



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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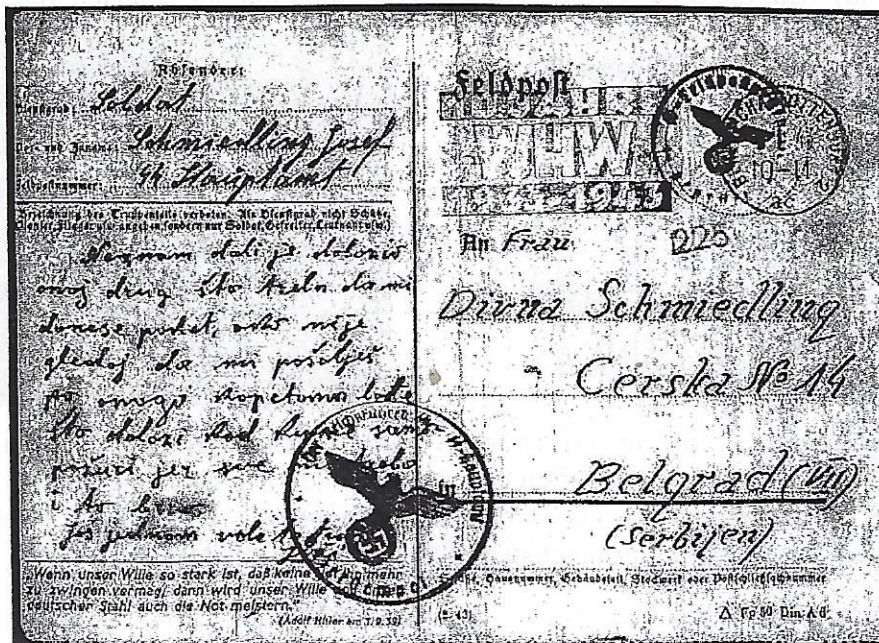
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STUDY GROUP NOTES

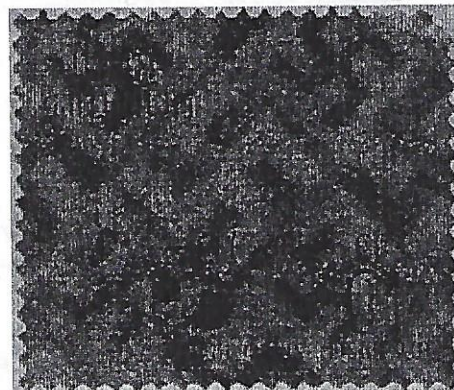
Prosit Neujahr! - Welcome to another year of study group activities. We are pleased that TRSGers have visited former POW camp sites in their states and forwarded information and illustrations for our on-going series. Charles La Blonde (Colorado) supplied most of the illustrations for the article on pages 12 -15 in this issue. Phil Miller (Nebraska) has visited camp sites and museums and is acquiring materials for a future article. Ron Morgan and Larry Nelson of our New Jersey Gau have both sent in various POW items from their collections. As for the rest of you, let's get going! Even if the camp sites in your state are far away, there is a lot of good information about the camps available on Google.

E-mail Address Change - please note that Ye Olde Ed's address has changed to trsg03@comcast.net.

Enemy Prisoners in USA! - Kelly Stefanacci writes that some weeks ago she was listening to one of the talk shows on late evening radio. Under discussion was the possible movement of suspected terrorists now held in the U.S. military prison in Guantanamo, Cuba to be transferred to prisons in the United States. A caller became quite agitated at this idea and stated "Can you imagine the uproar during WWII if someone had suggested that German or Japanese prisoners be held in the United States!!" As Kelly notes, this caller is obviously not a reader of the TRSG Bulletin.

Croatian POW? - In his article on page 5 in Bulletin No. 177, TRSGer Henry Laessig asked for an explanation as to why a Croatian wound up in Stalag VIIB. Ben Beede initially thought that the POW might have been one of Tito's partisans. However, his three volume set of Red Cross reports about WWII reveals that the Germans considered partisans to be "political prisoners", not POWs. This indicates that if the Croat was indeed a partisan, he would most likely have been sent to a concentration camp. Anyone else have any thoughts on this matter?

Watermark extraction method - TRSGer Ed Fraser found a "dry" method to see watermarks using Photoshop and a scanner. The steps for one method, found on "www.germanstamps.net", to obtain the watermark on Mi. 616 as shown below are: 1) Scanned into Photoshop using the scanner's photo negative setting 2) Split into CMYK channels 3) Adjusted curves on Yellow channel (color channel will depend on stamp color) 4) Inverted color to go from negative to positive. So, you "geek squad" types can use this method or stay with the tried & true lighter fluid method like the grizzled veteran types.



Cover Illustration: This Feldpost card was written by an ethnic-German Serb soldier to his wife in Belgrade in October 1941. The letter seal (bottom center) reads "Der Reichsführer der SS-Hauptamt" which the sender uses as his return address. The Berlin-Charlottenberg 2 "10 Jahr WHW" slogan cancel (top right) is superimposed by a red circular hand stamp "SS Feldpostprüfstelle-geprüft".

Story Behind the Cancel: Georg Ritter von Schönerer

by Kelly Stefanacci

Georg Ritter von Schönerer (July 17, 1842- August 14, 1921) was born in Vienna. His father, wealthy railroad pioneer Matthias Schönerer, was knighted in 1860 and was entitled to add the noble *von* to his surname and unofficially but by custom, also the knightly title *Ritter*. When his father died in 1881 Georg inherited the title. As a young man Schönerer became a political activist and was elected to Austria's Reichsrat (parliament) in 1873. He developed a political philosophy that featured elements of violent anti-Semitism, anti-Catholicism, nationalism and Pan-Germanism which appealed to many lower class Viennese. Schönerer rapidly became a popular and powerful political figure. In 1879 he formed the Pan-German Party and spearheaded an anti-Catholic movement under the slogan "away from Rome". He coined the pseudo-medieval greeting "Heil" and his followers called him "the Leader" (Führer), another term which his movement introduced into the vocabulary of national politics.

In 1888, Schönerer was temporarily imprisoned for ransacking a Jewish-owned newspaper office and assaulting its employees. While this action increased Schönerer's popularity and helped members of his party get elected to the Austrian parliament, the prison sentence resulted in the loss of his status as a noble. Schönerer was reelected to the Reichsrat in 1897, and later that year orchestrated the expulsion of Prime Minister Kasimir Felix Graf Badeni from office. Schönerer became even more powerful in 1901, when 21 members of his party gained seats in the parliament. His career faded rapidly thereafter, however, due to his forceful views and personality. His party suffered as well and had virtually disintegrated by 1907. Schönerer died in his castle Rosenau at Zwettel in lower Austria on August 14, 1921.

When Hitler moved to Vienna in 1908 at the age of 18, he was a provincial German nationalist who harbored dreams of becoming a great painter. His abiding love for all things German led him to take most seriously the marginal pan-German party of Schönerer and all of Schönerer's basic policies were utilized by Hitler when he came to power. To commemorate the centenary of his birth, a Schönerer Exhibition was held in Vienna from September 26 to November 8, 1942 and later at Graz from Dec. 19 to Feb. 14, 1943. Shown below is the special cancel used in Graz. At right is a postcard for the exhibition with the Coat of Arms of Austria and Germany with Nazi swastika against a background of greater Germany. The inscription "Georg Ritter von Schönerer, publisher and way-preparer of Greater Germany. Vienna Fair palace (venue of exhibition) 26 Sept.-8 Nov. 1942"

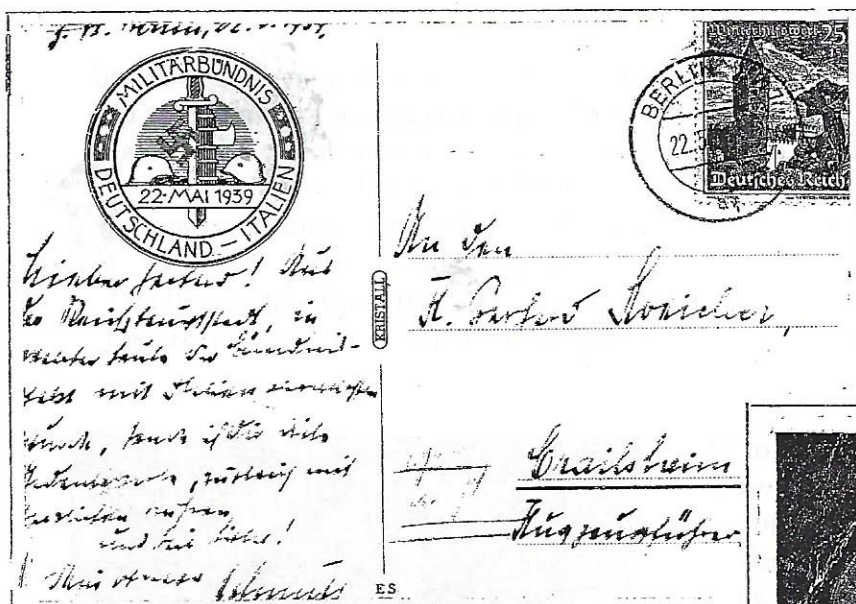


The Pact of Steel

by Bob Ferguson

The "Pact of Steel" was signed at the Reich Chancellery in Berlin on May 22, 1939 by German Foreign Minister Joachim von Ribbentrop and Italian Foreign Minister Count Galeazzo Ciano. This treaty provided: ".... if it should happen that one of the contracting Parties became involved in warlike complications with another Power or Powers, the other party would immediately come to its assistance as an ally and support it with all its military forces on land, sea and in the air."

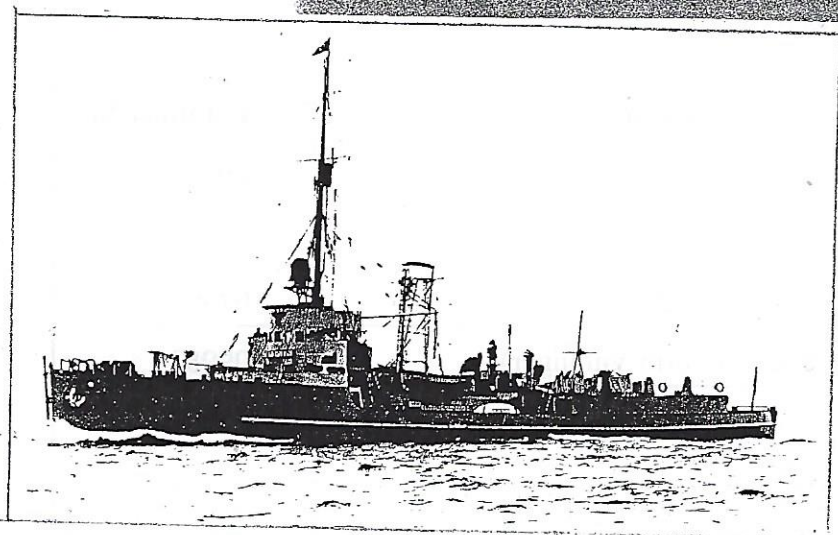
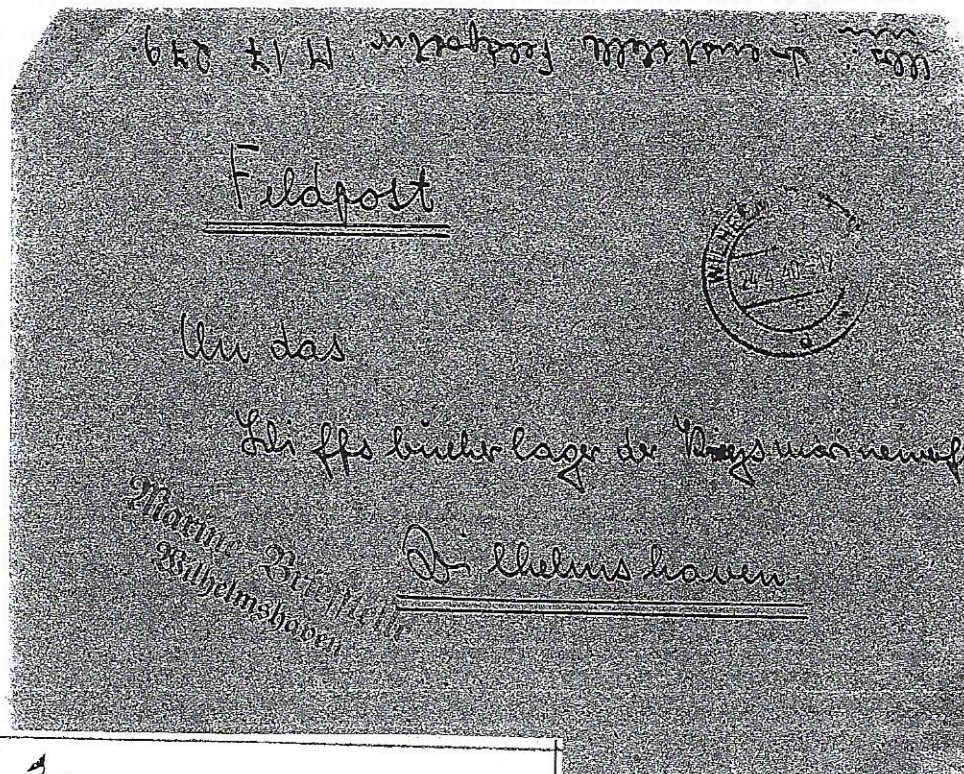
Show below are both sides of a card commemorating the occasion that was posted at Berlin NW7 on May 22, 1939 and addressed to Crailsheim/Württemberg.



NAVY LOG

by Robert Dunn

Minesweeper M.560 'Hille' - Feldpost # 17279



This minesweeper dated back to WWI. Built by Seebeckwerft (Geestemünde) and launched on Nov. 28, 1917 as M.60 'Hecht'. Displacement: 515 tons (690 tons full); range: 3,200 miles at 10 knots; crew: 51; armament: one 4.1", and three 20mm AA guns.

Re-designated M.560 'Hille' in 1939, she carried troops to Copenhagen on April 9, 1940. She functioned as a tender for Flotilla 21, operating from the summer of 1943 until the end of the war in Norway. She was taken by the Russians in 1945. Cover above sent to Wilhelmshaven on April 24, 1940.

Army Coastal Battery 4/478 in Bøkfjord Fyr

by Erik Lørdahl

During WWII the more than 2000 km long Norwegian coast was part of the German "Atlantic Wall". Following several Allied raids by motor torpedo boats, the German High Command feared that they may have been a prelude to an invasion. They therefore began a huge fortification of the coast with hundreds of artillery batteries installed from Kristiansand in the south to Kirkenes in the north-east. These coastal artillery sites were organized by both the Navy as Marine Artillerieabteilungen (Naval Artillery Battalions) and the Army as Heeres Küsten Batterie (Army Coastal Batteries).

One of the strongest fortified areas along the Norwegian coast was at the inlet to Kirkenes in East-Finnmark. Headquarters of the German 20th Gebirgs (Mountain) Armee on the Murmansk front was located in the Kirkenes area. Ammunition, equipment and other supplies for the roughly 100,000 soldiers of this Army were routed through the small city of Kirkenes. As the bulk of these materials was carried by ship, it was of vital importance to secure the narrow inlets through which ships passed from the open sea to Kirkenes (see Map A).

Naval Artillery Battalion MAA 513/3 with three 28 cm guns was located at Kiberg on the Varanger Peninsula while MAA 517/4 with four 25 cm guns was placed on Kjelmoya at the inlet to Kirkenes.

In addition, Army Coastal Battalion HKB 478 was located in Bøkfjord Fyr, overlooking the inlet between Kjelmsoy island and Holmengraffjell Peninsula (see Map B). The units of HKB 478 with their Feldpost numbers and locations were as follows:

Unit	Location	Feldpost No.
Stab	Kjelmsøy	00196
Battr. 1	Buholmen-Korsfjorden	34459
Battr. 2	Bugøynes	07302
Battr. 3	Kvalneset (North Varanger)	09982
Battr. 4	Bøkfjord Fyr	10830
Battr. 5	Ekkerøy (North Varanger)	41854
Battr. 6	Guldsmevika - Oksebaset	03093

The unit we are concerned with here is Battery 4 which was located on Bøkfjord Fyr (Hungerneset). As this was the most northern battery of HKB 478, it was equipped with four 10.5 cm cannons (range of 12,000 meters). There were also three 3.7 cm armor piercing guns, two 20mm Flak guns and four machine guns. On the following page appear the maps noted above plus two Luftfeldpost covers sent to and from Batteries of Army Coastal Battalion 478 during 1943.

Map A. View of shipping route between Kjelmsoy island (top center) and Holmengrafjell peninsula (top right) to port of Kirkenes (bottom center).

Map B. (Below) Detailed portion of Map A shows the location of Battery 4/478 at Bøkfjord Fyr on Hungerneset (upper right).

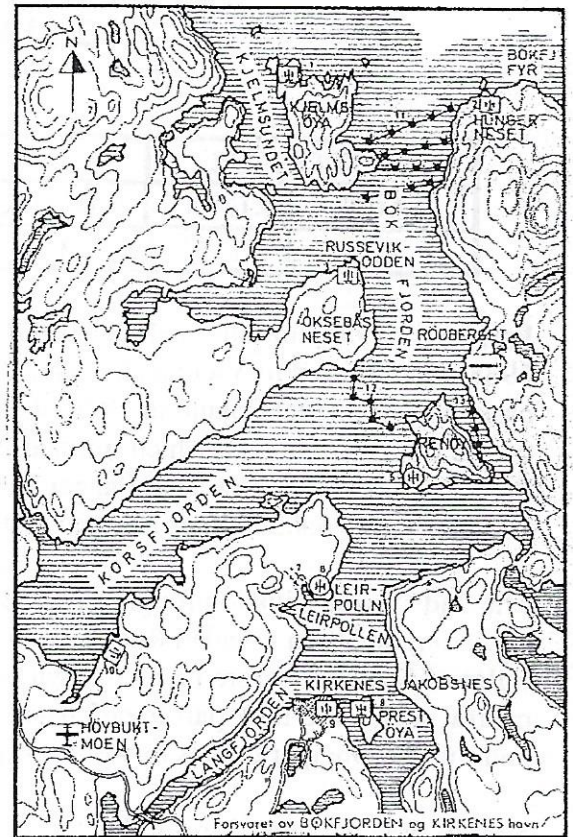
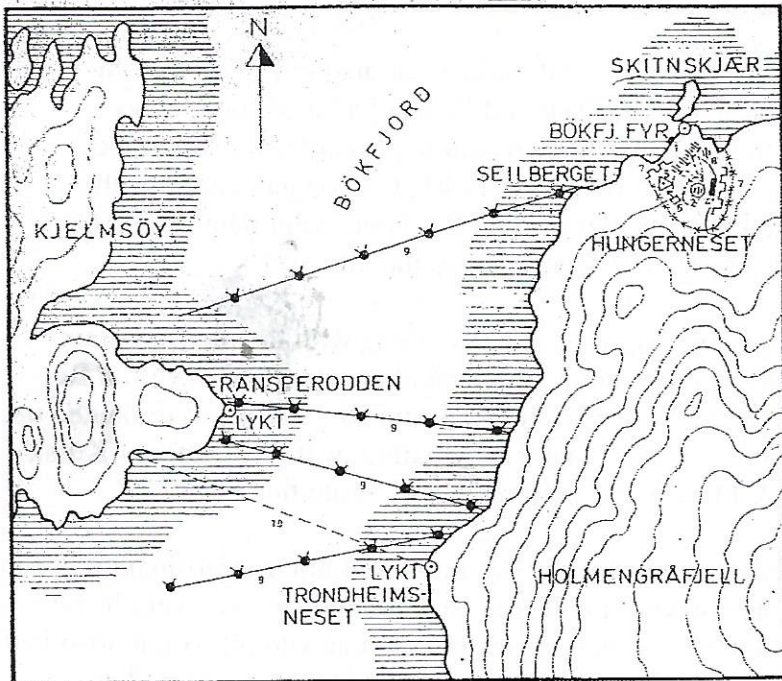
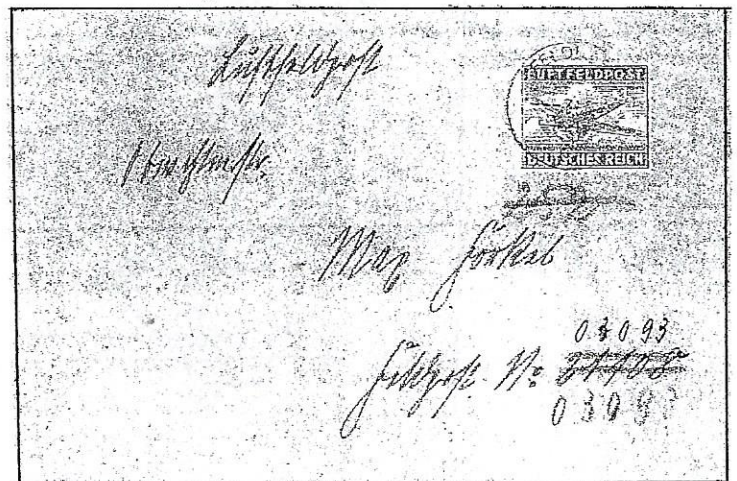
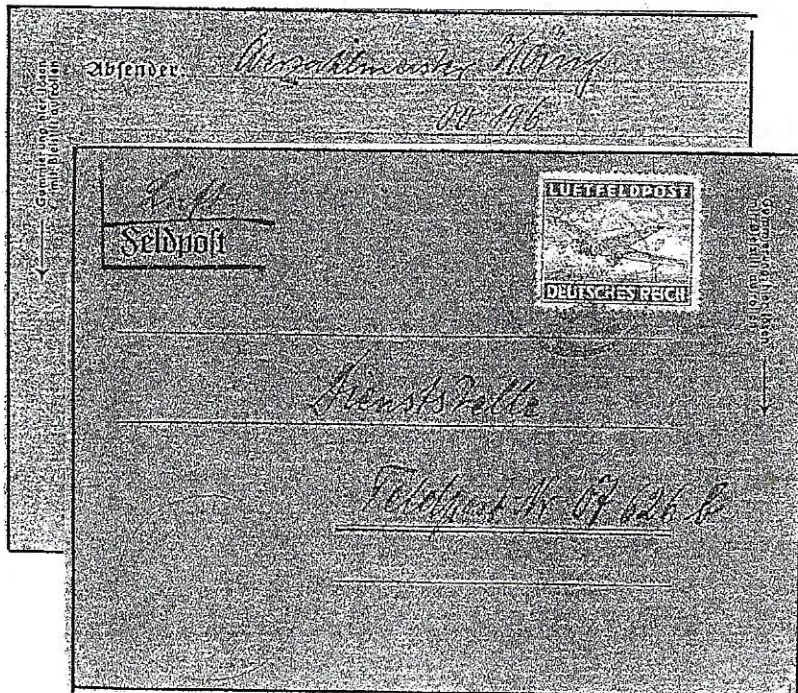


Fig. 1) Letter sheet sent from soldier at Fp.# 00196 (Stab/HKB 478) sent to Fp.# 07626b (AOK Norwegian in Oslo) on October 27, 1943.

Fig. 2) Cover sent to soldier at Fp.# 21108 (Battr. 1/HKB 488) on May 31, 1943 was readdressed to Fp.# 03093 (Battr.6/HKB 478) located on Oksebasen peninsula (see Map A).

The manuscript "252" below stamp indicates address change was made at FpA 231 (K-252) of the XIX Gebirgs Korps in Murmansk area.



COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

2nd Panzer Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL	
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER	ARTY	UNITS	
82	135	3	2	304	74	82

Formed in 1935, initially included 3rd Panzer, 4th Panzer and 2nd Pz.-Grenadier Regiments. In 1938 it transferred to Vienna after annexation of Austria. The 2nd Panzer Division took heavy casualties in central Poland in 1939. It then fought in the French campaign, capturing Abbeville on the English Channel, which trapped Allies in Dunkirk. In late 1940, division gave up the 4th Panzer Regiment to new 13th Panzer Division but added the 304th Pz.-Gren. Regiment. The P.O. was assigned Fp.# 35046 as a return address and Kenn 135 as a coded identity.

The 2nd Panzer Division fought in the Balkans and captured Athens (along with the 6th Mountain Division) and then invaded Russia with Army Group Center. Division elements came to within five miles of Moscow before being thrown back by the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42. It remained on central sector and took part in defensive fighting of 1942, the Rzhev withdrawal, the Battle of Kursk and middle Dneiper battles in winter of 1943-44, where it suffered heavy casualties.

Sent to France to rest & refit, the 2nd Panzer Division was thrown into the Battle for Normandy in June 1944. It took part in unsuccessful counterattack at Mortain in August 1944 and suffered very heavy losses breaking out of the Falaise corridor. Sent to Wittlich in western Germany to reform, it absorbed the 352nd Infantry Division. Sent to the Ardennes offensive, it again suffered heavy losses. The survivors of the old division ended the war defending Fulda.



Cover sent to Military Area Command in Wien in October 1944 from Fp. # 39141 (Pz. Verwendugs Co. 82) via P.O. 82 (K-135).

Segelflugzeug (Glider) Special Cancels by Bob Ferguson

The Wasserkuppe is a high plateau (elevation 950m) on the highest peak in the Rhon Mountains within the German state of Hesse. Students from nearby Darmstadt University began flying gliders as early as 1911, but interest in gliding increased greatly after 1918 when the Treaty of Versailles restricted the use of powered aircraft. From 1920 onwards, annual competitions were held and in 1922 the world's first glider school was founded at the Wasserkuppe. In 1924 the gliding school became a state-funded research organization, the "Rhon-Rossitten Gesellschaft". Nearly every German aeronautical engineer and test pilot during the 1920s and 30s spent time working at the Wasserkuppe. During the Third Reich, gliding activities became largely controlled by the state, and for Hitler Youth pilots and their instructors, proficiency in gliding was viewed as the first step towards the Luftwaffe. The cancel numbering scheme is Bochmann's "Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel"

Fliegerlager Wasserkuppe # 1	Rhon- Segelflug Wettbewerb (used 1924-1939)	2 wks in July/Aug
Fliegerlager Wasserkuppe # 2	Internationaler Segelflug Wettbewerb	4-18 July 1937
Gersfeld # 3	Stadt der Segelflieger/ Luftkurort Wintersportplatz	1936 - 1939
Gersfeld # 4	Luftkurort Wintersportplatz Besuch die Wasserkuppe	1939 - 1945
Grunau (Riesengeb) # 1	Segel Flug Schule	1932 - 1937
Grunau (Riesengeb) # 2	Segelflugschule	1937 - 1939
München - Passing # 2	Segelflug- Modell-Wettbewerb/München 1937	11 April 1937
Ellrich # 1	bekannt durch seine Segelflieger ruhige Erholung	1938 -1941

Fliegerlager Wasserkuppe # 1



Fliegerlager Wasserkuppe # 2



München - Passing # 2



Ellrich # 1



Special Cancels for German Sea Power

by Bob Ferguson

In June 1941 three special cancels were used emphasizing German naval power: "Seegeltung-Weltgeltung" (sea power is world power). A private postal card (Frech # pp122-C119) showing a burning English destroyer was also produced. The Reichspost may have in mind the success of German U-boats in sinking allied shipping with a 1943 slogan cancel (series cancel # 403) containing a view of a sinking ship with British flag and text "more than 32 million registered tons lost!"

The numbering scheme for these cancels is in Julius Bochmann's **Katalog der Deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel**.

Berlin (Steglitz) # 363	Seegeltung-Weltgeltung	used: June 8, 1941
Berlin (Kopenick) # 364	Seegeltung-Weltgeltung	used: June 15, 1941
Schwabisch-Gmund # 5	Seegeltung-Weltgeltung	used: June 8, 1941
Series cancel # 403	Mehr als 32 Millionen BRT sind weg!	used: June 17 to December 17, 1943 in 37 cities

Fig. 1) Frech # pp122-C119 postal card.

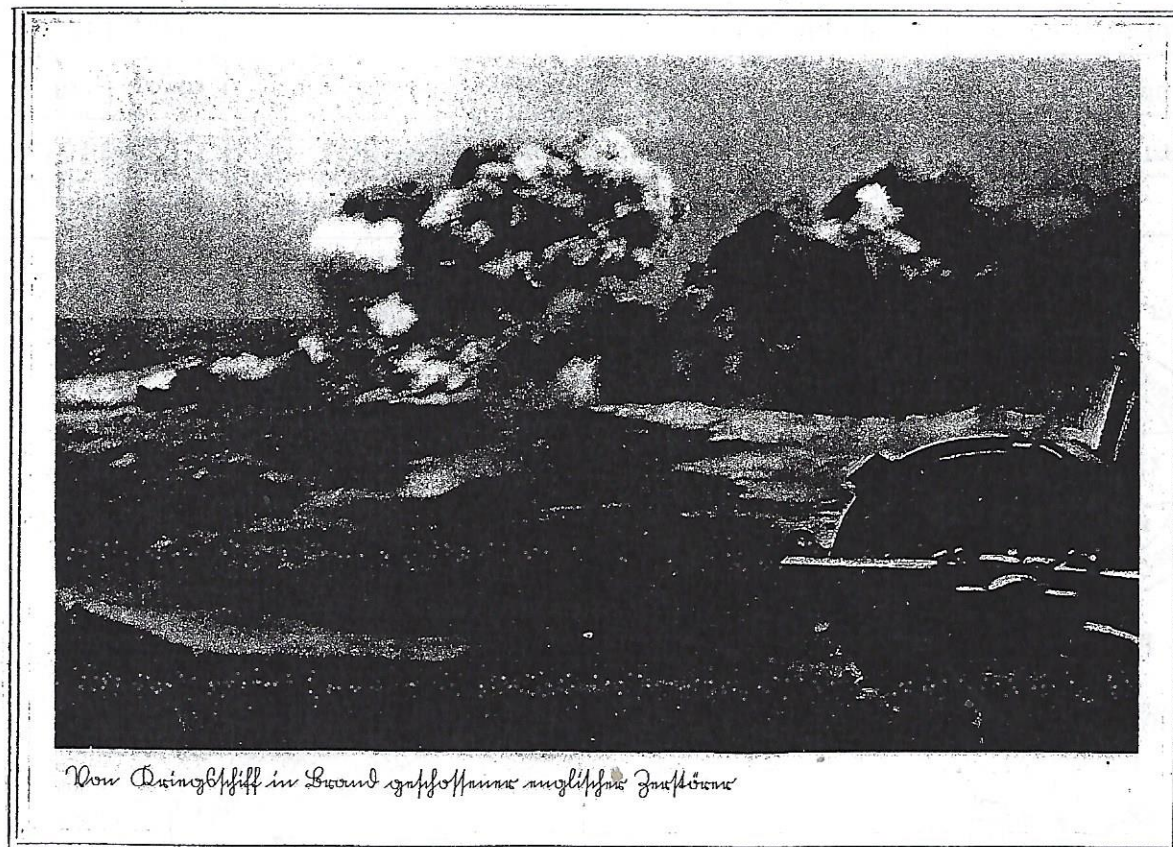


Fig: 2) Cover with Berlin slogan cancel dated October 14, 1943.

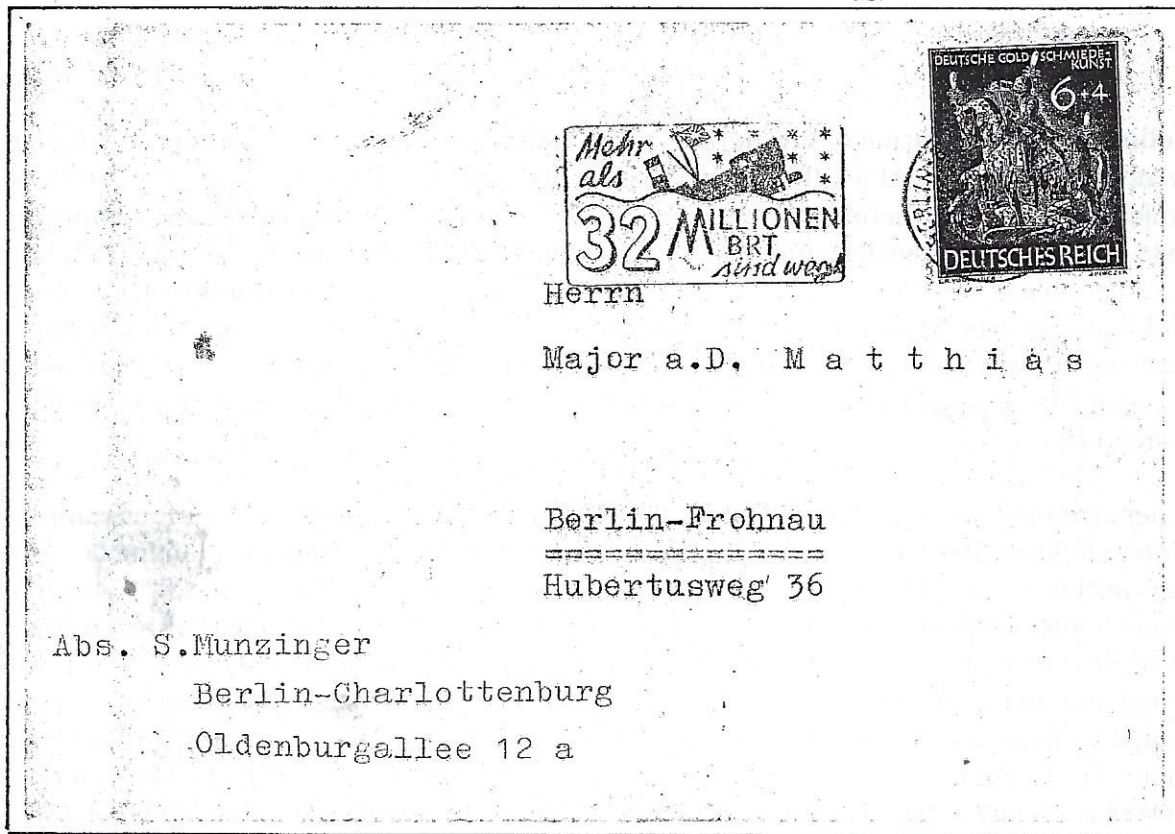


Fig. 3) Special cancels for Berlin and Schwabisch Gmund

Berlin # 363



Berlin # 364



Schwabisch Gmund # 5



German POWs in North America Camps in Colorado

by Jim Lewis

Following the conclusion of the North African campaign, thousands of German and Italian men were captured by the Allies. The United States agreed to take approximately 425,000 POWs, of which 375,000 were German. From 1943 to 1946, Colorado maintained 3 large camps and more than 40 additional branch camps. The major camps were located at Trinidad (code 62) housing 2,500 prisoners, near Greeley (code 80) with more than 2,000 men and Camp Carson (code 45) at Colorado Springs holding 12,000 POWs. The large camps included a series of buildings surrounded by watch towers, searchlights, barbed wire fences, guards and dogs. Accommodations for men working outside the main camps took a variety of forms from school gymnasiums to warehouses.

After arriving by ship on the east coast, the prisoners were assigned to the various camps. In Colorado most of the POWs were used as agricultural laborers during the planting and harvesting seasons because of labor shortages on the farms during the war. Some were sent to the mountains to cut telephone poles, railroad ties, or ice for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad refrigerator cars. When the prisoners were out in the field, security was sometimes lax as there was little temptation to escape with Germany thousands of miles and an ocean away. Sometimes men would temporarily escape to go into the nearby town to obtain food or supplies. Occasionally more serious escapes were attempted as when U.S. Private Dale Maple helped two German POWs to escape to the Mexican border from Camp Hale, a branch camp of Trinidad. Maple was court-martialed for treason and was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Fig. 1) Preprinted airmail cover sent in January 1945 to a POW lieutenant in Camp Trinidad has 40 Pfg fee for airmail service. Berlin censor (code 'b') added paper sealing tape to left side while U.S. censor # 12906 added transparent tape to right side. Note manuscript "Hosp" indicating intended recipient was in the hospital.

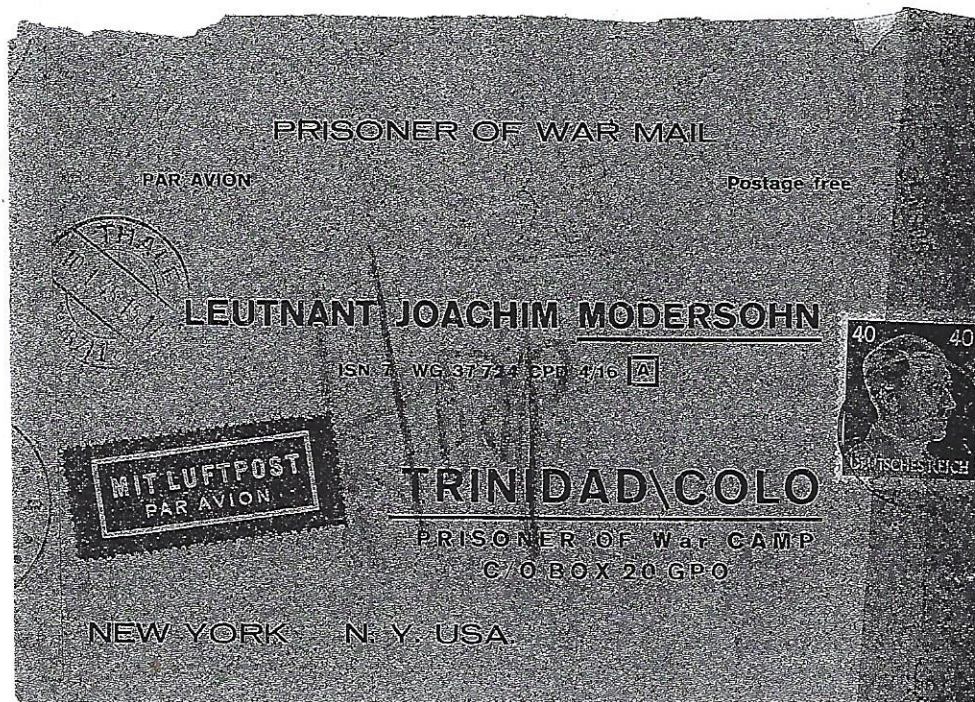


Fig. 2) Label from parcel sent via the German Red Cross in Potsdam-Babelsberg in October 1944 to a acting Corporal (*Obergefreiter*) in Camp Greeley has U.S. censor # 11199. Note underlined note "Gebührenfrei!" (Postage Free) in right center of label.

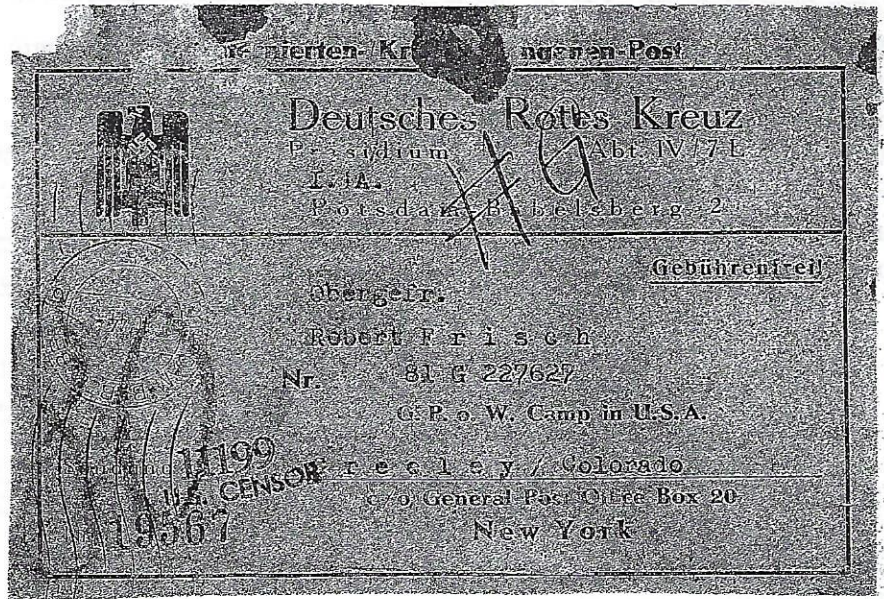


Fig. 3) Cover sent from Herzberg in September 1944 to POW in Camp Greeley was opened and resealed at left by German censors in Frankfurt (code 'f'). At right is clear tape used by U.S. censor # 11684 in New York. This cover, being postage free, would have traveled by sea.

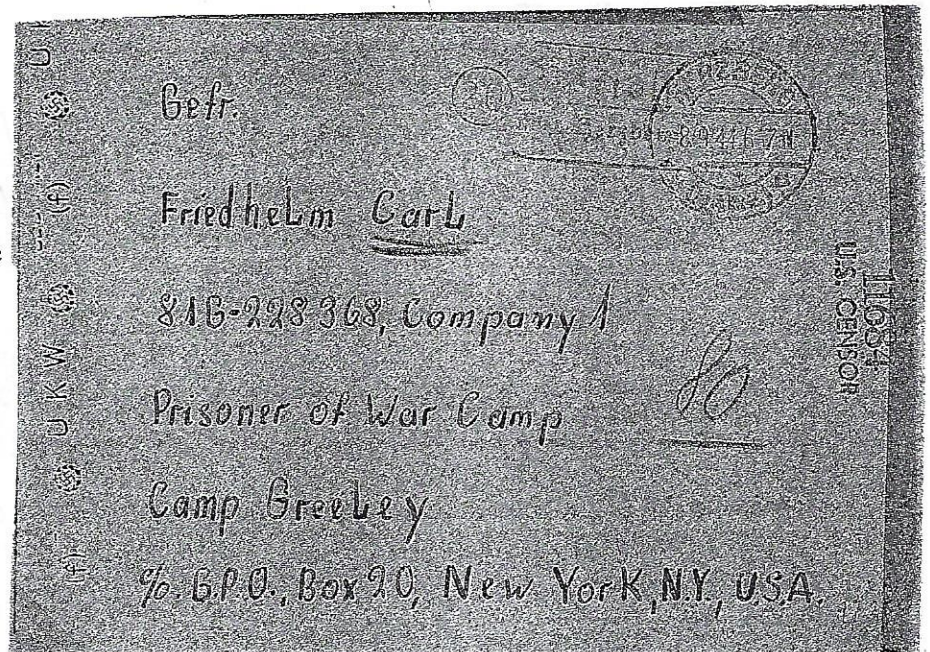
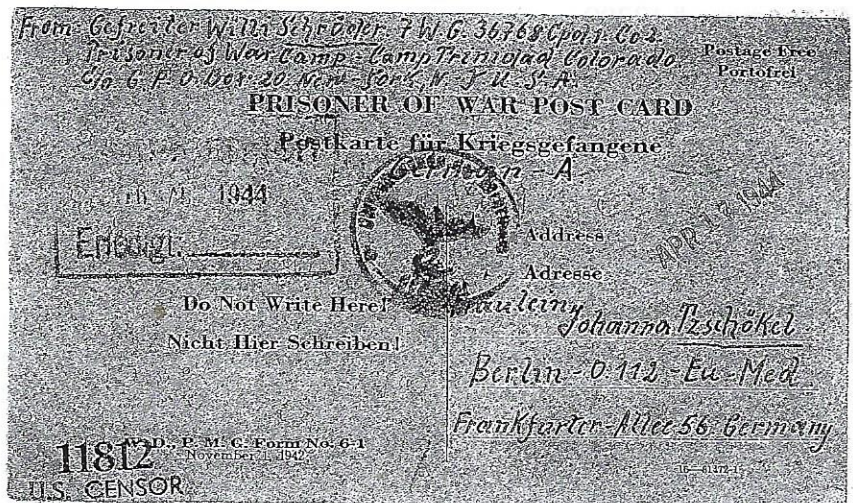


Fig. 4) Postage free POW form card sent to Berlin in April 1944 from a POW in Camp Trinidad has U.S. Censor #11812 at bottom left and hand stamp of German censor in Berlin (code 'b') in center.



Camp Carson, south of Colorado Springs was opened in 1943 and, in addition to the POW facility, trained the U.S. 71st Infantry, 89th Infantry, 104th Infantry and 10th Mountain Divisions during WWII. Shown at right (Fig. 5) is an International Red Cross inquiry card from a POW in Camp Carson asking for information on family in Vienna.

P. 10.014 bis

AU. COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE GENEVE
ANTWORT - REPLY
MESSAGE - EXPRESS Eilt
Urgent

V. Ausschliesslich für Kriegsgefangene oder Zivilinternierte und deren Angehörige bestimmt, die seit mehr als drei Monaten ohne direkte Nachrichten sind.
 Reserved for prisoners of war or interned civilians and their next of kin without news for over three months.

ABSENDER
 Name und Vorname (voll ausgeschrieben) (und in Druckbuchstaben) *RUDOLT WILHELM*

SENDER
 Name and Christian name in full (and in blockletters) *P.O.W. Camp, Camp CARSON*

Anschrift
 Address *Co # 10, Colorado U.S.A.*

EMPFÄNGER
 Name und Vorname (voll ausgeschrieben) (und in Druckbuchstaben) *RUDOLT MAXIMILIAN*

ADDRESSEE
 Name and Christian name in full (and in blockletters) *WIEN (VIENNA) 7. BREITE GASSE N° 1 (AUSTRIA)*

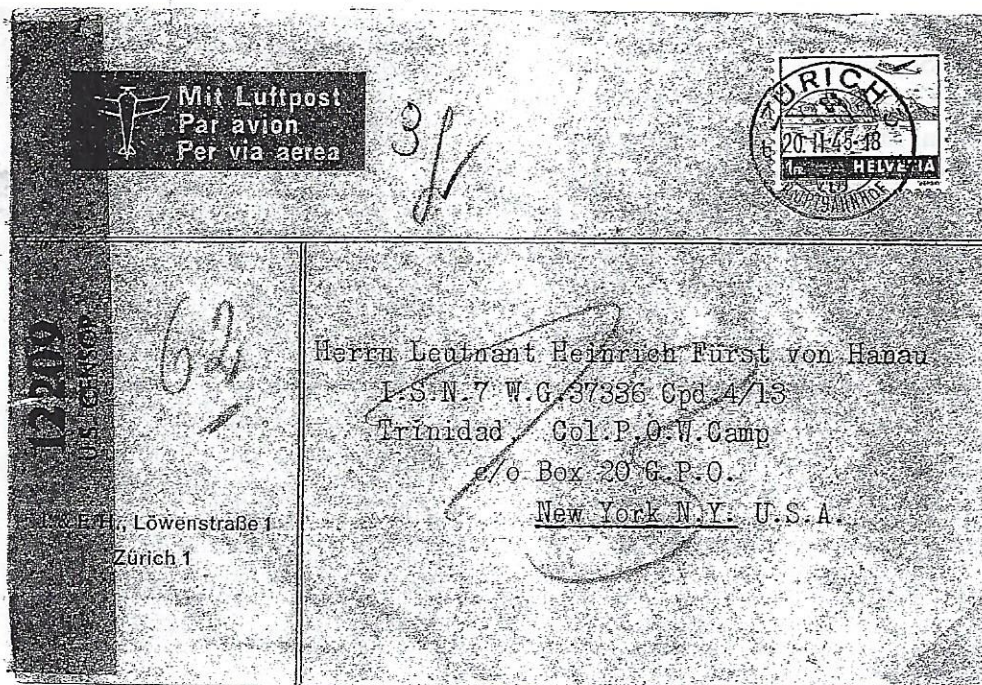
Anschrift
 Address

• Bei Gefangenen stets Angabe des Dienstgrades, der Kriegsgefangenen- sowie der Lagernummer.
 • Bei Zivilinternierten stets Angabe der Nummer in dem betreffenden Lager.
 • For prisoners' state rank, POW number and Camp.
 • For interned civilians state internec number and Camp.

**Antwort unentgelt.
 Reply overleaf.**

The first POWs sent to Camp Trinidad in 1943 were elite officers from the Afrika Korps including Lieutenant Heinrich, 5th Fürst von Hanau (Prince of Hanau). Under a provision of the Geneva Convention, a transfer could be arranged for a relationship such as father to son. Heinrich sent a request to the IRC for the transfer of his 21-year old son Carl Heinrich, a POW in Camp Phillips in Kansas. While the elder Hanau was an officer and his son a Gefreiter, they were reunited in Camp Trinidad in Sept. 1944.

Fig. 6) at right is an airmail cover to Lieutenant Heinrich from a Law firm in Zurich sent in February 1945 that has U.S. censor # 12209.



Due to the continued need for agricultural workers and the chaotic post-war situation in Europe, the last of the German POWs in Colorado were not returned to Europe until July 31, 1946.

Ed Note: Most of the information and illustrations for this article were provided by TRSGer Charles La Blonde for which we are most grateful. He became interested in Fürst von Hanau after he obtained the cover shown above and learned that Heinrich, an officer in the Afrika Korps, was 45 years old in 1945. Upon his death in 1971, his son Carl Heinrich became 6th Fürst von Hanau. If any member has information on the Hanau family, please send it to Ye Olde Ed and we'll forward it to Mr. LaBlonde.

The main and branch POW camps in Colorado are shown below:

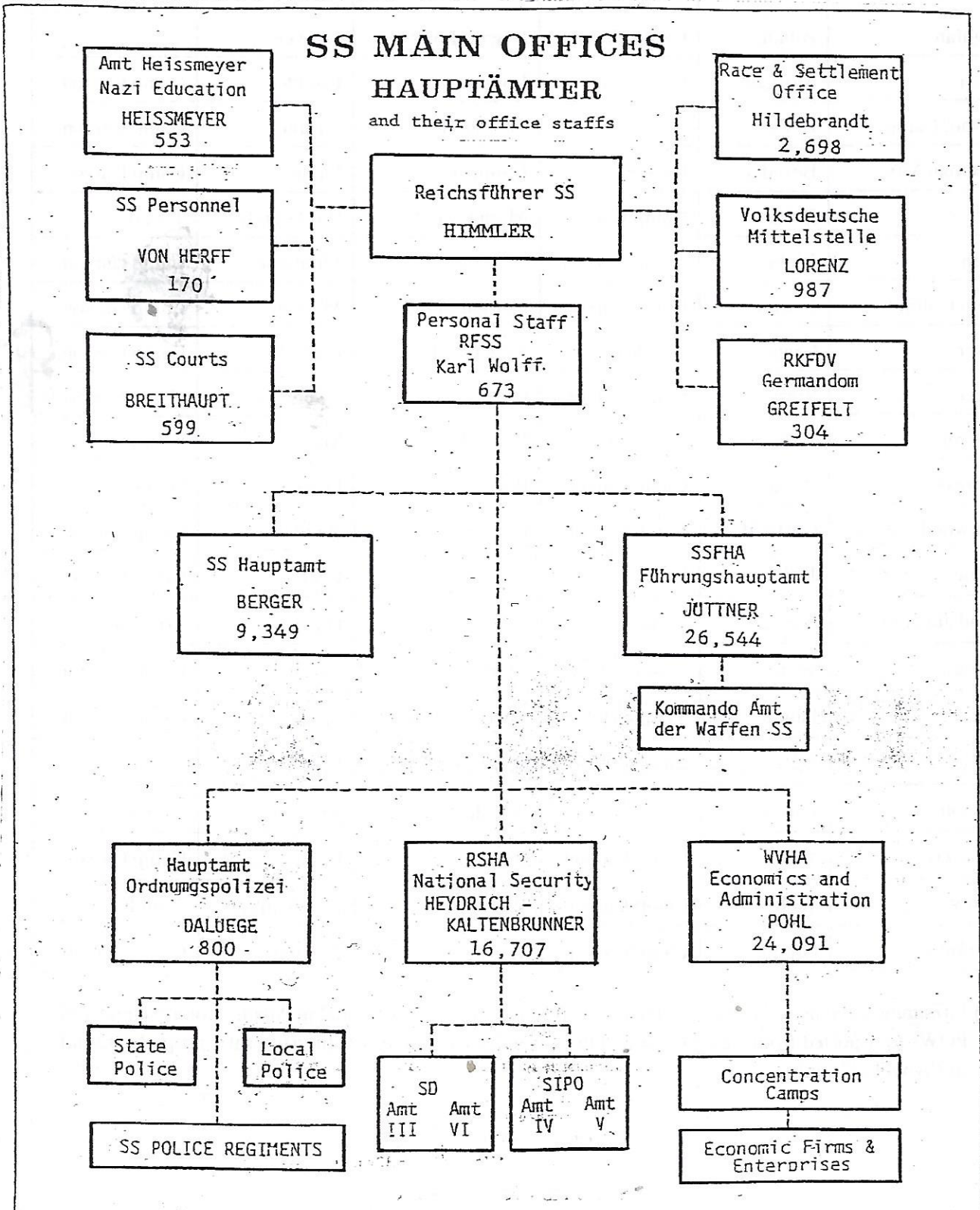
Name of Camp	County	Main Camp	Name of Camp	County	Main Camp
Ault	Weld	Camp Carson	Lamar	Powers	Camp Carson
Bob's Creek	Lincoln	Camp Carson	Las Animas	Bent	Trinidad
Brightan	Adams	Camp Carson	Logan, Fort	Denver	-----
Brush	Morgan	Camp Carson	Longment	Boulder	Camp Carson
Carson, Camp	El Paso	-----	Loveland	Larimer	Camp Carson
Deadman Mtn.	Boulder	Greeley	Minturn	Eagle	Camp Carson
Delta	Delta	Camp Carson	Mount Vista	Rio Grande	Trinidad
Eaton	Weld	Camp Carson	Montrose	Montrose	Camp Carson
Camp Collins	Larimer	Camp Carson	Morgan, Fort	Morgan	Camp Carson
Fraser	Grand	Greeley	New Castle	Garfield	Camp Carson
Fruita	Mesa	Camp Carson	Ovid	Sedgwick	Camp Carson
Galeton	Weld	Camp Carson	Palisade	Mesa	Camp Carson
Galerest	Weld	Camp Carson	Pando	Eagle	Greeley
Glenwood Spring	Garfield	Camp Carson	Pierce	Weld	Camp Carson
Gould	Jackson	Greeley	Rocky Ford	Otero	Camp Carson
Grand Junction	Mesa	Camp Carson	Springfield	Baca	Trinidad
Greeley	Weld	-----	Sterling	Logan	Camp Carson
Hale	Pando	Trinidad	Sugar City	Crowley	Camp Carson
Holly	Prowers	Camp Carson	Trinidad, Camp	Las Animas	-----
Johnson	Larimer	Camp Carson	Walden	Jackson	Greeley
Kieneserg	Weld	Camp Carson	Walsh	Baca	Camp Carson
Kersey	Weld	Camp Carson	Weston	Las Animas	Trinidad
Kremling	Grand	Camp Carson	Wiggins	Morgan	Camp Carson

(Note) Fitzsimmons General Hospital in Denver and Rocky Mountain Arsenal in Adams County employed POWs transported from Camp Carson. There was an Enemy Alien Internment Camp at Granada in Prowers County.

SS Main Offices

by John Painter

This organizational chart, which shows all the Main Offices (Hauptämter) of the SS including the office holders and the size of their staffs as of June 30, 1944, should prove useful to collectors of SS mail.

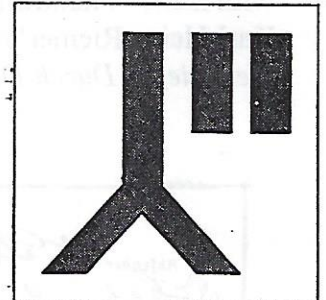


COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 3rd Panzer Division

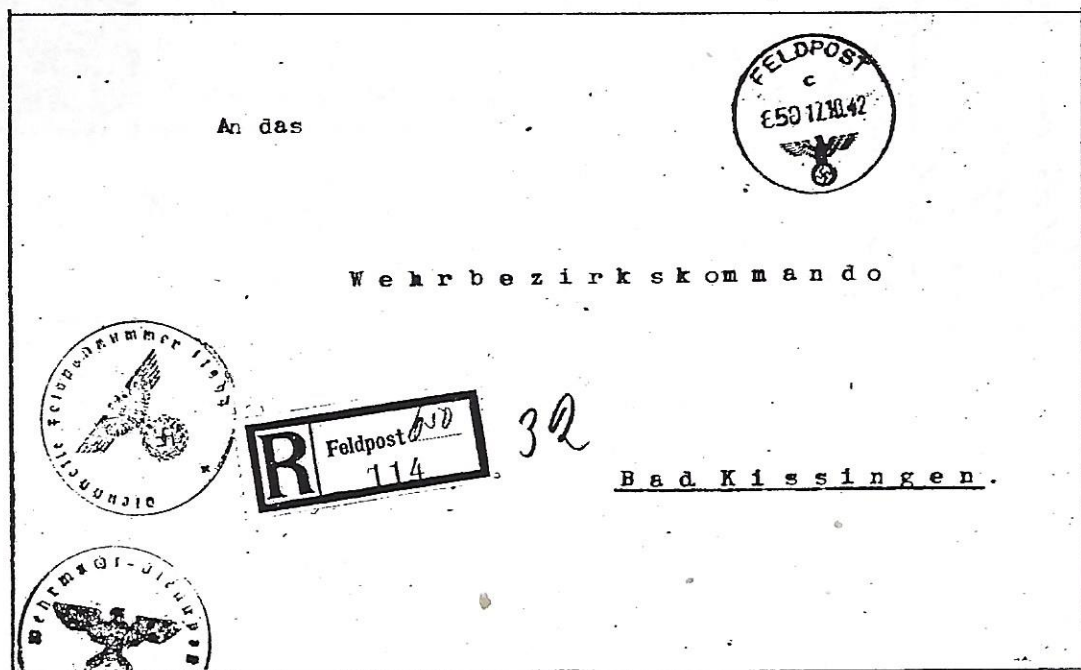
by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	PANZER	GRENADIER		ARTY	UNITS
83	650	6	3	394	75	83

Formed in October 1935 in the Wünsdorf Maneuver Area, troops were mainly Prussians. Initially consisted of 5th & 6th Panzer Regiments and 3rd Panzer Grenadier Regiment. P.O. was assigned Fp.#17222 as a return address and K-650 as a coded identity. The division saw action in Poland and distinguished itself in France. Late in 1940 supplied 5th Panzer Regiment to new 5th Light (later 21st Panzer) Division and received 394th Panzer Grenadier Regiment. It invaded Russia with Army Group Center where it took part in Battle of Bialystok-Minsk Pocket and Dneiper River crossings.



The 3rd Panzer Division was then sent to the southern sector where it helped trap several Russian armies in the Kiev area. It acted as a "fire brigade" during the Soviet winter offensive of 1941-42 and held Kharkov against massive Soviet attacks in March 1942. With the 4th Panzer Division it took part in the Caucasus campaign and suffered heavy losses in battles around Mozdok. It escaped from the Kuban by crossing the Sea of Azov over the ice after Rostov was threatened in January 1943. It fought in the Battle of Kursk in July and sustained heavy losses in the Kharkov battles in autumn 1943. It later fought its way out of the Rumania encirclement, took part in Hungarian campaign and ended the war in southern sector of Eastern Front.



Cover sent to Military district HQ in Bad Kissingen in October 1942 from Fp. # 11994 (Company 10 of Panzer Grenadier Regiment 3) via Field P.O. 83 (K-650).

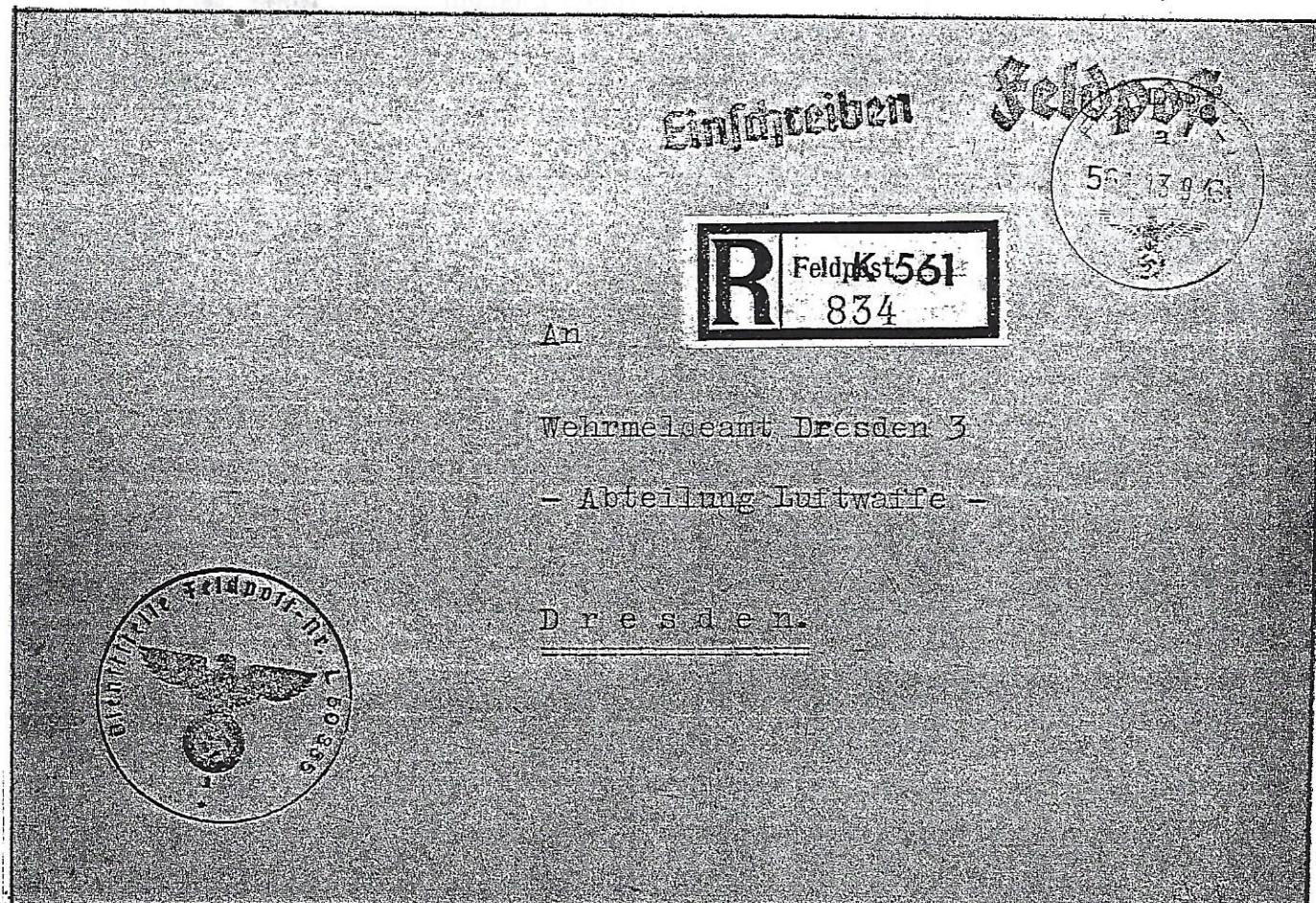
COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 11th Luftwaffe Field Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS		AUXIL	
TACT	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY		TACT	KENN
911	561	21 (L)	22 (L)	11 (L)	11 (L)

This division was formed in October 1942 at Troop Maneuver Grounds Munsterlager. The 11th Luftwaffe Field Division P.O. was assigned Fp.# 48053 as a return address and Kenn 561 as a coded identity on registered mail in lieu of tactical FpA 911.

The division was located in the Megara area of Greece from January 1943 to August 1944. It withdrew through southern Yugoslavia to the Drava In September 1944 and fought in the Drava-Sava area. This division was taken into captivity in the Cili area in May 1945.



Cover sent in September 1943 to Military Records Office in Dresden from Fp. # L50385 (Supply Company of Luftwaffe Field Division 11) via Field Post Office 911 (K-561).

Third Reich Postal Rates

by Bob Ferguson

Bulk Newspapers Dispatch (*Bahnhofszeitung*)

Used by publishers for dispatch of newspapers to railway book shops and newspaper distribution centers. From 14. December 1943 also allowed for dispatch to retailers.

1. Juli 1927 - 28, February 1935		1. March 1935 - 8, May 1945	
to 200 gm	5 Pfg	to 100 gm	5 Pfg
100 - 250 gm	10 Pfg	100 - 250 gm	10 Pfg
250 - 500 gm	20 Pfg	250 - 500 gm	20 Pfg
500 - 1000 gm	30 Pfg	500 - 1000 gm	30 Pfg
		1000 - 1500 gm	45 Pfg
1000 - 2000 gm	60 Pfg	1500 - 2000 gm	60 Pfg
each additional 500g to 20Kg	20 Pfg	each additional 500g to 20Kg	10 Pfg

Bulk Newspapers rate for weight 1500 gm = 45 Rpf.

Amsterdam - Osnabrück Bahnpost vom 12. November 1942 ZUG (Train) 137

Durchschnittsgewicht (average weight of a newspaper) = 60 gr

25 newspapers x 60 gr = 1500 gr.



Humorous Basic Training Cards

by Richard Young

Ed Note: Basic training is very much the same experience for military recruits of all nations. The cards shown below poking fun at aspects of life in the barracks and training should bring a smile to all members but especially those who underwent the experience. These cards were first published in the Third Reich Study Group (U.K.) News Sheets 110, 113, 114 & 116 and appear here with their permission for which we are most grateful.

Ye Olde Ed

Fig. 1) The title at right “Don’t be jealous of my rifle, when I’m home you’ll be here!”

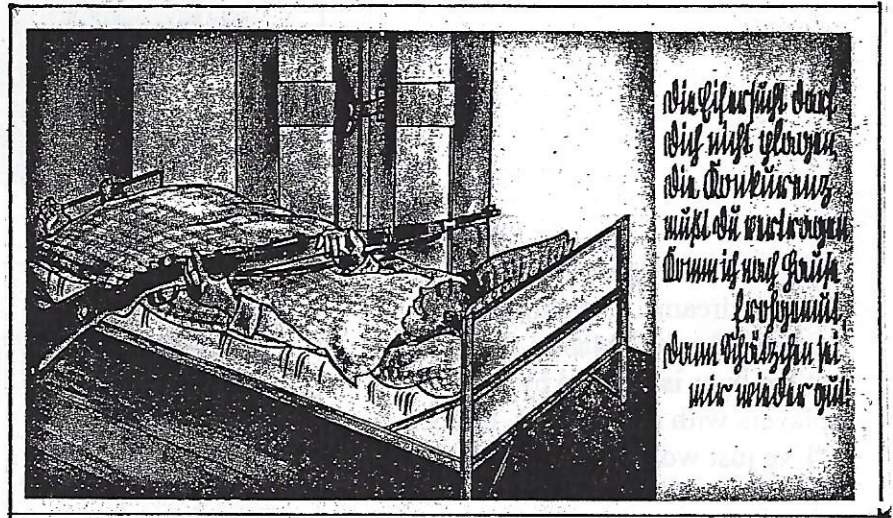


Fig. 2) The trembling recruit can’t seem to toss his stick grenade and has already counted to 25. His instructor is quietly advising him “It’s bound to go off if you don’t throw it!”



Fig. 3) The cook is telling the recruits. "You can wait, I'm tasting this first!"

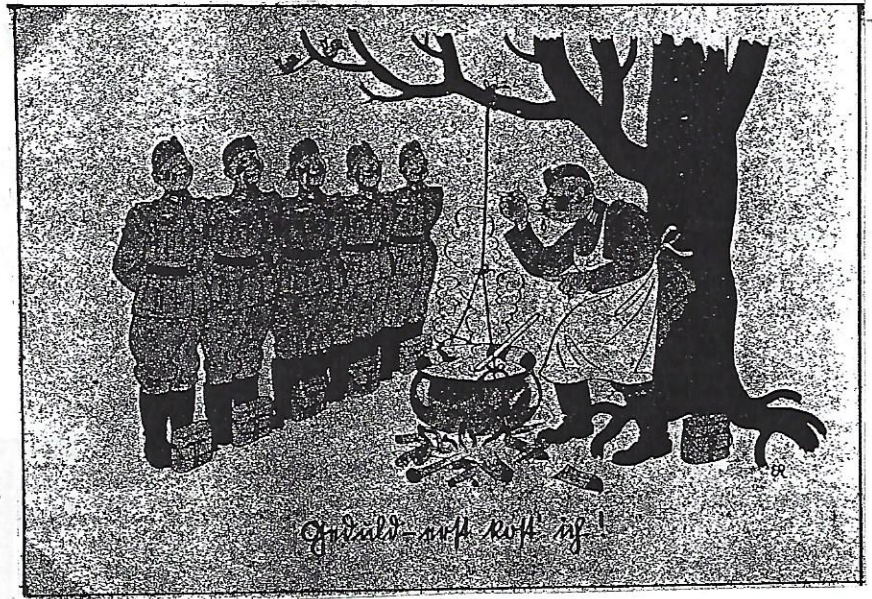


Fig. 4) The title is "Wunsch träum" (Just a dream). The smiling Oberfeldwebel (Master Sergeant) at the door is greeted by the card players with shouts of (L to R) "I've just won!", "Cheers, Oberfeldwebel!" and "Have a drink with us!"

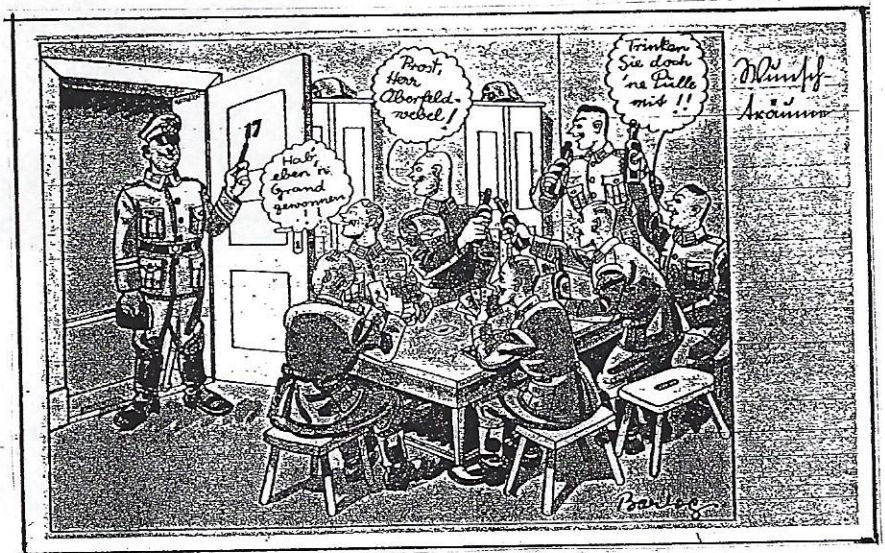


Fig. 5) Title : "Something is not right!" The same smiling Oberfeldwebel is reassuring the recruits and their instructors "Just take it easy. They'll show you what to do for as long as you like."

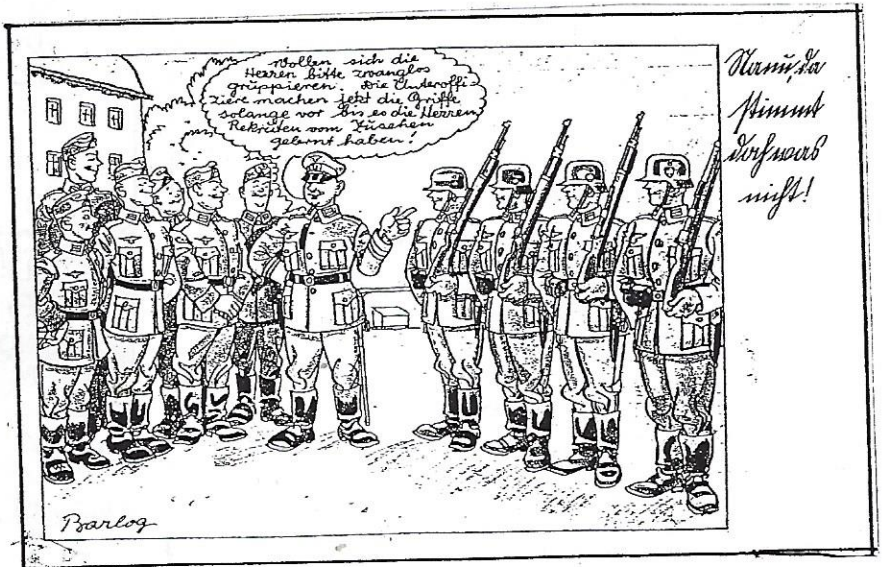


Fig. 6) Title: "A soldier's life is a pleasure trip". The *Oberfeldwebel* is preparing breakfast with instructors serving as waiters. The comments at top (R to L) are: "What do you want for breakfast?", "I hope you slept well!", "Where is my morning paper?". The comments at bottom (R to L) "Muller just woke up!", "Meir III prefers hard sausages, *Oberfeldwebel!*" and "I want two eggs!"

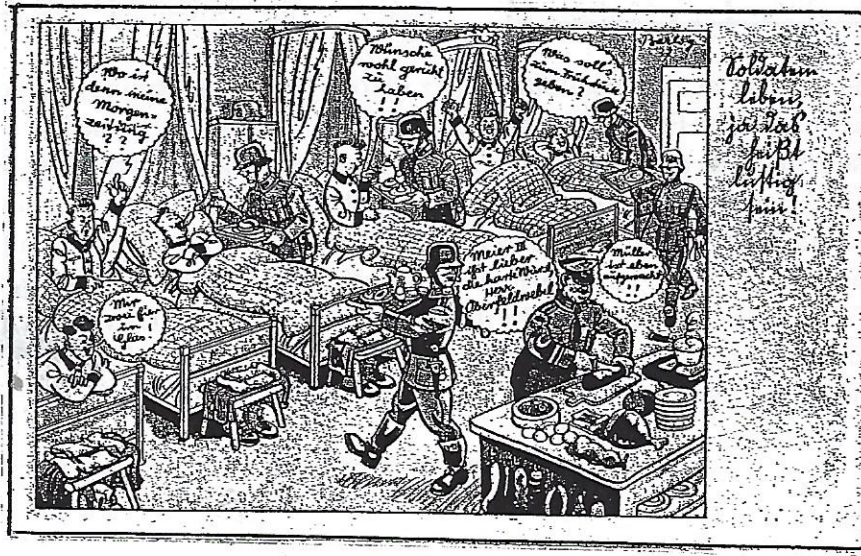


Fig. 7) The menu includes such delicacies as caviar on bread, lobster mayonnaise, ice cream, mocha coffee and liqueurs. The recruits comments (R to L) are: "The duck I had yesterday was great!", "Have you already chosen?" and "Today I'll have something light!"

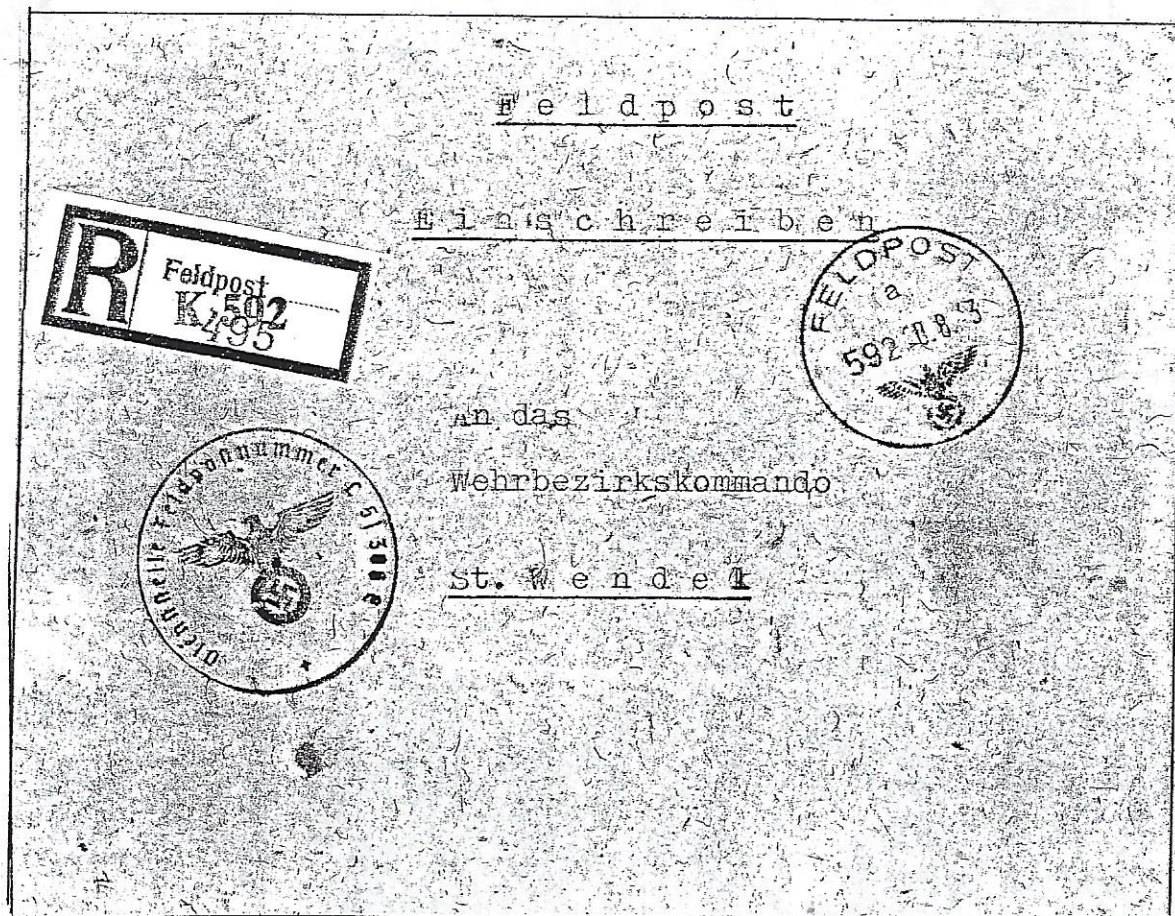


COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE: 12th Luftwaffe Field Division

by Jim Lewis

POST OFFICE		REGIMENTS			AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	FIELD INFANTRY		ARTY	UNITS
912	592	23 (L)	24 (L)	12 (L)	12 (L)

Formed in the spring of 1942 at Truppenübungsplatz (Troop Training Ground) Bergen. The division post office unit (Feldpostamt or FpA) was assigned Feldpost # 48741 to be used as a return address. In addition, this post office was assigned Kenn 592 for registered mail in lieu of its tactical designation FpA 912. After completion of training the 12th Luftwaffe Field Division was transferred to Army Group North in 1943 and suffered heavy casualties in the withdrawal from Leningrad. It received reinforcements when other Luftwaffe Field Divisions were disbanded early in 1944. The division was still in action in October 1944 during the retreat to western Latvia and took part in the defense of the Courland Pocket. The 12th Luftwaffe Field Division surrendered with the rest of the 18th Army at the end of the war.



Cover sent to Military District Office in St. Wendel in August 1943 from Fp. # L51306 (Stab I/ Luftwaffe Regiment 23) via division P.O. 912 (K-592).