



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

October 2022, Volume LVII, Number 4 (#225)

Inside:

- Stamps of the Hitler Youth
- A Question for you to answer
- The Spanish on the Eastern Front
- Plus, Danzig, AuctionWatch, Trivia and more!

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October 2022, Volume LVII, Number 4 (#225)

Great Stuff Inside:

A Question: Phil Miller has a couple of recently-purchased great cards. Can you be the one who knows why one of them has such a puzzling cancellation?

Hitler Youth – Disturbing yet intriguing, we look at two stamps that commemorated this once-mandatory organization. A detailed history of the group gives us its reasons for success and its results that lasted even beyond the war.

The Channel Islands- Once more, the U.K.'s Channel Islands Society wows us with some of their rare items put up for auction. You have to see it to believe it.

The Spanish on the Eastern Front- A propaganda card from David Mui's collection serves as a history lesson for the volunteer and fierce Blue Division from Spain

Plus, **Danzig, AuctionWatch**, and a **Challenging Trivia!**

Help! While my trip to the Great American Stamp Show was a resounding success in bringing more members to our group, it has depleted our funds.

Help us out by donating on Paypal at our website, or by sending a check made out to Chris Kolker to 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360.

Thank you for your continued support. You are what make our study group great!

Calling for any and all articles! Long or short, beginning stuff or the work of an expert. We need them all. Simply email me with your article, scan, or even idea to ctkolker@mail.com. Keep calm and keep collecting!!!

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To our Esteemed Readers:

Once more, we are very proud to be able to serve you with our latest edition of *The Third Reich Study Group Bulletin*. We certainly hope you enjoy this latest issue.

We hope also that it reflects the energy, enthusiasm, and interest that our little study group has generated. At a recent trip to the APS' Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento CA, I was inundated with questions about our group and its study guide. Imagine the surprise when I tell people our services are absolutely free, even though we encourage people to join the Germany Philatelic Society. So many did out of gratitude.

As our country endures difficult and divisive times, many people want to look back at different eras in history to find both the similarities and differences from our own times. Since Third Reich philately provides an ideal way to explore another divisive era, our voice needs to continue.

But we do need your support. We ask that you go to our website and click on the PayPal button to make a small donation. We are down to just a few hundred dollars in our bank account. Considering the expensive task of keeping up websites and printing material, that's not much. Keep in mind the entire cost of the trip to the Great American Stamp Show to promote the Third Reich Study Group was placed on me personally. All I ask is a small donation to help with some of the printing costs incurred for our group's promotion during the exciting and fruitful trip.

In the meantime, enjoy our latest journal. Even better, think about submitting your favorite cover, stamp, or story about what you enjoy most. Just contact me at ctkolker@mail.com to get started. I look forward to working with you getting to know you better and creating a wonderful piece of material with you.

Sincerely,

Christopher Kolker MD

World War II Polish Legions

Phil Miller

There existed in Poland, as in every other region of Europe during the time of WW II, a distinct group that was ripe for volunteer or conscripted service within the Reich. This group was known as the **Volksdeutsche**. Volksdeutsche were historic ethnic enclaves beyond the German boarder that for political and traditional reasons were considered a part of greater Germany. It was from among these groups that the Germans first gathered volunteers from Poland. Although they are not technically thought of as Poles by the Germans, the ethnic German Volksdeutsche were in reality from Poland and can thus were seen as Polish volunteers.

The first such instance of ethnic German Volksdeutsche from Poland being formed into units to support Germany was in September of 1939 with the attack on Poland. Upon the entrance of German troops into the regions of Western Poland, small groups of Volksdeutsche came together and formed local militia groups. These Volksdeutsche militia aided the German attack in many areas, shortly after the German Invasion. It was decided to reorganize the militia groups into Self-Protection units, otherwise known as **Selbschutz**.

The Selbschutz was formed in the early days of the German attack on Poland from ethnic German-Poles in the regions of Western Poland. The Selbschutz came under the control of the SS, being organized into three regions. These were known as **Südlicher Bereich**, **Mittlerer Bereich** and **Nördlicher Bereich**. Each region was itself divided into districts known as **Kreise** – localities or **Orts**. The southern and central regions came under the direct control of the SS-Hauptamt, while the northern region came under the control of the RSHA (The Reich Security Main Office. In German, it is the Reichssicherheitshauptamt.

As September 1939 came to an end, the Selbschutz was reorganized and came under the operational control of the **Ordnungspolizei** or Order Police. Throughout its existence, the Selbschutz was entrusted with various rear-area security and

support operations – and in many cases earned an infamous reputation. It is thought that a total of 45,000 ethnic German-Poles served in the Selbstschutz, before it was ordered to be disbanded.

Polish Police Volunteers

Today it is stated that the Polish people did not collaborate with Nazi Germany and ethnic Poles were not admitted into the German forces. However, Polish volunteers were engaged within the Polish Police force for the General Gouvenment and helped guard the Warsaw ghetto, besides other sites.

The only difference from other East European volunteers is that the Polish Police forces did not carry any “heavy” weapons – because they simply were not trusted. The collaboration of the Polish Police numbered around 20,000. Polish Policemen served with German forces and were employed with the Jewish Warsaw uprising in 1943.

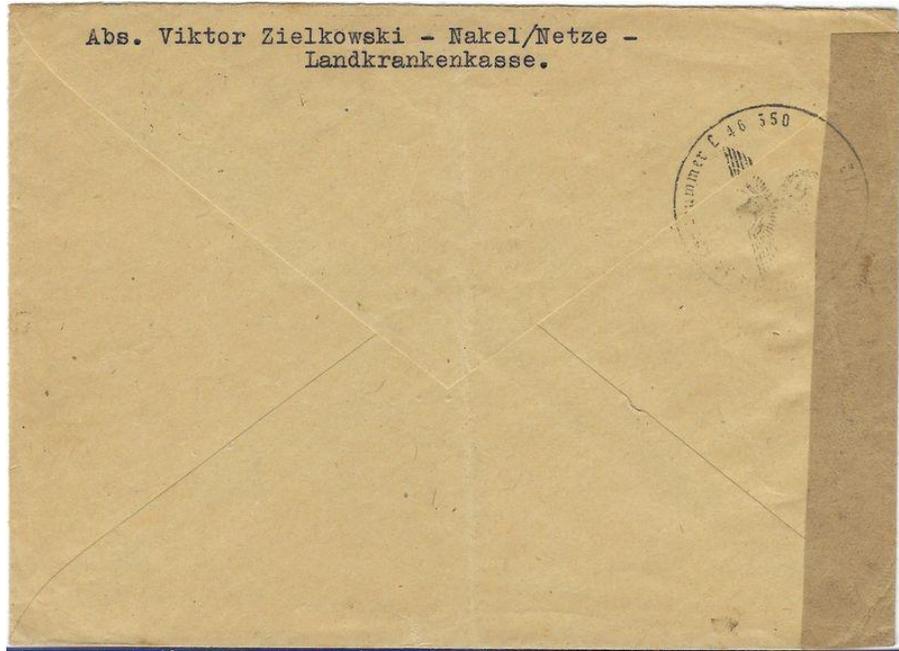
* Feldpost cover and card images:

1) Feldpost from home to Polish volunteer with Luftwaffen-Bau-Bataillon 1/VIII, sent 25 November 1943 from Nakel / Netze, in northern occupied General Gouvenment. German “Geprüft” censor on cover. Franked with two German airmail



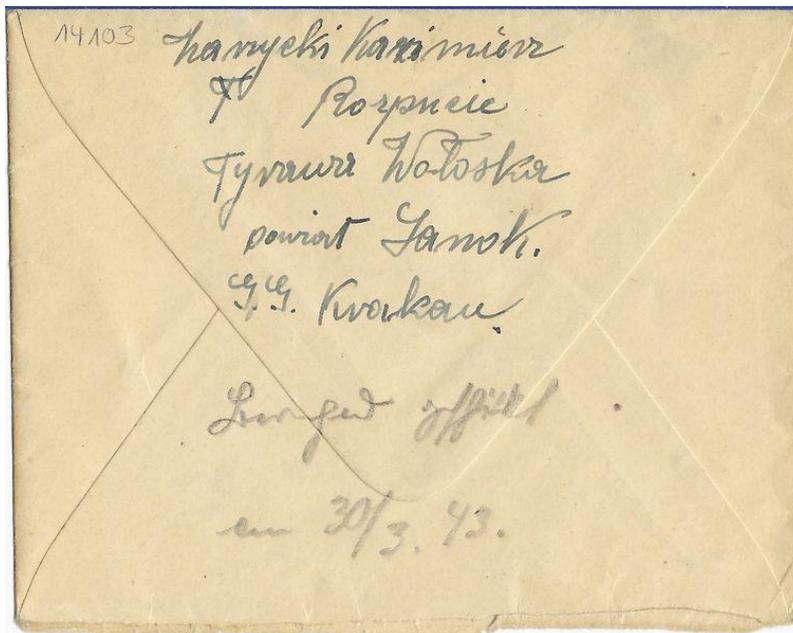
permit stamps on cover.

Back of the preceding airmail cover from 1943.



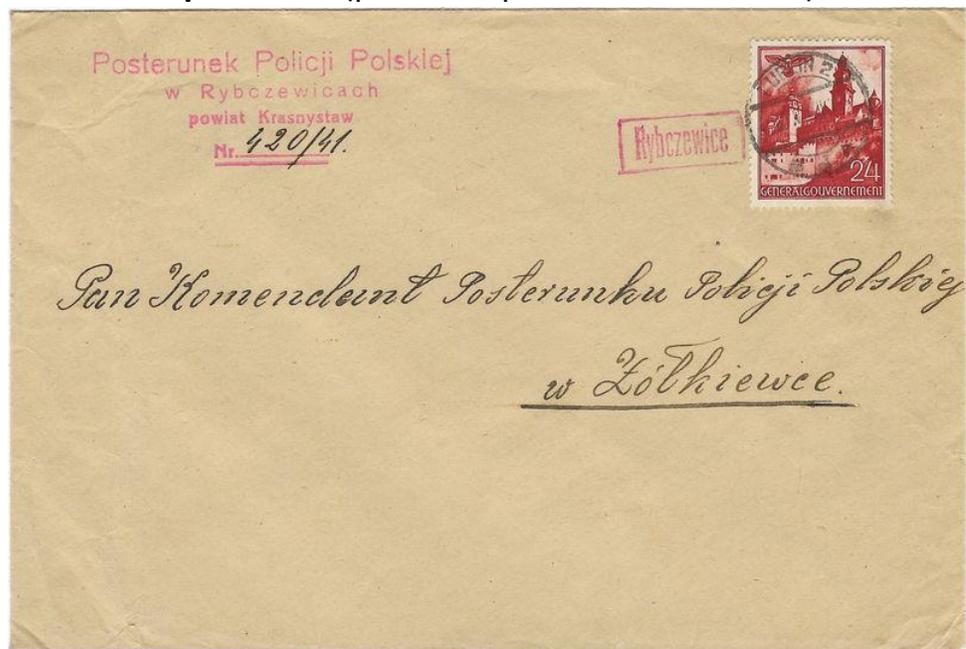
2) Feldpost from home to Polish volunteer with Ost Battalion 629. Franked with 24 Groschen General Gouvernement

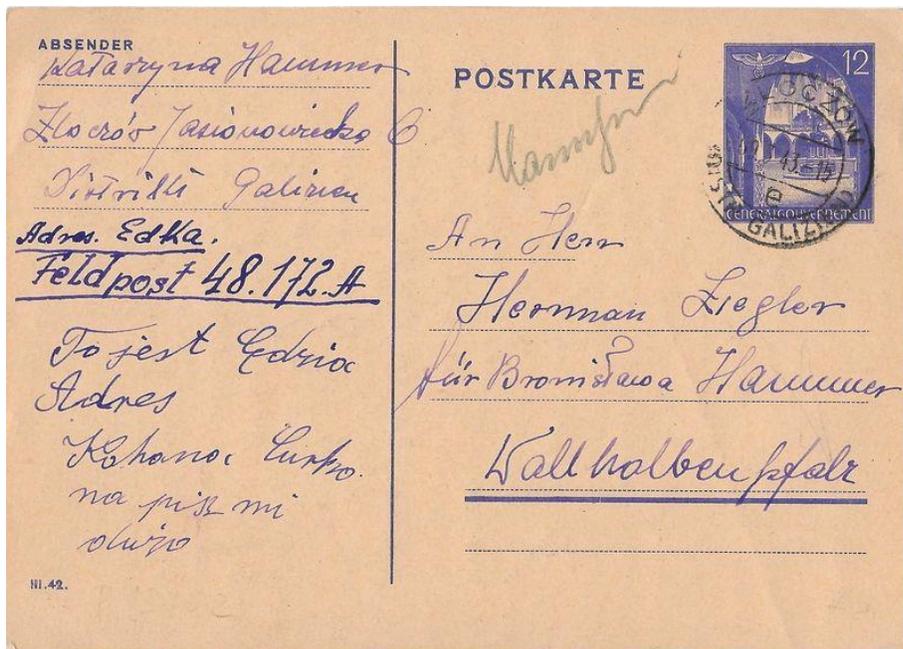
stamp on cover. Red Landpost cachet from the sub office at Tyrawa Woloska. Forwarded and mailed from the Sanok, Poland post office on 31 December 1942.



Back of the preceding Landpost cover from late 1942

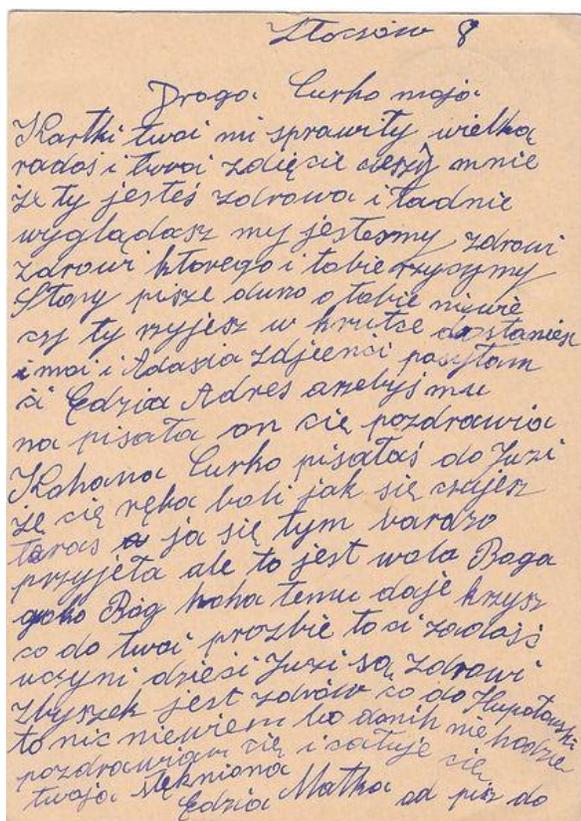
3) Registered cover from Polish Police at Rybczewice to the commander of the Polish Police at Zolkiewce. Polish volunteer with the Polish Blue Police force in the General Gouvenment. Cover is franked because the Polish Blue Police did not have postage free privileges. The letter was sent from one police station addressed to the attention of the commander in charge at another one. The small boxed cancel is the usual **Landpoststelle** (postal help desk in rural areas) cancel. Such a letter is extremely difficult to find. I have seen less than 10 pieces in about 20 years.





4) Twelve Groschen General Government stationery card mailed by Polish volunteer from Fp-

Nr 48172 A. Battalion 202 Security Brigade and deployed near Minsk. Addressed to Wallhaben and sent 9 February 1943. Card contents are in Polish.



Polish Text of the postcard from 1943. Translation, anyone?



Stamps of the Third Reich

By Christopher Kolker MD

Our featured stamps are the July 25th, 1935 stamps for the World Jamboree of Hitler youth.

This stamp was designed by Karl Diebitsch of Munich. It's perforated at 14. It has a photogravure printing on coated paper. Their watermarks are swastikas. The stamps were valid until December 31, 1936.

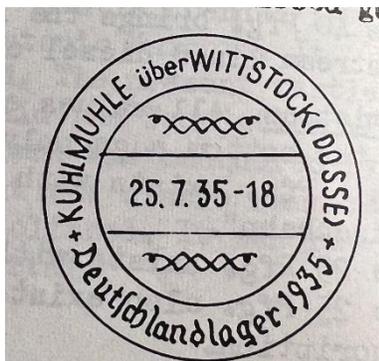
Two stamps were printed: A 6 Pfennig dark green and a 15 Pfennig deep claret stamp. These stamps portray a fanfare trumpeter of Jean book. The trumpets banner has the rune symbol of the Hitler youth.



Each stamp has two variations. Some have vertical ribbing on the gum side, which means they have stripes going up and down on the gum side. Others have horizontal ribbing, with those stripes going across the stamps.

This distinction may not be very important. The value of the horizontal versus vertical ribbing is the same.

First day covers exist, but they're very rare. A few specific cancellations do exist



because these rallies were carried out in different places at different times all across Germany. A fairly famous cancellation in Offenburg, for their rally "SW work camp", cancellations were made in red with a rubber stamp.

*A Common Hitler Youth
cancellation from 1935*



A 1936 Hitler Youth rally cancellation, with the Hitler Youth emblem on the far right.



The most common cancellation from Hitler Youth

These stamps are Michel 584 and 585, and Scott numbers 454 and 455.

The Amtsblatt, Number 65:

No. 250/1935 New Postage Stamps

The German Reichspost will issue a limited quantity of 6 Pfennig and 15 Pfennig commemorative stamps, designed by the artist Karl Diebitsch of Munich on the occasion of the Hitler Youth World Jamboree.

The design of the stamps shows a male Hitler youth blowing a bugle. The stamps are 23 by 27.32 millimeters in size and will be printed in photogravure on swastika watermarked paper. Their colors are similar to those of the corresponding definitive stamps. The illustrations above are magnified approximately 25% above the actual size of the stamps. The stamps will go on sale from post offices on July 25th. The stamps can be used for overseas correspondence. The Reichspost directorates have received special delivery instructions.



The Hitler Youth Flag

The History

The Hitler Youth had a predictable growth over the years. It first began as a low level, even obscure, organization. Initially, in 1923, well before Hitler took power, the group consisted of widely scattered local organizations and had

only about 1200 members.

But as Hitler's popularity grew, so did the organization. By 1932, still before Hitler took power, the Hitler Youth had 107,000 members. By the time Hitler rose to power on a wave of fame and popularity in 1933, the group boasted 2,300,000 members.

But as with so many other things, that was not enough for Hitler. In 1934 Hitler outlawed the Lutheran Youth Organization. He integrated that group into Hitler Youth, causing a 600,000-member influx into his own group.

Hitler did this in order to disrupt the Lutheran Church. He often had Hitler Youth meetings on Sunday morning with an expressed desire to disrupt Sunday morning gatherings of religious organizations.

By 1936 Hitler Youth was the only youth group allowed, and was 5,000,000 strong. Membership became compulsory.

This meant that organizations from such groups as the Catholic Church, the Boy Scouts, and other Protestant denominations were also banned. But it doesn't mean that the Hitler Youth organizers didn't use some of the banned groups' ideas.



A Hitler Youth propaganda poster

For instance, many of the activities and a lot of the structures superficially looked like the Boy Scouts. Activities that included fostering good citizenship were part of Hitler Youth. Obviously, what constituted good citizenship for Hitler Youth and the Boy Scouts would become very different.

Early in its conception, the Hitler Youth movement emphasized sports. Its leaders believed that physical fitness was an absolute must to future development of good German youth, and wanted to encourage competition. Sports leagues for the youth became common throughout Germany. As previously discussed, many of these competitions occurred on Sunday morning, explicitly trying to disrupt church attendance.

The Hitler Youth had three levels of young members: first, would be a *Wolfling*. This was considered to be an apprentice at 5 to 9 years of age

Second would be *Jungvolk*, at 9 to 14 years of age, and third would be Hitler *Jugend*, which was 14 to 18 years of age. These kids would actually be considered members of the Nazi party, although at the lowest level.

Predictably, during the next several years, Hitler Youth became more about military training and service and less about sports. By 1939, most of the games were stopped, and the Hitler Youth simply became a place of indoctrination and military training. Membership was still compulsory, and only a brave few resisted. Consequently, Hitler Youth was thought to be the most successful indoctrination movements of the entire Nazi party.

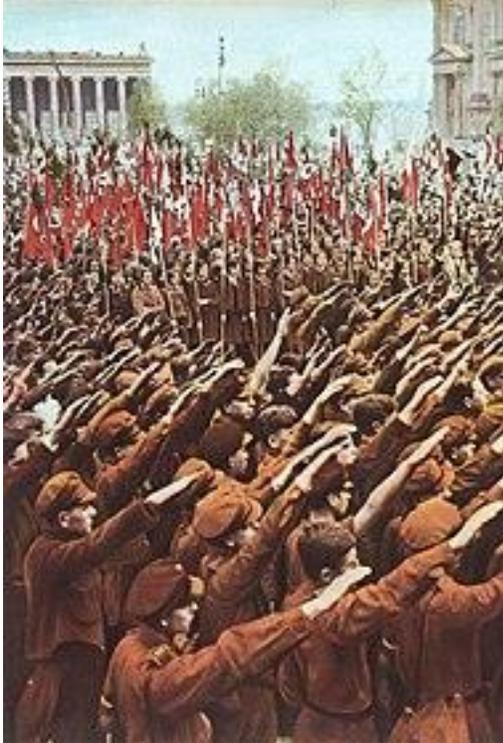
By 1943 youth from 14 to 18 were being actively trained and sent to the eastern front. Most of these efforts turned out poorly, and massive casualties among the Hitler Youth were common.

By 1945, desperate efforts were made to send as many youths as possible trying to stave off the Russian invasion.

After the Allies took control of Germany, the Allied Control Council immediately abolished the Hitler Youth. It became a banned party under German criminal law.



The typical Hitler Youth uniform



Interestingly, even the leadership of the Hitler Youth only saw minimal penalties. Artur Axman, the Hitler Youth Adult leader from 1940 to 1945, was tried during the Nuremberg trials and spent 39 months in jail, but that was the extent of the punishment doled out due to Hitler Youth activities. None of the youth, even those suspected of war crimes, were ever convicted or punished. After the war, no attempts were ever made by German society to blacklist those in the Hitler Youth. Membership had been mandatory, and it was quietly assumed that leadership in all political parties and all facets of society were once members.

A Question

Phil Miller

Phil writes-

I recently obtained these two Feldpost Legion items at auction. Your thoughts on both? Do these look good to you?

The French Legion cover is from the Peter Klüttermann auction.



The Polish card is from the Peter Harlos auction. Why is there a Feldpost cancel on the Polish card? Perhaps this was a German Feldpost transit cancel?

Any feedback with your comments would be very welcome.



The Eisbärblock auf Umschlagvordruck is a nice French Legion Feldpost cover. Sent from the 638th infantry regiment (Fp-Nr. 03856) to Reims, France. This is a nice addition to my WW2 foreign volunteer collection.

The Polish card is more puzzling. Sent from the 15th Polish Legion that were fighting against the German invasion. Sent from Kielce to Koźmin, Poland 22 September 1939. Text in Polish. Why is there a mute German Feldpost cancel on this card? Could this be a transit cancel from German occupied Poland? Or has someone "doctored" this Polish card?

Phil subsequently writes:

I found a link for Poles conscripted into the German Wehrmacht during WW2:

<https://www.axishistory.com/books/137-germany-military-other/foreign-volunteers/5406-poles-conscripted-into-the-wehrmacht>

This is from that link (Editor):

In total up to 500,000 Poles served in the Wehrmacht during WW2. Most of them were from the areas of Poland incorporated by the III Reich in October of 1939 (so called Neue Ostgebiete - Provinz Oberschlesien, Reichsgau Danzig-Westpreussen, Reichsgau Wartheland, Bezirk Bialystok), the remaining ones were from the areas of Poland captured in 1941 (Reichskommissariat Ostland, Reichskommissariat Ukraine), from the Generalgouvernement (GG) and from all other areas. Poles from the incorporated areas - especially those who signed the Volksliste (and most of them on these areas did it, from practical reasons - to survive) were obliged to fulfil military duty in the German army in the same way as German citizens.

CHANNEL ISLANDS SPECIALISTS' SOCIETY

Founded 1950

Date: July 27, 2022

Press Contact: Steve Wells Press & Advertising Officer

A.G.M. July 9, 2022

Some 23 members attended the 72nd Annual General Meeting of the Channel Islands Specialists' Society on 9th July in London (U.K.) including four via Zoom.

The A.G.M. saw the President, **Gerald Marriner**, stand down: he was replaced by **David Laurillard**. Chairman **David Winnie** also stood down before being re-elected. The remainder of the committee were re-elected *en bloc*. Membership Secretary, **Mark Bailey**, reported that the society had 235 members as of June 2022.

An 83-lot room auction was held. Just over 50% were sold. Lot 21, a Centenary bisect on a commercial cover sent in February 1941 to the Controller of Elizabeth College in Guernsey with a fine SARK datestamp, offered at £20 sold for £40; Lot 26, a 1942 parcel tag with 8 Jersey 1d Arms stamps, offered at £12 sold for £42.

Retiring President Gerald Marriner gave a presentation on the 1943 Jersey Views stamps, including essays, proofs and corner blocks of stamps.

Displays followed before the meeting closed. **Roger Harris** showed an original negative envelope annotated 'Channel Islands surrender – British Isles all are now free May 8, 1945' that he had acquired at an auction. It contained the official photographs taken by U.S. Army Signal Corps photographer George Holt of the German surrender negotiations on the 8th and 9th May 1945 on board H.M.S. *Bulldog*.

C.I.S.S. Forward Programme 2022

September 24 Members' Meeting 15, Abchurch Lane, London (U.K.)

Further information about the C.I.S.S. may be obtained from the website: <https://www.ciss.uk/>

The Study of Stamps, Postal History and Postcards of the Channel Islands



A corner block of six 1943 Views ½d stamps from Gerald Marriner's presentation.



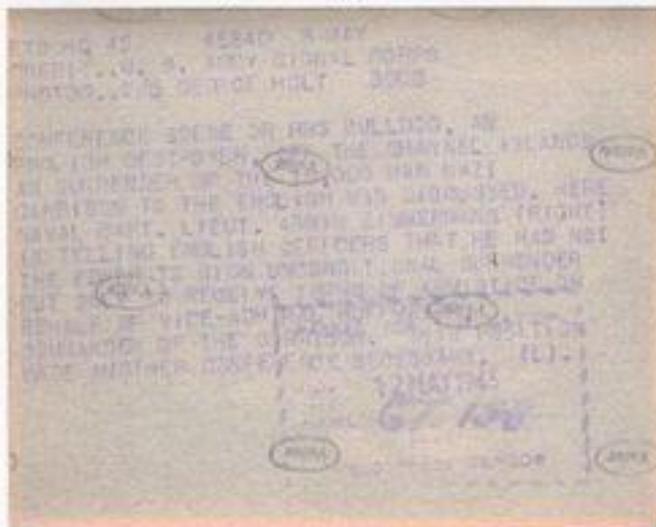
New C.I.S.S. President David Laurillard (left) pictured with retiring President Gerald Marriner. (Photograph: Richard Flemming).

Captain Lieutenant Zimmerman attempts to negotiate an armistice with the British - 8 May 1945

Photograph by George Holt of U.S. Army Signal Corps on board H.M.S. Bulldog.



The scene on board HMS BULLDOG when Captain Lieutenant Zimmerman was sent to negotiate an armistice with the Liberation task force. Left to right around the table are: Admiral Stuart (Royal Navy), Brigadier General A E Snow (Chief British Emissary), Captain H Herzmark (Intelligence Corps), Wing Commander Archie Steward (Royal Air Force), Lieutenant Colonel E A Stoneman, Major John Margeson, Colonel H R Power (all of the British Army) and Captain Lieutenant Zimmerman (German Army).



The photograph back with Holt's descriptive caption and the censor cachet of Field Press Censor 12 May 1945.

Transcription:

ETD HQ 45 45840 8 MAY / CREDIT. U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS / PHOTOG. T/5 GEORGE HOLT 3908
 CONFERENCE SCENE ON HMS BULLDOG, AN ENGLISH DESTROYER, OFF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS, AS
 SURRENDER OF THE 10,000 MAN NAZI GARRISON TO THE ENGLISH WAS DISCUSSED. HERE
 NAVAL CAPT. LIEUT. ARNIM ZIMMERMANN (RIGHT) IS TELLING ENGLISH OFFICERS THAT HE HAD NOT
 THE POWER TO SIGN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER BUT ONLY TO RECEIVE TERMS OF ARMISTICE ON
 BEHALF OF VICE-ADMIRAL HUFFMEIER, COMMANDER OF THE GARRISON. THIS POSITION MADE
 ANOTHER CONFERENCE NECESSARY. (L).

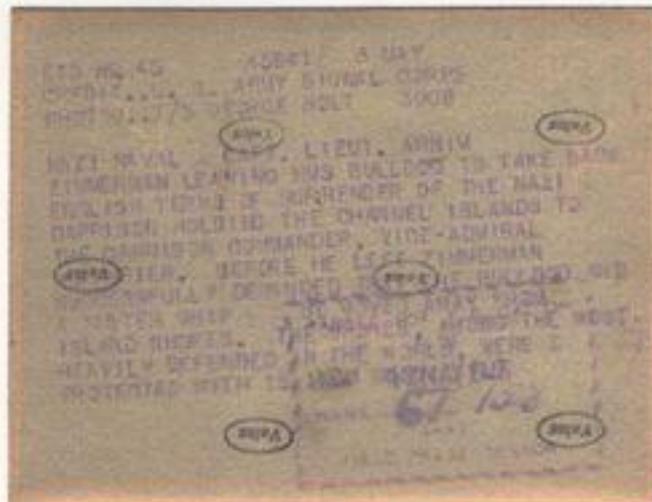
Captain Lieutenant Zimmerman leaving H.M.S. Bulldog with the terms of surrender - 8 May 1945

Photograph by George Holt of U.S. Army Signal Corps on board H.M.S. Bulldog.



Captain Lieutenant Zimmerman leaves H.M.S. BULLDOG carrying the terms of surrender for inspection by Vice-Admiral Huffmeier. The white arrows are Holt's suggested crop marks for the photograph.

The photograph back with Holt's descriptive caption and the censor cachet of Field Press Censor 12 May 1945.



Transcription:

ETD HQ 45 45841 8 MAY / CREDIT. U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS / PHOTOG. T/5 GEORGE HOLT 3908

NAZI NAVAL CAPT. LIEUT. ARNIM ZIMMERMAN LEAVING HMS BULLDOG TO TAKE BACK THE ENGLISH TERMS OF SURRENDER OF THE NAZI GARRISON HOLDING THE CHANNEL ISLANDS TO THE GARRISON COMMANDER, VICE-ADMIRAL HUFFMEIER. BEFORE HE LEFT ZIMMERMAN SUCCESSFULLY DEMANDED THAT THE BULLDOG AND HER SISTER SHIP BE MOVED AWAY FROM THE ISLAND SHORES. THE SHORES, AMONG THE MOST HEAVILY DEFENDED IN THE WORLD, WERE PROTECTED WITH 15CM K18 GUNS.

Captain Lieutenant Zimmerman being rowed back to a German mine sweeper to return to Guernsey - 8 May 1945

Photograph by George Holt of U.S. Army Signal Corps on board H.M.S. Bulldog.



Captain Lieutenant Zimmerman being rowed from H.M.S. BULLDOG to his mine sweeper trawler to return to Guernsey in order to present Vice-Admiral Huffmeier with the British terms of surrender. The white arrows on the photograph are Holt's suggested crop marks for publication.



The photograph back with Holt's descriptive caption and a clear image of the censor cachet of 108 Field Press Censor (Name GT) 12 May 1945.

Transcription:

ETD HQ 45 48841 8 MAY / CREDIT. U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS / PHOTOG. T/5 GEORGE HOLT 3908

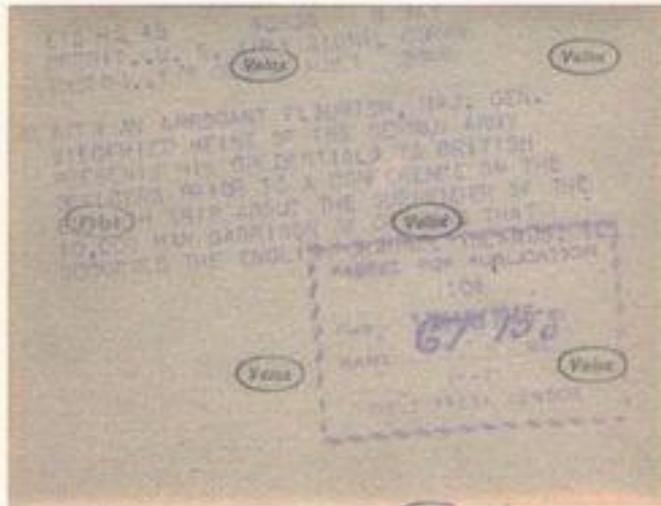
GERMAN REPRESENTATIVES LEAVING AN ENGLISH WARSHIP STANDING TO OFF THE CHANNEL ISLANDS IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL AT THE CONCLUSION OF PRELIMINARY NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SURRENDER OF THE 10,000 MAN GERMAN GARRISON OCCUPYING THE ISLANDS. (L)

An arrogant Major General Siegfried Heine arrives on board H.M.S. Bulldog to sign the German surrender - 9 May 1945

Photograph by George Holt of U.S. Army Signal Corps on board H.M.S. Bulldog.



Shortly after midnight on the morning of 9 May 1945 Major General Siegfried Heine arrogantly presents his credentials to Captain H Herzmark (Intelligence Corps) after arriving on board H.M.S. BULLDOG, prior to signing the instrument of surrender of the German occupied Channel Islands.



The photograph back with Holt's descriptive caption and a clear image of the censor cachet of 108 Field Press Censor (Name GT 158) 12 May 1945.

Holt's description mistakenly dates the event as 8 May rather than 9 May.

Transcription:

ETD HQ 45 45839 8 MAY / CREDIT. U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS / PHOTOG. .T/5 GEORGE HOLT 3908

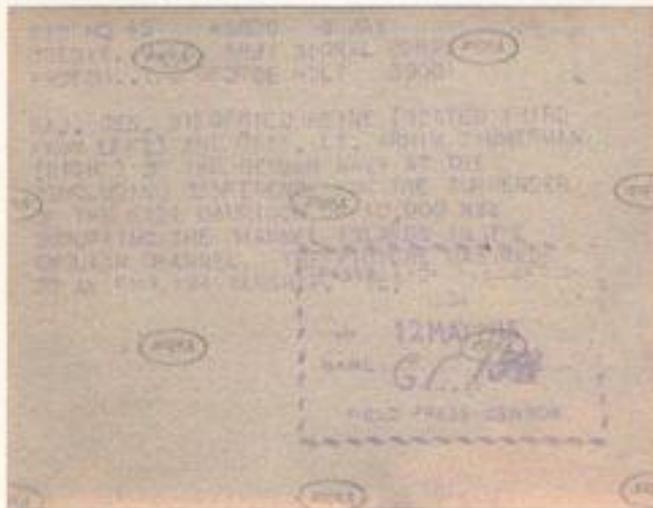
WITH AN ARROGANT FLOURISH, MAJ. GEN. SEIGFRIED HEINE OF THE GERMAN ARMY PRESENTS HIS CREDENTIALS TO BRITISH OFFICERS PRIOR TO A CONFERENCE ON THE BRITISH SHIP ABOUT THE SURRENDER OF THE 10,000 MAN GARRISON OF GERMANS THAT OCCUPIED THE ENGLISH CHANNEL ISLANDS. (L)

Major General Siegfried Heine and Capt. Lieut. Arnim Zimmerman negotiate the German surrender - 9 May 1945

Photograph by George Holt of U.S. Army Signal Corps on board H.M.S. Bulldog.



German Commander in Chief of the Channel Islands, Vice Admiral Friedrich Huffmeier is represented by Major-General Siegfried Heine and Capt. Lieutenant-Commander Arnim Zimmerman aboard HMS BULLDOG off Guernsey for the signing of the instrument of surrender. The black portholes indicate the photograph was taken before dawn, some hours before the signing at 7.14 am.



The photograph back with Holt's descriptive caption with a clear image of the censor cachet of 108 Field Press Censor (Name GT 158) 12 May 1945.

Holt's description mistakenly dates the event as 8 May rather than 9 May.

Transcription:

ETD HQ 45 45838 8 MAY / CREDIT. U.S. ARMY SIGNAL CORPS / PHOTOG. T/5 GEORGE HOLT 3908

MAJ. GEN. SEIGFRIED HEINE (SEATED THIRD FROM LEFT) AND CAPT. LT. ARNIM ZIMMERMAN (RIGHT) OF THE GERMAN NAVY AT THE CONCLUDING CONFERENCE FOR THE SURRENDER OF THE NAZI GARRISON OF 10,000 XXX OCCUPYING THE CHANNEL ISLANDS IN THE ENGLISH CHANNEL. THE PICTURE WAS MADE ON AN ENGLISH WARSHIP. (L)

Channel Islands Liberation photographer George Holt of the U.S. Army Signal Corps. 8 - 9 May 1945

Before the Second World War, George Holt had been a newspaper press photographer with the Washington Post. When America entered the war, Holt signed up as a war photographer and, along with other press photographers and journalists, he was enlisted into the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

As a war news photographer, Holt covered the D Day Normandy invasions, the freeing of some of the POW camps, the taking of Berlin and the surrender of the Channel Islands. Quite why an American army photographer should be embedded with the Channel Islands liberation task force rather than a British photographer remains a mystery.

He was the only photographer on board H.M.S. Bulldog to officially witness and record the surrender negotiations on the 8th May 1945 and the signing of the surrender instrument at 7.14 a.m. on 9th May 1945.

In more quiet times in Europe he also took portrait photographs of top military personnel and even members of the British royal family.

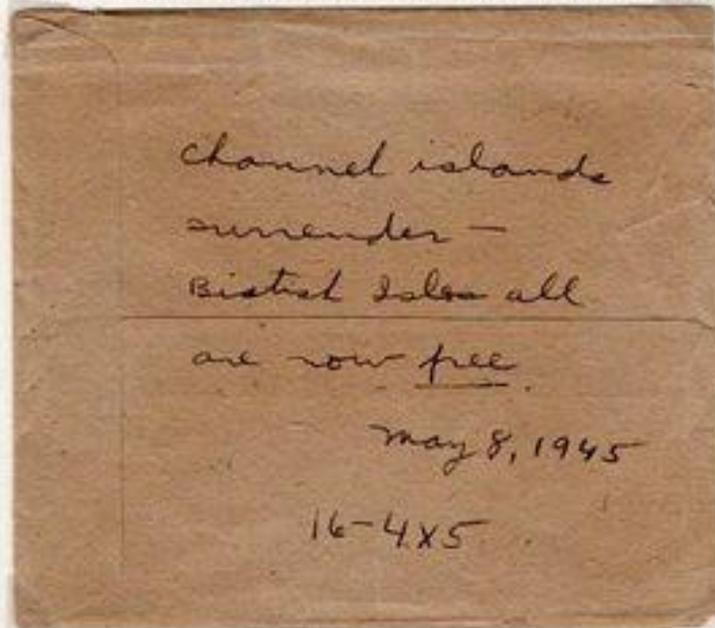
After the war, Holt established, along with fellow members of the Army Signal Corps - Thomas Masseur, Murray Ponak and Don Sothern, the 'American Pictorial Service' based in Newark, N.J. Probably missing the excitement of their war service, the four men aimed to offer in civilian life an all-inclusive pictorial coverage similar to that of the Army Signal Corps, available to work at a moments' notice, anywhere in the world.



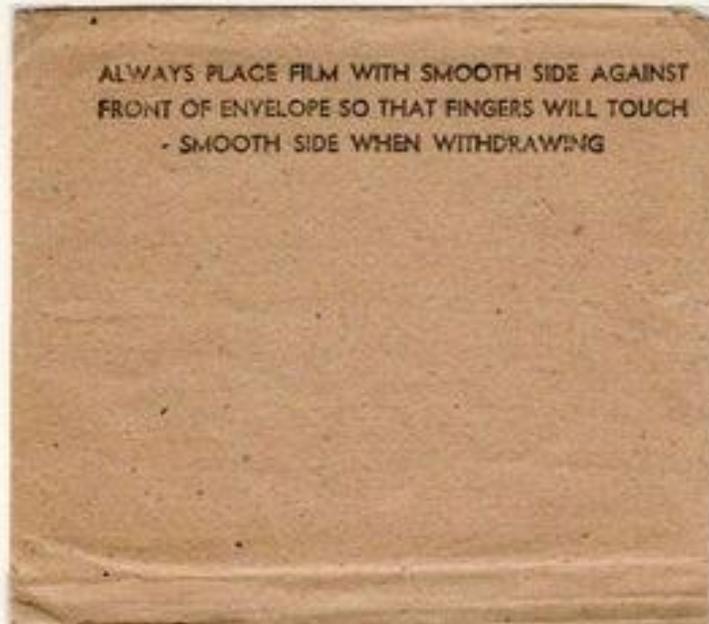
From left to right: Channel Islands liberation photographer George Holt along with Thomas Masseur, Murray Ponak and Don Sothern, pose with their 'American Pictorial Service' ex-U.S. Army WW2 Jeep.

U.S. Army Signal Corps. photographer George Holt's photos of the Channel Islands German surrender 8 - 9 May 1945

The official photographs taken by George Holt of the German surrender negotiations on board H.M.S. Bulldog on 8th and 9th May 1945 are 4" x 5" contact prints stored in an original negative envelope.



The handwritten description of contents (by George Holt?) on the front of the envelope gives the wrong date for the surrender as do some of the photo captions on the back of the photographs.
The envelope possibly originally contained 16 prints.



Photocopy of the back of the envelope.

German Major General Heine surrenders the Channel Islands 9 May 1945

This is the first wire photograph from the Channel Islands following the surrender by the Germans. This is an original wire photograph issued by the British "LONDON NEWS AGENCY PHOTOS LTD." with a wet mark copyright cachet on the back, and a flimsy paper teletyped story with the caption titled CHANNEL ISLANDS LIBERATED.



The photograph shows Major General Heine (centre) and Capt. Lieutenant Arin Zimmerman (right) aboard H.M.S. Bulldog during the final signing of the instrument of surrender.

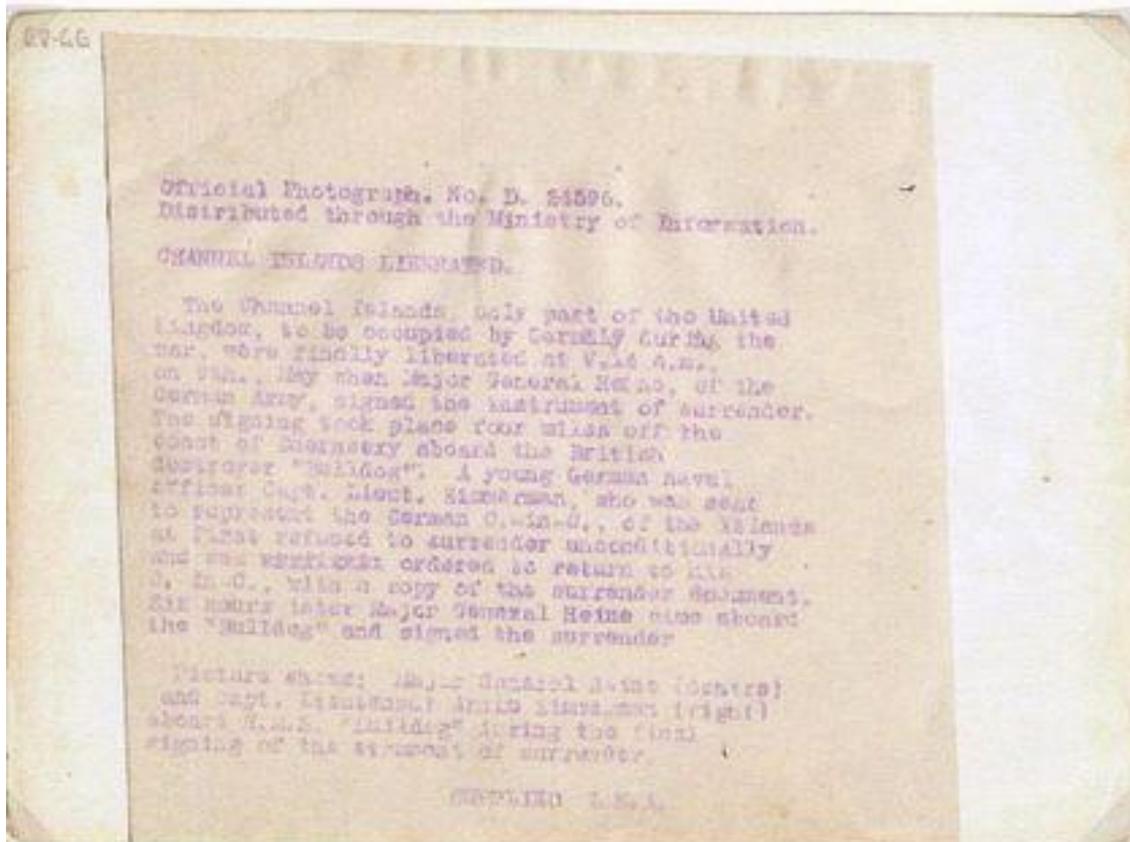


Although the wire photograph bears a "LONDON NEWS AGENCY PHOTOS LTD." copyright cachet it was actually taken by George Holt of the U.S. Army Signal Corps embedded with the Liberation task force and it was passed for publication by the American Field Press Censor on 12 May 1945.

German Major General Heine surrenders the Channel Islands 9 May 1945

The reverse side of the wire photograph showing the attached flimsy with the teletype information for publication.

This is the first wire photograph from the Channel Islands following the surrender by the Germans. This original wire photograph was published by the British "LONDON NEWS AGENCY PHOTOS LTD." with a wet mark copyright cachet on the back, and the flimsy paper teletyped story with the caption titled CHANNEL ISLANDS LIBERATED.



The teletyped flimsy states that this is an:
"Official Photograph no D. 24696
Distributed through the Ministry of Information."

There is no mention or credit for the photographer George Holt of the U.S. Army Signal Corps who took the photograph on board H.M.S. Bulldog.

A Spanish Presence

Brought to us by David Mui

Text by Christopher Kolker

The Spanish Division, also known as the Blue (Azul) division, was a group of Spanish volunteers first brought together by Spanish dictator Francisco Franco to aid the Nazis in attacking the Soviet Union. A fervent anti-communist, Franco welcomed those who would organize and fight any Communists anywhere.

Although maintaining official neutrality during World War II, Franco did play a large role in organizing these volunteers.

Since he was neutral, the members had to be volunteers outside the Spanish armed forces. Up to 47,000 heeded the call to go fight the Russians in 1941, and they were shipped by train to the Eastern Front.



They were named the Blue Division because while in Spain, they could not wear any color that resembled the Spanish armed forces, or it might look like a breach of neutrality.

However, once out of Spain, the volunteers had to take the oath of Hitler, and were issued standard military garb, as portrayed on these propaganda cards.

The Spaniards participated in the Siege of Leningrad. They came to prominence in the Battle of Krasny-Bor, just outside of Leningrad. There, the Soviets tried to push out of Leningrad, along its main road to Moscow. The Spaniards fought valiantly, and despite facing a force seven times the manpower, did not retreat from their positions. The result was a Russian retreat, and the siege continued on for another year.

Hitler said. “...the Spaniards have never yielded an inch of ground. One can't imagine more fearless fellows. They scarcely take cover. They flout death. I know, in any case, that our men are always glad to have Spaniards as neighbors in their sector.”

By late 1943, times were beginning to change. Political pressure by the resurgent Allies, along with continuous moral pressure of the Catholic Church, finally persuaded the Spanish government to order a withdrawal of all Spanish forces on November 3, 1943.

The Blue Division's final losses were 4954 dead, 8700 wounded and 372 taken prisoner. Of these, 286 were held until 1954! However, they inflicted 49,300 casualties on the Red Army.

A small war memorial remains at a cemetery in Madrid:





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April • May • June
2001

Carrilons in the City



Danzig, Alte Mühle.



Danzig, Rathaus.

Ganzsachen designs
P32-01 and P32-04

Before the war, Danzig was a relatively happy city, and many churches with bells rang out the holidays and special times of the day. The 1945 shelling finished off the last two of the existing carillons -- St. Katherine's and the Rathaus bells.

An article in the magazine *Tri-City News* points out that bells have been hanging on the Rathaus tower for four centuries and were created by the Dutch bell maker Johannes Moore. Consisting of 14 bells, and adorned with the crests of Poland, Royal Prussia, and Danzig, the carillon was placed in 1561. Religious music was played manually at regular intervals, and, since Danzig was a Protestant city, the bells played a large part during the solemn holidays. Unlike the instrument in St. Katherine's Church, the Rathaus carillon survived disasters, wars and cataclysms until its life was ended by World War II. Only three bells survived.

You may remember hearing the "Rota" played from the Rathaus tower until the middle 1990s, but it was only the ghost of a real carillon, which was, until now, silenced in 1945. The 37 new bells have been cast at the renowned Eijsbouts Royal Foundry, Asten, the Netherlands. This summer, the bells shall ring again.

Bells that were shipped from Holland and are ready for installation in the Rathaus tower.





Quarterly publication of the DANZIG STUDY GROUP of the Germany Philatelic Society

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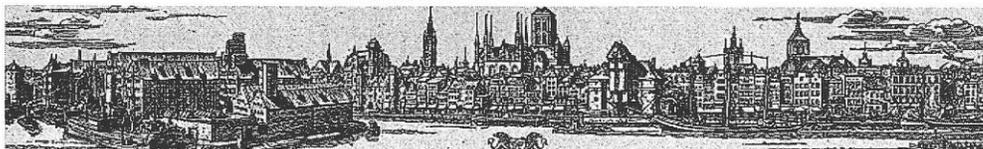
GAINS AND LOSSES

We realize that some don't like to hear of anything except stamps and covers, and that is exactly why we spend so much time assembling this material for your pleasure. However, Danzig/Gdańsk does exist and does furnish you with information that can't be found elsewhere. Giles and the Professor have been supervising a group of university students in searching the Gdańsk Archives for English-Language material that will be of use to all of us. On July 27th, our "International Bunch" will be digging at the Archives for such subjects as what appears to be a Flak tower. Although none of our past guides has mentioned this monster that lurks about two blocks west of the old Polish post office on Hevelius place, the telephone at that location did answer to the name of "Luftschutzbund", according to the 1942 Danzig telephone book.

There were several losses that should be noted, since some of us have known the two men who have died since the last Report. Volker Erdwien, the Verbandsprüfer for Danzig, died last month at his home in Elze, Germany.

A particularly difficult loss was recently experienced by our group when it was revealed that one of our earliest members, **Art Bradford**, passed away very unexpectedly on February 14th. If you were at the last GPS convention last July in Minneapolis, you will remember the fellow who was thoroughly enjoying himself (in the black cowboy hat). Art, and his sidekick Linda, introduced the editor to the best bar-b-q ribs in the country. We had fun that evening, and Art said that he will be attending every GPS convention "from now on!" We'll be expecting to get together again in Hunt Valley, Art. Just in case you don't make it, you will be greatly missed, old timer.

ART BRADFORD 1937 - 2001



Georges Schild: *Paketbegleitkarte* Operations in Danzig Harbour

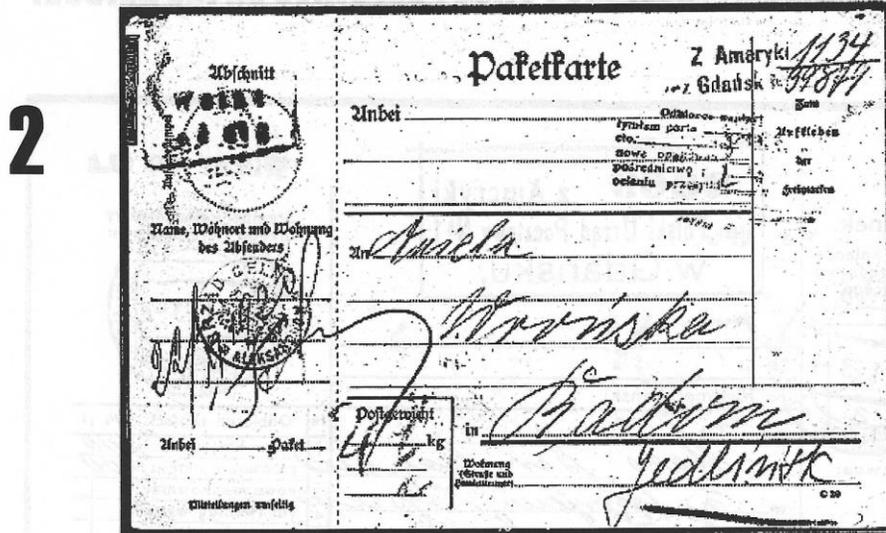
Last July, we were pleasantly surprised to find Georges Schild in the Hanza Hotel dining room and took advantage of Stanley Sterczewski's invitation to ride with him to Gdynia. Stanley knew of a hill that overlooks the harbour that was once known as *Gotenhafen* during the German occupation. No longer is there a clerk from the Harbourmaster's Office shouting at photographers, as we saw in 1990. Things were more relaxed, giving Stanley a chance to explain to Betty, John and Georges the operation of the harbour that overtook Danzig in shipping during the 1920s. Stanley is at left, Georges at right.



The infamous DR-102, which attempted to analyze the card shown below, drew corrections from John Whiteside, which set the record straight in DR-103. Georges Schild also submitted his study of the subject, which we are pleased to present below.

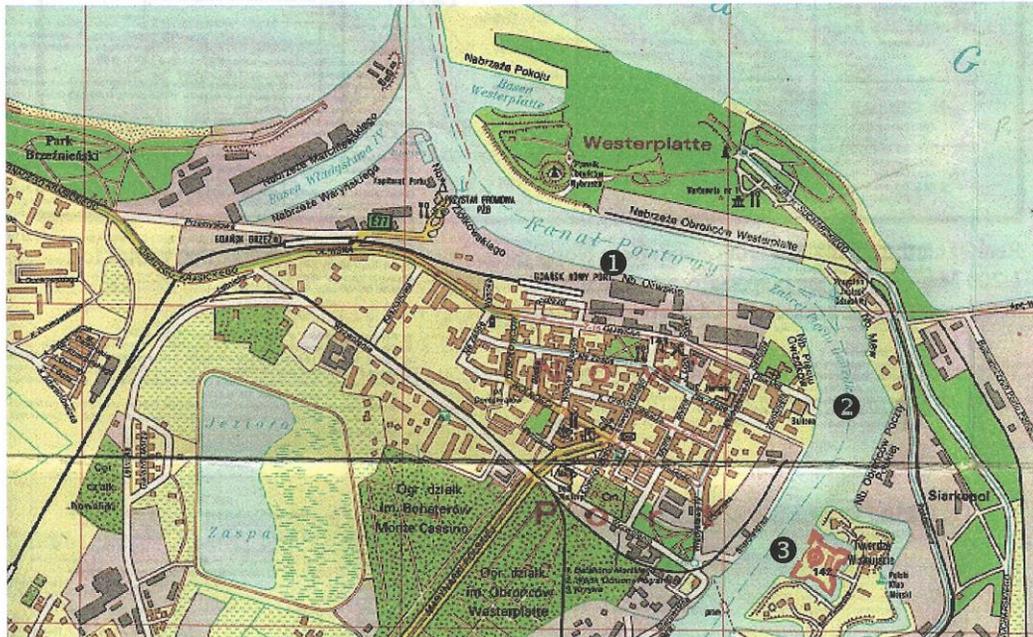
[John Whiteside said that Americans and Brits have a problem with package cards since they are not part of our postal operation. If you are looking for a logical progression of records, you are out of luck. This proves that we hold onto and can explain more easily those events that are most common.] Georges begins his explanation: ❶ Since there was only one post office in the Danzig harbour, the space behind "From America via Danzig No.____" is not for the post office designation but for the number of the parcel. (See Georges' copies on next page.) ❷ The mailing date was obviously not the date 3.13.20, since on that day, the *Paketbegleitkarte* was handled by a postman in Tarnow. The original mailing date must be about 3 weeks sooner, because the parcel came from the U.S. to the Danzig-Polish post office. Since there was no date-stamp yet, we don't know when the parcel arrived from the U.S. or when the *Paketbegleitkarte* was filled in.

Use of an Overprinted German Paketkarte thru the Polish Post Office



Back side of card contains receiving stamp from Jedlinsk on 7.XII.20. Postage is 34.80 Mark.

At the top/right is a 2-line rubber-stamped “Z Ameryki / przez Gdansk” in violet ink. Additionally, the violet 7-line impression begins with “Odbiorca zaplaci...”; the 9-line impression came much later. The circular stamp at the left is a violet impression from the customs office in Aleksandrowo.



- ① Long building is location of the Polish post office that received packages from the U.S., beginning in 1920.
- ② Battleship Schleswig-Holstein fired on the Westerplatte from this point. ③ Location of historic Weichselmünde Festung.

Special Paketkarten for the Polish Post Office on the Harbour

3

Odcinek.
Stempel kalenda-
rzowy urzędu wy-
syłającego.

Nadawca:
*Dr. Archibald
Gonzales*

№ nadawczy ame-
rykański lub Regi-
stred

№ Gdański:

2369 z Ameryki
Przez **Polski Urząd Pocztowy № 1**
w Gdańsku.

№ R. amerykański

Do: *Mrs. Piribauer*
w: *ul. Dąbrowska 18*
ulica: *Nowy Sącz*
№ domu: *5*
ost. poczt. województwa

Waga: *500* kg. gr.

Wystawił: *[Signature]*
Zbadał: *[Signature]*

M. P. T. 25. (VIII. 921). 500.000.

WOLNE OD CŁA

Stempel kalendarzowy
urzędu wysyłającego:

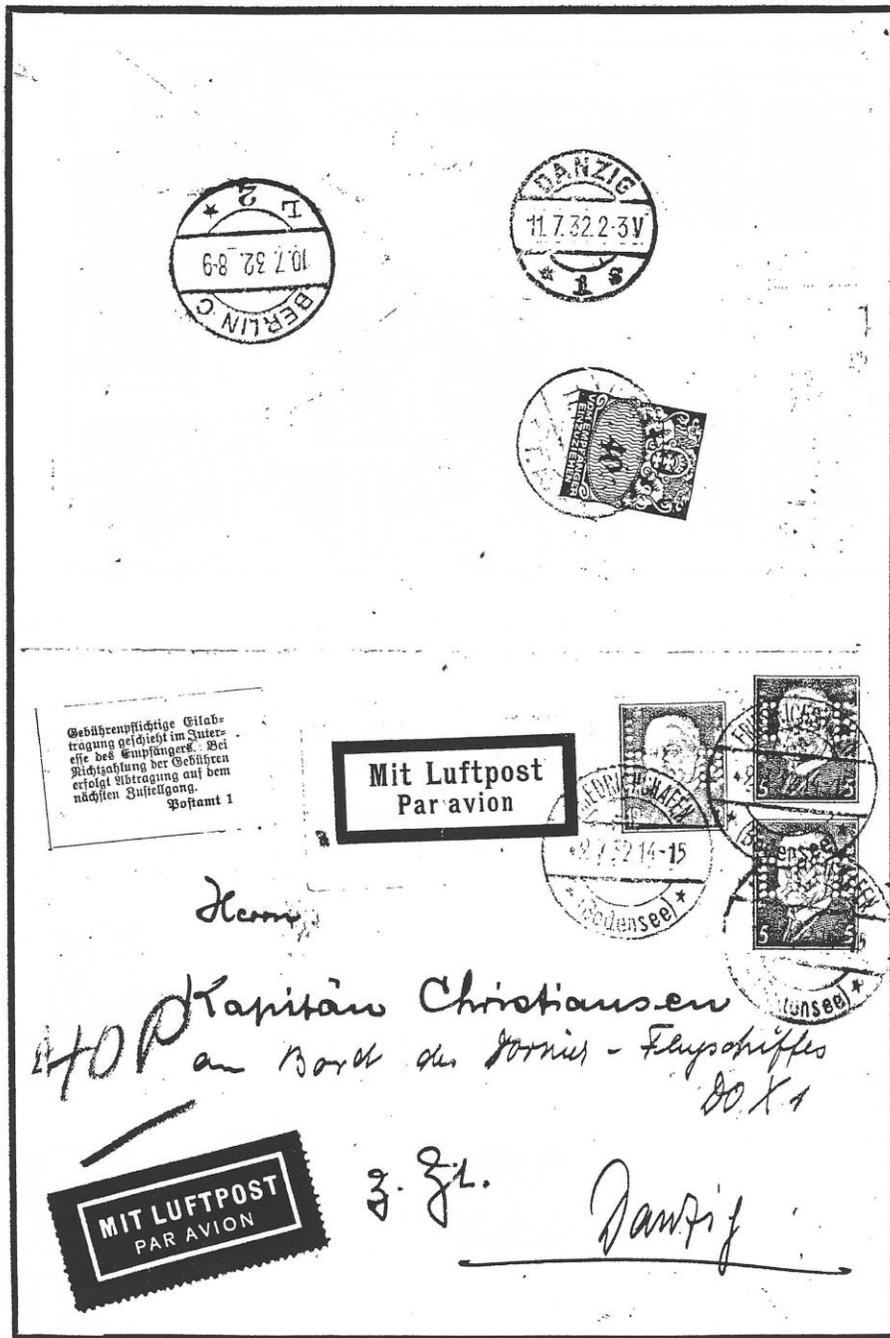
№	Odbiorca zapłaci:	M. f.
1	porto krajowe	<i>200</i>
2	przewóz z okrętu	<i>200</i>
3	nowe opakowanie	
4	ciło (według wyka- zu wypłaconych należności cel- nych №)	
5	należność za cło nie	
6	należność za do- wóz	
7	składowe	
8		
9		

Rear of card showing receiving stamp from Nowy Sącz, dated 25.I.23, and postage due stamps for 1,200 Mark. At the top is specially numbered mark on registration label. Cancel of the Post Office 1 in Gdansk with inscription: POLSKI URZĄD POCZTOWY № 1 * GDANSK *

This card shows the distinctive lower-case “a” under the date line of the cancel, which was used from 14.09.1922 until 12.11.1924.

On the following pages are several other interesting covers from Georges Schild’s collection.

Use of the 40 Pfg Postage-Due (Mi.34II) on Cover to the DO-X Captain



Written from the Dornier Works at Bodensee to **Kapitan Christianson** on board the DO-X when it lands in Danzig on the *Deutschlandfahrten* 1932 from 06 - 13.07. The assessed postage-due charge was 40 Pfg, but the stamp chosen at the post office was a Type II, with the broken zero.

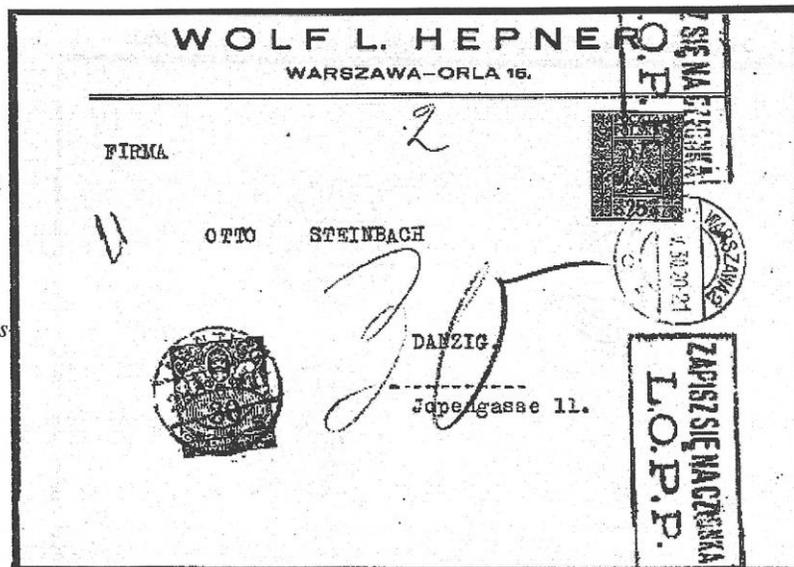
Card from Steegen on 27.10.1923 shows DOUBLE-PENALTY Postage Due



One of the more intriguing aspects of Danzig philately is the practice of doubling of the postage-due rate penalty during the short duration of the highest inflation. Normal rate for a card from the 8th to the 14th of October, 1923, was 2 Mio (2 million) Marks. On this particular card, dated 27.10.23, inflation rates became more fluid and of course, higher, rising from 40 to 400 million Marks from 22. to 25.10. During that last rate increment, postage due was automatically doubled to cover the penalty; with this card doubling the penalty from 398 Mio to 796 Mio Mark. By November 1st, the card rate was 10 Pfg.

Overweight letter from Warsaw, 1930.

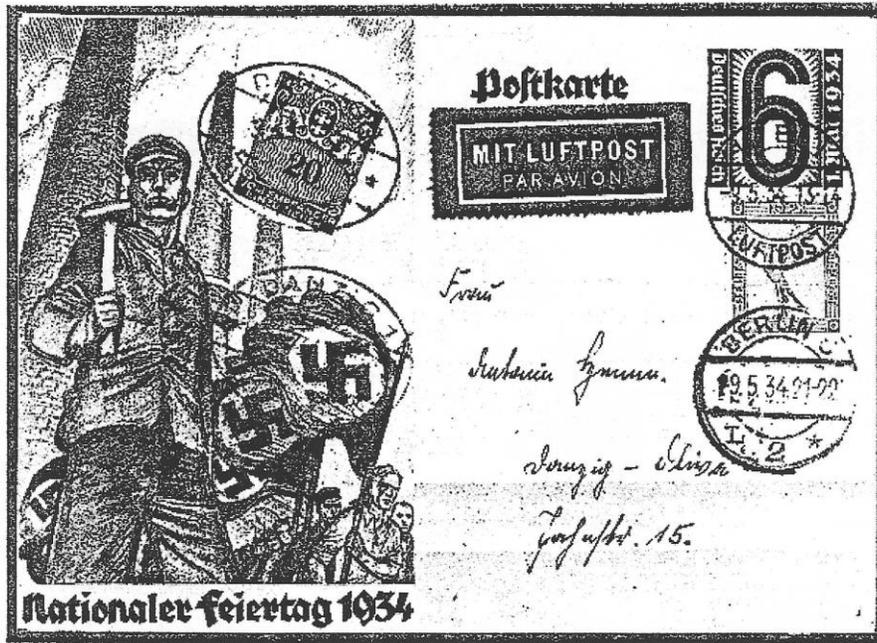
Schild's description:
Ubergewichtige Brief (Blaue 2 = 2. Gewichtsstufe) mit Strafporto belegt.



1923 Postage Due Stamps issued in new values; Ultramarine/Black

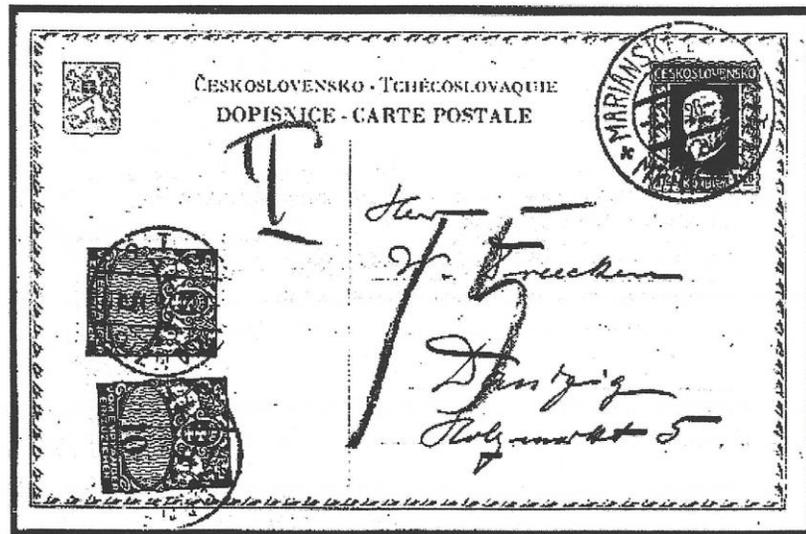
Second printing (issued on 24 Nov.). New design by Buchholz, to replace purple issues Mi.1 thru 25.

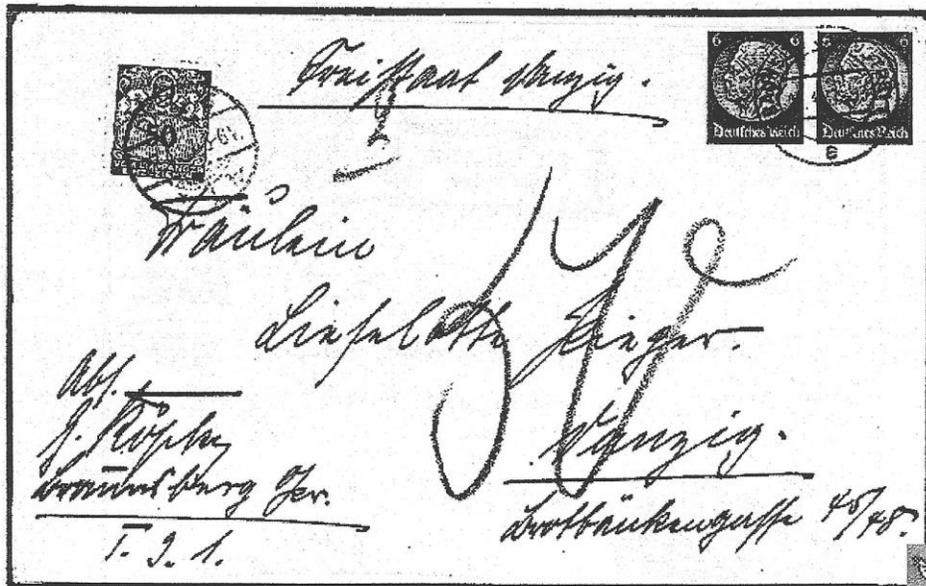
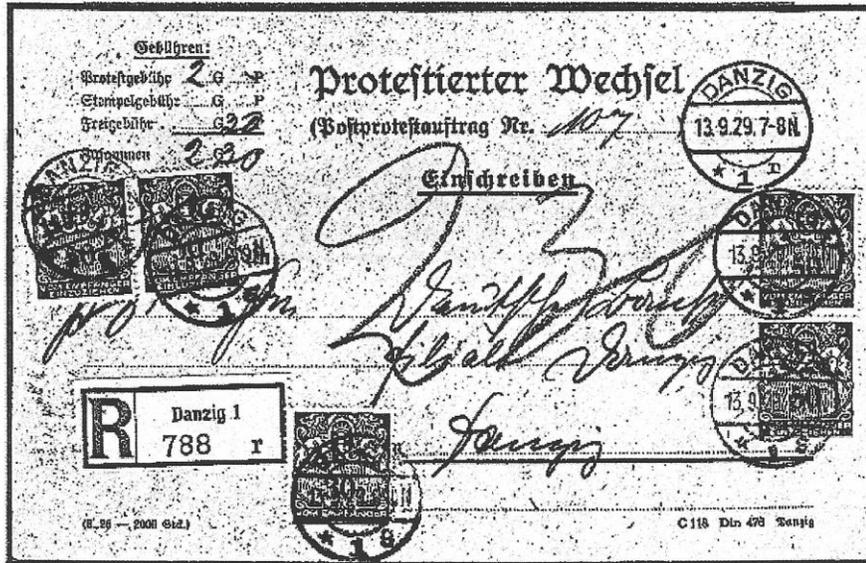
National Holiday Card of 1934



A postage due 20 Pfg. stamp seems out of place, since 6-Pfg covers card rate from Germany to Danzig, and 10 Pfg is sufficient for the Flugpost addition. What is the purpose of the 20 Pfg (Mi. 32) postage -due stamp with oval airmail cancel, applied after landing in Danzig? Apparently, the Danzig post office noticed that the sender was in a hurry, since he added air postage, so they followed through with express delivery, which will cost the sender "only" 20 additional pfennig.

Czech card to Danzig required 15 Pfg additional postage in 1926.





A look at two more of Georges Schild's collection of Danzig postage due covers



Beginning on the next page are ten more pages of Richard Minard's list - Danzig Varieties

Labels of the Polish Harbor Post Office in Gdańsk, 1920-1939

by Hans Vogels

This article ties in with the preceding description of the Polish Harbour Post Office as described by Georges Schild. Hans Vogels follows up with this description of the special labels found there.

1 Introduction

The Free City of Gdańsk owed its existence to the fact that US president Thomas Woodrow Wilson promised Poland access to the sea, but English prime minister Lloyd George didn't want to make Gdańsk and its vicinity part of the new Polish Republic. The city was made a Free City under the supervision of the League of Nations. Poland received indeed access to the sea through the so-called Corridor, but didn't have an appropriate harbor there. Therefore Poland was given several special rights in the Free City. Several agreements were made between Poland and the Free City to lay down the exact extent of these rights. Part of the agreements was the right to establish a Polish postal service in the Free City.

The first Polish post office 'Urząd Ekspedycji Pocztowej Gdańsk - Nowy Port' (Forwarding post office Gdańsk Nowy Port) was opened in the beginning of 1920. On January 11, 1922 the name of the office was changed in 'Polski Urząd Pocztowy N°1 w Gdańsku' (Polish post office number 1 in Gdańsk). On August 1, 1926 the office received the new number 3. The office became responsible for the exchange of official mail between Polish offices in the Free City of Gdańsk and offices in Poland. Next to this, the office handled all mail for Poland that arrived from overseas countries and mail from Poland that had to be sent to overseas destinations by ship through the Gdańsk harbor. On March 10, 1920 the first transport of gift packages arrived from the USA with the ship "Krakus". This was the beginning of a continuous flow of packages and mailbags to and from Poland through the Gdańsk harbour.

Year	Number of packages received From the USA
1920	296.648
1921	422.642
1922	271.827
1923	252.632
1924	260.623
1920-1924	1.504.372

Table 1: Transport of packages from the USA through Gdańsk

Source: Bericht des laut Beschluß des Völkerbundes vom 11. Juni 1925 eingesetzten Sachverständigen-Ausschusses für die Abgrenzung des Hafens von Danzig für Zwecke des polnischen Postdienstes in Danzig (Danzig 1925) p. 55.

The agreements with the individual postal administrations and the way the mail was exchanged has been described in detail already in the instructions for the Polish post in Gdańsk that were published in 1931. Based on these original instructions, Bogacki and Jank wrote their publications in 1948 and 1999. Further repetition is therefore not necessary. Because the formal instructions and agreements were most important in both publications, not much attention was paid to the postal items that were a result of this. This article wants to show the different labels, used in the Gdańsk harbor post office for the exchange of packages and mailbags with overseas countries.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 <i>Z Ameryki:</i>
918* P Posen W. 8 1182</p> | <p>35 602* ^a Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> |
| <p>21 605* Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> | <p>36 404* ^a Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> |
| <p>22 713* Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> | <p>37 313* ^a Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> |
| <p>23 181* Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> | <p>41 54* ^c Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> |
| <p>24 514* Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> | <p>42 403* ^c Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> |
| <p>31 601* ^a Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> | <p>43 449* ^c Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> |
| <p>32 786* ^a Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> | <p>5 2238 z Ameryki przez Polski Urząd Pocztowy № 1 w Gdańsku.</p> |
| <p>33 168* ^a Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> | <p>6 3735 -c z Ameryki przez Polski Urząd Pocztowy № 1 w Gdańsku.</p> |
| <p>34 184* ^a Z Ameryki przez U. E. P. Gdańsk, Nowy Port.</p> | |

2 Parcels from overseas countries to Poland

Parcels were received from overseas countries, most of them came from the USA, packed in crates or mailbags with a label indicating the Polish harbor post office in Gdańsk as the destination. In the Polish harbour post office for each individual parcel a special parcel card was prepared. Different pre-war formulas from the German and Austrian postal administrations but also Austrian formulas with a "POCZTA POLSKA" overprint were used for this. As a matter of fact, so many different formulars were used that a separate article should be written about this. On these formulas the number of the parcel, the address and the postage due for handling, that had to be paid by the recipient, were written.

In June the first two cancels were introduced in the Polish harbor office in Gdańsk. The first 2-line cancel indicated that the parcel was received from the USA, the number of the parcel had to be written there by hand. In the second cancel, a six-line cancel, the postage due was calculated. Normally these two cancels were applied together. In August 1920 a new 8-line cancel was introduced where the text of the two first cancels was put together in one cancel. (Later formulars have the table for postage due calculation printed on them.)

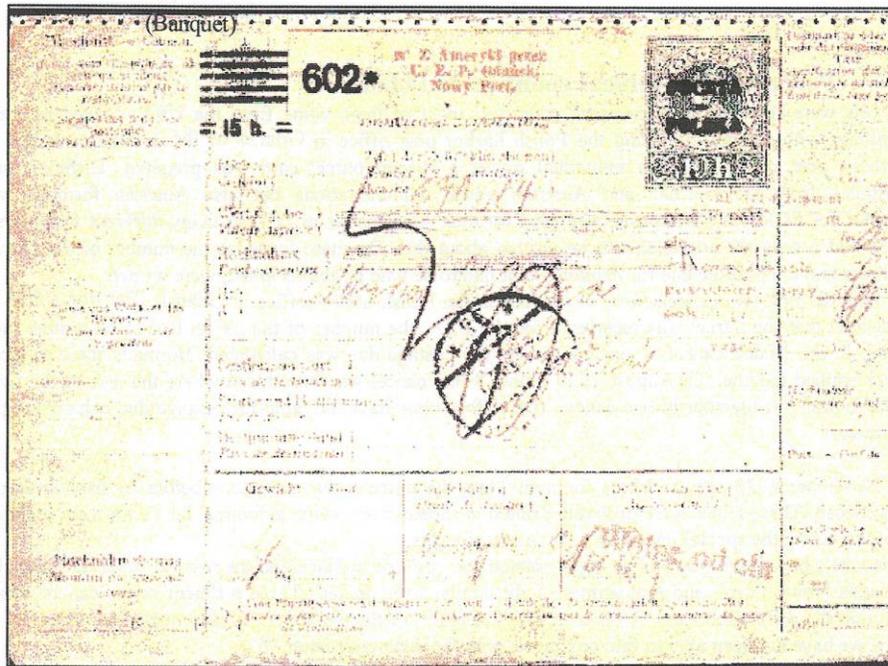
In November 1920 special labels for numbering the parcels, that was done before by handwriting, were introduced. These labels were probably printed in sheets, from which individual labels were cut by knives or scissors along the special lines that were printed for this.

The labels have a number and an eight-pointed star, printed in black and the text "Z Ameryki przez U.E.P. Gdańsk Nowy Port." and (sometimes) a distinction letter in red. Three different series can be separated through the distinction letter: without distinctive letter, distinctive letter "a" and distinctive letter "c". Until now we have not been able to find any labels with the distinctive letter "b".

Looking at the parcel cards that are in several collections all over Europe, we can conclude that labels without distinctive letter and with distinctive letter "a" are common, labels with distinctive letter "c" are quite rare. It seems that labels with the distinctive letter "a" were introduced first (November 1920)*. The first label with distinctive letter "c" is known starting from December 1920. However, the very small amount of these labels available makes it impossible to say whether they were really introduced exactly in that month. Labels without distinctive letters are known starting from March 1921, so several months after the use of labels was introduced. A very strange case is the use of an old German-language label of the post office Posen W. 3, where the text "Z Ameryki" was written by hand on the label. Three parcel cards are known with cancellations of Poznan of 1.12 (2) and 4.12 (1), so at a time when the labels were already available in Gdańsk. For sure the cards were prepared in Gdańsk; the cards have the line cancels that were used in the Polish harbor post office in Gdańsk at that time. However, it is not clear why the parcels were transported through Poznan and why exactly there a label was fixed to the cards.

Next to the label of Poznan and the three main types from Gdańsk, that can be distinguished through the distinctive letter, several subtypes can be distinguished looking at the positions of the three lines with the text "Z Ameryki przez U.E.P. Gdańsk Nowy Port.". Probably the printing forms were made of separate characters. The separate characters and words were not mounted exactly in the same position, which causes the different types. Because we don't know exactly how many labels were printed on one sheet (no full sheets or bigger blocks survived), it is difficult to say exactly how many types exist. It is possible that each label on the sheet can be distinguished, like for instance at the Kraków issue. It is also possible that each type can be found several times in one sheet. The four different labels with distinctive letter "c" are all of a different type and it is possible that other labels "c" will show new types.

Z Ameryki przez
U.E.P. Gdańsk,
Nowy Port.



POLSKI URZĄD POCZTOWY NR. 3 W GDAŃSKU

urząd pocztowy

Bydgoszcz 2

..... paczek

pakował

P. i T. Gdańsk Druk 26 K. Feller's Naaf. 5. Czyżewski Gdańsk

Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr. 3 w Gdańsku

Bureau de Poste à Copenhague

{ pustych worów
sacs vides

D. P. i T. Gdańsk nr. 36. DRUKARNA GOSKINA A/S. 3306-27

Poznań 3

..... paczek

pakował

Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr 1 w Gdańsku.

ad parcel Bill:	p. b. position:	Parcels:	Bureau de Poste Polonais Nro. 3 à Gdańsk-Dantzig
		Sac Nro.	Bureau de Poste à New York

Distinctive character	Type	Position u(tzad)	Position (G)d(ańsk)	Position N(owy)	Used
POSEN W.3	1				12.21
No	2.1	clearly right as compared to Z	Between i (Ameryki) and p (przez)		03.21 – 11.21
	2.2	slightly right from Z	Slightly right from i		03.21 – 09.21
	2.3	under Z	Under i		04.21 – 05.21
	2.4	left from Z	Between k and i		11.21
a	3.1	slightly right from Z	Between i and p		1.21
	3.2	slightly left from Z	Between k and i		12.20
	3.3	slightly left from Z	under k		3.21 – 4.21
	3.4	left from Z	under i	under E	12.20-12.21
	3.5	left from Z	under i	left from E	11.20 – 11.21
	3.6	left from Z	under k		01.21
	3.7	far left from Z	under k		02.21 – 04.21
c	4.1	far left from Z	slightly left from i		07.21
	4.2	slightly left from Z	slightly left from i		12.20
	4.3	below Z	far left from i		02.22
	4.4	slightly right from Z	D between i and p		11.21

Table 2: Different types of Gdańsk Nowy Port labels

On January 11, 1922, the name of the office was changed into Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr1w Gdańsku. Just like new date stamps, labels with the new name were not immediately available. In February 1922 the old labels (and the old date stamp) were still being used; cards from March 15 and 21, 1922 have no label. We don't know exactly when the labels with the new name of the post office were introduced because material from April 1922 until January 1923 is missing. The first known date of the labels with the new name Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr 1 w Gdańsku is from January 1923.

Probably the new labels were printed by the Laskauer-company from Warszawa. Also here different labels were used: without a distinctive letter and with the distinctive letter "c". Probably they were both introduced at the same moment. The first known date of a label without distinctive letter is 10.01.1923, labels with distinctive letter "c" 04.01.1923. Labels without distinctive letter are known only from the first half of January 1923, labels with "c" from January, April, May and July 1923.

Looking at these labels we can see several differences. The position of the numbers as compared to the text is different. This could indicate that the numbers and the text were printed separately, just like the Nowy Port labels where the numbers were printed separately even in a different color. Also the position of the distinctive letter "c" is horizontally and vertically different as compared to the z. Also each line can be shifted horizontally as compared to the other two lines and different distances between words (for instance w and Gdańsku) appear. The limited amount of material shows that almost every label is different. Further research on more material is necessary here. These labels of Polish post office Gdańsk 1 are much more rare than the Gdańsk Nowy Port labels.

- 5 z Ameryki przez Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr 1 w Gdańsku.
Without distinctive letter 01.23
- 6 z Ameryki przez Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr 1 w Gdańsku.
distinctive letter "c" 01.23, 04.23, 05.23 and 07.23

On December 1, 1923 the Polish post office Gdańsk 1 stopped preparing the parcel cards for packages arriving from the USA. Instead of this, only the small sheets with the table for calculating postage due that had to be paid by the recipient in Poland were glued on one of the two customs-declarations that were made for each package by the American and other post offices.

Mailbags and crates with packages that arrived from overseas countries were sent from the Polish harbor post office in Gdańsk by train to Poland. For these mailbags and crates, special labels were printed as well, each of them indicating the destination post office in Poland, the number of packages that were packed and the name of the post men who packed everything. Also here we see a difference in the number of the harbor Post office in Gdańsk, depending on whether the label was used before or after August 1, 1926.

- 7 Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr. 1 w Gdańsku-Poznań 3 (yellow)
- 8 Polski Urząd Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 - Urząd Pocztowy Tczew 2 (white)
- 9 Polski Urząd Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 - Urząd Pocztowy LodG 1 (orange)
- 10 Polski Urząd Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 - Urząd Pocztowy LodG 1 (salmon)
- 11 Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr.3 w Gdańsku - Urząd Pocztowy Bydgoszcz 2 (yellow)
- 12 Polski Urząd Pocztowy Nr.3 w Gdańsku - Urząd Pocztowy Leszno (blue)

3 Parcels and mailbags from Poland to overseas countries

In the Polish harbor post office, mailbags and crates with packages arrived by train from post offices all over Poland. These mailbags and crates had to be shipped to overseas destinations. Also mailbags that were received in Gdańsk from overseas destinations and were emptied in the Gdańsk harbor post office had to be returned. For these shipments, special labels were prepared for each destination as well.

As we can see on the printing numbers that are below some of the labels, they were printed especially for the Polish Post Management in Gdańsk by either the Drukarnia Gdańska or H.Feller'a Nast. S. CzyGewski from Gdańsk

- 13 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Nr. 1 w Gdańsku – Bureau de Poste a Stockholm (salmon)
 - 14 Bureau de Poste Polonais Nro. 1 a Gdańsk-Dantzig – Bureau de Poste a New York (white)
- (On this label, the number of the postoffice Gdańsk 1 was changed by hand in Gdańsk 3. Probably this was done after the number had been changed on August 1, 1926.)
- 15 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 – Bureau de Poste a Montreal-Canada (green)
 - 16 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 – Bureau de Poste a Hull (pink)
 - 17 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 – Office of Exchange a London (Parcel Section) (yellow)
 - 18 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 – Bureau de Poste a London (salmon)
 - 19 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 – Bureau de Poste a Malmö (salmon)
 - 20 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 – Bureau de Poste a Oslo – Norvege (white)
 - 21 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 – Bureau de Poste a Copenhagen (white)
 - 22 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Nr. 3 w Gdańsku – Bureau de Poste a Copenhagen (yellow)
 - 23 Polski Urz"d Pocztowy Gdańsk 3 – Bureau de Poste a Helsingfors (white)

Probably more labels with other destinations exist, but we have not been able to find them.

Conclusion

Since November 1920 in the Polish harbor post office in Gdańsk different labels were used for parcels and mailbags that were exchanged between Poland and overseas countries and for overseas parcels and mailbags that were sent from Gdańsk to post offices in Poland. Because of the change of the name of the harbor post office, the text of the labels had to be changed in 1922 and in 1926. Unfortunately, some of the labels are very rare and more material is necessary for further research. On December 1st, 1923 the preparing of a parcel card for each individual parcel was stopped and labels were only used for mailbags or crates that were used for packing the parcels.

* Because no date stamps were used by the Polish post in Gdańsk at that moment, it is difficult to fix the date the parcel card was prepared in Gdańsk exactly. Sometimes only transit or arrival cancels are on the parcel cards. In that case these dates have been used, supposing that the parcel was only a few days earlier at the post office in Gdańsk.

Literature:

Bericht des laut Beschluß des Völkerbundes vom 11. Juni 1925 eingesetzten Sachverständigen-Ausschusses für die Abgrenzung des Hafens von Danzig für Zwecke des polnischen Postdienstes in Danzig (Danzig 1925).

Franciszek Bogacki, 'Wymiana poczty zamorskiej przez port Gdański w latach 1920 do 1939', in: *Przegląd pocztowy* 1 (1948) 9-13.

Janusz Jank, *Działalność usługowa poczty polskiej w Wolnym Miście Gdańsku w latach 1920-1939* (Gdańsk 1999) 84-94.

Poczta Polska w W.M. Gdańsku (Warszawa 1931).

Aleksander Sniezko, *Poczta polska w Wolnym Miście Gdańsku* (Wrocław 1964) 29-35.

PLAN TO ATTEND BALPEX! The Danzig Study Group meets at

10 A.M. Saturday, September 1st

Come to your DSG meeting and meet your Danzig-collecting friends. Exchange information and covers. Bring your extras for our next auction. Receive that landmark publication, DR-112, that researches Napoleon's Free City of Danzig 1807 - 1814.

A truly remarkable project by Giles du Boulay! Also, we hope to show slides of important scenes in Danzig, to be taken in August!

---Also bring your Danzig questions and comments to the meeting.

Fill out dinner coupon on next page & mail with check to BPS

AuctionWatch

Coming from the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento, CA, I saw first-hand that interest remains high in high-quality stamps, and prices remain firm. With that said, we will survey a broad cross-section of WWII-era stamps and covers, noting some of the more successful recent on-line auctions.

Note: 1 Euro = 1.01 American dollars.

From Dr. Reinhard Fischer Auktions



Souvenir sheets issue "Red Cross" on the occasion of foreign Red Cross Delegations in the hood Theresienstadt, number 307, black, in perfect condition mint never hinged, expertise Robert Brunel VP (2022) : "the condition is perfect.", Michel 700.- Start Bid €500 - SOLD for €950.00

Note: The auction house noted that two years ago, they obtained one like this for 700 Euros.

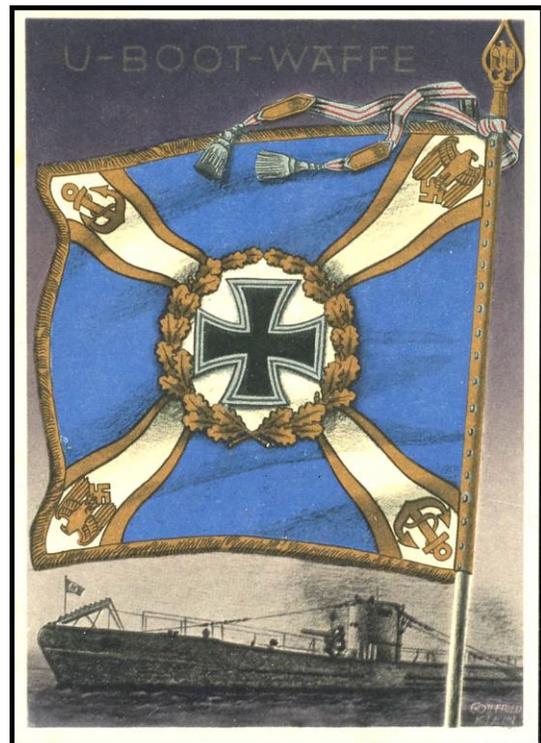


1, 50 Fr. Dark red brown with overprint "fortress Lorient" in the vertical pair with variety "missing overprint on of the lower stamp", in perfect condition mint never hinged, these pairs "with and without overprint" are by fortress Lorient very rare and at the denomination value to 1, 50 Fr. Despite intensely research only in at present four copies known! The proof of these pieces leads now in addition to it, that this variety to the submission to the Michel catalogue to the cataloging proposed becomes, anyway a very rare pair! Expertized BPP and photo expertized by Lothar Herbst VP (2016) : "the condition is perfect. Due to the small issue from only 1.800 stamps are these stamps rare. By of this stamp are me so far only four vertical such pairs with of this variety known. Stamps pairs with and without overprint are therefore extremely rare.

Start Bid €900/ SOLD for €860.00

1942, U boat arm, "the triumphant flags and standards of the German Armed Forces", color propaganda card no. 20 to a draft from Gottfried Klein / Munich, from the central publishing house of the NSDAP, French rather successor, Gmb H, Munich, franked, special cancel "Hagen (Westf) 29.3.1942 6. Day of the Armed Forces", unmailed, good condition.

Start Bid €50/ SOLD for €60.00





1940, colored song picture postcard \"Horst Wessel Song\", with back illustration \"Notes, beside marching soldiers and swastika flag\", unused, very rare card, in perfect condition, RRR! The hammer price in our 185. Auction for a qualitatively equivalent piece was 340 Euro (an auction last year- Editor)

Start Bid €300 - SOLD for €320.00

12 Pfg+8 Pfg \"7. Tyrolean state shooting\", proof in black bluish green, on pieces of a presentation cardboards, numeral of value and inscription alien from the issued stamp, not by Michel indicates, very rare, photo expertized H. D. Schlegel BPP

Start Bid €700
SOLD for €700.00





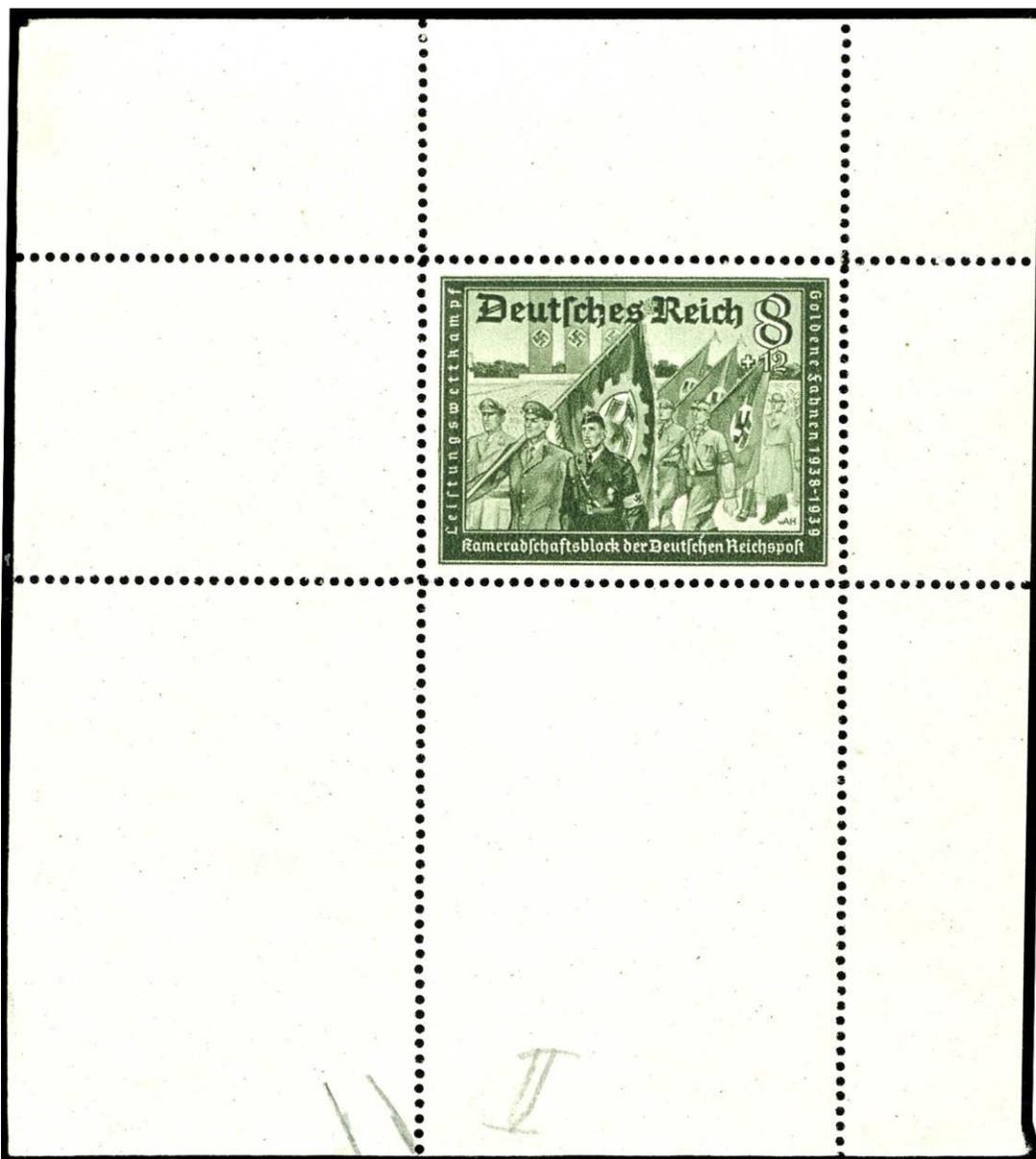
42 Pfg+108 Pfg "Brown Ribbon 1939", variety "on greenish paper", in perfect condition mint never hinged, from right margin of sheet with row number "37, 50", unsigned, this stamp was only inside a curve erroneously at the post-office counter in Kiel sold, one of the large rarities of the German Reich, photo-expertized. H. D. Schlegel BPP: "the condition is perfect.", Michel 3.800.

Start Bid €1000/SOLD for €1,000.00

6 Pfg "Day of the Postage Stamp 1942" on greenish paper, in perfect condition mint never hinged, expertized Schlegel BPP and photo expertized Dr. Oechsner BPP: "in perfect quality.", Michel 2.500.- (8111)

Start Bid €750/SOLD for €1,200.00





8 Pfg+12 Pfg \"comradeship block\", color-proof print in olive green with line perforation as single copy, in perfect condition mint never hinged, photo expertized by Georg Buehler (1976), Michel undervalued, are hardly ever offered! (774P)

Start Bid €350/SOLD for €520.00



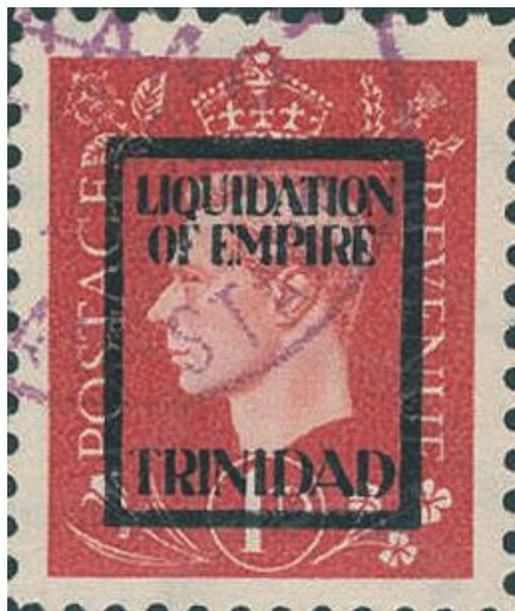
Souvenir sheets issue "10 years German help in need", used "LORCH (WÜRZT) 30.6.35"; full original format and except for two small tiny stain spots in perfect condition, unsigned, photo expertized by A. Schlegel BPP (2000): "the condition is perfect." (still without tiny stain spots), Michel 12,000.- - in total nevertheless an above average received piece of this difficult issue!

Start Bid €2500/SOLD for €2,800.00

Gert Muller Auctions:

King George VI. With overprint "WORLD-SLAVERY", fresh colors and in perfect condition mint never hinged, as issued without gum the edition amounted to be on only approximate 30 piece. Photo-expertized "perfect" Pieles BPP.

Start Bid €600/SOLD for €500.00



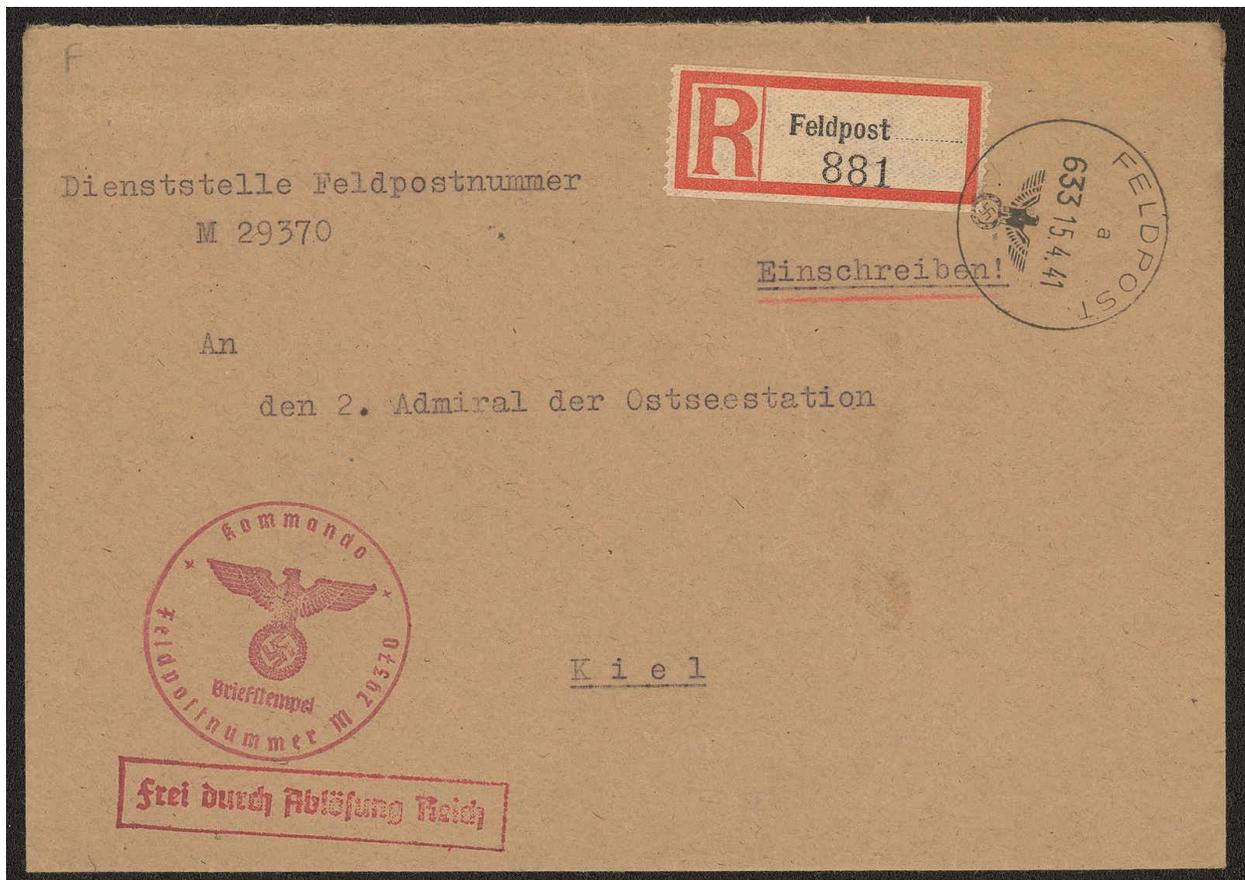
1 P. With overprint "TRINIDAD", neat cancelled, photo-expertized Pieles BPP.

And I just had to show you this one! If you can afford it, let me know. You are my new best friend:



The First Day Cover world rarity: postal stamps 1943, 21 different values, fresh colors and in perfect condition on sensational First Day Cover with clean first day postmark "ZARA 9.10.43. ". Included are also the top rare pieces to 2, 55 liras in type I with plate flaw V (edition 20 pieces), 3, 70 liras (edition 800 piece), 10 liras in type II (edition 428 pieces), 20 liras (edition 71 piece), 25 liras (edition 32 pieces!!) and 50 liras (edition 47 pieces!!). Especially the values to 25 liras and 50 liras become even as normal examples pretty much never offered and to class among the large rarities of this area. This First Day Cover places one of the largest rarities of the German philately world. Unique! Photo certificates Alberto Diena (1964) and Robert Brunel (2021).

Offered at 100,000 euros. No one bid on it.



"UJ-14011", rare registered cover this very small swimming naval combat unit with clear Feldpost cancel "army postal service a633 15.4.41" (field post office 278) of the APM AOK 7, stations at the port from Bordeaux on military navy envelope with letter cancel "free by exemption providing franking privilege REICH" to Kiel with arrival postmark. In the cover is left above colorless the word "war navy" engraved. Rare!
Start Bid €150
SOLD for €150.00

Trivia

1. Which of these terms/events is the ODD one out?

- Ariernachweis.
- Kristallnacht.
- Spetsnaz.
- Einsatzgruppen.

2. What did the Wannsee Conference do?

- It discussed the non-aggression pact between Germany and Russia.
- It coordinated the administration of the "Final Solution".
- It formed the alliance between Germany and Italy.
- It drew up plans to enable SS officers to flee to Argentina in the event of defeat.

3. What was a Trümmerfrau?

- A female Nazi Party Member that had given birth to MORE than 3 male offspring.
- The rank bestowed to the Nazi Leader for Women, Gertrud Scholtz-Klink.
- Brutal female SS Guards in charge of concentration camps.
- A woman that cleared debris and rubble.

4. Complete this quote by Hitler.

"If the French had marched into the Rhineland, _____".

- we would have been forced to bomb Paris to rubble.
- they would have lost the battle within a day, my superior German troops are greater than those of the Roman Empire.
- it would have been the beginning of yet another catastrophic war that Germany would have easily lost.
- we would have had to withdraw with our tails between our legs.

5. What were the names of the foreign ministers that signed the non-aggression pact between Germany and Russia?

- Heinz Guderian and Semyon Krivoshein.
- None of these people were involved.
- Friedrich Werner von der Schulenburg and Andrei Zhdanov.
- Vyacheslav Molotov and Joachim von Ribbentrop.

6. The Night of the Long Knives was designated "Operation _____" ?

- T4.
- Purity.
- Hummingbird.
- Reinhard.

7. The "Condor Legion" was responsible for the bombing of what Spanish town during the Spanish Civil War?

- Guernica.

- Madrid.
- Barcelona.
- Valencia.

8. Even though the name of the Pole Witold Pilecki is not exactly well known outside Poland, he did end up in the history books.

What was his claim to fame?

- He attempted to kill Hitler with a bomb hidden inside a Munich beer hall on 8 November, 1939.
- He was responsible for the assassination of SS officer, Reinhard Heydrich, in Czechoslovakia in 1942.
- He was the ONLY person to escape from Auschwitz.
- He volunteered to be imprisoned in the Auschwitz.

9. What town (or city) was subjected to severe reprisals when Nazi SS henchman, Reinhard Heydrich, was assassinated in Czechoslovakia in 1942?

- Brno.
- Lidice.
- Prague.
- Most.

10. The Sachsenhausen concentration camp was located north of Berlin and was considered to be a training camp for SS officers.

It claimed fame for "Operation Bernhard".

What was produced at the camp as a result of Operation Bernhard?

- The V1 and V2 rockets.
 - Bricks.
 - Counterfeit money.
 - Atomic weapon research
- 

Answers

1. Which of these terms/events is the ODD one out?

Answer: **Spetsnaz.**

A bit of a trick question here. "Kristallnacht", "Einsatzgruppen" and "Ariernachweis" were all associated with Nazi Germany. The Spetsnaz is the name of the Russian Special Forces that was formed after World War II.

The "Kristallnacht" took place on the 9th and 10th of November, 1938 (and in some areas continued for about 3-4 days). It was a synchronized attack on the Jewish people and their property. By the end of the night hundreds of Jewish businesses and synagogues were destroyed, 91 Jews were murdered and thousands were arrested and sent to concentration camps. The event became known as the "Night of Broken Glass" or "Kristallnacht" because of the massive amounts of broken glass that littered the streets.

The "Einsatzgruppen" were SS death squads that took part in the killings of Jews and others. The "Einsatzgruppen" followed the forward troops in the invasion of the Soviet Union and systematically killed the Jews.

The "Ariernachweis" was a certificate of "Aryan" origin. It was usually based on certificates of baptism, though of course problems arose if there was any illegitimacy in a family.

2. What did the Wannsee Conference do?

Answer: **It coordinated the administration of the "Final Solution".**

Contrary to a widespread misconception found in some older, out-of-date history books, the Wannsee Conference did **not** take any policy decision. (The decision to exterminate the Jews had already been taken some time between September and December, 1941, and the Holocaust had already started).

The Wannsee Conference was a quite short, brisk meeting that lasted only 85 minutes and was held on 20 January, 1942). It was held in an SS villa in Wannsee, in S.W. Berlin and attended by 15 high ranking Nazis, but not by the actual Nazi leadership.

The meeting was chaired by Heydrich, and Eichmann took the minutes with their notorious references to "the Final Solution of the Jewish Question".

3. What was a Trümmerfrau?

Answer: **A woman that cleared debris and rubble.**

A Trümmerfrau was a woman that helped to clear the rubble from bombed buildings in the aftermath of the war. The name translates to: ruin, or rubble, women. Up to 50,000 women were drafted into the Trümmerfrau. The Allies again employed Trümmerfrauen. (In 1945 in the British Zone they were paid three (pre-decimal) pence (3d) an hour at the then current rate of exchange, but they and their children were also given free meals).

Gertrud Scholtz-Klink's title was Reichsfrauenführerin (RFF) or National Women's Leader.

4. Complete this quote by Hitler. "If the French had marched into the Rhineland, _____".

Answer: **we would have had to withdraw with our tails between our legs.**

The failure of France to take positive action against the remilitarization of the Rhineland in 1936 was to only encourage Hitler in following years. Ultimately, the occupation had been a test to see how France would react. As a result of French inactivity, Hitler's confidence was surged to new heights.

5. What were the names of the foreign ministers that signed the non-aggression pact between Germany and Russia?

Answer: **Vyacheslav Molotov and Joachim von Ribbentrop.**

Dubbed the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact, the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact was signed in August 1939.

Vyacheslav Molotov was the Soviet Foreign Minister (1939-49).

Joachim von Ribbentrop was the German Foreign Minister (1938-45). He was executed for war crimes at Nuremberg.

Semyon Krivoshein was a Soviet tank commander.

Heinz Guderian was a German general.

Friedrich Werner von der Schulenburg was the last German ambassador in the Soviet Union prior to the invasion.

Andrei Zhdanov was a Communist politician.

6. The Night of the Long Knives was designated "Operation _____" ?

Answer: **Hummingbird.**

Operation T4 was the notorious euthanasia program to rid the Third Reich of the mentally ill and other "incurably ill" citizens, including the elderly. Hitler signed the orders on September 20, 1939.

Operation Reinhard was the name given to the plan to kill the Polish Jews. Over 2 million Jews died as a result of this Operation. (In all, about 2.9 million Polish Jews out of a total prewar Polish Jewish population of about 3.3 million were killed).

7. The "Condor Legion" was responsible for the bombing of what Spanish town during the Spanish Civil War?

Answer: **Guernica.**

On 26 April, 1937 bombers of Hitler's "Condor Legion" turned the town of Guernica into rubble during the Spanish Civil War. During a two and a half hour raid the Spanish civilians got a taste of what other cities in Europe would get in later years.

Pablo Picasso created a famous painting of the raid.

8. Even though the name of the Pole Witold Pilecki is not exactly well known outside Poland, he did end up in the history books. What was his claim to fame?

Answer: **He volunteered to be imprisoned in the Auschwitz.**

Polish hero, Witold Pilecki, volunteered to be imprisoned at Auschwitz and provided intelligence on the camp for the Polish Home Army and the Allies. He is the only person ever known to actually volunteer to go INTO Auschwitz. After 945 days he managed to escape. Unfortunately, his reports were dismissed by the British government as exaggerated and implausible ...

However Pilecki was not the only person to escape the barbed wire of Auschwitz. Female inmate, Mala Zimetbaum, and her lover, Edek Galinski, walked right out of the gates! Galinski wore a stolen SS uniform and escorted Zimetbaum through the gates. The plan worked, but was short-lived. They made it to a nearby village but a local resident became suspicious and they were recaptured. They both died for their efforts.

Over 700 people managed to escape from Auschwitz, but the majority were soon recaptured.

9. What town (or city) was subjected to severe reprisals when Nazi SS henchman, Reinhard Heydrich, was assassinated in Czechoslovakia in 1942?

Answer: **Lidice.**

The village of Lidice was subjected to reprisals on 10 June, 1942 for the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich.

Heydrich was badly wounded on 27 May, 1942 and died in hospital a week later as a result.

Orders were issued by Himmler that all of the men were to be executed, the women shipped off to concentration camps and that the village be burned to the ground. Bulldozers then levelled what was left of the village, and the village effectively ceased to exist.

A new village, of the same name, was later built after the war close to the original site.

10. The Sachsenhausen concentration camp was located north of Berlin and was considered to be a training camp for SS officers. It claimed fame for "Operation Bernhard". What was produced at the camp as a result of Operation Bernhard?

Answer: **Counterfeit money.**

Operation Bernhard was a large counterfeiting operation, in fact, it was the largest.

The Nazi in charge of the operation was SS-Sturmbannführer Bernhard Krueger.

During the operation over £134,610,810 (\$377 million in American terms) of American and British bank notes were produced by Jewish prisoners (trained in forgery by the SS).

The fake notes are apparently the best reproductions ever made and practically impossible to distinguish from the real McCoy.

The camp also had a shoe walking unit. The inmates were forced to walk around

all day in shoes to test the shoes for local manufacturers! The tracks the inmates had to walk on were made of various surfaces (sand, rubble, cement etc).

Bricks were also produced at a nearby brick factory. Prisoners were supplied by the camp.

(Taken from funtrivia.com)

For Sale

We do have a few items for sale. They have recently been rebounded and redone. They look great and are definitely worth the price:

Mail Surveillance under the Third Reich by R.J. Houston. 35 pages. \$15.

German Feldpost Operations in the West 1940-1944 by John Painter. 2004. 60 total pages. \$20.

The War of the Springing Tiger by Jeffrey Markem, about Azad Hind stamps and the fight for India's Independence. \$10.

Composition Listing of Organic German Military Units, 1980. \$15.

Each of these are expertly written, filled with details that obviously took scores of hours to research. All proceeds go only to Third Reich Study Group. It is first come /first come serve, and if we get down to one copy, I will get more printed (but that could delay shipping by a week or so if it happens).

E-mail me at ctkolker@mail.com or write to: Christopher Kolker, 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360, for orders or questions.

Thanks!!!!