



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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DIRECTOR: Myron Fox, P.O. Box 283, Needham Heights, MA 02194

BULLETIN STAFF:

BACK ISSUES MGR.: Kelly Stefanacci, 4 Lowell Court, Freehold, NJ 07728

COLUMNIST "FOX'S DEN": Myron Fox

EDITOR/AUCTION MGR.: James E. Lewis, 111 Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Fred Willshaw, 10408 Avondale Ave., Charlotte, NC 28210

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STUBY GROUP NOTES

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

BJORK, Walter, 54 W. 84th Street, New York, NY 10024

DIETZ, Dr. Alfred, P.O. Box 235, High Shoals, GA 30645

LABLONDE, Charles J., P.O. Box 264, Chelmsford, MA 01824-0264

LUSTIG, Wolfgang, Eisenbahnstrasse 17, 37073 Goettingen, Germany

MOLNAR, Michael R., PhD, P.O. Box 147, Liberty Corners, NJ 07938

SCHNEIDER, Ralph, P.O. Box 23049, Belleville, IL 62223

SOBKOWICZ, Richard, 13 Sandringham Court, Nepean, Ontario K2J 2H9 Canada

VLK, Robert, 9990 E. Washington St., Chaerin Falls, OH 44023

GERMANS IN ALLIED UNIFORM - TRSGer Ben Beede reports that not all Germans in uniform during WW II were in the Wehrmacht or Waffen-SS. "The Commandos 1940-1946" by Charles Messenger (London: William Kimber, 1985) reveals that several Allied countries had forces composed wholly or partly of German nationals. One such unit was "No. 10 (A1) Commando, X Troop" of the British Royal Marine Commandos, subsequently designated "No. 3 (Miscellaneous) Commando". This force, which included Germans, Austrians and other European refugees, was "formally raised on 11 July 1942". These troops served in Germany in 1945 and the unit was disbanded later that year. While this was a very small force and mail from its members would be quite scarce, I believe that the TRSG could legitimately include mail to and from German members of units in the Allied forces within its scope of interest.

PRE-1939 POLAND MAPS - one of our members has generously offered to send a photocopy of any of his 450 page collection of 11" x 14" maps of pre-1939 Poland which include every town, village, creek, etc. to interested TRSGers. As these maps are highly detailed, members requesting maps should indicate the nearest large town to their area of interest. We suggest that your request include an SASE and \$1.00 per map. Send requests to: John Drzewicki, 320 Laurentian Cr., Sarnia, Ontario, Canada N7S 4W5.

KREIGSMARINE COVERS WANTED - TRSGer Bob Dunn is looking for Naval Feldpost covers. Members with this type material for sale should write to: Robert Dunn, 3318 Running Cedar Way, Williamsburg, VA 23188-2465.

PHILATELIC/AUTOGRAPHIC EXHIBIT - TRSGer William Bailey will display 10-12 frames from his exhibit "The Road to V-E Day" (see Pages 5-8 in Bulletin # 118) at NOJEX '96 to be held May 25-27 at the Meadowlands Hilton, Secaucus, NJ. We hope that many of you will have an opportunity to view this very fine exhibit.

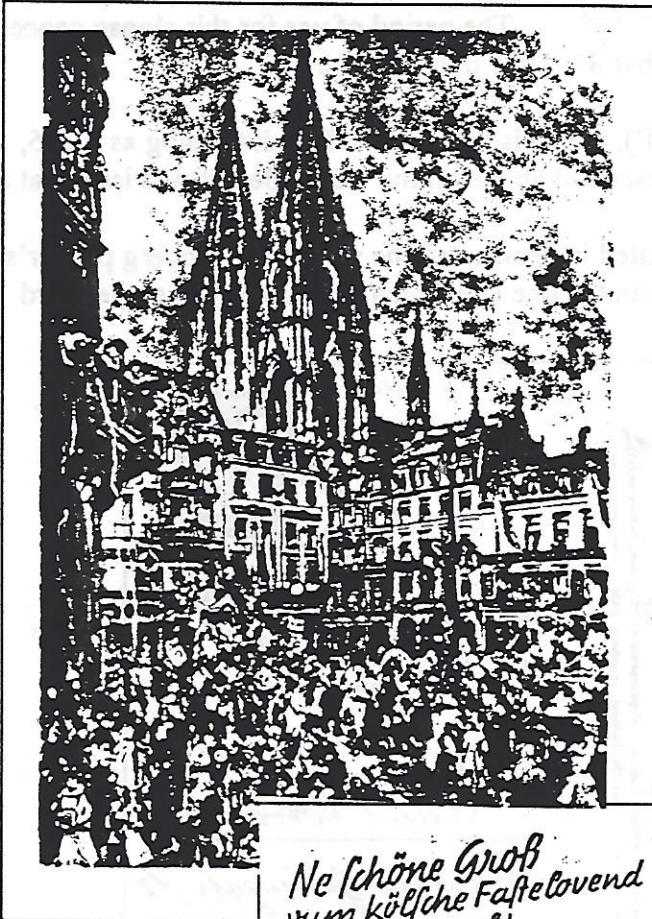
Prices Realized -TRSG Auction #72

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
2	\$16.00	16	\$22.00	24	\$25.00	28	\$24.00	34	\$15.00	39	\$28.00
5	15.00	17	22.00	25	18.00	29	20.00	36	12.00	40	22.00
10	14.00	19	16.00	26	12.00	31	20.00	37	12.00	41	14.00
13	20.00	21	16.00	27	16.00	33	61.00	38	17.00	42	76.00
15	20.00	22	15.00								

Cover Illustration - an insured letter ("Wertbrief") sent to Luftwaffe HQ, Berlin in July 1943 has cancellations and red "V" ("Value") label applied at Hamburg-Finkenwärder P.O. The 104 Pfg. postage includes 24 Pfg. for double weight surface mail, 30 Pfg. Registry fee and 50 Pfg. insurance fee for contents valued at 1100 Reichsmarks. This striking cover, which certainly deserves a place in any collection of Third Reich postal rates, is but one of the desirable lots being offered in Auction # 73. Good Hunting!

THE COLOGNE CARNIVAL POSTAL CARD OF 1939
by Fred Stengel

A new postal stationery card went on sale at post offices in the old cathedral city of Cologne on December 31, 1938. This card had been ordered by organizers of the annual Carnival celebration which was to take place February 23 to 28, 1939. The card was supplied by M. Dumont Schauberg, a local Cologne firm who printed the view side (Fig. 1) with a full color illustration of a Carnival scene in the Wallraffplatz with the spires of the old cathedral in the background.



The address side of the card (Fig. 2) was printed in green by gravure process at the National Printing Works in Berlin and included a 6 Rpf. imprinted stamp designed by a Cologne artist named Rademacher. This stamp shows the city arms of Cologne surmounted by a Jester's cap and bells set at a rakish angel. A Carnival greetings slogan also appears in the top left corner on this side of the card.

This card was sold for 15 Rpf. which included a 9 Rpf. surcharge destined mainly for the Führer's Culture Fund. The card was not on general sale in post offices outside of Cologne but collectors in other parts of Germany could purchase it either over the counter or by mail from the Philatelic Counter in Berlin Post Office W 30.

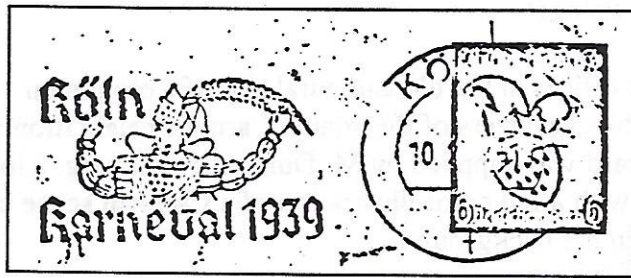


*Ne schöne Groß
vum kölsche Fastelovend
(Kölner Karneval)*

Abgebildet 15 Pf. — Druck: M. Dumont Schauberg, Köln



This card, which is listed in the Borek Catalog as # 264, was issued nearly two months before the event as a publicity card for the Carnival and was valid for postage until July 1, 1939.

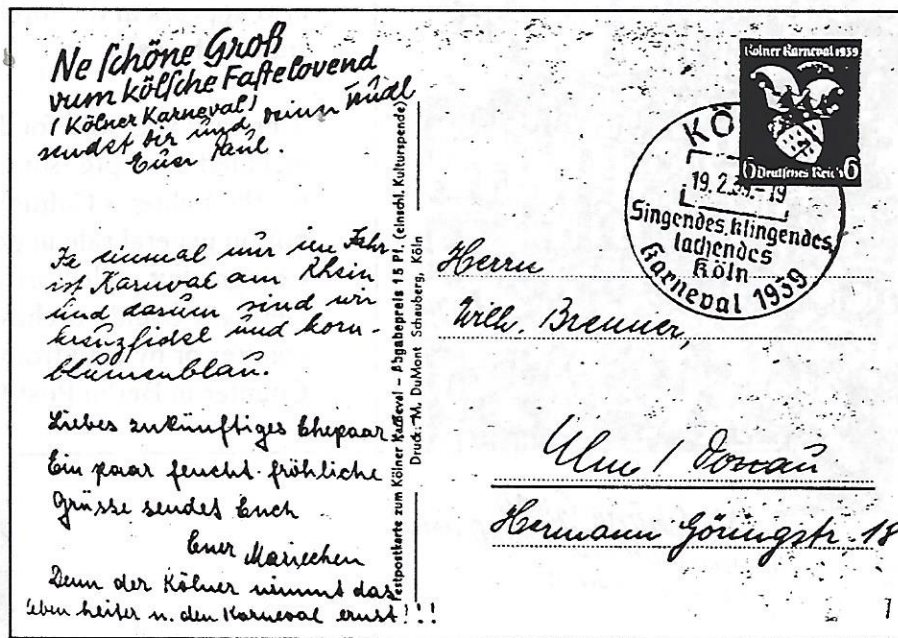


A publicity slogan depicting 'Prince Carnival' with text "Köln Karneval 1939" (Fig. 3) was applied in combination with a circular Cologne date cancel with the letter "P" in lower quadrant by automatic canceling device at Cologne Post Office 1.

The period of use for this slogan cancel in uncertain but appears to have been December 31, 1938 until February 23, 1939.

A second "Festpostkarte" ('Fair Post Card'), which is listed in the Borek Catalog as # 265, has the same M. Dumont Schauberg illustration described above on the view side but was issued at a later date.

The address side of this card (Fig. 4) is printed in brown and the vertical Schauberg printer's identification has two lines of text rather than the one line which appears on the earlier card.



A second special cancel was designed for use during this event. This Cologne Post Office 1 hand stamp has the date in a box at top center. Beneath this box is the slogan 'Singendes, klingendes, lachendes Köln Karnival 1939' ('Singing, ringing, laughing Cologne Carnival 1939'). According to the pre-war stamp magazine 'Sammler-Woche' there were four different hand cancels with letter codes a, b, c, and d, with one of these used by a special temporary post office on the Fair grounds.

If anyone has any additional cards and/or cancels from the Cologne Carnival, please send them to the Bulletin Editor for an update on this article.

ED NOTE: This article, submitted several years ago as a "filler" item by recently departed member Fred Stengel, is the final contribution from one who gave so much of himself to the TRSG.

HITLER YOUTH CANCELS

by Burman B. Ferguson

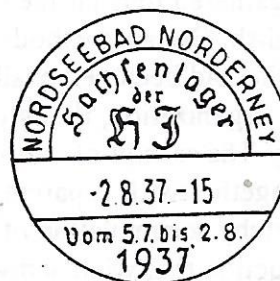
As follow up to the article 'The Hitler Youth Movement' in TRSG Bulletin # 113, shown below is a listing of Hitler Youth cancels by city of issue. My source and cancel numbering scheme is that of Julius Bochmann's 'Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel'. Although the list may not be complete, I believe that it probably comes close. For those with a copy of Bochmann, the cancel numbers will be sufficient; for those without, I have included the text which appears in the cancel and, even if not included in the text, the date(s) of use.

<u>City/Bochmann Cat. #</u>	<u>TEXT</u>	<u>Date(s) of Usage</u>
Bamburg #9	1. Grossführerlager der H.J. Bayer, Ostmark	May 27-June 4 1939
Benneckenstein # A1	Harzlager der H J Gebiet Thuringen	July 10, 1937
Benneckenstein # 1	Harzlager der H J Gebiet Thuringen	July 10-Aug. 14 1937
Berchtesgaden # 4	Hitlerjugend Bann 104 Chemnitz Zeltlager Berchtesgaden	July 21 - Aug. 4 1934
Brahmsee # 1	Nordlager II -/uber Nortof	July 9, 1935
Braunschweig # 28	4. Reichsführer-und Führerinnenlager der HJ	May 14-24, 1939
Breitenbrunn # 1	Sommerlager der Leipziger HJ	July 17-Aug. 13, 1939
Bremen # 19	2. Gebietsaufmarsch der Nordsee H J	Aug. 13-15, 1937
Breslau # 58	5. Sommerkampfspiele der H J	Aug. 25-31, 1941
Brunau # 1	1. Zeitburg der H J am Burgalsee	June 26-July 28, 1937
Camburg # 1	Burg der Hitler Jugend Schone Saalelandschaft	1937-1939
Chemnitz # 31	5. Sommerkampfspiele der Hitler Jugend	August 22-27, 1939
Cuxhaven # 1	H.J.=Nordmarklager über Cuxhaven	June 20 - July 8, 1935
Cuxhaven # 3	Nordmarklager	July 6-Aug. 16, 1936 & July 6 -Aug. 24, 1937
Drossen # 2	Zeuschtsee-Lager des Brandenburgischen BDM	June 28-Aug. 2, 1939 & July 7 -Aug. 14, 1940
Druisburg # 5	Gebiets-und Obergausportfest der Hitler Jugend	July 16 - July 8, 1935
Freiburg #18	Wilhelm Gustoff = Lager Sommerlager der Reichsdeutschen aus der Schweiz	July 19-20, 1942
Garmisch-Partenkirchen # 16	Thuringer H J in Alpenzeltlager b. Grainau	1938
Garmisch-Partenkirchen # 20	4. Reichswinterkampfspiele der Hitler Jugend	Feb. 21-26, 1939
Garmisch-Partenkirchen # 27	6. Winterkampfspiele der Hitler Jugend	Feb. 23-March 2, 1941
Grainau # 1	Hochlandlager 1938 der H J Gebiet Ruhr- Niederrhein	July 22-Aug. 31, 1938
Graz # 17	Sommerkampfspiele der Steirischen-Hitler Jugend	July 2-6, 1941
Greibensee # 1	Kurmarklager der H.J. Am	June 27-July 28, 1939
Heidelberg # 17	Deutscher Studententag 1938 Heidelberg	June 21-25, 1938
Johanngeorgstadt # 3	Sommerlager der Leipziger H J	July 17-Au. 13, 1939
Kassel # 11	Parole des Kurhessischen Jungvolks: Jeder Zehnjährige Ein Pimpf!	1937
Kassel # 25	Freizeitlager der Kurhessischen H J an der See	1937
Kassel # 28	Kurhessischen H J an der See und in den Alpen	1938
Kiel # 38	Führerthing der Nordmark-H J 1938	June 4-11, 1938
Kiel # 41	Führerthing der Nordmark-H J	May 28-June 4, 1939

<u>City/Bochmann Cat. #</u>	<u>TEXT</u>	<u>Date(s) of Usage</u>
Königsdorf # 1	Hochland = Lager 1936	July 6 - Aug. 22, 1936
Königsdorf # 2	Hochland = Lager 1937	June 1 - Aug. 31, 1937
Königsdorf # 3	Hochland = Lager 1938	July 7 - Aug. 31, 1938
Königsdorf # 4	Hochland = Lager 1938	July 7 - Aug. 31, 1938
Königsdorf # 5	Hochland = Lager 1939	July 8 - Aug. 31, 1939
Königsdorf # 6	Hochland = Lager 1939	July 8 - Aug. 31, 1939
Kuhlmühle # 1	Deutschlandlager 1935	July 11-Aug. 5, 1935
Kutno # 1	Freiheitsmarsch der H J des Warthelandes	Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 1940-42
Landesburg(Lech) # 2	Bekenntnis-Marsch der Hitlerjugend Nach Landesburg/Mein Kampf	Sept. 18-19, 1937
Leipzig # 145	H J Marschiert Gautag Sachsen	May 22, 1938
Lenngries # 2	Hochland = Lager 1935	July 10-Aug. 29, 1935
Linz (Donau) # 8	Sporttage der H J 2-7.7.1940	July 2-7 1940
Magdeburg # 28	Gebietsaufmarsch der H J 1939	July 5-9, 1939
M. Gladbach # 2	1. Gebiets-Führerlager Gebiet Dusseldorf (34) Hardter Wald	July 14-18, 1939.
Muhlheim (Ruhr) # 4	2. Gebiets-Führerlager 1938 vom 8-12.6	June 8-12, 1938
Muhlheim (Ruhr) # 5	3. Gebiets-Führerlager der Hitler-Jugend Ruhr- Niederrhein	June 7-11, 1939
München # 70	1. Reichssporttage des B.D.M. in München	Sept. 22-23, 1934
Murnau # 2	Hochland = Lager 1934	August 1-29, 1934
Neunkirchen (Saar) # 3	Grossführerlager der H.J.	June 5-13, 1937
Neunkirchen (Saar) # 4	2. Grossführerlager der H.J.	June 4-12, 1938
Norderney # 6	Sachsenlager der H J	July 5-Aug. 2, 1937
Nürnberg # 67	Gebiets Treffen der Frankischen H.J.	July 18-31, 1939
Obejoch # 1	Besucht die Winterlager der Frankischen H J	Dec. 21, '38 -May 4, 1939
Oberstdorf # 4	Zeltlager der H-j Bann 104 Chemnitz in Oberstdorf	July 14-Aug. 15, 1935 & June 30 - Aug. 22, 1936
Oberstdorf # 6	Sachsenlager d. H J	July 7-Aug. 2, 1937
Oberstdorf # 7	Schwab, H J Lager Bann 364	August 14-28, 1937
Offenburg # 4	Südwestmarklager der H.J.	July 28-Aug. 15, 1935
Offenburg # 5	Südwestmarklager der H.J.	July 25-Aug. 6, 1936 July 24-Aug. 20, 1937 July 30-Aug. 20, 1938
Ostseebad Muritz # 1	4000 Thüringer Hitlerjungen und Pimpfe am Meer, Ostseelager 1937	July 10-Aug. 14, 1937
Ostseebad Muritz # 2	4000 Thüringer Hitlerjungen und Pimpfe am Meer, Ostseelager 1938	July 11-Aug. 12, 1938
Potsdam # 6	Am 19 April in Potsdam Fahnenweihe der Kurmarkischen Hitlerjugend	April 19, 1936
Potsdam # 7	Bnnfahnenweihe der H J 24	January 1939
Radolfzell # 4	Bodensee der Leipziger H J	July 11-25, 1938
Rudolstadt # 5	Leistungsschau der Thüringer H J	1939
Saalfeld #11	Leistungsschau der Thüringer H J	1939
Saarbrücken #10	Besuch die Lager der H J Saarpfalz	1938
Salzburg #17	Salzburger Kulturtag der Hitlerjugend Salzburg	May 13-17, 1942

<u>City/Bochmann Cat. #</u>	<u>TEXT</u>	<u>Date(s) of Usage</u>
Salzburg #18	Salzburger Kulturtag der Hitlerjugend Ausstellung der Deutschen Holzschnitt	May 15-June 15, 1942
Scheibenberg #1	Hitler Jugend-Inspektion Mitte Kriegssommerlager 1941	July 11-16, 1941
Schwarzburg #3	Thuringenlager d. H J Gebiet 17	July 10-Aug. 14, 1937
Silz #1	Sommerlager des Bannes 570 Schloss Petersberg b. Silz (Tirol)	July 30-Sept. 8, 1940
Sperenberg #1	Ertüchtigungslager der H J Lager/Ohnesorge	July 28-Aug. 6, 1938
Stuttgart #74	Kampfspiele 1938 der Schwab. Hitler Jugend Stuttgart	June 30-July 3, 1938
Vomp #1	Führungszeltlager, Gebiet.Tirol-Vomp	August 22-31, 1938
Walchsee #1	Sommerlager der Banne 572-577 H.J.	July 12-Sept. 30, 1940
Weimar #13	2. Reichsführerlager der H J	May 19-30, 1937
Weimar #15	3. Reichsführerlager der H J	May 24-June 3, 1938
Wendisch Buchholz #1	Sachsenlager des Leipziger H J	July 9-21, 1937
Wien #36	Musterzeltlager d. Wiener H J	May 28-29, 1939
Zell am See #2	3000 Jungen in Zeltlager der Thuringer	July 4-Aug. 19, 1938
Zeuschsee #1	B.D.M. Kurmarklager	June 27 - Aug. 5, 1938
Machine Cancel #154	Gebietstreffen HJ Kurmark Frankfurt (Oder)	June 23-24, 1934
Machine Cancel #182	Wie Fordern die Einheit der Jugend die Hitlerjugend	October 5-28, 1935
Machine Cancel #219	Besucht die Zeltlager der Frank. Hitlerjugend 1936	Aug. 5 - Sept. 10, 1936 & July 3-9, 1937
Machine Cancel #236	Januarparole d.H.J. Hessen-Nassau: Junger Socialismus	January 2-15, 1937
Machine Cancel #238	Januarparole d.H.J. Hessen-Nassau: Schafft uns Heime	January 11-29, 1937
Machine Cancel #247	Februarparole d.H.J. Hessen-Nassau: Fahrt u. Lager	February 1-25, 1937
Machine Cancel #248	Marzparole d.H.J. Hessen-Nassau: Disziplin u. Ordnung	March 1-31, 1937
Machine Cancel #261	Schafft Heime für die Hitler-Jugend	June 4 - Dec. 7, 1937
Machine Cancel #314	Helft der Jugend Heime Bauen! Heim der Hitlerjugend	April 15 - May 15, 1939

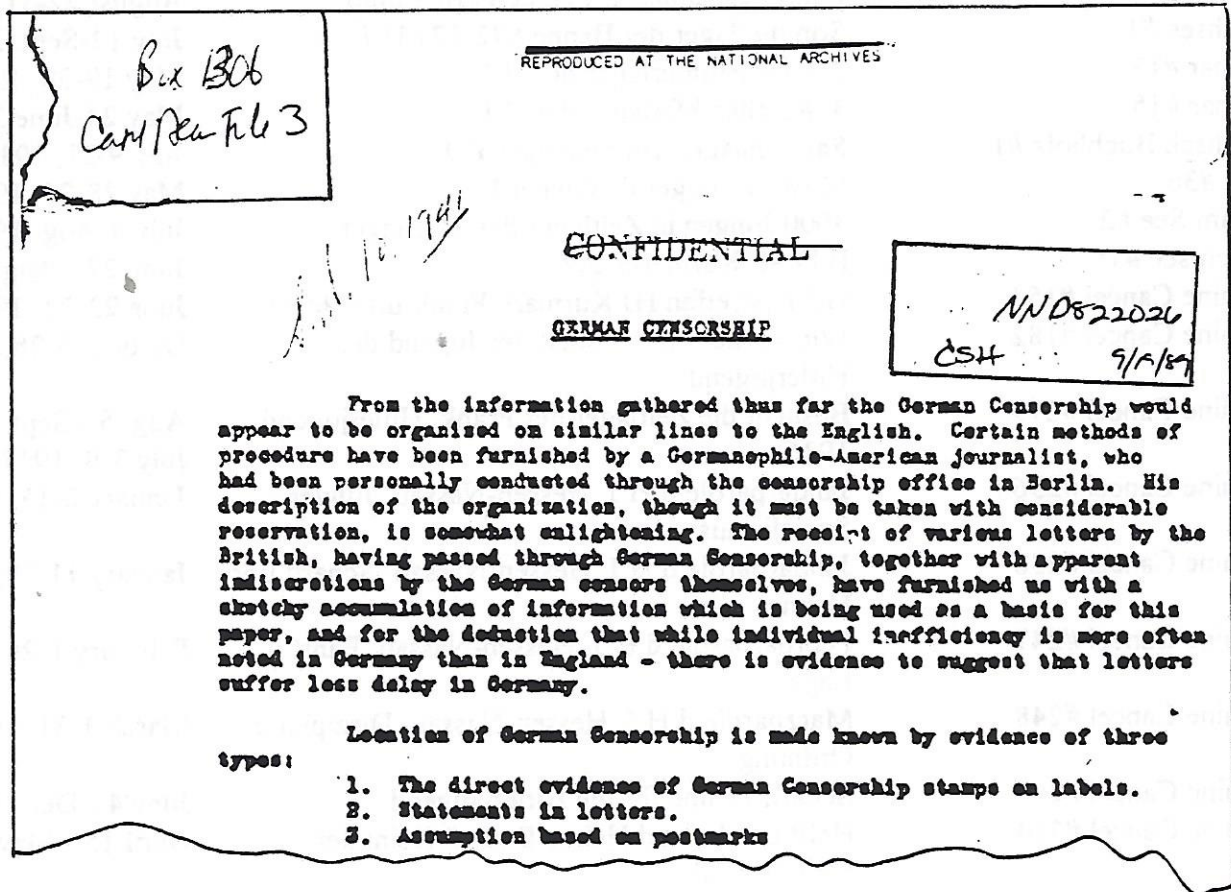
Shown below are two of the cancels from this listing: Bamberg # 9 and Norderney # 6.



U.S. Army Report on German Censorship Circa 1941

by Myron Fox

The following report was submitted on September 10, 1941, nearly three months before the outbreak of war between Germany and the United States. The report's author, U.S. Army Captain Eugene T. Brennan, summarizes all that was known concerning the policies and procedures pertaining to postal censorship in the Third Reich. This report, classified "Confidential" since 1941, was de-classified in 1989 and made available to the general public at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. as item number NND822026. Shown below is the top portion of the first page of this report as I received it from the National Archives in Washington, D.C.



GERMAN CENSORSHIP

From the information gathered thus far the German Censorship would appear to be organized on similar lines to the English. Certain methods of procedure have been furnished by a German-American journalist, who had been personally conducted through the censorship office in Berlin. This description of the organization, though it must be taken with considerable reservation, is somewhat enlightening. The receipt of various letters by the British, having passed through German Censorship, together with apparent indiscretions by the German censors them selves, have furnished us with a sketchy accumulation of information which is being used as the basis for this paper, and for the deduction that while individual inefficiency is more often noted in Germany than in England - there is evidence to suggest that letters suffer less delay in Germany. Location of German Censorship is made known by evidence of three types:

1. The direct evidence of German Censorship stamps or labels
2. Statements in letters
3. Assumption based on post marks.

Because of the British inability to thoroughly sift the latter, only the first two have been employed thus far. The official stamps of the German censorship bear, in some cases, the name of a town. By this means censorship stations are known to be in Berlin and Charlottenburg. The American journalist was in the Festsaale am Zoo, Berlin.

Many of the letters make definite statements concerning the places at which their correspondents' letters have been censored. From this source it may be adduced that local censorship stations are located at Bremen, Chemnitz, Frankfurt-am-Main, Hamburg, Magdeburg, Stuttgart and Vienna. Statements read in letters indicate that parcels have been censored at Cologne, and air mail censored at Frankfurt. In the latter case, an air mail letter mailed in Berlin was stamped "Luftpoststelle Frankfurt a/m". There is indication that the training of German censors is centralized at Konigstein, near Frankfurt-am-Main.

Organization and Functioning of German Censorship

Official stamps and labels, supported by a direct statement in a letter, proves that since the outbreak of war, the German Oberkommando der Wehrmacht has assumed control of the postal censorship, formerly exercised by the Gestapo. This was undoubtedly originally done for the purpose of currency control.

Superiority of German methods is stressed with respect to its censorship organization in much the same manner as the accomplishments of its military forces. A minimum of interference with Germany's export and import trade is claimed. A letter from a British firm in Belgium, supported by other English evidence from the same country, states (improbably) that whereas the British censorship holds up trade letters and catalogs, German censors visit individual firms, censor their correspondence, and personally remove it for posting.

From correspondence, various specific rules for letters going from Germany to other countries have been mentioned. These are as follows:

1. Officers and men on active service with the German armies are forbidden to correspond with other countries. In this connection, however, letters are known to have been received in foreign countries, thus making evidence on this point conflicting.
2. Anyone who wishes to correspond with a foreign country must have an official permit.
3. Correspondence with England through intermediaries is strictly forbidden. Evidence tends to show that this point is likewise forbidden on incoming mail from enemy countries through neutrals, probably from the view point of morale.
4. All letters written in English will be stopped by the censor. In the connection it is known that letters written in English sent from Germany to neutral countries have, however, been delivered.
5. Poste Restante addresses are said to be no longer permitted. Despite this, many letters addressed c/o the Bahnpostlager Zurich have been transmitted through German Censorship.
6. Letters should be left open.

7. Apparent official limitation on the number of pages which may be used in writing to other countries. The exact number is not known, reports suggest one to four pages. Limitations are likewise suggested as to writing on one side of air mail paper.
8. Letters containing numbers are said not to be allowed through German censorship.
9. Certain types of picture postcards are not to be sent out of Germany.
10. Postage stamps may not be sent out of Germany.

The above regulations seem to affect the mail as composed in Germany. There is, however, authority for various regulations affecting censorship of Polish and Jewish correspondence. Letters from Poland cannot pass out of Poland except by clandestine means. Correspondence with Poles interned in neutral countries is said to be forbidden. Penalties are imposed for addressing letters under the names of Polish towns instead of their German forms. For example, a letter with the envelope addressed "Poland" was returned to sender marked "unknown". When "East Germany" was substituted, the letter reached its destination. Letters have been received from Poland in open envelopes bearing no censor markings. Sending postage stamps out of the country is likewise prohibited.

As to Jewish correspondence, there have been instances where letters have also been marked "Communication with those in the Ghetto is forbidden by the police". It also seems that American mail for Jews in Germany has not been delivered. No one is allowed to write to Germany or German-occupied territories in Yiddish. Records are kept on all Jewish correspondence. Consideration of the above leads to the definite conclusion that German censorship of Jewish correspondence has very likely completely stopped all such correspondence.

It is very likely that German censorship is organized on a far larger scale than by the English. There is information to the effect that every German who corresponds with other countries is card indexed and the addresses and nature of their letters filed for reference. Two such cards were found to be printed by the Gestapo marked "For use for correspondence to Sweden". There were spaces for the name and address of the sender, and for the censor's opinion (to be expressed in code) as to the nature of the correspondence - particularly whether information was conveyed by code. Political commentary may be allowed to pass in order to incriminate the writer.

A German "Buff slip" has been obtained which indicates that a very complete staff would be necessary in order to furnish all of the data noted on said "Buff slip".

That censors are given numbers as tokens of designation seems apparent, particularly when associated with the Wehrmacht label. In the early part of the war a single censor number was seen. With the growth of German censorship, two, three and even four penciled numbers or stamps have been found on individual letters and post cards.

These were first thought to be either the numbers or stamps of the Testing Department, since a far greater proportion of the mail is tested in Germany than is the case in England, or as the numbers of higher officials checking the work of an ordinary examiner, or, as the numbers of letters read by an individual censor in any one day.

The American journalist says, however, that all letters are first opened by clerks who examine them for enclosures. They will then list the enclosure on a separate slip and stamp their numbers on the letters.

The letters are then transferred from the opening clerks to the actual censors who, in due course, add their numbers. A second clerk then rechecks enclosures, removes the slip and seals the letter for posting, adding his number. A fourth number may represent a member of the Testing or Code Department. It may also be that of a higher authority, which the journalist said are always consulted in cases of doubt. Still another possibility is that the numbers may be linked to the card index numbers of correspondents writing from Germany.

Letter stamps have been observed, namely "D.K. Praha K", but thus far only on letters bearing the post marks of towns in occupied territory and the Hamburg Censor Station. Letters, as distinct from numbers, which appear on envelopes postmarked in Hamburg may be peculiar to a naval censorship, or indicate towns of doubtful loyalty to the Nazi regime.

From information obtained thus far is difficult to estimate the size and nature of the German censorship staffs. It appears, however, that letters censored in Berlin never bear the same numbers as letters dispatched from other towns, such as Vienna or Cologne, where censorship stations are known to exist. Those posted in small towns are clearly sent to one of the main censorship stations.

According to the journalist "more than a thousand censors", both men and women, were drawn from all classes of society to deal with the examination of foreign mail. It is thought that mail in English is read by women interned in prison. In order to establish a system, the same censors read the same correspondent's mail. At the heads of the examiner tables are said to be ex-Army officers. In matters where these are unable to decide on a particular problem, a council of fifty, all experienced specialists, consider the matter and are seen as the final authority.

It is the German boast, that by contrast with English delays, all special delivery and air mail letters are handled within a maximum time of five hours while ordinary mails are released within twenty-four hours. Because of lack of time and mail volume, the censorship stations cannot always read all mail and will forward some mail uncensored. Further to prove its efficiency, the German Censorship keeps records of the length of time transit mails are delayed in England. This boast, however, is contrasted by the numerous complaints received from neutral countries regarding the length of time required for mail deliveries.

Letters in uncommon languages are apparently sent to professors in university towns, and thus must suffer delays while being translated. Recent appearances of high numbers on censorship stamps suggest that the staff is constantly increased in order that no mails go unexamined.

Mail from Denmark was evidently not censored until sometime after its occupation. Letters came through with regularity and without censorship numbers or stamps. However, in the month of April, both direct and indirect evidence established that censorship by the Germans has been effected. It is difficult to obtain any direct evidence of a German procedure with regard to uncommon languages but it is probably similar to that of the last war, when letters were sent to scholars in their own universities.

Letters in uncommon languages which have reached the English censorship after passing through German censors, invariably bear the numbers of German examiners. According to the journalist the only language that cannot be read in Berlin is Korean. Letters in that tongue are sent to a professor in Munich for examination.

Privileged letters in the early part of the war were opened by the German censorship in the ordinary manner and sealed with the official label of the Wehrmacht. Then followed a period during which embassy letters were closed with a plain brown strip, giving no indication of the country in which it had been censored. Later, to avoid giving offense to neutral countries, letters showed no ostensible marks of German censorship.

Letters from Germany to her embassies abroad are apparently uncensored. Government officials are now using envelopes with their titles surrounding an eagle and swastika stamp. These bear, as a rule, no marks of censorship. Letters sent from the Berlin Foreign Office to the German Consulates in the United States and other neutral countries forbid private correspondence on official questions. Letters concerning political or personal matters unsuitable for transmission through normal channels should be sent to the Secretary of State or Chief of Staff at the Foreign Office, together with the appropriate addresses of sender and addressee. When not sent in Official Pouch, letters should be sent to intermediaries in Italy and America.

In 1940 there appeared for the first time a **"Return to Sender"** label printed at the Cologne Censorship Station, although apparently for use in all other stations. The label sets forth various reasons for returning to sender, some of which are designated as **"obscure"**, **"too long"**, **"lined envelope"** and **"prohibited foreign language"**.

In relation to political suspects, a **"Returned to Sender"** letter must be claimed at the post office and identity papers produced. It is suspected that the Gestapo keeps a watch on such suspects. Indirect evidence discloses that **"Returned to Sender"** letters are returned to senders in foreign countries by German Censorship.

With respect to censorship, securities are undoubtedly examined but little evidence has been gathered in order to understand the procedure. Money, stamps, etchings, drafts, and dollar bills are known to have been removed from letters. There are, however, instances of money orders and German Marks remaining untouched. Very likely for propaganda purposes, newspapers have been allowed to be sent from Germany to foreign countries, even when the accompanying letters has been detained. Newspapers and other printed matter sent from neutral countries to England or from one neutral country to another have not suffered interference.

Photographs have also been allowed to proceed when they are of no interest to the authorities. Although there have been complaints of missing enclosures, there are various instances of non-interference even with trade samples such as pearls, patterns of silk and even gold rings. There is no evidence to show whether such items have been tested for codes.

The technique of German Censorship is known in some respects, particularly with regard to the opening of letters, enclosure slips, testing, deletions, cutting, tissue linings, seals and condemned letters. Letters are normally opened by cutting across the reverse side of the envelope with scissors, and closed with the white label of the Wehrmacht. Where an official stamp is used in place of the label, envelopes are sometimes closed with transparent tape, or in the case of enclosures, with strong strips of brown paper. Red gummed strips of plan paper have also been used. There is also evidence of the steaming and regumming of envelopes. Six enclosure slips from German westbound mail have been found entitled **"Missing Enclosure"**, **"Enclosure Removed"**, **"Empty Envelope"**, **"Name and address of sender"**, **"Legibility of hand writing"**, **"Sending stamps out of the country is forbidden"**.

Testing has taken the form of dipping the letters on liquid chemicals and the lining of envelopes being removed. Some letters have arrived with an odd smell and stains greenish in color. As high as 9% of one weeks mail is known to have been tested, after examination by the British Testing Department. These percentages have steadily increased.

Iodine solution followed by a solution of Hypo for the purpose of removing the iodine has been chiefly used. A slight brown stain has often remained on the paper, revealing that the removal procedure has not been entirely effective. Other letters have been received scorched as a result of the tester's iron. Deletions and obliteration's have been noted by scribbling over with pen and ink.

Other instances show a brush to have been applied. Various black obliterating fluids have also been used, some of which can be bleached while others cannot. Some of these black materials can be partially removed, but in most cases the obliteration is sufficient to make it difficult to restore more than a small portion of the writing. Location of forces or information on money matters have been obliterated by the Germans, but restored by the British testing department.

Passages have likewise been removed by cutting with scissors and one instance roughly torn out. The same is true of tissues of linings, although some have been permitted to remain. On available evidence it would seem that more letters are condemned in Germany than in England.

There is evidence of German censors writing comments on letters, in apparent answer to contents of the correspondence. One censor wrote "**One Germany, One Führer, Heil Hitler**". Other such remarks underlined in pencil are numerous.

The censor stamps used in this type of mail are larger than usual and provide a space for a number. Letter sheets from concentration camps have rigid requirements printed which deal with the writing thereof, number, parcels, etc.

While German authorities do not place any official difficulties in the way of letters to prisoners of war and internment camps, they do impose certain restrictions such as rationing the number of letters from prisoners, the number of lines per letter and forbidding writing between the lines.

Certain types of form letter sheets are issued to prisoners of war, but their paper grade is designed to make secret writing impossible.

Regulations for correspondence with prisoners of war in England have been referred to in some letters. Nothing which is rationed may be sent out of Germany. Specific reference is made to shoes, tobacco, coffee, chocolate, sausages and jam. All parcels are officially examined before dispatch.

Rigid rules affect Red Cross letters. German regulations for communication with enemy territory through the Red Cross is lengthy and exacting. These requirements must be complied with or the communications will not be forwarded. These letters are censored with great care, despite the fact that they are limited to 25 words. In some instances the entire text has been obliterated while other passages have been deleted.

Weakness in the censorship organization is queried by the British to be either caused by internal disaffection or policy, this based on instances of denouncement of government, comments on food shortage, lack of heat, etc. which were allowed to pass. The same has been true of statements concerning pacifism and discontent, denouncement conditions in the army and factories.

Complaints of German Censorship concern themselves from within Germany, with delays in the mails, whereas from neutral countries evidence of delay, mutilation of cards and letters, of envelopes sent empty and of contents transferred from one letter to another bring complaints. However, the British are of the opinion that much censurable information is passed by the censors, because of internal disaffection. Obvious instances of code and shorthand have come through without stoppage. this thought is carried through to the extent that intermediaries in neutral countries have recommended precautions in the letters that they are willing to forward.

In Spain there is evidence that the mails are supervised by other than Spanish authorities. This also seems to be thought about Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria, Eire, Siam and Argentina. The evidence is only of the indirect type with casual reference to propaganda, etc. Other than code, no subtle attempts to evade censorship, whether German or English, have come to light. Certain individual attempts have become known dealing with individuals posting letters through friends and in neutral countries.

Telegraphic communications are prohibited with Poland. Indirect evidence states that this is likewise true between Germany and Eire as well as the United States. The latter is contradicted, however, by further indirect evidence which states that telegrams may be sent through the United States or the American Express Company.

Evidence of German Censorship is had with respect to the following routes: American Clipper mail, Copenhagen - Port said, Scandinavia and the Baltic, England to China, Spain to England, Portugal to England, Germany to Eire, Switzerland to England, Italy to England, England to Far East, England to Baltic States, Turkey to England, England to America and Germany to South America.

In conclusion, it might be stated that there is little information other than that stated above on censorship in enemy occupied territories. No conclusions of any worth can be formed on any major point, and on minor issues the evidence is incomplete.

While files and records are being compiled by the British, little is contained therein on censorship as it affects France, Holland, Belgium, Denmark and Norway. A report concerning "Prisoner of War correspondence" has been written, but the evidence does not seem to be very large in scope although a few recommendations seem to have been drawn and should prove of some value.

Eugene T. Brennan
Captain - Inf. Res.

N.S.D.A.P. Mail - Organization of Party Districts

by Jim Lewis

In order to collect and study Nazi Party Mail, one should understand the geographical organization of the Party. The basic unit was the "Gau", which translates roughly to a district. Within each "Gau" were "Kreis" equating roughly to counties. The chain of command thus ran from the "Ortsleiter" or Town Party Leader to the "Kreisleiter" and up to the "Gauleiter". After 1939 the "Gauen" borders were revised to include those former German territories which had been restored to the "Grossdeutschland" (Greater Germany) through diplomatic or military means. The map below (Fig. 1) has the "Gauen" designated numerically and is followed by a listing of these districts and the cities in which were located the office of the "Gauleiter".

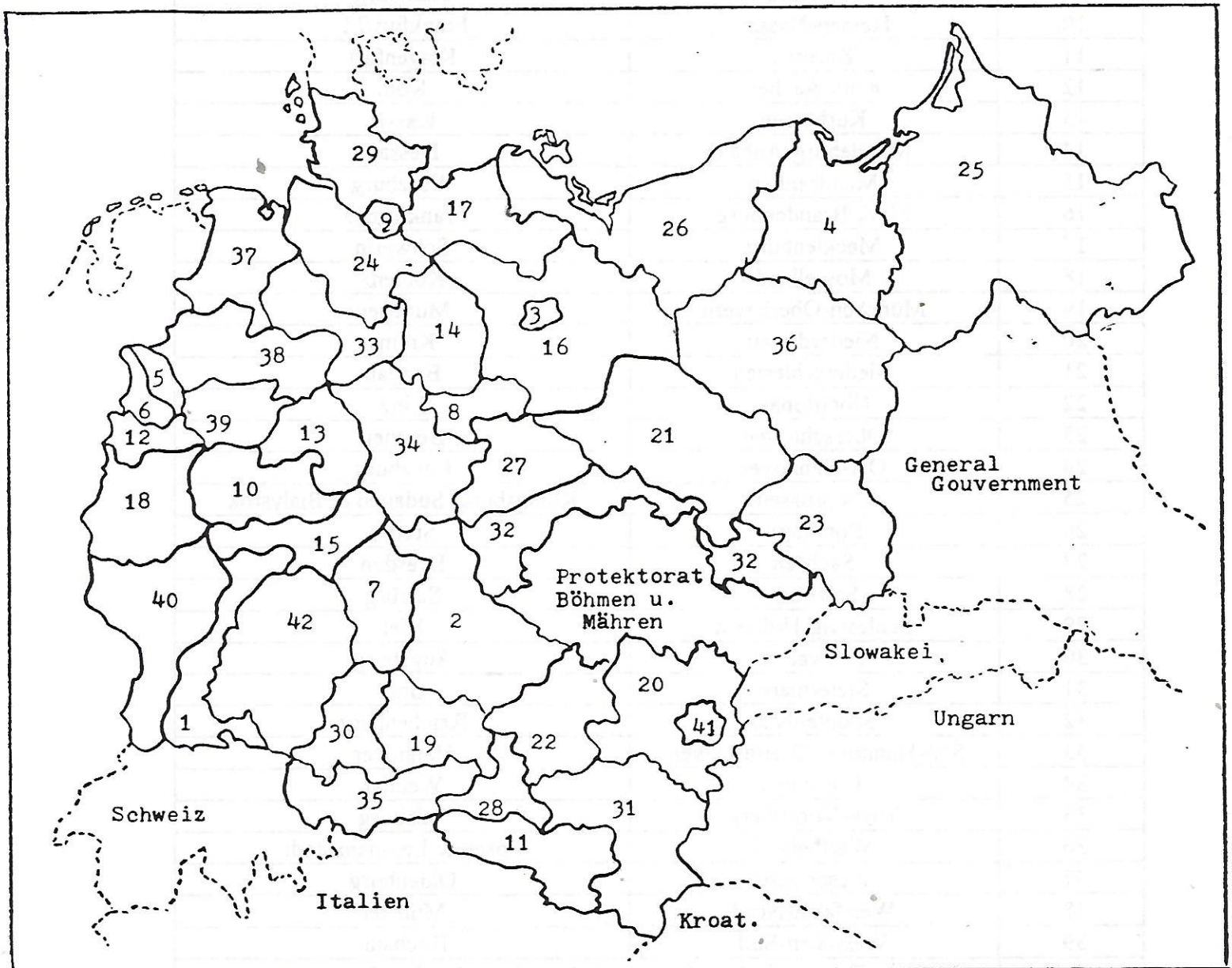


Fig. 1) Location of the N.S.D.A.P. Districts - circa 1940.

Fig. 2) The following table lists the N.S.D.A.P. "Gau" (Districts) and the cities which were headquarters of the "Gauleiter" (District Leader).

No.	Gau	Office of Gauleiter
1.	Baden	Karlsruhe
2.	Bayreuth	Bayreuth
3.	Berlin	Berlin
4.	Danzig-Westprussen	Danzig & Bromberg
5.	Düsseldorf	Düsseldorf
6.	Essen	Essen
7.	Franken	Nürnberg
8.	Halle-Merseburg	Halle
9.	Hamburg	Hamburg
10.	Hessen-Nassau	Frankfurt/M.
11.	Kärnten	Klagenfurt
12.	Köln-Aachen	Köln
13.	Kurhessen	Kassel
14.	Magdeburg-Anhalt	Dessau
15.	Mainfranken	Würzburg
16.	Mark Brandenburg	Frankfurt/O.
17.	Mecklenburg	Schwerin
18.	Moselland	Koblenz
19.	München-Oberbayern	München
20.	Niederdonau	Krems
21.	Niederschlesien	Breslau
22.	Oberdonau	Linz
23.	Oberschlesien	Beuthen
24.	Ost-Hannover	Lüneburg
25.	Ostprussen	Königsburg, Sudauen & Bialystok
26.	Pommern	Stettin
27.	Sachsen	Dresden
28.	Salzburg	Salzberg
29.	Schleswig-Holstein	Kiel
30.	Schwaben	Augsburg
31.	Steiermark	Graz
32.	Sudetenland	Reichenberg
33.	Süd-Hannover-Braunschweig	Hannover
34.	Thüringen	Weimar
35.	Tirol-Vorarlberg	Salzburg
36.	Wartheland	Posen & Litzmannstadt
37.	Weser-Ems	Oldenburg
38.	Westfalen-Nord	Münster
39.	Westfalen-Süd	Bochann
40.	Westmark	Saarbrücken
41.	Wein	Wien
42.	Württemberg-Hohenzollern	Stuttgart

Collectors frequently have difficulty understanding the overlapping civil, military and Party administrative areas which existed during the Third Reich. The following table (Fig. 3) correlates the Military Districts "Wehrkreise" (see the map on page 20 in Bulletin #118) to State Administrative (Civil Government) Regions and N.S.D.A.P. Gaue shown in the map on page 15 in this article.

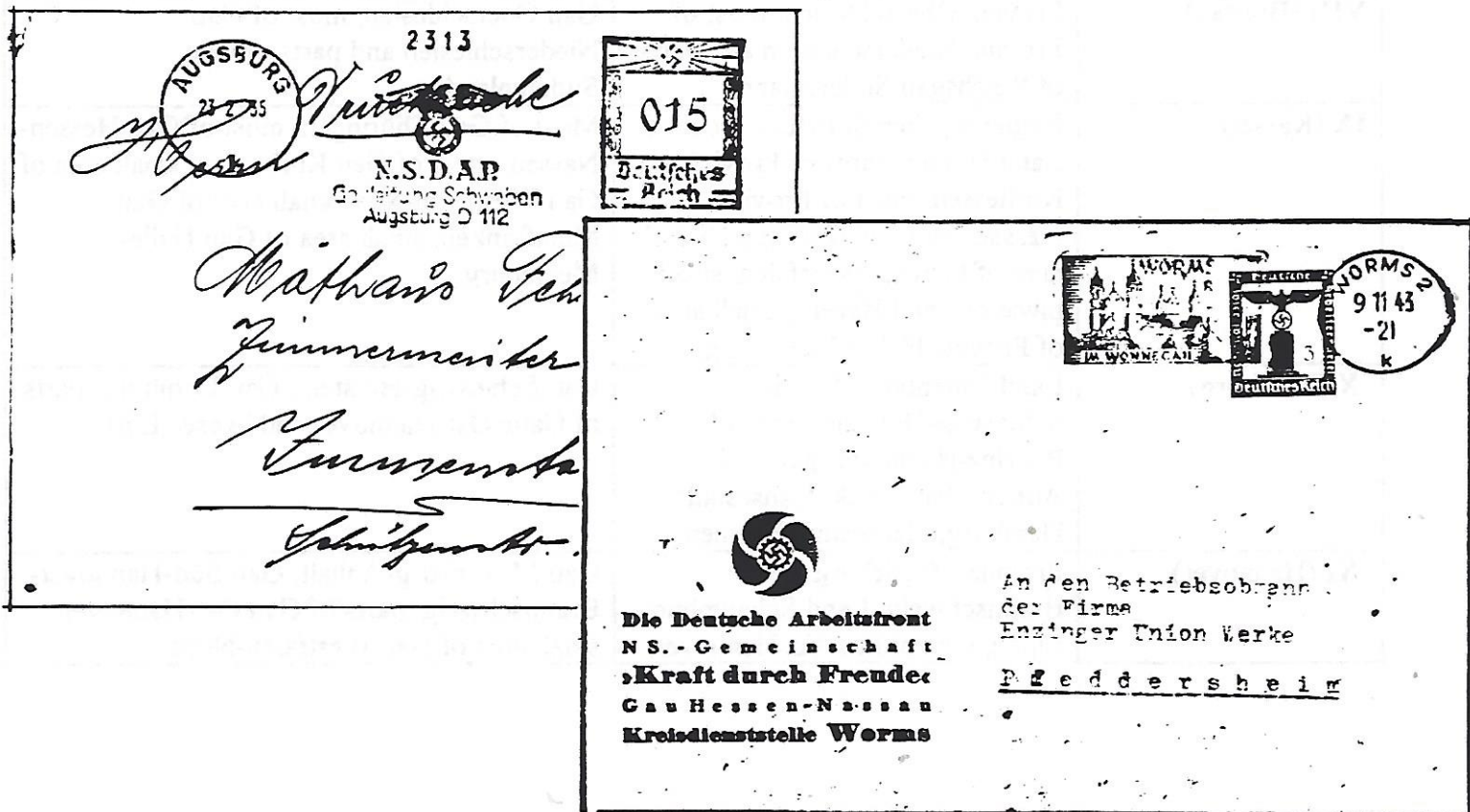
Wehrkreise	State Administrative Region	Party Gaue
I (Königsberg)	Provinz Ostpreussen	Gau Ostpreussen
II (Stettin)	Provinz Pommern, Land Mecklenburg, small area Brandenburg	Gau Pommern, Gau Mecklenburg & small part Mark Brandenburg
III (Berlin)	Reichshauptstat Berlin, most of Mark Brandenburg	Gau Berlin & most of Gau Mark Brandenburg
IV (Dresden)	Land Sachsen, most of Provinz Halle-Merseburg. Part of Reichsgau Sudetenland, small area of Provinz Niederschlesien, small area Land Thüringen.	Gau Sachsen & parts of Gau Sudetenland, Niederschlesien, Thüringen & Halle-Merseburg
V (Stuttgart)	Regierungsbezirk Sigmaringen-Hohenzollern, most of Land Württemberg, most of Land Baden	Most of Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollern & Gau Baden
VI (Münster)	Land Lippe, most of Provinz Westfalen, about half of the Rhein-provinz, and a small area of Aurich-Onsabrück.	Gaue Essen, Düsseldorf, Köln-Aachen, most of Gaue Westfalen-Nord & Westfalen-Süd, half of Gau Weser-Ems.
VII (München)	Part of Land Bayern.	Gau München-Oberbayern, most of Gau Schwaben and part of Gau Bayreuth.
VIII (Breslau)	Provinz Oberschlesien, most of Provinz Niederschlesien and parts of Reichsgau Sudetenland.	Gau Oberschlesien, most of Gau Niederschlesien and parts of Gau Sudetenland.
IX (Kassel)	Regierungsbezirk Erfurt, most of Land Hessen, most of Provinz Kurhessen, most of Provinz Nassau, most of Thüringen, small area of Provinz Westfalen, small piece of Land Bayern, small area of Provinz Halle-Merseburg.	Most of Gau Thüringen, most of Gau Hessen-Nassau, most of Gau Kurhessen, small area of Gau Westfalen-Süd, small area of Gau Mainfranken, small area of Gau Halle-Merseburg.
X (Hamburg)	Land Oldenburg, Provinz Schleswig-Holstein, parts of Provinz Hannover, parts of Aurich-Osnabrück, Hansestadt Hamburg, Hansestadt Bremen.	Gau Schleswig-Holstein, Gau Hamburg, parts of Gaue Ost-Hannover and Weser-Ems.
XI (Hannover)	Provinz Magdeburg, Land Braunschweig, Land Schaumburg-Lippe, part of Provinz Hannover.	Gau Magdeburg-Anhalt, Gau Süd-Hannover-Braunschweig, parts of Gau Ost-Hannover, small area of Gau Westfalen-Nord.

Wehrkreise	State Administrative Region	Party Gau
XII (Koblenz)	Westmark, part of Rheinprovinz, part of Provinz Nassau, part of Land Hessen, part of Land Baden, part of Land Bayern.	Gau Mosselland, Gau Westmark, parts of Gau Hessen-Nassau, Baden, Gau Mainfranken.
XIII (Nürnberg)	Part of Land Bayern, part of Reichsgau sudetenland, part of Land Baden, part of Land Württemberg, small area of Land Thüringen	Most of Gau Franken, most of Gau Mainfranken, most of Gau Bayreuth, part of Gau Sudetenland, part of Gau Württemberg-Hohenzollern, small areas of Gau Baden and of Gau Thüringen.
XVII (Wien)	Reichsgau Wien, Oberdonau, Niederdonau.	Gau Wien, those parts of Gause Oberdonau and Niederdonau which do not belong to the "Protektorat".
XVIII (Salzburg)	Reichsgau Kärnten, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol-Vorarlberg	Gause Kärnten, Salzburg, Steiermark, Tirol-Vorarlberg.
XX	Reichsgau Danzig-Westpreussen	Gau Danzig-Westpreussen
XXI	Reichsgau Wartheland	Gau Wartheland

Shown below are two examples of NSDAP mail referencing Party District designations.

Top - NSDAP meter postmark on cover sent Feb. 2, 1935 from office of the 'Gauleiter' (District Leader) of Schwaben which was located in Augsburg.

Bottom - Printed cover sent to firm in Pfeddersheim in Nov. '43 from the 'Kreisdienststelle' (County Office) of the 'Kraft durch Freude' (Strength Through Joy) in Worms, which was in the 'Gau' (District) Hessen-Nassau. The 3 Pfg. Party Official stamp indicates that letter contained printed matter.



BOOK REVIEW

by Rene Chavez

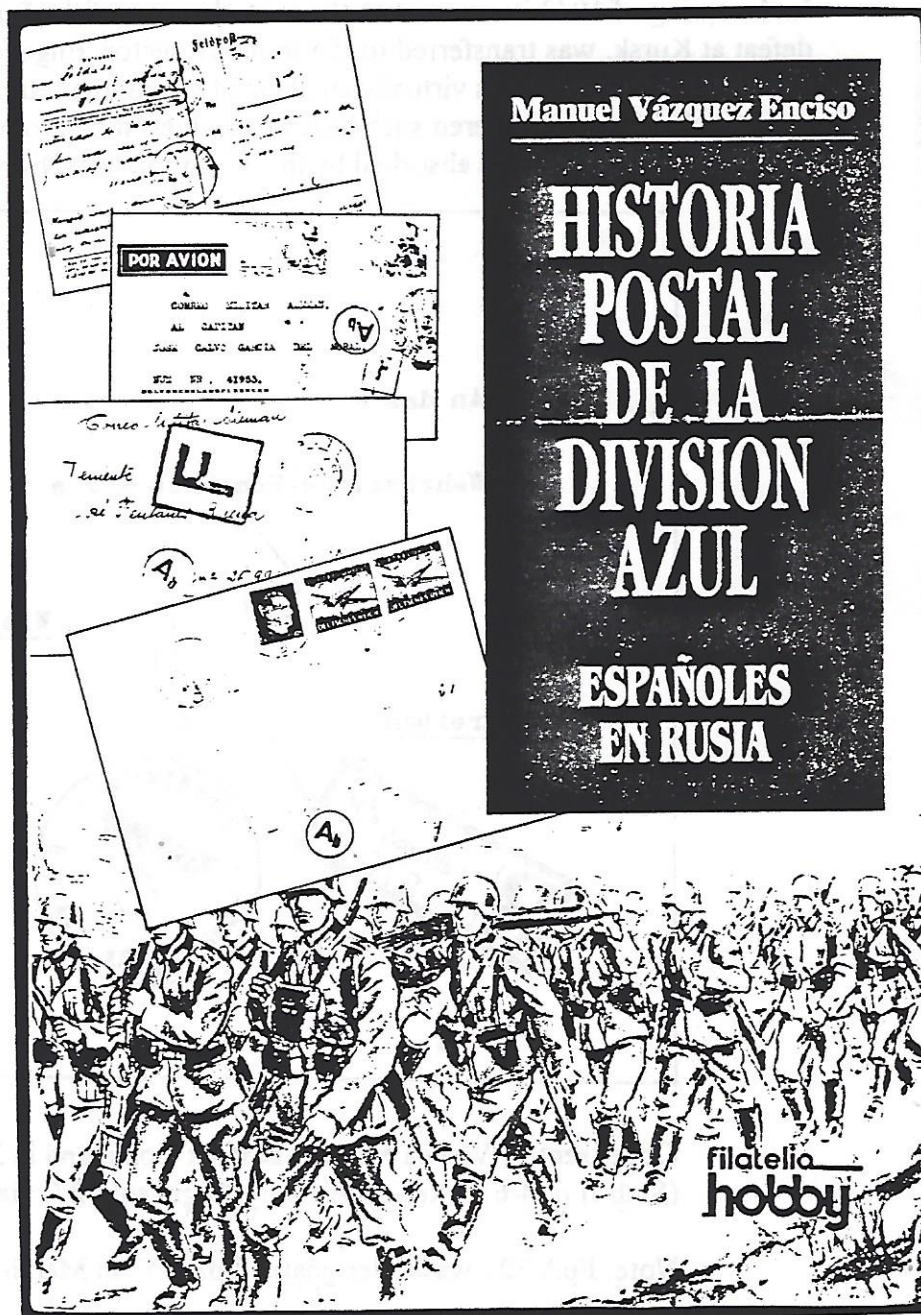
There is a new book published in Spain titled "HISTORIA POSTAL DE LA DIVISION AZUL, ESPAÑOLES EN RUSIA" (Postal History of the Blue Division, Spaniards in Russia) which is written by Mr. Manuel Vazquez Enciso, a well-known Spanish philatelist. Although written in Spanish, this book is easy to follow and contains hundreds of postal covers which were mailed by Blue Division, Spanish Legion and Blue Squadron members including a rare cover from a Spanish SS volunteer which was mailed from Berlin on April 28, 1945.

The military and postal history is presented in chronological order from the initial formation of the Blue Division until its final withdrawal from the Eastern Front. The book also includes all of the assigned Feldpost numbers of the Blue Division and Spanish Legion. I highly recommend this book to all serious military postal history collectors. If TRSG members are interested, the book can be ordered from

Fundacion Division Azul
Alonso Cano
66 bajos
28003 Madrid, Spain
Attn: Cesar Ibanez.

Since the book is sent by surface (ship) mail, it will require approximately three to four weeks to reach a U.S. destination.

Payment must be by International Money Order (available at any Post Office). In addition, the Fundacion Division Azul can mail you a price listing of other books relating to the Spanish Blue Division.



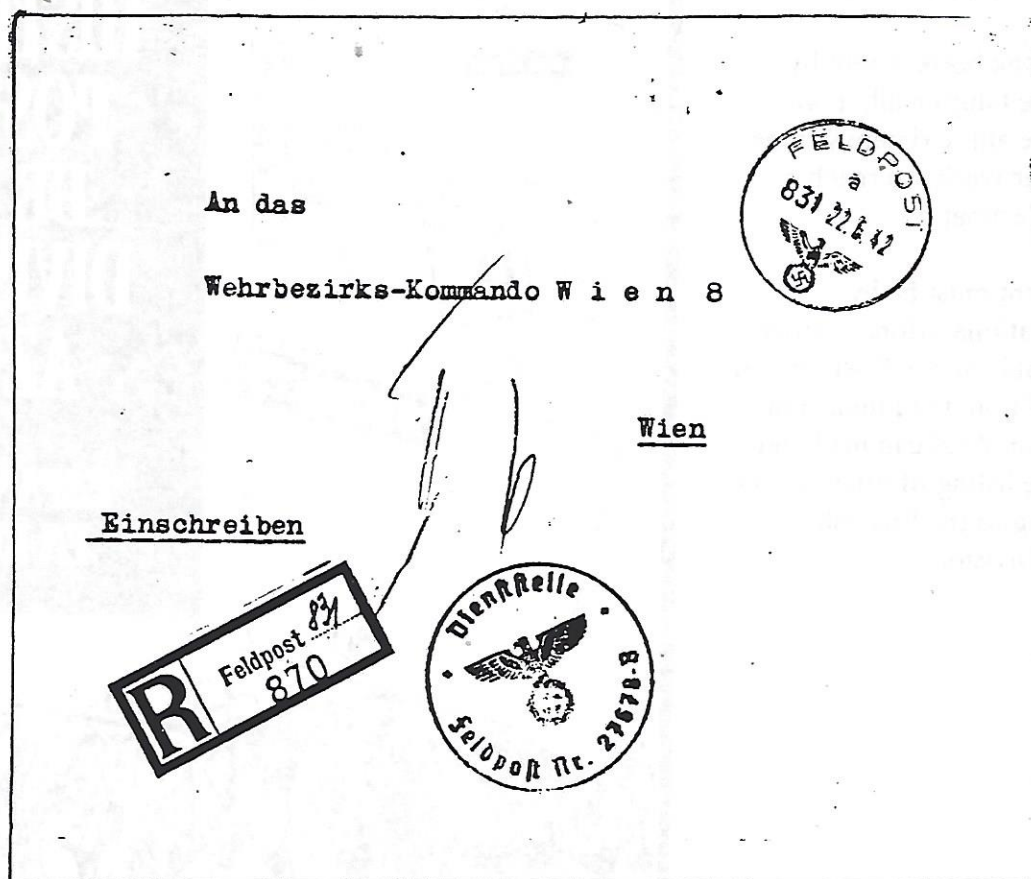
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:**327th Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
327	831	595	596	597	327	327

The 327th Infantry Division was formed in Austria in late 1940 and was sent to eastern France in the fall of 1941. It spent most of 1942 at La Rochelle in southwestern France and took part in the occupation of Vichy France in November 1942.

In the spring of 1943 it was sent to the central sector of the Russian Front and, after the German defeat at Kursk, was transferred to the southern sector. Engaged in very heavy fighting in the Ukraine, the division was virtually annihilated during the retreat from Kiev. Because the 327th Infantry division had suffered such heavy casualties, it had to be disbanded on November 2, 1943. The survivors were absorbed by the 377th Infantry Division

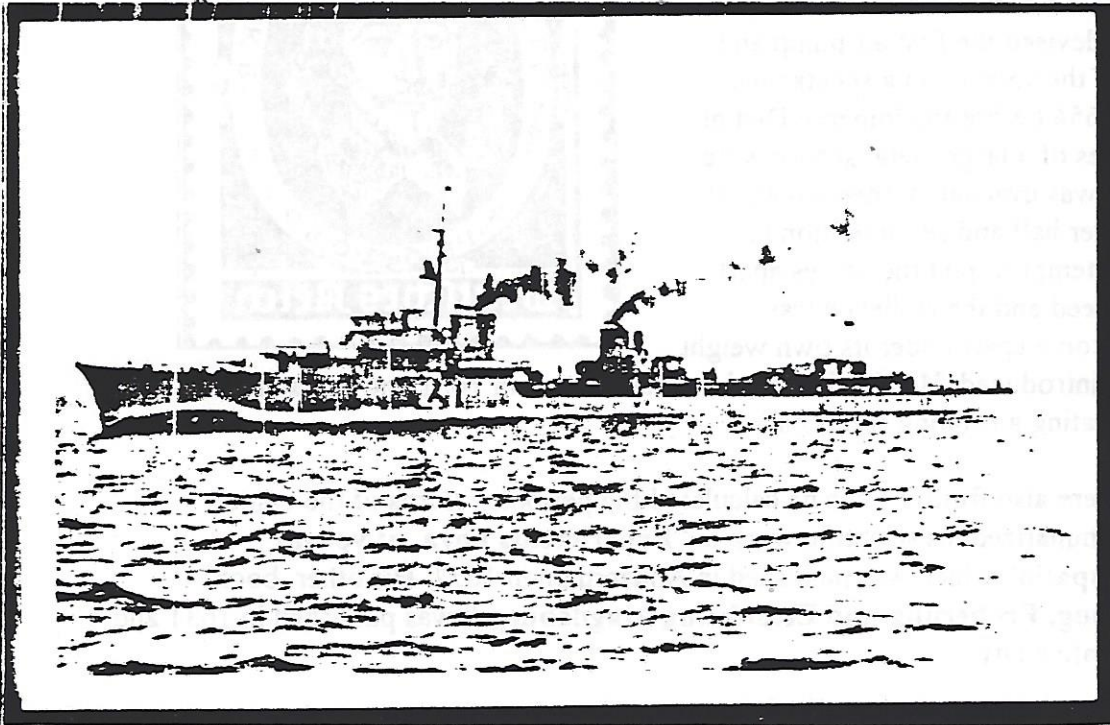
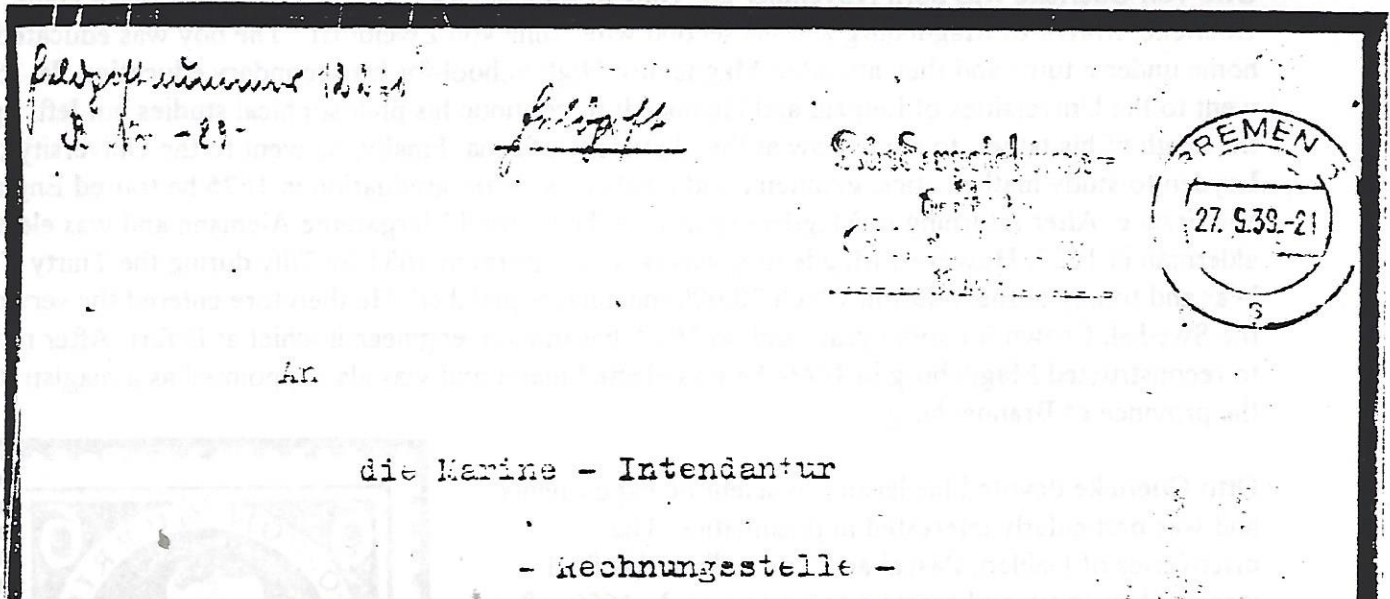


Cover sent to Vienna Military District Command in June 1942 from Fp. # 27678 (Stab II u. 4-6 Batteries/ Artillery Regiment 327) via P.O. 327 (K-831).

Note: FpA 327 was redesignated FpA 357 in March 1944 but retained Kenn 831.

Navy Log

Destroyer Z-22 "Anton Schmitt" - Feldpost # 12260



The last of six "von Roeder" (Destroyer Type 1936 - Z17-22) class ships. Built by AG Weser (Bremen), launched September 20 16, 1939. Displacement: 2,171 tons; Speed: 38 knots; Crew: 323; Armament: five 5" (5 x 1), four 37mm A.A. (2 x 2) guns; eight 21" torpedo tubes.

Torpedoed and sunk by Royal Navy destroyers on April 10, 1940 during the first battle of Narvik.

Cover with Bremen slogan cancel dated September 27, 1939.

Story Behind the Stamp: Otto von Guericke

by Kelly Stefanacci

Otto von Guericke was born November 20, 1602 at Magdeburg in Saxony. He was son of Hans Guericke, Mayor of Magdeburg and his second wife Anna von Zweidorff. The boy was educated at home under a tutor and then attended Magdeburg High School for his secondary education. In 1617 he went to the Universities of Leipzig and Helmstedt to continue his philosophical studies but left, upon the death of his father, to study Law at the University of Jena. Finally, he went to the University of Leyden to study mathematics, geometry and mechanics. After graduation in 1626 he toured England and France. After returning to Magdeburg in 1626 he married Margarethe Alemann and was elected an alderman in 1627. However, Magdeburg was taken by storm in 1631 by Tilly during the Thirty Years' War and totally burned, during which 30,000 inhabitants perished. He therefore entered the service of the Swedish Crown for some years and, in 1630, became the engineer-in-chief at Erfurt. After returning to reconstructed Magdeburg in 1646, he was elected major and was also appointed as a magistrate of the province of Brandenburg.

Otto Guericke devoted his leisure to scientific experiments and was particularly interested in pneumatics. The discoveries of Galileo, Pascal and Torricelli in this field inspired him to try and create a true vacuum. In 1650, after much experimentation, he devised the first air pump and demonstrated the power of the vacuum in a spectacular experiment performed in 1654 before the Imperial Diet at Regensburg. The two halves of a large metal sphere were held together while the air was evacuated, then a team of horses was attached to either half and set in motion in opposite directions in an attempt to pull the halves apart. Naturally they did not succeed and the audience was mystified to see the globe come apart under its own weight the moment that air was reintroduced. He also invented the manometer in 1661 and devised an electrical machine incorporating a rotating sulfur ball.



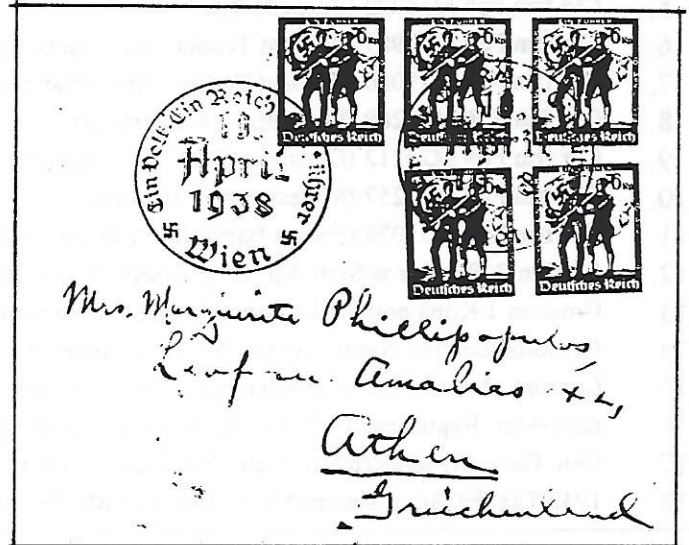
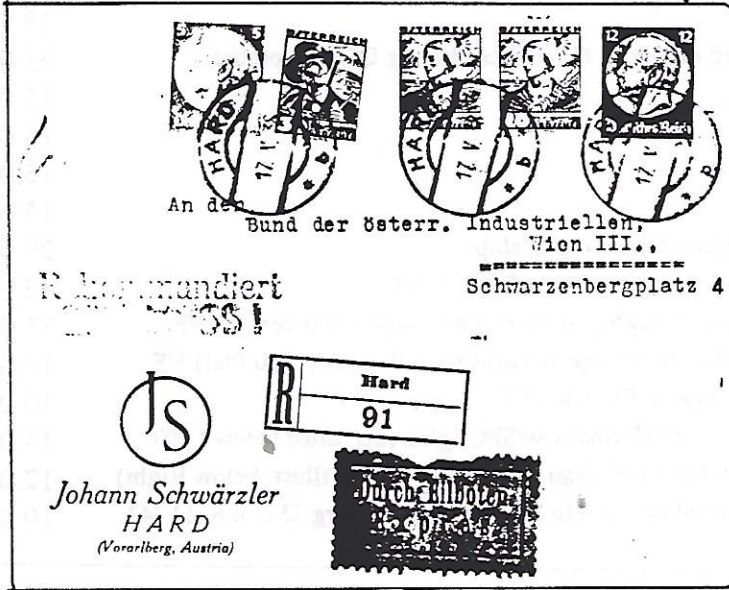
His astronomical studies were also fruitful since he calculated the periodic returns of the comet successfully. In 1663 he summarized his scientific work in "**Experimenta nova, ut vocant, Magdeburgica de vacuo spatio**" which was published in Amsterdam in 1672. His other book "**Geschichte der Belagerung, Eroberung und Zerstörung Magdeburgs**" was published in 1631 and described the siege of his native city.

Otto Guericke resigned his mayoralty in 1681 and retired to Hamburg where he died on May 11, 1686.

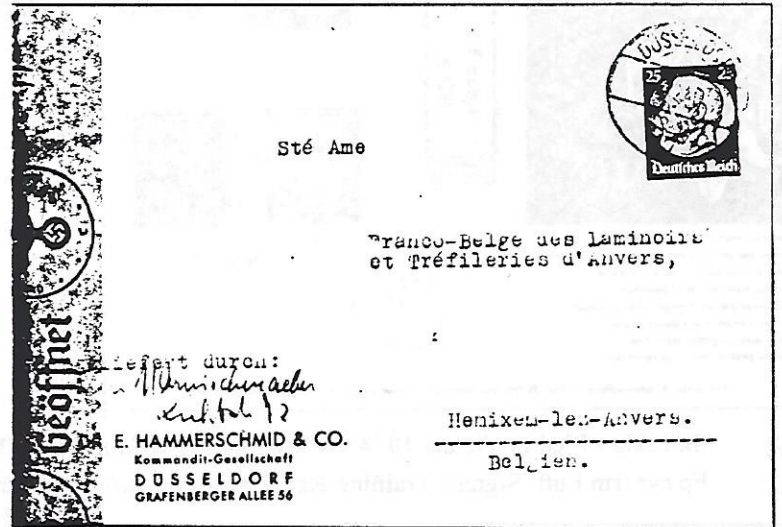
A 6 Pfg. green stamp designed by R. Klein (Mi. 608) depicting Otto Guericke was issued on May 4, 1936 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of his death.

ED NOTE: If you enjoyed this article and would like to know "the story" about other people or places which appear on Third Reich stamps, please send your requests to Ye Olde Ed.

Lot	Description	Min. Bid
21.	Value cvr w/105 RM postage to Luftwaffe HQ Berlin sent 7. '43 (Front only but VF) See Bulletin Cover	\$15.00
22.	Official cvr w/Iron Cross slogan can. Berlin 4.'42 VF (See illus. Fig. 7 on p.12 in Bulletin 118)	13.00
23.	Early Feldpost card (Δ C 154) frm Fp # 09109 (2. Medical Co. 19) w/Feldpost can. Nov. 11, 1939. VF	10.00
24.	Winter Relief Charity postal cd (Borek 262.6) w/SPC 8.25.39 Angerburg 11. Yr. Ice Boating Race. Bedarfs VF	10.00
25.	Austria Anschluss - Bedarfs cvr to Greece w/5 Mi. 663 tied SPC 4.10.38 Vienna. VF (See illust.below Right)	14.00
26.	Same, Comm. R-Express cvr w/mixed German/Austrian postage tied. Hard cans 5.17.38 (See illust.below Left)	19.00



27.	Comm. cvr to occupied Belgium 7.'40, Cologne censor tape & h/stmps (reverse). (See illust.below Right)	15.00
28.	Exp.cd frm Wein to Army Garrison 4.'43 w/scarce "Forward as 'Armed Forces Matter" (See illust.below Left)	14.00



29.	Bedarfs postal cd Hitler/Hindenburg (Borek 221) w/Stuttgart "Luftschutz" slogan can 9.21.34. VF	10.00
30.	Bedarfs Hitler postal cd w/slogan (Borek 310 VIII) frm Saar to Denmark 3.'44. Hamburg censor h/s F	10.00
31.	2. Kreigs WHW postal cd (Borek 284) w/SPC NürnbergTag der Brief. 1.12.'41 (Radio Operator) VF	10.00
32.	Bedarfs R-cvr to Graz w/Vienna Fair (Mi. 768-71) + Mi. 517 tied Innsbruck cans. 4.'42. VF Exhibit Quality!	12.00
33.	Two cvrs: 1) Mi. 652-3,660 & 662 cans. Woldstein 4.'35, 2) Mi. 764 (pr), 765 & 786 cans Zethau 3.'41 VF	12.00
34.	R-cvr to USA w/Mi.529-31 & 533 tied Waldenburg cans 5.'36. Reverse has currency control tape & beautiful grey early propaganda label "Rheinland und Ruhrgebiet in Not!". Bedarfs & Very Fine.	18.00

PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 73 IS MAY 24, 1996

SEND ALL BIDS TO: JIM LEWIS, 111 MONTROSS AVE., RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070