



Third Reich Study Group

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

News Sheet 202

Group Leader: Tony Hickey

August 2026

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For membership and enquiries please visit www.germanphilately.org



From the Editor

I'm pleased to report that once again the news sheet is presenting a wide variety of subjects ranging from censorship, immigration, souvenir sheets, war correspondence, crash mail, airships, and shipping... and all of it tied to our love of philately and postal history.

Well almost... there is one article that bucks that trend. The topic is 'Flag Wars' and is presented by Nadine Rossol from the University of Essex. Nadine has very kindly given permission for her article to be republished having first been read on the Royal Historical Society website.

Nadine's article is thought provoking and neatly ties the past to contemporary affairs in the United Kingdom today. I have added this article as I believe it contextualises the eras in which we collect. Likewise, Keith Lillywhite has written a piece under the literature section regarding *Berlin Diary* and *German Journey*. Nothing to do with philately, but once again adding the context to the philatelic world we collect.

In fact, it's hard to escape this context. The study of the Third Reich period is the study of one of the most monumental periods in recent human history. I'm reminded of Mick James' query found within regarding crash mail. Read it. There's an answer to his question from AI... I too asked AI if what the TRSG study is still relevant. The AI Overview answer stated, 'Yes, the Third Reich remains relevant today as a historical warning regarding democratic collapse, institutional erosion, and the dangers of extremist ideology, ethnic scapegoating, and totalitarian control.' Probably the answer most of us would expect.

Would you like to see more or less articles regarding the 'background' to our collections. If they can be linked to philately, even in a small way, that would be preferable but not essential. I'd be interested to hear your views... maybe you think we already present such matters. Are there too many non-philatelic articles or not enough? Or is the balance right already.

Thank you to all our contributors for supplying such diverse material! **Ed**



RFK stationery

By Tony Quinn



Stationery envelope of the Office of the 'Reichsführer SS as State Commissioner for the Consolidation of German Nationality [RFK] Berlin-Halensee Kurfürstendamm 142-143'. Cancelled 'Berlin - Charlottenburg, 18.4.1941'

The RFK Office was initially the 'Controlling Office for Immigrants and Repatriates', rechristened the RKF Office in 1941.

Note: 'Frei durch Ablösung Reich' (Postage Free Concession) by the Civil Post Office. From July 1941 all SS mail was handled by the 'Feldpost'.

Himmler was appointed by 'Führer Decree' as RKF Commissioner in September 1939, the title and office gave Himmler control of events in the newly occupied Eastern Territories (Poland), with deportation and resettlement under the 'Ostplan' which resulted in the 'Final Solution'.



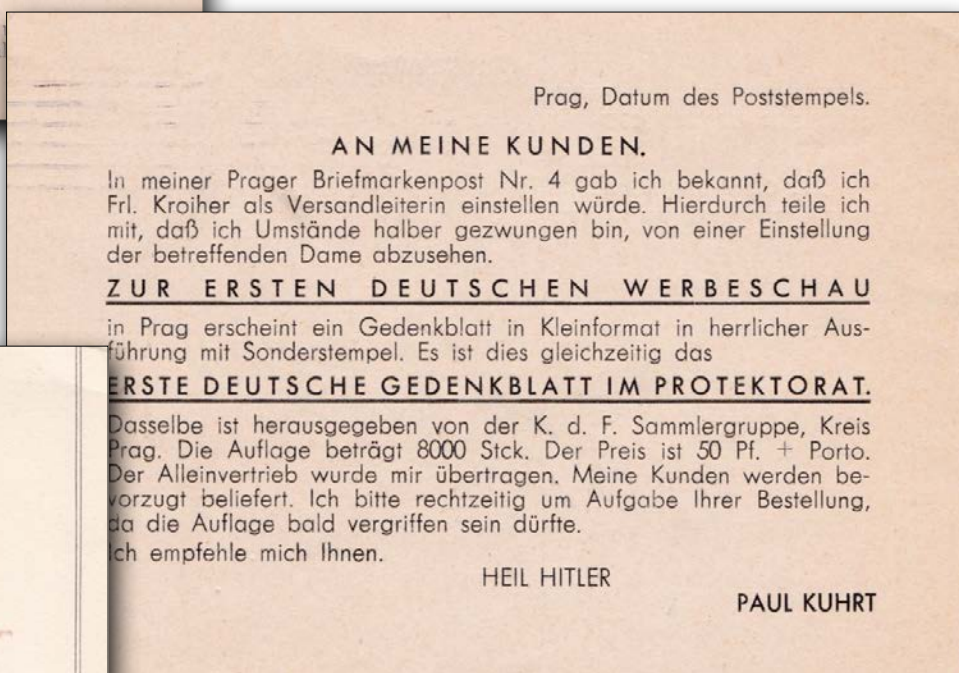
The first German souvenir sheet of the Protectorate?

By Carl Buck

The name of stamp dealer Paul Kuhrt appears on many postcards and covers, both commercial and commemorative, during the time of the German occupation of Bohemia & Moravia. Depicted below is one such commercial postcard, sent from Kuhrt's office in Prague to a customer in Passau. The postcard is a companion piece to the souvenir sheet commemorating the 'Tag der Briefmarke' on 11th January 1942, which according to Kuhrt was the first of the German souvenir sheets produced within Bohemia & Moravia. The two pieces work well together; however, I'd be interested which 'German' souvenir sheets were produced before this.



Left and below. A commercial postcard sent from Paul Kuhrt, German stamp dealer, to a client in Passau. With details on the reverse of stamps for sale (which includes the intriguing statement, 'In my Prague Stamp Post No. 4 I announced that I would appoint Miss Kroihier as dispatch manager. I hereby inform you that due to circumstances I am forced to refrain from employing the lady in question.'... but why!? (It is noted that an M. Kroihier is listed as a stamp dealer/collector somewhere in Czechoslovakia at this time. Maybe related?)



The primary messages states:

For the First German Advertising Show

in Prague, a commemorative sheet is published in small format with a beautiful design and special postmark. This is also the

First German Commemorative Sheet in the Protectorate.

It is published by the K.d.F. Collectors' Group, Prague District. The edition is 8000 pieces. The price is 50 Pf. + postage. I have been entrusted with the exclusive distribution. My customers will receive preferential delivery. Please place your order in good time.



Ethnic German immigrant processing train

By Tony Quinn

Germans from the Baltic and eastern territories were encouraged to resettle in reclaimed West Prussia and General Government lands ousting Poles wherever possible.

Special trains, of which there were 27 at one time between April 1941 and May 1942, manned by SS staff, travelled along the main Polish network processing applications.



The trains consisted of 15 carriages, each having a particular function. Would-be settlers were moved along the train having their particulars taken, having their medical examination and photograph processed, and finally receiving their Volks German naturalisation papers in the last carriage. There were 30 staff on each train.

The scheme was under the control of the Immigrants Central Agency of the SS Ethnic German Resettlement Office in Berlin.

Letter from a member of staff of a special train (EWZ-Sonderzug) posted at Lemberg (Lwów) to the photographic section in the Immigration Centre in Litzmannstadt (Łódź) dated 21st June 1942.



Returnee's identity document issued by the EWZ-Sonderzug for a former Russian citizen (born in Latvia), aged 65 years old, a 'housewife'. The hand-stamp on the reads, 'Baltic resettler'. Issued 3rd April 1942.

Returnee's identity document issued by the EWZ-Sonderzug for a former Romanian citizen (born in Bohemia), an 'Artist' by profession. The hand-stamp on the cover reads, 'Valid only in the Altreich' (German Homeland). Issued 3rd June 1941.



Flag Wars

By Nadine Rossol

The TRSG would like to thank Nadine Rossol for allowing her article 'Flag Wars' to be reproduced in this news sheet. The article was first published as a Royal Historical Society blog in September 2025. The original article can be found [here](#).

For members unfamiliar with the 'flags' issue in the United Kingdom it is to be noted the controversy over displaying the St. George's flag began in July 2025. The dispute of displaying the flag in public spaces centres on unauthorised attachments to public infrastructure, opposing views on patriotism versus intimidation, and local council removal efforts. This included a 'Raise the Colours' grassroots campaign, safety and legal concerns, and stark divides in public opinion and perception.

As Nadine argues, contests over the use and display of flags have long histories and are significant. Flag conflicts are about emotions, agency and identity. They are typically blunt and intense, going to the heart of citizen politics. Historical examples, as in the case of 1920s Germany, provide context for and perspective on present-day manifestations.



Postcard of Nordseebad Juist. Upon closer inspection the negative has been doctored to produce swastika flags from German Empire flags.

Note: this image wasn't part of the original article.

In mid-July, a journalist from a right-wing newspaper claimed that the local holiday resort was in 'a state of war' because two flags had gone missing.[1]

This event does not relate to English communities in the summer of 2025, despite similar language, but to the German seaside 100 years ago. 'Flag wars', as they were dubbed even then, are serious business. They show individual agency, political mobilisation and national identity by visibly demonstrating the significance of political symbols. Flag conflicts touch the emotional core of politics, and this is why they matter. This was as true in 1920s-Germany as it is in England today.

Displaying – or removing – flags is a conscious act carried out for an audience. There is nothing private about flags, they fly in public or semi-public spaces including city halls, village squares, and gardens.

Politicians occasionally dismiss flag conflicts as superficial matters that divert attention from serious political issues. Writing in the immediate post-war period, the Social Democratic politician Otto Braun recalled how, during the 1920s and 1930s, 'flag issues continued to have far greater significance in the political life of the republic and outweighed many topics that were materially more important.'[2]

What Braun missed is that 'flag wars' were, and are, at the heart of citizens' engagement with politics. Contemporaries in Weimar Germany understood this and so too, closer to home, do the people of Northern Ireland. History does not repeat itself, but the processes of public debate, political communication and emotional mobilisation around flags do.



Flag Wars

1. Flags come with historical & political connotations: re-claiming is difficult

Flags are not made for nuance. They manifest the symbolic power of a political regime and can serve to communicate inclusion and exclusion.

Regime changes often mean new flags. The winter of 1918/19 saw a brief period of openness in Germany when, after the revolution and collapse of the monarchy, the country's political symbols had to be re-thought. Left-wing artist Käthe Kollwitz placed the curious combination of an Imperial black-white-red flag together with red bunting and a green wreath in the window of her Berlin flat to greet returning soldiers. Politically, Kollwitz's combination of symbols made no sense but it expressed her emotional state of mind. In the aftermath of the armistice Imperial flags quickly turned into the symbol of those fighting against democracy, while red flags returned to being the partisan symbol of the political left.

Half a year later, in July 1919, the new National Assembly agreed on black-red-gold as national colours. This decision was a compromise among Weimar's republican parties. Black-red-gold represented a clear break with the monarchy, did not stand for a single party, and linked the young republic to 1848. However, black-white-red was kept in several specific flags, for instance for the merchant navy and the Reichswehr.

2. Raising flags is never neutral: the political context always matters

The early years of the Weimar Republic demonstrated that some supporters of black-white-red had more in mind than the glories of the past. That the assassinations of the democratic politicians Matthias Erzberger and Walther Rathenau – along with other acts of political violence – were carried out under the black-white-red banner showed the intent of those on the nationalist right.

These attacks triggered a reaction on the republican side too. By the mid-1920s, the black-red-gold colours stood for the defence of the Weimar Republic.

Election campaigns were fought in these two camps, mobilising for or against the republic, behind these respective colour combinations. The republican flag was now loaded with meaning: it linked 1848 to Weimar democracy, centred on defending the present republic and remembrance of republican sacrifices. In 1926 attempts were made to introduce a new, more unifying, design for the national flag, with examples including a combination of the republican colours with the Iron Cross.

It was, however, too late. Both the flags had become symbols that stood for the existential division of the Weimar Republic: for or against democracy.

3. Flag conflicts are about emotions, agency and identity

By the mid-1920s, flag conflicts had moved from debates in parliament to village greens, market squares and balconies.

Republican parties and organisations mobilised around the black-red-gold colours and called upon the local population to display them on important occasions. Supporters of black-white-red did the same and questioned the legitimacy of republican flags on city halls, school buildings or at war memorials.

Each side counted flags, as proof of local commitment, and claimed that their opponents were exaggerating their own numbers. For the republicans the black-red-gold flag, even when it was only in someone's garden, was the key symbol to rally around for defending democracy. This explains the intensity of flag conflicts at local level. Anti-republicans engaged equally actively by stealing or destroying republican flags.

The court files on these conflicts provide insight into local circumstances. One 'Josef S.' claimed that he had nothing against the republican flag of his neighbour but took it down because it disturbed his pigeons. Another person was accused of cutting up a black-red-gold flag and sewing it together as a swastika. Pupils attended school celebrations of the republic's democratic constitution dressed in black-white-red to show their, and their parents, disapproval.



Flag Wars

4. 'Flag wars' need a spark: newspaper coverage, citizens' actions and politics

The summers of 1927 and 1928 witnessed a 'flag war on the beaches' during which republicans escalated small-scale incidents to the highest political level.

Holiday makers decorated their sandcastles, wicker chairs or beach huts with flags—a then common practice at German seaside resorts. However, republicans informed the press and police that their black-red-gold flags were frequently stolen or vandalised.

A visitor on the island of Sylt asked the local mayor for help as his flags had gone missing, including 'the big black-red-gold flag and the 10 small ones dotted around the sandcastle as well as the two republican flags fixed to the wicker chair.'

Accounts of the latest flag incidents became a regular feature in the press. In response, the republican minister Albert Grzesinski deployed more police to show that the republic protected its colours everywhere, even on beaches. Not everyone was impressed by this reaction. The national conservative paper *Deutsche Tages Zeitung* claimed that Germany's criminals would celebrate as the police focused on arresting anyone who stumbled over a republican heap of sand.[3]

5. 'Flag wars' are not inherent to one specific political conviction

The 'flag wars' of the 1920s engaged supporters of the Weimar Republic and their enemies to an equal degree.

Towards the republic's end, conflicts between the political extremes, the Communists and the National Socialists, heightened the existing battles over flags, public space and political power. When the Nazis took office in 1933, they quickly banned the republican colours and phased out Imperial flags.

A combination of swastika and Imperial flags was initially tolerated to keep the national conservatives on side and to stress the Nazis' connections to Germany's Imperial past. As in the 1920s, the display of flags was seen as an expression of popular support. In the city of Stuttgart, in June 1933, a local Nazi leader complained that Imperial flags greatly outnumbered Nazi flags in the streets. He suggested denouncing businesses and house owners who refused to show the swastika.[4]

To display the Imperial colours was clearly no longer a sufficient demonstration of loyalty. In 1937 all remaining flags except Nazi ones were forbidden. However, true supporters of the Third Reich knew well before this which banner they should raise.

[1] See Nadine Rossol, 'Flaggenkrieg am Badestrand. Lokale Möglichkeiten repräsentativer Mitgestaltung in der Weimarer Republik', in *Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft*, 7/8, 2008, pp. 619-625.

[2] *Berliner Tageblatt*, 351, 29/07/1933: Die Hakenkreuzflagge in Stuttgart.

[3] *Berliner Börsen Zeitung*, 32 (17 July 1929): Auf Befehl des Landrates: Mobilmachung des Reichsbanners.

[4] Otto Braun, *Von Weimar zu Hitler* (Hamburg, 1949) p. 97.

Flag Wars - Postscript



This postcard for the 5th Deutsches Turnfest, Stuttgart (22nd-30th July, 1933) depicts four flags. Firstly, a monogrammed 'DT', red on white, the flag of the Deutsches Turnfest, secondly, the flag of the Free People's State of Württemberg, thereby followed by the national flag of Germany and the flag of the Nazi Party (NSDAP).

The Turnfest organisation flag is there to represent the event, and with Stuttgart being the capital of Württemberg, the black-red state flag is appropriate.

It is to be noted that the national flag of Germany remained what had been the flag of the German Empire (aka the Imperial Flag or Empire Flag). After Hitler became chancellor in January 1933, the red-black-gold tricolour flag of the Weimar Republic was banned, with the old Empire Flag being reinstated on the 12th March 1933.

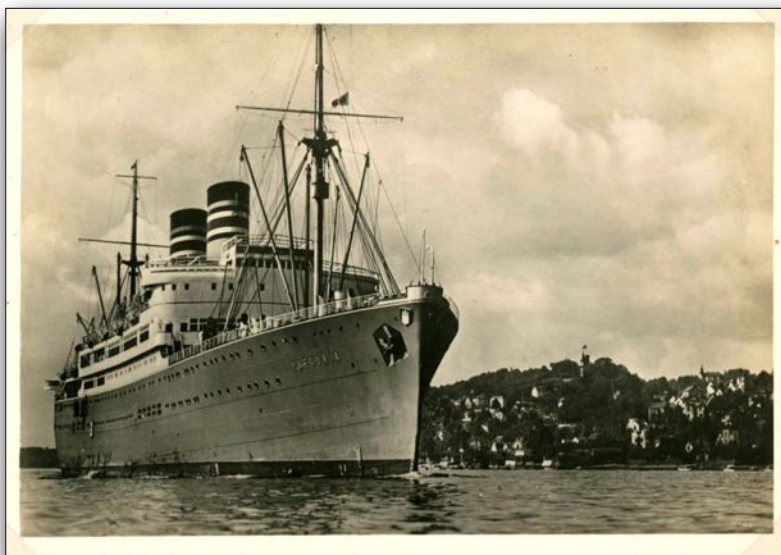
It wasn't until the 15th September 1935, one year after the death of Reich President Paul von Hindenburg, that the political symbol of the Nazi Party became the flag of Nazi Germany, officially called the Reich and National Flag.



Cruise Ships of the Third Reich

Turbine ship 'Pretoria'

By Keith Lillywhite



The Turbine ship *Pretoria* was built for The German East Africa Line in 1936 for their Hamburg - West and South Africa Service.



In April 1940 the whole German U-boat training establishment was transferred to Pillau with the 1st Unterseeboots-Lehrdivision being set up in June 1940 to provide basic training for U-boat crews. To service this division the Kriegsmarine requisitioned the *Pretoria* as an accommodation ship (far left) until February 1945 when she was converted to a Lazarettsschiff (hospital ship).

The Feldpost postcard (left), sent by Oberfähnrich (Ing) Zink who was serving with the 1st ULD, bears a Pillau postmark dated 22nd September 1941 and the Briefstempel of the 1st Unterseeboots-Lehrdivision.



It was in early 1945 that the *Pretoria* evacuated German refugees from the Eastern territories, making eight voyages and saving 35,000 lives. The picture above depicts the *Pretoria* in its final Lazarettsschiff livery, and during the spring of 1945, moored in Hamburg (left) during which time the ship was requisitioned by the British for fitting-out as a troop ship.



Turbine ship 'Pretoria'



In May 1945 on the fall of the Third Reich the *Pretoria* was seized by the British and converted to a troopship, renamed *Empire Doon* and operated under this name till 1948 when she was extensively re-fitted and renamed *Empire Orwell* (left).

Empire Orwell departed on her maiden voyage as a troopship on 17th January 1950 bound for Tobruk, Libya and Port Said, Egypt. She served as a troopship in the 1956 Suez Crisis, landing troops in Cyprus and evacuating troops from the Suez Canal Zone.

The paquebot postcard (left) dated 7th November 1953 was sent by a serviceman on board *Empire Orwell* to a loved one advising her of his departure and telling her that he will write again from Port Said.

In 1958 she was chartered to the Islamic Steamship Company for Pilgrim Services and was renamed *Gunung Djati*. She went on to complete her 50 years service with other owners in the East before being scrapped in 1987 in Taiwan.



Heinz Hintze. Deutsche Kreuz in Gold

By Keith Lillywhite



The catalyst for this article was the small black & white photograph (above) which I'd had in my Kriegsmarine collection for many a year. It was advertised, if I remember correctly, as a photo of submariner personnel at an Italian base but unfortunately there was nothing on the back of the photograph to confirm this. Looking at the seamen in the photograph the majority were wearing what looks to be Kriegsmarine tropical uniforms; however, to the right of the picture there are a number of officers wearing what maybe Italian design headgear. So this, and wearing of tropical uniforms, would suggest the base location of either La Spezia or Pola/Pula, which were the Italian bases used by the 29th U-Boot Flottille in WWII.

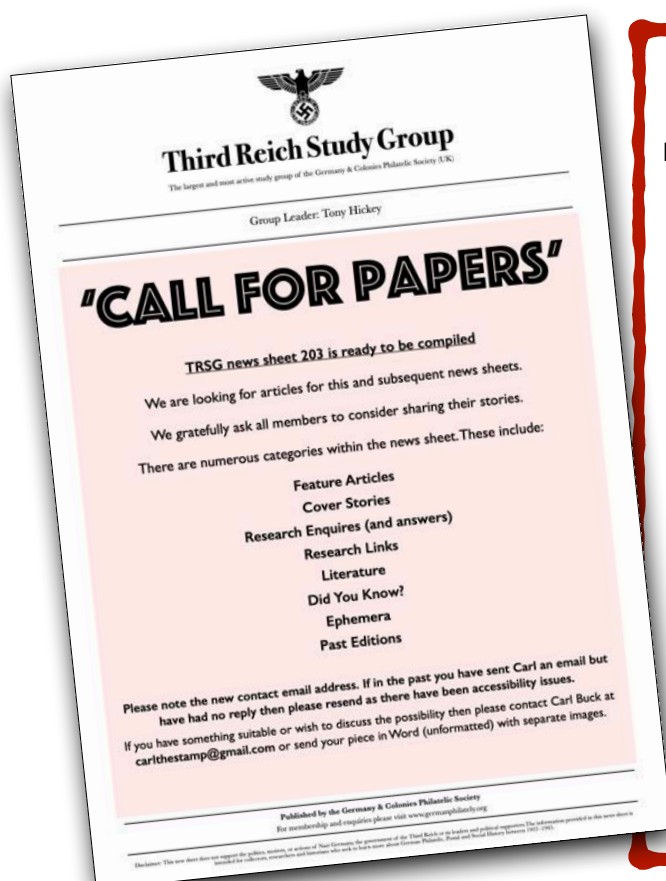


Heinz Hintze. Deutsche Kreuz in Gold



This reminded me of an interesting cover (above) in my collection sent by a Kriegsmarine Torpedomaat to his wife informing her of being decorated with the Deutsche Kreuz in Gold, complete with photograph. Heinz Hintze was an Obermechanikermat (torpedo mechanic) who had served on U-Boot 431 (above right) which was part of the 29th U-Boot Flottille. At the time of writing on 10th July 1943 he was serving at the Pola Naval Base (it is thought in an advisory or training capacity with the return Feldpost address of M 32537). U-431 was sunk while on patrol by a Leigh Light Wellington of 179 Squadron RAF on the 21st October 1943 with no survivors; the move to a land based establishment saving his life. Heinz Hintze went on to survive the war and died 7th November 1992.

The Deutsches Kreuz in Gold (shown on the title page) was a prestigious German military decoration introduced in September 1941. It sat in rank between the Iron Cross 1st Class and the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross, awarded for repeated acts of bravery or exceptional combat leadership. Approximately 26,000 Gold Crosses were awarded during World War II.



The next news sheet will be prepared for December.

If you have an article you think appropriate then please contact Carl to discuss its inclusion.

When you look back on past issues of the news sheet you'll find all types of articles have been produced. Most of these are philatelic in nature (as one would expect); however, others have been contextual, adding a framework to the collections we have. You decide.

The news sheet is usually 30 +/- pages and this makes it perfect for sending via email. Ideally articles need to be a two pages (including images); however, longer presentations are most appreciated and if needs be spread over a number of issues.

Thank you for your participation!

Carl Buck, editor

Contact: carlthestamp@gmail.com



War Correspondence (Part 1)

By Radu Dănilă

In the December 2019 issue (no. 217) of the respected monthly magazine *Timbres magazine*, German philatelists Hans-Otto Streuber and Hubert Weber published an interesting article entitled ‘Une introduction à la ‘Social philately’ (An Introduction to Social Philately)’, presenting enthusiasts with a new concept for analysing philatelic items of an apparent modest value, yet carrying information relating to the life journeys of individuals. Here is how the authors define this concept: ‘*For several years now, a new manner of collecting, called ‘Social Philately’, has been developing worldwide. In traditional philately, the study of correspondence focuses primarily on both its philatelic aspect and postal history. Social philately concerns itself equally with the history hidden behind letters, postal stationery, and postmarks. It studies the relationships between sender and addressee. It describes and analyses the human, cultural, political, economic and social environment.*’ [1]. They exemplify this new method of collecting and analysing correspondence through a study of Friedrich Schüller (1791-1873), a German democratic activist exiled to Metz (today in France) on two occasions.

Starting from this rather new and very interesting concept, through this article I will try to open a window onto episodes from the lives of people unknown to me, whose correspondence reached me through the natural ways of philatelic acquisitions. At the same time, I am trying a small experiment of social philately, through a brief investigation on particular information related to some episodes of a family’s correspondence. May this attempt provide a starting point for those who discover other pieces of correspondence of the Locker family from the town of Ried im Innkreis (Austria) or – more likely – stimulate the appetite for social philatelic research amongst of the readers of this news sheet who possess such episodes of correspondence and want to know more about those involved.

Much has been written about soldiers’ wartime correspondence. Many stories have been brought to light, after being hidden for decades, suddenly appearing out of nowhere, from an old man’s bag who sold his collections or from the untouched attic of a house having passed from one owner to another. From such an unsuspected source also appeared the 22 military postcards that I found in the early ‘90s at a philatelic collector in Iași, Romania and that were sent to his mother by a young soldier of the army of the Third Reich, between 3rd August 1941 and 29th March 1943.

In my early collecting years, the acquisition of such postcards did not necessarily bring me great satisfaction: not being a German language speaker, I could not easily decipher the handwriting and – consequently – I couldn’t ascertain the extent to which the stories told by those who wrote them were interesting, spectacular or merely humdrum. But being driven by my passion for German postal history, I told myself that I would one day find time and patience to analyse and decipher them. Over time, speaking about this set with an Austrian philatelic friend, Mr Peter Terzer, former German language lecturer at ‘Al. I. Cuza’ University of Iași, Romania, I was to enjoy philatelic enthusiasm when Peter agreed to make the effort to translate them. I then discovered fragments of life, hidden suffering emerging from few words, a brief and unfulfilled love story, as well as many nuances of a harsh and dangerous life at the front.

The postcards were sent by Corporal (Obergefreiter) Erich Locker, with military correspondence identification number 11316, to his mother, Anna Locker, who lived in Austria, in the small town of Ried im Innkreis (from the former Oberdonau region, the current Austrian state of Oberösterreich), at 13 Kapuzinerberg Street.



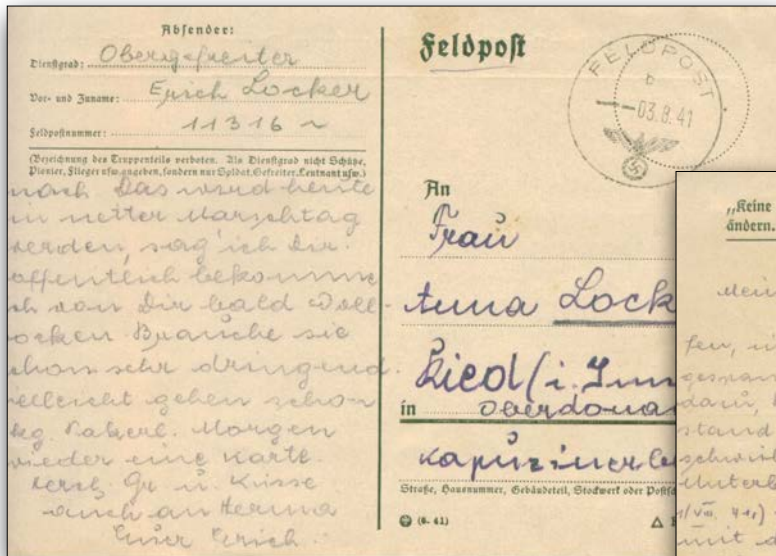
My curiosity and – especially – the almost unlimited possibilities offered by technology and internet communication took me (via Google Maps) to the address [2], where I was able to locate the house and even obtain a current image of it: a building with ground floor and two upper floors, with sober architecture, without decorations, but solid and secure. Ried im Innkreis currently has two distinct postal codes: 4910 and 4941 [3]. Today, in the locality’s telephone directory [5] there are three people with the surname Löcker, none of which live at the address 13 Kapuzinerberg Street.

Location of the house at no.13 on Google Maps.

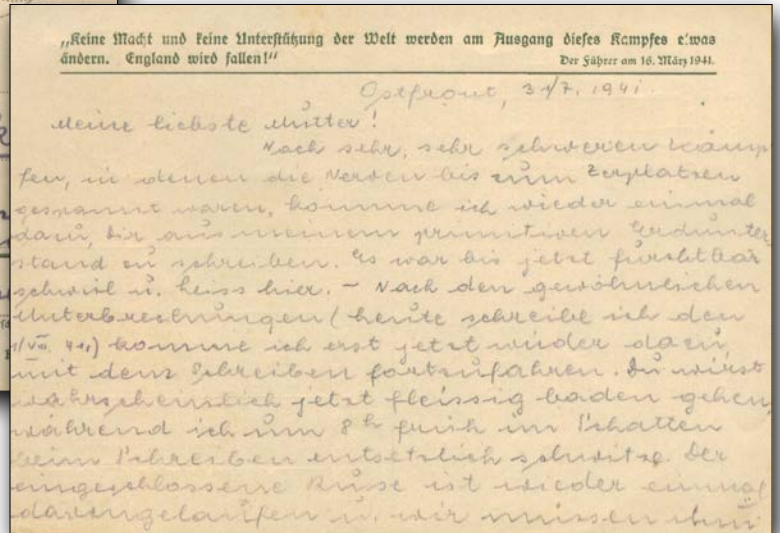


War Correspondence (Part 1)

On the Russian front...



The first of the 22 postcards (front and reverse).



PC 01 - Eastern Front, 31st July 1941 (Feldpost postmark 3rd August 1941).

Dear mother, after heavy fighting, with nerves stretched (almost) to breaking point, I finally manage to write to you from a primitive earth bunker. It has been terribly hot and stifling until now..., you're probably going swimming whilst I at 8 in the morning, in the shade, sweat terribly just when writing. The encircled Russians have, as usual, taken flight and we must ... [pursue them].

Today will be a remarkable marching day, I tell you. I hope to receive woollen socks from you soon; I greatly need them. Perhaps parcels of.. kg are already going. Tomorrow I will write a new [post] card. From the heart greetings and kisses for Herma too. Yours, Erich.

As you will readily observe, the style is – most often – laconic, almost coded, understandable given the rigours of military correspondence and the precise instructions respected by both senders and military censors. At other times, the handwriting was difficult to decipher (even for a native German speaker, such as Peter Terzer), hence some incomplete or incompletely deciphered phrases in the English translation. But these gaps merit overlooking when you manage to decipher at least in part the experiences through which a man in the front-line passes, on the Russian front of WWII.

PC 02 - Eastern Front, 5th October 1941 (Feldpost postmark 8th October 1941).

To begin with, personally, nothing! Then: for 3 weeks we advance more slowly, at most 5-10 km per day. The Russians have become stronger. 5-6 days ago, we spent 4 days in a concrete cellar under Russian artillery fire. Only in the evening did we receive food, so we were hungry all day... Three days ago, we were replaced, now we have peace. Only Russian airplanes attack us. It's wrong to think that the Russians have no more aviation. They have few, but make themselves noticed, 4 at a time! I presume the Russians will be encircled in 3 barracks from which they no longer escape. I have hope that I will come [on visit, front leave] soon. How much money do I still have in the account, perhaps around 1,500 RM?

PC 03 - Eastern Front, 5th October 1941 (Feldpost postmark 17th October 1941).

Received replacements, very young lads from Heidelberg, they'll have full trousers when they're in [combat] mission. Can you obtain chocolate from Rese? If not, make it with nuts, I like it better... I hope to receive post from you, I'm diligent at writing, but I do it with pleasure... Greetings and kisses.



 War Correspondence (Part 1)

PC 04 - Eastern Front, **11th November 1941** (Feldpost postmark 17th November 1941)

Another accursed day has passed, the mission approaches. Did yesterday's postcard shock you, that I can no longer come? I hope you won't give up sending me a parcel, thinking I'm coming home. It would be a catastrophe, especially since heavier parcels are now permitted. I have comrades who... I regret that I cannot spend Christmas with you, but I'm not quite small anymore, am I? Greetings and kisses.

PC 05 - Eastern Front, **21st November 1941** (Feldpost postmark 22nd November 1941)

Dear mother, imagine that yesterday I received another 1 kg parcel, not from you but from Trudl: apples, biscuits, etc. Under no circumstances can I come home earlier than half a year...

PC 06 - Eastern Front, **23rd November 1941** (Feldpost postmark 26th November 1941)

We are in a great march, we don't know where and in what direction. I don't receive parcels from you. Comrades receive them. Perhaps you think I'm coming home, but before July-August 1942 no hope. You can send parcels without worry!... but I don't know if I accuse you unjustly, it could be that the parcel didn't come through the post's fault...

PC 07 - Somewhere in the East, **13th January 1942** (Feldpost postmark 17th January 1942)

Nothing special today. At the beginning of January (I heard!) we must hand over the skis and boots, and until others come it becomes mid-February. But I come home and it's mud, I can't wear good shoes. (If) you can obtain condensed milk, I receive it with pleasure. Today, again -12°C.

PC 08 - Eastern Front, **29th January 1942** (Feldpost postmark 17th February 1942)

Don't praise the day before evening. I wrote to you that it's peaceful. But yesterday at 8 in the evening we had shooting [and] contact with the enemy. No sleep, because sentries were doubled. I hope it won't repeat every night. Only in a month and a half will it be... [?] Perhaps the change will come in spring 1942, it would be too beautiful... What's new in Ried? Nothing has come from Trudl yet

PC 09 - Eastern Front, **31st January 1942** (Feldpost postmark 17th February 1942)

Morning, 6 o'clock, we hurry, we must recapture from the Russians the locality at 9 km. There will be slush and snow. We can capture something. 2 days ago, many marvellous horses fell into our hands. I would have been tempted to take one, but with feeding it's too complicated. I hope you receive all my postcards. Unfortunately, with the Russians there is no condensed milk or biscuits [keks]. In half an hour it becomes 9 o'clock and we start the march further.

PC 10 - Eastern Front, **4th February 1942** (Feldpost postmark 17th February 1942)

From today we are armoured troops. Another 15 km march and we reach the destination. After reorganisation it's doubtful we'll be replaced, that's fate, perhaps we must do the whole campaign in Russia. Important is that we escape unscathed. Did she write to you? When? On 11 February I will probably send 100 RM. Has my watch already come? How's my machine going? Have you seen Mila? Greet her! I hope the Russians haven't captured our post...

PC 11 - Eastern Front, **25th February 1942** (Feldpost postmark 27th February 1942)

Nothing! – Thanks for letters and parcels (with saccharin). The cigarettes he gave to others. Repair your teeth, regardless of cost, you can withdraw money from my account. If your finger still hurts you mustn't write much... Important is that you become healthy, I hope Herma's neuralgia goes better. Let her go to Dr Altherm, who is competent. Today I send 130 RM.

PC 12 - Eastern Front, **27th February 1942** (Feldpost postmark 1st March 1942)

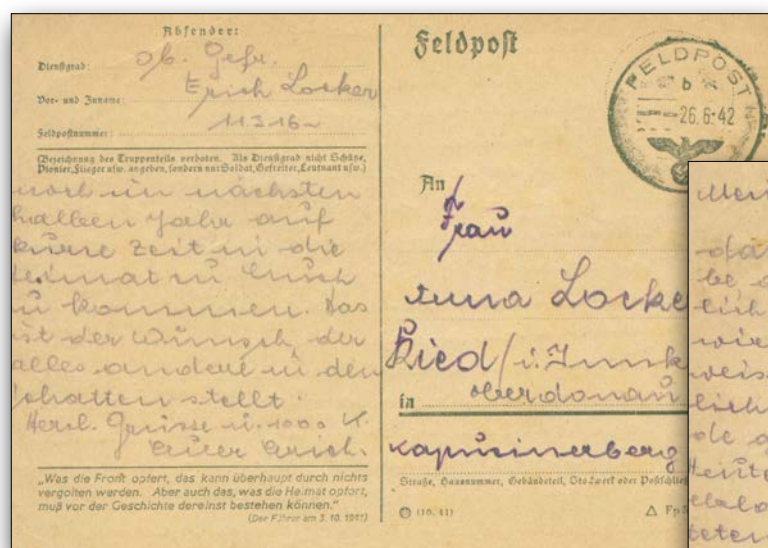
We are in the same locality. Probably until we receive reinforcements we will attack. We, who fought the enemy all winter, it would be right to be replaced by troops who had peace. But it's not known, but we all hope for the same thing. Many must be recruited anew...

PC 13 - Eastern Front, **24th June 1942** (Feldpost postmark 26th June 1942)

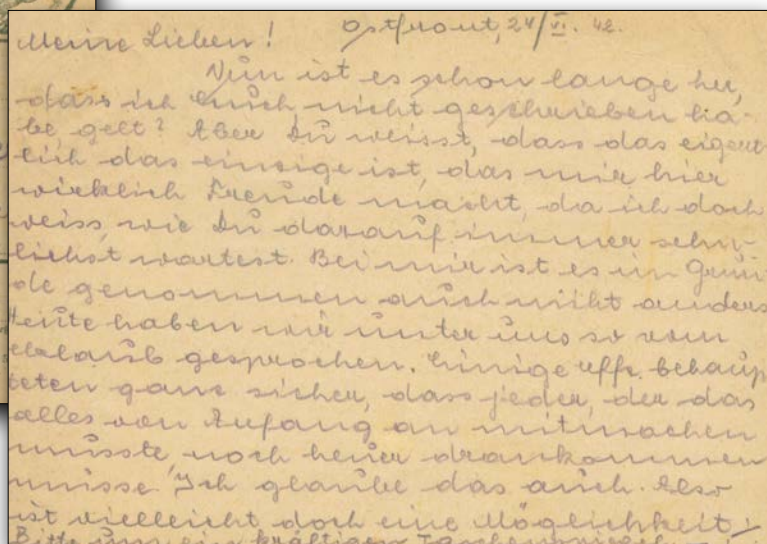
For long I haven't written to you. You know that's the only thing that gives me pleasure, because I know with what impatience you wait. For me it's the same. Today we discussed amongst ourselves about leave. Some officers say that those who participated from the beginning will receive permission in the next half year, (that is) I can come for a short time to the homeland, to you. It's a desire that puts all others in the shade. I need a pocket mirror.



War Correspondence (Part 1)



Feldpost card with 'Ostland' correspondence dated 24th June



The correspondence presented up to this point was dispatched from the Russian front. In the next issue of the bulletin, you will learn about the following two episodes from the soldier life of Erich Locker, as they were related in the other 9 postcards (of 22).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. *Timbres magazine*, no. 217, December 2019, pages 64-67;
2. <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Kapuzinerberg+13,+4910+Ried+im+Innkreis,+Austria/@48.2116228,13.4909003,3a,75y,357.32h,90t/data=!3m6!1e1!3m4!1s1vVvWNLiEWcilcNQP9hPA!2e0!7i13312!8i6656!4m13!1m7!3m6!1s0x4774148c8c4cb7b1:0xe52df6e83bfa3cb9!2sKapuzinerberg+13,+4910+Ried+im+Innkreis,+Austria!3b1!8m2!3d48.2118124!4d13.4909806!3m4!1s0x4774148c8c4cb7b1:0xe52df6e83bfa3cb9!8m2!3d48.2118124!4d13.4909806>;
3. <https://www.ecoduri.com/austria/coduri-postale/1168/ried-im-innkreis.php>;
4. <https://www.delcampe.net/de/ansichtskarten/europa/osterreich/oberosterreich/ried-im-innkreis>;
5. https://www.dasschnelle.at/ergebnisse?what=L%C3%B6cker&where=Ried+im+Innkreis&distance=0&search_button=Suchen

The Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society

Invites new members to enjoy the benefits of the UK's largest German stamp and postal history society. Share your love of history or start a new collection by joining us for Regional Group Meetings, Auctions, Packet Exchange, and receive a Quarterly Journal packed with expert articles, or even join a specialist Study Group. Contact us via our website for a free sample copy of our journal 'Germania'.

Find out more at: www.germanphilately.org





Two sides of the coin!

By Philip Townshend

Thank you Philip for this informative article which introduces a pair of covers that appear similar but differ substantially...

While the first cover seem bears a cut-out from an SS-strip used by the Berlin civilian- and POW-mail censor, the second has a civilian Berlin strip used by the SS censor. Why is debatable: my best guess is that in both cases the relevant office ran out of their normal strip and used whatever else they could lay their hands on. Many instances are recorded of one ABP using another's strip in those circumstances, e.g. 'b' hand-stamps on 'y' strip, or even 'f' hand-stamps on 'Feldpoststelle' strip.

In the first case here I note that the sender, Hans Moser, has a Jewish surname and was interned in Camp 42 housing refugees and enemy merchant shipmen, notorious for fights between pro- and anti-Nazi inmates – though whether that has any relevance here I don't know. This use is scored scarcity 'F' by Landsmann (BV6.5, p.56) and I note that he too illustrates a square cut-out of the strip featuring only the circular Nazi emblem; the use of SS hand-stamps on ABP strip is valued at a paltry 50 euros in the Michel Feldpost-Handbuch (p. 129).





Research Enquiries

A 1944 unrecorded Munich 'sorter' mark?

Following a recent purchase Philip Townshend has discovered an unusual censor mark. Philip has written to the TRSG asking fellow members to assist with his research of this mark. He states, 'The sender's address was the 'D.K.K.' (*Deutsches Krieger-Kurhaus* = German veterans' spa-hostel) in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos-Platz which housed a notorious fanatical Nazi group during WWII (see my article in *Germania* vol. 60/2).



The letter was addressed to a married couple at the *Auslandsdeutsches Schülerheim* (hostel for schoolchildren of diaspora Germans) at Schloß Kißlegg in the Allgäu area bordering on Austria. I gather from an online entry <https://picryl.com/media/gastebuch-kisslegg-1943-1944-02-f27e2a> that this was run at this time by the Stuttgart Hitler Jugend as an *Umsiedlungsheim* (resettlement hostel). It's not clear to me whether the addressees were inmates or staff.

The cover's censor markings are also interesting: the blue/violet 'sorter' or 'admin' marks '34' and '90' at bottom right are run-of-the-mill, but the red 5mm 'Ö' (with the *Umlaut* inside the 'O') is unrecorded – though it somewhat resembles Landsmann's 10mm DK3.9, said to be a special mark for diplomatic mail. It looks to have been struck in the same shade of red as the boxed '3209' censor at bottom centre whereas unusually the senior censor mark '5636' is struck differently, in violet. The bright-green number probably refers to an entry in some archive: possibly the source and destination of this letter gave rise to special censor interest in its contents. Finally there is the violet boxed '5600' on the back, suggestive of final checking by a section head.

I would be grateful to any reader who can provide scans of other covers with the strange red 'Ö.'

Does anyone have a similar hand-stamp in their collection? **Enq. 7/2026**

As stated, Philip's article 'The Deutsches Krieger-Kurhaus (German war veterans' clinic) in Davos-Dorf, Switzerland' appears in volume 60, number 2 of *Germania* (May 2024), the journal of the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society. With over 70 pages of articles, news and full colour illustrations, it's always an interesting read.





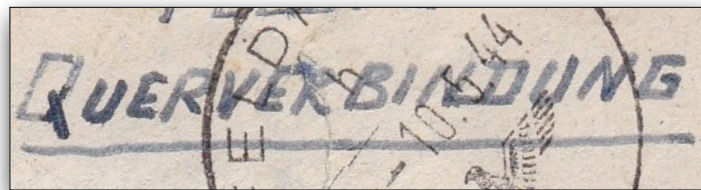
POW 'beschlagnahm't' mail

Philip Townshend has contacted the group with the following enquiry regarding 'beschlagnahm't' (confiscated) POW mail...

'I wonder if any reader can throw light on the red hand-stamp on this cover? I've checked Landsmann's Munich section (which would have been the relevant ABP for Italian mail) but no luck, so I conclude it may have been struck on arrival at the POW camp – but why would any such mail (from a bank) be confiscated? Does anyone else have examples or an explanation?' **Enq. 8/2026**



'Querverbindung'



Philip Townshend enquires, 'What is the significance of 'Querverbindung' in the WW2 Feldpost context? I can't find anything useful online. 'Quer' normally means 'diagonally' or 'crosswise', e.g. 'quer über die Strasse' on the opposite side of the road. This cover is from an Italian soldier in the German army writing home to his family in Milan - what's 'quer' about that? But it's not the first time I've come across this use.'

Enq. 9/2026



'Swastika' stamp arrangements

Alan Mann writes to the group with the following enquiry:

'A friend of mine who visited a postcard fair in Texas came across the attached item. I wonder if any of our members could give some information on it. Was it quite common for supporters of the National Socialists to place stamps on covers creating Swastikas? I have seen labels and other insignia but was unsure if any postal service would accept the use of stamps in such a way unless they went internal? I also found it strange that the cover was sent by 'airmail' when Nuremberg and Schwabmünchen are not that far away from one another. Any comments and observations would be gratefully appreciated.' **Enq. 10/2026**



Well this certainly wasn't a 'one-off'... as I too have a similar one in my collection. This example, with Anschluss propaganda, has also been sent airmail, with a Vienna 'flugpost' cancel dated 13th May 1938 at 8 am, arriving Kaufbeuren on the same day with time cancel 14.15 pm (to the reverse). Not bad at all! Are there more out there? (Ed.)



Crash Mail?

In an interesting piece of correspondence Mick James writes:

'I attach a couple of jpegs showing a cover that I've had for some time and just got around to looking at. It also includes an AI generated answer to the question 'how would a letter posted in Ebersbach on 22nd April 1937 have travelled to the USA?' I wondered if this was of interest for your newsletter as it implies that there was a postal delay which would put this as a possible cover to be carried on the fateful flight of the Hindenburg. Given the obvious fire damage, could this be one of the 160 or so covers retrieved from the wreck? I would be interesting to know what your readers think.' **Enq. 11/2026**

Indeed Mick, and here is the answer from AI... can one of the readership inform us on what to trust and what is just 'fake news'!

A letter posted in Ebersbach on 22nd April 1937, would have travelled via an overnight mail train to Frankfurt, where it was loaded onto the LZ 129 Hindenburg airship. The Zeppelin carried the mail across the Atlantic, arriving in Lakehurst, New Jersey, 2.5 to 3 days later, before final railway transit across the United States. The exact routing of this specific transatlantic mail followed a precise sequence:

- Local Dispatch: Hand-sorted and postmarked at the local Postamt (Post Office) in Ebersbach, Germany.
- Rail Transit: Transported securely via regional mail car (the Bahnpost) to the main sorting facility in Frankfurt.
- Transatlantic Air Crossing: The letter was flown across the Atlantic Ocean via the LZ 129 Hindenburg airship on its First North America Flight of the 1937 season.
- Arrival & US Distribution: The airship touched down at Naval Air Station Lakehurst in New Jersey. From there, the mail was transferred to US Mail trucks and trains for distribution to its final American destination. This specific mail flight departed Frankfurt on 3rd May 1937. Because of the 10-to-14-day backlog in mail processing, loading, and transit between 22nd April and early May, your letter would have arrived in New Jersey on 6th May 1937, making it one of the final pieces of mail carried by the Hindenburg before its tragic destruction at Lakehurst later that same day.





Reply - KLV Lager - Netherlands

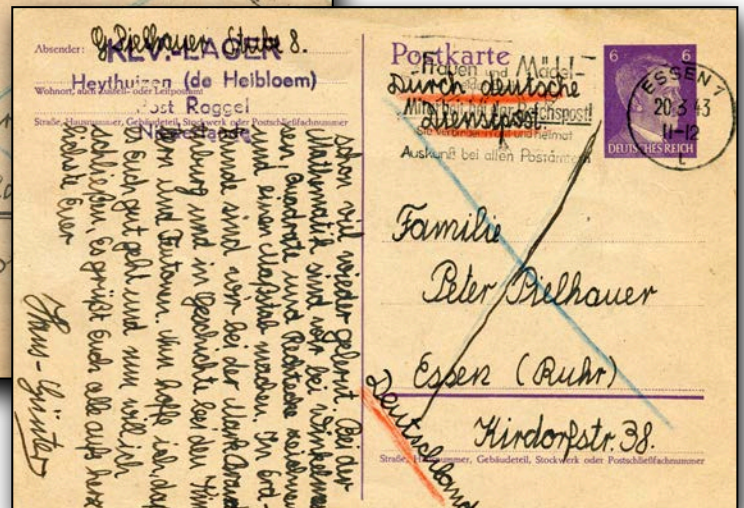
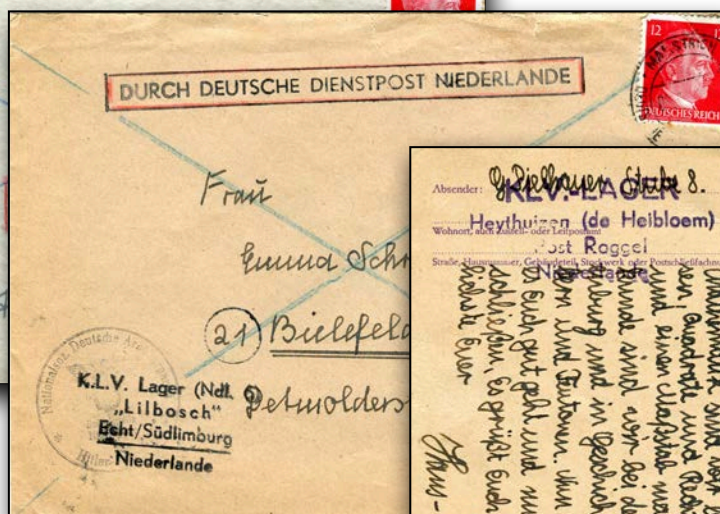
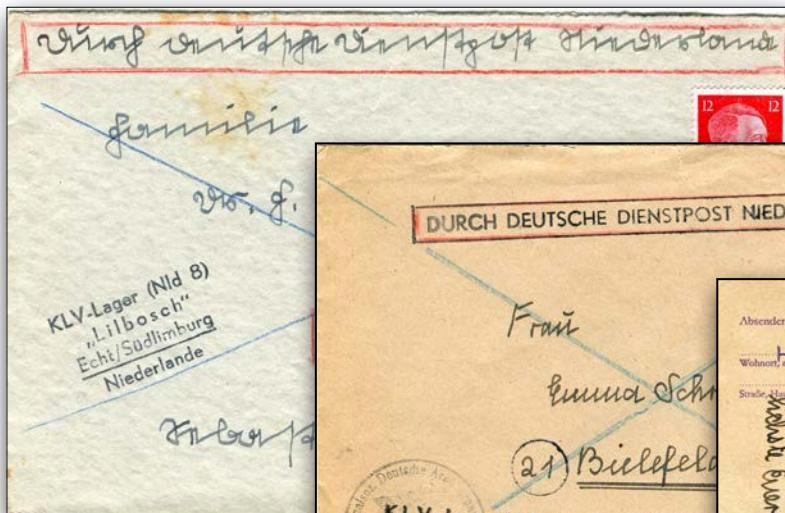


Thank you to Rex Dixon who has replied to **Enq. 3/2026** (NS 201) regarding the KLV lagers in the Netherlands.

Rex states, 'I have a book by Erich Maylahn, *Auflistung der KLV-Lager: Dokumente und Berichte zur Erweiterten Kinderlandverschickung 1940-1945*, published in 2004 by projekt verlag, Bochum/Freiburg. It contains a list of all the camps they were aware of, arranged alphabetically by the name of the place in which the camp lay. The arrangement means that I can't easily find those camps that are in the Netherlands, but I think there cannot have been more than about ten or a dozen.

The neat camp cachet you illustrate is for the one numbered 'Ndl. 7'. And this is the designation that Maylahn gives for it even though, in the list of all the regions, he has 'Nld' for the Netherlands.

I've attached two covers from the Lilbosch camp in Echt in southern Limburg. The one dated 28.1.44 has a very clear cachet for 'Nld. 8'. The other one, where it now reads 'Ndl. 6', has an unclear date in the postmark, but is dated 4.6.1944 in the letter inside. I'm convinced that this latter one is a new cachet rather than the old one modified – look, for example, at the position of the L of Lager over the i of Lilbosch, apart from the obvious insertion of full stops in 'K.L.V.'. Both are posted via the Dienstpost office in Maastricht.



The other image I've attached is from 'KLV-LAGER / Heythuizen (de Heibloem) / Post Roggel'. Again through the Dienstpost but cancelled on arrival on 20.3.43 in Essen. The writer reports that that they are about to relocate to another camp, most probably in Bohemia Moravia. He also comments on the good food in the Netherlands.

I have a couple of others from the Netherlands but with handwritten addresses rather than camp cachets. One is from camp 'Overberg' at Ubbergen near Nijmegen, posted with the Dienstpost via the 'Ortskommandantur Nimwegen' (the German name for Nijmegen) but with a regular town postmark of Nijmegen 16.10.44.

The other is from Exaten, an estate near Baexem in Limburg province. It's gone through the regular Dutch post to the writer's father at a Feldpost address, from where it has been returned 'recipient unknown'.



Reply - The last post?



Many thanks to Richard Fleet for his reply to Philip Townshend's enquiry regarding his Berlin cover dated 24th April 1945. **Enq. 6/2026 (NS201).**

Richard states, 'Several years ago I also came across a similar item with the SA and SS stamps on cover dated 23.4.45 Berlin-Charlottenburg 2 and wanted to know if it was authentic. The person I contacted was Wolfgang Strobel who I understand is an authority on the subject.

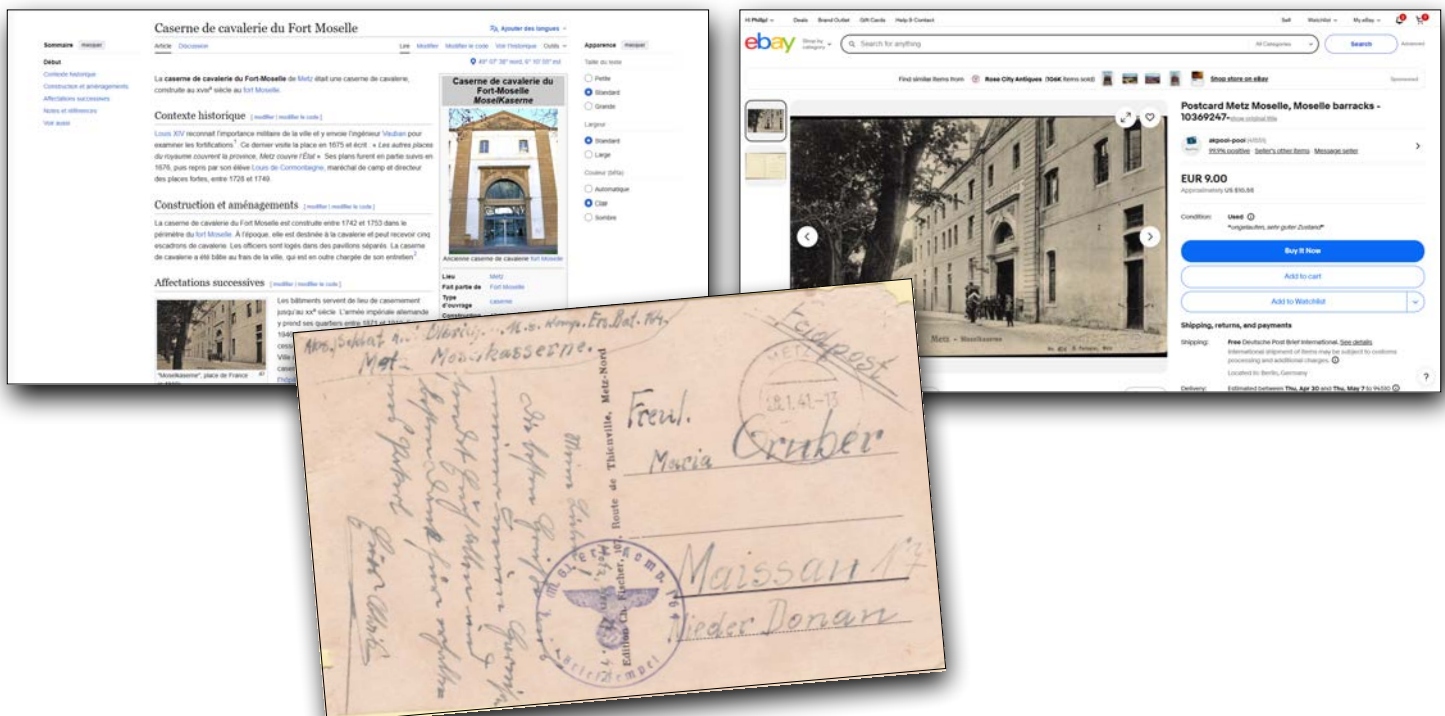
Wolfgang's reply was such: 'This letter is a fake, produced years after 1945, as all other SA SS letters known to me (some 800).'

It was already registered in my files, as offered in a German auction in 2002, along with the written opinion of an expert as not authentic but cancel re-dated. I expected it to be a fake, but what really shocked me was the 'some 800'.

Hans-Joachim Walch and Wolfgang Strobel have published a book entitled 'SA und SS Briefe sind Nachkriegsproduktionen' (SA & SS covers are Post-War Productions) and is a comprehensive study of the SA and SS postage stamps. They believe that these stamps never saw normal postal use and that all items on the philatelic market were cancelled to order after World War II.'



Reply - Mosel Kaserne



Thank you to Philip Townshend for sending in these images from Wikipedia.fr and Ebay (UK) to help with the identification of the Mosel Kaserne addressed feldpost correspondence. **Enq. 2/2026 (NS201).**

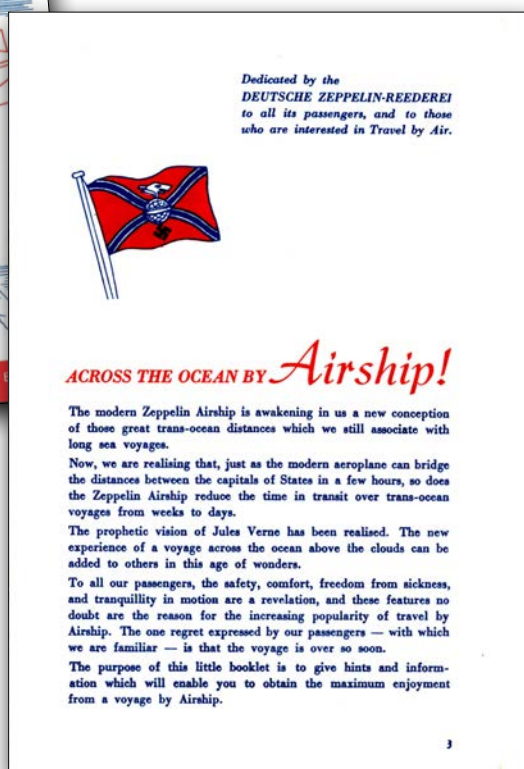
It appears that the Cavalry Barracks at Fort Moselle served as 'Moselkaserne' as captioned in the postcard for sale on Ebay and which is used to illustrate the Wikipedia page for the 'Caserne de cavalerie du Fort Moselle'.

*This illustrates how easy it can be to reply to an enquiry...
just a few screen shots can help, pointing the right direction for future research.*



Literature

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



We've had an fascinating letter from member Richard Fleet.

Richard writes, in part, 'Some years ago I was presented with a shoe box full of black mounts. Preferring the clear mounts, they have rested in my bottom drawer this past 10 years. In sorting through the box the other day I came across this pamphlet lying on the bottom of the box. It's a 1976 reprint of a brochure advertising flights on the Deutsche Zeppelin. The 16 page brochure measures 4¾ x 7in (118 x 178mm) and presents a pretty amazing picture of air travel by Zeppelin... It's interesting reading!'

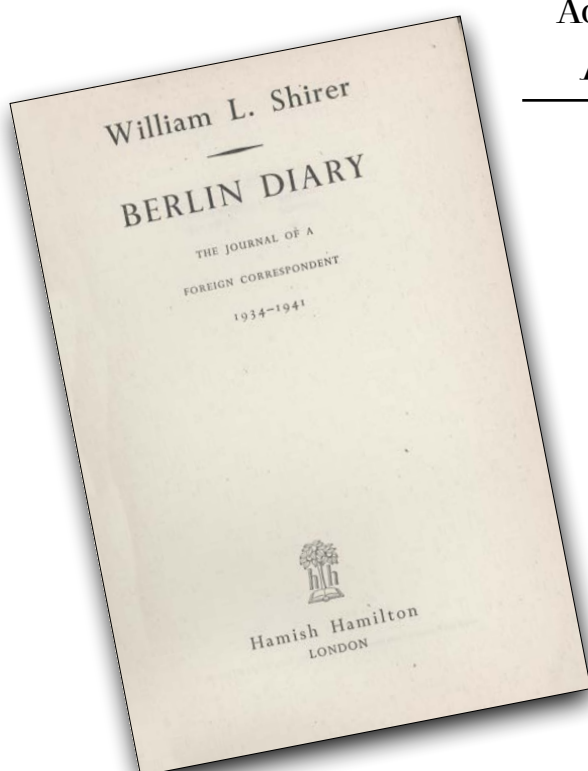
Thank you Richard! The Zeppelin brochure is available in its entirety and can be sent via email (only) by simply requesting it from carlthestamp@gmail.com



Literature

Additions to my library

By Keith Lillywhite



Some years back we inherited a small collection of books on various subjects among which were two ex-library books relating to pre-war Germany.

The first was *Berlin Diary* written by William. L. Shirer, an American foreign news correspondent who worked for CBS and other news companies, who broadcast regularly to the United States on life in Berlin and the developing political situation. Shirer also kept a diary of the daily events of the Third Reich for the period 1934-1941 after which he had to leave Germany.

On his return to America it was decided to publish his diaries as they were a first-hand account of the developing political situation in Germany at that time.



Additions to my library

FOREWORD

Most diaries, it may well be, are written with no thought of publication. They have no reader's eye in view. They are personal, intimate, confidential, a part of oneself that is better hidden from the crass outside world.

This journal makes no pretence to being of that kind. It was recorded for my own pleasure and peace of mind, to be sure, but also—to be perfectly frank—with the idea that one day most of it might be published, if any publisher cared to commit it to print. Obviously this was not because I deemed for one second that I and the life I led were of the slightest importance or even of any particular interest to the public. The only justification in my own mind was that chance, and the kind of job I had, appeared to be giving me a somewhat unusual opportunity to set down from day to day a first-hand account of a Europe that was already in agony and that, as the months and years unfolded, slipped inexorably towards the abyss of war and self-destruction.

The subject of this diary therefore is not, except incidentally, its keeper, but this Europe which he watched with increasing fascination and horror plunge madly down the road to Armageddon in the last half of the 1930's. The primary cause of the Continent's upheaval was one country, Germany, and one man, Adolf Hitler. Most of my years abroad were spent in that country in proximity to that man. It was from this vantage-point that I saw the European democracies falter and crack and, their confidence and judgment and will paralysed, retreat from one bastion to another until they could no longer, with the exception of Britain, make a stand. From within that totalitarian citadel I could observe too how Hitler, acting with a cynicism, brutality, decisiveness, and clarity of mind and purpose which the Continent had not seen since Napoleon went from victory to victory, unifying Germany, rearming it, smashing and annexing its neighbours until he had made the

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FOREWORD

Third Reich the militant master of the Continent, and most of its unhappy peoples his slaves.

I jotted down these things from day to day. Unfortunately some of my original notes were lost; others I burned rather than risk them and myself to the tender mercies of the Gestapo; a few things I dared not write down, attempting to imprint them in my memory to be recorded at a later and safer date. But the bulk of my notes and copies of all my broadcasts, before they were censored, I was able to smuggle out. Where there are lapses, I have drawn freely upon my dispatches and radio scripts. In a few cases I have been forced to reconstitute from memory the happenings of the day, conscious of the pitfalls of such a method and the demands of ruthless honesty.

And, finally, certain names of persons in Germany or with relatives in Germany have been disguised or simply indicated by a letter which has no relation to their real names. The Gestapo will find no clues.

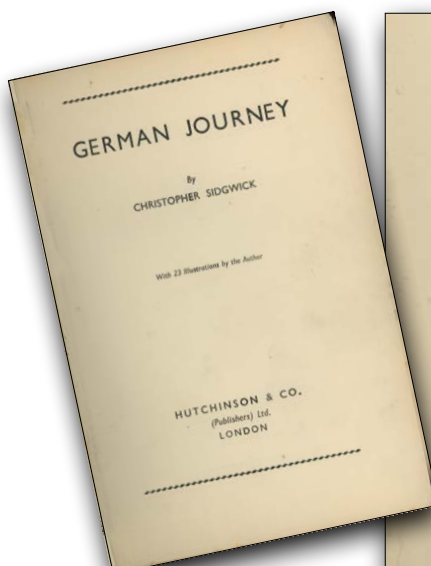
CHAPPAQUA, NEW YORK.

April 1941.

Berlin Diary was published in September 1941, it was well received and reprinted twice in September 1941 and once again in October 1941 (my copy). About two-thirds of the diary relates to the period from the outbreak of war to December 1941. On leaving Germany William Shirer flew to Barcelona and Estoril where he reported on the effects of the Spanish War on the population.

The second book was *German Journey* by Christopher Sedgwick, an interesting publication written by a young travel writer who had studied at Heidelberg University for two years. In 1935 he wanted to learn more about Germany and its people and their everyday life under the Third Reich, so he undertook a journey that took him to over twenty major cities and towns meeting old University friends and people from all walks of life.

German Journey contains a number of very good photographs taken by the author on his journey which capture the mood in Germany at that time.



AUTHOR'S NOTE

SOME six months have elapsed since the manuscript of this book was completed; and during that time there have been important events in Germany, notably the remilitarisation of the Rhineland and the decree doubling the period of compulsory military training. To a certain extent these events have caused me to alter views I held, and expressed, at the time of writing. But since this is primarily an account of a personal journey, and since fundamentally I hold the same views as I did, there has been no considerable revision of the text.

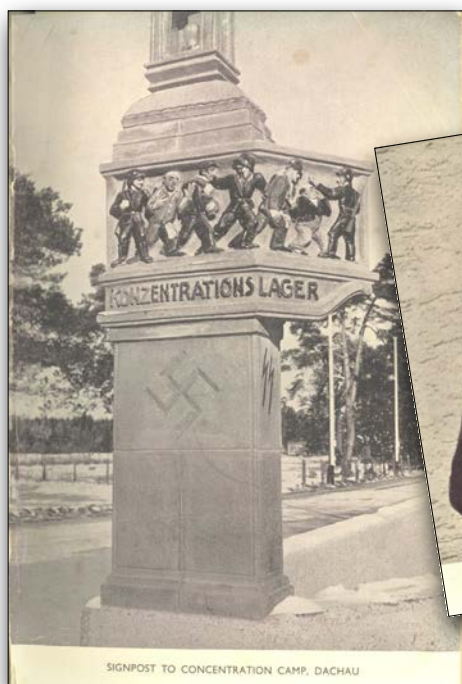
CHRISTOPHER SIDGWICK

BUDAPEST,
September 17th, 1936.



Additions to my library

Images from *German Journey*



Footnote:

This article is offered for any members looking for information on life under the Third Reich pre-war and early WWII years.

Copies of the *Berlin Diary* are readily available on the internet, from first editions to the later reprints with added illustrations.

To my knowledge *German Journey* has never been reprinted and copies are said to be rare, with those in good condition fetching in the region of £200-£600 when available. (My copy is complete and sound except that the cover is in poor condition and needs to be rebound /refurbished.)

There is a third book in the collection, *Atlantis* the story of a German surface raider by Mohr & Sellwood, which will be the basis for a future article along with examples of mail from German surface raiders *Michel* and *Widder*.



Ephemera

Museum für
Post und
Kommunikation
Berlin

Raum 8

Sammelblatt 2

Post im Dritten Reich

Die Deutsche Reichspost wurde seit März 1933 in starkem Maße von Staatssekretär Wilhelm Ohnesorge geprägt, der anstelle des Ministers von Eltz-Rübenach in der Hauptsache die Geschäfte führte. Eltz-Rübenach, der von 1932-1937 in Personalunion auch das Reichsverkehrsministerium leitete, widmete sich mehr verkehrspolitischen Fragen. Ohnesorge, seit 1920 Mitglied der NSDAP, sah seinen politischen Auftrag darin, "die Deutsche Reichspost zu einem zuverlässigen Instrument der nationalsozialistischen Führung zu machen".

Entsprechend wurden im Zuge der Gleichschaltung auch bei der Post nach dem 1. Mai 1933 die Personalverbände aufgelöst - an ihre Stelle trat die sogenannte Gefolgschaft. Gleichzeitig entfernte man auf Grund des Gesetzes zur "Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtentums" über 12 500 Postbedienstete aus rassistischen und politischen Gründen aus dem Dienst. Ohnesorge, seit 2. Februar 1937 Reichspostminister, hat immer wieder die "Kameradschaft" der Postangehörigen und die "unbedingte Treue zum Führer" beschworen.

Der Verlauf des Krieges, die zunehmend schwieriger werdende Lage und der verheerenden Schäden anrichtende Bombenkrieg beeinträchtigten den Postbetrieb in ungeahntem Maße. Dazu kamen die immer dringenderen Personalanforderungen der Wehrmacht, so daß der Betrieb nur mühsam aufrecht erhalten werden konnte. Die Personalprobleme führten schließlich 1944 zu wesentlichen Einschnitten in das Leistungsangebot der Post - eine Reihe von Diensten wurde aufgehoben, andere drastisch eingeschränkt.

Armee gab es einen Armeefeldpostmeister - im Verlaufe des Krieges insgesamt 33-, dem die einzelnen Feldpostdienststellen unterstanden. Zeitweise wurden gleichzeitig mehr als 12 000 Feldpostbeamte und Stabsgehilfen eingesetzt.



Den Hauptteil des Feldpostaufkommens beförderte die Eisenbahn, während Luft- und Kraftpostverbindungen nur eine untergeordnete Rolle spielten. In den verkehrsreichsten Jahren 1942 bis 1944 liefen für die Versorgung der Ostfront täglich 213 Eisenbahnwaggons, vielfach als Feldpostsonderzüge zusammengefaßt. Insgesamt sind von 1939 bis 1944 (für 1945 liegen keine Angaben mehr vor) über 30,6 Milliarden Feldpostsendungen verschickt worden, wobei 1943 mit 7,652 Milliarden der Höchststand erreicht wurde. Der Postverkehr zwischen den Armeen ist dabei nicht mitgerechnet.

Neben der Erfüllung der dienstlichen Aufgaben trat die Post auch als Förderer der NS-Propaganda hervor. Die Briefmarke bot sich in idealer Weise dafür an: Sie eignete sich besonders dazu, von des "Führers Werk zu künden", wie es 1939 in der Deutschen Postzeitung hieß.

Feldpost

Die deutsche Feldpost des Zweiten Weltkrieges war Teil der Wehrmacht; sie wurde allerdings von Postbeamten betrieben. An der Spitze stand der Heeresfeldpostmeister, der dem Generalquartiermeister des Heeres zugeteilt war. Bei jeder



Thank you to Keith Lillywhite for sending in this page (left) taken from a long-distant visit to the Berlin Post and Communication Museum. It's printed in German language but easily translatable. The page reminded me that we are now in holiday season and that some of you may well be interested in visiting Berlin, and indeed the Postal Museum. Their website can be found at www.mfk-berlin.de

Opening hours:

Tuesday to Friday 9am – 5pm

Saturday, Sunday and public holidays 10am – 6pm

Every 3rd Wednesday of the month - Closed

Mondays - Closed



Highlights:

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- Admire the Blue Mauritius, one of the most famous and rarest stamps in the world.
- Interact with the exhibits and learn how to greet people from all over the world.
- Experience 40,000 years of communication history through 2,000 objects.
- Explore the museum at your own pace with an audiovisual app that guides you.

If anyone is going to the Berlin Communication Museum or has been there recently, then please write a review and let fellow members know of the highlights and pitfalls, where the best places are in the museum for our specific area of interest or indeed other postal/philatelic places within Berlin! The website tells you so much more and with an entry price that seems quite reasonable the museum should be on your list of 'must see'. Enjoy!



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 final meeting of the year will be held on:

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**



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 AGM.
This will be held from 2nd -4th October 2026 at the Feathers Hotel, Ludlow.**

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

