



Third Reich Study Group

The largest and most active study group of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society (UK)

News Sheet 201

Group Leader: Tony Hickey

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For membership and enquiries please visit www.germanphilately.org



From the Editor

Looking at the content of this issue of the TRSG news sheet I'm drawn in particular to the 'Ephemera' page that features a ration card and a luggage tag. Very un-philatelic! Whilst the news sheet has tried to be all-encompassing and tolerant of collectors whims there is no doubt that we are living through changing times. We now almost expect our members to have a broader view of their collections, adding variety and depth to an already fascinating subject. Some of you will have guessed that I'm talking of Open Philately. This is not a new subject—it first hit the headlines some twenty+ years ago as an 'open class' of presentation.

Indeed, my local philatelic society has recently changed its name to the 'stamp and postal history club', this has resulted in not only a name change but a redefining of how it sees itself. The presentations are various in nature whilst holding true to why the group exists. And existence is the key. The name change has resulted in an increased attendance. The presentations appear less 'staid' and yet despite all this the essential reason for everyone being there hasn't changed. There is still the love of philately, postal history, local history (globally) and history in general. And of course the adventure of discovering other members collections and the enthusiasm they have in re-telling what is dear to them can be quite infectious. So much so that it has resulted in the club no longer requiring outside speakers. There are plenty of 'hands-up' when asked, 'who has something to present'.

My point is the TRSG news sheet has always tried to go above and beyond. Therefore, if you have a story to tell that you feel is illustrated in a ration card or luggage label... tell it! This publication isn't just about the colour ink the Reichsdruckerei used in 1940. So please tell the TRSG a pertinent story... it might well get printed and inspire others! **Ed**



News

The research we undertake takes many forms. If, however, you are interested in the names and addresses upon your covers then this news may be helpful.

Around 10.2 million Germans became members of the NSDAP between 1925 and 1945. Their membership details were stored at the National Socialist headquarters in Munich. At the end of the war, orders were given for these records to be destroyed. However, according to the German newspaper *Die Zeit*, these records were saved by Hans Huber, the director of a nearby paper mill, who later handed them over to the Americans.

The record cards were kept by the Americans at the Berlin Document Center. In 1994 they were handed over to the German Federal Archives, with microfilm copies being sent to the US National Archives in Washington DC. In March this year the US Archives began to make the records available online.

Die Zeit has obtained this data and (via their website) announced the following:

'Were your father, grandmother, or great-grandfather members of the Nazi Party (NSDAP)? Until recently, this could only be determined by contacting the German Federal Archives or, currently, by visiting the website of the US National Archives, which has made its microfilm copies of the Nazi Party membership records available online. However, individual names are rarely found there, and the website itself was repeatedly unavailable due to the surge in traffic triggered by the announcement of the publication. Therefore, ZEIT has secured the complete dataset, processed it comprehensively for the first time, and statistically analyzed it. Initially, we were able to make approximately 4.5 million index cards from the Nazi era directly searchable. After an update, a further 8.2 million documents can be searched by name and place of birth.'

I've been to *Die Zeit* online and discovered that you have to subscribe to enter their site (as with most newspapers)... however, there is a small €1 'try it now' fee, so it may be worth a visit. Let us know if you've used it or something similar! **Ed**



Cover Story

Hidden History: a letter returned in mid-April 1945

By Philip Townshend

This cover was sent to a lawyer in Frankfurt by the DAS (Deutscher Automobil-Schutz), the German equivalent of our AA or RAC. It was posted in Munich on 11th April 1945, then was marked 'Return to sender, not deliverable at present' and received back at the DAS on 26th April 1945. That much is evident from the cover itself.



The reason it was returned is that Frankfurt had fallen to the US army on 29th March 1945, almost two weeks before, and so was no longer within the reach of the Reichspost. That is easily verifiable historical fact. But beyond that lies less fathomable background: why was it posted at all two weeks after Frankfurt's demise; and why was it returned to the DAS another two weeks after posting?

To us, eighty years on, it may seem inconceivable that staff of such a huge organisation could apparently have been unaware of the situation – would even the man-in-the-street in London not have known that Edinburgh had fallen? Moreover, the fact that it took two weeks to return the letter suggests that staff at the Munich post office were also unaware. There is no knowing for sure where the RTS hand-stamp was applied, but surely somewhere en-route, otherwise, if in Munich itself, the letter would have been returned the same or next day.

This cover then speaks volumes of the chaotic and desperate situation in Germany in mid-April 1945, just two or three weeks before capitulation, the general population not knowing the seriousness of their situation nor what would become of them. Presumably Dr. Goebbels had overlooked the fate of Frankfurt and forgotten to mention it in his propaganda broadcasts!



‘Gone away’ in 1941
By Philip Townshend



This airmail cover from the USA to Mrs Sara Kantorowicz in Berlin, postmarked New York 4th October 1941, would have transited Lisbon in neutral Portugal before being censored by the Germans in Frankfurt (the ‘e’-code resealing strip tied by red ‘e’ censor hand-stamps). On its arrival in Berlin on 5th November the postman noted in pencil that the ‘addressee has moved’, a fact confirmed by the label in German and French reading ‘Gone away without leaving an address’ and the postmark of that day. The letter would then have routinely been returned to New York (the blue pencil ‘5/11 retour’).

The lady’s name indicates that she was Jewish and the online Israeli ‘Yad Vashem’ database of holocaust victims lists her as deported to the Łódź (‘Litzmannstadt’) ghetto on 24th October 1941, less than two weeks before this letter arrived, where, aged 39, she died or was murdered – that is why she had ‘gone away without leaving a [forwarding] address’ because neither she, her neighbours nor the postman knew where she had been deported to.

The final chapter of this letter’s odyssey is quite unusual: when it got back to New York, probably early in 1942, instead of being sent back directly to the original sender – as was most such returned mail at that time – it was ‘held by the office of censorship’ until after the war, a procedure reserved normally for mail judged by the censor to contain information detrimental to USA interests. The date on the New York postmark is 12th September 1945.



WIPA - 1938 overprints
By Carl Buck



A note on these stamps/labels (affixed to unaddressed postcards from 1938 with franked Plebiscite stamps - Mi.662). Originally issued for the Vienna International Stamp Exhibition (WIPA), in 1933, alongside eight other designs by Ludwig Hesshaimer, each depicting methods of postal delivery. Ten colour variations were for sale at 12 groschen (+ postage) from the WIPA office in Vienna. According to contemporary literature a small number of sets remained imperforate and made available in a special album signed by the artist to such persons having donated at least 50 Austrian schillings.

The original design depicts the WIPA logo and year adjacent to ‘Internationale/ Postwertzeichen/ Ausstellung/ Wien 1933’. The overprints above state ‘Verband Österreichischer Philatelisten-Vereine Verbandsheimspende’ (Association of Austrian Philatelic Societies: Donation to the Association Headquarters). It is noted that this overprint (and other texts) were used up to 1964.



Concessionary foreign rates from Germany December 1923 to May 1945

By Rex Dixon

At the London Group meeting in June 2025 I showed my eight-frame exhibit of ***Postal Rates and Services in Germany December 1923 to May 1945***. It provides a broad overview of the very varied services offered by the Reichspost and the rates they charged for them. The period covered is from the end of the high inflation on 1st December 1923 through to the end of the war in May 1945, a period with a comparatively stable currency.

For the purposes of this article, I am limiting myself to rates for the various classes of letter post to countries that enjoyed concessionary rates less than the full UPU rates charged for mail to the rest of the world. Excluded are parcel post, insured letters, and all money services.

In the captions to the illustrations the full foreign rate is in square brackets after the concessionary rate.



*The Saar counted as inland. Inland letter 2.10.1928 to 20g, 15pf [25pf];
inland airmail fee to 20g, 10pf [20pf].
Charged 30c poste restante fee in Saarbrücken
(French practice to charge, German practice not to use postage-due stamps).*

Saar, Danzig, Lithuania with Memel, Austria and Luxembourg

The Saar territory (*Saargebiet*), the Free City of Danzig (*Freie Stadt Danzig*) and the Memel district (*Memelgebiet*) had been detached from Germany by the Treaty of Versailles and placed under League of Nations control. Memel was seized by Lithuanian troops in January 1923 and its union with Lithuania was recognised on 16th February 1923. Inland postage rates were extended to the whole of Lithuania on 1st November 1923; they were subsequently withdrawn on 1st February 1936.

The Saar was reincorporated into the Reich on 1st March 1935 following an overwhelming plebiscite earlier that year, and Danzig was reincorporated in September 1939 as one of the first effects of WWII. Austria and Luxembourg had been members of the Austro-German Postal Union since 1850 and 1852 respectively and as such had enjoyed inland postal rates since then. Both were incorporated into the Reich, in 1938 and 1940/41.

Inland rates applied to all classes of letter mail up to the weight limits that applied to inland mail. Mail heavier than the inland limits but still within the UPU limits attracted full UPU rates. However, at various times to these territories (and also to Hungary, but never the Saar) an 'inland-like' rate was charged for a weight band above the inland limit; this applied to printed papers, commercial papers and mixed consignments in the 500–1000g band. These inland rates included ancillary fees such as that for express delivery and airmail.



Concessionary foreign rates from Germany

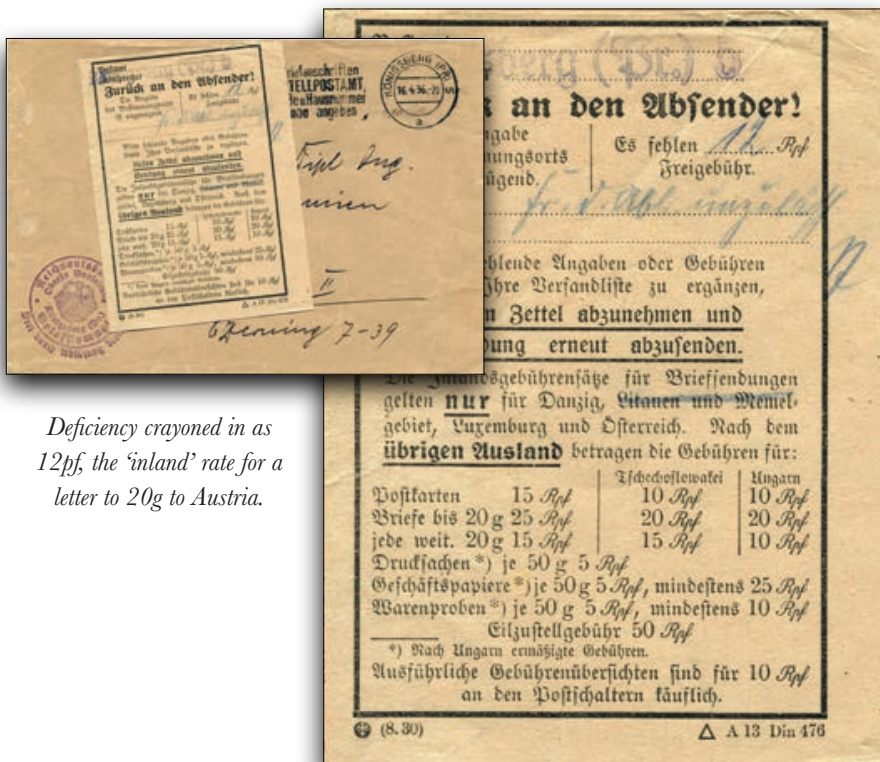


Postcard cancelled 4.9.1928 on the Frankfurt–Basel TPO, to Kaunas, the capital of Lithuania. ‘Inland’ rate, 8pf [15pf].



‘Inland’ printed paper in card form 20.11.1933 to Austria, 3pf [5pf].

The distinction in the inland service between printed papers in card form and in other forms ceased on 1.12.1933.



Deficiency crayoned in as 12pf, the ‘inland’ rate for a letter to 20g to Austria.

The ‘Frei durch Ablösung Reich’ (Paid on State service) exemption from postage did not apply to foreign mail, so this letter to Austria was treated as unpaid.

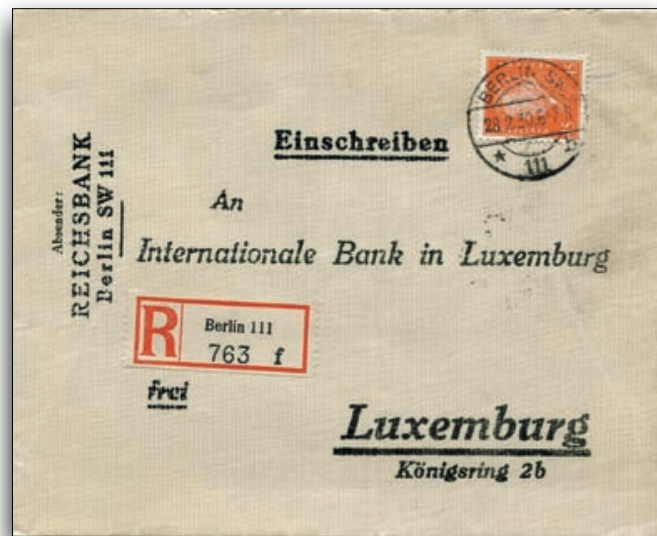
It was returned to the sender to attach the missing postage and to repost it after removing the label. However, it was never reposted.

Letter post to Austria attracted inland rates, as indicated by the middle paragraph; this also applied to Danzig and Luxembourg but no longer, since 1.2.1936, to Lithuania and Memel (struck out in blue crayon). The label also gives the concessionary rates to Czechoslovakia and Hungary (see later).

Despite its printing date being ‘8.30’ it does not mention the Saar, as the Reichspost in all their documentation treated it as ‘inland’ rather than ‘foreign’.



 Concessionary foreign rates from Germany



Registered letter 28.2.1930 to Luxembourg
 'Inland' letter to 20g, 15pf [25pf]; registration
 fee, 30pf [same inland and foreign].



Insured letter ???.1930 to the Klein Walsertal, a German customs area in Austria.
 Although the letter rate to Austria was the inland rate, all conditions
 of service, such as insurance, were the foreign ones.

Letter weighed 93g (top left); declared value 177 marks = 222 gold francs (@ 1.25).
 'Inland' letter 20–250g to Austria, 30pf [25+4×15=85pf];
 foreign handling fee, 30pf; foreign insurance for up to 300 marks, 30pf

Numbered V-labels (V=Valeur) were introduced on 1.10.1925.

Cross-border rates

Germany had 'cross-border' arrangements with Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands and Switzerland when the sending and destination POs were no more than 30km apart. Postcards and letters to 40g attracted inland rates. Only these first two weight steps were the same as the inland rate; for heavier letters each 20g was the same as the first 20g. Inland rates also applied to commercial papers up to 100g to Denmark alone, though I have yet to see an example. All ancillary fees had to be paid at foreign rates.



Concessionary foreign rates from Germany



Cross-border postcard 6.7.1925 from Aachen to Eupen in Belgium, 16km apart. Cross-border rate 5pf same as inland rate [15pf].



Cross-border postcard 12.2.1944 from Lörrach to Riehen, near Basel in Switzerland, just 3km apart. Cross-border rate 6pf [15pf] even though it travelled all the way to Munich and back for censorship.



Cross-border letter 24.6.1925 from Flensburg to Aabenraa (Aabenraa) in Denmark, 28km apart, sorted on the Danish TPO from Flensburg to Fredericia. Boxed cachet 'Fra Tyskland' (From Germany).

Cross-border rate 10pf same as inland rate [25pf].



Cross-border letter 6.11.1935 from Lörrach to Basel in Switzerland, 6km apart.

Cross-border rate for 40–60g, 36pf (3×12pf) [55pf]; overpaid by 1pf for convenience. Refused and returned. The envelope shows some stress reflecting its heavy contents.



Concessionary foreign rates from Germany

Hungary and Czechoslovakia

Both Hungary and Czechoslovakia (and Slovakia after it became independent in 1939) enjoyed reduced rates of postage for postcards and letters: 5pf reduction for postcards and for the first 20g for letters, and for Hungary from 1st February 1925 a 5pf reduction for each further 20g as well.

For Hungary alone, reduced rates for printed matter, commercial papers and samples were introduced on 1st February 1925: 5pf per 100g (rather than per 50g); printed matter under 50g was 3pf. On 1st August 1927 the rates were reduced again, this time essentially to inland rates, but with different minimum rates for commercial papers and samples.



Concessionary-rate postcard 24.12.1941 to Budapest, 10pf [15pf] from 1.1.1925.

'Return to sender – not permitted'. Pictorial cards, even Christmas greetings as here, were prohibited by wartime censorship regulations.



Printed matter card 28.1.1941 to Hungary at 'inland' rate: to 50g, 3pf [5pf]. This was before the introduction on 1.7.1942 of the 'Europe tariff' to Hungary.



Registered letter 20.4.1925 to Freiwaldau in Czechoslovakia. Concessionary rate for 40–60g, 50pf (20+15+15) [55pf] – only the first weight step was reduced; registration fee 30pf [same inland and foreign].



Reduced-rate letter 15.4.1938 from Innsbruck in newly annexed Austria to Leitmeritz in Czechoslovakia. Concessionary rate to 20g, 20pf [25pf], paid as 30gr. German rates for letters and postcards, including all the concessionary rates, were introduced on 4.4.1938. Austrian stamps could be used at the ratio of 3gr = 2pf.



Concessionary foreign rates from Germany

Bohemia & Moravia, General Government, Ostland and Ukraine

These four territories came under Reichspost control at various dates from 1939 to 1941. Letter mail to them attracted inland rates, including any ancillary fees.

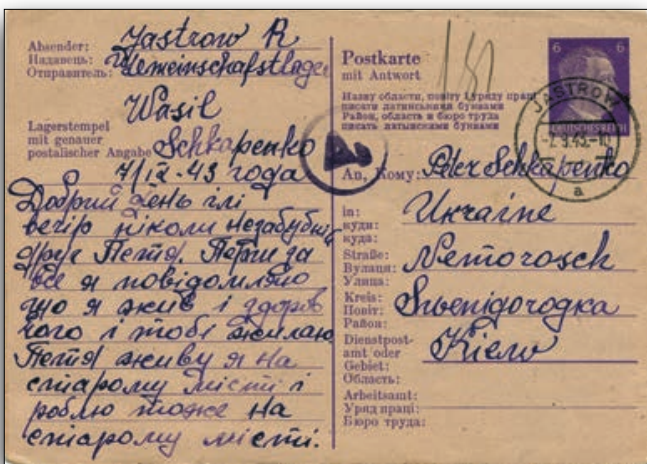
Until Bohemia & Moravia was incorporated into the German currency and customs area on 1st October 1940 there were various transitional arrangements, not easy to summarise briefly. For the General Government in the occupied Polish territories, private correspondence attracted full foreign rates until 29th February 1940.



Postcard 8.12.1939 from Berlin to Mährisch-Ostau in the Protectorate of Bohemia & Moravia. Inland postcard, 6pf [15pf]; this rate was introduced on 1.4.1939 (provided that the card was not registered, a proviso rescinded on 17.7.1939). The Winter Relief stamp is perfumed T.K. (Theodor Kaiser).



Postcard 28.11.1944 (datestamp erroneously shows 1943) from Czeladz in Upper Silesia to (7a) Lowicz in the General Government. Inland postcard, 6pf [15pf]. 7a was the postal routing code (PLZ) for the General Government.



Foreign workers' reply-paid card 7.9.1943 from an inmate in the Jastrow R labour camp to a relation near Kiev in the Ukraine. The reply card is still attached. Inland postcard, 6pf [15pf].



Postcard 5.1.1940 from Stavenshagen über Kalisch in the Wartheland to Garwolin in the General Government. Attempted use of 6pf inland rate, but in the transitional period to 29.2.1940 non-official mail to the GG attracted full foreign rates. Foreign postcard, 15pf; deficiency, 9pf = 18gr. Charged double deficiency of 36gr.

From annexed Luxembourg to Belgium

Mail from Luxembourg to Belgium enjoyed inland rates. This continued after the German occupation in 1940. This was not a transitional arrangement – it remained in force until superseded by the ‘Europe tariff’ to Belgium on 1st January 1943, though I have yet to find documentary evidence to demonstrate that this was the case.



Concessionary foreign rates from Germany



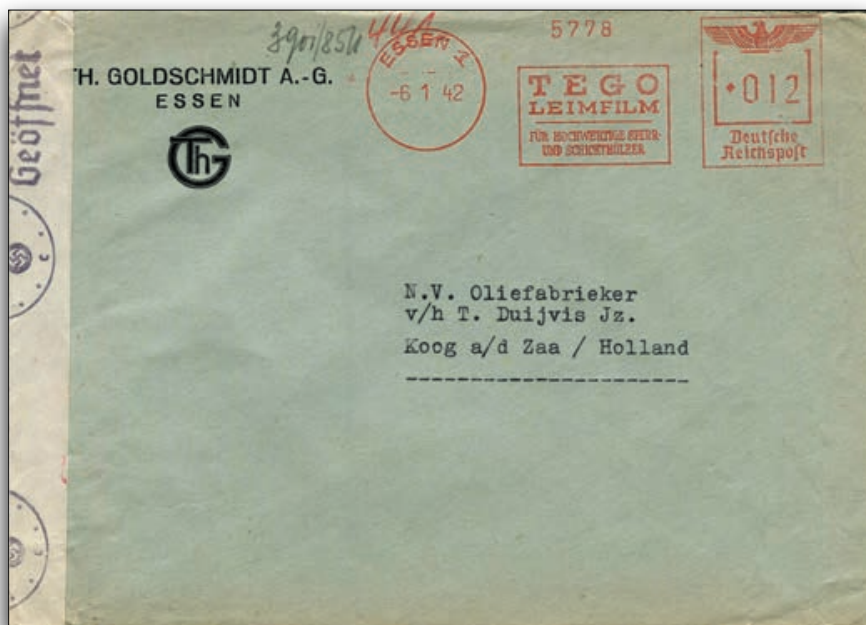
Letter from Luxembourg city to Hainaut in Belgium posted 13.1.1941. Inland letter to 20g, 12pf [25pf], paid with a Grand Duchess Charlotte stamp overprinted with German currency. Censored in Cologne.

Letter from Luxembourg city to Brussels posted 25.2.1942. Inland letter to 20g, 12pf [25pf]; foreign express delivery fee, 50pf. Censored in Cologne.

‘Europe tariff’ with occupied and allied countries

To aid the war effort, particularly the sending of heavier items of mail needed for commerce, the Reichspost negotiated a series of bilateral agreements with eleven occupied or friendly countries so that all classes of letter mail from the German Reich to those countries enjoyed German inland rates and weight steps, with similar reductions in the reverse direction. These rates are generally known in German as the *Europatarif*. The dates these bilateral agreements came into effect were:

Italy	1st January 1942	Romania	15th July 1942
Netherlands	1st January 1942	Bulgaria	1st September 1942
Finland	1st April 1942	Norway	1st September 1942
Denmark	1st June 1942	Slovakia	1st September 1942
Hungary	1st July 1942	Belgium	1st January 1943
Croatia	1st July 1942		



Inland rate for ‘Europe tariff’ to the Netherlands – very early date. The bilateral treaty with the Netherlands came into effect on 1.1.1942. Letter dated 6.1.1942 to 20g, 12pf [25pf]. Censored in Cologne.



Concessionary foreign rates from Germany



Although the bilateral agreement with Belgium, effective 1.1.1943, introduced inland rates for letter mail, foreign rates (and conditions of service) continued to apply to express delivery and other ancillary services.

'Inland' letter 25.10.1943 to 20g, 12pf [25pf]; foreign express delivery fee, 50pf; registration fee, 30pf [same inland and foreign].



Attempted use on 2.10.1944 of inland rate to Serbia, which was, perhaps surprisingly, not party to the use of inland rates. Foreign postcard, 15pf; less inland postcard paid 6pf; deficiency, 9pf.

Returned to sender as posted in a postbox, rather than over the counter, and it lacked 9pf ('es fehlen 9 Rpf' in pencil on label).

As the text on the label is rather faint, what it says in translation is: From the postbox, Return to the sender! Letter mail to abroad must be handed in at a counter without stamps.

European Postal Union (EPU) rates

The EPU Convention was signed in Vienna on 19th October 1942 and came into effect on 1st April 1943. On that date letters and postcards to all signatory countries from the German Reich enjoyed German internal rates and weight steps. Other classes of letter mail were not affected. The only countries not already covered by bilateral agreements were:

Albania 1st April 1943

San Marino 1st April 1943



Postcard 3.8.1943 from Vienna to San Marino. 'Inland' postcard, 6pf [15pf].



Airmail postcard 30.5.1944 from Vienna to German-occupied Albania. EPU rates to Albania continued after the resumption of services on 1.4.1944 – they had been suspended following the Italian capitulation. 'Inland' postcard, 6pf [15pf]; foreign (European) airmail fee, 10pf.



Deportation of citizens in Lorraine and Luxembourg, 1940-43

By Philip Townshend

A. Nazi Umsiedlung (resettlement) in general

The expression in the context of Nazi Germany mostly refers to the repatriation of ethnic Germans from the east – the Baltic states, Romania, Bessarabia etc. – ‘Heim ins Reich’ (back to the Fatherland) organised by the VoMi (*Volksdeutsche Mittelstelle* = Ethnic German Liaison Office), a sub-department of Himmler’s SS. The cover at figure 1 is addressed to him jointly as ‘Reichsführer SS’ and ‘Reichskommissar für die Festigung deutschen Volkstums’ (= Reich Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Nationhood) of which the VoMi was part.



Fig 1.

Caught up in this massive reverse-ethnic cleansing were Germans who had lived peacefully alongside their non-German neighbours, in some cases for centuries, e.g. in the *Siebenbürgen* region of northern Romania since the 12th century. Many of these VoMi-organised ‘repatriations’ were at least in theory voluntary – so not deportations – though Nazi propaganda, peer pressure and growing local indigenous hostility toward German minorities could prove very persuasive.

Figure 2 shows a cover from the Hangestein resettlement camp near Kronstadt in Romania (see also figure 3) and note that the camp cachet is partly beneath the censor’s resealing strip, i.e. it was applied in Romania before the letter was sent on to Germany. The card at figure 4 was sent from a VoMi camp in Saxony for German immigrants from Bessarabia (today split between Moldova and Ukraine). Figure 5 shows an *Einbürgerungs-Urkunde* (certificate of naturalisation) for an ethnic German and his family from the ‘Buchenland’ (Bukovina, Bessarabia).



Fig 2.



Fig 3.



Fig 4.

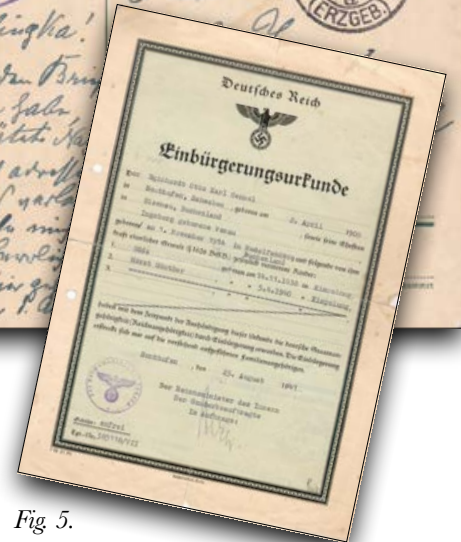


Fig 5.

Less well known is the *Umsiedlung* of Luxembourg and Lorraine citizens deemed unreliable because of known or suspected attitudes hostile to the ethos of Hitler’s Germany.



Deportation of citizens in Lorraine and Luxembourg, 1940-43

B. Umsiedlung of Luxembourg citizens

In the case of the Luxembourgers the policy was almost the opposite of that involving ethnic Germans from the east: the latter were – as the Nazis saw it – rewarded for their *Deutschtum* (German-ness) by their repatriation to the Fatherland, whereas the Luxembourgers were sent away against their will deeper into greater Germany (mostly Silesia or the Sudetenland) in the expectation that they would realign their mindset to allow their eventual incorporation into the German *Volksgemeinschaft* (= national community) and return to their homes.

These deportations began in late 1942: figure 6 is a picture postcard from a new arrival in Camp Schreckenstein in Aussig (Sudetenland) dated 6th February 1943, before the camp had acquired its own cachet; figure 7 is a postcard of Boberstein castle, flying a Nazi flag, posted 17th February 1943 – both cards were to family or friends back home informing them of the deportees’ whereabouts. In many cases it was whole families who were deported, or the wives and children of men who had fled or been imprisoned or executed. In their new milieu the deportees were mostly employed in local industries. Figure 8 features a card for a parcel with contents worth 100 RM presumably bought with wages from work at camp no. 121a in Nestomitz, also near Aussig, addressed back to in-laws in Luxemburg.



Fig 6.



Fig 7.



Fig 8.

Although it was officially stated that this *Umsiedlung* was not a punishment and their homes were kept intact pending their eventual return, many Luxemburgers saw it in that light. Sarcastically they dubbed themselves *Absiedler* rather than *Umsiedler* – ‘ab’ expressing the idea of removal, e.g. *abtreiben* (= to drive away), whereas ‘um’ implies an exchange rather than deprivation.



Fig 9.

C. Umsiedlung of citizens from Lorraine

A plaque on a wall in Metz [figure 9], the capital city of Lorraine (in German: *Lothringen*). The inscription reads:

‘In 1940-41, in order to erase all traces of French culture, the German authorities brutally assembled tens of thousands of Francophile inhabitants of the Moselle region not far from here at the old goods train station (‘Metz-Marchandises’), in order to expel them to non-occupied France’.

Deportation of citizens in Lorraine and Luxembourg, 1940-43

Here then the Nazi solution was not to re-educate and re-incorporate but rather to get rid of unwanted elements in the population altogether – see the pencil note on the back of figure 10: ‘ausgewiesen’ (expelled). Note that these expulsions began two years earlier than those in Luxemburg; this business *Auszug* (= account extract) was posted on 13th December 1940. [*]

[*] This reminds me of a signpost I saw outside Mannheim station indicating the distance to ‘Gurs’, a cryptic reminder that on 22nd October 1940 over 6500 Jews from Baden, Pfalz and Saarland (of which about 2000 from Mannheim itself) were deported to Gurs internment camp in Vichy France.

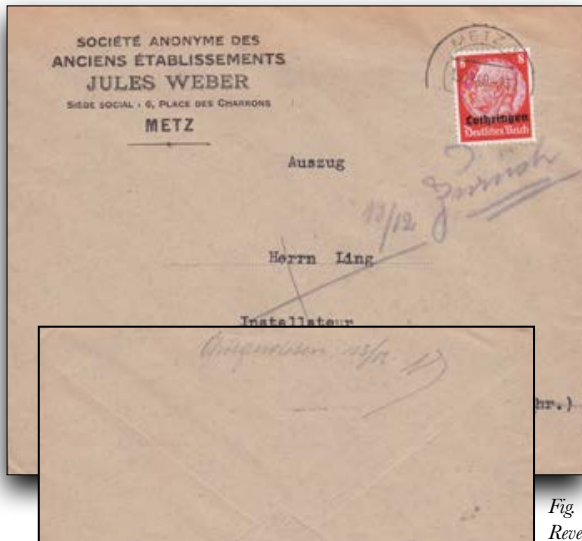


Fig. 10. Fig. 11.



Fig. 10. Reverse (detail)

Fig. 11. Reverse (detail)

In the case of figure 11 postmarked 4th November 1942, the pencilled note ‘umgesiedelt’ (resettled) may just be a loose alternative wording for ‘ausgewiesen’ or may indicate treatment similar to that of the Luxemburgers at **B.** above – I’m not sure which.

The cover in figure 12 poses an enigma. The sender was G. Fiderspil in a VoMi camp at Brüsau in the Sudetenland; his name is local to Luxembourg and his handwriting is French in style. He was writing to *Jeune René Boada*, a member of the CJF (*Chantiers de la Jeunesse Française*), a near-equivalent in lieu of military service of the German RAD (*Reichs-Arbeits-Dienst*) working at an explosives factory in Toulouse, Vichy-France, that supplied the Germans from 1940-44. GF was probably an *Umgesiedelter* in the sense noted at **B.** above – but who, what was RB? Just a French lad whom GF somehow happened to know?; a Luxembourgeois who had been treated more like a Lorrain as at **C.** above?; a Catalan former refugee from the Spanish civil war (Boada is a Catalan name)? ... I don’t know.

Fig. 12.



Fig. 13.

Figure 13 features an apparent earlier variation of the same camp’s title linking it to the Nazi party (NSDAP) rather than to the VoMi. I have no idea what – if any – significance attaches to that.

Reference:

- <https://www.dhm.de/lemo/kapitel/der-zweite-weltkrieg/aussenpolitik/umsiedlung-aus-der-bukowina>
- https://www.s50static.com/cms/uploads/files/66545c3f405fa3dbe3052c9ebadb1542ff51_.pdf
- <http://www.ons-jongen-a-meedercher.lu/uploads/media/document/0001/94/bd4998ff0919f916e11036cdfb8e2f3c730f933.pdf>



What lies beneath... the VF!

By Carl Buck



Having recently purchased this cover from... well I forget where, but it may have been from the G&CPS Exchange Packet (an excellent source of material at incredible 'members' prices!)... anyway, having delighted in this 'Anschluss' cover, with its mixed frankings, label stating 'Stimmt met Ja!', and 'Ein Volk...' propaganda vignette to the reverse (the cover is dated 12th April 1938, one month on from the annexation of Austria), I realise that the 'Stimmt' label was concealing some original printed text.



The envelope, held to a bright LED light source, reveals 'what lies beneath'...

The text when revealed reads, 'Vaterländische Front/ Kruckenkreuz T-shaped cross/ Bezirk Simmering' and the organisation's address in Rinnböckstrasse. The organisation in question, translated as 'Fatherland Front', was the ruling political organisation of the Federal State of Austria (in Germany: the *Ständestaat*). It proclaimed a right-wing conservative, authoritarian, nationalist, corporatist, and Catholic attitude, and advocated the country's independence from Germany on the basis of protecting Austria's Catholic religious identity from what they considered a Protestant-dominated German state.

This cover represents the overwhelming dominance of the Nazi Party beyond German borders. The founder of the Vaterländische Front, Engelbert Dollfuss, was assassinated in 1934 by a group of Austrian Nazis in an attempted coup d'état, subsequently being replaced by Kurt Schuschnigg. The new leader's efforts to keep Austria independent failed with the referendum of 1938 running its inevitable course.

It's difficult to read the correspondent's name printed on the upper left section of the envelope but it appears he embraced the change in Austria's status, no doubt, due to the VF becoming a banned organisation. The proverb, 'If you can't beat them, join them', springs to mind. And it's best to keep the past under wraps... even if it's just a simple label fixed to an envelope.

Reference: *Wikipedia*



Territories lost by Germany after World War I – Propaganda labels

By Radu Dănilă

(First published 2016)

PART III: GERMAN COLONIES - ASIA-PACIFIC

Introduction

The origins of the German colonies were presented in Part I of the article (NS 199), with the German African colonies presented in Part II (NS 200). This third, and final part, concludes with the formation and philatelic history of the German colonial empire within the Asia-Pacific region with the final section dealing with Kiauthchau in China.

From the 1860s onwards, German Hanseatic merchants had gained a prominent position in the South Pacific. But with the British expansion into Fiji in 1874, the American domination of the Hawaiian archipelago from 1875 onwards, and the growing Australian influence in New Guinea, concerns arose about the possible exclusion of Germans from this trade, which was centred on copra, coconut oil, cotton, tortoiseshell and pearls. The most important firm in this trade was Johann Cesar Godeffroy & Son Qater Deutsche Handels und Plantagen Gesellschaft (German Trading and Plantation Company, DHPGI) of Hamburg, with a network of coconut and cotton plantations spread over many islands in the South Pacific and headquartered in Apia, Samoa, where the German navy also had a base. As a result of these interests and threats to them from warring factions in Samoa, the DHPGI firm, supported by the German consulate, overthrew the Samoan government in 1887 and, following a series of negotiations and conferences with the British and Americans, jointly governed the islands until 1900. In that year, Samoa was divided between the Americans and Germans, and Western Samoa became a German colony. The first German governor, Wilhelm Solf (1862-1936), was a remarkable administrator by all accounts, rarely resorting to violence, and did much to bring about a reconciliation between the opposing factions in Samoa. Solf stimulated indigenous crop production for export by encouraging the cultivation of coconuts, restricted the sale of land to white planters, and prohibited forced labour on existing plantations. He also sought to protect Samoan cultural integrity by limiting the permanent immigration of foreign workers to Samoa. Samoa's main exports to Germany were copra, but the Pacific colonies, including Samoa, accounted for less than 8.5% of Germany's copra imports and only 0.15% of Germany's total trade in 1909. After World War I, New Zealand administered German Samoa under a League of Nations mandate [3], [4].

In 1883 this territory was claimed and, in the autumn of 1884, it came under the protection of the Reich. The company was granted the administration of New Guinea and the New Britain Archipelago. To these were later added a number of islands in Micronesia, including the Marshall Islands, which were administered by the Jaluit Company. Negotiations with the British in 1885 confirmed Germany's claim to the north-east of New Guinea (renamed Kaiser Wilhelmsland), the New Britain Archipelago (renamed Bismarck Archipelago), and the Marshall Islands. In 1899 the Caroline Islands, the Mariana Islands, and Palau were acquired from Spain, adding to this dispersed oceanic empire. However, since then the New Guinea Company had failed to develop viable plantations in New Guinea due to tensions with the native population and the treatment of plantation workers. Thus, the Reich was forced to administer these territories as a colony from 1899. The first governor, Albert Hahl, addressed these problems by protecting native land claims, regulating plantation labour, encouraging indigenous vegetable production for export, and improving medical care and education. Before 1914, New Guinea had shown remarkable increases in exports of copra, rubber, gutta-percha, and phosphates, but the colony was only a tiny component of German global trade. New Guinea was captured by Australia during World War I and was then administered as a League of Nations mandate. [3]. Germany's Pacific territories are summed up below.

- German New Guinea (Deutsch-Neuguinea) (1884-1914)
- Kaiser-Wilhelmsland
- Bismarck Archipelago (Bismarck-Archipel)
- German Solomon Islands or North Solomon Islands (Salomonen or Nördliche Solomon Inseln (1885-1899)
- Bougainville Island (Bougainville-Insel) (1888-1919)
- German Micronesia (later included in German New Guinea)
- Nauru (1888-1919)
- Marshall Islands (Marschall-Inseln) (1885-1919)
- Mariana Islands (Marianen) (1899-1919) – now the Northern Mariana Islands
- Caroline Islands (Karolinen) (1899-1919) – now the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau
- German Samoa (Deutsch-Samoa; Polynesia) (1899-1914) – now Samoa



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part III

Colonies in the Pacific

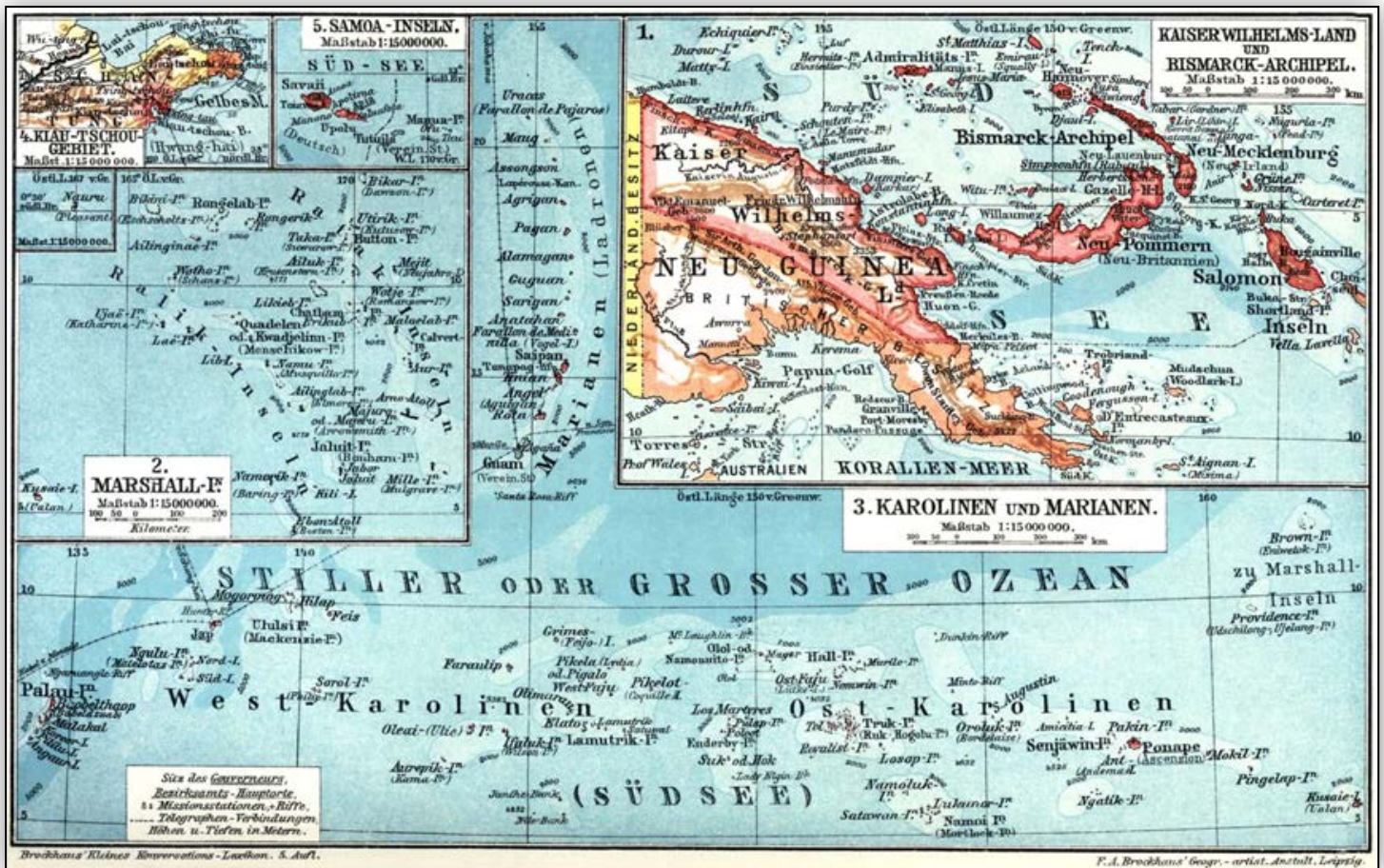


Fig 33. – Map of the German colonies in the Pacific and Kiautschou (source: Brockhaus Kleines Konversations-Lexikon 5. - Auflage 1911)

Colonies in the Pacific: KAROLINEN (CAROLINE ISLANDS)

The postal rates charged here were the same as in the new German Guinea.

Issues:

- between 1899-1900 an overprint of the imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50 was issued. 'Karolinen' overprint diagonally inclined at 48°, denominations of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf, circulation validity until 30th September 1901, print run unknown.
- 1900, overprint of imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50. Overprint 'Karolinen' diagonally inclined at 56°, same denominations, circulation validity until 30th September 1901, print run unknown.
- 1900, common colonial issue (imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*) with the 13 known denominations, circulation validity until 30th September 1901, unknown print run. From this issue, half marks (of the values of 10 and 20 Pf) were also used as well as a variant with a value counterfoil (5 Pf on MiNr 7, of 3 Pf) as a provisional mark that circulated in 1910, departing from Ponape.
- 1915-1923, reprint of the common colonial issue for the denominations of 5 Pf, 10 Pf and 5 M, in peace (only for 5 M) and war (for all three values) versions, on paper with diamond watermark ('Rauten'). The unique element is the reprint of the 5 Pf value in 1923 (!), i.e. long after the end of the First World War and after the implementation of the decisions of the Treaty of Versailles. The explanation lies in the fact that no military mail is known from Caroline, with the exception of the so-called 'Buried Mail' of the 'Kreuzergeschwaders' squadron, quartered until 6th August 1914 in Ponape. The 'Buried Mail' was sent to the recipients after the end of the war, in 1923, by the German post office by applying gummed labels that avoided overcharging. Such documents are very rare (documents with gummed labels reach catalogue prices of up to 7,000 EURO).



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part III



Fig. 34.



Fig. 35.

Examples of 'mourning label' vignettes are presented, for the Caroline Islands, in figures 34 and 35.

Colonies in the Pacific: MARSHALL ISLANDS

Cancellations on imperial stamps:

- 1889-1891, on imperial stamps MiNr. 37 and 39-44, stamps with the inscription 'JALUIT – MARSCHALL-INSELN'.
- 1890-1900, on imperial stamps MiNr. 37 e and f and MiNr. 45-50

Issues:

- 1897, diagonal overprint 'Marshall-Inseln' on imperial stamps MiNr. 45-48, nominal values of 3, 5, 10 and 20 Pf, valid until 30th September 1901, unknown print run, printed at Jaluit.
- 1899, diagonal overprint 'Marshall-Inseln' on imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50, denominations of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf, valid until 30th September 1901, unknown print run, printed in Berlin.
- 1899, modified overprint (inclined to the diagonal) 'Marshall-Inseln' on imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50, denominations
- January 1901, the common colonial series (Figure 35, imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*) issued in January 1901 with all 13 provided denominations. It was in circulation until 14th October 1914 and its print run is unknown.
- 1916-1919, reprint of the common colonial series (only the values of 3 Pf and 5 M) on paper with watermark 1, 'Rauten', no known print run.



Fig. 35.



Fig. 36.



Fig. 37.

Examples of 'mourning label' vignettes are presented, for the Marshall Islands, in figures 36 and 37.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part III

Colonies in the Pacific: MARIANEN (MARIANA ISLANDS)

Issues:

- 1899, November 18, overprint of imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50 with black overprint 'Marianen' diagonally, valid until 30th September 1901, with the following editions: MiNr. 1 I, 2 I 5 I and 6 I 1000 each, and MiNr. 3 I and 4 I 5000 each.
- May 1900, overprint of imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50, with modified 'Marianen' overprint (inclined to the diagonal), valid until 30th September 1901, unknown print run.
- 1916-1919, reprint of the common colonial series (only the values of 3 Pf and 5 M) on paper with watermark 1, 'Rauten', no known print run.

Fig. 38.



Fig. 39.

Examples of 'mourning label' vignettes are presented, for the Mariana Islands, in figures 38 and 39.

Colonies in the Pacific: SAMOA

Cancellations on imperial stamps:

- 1886-1890, cancellations on imperial stamps MiNr. 37 and 39-44, stamps with the inscription 'APIA – KAISER DEUTSCHE POSTAGENTUR'.
- 1890-1899, cancellations on imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50

Issues:

- 17th May 1900, overprint of imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50 with diagonal black overprint 'Samoa', valid until 30th September 1901, unknown print run.
- 10th December 1900, common colonial series (Figure 40, imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*) issued in January 1901 with all 13 provided denominations. It had circulation power until 29th August 1914, unknown print run. Proofs and specimens are known.
- January 1915-1919, reprint of the common colonial series (only the values of 3, 5 and 10 Pf and 5 M) on paper with watermark 1, 'Rauten', no known print run. In peace (only 5 M) and war (all 4 values) versions.

Fig. 40.



Fig. 42.

Examples of 'mourning label' vignettes are presented, for Samoa, in figures 41 and 42.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part III

Colonies in the Pacific: DEUTSCH NEU GUINEA (GERMAN NEW GUINEA)

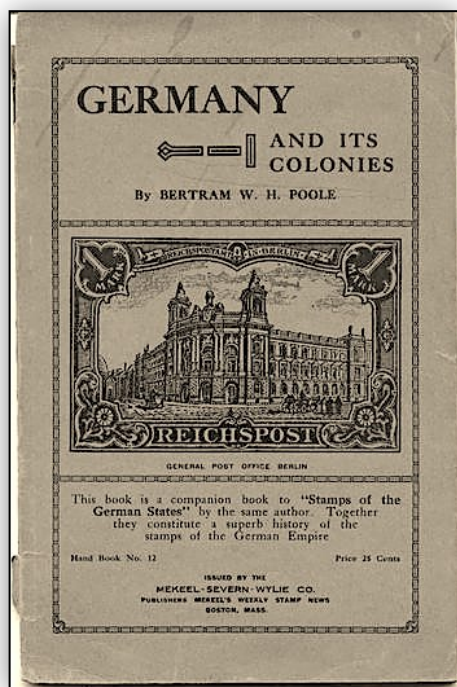


Fig 43. Cover of 'Germany and its Colonies', by Bertram WH Poole

For more information on the history of this colony, here is an excerpt from *Germany and its Colonies* by Bertram W. H. Poole (see figure 43.)

'The second oldest German colony is German New Guinea which, geographically speaking, refers strictly to the Kaiser Wilhelm Region – the northeastern area of the island of New Guinea or Papua. It also administratively comprises the Bismarck Archipelago (including part of the Solomon Islands), the Caroline Islands, the Mariana Islands and the Marshall Islands. The name German New Guinea is certainly somewhat of a misnomer, especially as the seat of government is located at Herbertshöhe, on Gazelle Island in the Bismarck Archipelago. At one time it was decided that the name of the colony should be changed to German Australia, but the change was never made. The last three archipelagos issued their own series of stamps, so they will be discussed separately, and this paragraph will only deal with the first two divisions.

New Guinea, or Papua, is, after Australia, the largest island in the world (excluding Greenland), and is separated from the Australian mainland by the Torres Straits, a shallow, islet-strewn stretch of water, 80 to 90 miles wide at its narrowest point. The two regions once formed a continuous landmass, and now a bridge about a stadium long would reunite them. The island appears to have been first discovered by D'Abreu in 1511, but was not visited until a few years later when the first Europeans visited it. In 1526, a Portuguese commander, Don Jorge de Meneses, misjudged the distance of his voyage from Malacca to Ternate and arrived in New Guinea. The island was visited by other Portuguese and Spanish traders in the following years, and one of these, Retez (Roda), gave the present name of New Guinea because of the resemblance of its inhabitants to those of the coasts of Guinea.

In the same year the Dutch settled in the west, and for more than two centuries afterwards practically all the exploration of New Guinea was done by them. In 1700, an Englishman named Dampier sailed along the north coast, surveying and naming many places. In 1793, the Company of The East Indies occupied the island of Manassari in Geelvinck Bay, so that in 1828 the western half of the island was placed under Dutch protection. Twenty years later the Dutch proclaimed their sovereignty over it, and this meridian was considered as a western border when England and Germany also proclaimed their spheres of influence in 1884. Protectorates were declared almost immediately by these two countries, for the southeastern and northeastern portions respectively, so that the borders, quite approximate, were fixed in the following years by conventions.

While the coasts have been fairly well supervised, the interior of New Guinea is still virtually unknown land, and several expeditions that have tried to clear the German area have made extremely small and difficult progress. There are no paths, the territory is very rugged and covered with a dense undergrowth, the whole country is covered with a dense, moist forest. Valuable wood for valuable furniture is plentiful, but it is difficult to exploit and obtain. The climate is trying hard on Europeans because of the heat combined with intense humidity. There are several rivers, of which Kaiserin Augusta was explored upstream by steam-powered sea vessels over a distance of about 200 miles.

The colony is administered directly by the imperial government but the development of its resources is in the hands of the German New Guinea Company, whose rights are attested by an imperial charter dated 17 May 1885. The company has sovereign rights: it is not allowed to sell weapons or spirits, and traffic for work (a delicate issue for years for these parties) is prohibited, except for the area of German plantations.

The country is famous for its birds of paradise, of which there are many varieties, as well as for the magnificent parrots, cockatoos, and pigeons are also found in abundance. The fauna is closely related to that of Australia and includes more than thirty species of marsupials (such as kangaroos).

The population numbers over 100,000 natives, and they appear to combine at least four ethnic elements: the Papuans proper, spread throughout the region, the Negrito, the Eastern Polynesians, and the Malays. By mixing these elements, the small tribal groups speak a surprising number of distinct languages. Cannibalism is widespread; some tribes are predatory, but many others are peaceful, industrious, and benevolent traders, showing remarkable qualities in the arts of pottery, woodcarving, and animal husbandry.

In November 1884, Germany declared the New Britain Archipelago a protectorate, together with several adjacent groups of islands. Later a part of the Solomon Islands, including Bougainville and Buka, the largest of them, were included in this protectorate, and the whole group was then renamed the Bismarck Archipelago. Although under direct imperial administration, this territory is also exploited by the German New Guinea Company, its charter being extended in December 1886 to include the northern group of the Solomon Islands. Their areas are: New Hanover, 570 square miles; New Mecklenburg, 4,900 square miles; New Britain (or New Pomerania), 9,600 square miles. The latter, as well as the smaller islands of the Lauenburg group, are very well explored districts. Here there are several successful plantations producing copra, coffee, cotton, and rubber. The principal settlements are Matupi, a small island in Blanche Bay occupied entirely by a commercial concern, and Herbertshöhe, the seat of Government.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part III

The island of New Pomerania offers greater facilities for European settlers than any of the other islands, many of which, though considerable in size, are almost inaccessible, and man is almost wilder than nature. The natives are all very warlike and most of them are confirmed cannibals, and this is the most difficult obstacle to all attempts at penetration by Europeans.

Bougainville, in the Solomon Islands, named after one of its discoverers, is extremely mountainous and has the most important annual rainfall. Here too the Europeans made little progress, owing to the climate and the natural savagery of the native tribes.'

Post offices:

- the first German post office opened in Stephansport on 14th December 1889, and from that moment until 1897, only regular German postage stamps (without surcharge) were used in the colony.

Issues:

- in 1897 the six values of the first series were overprinted diagonally in two rows with the inscription 'Deutsch-Neu-Guinea'. For this first issue the nominal values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf of the imperial series of 1889 (MiNr. 45-50) were used (see Figure 44).
- In 1900-1901, German New Guinea issued, jointly with the other German colonial possessions, a series of 13 complete marks with different denominations depicting the imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*. The denominations were 3, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 80 Pf and 1, 2, 3 and 5 marks.
- the first two issues were printed on paper without a watermark.
- the issues of 1914 (5, 10 Pf and 5 M) and 1918 (3 Pf) were printed on paper with a diamond watermark (Rauten).



Fig. 44. First issue of Deutsch-Neu-Guinea



Fig. 45.



Fig. 46.

Examples of 'mourning label' vignettes are presented, for German New Guinea, in figures 45 and 46.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part III

Colonies in the Pacific: KIAUTHCHAU (China)

The last episode in the history of the growth of the German colonial empire was the Chinese port of Kiaochow (called Kiauthchau by the Germans), located on the Shantung Peninsula. German merchants and manufacturers had been strongly attracted, if not deceived, by the promise of the Chinese market since its opening in 1840. By the 1890s, Germany's trade with China had surpassed that with its own colonial possessions and was beginning to seriously overshadow its relatively disappointing African colonies. The murder of German missionaries in 1897 was used as a pretext for the seizure of a base of operations in Kiaochow Bay, located near the small port city of Tsing-Tao on the Shantung Peninsula. Following negotiations with the Chinese, this territory was then granted to Germany for ninety-nine years. Unlike the other colonies, Kiaochow was administered by the Imperial Navy and the naval secretary, Admiral Alfred von Tirpitz (1849-1930), had a particular interest in the territory not only as a naval base but also as a spearhead from which Germany could begin to penetrate China economically. It was to serve as a model port to demonstrate Germany's superiority over Great Britain and the other imperial powers. To this end, enormous sums of money were invested in Kiaochow for modern sewage and drinking water, port facilities, telegraph and roads. The German Shantung Mining Company and Railway Company were created, which were granted monopoly concessions to develop railways in the interior and open modern coal mines to supply Kiaochow and the East Asian export markets. By 1913 Kiaochow had received investments and subsidies from the Reich worth approx. 200 million marks, making it by far the most expensive single colonial project. However, Shantung Mining remained at a loss and hopes of German economic penetration into China did not materialize. Moreover, Germany lagged behind the Japanese, British and Americans in the volume of exports through the port of Tsing-Tao. Shortly after the outbreak of World War I, Japan occupied Kiautschau. The port returned to Chinese administration in 1922 [3].

Cancellations on imperial stamps:

- 1898-1901, the imperial stamps MiNr. 37 and 45-50 (denominations of 2, 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf) were used and the stamps were marked 'TSINTAU - KIAUTSCHOU', 'TSIGNTAU - KIAUTSCHOU', 'KIAUTSCHOU - DEUTSCHE POST' or 'TSINTAU - CHINA'.
- cancellations marked 'TSINTAU - KIAUTSCHOU', 'TSIGNTAU - KIAUTSCHOU' on stamps of the German post office in China (with oblique overprint 'China'); these are imperial stamps MiNr. 45-50 (face values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 Pf) overprinted either diagonally (V1 I – V6 I) or with an over-inclined print (V1 II – V6 II).

Issues:

- 9th May 1900, overprint of Kiautchau MiNr. # I and 3 II with black horizontal overprint '5 Pf' in the missionary printing house in Tsing-Tao); 3 types of characters of the overprint are known.
- 1900, horizontal overprint '5 Pf' only on the 10 Pf value of the German post stamp in China, in 3 variants - which determine the 3 distinct numberings of MICHEL Spezial: MiNr. 2, 3, 4, with editions of, respectively, 1,700, 100 and 200 pcs. - valid until 31st December 1901.
- the common colonial series (imperial yacht *Hohenzollern*) was issued in January 1901 and included all 13 provided denominations. It had circulation power until 31st December 1905 and its print run is unknown.
- October 1905, a second series designed similarly to the previous one, with denominations in Cent and Dollar (1, 2, 4, 10, 20, 40, Cent and 1/2, 1, 1 1/2, 2 1/2 Dollar), valid until 7th November 1914, with an unknown print run.
- October 1905, issue identical to the previous one, printed on paper with watermark 1, in diamonds ('Rauten'), valid until 7th November 1914, with unknown print run.

Note: MICHEL Deutschland Spezial 2011, vol. 1 page. 685, Deutsche Kolonien (Kiautschou): 'MiNr. 5-17 wurden am Sammlerschalter in Berlin schon ab 17.12.1900 verkauft.' That is: 'Stamps MiNr. 5-17 were sold at the Berlin philatelic office, starting with 17.12.1900'. Identification is simple: it is the only value of 1 Mark, and the number of perforations is 26 on the horizontal side.

Fig. 47.



Examples of 'mourning label' vignettes are presented, for Kiauthchau, in figures 47 and 48.



Fig. 48.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I - Part II

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Postscript: The 'Colonial Guilt Lie' and beyond

By Carl Buck

I wish to thank Radu for allowing us to reprint this three-part article on the 'lost territories' as it seems a poignant reminder of how land masses are obtained, divided, lost and won, as pertinent today as it was in the ancient world of the Phoenicians, Babylonians, Persians, Romans and Greeks. The conquests of the 15th century onwards have created the world we now recognise with huge colonial influences made by the Portuguese and Spanish, the Netherlands, France, Britain and Russia.

The period covered in Radu's article is often described as 'New Imperialism'. This form of colonialism was 'empire for empire's sake', with aggressive acquisitions of overseas territories, predominantly by European powers (together with USA and Japan), espousing doctrines of racial superiority that denied the subjugated peoples their right of self-government.

Germany was late to this land grab. Before the 1871 unification, the German states hadn't seriously considered the development of a navy, a key asset in the acquisition of land on foreign shores that required defence, supply and trade.

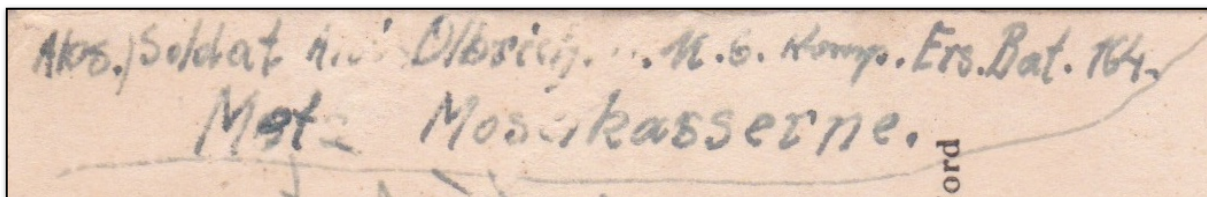
As Radu has described, the Treaty of Versailles denied Germany its conquests from the 1880s. These became 'lost but not forgotten' during the Weimar period of government with the emergence of 'Kolonialschuldflüge' (colonial guilt lie) and the rise of colonial revisionism.

In 1934 the Nazi Party established its own Office of Colonial Policy, that was led by Heinrich Schnee, and then Franz Ritter von Epp and creating a very active grass roots organisation. The Reichskolonialbund, established in 1936, under Franz Ritter von Epp absorbed all colonial organisations and was meant to raise pro-colonial sentiments, thus building public interest in former German colonies. However, no new overseas colonial enterprises took place and with the onset of World War II in 1939 the organisation entered a decline. It was disbanded by decree in 1943 for 'activity irrelevant to the war'. Although it tolerated the colonialists, the Nazi government focused on territorial gains inside Europe. At no time did it negotiate or demand from London or Paris the return of any lost colony. To many leading Nazi's the pro-colonialist was a voice of the past and seen as irrelevant when compared with Eastern European 'Lebensraum'.



Research Enquiries

Mosel Kaserne?



Whilst cataloguing postcards with kaserne/lager interest I've drawn a blank with this particular inscription... 'Mosel kaserne' (?). The postcard, dated 28th January 1941, depicts a riverside scene in Metz and features the briefstempel of the 164th Infantry Replacement Battalion which was stationed in the city. However, I cannot find a Mosel kaserne cited in the books/web pages I've researched. Were they part of one of the many fort complexes in the region? Can anyone help? Carl Buck. **Enq. 2/2026**



KLV Lager - Netherlands



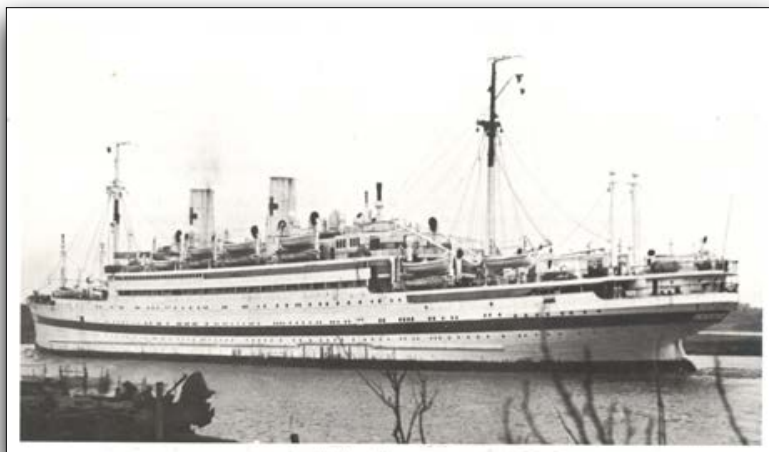
According to research, the Nationalsozialistische Volkswohlfahrt (NSV), responsible for the 'Kinderlandverschickungen' (KLV - Relocation of children to the countryside), took care of almost 2.5 million German boys and girls in over 9,000 KLV camps.

However, information is difficult to find when it comes to details of the Dutch KLV operation. This envelope and letter were sent to a correspondent in Bramsche, Germany, from KLV-Lager 'Hotel Spijker' in Beek bie Nijmegen, on 19th April 1944.

Can anyone help with my further enquiries in the KLV sites and administration in the Netherlands. Carl Buck. **Enq. 3/2026**

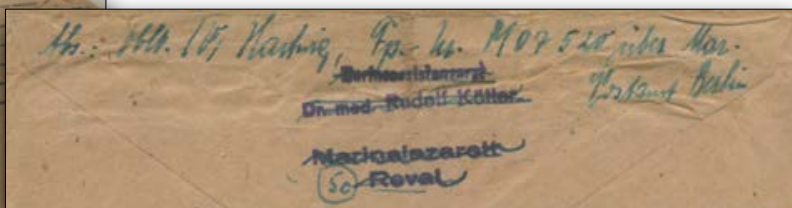
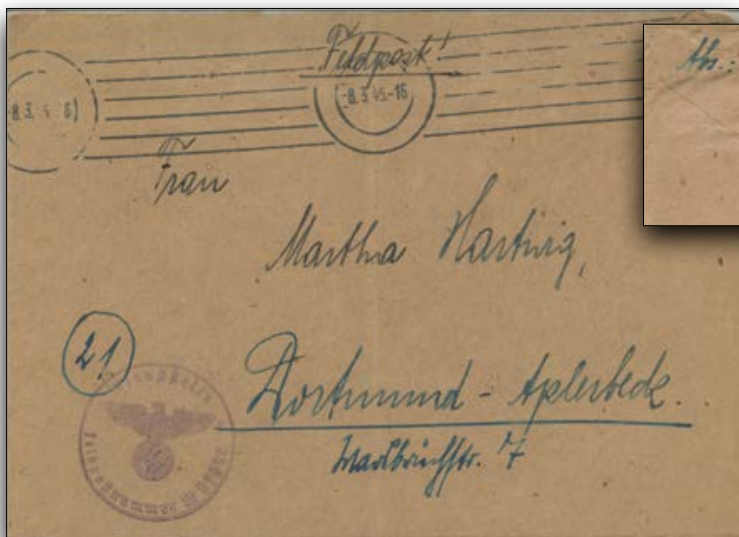


Kriegsmarine Lazarettsschiff 'A' Berlin. 1945.



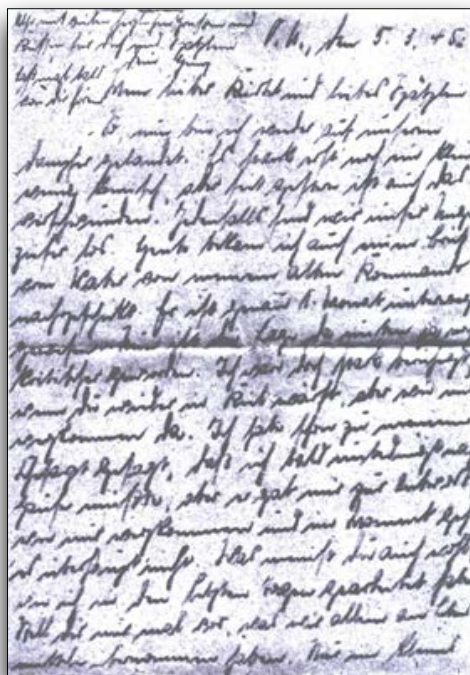
Kriegsmarine Lazarettsschiff Berlin

The Kriegsmarine Lazarettsschiff *Berlin* in the later part of the war was used to transport refugees and wounded servicemen from the Eastern Territories. On 31st January 1945 she struck a mine off Swinemünde and was put into tow for Kiel but struck a second mine and sank in shallow waters with the no loss of life and all equipment salvaged.



The Feldpost cover (depicted left and above), bears the *Berlin* Briefstempel Dienststelle Feldpostnummer M 07520, a dumb machine postmark dated 8th March 1945 and an enclosed letter dated 5th March 1945 said to have been written onboard. The reverse shows the envelope originally had connections with the Marinelazarett Reval (Tallinn) capital of Estonia. The writer gives his return address as M 07520 über Marine Postamt Berlin.

So it would appear that in early March 1945 either the ship still had crew members on board clearing equipment and were able to send mail via the ships post office or the *Berlin* Briefstempel Dienststelle Feldpostnummer M 07520 had been relocated to a different ship or naval establishment.



Do any of our Schiffspost collectors have details of the final days of the *Berlin*? There was a four-page correspondence enclosed within the envelope. A copy of the first page is shown here in case a member is able to read the script and throw some light on the ship's situation at that time. Thank you, Keith Lillywhite. **Enq. 4/2026**

NB: If any member requires a copy of this letter (2.8MB) for translation please contact the editor.



'a' censor puzzle

Thank you to Philip Townshend for sending in this quite perplexing query. Anyone who collects mail that has passed through the Auslandsbriefprüfstellen (ABP, foreign letter examination offices) will understand the complexity of identification. Here is an example! Philip's notes on this cover are transcribed below (an insight into how a fellow collector catalogues such items). If anyone can assist with the query at its conclusion this would be most appreciated. **Enq. 5/2026**



1942: GG: cover [30mm tear – discreet] to Ukrainian Red Cross, Platz Grand Mézel 1, Geneve fr. 2 x12gr pmk Zlochow 11.10.42 [inland rate!], L-2 Landpost 'Bialy Kamien über Zlochow / (Distr Galizien)', on back small '248' [ABP Frankfurt], on front pencil censors '.05 – 2094 ='; '2925 –' [Frankfurt?] partly covered by wrap-around brown 'a' strip tied red hooded AP3.2 [score D]

Front & back - mixed interest: 1. Place Grand-Mézel was Jewish quarter of Geneva; 2. missed postage due; 3. Landpost rural mail; 4. Referred back to Königsberg by Frankfurt ABP, since Ffm censors under 'a' strip? Why? Ukrainian language?



The last post?



Philip Townshend is asking for opinions on this cover dated 24th April 1945, canceled at Berlin-Wilmersdorf 3.

Referring back to his article on late Third Reich mail (NS198 pp.15-18), Philip recalls, 'my strange cover to a KLV camp in BuM bearing 2x60h BuM postmarked B.-Zehlendorf 23.4.45, censored by the US and then RTS, is ample evidence that some POs in Berlin were not just open but functioning in mid-to-late April, and if so, why could the SA/SS stamps not have been sold and postmarked to order — or, God forbid, used on mail?'

An intriguing thought... What do you think?
Enq. 6/2056



Literature

'... and these are the books we read...'

The Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs

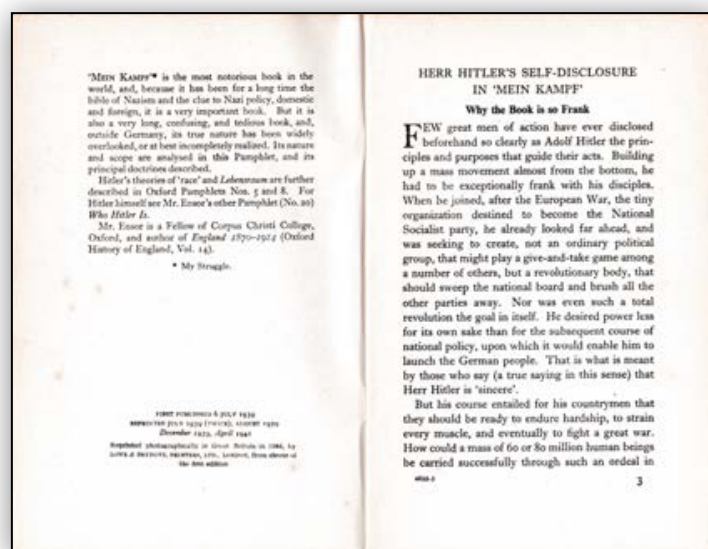


No.3. First published July 1939

A complementary article following the Left Book Club series as featured in issue 200. These 'Oxford Pamphlets on World Affairs' offer the historian-philatelist an insight into contemporary thought during the late 1930s and war-time period. Each booklet measures a little over A6 and contained 30-32 pages. They were summed up at the time in the following way:

'Busy men and women are grateful to the Oxford University Press for this series of simple monographs on the problems of the day. They do not all pretend to be objective; but they speak with expert knowledge; they are concise, eminently readable and unencumbered by notes or bibliographies.'

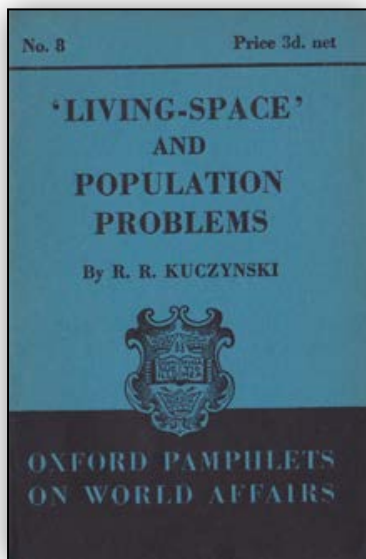
At least 72 pamphlets appear to have been issued in total and they're still collectable today. Here in the UK you'd expect to pay £1-5 for each edition, with some collectable titles selling for £30+. Bound volumes are also available.



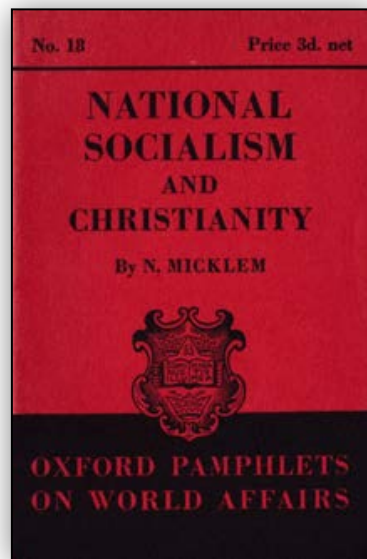
Synopsis and introduction to R.C.K. Ensor's analysis of *Mein Kampf*



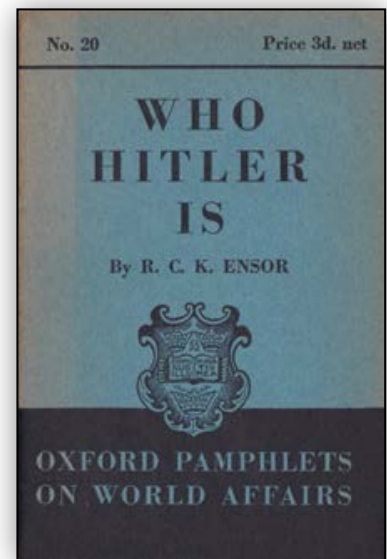
 Literature



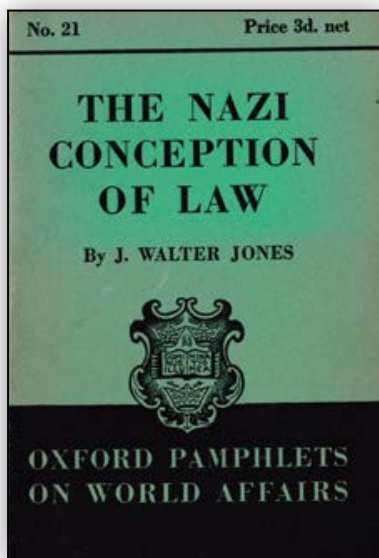
No.8. First published 1939



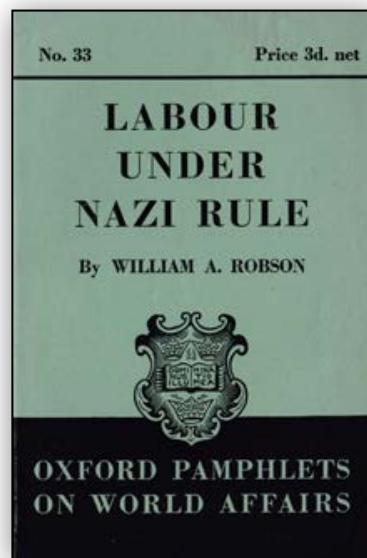
No.18. First published 1939



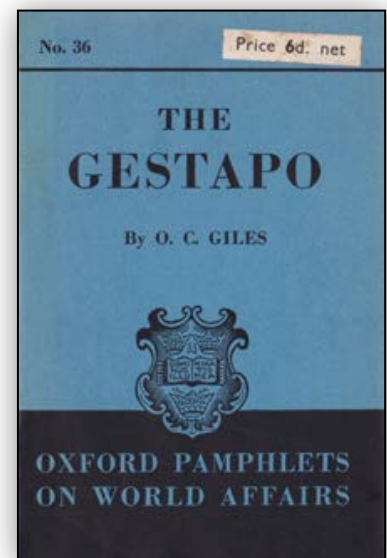
No.20. First published 1939



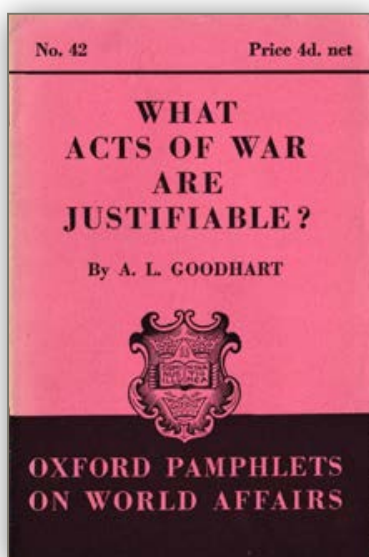
No.21. First published 1939



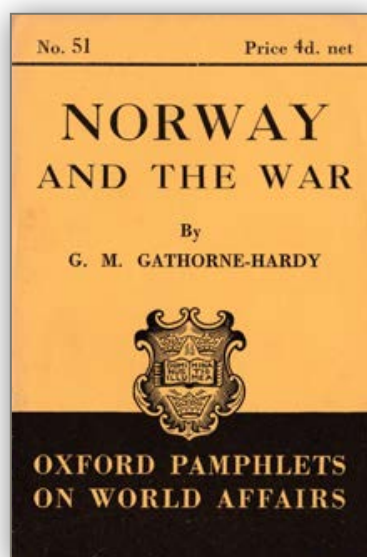
No.33. First published 1940



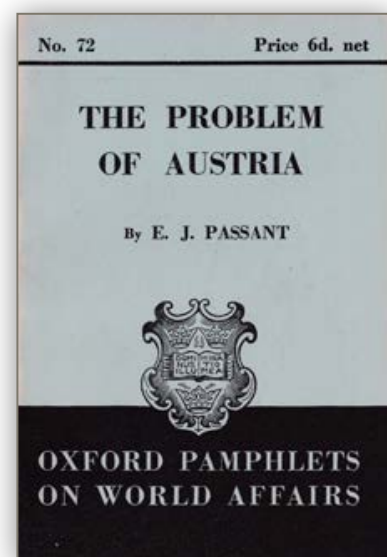
No.36. First published 1940



No.42. First published 1940



No.51. First published 1941



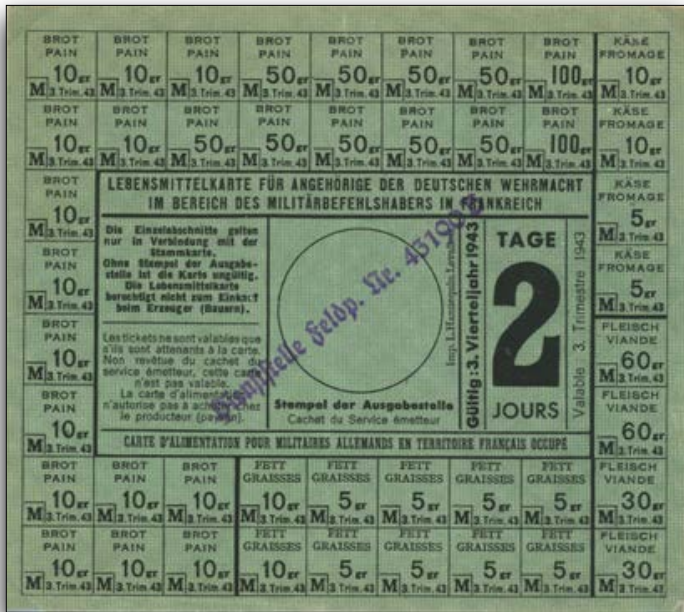
No.72. First published 1945



Ephemera

Those pieces of paper that you shoehorn into enhancing your collection. What are they and why?
For example....

Ration cards issued to German troops in Occupied France



I've had this German Food Coupon in my collection for many years having been attracted by the hand-stamped Feldpost Number, 43190B, which according to axishistory.com was issued to Batterie Sturmgeschutz-Abteilung 428 (30.7.1941-28.2.1942), gestrichen (1.3.1942-7.9.1942), Stab II u. 4.-6. Batterie Artillerie-Regiment 371 (12.3.1943-7.9.1943).

I have seen examples of food coupons issued to the civilian populations on eBay but nothing similar to my example. Therefore I wonder if any other member can throw any light on the Ration Coupons and whether they were general issue to the Wehrmacht troops in occupied France.

Many thanks to Keith Lillywhite. Ed



Ephemera

Monte Sarmiento luggage tag



After reading Keith Lillywhite's article regarding KdF cruise mail and ephemera in NS 200 (p.25), I'm reminded of a piece of ephemera in my collection. Keith's article included a fantastic photograph of passengers onboard the *Monte Sarmiento*. So my 'show and tell' is this luggage tag (157 x 83mm) for the *Monte Sarmiento* KdF voyage that departed Hamburg on 24th July 1936, sailing to the Norwegian fjords (an image that's beautifully represented on this tag). Within my collection this sits quite happily amongst the numerous cancels, postcards, tickets and menus for the 'Kraft durch Freude' cruises. I note that John Rawlings *The Postal history of the 'Kraft Dutch Freude' High Seas Cruises 1934-1939* is still available via the G&CPS website. Add it to your library today! Carl Buck



Research Links

'... and these are the websites we use...'



Earlier you may have read of the news that Die Zeit are making NSDAP members documents available online. So here's another 'citizen' online resource (also available in physical book form). If you're researching the Dresden bombing campaign you may be interested to know of this website documenting the names and addresses of those unfortunate souls who perished between February and April 1945. This will be of use when researching envelopes with postal addresses in Dresden pre-February 1945.

The address with links to the 'Memento' database and other aspect of Dresden during the war years can be found here:

<http://www.dresden-dossier1945.de/>

A word from the author, Gert Bürgel:



dresden-dossier1945.de presents content about the event and the consequences of the destruction of Dresden in February 1945.

PriorityThe topics include the **low-level air raids** on civilians and the analysis and critique of the **findings of a commission of historians** who re-evaluated the number of victims in Dresden after 60 years. Both topics are the subject of controversial public debate.

In addition, there are our own research results based on archivally documented victim figures, which can now be viewed in the **memorial book of names** .

With my documentation and research work, I aim to contribute to Dresden's local history. This has been made possible primarily by older Dresden residents and eyewitnesses who recounted their experiences and provided a wealth of information. I extend my special thanks to them.

At the same time, the events examined here must be seen against a broader historical and, more recently, politically charged backdrop. The intensity of the conflict cannot be explained otherwise. The reader will find examples and evidence of this.

Timeless research findings can only flourish on a comprehensive and well-founded basis. They are not subject to the whims of current political or historical events. It is up to the visitor to judge for themselves how "one-sided"—or how necessary and objective—the content listed here is. In my understanding, it represents essential supplements and counter-arguments to the new historical narrative disseminated in literature and the media . It serves to compare and understand historical processes and is intended to encourage independent judgment.

So far, I am unaware of any online presentation that deals with the Dresden events of 1945 in a similar way. Therefore, I hope for positive feedback and welcome any objective and critical comments that will contribute to improving the content.

I wish the visitor an interesting search and lingering in the details.



Membership

The TRSG welcomes all of its Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society members to their meetings in 2026

Three meetings will be held at the The Civil Service club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ
The meetings are held on Saturdays and start at 12 noon with an informal lunch and bourse (when required), with displays from 13:30 pm onwards

The meetings will be held on the following dates:

25th July 2026
17th October 2026

If you have any questions regarding the meetings or wish to participate with a display then please contact Tony Hickey at hickey_anthony@hotmail.com

This News Sheet is sent to over 170 addresses globally.

If you no longer require the News Sheet or wish to add a name and address to the emailing list then please contact Carl Buck at carlthestamp@gmail.com (new email address).



The G&CPS

The Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society welcomes new members.

The Society is open to all age groups and currently has a memberships spanning most continents of the world. Major areas of interest to current members include Pre-Philately, the German States, the period between 1871 -1918, the Weimar Republic, the Third Reich, the Allied Occupation, the Democratic Republic, the Federal Republic, Colonies & Foreign, Private Posts, and Revenues etc...

Benefits of membership include an Exchange Packet (UK only), a Lending Library (UK only), and a Postal Auction. There is also a Members Forum (on the website), Zoom meetings and a Social Media presence.

The Society also holds Regional meetings, Study Group Meetings and an AGM weekend.

Members of the G&CPS are reminded to make a date in their diary for the 2026 Society weekend.

This will be held from 2nd -4th October 2026 at the Feathers Hotel, Ludlow.
Further details can be found at the 'Services & Events' page of the Society website.

The Society's journal '*Germania*' is published quarterly and contains over 70 full colour pages of expert articles on various aspects of German philately and postal history.

JOIN TODAY

