



Third Reich Study Group

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

News Sheet 198

Group Leader: Tony Hickey

June 2025

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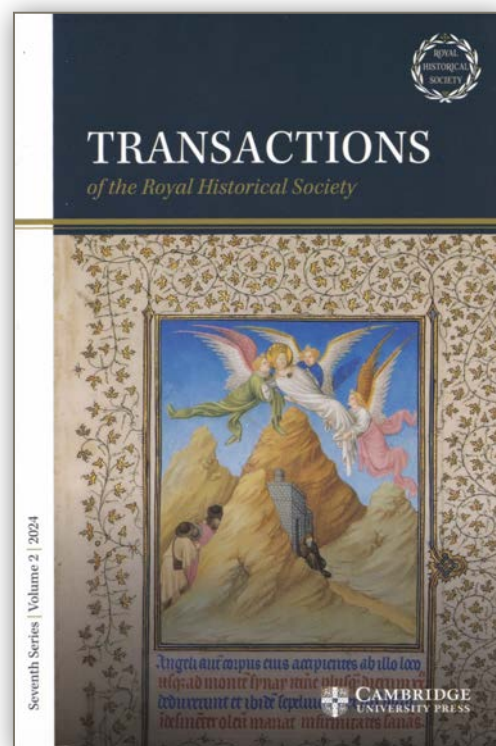
From the Editor

There are rumours that philately is on the decline and I have heard of 'Philatelic' societies changing their names to 'Stamp Clubs'. Well we have to do what we have to do in order to keep this relevant 'hobby' alive. We are only trustees of our collections. They do not die with us in a Viking longship. But we hope and trust that our hours of devotion are recycled into the 'stamp' community or passed on to a favourite third cousin's nephew (as it seems unlikely our nearest and dearest will understand the joys of this solitary and sometimes curmudgeonly pastime). So do we need to rethink the why's and the wherefores?

Here's an idea. We are no longer philatelists. No, we are historians that use philately as a means of structuring our historical interests. This mindset needs framing within the concept of 'what is history?'

The early Greek form of *histōr* is translated as 'learned and wise' (you could be both, either or neither) and was associated with inquiry and testimony. Later in Roman times the emphasis was on narrative and presentation. In the 14th century the term became known in English as a 'story, tale' and relates to both fact and fiction, however, by the 15th century history became associated with knowledge about the past and its narrative. By the 18th and 19th century it's all about factual accounts and evidence. It was during this period that historical inquiry became a profession... and the term 'philately' becomes popular by the mid-1860s.

So from all this we get the key words of inquiry, testimony, narrative, presentation, knowledge and evidence. If as 'historians', we can place our collections within the framework of these key features then we go someway in presenting philately as part of a wider community. In doing so we not only step into a wider world, *we also give others a legitimate reason to enter ours.*



Publications available from the the GHIL, GHS and RHS

My journey in this direction has led to the Royal Historical Society, the German History Society and the German Historical Institute London. The programme of events these organisations offer is broad and fascinating... but not always appropriate.

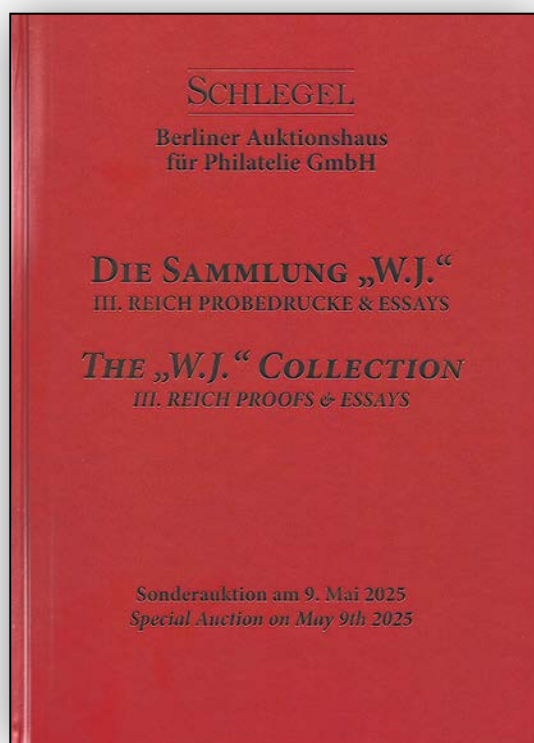
The philatelic journey takes a long and often winding road, but beyond the trees there is a broad horizon. Take a look and see what you can find.

Philatelist first, historian first... maybe both at the same time. Tell the TRSG membership your thoughts on this topic.

Email the news sheet at carl.buck01@btinternet.com



News



The Schlegel auction of the 'WJ' (Wolfgang Jakubek) collection of proofs and essays was a resounding success with all lots sold (although many were post auction). The sale took place at the company's Berlin office on 9th May 2025 and saw rare and unique items come go under the hammer.

A sample of the 288 lots sold are shown below and these as well as others from the auction are scheduled to make an appearance in subsequent editions of the TRSG news sheet. We hope they will continue in the spirit of articles first started by John Rawlings in the 1980s highlighting postage stamp evolution that he titled 'Unadopted essays of the Third Reich'.

Full details of the auction and the results can be found on the Schlegel website at www.auktion.auktionshaus-schlegel.de



*With another in red.
Sold £2,358*



Sold £1,558



Sold £674

If you have any announcements that should be seen as
'newsworthy' then please send your article to



Cover Story

'The night of the strong winds' By Carl Buck



Fig 1

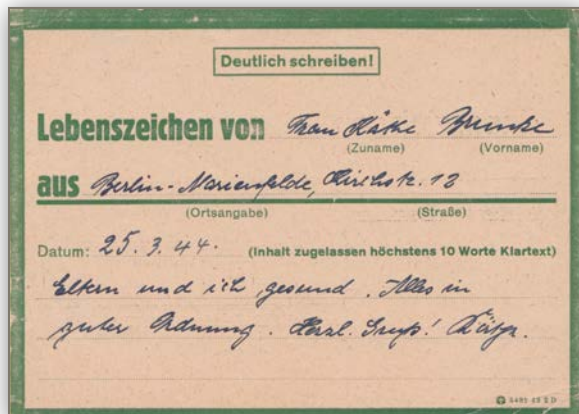
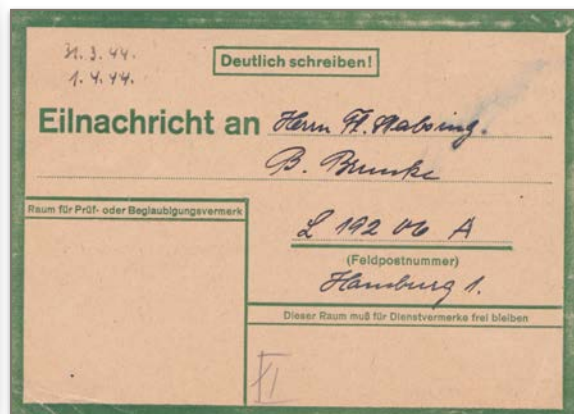


Fig 2a & 2b

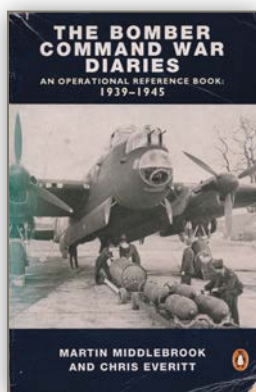


You're probably all aware of these 'Lebenszeichen' - Sign of Life - cards. The TRSG news sheet has previously visited this topic, most notably in NS 133 (June 2008 pp.12-18). Displayed above is the red bordered version (Fig. 1) - to be posted from civilians to relatives and friends following an air raid, informing them of their circumstances. There was also a green bordered version that was sent from civilians to relatives and friends in the armed forces.

The green bordered card above (Fig. 2a & b) is dated **25th March 1944** and was sent from Frau Käthe Brunke, at the time living at Kirchstraße 12 in the Marienfelde district of Berlin (to the south). It was sent to an airman stationed in Denmark.

The fascinating aspect of collecting 'Lebenszeichen' cards is how they can be researched. There are two invaluable publications. Firstly, the 'U.S. Army Air Forces in World War II - Combat Chronology 1941-1945' compiled by Kit C. Carter and Robert Mueller. Center for Air Force History, Washington DC, 1991 (available as a PDF download for free). The second being the 'Bomber Command War Diaries - An operational reference book: 1939-1945' by Martin Middlebrook and Chris Everitt. Penguin Books, 1990.

The 'Cover Story' comes from the *Bomber Command War Diaries* and describes the R.A.F. operation that Frau Brunke witnessed.



24/25 March 1944 BERLIN - 811 aircraft - 577 Lancasters, 216 Halifaxes, 18 Mosquitoes. 72 aircraft - 44 Lancasters, 28 Halifaxes - lost, 8.9 per cent of the force.

The night became known in Bomber Command as 'the night of the strong winds'. A powerful wind from the north carried the bombers south at every stage of the flight. Not only was this wind not forecast accurately but it was so strong that the various methods available to warn crews of wind changes during the flight failed to detect the full strength of it. The bomber stream became scattered, particularly on the homeward flight and radar-predicted Flak batteries at many places were able to score successes. Part of the bomber force even strayed over the Ruhr defences on the return flight. It was believed that approximately 50 of the 72 aircraft lost were destroyed by Flak; most of the remainder were victims to night fighters. The Berlin report says that 14 bombers were shot down by fighters in the target area.

The strong winds caused difficulties in the marking at Berlin with, unusually, markers being carried beyond the target and well out to the south-west of the city. 123 small towns and villages outside Berlin recorded bombs and 30 people were killed in those places. The majority of the damage in Berlin was in the south-western districts. As usual, much housing was destroyed and about 20,000 people were bombed out. Approximately 150 people were killed. No industrial concerns were classed as destroyed but several important ones were damaged. 5 military establishments were badly hit including the depot of the Waffen-S.S. Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler Division in Lichterfelde.

This was the last major R.A.F. raid on Berlin during the war, although the city would be bombed many times by small forces of Mosquitoes.

I'm yet to discover if Frau Brunke survived the war. Maybe that'll be the topic of a future 'Cover Story'... can anyone help?



The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945
New Evidence
By Peter Bradford

PART THREE

N.S.K.K. & N.S.F.K. Party Formations



National Socialist Motor Corps – National Sozialistisches Kraftfahr Korps – N.S.K.K.
 Three Corps members in front of a light display. Above is a Corps banner, below a Panzer Mk IV.



National Socialist Flyers Corps – National Sozialistisches Flieger Korps – N.S.F.K.
 Three Kranich type II gliders against a cloud formation. At the bottom left is the Corps Insignia.

Compared to the other stamps for this article, little is known about the NSKK-NSFK; they were prepared and even got as far as the pre-production department at the printing office in Vienna. There are no photo essays that I know of and genuine stamps are from presentation cards which are extremely rare (Fig. 1 & 2).

With this in mind what else can be added about these two stamps?



The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945

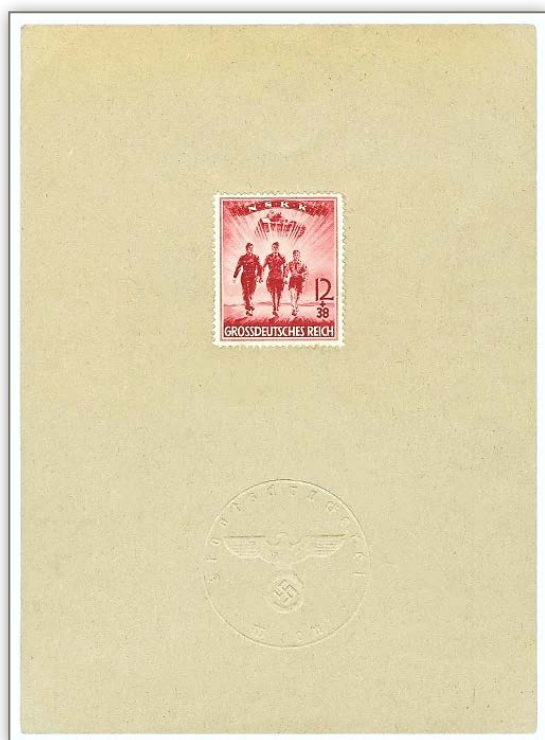


Fig. 1. Presentation card for the NSKK

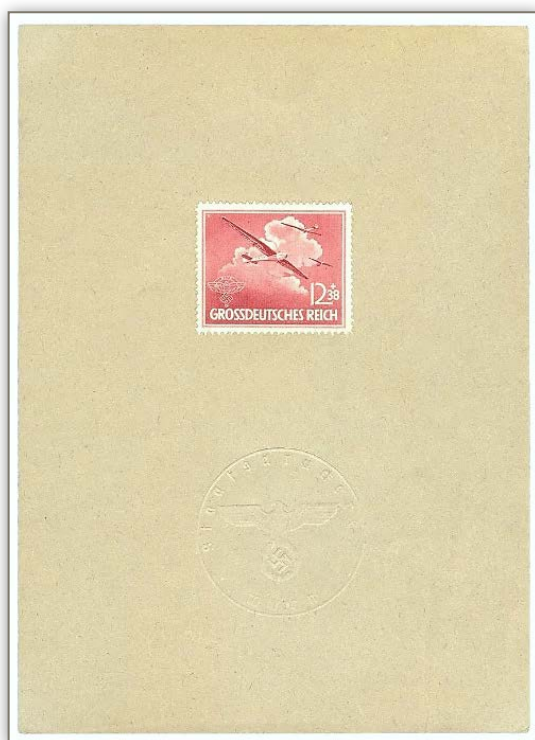


Fig. 2. Presentation card for the NSFK

The N.S.K.K. stamp design should be familiar to Third Reich collectors; it was originally made for a recruitment poster from a painting by Theo Matejko; note the changes of the cadet beret on the left; from painting to postcard then back to its original form for the stamp. (See Fig. 3 & 4).



Fig. 3. Painting by Theo Matejko



Fig. 4. NSKK postcard

The caption at the foot of the postcard reads, 'To be an NSKK man means to be a fighter, a helper and an achiever!'



The Volkssturm and Party Formation stamps of Germany 1945

Turning our attention to the N.S.K.K. image you'll note that at the top left corner of the stamp is a small letter Z, possibly the artists initial, H. Zeiler. I had always thought that this white smudge was probably a print flaw but on closer inspection I realise it is indeed the letter Z. (Fig. 5).

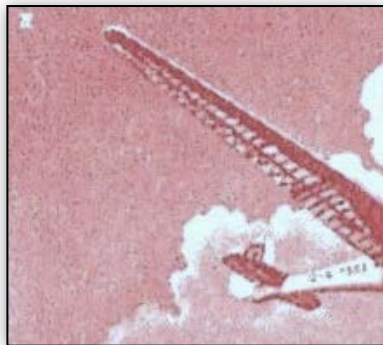
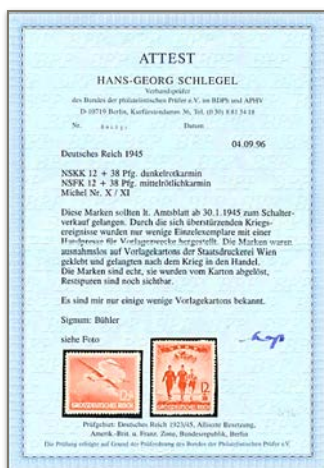
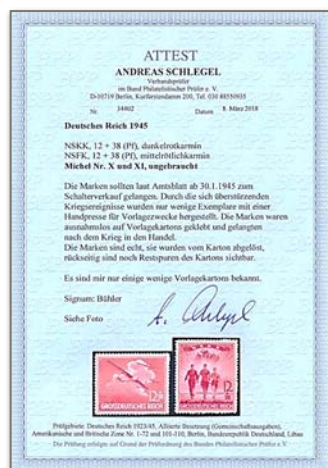


Fig 5. 'Z' for Zeiler



Fig 6. 'D-4' registration

Above in the enlarged image the glider can be identified. The markings are D-4 1349, D-4 being the gliding school situated at Schoenhagen airfield near the town of Trebbin, south west of Berlin. (Fig. 6).



These certificates by Schlegel say that the stamps are genuine. They have been detached from presentation cards with traces of the cardboard still visible on the reverse; they are in fact colour trial stamps for approval. (See NS 197 - Part two - Presentation Cards).

The 1945 Postal Decree mentions five artists who contributed to the designs for these commemorative stamps: H. Zeiler, W. Wieland, Theo Matejko, Erich Meerwald and René Ahrlé. The artists: Theo Matejko, Erich Meerwald and René Ahrlé are known distinguished artists from the 1930s and 1940s. This leaves two unknowns, **H. Zeiler** and **W. Wieland**; who were they?

Finding out has been quite frustrating, I have written to various auction houses, philatelic institutions and museums in Germany and the Vienna... but to no avail. Sadly out of the eleven contacted only two responded.

So this Part Three is not only to show the scant information which I have found, it is also an appeal to the members.

On offer, from my stock, is a set of genuine Volkssturm, SA, SS stamps, all unmounted mint with two facsimiles/replicas of the NSKK and NSFK stamps.



Thank you Peter for your excellent detective work and research over this 3-part series!

Let's hope the membership can help with information on the graphic designers.

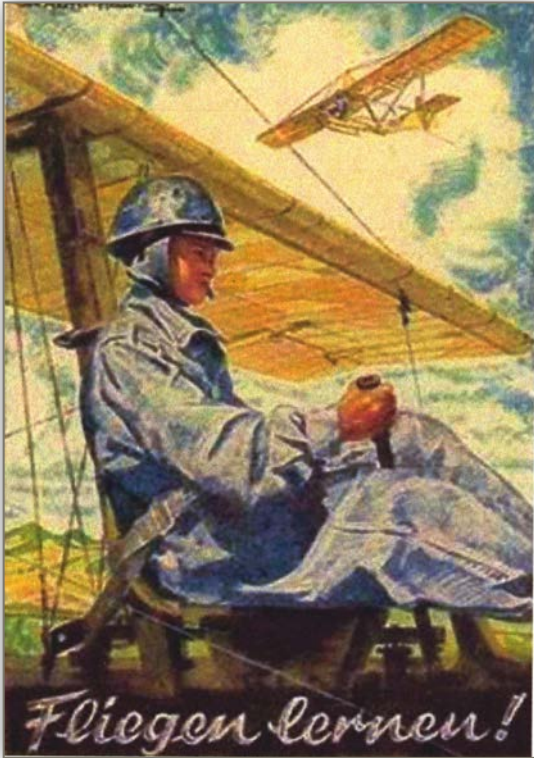
Please send all replies to carl.buck01@btinternet.com. The winner of the stamps shall be announced in NS 199.



Forces Postal History & Postcards.

Segelfluglager. Weisswarte Flugplatz. Krs Stendal. 1942.

By Keith Lillywhite



*Fig 1. 'Learn to Fly'.
An early NSFK Youth gliding
propaganda postcard.
By Werner von Axster-Heudtlass.*



*Fig 2. National Socialist Flyers
Corps - the way to the Luftwaffe.
Early 1940s poster.
By Werner von Axster-Heudtlass.*

The Treaty of Versailles' ban on Germany having civil aircraft was started to be lifted in 1922 but even then restrictions remained in place that limited their power, speed, and altitude. This led to the creation of many Glider Clubs in Germany in the 1920's and early 1930's which enabled young men in their late teens to learn the basics of flying before going onto powered aircraft when Germany flouted the Treaty.



Fig 3. Segelfluglager Cover.

The above Feldpost cover (Fig. 3) sent from the Segelflug Lager at Weisswarte Flugplatz which was a Grass Landing Field. Sent by a Grefrieter (possibly in the Hitler Youth) who would have been receiving instruction under the control of the NSFK (National Socialist Flieger Korps). The cover bears a briefstempel of the Fliegerhorstkommatur Burg 12. which had command of the airfield and a Tangerhütte postmark dated the 28th September 1942.

Acknowledgements: <https://www.forgottenairfields.com/airfield-burg->; <https://www.aerosociety.com/media/18220/2022-01-; fledglings-of-the-third-reich-taylor.pdf>; <https://www.lexikon-der-wehrmacht.de/Gliederungen;/Fliegerhorstkommandantur/FHK14-3-R.htm>

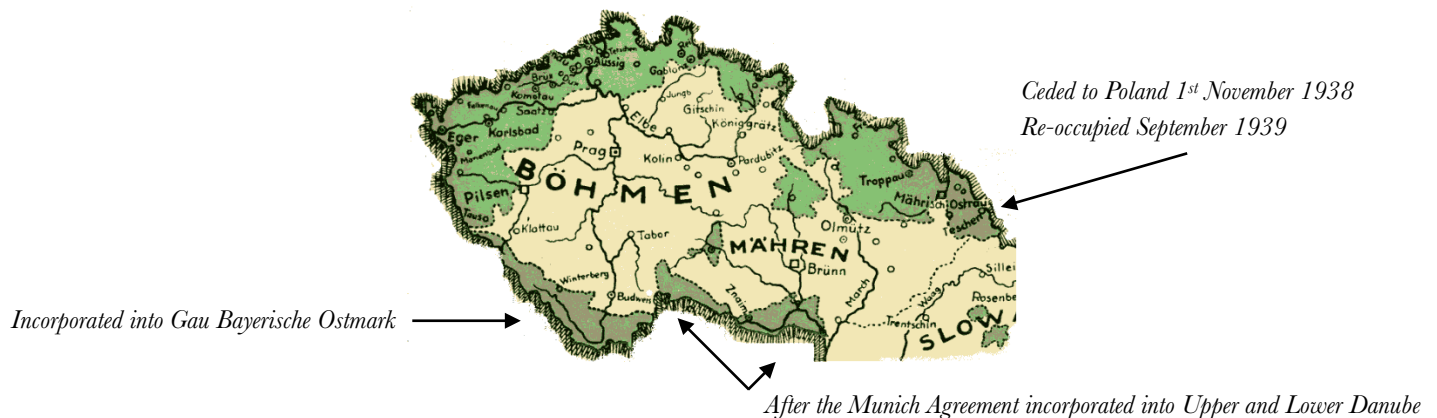


The deportation of Sudeten Germans

By Tony Hickey

The expulsion of Germans from Czechoslovakia after 2nd World War was part of a broader series of evacuations and deportations of Germans from Central and Eastern Europe. During the German occupation of Czechoslovakia, Czech resistance groups demanded the deportation of ethnic Germans from Czechoslovakia after the war. This demand was adopted by the Czechoslovak government-in-exile in 1943, who then sought the support of the Allies. However, a formal decision on the expulsions was not reached until the 2nd August 1945 at the conclusion of the Potsdam Conference. In the meantime "wild" expulsions happened from May until August 1945. On the 28th October 1945 Czechoslovak President Edvard Beneš called for the "final solution of the German question" (konečné řešení německé otázky) which would have to be solved by deportation of ethnic Germans.

The Sudetenland - September 1938



As a consequence, immense hostility was shown against all Germans within Czechoslovakia as many of them had helped the Nazis. An overwhelming majority were expelled, although new Czechoslovak legislation had provided for some to remain if they could prove their anti-Nazi affiliation. The number expelled in the early phase (spring-summer 1945) is estimated to be around 500,000 people. After the Beneš decrees, nearly all Germans were expelled starting in 1946, and by 1950 only 159,938 (from 3,149,820 in 1930) still lived in the Czechoslovak Republic. Those remaining, proven anti-fascists and skilled labourers, were allowed to stay but were later forcefully dispersed within the country.

Presumably to raise funds for those displaced, 24 vignettes were issued (probably in Austria), depicting their plight crossing over mountains and through forests to reach safety. Each of these un-valued vignettes bore the inscription "Heimatvertrieben" (Expelled from the Homeland) or "Verlorene Heimat" (Lost Homeland). The sheets are known in two colours; Light Green and Light Brown. No publisher or designer is mentioned.





The deportation of Sudeten Germans

Sudeten Deutscher Tag

From 1950 Vienna and various German cities held Sudeten German Days in remembrance of the expelled peoples. These meetings normally took place at Whitsun (Pfingsten) and were organised by the Sudeten German Association attracting tens of thousands of visitors. The main components of these days were a folklore evening and folk dance festival, rather like the Bohemian Village Festival, on Whit Saturday. A mass rally was held on Sunday. Following this, meetings were organised according to home regions and districts, in exhibition halls. Sudeten German Days still continue to this day.



Sudeten German Day

Loyalty to the Homeland, 1952

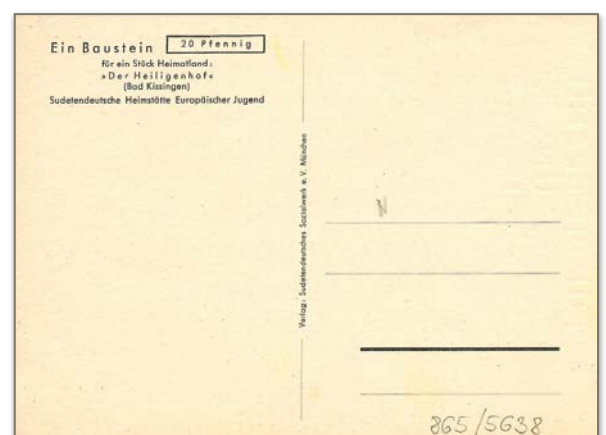
Stuttgart, Whitsun 30th May – 2nd June



For the Freedom of our Homeland

Sudeten German Day

Frankfurt on Main, Whitsun 1953, 23rd, 24th and 25th May



The 'Heiligenhof' mentioned on the reverse of each card is a German educational and meeting centre in Bad Kissingen and a member of the Working Group of German Educational Institutions. As a youth hostel, it is also a member of the German Youth Hostel Association (DJH). It is supported by the Sudeten German Social and Educational Foundation.

Cards and vignettes from my own collection, other details were from Wikipedia.



The Danzig 1933/34 Winter Relief Lottery Cards

By Rex Dixon

In *News Sheets* 149 and 150 (June and September 2012) I published a two-part article on the German 1933/34 Winter Relief lottery cards. They gave an introduction to the complex series of card-triplets that were included in the sealed envelopes that contained the lottery tickets. None of these cards were postal stationery cards, that is none of them had an imprinted indicium of value.

The politics of the Free City of Danzig, under League of Nations oversight, with its predominantly German population, mirrored that of Germany. In the 28th May 1933 elections to the *Volkstag* the local Nazi party gained 50 per cent of the vote. The *Volkstag* (the legislative assembly) then elected the Senate (the governing body), which was now controlled by the Nazis. Dr Hermann Rauschning became the President of the Senate.

That same winter of 1933/34 the Free City of Danzig, now under a Nazi regime, established its own Winter Relief Fund (*Winterhilfswerk Freie Stadt Danzig*) and in early 1934 launched a lottery comparable with that in Germany. As in Germany the lottery envelopes each contained a strip of three postcards, but they went one better than Germany – one of the three cards in the triplet was a postal stationery card with an imprinted 10 Pf indicium. These semi-official cards are listed by Michel as HP 1.

The cards are inscribed '*Herausgegeben vom WHW Freie Stadt Danzig 1933/34*' (Issued by the Winter Relief Fund of the Free City of Danzig). They are printed on poor quality card, with a poor quality black-and-white photograph (actually blackish sepia) on the reverse. The catalogues list thirty-three different views (numbered in Michel from 01 to 033) and four different personalities (lettered a to d) as being depicted in the photographs. The following thirteen combinations are known:

01/02/03	04/02/03	05/06/07	08/09/10	011/012/013	014/015/016	017/018/019
020/021/022	023/024/025	a/026/027	b/028/029	c/030/031	d/032/03	

Unlike the German triplets, the pattern of which cards were joined with which was unchanging (except for cards 01 and 04, see below). They were all of the same size and the printing on the address side was uniform across the series. They were all printed by A. W. Kafemann GmbH., Danzig, with various photographers providing the photos. As already stated, one of the three cards in each strip bears a 10 Pf green indicium of the Danzig Arms stamp, but which card received the imprint was not constant. Only the thirty-three view cards ever received the imprint; the personalities never did. The cards were designed to promote tourism when they



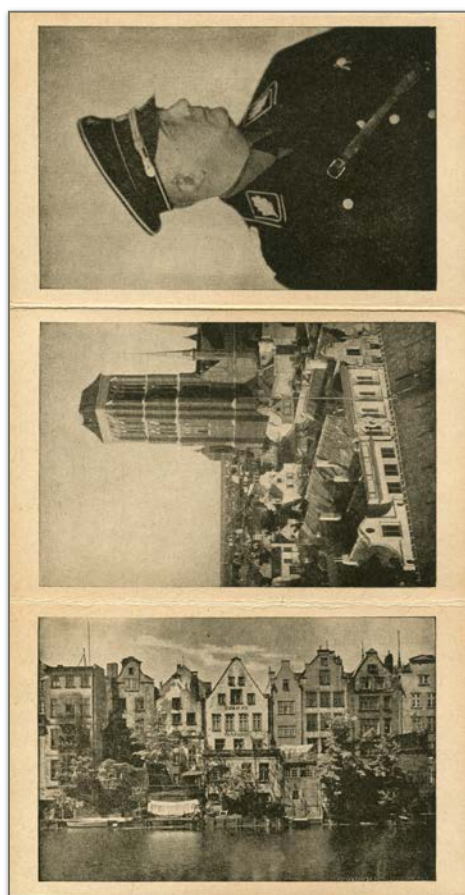
b Staatsrat Albert Forster, Gauleiter von Danzig

028 Altes Danziger Kanzelhaus

029 Danzig: Lange Brücke mit Kranter (Winter)



The Danzig 1933/34 Winter Relief Lottery Cards



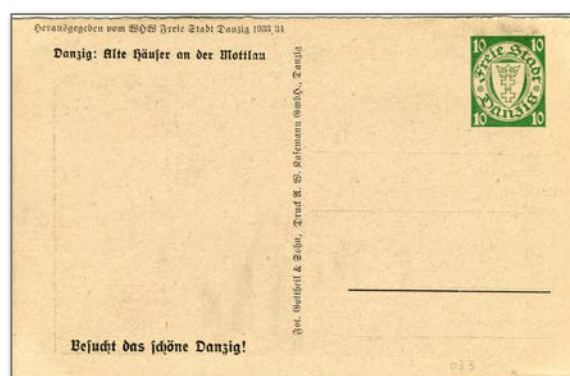
d Dr. Hermann Rauschning,
Präsident des Senats der Freien
Stadt Danzig

032 Danzig: St. Marien,
Blick über die Stadt

033 Danzig: Alte Häuser an
der Motlau



Card 032 with 10 Pf indicium



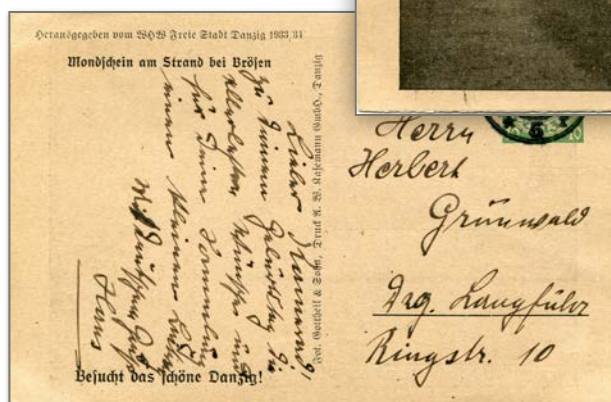
Card 033 with 10 Pf indicium

There were two printings (at least), which are said to differ slightly in the card and the colour of the imprint, though I cannot readily distinguish them. The pair of combinations 01/02/03 and 04/02/03 represent the two printings, with card 04 being substituted for card 01.



01 Mondschein am Strand bei Brösen, vertical photograph (Seen here to the left)

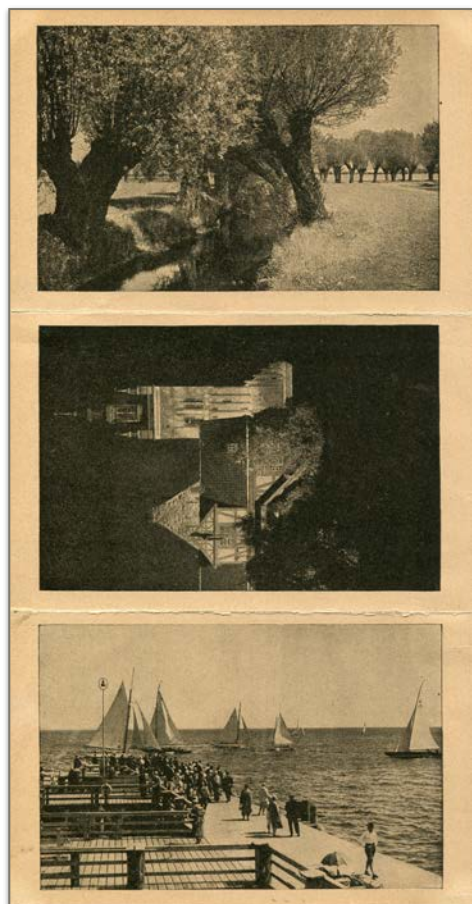
04 Mondschein am Strand bei Brösen, horizontal photograph (Below, with front and reverse).
It would have been better if Michel had numbered them 01a and 01b, and renumbered the rest accordingly.



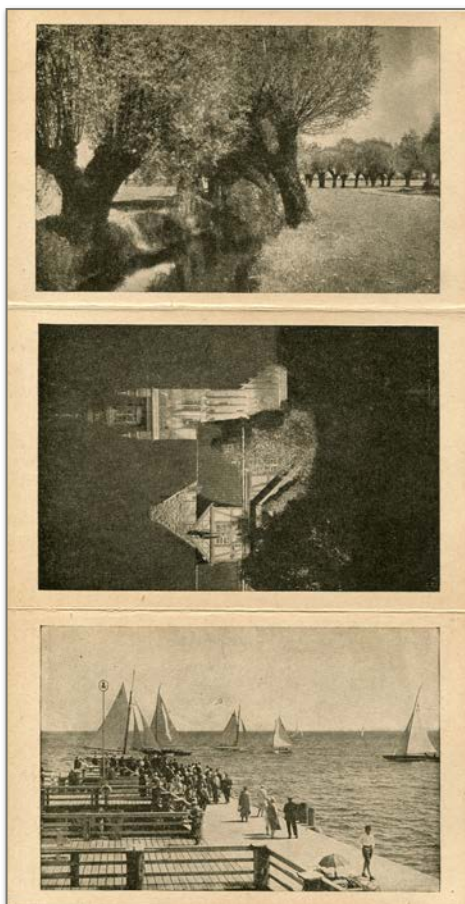


The Danzig 1933/34 Winter Relief Lottery Cards

In *Germania* Vol. 33 No. 2 (May 1997) I reported that the photograph on card 05 *Danziger Niederung: Graben* comes in two readily distinguishable forms. As I found the differences in card and colour in my two 05/06/07 strips barely distinguishable, I was arbitrary when denoting them as types I and II; if anything, the colour in type II is slightly paler. The same photograph of the polders is used in both types and both are nearly enough the same size ($120\frac{1}{2} \times 80$ mm for type I, 121×80 mm for type II). The difference lies in the degree of enlarging employed and hence in what is included within the frame. Type I has been enlarged more and thus shows a narrower angle of view.



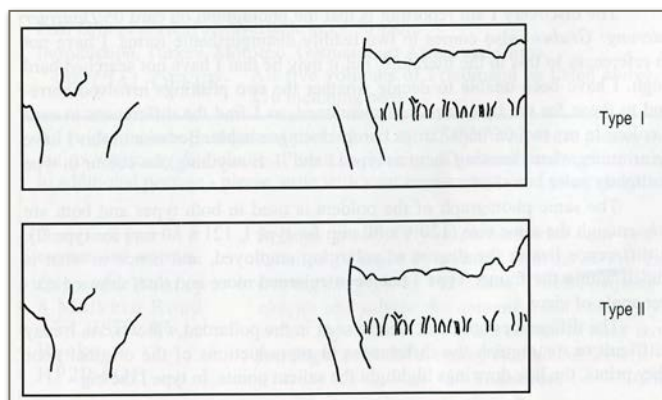
Type I. Narrow angle of view



Type II. Wider angle of view



Type II. Reverse



The other two cards in these triplets, 06 *Danzig: St.-Katharinenkirche bei Nacht* and 07 *Zoppoter Segelregatta* also show very minute, almost imperceptible differences in cropping. I've also spotted differences in cropping with card 032 *Danzig: St. Marien, Blick über die Stadt*, where the rightmost steeple is either complete or only half present. I do not have access to other cards to compare; indeed, the high catalogue value and scarcity of these strips makes study difficult.



The Danzig 1933/34 Winter Relief Lottery Cards

Check list for all 37 cards in the series

As modern versions of the *Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Deutschland* no longer list the various views and personalities I'm providing a list for the record.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 01 | <i>Mondschein am Strand bei Brösen</i> , vertical photograph |
| 02 | <i>Łoppot: Waldoper „Tannhäuser“</i> |
| 03 | <i>Kirchenportal Klosterkirche Oliva</i> |
| 04 | <i>Mondschein am Strand bei Brösen</i> , horizontal photograph |
| 05 | <i>Danziger Niederung: Graben</i> |
| 06 | <i>Danzig: St.-Katherinenkirche bei Nacht</i> |
| 07 | <i>Łoppoter Segelregatta</i> |
| 08 | <i>Altes Danziger Vorlaubenhaus (Niederung)</i> |
| 09 | <i>Danzig: St.-Katherinenkirche</i> |
| 010 | <i>Oliva: Blick auf den Karlsberg</i> |
| 011 | <i>Danzig: Das Hohe Tor</i> |
| 012 | <i>Morgen am Łoppoter Strande</i> |
| 013 | <i>Plehnendorfer Schleuse</i> |
| 014 | <i>Ältestes Fischerhaus bei Bohnsack</i> |
| 015 | <i>Danzig: St. Marien vom Rathausturm</i> |
| 016 | <i>Danziger Niederung: Dorf Herzberg</i> |
| 017 | <i>Danzigs Hafen im Mondschein</i> |
| 018 | <i>Danzig: Rathausturm</i> |
| 019 | <i>Am Łoppoter Strande</i> |
| 020 | <i>Łoppot: Nordpromenade</i> |
| 021 | <i>Danzig: An der Radaune, Blick auf die St.-Katherinenkirche</i> |
| 022 | <i>Oliva: bei Strauchmühle</i> |
| 023 | <i>Danzig: „Jüngstes Gericht“, Marienkirche (Memling)</i> |
| 024 | <i>Danzig: St. Marien von der Jopengasse</i> |
| 025 | <i>Elbinger Weichsel</i> |
| 026 | <i>Danzig: Am Fischmarkt</i> |
| 027 | <i>„Hansestadt Danzig“ am Łoppoter Seesteg</i> |
| 028 | <i>Altes Danziger Kanzelhaus</i> |
| 029 | <i>Danzig: Lange Brücke mit Krantor (Winter)</i> |
| 030 | <i>Danzig: Neptunsbrunnen Langer Markt</i> |
| 031 | <i>Danziger Hafen</i> |
| 032 | <i>Danzig: St. Marien, Blick über die Stadt</i> |
| 033 | <i>Danzig: Alte Häuser an der Mottlau</i> |
-
- | | |
|---|--|
| a | <i>Paul Batzer, Senator für Volksaufklärung und Propaganda, Staatskommissar für das Winterhilfswerk Freie Stadt Danzig 1933/34</i> |
| b | <i>Staatsrat Albert Forster Gauleiter von Danzig</i> |
| c | <i>Artur Greiser, Vizepräsident des Senats der Freien Stadt Danzig und Innensenator</i> |
| d | <i>Dr. Hermann Rauschnig, Präsident des Senats der Freien Stadt Danzig</i> |

References

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Curt Michaelis, *Kleines Handbuch der Ganzsachen von Danzig und des polnischen Postamts Danzig*, ArGe Danzig, 1973.
‘Free City of Danzig’, < https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Free_City_of_Danzig >, accessed 8th May 2025.

***This check list is invaluable considering the lack of availability in modern mainstream publications.
Thank you Rex on behalf of all here at the TRSG!***



Late Third Reich Mail

By Philip Townshend

This article does not set out to cover 'Überroller' (literally 'over-rollers', meaning mail posted late in the war, seized by invading Allies and delivered after the capitulation of 8th May 1945).

I begin with delays to mail from late 1944 on (Fig. 1 & 2)...



Fig. 1a. Posted from Bechen 21st December 1944.



Fig. 1b (reverse). Arrived in Herford 15th January 1945.



Fig. 2a. Posted from Hof 22nd March 1945.



Fig. 2b (reverse). Arrived Bad Oeynhausen 31st March 1945.

...thence to interruption even of Feldpost to Hitler's HQ in early April 45 (Fig. 3)...



Fig. 3. Posted from Munich to Berlin 7th April 1945 and bearing the instruction 'ZURÜCK AN DEN ABSENDER'

Late Third Reich Mail

...whilst mail continued to be posted and delivered until mid-April in Saxony (Fig. 4 & 5) and in parts of Bavaria and Württemberg until late April (Fig. 6)...



Fig. 4a. Posted from Klingenberg 11th April 1945.



Fig. 4b (reverse). Arrived Leipzig 14th April 1945.
(A few days later the Americans liberated the city)



Fig. 5. Posted from Meissen 18th April 1945.

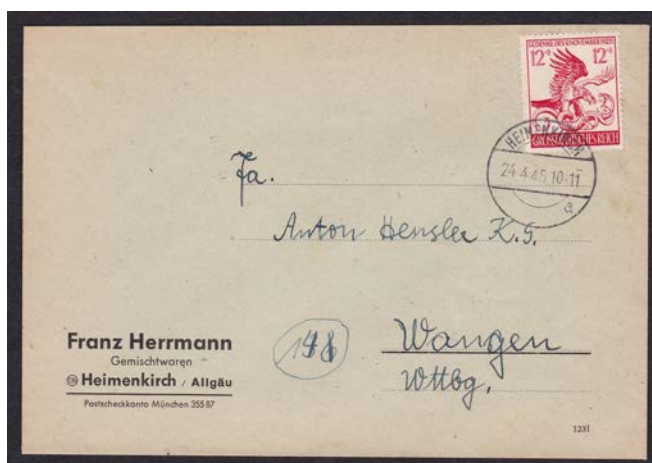
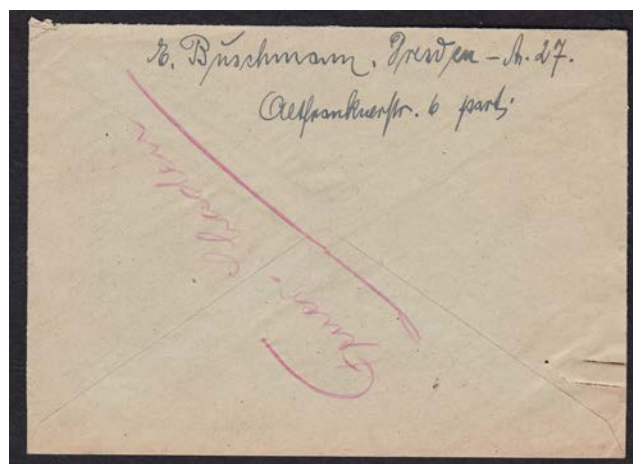


Fig. 6. Posted from Heimenkirch 24th April 1945.

...and mail from the south and south-east continued to arrive in Berlin until around 20.4.45 (Fig. 7);



Fig. 7. Posted from Dresden to Berlin 18th April 1945.



Late Third Reich Mail

...after which the city was gradually cut off with just a few POs functioning – cover (Fig. 8) was posted to BuM on 23.4.45 but never made it, being intercepted by the advancing Americans, later censored by them (in Berlin?) and returned to sender...



Fig. 8. Posted from Berlin 23rd April 1945... intercepted and returned.

...while everything proceeded normally in the extreme north-west, south-east and in BuM (Fig. 9, 10 & 11) right until the bitter end ...

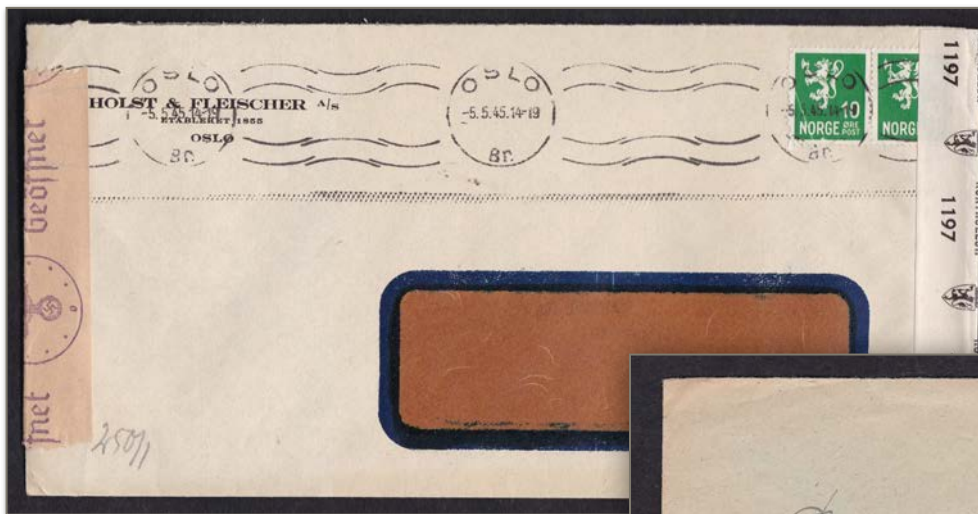


Fig. 9. Posted from Norway to Sweden
5th May 1945.

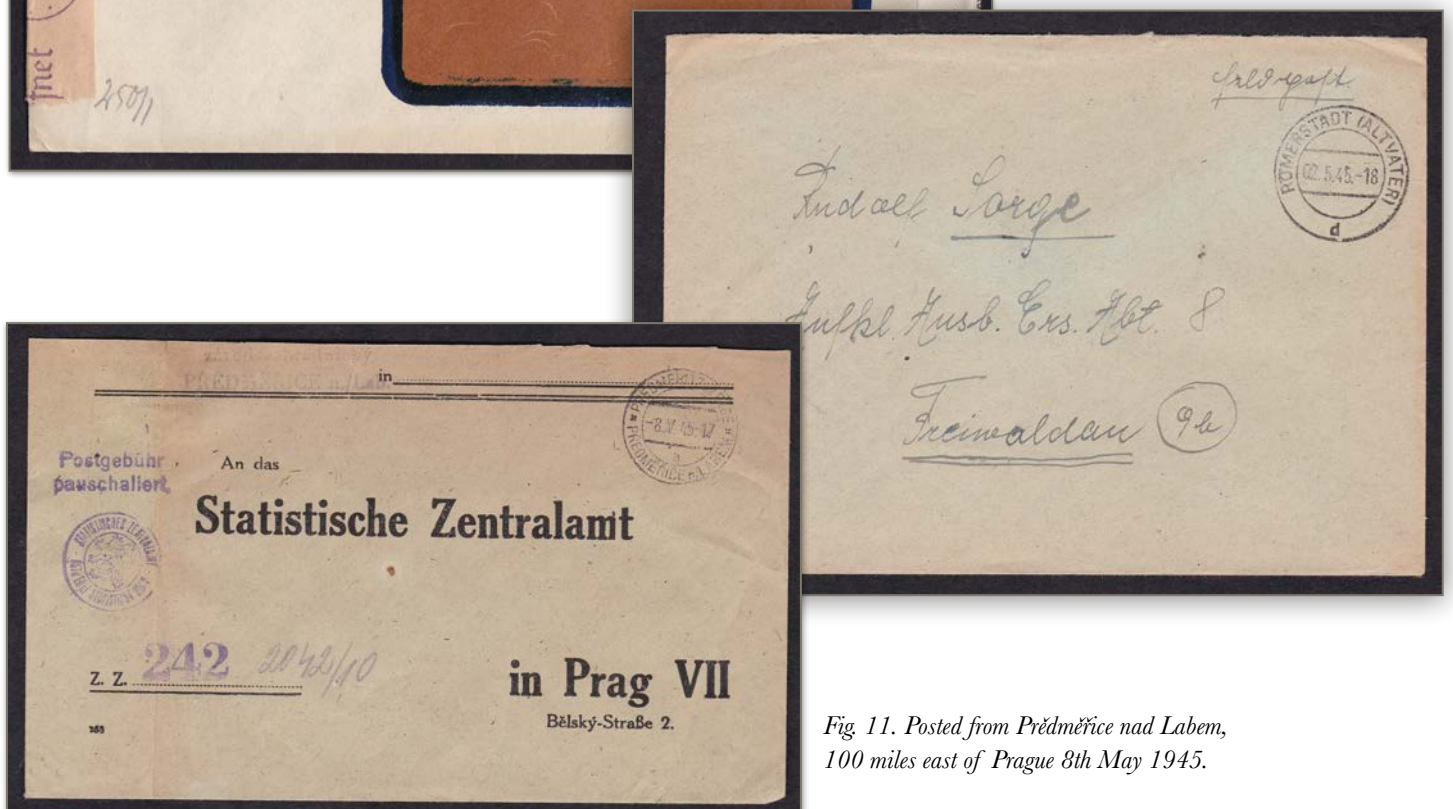


Fig. 11. Posted from Předměřice nad Labem,
100 miles east of Prague 8th May 1945.

Late Third Reich Mail

...and even beyond in some areas (Fig. 12) which remained unoccupied by Allied forces...



Fig. 12. Posted from Grünstadel (Schwarzenberg)
16th May 1945



Fig. 13. Posted from Ober-Schlaupnitz to Prague
16th May 1945

...and in BuM Hitler stamps remained in use intact until mid-June 1945 (Fig. 13)...

...whereafter in Soviet Zone Saxony they were used up with his face (or, in the case of official mail, the swastika) blacked out (Fig. 14, 15 & 16) until early August 1945.



Fig. 14. 20th June 1945

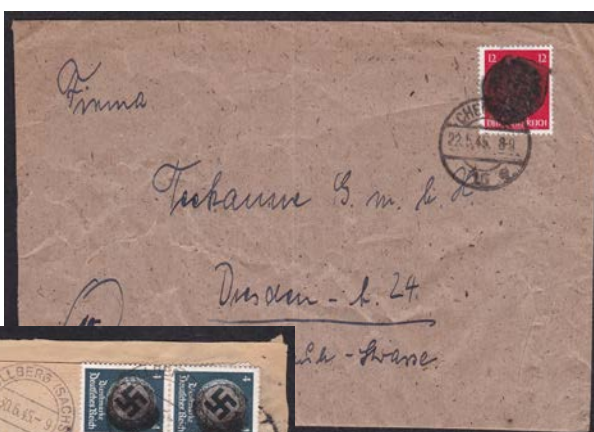


Fig. 15. 22nd May 1945



Fig. 16. 30th June 1945

Let the TRSG news sheet know of correspondence in your collection at this critical stage during the last days of the war. We are especially looking for mail in and out of Berlin... please contact carl.buck@btinternet.com



Gaukulturwoche Danzig 1938

By Giles du Boulay



Many Danzig Philatelists will recognise the 'Gaukulturwoche Danzig 1939' printed seal usually found on the back of the well-known 'Danzig ist Deutsch' propaganda card showing the *Langgasse* bedecked in flags on May Day 1939. This was for the third annual *Gaukulturwoche Danzig* (13th -18th June 1939). Few of us, however, may have anything in our collections concerning *Gaukulturwoche Danzig 1938*.



The postcard above, overfranked by 5Pf using three 10Pf coil stamps, was sent to England on 26 June 1938 by a British visitor to Danzig the day after his arrival from Gdynia where he had met members of the Polish and Danzig scouting movement. The writer then goes on to say: 'We hope to see Dr. Goebbels close up this afternoon though we saw him from the top of a church tower this morning. He in Danzig on a flying visit only'.

The story of Goebbels' visit is told in his (annotated) diary entry for 27th June 1938 where he related the events of the previous day:

...Arrival in Danzig at 10am. Forster tells me enthusiastically about the great success of the Gaukulturwoche. Especially the film 'Heimat' was a hit. My arrival in Danzig is truly triumphant. The whole city is on its feet. v. Arent has bedecked the festive streets wonderfully. How German is the face of this city.

State Theatre cultural rally. Forster speaks very warmly. I give a very clear fundamental speech. Strong applause.

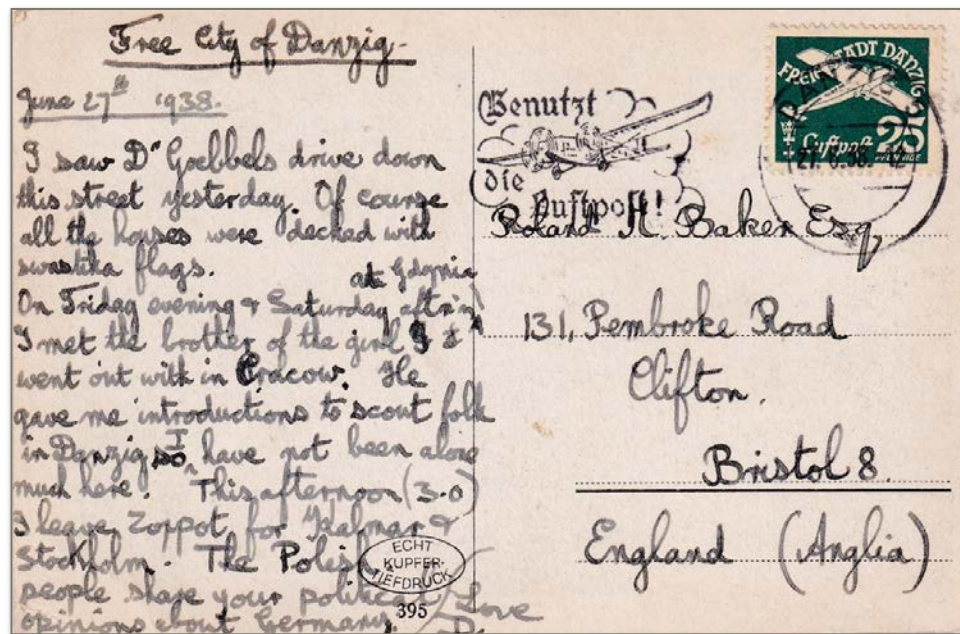
Dinner in the beautiful old hall of the town hall. Greiser speaks in very friendly terms. He tells me about the economic upswing in Danzig. And that the Poles have become very impudent in recent times. They'll be sorry for that too. Max Halbe is also there. A kindly old man! H.J. rally in front of the Artus Court. Huge enthusiasm. I speak briefly. And then off to Berlin...

Um 10^h Ankunft Danzig. Forster erzählt mir begeistert von den großen Erfolgen der Gaukulturwoche. Vor allem der Film »Heimat« hat gezogen. Meine Einfahrt nach Danzig ist wahrhaft triumphal. Die ganze Stadt ist auf den Beinen. v. Arent hat die Feststraße wunderbar ausgeschmückt. Wie deutsch ist doch das Gesicht dieser Stadt.

Staatstheater Kulturkundgebung. Forster spricht sehr herzlich. Ich halte eine sehr deutliche grundsätzliche Rede. Starker Beifall. Essen im schönen, alten Saal des Rathauses. Greiser redet sehr freundlich. Er erzählt mir von dem wirtschaftlichen Aufschwung Danzigs. Und daß die Polen in letzter Zeit wieder sehr frech werden. Das wird ihnen ja auch nochmal vergehen.

Max Halbe ist auch da. Ein lebenswürdiger alter Herr! Kundgebung der H.J. vor dem Artushof. Riesige Begeisterung. Ich rede kurz. Und dann ab nach Berlin. Sturmflug. Zarah Leander und Ruth Hellberg aus dem Film »Heimat« fliegen mit. Gegen ½ 6^h Berlin.

Gaukulturwoche Danzig 1938



The story is then taken up again in a second postcard (correctly franked this time!) picturing the Langgasse sent on 27th July 1938 by the same writer: 'I saw Dr. Goebbels drive down this street yesterday. Of course all the houses were decked with swastika flags...'

From all the above it is not quite clear when exactly the *Gaukulturwoche* 1938 occurred nor do internet searches pinpoint the dates. The extract below, however, from the invaluable book *Danzig, Chronik einer Jahrtausends* by Hans Georg Siegler, published by Droste Verlag, Düsseldorf, 1990, identifies the date when the film 'Heimat' was shown in Danzig.

1938 20. Juni Uraufführung des Ufa-Films »Heimat« in Anwesenheit der Hauptdarstellerin Zarah Leander anlässlich der »Gaukulturwoche«.

Premiere of the Ufa film 'Heimat' in the presence of the leading actress Zarah Leander on the occasion of the 'Gaukulturwoche'.



The dates of the 1939 *Gaukulturwoche* were Tuesday 13th to Sunday 18th June 1939. The 20th June 1938 was a Monday. Given that the *Gaukulturwoche* had already happened by the time Goebbels had visited on 26th June 1938 it seems safe to deduce that the film premiere had been a culminating event of the *Gaukulturwoche* 1938.

This article was first published in *The Danzig Philatelist* No.66 (April - June 2023) and is reproduced here slightly adapted for the G&CPS TRSG News Sheet by permission of the author.



Nuremberg Rally Cards

The one's to watch...

By Tony Hickey

Thanks to John Rawlings and Michael Passmore's excellent book *The Postal History of the Nuremberg Rallies*, first published in 1980 and updated in 1993, all but a few coloured postcards issued by various publishers, although mainly by Heinrich Hoffmann, have been identified. There is still one card in Hoffmann's numbered series that has alluded us, namely (1937) 37/4. There are four other cards published by him that warrant a mention:



Left: Designed by Hans Friedmann issued in 1936 as No.36/3 and again in 1938 as No.38/3.

Below: Designed by Richard Borrmeister issued in 1937 as No.37/6 and again in 1938 as No.38/18.
(The year 1937 on the ceremonial plinth has been changed for the 1938 rally).



The Reich Labour Service (RAD) was a major paramilitary organisation established as an agency to help mitigate the effects of unemployment on the German economy, militarise the workforce and indoctrinate it with National Socialist ideology. It was the official state labour service, divided into separate sections for men and women. From June 1935 onward, men aged between 18 and 25 would have served six months before their military service.



Nuremberg Rally Cards... the one's to watch...



Left: Plan of the rally venues (designer unknown).

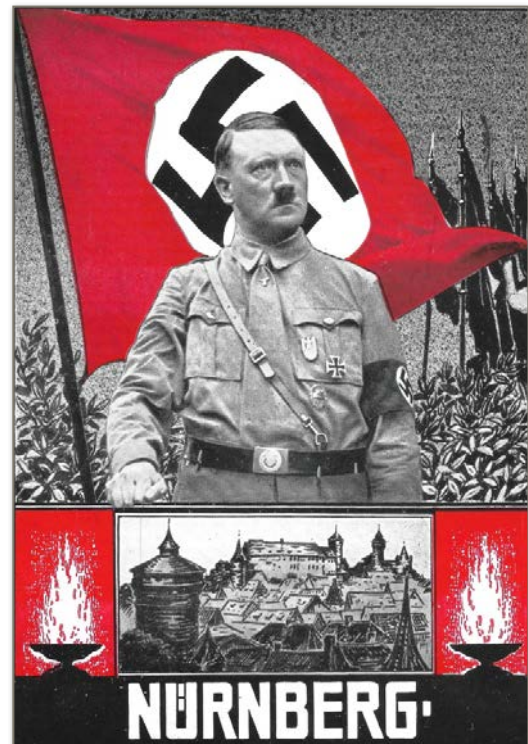
During the Rally period each section of the Party had its own day of celebration. The 7th September 1938 was designated 'The Day of the Reich Labour Service', with a parade in the Zeppelin Field and a procession through the streets of Nuremberg.

This popular card depicting the Rally Ground was issued by Hoffmann as No. 37/1 and No.38/17 (the design is as yet unknown). It was also scheduled to be issued again in 1939 for the cancelled 'Party Rally of Peace'. Proofs of all of the proposed cards for 1939 were said to have been found in a warehouse in East Germany in the early 1990s.



Left: Designed by Hans Friedmann Card No.410 (with caption as printed on the reverse).

The 1933 Rally also commemorated the 10th Anniversary of the first appearance of Hitler in Nuremberg where S.A. units paraded in September 1923 at a pro nationalist 'Deutscher Tag', a meeting of Para-Military organisations. Hitler was so impressed with the city and its facilities for meetings and mass marching events that he stated that Nuremberg would be the city where he would hold all future Party Rallies.



Right: Card No. 45

This dramatic image was used again in 1934 with the dates 1923 and 1933 blacked out. The printing on the reverse has also been changed with the boxed cachet replaced by: **Reichs ~ Parteitag Nurnberg** Card No. 45

These cards are from my own collection with most of the information coming from the Rawlings/Passmore book.



Forces Postal History & Postcards. The four lives of steamship *Ubena* *By Keith Lillywhite*

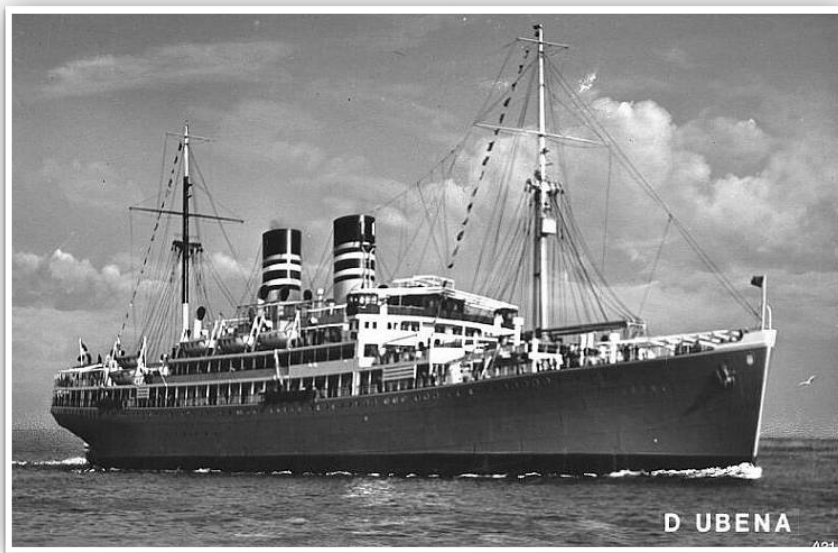


Fig 1. SS. 'Ubena' Deutsche Ost-Afrika Linie.

The *Ubena* (Fig. 1) started life in 1928 as the Steamship *Ubena* built for the Deutsche Ost-Afrika Linie by the Blohm & Voss Shipyard Hamburg. Having a gross tonnage of 9554 she could accommodate around 300 passengers on her sailings to East African ports.

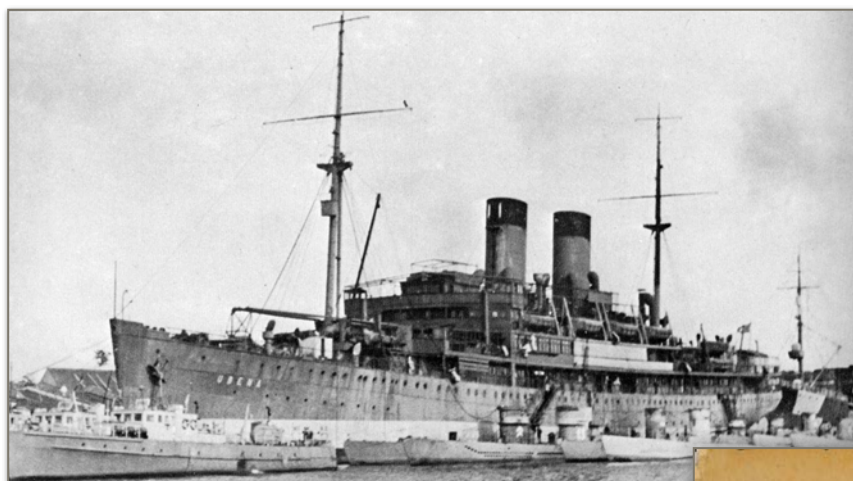


Fig 2. 'Ubena' U-Boat tender/accommodation ship.

In 1939 steamship *Ubena* was taken over by the Kriegsmarine as a tender/accommodation ship for the U-Boat service, serving initially with the 3rd, 5th & 7th U-Boat Flotillas at Kiel and in 1943 moved to Pillau as an accommodation ship serving the three U-Boat training flotillas. (Fig. 2)

A Feldpost cover (Fig 3), sent by Lt. Ing. Zinc from the U-Boat accommodation ship *Ubena* while attached to the U-Boat Flotilla at Pillau. The cover bears a dumb postmark dated 11th April 1943 and the Wohnschiff *Ubena* Pillau Briefstempel. Lt. Zinc was to serve later in U-877 and was made a POW when the U-Boat was sunk in November 1944.

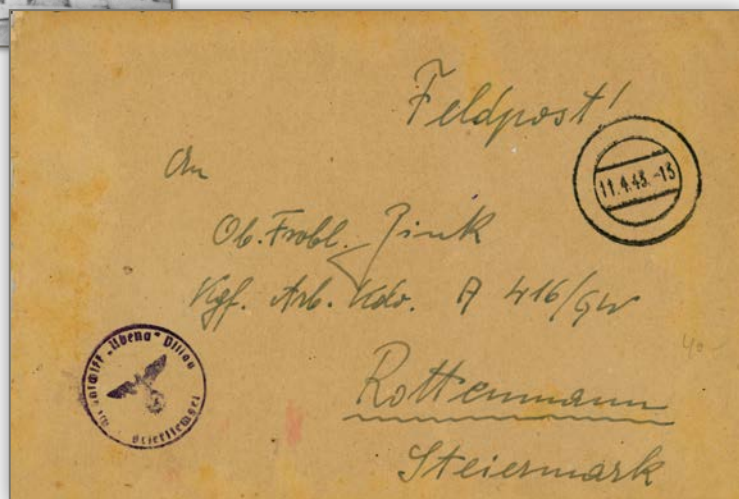


Fig 3. Cover sent from U- Boat tender/accommodation ship 'Ubena'.



The four lives of steamship *Ubena*

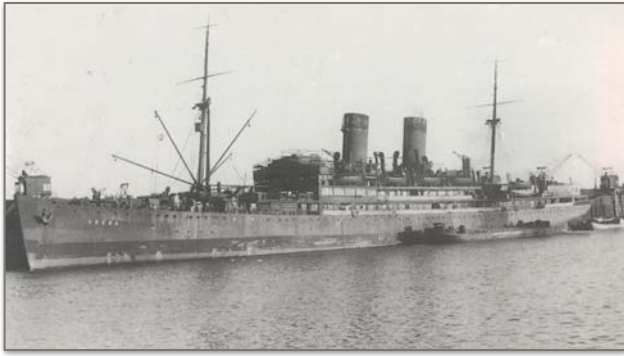


Fig. 4. SS 'Ubena' as *Verwundet*

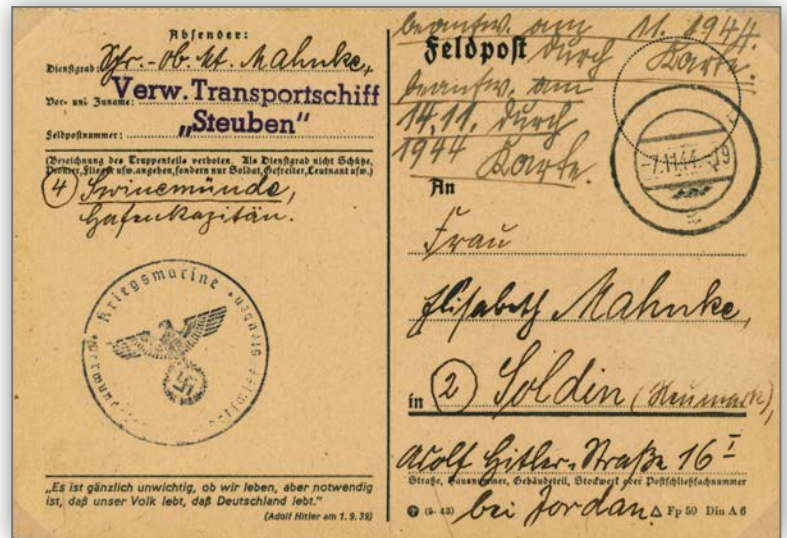


Fig. 5. Example Feldpost Card sent from the sister ship *Verwundet Transportschiff 'Steuben'*.

In February 1945 the *Ubena* was put into service as a *Verwundet Transportschiff* (Fig. 4) to bring back wounded troops from the Eastern Front. The Feldpost Card (Fig. 5) was sent from the sister ship *Verwundet Transportschiff 'Steuben'*. The *Ubena* made seven sailings to the Eastern Territories rescuing in total 27,170 wounded and refugees from the advancing Soviet Forces.



Fig. 6. Postcard of H.M.T. 'Empire Ken'.

Finally in July 1945 she was claimed by the British as War reparations whilst tied up at Travemünde, converted to a Troopship and renamed *Empire Ken* (Fig. 6).

The postcard of the *Empire Ken* was sent by a member of the armed forces onboard whilst at Malta and bears an FPO 757 postmark dated 14th July 1953. (Malta A.P.O.S.450 Castille) (Fig. 7).

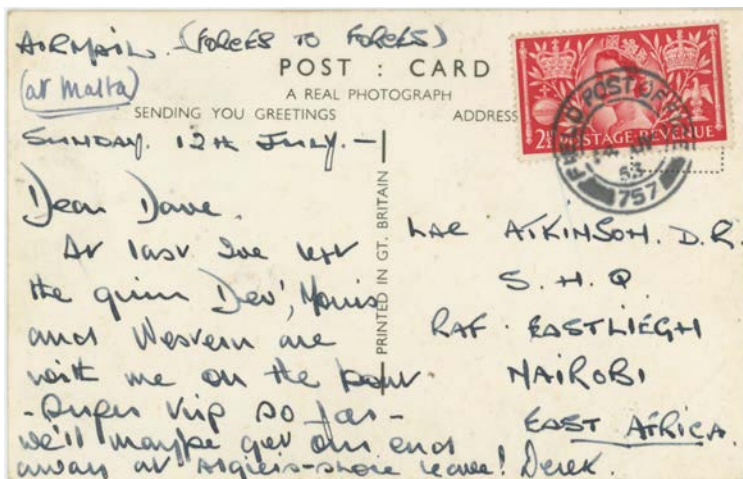


Fig. 7. Correspondence on Postcard of H.M.T. 'Empire Ken'.

In December 1945 *Empire Ken* brought Allied troops back to their home countries and in the following years transported troops within the British Commonwealth and in the Suez Crisis.

Interesting side note: a member of the 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment who sailed on the *Empire Ken* remembers all the sheets and pillow cases that were used on the ship were still marked with the Swastika and other Nazi emblems. (What would they be worth now?)

After nearly 30 years service the *Ubena* was dismantled and scrapped from September 1957 at Dalmuir and then in December 1957 in Troon Scotland.



Literature

‘... and these are the books we read...’

Focus on *Germania*

There are many reasons why those studying the philately and history of Germany should join the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society. One of those reasons is the quarterly publication of the journal *Germania*. In print since the mid-1960s the journal is an essential part of society's DNA, serving as a platform for events and notices as well as a plethora of information on German philately from pre-postage stamp to the latest Deutsche Post issues.

For those of us who study the Third Reich period the back catalogue of *Germania* can provide helpful insights as well as hidden gems... for instance, I was reading recently of the ‘Cercle Petain’ in relation to Stalag IX-A... this was from Volume 4 No. 3 published in February of 1968!

These older issues have certainly become ‘few and far between’ but they do surface at local G&CPS events, with the AGM bourse often featuring back issues... at a bargain price or even given away in a gesture of good will to fellow members.

The latest journal (Volume 61 No.2) is, as ever, superb and a big ‘thank you’ goes to Rex Dixon, the editor, who consistently provides the membership with a publication that is second to none. The current edition contains articles on Heligoland, Exchange Control Offices, and Bavarian essays. For the members of the TRSG this edition also contains numerous articles worth reading, including ‘portogerecht’ and ‘Bedarf’ postal rates, the 8pf Hindenburg mourning stamp, and mail regulations for German POWs, plus Tony Hickey's excellent book review on *The Membership Due Stamps of the N.S.D.A.P.* by the sadly missed former editor of this news sheet, Bob Jones. There is over 60 years worth of German philatelic knowledge to be found in... *Germania*.

Further information on the society can be found at www.germanphilately.org





Did you know?

Of course you did...

The inspiration for Operation Bernhard: The forging of British bank notes during WWII.

Below is an extract from the British educational magazine *Look and Learn* (issue 223, 23rd April 1966).

‘[Operation Bernhard]... This was the result of a brainwave on the part of Heinrich Himmler, the German Gestapo chief. He got his idea from a report he received called ‘The International Freemasonry of Stamp Collectors,’ which stated that throughout the world there were more than ten million registered philatelists.

These enthusiasts were composed of men, women and children of every class and social position. Their main preoccupation in life was the acquisition of stamps, both rare and otherwise. In particular they sought items that were ‘unusual’ or ‘different.’ And they were quick to tell their friends about any new additions to their collections.

Himmler saw these philatelists as ready-made propaganda material. If some ingenious person could print stamps containing subtle pro-German sentiments and symbols, then the Nazi Party might win thousands of new supporters.

British stamps, for instance, could be altered to show details which would offend the Jews, the Russians, and the Americans. They could even print black-edged “memorial” stamps for Winston Churchill, so making the British people believe their Prime Minister was dead, and that an impostor had taken his place!’

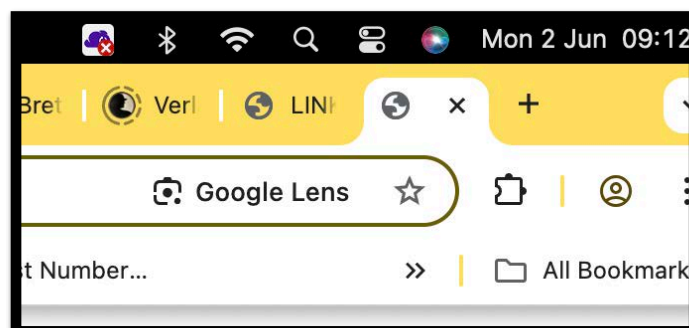
A query on this regards the original report, **‘The International Freemasonry of Stamp Collectors’**. Has anyone seen it, does it still exist, is there a translation etc etc...?

An article on this subject was previously published in the Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society journal *Germania*, pp. 74-75, Vol.9, No.2, April/May 1973.



Research Links

‘... and these are the websites we use...’



There have been changes recently to the Google search engine which includes updates to Google Lens. This feature can be found when you place your cursor in the address field of the Google browser to the upper right corner (see image above). When the camera image is clicked it allows the user to highlight an image or text within that window. In doing so you can now search for images similar or the same elsewhere on the web (ideal if you are trying to identify a stamp and its origins) and copy and translate text (German to English for instance). This translate feature has proved most useful, especially it's quite good with hand written text as well as complicated typefaces. Whilst translation sites like DeepL (see NS 197) are essential for physical documents, for those items that appear on the web, e.g. on Delcampe, then here's a useful tool at your disposal.



Membership

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

The meetings will be held at the The Civil Service Club, 13-15 Great Scotland Yard, London SW1A 2HJ

The meetings are held on Saturdays and start at 12 noon with an informal lunch and bourse (when required), with displays from 13:30 - 16:00

The meetings will be held on the following dates:

26th July 2025

18th October 2025

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

This News Sheet is sent to over 180 addresses globally.

If you no longer require the News Sheet or wish to add a name and address to the emailing list then please contact Carl Buck at carl.buck01@btinternet.com



The G&CPS

The Germany & Colonies Philatelic Society welcomes new members.

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

Benefits of membership include an Exchange Packet (UK only), a Lending Library (UK only), a Postal Auction, discount on publications and philatelic accessories. There is also a Members Forum (on the website).

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

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

JOIN TODAY

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

