



# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

**THIRD REICH STUDY GROUP**  
Devoted to the Study  
of the Postal History  
of Germany 1933-1945

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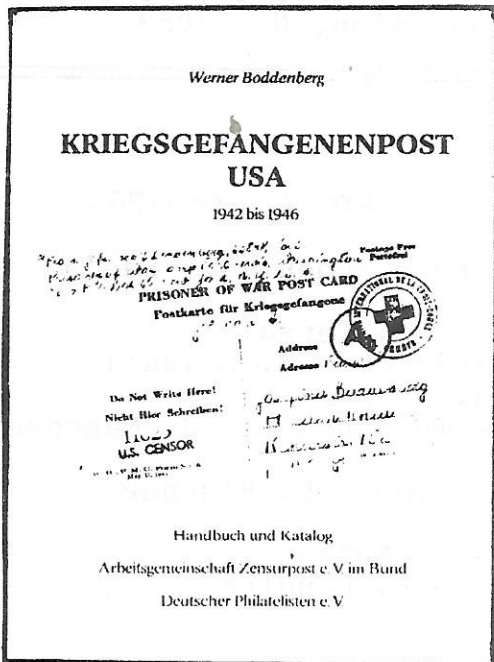


## Study Group Notes

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

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Combination Printings Handbook - an authorized English translation of the Michel Catalog section on Zusammendrucke (Combination Printings) from 1910-1947 from stamp booklets, Vending machine coils & strips is available from Robert E. Gibson, Jr.; P.O. Box 912, Glen Burnie, MD 21061 for \$7.00 postpaid. This soft cover 8½"x11" book is very well done and should be of great help to those TRSGers who do not read German.



Kriegsgefangenenpost USA 1942 bis 1948 by Werner Boddenberg (ARGE Zensurpost Germany) Softcover 285 pgs. Price \$37.00 postpaid USA & Canada. Available from Theo Van Dam, PO Box 8809, Anaheim, CA 92812.

This excellent book provides extensive data on German POWs in transit and, later, permanent camps in the Middle East, North Africa and the USA. It provides complete listings of all camps and illustrates the many different forms, cards etc. including Red Cross and the "American Aid for (German) War Prisoners" cards issued by Emil Auer until the USA joined the war. US, French, British & German censor markings are illustrated and listed with point values. This book is highly recommended as it covers an area of TR postal history which has received little coverage.

### TRSG Auction Rules

In response to inquiries from some of our newer members, the rules have been reprinted on the last page of this bulletin. We apologize for the limited auction and will provide more lots in future issues.

### Cover Illustration

How many of you were able to make any sense out of this odd illustration? The emblem in the upper right corner shows a map in red representing the French border with a white bayonet thrusting through. This is the emblem of the 93rd Infantry Division. Consisting of Prussian reservists, the 93rd was activated in September 1939 after the German Army crossed into Poland. Sent to the Saar Front, the 93rd Division was the first German division to pierce the Maginot Line during the battle of France in 1940. The larger illustration shows a Ram smashing a barrier (in the French national colors) while a French rooster takes flight. This card was obviously published by the 93rd Division to commemorate the breakthrough at Saarbrücken in 1940.

## ...from the **Amtsblatt des Reichspostministeriums**

Nr. 73 - July 1, 1938

Announcement of a forthcoming airpost set of two stamps marking the 100th Birthday of Graf Ferdinand v. Zeppelin. These stamps were destined to become Michel # 669-670.

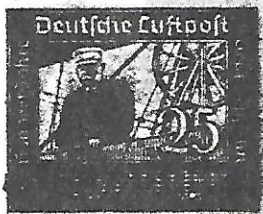
### Verfügungen

#### Allgemeines

#### (S) \*) Nr. 256/1938. Sonderwertzeichen

Am 8. Juli 1938 jährt sich zum 100. Male der Geburtstag des Grafen Ferdinand von Zeppelin. Die Deutsche Reichspost gibt aus diesem Anlaß besondere Luftpostmarken zu 25 und 50 *Rpf* nach Entwürfen des Berliner Graphikers von Uster-Seublaß in Stahlstich und Größe 24,5 x 29,15 mm auf Papier ohne Wasserzeichen heraus. Die 25-*Rpf*-Marke zeigt den Grafen in der offenen Gondel eines alten Zeppelin-Luftschiffes, das Bild der 50-*Rpf*-Marke stellt den Gondelteil des neuesten Luftschiffes dar.

Abbildungen hierunter in  $\frac{1}{4}$  natürlicher Größe.



Die Marken werden bei allen Postämtern und Amtsstellen vom 5. Juli an abgegeben und können auch zum Freimachen von gewöhnlichen und Auslands-Briefsendungen benutzt werden.

Die RPDn haben über die Lieferung besondere Verfügung erhalten.

VI 2632—1



### K.d.F. Cruise Ship 'Oceana'

by Ken Wood

Prior to the construction of the K.d.F. cruise ships 'Robert Ley' and 'Wilhelm Gustoff', German workers took part in cruises on other ships which were leased by the "Kraft durch Freud" (Strength through Joy) organization.


Shown below is one of these leased ships which was a two funnelled, 8,790 ton passenger/cargo liner built by Bremer Vulkan Werft in 1912 for the North American Lloyd. Originally named 'Sierra Salvada', she plied the South America Lloyd route until after the outbreak of WW I, when she was confiscated by the Brazilian government. After the war she was returned to Germany and saw brief service in the early 1920s as a cruise ship re-named 'Peer Gynt'.

Purchased by the Italian Sitmar line, she was renamed 'Neptunia' until once again returning to German ownership in June 1927 when she was purchased by the Hamburg-Amerika line. She returned to service as the cruise ship 'Oceana'.

The 'Oceana' was the seventh ship chartered by the K.d.F. and made her first K.d.F. voyage on March 10, 1935. This ship made 24 further cruises for the K.d.F. during the 1930s, mainly to Norwegian fiords and to the Baltic.

K. d. F. Dampfer „Oceana“  
Länge 134 m, Breite 17 m, Höhe 12 m  
8000 Brutto-Registertons  
Maschinenstärke ca. 4000 P. S.

Internationale  
Leipziger Messe



27. VII 1935

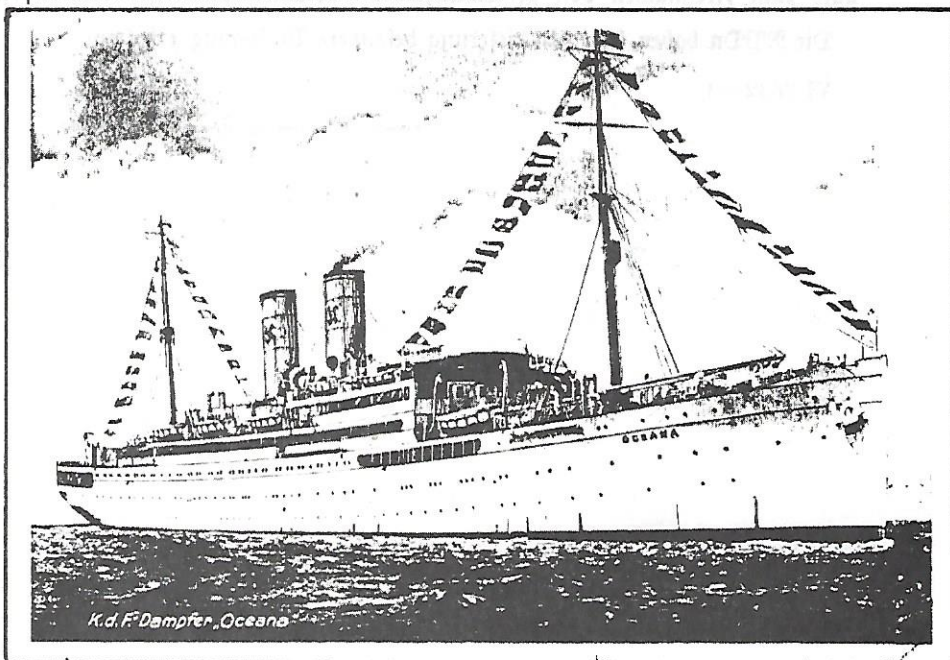
Hr. Lühr

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Im besten Grüße  
der unseren  
Betriebsausflug  
mit Herabkunft  
gerade Freude  
Rome bitte pfa

Jacob  
Joh. Polworscher

K. W. H.





After Torgau: Mail in the Northern and Southern  
Zones of Germany, April - May 1945

by Benjamin R. Beede

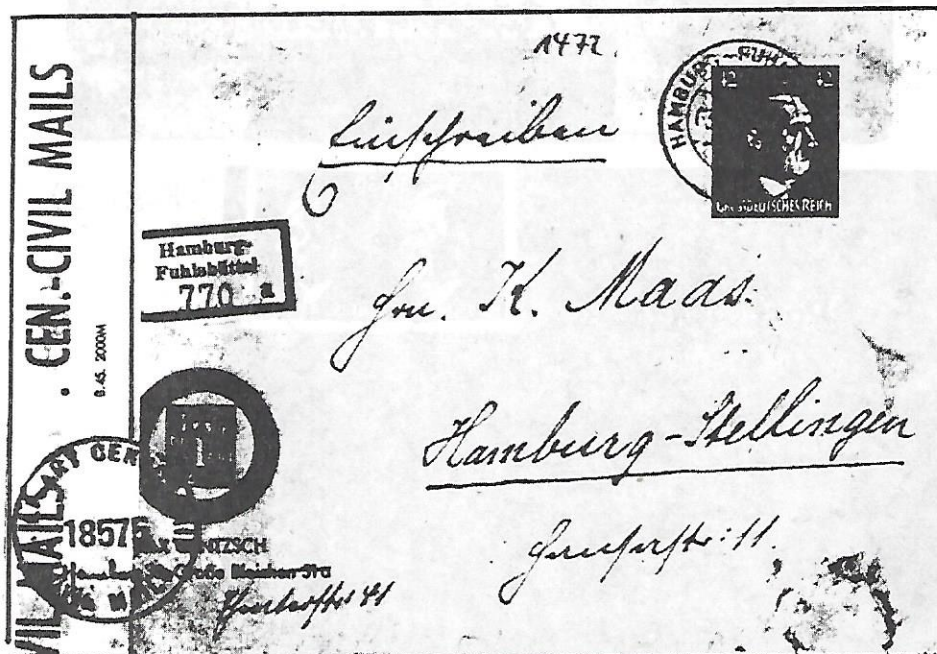
German planning late in World War II took into account the possibility that the Reich and its occupied territories might be divided into two spheres by the advance of Allied forces. Tentative chains of command were established on April 11, 1945. These provided for variations, depending upon whether Hitler went to the Northern or to the Southern Zone. The headquarters were initially called "A" and "B" to spare Hitler's sensibilities, but soon the terms "Northern Zone" and "Southern Zone" came into use. (1).

Postal Minister Wilhelm Ohnesorge happened to be in the Southern Zone. He was advised to surrender to the Allies. (2). Meanwhile, Transportation Minister Dorpmüller was also appointed Postal Minister; State Secretary Nagel was the highest ranking civil servant of the Reichspost. (3)

By the time of Hitler's death the Northern Zone contained relatively little German territory, just a few cities near the coast, including Hamburg, Lubeck and Flensburg. Negotiations were already under way for the surrender of Hamburg. (4) It was soon agreed that German forces would withdraw from Hamburg and that military action would end at 6:00 p.m. on May 3, 1945. (5). British troops began to enter the city at 1:00 p.m. All Germans except utility workers were to keep off the streets when the Allied forces arrived; all street traffic had to cease at 12:00 noon. (6). Postal service continued to the last minute. The impounded cover in Fig. 1 was mailed between 9:00 and 10:00 in the morning on May 3, 1945, but went nowhere for some time. Even though the addressee was located in Hamburg, the registered cover was not backstamped at the receiving postoffice until December 4, 1945.

Meanwhile, postal service continued in the Southern Zone, which toward the end included a small portion of Saxony, including the cities of Chemnitz and Dresden, part of the Sudetenland, and much of Austria, most of which had not yet been occupied by the Allies.

Fig. 1)





The surrender terms that were signed at Rheims included the statement that: that (7):

The German High Command will at once issue orders to all German military, naval and air authorities and to all forces under German control to cease active operations at 2301 hours Central European time on May 8, 1945 ...

Grand Admiral Doenitz proclaimed the end of the war at half past twelve noon on May 8th in the course of a radio address from Flensburg. (8)

Figs. 2 & 3 show VE Day covers. The first is a lettersheet from Bad Ischl, Austria, cancelled at 8:00 a.m. on May 8th. The lettersheet is addressed to Hall in the Tirol, which had already been taken by American forces on the way to meet the Fifth Army advancing north from Italy. In accordance with Allied occupation regulations, the lettersheet was impounded, censored, and eventually delivered. Fig. 3 shows an uncompleted money order from Weipert in the Sudetenland that was cancelled on May 8th at 10:00 a.m. The money order was addressed to Saxony, but the amount indicated was evidently never paid, at least through this money order.

These covers are interesting reflections of the days when Germany was first divided in 1945, from North to South rather than from East to West.

Fig. 2)

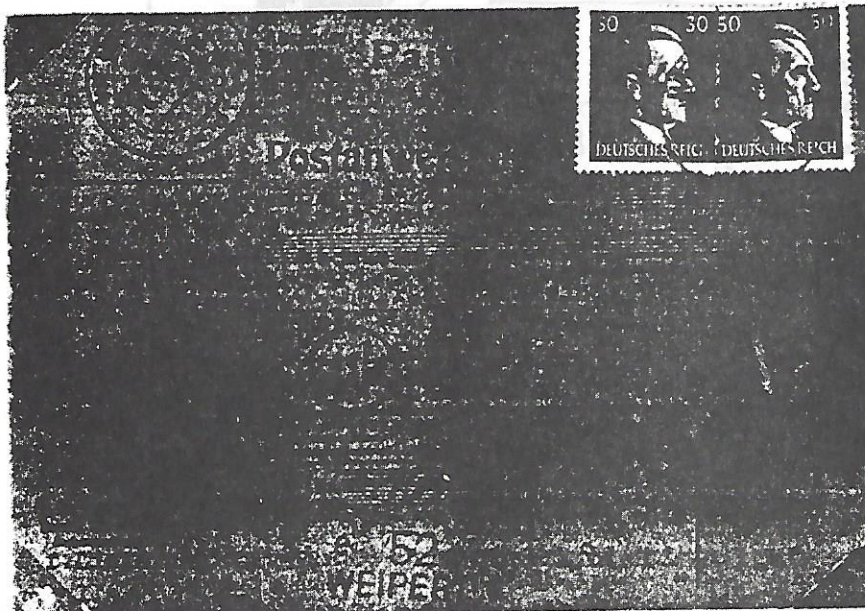


Fig. 3)



## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> Marlis G. Steinert, 23 Days: The Final Collapse of Nazi Germany (New York: Walker and Company, 1964), p. 21.
- <sup>2</sup> Steinert, 23 Days, pp. 115, 119.
- <sup>3</sup> Steinert, 23 Days, p. 125
- <sup>4</sup> Hubert Essame, The Battle for Germany (New York: Bonzana Books, 1969), p. 209. See pages 208-212, generally, for an English language account of the surrender of Hamburg.
- <sup>5</sup> Moeller, Kurt Detlev, Das letzte Kapitel: Geschichte der Kapitulation Hamburgs (Hamburg: Hoffmann und Campe Verlag, 1947), pp. 170-171.
- <sup>6</sup> See the placard reproduced on page 371 of Werner Johne, "Im Dritten Reich 1933-1945," in Geschichte der Stadt und ihrer Bewohner: Band II Vom Kaiserreich bis zur Gegenwart, edited by Werner Jochmann and Hans-Dieter Loose (Hamburg: Hoffmann und Campe, 1980).
- <sup>7</sup> United States. Congress. Senate. Committee on Foreign Relations. Documents on Germany, 1944-1961 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1961), p. 12.
- <sup>8</sup> Steinert, 23 Days, p. 173.

## DUIAG AMERSFOORT

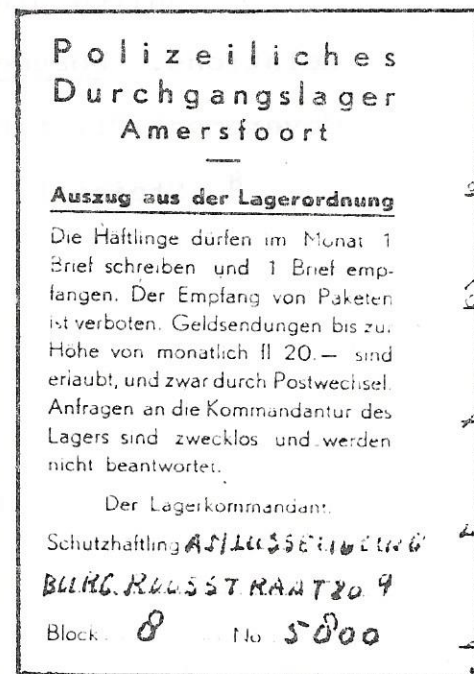
by Gerard J. deBoer

Shortly after the Germans invaded the Netherlands, they took over a Jewish refugee camp at Westerbork, which was initially run by the Dutch but was administered by the German Security Police as of July 1, 1942 (see TRSG Bulletin #81).

Soon several new camps were established, one of which was the notorious transit camp Amersfoort, roughly 30 miles southeast of Amsterdam. The Germans called it a "Polizeiliches Durchgangslager". It opened on August 18, 1941 and served as a transit camp for many Westerbork-bound Jews. However, it also housed political prisoners, Jehova Witnesses, hostages, anti-socials and what the Germans called "Arbeitsvertragbrüchigen" i.e. those who had breached a labor contract. This last category applied specifically to persons who had been forced to work in German factories but who had refused to return there after a short leave in Holland.

Hardly any mail exists from the Amersfoort camp, much less than, for instance, from Westerbork. Two reasons can be cited for that, first of all, inmates were restricted to only one letter per month compared to two letters per month for Westerbork inmates. (See Fig. 2 printed in red on the inside of the lettersheet). Secondly, many inmates were simply forbidden to write on a regular basis, and this accounts for the scarcity of such covers. Censorship markings do not exist, which is rather unusual because all mail was examined and read. A couple of covers were recently found with a simple "zensiert" marking. These are on mail from Jews who were transferred here from Westerbork because they claimed nationality other than Dutch. As Amersfoort was a police camp, their nationalities were checked out in this camp. These are the only recorded items from this camp with censor markings. The camp finally closed at the end of the war on May 5, 1945.

Fig. 1) Cover mailed to Rotterdam on July 3, 1944. Fig. 2) Printed text on inside of lettersheet reminding inmates that they could send one letter per month and also receive only one per month. Parcels could not be accepted.





## UKRAINIAN VOLUNTEERS IN THE WEHRMACHT

by August Leppä

Background Information

Trying to locate genuine Ukrainian fieldpost can be disappointing. By the term "Ukrainian fieldpost" I refer to those items sent by Ukrainian volunteers serving in various German detachments. Items from enlisted soldiers of Soviet origin (i.e. from those republics in the current USSR) are more scarce than those from German officers, the so-called "Rahmenpersonal". These German officers were not interested in announcing their units as Ukrainian and so the units have to be recognized by fieldpost number (FpNr) or by unit names. For this article I attempted to collect all fieldpost numbers used by national Ukrainian units, i.e. those which the Germans designated as Ukrainian. However, it is possible that some units are missing. The fieldpost numbers of the 14th SS Division are not included as those numbers were published in Lewis' "Waffen-SS Feldpost Numbers and Order of Battle".

## Listing of Fieldpost Numbers (FpNr) with Feldpost Directory (FpU) Revisions &amp; Dates

<u>FpNr</u>	<u>FpU Revision</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit</u>
00635	(7)		Stab, Trsp. Begl. Rgt. Ukraine
	(8)		Rgts. Stab, Trsp. Sich. Rgt. Ukraine
	(11)	5.3.45	(deleted)
00943	(11)	5.12.44	2. Ukrain. Bau-Kp.
01069	(7)		Stab u. 1-3 Kp., Ukrain. Schutzmannsch. Btl. 61
	(10)		Rgts. Stab/Rgt. 4 (30.SS Div.)
01404	(9)	4.9.43	Ost-Prop. Abtl. z.b.V. Zeitung Ukrainsky Dobrowolez
02784	(7)		Ukrain. Reit. Hdtsch. 339, later Ost-Reit. Schwdr. 2/203.
	(9)	4.1.44	(deleted)
03135	(7)		Ukrain. Wach-Kp. Heeresgebiet Mitte, later Ost-Kp. 1/203.
	(9)	20.11.43	(deleted)
04411	(10)	17.23.44	Bau-Kp. (ukrain.) Pi. Btl. 9
	(11)	20.11.44	(deleted)
05477	(9)	6.9.43	Stab I u. 1-4 Kp. Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 6 (Pol.)
		9.3.44	(deleted)
05607	(7)		Stab u. 1-3 Kp. Ukrain. Schutzm. Btl. 118
	(9)	22.12.43	Stab u. 1-3 Kp. Schutzm. Btl. 63
	(10)	2.10.44	Stab, Art. Abtl. (30. SS-Div.)
07023	(9)	6.9.43	Stab III u.9-12 Kp., Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 6 (Pol.)
	(9)	9.3.44	(deleted)
07113	(7)		(Ukrain.) Ost-Wach-Kp. 606
	(11)	17.11.44	(deleted)
07940	(7)		(Ukrain.) Ost-Wach-Btl. 611
07965	(7)		Stab u. 1-3 Kp. Ukrain. Schutzen-Btl. 129
	(8)		(deleted)
08024	(9)	11.9.43	Stab u. 1-3 Kp., Schutzen-Btl. 284 (Ukrain.)
	(11)	14.4.45	(deleted)

<u>FpNr</u>	<u>FpU Revision</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit</u>
08182	(7)		(Ukrain.) Ost-Wach-Kp. 1 u. 2/607
	(8)		(Ukrain.) Ost-Wach-Kp. 1/607
08621	(11)	8.1.45	Stab u.1-4 Kp., Ukrain. Bau-Pi. Btl. 690
08677	(8)		(Ukrain.) Ost-Wach-Kp. 608
09115	(7)		(Ukrain.) Ost-Wach-Kp. 609
	(11)	23.11.44	(deleted)
09728	(7)		(Ukrain.) Ost-Wach-Kp. 1 u. 2/610
	(8)		(Ukrain.) Ost-Wach-Kp. 1/610
09860	(8)		Stab u. 1-4 Kp., Ukrain. Schutz. Btl. 51
	(9)	2.9.43	(deleted)
10231	(7)		1. (Ukrainer) Kp. Wach-Btl. 571
	(9)	18.8.43	4. Kp. Nachsch. Btl. 571
11359	(7)		2. (Ukrainer) Kp. Wach-Btl. 571
	(9)	18.8.43	5. Kp. Nachsch. Btl. 571
12704	(9)	1.10.43	Stab III u. 9-12 Kp., Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 7 (Pol.)
	(9)	9.3.44	(deleted)
13254	(11)	17.1.45	Ukrain. Genes. Btl. in Freiw. Stamm-Rgt. 3
14173	(9)	1.10.43	Stab II u. 5-7 Kp., Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 7 (Pol.)
		9.3.44	(deleted)
14471	(8)		Stab u. 1-4 Kp., Ukrain. Schutz. Btl. 57
	(10)	2.10.44	Div. Stab, 30. SS-Div.
15835	(9)	9.3.44	Stab u. Einh., Gal. Freiw. Ers. Btl. (Pol.)
	(10)	21.6.44	(deleted)
15882	(9)	9.3.44	5. (Ukrain.) Kp. Bau-Pi. Btl. 505
17434	(10)	23.5.44	Stab, Ukrainische Selbstschutz-Legion
	(11)	20.11.44	(deleted)
20478	(10)	19.8.44	Ukrain. Genes. Btl.
	(11)	16.12.44	(deleted)
20771	(6)		Stab, Ukrain. Inf. Btl. 6
	(9)	13.9.43	Stab u. 1-8 Kp., Ost-Btl. 551
	(9)	7.2.44	Stab u. 1-8 Kp., Ost-Nachsch. Btl. 651
21834	(7)		Nachsch. Kp. (Ukrain.) 678
	(10)	10.5.44	(deleted)
23618	(8)		Stab u. 1-4 Kp., Ukrain. Schutz. Btl. 54
	(9)	17.9.43	(deleted)
25830	(10)	19.9.44	Pol. Reiter-Schwdr. Galizien
26269	(8)		Ost-Wach-Kp. (Ukrain.) 2/610
27351	(8)		Ost-Wach-Kp. (Ukrain.) 3/607
	(11)	23.2.45	4. (Ukrain.) Kp., Nachsch, Btl. 501
27663	(7)		Stab u. 1-3 Kp., Ukrain. Feldzeug-Btl. z.b.V. 101
	(11)	5.12.44	(deleted)
27955	(7)		Stab u. 1-3 Kp., Ukrainer-Btl. z,b.V. 101
	(7)		(deleted)
28527	(8)		Ost-Wach-Kp. (Ukrain.) 3/610



<u>FpNr</u>	<u>FpU Revision</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit</u>
29847	(8)		Ost-Wach-Kp. (Ukrain.) 2/607
	(11)	15.12.44	(deleted)
29935	(10)	13.5.44	3. (Ukrain.) Kp., Nachsch. Btl. 687
30425	(7)		Ukrainer-Kp. 680
	(11)	6.9.44	(deleted)
31037	(11)	12.2.45	Stab, Ukrain. Einsatz-Btl.
31038	(11)	12.2.45	Stab, Einsatz-Btl. d. ukrain. Fuhrerschule
31558	(6)		Ukrain. Nachsch. Kol. Abtl.(besp.) b. Panzer A.N.F.
	(7)		Stab, Nachschub Kol. Abtl. (Ukrain. besp.) 551
34516	(10)	2.8.44	Ukrain. Wach-Kp. 198
		12.8.44	(deleted)
34633	(11)	16.3.45	Stab, Bau-Pi. Btl. (Gal.) 692
35163	(10)		2. Pol. Gesch. Battr. Galizien
	(11)	5.1.45	(deleted)
39823	(10)	10.10.44	1. Pol. Gesch. Battr. Galizien
	(11)	8.11.44	(deleted - later Fp# 56927C)
42144	(8)		Stab I u. 1-4 Kp. Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 5 (Pol.)
	(10)	4.7.44	(deleted)
42495	(10)	11.9.44	Stab u. 1-4 Kp. Ausb. u. Ers. Btl. f. Ukrain. Freiwillige
43899	(6)		Ukrain. Hdtsch.
	(9)	2.2.44	Stab u. 1-4 Kp. Ost-Btl. 560
45734	(6)		Stab u. 1-4 Kp. Ukrain. Schutzm. Btl. 201
	(8)		(deleted)
47863	(9)	22.4.44	Hiwi-Ens. Kp. b. Heeres Gru. Sud-Ukraine
56364			Stab I u. 1-4 Kp. Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 4 (Pol.)
	(10)	3.6.44	(deleted)
56882	(11)	30.4.45	Stab, Pz. Jagd-Brigade Freie Ukraine
56885	(11)	28.12.44	Ukrain. Wachp-Kp. 645
57208	(11)	30.4.45	Stab, Verband I Pz. Jagd-Brig., Freie Ukraine
57920	(8)		Rgts. Stab, Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 4 (Pol.)
	(10)	10.6.44	(deleted)
58119	(8)		Stab III u. 9-12 Kp., Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 4 (Pol.)
	(10)	3.6.44	(deleted)
58273	(11)	30.4.45	Stab, Verband II Pz. Jagd-Brig. Frei Ukraine
59167	(8)		Stab III u. 9-12 Kp. Gal. Freiw. Rgt. 5 (Pol.)
	(10)	4.7.44	(deleted)
65115	(11)	8.1.45	Stab u. 1-4 Kp. Ukrain. Bau-Pi. Btl. 691
65846		30.4.45	Ers.-U. Ausb. Kp., Pz. Jagd-Brig. Freie Ukraine
67118	(10)	25.11.44	1. Ukrain. Bau-Kp.

Further remarks

The first volunteer units in Ukraine were Schutzmannschaft battalions, about ten in number. Most of these battalions received their fieldpost numbers in FpU Updates 6 or 7 during 1942. In the preceding list, the single numbers in parentheses indicate the update which designated the fieldpost numbers. Separate Ukrainian companies were also formed, mainly in 1942 or at the beginning of 1943.

One notable group was designated the Grenadier Regiments Galiezien, numbered from 4 to 7. I have managed to locate only two battalions of each regiment. One possibility may be that their fieldpost numbers were in use for only a few months, from October 1943 to March 1944. The personnel may have been used to fill other units and the regiments dissolved. Thus II Btl. in Regiments 4 thru 6 and Btl. I in Regiment 7 may never be located.

Ukrainian units were still being formed during the last months of the war, such as the Panzer-Jagd-Brigade (Tank Hunting Brigade) Freie Ukraine. Mail from this unit would be very scarce.

References:

1. Kannapin, N. Die deutsche Feldpostübersicht 1939-1945, Band I-III, Osnabruck 1982
2. Lewis, J.E. Waffen-SS Feldpost Numbers and Order of Battle, A Third Reich Study Group Project 1984

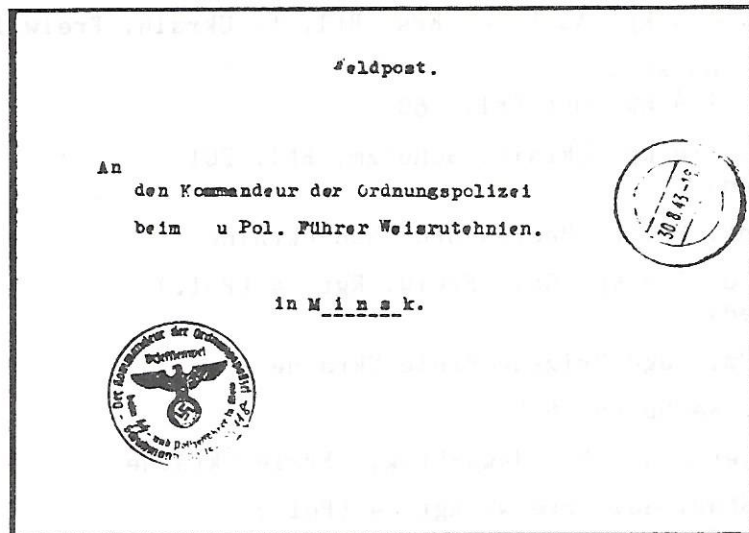


Fig. 1) Official Feldpost from Schutzmannschaft Btl. 118 with open unit identification (see FpNr.05607. The unit seal contains no remark about nationality.

Fig. 2) Cover from Schutzmannschaft Btl. 102 (see FpNr.01069). The unit seal is in German & Ukrainian.





### 27TH PANZER DIVISION NEW KENN POSTAL CODE

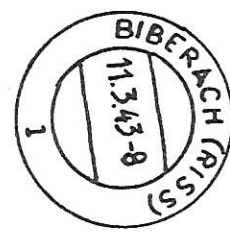
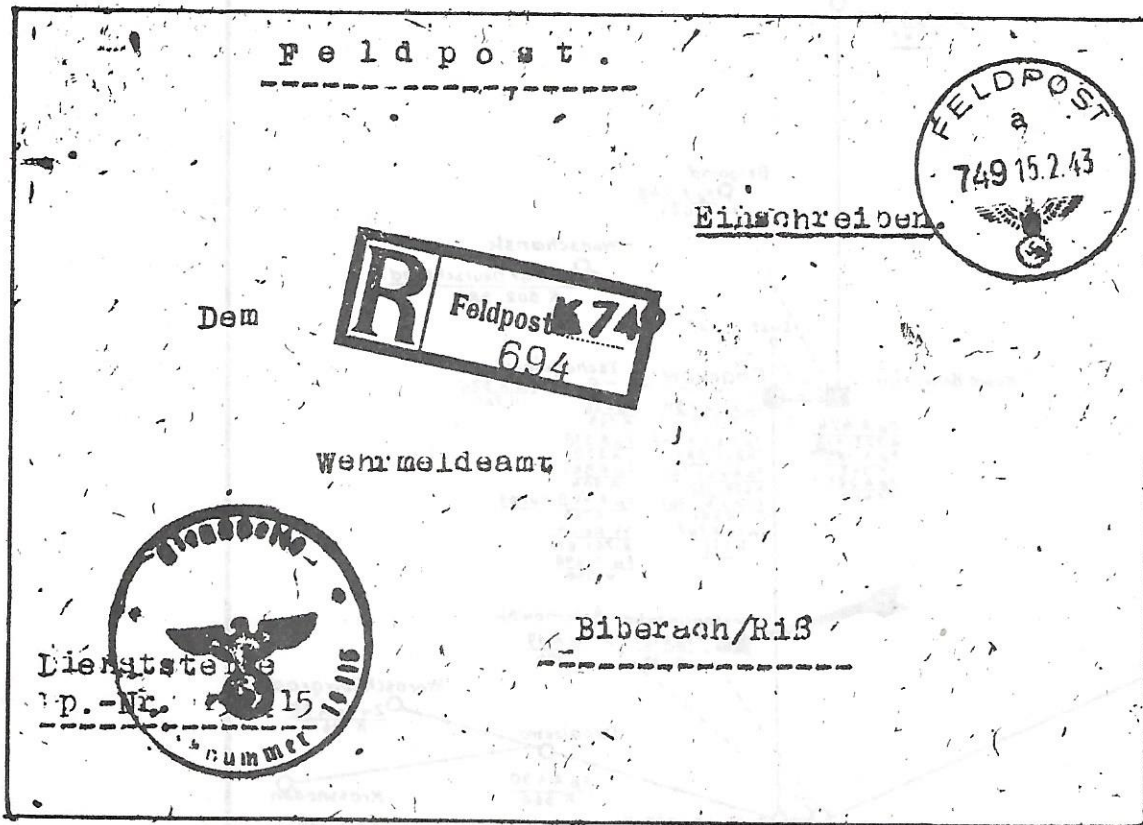
by Gianluigi Soldati

The 27th Panzer Division was formed in two echelons - part of the divisional base (including the artillery regiment) was formed in France in the summer and autumn of 1942 and then was sent to Voronezh, Russia, in the rear of the 2nd Army. Here it was joined by Panzer Brigade Michalik - which mainly consisted of the 140th Panzer Granadier Rgt. - and Panzer Btl. 127, formerly III/Pz. Rgt. 204 of the 22nd Pz. Divion. The division never reached full status because the 127th Pz. Engineer Btl. was trapped and destroyed at Stalingrad and never joined the rest of the unit.

The 27th Panzer Div. fought in Southern Russia under the 2nd and Italian 8th Armies and 1st Panzer Army from Oct. 1, 1942 until it was disbanded early in 1943. After Feb. 15, 1943, the division barely a fighting force after being nearly decimated during the defense of the Don Basin. The division was disbanded after the Soviet winter offensive of 1942-43 had been stopped. Most of it's equipment and survivors were evidently absorbed by the 7th Panzer Division.

While several post-war Feldpost references list Kenn No. 326 for FpA 127, the postoffice of the 27th Panzer Division, there are no examples of registered Feldpost covers to confirm this. On the other hand, there is evidence that Kenn No. 749, which most Feldpost researchers report as unknown in 1943, was actually the coded designation for FpA 127.

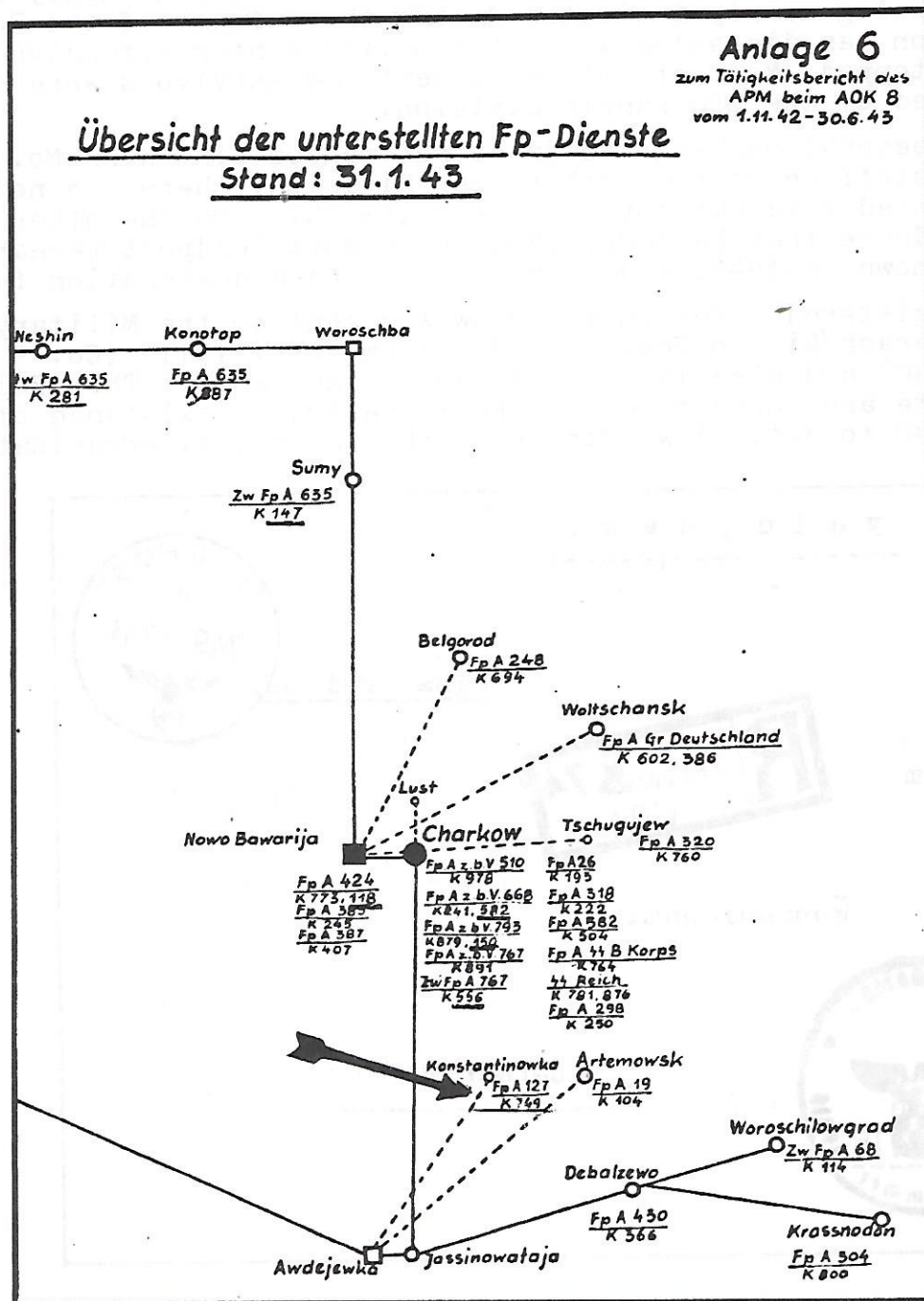
The registered cover shown below was sent to the Military Records Office in Biberach/Riß on Feb. 15, 1943 from FpNr. 19115 (Co. 9 of Pz. Gren. Rgt. 140) and clearly shows K-749 in the cancel. This Feldpost number and date are correct for the known period of existence of FpA 127 (10.1.42 to 3.1.43) within the 27th Panzer Div. organization.



REVERSE  
SIDE

Additional information on this matter was obtained by noted Feldpost researcher and author Norbert Kannapin. Shortly after publication of the latest edition of his "Die Deutsche Feldpost 1939-1945", Herr Kannapin located a report from the Army Post Master of Army Group 8 in the Military Records Office in Freiburg, W. Germany. Layout 6 in this report (shown below) shows that FpA 127 (K-749) was located in Konstantinowka on Jan. 31, 1943. Earlier layouts (3 to 5) also report the same Kenn number identification. Layout 3 is dated Nov. 11, 1942.

What is puzzling is that only the above reference ties the 27th Panzer Division to the 8th Army. One reason for this may be that elements of the division were used to support other groups on the Eastern front. Although under 8th Army Command, the 27th Panzer supported the Hungarian 2nd Army (in Dec. '43) and the Julia and Cosseria Divisions of the Italian 8th Army. Eventually the 27th Panzer was transferred to the 1st Panzer Army in Feb. 1943 and disbanded.





## Lithuanian Troops in German Units

by Arthur Hecker

I have come across four Feldpost covers mailed from Norway in December of 1944. All four are from senders with typical Lithuanian names and addressed to the Lithuanian Club in Vienna.

According to the Michel "Handbuch-Katalog Deutsche Feldpost 1937-1945", the strictly Lithuanian units were dissolved in May of 1944. Lithuanians in the German Armed Forces ("Wehrmacht") numbered 37,000 men.

The senders of these letters were from three different Feldpost numbers:

- (2) Fp. Nr. L19813 - Luftwaffe Bau Btl. 6/VI
- (1) Fp. Nr. L46188 - 3. Kp. Luftwaffe Bau-Btl. 30/XI
- (1) Fp. Nr. 58830 - Rgts. Stab/Polizei Rgt. 24

The Luftwaffe units were in Finland in 1944. Kardel indicates that in 1945 L19813 was in Narvik and L46188 in Tommersnes. Kardel does not list Fp. Nr. 58830 and it is likely that this unit was in southern Norway.

Finland broke diplomatic relations with Germany on Sept. 2, 1944 and by Sept. 19 had signed an armistice with the Soviet Union. German units in Finland moved to Norway.

Although the Red Army began their Lithuanian offensive in July of 1944, it was not until January of 1945 that Memel was captured, completing the occupation of Lithuania.

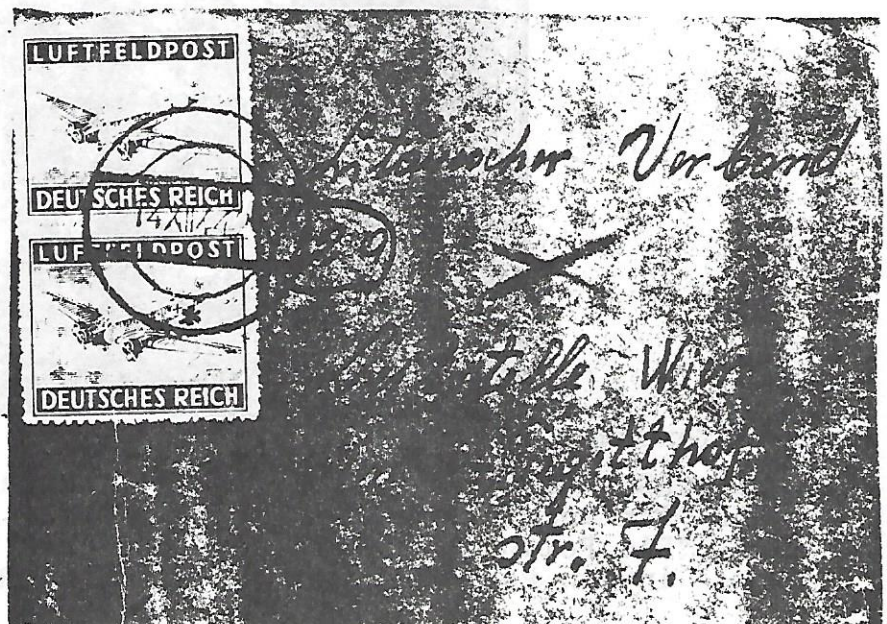
Was the Litauischer Verband in Vienna an agency for forwarding mail from Lithuanian troops in German units to the homeland? There are precedents for such agencies in the German postal history of this period such as the Max Winkler address used by the Condor Legion and in the uses of P.O. Boxes 110 and 113 in Vienna for Romanian nationals serving in German units.

It would have been logical for Lithuanians in the German Armed Forces to use a German (or Austrian) domiciled agency to communicate with relatives in their homeland due to the uncertainties of the military situation in December of 1944. The Lithuanians who volunteered to serve in German units were anti-Soviets who deeply resented the Soviet invasion of Lithuania in 1940 and the subsequent incorporation of the Baltic States into the Soviet Union.

Fig. 1) Luftfeldpost cover posted Dec. 14, '44 from Fp.# 58830 has mute cancel.

Return address on back is shown below full size.

Wachm. Stanislo Stasiunas  
Feldpost # 58830





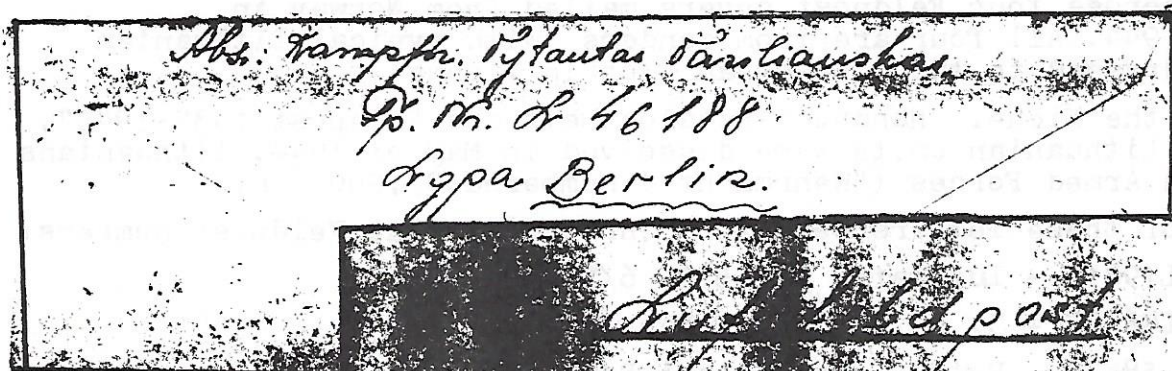


Fig. 2) Cover posted Dec. 13, '44 from Fp# L46188 via IGPA Berlin.

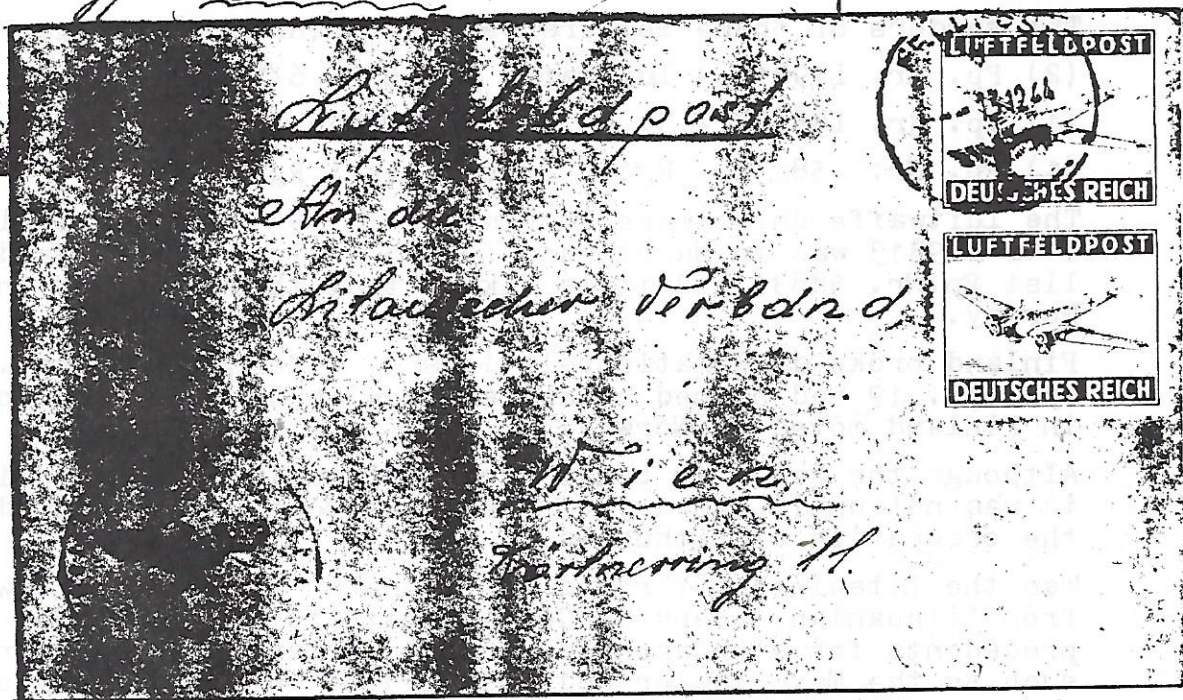


Fig. 3) Cover posted Dec. 29, '44 from Fp# L19813 also via IGPA Berlin.



References:

1. TRSG Bulletin, Vol. IV, No. 1 (Whole No. 22) "P.O. Box 110 Vienna".
2. "Finland Feldpost" - Hans G. Moxter.
3. "Die Feldpost Nummern der Deutschen Truppenteile und Dienststellen in den Polargebieten 1940-1945" - R. Kardel.



Partial Obliteration of Message by Norway Censor  
by Jason Manchester

In TRSG Bulletin #90, Editor J. Lewis commented that "blotting out of words" was not usually practiced by German mail examiners. Shown below is a cover posted in Oslo, Norway on August 29, 1941 which is addressed to a relative in Bremen, Indiana. Note that a German censor handstamp is on the front side adjacent to missing adhesive postage stamp which would have been added to make foreign rate. This censor mark is listed by Riemer as O-1.

The message side of this card has been censored by the application of thick black paint to several areas. These applications are so thick that the paint can be seen from the front side. Perhaps this "blotting out" was a Norwegian phenomenon which had been observed by Mr. Barca.

Fig. 1) Message side of postcard showing heavy black paint used to obliterate portions of message.

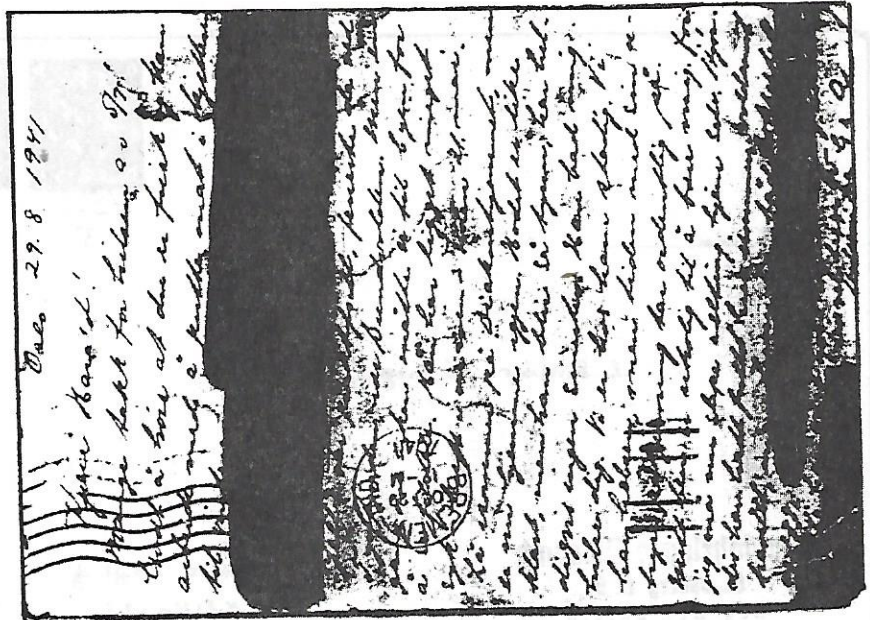
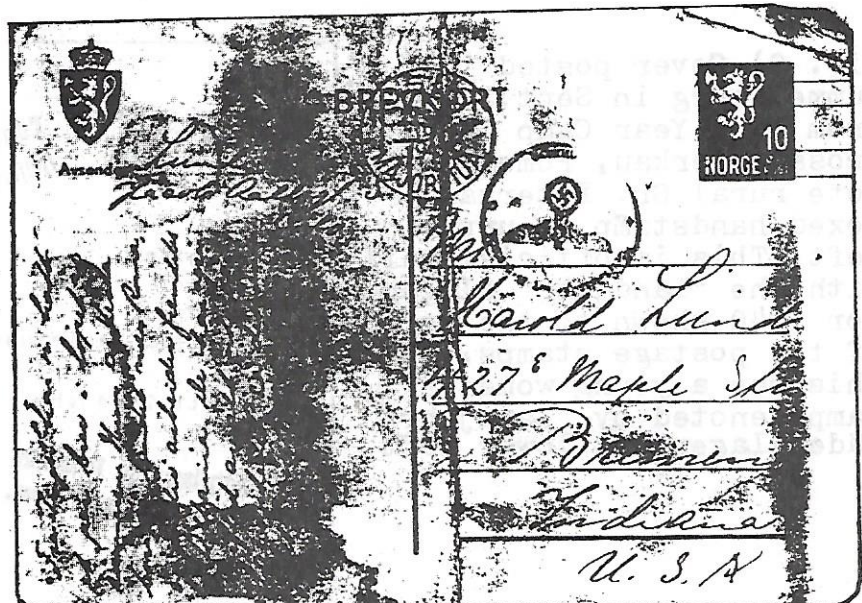


Fig. 2) Address side showing the Oslo censor mark. Note that black paint applied to message side is visible from this side.





LAND YEAR CAMP COVERS  
by John Miskevich

Back in Bulletin #81 (page 18), I indicated that I could supply some details and illustrations on "Landjahrlagern". What was known as the Agricultural Auxiliary Service consisted of whole classes of students over fourteen who went into the countryside as a body to help with the harvests. As a supplement, the Nazi authorities in 1934 instituted the "land year", a device for extending the education of 14 year olds who were bound to industrial or trade apprenticeship rather than higher education, by an additional year spent in agriculture camps. As a rule, land year participants worked for farmers during the morning and received instruction in Nazi history, race and current events in the afternoon. At the height of the harvest season the schedule was abandoned and they worked sunrise to sunset. These 14 year olds were given no holidays for 9 months on end and were allowed no visits from parents or clergy. Initially 45 such camps were founded in 1934, but by 1940 they were virtually indistinguishable from camps of the German Labor Service and Hitler Youth.

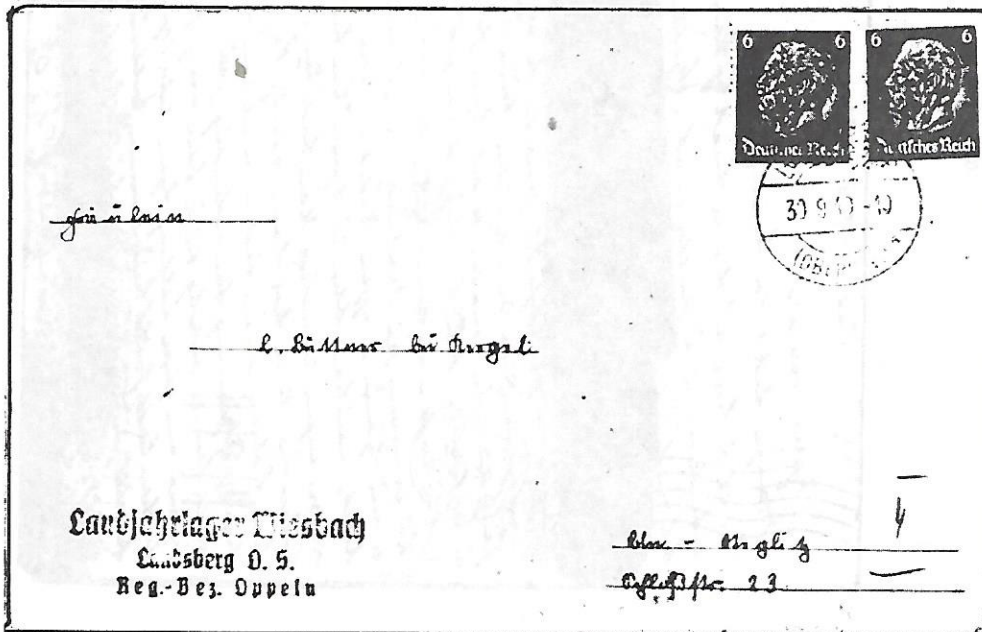
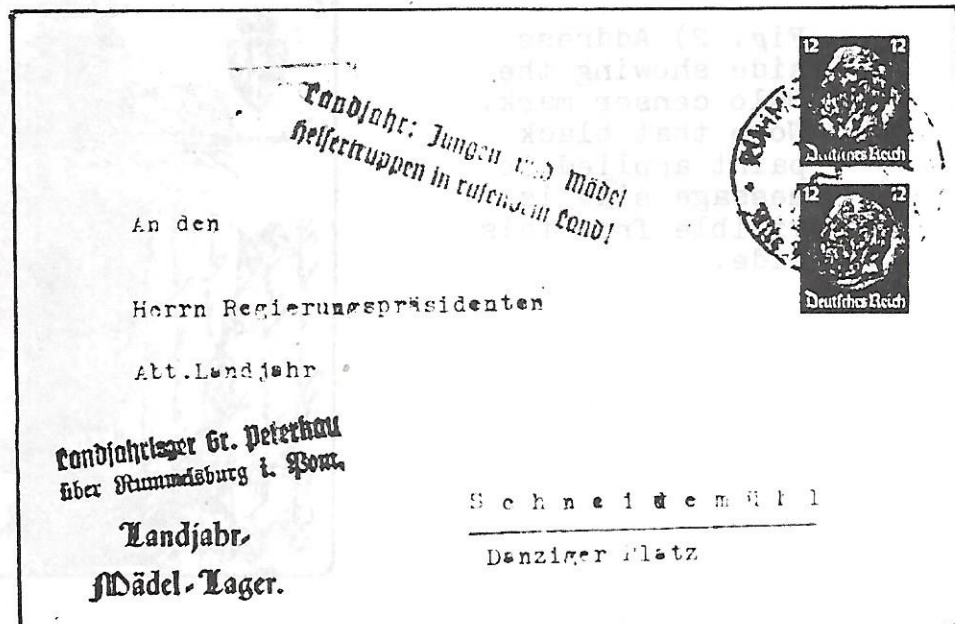


Fig. 1) Cover sent to family of member of "Land Year" youth in Berlin posted Landsberg (Upper Silesia) in September 1940 has return address of the "Landjahrlager Wiesbach".

Fig. 2) Cover posted in Rummelsberg in Sept. '40 from Land Year Camp in Gross Peterkau, Pomerania. Note rural Gr. Peterkau boxed handstamp at upper left. This is official mail with the "Landjahr" slogan for 1940 shown to the left of the postage stamps. This was a young women's camp denoted by "Landjahr Mädels-Lager" at lower left.





ADVISORY LABEL IN CONCENTRATION CAMP LETTER  
by Bruce Fisher

The cover and message sheet shown below were posted in Sachsenhausen concentration camp on May 12, 1940. Inside the cover was a slip of paper containing a typewritten notice that express or telegraphic money orders are not permitted ("Eil und telegrafische Geldsendungen werden nicht angenommen") and further advising that the number and block of the inmate must be clearly indicated on the postal money order.

I forwarded a copy of this item to TRSGer Sam Simon who is an expert in the field of concentration camp mail. Mr. Simon noted that the inmate had indeed requested a monthly money order of DM20. The notice regarding the restrictions for money orders would have been inserted by the censor officer when the letter was examined. Mr. Simon advises that such forms are seldom seen in this type of mail. I would be most interested in hearing from TRSG members who have examples of these "Heinweiszellels" or know of others that exist.

Fig. 1) Shown at right are reduced illustrations of the cover and the message sent by an inmate to his family in the Protectorate. of Bohemia-Moravia.

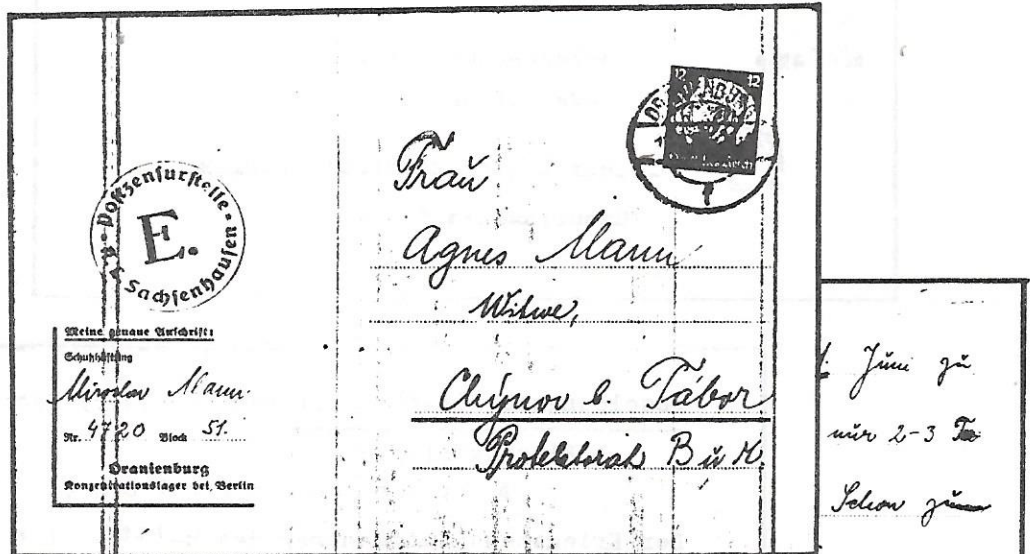


Fig. 2) The advisory slip found in this letter is shown below full size.

Betr.: Geldsendungen !

Eil- und telegrafische Geldsendungen werden nicht angenommen.

Es ist auf den Postanweisungen Nummer und Block des Häftlings genauestens anzugeben.

*Einmal wollte ich es! und das übrig  
Essen, Wurst (1kg) und wenn Du hast fettes  
Fleisch - aber mir Lebensmittel!! alles abge-  
packt im Papier packen (nicht zusammen-  
fügen) Zuckerwerk mir wenig - fettes Butter  
Jod. zünftig monatlich mir 20 RM. zu  
packen - Ich danke nochmals für  
alles, besonders meinem guten Onkel  
und Tante, viele Grüße für alle von Ed-  
dy, alle Kameraden, Wartw. usw.*

Star die Seiten beidseitig!



ONE OF MY FAVORITE COVERS:  
SS Volunteers at Dachau  
by Ken Wood

An interesting example of Waffen-SS official Feldpost, this lettersheet concerns the pay rate for an SS corporal assigned to the SS-WVHA at Dachau. The SS-Wirtschafts-und-Verwaltungshauptamt was the SS Economics and Administrative Office which controlled economic enterprises of the SS and administered the concentration camps. The SS volunteer appears to be a Czech as the message requests confirmation with the Rasse-und-Siedlungshauptamt in Prag. This was the SS central office for Race and Settlement, which controlled the racial purity of the SS and was responsible for organizing the settlement and welfare of SS colonists in the eastern territories.

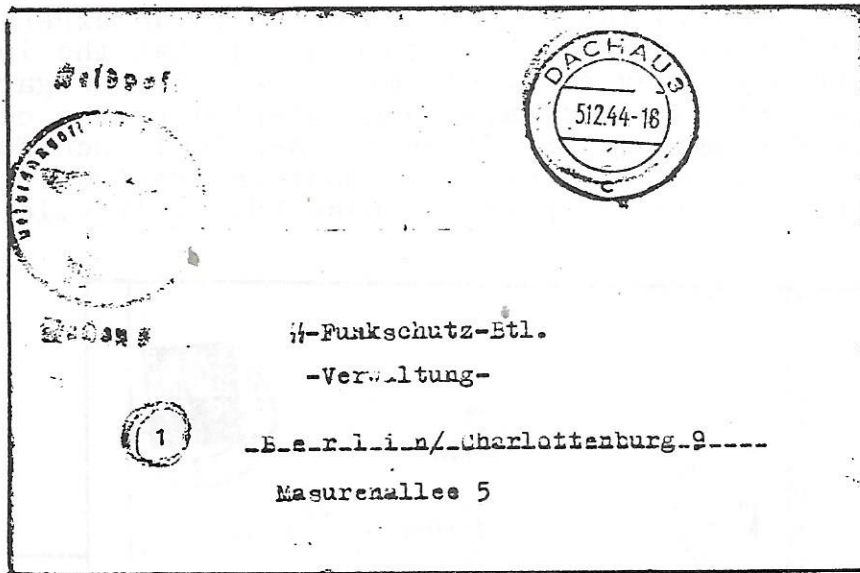


Fig. 1) Outside of folded lettersheet posted at Dachau 3 on Dec. 5, 1944 has Waffen-SS letter seal.

Fig. 2) Shown below is the inside message sent from the Paymaster of the Waffen-SS at Dachau, an SS Captain.

9. Dez 1944

Besoldungsstelle der Waffen-**SS** (13b) Dachau-3, den  
Eingangsstelle

**A b g a b e n a c h r i c h t**

Der Kriegsbesoldungsantrag des **SS-Rtfl. Petri Hans**  
geboren 3.12.14 wurde heute gem. Verfg.  
des **SS-WVHA v. 3.5.44 A II/1a/5.44/120b/Wa./Sch.** an den zuständigen  
Fürsorge-**SS**-Führer weitergeleitet. Rückfragen, Übersendungen von  
Besoldungsunterlagen usw. sind an das Rasse-und Siedlungshaupt-  
amt, Amt Fürsorge, Abteilung Ausland, **Prag, II, Laznovsky-**  
Ufer 60 zu richten. i. A. **SS**-Hauptsturmführer

**Zur Beachtung!** Für die Aufträge von **SS**-Anträgen zur Zahlung der Kriegsbesoldung an germanische Freiwillige und volkdeutsche Angehörige der Waffen-**SS** ist künftig gem. **WA Nr. 5** von 15.7.44 Ziffer 64 entscheidend, ob die Familie ihren Wohnsitz hat.  
Anträge sind über das Rasse-und Siedlungshauptamt, Amt Fürsorge, Abteilung Ausland, Prag II, Laznovsky Ufer 60, an den für das betreffende Land zuständigen Fürsorge-**SS**-Führer zu senden.  
a) die Familie des Antragstellers in Ausland beheimatet, oder  
b) der Antragsteller ledig ist (auch dann, wenn er seine Besoldung auf ein Konto in Reich überweisen haben will).  
An die Besoldungsstelle der Waffen-**SS** sind Anträge zur Lohn zu senden, wenn die Familie des Antragstellers innerhalb des Reichsgebietes steht.



MORE REJECTED BY CENSOR MAIL

by Larry Nelson

Fig. 1) Picture postcard sent from Rome to Bossum, Holland in Aug. '40 was initially rejected by German censors in Munich. The boxed rejection handstamp reads: "Return to Sender - not admissible under the Directive on the Communication Service of April 2, 1940.". The reason for rejection was probably the card itself as Part II, Sect. 2A, Para. 1a of the 1940 directive states "The sending of picture postcards of any kind -- are prohibited in postal service to non-belligerent foreign nations". It appears that the censors crossed out the rejection and added Bossum at bottom right with the same pen. The D-7 censor "Geprüft" (examined) was applied over the rejection marking.

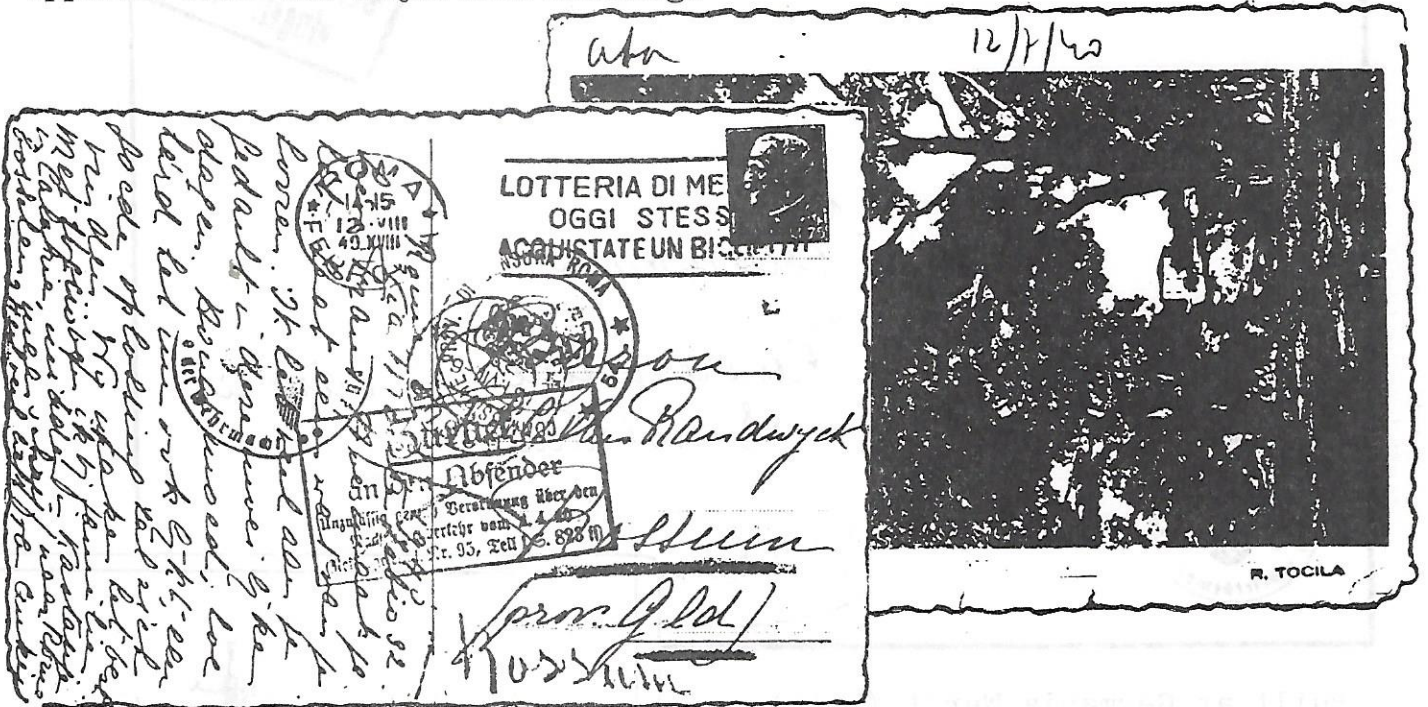
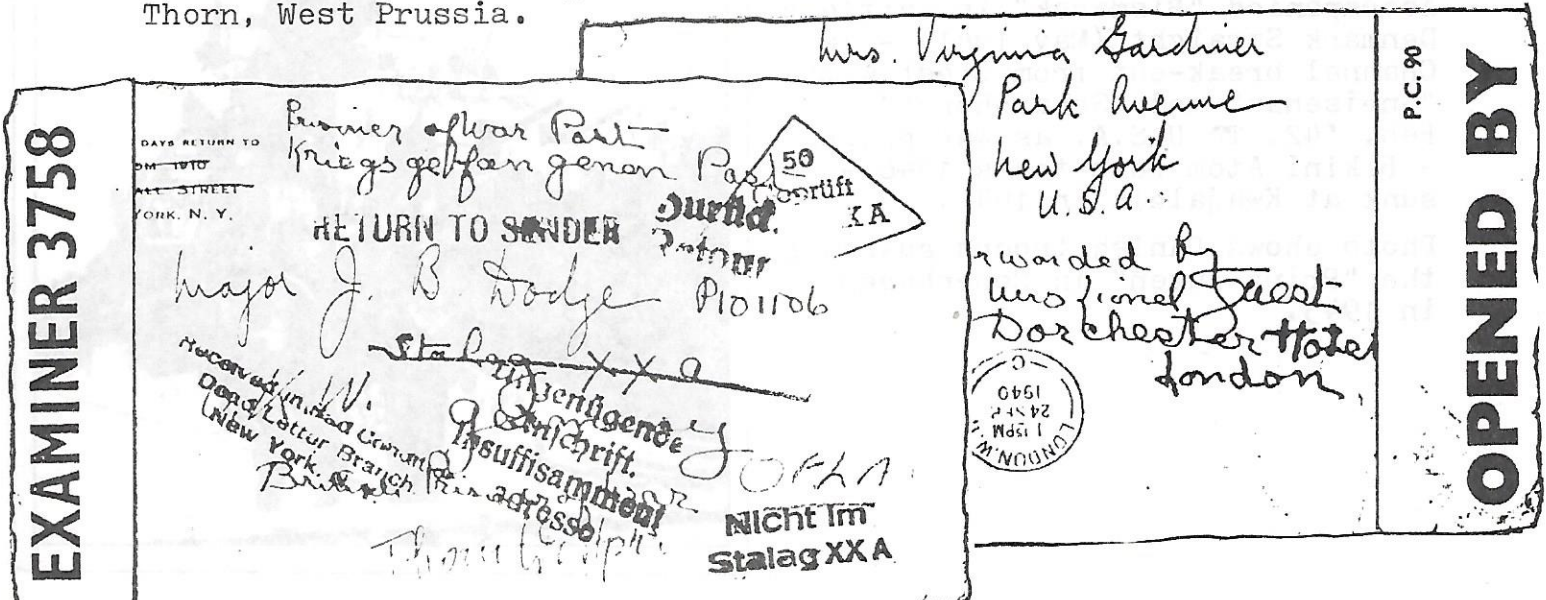


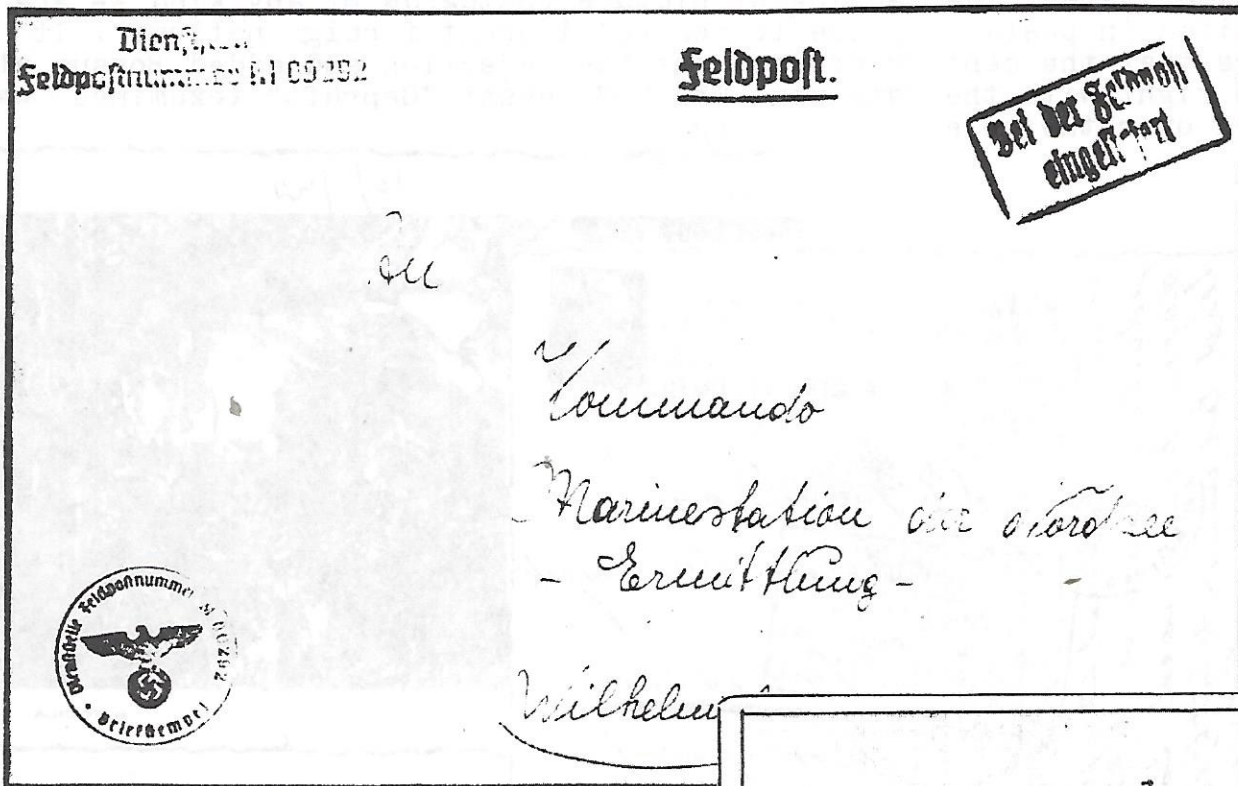
Fig. 2) This cover is addressed to a British major at a Stalag rather than an Oflag. It appears that it was "hand carried" to London where a Mr. Guest (?) staying at the Dorchester Hotel addressed the cover. The German censor handstamps note that the Major was not in Stalag XXA and that the address is insufficient. The letter was returned to New York, where it ended up in the dead letter office. Stalag XXA was in Thorn, West Prussia.





# Navy Log

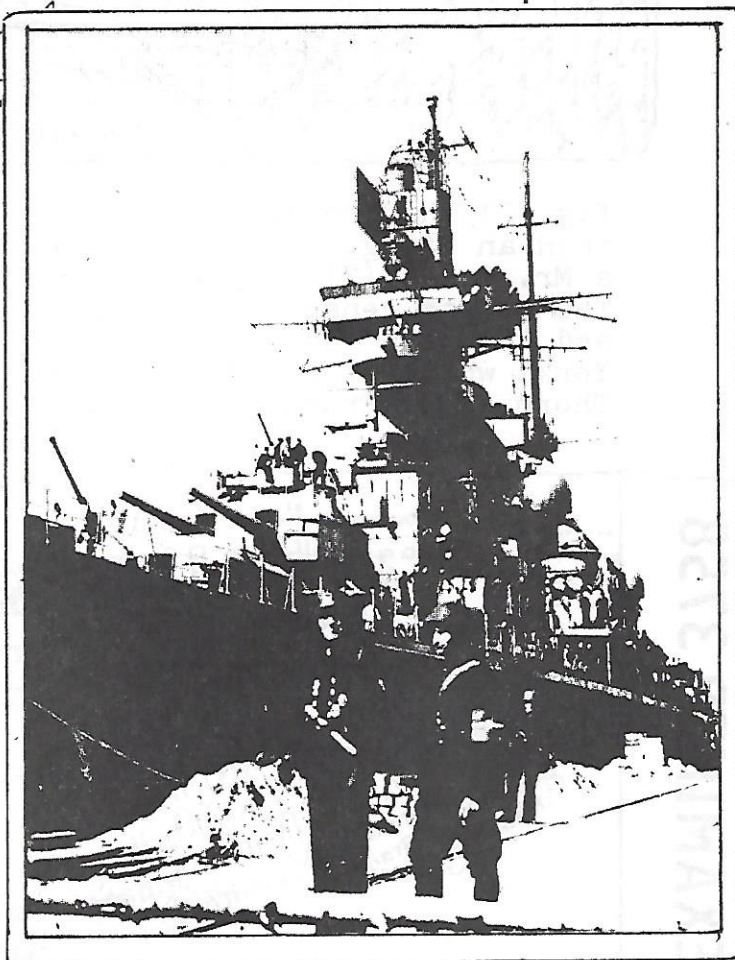
Heavy Cruiser "Prinz Eugen" - Feldpost #00292



Built at Germania Werft (Kiel) and launched on August 22, 1938. Displacement: 12,750 tons, speed 32 knots, crew: 1600. Main armaments: eight 8" (4x2), twelve 4.1" AA (6x2), twelve 21" torpedo tubes, three aircraft & 1 catapult.

Accompanied "Bismarck" in battle of Denmark Strait (May 1941) - in Channel break-out from Brest with "Gneisenau" and "Scharnhorst" in Feb. '42. To U.S.A. as war prize - Bikini Atom Bomb tests 1946 - sunk at Kwajalein in 1947.

Photo shows Danish troops guarding the "Prinz Eugen" in Copenhagen in 1945.





# T. R. S. G. Auction No. 49

Lot	Description	RES
1.	Navy log, Photocd Depot ship 'Tanga' & Fp cvr w/unit seal Fp12460	\$15
2.	Same, Photocd 2. Torpedoboat Flott. Kiel & Fp cvr frm Kommando VF	13
3.	Austrian plebiscite cd shown on cvr TRSG Bulletin 89 VF	17
4.	Nuremberg rally cd view SA & HJ camps, Bedarfs usage w/Mi 813 tied by Munich sp can 10 Yrs Nazi rule 30.1.43 VF	12
5.	Channel Islands R cvr w/pr Guernsey Mi 3 tied 12.4.44 can (1st Day)	12
6.	Same, bedarfs cvr w/Jersey Mi 2 tied 14.4.41 can VF to Chess club	13
7.	Postcard w/flowers, franked w/KZ24 tete-beche booklet pane combo tied by May 1937 Zossen Ubungsplatz (Manuver Grounds) can. VF Scarce	17
8.	Fp cvr w/mute dble-ring/date bridge code "bh" w/open unit seal of Army Patrol Company for Greater Vienna sent 1/'42. VF w/hauptmann	8
9.	Kiel pcd w/mute circle can "gg" w/6 wavy lines left, boxed unit seal of Ship's Company Section 1/3 at Kiel Naval Base. VF Bedarfs	7
10.	Ring/bridge mute can w/grids 12/'43 w/embossed Kriegsmarine cvr VF	6
11.	Ring/Segment mute can code "b" w/6 wavy lines left 12/'40 sent frm Fp#05625 (Co. 3/Panzer Abtl. 116 of 16th Pz Div. VF off. mail	8
12.	Ring "blackout" mute can 6/'41 on picture cd w/handstamp Reserve Hospital No. 1 in Wiesbaden. Unusual mute w/6 wavy lines left! VF	7
13.	Fp cvr sent 9/'43 frm Fp#00231C (Co. 3/Fortress Btl. 655) w/clear D'siegel. These units engaged in construction of Atlantic Wall VF	8
Next 4 lots scarce German official mail frm Luxemburg (see TRSG No. 88)		
14.	Form card to Merl-Lux w/mach. can March '43 & exemption note	15
15.	Cvr Feb. '43 w/exemption note & h/s Arbeitsamt Nr. 4 VF	15
16.	Re-used cvr can 3/'44 w/preptd exemp. note & office seal VF	17
17.	"Gebührenpflichtige" cvr can 6/'44 w/postage due "8" VF	19
18.	Off. cvr frm Reichsminister War Production (Speer) 7/'44 Berlin slo. can. to Deschimag (U-Boat Construction) Bremen. VF	12
19.	Propaganda cd French occupation Rhine & Ruhr frm Austellung 1918 exhibit held Vienna July 1944 w/sp can tied 6 Pfg Hitlerhead VF	12
20.	R-cvr frm Waffenwerke, Brunn to Wien w/Mi 514 & 525 tied DDP Prag, nice markings DDP B & M, Prag 2 R-label DDP VF	10
21.	Official mail, lot of 18 stmpls cvrs w/ D'siegels of var. agencies, most w/nice sp or slogan cans., RR cans etc. Interesting & F-VF	9
22.	Early POW mail, cvr to Pole at Stalag VIB (Mühlberg) sent from Strelno in newly incorp. Bialystok w/provis. Strelno p/m and boxed receiving stamp "Eingegangen" 1. Feb. '40 frm camp censor. VF	15
23.	POW form cd frm British POW Stalag XXB 11/'42 w/camp & Brit. cens V	9
24.	Ltrstht frm Stalag IIB to USA 1/'44 w/camp & US censor mrkings VF	9

SEND ALL BIDS TO: Fred Stengel, 1248 Magnolia Place, Union, NJ 07083  
 THE CLOSING DATE for Auction No. 49 is June 16, 1989.

## Prices Realized TRSG AUCTION NO. 48.

Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price	Lot	Price
1	\$ 7.00	16	\$25.00	27	\$ 8.00	45	\$14.00	57	\$11.00
2	15.00	18	18.00	29	13.00	46	14.00	58	9.00
4	12.00	20	26.00	31	7.00	48	10.00	62	13.00
6	9.00	21	10.00	32	16.00	50	18.50	63	15.00
8	25.00	22	13.00	33	31.00	52	7.00	64	7.00
10	21.00	23	10.00	35	22.00	53	17.00	66	12.00
13	9.00	24	24.00	36	10.00	55	10.00	69	9.00
14	9.00	26	7.00	39	11.00	56	7.00	72	8.00
								73	14.00
								74	\$ 9.00
								76	7.00
								80	19.00
								84	20.00
								85	22.00
								86	22.00
								87	36.00
								88	105.00



# T.R.S.G. Auction Rules

The auction will include all Third Reich cards, covers, stamps & related items.

1. A minimum of 25 lots are necessary to conduct an auction.
2. Only TRSG members in good standing are eligible to participate in auctions.
3. Only lots with a minimum estimated value of \$5.00 will be accepted. A lot may consist of more than one item.
4. All lots will be sold to the highest bidder at a slight advance over the second highest bid: to \$10 by 25¢; to \$20 by 50¢; to \$50 by \$1; to \$75 by \$2, above \$75 by \$2.50 increments. Bids not in accordance with the above will be reduced to the nearest bid.
5. The Auction Mgr. and/or seller reserve the right to withdraw any lot prior to sale, or to group two or more lots.
6. Lots may be submitted as: OPEN (\$5 minimum) or RESERVE (minimum sale price set by owner). Unless owner designates a RESERVE, lot will be considered to be OPEN. Auction Mgr. may add SUGGESTED BID for grouped lots.
7. All bidding is to be by mail indicating Lot Number and maximum bid. No BUY BIDS will be accepted. All bids are confidential.
8. Purchaser shall bear the cost of postage and insurance. If registered mail is desired, please advise when entering bids. Minimum charge will be 75¢.
9. An invoice will be sent in advance to successful bidders and lots forwarded upon receipt of full payment. We expect invoices to be paid within 5 days of receipt. Mail all lots, bids and payments to the Auction Manager: Fred Stengel, 1248 Magnolia Place, Union, New Jersey 07083.
10. Title shall remain with TRSG, acting on behalf of the owner, until payment is received. The Auction Manager reserves the right to refuse any bid believed by him not to be in good faith.
11. In cases of tie bids, the earliest postmark will decide the winner.
12. Owners must describe their lots briefly and indicate condition. The Auction Mgr. reserves the right to condense, modify or otherwise change both the description and condition as he deems suitable.
13. All lots are guaranteed as genuine and as represented. Lots erroneously described may be returned within 5 days of receipt and the purchase price fully refunded. Lots that have been expertised shall be noted in the description. Lack of expertization shall not be grounds for rejection.
14. The commission on lots sold is 15%, which shall be turned over to the TRSG Treasury. This 15% commission shall be born by the seller only.
15. Unsold lots will be returned to the owners at their expense. The method of mailing unsold lots will be indicated by the owners at the time of submittal. Unsold lots will not be retained for future auctions without prior agreement by the Auction Mgr.
16. The submitting of a lot and/or placing of a bid constitutes full acceptance of the foregoing rules.
17. A listing of prices realized will be published in the issue of the TRSG Bulletin following the auction.