



# GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY post world war II STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

Vol 8 Nr. 2

Mar/Sept 1975

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Enclosure "Censorship Markings of the U.S. Zone of Occupation" by Donald Slawson

Once again, a pretty skimpy bulletin (but at least what I consider a good solid update on the one subject considered--break my arm patting myself on the back). Al Geisser has sent an article on Thuringen that will be coming up, and I'll continue the D.P. Camp list in future bulletins. Other than that I can do a list of Civilian Internee Camps and their censor marks, but that about runs us out. How about it fellows? Certainly somebody must have something to report or at least something to say.

## TREASURER'S REPORT (For 1974)

I won't give gory details (available on request), just overall figures.

Balance foreward	- 1.01..
Income (dues+back issues)	243.00
Expenses (includes \$34 for new front pages)	<u>195.67</u>
New balance foreward	+ 46.32

So far this year expenses are about \$100 (I have a supply of paper and ink) and income is about \$50 which makes us about even. Only problem is that a few people paid full dues, the rest none (and I've asked for none). So let's let it go until the beginning of next year and I'll ask for \$4 dues plus a small increment (\$1 or 1.50) to cover this year. Those who paid this year, I'll slide forward to next, and tell them the balance due (will be small).



# Censorship Markings of the US Zone of Occupation

by Donald E. Slawson  
Post WW II Study Group

The purpose of this article is to update the information on this field as pursued through the years by Paul<sup>1</sup>, Wolter<sup>2</sup>, and Esrati<sup>3</sup>. In addition, illustrations of each mark are provided (when known), which should eliminate some sources of confusion.

I was hoping to hold off printing this until I had the complete story of the activities of each censorship group, but this appears a long time away, and I'm hoping this listing of marks will bring forth new data and clarification of the questions raised (pictures of the marks I haven't seen, etc.). Eventually size (and possibly color) of marks will have to be considered. I have not, because it usually isn't necessary to determine a mark.

I am categorizing these marks in a manner fairly similar to Esrati's, which makes sense to me, but is certainly open to discussion and can be changed in later listings if a better method presents itself as new information comes to light. First, I am breaking the markings into two main groups, censorship marks and marks which denote mail routed to the censorship station but released unexamined (which I have earlier called "non-censorship" markings). As far as I have ascertained to now, the number of censorship markings is very small, as the same type die was used by all groups to denote censored mail. The vast majority of "censorship" markings which we study are actually those marks which denote mail released unexamined. These marks I am breaking down by Censorship Group. At this time I am considering only the Censorship Groups. I know some of these Groups had field-stations which actually performed censorship, but I have no idea which marks were used at the Group location and which were used at field stations (or even if the marks used at a field station were different than those used at Group locations).

## I CENSORSHIP MARKINGS

### G-1



This is the mark used initially in the U. S. Zone. There is some reason to believe that these dies were prepared in England, but for now this is a hypothesis.

We may be getting bogged down trying to decide the size of this mark. I measure these and come up with all diameters about 32½-33½ mm. I have never seen 31 nor 34½mm as reported by Wolter and carried on by Esrati (Paul lists these as 31-33mm). I'm not sure of the significance of the size, but what is definitely distinct and may have significance are the digits.

#### (a) "Fancy" digits - i.e. 12345

All these digits are height about 3½mm. They exist with numbers 11xxx, 12xxx, 13xxx, 14xxx and 15xxx (10xxx may exist, but I've never seen one).

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<sup>1</sup> Paul, Curt; Zensurstempel, -streifen und -zettel in Detuschland und Osterreich ab 1945; about 1952  
<sup>2</sup> Wolter, Karl; Die Postzensur; about 1960  
<sup>3</sup> Esrati, Steve; Why don't we know?; G.P. Specialist Aug 1971  
Contributions and some drawings by Ken Mears

2.

(b) "Plain" digits - i.e. 12345

These digits are all height about  $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm (except a few I have seen with number 109xx which are about  $5-5\frac{1}{2}$ mm). These digits are found only with numbers 10xxx.

G-2 The "Eagle" die



This die was introduced during April 1946 to denote mail which had been examined (based on documentation, not guesswork). It appears (still not documented) that the first digit of the 5 digit number denotes the location of the censorship office: 1 = Bavaria  
2 = Hesse  
3 = Berlin  
4 = Baden-Württemberg.

A variety of this die exists which shows no number. This was used on mail released unexamined (see Berlin mark G-3, but it was also evidently put to this use by other groups). All examined mail should bear a censor number. A major variety of this mark exists (see Berlin mark C-2).

Concurrent with the introduction of the eagle die, there was to be introduced a die which read; around the edges "U.S. CIVIL CENSORSHIP", and in the center underlined the name of the office MUNICH, BERLIN, FKT., or STUTTGART. This die was to be used on mail released unexamined. Marks of this general type are known from all offices except Berlin, but usage seems to occur mostly in late 1946 or 1947. Evidently the preparation of these dies was left to the individual group.

## II RELEASED UNEXAMINED MARKINGS

All censorship markings are very common. Some of the released unexamined markings are not. Wolter assigns a point value to these marks which in some cases does not agree with my assessment of a marks scarcity, possibly because Wolter examined internal German covers while most of the ones I have seen are to the US. With each mark I give my estimate of the scarcity; rare, scarce, uncommon or common. I also give both the Wolter and Paul number, and the Wolter value (thus W 11b(10) P 3-6b denotes Wolter number 11b rated at 20 points and Paul number 3-6b). Size is mentioned only when it is the only way I have found of distinguishing two marks. Marks I have not seen I list as (not seen).

### A. Civil Censorship Division Group "A" - Munich

At war's end this group was in existence at Wideville, France. During the week of 5-11 May a location in Germany was chosen for the move. A property selected at Tegernseerlandstrasse was assigned to the rear headquarters of Third Army, so the former SS headquarters in Pullach was chosen as an operational site. On 18 June, 1945 postal operations began. This group initially had responsibility for censorship in the Eastern Military District. Operations were terminated in Sept, 1947.

This group had by far the largest number of released markings. The order of presentation is arbitrary, but I will keep similar types together. First are linear "Released CCD Group 'A'" marks, then circular marks with the same wording, then the roller cancel with "US Civil Censorship Munich", last the circular handstamps with the same wording.

A-1 W 4(30) P 1-11  
rare (not seen)

★ RELEASED ★  
C C D  
★ GROUP "A" ★

A-2 W 3(40)  
rare (not seen)

RELEASED  
C C D  
GROUP «A»

A-3 W 23(60)  
scarce-rare

A-4 unlisted  
rare

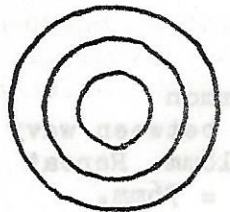


★ RELEASED ★  
C C D  
★ GROUP "A" ★

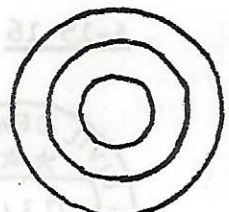


RELEASED  
C C D  
GROUP «A»

A-5 W 11a(20) P 3-6a  
rare



★ RELEASED ★  
C C D  
★ GROUP "A" ★



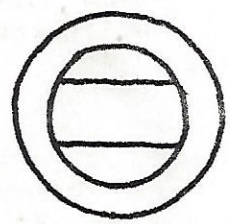
★ RELEASED ★  
C C D  
★ GROUP "A" ★

A-6 thru A-8 are the same roller cancel as A-5, but with a different insert. Only the insert is shown.

A-6 W 11b(10) P 3-6b  
rare

A-7 W 11c(8) P 3-6c  
rare

A-8 W 11d(15) P 3-6d  
rare



A-9 W 7a(30) P 1-8a  
rare (not seen)

A-10 W 7b(35) P 1-8b  
rare

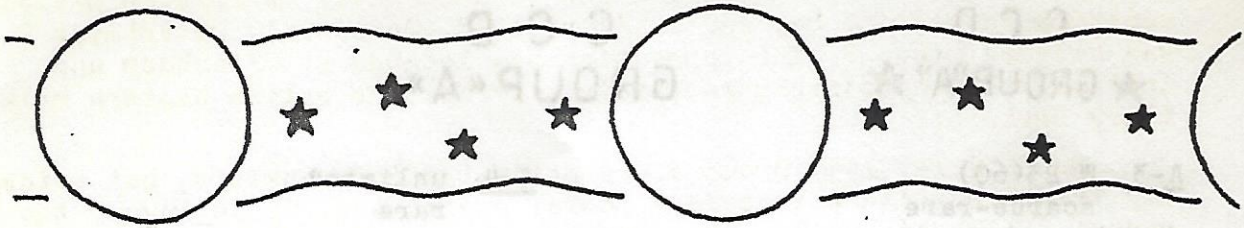
A-11 W 7c(35) P 1-8c  
rare (not seen)

similar to A-10  
but no "I"



similar to A-10  
but with "II"

A-12 thru A-17 are the following basic roller cancel with different inserts or slight variations in size. The inserts are shown individually. The continuous roller had 2 inserts, one on each side, connected by the lines.



A-12 W 24a(10) P 3-3a  
scarce-rare

A-13 W 24b(15) P 3-3b  
uncommon



I am convinced that this mark is merely a special case of mark A-14 with the date omitted. It is possible to find the roller with a type A-12 in one insert and a type A-14 in the other.



A-14 W 25(10) P 3-4  
common

A-15-16 W 26a(15) P 3-5a



A-15 common  
distance between wavy lines = 18mm. Repeat distance = 76mm.

A-16 rare (seen only on large envelopes)  
distance between wavy lines = 22mm. Repeat distance = 84mm.

A-17 W 26b(15) P 3-5b  
uncommon



A-18 W-22(50)  
rare

A-19 W-21(50)  
rare



Wolter mistakenly listed this as having 2 stars like A-18. This threw Esrati off and he continued to list the 2 stars, but did list 1 star as his variety (which is the only mark).

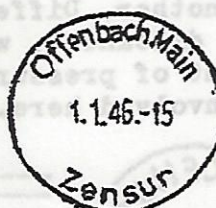
B. Civil Censorship Division Group "B" - Frankfurt (Offenbach)  
 Group "F" - Frankfurt

Group B moved to Germany from France in June or July, 1945. In France it had been named Civil Censorship Detachment, Detachment C. The Civil Censorship Detachment was renamed Civil Censorship Division sometime between 15 May and 12 July, 1945. On 12 July Detachment C was renamed Group B. This operation was located at Offenbach and initially had censorship responsibility for the entire Western Military District.

On 31 July, 1947 Group F was activated in Frankfurt, but evidently this Group did not conduct postal operations. On 18 August the postal censorship office in Offenbach was closed. Decrees state that after this date no censorship was to take place, but this fact was not to be disseminated. This is the basis of my belief that Group F conducted no postal operations. On 10 Sept, 1947 Groups B and F were inactivated.

B-1 W 27a(25) P 2-4b  
 rare (not seen)

B-2 W 27b(25) P 2-4b  
 scarce



B-3 W 14(20) P 1-7a  
 uncommon

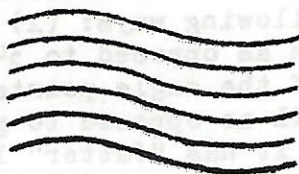
B-4 W 15(20) P 1-7b  
 uncommon

B-3 and B-4 are most easily distinguished by the orientation of the "B" in relation to the "U S". An extension of the middle bar of the "B" in B-3 passes between the U and S of US. In B-4 it passes above the S.



B-5 W 16(25) P 2-1  
 rare

B-6 W 17(25) P 2-3  
 rare



B-7 W 18(40) P 2-5  
 rare

B-8 W 13(40) P 1-4  
 rare (not seen,

in fact never seen even picture. Not sure this picture right: it's only a guess based on description)



6.

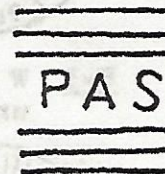
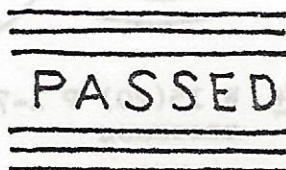
B-9 (Tentative) Paul listed as type 1-6 a mark saying "US Civil Censorship / FFM". Unfortunately no picture is provided. Since this has not been reported anywhere else it must be extremely rare, which, combined with the description, leads me to believe it is merely either mark B-3 or B-4 with the "B" omitted.

C. Civil Censorship Division Group "C" - Berlin (US Zone)

This group was established on 10 Sept, 1945. From all reports, it was a rather small group. It terminated operations in Sept, 1947.

C-1 W 12(20-30) P 3-1  
uncommon

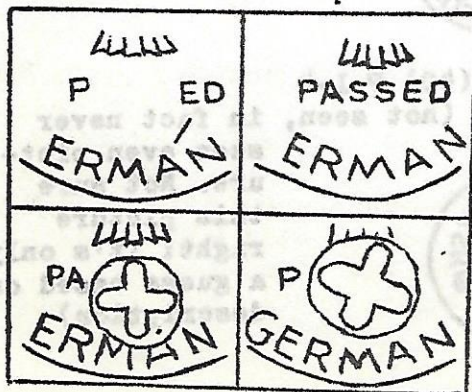
Wolter lists this mark in various sizes based on the length of the word "Passed". Esrati properly notes this seems to be a rubber mark and exists in various sizes. I have this mark with "Passed" in many sizes between 30 and 35 1/2 mm in length, and can see no concrete way to say any one of these was made by a different device than another. Differences in measurement are always based on horizontal distances, which are most susceptible to change based on amount of pressure applied. I believe there is only a single mark involved here.



C-2 W 6(20)  
scarce-rare



In Berlin they managed to create a major "confusion factor" for us, but I believe I have figured it out. A die, very similar to the censorship marking G-2 was prepared which so far has been found only on mail released unexamined. This mark (shown as C-2) can be distinguished from the censorship mark G-2 in the following ways: (1) the diameter is 35-36mm as opposed to 34mm, (2) the left wing of the eagle points to the first I of CIVIL as opposed to pointing to the V, (3) it has "fatter" lines, probably a rubber stamp, and (4) there is never a censor number under the eagle. There were obviously several of these dies prepared, as differences are found in this mark in the area under the eagle. Four known variations are shown at left.



C-3 unknown to W-P  
rare

Now, the real "confusion Factor". In addition to the previous mark (C-2), Berlin also utilized a censorship die (G-2) with the censor number blanked out on mail which was released unexamined. I am listing this as a separate mark, because it must be so considered as a released mark in Berlin, but it's important to remember it is an altered G-2 mark, not a completely different mark as all other released markings are.



D. Civil Censorship Division Group "D" - Kulmbach (earlier Nuremberg)

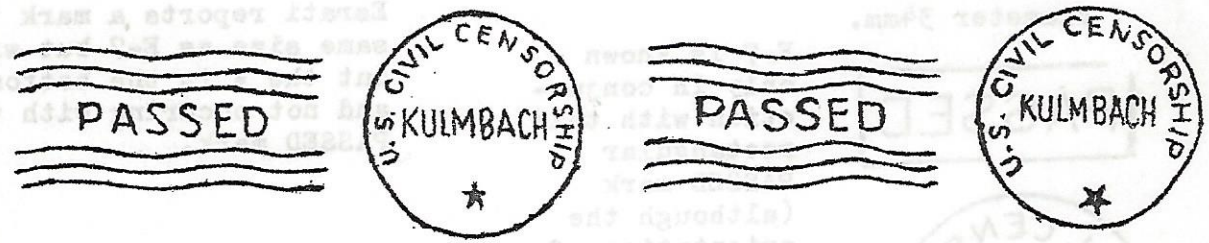
This unit was originally formed as Detachment D of Group A in Nuremberg on 27 Sept, 1945. It was evidently a small unit. On 27 Aug, 1946 it was renamed Group D and moved to Kulmbach. During it's operation it had a "field station" at Regensburg where postal censorship was also carried out. Group D was discontinued effective 11 April, 1947 with the instructions that mail previously routed to Kulmbach for censorship was to be routed to Munich. This was the first group closed and left in operation Group A (for Land Bavaria), Group B (for Land Hesse), Group C (for Berlin) and Group E (for Land Württemberg-Baden).

D-1 W 20(20) P 3-2  
scarce



D-2 W 19(25) P unknown  
rare

D-3 W unknown P 2-2  
rare



D-2 and D-3 are very interesting. Both Paul and Wolter had recognized the existance of one of these marks, but each had a different mark. Wolter had the key, as he reports his mark in red, while Paul reported lilac. I have seen D-2 only in red, and D-3 only in violett (or lilac). The only other way I have found to distinguish these (and the definitive way) is in the star in the bottom. D-2 has a star "point up", like the D-1 continous roller, while D-3 has the star "point down". In addition, the star in D-2 is higher inside the circle than the star in D-3.



8.

E. Civil Censorship Division Group "E" - Stuttgart (Esslingen)

This group was originally formed as Detachment E of Group B on 13 August, 1945 in Esslingen (near Stuttgart). On 23 Nov, 1945 it was renamed Group E. Some of the functions of this group were eventually moved to downtown Stuttgart. This group had a "field station" at Karlsruhe. This Group discontinued operations on 25 April, 1947. It was the second Group closed, leaving Groups A,B, and C active. Mail normally censored by this station was rerouted to Offenbach (Group B).

E-1 W 28(40) P 1-3  
rare



E-2 W 8a(25) P 1-9  
scarce  
diameter 29mm.



E-3 W 8b(30) Tentative

Wolter reports a mark like E-2, diameter 27mm. Nobody here has seen this. Esrati has seen a mark 30mm with 3.5mm letters, in violet (E-2 found in black). So there probably is another marking here.

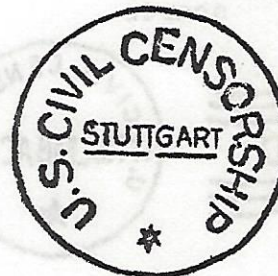
E-4 W 29(25) P 1-5  
scarce  
STUTT GART 20mm.  
diameter 34mm.



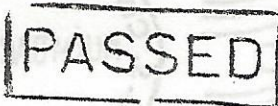
E-5 unlisted  
rare  
STUTT GART 20mm.  
diameter 38mm.



E-6 unlisted  
scarce  
STUTT GART 18 1/2 mm.  
diameter 35mm.



E-7 unlisted  
rare  
STUTT GART 18 1/2 mm.  
diameter 34mm.



E-7 is known only in conjunction with this rectangular PASSED mark (although the orientation of the circle and rectangle vary, proving they were two different stamps).



E-8 unlisted Tentative

Esrati reports a mark the same size as E-7 but without the \* in the bottom, and not occurring with the PASSED mark.

F. Both Wolter and Paul report a mark saying "Group Z". None of us have seen this, and my studies have not indicated a Group Z. I hope further information on this mark and it's origin will be forthcoming.