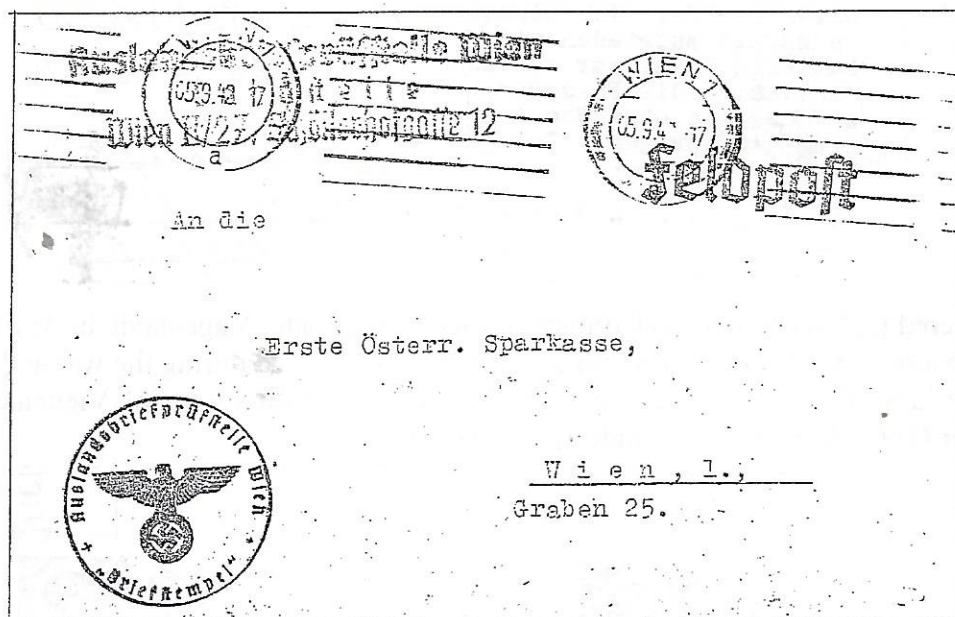


Fig. 2) Unusual usage of 'Prüfstelle' instead of 'Zensurstelle' hand stamp after assumption of duties by SS in March 1945. According to Reimer on ordinary mail in March 1945. This is unusual for a form letter sent from a German POW in U.S.A.

Ref: Reimer G-6 (Abb. 349) or Landesmann GP4.2

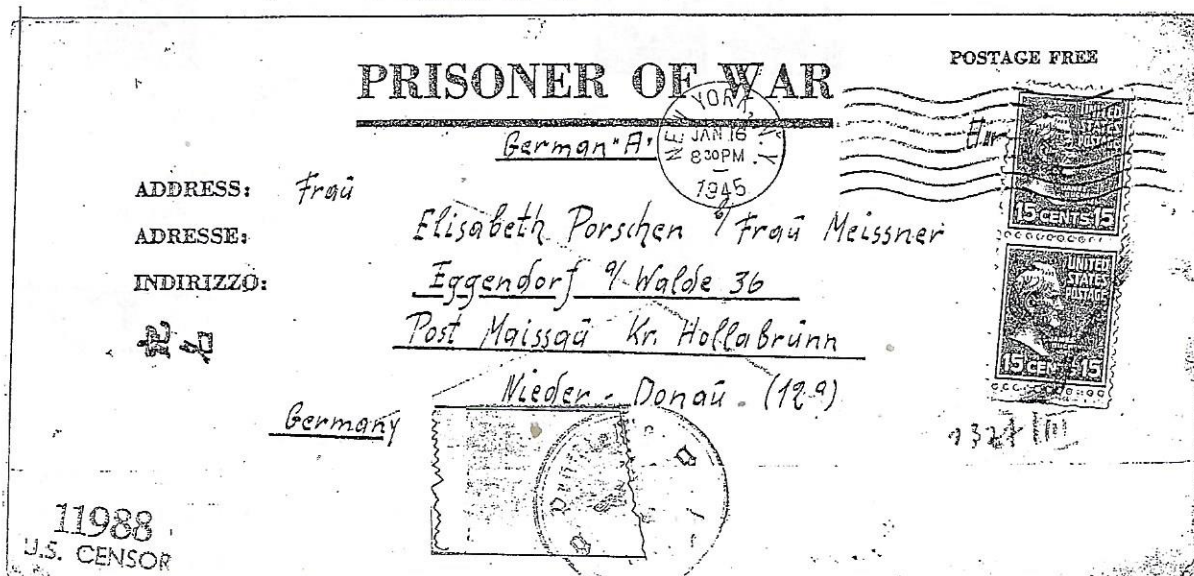


Fig.3) Postcard from Hungary to Germany posted on November 11, 1944 has 'Zensurstelle' machine stamp with seven lines between circles used from September 1944 to February 1945.  
 Ref: Reimer G-26a (Abb. 356) or Landesmann GPM2.1

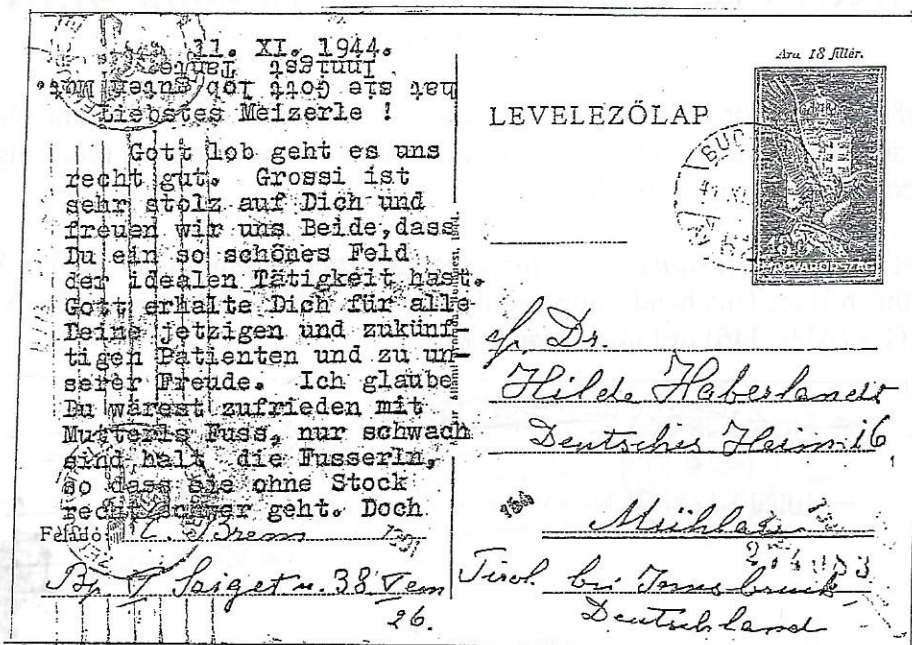
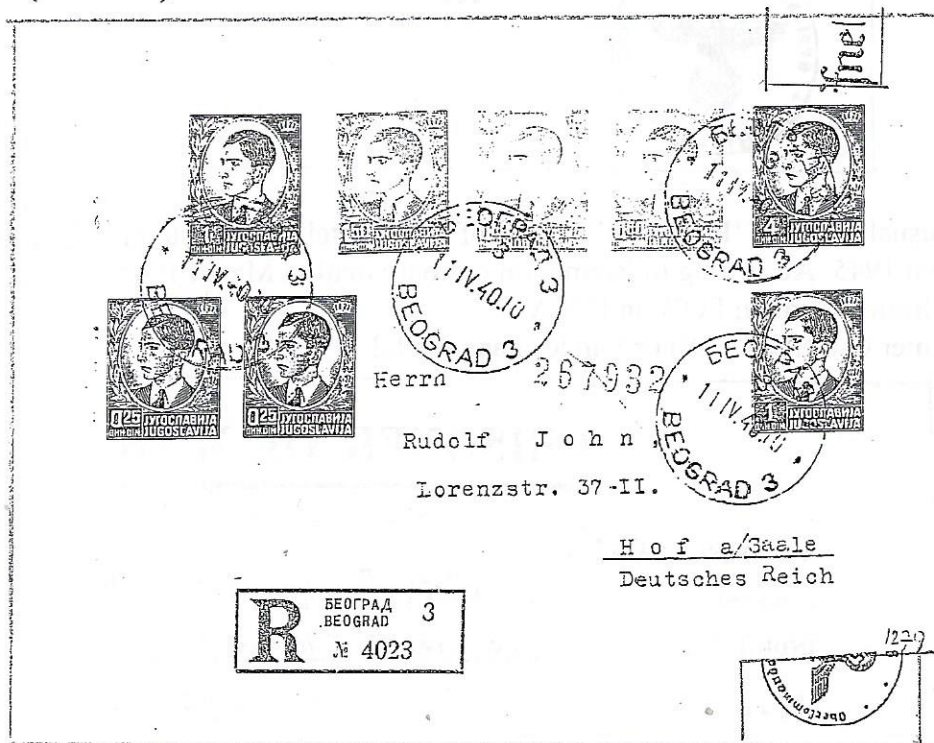


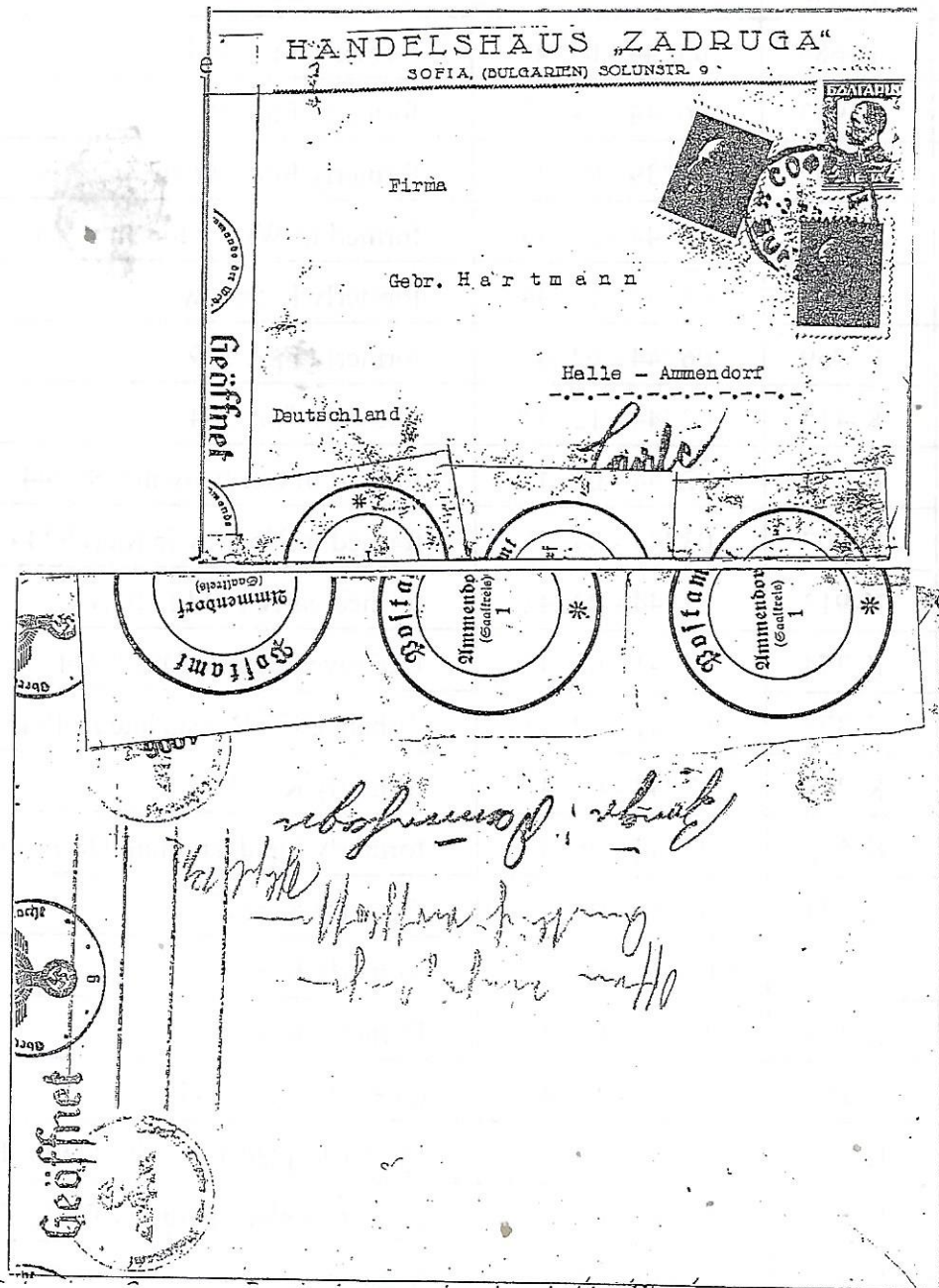
Fig. 4) Registered philatelic cover to Germany posted in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in April 1940 has 210 x 70mm enclosure slip warning that Stamp exchange is not desired during the war and future sending of this sort would be objected to. The cover was then sealed and forwarded by Vienna censor.  
 Ref: Reimer G-90 (Abb. 379) or Landesmann GZ2.3



Der Briefmarkentausch zwischen In- und Ausland ist während des Krieges unerwünscht. Es muss mit einer Beanstandung etwaiger künftiger Briefmarkensendungen gerechnet werden.  
 Die Prüfstelle.

Fig. 5) Among the most interesting finds for censorship collectors are examples of shoddy workmanship on the part of the postal examiners. This commercial cover to Ammendorf, Germany was posted in Sofia, Bulgaria in December, 1941. One end of the cover was slit opened for examination and then re-closed with sealing tape - Reimer G-53a (Abb. 394)- and machine stamp - Reimer G-22 (Abb 352).

It appears that the bottom of this cover had also been slit opened by the censors but this went unnoticed when the cover was forwarded to the Reichspost. The Ammendorf post office noticed the opening and closed it with three of their sealing labels. They also added the manuscript notation "found open and officially closed". Shoddy work at the Censor office!



## “Missing” Combat Division Covers - Part 1

by Jim Lewis

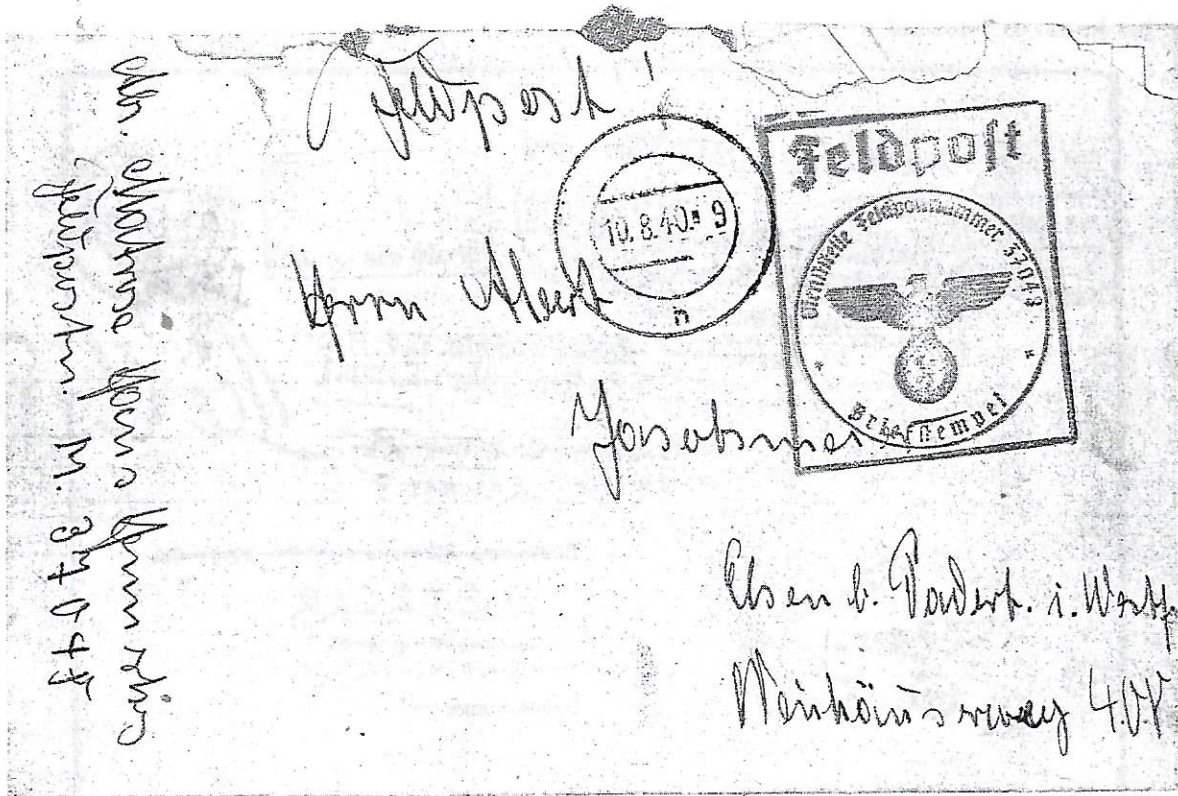
This is the first of a number of lists of those divisions not covered in our “Combat Division Profile”. Many of these divisions, formed in reaction to Allied landings in Normandy, had short lives so any registered mail with kenn numbers in the dates of usage shown below would be quite scarce.

Name	FpA	Kenn	Dates of Usage	Notes
38 Inf.	138	K-341	07.'42 - 02.'44	c/t K-876 in 03.'44
41 Inf.	141	K-342	01.'44 - 05.'45	formerly FpA 255
47 Inf.	147	K-684	05.'44 - 03.'45	formerly FpA 154
59 Inf.	159	K-933	06.'44 - 04.'45	formerly FpA 29
62 Inf.	162	K-992	08.'39 - 01.'45	formerly FpA 766zw
64 Inf.	164	K-270	07.'44 - 12.'44	formed in Wkr. VI in July '44
69 Inf.	169	K-996	08.'39 - 10.'44	formerly K-563zw
70 Inf.	170	K-769	06.'44 - 02.'45	formerly FpA 179
77 Inf.	177	K-415	02.'44 - 12.'44	formerly FpA 364
85 Inf.	185	K-899	02.'44 - 04.'45	formed in Germany in Feb. '44
89 Inf.	189	K-907	03.'44 - 04.'45	formed in Norway in March '44
92 Inf.	192	K-913	02.'44 - 02.'45	formed early 1944 in Italy
110 Inf.	110	K-374	04.'41 - 08.'44	Destroyed Minsk Aug. 1944
125 Inf.	125	K-375	03.'41 - 09.'43	disbanded S. Russia late in 1943
148 Inf.	1048	K-298	12.'44 - 05.'45	formerly K- 592
153 Inf.	905	K-532	07.'44 - 05.'45	formerly Field Training Division
159 Inf.	1059	K-423	02.'45 - 05.'45	formerly K-581
176 Inf.	1176	K-894	02.'45 - 04.'45	formerly K-341
180 Inf.	1180	K-429	12.'44 - 04.'45	formerly K-670
181 Inf.	222	K-199	11.'39 - 10.'44	c/t K-295 in 10.'44
189 Inf.	1089	K-198	02.'45 - 05.'45	former Replacement Staff Wkr. IX
190 Inf.	1190	K-327	09.'44 - 0.'45	former Replacement Staff Wkr. X
196 Inf.	233	K-950	08.'44 - 12.'44	In Norway 06.'40 - 08.'44

# NAVY LOG

by Robert Dunn

Minesweeper 'M102'- Feldpost # 37048



This Minesweeper type 1935 was built by Rickmers Werft (Bremerhaven) and launched on August 1, 1939.

Displacement: 775 tons (878 tons full)

Machinery: Two Lamont boilers; two shafts; Wagner geared turbines.

Speed: 18.25 knots

Armaments: two 4.1 in.(2 x 1), two 37mm A.A. guns.

.Crew: 104

History: Sailed with auxiliary minelayer 'Konigin Luise' during invasion of Denmark in 1940.

Fate: Captured by Royal British Navy in 1945 and scrapped at Blyth on May 24, 1948.

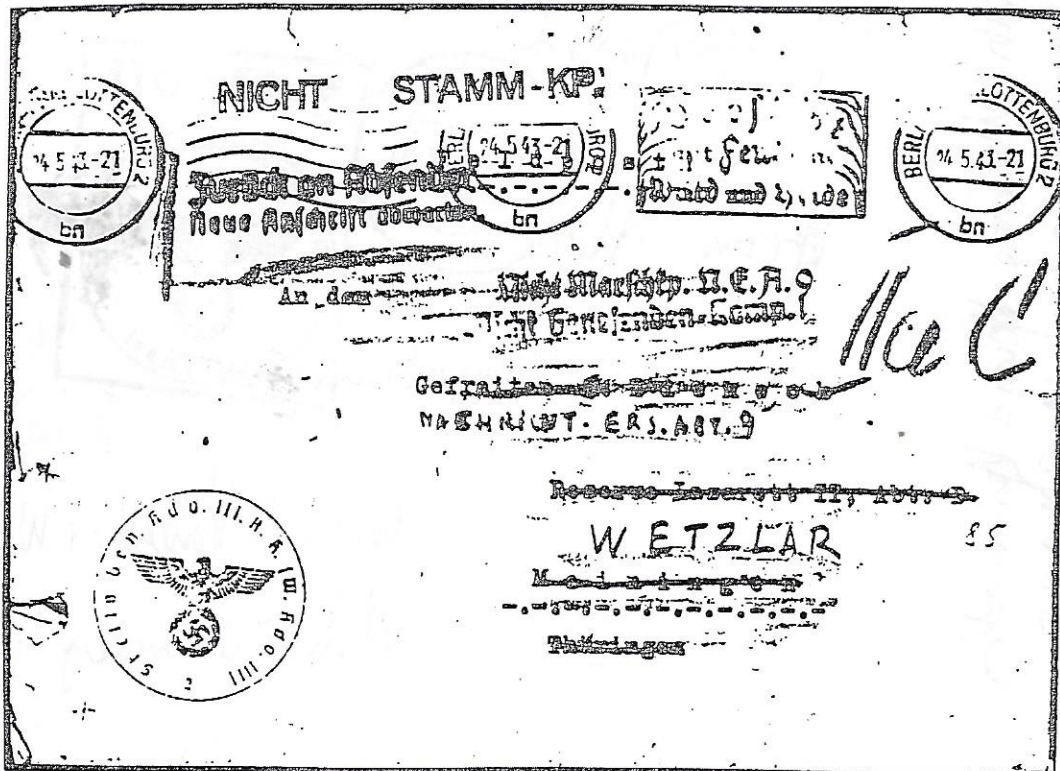
Feldpost cover sent August 10, 1940 has boxed Briefstempel with Feldpost # 37048.

## One of my Favorite Covers: Ersatz Battalion Routing

by Charles Blunck

This cover was acquired during my early days of Feldpost collecting, mainly because the red crayon and numerous handstamps made it look interesting. Later, I realized that these markings indicate the make up of a German 'Ersatz' (Replacement) Battalion.

Germany was divided into 'Wehrkreis' (Military Districts) for the purpose of raising and training units, with each district being the headquarters for a peace time Army Corps. In war time, these Corps were transferred to the 'Feldheer' (Field Army) while their depots were used by the 'Ersatz' staff to train replacements for the units in the field. However, when a member of the field unit was seriously wounded or ill, he was sent to a rear area hospital. Upon recovery, he was sent to a convalescent company in his home district before being returned to the field.



This cover was sent in May 1941 from a staff company in the III Army Corps Headquarters in Berlin. It is addressed to a 'Gefreiter' (acting corporal) in a rear area hospital in Thuringia. However, the intended recipient had been sent to Signals Replacement Battalion 9 in Wetzlar. These replacement battalions were made up of several different kinds of companies. There was the 'Stamm' (Staff) company which included administrative. The 'Ausbildung' (Training) companies processed new recruits. The 'Genesenden' (Convalescent) company was described earlier. Finally, there was a 'Marsch' (March) company in which both veterans and recruits were assembled and sent to the Field Army to fill various vacancies.

As can be seen on this cover, the letter for Gefreiter Bienick was passed by Staff, Convalescent and March companies. Each indicated by handstamp that he was not there i.e. "Nicht Marshkp. N.E.A. 9". The cover was returned to sender with a 2-line handstamp "Zurück on Absender/Neue Anschrift Abwarten" (Return to Sender/Await New Address).

Story Behind the Cancel:  
**Europe's United Front Against Bolshevism**

by Kelly Stefanacci

The most savage and devastating conflict in modern European history was the 1941-1945 German-Soviet war. This struggle, however, did not merely pit German soldiers against their Soviet counterparts. Over twenty European countries and national groups sent contingents of troops to assist the German Wehrmacht in its attempt to destroy the communist state. This "crusade against Bolshevism" drew a minimum of 3, 962,000 non-Germans from across Europe, organized in both large national armies from states allied to Germany as well as in volunteer contingents integrated directly into the Wehrmacht ( both the Army and Waffen-SS) itself.

The contributions of countries throughout Europe ranged from the 800,000-man conscript army of Hungary to 4,000 volunteers from Denmark.

Fig. 1) Recruiting poster asks the men of Norway to fight for their country by volunteering for service in the Waffen-SS. A modern SS trooper appears next to a medieval warrior. Such recruiting efforts were generally mounted by pro-German collaborationist groups in the occupied nations of western Europe,



Fig. 2) Special Berlin cancel dated November 25, 1941 has an outline of western Europe with a dagger and swastikas pointed east. The text reads "Europas Einheitsfront Gegen Bolschewismus" (Europe's United Front Against Bolshevism).

## The Lost Legions: The Walloon Legion by Kelly Stefanacci

On August 8, 1941, the newly formed 860 man Walloon (French speaking area of Belgium) Legion was sent to Meseritz in East Prussia for basic training. At completion of training on October 15, the Legion was incorporated into the German Army as the 373rd (Wallonische) Infantry Battalion and transferred to Army Group South which was advancing through the Ukraine. Attached to the 17th Army, the German commanders saw the Walloon Battalion as a political statement rather than a combat worthy formation and assigned it to anti-partisan duties behind the line.

In February 1942 the Walloon Battalion was thrown into action to counter a Soviet breakthrough near Dnepropetrovsk on the Donets River. During fierce fighting the Battalion lost over a third of their number while retaking the village of Gromovayabalka. In June 1943 the Walloon Battalion was transferred to SS Command and combined with a second battalion to form the 5th SS volunteer Storm Brigade Wallonien. In October 1944, the Walloon Storm Brigade was combined with the 6th SS volunteer Storm Brigade "Langemark" and designated the 28th SS Volunteer Grenadier Division "Wallonien". Despite this upgrade in status, the actual division strength remained that of a reinforced brigade, about 8,000 men.

On April 10, 1942, four different value labels, each in a miniature sheets of four, were placed on sale in Brussels. These charity labels had no postal value and their sale was used to benefit Legion members and their families.

This Feldpost cover sent to Antwerp, Belgium on November 28, 1942 has the Briefstempel of Fp.# 38918A, coded identification of HQ and Companies 1- 4 of Walloon Infantry Battalion 373.





## Provisional Deutsche Dienstpost Cancels in the Ukraine

by Jim Lewis

Germany launched 'Operation Barbarossa', the invasion of the Soviet Union, on June 22, 1941. By late August, German military forces had occupied the Baltic States, White Russia and the Ukraine. As the battle lines moved eastward in the Fall of 1941, these occupied territories were placed under the control of German civilian authorities who established two 'Deutsche Dienstpost' postal networks to provide service for German civilian and military administrations. These administrative areas (see map below) were designated 'Ostland' (the Baltic States and White Russia) and 'Ukraine' (the region east of the Bug River and south to the Black Sea). This postal service was restricted to German civil administrations, their personnel and families; German military units (the **Feldpost** only operated in areas under German military control); the Organization Todt; labor recruiting offices; German construction firms under contract to the civil administration plus Nazi Party organizations and their personnel.

During the early months of 1942, these post offices used a variety of provisional cancels and blank field registry labels until such time as the Reichspost could supply standardized DDP cancelling devices and registry labels with town names. This situation also prevailed as new offices were added to the network in the summer of 1942. The purpose of this article is to provide illustrations of DDP Ukraine covers with these provisional postal markings.

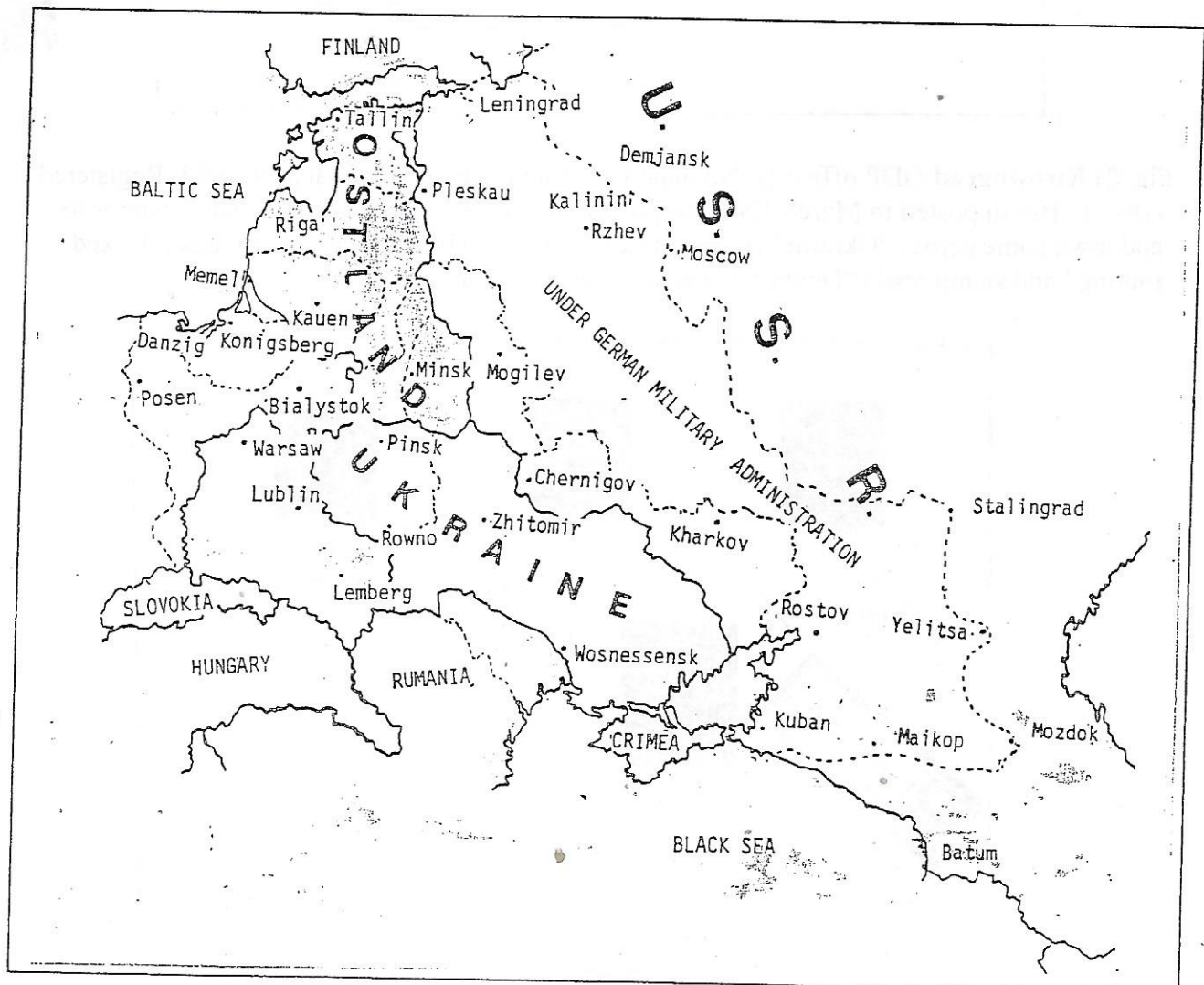


Fig. 1) Alexanderstadt DDP office located in Nikolajew District opened in January 1942. This office used Soviet cancelling devices with all details but the date line removed. The DDP added the town name and boxed routing instructions with hand stamps. This cover to Aschaffenburg has conventional Hitler definitive stamps employed until availability of "Ukraine" overprint stamps.

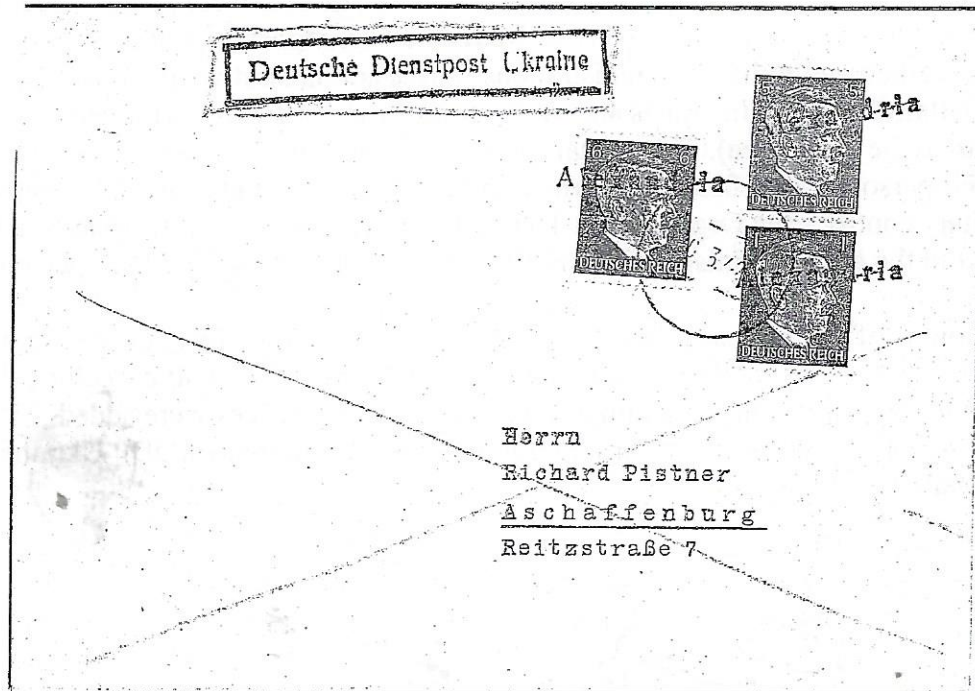


Fig. 2) Kirowograd DDP office in Nikolajew District opened on January 10, 1942. Registered cover to Berlin posted in March 1942 has provisional boxed and straight line hand stamps to add town name across "Ukraine" overprint stamps and one blank field registry label. Boxed routing hand stamp reads "Deutsche Dienstpost/Kirowograd/(Ukraine)".

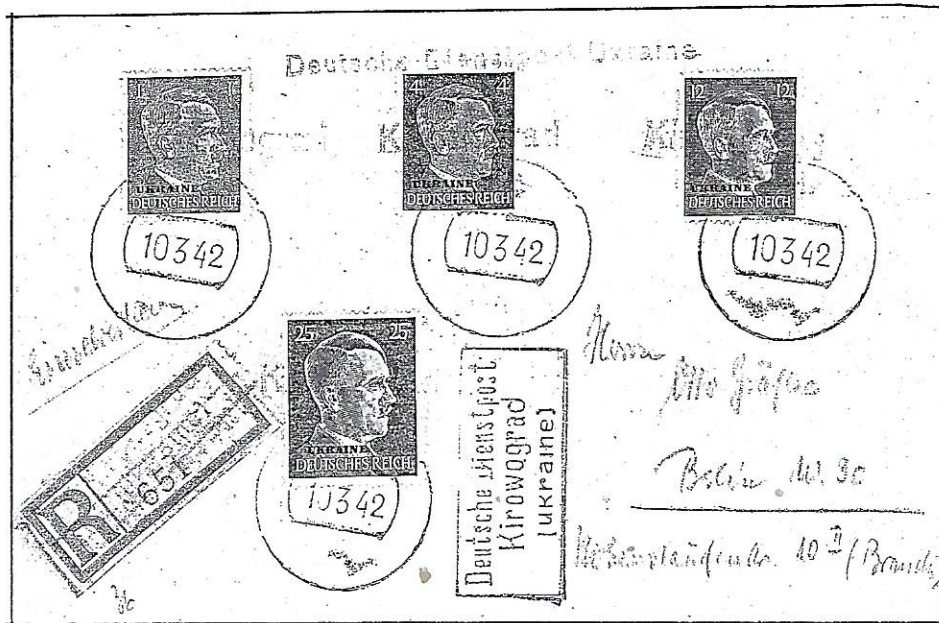


Fig. 3) Dnjepropetrowsk was a main DDP office opened on January 1, 1942. This office used Soviet cancelling devices with all details but the date line removed. This DDP did not add the town name to these cancels but it appears in the **Dienstsiegel** (office seal) and hand stamped on a blank-field registry label. This cover sent to Neusalz, Germany in February 1942 has 94 Pfg postage to pay both registry and **Eilboten** (special delivery) fees.

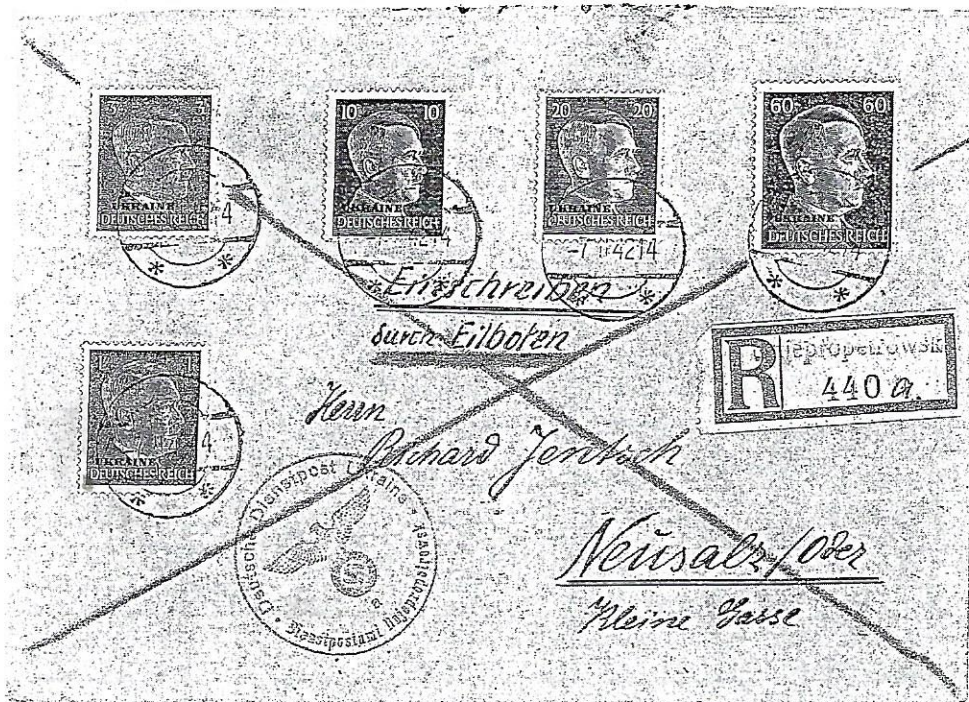


Fig. 4) Kirwoi Rog DDP office in Dnjepropetrowsk District opened on May 14, 1942. While no former soviet cancels were employed, the town name and date were added by rubber stamps. This registered cover sent to a member of a motor transport battalion in Sorau, Germany has **Dienstsiegel** (office seal) and provisional line stamp on blank field registry label.

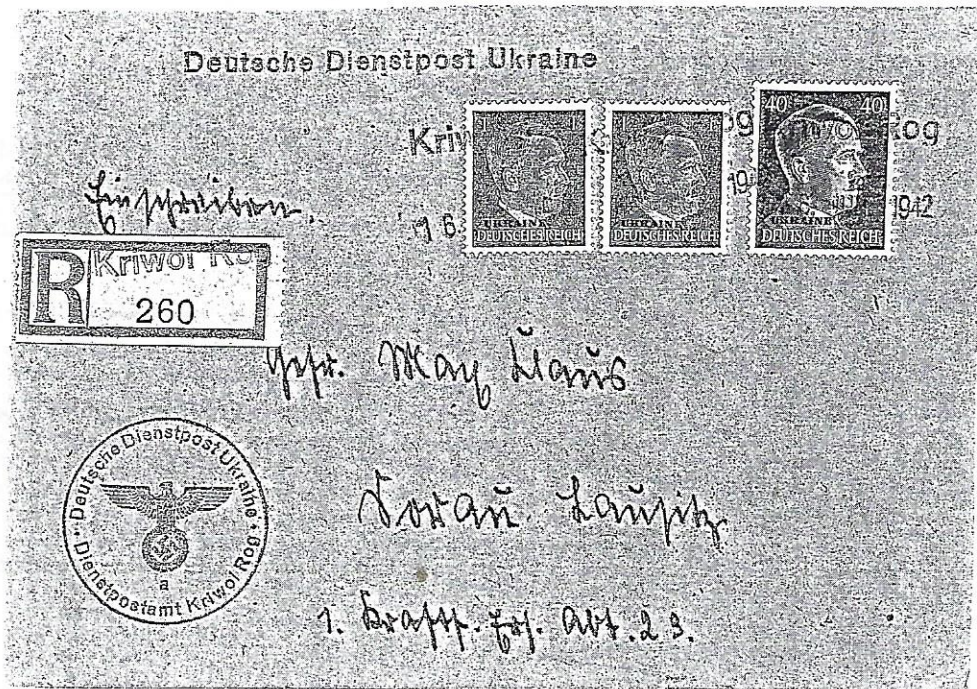


Fig. 5) Illinzi DDP office in Shitomir District opened on April 1, 1942. This office used a Soviet cancelling device with all details but the date line removed. The town name was added the upper portion of cancel in blue ink. Note that the town name is spelled 'Jllinzi' in the Dienstsiegel (office seal), a fairly common occurrence during early period of official mail service for towns in the Ukraine.

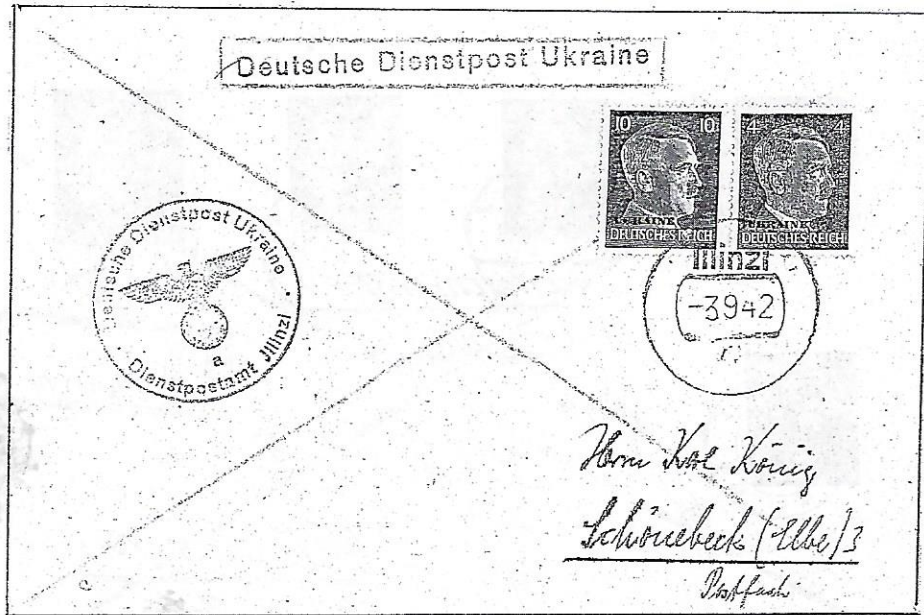
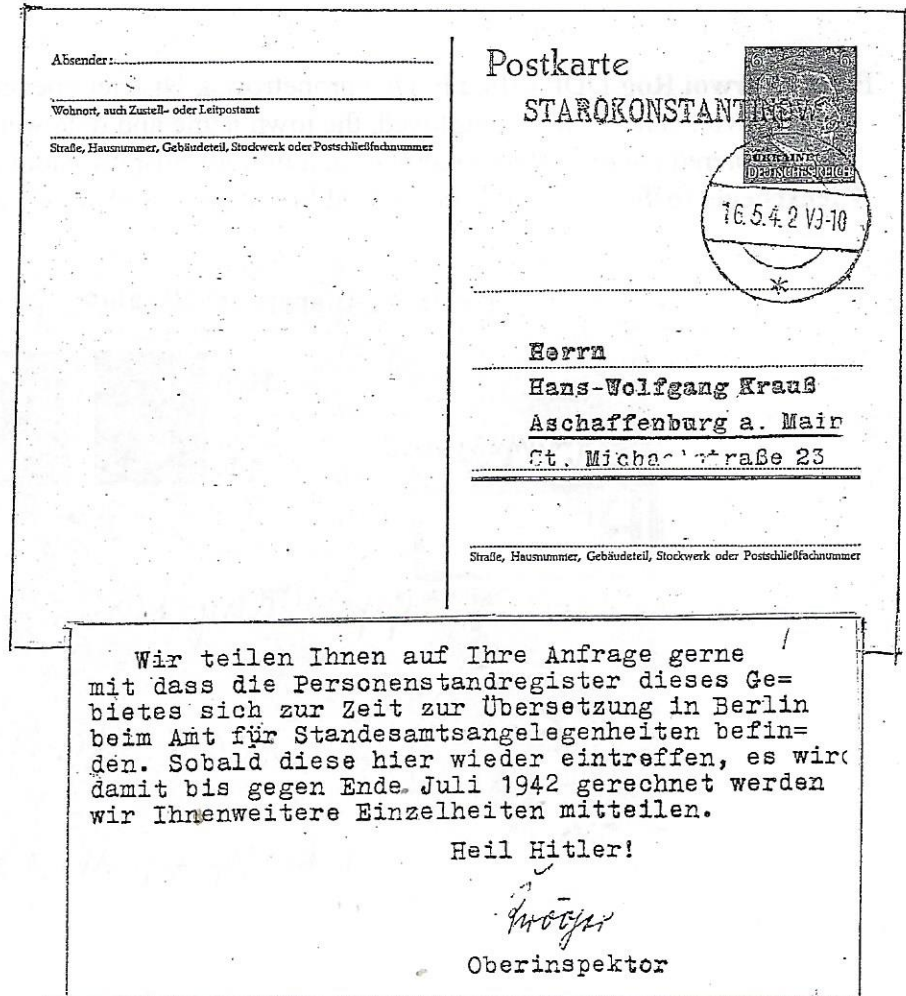
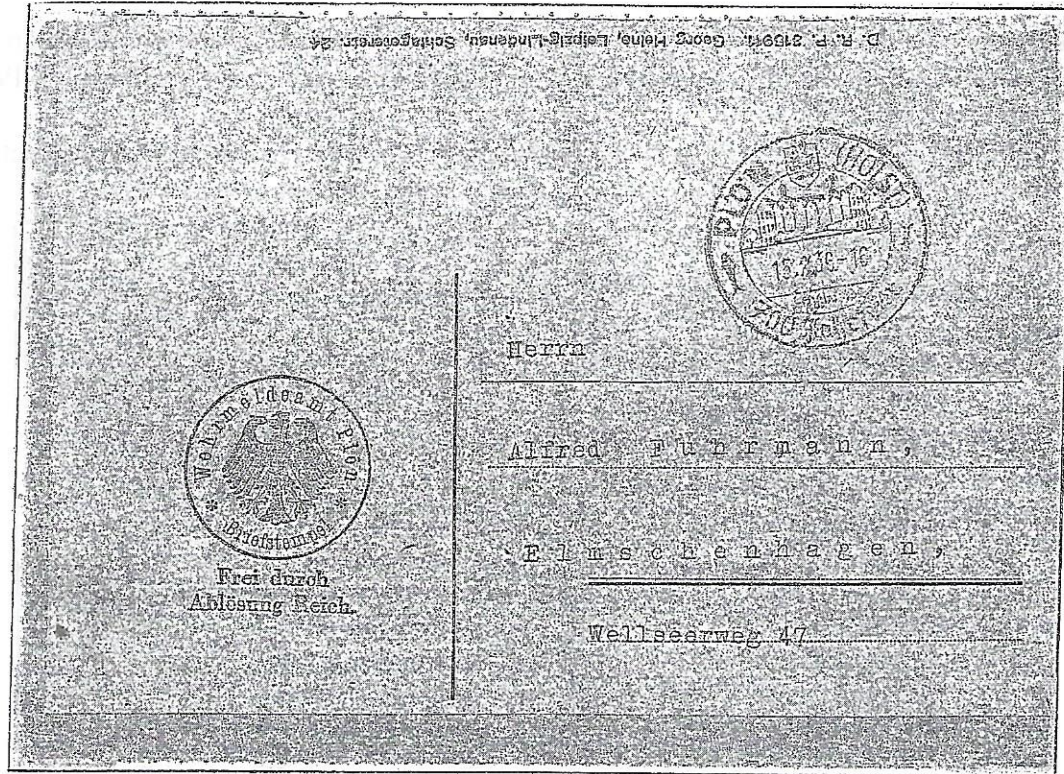


Fig. 6) Starokonstantinow DDP office in Wohlyniien-Podolien District opened on April 24, 1942 used mute date cancel with town name added by hand stamp. This postal card is in response to an inquiry from an individual in Aschaffenburg, Germany requesting the names of German nationals serving in the district. The writer notes that the Personnel Register had been transferred to Berlin

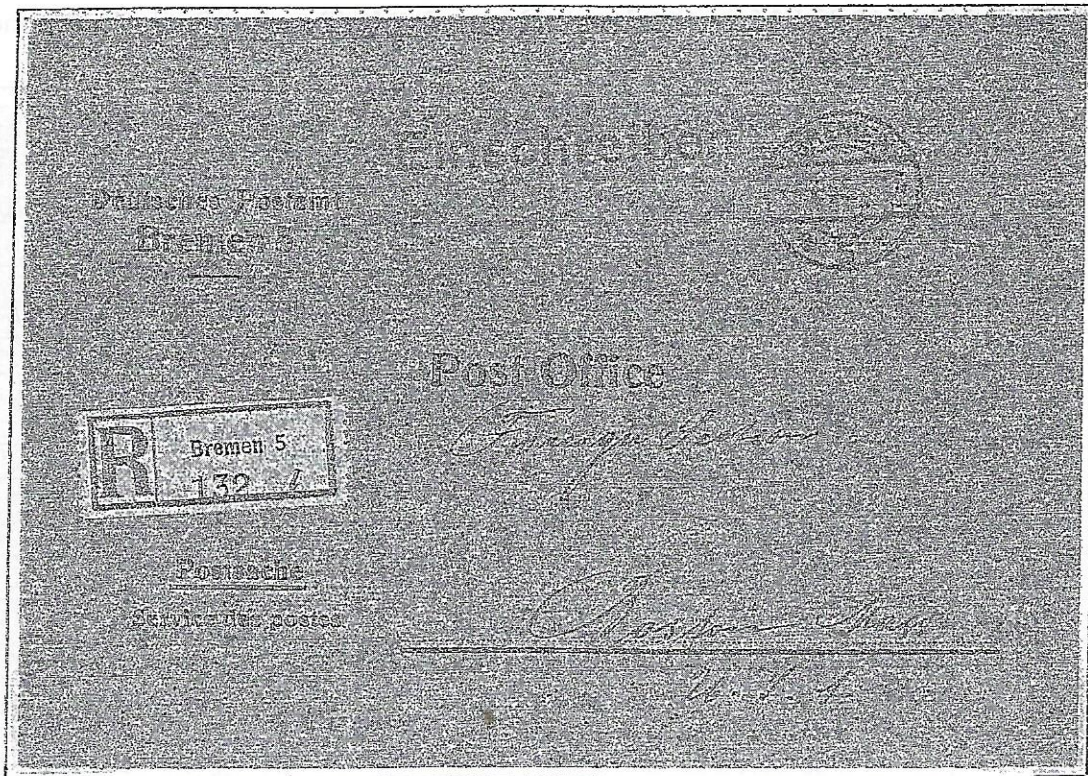




- 3.) Wehrmedeamt (Military recruiting office) in Plön posted this re-used cover to Elmschenhagen in February 1936. The office seal and 'Frei durch Ablösung Reich' (Free under special exemption) denote free frank status.



- 4.) Registered pre-printed cover sent by Bremen 5 Post Office to Foreign Section of Boston Post Office in July 1935 has 'Postsache' below registry label.

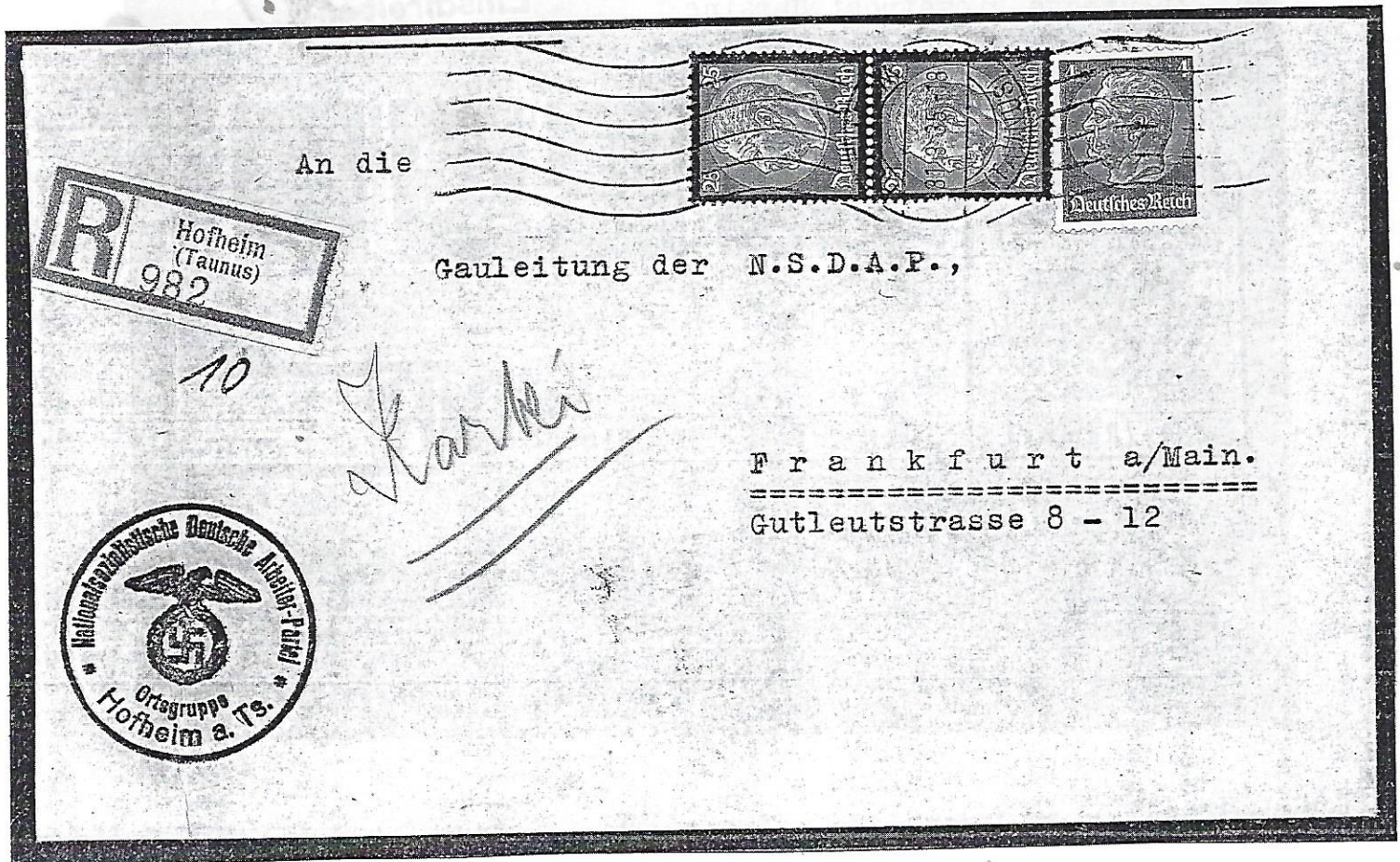


# Official Mail Corner: Early Nazi Party Mail by Jim Lewis

Prior to the issuance of Party Official Stamps on January 26, 1938, Nazi Offices were required to use ordinary postage stamps.

Registered cover sent in March, 1935 from the 'Ortsgruppe' (local party branch) in Hofheim to the 'Gauleitung' (regional office) in Frankfurt/M is franked with Hindenburg stamps to make the 54 Rpf. rate.

Note official hand stamp inscribed 'Nationalsozialistische Deutsche- Arbeiter-Partei' (National Socialist German Worker's Party).



# SS -Feldpost

## Ordnungspolizei in Russia

by John Painter

Registered cover sent on September 12, 1942 from the Commander's Office of the Regular Police (*Ordnungspolizei*) Detachment assigned to the SS and Police Leader in Kiev

This cover, submitted at the Kiev 2 post office of the Deutsche Dienstpost Ukraine, bears 42 Pfg. postage in Hitler definitive stamps overprinted "UKRAINE". The Dienstpost system was used by German agencies in occupied Russia because the regular postal system was not considered to be secure. The sender was a Police Lieutenant in the Kiev office.

