



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY POST WORLD WAR II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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MEETING AT CLEARWATER AT 2:30 PM SATURDAY NOV. 9

Helmut Weigelt will be here from Germany to give a slide talk on Altdobern (see Vol 7 Nr 2).

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THIS and THAT (Including corrections)

Member Rossbach-Emden is in the hospital having an operation. Best luck for a speedy recovery.

Al Geisser's wife has been very ill. I certainly hope things work out alright, and hope we'll be seeing you at Clearwater Al.

Jackie Alton won a gold medal at COMPEX in May with her AMG postage rate exhibit which had been modified to include some historical aspects. Good! This should give us all hope.

(continued on last page)



Displaced
Persons
Mail
PAID



Gebühr
bezahlt

ALLIED MILITARY MAIL IN GERMANY -- A ROUGH
OUTLINE

by Richard H. Imus

As has been mentioned in an earlier number of the study group bulletin, part of our efforts will be to look at the postal services of the Allied Armies in Germany. In this regard it is first perhaps worthwhile to take a look at definitions both in terms of dates and types of material relevant to our interests.

Allied military mail from Germany falls within three basic time periods:

- (a) the few months from the German surrender on May 8, 1945 until about mid July of 1945. During this period the troops in Germany were essentially in those areas which they had reached during the fighting up until the German collapse. The distribution of these forces was, then, not yet within the zonal boundaries agreed upon by the Allied powers in 1944. One finds, therefore, British fieldpost offices operating in what was to be the American Zone and American APOs functioning in what was designated the British and/or French Zones. Most interesting, however, are the American and British offices which during this brief period functioned in what was to become Russian territory of occupation--within the present-day DDR. All of this ended in the summer of 1945, however, when all Allied troops pulled back or rearranged themselves to be within their specific zones of occupation.
- (b) The second period runs from the summer of 1945 to May 5, 1955 when the Federal Republic gained full sovereign status (The Soviet Union accorded East Germany "full sovereignty" on September 20, 1955). During these ten years (1945-1955) Germany was an occupied country, although cessation of authority by the Western Allies was gradual throughout the period and the May 1955 agreement merely capped the process. Juridically, however, the final governing authority in Germany from 1945 to 1955 was with the Western Allies. Thus, as the Western Allies were the legal government of Germany during this decade, fieldpost offices of these nations in Germany are very much an integral part of the postwar German postal scene. In fact immediately after the war, they were the only postal services operating in Germany. Moreover, during the occupation decade the Allied fieldpost offices also played a role in transporting official communications within Germany, and at one stage the German civil postal authorities were obliged to carry this mail free of postage.
- (c) The period from May 1955 to the present marks the final period. Following the German entry into NATO in 1955 and the assumption of full sovereignty, Allied fieldpost offices continued to function within Germany but only as postal agencies of the NATO alliance. Thus, whereas before 1955 the allied postal services (military fieldposts) were in a great way a real part of the German postal system, this ceased after 1955 and from that date until today military post offices really operate within Germany only with the permission of the German authorities.

Our other point of definition is to specify what is military mail for purposes of our group and what is not. The definition which I believe to

be proper is the the piece of mail in question should be postmarked at a military post office physically located on German soil. This lets out, then, the collecting of mere military return addresses, or in other words mail which might have been written in Germany but was actually postmarked elsewhere. An example of this would be mail from the Luxemburg units in Germany which is trucked over the border to Luxembourg and there put into the regular Luxembourg post. This would also exclude mail sent through the diplomatic pouch and then put into the postal system elsewhere, say, in London, Paris or Washington, D.C. Military mail sent through the Bundespost is interesting but not, of course, field post mail. This seems to me to be a reasonable defination but discussion among members might yield a different defination. For me, however, the simple facts of an actual military post office, postmarking mail, on German soil seems to be the best guideline.

Who had or has military post offices in Germany? Not too much has been written on this subject, although the Germans (Vesper) have done the most comprehensive effort yet. The Vesper study, good as it is, is somewhat inconsistent and to a great extent is a reflection of what the author himself collected over the years. Perhaps if this study group project takes hold we can do our bit to update and fill in Mr. Vesper's pioneering efforts. For the moment, however, perhaps just a word or two in answer to our first question ("Who had fieldpost offices in Germany?"):

1. The United States had and still has a wide variety of offices functioning within the Federal Republic, many of them having stayed the same since 1945. Others have come and gone. Sorting them out could be a job.
2. Great Britian also had and has a number of offices in Germany. These have been fairly well identified by British groups but some collation and sorting is in order.
3. The French also had (and still do) a net of fieldpost offices in their zone of occupation.
4. The Danes had a fieldpost organization in Germany from 1945 to 1958.
5. A Norwegian fieldpost office operated in Germany from 1947 to 1952.
6. The Canadians within the Allied forces in Germany first used the British fieldpost system but after 1951 had their own organization. It is still functioning today.
7. The Belgians early on (April 1946) established fieldpost offices in Germany and these are still operating, although there are stories in the press that they may be closed soon.
8. The Dutch have fieldpost offices operating in Germany but I know little of them. My only covers date from the early 1960s. Immediately after the war the Dutch Brigade within the British Army participated in the occupation of Germany and used the British fieldpost number 851. The dates that this office functioned in Germany probably ran from sometime in early or mid 1945 to November of that year. This needs checking.
9. The Soviet Union must also have had fieldpost offices operating in East Germany. Such offices are recorded for Austria and it is logical that the same fieldpost system operated in Germany. Although I have Russian fieldpost mail from World War II, I have never seen a cover from Germany after May 8, 1945. Has any other member?
10. The members of the military forces of the London Polish Government also participated in the initial stages of the occupation of Germany and had their own fieldpost offices (British office 431, May 1945 to February 1946; 251, 1947 and perhaps earlier; and perhaps others not known to the author).

These notes represent a starter on what I think constitutes the field of Allied military mail in Germany. This is a barebones outline, however, and perhaps some other members might like to add the flesh.

Editors note--the Vesper article is being translated and we'll start running it here hopefully soon. This will at least give us all an idea of the "departure point" for our additional research. In addition, there is a more advanced work on Belgian military post offices that appeared in, I believe, Sammler-Lupe a year or so back. This is also being translated.

The HALLENSIA NORMS and APS BLACK-BLOT SYSTEMS APPLIED to
the HANDOVERPRINTED MEISSEN ISSUE

by A. Heinz

The response to my recent article¹ has been sufficiently great to warrant a follow-up, detailing some of the significant differences between the two rating systems--the Hallensia Norms and the APS Black-Blot system. Basically, they differ very little. Both attempt to put the spotlight on stamp issues released to exploit the stamp collector. They use different yardsticks, but come to the same conclusions.

The Hallensia Norms¹, which are restricted to the multitude of stamp issues of Germany's post WW II period (1945-47), involve a set of nine (9) yardsticks which are applied to each stamp issue. Based upon findings the issues are then assigned to one of four "merit" groups. Group I covers legitimate issues, group IV manipulated or philatelic ones, and Groups II and III cover the gray areas between groups I and IV.

The APS Black-Blot System is worldwide in scope but, perhaps not as detailed. All issues are considered "legitimate" unless black blots are assigned because they fall into one or more of the following five (5) categories:

1. A limited printing or limited "on sale" time in the country of origin.
2. An excessively extended (long) issue.
3. Unwarranted high values included in the issue.
4. No direct relationship to the issuing country.
5. Oddities intentionally included in an issue.

These, then, are the yardsticks which are responsible for black-blot ratings being applied to:

- a. The flamboyant issues of the Arabian Trucial State Sheikdoms.
- b. The "blocked" values of the DDR.
- c. A total of three (3) U.S. issues, which fall into categories 2 or 5.

Unfortunately the Hallensia Norms and the APS Black-Blot System cover different philatelic domains so that a direct comparison of the two,

1 "The Hallensia Norms" by A. Heinz, "Locals" Bulletin March/April 1974

based upon ratings applied to a given stamp issue, cannot be made. It is, however, obvious that they are functionally similar.

Both systems, although different in structure and territorial scope, highlight questionable issues. They identify issues specifically designed to fleece the uninformed collector and, therefore, do a splendid service to philately.

Unfortunately, they have been forcefully challenged, largely by dealer interests, whose major objectives appear to be sales or profit. Some of the critiques have been cleverly written to mask their true intent--to ridicule the rating systems. They fog the issue by presenting a wealth of irrelevant information which they pass off as research. They confuse rather than clarify.

The fact is that both rating systems do a fine job of identifying questionable stamp issues in their respective domains. They may have weaknesses. Nothing is ever perfect. But until something better comes along, they have a just place in the philatelic realm.

A case in point is the handoverprinted, "Deutschlands/Verderber", Meissen issue discussed in a previous release¹. It continues to make waves in the German philatelic press. The issue has a Hallensia Group IV rating which is being vigorously challenged by a well-known stamp dealer from Munich. In fact, he challenges not only the rating of the issue in question but the entire Hallensia rating system, based upon a few inconsistencies he feels are present. These challenges to date must be classified as pure rhetoric. Nothing concrete has been presented. Certainly, all the talk of nonexistence of US military activity in the Meissen area, in 1945, and similar diversionary tactics are not research. They are intended camouflage-phraseology to suggest a thorough study--but definitely not research per se. If these comments appear unduly harsh, let me assure you, they are strictly in accordance with the stamp dealer's own, aggressive style of writing.

Now what were the circumstances in Meissen at the time? They are described in the following documentary data. Items 1 to 3 represent extractions from documents known for many years. Items 4 and 5 are recent additions and are given in detail.

1. The post office at Meissen was closed from May 5 to May 27, 1945.
2. On May 23, 1945, the OPD Dresden, the administrative body of the Dresden postal district within which Meissen was located, issued a directive authorizing use of obliterated Hitler stamps for franking. The authorization was rescinded on June 20, 1945.
3. Mail services varied from locality to locality, but generally, only postcards (6pf.), letters up to 20gr (12pf.), registered letters (42pf.) and money orders (up to 1.20RM) were permitted at the time.
4. Recently an undated, Post Office Meissen release--in English-- was found in our Washington archives. Its pertinent sections read (emphasis supplied):
 - #1. Hitherto existing Hitler stamps with the overprint "Germany's Corruptor"
 - a. Overprinted by means of a hand-stamp (rubber-stamp) were officially sold out at the post office at Meissen and Sörnewitz district Meissen from 15 June 1945 till 23 June 1945. All denominations are involved.

60. to a. No further overprints by means of a handstamp. The rubber stamps have already been destroyed. Postage stamps sold out. Complacency cancellations with the postmark are now useless.

Post Office Meissen

P.S.

Sorry, everything sold out.

No new issues will be made. "

The english used in the document is not of native quality and suggests an author to whom it was a foreign language. Perhaps the interpreter, Herr Förster, mentioned in the following section was the writer.

5. The presentation album, given by postamt Meissen to the interpreter, Herr Förster, on 1 Aug 1945, in appreciation of services rendered, lists on page 2 the following data (courtesy, Dr. Wittmann's "Deutschland Sammler")-emphasis supplied:

- a. Post office closed from May 6 to May 27, 1945.
- b. Processing of postcards and letters up to 20gr on a cash-franking basis, starting May 28, 1945.
- c. Starting June 3, 1945, franking with obliterated Hitler stamps (corkmarks)-all available values.
- d. Sale of handoverprinted, "Deutschlands Verderber", Hitler stamps, starting June 15, 1945.
- e. Sale of typographed overprint "Deutschlands Verderber", starting June 23, 1945
- f. Starting 10:30AM, June 23, 1945, the sale of obliterated Hitler stamps was stopped by edict from OPD Dresden, and cash franking was reinstated.
- g. On July 5, 1945 the sale of typographed overprints was reinstated.

The foregoing documentary evidence illuminates the conditions that prevailed at the Meissen post office at the time. It presents a rather interesting and conclusive picture. It indicates that for the period involved:

- A. Cash franking was authorized during absences of valid stamps.
- B. Obliterated Hitler stamps were authorized by OPD Dresden, the functionally responsible postal authority, well ahead of time (May 23, 1945). Since text overprints tend to provide a measure of obliteration, the handoverprints of Meissen can, with a little imagination, be considered obliterations and therefore classified as officially sanctioned.
- C. The sale of obliterated Hitler stamps was stopped by edict of OPD Dresden June 20, 1945. Sales made during June 21 to 23 are thus unauthorized.
- D. Mail services permitted in June 1945 did not require stamp denominations above 1.00RM. Mark values above 1RM could not be properly used at the time.

This documentary evidence clearly demonstrates that cash franking and corkmarks were officially sanctioned for Meissen during June, 1945 and that an urgent need for a set of overprints, ranging from 1pf. to 5RM, did not exist. Philatelic influence must have inspired the issue. This harsh conclusion is supported by the following considerations:

1. The overprint text "Deutschlands/Verderber", or Germanys destroyer, is highly suspect. It suggests collusion if nothing else.
2. Complete mint sets of Meissen overprints are not difficult to obtain. They appear in domestic and foreign auction catalogs fairly regularly.
3. To this date (Aug 1974) bonafide business letters (Bedarfsbrief), money orders or other postal entires bearing handoverprinted Meissen stamps have not come to my attention or to that of any of my collector friends, despite considerable effort.
4. The claims that such entires indeed exist in the DDR but cannot be transmitted to the West because of government restrictions lacks the element of persuasion. Other types of material leaked to the west, including entires bearing cash frankings, corkmarks and typographed overprints from Meissen and Sörnewitz. Why not handoverprints?
5. The preparation of presentation albums, by the Meissen post office, at a time when most people were concerned with "daily survival" and not philately, strongly suggests that philatelic influences were at work and that the postmaster was not adverse to making a fast buck. The very existence of such albums speaks against-not for the legitimacy of the handoverprinted Meissen issue.

As a package, the foregoing documentary information and circumstantial evidence prove convincingly that the handoverprinted Meissen issue was not an emergency issue, released by an innovative postmaster anxious to facilitate the mails. It falls into the category of a "manipulated" one, inspired by "entrepreneurs".

Apprently Hallensia came to the same conclusion. They list the issue in Group IV because it did not meet their #1,3,4 & 5 requirements. The latter deal with (1) cash franking, (3) size of printing, (4) sales to "interested parties" and (5) printing authorization and accounting. The group IV rating was therefore well earned.

The APS Black-Blot System if it was applied to the issue would, without the slightest doubt, come up with a black-blot rating for violation of their groundrules #2 and 3. These deal with (2) excessively long issues and (3) unwarranted high values. The APS Watch-Dog committee would not concern itself with the legal, political, economic or operational aspects of the issue. They would only consider (a) denomination need, (b) size of printing and (c) distribution. The handoverprinted Meissen issue would fail in all categories.

In summary, the handoverprinted Meissen issue rightly deserves the Hallensia Group IV rating and, also, the APS Black Blot. Until documentary evidence to the contrary or bonafide nonphilatelic postal entires are discovered, the rating must stand.

It is not clear why so much fuss is being generated in Germany. Meissen is not the only issue that has been so relegated. What are the reasons for the drive to upgrade the Meissen overprints and downgrade the Hallensia Norms - correction or camouflage?

Most Hitler provisionals or overprints, but not all, reek of "manipulation". They emanate a manipulation aroma of various intensities, that persists despite deodorizing attempts by dealer interests. Fortunately, we have in our midst a number of dedicated idealists, who have the courage of exposing the noses of our collector friends to this stench in the hope that they will consult their noses before they invest. However, if some collectors prefer Limburger to Edam cheese, let them enjoy their meals but keep a safe distance from those with sensitive noses.

As a parting shot let me state emphatically that both the Hallensia Norms and the APS Black Blot System do a splendid job in their respective domains and have a just place in the scheme of things.

Editor's View of Hallensia and Meissen

I. The HALLENSIA Ratings

Concerning the whole area of the Hallensia ratings and our collecting efforts, I'd like to say a few words. Al Heinz has been accused of being "overly harsh" or "down" on Group IV material, or of calling it "uncollectable". True? I don't really think so. It certainly is "collectable" (and I know Al has some in his collection). But is it stamps? I think this is where our opinions may start diverging.

It is very important to determine what were truly postage stamps and what were not, if for no other reason than historical accuracy (neglecting philosophical reasons). Once an item is determined to be "unclean" does this mean it is not interesting to us? Certainly not! But it does mean that we can put things in their proper perspective from a philatelic point of view.

The problem seems to arise because we are really interested in two areas--philately and history, and I think "for the record" it is important that we separate the two. In our month-to-month activities (or studies) we can mingle the two or go overboard in either direction. In fact we can study anything that has the interest of the members. But for the pure philatelists we most definitely should be able to separate our "postage stamps" from our "labels" (if I may apply those terms).

So then the whole problem becomes determining which are which. Should stringent or loose criterion be applied? This is one area where I definitely agree with Al--I think extremely stringent criterion should be applied. But once this is applied the Hallensia system is beautiful. The APS Black-Blot System gives a simple "yes" or "no", but Hallensia adds a "tainted" area in the middle. Thus the individual can decide to what degree he wishes to be a purist, once the stringent criterion have been applied.

Now, a point which generates some controversy. How should Class IV material fare in exhibiting? I certainly don't feel (at least now) that it should disqualify an exhibit. It certainly is as interesting (and probably as philatelic) as things like Polish POW Camp post in wartime Germany and Ukrainian Camp post in postwar Germany, and I have seen

such exhibits and found them interesting. However, we band together in groups of common interest, and it is up to the persons establishing exhibition guidelines to determine what material is qualified to be exhibited (or what would be interesting to show attendees). If very stringent guidelines are applied, and other brands of "labels" are disqualified, then our "labels" should take their lumps along with the rest.

However, given the situation that exists (namely that "labels" are accepted in shows), then from a philosophical viewpoint it seems to me that the philatelic purist should be rewarded at a "stamp show". I honestly don't feel that the "labels" should receive the same consideration as recognized "postage stamps". Most certainly from a philatelic standpoint, research into legitimate stamp issues is more significant than research into something not truly a legitimate postal issue. However, being a historian myself, I feel the degradation to be accorded labels should be minor. Perhaps the "labels" should be fully recognized in the "postal history" category, but here we'll get into another argument. Anyway, in philatelic exhibition I do feel that the labels should be degraded, mainly because of the simple definition of the word "philatelic". But they should not be completely disqualified. A "label" exhibit of sufficient quality and import should be able to win a major award.

I honestly don't know why I'm defending the purist point of view (other than I believe in it). I'm sure all of you agree this is not a self serving measure, as I collect "labels" that even people who collect Hallensia Class IV would consider junk (and also documents, letters or anything of historical interest in the areas I study). I've been accused of going overboard on my DP mail--and I'll certainly have to agree that a return address on a cover indicating a DP Camp is a very slim connection to philately. This, again, is the historian rather than the philatelist coming through. But as long as there is some interest in this among the group than I think it's legitimate. And for crying-out-loud, if there's no interest let me know, because it's your money that goes into printing the bulletin.

II. On MEISSEN

When it comes to Meissen there is absolutely no doubt that philatelic influences were at work. Al seemed to imply that he would concede the possible validity of stamps to LRM. I do not! In OPD Dresden officially only ordinary letters were permitted (maximum fee 24pfg.). However, as Al stated, conditions varied from town to town. For example, I have registered letters from OPD Dresden, but these are all from the Lßbau-Niederoderwitz-Niederoderwitz-Herrnhut area (the southeastern corner of the OPD) where other philatelic influences were at work. Certainly no evidence of money order service has ever presented itself from OPD Dresden.

However, the fact that Al seems to concede the presence of money orders is certainly no grounds for attacking his general premise. Originally Rossbach-Emden stated¹ that US troops were present in Meissen. Of course this is nonsense, but it is no big deal, and the inaccuracy of this statement certainly did not destroy his conclusion; it negated this

1. "Lokalausgabe 'MEISSEN'" by P. Rossbach-Emden ARGE "Lokalausgaben" Rundbrief Nr 15/1974

one factor in his evidence supporting his conclusion, but it did not destroy it, and most certainly it did not prove the inverse of his conclusion true.

I think we should note that our earlier article on Meissen² (which remember, was 1950) and the information presented in the last couple issues is essentially the same. I see no big discrepancies. I think the fact that OPD Dresden forbade use of obliterated Hitlers on 20 June and Meissen did not receive the order until 23 June should not present a big problem. The same situation exists in OPD Chemnitz where usage was forbidden 8 August, yet I have money orders used as late as 11 August. As far as I'm concerned the Meissen story is pretty well established. We know what happened, but why did it happen?

Another point is, where did all this information come from? All of it seems to originate with the post office in Meissen (even the document in our archives, which evidently is a translation of a reply from there). So what does this prove? If there were "funny doings" at this office you certainly could not expect to quiz the people involved and expect to get the true story.

One thing is certain! Things happened here differently than anywhere else in the whole OPD--namely Hitler stamps continued to be sold after the cease order from the OPD, in fact for over a month. Evidently special dispensation was received to continue selling the machine overprints. Does not this establish doubt about the "cleanness" of this town?

And the absolute clincher in my opinion, as Al has aptly asked-- Where are the legitimate covers???

CENSORSHIP NOTES

by Donald Slawson

Looks like I'll have to take back a statement I made earlier about the number of censorship stations in the US Zone. Back in Volume 6, Nr. 1 I stated I was fairly certain there were only 7 cities having censorship units. Well, I've come across two more.

It started with the following interoffice communication on paper headed "H.Q. Mil Govt Württemberg-Baden" from "Field Operations" to "Intelligence Division" dated 18 Nov 1946.

"Can this be worked out for the other LSO's. It is extracted from the weekly activity report from Karlsruhe.

'This office as well as the entire Detachment has repeatedly complained to CCD officials that red tape of channeling reports continuously interferes with the proper handling of CCD reports at the proper time. Example: This office is continuously being asked to investigate important communications, some of which are two to four months old. In Karlsruhe, however, this inefficient handling of CCD mail reports has been corrected (perhaps on account of our complaints, or perhaps for other reasons unknown to us), by installing a mail censorship office in our building, which besides making the usual submissions through normal channels, forwards

a copy of every interesting report immediately to us, which, in turn, enables us to investigate any case 6 hours after a letter has been mailed. This procedure has worked out so well that the De-Nazification Division should also make the recommendation so that a similar office (Karlsruhe office is only in a trial basis), be installed in every Detachment."

It was returned to Field Operations by Intelligence with the hand-written notation:

"CCD at our coordinating meeting last Wed told us that they were going to extend this method to LSO's in contact with their sub-stations".

I'm still not sure what an LSO is, or the bit about "sub-stations". I had earlier found that:

Group "E" had a field station at Karlsruhe
Group "D" had a field station at Regensburg

but not knowing what a field station was, I did not report these as separate censorship locations. The above definitely states that censorship was going on at Karlsruhe, so I assume it was also at Regensburg.

So we're now up to 9 definite censorship locations.

TWO QUESTIONS and ONE ANSWER

I received a question concerning the cover shown at the top of the next page. The question: "...I have not been able to identify the camp. Is it a DP Camp, a POW Camp, or a UNRRA Camp?"

First, it is almost certainly not a POW Camp. POW's (American Zone only) had no mail privileges prior to October (I think maybe they could send a "capture card", but didn't check this out). All contact was then only via preprinted postcards, etc. It was not until 21 March, 1946 that we find "POW mail will henceforth be unrestricted as to form, length and quantity". Of course ordinary mail was free and marked "Prisoner of war mail". I can find no indication of any POW or Civilian Internee Camp ever located in Deggendorf.

There were indeed DP Camps in Deggendorf. The only problem is that the names on the cover (Koch and Dreikurs) seem to be Germanic names, not the kind normally associated with DP Camps. However, expellees sometimes wound up in these camps, so perhaps this was a Volksdeutsche from Yugoslavia or some such explanation.

Hopefully, within the next 5 years we can prepare the ultimate listing of camps in postwar Germany. I certainly figured that Deggendorf was mentioned in our DP Camp listing, but sure enough, it was not (mainly I guess because there were no Lithuanians there). In the meantime, here's what I've accumulated on Deggendorf (all dates are proven, but I'm not sure they are the earliest or latest dates).

It was the location of UNRRA Team 55 from Dec 1945 to Feb 1947 and of UNRRA Team 557 from Dec 1945 to March 46 (those are the definite start and stop dates).

Hermine Koch Camp Deggendorf
Donau Bräuwild 13/15

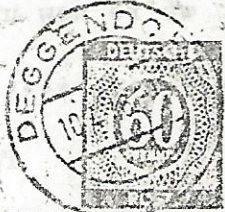
MIL. GEN. - CIVIL. MALES
MIL. GEN. - CIV.

Mr.

Rudolf Dreikurs M.D.
4176 N. Clarendon

Chicago, Ill

U.S.A.



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In the summer of 1945 there were the camps:

- "Alte Kaserne" Assembly Center #93-254 which existed thru Feb 1947 but was renamed DP7 by Nov 1946. In the Nov 46-Feb 47 period it contained about 1500 Jews.
- "Knaren Schule" Assembly Center #93-287 which had been closed by Nov 46.

By Nov 1946 were added the following:

- Mainkofen containing about 150 Jews (probably an annex to DP7).
- DP Hospital Assembly Center #93-414
- Elizabethenheim Assembly Center #93-346 a childrens center containing mostly Poles. This was closed in October 1947.

And by Feb 1947 were added:

- DP Camp Assembly Center #93-413 peopled primarily by Russians and stateless altho there were about 150 others.

So Deggendorf had many DP's (I have such data on over 300 towns in the US Zone, and I'm only started on the story). Looking over the data the most reasonable explanation seems to be that Koch was a Jew in the Camp DP 7. That may explain the German name. We need not be bothered by the camp name on the envelope, almost anything is possible. I find things such as "Camp 1061", where 1061 is an area team number (an area team may cover 3-5 Kreis with many, many camps; "Camp 371", where 371 was the assembly center number; and "Jewish camp" all referring to the same place. So here it's called "Camp Deggendorf"--nothing unusual.

Incidentally, Jews were favored above all other DP's. In general there were 3 classes--persecutees, DP's and expellees. The persecutees were on the top of the heap, the DP's next (still far above the German population), and in general the expellees were a German problem, altho in some cases they did make it to assembly centers. More on all this some other time.

II.

The second item is shown on the bottom of the previous page. Note the rubber stamp on the bottom of the cover "HELD PENDING AUTHORISATION OF SERVICE". The cancel date is 27 Feb, 1947. Has anyone seen anything like this before? The few who have seen this can come up with no postal reason for this stamp. Probably it was something from the Voice of America--but can anyone supply any definite information or equivalent pieces?

ALPHABETICAL LISTING of D.P. CAMPS in POST WW II GERMANY

Reprinted from the BULLETIN of the Lithuanian Philatelic Society of New York numbers 88 and 89 (April and July 1974)

(Continued from last issue)

LUNEBURG - (40km SE Hamburg) - Hannover, British Zone

OXFORD DP CAMP - UNRRA Team #63 - #2510 AC

Lithuanian Postmens Association records 99 Lithuanian DP's as having

68.

lived in this area. Those who enjoyed a D.P. status received food rations and assistance from the ALT-GARGE DP CAMP located 18km distant where a large hospital was located.

The Lithuanian Committee was active here in 1945/46. On liquidation, the Lithuanian DP's were dispersed to various camps.

MANNHEIM - (90km NW Stuttgart) - Baden-Baden, American Zone

MANNHEIM BARRACKS

A large mixed DP Camp was established here in a local Barracks in 1945 and included about 250 Lithuanians.

The Camp director, a Czech, was pro-communist and had no sympathy for the DP's. They were fed starvation rations, were threatened with repatriation to Russia, and force was used to repatriate the Armenians and Ukrainians. When these refused to be loaded into the repatriation transport the US Military Police were called. In plain sight several individuals were picked from the mass and badly beaten. The Ukrainians were denied the privilege of leaving the camp for several days thereafter. They constructed an altar in the square and prayed for help there.

The cold atmosphere and unfavourable living conditions forced those Lithuanian DP's who could to transfer out--to anywhere. In 1946 some left for BAD MERGENTHEIM.

MEERBECK - (60km N Detmold) - Westphalia, British Zone

LITH DP CAMP #135B - 33/135 DPAC

After the capitulation of Germany, the US Army evacuated the town of MEERBECK and collected the foreign laborers brought here for forced labor and quartered them wherever they found space: in schools, the bakery, several halls, stores, warehouses, and elsewhere. When these were repatriated to their respective homelands, the Baltic DP's remained behind, each ethnic group separately.

The Lithuanian DP Camp was set up here on July 20, 1945 when the Lithuanian DP's were given their first separate food rations. They were settled in various homes which they named "DAINA", "GRAZINA", "ZIVILE", "PALANGA", "ZALIOJI, etc. They had their own Kindergarten, Elementary and Grammar Schools, a Folk University and Adult Training Courses. The usual sporting and cultural activities were pursued.

In 1945/46, this Baltic DP Camp held 1900 Latvians, 410 Estonians and 750 Lithuanians as well as 80 other ethnic group DP's. On August 16, 1948 the village of MEERBECK was returned to the Germans and the DP Camp shut down. The remaining DP's were transferred to the WEHNEN Lithuanian DP Camp, near Oldenburg.

The Local MEERBECK Chapter of the Lithuanian Red Cross issued a set of Lithuanian DP Camp postage stamps to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first printed Lithuanian book.

MELLE - (90km WSW Hannover) - Hannover, British Zone

"GRONEGUT" DP CAMP

The Lithuanian Postmens Assn records a small group of Lithuanian DP's

quartered in this camp, but additional details of their activities are not published in the usual sources of information.

MEMMINGEN - (110km WSW Munich) - Bavaria, American Zone

LITH DP CAMP "MEMMINGEN/BERG" - "GASTHOF" AIRPORT - FLIEGERHORST - UNRRA Team #155 - IRO Team #1063

The first Lithuanians arrived here as part of a work detail assigned to take down some copper wiring and replace it with ersatz. Some of this detail stayed on as farm hands, and in May 1945 were joined by other Lithuanian refugees transferring here from the French Zone.

At the end of 1945, still others were transferred here from KEMPTEN, ILLERTISSEN, DONAU-WORTH, DILLINGEN, ULM, KAUFBEUREN and elsewhere. The Lithuanians were spread around and not concentrated in any one place: in MEMMINGEN's WALDHAUS and SCHWANN Hotels, in MEMMINGENBERG, and the FLIEGERHORST Aviation Barracks about 5km distant. In 1948 over 1400 Lithuanian DP's were quartered here.

The Lithuanian DP Camp had a Red Cross chapter, Scout Troops, Chorus, etc. It also had several printing establishments.

During the mass emigration, the departing Lithuanians were replaced with others from the surrounding areas DP Camps. In 1959 there were still 259 Lithuanians in the area.

MITTENWALD - (80km SSW Munich) - Bavaria, American Zone

"SS BARRACKS" - "PIONEER BARRACKS"

In May 1945 the US Army set up in PLAUEN a Transit Camp for Russian POW's and for other DP's being repatriated to the USSR. Many Lithuanians worked in the commissary there and were quartered with other Balts who had been gathered from the surrounding area. On July 21, 1945 all Baltic DP's were transferred out to the SS BARRACKS in MITTENWALD (which had been a transit camp for repatriation of Italians to Italy) and Plauen was closed down.

Here were 210 Lithuanians, 120 Latvians and 12 Estonians. With Italian repatriation completed the whole camp was transferred to the PIONEER BARRACKS.

On Feb 22, 1946 all were transferred to CHIEMING German Military Barracks and were serviced by UNRRA. In 1947 the CHIEMING Camp was transferred to TRAUNSTEIN and HAAG DP Camps. In 1947 the IRO set up a new DP Camp here in which were many Lithuanians.

When emigration started in 1950 the TRAUNSTEIN-MITTENWALD DP Camp was closed.

MOHRINGEN - (60km E Freiburg) - Wurttemberg, French Zone

The Postmens Assn records a Lithuanian work crew of 200 DP's worked here.

MOORENBRUNN b Feucht - (170km NNW Munich) - Bavaria, American Zone

DP CAMP "MARZFELD" - UNRRA Team #303

The Postmens Assn records 196 Lith DP's quartered here.

MUHLDORF - (70km E Munich) - Bavaria, American Zone

DP CAMP "EICHFELD"

Lithuanian DP refugees were already here in 1944. Later in 1945, in May, a mixed DP Camp was established here for them in a local barracks. They were subsequently transferred to "TOGINGE" suburbs where they were quartered in new colony homes - a mixed Baltic DP Camp.

At peak, there were about 300 Lithuanians in this camp. The camp had the usual training courses and cultural pursuits.

MUNA - (3km from Dieburg) - (25km S Frankfurt) - Hesse, Am. Zone

MUNITION ANSTALT

In August 1945, a DP Camp was established here for Balts and Yugoslavs. The Lithuanians numbered about 400.

In July 1946 most all the Lithuanians here were transferred to HANAU. Lithuanian ex-president K. Grinius lived here for a short while.

MUNCHEN - Bavaria, American Zone

LITH DP CAMP - 95/279 DPAC - CAMP LOHENGRIN - LAIM-GARTNEREI
UNRRA Team #124 - IRO Team #1066

About 65 Lithuanians lived here prior to the occupation by the US Army. Postwar they also came from Austria. 800 released Lithuanian POW's also settled here. Most lived with private German families, but drew rations from the US Army. At the end of 1945 rations were terminated, but few moved out to DP Camps, preferring to seek private employment in the large city. The US Army set up the Camp "LOHENGRIN" in barracks which housed 600; in the SS BARRACKS housing 400; in LAIM-GARTNEREI BARRACKS housing 150 (a former shelter); and 850 lived privately. The Lithuanian DP Committee had its headquarters at LAMONTSTR. 21.

325 students attended the UNRRA University in Munich. CAMP LOHENGRIN was a Lithuanian center providing adult training courses and cultural pursuits. This camp was shut down in 1947 and its residents transferred to the SS BARRACKS.

(to be continued)

THIS and THAT (continued from page 1)

Footnote 2 (page 64) is: The Provisional Postage Stamps of Meissen
by A. Eberhardt (reprinted in Vol 5 Nr 2)

The photo at the bottom of page 66 didn't work out too well (brown envelopes won't make electric stencils). Anyway, it's addressed to the Voice of America in New York. The significant thing is a rubber stamp on the face in two lines, boxed, reading: HELD PENDING AUTHORISATION
OF SERVICE

THE END