



*The Third Reich Study Group*

# NEWS SHEET

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## Dear Member

Recently displays were given in Newport during the GCPS AGM. Unfortunately, those displays by Simon McArthur and Robin Pizer were postponed, as they both had Covid ! However, Simon was able to attend the London TRSG meeting last Saturday (22<sup>nd</sup> October) and gave his display on ‘Third Reich Civil Aviation.’ This featured some excellent postal stationary, postcards, slogan cancellations, meter mail, etc. Some of his items are shown below.



Left: Dornier 18 flying boat of Deutsche Lufthansa which was used on the Germany to South America route.

Centre: Hindenburg over New York.

Above: Heinkel He 116 introduced in 1938 with a range of 4,100 kilometres. It carried mail to Japan.



Above left is shown a cover with a continuous roller cancellation featuring a Junkers Ju 52 on the left and a Roland airliner on the right encouraging use of the airmail. Above right is shown another cancel with the slogan “Airmail saves time.”

Other displays at the TRSG meeting were given by Albert Jackson, Tony Hickey and Rex Dixon.

Tony’s display showed items produced for various ‘Colonial Exhibitions’ held in Germany and occupied territories. A few of his items are shown below.



Far left: “Become a member of the Reichskolonienbund!”

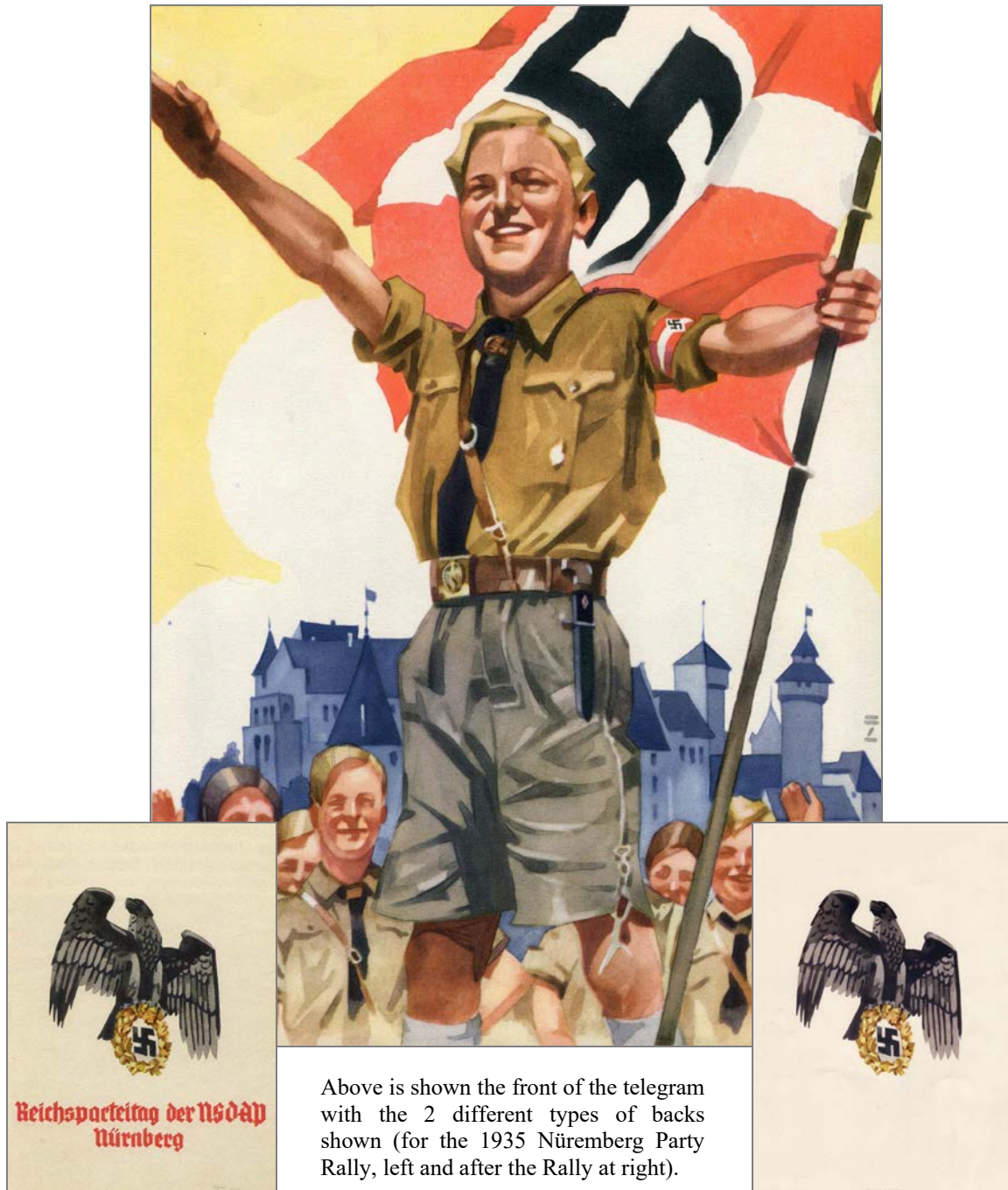
Left: Another post card issued for the ‘Reichs-Kolonialtagung’ held in Bremen from 26<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 1938.

Above: a special cancel used for the duration of the show in Bremen.



**Dear Member (cont.)**

Rex displayed his superb collection of special propaganda telegrams produced for special occasions/events. Members present at the display did not know that the greetings telegram featuring a Hitler Youth came in two distinct issues. The original issue, as shown in the illustration from Hans Meier zu Eissen's book (listed as no.19) was for the 1935 Nuremberg Party Rally and has an inscription on the back for the rally. After the rally, they reissued it on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1935 as a regular greetings telegram (listed as no.20) by removing the inscription, and it this one that I showed – unfortunately it was not used but cancelled to order by the philatelic bureau (Versandstelle für Sammlermarken) in 1938. Both versions have the indicator code "Lx 12". These are shown below.



Albert showed an interesting study of provisional Polish and German cancellations used for postage, on official mail, Feldpost, etc. Because Albert sent me a lot of items from his display, I have decided to publish them as a separate article in our next News Sheet (March 2023).

Our thanks go to Steve Clark for his report on the meeting and thanks to Simon McArthur, Tony Hickey and Rex Dixon for the additional information.

## State of the Membership

### New Members

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

George Morris                      -    Thornlie, Western Australia, 6108

Our total membership now stands at: 168

## Enquiries

### New Enquiries

**Enq. 9/22**    I thought I would start off this edition's 'Enquiries' myself with the following query:

Going through some covers from Ukraine, I came across the cover shown below. It was posted in Pinsk in the Ukraine on 12<sup>th</sup> May 1943 to an address in Lübeck Germany. It was sent as registered mail with franking affixed. Here is where I became a bit confused..... the registered mail cost 42Rpf (or so I thought) and that is covered by the 3 stamps on the top row. Can any member tell me why the 2 other stamps (4 and 5Rpf) were also added?



I have many covers from this area and the covers sent as registered all have been franked to the value of 42Rpf. Am I missing something here?

**Enq. 10/22**    I have another enquiry, this time on the subject of stamp colours. Here goes:

I read somewhere in the past (probably a past News Sheet) that stamp colours were agreed upon at the Universal Postal Union meetings. So, with that in mind, I was looking through my postal card collection and found some cards with the same value indicia but in different colours (see below). Can any member tell me if the colours of stamps agreed upon at one of these meetings only applied to postage stamps themselves and not postal card indicia?



All 6Rpf indicia.  
From left to right: Mi. P233 (1934), Mi. P236 (1934) & Mi. P241 (1941).



**New Enquiries (cont.)**

**Enq. 11/22** I have another query about an item I saw on offer on ebay. It is a 15Rpf overprinted postcard from Luxembourg with additional printing on the reverse of a staff car and motorcyclist from the Heer. I have never seen anything like this before and the seller (from Berg, Germany) offered no proof of authenticity for the item. The item (shown below) sold for £17.90. Have any of our members seen anything like this card before?



I am sorry about the quality of the pictures but they are all I had to work with.

**Enq. 12/22** I recently purchased a 'humour' card I found interesting (shown below). It was sent (allegedly) from a private (Gefreiter) in the Generalgouvernement to an address in Berlin. The card is marked 'Feldpost' and has a GG 48 Groschen stamp affixed. The stamp has a cancellation from Berlin O17 on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1943. I would like to know how come there was a Berlin cancel applied when it was posted in Occupied Poland?



Above: The cartoon on the back of the card.

Above right: Front of the post card showing the address in Berlin and the cancelled stamp.

Right: Enlargement of the stamp and cancel used.

## Results of Enquiries

**Enq. 8/22** In response to our member Tony Quinn's query in our last edition, I am responding with my own result for the 2 Reichsmark 'stamp'.

This stamp is a tax stamp for Wechselsteuer – (Bill of Exchange) 1938. A description of their usage is:

- A bill of exchange is a written order binding one party to pay a fixed sum of money to another party on demand or at some point in the future.
- A bill of exchange often includes three parties - the drawee is the party that pays the sum, the payee receives that sum, and the drawer is the one that obliges the drawee to pay the payee.
- A bill of exchange is used in international trade to help importers and exporters fulfil transactions.
- While a bill of exchange is not a contract itself, the involved parties can use it to specify the terms of a transaction, such as the credit terms and the rate of accrued interest.



Above is shown an actual 'Bill of Exchange'. The back of the 'Bill' shows one of the tax stamps.

I have all but 2 of these in my own collection, missing the 200 and 500 Reichsmark values.

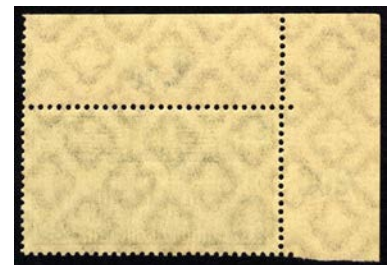
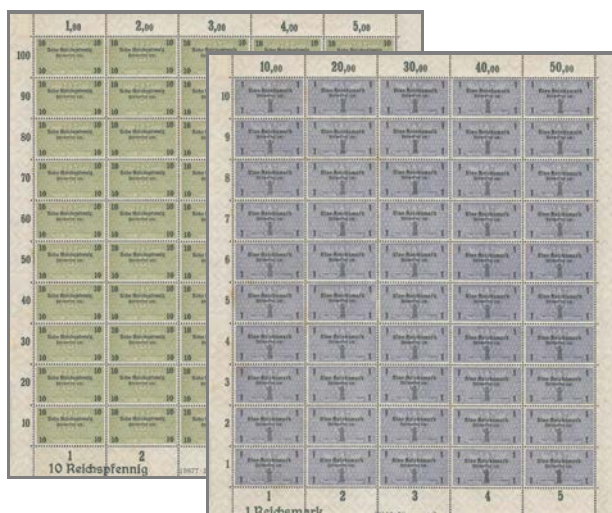




**Results of Enquiries (cont.)**Enq. 8/22  
(cont.)

Size: 42mm x 24mm.  
Perforation: 13½ x 14.  
Watermark: Quatrefoils.

Erler No.	Value	Colour
AJ 283	10 Rpf	yellow-green / dark green overprint
AJ 284	20 Rpf	yellow-green / dark green overprint
AJ 285	30 Rpf	yellow-green / dark green overprint
AJ 286	40 Rpf	yellow-green / dark green overprint
AJ 287	50 Rpf	yellow-green / dark green overprint
AJ 288	60 Rpf	yellow-green / dark green overprint
AJ 289	80 Rpf	yellow-green / dark green overprint
AJ 290	1 RM	blue / dark green overprint
AJ 291	2 RM	blue / dark green overprint
AJ 292	5 RM	blue / dark green overprint
AJ 293	10 RM	blue / dark green overprint
AJ 294	20 RM	blue / dark green overprint
AJ 295	50 RM	blue / dark green overprint
AJ 296	100 RM	red-brown, blue / dark green overprint
AJ 297	200 RM	red-brown, blue / dark green overprint (not shown)
AJ 298	500 RM	red-brown, blue / dark green overprint (not shown)



Above: The quatrefoil watermark.

Far left and left: full sheets of 50 stamps in the 10Rpf and 1RM values

# Secret Security Stamps of the Third Reich

by

**W. David Ripley, III**

Secret security stamps have been used by the German post office on postal money orders in an effort to prevent fraud since 1924. They were, and still are, only intended to be seen by postal officials and frequently their existence was denied in the early days of their use. The post office still does not reveal the details about them for security purposes. The focus of this article is on the various security stamps issued during the NS time for Germany and her occupied territories.

## BACKGROUND

Just after the hyper-inflation of the early 1920s, some clever persons faked postal money orders, smuggled them into postal bags and then had the amounts deposited into their postal checking accounts from which the money was immediately withdrawn. When postal officials discovered the scam the post office had already lost a considerable sum, so it was decided a security system was necessary to prevent further losses. Because of this, the post office introduced *Sicherheitsmarken*, or security stamps, for use with postal money orders in amounts over 1,000 Marks. The first security stamps were issued in 1924, printed in reddish-brown on buff paper with watermark crosses & circles, a design measuring 30.5mm by 54mm and perf 14. The stamps contained an abbreviation and associated id number of the dispatch post office together with a 6-digit control number. The circular center featured a German eagle.

Postal customers were not aware that these stamps were applied to the back of postal money orders and tied by a special cancel by the dispatch post office. The control number was then registered in a follow-up system. The stamps were removed by the receiving post office before the postal money order was delivered so postal customers never saw or knew about these security stamps.

A new issue was produced in 1934 printed in rose-carmine on white paper with watermark swastikas, a design now measuring 30.5mm by 55mm but still perf 14. The stamps still contained an abbreviation and associated id number of the dispatch post office together with the 6-digit control number. The abbreviation and associated id number appeared above and below the circular center which now featured an embossed eagle perched on a swastika, the so-called *Hoheitszeichen*.

After WWII the post office continued this practice with revised security stamps and the practice allegedly continues today. The stamps have undergone several minor changes since the post-war period but the post office still does not reveal the details about them for security purposes.

## THE ISSUES OF THE NS TIME

There are almost no references to the security stamps issued for Nazi Germany and her occupied territories available in the philatelic literature but some information has surfaced from 2 sources.

First, an article written by Martin Erler, the well-known author of a series of catalogs listing German adhesive revenues, was published in Linn's Stamp News on October 1, 1984. It described the aforementioned scam, the purpose of and a brief history of the security stamps. The article not only discussed security stamps issued for Germany but also mentioned those issued during WWII for some of Germany's occupied territories. During the war, security stamps were issued for use in Luxembourg (in rose-carmine), in Bohemia & Moravia (in green), and in the Generalgouvernement (in orange). He also speculated about the existence of a stamp for Ostland but one had not yet been discovered.

Then, a few years ago, a discussion about the security stamps appeared on the Internet. The Third Reich Stamps (TRS) chat group, originally at Yahoo, now at Groups.io, hosted the discussion. Because *Aufgabestempel* was the only German word to appear in one line on the stamps, they were mistakenly called that for lack of a better term but this translates to "Post mark of the dispatch office" so it is not an appropriate descriptive term. One of the German members indicated that *Sicherheitsmarken* was the correct term. That member was also able to obtain and translate the official regulation from 1942 regarding the stamps found in the *Allgemeine Dienstanweisung der Deutschen Reichspost, Sektion V.4, Postscheckdienst* or the General Instructions of the German Post Office, Section 5.4, Postal Check Service.



### Secret Security Stamps of the Third Reich (cont.)

Section 5.4 was translated as: “Each money order (except telegraphic money orders) with an amount exceeding 1,000 Reichsmarks is to have attached on the back a special numbered security stamp. The stamp is to be attached so its bottom margin is aligned with the bottom margin of the money order form. The date cancel of the dispatch post office is to be placed so ½ is on the stamp and ½ is on the form.” Branch post offices (Zweigpostamt) or postal agencies (Poststelle) did not have these stamps so they were attached later when the money orders arrived at the supervising post office.

Since the time of Erler’s article, security stamps for the Deutsche Dienstpost Osten have surfaced but with slight differences from those for Germany. The circular center now contains the embossed text DP/OST in two lines and *Aufgabe-/stempel* also in 2 lines. The abbreviation and associated id number of the dispatch post office have been replaced by a generic DP Ost 1 through DP Ost 5 designation and the stamps are printed in orange. These 5 issues are likely those Erler mentioned for the Generalgouvernement, Figure 1, and the Ostland security stamp he referred to may have been mistaken for one of these.



**Figure 1:** Security Stamps for the Deutsche Dienstpost Osten .

A security stamp for Ukraine also surfaced but has the same characteristics as those issued for Germany but with a generic designation of 110/Deutsche Dienstpost/Ukraine in 3 lines. Figure 2 shows examples of security stamps from annexed and occupied territories.



**Figure 2:** Security Stamps for Elsass, Lothringen, Luxemburg, Posen and Ukraine.

### **A TENTATIVE LISTING OF NS-TIME SECURITY STAMPS**

The following table contains the id number, abbreviation, 6-digit control number on my example and the full name of the dispatch post office that I have been able to compile. This listing is far from complete and I believe additional information must be known to other collectors of these stamps. It is also important to note that not all of the dispatch post offices that these stamps exist for are currently in Germany. Aachen is identified as “1” and the highest number known to me is Wien as “58”. I speculate security stamps exist for many, if not all, numbers in between and possibly larger than “58”. While those 2 designations alone could tend to imply an alphabetical id number assignment, that is not the case as the table shows.

**Secret Security Stamps of the Third Reich (cont.)****Third Reich Security Stamp Listing**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Abbrev.</b>	<b>6-Digit #</b>	<b>Dispatch Office Name</b>
1	Aan	167469	Aachen
5	Brm	160403	Bremen
7	Els	132417	Elsass
8	Kssl	139746	Kassel
11	Kösl	124478	Köslin
13	Dmst	288940	Darmstadt
15	Dssd	661410	Düsseldorf
16	Erf	370482	Erfurt
17	Ffm	327290	Frankfurt am Main
23	Klrh	284377	Karlsruhe
29	Mgb	356325	Magdeburg
30	Loth	079274	Lothringen
31	Mind	179396	Mindelheim
32	Mstr	170034	Münster
35	Psn	175881	Posen
38	Stn	269532	Stettin
39	Stgt	464962	Stuttgart
40	Tri	126291	Trier
40a	Lux	002364	Luxemburg
42	Agsb	217666	Augsburg
44	Ldsht	182649	Landshut
48	Spy	208081	Speyer
49	Wzb	140359	Würzburg
54	Graz	477055	Graz
58	Wien	037349	Wien

Security stamps also exist for generic dispatch post offices in several WWII occupied territories. The following table lists those known to me. I could not find any information about the issue for Bohemia & Moravia.

<b>ID#</b>	<b>6-Digit #</b>	<b>Generic Dispatch Office</b>
1	103617	DP OST 1
2	066986	DP OST 2
3	079060	DP OST 3
4	157614	DP OST 4
5	033727	DP OST 5
???		Böhmen & Mähren
110	008112	Deutsche Dienstpost Ukraine



**Secret Security Stamps of the Third Reich (cont.)****ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

On a closer look at the lower left corner margin block of 4, Figure 3, the stamps were printed in sheets of 50 as determined by the margin markings and verified by the control number on the lower left corner single. This also indicates the control numbers were applied separately from the printing of the stamps beginning in the upper right corner, sequentially downward in each column, then moving from right to left. The 3-digit prefix did not need to change for 2 sheets of 50. Note some of the 6-digit numbers listed in the table have the last 2-digits greater than 50 which indicates control numbers were also applied with the same 3-digit prefix followed by 51 upward. I speculate the 3-digit prefix followed by 00 was the final control number on the lower left corner single only because it was apparently not used initially and an increment of the 3-digit prefix would have otherwise been required.



**Figure 3:** A Lower Left Corner Margin Block of 4 from 32 Münster.

**A SUSPICIOUS COVER**

The cover, Figure 4, is only a front. This shows a questionable use of the security stamp from Vienna (Wien 58) on a *Wertbrief* (Value cover) sent to Prague. The security stamp is cancelled from the dispatch office of *Klamm am Semmering*, which is not near Vienna, on December 22, 1944, and the cover is properly franked as a value letter of 2,000 RM. Clearly this usage is a violation of the regulations regarding the use of the security stamps. At first, the possibility of the security stamp being added seemed likely but the cancels on all the postage stamps and the security stamp match. Because the back of the cover is missing, there is no proof the cover was received in Prague so it is possible the entire front is a fabrication. However, according to my research, the addressee was a stamp collector who was likely very pleased to receive this cover with a stamp unknown to him if it did indeed happen. With the Allies closing in on Germany from both east and west at this time, possibly there was less regard for adhering to the postal regulations.

Secret Security Stamps of the Third Reich (cont.)

**Figure 4:** A suspicious value cover front with a security stamp in violation of the regulations

### REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Anyone who can add information to the listing or refute my speculation about the security stamps is urged to send it to me through the editor. There must be more data available from the global philatelic community than I have been able to compile and it would be great to complete the story of these issues from the NS time.

What a great addition to our knowledge of these stamps. In 'Figure 3' in the article, Dave shows a block of 4 stamps and mentions that they were printed in sheets of 50 which is borne out by the numbers printed in the bottom margin. I have shown here another lower left corner of a sheet also from 32 Münster showing the numbers '51 – 100' printed.

Let us see what we have in our collections and maybe we can add to the lists Dave has provided. Ed.



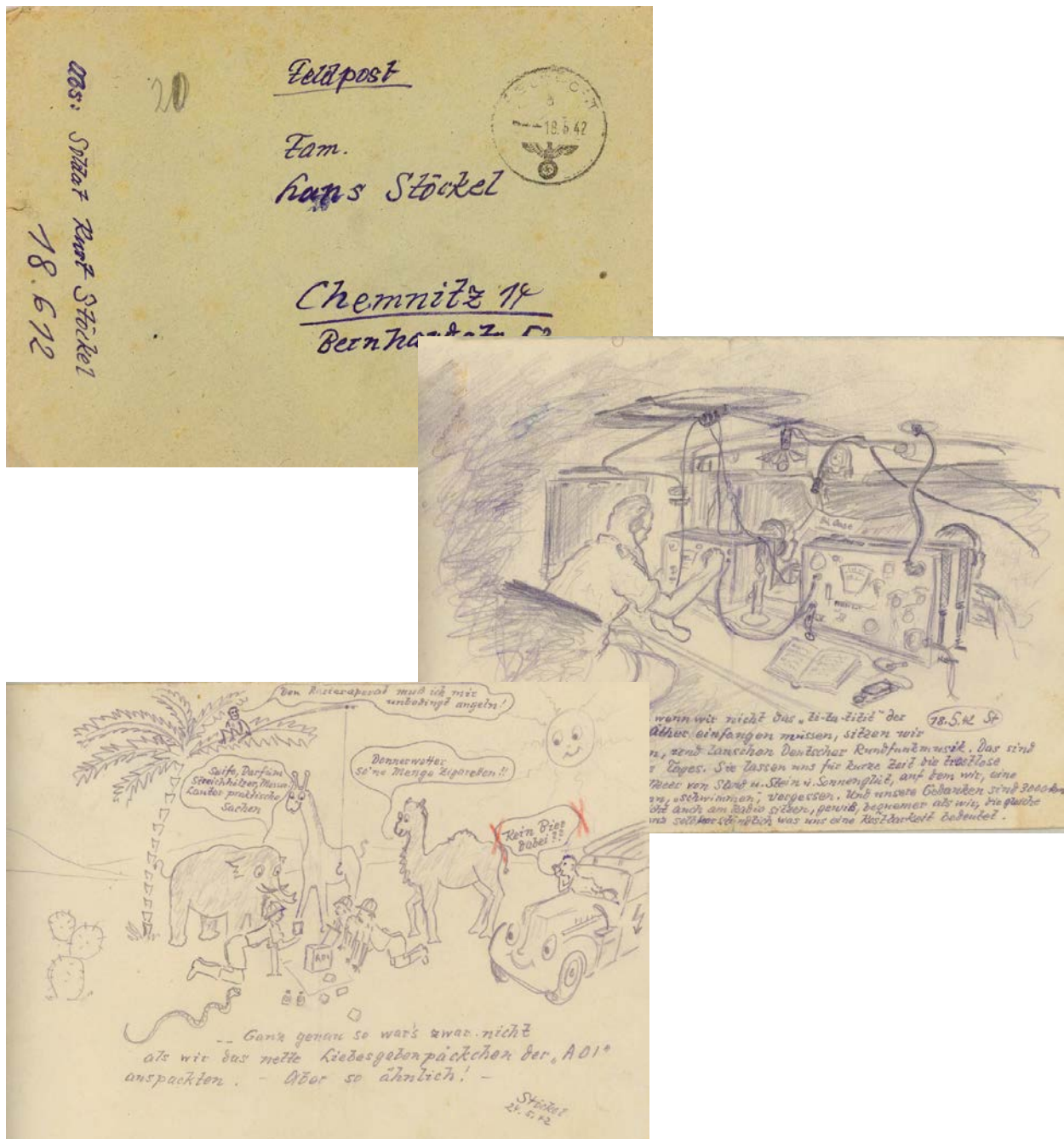


# Afrika Korp Feldpost Art from Libya. Panzer Grenadier Regiment 115. Feldpost No 18612. May 1942.

by Keith Lillywhite

The two sketches were sent by Soldat Hans Stockel to his family in Chemnitz on the 18<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> May 1942. It would appear that he was a Radio Operator with the HQ Company and that he had the opportunity to send sketches of his position in the Communications Vehicle and a cartoon with his letters to home.

It would seem that he got carried away illustrating the variety of animals living in North Africa.



The Panzer Grenadier Regiment 115 part of the 15<sup>th</sup> Panzer Grenadier Division took part in the land battles with the Allied Forces in the Libyan Desert between 1941-43 and sustained heavy losses in the Autumn of 1942.

# Occupation of Luxembourg

by

**Bob Jones**

## Historical background:

The German occupation of Luxembourg in World War II began in May 1940 after the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg was invaded by Nazi Germany. Although Luxembourg was officially neutral, it was situated at a strategic point at the end of the French Maginot Line. On 10<sup>th</sup> May 1940, the German Wehrmacht invaded Luxembourg, Belgium and the Netherlands. Luxembourg was initially placed under a military administration, but later became a civilly administrated territory and finally was annexed directly into Germany. The Germans believed Luxembourg to be a Germanic state, and attempted to suppress what they perceived as alien French language and cultural influences. Although some Luxembourgers joined the resistance or collaborated with the Germans, both constituted a minority of the population. As German nationals, from 1942, many Luxembourgers were conscripted into the German military.



Above: A map of Europe showing the position of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



Right: A close-up map of Luxembourg showing towns and cities and its borders with Belgium, Germany and France.

## Military administration:

Early on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1940, the German diplomat Von Radowitz handed the general secretary of the Luxembourgish government a memorandum from the German government, stating that Germany had no intention of changing the territorial integrity or political independence of the Grand Duchy. The following day, a military administration for Luxembourg was set up. Luxembourgish interests were represented by a governmental commission under Albert Wehrer, which consisted of senior civil servants and had been legitimated by the Chamber of Deputies. There was a good relationship between this commission and the military authorities, as Colonel Schumacher showed a broad-minded attitude towards the country's problems and a willingness to solve these in consultation with the government commission.

On 13<sup>th</sup> July 1940, the Volksdeutsche Bewegung (VdB) was founded in Luxembourg City under the leadership of Damian Krutzenberg, a German teacher at the Athénée de Luxembourg. Its main goal was to push the population towards a German-friendly position by means of propaganda, and it was this organisation that used the phrase "Heim ins Reich" ("back home to the Reich").

Several Deputies and high-ranking civil servants were of the opinion that Luxembourg could retain a measure of autonomy under the military administration, as had occurred in World War I, and attempts were made to come to some sort of arrangement with Germany.



### Occupation of Luxembourg (cont.)

However, it was soon made clear by the authorities in Berlin that Luxembourg's fate would be very different this time. The Nazis considered the Luxembourgish people as just another Germanic ethnic group and the Grand Duchy a German territory. The military authorities were withdrawn from Luxembourg by 31<sup>st</sup> July 1940, to be replaced by a civil administration under Gustav Simon.



Chief of the Civil  
Administration  
Gustav Simon

#### **Civil administration and annexation:**

Gustav Simon was appointed Chef der Zivilverwaltung (CdZ; "Chief of the Civil Administration") by the Oberkommando des Heeres on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1940. Luxembourg was then included into the CdZ-Gebiet Luxemburg on 29<sup>th</sup> July. While initially subordinate to the military commands in Belgium and northern France, Simon was confirmed in his appointment on 2<sup>nd</sup> August by Adolf Hitler himself, indicating that he reported directly to the Führer and no one else. This granted him a wide degree of autonomy with regards to the military and civil authorities of Nazi Germany.

Simon, who was also the Gauleiter of the neighbouring Gau Trier-Koblenz, later Moselland (Gauleiter being a title denoting the leader of a regional branch of the Nazi party), led a propaganda and later terror campaign, known as Heim ins Reich, to convince the population that they were ethnic Germans and a natural part of the Third Reich. His objective was "to win Luxembourg back over to the German nation as soon as possible." He was convinced that Luxembourgers only needed a level of education and enlightenment in order to voluntarily declare their loyalty to Germany. He deduced this from his belief that they were, in fact, German "by blood and by descent". To the Gauleiter, Luxembourgish independence was an "absurd idea," which existed only because the monarchy and government had nurtured it: if the Luxembourgers were shown evidence of their belonging to the German nation, the will to be independent must disappear.

#### **The Reichspost in Luxembourg:**

According to the Michel catalogue, the first stamps for Luxembourg were the 'Hindenburg Medallion Head' definitive stamps of Germany overprinted with a 'Luxemburg' overprint. Notice the spelling is now the German spelling (no 'o'). The 16 stamps were issued on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1940 and are shown below.



**Luxemburg**

Left: The actual size of the "Luxemburg" overprint is 17mm in width.

**Occupation of Luxembourg (cont.)**

Along with the overprinted definitive stamps, 3 overprinted 'Hindenburg Medallion Head' postal cards were also issued from 1<sup>st</sup> October 1940.



The overprinted 'Hindenburg Medallion Head' definitive stamps were only issued for a 2-month period. The Reichspost had realised that there were enough definitive stamps from Luxembourg itself to cater for the demand. Dating back as far as 1926, stocks of the definitive stamps featuring the Grand Duchess Charlotte of Luxembourg facing right, were now to be overprinted and issued by the Reichspost on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1940.



**15 Rpf**

The overprint shown enlarged at left, described as a 'rosette' in the Michel catalogue, was used to obliterate the value and denomination of the stamps as they were in centimes and Francs and that 'French' was considered 'alien' to the German cause. The stamp with the 60Rpf value is the only one without the 'rosette' and a simple 'bar' was used to obliterate the original 2Fr. value.



**Occupation of Luxembourg (cont.)**

As with the issue of the 'Hindenburg' definitives, the 'Grand Duchess Charlotte' definitives also had 3 postal cards issued with overprints. Two cards with the Grand Duchess and one with the coat of arms. These are shown below.



The first 2 values of these cards (5Rpf and 6Rpf) also have the top line 'Carte Postale' (Post card) and 'Expéditeur' (Sender) at bottom left obliterated by an overprinted black bar just to erase the French language from these cards. I do not know why the third card did not receive the same obliterations.

These stamps and cards were valid until 31<sup>st</sup> March 1941.

The third and last series of overprinted stamps used in occupied Luxembourg was the WHW set from 1940 (in Germany). This 9-stamp set was issued in Luxembourg on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1941 and valid until 30<sup>th</sup> June 1941.

**Luxemburg**

Above: The size of the "Luxemburg" overprint on these stamps is longer than on the 'Hindenburg Medallion Head' definitives measuring 21mm in width.

**Occupation of Luxembourg (cont.)**

Finding legitimate covers with the preceding overprinted stamp for the collector is a bit difficult. I have shown below the type of covers that are available to the collector with complete sets affixed.

**Right:** A registered cover sent to an address in Hamburg with cancels from Luxembourg 1 post office on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1941 (last day of validity). It has the full set of Hindenburg Medallion Head stamps affixed (Mi. 1 – 16).



**Left:** A registered cover with cancels from Luxembourg 1 post office sent to an address in Berlin bearing a set of overprinted Luxembourg stamps (Mi. 17 – 32) on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1940.

The receiving cancel on the back is from Berlin W62 post office on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1940.

**Right:** A cover sent “Eilbote” (courier) with the complete set of WHW issue stamps (Mi. 33 – 41) sent to an address in Leipzig on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1941 from Luxembourg 1 post office. The receiver stamp on the back is “Leipzig TA” on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1941.



I have yet to find any ‘packet cards’ where any of these overprinted stamps were used.



**Occupation of Luxembourg (cont.)**

There were other German postal cards, shown below, with overprints issued in Luxembourg during the occupation.



**Above:** A postal card issued for the 'Tag der Briefmarke' on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1941 and valid until 31<sup>st</sup> December 1941.



**Above:** A postal card issued for the 'WHW' on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1941 and valid until 30<sup>th</sup> June 1941.



**Above:** An 8-card set of postal cards sponsored by the KdF Collectors Group and issued in 1941 in Luxembourg (exact date is not known), and valid until 31<sup>st</sup> December 1941.

Luxembourg was liberated by Allied forces in September 1944. Below is shown some of the pictures from the liberation. From left to right: 'Marching to the German border', 'Showing souvenirs after a battle' and 'A warm welcome from the civilians'.



### Occupation of Luxembourg (cont.)

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 1942 until the reestablishment of the Grand Duchy in 1944, only the stamps of Germany that could be used until 29<sup>th</sup> September 1944 were valid. After that, cash payment was ordered until the issue of their own definitive stamps could be arranged and issued on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1944 (below).



Also available was a souvenir folio with 12 of these stamps postmarked on the first day (6<sup>th</sup> November 1944).



The surcharge on the 12 stamps in this folio are; 5,10, 25, 35, 50, 70 centimes & 1, 1¼, 1½ Franc, a 50 centimes surcharge, 5, 10 Franc, a 5 Franc surcharge and 20 Franc a 15 Franc surcharge making a total of 29.50 Francs for the 'Evacuees' of Luxembourg fund.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Wikipedia for the historical background on the occupation of Luxembourg.

Maps from the internet.

Michel Deutschland-Spezial 2003 catalogue.

Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland 2005.

Stamps, cards, covers and picture of Gustav Simon (1933/34 WHW Lottery card) are from the author's collection.



# Reichskommissariat Ostland

by

**Bob Jones**

## Historical background:

The Reichskommissariat Ostland (RKO) was established by Nazi Germany in 1941 during World War II. It became the civilian occupation regime in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and the western part of Byelorussian SSR. German planning documents initially referred to an equivalent Reichskommissariat Baltenland. The political organization for this territory – after an initial period of military administration before its establishment – involved a German civilian administration, nominally under the authority of the Reich Ministry for the Occupied Eastern Territories led by Nazi ideologist Alfred Rosenberg, but actually controlled by the Nazi official Hinrich Lohse, its appointed Reichskommissar.

Germany's main political objectives for the Reichskommissariat, as laid out by the Ministry within the framework of Nazism's policies for the east established by Adolf Hitler, included the genocide of the Jewish population, as well as the Lebensraum settlement of ethnic Germans along with the expulsion of some of the native population and the Germanization of the rest of the populace. These policies applied not only to the Reichskommissariat Ostland but also to other German-occupied Soviet territories. Through the use of the Order Police battalions and Einsatzgruppen A and B, with active participation of local auxiliary forces, over a million Jews were killed in the Reichskommissariat Ostland. The Germanization policies, built on the foundations of the Generalplan Ost, would later be carried through by a series of special edicts and guiding principles for the general settlement plans for Ostland.

In the course of 1943 and 1944, the Soviet Red Army gradually recaptured most of the Ostland territory in their advance westwards, but Wehrmacht forces held out in the Courland Pocket until May 1945. With the end of World War II in Europe and the defeat of Germany in 1945, the Reichskommissariat ceased to exist.



**Above:** Position of Reichskommissariat Ostland in Europe.

**Right:** A detailed map of the area.



**Above:** Alfred Rosenberg (left) and Hinrich Lohse (right) from Winterhilfswerk Lottery cards from 1933/34.



**Reichskommissariat Ostland (cont.)**

The Reichspost had the Hitler Head definitive stamps of Germany issued in August 1941 (Mi. 781-798) and also the 10 & 12Rpf values from 1942 (typographic printing Mi. 826 & 827) overprinted 'OSTLAND' for use in Reichskommissariat Ostland. These are shown below:

**OSTLAND**  
Enlarged overprint.



**Above left:** 2 postal cards from Germany with a 5Rpf & 6Rpf indicia with the 'OSTLAND' overprint.  
**Above right:** a 'reply' postal card from Germany also with an overprinted 6Rpf indicia.



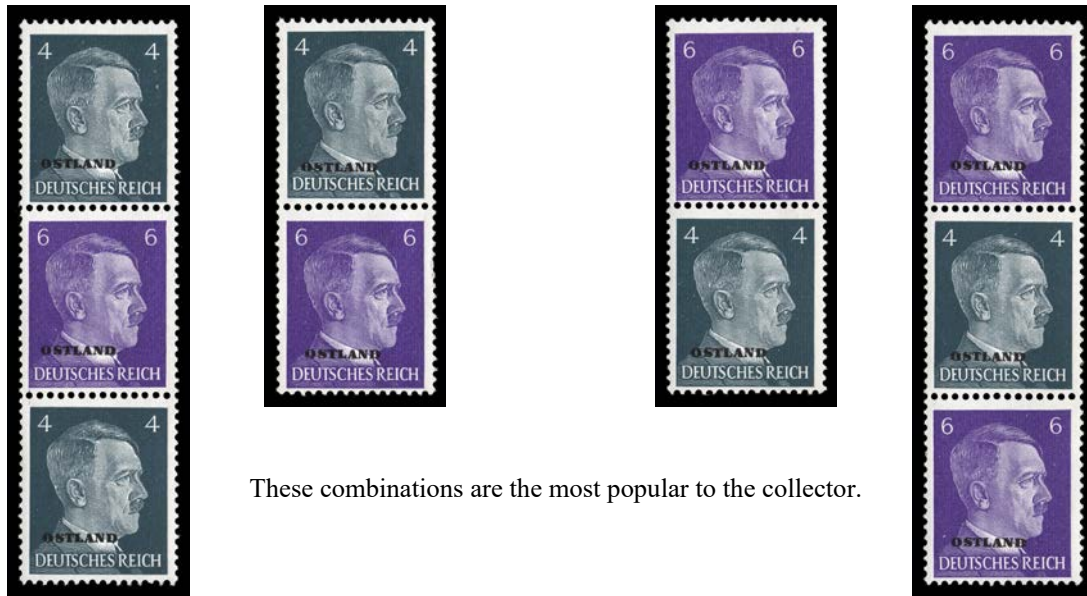
**Above:** The 4 special postal cards printed for the 1942 'Tag der Briefmarke' with an overprinted 3Rpf indicia.



**Reichskommissariat Ostland (cont.)**

Another issue of these 'OSTLAND' overprinted stamps were the ones shown below. They were issued in alternate values of 4Rpf and 6Rpf and printed in coils for use in vending machines.

Collectors of coil strips always collect strips of 11 stamps to show that they are not just vertical strips taken from sheets of 10 x 10, but these stamps were never printed in sheets of 10 x 10 so all of these combinations must have come from the printed coils.



These combinations are the most popular to the collector.

The registered cover shown below was sent from Dünaburg in south-eastern Latvia to Hohensalza in Poland on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1944. It has 2 strips of the combination coil stamps (11 stamps) to the value of 54Rpf.



**Reichskommissariat Ostland (cont.)**

Covers and cards etc. are quite plentiful from this area at that time for the collector and are still available at reasonable prices. Below are shown such items:



Left: 2 x 30Rpf overprinted stamps on piece sent registered from Narva (Estonia) to Bayern, Germany on 21<sup>st</sup> January 1943.



Right: Cover sent via airmail from Riga (Latvia) to Tilsit, a city just over the border in East Prussia on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1942 franked with 2 x 20Rpf overprinted stamps.



Left: A registered cover sent from Kauen (Lithuania) to Berlin in Germany on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1944 bearing both 12Rpf and 30Rpf overprinted stamps for the correct rate of 42Rpf for registered mail.



Right: A registered cover sent from Minsk (Belorussia) to Dessau, Germany on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1944 with a mixture of 4 overprinted stamps to the value of 42Rpf, the correct rate for registered mail.



### Reichskommissariat Ostland (cont.)

I think it is necessary to mention that there were other German 'Hitler-head' stamps with overprints used in Reichskommissariat Osten.

### **Historical background:**

The Courland Pocket was an area of the Courland Peninsula where a group of Nazi German forces from the Reichskommissariat Ostland were cut off and surrounded by the Red Army for almost a year, lasting from July 1944 until May 1945.

The pocket was created during the Red Army's Baltic Offensive, when forces of the 1<sup>st</sup> Baltic Front reached the Baltic Sea near Memel (Klaipėda) during its lesser Memel Offensive Operation phases. This action isolated the German Army Group North from the rest of the German forces, having been pushed from the south by the Red Army, standing in a front between Tukums and Libau in Latvia, with the Baltic Sea in the West, the Irbe Strait in the North and the Gulf of Riga in the East behind the Germans (see map at right). Renamed Army Group Courland on 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Army Group in the Courland Pocket remained isolated until the end of the war. When they were ordered to surrender to the Soviet command on 8<sup>th</sup> May, they were in "blackout" and did not get the official order before 10<sup>th</sup> May, two days after the capitulation of Germany. It was one of the last German groups to surrender in Europe



Russian (left) & German (right) officers signing the surrender at Courland on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1945.



Map of the Reichskommissariat Ostland showing the 'Courland Pocket'.

During the long-determined defense of Courland from July 1944 to May 1945, many items became harder to maintain including the postal system. It soon became clear that postage stamps would run out so more 'Hitler-head' definitives of 5, 10 & 20Rpf plus a 'Feldpost' stamps appeared overprinted as shown below. The 'Hitler-head' definitives were all overprinted with the new 6Rpf value and the 'Feldpost' stamp with its new 12Rpf value.



6

**KURLAND**

6Rpf overprint.



12

**Kurland**

12Rpf overprint.

The Michel catalogue has these stamps issued on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1945 so they were not in use for long. Finding covers and cards with legitimate usage of these stamps are very hard to find. There seems to be quite a few 'Feldpost' cards and covers from 'Kurland' but because they are 'Feldpost' they do not carry any stamps.

**Reichskommissariat Ostland (cont.)**

Below is shown some of the franked covers that are found on the market. It is my belief that the vast majority of them, that I have seen, are philatelic items.



Left: A cover sent registered from Libau (Kurland) on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1945 (Hitler's last birthday), to an address also in Libau. To make up the 42Rpf charge for registered mail, the sender affixed a 30Rpf 'Ostland' overprinted stamp plus a 12Rpf 'Kurland' overprinted stamp.



The 4 items above were included in one lot in the recent 53<sup>rd</sup> Christoph Gärtner auction held June 24<sup>th</sup> 2022. They show covers with a block of four brown 6Rpf, a block of four blue 6Rpf Kurland overprints on Hitler-head stamps. Also in this lot were 2 registered covers, one with 2 x brown 6Rpf Kurland overprints along with 2 x 15Rpf Ostland overprinted stamps. The fourth item had a block of four 12Rpf Kurland overprinted stamps affixed. All items were sent to the same person at the same address on the same day in Windau (Kurland). 'Philatelic' items in my view.

Anyone collecting these stamps overprinted with 'Kurland' on cards or covers should submit them to be expertised. I do not know of anyone expertising these items at present. If any members know of an 'expertiser', please contact me.

**Acknowledgements:**

Michel Deutschland-Spezial 2003 catalogue.

Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland 2005

Internet for historical background, maps & photographs.

All other images (stamps, postal cards, and covers) are from the author's collection.



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**SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL STAMP CLUBS  
& ASSOCIATIONS !!!**

It has been long awaited but now we can start announcing our regional meetings once again as they are slowly beginning to emerge.

## **Diary Dates for Regional Meetings**

I have just received confirmation of our TRSG meetings next year at the Civil Service Club:

29<sup>th</sup> April, 29<sup>th</sup> July and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023.

Tony Hickey.

Hopefully this will provide some contribution to our 'Dear Members' section for at least 3 of our issues for next year. Ed.

The Covid-19 situation is easing and most of the regional groups are restarting their programmes. However, you should contact the organiser, or consult the website, before attending any meeting. Many of our members will be hampered by the national and local train strikes so all meetings should be checked before making any plans.

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## **Epilogue**

Well, here are after surviving another year of Covid and rampant inflation throughout the world. In a way, we are the lucky ones as we have a hobby to distract us from most of the troubling issues.

Over the last few issues of our News Sheet, I have tried to come up with articles that involved stamps and covers etc. that are usually found at very reasonable prices and also give you all a little background to the circumstance and history from that time. We still need as many articles from our members as they can send, even just enquiries or ideas for articles. Anything will help!

Cheers,

*Bob Jones*

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## **ATTENTION ALL PRINTED COPY MEMBERS**

It is with regret that I must inform our printed copy members that with the rampant inflation our printing costs have increased. In the past I have covered all increases in printing and postage costs myself but the time has come to pass on the increases to our hard copy customers as I cannot afford the increases myself. The new costs for a year of issues (March, June, September & December) will be £21.51 including p + p. Again, I am sorry for increase but it has become out of my control.

Bob Jones



***Wishing all our members  
a Merry Christmas and a  
Happy and Prosperous  
New Year.***

*..... from your News Sheet team .....*

*Bob Jones*

*Steve Clark*

*Tony Hickey*