

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin
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CONTENTS:

1 Editorial

2 The Double-Circle-with-Date-Bridge Cancel of the German
Feldpost, from March 1939 (A Postmark Study for Collectors)
by Norbert Kannapin

3 Prisoner of War Mail-Canada (Part II), continued
by Lt.-Col. L. W. Sharpe

7 German Field Post Operations in the West
D. The Occupation of France, continued
by John W. Painter

Editorial

Bulletin No. 1, of the 1974-1975 season is here. Definite printing dates for these issues have been impossible to establish. It was suggested by the TRSG Board that those who have paid their membership dues each year, will receive four (4) Bulletins for each payment. Our Treasurer has a record of Bulletins dispersed, and be assured, all annually paid up members will receive their four Bulletins.

A membership renewal form is enclosing this issue. We are trying a different mailing method, to try and cut down on the ever climbing postage fees.

Dues are again due, and we are keeping the fee to \$2.00 which includes Third Class Mailing. Please return your renewal forms as soon as possible to Mr. Houston, along with your dues payment. The renewal forms of those who have already paid their 1975 dues will be marked accordingly.

We just completed our first TRSG Auction. Apologies for the short bidding time, especially those who received Third Class Mailing. We will extend the bidding time in the future, to allow for greater member participation. The bidding was strong and there was a lot of interest. Results will published as soon as they are available. Please get your duplicate material to Fred Stengel our auctioneer, for TRSG Auction No. 2. Thanks to those who sent in material and to those who sent in bids.

Thank you for your continued support. From Myron, Bob, and yours truly, we would like to extend to you our best wishes for a successful and Happy New Year.

The Double-Circle-with-Date-Bridge Cancel
of the German Feldpost, from March 1939

A Postmark Study for Collectors

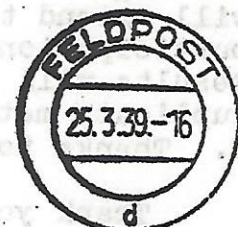
by Norbert Kannapin

(translated by Sigrid and James Doe)

Just as during the German Armed Forces maneuvers in September 1937, the entry into Austria in March 1938 and the entry into the Sudetenland in October 1938, the German Feldpost again took up its work during the occupation of Czechoslovakia in March 1939. In addition to the 28mm circle postmark used in the past, a double-circle/date-bridge postmark was used in Czechoslovakia for the first time. The measurements were: outer circle 29mm, inner circle 19mm, date-bridge height 9mm, and inscribed "FELDPOST" in the top segment of the concentric circles.

In the publication Kleine Handbuch der deutschen Feldpost 1937-1945 (Little Handbook for German Feldpost 1937-1945) by Alfred Clement, Graz, West Germany), this postmark is illustrated with the identification letter "f" under number 508c. At this time, apparently only the postmark with the identification letter "f" was known. Now, after about 35 years, it has been discovered that not only the letter "f" exists, but the letters "a", "b", "c" and "d". Accordingly, the logical sequence of identifications letters "a" to "f" must exist, and possibly even more. According to my own copies, I can determine that there were different types of these postmarks used. They can be identified by the word "Feldpost". The postmarks with identification letters "a" and "b" appear to have the word "Feldpost" in fine letters, and these letters are very close together. The word "Feldpost" in the postmark with identification letter "d" stretches from the beginning to the end of the date-bridge upper line. In this postmark, the printing of the word "Feldpost" is crude and the letter "P" has a large loop. Also the letter "S" is printed in a wide sweeping manner. For the "d" postmarks that I am acquainted with, the time is shown as 1600 (4 p.m.) and for the "a" and "b" postmarks, the time shown is 1800 (6 p.m.).

I also noticed that there is a striking similarity between the "d" postmark and the later Danzig-Feldpost postmark. I have not uncovered postmarks with the other identification letters. For this reason I would be grateful for an original or a copy of these postmarks. There is no doubt that during the course of the years, still more varieties of these postmarks will become known. (Registrations may be sent directly to N. Kannapin, D-221 Itzehoe, Karolinger Strasse 5, West Germany; or to Myron Fox, P.O. Box 283, Needham Heights, Mass. 02194).



PRISONER OF WAR MAIL--CANADA

By Lt.-Col. L. W. Sharpe, E.D., Q.C. (#395)

Part II

Continued from TRSG Bulletin Whole No. 33

This breakdown I intend to use, including in each class of course, where they exist, the classes suggested in the first break-down.

Actually all stationery described here is really "official" as it was once given to them to use, confined to their use only. The stationery, etc., used by others is described elsewhere; that is, that used departmentally, by service personnel, etc.

Unless otherwise stated it was prepared by the Canadian Government or under its authority. Its use was confined to internees and enemy P.O.W. confined within the then boundaries of the Dominion of Canada. As mentioned above, at least in the early days, ordinary everyday stationery was at times used. This class will be included and what is known of it described.

It has not been possible to get together what I am satisfied is a complete check list of all types, sub-types and printings. Where such information is available it is given. I am satisfied however, all major classes are listed and described in some detail.

You will see later special reference to that used, and in some instances specifically prepared, for Fredericton, N.B. I have not been able to get a full story on this. Fredericton Internment Camp was one of the earlier ones. Originally it was called Camp "B", later #70. All items specifically so designated I have seen are in the years 1942 and 1943. There is no doubt in so designating the camp they were given a privilege not accorded others; why I do not know. From some covers I have seen you would gather they were almost "a law unto themselves". In other instances covers coming from there have quite apparently been dealt with in the ordinary way via B.A.P.O. in Ottawa. All covers I have seen, however, definitely designate Fredericton as origin, not B.A.P.O., with regard to return address.

(II) Envelopes

In the matter of general correspondence envelopes were the first used. I have seen no evidence of the use of ordinary postcards in the early days. The exception, if it can be so called, is the card, later described, used as notice of internment under the Defence of Canada Regulations. Notification regarding a P.O.W. was handled differently under the Geneva Convention, spoken of earlier. Later, when the folder or letter sheet made its appearance the use of envelopes greatly diminished; in fact, all but ceased except for special letters enclosing wills, etc., allowed under special regulations concerning such items.

During the first days no doubt envelopes of all sizes and kinds were used. One example of this is (Figure 6) an ordinary white envelope. I presume ordinary writing paper was used for the letter.

P.O.W. Mail-Canada, continued.

Postal censorship and other markings will be dealt with in some detail in another part of these notes. Perhaps, however, I might somewhat describe this cover here.

It is an ordinary white wove envelope $4\frac{1}{2}$ "x $6\frac{1}{2}$ ". It has been censored both by the postal censors (label) and Internment Operations Branch of the Department of Secretary of State, under whose control internees and P.O.W. were at this time (#9 etc. in a circle). All censorship took place at Ottawa. The cancellation is the ordinary "Free" in use at that time. This was not necessary-no P.O.W. mail ever required a postmark, only evidence of censorship. In earlier days this cancelling was often done, usually at General Post Office, Ottawa. Instances are known of the regular cancellation on early P.O.W. mail. This letter was cleared via the B.A.P.O. at Ottawa. It originated from camp "E" (later #21) Espanola, Ontario, as shown by typed return address on back "Lagerführung, Internment Camp "E", Base Army Post Office, Ottawa, Canada. The rubber stamp marking P.O.W. mail Free is $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. high and 107mm long (overall). This type of rubber stamp marking and similar ones, seldom in any other color than a reddish purple, were used until the printed type made its appearance. After that they were still valid of course and used on some occasions. Printed envelopes always in black.

The most common kind of printed envelope and, I understand, the only one issued, was an ordinary manila $6\frac{1}{2}$ " x $3\frac{5}{8}$ " (Figure 7). It actually was the same as used largely by many government departments, especially the armed services. Its use continued during both the jurisdiction of the Department of Secretary of State and the Department of National Defence. These were used for ordinary first class mail (letters); I have never seen it used for airmail. No enclosures other than the letter were permitted. The envelope had the usual gummed flap, but the P.O.W. was not permitted to seal it. The sealing was done after censorship by that official. The envelope is plain on the back. The printing on the front is 4mm. high. I have no information, in detail, as to the number printed, types, sub-types or printings. The number used likely ran to many, many thousands.

The list following this paragraph gives some types and printings I have been able to identify. In the list "P.O.W. Mail" and "Free" are in all cases 4mm. high and in line with each other. The dates given are as close as I have been able to determine from used copies. They vary slightly in shade and texture of paper; size in all instances is $6\frac{1}{2}$ "x $3\frac{5}{8}$ ".

Type I. Line under printing 1mm. from letters, ends even with "L" in "Mail" and is quite thin. "F" in "Free" is 24mm. from "L" in "Mail". At lower left corner legend "I.O. 23", is 3mm. high. (Could be first printing of printed envelopes). General appearance as (Figure 7), 1940.

Type II.
Printing (a) Line under printing $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from letters, ends even with "L" in "Mail" and is thick ($\frac{1}{2}$ mm.), about twice line in type I. "F" in "Free" is $27\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from "L" in "Mail". General appearance as (Figure 7), 1941.

P.O.W. Mail-Canada, continued.

- Printing (b) Line under printing 1mm from letters, ends $\frac{1}{2}$ mm short under "L" in "Mail". Width line as (a). "F" in "Free" 28mm from "L" in "Mail". General appearance as (Figure 7)1942.
- (c) Line under printing 2mm from letters, ends even with "L" in "Mail" and thick as (a) above. "F" in "Free" is $27\frac{1}{2}$ mm from "L" in "Mail". General appearance as (Figure 7)1943.
- (d) Line under printing 1mm from letters runs beyond "L" in "Mail" $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm and thick as (a) above. "F" in "Free" is $28\frac{1}{2}$ mm from "L" in "Mail". This is (Figure 7) 1946.

(III) Cards

These consist of two classes. The regular cards for correspondence referred to as the "4-a-month allowance class". These are all printed, regularly issued to P.O.W. and internees. I have found no evidence of any ordinary cards being used for correspondence. The other class is special-purpose cards. These comprise such special cards as notice of internment previously mentioned, Christmas cards, etc.

(a) Regular Cards

(1) White

There is little doubt the first card issued for P.O.W. and internee correspondence was what might be called an ordinary white card. There was no doubt more than one of these and in some instances more than one printing of a type. White cards continued in use, concurrently with the manila kind (II) below. They, it appears, continued in general use up to and after the issue of the first greenish card (III) below, about the middle of 1943. All white cards, in fact all regular cards are $5\frac{7}{8}$ " x $3\frac{5}{8}$ " approximate. The dates given are as close as I have been able to determine from used copies, etc.

In the list below some types and printings I have been able to determine are given. In all cases unless noted, "P.O.W. Mail" and "Free" are 4mm high and in line with each other. Printing is black unless otherwise noted.

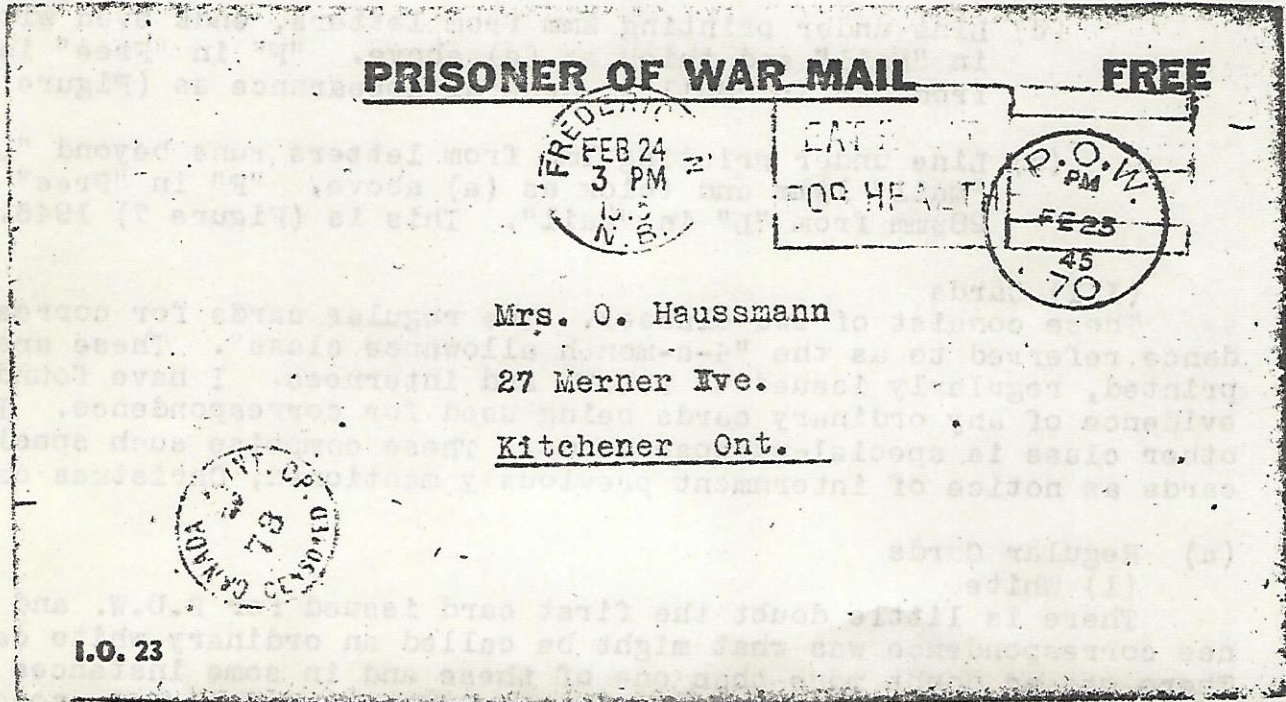
Type I.

Printing (a) (Figure 8) could be first card issued. Use of local cancellation "Petawawa" unusual and contrary to regulations. Plain on back for message. Smooth finish cardboard. Line 1mm from words, "L" and "F" 15mm apart. September 20th, 1940.
Printing (b) Same as (a) above except "L" and "F" 16mm apart. October 1941.

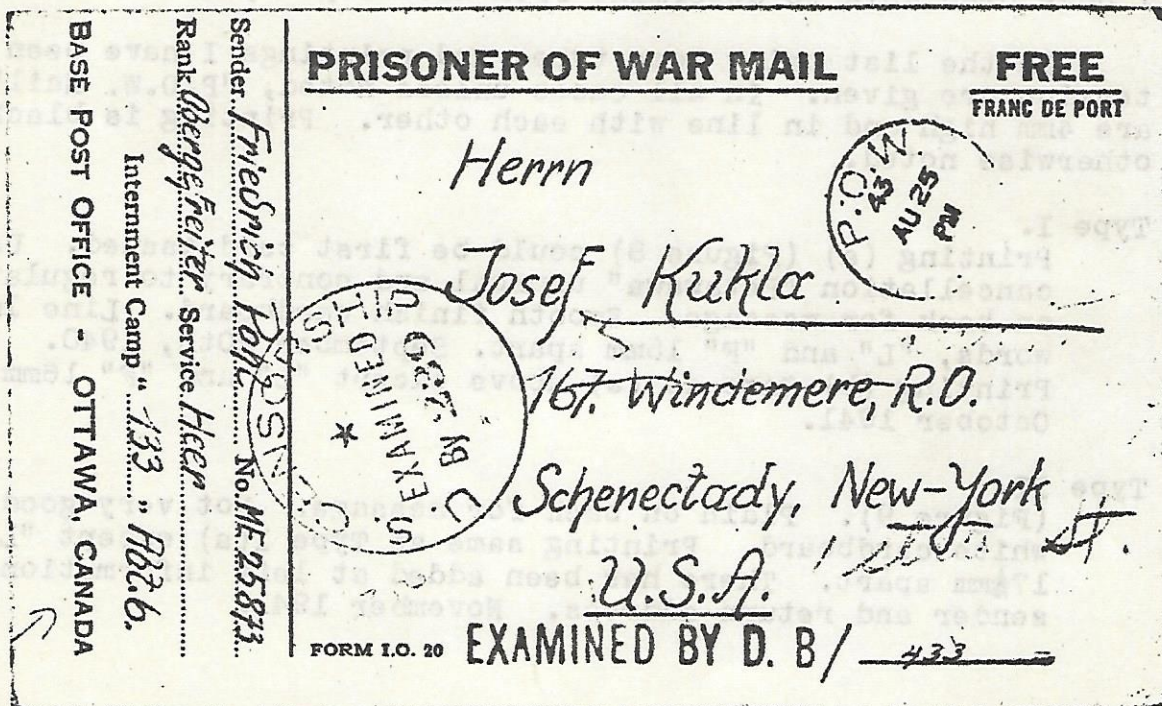
Type II.

(Figure 9). Plain on back for message. Not very good quality white cardboard. Printing same as Type I(a) except "L" and "F" $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm apart. There has been added at left information as to sender and return address. November 1941.

P.O.W. Mail-Canada, continued.



(Fig. 7)-Ordinary envelope used for use of P.O.W. Type I, with "Form I.O. 23" legend.



(Similar to Fig. 9) White Postcard Type III, with "Form I.O. 20" legend.

Continued from TRSG Whole No's. 30, 31, 32, 33, 1973.

GERMAN FIELD POST OPERATIONS IN THE WEST
1940-1944

by John W. Painter

(Correction in (OB West) numbering sequence, Bul. Whole No. 33, 1973; Please change to read; Page 41 (OB West 17), Page 42 (OB West 18), Page 43 (OB West 19), Page 44 (OB West 20).

D. THE OCCUPATION OF FRANCE, continued from Whole No. 33, 1973.

In addition the Luftgaupostamt PARIS reported it was servicing an additional 1,400 Luftwaffe fieldpost numbers of which 303 were in the city of Paris itself. As of April 1, 1941 the APM of Paris controlled 3 Armeebriefstellen and 30 stationary fieldpost offices plus 28 branches of these offices.

At the end of 1943 the same office reported the stationary fieldpost network was serving a total of 6,586 units. The average number of fieldpost numbers served during 1943 was 4,149. At this time the number of offices and branches under his jurisdiction had increased to 70; 35 offices and 35 branches. A translation of this report is found in Annex

(Source Microcopy T-311 Roll 14).

As the network of stationary fieldpost offices was expanded the Army Postmaster found it necessary to set up additional offices in Paris to serve the growing German establishment.

On August 15, 1940 a letter assembly office (Briefbundstelle) was established in the Vaugirard Railroad Station for the southern group of Armies (2, 4, 6, 7, 9). Several days earlier a special fieldpost office FpA 395 (K-654) was moved into the district to process mail from and to the almost one million French prisoners of war in German POW camps.

LUFTWAFFE MAIL

For mail to and from the Luftwaffe, a special Luftgaupostamt PARIS was formed on August 20, 1940 with a staff of 80 men from air force supply units. On September 22, 1940, Feldpostamt 280 was sent to the Luftgaupostamt to augment its staff which was found to be too small for the tasks assigned to it. What probably happened was that the Luftwaffe learned that most of the new work being given to the airforce postal unit was being generated by army service units so they insisted that the additional personnel be provided by the Army. Not even the German military was exempt from bureaucratic disputes.

Mail addressed to Luftwaffe units serviced by Lgpa PARIS, which included the area occupied by elements of the 3rd Air Fleet and the complete territory of the Luftgaukommando West Frankreich, was collected by the Reichspost and sent directly, via express trains, to Paris. There

it was sorted according to the fieldpost number by the Lgpa: First by 10,000's, then by 1,000's and finally by the unit number. The number of Luftwaffe fieldpost numbers varied between 1,400 in 1940 to well over 2,500 in 1943. The routing of mail to specific units is explained in the next paragraph.

Because they were organized differently, the Luftwaffe required a Postal system different from the army. Many airforce units were of company size or smaller and could not logically support their own post office. In addition many of the units would be spread out over a large geographical area, often at remote airfields or radar sites. Whatever system they developed however, had to mesh in with the existing Army postal system. Mail addressed to airforce units was identified with the prefix 'L' and in addition to the 5-digit fieldpost number, a particular Luftgaupostamt was noted. Since these air district post offices covered not only Germany but also the occupied lands, no problem was experienced in forwarding mail to these units. Mail addressed to Lgpa PARIS was sent to that office in direct sacks and worked by the clerks of the Lgpa. After sorting by specific fieldpost numbers (3 sortings were necessary), the clerk would look at routing in the Luftwaffe edition of the Feldpostübersicht. Each fieldpost number was identified in one of three ways:

1. Open Address (used in the Reich and some occupied areas).
2. Kenn Number.
3. A specific Luftgaupostamt (such as Paris or Breslau).

There was no problem in delivering mail addressed to either type 1 or 2, however a separate postal system was required to effect delivery for type 3 addresses. In occupied France this was initially accomplished through the Luftwaffe transportation section which ran a courier service to most out of the way places. Since it was so irregular however, most units elected to pick up their own mail at the Luftgaupostamt. This arrangement proved too cumbersome so the following scheme was worked out. The Lgpa kept an up to date listing of all Luftwaffe units stationed in its area. After sorting, the letters would be removed from the sorting case and tied together with a facing slip on top. The clerk would then write on the facing slip, one of the following; a Kenn number if the unit was served by a regular Fpa, the town name if no military post offices were nearby, in which case the mail was put into a sack and sent via rail or truck to the designated unit. The third type was for units stationed nearby. Mail addressed to these units would be bundled together and held for pick up by the unit involved. Since mail was considered a priority item, this usually happened daily.

LUFTWAFFE GROUND ORGANIZATION IN THE WEST

Within western Europe, the Luftwaffe established four Luftgaukommandos. Within these commands the base elements necessary to support air operations. Directly subordinate to the Luftgau was the Regional Airdrome Command (called Flughafen Bereich). They were set up to control the various airfields and the many necessary support units required to service combat air forces. They include gasoline, truck and Luftwaffe building companies, signal units, radar installations

and the like. When required, flying units could move into an area for a specific operation and could then quickly move on to another location if needed elsewhere. Before the invasion in 1944 there were over 300,000 Luftwaffe personnel involved in staffing the ground support organizations in France and Belgium. It should be noted in passing, that the antiaircraft units (FLAK) which were part of the airforce were often located in permanent installations and were often manned by auxiliary personnel such as Flakhelfer, Flakhelferin, RAD Flak Units and even foreigners. (Flak; antiaircraft gun, antiaircraft artillery (originally abbr. of Flugabwehrkanone; now used as an independent word. Ed.). Mail from these individuals can often be identified by their titles or rank written in front of their name.

Luftgau Nederland	Flughafen Bereich	6/III	Gilze Rijen (North)
	Flughafen Bereich	2/III	Schiphol (South)

Luftgau Belgien-Nordfrankreich

Flughafen Bereich	22/XI	Brüssel
Flughafen Bereich	10/XI	Gent
Flughafen Bereich	19/XI	Beauvais

Luftgau West Frankreich

Flughafen Bereich	9/XI	Paris
Flughafen Bereich	8/VII	Caen
Flughafen Bereich	1/XII	Metz
Flughafen Bereich	4/XII	Chartres
Flughafen Bereich	2/XIII	Oreleans
Flughafen Bereich	4/VII	Melun
Flughafen Bereich	5/XII	Bordeaux

Luftgau Sudfrankreich (After November 1942)

Flughafen Bereich	1/VII	Carcassonne
Flughafen Bereich	6/XI	Salon

At this time it may be well to note that the Luftwaffe had several other types of units that although were staffed mainly with airforce personnel they had their own Field Post Offices. They were the parachute divisions and the Luftwaffe Feld Divisionen. From the initial one parachute in 1941 (7th Flieger Division) the number expanded to six by 1944 and in the closing months of the war in 1945 the Luftwaffe laid claim to a total of eleven parachute divisions. It should be noted that many of these units formed in 1945 were of regimental or brigade strength. As far as I know, covers bearing the kenn number used by these units in 1945, have yet to be seen.

The other formations are the Luftwaffe Feld Divisionen. Formed from surplus personnel in 1942 they initially numbered 22 divisions. However their lack of ground combat training and supporting arms soon caused them to suffer heavy losses. In January of 1944 the remaining units were transferred to the army where they were filled out with many experienced personnel. During the period covered by this study, 3 of these units were located in the west. They were the 16th (K-), 17th (K-389) and 18th (K-506) Luftwaffe Feld Divisionen.

Another special Luftwaffe ground combat division also existed and was used in southern France during 1943 and 1944. Called the "Herman Göring Panzer Parachute Division", it served as part of the mobile reserve of the Wehrmacht. The unit first appeared as a division in the Tunisian campaign where it lost all of its equipment and many of its personnel. Reformed in Italy in May and June, 1943 it was used as part of the mobile panzer force to counter threatened areas of Europe. Its field post office carried the number FpA 921 and used the same Kenn number from the period 1942 through 1945 (K-822).

GERMAN ADMINISTRATION OF PARIS

The capital of France was given special status during the occupation. It was called "Gross Paris" and consisted originally of the two departments surrounding the city. During 1942, its size was reduced to coincide with the city limits but it still retained its own administrative staff.

The Kommandant of Gross Paris was headquartered on the Rue de Rivoli #228. Security for the city itself was initially provided by the 36th Infantry Division (Kenn 364) from July of 1940 until the administrative measures required by the occupation became operative in March, 1941. At that time 12 Local Defense Rifle Battalions (Landeschützen Btl.) were moved into the Paris area under the administrative control of three guard (Wach) regiments, numbered one, two and three. They replaced the regiments of the 36th Division. In early 1942, the guard units were renamed Security Regiments.

On August 18, 1942 these three regiments were formed into the 325 Security Division. A fourth regiment (the 180th) was added a short time later to beef up the garrison and provide the additional guard details for the many headquarters units stationed in the city. Under the command of General Freiherr von Boineburg-Lengsfeld, this unit was not a regular combat division. It lacked the necessary motor transport and supply services needed to move independently into the field. Its personnel were mostly overage or capable of only limited duty who could not stand up to regular close combat duty. Much of its equipment was captured war booty, especially the artillery regiment which had all French guns. As a result of its special status the division had no need of a Feldpostamt, as its postal services were provided by the stationary post offices located within the city.

Feldpost Offices in Paris

Paris had all four types of fieldpost installations located within its boundaries. During the 1940-1942 period they were:

1. Army Post Masters (APM)
APM beim Mil.Bef. in Frankreich 09 800 (Stationary Units)
APM beim O.B. WEST (H.Gr. "D") (Combat Units)