THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP

A Study Group of the Germany Philatelic Society

Terminology, Translations, and Abbreviations Useful for Third Reich Postal History

Extracted From the:

THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP BULLETIN

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INTRODUCTION

The study of any subject in a language which is not the student's primary language is always something of a challenge. The primary language for all original Third Reich source material is German, and it appears that the majority of the membership in the Third Reich Study Group is based in the United States. There is no doubt there are a few members who have practical (not educational) experience in the language, and those individuals have a distinct advantage over the rest of us. The compiler can attest that his two years of university level German course work, half a century past, has provided him with very little advantage in dealing with the subject at hand.

The subject is further confounded by the fact that the field of philately and postal history is often filled with terminology not usually encountered in ordinary German-English dictionaries and related sources. The same can be said for German military operations and terminology, much of which is couched in standard, but cryptic, abbreviations.

During the preparation of this monograph, several searches were made on the World Wide Web, and multiple websites were encountered which included similar lists of German military terms and their abbreviations. This is obviously an open-ended subject, and one can become mired in the terminology. During these searches, I encountered PDF editions of two US War Department manuals that dealt with the subject. These are:

GERMAN MILITARY DICTIONARY, War Department Technical Manual TM-30-506 (This Dictionary supersedes TM 30-255, August 5, 1943), May 1944. 453 pages.

GERMAN MILITARY ABBREVIATIONS, Prepared by Military Intelligence Service-War Department, .CIAL SERIES, NO. 12, April 12, 1943. 249 pages.

These can easily be found at several locations. I will work with Chris Kolker to see if we can have these posted on the TRSG website to make them more easily accessible to our members.

The present monograph is expected to be a living, dynamic document, and will be one which will include a date in the file name to provide a quick reference that the contents have been added to or corrected in some manner.

The initial composition includes four sections, but more are expected, and suggestions – either from a printed source, or new original work – in order to make it helpful to all users.

Table of Contents

Title Page 1
..... 2
Introduction 2

German Military Mail: A List of Abbreviations, by Jim Lewis (#125) 5
..... 10
Translations of German Military & Feldpost Terminology (Part I) , by Kelly Stefanacci (#201) 10
..... 1
NOTE: Never was a Part II, it appears the entire list published here 10
..... 18
German Official Mail: A List of Abbreviations, by Jim Lewis (#126) 18
..... 20
A Table of Officers ad Enlisted Ranks of the German Army, by James E. Duffy (#125) 20
..... 23
Table of Equivalent Ranks of Auxiliary Organizations 23
..... 26
Table of Place Name Equivalents (Germany), by Myron Fox 26

Glossary of Terms, by Mike Ludeman 29

The initial sections include:

(1) **German Military Mail,** by Jim Lewis**.** A list of terms and abbreviations, published in the **TRSG Bulletin,** Whole No. 125.

(2) **Translations of German Military & Feldpost Terminology (Part I),** by Kelly Stefanacci. Although this title indicates it is Part I, it is apparently complete as it covers all terms A to Z. No Part II was found in subsequent issues. Also, while the hearder indicates this is from "(Whole No. 101)' it is actually in issue #201.

(3) **German Official Mail,** by Jim Lewis**.** A list of terms and abbreviations, published in the **TRSG Bulletin,** Whole No. 126.

(4) **Table of Officer Equivalents**, by James E. Duffy. A comparison of the ranks found in the Germany Army and Equivalence between different branches of the German Military, and Comparison with the ranks in the US Military, published in **TRSG Bulletin**, Whole No. 25.

(5) Glossary of Terms**, by Mike Ludeman.** A collection of terms related to postal history and military subjects, extracted from various sources. Also include some basic color translations.

Readers are encouraged to provide additional terms and translations to the compiler to improve this final section. Please bring these to my attention at the following address.

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GERMAN MILITARY MAIL: A List of Abbreviations

by Jim Lewis

In response to my listing of official abbreviations in Bulletin 124, several members requested a similar listing for abbreviations found on Feldpost, especially from units with open (not Feldpost number) unit addresses. While certainly not complete, it is hoped that the following list proves useful.

Abn.	Abnahme	Inspection
Abschn.	Abschnitt	Detachment
Abt.	Abteilung	Section, equivalent to Battalion
Abw.	Abwehr	Intelligence
A. K.	Armeekorps	Army Corps
Anw.	Anwärter	Applicant
AOK	Armee Ober Kommando	Army High Command
Art.	Artillerie	Artillery
Aufkl..	Aufklärung	Reconnaissance
Ausb.	Ausbildung	Training
Ausg.	Ausgabe	Issuing
Ausl.	Auslade	Unloading
Ausr.	Ausrüstung	Armament
Ausw.	Auswerte	Evaluate
Bäck.	Bäckerei	Bakery
Ball.	Ballon	Balloon
Battr.	Batterie	Battery
B.d.U.	Befehlshaber der U-Boote	Commander in Chief Submarines.
Befestig.	Befestigung	Fortification
Begl.	Begleit	Escort
beh.	behelfsmässig	emergency, provisional
Bekl.	Bekleidung	Clothing
Beob.	Beobachtung	Observation
Ber.	Bereich(s)	Area, jurisdiction
Bereitsch.	Bereitschaft	Readiness
besp.	bespannt	horse drawn
Betr.	Betreib	Operation
Bev.	Bevollmächtigter	Authorized representative
bew.	beweglich	portable
Bez.	Bezirk	District
Bhf.	Bahnhof (s)	Railway station, terminal
bodenst.	bodenständig	stationary
Br.	Brücken	Bridge
Brig.	Brigade	Brigade
Btl.	Bataillon	Battalion
Dir.	Direktion	Administration
Div.	Division	Division
DRK	Deutsches Rotes Kreuz	German Red Cross
Druck.	Druckerei	Printing Office
Dulag	Durchgangslager	Transit Camp
DV	Durchgangsvermittlung	Transit Agency
(E. Tr.)	Eisenbahn Transportschutz	Railway Transport Defense
E. Hafen	Einsatzhafen	Port of Duty
Einh.	Einheit(en)	Unit
Eisb.	Eisenbahn	Railway

Entgift.	Entgiftung	Decontamination
Erg.	Erganzüng	Replacement, recruitment
Erk.	Erkundung	Survey
Ers.	Ersatz	Replacement, depot
Fallsch.	Fallschirm	Parachute
F.A.S.	Flak Artillerie Schule	Anti-Aircraft School
Feldgend.	Feldgendarmerie	Military Police (field)
Fernschr.	Fernschreib	Teletype
Ffk. or FFK	Feldfernkabel	Field telephone cable
Fl.	Flieger	Flyer, airman
Fla.	Flugabwehr	Anti-Aircraft
Flak	Flugabwehrkanone	Anti-Aircraft gun
Flgh.	Flughafen	Air Base
Flgm.	Flugmelde	Air Reports.
Flgz.	Flugzeug	Aircraft
Fl. H. Kdr.	Flieger Horst Kommandantur	Airdrome Command HQ
Flott.	Flottille	Flotilla
Freiw.	Freiwilligen	Volunteer
Fspr.	Fernsprech	Telephone
Fstg.	Festung	Fortress
Fu.	Funk	Radio
Füs	Füsilier	Infantry with rapid fire weapons
Gal.	Galizien	Galician (Ukrainian)
GBK	Generalbevollmächtigter f.d. Kraftfahrwesen	Chief representative for motoring
GD.	Grossdeutschland	Greater Germany
Geb.	Gebirg (s)	Mountain
geh.	geheim	secret
gem.	gemischte	mixed
Gen.	General	General
Gend.	Gendarmerie	Military Police
genes.	genesenden	convalescent
gep.	gepanzert	armored
Ger.	Geräte	Equipment
Germ.	Germanisch (es)	ethnic German
Gesch.	Geschütz	Gun, cannon
Geschw.	Geschwader	Squadron
G.K. Mot.	Gross Kraftfahrzeug Motoren	Large motor vehicle engines
GL	Generalluftzeugmeister	Air ordnance master
Granatw.	Granatwerfer	Grenade launcher
gr.	gross	large
Gren.	Grenadier	Infantryman
Gru.	Gruppe	Group
Grz.	Grenz	Border, frontier
H.	Heeres	Army
H. Geb.	Heeresgebiet	Army Administration Area
Hb.	Hochbau	Building surveyor
HBD	Haupteisenbahndirektion	Railway Administration Chief
Hdtsch.	Hundertschaft	100 Men (early SS formation)
Helf.	Helferin (nen)	Assistant, nurse
H. Gru.	Heeresgruppe	Army Group

Hiwi	Hilfswilligen	Auxilary volunteer
I.G.	Infanterie Geschütz	Infantry rifleman
Inf.	Infanterie	Infantry
Inf. Div.	Infanterie Division	Infantry Divsion
Insp.	Inspektion	Inspection
Instands.	Instandsetzungs	Repairs, maintenance
I.R.	Infanterie Regiment	Infantry Regiment
J.G.	Jagd Geschwader	Pursuit Squadron
Jäg.	Jäger	Hunter, fighter plane
Kriegsgef.	Kreigsgefangenen	Prisoner of War
K.G.	Kampf Geschwader	Fighter Squadron
Kan.	Kanone	Cannon
Kav.	Kavallerie	Cavalry
Kdo	Kommando	Command
Kdr.	Kommandeur	Commanding Officer
Kdt.	Kommandant	Commander
Kdtr.	Kommandantur	Commander's office
Kfz.	Kraftfahrzeug	Motor Transport
kl.	klein	small
Ko.	Kommissar, Kommissariat	Commissioner, Commissariet
Kol.	Kolonne	Column
Kom.	Kommission	Commission
Kp.	Kompanie	Company
Kr.	Kranken	Medical
Kradsch.	Kraftradschützen	Motorcycle gunner
Kraftf.	Kraftfahrer	Motor vehicle driver
Kreigsber.	Kreigsberichter	War reporter
KMD	Kreigsmarinedienststelle	Naval Headquarters
Kü.	Küsten	Coastal
Kw.	Kraftwagen	Motor vehicle
La.	Landwirtschaftlich	Local Economics Office
Laz.	Lazarett	Hospital
Ldssch.	Landesschützen	Local defense (guards)
Ldw.	Landwehr	Reserve (ages 35-45)
le.	leichte	light (in size/weight)
Lg.	Luftgau	Air District
Lichtm.	Lichtmess	Flash ranging
Lm.	Luftminen	Aerial mines
Ln.	Luftnachrichten	Air Signals
L.S	Luftschutzdienst	Air Defense Service
Lt.	Lufttorpedo	Aerial torpodo
Luftfl.	Luftflotte	Air Fleet
Luftl. G.	Luftlande Geschwader	Airborn squadron
Lv.	Luftverteidigung	Air defense
Lw.	Luftwaffe	Air Force
LSSAH	Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler	Adolf Hitler Life Guards (elite SS unit)
Mar.	Marine	Naval
Masch.	Maschinen	Machine
MBK	Mineralöl Brigade Kaukasus	Mineral Oil Brigade Caucassus
M.G. Kp.	Maschinengewehr Kompanie	Machine gun company
Mil.	Militär	Military
Minens.	Minensuch	Mine detector

mittl.	mittlere	middle
Mun.	Munition	Munition
Nachr.	Nachrichten	Signals
NSKK (Todt)	NSKK Trsp. Gru. Todt Abschn. Führung	National Socialist Motor Transport (Detachment Command)
o.	ortsgebunden	stationary, fixed
o.A.	offene Anschrift	open address
Ob. d. H.	Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres	Army Commander in Chief
Ob. d. L.	Oberbefehlshaber des Luftwaffe	Air Force Commander in Chief
Ob. d. M.	Oberbefehlshaber des Kriegsmarine	Navy Commander in Chief
OBR	Oberbauleitung Reichsbahn	Railway Construction High Command
Offz.	Offizier	Officer
Oflag	Offizier Gefangenlager	Officer POW Camp
Okdo.	Oberkommando	High Command
OKH	Oberkommando des Heeres	Army High Command
OKM	Oberkommando der Kriegsmarine	Navy High Command
OKW	Oberkommando des Wehrmacht	Armed Forces High Command
Ordn.	Ordnung	Uniformed
O.T.	Organization Todt	Todt Construction Organization
Pak.	Panzer Abwehr Kanone	Anti-tank gun
Pfd.	Pferde	Horse
Pi.	Pionier	Engineer, sapper
Pol.	Polizei	Police
Prop.	Propaganda	Propaganda
Pz.	Panzer	Tank
Qu.	Quartiermeister	Quartermaster
RAD	Reichsarbeitsdienst	National Labor Service
Radf.	Radfahrer	Cycle rider
R.A.W.	Reichsbahnnausbesserungswerk	National Railway Repair Works
Reit.	Reiter	Rider
Rekr.	Rekruten	Recruit
Rep.	Reparatur	Repair
Res.	Reserve	Reserve
Rgt.	Regiment	Regiment
RFSS	Reichsführer SS	National Leader of SS
rückw.	rückwartig	rear area
Rüst.	Rüstung	Armament
Rv.	Richtverbindung	Directional liaison
San.	Sanitäts	Medical
Sch.	Schutz	Rifle
Schallm.	Schallmess	Sound ranging
Scheinw.	Scheinwerfer	Searchlight
Schlacht G.	Schlachtgeschwader	Battle squadron
Schlächt	Schlächterei	Butchery
Schutz.	Schützen	Rifleman
Schutzm.	Schutzmannschaft	Auxilary police
schw.	schwere	heavy
Schwdr.	Schwadron	Squadron
Sich.	Sicherungs	Security
Sich. Pol. (SD)	Chef der Sicherheitspolizei und des Sicherheitsdienstes	Chief of Security Police & Security Service
s.I.G.	schweres Infanterie Geschütz	heavy Infantry guns

S.K.G.	Schnelles Kampf Geschwader	Rapid Fighter Squadron
Sperrbr.	Sperrbrecher	Blockade breaker
St.	Station (in Verbindung m. Eisenbahn)	Station (liaison with railway)
Staff.	Staffel	Echelon, detachment (Air Force)
Stalag	Stammlager	POW camp for enlisted men
Stand.	Standarte	Waffen-SS unit equivalent to regiment
Stellw.	Stellwerk	Punishment
Stllg.	Stellung	position, emplacement
Str.	Strassen	Road, street
St. G.	Sturzkampfgeschwader	Dive bomber squadron
T.G.	Transportfliegerergeschwader	Transport flight squadron
T. Gru.	Transportfliegerergruppe	Transport flight group
T.K.	Totenkopf	Death's Head (SS unit)
T. Kdo.	Transportkommando	Transport Command
T.O.	Transportkoffizier	Transport Officer
Tr.	Trupp, Truppe, Truppen	Troop
Träg.	Träger	Carrier
Trsp.	Transport	Transport
Tr. Ub. Pl.	Truppen Ubungsplatz	Training area
Tr. Wi. Lager	Truppen Wirtschaftslager	Agricultural camp
Ub.	Ubung (s)	Drill, training
Ubern.	Ubernahme	Acceptance
Uberw.	Uberwachung	Surveillance
U.J.	Unterseeboot Jäger	submarine hunter
Unters.	Untersuchung	Examination
v.	verlegbar	transfer
Verb.	Verbindungs	Liaison
Verf.	Verfugungs	Seconded
Verm.	Vermessungs	Survey
Verpfl.	Verpflegung	Provisions
Vers.	Versuch (s)	Experimental, provisional
verst.	verstärkt	reinforce
Verw.	Verwaltung (s)	Administrative
Vet.	Veterinär	Veterinarian
V.O.	Verbindungsoffizier	Liaison officer
Vorp.	Vorposten	Patrol, outpost
W.	Wehr	Military
Wa.	Waffenamt	Ordnance Department
Weiterltg.	Weiterleitung	Forward, transmit
Wkr. I. G.	Wehrkreis im Generalgouvernment	Military Districts in Occupied Poland
Werrst.	Werkstatt	Repair shop
Wi.	Wirtschaft	Economics
W. Pr.	Wehrmacht Propaganda	Armed Forces Propaganda
z.b. V.	zur besondern Verwendung	for special employment, purpose
Z.E.L.	Zentral Ersatzteillager	Central Parts Depot
Z.G.	Zerstörer Geschwader	Destroyer Squadron
Zugkraftw.	Zugkraftwagen	Tractor

Translations of German Military & Feldpost Terminology (Part 1)

by Kelly Stefanacci

While Feldpost articles in the TRSG Bulletin often provide identifications in German, many of these terms are repetitious and most should be readily translated into English by use of the following list. Note that identities are frequently a combination of two or more basic words which merely have to be put together, for example the word "Heeresunterkunftsverwaltung" combines the words"Heeres" (Army), "Unterkunfts" (billets) and "Verwaltungs" (administration).

German	Abbrev.	English
Abnahmestelle		Inspection/acceptance office
Abschleppezug		Recovery platoon
Abschnitt		Detachment
Abteilung	Abt	Section, equivalent to Battalion
Abwehr	Abw	defense, counter intelligence
Alarmbereit		standby, alarm alert
Allegmeines		general, regular
Amt		office
Anstalt		Institute
Arbeit	Arb	work, labor
Armee		Army
Armeebriefstelle	Abst	Army letter office
Armeeoberkommando	AOK	Army High Command
Armeepostmeister	APM	Army Postmaster
Armenisch		Armenian
Artillerie	Art	Artillery
Auffang		intercept
Aufklarungs	Aufkl	reconnaissance
Ausbildungs		training
Ausgabestelle		Issuing office
Ausladung		unloading
Ausrustungs		Armament
Ausschuss		Scrap, waste
Aussen		perimeter, out-lying
Backerei		Bakery
Bahnhof	Bhf	Railway terminal, station
Bataillon	Btl	Battalion
Batterie	Bttr	Battery
Bau		Construction
Bauleitung		Construction Headquarters
Befehlshaber der	Bef	Commander in Chief, Headquarters command
Befehlsstelle	Befsst	Command Center
Begleit	Begl	Escort
Beim (bei dem)	b.	with the, of the
Bekleidungsamt		Clothing depot
Beobachtungs	Beob	Observation
Beratungs		Advisory

Bereich		Area, jurisdiction
Bereitschaft		Readiness
Beschaffungs		Procurement
Betrieb		Operation
Betriebsstoff		Fuel
Betreuung		Care and control
Bewahrungs		Rehabilitation
Bezirk		District
Bodenabwehr		Stationary defense
Bodenstandig		Stationary
Blutalkohol		Blood alcohol
Bordflak		Shipboard anti-aircraft
Brief		Letter
Brucke	Br	Bridge
Der	d.	the
Deutsche	Dtsch	German
Dienst		Service
Dienststelle		Office, headquarters
Direktion		Administration
Dolmetscher		Interpreter
Donau		Danube
Druckerei		Printing office
Durchgang		Passage
Durchgangslager		Transit camp
Eil		Express
Einheit	Einh	Unit
Einweisung		Training
Eisenbahn	Eisb	Railroad
Einsatz	Eins	sortie, duty tour
Entgiftungs	Entg	Decontamination
Entladung		Explosive
Erganzung		Replacement, recruitment
Erholungsheim		Rest home
Erkundung		Survey
Erprobungs		Test, trial
Ersatz	Ers	Reserve
Estnische	Estn	Estonian
Fahrkolonne	Fahrkol	Transport Column
Fahrschwader	Fahrschwdr	Transport squad
Fahnenjunker		Cadet officer
Fallschirm		Parachute
Fangboot		Pursuit boat
Feldersatz	Felders	Field reserve
Feldflugplatz		Forward airbase
Feldgendarmerie	Feldgend	Military police

Feldpostamt	FpA	Field Postoffice
Feldpostleitstelle	FpLSt	Mail routing office
Feldzeug		Field ordnance
Fernschreiben		Teletype
Fernsprechamt		Telephone office
Fernwaffe		Long range weapon
Festungs	Fstgs	Fortress
Finnische		Finnish
Firma		business, company
Flamenwerfer		Flame thrower
Flemische		Flemish
Flieger		Flyer, airman
Fliegerhorst		Airdrome
Flott		Fleet
Flottille		Flotilla
Flughafen		Airbase
Flugmelde		Air reports
Flugzeug		Aircraft
Flugzeugabwehrkanonen	Flak	Anti-aircraft gun
Fluss		River
Forschung		Research
Franzoisische		French
Freiwillige		volunteer
Front		front lines
Fuhrer		Leader, commander
Fuhrung		Leadership, command
Fusilier	Fus	Infantry with rapid fire weapons
Funk		Radio
Funkmess		Radio locating
Gasschutz		Gas protection
Gau		District
Gebiet		Territory
Gebirgs	Geb	Mountain
Gefangener		Prisoner
Geheim	Geh	Secret
Gemischt	Gem	Mixed
Genesungsheim		Convalescent home
Gepacktross		Baggage train
Gerate		Equipment
Geschutz		Gun, cannon
Geschwader	Geschw	Squadron
Graber		Graves
Granate		Grenade
Grenadier	Gren	Infantryman
Gretz		Border, boundary
Gross	Gr	Large
Gruppe	Gru	Group

Hafen		Harbor, port
Haft		Arrest, imprison
Haubitze		Howitzer
Haupt		Chief, head, main
Hauptmann		Captain
Heeres		Army
Heimat		Homeland
Helfer		Assistant
Hilfs		Auxilary
Hilfskreuzer		Merchant Raider
Hoher	Hoh	Highest, upper
Horch		Intercept, listening
Horst		Air station
Infanterie	Inf	Infantry
Insel		Island
Instandhaltung	Instands	Repair, Maintenance
Intendantur		Superintendent's office
Interessengemeinschaft	I.G.	Industrial trust
Italienische		Italian
Jagd		Pursuit, hunt
Jager		Fighter, hunter
Jugend		Youth
Kabel		Cable
Kampf		Fight, struggle
Kampfflugzeug		Combat aircraft
Kampfgesschwader		Fighter squadron
Kampfgruppe		Combat group
Kanone		Cannon
Karren		Carraige
Karte		Map
Kaserne		Barracks
Kasse		Pay office
Kaukasus		Caucasus
Kavallerie		Cavalry
Kesselwagen		Tank car
Kleine	Kl	Small
Kolonne	Kol	Column
Kommandantur	Kdtr	Command headquarters
Kommando	Kdo	Command
Kommissar		Commissioner
Kompanie	Kp	Company
Korps		Corps
Kosaken		Cossack
Krad		Motorcycle

Kradmelder		Motorcycle messenger
Krieg		War
Kriegsberichter		War reporter
Kriegsgefangener		Prisoner of War
Kriegsmarine		Navy
Kriegskarten		War maps
Kreis		District
Kraftwagen	Kw	Motor vehicle
Krankenkraftwagen	Kr Kw	Ambulance
Krankensammelstelle		Collection point for sick and wounded
Kreuzer		Cruiser
Kroatische		Croatian
Kurier		Courier
Kusten	Ku	Coastal
Lager		Camp
Landes		Local
Landeskopf		Beachhead
Landesschutzen	Ldssch	Local defense
Landung		Landing
Landeplatz		Landing field
Landpoststelle		Rural post office
Landwehr		Reserve (age group 35-45)
Lazarett	Laz	Hospital
Lazarett-Zug	Laz. Zg.	Hospital train
Lehr		Teach, train
Leicht	Le	Light (in size/weight)
Leitstelle	Lst	Routing center
Leitung		Leading, head, main
Lettische	Lett	Latvian
Luft		Air
Luftfeldpost	Lfp	Air Force Feldpost
Luftgau	Lg.	Air District
Luftgaupostamt	LgPA	Air District Postoffice
Luftnachrichten	Ln.	Air Signals
Luftsperre	Lftsp.	Balloon barrage
Luftwaffe	Lw.	Air Force
Luftwaff-Feld-Divisonen	Lw-Felddiv.	Air Force Field Divisions
Machinen		Machine
Machinengewehrschütze	M.G.	Machine gun
Mähren		Moravia
Marlag		POW camp for sailors
Mann, Männer		man, men
Mannschaft		crew, squad
Mannschafter		enlisted personnel
Marine	Mar.	naval

Marine postbüro		Naval post office
Marsch kompanie		replacement co., escort
Meer		Sea
Militär	Mil.	Military
Militärlager	Milag.	POW camp for soldiers
Mit		middle, center
Minenschiff		Mine laying ship
Motorrad		Motorcycle
Morser		Mortar
Moterisiert	Mot.	Motorized
Nachtluftkampf		Night fighter plane
Nachrichten	Nachr.	Signals
Nachschub	Nachsch.	Supply
Nachnahme	n.	C.O.D. (cash on delivery)
Nebel		Smoke
Nebenlager	N.L.	POW branch camp
Netzlager		Net laying ship
Niederlande		Netherlands
Norwegische		Norwegian
Nummer	Nr.	number
Ober		upper, over
Oberkommando		High command
Oberkommando der Wehrmacht	OKW	Armed Forces High Command
Oberkommando des Heerest	OKH	Army High Command
Oberfeldwebel		Master sergeant
Offizierlager	Oflag	POW camp for Officers
Ostsee		Baltic sea
Osterreich		Austria
Päckchen	Pn.	small package
Parteitag		party rally
Park		depot
Panzer	Pz.	armored
Panzerabwehrkanone	PAK	anti-tank gun
Pferde	Pfd.	horse
Pionier	Pi.	engineer
Platz		locality, place
Prüf		test, examine
Prüfstelle		Censor office
Porto frei		postage free
Postanweisung	Panw	Postal money order
Postgebühr		postal rate
Postleitpunkt	PLP	postal transfer point
Raumboot		Mine sweeper
Reich		The Nation
Reichsarbeitsdienst	RAD	National Labor Service

Reichsführer SS	RFSS	National SS Leader
Rekrut	Rekr.	Recruit
Reparatur		Repair
Rückwartig	Rückw.	Rear area
Rüstungs		Armaments
Rundfunk	Rf	Radio
Rumiinisch	rum.	Rumanian
Russisch	russ.	Russian
Sachsverständiger		expert, specialist
Sammelstelle		Collection center
Sanitäts	San.	Medical
Scharfschütze		Sniper, sharp shooter
Scheinwerfer		Search light
Schiff		ship
Schlachtschiff		Battleship
Schnee		Snow
Schnellboot		Speed boat
Schutz		Defense
Schutzstaffel	SS	Protection staff
Schwader	Schwdr.	Squadron
Sicherung	Sich.	Security
Spanische		Spanish
Sonder		Special
Stab		Headquarters
Staffel	Staff.	Squadron (air)
Stammlager	Stalag	Main camp
Standarte		SS Regiment
Stelle	St.	Office, center, place
Straffen		Punish, penal
Sturzkampf	Stuka	Dive bomber
Sturm		Assault
Sturmgeschutz		Assault gun (self-propelled)
Stutzpunkt		Strong point, base
Sud		South
Taxe percué		Postage received
Technisch	Techn	Technical
Teil		Part, portion
Trager		Carrier
Truppen	Tr	Troops
Tschechoslowakei		Czechoshoslovakia
Turkestanisches		Turkish
Uberwachhung		Surveillance
Ubungsplatz		Maneuver (training ground)
Ungarische		Hungarian

Unteroffizier	Uffz	Non-commissioned officer
Unterseeboot	U-boot	Submarine
Verband	Verb.	Formation
Verstärken	verst.	reinforced
Vermittlungs		Procurement
Verwaltungs	Verw.	Administrative
Veterinar	Vet	Vetinary
Volksdeutsche		Ethnic Germans
Volksturm		People's army
Waffen		weapons, combat
Wasser		water
Wehrmacht		Armed forces
Wehrbezirk		Military district
Werft		wharf, dock
Wirtschafts	Wi.	Economics
Zeitung		newspaper
Zerstorer		Destroyer
Zeug		ordnance
Zug		platoon (also RR train)
Zur besondern verwendung	Z.b.v.	for special use
Zweig	Zw.	branch

GERMAN OFFICIAL MAIL: A List of Abbreviations

by Jim Lewis

Collectors of German Official Mail frequently come across abbreviations which they find difficult to identify. The following is a list which I've compiled over the years which may prove helpful in "descrambling" those Dienstpost covers you've been wanting to write up.

AA	Auswärtiges Amt:	Foreign Office
Abt.	Abteilung:	Division
aD	ausser Dienst:	Retired
ADtschR.	Akademie für deutsches Recht:	Academy for German law
AG.	Aktien-Gesellschaft:	Joint Stock Company
AO.	Auslands-Organisation:	Foreign Organization (of the **NSDAP**)
AR.	Aufsichsrat:	Board (of a commercial undertaking)
BDM.	Bund Deutscher Mädel:	League of German girls
BdO.	Befehlshaber der Ordnungspolizei:	Commander of Order Police
BdS.	Befehlshaber der Sicherheitspolizei:	Commander of Security Police
DAF.	Deutsche Arbeitsfront:	German Labor Front
DFW.	Deutsches Frauenwerk:	German Woman's Organization (sub-organization of the **NSF.**)
DGT.	Deutscher Gemeindetag:	Congress of German Municipalities
DHD.	Deutscher Handelsdienst:	German Commercial Service (News Agency)
DNB.	Deutscher Nachrichtenbüro:	German News Agency (owned by Propaganda Ministry)
DPK.	Deutscher Dipolmatisch-politische Korrespondenz:	German Diplomatic and Political Correspondence (News Agency)
DRK.	Deutsches Rotes Kreuz:	German Red Cross.
eh.	ehrenhalber:	honorary.
EK.	Eisernes Kreuz:	Iron Cross
eV.	eingetragener Verein:	Registered Society.
Gen.-Lt.	Generalleutnant	Lieutenant-General
Gen.-Maj.	Generalmajor	Major-General
Gestapo	Geheime Staatspolizei:	Secret State police
GG.	Generalgouvernement:	"General Government."
GmbH.	Gesellschaft mit beschränkter Hafung:	Limited Liability Company
HJ.	Hitler-Jugend:	Hitler Youth
HSSPF.	Höherer SS und Polizeiführer:	Senior SS and Police Leader.
KdF.	Kraft durch Freude:	Strength through Joy (sub-organization of DAF)
KLV.	Kinderlandverschickung:	Evacuation of Children
Kripo	Kriminalpolizei:	Criminal police (Criminal Investigation).
MADR.	Mitglied der Akademie für Deutsches Recht:	Member of Academy for German Law.
MdR.	Mitglied der Reichstag:	Member of Reichstag.
MVGH.	Mitglied der Volksgerichtshofs:	Member of the People's Tribunal.
NS.	Nationalsozialistisch:	National Socialist.
NSDAB	NS-Deutscher Ärztebund:	NS Physicians' League.
NSBDT.	NS-Bund Deutscher Technik:	NS German Technical League.
NSBO.	NS-Betriebszellen Organisation:	NS Workshops Organization.
NSDAP	Nationalsozialistische Deutscher Arbeiterpartei:	National socialist Workers' Party (Nazi Party).
NSDoB.	NS-Dozentenbund:	NS-University Lectureres' League.

NSDStB.	NS-Deutscher Studentenbund:	NS-German Students' League.
NSF.	NS-Frauenschaft:	NS-Women's League.
NSFK.	NS-Fliegerkorps:	NS-Flying Corps.
NSK.	NS-Korrespondenz:	Ns-Correspondence (Official Party News Agency).
NSKK.	NS-Kraftfahrskorps:	NS-Motor Corps.
NSKOV.	NS-Kreigsopferversorgung:	NS-War Victims Association.
NSLB.	NS-Lehrerbund	NS-Teachers' League.
NSRB.	NS-Rechtswahrerbund:	NS-Lawyers' League.
NSRL.	NS-Reichbund für Leibesübungen:	NS league for Physical Culture.
NSV.	NS-Volkswohlfahrt:	NS League for Public Welfare.
OA.	Oberabschnitt:	SS Corps Area, (usually coinciding with WK)
OKH.	Oberkommando der Heeres:	Army High Command.
OKL.	Oberkommando der Luftwaffe:	Air Force High Command.
OKM.	Oberkommando der Kreigsmarine	Navy High Command.
OKW.	Oberkommando der Wehrmacht:	High Command of the Armed Forces.
ORPO.	Ordnungspolizei:	Order Police.
OSAF.	Oberste SA-Fuhrüng:	Supreme Command of the SA.
OT.	Organisation Todt:	Organization Todt (Front Workers' Corps)
Pg.	Parteigenosse:	Party Member (male).
Pgn.	Parteigenossin:	Party Member (female).
Pst.	Preussischer Staatsrat:	Prussian State Councillor.
RAD.	Reichsarbeitsdienst:	Reich Labor Service.
RADwJ.	Reichsarbeitsdienst weibliche Jugend:	Reich Labor Service for Women.
RDB.	Reichsbund der Deutschen Beamten:	Civil Servants' League.
Reg.-Bez.	Regierungsbezirk:	Administrative District.
RFSS.	Reichsführer SS	Reich Leader of the SS.
RJF.	Reichsjugendführung:	Reich Youth Leadership.
RKK.	Reichskulturkammer:	Reich Chamber of Culture.
RL.	Reichsleitung:	Party Directorate.
RLB.	Reichsluftschutzbund:	German Air Warning League.
RRG.	Reichs Rundfunkgesellschaft:	Reich Broadcasting Corporation.
SA.	Sturmabteilung:	Storm Troops (Brown Shirts).
SD.	Sicherheitsdienst:	Security service (of the SS).
SHD.	Sicherheits-und Hilfsdienst	Security and Emergency Service.
SS.	Schutzstaffel:	Himmler's Black Guards.
Stapo.	= Gestapo.	
TN.	Technische Nothilfe:	Technical Emergency Service.
TO.	Transozean:	Transocean (News Agency).
TP.	Transkontinent Press:	Transcontinent Press (News Agency).
VDA.	Volksbund für das Deutschtum im Ausland:	League for Germanism Abroad.
WHW.	Winterhilfswerk:	Winter Relief Organization.
WK.	Wehrkreis:	Military District.
WSS.	Waffen-SS	Armed SS

Supplement to Part IV. Mail of Components of the Wehrmacht, April-July 1971

A Table of Officers and Enlisted Ranks of the German Army and A Table of Equivalent Ranks of Auxiliary Organizations

by James E. Duffy

Collectors of German Military Mail (Feldpost) are confronted with the military, paramilitary or civilian ranks preceding an individual's name on a cover. This designation is often abbreviated and identification is frequently difficult.

Identification of the rank of the sender or recipient, along with the remainder of the address for additional clues, leads to the identification of the unit or organization of which that person is a member.

As Ben Beede pointed out in Part IV, Components of the Wehrmacht, April-July 1971 TRSG Bulletin, RAD, OT, and NSKK members, for example, were assigned to military units. They performed their respective duties under military supervision, and were provided with Feldpost mailing privileges. (For specific information see the aforementioned reference). Although the ranks have been listed in this earlier writing, I thought that a comparative listing would facilitate the location of the organization to which that rank belonged.

Also, students of military mail should have a basic understanding of the ranks of the German Army, as well as of other branches of the military, i.e. Navy, Airforce.

Nearly all German officer ranks correspond to U.S. Army rank, although their terminology differs for general officers, a Generalmajor being the equivalent of a brigadier general

The noncommissioned offficer ranks are divided into two groups: the first group corresponds to the first three grades in the U.S. Army. There is no rank of first sergeant; rather, this is a position usually held by a master sergeant or technical sergeant. A corporal in the German Army functions as acting sergeant and normally is promoted to the rank of staff sergeant rather than sergeant; as to the latter rank.

There are three grades in the group which correspond to U.S. privates first class, and a soldier may be promoted from any of them to become a corporal. They may be described as chief private first class in administrative position (Stabsgefreiter), senior private first class who functions as an acting corporal (Obergefreiter), and ordinary private first class (Gefreiter). A soldier cannot become chief private first class without having been a senior private first class. In most branches there are senior privates first class (Obergrenadiere in infantry, Oberkanoniere in artillery; the Oberjäger, however, in the light, mountain, and parachute divisions, is a corporal) and ordinary privates (Grenadiere, Kanoniere, etc.). (Information from 1 March 1945).

U.S. Army Equivalent	German Basic Rank	Special Designation	Type of Personnel
General of the Army..	Generalfeldmarschall		
General.....	Generaloberst.....		
Lieutenant General...	General	General der Infanterie,etc.	
		Generaloberstabs-	
		Arzt.....	Medical
		Veterinär.....	Veterinary
		Intendant.....	Administrative
		Richter.....	Judiciary

Table of Officer and Enlisted Ranks of the German Army, cont'd.

U.S. Army Equivalent	German Basic Rank	Special Designation	Type of Personnel
Major General.....	Generalleutnant.....	Generalstabs-	
		Arzt, etc. as above	Medical, etc. as above
Brigadier General....	Generalmajor.....	General-	
		Arzt, etc. as above	Medical, etc. as above
Colonel	Oberst	Oberst-	
		Arzt, etc. as above	Medical, etc. as above
Lieutenant Colonel ..	Oberstleutnant	Oberfeld-	
		Arzt, etc. as above	Medical, etc. as above
Major	Major	Oberstabs-	
		Arzt, etc. as above	Medical, etc. as above
Captain	Hauptmann	Stabs-	
	Rittmeister (cav)	Arzt, etc. as above	Medical, etc. as above
First Lieutenant	Oberleutnant	Ober-	
		Arzt	Medical
		Veterinär	Veterinary
		Zahlmeister	Administrative
Second Lieutenant ...	Leutnant	Assistenz-	
		Arzt	Medical
		Veterinär	Veterinary
		Zahlmeister	Administrative
none		(Festungsober-	Fortress Chief Shop
		(Werkmeister	Foreman
		(Oberhufbeschlags- ..	Chief Horseshoeing
		(Lehrmeister	Instructor
none		(Festungs-	Fortress
		(Werkmeister	Shop Foreman
		(Hufbeschlags-	Horseshoeing
		(Lehrmeister	Instructor
Master Sergeant	Stabsfeldwebel	Stabs-	
		Wachtmeister	Arty, Cav, AA
		Beschlagmeister ..	Horseshoeing
		Feuerwerker	Ordnance
		Schirrmeister	Supply
		Funkmeister	Signal
		Brieftaubenmeister	Pigeoneer
Technical Sergeant ..	Oberfeldwebel	Ober-	
		Wachtmeister ...	Arty, Cav, AA
		etc., as above	as above
		Oberfähnrich	Senior Officer Candidate
		Unter-	
		Arzt	Medical
		Veterinär	Veterinary

Table of Officer and Enlisted Ranks of the German Army, cont'd.

U.S. Army Equivalent	German Basic Rank	Special Designation	Type of Personel
Staff Sergeant	Feldwebel	Wachtmeister	Arty, Cav, AA
		etc., as above	as above
		Fahnenjunker-Feldwebel	Advanced Officer Candidate
Sergeant	Unterfeldwebel	Unterwachtmeister ..	Arty, Cav, AA
		Fahnenjunker	Officer Candidate
Corporal	Unteroffizier	Oberjäger	Light and Mt. Inf.
Private First Class			
(administrative) ..	Stabsgefreiter	Hauptgefreiter	Air Force
(acting corporal) .	Obergefreiter		
(ordinary)	Gefreiter		
Private			
(Senior)	Obersoldat	Obergrenadier	Infantry
	(collective term)	(Oberschütze)	(rifleman)
		Panzer-	
		Obergrenadier	Armored Infantry
		Oberschütze	Tanks, Antitank
		Ober-	
		Reiter	Cavalry
		Kanonier	Artillery
		Pionier	Engineers
		Funker	Signal
		Fahrer	Transport (horse-drawn)
		Kraftfahrer	Motor Transport
		Sanitätssoldat ...	Medical
(ordinary).....	Soldat	Grenadier	Infantry
	(collective term)	(Schütze)	(rifleman)
		Panzer-	
		Grenadier	Armored Infantry
		(Schütze)	
		Jäger	Light Mtn. Infantry
		Flieger	Air Force
		Reiter, etc.	Cavalry, etc.
		as above	as above

Other designations found on Feldpost covers:

Wehrmachtbeamter - civilian official of the armed forces
Sonderführer - specialist (includes interpreters, laboratory technicians, radio specialists, cameramen, etc., serving in the German armed forces with nominal rank up to Battalion commander but no actual military rank).
Helferinnen - Womens Auxiliaries; (Stabshelferin - woman clerk auxiliary; Nachrichtenhelferin - signal communication woman auxiliary).

Table of Equivalent Ranks

Army	SS	Police	TN (and other auxiliary police)	RAD
Gren.	SS-Mann	Anwärter	Anwärter	Arbeitsmann
Ob. Gren.	Sturmmann			Vormann
Gefr.	Rottenfuhrer	Unterwachtmeister	Unterwachtmeister	Obervormann
Ob. Gefr.		Rottwachtmeister	Rottwachtmeister	Hauptvormann
Stabsgefr.				Untertruppführer
Unt. Offz.	Unterscharführer	Wachtmeister	Wachtmeister	Truppführer
Unt. Feldw.	Scharführer	Oberwachtmeister	Oberwachtmeister	
Feldw.	Oberscharführer	Zugwachmeister	Zugwachtmeister	Obertruppführer
Ob. Feldw.	Hauptscharführer	Hauptwachmeister	Hauptwachtmeister	
Stabsfeldw.	Sturmscharführer		Bereitschafts-wachtmeister	
		Meister	Meister	Unterfeldmeister
		Obermeister		
Lt.	Untersturmführer	Leutnan	Zugführer	Feldmeister
Ob. Lt.	Oberstrumführer	Oberleutnant	Oberzugführer	Oberfeldmeister
Hauptmann	Hauptsturmführer	Hauptmann	Bereitschafts-führer	Oberstfeldmeister
Major	Sturmbannführer	Major	Abteilungsführer	Arbeitsführer
Obst. Lt.	Obersturmbann-führer	Oberstleutnant	Oberabteilungs-führer	Oberarbeitsführer
Oberst	Standartenführer	Oberst	Landesführer	Oberstarbeits-führer
	Oberführer			
Gen. Major	Brigadeführer	Generalmajor		Generalarbeitsführer
Gen. Lt.	Guppenführer	Generalleutnant	(Chef der TN)	Obergeneral-arbeitsführer
General	Obergruppenführer	General		
Gen. Obst.	Oberstgruppenführer	Generaloberst		Reichsarbeitsführer
Gen. Feldm.	Reichsführer-SS			

Table of Equivalent Ranks

OT	NSKK	Party Officials#	SA and NSFK	HJ
Arbeiter	Sturmmann	Helfer	Sturmmann##	Hitlerjunge
Vormann	Obersturmmann	Oberhelfer	Obersturmmann##	Rottenführer
Meister	Rottenführer	Arbeitsleiter	Rottenführer	Oberrottenführer
Obermeister		Oberarbeitsleiter		
		Hauptarbeitsleiter		
Truppführer	Scharführer		Scharführer	Kameradschaftsführer
	Oberscharführer		Oberscharführer	Oberkameradschaftsführer
Obertruppführer	Truppführer	Bereitschaftsleiter	Truppführer	Scharführer
Haupttruppführer	Obertruppführer	Oberbereitschaftsleiter	Obertruppführer	Oberscharführer
	Haupttruppführer	Hauptbereitschaftsleiter	Haupttruppführer	
Frontführer	Sturmführer	Einsatzleiter	Sturmführer	Gefolgschatsführer
Oberfrontführer	Obersturmführer	Obereinsatzleiter	Obersturmführer	Obergefolgschaftsführer
Hauptfrontführer	Hauptsturmführer	Haupteinsatzleiter	Hauptsturmführer	Hauptgefolgschaftsführer
Stabsfrontführer	Staffelführer	Gemeinschaftsleiter	Sturmbannführer	Stammführer
Oberstabsfrontführer	Oberstaffelführer	Hauptgemeinschaftsleiter	Obersturmbannführer	Oberstammführer
Oberstfrontführer	Standartenführer	Hauptabschnittsführer	Standartenführer	Bannführer
	Oberführer	Hauptbereichsleiter	Oberführer	Hauptbannführer
Einsatzleiter	Brigadeführer	Hauptdienstleiter	Brigadeführer	Gebeitsführer
Einsatzgruppenleiter II	Gruppenführer	Hauptbefehlsleiter	Gruppenführer	Obergebeitsführer
Einsatzgruppenleiter I	Obergruppenführer	Gauleiter	Obergruppführer	Stabsführer
Chef der OT	Korpsführer	Reichsleiter	Stabschef der SA	Reichsjugendführer

This is only a selection of the many Party ranks

SA-Sturmmann equals NSFK-Mann
SA-Obersturmmann equals NSFK-Sturmma

Tables, cont'd.

After you have perused these tables, I'm hoping you'll say (if you are interested in Feldpost), "Isn't this great; now I can dig out those covers I've been wondering about". Alack and alas (in some instances) the tables availeth not!

For example, turn back to the April-July 71 TRSG Bulletin, Feldpost Handbook, Part IV, page 4 and note the two illustrations and the addresses.

The first cover is addressed to Herrn (name deleted) NSKK Fahrer, and look under the NSKK column on page 31 of this bulletin. You'll find a lot of "führers", but no "Fahrer". Now turn to page 29 (of this Bulletin), section Privates (Senior) Ober-, and here you'll discover a Fahrer, that is if you have read through the table section word for word. You could assume, without too much contradiction, that this person was a driver of horse-drawn or motor transport vehicles.

The second address is to Herrn Heereshauptwerkmeister H. (Name deleted). A werkmeister is a shop foreman with a civilian official ranking as a Master Sergeant. We can assume he is a civilian possibly in the RAD or OT. On the other hand, if we refer back to page 28, you will notice the rank designations that have no U.S. Army equivalent, and you will note a "Werkmeister" designation. With the word "Heeres" Army and "haupt" chief, or head, perhaps the sender should have written the word ....hauptwachtmeister, which is the equivalent of a master sergeant in the cavalry. Some people like cross-word puzzles, too.

Now don't be too disappointed. I didn't say it was foolproof, but at least this is a beginning, isn't it?

When you look through your Feldpost covers you may run across addresses or return addresses such as.....

SS Hstmf M. _____, FPNr. 15807/A, which is a Hauptsturmführer, the equivalent of an army captain.

Sonderführer Alfred J_____, Nr. 07684, a Specialist perhaps.

Grenadier Gerhard _____, an ordinary private in Marsch. Komp, Gren. Ers. Batl 386 (Marschkompanie, Grenadier Ersatz Bataillon 386) or a trained reserve infantry unit; i.e. Batallion 386.

Obersoldat Hans _____, senior private, FPNr. 14131 D.

Schütze Kurt _____, ordinary private (rifleman) in 1-3 Schützen Ersatz Komp, (a reserve rifle company).

Stabarzt Dr. Hans _____, captain (Medical) Löwenberg/Schles, Reservelazarett, Teillazarett Hedwigstift. (General Hospital).

Herrn Rittmeister Altmann _____, FPNr. 22587, a captain in the Cavalry.

These are but a few of the ranks and titles you may run across. I hope all of this is not too confusing. There may be some enlightenment about a particular cover just a paragraph or page away. By the way, does anyone know what a K.V.A. Franz _____, Gruppe Arbeit, 07684 is; or Herrn KVOJ Josef_____, FPNr. 07684?

Good Hunting!

A frequent source of confusion to collectors of postal history are the many towns in Europe which had German names that were not always similar to their native names. Myron Fox has sent us a handy cross-reference list to share with the membership:

TABLE OF PLACE NAME EQUIVALENTS

Throughout this WHO'S WHO the German names of places in Germany and Austria have been used for the sake of convenience and easier reference. The following lists contain :

Section I. German place names and their non-German equivalents.

Section II. Non-German place names and their German equivalents.

In both lists the following letters have been inserted to identify non-German place names :

C	Czechoslovakia	L	Lithuania
F	France	P	Poland
I	Italy	Y	Yugoslavia

Section I

Asch	C	As
Aussig	C	Usti
Bärn	C	Moravsky Beroun
Bendsburg	P	Bedzin
Berent	P	Koscierzyna
Bielitz	P	Bielsko
Birnbaum	P	Miedzychod
Bischofteinitz	C	Horsovsky Tyn
Blachstädt	P	Blachownia
Böhmisch Leipa	C	Ceská Lipa
Bozen	I	Bolzano
Braunau	C	Broumov
Briesen	P	Wabrzezno
Brixen	I	Bressanone
Bromberg	P	Bydgoszcz
Brünn	C	Brno
Brüx	C	Most
Bruneck	I	Brunice
Budweis	C	Budejovice
Cille	Y	Celje
Deutsch-Gabel	C	Nemecké Jablonné
Dietfurt	P	Znin
Diedenhofen	F	Thionville
Dirschau	P	Tczew
Dux	C	Duchcov
Eger	C	Cheb
Eichenbrück-Wongrowitz	P	Wagrowiec
Falkenau	C	Falknov
Freiwaldau	C	Fryvaldov
Freudenthal	C	Bruntal
Friedland	C	Frydlant
Gablonz	C	Jablonec
Gasten	P	Gostynin
Gebweiler	F	Guebwiller
Gnesen	P	Gniezno
Gostingen	P	Gostyn
Gotenhafen	P	Gdynia
Grätz	P	Grodzisk
Graslitz	C	Kraslice
Graudenz	P	Grudziadz
Grulich	C	Králiky
Hagenau	F	Haguenau
Heinrichswalde	L	Siluté
Hermannsbad	P	Ciechocinek
Hohenelbe	C	Vrchlabi
Hohensalza	P	Inowroclaw
Hohenstadt	C	Zábreh
Iglau	C	Jihlawa
Ilkenau	P	Olkusz
Jägerndorf	C	Krnov
Jarotschin	P	Jarocin
Kaaden	C	Kadan
Kalisch	P	Kalisz
Kaplitz	C	Kaplice
Karlsbad	C	Karlovy Vary
Karthaus	P	Kartuzy
Kattowitz	P	Katowice
Kempen	P	Kepno
Kernau	P	Chrzanow
Klattau	C	Klatovy
Königgrätz	C	Hradec Králové
Kolmar	P	Chodziez
Kolmar	F	Colmar
Komotau	C	Chomutov
Konigshütte	P	Krolewska Huta
Konin	P	Konin
Konitz	P	Chojnice
Kosten	P	Koscian
Krainburg	Y	Kranj
Krotoschin	P	Krotoszyn
Krummau	C	Czesky Krumlov
Kulm	P	Chelmno
Kutno	P	Kutno
Landskron	C	Lanskroun
Lask	P	Lask
Leipe	P	Lipno
Leitmeritz	C	Litomericé
Lentschütz	P	Leczyca
Leslau	P	Wloclawek
Lissa	P	Leazno
Litzmannstadt	P	Lodz
Löbau	P	Lubawa
Löben	P	Lubliniec
Luditz	C	Zlutice
Luttenberg	Y	Ljutomer
Mackeim	P	Makow
Mährisch-Ostrau	C	Moravská Ostrava
Mährisch-Schönberg	C	Sumperk
Mährisch-Trübau	C	Moravská Trebová
Marburg	Y	Maribor
Marienbad	C	Mariánské Lázne
Memel	L	Klaipeda
Mielau	P	Mlawa
Mies	C	Stribro
Mogilno	P	Mogilno
Mülhausen	F	Mulhouse

Neubistritz	C	Nova Bystrice
Neustadt	P	Wejherowo
Neutitschein	P	Novy Jicin
Nikolsburg	C	Mikulov
Obernick	P	Oborniki
Olmütz	C	Olomouc
Ostenburg	P	Pultusk
Ostrowo	P	Ostrow
Pettau	Y	Ptuj
Pilsen	C	Plzen
Plesz	P	Pszczyna
Plöhnen	P	Plonsk
Posen	P	Poznan
Prag	C	Praha
Praschnitz	P	Przasnysz
Pr. Stargard	P	Starogard
Radmannsdorf	Y	Radovica
Rann	Y	Brezice
Rappoltsweiler	F	Ribeauville
Rawitsch	P	Rawicz
Reichenberg	C	Liberec
Rippin	P	Rypin
Rumburg	C	Rumburk
Rybnik	P	Rybnik
Saarburg	F	Sarrebourg
Saargemünd	F	Sarreguemines
Saaz	C	Zatec
Salzburgen	F	Chateau-Salins
Samter	P	Szamotuly
Saybusch	P	Zywiec
Scharfenwiese	P	Ostroleka
Scharfenwiese (West)	P	Grabowo
Scharnikau	P	Czarnkow
Schieratz	P	Sieradz
Schlettstadt	F	Sélestat
Schrimm	P	Srem
Schroda	P	Sroda
Schröttersburg	P	Plock
Schubin	P	Szubin
Schwetz	P	Swiecie
Sichelberg	P	Sierpc
Sosnowitz	P	Sosnowice
Stein	Y	Kamnik
Sternberg	C	Sternberk
Strasburg	P	Brodnica
Strassburg	F	Strasbourg
Sudauen	P	Suwalki
Tachau	C	Tachov
Tann	F	Thann
Tarnowitz	P	Tarnowkie Gory
Tepl	C	Teplá
Teplitz-Schönau	C	Teplice Sanov
Teschen	P	Cieszyn
Tetschen	C	Decin
Thorn	P	Torun
Trautenau	C	Trutnov
Trifail	Y	Trbovlje
Troppau	C	Opava
Tuchel	P	Tuchola
Turek	P	Turek
Warthbrücken	P	Kolo
Warthenau	P	Zawiercie
Weissenburg	F	Wissembourg
Wielungen	P	Wielun
Wirsitz	P	Wyrzysk
Wollstein	P	Wolsztyn
Wreschen	P	Wrzesnia
Zabern	F	Savern
Zempelburg	P	Sepolno
Zichenau	P	Cziechanow
Znaim	F	Znojmo
Zwittau	C	Svitavy

Section II

As	C	Asch
Bedzin	P	Bendsburg
Bielsko	P	Bielitz
Blachownia	P	Blachstädt
Bolzano	I	Bozen
Bressanone	I	Brixen
Brno	C	Brünn
Brodnica	P	Strasburg
Broumov	C	Braunau
Brunice	I	Bruneck
Bruntál	C	Freudenthal
Budejovice	C	Budweis
Bydgoszcz	P	Bromberg
Celje	Y	Cille
Ceská Lipa	C	Böhmisch-Leipa
Cheb	C	Eger
Chelmno	P	Kulm
Chodziez	P	Kolmar
Chojnice	P	Konitz
Chomutov	C	Komotau
Chrzanow	P	Kernau
Ciechocinek	P	Hermannsbad
Cieszyn	P	Teschen
Colmar	F	Kolmar
Czarnkow	P	Scharnikau
Czesky Krumlov	C	Krummau
Cziechanow	P	Zichenau
Decin	C	Tetschen
Duchcov	C	Dux
Falknov	C	Falkenau
Frydlant	C	Friedland
Fryvaldov	C	Freiwaldau
Gdynia	P	Gotenhafen
Gniezno	P	Gnesen
Gostyn	P	Gostingen
Gostynin	P	Gosten
Grabowo	P	Scharfenwiese (West)
Grodzisk	P	Grätz
Grudziadz	P	Graudenz
Guebwiller	F	Gebweiler
Haguenau	F	Hagenau
Horsovsky Tyn	C	Bischofteinitz
Hradec Králove	C	Königgrätz
Inowroclaw	P	Hohensalza
Jablonec	C	Gablonz
Jarocin	P	Jarotschin
Jihlawa	C	Iglau
Kadan	C	Kaaden
Kalisz	P	Kalisch
Kamnik	Y	Stein
Kaplice	C	Kaplitz
Karlovy Vary	C	Karlsbad
Kartuzy	P	Karthaus
Katowice	P	Kattowitz
Kepno	P	Kempen

Klaipeda	L	Memel
Klatovy	C	Klattau
Kolo	P	Warthbrücken
Konin	P	Konin
Koscian	P	Kosten
Koscierzyna	P	Berent
Králiky	C	Grulich
Kraslice	C	Graslitz
Krnov	C	Jägerndorf
Krolewska Huta	P	Königshütte
Krotoszyn	P	Krotoschin
Kutno	P	Kutno
Lanskroun	C	Landskron
Lask	P	Lask
Leazno	P	Lissa
Leczyca	P	Lentschütz
Liberec	C	Reichenberg
Lipno	P	Leipe
Litomerice	C	Leitmeritz
Ljutomer	Y	Luttenberg
Lodz	P	Litzmannstadt
Lubawa	P	Löbau
Lubliniec	P	Löben
Makow	P	Mackeim
Mariánské Lázne	C	Marienbad
Maribor	Y	Marburg
Miedzychod	P	Birnbau
Mikulov	C	Nikolsburg
Mlawa	P	Mielau
Mogilno	P	Mogilno
Moravská Ostrava	C	Mährisch-Ostrau
Moravská Trebová	C	Mährisch-Trübau
Moravsky Beroun	C	Bärn
Most	C	Brüx
Mulhouse	F	Mülhausen
Nemecké Jablonné	C	Deutsch Gabel
Novy Jicin	P	Neutitschein
Nova Bistrice	C	Neubistritz
Oborniki	P	Obernick
Olkusz	P	Ilkenau
Olomouc	C	Olmütz
Opava	C	Troppau
Ostrow	P	Ostrowo
Plock	P	Schröttersburg
Plonsk	P	Plöhnen
Plzen	C	Pilsen
Praha	C	Prag
Przasnysz	P	Praschnitz
Pszczyna	P	Plesz
Ptuj	Y	Pettau
Pultusk	P	Ostenburg
Radovica	Y	Radmannsdorf
Rawicz	P	Rawitsch
Ribeauville	F	Rappoltsweiler
Rumburk	C	Rumburg
Rybnik	P	Rybnik
Rypin	P	Rippin
Sarrebourg	F	Saarburg
Sarreguemines	F	Saargemünd
Savern	F	Zabern
Swiecie	P	Schwetz
Selestat	F	Schlettstadt
Sepolno	P	Zempelburg
Sieradz	P	Schieratz
Sierpc	P	Sichelberg
Sosnowiec	P	Sosnowitz
Srem	P	Schrimm
Sroda	P	Schroda
Starogard	P	Pr. Stargard
Sternberk	C	Sternberg
Strasbourg	F	Strassburg
Stribro	C	Mies
Sumperk	C	Mährisch Schönberg
Suwalki	P	Sudauen
Svitavy	C	Zwittau
Szamotuly	P	Samter
Tachov	C	Tachau
Tann	F	Thann
Tarnowkie Gory	P	Tarnowitz
Tczew	P	Dirschau
Teplá	C	Tepl
Teplica Sanov	C	Teplitz-Schönau
Torun	P	Thorn
Trbovlje	Y	Trifail
Trutnov	C	Trautenau
Tuchola	P	Tuchel
Turek	P	Turek
Usti	C	Aussig
Vrchlabi	C	Hohenelbe
Wabrzezno	P	Briesen
Wagrowiec	P	Eichenbrück-Wongrowitz
Wejherowo	P	Neustadt
Wielun	P	Wielungen
Wyrzysk	P	Wirsitz
Wissembourg	F	Wissenburg
Wloclawek	P	Leslau
Wolsztyn	P	Wollstein
Wrzesnia	P	Wreschen
Zábreh	C	Hohenstadt
Zatec	C	Saaz
Zawiercie	P	Warthenau
Zlutice	C	Luditz
Znin	P	Dietfurt
Znojmo	C	Znaim
Zywiec	P	Saybusch

German-English Philatelic/Military Glossary

Mike Ludeman

German Term	English Equivalent/Definition	German Abbreviation
Compiler's Note:	**The terms in this Glossary are those encountered while reading and translating several articles and other items, and should not be considered complete or exhaustive. There are several other similar documents in this TRSG Monograph TRSG-04, and readers are encouraged to provide me with additional terms which are not found elsewhere.**	
Contact Information	mike@ludeman.net	
- A -		
Abfertigungsbeamter	Dispatching official	
Abteilungen	Sections	Abt.
Abteilungen	Batallions	
Abwehr	short name for intelligence, counter intelligence, and sabotage offices of the German Wehrmacht	
Abwehrstelle	office of intelligence	
Amtsblatt der Reichpostministeriums'	Bulletin of the National Postal Ministry	
Amtsblatt des	Gazette of the National Postal Ministry	
Anischtskarte / nach dem	Viewcard /to a foreign Nation	
Antwort: Ja! Eine Anderung ist dem Postamt nicht bekannt	Yes, the postoffice does not know of a change	
Antwortkarten	Paid Reply Post Cards	
Antwortteil	Reply card attached (Reply Postcard)	
Antwrot	Reply Envelope with printed return-to address	
Arbeits	Labor	arb.
Armee	Army	
Armee Briefstelle	Army Letter Office	
Armee feldpostmeister	Army Field Postmaster	
Aufflangs	Intercept	Auff.
Ausbildung (Company)	Training (Company)	
Ausgabestelle fur Postsendung an die Bombengeschadigte	Issuance office for Mail to population affected by air rainds	
Auskunft nur nach den Unterlagen der	Information only according to the documents of the Post Office	
Auslandsbriefprufstellen	Foreign Letter Routing or Exchange Office	ABP
Auslandstelegrammprufstelle	Foreign Telegram Routing Station	ATP
- B -		
Bau	Construction	
Bedarfspost	Legitimate, properly franked letters or cards that were mailed for reasons other than philatelic.	

German-English Philatelic/Military Glossary

Mike Ludeman

bei.	for	b.
Beschadigt aus Deutschland zuruckgelangt	Returned Damaged from Germany	
Briefmarke	Postmark	
- C -		
- D -		
Dachdecker	Roofer	Dach.
Deutlich Schreiben!	Write Clearly!	
Deutsche Dienspost	German Official Mail	
Deutsches Arbeits Front	German Labor Front	
Dienstsiegel	Official Seal	
Dulag	POW Camp located in the Rear of the combat zone (Previously known as Frontstalag). See also Durchganglager	
Durch Deutsche Feldpost	via German Military Mail	
Durchgangslager	Transit Camp	Dulag.
Durchgangslager	POW Camp located in the Rear of the combat zone (Previously known as Frontstalag)	
durchgangsstempel	transit stamp (Censor stamp indicating letter was passed unopened.	
durchlaufstemple	transit stamp (Censor stamp indicating letter was passed unopened.	
- E -		
Eilnachrichtenkarten	Rapid Information cards (used by individual who had survived an air raid to infomrm friends and relatives of their condition.	
Einwandererzentralstelle	Immigration Central Office	
Eisenbahn-Flak	Railway Anti-Aircraft	
Empfanger einen feindlichen Bombenangriff zum Opfer fallen	Recipient died in an enemy air raid	
Empfanger verstarben	Recipient deceased	
Erganzungsstelle	Recruiting Office	
Ersatz	Replacement	Ers.
Ersatz Here	Replacement Army	
- F -		
Feldheer	Field Army	
Feldpost	Military Mail	
Feldpost Ubersicht	Military Mail Summary (Listing of Feldpost Numbers)	
Feldpostamt	Military Post Office, comparable to the US APO	Fpa or FpA
Feldpostamt	Military Post Office, comparable to the US APO; also " post offiec unit"	
Feldpostamt zur besondern Verwendung	Special Purpose Field Post Offices	FpA zbV

German-English Philatelic/Military Glossary

Mike Ludeman

Feldpostamt zur besondern Verwendung (bo) [bo = bodenstandig]	Special Purpose Field Post Offices (stationary)	FpA zbV (bo)
Feldpostamt zur besondern Verwendung (m)	Special Purpose Field Post Offices (motorized)	FpA zbV (m)
Feldpostamter	Military Post Office, comparable to the US APO	Fpa or FpA
Feldpostbriefsendung/nach…	Military letters	
Feldpostbriefsendung/nach…	Military Letter Dispatch to…	
Feldpostleitstelle	Military Mail Routing Office	FpLSt
Feldpostnummer	Military mail number	
Feldpostpackenstellen	Military Mail Package Offices	
Feldpostubersicht	Field Post directory	FpU
Fernsprecher Nr.	Telephone Number	
Firma Besteht Nicht Mehr	Firm No Longer Exists	
Flakabteilungen	Anti-Aircraft batallions	
Flak-Einheiten	Anti-Aircraft machine gun units	
Flakgruppen	Anti-Aircraft regimental commands	
Flakregimenter	Anti-Aircraft regiments	
Flakscheinwerferbteilungen	Anti-Aircraft searchlight battalions	
Flakscheinwerferregimenten	Anti-Aircraft searchlight regiment	
Flakschiessplatz	Anti-Aircraft firing ranges	
Flakschulen	Anti-Aircraft schools	
Flakuntergruppen	Anti-Aircraft batallion commands	
Flugzeugabwehrkanonen (Flak)	Anti-Aircraft	
Frageteil	Message card detached (Reply postcards)	
Front	Combat zone	
Frontstalag	POW Camp located in the Rear of the combat zone (Later changed to "Durchgangslager" or "Dulag"	
- G -		
Genesenden (Company)	Convalescent (company)	
Geoffnet	Opened	
Gepruft	Examined	
Gerangenen	Prisoner	Gef.
Geshaftspapiers	Business Papers	
Glaser	Glasier	
- H -		
Heeresflakartillerie	Army Anti-Aircraft	
Hilfswilligen	Auxiliary volunteer	Hiwi.
- I -		
Ist folgende Postanschrift richtig?	Is the following postal adddress correct?	
- J -		
- K -		

German-English Philatelic/Military Glossary

Mike Ludeman

Kenn	A code assigned to each Feldpoststamt (for security purposes). Important to mail routing	
Kommandant	Commander	Kdt.
Kommandantur	HQ of commandant	Kdtr.
Kommandeur	Commanding Officer	Kdr.
Kreigs	War	Kr.
Kreigsgefangenen Sammelstelle	POW Collection Office	
Kriegsgefangen	POW - prisoner of war	
Kriegsgefangenenpost	POW Mail	
KustenSchutzes	Coast Artillery	
- L -		
Lager	Camp	
Leitstelle	A civilian post office through which mails to a military unit was routed.	
Luftgaupostamt	Air District Post Office	L.G.P.A.
Luftgaupostamt	Air Force Post office	
Luftwaffe	Air Force	
- M -		
Mache	Pronounced "Mock-uh"), a term for fabricated covers and cards with stamp combinations and/or other postal markings not normally in use. Such items never saw postal service but were obtained strictly to crete "interesting philatelic material.	
Marine Postburo	Marine Post Office	
Marsch (Company)	March (company)	
- N -		
Nachsclub	Supply	Ns.
Nachsendung, Auskunfts?	Forwarding, Information?	
Nachtraglich Entwertet	Applied after posting.	
National Politisches Erzeihungs Anstalten	National Political Educational Establishments	NAPOLA
Nebenstempelungen	Supplementary Cancel, used to promote or record an ongoing event over time	
Nein, andere kamp aber nicht ange geben warden	No, but another cannot be stated	
Nein, sie muss lauten:	No, it shold read:	
- O -		
Oberkommando des Heeres	Army High Command	OKH
Oberkommando des Wehrmacht	Armed Forces High Command	OKW
Oberpostdirektion	Civilian postal directorate	
Offizerlager	Camp for officers	Oflag.
Ordensburgen	Party "universities" (Nazi?)	

German-English Philatelic/Military Glossary

Mike Ludeman

Ordnungspolizei	Ordinary Police	
ortsverzeichnis	Place Index	
Ortgabe unzulassig	Town Name Inadmissible	
Ostarbeiter	Eastern workers (term used for Posish workers in Bavaria)	
- P -		
Philatelistisch	Overfranked and/or CTO covers or cards that, if they went through the mail, did so for philatelic purposes.	
Post Nummer	Unique number assigned to ach unit from the company level up, used in lieu of unit designations.	
Postgebuhr	Postal Rate examined	
Postleitpunkt	Mail Routing Points	
Postleitzahlen	Postal Routing number	
Postleitstellen	Postal Routing Offices	
Postleitzahlen	Postal Codes	
Postsachen	Item mailed by the Reichpost (no stamp needed)	
Postsammelstelle	Army Post Office	
Postsammelstellen	Mail Collecting office	
Postsammelstellen	Military Mail Collection Offices	
- Q -		
- R -		
Reichpostdirektion	German Postal Director	RPD
Reichsarbeitsdienst	National Labor Service	
Reichs-Furher Schulen	Reich Leadership Schools	
Reichspost	The ordinary Civilian postal administration	
Russisch	Russian	Russ.
- S -		
Sammelstelle	Collection office	
Schalterbuchenstaben	Counter Letters (Part of cancel which identifies different stamps: a, b, c, …, or may be 1, 2, 3,…)	
Schalterbuchenstaben	Schutzen	
Sicherungs	Security (Divisions)	
Soldat	Soldier	
Sperrabteilungen	Anti-Aircraft barrage balloon battalions	
Stab	HQ Staff	
Stamm (company)	Staff (company)	
Stammlager	Camp for Enlisted men	Stalag
Strassenbahn	Steeetcar	
Stumme	Mute (as in cancel)	
- T -		
- U -		
Uberrollerpost	A cover seized after WW II and delivered after V-E Day	
Ubungpost	Exercise Post	
Unteroffizier	Non-commissioned officer	
Unzulassig/Surich	Not permitted/Return	

German-English Philatelic/Military Glossary

Mike Ludeman

- V -		
Verfugungstruppe (SS)	Special Deployment Troops (SS)	
Vorbindezettles	Facing Slips	
- W -		
Wehrkreis	Military Districts	
Wehrmacht	Armed Forces	
Wehrmacht Bericht	Armed Forces Report	
Wehrmeldeami	Military Records Office	
Wertbrief	Insured Letter	
- X Y Z -		
Zug	Platoon	
zur besondernen Verwendungunits	For special purposes	z.b.V.
Zuruck an den Absender!	Return to Sender!	