



# 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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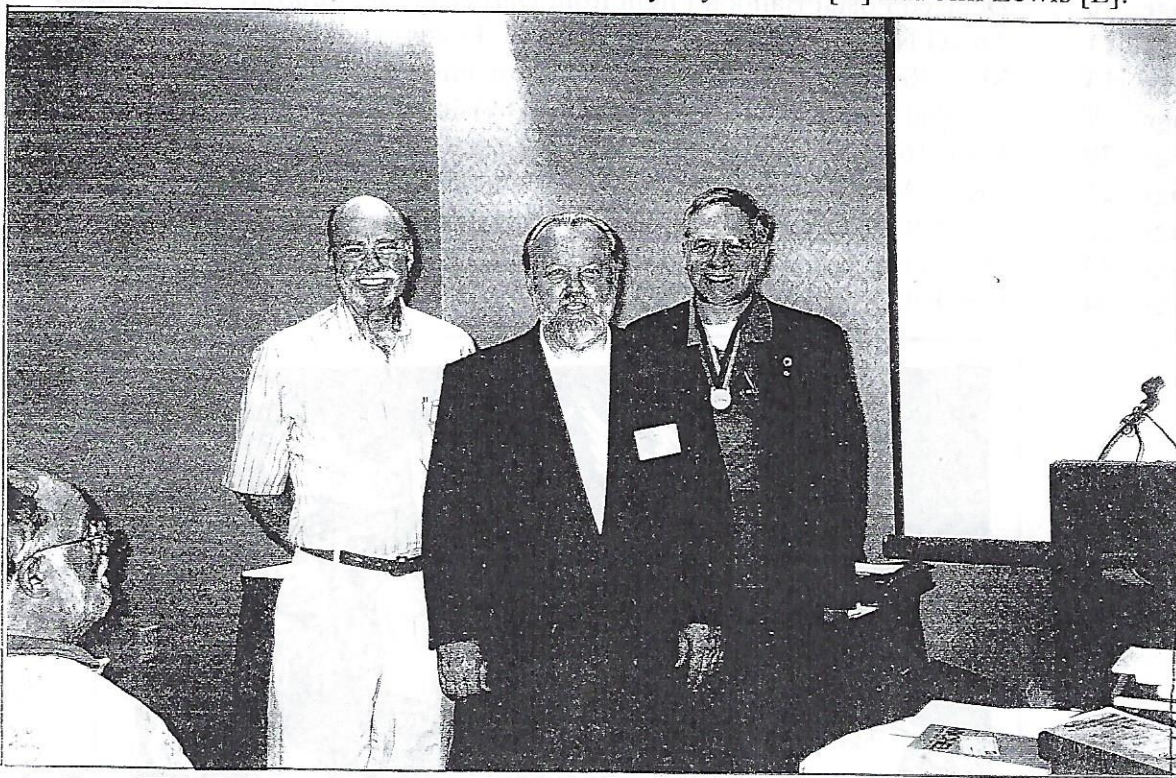


## STUDY GROUP NOTES

**Dues are Due** - With this fourth issue of the Bulletin for 2009, dues are now due and a renewal form is included for those members not yet paid for 2010. Any member whose dues are not received by December 31, 2009 will be considered to have resigned and will be required to pay the new member fee of \$10.00 in addition to their dues. As noted below, until a new Secretary/Treasurer is appointed, please send your payments to: **Jim Lewis, 867 Monmouth Road, Cream Ridge, NJ 08514**

**Censorship Book** - TRSGer Ed Fraser informs us that the new 450 page “**Die Zensur von Zivilpost in Deutschland im 2. Weltkrieg**” shown on page 2 of Bulletin 168 is now available in a soft cover version for \$28.54 plus \$3.99 shipping from A1 Books, a U.S. Agent. For those with e-mail, details can be obtained from Ed at his web site [edfraser@gmail.com](mailto:edfraser@gmail.com). For members without e-mail, Ed has generously offered to order the book and send it on to you. Please send payment of \$32.53 to Ed Fraser, 195 Marine Street, Farmingdale, NY 11735.

**Robert Dunn** - it is our sad duty to inform you that our Secretary/Treasurer Bob Dunn passed away on June 20, 2009. A long time member of both the G.P.S. and TRSG, Bob agreed to serve as Sec./Treasurer at the start of 1998 and did an exceptional job. Bob had a number of collecting interests including the state of Wurtemberg and Feldpost from German naval ships during WW II. His major specialty was the printing variations on Germany's WW II occupation stamps as listed in the footnotes of Michel 'Deutschland-Spezial Katalog'. Anyone who was fortunate enough to view Bob's exhibit of these rarely seen stamps would come away impressed by both his knowledge and display skills. The photo below taken during a TRSG meeting at NOJEX 2006 shows Bob Dunn flanked by Myron Fox [R] and Jim Lewis [L].



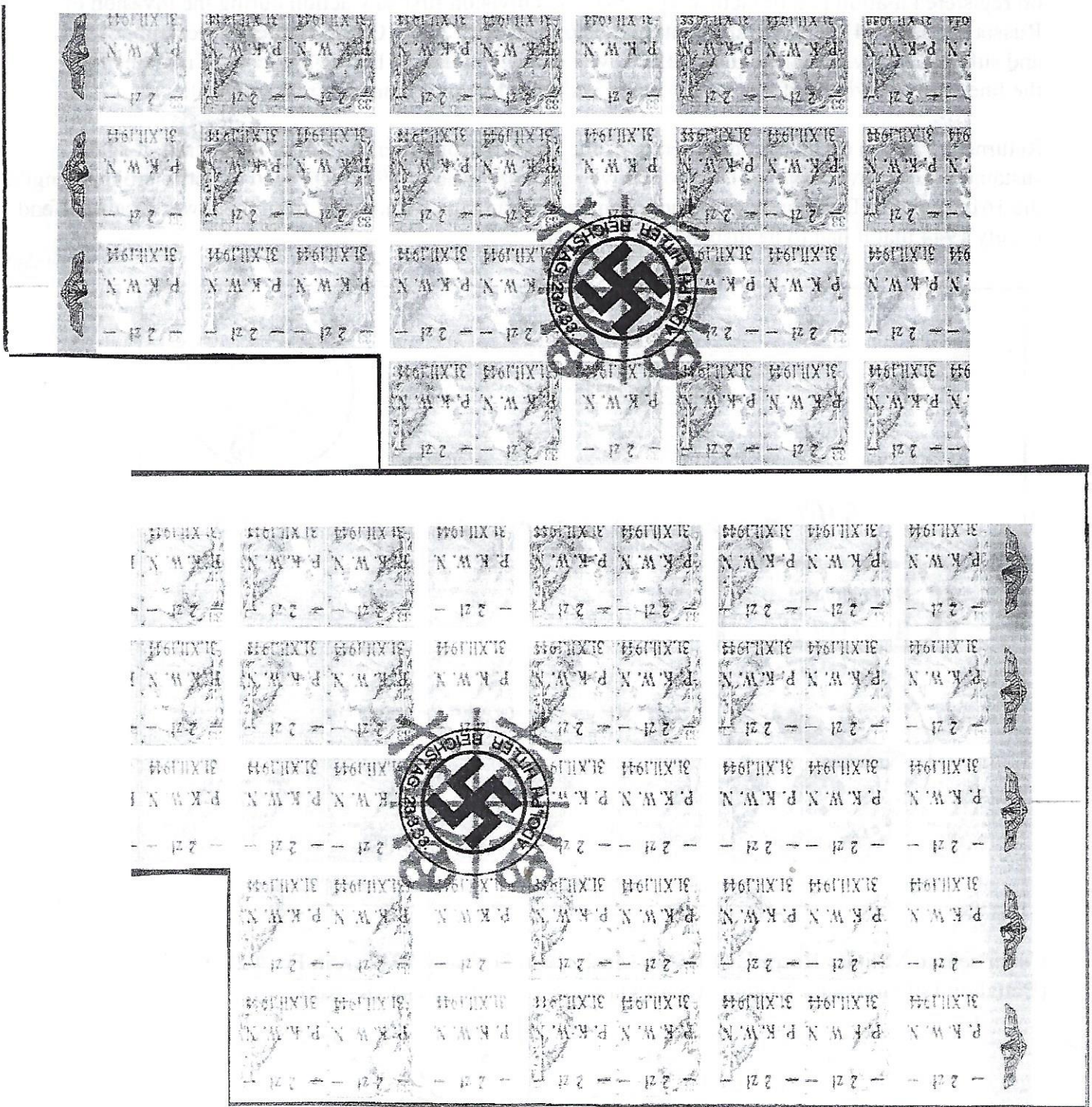
**Cover Illustration:** This comical post card for “War Christmas 1941” shows two members of the Feldpost riding a star, a winged pipe-smoking driver and a rifle toting rear gunner dispensing letters and parcels. The TRSG Staff wish all members a happy holiday season.



# Hitler Head Fantasy Sheet

by Ron Morgan

The half sheet pictured below was offered on ebay in late May 2009. The imperforate sheet layout consists of Hitler head "stamps" printed 11 across in green-blue with some sort of eagle design on grey side margins. Each "stamp" has the numeral "33" in a white block at the upper left corner and red overprints "- 2 zl -" (top), "P.K.W.N." (middle) and "31.XII.1944" (bottom). There is also a swastika of light green "stamps" running top to bottom and side to side. In the center of the sheet is a black double-ring surprint with a swastika in the center and text "ADOLF HITLER REICHSTAG 23.3.33" between the rings. Finally, there is a red overprint on the black one consisting of a cross over the swastika with skull and cross bones in each corner. Anyone with info on this strange item should sent it to Ye Olde Ed.





## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

### 161st Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT	KENN	JÄGER			ARTY	UNITS
241	102	336	364	371	241	241

The 161st Infantry Division was formed in January 1940 (7th Wave) from replacement training (Ersatz) units in East Prussia. The P.O. assigned Fp.# 37691 as a return address and K-1029 for use on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 241. This division first saw action during the invasion of Russia in June 1941. The 161st Infantry Division was with Army Group Center in December 1941 and suffered heavy casualties during the Soviet counter-offensive before Moscow. It remained on the line until the winter of 1942-43, when it was withdrawn to France to rest and refit.

Returned to action on the southern sector of the Eastern Front after the fall of Stalingrad, it again sustained very heavy losses at Dnepropetrovsk in the autumn of 1943. Reduced to battle group strength, the 161st Infantry Division was so badly damaged during the withdrawal from the lower Dneiper Bend in July 1944 that it had to be disbanded in August.



Cover sent to Military Records Office in Mosback in February 1942 from Fp. # 28798 (Battalion I of Grenadier Regiment 336) via Field Post Office 241 (K-102).



## Postally Used Single Values of 10 Year Charity Sheet

by  
Bob Ferguson

On November 29, 1933 the four stamps first issued on February 25, 1924 were overprinted "1923-1933" and issued as a miniature sheet measuring 210 x 148mm. The sheets were actually printed at an exhibition connected with the Deutsche Nothilfe charity. They were not on sale at Post Office counters and could only be obtained through written application to the "collector's counters" at Berlin and Munich G.P.O.'s and the head Nothilfe Office. While the face value of the stamps is 85 Pfg., there was a surcharge of 2.55 Mk (300%) plus a 10 Pfg production cost, which gave a selling price of 3.50 Mk plus another 50 Pfg for postage costs. No orders from abroad were solicited. The total printing was 64,000 sheets with 25% of this quantity allocated to the G.P.O.s. Single values postally used on cover are considered connoisseur's items so I'm pleased to share the following covers with our membership.

Fig. 1) Post card with 5 Pfg value for local rate posted in Chemnitz on Dec. 22, 1934.



Fig. 2) Cover to Konigsfeld has 10 Pfg value plus two 1 Pfg stamps for intercity rate posted in Chemnitz on Dec. 22, 1934.

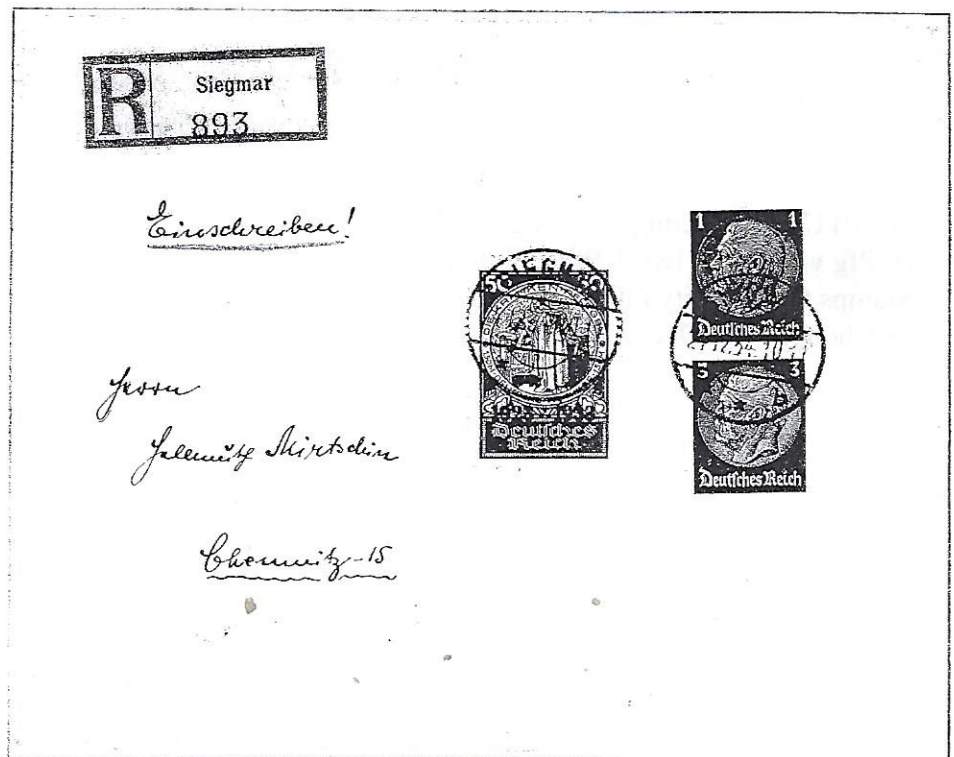




Fig. 3) Cover to Konigsfeld has 20 Pfg value plus 1 and 3 Pfg stamps for intercity letter rate (20-250 grams) posted in Chemnitz on Dec. 22, 1934



Fig. 4) Cover to Chemnitz has 50 Pfg value plus 1 and 3 Pfg stamps for 24 Pfg intercity letter rate (20-250 grams) plus 30 Pfg registry fee posted in Siegmars on Dec. 24, 1934





## German POWs in North America Camps in Louisiana

by Jim Lewis

During World War II, nearly 42,000 captured troops, mostly Germans and Italians were sent to POW camps in Louisiana. Camp Livingston (Code 6), Camp Polk (Code 58), Camp Ruston (Code 33), Camp Claiborne (Code 146) and New Orleans Port of Embarkation were the state's primary centers for Germans. The largest of these was Camp Ruston which had been built under the supervision of the Army Corps of Engineers on 770 acres in 1942. The camp first served as a training center for the Fifth Women's Army Corps from March to June 1943 and approximately 2,000 WACs received basic training at the camp. Once prisoners were shipped to Camp Ruston, the WAC training center was shut down.

From June 1943 to June 1946, the camp served as one of more than 500 POW camps in the United States. The first 300 men from the Afrika Korps arrived in August 1943. At its peak, Camp Ruston held 4,315 POWs. Those prisoners who were enlisted men were required to work at the camp and for farms and businesses across north Louisiana. They picked cotton, felled timber, built roads, and performed other tasks to help solve the domestic labor shortage caused by the war. They were paid in script which they could use in the camp canteen.

Fig. 1) Aerial view of Camp Ruston



In 1944 Camp Ruston became home to one of the most famous group of POWs, the crew of the captured-at-sea U-505. U.S. Admiral Don Gallery came upon this unfortunate submarine off the coast of Africa and made the first capture at sea of an enemy warship since the War of 1812. The trained crew that boarded the U-505 managed to not only check the flooding but captured a famous Enigma machine, the super secret German military coding device. The U.S. military, not wanting the Germans to know they had captured it, basically violated the Geneva Convention. In order to keep this fact secret, the U.S. Provost Marshall's office kept the German crew completely isolated and incommunicado for the remainder of the war - no mail out, complete censorship and separate quarters. The U-505 was towed back to Louisiana and was kept hidden until after the war. This submarine can now be seen at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

During 1944, French, Austrian, Italian, Czech, Polish, Yugoslav, Romanian and Russian prisoners were also housed at Camp Ruston.



In 1944 the War Department began a program to educate prisoners of war throughout the United States in academic subjects and democratic values. One source of books was the library of Louisiana Polytechnic Institute. Some prisoners even took correspondence courses from major American universities.

Only 34 prisoners escaped and remained free for over 24 hours, and only one was never recaptured. At least nine prisoners died in Louisiana camps. These resulted from previous wounds and illnesses, or, in one case, from an attack by other prisoners. Shown below is a listing of POW camps in Louisiana.

Name of Camp	Parish	Main Camp	Name of Camp	Parish	Main Camp
Arabi	St. Bernard	Livingston	Mansfield	De Soto	Ruston
Barksdale Field	Bossier	Ruston	Markville	Avoyelles	Livingston
Bastrop	Morehouse	Ruston	Mathews	Lafourche	Livingston
Bell City	Calcasieu	Polk	<b>McCain's Gin</b>	Linclon	Ruston
Claibourne	Rapides	---	Melville	St. Landry	Livingston
Donaldsville	Ascension	Livingston	Camp Plauche	Orleans	---
Edgerly	Calcasieu	Polk	Point Ala Hache	Plaquemines	Livingston
Eunice	Acadia	Polk	Camp Polk	Vernon	---
Franklin	St. Mary	Polk	<b>Port Allen</b>	<b>Baton Rouge</b>	Livingston
Gueydan	Vermilion	Polk	Port Sulpher	Plaquemines	Livingston
Hahnville	St. Charles	Livingston	Rayne	Acadia	Polk
Hammond	Tangipahoa	Livingston	Reserve	St. John	<b>Livingston</b>
Houma	Terrebonne	Livingston	Camp Ruston	Linclon	---
Innis	Pointe Coupee	Livingston	Simmesport	Avoyelles	Polk
Iowa	Calcasieu	Polk	St. Martinville	St. Martin	<b>Polk</b>
Jeanerette	Iberia	Polk	Sulfur	Calcasieu	<b>Polk</b>
Jennings	Jefferson Davis	Polk	Tallulah	Madison	Ruston
Jonesville	Catahoula	Livingston	Terrebonne	Lafourche	<b>Livingston</b>
Kaplan	Vermilion	Polk	Thibodeaux	Lafourche	<b>Livingston</b>
Lake Providence	East Carroll	Ruston	Welsh	Jefferson Davis	Polk
Livingston	Grant	---	West Monroe	Ouachita	Ruston
Lockport	Lafourche	Livingston	White Hall	La Salle	<b>Livingston</b>



Fig. 2) Surface letter sent from Diez, Germany to a POW in Camp Livingston, Louisiana in August, 1944 has U.S. censor tape on right side and Hamburg censor tape (code 'f') on left.

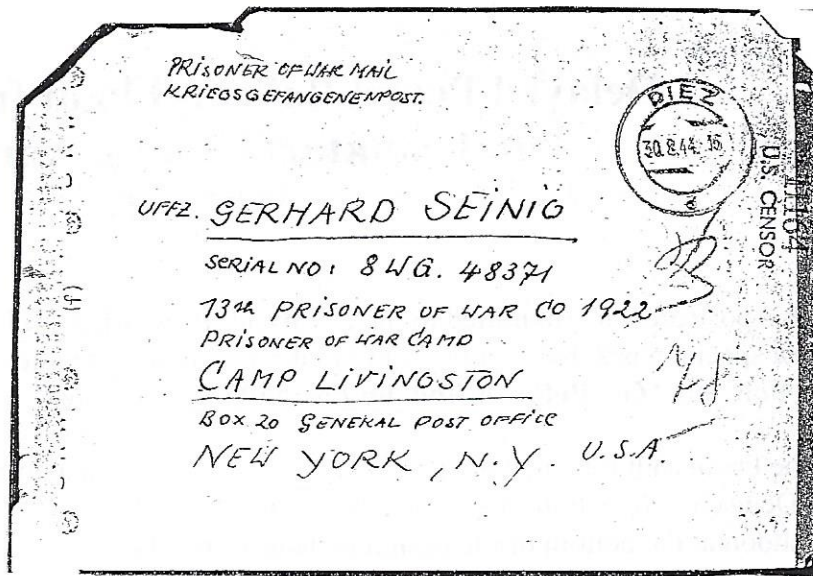
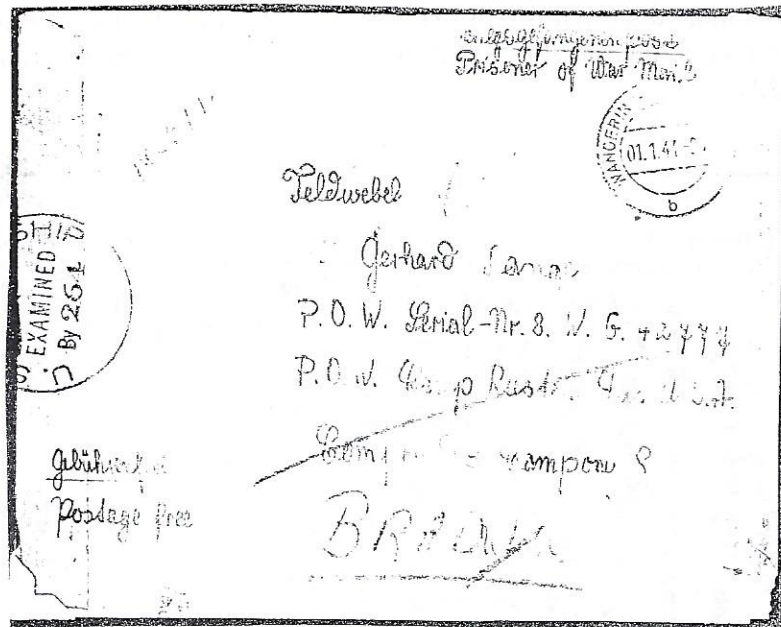


Fig. 3) Letter sent from Wangerin, Germany to a POW in Camp Ruston, Louisiana in January, 1944 has manuscript "BRADY" indicating that the intended recipient was transferred to Camp Brady in Texas.



The last prisoners left Louisiana in February 1946 for repatriation to their native countries. Many of the German soldiers interned in Camp Ruston had other occupations prior to the war such as doctors, professors and writers. Among those to achieve fame after the war were:

Heinz Lettau - Air Force major during the war who emigrated to the U.S. and became one of America's preeminent meteorologists and a professor of physics at the University of Wisconsin.

Alfred Andersch- Army soldier who deserted to U.S. forces in Italy became Germany's controversial modern novelist.

Hans Goebeler - perhaps the best known member of the U-505 crew who emigrated to the U.S. after the war. He recorded his experiences on the U-505 and in Camp Ruston in *Steel Boats, Iron Hearts: A U-boat Crewman's Life Aboard U-505*.



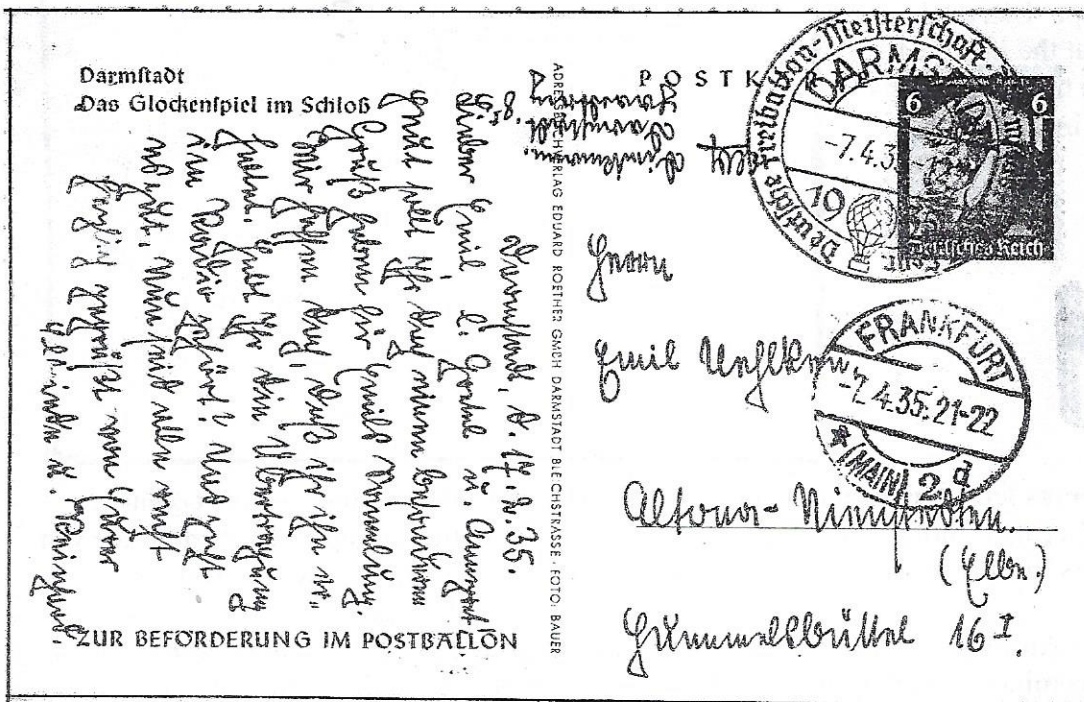
# Delayed Postal Balloon Flight from Darmstadt to Frankfurt (Main), April 7, 1935

by Bob Ferguson

This postcard was submitted to the Darmstadt Post Office on February 17, 1935 for inclusion in a special postal balloon flight to Frankfurt (Main) scheduled for that day. Note the text at bottom left "Zur Beförderung im Postballon" (For transportation by postal balloon).

The Darmstadt P.O. had obtained a special cancel (Darmstadt #13) with an outer ring reading "Deutsche Freiballon Meisterschaft Darmstadt, 16-17. Febr.". The illustration of the balloon at the bottom of the design is flanked by 19--35.

The original flight date of February 17 was delayed because of a severe storm that may have damaged the balloon. In any case, the flight actually took place on April 7, 1935 (12). Upon receipt the Frankfurt (M) Post Office front stamped the card: Frankfurt (M) 7. 4. 35 (21-22).





## TRSG Navy Log Summary & Index

by Jim Lewis

'Navy Log' first appeared in the January issue of 1983 (TRSG Bulletin #66) to show Feldpost covers (with ship photos if possible) from ships of the in service during WW II. Like most major combatant navies, the German Navy during the war acquired a considerable amount of mercantile tonnage to supplement its regular warships. Such vessels were placed in service as armed merchant cruisers, escort vessels, patrol vessels, minelayers, minesweepers, netlayers, depot ships, repair ships, hospital ships, tugs etc. As all had Feldpost numbers, they're included in our survey. The list below shows the ships featured thus far and the bulletin issue in which they appear. We particularly want to acknowledge the generous support of Bob Houston, Martin Lynes and Robert Dunn as these three members contributed the vast majority of the Feldpost covers that have appeared in our Navy Log.

Ship Type	Issue	Ship Type	Issue
Armored Ship 'Admiral Graf Spee'	89	Destroyer Z-2 'Georg Thiele'	106
Armored Ship 'Admiral Sheer'	88	Destroyer Z-3 'Max Schultz'	108
Battleship 'Bismarck'	145	Destroyer Z-4 'Richard Beitzen'	110
Battleship 'Schlesien'	71	Destroyer Z-5 'Paul Jacobi'	113
Battleship 'Schleswig-Holstein'	87	Destroyer Z-6 'Theodor Riedel'	115
Battleship 'Tirpitz'	83	Destroyer Z-7 'Hermann Schoemann'	154
Heavy Cruiser 'Admiral Hipper'	84	Destroyer Z-8 'Bruno Heinemann'	123
Heavy Cruiser 'Blücher'	101	Destroyer Z-9 'Wolfgang Zenker'	124
Heavy Cruiser 'Gneisenau'	66	Destroyer Z-10 'Hans Lody'	125
Heavy Cruiser 'Lutzow'	86	Destroyer Z-11 'Berd von Arnim'	126
Heavy Cruiser 'Prinz Eugen'	91	Destroyer Z-12 'Eric Giese'	127
Heavy Cruiser 'Scharnhorst'	85	Destroyer Z-13 'Richard Beitzen'	128
Light Cruiser 'Emden'	72	Destroyer Z-14 'Fredrich Koeller'	129
Light Cruiser 'Karlsruhe'	96	Destroyer Z-15 'Eric Steinbrinck'	153
Light Cruiser 'Königsberg'	98	Destroyer Z-16 'Fredrich Eckoldt'	130
Light Cruiser 'Köln'	102	Destroyer Z-17 'Diether v. Roeder'	104
Light Cruiser 'Leipzig'	94	Destroyer Z-18 'Hans Ludemann'	109
Light Cruiser 'Nürnberg'	90	Destroyer Z-19 'Hermann Kuenne'	111
Destroyer Z-1 'Lebercht Maass'	100	Destroyer Z-20 'Karl Galster'	114



Ship Type	Issue	Ship Type	Issue
Destroyer Z-21 'Wilhelm Heidkamp'	117	Aux. Minelayer 'Cobra'	156
Destroyer Z-22 'Anton Schmitt'	119	Aux. Minelayer 'Hansestadt Danzig'	163
Destroyer Z-23	133	Aux. Minelayer 'Kaiser'	146
Destroyer Z-25	135	Aux. Minelayer 'Königin Luise'	139
Destroyer Z-27	136	Aux. Minelayer 'Linz'	165
Destroyer Z-29	137	Aux. Minelayer 'Königin Luise'	139
Destroyer Z-37	155	Aux. Minelayer 'Roland'	150
Torpedo Boat (Type 1923) 'Falke'	158	Aux. Minelayer 'Skagerrak'	144
Torpedo Boat (Type 1923) 'Greif'	138	Aux. Netlayer 'Uranus'	166
Torpedo Boat (Type 1923) 'Möwe'	94	Aux. Netlayer 'Genua'	171
Torpedo Boat (Type 1924) 'Jaguar'	107	Aux. Cruiser 'Pinguin'	147
Torpedo Boat (Type 1924) 'Leopard'	154	Merchant Raider 'Atlantis'	67
Torpedo Boat (Type 1924) 'Luchs'	116	Merchant Raider 'Orion'	95
Torpedo Boat (Ex-Norway) 'Löwe'	121	Merchant Raider 'Steir'	92
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-1	105	Merchant Raider 'Steir'	93
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-2	112	U-Boat Tender 'Ammerland'	141
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-5	173	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Erwin Wasser'	172
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-8	149	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Isar'	122
Torpedo Boat (Type 1935) T-10	160	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Kertosono'	168
U-Boat (Type VIIC) 627	68	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Saar'	161
Fleet Sloop F-10	152	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Tanga'	131
Fleet Tender 'Gazelle'	134	U-Boat Depot Ship 'Weichsel'	162
Minesweeper (Type 1916) 'Nautilus'	120	U-Boat Repair Ship 'Huaşcaran'	132
Minesweeper (Type 1935) —102	140	Sail Trainer 'Horst Wessel'	159
Aux. Minesweeper Sperrbrecher 1	148	Yacht 'Hela'	164
Minelayer 'Brummer'	142		



## More Rejected Postal Cards from Litzmannstadt Ghetto

by Phil Miller

This article expands upon my original article that appeared in Bulletin 171. In the "Study Group Notes" in Bulletin 172 fellow TRSGer Larry Nelson stated that the censor markings shown on the card were not from German censors but rather those of Jewish self-censorship. The censor markings on my Litzmannstadt card were added by the Germans. The "Zurück" (Return) cachet being a German censor mark and the one-line manuscript "Akurzungen unzulässig" (Abbreviations not permitted) given as the reason why German censors rejected the card. I came up with my information from the Trunk book referenced below as well as from Al Hyman of A & H Stamps. Al is a Jewish stamp dealer who has a wealth of German and Holocaust information. Perhaps Larry refers to the Jewish internal affairs and post office. Markings came from the Jewish postal examiners before any ghetto mail was forwarded to the outside postal system where it was examined by German censors.

### Excerpt from 'Judenrat' by Isaiah Trunk

"In Lodz the local post office stopped delivering mail to the Jews in February 1940. The Judenpost (Jewish mail) was delivered to the Kehila building where it was sorted out by streets and houses, the addressees personally picked up their mail. In the ghetto, closed on May 1, 1940, the delivery and collection of mail was accomplished along the lines of an agreement reached between Rumkowski and the representatives of the German postal service. By December 1940 the mail department in the ghetto employed 139 people: 62 clerks, 50 letter carriers and 27 messengers. The ghetto post office had three basic functions; a) receive and deliver mail for the ghetto that had arrived at the German post office; b) receive outgoing mail and forward it to the German post office and c) act as a messenger service for the Jewish administration. During the first year of operations the ghetto post office delivered over 150,000 parcels and 11,000,000 letters and postcards. Since the ghetto post office had to be self-supporting, special postage was charged in the ghetto for pick up and delivery of mail."

Shown below are examples of refused mail. Fig. 1 is the front and back of a postcard sent from the ghetto that was rejected by the German censors because the sender offered information about other inhabitants of the ghetto. This card has a one-line boxed "Inhalt unzulässig" (contents not permissible) cachet.

Fig. 1a)

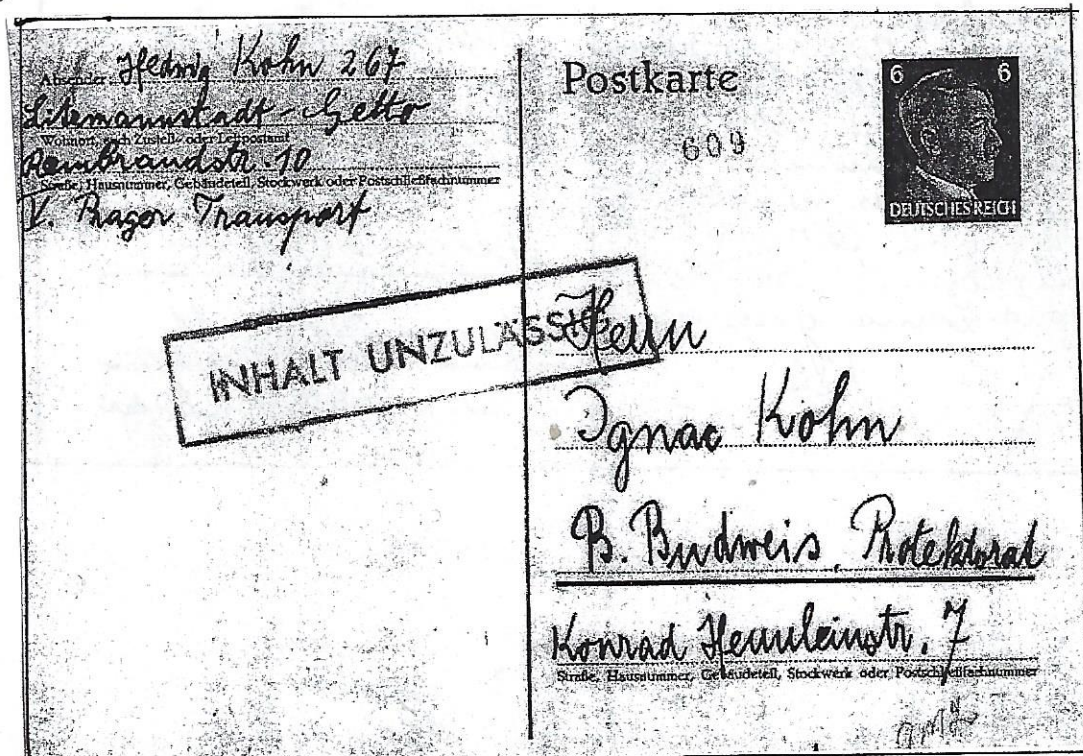






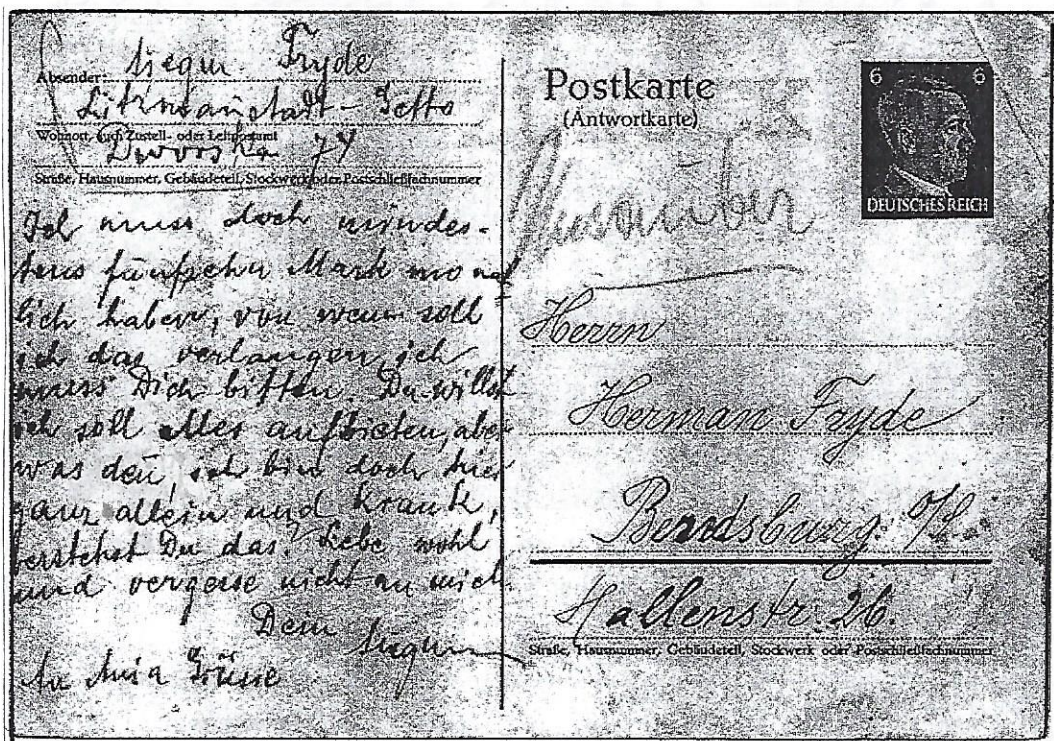






Fig. 4 is the front and back of a postcard from the ghetto dated December 9, 1941 from a sister to her brother. She indicated that she cannot write what is really going on in Litzmannstadt and asks for his help. The German censors returned the card with a "Zurück" cachet and manuscript "Unsäuber" (untidy) but the real reason seems to be the contents.

4a)



4b)

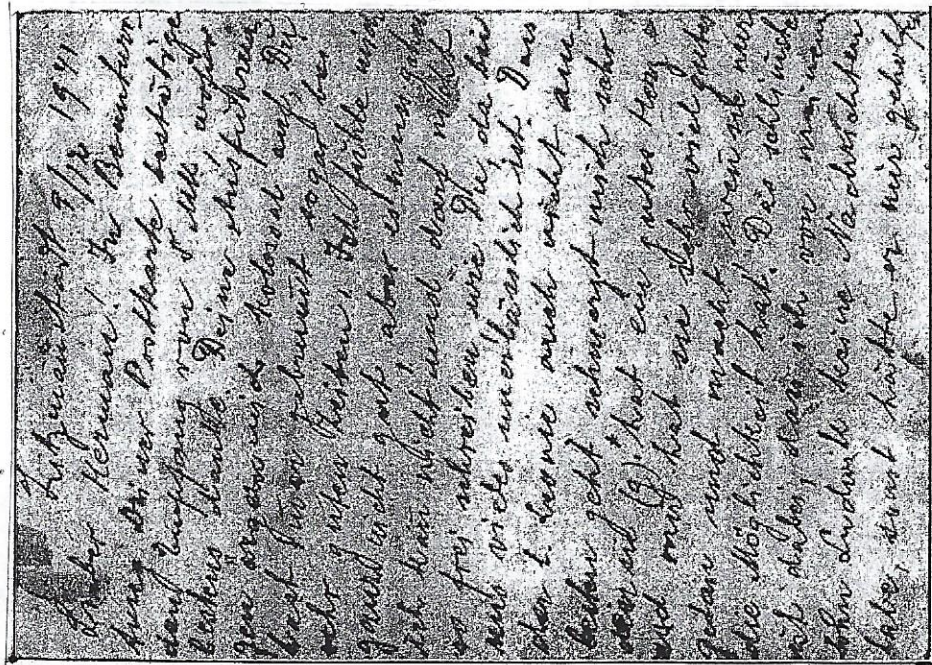


Fig. 5 is the front and back of a postcard sent by a business in the ghetto (rubber stamped sender's address) that was returned by the German censors with a "Zurück" cachet.



Fig. 5a)

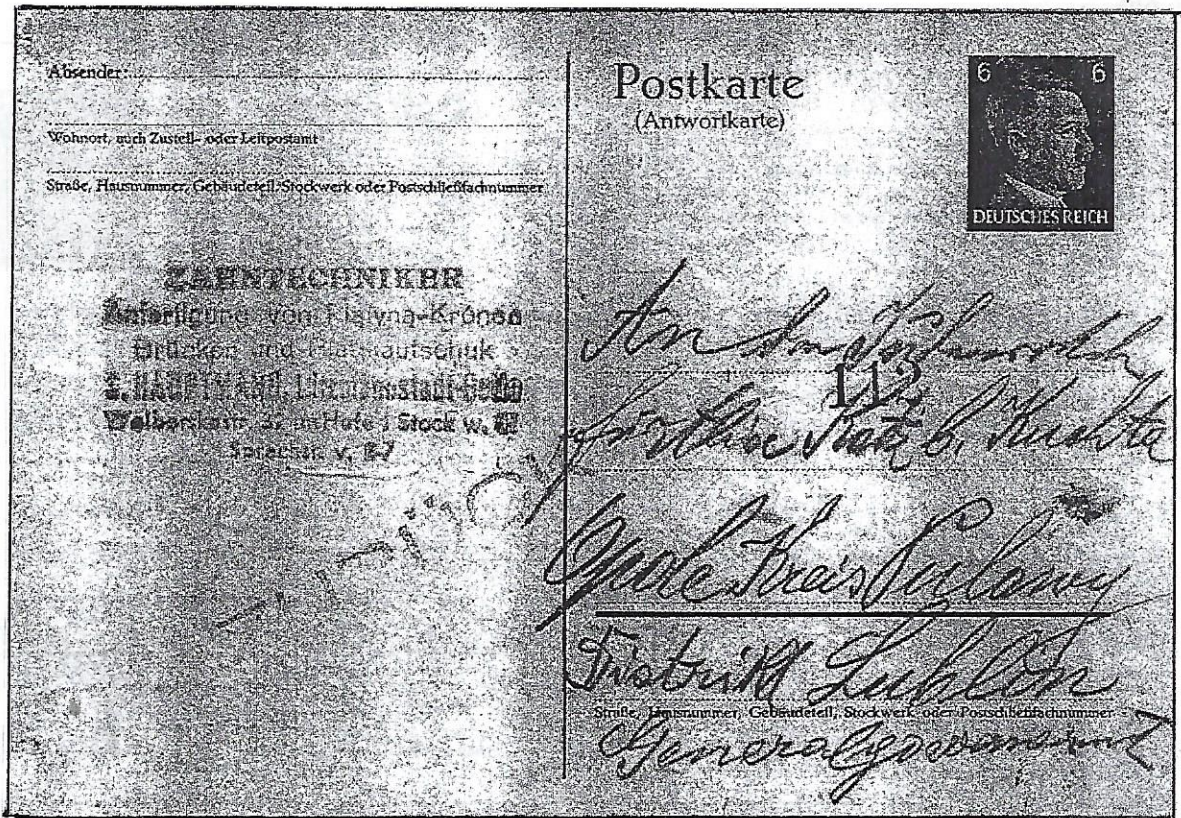


Fig. 5b)

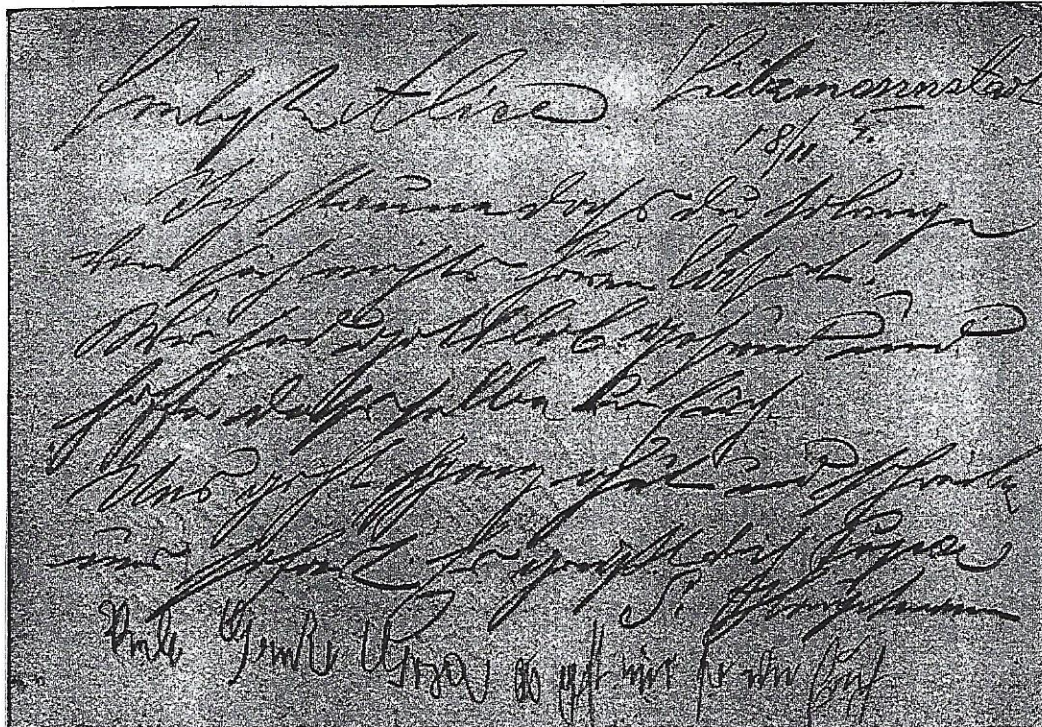


Fig. 6 is the front and back of a postcard written on December 25, 1941 to Miedzyrec in the Lublin District that was rejected by the German censors since it was written in very poor German. They also added the a two-line cachet “In hebraischer und jiddischer Sprache verboten” ( Hebrew and Yiddish languages not permitted).



Fig. 6a)

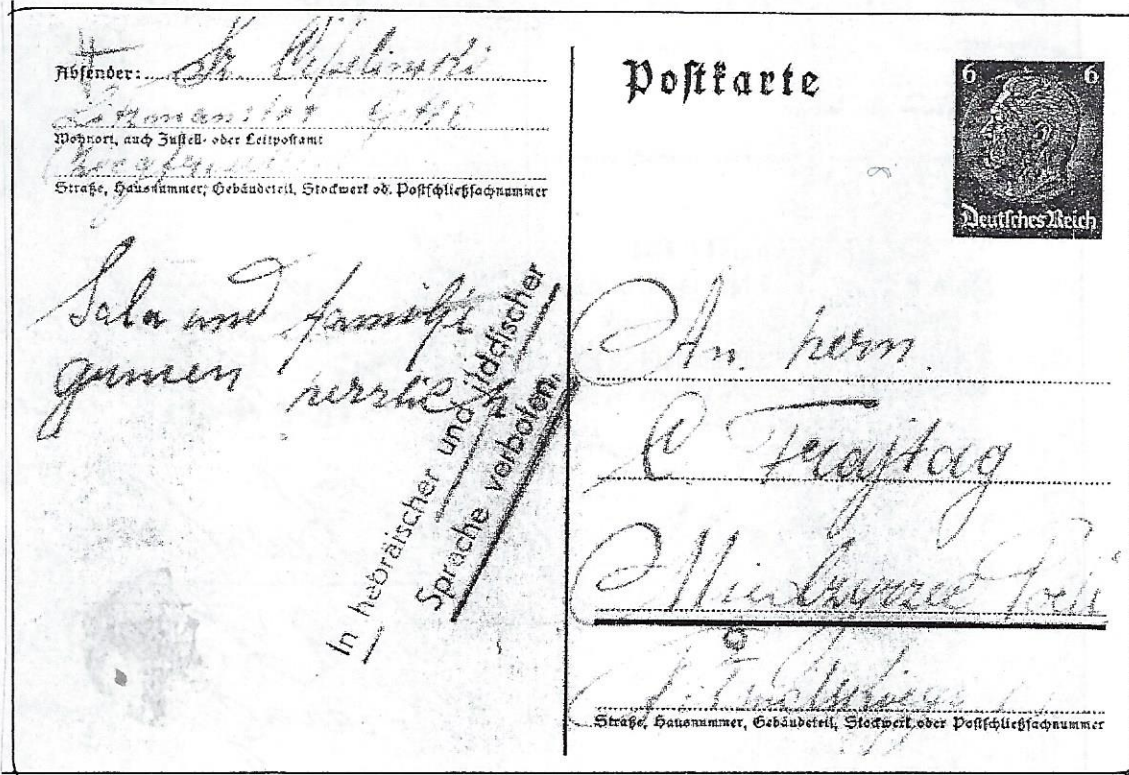
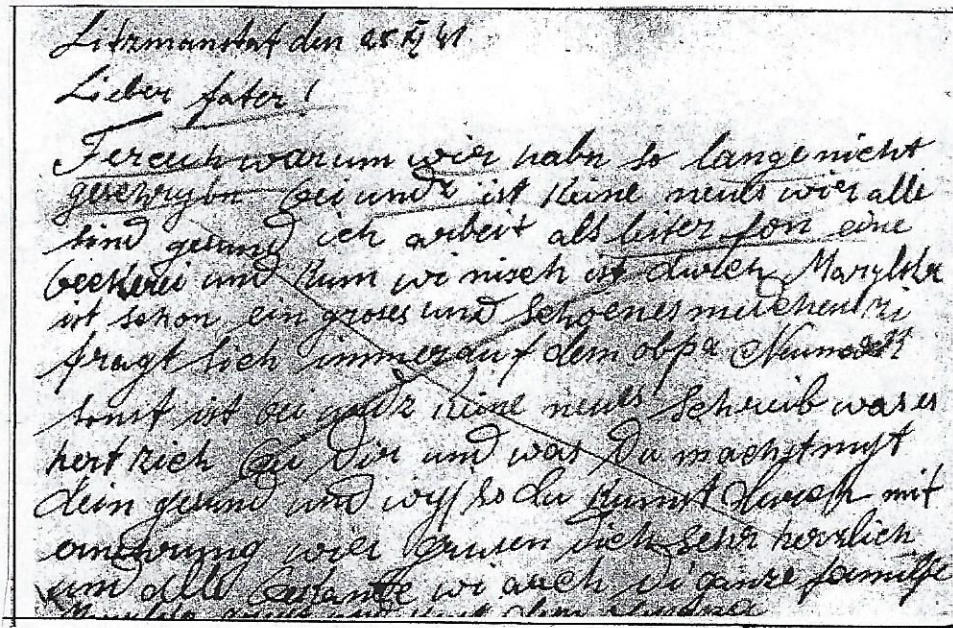


Fig. 6b)



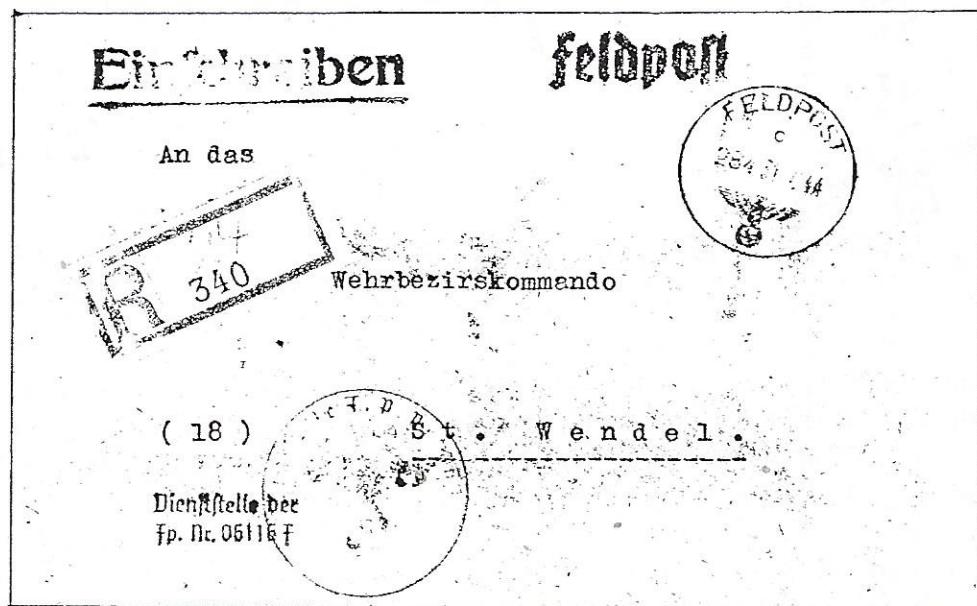


## COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 28th Jäger Division by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	JÄGER		ARTY	UNITS	
28	284	49	83	28	28	

The 28th Infantry Division, initially formed in the peacetime army, included the 7th, 49th and 83rd Infantry Regiments. The troops were mainly Silesians with some Volksdeutsche from Poland intermixed. The post office unit was assigned Fp. # 28024 as a return address and Kenn 284 as a coded identity for registered mail. It fought in Poland in 1939, in the western campaign in 1940, then invaded Russia with Army Group Center in June 1941. Transferred to France in November 1941, it was converted to the two regiment 28th Jäger Division. During this period the 7th Infantry Regiment was re-assigned to the 252nd Infantry Division.

Early in 1942 the 28th Jäger Division was sent to the southern sector of the Russian Front. It fought on the Kerch peninsula and in the final assault on Sevastopol in the Crimea. Transferred to the 11th Army in the northern sector, the division was to be attached to Finnish troops. However, they were held up by Feld-Marshal von Kuchler, who committed them to action with his Army Group North near Demyansk late in 1942. In early 1943 the 28th Jäger Division fought in the second Battle of Lake Ladoga and remained in the northern sector until mid-1944. In July 1944 the division was attached to Group von Saucken, which tried to prevent the encirclement of the 4th Army near Minsk, but failed. Assigned to Army Group Center, the 28th Jäger Division suffered heavy losses in the retreat into Poland, where it fought near the old Brest-Litovsk fortress in the Polish mainland. The remnants of the division, less than one thousand men, ended the war in the East Prussia pocket.



Cover sent to Military District HQ in St. Wendel in June 1944 from Fp. # 06116 (Battalion II/Jäger Rgt. 83) via Field Post Office 28 (K-284).

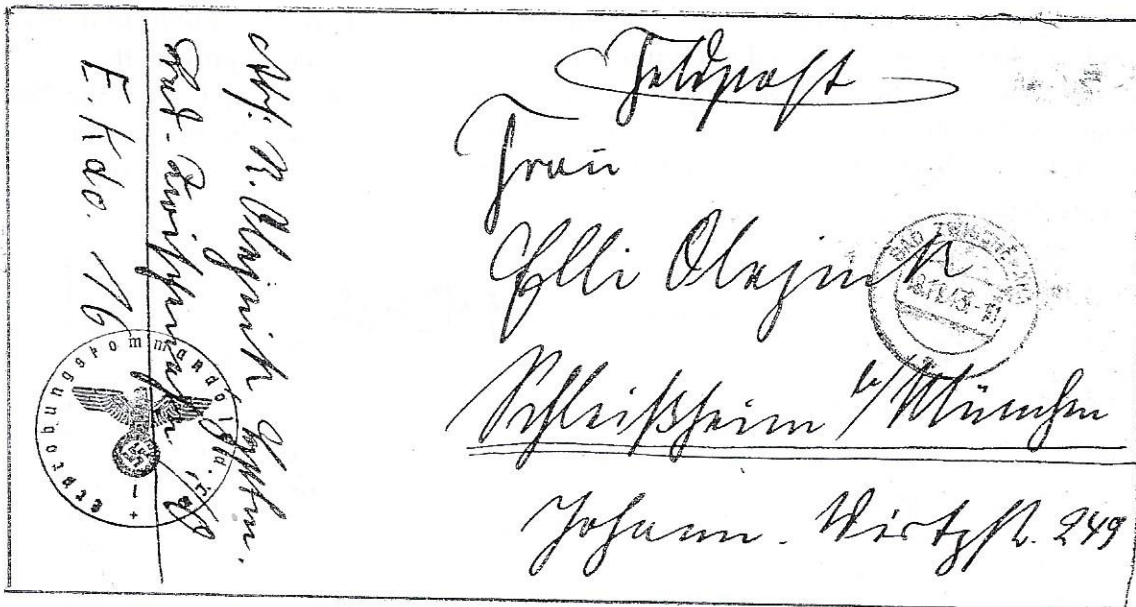


## Ekdo 16 - Training Unit for Me 163 Comet at Bad Zwischenahn

by Phil Miller

The Me 163 Komet was perhaps the most unique aircraft design of World War II. It was originally conceived by Dr. Alexander Lippisch in 1939 through research in glider designs. With the base Walter rocket motor in place, and a volatile but explosive combination of two substances known as T-Stoff and Z-Stoff, the aircraft could utilize the chemical reactive explosion in a controlled environment to propel their new airframe. The Me 163, piloted by a single crewman, featured swept-back wings and a single rudder plane at rear. With a wing span of 31 ft and length of 19 ft., the Me 193 had a top speed of 596 MPH at 32,800 ft and could climb 16,400 ft/min. The Me 163 used a dolly that was jettisoned upon take-off, flew to the required attack altitude and swooped down onto oncoming bomber formations. The Me 163B made its first flight at Lechfeld on June 26, 1942 without propellants and towed by a Bf-110. Powered flights began the next year and a special Me-163B test squadron designated Erprobungskommando 16 was formed during July 1943 at Pennemünde West. However, because of Allied bombing of Pennemünde, the unit moved to Bad Zwischenahn before the first group of pilot trainees arrived. The first group of 30 pilots arrived at Bad Zwischenahn in the autumn and began training to fly the Me 163 fighter.

On October 8, 1943 Oberleutnant Robert Olejnik was assigned to Ekdo 16 to test the Me 163 fighter. He was a top fighter pilot who had scored his first kill on August 26, 1940 and achieved 41 more victories during the war. In May 1944 Olejnik was given command of I/JG400 formed from Ekdo 16 at Bad Zwischenahn. Shown below is a Feldpost cover Olejnik sent to Schleissheim b. München on November 18, 1943. Note the Dienstsiegel reading "Erprobungskommando 16 d.Lw."



The idea of this small one-man aircraft tearing holes into bombers was sound as no Allied aircraft could catch the 623 MPH Komet. In reality, an array of dangers faced the Komet pilot. The fuel mixture itself was known to self-combust, destroying the aircraft and killing the pilot. Initial combat found that the Me 163 approached a flight of B-17s too fast, not allowing the pilots a chance to properly aim their guns. The fuel mixture afforded the pilot only 7.5 minutes of flight time before he had to glide in a controlled free fall back to base. As such, the range of the Me 163 was very limited as was the onboard ammunition of 60 rounds per cannon. With about 300 produced, Me 163 Komets were credited with destroying just nine B-17 Flying Fortresses during the war.







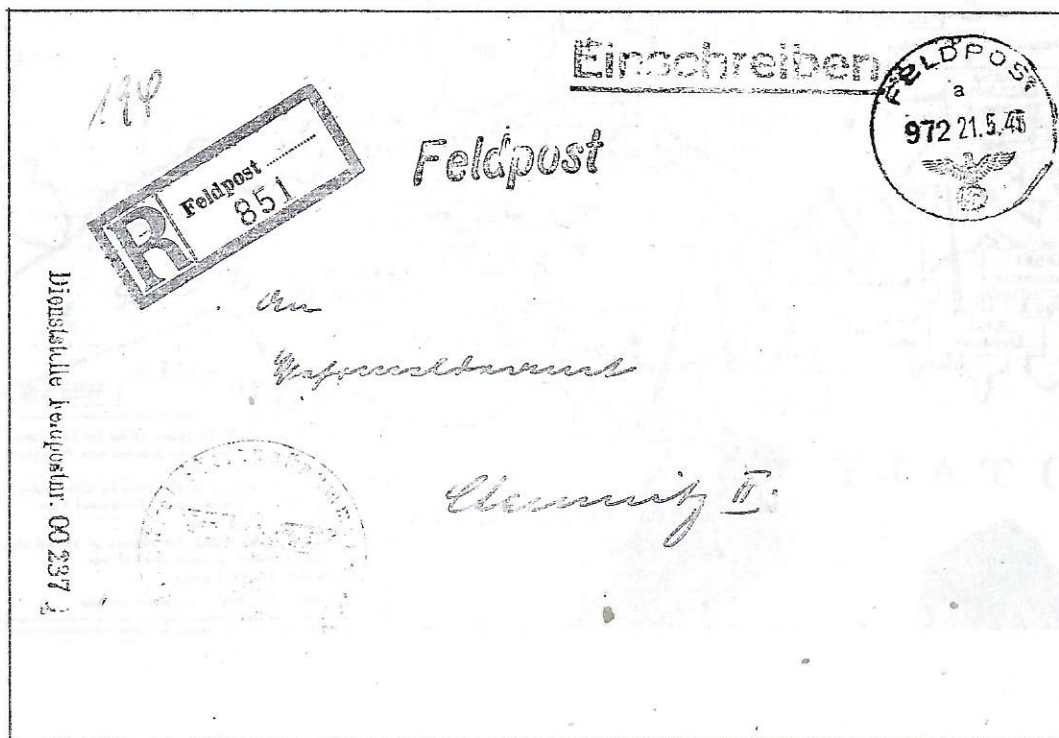
**COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:****306th Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADIER			ARTY	UNITS
306	972	579	580	581	306	306

Formed in late 1940 (13th Wave) in Wehrkreis VI. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 43003 as a return address and Kenn 972 as a coded identity in lieu of tactical FpA 306. The 306th Infantry Division was sent to Belgium a year later and was then transferred to southern Russia in December 1942. It fought in the Stalingrad campaign and opposed the Soviet drive on Rostov as part of Army Group Don..

The division suffered heavy losses in the Battle of Taranrog (December 1942) and the Dneiper bend withdrawal (March 1944). It was reported at battle group strength as early as October 1943. During August and September 1944 the 306th Infantry Division suffered such heavy losses in the Dneister withdrawal that it was officially disbanded on October 9, 1944.



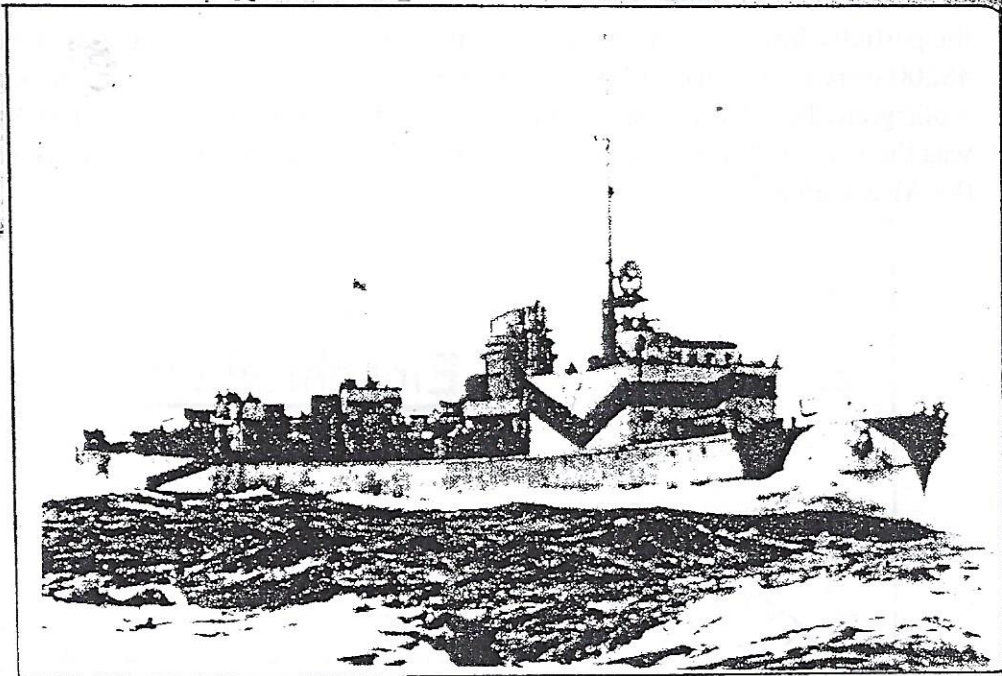
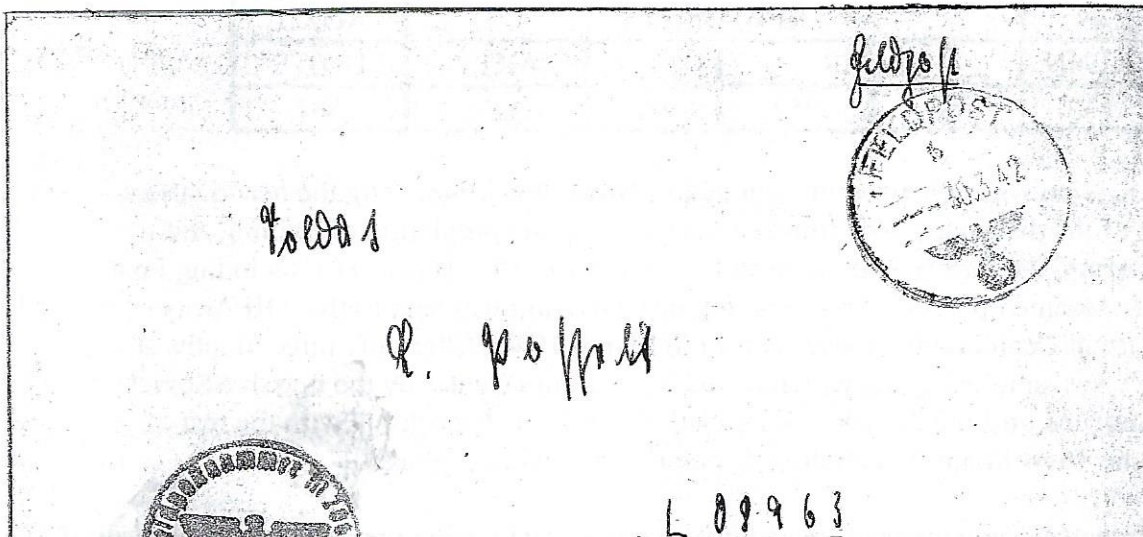
Cover sent to Military Records Office in Chemnitz in May 1943 from Fp. # 00237 (Alarm-Btl. Befehlshaber des Heeresgebietes I) via division P.O. 306 (Kenn 972)



# NAVY LOG

by Robert Dunn

## Torpedo Boat T-5 - Feldpost # 20698



The 5th of 12 ( Type 1935: T1-12) class ships. Built by AG Weser (Bremen) and launched on November 22, 1937. Displacement: 844 tons; speed:35-1/2 knots; crew: 119. Armament: one 4", three 20mm AA guns, six 21" torpedo tubes and thirty mines.

T-5 was in the 2nd Torpedo Boat Flotilla. She joined the German Naval Squadron in the "Channel Dash" from Le Havre on February 12, 1942. Fate: T-5 hit a mine and sunk north of Hela on March 14, 1945.

Cover above with Feldpost cancel was sent by a crew member to Luftwaffe soldier in Fp. # L08963 (4. Kompanie, Fleiger Rgt. 31) on March 30, 1942.



**COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:****361st Infantry Division**

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT	KENN	JÄGER		ARTY	UNITS
361	533	951	952	953	361

The 361st Infantry Division was organized in Denmark in November 1943 using the headquarters and remaining staffs of the disbanded 86th Infantry Division. Upon completion of training and transfer to the Field Army, the former 86th Infantry Division post office (FpA 186), including Fp.# 20885 and Kenn 533, became FpA 361. The 361st Infantry Division was sent to the XIII Army Corps under Army Group Center on the Eastern Front in March 1944. After only three months at the front, the division was smashed along with most of Army group Center by the massive Soviet summer offensive launched on June 22, 1944. Encircled at Brody in Byelorussia with the rest of XIII Corps, most of the 361st Infantry, including its commander, were captured.

A new 361st Volksgrenadier Division was created in September 1944 using personnel & equipment of the partially formed 569th Volksgrenadier Division. The new post office unit FpA 15691 and Fp.# 48200 were reassigned to FpA 361 along with Kenn 407. Upon completion of training the 361st Volksgrenadier Division was sent to the Western Front. It fought in the Arnheim battles in Holland and was then sent to the Saar sector. In February 1945 the 361st Volksgrenadier Division was destroyed in the Alsace area.



Cover sent to Military records Office in Dresden in May 1944 from Fp. # 35641 (Stab/schwerer Artillery Abteilung 846) via Field Post Office 361 (K-533).