



Third Reich Study Group

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

News Sheet 199

Group Leader: Tony Hickey

September 2025

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For membership and enquiries please visit www.germanphilately.org

Does anyone have any thoughts on the matter? Why not share them... Contact me at carl.buck01@btinternet.com



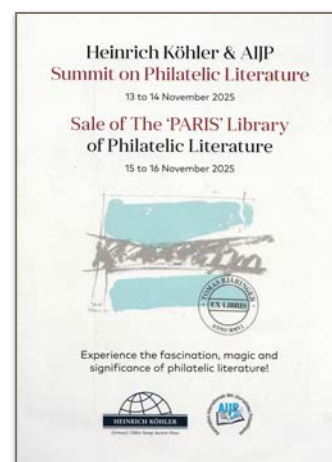


News



Sadly, Guy Thomas, the editor of the UK based *Stamp Magazine* has announced its final issue (September 2025). Within his editorial Guy explains, 'In difficult economic conditions, with copy sales and advertising revenue declining while printing and distribution costs rise, our publishers can find no way to keep it viable.' Guy continues by considering that it's not stamp collecting that's in decline but the magazine publishing industry.

It's never good to hear of such events and we wish Guy all the best for the future whilst saying a big 'thank you' for his 20 years service to the philatelic community.



Something for the book collectors amongst us... Köhler's sale of The 'Paris' Library. Further details from Carl Buck.

Please find below Tony Hickey's report from the last TRSG meeting held at the Civil Service Club, London, on 26th July 2025. If you've never had the opportunity to attend the meeting it is well worth a visit! Alongside the presentations and excellent company there is often an informal bourse for you to stock up on those missing items! You will be most welcome... and why not consider a presentation?

The meeting started with a moment's silence for **David Taylor**.

Today's display by **Rex Dixon** was the *Social history of the Nazi's Winter Relief programme (the WHW)*. Rex dedicated the display to his late partner, **Michelle Paterson**, whom many of the members knew from her many visits to Society events. It was her interest in German Winter Relief that resulted in her being introduced to him 19 years ago. If it hadn't been their shared interest in the WHW, they would never have met!

Rex broke his display into three sections that covered all aspects of the WHW. The first frame covered a plethora of pre-Nazi organisations raising money for winter relief.

Rex explained that the Nazi's programme was established in September 1933. The organisation was run extremely successfully by Erich Hilgenfeldt (1897–1945), supplying bread, potatoes, meat, clothing and fuel to the needy.

Donations were theoretically voluntary but in fact required of German citizens with high levels of social pressure to contribute. Rex detailed the massive amounts of money that were collected from monthly donations deducted by your employer, for which you would receive an illustrated door plaque, six in total each winter from October through March, to show that you had donated. Larger donations were expected of and given by richer individuals and private companies who were normally given an elaborate certificate of gratitude. Rex showed us receipts and many other documents of how the money was paid into and out of the fund.

We also saw how the public were again involved with the special issues of postcards, postage stamps, souvenir sheets, all of course with an added surcharge for the programme. This was all done alongside a multitude of street collections of money and/or goods normally organised by the various uniformed service including the Hitler Youth and the Bund Deutscher Mädel. To illustrate all this activity Rex showed us a red WHW collection tin.

Overall it was a fabulous collection which enlightened us all and was well appreciated by all those present.

If you have any announcements that should be seen as 'newsworthy' then please send your article to carl.buck01@btinternet.com



Research Enquiries

Dienstpost Ostland - Lithuania



I have the following enquiry... I have a recently acquired cover posted by Der Generalkommissar in Kauen (General Kommissar of the Lithuanian Region) dated 16.02.44. The cover has a 'Durch Deutsche Dienstpost Ostland' hand-stamp with a second line that reads 'Leitweg Eybtkau'. This second line seems to be a routing instruction: route via Eydtkau (I am assuming that the 'Eybtkau' as seen on the cover is a misspelling). Has anyone got any further examples of Ostland Dienstpost hand-stamps that include a routing instruction? What were the different routes back to Germany? Finally, I am guessing that the office of the Generalkommissar in Kauen was actually located in Kaunas. Does anyone know whether this is correct? Many thanks, Bob Ignaciuk. **Enq. 3/2025**



Berghof series and mystery man

I recently purchase a Hoffmann propaganda card from Delcampe that bears a series number of Bh 15 (Berghof), a series that I not seen before. The card depicts Hitler and Franz Xaver Schwarz (1875-1947) on a rainy day at the Berghof with an unknown civilian. Have other members any cards in this series, and can anyone identify the civilian? Tony Hickey. **Enq. 4/2025**



Schwarz in 1939

Franz Xaver Schwarz joined the NSDAP in 1922 and became a high-ranking Party official serving as Reichsschatzmeister (National Treasurer) of the party throughout most of its existence. He was also one of the highest-ranking members of the S.S. (Schutzstaffel). Schwarz died in an Allied internment camp near Regensburg on the 2nd December 1947, due to recurring gastric troubles. He was 72. In September 1948, he was posthumously classified by the Munich denazification court as a 'major offender' and all his assets were confiscated.



Wohnlager



I've just bought the attached covers, both from the same Polish worker lodged in a camp at Ringelheim (Harz), later part of Salzgitter, to his wife back home.

In my book on *Fremdarbeiter* I mention that some of these were already employed in Germany before the war and must thus have been recruited in the normal way on a voluntary basis.

The first of these 2 covers is a case in point: dated 7.5.39, i.e. before the war, franked 25Pf foreign rate addressed to Dąbrowa, Poland. The second dated 3.5.40, franked 12Pf inland rate addressed to Dombrau (Olsagebiet), by then part of Germany expanded through its occupation of Poland — the 1944 directory list it as '(9a) Dombrau (Oberschlesien)'.

The Wikipedia website detailing the Reichswerke Hermann Göring, https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liste_der_Wohn-_und_Arbeitslager_im_Salzgittergebiet, lists 'Salzgitter-Ringelheim' but only dates it '1941'.

Clearly then our knowledge about this camp is incomplete; I have been unable to find out more about it. Maybe another TRSG member knows more? Philip Townshend. **Enq.** 5/2025

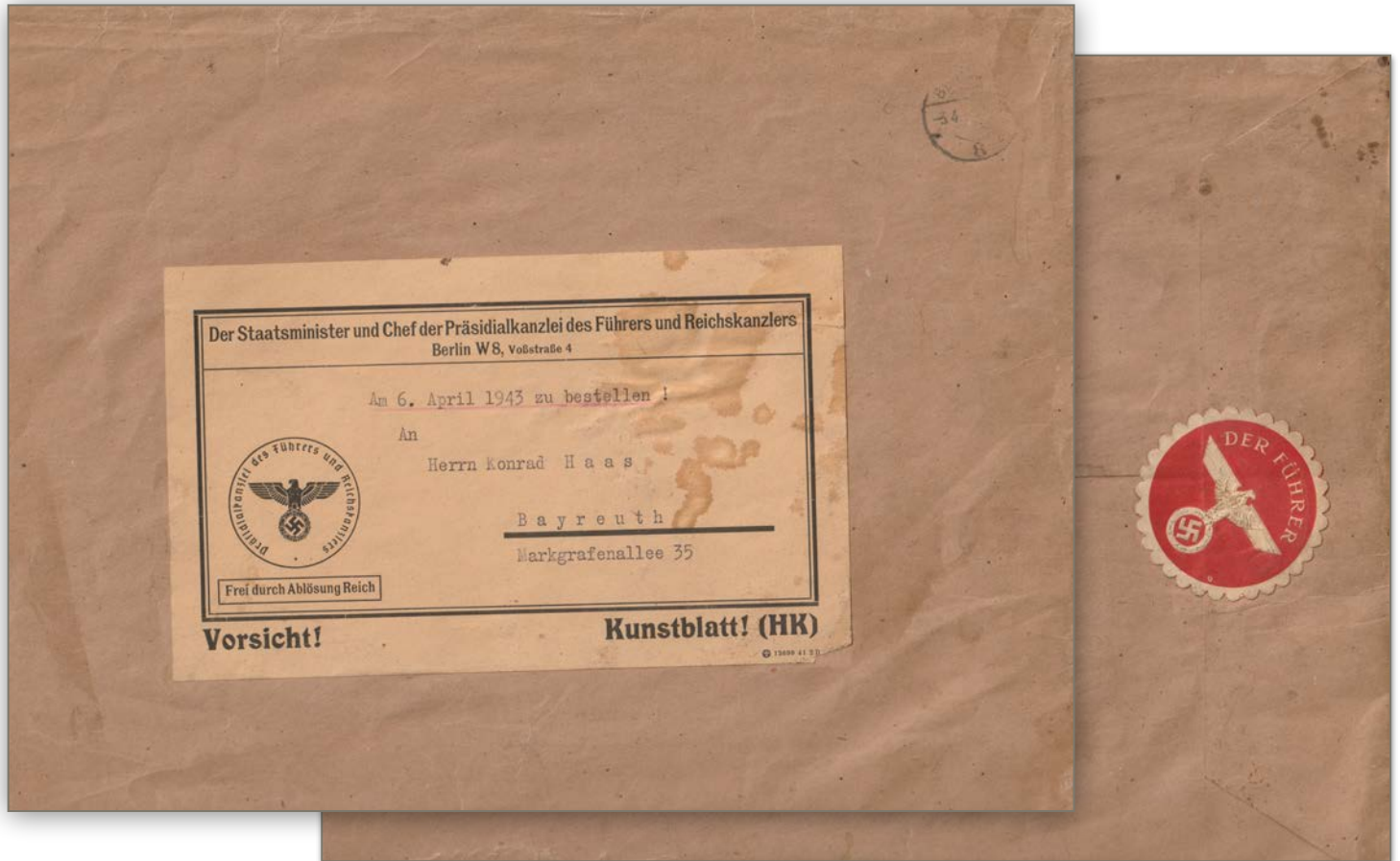




Cover Story

Otto Meissner

By Larry Nelson



Above is a scan of a large cover posted from Berlin on 3rd April 1943 (faint). On the bottom, it is marked 'Caution Art Sheet'. The return address reads (vis Google translate): 'The Minister of State and Head of the Presidential Chancellery of the Führer and Reich Chancellor'. On the back is the seal of 'Der Führer'. Otto Meissner is the person who held this position of Minister of State. In fact Meissner was the head of the office of the President from 1920 to 1945. He served presidents Friedrich Ebert and Paul von Hindenburg. He helped facilitate making Hitler the Chancellor and continued to serve Hitler until the end of the war.

After the war he was arrested and was a witness at the Nuremberg trials. He was later tried in the Wilhelmstrasse trial but acquitted on 14th April 1947. Subsequent legal proceedings finally ended in January 1952. He died on 27th May 1953.

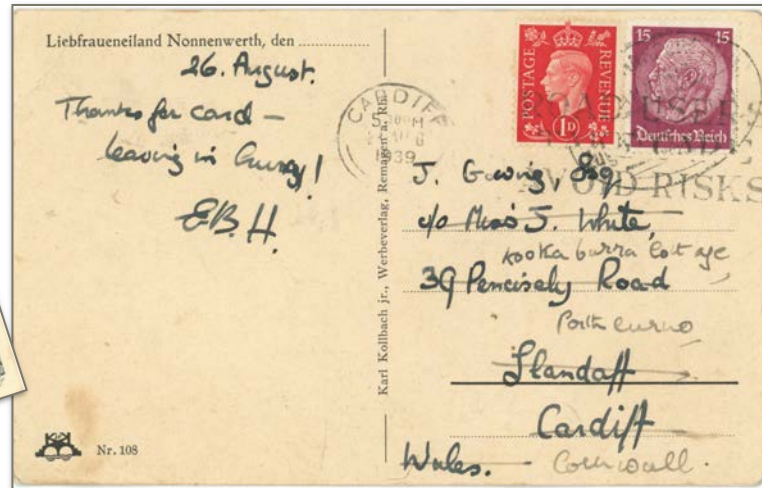
But what did this envelope contain? Any ideas? Ed.





World War II Postal History & Postcards. Prelude to the outbreak of War.

By Keith Lillywhite



An interesting postcard of the small Rhine Island Nonnenwerth Germany sent on the 26th August 1939 (5 days before the outbreak of WWII) to Llandaff Cardiff with the writer stating that he was *'leaving in hurry'*. The 15 pfennig stamp on the postcard has a ? – Hannover Bahnpost cancellation so presumably it was posted by the writer on a train which was enabling him to leave Germany. The postcard on reaching its destination had a 1d stamp added and was then forwarded to Porthcurno Cornwall. Nonnenwerth is an island near Bad Honnef in the Rhine, administratively part of Remagen in the Rhineland. The island originally housed an 11th century monastery which was rebuilt in the 17th century after a fire. During both wars the buildings were used as a military hospital and from 1945 to present time the island buildings are used as a high school.

Authors Note:- William Shirer wrote the following in his *Berlin Diary, the Journal of a Wartime Correspondent 1934-1941*.

Berlin, August 26 1939

With Henderson off to London this morning and not expected back before tomorrow (Sunday) night. I think we're in for a breathing-spell over the week-end. There is certainly no sign that Hitler is weakening. But the Wilhelmstraße still hopes that Chamberlain will weaken. Our Embassy today issued a formal circular to all Americans here asking those whose presence was not absolutely necessary to leave. Most of the correspondents and businessmen have already sent out their wives and children. The big Nazi rally at Tannenberg scheduled for tomorrow, at which Hitler was to have spoken, has been cancelled because of the 'gravity of the situation,' so I shall not have to go there. Talked with Murrow on phone and he readily agreed we should cancel our 'Europe Dances' program. Some choice headlines in the German press to-day: The B.Z.; 'COMPLETE CHAOS IN POLAND—GERMAN FAMILIES FLEE—POLISH SOLDIERS PUSH TO EDGE OF GERMAN BORDER'; The 12-Uhr Blatt: 'THIS PLAYING WITH FIRE GOING TOO FAR—THREE GERMAN PASSENGER PLANES SHOT AT BY POLES—IN CORRIDOR MANY GERMAN FARMHOUSES IN FLAMES!' Another hot day and most of the Berliners betook themselves to the lakes around the city, oblivious of the threat of war.

Later. One thirty a.m. —Broadcast shortly after midnight. Have been trying not to be a prophet, but did say this: 'I don't know whether we're going to have war or not. But I can tell you that in Berlin tonight the feeling is that it will be war unless Germany's demands against Poland are fulfilled.' Tomorrow morning's (Sunday's) papers reveal for the first time that Hitler is demanding now not only Danzig and the Corridor but everything Germany lost in 1918, which means Posen and Silesia. Just before I went on the air DNB informed me that rationing will be instituted beginning Monday. There will be ration cards for food, soap, shoes, textiles, and coal. This will wake up the German people to their situation! It is just possible however, that Hitler is doing this to impress London and Paris. The Nazi Party rally at Nuremberg was called off tonight. This will also arouse the people from their apathy. Tomorrow morning's papers will steep up the tension.

Headline in Volkische Beobachter, Hitler's own newspaper: 'WHOLE OF POLAND IN WAR FEVER! 1.500.000 MEN MOBILISED! UNINTERRUPTED TROOP TRANSPORT TOWARD THE FRONTIER! CHAOS IN UPPER SILESIA!' No mention of any German mobilisation, of course, though the Germans have been mobilised for a fortnight.



The 5th German War Veterans' Day Kassel, 7th - 9th July 1934 *By Tony Hickey*

Under the theme of 'Soldierhood and National Socialism,' the German Reich Veterans' Association 'Kyffhäuser' organised the 5th 'Reich Veterans' Day' in Kassel to mark the 150th anniversary of the veterans' association. This major event was planned for 7th and 9th of July 1934 in Kassel. The event was cancelled at short notice due to the Röhm Putsch (the assassination of the SA leadership and SA Chief of Staff Ernst Röhm), which took place the weekend before. The German 'Reich Warriors' Day' was first held in 1925 in Leipzig, where the Völkerschlachtdenkmal (Monument to the Battle of the Nations 1813) was chosen as the symbolic venue. Because the gathering was so well received by veterans, it was repeated in 1927 in Berlin, 1929 in Munich, and 1932 in Dortmund. The 1934 Kassel event was re-scheduled to take place a year later on the 6th and 8th July 1935. A grandstand at Kaiserplatz was erected for the leadership of the Kyffhäuser League and the guests of honour to witness the march of 200,000 ex-soldiers. For this purpose, a bandstand located on Kaiserplatz was demolished and numerous trees felled.



Section from a cover sent on 13th June 1934 with a Hindenburg definitive cancelled with a special publicity slogan.



The postcard (above right) depicts prominent figures from the NSDAP and Kyffhäuser League in the Fridericianum, Kassel, during the Reichskriegertag 1935. Picture from the archive of the State History Information System, Hesse.



1934 proof

The commemorative postcard shown here was also prepared in 1934 and issued the following year with a red overprint advertising the revised date.



1935 overprint

During the Second World War Kassel was the headquarters for Germany's Wehrkreis IX, and a local subcamp of Dachau concentration camp provided forced labour for the Henschel facilities, which included tank production plants. There was also a camp for Sinti and Romani people. Allied prisoners of war from the Stalag IX-A camp were deployed to forced labour in the local arms industry in violation of the Geneva Conventions. The most severe bombing of Kassel destroyed 90% of the downtown area, and some 10,000 people were killed and 150,000 were made homeless. Most of the casualties were civilians or wounded soldiers recuperating in local hospitals, whereas factories survived the attack generally undamaged.

Acknowledgements: Postcards from my own collection, Google, Wikipedia.



The Hela U-Boat Field Post Stamp

By Peter Bradford

New information concerning the Field Post Stamp which was produced at Hela Peninsula near the city of Danzig in the 2nd week of April 1945.

This issue can be found in the TRSG newsletter, first by **BK** who submitted an excellent article U-BOAT POST, news sheet number 108 dated March 2002

This was followed up ten years later by Giles du Boulay, The Hela U-Boat 'Permit Stamps' news sheet number 148 dated March 2012.

Fast forward now to 2025. I would like to add an addendum to both articles as I have found new information regarding the design, artists monograms and sheet layout which I would like to share.

Below is a letter from the archives of the late Carl Lange of Hamburg, a prominent Philatelic Dealer and expert on the German Field Post issues of World War II.

Felix Tiède
Architekt
32/10 70/282.

Hamburg-Wandsbek, d. 3. Juni 1951
Osterkamp 1

Herrn
C a r l H. L a n g e
H a m b u r g 1
Ballindamm 16/18

Sehr geehrter Herr Lange !

Auf Ihren Wunsch teile ich Ihnen gern Einzelheiten über die Entstehung der "Ubootspostzulassungsmarke" mit.

Als sich im März 1945 die Kämpfe um Danzig zur Katastrophe zuspitzten und vorauszusehen war, daß größere Truppeneinheiten auf der Halbinsel Hela abgeschnitten werden würden, gab der kommandierende General des Generalkommando Hela, General d. Inf. Specht der Korpskartenstelle den Befehl, eine "Ubootspostzulassungsmarke" entwerfen und drucken zu lassen. Die gut ausgerüstete Korpskartenstelle war im Besitz von erstklassigen Reproduktionsmitteln und einer Rotaprintpresse.

Die Marke wurde bei der Korpskartenstelle von dem bekannten Danziger Maler Bruno Paetsch entworfen, der als I a-Zeichner beim Gen.Kdo. Hela eingesetzt war. Als Vorbild diente die bei der Wehrmacht verwendete Luftpostzulassungsmarke, zu der die Ubootmarke das Gegenstück werden sollte. Es wurde auch hier das liegende Rechteck gewählt. Da eine Perforiermaschine nicht zur Verfügung stand, wurde die Marke durch Strichelung begrenzt, auf der die Trennung erfolgen sollte. Gummierung mußte auch unterbleiben. Das Markenbild zeigt in wagerechtschraffiertem Rechteck ein weiß ausgespartes Langrechteck mit der Inschrift "Deutsche Feldpost". Das Innere des Rechtecks ist wagerecht durch ein schraffiertes Band geteilt, in dem die Worte "durch Uboot" stehen. Das "U" ist dabei betont nach unten herausgezogen und größer gezeichnet. In der Öffnung des "U" befindet sich ein Posthorn. Über diesem wagerechten Band ist ein aufgetauchtes Uboot dargestellt. In den vier Ecken der Marke stehen Anker mit dem Kettenauge in der äußersten Ecke. In den Kettenaugen der beiden unteren Anker haben links der Maler Bruno Paetsch und rechts der Kartograph, der die Polie gezeichnet hat, ihre Monogramme angebracht. Neben der letzten Marke des Bogens ist rechts senkrecht das bei allen Druckerzeugnissen der Karten- und Vermessungseinheiten vorgeschriebene Druckerzeichen angebracht. Hier: "K.K.Stelle Hela III. 45"

Nach Herstellung einer Polie in Originalgröße der Marke durch einen Kartographen wurde mit Lumoprint ein Film mit 50 Marken hergestellt. Dieser Film wurde bei Herstellung der Aluminiumdruckplatte dreimal untereinander kopiert. Daher bei der sekrechten Bezifferung der Marken am Bogenrande dreimal untereinander die Zahlen 10, 20, 30, 40, 50. Für den Druck stand eine Rotaprint DIN A 3 zur Verfügung. Die Marke ist also als Offsetdruck anzusprechen. Die Farbe wurde so genau wie möglich der Luftpostmarke angepaßt.

Die Auflage betrug 500 Bögen à 150 Stck. also 75 000 Stck. Die ganze Auflage wurde am 9.4.45 dem Korpsnachschuboffizier übergeben; da vorher gesehen war, an jedem auf Hela eingesetzten Soldaten nur 2 Marken im Monat auszugeben, kann die in Umlauf gebrachte Anzahl nur gering sein. Es ist anzunehmen, daß der weitaus größte Teil der Marken bei der Kapitulation untergegangen ist.

Ich hoffe, Ihnen mit vorstehenden Angaben wunschgemäß gedient zu haben und begrüße Sie als

Ihr sehr ergebener

EINGEGANGEN
- 4 - JUN 1951
Beantw. _____



The Hela U-Boat Field Post Stamp

A rough translation

*From Felix Tiede (Architect)
Hamburg-Wandsbek, Osterkamp 1
3rd June, 1951*

*To Carl Lange (Philatelic Dealer)
Hamburg 1
Ballindamm 16/18*

At your request, I will be happy to provide you with details about the creation of the submarine mail stamp.

When the battle for Danzig came to a head in March 1945 and it was foreseeable that large troop units would be stranded on the Hela peninsula, Infantry General Specht, Commanding General of the peninsula, ordered the Corps Map Office to design and print a Submarine Mail authorisation stamp.

At that time the well-equipped Corps Map Centre was in possession of a first-class rotary printing press and printing equipment.

The stamp was designed by the well-known Danzig painter Bruno Paetsch, who was then employed as a draughtsman by the military commander on Hela peninsula.

The model for this stamp was the airmail stamp used by the Armed Forces, to which the submarine issue was to be the counterpart.

The colour was matched as closely as possible to this stamp. [Designed by Eric Meerwald.]

Air mail field post
permission stamp
Mi.1 (1942)



Hela field post
permission stamp
Mi.13 (1945)



For the submarine issue a horizontal rectangle design was chosen. As a perforating machine was not available, the stamps were separated by dashes along which the separation was to take place; also the stamps were not gummed. The design of the stamp shows a white oblong octagon with the inscription DEUTSCHE FELDPPOST in a rectangle. The inside of the rectangle is divided horizontally by a strip containing the words durch U-boot "by submarine". The 'U' is emphasised downwards and drawn larger.

There is a post-horn in the opening of the 'U'. Above this horizontal strip is a surfaced submarine. In the four corners of the stamp are anchors with the chain eye pointing to the outermost corners. The painter Bruno Paetsch [BP] and the cartographer [?] who drew the foil have placed their monograms in the chain eyes of the two lower anchors.

'BP'



?

Next to the last stamp of the sheet (Field 150) the printer's mark prescribed for all printed products of the Map and Survey Units is affixed vertically to the right: K.K. St(elle) HELA III. 45.





The Hela U-Boat Field Post Stamp

After the cartographer had produced an original size foil of the stamp, a film of 50 stamps was produced. For the production of the aluminium printing plate the film was copied three times one below another. This is why the numbers 10, 20, 30, 40, 50 were printed three times, one below the other in the vertical numbering of the stamps on the edge of the sheet. It was printed by offset on an A3 sheet.

The issue was 500 sheets of 150 stamps each, i.e. 75,000 stamps. The entire issue was handed over to the Corps Supply Officer on the 9th of April 1945; since it was planned to issue only two stamps per month to each soldier deployed on Hela, the vast majority of the stamps were lost during the cabitulation.

The sheet

The paper used to produce the sheets was initially used for making maps.



An original part sheet
(Fields 91-150)

Plate flaws listed in Michel and their positions on the full sheet.



Plate Flaw 1 at F101
Round blue circle



Plate Flaw 2 at F31
Blue oblong above horn









Plate Flaw 3 at F30, 80 & 130
Broken bar under T of DEUTSCHE



Plate Flaw 4 at F120
Smudge over T of DEUTSCHE

A reconstructed sheet with field positions.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	F10
20	F11	F12	F13	F14	F15	F16	F17	F18	F19	F20
30	F21	F22	F23	F24	F25	F26	F27	F28	F29	
40		F32	F33	F34	F35	F36	F37	F38	F39	F40
50	F41	F42	F43	F44	F45	F46	F47	F48	F49	F50
10	F51	F52	F53	F54	F55	F56	F57	F58	F59	F60
20	F61	F62	F63	F64	F65	F66	F67	F68	F69	F70
30	F71	F72	F73	F74	F75	F76	F77	F78	F79	
40	F81	F82	F83	F84	F85	F86	F87	F88	F89	F90
50	F91	F92	F93	F94	F95	F96	F97	F98	F99	F100
10		F102	F103	F104	F105	F106	F107	F108	F109	F110
20	F111	F112	F113	F114	F115	F116	F117	F118	F119	
30	F121	F122	F123	F124	F125	F126	F127	F128	F129	
40	F131	F132	F133	F134	F135	F136	F137	F138	F139	F140
50	F141	F142	F143	F144	F145	F146	F147	F148	F149	F150



U-3038 Mail tag

By Keith Benson



U-3038 'Seepost' mail tag



Reverse

U-3038, a type XXI submarine, was launched in February of 1945 and once commissioned its primary task had been to carry mail between Kiel and the Hela peninsula. Above are the images of a piece of copper(?) measuring approximately 16cm by 4cm and 0.25cm in thickness which would have been affixed to a mailbag transported by the submarine.

In early 1945, the Hela peninsula in Poland, having been bypassed by the advancing Russians, left many Germans trapped by both land and sea. With Russian ships patrolling the sea lanes blocking the only means of communication with Germany, mail was despatched with the occasional U-Boat, one of them being U-3038.

Most of this correspondence was unofficial, being feldpost to family and loved-ones. With the increase in mail volume (due to the enforced isolation) special stamps were printed [see article on pages 10-11. Ed], but these are now few and far between with covers requiring an expert's eye for authentication.

U-3038 didn't survive the end of the war. The German High Command decreed it be scuttled at Kiel in order to stop it falling into Allied hands. It was later raised and broken up for scrap.

As for the mail tags... Well many of them too may have ended up at the bottom of the sea bed... So here's a survivor!

The TRSG would be grateful for any further information regarding these tags. Thank you. Ed.



Aviation humour cards

By Gary Eden

Sometimes I wonder why my collecting interests veer off in a new direction and humour cards is one of those areas I have questioned myself over. Having seen in previous Third Reich Study Group news sheets some examples of cards, whenever I saw humour cards, I was tempted to purchase them.

I purchased a number of cards from a series of humour cards dealing purely with aviation subjects which was printed by Spezialverlag Albert Horn, Gotha. Initially I thought these cards were all part of the same series, however on closer inspection it is clear that the cards are from separate series and that the design on the back of the card differs, as does the size of the cards.

Initially Horn produced a series of 30 cards (Set 1) with the back design of the card being somewhat plain. They were sold in packets of 10 cards (Figure 3), with additional cards in the series identified on the lower front of the envelope.

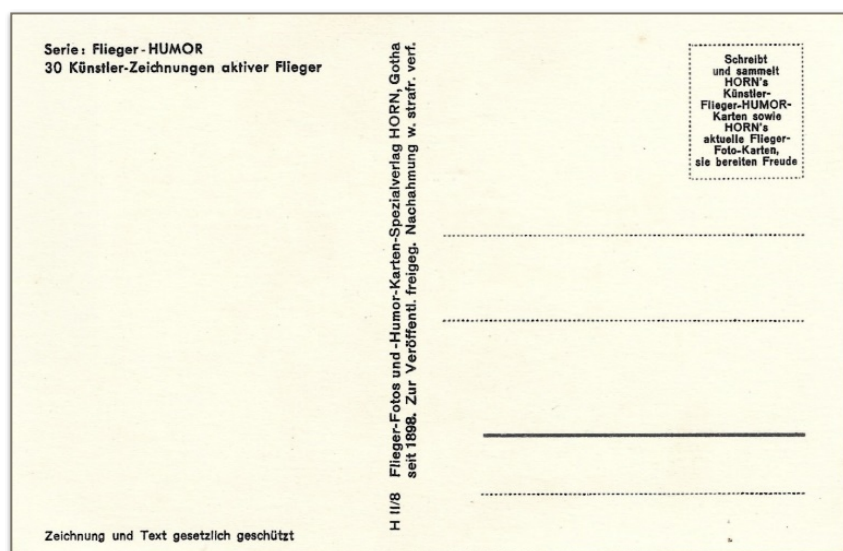


Fig 1. The serial number H II/8 – Set 1 - Series 2 card number 8

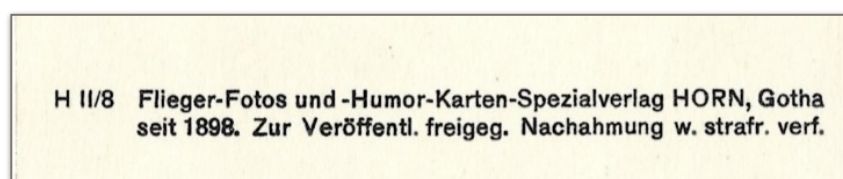


Fig 2. Close up of serial number

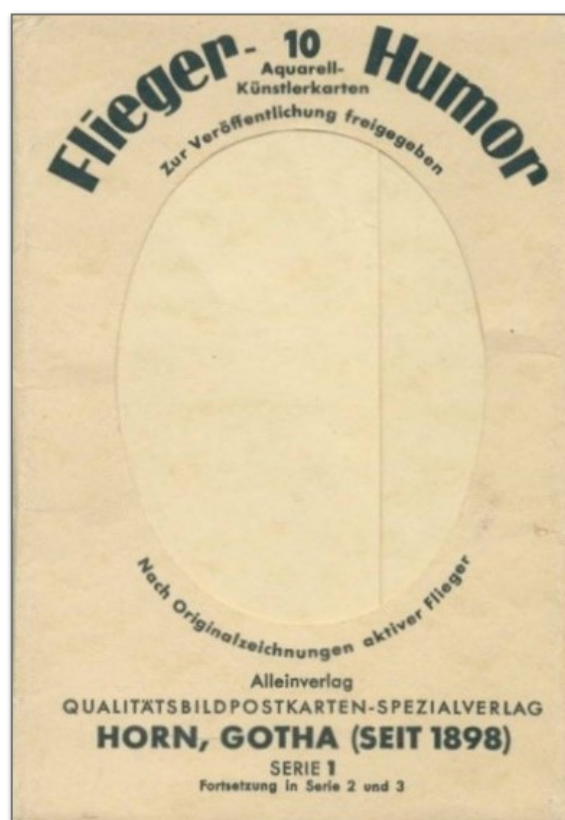


Fig 3. Packet envelope for Set 1 Series 1

The initial set was issued in three series, each of 10 cards, and they bear designs that are dated between 1938 and 1940. The cards are printed on cream-coloured card and measure 140mm x 91mm. The cards in series 1 and 2 appear to have all been watercolours by the artist Trautloft, with series 3 being artwork by Trautloft and C. P. Halfeld. There is a possibility that the name 'Trautloft' was used as a non de plume by an artist, as there was a famous German fighter pilot Hannes Trautloft, who flew with the Legion Condor in the Spanish Civil War and with the Luftwaffe in WW2.

The following are cards known to me, those where the image is taken from the internet are noted, otherwise they are in my collection.



Aviation humour cards

Set 1: Series 1 cards – all artwork by ‘Trautloft’



H I/1 - *Aufklärer*
‘Reconnaissance’
Artwork dated 1938



H I/4 - *Jagdflieger*
‘Fighter Pilot’
Artwork dated 1938

Set 1: Series 2 cards – all artwork by ‘Trautloft’



H II/5 - *Start zum ersten Alleinflug*
‘Take off for the first solo flight’
Artwork dated 1940



H II/7 - *Die Ziellandung*
‘The landing target’
Artwork dated 1940



H II/8 - *Rückkehr vom Überlandflug*
‘Return from the overland flight’
Artwork dated 1939

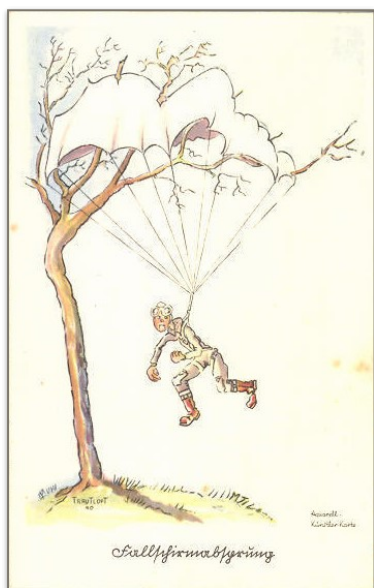


H II/10 - *Ich schule seit gestern Kunstflug!*
‘I’ve been training aerobatics since yesterday!’
Artwork dated 1940



Aviation humour cards

Set 1: Series 3 cards – artwork by ‘Trautloft’ and C. P. Halfeld



H III/3 - Fallschirmabsprung
'Parachute jump'
Artwork dated 1940 (from web)



H III/6 - An Hand von 'Schüler Kunstflugstrücken' Läßt sich ein Schandmal leicht verdecken
'Using aerobatic manoeuvres, it's easy to cover up a mark of shame'

Set 2

It is apparent that the first set was a success, as Horn issued a second set expanded to 40 cards and presumably, they were issued once again in packs of 10 cards. The card numbering system would certainly suggest this. The back of the card now bore a company logo, as seen in Figures 4 & 5.

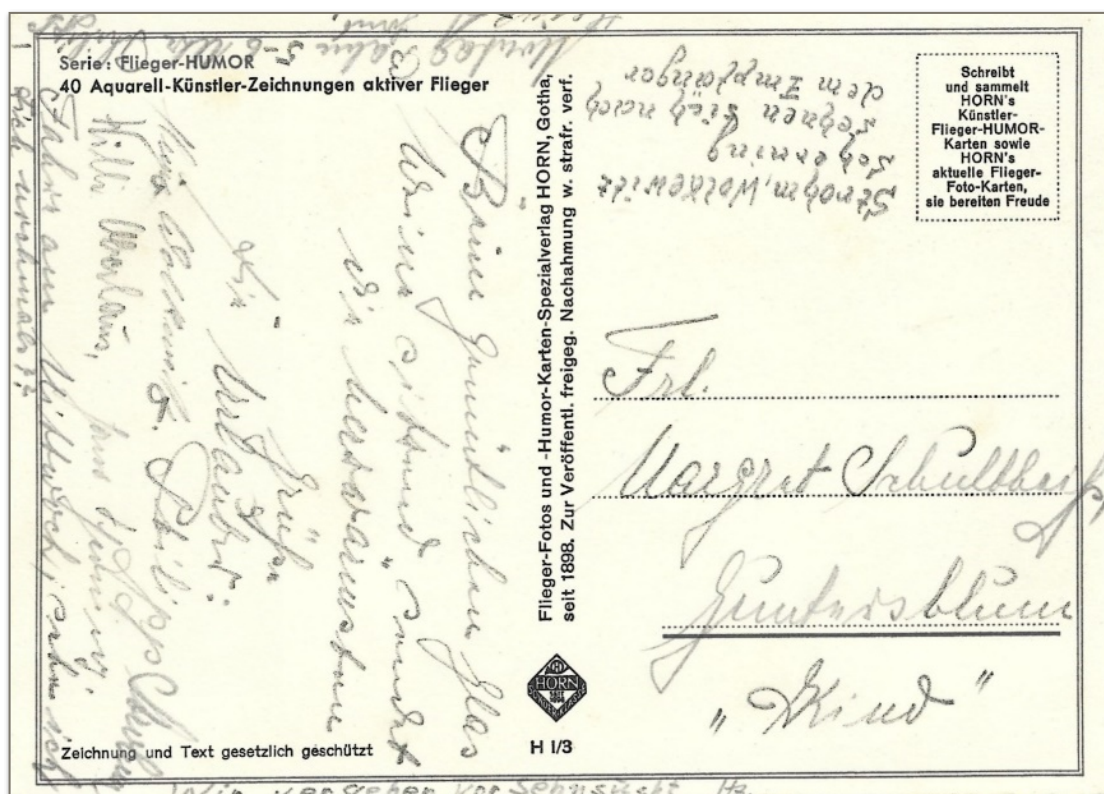


Fig 4. Back of card from Set 2



Fig 5. Close up of logo and serial number



Aviation humour cards

Set 2: Series 1 cards – all artwork by 'Trautloft'



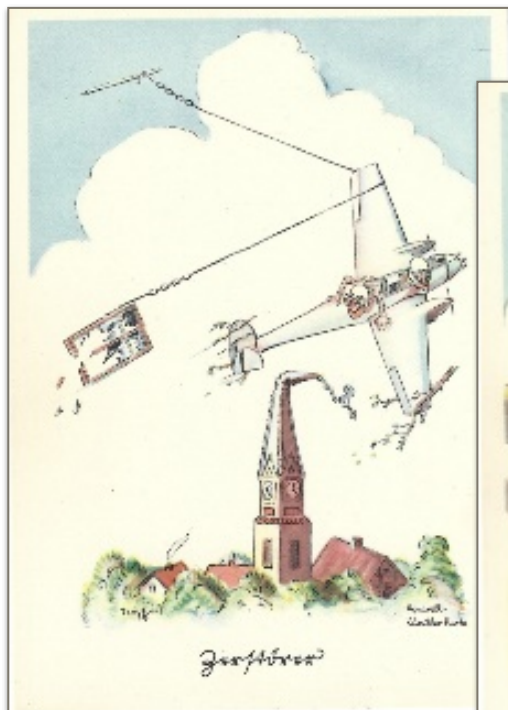
H I/2 - Schlachtfieger
'Attack pilot'
Artwork dated 1939



H I/3 - Kampfflieger
'Fighter Pilots'
Artwork dated 1938



H I/5 - Sturzbomber
'Dive bomber'
Artwork dated 1939



H I/7 - Zerstörer
'Destroyer'
Artwork dated 1939



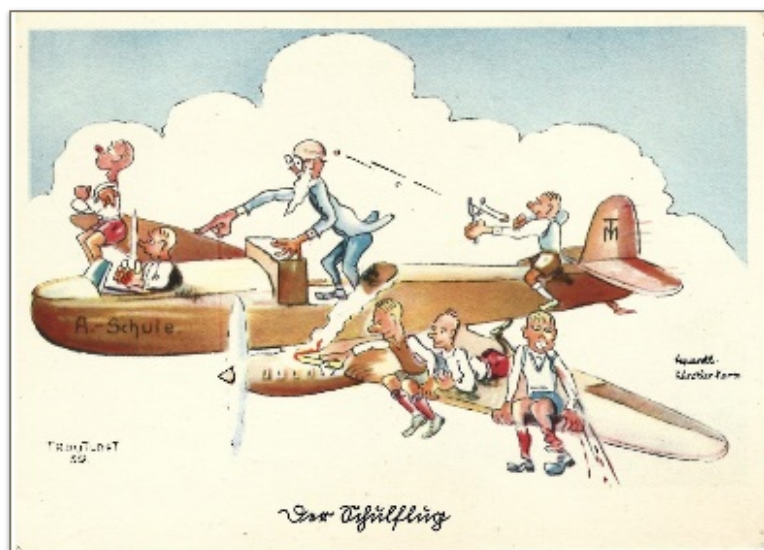
H I/8 - Der Alleinflieger
'The Solo pilot'
Artwork dated 1940



H I/10 - Ich gratuliere
'Congratulations'
Artwork dated 1939



 Aviation humour cards

Set 2: Series 2 cards – all artwork by 'Trautloft'


H II/2 - Der Schuleflug
 'The school flight'
 Artwork dated 1939



H II/3 - Der Belehrung
 'The Teaching'
 Artwork dated 1938 (from web)



H II/4 - Startverzögerung
 'Start delay'
 Artwork dated 1938



H II/6 - Tiefangriff
 'Low level attack'
 Artwork dated 1938

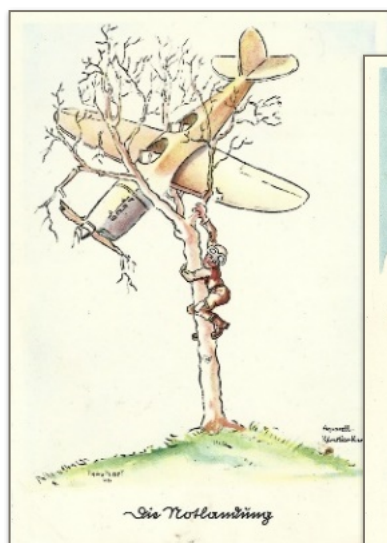


H II/9 - A-, B- und C-Flieger
 'A, B and C Aviators'
 Artwork dated 1940

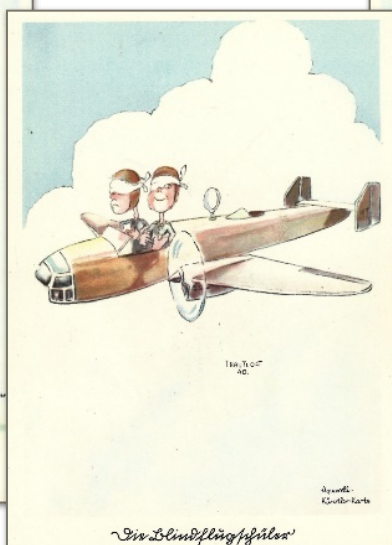


Aviation humour cards

Set 2: Series 3 cards – artwork is a mixture of works by ‘Trautloft’ and C. P. Halfeld, all dated 40 unless stated.



H III/1 - Die Notlandung
‘The emergency landing’



H III/2 - Die Blindflugschüler
‘The blind flight students’



H III/4 - Rückkehr vom 1.
Überlandflug
‘Return from the 1st cross-
country flight’



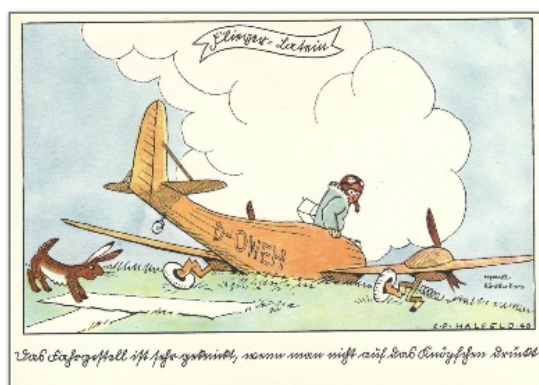
H III/5 - Das Flugzeug ist ein böses Tier, es trachtet nach dem Leben Dir!
‘The airplane is an evil beast, it seeks your life!’



H III/7 - Der Schüler landet leicht und glatt, wenn, er
das ‘Anschweb Suchrohr’ hat!
‘The pupil lands easily and smoothly, if he has
the floating search tube!’



H III/8 - Das Fahrgestell ist schnell zerlumpt,
Wenn man zu sehr am Knuppel pumpt
‘The chassis is quickly crumpled if you
pump the tiller too much’
Artwork undated



H III/9 - Das Fahrgestell ist sehr geknickt,
wenn man auf das Knöpfchen drückt!
‘The chassis is badly bent if you
don’t press the button!’



H III/10 - Mensch an
Maschine angekettet, So wird
das Flugzeug mitgerettet!
‘Man chained to machine,
saving the aircraft!’



Aviation humour cards

Set 2: Series 4 cards – artwork all dated 40 unless stated - artwork by C. P. Halfeld

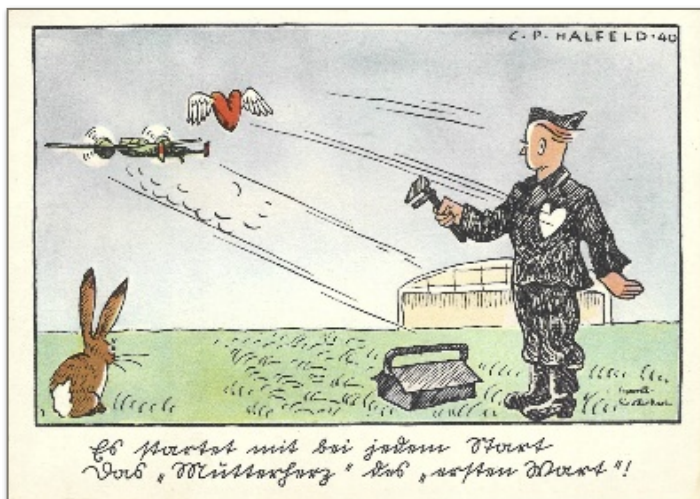
Series 4 of set 2 sees a departure from previous cards, in that, C.P. Halfeld is the sole illustrator. The captions on the cards are also more elaborate, encouraging in the safety of the personnel or sentimental.



H IV/1 - Der Adler ist stets sehr empört, Wenn man sein Weib beim Brüten stört. Bedauernswert der arme Mann, Der diesmal gar nichts dafür kann!
‘The eagle is always very upset when his mate is disturbed while brooding. Poor fellow, he can’t help it this time!’



H IV/3 - Trotz Dunkelheit beim blinden Fliegen Läßt sich dabei doch Manches Priegen. Der Kurs wird sich von selber zeigen - Hast Du den Himmel voller Geigen!
‘In spite of the conceit of the blind flyer, there are still some privileges.
The route will show itself - If you have the sky full of violins!’



H IV/6 - Es startet mit bei jedem Start das Mutterherz das ersten Wart!
‘With every start, a mother’s heart begins its first wait!’

H IV/7 - Sorgt das Bodenpersonal wie Mutter -
Ist das Flugbetrieb in Butter!
‘If the ground crew takes care of things
like mother – flight operations are fine’





Aviation humour cards



H IV/8 - Beim Abbremsen kann es geschehen Das ziemlich frische Winde wehen!
 'When braking, it can happen that pretty fresh winds are blowing'



H IV/9 - Die Blindflugglandung ist beschwerlich - Und 9 f e ist unentbehrlich!!

'The blind flight landing is arduous - And 9 f e is indispensable!'

(Aus der funkerischen Abkürzung 9 f e ersieht der Blindflieger die Höhe seines Flugzeuges über dem Erdboden)

(Note - From the radio abbreviation 9 f e, the blind pilot sees the altitude of his aircraft above the ground)

H IV/10 - Unusually this design is identical to H IV/3 except for the serial number on the reverse of the card.



I hope that the article is of interest to the group, and clearly there are a number of cards still to be identified. If anyone has any further designs, I would appreciate a good quality scan of the card and the serial number.

Please contact me via email: garypetereden@gmail.com



Cruise ships of the Third Reich.
The M.S. *St. Louis* humanitarian voyage to Cuba 1939.
‘VOYAGE OF THE DAMNED’
By Keith Lillywhite



The M.S. *St. Louis* set sail from Hamburg to Havana, Cuba, on the 13th May 1939 carrying 937 passengers mostly Jewish refugees seeking asylum from Nazi persecution in Germany. On arrival only 28 were allowed to disembark, the remainder on board being directed to the United States where the ship was unable to dock due to no authorisation being given. The ship was obliged to return to Europe but Captain Schröder refused to return the refugees to Germany until the passengers had been given asylum in another country. The ship finally returned to Antwerp on the 17th June 1939 with 908 passengers. 288 were accepted by Britain, 244 by France, 214 by Belgium and 181 by the Netherlands. 254 Passengers who returned to continental Europe were murdered during the Holocaust.

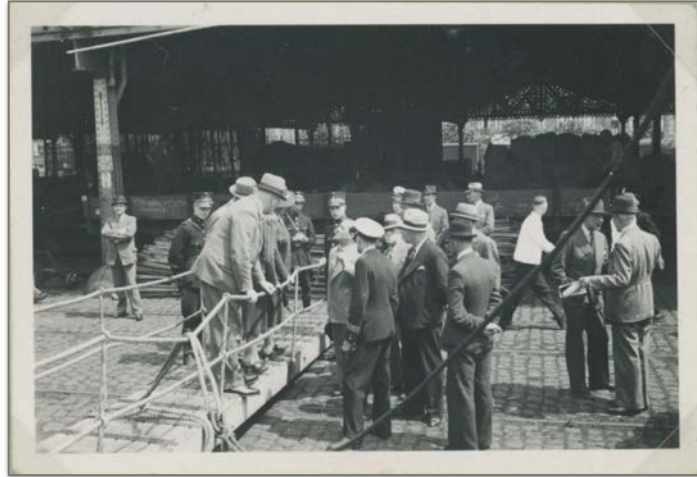


Passengers stare out from the *St. Louis* on arrival in Havana.

When going through my late father's papers and photographs I came across three small original photos taken of the arrival of the *St. Louis* at Antwerp in June 1939. The writing on the reverse is not in the hand of my father and the numbering would seem to indicate that there could have been some fifty photos taken of the occasion. Unfortunately no other photos have been found to date and I will never know the full history of them and how they came to be in my father's possession. The interesting thing is that the photograph ‘*St. Louis* Captain Gustav Schröder negotiates landing permits for the passengers with Belgian officials in the Port of Antwerp’ can be seen on the M.S. *St. Louis* Wikipedia website. Also, refugees seen in the original photograph also appear in a photograph on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website.



‘Voyage of the Damned’



Original Photograph No.50 ‘Before the departure of the *St. Louis* from Antwerp’

Another of the photographs discovered with my father’s papers showed a group of refugees on board the *St. Louis* with a gentleman in the middle who was Morris Carlton Troper, a Jewish-American accountant from New York who was credited and highly decorated for saving hundreds of Jewish refugees during World War II.



Mr. and Mrs. Morris Troper (centre) pose with Jewish refugees on the deck of the M.S. *St. Louis* in the port of Antwerp.
Photograph on the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website.

Footnote

The person on the left of the pair of gentlemen on the right-hand side of the dockside photograph may have been my father. If so the only reason he was there could have been that the company he worked for, W H Muller, were agents for the *St. Louis* owners Hamburg - America Line.

John Rawlings wrote a very detailed article in news sheet No 146 on the Hamburg – America Line Ships but did not mention this voyage, maybe because of its nature there was no ships Post Office facilities provided. But with 900 passengers or so onboard it is thought that some mail would have been generated but how it was handled and off-loaded is unknown.

Maybe some of our Schiffspost collectors know the answer?

In 1976 a film was made of this sad voyage starring Faye Dunaway, James Mason, Orson Welles and a host of other well-known artists.

Acknowledgements:- Authors collection. United States Holocaust Memorial Museum website. M.S. *St Louis* Wikipedia website.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I – Propaganda labels

By Danu Dănilă

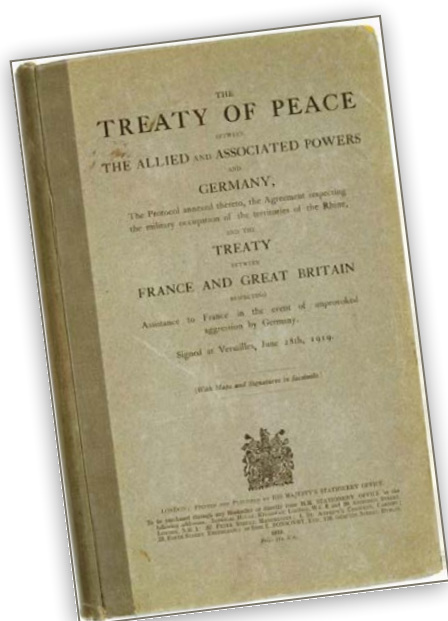
(First published 2016 in Romanian)

PART I: EUROPEAN TERRITORIES

The settlement of scores between the victorious countries and the former German Empire after 1918 led to the cession of numerous German colonies to England, France, and Japan, as well as the transfer of a significant number of European territories under German rule to other nations, the creation of the Free City of Danzig, and the holding of plebiscites in several German-speaking areas of Europe.

Germany after the Treaty of Versailles

Germany's defeat in World War I led to the loss of significant territorial possessions: overseas colonies but also European territories inhabited by ethnic Germans as well as areas where the language spoken by the majority of the inhabitants was completely different from German. The Treaty of Versailles (1919 – Figure 1), following the Armistice of Compiègne (11th November 1918) was the result of negotiations that lasted half a year. By its conclusions, Germany assumed full responsibility for the outbreak of the war and was forced to pay war reparations to the victorious countries (France, England, USA, Italy, Japan, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia). In addition to territorial losses, Germany was to suffer a severe reduction in its armed forces. The new German government (Weimar Republic) designated the Foreign Minister, Hermann Müller, to sign this treaty on 28th June 1919. The document by the League of Nations (also created as a result of the signing of the Treaty) came into effect on 10th January 1920 [2-10] [4].



The shock caused to the Germans by the Treaty's provisions led to the exacerbation of national sentiment over time and the collapse of the Weimar Republic in 1933, with the accession to power of the National Socialist party, led by Adolf Hitler.

One of the ways in which German frustrations as a result of the anti-Versailles complex were manifested was the issuance of labels with images and effigies of the territories and colonies confiscated from Germany by the Treaty.

Fig. 1. Cover of the Treaty of Versailles [2.10]

At least five such issues are known, with individuals or companies as authors, called in the English literature 'mourning labels', which reproduce images representing the lost colonies and territories in the centre of the format. The majority of the most widespread were issued around 1920. Some sources define them as having been used to seal correspondence envelopes [1]. The reference work [3] on the subject is a short collection of information and images of only 19 pages, published in 1989 in Great Britain and part of the collection 'The Alnis Guides'. The author's research so far has led to the conclusion that it is the only reference work. However, if there is anyone among the readers who could broaden the documentation base in the field of German propaganda labels after World War I, the author asks to be contacted (radud@winmentor.ro).

Three of the German propaganda label issues will be presented in this article, with the separation of those illustrating territories (in the first part of the article) and colonies (in the second part) [3].

Each of the eight territories has an interesting story. Some stand out through a philatelic rich and continuous presence, while others present only a vague or almost non-existent postal interest.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I

Alsace and Lorraine

Alsace (Elsaß) and Lorraine (Lothringen) form a territory that has been at the forefront of disputes between the French and German governments since the 19th century, being two important regions rich in iron ore and coal, near the Ruhr Valley and the Saar region.

This territory was annexed by the German Empire after the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-1871, following the conclusion of the Treaty of Frankfurt (1871) and received the status of Imperial Territory, administered directly by the German Emperor. Taking as a reference the French territorial organisation before the Franco-Prussian War, the area included the departments of Haut-Rhin and Bas-Rhin as well as parts of the departments of Moselle, Meurthe and Vosges.

From 1911 until the end of World War I, the area gained increased autonomy, becoming equal to the other regions of the German Empire and having the right to its own parliament.

The Treaty of Versailles brought the reunification of the two regions to France, so that between 1940-1945 be annexed by Germany, interested in their strategic resources, indispensable to its war effort.

For practical reasons, the Third Reich overprinted stamps from the Hindenburg series with the names of the two regions for local correspondence needs during the occupation (Figure 2).



Fig. 2. German Reich stamps with Alsace and Lorraine occupation overprint

All the stamps of the series to which the label for Alsace in Figure 3 (Notre Dame Cathedral in Strasbourg) belongs bear the inscription 'Verloren, doch nicht vergessen!', which translates as 'Lost, but not forgotten!', referring to the provinces ceded after Versailles.



Fig. 3. Labels for Alsace and Lorraine



Territories lost by Germany after World War I

Eupen and Malmedy

The two territories, Eupen (German-speaking) and Malmedy (Flemish-speaking), which currently belong to Belgium, were alternately occupied in the past by Germany and Belgium/the Netherlands. Historically speaking, these two regions have little in common. The northern area around Eupen was originally part of the Duchy of Limburg, an annex of the Duchy of Brabant, and was later occupied by Habsburg Austria, forming part of the Austrian possessions in the Netherlands. The southern part, which now roughly corresponds now to the district of Sankt Vith, belonged to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The small village of Manderfeld-Schönberg belonged to the Archbishopric of Trier. Malmedy and Waimes, with the exception of the village of Faymonville, were part of the principality of the Stavelot-Malmedy abbey which – like Luxembourg and Trier – constituted an imperial domain of the Holy Roman Empire of the German nation [2-09].

The Congress of Vienna (1814-1815) assigned both territories to the Kingdom of the Rhineland (Rhenish Prussia), which was part of Prussia [2-08].

Once the World War ended, France – frustrated by its failures to annex the Saar and to make Belgium and the Netherlands reach advantageous territorial exchanges (Limburg and Zeeuws Vlaanderen against Bentheim, Emden and Cleve) with defeated Germany – incited Belgium to claim the ‘lost’ cantons of Eupen, Malmedy and Sankt Vith. By the Treaty of Versailles of 1920, they were provisionally granted to Belgium for a period of 5 years, under the command of the Royal High Commissioner, General Herman Baltia. The plebiscite held in January–July 1923 on the orders of General Baltia, in accordance with the provisions of art. 34 of the Treaty of Versailles, was determined by pressure from the United States, which wanted the establishment of a democratic government. However, since the vote was not secret, mass intimidation was used to instil the idea that anyone who objected to joining Belgium would lose their Belgian citizenship and be deported to Germany or – at the very least – lose their food ration cards. As a result, very few people turned out to vote. In the end, only 271 out of a total of 33,726 eligible voters voted in favour of the territories joining Germany [2-07]. In 1925, the three small territories were annexed to Belgium. Since 1926, however, Belgium and the Weimar Republic conducted secret negotiations that were supposed to end with the restitution of the Eastern cantons to Germany, in exchange for the sum of 200,000,000 gold marks. Only the furious reaction of the French government, informed by the secret services about these negotiations, caused them to cease without result, and the inhabitants of the Eastern cantons were granted Belgian citizenship.

The rise in 1933 of the National Socialists led by Adolf Hitler led to the annexation of the Eastern cantons to Germany (between 1940-1945), which returned to Belgium in 1945, after World War II.



Fig. 4. Label for Eupen and Malmedy

The label shown in Figure 4 shows a church whose image was also used on stamps issued by the Third Reich (on 25th July 1940, two values with surcharge, on the occasion of the re-annexation of the two districts by Nazi Germany; the stamps bear the inscription ‘Eupen-Malmedy wieder Deutsch’, which translates as ‘Eupen-Malmedy is German again’) and also by Belgium (three commemorative stamps issued after the end of World War II).



Territories lost by Germany after World War I

Silesia

Silesia is another important European region for its iron ore and coal mines, located in the southeastern part of Poland. The Silesian Wars fought in the 19th century led to its division by Prussia and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At the end of World War I, Oberschlesien (Upper Silesia) became one of the territories lost by Germany to Poland, while Eastern Silesia was the subject of a dispute between Poland and Czechoslovakia. As both countries benefited from significant support from the victorious powers, the dispute led to a fierce diplomatic struggle in which Poland was ultimately the victor.



Fig.5. Labels for Oberschliesen (Upper Silesia)

Upper Silesia issued postage stamps in the period after the Treaty of Versailles when it was under the control of the League of Nations. This international control meant that the name of the region was indicated on some marks in three different languages: French (the official language of the League of Nations at the time), German and Polish.



Fig. 6. Stamps issued for Oberschliesen (Upper Silesia)

Interestingly, stamps for Eastern Silesia were issued by both the Polish postal authority as well as the Czechoslovakian one (Figure 7) [1].



Fig 7. Stamps issued for Eastern Silesia (SO) [1].



Territories lost by Germany after World War I

Memel

Before World War I, Memel (Klaipėda) was part of Prussia. The Treaty of Versailles then defined the region as the northern part of East Prussia and placed it under the control of the Council of Ambassadors. This body was then de facto included in the League of Nations, along with Danzig and the Saar, and the Memel region was to remain under League control until the local populations expressed their opinion through a plebiscite. In the meantime, both Lithuania and Poland laid claims to the area. As a result of the Klaipėda Uprising of 1923, it was annexed by Lithuania. Germany recaptured the area during World War II, and at the end of the war, the Soviet Union decided to annex Memel to Lithuania, a country of which it is still a part today.

During the League of Nations rule, French and German imperial postage stamps were used in Memel. Eventually, Lithuania succeeded in a coup d'état, which resulted in the installation of a puppet regime that issued several series of regular stamps, some in German, some in Lithuanian.



Fig. 8. Postage stamps issued by Memel (Klaipėda)



Fig. 9. Label for Memel (Klaipėda)

Danzig

Although separated from both Germany (the Weimar Republic) and the new Polish nation - the Second Republic, formed after the end of World War I – the so-called Free City of Danzig (an old member of the Hanseatic League, united in 1814 with Prussia) was never a truly independent state: by the Treaty of Versailles of 1919 (art. 100, Section XI of Part III) it was created on 15th November 1920, granted the status of a semi-autonomous city-state and placed under the protection of the newly created League of Nations in a customs union with Poland, which had also received the right to represent the city-state in international relations. The idea of creating the new entity was to give Poland access to the Baltic Sea and to separate the port (an important access route) from Germany. In this way, Poland was given trade routes that it could administer autonomously [1].

The new autonomous territory included the port city of Danzig (Gdańsk in Polish), the towns of Zoppot (Sopot), Oliwa (Oliwa), Tiegénof (Nowy Dwór Gdański), Neuteich (Nowy Staw) together with 252 villages and 63 hamlets covering a total area of 1,966 km² [2-01].



Territories lost by Germany after World War I

Danzig had in 1919 a population of 337,000, of whom 98% were German speakers. With the creation of the free city, the German inhabitants lost their German citizenship, but were offered the opportunity to receive it again in the first two years after the founding of Danzig, on condition that they relocate to Germany. This majority increasingly vehemently rejected the facilities created for Poland by the League of Nations (by virtue of the somewhat discredited application of the historical criterion - and not the national one – an inconsistency that exasperated not only the Germans), and the tensions created around these disputes led to the NSDAP (Nazi party) winning the local elections of 1933. The introduction of anti-Semitic and anti-Catholic laws (despite the fact that the NSDAP had obtained 57% of the votes, far below the 75% that would have allowed it to amend the constitution) and the open persecutions of the local government against minority populations led the Polish general commissar to threaten in April 1939 that any change in the situation from that point on would lead to an armed response from Poland. Escalating tensions between Germany and Poland led to the occupation of the latter in September 1939 and the outbreak of World War II. Interestingly, the Polish post office in Danzig was one of the first targets attacked by German forces. The Polish postal workers who resisted at the cost of their lives were later commemorated by a Polish postage stamp [2-02].

The loss of Danzig in 1919 meant for Germany not only the loss of an almost entirely German population, but also the denial of access to a major eastern Baltic port to a fledgling Polish state eager to assert itself. It is therefore not surprising that the city was included in the issue of labels lamenting the German Reich's loss of numerous territories in Europe and around the world.



Fig. 10. Labels for Danzig (Gdańsk)

Affiliation to the Universal Postal Union occurred on 1st October 1921. From 14th June 1920 to 29th April 1939, Danzig issued 308 stamps and 3 blocks.

All issues of 1920 (up to MiNr. 52) were nothing more than various overprints (so-called 'Berliner Aufdruck') of some of the German Reich stamps of the early years of the 20th century (1905-1920). Starting in 1921 the Free City of Danzig had its own issues, entirely distinct, except for one: MiNr. 72, actually an overprint of MiNr. 25 (over MiNr. 104 issued by the German Reich) – see Figure 11.



Fig. 11. Postage stamps issued by Danzig



Territories lost by Germany after World War I

Hultschin

(Hlučín in Czech) in the new state of Czechoslovakia, despite the fact that the majority of the population felt more attached to the northern Silesian area and would have liked to be included in the Weimar Republic. The Munich Agreement of 1938 led to the annexation of the area by Nazi Germany [2-03].

The Hultschin area covers a large area of Czech Silesia, now part of the Czech Republic, named after the town of Hlučín, the largest in the area. Inhabited since 4,500 BC, the Hultschin (Hlučín) region was the focus of various disputes between the cities of Olomouc and Wrocław, the latter of which managed to claim it and make it part of the Moravian March. It became an entity in its own right with the Treaty of Breslau, signed on 11th June 1742 between King Frederick II of Prussia and Empress Maria Theresa of Austria, as a result of the First Silesian War, after which it came under Prussian rule. According to this treaty, the Duchy of Troppau was divided, the areas south of the Opava River remained in Austrian Silesia, while the northern part around Hlučín returned to Prussia and was incorporated into the province of Silesia in 1825. After 1871 Prussia was part of the German Empire and following its defeat in World War I the region became the subject of an international dispute, being inhabited mostly by a Czech-speaking population. According to the provisions of Art. 83 of the Treaty of Versailles, the Hultschin region was given to Czechoslovakia without a plebiscite. Postally, the transfer took effect on 4th February 1920.

There are no known postage stamps or labels issued by this region, but its emblem appears on one of the pieces in the series of propaganda labels (Figure 12). Envelopes with propaganda images have been preserved, carrying texts from which the idea emerges that the Czech authorities closed German-language schools and applied discriminatory measures against the German-speaking population [1] [2-04].



Fig. 12. Label for Hultschin (Hlučín)

The web hosts pages with testimonies and documents about soldiers enlisted in the German army in World War II [2-05] or tourist presentations of the region today [2-06].

Posen

Posen (Poznań in Polish) is a large Polish city of great historical and economic importance, which was part of Provinz Posen and then of the Second German Empire. It is believed that here, in the 9th century, the legendary brothers Lech, Czech and Rus met again and – to celebrate the moment – they laid the foundations of the city of Poznań. The main cathedral of the city (the oldest in Poland, dating from the 10th century) is the burial place of a number of Polish kings. It is in this very cathedral, in 1966, the (then) Cardinal Karol Wojtyła and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński celebrated a millennium of Christianity in Poland [2].



There are no known postage stamps issued by the city or the area it is part of, but there were labels attached to postage stamps to mark the city's economic importance, especially on the occasion of major trade events (fairs). Nowadays, Poznań continues to be an important economic centre of Poland.



Territories lost by Germany after World War I

Schleswig

Located in the south of the Jutland peninsula, the Schleswig region extends about 60 km north and about 70 km south of the present-day border between Germany and Denmark. This division occurred in 1920 as a result of the Treaty of Versailles.

Claimed in turn, since the mid-7th century, by Sweden, Austria, Prussia and Denmark, Schleswig represented a key region for Prussia in its attempt to strengthen its dominance – to the detriment of Austria – in order to reorganise the federation of German states after Napoleon dismembered the Holy Roman Empire.

From a philatelic point of view, the principalities of Schleswig and Holstein are considered one of the classical old German states. Schleswig issued postage stamps since the classical era (starting in 1850), before being included in the North German Confederation / Prussia (Figure 14).



Fig. 14. Schleswig-Holstein postage stamp from 1850 (MiNr. 2b): 2 Schilling, dark red-pink

After World War I ended, two plebiscites were held in Schleswig, which led to the division of the region. The northern area voted 75% to join Denmark, while the central area voted 80% to join Germany. No referendum was held in the southern area because the result would have been clearly pro-German. The decision (to divide between Germany and Denmark) left significant minorities with important rights as residents of the Schleswig Euroregion.

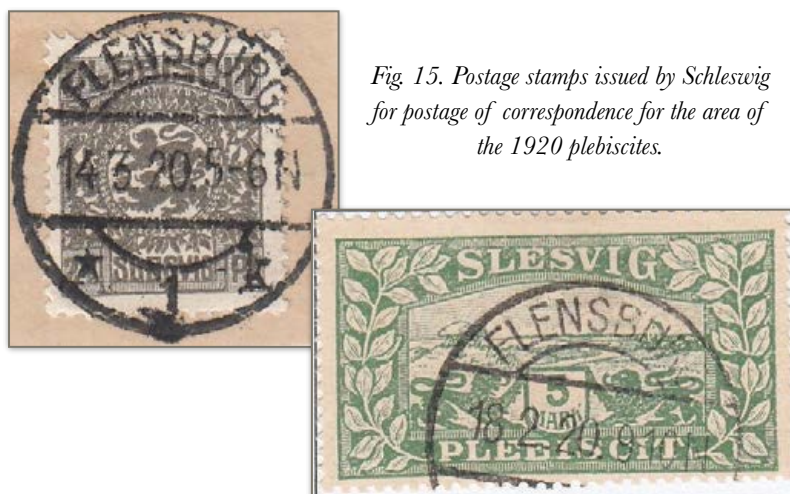


Fig. 15. Postage stamps issued by Schleswig for postage of correspondence for the area of the 1920 plebiscites.



Fig. 16. Labels for Schleswig



Territories lost by Germany after World War I

Other issues

Not only the 8 territories discussed above were represented on labels of the 'Mourning stamps' type. In Figure 17 you can see, for example, a piece issued by the Union of the Germans of North Moravia, illustrating a monument erected in honour of Chancellor Bismarck, the legendary chancellor whose diplomatic efforts led to the unification of the German states in the Second German Reich.



Fig. 17. Label of the Union of Germans in North Moravia

The same well-known historical figure - Otto von Bismarck - is illustrated in the label in Figure 18, the inscription 'SPENDE FÜR DEN OSTMARKENSCHATZ – KEIN FUSSBREIT GERMAN LAND DARF VERLOREN GEHEN' – translated as: 'Donation for beloved East Germany – We will not forget a single palm of German land'



Fig. 18. Otto von Bismarck and nationalist inscription 'Not a foot of German soil must be lost'.

With the permission of the editor of this news sheet, the next issue will present the second part of the article, which deals with the German colonies lost after World War I.

NOTE: The images show labels and postage stamps from the author's collection, except for those in figures 1 (cover of the Treaty of Versailles) and 7 (stamps for Eastern Silesia), for which the sources have been indicated.

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 - 2-08. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Congress_of_Vienna
 - 2-09. https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sf%C3%A2ntul_Imperiu_Roman
 - 2-10. https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tratatul_de_la_Versailles
 - 2-11. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Duchy_of_Schleswig
3. 'The Alnis Guide To German Lost Territories & Colonies – World War One Mourning Stamps', 1989: <http://www.germanpostalhistory.com/php/viewitem.php?itemid=48928&germany%20cover=search&>
4. STEARNS, Peter N., 'The Oxford Encyclopedia of Modern World', 2008, Oxford University Press, vol. 3, pages 129-137.



More Feldpost Humour Cards

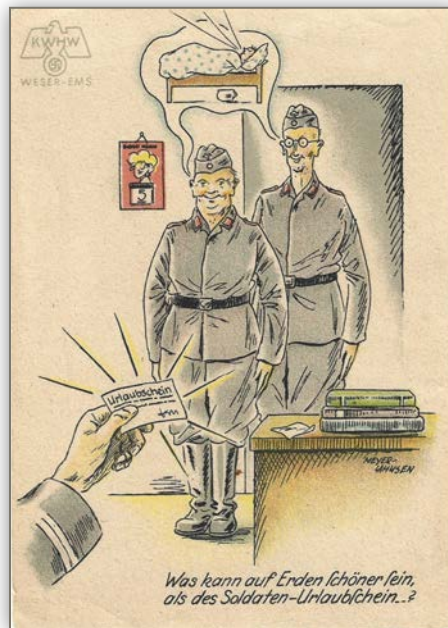
By Gary Eden

In a recent GCPS postal auction I saw a description for five humour cards, which I was lucky in obtaining. One of which I already had, but I was unaware of the other designs.

The cards were produced for the Weser KWHW (**K**reigs**W**inter**H**ilfs**W**erk) War Winter Relief Fund with their logo appearing in the top corner of the cards. They were printed by G. Hunckel, Bremen and the designs were by artist, Meyer-Lahmsen.



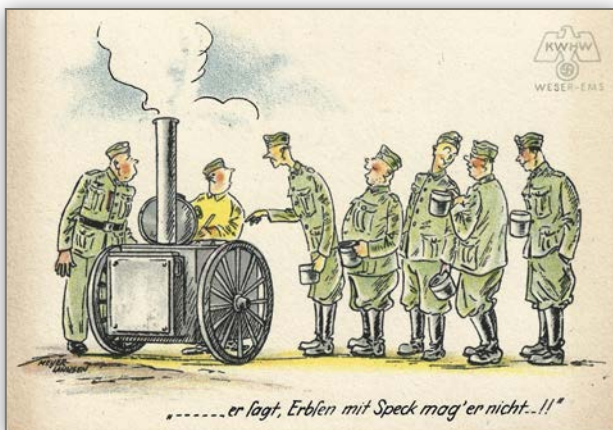
The card depicts a soldier and his sweetheart at night, presumably the night before he leaves. The comment *‘immer in Tuchfühlung bleiben!’* translates as ‘always stay in touch!’



The card depicts two very happy looking soldiers, who are clearly thinking of their comfortable beds at home. The two-line comment *‘Was kann auf Erden schöner sein, als des Soldaten Urlaubschein?’* loosely translates as ‘What can be more beautiful on earth than a soldier’s leave pass?’

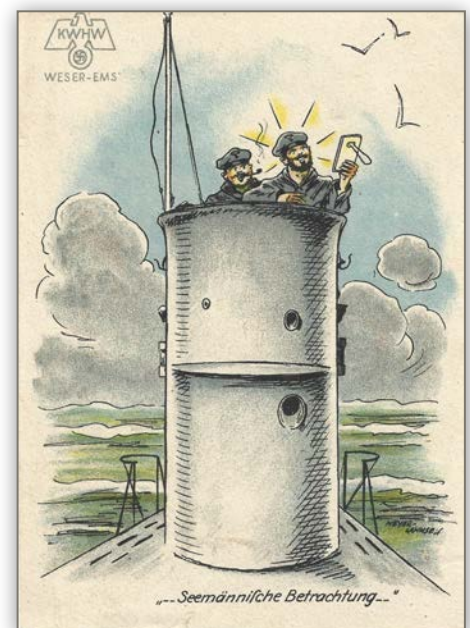


The card depicts sailors peeling potatoes while daydreaming. The comment *‘Zuweilen denken diese hier an ihren halben Liter Bier!’* translates as ‘Sometimes they think here of their half litre of beer!’



The card depicts soldiers eagerly waiting in line at a field kitchen for food. The comment *‘er sagt, Erbsen mit Speck mag’er nicht!’* translates as ‘he says he doesn’t like peas with bacon!’

The card depicts two submariners at the top of the conning tower, supposedly keeping watch, however one is vainly looking at himself in a mirror. The comment *‘Seemännische Betrachtung’* translates as ‘Seafaring observations?’



There were 5 cards in this series, issued by Gau Weser-Ems for winter 1939/40. They are listed by Tieste with the catalogue numbers ‘Gau 37, C 305-309’.
Thank you to Rex Dixon for this supplemental information. Ed.



Luxembourg stamps overprinted in German currency during the occupation

By Rex Dixon

Germany invaded the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg early on 10th May 1940 and very quickly occupied the whole country. The postal service continued to function, almost without a break, with the previous Luxembourg stamps and postal rates continuing in use.



Postcard from Luxembourg-Ville, the main post office in Luxembourg City, posted 22.5.40 to a lady at the district court (*Amtsgericht*) in Felsberg, south of Kassel. Censored at Cologne. The smudgy brownish stripe is probably dirt rather than a test for secret ink.

On 1st October 1940 new postal rates were introduced, which were with few exceptions the same as the rates in Germany (one exception was mail to Belgium – see an example later in the article). On the same day the Hindenburg stamps overprinted 'Luxemburg' were issued, their denominations of course being in Reichspfennigs. These were announced in the *Amtsblatt des Reichspostministerium* decree no. 545/1940. There had been a pre-announcement of these stamps in decree no. 486/1940 dated 30th August (along with those overprinted 'Elsaß' and 'Lothringen') but their date of issue was not then known.

The former Luxembourg stamps were immediately withdrawn from sale and ceased to be valid, though mail items franked with these stamps on the 1st and 2nd would not be penalised. These stamps could be exchanged without charge until 15th November.



Large quantities of mail with mixed frankings were prepared on 1st October 1940. For PO accountancy purposes the rate of exchange was 10 FrLux = 1 RM [Staar p. 39], so this is one of the few mixed frankings where the postage rate is actually correct for the newly introduced German rate of 12 Rpf.



Luxembourg overprints

The Luxembourg postal authorities found that they had large stocks of their own stamps, so they decided to have them overprinted with new values in Reichspfennigs, with the former value in francs and cents well obscured. The overprint was done locally by the firm of P. Linden in Luxembourg [Staar p. 55]. In *Amtsblatt* 199 dated 3rd December, decree no. 673/1940 said that these overprints would be issued on 5th December. The Michel catalogue states that the number overprinted is not known, but Staar gives the quantities in the following table.

Überdruckt wurden von der		
Ausgabe 1926:	5, 10, 20, 40 und 50 C	mit 25, 5, 6, 4, 10, 20 Rpf
Ausgabe 1927:	25 und 75 C	mit 8, 40 Rpf
Ausgabe 1928:	60 C	mit 12 Rpf
Ausgabe 1930:	15, 35 C und 1 Fr	mit 3, 5, 15 Rpf
Ausgabe 1931:	1¼ Fr	mit 50 Rpf
Ausgabe 1934:	5 Fr	mit 80 Rpf
Ausgabe 1935:	70 C und 10 Fr	mit 30, 100 Rpf
Ausgabe 1939:	2 Fr	mit 60 Rpf
Die Auflagehöhe betrug für die einzelnen Werte:		
3 Rpf	1 135 000 Stück	
4 Rpf	743 000 Stück	
5 Rpf	1 400 000 Stück	
6 Rpf	1 900 000 Stück	
8 Rpf	855 000 Stück	
10 Rpf	870 000 Stück	
12 Rpf	900 000 Stück	
15 Rpf	662 400 Stück	
20 Rpf	739 000 Stück	
25 Rpf	617 500 Stück	
30 Rpf	900 000 Stück	
40 Rpf	1 030 000 Stück	
50 Rpf	1 140 000 Stück	

The Luxembourg stamps overprinted and the quantities issued [Staar pp. 55-56].



The low values from 3 Rpf to 50 Rpf overprinted on various issues of the Grand Duchess Charlotte definitives.



Luxembourg overprints

As can be seen from the illustrations, the printers made no attempt to overprint the column totals in the top margins. To do so would have required a different overprinting plate for each value, an unnecessary expense.

The Grand Duchess Charlotte definitives were printed by the American Bank Note Company in sheets of 10×10 . The red numbers are always above column 9. They were part of the original printing as can be seen in these examples. The highest number I'm aware of is '48'. I currently have no explanation as to their purpose or significance. **Can anybody help?**



The three higher values were on large-format stamps. The 60 Rpf was overprinted on a 2 Fr special stamp issued on 18th September 1938 to promote the spa town of Bad Mondorf. It was printed by Courvoisier of La Chaux-de-Fonds in Switzerland as can be seen in the partial imprint on this block.



The 80 Rpf was overprinted on a 5 Fr definitive issued on 30th August 1935. It shows the Gate of the Three Towers in Luxembourg City seen from the south side, and was printed by Atelier du Timbres in Mechelen in Belgium.

Luxembourg overprints



The 100 Rpf was overprinted on a 10 Fr definitive issued on 15th November 1935. It shows the valley of the River Our with Vianden Castle in the distance (which I visited a couple of years ago). According to Michel it was printed by 'Inst. Grav.', which is presumably an abbreviation for Institute of Engraving. The sheets were printed with a gutter.

And now for some examples of the usage of these stamps.



Registered letter dated 4th March 1941 from Garnich with Luxembourg transit stamp and Hannover arrival mark on the reverse. Paid 54 Rpf for double rate (20-250g). German-style date-stamps had been supplied to all post offices by early February 1941 [Staar p. 85]. The registration label was locally printed by the Luxembourg postal authorities but now in red to conform to German practice.



Letter dated 13th January 1941 from Luxembourg 1 post office (renamed from Luxembourg-Ville) to Hainaut in Belgium. The Grand Duchy had long had an agreement with Belgium to use inland rates between them and this was continued during the German occupation [Staar p. 37]. Censored in Cologne.



Luxembourg overprints



Attempted sending on 13th March 1941 of a value-declared letter weighing 28g from Echternach to Aschaffenburg in Germany, correctly paid at 84 Rpf: 24 Rpf for a letter over 20g + insurance fee of 10 Rpf per 500 RM + handling fee of 50 Rpf for a value over 100 RM. Although the postage rate tables published in October 1940 gave the fees for such *Wertbriefe*, they were not allowed between Luxembourg and Germany in either direction until 10th April 1940 (*Amtsblatt* decree no. 182/1941). Returned to sender with annotation 'Wbrfe nach D'land nicht zulässig, Zk' (Value letters to Germany not allowed, return). Echternach receiving mark on reverse for 14th March.

Three Luxembourg postal stationery cards were also overprinted with new values in 'Rpf'. *Amtsblatt* decree no. 73/1941 announced that were placed on sale on 8th February 1941. My 2009 edition of the *Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland* erroneously states they (MiNr. P 6-8) were issued on 5th December 1940, the same date as the overprinted postage stamps. Staar [p. 141] gives the quantities printed in the following table.

Die Auflagenhöhe dieser Karten belief sich für die Werte:	
5 Rpf / 75 C auf	60 010 Stück
6 Rpf / 35 C auf	160 010 Stück
15 Rpf / 1 F auf	51 337 Stück
Von den letzteren wurden allerdings nur 1 000 Stück durch die Post in Luxemburg verkauft; der Rest wurde an die Reichspost in Berlin abgeliefert.	

As the footnote says, of the 15 Rpf card only 1,000 were sold postally in Luxembourg, the rest delivered to the Reichspost in Berlin, where they were sold by the philatelic bureau.

Both the overprinted Luxembourg postage stamps and postal stationery ceased to be sold at post offices on 15th March 1941. They could be exchanged without charge. They lost their postal validity on 31st March 1941, whereas the overprints on the Hindenburg Heads remained valid until the end of 1941 [Staar p. 141].

The Reichspost took over the Luxembourg Post in an announcement dated 23rd April 1941 [Staar p.142; *Amtsblatt* decree no. 325/1941].

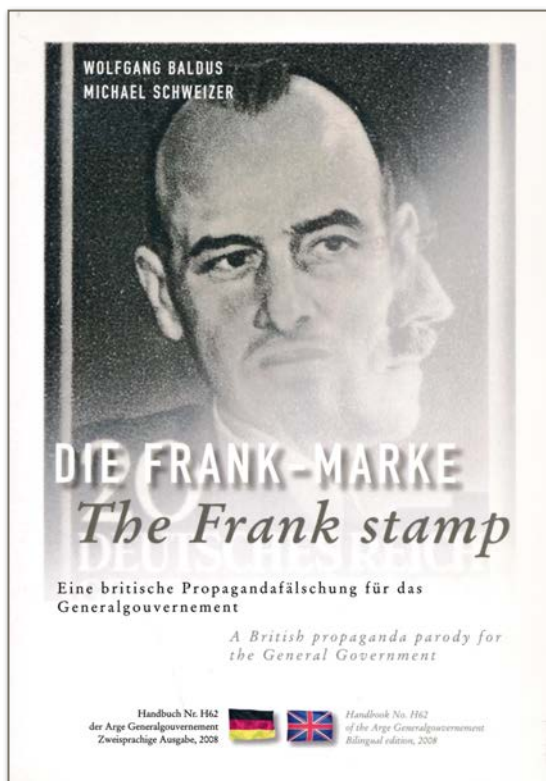
Source: Staar, Marcel, *Das Postwesens in Luxemburg während der deutschen Besetzung im Zweiten Weltkrieg 10.5.1940 - 10.9.1944* (Luxembourg, 1983).



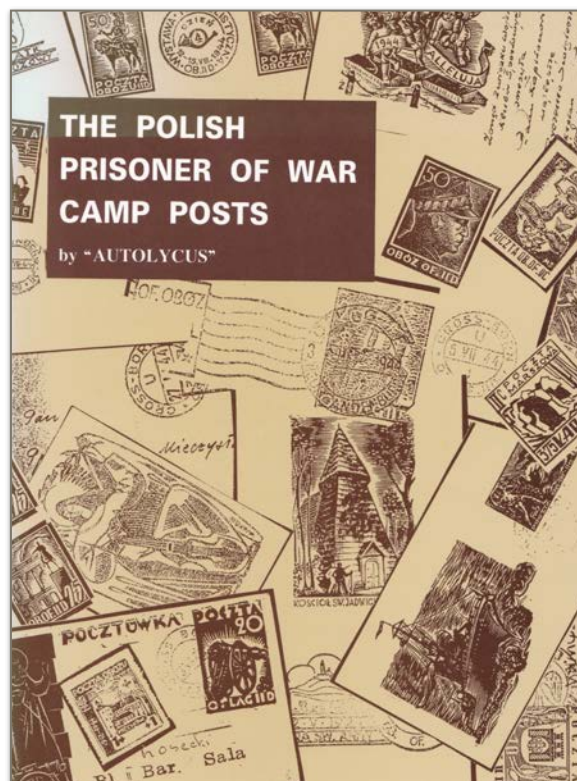
Literature

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

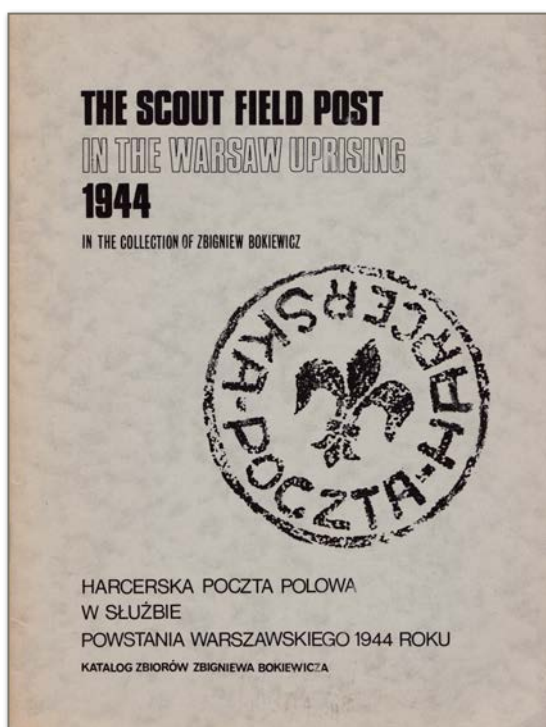
In this issue we highlight a few of the lesser-seen books of Polish relevance.



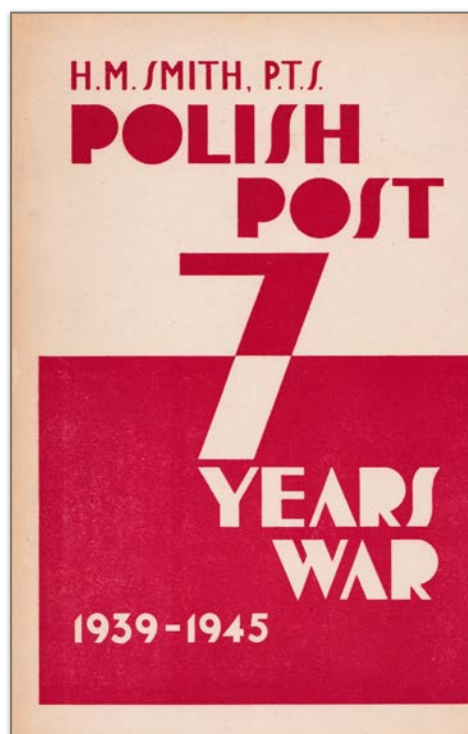
Handbuch Nr. H62 der Arge
Generalgouvernement 1939-1945 e.V, 2008



Published by Caldra House Ltd, 1994



Published by Continental Stamp Supplies Ltd,
London, c.1974



Published by Bristol Stamp Company,
Camberley, c.1945



In Memoriam
By Denis Charlesworth



We recently commemorated the 80th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War.

On Cannock Chase, between Stafford and Hednesford, lies a poignant cluster of memorials that pay tribute to the sacrifices of soldiers from multiple nations during the World Wars. Among these are the Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery and the Commonwealth War Cemetery.

The German Military Cemetery was established in 1967 following a 1959 agreement between the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany. The cemetery serves as the final resting place for 4,929 German and Austrian nationals who perished during the First and Second World Wars. Prior to its establishment, German war dead were interred in scattered graves across the UK. The cemetery was designed by Diez Brandt, with local consultation from Harold Doffman and Peter Leach, and is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission on behalf of the German War Graves Commission (Volksbund Deutsche Kriegsgräberfürsorge).

Set within a landscape reminiscent of North German heathland, the cemetery features uniform headstones and a central Hall of Honour. At its heart lies a bronze sculpture of a fallen warrior by German sculptor Professor Hans Wimmer, symbolising the sombre reflection on the costs of war. The cemetery also includes a granite monument dedicated to the crews of four German Zeppelin airships .

Lest we forget ALL that fell during the conflict of 1939-1945





Membership

The TRSG welcomes all of its Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society members to their meetings in 2025

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 - 16:00

The last meeting of the year will be held on

18th October 2025

Topic of the meeting will be 'Members' displays'

(The report from the July meeting can be found on page 3)

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 carl.buck01@btinternet.com



The G&CPS

The Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society welcomes new members.

The Society is open to all age groups and currently has a membership 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).

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

**A NEW REGIONAL GROUP WILL MEET IN LEICESTER
COMMENCING 1.30pm ON SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2025
SEE *GERMANIA* OR CONTACT CARL BUCK FOR FURTHER DETAILS**

The Society's journal '*Germania*' is published quarterly and contains over 60 full colour pages of expert articles on various aspects of German philately and Postal History.

JOIN TODAY

For membership details please visit www.germanphilately.org and click 'JOIN' on the red toolbar

