



The Third Reich Study Group

NEWS SHEET

Group Leader:

John Rawlings, 58 Crantock Road, Catford, London SE6 2QP

No. 183

December 2020

In this Christmas Bonus issue :

DEAR MEMBER:

Information and future of our Group through this Covid-19 pandemic
by Steve Clark – page 2

GREAT DEALS ON PHILATELIC BOOKS AND SUPPLIES – page 2

STATE OF THE MEMBERSHIP:

Our growing list of New Members to our Group – page 3

ENQUIRIES:

‘New Enquiries’ and ‘Results of Enquiries’ – pages 3 thru 6

JUST WHEN YOU THINK IT IS SAFE:

An article about the fraudulent cancels and cachets now appearing on line

An article by Bob Jones – page 7

THE SHORT LIFE OF A SUBMARINE IN THE KRIEGSMARINE:

A cover from a very short history of a German submarine

by Bob Jones – page 8

PUTTING FACES TO THE NAMES:

An article about a name found on advertising cards in my collection

by Bob Jones – page 9

THE PHILATELIC LEGACY OF JULIUS BOCHMANN:

An article reprinted from 2011 by John Rawlings – pages 10 thru 16

KRIEGSMARINE TRAINING VESSELS 1933 – 39 (Part 2):

The final instalment of ships of the Kriegsmarine by Steve Clark – pages 17 thru 21

LATE RED CROSS MESSAGES TO THE CHANNEL ISLANDS:

A look at two Red Cross message sheets from Bob Jones and Bob Baltzell – pages 22 & 23

MORE HEALTH AND SAFETY CARDS:

by Bob Jones – pages 24 & 25

NEW COLOUR ILLUSTRATION FOR OUR SOUVENIR SHEET CD:

A new colour illustration and information on how to obtain the CD – page 26

CUMULATIVE INDEX FOR THE 2020 ISSUES OF OUR NEWS SHEET – page 27

EPILOGUE:

SOME FINAL THOUGHTS FOR 2020 AND HOPES FOR 2021:

by Bob Jones – page 28

Dear Member

Dear fellow Members,

As you are aware, all local, regional and national philatelic meetings and displays have been cancelled during 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fortunately, certain on-line activities have helped to 'fill the time gaps' e.g. postal auctions, etc. The continued strong desire for philatelic meetings has, however, led to the development of live, free of charge (for 40 min.), video transmission systems e.g. the 'ZOOM' app., which enables members of societies to hold and participate in meetings and displays while in the comfort of their own homes.

A few days ago, I attended an on-line ZOOM meeting held by members of my local society (R.T.W.P.S), that was simultaneously 'attended' by 15 fellow members situated in their own homes. We had 3 displays each of c. 30 min. duration, plus opportunities for discussions. The results of this type of meeting were unanimously popular and I believe of great potential for philately during the current pandemic.

Unfortunately, not all GCPS members have access to on-line facilities, but I'm sure that they will also be positively encouraged by recent results of clinical trials. We all sincerely hope that further studies will soon provide us with vaccines for the future elimination of COVID-19 ! Until then, it's continuing with government advice i.e. social distancing, washing hands regularly, wearing face masks in appropriate locations, etc.

Please take care and keep well.

Steve Clark Ph.D

CHRISTMAS IS STILL ON !



**Treat yourself to some philatelic therapy
or, better still, get someone to buy you
a present from a huge range of
CATALOGUES/ALBUMS/LEAVES/MOUNTS/
ACCESSORIES at up to 20% DISCOUNT**

also

Foreign Workers and Their Mail in Wartime Germany 1939-1945

by Philip Townshend. Edited by Rex Dixon. A4 size, 44 pages, gloss art 250gsm cover, stapled, illustrated in colour.

Price £10.00 including UK postage

A Guide to Postal Services and Rates in Germany December 1923 to May 1945 by
Rex Dixon.

A5 size, 250gsm gloss art cover pages in colour + 24 pages text and illustrations in b&w, stapled.

Price £3.50 including UK postage

Cheques payable to G&CPS - please support your Society

Giles du Boulay, 8 Malvern Road,
AYLESBURY, Bucks., HP20 1QF
Tel: 01296 488703 E-mail: giles.duboulay@btinternet.com

G & CPS: www.germanphilately.org

State of the Membership

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to our Study Group. They are:

Nicholas Lewis	- Alzey, Germany
Innes Penman	- Perth, PH2 0EY

Our total membership now stands at: 148

Enquiries

New Enquiries

Enq. 7/20 We received a message from one of our American members, Barry Hoffman, showing the two postcards shown below, with this query:

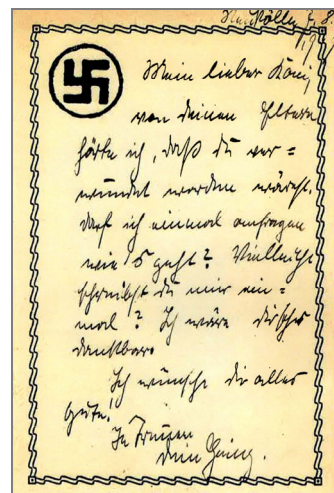
“I’d like to share images of two postcards I recently found and see if our members might have some information for me.

They show early usage of the Swastika. Hitler did not form the Nazi Party till 1920 and these look like they were used earlier. German Workers Party? I suppose the key would be in translating the messages in the cards – unfortunately I cannot translate them. I enclose a set of photocopies for you.

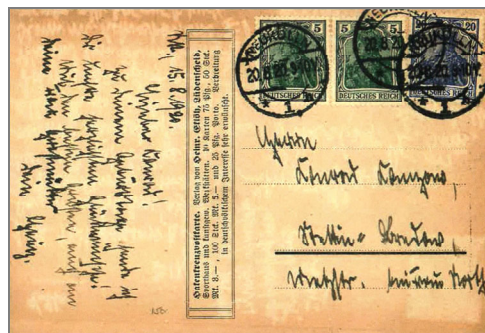
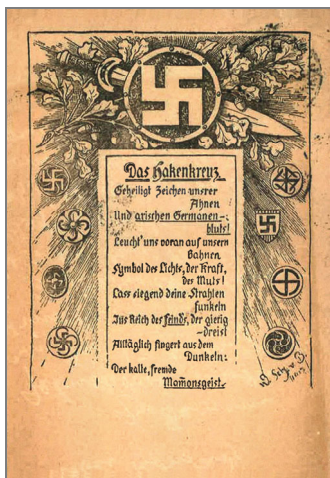
Do you or any of our members have any comments on the cards? How do I write them up?”



Card 1: posted in Berlin on 9th August 1919



Card 2: posted in Neukölln on 20th August 1920



New Enquiries (cont.)

Enq. 7/20 (cont.) So are there any members that can suggest to Barry a way of writing these cards up with a philatelic angle. Maybe even write an article on the origins and early use of the Swastika in Germany or even a translation of the cards' messages would be of great help to him? Ed.

Enq. 8/20 Our member from Israel, Lawrence Fisher, would like to ask the membership if anyone can help him locate a meter franking shown below.



If anyone can help Lawrence, please get in touch with me at bobjones53@blueyonder.co.uk

Enq. 9/20 Our member Albert Jackson wrote to ask for information on a postcard in his collection. Albert wrote:
 “Wehrmacht Ausstellung
 Like many of us, I am now digging deep for items to mount during this extended period of inactivity. I came across this postcard (shown below), which John Rawlings gave me many years ago. Unfortunately, I cannot find information on this exhibition, which was held in Krakow in the summer of 1942. It looks to me to be showing enemy aircraft brought down by German forces. Can anyone throw light on it?”



Enq. 10/20 I would like post an enquiry of my own. One of my collecting interests is pre-printed postal cards of the Third Reich period. In my collection I have all but one of the ‘Klickow’ advertising cards. I have never had the opportunity to obtain this mystery card or, in fact, even seen a picture of it. The card is (in the Frech catalogue) PP 122 B17-01. I have the other 16 out of 17 cards but would dearly like to see what the first card in this series looks like. I have shown the second card (PP 122 B17-2) here for you to see the type of card I am talking about. If anyone can help with scans of both sides of my missing card, I would be most grateful. Ed.



Frech catalogue PP 122 B17-02.

Results of Enquiries

Enq. 6/20 In reply to our member Richard Fleet's request in the last News Sheet, 2 members got in touch with the following responses. The first response is from Dave Ripley.

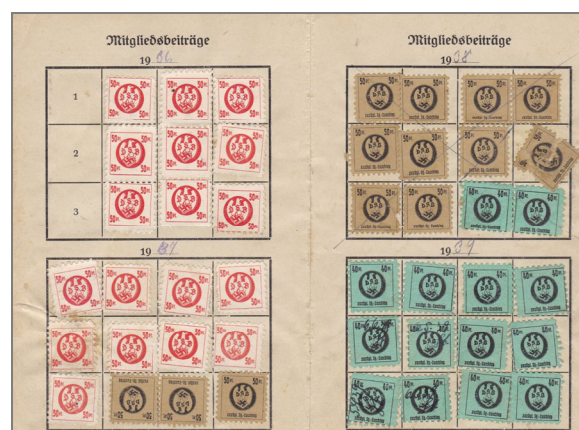
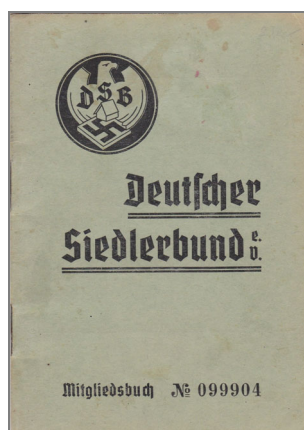
"I have some information for Richard Fleet:

The stamps are monthly dues payment receipt stamps for the Deutscher Siedlerbund (German Settlers Association). The stamps depict the symbol of the organization. My understanding is that the purpose of this NSDAP organization was to help young couples get settled in homes of their own with the help and advice of party functionaries. This was a very important NS social function of the Hitler government.

I have attached 3 images of DSB items from my collection. If you google for "Deutscher Siedlerbund" you will get additional information, particularly if you go to the moonwheel site (Jens Monrad of Denmark) where you can see stamps and membership booklets.

I met Jim Kellog during the 2006 World stamp show held in Washington DC because we shared an interest in this kind of material. He started the Third Reich Stamp yahoo chat group many years ago. As far as I know now, he took a big hit in the global financial meltdown awhile back. He transferred ownership of TRS to me which has since moved to TRS at Groups.io. Unfortunately, I have tried to contact him several times over the past year with no reply and others tell me the same thing. He and I did much business before he vanished. We managed to swap items neither of us had seen before as our sources were apparently different. He did say he would contact me if he decided to sell any part of his collection so I am still hopeful to hear from him someday".

-Dave



Results of Enquiries (cont.)

Enq. 6/20 (cont.) The second response came from our member Jens Monrad.

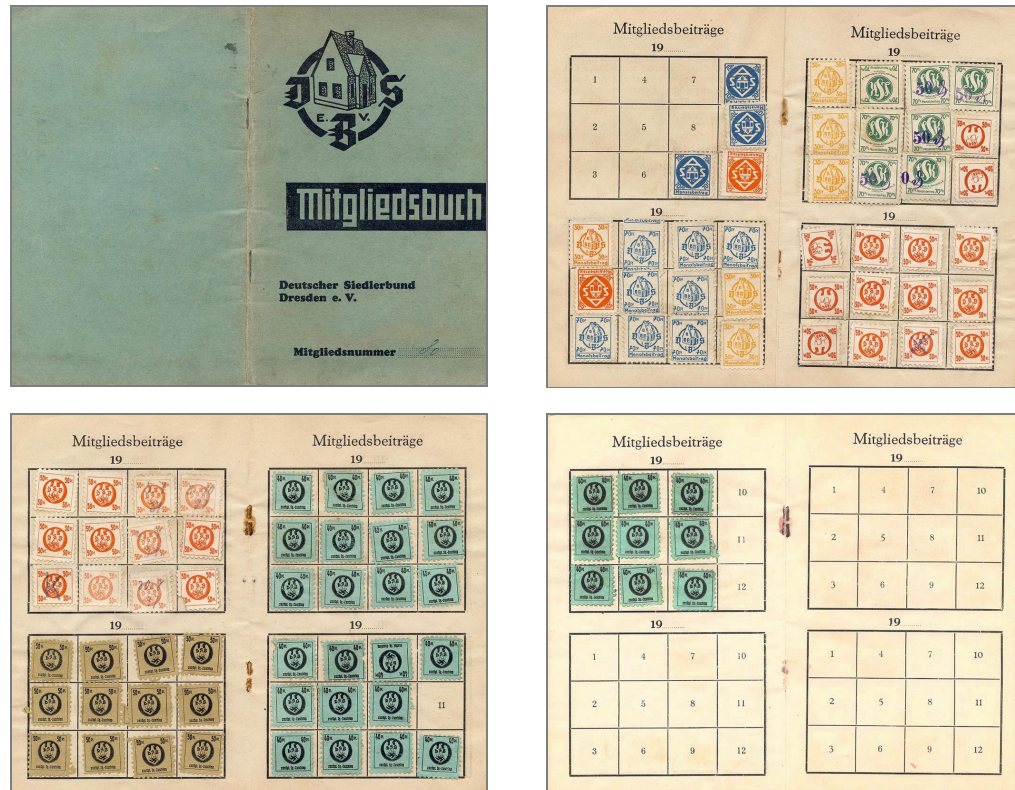
"I can't help Richard with his collection. I have nothing for sale, but maybe he can learn something from my web site. You are welcome to send him the link and/or publish it in the next newsletter. www.moonwheel.eu

He is writing about "German League of Home Owners"

Have a look here <https://www.moonwheel.eu/A-D.html> and scroll down to DSB.

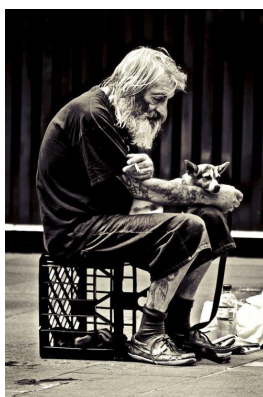
Greetings from Denmark
-Jens"

(Below is shown another type of membership book from Jens' web site. Ed.)



We would like to thank Barry, Lawrence, Albert, Dave and Jens for their contributions to our 'Enquiries' section.

* I would also highly recommend Jens' web site for anyone interested in membership booklets of all kinds from the Third Reich period. I have used his site for many of my illustrations over the years Ed.



Thoughts for this Christmas

Most of our members will be waking up to this Christmas Day hoping that maybe there was some snow the night before to give the day that special 'Christmas' feel. Our tables will be laden with Christmas fare of impossible amounts to eat. Maybe we will have presents under the Christmas tree. Presents that we do not really want or need. Maybe some of us will be roasting chestnuts on an open fire?

Well I am asking members to remember that some people are praying that it does not snow, that they will have something, anything to eat. I hope that we can at least remember them at this time of year and a present we could give to them all.... our love and compassion.

– Bob Jones

Just When You Think It Is Safe

by

Bob Jones

I first saw an article on the subject of counterfeit cancels and the like back in News Sheet No.74 (September 1993) and since then it seemed that bogus cancels appear every now and then. Recently on eBay I found such material again being touted as “Polish 10 Zlotych banknote KRAKOW German Occupation Nazi banknote” and “WW2 GREEK BANKNOTE 100,000 DRACHMA. SS Waffen German occupation STAMP”.

I have shown a selection of these notes below and also their description.



“Polish 10 Zlotych banknote Krakow.
German Occupation Nazi banknote”



“WW2 Greek banknote 100,000 Drachma.
SS Waffen German Occupation stamp”



“Serbian Yugoslavia Banknote WW2 with Nazi
stamps German Occupation Nazi”



“1000 Kuna 1941 Croatia banknote”



“German Hitler Youth 5 Reichsmark banknote
1942 German Nazi banknote”



“Italy banknote 10 Lire WW2”

I know there is no accounting for taste as to what people choose to collect but I do find it irritating that some, maybe most, of the purchasers of this stuff think they are buying some kind of genuine Second World War memorabilia. If you look for this seller (ww2_1956) who hails from Swindon here in the U.K., you can see by the seller's feedback that he (or she) has sold hundreds of these items, at £5 each.

So, we have seen these bogus cancels on covers, cards, documents and now paper currency. What could possibly be next? Answers on a postcard please!

The Short Life of a Submarine in the Kriegsmarine

by

Bob Jones

Shown below is the front and back of an interesting cover sent from a submarine to a family member in Leipzig on 22nd September 1943. Available research data from the 'Ubootarchiv' website shows an abrupt end to this vessel.



German WWII 1943 U-Boot U538 Submarine Feldpost Cover

Original Feldpost / sailor's mail from WWII Unterseeboot (U-Boot) / submarine handstamp of FPN 45127 Ausbildungs-Gruppe Front (BdU.), Technische Ausbildungs-Gruppe fuer Front-U-Boote. And FPN of sender FPN M49827. The U538 sailed out of Bergen, Norway, on 24th October 1943 and was subsequently lost on its first outing, on 21st November 1943.

German submarine U-538 was a Type IXC/40 U-boat of Nazi Germany's Kriegsmarine during World War II. She was laid down at the Deutsche Werft (yard) in Hamburg as yard number 356 on 18th April 1942, launched on 20th August and commissioned on 10th February 1943 with Kapitänleutnant Johann-Egbert Gosseler in command. U-538 began her service career with training as part of the 4th U-boat Flotilla from 10th February 1943. She was reassigned to the 2nd Flotilla for operations on 1st November.

She carried out one patrol and did not sink any ships. She was a member of one wolfpack.

She was sunk on 21st November 1943 southwest of Ireland by depth charges dropped from the British frigate 'Foley' and the sloop 'HMS Crane'.



HMS Foley



HMS Crane

Acknowledgements:

Description below cover is from the website selling the cover.

Details of service and information of sinking from Wikipedia,

Putting Faces to the Names

by Bob Jones

After our first article about “Putting Faces to the Names” back in News Sheet No.176 (March 2019) I decided to add an article of my own.

I have collected privately printed postal cards for some time and having gone through them recently (the benefits of ‘lockdown’) I found 4 cards from the series of ‘Klickow’ advertising cards that might be of interest to our members. The 4 cards mentioned are shown below and identified by their ‘Frech’ catalogue numbers.

All of the 4 cards are addressed to ‘Julius Bochmann’ of Cainsdorf in Saxony. This is the Julius Bochmann of the famous catalogues of cancels etc. still used today.



PP 122 - B 17-09



PP 122 - B 17-10



PP 122 - B 17-12



PP 122 - B 17-13

It is usually at this point when I have shown the cards, that I would now start the description of the person and an outline of his life etc. I have chosen on this occasion to re-publish an article first appearing in our December 2011 edition of our News Sheet (No.147) by John Rawlings that is an excellent in-depth look at Bochmann's life and nothing I can add to this fine article would enhance it. This article starts on the following page.

The Philatelic Legacy of Julius Bochmann

by

John Rawlings



Julius Bochmann
1901 - 1957

The introduction of postage stamps, first in Great Britain and later by postal administrations all over the world, was just one of the many spin offs of the industrial revolution of the 19th century. These small pieces of printed paper bearing, initially, nothing more exciting than numerals or the image of a head of state, were designed simply as receipts to confirm the prepayment of postage but to many, young and old, they were attractive novelties and, moreover, if they came through one's own letterbox or could be obtained from friends or acquaintances they could be had for the asking. So, like many other small items, such as buttons or marbles, they rapidly became collectables and our hobby was born.

As the decades passed, interest grew. Enterprising individuals, often collectors themselves, began to realise that there was a market for them and, by the latter quarter of the century, the first dealers had set up in towns and cities in the developed world, advertising their wares in lists and catalogues and offering for sale all the sundry items then considered necessary to mount and conserve a collection, and the first collectors' groups had been formed.

Initially it was the design of the stamp (and later, the postal stationery) that was the attraction and collectors strove for completion to whatever extent their personal budgets would allow. Few people paid any attention to postage rates, or to the varied postmarks and cachets which the postal authorities used to invalidate the stamps and to record the passage of letters and cards through the postal system. It was an approach which, in this country, lasted well into the late 1950s when I first began my adult collection with stamps acquired from the 6d packets sold in Woolworths, or from the cards which were still a feature of many newsagents' windows. All I wanted in my collection of the stamps of Hitler's Germany was 'one mint, one used'. However, it was not long before membership of the G & C.P.S. and the purchase of a copy of Harper & Scheck's seminal handbook on Third Reich philately opened my eyes to the enormous range of interest which lay beyond the basic stamps. I realised eventually that I had discovered the delights of postal history and collecting has never been the same since.

In Germany this discovery came to many collectors at least by the early 1900s. While the British post office had remained conservative and unadventurous the German post office had, to some extent, realised the commercial potential of a system which could put advertisers in daily touch with the general public at minimal cost. At least by the 1870s, postal authorities, particularly those in the big cities like Berlin, Dresden, Hamburg, Munich and Hanover, shrewdly calculated that the organisers of commercial events would pay good money to have the name of their event boldly displayed on the front of letters and cards soon to be distributed to homes all over the city and beyond and they began to commission suitably inscribed handstamps such as those illustrated below.



Trade & Industry
Exhibition
1879



Garden Show
1887



9th Gymnastics
Festival
1898



German Cyclists
Day
1903



Shooting
Competition
1906



Motor Show
1902

GEWERBESCHAU
1.10.3-4N.
MÜNCHEN 1912



Trade & Industry Exhibition
1912



Philatelists Day
1913

The Philatelic Legacy of Julius Bochmann (cont.)

By the early 1900s postmarks were becoming more varied. Advertising slogans began to appear beside the circular date stamps and, in September 1918, the German government itself showed that it too had, somewhat belatedly, realised the potential of the post office at a time of national crisis. The slogan cancellation shown here in Fig.3, with

== Hilf siegen! ==
 == Zeichne ==
 == Kriegsanleihe! ==

Fig.3

its appeal to the German people to “Subscribe to the War Loan” was, perhaps, the first piece of postal propaganda used by a German government. It was used on mail posted in Augsburg, Bamberg, Kaiserslautern, Ludwigshafen, Munich, Nuremburg and Wurzburg from September 24th to October 10th 1918.

After the war all sections of German society seem to have become aware of the potential benefits of postal advertising. Local authorities began commissioning handstamps publicising the products and attractions of their town or district and slogans and handstamps advertising everything from trade and industry to art, and from sporting events to post office services soon began to appear on a large percentage of the mail received by the average German householder. After the trauma of defeat and the widespread social and economic problems that followed, patriotic Germans needed to remind themselves of the history and culture of their country and, for many, collecting the stamps, postal stationery and postal cancellations now so widely available was a small, but important, aid to rebuilding national pride.

This new approach undoubtedly added to the variety and interest of the hobby but, for the collectors of German postal history during the interwar period it cannot have been easy. The stamp magazines and catalogues would alert the collector to the stamps related to their particular interest or theme and either the post office or a local dealer would supply them. Their local post office would be able to give details about its own local handstamps and slogans, but, if a collector lived in a small provincial town and was interested in the culture and history of the capital, how would they know what new material was being produced and how would they be able to buy it at a time when most stamp magazines were still mainly devoted to stamps worldwide. Even as late as 1935 the “Illustriertes Briefmarken Journal” devoted its entire 24 sides to articles and illustrations of stamps of various types and all the dealers’ adverts offered stamps rather than covers or cards, and the market for covers had yet to develop. It must have become increasingly clear to most keen collectors at the time that a great deal of work would have to be done to collect, collate and supply the kind of information that was needed. New and detailed catalogues and handbooks would have to be compiled and published and, to anyone sitting down to give the matter serious thought, the scale and complexity of the task must have seemed daunting. It was a task that only a very keen young collector, single-minded, well-educated and with endless patience, would even consider. Fortunately for collectors of our generation there was one such studious and dedicated young German collector who decided to accept the challenge. His name was Julius Bochmann.

Julius Bochmann gives the impression of having been a quiet and retiring man and I have been able to discover virtually nothing about his early life. He was born on March 8th 1901 and probably had a secure family life and a good education. His age spared him the horrors of army life in World War I and a brief reference to his resuming his teaching career after World War II suggests that he took up teaching in his early twenties. Quite when he developed an interest in philately, we can only guess, but it is probable that a childhood interest in stamps later developed into an interest in the increasingly varied postmarks that he saw on the letters his parents received. All that we can say for sure is that, by the early 1920s, he had embarked on a study which would become a lifetime’s obsession. A paragraph in the preface to the new post war edition of his postmark catalogue suggests that serious research began in 1925. After a passing reference to a historical study printed in that year he makes the following comments which, when loosely translated, read “Around this time I started my notes about all the ‘Gelegenheitsstempel’* I came across, listing only those I had seen with my own eyes, making all the checks I could, and viewing all information from other sources (including the Post Office) with a degree of suspicion. I was aware that, only by taking notes from all the collections and duplicates that I could find over many years, could I develop a sound foundation for the catalogue I was seeking to create.”

* (Here he refers to postmarks which were introduced to publicise special events of limited duration. In some cases they might have been used for the one day only, in others it might have been in use for a succession of weeks or even months. The German word sums it up neatly but, in English, the term ‘Occasional postmarks’ does not convey quite the same meaning. We can only resort to a somewhat longer phrase such as ‘Special event postmarks used for a limited period’).

At this stage in the mid to late 1920s Bochmann must have been a very busy man. While pursuing a demanding career as a teacher he must also have been making a name for himself in German philatelic circles. In 1922, as he also observes in his preface, it would have been possible to cover all the new postmarks being introduced across the country in one article. Now he was having to build a network of fellow collectors and friends to help him keep track of them all. In addition to that he managed to find time to organise a Postmark Study Circle (Poststempel – Vereinigung); to be, for some years, the editor of the “Deutschen Philatelisten Zeitung” (a stamp magazine published in Gossnitz) and to act as ‘fachschriftleiter’ (I cannot find this term in my dictionary but I can only suppose it means advisory editor on postmarks) to two Viennese stamp magazines, “Postmarke” and “Postwertzeichen”.

The Philatelic Legacy of Julius Bochmann (cont.)

As the years passed and the lists of new cancellations filled more and more folders in his study he must, at some stage, have begun to give serious thought as to when he would be ready to publish and what form the book (or books) would take. The launch was planned for February 1936 and the photocopies sent to me by the Poststempelgilde show that the book was to be issued in parts on paper something between A4 and A5 in size. The parts would vary in their number of pages and the postmarks would be listed alphabetically, and in chronological order, under the name of the town that used them. Thus, Part I would cover the towns from AACHEN to BUTZBACH and would contain 53 sides of text. It all seems quite straightforward. The editor simply takes all the postmarks for a particular town, arranges them in chronological order, inserts the illustration of the postmark, gives it a number and then adds the details concerning the event and the period of use. Unfortunately, space limitations quickly become obvious and I wonder at what stage Bochmann realised that, if he tried to do this, he would only have space on one page for half a dozen postmarks at most. To complete each part in this way would roughly double the number of pages needed and so roughly double production costs. Even reducing the size of the font and the illustrations would not have solved the problem. Explanatory text could not be significantly reduced so the only practical way forward was to reduce the number of illustrations and so, if you take your copy of any one of the parts of the Bochmann catalogue off your bookshelf and check you will find that, on every page, a proportion of the postmarks described and numbered (sometimes large, sometimes small) are not illustrated. Unfortunately solving one problem simply created another. If a collector did not know what a postmark looked like how could he recognise it if he saw it, and how could he make a dealer or fellow collector understand what he was looking for? It would have been completely impractical to try to describe, in words, what a postmark looked like so, after what must have involved a fair amount of trial and error, he came up with a simple solution that has stood the test of time. It can be found clearly set out and explained on the middle pages of Part I in the latest edition of his current catalogue and, is shown below for those members who do not yet have the Bochmann catalogue. The postmarks have been divided into 12 different types and each type is assigned an identifying code letter which can then be used as a prefix to the text used to describe its use.

Fig.4 Postmark Types.



Hd - Handstamps.



Ro - Hand roller postmarks.



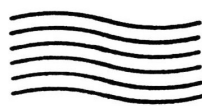
A - Flag postmark with date stamp on the right.



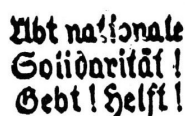
B - Flag postmark with date stamp on the left.



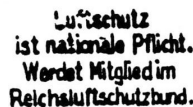
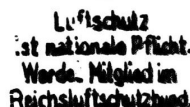
C - Flag postmark with date stamp in the middle, text on the left and wavy lines on the right.



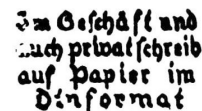
D - Flag postmark with date stamp in the middle, text on the right and wavy lines on the left.



E - Flag postmark with date stamp in the middle, text on the left and a different advert on the right.



F - Flag postmark with date stamp in the middle, text on the right and a different advert on the left.



The Philatelic Legacy of Julius Bochmann (cont.)

G - Date stamp in the middle, text on the left and meter value on the right.



H - Date stamp in the middle, text on the right and meter value on the left.



J - Text in the middle with town date stamps either side.



Bd - Band (or roller) postmark with three date stamps alternating with two identical advert panels.



K - Band (or roller) postmark with three date stamps alternating with two different advert panels.

The extract shown in Fig.5 below (taken from page 789 of the 1968 edition of the Bochmann catalogue – Heft 22, Lieferung 18) shows how well the system could, and usually did, work. The five postmarks listed were all used in the city of Würzburg. Three are illustrated and all are described. The letter codes allocated to each show that Nos.16, 17 and 19 exist only as circular handstamps while the two slogans appear in more than one form. No.18 in forms A, Bd and K, No.20 in forms A and B. When space became a problem it was sometimes possible to choose to omit designs like those used for the handstamps listed as Nos.17 and 19 which had been used in other towns and were illustrated in other parts of the catalogue.

Fig.5

	<p>S § + 16. 6.WHW - Reichs - Strassensammlung / Schaffende sammeln - / Schaffende / geben / 31.3.1940 Z:Hakenkreuz im Fahrrad, wie Apolda Nr.3 - Hd 40 31.3. 1.25</p>
	<p>S § + 17. Tag der Briefmarke / 12.1.1941 Z:U-Boot, wie Berlin Nr.342 - Hd 41 12.1. 2.00</p> <p>18. Herr Walther / von der / Vogelweide, / begraben zu Würzburg Z:Bild Walthers von der Vogelweide - 2/ a A - 2/ c Bd - 2/ 2 Bd 41,42,43,44 2.50 - 2/ 1 K(Würzburg 21) - 2/ 1 K(Würzburg 22)</p>
	<p>S § + 19. Tag der Briefmarke / R d P / 11.1.1942 Z:Posthorn, wie Aachen Nr.23 - Hd 42 11.1. 1.50</p> <p>20. Mozart - / Fest / Würzburg / 13. - 28.Juni 1942 Z:Zwei Lorbeerzweige - 2/ b A 42 2.50 - 2/ b B</p>

The Philatelic Legacy of Julius Bochmann (cont.)

Following the arrival of Part 1 of the new Bochmann "Katalog der Deutschen Sonderstempel" in February 1936 new sections of the work began to emerge from the Robert Noske publishing house in Leipzig at regular intervals over the next three years. These were:-

Part 2 – Calcar to Fulda

Part 3 – Fürstenburg to Kirchgarten

Part 4 – Kirn to Mainz

Part 5 – Mainz to Bad Orb

Part 6 – Ortenberg to Stuttgart

Part 7 – Stuttgart to Zwischenahn

This last part also included parts 2 and 3 of a separate study of what the author called 'Serienstempel'. These were the postmarks (mainly various types of slogan date stamps) that had been used in more than one town or city. Quite when and where Part 1 of this section appeared is something of a mystery. A further 3 supplements (presumably to all sections of the project) were published on an annual basis from 1937 to 1939. The first covered material issued up to March 12th 1938; the second up to December 31st 1938 and the third up to an unknown date in 1939. The last two of these were printed, not by the Leipzig firm but by the printers Volk und Reich Verlag in Berlin. While organising and supervising all the updates, he also managed to find the time to produce a 39-side study called "Sudeten Deutsch Befreiungsstempel", covering the enormous range of official and improvised cancellations used during the German takeover of the Sudetenland. This too was printed in Berlin.

All this activity coincided almost precisely with the period when the National Socialist government had reached the peak of its popularity. No earlier administration had ever made such extensive use of the postal system to promote its own policies and to try to gain the active support of the entire population and no postal system had gone so far out of its way to make its products, such as stamps, postmarks and postal stationery cards so easily available to the general public. Every special event seems to have been used as an opportunity for such postal propaganda and collectors and souvenir hunters alike bought avidly. By the late 1930s postmark collecting had become so popular in Germany that philatelic magazines, such as 'Sammelerwoche' and the 'Deutsche Zeitung für Briefmarkenkunde' were including regular columns, giving detailed descriptions (usually without illustrations) of the latest postmarks.

Fig.6

Nr. 1 1937

Deutsche Zeitung für Briefmarkenkunde (DBZ)

Neu genehmigte Werbe-, Fest- und Gelegenheitsstempel

Nach amtlichen Unterlagen zusammengestellt von F. B o u m a n, Halle (Saale).

Zeichenerklärung: Hd. = Handstempel, Hdr. = Handrollenstempel, Mg. = Maschinenganzstempel, Mh. = Maschineneinstempel, m./Z. = mit zeichnerischer Darstellung, J. = Inschrift des Stempels (Datum am Schluß einer Meldung: Letzter Tag der zugelassenen Laufdauer des Stempels).

Ahlen i. Westf., Hd. - J: Die Stadt der schweren und bewährten westfälischen Emaille - m./Z. (30. 11. 38.)

Altona/Elbe und 99 andere Postämter; Mh. - J: Internationale Leipziger Messe 28./2. - 8./3. - (20. 2. 37.)

Aschersleben, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Berlin W 62, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Berlin SW 11, und 6 andere Berliner Postämter; Mh. - J: Grüne Woche Berlin 1937, 29./1. - 7./2. Ausstellungshallen am Kaiserdamm - (31. 1. 37.)

Breslau 1, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: 6. Schlesische Postwertzeichen-Ausstellung 1937 - m./Z. (3. bis 10. 1. 37.). Außerdem: Hd. - J: Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (Nur am 10. 1. 37.)

Bremen, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Chemnitz, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: 2. Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Düsseldorf 1, Mg. - J: Schaffendes Volk Reichsausstellung 1937, Mai-Okt. - m./Z. (30. 9. 37.)

Erfurt, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Essen und 4 andere Postämter; Mh. - J: Kinderarmes Volk - Verlorenes Volk - (8. 6. 37.)

Forst/Lausitz, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Frankfurt/Main, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: Werbe-Ausstellung zum Tag der Briefmarke 9. u. 10. Januar 1937 - m./Z. (9./10. 1. 37.). Außerdem: Hd. - J: Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (Nur am 10. 1. 37.)

Gößnitz/Kr. Altenburg; Hd. - J: Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Germersheim; Hd. - J: Die Garnison- und Festungsstadt Germersheim lädt zum Besuch ein - m./Z. (30. 11. 38.)

Gera; Mh. - J: 84 000 Einw., 700 Jahre Stadt, Festtage 21./29. 8. 37. - (29. 8. 37.)

Greiz; Mh. - J: Besucht Greiz zur 1000-Jahr-Feier der Reußenburg, 15./21. 8. 1937 - m./Z. (31. 12. 37.)

Hamburg 1, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: 1937 Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Hannover 1, Sonderpostamt; Tag der Briefmarke - m./Z. (10. 1. 37.)

Halle/Saale, Sonderpostamt; Hd. - J: Erste Briefmarken-Ausstellung mit KdF. - m./Z. (9./10. 1. 37.)

Halle/Leipzig, Flughafen; Hd. - J: „Schkeuditz“ - m./Z. (31. 10. 37.)

It is interesting to note from the extract shown above, published in the latter magazine on January 25th 1937, that the information did not necessarily come from Bochmann himself, and that his code for identifying the postmark types had not yet caught on. Here the editor seems to have invented his own.

The Philatelic Legacy of Julius Bochmann (cont.)

However, even at this stage, the trade and the German philatelic establishment do not seem to have accepted that postmark collecting was as equally valid and important as traditional stamp collecting. In leafing through a long run of the magazines mentioned, published during the period 1937 to 1940, I found remarkably few illustrations of (or articles on) postmarks and equally few dealers' adverts offering postmarks for sale. Bochmann himself seems to have had just as little recognition in print. Throughout this period, he had been publishing the results of his research and yet I was unable to find any reference to the publication of any of his handbooks in the magazines available to me or any mention of him as a philatelist and researcher. During the same period, he was entering either his handbooks or parts of his collection (or both) at various stamp shows and exhibitions and achieving a fair degree of recognition. To give just two examples, he mentions in the preface to the first post war edition of his handbook that he received a bronze medallion at the exhibition held at the 44th German Philatelic day in Bremen in 1938 and a bronze Bernstein Plaque at the National Stamp Exhibition held in Berlin in 1940 but, although I found fairly lengthy reports on both these events, I was unable to find any mention of his name in the lists of successful competitors, or indeed any reference to any exhibit dealing with anything but traditional philately. This is probably explained by the fact that his were lower awards but it does seem odd that two major philatelic magazines could cover a whole four-year period without mentioning the name of a prominent collector and researcher who was already making such a mark on German philately.

When the Second World War began in September 1939 Bochmann, then 38 years old, was unaffected by the call up but, at some later stage (possibly in 1943/44) he too was conscripted into the army. What role he played in the events that led up to the collapse of Hitler's armies we do not know but, when the final surrender documents were signed on May 8th 1945 he was probably one of the lucky ones. Soon he was able to return to civilian life; resume his teaching career; and devote his leisure time once again to the hobby he loved. However, although he had come through unscathed and friends and colleagues had been able to carry on the research in his absence important sections of his work, particularly the records covering the period 1944 – 45, had been lost and much of the work had to be redone. He had worked for some time in close association with the members of the Poststempelgilde 'Rhein – Donau' (the group specialising in the study of postal cancellations formed after the union with Austria in 1938) and, in November 1947, a new Bochmann handbook entitled "Die neudeutschen Sonder, Werbe und Serienstempel" containing 36 sides devoted to new German postmarks was published in Berlin.

Thereafter he began work on a complete revision of all the earlier editions of his catalogue. The work took roughly five years but in 1952 the first three handbooks of Julius Bochmann's "Katalog der deutschen Gelegenheitsstempel", produced in association with the Poststempelgilde and printed by Heisterkamp of Gelsenkirchen-Buer became available to collectors. Heft 1, released in April 1952 covered towns from AACHEN to AUSSIG; Heft 2, BAABE to BERLIN followed in July, and Heft 3, BERLIN to BIRKENFELD appeared in October. A further fifteen parts followed over the next four years and these are listed below:-

Heft 4 BIRNBAUM to CUXHAVEN, Jan. 1953

Heft 5 DACHAU to EISFELD, Apr. 1953

Until this point in the series there is no room for confusion. The cover of each of the paper backed books bears a 'Heft' number – referring to the book itself, and a 'Lieferung' number – referring (I believe) to the number of a contract with the printer. Up to Part 5 these numbers agree and run in sequence. However, for the remaining 13 volumes of the series this is not the case. Heft and Lieferung numbers are no longer the same and there are numbers missing from each sequence. I shall not quote the Lieferung numbers and, when numbers appear to be missing from the Heft series, readers will know that the omissions are not typographical errors.

Heft 7 EISLEBEN to FRITZLAR, Aug. 1953

Heft 8 FROHBURG to HAMBURG, Nov. 1953

Heft 10 HAMBURG to INNSBRUCK, Mar. 1954

Heft 11 INNSBRUCK to KULLSTADT, ?

Heft 13 KULMBACH to LINDAU, ?

Heft 14 LINDAU to MUNICH, ?

Heft 16 MUNICH to OBERDINGEN, Mar. 1955

Heft 17 OBEREHNHEIM to RUGENWALDE ?

Heft 20 RUHLE to STOLP, ?

Heft 21 STOLP to WEIMAR, Apr. 1956

Heft 22 WEINBOHLA to ZWUG, Sept. 1956

Heft 25 Serienstempel, Mar. 1957

Heft 26 Serienstempel / Handserienstempel / Privatenstempel / Schlusswort / Nachtrag, Apr. 1957

Bochmann died on July 24th 1957, just a few months after the publication of the final section of his updated catalogue. What caused his premature death at the age of just 56 I have been unable to discover and I do wonder whether his was one of those cases in which a very sick man simply refuses to depart until he has seen the completion of his life's work.

After his death his work was continued by many of the friends and fellow collectors who had helped him over the years. Like most of our collections it is not absolutely complete.

The Philatelic Legacy of Julius Bochmann (cont.)

Postal auction lists occasionally include the phrase 'Bochmann unbekannt' to indicate Lots (mainly from the 1944/45 period) that will not be found described in his catalogue. However, the fact that it must be at least 99% complete speaks volumes for the amount of work that went into its production. As collectors of German postal history we are uniquely privileged to have such a guide, covering all periods of the country's postal history, at our disposal but there are just two points that users need to be aware of, and Figs.7 and 8 below, taken together, exemplify both.



	S 59. Funk - Ausstellung - Hd 33 11.-19.11. 1.50	
	S 60. Deutsche Postwertzeichen-Ausstellung / « Deposta » Z:Ein Posthorn - Hd violett 34 29.3.-3.4. 1.50	
	S 61. Leistungswoche / 4.12.- 10.12. / N.S.G. / Kraft d. Freude Z:Hakenkreuz im Zahnrad mit vier Schraffurfahnen - Hd 34 4.-10.12. 1.50	

Fig.7

Fig.8

Fig.7 is an extract from the entries for the city of Hamburg for the years 1933/34 listed in Heft 10 of the Bochmann catalogue. Item No.59 is described as a handstamp (Hd) used at the Radio Exhibition (Funk Ausstellung) held in the city between the 11th and 19th of November 1933. It is not illustrated and, until I was fortunate enough to find the example shown in Fig.8 at Philatex a few weeks ago, I had no idea what the design looked like (or even that the handstamp existed). Without making a complete study of the whole catalogue it is not possible to be sure what postmarks on a particular theme are still out there or what they look like. However, I suppose that simply adds to the pleasure when they do turn up. The second point concerns the figure 1.50 at the end of the entry in Fig.7. To the best of my knowledge these figures, shown after each brief description, are approximate estimates as to the value of the item assessed at the time that the first post war edition of the catalogue was published; expressed in Deutschmarks (the currency of Germany in the 1950s) and never revised since. Their only function now is to give the collector some idea of which marks are likely to be the rarer and which the most common and easy to find. However, there again it can be very misleading. In this case it might, if taken seriously, encourage the unwary to think that this Radio Exhibition postmark is likely to turn up in most dealers' boxes. If that were so it would have ended up in my collection years ago!

Such small matters do not, of course, detract in any way from the value of the Bochmann catalogue to all serious collectors of German postal history. It is a vital source for collectors and authors alike and will remain so for many years to come. It has earned its creator an honoured place in German philatelic history and, in May 2001, the German Post Office brought out the handstamp shown in Fig.9 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of his death. It was used at a major philatelic exhibition held in the town of Soest in Westphalia and its design includes a portrait which may have been based on the photograph shown in Fig.1.

It bears the name of the Poststempelgilde in which he was an active member for many years. He left a lasting legacy to all collectors of German postal history and we are all in his debt.



Fig.9

Sources and Acknowledgements.

My grateful thanks go to:-

The Poststempelgilde 'Rhein-Donau' e.v. who provided me with many booklets and photocopies containing references to Bochmann and his work and the illustrations in Figs.1 and 9.

My friend Rainer Lütgens who contacted the Poststempelgilde on my behalf.

Gerlinder Southey who helped me with the translations.

And – last but not least, to the Bochmann catalogue itself from which Figs.2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 were taken.

Kriegsmarine Training Vessels 1933 – 39 (Part 2)

by

Steve Clark

The Training Vessels

2. The 'Horst Wessel'.

Specifications:

- Built 1936 at Blohm & Voss shipyard, Hamburg.
- Three-masted barque, steel hull.
- Length × Beam × Draft = 295 × 39 × 17 feet.
- 1390 GRT, 1634 ts displacement.
- 22 sails, altogether 1983 square metres.
- Height of main mast over deck 149 feet.
- Auxiliary engine 750 HP, speed of 10 knots.
- Speed under sail max. 18 knots.
- 65 men regular crew, plus approx. 180 cadets.

This vessel (Fig.3) was constructed and launched in 1936 at her home port of Kiel, in the presence of both Hitler and Rudolf Hess. At the end of WW2 she was assigned as war reparation to the United States. Now based in Connecticut, she has been renamed 'The Eagle' and is the local coast guard flag ship (Fig.6).



Fig.3



Fig.4

A cover sent to an address in Kiel from the 'Horst Wessel' on 5th December 1938.



Fig.5

The ship's cancel Nr.31 shown above as Fig.5 was used on the 'Horst Wessel' for her entire time as a training vessel.

Kriegsmarine Training Vessels 1933 – 39 (Part 2) (cont.)

Fig.8 Training on the 'Horst Wessel'.



Fig.6 The USCG flag ship 'Eagle' (ex 'Horst Wessel') during training.



Fig.7 The original bronze plaque on a wall in the rest area in the fantail section of the 'Eagle' showing the ship's roots.

The 'Horst Wessel' Voyages**1st Voyage: Baltic Sea trip (29.10.1936 – 31.10.1936)**

29.10.1936	sailed from Kiel
29.10.1936 – 31.10.1936	Faroe Sound on Gotland, Sweden
31.10.1936	arrived in Kiel

2nd Voyage: Training trip to the Atlantic (2.12.1936 – 8.2.1937)

2.12.1936	sailed from Kiel
28.12.1936 – 2.1.1937	Las Palmas / Canary Islands
8.2.1937	arrived in Kiel

3rd Voyage: Practice sail to Norway (8.5.1937 – 23.5.1937)

8.5.1937	sailed from Kiel
15.5.1937 – 18.5.1937	Molde / Norway
23.5.1937	arrived in Kiel

4th Voyage: Sail to Iceland (5.8.1937 – 4.9.1937)

5.8.1937	sailed from Kiel
7.8.1937 – 10.8.1937	Molde / Norway
14.8.1937 – 19.8.1937	Reykjavik / Iceland
4.9.1937	arrived in Kiel

Kriegsmarine Training Vessels 1933 – 39 (Part 2) (cont.)**5th Voyage: Trip to Central America (19.3.1938 – 23.6.1938)**

19.3.1938	sailed from Kiel
8.4.1938 – 14.4.1938	St.Cruz, Tenerife
5.5.1938 – 14.5.1938	St. Thomas / Caribbean
20.5.1938 – 25.5.1938	Hamilton / Bermuda
23.6.1938	arrived in Kiel

The trip was started together with the sail training ship ‘Albert Leo Schlageter’. Both ships ran together, but the sister ship had a collision with an English steamer in the English Channel and broke off the outward journey. On 11th June 1938, both crews met again at sea, but ‘Horst Wessel’ continued the journey towards home alone.

6th Voyage: Summer exercise 1938 (18.7.1938 – 26.8.1938)

18.7.1938	sailed from Kiel
27.7.1938 – 1.8.1938	Edinburgh / Scotland
5.8.1938 – 8.8.1938	Balholmen / Norway
15.8.1938	Kiel
26.8.1938	on to Travemünde

7th Voyage: Winter voyage 1938/1939 (15.11.1938 – 27.1.1939)

15.11.1938	sailed from Kiel
28.11.1938 – 5.12.1938	Lisbon / Portugal
11.12.1938 – 27.12.1938	St.Cruz, Tenerife
27.12.1938 – 2.1.1939	St.Cruz de Palma
27.1.1939	arrived in Kiel

The distance travelled, including crosses in the Biscay and off the Spanish-Portuguese coast, was 6227.5 miles.

The longest daily distance travelled was measured at 281.5 miles. The return to Kiel was through the Skagerrak Strait.

8th Voyage: Training trip to Norway (30.4.1939 – 27.5.1939)

30.4.1939	sailed from Kiel
11.5.1939 – 12.5.1939	Molde / Norway
13.5.1939 – 16.5.1939	Andalsnes / Norway
27.5.1939	arrived in Kiel

9th Voyage: Last training voyage (27.7.1939 – 30.8.1939)

27.7.1939	sailed from Kiel
7.8.1939 – 10.8.1939	Kristiansand / Norway
30.8.1939	arrived in Kiel

Because of the imminent threat of war, the sail training ship was instructed via radio to cancel the voyage and return to Germany’. The training termination date was set as 30th August 1939.

After the beginning of the war ‘Horst Wessel’ was launched and shortly thereafter relocated to a German port on the eastern side of the Baltic Sea.

The vessel was not decommissioned and was not assigned its own Field Post number; she reached the end of the war with an open address.

Kriegsmarine Training Vessels 1933 – 39 (Part 2) (cont.)**3. The ‘Albert Leo Schlageter’.**

Specifications:

- Built 1937 at Blohm & Voss shipyard, Hamburg.
- Three-masted barque, steel hull.
- Length × Beam × Draft = 295 × 39 × 17 feet.
- 1550 GRT, 1869 ts displacement.
- 23 sails, altogether 1796 square metres.
- Height of mainmast over waterline 148 feet.
- Auxiliary engine 700 HP, speed of 10 knots.
- 158 men regular crew and approx. 90 cadets.

Named after the German martyr, this ship was built in Hamburg and launched in October 1937. Albert Leo Schlageter was a member of the German Freikorps. Schlageter sabotaged a section of railroad track in the region of Germany that was under French occupation after WWI. He was arrested and executed by the French military. This led the German nationalists to proclaim him a hero. Schlageter also featured as a prominent character in British author Geoffrey Moss’s 1933 novel ‘I Face the Stars’, about the rise of Nazism. After the war, the main Schlageter memorial was destroyed by occupying Allied forces as part of the denazification process. The Schlageter memorial in Ringelai near Freyung, however, existed until 1977.

The Schlageterinsel or ‘Schlageter Island’ near Soltau continues to bear the name.

The photo-postcard (Fig.9) was sent on 11th December 1939 from a Feldpost unit in Sassnitz to an address in Lindau. Coincidentally, the ship hit a Soviet mine off the coast of Sassnitz on 14th November 1944 but was subsequently restored.

The cover below (Fig.10) was sent postage-free on 18th April 1939, addressed to the naval command in Kiel with cancel ‘Nr.37’.

At the end of WW2 the ‘Albert Leo Schlageter’ was acquired by the American Navy, who then donated the vessel to Brazil. It is now owned by the Portuguese, renamed the ‘Sagres’, and still used today as a museum ship and for training sea cadets in her home port of Hamburg.



Fig.9



Fig.10

The ship’s cancel Nr.37, shown below as Fig.11, was used on the ‘Albert Leo Schlageter’ for her entire time as a training vessel.



Fig.11

Kriegsmarine Training Vessels 1933 – 39 (Part 2) (cont.)**The ‘Albert Leo Schlageter’ Voyages****1st Voyage: Training trip to the West Indies (19.3.1938 – 28.6.1938)**

19.3.1938	voyage beginning in Kiel
20.3.1938	Brunsbüttel reached
23.3.1938 – 25.3.1938	Dover / England
27.3.1938	arrived in Hamburg

On the evening of Wednesday March 23rd 1938, the Albert Leo Schlageter had reached the English Channel. Despite constant warning signals of heavy fog, disaster occurred at 22:03 hours when she collided with the English steamer ‘Triton Star’. Following requests for towing assistance, the training ship was hauled to Dover for damage repairs. After emergency rectifications, she sailed to the Hamburg construction shipyard for completion of repairs and then continued on the training voyage.

1.4.1938	Hamburg, Blohm u. Voß
4.4.1938	undocked
9.4.1938	sailed from Hamburg
20.4.1938 – 23.4.1938	St.Cruz de Tenerife
13.5.1938 – 19.5.1938	Port of Spain / Trinidad
28.6.1938	arrived in Kiel

2nd Voyage: Summer school (15.7.1938 – 24.9.1938)

15.7.1938	voyage beginning in Kiel
30.7.1938 – 1.8.1938	Warnemünde
4.8.1938 – 8.8.1938	Swinemünde
12.8.1938 – 15.8.1938	Lübeck
17.8.1938 – 23.8.1938	Kiel
28.8.1938 – 1.9.1938	Porsgrunn-Frierfjord / Norway
8.9.1938 – 13.9.1938	Kiel Bay
24.9.1938	course completion Kiel

From the 17th to the 23rd of August ‘Albert Leo Schlageter’ returned to Kiel to attend the celebration of the launching of the cruiser ‘Prinz Eugen’. Then the exercises continued in the Baltic Sea, with only one foreign port (Porsgrunn in Norway) visited.

3rd Voyage: Winter school (29.10.1938 – 30.1.1939)

29.10.1938	course starts at Kiel
18.11.1938 – 20.11.1938	Flensburg
24.11.1938 – 30.11.1938	Neustadt / Ostsee
9.12.1938 – 13.12.1938	Kopenhagen
6.1.1939 – 8.1.1939	Warnemünde
30.1.1939	finish in Kiel

Service and private mail during the time of ‘2nd Summer course 1938’ was mostly left at harbour post offices’.

Acknowledgements:

1. Josef Schlimgen (1984) handbooks (3); Poststempelgilde ‘Rhein-Donau’ (kindly provided by J. Rawlings).
2. Various on-line ‘Wikipedia’ websites, including those for the Gorch Fock, Horst Wessel and Albert Leo Schlageter Kriegsmarine Sailing Ships.
3. Author’s own collection.

Late Red Cross Messages to the Channel Islands

by Bob Jones

After my article in the last News Sheet about the Red Cross Message Scheme to the Channel Islands and the latest date usage, I looked through my own collection and found this rather intriguing late message. The details are:

Place of Origin:

Bureau 419, Loughborough.

Date of Origin:

4th May 1944.

Date of Arrival Geneva:

18th May 1945.

Date Received Guernsey:

30th July 1945.

This form, after being censored in the normal way by the British, was dispatched to Switzerland via Lisbon. It appears to have been subject to considerable delays as it took over a year to reach Geneva by which time the war had ended and Guernsey was liberated (9th May 1945). These delays were caused by the chaotic state of communications across France following the Allied Forces' D-Day invasion (6th June 1944). The message appears to contain some cryptic comments on the future (at the time of writing) D-Day landing.

The message reads:

THANKS FOR MESSAGE - GOOD TIMES COMING SOON - VERY FIT - BACK SOON AS RISING SUN SETS - CLOSE TO. TORODE AND HARRY - HONEY. O.K.? CHERRY ALSO. O.K. RAY

The back of the letter has no reply message as by this time normal methods of post were reestablished.



From :
WAR ORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS
AND ORDER OF ST. JOHN

To :
Comité International
de la Croix Rouge
Genève

Foreign Relations
Department.

Expéditeur SENDER Absender

Name FALLA
Nom
Christian name R.
Vorname Prénom
Address
Adresse

MESSAGE Mitteilung
(not more than 25 words) (25 mots au maximum) (Nicht über 25 Worte)

THANKS FOR MESSAGE - GOOD TIMES COMING SOON -
VERY FIT - BACK SOON AS RISING SUN SETS -
CLOSE TO. TORODE AND HARRY - HONEY. O.K.?
CHERRY ALSO. OK. RAY.

Date Datum 4th May, 1944.

Destinataire ADDRESSEE Empfänger

Name GAUDION
Nom
Christian name W. J.
Vorname Prénom
Address LYNDEN ST.
Adresse ST. SAMPSONS.
GUERNSEY.

18 MAY 1945

Reply overleaf (not more than 25 words)
Réponse au verso (25 mots au maximum)
Antwort umseitig (nicht über 25 Worte)

If this message had been received by the German censors in Berlin, what do you think they would have done with it? Would they have allowed it to pass through to the recipient in the Channel Islands without suspicion?

So, if any members have any Red Cross Message sheets sent to the Channel Islands with a later date than this one, please send scans. Ed.

Late Red Cross Messages to the Channel Islands (cont.)

One of our American members, Bob Baltzell, also got in touch and sent this Red Cross message from his collection.

Place of Origin:

Bureau 1, London S.W.11

Date of Origin:

31st March 1944.

Date of Arrival Geneva:

28th June 1945.

Date Received Guernsey:

Not known.

This form, after being censored in the normal way by the British, was also dispatched to Switzerland via Lisbon.

It too was subject to considerable delays as it took over a year to reach Geneva (28th June 1945) by which time the war had ended and Guernsey was liberated (9th May 1945).

The message reads:

DEAR FLORRIE AND ALL. HAVE BEATEN RECORD OURS TWELVE YEARS. STILL LIVE IN HOPES. TRUST ALL ARE WELL AS WE ARE. LOVE TO ALL. ALFRED.
(The maximum 25 words)

As the first letter, shown here on the previous page, the back of the letter has no reply message as by this time normal methods of post were reestablished.

From :

WAR ORGANISATION OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS AND ORDER OF ST. JOHN

To :
Comité International
de la Croix Rouge
Genève

Foreign Relations
Department.

Expéditeur SENDER Absender

Name HAWKINS
Nom
Christian name ALFRED
Vorname Prénom
Address
Adresse

22, CAMBRIDGE ROAD, SWITZERLAND

MESSAGE Mitteilung
(Not more than 25 words) (25 mots au maximum) (Nicht über 25 Worte)

DEAR FLORRIE AND ALL. HAVE
BEATEN RECORD OURS TWELVE
YEARS. STILL LIVE IN HOPES.
TRUST ALL ARE WELL AS WE ARE.
LOVE TO ALL. ALFRED.

Date Datum 3/3/44

Destinataire ADDRESSEE Empfänger

Name LE TISSIER
Nom
Christian name FLORRIE
Vorname Prénom
Address 38 FOUNTAIN STREET
Adresse ST PETER PORT
GUERNSEY, G.I.

Reply overleaf (not more than 25 words)
Réponse au verso (25 mots au maximum)
Antwort umseitig (nicht über 25 Worte)

PASSED P.237

28 JUN 1945

I do often wonder about these messages. If the message was received in Geneva some time after the war was over, did they (the Red Cross) still continue to forward all the mail to their original destinations or was some (or all) maybe just returned to sender?

I guess we should also be looking for the latest date for the Red Cross messages coming the other way to Britain or indeed any other region covered under this scheme. After looking through my own collection the DRK (*Deutsches Rotes Kreuz*) message sheets are pretty thin on the ground (only 4 examples) and the only dates I have are – (a) message written on 25th May 1943 with no other dates on the sheet, (b) message written on 6th March 1942, received in Geneva 21st May 1942, delivered to Britain on 14th July 1942 (c) message written on 12th December 1942, received in Geneva 10th March 1943, delivered to Britain 18th May 1943 & (d) message written on 29th August 1942, received in Geneva 4th December 1942 with no delivery date to Britain. More on this last message sheet in the next edition of our News Sheet.

Please send in any sheets that you have from the DRK with late dates. Ed.

More Health & Safety Cards

by
Bob Jones

Three more of the Health & Safety cards from the Reichspost initiative have come to light.



Fig. 66 Type 5



Fig. 68 Type 3



Fig. 67 Type 5

Fig No. Health and safety message

- 66 *An empty chair? Everyone important in his place!*
 67 *Be strong in your will to remain fit for work! Every accident tears a gap in the common home front!*
Fewer accidents, more combat strength on the home front.
 68 *The key to success in accident prevention!*

Nos. on card (if any)

DRPost Nr.275 P.Nr186
 DRPNr.248 P.160

Dereges W52+

I do believe that there will be more of these cards to be found that are similar to card Fig.67 as they are the same designs that I have seen as letter seals on Jens Monrad's site (see right). I believe that there will be around another 10 to be found.



Another new card and front have also been found:

Type 23:



Text at lower left.

Benutzen Sie diese Karte für Ihren Schriftwechsel mit Verwandten und Bekannten
 RPZ 7. 43

Fig.69 Type 23

Fig No. Health and safety message

- 69 *Total war demands from you to "fight the accidents"*

Nos. on card (if any)

None

The card above shows an image similar to the letter seals shown in News Sheet 176 (March 2019). That would suggest that there will be more of these cards out there.

Ed.

More Health & Safety Cards (cont.)

Here is shown 7 more safety card designs from the Reichspost. They are printed on one sheet of paper just a little larger than A4 size. They do not appear to be from the same initiative as the previous cards shown as they do not have the circular "Eigene Vorsicht / Bester Unfallschutz" shield. I believe these designs are from a slightly earlier time and were kept in a loose-leaf catalogue that the post office could choose designs from for posters etc. that could be displayed in public and workplaces.



The image above shows designs with order numbers 13, 14 and 15. The image at left (the other side of the sheet) shows order numbers 16, 17, 18 & 19.

These numbers also coincide with the numbering system found in a very rare book generously donated to the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society here in the U.K. by our member Ben Beede. The book seems to have been a catalogue of what was available to order for posters etc. from the Reichspost. Images of this book are shown below.



The images above are from the catalogue from Ben Beede. They are (from left to right) The front cover, 1st page, 2nd page and the page showing one of the colour images shown at top (No.13). It shows the changing of the logo from that shown at right to the logo shown at middle right. The logo on the 2nd page is actually a label stuck over the original shield type. The cover and 2nd page both have the date '1935' at bottom and the date at the bottom of the 1st page is '1937'.



The three logos used in the catalogue

Hopefully more information will come to light about this catalogue which can be shared with our members.

New Colour Illustrations for our Souvenir Sheet CD

Our member Rex Dixon sent in a colour illustration of a souvenir sheet that he saw on an internet auction site. This becomes one of the many black & white illustration replacements that have appeared over the last couple of years. This particular sheet is listed as catalogue number 'A-35(a)'.



We constantly endeavor to improve on our Souvenir Sheet catalogue by replacing the old black & white images with colour examples and would ask any of our members who collect this area of Third Reich philately to please contact me with any colour (or better quality) images. Out of over 550 sheets identified, only 57 images remain in black & white. So, let us see if we can find these illusive sheets.

If anyone is interested in purchasing one of our Souvenir Sheet CDs, available in A4 or U.S. Letter format, please contact me at bobjones53@blueyonder.co.uk

<u>Cumulative Index for 2020 News Sheet Issues</u>	
<u>Index to News Sheets 180 – 183</u>	<u>News Sheet No./Page No.(s)</u>
Apologies	NS181 p11
Bohemia and Moravia, Pilsen (Plzeň), The Reinhard Heydrich-Strasse	NS182 pp13/14
Channel Islands During WWII and the Thomas Cook “Undercover Mail Scheme”	NS180 pp7/11
Coal Thief	NS180 pp5/6; NS181 p5
Discounts on Catalogues and Supplies	
First U.K. Maritime Casualty of WWII	NS181 pp18/19
Health & Safety Campaign of the Reichspost (Part 4)	NS180 pp18/19
Health & Safety Cards	NS182 p7; NS183 pp24/25
‘In Memoriam’ the loss of members John Campbell & Tony Batkin	NS182 p2
Interesting Sign of the Times (Channel Islands ephemera)	NS181 pp10/11
Just When You Think It’s Safe	NS183 p7
Kriegsmarine Warships 1934 – 41 (Part 2)	
‘Prinz Eugen’	NS180 pp12/13
‘Bismarck’	NS180 pp14/15
‘Tirpitz’	NS180 pp16/17
Kriegsmarine Warships 1934 – 41 (Part 3)	
‘Lützow’	NS181 pp12/13
‘Schleswig-Holstein’	NS181 pp14/15
‘Schlesien’	NS181 pp16/18
Kriegsmarine Training Vessels (Part 1)	
‘Gorch Fock’	NS182 pp15/18
Kriegsmarine Training Vessels (Part 2)	
‘Horst Wessel’	NS183 pp16/19
‘Albert Leo Schlageter’	NS183 pp20/21
More Ephemera from the Channel Islands	NS182 p19
News Sheet CD offer	NS180 p19
Philatelic Legacy of Julius Bochmann	NS183 pp10/16
P.O.W. Camp Cachets	NS181 pp6/7
Putting Faces to the Names	NS181 pp8/9; NS182 pp5/6; NS183 p9
Red Cross Message Scheme in the Occupied Channel Islands	NS182 pp8/12; NS183 pp22/23
Short Life of a Submarine in the Kriegsmarine	NS183 p8
Souvenir Sheet colour illustration and information on ordering CD	NS183 p26
‘Syndrome K’	NS181 p2

This ‘cumulative index’ will appear in every December issue of the News Sheet to help members find articles etc. from earlier News Sheets published that year.

Diary Dates for Regional Meetings

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, please check with your Group leader before travelling to attend a previously published Regional Group meeting.

EPILOGUE

Well here we are at the end of a year that has been like no other. With a global pandemic ravaging the people of many countries, we are all living with a new reality. Before this virus arrived, our biggest concern was finding out the dates of the next stamp show, philatelic meeting or auction. In my case it has led me to dig up parts of my collections that I have not seen for years and some things that I had completely forgotten about. With this in mind, I was thinking of how many of our members are doing the same thing and how we could capitalize on this. I am thinking of adding a supplement (not part of the regular News Sheet issue) to our members with some of these items for sale or trade and of course a list of items that are wanted by members. I do not know if this will work or not but I am willing to give it a try and see if it does.

I will call this supplement 'Wants & Needs'. Hopefully members can contact me with items that they are looking for to complete or just add to their own collections and members with extra items they would like to trade or sell to other members. If this proves to be a good idea, it will be a regular supplement to our News Sheet. So please send in any lists of items or even only one item that you have for sale or trade and any 'wants' lists and send them to me.

At the start of next year's News Sheets, I would like to see more articles written or inspired by our membership. I have put together many articles myself, mostly out of necessity but also because I like writing them. Even I can sometimes require a little more incentive to write an article rather than just coming up with ideas. Please keep sending in any ideas or complete articles for publication. I too like to read articles that are unique in subject or originality which sparks my interest in different areas of our collecting 'bug'.

So, let us make 2021 our best year yet with an eclectic mix of Third Reich philatelic subjects to interest our growing membership.

Cheers and stay safe,

Bob Jones

