



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY POST WORLD WAR II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

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We have at least 10 new members since I last reported a membership list. For lack of space and because my records are in a mess I will delay printing this until next issue - in fact I'll include a complete membership list with the next issue. In the meantime I'll get this bulletin finished up (this is the last page I prepare for each issue) and make sure it goes out to everybody - at which time I can clean up my mailing list and get a good master copy for inclusion with the next issue. I'll do my absolute best to get this out within 3 months - I hope 2 months.

Slawson

Literature Review

"Was zählt bei den Stadtpost-Marken von Apolda?"
by Paul Rossbach-Emden, Post-WWII Study Group
remarks by A. Heinz

This 30 page booklet represents an excellent study of the historical and legal aspects of the short-lived (July 13-23, 1945) local issue of Apolda. It presents extensive documentation that covers every significant detail.



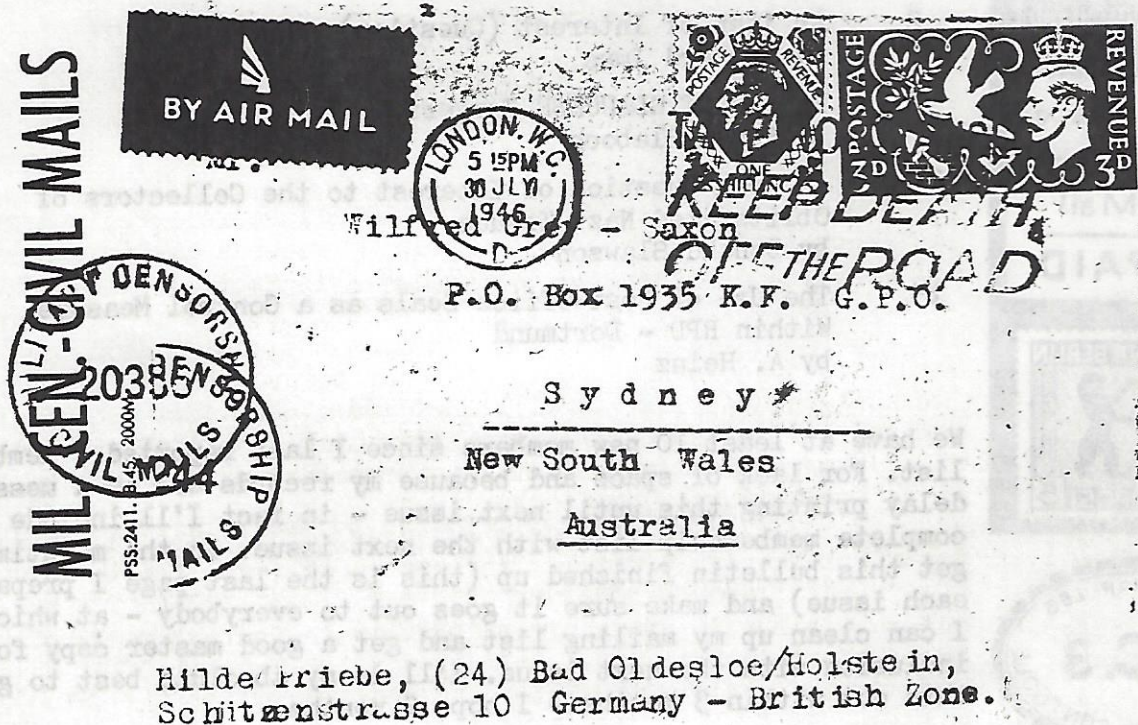
The documentation also illuminates the drastic conditions that prevailed in the area during the immediate postwar months and the steps taken by the U.S. and Russian occupation authorities to reestablish a measure of mail service.

It is a splendid study in spite of the overall negative conclusions reached by the author, based upon strictly legal considerations. These negative conclusions appear unduely harsh when viewed in the light of existing circumstances. At the time, postal code violations by the more innovative postmasters, acting on their own authority to reestablish mail service, were generally ignored by upper postal management as long as the mails were indeed facilitated and fraud was not involved. Apolda may have been such a case. If so, purely negative evaluations are not realistic.

Available (in German language of course), at \$3.50 a copy, from A.K. Geisser, 3316 Raymond Drive, Doraville, Ga. 30340.

An item of Interest (Question)

by Richard Imus



German - language.

Any ideas on the above cover? It is evidently from Bad Oldesloe to Australia, after foreign correspondence was permitted but before airmail service from Germany was allowed. I have another cover from the same correspondence which is censored in Germany and carries no franking at all (not even a Gebühr bezahlt). Could this be some type of DP mail which went to the German censorship station, thence to London via the British fieldpost, and forward by air from there?

(ed- not sure if DP, but Dick seems to be on the logical track with his guess. Any hard information from anybody?)

Beware of GLAUCHAU Forgeries
 by Roman Slaboch
 Member of the ARGE LOKNOT e. V., West Germany
 Translated by Eugene R. Marshall

In my article in Bulletin No. 3, May/June 1977, I wrote about the ORTMANNSDORF cover forgeries and the First Day Cover forgeries from Glauchau. All of the FDC forgeries are relatively easy to recognize, but it has been known for a long time that you must be very wary of the dangerous cover forgeries from the American Occupation period that are not easily recognized.

Among the most desired covers from Glauchau are, without a doubt, those used during the American occupation period, June 1 - 14, 1945. For a better understanding of this period, the following small piece of Glauchau postal history is presented. Per Julius Mueller's article, "The Postal Stamps of Kreis Glauchau", the American Town Commander authorized postal traffic between inhabitants within the county limits as early as May 15, 1945. The mail was allegedly delivered by bicycle and went by the title, "KurierPost". Mueller further stated, "When the postal traffic in Kreis Glauchau was reopened after the area was occupied by the United States Army on April 15, 1945, either 'Barfreimachung' (cash payment noted on the cover in lieu of stamps) or the quiet use of unobliterated Hitler stamps was generously allowed." However, not a single example of a genuine cover of this type has yet been located. All that I have seen thus far have been forgeries.

One such forgery can be seen in illustration 1. The illustration shows a cover with a genuine "Meerane m" cancel dated 24.5.1945. It was franked with two commemorative stamps, Mi. 869 and 889 with a postage value of 15 pfennig,

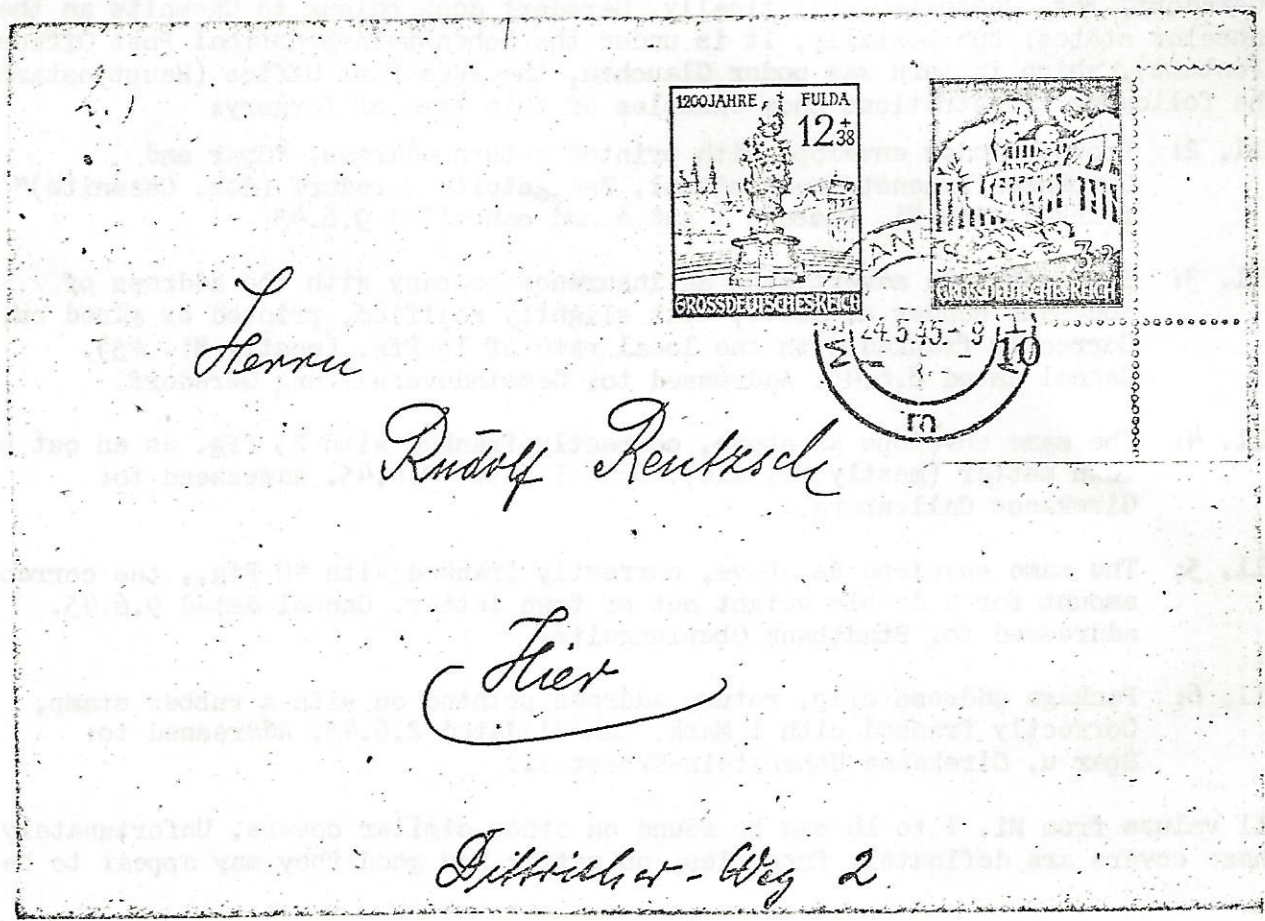


Illustration 1
 Meerane cover - 24 May, 1945

without the surcharge. The person that forged this and further letters of a similar nature was a prophet, since he foresaw that on June 1st, the postage rates would increase the cost of a locally delivered letter from 8 to 15 pfg. That is how this type of forgery was recognized. As mentioned above, the cancel was genuine, but obviously backdated. This and similar covers, even some with Hitler head stamps, are always addressed to Herrn Retzsch or the Kammgarnspinnerei Meerane. I am sorry that the reproduction of this letter is not clear, but I have only a poor reproduction of the cover in my possession.

The first overprinted stamps of Glauchau, Mi. #5, were available for sale on either June 1st or 2nd, 1945 (the exact date is not documented). Therefore, there must be some postally used material with these stamps from the first few days of June, but other than the well known FDC forgeries I have not yet seen a single genuine cover or card. The relative scarcity of postally used material from the American occupation era can be partially explained by the fact that after June 7th, only "Official Mail" (Behoerdenpost) could be processed. Even this mail was only accepted if it was brought to the post office window before it was sealed. From this it could be concluded that personal mail was forwarded until June 6th, but Mueller did not say anything about this. The broad term "Official Mail" was expanded to include the mail from banks, doctors and life supporting businesses and stores. Only after June 21st was the mail and Postal Money Order business open to the public. In the meantime, Russian troops had occupied the area.

it is clear from the following that a forger has been heard from again. All of the following forgeries are known to have originated from the same source. There are other variations, however, all have the genuine, but backdated cancel, "Gersdorf, Bez. Chemnitz". Politically, Gersdorf does belong to Chemnitz as the cancelor states; but postally, it is under the Hohenstein-Ernstthal Post Office (Postamt), which in turn was under Glauchau, the Area Post Office (Hauptpostamt). The following illustrations show examples of this type of forgery:

- Ill. 2: Brown, window envelope with printed return address, "Spar and Girokasse Hohenstein-Ernstthal, Zweigstelle Gersdorf (Bez. Chemnitz)" franked with Mi. Numbers 1 and 6 and cancelled 9.6.45
- Ill. 3: Blue envelope advertising an insurance company with the address of the same sender as above, text slightly modified, printed or glued on. Correctly franked with the local rate of 15 Pfg. (mostly Mi. #5). Cancel dated 8.6.45. Addressed to: Gemeindeverwaltung Gersdorf.
- Ill. 4: The same envelope as above, correctly franked with 25 Pfg. as an out of town letter (mostly Mi. #10). Cancel dated 9.6.45. Addressed to: Girokasse Callenberg.
- Ill. 5: The same envelope as above, correctly franked with 40 Pfg., the correct amount for a double weight out of town letter. Cancel dated 9.6.45. addressed to: Stadtbank Oberlungwitz.
- Ill. 6: Package address clip, return address printed on with a rubber stamp. Correctly franked with 1 Mark. Cancel dated 2.6.45. Addressed to: Spar u. Girokasse Hohenstein-Ernstthal.

All values from Mi. 1 to 18 can be found on other similar covers. Unfortunately, these covers are definately forgeries, no matter how good they may appear to be.

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der bargeldlose Zahlungsverkehr der Girokassen (außerhalb Sachsens der Sparkassen) - einfach, schnell, sicher - 4,2 Millionen Spargirokonten in Großdeutschland - 200 Milliarden Reichsmark Umsatz im Jahre

**Spar- und Girokasse
Hohenstein - Ernstthal
Zweigstelle
Gersdorf (Bez. Chemnitz)**

L/0103

|| 2,40 || || 4,00 ||



1. 6.

9.6.45



Illustration 2



an die

Gemeindeverwaltung

G e r s d o r f Bez. Chtz.

Rufkunft und Vermittlung durch:

Spar- und Girokasse Hohenstein-Er.
Ⓢ Zweigstelle Gersdorf (Bez. Chtz.)

Illustration 3



Rückkunft und Vermittlung durch:

Spar- und Girokasse Hohenstein-Er.
 ⑩ Zweigstelle Gersdorf (Bez. Chtz.)

10
9.6.45



Girokasse

C a l l e n b e r g

bei Waldenburg

Illustration 4



Rückkunft und Vermittlung durch:

Spar- und Girokasse Hohenstein-Er.
 ⑩ Zweigstelle Gersdorf (Bez. Chtz.)

9.6.45



Stadtbank

O b e r l u n g w i t z

Illustration 5

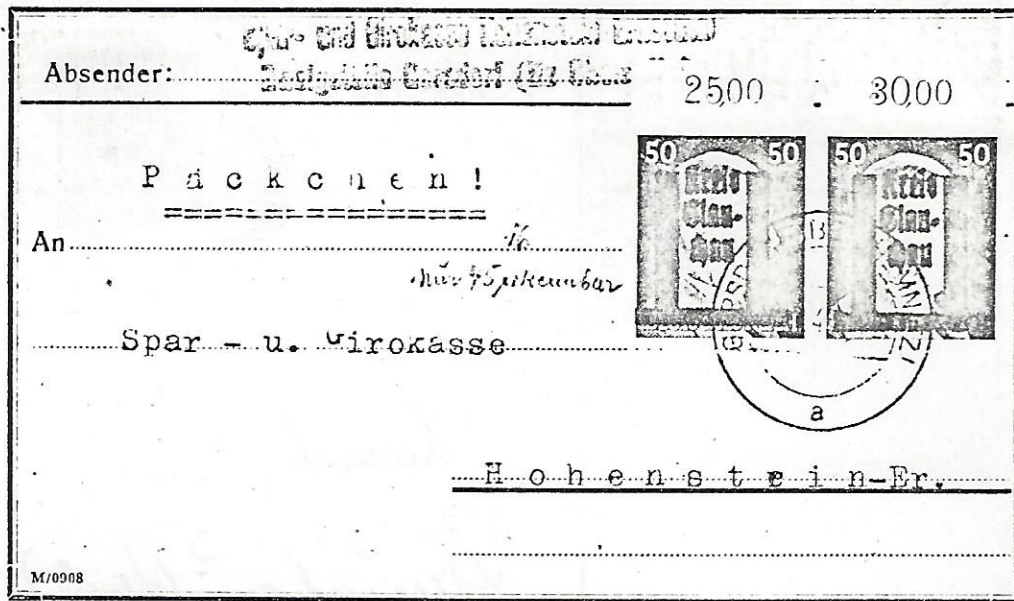


Illustration 6

The person who made the covers overlooked one very important detail. With the exception of the Mi. 5, none of these stamps were available for sale on the dates shown on their cancellation. According to Dr. Richard Jacobs article, "Research Work Concerning German Stamps since May, 1945," the post office sales of the Glauchau overprinted stamps were as follows:

June 2	Mi. 5
June 7	Mi. 7
June 12 & 13	The other Hitler values
June 15 & 16	Official Stamps and Postcards

The quotation from Dr. Jacob is quite reliable, since he was the State Prosecutor in Leipzig at the time, and in this capacity - not as a private citizen - he obtained the income of the various postal facilities. Therefore, his information should be very precise. These covers were then obviously backdated forgeries since the stamps were not available for sale until several days after the date of the cancellation that was placed on them. The date on the cover in itself is not conclusive, since the Mi. 5 stamp, for example, could have been used any-time in the period after June 2nd. Some covers show a June 8th cancel. There were other package clips similar to Illustration 6, that were franked with other stamps. Mi. 18 was even used on some clips, and that did not provide a correct postage rate. There are other examples of the forgery shown in Illustration 6, and perhaps there are also examples of all of the others illustrated. I have been told that Donald Slawson has an example of one of these forgeries in his collection.

In the twenty years that I have been intensively interested in the philately of Glauchau, only in the last year have I succeeded in obtaining a genuine item

8.

from the American Occupation period. Perhaps it came from the former archives of the Glauchau post office. This postcard is shown below.

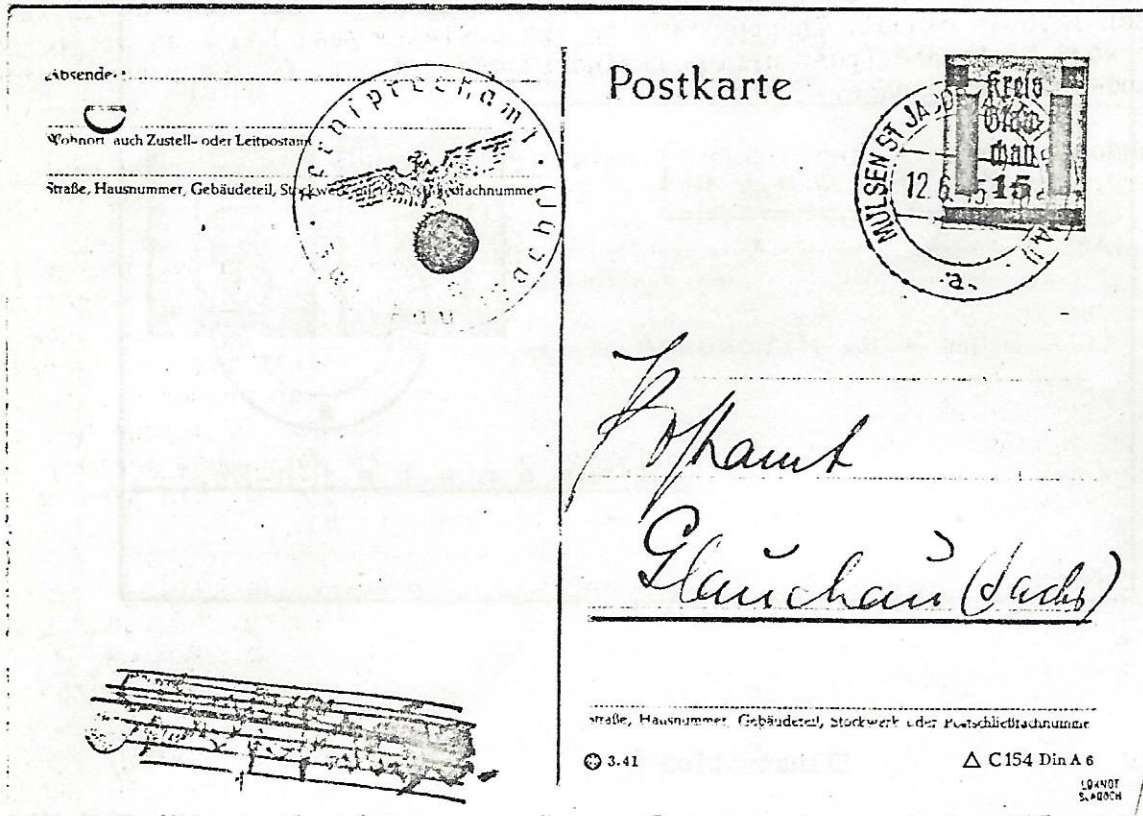


Illustration 7 - Front

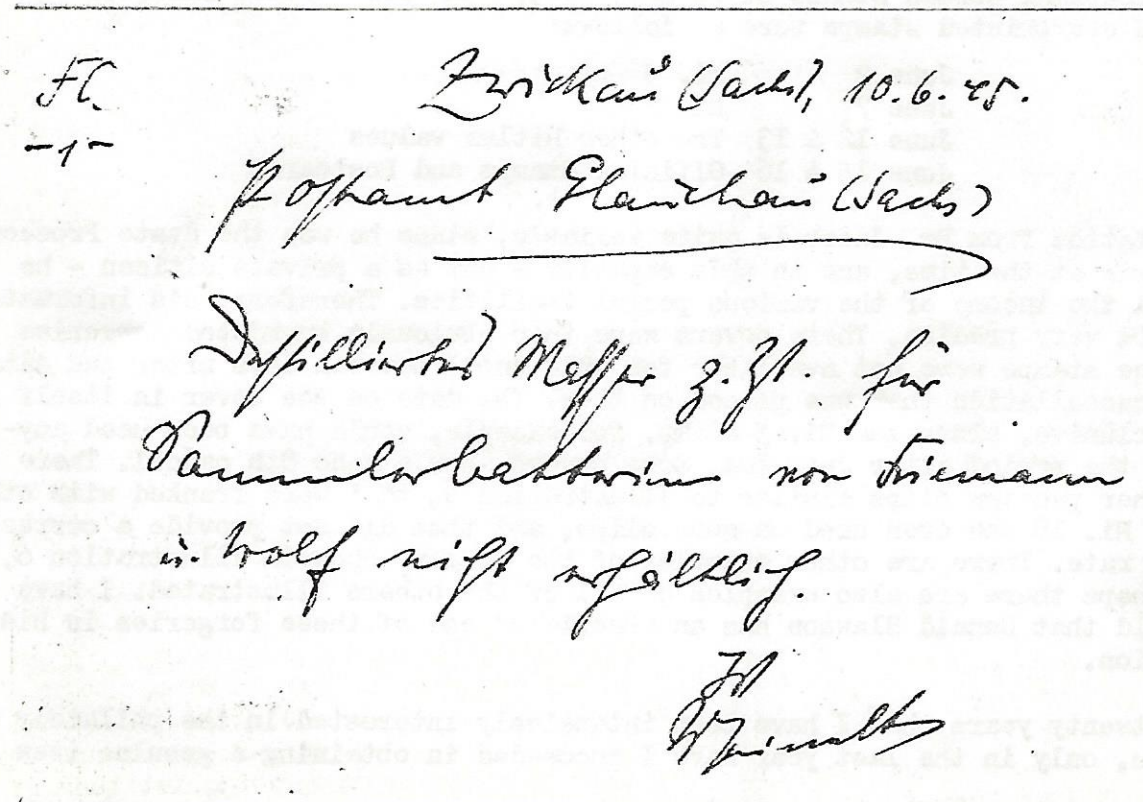


Illustration 7 - Reverse

The return address on this card is the Fernsprechtamt (long distance telephone office) in Zwickau. The card is franked with a Mi. Nr. 5 and bears a Mülsen-St. Jacob 12.6.45 cancel. The swastika in the official seal had been obliterated and the word Postsache (post office business) crossed out. On the reverse side is a hand-written message.

Don Slawson, to whom I sent a copy of this card some time ago believes that it is a forgery. His line of reasoning is that both Zwickau and Glauchau were in the American occupation area and that the card should have been able to go from Zwickau to Glauchau. However, this is too hasty a judgement. Don overlooked in his criticism that Zwickau was in a different Postal area (Postgebiet) and that mail was not permitted to cross district borders. It is known that, for example, Glauchau was explicitly permitted to forward mail only within its Kreisgebietes (county). This can correctly be called a Postgebiet (area supervised by its post office). This was also true for Zwickau. I would like to know if anyone has an example of a genuine, non-philatelic, postally used cover from this period, that was forwarded beyond the Zwickau postal borders. An example of this type of mail would be of interest regardless of the type of stamps used.

I have a different theory for the origination of this cover. In 1945, as is true today, many people from the surrounding areas worked in Zwickau. This was especially true with post and telephone personnel. In my opinion, an employee of the Zwickau post office who lived in Mülsen-St. Jacob brought the card to Zwickau already franked with a Glauchau stamp and gave it to the post office. This is the reason that the "official post office business" (Postsache) marking, which would have made free forwarding privileges possible, was lined through. Most of the older collectors in the DDR whom I have contacted share this opinion.

I would be very interested in knowing if any reader of this article has a cover from the American occupation period regardless of whether it is genuine or forged. If so, I'd be very grateful to them if they would send me a copy.

- - - - - end of article - - - - -

Fortunately I have the chance to follow-up on the above (Slawson)

Mr. Slaboch says I said the Zwickau card (Ill. 7 above) is a forgery. I did not mean to. Unfortunately my German is poor, the situation is complex, and I evidently missed what I tried to say to him.

I actually think the card is highly interesting and is probably exactly what it purports to be. As I said the situation is complex but I will try to not a few of the complexities.

- (1) The card is cancelled in Mülsen-St. Jacob on 12.6.45. This is the very day that the American occupation troops were withdrawing from Mülsen-St. Jacob (withdrawing their large bridgehead over the Zwickau-Mulde River). On 13 June Mülsen-St. Jacob, as well as Glauchau, were under Soviet occupation.
- (2) True Zwickau was in a different "Postgebiet" than Glauchau, but I think the important fact is that it was in a different Kreis (county). Our military government was carried out on a Kreis level and the postal services allowed were probably based on the instructions of the local Kreis commander. The fact that Glauchau did not accept mail destined outside the Kreis would not have a bearing on the acceptance of mail in Stadtkreis Zwickau. Of course, if Glauchau had no postal connections with town outside its Postgebiet then of course no mail could come into the Postgebiet.

10.

I have a cover from this same period of time (12 May) from Crimmitschau in Landkreis Zwickau to Altenburg in Thuringia (Landkreis Altenburg), with a receiving stamp to show it was delivered. Therefore, we cannot say unconditionally that there was no crossing of Kreis and Postgebiet boundaries by mail in this general vicinity (both Kreise Zwickau and Altenburg are adjacent to Landkreis Glauchau). Evidently mail could flow where there were postal connections and where the local military commander permitted it. The picture card is from Stadtkreis Zwickau and to the best of my knowledge we have absolutely no idea what was happening postally in Stadtkreis Zwickau under American rule. I have no basis for accepting the statement that only mail within the "Postgebiet" boundary was accepted.

I also cannot buy the explanation that the card was brought, already franked, to Zwickau. This could not happen without some "pre-planning", and it just doesn't sound like the kind of thing that would have happened. To me the following would sound more logical. The card was prepared in Zwickau on 10 June (when it was dated). Evidently it proved impossible for this to be transmitted directly to Glauchau (why I am not sure, there were probably trains running on the Zwickau-Glauchau railway line, but for now I'll accept that it couldn't be dispatched to Glauchau). Therefore after a couple of days a postal employee was told to take it over to one of the nearby towns which had postal connections with Glauchau and mail it. Perhaps the postal employee lived in Mülsen-St. Jacob. Anyway, sometime after noon on 12 June this card was delivered to the Mülsen-St. Jacob post office. Probably the card was marked "Postsache" (post office business) at this time, but the sender was informed that under the Kreis Glauchau rules all mail had to be franked. Therefore, a 15Pfg. stamp for the Kreis Glauchau postcard rate was affixed, presumably paid for by the sender (the Zwickau postal employee), and the card was off to Glauchau.

Anyway, I do not think this card is a "forgery". I just think the explanation of how it came about is a little different than what Mr. Slaboch presents.

There is one other point I would like to address. When talking about the early Meerane cover, Illustration 1, Mr. Slaboch says the guy who forged this must have been a prophet to foresee that the postal rates would be raised. I think this is written "tounge in cheek", and is meant to imply that the cancel is backdated. However, I do not necessarily think this is the case. According to Mr. Müller's story of the Glauchau issue it seems that the higher postage rates were implemented on 15 May. Mr. Müller writes: "Delivery was made by carrier on bicycle, for the first time on 15 May, 1945, exactly one month after occupation. Along with these measures the commander of the town also ordered the post office of Glauchau to be self supporting and to double the then still valid postal rates." The fact that these two sentences occur in sequence seems to me to definitely imply that the doubling of the postal rates took place on 15 May, when the courier delivery system postal service was first opened.

Thus while Mr. Slaboch uses the fact that this cover is dated prior to 1 June and carries the higher postage rate as the basis for saying it is an obvious forgery, I tend to think that if we ever come across any genuine covers from this period of time that they will show payment of the higher rate. However, I will certainly agree that the cover pictured in Illustration 1 has all the earmarks of a typical "philatelic creation" and certainly cannot be taken as evidence of a postal service.

Guess that's about it for this subject. If anyone has any thoughts or anything to contribute, please notify either Mr. Slaboch or me.

An Open Question of Interest to the
Collectors of Obliterated Nazi Issues

by Donald Slawson

I'm not sure if anyone had noticed, but in previous bulletins I had asked the question "when was the OPD Halle created?" No replies were forthcoming. This question stemmed from my interest in obliterated Nazi issues, and since many of our members are interested in this field I have decided to go into a little more detail on the background to this question in the hope that I can catch somebody's interest and obtain some answers.

When looking at obliterated Nazi issues it is historically necessary (and interesting) to ask the question "what was the basis of authorization for this issue?" Thus we distinguish between the issues authorized solely on the town level and those authorized on the RPD (Reichspostdirektion or Postal District) level. In this latter category are the RPD's Chemnitz, Dresden, and in a certain sense, RPD Leipzig. These are the issues (towns) that Michel lists in the section on "Sachsen schwärzungen (Saxony black-outs). Included are towns in RPD's Chemnitz, Dresden and Leipzig. In the "lokalausgaben" section Michel lists what I prefer to call "distinctive obliterations" even though some are no more than circular black obliterations. Included here are some towns in Saxony (namely in RPD Leipzig - Döbeln, Holzhausen and Wurzen; in RPD Chemnitz - Glauchau, Netzschkau, and Schwarzenburg; and in RPD Dresden - Bad Gottscheuba, Herrnhut, Löbau and Meissen) but this section contains primarily obliterations from individual towns outside Saxony which were authorized strictly on a town basis. In this category are Fredersdorf, Finsterwalde, Grabow, etc.

When trying to distinguish only between the towns inside RPD's Chemnitz, Dresden and Leipzig and those outside these RPD's everything goes smoothly until we consider the towns Mühlberg, Naumburg and Wittenberg-Lutherstadt. It is fairly easy to discover that these towns were in OPd ("oberpostdirektion", the postwar term for postal district) Halle (Saale) and therefore not connected with the postal districts of Saxony which authorized use of obliterated Nazi issues. Or were they?

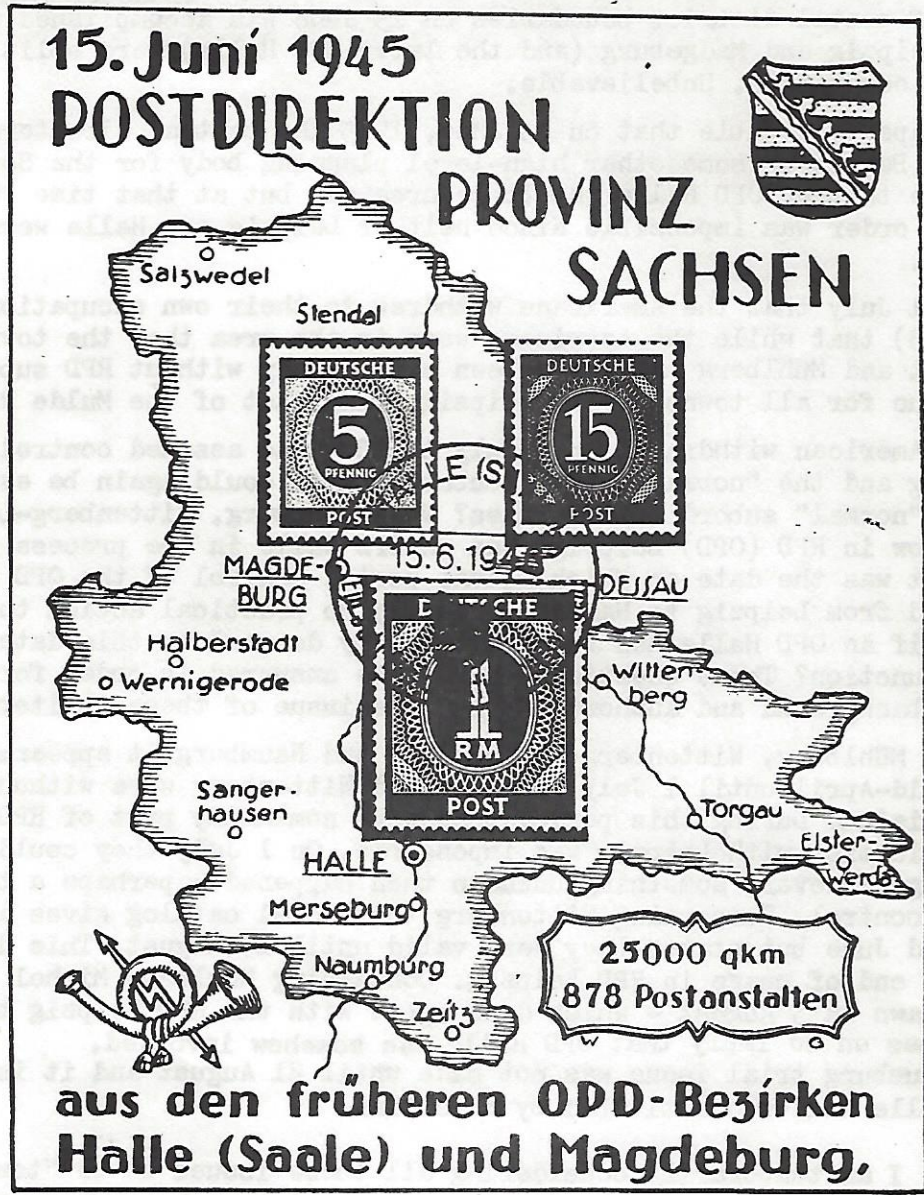
The May, 1944 Ortsverzeichnis I, which to the best of my knowledge is the last wartime directory of post offices in Germany, shows these three towns to be in RPD Leipzig. At this time there was no RPD Halle; Halle itself was in RPD Leipzig (see map 1).

By the end of the summer of 1945 an OPD Halle existed which had been formed by removing the area of the Nazi Gau of Halle-Merseberg from RPD Leipzig control and combining it with the existing RPD Magdeburg, making the new OPD Headquarters in Halle. The towns of Mühlberg, Wittenberg-Lutherstadt and Naumburg were in this newly created OPD Halle (see map 2).

But when was this OPD Halle created?

To help answer this question there is a commemorative sheetlet and cancel issued by the OPD Halle on June 15, 1946 (see Illustration 1). This sheetlet definitely states that the OPD Halle was created on 15 June, 1945. Further the sheetlet states that the OPD Halle was formed from the "earlier" or "prior" (früheren) OPD Districts (Bezirks) of Magdeburg and Halle. As I have stated, in May, 1944 there was no RPD Halle. Therefore, I assume that what the sheetlet is telling us is that OPD Halle was created in 1945 by combining the existing RPD Magdeburg and a postal district Halle which had existed many years previously but in 1945 was part of RPD Leipzig. All this would be too much to say on the sheetlet, especially considering that the term RPD was politically unacceptable.

However, it is possible that between May, 1944 and May, 1945 - when the Nazis surrendered - that an RPD Halle had been created. The question boils down to "in



5000. 6. 46. 2

Illustration 1

Commemorative Sheetlet of the OPD Halle - 15 June, 1946

May, 1945 was RPD Leipzig still the 'big' RPD Leipzig of May, 1944, or had an RPD Halle been created leaving only a small OPD Leipzig?" I am very much hoping that someone can answer this question.

I have difficulty in accepting the 15 June, 1945 date as the creation of OPD Halle - at least the effective date. Let's look at the situation on 15 June (see map 3). In April the American Army had advanced to the Elbe/Mulde River line throughout this area. Thus Halle, Leipzig and Madgeburg were all (temporarily) under American occupation. The Americans did not withdraw from this area until 1 July. Therefore, any shifting of postal district boundaries on 15 June was accomplished while the areas of RPD's Leipzig and Madgeburg (and the later OPD Halle) were split between American and Soviet occupation. Unbelievable.

It is perhaps believable that on 15 June, 1945 the central directorate for postal affairs in Berlin or some other high-level planning body for the Soviet zone issued a directive that an OPD Halle was to be created, but at that time the implementation of such an order was impossible since neither Leipzig nor Halle were under Soviet occupation.

It was on 1 July that the Americans withdrew to their own occupation zone. Note (from map 3) that while the Americans were in the area that the towns of Wittenberg-Lutherstadt and Mühlberg must have been effectively without RPD supervision (in fact this is true for all towns of RPD Leipzig lying east of the Mulde River).

After the American withdrawal on 1 July the Soviets assumed control of both Halle and Leipzig and the "normal" postal subordination could again be established. But what were "normal" subordination roles? Were Naumburg, Wittenberg-Lutherstadt and Mühlberg now in RPD (OPD) Leipzig? Was an OPD Halle in the process of being created? If so, what was the date on which actual postal control of the OPD Halle area was transferred from Leipzig to Halle? Certainly no practical action took place on 15 June, and if an OPD Halle had been "created by decree" on this date when did it begin to function? These questions need to be answered in order for us to understand the background and authorities for the issue of these obliterated Nazi stamps.

- Concerning Mühlberg, Wittenberg-Lutherstadt and Naumburg it appears to me that:
- (1) From mid-April until 1 July Mühlberg and Wittenberg were without RPD (OPD) supervision. During this period they were nominally part of RPD Leipzig but communication with Leipzig was impossible. On 1 July they could again report to Leipzig. However, something unknown then happened - perhaps a transfer to OPD Halle control. Concerning Wittenberg the Michel catalog gives issue dates of May and June but states they were valid until 13 August. This does not conform to the end of usage in RPD Leipzig. Concerning Mühlberg Michel notes they were withdrawn on 3 August - which does agree with the RPD Leipzig termination date - but goes on to imply that OPD Halle was somehow involved.
 - (2) The Naumburg trial issue was not made until 21 August and it is likely that an OPD Halle had been activated by this time.

Therefore, I am temporarily considering all these issues to be "town" issues by towns of the OPD District Halle and therefore not influenced by any OPD control. However, I would be more confident if I knew more of the events and the time surrounding the creation of the OPD Halle. If anyone has, or can find out, any further information I would surely be pleased to hear from them. All my letters to Halle have been unanswered.

**"The Use of Post-Office Seals as a Control Measure
Within RPD - Dortmund"**

By

A. Heinz

Conditions were totally catastrophic in Germany during the early months following the May 8, 1945 Armistice. Many once-beautiful cities lay in ruins. Industrial centers, transportation facilities and communication systems had been demolished and four hostile armies occupied what was left of Hitler's proud Third Reich.



III. #1 Typical destruction in hard-hit cities (Pforzheim).

Reconstruction efforts were started immediately, including measures to revive the totally disabled postal system. The postal reconstruction program was national in scope but lacked uniformity. It varied drastically from region to region depending upon factors such as:

1. The degree of destruction within each area.
2. Postal-personnel changes introduced by the occupation forces in each area.
3. Directives issued by local occupation authorities.
4. The prevailing political climate.

By far, the most productive stimulants to early reconstruction proved to be inventiveness, initiative and drive of responsible postal personnel. Here it must be pointed out that the staff of postwar postal organizations included many postal neophytes. Many former staff members had been randomly dismissed by occupation authorities because of their former membership in the Nazi Party. These random dismissals were unfortunate since necessity rather than conviction had produced many of the Nazi memberships. As a result of these personnel changes, confusion reigned supreme during the early postwar days, and reconstruction efforts were anything but systematic.

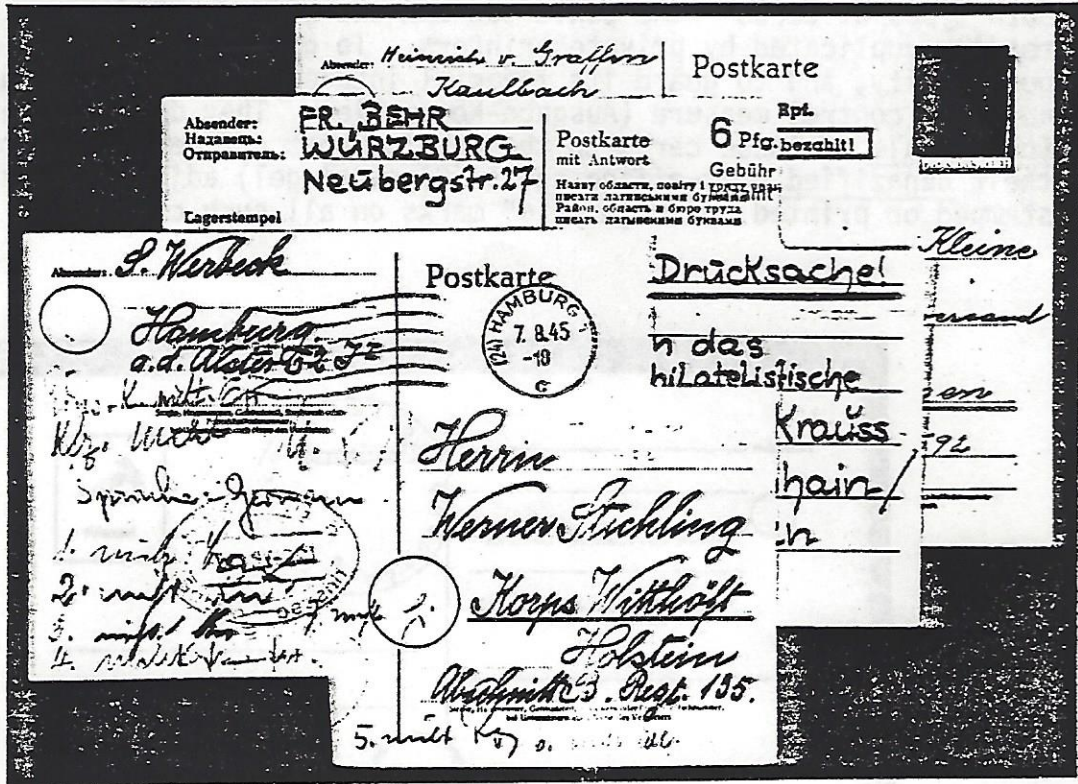
Each RPD* (Reichspost direktion or postal-district headquarters) had its own solutions to its particular reconstruction problems, and not all were strictly legal. Postal codes did not deter the more innovative managers; especially since upper postal management closed its eyes to violations as long as the mails were facilitated and fraud was not involved. This freedom gave rise to a multitude of fascinating reconstruction schemes which are duly reflected in the postal paper of the period.

The following study focuses on financial-security measures introduced by RPD-Dortmund during the early post-WWII months. Similar measures were used in a few isolated localities of adjacent postal districts within the British zone. Hence the following findings apply to both the RPD-Dortmund district as a whole and to the few isolated localities in neighboring districts.

When postal service was reestablished it was initially restricted to official mail (postcards and open letters). Shortly thereafter private postcards were permitted, followed by private letters. However, valid stamps and postal cards were not available at the time. All stamps and postal cards carrying Nazi symbols had been declared invalid by the occupation authorities, and no new stamps had yet been issued. As a result, the cash-franking system, developed decades before, was used.

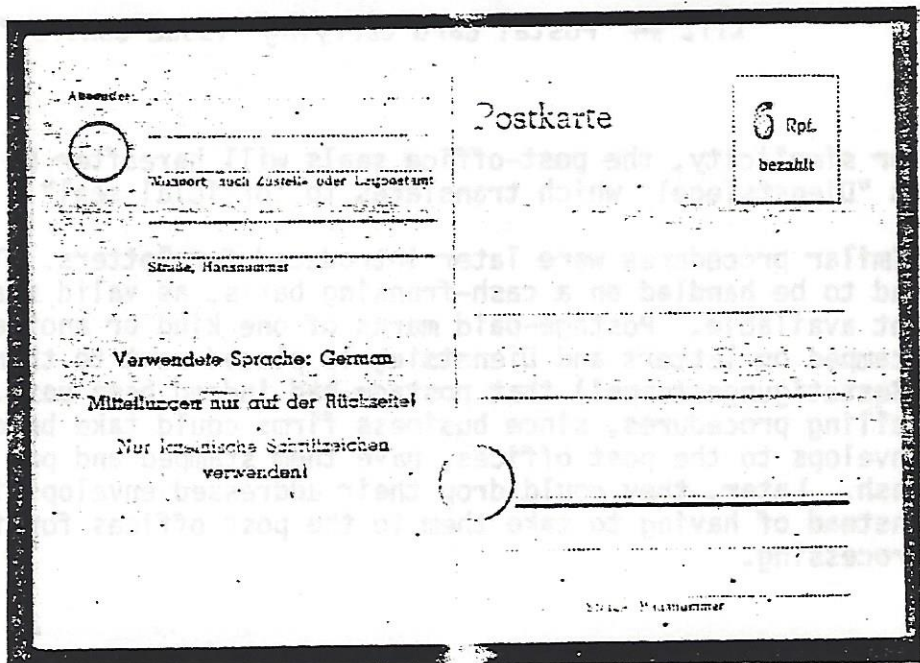
As a transition step, available stocks of postal cards were denazified by overprinting or cutting out objectionable Hitler-stamp imprints, Nazi symbols and propaganda legends. These cards then received a "Gebuhr Bezahlt" (postage paid) mark of one kind or another adjacent to the removed or obliterated stamp imprint.

* In keeping with agreements reached by the Allies at the Postdam Conference, which ended on August 2, 1945, the title Reichspostdirektion (RPD) was changed to Oberpostdirektion (OPD).



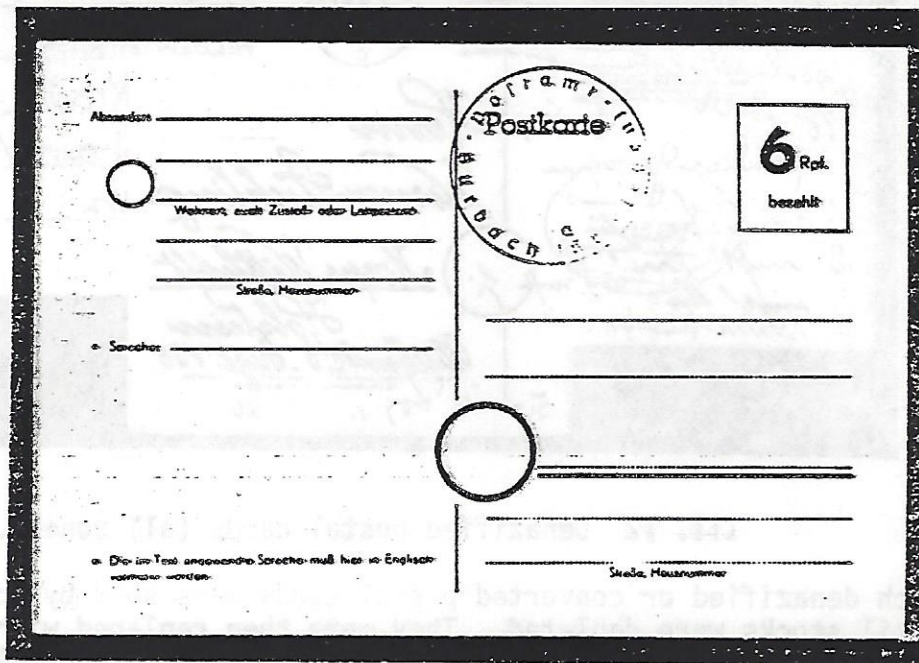
III. #2 Denazified postal cards (all zones).

Such denazified or converted postal cards were sold by post offices until stocks were depleted. They were then replaced with new cards carrying printed "postage paid" marks in the space usually occupied by conventional stamp imprints.



III. #3 New, printed type of postal card (British Zone).

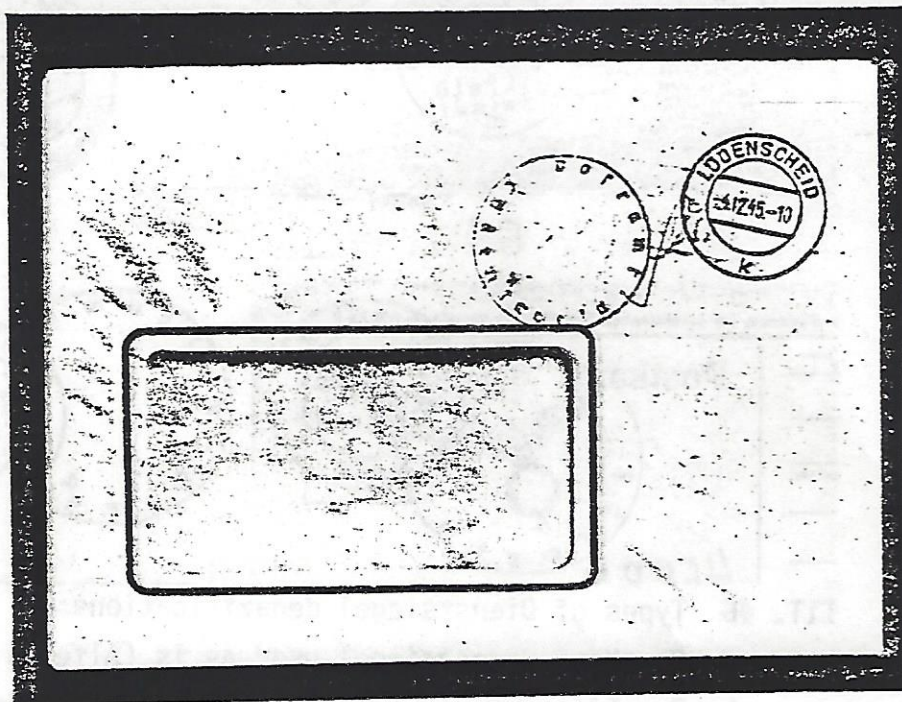
Both types of cards - the converted and the new, printed types - could be readily duplicated by private printers. To guard against this counterfeiting possibility, and to guard its financial interest, the RPD-Dortmund introduced an issue-control measure (Ausgabe-Kontrolle). They decreed that, prior to the sale of these cards to the public, post offices place imprints of their denazified post-office seals (Dienstsiegel) adjacent to the hand-stamped or printed "postage paid" marks on all such cards.



III. #4 Postal card carrying "issue-control" seal.

For simplicity, the post-office seals will hereafter be referred to as "Dienstsiegel" which translates to "official seal".

Similar procedures were later introduced for letters. These letters had to be handled on a cash-franking basis, as valid stamps were still not available. Postage-paid marks of one kind or another were hand stamped on letters and Dienstsiegels placed next to them as certifications (Bestätigungstempel) that postage had indeed been paid. This simplified mailing procedures, since business firms could take boxes of blank envelopes to the post offices, have them stamped and pay the postage in cash. Later, they could drop their addressed envelopes into mail boxes instead of having to take them to the post offices for individual processing.

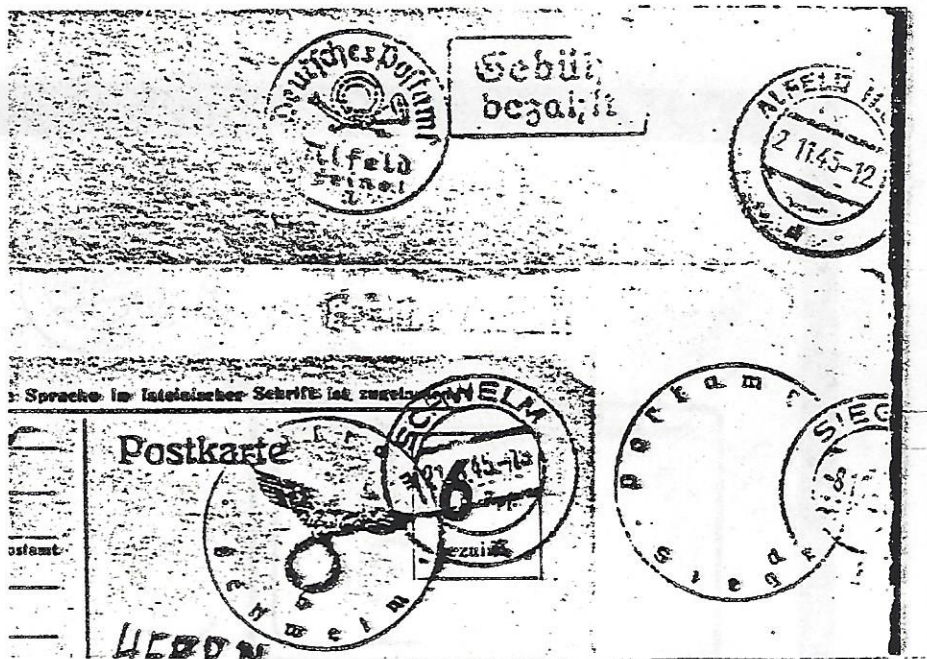


III. #5 Letter carrying "payment certification" Dienstsiegel.

Thus early postwar mail from the RPD-Dortmund district generally shows an imprint made with a denazified Dienstsiegel from the sending post office. In cases where franking was paid in one post office but the postcard or letter mailed in another, the Dienstsiegel and postmark differed insofar as the name of the post office was concerned.

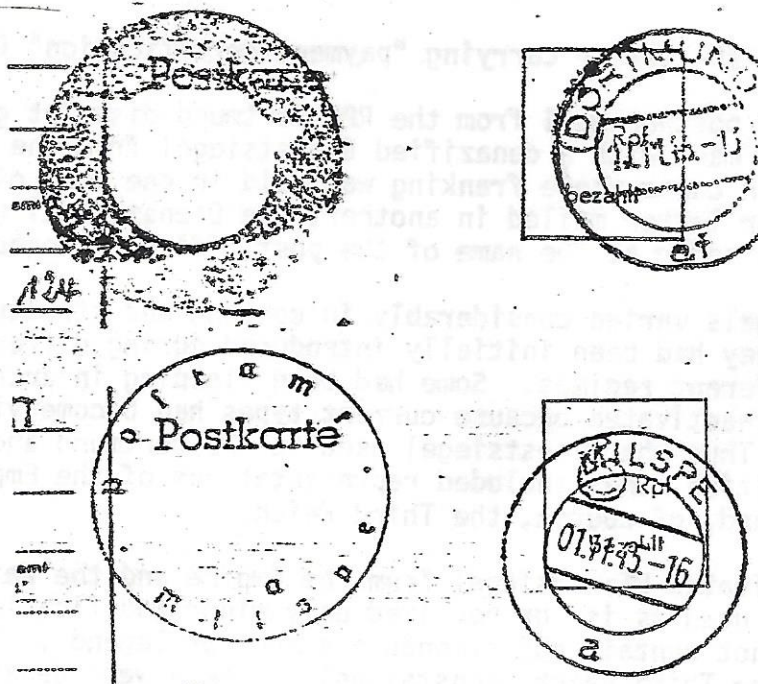
Dienstsiegels varied considerably in content and structure, simply because they had been initially introduced during different eras and under different regimes. Some had been sleeping in archives for years and were reactivated because current types had become victims of the war. Thus the Dienstsiegel used in RPD-Dortmund and in other districts of the British Zones included representatives of the Empire, the Weimar Republic and, of course, the Third Reich.

The reactivated Dienstsiegel from the Empire and the Weimar Republic were generally used as is, or received only minor modifications simply because they did not contain objectionable symbol or legends. This was not true of the Third Reich Dienstsiegels. These were denazified—some slightly, others severely—in keeping with a SHAEF (Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Forces) directive issued on October 26, 1944 (Gesetz #7) on or about the time Allied Forces entered the "Battle of the Bulges" area. This was months prior to the May 8, 1945 armistice.



III. #6 Types of Dienstsiegel denazifications:

- a. Pre-Nazi Dienstsiegel used as is (Aifeld)
- b. Swastice removed from Nazi emblem (Schwelm)
- c. Entire Nazi emblem removed (Siegen)



III. #7 Basic types of Dienstsiegels

- A. Negative type (Dortmund)
- B. Conventional positive type (Milspe)

The Dienstsiegels can be grouped into two basic categories, A and B. Types A show solid ink, except for lettering and symbolism. They are essentially negative varieties. Types B are conventional in that lettering and symbolism appear ^{inked} ~~mixed~~. The many forms of both types have recently been described in an excellent handbook. It illustrates all 25 subtypes reported to date.

In a few localities postmasters introduced special measures to facilitate parcel post. Ordinary parcels normally require high postage for which suitable stamps were obviously not available. Also, hand stamped postage-paid marks were considered impractical, since these do not stand out on conventional wrapping paper. To solve these problems, a few postmasters, faced with heavy parcel traffic, issued postmaster provisionals on their own authority.

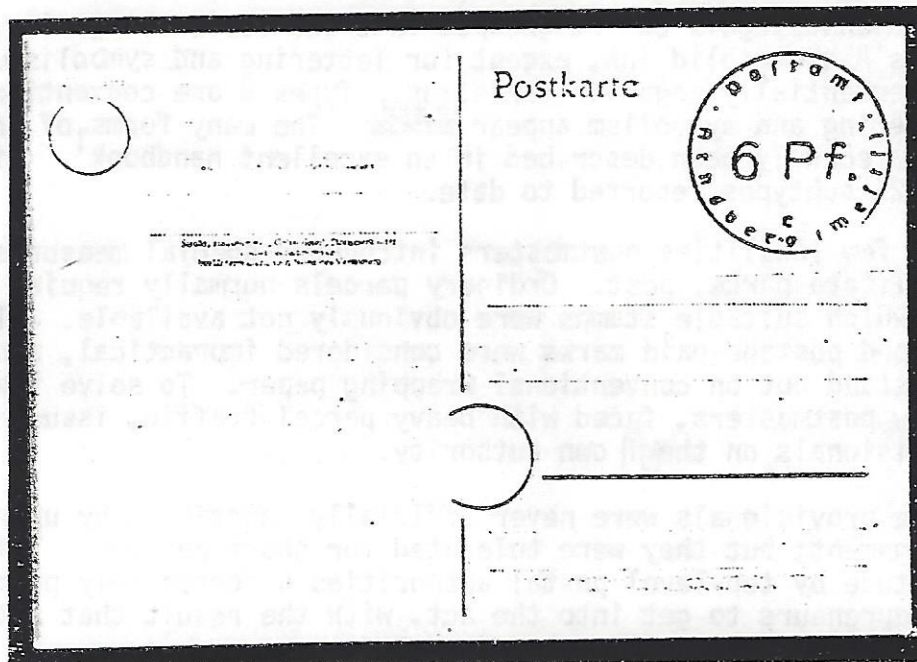
These provisionals were never officially sanctioned by upper postal management; but they were tolerated for short periods. This tolerant attitude by top-level postal authorities unfortunately permitted a few entrepreneurs to get into the act, with the result that not all postmaster provisionals are fully recognized today.

The provisionals were hand made from large-stamp-sized pieces of colored paper onto which a postage-paid legend and the Dienstsiegel were hand stamped. The values were usually written in with pens. Almost all provisionals were of the higher values needed for parcels and were sold, like regular stamps, at postal counters. They were used for relatively short periods - a few months at the most - and are very scarce indeed. Most of them ended up in waste paper baskets, simply because they were not recognized as provisionals at the time.

Postmaster provisionals of one kind or another were issued in the following cities in the area:

- a. Arnsberg
- b. Bredelar (Kr Brilon)
- c. Bunde/Westf.
- d. Hamm/Westf.
- e. Lohne/Westf.
- f. Unna

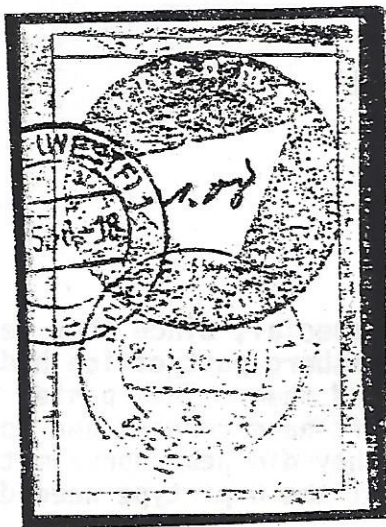
The Arnsberg provisionals (a) are special, since they were used on postal cards rather than parcels. The Arnsberg post office had some 80,000 Nazi postal cards in stock and denazified them. They pasted stickers over the propaganda legends in the lower left-hand corners and postmaster provisional over the Hitler stamp imprints. They did use approximately 6 different types of provisionals. All were of the 6-pf type needed for postal cards.



III. #8 Arnsberg postal card carrying 6-pf provisional.

Bunde (c) used provisionals which carried "A" type denazified Dienstsiegels. A triangular section showing the Nazi emblem, had been removed from the center of the Dienstsiegel. Into this cleared area the pfennig value of the provisional was written.

The other five items (a, b, d, e, f) used "B" type Dienstsiegels on their provisionals.



III. #9 A and B-Type Dienstsiegels on Bunde and Hamm Provisionals.

It is interesting to note that other RPDs within the British Zone used similar control measures. These differed from the RPD-Dortmund variety in two respects:

1. Routine circular or oval postmarks instead of Dienstsiegels were used and these did not always carry complete dates within their bridges.
2. These "control postmarks" had to be placed in the lower, left-hand corner of postal cards or letters and not in the upper, right-hand corner adjacent to postage paid marks. At the time of mailing each card or letter received another post mark. These second post marks were of the regulation type and were placed in the normal spot - the upper, right-hand corner.



III. #10 Regulation postmark instead of Dienstsiegel used as a control measure.

In closing it can be stated that the Dienstsiegel control measures, employed by the Dortmund district during the stampless period following the May 8, 1945 armistice, were quite effective. They provided the desired financial control and also produced a very fertile field for postal-history students. The field is a very complex one, and the story presented represents only a birds-eye view at best of this very involved and fascinating field.

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