



# Third Reich Study Group Bulletin

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Devoted to the Study  
of the Postal History  
of Germany 1933-1945

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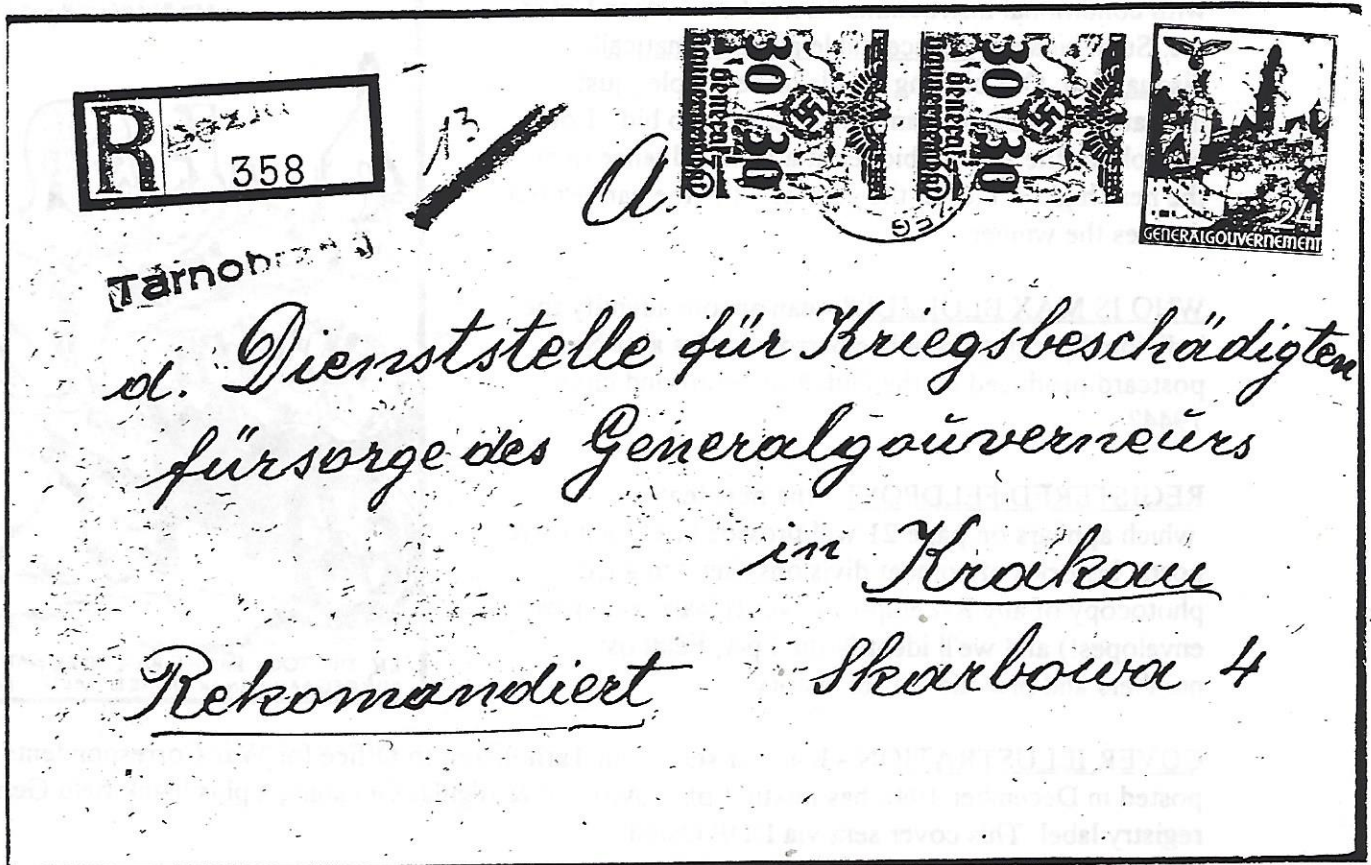
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## Contents:

- Page 3: Deutsche Dienstpost Osten (Part 1) - J. Lewis  
Page 21: Combat Division Profile: 9th Infantry Division - J. Lewis  
Page 22: Navy Log: Destroyer 'Max Schultz' - R. Houston  
Page 23: TRSG Auction No. 63 - F. Stengel

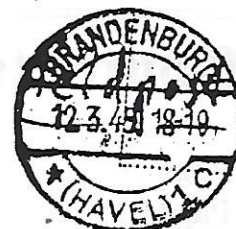




## STAFF GROUP NOTES

ALL GOOD THINGS TAKE TIME DEPT. - TRSG Bulletin #82 announced two new research articles which were to appear in future issues. These were a listing of U-Boat Feldpost numbers and an examination of German Official Mail Service in occupied Poland ("Deutsche Dienstpost Osten"). We had no inkling then that the completion of both of these articles would require several years. We did manage to publish the U-Boat article last year. Flushed with success, we have now completed the DDP article. The fairly lengthy Part 1 in this issue concerning DDP in the "General Gouvernement" is our way of making amends to those who have waited patiently for this article. Part 2 will include postal markings of District Krakau and cover areas incorporated into the Reich (i.e. Danzig, Wartheland, etc.).

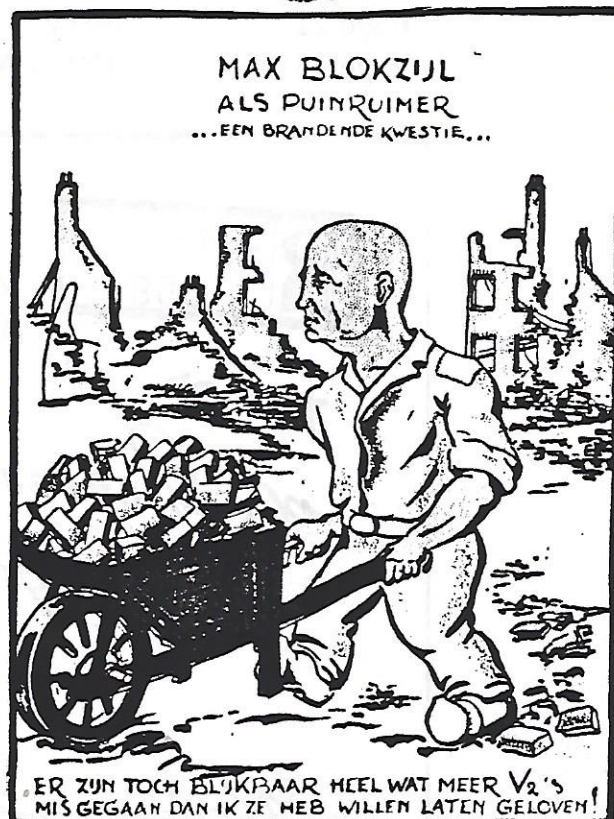
MISSING STARS THEORY - these German cancels from Berlin (6.'38), Arnstadt (2.'44) and Brandenburg (3.'40) sent in by Jack Miskevich have 5-pointed stars in their designs, which disputes the theory (Bulletin 107) that they were excised by Hitler's order. Has anyone seen references in either the Amtsblatt or German philatelic literature to support this "Missing Stars" theory?



AUCTION BIDDERS - Auction Mgr. Fred Stengel receives bids with requests for photocopies of lots or with conditional instructions "if not Lot A, then Lot B" etc. Such bids are unacceptable and automatically disqualified. Our bidding rule is quite simple, just indicate the maximum amount you wish to bid. Lots are sold to the highest bidder at a small advance over the next highest bid. In the case of a tie, the earliest bid decides the winner.

WHO IS MAX BLOKZIJL? - can anyone identify the individual piloting the wheelbarrow in this anti-Nazi postcard produced by the Dutch underground circa 1944?

REGISTERED FELDPPOST - the new feature which appears on page 21 will provide brief military & postal histories of combat divisions. Send in a clear photocopy of any R-Feldpost cover (please, no brown envelopes!) and we'll identify the FpA, Feldpost numbers and provide a brief history.



COVER ILLUSTRATION - R-cover sent from Tarnobrzeg to Office for War Correspondents in Krakau posted in December 1940 has mixture of provisional & regular GG stamps plus blank field German registry label. This cover sent via DDP Osten.



# DEUTSCHE DIENSTPOST OSTEN

By Jim Lewis

## INTRODUCTION:

This article deals with German Official Postal Service in occupied Poland, one of the more difficult DDP areas due to the lack of distinctive postal markings and the particular manner in which Poland was partitioned and administered. The postal history included in this article is based on Gerard DeBoer's translations of several sections of Dr. Hermann Schultz's "Deutsche Dienstpost " handbooks. We are most grateful to Mr. DeBoer for providing yet another fine translation for the TRSG .

## I) HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In the early eighteenth century, Poland bulked large on the map but suffered from incompetent government, a backward economy and the presence of large national and religious minorities. The evident decay stimulated the aggressive appetites of her stronger neighbors. Consequently, Poland was doomed to disappear as an independent power before the end of the century, the victim of partition by Russia, Austria and Prussia.

As a result of the first Russo-Turkish War (1768-1774), Poland lost almost one third of her territory and half her population. Prussia took the territory which had separated Brandenburg from East Prussia; Austria received Galacia and Russia received a substantial area of what became known as Belorussia or White Russia. On the pretext of defending the established order in Poland, both Russia and Prussia took large slices of Polish territories during a second partition in 1793, the Austrians not participating. An attempted Polish revolution against the reduction of their state to a wretched remnant dominated by foreigners was followed by a third and final partition in 1795, by which Poland disappeared from the map. This time Austria joined the other two powers and obtained Cracow; Prussia got Warsaw and Russia secured Lithuania and other Baltic and east Polish lands.

In 1815, Czar Alexander I of Russia permitted a partial restoration of pre-partition Poland with himself as monarch. The Kingdom of Poland was given a liberal constitution which endowed the diet with limited legislative power, although key official posts were held by Russians. The advent of highly conservative Nicholas I in 1825 increased political friction. Polish nationalists demanded the return to Poland of provinces that had belonged to the pre-partition Polish state - Lithuania, White Russia and the Ukraine. Secret societies which had formed in those provinces and in the Kingdom of Poland launched a revolution in 1830. The rebels soon split into two hostile camps and neither gained the support of the peasants. The misery of the Poles increased with a terrible epidemic of cholera. By 1833 Russian forces had crushed the revolt. Nicholas I then scrapped the constitution, imposed a regime of permanent martial law, and closed the universities of Warsaw and Vilna, the chief centers of Polish national propaganda. To escape the vengeance of Nicholas, tens of thousands of Polish intellectuals fled the country.

In contrast to the brutalities suffered by Poles under Prussian and Russian domination, the Galician Poles in Austria were the most contented minority in the Hapsburg Empire. They had their own schools and Polish was the language of administration and the courts. Polish refugees from tyranny elsewhere took refuge in the cities of Cracow and Lemberg. Universities in these cities trained generations of Poles who were later available for service in independent Poland.



Following the outbreak of world War I, Russia launched an offensive into Galacia which pushed the Austrians out of Lemberg and, by the end of September 1914, had reached the Carpathian mountains. In two great joint offenses in May and June 1915, German and Austrian forces inflicted severe losses on the Russians. At the end of 1915, the battle line ran roughly from Riga, deep in the Baltic province of Russia, to the eastern end of Galacia at Tarnopol. In 1916, the Russians undertook a new offensive against the Austrians which was a success at first. But once again the Germans came to the rescue and halted the Russian offensive. It was in the backwash of this defeat that the Russian revolution was born. By the end of 1917 Russia was out of the war, forced by the Central Powers to sign the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk (March 1918) by which she lost her Polish territories, her Baltic provinces and the Ukraine.

In the territorial settlements of the Treaty of Versailles in 1919, Poland became an independent nation with most of the lands she had before the partitions of the eighteenth century. These lands contained important minorities of Germans and other non-Polish peoples. Once Europe had settled down, plebiscites were to determine certain other territorial adjustments, notably whether certain parts of East Prussia and Silesia should go to Poland or Germany. The new Polish state had been granted access to the Baltic Sea through the so-called "Polish Corridor", a narrow strip of land which had once been Polish and which terminated in the almost wholly German port city of Danzig. The Poles wanted Danzig, but the Allies compromised by setting up a Free City of Danzig and giving Poles free trade with the city. Even so, the Polish Corridor now separated East Prussia from the rest of Germany, and Germans had to cross it in sealed trains. As long as Danzig and the corridor existed as they were, there could be no lasting peace between Poland and Hitler's Germany.

Poland was not strong enough to afford the luxury of being at odds with both of her giant neighbors, Germany and Russia. Her relations with Russia had been bad since 1920, when Poland attacked a Russia already weakened by the World War and civil war. In a brief but savage conflict which was concluded in October 1920, the eastern boundary of Poland was expanded 150 miles east of the ethnographic Curzon Line, transferring four and a half million Ukrainians and one and a half million White Russians to Polish rule. Thus, Poland's western and eastern borders were unacceptable to Germany and Russia respectively - a fact which seems to have been overlooked by the western democracies when Berlin and Moscow began to draw together in the summer of 1939. The non-aggression pact signed in Moscow on August 23, 1939 included secret agreement to a partition of Poland quite recognizable on the model of the eighteenth century partitions.

## II) THE GERMAN POSTAL SERVICE PREPARES FOR WAR

In the period prior to the invasion of Poland, the Reichspost had received secret orders concerning plans for operations in conquered territories. The first item was establishment of the Feldpost, then the Dienstpost and, finally, setting up civilian postal service for those territories to be incorporated into the Reich. The latter included the areas east of the 1914 German border in old Poland.

Before proceeding further, it is necessary to explain preparations for the Feldpost, which was part of the Army but consisted, from Army Feldpost Master down to supervisor of postal clerks, solely of professional postal administrators. The Feldpost borrowed all technical equipment, including postal vehicles, from the Reichspost. Numerous postal collection points for extensive postal traffic in both directions had been planned during peace time. Large scale testing of the Feldpost took place during the Armed Forces ("Wehrmacht") maneuvers in 1937 and during the occupations of the Sudetenland and Bohemia-Moravia in 1938/39. The operational guidelines for Feldpost service were set forth in the Feldpost Directive of the Commander-in-Chief of the Army ("Oberbefehlshaber des Heeres") dated July 22, 1938.



The establishment of the Protectorate of Bohemia-Moravia, the first non-German territory in the Reich, led to the formation of the Deutsche Dienstpost. Those postal officials who set up the Deutsche Dienstpost in the former Polish state received their education during the take over of the entire Post and Telegraph system in the Protectorate.

### III) ESTABLISHING OFFICIAL POSTAL SERVICE IN OCCUPIED POLAND

When war broke out on September 1, 1939, the "Postschutz" (Postal Protection) units of the Feldpost were required to take over enemy post offices and installations, often near the front line and within range of enemy guns. The "Postschutz" developed communications for the Feldpost as the German troops advanced with their own mobile Feldpost units.

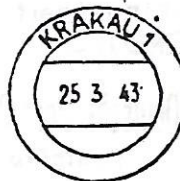
Organized resistance by Polish forces ended on October 6, 1939. On October 13th, Hitler appointed Reichsminister Dr. Frank as Governor General of a new Government General which consisted of the districts of Radom, Warsaw, Lublin and Cracow. The remaining areas which had been part of Poland were incorporated into the German Reich (see Fig. 1 map on Page 20).

Establishment of the Deutsche Dienstpost system in occupied Poland began at the time when most of the combat units were being withdrawn in early 1940. After May 15, 1940, all Feldpost service was placed in the hands of the Deutsche Dienstpost. The legislation establishing the Dienstpost was announced by the Reichspost Minister on September 13, 1939. Originally named the "Deutsche Dienstpost Polen", it was quickly changed to "Deutsche Dienstpost Osten" because Hitler wished to erase Poland from the map.

The Polish postal and telegraph systems were largely destroyed during the fighting in September and early October 1939. Post offices, telephone offices, delivery means and telephone lines had been plundered by troops of both sides. Polish funds and documents were removed to eastern Poland and the offices purposely destroyed by retreating Polish forces. The German "Postschutz" troops which entered these devastated areas with the combat units began to lay the groundwork for the Deutsche Dienstpost Osten.

In the more important Polish towns they secured the remaining materials and began a Dienstpost net using the mobile Feldpost units traveling with the combat troops. After the departure of the combat forces and their Feldpost trucks and buses, they were to take over the postal service for the remaining military field hospitals, the staffs of the occupation troops and provide service for the incoming civilian administration which would govern the conquered Polish territories.

These first Dienstpost offices were subordinate to the postal representative of the German military commander. After the final surrender of Polish forces, the German military commander established his headquarters in Cracow.



Generalgouvernement  
Der Gouverneur  
des Distrikts Krakau





By Hitler's decree of October 13th, Dr. Frank became Governor General on October 26, 1939 with headquarters in Cracow. This position was directly subordinate to Hitler and was equivalent to a Reichsminister. The Governor General's office issued a directive by which administration of all postal and telegraph service was transferred to the newly appointed Director of the German Post East. All properties of the former Polish Post and Telegraph Administration became Reichs property and was turned over to the Director of the "Deutsche Post Osten". Thus, in addition to the Deutsche Dienstpost, a new form of civilian postal system was created distinct from the civilian postal systems in former German areas of Poland which had been absorbed by the Reichspost.

Prior to the incorporation of Galacia in 1941, the Government General covered 94,000 square kilometers and had a population of 11 million Poles and 2 million Jews. The borders were originally at the rivers Bug and San but after the Ostrow Mazowiecka District was separated from Zichenau District in 1940, the new border was the Narew River. The total area was divided into four districts as noted earlier. Because Warsaw had been largely destroyed in a heroic resistance against the Germans, it was designated as a district capitol while Cracow ("Krakau"), which had suffered little damage, became capitol of the Government General.

The Dienstpost net in the Government General was intended to meet the postal needs of the German military and civil administrations. When it was decided to initiate general postal service, consideration was given to an arrangement similar to the postal systems in the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia. In the Protectorate a distinct civil postal network operated in parallel with a Dienstpost system operated exclusively by Germans. However, this would require large expenditures for buildings and equipment plus a second set of German postal officials to operate the civil post because Polish postal officials were not considered to be reliable. For these reasons, both postal systems were merged into the Deutsche Post Osten. All upper and middle administration remained in German hands, but former Polish officials were employed at lower levels and could handle civil mail only.

The directors of the four district postal administrations were subordinated to the Director of the Deutsche Post Osten in Krakau with respect to technical and personnel matters.





The following offices were reconstructed or created anew:

- 1.) Independent post offices ("Postamter") with German personnel under the direction of German officials; located in larger towns which had German administration and/or large German troop concentrations.
- 2.) Branch post offices ("Zweigpostamter") of 1.) which were located in smaller towns, personnel also German.
- 3.) Postal bureaus ("Postburos") under Polish leadership; located in towns with no German administrative offices.
- 4.) Postal agencies ("Postagentur") similar to 3.) but in smaller towns.
- 5.) Detached postal points ("Postschutzpunkte") under Polish leadership; similar to German "Landpoststellen" in rural areas; responsible to 1.) or 2.).

Expansion of the Deutsche Post Osten was accomplished by the Deutsche Dienstpost Osten. While newly established post offices of the DPO may be considered Dienstpost offices, a clear distinction between Dienstpost and civil offices was never made. The change from DDPO to DPO was gradual, although limited civilian mail (postcards and unsealed letters) was accepted for processing after December 1, 1939.

Only the newly established post offices with German personnel were entrusted to handle Dienstpost, Feldpost from troops in the Government General including SS mail of the police, Waffen-SS units, their staff and support units. There was a strict rule in effect that Dienstpost and Feldpost could only be handled by German officials. The provisional civil mail service was expanded in the Spring of 1940 through employment of additional Polish personnel utilized in the lower grade posts. By the early Summer of 1940, postal service in the Government General conformed to the postal service requirements of the Reich.

On June 1, 1940, there were 731 postal offices in the GG, of which 81 were independent post offices, 78 were branch offices and 572 were postal bureaus, agencies and detached agencies. The postal force consisted of approximately 2400 Germans, 600 ethnic Germans ("Volksdeutsche") and 5600 Poles. The Deutsche Post Osten was expanded after June 1, 1940 but the number of German personnel decreased during that period as their expertise was required elsewhere in Europe.

#### IV.) TYPES OF MAIL

- A.) FELDPOST - processing of general Feldpost was gradually shifted from the DDPO to the DPO, however only German personnel could handle such mail. After May 15, 1940, the entire Feldpost service was placed into the hands of the DPO and Feldpost offices were withdrawn from the GG.
- B.) DIENSTPOST - due to activities of Polish partisans during the German occupation, the Deutsche Dienstpost in the GG (in contrast to other German districts on Polish soil) remained until the end as an independent postal service manned exclusively by German personnel. In a supplement of the Amtsblatt of the Reichspost Ministry dated February 8, 1944, the existing Dienstpost with special pickup and delivery stipulations was clearly referred to as "Deutsche Dienstpost General Gouvernement", which was not absorbed into the Reichspost as in Bialystock or Ziechenau, nor into the general postal service in the GG. It was responsible for:



- 1.) Official mail of German agencies.
- 2.) Business mail of German firms located in the GG.
- 3.) Mail of NSDAP officials ("Gefolgsschaffspost") and personnel of 1.) and 2.).
- 4.) Private mail to destinations under 2.) when permission had been obtained from the Dienstpost office in writing.

Categories 2 through 4 were required to pay postage unless they qualified as Feldpost

- C.) SS FELDPOST - as German military units were withdrawn from the GG, security and police units of the SS were sent in to maintain order and carry out certain policies. These SS units came directly under Dr. Frank, the civil governor, rather than the military commander in Krakau. On May 1, 1940, the Reichsfuehrer SS, Minister of the Interior and Minister of the Reichspost agreed that all members of SS formations in the occupied territories could send and receive mail free of charge. This SS Feldpost was equivalent to the Feldpost service enjoyed by members of the German Armed Forces. In the GG, SS Feldpost was handled by the Deutsche Dienstpost Osten.
- D.) P.O.W. MAIL - after February 1940, the Deutsche Dienstpost and civil mail system were responsible for postal service for Polish P.O.W.s in Germany as well as the many thousands of Polish "volunteer" laborers working in Germany.

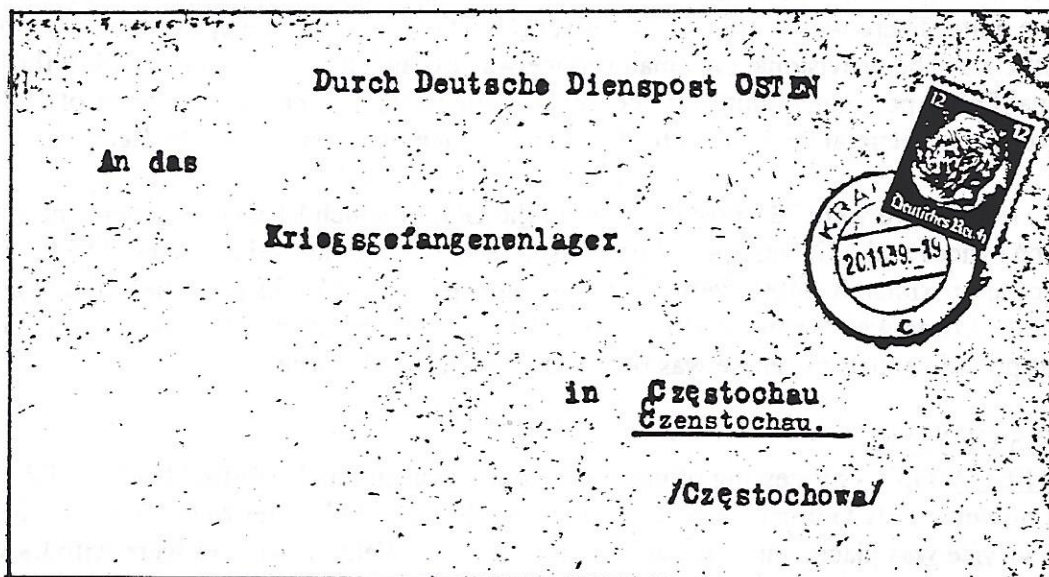


Fig. 2) Cover posted in Krakau in November 1939 to Czesłochowa, a large transit camp for Polish soldiers captured during the September 1939 campaign. These POWs were reassigned to other camps in Germany. In 1941 this camp was designated STALAG 367 and was used to house Russian POWs.



V.) POSTAL RATES - in order to prevent overloading of the newly established civil postal system, there were two postal rates in effect until March 31, 1940. German officials and their employees paid the same rates used in Germany (the "Reichsrate"), while the civilian population were charged double this rate. The double rate was abolished on April 1, 1940, which caused a substantial loss in revenue for the postal service. To make up for this loss, the free franking privilege for official mail was revoked and the use of Official stamps ("Dienstmarken") became mandatory.

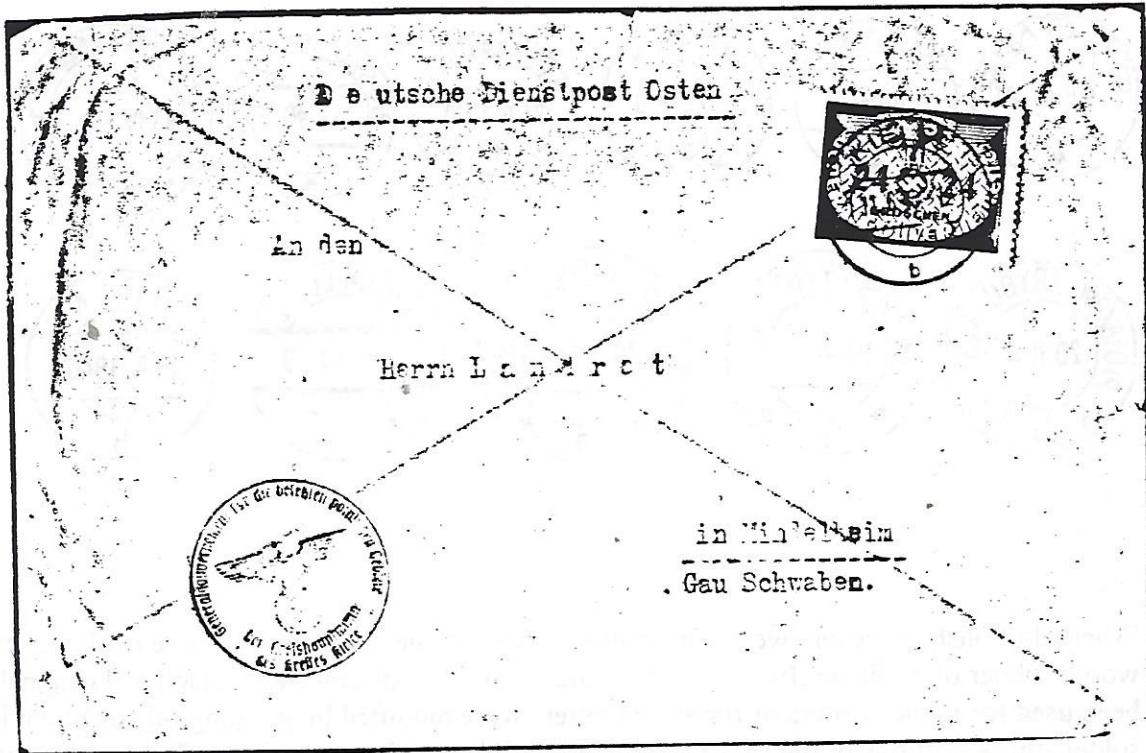
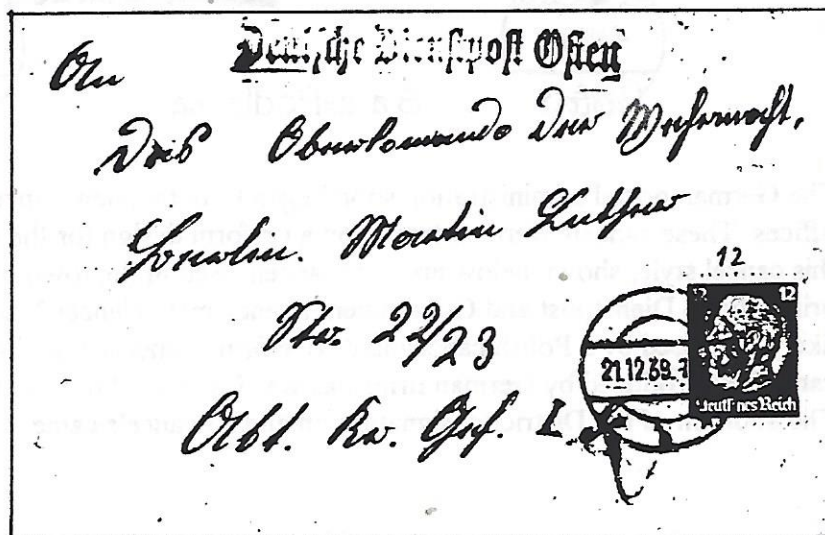


Fig. 3) Official cover posted Kielce in June 1940 from German County Leader has "Dienst" stamp required after April 1, 1940. Note diagonal lines and notation "Deutsche Dienstpost Osten".

The first valid stamps for the GG were issued December 1, 1939 to coincide with establishment of the Deutsche Post Osten. German stamps were permitted on mail posted in the GG until the end of December 1939.

Fig. 4) Cover with non-overprint Hindenburg stamp tied by mute Polish cancel dated December 12, 1939 sent via DDP Osten.

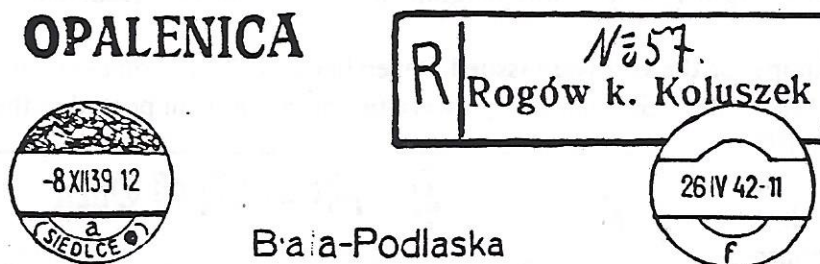




VI.) CANCELLATION TYPES - a wide variety of cancel types came into usage in the GG as postal service was slowly restored. Pure Dienstpost mail was usually canceled with German made rectangular stamps with 2 or 3 lines. For the restoration of civil mail service (as of November 17, 1939), old Polish cancellers were initially used by those post offices which had managed to retain them. There were seven basic styles of Polish cancels which were used by roughly 350 Polish postal stations in the GG.



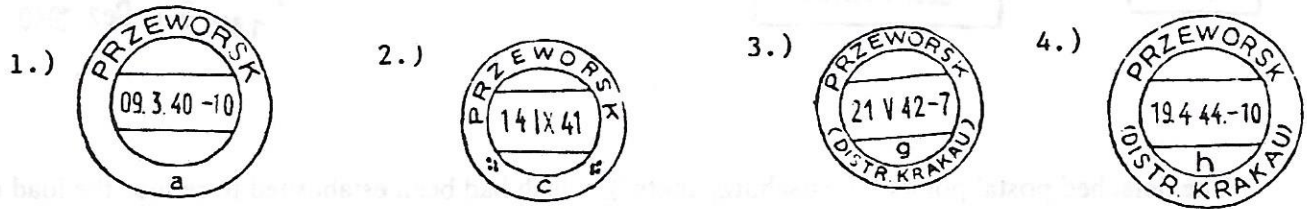
When old Polish cancellers were not available, straight line town cancels were made out of wood, rubber or linoleum. In order to provide dating, Polish cancellers which had originally been used for money orders or registered letters were modified by grinding off (or filling in with solder) those portions of the cancellers denoting the special service. These "stumme" (mute) cancels were used in conjunction with the town name line stamps as shown below:



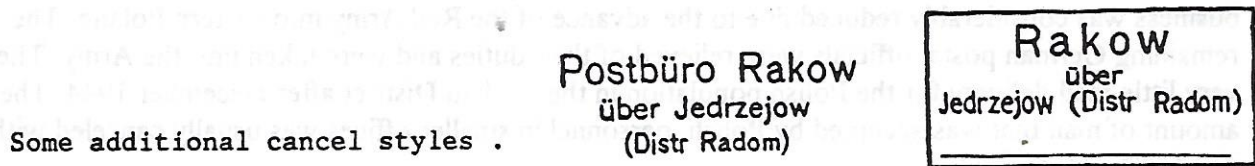
The German postal administration soon began to obtain new cancellers for post offices and branch offices. These cancels were patterned on a uniform design for the postal service in the GG. To illustrate this cancel style, shown below are four cancellers used in the town of Przeworsk. Cancel 1 was used primarily on Dienstpost and Government agency mail. Cancel 2, used until the end of 1941, was most likely produced by a Polish canceling device firm. Cancels 3. and 4. are small and large versions of cancellers-produced by German firms., as was Cancel 1, but have the District name in the lower portion. The addition of the District designation on all GG cancels came about after the former Austrian district



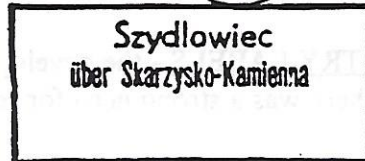
of Galacia (occupied by the Red Army in 1939) was incorporated as the fifth district of the GG following the German occupation of the western Ukraine in the Summer of 1941



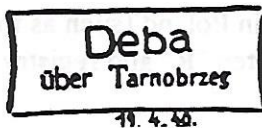
Postal agencies and postal bureaus which did not have their own date cancellers (the date cancel was often, but not always, added by the controlling post office) initially used a variety of makeshift cancellers until new rubber hand stamps became available. In some areas different types of rubber cancels were in use during the same time. Shown below are examples of bureau and agency cancels. Note the two cancel types used by postal bureau Rakow. The open cancel was used on August 8, 1941 while the boxed cancel was used on August 21, 1941



Some additional cancel styles .



Przemysl  
14. Nov 1939



-5. NOV. | Neumarkt/Dunajec/

POSTAMT PETRIKAU

Postal agencies in the four districts of the GG began using uniform style cancels after a period of provisionals, although each of the districts favored a distinct size and style as shown below. All of these cancels are found with and without boxes.

- 1.) District Lublin, boxed version measures 18mm x 10mm.
- 2.) District Krakau, boxed version measures 37mm x 13mm.
- 3.) District Warschau, mostly found without box.
- 4.) District Radom, boxed version measures 55mm x 25mm.



1.)

Opole

2.)

Boguchwała  
über Rzeszów

3.)

Głowno

4.)

Piekoszów über Kielce  
137 31. Dez. 1940

The detached postal points ("Postschutzpunkte"), which had been established to reduce the load on the Landespost service, used oval cancellers with German and Polish text to cancel the "Postschutzpunkt" stamps (see Michel). After these stamps had been withdrawn, two-line rubber cancellers were used to identify letters and cards received at these agencies. For larger mailings such as parcels, one-line rubber town name hand stamps proved easier to use than the steel cancellers. After the Autumn of 1944, these one-line rubber stamps were also used in conjunction with hand written dates to cancel mail at larger post offices.

Poststützpunkt  
Borowie

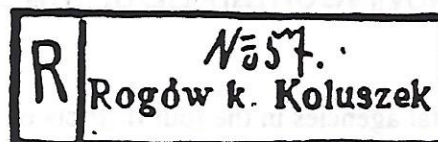
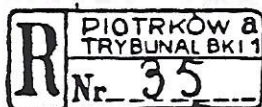
Karczew

At this time the round steel cancellers were recalled and the postal business was considerably reduced due to the advance of the Red Army into eastern Poland. The remaining German postal officials were relieved of their duties and were taken into the Army. There was very little mail delivery for the Polish population in the Krakau District after December 1944. The small amount of mail that was accepted by Polish personnel in smaller offices was usually canceled with the one-line hand stamps.

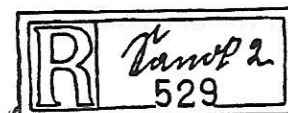
Thus, at the end of German postal service in occupied Poland, there was another period in which provisional cancels came into usage. Most Dienstpost mail from German officials was handled by courier service because the transport vehicles of the postal service were subject to attack by Polish partisans. The one-line cancel is also found on late Dienstpost mail.

VII.) REGISTRY LABELS - the development of registry labels in occupied Poland was similar to that of cancels. There was a strong need for registered mail service, right from the early days of occupation.

German postal officials, unfamiliar with the steel registration devices used in Poland (such as the old Polish stamped for R-letters in the city of Petrikan) usually added hand written "R" and registry number to mail stamped with an old Polish town name rubber stamp.



The first registry labels received from Germany were serially numbered but had a blank field. These labels were prepared for service by hand stamping the town name into the blank field.





Shown below is the evolution of registry labels for one town. At far left is the hand stamped R-label for Rzeszow. At left center is a pre-printed label Rzeszow produced in 1942. At the time the town name was "Germanized" to Reichshof and this new name has been hand stamped below the label. At right center is a bank field label stamped Reichshof and, finally, at right is the final printed label which also has the Krakau District designation.

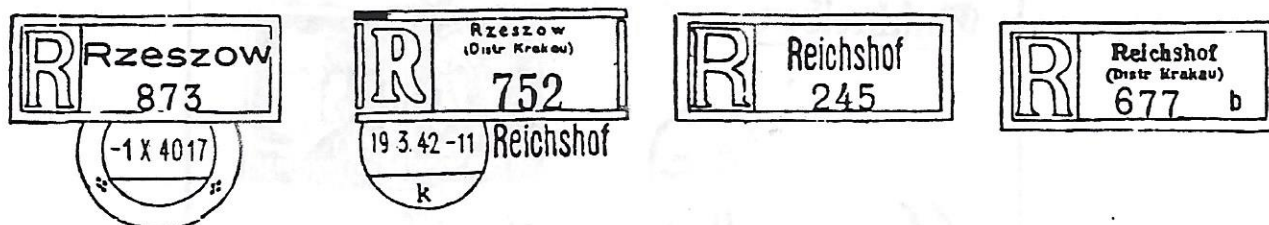
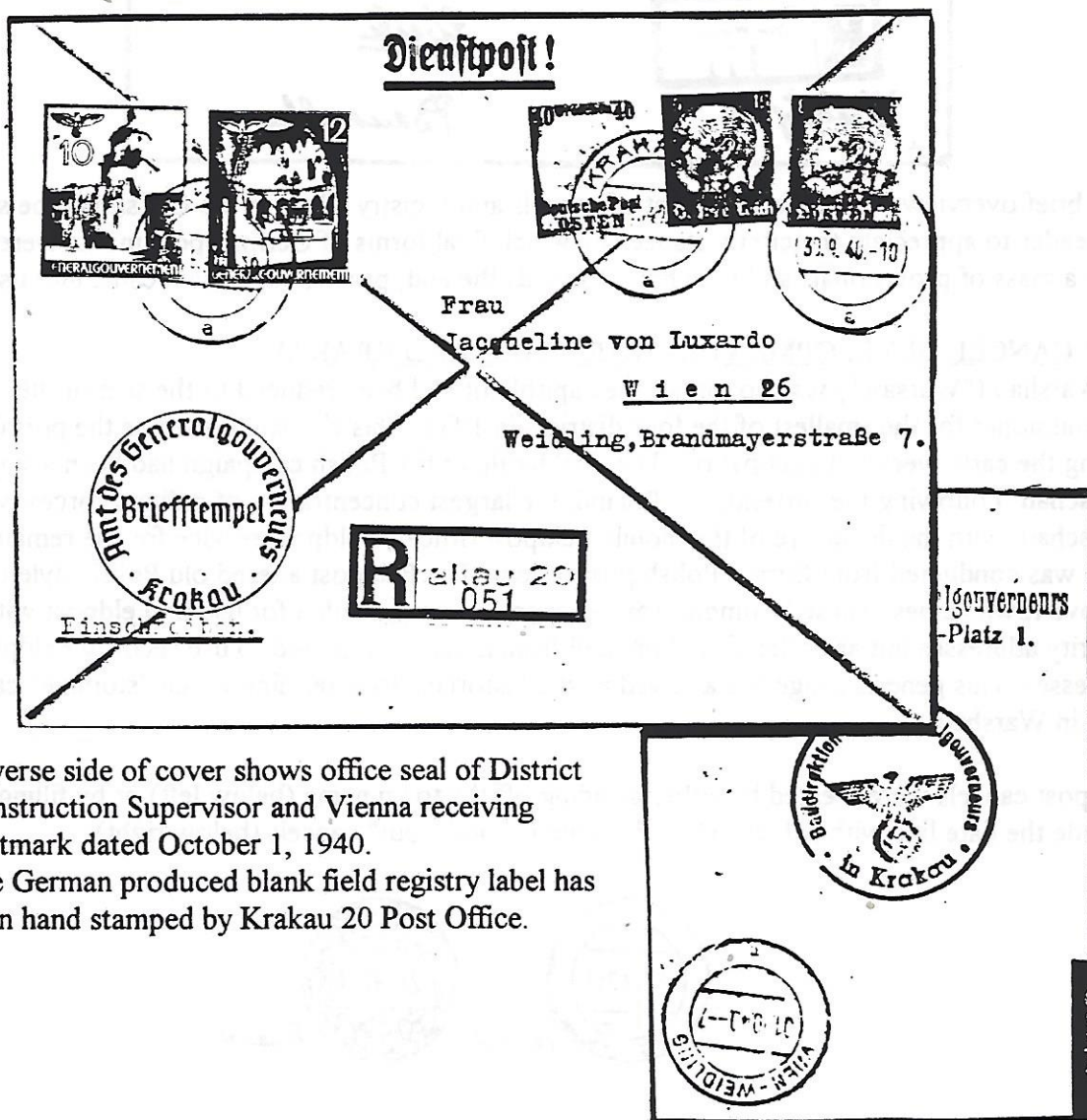


Fig. 5) Registered Dienstpost cover sent to Vienna from GG office in Krakau is franked with a mixture of GG issues and earlier "Osten" overprints canceled on September 30, 1940, the last day that the overprints were valid for usage.

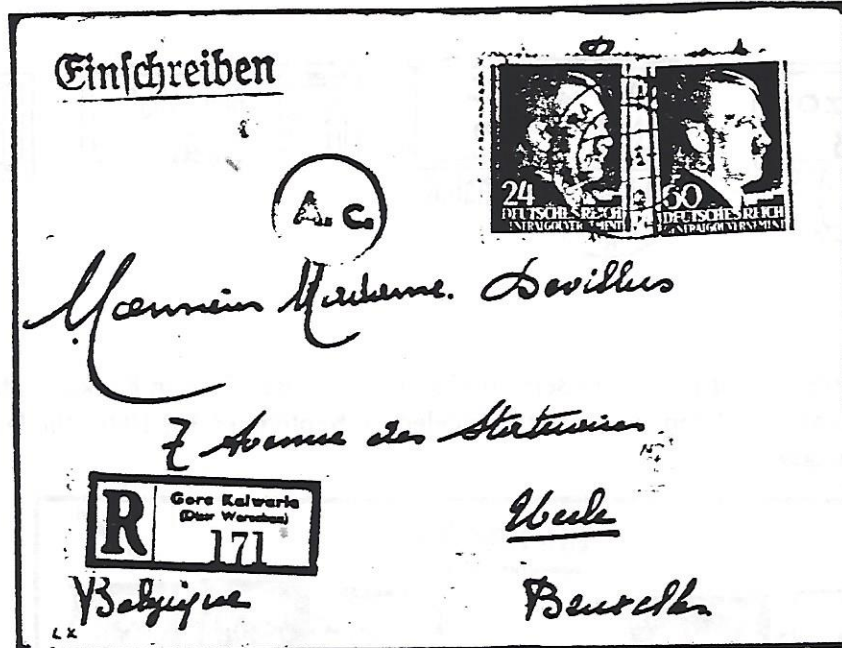


Reverse side of cover shows office seal of District Construction Supervisor and Vienna receiving postmark dated October 1, 1940. The German produced blank field registry label has been hand stamped by Krakau 20 Post Office.



Fig. 6) Registered cover sent to Belgium from Gora Kalawaria (District. Warsaw) in April 1943 has circular "A.C." hand stamp of German censor office in Cologne.

The preprinted registry label is similar to German produced label except for a different style "R". This type label was produced in Poland and is more common on GG mail after 1943.



This brief overview of the development of cancels and registry labels in the GG should be sufficient for the reader to appreciate the circumstances by which final forms of German post marks were developed from a mass of provisionals and then how, towards the end, provisionals again came into usage.

#### VII.) CANCEL DEVELOPMENT IN WARSCHAU AND KRAKAU

A) Warshau ("Warsaw") was no longer the capitol but had been reduced to the seat of the district commissioner for the smallest of the four districts in 1939. This city still served as the postal center during the early weeks of occupation. The final battle of the Polish campaign had been a siege of Warschau. Following the surrender of Poland, the largest concentration of military forces was near Warschau. with the departure of the mobile Feldpost offices, Feldpost service for the remaining military units was conducted from former Polish post offices. The Feldpost altered old Polish style cancellers to remove town names. These "stumme" (mute) cancels were intended for use on Feldpost with 5-digit security addresses but are often found on mail from units not required to use security Feldpost number addresses. This general usage has allowed postal historians to determine which "stumme" cancels were used in Warshau.

Feldpost cancels were created by either grinding off the town name (below left) or by filling in the areas outside the date line with solder, which resulted in "black out" cancels (below right).





Fig. 7) Feldpost cover with "blackout" style mute cancel was sent to Oldenburg, Germany in August 1942. The "open" unit seal at lower left identifies the sender as a member of Convalescent Collection Point in Warsaw.

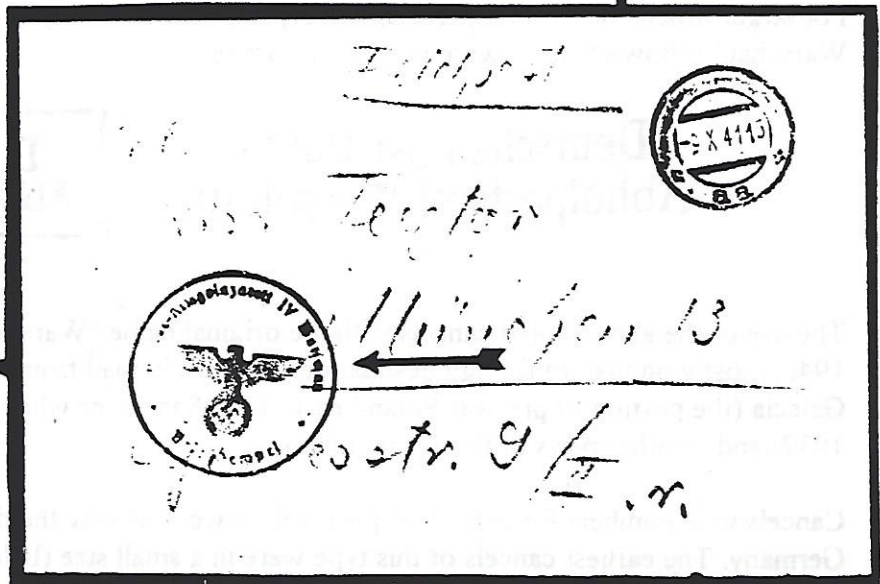
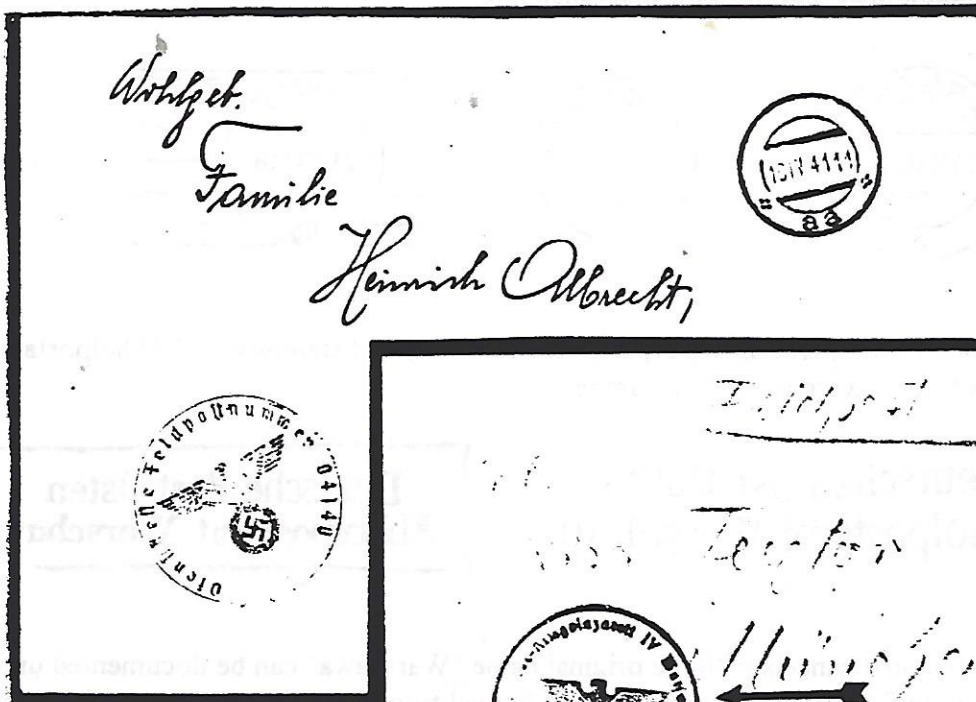
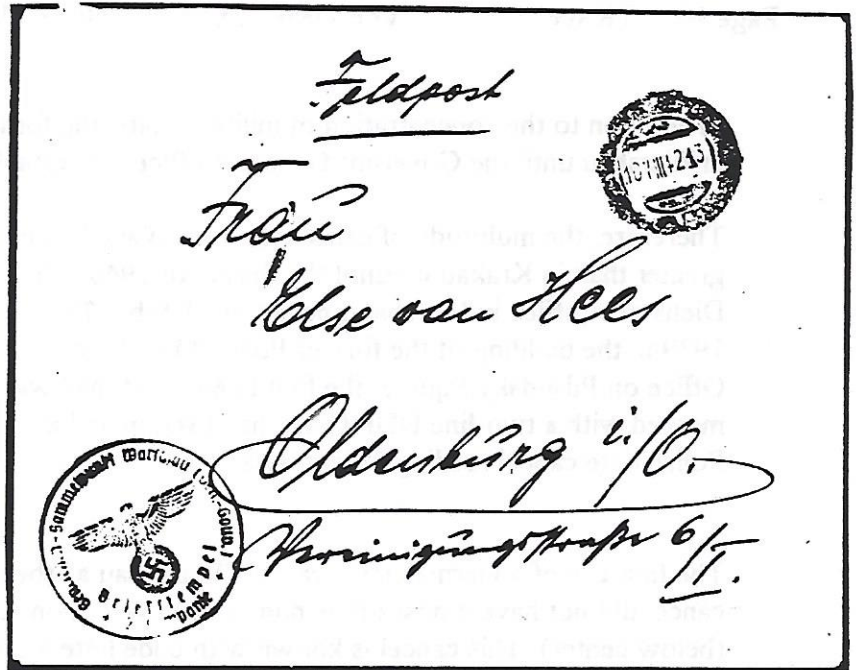


Fig. 8) The location security provided by mute town cancels is demonstrated by uppermost cover which was sent by a member of Fp.#04140 (Army Billet Administration Section 77) . There is no indication as to where this cover was posted.

The lower cover has the same mute cancel but an open military unit seal which clearly identifies the sender's unit as "Reserve Hospital IV Warschau".



In addition to the concentration of military units, the formation of civilian government offices was begun in Warshau until the Governor General's office was established in Krakau.

Therefore, the multitude of cancellations in Warschau is greater than in Krakau up until the Spring of 1940. The Dienstpost office in Warshau opened on October 23, 1939 in the building of the former Polish Main Post Office on Pilsudsky Square. the first Dienstpost mail was marked with a two-line DDP Osten hand stamp and a Polish date cancel reading "Warszawa".

Deutsche Dienstpost Osten  
Abholpostamt Warschau



The first use of a German style cancel "Warschau a" (below left) was on November 30, 1939. This early cancel did not have a post office number and was soon superseded by cancels for the Warschau C1 office (below center). This cancel is known with code letters up to "h". At the same time, a roller cancel (below right) with eight straight lines was used for mass mailings.



For larger official letters and parcels, two types of DDP Osten hand stamps with "Abholpostamt Warschau" (shown below) were placed into usage.

Deutsche Post Osten  
Abholpostamt Warschau



The use of the above noted cancels with the original name "Warszawa" can be documented until June 1940, mostly on mail to foreign destinations, especially mail from Warschau Jews to their relatives in Galacia (the portion of pre-war Poland east of the San River which was occupied by the Soviet Union in 1939) and to other parts of the Soviet union.

Cancels with numbers for individual post offices were usually the double-ring/date bridge style favored in Germany. The earliest cancels of this type were in a small size (below left) which were produced in Poland. These were eventually superseded by larger size cancels produced in Germany (below center & right). The district name does not appear in Warschau cancels because the city was the district capitol.

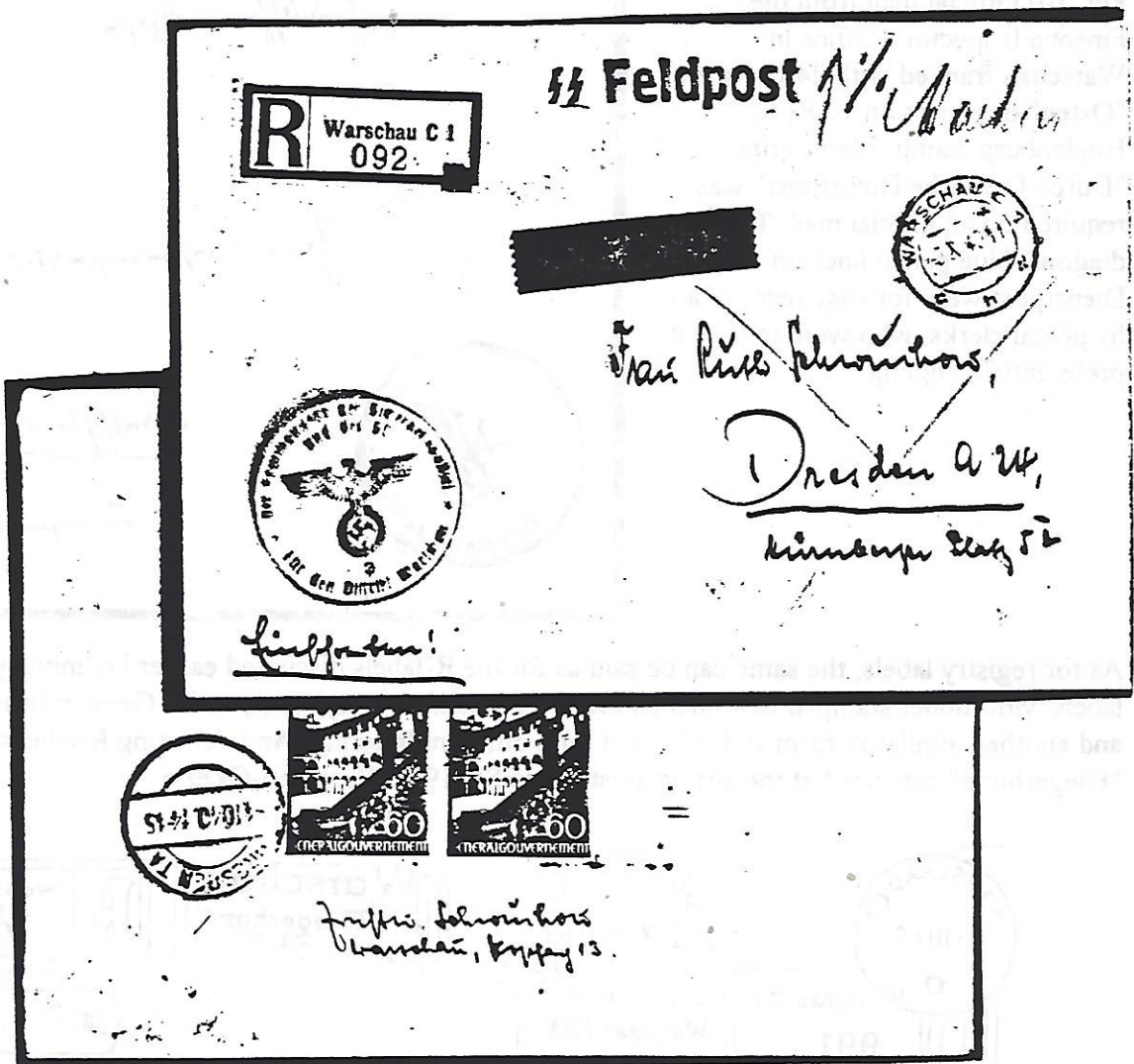




The following post offices existed in Warschau until the surrender. The postal bureaus (PBs) were under the supervision & direction of Post Office C1

- |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1.) C1 Post Office                          | 9.) SW22 PB under C1  |
| 2.) C2 Post Office                          | 10.) NO24 PB under C1 |
| 3.) W3 PB under C1                          | 11.) 026 PB under C1  |
| 4.) NO4 PB under C1                         | 12.) SW30 PB under C1 |
| 5.) C5 PB under C1                          | 13.) NW32 PB under C1 |
| 6.) NO9 PB under C1                         | 14.) 033 PB under C1  |
| 7.) S12 PB under C1                         | 15.) S36 PB under C1  |
| 8.) SW19 (branch office of C1)-Fliegelhorst | 16.) NW45 PB under C1 |

Fig. 9) Small size Warschau C1 cancel on SS Feldpost cover sent October 1940 from office of Commander of Security Police and Security Services for Warschau District. Although this letter went via SS Feldpost, postal fees were required for registration and special delivery services. Note postage for these services affixed to back of cover.





Postal Bureau NW41 was open during 1940-41 but was closed during the German occupation. In contrast to the postal bureaus in the rest of the GG, the 13 postal bureaus of the Warschau C1 Post Office all had their own date cancels with name and number.

The Postal Check Office in Warschau used the "PSA" cancel shown below and, later on, a double circle cancel of German style with the letters "Sch. A". The Feldpost Collection Office ("Postsammelstelle") in Warschau used a German style cancel similar to those used by other Feldpost offices in the Reich.

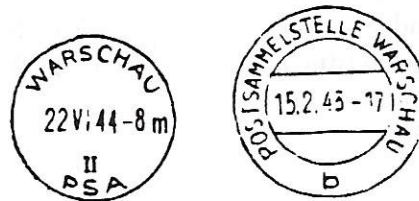
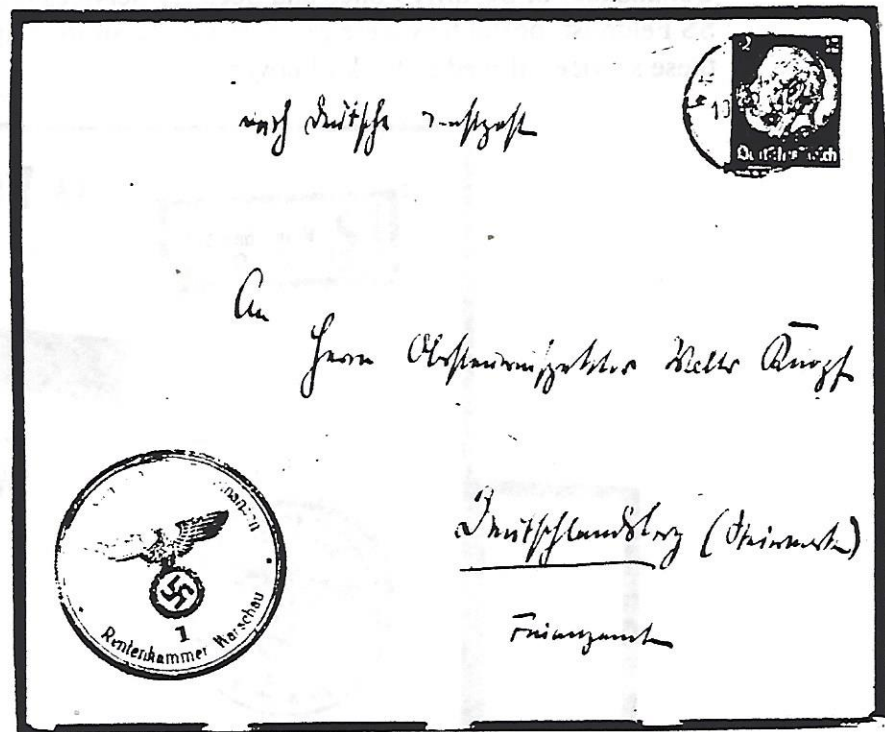
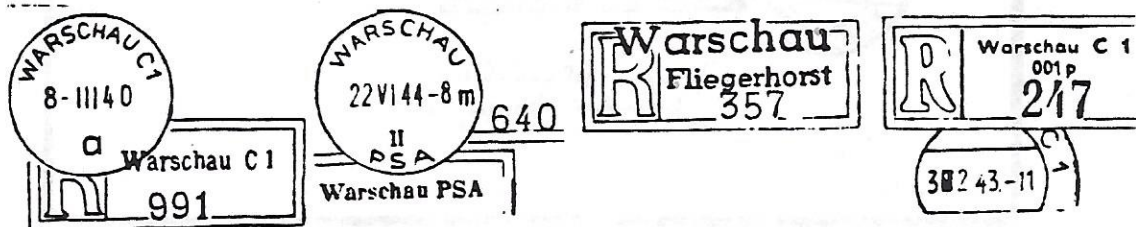


Fig. 10) Official mail from the Finance Inspector's Office in Warschau franked with 24 Groschen "Osten" overprint on 12 Rpf. Hindenburg stamp. Manuscript "Durch Deutsche Dienstpost" was required on all official mail. The diagonal blue pencil lines on Dienstpost were for easy recognition by postal clerks, who were to give it preferential handling.



As for registry labels, the same can be said as for the R-labels discussed earlier i.e. initially blank field labels with rubber stamped town name, printed labels in two styles, one with German form and lettering and another, similar in form and color but with different lettering. An interesting R-label stamped "Fliegerhorst" was used at the airport post office SW19 R Warschau-Okezie.





Finally, illustrations of a few postal seals ("Dienstsiegeln"):

- 1.) Return address stamp of Dienstpost Office Warschau 1 which shared the same facility as civil P.O. Warschau C1 and the Director of the District Postal Administration.

Deutsches-Dienstpostamt  
Warschau 1

- 2.) Seal of Post Office C1 of the DDP Osten, Spring 1940.

- 3.) Similar seal in altered form of December 1940.



- 4.) Seal of a special branch of D. Post Osten, the technical telephone service.

- 5.) The official seal of the District Governor



The map (Fig. 1) which appears on the next page shows the four districts (Warsaw, Lublin, Krakau and Radom) of the Government General as they appeared in November 1939. The district of Galicia was at that time under Soviet occupation. This district was incorporated into the GG in August 1941

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article will be concluded in Part 2 which will appear in Bulletin #109.

We want to express our thanks once more to TRSGer Gerard DeBoer for the fine translations which provided the basis for this article



FIG. 1) Map of the Government General as of November 1939





# COMBAT DIVISION PROFILE:

## 9th Infantry Division

by Jim Lewis

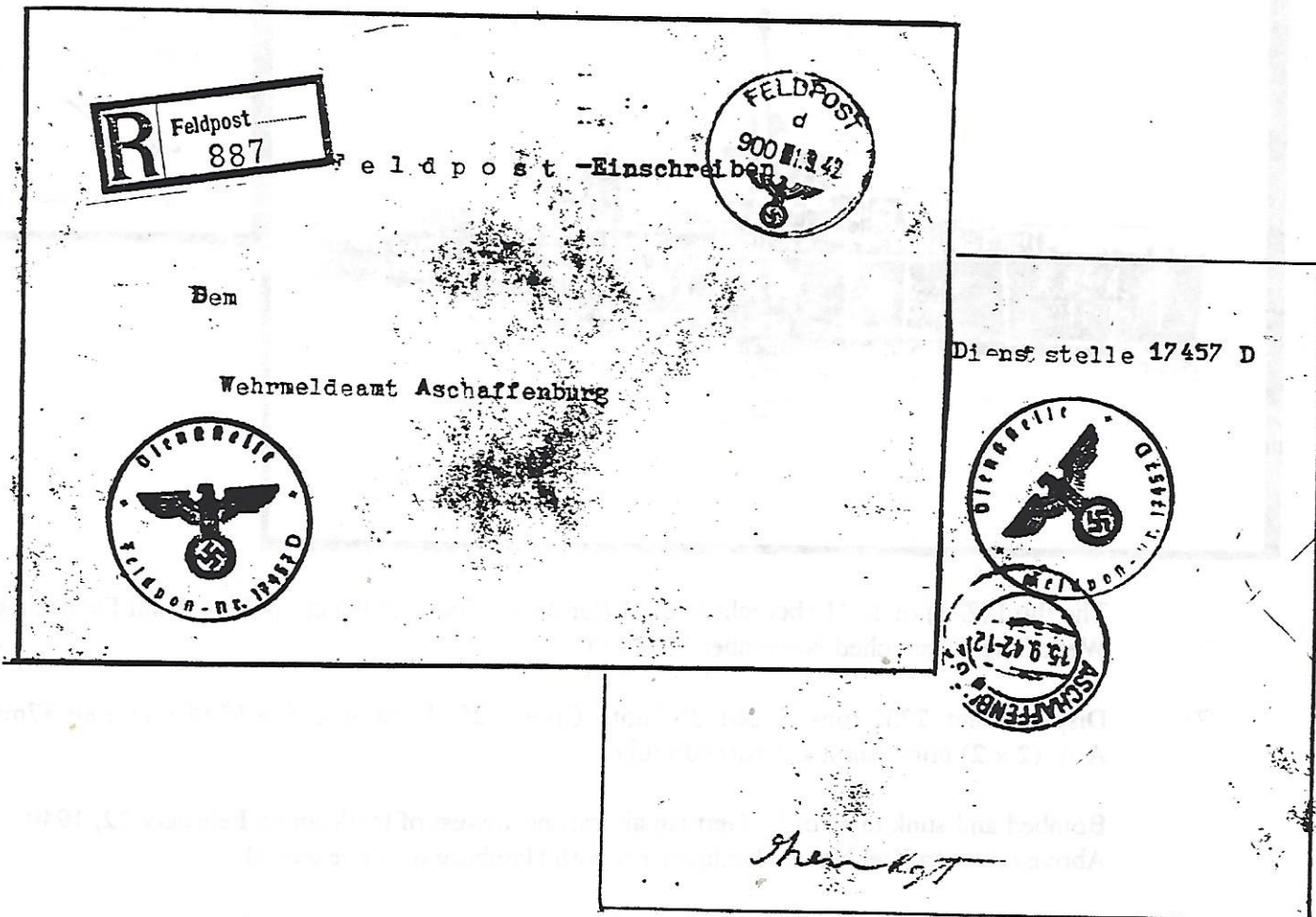
POSTOFFICE		REGIMENTS				AUXIL
TACT.	KENN	GRENADEIER		ARTY	UNITS	
9	900	36	57	116	9	

Formed in 1935 with soldiers from Hessen-Nassau. Upon mobilization sent to Saar Front to guard western flank during Polish campaign in 1939. Fought in France as part of Panzer Group von Kleinst. Field Post Office (FpA 9) assigned Fp#05147 and Kenn 900.

An element of Army Group South during Summer 1941 campaign in Ukraine which ended in capture of Kiev. During 1942 and 1943 took part in Donets, Caucasus, Kuban and lower Dneiper campaigns. By October 1943, the division was down to battle group strength. Almost totally destroyed during retreat across Rumania in August 1944, division was taken out of line and sent to Ossboel-Esberg area in Denmark.

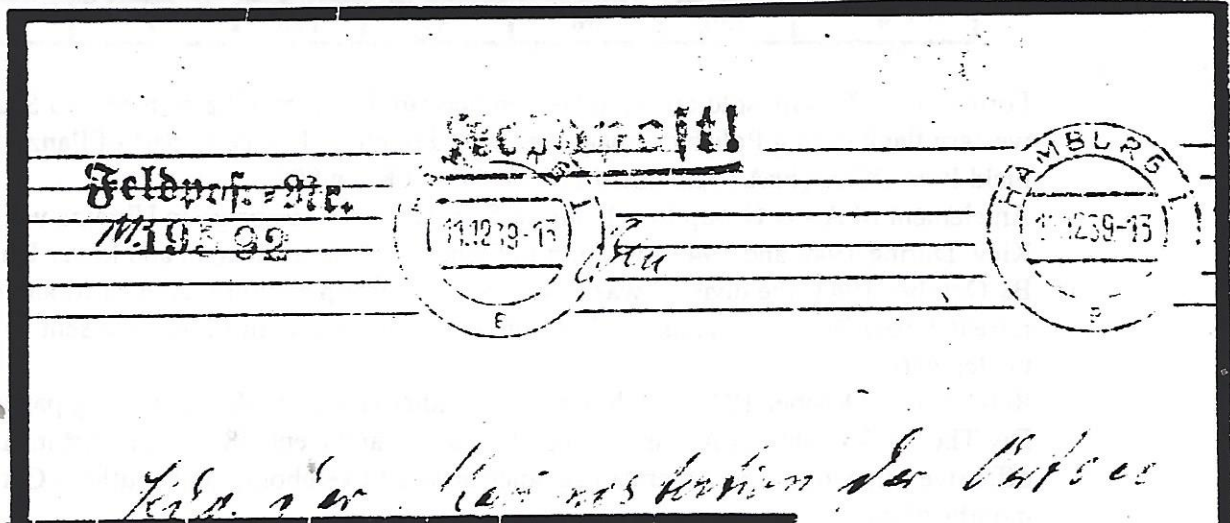
Reformed in October 1944 as 9th Volks-Grenadier Division. after absorbing partially formed 584th V.G. Div. The 9th VG Div. FpA was assigned Fp#66420 and Kenn 581. Took part in Ardennes Counter-offensive, then opposed American advance across Luxembourg and southern Germany during last months of war.

Shown below is R-cover sent to Military Records Office in Aschaffenburg in Sept. '42 from Fp#17457D (Co. 11 of Btl. III/ Inf. Rgt. 116) via 9th Inf. Div. Post Office (K-900).

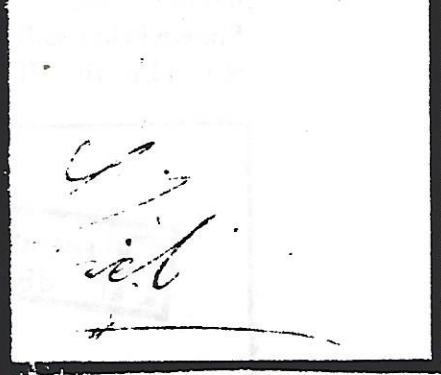
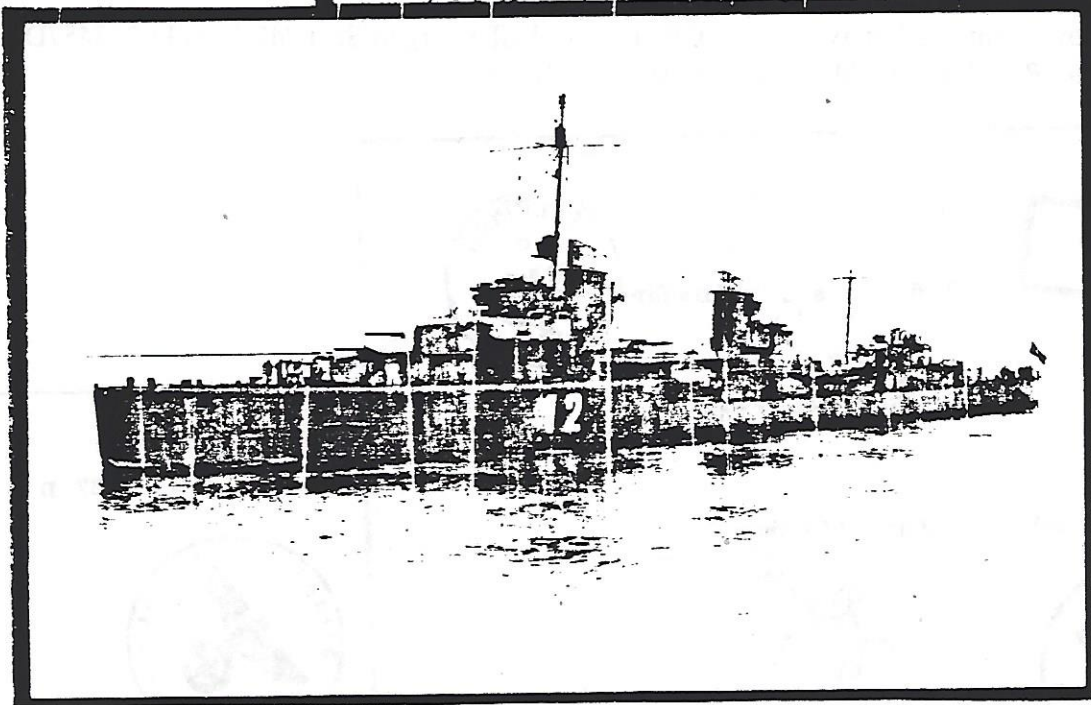


# NAVY LOG

## Destroyer Z-3 "Max Schultz" - Feldpost #19592



*Feldpost. Nr. 19592*



The third (Z-3) of 16 "Leberecht Maass" (Destroyer Type 1934) class ships. Built Deutsches Werk (Kiel) , launched November 30, 1935.

Displacement: 2232 tons; Speed: 30 knots; Crew: 325; Armament: five 5" (5 x 1), four 37mm A.A. (2 x 2) guns; eight 21" torpedo tubes.

Bombed and sunk in error by German aircraft northwest of Borkum on February 22, 1940. Above cover to Kiel Naval Headquarters with Hamburg machine cancel.



# TRSG AUCTION NO. 63

<u>Lot</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Min. Bid</u>
1.	Postcard for March '38 'Degenerate Art' Exhibit in Berlin w/2 strikes SPC. VF. (See p.13 of TRSG Bulletin #106).	\$16.00
2.	Official NSDAP cover. sent June 1943 to K.L.V. Lager from K.L.V. HQ in Kiel. (See cover of Bulletin #105). VF	15.00
3.	Color post card depicting U-Boat surfacing (See cover of Bulletin #103) VF	17.00
4.	Gen. Govt. cover. sent to Ravensbruck Jan. '43 w/Mi.45 tied by infamous Krakau slogan can. "Health through rye bread - Imported & recommended by NSDAP Work Council" VF	12.00
5.	Mussolini State Visit - Hoffmann post card M4 depicting AH & Muss. - "Der Fuehrer und der Duce, Die Gananten des Friedens". Phil. w/Munich SPC '38 VF	12.00
6.	Same, Hoffmann p'card #1150 depict. AH & Muss. meeting at train. Bedarfs w/Mi. 843. VF	1200
7.	Lot of two Bedarfs cvrs. w/Mi. 105 Wagner stamps; 1 w/Mi.482 on local Berlin cover., 1 w/Mi. 482 & pair Mi. A379 on local Berlin R-cover. Both VF	10.00
8.	Official Navy cover to Torpedo Factory has D'siegel and line h/s of Naval Construction HQ "Deschimag " Bremen. Stampless courier delivery but markings v. nice.	12.00
9.	Danish Red Cross return card for food parcel sent Dec. '42 from POW in Stalag IXC, VF	8.00
10.	Cvr. sent to M. Rothwasser, Sudetenland from Linz Dec. '39 w/ <u>Type II</u> curr. control tape.	9.00
11.	Airmail cvr frm England to Switz. Feb. '43 censored at Paris (X-6 & X-50) plus Brit. tape VF	10.00
12.	Ital. Socialist Rep. R-Exp. cvr. to R.C. Geneva Aug. '44 w/o'print Ital. stamps, Ger. censor.	9.00
13.	Off. cover to war Graves Commission from German Consulate in Alexandria Egypt via diplomatic. pouch. Nice D'siegel & March '37 Berlin cans. VF	13.00
14.	R-cover from German Consulate in Basel, Switz. sent to County Leader in Heppenheim, cans Lorrach June '42. Scarce war-time diplomatic mail!	15.00
15.	Lot of two N.S.K.K. (Nazi Motor Corps) items - off. cover w/boxed Berlin slogan. can. event 10.'35; cover w/D'siegel Motor Sports School sent Frankfort. June '40. Both F-VF	30.00
16.	Cover to German POW in Camp Swift, Texas sent Dec. '44 frm Bad Liebenwerden w/nice markings incl. scarce Reamer G-29 censor. mach. stamp. VF	15.00

17.	Two Registered DDP Alpenvorland cvrs, Riva & St. Ulrich, VF	\$15.00
18.	Lot of 8 DDP Bohemia-Moravia cvrs (1 front only) w/var. markings incl. Official and Feldpost. All Bedarfs usage and F-VF.	17.00
19.	Cover via DDP Bialystock in Augustrow. Scarce usage and VF	12.00
20.	Lot of 6 DDP Niedererlande cvrs w/var. markings incl. 5 R-cvrs. VF	20.00
21.	Lot of 3 DDP Lothringen ,Metz Newspaper address slip plus Sarrebourg & Metz cvrs. F-VF	12.00
22.	Cover Arbeitsamt Luxemburg, Nebenstelle Wiltz (German Official Mail ) Scarce & VF	9.00
23.	Lot of 2 DDP Oslo cvrs.,. Organization Todt N Oslo P 12 & Landes Gruppenwaltung VF	12.00
24.	Lot of 3 cvrs Distriktes Galizien, Boryslau, Borszczow & Bakowce. F-VF	14.00
25.	Lot of 3 DDP Ostland cvrs, Riga, Georgensburg (Memel) & Dorpat. Nice markings! VF	18.00
26.	Feldpost Xmas card sent from Fp# Sch 16440 (Coastal Artillery Helgoland) VF & Scarce	15.00
27.	Lot of 2 Ortsbriefe: K-289 (FpA zbV 463 APM Norway), K-838 (2 beb. Div. Norwegen) VF	18.00
28.	Lot of 3 Feldpost facing slips (2 from Distr. Lublin) , 1 from Berlin F	15.00
29.	Lot of 2 Fp Facing slips, (1 stuck on cover) from K-541 to FpA 140, other to FpA 936. F	12.00
30.	Fp cover w/provisional Fp can from IV/Geb. Art. Rgt. 95 of 5. Inf. Div. incl. letter. VF	9.00
31.	Lot of 16 DDP cds/cvrs w/var. markings incl Off. & Fp. Good selection for beginner. F-VF	18.00
32.	Lot of 3 Feldpost cvrs w/different. Brussels Maschinenstempel . Nice selection. VF	10.00
33.	Lot of 9 Fp cvrs w/various "mute" Tarnstempel cancels, nice selection. F-VF	10.00

THE CLOSING DATE FOR AUCTION NO. 63 IS Sept. 10 1993. SEND ALL BIDS TO:  
**FRED STENGEL, 1248 MAGNOLIA PLACE, UNION, NJ 07083**

**PRICES REALIZED - TRSG AUCTION NO. 62**

<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
1.)	\$34.00	8.)	\$12.00	15.)	\$35.00	22.)	\$15.00	28.)	\$12.00
2.)	110.00	9.)	40.00	16.)	30.00	23.)	16.00	29.)	45.00
3.)	25.00	10.)	30.00	17.)	50.00	24.)	20.00	30.)	33.00
4.)	18.00	11.)	25.00	18.)	18.00	25.)	40.00	31.)	28.00
5.)	22.00	12.)	25.00	19.)	48.00	26.)	16.00	32.)	9.00
6.)	37.00	13.)	18.00	20.)	40.00	27.)	35.00	33.)	15.00
7.)	15.00	14.)	45.00	21.)	16.00				