



# 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  | Those 'Karl Hennig' Covers – J. Lewis                               |
| Page 9  | Special Cancels: Hilfswerk Mutter und Kind Reichsbund – B. Ferguson |
| Page 10 | From My Collection: Postcard from Prague – M. Rauer                 |
| Page 11 | Danish Volunteers in the Waffen-SS - J. Lewis                       |
| Page 16 | Combat Division Profile: 102nd Infantry Division - J. Lewis         |
| Page 17 | Combat Division Profile: 337th Infantry Division - J. Lewis         |
| Page 18 | Waffen SS Feldpost: Estonian Security Battalion – J. Painter        |
| Page 19 | German Censorship: POW Mail Office at Hof – M. Fox                  |
| Page 20 | Combat Division Profile: 321st Infantry Division - J. Lewis         |
| Page 21 | Navy Log: Sail Training Ship 'Horst Wessel' – M. Lynes              |
| Page 22 | Combat Division Profile: 164th Fortress Division - J. Lewis         |
| Page 23 | TRSG Auction # 102 – J. Lewis                                       |



## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**Approval of Third Reich Stamp Designs** – TRSGer Geoff Jamieson wants to know who approved the designs of Third Reich stamps. While he doesn't know the bureaucratic processes of the postal system, he assumes that the Nazi Party had a powerful role in the process of stamp design and approval. He is confident that this was the case for stamps depicting NSDAP celebrations and party organizations, but what about non-party issues such as the Brown Ribbon races, Mozart anniversary, etc. Would such designs required final approval by the Propaganda Ministry and, if so, at what level? At what level were party promotional stamps approved? Finally, did Hitler have final approval for his birthday issuers? Send any info on this subject to your Bulletin Editor so we may publish follow ups on this most interesting inquiry.

**Übungspost** – Edward Leshar discussed “Übungspost (Exercise Mail) 1939” in the TRSG Bulletin 157 and asked several questions. Robert Höhn included a detailed treatment of this subject in his ‘*Feldpost vor dem II. Weltkrieg 1936-1939*’ *Postgeschichte-Handbuch* published by Poststempelgilde e. V. in 1995 as its Heft 143. Höhn lists the various military organizations or units involved with their Feldpost numbers. Mail from the 1939 exercises is fairly scarce, but not rare, judging by listings in German auction catalogs. The examples of such mail in my collection suggest that there was confusion about soldiers having a free franking privilege before September 3, 1939, the official beginning of World War II Feldpost activity. The entire Höhn book is highly informative and essential for the Feldpost collector. *Submitted by Ben Beede.*

**Why so much Feldpost is from the Eastern Front** – “Every mile of front on which Americans and British fought, every German soldier deployed in the west, was multiplied three-or four-fold in the east. The disparity in casualties suffered and inflicted during the last year of the war, when the Western allies were fighting in northwest Europe, was even greater. Eisenhower's armies suffered some 700,000 casualties-killed, wounded and taken prisoner between D-Day and the end; the Russians suffered well over two million during the same period. Between June 1941 and December 1944, Germany lost 2.4 million battlefield dead on the Eastern Front, against 212,000 killed fighting the Americans and British in North Africa, Italy and Northwest Europe together. The conflict between the Red Army and the Wehrmacht dwarfed the western campaign in scale, intensity and savagery”  
*Armageddon* by Max Hastings, Macmillan Press, London 2004

### Prices Realized -Auction # 101

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
2	\$ 20.00	10	\$12.00	17	\$17.00	37	\$12.00	46	\$16.00	58	\$10.00
4	15.00	11	22.00	18	52.00	38	10.00	47	12.00	61	10.00
5	11.00	12	20.00	21	36.00	43	16.00	50	10.00	64	10.00
6	24.00	13	16.00	25	41.00	44	12.00	55	10.00	65	10.00
7	15.00	14	15.00	29	10.00	45	13.00	57	16.00		

**Cover Illustration:** The talented husband & wife team of Werner Heudtlass and Maria von Axster produced some of the best stamp and postal card designs of the Third Reich. We are pleased to offer 22 lots from an award-winning exhibit ‘von Axster-Heudtlass’ in our auction. These items include two of the scarce donor receipts associated with the 1938/39 Winter Charity postal cards. These bear color designs similar to the Jan. & Feb. cards but with added details and are lot 13. Good Hunting!

## Those “Karl Hennig” Covers

by Jim Lewis

The TRSG Staff receives many inquiries, particularly from our newer members, concerning cards and covers addressed to “Karl Hennig, Hamburg 39”. It was not until recently, however, that we became aware that such material was the source of considerable controversy to some of you. The cover shown as Fig. 1 below was one of the lots in a recent TRSG auction. This obviously “philatelic” item dating from the German annexation of the Sudetenland has both the modified town cancel and special “We Thank Our Führer” cachet used in Troppau on October 8, 1938. As this cover was described as philatelic in origin, we were surprised when the successful bidder returned it with a note stating that he would not have bid if he had known that it was a “Hennig” cover. Since it is our policy to accept the return of any lot not properly described, this bidder’s payment was returned.

We subsequently asked a number of members their opinion on such covers. While we received a range of replies, it became apparent that at least some members believe that this material is being fraudulently produced in the Dominican Republic using reprinted postcards and canceling devices smuggled out of Germany after the war.

In order to determine the facts, TRSG Director Myron Fox corresponded with Mr. Werner Hennig regarding the circumstances under which these cards and covers were obtained.

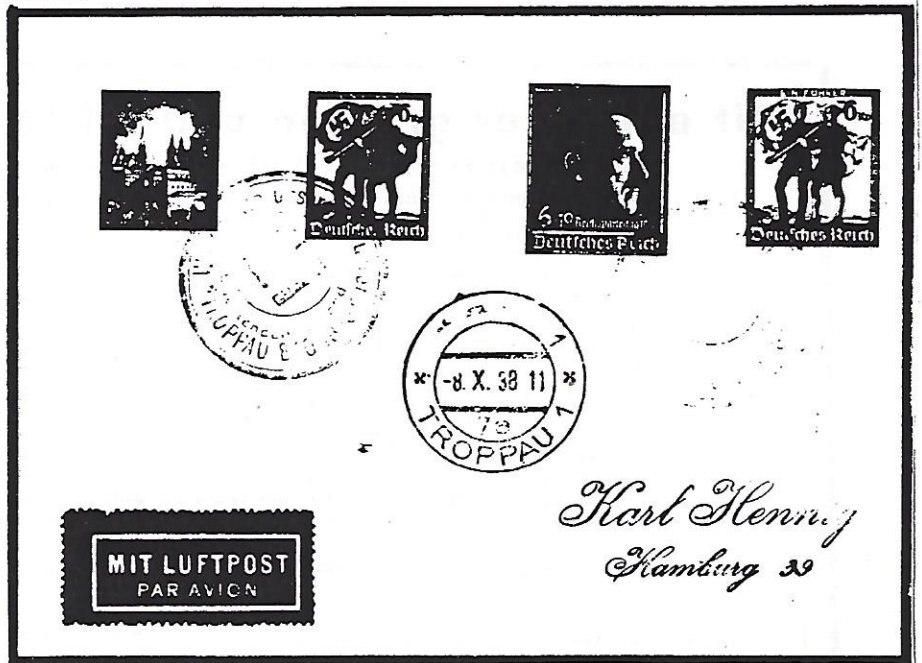


Fig. 1

Based on the information supplied by Mr. Hennig and photocopies of philatelic publications of the Third Reich era, the following is our finding for your comment and consideration.

Karl Hennig founded his philatelic business in 1913 and by 1920 began publication of his newsheet ‘*Philatelistische Mitteilungen*’ (Philatelic News). In the 1930s this firm began to specialize in airmail, creating covers that were flown on DOX, Zeppelin and catapult flights. Mr. Hennig developed a worldwide clientele and participated in TIPEX, the International Philatelic Exhibition held in New York City in 1936.

The annexation of Austria and Sudetenland by Germany provided a field day for philatelists because of the many new stamps and cancels produced to commemorate these events. Many German stamp dealers, including Karl Hennig, arranged for favor cancelled self-addressed covers & cards that were then offered for sale

The occupation of Poland in September 1939 was followed by the issuance of overprinted German definitive stamps for use in the newly established General Government. A special dispatch office for collector stamps established in Krakow Post Office 3 informed dealers and collectors of new stamp issues and special cancels available from this office. This office processed huge quantities of covers and operated much like our current First Day Cover operations. The Hennig firm obtained large quantities of the GG overprint stamps on postcards and covers.

Member Art Carey provided an advertisement (Fig. 2) that offers for sale both a set of five photo cards views of Hitler visiting the troops in Poland and registered covers, both franked with the overprint stamps.

Fig. 2) Karl Hennig advertisement for air mail specialties and General Government items is found on page 55 of the May 1940 issue of 'Der Deutsche Sammler' (The German Collector)

## Mit eines der größten und schönsten Lager der Welt

von Flugpost-Briefen und -Karten wird zum Verkauf gestellt!

Herrliche Kollektionen von Luftschiffpost „Graf Zeppelin“ und „Hindenburg“, Katapu- (Schleuder-) und Do. X-Post. Seltene Flugpost — Ballon — Segelflug und Raketenpost (von verschiedenen Ländern), ebenfalls Raketenmarken für Spezielsammler in reicher Auswahl vorrätig.

Auch die moderne Flugpost ist vertreten. Flugpostbriefe — und Karten von der Volksabstimmung in Oesterreich — dem Staatstreffen Hitler-Mussolini in Italien sowie Flugpost mit den Befreiungs-Stempeln verschiedener Postämter im Sudetenland. Sogenannte Ausstellungs-Prunkstücke, ausgefallene Auktions-Prachtbriefe und herrliche Kombinations-Frankaturen, kurz Material von solcher Fülle, wie es bisher noch nirgends angeboten wurde.

Anfangssammler von Flugpostbriefen können sehr preiswertes Material vorgelegt bekommen. Alles was von Flugpost — auch Marken — nicht im Katalog steht und als halb-offiziell — nicht amtlich oder „Privat“ landläufig bezeichnet wird — kaufe gern und verkaufe ich jederzeit. Das Luftschiff „Graf Zeppelin“ erwartete ich unter anderem im September 1931 in Moskau. Das Luftschiff „Hindenburg“ begrüßte ich anlässlich der ersten Ozeanfahrt im Mai 1936 in New York.

Das Flugschiff Do. X besichtigte ich unter anderem auch in Hamburg und stand in dauernder Verbindung mit Offizieren und Mannschaften bei meiner beachtlichen Postauflieferung.

Es ist leider unmöglich — etwa durch Angebote in dieser Annonce — auch nur einen Bruchteil meiner reichhaltigen schönen und wertvollen Lagerbestände aufzuführen.

**Auswahlsendungen** von Flugpost — sämtliche Gebiete in wandervoller Zusammenstellung — versandbereit. Interessenten gehen am zweckmäßigsten an, welche Gebiete gesammelt werden und worin Vorlage erwünscht wird. Ich biete nicht nur „billig“ an, sondern liefere auch. Luftpost nicht beachten oder vernachlässigen, bedeutet, an den Standardwerten der Philatelie achtlos vorübergehen.



### Spezial-Angebot

## General-Gouvernement

kleiner Satz von 11 Werten (wie Abbildung sowie WHW. 30 Gr.) auf 5 Stück Führerphotokarten — vom Einsatz unserer Truppen im Osten — oder auf E-Brief befindet sich im Druck und wird Interessenten gern zugeschiedt.

## Karl Hennig Luftpost-Spezialhaus Hamburg 39

**OESTERREICH** Reichste Böhmenerbiedigung!  
Alle Böhmenerbiedigungen und böhmische Einzelmarken durch Freimarkten-  
verband ALOIS HANS ZANASCHKA, WIEN XII 82, Steinbaurgasse 36

**Rundsendezirkel** beitragsfrei, Prospekt .B. gratis.  
**Philatelisten-Cabinet**, Bln. Wilmersdorf, Konstanzer Str. 8

During the war years the Hennig firm obtained large quantities of airmail cards and covers that were favor cancelled at specially designated post offices in German occupied territories that were under civil administration. Such post offices were part of the 'Deutsche Dienstpost' (Official Mail) system. Communication No. 1133, which appeared in the April 21, 1942 issue of the Official Gazette of the German Postal Ministry, announced that repeated requests by German philatelists for 'Gefälligkeitsabstempelungen' (cancels to order) had resulted in an arrangement with the Deutsch Dienstpost (DDP) administrations in the Netherlands, in the Ukraine and in the 'Ostland' (Baltic States & White Russia) to provide favor cancellations after May 1, 1942. These were permitted on ordinary letters and postcards but not registered mail. Consignments of covers or cards had to be franked with either a.) German stamps, b.) overprinted "Ostland" stamps or c.) overprinted "Ukraine" stamps. No so-called mixed franking was permitted.

These cards or covers were addressed to the sender and then bundled in envelopes, or for larger quantities parcels, marked "Sonderstempel". These were then mailed to the DDP offices in Den Haag for Netherlands cancels. For other cancellations, they would inscribe "Sonderstempel Ostland" or "Sonderstempel Ukraine" and send the bundles to the Forwarding Office for Collectors at Berlin SW 68. From there, "Ostland" covers were sent to DDP offices in Riga (Latvia), Kauen (Lithuania) or Reval (Estonia) while "Ukraine" covers were sent to the DDP office in Rowno. After the cancels were applied, the cards and covers were usually returned to sender via regular postal channels but these could also be sent in SASE if such was included in the request. These CTOs could also be obtained from post offices in Luxemburg, which had been annexed by Germany. In 1944 the Reichspost made similar arrangements with DDP Alpenvorland (Bozen, Trient & Beluno) and DDP Adria (Trieste) after these former Italian regions were occupied by Germany. Covers sent to these DDP offices could only be franked with German stamps but they could be any valid regular or semi-postal issue. It should be noted that the only German stamps available at the DDP offices were Hitler head definitive values.

The Channel Islands occupation by German military forces provided Mr. Hennig with more possibilities whereby C.I. locals (valid for intra-island mail only) were CTO'd "mixed" with German stamps and cancelled by the German Feldpost (which handled all mail to the continent).

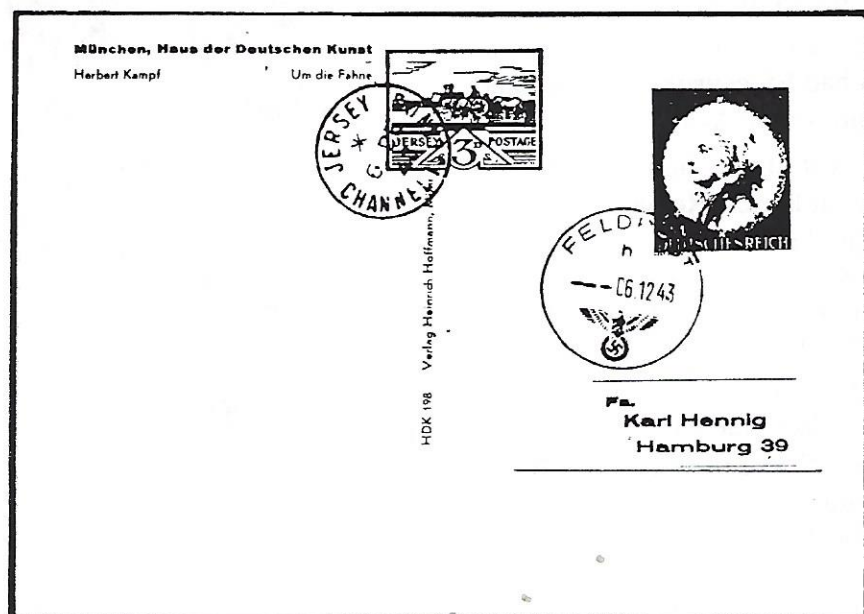


Fig. 3) The familiar Hennig address label on a CTO post card with "mixed" Jersey locals and German stamps. Note that appropriate Jersey and Feldpost cancellations are both dated December 6, 1943.

In order to place “Hennig” material in proper perspective, it is useful to review the three basic types of covers (excepting forgeries) available to Third Reich collectors

- a) “**Bedarfspost**” – legitimate, properly franked letters or cards that were mailed for reasons other than philatelic.
- b) “**Philatelistisch**” – overfranked and/or CTO covers or cards that, if they went through the mail, did so for philatelic purposes.
- c) “**Mache**” (pronounced “Mock-uh”) – fabricated covers and cards with stamp combinations and/or other postal markings not normally in use. Such items never saw postal service but were obtained strictly to create “interesting” philatelic material.

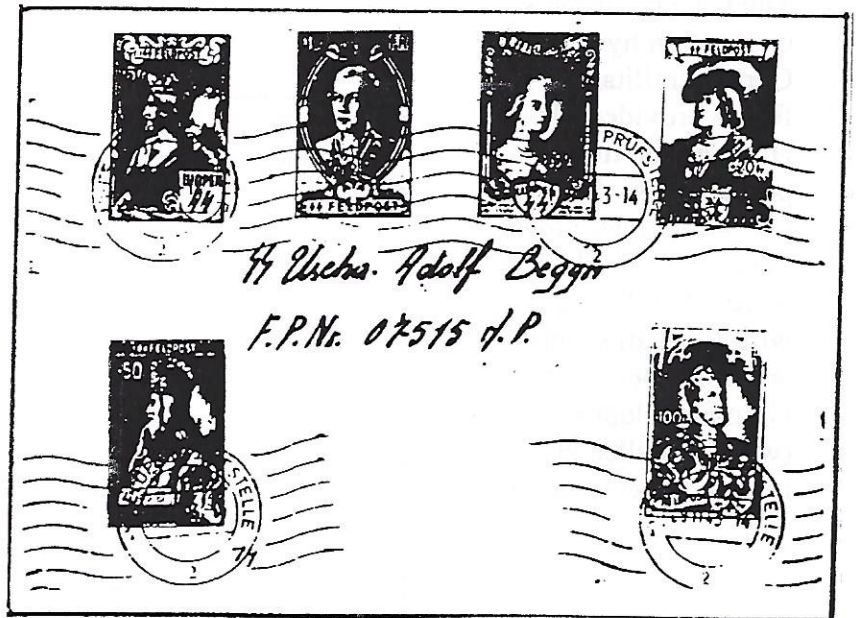
The Hennig Sudetenland cover (Fig. 1) is an example of Type b) because these German stamps were allowed on such mail. The 21 Pfg. postage does not correspond to the airmail rate and the lack of any postal markings or return address on the backside shows philatelic purpose. The Channel Island card (Fig. 3) is an example of Type c) because C.I. locals and German stamps were never used in conjunction. Such mixed usage was only done for the benefit of collectors or dealers.

The German Postal Ministry encouraged the processing of large quantities of philatelic mail for the obvious reason that it produced large revenue from postage stamp sales. The sale of so-called “legion stamps” by pro-German organizations in France and Belgium was spurred by the availability of complete sets on cover bearing Waffen-SS censor markings. In Belgium, for example, collectors or dealers prepared covers addressed to designated SS troops at Feldpost No. 07515AP. The cover, along with an SASE and payment of 200 Belgian francs, was sent to the “Vlaamsch Voorzorgscomite” (Flemish Charity Committee), Lakenweverstrasse 1 in Brussels. The legion “stamps” were affixed to a cover that was then “favor censored” by the Waffen-SS censor office and returned in the SASE. The Feldpost No. 075151P was the coded mailing address of the SS-Abschnitt ‘Flandern’ in Brussels.

Fig. 4) Flemish Waffen-SS charity set (Mi. IX-XIV) on cover with “SS Prüfstelle” roller cancel used on philatelic mailings. Such covers also had SS censor tape and hand stamps on backside.

The cost of the charity set was 200 Belgian francs. Revenues from charity label sales were used to make up parcels of candy & cigarettes that were sent to Flemish Waffen-SS volunteers on the Eastern Front.

These SS Feldpost “stamps” had no postal validity because Flemish SS volunteers had the German Feldpost privilege.



Incidentally, Karl Hennig’s “legion” covers have conventional Feldpost favor cancels. The SS censored covers were only available for a limited time, usually one month after the labels were placed on sale.

After the war, the firm of Karl Hennig continued to operate from their Hamburg office. On October 1, 1948 the familiar Hennig address label was affixed to covers commemorating the 100th day of the Berlin airlift. At about this same time, Hennig established an agency in Ciudad Trujillo (now Santo Domingo) in the Dominican Republic. An English/Spanish philatelic bulletin published by "Casa Philatelica Antillana", the Hennig agency in the Caribbean, appeared in 1949. This bulletin informed collectors in overseas countries that this agency would handle orders to and from the Hamburg office to reduce the high duties charged for orders under \$100 by the J.E.I.A. (Joint Export Import Agency).

Another purpose for this agency was to make available various "World Historic Documents" (to quote the 1949 bulletin) that could not be sold in Germany due to regulation No. 48 passed by the Allied Control Commission. These "documents" were the large quantities of philatelic cards and covers Hennig had acquired during the Third Reich era. As these holdings represented a substantial investment, it is not hard to understand why Mr. Hennig would take steps to legally circumvent this restriction. The size of these holdings can be appreciated by the fact that they have still not been depleted after 35 years.

In summary, there is nothing wrong with Hennig covers in an absolute sense. They were philatelically inspired and therefore of little interest to postal history collectors who prefer "Bedarfspost". As Mr. Werner Hennig noted in his letter to Myron Fox, there are always changes in the philatelic world like the fairly recent craze for mint, never hinged stamps. Airmail covers, which were very popular in the 1930s & 40s, were mostly "philatelic", including 99% of all Zeppelin covers.

Many newer TRSG members comment on the scarcity of "Bedarfs" material while dealer's boxes are bulging with philatelic and "Mache" material. The reason for this lies in an irony recognized by more astute collectors, covers obtained for philatelic purposes tend to be retained while most legitimate covers are discarded after they had fulfilled their intended purpose – to convey a message. This natural attrition was compounded in Germany by wide spread destruction caused by Allied bombing and the invasion by several enemy armies. During the immediate post-war period, "de-Nazification" efforts by Allied occupation authorities was often accompanied by still further destruction of cards and covers that glorified the Hitler years. This process was particularly successful in Soviet-occupied areas where the 1933-45 period was officially "expunged" ala George Orwell's '1984' (it is not surprising that this book was first published in 1948). Even today it is illegal to possess Nazi-era material in Soviet block countries. Their Germany stamp albums do not include the Third Reich issues.

I'll conclude this article with a comparison of "**Philatelistish**" and "**Bedarfspost**" covers franked with General Government stamps from the 1940 provisional issue. The Karl Hennig cover (Fig. 5) was cancelled in Krakow in November 1940 and is similar to the registered cover shown as Fig. 2. The 13 stamps total 282 Groshen and are all different values. By contrast, the "Bedarfs" cover (Fig. 6) posted during the same month was sent to the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. As the exchange rate was 100 Gr. equals 50 German Pfennig, the 5 stamps totaling 108 Groshen converts to 24 Pfg. surface rate over 20 grams plus 30 Pfennig registry fee, the correct postal rate for this letter.

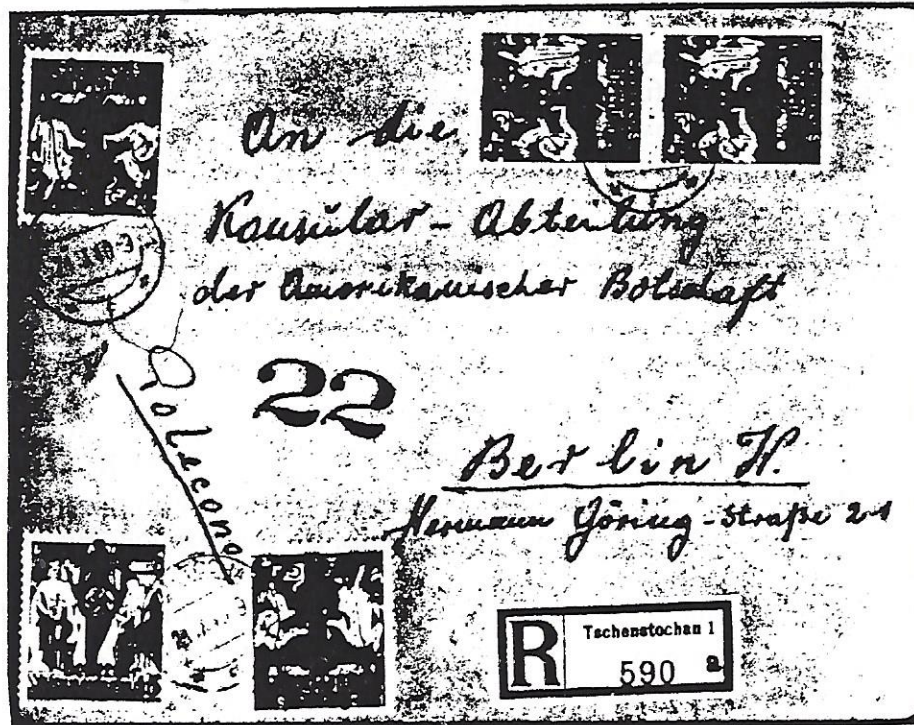
The essential difference between these two covers is that while the mass-produced philatelic item might please a stamp collector, the scruffier but unique "Bedarfs" item would be infinitely more appealing to a postal history collector.

Your TRSG staff has always found Mr. Hennig to be courteous and professional. While his philatelic material does not suit our taste, we hope that this article will serve to eliminate some of the misconceptions regarding this material.

Fig. 5)



Fig. 6)



*ED NOTE: this article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin 71 in 1984. While reading it, please bear in mind the significant changes in the political landscape since that time. Most significant, of course, was the break up of the Soviet block and the fall of Communism.*



Special Cancels – Hilfswerk Mutter und Kind Reichsbund der Kinderreichen  
by Bob Ferguson

There were one city hand cancel and many machine slogan cancels commemorating various activities of the **Mother and Child Welfare**. The cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "**Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**".

Krakau # 21	10 Jahr Hilfswerk Mutter und Kind	February 28, 1944
	<b>Series Cancels</b>	
Machine Can. #237	Bei Hohem Ebert ist Kinderreichtum National Pflicht! (Used in Bielefeld, Hannover, Hof, Rostock and Pirmassens)	Used Jan. 10 –Dec. 6 1937 and October 21-25 1939
Machine Can. #240	Erbgesunde Vollfamilien Gehoren in den Reichsbund der Kinderreichen! (Used in Altona, Aschaffenburg, Berlin, Dortmund, hagen, Isterlohn, Leipzig and Ludenscheid)	Used Jan. 16 – June 8 1937
Machine Can. #241	Kinderreichtum Verbürgt die Unsterblichkeit der Nation!! (Used in Aue, Bautzen, Chemnitz, Halle, Oppeln, Trier and Wilhelmshaven)	Used Jan. 16 – June 8 1937
Machine Can. #242	Nur Gesunde Vollfamilien Verbungen Deutschland Zukunft! (Used in Bremen, Dureen, Magdeburg, Mannheim and Stralsund)	Used January 18 – December 24 1937
Machine Can. #243	Kinderarmes Volk-Verlorenes Volk! (Used in Brandenburg, Breslau, Dobeln, essen, Goslar, Kiel and Mittweide)	Used January 21 – April 27, 1937
Machine Can. #244	Kinderreichtum-Eines Deutsche Schicksalsfrage! (Used in Cottbus, Kaufbeuren, Koblenz, Leipzig, Regensburg and Weimar)	Used January 21 – October 26, 1937
Machine Can. #245	Deutsche Vollfamilien! Treffen in Frankfurt (Main), 5-8 June 1937 (Used in Dresden, Frankfurt, Furth, Koln and Stuttgart)	Used January 21 – June 2, 1937
Machine Can. #246	Reichstreffen des Reichsbundes der Kinderreichen Frankfurt (Main) -5-8 June 1937 (Used in Berlin, Frankfurt, hamburg, Konigsberg and Munchen)	Used January 21 – May 28, 1937
Machine Can. #249	Spendet der NSV Pfestellen fur Kinder und freistellen fur Urlauber! (Used in Frankfurt, Hanau, Mainz, Offenbach and Wesbaden)	Used March 27 – April 10, 1937
Machine Can. #293	Hilfswerk Mutter und Kind/Trag Dazu Bei! Werde Mitglied der NSV! (Used in 32 cities)	Used July 17 – September 30, 1938
Machine Can. #330	Alles, Was Wir Tun, Tun Wir Letzten/Endes fur das Kind/RDK (Used in Berlin, Kassel, Koln, Munchen and Stuttgart)	Used August 11, 1939 – June 19 1940
Machine Can. #331	Deutschland Muss Kinderland Werden!/RDK (Used in Berlin, Dresden, Frankfurt, Magdeburg and Wien)	Used August 12 – September 30, 1939
Machine Can. #332	Kinerreichtum-Die deutsche Schicksalsfrage/RDK (Used in Berlin, Kassel, Koln, Munchen and Stuttgart)	Used August 12 – October 19, 1939
Machine Can. #333	Kinerreichtum ist Praktischer Nationalsozialismus/RDK (Used in Berlin, Chemnitzl, Dortmund, Dusseldorf and Hannover)	Used August 14 – September 30, 1939



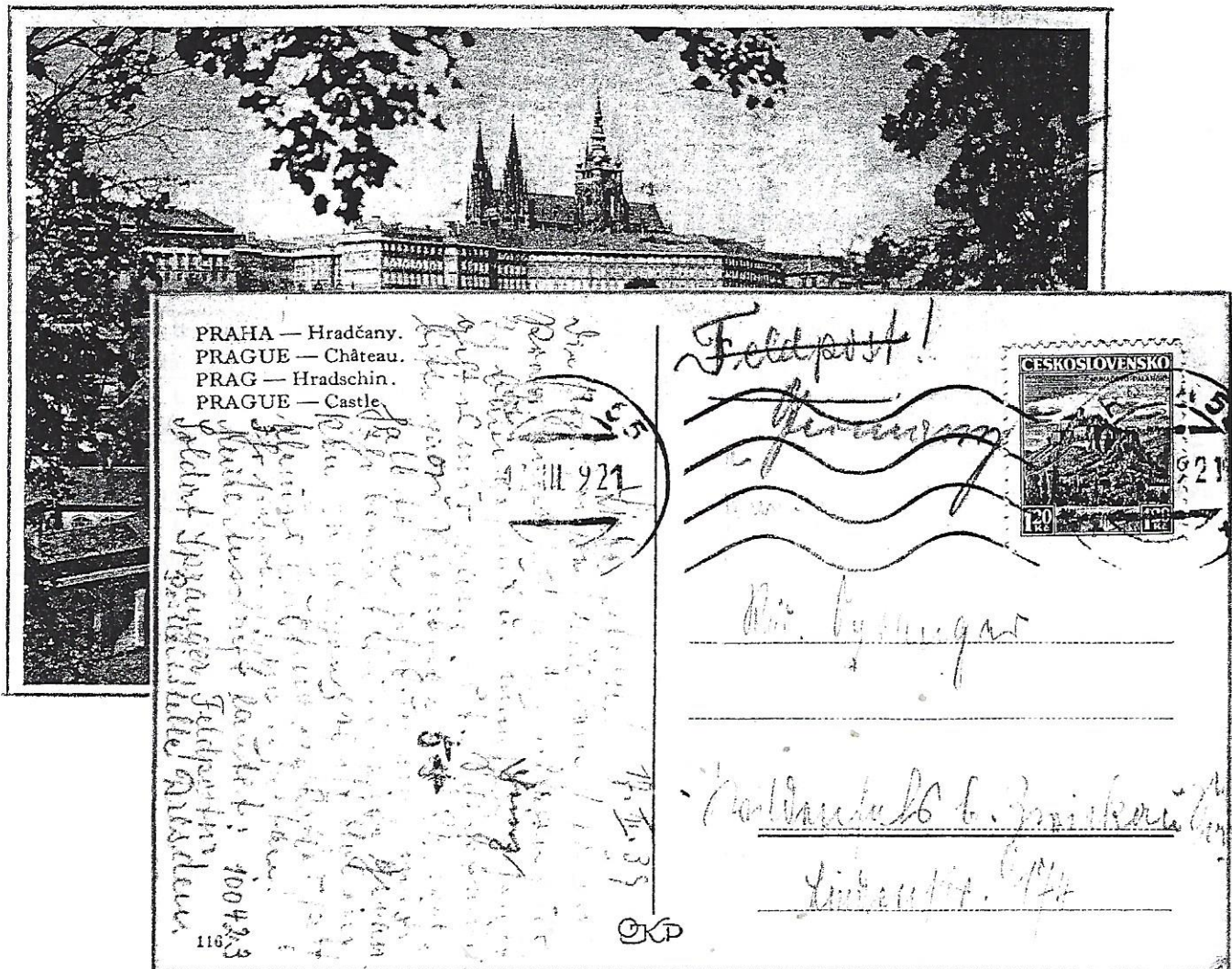
## From My Collection: A Postcard from Prague

by Michael Rauer

Postal articles often provide an interesting glimpse of a period of world history. While looking through a drawer of inexpensive post cards in an antique store, I came across a non-descript picture postcard of Prague bearing a 1.20kr Czech stamp. Above the roller cancellation dated March 17, 1939 was the notation "Feldpost!" which had been crossed out. I remembered that March 17, 1939 was a day after German forces had marched into Bohemia from Sudetenland to complete the occupation and dismemberment of former Czechoslovakia.

The sender, Soldat (Soldier) Spranger lists his return address as *Feldpostnummer* 100423 via *Postleitstelle* (postal distribution center) Dresden. Note that this was one of the 6-digit *Übungspost* (Exercise Post) numbers discussed in TRSG Bulletin 157. During this occupation German military mail required no postage but this card was dispatched at a Prague civil P.O. rather than a Feldpost office and the postal clerk charged the prevailing rate.

This picture card of a foreign capital sent by a young soldier represents the last of Germany's "bloodless" occupations. While nothing could be done to help Czechoslovakia, the British and French now realized that Hitler was intent on controlling all of Europe and his promises of no more territory were worthless. Within a few months Germany began to demand the return of the lost German provinces of Posen and West Prussia from Poland. The stage was now set for the start of World War II.



## Danish Volunteers in the Waffen-SS

by Jim Lewis

On April 30, 1940, Hitler authorized the establishment of the SS-Standarte (Regiment) 'Nordland' to be comprised of volunteers from Denmark and Norway. An SS recruiting office 'Nebenstelle Nordsee' was opened in Copenhagen and began accepting suitable volunteers between the ages of 17 and 23 for a minimum two-year enlistment, after which these soldiers would receive joint German citizenship. The first battalion of Danish volunteers was sent to the former French army barracks at Sennheim in Alsace for initial selection and basic training. The Danish/Norwegian 'Nordland' regiment completed their training in Austria in December of 1940 and then moved to Heuberg in northern Germany where a new Waffen-SS division was being formed around SS-Regiment 'Germania' and SS-Artillery Regiment 5, both all-German formations. With the additions of 'Nordland' and the Dutch/Flemish 'Westland' regiment, the new division, originally designated 'Germania' was re-named the SS-Division 'Wiking' in honor of the non-German formations. On April 1, 1941, the SS-Division 'Wiking' was transferred to the "Feldherrn" (Field Army) and assigned these Feldpost number addresses:

### SS-Regiment 'Nordland'

	Feldpost Nummmer
Regiment Stab	17036
Battalion I (Stab u 1-4 Kompanie)	18149 (A-E)
Battalion II (Stab u 5-8 Kompanie)	19277 (A-E)
Battalion III (Stab u 9-12 Kompanie)	20361
13 Kompanie	21497
14 Kompanie	22540
15 Kompanie	13684
16 Kompanie	24735
17 Kompanie	10230
Kolonne	37802

The number of Danes willing to enlist in the 'Nordland' Regiment was relatively small. By June 22, 1941, the date of the attack on the Soviet Union, only 216 Danes were serving in the SS-Division 'Wiking'. It was evident that even pro-German groups in the occupied nations were reluctant to support the notion of their countrymen serving in mixed formations and under the command of officers of other nations. On June 29, 1941, Hitler approved the formation of national legions to participate in a "crusade against Bolshevism".

The promise of national formations had the desired effect, when the SS recruiting office was established in Copenhagen in July 12, 1941, nearly 500 Danes volunteered to serve in the Freiwilligendverband (Volunteer formation) 'Danemark'. By the end of July the first contingent of 480 Danes under command of former Danish army colonel P. C. Kryssing was undergoing training in Germany.

In Denmark the new formation was called the 'Freikorps Danmark', evoking the memory of a Danish expeditionary force which fought in the White Army against the Red (Bolshevik) Army during the post-1917 Russian Civil War. With additional enlistments plus the transfer of a hundred Danes from the 'Nordland' regiment, the 'Freikorps' (the German spelling usually found in reference works) had reached strength of 1,164 men by the end of 1941.

Before continuing with the 'Freikorps' history, I want to mention that the 'Erganzungsamt der Waffen-SS' (Waffen-SS Recruiting Office) in Copenhagen used Feldpost numbers. German records for 1942 show that the Ergantungstelle 'Nordsee' used Fp.# 46921 in April 1942 but was later assigned Fp.# 25632 L. Similarly Ergantungstelle 'Nordwest' was assigned Fp.# 17632 S. Both of these later Feldpost numbers were "Sammelfeldpostnummern" or collective Feldpost numbers used by a large number of different units that received mail through the German administrative commands in Copenhagen.

A recruiting poster for the 'Freikorps' depicting a volunteer with sword & shield is shown on right as Fig. 1.



The training of the 'Freikorps' was not proceeding satisfactorily and so, on February 8, 1942, Kryssing was relieved of command and replaced by Count Christian Frederich von Schalburg, a Danish aristocrat and SS Sturmbahnführer then serving in the SS-Division 'Wiking'.





The 'Freikorps' completed their training in early April and were transferred to the Field Army. At this time they were assigned these Feldpost numbers:

SS-Freiwilligen Verband Dänmark (Freikorps Dänmark)

	Feldpost Nummer
Battalion Stab	46050 A
1. Kompanie	46050 B
2. Kompanie	46050 C
3. Kompanie	46050 D
4. Kompanie	46050 E
Ausbildungs (Training) Stab	45665
Ersatz (Replacement) Stab	48499

(Fig. 2) A postcard sent to Aalborg, Denmark on May 5, 1942 from a Soldat in the Freikorps Dänmark using Fp.# 46050 A. Note SS-Führerhauptamt Dienstsiegel and SS Censor stamp.

Fig. 2)

Absender		Feldpost	
Dienstgrad: <i>Soldat</i>		 	
Vor- und Zuname: <i>Fant Chr. Hansen</i>			
Feldpostnummer: <i>46.050 A</i>		<i>Fri Berth Rolf Petersen</i> <hr/> <i>Sadboq</i> <hr/> <i>Dänemark</i> <hr/> <i>Westermarken 40</i> <small>Strasse, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stockwerk oder Postschliessfachnummer</small>	
<small>(Bezeichnung des Truppenteils verboten. Als Dienstgrad nicht schützen, Pionier, Flieger usw. angeben, sondern nur Soldat, Gefreiter, Leutnant usw.)</small>			
			

Approximately 1,000 Freikorpsmen were airlifted into the hotly contested Demyansk salient in northern Russia on May 9, 1942. These troops were attached to the SS-Division 'Totenkopf' which had suffered very heavy casualties during the defense and breakout from the Demyansk pocket. The Freikorps service troops did not arrive at the front until June 11, after a hazardous overland journey.

On June 2, 1942, Freikorps commander SS Sturmabführer von Schalburg tripped a wooden mine while leading an attack against a Russian bridgehead on the Robja River. Though wounded, he refused evacuation and remained to shout encouragement to his men. As he was being given aide, a barrage of Russian mortar shells scored a direct hit, killing von Schalburg and the two men helping him.

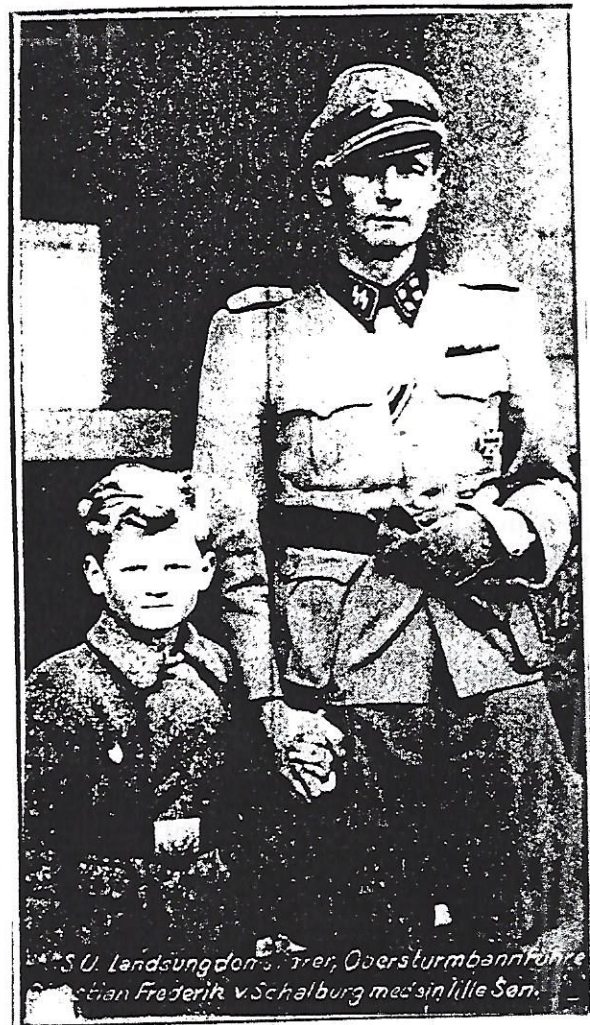
On June 10, command passed to a German when SS Obersturmbahnführer von Lettow-Vorbeck arrived from the Waffen-SS reserve officer pool in Berlin. Many of the Danish officers were resentful of this appointment. They had been told that they would be allowed to wear Danish uniforms, use Danish command speech and have Danish officers. One by one these promises had been unfulfilled. However, von Lettow-Vorbeck was killed by Russian machine gun fire on June 11 during the fighting around Bolschoje Dubowizy. A Dane, SS Hauptsturmunterführer K. B. Martinsen was appointed commander in late June. When the Freikorps was pulled out of action on August 5, it had a net combat strength of 300 out of the original force of 1200. After month quarantine due to a cholera epidemic, the Freikorps was sent home for a 4-week leave and was then attached to the 1st SS Infanterie Brigade in October 1942.

A vertical se-tenant label (Fig. 3) was issued in early 1943 by pro-German Danish groups to commemorate the death of von Schalburg. Sold in blocks of ten, the five upper labels have 50 øre denominations while the lower labels have no values. The inscription 'Der Ofre shabtes Danmarks Ihre' (Our sacrifice created Denmark's Honor) appears in an arc around a portrait adapted from a photo of von Schalburg with his son Alex (Fig. 4). For trivia buffs, Alex was a pilot for SAS in the 1950s.

Fig. 3



Fig. 4



On March 22, 1943 Himmler announced the formation of a new "Germanen" (Nordic non-Germans) SS-Freiwilligen Panzer Grenadier Division 'Nordland'. The Danes in both the 'Freikorps' and the SS-Regiment 'Nordland' were re-formed as the 24th SS-Panzer Grenadier Regiment 'Danmark' (Danish Nr. 1). On May 20, 1943, the remaining members of the 'Freikorps' arrived at the Grafenwöhr training area in southern Germany, and the 'Freikorps' was disbanded. There were not enough Danes to fill the regimental roster, so 25% of the regiment were German nationals and 35% were ethnic Germans from Romania.

Training of the new division was completed in mid-August and by September they were fighting partisans in Croatia as part of the newly formed III (Germanic) SS Panzer Korps. The following Feldpost numbers were assigned:

SS-Panzer Grenadier Regiment 24 Dänmark

	Feldpost Nummer
Regiments Stab und Stabs Kompanie	35408
Battalion I (Stab u 1-4 Kompanie)	40670 (A-E)
Battalion II (Stab u 5-8 Kompanie)	37826 (A-E)
Battalion III (Stab u 9-12 Kompanie)	34531
13 Kompanie	32777
14 Kompanie	35637
15 Kompanie	41702
16 Kompanie	33362

In December 1943 the SS-Freiwilligen Panzer Grenadier Division 'Nordland' was transferred to the 18th Army in the Oranienbaum Front near Leningrad. On January 24, 1944 the SS-Regiment 'Danmark' was the focal point of a Soviet assault aimed at breaking the German defenses west of Leningrad. The regiment suffered heavy losses during this fighting, including the commander of Battalion I who was killed during the initial assault.

The Danes then participated in the long withdrawal from the Leningrad area, through the Baltic States and into the Courland peninsula. While the bulk of Army Group North remained in the Courland pocket until the end of the war, the SS-Freiwilligen Panzer Grenadier Division 'Nordland' was evacuated by sea on January 28, 1945.

Upon arrival in Germany, Battalion I of the SS-Regiment 'Danmark' was attached to the SS-Freiwilligen Panzer Grenadier Division 'Wiking'. The remaining members of the Danish regiment were destroyed during the SS-Freiwilligen Panzer Grenadier Division 'Nordland' 's defense of Berlin.

*Note: This article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin No. 53 in 1979. Additional information and the von Schalburg photo appeared in Siegrunen Bulletin Vol. I/Number 4 in March 1980.*

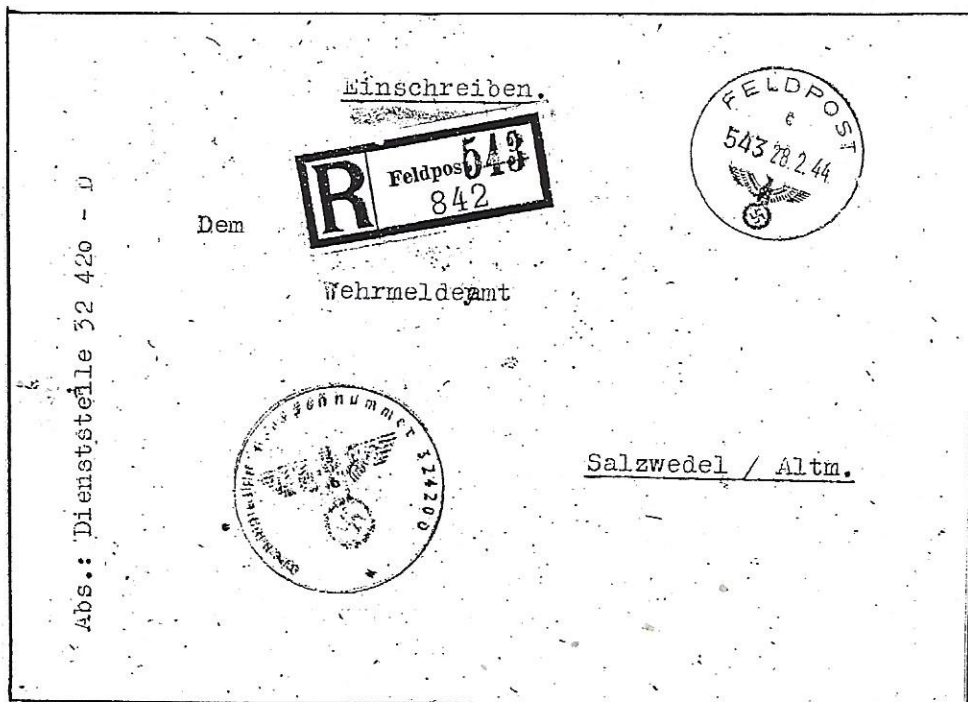
*For additional details on Christian Frederich von Schalburg, see the article "The von Schalburg Se-Tenant Labels" appearing in TRSG Bulletin No. 141(January 1995).*

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 102nd Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADEIER			ARTY	UNITS
102	543	232	233	235	102	102

Formed in October 1940 (12th Wave) the 102nd Infantry Division remained in Germany until the invasion of Russia in June 1941 as part of Army Group Center. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 32675 as a return address and Kenn 543 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA102. It suffered heavy casualties in the vicinity of Moscow in December and during the Soviet counter-offensive in 1941-42. In January it was encircled south of Lake Volga with the XXIII Corps but was rescued by the 9th Army. The battered division was returned to Germany in February 1942 to rest and re-fit. While there the 235th Infantry Regiment was dissolved and replaced by the 84th Infantry Regiment of the 8th Infantry Division, which was being converted to a Jäger Division.

Returned to the central sector in April 1942, the division took part in the Rzhev withdrawal and later fought in the Battle of Kursk as part of XXXIX Panzer Corps. In early 1944, the 102nd Infantry Division absorbed remnants of the 216th Infantry Division, which had been disbanded. The division escaped the disaster that overtook Army Group Center in during the massive Soviet offensive in July 1944. The division continued to fight, although depleted to battle group strength, on the central sector for the rest of the war. The 102nd Infantry Division was in the East Prussia pocket when the Third Reich collapsed.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Salzwedel in February 1944 from Fp. # 32420 (II Battalion/ Artillery Regiment 104) via P.O. 102 (K-543).

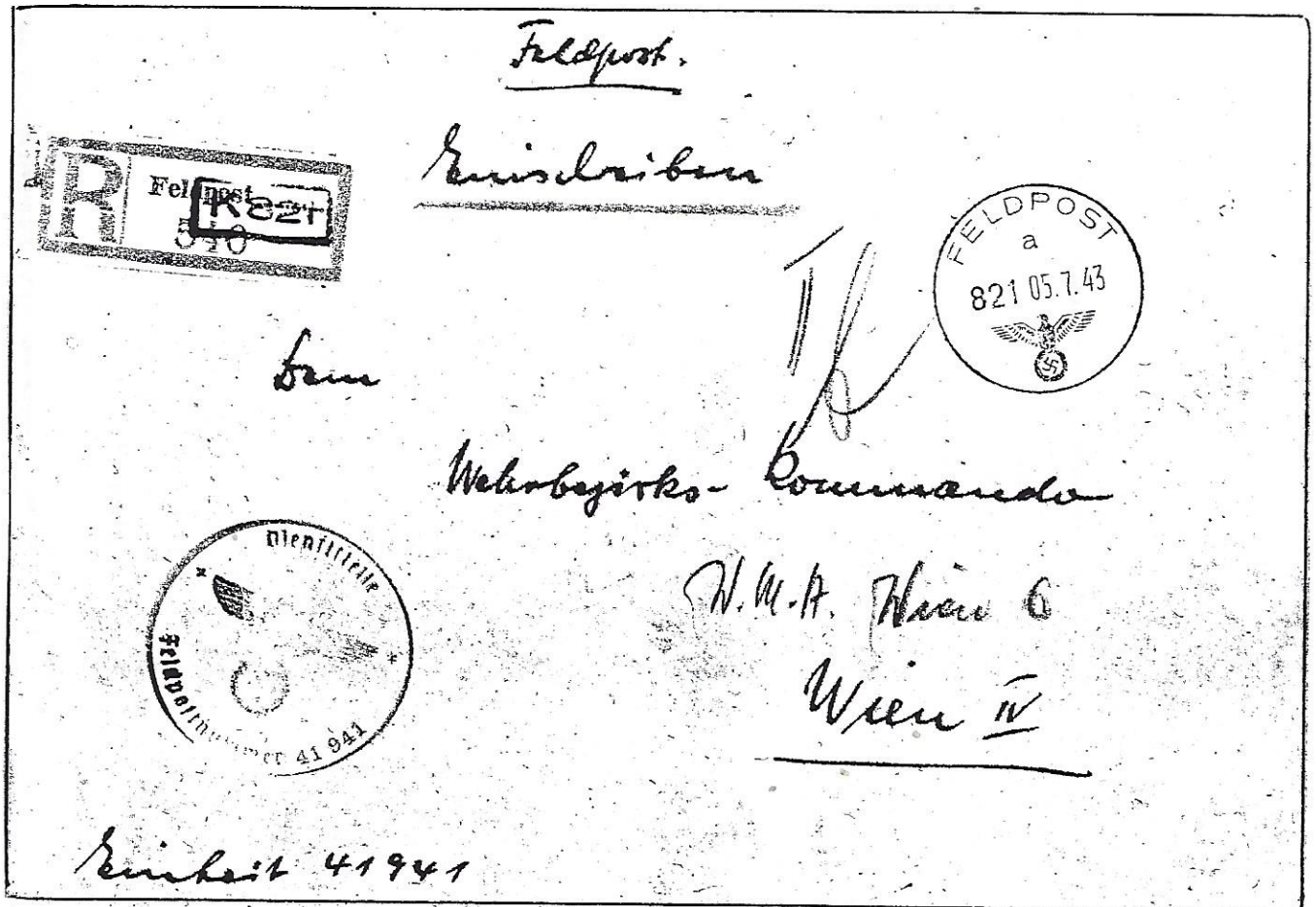


## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 377th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	MOTORIZED INFANTRY		ARTY	UNITS	
377	821	768	769	770	377	377

Formed in the spring of 1942 (17th wave) in Army Group 'D' in Occupied France. This division was sent to the southern and later the central sector of the Eastern Front. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 47164 as a return address on its mail and Kenn 821 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 377. The 377th Infantry Division suffered heavy casualties during the drive across the Don River, in engagements during the Stalingrad campaign as well as in the subsequent retreats and defensive battles.

By July 1943 the remnants of the much-depleted 377th Infantry Division were under the control of the 340th Infantry Division. Remaining in action, it absorbed the remnants of the 327th Infantry Division in early 1944 to help fill out its ranks. In the spring of 1944 the 377th Infantry Division was largely destroyed near Woronesch during the retreat across central Russia and other units of Army Group Center absorbed its survivors.



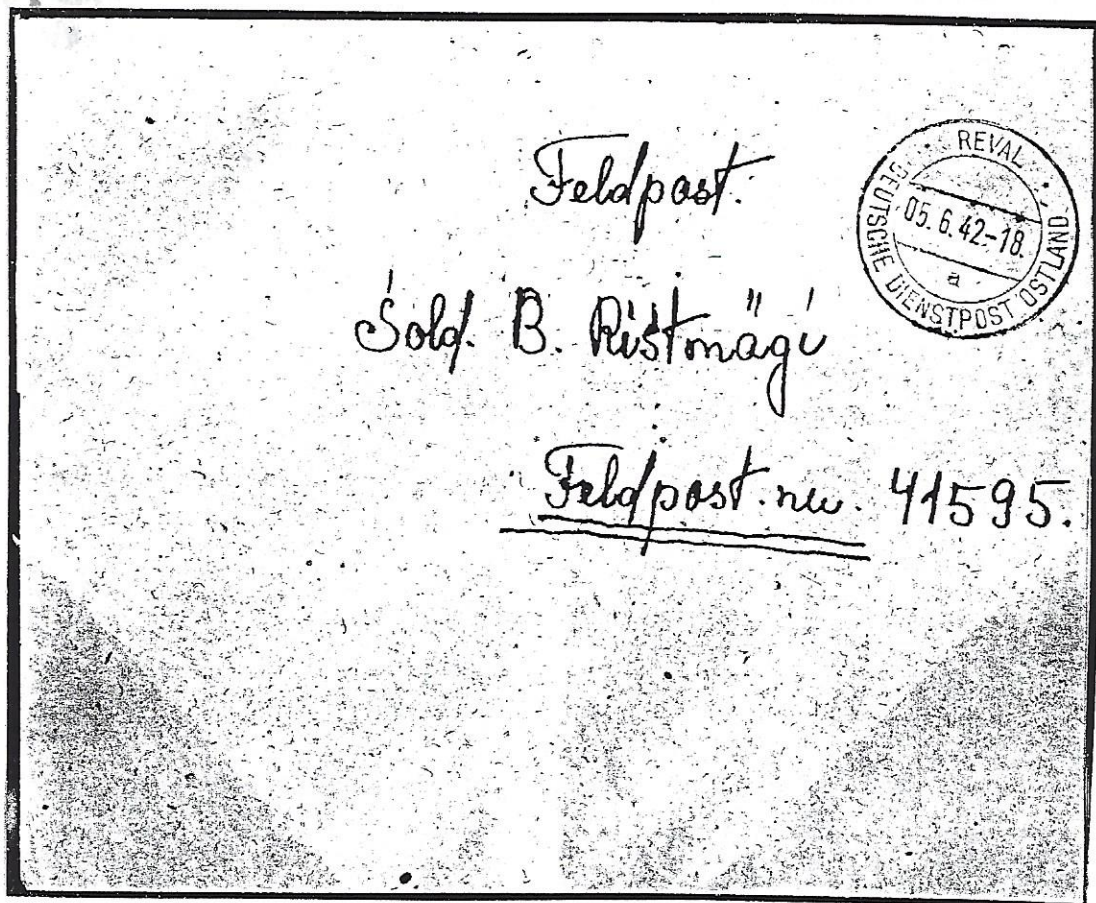
Cover sent to Military District Command in Vienna in July 1943 from Fp. # 41941 (Headquarters of 377th Infantry Division) via Field Post Office 377 (K-821).

## Waffen-SS Feldpost: Estonian Security Battalion

by John Painter

The Germans had great success inducing Baltic peoples into joining local security and defense battalions. During 1942 the SS Main Office under Gottlob Berger began an active recruiting drive to get these anti-Russians into the SS. The individual in whom this cover was addressed was serving in the 185th Estonian Security Detachment (Feldpost # 41595). Shortly afterwards almost the entire Detachment was transferred to the Waffen-SS and put into the Estonian SS Brigade. In 1944 this brigade was renamed the 20th SS Division (Estn Nr. 1) that contained over 20,000 men plus a small cadre of SS combat veterans.

Soldat Ristmage was wounded in combat, discharged from the SS and wound up as a displaced person in western Germany in 1945. No record exists of his subsequent whereabouts.



This letter was mailed from the Reval Deutsch Dienstpost Service and sent to the 18th Army where the detachment was serving in rear areas on security duties. The 18th Army was in the Leningrad area and its rear areas included that portion of Russia adjacent to Estonia

# German Censorship Stations

by Myron Fox

## P.O.W. Mail Office at Hof

Code "h" censor markings are found on POW mail from late 1944 to March 1945. It was formerly thought by Riemer to have been used by a branch of the Berlin Office. The Hof Office was established due to a heavier volume of POW mail late in the war and also because of the decentralization campaign initiated after the heavy allied air raids on Berlin during 1944.

Fig. 1) Hof censor hand stamp with "Zensurstelle" at top. On POW card posted in USA in June 1944.

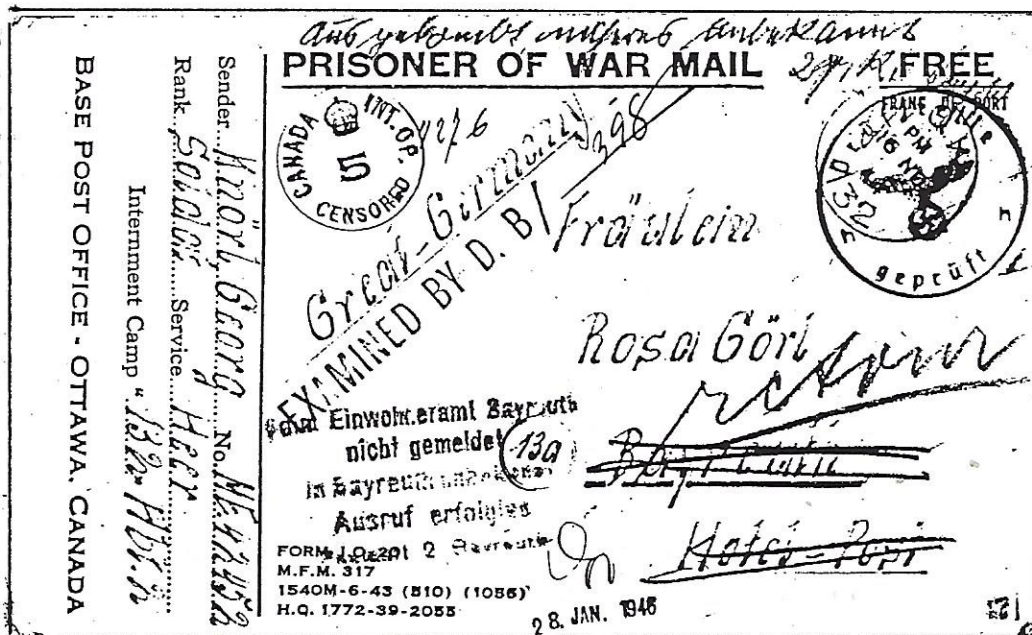
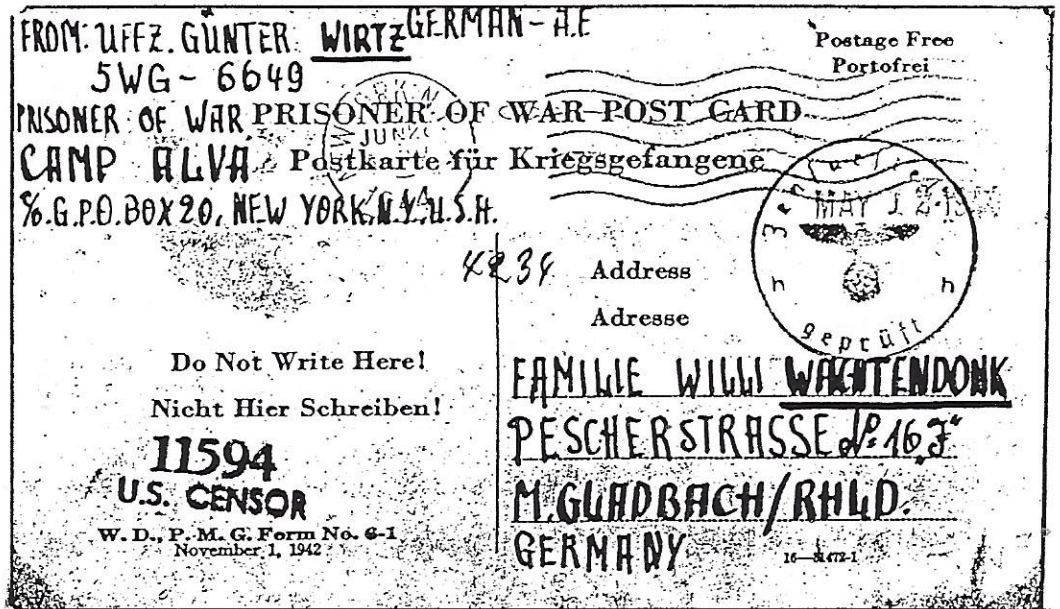


Fig. 2) Similar to censor hand stamp above but has "Prüfstelle" at top. On POW card posted in Canada. This censor design used fall of 1944 to March 1945.

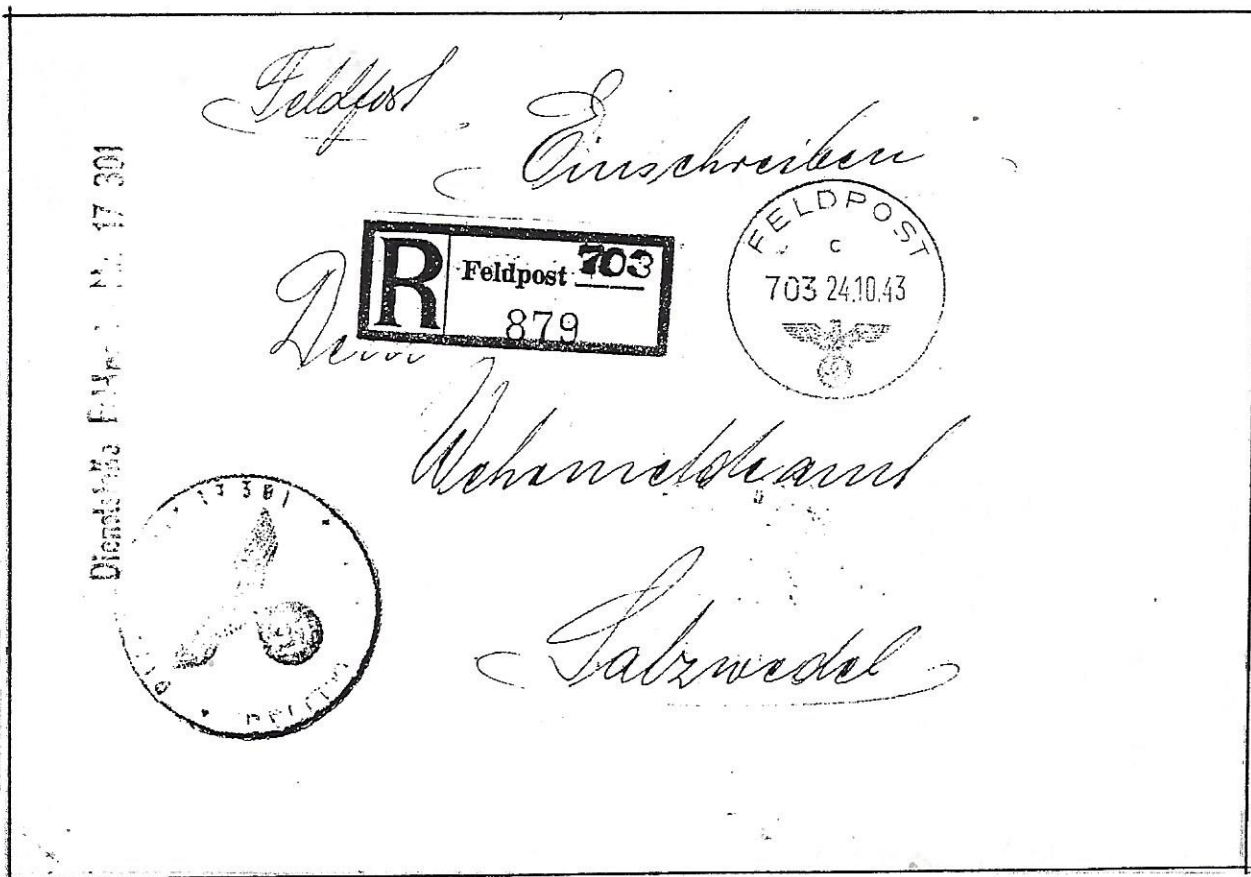
**COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:****321st Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
321	703	588	589	590	321	321

The 321st Infantry Division was formed in late 1940 (13th Wave) and was posted to Abbeville in northeast France. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 47230 as a return address and Kenn 703 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA321. It was sent to the Russian Front in December 1942 and saw action with Army Group Center the following spring. It suffered such heavy losses in sustained combat that by October 1943 it had practically ceased to exist as a separate entity. Part of it was attached to the 110th Infantry Division and another part to the 211th Infantry Division.

The 321st Infantry Division was formally disbanded in December 1943. Some of its members were sent to France to join the new 352nd Infantry Division forming at St. Lo. Other units on the Eastern Front absorbed the remaining members.

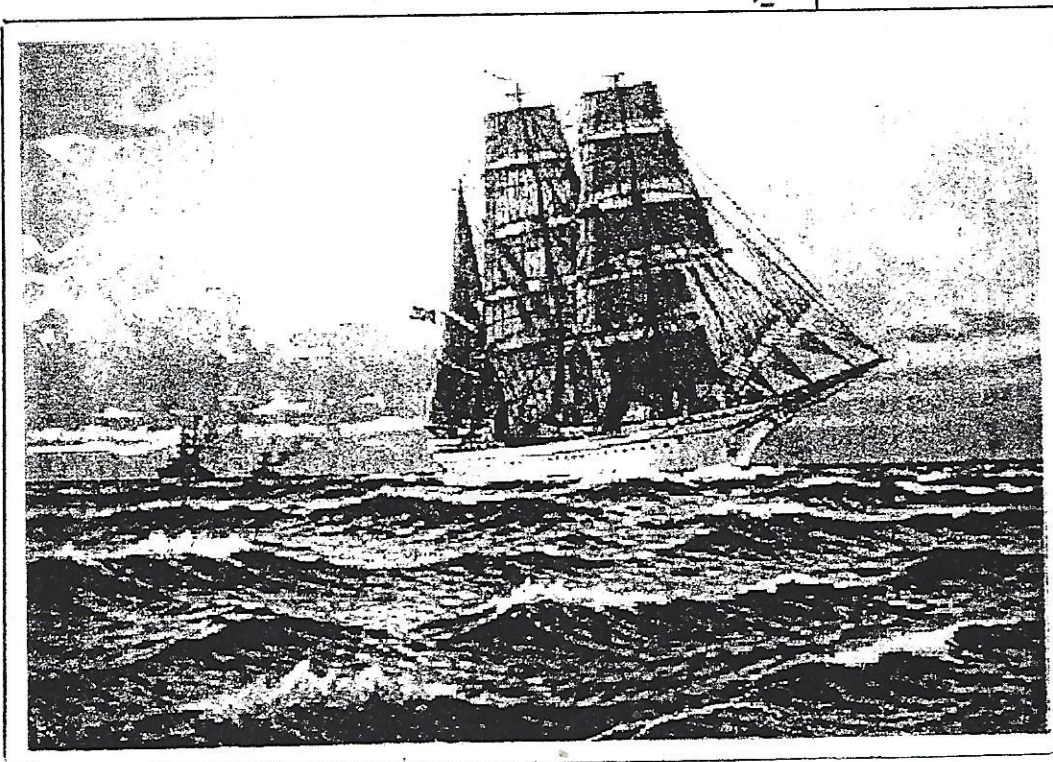


Cover sent to Military Records Office in Salzwedel in October 1943 from Fp. # 17301 (HQ/ Grenadier Regiment 588) via P.O. 321 (K-703).

# NAVY LOG

by Martin Lynes

## Sail Training Ship 'Horst Wessel'



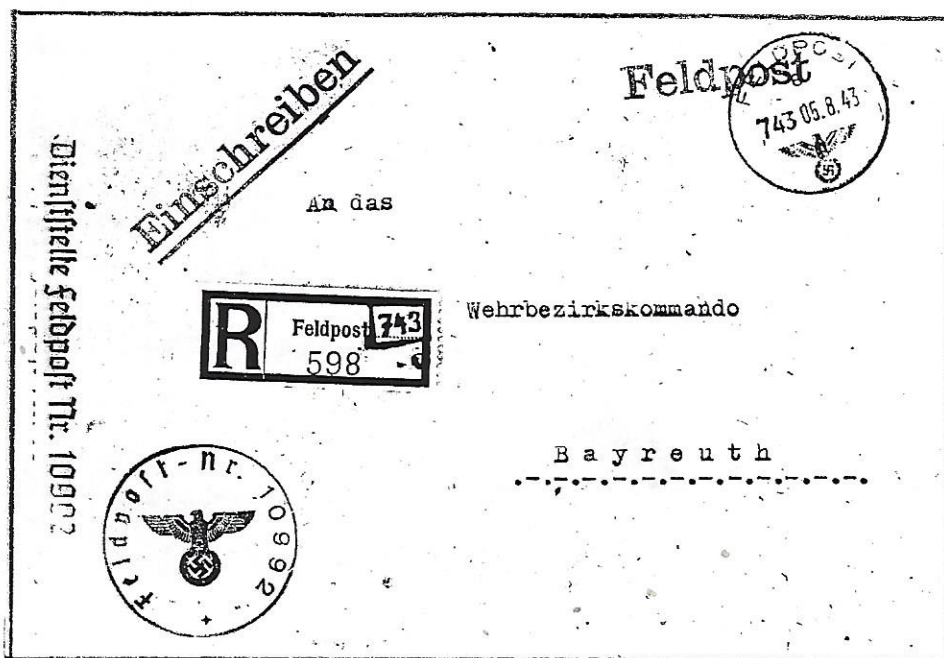
After the Sail Training Ship *Niobe* sank on July 26, 1932 with the loss of sixty-nine lives, the German Navy decided to build better ships. Launched on July 13, 1936, the *Horst Wessel* had a displacement of 1,634 tons. Its dimensions were 89 x 12 meters and its speed was 10 knots using the diesel engine but faster under full sail. The crew of 289 included 200 cadets. The Navy's success is shown by the fact that *Horst Wessel* is still sailing the oceans today. Renamed *Eagle*, it is flying the flag of the United States of America.

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 164th Fortress (*Festungs*) Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
224	743	733	746	653	224

Formed in January 1940 at the Königsbrück Maneuver Area, the 164th Infantry Demonstration Division included the 382nd, 443rd and 440th Infantry Regiments. It remained in reserve during the French Campaign but fought in Greece during the Balkan Campaign of 1941 and remained on occupation duty at Salonika for a year. The post office was assigned Fp.# 02476 and Kenn 743 in lieu of FpA 220. At this time the 440th Infantry Regiment was detached to form the Grenadier Regiment Rhodes and replaced by the 125th Infantry Regiment. In January 1942 the division was transferred to Crete. The division HQ & infantry regiments became Brigade II of a new "Festungs Division Kreta" with FpA 220 & Kenn # 743 as the brigade post office. The HQ and Infantry Regiments 733 & 746 of the 713th Infantry Division became Brigade I of "Festungs Div. Kreta"

In July 1942, Brigade II formed the "164th Light Africa Division" with auxiliary number 220 assigned Fp.# 16550 and Kenn 946. At this time Brigade I became the 164th Festungs Division on Crete with auxiliary number 224 but included the original post office unit (Fp.# 02476) and Kenn 743, now designated FpA 224. Sent to North Africa in July 1942, the 164th Light Africa Division was destroyed in the Tunisian Bridgehead in May 1943. The 164th <sup>Festungs</sup> Division was designated the 133rd Festungs Division in February 1944. It's auxiliary number changed to 133 with the original post office unit (Fp.# 02476) and Kenn 743 now designated FpA 133.

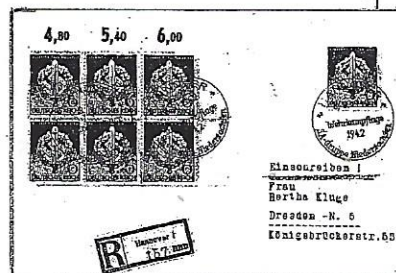
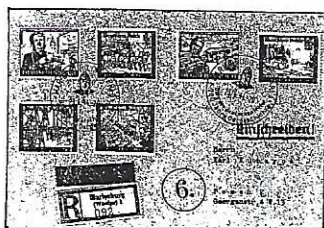
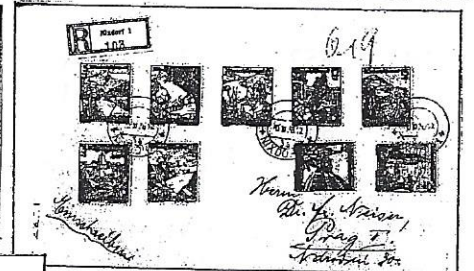
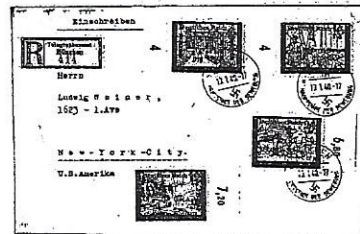
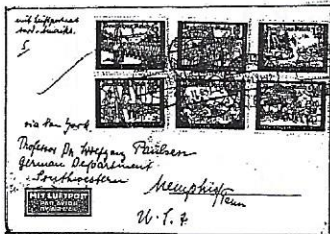
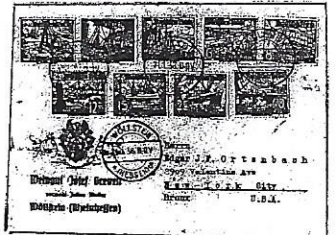
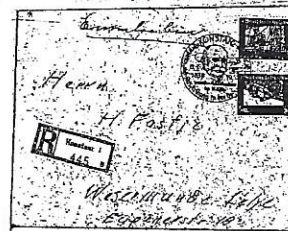
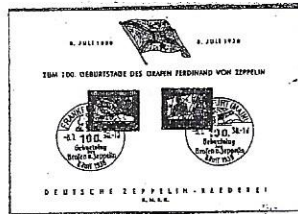
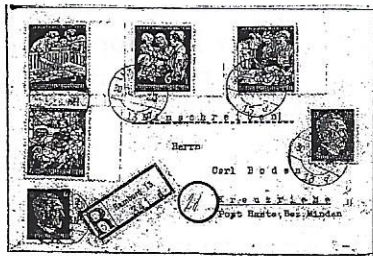


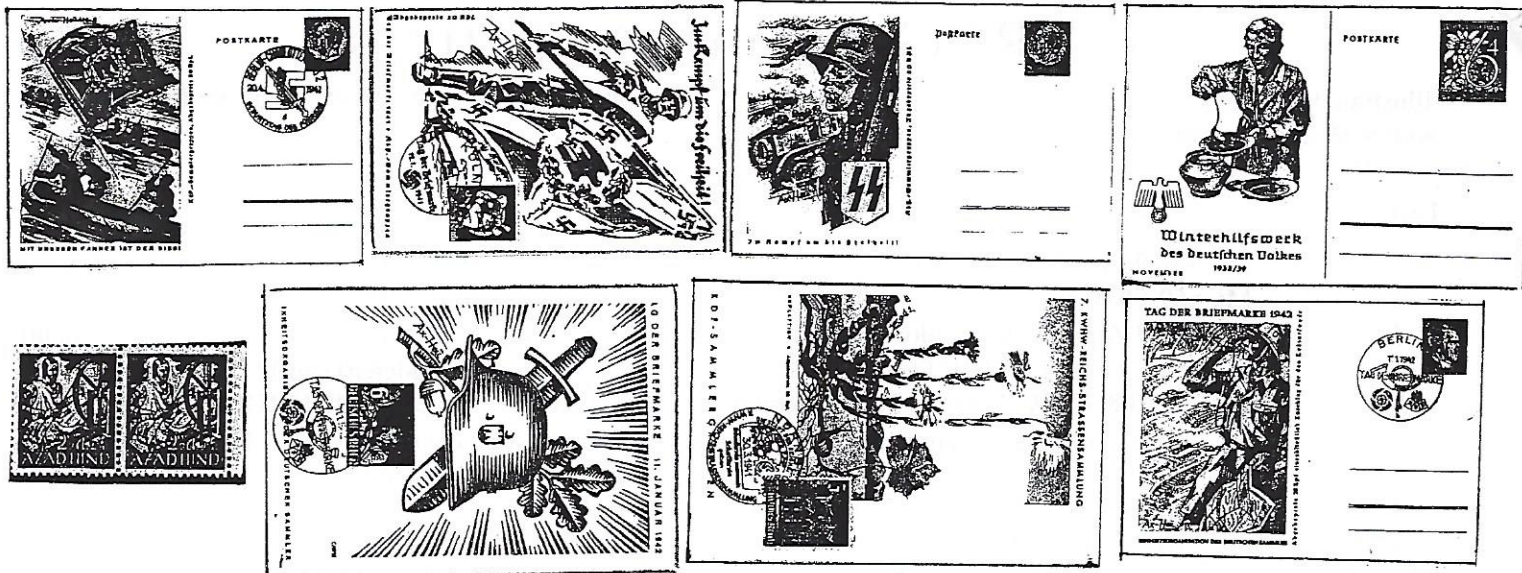
Cover sent to Military Area Command in Bayreuth in August 1943 from Fp. # 10992 (Regiment Stab/ Grenadier Regiment 746) via P.O. 224 (K-743).

# TRSG Auction No. 102

Illustrated lots noted by row & position i.e. 1L=Row1 Left, 1LC=Row1 Left Center etc. First 22 lots are from von Axster-Heudtlass exhibit. All lots VF unless noted otherwise.

Lot	Description	Min
1	Mi. 651-9 (WHW Ships) tied commercial cover to NYC can Wollstein 10./38 [1R]	\$26.00
2	Mi. 669-70 (Graf Zeppelin) tied R-cover w/Konstanz SPC 100 Birthday 8.7.'38 [1RC]	20.00
3	Same tied Zeppelin Co. Color card w/Frankfurt SPC 100 B'day 8.7.'38 [1LC]	32.00
4	Mi. 675-83 (WHW Scenes) tied R-Cover to Prag w/Nixdorf (Sudeten) can 11.'38 [2R]	26.00
5	Mi. 703,708,710 & 717 ('40 Postal) margin #s tied R-Cover to USA can 1.'40 [2RC]	20.00
6	Mi. 739-42 (Leipzig Fair) + added postage on cens airmail cover to USA 1.'40 [2LC]	25.00
7	Mi. 773-8 ('41 Postal Worker) tied censored airmail cover to USA 6.'41 [2L]	27.00
8	Mi 818 (SA Sport Medal) block of six + single tied by SPC Hannover 9.'42 [3RC]	20.00
9	Mi. 859 (WHW10th Anniversary) tied cover w/Schwerin can 3.'43 [3LC]	28.00
10	Mi. 869-72 (Mother/Child) + definitives tied R-cover Hamburg cans 30.3.'44 [1L]	28.00
11	Mi. 888-93 ('44 Postal Worker) tied R-Express cover w/Marienburg SPC 6.'44 [3L]	25.00
12	Winter Relief '38/'38 set of 6 mint sepia cards (Borek 262) [4R]	40.00
13	Same '38/'38 small donor cards for Jan. & Feb. Scarce! [See Pages 1 & 2]	28.00
14	6th WHW Street Collection sepia card w/Mi. 322 tied SPC Jenna 31.3.'40 [3R]	27.00
15	1941 'In the Fight for Freedom' set of 8 mint cards(Borek 286) w/ medals [4RC]	76.00
16	Same, advertising card w/Mi. 762 tied SPC Cologne 12.1.'41 [4LC]	20.00
17	With Our Flags to Victory' 8 color cards(Borek 288) w/SPC Berlin 20.4.'41 [4L]	150.00
18	Day of the Stamp set of 4 sepia cards w/SPC Berlin or Wien 11.1.'42 [5R]	30.00
19	7th WHW Street Collection 4 color cds w/Mi. 751 tied SPC Nurnburg 30.3.'41 [5RC]	46.00
20	Day of Stamp card from Collectors Group w/Mi. 811 tied SPC Cologne 11.1.'42 [5LC]	20.00
21	Four cards: Borek 251 (WHW), 258 (SA Mint & SPC 16.7.'38) & 290 (Post workers)	15.00
22	Indian Legion stamps, mint perf & imperf pairs Mi. I-VI, VIII-X [5L]	40.00





The next 32 lots are Registered Feldpost covers. Condition VF unless noted o'wise

Lot	Kenn	FpA	Date	Fp. Nr.	Description	Min
23	184	40	6.'43	41176	2. San Kp. 40 (after Stalingrad) via 24 Pz. Div. P.O	\$15
24	191	236	9.'41	02852	Bakerei Kp. 591 via 162 Infantry Div P.O	10
25	193	26	10.'42	18785	II/ Gren. Rgt. 39 via 26 Infantry Division. P.O	10
26	222	318	8.'43	05443	II/ Sich. Rgt. 318 via 213 Security Division. P.O	10
27	242	44	11.'40	06907	III/ Gren. Rgt. 134 via 44 Infantry Division. P.O	10
28	260	252	5.'42	05776	4. Battr. Le Flak Abt 781 via 252 Infantry Div P..O	10
29	278	93	12.'44	48138	11 gr Kw Kol P Div. Ns Tr 93 via 26 Panzer Div. P.O	15
30	287	354	7.'43	22633	II/ Art. Rgt. 129 via 286 Security Division. P.O	10
31	373	246	7.'42	23188	1 Kp/ Pioniere Btl 246 via 246 Infantry Division. P.O	10
32	382	10	5.'42	18389	1 Kp/ Nachrichten Abtl. 10 via 10 Infantry Div. P.O	10
33	399	229	7.'42	30235	2 Zug/ Pioniere Kp. 229 via 197 Infantry Div. P.O	10
34	416	187	10.'43	26807	2 Kp/ Inf. Div. Nachr.Abtl. 5 via 87 Infantry Div. P..O	10
35	425	322	2.'42	32588	4 Kp/ Land Btl 853 via 285 Security Division. P.O	10
36	441	172	10.'42	03096	KI Kw Kol 2/IDKol 172 via 72 Infantry Division. P.O	10
37	454	337	1.'42	26655	KI Kw Kol 5/ID Kol 337 via 337 Infantry Div. P.O	10
38	456	25	10.'41	07540	II/Panzer Gren. Rgt 35 via 25 Pz Gren Division. P.O	10
39	479	156	5.'42	07728	III/Art Rgt 29 via 56 Infantry Division. P.O	10
40	527	195	7.'43	34226	Bakerei Kp.195 via 95 Infantry Division P.O.	10
41	569	260	6.'44	22411	IV/Art Rgt 260 via 260 Infantry Division. P.O	10
42	629	235	4.'42	04723	Stab I/ Pz. Rgt. 2 via 198 Infantry Division. P.O	10
43	652	7	3.'42	05116	II/ Gren. Rgt. 62 via 7 Infantry Division. P.O	10
44	665	15	10.'42	09123	III/ Gren. Rgt. 106 via 15 Infantry Division. P.O	10
45	884	152	12.'43	25133	Kdr Nachschub Truppe 152 via 52 Infantry Div. P.O	10
46	856	17	12.'43	14027	II/ Gren. Rgt. 21 via 17 Infantry Division. P.O	10
47	909	81	5.'43	03424	III/ Panzer Art Rgt 73 via 1 Panzer Division. P.O	15
48	951	106	4.'42	14012	II/ Gren. Rgt. 240 via 106 Infantry Division. P.O	10
49	954	340	3.'42	06727	III/ Gren. Rgt. 694 via 340 Infantry Division. P.O	10
50	968	35	10.'43	29727	I/Gren. Rgt. 111 via 35 Infantry Division. P.O	10
51	982	157	5.'43	31899	5 Schwdr./ Aufkl Abtl 157 via 57 Infantry Div. P.O	10
52	983	292	3.'43	28154	KI Kw Kol 1/IDKol 292 via 292 Infantry Div. P.O	10
53	994	299	9.'41	18256	I/Gren. Rgt. 530 via 299 Infantry Division. P.O	10
54	998	263	7.'43	29804	14 Kp/Gren. Rgt. 467 via 263 Infantry Division. P.O	10

PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 102 IS MAY 19, 2006  
SEND ALL BIDS TO: Jim Lewis, 111F Montross Ave., Rutherford, NJ 07070