



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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Himmelblau Section 4 Ready!

Section #4 of "Projekt Himmelblau" (Feldpost numbers 15001 to 20000) can now be ordered from the Sec./Treas.. We would very much appreciate a quick response from the subscribers to this series, since these present a considerable storage problem and involve a good deal more time to process and post if they must be done one or two at a time over a period of a few months. Those subscribers who still haven't ordered their Section #3 are encouraged to remit for #3 and #4 simultaneously. Please note that this is a relatively expensive item to print and difficult to store - therefore we do not plan on printing many more copies of subsequent sections than the instantaneous demand indicates will be required. Please make checks payable to Robert J. Houston rather than to "GPS" or to "TRSG". Price is still \$10. per section.

Study Group Notes



Member Michael J. Kelly has turned up a number of Albania Mi. #2 with inverted overprints and would like to put together a study of these.

Should anyone have information which might be of help, please write to Mr. Kelly at: P.O. Box 3681
North Las Vegas, Nev.
89030

He particularly wishes to determine:

- (1) Number of stamps per sheet and details of the overprinting process;
- (2) Other examples which may exist;
- (3) Does anyone have a full sheet of the normal overprint?
- (4) Can anyone assist with macro-photography?

GERMAN ARMY ORDER OF BATTLE

One of the original founders of the TRSG and long-time member, John W. Painter, has put together a handbook dealing with all of the German ground combat formations (Army, Luftwaffe, Navy and SS). A typical presentation on an Infantry Division would, for instance, provide a brief unit history (from the U.S. 1945 publication "Order of Battle of the German Army") including it's home station, commander, composition (tactical numbers of it's regiments, battalions, etc.), unit emblem, major engagements and information on the Kenn numbers of it's postoffice unit. This is a private effort of Mr. Painter's and is not being handled by the Study Group as a Group publication. The price is \$10. (postpaid) and interested members should contact Mr. Painter directly at: 9206 Tuckahoe Lane, Adelphi, MD 20783.

AN ANSWER TO "WHAT IS IT?"

A label pictured on page 23 of our last Bulletin was accompanied by the question "What is it?". Member Hal McNemar came back quickly with the answer:

These labels were used from 1933 to 1945 by the Post Office as seals for telegrams or sometimes for resealing letters officially opened, or for resealing letters damaged during postal transit. Their color is a buff background with a brown inscription.

Welcome to New Members:

- PATTON, Jon Vandike - 10621 Drumm Ave., Kensington, MD 20795
Third Reich Postal History.
- MARKO, Joseph L. - 2069 Shady Dr., Warren, MI 48092
General.
- GARCIA, J.A. (SFC) - USMCA SPO, APO New York, NY 09035
Propaganda cards.
- DRASHER, John M. - 132 Marie Ave., Glen Burnie, MD 21061
Cancellations on piece.
- NELSON, Lon - Box 25, Lucien, OK 73757
WWII Occupations.
- SIMON, George - 1938 Comanche St., Oceanside, CA 92054
- WAGNER, Marcus - 701 N.W. 210 St. #218, N. Miami, FL 33169
Western Europe.
- DZEDZY, Frank - 34 E. Bellamy Dr., New Castle, DE 19720
- PODOLSKY, Sherwin - 16035 Tupper St., Sepulveda, CA 91343
Olympic Games, Anti-Jewish cards.
- MEYERS, Marvin B.
- LANDWEHR, Richard - Box 70, Mt. Reuben Rd., Glendale, OR 97442
Waffen SS, Foreign volunteers.
- HAYES, Donald E. - 1531 29½ St., Rock Island, IL 61201
Occupations.
- BEAUCHAMP, Dr. Edward R. - 854 Hahaione St., Honolulu, Hawaii 96825
General
- ALEVIZOS, George - P.O. Box 5159, Santa Monica, CA 90405
- SOBERY, Donald J. - 4444 Westheimer (#635), Houston, TX 77027
German Military 1740-1945.
- HUFFMAN, Robert L. - 9223 Benning Dr., Houston, TX 77031
Germany 1920 to present.

"DIE DEUTSCHE FELDPPOST - ORGANISATION UND LOKALISATION 1939-1945"

This new 178 page publication by TRSG member NORBERT KANNAPIN, has just been announced in Germany. The culmination of seven years of diligent research and work, this is the long-awaited answer to the Feldpost collector's prayer! All Feldpost offices (FpA) of the Wehrmacht and Waffen SS are listed in tactical number order - with a brief history of each (formation, movements, reassignments, etc.), Feldpost and Kenn number(s) of each FpA (including branch offices or "Zweigämter"). Also included are the Armee Briefstellen, Haupt-Feldpostleitstellen, etc., as well as auxiliary listings of FpA's by numerical sequence of Feldpost number and by numerical sequence of Kenn number for convenient cross reference. This valuable work is being published "in early 1979" by:
Biblio Verlag, Postfach 1949, Jahnstrasse 15, D4500 Osnabrück, W. Germany. "Pre-publication" price is stated as DM 52,- (Approx. \$29) and "Post-publication" price is estimated at DM 65,- (Approx. \$36.15).

The Second Embargo

Werner Bohne recently sent in a photostat of a nice example of the 50 gram "Beschränkungszettel" on a large parcel piece:



These "restriction of service" labels reflect the difficulties encountered by the Feldpost system in late 1941/early 1942 upon enduring the first of the harsh winters on the eastern front and which resulted in the so-called "Zweite Sperre" (Second Embargo - the First Embargo having been imposed in late September, 1939 and limited private parcel sendings to the field to 250 grams).

A Feldpost Directive (Fp. Amtsbl. Vfg. Nr. 101/1941) issued Dec. 2, 1941 decreed that letters to the front would be limited to 50 grams in weight and that no private parcels would be forwarded for the period Dec. 6-24th, 1941. This restriction was subsequently extended to January 4, 1942 to further discourage holiday-season mail, but was, in actuality, prolonged until the summer of 1942 - when control of parcel mail was instituted through the use of the familiar brown permit stamps (Zulassungsmarke - Mi. #2) as provided for by Fp. Amtsbl. Vfg. Nr. 70/1942, dated July 8, 1942.

The labels on the above illustrated piece are certainly nice items of postal history: The pre-printed label reads "Return! Not to be forwarded at this time. Only sendings to 50g are allowed." Partly underneath this is a typed label reading "Return to sender due to undeliverable nature".

(Mi. #2)



Feldpost in N. Africa (Continued from previous Bulletin)

V. REGULATIONS/DIRECTIVES

Microfilm series T-313 contains numerous orders of the "O. Qu." (Oberquartiermeister) "Pz. Armee Afrika", outlining the usual "do's and don'ts" of the Feldpost service which were, for the most part, common to the other theatres of war and need not be repeated here. A few items were, however, of particular interest:

- a) Frame 8733919 of roll 440 contains the "Besondere Anordnung für die Versorgung Nr. 13" (special directive for service) dated June 16, 1941 which, in a sub-part, indicates that:
 Feldpost sendings to Germany will bear the name, rank and Fp. number of the sender, clearly written. All other indicators such as military function or location are forbidden. In particular, such indicators as "Posta Militare" or "Afrika Territoriale" are not permitted. The same applies to letters from the homeland. The field postoffices in Africa have been instructed to return any such improperly addressed mail.
- b) Frame 8733962 of roll 440 contains "Special Directive #19", dated July 19, 1941 and deals with the same subject, specifically prohibiting the indicators "Posta Militare" and "Afrika Orientale Italiano".
- c) Frame 8734005 of roll 440 contains "Special Directive #23" dated August 24, 1941 and indicates that some German soldiers had been sending mail back to Germany by means other than the German Feldpost system (via the Red Cross or using Italian postoffices) and that such practice was strictly forbidden. Also noted is the requirement that any type of "view card" was also forbidden due to it's possibility of establishing location.



July 8, 1941: One of the items which no doubt prompted the above order. Posted via Italian civil P.O. in Tripoli and using mixture of Libyan stamps.

d) "Special Directive #17", dated October 23, 1942 and found on frames 8734265 and 8734266 of roll 440, indicates the following in regard to the regular parcel-permit stamps:

"For October, six parcel permit stamps are being issued in addition to the regular issue of two stamps for the Christmas parcel traffic - insofar as the field postoffices find it possible. The stamps will authorize sendings up to 1000 grams by affixing one stamp and up to 2000 grams by affixing two stamps. For the month of November, no parcel permit stamps will be issued."

e) "Special Directive #21" (frames 8734291-8734293, roll 440) dated December 6, 1942, indicates an embargo of parcel post traffic:

"A prohibition of parcel traffic between Africa-Homeland and Homeland-Africa has been in effect since November 20, 1942. In Germany, packages destined for this area have been returned to the sender with the notation

Return - not to be forwarded at this time

f) Regulations governing the sending of official parcels containing the remaining effects of individuals (Nachlasssachen) from Africa were as prescribed for the other war zones (see TRSG Bulletin No. 49).

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Absender: Dienststelle Feldpost-Nr. 51740
Luftpostamt München 2

Besondere Vermerke des Absenders (f. Rückseite):
Nachlass - Sachen
eines Gefallenen

An *Herrn Frau*
Postfach 420

Preisgebühr (Pf) _____
Postgewicht (kg) _____

in *Quana*
Abt. 4/1

(Straße, Hausnummer, Gebiets- und Postamt)

Ⓜ (G. 55) C 20 Das A 4

Parcel card from Hdqtrs. of Fp. # L-51740 (2./Luftnachrichten Rgt. 5 - Abt. zbV 1) inscribed in longhand "Nachlass-sachen eines Gefallenen" - sent Feb. 23, 1943 via FpA 639 (Kenn #420).

g) The major problems of supply by sea become quite apparent in reviewing reports of the "O.Qu." in microfilmed records which, while containing an almost endless list of axis ships discharging cargos, also mentions here and there some of the losses being sustained. Two typical items relating to lost cargos which involved the loss of Feldpost are reproduced in part as follows:

Oberkommando der Panzerarmee Afrika

Der Oberquartiermeister

A.H. Qu., den 26.3.1942

Besondere Anordnungen für die Versorgung Nr. 7

(VII.) Feldpostwesen.

Durch Feindeinwirkung ist 1 Dampfer mit 3190 Sack Feldpost verlorengegangen. Der Verlust ist der Truppe bekanntzugeben. Die Soldaten sind anzuweisen, auf ihre Angehörigen einzuwirken, dass sie zeitraubende und unnötige Nachforschungen unterlassen.

(A steamship with 3190 sacks of military mail has been lost by enemy action. As the loss is known to troops, servicemen are advised to impress upon their relatives that this is due to perilous times and not to attempt a needless tracing.)

Besondere Anordnungen für die Versorgung Nr. 10

A.H. Qu., 30,4,1942

(VI.) Feldpostwesen.

Verlust von Feldpostsendungen.

Durch Feindeinwirkung sind 2 Dampfer mit über 1650 Beuteln Päckchenpost verloren gegangen.

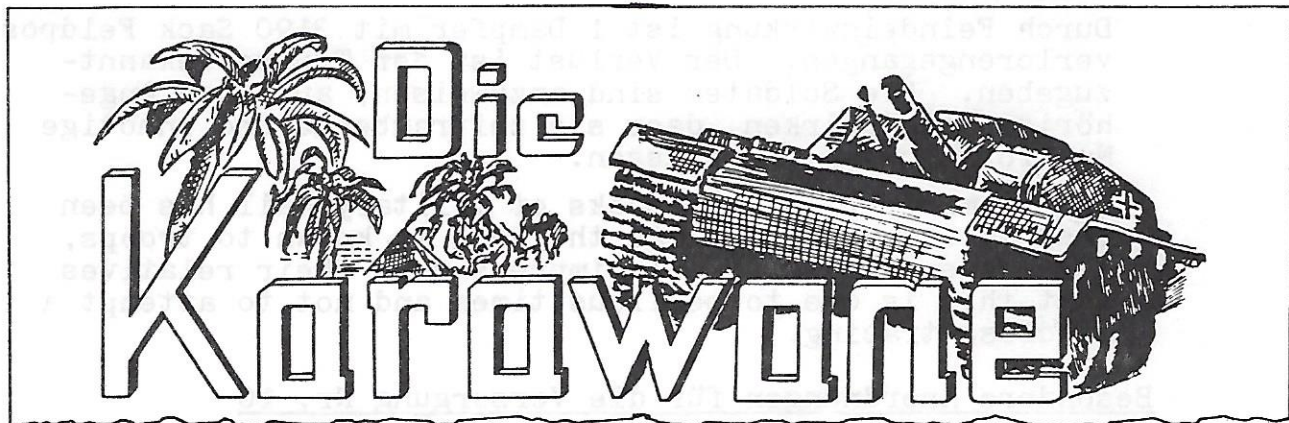
(Two steamships with over 1650 sacks of parcels have been lost to enemy action).

VI. FIELD NEWSPAPERS AND PROPAGANDA

Several field newspapers were produced for German personnel in the African theater (Ref. 6), with their contents ranging from unit interest to international matters. It was the responsibility of the Feldpost to get them dispersed to their distribution points within the various commands. The most significant of these field newspapers were:

1. The Panzerarmee's "Die Oase", a weekly for all German troops in Africa;
2. The X. Fliegerkorps' "Adler von Hellas"; (distributed within the Panzerarmee through the Pz. AOK 5, Ic)
3. "Die Karawane", for German troops in Tunisia;

Of the three aforementioned newspapers, I have been able to establish the Feldpost number of only one: "Die Oase", Fp. No. 44709 (Ref. 8).



Mast-heads of "Die Oase" and "Die Karawane" (Ref. 6)

Propaganda officer for Panzer AOK5 was Oberleutnant Haupt, who directed a rather energetic campaign, not only to boost the morale of the German forces, but to lower that of the Allied troops and to influence the Arab population.

Roll 418 of microfilm series T-313 (starting frame 8731580) contains a number of rather unusual propaganda cards directed against the British and Americans in the form of cartoons, but with the captions in Arabic.

Under this section came the "Propaganda Kompanie Afrika" (Fp.#43402) and the "Propaganda Zug Tunis" (Fp.#57002). With it's headquarters at 95 Rue Courbet in Tunis, the Propaganda Zug had sections working on written propaganda in the English, French and Arabian languages as well as radio broadcast facilities in German, English, Spanish, Irish and Afrikaans.

VII. THE "PALMENSTEMPEL"

TRSG Bulletin No. 36 contained an extensive discussion/illustrations of the so-called "Palmenstempel" or "Afrika Korps cachets", in which serious doubt of their postal validity was expressed - primarily for the reason that Afrika Korps Feldpost records seemed to make no mention of these cachets and that the use of such an insignia would have been expressly forbidden by the strict regulations against location disclosure as previously referred to in this article.

For some time the subject cachets were purported to be a form of "pre-cancelled" envelope, whose issuance could then be rationed - thereby controlling mail volume. Blank envelopes bearing the cachets, such as that illustrated below, seemed to lend credence to this theory, but it has since been discarded.



A recent publication in Germany (Ref. 7) has brought additional information to light and now states the "official" position as follows:

"The cachets definitely had no postal use or validity, but were simply the handy-work of rear-area troops reflecting their pride in the Afrika Korps."

Citing a good deal of research*, cooperation of the Bundesarchiv-Militärarchiv* and reporting confirmations by ex-Afrika Korps postal officials, this publication goes on to point out that the cachets were apparently not applied by the individual senders, but at unit or FpA level - since A.K. veterans are reported to have confirmed that, while applying no such cachet themselves, their letter had been received in Germany with the cachet.

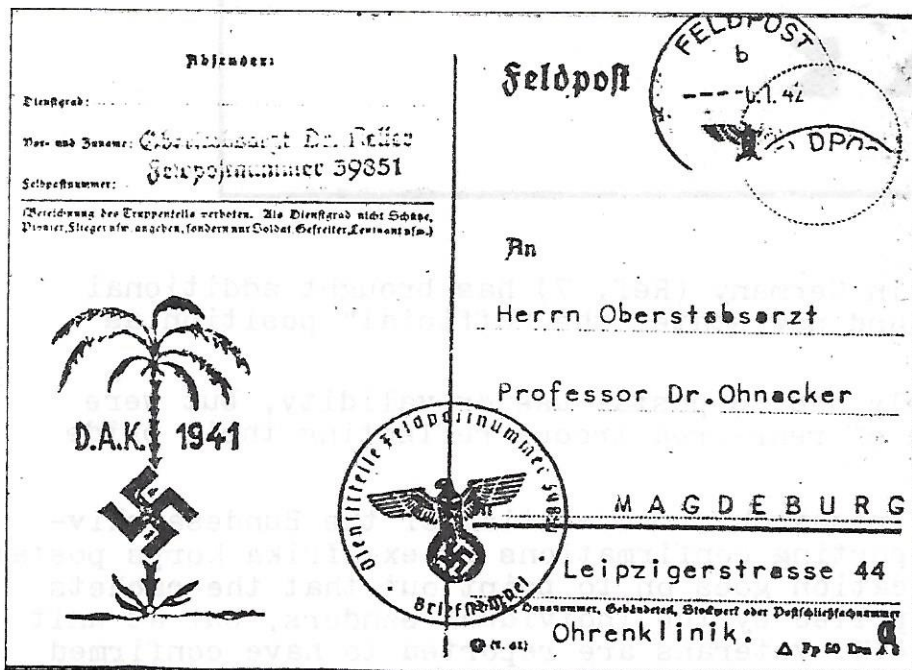
* Note: While indicating "research" and "verification by the Bundesarchiv", it is disappointing that no specific documents are stated for reference and the entire case for the "Palmenstempel" and the "Tunis Marke" is presented to us in the form of "hearsay" evidence only.

Our long standing suspicions of anything which would so blatantly breach the location disclosure regulations is explained away by an indication that, while objecting at first, a somewhat different set of standards came to prevail in Africa, particularly after the cachets were found on the mail of some of the higher officers. Evidence of this contention is offered in an illustration of a "Palmenstempelbrief" with a military censor's tape applied over the cachet (which happened to be on the rear of the subject cover). Also pointed out is the reported registration of the first "Palmenstempel" by G. Volz in 1943 - countering any suspicions that these were a postwar fabrication.

Expertization of these items is stated to revolve primarily around:

- a) Cover bearing the Feldpost number of a unit which had actually served in Africa on the date of the cancellation - such information having been supplied to the Bund Deutscher Philatelisten e.V. (This is no doubt the list previously mentioned in this article as Ref. 8).
- b) The ink utilized in the cachet.
- c) Conformance to known and recognized types.
- d) Proper postal cancellation.

One of the many nice illustrations in this publication is the card shown below, bearing cachet "Form #8", cancelled Jan. 1942 and bearing Fp. #39851. Curiously however, the cachet appears to include the inscription "D.A.K. 1941" which is absent in other illustrations of form #8.



(Form #8)

Palmenstempel Form 8 auf Fp-Karte vom 6.1.42.
Briefstempel 39851 - Kriegslazarett 950 und Genesungs-
heim der Pz.-Armee Afrika.

Along with illustrations of the various cachet forms (such as was already printed in TRSG Bulletin No. 36), a chart giving the earliest known usage dates of most of the known forms is provided:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Form 1 - 4. 5.43 | Form 39 - 23. 4.42 |
| 2 - 15. 5.42 | 40 - 21. 4.43 |
| 3 - . 2.43 | 41 - 3. 5.42 |
| 4 - 30. 8.42 | 42 - 12.12.42 |
| 5 - 19.10.42 | 43 - 21. 4.43 |
| 6 - 12.12.42 | 44 - ? |
| 7 - 15. 9.42 | 45 - 18. 8.42 |
| 8 - 7. 7.41 | 46 - 23. 8.41 |
| 9 - 1. 5.42 | 47 - 7. 6.42 |
| 10 - 19. 1.43 | 48 - 20. 4.43 |
| 11 - 4. 5.42 | 49 - 21. 2.42 |
| 12 - 16. 7.41 | 50 - 10. 1.43 |
| 13 - 26. 5.42 | 51 - 16.10.42 |
| 14 - Fälschung | 52 - ? |
| 15 - 8. 7.42 | 53 - ? |
| 16 - 8.11.42 | 54 - 16.10.42 |
| 17 - 13.12.42 | 55 - 3. 1.43 |
| 18 - 25.12.42 | 56 - 17. 9.42 |
| 19 - 19.11.42 | 57 - 29. 4.42 |
| 20 - Fälschung | 58 - 19. 4.43 |
| 21 - 22. 9.42 | 59 - 5. 1.42 |
| 22 - 12. 2.43 | 60 - 10. 2.42 |
| 23 - 5. 8.42 | 61 - 17. 2.42 |
| 24 - 20.10.41 | 62 - 5.10.42 |
| 25 - 23. 4.43 | 63 - 27. 5.42 |
| 26 - 28. 8.41 | 64 7. 3.42 |
| 27 - 21. 4.42 | 65 - 14. 2.43 |
| 28 - 14. 2.43 | 66 - 8. 7.42 |
| 29 - 15. 9.42 | 67 - 2.12.42 |
| 30 - 10. 7.41 | 68 - 22. 9.42 |
| 31 - 16. 9.42 | 69 - 11. 6.42 |
| 32 - 16.12.41 | 70 - 3. 4.42 |
| 33 - 12. 9.42 | 71 - 28. 9.42 |
| 34 - 3. 7.41 | 72 - 14. 6.42 |
| 35 - 23.12.42 | 73 - 13. 1.43 |
| 36 - 29. 4.42 | 74 - 15.12.41 |
| 37 - 4. 1.43 | 75 - 10. 5.42 |
| 38 - 10. 1.43 | |



VIII. THE "TUNISPACKCHENMARKE"



Another philatelic memento of the Afrika Korps is the so-called "Tunis Parcel stamp" which is said to have been used as a parcel permit stamp during March/April, 1943, just prior to the final end of the campaign. While such an issue would again contradict regulations and normal practice, reference #7 provides a detailed description of the design conception, production and use of these stamps - including the names of Feldpost officials approving the idea, the designer, etc., and lists under source credits the names of 15 veterans of the A.K. postal service, maintaining that by this time it was as acceptable to the military censor as the "Palmenstempel" cachets.

It is now reported (Ref. 7) that a committee headed by Feldpost-oberposttrat Dr. Erdelbrock (Army Field Postmaster of the "Deutsch-italienischen Panzerarmee") delegated the task of designing a suitable stamp to ordnance officer Lt. Roleff. Accordingly, two designs were prepared, with the first containing an outline of the African continent with a swastika suspended over it. The second design was the Palmtree/swastika emblem of the D.A.K. with a border design reflective of the Greek and Roman culture of the area. A posthorn appropriately adorns each corner of the border and designer's initial "R" appears in the lower right corner of the center design.

The second design was agreed upon immediately and Lt. Roleff proceeded to implement the preparation of the stamps. Printing was done by the Army newspaper "Die Oase" in Tunis, employing the lithograph process (Steindruck). Two basic types of paper were used and the stamps perforated by a very primitive, foot-operated machine. It is further reported that the printing plates, destined for eventual delivery to Berlin, vanished during the confusion of the campaign's final days.

With an ordered printing of 800,000 stamps (based on 2 stamps per month per soldier X 200,000 men X two months), it is estimated that including waste, etc., approximately one million stamps were printed. Of these, approximately 620,000 were destroyed according to the testimony of two former Feldpost officials.

Each stamp was to permit one parcel (up to 1000 grams maximum weight) and also required accompanying postage of 20 Pf. Usage is reported to have been confined to the period March/April, since a complete parcel embargo was imposed on May 3rd.

The cancellation found on these stamps should be one of the familiar "Bei der Feldpost eingeliefert" types - either 1 or 2 line handstamps, with or without box.

Continuing in reference #7, it is further reported that a quantity of imperforate copies (printer's waste) appeared on the market in Germany shortly after the war, however the number of such printer's sheets (full sheets of 100 subjects) which had survived is unknown.

In 1960, a quantity of "reprints" came out of Canada, the "reprint" being so good that it is suspected that these were made from the original plates which had disappeared in 1943. Other forgeries have been traced to Austria and France.

Expertization of this issue is stated to be accomplished by use of ultra-violet light and the microscope. With used copies, an added factor is the cancellation (type and ink) and with fully addressed parcel pieces a correct Feldpost number is a further verifying factor.



Above: Making what appears to be a further case for both the "Tunismarke" and the theory of the "Palmenstempel" being applied at the field postoffice, is an illustration (Ref. 7) of a large parcel piece from Fp.# 44777 (FpA 762) - bearing the parcel stamp cancelled with the regular Feldpost cancel (Kenn #282) and Dienstsiegel of #44777 accompanied by cachet form #27.

Left: Imperf lower-margin copy.

IX. OTHER PHILATELIC "SOUVENIERS"

The "Tobruch Overprints"

Upon finally re-taking Tobruk on June 21, 1942, an undetermined, but small number of Italian colonial stamps were overprinted by the axis forces "Tobruch/21-6-1942-XX" (the "XX" denoting the 20th year of Fascist rule in Italy). Obviously done by an avid philatelist in the occupying forces, these stamps had no postal purpose or validity as such. A few of these overprinted stamps are also found "tied to piece" with a captured British military cancel of the IV South African Brigade - the cancelling device having been left behind during the hurried exodus from Tobruk and apparently seized upon by the same avid philatelist.

The "Rommel Gedankblatt"

A souvenir folder originally produced for the 1940 "Tag der Wehrmacht" in the Rhineland, to which were subsequently applied various stamps and cancellations marking geographical highlights along the path of Rommel's military successes. A facsimile of Gen. Rommel's signature was added and the "issue" numbered individually up to 2000. These were then sold as souvenirs in a subsequent "Winterhelp" drive.

The "Algerian A.K. Provisionals"

Apparently a postwar fabrication, Algerian issues overprinted "for use by the Africa Corps" cannot even be classified as a "genuine souvenir".

Geheim!

Geheim!

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Sonderdruck
des Reichsministeriums
für Wehrwesen
- 11. Abt. -
1943

zur Übersicht der im Kampfraum Tunesien eingesetzt gewesenen Luftwaffenverbände

| Nr. | Offener Verbandsbezeichnung | Eintrittsdatum | Abzug |
|------------|---|----------------|-------|
| L 05 567 | Transportkol. (mot.) d. L. S XI | VI | |
| L 06 911 | Fl. H. Kdr. (B) 39 (IV trop) | III | |
| L 06 911 | Kw. Werkstatzung d. L. (Ordnest) | VII | |
| L 11 402 | 1. schw. Flakbtl. 264 | XII | |
| L 14 516 C | 2./Jägerregt. Herm. Göring | III | |
| L 15 414 | Let. Flak Kol 841 | XII | |
| L 19 981 | 4./L. N. Abt. Tunis | VII | |
| L 24 227 | Flak. Kol. II 25 | XII | |
| L 26 126 1 | Feldflakinzstandesverleihsatz | XII | |
| L 27 766 | Kdo. Flugh. Bereich 10 VII | III | |
| L 29 165 | Fl. Gest 103 TV | VI | |
| L 29 773 | Kdo. Flugh. Bereich 16 XI (trop) | VII | |
| L 33 621 | Munitionsaufbereitungsstelle d. L. 6 VII | III | |
| L 35 790 | Fl. H. Kdr. (B) 6 IV | VI | |
| L 41 583 | Let. Feldflakbtl. (mot.) 170 | XII | |
| L 41 762 | Fl. Geräteeinheits- u. Sammelabtl. | III | |
| L 43 391 | Kw. Werkstatzung 7/III | VII | |
| L 43 896 | Feldflakabtlager z. B. V. 1/VIII | VII | |
| L 43 714 | Flak. Gest 5 VI | XII | |
| L 46 645 | 1/Kol. 1 Flakregt. 53 | XII | |
| L 47 491 | Flakverweisung (2-135) | III | |
| L 49 902 | Nachschubcomp. Hermann Göring | VII | |
| L 50 186 | 2/Wachbat. O. B. S. II | XII | |
| L 50 853 | 3/Vierlingsbatt. spgl für 1/zel. Eisenbahntransportflakbtl. 800 | VII | |
| L 50 861 | 2/Wachbat. O. B. S. I | VII | |
| L 50 876 | Kdo. Flugh. Bereich Tunis | VII | |
| L 50 949 | 4/zel. Flak Abt. 500 | VII | |
| L 51 333 | 1/Wachbat. O. B. S. II | VII | |
| L 51 400 | 2/Wachbat. O. B. S. I | VII | |
| L 52 091 | Nachschubermühle 18. Flakdiv. | XII | |
| L 52 987 | 15/zel. Rgt. 209 | VII | |
| L 54 030 | 16/zel. Rgt. 209 | VII | |
| L 54 780 | 1/zel. Abt. 68 | VII | |
| L 55 638 | 16/zel. Rgt. 209 | VII | |

Ref. No. 8 - addenda

Tag der Wehrmacht

1940

Tag des Ehrentags

Ehrenzeichen Soldat / II.

Einnahme von Tobruk
21. Juni 1942

Marsch Marsch - Abt. Hügels
El. Hammer
Juli, November, 1942.

10 Jahre
Mächteernahme
Gabels (Tunisien)
30. Januar 1943

10. Mai 1940
Einmarsch in Frankreich

Einnahme des Fibretes
Götting
20. 4. 1941

Tag der Wehrmacht
Tropolis, den
28. 3. 1942

Gene... r... schall
WHW-Gedenkblatt Nr.:
(Aulage 20.000 Stück)

The "Rommel Gedankblatt"

Birthay Cancel Update

by Jim Lewis

It seems that in compiling the list of special cancels used for Hitler's birthdays I missed a few. Many thanks to member Mike Sommers for these additional items:

1938 - Pasewalk. This cancel depicts the Army hospital where Gefreiter Hitler was treated for mustard gas poisoning in October 1918.



1941 - Munich (same design).

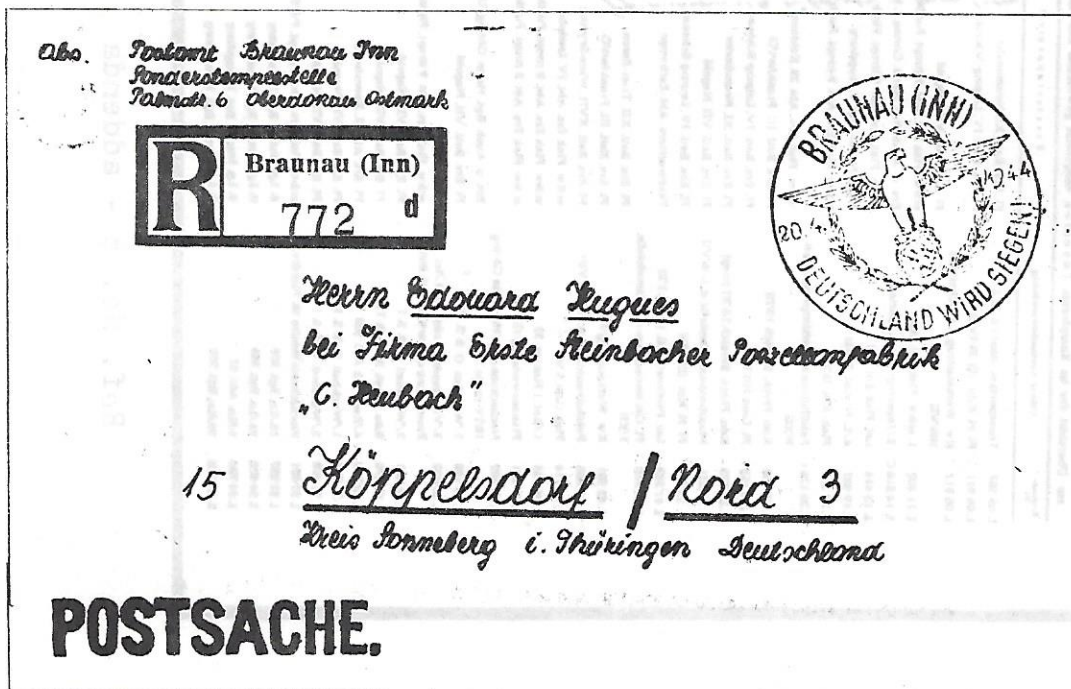
1942 - Munich, Strassburg and Vienna (same design).

1943 - Munich, Nuremberg and Vienna (same design).

1944 - Braunau, Munich and Nuremberg (same design).

Mike also raises the question of the authenticity of the Danzig cancel. Seems that Alf Harper's "Stamps of the Third Reich" calls it "genuine but not cataloged". How about it, you Danzig experts?

Finally, to finish off this update in style, is a "postsache" cover to Köppelsdorf sent by the "Sonderstempelstelle" of the Braunau Post Office on April 20, 1944.



Part 1:

CITY CANCELLATIONS OF THE GENERALGOUVERNEMENT, 1939 - 1944.

by Gerard B. Menge

Cover collecting of the Generalgouvernement can be divided into many areas of specialization, each as challenging as another. Alf Harper's book, German Occupied Poland, gives an excellent view in both descriptions and illustrations of some of the areas available. Cover collectors desiring to secure a postmark from each city during the Occupation are, at the start, faced with two problems: (1) what were the cities that had cancellations; and (2) what type of cancellations were used by each.

To help focus some light on this specialized area, and to start eliminating the above problems, I have compiled the following list of cities where cancellations did, or might have existed. (A word of explanation in defining the phrase "or might have": these cities were listed, as representing major towns, on the map DAS GENERALGOUVERNEMENT, Leipzig, 1943. Hypothetically, cancellations for these cities should exist, but as of this date they have not passed my way.) Admittedly, my list is far from complete, but it does offer a possible avenue to identify blurred or broken cancellations. Hopefully through correspondence, after reviewing your own collections, documentation can be received to update this list.

For simplicity, the identification of the city postmarks have been arranged into four groups:

- (1) "Dumb" Cancellations, # 1 - # 11. Nomenclature of this group is derived from postmarks omitting the city's name in the cancellation. Employed during the Occupation as a form of security for Feldpost Mail, "Dumb" cancellations were also used in some areas as a transitional stopgap measure until the new Germanized postmark cancellors could be manufactured and delivered.
- (2) Routing Markings, # 12 - # 34. These were somewhat confusing to classify. Usually, certain small towns, where mail originated, would apply their name to a cover, and then dispatch the mail to a larger area post office where the stamps were cancelled. Confusion arises in that some of the small towns applied their cancellations, Routing Markings, to the stamps, thus presenting the question: Are they Routing Markings or Normal City Cancellations? For sake of debate, the Normal City Cancellations are those described in Goupe 3. Two varieties of Routing Markings exist: Type I - the city's name is not enclosed within a "box", # 13 - # 22, (Ill. A); and Type II - those that are enclosed, # 23 - # 34, (Ill. B). Concerning Type II, some Routing Markings were designed to accommodate a space for the dispatching date to be inserted, (Ill. C). Examples exist of such Routing Markings where the dates were added below the "box", or all together omitted. Cancellation differences for this grouping are based upon wording and position, and not whether a "box" is large enough to house a date.

Bogucice
über Bochnia

Czernichow

Niewachlow über Kielce
25. NOV. 1940

(Ill. A)

(Ill. B)

(Ill. C)

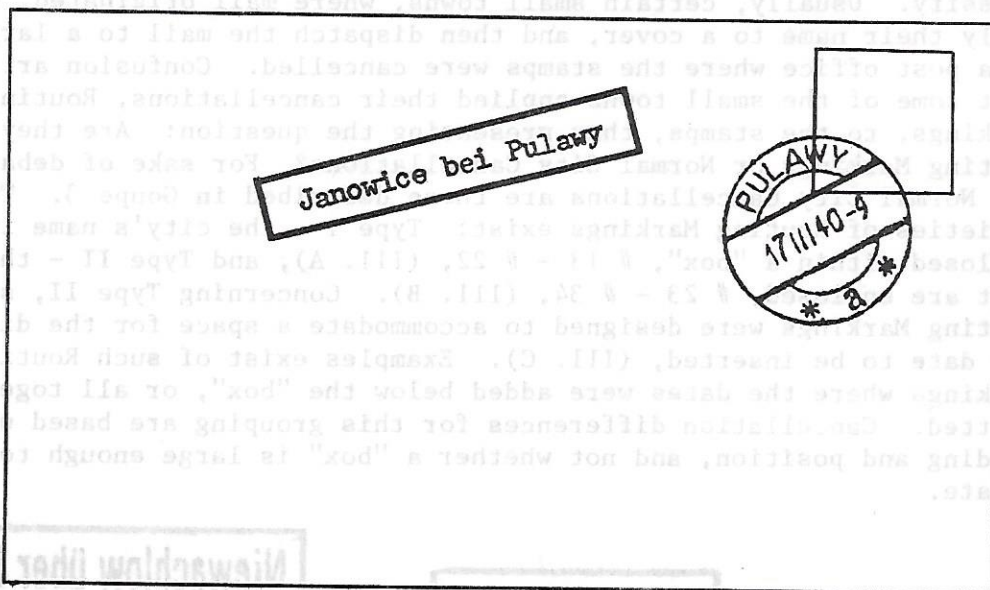
- (3) Normal City Cancellations, # 35 - # 61. This group is characterized by a single round cancellation. Information recorded on these postmarks vary from having just the town's name and date, to include a district's name and a regional city's name.
- (4) Roller/Machine Cancellations, # 62 - # 72. These have accompanying vertical or horizontal lines attached to a single round cancellation.

Information recorded on the listing cites the District's Name, if known, in which the city was located, (Galacia = Ga, Krakau = Kr, Lublin = Lu, Radom = Ra, and Warschau = Wa); type of cancellation; the date (month and year, this documents only the use of the cancellation during a particular month and year -- it does not reflect the earliest known date used); and the city's name. Only where the "type of cancellation" is recorded have I actually seen the cover. In cases where the Routing Markings were without dates, the month and year was entered on the listing from reviewing the receiving cancellation on the back of the cover, the canceling postmark on the stamps -- applied by another city, or from the date of the correspondence -- in each case this will be shown in parentheses. An asterisk mark following the type of cancellation number denotes that this cancellation has been found only on Registered Lables.

In setting up the examples of the cancellation varieties, many illustrations have had to be reconstructed by hand, as the originals were too light for photo reproduction. Please bear this in mind when comparing your covers to the examples. Word positioning is correct; size of the letters and spacing between them in some cases, is not. Examples # 12 and # 23, can consist of either one or more words in a city's name.

Dienstpost Osten and Deutsche Post Osten cancellations are not included in this listing.

Sources used in compiling the listing were: Alf Harper's book: German Occupied Poland; Karl Baederker's book DAS GENERALGOUVERNEMENT; various auction catalogues; and my own cover collection.

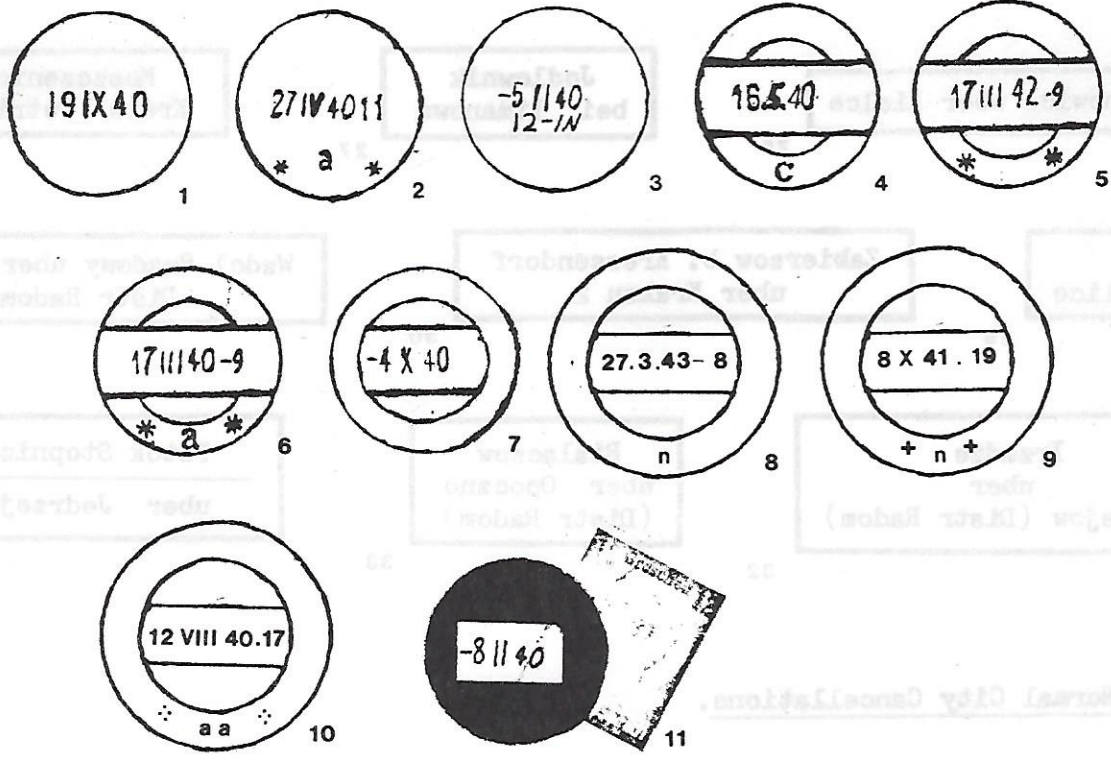


Example of a Routing Marking, and how it would appear in the listing:

Lu 25 (3.40) Janowice bei Pulawy

GENERAL GOVERNMENT: CANCELLATION VARIETIES.

(1) "Dumb" Cancellations.



(2) Routing Markings:

A. Without "box" enclosure.

- OZAROW 12
- NEUMARKT/DUNAJEC/ 13
- Jazlowce uber Czortkow 14
- Bielawy uber Lowitsch (Distr Warschau) 15
- Jakubow uber Minsk (Distr Warschau) 16
- OSTROWIEC KIELECKI 17
- Bogucice uber Bochnia 18
- Radgoszcz uber Dabrowa b. Tarnow 19
- Bolechow uber Stryj (Distr Galacia) 20
- Blendow uber Grojec Distr Warschau 21
- Wietrzychowice uber Tarnow (Distr Krakau) 22

B. With "box" enclosure.

Brzesko Nowe
23

Zabierzow b/Kr.
24

Janowice bei Pulawy
25

Snochowice uber Kielce
26

Jodlownik
bei Limanowa
27

Moszczenica
Kreis Petrikau
28

Biecz
uber Gorlice
29

Zabierzow b. Kressendorf
uber Krakau 2
30

Wzdol Rządowy uber Kielce
Distr Radom
31

Irzadze
uber
Jedrzejow (Distr Radom)
32

Bialaczow
uber Opoczno
(Distr Radom)
33

Potok Stopnicki
uber Jedrzejow
34

(3) Normal City Cancellations.



35



36



37



38



39



40



41



42



43



44



45



46



47



48



49



50



51



52



53



54



55



56



57



58



59

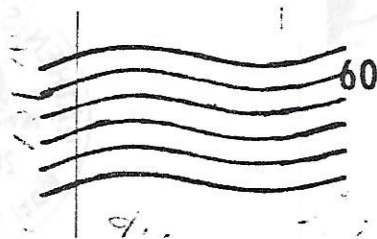


60

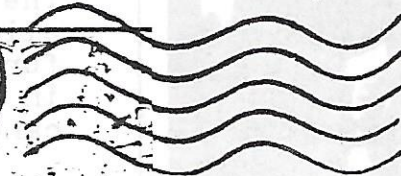


61

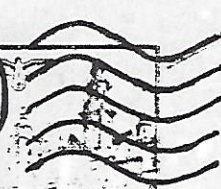
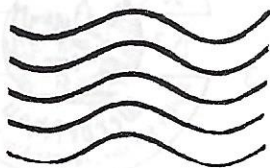
(4) Roller/Machine Cancellations.



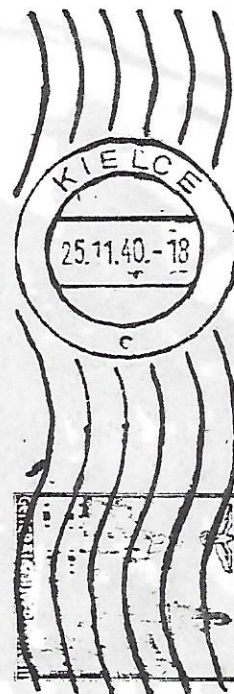
62



63



64



65

(To be continued)

Circle the Kubelwagens !

by Jim Lewis

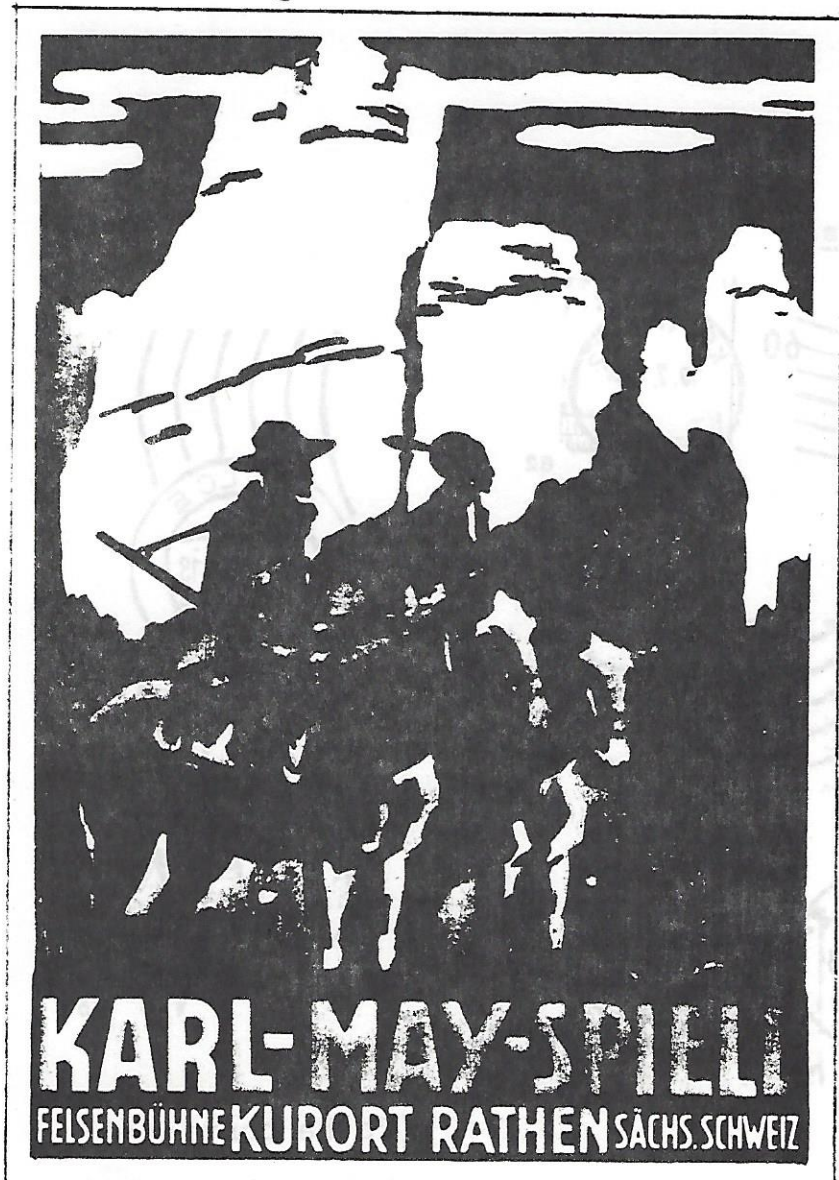
Another of the many interesting themes of the Third Reich era are cancels commemorating the author Karl May (1842 - 1912).

Born February 25, 1842 at Hohenstein-Ernatthel, Karl May first began writing village tales and humorous anecdotes which he sold to newspapers in Dresden. He later began writing adventure stories which were sold by itinerant book sellers. With the popularity of "Old Shatterhand", an adventure set in the American west, May produced a series of novels which featured an Apache Chief named Winnetou.

Among the generation of children who thrilled at these tales was the young Adolf Hitler, whose fondness for May's works never faded. Even at the height of his power, Hitler kept May's books on his night table and claimed that they were his best form of relaxation.

A "Karl May Spiele", a sort of wild west show, was held at Rathen in Saxony from May 28 to August 31, 1938. A colored post card (Fig. 1) and cancel (Fig. 2) were used at this show. Another cancel (Fig. 3) was used to commemorate a philatelic exhibition held in connection with the show.

Fig. 1



Looking a bit like the Lone Ranger and Tonto, "Old Shatterhand" and Winnetou are shown on horse-back on the card and cancel used at the Rathen "Karl May Spiele".



Fig. 2

The towering limestone cliffs form backdrop for the Western setting in this "KdF" publicity cancel.



Fig. 3

In 1938, a Karl May museum was established in May's home town of Radebuel, near Dresden. A publicity cancel featuring an Indian in full war-bonnet was placed into use at Radebeul 2 in May 1938 and was sponsored by the German Collectors Group. (Fig. 4). Another cancel for this museum was used at Radebeul 1 in November 1938. This museum cancel also depicts "Shatterhand" and Winnetou (Fig.5).



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6

A new cancel used at Radebeul 1 in 1942 depicts a cowboy between two fir trees (Fig. 6).

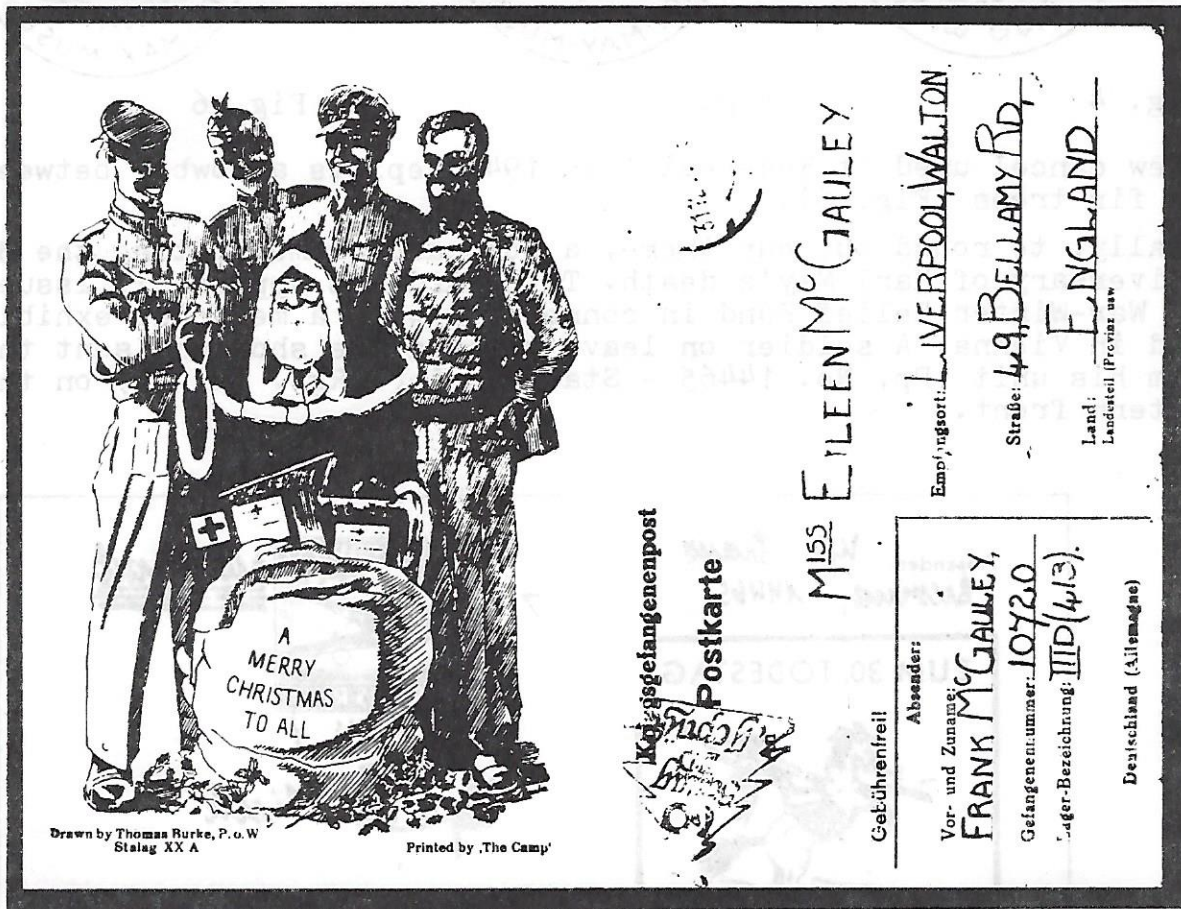
Finally, to round out our theme, a postcard commemorating the 30th anniversary of Karl May's death. This card was apparently issued by the War-Winter Relief Fund in connection with a memorial exhibition held in Vienna. A soldier on leave visited the show and sent this from his unit (Fp. No. 14465 - Stab/Pioniere Rgt. zbV 60) on the Eastern front.



Serendipity

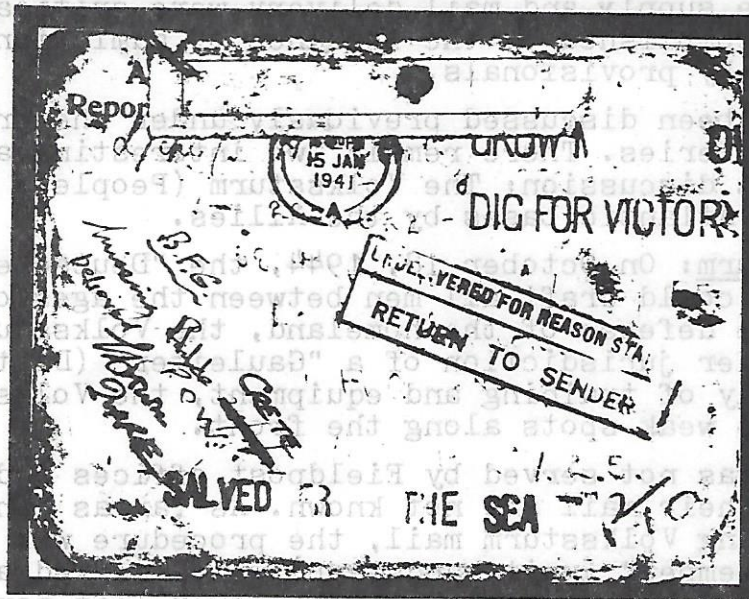
By Art Hecker

While talking to a group of TRSG members at the 1978 NOJEX show, Roy Cox handed Bob Houston a photostat of a 1941 P.O.W. card - asking if it could be run in the Bulletin with a request for information regarding it's origin. The card pictured four British servicemen and a Santa Claus. A censor's handstamp in the shape of a Christmas tree was inscribed "60/STALAG IIID/Geprüft". My eyes lit up -- I have only one piece of correspondence from a British POW in that period and it is the same card:



I had acquired the card in 1976 from my wife's brother-in-law in England. Knowing that Frank McGauley had been taken prisoner on Crete in 1941 and spent the balance of the war in a POW camp, I had asked if he had any envelopes of correspondence from that period. His sister had received this card which was dated 31.12.41 and after some searching, was able to produce this card for me. Frank tells me that the camp was in a town near Berlin named Grossbeerin. Among his souvenirs he also had several coupons for extra rations that were given to prisoners that worked at a nearby factory "Sudetenslandische Triebstoffwerke A.G.", with headquarters in Oberleutensdorf.

As a further coincidence, Frank produced a cover from Canada which he received in 1970. This cover contained another cover from an old friend that had originally been sent to him in January 1941, when he was a Lance Corporal in the British Engineers on Crete:



Under the tape at the top, in violet, is stamped "Addressee Reported Missing". In the same ink, a boxed "Undelivered for Reason Stated/Return to Sender" appears. On the left side in ink is "B.F.G. Missing Since 25.4.41". Part of this is crossed out with red ink and "Crete, believed POW" is written with a signature. The stamp is missing from the envelope, which may well be explained by the black handstamp "SALVED FROM THE SEA". This marking was apparently made on the ill-fated initial trip of the letter to Crete, otherwise the January to May time period would seem to have been too long. The handwritten "Missing since 25.4.41" is obviously in error as "Operation Merkur" did not start until May 20, 1941 and the date should read 25.5.41.

I'm far from being a specialist in Third Reich postal history, but my one British POW card and one Crete-related item seemed to tie together nicely with a chance look at the photostat which we saw at Nojex.



To the End:

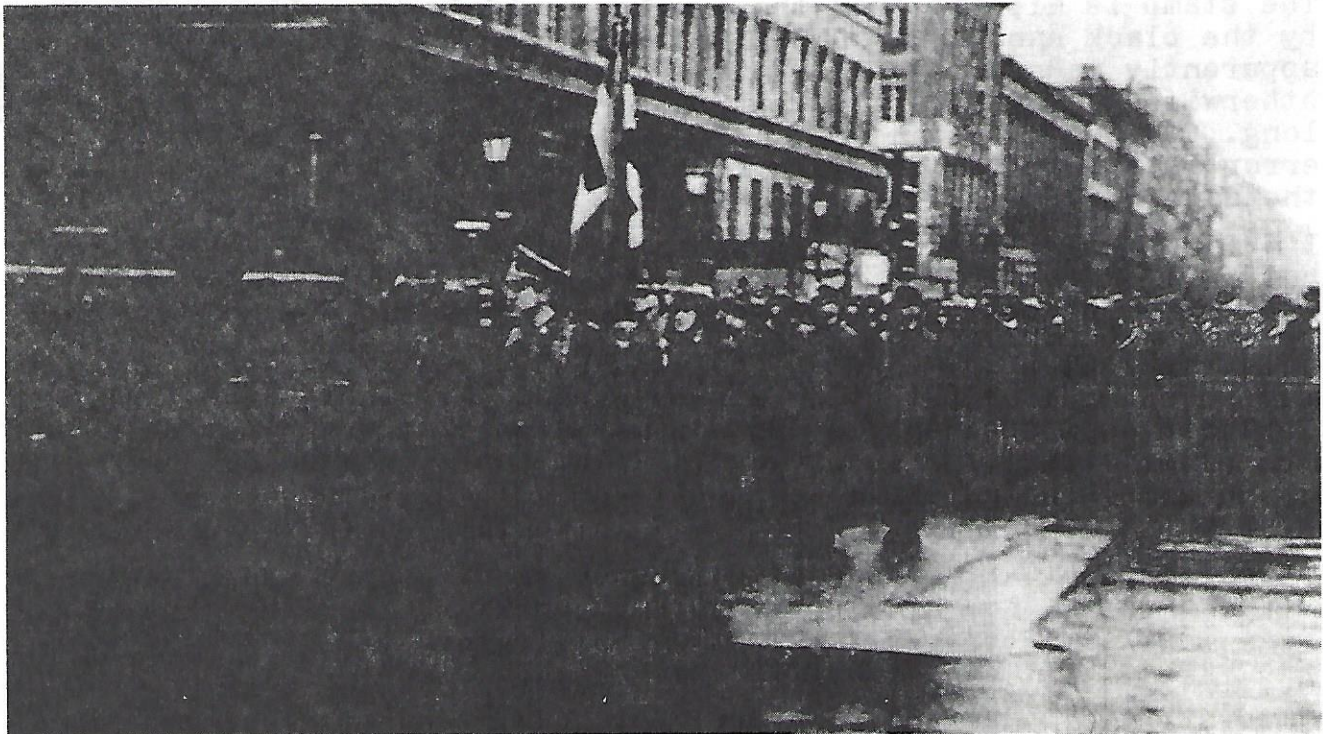
THE VOLKSSTURM AND THE ATLANTIC FORTRESSES

Germany reached it's maximum expansion in 1942. The defeat at Stalin-grad was the beginning of the reversals which led to the destruction of the Reich. Withdrawals, encirclements and bridgeheads were difficult situations where supply and mail delivery were critical. Limits on mail delivery was accomplished by the issuance of admission stamps or, in some instances, by provisionals.

All of this has been discussed previously under the procedure for airmail and package deliveries. There remain two interesting areas which are the subjects of this discussion: The Volkssturm (People's Militia) and the encirclement of Atlantic bases by the Allies.

A.) The Volkssturm: On October 18, 1944, the "Deutscher Volkssturm" was established and could draft all men between the ages of 16 and 60. With it's purpose the defense of the homeland, the Volkssturm was organized into "Gauen" under jurisdiction of a "Gauleiter" (District leader). With little in the way of training and equipment, the Volkssturm units were used to shore up weak spots along the front.

The Volkssturm was not served by Fieldpost offices and instructions for the routing of their mail are not known. As far as can be determined by examining existing Volkssturm mail, the procedure was to mark the mail with a "Dienststempel" (unit handstamp) which served as a postal cancel. These handstamps were not placed in the lower left portion of the cover as was normally done in the Feldpost system. Instead, they appear in the upper right portion in place of a cancellation and, when used with air-mail permission stamps, were placed above the stamps. Sometimes the hand stamp "Frei Durch Ablosung Reich" (Free by Govt. Authority) is found, even on private mail. This mail was delivered by the Reichspost or the Feldpost, neither of which added any additional markings.



"We will never capitulate". The Volkssturm marching through Berlin on a gloomy day in 1944.



A typical Volkssturm cancel with "Gau 23" above the eagle and unit identification "51. Bataillon" in lower portion of the circle.

B.) The Atlantic Fortresses: After the successful invasion of Normandy on June 6, 1944, the Allies moved into France and had occupied the entire northern section of the country by August. A second invasion on the Riviera and the subsequent link-up of the two forces resulted in the occupation of the entire country and became the basis for the move against Germany.

During this period a number of German-held cities on the Atlantic coast became encircled and were declared fortresses. These included Dunkerque, Lorient, St. Nazaire, Royan and the Channel Islands.

With normal postal links severed, the main form of communication with the homeland was by the wireless. In Dunkerque, every member of the fortress garrison could send a radiogram once a month via the fortress radio station Dunkerque (formerly the radio station of the Pas de Calais naval command) to his closest relatives (parents or wives). Only short messages such as "I am well" or "I am wounded" were permitted.

These messages were received by the Naval radio station in Wilhelmshaven which forwarded them to the recipients on special "Funknachrichttenkarte" (Radio card) forms. There were also attempts to parachute mail into the fortresses at night but Allied air superiority resulted in the loss of most of the planes. References have been found which indicate that mail barrels from submarines may have been tried but no such covers have been reported.

Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine Datum des Poststempels

269/Eike

Nachstehende Nachricht wurde durch Funk aus der eingeschlossenen Festung Lorient übermittelt.

Bin gesund, Stimmung zuversichtlich. Hoffe Euch wohl auf. Schreib an alle

Radio cards containing brief messages from the fortresses (top to bottom) Lorient, St. Nazaire and Royan.

Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine (1) Berlin W 35 Datum des Poststempels

1/67 868 v. J. r.

Nachstehende Nachricht wurde durch Funk aus der eingeschlossenen Festung St. Nazaire 10.12.44 übermittelt.

zum Neuen Jahr Mir geht es gut.

Euer Heinz

postnummer, soweit keine neue mit- oder ähnliches) durch Rundfunk. auf offener Postkarte richten an: Rundfunk, (1) Berlin-Charlottenburg, und Zuname des Empfängers und

der Kriegsmarine oder andere Dienst- an Festungen weiterleiten können Daten wissen, als mit dieser Karte

Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine Datum des Poststempels

Nachstehende Nachricht wurde durch Funk aus der eingeschlossenen Festung Royan am 10.12.44 übermittelt:

Herzliche Weihnachtgrüße und ein glückliches neues Jahr! Ich bin gesund, mir geht es gut.

Carle.

1. Antwortmöglichkeit von der Heimat zur Festung:

- sofort mit anhängender Karte;
- durch Feldpostbrief in beschränkter Menge an alle Feldpostnummer, soweit keine neue mitgeteilt wurde;
- nur in dringenden Fällen (Gebühren, Unfall oder ähnliche) durch Rundfunk.

Diese Nachricht brieflich in kurzer Form (Telegrammstil) richten an: Kameradschaftsdienst West, Gruppe PK, Haus des Rundfunks, (1) Berlin-Charlottenburg, Mesuren-Allee.

2. Bitte keine Rückfragen oder Antworten an Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine oder andere Dienststellen der Kriegsmarine richten, da diese keine Nachrichten an Festungen weiterleiten können und auch nicht mehr über das Schicksal der einzelnen Soldaten wissen, als mit dieser Karte mitgeteilt wird.

Ed. note: This article translated from "Kleines Handbuch der Deutschen Feldpost 1937 - 1945" by Alfred Clement. The photos added by TRSG.

Flea Market Philately

by Bruce Madden

This article must begin with a confession: I am a Flea Market Philatelist. True, you will see me at an established stamp auction waiting with baited breath as my lot draws near and it is true that I religiously pour over the latest copy of mail bid sales emitting strange utterances while my wife looks at me in a most curious manner, but my collecting fantasies really focus in on the Flea Markets which spring up in wild profusion during the summer months.

One must be able to endure countless pink flamingo yard ornaments, a seemingly endless array of rusty unidentifiable objects (all confidently priced) and perhaps worst of all: the often repeated comment "You mean people pay money for those little pieces of paper?". Nevertheless the dauntless Flea Market Philatelist can make many "finds" at low prices. Recently I have found that there is much peripheral material the Third Reich collector can add to his collection.

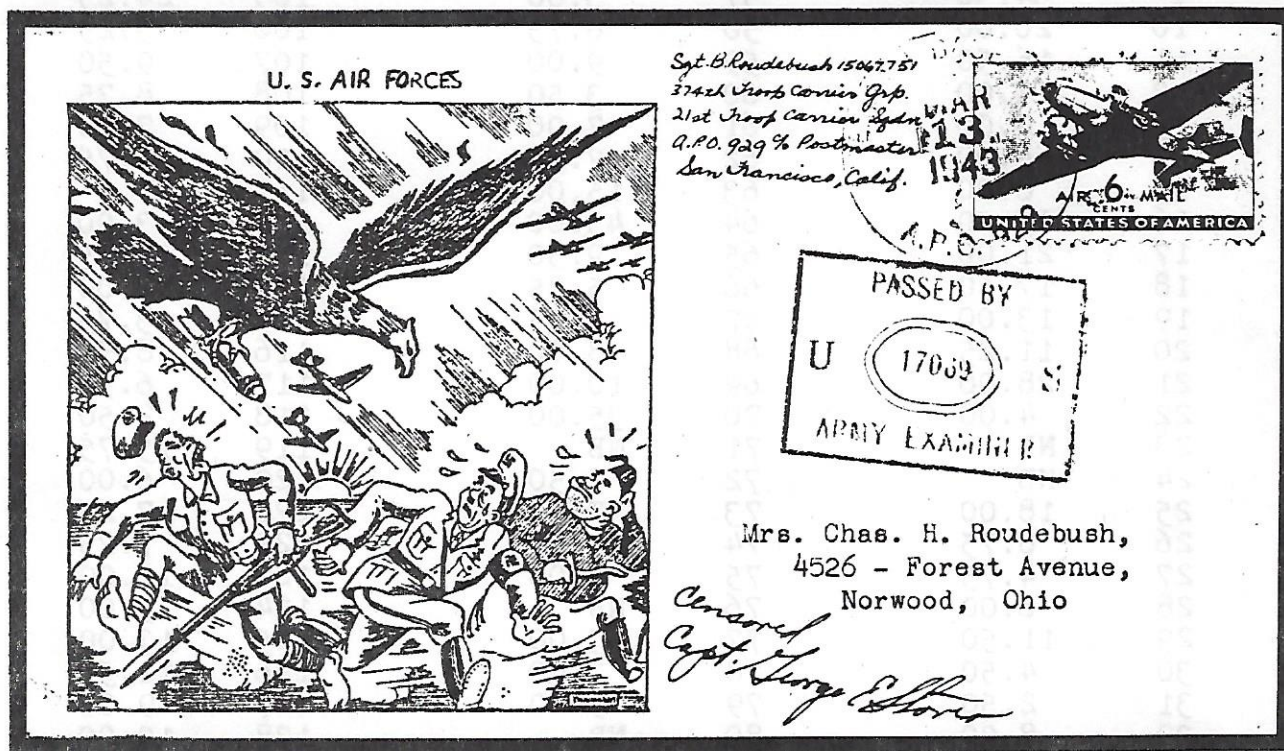
For example, "The Map Maker" was found at a local drive-in-theatre flea market. Arthur Szyk, the originator of this card, was a particularly effective anti-axis satirist whose work appeared on several of Collier's Magazine wartime covers. He also wrote a book entitled "The New Order", a collection of his anti-axis caricatures. "The Map Maker" was specially prepared for Esquire Magazine and is card #5 from set #6. This card alone would keep me combing the flea markets for it's brothers.



THE MAP MAKER

Another interesting find was made in a gymnasium of a high school which sponsored a flea market. This card, a comic ridicule of Hitler, was found hidden between several pamphlets dealing with athletes foot, some old doll's clothes and several matchbooks from an exotic nightclub of a questionable nature in New Mexico. It is not the sophisticated artwork of Mr. Szyk, however it is a clever card and you can be sure it brought laughter to many in the critical year of 1943.

One of my most recent finds, at an indoor winter flea market, is a cacheted/censored cover sent by a U.S. Airforce Sgt. from the Pacific area:



As you may have gathered, the majority of my flea market finds have been of the anti-axis type and my view of this material is that of comic relief to the serious 3rd Reich cards which make up the bulk of my collection. If you have time between the next summer stamp show or auction, then by all means try flea market philately! There is plenty of sun, a dash of sleuthing adventure - and from where else could you bring your spouse a genuine handcrafted piece of garden hose sculpture?

Prices RealizedTRSG AUCTION NUMBER 9

| <u>Lot #</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Lot #</u> | <u>Price</u> | <u>Lot #</u> | <u>Price</u> |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | 20.00 | 49 | 6.00 | 97 | 3.00 |
| 2 | 14.00 | 50 | WD | 98 | 3.00 |
| 3 | 11.00 | 51 | 3.50 | 99 | 3.00 |
| 4 | 33.00 | 52 | 7.00 | 100 | 4.75 |
| 5 | 21.00 | 53 | 16.25 | 101 | 3.00 |
| 6 | 7.00 | 54 | 4.75 | 102 | 3.50 |
| 7 | 12.00 | 55 | 6.50 | 103 | 5.00 |
| 8 | 16.00 | 56 | 10.75 | 104 | 5.00 |
| 9 | 34.50 | 57 | 3.00 | 105 | 24.25 |
| 10 | 20.00 | 58 | 8.75 | 106 | 5.25 |
| 11 | 16.50 | 59 | 9.00 | 107 | 9.50 |
| 12 | 14.00 | 60 | 3.50 | 108 | 8.75 |
| 13 | 9.00 | 61 | 7.00 | 109 | 7.00 |
| 14 | 16.00 | 62 | 7.50 | 110 | 8.75 |
| 15 | 8.00 | 63 | 15.00 | 111 | NB |
| 16 | 15.00 | 64 | 45.00 | 112 | 3.00 |
| 17 | 21.00 | 65 | 9.50 | 113 | 2.75 |
| 18 | 17.50 | 66 | 5.25 | 114 | 12.00 |
| 19 | 13.00 | 67 | 7.75 | 115 | 3.75 |
| 20 | 11.25 | 68 | 8.00 | 116 | 8.50 |
| 21 | 28.00 | 69 | 10.00 | 117 | 6.50 |
| 22 | 4.00 | 70 | 35.00 | 118 | 2.50 |
| 23 | NB | 71 | NB | 119 | 15.75 |
| 24 | NB | 72 | 7.50 | 120 | 6.00 |
| 25 | 18.00 | 73 | 7.50 | 121 | 7.25 |
| 26 | 8.75 | 74 | NB | 122 | 7.25 |
| 27 | 4.75 | 75 | 7.00 | 123 | 13.00 |
| 28 | 6.00 | 76 | NB | 124 | 15.00 |
| 29 | 11.50 | 77 | 3.00 | 125 | 13.00 |
| 30 | 4.50 | 78 | 3.00 | 126 | 11.50 |
| 31 | 2.50 | 79 | 5.00 | 127 | 9.00 |
| 32 | 8.00 | 80 | NB | 128 | 10.00 |
| 33 | 7.00 | 81 | 4.25 | 129 | 3.75 |
| 34 | 2.50 | 82 | 9.50 | 130 | 3.50 |
| 35 | 9.00 | 83 | 5.00 | 131 | 3.50 |
| 36 | 3.00 | 84 | 12.00 | 132 | 3.00 |
| 37 | 11.00 | 85 | 4.50 | 133 | 4.25 |
| 38 | WD | 86 | 7.50 | 134 | 6.50 |
| 39 | 25.00 | 87 | 10.00 | 135 | 8.00 |
| 40 | 25.00 | 88 | 7.00 | 136 | 4.00 |
| 41 | 4.75 | 89 | 12.00 | 137 | 11.25 |
| 42 | NB | 90 | 10.00 | 138 | 10.50 |
| 43 | 4.00 | 91 | 3.00 | 139 | 13.50 |
| 44 | 8.50 | 92 | 2.50 | 140 | 10.50 |
| 45 | 8.25 | 93 | NB | 141 | 12.50 |
| 46 | 2.50 | 94 | NB | 142 | 4.00 |
| 47 | NB | 95 | 3.00 | 143 | 6.50 |
| 48 | 13.75 | 96 | 3.00 | | |

Get your lots in for the next sale NOW !!

Send to: Fred Stengel, 1248 Magnolia Pl., Union, NJ 07083