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

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STUDY GROUP NOTES

When Bob and myself took over the task of generating the bulletin, we had high hopes of publishing a quality bulletin in a timely and punctual manner. We were doing fine with three bulletins through October. Then I was assigned to a crash effort at work that found me working through the Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year holidays. This issue is thus slightly late. We shall try to make up the schedule this year.

In this respect I must say that the response for help was very encouraging. I have not been able to follow up on them for the reasons cited above. However I shall be contacting each of you personally as my next order of business.

Dues

Bob and I had a chance to discuss study group matters at INTER-PHIL and decided that we cannot hold the line any longer on dues. Therefore we are reluctantly raising the basic assessment to \$3.00 per annum. This is our first raise since 1972. The effects of inflation are no longer topics discussed only in academic journals and our friends in the Inflation Study Group. It is a phenomena that effects our daily lives and which is now well reported by the mass media. Though I do not have the figures at my fingertips the basic costs of doing TRSG business have seen a considerable rise since 1972 i.e. postage, stationery, and reproduction. We have only been able to hold the line for so long due to the added revenue that we have been able to accumulate due to the success of the sales of the Petersen Handbook, the

auction, and the Pidun article. In fact the actual cost of the bulletin exceeded the dues and we were thus eating into our capital funds which are really intended for sponsoring special publications etc. The basic \$3.00 dues is still a bargain when one considers that it is not uncommon to be assessed 20, DM in study groups in Germany. A membership renewal form is attached to this issue. It has been some time since we have provided a study group membership directory. We would like to do so this year. Please indicate in the space provided on the renewal form if you do not mind being listed.

Finally I must sadly announce the passing of two long time members of our group Al Melching of Phoenix, Arizona and GPS Vice President Carl Kroboth.

MF

Fourth TRSG Auction Results

Auction manager Fred Stengel reports that the 4th sale was very successful. 150 lots were offered and 122 were sold, realizing \$657.50 if my calculations are correct. The better than 80% sales ratio shows that there is a strong demand for reasonable priced III Reich material especially in the postal history areas. The fifth sale is slated for the next bulletin and Fred tells me he can still use material. Let's get those duplicates out of those shoe boxes working for you to get funds to buy those few elusive items you really need.

Prices Realized

Lot 1-\$3.00; 2-\$5.00; 3-NS; 4-\$4.75; 5-\$7.50; 6-\$7.75; 7-\$8.00; 8-\$6.75; 9-\$5.00; 10-\$8.25; 11-\$8.00; 12-\$6.25; 13-\$3.00; 14-\$3.50; 15-\$6.75; 16-NS; 17-NS; 18-NS; 19-\$5.00; 20-NS; 21-NS; 22-\$2.75; 23-\$3.00; 24-\$3.00; 25-\$25.00; 26-\$17.00; 27-\$17.00; 28-\$5.50; 29-\$6.50; 30-\$6.75; 31-\$7.25; 32-\$5.50; 33-\$5.25; 34-\$7.25; 35-\$7.25; 36-\$8.25; 37-\$6.25; 38-\$7.25; 39-\$8.50; 40-\$11.25; 41-\$9.00; 42-\$11.00; 43-NS; 44-\$10.25; 45-NS; 46-\$7.50; 47-\$3.00; 49-\$8.50; 50-\$7.00; 51-\$2.50; 52-\$10.50; 53-\$3.50; 54-\$4.00; 55-NS; 56-\$6.00; 57-\$3.00; 58-\$4.00; 59-\$6.00; 60-NS; 61-NS; 62-\$3.50; 63-\$3.00; 64-\$9.50; 65-\$3.25; 66-\$3.25; 67-NS; 68-\$4.00; 69-\$3.25; 70-\$4.25; 71-\$3.50; 72-\$5.50; 73-\$4.75; 74-\$5.50; 75-\$3.00; 76-NS; 77-\$3.00; 78-NS; 79-\$3.00; 80-\$3.00; 81-NS; 82-\$3.50; 83-\$3.00; 84-\$4.50; 85-\$3.00; 86-\$4.25; 87-\$3.25; 88-NS; 89-\$3.25; 90-\$3.00; 91-\$3.25; 92-\$2.50; 93-\$3.25; 94-NS; 95-\$3.50; 96-NS; 97-\$3.75; 98-\$3.00; 99-\$4.75; 100-\$3.50; 101-\$10.00; 102-\$3.50; 103-\$3.50; 104-\$3.00; 105-\$3.25; 106-\$3.25; 107-\$3.00; 108-\$3.50; 109-\$3.25; 110-\$3.00; 111-\$3.25; 112-\$3.00; 113-\$3.25; 114-\$3.00; 115-\$4.50; 116-\$3.00; 117-\$3.25; 118-NS; 119-\$3.00; 120-\$3.75; 121-\$3.25; 122-\$3.00; 123-NS; 124-NS; 125-\$3.00; 126-\$3.00; 127-\$3.50; 128-\$3.00; 129-\$3.00; 130-\$16.00; 131-\$3.25; 132-NS; 133-NS; 134-\$5.25; 135-NS; 136-NS; 137-WD; 138-\$3.00; 139-\$8.25; 140-\$3.75; 141-NS; 142-NS; 143-\$4.00; 144-\$4.25; 145-\$7.75; 146-\$5.75; 147-\$6.50; 148-\$11.00; 149-\$18.50; 150-\$6.00::: NS- Not Sold. WD- Withdrawn

As a Director of the TRSG, I receive numerous inquiries about matters related to III Reich philately. Two areas that continuously come up are commemorative cancels and Feldpost. I have decided that perhaps it is time to document these in one place for the general membership and to have it available for future inquiries.

GPS CONVENTIONS

Spring May 20-21 Denver, Chapter 27
Fall Sept 30, Oct 1-2 St. Louis, Mo., Chapter 26
Make Plans Now!

Reference Sources for Third Reich Commemorative Cancels
By Myron Fox .

This is not one of my current areas of specialization. I dabbled in this area early in my German specialization experiments. I also try to keep informed about pertinent III Reich philatelic literature, maintain an extensive clipping file, and try to buy most new publications if the price is within my idea of reasonableness. This article is based on this background rather than on any in depth knowledge in the area. Comments are always welcome from correspondents who wish to share some of their expertise in the area.

Katalog der deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel 1880-1951

This work by Julius Bochmann is considered the standard reference work for collectors of commemorative cancels. This is the only reference that I do not presently or have not owned. I shall discuss it basically from a general knowledge of its contents that I have acquired. It consists of a listing alphabetically by locality, is well illustrated and consists of separate issues that total some 900 pages. This work has been supplemented by Baumann and Cepiereux for the period after 1951, but this is outside of the scope of this article. The work is available from the Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde for 90, DM to non members. Order from Andreas Salzl, 8460 Schwandorf, Brennestr. 1, (D)Germany. In ordering from Germany by US check allow at least 3,00DM for processing charges. For those who are uncomfortable in ordering from Germany, you may try such US dealers as TRSG member Del Meinung at the phi shop, box 1136, La Mesa, California 92041.

It is possible to obtain individual volumes for 5DM each if you were interested only in particular cities e.g. Heimat collection. Free sample copies are stated to be available in Germany if return postage is enclosed. (Use International Reply Coupons and be generous)

Spezial Katalog-Deutsche Sondermarken und Ihre Stempel

This work was published by Fred Drabick in 1961 in Frankfurt (Main). Each commemorative stamp of Germany from 1919 on is presented in Michel order with a listing of the normally associated special cancels. The place and period of use, known varieties, the Bochmann number, and the price on cover is presented. Though the cover would lead you to believe that only commemorative cancels and stamps would be covered the author at times appears to wander from his theme. Thus in the discussion along the airmail series of 1934, Michel 529-39, he covers the slogan cancels "Benutz die Luftpost", etc. The introduction states that a future volume was planned on the Saar, Böhmen and Mähren, and the General Government. To the best of my knowledge the second work was never accomplished.

I do not know where to obtain this today. I suggest interested parties contact their favorite German philatelic book dealer or the APS library.

Cancellations of the Third Reich

This pamphlet was published by Holt in Baltimore around 1950. It consists of several drawings or copies of typical cancels against several categories. There is a minimum of text. I find it to be of little

value and disposed of my copy several years ago. I only enclose it here since I have received numerous inquiries about it.

Michel-Deutschland Spezial

The standard German reference catalog indicates the known commemorative cancels associated with individual issues with a S in a circle for Sonderstempel or special cancel. The city and nature of the cancel are usually noted e.g. #580-581-cancel Nürnberg 2,100 Jahre Deutsche Eisenbahn-Reichsbahn-ausstellung 1935. Some issues such as #660,661 and 664 have whole paragraphs of listings. However in general the listings and descriptions are sketchy. According to the catalog introduction Sonderstempel are only noted when there is a cancel associated with a particular stamp and the cancel makes the stamp have a significant surcharge over the ordinary cancel. No actual pricing is given. The catalog is available from your favorite dealer.

The Stamps of Germany-Third Reich

This work by Alf Harper and Walter Scheck is a must for the Third Reich collector as a general reference. The commemorative cancels and slogan cancels associated with each stamp are illustrated and their background discussed. No pricing is given and only Greater Germany is presented. In October, 1976 it was still being advertised in the Specialist for the bargain price of \$3.50 from Alf Harper, 60 Whinfield Rd., Darlington, Co., Durham, England

Michel-Ganzsachen-katalog Deutschland

This prices and describes Sonderstempel associated with the various issues of official postal stationery. There are minimal illustrations and virtually nothing on the occupied areas. Available from your favorite German dealer.

Postal Stationery of Germany Third Reich(1933-45)

This work of Alf Harper is undated. It is essentially based on an earlier version of the Neuer Ganzsachen Katalog than is now available. Some cancels are illustrated. Useful for the non German reading collector to supplement Michel or the new Neuer Ganzsachen Katalog. Some copies may still be available from Alf Harper at the address given above.

Deutsche Dienstpost 1939-1945-Handbuch und Stempel Katalog

This work by Dr. Hermann Schultz is the classic reference book for collectors of Dienstpost. It was originally published under the auspices of the Poststempel-Gilde Rhein Donau in 8 issues from 1955-59. Of particular interest to Sonderstempel collectors are the sections on General Government cancels and those on Böhmen and Mähren. Both sections are well illustrated and prices are given of all known items. Other commemorative cancels of the occupied territories are covered where they appear e.g. Day of the Stamp. This work is available from the Neues Handbuch der Briefmarkenkunde at the previously cited address for 5,DM per issue or 40,DM for the set. It is also available through the Phi shop and other US literature dealers.

German Occupied Poland

This work by Alf Harper was reviewed in the August 1976 TRSG bulletin. In particular the section on Polish cancels follows closely the referenced work of Schultz except no pricing is given. This is available from Alf Harper at the address given earlier for \$3.00.

Catalogue Prix Courant des Obliterations Provisoires Alsace-Lorraine

This work was published by J. Heckler in Nancy France in 1945 and lists towns, prices, and provides some illustrations. I reviewed it in the August 1976 issue of this bulletin. It has recently come to my attention that this subject has been covered in a recent French publication. Watch this bulletin for further information.

The Postal History of Austria

This book was reviewed in the August 1976 version of this bulletin. As stated one of the better sections of this work was the section on commemorative cancels of occupied Austria which includes several illustrations and prices. This book may still be available from the author, Keith Tranmer, 8 Billet Lane, Hornchurch, Essex, England. The 1973 price was 2.7 British Pounds.

Sudetenland Poststempel Katalog

This work published by the Philatelic-Vereinigungen Sudetenland was reviewed in the August 1976 issue of this bulletin. All known cancel types of the Sudetenland are described. This work is currently out of print. Inquiries to the Sudetenland Study Group leader, E. Haim, Wilbrandstr. 3, Bielefeld, (D) Germany

Other Sources

Numerous articles have appeared in the philatelic press about specialized areas such as the Nuremberg Party Cancels, the Olympics issues, etc. Many of these articles have been reviewed in the TRSG bulletin over the years. An exhaustive listing would be beyond the scope of this article. Perhaps some reader would volunteer to provide such a listing. General indexes that may be useful is that of the Germany Postal Specialist provided in the June, 1975 and the December, 1975 editions of the Philatelic Literature Review. An index to the extinct Germany Philatelic Review is included in the June, 1973 issue of the Philatelic Literature Review. Single copies are available from the American Philatelic Research Library, P.O. Box 338, State College, Pennsylvania 16801 for 75 cents each. An annual subscription is \$3.00.

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German World War II Feldpost-A Bibliography
By Myron Fox

As a director of the TRSG I am often called upon to answer a number of questions concerning sources of information for the collector of German Feldpost. In this article I shall attempt to document in one place for the first time the sources known to me, the type of information covered, and finally at the end of the article I shall state the price if known and where it could be obtained. I cannot pretend that the list is complete, especially in the area of supporting historical documentation. However it is largely what I personally have used over the years. Additions would always be welcome. I shall attack the listing basically in the order of collection popularity of the area covered.

Michel Deutschland Spezial Katalog

The most basic reference has to be Michel (Reference 1). Michel catalogs the various Feldpost stamps issued mint, used, and on cover. This includes both German Feldpost covered in the Feldpost section as well as those associated with the Foreign Legions which are covered in the Occupied Territories listings. All major stamp varieties including perforations and overprint types are covered. The collection of the Feldpost stamps has to be the most popular area of collecting due largely to the general availability of the Michel catalog. We assume all our readers are familiar with it.

The Works of Clement

The late Alfred Clement was a prolific student of military mail who wrote two works of interest to our main theme. His first work *Kleines Handbuch der Deutschen Feldpost*, published in 1952, is the foundation of German WWII Feldpost study. (Ref. 2) This comprehensive work covers and catalogs all Feldpost postmarks from the 1937 maneuvers on. The various Legion stamps are described. Various other Feldpost labels not listed in Michel are described. A detailed discussion of the airmail permit stamps and the HANs as well as other special stamps is presented. There is a section on the Feldpost package service. There are sections on the popular areas of censored mail and registered Feldpost. Special Feldpost stationery such as the 1937 Maneuver cards, the new address cards, and the Ostpreussen cards are covered. There is a section on the Vorwindzettel ("facing clips") and Beutefahnen ("Distribution tags"). There is a section on propaganda stamps and cards as well as one on the POW mail. There are sections on the Volksturm and Atlantic fortresses as well as coverage on postwar Feldpost associated with the Dienstgruppenpost and Heinkelpost, as well as the "Überrollers" and emergency postwar usages of Feldpost cancels, stationery, labels, etc. Finally the appendices detail out the so-called Stumme or "dumb" cancel types and Kenn number locations. It is clearly seen that this work covers every thing in Feldpost and set the stage for all future research. In some areas very little has still been documented over what Clement discusses. This work is still a must for the Feldpost collector. Though many of its sections have been expanded by other authors as we shall discuss in this article, this is still the only attempt to cover it all. Every field has its classic references and Clement (Ref. 2) must still be considered the Feldpost reference book to own. The only shortcoming is pricing which was

generated when one could still get the Posthorn set at the postoffice. However the relative values between items is probably still a good guideline.

Though one often talks about Clement and means reference 2 one other Clement work is of interest to us. Reference 3 has around 30 pages on WWII Luftfeldpost and Luftwaffe mail. There is some duplication with reference 2. The most significant contributions include sections on the cancels of the Luftgaupostämter and Fliegerhorst. Another excellent section is an attempted listing of the various airforce units which though incomplete is the start of a good check list. (Here is another good project for someone). It is strongest in the listing of Fliegerhorstkommandantur, but again there are holes.

Extensions of the Works of Clement

Clement was written in 1952. Since that time other authors have attempted to update the more popular areas of Clement. TRSG member Heinrich Petersen developed a Feldpost cancellation guide modelled after Clement's work. It was first published in the TRSG bulletin and then made available as a special publication. (Ref.4). Petersen covers primarily the various Feldpost cancels as well as the registration label types. It is richly illustrated and all items are cataloged by a point system which is closer to today's market. It has been widely accepted and referenced.

More recently Günter Fuchs, leader of the recently revitalized Deutsche Feldpost 1939-1945 Study Group, and considered a leading Feldpost authority, published reference 5 under the auspices of the "Gilde" Rhein-Donau. This work is a glossy update of Clement's Kenn number listing. In it all known numbers are listed and cataloged according to a point system, as well as identified according to dates of use and major theater of operations e.g. West, Balkans. There is however no attempt to identify the units which used the various Kenns.

Reference 19 expands on the German military package mail including usages of Feldpost stamps, improvised labels, special markings, etc. There is a good section on applicable regulations and the text is well illustrated with photos. Reference 20 is a general censorship work which includes a few pages on Feldpost censorship as does reference 4. Reference 21 discusses the Dienstpost mail in the occupied territories. There was often an interaction of the Feldpost with the Dienstpost. Reference 21 is the standard Dienstpost reference. Reference 22 discusses some of the Feldpost units in Austria. However as discussed in the review of August 1976 in this bulletin, it leaves a lot to be desired in this area. Reference 23 discusses the philatelic aspects of the Foreign Legions. Reference 24 discusses the occupation of Poland, based on reference 21, and has a light treatment on dumb cancels.

These works all allow Feldpost collection without any detailed knowledge of military units etc. Further specialization pretty much involves decoding of Feldpost numbers and an understanding of the German military organization.

Collecting of Naval Covers

We have covered the more popular catalogs and the more popular areas of collecting namely stamps, cancels, and registered mail. These have been popular largely due to the general availability of general reference works. From here on Feldpost collecting may be considered to consist of more esoteric pursuits largely due to the less wide dissemination of knowledge. The collecting of naval covers is however gradually moving from the category of esoteric to be right up with the other popular areas. Up until relatively recently there had only been available certain informal listings in "privileged" circles. The big upsurge in popularity did not occur until TRSG member Norbert Kannapin published his first volume on the naval Feldpost which was eventually replaced by reference 6 and 7. These works are gradually becoming the standard references for naval mail. All known naval Feldpost numbers are listed in numerical order as well as their unit identification and at times pertinent ancillary information relative to a ship being sunk etc. Reference 6 covers the ships and sea going units and reference 7 covers the land stations. Naval FPNs often are preceded by the letter M, are often written to naval addresses, or bear sender's ranks often unique to the navy. Thus many covers can be readily identified as being naval covers, and this also helps aid their popularity.

Now as we have often stated one must be careful when identifying FPN's. The date of use of the number is important. Many times a given FPN would be used by several units in the course of the war. However naval FPN's largely stayed constant throughout the war changing only when a ship was sunk. Thus if one saves only large ships, e.g. destroyers, the dates of sinking that are often stated in reference 6 or other sources is often enough to uniquely identify a cover. The information in references 6 and 7 can be supplemented by other historical sources to help identify the actual period of use of a particular FPN. The best source that I know of which covers both sea and land based units is a 3 volume set by Lohmann and Hildebrand (ref. 8). This provides details on the organizational structures of the navy. Histories of all large ships are provided. Smaller units such as minesweepers, etc. are also covered. Detailed breakouts of all shore based units are provided including locations, dates, and commanding officers. Separate sections are provided for all occupied areas, e.g. Norway, indicating which units were based there. It is a comprehensive work and a must for any serious naval collector though perhaps a little expensive.

The Sources of Feldpost Identification

Further collecting relies on the ability to decode the 5 digit Feldpost number. This number was deliberately adapted as a cover for the identity of the unit so as to offer minimum intelligence value to hostile forces intercepting the mail. Thus without proper reference sources one cover is like any other. Now these coded numbers were used both to and from the front. After the war many inquiries were made of the German Red Cross for missing friends or relatives in the German armed forces often only knowing the number and branch of service. To aid in the search process the Red Cross Suchdienst ("Search service") published a series of books. These listed the numbers in numerical order and all known units using this number. It also referenced other sources of information about the unit, which is beyond the scope of this article.

These books became available to the general public for research in the 1960's and were quickly sold out. The availability of this source was a major breakthrough for collectors wishing to unravel the puzzles of the FPN's. (Reference 9). However this so called Suchdienst list is not perfect. For one thing it does not list all FPN's, but evidently only those for which there was an inquiry on with the Red Cross. It is particularly weak on airforce and naval units. In addition no dates of use are given so that isolation of the numbers that were used by more than one unit requires other techniques. We shall discuss these as we proceed in this article.

The second major documentation source is represented by captured German records which were taken to the US National Archives after the war and microfilmed. The most important of these records are the remaining copies of the Feldpostübersichter (FPU). Most of the captured FPU are Teil (Part) III's. Teil III lists the number assigned to each unit by type of units. Thus FPU Teil III, Band 2, 7 Neudruck for 21 March 1942 lists the numbers assigned to Aufklärungstruppe, Kraftfahrkampftruppe (fighting transportation troops), and Infantry Regiments from 1-250. FPU Teil III, Band 17-11 Neudruck for 25 August 1944 lists the identity for Grenadier Regiments and brigades with numerical designations of 1 to 600. If a number is found to be assigned to the same unit at two different dates, it can usually be assumed that the unit used the number for the entire period. Thus the FPU is a very powerful tool in identifying covers. Now these FPU's were understandably classified Top Secret during the war and were normally destroyed as a new issue became available or if they were in danger of being captured. By some good fortune for postal historians and others some 29 different FPU Teil III's were seized at the end of the war. These represent the period from Nov. 1941 to the end of the war, with the heaviest representation towards the end of hostilities. However all is not rosey as many have not survived e.g. there is only one 1942 naval listing and one 1942 SS listing.

In addition a few Teil I's were obtained. These relate the Kenn number used by each Feldpost number. Mail was actually routed by the Kenn number which indicated the postoffice associated with the higher order unit to which the unit was associated e.g. the Division. The number was normally only used on registered sendings, money orders, packet forms etc. However from time to time one finds ordinary covers with a handwritten Kenn number written by a postal sorting clerk on the cover when it was perhaps the top cover of a bundle to the same unit. Teil I listings only exist for the 80,000 series FPN's in Dec. 1944; the number 1 to 67,999 for March, 1945; and for the Luftwaffe for 22 January 1945. The sparsity of available Teil I's is what has made the identification of Kenn's so difficult. This material is available on microfilm from the National Archives (Reference 10).

The ready availability of the films and the other material in the National Archives has been a boon for Feldpost research in this country and even overseas. For the longest time no information was available in Germany. Even today after the original records have all been returned to Germany the general use of these and other records in Germany is restricted since no filming service or equivalent is apparently available. What research that does get done is performed by dedicated individuals working at the German Archives and often copying the records by hand. (Similar records are suspected to be in

the hands of the British Defense Ministry. However attempts to get these have been in vain, even by one of my contacts who works for the Ministry) The German records have more FPU than were in the USA and Kannapin in reference 6 cites some naval listings in particular. (The British captured the German naval records and removed them to England. Thus the records in Washington are light in the naval area. Whether these were returned to Germany, as I suspect they were, and whether the additional naval listings come from this source are unknown to me)

No Teil II listings are available in Washington. These would provide a numerically ordered listing of the FPN's and their identification. This would be similar to the Suchdienst listing except it would only have one unit for each number at any given time. I understand that some are available in Germany.

Now if the part 2's were available we would have an easy task. However the nonavailability of these lists is what has made the research that has gone on the last 16 or so years so interesting and challenging. For one of the weaknesses of the Teil III's is that they are not numerically ordered and they are also incomplete. The numerical ordering problems have recently been solved by TRSG member Fred Willshaw as announced in the last TRSG bulletin with the aid of a computer. Watch the bulletin for further announcements about the availability of this listing. The lack of complete FPU listing requires other approaches.

Order of Battle Information

The order of battle is a description of the organic composition of military units. A prime source of this information about the German land forces in WWII is provided by the Order of Battles generated by US military intelligence during the war and available from the National Archives on microfilm (Ref. 11). These provide information on the general structure of the German land forces. In addition the composition of each major fighting unit from Division up, a brief unit history, the home area, the commanding officer etc. Information on Army, Luftwaffe, and SS ground units are presented. Considering the trying circumstances under which these works were compiled, they are surprisingly accurate when checked against other sources.

More extensive order of battle information is available for all ground units in the extensive works published by the former German Archivist, George Tessin. His works identify in numerical sequence the history of each independent unit including structural changes, relationships to other units, locations, how it was formed or disbanded. Detailed histories of the Divisions or higher are presented. Many units not covered in the intelligence listings e.g. POW guards or town garrisons are included. Also the listings are much more detailed in common areas. At the time of this writing 12 volumes have been printed covering the units from 1 to 13,400. (Please note these numbers are not FPN's). While these works allow identification of many units not in the Order of Battle the complete set is quite expensive and beyond what most collectors will need. (Ref. 11)

Use of the Basic Tools

Now armed with the order of battle information we can research covers in the following manner. One takes the FPN from his cover and looks at his Suchdienst numerical listing. If the number is not listed he attempts other numerical lists such as the Kannapin naval listings. If he has no luck there he tries other smaller numerical listings which he may have. We shall discuss some of these later in the article. If he can not find the number in any of these lists he must regretfully place the cover aside until new source material becomes available. At a rough unscientific guess I would say about 25% of the covers remain unidentified in this way. Once identified as to unit or possible unit one must use his order of battle type data and the date information on the cover to further determine the actual identity of the particular cover. If it is a naval cover, the information in Kannapin (Ref. 6) or Lohman and Hildebrand (Ref. 8) can usually be used to determine the identity. Major fighting units can be resolved by the Order of Battle (Ref. 11). Apparent ambiguities can often be resolved by knowing that the designations of units were changed during the course of the war. Thus late in 1942 Infantry Regiments were redesignated Grenadier Regiments; Schützen Rgts. became Panzergrenadier etc. Also from the order of battle and other information one can determine if a particular unit was destroyed and most likely the the number was given to another newly forming unit. Thus the numbers of units destroyed at Stalingrad, Africa, or Normandie often appear again reassigned. Thus a little detective work with the right source data often allows very accurate determination of the identity of the unit; how it fit into the overall force structure, and general theater of operation even sometimes the particular battle.

As we shall present later the FPU and the order of battle information are reasonably priced and within the means of any serious Feldpost collector. All that is needed is access to a microfilm reader which are usually available at most public libraries.

Other valuable sources for general type information includes references 25 and 26 which discuss the Feldpost during the various campaigns, gives the pertinent postal regulations, shows the routes and forms used, and gives partial listings of Kenn numbers. For information on the SS and Police units references 27, 28, and 29 are quite useful. For the airforce flying units reference 30 is the best I've found. Other general references and regulations can be found in references 31 and 32.

The availability of these basic documents or the equivalent have allowed Feldpostscholars to publish several monographs not previously mentioned. Reference 12 by TRSG member John Painter represents a start at identifying the units which used the various Kenn numbers. More complete listings are in the works both in the US and overseas. Watch this bulletin for further details. Reference 14 by TRSG member Enrico Mazzuchetti gives numbers for many Legion and SS units, especially Italian units. Reference 15 by TRSG member Joachim Pidun gives an exhaustive listing for

the Spanish "blue Legion" (250 Infantry Division). Reference 16 gives listings for the French Foreign Volunteer Legion. This is repeated in reference 14. Reference 17 identifies the composition and kennumbers for the Army Group North. Reference 33 gives a series of excerpts from an eventual TRSG special booklet that have appeared in the bulletin authored by John Painter. Croatian units and their numbers are presented by Bob Houston in reference 34. References 35 and 36 give Kenn numbers and their respective units that have been identified in Denmark and Norway. References 37, 42, and 43 give units identified in the Channel Islands. Reference 38 gives the locations of various Feldpostämter (FPA). Reference 39 gives known unit identities from Kenn 1 to 199. Reference 40 gives the Kenn numbers of all the Panzer Divisions as well as some order of battle type information and FPN's. Reference 41 is a follow up article on a few Panzer Divisions. The TRSG is planning a special booklet on the Panzer Divisions. Watch this bulletin for future details.

Special Feldpost Listings

Most of what I have presented is generally available to the public or was at one time before being sold out. What I shall discuss in this section are various sources made available to me by various Feldpost scholars around the world which are not generally available to the general public. Reference 44 is a Russian Intelligence listing from WWII in Russian which is available through the National Archives. (As far as I can tell though dated different than the FPU it appears to offer little new information.) Reference 45 is a copy of an original German document on the Afrika Korps units. I do not know the exact source though I suspect that it is buried in the archives. (I feel that the cataloging of this material was done somewhat hastily and many items are probably still undiscovered). I also have an SS list compiled by British researcher Val Truscott from the German archives and other sources. Truscott has also compiled other listings from the German archives including a listing of units that changed their mobilization FPN of 1939 to a different number in 1940; Luftwaffe ground units based on Tessin's research; Inselpost numbers as supplemented by Kanapin's research; the 80,000 series and others.

Other References

In addition to the principal references cited in this text, I have compiled an extensive set of clippings etc. from various philatelic journals at home and abroad. This is listed at the end of this article under the supplementary reference category. In some cases a reference will appear twice once in German and then in its English translation.

(To be continued) *****

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