

# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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

VOL. XXXV No. 1 (Whole No. 138) 2001

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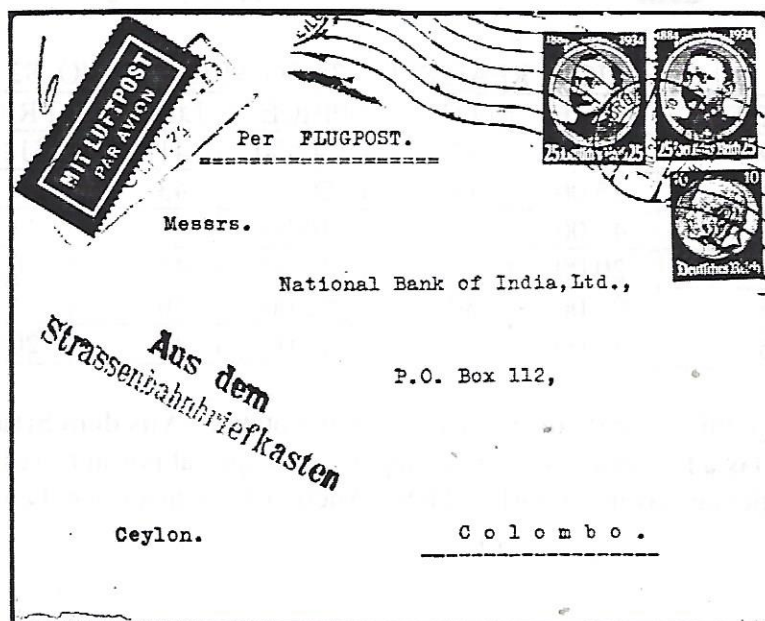
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## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**Prosit Neujahr!** - Welcome to another year of study group activities. We are beginning a comprehensive article on Deutsche Dienstpost Ukraine that should be available sometime next year. As regards this new year, I earnestly hope that some of you will provide articles for our bulletin. I would also appreciate any suggestions for new "columns" like our current Navy Log, Combat Divisions, etc. *Ye Olde Ed*

**TRSG Founding Father** - John Painter, one of the "founding fathers" and Co-Director of the TRSG during the early days, was honored at the GPS Annual Meeting at Minnesota Stamp Expo 2000. John was presented with a GPS medal to mark his 50 years of membership. Shown below is a photo of Mr. & Mrs. Painter and (at right) TRSG Secretary-Treasurer Bob Dunn taken at the meeting.



PRICES REALIZED – TRSG AUCTION NO. 82

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1	\$42.00	9	\$26.00	17	\$ 47.00	41	\$11.00	48	\$28.00
2	11.00	10	25.00	18	20.00	43	17.00	49	35.00
3	10.00	13	45.00	22	16.00	44	11.00		
4	14.00	14	20.00	25	12.00	45	20.00		
5	9.00	15	22.00	30	12.00	46	14.00		
6	11.00	16	17.00	32	14.00	47	20.00		

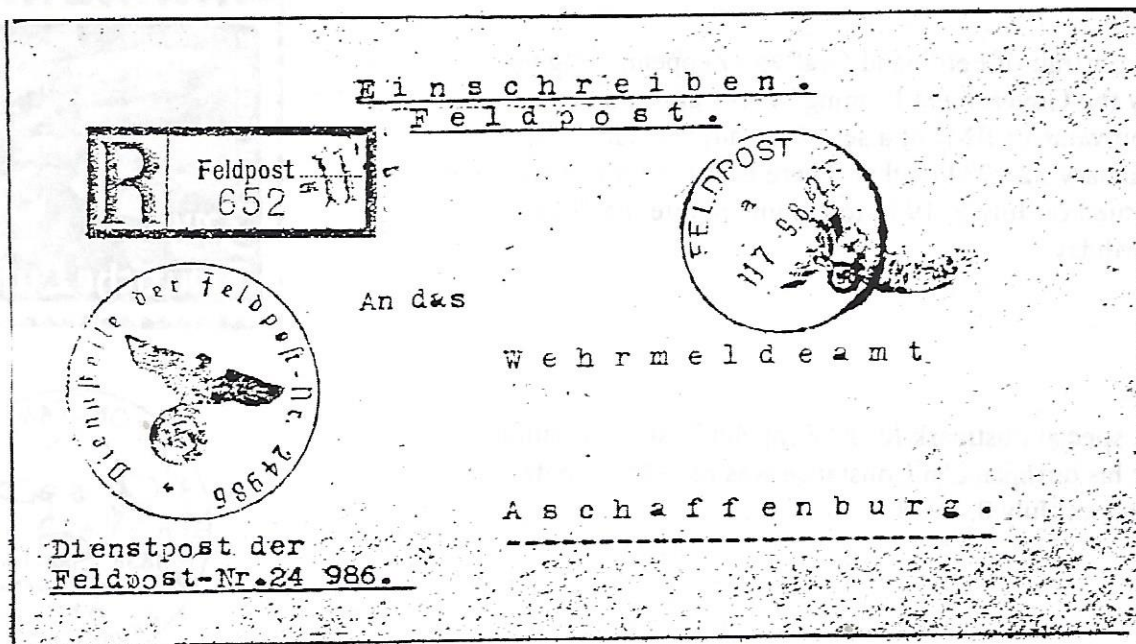
**Cover Illustration** – this airmail cover to Ceylon with notation 'Aus dem Strassenbahnbriefkasten' (via street car letter box) is a fine example of mail deposited in special postal boxes attached to streetcars in Hamburg. This particular cover is lot #1 in TRSG Auction 83 in this issue. Good hunting!!

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 32nd Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
32	117	4	94	96	32	32

Formed in 1935 (1st wave) with Pomeranian and Prussian personnel by expansion of the 4th Infantry Regiment of the old Reichswehr. The 32nd Infantry Division fought in Poland in the northern sector as part of II Army Corps, then in France, where it turned back a French attempt to break the "Panzer corridor" running from the German border to the North Sea coast.

In June 1941 the 32nd Infantry Division invaded the Soviet Union with Army Group North and was under the 16th Army when it fought in the Battles of Dvinsk, Lake Ilmen and in the Valdai Hills. It was one of six divisions of II Army Corps that were surrounded in the Demyansk pocket during the winter of 1941-42 and supplied by air. After a corridor was driven into the pocket in the spring of 1942, it remained in the Demyansk salient until February 1943, when II Army Corps was withdrawn. It remained in the northern sector during the defensive battles of 1943 until transferred to Army Group Center in January 1944. Hurriedly recalled north after the Soviets broke the Siege of Leningrad on January 18, 1944, the 32nd Infantry Division was cited for excellent conduct during the retreat through the Baltic States. It was withdrawn into the Courland Pocket and took part in the desperate battles in western Latvia during 1944-45. Evacuated to Germany by sea in early 1945, it was cut off in the Hela peninsula during the final Soviet offensive and surrendered to the Red Army on May 8, 1945.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Aschaffenburg in August 1942 from  
Fp. # 24986 (Co. 14/Grenadier Regiment. 94) via Field Post Office 32 (K-117).

## Story Behind the Stamp: Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin

by Kelly Stefanacci

Ferdinand von Zeppelin was born July 9, 1838 at Konstanz in Baden. He was the youngest son of Friedrich Graf von Zeppelin, a court official, and his wife Amelie Macaire d/Hogguer. The boy was educated in Baden for a military career and was commissioned in 1858. He volunteered to fight in the Union Army during the American Civil War. While he was in the U.S.A. he made his first ascent in a balloon. After returning home to serve in the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, he married Isabelle Frelin von Wolff in Berlin on August 7, 1869. Their only child, daughter Helene Amalie, was born in 1879. Ferdinand von Zeppelin also fought in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870 and served in the army until 1891, when he retired with the rank of general.

His interest had already turned toward aviation as he had considered construction of an airship in 1874. After retirement in 1892, he began to collaborate with an engineer, Theodor Kober, in an attempt to build a serviceable airship. He received the cooperation of military authorities in 1895 and by 1898 he founded a limited company with capital of 800,000 marks to produce "Zeppelins". With the help of such colleagues as L. Durr, A. Colsman and H. Eckener, by 1900 he had constructed an airship that stayed aloft for twenty minutes before crashing upon landing. By 1906, an improved version could be flown at 30 M.P.H. and by the following year he was achieving speeds of 36 M.P.H. His last airship "Zeppelin IV" crashed on August 5, 1908.

The construction of Zeppelin airships then proceeded rapidly both for civil and military uses. They were used both for bombing and observation during World War I but suffered heavy losses under attack. Ferdinand von Zeppelin died on March 8, 1917 at Charlottenburg near Berlin. His name was carried on by his collaborator Eckener, who named the famous "Graf Zeppelin" airship after the father of modern airships.

A portrait of Ferdinand Graf von Zeppelin designed by the Government Printing Works appears in the top value (3 RM) of a set of ten airmail stamps issued on January 22, 1934 (right). There is also a set of two stamps issued on July 5, 1938 to commemorate the 100th birthday.



A special postmark for a "Zeppelin Post" exhibition at his birthplace in Constance was used for one day only on July 8, 1938



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

# THIRD REICH POSTAL RATES

by Bob Ferguson

## REGISTERED DOUBLE-WEIGHT FOREIGN AIRMAIL BUSINESS PAPER

### I.) BUSINESS PAPERS ("GESHÄFTSPAPIERS")

Posted: Hamburg, November 11, 1936 to Brazil  
Backstamped: November 14, 1936.

#### DOUBLE WEIGHT REGISTERED AIRMAIL BUSINESS PAPERS RATE TO BRAZIL

Franking (3.05 RM.): 2.50 RM. = Airmail surcharge to Brazil for weight: 5 - 10 grams.  
30 Pfg. = Registration fee.  
25 Pfg. = Foreign business papers rate for weight 0-50 grams.  
(Minimum fee of 25Pfg.)



# Rejected by Censor - Inadmissible Mail

by Myron Fox

## Enclosure Slip for Postage Stamp Return

The cover shown below containing German postage stamps was mailed to the USA in December 1941 but was rejected by the Berlin censor office. The typewritten enclosure slip explains that the stamps are being returned since the transmittal of postage stamps is not permitted in foreign postal traffic.

*Sender: Heinrich Falk  
München 23. (Germany)  
Handl Str. 1. bei Kramer*

Eine ist  
~~Die~~ Briefmarken sind ~~entnommen~~ und dem Absender zurückgesandt  
worden, weil die Ausfuhr von Briefmarken ins Ausland ohne Aus-  
fuhrbewilligung verboten ist.

Auslandbriefprüfstelle Berlin



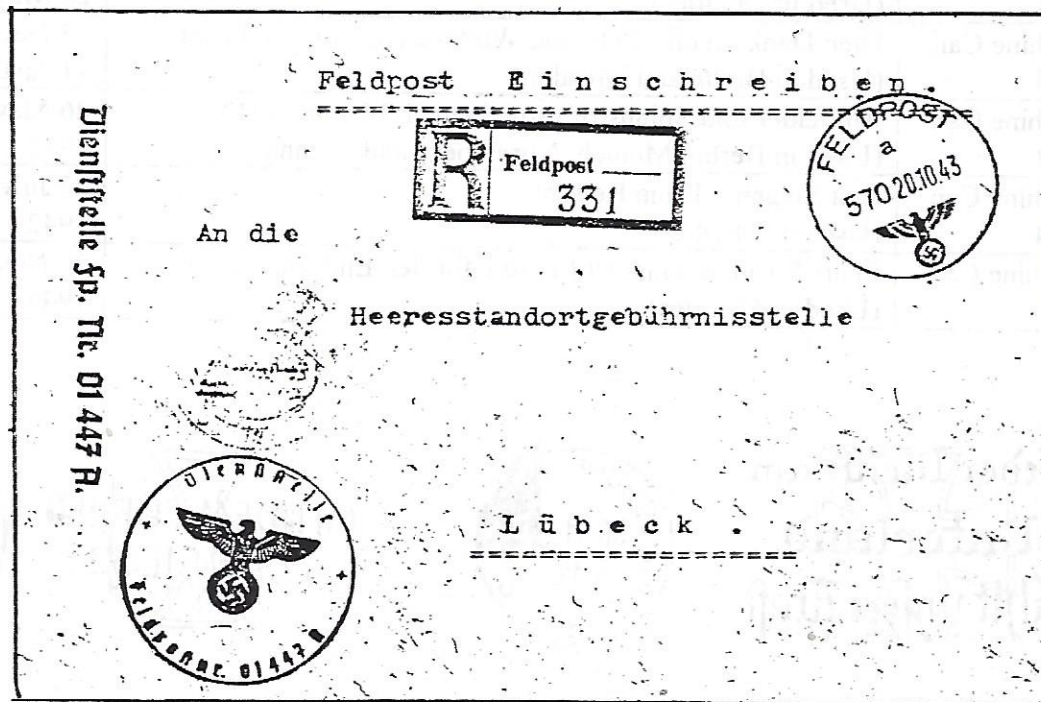
*Heute besuchte  
ich im Flugzeug  
die nunmehrige  
Hofburg für eine  
Tage. Die  
Tage sind die  
allgemeine  
auf die gleiche  
Weise. Ich  
grüße Sie  
und Ihre  
Freunde*

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 58th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
158	570	154	209	220	158	158

Mobilized in the summer of 1939 (2nd Wave) the post office unit (Feldpostamt or FpA) of this Lower Saxon reserve division was assigned Feldpost # 06830 as a return address and Kenn 570 for use on registered mail in lieu of its tactical designation FpA 158. Sent to the Saar front in 1940, the 58th Infantry Division was only lightly engaged during the French campaign. In the fall of 1941 it was sent to the northern sector of the Eastern Front as reinforcements for 18th Army's assault on Leningrad. It took part in the Battle of Volkhov, south of Leningrad, from January through March 1942. The 58th Infantry Division was then transferred south to X Corps of the 16th Army, where it defended the southwestern portion of the Demyansk salient until late in 1943.

The 58th Infantry Division was transferred to Army Group Center in the fall of 1943 but was rushed back to Army Group North in January 1944 after the Soviets launched a major assault on the German lines around Leningrad. The division arrived too late to prevent Soviet forces from breaking the Siege of Leningrad but lost one third of its men and equipment in the withdrawal from that city to the Narva. In the late summer of 1944 the 58th Infantry Division returned to the central sector following the disastrous defeat of Army group Center and took part in the retreat to Germany. It was cut off in the Samland region of East Prussia early in 1945 and surrendered to the Red Army in March.



Cover sent to Army Garrison Office in Lübeck in October 1943 from Fp. # 01447 (Battalion III/Grenadier Regiment 154) via Post Office 158 (K-570)

## Special Cancels – Iron Cross Slogan Cancels

by Bob Ferguson

The Iron Cross was originally a Prussian award for military merit which was revived with the outbreak of World War I. With the outbreak of war in 1939, the Iron Cross began to be featured as a backdrop in patriotic slogan cancels and continued in use through out the war.

The slogan cancel numbering scheme is in Julius Bochmann's work "**Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**".

Machine Can. #339	Den Kämpfer der Front Stützt Du, Deutsche Frau, Daheim (Used in 28 cities)	23 October- 28 December 1939
Machine Can. #340	Denk Immer Daran: Feind Hort Mit! (Used in 56 cities)	23 Oct.-30 Dec. '39 - May-15 June '42
Machine Can. #341	Jeder Dienst am Vaterland Stahl Unsere Kraft (Used in 29 cities)	23 October 1939 – 11 January 1940
Machine Can. #342	Jetzt Heist Es: Die Pflicht Tun und Sonst Gar Nichts (Used in 28 cities)	23 October 1939 – 2 January 1940
Machine Can. #343	Tu Eisern Diene Pflicht – Du Sicherst den Sieg (Used in 27 cities)	23 Oct. '39 -20 Feb. '40 & 30 March '42
Machine Can. #372	Spende Auch Du für die Buchsammlung der NSDAP, für unsere Wehrmacht! (Used in 116 cities)	15 March 1941 – 1943
Machine Can. #374	Spendet für Soldatenheime! Postcheckkonto Berlin Nr. 3898 Bank der Deutschen Arbeit (Used in 39 cities)	2 April – 21 July 1941
Machine Can. #388	Mit dem Führer Zum Sieg! (Used in 24 cities)	1 December 1941 – 20 May 1942
Machine Can. #390	Dien Dank: Woll-, Pelz-und Wintersachen für die Front! (Used in Berlin and Dresden)	27 December 1941 – 11 January 1942
Machine Can. #392	Altkleider und Spinnstoffsammlung, 1-15 June 1942 (Used in Berlin, Munich, Nuremberg and Vienna)	26 May –18 June 1942
Machine Can. #394	Erst Siegen – Dann Reisen! (Used in 34 cities)	27 July –28 August 1942
Machine Can. #396	Spart Strom u. Gas-All Energie für den Endsieg! (Used in 51 cities)	20 November 1942 – 1944

Jeder Dienst am  
Vaterland  
stählt unsere Kraft



MIT DEM FÜHRER  
ZUM SIEG!





# A "Fun" Collection of Third Reich Covers

by Bob Ferguson

Some years ago an article in the APS Journal urged all collectors to start what the author called a "fun" collection in addition to whatever their "serious" collections might be. The definition of "fun" was left to the individual collector. My fun collection consists of National Socialist era covers to as many foreign countries as I can find. So far I've found covers to 48 different countries. The difficulty finding a particular country depends, at least in part, on the location of the collector, but in Fort Worth, Texas, the following illustrated covers seem very exotic indeed.

Fig. 1. China: Posted: Prag, May 27, 1941 to Shanghai. Backstamped: Shanghai, June 20, 1941.

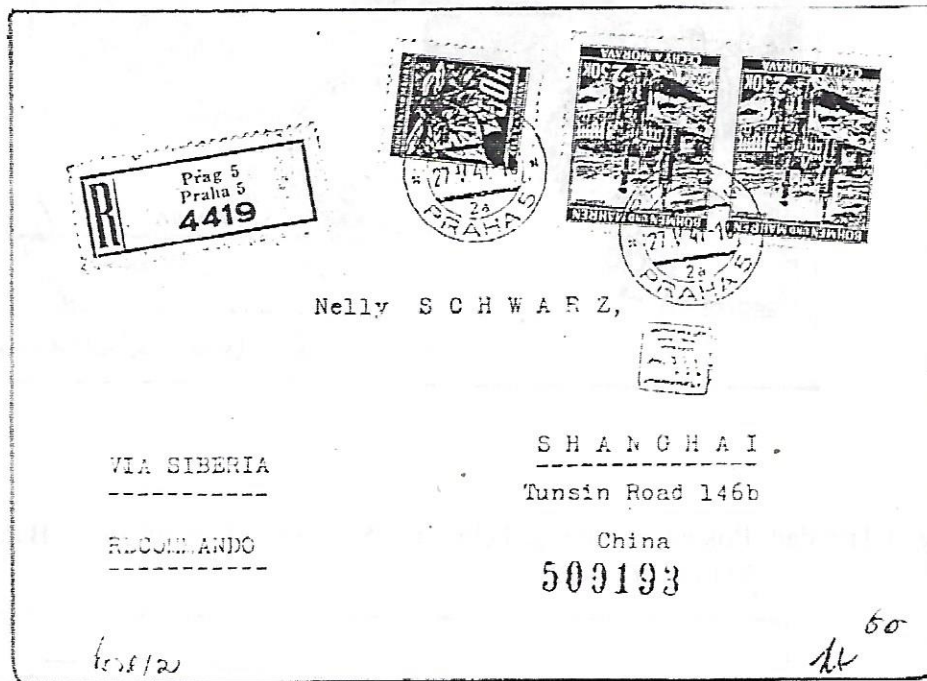


Fig. 2. Tanganyika: Posted: Hamburg, December 31, 1936 to Dar-es-Salaam. Backstamped: Dar-es-Salaam, January 9, 1937.

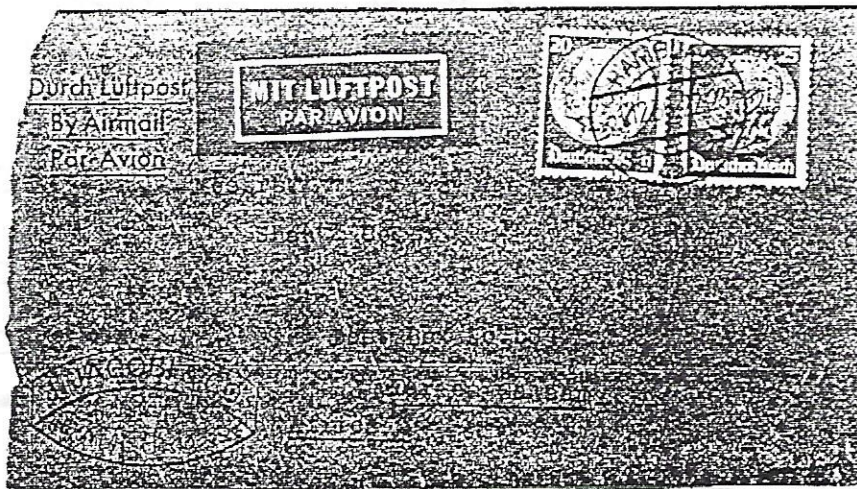




Fig. 5. Australia: Posted: Bremen, August 10, 1936 to Melbourne. Backstamped: Melbourne, August 23, 1936. Forwarded to Adelaide. Backstamped: Adelaide September 2, 1936. Forwarded to Port Pirie.

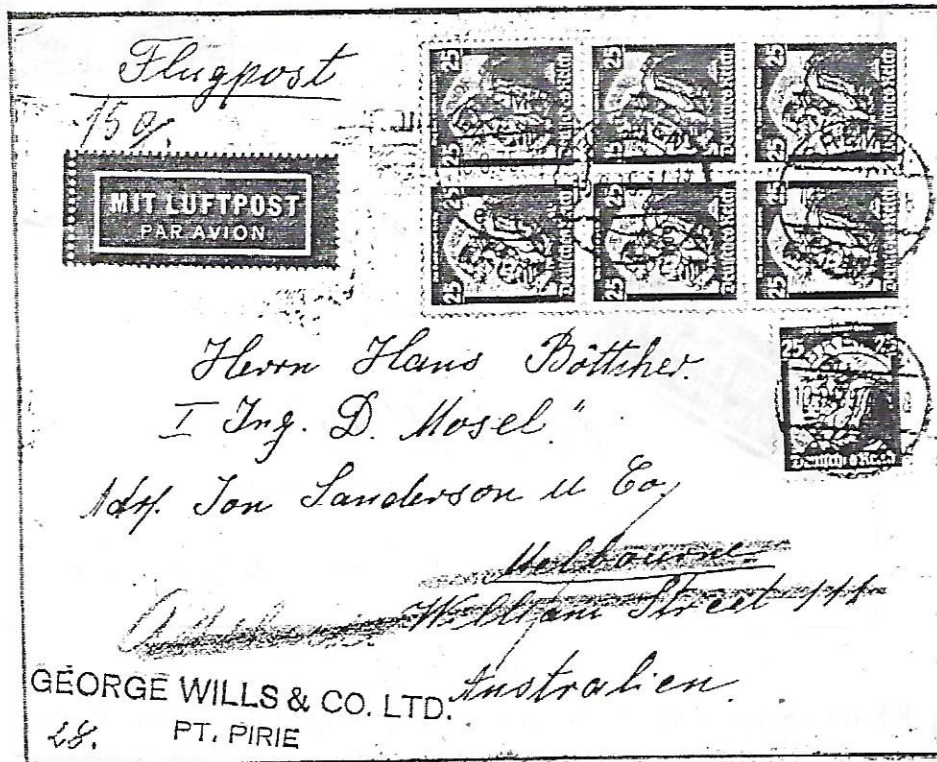


Fig. 6 Iran: Posted: Hamburg, May 10, 1937 to Teheran. Backstamped: Teheran, May 18, 1937.

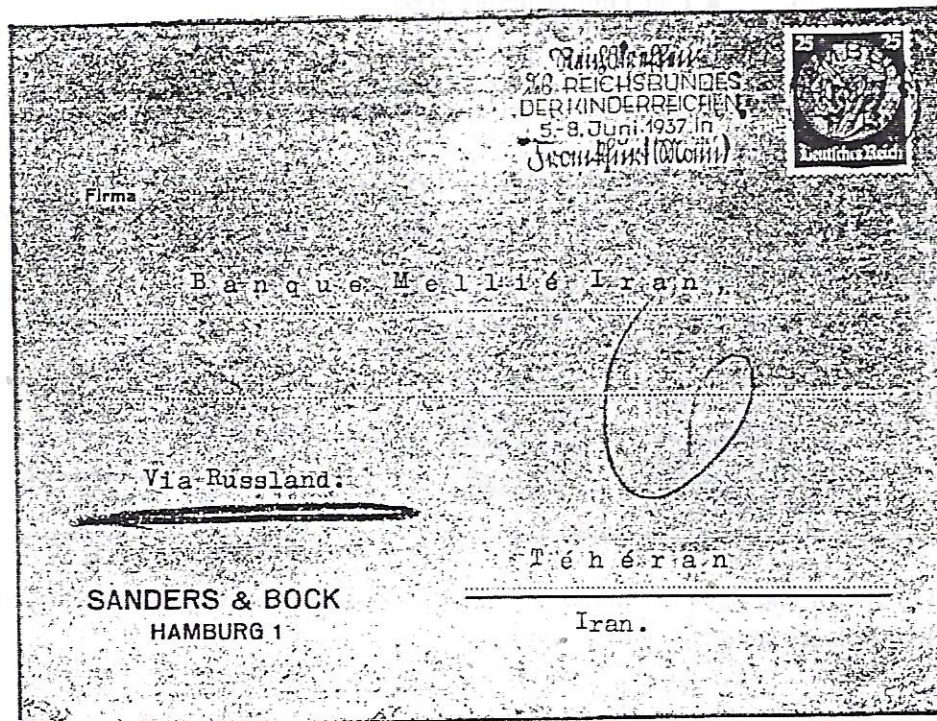


Fig. 7. Southwest Africa: Posted: Ludwigsburg, February 4, 1936 to Usakos. Backstamped: Windhoek, February 18, 1936. Backstamped: Usakos, February 21, 1936.

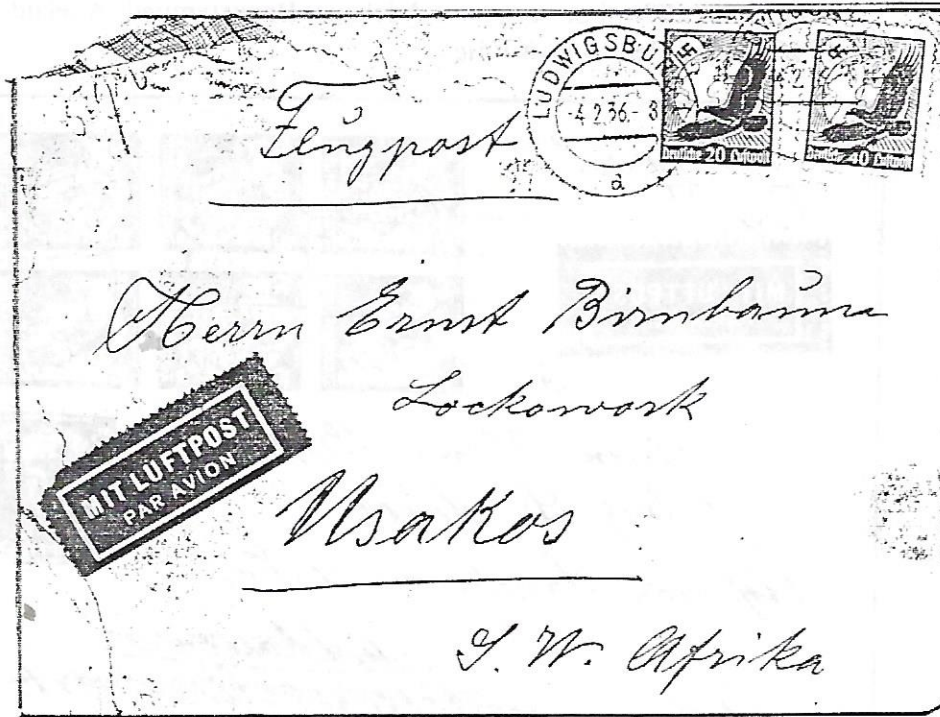
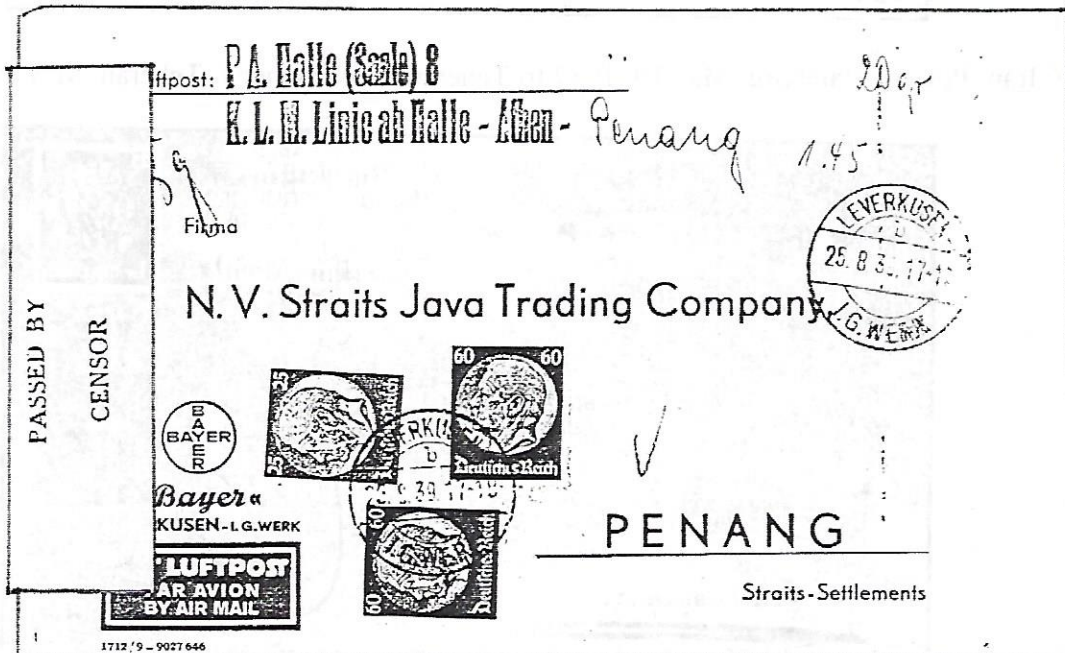


Fig. 8 Straits Settlements: Posted: Leverkusen, August 25, 1939 to Penang.



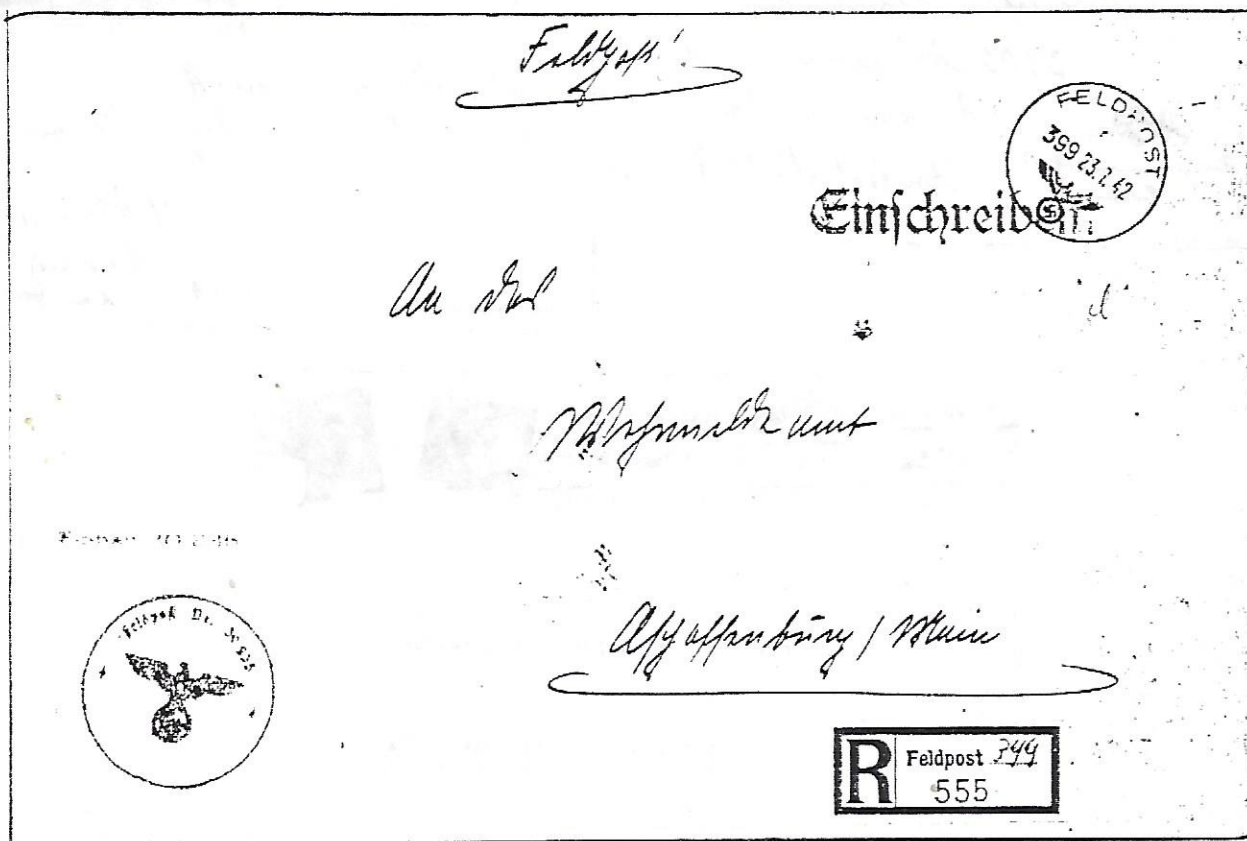
Do any of you have fun and/or odd-ball collections you would share with the membership?  
If so, please send to Ye Olde Ed.

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 197th Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
229	399	321	332	347	229	229

Formed in the Rhineland and Hesse from existing replacement training units in January 1940, the 197th Infantry Division post office was assigned Fp. # 39419 as a mailing address and Kenn 399 as a coded identification in lieu of its tactical number 229. It was sent to the central sector of the Eastern Front in June 1941 and remained there throughout its career. It fought in the Battle of Bialystok-Minsk Pocket, the battles around Moscow in the winter of 1941-42 and in the defensive battles of Army Group Center during 1942.

It took part in the Rzhev withdrawal and then in the fighting west of Smolensk in the fall of 1943. Beginning late in 1943, the 197th Infantry Division maintained defensive positions Vitebsk. On June 22, 1944 the 1st Baltic and 3rd Belorussian Fronts attacked 3rd Panzer Army and the fortified town ('Festung Platz') of Vitebsk. The assault overwhelmed the 197th Infantry Division, which was virtually annihilated. The division was formally disbanded in September. At that time K-399 was re-assigned to FpA 195 of a newly formed 95th Infantry Division.



Cover sent to Military Records Office at Aschaffenburg in July 1942 from Fp. # 30235 (Squad 2/Engineer Company 299) via Field P.O. 229 (K-399).

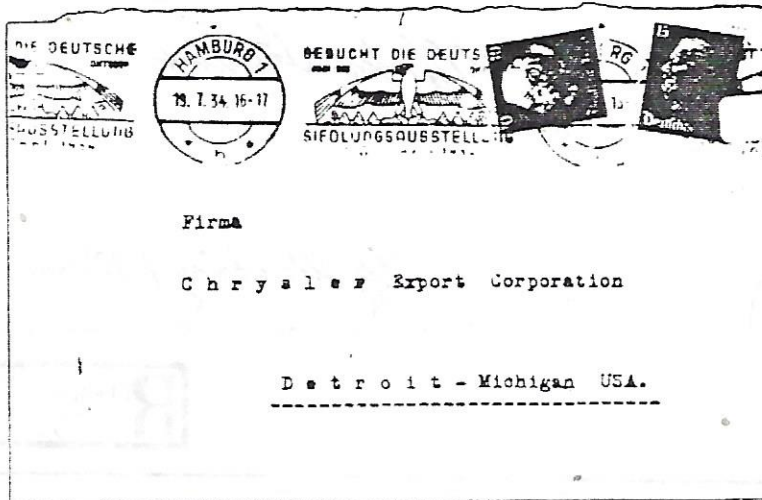
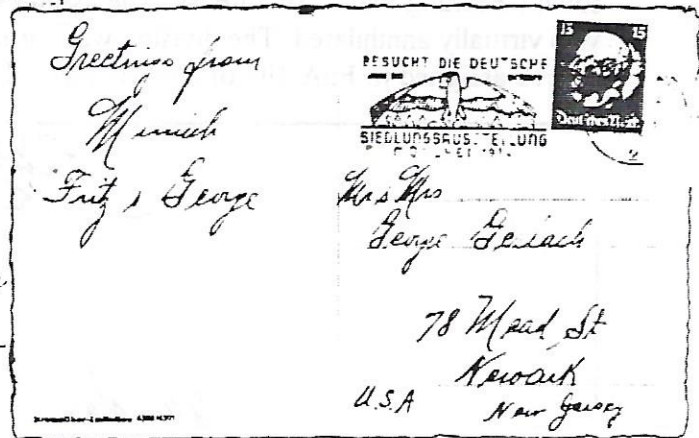
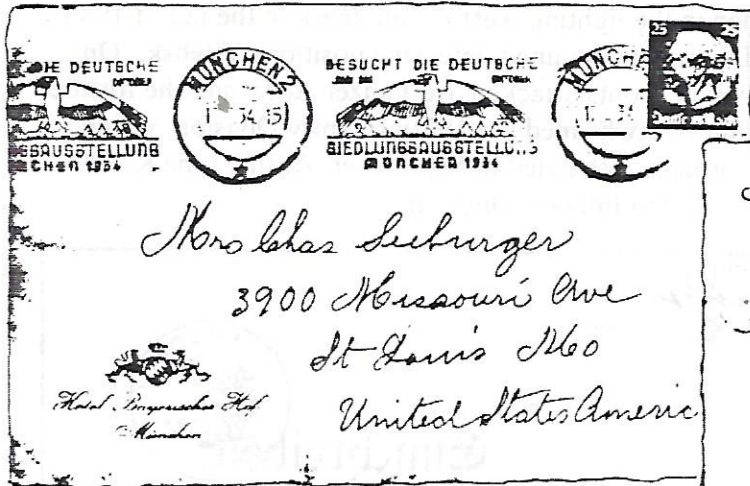
# The 1934 Munich Housing Exposition

by Jim Lewis

A **Deutsche Siedlungsausstellung** (German Housing Exposition) was held in Munich from June to October 1934. This was one of the many programs initiated during the early years of the Third Reich to spur the building industry which, like most other sectors of the German economy, had practically ground to a halt as a result of the world wide depression.

The German Postal Ministry advertised the exposition with a dramatic slogan design that was incorporated into machine and roller type canceling devices. The design symbolically depicts new housing units under the protective outstretched wings of the German eagle. The text reads "Visit the German Housing Exposition in Munich - June to October 1934".

Shown below are covers with roller and machine cancels used at Munich P.O. 2 (top row) and the same roller cancel design used by Hamburg P.O. 1.



ED NOTE: This article originally appeared in TRSG Bulletin 53 in 1979

# Fundamentals of Feldpost Collecting

## Part 6. Luftwaffe Flak Unit Identification

by Jim Lewis

The purpose of this article is to provide order of battle information on the Luftwaffe **Flugzeugabwehrkanonen** or **Flak** (Anti-Aircraft) units that were located in almost all of the territories under German control during World War II.

The Anti-Aircraft was a distinct arm of the Luftwaffe. It included the artillery personnel, including signal and driver personnel, as well as the general personnel of the **Flakregimenter** (Anti-Aircraft regiments) and **Flakabteilungen** (Anti-Aircraft battalions) operating both with field units and under equivalent **Flakgruppen** (regimental commands) and **Flakuntergruppen** (battalion commands) in static defense. It also included the higher staffs (with the exception of their Signals personnel) and controlled the **Flakschulen** (Anti-aircraft schools) and **Flakschiessplätze** (Anti-aircraft firing ranges). Also part of this arm were **Flakscheinwerferregimenten** and **Flakscheinwerferabteilungen** (Anti-Aircraft searchlight regiments and battalions) and the **Sperrabteilungen** (Anti-Aircraft barrage balloon battalions).

Not part of the Luftwaffe were the **Heeresflakartillerie** (Army anti-aircraft), which belonged to the artillery arm, and the **Flak-Einheiten** (Anti-aircraft machine gun units) which belonged to the Infantry.

The Flak and searchlight regiments and battalions in the field were subordinated administratively to Flak divisions and corps. Each battalion contained from three to five batteries (usually four for light battalions and five for mixed or heavy battalions). In static defense there were "groups" or "subgroups" which were actually area commands of regimental or battalion status, respectively, and either came under administrative Flak brigades or were directly subordinated to the **Luftgaukommandos** (Air Force District Commands). A typical "subgroup" would contain from two to eight gun, searchlight and balloon batteries.

The nomenclature was according to the caliber of the guns; Flak batteries were classified as **leichte** (light), **mittlere** (medium) or **schwerste** (heavy). Light batteries contained rapid-fire automatic guns of 20-36 mm; medium batteries contained AA guns from 37-54mm; heavy batteries contained AA guns from 60-159mm and super heavy batteries contained AA guns from 160mm and over.

Depending on their component batteries, Flak battalions were light, heavy or **gemischt** (mixed) with the latter usually containing two light and three heavy batteries. The prefix "Reserve" on certain AA battalions denoted a difference in their strength (9 instead of 12, or 4 instead of 6 guns per battery) and equipment (usually a lack of organic transportation) from their normal table of organization.

The numbering system used for Luftwaffe Flak is rather complicated. Corps, brigades and **Abteilungen** (battalions) were denoted by Roman numerals. However, divisions, regiments, independent battalions (not part of a regiment) and batteries were denoted by Arabic numbers.

Formations identified include two corps (I and II), divisions falling between numbers 1 and 22 and brigades between I and XXII

The main series of units carry numbers in the range 1 – 999. Numbers from 1,000 up are confined to independent batteries. The following are the principle groups in the entire series:

**Nos. 1-70:** Regiments consisting of Headquarters and three battalions. Battalions I and II were mixed with three heavy and two light batteries while battalions III had three or four searchlight batteries. These regiments often contained a **Ersatzabteilung** (replacement battalion).

**Nos. 71-99:** Light battalions each of three or four light batteries. There were also replacement battalions and independent regimental staffs (i.e. without correspondingly numbered subordinate battalions) in this series.

Note: With some exceptions the numbers in these first two series were allotted on the basis of the **Luftgau** (Air District) of origin. The key figure is the last digit that indicates the Air District as follows:

<u>Key Figure</u>	<u>Luftgau</u>	<u>Key Figure</u>	<u>Luftgau</u>
1	I	6	XI
2	III	7	VIII
3	IV	8	XVII
4	VI	9	XII/XIII
5	VII		

Numbers with a last digit of 0 were allocated by the first digit. For examples: Regiments 25 and 50 (key figure 5) originated in **Luftgau VII** and Light battalion 74 (key figure 4) in **Luftgau VI**.

**Nos. 100-999:** units formed on or after mobilization were allotted numbers from this group. This included regiments, independent regimental staffs and independent battalions that could be heavy, mixed, light or replacement. Regiments in this group were rarely complete. They were often restricted to a single mixed battalion (I), a second mixed battalion (II) being occasionally found and very rarely a searchlight battalion (III). The term “reserve” prefixed to independent battalions in this group indicated that they were “non-motorized”. This term was later abandoned in favor of the suffix (v) for **verlegfähig** (mobile) or (o) for **ortsfest** (static) which denoted non-motorized units with trailer-mounted and static equipment respectively.

The numbering of this latter group gets a bit “hairy” so hang on!

The mobilization scheme provided for expansion by the creation of independent (reserve) battalions by regiments and battalions of the active series i.e. the first two groups. The units so formed were assigned numbers consisting of the number of the parent unit plus a third (last) digit; thus Regiment 33 might form Battalion 331 and Battalion 76 might form Light Battalion 761. The key figure, indicating the **Luftgau** of origin, was thus the second digit, except when this was 0, then it was the first digit. Independent regimental staffs were formed on a different system and had no apparent connection with the series of active units. These regimental staffs are mostly in the ranges 100-200 and 650-659.

Balloon barrage battalions and **Eisenbahn-Flak** (Railway anti-aircraft) of all types are found with numbers between 100 and 999. Both categories of unit were in parallel series and no special numbering system has been discerned

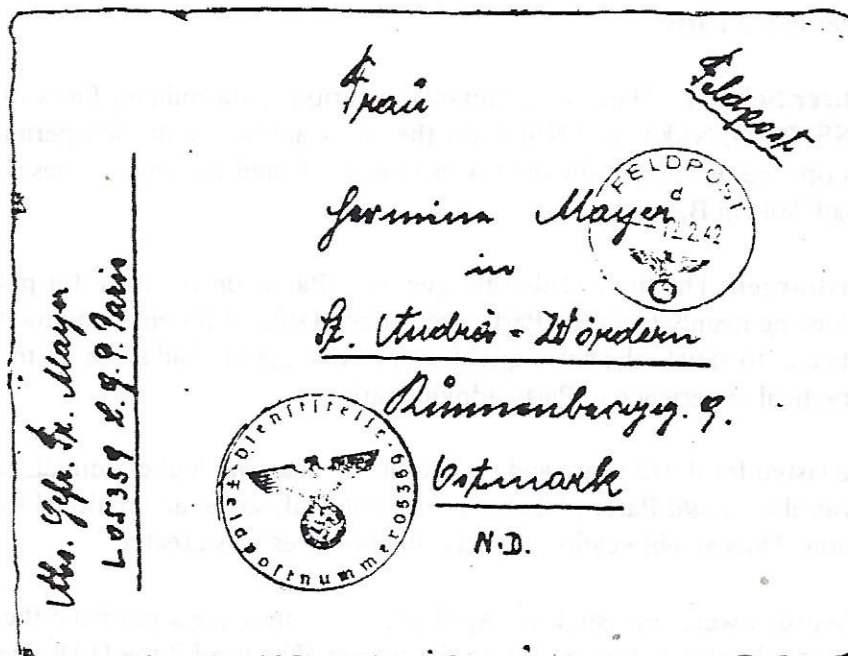


**Nos. 1,000 & up:** These were assigned to separate z.b.V.= zur besonderen Verwendung units (for special purposes) batteries which were heavy, light or searchlight and were non-motorized. In many cases they have been found to be former component batteries of identified battalions renumbered such as "4. Batterie/750 Ie. Flak Abteilung" renumbered "2021 Ie. Batterie".

The orderly expansion of the series was complicated by a number of confusing factors such as uneven or incomplete development of the active series and changes in designation due to the conversion of non-motorized units to motorized and vice-versa. Light batteries upon motorization merely dropped the prefix "reserve" and added the suffix (mot) to their designation. Mixed or searchlight battalions were more often renumbered as regimental battalions. Example: **251 (gem) reserve Abteilung** was renumbered **II Abteilung/Regiment 25**. However, the key figure system is still a fair indicator to the **Luftgau** of origin and the numeration gives a reasonable guide to the types of unit. The following general principles apply:

- a) **Abteilungen** in the series 71-99 and **Abteilungen** numbered as components of Regiments are motorized. All other **Abteilungen** are non-motorized unless described as (mot).
- b) **Abteilungen** numbered as I and II Abt. of Regiments are mixed and III Abt. is searchlight.
- c) Independent **Abteilungen** in the range 100-599, 700-709, 800-809 and 900-909 are heavy and mixed when their final digit is 1-7 and usually searchlight when their final digit is 8, 9 or 0.
- d) The range 600-699 is irregular and contains heavy, mixed, light and searchlight **Abteilungen**. There are also independent regimental staffs in the range 650-659.
- e) Units numbered over 1,000 are separate **Batterien** (Batteries). **Batterien** with the same first two digits are of the same type, as stated above.

With an understanding of the numbering system, one can now identify Feldpost covers from Flak units. Shown below is a cover from Fp # L05359 posted in February 1942. Project Himmelblau or the FpU lists this as the coded address for "13. Scheinw. Battr./III Abt./Flak Rgt. 111". This Searchlight unit was formed after mobilization in Luftgau I per the second digit key figure 1. The manuscript return address includes "L.G.P. Paris" which places the unit in northern France on this date. In 1944 this unit was renumbered "3. Battr./Flakscheinw. Abt. 220 (v)"



ED NOTE: This article was first published in TRSG Bulletin 66 in 1983.

## The Ordnungsburgen

by Mike Passmore

In addition to the usual schools and universities, Nazi Germany developed a comprehensive system for political training schools which were purely concerned with political education and training in Party leadership. These may be summarized as follows:

- 1.) **National Politisches Erziehung Anstalten** (National Political Educational Establishments known as NAPOLA schools)
- 2.) **Adolf Hitler Schools**
- 3.) **Reichs-Führer Schulen** (Reich Leadership Schools)
- 4.) **Ordensburgen**

These establishments remained largely uncommemorated by the German Post Office but at least two the Ordensburgen had their own special cancellations.

**The NAPOLA Schools.** The SS with SS and Hitler Youth instructors specially picked for their ideological reliability ran these. Thirty-nine of these schools had been established by 1939.

**Adolf Hitler Schools** As an alternate to the NAPOLA, Dr. Robert Ley, the Reichs Organization Leiter of the NSDAP, set up the Adolf Hitler Schools under the control of the Party itself. They were organized through the Hitler Youth and were officially established as preparatory schools for the Ordensburgen, and as units of the Hitler Youth, on January 18, 1937. They were expressly designed as leadership schools for the NSDAP and the Hitler Youth.

The first Adolf Hitler School was opened as part of Ordensburg Krossinsee and it was planned for each Party Gaue to have its own Adolf Hitler School. By 1942 11 had been opened. Pupils were chosen from the ranks of the Hitler Youth, and two thirds of the first 230 graduates went on to a career in the Party.

**Reichs-Führer Schulen.** These were run by the various para-military Party organizations such as the SA, SS, RAD, NSKK and NSFK for the political training of their permanent staff. The earliest was opened in Munich for the SA in June 1931, and perhaps the best known is the SS school at Bad Tolz in Bavaria.

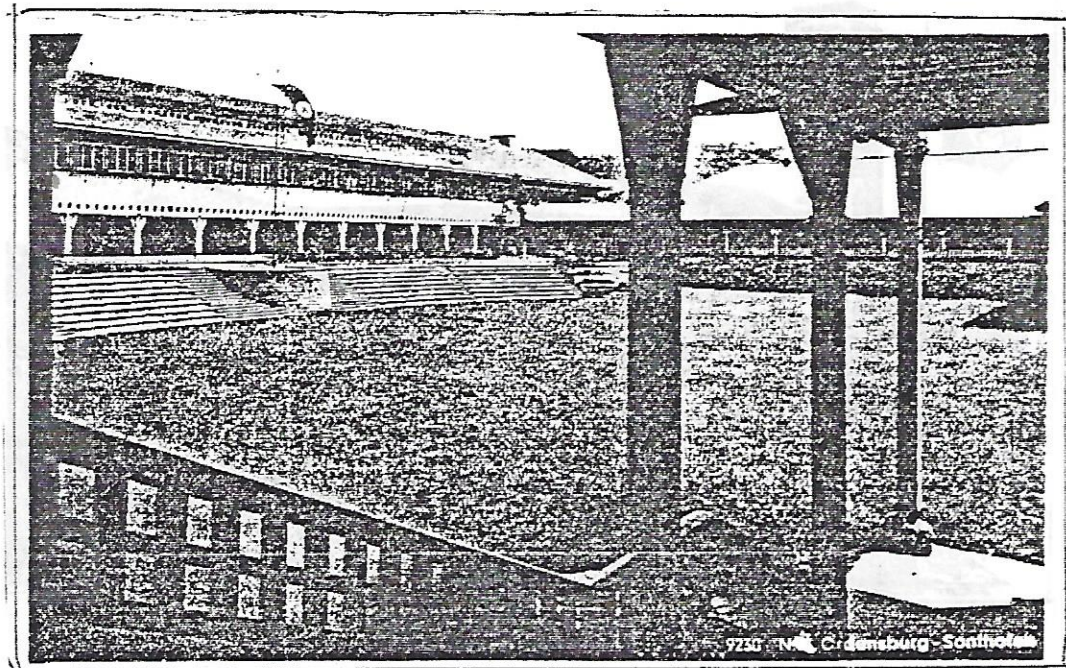
**The Ordensburgen.** The three Ordensburgen were Party 'universities' for political leaders and entrants came mainly from the Party itself. Each Ordensburg accommodated about 1,000 cadets and to satisfy the entry qualifications one merely had to be 25 to 30 years old and have practical experience in Party administration.

The course lasted for 3-1/2 years and, in addition to learning higher administrative functions; the cadet was also taught Party philosophy and political, social and national aspects of Party administration. Thus an elite cadre of Party functionaries was created.

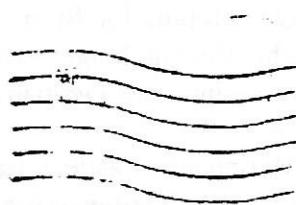
The Ordensburgen were 'invested' on April 24, 1936 and were a gift from the **Deutsches Arbeits Front** (German Labor Front), to the Führer. The head of the DAF was also Dr. Robert Ley.

The ideal career of the future Party official would thus begin with entrance to an Adolf Hitler School at the age of 12. From there he would leave with a diploma at age 18 to begin two years with the Labor Corps and the Army. At age 20 he would begin 5 years service in the Party and would then enter one of the Ordensburgen as a cadet at age 25. After a further 3-1/2 years training he would finally emerge as a full-fledged Party functionary. The possibility of yet a further course of study was also envisaged. This would have taken place at a planned NSDAP 'High School' to be built at Chiemsee which would have been attended by the most able of the Ordensburgen Junkers.

**Ordensburgen Sonnhofen.** The first Ordensburgen was built at Sonnhofen in the Allgau area of southern Germany in 1934/35. Originally designed as an Adolf Hitler school for 300 pupils, it was built in four simple blocks surrounding an inner square. Before the school had opened the buildings were considerably extended to form the Ordensburg proper with the Adolf Hitler School forming an integral part of the complex. The whole complex housing 1,100 pupils was opened on November 23, 1937. The postcard (Fig. 1 below) shows original courtyard with blocks of the Adolf Hitler School around it.

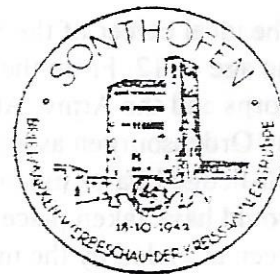


The special hand cancel (Fig. 2) and machine cancel (Fig. 3) below were introduced as early as November 15. According to Bochmann catalog these cancels were used only during the following periods: Nov. 15-24, 1937; Jan. 9-18, Jan. 21-26 and April 20, 1938 and March 19-27, 1939.

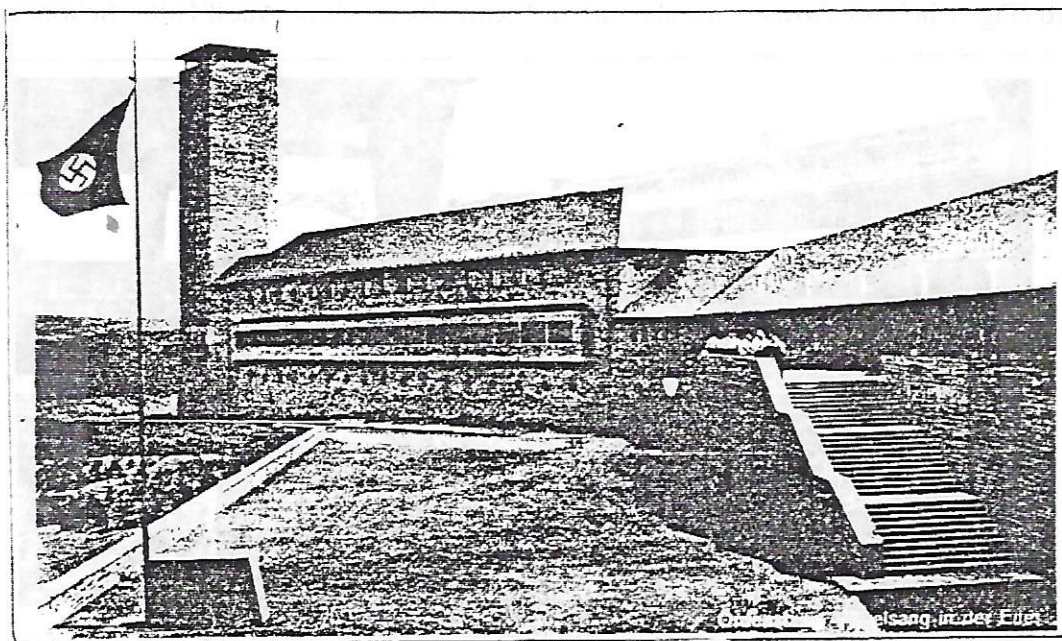


The handstamp is unusual as it has the initial 'g' which would normally identify it as one of a series but, as Bochmann indicates that it was the only one of its kind, one wonders why the letter was used. It is not clear whether the cancels were used in the Ordensburg or at a nearby town of the same name.

A further hand cancel (Fig. 4 at right) depicting the buildings of the Sonthofen Ordensburg was used for one day only on October 18, 1942 to commemorate an exhibition by the local district philatelic Societies. Bochmann gives no information regarding the office issuing this cancel but seems unlikely that it was used at the Ordensburg itself. These buildings now house an Alpine regiment of the West German Army.



**Ordensburgen Vogelsang.** This Ordensburg was built high in the Eifel mountains near Aachen in 1934/35. The site was often cloud-bound but had a fantastic view over mountains and a lake below. The postcard (Fig. 5) shows the Ordensburg buildings, which currently serve as a NATO headquarters. Bochmann lists no special postmarks for this establishment, which may indicate that there was no local town of the same name.



**Ordensburgen Krossinsee.** Located near Falkenburg in Pomerania, it opened on April 19, 1937 and included an Adolf Hitler School for 300 pupils. The special cancel with the Ordensburg name (Fig. 6 right) was used in the town of Krossinsee from 1937 to 1940. Bochmann gives no precise dates so the cancel may have been in continuous use during that period. It also carries a slogan (Stadt der guten Tuche) referring to the town's reputation for manufacturing good quality cloth. The Ordensburg building no longer exists as the Russians razed the site after the advance into east Germany during World War II.

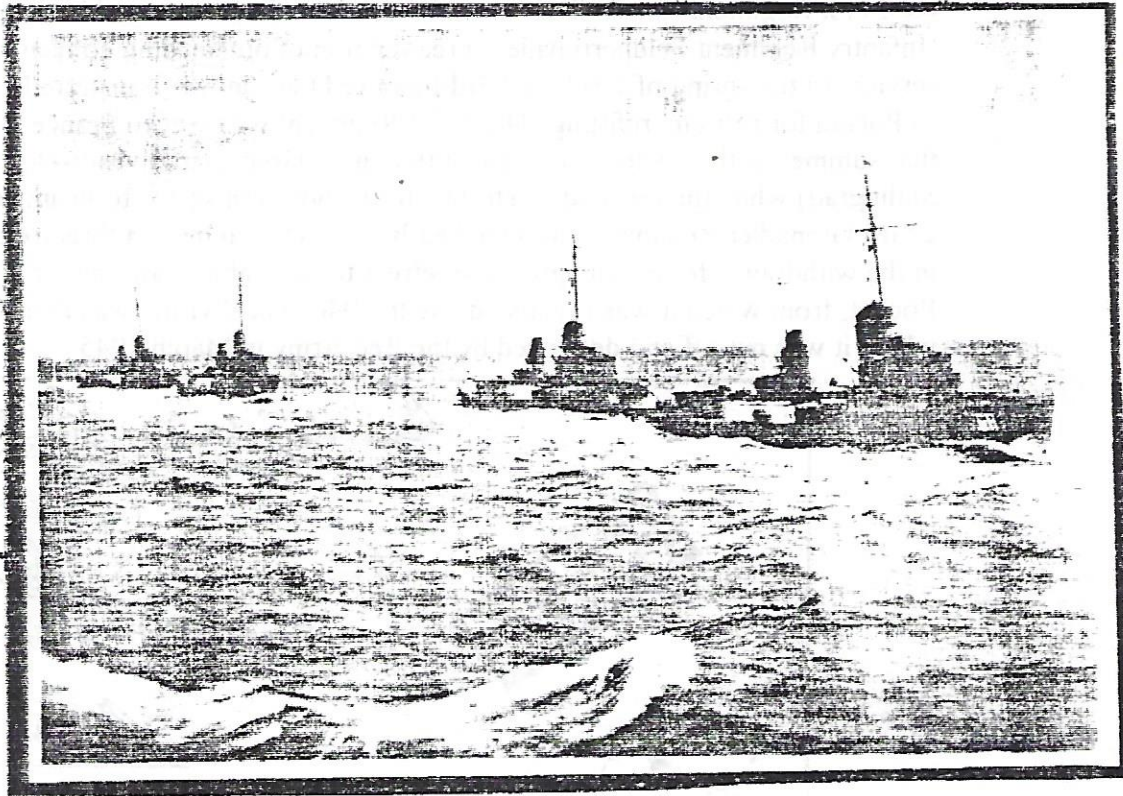
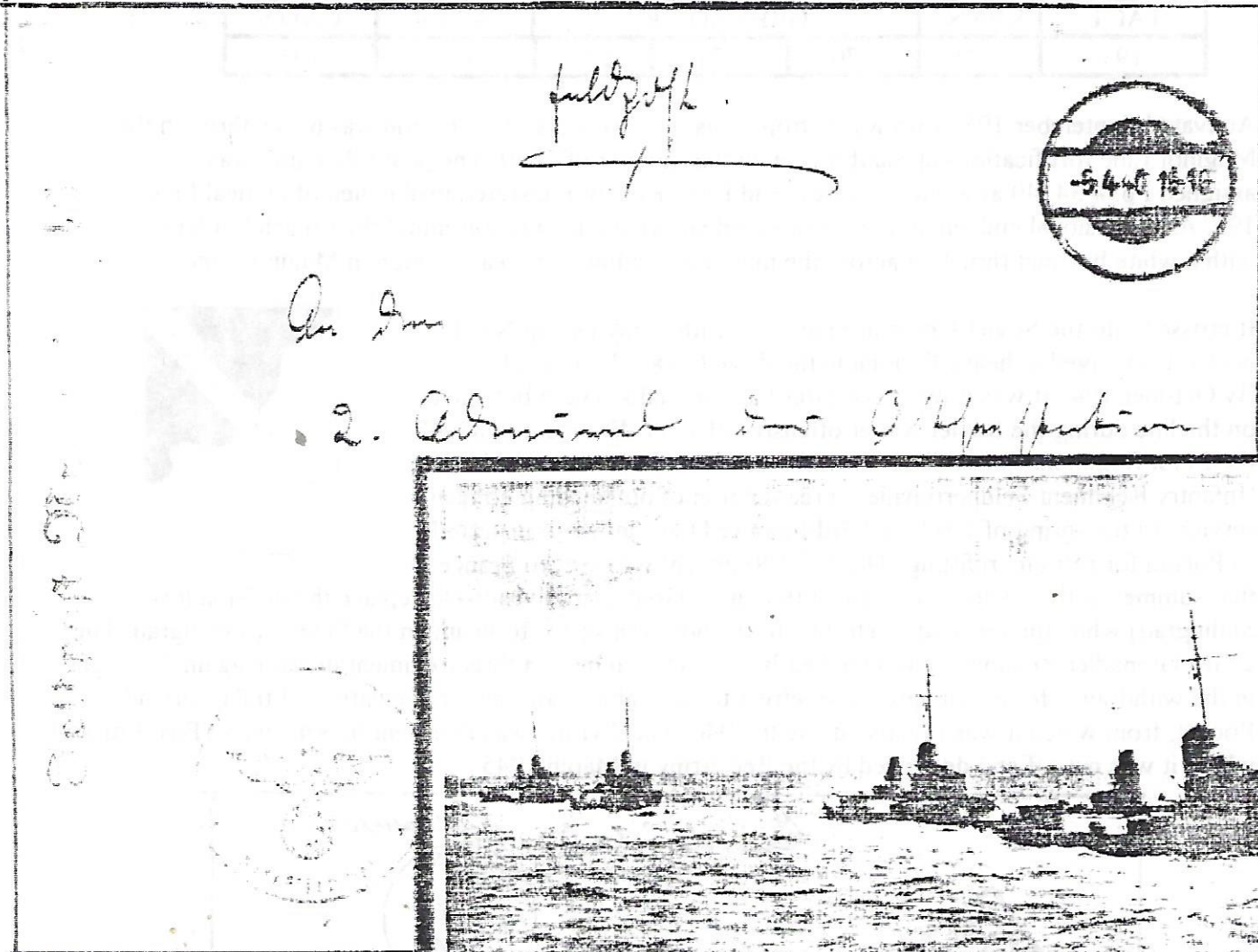


It has been erroneously stated that Marienburg Castle in East Prussia was an Ordensburg. This error may have arisen from the German title '**Ordensschloss Marienburg**', the original seat of the Order of Teutonic Knights and it is this Order that is referred to in the castle's title.

*ED Note: This article originally appeared in News Sheet 23 of the Third Reich Study Group (U.K.) in September 1980 and is reprinted here with their kind permission.*

# NAVY LOG

Torpedo Boat 'Greif' - Feldpost # 02845



This 'Mowe' class boat built at Naval Dockyard (Wilhelmshaven) and launched 1927. Displacement: 924 tons; range: 3100 miles @ 17 knots; armament: three 4.1" (3 x 1), two 20mm AA guns, six 21" torpedo tubes; crew: 22. Bombed and sunk in Seine estuary on May 24, 1944 by Allied aircraft.

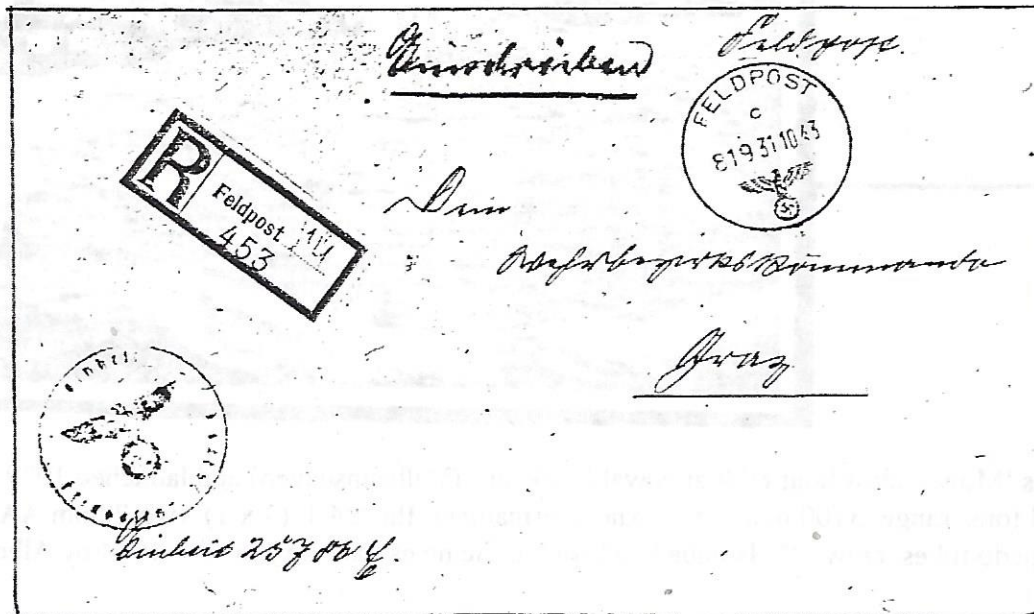
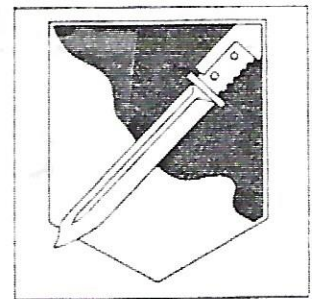
Photo: 'Greif' leading with 'Mowe' astern.

## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 93rd Infantry Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS	
193	819	270	271	272	193	193

Activated September 1939 (5th wave) from Prussian reservists, this division was broke through the Maginot Line fortifications at Saarbrucken in the summer of 1940. The post office unit was assigned Fp. # 34349 as a return address and Kenn 819 for registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 193. As a divisional emblem it adopted a shield showing a map representing the French border, with a white bayonet thrusting across the map representing the breakthrough in Maginot Line.

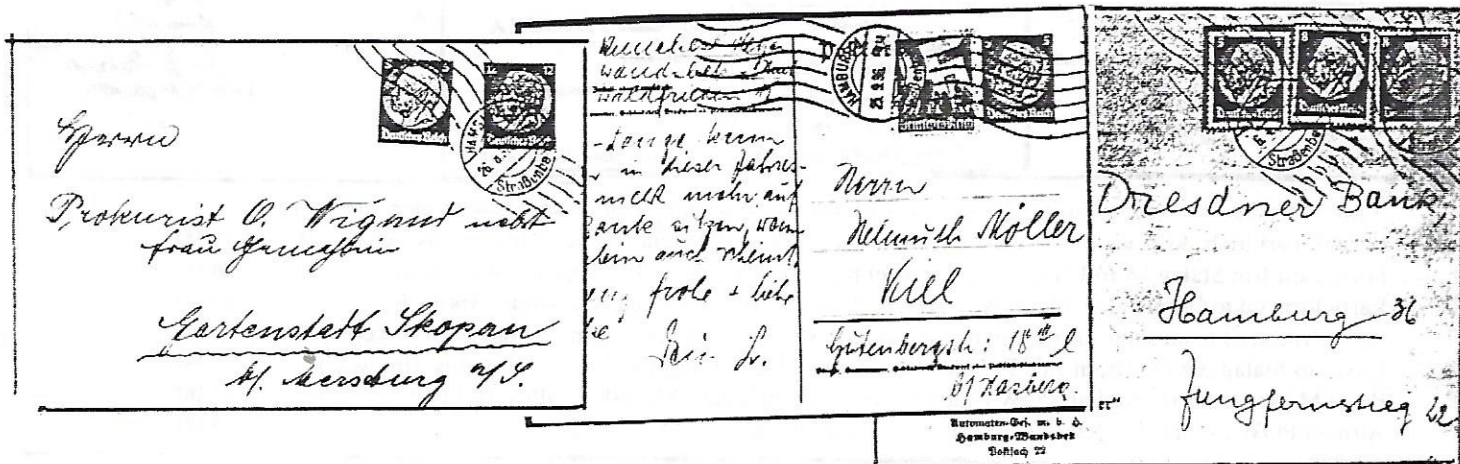
It crossed into the Soviet Union in June 1941 with Army Group North and was involved in heavy fighting in the drive toward Leningrad. By October 1941 it was down to one third authorized strength but stayed on the line during the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42. In autumn 1942 the 271st Regiment (primarily S.A. men) was given the honorary title 'Infantry Regiment Feldherrnhalle' in recognition of outstanding combat service. In the spring of 1943 the 93rd Infantry Division was transferred to Poland for rest and refitting. The 271st Regiment was sent to France that summer as the nucleus of a new 60th Panzer-Grenadier Division (to replace the division lost at Stalingrad) while the remainder returned to the northern sector to maintain the Siege of Leningrad. The 273rd Grenadier Regiment was added early in 1944, making it a three-regiment division again. It fought in the withdrawal from Leningrad, the retreat to the Baltic States and in the battles of the Courland Pocket, from which it was evacuated late in 1944. The division was then sent to Samland in East Prussia, where it was cut off and destroyed by the Red Army in March 1945.



Cover to Military District Command in Graz in October 1943 from Fp. # 25786 (Battalion II/Grenadier Regiment 270) via Field Post Office 193 (K-819).

# TRSG AUCTION NO. 83

Lot	Description	Min. Bid.
<p>The first four lots are scarce examples of mail dispatched from Hamburg streetcars, which had mail boxes attached to their back platforms. This mail was delivered to Hamburg 1 P.O. when the streetcar completed a circuit. The special "Strassenbahn" (streetcar) cancel included both hour and minute. A 5 Pfg. fee for this service had to be paid in advance.</p>		
1.	Airmail cvr to Ceylon posted in 10.'34 has special cancel and 2-line h/stamp. VF (See Page 1 illustration)	\$45.00
2.	Postcard to Kiel posted with nice 9.'36 streetcar roller cancel. (See illustration below C)	25.00
3.	Local comm. cvr frm newspaper 5.'36 w/dbl. weight postage + streetcar fee. (See illustration below R)	30.00
4.	Inter-city cvr to Mersburg 8.'36 w/12 Pfg. letter rate + streetcar fee VF (See illustration below L)	25.00



Next 17 lots are Naval (Kriegsmarine) Feldpost cvrs from mostly Flak Abtl. & Coastal Artillery Abtl. All F-VF unless noted otherwise. Unlike Army Feldpost, Navy items are not easy to find!

Fp. No.	Date	Description	Min. Bid.
5.	00249	2.'40 Stab/Marine Artillery Abtl. 123, Swinemunde Special cancel (illust. Below L)	10.00
6.	05231	1.'40 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 215, Königsberg cancel, boxed Breifstelle	10.00
7.	33008	2.'42 Seebefehlsstelle Antwerpen to Wilhelmshaven w/Feldpost cancel	10.00
8.	24464	4.'40 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 244, Hamerau-Rademarschen cancel	10.00
9.	00472	3.'42 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 280, Feldpost cancel, h/s Wehrmachtdienstpost	12.00
10.	03574	11.'39 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 213, Wiek cancel, 'Frei durch Ablosung' h/stamp	10.00
11.	03629	1.'42 Stab/Marine Art Abtl. 264, to Wilhelmshaven w/Feldpost cancel	10.00
12.	10108	11.'41 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 211, mute cancel, (illust. Below R)	10.00
13.	11070	5.'44 Hafen Kommandantur (Harbor Command) Saint Malo Feldpost cancel	12.00
14.	11313	4.'42 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 711, mute cancel, to Cmdr North Sea Station	10.00
15.	16685	7.'44 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 266, mute cancel w/grid, to Cmdr North Sea Station	12.00
16.	18258	4.'44 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 509, Feldpost cancel to Berlin Electric Works	12.00
17.	24466	12.'39 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 225, Königsberg slogan cancel (illust. Below L)	10.00
18.	25732	2.'40 Stab/Marine Flak Abtl. 261, Kiel Red Cross mach. cancel	10.00
19.	30470	3.'40 1st Destroyer Flottilla to Fp.# 02143 (Flott. Kdo) Wilhelmshaven can.	12.00
20.	41151	2.'40 Stab/Marine Artillery Abtl. 811, mute cancel w/grid	12.00

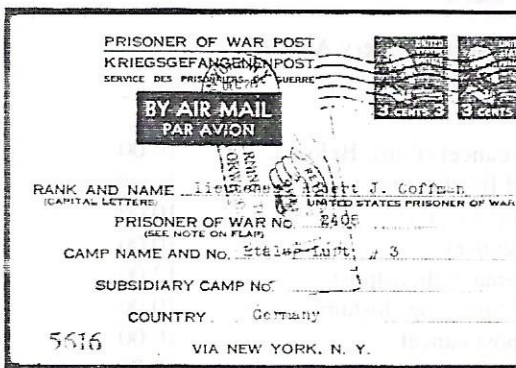


Lot	Description	Min. Bid
21.	Photocd trainees in boats frm Mar. Art. Franz Brantner Marineschule Flensburg-Mürwik sent 6.'42	\$ 18.00
22.	Official cvr frm Kdo Signals School in Waren sent to 2. Admiral East Sea in 8.'44	15.00
23.	Cvr frm Teaching Co. of Navy Flak School in Wesel sent to 2. Admiral East Sea in 4.'44	13.00



Next 7 lots are POW camp cards & cvrs, each VF on award winning exhibit sheets with nice write-ups

24.	Form 2-part ltrshd w/ rules for parcels sent from Stalag IA to Bastogne. Quite scarce! (illus. Above C)	45.00
25.	Form card frm Stalag IA to USA w/o city cancel has OKW, Camp & US censor. (illus. Above L)	24.00
26.	Early form cd to Frontstalag 131 in Nov.'40 has 2-line h/s re to write clearly. (illus. Above R)	35.00
27.	Same type card from same correspondent in Jan.'41 wth correct address & nice Stalag XIIIIC censor.	20.00
28.	Cover to Stalag XXA (Thorn-Süd Poland) frm England Oct.'40 prior to form cards (illus. Below C)	25.00
29.	Posta Militar letter frm Italian POW (interned Sept.'43) in Stalag XB w/Ital. (illus. Below R)	25.00
30.	Airmail POW cvr frm USA to AAF Lt. In Stalag Luft #3 in Dec.'44. (illus. Below L)	25.00



Next 13 lots - R-Feldpost cvrs on exhibit pages from scarce FpA zbVs (for special purpose). All F-VF

Kenn	FpA	Date	Fp #	Description		
31.	K-139	793zbV	5.'43	03171	Frm Füsilere Rgt. 'Grossdeutschland' via 18th Army P.O.	17.00
32.	K-206	671zbV	5.'42	04102F	From Signals Command A via P.O. St. Germain-Paris France	10.00
33.	K-208	633zbV	1.'45	L63295	From Pursuit Squadron 102 via Military Command Denmark	18.00
34.	K-232	766zbV	11.'43	08747	From Butcher Co. 60 via 4th Army P.O. Central Russia	10.00
35.	K-421	608zbV	6.'42	04634	Frm Military Police Btl. 694 via Area Cmdr Belgium- France	10.00
36.	K-458	272zbV	2.'44	L09808	From Air Base Command 520 via Feldkdt P.O. North France	10.00
37.	K-464	752zbV	4.'42	07105	From Army Horse Park 520 via 18th Army P.O. North Russia	10.00
38.	K-554	533zbV	2.'43	08270	From Pz.-Gren.Nachsh Tr 29 via 9th Army P.O. South Russia	10.00
39.	K-549	590zbV	4.'40	07423	From Infantry Lehr (Training) Btl. 1 via 1st Army P.O. France	10.00
40.	K-735	289zbV	11.'41	16725	Frm Luftw. Füsilere Btl. 12 via 18th Army P.O. North Russia	10.00
41.	K-935	580zbV	4.'43	19898	From POW Command R via 2nd Army P.O. Central Russia	10.00
42.	K-948	553zbV	11.'42	L01784	From Fighter Group 40 via Feldkdt 589 P.O. Olivet, France	10.00
43.	K-976	532zbV	4.'42	03622	From Recon. Btl. 187 via 9th Army P.O. South Russia	10.00

PLEASE NOTE: THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 83 is February 15, 2001  
SEND ALL BIDS TO: JIM LEWIS, 111 MONTROSS AVE., RUTHERFORD, NJ 07070