



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY

POST WORLD WAR II

STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

DIRECTOR : Alfred Heinz, 1 Circle Drive, Sunset Village, Flemington, N.J. 08822
EDITOR : Donald Slawson, 463 Ridge Rd., Winchester, Va. 22601
SEC/TREAS :
LIBRARIAN/ : Sterling Jensen, 16300 Shamhart Drive, Granada Hills, Ca 91344
TRANSLATION :

SUBGROUPS:
A.M.G:

Vol 15 Nr. 3 Nov. 1982

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Membership list will come with next issue (although by then it will be almost time to begin a new fiscal year; 1982 was compressed into the last four months of the year, will have to get on a steady schedule if we get the auction going).

SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR AUCTION TO KEN MEARS BEFORE 1 DECEMBER!!! (He says not many people have submitted anything yet). You guys must have some "junk" to part with.

OBLITERATIONS

The 12 May Decree of RPD Chemnitz - Update #1

by Donald Slawson

I have been corresponding with Mr. Jürgen Schmid (Waldmohr, West Germany) on this subject and have received answers to several of the questions I raised in the last issue.

two

First, there are ~~three~~ errors in the translation of the 12 May decree as I gave it:

Stop the press! Last minute change

- (1) ~~FBA-in-the-addressee-is-not-Telegraphbauamt;-but-rather~~
~~Telefonbezirksamt-(so-the-net-effect-is:-copies-to-the~~
~~telephone-offices-and-central-district-telephone-office-)~~
- (2) Zda as address 2 is not "Zweigpostamt des Amtes" but "Zu den Akten" which is "for the record" or "file copy".
- (3) The second sentence does indeed say "...should be obliterated by the post offices (read postal personnel) when presented for mailing." This is the translation I gave in parentheses meaning it was a second choice, but now I am willing to admit that this is the true meaning.

Now, answers to the first three questions I raised:

- (1) $\overset{u}{A}$ and ($\overset{u}{A}$) mean post office in the generic sense. The $\overset{u}{A}$ is normally put in parentheses in the text of a message to indicate it is not a printing error. PA (or plural $\overset{u}{PA}$) means offices of rank Postamt (first class offices). However, in the second sentence of the 12 May decree the use of $\overset{u}{PA}$ makes no sense - it makes the decree read as if first class post offices had to obliterate stamps when they were turned in, but none of the lower level offices should do it. Of course this could lead to letters travelling without obliterated stamps, so we have to conclude "That is not really what was meant". Evidently the author (or person who dictated the message had to mean ($\overset{u}{A}$) here, not $\overset{u}{PA}$. This illustrates that even the Germans can get confused by the multiple use of the word "Postamt" or "Amt"; no wonder we poor Americans wind up confused about it.
- (2) and (3) The order was apparently (from the terms used) sent to all postoffices of the district: Postämter, Zweigpostämter, Poststellen I and Poststellen II. All orders from the RPD were routed through the Postämter (which were the first-level subordinates of the RPD). Thus it appears that the RPD printed a copy of the decree for each office in the district. Of these copies each Postamt received one copy for its own use, and as many additional copies as it had subordinate offices. These additional copies were then put in envelopes by the Postämter and mailed to their subordinates.

More updates as I get more information. Coming up sooner or later, more discussion on whether or not "private" obliterations from RPD Chemnitz should be accepted.

Continued Usage of Unmodified "Hitler Stamps" in the Soviet Occupation Zone

- Saxon Obliterations = unobliterated -

by Reinhold Gumbel
(translated by A. Heinz)

Reprinted from ARGE LOKNOT Rundbrief Nr. 16/1974

Many collector friends are aware of the fact that some unobliterated Third Reich stamps were continued in use in a few regions during the early post-Third Reich days - what they are referring to are, of course, corkmark obliterations and local overprints. They are aware of the fact that these stamps were subject to a treatment known as denazification.

Today it can be established that "virgin" Hitler stamps were continued in use after the end of World War II in the region occupied by the Soviets. Some were even used on official mail. This was, of course, "verboten" by directives issued by the OPD's Chemnitz and Dresden. That this truly happened can be proven by the two money orders illustrated. One of them, issued in Burgstädt on August 3, 1945, carries an unobliterated 8-pf Hitler stamp, cancelled with a circular date stamp (CDS) that includes a "Bezahlt" (paid) legend. The second one was issued on August 4, 1945 in Chemnitz and carries two unobliterated 5-pf Hitler stamps.

Both items must be regarded as genuine (echt) and possibly owe their existence to pressure of time, negligence or ignorance of recently issued directives (at that time some postal authorities were temporarily forced to depend on unexperienced help).

Absender: Ludwig Blucke O.H.G. Burgstädt / Sa. Chemnitzer Str. 89		 		Konto lohnt sich! Eine Überweisung von Konto zu Konto kostet nichts Anmeldung zum Postscheckdienst auch im Felde durch einfaches Schreiben an ein Postscheckamt möglich			
Postanweisung auf 6. RM 21 <i>Ref.</i>		Sechs		Reichs- mark		des Empfängers bestehenden Betrag erhalten A. E. Hauffe 	
An Firma A. Fuhrmann & Co., Altmittweida i. Sa.		10		Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil, Stadtviertel, bei Unterwieslern auch Name des Verpflegers		Nr. 0026 * - 38. <i>Eingetragen durch:</i> 27 Burgstädt <i>Sh</i>	
Postvermerk Nr. 0026 * - 38. 27 Burgstädt		Eingangs- Nr.		5  5 		Δ C 90 E	

As legitimate mail, free of any philatelic manipulation, the two money orders reflect in a most effective manner the difficult circumstances that prevailed at the time.

The Michel-Spezialkatalog should really include under "Bundesland Sachsen" a suitable reference in its introduction to "Sächsische Schwärzungen".

Translator's note

Since money orders required a minimum fee of 20pf in postage stamps at the time, and the two money orders illustrated show only 8- and 10pf, it would be interesting to know what type of stamps were pasted on the sides of the money orders not shown. Were they obliterated or not?

Editor's Comments on this subject (note the next article also pertains to this subject)

First, to answer Al's question: Based on material I have it appears that the stamps on the "other sides" may or may not have been obliterated. With very little searching (I don't consider it overly important), I found examples of money orders with:

- * Obliterated stamp on front, unobliterated on back (Grüna, 13 July) incidentally, this is overfranked (21pf to pay 20pf fee)

- * Obliterated stamp on back, unobliterated on front (Chemnitz 1, 12 June)

- * Both obliterated and unobliterated on front (Schneeberg 2, 22 June)

Thus it appears that the postal clerks, when handling these pieces, just cancelled whatever happened to be applied as franking.

I think Mr. Meyer (next article) hit it exactly; these covers are plain old "slip-throughs". He brings up the question of where they should stand in "rarity value". While in number of pieces, based upon my observations, they are as scarce as Hindenburg or Behordendienstmarken (civil officials), my personal opinion of "slip-throughs" is in general low, and a 10% price increase over an obliterated Hitler is plenty.

Next point: In this same category (slip-through) must be placed the unobliterated swastikas on official envelopes (to me exactly the same magnitude of significance and interest).

Next point: The Burgstädt item illustrated by Mr. Gumbel is RPD Leipzig, and thus not influenced by the decrees of RPD's Chemnitz or Dresden. We do not know what instructions the postoffices of RPD Leipzig received (although we can assume unobliterated Nazi material was not sanctioned).

Last point (and this relates also to "Were private obliterations permitted in RPD Chemnitz?"): Mr. Gumbel says unobliterated pieces are genuine (echt) and I agree. In fact so do the Bundesprüfers--note all the pieces in the following article are "geprüft". However, these pieces originate in RPD Chemnitz and thus violate the decree that says they are to be obliterated. The same decree apparently forbids private obliterations, so (at least some) Bundesprüfers refuse to "geprüft" private obliterations, even when on unquestionable Bedarfsbrief. If the one deviation from the decree is acceptable why is not the other???

Non-Obliterated Saxony Obliterations- Further Use of Unchanged Postage stamps of the Hitler Definitive Series -

by Hans Meyer
 (translated by Ingeburg L. Fisher)

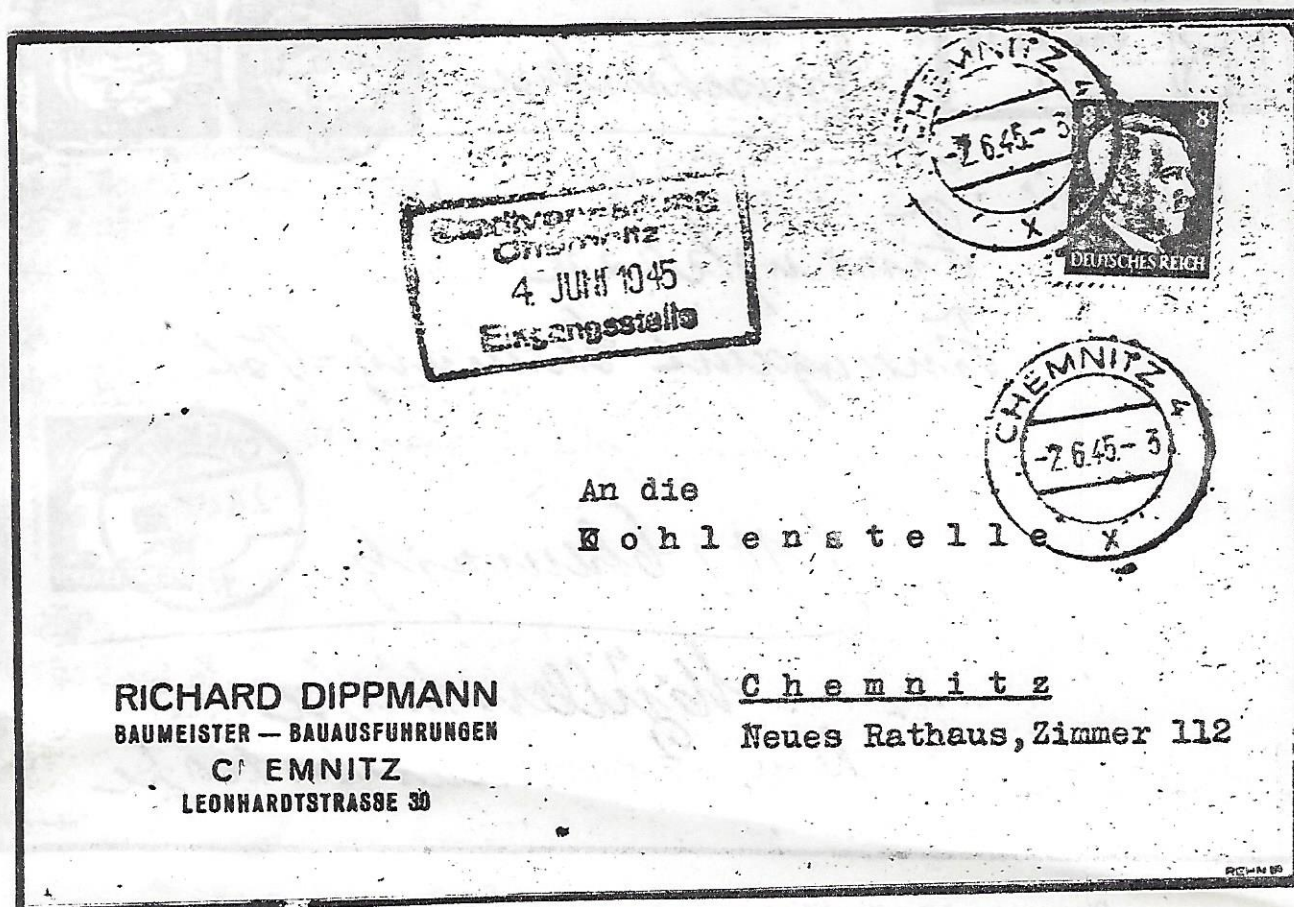
Reprinted from ARGE LOKNOT Rundbrief Nr. 37/1981

Already in Rundbrief 16/1974 collector friend R. Gumbel mentioned non-obliterated Hitler stamps which exist on commercial covers from OPD's in Saxony after the end of WW II. At the time he illustrated postal money orders from "Burgstädt, Aug. 3, 1945" and "Chemnitz, Aug. 4, 1945". The "Burgstädt" documents an item from the OPD District Leipzig, part of which used obliterations, however without a decree such as is known from OPD's Chemnitz and Dresden.

About the following illustrated covers it must be noted that they are official mail pieces, verified through the receiving handstamp of the Chemnitz City Hall.

The District Hospital Lichtenstein even dispatched a non-obliterated official stamp which was overlooked by the postal authorities. This is verified through another cover with the same return address, franking, and addressee. The stamp on this cover received the typical type C obliteration of Lichtenstein.

Thus it can be assumed that despite the concienious effort of both population and postal personnel to obliterate all such stamps, non-obliterated stamps did at times slip through. Surely such non-obliterated stamps are rare and specialities, which belong in a collection. However, it is questionable if they belong in the same class as Hindenburg, engraved, or even official stamps (especially since they are not mentioned in Michel).



RICHARD DIPPMANN
 BAUMEISTER — BAUAUSFÜHRUNGEN
 C¹ E M N I T Z
 LEONHARDTSTRASSE 30

C h e m n i t z
 Neues Rathaus, Zimmer 112

In die
Hohlensalle
Chemnitz

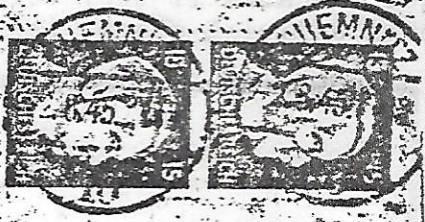


Postverwaltung
Chemnitz
- 3 JUNI 1945
Eingangsstelle

Mus. Rordhous, Zimmer 112

R Chemnitz 10
831

Einschreiben



In die
Eingangsstelle
Eingangsstelle Chemnitz-Post

(10) Chemnitz



Höllersstraße
beim Promenadenstraße

Kreis-Krankenhaus
Lichtenstein i. Sa.

An die

Landesversicherungsanstalt
Sachsen



in Dresden - A. 16
über Dürerstr. 24/26

Gebührenpflichtige Dienstsache

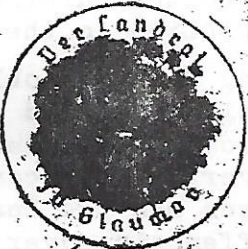
1/0103

LOHMEYER
SLABACH

Kreis-Krankenhaus
Lichtenstein i. Sa.

An die

Landesversicherungsanstalt
- Sachsen -



in Dresden - A. 16
über Dürerstr. 24.-26

Gebührenpflichtige Dienstsache

1/0103

LOHMEYER
SLABACH

OBLITERATIONS

Use of the Landpost Cancel to Cancel the Stamps on Consignments
by Donald Slawson

I am sure that all of you have seen covers bearing the imprint of the cancelling device (or perhaps "stamp" is a better word) of a Poststelle II (fourth class post office). I think these devices are normally called "Landpost cancels" although I have also seen them called a "Kraftpoststempel" which I guess relates to the term "Landkraftpost" (rural motor route?).

These devices are, in certain instances, used to cancel postage stamps on internal postal documents as shown in Illustration 1.

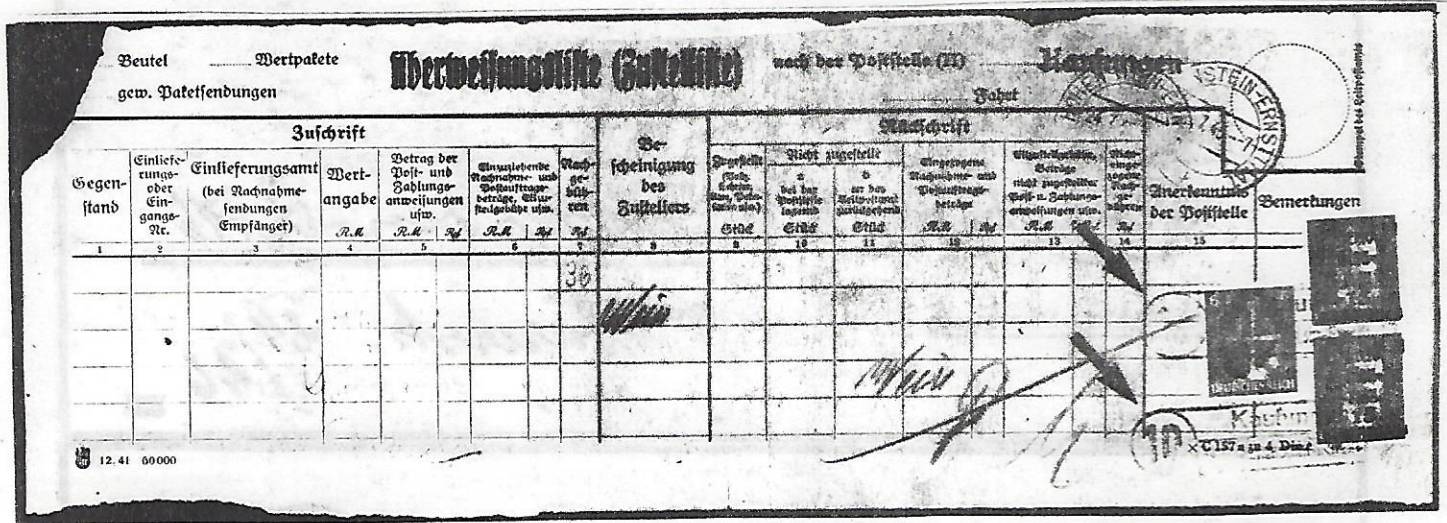


Illustration 1

Use of the Landpost Cancel on the daily accounting form of a Poststelle II to invalidate 36Pfg. worth of postage stamps which were invalidated in payment of a postage due fee collected.

However, on postal consignments the Landpost Cancel is not normally applied to the stamps. On a cover they are normally applied to the immediate left of the stamp(s) and on a postal money transfer they are usually applied somewhere on the reverse of the center section as shown in Illustration 2. The consignment is then forwarded to the superior Postamt (first class post office) where a cancel is applied to the stamps.

Illustration 3 shows two examples of usage during the cork obliteration period in RPD Chemnitz where the Landpost cancel is applied directly to the stamps on the consignment. These pieces are from "Pfaffenhain über Chemnitz 4" and "Kleinolbersdorf über Chemnitz 4". Every piece (cover or postal money transfer) I have seen from these two towns has the Poststelle II Cancel applied to the stamps. The Illustrated Pfaffenhain cover is the only item I have seen without the additional "Chemnitz 4" cancel, but this is also the only cover I have seen--all other items have been postal money transfers.

How do we explain these? Coincidence? Kleinolbersdorf and Pfaffenhain are the only Poststellen II subordinate to Postamt Chemnitz 4. I do not

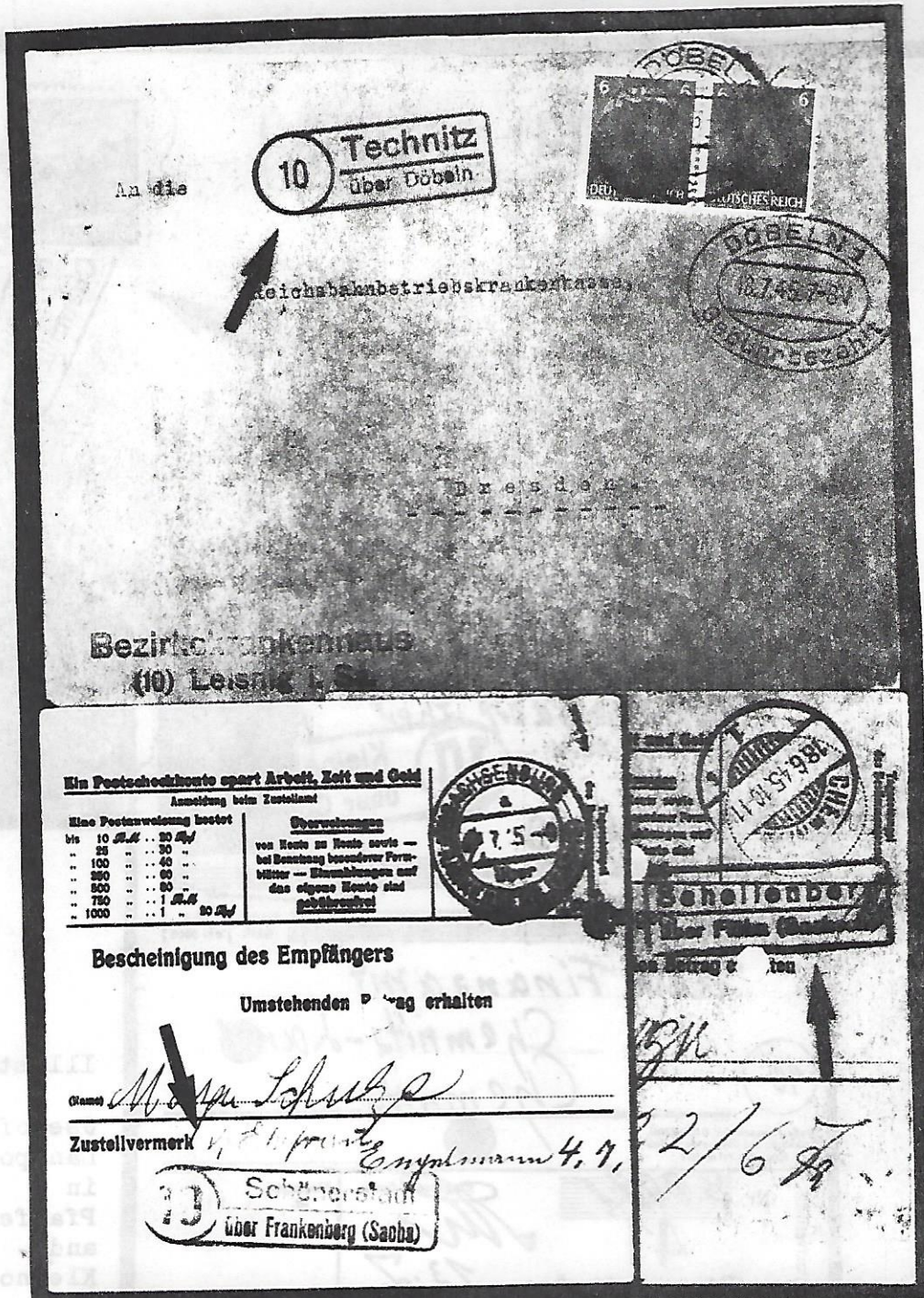


Illustration 2

Normal use of the Landpost Cancel on items sent from a Poststelle II.

believe that an unusual happening at all of the Poststellen II subordinate to a given Postamt can be dismissed as coincidence. I suspect that what we are seeing is evidence relating to the questions I raised concerning the dissemination of the 12 May RPD Chemnitz decree (Volume 15/Nr.2).

Apparently both these Poststellen II received an order which they interpreted as specifying that their Poststelle II cancel was to be applied to the stamps on postal consignments. The only logical place from whence this order would come is their superior Postamt, Chemnitz 4.

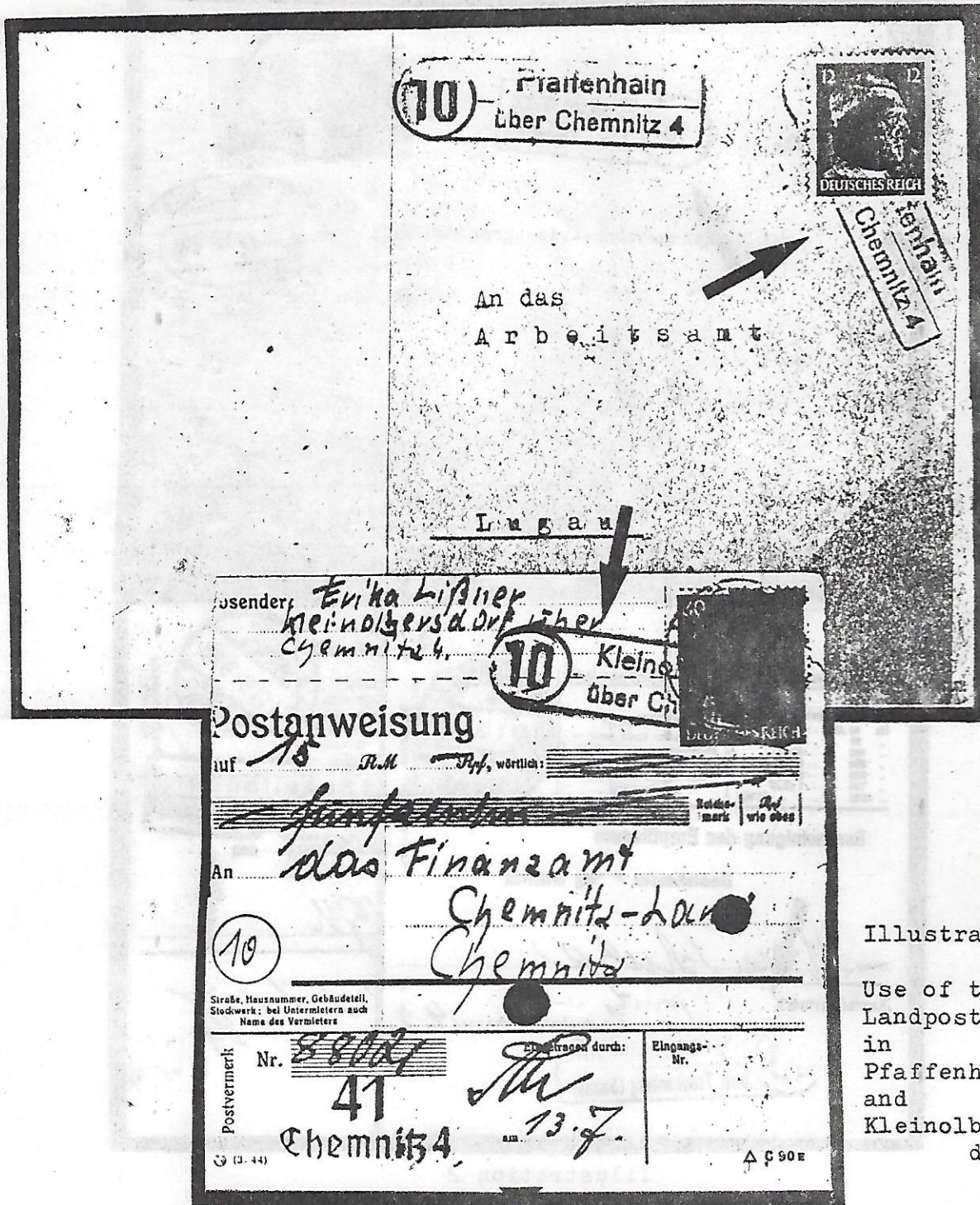


Illustration 3
Use of the
Landpost Cancel
in
Pfaffenhain
and
Kleinolbers-
dorf

In update #1 to the 12 May decree article (Vol 15/Nr.3) we theorized that the 12 May decree of RPD Chemnitz was passed on in its original form to all the offices of the district, which includes the Poststellen II. If this is true, how do we explain the fact that both Poststellen II "über Chemnitz 4" applied one interpretation to this decree while all other Poststellen II in the district continued to adhere to normal procedure? These two pieces make me theorize that these two Poststellen did not receive the original message of the RPD, but rather that Chemnitz 4 had paraphrased the message before transmitting it to its subordinate offices.

Does anyone have any other theory or explanation? Is my theory possible, or would it definitely contradict the way in which postal orders were normally transmitted?

A Cash-paid (Geb. bez.) Cover without Cancel

by Paul Rossbach-Emden
(translated by Al Geisser)

Such pieces from the early post WW II period are often of questionable origin.

Shown here is the front and return address of a cover. While there is a senders name and address, there is no indication that the town name, Hartum Kr. Minden, is the point of origin of the "Gebühr bezahlt" mark. To get to the bottom of things I wrote to the Postmaster of Hartum to see if he could provide an explanation of the missing cancellation.

On June, 1979 I received an answer from Minden/Westfalen, apparently the superior office to Hartum, as follows:

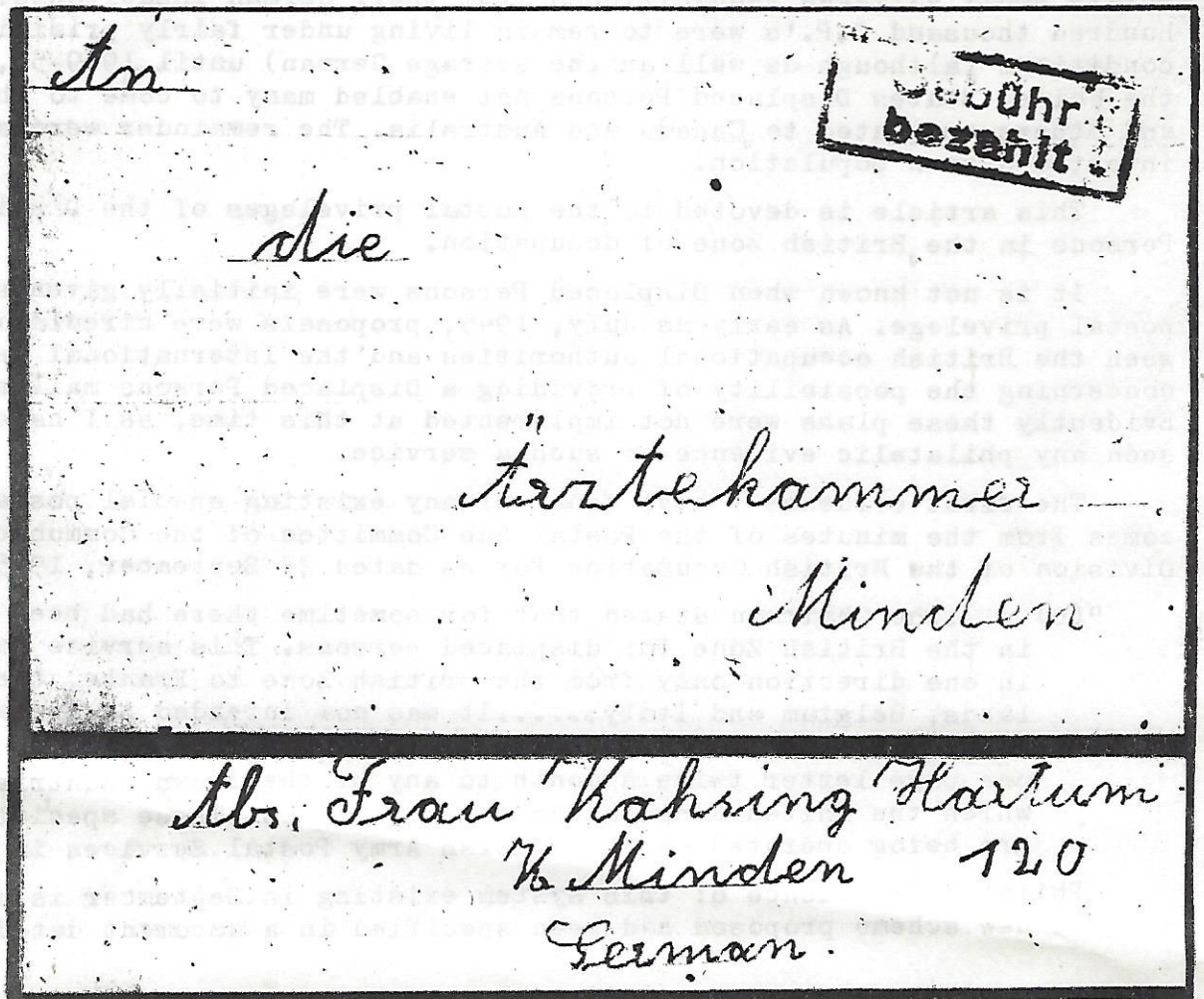
"We have tried our utmost, after all these years, to find any specifics concerning the submitted letter with "Gebühr bezahlt" marking.

"Our findings are that the device was in use during 1945-46 when no postage stamps were available. We assume the date cancel was left off due to ignorance or mistake. Postal business had been interrupted here from March 28 to April 4, 1945.

best regards,
(signed) Schulze "

This would indicate the "Gebühr bezahlt" stamp was in use at Hartum during the time indicated for the given reasons. Any collector having a cover from Hartum during that period, please send a photo-copy to Paul Rossbach-Emden, 68 Mannheim 24, Postfach 75, West Germany.

Front



Return address

Displaced Persons Mail in the
British Zone of Germany, 1945-1949

by Donald E. Slawson

(This originally appeared in the 1977 ROMPEX Show catalog. I am copying it exactly, but making a few additions here and there)

Some of the first people encountered when the allies went ashore in Europe on 6 June, 1944 were Polish laborers who had been employed in the construction of the "West wall". By the time of the Nazi surrender on 8 May, 1945, over 3 million non-German nationals were in the hands of the western allies. Although these people were technically the problem of the Displaced Persons Branch of G-5 (Civil Affairs) and the UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration), at this time whole divisions and even Corps of the allied armies were employed in providing assistance to these people.

This problem reached more manageable proportions during the summer and fall of 1945 when the citizens of western countries returned to their homelands and the citizens of pre-war Russia were repatriated (forceably if necessary). Those remaining were primarily citizens of countries which had been independent before the war, but were now in the Soviet sphere of influence (Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia and Poland). These persons for the most part were officially classed as "Displaced Persons", and provided housing and maintaince in "Displaced Persons Assembly Centers" (DPAC). These Assembly Centers were previous German army or airforce installations (barracks, Kaserne, hangars, etc.), blocks of housing for factory workers (such as the Messerschmidt housing area in Regensburg), or individual residences or entire small villages requisitioned from their German inhabitants. Several hundred thousand D.P.'s were to remain living under fairly primitive conditions (although as well as the average German) until 1949-50, when the United States Displaced Persons Act enabled many to come to this country, and others emigrated to Canada and Australia. The remainder were absorbed into the German population.

This article is devoted to the postal priveleges of the Displaced Persons in the British Zone of occupation.

It is not known when Displaced Persons were initially given a special postal privelege. As early as July, 1945, proposals were circulating between the British occupational authorities and the International Red Cross concerning the possibility of providing a Displaced Persons mail service. Evidently these plans were not implemented at this time, as I have never seen any philatelic evidence of such a service.

The first evidence I have found of any existing special postal service comes from the minutes of the Postal Sub Committee of the Communications Division of the British Occupation Forces dated 27 September, 1945.

"(c)the Chairman stated that for sometime there had been a service in the British Zone for displaced persons. This service has worked in one direction only from the British Zone to France, the Netherlands, Belgium and Italy;.....It was now intended to operate this service in both directions and to allow displaced persons to send a one page letter twice a month to any of their own countries with which the United Kingdom has a mail service. These special services are being operated by the British Army Postal Services in Germany."

Philatelic evidence of this system existing in September is unknown to me. The new scheme proposed had been specified in a document dated 24

September, 1945, but was evidently not immediately implemented, as a document of the Postal Services Department, General Post Office, London dated 19 October, 1945 states this scheme would be introduced "shortly". The following are the pertinent details of the scheme as specified in the 19 October document:

".....

- (a) Each Displaced Person will be able to write two letters - each limited to one page - in each month
- (b) These letters will not bear postage stamps but.... will be marked in red as follows:-

DISPLACED
PERSONS
MAIL
PAID

either in a rectangular or circular pattern

- (c) On receipt of a letter from a Displaced Person, the relative may reply, Relatives should not write unless they have first received a letter themselves.
- (d) The complete address used by the Displaced Persons will be in the form of the following specimen:-

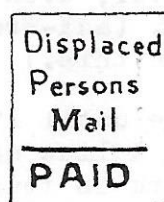
Name of D.P.
Number of Camp
Number of D.P. Assembly Center
800 Control Unit
B.A.O.R. via Great Britain "

The address "800 Control Unit" was to ensure direction of all correspondence into the appropriate censorship station in the British Zone before it was delivered to the D.P. This mail was carried by the English Field Post System.

This scheme was evidently implemented by the end of October. At this time the Reichspost had no foreign mail service. It was not until 1 April, 1946 that the Reichspost was allowed to establish a foreign mail service. Therefore, this D.P. mail service was quite special, as it represented one of the very few mail channels at this time through which a "civilian" could get a letter out of Germany. Unfortunately, these covers bear no indication of the mailing date, and it is only when one is lucky enough to find a cover with dated contents that the date of mailing can be known.

Paragraph (b) of the above referenced document was implemented with the franking stamps pictured as type 1, 2 and 3. Type 1 is by far the most common, and was evidently prepared at a central place and distributed to all Displaced Persons Camp Staffs. The size of this franking stamp is 24x31 mm. If this stamp was

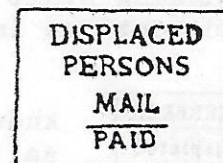
lost or damaged apparently a replacement was made locally; thus the occurrence of franking stamp type 2 at the V18 DPAC in Greven/Kreis Münster, and type 3 at the 224A Camp, 224 DPAC in Oldenberg. (add- this was a bad idea; the cover of reference 1 shows a type 1 and type 3 on the same cover.)



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

Evidently no restrictions were placed on the destination of these franked covers, even though they were obviously intended to be used to establish contact with foreign countries. Illustration 2 shows a D.P. franked cover addressed to the Marktredwitz D.P. camp in the U.S. Zone of Germany.

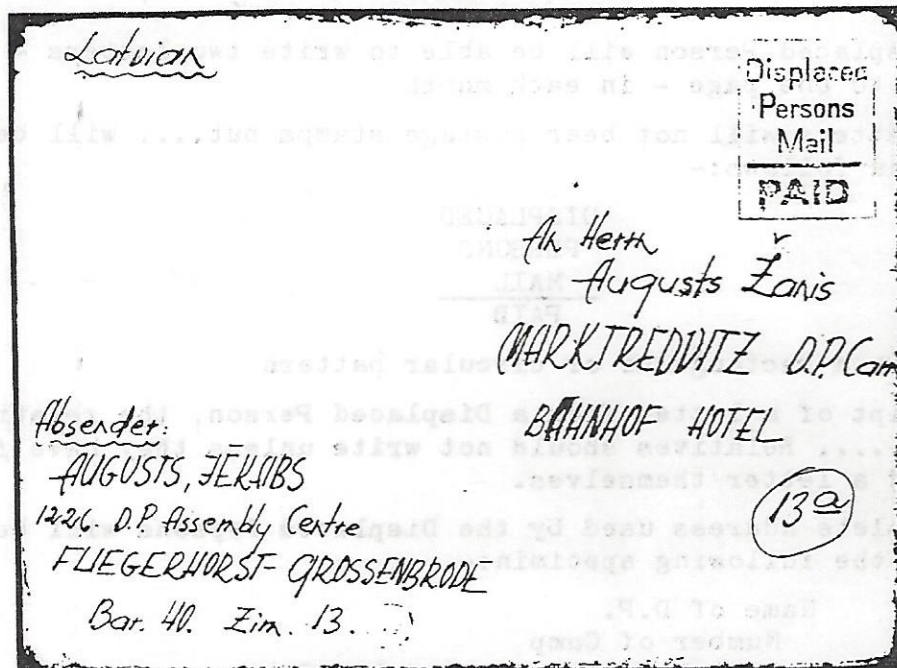


Illustration 2

I have been unable to discover how long this franking privilege continued. On April 1, 1946 the Reichspost opened postal service to all foreign countries except Japan and Spain. At this time special postal privileges for D.P.'s in the American Zone came to an end. However, evidence indicates that this was not the case in the British Zone.

I have seen no evidence of covers from D.P.'s in the British Zone using anything other than the franking stamp until May, 1946. (add-Wrong! There are mid-1945 covers from the Hamburg area using FPO.) At this time D.P. covers appear with normal English "Field Post Office" cancellations, however, without the franking stamp. I have such covers from May and June of 1946. My earliest D.P. cover carried by the Reichspost from the British Zone to a foreign country is dated 8 August, 1946, however, Mr. Spielbergs¹ mentions one dated 5 June. Thus it would appear that the D.P. mail privilege ended in June, 1946, however, even before this, in May, the use of the franking stamp came to an end. (add-Wrong! I think now the franking stamp did continue in use later than this.)



Type 4

From this time until 1949 only one D.P. franking stamp is known. This is the 5 line marking from D.P. camp Meerbeck, shown as type 4. This mark is found both imprinted directly on covers and cards, and imprinted on labels which were then affixed to covers and cards. With a single exception all pieces I have seen bear a normal German cancellation from Stadthagen or Niedernwöhren über Stadthagen between September 1946 and August 1947, and appear to be philatelically inspired items. The single exception is illustrated by Mr. Spielbergs¹. This cover bears both a type 1 and type 4 franking mark and is addressed to the Latvian relief fund in Toronto, Canada. Unfortunately it bears no postmark or other indication of date.

Tele: KIEL 37/425 - 28, Ext 3

Relief Detachment
220 HQ CCG (BE)

A/ 272

7 Feb '49

To :- 2 DPACCS
8 DPACCS
17 DPACCS
19 DPACCS
II4 DPACCS
II6 DPACCS
I2I DPACCS
I3I DPACCS

SUBJECT:- Outward Mail Service from DP Camps

Reference our A/ 272 dated 26 January '49

The following additional information has been received from PW & DP Branch:-

" We are assured that official authority has been given to all German Post offices in Schleswig-Holstein to accept letters for free transmission to countries abroad from DP camps.

All such mail should be stamped in red in the top right hand corner of the envelope with the official Displaced Persons " Paid " stamp and will also bear the imprint of the DPACCS stamp.

We are now advised that letters for the concession should only be posted through DPACCS and will only be accepted by DPACCS if addressed to countries outside Germany.

MJS/IJ

Signed:-

CO III
for Commander
220 HQ CCG (BE)
(Miss M J STYLES)

For a true copy:

Flensburg, 17 Febr '49

The franking system was again instituted for D.P.'s in the British Zone in 1949. All franking stamps of this period are the two line marking shown as type 5, and, as with type 1, are similar enough so the assumption may be made they were all prepared at the same place and distributed to the various units. Mr. Petrevics² states this service was initiated throughout the British Zone on January 26, 1949. He further states that this system used the British FPO. A cover mailed to Canada with a cancel of FPO 307 (in Schleswig) on 15 Feb, 1949 is shown in his article.

Unfortunately, I have found no documentation of the start of this service. The single piece of documentation I have was supplied by Mr. Petrevics and is shown as Illustration 3. Note this order specifies the DPACCS (Displaced Persons Assembly Center Camp Staff) stamp is to be used as a verification marking on these covers. This order is addressed only to DPACCS in Schleswig-Holstein, and was obviously issued by an office responsible for this area. I have quite a few covers from the Schleswig area, all carrying DPACCS verification stamps. Some typical examples of these are shown as Illustration 4.

Displaced Persons Mail
PAID

Type 5



59 D.P.A.C.



Illustration 4

Mr. Spielbergs¹ pictures a cover from Augustdorf in Westphalia which carries a DPACCS stamp. I own a cover from Varel (in Oldenberg) which has no DPACCS stamp. Whether my cover is an anomaly, or whether the regulations concerning the use of the DPACCS stamp varied in different parts of the British Zone is unknown to me.

Note the document shown as Illustration 3 states that "German Post offices" are authorized to accept this D.P. mail. This indicates that the length of time these covers were carried by the FPO was fairly short, and that the transition to the German postal system was taking place at this time (7 February). All covers I own from this period (the earliest is March, 1949) were all carried by the German postal system.

Initially, while using the Field Post, airmail was permitted for this mail². After the delivery function was given to the German postal system the franking stamp was only valid to carry a 20 gram letter via surface mail. However, letters could be sent either (or both) airmail and registered provided the additional fee above the 20 gram surface mail rate was paid. Thus we find covers carrying both the franking stamp and normally cancelled German postage stamps.

This service was terminated on August 31, 1949, which brought to an end all special mail priveleges for Displaced Persons.

¹Victor Spielbergs, Displaced Persons Mail-Paid, German Postal Specialist, July 1969, p.273

²United Nations Philatelist (A. Petrevics, editor), Mail from UNRRA and IRO Displaced Persons Camps in Germany, Vol 1, No. 11, October 1957, p.10