



GERMANY PHILATELIC SOCIETY 1945-1948 LOCALS STUDY AND RESEARCH GROUP

Vol. 1 No. 3

Oct/Nov/Dec 1968

Director: Alfred Heinz, 1 Circle Drive, Sunset Village
Flemington, N.J. 08822

Co-Director: Harry Meier, 4 Lawn Terrace, Cranford N.J. 07016

Information: Donald Slawson, Route 6, Box 173, Winchester, Va. 22601
Myron Hill, P.O.Box 91081, Cleveland, Ohio 44101

PRE-CONVENTION ISSUE

Look at our new facing page, courtesy of Frank Roehl. Looks pretty impressive, nicht wahr? This will also be used as stationary on locals group business. Incidentally, besides the actual cost of printing this also cost Frank the stamps pictured here, as the printers affixed these to the page with rubber cement (much to my horror, since I was the one who took care of getting these printed). Anyway, I think we owe Frank a real vote of thanks for this.

I'm hoping all our bulletins will continue to be as big as this one. Notice a lot of this issue is taken from U.S. Government publications. These do not perhaps deal with "philately" itself, but are very useful in providing "background information". Since many of us are interested in the postal history aspect I hope the others are willing to put up with this and may even find it interesting. These publications also have the definite advantage that they are not copyrighted, so can be freely reproduced.

Although this does not pertain only to our field, the second quarter Philatelic Literature Review has an excellent article on "Current West German Philatelic Literature" by Charles J. Peterson (this is also reported in the Sept. Specialist). There are many good publications mentioned here. Information on the P.L.R. is available from Daniel W. Vooy, editor, P.O.Box 187, Canajoharie N.Y. 13317.

If any of you have a "pet project" you would like to see done, or even better a project you wish to tackle yourself, please let me know. I already have a demand for a listing of the time and area where each issue of our period was valid. This sounds worthwhile. Anyone feel like tackling it? Perhaps someone could head this with everyone sending him what they can contribute, and a listing be worked out on this basis. Much of this is in Michel, but if it could be worked up in graph form to show overlapping validities, etc. it may be a more effective presentation.



**Gebühr
bezahlt**

Now, the most important news last. On 27 Sept. Al Heinz, Harry Meier, Ben Beede, Frank Roehl, Werner Bohne, John Barbour, and myself had a get-together at Harries house. A number of items came out of this meeting. First, we would like to have a meeting at NOJEX. This will give some of the other members a chance to express their views, and ideas we have come up with can be modified if desired. Our plans for this meeting? Unfortunately we have nothing concrete. Since a number of our members are directors, etc. they do not know when they will be available. Definately the meeting will be on Saturday. As far as I know my wife will be helping at the G.P.S. booth and she should always have the latest information on our plans. If she is not there I will see to it that someone knows our plans, so we'll leave it at check the G.P.S. booth for locals group plans.

I will be happy to meet all of you who are there. I have a room at the Treat Thursday thru Saturday, so any evening can probably be found there. During the days my whereabouts can be learned from my wife (if you can find her), or if you see two small boys raising a rumpus these will probably be mine, and they should know where to find me.

Now, what transpired at the meeting. Bad news first. Effective the first bulletin of next year, two dollars a year dues will be charged for membership. This may seem a bit steep, but we have come up with some ideas which should make this almost a bargain. First, I believe the bulletin will continue to carry some good material. I have several excellent articles which I am hoping we will get permission to print.

Second, Frank Roehl has agreed to provide an "auction watching service". This will consist of watching 3 or 4 of the top German auctions, Xeroxing the sections containing material of our period, and mailing a copy of this to each member in sufficient time for him to bid. Assuming each auction is held 4 or 5 times a year this means 15 to 20 mailings per year per member. This will commence probably later this year, the only things being necessary to get this going are 1. I get address labels for the membership to Frank, and 2. arrival of a suitable catalog from Germany.

Third, we will definately have free forgeries available. This will be handled by Werner Bohne and will probably be working by the first bulletin next year. Definate instructions will be given on how this will work when the project is a little further along.

Fourth, commencing with the first bulletin next year we will, at intervals (hopefully with every bulletin), have a mail sale. This will consist of material submitted by members for this purpose. Perhaps a small commission (5 or 10 percent) will be charged, but this will be decided on later. There will be more instructions on how to submit material in the next bulletin, and this will be kicked off with over 7000DM Michel of Franks material.

Fifth, we are hoping to maintain a close relationship with one or more German dealers who will work with us the way Heweker works with the HOP group. This would mean we will have some good material offered through sales lists included with the bulletin.

So that's it for now. Perhaps more good news next time as a result of what happens at Newark. I hope to see a number of you there. So far, Myron Hill and Fred Ostberg are the only ones who were not at our meeting who will be there. I certainly hope more of you will be able to make it. Now, off with our articles.

G-2 SECTION, 12th ARMY GROUP
 REPORT OF OPERATIONS (FINAL NUMBER ACTION REPORT)
 Censorship Branch

General

A. Organization

Under Intelligence Directive No. 23, Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force, dated 9 January 1945, responsibility for the establishment and operation of Civil Censorship in Germany, both prior to and after cessation of hostilities, was delegated to Army Group Commanders in their respective operational areas. The Commanding General, 12th Army Group was charged with the responsibility for coordination of civil censorship procedures and regulations in both 12th and 6th Army Group areas.

The Censorship Branch was organized and established as part of the G-2 Section, 12th Army Group on 10 Feb. 1945, its mission being to assist the AC of S, G-2 in his responsibilities for the formulation of policies and the operational control of censorship of authorized civil communications in Germany.

The responsibility for civil censorship operations prior to transfer of such operations to this headquarters was delegated to Civil Censorship Detachment, ETOUSA, General Order No. 6, Headquarters Special Troops, ETOUSA, dated 12 Feb. 1944. Subsequently, this order was rescinded on 18 May 1944 and the operational control of Civil Censorship Detachment placed with the AC of S, G-2, SHAFF, where it remained until transferred to this headquarters on 9 Jan. 1945. In July 1945, Civil Censorship detachment, ETOUSA was redesignated as Civil Censorship Division with no other change in organization or command.

During the period between 10 Feb. and VE Day, the progress of the military situation in German territory occupied by Allied Forces necessitated certain changes to insure the efficient development of the Civil Censorship Organization for Germany. In the original plans only a small number of censorship personnel were provided at this headquarters for censorship planning prior to the surrender of the German Armed Forces. As initially established, Censorship Branch consisted of 3 army officers, 3 enlisted men and 1 naval officer, the latter being specially attached for coordination of civil censorship telecommunication activities. Under the existing situation the armies encountered problems in civil communications control that required immediate action because of security hazards. Additionally, the volume of captured mail and telecommunication material to be collected, examined and allocated exceeded all preliminary estimates. Consequently, additional personnel was assigned. The activities of the branch were sub-divided into 5 categories: Executive, Administration, Postal, Information and Records, and Electrical Groups. As of 31 July 1945, personnel in the G-2 Censorship Branch was categorically assigned as follows:

Executive	Postal Group	Electrical Group
3 U.S. Army Officers	3 U.S. Army Officers	1 Naval Officer
2 War Dept. Employees	1 War Dept. Employee	1 U.S. Army Officer
1 Enlisted Man	2 Enlisted Men	1 Enlisted Man

17.

Information & Records Group

2 U.S. Army Officers
2 War Dept. Employees
6 Enlisted Men

Administrative Group

3 U.S. Army Officers
1 War Dept. Employee
14 Enlisted Men & 1 WAC

The Civil Censorship Division, ETOUSA, which was operationally responsible to this headquarters and which effected civil censorship operations in the areas under command of this headquarters, had been established during the period as follows:

a. Headquarters Civil Censorship Division, was responsible for the administration of all civil censorship establishments and personnel with headquarters located at Lonsay, France.

b. Detachment "A", Civil Censorship Division, activated May 1945, for the purpose of providing civil censorship control in the Munich Censorship District, covering the Territory of the Eastern Military District with headquarters located at Pullach near Munich.

c. Detachment "C", Civil Censorship Division, activated May 1945, for the purpose of providing civil censorship control in the Frankfurt Censorship District, covering the territory of The Western Military District with headquarters located at Offenbach, near Frankfurt.

On 27 Feb. 1945, there was established a reception and training center at Wideville, France in the Paris area, known as District "A". Military and U.S. civilian personnel were processed and provided with a basic background of censorship techniques and upon completion of this training transferred to either the Frankfurt or Munich Censorship Districts. On 30 June 1945, District "A" was closed and remaining personnel transferred to the Munich and Frankfurt Censorship Districts.

A similar district was established on 5 April 1945, for the same purpose at Bailly, France in the Paris area, and was known as District "B". Both Districts "A" and "B" were under the administrative control of Headquarters Civil Censorship Division but were operationally responsible to the AC of S, G-2 of this headquarters. As of 31 July 1945, District "B" had completed plans for discontinuing operations prior to transfer of remaining personnel to Germany.

B. Civil Censorship District Organization

1. Each Civil Censorship District was commanded by a District Controller as the senior censorship officer in his District and was responsible to the AC of S, G-2, Censorship Branch, for the fulfillment of the censorship mission in the district.

2. The district Controller was responsible for the efficient operation of all censorship activities within his district, such as the District Station, field stations and control points, as well as for coordination among the Postal, Electrical, Administration and Information and Records Division under his command.

3. Administration Division: provided for personnel recruitment, administration and financial operations for the Censorship District.

4. Electrical Communications Division: The District Electrical Censor was responsible for operating efficiency of all Electrical Communications Censorship activities within the Censorship District; more specifically, all censorship activities related to telephone, telegraph, teletype, and wireless telegraph and telephone civil communications.

5. Postal Division: The District Postal Censor was responsible for the operating efficiency of all postal and travelers censorship activities within the district.

6. Information and Records Division: The District Information and Records Officer was responsible for the efficient operation of the Division within the district. More specifically, the distribution of the Zone Watch List to the Postal and Electrical Divisions, allocation of submissions to user agencies as provided in the Zone Requirements Guide, reproduction of submissions, the dissemination of such information, and contact with local user agencies as to their intelligence needs.

C. Responsibilities

Under basic SIAEF Directives, this headquarters was charged with planning for future operations and physical establishment of its censorship operating agencies.

D. Personnel

1. Military. The Military Table of Organization drawn up for Civil Censorship operations in Germany provides for 140 officers and 867 enlisted men and women. Many of this personnel are German-speaking and censorship trained. As of 31 July 1945, military personnel assigned to civil censorship operations were grouped as follows:

Hq. Civil Censorship Division	Officers		Total
	Munich Censorship District	Frankfurt Censorship District	
20	40	40	100
80	Enlisted Personnel		
	260	260	600
		Grand total	700

2. U.S. Civilians. On 17 Feb. 1945, a special Civil Censorship Division personnel procurement team was sent to the United States for the purpose of recruiting trained civilians for censorship duty in the zones occupied by U. S. Forces in Germany. Personnel were interviewed and processed through the Overseas Branch, Civilian Personnel Division, Office of the Secretary of War. The first increment of U. S. civilians arrived in France in March 1945, being trained and assigned at Headquarters, Civil Censorship Detachment, ETOUSA. As of 31 July 1945, U. S. civilians attached to civil censorship operations were assigned as follows:

Hq. Civil Censorship District	Munich Censorship Division	Frankfurt Censorship District	Total
21	125	125	271

3. Allied Civilians. French civilians were recruited in the Paris area and assigned to Headquarters, Civil Censorship Detachment, ETOUSA

for training and Divisional assignment. Subsequently, the policy of the French Government precluded the possibility of transferring such personnel to Germany thus necessitating the release of approximately 300 French civilians in the month of June. During the period of 10 Feb. to 31 July 1945, numerous attempts were made to recruit qualified personnel in Belgium and Luxembourg. The current labor policy of these countries has been such as to preclude employment of adequate personnel. Allied civilians were being recruited in London for civil censorship assignments in Germany. As of 31 July 1945, three increments of approximately 50 persons each had arrived at Headquarters, Civil Censorship Division for training and assignment in Germany.

4. Indigenous Personnel. The employment of indigenous civilians as of 31 July 1945 is in its initial phase in the Munich and Frankfurt Censorship Districts under the following conditions:

a. Indigenous German civilians will be used in censorship activities and under such conditions as will present no counter-intelligence problem, and only after a satisfactory security check.

b. The established plan provides for sufficient numbers of army officers and War Dept. employees to meet the minimum staff requirements in order to supervise the estimated 3500 indigenous civilians required. As of 31 July 1945, approximately 600 were employed.

E. Civil Censorship Activities Prior to Surrender

1. Advanced Censor Sections. Mobile censorship teams were composed of two U.S. Army officers, one enlisted man, a technician Wire Chief, specially trained in the use of electrical Civil Censorship monitoring equipment, and one EM driver. Each section was provided with a $1\frac{1}{2}$ ton truck in which was mounted a special telecommunications censoring unit. At least one of the officers possessed a fluent knowledge of the German language and one other continental language and both were trained in postal and electrical civil censorship techniques.

The first of the Advanced Censor Sections was attached to Headquarters, Ninth U.S. Army on 7 Jan. 1945. In addition to this section, one section was attached to the First U.S. Army, two sections attached to the Third U.S. Army, three sections attached to the Fifteenth U.S. Army and one section to the 6th Army Group. Their mission was to survey captured communications; determine that all mail and telegrams had been impounded and that these services had stopped; examine impounded material for items of operational interest and forwarding to the nearest G-2 Documents Section; transmit remaining communications to Headquarters, Civil Censorship Division for examination; and to maintain liaison with G-2 and G-5 agencies and Signals.

2. Special Teams. Special Censorship Units were attached to "T" Force Groups assigned to exploit targets in the cities of Frankfurt, Cologne and Trier. In Cologne the mission of the censorship unit was to locate a German censorship station. Documents, indicating the existence of such a station, were found providing valuable information concerning German censorship not previously available. Similar valuable intelligence material was located in Trier, particularly locations of material and electrical censorship equipment. In Frankfurt a complete censorship

laboratory was discovered. This cache proved to be of great value to the Signal Intelligence Division of the War Dept. in study of German Intelligence methods.

3. Information and Records. The requirements of this headquarters, SHAEF Staff Sections, the US Group CC, and agencies of Allied Governments, have been ascertained, the information collated, and distributed to appropriate users and Censorship Districts.

A zone watch list comprised of names received from SHAEF has been prepared at this headquarters by the G-2 Censorship Branch. The Zone Watch List has been provided to each Censorship District for use in postal and electrical censorship.

During the period from 10 Feb. to 31 July 1945 the production of the Information and Records Division is represented in part by the following figures:

Total Submissions Received from Postal and Electrical Divisions	Total Number Allocated
4142	2995

The types of submission allocated during that period contained information on subjects of which the following are typical examples:

BUSINESS, FINANCE & ECONOMICS

- (a) German Trade Relations with foreign countries
- (b) Location of Stock, Supplies and Raw Materials
- (c) Previous Metal Transactions
- (d) Reports on Production of German Industry
- (e) Black Market Operations
- (f) Activities of German Banks

COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) Clandestine Radio Transmitting Stations
- (b) Use of Codes
- (c) Attempted Evasion of Censorship

INTELLIGENCE & COUNTER-INTELLIGENCE

- (a) Hiding of Documents, Weapons, Valuables, etc.
- (b) Activities of Collaborators
- (c) Concealed Addresses; Movement of Government Offices and Factories
- (d) Underground Movements

POLITICS

- (a) Political Statements, Publications, etc.
- (b) Post-War Plans
- (c) German Personages of Special Interest, Incl. Members of the NSDAP and Related Organizations
- (d) German-Japanese Relations

SCIENCE

- (a) Reports on Technical Research
- (b) Inventions, New Processes, etc.

21.

4. Postal Division

The activities of the Postal Communications Division prior to VE day were mainly concerned with:

1. Development of policy and planning at this headquarters.
2. Coordinating Postal activities associated with the operations of Advanced Censor Sections attached to armies under command of this headquarters.
3. Establishing a Postal Division Training program for use in training military, U.S. and Allied civilian personnel at Headquarters, Civil Censorship Division, Districts "A" and "D" and the Munich and Frankfurt Censorship Districts.

Examination and sorting of captured postal communications sent to the rear by Advanced Censor Sections produced valuable intelligence information which was disseminated by the Information and Records Division. The production record for the period from 10 Feb. 1945 to 31 July 1945, was represented by the following figures:

Pieces Sorted	Pieces Examined	Submissions
1,594,194	834,175	2,772

These totals do not include captured mail which was collected, sorted and dispatched to British Postal and Telegraph Censorship, or other communications allocated to G-2 Documents, SHAETF, Security Control Technique, Paris and other Allied Censorship agencies for further action by those agencies.

Close liaison was established by the Postal Division at this headquarters with other Staff Sections, SHAETF, U.S. Group C.C. and other Allied censorship groups and contributed substantially to the coordination of the overall inter-Allied censorship plans and policy.

5. Electrical Communications Division

The activities of the Electrical Communications Division prior to VE Day were mainly concerned with:

1. Development of policy and planning at this headquarters.
2. Coordinating censorship operations of Advanced Censorship Sections (mobile teams) attached to armies under command of this headquarters.
3. Establishing an Electrical Communications Division training program for use in training military, U.S. and Allied civilian personnel at Headquarters, Civil Censorship Division, Districts "A" and "B", and the Munich and Frankfurt Censorship Districts.
4. Examination of captured telecommunications material such as telegrams and cablegrams sent to the rear areas by Advanced Censor Sections, which has proved a valuable source of intelligence information.

In conjunction with the overall civil censorship plan, constant liaison was maintained by the Electrical Division with 21st Army Group and other Allied and U.S. agencies contributing to the integrated Allied-American civil censorship plan and policy. Technical equipment and qualified personnel were made available to Allied Censorship Groups in liberated territories, principally Belgium and Luxembourg.

During the operational phases of the European campaign it was necessary frequently to permit limited means of communication to German nationals which would be of assistance to Military Government for the operation of essential services such as power lines, canals, mines and railroads. The reopening of such services have been coordinated by the G-2, Censorship Branch Electrical Communications Group with other Staff Sections, with SHAEF and with the pertinent U.S. Armies under control of this headquarters. When these channels of communications were authorized, this headquarters directed the assignment of civil censorship units to exercise surveillance to ascertain that approved channels of communication were utilized as intended.

6. Post Hostilities Civil Censorship Activities

Since cessation of hostilities the emphasis of this branch was placed on the physical establishment of its operating agencies. District Censorship Stations were obtained prior to VE Day at Munich-Pullach and Frankfurt-Offenbach, Germany, known as Frankfurt Censorship Censorship District and Munich Censorship District, Civil Censorship Division. Censorship personnel were transferred immediately from Headquarters, Civil Censorship Division, and Districts "A" and "B". Communications then recently captured were shipped to the Frankfurt and Munich Censorship Districts where censorship action was taken. Advanced Censor Sections were returned by the armies to which attached and assigned to duty at the Frankfurt and Munich Censorship Districts. Local telephone and postal censorship operations were established as communications on a limited basis were gradually reopened by Military Government. Use of a limited number of mobile units for local surveillance was planned and a censorship group assigned for duty at the Bremen Enclave.

Civilian personnel recruitment to provide personnel in sufficient numbers for the accomplishment of the civil censorship mission in Germany continued as a matter of immediate importance. Recruiting teams were engaged in personnel procurement in the United Kingdom and the United States and initial plans drawn up for a similar program in Switzerland.

Close liaison with 21st Army Group, US Group CC and other Allied Censorship organizations was established with a view towards bringing to a satisfactory culmination mutual civil censorship problems.

(to be continued)

Notes on the Postal History of Germany
1945-48

by Oscar Winter, F.R.P.S.L.

(This is the first of a series of articles which began in the June 1968 issue of Germania, the publication of the Germany and Colonies Philatelic Society in England. Mr. Winter has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London; he is also a member of the Berliner Philatelisten-Club 1888. We hope that Mr. Winter will be able to devote more of his time to aspects of philately outlined in his articles.)

After the collapse of the Nazi-regime and the occupation of Germany by the allied armies, no effective civil administration existed, likewise all Postal communication was disrupted.

Recovery was slow, many stages were passed through from local messenger on foot or pedal-cycle to the present fully operational Postal Service. Recovery was influenced by the various political structures that existed, and still exist, at one time five different Authorities issued their own stamps in Germany:- Anglo/American zone, East-Zone, French zone, Saar and West Berlin.

While the American and British governments had prepared stamps in advance to be issued as and when their forces would occupy Germany (Air-Post), neither the French nor the Russians had done so. This resulted in cash franking being carried out in the French zone until newly printed stamps were available at the counters by Dec. '45/Jan. '46 and in the Saar-land Jan./March 1947, a full year later.

Large quantities of stamps had been dispersed by the Nazis prior to their defeat to smaller Post-Offices mainly in the Russian zone, these were used after the face or emblem had been suitably defaced. At first this defacing was left to the ingenuity of the serving counter-clerks. They used corks, ink-bottle stoppers and other means until more elaborate methods up to letterpress overprinting became available.

From these few facts alone one can gather what chaos was created for the philatelist, the situation is made even more complex by the unavailability of suitable printing machinery, lack of raw materials, an almost complete lack of skilled labour, plus the fact that no centralized Postal Authority was anywhere in existence. The Allied Control Commission, although issuing orders, were not in a position to control the situation and the administration of the Postal Services was largely in the hands of local Postmasters.

Germany's Postal history from 1945-1948 with all its aspects of genuine trial and unscrupulous manoeuvres has still to be written. Too little is known because the population was far too occupied with the daily demands of living for anyone to pay proper attention to the sequence of events as they took place. We have therefore to piece the facts together like a jig-saw from covers and postcards of that period.

I have already mentioned cash franking, at all times in Germany, Postmasters have had the authority to use this method when adhesives were not available either in certain denominations or not at all for mailing any postal matter. To my knowledge no directions were issued on how this was to be done other than the fact that the customer had paid the proper postage fee was to be marked on the cover.

It was left to the discretion of the local postmaster to decide how this could best be done, originally post offices were supplied with some form of standard rubber-stamp in varying sizes. It was never envisaged that this expediency would remain in use for an extended period as happened then.

In time rubber-stamps wore out and needed replacing, in many cases this was not possible as there was no-one who could make one and in any case supplies of rubber were non-existent. One can imagine the diversity of alternatives that came into use once the original rubber stamp became unusable. Other rubber stamps were used on which the wording was not really appropriate but still indicated that the necessary postage had been paid in advance.

In time of course these alternative rubber-stamps became worn and in turn were replaced with another one with the next best wording available, found perhaps in some dark corner. Inappropriate wording was cut off. Where such makeshifts were not possible then new rubber-stamps were composed from children's play sets.

Since during the first months of 1945 no parcels were conveyed at all, some of the larger post offices requisitioned the cash registers from the parcel counter for use on the letter counter. This was done at Aschaffenburg and Dusseldorf, I found proof that such cash-register franking was carried out in Nuremberg as well.

There were quite a number of post offices where no rubber stamps of any description were available, in these the counter-clerks signified the pre-payment of postage by handwritten remarks together with his initials (sometimes this was not done), in addition to the date cancelling.

However we find many cases where the original date cancellors had been lost, either through war action or through confiscation because it had contained some Nazi slogan, or because some person(s) from the occupying forces thought it would make a nice memento.

In such places an ordinary date rubber-stamp was used plus another one with the place name, sometimes the date was marked by hand, I have not yet seen a case of the place-name being inserted by hand but that does not mean there were none.

A very special case where cash-franking-cancellors were used was established in Saxony. Here, large quantities of the old stamps were available at the post offices which could only be used if defaced. Since, as mentioned before, this defacing was left to individual counter-clerks or the sender when posting in a box or at a counter, the receiving office did not know whether this piece of mail was properly paid for by the sender and postage was asked to be paid for again from the addressee.

To overcome this difficulty it was agreed between the postmasters of the various towns that their round or oval cancellors should be used which contained the words "Gebuhr bezahlt" or "Bezahlt", this cancellor to be applied in red, it was applied in black as well, but it cleared the air.

Mail was accepted with stamps defaced by the sender only during the first few weeks, this practice was stopped to prevent abuse. I have a local letter from Leipzig dated 8.8.45 and properly franked with stamps as issued in Dresden June 1945. The clerk accepting the letter apparently

from a box collection did not know that these stamps were valid in Leipzig as well and placed a "12" in red rubber-stamp onto the letter indicating that the addressee had to pay "postage due"

(to be continued)

I have already been called on my statement in the last issue that foreign postal service began "late" in 1946. Ben Beede sent me the following which I am printing because it clarifies this (also proves my statement a little inaccurate).

MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF GERMANY
MONTHLY REPORT OF MILITARY GOVERNOR U.S. ZONE
20 APRIL 1946 NO. 9

COMMUNICATIONS

Postal

The Coordinating Committee of the Allied Control Authority, at its forty seventh meeting on 26 March 1946, agreed that International Postal Service for Germany to and from all countries in the world excluding Japan and its dependancies and Spain would begin on 1 April 1946. Correspondence is limited to non-illustrated post cards and letters up to 20 grams in weight and contents are restricted to purely personal and domestic affairs. The complete paper as approved by the Coordinating Committee, including data on the establishment of this service, correspondence to be permitted, rates and instructions, is attached as Annex "C" to this report.

Arrangements for the interchange of mail between the German Reichspost and Army Post Offices have been completed for official and personal use of American personnel in this theatre. Stuttgart, Munich, Frankfurt a/M and Berlin were designated as interchange points.

POSTAL VOLUME March 1946

Reichspost Districts	Mail Service		Delivery of Newspapers		Parcel Post	
	Offices Participating	Pieces Handled (x1000)	Offices Participating	Pieces Handled (x1000)	Offices Participating	Pieces Handled (x1000)
TOTAL	8,573	92,558	4,380	14,278	6,810	872
Frankfurt	2,519	20,284	2,443	2,963	2,251	107
Karlsruhe	570	8,337	492	121	570	56
Stuttgart	1,278	10,053	700	313	1,278	101
Munich	1,832	20,400	2	9,953	388	240
Regensburg	669	6,290	669	656	669	202
Nuremberg	1,656	11,521	51	241	1,654	166
Berlin (U.S.Sector)	49	15,673	23	31	-	-

Figure 9.

During March, originating mail in the U.S. Zone increased only slightly over the previous month with a total volume of approximately 93,000,000 pieces handled in comparison with 90,000,000 pieces for February. Delivery of newspapers by the Reichspost showed a decrease of approximately 2,500,000 pieces, a reduction in volume of 15 percent over the previous month. The volume of parcel post handled increased by 17 percent to 872,000 pieces. Figure 9 indicates the postal volume by Reichspost Districts for March 1946.

ANNEX "C"

INTERNATIONAL POSTAL SERVICE FOR GERMANY

Establishment of International Postal Service

The Coordinating Committee, at its forty-seventh meeting on 26 March 1946 agreed that an international Postal Service between Germany and other countries coming under the Universal Postal Union, with the exclusion of Japan and her dependencies and Spain will be established as of 1 April 1946.

Categories of Permitted Correspondence

- a) Ordinary post cards.
- b) Ordinary letters up to a weight of 20 grams.

Conditions

The post cards must not be illustrated. The envelopes must not be lined or carry designs or indications other than the address of the sender and addressee and any necessary postal directions.

The correspondence must deal exclusively with personal and domestic matters. No correspondence of a commercial character will be allowed.

The correspondence will be subject to Censorship.

Senders in Germany will be required to show on the back of the items posted the following particulars:

1. Name of sender
2. Town
3. Street and House Number
4. Province 1/
5. Postal Addressing District Number
6. Zone of Occupation 1/
7. Germany

The address used on correspondence posted in other countries for Germany should conform with the above requirements, but if the Postal Addressing District Number or the Zone of Occupation is not known to the sender, correspondence will be accepted if addressed with the following particulars:

1. Name
2. Town
3. Street and House Number
4. Province
5. Germany

In order to avoid delay to their correspondence, senders are specifically enjoined to include the appropriate Postal Addressing District Number and Zone of Occupation in the Address.

Correspondence may not be addressed "Poste Restante (General Delivery)" but private box numbers may be used provided the name of the box-holder is included.

Correspondence coming into Germany from other countries may be written in any language but outgoing correspondence originating in Germany will be limited to four languages, namely, Russian, English, French and German.

Rates

International postage rates for correspondence emanating from Germany has been established by the Allied Control Authority as follows:

Letters.75 Pfennig.
Post cards.....45 Pfennig.

The Postal Administrations of the various countries participating in International Postal relations with Germany will publish the postage rates for international correspondence posted in their countries addressed to Germany.

SOME BERLIN COVERS 1945-6 by Benjamin R. Beede

This article is merely intended to describe a few items in my collection without going into the postal history of the period at length. In part it is a supplement to the late Professor McKenzie's article "Berlin Postal History 1945-1960" in the American Philatelic Congress Book for 1960. Not all of the items can be explained easily, but hopefully some GPS members will have pertinent comments:

1. Letter sheet mailed by a German prisoner of war at Frankfurt/Oder. Message was dated July 25, 1945. The sheet bears a manuscript marking "Kriegsgefangenenpost" (Prisoner of War Mail), BUT it also has an 8 Rpf Berlin Bear with a cancellation from August 6, 1945, at Berlin-Oberschöne-weide. Presumably, at the Berlin postoffice there was some uncertainty about whether POW mail could be sent free of charge after V-E Day. Therefore, it is likely that the stamp was applied by the postoffice in Berlin. The sheet does not have a Frankfurt/Oder cancel, and it seems to me unlikely that the sender would have identified his mail as POW mail and then stuck on a postage stamp. At any rate, this is an early cover to Berlin.

2. Professor McKenzie described a cover cancelled at Berlin-Charlottenburg on January 23, 1946, but franked with a West Sachsen stamp. He theorized that the sender franked the letter, but then travelled to Berlin himself and mailed it. I cannot throw any light on the accuracy of other theories for this cover that Professor McKenzie suggested, but do have a couple of similar covers:

- A. Cover with four perforate 6 Rpf Provinz Sachsen stamps. The letter is addressed to Berlin-Tempelhof, but the stamps are cancelled: "Berlin-Hermsdorf 1" and the date is March 25, 1946.
- B. Cover with a 12 Rpf Mecklenburg-Vorpommern stamp cancelled at Berlin-Spandau 1 on January 7, 1946.

Neither cover seems to be philatelic, incidentally.

3. Professor McKenzie also stated that the first date he saw on a Berlin Bear postal card was September 14, 1945. My earliest date is Sept. 8, 1945, from a town outside Berlin. So, we can presume that the postal stationery was on sale in Berlin proper several days prior to this date.

4. The most interesting item is a cover mailed at Berlin O 112 on May 15, 1946. This postoffice is in the eastern sector of the city, but the franking was two 12 Rpf AMG stamps; this was perfectly legitimate at this time. However, the cover was sent to Switzerland, which spoils the item. The franking is just not correct. Presumably, the postal officials simply made an error, for they were not used to handling foreign mail. International service only opened on April 1, 1946, nearly a year after the collapse. The cover is not philatelic, however; it is addressed to the International Red Cross.

5. Several covers in my collection were sent to Berlin early in October, 1945. These items are from the American Zone and are franked with AMG issue stamps. The problem is: postal service to Berlin began on October 24, 1945. What I wonder is whether these covers were held for two or three weeks before delivery. The covers are addressed to the missing persons bureau in Berlin. Conceivably, provision for such special services existed before the 24th, but I very much doubt it.

6. My final item comes from Berlin-Templehof. In fact, it was sent from a firm there to an office of the local government. The point of interest is the appearance of an American censorship tape and stamp. The cancellation dates from March, 1946. The franking consists of two 8 Rpf Berlin Bears. Why was a local letter censored?

MEMBERS CORNER

Let's swap AMG's (basis 1967/68 Michel Spezial)
Perfs. according to the Schwaneberger Perforation Gauge.

I have for trade:

Mint: 13D, 10F, 10G, 34A, 18B, 33B, 34B, 16C, 17C, 20C, 27C, 28C, 29C,
33C, 34C, 16D, 17D, 18D, 20D, 21D, 23D, 33D, 34D.

Used: 15D, 10F, 15F, 12G, 13G, 15G, 20x, 17C, 29C, 33C, 17D, 18D, 19D,
20D, 23D.

Plus mint and used of most of the commonest perforation varieties.

I need:

Mint: 13C, 10D, 14D, 13E, 14G, 15G, 20x, 35A, 21B, 19C, 21C,
22C, 23C, 32aC, 19D, 22D, 25D, 26D, 29D, 30D, 35D.

Used: 10B, 14D, 13E, 10G, 35A, 21B, 34B, 16C, 19C, 22C, 28C, 30C, 32aC,
34C, 22D, 25D, 26D, 29D, 30D, 31D, 33D, 34D, 35D.

Forgeries: 8,80 Rpf and 1 RM. What's your deal?

None for sale - trades only. Mucilage collectors need not apply,
most mint have been hinged.

Contact: Ed Kuehn, 1091 Iron Gate Lane, Columbus, Ohio 43213

The following lots were not sold in the 80th Dornhofer auction, and according to my understanding are available for the starting price. If interested contact Firma Heinrich Dornhofer Briefmarken-Auktionen, 68 Mannheim, 1 Eichendorffstr. 29, Postfach 571, West Germany.

Lot

5653	xx Leipziger Messe 1946 = 24+26 Pfg. Fehlfarbe violett = Mich. Nr. 164F Katalog-Preis = DM 3.000	= DM 900,-
5717	xx COTTBUS - Prachtlos = 33 Werte, Mi. Nr. 1-32 + 34	= DM 24,-
5718	x COTTBUS - bis auf Mich. 32, fein	= DM 20,-
5725	x GROSSRASCHEN - Mich. 13-24 A	= DM 20,-
5726	xx dto. 3 Sätze sehr fein	= DM 50,-
5728	x LOBAU - Handstempelaufdrucke 1 Pfg. - 1 RM, gepr.	= DM 45,-
5729	x dto. - 1 Pfg. - 2 RM feinst, gepr.	= DM 64,-
5730	o MEISSEN - 5-12 Pfg., Pracht-4-er Blocks	= DM 36,-
5731	x NIESKY 1945 - 6,6 and 12 Pfg. Prachtsatz	= DM 18,-
5734	x RAVENSBURG - 17 Werte feinst, ohne 3 Pfg.	= DM 69,-
5735	xx ROSSWEIN - 48 Pfg. mit rotem und silbernem Aufdruck	= DM 49,-
5741	(Brief, oder Karte) = 3 Pfg. 4-er Block von SPREMBERG, mit beschädigtem "g"	= DM 26,-
5742	o SPREMBERG - 8 + 12 Pfg. Kabinett-4-er Blocks m. je 1 kopfstehenden Aufdruck auf Briefstücken	= DM 75,-
5744	WITTENBERG - Kabinettbriefstück m. Mich. Nr. 21 K	= DM 30,-
5638	xx Ostsachsen - POSCHTA - Prachtrandstück, Mi. Nr. 41	= DM 200,-

Covers in the following categories are offered by member

Paul Rossbach-Emden	1. POW post from Russia
68 Mannheim 24	2. Gebühr bezahlt
Postfach 75	3. 10 times frankings
West Germany	

Mr. Boris Politziner, 1920 Bruce Lane, Grand Island, N.Y. 14072 has sent me quite a long want list. I'll fill out this page with it, and save the rest for next time. I've lost his letter, I believe he said to write with material and price before sending it.

WEST SAXONY (Used only)

Michel Nr. 120-23Y
126Z, 134Z, 135Z, 136Z (Feb 1946 on thin, coated paper)
Wz d 17, 18 Sz d 7, 8 X and Y, perf. and imperf.
(the Leipzig Fair combinations)

BERLIN

Bear issue - mixed franking with other OPD issues on cover.

1945-46 OPD issues from any province used to Allied occupation zones of Germany - on cover. Also usage of OPD issues on cover to any foreign country, especially U.S.A., U.K., France, South America and Africa.

SEE YOU AT NOJEX !!!!