



Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

October 2020, Volume LV, Number 4 (#217)

Inside:

- North African Feldpost- The True and the False *by David Ripley*
- The Paper Trail, a book by Kees Edema – A Review *by Ed Fraser*
- The Double-Red Berlin Overprint *by Lawrence Mead*
- A Telling Cover *by Bob Baltzell.....And so much more!!!!*

Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

October 2020, Volume LV, Number 4 (#217)

Inside another great issue:

An important book, and a great review- Ed Fraser reviews Kees Adema's [A Paper Trail](#), showing us why this book truly matters

North African Feldpost – David Ripley shows us some great stamps, and some wonderful examples of the counterfeits that keeps us up at night.

The Double- Red Berlin Overprint - Lawrence Mead shows us a rare example of an overprint into the immediate post-WW II era. An important read for any collector serious about this often-confusing era.

A Telling Cover- Bob Baltzell gives us a look at a cover that serves as a warning for all of us today.

Also, we have Stamps of the Third Reich, a beautiful Danzig article, and some great pieces on auction. This is truly one of our best issues ever!

You are the greatest!! I want to thank you for the support, the articles, and the scans. You make being an editor both fun and educational! Thank you so very much!!

Remember our mother ship, the Germany Philatelic Society, USA. If you have not paid your dues, please do so. And check out their websites, as we have discussion groups that need more support from our great readers:

Germanyphilatelicsocietyusa.org

Articles! Articles! Articles!

We need your articles, long or short! Send them to ctkolker@mail.com or to:

Chris Kolker, 25 Parkwoods Drive, Norwich, CT 06360

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The Paper Trail- A Review

A new insight about German Censorship from just one Dutch example -

From a follow-up book review about the Postal History of WWII Holland

Ed Fraser

In June 2020, the Kees Adema postal history collection of Dutch WWII material was sold at a Corinphila auction in Holland. The focus of the collection had been presented in his co-authored philatelic book, "*The Paper Trail – WW II in Holland and its Colonies as seen through Mail and Documents*". It focuses on examples of mail documenting much of "life" in Holland during the war with page-by-page discussions of well-chosen covers and pictures from many collections.

To get the book, one probably needs to order it directly from the Royal Philatelic Society in London – but I suggest it is worth the trouble. The following information is current, and from the Royal Philatelic Society of London's website:

<https://www.rpsl.org.uk/Publications>

The Paper Trail: World War II in Holland and its Colonies as seen through Mail and Documents

by Kees Adema RDP FRPSL and Jeffrey Groeneveld.

Retail price £70, Members Price £63

This book tells the story of the postal history of Holland and its colonies during World War 2 in a fresh and compelling way. A myriad of correspondence has been unearthed from family records, and the book weaves together the evidence from mail and other documents into a distinctive narrative.

(At around \$100, this 1½ inch thick book is actually cheap for its beautiful printing and binding job on 732 large [8½ x 11] pages weighing almost 7 pounds.)

Also, there is a (free) on-line video presentation Kees Adema gave not long ago with that title that is on the Collectors Club of New York website.

<https://www.collectorsclub.org/the-paper-trail-ww-ii-in-holland-and-its-colonies-as-seen-through-mail/>

A story of just one cover.

The auction included some unusual Dutch camp covers, POW mail, etc., as well as interesting examples of zuruck, mail with unusual handling, censorship, censor labels, some undercover mail, etc.

I was the successful bidder on just one cover lot. Upon receipt, I was puzzled a bit by one badly damaged post card, with a small German censor label. The card looked like junk. Why was that even collectible? See Figure 1.



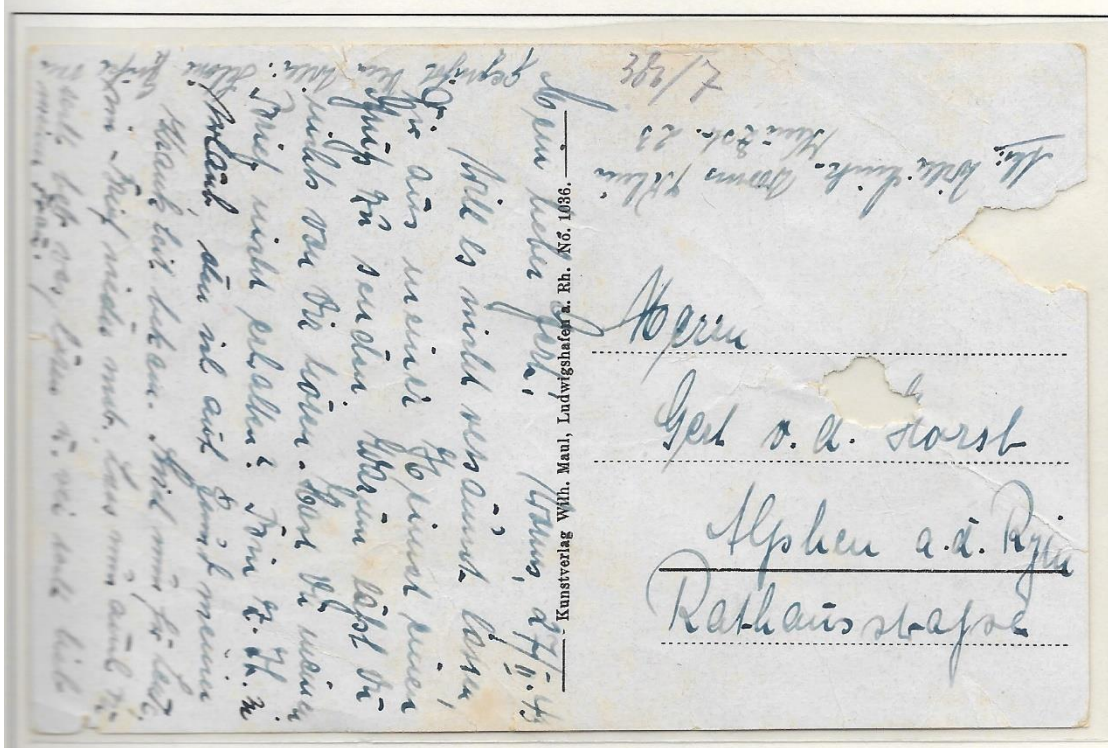


Figure 1

Picture post card from Germany to Holland dated 27 Feb 1943. The text refers to the picture as a city scene in Worms, where the sender is sending the card from.

Addressed to the town Alphen aan den Rijn.



Figure 2

Label attached with picture postcard in Figure 1.

Cologne Censor Office label from 1943 similar to Landsmann type CZ1.22 in Figure 3.

["1 enclosure picture postcard removed because of inadmissibility"]

CZ1.22		Text 72x19mm 3.42 F
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Figure 3

Reported German censor slip Landsmann Cologne type CZ1.22 (from book)

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Checking further, this card and label is described and pictured on part of a page in the Kees Adema book, too. (page 400) The description says it is a picture post card with a Cologne (Koln) German censorship label of the type described in Horst Landsmann's current German Censorship book as CZ1.22. In Figure 3 is a copy from the page in the Horst Landsmann book on WWII German Censorship, 2nd edition, c.2019.

Also, from page 391 in the Landsmann German Censorship book we also know: *The sending of picture postcards [from Germany] to foreign countries was forbidden. The post offices should have returned these. These [hand]stamps [that were used in the German Post Offices] are listed here. Nevertheless the ABP [the German Censorship offices] received many, which were censored and returned only then (with a few exceptions). These stamps are listed under the [individual offices of the] ABP.*

But there is a bit more to understand. Here the label would usually suggest that the mail the addressee received had an item removed by censorship – as would happen with enclosed pictures or even picture postcards enclosed in envelopes, which were not allowed. Here, what was removed was the actual picture on the picture postcard, with the censor allowing the message side to go forward to the addressee! Perhaps this happened because the sender was in the German army, so the censor went to that extra trouble instead of just returning the mail or destroying the card? I now understand few picture-stripped-off cards are known. This one, it turns out from further research, was apparently given to a well-known early Dutch WWII postal history collector, Alphons Meijer, who also lived in Alphen aan den Rijn, the same town as the card's addressee. (His collection was only sold about 6 years ago.) That provenance helps verify the usage, as unfortunately the cover envelope it was apparently carried in has not survived. One additional sidelight. Horst Landsmann advises this Figure 2 Cologne

label is interesting as it is “a new find” for his records, being a year later usage than the similar 1942 example CZ1.22 he references, with this being in a different style font as well. So it has become a new “2020 discovery”, one can say.

But this turns out to not be the end of the story. Looking more closely are the German censorship regulations just on picture postcards now raises other questions. While 75 years have passed, and very serious efforts have been made collecting information and examples involving German censorship, new discoveries await the collector! In August 2020, a dealer offered the German censor slip pictured here as Figure 4. It states, translated: *“The insert in this letter, a picture postcard (“Bildkarte”), was removed because it is not permitted to be sent abroad under the regulations applying to the mails dated 8 Nov. 1940. The Censor”*. Nicely handstamped is the word specifically for “picture postcard”. It gives a little more detail than the censor slip with Figure 1. It also adds more mystery. It is known that the German prohibition on any picture postcards was included in the serious 2 April 1940 censorship laws. What is this 8 November 1940 Regulation?

First, looking through the Landsmann Censorship reference, I was able to find the almost identical censor slip under the Berlin Censorship Office examples. Not nicely stamped “Bildkarte”, and dated a year later with a different “printing amount” [the Germans apparently printed a lot of these!], but showing the same Regulation date. Making inquiries, the 8 November 1940 date was not recognized. Contacting Horst Landsmann, it was also unknown to him. He then did some further serious research.



Figure 4

German form "43 dated May 1943" reading approximately "The insert in this letter, a picture postcard ("Bildkarte"), was removed because it is not permitted to be sent abroad under the regulations applying to the mails dated 8 Nov. 1940. The Censor"

BZ1.14	<p style="text-align: center;">Die Einlage dieses Briefes</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>wurde entnommen, weil ihre Versendung in das Ausland nach der Verordnung über den Nachrichtenverkehr vom 8. 11. 1940 unzulässig ist.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Die Prüfstelle</p> <p style="font-size: small;">Nr. 43 50000 5.44 K0942-7233</p>	<p>102x58mm Druckvermerk „Nr.43 50000 5.44 K0942 - 7233”</p>	<p>.44 F 94</p>
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Figure 5

The Berlin BZ1.14 censor slip description from the Landsmann book.

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His further new research: "There is an objection hand stamp from Frankfurt (EB1.3) with a similar date, curiously a day later. But nothing with this date in my German document files - neither in the Amtsblatt nor in the Reichsgesetzblatt. But I had a look at the known

copies with EB1.3 - and they were all from France. This showed me the path. It is the "Durchführungsverordnung des Militärbefehlshabers in Frankreich vom 9.11.40" [The executive order by the military governor of France]. This says that only normal and registered letters and postcards are allowed, and in business mail also printed matter, and otherwise the German rules applied" [E.F.'s emphasis]. Thus no picture postcards.

He adds that he had not seen a copy of the slip when he had listed it under Berlin as BZ1.14. Earlier it had also been listed in the Riemer book. So without further information, it is not certain now that it was really used in Berlin. With the information here, he will assume that it is more likely that it was used in Frankfurt, rather than Berlin. For now, this Figure 4 will be listed as a new type in his catalog with an appropriate "unsure" note. And I can say of Figure 4: Another "new" 2020 discovery.

EB1.3		52x16mm Rot
EB1.5		52x25mm Rot

Figure 6

From the Frankfurt section of the Landsmann book, two handstamps EB1.3 and EB1.5 that show the 8 or 9 November 1940 Regulation Reference.

A New insight into German Censorship

What is the meaning of the Regulation of 8 or 9 November 1940? Postal history collectors with a focus on WWII France, Belgium, or Holland have not been able to always match the German Censorship Regulations with usages they can find. Information like this can provide the clue!

Maschinenstempel

Nr.	Abbildung Beschreibung Farben	Verwendung Seltenheit Riemer
CPM1.1		Rot, selten lila, sehr selten schwarz 5.41 - 8.44 A 20

Figure 8

Example from Landsmann's book of the quite common Cologne machine censorship cancel CPM 1.1 In (faint) red cancel across card in Figure 7

Figure 7 is an example of a Dutch picture postcard going from Amsterdam to Frankfurt, and having Cologne German censorship. It turns out that this picture postcard usage is actually a typical example of Dutch picture postcards that were always censored in Cologne, and allowed. This card [in the same auction lot and shown on page 389 in the Kees Adema book] confirms that under German Censorship rules, those rules at the time were not applicable to Dutch mail coming INTO Germany. The 2 April 1940 Rules were only applicable on mail from Germany TO Holland (e.g. Figure 1) – or leaving the “Reich”.

However, a less commonly seen picture postcard example is shown in Figure 9. It is an important example of how these rules changed!



Figure 9

Picture postcard from Holland to Hannover, Germany canceled 6 Sept 1943.

The Dutch text handstamp applied by a Dutch Post Office reads “[Reason for Rejection: View-, Image- and Photo postcards, as well as glued-on photos are not permitted.]” It still was

forwarded for German censorship in Cologne, where their Boxed "C7-Zuruck" handstamp and a chemical swipe was also applied, along with their usual circular handstamp.

It seems less widely known that German Censorship apparently operated under various rules for different countries! Those that were applicable within the "Reich" – Austria, Germany, and certain annexed areas – and those that applied in Occupied Countries. For example, while I have not seen simple written documentation of this, I have heard that perhaps in the German "surrender" or "occupation" agreements, or following administrative rules, some "less harsh" terms about postal censorship were sometimes included!

Here we have one clue about that for Occupied France with the German censor slip referencing November 1940 censorship regulations.

While it would be very nice to find German slips referencing Dutch or Belgian special censorship regulations like the French reference, I know of none. However, it is known that stricter censorship rules like those applicable within Germany went into effect in Belgium in April 1940! Then, such German type rules took effect in Holland almost two years later - on 15 March 1943!

This agrees with the rejected picture post card dated in Sept 1943 and shown in Figure 9, which is dated after that key 15 March 1943 date!

An Addendum Question:

Below are two interesting Danish picture postcards to ask about. Were special German censorship Regulations followed for Denmark? For Norway? So far, the answers are unknown. See Figures 10 and 11.

Figure 10

Two Danish postcards. Top from Esbjerg 4 June 1941, bottom from Roskilde 30 Oct 1940. Both sent to Box 506, Lisbon. Both with German and British censorship, and Lisbon cancels.



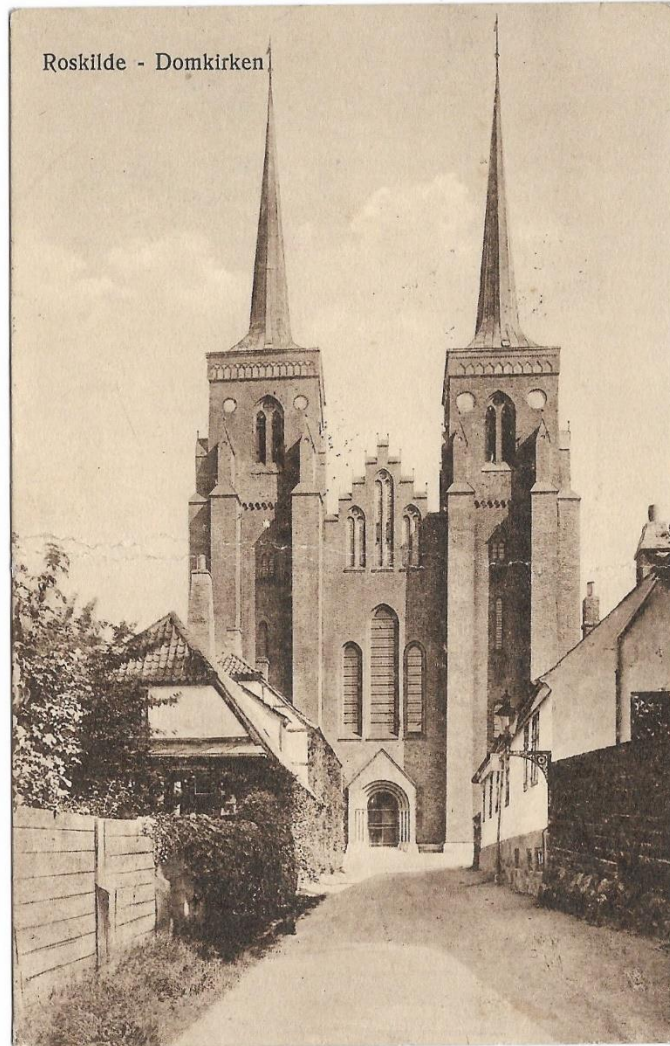


Figure 11

The pictures on cards in Figure 10 above.

Top picture of park in Esbjerg, canceled 4 June 1941,
bottom picture of Church in Roskilde, canceled 30 Oct 1940.

- To be continued.

Additional comments or additional information appreciated. edfraser@gmail.com

North African Feldpost – The True and The False

By

David Ripley

Editor's note: One thing is for sure- David doesn't disappoint. He is kind enough to show us some of his great North African Feldpost material. So, enjoy the great stuff that lies ahead of you. And don't worry, the comments are David's, not mine.



Fake#1



3 varieties:

On Feldpost #5, although Michel says 5a and 5b, 5a comes on both thick and thin paper, 5b according to Michel is on a "networked" paper. The 3vars scan shows all 3, left to right.

When I was in high school, my family lived on the Jersey shore during the summer. One day I decided to look for local stamp dealers and found a place called Four Roses. It's gone now but the business was a gas station, an auto repair shop, a used car dealership, and a stamp store, hence the Four. I asked the mechanic, who turned out to be the proprietor, about German stamps. He said it was possible he had a few and went to look. He pulled out a small box with 4 stamps in it and proceeded to pick them out with his very dirty hands. I said I would do it. 3 of the stamps were junk, I don't remember them, but 1 I had never seen before. It was not in Scott's, my only catalog at the time. I asked him about it and he started to chat about his army service during WWII in north Africa which was where he acquired the stamp. It depicted a palm tree with a swastika on it. I thought it was pretty cool regardless of knowing nothing else about it. Not wanting to play my desire card, I asked if I could buy all 4 stamps. He only wanted 50 cents for them! About 6 months later, I discovered the 1968 Minkus

catalog and the stamp was listed there at \$20.00. Needless to say, I was very pleased with my purchase. It is the thick paper 5a stamp on the left in the 3vars (above) image.



Tunisia Feldpost varied cuts

The perfVars scan above shows an imperf bottom margin example at left and a so-called blind perf, hard to see:



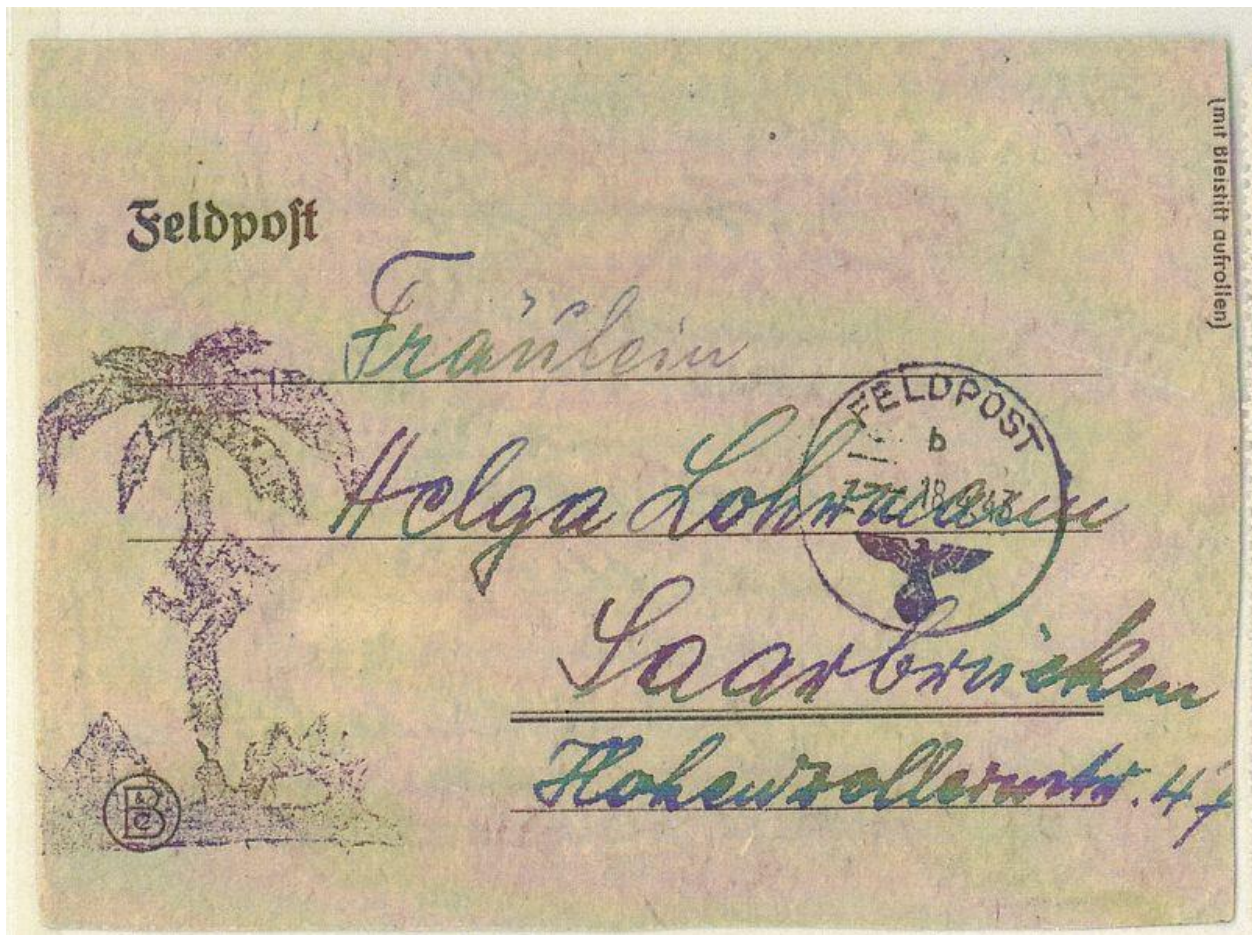
Fake#2



Fake #3



I also include a modern fantasy issue commemorating Erwin Rommel. Clearly not meant to fool anyone but for \$2.00 I could not resist.



Tunisian Feldpost cover

The Palmenstempel letter sheet is from a known correspondence. Another is pictured in the GPS Reference Manual of Forgeries, which is pretty good on the Tunis stamp. There are many fakes of the palmenstempel and a forger's reproduction of a few appears in Palmenstempel Fakes.



On my full package cut-out, note there is a pair of 10pf HH stamp to pay the 20pf package rate. I was told 10pf stamps were not available in the field so the sender must have brought them with him to north Africa, making this usage unique. Also, according to Michel, this is a full package piece because it contains both the destination and the return feldpost address. Items missing the return address are still rare but more common than complete pieces and don't command the Michel "cover" evaluation. Not all items are franked with 20pf postage. In the absence of it, items still command the catalog price if they are marked "nachgebuhr". I recall some time ago in an old GPS Specialist I read that, at that time, 35 full package pieces were

known. Perhaps there are a few more known now but these appear very infrequently on the philatelic market.





On the gedenkblatt, note the army signals cancel is the same device use to make the Tobruk souvenir cards and there are different types: some say 2000 made, some say 2200 made. If memory service, I recall not all of them have the Rommel hand-stand signature and some are blanks (no stamps and cancels). Apparently, these traveled with Rommel's unit through several campaigns.

What I consider noteworthy intel is something I was told in the mid '70 by an older member of the GPS chapter I belonged to at the time. He shall remain nameless but his story was mind-blowing. After I showed my full package piece at a chapter meeting, he took me aside and told me of his time in the army in

north Africa. He started by saying he never had a reason until that day to tell anyone about it by my presentation made him think I should know. His WWII service was long before he became a philatelist. In the closing days of the Africa Korp's retreat from Tunis, he was given the verbal order from his commanding officer to burn the tremendous stack of packages left behind in the hasty retreat and he recalled the palm tree with swastika stamp that was on each of them that he could see. It was the same stamp I showed and he knew he was solely responsible for the lack of examples on the market today. "Oh, if I had only known!!" was his closing statement. I appreciated knowing this and I don't think he ever told anyone else but I believed him, although there could not be any verification today, simply because there was no way he could have known other details of the US army in Tunisia without being there. I have always been amazed by the ancillary information that has come my way as a philatelist, this was truly word-of-mouth stuff.



The Double-Red Berlin Overprint

by Lawrence R. Mead, Ph.D.

In 1948, a series of stamps were issued for use in Berlin, first with a black overprint “Berlin” diagonally, later with the same overprint but in red. The latter are Scott 9N21-9N34, Michel Berlin 21-34. These overprinted stamps were issued in haste due to allied currency reforms the previous year. Shown below is a cover bearing 10 Pfg., 15 Pfg., 20 Pfg. and 60 Pfg. stamps from this series from Berlin to Norfolk, Nebraska dated Feb. 16, 1949.



1949 Cover from Berlin to USA bearing the red Berlin overprints

Shortly after these were issued, there appeared several *postal way bills*, or rather pieces of them, in kiloware sold by German dealers which bore a 60 Pfg. stamp with a *double* red overprint one of which is shown below along side

the normal issue with single overprint (Mi Berlin 31DD, Euro 650; Scott does not mention).



Left: the double red Berlin overprint

Right: the normal overprint

To 1982, only 18 occurrences have been found of these double overprints, most on postal way bills dated either Mar. 5, 1949, or Jan. 25, 1949. Way bills accompanying packages were stamped, cancelled and dated, but the bills themselves were kept as property of the postal authorities. In later years, these bills were cut up and enclosed in kiloware for sale to collectors.

These 60 Pfg. stamps with double red Berlin overprint are rather controversial to this day. The main reason is that the topmost "Berlin" has slight differences in form from known genuine overprints *and* the two inks are different: one (the normal looking one) glows red under long-wave UV light, but the top one glows purple under UV light. Below I have placed a blow-up of the overprints so that one may see the difference even in ordinary light.



The two red overprints.

Examiners from both the Philatelic Foundation and the (old) expertizing service of the GPS have pronounced one of the overprints as forgeries because of these differences in design and color. In addition, the overprint which glows purple is the same as that of known forgeries of the overprint on these issues of which there are many. As if that were not enough, the way bills were given to prisoners to cut up and place in kiloware to be distributed to dealers of stamps. It would have been easy to “salt” a few batches of kiloware unknown to the dealers involved who would assume that the material was kept under lock by postal authorities.

Nonetheless, German expertizers continue to claim that the double overprints are genuine sometimes citing the Berlin postal ministry statements made in 1957¹ that indeed there were experimental overprints made (accounting for the difference in inks) on one or two sheets. The Schlegel certificate from 1978 for my copy of 31DD is shown on the next page.

However, the Berlin postal ministry did not even exist in 1948! The stamps were issued by the authority of the Berlin city senate. The stamps were issued on an emergency basis due to the allied currency reform and were entirely under the authority of allied officials in the city. In addition to the fact that the postal way bills on which almost all occurred were not always with postal authorities before being added to kiloware makes the second overprint at the very least suspicious.²

HANS-GEORG SCHLEGEL

Bundesprüfer

Mitglied im Bund der philatelistischen Prüfer e. V. des BDPH und des APHV
D-1000 Berlin 15, Kurfürstendamm 34, Telefon 030/8813418

Nr.

003610

Datum 27.7.78

ATTEST

B e r l i n 1 9 4 9

Freimarke 60 Pfg. mit doppelten rotem
Schrägaufdruck Berlin

Michel Nr. 31 DD

Die gestempelte Marke (Berlin SW 11)
ist echt, Mängel sind nicht erkennbar.

Signum Dr. Dub (doppelt)

Dr. Wittmann (doppelt)

Foto untenstehend

af



Prüfgebiete: Berlin, Bundesrepublik, Am.-Brit.-Franz. Zone,
Posthörchenüberdrucke 1948

Die Prüfung erfolgte auf Grund der Prüfordnung des Bundes der philatelistischen Prüfer e. V.

1. *When expertizers disagree*, Stephen. G. Esrati, American Philatelist, May, 1982.

2. *Observations concerning the red double overprints of West Berlin*, Bernard Hennig, COMPEX article, May 30-Jun 1, 1958.

A Telling Cover

Bob Baltzell

Bob Baltzell gives us a very telling cover, so indicative of the times:



THIS IS A REPRINT, A COPY. NOT AN ORIGINAL UNADDRESSED COLOR POSTCARD ISSUED IN 1937 BY THE THIRD REICH ON DECEMBER 19, 1937. THE SPECIAL HANDSTAMP CANCEL POSTMARK "DER EWIGE JUDE" TRANSLATES INTO ENGLISH AS "THE ETERNAL JEW." THE POSTCARD BEARS THE IMPRINTED 5PF 1934 AIRMAIL STAMP OF THE GERMAN EAGLE, GLOBE AND THE NAZI PARTY SWASTIKA EMBLEM RISING ABOVE THE GLOBE. THIS CARD IS A REPRINT.

In 1937, the Germans organized a traveling exhibition featuring virulent anti-Semitic materials under the title "*Der Ewige Jude*" ("The Eternal Jew"). This exhibition first opened in the Library of the German Museum in Munich on November 8, 1937. **1937 GERMANY 'THE ETERNAL JEW,' PRINTED TO PRIVATE ORDER POSTAL CARDS** Michel PP127-C18 and PP127-C31.



Card addressed to: Mr. Josef Pergl, Nurnberg, Ziegelgasse 52 - 4th floor
text:

the 9. Nov 37 1/2/ 10 - i.e. 9:30 am

Dear Josef,

Immediately after receipt of your card [I] drove/sent and beyond (this card) was able to get two others which I will send in an envelope. The kisses (??) will be redeemed? Heartfelt greetings to you, Frieda and Emmi (?)

your sister-in-law - [name]. The cancel is in reference to: Der ewige Jude (the eternal Jew - grosse politische Schau (big political exhibition). Munich - Hauptstadt (capital city) of the {NS} Movement. The card simply gives time and date of exhibition.

Stamps of the Third Reich

Christopher Kolker MD





Today, we feature a beautiful set commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Foundation of the Deutsche Nothilfe (emergency help). They are Michel #508-11 and Scott # B58 (a-d for each individual stamp) and feature the following:

5+15Pfg. Green – St. Elizabeth feeding the hungry.

10+30 Pfg. Red – St. Elizabeth giving drink to the thirsty.

20+60 Pfg. Blue – St. Elizabeth clothing the naked.

50+150 Pfg. Brown – St. Elizabeth tending the sick.

These stamps commemorate the Deutsches Volksofer “German emergency help” (a translation) started back in 1923 as a social charity organization. The Deutsche Nothilfe is a continuation of the Deutsches Volksofer assistance stemming from the 1923 Ruhr riots.

The Deutsches Volksofer relief effort began with the 1923 invasion of the Ruhr Valley by France. By that year, it became apparent that Germany was not meeting its payment obligations with the Treaty of Versailles because those reparations were so very costly. Essentially, France had started confiscating raw materials for payment, leaving German factories idle. Since these Ruhr Valley factories

subsequently became unable to produce any kind of finished product, Germany was rendered unable to make any future payments. France was furious; Germany was stuck.

Due to the continued inability to receive payments due, France invaded the Ruhr Valley in 1923. The Germans, unarmed at the time due to the Versailles Treaty's provisions, could only offer passive resistance. But they certainly did that. Protests and walkouts became the order of the day. At times, situations escalated to violence. At the end of the occupation, 130 lives were lost in resistance.

Daily living in the Ruhr Valley soon became a miserable experience. Hyperinflation had already begun throughout Germany by 1923. With exorbitant prices for daily goods, few jobs due to plant closures, and confiscation by the French of most things of value to the state, life became intolerable. The Germans responded by printing more money to try to keep up with inflationary prices, in the form of three coins distributed in the Valley. They held values of 50, 100, and 500 million Marks.



Ruhr Valley Voksopfer Coins of 1923

Unfortunately for the French, where they invaded was primarily an iron-rich area. That's not bad, except that coal was needed as well to finish most industrial products. After all, every factory needs energy. Coal could only be obtained in areas they had not occupied, and their stomach for being unpopular occupiers in other parts of Germany was not there. The French found themselves in the position to seize large amounts of iron ore, but with very little they could do with it. It seemed that both sides needed an out.

The American diplomat Charles Dawes had previously drafted a compromise agreement between both sides. It reduced the amount of payments that the Germans would have to pay the French, as well as provide additional time for such payments to be made. After both were boxed in a no-win situation, the

Dawes plan begin to look better. Ultimately both agreed and the French withdrew. Mr. Dawes won the Nobel Prize for his efforts, but as history made painfully clear, the damage had been done.

What became of the Deutsches Nothilfe? What will surprise no one is that it became dominated by the National Socialist German Workers (Nazi) Party (NSDAP). The National Socialists People's Welfare Organization started in 1931 as a local welfare organization. By 1933, Hitler turned into an organization under the NSDAP, and the Deutsches Nothilfe became no more.

Hitler's welfare organization was actually quite impressive for its time. It ran several thousand nurseries, provided old age insurance, rent support, healthcare insurance, and nursing homes. They provided care for the disabled and even addicts. Most members of the Nazi party were required to volunteer.

Obviously, this wasn't always done for altruistic reasons; instead, the organization fostered dependence and moral standing that any fervent nationalism needed to provide legitimacy. After the war, on October 10, 1945, this organization was officially outlawed, to be replaced by social welfare programs of East and West Germany.

A bit about St. Elizabeth of Hungary: she was born in 1207, to King Andrew II of Hungary. Due to palace intrigue in which ethnic Germans were hated, Gertrude, her mother, was murdered when Elizabeth was a mere six years old. Married at age 14, Elizabeth had three children still as a young teen to the nobleman Ludwig IV of Thuringia, whom she deeply loved.

By age 16, Franciscan monks had come to the palace instructing Elizabeth about St. Francis and his ideas. These ideas would forever change her life. Especially after Ludwig died when Elizabeth was only 20, she became totally devoted to the poor. She ministered personally to the sick and lived a very austere lifestyle. She died at age 24.

She is associated with miraculous visions by Ludwig of her ensconced in roses and after her death a series of miraculous healings took place in her hospital.

The Secret's Out! Our Supplier Is.....

Chris Kolker

We're all collectors, right? But as collectors, we have to have a supplier or two. You know, that person where we buy or trade for our stamps and philatelic materials. Everybody got their stuff from somewhere.

But that somewhere at times can be a closely guarded secret. We all remember that great buy, that once-in-a-lifetime deal that we don't want to spoil by letting everyone else in on.

However, here at the Third Reich Study Group, we have a great bunch of collectors, so our folks are more than happy to pass on their acquired knowledge. Two questions were raised by one of our fine readers:

1. Where do you buy new WWII era collectible covers and stamps?
2. Where do you sell new WWI era collectible covers and stamps?

And we do have some answers!

Stephen Blinn writes:

1. Where do you buy new WWII era collectible covers and stamps?
Mostly eBay but also through the Stamp Auction Network: www.stampauctionnetwork.com. Members can find auction houses that specialize in Germany. Those auction houses always have excellent Third Reich stamps, cards and covers for sale; usually at reasonable prices. But as with any auction, it's important to know the value of things of interest to avoid overpaying.
2. Where do you sell new WWII era collectible covers and stamps?
eBay. There is absolutely no problem with Third Reich stamp listings, they are never removed. Depending on the material, eBay is a bit unpredictable in its policy for removing listings for Third Reich cards and covers. Blocking out images of Hitler or swastikas doesn't help. I have found not mentioning

Hitler, Third Reich or swastika in the listing description can be helpful. Also, if a listing is removed, simply wait a few weeks and list it again; that has always worked for me. I have sold several hundred Third Reich cards and covers on eBay over the past 20 years (never blocking out images of Hitler or the swastika). It can sometimes be frustrating but it's a great place to buy and sell Third Reich stamps, covers and cards. However, military items (medals, pins, etc.) are very problematic on eBay.

Ben Beede writes:

Auctions held in Germany were almost exclusively the sources of my former postal history collection.

Martin Blumenthal writes:

Hello, Chris:

Re your survey question in the latest issue:

Virtually my only source for new material is from auctions from German firms. My collection has reached the point where it is very difficult to find any new

items that I need or want and are within my buying range price-wise. (Ebay.com is a complete waste of time, as the vast majority of listings there are forgeries or ridiculous "fantasy" creations. Sadly, Ebay.de seems to be seeing an increase in the same bogus material). He adds: Re E-bay, I can only speak from my own limited collecting area, WW II German Occupation stamps

As for selling sources, through the years I have sold very little. When those rare occasions did come about, friends of mine in Germany listed the items for me on Ebay.de

My two-cents worth:

Buying: Look at **LCstamps.com**. Lee Clark, one of our loyal readers, has a great website with essentially every stamp you could want for sale.

E-bay: For inexpensive-to-moderate priced stuff to fill in the collection, there is nothing wrong with them, as deals can be had there. Forgeries are less of an issue on the inexpensive stuff. Although, keep in mind Lee has nearly everything, and will stand behind his product!

For that one-of-a-kind expensive postal cover or unusual item, I set up an account at **stampauctionnetwork.com** I used to use Marc Jasmin's auctions for several years, but he retired. **Apfelbaum** has great stuff, but you are going to pay!

So I will use their search engine and get to unusual things at different auction houses.

Also, I go to all of the area stamp shows (Manchester, CT, Rhode Island, Walpex, etc). A lot of times, they will have collections for sale cheap that I will buy and go through meticulously.

And, if that is not enough, **Spellman Museum** has an auction or two a year that has some pretty good stuff. Again, mainly larger collections cheap, but that is where the great deals are!

And I am not selling quite yet. I'll be the forever optimist and hold on to them with the expectation they appreciate in value.

DANZIG REPORT



STUDY and RESEARCH GROUP

Editor: John H. Bloecher Jr., 1743 Little Creek Drive, Baltimore, Md. 21207

Vol.1 No.42
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1984

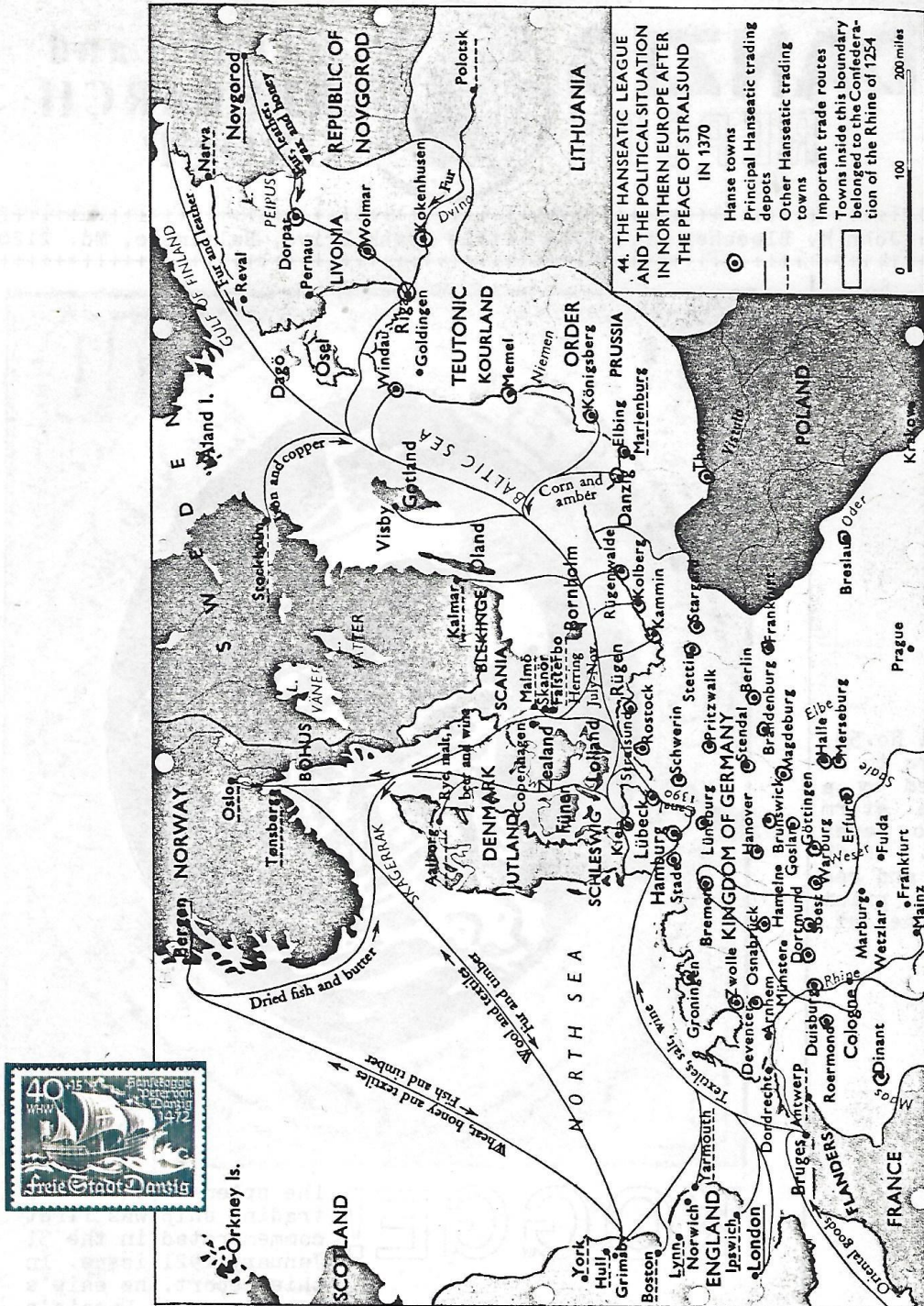


Michel No.58,
appears to be
wrecked by a
severe storm
due to paper
fault. Both
black and red
plates print
over the cut.



KOGGE!

The splendid Hanseatic trading ship was first commemorated in the 31 January 1921 issue. In this report, the ship's importance to Danzig's economy and its stamps are examined.



44. THE HANSEATIC LEAGUE AND THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN NORTHERN EUROPE AFTER THE PEACE OF STRALSUND IN 1370

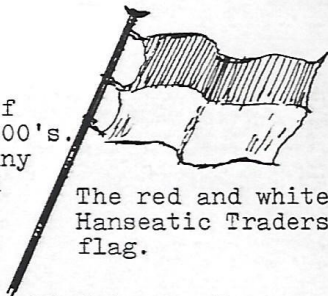
- Hanse towns
- Principal Hanseatic trading depots
- Other Hanseatic trading towns
- Important trade routes
- Towns inside this boundary belonged to the Confederation of the Rhine of 1254

0 100 200 miles



The Hanseatic League's Routes & Goods of Trade - 1370

The Hanseatic League was a confederation of North German cities founded in the late 1200's. The decline of the imperial power in Germany made it necessary for these cities to band together for common protection of their interests, much as the Common Market and OPEC have done in the 20th Century. Two earlier confederations which were grouped around the cities of Cologne and Lubeck resulted in the Hansa. By the middle 1300's, the members of the Hansa included almost all of the larger German towns along the North and Baltic seas. Manufacturers and traders both took advantage of the League.



The red and white Hanseatic Traders' flag.

Danzig's reputation as a trading city existed long before it was captured on 14 November 1308 by the order of Teutonic Knights. (They killed the city's entire Polish population!) In 1361, Danzig was incorporated into the Hanseatic League, and its port continued to grow. By 1454, Danzig's population was 30,000. Ships entering the port in 1474 numbered 405, while 700 appeared in 1490. Grain exports in 1492 were 25,600 tons, increasing to 150,000 tons by 1541.

The Hanseatic League had no formal constitution; its only governing body was a congress made up of merchants from its various 70-odd cities. Its main weapons were commercial boycott and commercial monopoly. However, when the King of Denmark tried to seize the Hansa town of Wisby in 1370, the League sent a fleet to seize Copenhagen and won a treaty which gave it control of the herring trade, and thereafter dominated Scandinavian politics. If a town refused to join the League, its merchants would be unable to sell their goods in profitable markets. One of the greatest contributions of the League was a system of maritime and commercial laws it developed.

As seen on the map on the opposite page, the Hanseatic League gained control of the fur trade with Russia, the fish trade with Norway and Sweden, and the wool trade with Flanders. Although the League's power declined with the end of the Middle Ages (ca. 1450 and the invention of moveable type), Danzig's location and political position allowed continued growth.

(Right) A recent advertisement that appeared in the "Wall St. Journal" showing a Kogge ship of about 1400. The advertiser was the German International Trade Fairs Association.



Go-getters in business have always gone where business is good.

Nowadays, go-getters go to Germany to their special trade fairs, because the international trade fairs in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin are indisputable to them. Every year over 7 million buyers and professionals as well as more than 50,000 exhibitors from 140 countries visit the Federal Republic of Germany: the trade fair country.

They know the reasons why:

- Enterprises from all over the world stage an international competition of efficiency, quality and price.
- German trade fairs extend everything from their line of business—competence and thoroughness.
- At the German trade fairs, they experience creativity and the most up-to-date technologies.

- Exhibitors at German trade fairs present their products tangibly and convincingly.
- Accompanying congresses and meetings naturally, the professional contacts.
- Technical discussions with partners from every corner of the world provide information which no brochure can offer.
- Trade fairs in Germany guarantee perfect organization.
- Germany's trade fair cities are located in the heart of Europe. They can be reached quickly and from anywhere in the world. You may obtain a list of the trade fairs in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin and the guidance with important information for visitors and exhibitors from the

This special issue concerns the Kogge stamps of the Constitutional Commemorative Issue of 1921, and most of the essays and proofs are from Bud Hennig's fabulous collection. Although the Xerox color copies are far from perfect, we thought that it was necessary to use that medium for this presentation. In order to understand the work involved in preparing a new stamp design, we include the following review of engraving techniques:

ENGRAVER'S PROGRESS PROOFS:

Trial impression taken during the course of cutting a die in order to check progress and to make corrections.

DIE PROOFS:

After the die is completed, trial impressions are made as part of the new design's progress toward acceptability. These offer the final checks before the die is impressed upon the transfer roll or final plate.

COLOR TRIALS:

Experimental printings made from a die or plate in various shades and colors before a final decision is made. Color trials do not include those with the accepted color or colors.

COLOR PROOFS:

Proofs made in the finally adopted colors.

PLATE PROOFS:

Trial impressions made from the printing plate before the actual issue. Usually un gummed paper and printed on chalk paper, watermarked or unwatermarked paper with wide margins all around.

ESSAYS:

Designs which never made final acceptance. They were proposed to the government for consideration as a stamp and were actually printed from a plate, as we can see from the study enclosed in this Report. Note that these essays reached the perforation (roulette) stage.

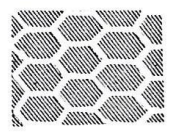


(Left): Michel No. 59K through 62K, with inverted centers.
 (Right): Color proofs, imperforate, of No. 61 and No. 62. The 10 Mark No. 62 is in a steel-blue gray color rather than the Michel description of the green tone. This could, therefore, be classified as a color trial.

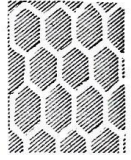
Constitution Commemorative Issue
 ESSAYS
 Kogge - 40 Pfennig Value
 Design accepted with modifications
 Monochrome



Watermarked
 Large Horizontal
 Hexagons
 Rouletted 13½
 Sheets of four
 Ungummed

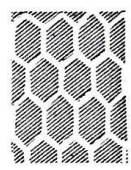


Watermarked
 Large Vertical
 Hexagons
 Line perforated 11½
 Sheets of 100
 Ungummed



Watermarked Vertical Hexagons
 Rouletted 13½
 Ungummed

Watermarked
 Large Vertical
 Hexagons
 Gray Burelage
 Points Down



Line perforated 11½
 Sheets of 100
 Ungummed



Constitution Commemorative Issue

ESSAYS

View of Harbor - 1 Mark Value



Plate proofs in
tan, gray, violet,
blue and red

Single plate proposal

Type 2

On white wove paper

Imperforate

Plate proofs
in color
on stamp paper

Watermarked
Large Horizontal
Hexagons

Single plate proposal

Rouletted $13\frac{1}{2}$

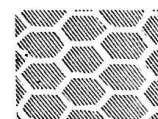
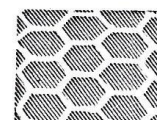


Plate proofs
in color
on stamp paper

Watermarked
Large Horizontal
Hexagons

Single plate proposal

Rouletted $13\frac{1}{2}$

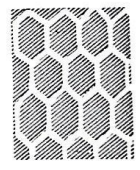


Constitution Commemorative Issue
ESSAYS
Kogge - 40 Pfennig Value
Design accepted with modifications
Bicolor



Unwatermarked
Vertically-
Ribbed
Wove Paper
Imperforate
Sheets of four
Ungummed

Watermarked
Large Vertical
Hexagons
No Burelage
Rouletted 13½
Sheets of four
Gummed



ESSAYS
View of Harbor - 1 Mark Value
Plate proofs in color on white wove paper
Dual plate proposal
Type 2

Constitution Commemorative Issue
 Bicolor Pfennig Values
 Watermarked Stamp Paper
 Vignettes in Trial Colors & Other Anomalies
 Rouletted 13½



The two plate proofs at the right are a vignette of the 10 pfennig (black center) and a vignette of the 25 pfennig (red center).

The above copy colors are off; all of the other examples are with purple centers in brown frames. From the left: pair with blanked corner due to paper fold; imperf with double center; imperf brown frame only; plate proof with four purple centers only; a marginal imperf with center shifted; cancelled with rouletting error shift.



The two plate proofs at the bottom left are a vignette of the 5 pfennig (purple center) and a vignette of the 10 pfennig (black center).

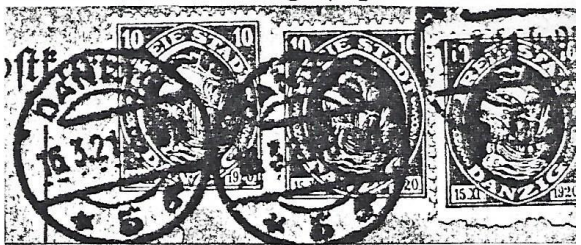
The other examples of anomalies, from the upper left: plate proof with single purple center only; imperf green frame only; plate proof with four red centers only; No. 63 with green cliché nail in margin and red cliché nail after "Stadt"; No. 63 pair with an extra line of perf 14.

Constitution Commemorative Issue
Plate Proofs - 10 Pfennig
Watermarked Stamp Paper
Vignettes in Trial Colors and Other Anomalies



Top left: Block of 4 plate proofs in color vignette of 5 Pfg (purple center); pair of plate proofs in color vignette of 25 Pfg (red center); pair with imperf missing from Field 92 on bottom line, but present in Field 91 and 93; No.54K (inverted center); imperf proof, orange frame only; proof with black center only; imperf proof with bicolors; pale orange w/ center shifted up; used issue with a severe center shift and perforation error.

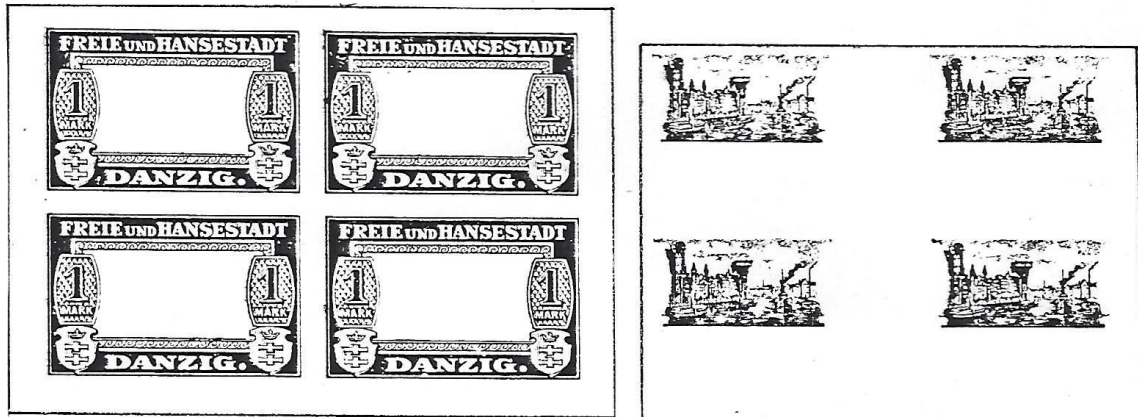
Cover above: 10 Pfg w/ perf shift.



Enlargement of Field 92 on card.

Constitution Commemorative Issue
ESSAYS

View of Harbor - 1 Mark Value
Dual Plate Proposal
Type 2



View of Harbor - 1 Mark Value
Plate Proofs in Black on Enameled Paper
Single Plate Proposal
Miniature Plate of Four Subjects



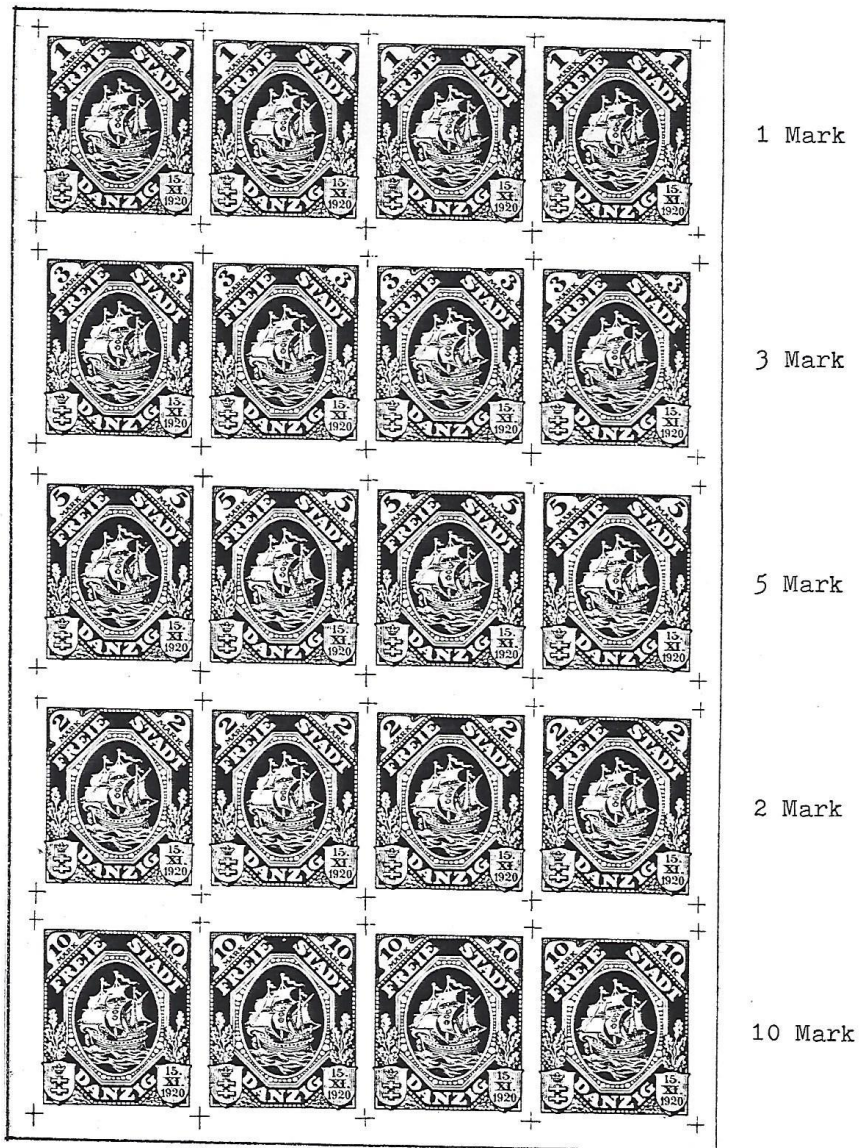
Type 1



Type 2

(All examples on this page are enlarged 30% for clarity)

Constitution Commemorative Issue
Intermediate Die Strips Proofs
1, 3, 5, 2 and 10 Mark Values
Composite Proof in Black on Thick Enamelled Paper



Constitution Commemorative Issue
Anomalies of the 1, 3 and 10 Mark Issues



An interesting and well known anomaly in the Kogge issue is the "Kogge im Feuer", No. 58I. The position is Field 10, but note the same position in the block at the left: there is no plate defect!

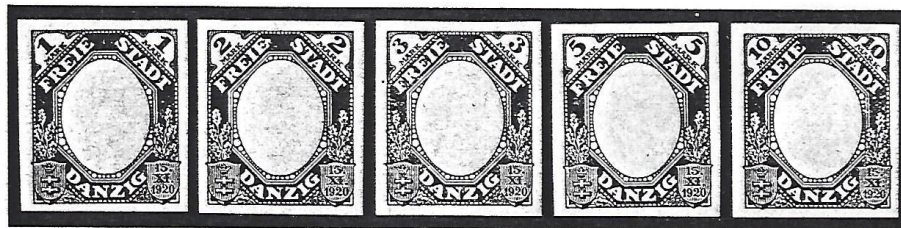
The pair at the left are Fields 19 & 20, showing the short top stroke of the "5" to be constant in Field 20.

The single 1Mk stamp indicates "Feuer", but this time St. Elmo's Fire is the culprit on the mainsail.

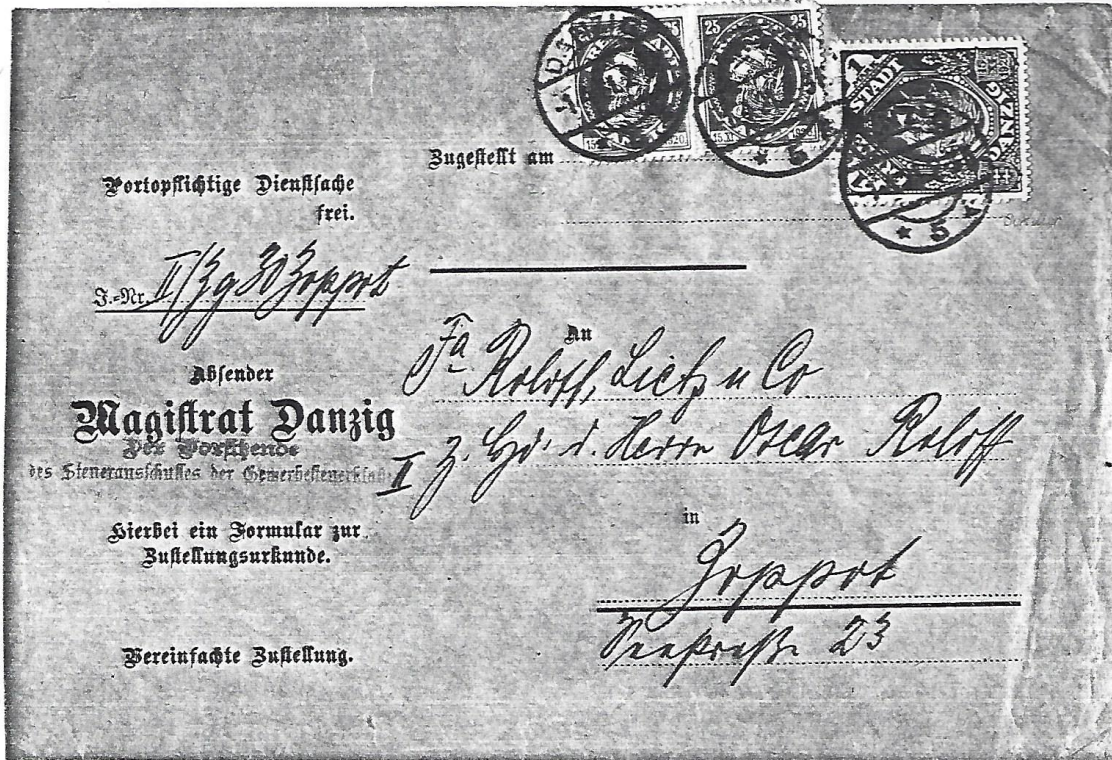
The 3Mk shows "13" instead of 15.XI.1920 on the shield.

The top 10Mk is a victim of paper folds during printing.

The center 10Mk has the broken "2" in the 1920 date.



Die proofs of frames printed in black ink on white wove paper.

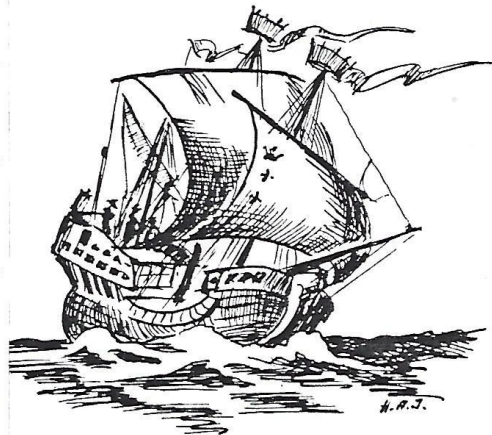


Official cover 1.4.21 from the Magistrat Danzig to a firm in Zoppot.

Kuriosität auf einer Danzigmarke: Die Segel blähen sich nach vorn, während die Mastwimpel nach rückwärts flattern. Dies führe zu dem Danziger Ausspruch: Oben weht ein anderer Wind als unten!



Herr Jacobs aus Belgien sieht die Kogge richtig. Wir danken ihm für die schöne Zeichnung. Ob noch weitere Zeichnungen von Danzig-Marken folgen?



In the German Danzig Arge's Handbook, these notes and a drawing by Herr Jacobs of Belgium corrects the problem that has disturbed the world since the 31st of January, 1921: the flags are 180 degrees out of phase with the driving wind!

Endlich

Auction Watch

As many of you know, the American Philatelic Society (APS) had their yearly *Great American Stamp Show* online in August. I am proud to say the Germany Philatelic Society USA had several speakers as part of their programs, and they all did well.

But what I also noticed was the pricing of the vendors who participated online. making a comeback. It may be that our hobby is awesome, can be done even with COVID running rampant, and doesn't take a mint of money to get started.

With that said, enjoy some of the things available through the APS:

Cherrystone Auctions had a presence online during the show. A sample of some of their relevant material and prices:



GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES Belgium - Flemish Legion

1943 Flemish Kings, set of six sheetlets of four, n.h., fine-v.f., bidding at **\$280.00**



GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES France - Festung Lorient

1945 1.50fr Petain, horizontal sheet margin pair, one with overprint inverted, also overprinted on margin, used on cover to La Baule, dated 24 Feb 1945, with "Festung L'Orient Zensur" cancel, filing fold away from the stamps, fine cover, signed Roger Calves, **Catalog #Mi.10,10K Catalog Value 1900 Euros. Bidding at \$450**



German WWII Issues – Laibach

1943-44 Issues complete with 53 Italian overprinted stamps Dues and Air Post, plus commemorative set of 16, all n.h., v.f., with 1944 certificate for the overprinted stamps. Bidding at \$700



German WWII Occupation Series- German WWII Feldpost – Tunis

Michel 5a 1932 horizontal pair, unused, without gum as issued, v.f. pencil-signed

Valued at 360 Euros, bidding at \$150



**GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES German WWII
Feldpost – Crete**

1944 Inselpost overprint in red, perforated single, n.h., v.f. signed Rungas

Michel 7a, valued at 400 Euros, now bidding at \$140



GERMAN WORLD WAR II OCCUPATION ISSUES British Forgeries for German Occupied France

1944 Merkur 30c carmine, gutter sheetlet of 16, n.h., V.f. with Piele's certificate

Michel #37 Valued at 1600 Euros, now bidding at \$230

And a few from Raren Stamps at Rarenstamps.com:



Ukraine - Sarny. 1941, red overprint "GK.-Ssarny" on 3krb black, bottom margin single printed on light gray paper with black bars on reverse, basic stamp of type II, no gum as issued, NH, VF, G. Krischke certificate, C.v. €525
Currently at \$100



Propaganda issues. PROPAGANDA ISSUE AGAINST SOVIET UNION (PRODUCED BY PROPAGANDA SECTION OF THE REICHSPOST): 1942, Builder, Peasant, Views, 50k-10r, complete set of five, full OG, NH, VF, these stamps were incorrectly called as Vlasov Army issue. Was at \$100



Propaganda issues. PROPAGANDA FORGERIES - GREAT BRITAIN AGAINST GERMANY: 1943, Air Field Post, no value indicated in blue, comb perforation $12\frac{3}{4}$ instead of $13\frac{3}{4} \times 14$, complete sheet of 20 (4x5), folded once along horizontal perforation, slight gum bend mentioned for accuracy, full OG, NH, VF and rare in complete sheet, C.v. €3,000++ Now at \$950



Estland (Estonia). ELWA: 1941, black handstamped overprint "Eesti Post" on 3k light blue, imperforated block of four, two top stamps without overprint, cancelled at the bottom with "Elva. Eesti" ds, VF and scarce multiple, expertized by V. Nemvalz, C.v. €3,000 for two pairs with and without overprint Now at \$650.

Trivia

Most would agree that we are going through some dark days right now, but dark days have come and gone before. Just think of 1940, and the German invasion of western Europe. With the war just starting, it must've seemed that the awfulness would never end.

Suddenly, COVID doesn't seem so horrible!

Enjoy the trivia over the early war period. It starts out easy, but ends up pretty hard!

1. What is the translation normally given to the word 'Blitzkrieg'?

- Fast War
- Great War
- Lightning War
- Trench War

2. In the morning of the 10th May 1940 the Germans invaded the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Paratroopers played an important role. What division were these paratroopers organized into?

- 1. Fallschirmjäger-Division (1st Airborne Division)
- Göring-Division (Göring Division)
- Division zbV (Division for Special Purposes)
- 7. Flieger-Division (7th Flyer Division)

3. How many Panzer-Divisions were deployed against the Western Powers?

- 2
- 6
- 10
- 9

4. In Fall Gelb, the Germans for the first time deployed a 'Panzergruppe'. Who was in command of the original Panzergruppe?

- General of Armoured Troops Heinz Guderian
- General of Cavalry Ewald von Kleist
- Colonel-General Walther von Reichenau
- Major-General Erich Marks

5. Like in the France-Prussian war of 1870-1871, this town again played a vital role in the defeat of France.

- Sedan
- Metz
- Reims
- Dunkirk

6. Of the famous Panzer-Divisions, how many were deployed against Belgium and Luxembourg in Heeresgruppe (Army Group) A?

- 10
- 7
- 2
- 3

7. The Germans attacked through the Netherlands and Belgium because the Franco-German border was defended by which defensive line?

- Line of Peace
- Westwall
- Maginot Line
- Gamelin Line

8. What was the French counterpart of the German Panzer-Divisions?

- Division Cuirassée de Réserve
- Division Infanterie Motorisée
- Division Cavalerie
- Division Mecanisée

9. The French tanks are generally considered superior to the German panzers, but there was, besides doctrine, one important difference between the French Chars and the German Panzers. What was the most important difference?

- The French had one-man turrets, the German 3-man turrets
- The French had only one gun, the Germans had several
- The French tanks were slower
- The French tanks didn't have tracks, they had wheels

10. This man wrote the book "Vers l'armée de métier" ("Towards a Professional Army"), commanded a tank division and later became the leader of the Free French. Who was he?

- Charles de Gaulle
- Albert Leclerc de Hautecloque
- Alphonse Juin
- Michel de Lattre de Tassigny

11. Whom of the following German generals was NOT the leader of an Armored Corps?

- Georg-Hans Reinhardt
- Hermann Hoth
- Erich von Manstein
- Erich Höppner

12. After the fall of Dunkirk and the continued German advance, the French capital, Paris, was declared an 'Open City'. On what date did German troops enter Paris?

- May 31st
- August 8th
- June 11th
- June 14th

13. This French commander was the Commander in Chief of all ground forces situated in France. After the German breakthrough he was replaced by General Weygand. Who was he?

- Gaston-Henri Billotte
- Maurice Gamelin
- Henri Giraud
- Charles Huntziger

14. The armistice was signed in a train car in which of the following cities?

- Versailles
- Compiègne
- Reims
- Paris

15. After the Armistice was signed the unoccupied area of France was known as?

- Petain France
- Free France
- Vichy France
- Small France



In **1944**, the Adolph Hitler **40 Pf.** definitive postage **stamp**, shown above (*mint and used*) (**Mi. #3, Sc. #MQ3**), was overprinted "**FELDPOST / 2kg**", for use as a Military Parcel Post stamp.

Taken from stamp-collecting-world.com Check them out!!!!

Answers

1. What is the translation normally given to the word 'Blitzkrieg'?

The Correct Answer: Lightning War

The Lightning War was first put into practice during the invasion of Poland in September 1939. The main feature is the coordinated use of tanks (panzers) and planes.

98% of players have answered correctly.

2. In the morning of the 10th May 1940 the Germans invaded the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg. Paratroopers played an important role. What division were these paratroopers organized into?

The correct answer is: 7. Flieger-Division (7th Flyer Division)

The main part of the 7. Flieger-Division was dropped in the Netherlands, around The Hague. Small parts were dropped in Belgium, most notably to capture Fortress Eben-Emael near Liège.

35% of players have answered correctly.

3. How many Panzer-Divisions were deployed against the Western Powers?

The correct answer is: 10

There were 10 Panzer-Divisions (the 1st to the 10th) They were deployed in special Panzerkorps, the so-called 'Armeekorps (mot.)' which in 1942 were renamed Panzerkorps.

45% of players have answered correctly.

4. In Fall Gelb, the Germans for the first time deployed a 'Panzergruppe'. Who was in command of the original Panzergruppe?

The correct answer is: General of Cavalry Ewald von Kleist

Many were surprised when General of Cavalry von Kleist was appointed, especially as Guderian did not like him. He thought Kleist 'lacked confidence in the Panzer-Divisions'.

32% of players have answered correctly.

5. Like in the France-Prussian war of 1870-1871, this town again played a vital role in the defeat of France.

The correct answer is: Sedan

Sedan was the place where the panzers of Guderian's XIX. Armeekorps crossed the Meuse, thus sealing the fate of the French Republic. The town was only lightly defended because the French High Command thought it was 'protected by the impassable Ardennes'.

65% of players have answered correctly.

6. Of the famous Panzer-Divisions, how many were deployed against Belgium and Luxembourg in Heeresgruppe (Army Group) A?

The correct answer is: 7

Army Group A under Generaloberst Gerd von Rundstedt was the 'Schwerpunkt' or 'Focal Point': it was the largest and most important of the Army Groups, containing 45 Infantry Divisions and 7 Panzer-Divisions.

47% of players have answered correctly.

7. The Germans attacked through the Netherlands and Belgium because the Franco-German border was defended by which defensive line?

The correct answer is: Maginot Line

The Maginot Line was constructed in the early 30's and was named after the French Minister of Defense André Maginot. He wanted to expand the line along the northern border. Belgium, in 1930 an ally of France, didn't want the line to be constructed along the Franco-Belgium border. It stretched from the Swiss Border to the border of Belgium.

96% of players have answered correctly.

8. What was the French counterpart of the German Panzer-Divisions?

The correct answer is: Division Cuirassée de Réserve

Although it was a sort of armored division, the Division Cuirassée's mostly didn't have any Infantry, the French still wanted to deploy the tanks between the infantry units in platoon-sized or even smaller units. Further, the DCR's had almost no air support.

33% of players have answered correctly.

9. The French tanks are generally considered superior to the German panzers, but there was, besides doctrine, one important difference between the French Chars and the German Panzers. What was the most important difference?

The correct answer is: The French had one-man turrets, the German 3-man turrets

The French tanks had thicker armor and a larger main gun, but there was only one man in the turret, the commander was also the gunner and loader. The Germans had 3-man turrets, each man had a specific task, often 1 man could take over all the other tasks.

46% of players have answered correctly.

10. This man wrote the book "Vers l'armée de métier" ("Towards a Professional Army"), commanded a tank division and later became the leader of the Free French. Who was he?

The correct answer is: Charles de Gaulle

De Gaulle was a strong proponent of tanks. He advised the high command to organize tank divisions of 500 tanks. However, like in most countries, de Gaulle's ideas were rejected by the older commanders of the time. In May/June 1940, de Gaulle commanded the French 4th armored division. The 4th lacked air and infantry support and was swept aside by the Panzers and the Luftwaffe.

88% of players have answered correctly.

11. Whom of the following German generals was NOT the leader of an Armored Corps?

The correct answer is: Erich von Manstein

Erich von Manstein was the brain behind the Sickle-Schnitt, the encirclement of the French and British armies in Belgium and around Dunkirk. He did, however, not lead an Armored Corps, but instead he was given command of the 38th Infantry Corps. Von Manstein eventually got command of an Armored Corps, but only after the French Campaign had ended.

40% of players have answered correctly.

12. After the fall of Dunkirk and the continued German advance, the French capital, Paris, was declared an 'Open City'. On what date did German troops enter Paris?

The correct answer is: June 14th

The French declared Paris an Open City on June 10th and four days later German troops of von Kuehler's 18th Army entered the city.

57% of players have answered correctly.

13. This French commander was the Commander in Chief of all ground forces situated in France. After the German breakthrough he was replaced by General Weygand. Who was he?

The correct answer is: Maurice Gamelin

Maurice Gamelin was an old school commander. He thought the war was going to be a re-run of WWI. He still believed in cavalry although he made some efforts to

mechanize the French army. Gamelin was replaced only after the Germans broke through at Sedan. His successor, Weygand, also was not able to stop the German advance, mainly because the French lost most of its 1st class divisions in Belgium and only 2nd, 3rd and even 4th Class units were available.

69% of players have answered correctly.

14. The armistice was signed in a train car in which of the following cities?

The correct answer is: Compiègne

It was the same place as where the 1918 Armistice was signed. Among others, Wilhelm Keitel signed for Germany and General Huntziger for the French. It was set up to be as embarrassing as possible for the French. After it was signed, the train car is said to have been moved to Berlin and was supposedly blown up by the SS shortly before the Reich fell.

59% of players have answered correctly.

15. After the Armistice was signed the unoccupied area of France was known as?

The correct answer is: Vichy France

The capital of the newly-formed country was based in Vichy, a relatively small town in the interior of France. Here, Phillippe Petain and his government led the country until November 1942, when the Germans took over the country.

88% of players have answered correctly.

For Sale

We do have a few items for sale:

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!!!!

