



# 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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## Contents:

- Page 3: The Return of Hultschin District - J. Lewis  
Page 9: From the Amtsblatt: Postal Cards for East German Fair  
Page 10: The Führer Has Fallen For Germany - W. Bohne  
Page 11: KLV Lager Update # 5 - J. Miskevich  
Page 12: German Official Mail in Luxemburg - J. Lewis  
Page 14: Parcel Card From Waffen-SS Training Ground - J. Lewis  
Page 15: The 'British Poison Gas' Propaganda Campaign - J. Miskevich  
Page 18: Reichspost Air-Raid Protection Service - B. Beede  
Page 20: Propaganda Card Corner - J. Ziegelhofer  
Page 21: Registered Feldpost Cover With Contents - G. Soldati  
Page 22: Navy Log - Armored Ship 'Admiral Scheer' - R. Houston  
Page 23; TRSG Auction # 46 - F. Stengel


**Einschreiben.**



Bevollmächtigter  
des  
Reichsluftfahrtministerium  
für das Luftfahrtindustriepersonal  
Berlin SW 68  
Puttkamerstr. 16/18

~~RECHEN~~  
~~RECHENRECHEN~~

Seci durch Ablösung Reichs



**R** Berlin 48  
392 b

W o r m s .

## Study Group Notes

### WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

GELIEBTER, Richard, P.O. Box 96, Hampton Bays, NY 11946

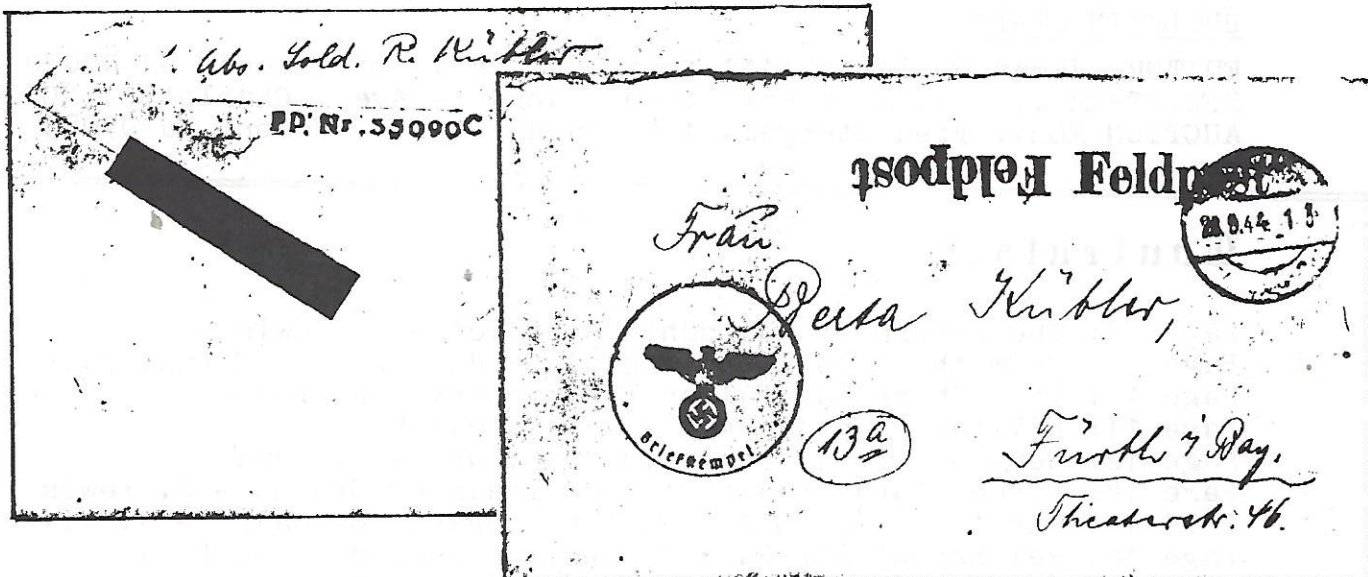
HOROWITZ, Alexander, 6 Clarence Pl., Double Bay, Sydney, NSW 2028, Australia

NORTON, Jerome J., P.O. Box 432, Syosset, NY 11791

THORTON, Gary, 19321 Desiree Lane, Woodbridge, CA 95258

Corrections: (Bull. 86) W. NACHUM's correct zip code is 10025 not 09611.  
(Bull. 87) Mrs. J. DAVIDSON lives on Allum not Allun Street.

Inquiry - Eric Hamel needs info on gum varieties on TR stamps as well as a means of determining gum varieties in stamps on piece. He also has an Mi.665 with color missing from "3"'s. Anyone with info on these matters can contact Eric at 12 Lowell St., Worchester, MA 01603.



Mute Briefstempel - John Norris asks for comments on the odd Briefstempel on this cover from Fp# 35090. The FpU notes that this number was assigned to "Stab u. 1-4 Kp. Bau-Pi. Ausb. Btl. 13" on Aug. 1, '44. As the mute postmark is dated Sept. 26, '44, a complete Briefstempel was probably not yet available. Anyone have a better theory?

NOJEX '88 - informal TRSG meetings were held on May 29th & 30th as part of the GPS Convention. There were many very fine exhibits of German material on display, including the following entries by TRSGers:

- Königsburg Censor Office 1939-44 (Arnold Engel) won a NOJEX Vermeil and a Postal History Society Post Horn Medal.
- German Military Panzer Post (Gianluigi Soldati) won a NOJEX Vermeil and an APS Research Award.
- German Official Postoffices in Occupied Russia 1941-44 (Jim Lewis) won a NOJEX Vermeil and a GPS Vermeil.
- Dream of Empire: German Colonialism 1919-42 (John Miskevich) won a NOJEX Silver-Bronze.

We would certainly like to see more of you exhibiting your Third Reich material. As shown above, our material can compete with the best.

TRSGer N. Kasper responded to our note that there were no POW camps in Minnesota during WW II. As a boy growing up in Bird Island, Minn., Mr. Kasper remembers that Italian POWs or internees were held in a building on the local county fairgrounds. These men worked in nearby hemp fields under guard. The hemp was used in making rope for the war effort. These fields were ploughed under after the war and the "prisoners" transferred or repatriated.

RETURN OF THE HULTSCHIN DISTRICT  
by Jim Lewis

The Hultschiner area was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, which included Austria, Hungary, Bohemia (Czechoslovakia), Styria, Carinthia, Carniola and the Tirol. Upon the death of Charles IV in 1740, the new Hapsburg ruler was his daughter, 23 year old Maria-Theresa. In this same year, 28 year old Frederick II became King of Prussia. As Prussia had territorial claims in Silesia on former principalities of Jägerdorf, Ratibor, Liegnitz and Wohlau, all of which had been taken by Austria, Frederick II sent 30,000 troops across the Silesian border on Dec. 23, 1740. This action initiated the War of Austrian Succession (1740-48), which ended with Prussia ceded almost all of Silesia. A portion of Silesia was reclaimed by Austria after the Seven Years War (1756-63) but Prussia retained the Hultschinen area as part of the Oppeln administrative district.

While the area remained under German rule, the vast majority of the population in the Hultschiner area spoke Czech. A census in 1913 revealed that only 13% of the area residents claimed German as their mother language. These statistics became the grounds for an ethnic settlement when the Versailles Congress began the task of untangling the racial minorities under Austrian or German domination in 1919. They decided that Silesia should be divided between Germany and Poland on the basis of a plebiscite. One small area, the southwestern part of Kreis Ratibor, lying north of the junction of the Oppa (Opawa) and Oder (Odra) rivers was the predominately Czech in population. It was decided that this area should be ceded to Czechoslovakia without a vote. The precise northern boundary of the area was to be determined by the Plebiscite Commission.

Postally, the transfer of the area to Czechoslovakia on 3.2.1920 included the renaming of four postoffices formerly part of the postal system in Kreis Ratibor:

Bolatitz (Bolatice); Hultschin (Hlučín); Deutsch Krawarn (Krawafe) & Ludgerstal (Ludgerovice).

There were also ten postal agencies which were renamed as follows:

Beneschau (Benešov u. Hlučína); Buslawitz (Buslavice); Hoschialkowitz (Hoštálkovice); Groß Hoschütz (Velké Hoštice); Kuchelna (Chuchelná); Köberwitz (Kobeřice); Odersch (Oldřice); Zauditz (Sudice); Schillersdorf (Šilheřovice) and Schczepankowitz (Štěpánkovice).

Czechoslovakian postal authorities permitted German stamps to be used until February 4, 1920. After this date only Czech stamps and postal stationery were allowed.

The Plebiscite Commission eventually determined that the town of Sandau and village of Haatsch should also be ceded to Czechoslovakia. This was not accomplished, however, until after the Commission had been withdrawn from the area in July 1922. The Germans resisted this change but on March 16, 1923, the renamed postoffice Hař (Haatsch) and postal agency Pišť (Sandau) were incorporated into the Czech postal system.

The loss of German territories through the plebiscites (see map on page 8) was bitterly resented by a majority of the German public. Several of the new right wing political groups, including the fledgling National Socialist Workers Party, siezed upon this resentment and fashioned a powerful weapon of propaganda. In speeches delived in beer halls throughout Germany, Hilter declared that the return of the stolen German districts was a fundamental demand required to erase the "shame of Versailles".

The "Hultschiner Landchen" (little district of Hultschin) was one of the subjects in a set of 19 "mourning" labels produced in 1924 by Fredrich Peter, a Würzburg stamp dealer. Shown below (76% actual size) is the multi-color sheet sold in conjunction with the labels. Text at top center reads: "Never Forget! Commemorative stamps to mourn for the 19 stolen districts of Germany. The boxed text reads: Versailles! Without asking the people, without the hallowed promise of self-determination - German territories were broken up and are under foreign domination enslaved - dishonored. Paragraph 1 of the Peace Treaty stating that Germany alone is responsible is a lie. For all Germans, Versailles is a warning of lies and comedy and an appeal to the conscience of the world!

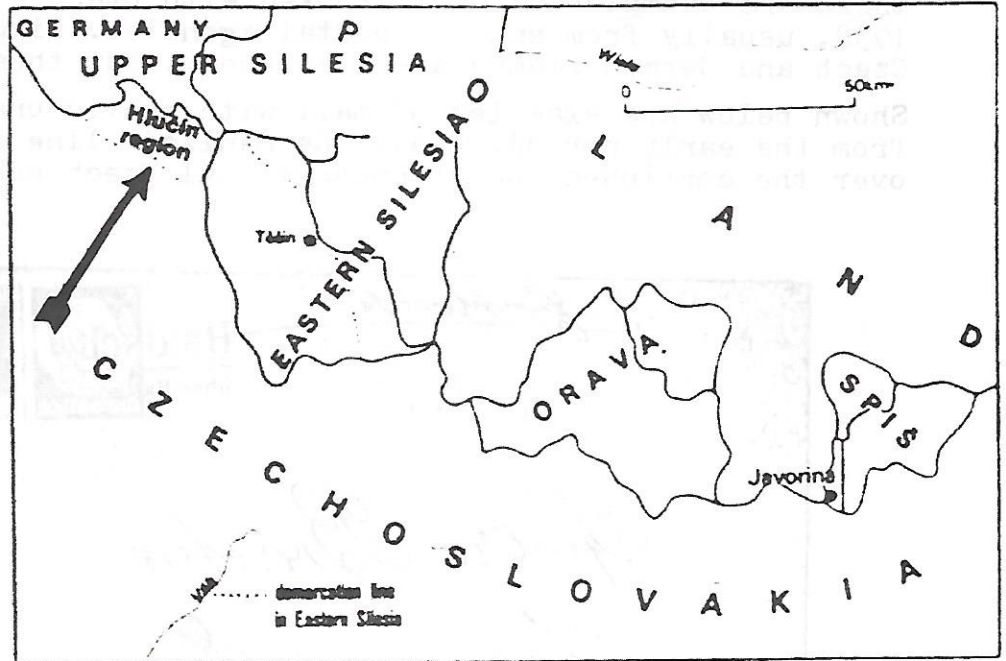
			
	<p><b>Niemals vergessen!</b></p> <p><b>Gedenkmarken</b></p> <p>zur Trauer für die</p> <p>19 Deutschland geraubten Gebiete</p>		
			
			
<p><b>Niemals vergessen!</b></p>		<p><b>Niemals vergessen!</b></p>	
			

**Versailles!** Ohne Völker zu befragen, unter Ausschaltung des heilig versprochenen Selbstbestimmungsrechtes wurde deutsches Land zerrissen, unter Fremdherrschaft geknechtet, — entehrt. Der § 1 des Friedensvertrages von der Alleinschuld Deutschlands ist vorsätzliche Lüge. Versailles ist für jeden Deutschen ein Mahnmal von Lüge und Komödie und ein Appell an das Gewissen der Welt!

Diese Gedenkzettel ist zu beziehen vom Friedrich Peter, Briefmarken-Versand, Würzburg, Postfach 200/201 Nürnberg 1924.



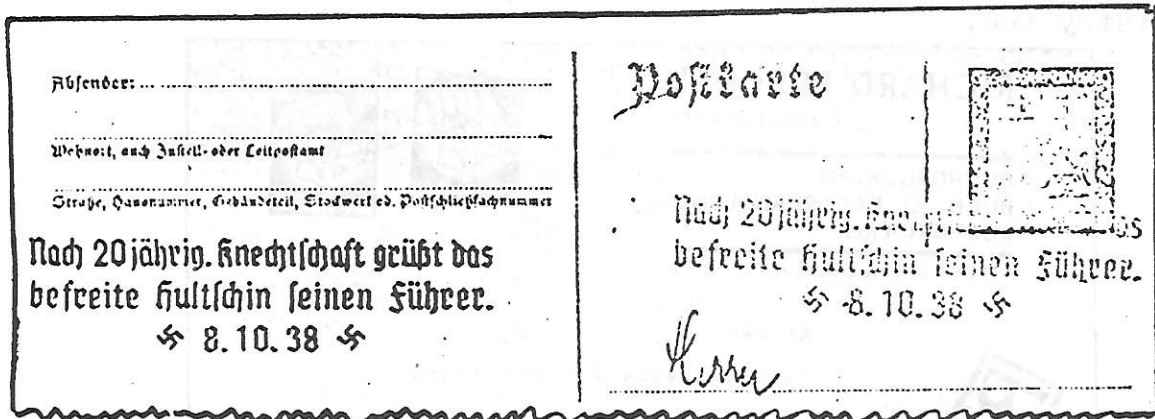
Label shown above is in the upper right corner of the sheet shown on preceding page.



Location of Hultschiner region shown on map. Note the Czech spelling "Hlučín".

The Hultschin district, part of the Sudetenland ceded to Germany by the Munich Agreement of Sept. 29, 1938, was occupied by German troops on Oct. 8, 1938. German postage stamps were supplied to postoffices in the district but the Reichspost permitted Czech stamps to be used until the end of October.

As in many other towns in the Sudetenland, provisional "liberation" handstamps were used to commemorate the German occupation.



Czech postal card with provisional slogan cancel "After 20 years of slavery, liberated Hultschin greets its Führer".

Shown below are some of the line stamps used by postoffices in the region until new cancelling dies were available from the Reichspost.

Deutsch Krawarn

Haatsch  
über Ratibor

Postagentur  
Gros - Hozhütz

Hultschin

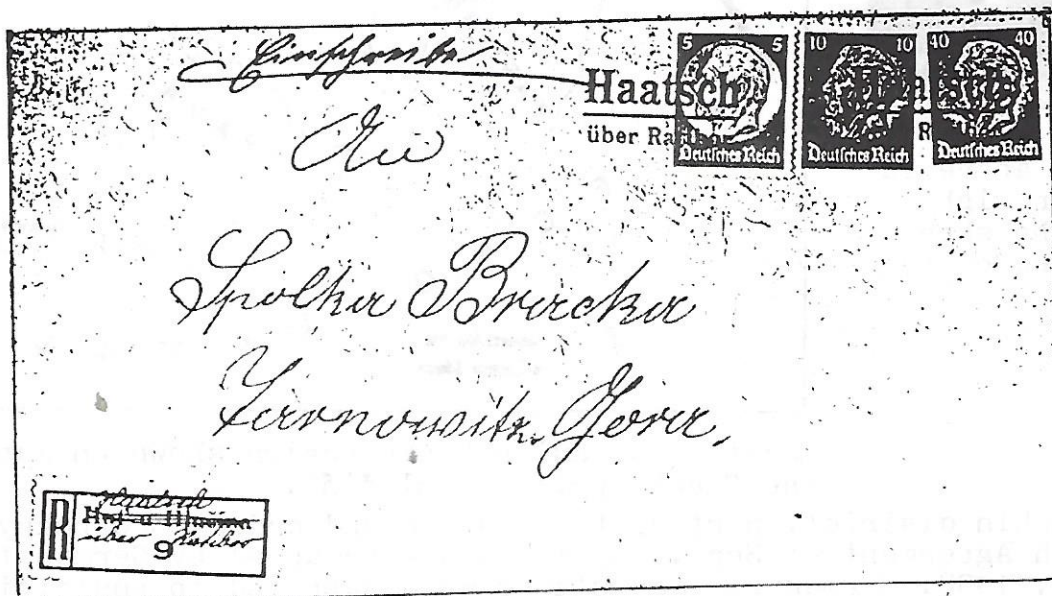
Hoschialkowitz  
über Ratibor

Schillersdorf  
über Ratibor

Hultschin

There are examples of mail franked with Czech stamps after October 1938, usually from smaller postal agencies. Mixed frankings with Czech and German stamps are also known, but these are very scarce.

Shown below are examples of mail with provisional dateless handstamps from the early period. These "Germanized" line stamps were preferred over the continued use of conventional Czech postmarks.



Registered cover with German stamps tied by Haatsch über Ratibor line cancels. Note the use of Czech registry label with printed Czech spelling voided and German town name in manuscript. The postage is for surface mail over 20 grams (24 Pfg.) and 30 Pfg. registry fee.



Commercial registered cover to Berlin has 12 Pfg. letter fee plus 30 Pfg. registry fee. Posted in Hultschin per line Hultschin used to cancel stamps and applied to German-style blank field registry label.

**Deutsch Krawarn**

Stampless "Postsache!"  
(Official Postal Business)  
cover sent to Leck from  
Deutsche Krawarn.

Below - registered cover  
with boxed Bolatitz cancel.  
Note "Kreis Ratibor" added  
to registry label.

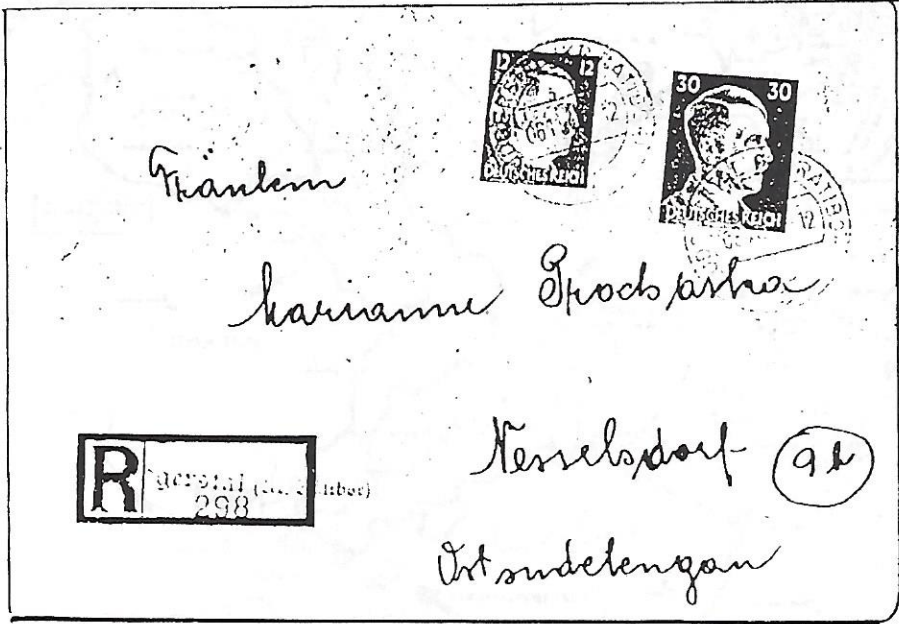
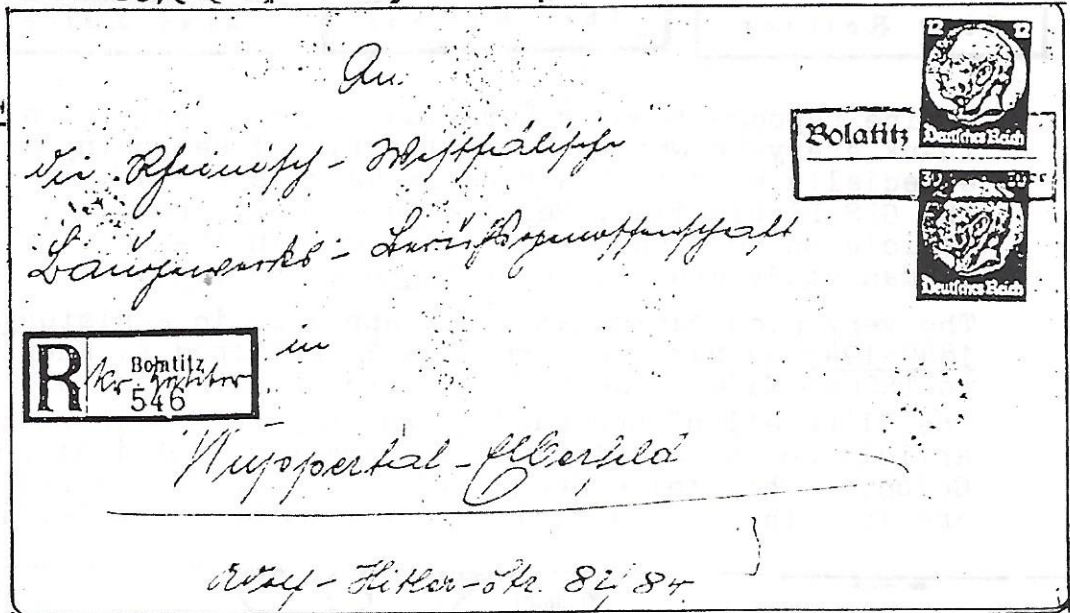
*from f. p. blausen*

*Leck (Vollendung)*

**Postsache!**

Same type boxed  
cancel used in  
Buslawitz has a  
horizontal line  
and "über Ratibor".

**Buslawitz**  
über Ratibor

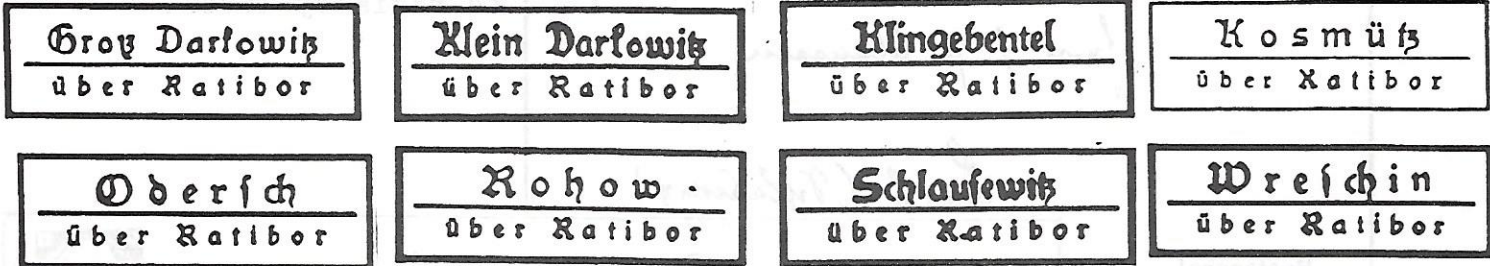


Postoffices and postal  
agencies eventually  
received standard Reichs-  
post cancelling devices.  
Shown below and on a  
registered cover is the  
ring/date-bridge cancel  
for Ludgerstal. Also  
shown are cancels for  
Hultschin & Küberwitz.



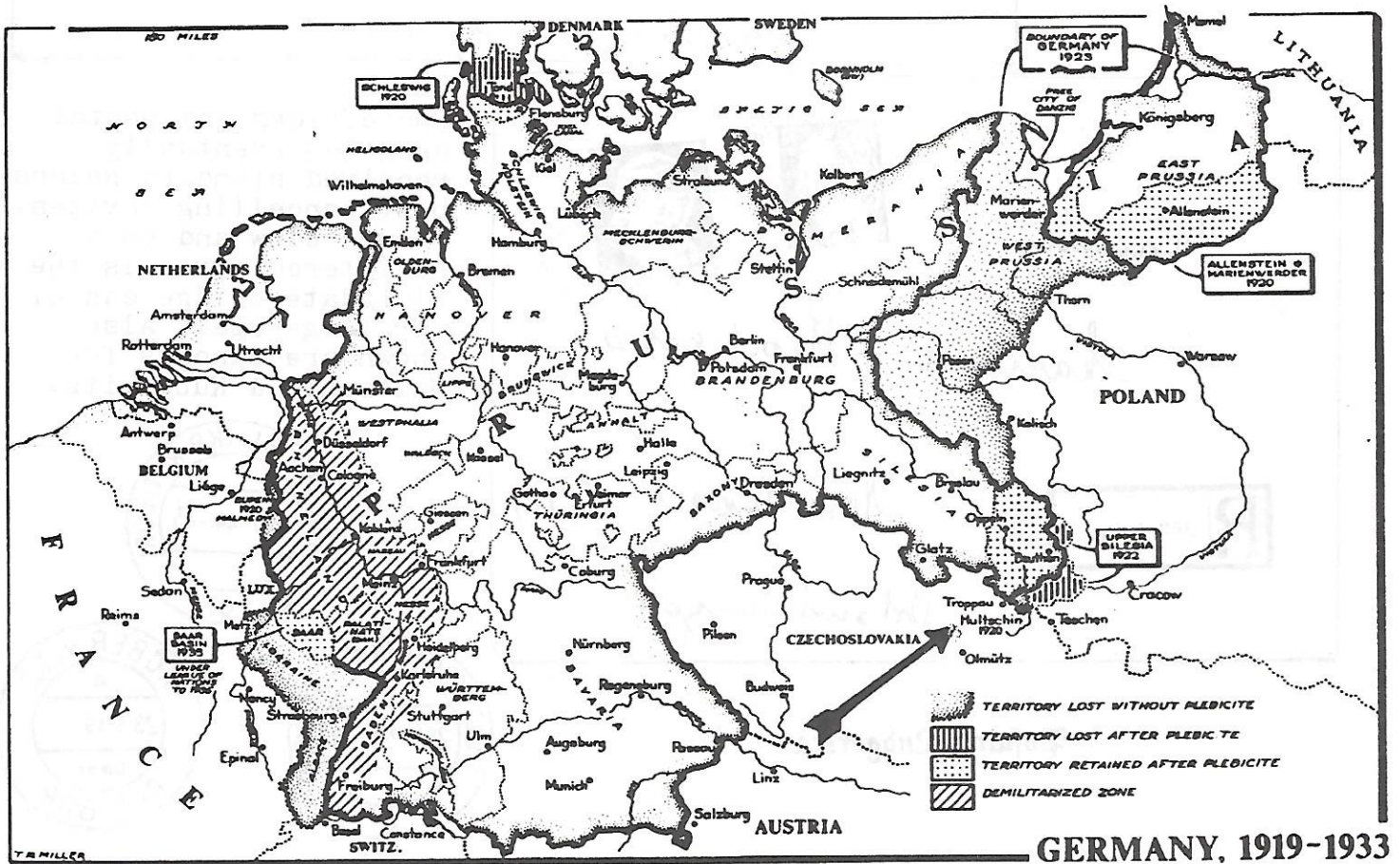
**Postamt Ludgerstal**

In the territorial settlements after World War II, the Hultschin region was returned to Czechoslovakia. The Czech postal service eventually replaced all of the "Germanized" markings shown previously. In addition, eight small postal points which used the boxed handstamps shown below during the 1938-45 period were also renamed: Gross Darkowitz (Darkovice), Klein Darkowitz (Darkovičky), Klingerbeutel (Pusté Jakartice), Kosmütz (Kozmice), Odersch (Oldřišov), Rohow (Rohov), Schlausewitz (Služovice) and Wreschin (Vřesina).



A fine reponse from TRSGers made this article possible and I want to thank everyone who took the trouble of searching for information. I especially want to thank Jason Manchester, who is also librarian of the GPS Plebiscites, Memel & Saar Study Group, for sending in a long article on Hultschin which appeared in the Oct.'86 bulletin of the German study group Arge Deutsche Ostgebiete.

The very nice map shown below appeared in A History of Modern Germany 1840-1945 by Hajo Holborn; New York Alfred A. Knopf 1969. Many thanks to TRSGer Major Joseph Grasela for sending in this map and other info. The "liberation" postcard shown on page 5 originally appeared in an article on the Sudetenland in Germania, publication of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society, Vol. 8, Issue 2 April 1972. Other covers are from the Arge article and the author's collection.





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

Nr. 73 - August 1, 1939

Announcement of forthcoming issue of two semi-postal cards designed by Professor Marten of Königsberg to commemorate the East German Fair. Modern postal card catalogs list these as Nr. 269-270.

### Verfügungen

#### Allgemeines

##### \*1) Nr. 338/1939. Sonderwertzeichen

Die Deutsche Reichspost gibt zu der vom 20. bis 23. August 1939 in Königsberg (Pr) stattfindenden Deutschen Ostmesse Sonderpostkarten mit Freimarken-Wertstempeln in Rastertiefdruck zu 6 + 4 und 15 + 5 *Rpf* nach einem Entwurf von Professor Marten, Königsberg (Pr), heraus. Die Zuschläge fließen dem Kulturfonds des Führers zu.

Abbildungen der Wertstempel hierunter in  $\frac{5}{4}$  natürlicher Größe.



Die Sonderpostkarten werden vom 8. August an nur in Königsberg (Pr) und durch die Versandstelle für Sammlermarken in Berlin W 30 abgegeben. Schriftliche Bestellungen sind schon jetzt nur an die Versandstelle zu richten.

Min-Z 2040—1

### Praktischer Dienst

##### \*1) Nr. 339/1939. Reiseverkehr zwischen dem Protektorat Böhmen und Mähren und dem übrigen Reichsgebiet

Personen, die im Reichsgebiet, einschließlich des Protektorats Böhmen und Mähren, ihren Wohnsitz oder gewöhnlichen Aufenthalt haben und die auf Grund der besonderen passrechtlichen Bestimmungen zum Überschreiten der Grenze zwischen dem Protektorat und dem übrigen Reichsgebiet berechtigt sind, dürfen ohne Genehmigung der Devisenstelle Reichsmarknoten oder deutsche Scheidemünzen bis zum Betrag von 300 *R.M.* je Grenzübertritt in beiden Richtungen mit

sich führen, soweit nicht in den zum Grenzübertritt berechtigenden Papieren ein niedrigerer Betrag festgesetzt ist; ein Teilbetrag bis zu 10 *R.M.* darf in tschechischen Münzen oder Notizen über 10 und 20 Kronen bis zu insgesamt 100 Kronen mitgeführt werden.

Reichsmarkbeträge, die auf Grund der vorstehenden Voraussetzungen aus dem Protektorat in das übrige Reichsgebiet eingebracht worden sind, können von den Postdienststellen — entgegen den Vorschriften auf Seite 6 Zeile 10 bis 23 (einschließlich Ver. Nr. 8) der »Devisenvorschriften für Zahlungen durch die Post« — ohne Genehmigung in Zahlung genommen werden, wenn der Einzahler nachweist, daß er nach den be-

## The Führer Has Fallen For Germany

Shown below is a special edition of the news magazine for German troops in Denmark announcing Hitler's death and Admiral Dönitz's appointment as his successor. This copy is 76% of the full size paper. Many thanks to TRSGer Dr. Werner Bohne for making it available for publication here.

# Nachrichtenblatt

## FÜR DIE DEUTSCHEN TRUPPEN IN DÄNEMARK

Sonderausgabe

Mittwoch, den 2. Mai 1945

### Der Führer ist für Deutschland gefallen

Aus dem Führerhauptquartier wird gemeldet, dass unser Führer Adolf Hitler heute nachmittag in seinem Befehlsstand in der Reichskanzlei, bis zum letzten Atemzuge gegen den Bolschewismus kämpfend, für Deutschland gefallen ist.

#### Grossadmiral Dönitz Nachfolger Adolf Hitlers

Am 30. April hat der Führer den Grossadmiral Dönitz zu seinem Nachfolger bestimmt.

#### Kampf gegen den Bolschewismus geht weiter

Als Oberster Befehlshaber der Deutschen Wehrmacht hat Grossadmiral Dönitz folgenden Tagesbefehl an die deutsche Wehrmacht erlassen:

#### Deutsche Wehrmacht, meine Kameraden!

Der Führer ist gefallen.

Getreu seiner grossen Idee, die Völker Europas vor dem Bolschewismus zu bewahren, hat er sein Leben eingesetzt und den Heldentod gefunden. Mit ihm ist einer der grössten Helden deutscher Geschichte dahingegangen. In stolzer Ehrfurcht und Trauer senken wir vor ihm die Fahnen.

Der Führer hat mich zu seinem Nachfolger als Staatsoberhaupt und als Obersten Befehlshaber der Wehrmacht bestimmt. Ich übernehme den Oberbefehl über alle Teile der deutschen Wehrmacht in dem Willen, den Kampf gegen den Bolschewismus solange fortzusetzen, bis die kämpfenden Truppe und die Hunderttausende Familien des deutschen Ostraumes vor der Versklavung und Vernichtung gerettet sind.

Gegen England und Amerika muss ich den Kampf soweit und solange fortsetzen, wie sie mich in der Durchführung des Kampfes gegen des Bolschewismus hindern. Die Lage erfordert von Euch, die Ihr schon so grosse, geschichtliche Taten vollbracht habt, und die Ihr jetzt das Ende des Krieges herbeisehnt, weiteren vorbehaltlosen Einsatz. Ich verlange Disziplin und Gehorsam. Nur durch vorbehaltlose Ausführung meiner Befehle werden Chaos und Untergang vermieden. Ein Feigling und Verräter ist, der sich gerade jetzt seiner Pflicht entzieht und damit deutschen Frauen und Kindern Tod oder Versklavung bringt.

Der dem Führer von Euch geleistete Treueid gilt nunmehr für jeden Einzelnen von Euch mir als dem vom Führer eingesetzten Nachfolger.

Deutsche Soldaten! Tut Eure Pflicht! Es gilt das Leben unseres Volkes.

gez Dönitz

Grossadmiral und Oberster Befehlshaber der deutschen Wehrmacht.

#### Getreu unserer Verpflichtung

Der Wehrmachtbefehlshaber Dänemark hat folgenden Tagesbefehl an die deutschen Truppen in Dänemark erlassen:

Der Führer ist für Deutschland gefallen, aber seine Idee lebt und wird siegen. Sein Nachfolger ist Grossadmiral Dönitz. Der letzte Befehl des Führers verpflichtet uns, getreu unserem Fahneneid dem von ihm erwählten Nachfolger unbedingten Gehorsam zu leisten.

Alles für Deutschland!

gez. Lindemann, Generaloberst.

## K.L.V. LAGER UPDATE # 5

Additional KLV locations provided by Jack Miskevich are shown below:

a.) Germany/Austria

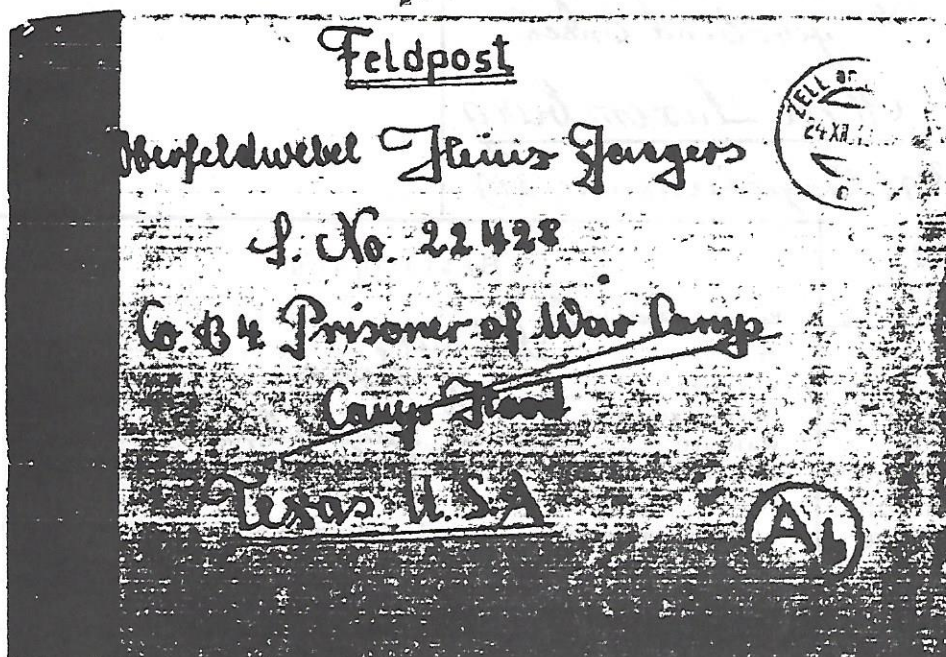
Bad Iselberg Winklern in Mölltal (Kärnten) (1944)  
 Dolomiten Hotel Lienz/Drau (Kärnten) (1944)  
 Wm/25 Sierck-Rettel (Wurtenburg) (1943)  
 Thur/143 Haus Gesang Tabarz (1944)  
 TV/77 Gasthof Bräu Zell am Ziller (Tirol-Vorarlberg) (1943)  
 Gasthof Stadlmann Puchberg am Schneeberg (1942)  
 Kurhaus Tschauwitz (Sudetenland) (1942)  
 Lager 20/24 Unlandhöhe/Wildbad (1943)  
 KLV-Erholungslager Bergener Stuben Bergen (1942) - this was a  
 disease recovery home for children in the KLV system.

b.) Protectorate Bohemia-Moravia

Bresolup b. Ung. Hradisch (1941)  
Blanz b. Brünn (1944)  
 Pro/190 Hotel Baron Weisses Kreuz (1942)  
 BM/303 Villa Frangner Rewitz a. d. Beraun (1944)

c.) Slovakia

Slo/262 Haus Zirps Iaturicie b. Vrutyky (1943)



## German Official Mail in Luxemburg

by Jim Lewis

The Germans crossed the frontiers of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg on May 10, 1940. Immediately after the occupation, a German military administration under a Oberfeldkommandantur was established for the purpose of carrying on current administrative affairs. On August 7, 1940, a German Civil Administration was set up in the Grand Duchy and the District Leader (Gauleiter) of Koblenz-Trier, Gustav Simon, was appointed its chief. On August 30, 1942, it was announced by the Gauleiter that Luxemburg had been incorporated into the German District of Moselland. Postally, the German civil administration utilized a Deutsche Dienstpost system in Luxemburg until April 24, 1941. After that date all postoffices in Luxemburg were incorporated into the German Reichspost.

On February 12, 1941, Gauleiter Simon issued a proclamation for all single men and women born in the years 1919 to 1922 to register for compulsory Reich Labor Service. An "Arbeitsamt" (Labor Office) was established in Luxemburg City to monitor the registration and assign labor tasks for the participants. Originally citizens of Luxemburg were required to work within the Moselland District, but in later years they were also sent to work in Germany.

The official mail from this Arbeitsamt was transmitted free of charge provided that it carried a official seal ("Dienstseigel") and the notation "Frei durch Ablösung Reich" (Free by Government authority). Shown below are examples of official mail from this agency:

Postkarte.

LUXEMBURG  
20 3 43  
10-11

An

Herrn  
Frau  
Fräulein

Schmit Josef,  
geb. Erna Ensch,  
Merl-Luxemburg,  
319, Sengicherstrasse, 319.

Arbeitsamt  
Luxemburg  
Fernruf: Nr. 67-93

Frei durch Ablösung Reich

Fig. 1) Form notification card to a woman in Merl-Luxemburg has machine cancel dated March 1943. Note the office seal and exemption notation.

Reverse of same card requests confirmation that Mrs. Joseph Smith was formerly Erna Ensch. Marital status would be grounds for exemption from Labor Service.

Bestätigung

Es wird bestätigt, daß <sup>ist</sup> die

Zuname: Schmitz

Vorname: Erna

bei Frauen geborene: Ensch

Wohnort: Merl-Luxemburg

Straße und Hausnummer: 319, Sengicherstrasse, 319

bei

die Meldung auf Grund der Verordnung des Chefs der Zivilverwaltung in Luxemburg vom 12. Februar 1943 über kriegswichtigen Kräfteinsatz erstattet hat.

(Von hier ab durch das Arbeitsamt anzufallen)

den 18. März 1943

Luxemburg

Arbeitsamt Luxemburg

(Unterschrift)

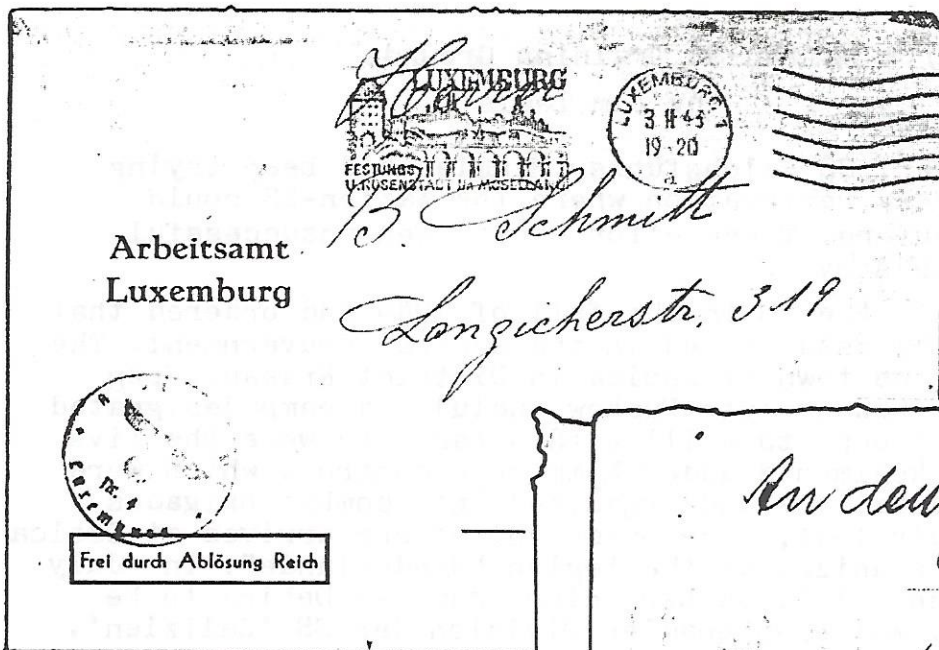


Fig. 2) Cover to another member of same family posted February 1943 has printed exemption note and hand stamped office seal of "Arbeitsamt Nr. 4".



Fig. 3) Reused cover has standard German label with preprinted exemption note and boxed handstamp "Arbeitsamt Luxemburg" and office seal.

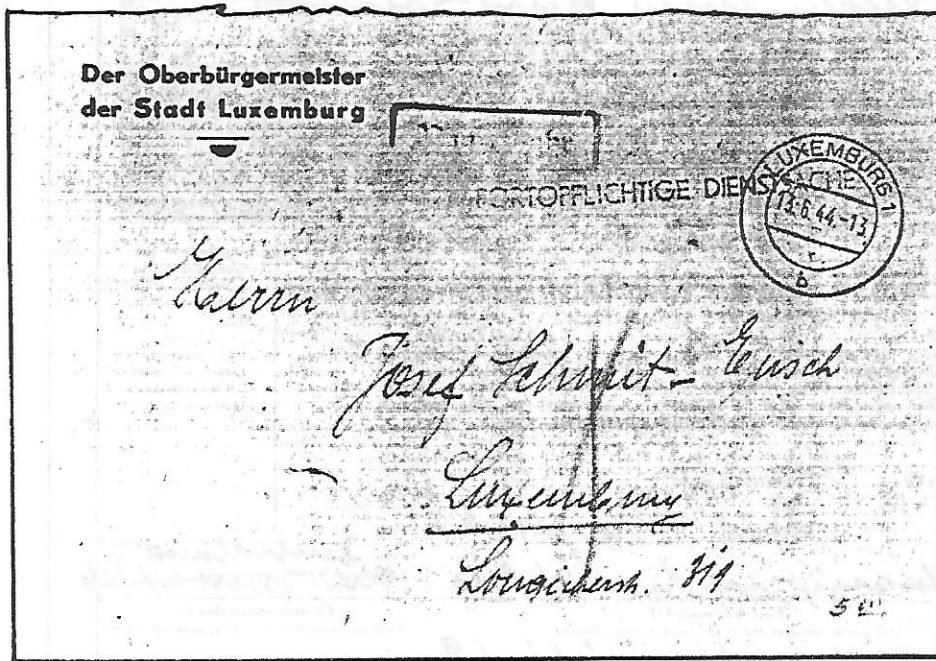


Fig. 4) German official could also be sent free franked with notation "Gebührenpflichtige Dienstsache", which meant that the agency wanted to contact a member of the public on a matter that was in his own interest. The postman collected the applicable fee from the recipient. This cover was posted in June 1944 and has line stamp notation and red "Nachgebuhr" (postage due). The "8" in blue crayon is for 8 Phennig local fee.

Examples of German official mail sent via civil postoffices in occupied countries are quite scarce. Most official mail in such territories was restricted to special "Deutsche Dienstpost" networks. The reason that this mail exists is that Luxemburg was actually incorporated into the Moselland District and became a part of Germany until liberated in 1944.

Parcel Card From Waffen-SS Training Grounds

by Jim Lewis

Since the outbreak of war, SS Reichsführer Himmler had been trying to secure a large military reservation where the Waffen-SS could conduct full-scale maneuvers. These efforts had been unsuccessful due to opposition by the Army.

Hitler finally sided with the SS in the fall of 1940 and ordered that a military reservation be established in the General Gouvernement. The area selected was near the town of Debica in District Krakau. Upon completion, the Truppen Übungsplatz Puskow included a camp designated "Heidlager". The first troops to utilize this facility were the five remaining SS-Totenkopf Regiments under Himmler's control, which were withdrawn from various stations and organized into combat brigades in February 1941. In July 1941, 2559 Dutch volunteers arrived at Debica from Holland and were organized as the Legion "Niederlande". In July 1943 the first contingent of 2,000 Ukrainians came to Debica to be formed into the new 14. Waffen-Grenadier Division der SS 'Galizien'.

Shown below is a parcel card for a 10 Kg. parcel sent to Keisingen, Germany in March 1943 from a member of 5. SS Rekruten Depot Debica sent via the Pustkow-Debica postoffice.

Feldpost enthusiasts should note that Fp.#41869 was assigned to "Truppen Wirtschafts Lager der Waffen-SS Debica- Pustko" per Rev. 4 of the FpU (28.2 - 29.7. 1941) but was deleted in Rev. 6 (1.3. - 7.9. 1942).

*Haben inner Umverpackung*

<p><b>Abschnitt</b> <b>Coupon — Odcinek</b></p> <p>Kann vom Empfänger abgetrennt werden Peut être détaché par le destinataire Moż być przez odbiorcę oddzieleny</p> <p>Stempel der Ausgabestelle Timbre du bureau d'origine Datownik urzędu nadawczego</p> <p>Stempel der Zollverwaltung Timbre de la douane Pieczęć Urzędu Celnego</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>979 Pustkow b Debica</b> (Distrik Krakau) Generalgouvernement 2764</p> <p>Aufg. <b>Generalgouvernement</b> Pays d'origine: <b>Gouvernement général</b> — Generalne gubernatorstwo Kraj nadania: <b>Gouvernement général</b> — Generalne gubernatorstwo</p> <p><i>Wertangabe</i> (in Buchstaben und in lateinischer Schrift) (in arabischen Ziffern) (in arabischen Ziffern) va leur déclarée (Les unités en toutes lettres et en caractères latins) (en chiffres arabes) (w cyfrach arabskich)</p> <p><i>Wertangabe</i> (in Buchstaben und in lateinischer Schrift) (in arabischen Ziffern) (in arabischen Ziffern) va leur déclarée (Les unités en toutes lettres et en caractères latins) (en chiffres arabes) (w cyfrach arabskich)</p> <p><b>Paketkarte — Bulletin d'expédition — Adres Pomocniczy</b></p> <p>Zahl der Pakete Nombre de colis Zollinhaltsklärungen Déclarations en douane — Déclaration celine Beschreibungen oder Rechnungen certificats ou factures — Zaświadczenia lub rachunki</p> <p>Art der Verpackung Nature de l'emballage Rodzaj opakowania</p> <p>Miejsce do nalepienia znaczków opłaty albo podania pobranej opłaty</p> <p>An <b>Familie</b> A—Do <b>Paul Krajewski</b> <b>Heisingen, Lorenz-Str. 69</b> (Bestimmungsort) (Pays de destination) — (Miejsce przeznaczenia)</p> <p>(Straße und Hausnummer) (Rue et numéro) — (ul. i nr domu)</p> <p>Gewicht — Poids — Waga <b>10</b> kg ..... g</p> <p>Leitvermerk — Acheminement — Kierunek Weg — Voie — Droga</p> <p>Auswechslungs-Postanstalt Bureau d'échange — Pocztowy Urząd Wymiany</p> <p><sup>1)</sup> Auszufüllen von der Eingangs-Postanstalt oder der Zollverwaltung des Bestimmungslandes Cadre à remplir par le bureau d'entrée ou par le service de la douane du pays de destination Wypełnić w Pocztowny Urząd nadejścia lub Urząd Celnego Kraju przeznaczenia</p>	
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DPO 443 (3.41)

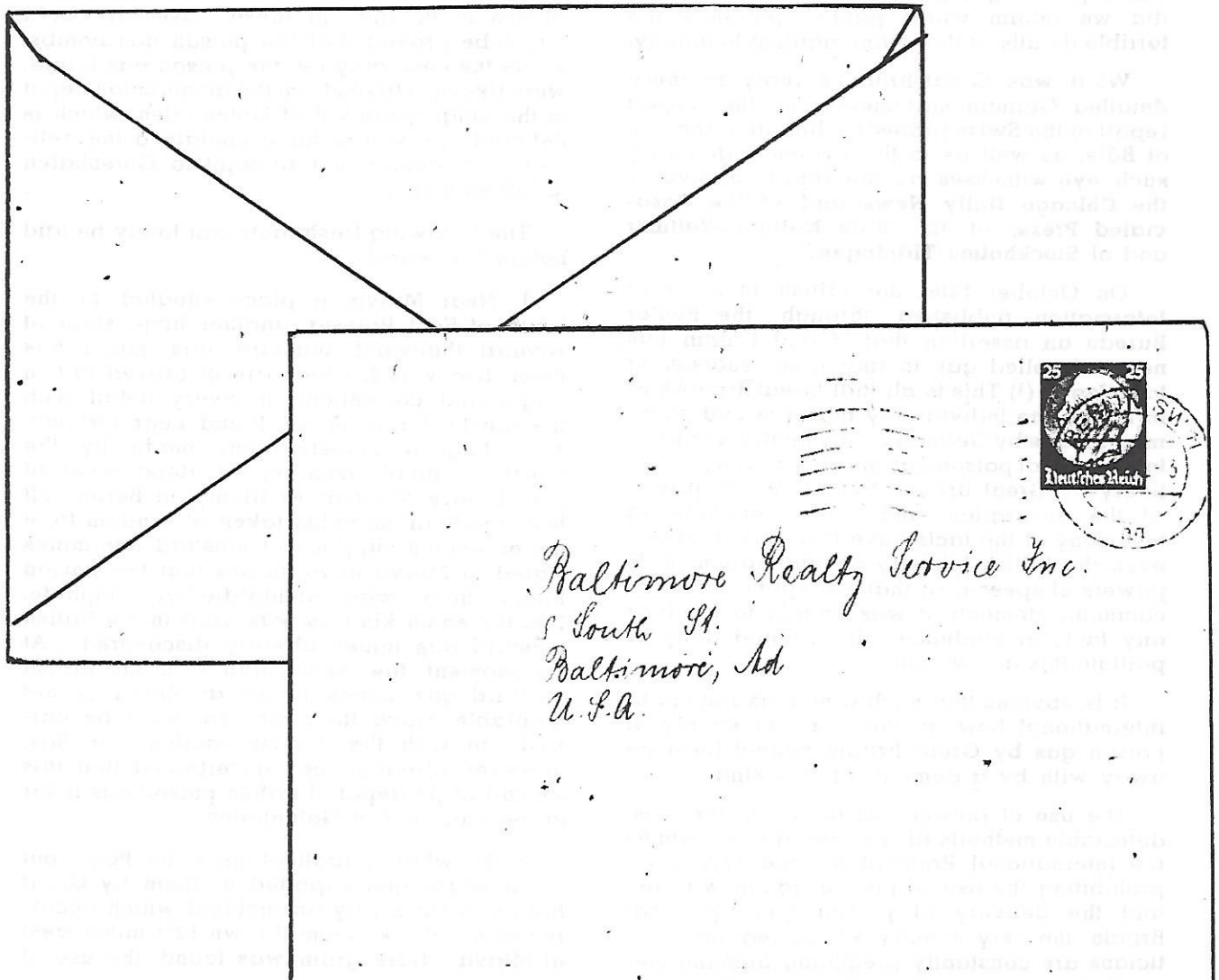
## The "British Poison Gas" Propaganda Campaign of 1939

by Jack Miskevich

In Bulletin 85, Larry Nelson provided details on the German propaganda campaign in October 1939 which claimed that the passenger liner 'Athenia' had actually been destroyed by Great Britain. The post was used to distribute copies of a "official report" to private citizens in neutral countries.

I recently discovered another propaganda item from this same period which is very similar to the 'Athenia' item. The cover shown below was posted in Berlin on Oct. 14, 1939 and is addressed to a realty firm in Baltimore, Maryland. As with the earlier cover, there is no return address. Enclosed in this letter is the propaganda message shown on the following pages, which claims that poison gas used against German troops during the Polish campaign had been supplied by Great Britain. Note that the type style of the title and opening sentence "The following is an official report" are the same as those found on the 'Athenia' message.

I have been unable to locate any historical references to the German claim that mustard gas was used by Polish forces. It would appear that this propaganda effort was less successful than the 'Athenia' campaign. Does anyone have information on this 'poison gas' claim?



# Further discoveries of British poison gas in Poland!

The following is an official report:

On October 12th, the German Press published in the morning editions of the daily newspapers, details constituting incontrovertible proof that, firstly, poison gas had been used by Polish troops and secondly, that this poison gas had been supplied by Great Britain. The first definite reports concerning these monstrous facts were received as early as September 17th, 1939. Medical experts of international repute and neutral journalists were asked to assist in establishing indisputable and exhaustive proof of the various cases in which poison gas had been used. Only then did we inform world public opinion of the terrible details of this crime against humanity.

What was Great Britain's reply to these detailed German statements, to the expert report of the Swiss professor, Rudolf Staehelin, of Bâle, as well as to the evidence given by such eye-witnesses as the representative of the **Chicago Daily News** and of the **Associated Press**, of the **Bâle National-Zeitung** and of **Stockholms Tidningen**?

On October 12th, the British Ministry of Information published through the Reuter Bureau an assertion that "Great Britain has never supplied gas in any form whatsoever to Poland" (!) This is all that Great Britain had to say to the individually corroborated statements made by Germans or by neutrals regarding the use of poison gas in Poland and its delivery by Great Britain. Evidently the gravity of the accusation and the overwhelming testimony of the facts have this time deprived even the British Ministry of Information of its powers of speech, so that, except for this non-committal dementi, it was unable to produce any facts or evidence which could deny or palliate this accusation.

It is obvious that such a serious breach of International Law as the use and supply of poison gas by Great Britain cannot be done away with by a dementi of this kind.

The use of poison gas is one of the most detestable methods of warfare. It contravenes the International Protocol of June 17th, 1925, prohibiting the use of poison gas in warfare, and the delivery of poison gas by Great Britain, the very country whose leading politicians are constantly preaching humane me-

thods of warfare, is further proof of the hypocritical and unscrupulous forms of warfare of that country.

We have, however, not only to ask in how far Great Britain believes that she can escape this serious question by a laconic reply, but we have today to bring a fresh grave accusation against Great Britain as being implicated in the criminal use of gas in warfare, for, in the meantime, new and definite reports have reached us, according to which poison gas was not only used in Jaslo, the place mentioned in the German Communiqué of October 12th, but also in numerous other places in Poland. In these cases, it could again be proved that the poison gas bombs, or, as the case may be, the poison gas liquid, were likewise taken from the ammunition depot in the neighbourhood of Gotenhafen, which is definitely proved to have contained the deliveries of ammunition brought to Gotenhafen in British ships.

The following fresh facts can today be laid before the world:

1. Near Mlava, a place situated to the south of East Prussia, another huge store of several thousand mustard gas mines has been discovered, which are of proved British origin and correspond in every detail with the mustard gas mines found near Oxhoeft. According to investigations made by the pharmaceutical-toxicological department of the Military Medical Academy in Berlin, all tests made on samples taken at random from the enormous supplies of mustard gas mines stored in Mlava have shown that the poison found here was dichloro-diethyl sulphide, i. e. the same kind as was used in the British mustard gas mines already discovered. At the moment, the exact figure of the British mustard gas mines found at Mlava is not available, since their removal must be carried out with the utmost caution. It has, however, already been ascertained that this second large depot of British poison gas is far larger than that at Gotenhafen.

2. To what diabolical uses the Poles put the mustard gas supplied to them by Great Britain is shown by an incident which occurred at Kuczork, a small town 12½ miles west of Mlava. Here grain was found, the use of



which as cattle-fodder had been prohibited by the burgomaster of Kuczbork. As this store of grain was thought to be suspect, it was put on one side and examined. About ten hours later, blisters appeared all over the bodies of those occupied in clearing it away. Some time afterwards, it was discovered in hospital that not only was there a brown discolouration of almost the whole skin of the persons concerned, but also serious burns. A closer investigation of the grain showed that Polish troops had infected it with mustard gas, which had doubtless been taken from the large dump at Mlava.

3. In clearing up a Polish battery emplacement near Blozna, in the neighbourhood of Ilza, a large number of canisters, marked with red stripes and weighing between 22 and 33 lbs., were discovered. German infantry soldiers who had examined their contents, were taken to a field hospital suffering from severe burns. Investigations, which were promptly carried out, furnished fresh evidence that these canisters, too, contained mustard gas supplies of exactly the same composition as was contained in the mustard gas mines found near Oxhoeft. From empty mines found in the vicinity, it appeared that the canisters had been put ready to fill these mines, and that a fresh crime had only been prevented here by the speed of the German advance.

4. In a wood to the east of Ostrowiez, the gunners Seidel, Golup and Kottas suffered the most severe injuries due to mustard gas in a similar manner to the infantrymen near Blozna, when they came upon considerable stores of mustard gas in the course of clearing operations. The stores had been partially buried. On this occasion, the note from the Polish military authorities accompanying these consignments of poison gas supplies fell into German hands. From this note it is clear that the poison gas came from the same store near Oxhoeft, the British origin of which was proved on October 12th.

5. A further Polish store of poison gas supplied by Britain has been found in the neighbourhood of Blonis near Warsaw, where German engineers were again seriously injured during clearing operations.

The above are fresh facts showing Britain's share in the poison gas warfare against Germany in Poland.

The question now is, whether the British Ministry of Information still believes that it is

possible to refute these outrageous facts by means of a simple lie. The British dementi made on October 12th is on a similar footing with Mr. Churchill's statement with regard to the capture of that German submarine commander who, as is well known, had the honour to send him a telegram after he had safely reached a German port. It is on a par with the reported bombardment of Kiel, the statement regarding which was later withdrawn somewhat shamefacedly by the British Ministry of Information itself. When the mines and the mustard gas supplies were conveyed from Britain to Poland in several ship-loads shortly before the outbreak of the war, it was probably believed in the circles concerned in Britain that Poland would be able to hold out long enough for the Secret Service agents to remove every trace of incriminating evidence against Britain. This assumption, however, proved to be false. Owing to the incredible speed of the German advance, we gained possession of those stores and documents which proved conclusively Britain's guilt.

The detailed statement regarding British poison gas warfare, which appeared in the German Press on October 12th, has aroused a storm of indignation throughout the civilized world.

The appalling condition of the victims of mustard gas poisoning, as described in the German Press, and the irrefutable medical reports, including that given by the Swiss professor, Rudolf Staehelin, have this time confronted the British Ministry of Information with a problem which is insoluble even for them. These facts and proofs are absolutely indisputable. Hence their feeble dementi. But nobody in the world now any longer believes the words of the British Ministry of Information, for, as the daily testimony of the British public confirms, this new British Ministry has already told so many lies that it must produce irrefutable documentary evidence if it is to be believed at all — even in its own country.

In this matter of mustard gas poisoning, evidence is accumulating rapidly. Here, too, the Poles were the seduced, the British the seducers. Over and above this, the British not only supplied the gas, but made a good business out of it, for, as we have ascertained, John Bull, on top of all this, got his friends to pay for this poison gas in sound foreign exchanges. Liars, hypocrites and criminals against humanity — that is what they are, these British war-lords!

## The Reichspost's Air-Raid Protection Service

by Benjamin R. Beede

The following are extracts from the 'Civilian Defense Division Final Report', 2nd Ed. Jan. 1947. This report was part of 'The United States Strategic Bombing Survey', a comprehensive assessment of the effectiveness of U.S. air attacks against strategic enemy targets.

## XVIII. National Post Office (Communications) Air-Raid Protection

1. Organization Of German Communications System. The German Post Office Department (Deutsche Reichspost) controlled the postal, telegraph and telephone systems of the entire nation through the Ministry of Communications. The country was divided into approximately 40 communication districts (Reichspostdirektionsbezirke), including the occupied countries. Each district had at its head a district president, who was accountable only to the ministry, and he, in turn, had subordinates in charge of each of the three services.

2. Organization of Communications System Air-Raid Protection (Reichspost Luftschutz). The president of each district was responsible for the air-raid protection. He appointed a full-time leader who carried out the directives of the Ministry of Communications, and was responsible for the training of employees, the procurement of equipment and all other air-raid protection measures. This leader had three or more full-time air-raid protection deputies, each representing one of the three services or a larger branch thereof. Other air-raid protection leaders were appointed on an additional duty basis for each branch of the postal, telephone and telegraph services, as well as for warehouses, works, garages and offices. In addition to these leaders, every individual employee was obliged to serve in some air-raid protection capacity unless a physical disability or the demands of his office prevented. Fire watching, duty in the control center and similar duties were prescribed by roster with employees being called upon once in every seven to 16 days. They were paid a clothing deterioration allowance for each night of duty and an additional reimbursement for food and transportation.

3. Training Training of the air-raid protection leaders of the several departments in the communications systems consisted of fire-fighting, gas defense, first aid and self-protection. Fire-fighting technique was taught by members of the municipal fire departments; first aid and gas drill by the Red Cross or a staff physician. The leaders themselves then trained their subordinates in all phases of air-raid protection work, usually during evening of duty. Inspectors and instructors traveled throughout the district to give refresher courses.

4. Equipment Fire apparatus, both mobile and stationary, was dispersed at strategic locations within the district and was used whenever the district air-raid protection leader directed. Telephone operators and all those on duty as air-raid protection workers were furnished gas masks, other employees being required to purchase them on the open market. Gas mask microphones were available for the telephone operators on duty. The other usual equipment was on hand: shovels, hand pumps, sand boxes, first aid kits, helmets, buckets and miscellaneous hand tools.

5. Shelters. Reinforced basement rooms were provided for use as shelters. They were equipped with gas-proof doors, forced air ventilation, and one or more first-aid rooms. The control center was situated in one of these rooms, together with offices for key officials and an auxiliary telephone switchboard. In some cities the telephone exchanges were permanently installed in deep shelters or moved to special shelters in the suburbs.

6. Post-Raid Work. Due to the specialized nature of repair and reconstruction in the communications system, a series of mobile teams was formed from among the regular maintenance personnel of the organization.

7. Telephone and Telegraph Service (This long section has been deleted ED).

8. Postal Service. All incoming mail was held at suburban offices if a city post office was damaged. The scattered populace called for its mail at the general delivery windows, and evacuees made known their new addresses. Mail that was uncalled for in four weeks was returned to the sender.

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#### Telegraph and Works Troops (Telegraph und Bauamptuppen).

a. Origin. This service was organized in 1941 by the Ministry of Postal Service (Reichspost Ministerium) from among specially trained communications personnel in the large postal districts of Germany. Fifty crews of special repairmen were organized as mutual-aid groups for the emergency repair of the postal system telephone and telegraph lines in bombed areas. This service has been known by several different titles; first, it was the catastrophe-aid service (Katastrophenhilfe); then, in 1943, the air-protection organization for maintenance of utilities (Luftnothilfe); and, finally, in 1944 and until the present, is referred to under the general title of telegraph and works troops.

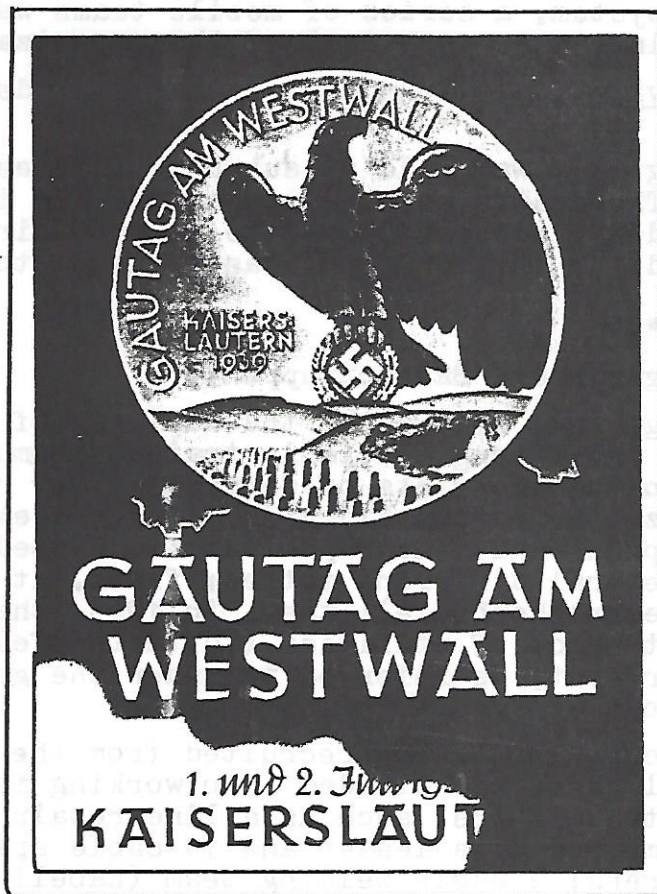
b. Plan of Organization. The personnel, being recruited from the ranks of regular postal department employees, was divided into working teams according to the specialties of the members, such as a line repair team (Streckenbautruppe) of 15 men composed of a leader and 14 cable splicers, linesmen, truck drivers and laborers; a cable welding team (Kabellötertruppe) of 15 men comprising a foreman, cable welders and laborers; a distribution crew (Schalt Truppe) of five men consisting of a leader and four technicians; a dial exchange team (Wählamt Truppe) of four men; a long-distance exchange team (Fernamtstruppe) of three men; power teams (Starkstromtruppe) of five men each; mobile generator teams (Netzersatztruppe) of three men each; an accumulator team (Batterie-und-Lade-Truppe) of three men; and an emergency distribution reserve (Notvermittlungsaufbautruppe) crew of four men.

#### c. Operations.

1. The director of postal services Berlin ordered these units from one postal distribution area to another as emergencies arose, but kept one complete team of the aforementioned specialists at Berlin at all times as a strategic reserve. They traveled in their own repair trucks which were fully equipped for the emergency and, on arrival at destination, were quartered and maintained by local authorities. The seriousness of the damage often required their presence for as long as six weeks. These troops wore the dark blue uniform, trimmed with red markings, of the regular postal service, but were not armed.
2. One of the outstanding achievements of the regularly established departments of German government was that the postal service (Reichspost) in the prompt restoration of its communication facilities following air raids, as both military and air-raid-protection forces had to rely almost entirely upon land line facilities for air attack intelligence, owing to the shortage of radio and wireless devices. Their advance planning appears to have been excellent with respect to providing trained repairmen and replacement materials.

# Propaganda Card Corner

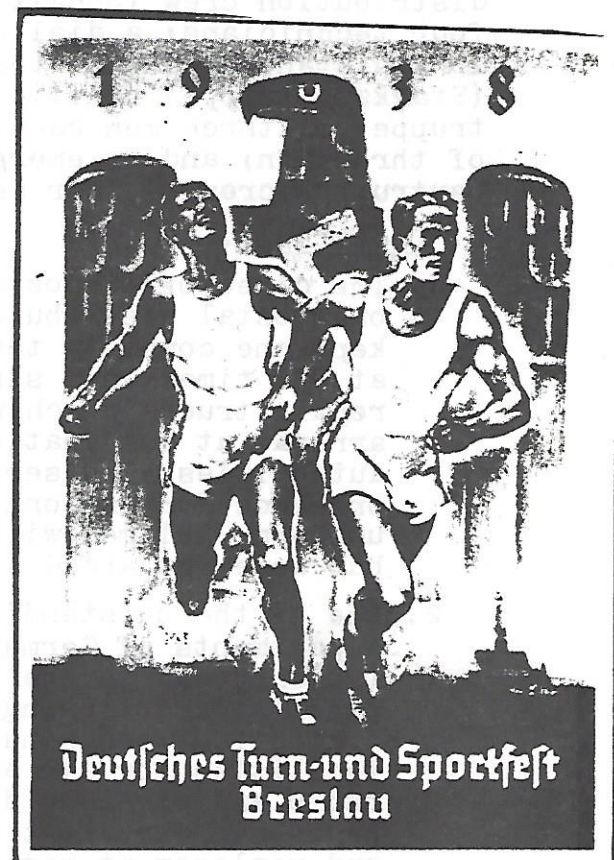
by John Ziegelhofer



1.) Upper left - color card commemorating construction of the border fortifications called the "Westwall" by the Germans and the "Siegfried Line" by the Allies. The special medal was presented during ceremonies held July 1 & 2, 1939 in Kaiserslautern.

2.) Upper right - color card published at the time of the Austrian 'Anschluss' in March, 1938.

3.) Lower right - color card for National Gymnastics and Sports Festival held in Breslau July 23 to 31, 1938. This card is a companion to W. Bernhard No. 158. The special cancel for this event is shown below.



Registered Feldpost With Contents  
by Gianluigi Soldati

While Feldpost covers are frequently found with contents, registered official military mail covers with the original message are very scarce. The cover shown below is the only example known to me or to our counterparts in the Arbeits Gemeinschaft Deutsche Feldpost, who I contacted in Germany.

Addressed to the Army District Command in Bad-Kissingen, the cover bears the Feldpost cancel 17.6.43 with Kenn # 608. This was the code number for FpA 60 of the 9th Panzer Division. The report was sent by Fp.# 26540 (Pz. Repair Co., Panzer Rgt. 33). At this time FpA 60 was near Orel in Central Russia, the 9th Panzer being a reserve force for the 2nd Panzer Army.

The message:

Pz. Repair Company  
Panzer Regiment 33

O.U. 16.6.43

"To: Army District Command/Bad-Kissingen  
Enclosed you will find the War Personnel Roster of PFC Nöth, who was transferred on 10.6.43 to the Pz. Repair Platoon of Pz. Btl. 506.

This registered letter is a legal verification.

-1- enclosure

Lieutenant and Company Leader"



Einschreiben

**R** Feldpost 608  
084

FELDPOST  
608 17.6.43

Dem

Wehrbezirkskommando

Bad K 1

Pz. Werkstattkompanie  
Panzer - Regiment 33

O.U., dem B.6.43

Dem  
Wehrbezirkskommando

Bad K i s s i n g e n .

In der Anlage wird das Kriegsstammrollenblatt des am 10.6.43 zum Pz. Werkstattzug, Pz. Abt. 506 versetzten Obgr. Nöth übersandt.

Einschreiben gilt als Empfangsbescheinigung.

-1- Anlage.

Leutnant u.Kp.-Fhr.

Back side

BAD KISSINGEN  
25.6.43-23  
P

# N a y Log

Armored Ship "Admiral Scheer" - Feldpost # 10149

Adel. Dienststelle Zp. Nr. M 10149



Mar. Handadresse



This "pocket battleship" was launched on April 1, 1933 at Kriegsmarine Werft (Wilhelmshaven). This ship had the same design as the "Lutzöw" (see TRSG Bulletin #86) except for a heavier control tower.

Served patrol duty in Spanish Civil War 1936/37 - in Atlantic and Indian Oceans 1940/41 - Norwegian waters 1942 - Baltic area 1943/44. Bombed by R.A.F. and capsized at Kiel on April 9, 1945 while in drydock.

## T. R. S. G. Auction No. 46

Lot	Description	RES
1.	Jersey Mi 3WZ - 8WZ horizontal gutter prs, Mint NH VF	\$40
2.	Kurland Mi 2, Mint No gum, R margin F-VF	15
3.	Same, Mi 3, Mint gum damage o'wise VF	10
4.	Same, Mi 4b, Mint No gum VF	5
5.	Hitler election label 'Unsere Hoffnung' (Our hope), Mint no gum VF	15
6.	Inselpost Mi 10BbI, Mint NH, exp. Rungas & GPSY F-VF	30
7.	Russia-Pleskau Mi 12ax, Used, margin copy, exp. GPSY VF	35
8.	Sudetenland - Rumburg Mi 36-43 set Used, exp. GPSY (Scarce set)	75
9.	George IV Propaganda forgery Mi 3 top L margin, Used exp. GPSY VF	25
10.	Same, Mi 4 bottom R margin, Used exp. GPSY VF	25
11.	Same, Mi 5 Used, exp. GPSY VF	25
12.	Same, Mi 6 Used, exp. GPSY VF	25
13.	Same, Mi 7 Used, exp. GPSY VF, R margin copy.	25
14.	Same, Mi 8 Used, exp. GPSY VF	25
15.	Vert. pr Official Reichspost sealing labels, lilac on brown paper	10
16.	Netherlands Legion Mi 402-3, -1 set Mint & 1 set Used VF	10
17.	Souv. sheet Exhibit of Czech Stamps in London 1943 Mint VF	8
18.	French Legion Mi II-III on unadr Fp favor cancel cvr (Phil.) VF	35
19.	Fp Ortsbriefe facing slip to Kiel w/K-360 Fp can 6.'41. F-VF	10
20.	Latvia Mi 1-6 N.H. (#3 L.H.) exp. GPSY VF	15
21.	Same, Mi 1-2/4-6 Mint NH	5
22.	Same, Mi 4X lt grey paper, exp. GPSY Mint NH VF (Scarce)	40
23.	Gen Govt. Mi 104, Mint full sheet of ten stamps, VF	10
24.	Ukraine (Alexanderstadt) Mi 6III margin copy Mint NH exp. GPSY	40
25.	Lithuania (Zarasia) Mi 7aK invert o'prt Mint NH exp. GPSY (Scarce)	100
26.	Estonia (Pernau) Mi 1-10 plus 3AII perf, Used VF exp. GPSY	50
27.	Fp unit label L53040 LPGA Wien Mi 15a & 15b Mint exp. Pickenpack	25
28.	Same, Mi 16a Mint, exp. Pickenpack	20
29.	Laibach, Porto Mi 3 pr on parcel cd can Lubiana 3.'44 Bedarfs VF	20
30.	Same but Porto Mi 5 pr on parcel cd can Lubiana 1.'44 Bedarfs VF	20
31.	Dienstmarken Mi 148 pr on 11.'40 cvf frm Ortsgruppe Koberg F-VF	5
32.	Same, Mi 149 on 1.'40 prtd cvr frm Ortsgruppe Lenzinghausen F-VF	5
33.	Same, Mi 150 on 2.'40 prtd cvr frm Ortsgruppe Schweicheln VF	5
34.	Pr Mi. 855 tied 1.'44 Berlin can, to KIV Lager Pro 120 (Brunn) VF	10
35.	Algeria cens cvr w/5X h/s (Paris) plus British & German seals VF	10
36.	Mi PII unissued postal card for 70 Years of Postcards Mint VF	7
37.	Stalag XVIIIB form cd to Serbia 4.'43, camp cens. F	12
38.	Reg window cvr w/Std Oil (ESSO) meter Mannheim 7.'37 VF	10
39.	Sign of Life cd Borek Eilauftragskart I, Mint VF	5
40.	Prtd env. '37 Berlin-Pankow Colonies Show w/SPC 1.10.37, folded VF	12
41.	Photocd w/Mi 541 tied 8.'34 Bopfingen can & local P.O. Kirchheim F	5
42.	Same but pr. Mi 540 tied 2.'35 Berlin can, Bedarfs VF	14
43.	Reg airmail cvr w/Mi 742 (4), 745 (2) plus, tied Brandenburg can VF	7
44.	Wagner pcd P249 w/Mi 503,512 tied Dusseldorf can 3.'34 to USA F	5
45.	Bedarfs Olympic cd P259 w/stadium can 8.10.36. VF	6
46.	Hitler pcd Borek 310III w/SPC Posen 10.24.43 (Phil.) VF	5
47.	"Sara" air mail pcd Wien to USA 12.'40 w/Mi 520,524 & cens. F-VF	12
48.	Same, cvr Wurzburg to N.J. 5.'41 w/Mi 520,525 cens & contents F-VF	16
49.	Lot of 8 censored cvrs all diff. incl Ax, OKW tapes, Franco etc. F	12
50.	Lot of 5 T.R. photocds incl Leipzig & Konigsburg Fair cancels F	7
51.	Lost Colonies SPC Kaiserslauten on pcd; Hamburg on cvr 19.1.41 F	9
52.	Lot of 5 T.R. cvrs stmps incl Mi 522,535,823-5, GG 123. F	10
53.	Lot of 4 Fp cvrs incl Brussels Fp mach can, Hitler slogan etc.	9
54.	Three diff "Know Germany" mint cds frm Borek 236 series VF	6
55.	Two #10 size cvrs w/Mi V21 & V24 forerunners of Bohemia-Moravia F	9

