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Holocaust Aftermath: War Crimes Trials – An Exhibit Preview

by

Ken Lawrence

Editor's Note: Ken Lawrence recently sent me a note accompanied by two exhibit pages, offering them to me for inclusion in an issue of the Newsletter. I have included Ken's note below, verbatim. I also, with Ken's permission and review, have included the exhibit pages, but not in the format submitted by Ken since exhibit pages do not lend themselves to newsletter format. I have taken all of the text, however, directly from the exhibit pages.

“Recent additions to my Nazi Scourge exhibit are in the last row of frame ten of my exhibit. They illuminate the trials of major Nazi war criminals at Nuremberg, Germany, after the war.

One page shows covers addressed to the chief American prosecutor, Justice Robert H. Jackson, and his deputy, Robert W. Kempner. As “postal history” they are pedestrian; as history, they serve my purpose well.

Another page shows a Soviet Zone postal card addressed to Nazi war criminal Professor Doctor Eugen von Haagen, who infected concentration camp prisoners with typhus and then recorded their agony.

Having found no contrary information, I relied on the seller's statement that the cover addressed to Haagen at the Nuremberg Justice Palace bears the only reported example of the IMT censor marking. Can any Prexie Era Newsletter collector or reader show me another example, or provide me with other insights?

The exhibit will be on display at APS Stampshow in Grand Rapids.



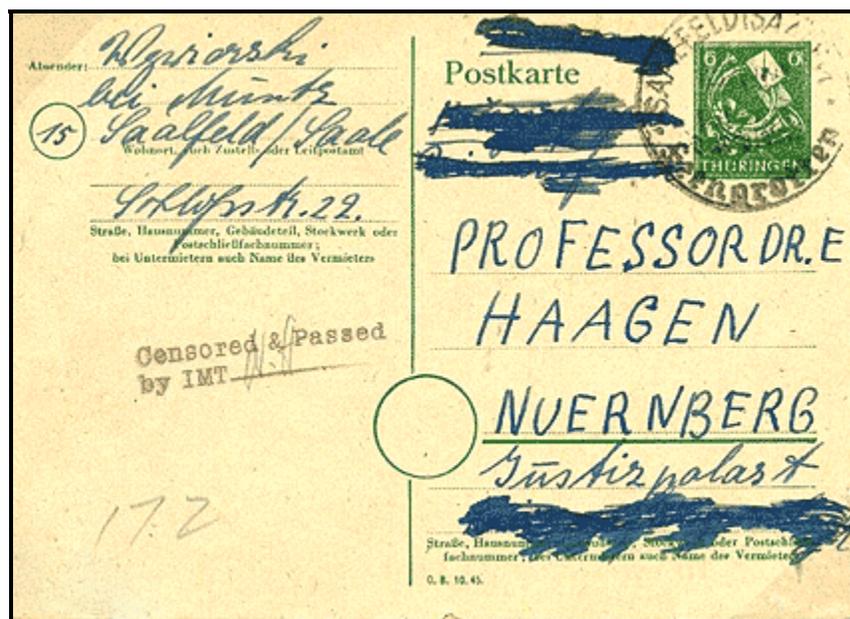
The concessionary U.S. domestic rate for airmail letters to and from over-seas active duty military personnel and civilians employed in militarily essential occupations was 6¢ per ½ oz.; postage on the Kempner letter paid double rate.

“The chief American prosecutor at the International Military Tribunal was Justice Robert H. Jackson of the United States Supreme Court. He had been Attorney General of the United States in 1940 and 1941, as the August 21, 1946, cover from a Jewish sender at Geneva titled him.

Robert W. Kempner, addressee of the October 22, 1945, cover at APO 403 (Munich), was an anti-Nazi attorney who had fled Germany in 1933. As the United States assistant chief counsel for the IMT, he was credited with finding the Wansee protocol that ordered the “final solution” of the Jewish question (*i.e.*, extermination).”

* * *

“The major Nazi war criminals were put on trial at Nuremberg. Between October 18, 1945 and October 1, 1946, twenty-two leading Nazi officials were tried by the IMT, which consisted of judges from the United States, Great Britain, France and the Soviet Union. Twelve of the defendants were sentenced to death, three to life imprisonment, and four to prison terms from ten to twenty years. The IMT acquitted three defendants. Hundreds of lower level Nazi war criminals were tried by military courts in occupied Germany, Austria, and Italy, and in the countries where they committed their crimes or where charges were brought.



6-pfennig local postal card of Thuringia in the Soviet occupation zone of Germany. Obliterations on the December 11, 1945, postal card to Professor Doctor Eugen von Haagen at the Nuremberg court reflect the change in his official status from defendant to witness. This is the *only reported example of the IMT censor marking*.

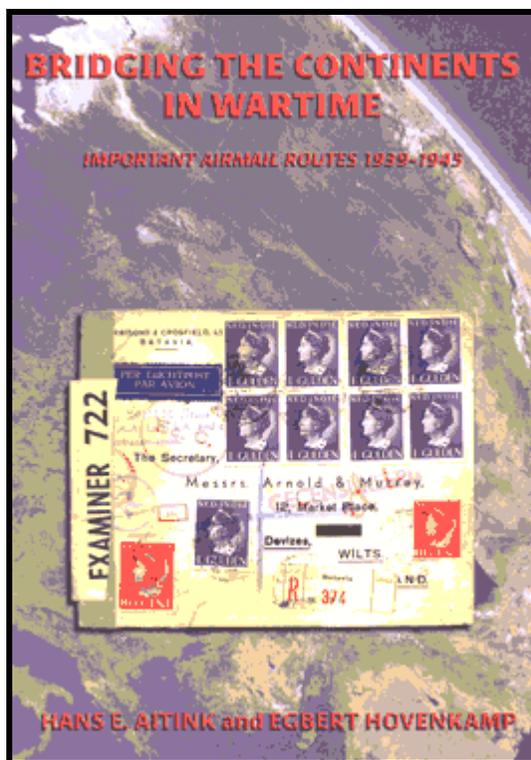
“Haagen was a professor at the University of Strasbourg and a Luftwaffe medical officer. He infected prisoners at the Natzweiler concentration camp in Alsace with typhus and hepatitis, causing many to die.

American prosecutor Telford Taylor told the IMT tribunal: ‘The general pattern of these typhus experiments was as follows: A group of concentration camp inmates, selected from the healthier ones who had some resistance to disease, were injected with an anti-typhus vaccine, the efficacy of which was to be tested. Thereafter, all the persons in the group would be infected with typhus. At the same time, other inmates who had not been vaccinated were also infected for purposes of comparison. These unvaccinated victims were called the *control group*. But perhaps the most wicked and murderous circumstances in this whole case is that still other inmates were deliberately infected with typhus with the sole purpose of keeping the typhus virus alive and generally available in the bloodstream of the inmates.’

Prosecutors brought evidence against Haagen, and he testified before the tribunal as a recalcitrant witness. He escaped prosecution at Nuremberg after U.S. intelligence agents recruited him to Project Paperclip, a secret Cold War program that employed German scientists in biomedical and aerospace military research. In 1951, French authorities arrested Haagen, convicted him of war crimes, and sentenced him to twenty years in prison.

New Book: Bridging the Continents in Wartime/Important Airmail Routes 1939 – 1945

I recently acquired the above-titled book and have started reading it. It was published in Germany, but written in passable English. As the title implies, its focus is on airmail routes and the impact of the War on those routes. It does not cover all the important routes, but only those considered important by the authors. I am, however, very glad to have this book since it has given me some new insights into some routes, their establishment, and their termination. The real value of the book lies not in the text, but in the many tables of flight lists of the routes and in the excellent route maps.



Information about the book and how to purchase it is found on the publisher's web site at www.philabooks.com.

Failure to Renew Subscriptions : Jeff Shapiro Gives Reprieve

Those of you who failed to renew either your print or digital subscriptions are nonetheless receiving this Issue of the Newsletter at the specific request of Jeff Shapiro. However, if you do not renew your subscription before the publication of Issue No. 33, you will not receive that Issue nor any subsequent Issues under this Editor.

Thoughts on the Machine Marking “CPNY”

by

Dann Mayo

Jeff Shapiro sent me a copy of the Prexie Era Newsletter with the LaLibertie response to Terrence Hines’s enquiry about the CPNY machine marking. I think that LaLibertie got it wrong.

Based on Office of Censorship documents that I read in the National Archives (but did not copy) back in the 1990s, this was an Office of Censorship marking applied by the New York branch for a short period of time (maybe only 2-3 weeks, as I recall).

“CPNY” stands for *Censorship, Postal, New York*. There are other Office of Censorship station markings for CPNO, CPSA, etc., -- there is no question about those formulations applying to the Office of Censorship field stations.¹

The reason that the correspondence located at the National Archives about this came up is because it was a non-standard marking, and the Office of Censorship was firmly against the use of non-standard markings (on the premise that people might try to evade censorship by applying their own “censor” markings).

From my recollection, the sequence of the correspondence went something like this (I am paraphrasing from memory):

- We have detected a non-standard marking on mail from New York. Is it legitimate? What do you want us to do about it? [A field office writing to the Office of Censorship]
- Office of Censorship to NY Branch: What the hell is this? [DM: The Office of Censorship tended to be a bit preemptory in its correspondence with the branches. This certainly was the tone of the letter, if not the actual text]. Are you using a non-standard marking? If so, cut it out now, if not sooner.
- New York Branch to Office of Censorship: Yes, it’s ours. We have been getting lots and lots of military and merchant marine mail that has not been censored. Since it is mostly surface mail and we were not opening it, it had gone back into the mail bags unopened to be sent on. But the Post Office kept bringing it back as uncensored mail. We just could not make it go away. We decided that we needed a way to mark a very large bunch of letters all at once, so we got this canceling machine and we put in the CPNY slug. That worked just fine. But since you told us to stop using it we have.² Now we are marking the mail bags and hoping for the best.

I hope this clears up the meaning of this marking.

Third Reich Censored Transport Issue Cover

by

Steven B. Davis

The cover shown below is postmarked November 26, 1941. It is from Plandome, NY to Hamburg, Germany, and has handwritten on the front “ via Transatlantic Airmail” to indicate the desired service.

¹ See, Section 2.8 in Broderick & Mayo, *CIVIL CENSORSHIP IN THE UNITED STATES DURING WORLD WAR II* (1980). See also, Civil Censorship Study Group Bulletin, December 1981, page 46.

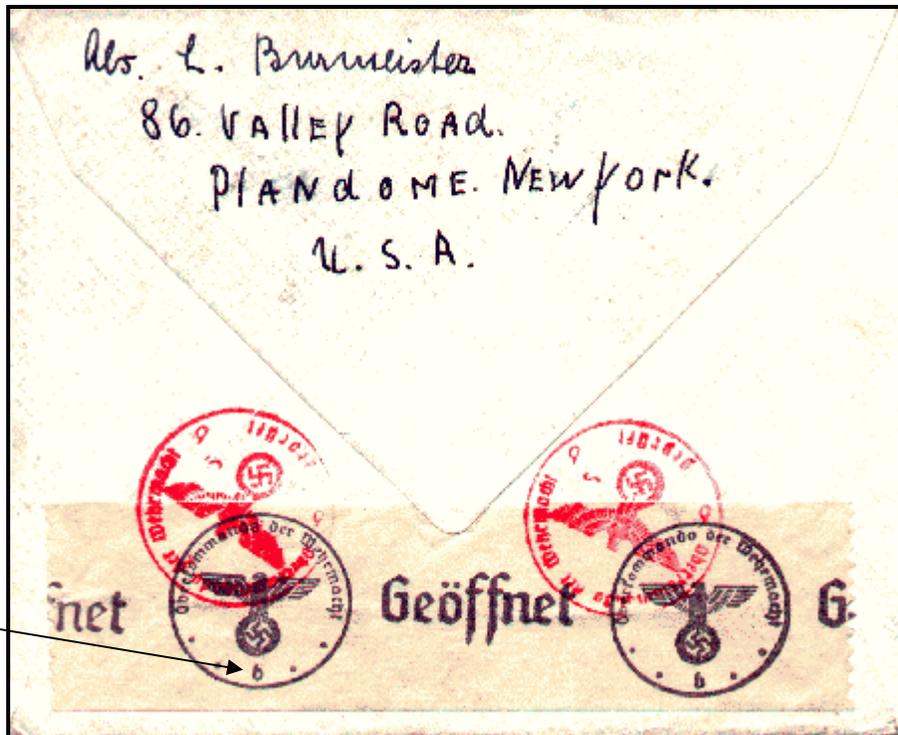
² This accounts for the short period of known uses of this marking.

At this time the United States was still a neutral country. America declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941. Germany then declared war on the United States on December 11, 1941, although Germany was under no obligation to do so under its Axis treaty with Japan.

The valid airmail rate of 30¢ per ½ oz is paid with the 30¢ Transport stamp. This cover was carried on FAM 18, New York to Lisbon, Portugal. From there Deutsche Lufthansa had an airmail route from Lisbon to Munich, Germany. Airmail letters to Germany from the United States were not accepted by the U.S. Post Office from December 11, 1941 onward when postal service was suspended to all German controlled and occupied territories. It appears that this cover made it through to its destination even though it must have arrived either just before or just after war was declared.



The reverse of the cover has Nazi German censor handstamps and a censor tape. The black censor tape markings and the red handstamps both have a small "b" inside which indicate that they were Berlin censor markings.



The red handstamp is listed as in use only between December 1941 and January 1943.

References:

- "Airmail Operations During World War II", Thomas H. Boyle, Jr., AAMS, 1998
- "Die Überwachung de Auslandsbriefverkehrs während des II", Karl-Heinz Riemer³

Reply to Editor's Comments

by

Robert Schlesinger

"Steven Roth, the editor of our newsletter, brought up⁴ two questions concerning my \$2.80 cover that ultimately went to Egypt.⁵ I would like to share what I feel are a few pertinent thoughts. I would like to address Steve's second point first, the question of which FAM flight the cover flew on. I made a typographical error; this should have been **FAM 14**, not FAM 19. I take responsibility for this mistake.

Steve's first point is, in my opinion, the more important issue, and should be explored more thoroughly than the point above. Firstly, the December 2 date was **NOT** my major point of what I was trying to say in the original article. The Postal Bulletin number 18336, dated December 1, 1941, announced that effective the next day (December 2), that there would be a new FAM route – FAM 22, and that the first flight would actually take place on December 6, 1941. My point in this regard was that all air mail going to Africa and the Middle East would be routed to Miami for that flight. My December 1, 1941, cover would not be involved in that 'gathering up' process.

One last point I would like to make. Postal Bulletin number 18348, dated December 8, 1941, (POST Pearl Harbor), stated that air mail for countries listed in the Dec 2, 1941, Postal Guide as going via the Trans Pacific route (Egypt was one of those countries) "shall be routed promptly via Miami." It seems very clear to me that this would indicate FAM 22. Since there is an ICB censor marking on the back of the cover (not shown in the article), I still feel that the cover traveled as far west as Hawaii, and was returned eastbound to Miami, Florida, to be transported to Egypt via FAM22.

The immediacy of the Pearl Harbor attack, and the extreme secrecy involved in anything coming out of Hawaii, may also explain the absence of a Miami backstamp for this cover on its way."

Mixed Frankings of Foreign Stamps with Prexie Era Stamps

by

Dickson Preston

Legitimate mixed frankings of Prexie era stamps with stamps of other countries always add spice to a collection or an exhibit. This article will consider a number of ways that such mixed frankings could occur. There are, of course, many other types of mixed frankings such as these. What examples other kinds of mixed frankings can members of the study group show?

One common way for a mixed franking to occur was international mail charged postage due. In this case the stamps of two postal administrations were used during a single journey through multiple postal services. Since many countries used regular stamps to pay postage due, a mixed franking could occur. In

³ Note: This is a catalogue in German listing the censor markings of World War II.

⁴ Editor's Note: See The Prexie Era Newsletter, No. 31, page 8.

⁵ *Ibid.*, page 7.

Figure 1, a 2¢ vertical coil underpaid the 3¢ post card rate to Sweden, so a 25 ore Swedish definitive was added to pay the postage due.



Figure 1. 1955. Short-paid card with Swedish definitive used as postage due.

Another way involved the redirection of foreign mail to a different address in the U.S. On letter mail (called first class mail in the U.S.), no new stamps were applied, because letter mail was forwarded free under UPU regulations. So in these cases no mixed franking resulted. However, if the mail was printed matter, then forwarding postage was required. **Figure 2** shows an example of printed matter from Guatemala, with forwarding postage within the U.S. paid by a 2¢ Prexie sheet stamp.



Figure 2. 1954. 2¢ Prexie pays forwarding postage on printed matter from Guatemala.

Figure 3 shows a much more unusual mixed franking resulting from the redirection of a foreign letter within the U.S. in 1940. In this case a surface letter from Australia was forwarded by airmail within the U.S. The 3 pence postage paid with the Australian stamp was equivalent to the 5¢ U.S. international surface letter mail rate. Since the U.S. domestic portion of this 5 cent rate was 3¢, only 3¢ additional postage was added to make up the 6¢ domestic air mail rate used to forward the letter.



Figure 3. 1940. Surface letter from Australia forwarded by airmail in the United States.

[To be continued]

Some Comments on Articles in Newsletter Issue No. 31

by

Chuck McFarlane

The gem of Issue No. 31, at least as far as I am concerned, is Dickson Preston's German card⁶ sent airmail with 27¢ in Prexies plus credit for the postal card.

There is always something new to be found!

The card, however, might be a regular postal card and not a reply card. I do not have an unused card for comparison, but a 15 pfennig Reply card would have had a printed indication both in German and French of its reply status. Furthermore, it likely would show evidence at the top of separation from the message card.

Another interesting item was the registered Patriotic shown on page 10 of the same Issue.⁷ While I agree that the cover was not "philatelic", it did have an interesting philatelic connection.

The cover is addressed to Dr. Babcock, a well-known Michigan philatelist from the past. He is considered to be the discoverer of the A.E.F. booklets, having indicated that he was there in France when the packing cases containing the booklets were opened. His statement on that significant event is contained in OPINIONS II.⁸

Secret Atomic Post Office Boxes

by

Jeffrey Shapiro

⁶ The Prexie Era Newsletter, No. 31 (Winter 2005) "A German Reply Card with Prexie Added for Return to Europe", page 8.

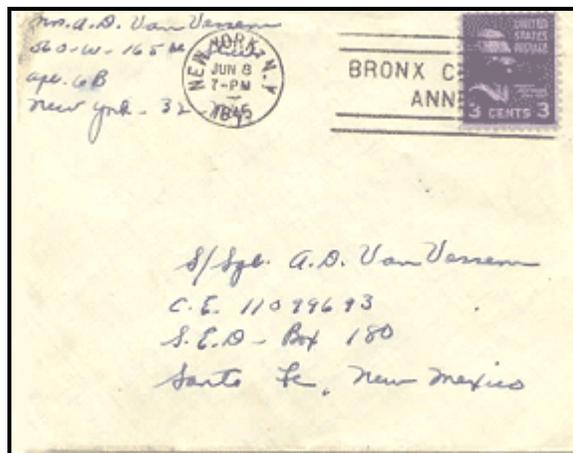
⁷ *Ibid*, "Non-Philatelic Patriotic Covers", by Louis Fiset, page 10.

⁸ Richard F. Larkin, "Determining the Genuineness of United States 'A.E.F.' Booklet Panes", pages 109-111 (Philatelic Foundation 1984).

Less than a year after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States authorized and funded the Manhattan Project to develop an atomic weapon. Three top-secret communities were established: Oak Ridge, TN and Hanford, WA, to research and manufacture the weapon, and Los Alamos, NM, where the atomic bomb would be assembled.

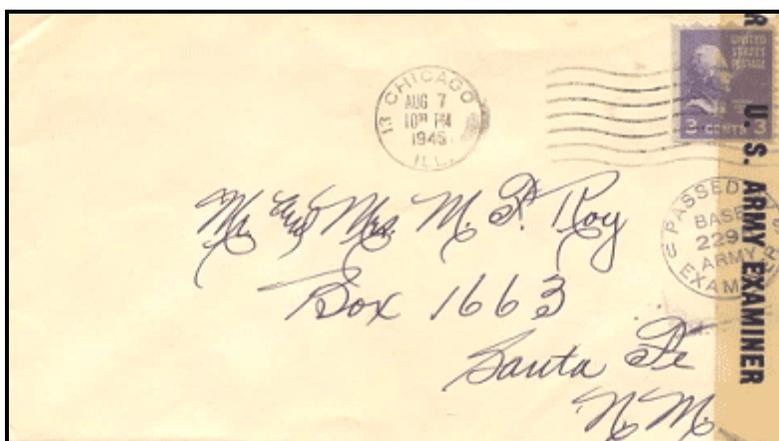
In order to maintain secrecy of the development of the atomic bomb, mail to the Manhattan Project's principal laboratory at Los Alamos, NM was funneled through a number of post office boxes in Santa Fe, 35 miles away, so this correspondence could be monitored.

One such was an unassuming P.O. Box 180, set up to monitor mail sent to the Laboratory's Military staff, as seen on this June 1945 Prexie franked first-class cover sent to a staff sergeant.



Another was P.O. Box 1663 which was established to monitor incoming mail for the scientists working at the Laboratory.

The cover below was addressed to the Assistant Director of Plutonium Bomb Implosion Research (Max Roy) and his wife. Note the August 7, 1945 postmark --- One day after the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Drop and two days before the destruction of Nagasaki.



Editor's Note: By coincidence, I have been reading the collected letters of Richard P. Feynman, a Nobel Prize-winning physicist who worked on the Bomb at Los Alamos.⁹ I had to laugh when I came across many letters addressed to Feynman at P.O. Box 1663, Santa Fe, NM, because the editor of the volume, who comments on virtually everything else in the letters, never mentions the secret mail drop.

⁹ PERFECTLY REASONABLE DEVIATIONS FROM THE BEATEN TRACK: THE LETTERS OF RICHARD P. FEYNMAN (NY 2005).