AN ABSTRACT OF THE THESIS OF
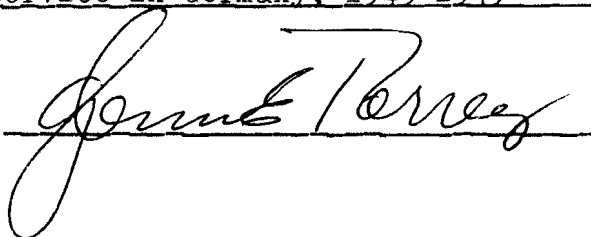
____ Richard L. Wagner ____ for the __ Master of Science _____

in __ Social Sciences _____ presented on __ July 18, 1977 _____

Title: _____ The Allied Military Government Postal

_____ Service in Germany, 1945-1949 _____

Abstract approved: _____

With the collapse of the German government in May 1945, the victorious Allied powers became the rulers of Germany. It was necessary to take control of all aspects of civil government immediately. A vital part of this government was the postal system.

The Allied Military Government set up the communication network needed in several steps, beginning with limited local services, and extending through special services until, on April 1, 1946, international mail was again permitted to and from Germany. This thesis traces this pattern of reestablishment. Local services and problems are examined, the special postal cards for displaced persons, civilian internees, prisoners of war, and members of the German Wehrmacht are explained, and the steps leading to the reopening of international mail are detailed.

Close examination and attention is paid to the problems of censorship and screening of mail. The disposal of mail impounded at the end of the war and transfer of mail between the different occupation zones and how these challenges were met by censorship authorities are presented in detail.

The repatriation of displaced persons, civilian internees, prisoner of war, armed forces personnel, and other refugees through special communication programs is traced step by step, with attention focused on the many aspects of these programs.
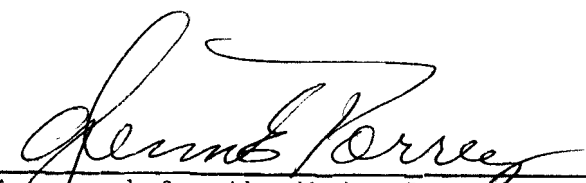
Finally, an examination of the special problem of postal issues, authorized, provisional, and unauthorized, is presented. Several examples of stamps used during the occupation period are examined and their uses explained. In summary, a brief comparison of the Nazi Reichspost and the present Bundespost is made.

THE ALLIED MILITARY GOVERNMENT POSTAL SERVICE

IN GERMANY, 1945-1949

———————

A Thesis

Presented to

the Division of Social Sciences

EMPORIA STATE UNIVERSITY

———————

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Science

———————

by

Richard L. Wagner

July 1977

(signature)

Approved for the Major Department

(signature)

Approved for the Graduate Council

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I also wish to thank two philatelic friends, Alfred Heinz and Donald Slawson, for their generous gifts of time and work during the research for this paper.

Finally, I thank my parents, who understand why I had to do this, and my wife and son, who stayed out of the den while I worked.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AJDC - American Joint Distribution Committee

AMG - Allied Military Government

CCD - Civil Censorship Division

CI - Civilian Internee

DP - Displaced Person

ETOUSA - European Theater of Operations, United States Army

HQUSFET - Headquarters, United States Forces, European Theater

IRC - International Red Cross

OMGB - Office of Military Government, Bavaria

OMGH - Office of Military Government, Hesse

OMGUS - Office of Military Government, United States

OMGWB - Office of Military Government, Weurttemberg-Baden

OPD - Oberpostdirektion (Main Postal Directorate)

POW or PW - Prisoner of War

PTT - Post, Telephone, and Telegraph

RPD - Reichspostdirektion (Area Postal Directorate) or
Reichspost District

SHAEF - Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Forces

UNRRA - United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration

USFET - United States Forces, European Theater

WDE - War Department Employee

BREMEN ENCLAVE

BRITISH ZONE

Hamburg

Hanover

Brunswick

BERLIN

U.S.

Soviet Zone

Kassel

LAND HESSE

FRANKFURT am MAIN

WIESBADEN

FRENCH ZONE

CZECHO-SLOVAKIA

Nuremberg

WUERTTEMBERG-BADEN

STUTTGART

LAND BAVARIA

REGENS-BURG

FRENCH ZONE

Munich

AUSTRIA
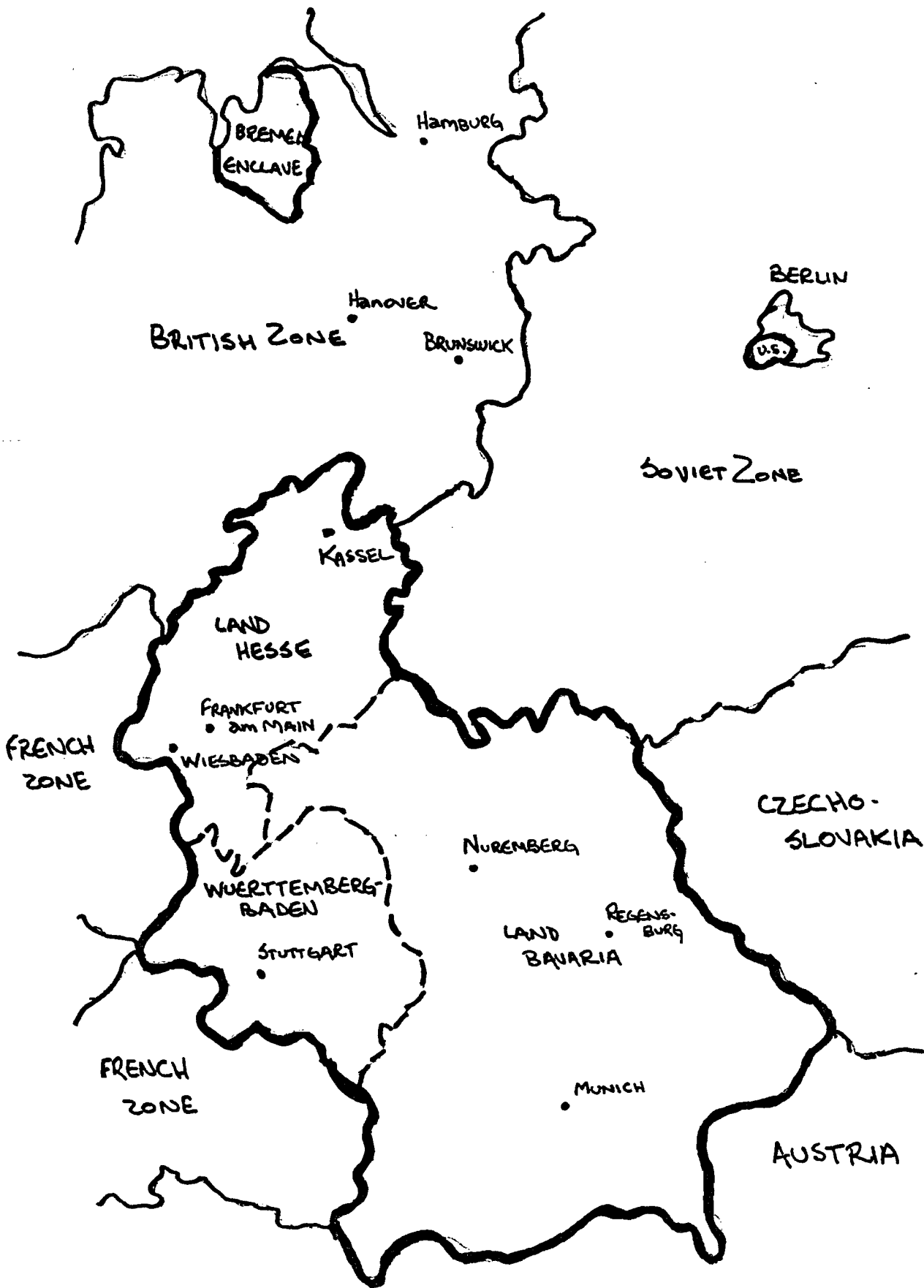
United States Zone of Occupation · Germany

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction and Background

On May 7, 1945, it was over. The most destructive war in
European history ended with the unconditional surrender of the
forces of Germany to the Allied armies at the headquarters of
the Supreme Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, at Reims,
about 100 miles northeast of Paris. Colonel-General Alfred Jodl,
after signing for the Germans, stated:

> With this signature, the German people and the German
> armed forces are, for better or worse, delivered into
> the victors' hands. In this war, which has lasted more
> than five years, both have achieved and suffered more
> than perhaps any other people in the world. In this
> hour, I can only express the hope that the victor will
> treat them with generosity.[1]

The Occupation Territories were under the jurisdiction of
the Supreme Commander, and General Eisenhower had issued "Procla-
mation No. 1" shortly after Allied forces had entered Germany.
This document made clear that the Allied Military Government
would be run by men who came "as conquerors, but not as oppres-
sors." The goals of the Allied Military Government were expressed
as the obliteration of Nazism and militarism in Germany. They
wished to overthrow the "Nazi rule, dissolve the Nazi Party and
abolish the cruel, oppressive and discriminatory laws and the

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[1]Edgar McInnis, Richard Hiscocks, and Robert Spencer,
The Shaping of Postwar Germany (New York: Frederick A. Praegar,
1960), p. 13.

institutions which the party has created." The proclamation

also ordered all German officials to remain at their posts until

ordered to do otherwise by the Allied Military Government offi-

cials, and to obey "all orders or directions . . . addressed to

the German Government or the German people."[2]

The plans for the occupation government for Germany had been

worked on for a long time. Potential area commanders had been

receiving instructions and handbooks for well over a year before

the surrender. The Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary

Force, or SHAEF, made a listing of the six primary objectives

for the Allied Military Government (AMG):

> (1) Enforce the terms of surrender;
> (2) Restoration and maintenance of law and order in
>   so far as the security of the Allied Forces and
>   accomplishment of their objectives and Military
>   Government require;
> (3) Elimination of Nazism-Fascism, the Nazi hierarchy
>   and their collaborators;
> (4) Care, control and repatriation of displaced Allied
>   Nationals and minimum necessary controls of enemy
>   refugees and displaced persons;
> (5) Protection of Allied property, control of certain
>   properties and conservation of German foreign ex-
>   change assets;
> (6) Apprehension of war criminals.[3]

Objectives 2, 4, and 5 required actions for control and re-

opening of communications networks within the former Third Reich.

Hitler had recognized the value of propaganda early in his career,

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[2]General Dwight D. Eisenhower, SHAEF "Proclamation No. 1,"
paragraph IV, General Archives Division, Records of OMGUS, Record
Group 260, Suitland, Maryland. (Collection hereinafter referred
to as OMGUS.)

[3]Handbook for Military Government in Germany, 1 September,
1944, chapter 1, Documents of Allied Command: SHAEF, Office
C/S, Walter B. Smith Collection of World War II Documents 1941-45,
Dwight D. Eisenhower Library, Abilene, Kansas. (Collection
hereinafter referred to as Smith Collection.)

and had made it his most successful political weapon. For spreading the ideas of National Socialism, several systems of communication had been used. One of the foremost was the German Postal Service, or the Reichspost.

The value of using postage stamps and special cancellations to espouse party doctrines was evident from the early days of Hitler's rule. Postage stamp issues from 1933 through 1945 depict an increasing number of politically oriented subjects, and the slogan cancellations which accompanied these stamps helped to reinforce these ideas throughout the Reich.

Within Germany itself, the postal system was a complex organization. The populace had depended on the mail carrying transportation system as a means of getting to remote areas of the country not served by other passenger carriers. In two cities, Munich and Berlin, a most advanced system of pneumatic tubes for mail delivery existed. In addition, there existed a Post Office Savings Bank, and a Postal Check and Transfer System which had collected commercial accounts and had been responsible for payment of pensions to many Germans.

The system was used for the spread of propaganda not only in Germany proper, but in the territories annexed or conquered. A prime example was the "Bunch of Flowers" campaign conducted in Austria from March 12 to April 10, 1938, that is, the period after the German armies invaded Austria and before the plebiscite called to ratify annexation of that nation into the Reich. Through postage stamps, special cancellations, postal cards, and other materials, the populace was encouraged to approve the union. The vote was reported to be 99 percent in favor of the

plan, and part of the success can be attributed to the campaign which reached anyone who used the posts. Extended into Austria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, occupied France, Belgium, Denmark, Russia, the Balkans, and throughout the entire area of the Third Reich, the postal systems established were complex and important functions of the German occupation governments.

As the Allies moved into these areas, they encountered many problems in trying to reestablish the civil postal systems. The services of the several nations varied considerably, and thus in each country new tactics were used. By the time of the German capitulation and the beginning of occupation, provisional plans for most anticipated situations had been drawn up.

By the time of the surrender, much of Germany was already under Allied control. It was difficult to know from day to day the positions of the armies, and the communications lines suffered heavily. The Allied advance in some areas had been so rapid that even SHAEF was not always certain of the status of some towns. Civilians in these areas were forbidden to travel to their homes if this meant moving toward the front lines, thus there continued to be a high number of displaced persons. As has been noted (p. 2), the repatriation of displaced persons was a major objective of the Allied Military Government, but a problem to be faced first was the reestablishment of communication between these persons and their families. Also, the exchange of messages between members of the German armed forces and their families and between liberated Allied nationals and their families had to be organized. This was not a task to be taken lightly nor easily accomplished, but rather a serious and

complicated problem, the solution of which was necessary before permanent civil order could be established. The lack of a general mail service threatened another primary aim of the Allied Military Government--the conservation of German foreign assets. With no knowledge of open post offices, internal communication was risky and haphazard at best. Families were separated and unable to find one another, businesses were unable to sell, buy, or trade goods, or to collect debts. With the mail system not functioning, the economy was threatened and chaos was at hand.

For these reasons, one of the first priorities of the new Military Government authorities was the reestablishment of a means of communication. The major effort went into the postal system. How effective and efficient was this effort? How did the Allied Military Government Postal Service serve the needs of the German people from 1945 to the beginning of the Federal Republic and the Bundespost in 1949? What things, if any, were changed in this interim period that made the Reichspost different from the Bundespost?

This study will seek to answer these questions, and will do so by tracing the history of the Allied Military Government Postal Service from the planning stages until control of the mails is returned to the Germans under the Bonn Constitution. The structure of the system and the restoration of services will be examined; the postage stamps issued and authorized by the Military Government, the problems encountered with special mail services such as Prisoner of War mail and mail for the Displaced Persons, and the gradual return of control to the

Germans will also be looked at closely to see the effects they had on the system both during and after the occupation. The postal system as a whole will be examined to find the effect it had on the German population trying to rebuild.

Finally, a brief look at the <u>Reichspost</u> of Nazi Germany in contrast to the <u>Bundespost</u> of the Federal Republic today will help to place the Allied Military Government Postal Service in its proper perspective and help the reader decide if the system performed the appointed duties satisfactorily.

CHAPTER TWO

Structure of the Allied Military Government Postal Service

The planning for the occupation postal system was begun far
in advance of the invasion at Normandy. In fact, this attack
speeded up the process when it was realized that the end of the
war was near. The four Allied powers, the United States, France,
Britian, and Soviet Russia, agreed to divide conquered Germany
into four zones, with each power in control of one of these. In
addition, the city of Berlin was also divided. While these plans
were being made there were early indications of problems. In
the postal service, for example, the original intent had been
to organize and operate the system as a unit, with uniform postage
stamps and regulations. However, after the German capitulation,
the Russian authorities began to raise objections. The foremost
example of this was their objection "to the word 'DEUTSCHLAND'
asserting that 'Germany' no longer existed as a country, but
merely four zones of occupation."[1] They then issued stamps within
their own zone reading 'DEUTSCHE POST."

Not all the trouble came from the Russians, for the French
also wished to change the original plans. They desired the
stamps used in their zone overprinted in French. This proposal

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[1] F. Hugh Vallancey, The A. M. G. Stamps of Germany (Shrub
Oak, New York: Herman Herst, Jr., 1958), p. 1.

was unfavorably received by the other Allies, and the French
authorities also began to issue stamps for their zone.[2]

Thus, the Allied Military Government Postal Service existed
in only the American and British zones of occupation. In fact,
authorities within each zone were responsible for the operation
of the post offices, but the regulations, policies, and services
were the same and were often made together.

The policies that were to be followed upon occupation were
the first concern of the planners, mostly members of the U.S.
Army's G-5 Division, the branch responsible for civil order.
By August 1944, the Allied Command had issued an order titled
"Interim Directive for Military Government of Germany." In
Section XVI of this document, headed "Posts, Telegraphs, Tele-
phones and Radio (PTT)," there existed an outline of the functions
of the Military Commander in administration of communications
systems in his area of command. Paragraph 1 of the order read:

> It is the policy of the Supreme Commander to see
> that civilian posts (including financial services per-
> formed by the Reichspost), Telegraphs, Telephones, and
> Radio services are continued or restored to the extent
> required by Military Government and the Allied Forces.[3]

Since one of the objectives of the Allied Military Government,
as published one month later, was to aid displaced persons and
refugees, effective lines of communication would be essential.
Services "restored to the extent required by Military Government"
meant to the extent required to allow the civilians to locate

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[2]Ibid., p. 1.

[3]"Interim Directive for Military Government of Germany,"
August 21, 1944, Section XVI, Documents of Allied Command G-5
Division, Smith Collection.

and communicate with one another. Under this order, the postal service would establish several special programs for groups displaced by the war.

Paragraph 2 of the order called for complete control of the Reichspost and maintenance of its capabilities and personnel for the use of the Allied Military Government. In the third paragraph, the commanders were ordered to "suspend civilian use of all postal, telegraph, telephone and radio services, pending specific instructions from Supreme Headquarters." This allowed the establishment of censorship groups and further control of the reopened services.

In Paragraph 4, the order stated that services "for civilian use will only be restored to the extent possible by utilizing local resources not required for Military purposes." While this may seem opposed to the purpose set forth in the first paragraph, this section was aimed at those areas occupied prior to the end of the war. It was decided that there could be no supplies spared from the military forces to restore communications or any other services in the occupied areas while there was still a war to be won.

By September 1944, the structure of the Allied Military Government (AMG) had been formalized enough to expand further the powers that were given to individuals within the system. All forms of communication were placed under the authority and command of the Supreme Commander, who was, in turn, to place these powers in the hands of area commanders. In a directive from the American Joint Chiefs of Staff to Eisenhower it was recommended that all publications and dissemination of news and

information be suspended in all areas under Allied control, as well as making the revenues from these operations available to the Allied Military Government when these services were restored.[4]

In the planning for the AMG, there was a good deal of comment, most of it favorable, about the German postal system. The many services which were offered were explained and often praised. This was done in preparation for the takeover of a system, which was, in many ways, more advanced than either the American or the British system. A postal zone structure existed which covered the entire country, in contrast to the American system of only dividing cities and the British system of dividing regions. This practice is now followed by nearly every European and American nation, including the United States (ZIP code, the letters standing for Zonal Improvement Plan). The money services provided by the German post office were similar to their American counterparts, and were used heavily by the small businessmen and professional people.

Perhaps the most difficult service to reestablish was the postal transportation system provided for the civilian population. Since the mails under occupation were carried on mostly military vehicles, these could not be used to carry civilians, leaving large areas of Germany with no public transportation service. The German post office even had its own repair and maintenance service to keep their motor transports running.

These problems would not be faced until after an area had been under AMG control, but the first steps to be taken by area

[4]"Directive for Administration of Post-Defeat Military Government in Germany," September 24, 1944, Appendix B to Enclosure C, paragraph 10, Documents of Joint Command: JCS, Smith Collection.

PTT officers were outlined in the <u>Handbook for Military Government</u>

<u>in Germany</u>, Chapter 15:

> a. Contact Senior civil postal officials and insure
> that the Military Commanders' regulations and all or-
> dinances are known and understood by the civilian staff.
> b. Arrange with Public Safety and G-2/Intelligence for
> the "vetting" of all officials.
> c. Arrange for the collection and disposal of impounded
> mail in accordance with censorship basic plan.
> d. As soon as practicable, and in conjunction with SMGO
> and G-2 (Security and Censorship) arrange for introduc-
> tion of local collection and delivery service for postcards
> and letters within the town, following this with the
> preparation of a scheme to extend the service to the
> region.[5]

It is clear from these instructions that the service was to be

reopened as soon as the necessary censorship steps had been taken

and a system of communication could be worked out.

In the planning it was realized that the best people to have

working in the civil service were those who had been working there

all along. As stated earlier (p. 2), under the Allied Military

Government all personnel were to remain at their posts until

ordered to do otherwise. Along with this, in December 1944, the

Allies prepared instructions to be delivered to the Reich Minister

of Posts, the <u>Reichspostministerium</u>. The minister held cabinet

rank and was assisted by an undersecretary of State and by an

administrative council of six members chosen by the Cabinet.

In these orders, directions to the minister were clear:

> To the Reich Minister of Posts:
>   1. Commencing forthwith, all services and activi-
> ties of the Reichspost will be controlled by the Military
> Government and the whole organization will be subject to
> the ordinances and over-riding policies dictated by the
> Military Government.

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[5]<u>Handbook for Military Government in Germany</u>, December 1944,
paragraph 690, Documents of Allied Command, Smith Collection.

2. In pursuance of that policy and by order of the Military Government, you are required to issue such general instructions throughout the Reichspost as will ensure that:
> (a) All officials and employees (except such as may be suspended) shall remain at their posts until otherwise ordered by the Military Government.
> (b) No alteration is made in the existing scales of rates and charges for P.T.T. services without prior authority from the Military Government.
> (c) All records, books of account and documents relating thereto are preserved and held at the disposal of the Military Government.[6]

These orders, directed in May 1945 to Wilhelm Ohnesorge, took into account possible resistance on the part of the civil servants to orders delivered by Military Commanders instead of the leaders of the Reichspost for whom they worked. Steps were also taken to insure that the Reichspost records would be preserved. The loss of these records could spell financial disaster for many small businessmen who used the postal financial services.

The orders became more specific about postal services:

> As regards the Postal Service, you are required to suspend forthwith all internal, external and transit postal services:
> (a) All items of such correspondence in course of post or in letter boxes must not, under any circumstances, be delivered, forwarded, or handed over unless express instructions to do so are received from the Military Government.
> (b) All hand-date and hand-cancelling stamps, together with boxes of type and the dies from mechanical stamping machines used exclusively in the external service, must be withdrawn from use and placed under lock and key . . . pending further instructions from the Military Government.[7]

By these orders, communication through all postal channels between Germany and the rest of the world was suspended, to be reopened through a series of steps over the next eleven months.

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[6] Ibid., Appendix D.

[7] Ibid.

The Allied Military Government further ordered lists of assets delivered to the responsible Military Commanders, including postage stamps, financial accounts, foreign trade assets, pensions, allowances, postal checks, and savings. These lists were to be delivered within five days of the date of the order, and non-compliance was a violation of Military Government law, punishable by dentension and fine.

Plans were also made for procedures to be followed upon the occupation of a town prior to the end of the war. Military Government Law No. 76 suspended all public and private means of communication. The regulations for censorship were placed in every post office under the jurisdiction of the Allied Military Government. All in-course mail was to be impounded and protected for examination by G-2/Intelligence. Notices announcing the closing of services and the post office were attached to the doors of the buildings, and Public Safety Officers positioned guards to watch them.[8]

While the plans for Military Government still included all four powers, the Postal Service came under the control of the executive board, originally composed of one member each from the United States, Britian, and Russia. Later, a member from France was added. There were thirteen divisions under control of this board, one of these being transportation and communication. The plan later changed when the Soviet Union withdrew from the board, and France removed its member from the communication division.

[8]Handbook for Military Government in Germany Prior to Defeat or Surrender, December 1944, Documents of Allied Command, SHAEF, Office C/S, Smith Collection.

It was decided to reorganize all divisions within the American zone as late as April 1945. Under this intra-zonal reorganization, the Internal Affairs and Communications Division became responsible for all PTT services, as well as public safety, education, and religious affairs.[9]

The western areas of occupation had postal authority vested in the British 21st Army Group and the U.S. 12th and 6th Army Groups, U.S. Army, European Theater of Operations (ETO). In the British sector after the end of the war this power was transferred to Section 10, Postal and Telecommunications Branch (PTB). The site of this control was Luebbecke/Westphalia. Later, in a reorganization of the British Zone, the PTB became the Postal and Communications Branch, Control Commission for Germany, British Element. Because this new branch was in charge of the production and distribution of postage stamps, it was necessary to move the office nearer the center of the zone at Bad Salzuflen. In the American Zone, headquarters for the Control Commission was established at Frankfurt am Main.

As much as possible, the postal administration remained as it had been in the Third Reich. As the occupation authorities became more settled, the long-lasting changes they wished to make were begun. The color of the post office trucks and the mailboxes was changed from the red color used under Hitler to yellow, the color used in the pre-Hitler period. It was not until 1947 that the designations Grossdeutsches Reich and Deutsche Reichspost

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[9]U.S. Department of State, "American Organizational Plans for Military Government of Germany," Department of State Bulletin, May 11, 1945, from press release dated May 11, 1945 from War Department.

were changed to <u>Deutschland</u> and <u>Deutsche Post</u>. The <u>Reichspost-
direktion</u> became the <u>Oberpostdirektion</u>, and the <u>Reichsdruckerei</u>,
or Reich Printing Office, became the <u>Staatsdruckerei</u>, or the
State Printing Office. The officials of the AMG had decided
even before occupation that it would be necessary to remove all
stocks of existing German postage stamps from the <u>Reichspost</u>
offices. It was not until 1947, however, that these stamps were
ordered destroyed.

The four-power Control Council of Germany, also called the
Allied Control Commission, was embroiled in controversy through-
out its existence. Much of this was due to the conflicting views
of the Russians and the United States-Britain team on plans for
the reconstruction of Germany. By the summer of 1945 each of
the occupation zones had begun to establish some governmental
functions. The Control Council was generally viewed as a torpid
creature which fervently hoped to treat Germany as a single
entity. Officially, this was also the position of each of the
four powers, but the structures set up in the zones indicated
that that hope was not expected to come true. Within each zone
it was evident that much would soon have to be done independently
of the Control Council. The civil service, the beginnings of
local government units, the establishment of social services,
and the general process of rebuilding had to be started before
the onset of winter. General Lucius D. Clay, deputy military
governor for Germany, feared hunger and related problems would
be brought on by a delay. He sought reports from military com-
manders stationed throughout Germany and the United States Zone:

> The reports described the chaotic conditions caused by
> military defeat and accentuated by the collapse of
> German government, transportation, communications, and
> internal trade. . . . There was little prospect that
> coal would be available for heating homes in the coming
> winter. . . . Some areas reported urban consumer rations
> to be as low as 700 calories per day.[10]

These reports caused authorities in the American zone to act.

In early September, Clay called for establishment of centralized

administrative boards. By September 24, Clay reported that the

British and Russians were in agreement, but the French were op-

posed.[11] Because of this contrariety, Clay informed the Control

Council that he had no other choice but to take zonal action,

and sought authorization from the War Department in Washington

to begin. The beginnings had, in fact, already been completed.

On September 19, five days before Clay sought the authority to

do so, a third state, or _Land_, had been established within the

United States Zone. This was _Land_ Hesse, which joined with

Bavaria and Wurttemberg-Baden and, on November 6, 1945, organ-

ized a central agency for the American zone called the _Landerrat_.

The purpose was to procede with the central administrative problems

and work with the other zones without using the Control Council.

The action was well received by the Germans, who created

regulatory boards and other instruments of government to aid the

civilian population within the zone. One of the first boards

was one composed of the minister of transportation from each of

the three states. This board was responsible for the coordination

[10]John Gimbel, _The American Occupation of Germany_ (Stanford, California: University Press, 1968), p. 35.

[11]Jean Edward Smith, editor, _The Papers of Lucius D. Clay 1945-49_, Vol. I (Bloomington: University of Indiana Press, 1974), p. 84.

of railway and postal services, and on December 7, USFET ordered
that it be made a permanent part of the Occupation Military
Government, United States Zone (OMGUS). A liaison agency be-
tween the Landerrat and the new OMGUS was established, and head-
quartered at Stuttgart under the direction of Dr. James K. Pollock,
a noted political scientist from the University of Michigan.

Each of the states was given the task of coordinating the
postal service policies of both the Landerrat and the OMGUS with-
in the confines of its borders. With this, the control of the
postal system began to pass back into the hands of the Germans.
Policies were decided upon by the Directory of Transportation,
the permanent board of the Landerrat, and were then subject to
review and approval of the OMGUS. Still, the policy making power
was now divided between the Germans and the Americans, a fact
which overjoyed the nearly three-quarters of a million postal
employees. They were working for Germans, and no longer felt
that they were held to their jobs by the occupation authorities.
The responsibility for personnel had also been placed in the hands
of Germans, and again workers were free to leave their jobs if
they so desired.[12]

Clay saw the need for the establishment of the Landerrat.
He supported the action, but he was also fearful of the possible
consequences of such a move. In a letter to the War Department
dated September 24, 1945, he expressed concern that if central
administrative machinery for Germany as a whole was not soon
established, the United States Zone would be forced to act

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[12]From personal account of Mr. Werner Schrutz, postal employee
from March 1945 to April 1946. Mr. Schrutz came to the United
States in 1948 and now lives in Boston.

independently, and such a move would create a "new and artificial political unit." This, Clay felt, might lead to the treatment of Germany as four units of government rather than one and "help lead to practical if not actual dismemberment."[13] Clay placed the blame four the ineffectiveness of the Control Council on the French. Their objections, he felt, left the other powers little choice but to proceed on their own. The needs of the population had to be met, and the Landerrat, despite the dangers, was the system used in the American zone.

With independent machinery established in the United States Zone, the other zones soon followed suit. Negotiations between zones soon developed, and the United States and British Zones soon entered into several economic agreements. These two zones shared the longest common border and jointly administered the affairs of the Bremen Enclave, in the northwest corner of Germany. The Russians became increasingly more difficult to compromise with, and frequently American and British negotiators joined in opposition to Russian ideas. By early 1947 the two zones entered into an agreement to merge much of the civil service and economic affairs where there was duplication in administration. The AMG Postal Service came under this "Bizonia" arrangement.

The new bizonal arrangement was helpful in solving many of the lingering problems encountered when postal services were reopened, but came too late to assist in the actual restoration of services.

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[13]Jean Edward Smith, Clay Papers, 1945-49, p. 85.

In much the same manner as Allied Military Government of-
ficials sought to retain the structure of the _Reichspost_ for
the AMG Postal Service, they sought to make the services offered
by the occupation post office similar to those the citizens had
received from the Nazis. But the restoration of services in a
war devastated land was not an easy task, and structure and
service changes were forced upon the new system. Such things
as the change in location of the British control board from
Luebbecke/Westphalia to Bad Salzuflen and the change placing
the Directory of Transportation under control of OMGUS were signs
that some latitude for change was necessary. But the changes
that were made were all done out of a desire to better serve
the needs of the population.

CHAPTER THREE

Restoration of Local Services

An essential part of the duties of the Allied Military

Government was the reestablishment of communications systems in

Germany. Without a government, conditions were chaotic, and a

network of communication lines throughout the nation was neces-

sary to restore order. General Clay recognized the need for

reestablishment of the flow of information, and later wrote:

" [It] was perhaps natural that our first efforts were directed

to the rehabilitation of communications. . . . Their difficulties

were tangible and physical and it was obvious that their restora-

tion was essential to any kind of economic life."[1] The essential

needs of the civilian population were the top priorities of the

Allied Military Government, including the establishment of a

reasonably prosperous economic life.

Describing the condition of the postal service after the

war, Clay continues:

> Quickly, local offices of the _Reichspost_ . . . were
> reopened. By August of 1945 post offices were receiving
> and delivering mail locally and conducting the financial
> transactions necessary to the postal savings and checking
> accounts.

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[1]Lucius D. Clay, _Decision in Germany_ (Melbourne, London,
Toronto: William Heineman, LTD, 1950), p. 186.

> Mail service, restored throughout the United States
> Zone, was handling 70,000,000 pieces of letter mail and
> 668,000 parcel-post packages monthly. In October 1945
> agreement was reached . . . for interzonal exchange of
> mail. . . . In April 1946 international mail . . . was
> restored.[2]

The above passage reveals few of the problems encountered by the

postal authorities. It says nothing of the many steps taken to

insure that the mails did get through or of the precautions taken

before any part of the system could be opened or advanced.

Within the United States Zone, the first step in rehabili-

tating the Reichspost was the establishment of six areas of ad-

ministration. These were placed under the control of an AMG

PTT officer. These Reichspost Districts (RPD's) were headquartered

in Frankfurt am Main, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, Munich, Regensburg,

and Nuremburg. The establishment of these administrative districts,

along with most other early plans, were made in expectation that

a central department for communications, established by the Con-

trol Council, would take total control of the postal system as

soon as possible. When no quadripartite agreement emerged, the

American and British Zones began to consolidate their administrative

agencies, and later combined these through the bizonal arrangement

(p. 16).

During the planning prior to occupation, a series of instruc-

tions for AMG area commanders had been drawn up and included in

several handbooks. The final draft of these was released to the

commanders on May 5, 1945. It called for resumption of a limited

local mail service, consisting of "post cards, to be supplemented

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[2]Ibid., p. 186.

Plate I
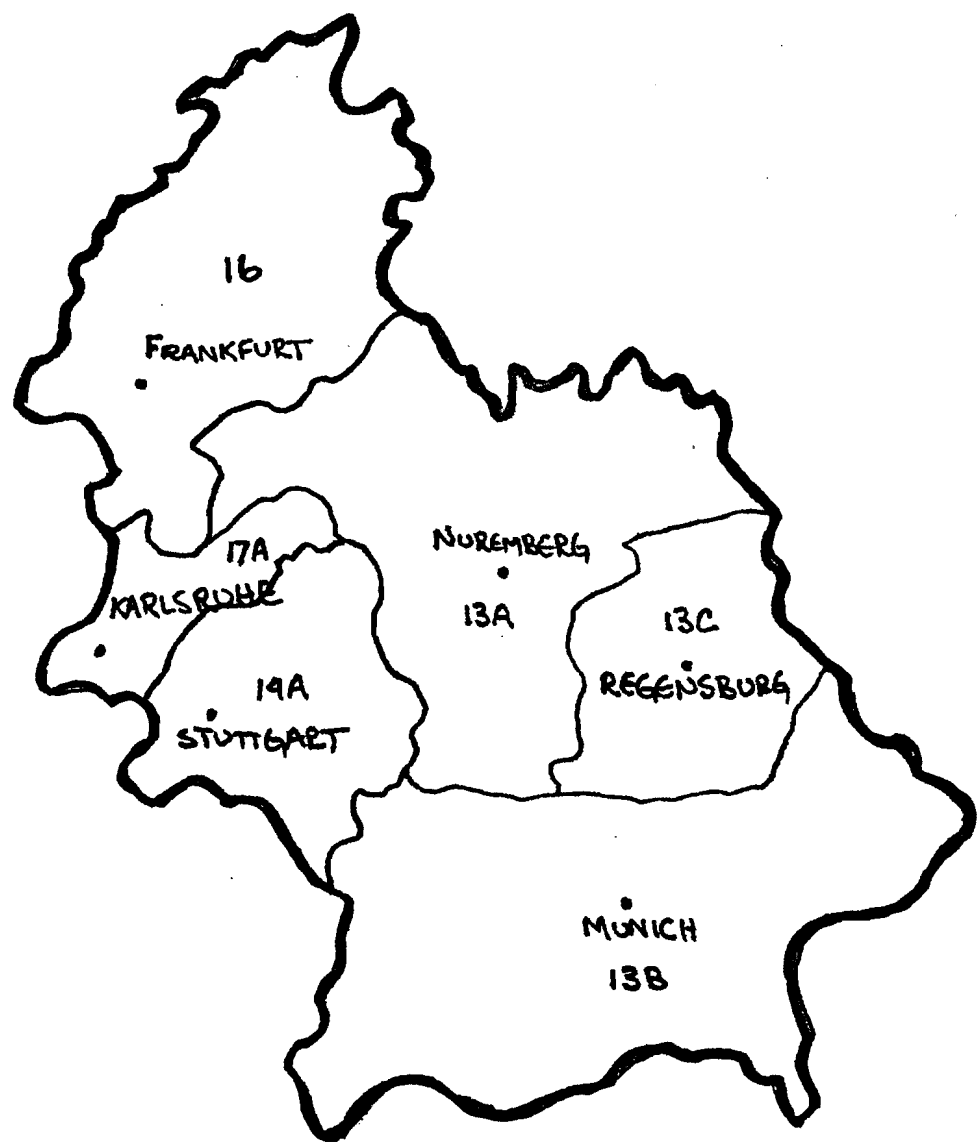
THE REICHSPOST DISTRICTS (RPD) IN
THE UNITED STATES ZONE

The United States Zone was divided into the above six RPD's

for purposes of restoration of services. Under the Bizonal

agreement with the British Zone, district numbers were assigned

to further expedite mail. Also, the RPD at Regensburg was

closed and the area incorporated into the RPD at Nuremberg.

as conditions may warrant, with communications enclosed in en-
velopes or containers."[3] The postal card was an easier form of
communication to censor than a letter, thus early preference was
given to it. The orders also called for the reopening of the
Postal Check system and the payment of civilian pensions. These
services were necessary to insure that the civilian economy would
suffer only the minimum of disruption under the circumstances of
occupation. Pension payments would insure that money would
flow into that sector of the population which had no other source
of income. The Postal Check system made available to all civil-
ians a form of money transferal acceptable throughout the zone,
necessary because of uncertainties of the German banking system.
Similar to a money order, a Postal Check was guaranteed to have
the same value when cashed as it had when purchased by the sender.
A personal check was of dubious value, especially if drawn on a
bank in a distant part of the zone or on a bank unfamilier to
the payee. Special conditions were set forth for the resump-
tion of these postal-financial services. Censorship regulations
were always followed, as were general security regulations. Ser-
vices were to be restored in accordance with the "administrative
needs of the community, that is, governmental, and essential
commercial and welfare requirements."[4] It was also necessary
that there be sufficient "vetted," or non-Nazi, personnel to
properly staff the postal service, as well as enough supplies,
such as stationery, stamps, and vehicles.

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[3]Handbook for Military Government, December 1944, Section
IX, Part 1, paragraph 1.

[4]Ibid., paragraph 2.

One of the first duties performed was the compilation and preparation of a new directory of addresses. This project was advertised in each of the RPD's. It called for all citizens, businesses, and other establishments to report their address to their local post office. Those who could not supply an address had their mail sent to general delivery, and as soon as an address was known, reported it. Postal service other than on a local, intra-RPD scale was not resumed. Extension of service to areas outside an area of military command was prepared for, but not yet begun. Details for the restoration of inter-zonal and international mails were left to be worked out by the Control Council. Later, when the Council failed to reach an agreement, the Americans and British took the necessary steps themselves.

Local commanders did have the option of expanding services to include the Postal Savings System, Postal Money Orders, travelers checks, C. O. D. service, Parcel Post service (local only), and newspaper and magazine subscription service.[5]

Local services were restored at different rates throughout the American zone. Those areas in the western part of the zone, under Allied control for the longest period of time, generally had services restored earlier than other areas. This was due in part to the fact that in many cases these areas had been served by authorized and unauthorized local postal services from the time of suspension of the regular mail to the time of the AMG service. These local posts used either postmaster provisional

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[5]Ibid., paragraph 6.

issues for the payment of postage or mail was simply handstamped "Postage Paid." In some cases, the local post office would overprint Nazi stamps, obliterating party markings or other symbols possibly offensive to the occupation powers. These stamps would be used for the payment of postage until other arrangements could be made, such as the printing of a local post-master issue or the manufacture of handstamps. These local services were tolerated by the Military Government authorities. Local commanders found these informal quasi-post offices to be harmless and even beneficial, for they helped to restore order, establish communication between families, and helped the transition period run more smoothly.

As early as March 1945, official AMG postage stamps were being distributed to those post offices in Allied controlled territory. The first official mail service under AMG control began in Frankfurt RPD on July 6, 1945. Frankfurt am Main was the headquarters city of most AMG, and later OMGUS, agencies and was located in an area under American control since early 1945. The first service was for postal cards and letters only.[6] The RPD at Nuremberg had started the postal card service as early as June 26, several days in advance of the official date. Letter service for Nuremberg was added in July. Regensburg RPD began intra-district service on July 18, Karlsruhe and Stuttgart on August 26, and Munich on September 5.

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[6]Letters were restricted to one page. The difference between a postal card and a post card is usually meant to be that a postal card is issued by a government and has postage printed on it while a post card does not. Thus, it is a picture post card, but a postal reply card.

The Frankfurt RPD was usually the first to reopen services. Here, the AMG authorities could keep a watchful eye on the proceedings and act quickly to correct any problems. The Postal Check Service was reopened at Frankfurt on May 24, less than three weeks after the war's end. The newspaper and magazine subscription service within the Frankfurt RPD reopened August 1, 1945, a full two months ahead of all other districts. By August 29, virtually all intra-district services were reopened at Frankfurt: printed papers, small packets, parcels, registered letters, insured mail, registered parcels, C. O. D., express letters and postal cards, express parcels, money orders, and mixed article services were reestablished. Frankfurt became the first RPD to reopen all services on an intra-district level when, on October 1, 1945, the Postal Savings Program was made available to civilians. Stuttgart RPD opened this service on October 20 to become the second district with complete services, and Karlsruhe was the third on November 6.[7] All three districts were located on the western edge of the United States Zone, and all were important: Frankfurt held the headquarters of USFET, Stuttgart held the headquarters of the Military Government for Baden, and Karlsruhe was the first major city entered when traveling from the French Zone.

The United States Zone was divided into two military districts. A rough outline of these would place Bavaria in the Eastern Military District, while Hesse and Baden would be in the Western

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[7]"Restoration of Reichspost Services (US Zone)," document provided by Alfred Heinz, Flemington, New Jersey, director of the Germany Philatelic Society, Inc.

Military District. As a prelude to full intra-zonal service,
limited services were restored on an intra-military district basis,
allowing mail to pass between RPD's at Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, and
Stuttgart in the Western District, and Munich, Regensburg, and
Nuremberg in the Eastern District. The Western District began
this program in September 1945, and had the plan running com-
pletely by November. In the Eastern District, the services were
begun in July 1945, but were not fully operative until June 1946.
This was after international service had begun for some letters
and parcels. The delayed services, however, were primarily the
secomdary services provided by the post office (Postal Savings,
express mails, and insurance).[8]

From intra-military district mail, the next step was intra-
zonal mail. This service was begun for the Western Military
District in September 1945. Starting on the 26th, mail could
be sent to any point in the zone. In early October, the Eastern
Military District RPD's also opened the service, and mail could
be sent to all points and received from all points within the
American zone. These limited services included postal cards,
letters, and some parcels, but excluded special mail services,
such as express mail. Officially, the zone was open as of October 6,
although some RPD's could not meet this deadline and delayed let-
ter services for a week. Munich, Regensburg, and Nuremberg did
not reopen parcel post, small packet service, or some registration
services until early January 1946, mainly because of censorship
overloads. Express services in these three districts did not

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[8]Ibid.

resume until June 1946. On the other hand, there is evidence that some parcel post service may have existed between Karlsruhe and Stuttgart as early as September 10, 1945, nearly a month before such service was authorized.[9]

Interzonal mail service for letters and postal cards, printed papers, mixed articles, and certain registered letters was authorized on October 24, 1945, between the United States, British, and French Zones. Newspaper subscription services between these three zones had begun in September to test the existing machinery and facilities for handling interzonal mail. All six RPD's of the American zone began interzonal mail at the same time, the first service begun simultaneously. Unauthorized interzonal mail had plagued the Allied Military Government since the end of the war, and much of the effort of Military Police was spent in tracing these illegitimate postal channels. By going outside the regular postal route, mail avaoided censorship, and it was possible to send mail to areas not yet served by the AMG Postal Service. When interzonal service was resumed, however, those persons not trying to hide activities used the legitimate channels, leaving the unauthorized couriers to carry the clearly illegal material. While the number of couriers and the volume passing through the unauthorized channels decreased, the convictions and seizures by the AMG increased.

When the RPD's at Munich, Regensburg, and Nuremberg reopened intrazonal small packet service in January 1946, the way was clear for international service plans to be implemented. Only

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[9]Ibid.

after proper censorship preparations had been made and the
facilities and personnel of the Allied Military Government
Postal Service tested under increased volume could the inter-
national service be begun. As these parts of the postal
service became more efficient and grew in size and capacity,
a number of limited international test programs were begun
as a prelude to the full scale resumption of mail service
between Germany and the rest of the world.

CHAPTER FOUR

Restoration of International Service

At the conclusion of the war, international mail service
was resumed rapidly to some points in Europe. By June 9, 1945,
mail service had been resumed to and from Belgium, Bulgaria,
Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Luxembourg, the Nether-
lands, Norway, Poland, Romania, and Russia, all of which had been
under at least partial Nazi control. Parcel post service was
reopened only in France, Italy, and Russia. For censorship
reasons, other nations in Europe were permitted only letter and
postal card service.[1] The quick reopening of services in these
areas was due to the fact that liberation had been as early as
mid-1944, allowing for the transition period through local and
inter-district mail before the German surrender. By June 1945,
the systems were ready to accommodate the flow of international
correspondence.

The first preliminary international service from the United
States Zone was begun in November 1945. This service was for
displaced persons in the zone who wished to communicate with
persons in the United States. Inaugurated on November 23, the
limited service allowed personal, non-transactional correspondence
and gift parcels of up to five pounds. The program was organized

[1]"Telecommunication and Postal Service to Europe," Department
of State Bulletin, June 10, 1945, p. 1078.

to allow two-way correspondence, but the first step had to be taken in Germany. A person wishing to communicate with a relative or friend in the United States obtained a special postal card from the AMG authorities. When this card was received by an individual in the United States, he was permitted to send letters to the originator of the card. These were limited to two pages in length, and only one letter could be sent to the same addressee each seven days. The original card from the addressee had to be presented at the post office at the time of mailing anything to the United States Zone. Gift parcels were also allowed. These could contain clothing and non-perishable foods. Each parcel was required to have the contents listed on a customs declaration tag, and the package had to be marked "Gift Parcel." These parcels were also limited to one each seven days. Both letters and parcels were required to have the name of the displaced person, the address of the camp where the addressee was housed (see Chapter Six), the RPD, the post office nearest the camp, and the words "United States Zone of Germany" printed boldly on the front.[2]

In February 1946, a second international program was begun. The Bavarian newspaper, "Das Volk," carried a short article describing this service:

> In the future all German citizens, who want to send
> letters to Poland may approach the German Red Cross,
> regional office Berlin . . . . As there will be check-
> ing of the contents, the letters must be open when
> delivered. Furtheron, there is to be taken care that
> letters are written on one side only, in Latin letters

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[2]"Mail Service to Displaced Persons in Austria and Germany," Department of State Bulletin, November 25, 1945, p. 863 from press release dated November 23.

clearly and easy to read. The letters must not be
longer but one page and may only carry family news.
All letters which do not correspond with these rules
are refused. The postage for one letter amounts to
6 marks or 3 Zloty. Letters may be addressed to civil-
ians and to German PWs (exact address of camp required).[3]

The German Red Cross had planned and announced this service with-

out consulting the AMG authorities. It was only after public

announcements such as the above were made that their authoriza-

tion and approval were sought. Within the AMG there was resis-

tance to the proposed program. A member of the Internal Affairs

and Communications Division of the Office of Military Government

for Bavaria (OMGB) indicated his objection in a letter to the

Postal Service Section of OMGUS:

> It is not understood how German nationals are permitted
> to transmit letters to Poland inasmuch as international
> postal service has not been restored for Germany. Also,
> the postage rate of six marks for each letter appears
> exorbitant, if the transmission of such letters has been
> in fact authorized.[4]

The service was authorized on February 20, 1946. While the Inter-

national Red Cross (IRC) already had a program of international

postal cards (see Chapter Six), this new program was the first

attempt to send letters across international borders. The IRC

plan had been worked out with the full support and cooperation

of the AMG. The letter program to Poland did not have this

support, and thus was not heavily advertised in the AMG channels.

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[3]Lt. Col. Robert A. Reese, Office of Military Government
for Bavaria, AG 311 OMGB-3/15, "Transmission of mail from German
citizens to Poland," February 20, 1946, from letter attached
from Bavarian Red Cross dated February 14, translation by Red
Cross, OMGUS.

[4]Ibid., paragraph 2. Pre-war international letter rate
to Poland and the rst of Europe had been only 25 pfennig
(100 pfennig=1 mark).

The plan also lacked the support of the German people. The rate

of six marks was more than twenty times the rate charged for

such mail before the war, and more than twice the rate charged

by most illegal courier services. The German-Polish letter plan

was discontinued shortly after it was begun because of lack of

use.

Another problem which became apparent early in the occupation

period was that of displaced American citizens within the United

States Zone. In the absence of any international mail service,

there was no official way for these persons to contact their

families. The special service for displaced persons to the United

States met some of the early needs, but by March 1946, USFET

authorized an expanded service for American citizens in the U.S.

Zone to correspond with their families. Whereas the earlier ser-

vice had restrictions on the length and content of letters, the

new service made American citizens within the zone exempt from

censorship of their communications, except when these letters

entered the United States through regular mail channels. There,

they were subject to the same restrictions as all mail entering

the country.

The service for American citizens had virtually no restric-

tions placed on it. Letters of any length, any number, and about

almost any subject could be sent from Germany to the United States.

There was, however, no provision for mails to be returned using

these same guidelines. Letters coming into the United States

Zone still had to pass through censorship twice--both as they

left the U.S. and when they entered Germany. These letters were

still restricted to two pages and one each seven days.

To obtain the privileges extended to American citizens in their use of the mails, a person had to produce either a certificate of identity and registration from an American counsular office which had been valid on December 7, 1941, an American passport valid on December 7, 1941, a letter from a diplomatic or consular office stating that a passport application had been approved for a period extending beyond December 7, 1941, or a Swiss letter of protection issued in conjunction with any of these.[5]

As the final pre-international service program, service between Americans in Germany and the United States tested the machinery and facilities that would handle international mails between the two countries. It also allowed American displaced persons to be sorted out and handled apart from the Germans, making the task of relocation officials somewhat more simplified.

On March 12, 1946, the United States Department of State issued the following statement to the press:

> The question of resumption of postal communications with Germany has been under consideration for some months by the appropriate agencies of this government and the Allied Control Council in Berlin. April 1 has been set as the target date for reopening of service, and it is hoped that this objective can be met.[6]

As planned, all four zones of occupation in Germany reopened limited international mail service on April 1, 1946. The service was restricted to non-illustrated postal cards and to letters of up to one ounce in weight. Only personal or family matters were
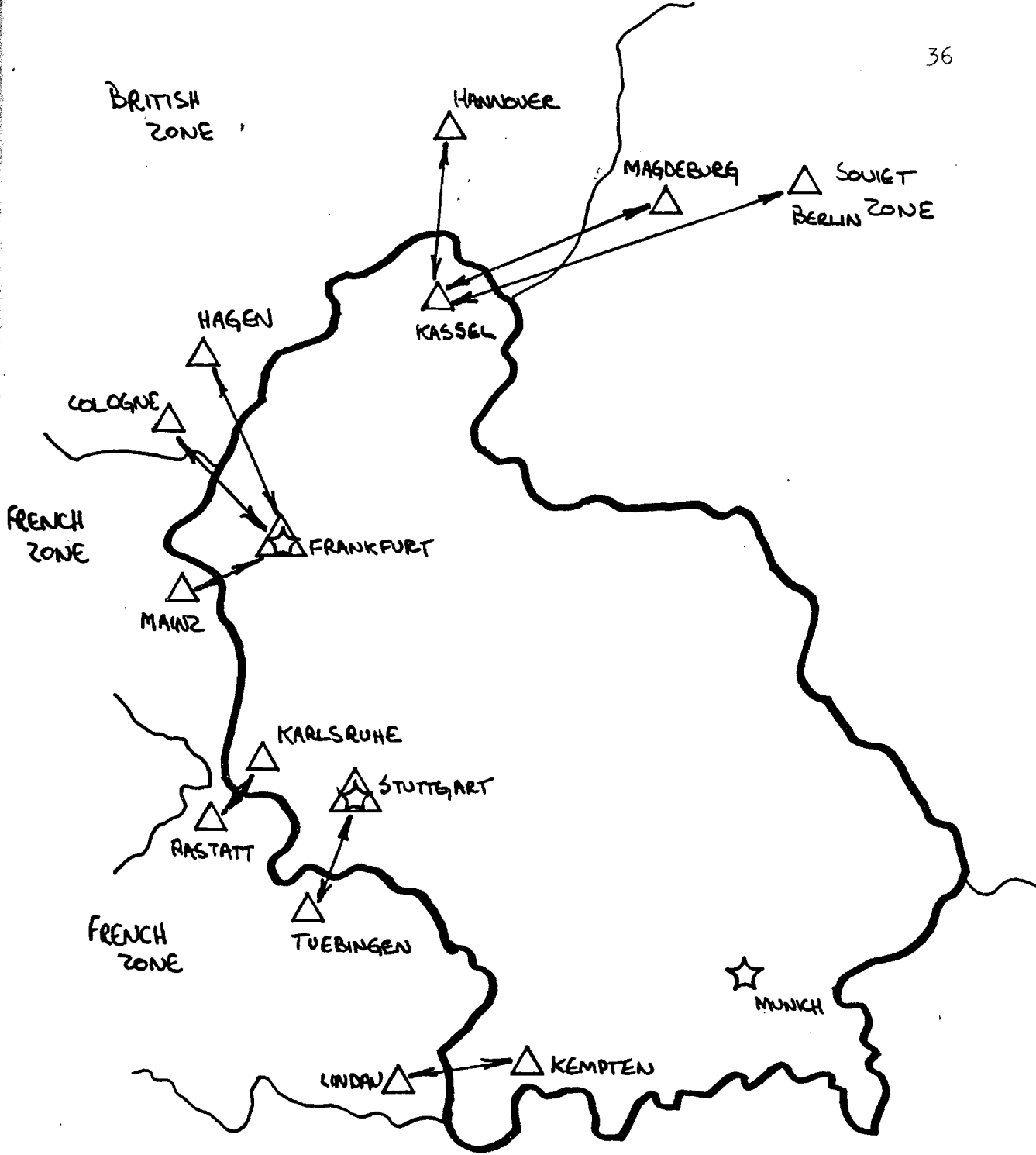
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[5]Brig. Gen. L. S. Ostrander, HQUSFET AG 311.1 GEO-AGO, "Postal Service Between Bona Fide American Citizens and the United States," March 11, 1946, paragraph 2, OMGUS.

[6]"Resumption of Postal Service With Germany Explored," Department of State Bulletin, March 24, 1946, p. 490, from press release dated March 12.

allowed as subjects, business communications, the mailing of
checks, securities, and currency being prohibited. All communi-
cation required a complete address for both the sender and addressee.
Mail addressed to "General Delivery" was not acceptable for mail-
ing. Envelopes could have no inner linings, and could have only
postal directions on the outside. From the United States, the
fee was five cents for letters and three cents for postal cards.
From Germany, the fee was 25 pfennig for letters and 15 pfennig
for postal cards.[7]

Interzonal mail exchange points had been established at Kassel,
Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, and Kempten. AMG authorities
decided against using these same points as international exchange
centers. Instead, they sought one city for each Land headquarters
for international mail. Munich was chosen for Bavaria, and tem-
porary points were set up in Frankfurt and Stuttgart while suit-
able facilities were found elsewhere in Hesse and Wurttemberg-
Baden. These facilities were never found, and the exchange
point for Hesse remained at Frankfurt and the point for Wurttem-
berg-Baden remained at Stuttgart. Through these three points,
all international mail to and from Germany passed. Within six
months after the resumption of service these centers were handling
mail at a monthly rate of over 4.6 million pieces. Of this amount,
2.26 million pieces were outgoing and 2.4 million incoming. The
majority of mail sorting and handling at this time was still done
by hand, another indication of the tremendous task facing the

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[7]"Resumption of Postal Service with Germany," Department of
State Bulletin, April 21, 1946, p. 863, from press release dated
April 1.

BRITISH ZONE

HANNOVER

MAGDEBURG

SOVIET ZONE
BERLIN

HAGEN

KASSEL

COLOGNE

FRENCH ZONE

FRANKFURT

MAINZ

KARLSRUHE

STUTTGART

RASTATT

FRENCH ZONE

TUEBINGEN

MUNICH

LINDAU

KEMPTEN

☆ INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE POINT

△ INTERZONAL EXCHANGE POINT

⬠ INTERNATIONAL AND INTERZONAL
   EXCHANGE POINT

Plate II

AMG Postal Service. The total amount of mail handled during September 1946, both international and local, was over 110 million pieces. In September 1945, the total figure was just over 10 million, or an increase of over 100 million pieces in a twelve month period. The postal service had grown along with the volume so that a letter mailed from Frankfurt to Munich moved faster in 1946 than it had in 1945 despite the increased volume of mail.[8]

The AMG Postal Service became the German Civil Postal System when international service was resumed. Military personnel of a non-supervisory status were prohibited from entering the Civil Post Offices. They were not permitted to send or receive mail throught the Civil Post Office, but rather had to use the APO system under military control. The purpose of these regulations was to return much of the control of the post offices to the Germans, and by removal of Allied military personnel this was made clear to the German population. All military workers were removed from the system, and civilians hired by Germans took over many of the jobs. Civilian vehicles came into use where these were available. By 1947, all postal service positions through cabinet level were filled by Germans, with the AMG authorities taking only an advisory role.[9]

International service to and from the United States was not resumed on April 1, but was delayed for a week. The official reason was given as censorship problems. By April 11, 1946,

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[8]"Originating Letter Mail" and "International Mail Volume," documents provided by Alfred Heinz.

[9]Gen. Ostrander, HQUSFET AG 311.1 GBI-AGO, "Channels," March 29, 1946.

the New York Herald Tribune announced:

> The first regular mail to leave America for
> Germany since Pearl Harbor, consisting of 170,000
> one-ounce letters and postal cards, will be in twenty
> sacks aboard the India Victory, sailing today from
> the foot of Van Brunt Street, Brooklyn, for Bremer-
> haven. Germany is the last European country to be
> permitted to receive American mail.[10]

The mail arrived in Bremen Enclave, under joint U.S. and British

administration, on April 28. There it was divided for the four

occupation zones and sent to the central processing points in

each. For the United States Zone this point was Frankfurt. In

Frankfurt the mail was sorted according to RPD's and forwarded

to the districts for censorship and delivery by the Civil Postal

System.

International parcel post service for the United States

Zone was resumed on June 1, 1946. This service was for incoming

packages only, unregistered and uninsured gift parcels under 11

pounds in weight. The contents of these parcels were limited to

non-perishable foods, clothing, soaps, and some medicines. First

class correspondence was prohibited. A customs tag and content

listing was required on the outside of the package, and the

words "Gift Parcel" were to be written in block letters near the

address. The rate was 14¢ each pound or part thereof from the

United States, and "American Zone" had to be marked clearly on

the box. If a package was undeliverable, it was turned over to

German relief organizations for distribution to the needy.[11]

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[10]From copy provided by Donald Slawson, Winchester, Virginia,
member of Germany Philatelic Society Post-WW II Study Group.

[11]"Parcel Post Service to U.S. Zone in Germany," Department
of State Bulletin, June 9, 1946, pp. 1012-13, from press release
dated May 28, 1946.

In May 1947, some restrictions on first class mail were
removed. Letters could be two pages in length, and a greater
variety of subject matter was permitted. Effective June 15,
1947, illustrated post cards other than those of a pro-Fascist
or subversive nature, or those relating to certain commercial
correspondence, were permitted to be mailed to and from Germany.
Business communications were expanded to include those which
related to and implemented transactions, provided the trans-
actions were legal under the laws and the funds which resulted
from them were placed in the proper accounts under AMG super-
vision. Communications which dealt with any external German
assets, however obliquely, were prohibited.[12]

Shortly after international mail service had been resumed,
it became apparent to AMG authorities that there were certain
types of messages which could not be entrusted to the regular
mail service for transmission across international borders. Since
the end of the war there had been a special diplomatic courier
service for duly accredited diplomatic and military missions.
Obviously, this service was not available to private citizens
or organizations in Germany. In recognition of the needs of
certain public service and administrative offices and personnel,
and of certain types of private enterprise, the AMG authorized
the establishment of a network of courier services originating
or terminating within the United States Zone. USFET outlined
restrictions placed upon these services before their inauguration
in June 1946. Only three types of organizations were permitted

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[12]Eugene H. Merrill, OMGUS cable Reference No. 8873, May 29,
1947, OMGUS.

to use couriers: (1) agencies and units of the German govern-
ment which operated within the control of OMGUS; (2) financial
institutions; and (3) non-profit and non-political humanitarian
organizations. Only certain materials could be transmitted
using the courier services: (1) official correspondence of
government agencies; (2) official correspondence incidental to
business and financial institutions of a banking nature, such
as checks and drafts, currency, bills of exchange, bills of lading,
letters of credit, debt notes, stock and bond certificates, and
other examples and evidences of indebtedness; (3) official cor-
respondence of relief and humanitarian organizations to branch
offices or affiliated organizations; and (4) official correspon-
dence of the courier service itself.[13]

A courier service had to make application for approval to
the Allied Military Government. The application contained,
among other things, the nature and scope of activities of the
organization making application, the name of a responsible member
of the organization who would insure compliance with the restric-
tions, the types of material transmitted, the actual route of
the courier, and a statement of the particular need for such a
service. Both the G-2 Section of OMGUS and the G-2 Section of
the AMG of the _Land_ in which the service was to operate had to
approve an application. Material transmitted by courier was
subject to censorship, and was not permitted to pass into another
occupation zone. Violations resulted in suspension of the service.[14]

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[13]Col. George W. Pope, HQUSFET AG 311.1 GBI-AGO, "Courier
Service," June 28, 1946, paragraphs 1, 2, 3, OMGUS.

[14]Ibid., paragraph 4.

The resumption of international mail service to Germany made the task of the Civil Censorship Groups all the more important. The volume increase of 100 million pieces from September 1945 to September 1946 enlarged the responsibilities of these groups rapidly. Assigned the task of examining all of this mail, these groups, like the rest of the postal service, became both more proficient and efficient at their work. The reading of mail written in many languages required inordinate amounts of time and money for processing, translation, and re-channeling. Censorship was not limited to international mail, but the main concern did lie with these communications. All mail was subject to at least periodic examination. The Censorship Groups were born with the local mail service, and grew as the intrazonal and interzonal services were restored. These gradual increases made the AMG aware of censorship problems and allowed time to correct these prior to the resumption of international service. It was the problems encountered by the censors which held up the reopening of some services, and, as we shall see in the next chapter, only after a close examination of these censorship processes, deemed necessary for survival by the AMG, could authorization for expansion or resumption of a service be given.

CHAPTER FIVE

Censorship

It was evident from the outset of planning for Allied Mili-
tary Government that provisions would have to be made for censor-
ship of civilian mails. Nearly all international mail through-
out the world had been subject to censorship since the outbreak
of hostilities. Many letters were censored repeatedly as they
journeyed across national borders, and many were simply never
allowed to pass on due to objectionable content. Because this
condition had existed for several years, the planning for post-
war censorship was made easier.

Civil Censorship was originally intended as only a temporary
arrangement. The AMG planners hoped to have a separate organi-
zation relieve the load on the Allied Military Censorship Groups,
already overloaded with military communications. But as with
so many other ideas, the separate civilian censorship group was
never formed, and the Civil Censorship Groups of the AMG were
left to handle civilian mail. Later, the groups were changed
over to civilian control.

It was decided early in the planning stages that censorship
activities would begin quickly, following the example of France
and the beginnings of censorship operations there. Because the
area of Germany was large and would require immediate censorship,
the problems of inauguration were dealt with in detail. Certain

assumptions were made: (1) it would not be possible to bring all internal mail service to a halt after hostilities ended to await the establishment of censorship facilities; (2) at first there would be no more than a skeleton crew at the Supreme Headquarters for purposes of censorship; (3) the main body of the available censorship personnel would arrive in Germany the first week after the surrender, but that group would still be a small one.[1]

A schedule of available censorship personnel was drawn up. A crew of seven officers and five enlisted men was planned as the initial skeleton crew. In actuality, in numbered ten officers and only two enlisted men. Priority was given to air communications by this first group. The second body of men was planned to be thirteen officers and twelve enlisted men, but this was changed to total nineteen officers and six enlisted men. The main body, arriving in the first week, was scheduled to include one hundred thirty officers and two hundred thirty-three enlisted men. This number held firm when the actual event occured, as did the other figures projected in planning. One month after the war, a force of fifty officers and one hundred enlisted men was added, forty-five days after the surrender an additional fifty officers and five hundred enlisted men, and the final addition of twenty-eight officers and eight hundred seventy-seven enlisted men came two months after the war. Thus, two hundred eighty-seven officers and seventeen hundred eighteen enlisted men were in Germany for Civil Censorship by July 1945. There were no civilian personnel

[1]SHAEF, "Inauguration of German Censorship," July 30, 1944, paragraph 5, sections a-d, OMGUS.

permitted to come to Germany for censorship purposes until two
months after the war's end, and at that time four hundred arrived
with another hundred one month later. Plans allowed for an ad-
ditional four hundred civilian personnel from the United States
and Great Britain, but these were never added. Instead, War
Department Employees (WDE's) were used whenever possible. While
WDE's were technically civilians, the AMG considered them mili-
tary personnel. The largest group of censorship workers was drawn
from the ranks of the German civilians who had been cleared by
the Allied Military Government. These were added to the groups
at a rate of five hundred in the first two weeks after the war,
fifteen hundred after the first month, five thousand after forty-
five days, and five thousand more after two months for a total
of twelve thousand. Civil Censorship totaled over fourteen thou-
sand six hundred by July 1945.[2]

Civil Censorship was not only applied to postal communica-
tions but to all communications "which may be authorized to enter,
leave, or pass within, the territory in Germany under the juris-
diction of the Supreme Commander, AEF, except that material for
publication or radio broadcast will be subject to press censor-
ship regulations."[3] All communications were subject to censor-
ship and could be delayed, interrupted, confiscated, or destroyed
without notice to either the sender or addressee. Censorship
authorities could deny the use of the mails to anyone at any time,

[2]Ibid., paragraph 5, sections e-g.

[3]SHAEF, "Censorship Regulations for the Civilian Population
of Germany Under the Jurisdiction of Military Government,"
October 1944, page 3, OMGUS.

and could not be held responsible for loss, damage, or delay of any communication. Subjects prohibited in letter and all communications passing through censorship included: (1) information concerning military operations; (2) information concerning placement, position, strength, description, movements, arrivals and departures of Allied military forces; (3) data concerning military intelligence; (4) disclosure of diplomatic negotiations or conversations; (5) names of persons arrested, detained, questioned, or interned by the Allied Military Government, including the location or description of the place of internment; and (7) any information, rumors, or propaganda which could be interpreted as harmful to the Allies, hinder the necessary civilian services, or be contrary to the interests of public safety.[4] Penalties for censorship violations were imposed by the AMG authorities, and differed with each case, but usually included denial of postal service and a fine.

In letters, limited to one page, writing had to be legible. The addresses were to be printed in block Roman letters on the face of the envelope, along with the language in which the letter was written. This allowed the letters to be sorted both by destination and by language by persons with only minor training. Commercial communications had to bear the word "Commercial" beneath the language identification. These were carefully examined and severly restricted. There could be no personal message included in a commercial communication, either on behalf of the sender or any third party. Private letters were limited to messages from the sender only. All communications were required

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[4]Ibid., pp. 5-6.

to show the full signature of the sender, that which appeared

on his identification card. Codes, ciphers, symbols, and other

signs which could convey hidden meaning were prohibited, as were

secret and invisable inks. Shorthand could not be used, nor

could letters be written in Braille. Crossword puzzles and

other game problems were prohibited for fear they might contain

secret messages.[5] Correspondents were not permitted to reuse

or enclose covers bearing censorship marks, labels, or stamps.

Music manuscripts, chain letters, and unitelligible drawings or

scrawls were likewise banned from the mails.[6]

Upon occupation all mail in transit was impounded and held

for further instructions. G-5 Division of the AMG was responsible

for the disposition and sorting of these impounded mails, using

the Reichspost personnel available. Where quantities warranted,

mails were placed in bags or bundles and sent to one of the

European censorship groups. For mails outside of Germany, these

were located in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg,

Italy, and London. The internal mails were held pending censor-

ship instructions from G-2. The records of all mails held and

dispatched were kept in each post office and made available to

the AMG.[7]

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[5]The Allies had hidden clues in crossword puzzles of the
London Daily Telegraph prior to the Normandy invasion. See
Anthony Cave Brown, Bodyguard Of Lies (New York: Harper & Row,
1975), pp. 598-99.

[6]SHAEF, "Censorship Regulations," pp. 7-8.

[7]Col. H. H. Newman, SHAEF AG 311.11-6, "Treatment of Im-
pounded German Postal Communications," September 18, 1945, OMGUS.
Colonel Newman was at this time Assistant Adjutant General for
SHAEF.

The Civil Censorship offices were operating by August 1945, and even though local mail had not yet been authorized throughout the United States Zone, these offices were kept busy sorting the mail impounded at the war's end. This was one of the many things which combined to delay the reopening of postal services. The mail passed through these censors prior to the authorization for local service was held by the _Reichspost_ until arrangements were made for local delivery. The currency and other prohibited articles found and retained by the censors was turned over to the AMG officials.[8]

After the reestablishment of local delivery within the U.S. Zone, the responsibilities of censorship were divided between USFET, responsible for the internal censorship policies and supervision, and OMGUS, responsible for communications outside of Germany, both incoming and outgoing. The mission of the Civil Censorship Groups was defined:

> Through examination of authorized public civil communications:
> a. Assist commanders in the security of the occupying forces.
> b. Assist in the occupational task by collecting and disseminating to concerned agencies information of value in:
>> (1) The destruction of the German National Social-party and its affiliates.
>> (2) The detection of underground illegal organizations and subversive elements.
>> (3) Maintenance of law and order.
>> (4) Enforcement of terms of the surrender instrument.
>> (5) Detection and recovery of loot.
>> (6) Detection of black market activity and location of undetected stock piles of essential materials.
>> (7) Control and stabilization of Germany.

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[8]Brig. Gen. R. B. Lovett, HQUSFET AG 014.4 GEC-AGO, "Treatment of Impounded German Postal Communications," September 18, 1945, OMGUS.

(8) Military government of Germany.
c. It will undertake to exchange censorship's infor-
mation with Allied censorships, in a manner agreed upon
by the Allied Control Authority or Allied agreement.[9]

The operation of the censorship divisions under USFET was the

responsibility of G-2, Censorship Branch. It was to supervise

all activities in the United States Zone and was responsible for

the authorization of channels crossing international, interzonal,

and district borders. Civil Censorship Groups were attached

to military districts for administration, supply, and quarters,

and established substations and traveling groups to augment the

district operations. Each group was responsible for mail which

originated within its area, and also to check all incoming mail

to be certain it had been censored at the originating point.[10]

In October 1945, USFET established three Civil Censorship

Groups. Group A was located at Munich and served the Eastern

Military District, Group B was located at Frankfurt and served

the Western Military District, and Group C was located at Berlin

and served the United States Sector of that city. While these

groups were coincidental with the Military Districts, they were

responsible only to G-2, Censorship Branch at USFET.

The Civil Censorship Groups (CCG) served as a link between

the civilian controled censorship operations and the headquarters

of USFET. It was soon clear that three groups would not be

enough, and in January 1946, a fourth group was added, and as-

signments shifted. Group A, headquartered in Pullach, a small

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[9]Gen. Lovett, HQUSFET AG 311.7 GBI-AGO, October 9, 1945,
paragraph 3, OMGUS.

[10]Ibid., paragraph 6.

town outside of Munich, was assigned censorship duties for com-
munication originating or terminating in Bavaria. Group B at
Frankfurt was responsible for communication in Greater Hesse,
and Group C in Berlin retained control over that area. Group
E was established with headquarters at Esslingen, and was re-
sponsible for censorship duties in Wurttemburg-Baden. This
reorganization was due in part to the establishment of the
Lander in the American zone.[11]

To show the process of inauguration of civil censorship
in Germany, a closer examination of one of the CCG's will be
helpful. Civil Censorship Group A was assigned to Munich because
of that city's position as the hub of postal and telecommunica-
tions in southern Germany. Group A prepared an official history
on a weekly basis. The issues from May 5, 1945 to March 30, 1946
follow the group through the first twenty-six personnel additions
to the staff.[12] According to this history, the Sixth Army Group
sent two officers and three enlisted men to find a suitable spot
for a censorship station. On May 9, 1945, such a site was found
at the former Schutzstaffel (SS) headquarters in Munich. However,
this property was given over to the Third Army Group. A new site
was selected at the SS headquarters in Pullach. On May 19,
Civil Censorship Division (CCD), USFET sent two officers and
twenty enlisted men to the new censorship office. They arrived

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[11]Brig. Gen. L. S. Ostrander, Adjutant General, HQUSFET
AG 311.7 GBI-AGO "Civil Censorship in Germany," January 10, 1946,
paragraph 2, OMGUS.

[12]"History of Group 'A' Civil Censorship Division United
States Forces European Theater," document provided by Mr. Donald
Slawson from personal files.

at the Munich-Pullach station the evening of May 22. The group
was commanded by Major Eugene H. Hoffmann. Before it was pos-
sible to begin actual censorship operations, it was necessary
to prepare the quarters and offices of the station, and to set
up the necessary equipment and supplies for the task. An ad-
ditional eighty-five men arrived at the Group on June 8, and
the first censorship activities were begun on June 18 with some
spot checking in Munich. During the first week of July, arrange-
ments were made with the PTT officer at the Office of Military
Government for Bavaria to have all impounded mail for Bavaria
deposited in Munich. There it was sorted in a school building
and brought by truck to Pullach, and returned to Munich the
next day to await delivery arrangements. At the same time,
an additional six officers and forty-two enlisted men joined
the operation, and the name of the station was officially desig-
nated "Detachment A Civil Censorship Division." By this time
it was possible to send civilians from the United States, and
the WDE's began to arrive at Group A.[13]

Mail destined for Feldpost, or the German Army Post Office,
addresses was divided into groups of one hundred for handling
by censorship authorities, and fifty examiners began these
activities on July 24. At the end of July, Group A reported
that an average of 14.19 percent of the mail received was un-
authorized or unacceptable, and reported also that there were
three hundred Reichspost employees now working at sorting the
mail for censorship.[14]

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[13]Ibid., "Week of 8 July to 14 July 1945."

[14]Ibid., "Week of 15 July to 21 July 1945."

By this time impounded mail was arriving by rail as well as by truck. During the last week of July, Group A scrutinized 26,875 letters, releasing 17,567, returning 727 to the sender, condemning 605, and submitting 40 to USFET headquarters of the Civil Censorship Division at Frankfurt.[15] This was done when it was felt by the Group Commander that a letter was threatening to the safety of the occupation forces or the security of the civilian personnel. These letters were turned over to the AMG police, who investigated the sender and the addressee. The history of Group A does not state where the remaining 7,936 letters went, but judging from other accounts, it is possible that these were in process when the totals were obtained.

The Group continued to censor mail at a rate of just under thirty thousand pieces each week until the middle of September. The rate then increased markedly. This was done because of the desire to eliminate as much of the impounded mail as possible before the resumption of local service in October. Additional help was called for from the Reichspost, and additional personnel from the civilian ranks was a must. Because the clearance of civilians took so long, a manpower shortage developed. During the week of September 16, 1945, Group A requested clearance for one hundred thirty-five persons. Sixty-seven of these were denied, and only forty-three were approved as examiners.[16] Beginning in October, mail from the Western Military District began to arrive at the Munich station, although such mail had not yet been authorized.

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[15]Ibid., "Week of 22 July to 28 July 1945."

[16]Ibid., "Week of 16 September to 22 September 1945."

The mail between the Military Districts was opened the week
of October 7, in part because there had been numerous unauthorized,
and therefore uncontrollable, postal channels detected. With
the beginning of the service between districts, it was hoped this
illicit traffic would be reduced. The staff of Group A was by
this time ready to lecture the German population on the proper
procedures to follow for expeditious service of their mail, a
step taken to prepare the way for resumption of international
service. There were now two sections within the Group, the
Impounded Mail Section, for dealing with the remaining mail
seized at the war's end, and the Internal Mail Section, respon-
sible for censorship of local mail. The week of October 14, 1945,
saw the volume for each of these sections exceed twenty thousand
pieces.[17]

About this time parcel post service within the United States
Zone was reopened. With the reopening of this service, censor-
ship was faced with a new problem:

> A large percentage of the packages examined contained
> inclosed written communications, probably placed there
> to evade the necessary additional postage as well as
> censorship. There is ample evidence that German civil-
> ians are attempting to withdraw jewelry and monies from
> vaults and other hiding places to escape, in some way,
> their registry with the Finance Section of the Military
> Government.[18]

During the week of October 21, 1945, the first postal cards
available for POW's to send to their next of kin were received.
Plans were also made for the inauguration of the IRC postal card
plan for Displaced Persons. Also during this week, interzonal

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[17]Ibid., "Week of 14 October to 20 October 1945."

[18]Ibid., "Week of 21 October to 27 October 1945."

service was reopened, once again partially to reduce the
number of illicit communication lines. The hope of Group A
was to have all impounded mail disposed of by the end of
November 1945, but it was not until late January that the last
bits of mail impounded in April 1945 were stamped "Released"
and passed on.

While impounded mail was no longer a major concern, there
was an increased amount of mail from Displaced Persons (DP's),
Prisoners of War (POW's), and former German armed forces personnel.
But by early 1946, Group A had the censorship processes well in
hand. With increased electrical power, longer working days and
greater use of machinery were possible.

The last major problem faced by Civil Censorship was that
of Civilian Internee mail. In January 1946, it was decided
by CCD to establish censorship substations at the CI camps to
relieve the load at the Group headquarters. Near the end of the
Group A history, the rate of examination for one substation was
placed at 21.488 letters per staff hour, a rate considered to be
high. The volume of mail passing through Group A by March 1946
was nearly thirty million pieces monthly and rising.[19]

Civilian travelers throughout Germany carried communications
with them to avoid the censorship of official channels. As a
means of stopping this, travelers entering and leaving the United
States Zone were subject to censorship inspection. While it was
impossible to check all routes into and from the zone, the major
ones were covered at all times and the secondary roads were watched
on a random and rotating basis. It was possible for a traveler

[19]Ibid., "Week of 10 February to 16 February 1946."

to submit his communications before hand and avoid censorship
along the way. These communications had to be submitted at
any of the censorship group stations, and received a censor-
ship seal. If the seal was not tampered with, the traveler was
permitted to pass through the censorship station at the point
of entry or exit.[20] Precensorship offices were established at
several military permit offices (where one would obtain permis-
sion for travel) outside the United States Zone for those persons
planning to enter the zone, and within the zone for those leaving.
The task of establishing and staffing these precensorship posts
fell to the Civil Censorship Groups, and with aid from the OMGUS,
and the Office of Military Government for each of the three
Lander, the offices eased the load of the main censorship stations.

Just prior to the initiation of international service, the
Internal Affairs and Communications Division of OMGUS advised
representatives of Censorship of the following:

> a. Mails should be delivered to Frankfurt and other
> censorship points by the Reichspost only when specifically
> requested to make such delivery by Censorship. Any
> mails . . . being diverted to . . . censorship points
> by Reichspost officials need not be continued so far as
> Censorship is concerned.
> b. It is expected that . . . letters will only be
> diverted to censorship points when specifically re-
> quested and that such will represent less than 1% of
> the internal German civil mails in the US Zone.
> c. All impounded mails will be disposed of by April 1,
> 1946.
> d. Censorship . . . does not object to any types or
> classes of mails being used by the German population.
> e. All international mails will be censored . . . .[21]

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[20]Brig. Gen. Ostrander, HQUSFET AG 311.7 GBI-AGO "Pre-
Censorship of Communications Carried by Civilian Travelers,"
February 15, 1946, OMGUS.

[21]Ibid.

Thus, for censorship purposes, it was decided to give preference
to international mails over internal mails. Impounded mail was
to be disposed of before the date international service was
scheduled to begin. All mail types would be permitted, but
all would still be subject to censorship if the Civil Censor-
ship Groups determined it necessary. The censorship machinery
was geared for external communication, and increased their per-
sonnel by ten thousand to handle the new load.[23]

A special problem for censorship was the Bremen Enclave,
the area surrounding that north German port. This area was
under join administration of the United States and Britain,
and was totally surrounded by the British Zone. It was decided
with the resumption of international service to attach the
Enclave to British censorship groups. Effective May 1, 1946,
censorship authority for Bremen Enclave was transferred from
USFET to the Headquarters, British Army of the Rhine. Pre-
censorship and censorship of civilian travelers remained under
United States control. No British censorship detachment was
stationed in Bremen, but rather mails for the area were delivered
to the British group nearest the address, as were communications
leaving Bremen.[24]

When a letter was censored, it was released with a tape
seal which usually had a censor number printed on it. The tape
was then stamped with a censorship impression, similar to a

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[23]Within the U.S. Zone, there were already 3000 WDE's.
The additional 10,000 were added from April through August, and
were officially classified as WDE's.

[24]HQUSFET 311.7 (GBI/CEN/Exec), "Censorship in Bremen
Enclave," April 16, 1946, OMGUS.

postal .cancellation device. The stamp was applied so that part of the impression rested on the tape and part on the envelope "tying" the tape to the cover. If these marks did not line up at some point along the journey of the letter, it was checked again, and a new tape and mark would be applied.

Within the United States Zone a uniform impression was adopted in April 1946. For mail which passed unexamined through Civil Censorship, the mark was a circle 4.7 centimeters in diameter. Around the inside edge of the circle was printed "U.S. Civil Censorship," and across the center line read the Exchange Post location, either Munich, Frankfurt, Berlin, or Stuttgart. For those mails which were examined and passed by Censorship, the circle read "U.S. Civil Censorship, Germany" around the inside, and pictured an eagle in the center. Beneath the eagle was the word "Passed" and the number of the censor.[25]

Censorship regulations were not uniform throughout the four zones of occupation, and this frequently caused problems. Between the United States and British Zones there was little trouble. The French Zone slowly adopted the regulations suggested by these two, but the Russian Zone had a completely different system. The censors in the Russian Zone used marks on an infrequent basis causing the censors in the other zones problems upon receipt of communications from the Soviet area. On August 15, 1946, the Acting Chief of the Communications Branch of USFET sent the following letter to the Soviet Military Administration at Karlshorst in Berlin:

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[25]Lt. Col. A.E. McCormick, HQUSFET 311.7 (GBI/CEM/Pos) "Censorship Impressions," April 9, 1946, OMGUS.

CENSORSHIP IMPRESSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ZONE

Plate III
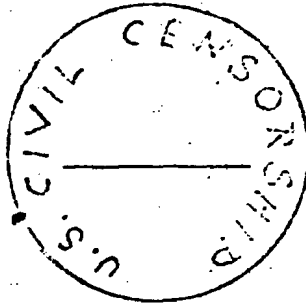
Impression used for international mail which passed through the
Civil Censorship unexamined.
Along the blank line in the center would be printed the location
of the Censorship Group:

MUNICH	-	Group A
FKT.	-	Group B
BERLIN	-	Group C
STUTTGART	-	Group E

Impression used for international mail which was examined by the
United States Civil Censorship Groups and passed.
The number below the eagle identified the censor, and thus the
location of the Civil Censorship Group.

Source: HQUSFET 311.7 (GBI/CEM/Pos) "Censorship Impressions,"
April 9, 1946, OMGUS.

1. The attached eleven (11) registered letters were received in the US Zone resealed without bearing a hand stamp indicating they were opened and resealed by Soviet censors.
2. When letters are opened and resealed in your zone, it will be appreciated if instructions are issued to have the proper identification mark placed on all such mail handled so the various addressees would know their mail has not been tampered with.[26]

By October 1946 the volume of mail in the internal German system of the American zone exceeded 280 million pieces each month. International communications, still limited to short personal and private correspondence only, exceeded 4.15 million pieces each month.[27] Because of these numbers, Civil Censorship was able to handle only 43 percent of the international mail. Internal censorship was maintained at a 1 percent figure, believed necessary to avoid jeopardizing the security of the occupation forces. The personnel allowed Civil Censorship Division was barely adequate to perform that amount of work.[28] Plans to alleviate this crushing load called for the gradual shifting of censorship responsibilities to the German nationals as they gained experience in supervision and control of various aspects of the operation.

In November 1946 a new censorship group, Civil Censorship Group D, was established at Kulmbach. Because Kulmbach was not an international exchange point, letters for Group D had to pass

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[26]E. H. Merrill, IA 311.7 EHM/LCK/ss "Presealed Registered Letters Bearing no Censorship Mark," August 15, 1946, OMGUS.

[27]Maj. Gen. W. A. Burress, Assistant C/S HQUSFET 311.7 (GBI/CEN/Exec), "Censorship," October 25, 1946, OMGUS.

[28]Maj. Gen. Burress, HQUSFET 311.7 (WAB/GBI/Exec), "Censorship,", October 26, 1946, paragraphs 2 and 5, OMGUS.

through Munich. Group D was established to relieve the pressure on Munich as the only point of international censorship in the whole of Bavaria. Group D at Kulmbach divided Bavaria into two sections and allowed for a higher percentage of the mail to be examined and censored.[29]

The life of Group D was a short one. It was discontinued effective April 11, 1947, and mail which had been sent there was again shipped to Munich.[30] This illustrated the fact that censorship as a whole was coming to an end. On April 25, 1947, Civil Censorship Group E at Esslingen was closed. Mail handled at this office was rerouted to Frankfurt.[31] Finally, in August, USFET decided to close all censorship installations, and change to a system of mobile censorship teams which would spot check mails throughout the United States Zone. The Civil Censorship office at Frankfurt was closed on August 18, 1947, leaving only Berlin and Munich in operation. These were phased out in late November 1947.[32] In Bremen Enclave, censorship was suspended on September 11, 1947, but orders also stated that "No publicity should be given to this change."[33]

[29]Lt. Col. R. A. Reese, OMGB AG 311.1 (MGBAC), "Operation of Group 'D', Civil Censorship Division," November 29, 1946, OMGUS.

[30]E. H. Merrill, Communications Branch CMGUS IA 311.7 (i-8), "Discontinuance of Censorship in Kulmbach," March 21, 1947, OMGUS.

[31]Merrill, CMGUS IA 311.7 (I-20), "Discontinuance of CCD Group E, Esslingen," April 1, 1947, CMGUS.

[32]Letter from I. T. Doty, Assistant Chief, RPTSO&P Section, OMGUS, to Mr. Merrill, dated August 20, 1947, OMGUS.

[33]Harry A. Lenhart, Chief Communications Branch Bremen, Censorsh/6, "Censorship of International Mail Originating in Land Bremen," September 12, 1947, OMGUS.

The new censorship system made use of a new organization known as Civil Inspection Service (CIS). Members of CIS were provided with identification passes or permits which authorized their entry into any postal installation within the United States Zone. The purpose of this new group was to procure specific mail of organizations under investigation, inspection of mail of individuals for unspecified reasons, and performance of any investigation necessary to insure accomplishment of their mission, whatever it might have been at the time. Cooperation of the officials in the German Civil Postas Service was "suggested" by officials of OMGUS.[34]

With the demise of the Civil Censorship Groups, however, the era of massive censorship in post-war Germany came to an end. The AMG and Civil Censorship had used the information it had obtained in several ways: (1) protection of the occupation armies by uncovering subversive activities, (2) prohibiting many illegal transactions, and (3) keeping individuals and organizations felt to be potentially dangerous in line and under supervision. The mobile teams remained in operation until 1949, but there were no significant developments in censorship from the end of 1947 through the establishment of the Bundespost in 1949.

In the time Civil Censorship Groups operated, no plots to overthrow the AMG were uncovered. No budding Fascist parties were discovered, and no escaped war criminals were found. There were cases of stolen goods reclaimed and returned, but these were rare. There were no threats to what the AMG called the "common

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[34]John E. Norton, Communications Advisor OMGB, AG 311.1 (MGUSC/M) "New Organization, CIS," December 22, 1947, OMGUS.

good." Censorship operations spent four years, great amounts of money, employed over fourteen thousand persons, examined millions of letters, and came away with nothing concrete to show for it; nothing to justify the effort, except that censorship operations may have prevented the development of some illegalities. To say that censorship kept the civilian population "in line" may be extreme, for it might have been possible for underground movements to grow in such a manner as to avoid any censorship; but the threat of having communications subject to inspection may have prevented some groups from gaining enough power, support, and momentum to pose a threat to the Allied Military Government. The findings of Civil Censorship Groups, or the lack of findings, made it easier for AMG authorities to measure the mood of the population and to more rapidly relax censorship volume to a mere 1 percent of internal communications.

The mail from Prisoners of War, Displaced Persons, Civilian Internees, and Wehrmacht personnel did not pass through Civil Censorship. Instead, this mail was the responsibility of military censors, who passed the mail through to the regular mail channels. These special programs were handled apart from the regular mail service and, as we shall see in the next two chapters, created special problems for the Allied Military Government.

CHAPTER SIX

Displaced Persons and Civilian Internee Mail

One of the early objectives of the Allied Military Government
was restoration to their families of those persons displaced by
the war. Because of massive Nazi relocation programs, this was
not an easy task. The most obvious method to initiate this
project was to allow postal communication between the displaced
persons (DP's) and their families.

The term "displaced person" refers to civilians who were
removed, either by force or as refugees, from their homes and
families. A great number of these individuals were Jewish.
Many persons located in the American zone had fled there to
avoid the Russian forces as they pushed westward across Germany.
Many persons had simply fled their homes as the fighting came
close. The largest group of DP's to be dealt with were located
in Germany itself. There were Poles, Czechs, and other European
nationals, but these were dealt with in a procedure apart from
the handling of German civilians. A problem encountered by the
Russians was the relocation of the German population living to
the east of the Oder and Neisse Rivers, the line established as
the new German-Polish border.

Procedures for the relocation of DP's were established long
before the Allies reached Germany. Liberated civilians through-
out Europe had been dealt with since mid-1944, and by the time

the first areas of Germany were reached, plans for their dis-
position had been made and tested.

Until the war ended, the first task of relocating families
was to establish communications to and from enemy controlled
territory. These channels were open only through the Inter-
national Red Cross, which had prepared a special form (Form 61)
for this purpose. The service was free, and the form required
that a person separated from their family fill out a card to be
filed in Geneva. This form asked for the name, date, place of
birth, nationality, religion, profession, former residence, and
present address of the DP. It also asked nearly the same infor-
mation about the persons with whom communication was desired.[1]

The IRC Form 61 was made available through local government
agencies in the Allied controlled areas. The local Red Cross
offices also held supplies, as did the AMG Civil Affair offices.
In the German controlled territory, it is known that the forms
were distributed by the IRC, and possibly by other agencies as
well. The forms were printed in English, French, and German, and
messages were restricted to these languages. If the sender was
not proficient in any of these languages, the local Red Cross
would provide a translation service. The content of all messages
was limited to a personal nature, no more than twenty-five words,
and was subject to censorship and a thirty day delay. Completed
cards were sent from the approved local agency, usually a Red
Cross office, and passed through the nearest censorship station.

[1]Col. H. H. Newman, Acting Adjutant General, SHAEF AG 311.1-2
GE-AGM "Communications to, from, and about Civilians in Liberated
Areas," September 14, 1944, OMGUS.

From the censorship office, they were passed on to the local
delivery service. Prior to the end of the war, as we have seen
in Chapter Three, local services were permitted to carry short
messages but not to function as a regular post office. The
delivery of the IRC message cards was one reason these services
were allowed. The local post was responsible for taking the
cards destined for enemy territory to the nearest international
mailing point for transfer to the British Red Cross. The British
Red Cross sent the cards on to Geneva and the IRC. From Geneva,
the cards were delivered to Nazi held territory. The forms in-
cluded a space for a short reply, also limited to twenty-five
words. A reply from enemy territory followed the reverse path
back to Allied lands.[2]

Another aspect of early repatriation was communication to
neutral countries. This was also limited to IRC Form 61, but
with the understanding on the part of AMG officials that full
letter and postal card service would be restored as soon as the
necessary postal machinery and proper censorship provisions had
been established. This was necessitated by those families which
had been broken with part fleeing to the neutral countries and
part remaining in Germany.[3]

The registration of DP's in both Allied and Nazi territory
was encouraged by the IRC. By early 1945, the IRC had large numbers
of registered DP's and had made several contacts between family
members. Increased numbers began to use the service as more of
Europe was freed from the Nazi grasp. A registration index

[2]Ibid., paragraph 4.

[3]Ibid.

card supplied by the IRC for their Geneva files (Form P 10027) made cross checking and references easier and expedited family messages.

Frequently a DP would know the address of his family, and thus need not register with the IRC in Geneva. These cases were handled in much the same manner as when the address was not known. Messages were limited to twenty-five words on the IRC Form 61, with space for a twenty-five word reply.[4] A simplified "field post card" for civilian use was also available. It was quick and avoided detailed censorship, but had no space for written messages (see Plate IV). These were designed primarily for use to families in France or Holland, and were printed in Dutch, English, and French.[5]

Within the United States Zone, there was little problem in implementing the use of the IRC forms. The Internal Affairs and Communications Division of OMGUS suggested to the IRC that a charge of two marks be made for the use of IRC Form 61, for it was feared that free use of this service would open a "quasi-international postal service." The IRC did not agree nor accept the suggestion, and adopted the plan without change explaining that the financial condition of an individual should not prevent him from finding his family.[6]

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[4]Ibid., paragraph 4.

[5]Brig. Gen. T. J. Davis, Adjutant General, SHAEF AG 383.7-1 GE-AGM "Procedure for Communication by Displaced Persons from Assembly Centers to their Homes by means of Field Post Cards," December 3, 1944, OMGUS.

[6]P. & T. Branch, Control Commission, SECC/82511/INTR(P&T) "International Red Cross Facilities for Civil Communications Services in Germany," July 19, 1945, paragraph 3, OMGUS.

Displaced Persons
Field Post Card

F O R   A D D R E S S   O N L Y

SEULEMENT L'ADRESSE

U I T S L U I T E N D   V O O R   A D R E S

TO
AAN
A

_____

_____

_____

_____

Plate IV

Address and message sides of the Field Post Card available for DP's to
send to their families. Printed in Dutch, French, and English, the
cards were distinct from the International Red Cross system also in use.
Source: Gen. Davis, SHAEF AG 383.7-1 GE-AGM, December 3, 1944, OMGUS.

DO NOT ALTER OR ADD TO PRINTED MESSAGES
NE RIEN CHANGER NI AJOUTER AUX MESSAGES IMPRIMES
VERANDER NIETS AAN OF VOEG NIETS TOE AAN HET GEDRUKTE BERICHT

Date _____

Datum _____

Mark the sentences below thus: ☑   Cocher les phrases ci-dessous ainsi: ☑

Dear _____ :   Cher _____ :

☐ I am well and safe.   ☐ Je suis sain et sauf.

☐ Will write as soon as possible.   ☐ J'écrirai des que possible.

☐ Expect to be home soon. Do not   ☐ J'espère revenir bientôt.
   write.   N'écrivez pas.

Signature _____   Signature _____

Merk onderstaande zinnen met een kruisje: ☑

Beste _____ :

☐ Ik maak het goed en ben veilig.

☐ Zal zoo spoedig mogelijk schrijven.

☐ Verwacht gauw thuis te zijn.
   Schrijf mij niet.

Handteekening _____

My particulars and present address:

Date: . . . .   To be left
Surname: . . . .   blank
      (Maiden name if married women).
Christian names: . . . . Single*married*widowed*divorced*
Date and place of birth: . . . .
Nationality: . . . . Religion(race): . . . .
Profession: . . . .
      (Business address if known)
Former residence: . . . .
. . . . Country: . . . .
Present address: . . . .
. . . . Country: . . . .

Particulars of the relative with whom I wish to communicate:

Surname: . . . .
      (Maiden name if married women)
Christian names: . . . . Single*married*widowed*divorced*
Date and place of birth: . . . .
Nationality: . . . . Religion(race): . . . .
Profession: . . . .   *Delete all
      (Business address if known)   irrelevant
Last known address: . . . .   matter.
. . . . Country: . . . .
Date of last news: . . . . Degree of relationship: . . . . . .   Please turn
over--

Plate V

Information section of Post Office Form P 10027 used to locate families
of Displaced Persons.

     Form P 10027 was filled out by a DP and sent to the International

Red Cross. The IRC then checked files to attempt to match those persons

seeking family members. The form was acceptable for use in both Allied

and German held territory.

Source: Col. Newman, SHAEF AG 311.1-2 GE-AGM, September 14, 1944, OMGUS.

Authorities in the British Zone devised a separate plan
for DP communication. Each DP was permitted to send two one-
page letters to relatives outside of Germany in a thirty day
period. These relatives could return two one-page letters per
month as well. All mail was subject to censorship, and sent
through the British postal channels to the addressed country.
This mail was not to enter Reichspost channels, except in the
event a communication was addressed to another DP camp.[7]

The DP camps were established to help refugees relocate.
Camps gave them a temporary address through which they could
communicate with family and friends. This process made the work
of the IRC easier, for it limited the number of addresses which
had to be searched in matching the files of families and individu-
als. These camps ranged in size from less than 100 (one of many
camps near Regensburg) to 10,000 DP's (a camp at Hohenfels).[8]

In July 1945, the Allied Control Council gave permission
to the German Red Cross, working with the Reichspost and the
International Red Cross, for the establishment of a card index
system for Germany, based on the IRC Geneva file system. This
new system serviced not only those persons who had been displaced,
but also prisoners of war, both Allied and German. The German
Red Cross relied heavily on the local directories compiled by
local post offices shortly after the end of the war to locate
persons not registered with the IRC. The Reichspost used the
card index files to update and expand these directories, adding

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[7]"Postal Service for Displaced Persons in the British Zone,"
DIAC/ACPC/PSC/P(45)/13, September 24, 1945, OMGUS.

[8]From document provided by Donald Slawson from personal collecti

the names of persons who had not reported their address or who had only recently settled into a permanent home.

As mentioned in Chapter Four (p. 30), a limited service for transmission of mail between the United States and DP's in the American zone was begun in November 1945. Displaced civilians in Germany were to send a special card to persons in the United States with whom they wished to communicate. Americans sending mail to Germany were required to have this card at the time of mailing. This plan was under the supervision of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA). UNRRA was responsible for distribution of the special cards to the DP camps. Along with this card (UNRRA Postal Form 1) it was necessary to distribute a supply of three cent postage stamps, the international rate to the United States. Beginning November 5, 1945, UNRRA distributed Postal Form 1 and stamps from four warehouse locations in the United States Zone. These were located at Hanau, Karlsruhe, Munich, and Nuremberg. DP camp directors requisitioned the cards at a rate of five of each for seven persons in the camp or under its jurisdiction. The cards were distributed without charge and filled out by the DP's. Completed cards were checked by UNRRA officials to be certain that the name and address of the sender were correct and all spaces filled out properly. The RPD and district number were essential. The cards had two parts, one retained by UNRRA as a record of correspondence, and the second placed in the camp mail bag. This mail was later bundled and the sack labeled "DP Mail," and sent to the nearest Censorship Group. The sack was turned over to the nearest Reichspost office for the trip to the Censorship office.

After passing through censorship, the mail was sent to either

Offenbach or Munich to a Postal Regulating Station to await

transmission to the United States.[10]

Letters and packages arriving in the United States Zone

were delivered to the Reichspost office nearest the addressed

DP camp. All incoming communications were recorded on a ledger

section of the retained portion of UNRRA Form 1 by camp officials.

DP's were not permitted to send more than one card to the same

addressee in the United States, but after receiving a reply to

the card, one letter per week from the DP to the addressee was

allowed. These letters were restricted to one page in any lan-

guage and subject to censorship.[11] These additional letters

used AMG postage stamps which had to be purchased by the DP's.

The original service included permission for gift parcels to

be received in the U.S. Zone. These were limited to five pounds

and could not exceed $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet in length and 6 feet in length and

girth combined.[12]

On January 15, 1946, the AMG authorities began a special

mail service for Jewish DP's. This service provided for Jewish

DP's to send their mails, both local and international, to the

American Joint Distribution Committee (AJDC), responsible for

repatriation and DP communication. These mails were enclosed

[10]Alvin R. Guyler, U.S. Zone Director, UNRRA Team Bulletin
No. 46, "Displaced Persons Communications-United States,"
paragraphs 1-6, November 1, 1945, OMGUS.

[11]Ibid.

[12]U.S. Post Office Department, The Postal Bulletin, November 23,
1945, "Exchange of Letters and Post Cards with Displaced Persons
in the American Zones of Austria and Germany," OMGUS.

in two envelopes, the outer one addressed to the AJDC and the inner to the ultimate addressee. AJDC also provided a service of pickup from Jewish DP's throughout the American zone. These letters were transported to Frankfurt where they were censored at the station in Offenbach, CCG B. From Frankfurt, the mail was sent to the proper area of Germany or foreign country for delivery.[13]

By the end of January 1946, several channels for communication between DP's and their families and friends were in existence. Field Post Cards were available for communication to some areas, UNRRA Form 1 was available for others, limited parcel post and letter service from the United States was available for persons having established communication with someone there, and postal communications were open for Jewish DP's to the rest of the world.[14]

The DP camps were a temporary phenomenon, and through these several listed channels of communication, families were put in touch with one another. One example of this is found in the records and stories of the British Zone. The area of West Mecklenburg was under British occupation until July 1, 1945, when it was placed under Russian control. During the short period of British control, a postal card system similar to that in the American zone was begun. The Russians continued this system for the area after they began administration. A card from this period and area is today in the possession of Alfred Heinz, a member and director of the Germany Philatelic Society. The card is noteworthy

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[13]A. G. Abdian, memorandum to Captain Rotenberg, Group Postal Censor, CCG B, January 15, 1946, OMGUS.

[14]Ibid., attached chart.

not only for the fact that it was mailed on June 16, 1945, during
the sixteen days the cards were available from the British prior
to the Russian takeover, but also because of the DP sending it:
Willy Brandt. Brandt had fled to Scandinavia during the Hitler
period and returned to Germany at the close of the war. He used
the card to locate his family, who had been evacuated from the
area of Freienwalde in April 1945.[15]

As families were located and people moved from the DP camps
to permanent homes, many of the camps were closed. Between June
and September 1947, sixty-seven smaller camps were closed and
person relocated and consolidated in larger camps for economic
and administrative efficiency. The majority of these closings
were camps with less than five hundred capacity. All told, an
estimated twenty thousand persons had passed through them and
into Germany society once again.[16]

Another large group requiring postal service was the Civil-
ian Internees (CI's). These were persons detained for one reason
or another by the Allied Military Government. These persons were
permitted service similar to that of the DP's: one card every
two weeks, with communication restricted to only these cards.
The addresses of the CI camps were not given, only an official
address through which all communication passed. Next of kin were
permitted to send an inquiry card to either the IRC or the German
Central Postal Bureau, run by the German Red Cross. They would

[15]Alfred Heinz, "RPD-Schwerin Postcard With a Story,"
BALPEX 1975 Handbook (Baltimore: Germany Philatelic Society,
1975), pp. 85-87.

[16]"Small DP Camps Closing Out Under Consolidation Program,"
EUCOM Release No. 467, September 3, 1947, OMGUS.

be told only that the person they sought was safe, but not the location of the individual. Limited parcel post service, subject to censorship, existed. All CI mail was handled by the Army Post Office and was kept out of the _Reichspost_ and the AMG postal systems.[17]

In much the same manner as the DP camps, the CI camps became unnecessary. By the end of 1947, separate CI camps no longer existed. CI's were assigned to either local detention centers or to DP camps.

Through the International Red Cross and the UNRRA and their related agencies, the Allied Military Government was able to establish quickly communication between many of the persons displaced by six years of war. Using many of the same channels, civilians considered to be a possible threat to the AMG were also permitted to assure their families of their safety.

DP's and CI's were not the only people in the United States Zone who had to communicate with their families and friends outside the normal civilian postal channels. In the next chapter, we shall examine some of the problems and procedures in establishing mail service for prisoners of war and members of the German armed forces, the _Wehrmacht_.

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[17]"Communication Between German Civilian Internees and their Families," 609/PTT/5/1/-311, February 5, 1946, OMGUS.

CHAPTER SEVEN

Prisoner of War and <u>Wehrmacht</u> Personnel Mail

At the time hostilities ceased, German armed forces personnel
were spread over much of central Europe. Thousands of men were
called upon to lay down their arms and were remanded to either
the British, American, French, or Russian authorities. These
men were not usually imprisoned, but sent to to special camps
similar to those established for DP's and CI's. All but a select
few of these persons were permitted to come and go as they pleased,
to hold jobs, and to try to build a life for themselves outside
the camps. The inmates of the camps were using them as a home
until enough money could be found to move to a permanent address,
or until communication with their family had been established
and they could leave with somewhere to go. As was the case with
other large groups encamped after the war, it was necessary to
design a system whereby the <u>Wehrmacht</u> personnel could communi-
cate quickly and easily with their family and friends.

Those German soldiers who had become prisoners of war (POW's)
prior to the German surrender remained as such until Allied author-
itites responsible for their release determined a time to set
them free. One stipulation in the release of a POW was that he
had contact with his family or friends for some assistance after
leaving confinement. Here again, a communication link was
necessary.

As it had done with the DP's, the International Red Cross
proposed a plan for establishment of a central enquiry file and
index to help families and soldiers contact one another. The plan
used postal cards distributed to POW's and _Wehrmacht_ members for
mailing to their families at the last known address. Using the
German Red Cross at Hamburg as the central location, the plan
was first inaugurated in the British Zone and was later adopted
in the United States Zone. The British system used two postal
cards, one pink in color and the other buff. The pink cards
were filled out by families seeking a _Wehrmacht_ member's location,
while the buff cards were filled out by the _Wehrmacht_ personnel
seeking families.[1]

By September 1945 this postal card system was functioning
in all of Germany except the Russian Zone. Mail originated by
a member of the _Wehrmacht_, limited to the buff postal cards,
was passed from the camp to military censors. After being passed
through censorship, the cards entered APO channels for delivery
to the RPD governing the area addressed. At this point they were
placed in the civilian mails for delivery to the next of kin.
Cards addressed to zones other than the one of origin were subject
to long delays, for these had to pass through the interzonal
check points and were often censored twice. For example, a card
addressed to the British Zone and sent from the United States
Zone had to be collected from the camp, sent to RPD headquarters,
and forwarded to Frankfurt. There it was censored, entered the

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[1]"Communications between Wehrmacht and Families," memo
SECC/82504/1/INTR(P&T), August 1945, OMGUS.

British Zone at Cologne, and was sent to the RPD headquarters
there. It was again censored, sent to the RPD of the address,
and placed in the civilian mails for delivery.[2] The buff cards
had a detachable portion for a reply from the addressee. Later,
green postal cards replaced the pink for messages from families
to Wehrmacht personnel.

The green postal cards or the detachable portion of the buff
cards, the only authorized inward communication for Wehrmacht
members, were placed in the civilian mail boxes. These were
then delivered to RPD headquarters, censored, turned over to
the APO and distributed to the camps addressed. Following the
earlier example, a card entering the United States Zone from the
British Zone destined for a Wehrmacht member would be collected
by the Reichspost, sent to RPD headquarters, turned over to the
British APO, sent to Cologne, censored, transfered to the Americans
at Frankfurt, censored again, and be sent on to the RPD addressed,
and placed in the hands of camp officials for delivery to the
addressee.[3]

Closely related to the central bureau for tracing families
and friends was the bureau for compilation and notification of
POW and war deaths. When the families of Wehrmacht members re-
quested contact be made, they knew full well that they might hear
from this bureau, the Information Bureau, PW and War Casulties.[4]

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[2]"Addendum to Annexure 'A'," 21 AGp/3836/A(PS3), July 21,
1945, CMGUS.

[3]Ibid.

[4]General Dwight D. Eisenhower, USFET Cable S-18790, August 22,
1945, CMGUS.

The buff cards were used for initial inquiry only. After making contact, a Wehrmacht member was permitted to send one regular postal card each week to his family with a limit of twenty-five words. Senders were warned that attempts to send messages in code on either the buff cards or regular postal cards would result in the suspension of the service.[5]

The green cards were also for initial contact only. The camp addresses of Wehrmacht personnel were not made public, but rather the Feldpost, or German equivalent of the APO, numbers were used. Incoming mail for Wehrmacht members was separated according to these numbers and forwarded to the appropriate camp. Civilians were permitted to send regular postal cards to these "closed addresses" at a rate of one per week.[6]

In October 1945, the system using buff colored cards was extended to Wehrmacht personnel with relatives living in the Russian Zone. These cards passed through the Hamburg RPD on their way to the addressees. Wehrmacht members living in the French Zone wishing to contact family in the Russian Zone had to transfer their requests through the American zone and on to Berlin. This service did not permit messages on the card. Only the name and Feldpost address number were permitted on the message portion of the card, and the family address and the words "Russian Zone" on the address portion. Reply sections could be returned

[5]"Postal Enquiry Service. Instructions to German Commanders," June 1945, paragraphs 4 and 8, OMGUS.

[6]"Handing over of Postcards between Wehrmacht and German Civilians," 690/PTT/2/1/118, September 11, 1945, OMGUS.

with the family address only. Even though no return messages
were allowed, the fact that contact had been made was reassuring
to all concerned.[7]

In October 1945, it was decided by AMG authorities to sepa-
rate a large group of DP's for special service. These were
ex-<u>Wehrmacht</u> members who had not yet been contacted by or made
contact with their families. These men were included in the
buff card program, removing some of the pressure and overload
from the DP censors and shifting it to military censors. The
return addresses for ex-<u>Wehrmacht</u> members were regular civil
addresses rather than the <u>Feldpost</u> numbers.[8]

Not all <u>Wehrmacht</u> personnel wishing to contact their families
were in Germany. In October 1945, the buff card system was opened
to soldiers in Denmark. Return addresses were <u>Feldpost</u> numbers
with the designation "Denmark." After initial contact had been
made, either through the buff or green cards, further communica-
tion was restricted to a special form for Denmark, a letter
card limiting messages to twenty-five words. All other messages
were returned marked "No Service," for international mail was
not yet permitted. The letter cards had to be initiated by the
<u>Wehrmacht</u> member, and each had a reply portion for the use of the
family.[9]

[7]Dr. Hartmann, President RPD Hamburg, IAl 2190-2, "Buff
Reply Cards for the Russian Zone," January 18, 1946, OMGUS.

[8]"Wehrmacht-German Civilians Postal Communications Scheme,"
609/PTT/5/5/1 631, October 8, 1945, OMGUS.

[9]"Wehrmacht-German Civilians Postal Communications Service,"
609/PTT/5/5/532, November 8, 1945, OMGUS.

In November 1945, a similar scheme was begun for Wehrmacht

members who had fled to Sweden. Feldpost numbers ending with

"Sweden" were assigned, and the buff, green, and letter cards

were used. Mail coming from Sweden was routed through Bonn, in

the British Zone, for distribution.[10]

By the end of 1945 the network for POW and Wehrmacht person-

nel to contact their families was operating. There were pro-

visions for Wehrmacht members both in and out of Germany to

send messages to their homes, and recieve messages back. POW's

could contact their families to assure them of their safety and

notify them of their release. By the middle of 1946, the primary

problem faced by the AMG authorities with respect to Wehrmacht

members was determining the status of men noted as "Missing in

Action." Whenever possible, proof of death was made available

to families. When this was not possible, the families were kept

informed of any actions taken to discover the fate of the soldier.

These interview sessions with families helped much of the German

population accept the goodwill intentions of the AMG. To help

trace many of these missing men, POW's were interviewed prior

to their release.

The same office which handled the indexing of DP's also

was responsible for the indexing of POW's in the United States

Zone. Again, two sectioned buff postal cards were used. These

cards were distributed to the prisoners. Each card had a space

for the name and last known address of the family. These were

collected and sent to Frankfurt, and from there they were shipped

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[10]"Wehrmacht-German Civilians Postal Communications Scheme,"
609/PTT/5/5/3 659, November 14, 1945, OMGUS.

to "Postmaster, German Prisoner of War Mail, New York, New York." An index of prisoners was then compiled, and the cards were returned to Germany for distribution and delivery. (The exact reason for this round-about route is not clear, but possibly the burden of compilation of a civilian directory and administration of the several special programs was more than enough for _Reichspost_ and AMG officials.) After initial contact with families had been made, special nine line postal cards were provided to the prisoners. These could be sent to the family at a rate of two per month.[11] This service was limited to those families living in the United States and British Zones.

Families attempting to locate a prisoner of war were issued a blue postal card. These served the same function as the green cards served in the _Wehrmacht_-family communications. In many cases, a family uncertain of the fate of a soldier would fill out both the green and blue cards, hoping one would turn up some trace of the missing person.

Outgoing POW mail was collected by prisoners and delivered to the nearest _Reichspost_ office for sorting. All cards leaving POW camps were censored. The POW system was the only special mail service which used only the _Reichspost_ for outgoing mail. Part of the reason for this was the restriction of destinations to only the American and British Zones, eliminating the need to pass the cards through any international exchange stations. Incoming mail was also handled by the _Reichspost_, but was subject

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[11]Maj. Gen. Edward F. Witsell and Maj. Gen. Daniel Noce, Headquarters Army Service Forces, ASF Circular No. 397, Part Three, "Prisoner of War--Correspondence," October 22, 1945, OMGUS.

Anfangsbuchstabe des Familiennamens des Wehrmachsangehörigen.

I. TEIL

NÄCHSTER ANGEHÖRIGER SUCHT EINEN VER-WANDTEN IN DER GESCHLAGENEN WEHRMACHT

gegenwärtige Anschrift des nächsten angehörigen IN BLOCKSCHRIFT !

Ich suche den _____
(Verwandtschaft)

_____
(Dienstgrad)

_____
(Name und Vorname IN BLOCKSCHRIFT)

Sein Geburtsort und Datum _____

Datum _____ 1945

Unterschrift _____

II. TEIL

Gegenwärtige Anschrift des nächsten Angehörigen IN BLOCKSCHRIFT !

III. TEIL

MITTEILUNG DES NÄCHSTEN ANGEHÖRIGEN (IN BLOCKSCHRIFT — NICHT ÜBER WORTE)

Datum _____ 1945

SIP. 9-45/3000 M/79.088

Unterschrift _____

Plate VI

Shown here are the message sections of the blue postal cards used by families to locate POW's in the American, British, and French Zones of Germany.

Source: ASF Circular No. 397, October 22, 1945, OMGUS.

I. TEIL

Anfangsbuchstabe
des Familiennamens
des Absenders

EIN MITGLIED DER GESCHLAGENEI
WEHRMACHT SUCHT SEINEN
NÄCHSTEN ANGEHÖRIGEN

Ich bin noch am Leben und befinde mich z. Z. in Amerikanischer Hand

Ich bin $\frac{gesund}{im\ Lazarett.}$ Meine Anschrift ist wie unten. Bitte die Karte sofort zurückzuschicker

Datum_____1945   Unterschrift_____

Kriegsgefangene Nummer_____

Geburtsort und Geburtsdatum _____

- -

II. TEIL

Briefmark

Zulässige Anschrift des Wehrmachtsangehörigen
IN BLOCKSCHRIFT

Dienstgrad, Name, Vorname :_____

Kriegsgefangene Nummer :_____

_____

_____

_____

(AMERIKANISCHE ZONE)

Plate VII

Shown here are the message portions of the buff postal cards
used by POW's to contact their families, used in the American
and British Zones.

Source: ASF Circular No. 397, October 22, 1945, OMGUS.

to censorship in the regular Civil Censorship Groups before
delivery to the POW camps. Another reason for the use of the
Reichspost may have been the volume of buff and blue cards is-
sued, only about 18,000 of each.[12]

USFET authorities devised a program whereby regular cor-
respondence between POW's and their families could be established.
Inaugurated in January 1946, the plan allowed letter mail on
special forms provided by U.S. authorities. Each POW was permit-
ted one letter and one postal card each week. The letters were
limited to one page with twenty-four lines of writing on one
side only. Postal card messages were limited to nine lines.
POW's were also permitted to send parcels of up to four pounds.
These could contain only handmade or personally owned items.
Army rations, supplies, or equipment could not be sent.[13] The
postage for POW's was free, except for airmail or registration.
Letters had to be written in blue or black ink, indelible pencil,
or typewritten. All names and numbers had to be in block letters
for easy reading. The language used was printed with the return
address to facilitate censorship by division of letters according
to language for translation. No writing between lines or in the
margins was permitted, nor was the use of cyphers, symbols, musi-
cal symbols, quotations, drawings, shorthand, or unusual arrange-
ment of letters or words. These restrictions were created to

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[12]Brig. Gen. R. B. Lovett, HQUSFET AG 311.1 GEC-AGO, "Estab-
lishment of Postal Contact between Prisoners of War and Nearest
of Kin," October 3, 1945, paragraph 2, OMGUS.

[13]Brig. Gen. L. S. Ostrander, HQUSFET AG 311.1 GAP-AGO,
"Instuctions for the Receipt and Sending of Mail by Enemy
Prisoners of War," December 28, 1945, Part I, section c, para-
graph 1, OMGUS.

lessen the chances of codes slipping past the censors. No additional enclosures were permitted, but under certain circumstances, and with the permission of the camp commander, documents could be sent under separate cover. All letters were dated with the correct date; pre and post dating were prohibited. Communication between POW's in different camps was not permitted, and messages from POW's could be only to the addressee or members of the family.[14] Outgoing mail from POW camps could be transmitted to points in the French, British, and American zones only, and to parts of Austria, England, Denmark, Norway, and Italy. All international POW mail was censored at the appropriate Civil Censorship Group.[15]

If a prisoner received no mail from his family for a period of three months, a special form was available to send an "Express Message." These were provided by the International Red Cross, and were a postal card similar to the buff cards used for initial contact. They were transfered through the regular POW mail channels, and were not counted against the mailing quota of the POW.[16]

Incoming POW mail was unrestricted as far as the length or the number of letters received. Parcels were examined upon receipt at the camp by the commander in the presence of the addressee. All enclosures were examined, as well as all wrapping paper and lables, in a search for hidden and secret messages. Among articles prohibited in POW parcels were liquors and wines, lemons or lemon

[14]Ibid., paragraphs 3 through 11.

[15]Ibid., section d.

[16]Ibid., section e.

juice, photographic equipment, field glasses, compasses, baro-
meters, electrical equipment, maps, drawings, photographs
(other than family), medicines or pharmaceutical supplies, note-
books, stationery, matches, weapons, political books, and prop-
aganda. All of these items were felt to pose a danger to other
prisoners or could be used to aid a prisoner to escape or con-
spire with others to escape.[17]

Beginning in February 1946, communications between POW's
and Wehrmacht personnel was authorized. This mail was subject
to censorship through the normal postal channels, either military
or civilian, and sometimes both. This service was open also
between the United States Zones in Austria and Germany with
Munich and Vienna serving as the distribution points.[18]

By the summer of 1946, POW mail was being treated as an-
other part of the German mail system. There were few restrictions
left on POW letter mail that did not apply to all mail in Germany.
International service for POW's was open, with certain restric-
tions,[19] and as POW's were released in increasing numbers, they
became civilian DP's. Most POW's had long established communi-
cation with their homes, and quickly found permanent places in
the German society.

The Allied Military Government, using the Reichspost, local
services, and the APO, had at least six distict mail systems
in operation at one time: The civil postal service, the postal

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[17]Ibid., Part II, section b.

[18]P. J. Schardt, Chief Postal Service Section, Cable
05/01415A, February 1946, OMGUS.

[19]Service was prohibited to POW's in Germany, Japan, or Spain.

card system for DP's, the postal card system for CI's, the postal card system for <u>Wehrmacht</u> personnel, the postal card system for POW's, and the regular APO service. Much of the expense for these systems was borne by the AMG, for it did not charge postage in most special services. The civil mails and the supplimentary letter services did require postage, and as a means of showing postage paid, special AMG postage stamps were designed and distributed. Prior to the availability of these stamps, several local postal services had their own stamps or provisional issues, and in times when AMG stamps were in short supply, alternate methods of showing postage paid were devised. In the next chapter, we shall examine some of the early local issues and the production of the AMG stamps for Germany.

CHAPTER EIGHT

Postal Issues

An obvious part of any postal system is a method to prove
the payment of postage. In most cases this is done with adhesive
postage stamps or a rubber stamp marking.

Hitler and the Nazi party used postage stamps and other
postal markings as propaganda tools. A study of Nazi stamps in
1944 alone shows commemoratives honoring the German Air Force,
Hitler's birthday, the Reich Labor Corps, and a prolonged issue
for Hero Memorial Day. In 1945 there were stamps to honor the
Volksstrum, or People's Army, the SS and the SA.

It was apparent from the beginning of occupation planning
that a new postage stamp design would have to be developed. The
use of propaganda stamps of the Nazis would be curtailed as soon
as possible.

In the early occupation period, new postal systems were not
immediately established. Even after the war ended and the AMG
postal system was working, the needs of many local areas were not
always readily met. The resumption of services in many areas was
preceded by the local Reichspost authorities, with or without the
approval of the AMG, issuing stamps or markings to indicate the
payment of postage. These helped establish local postal services
before the official AMG authorization of such services. In nearly
all cases, the local Military Commander allowed the service to

continue, desiring the economy and lifestyle of the population

to normalize quickly with as little trouble or interference as

possible. These local issues ranged in format from simple rubber

stamps reading "Gebuehr bezahlt," or "Postage paid," to printed

stamps. The stamps were made with available tools and supplies

including pens, typewriters, and rubber handstamps, and printed

on papers ranging from postal seals to wrapping paper and price

tags.[1]

The Germany Philatelic Society has established a series of

four criteria by which a local issue can be classified as a true

"Postmaster Provisional," an issue authorized by local postal

authorities:

> 1. The issue must have been authorized by the local
> postmaster himself or by some other local, non-postal,
> civil authority to which the local postmaster reported
> at the time.
> 2. The provisional must have been issued for the sole
> purpose of facilitating handling of mail. This excludes
> all issues semi-postal or philatelic in character.
> 3. The issue must include only such values as were
> required to cover the types of postal services required
> at that time by occupation authorities.
> 4. The provisional must have been printed by a local
> printing facility or produced by the Post Office in
> question itself utilizing available printing or pro-
> duction facilities and locally available material.[2]

The great difficulty in the study of the postmaster provisional

issues is that each has a particular history and short period

of use, usually between two and twelve weeks. The purposes for

which each was designed are known, but the circumstances which

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[1]Alfred Heinz, "The 1945-46 Postmaster Provisionals of
Germany," Stamps, April 6, 1957, pp. 20-21.

[2]J. W. Barbour, "The Plight of the Postwar German Postmaster
Provisionals," Balpex 1975 Handbook (Baltimore: The Germany
Philatelic Society, Inc., 1975), p. 88.

surround their issuance are clouded in the chaos of the period
following the German surrender.

Within the United States Zone there were nine points which
issued provisionals that are available for study today. This
might indicate the use of the local issues was widespread and
common in these areas. The large number of examples of these
nine issues which survive today are a cross section of the types
produced throughout Germany in the early occupation period.

The nine towns with provisional issues in the United States
Zone were Frankenau, Bad Nauheim, Frammersbach, and Lauterbach
in Land Hesse, Bamberg, Ellingen, Mindelheim, Reit im Winkl, and
Bad Wiessee in Land Bavaria. There were few local issues for
Land Wuerttemberg-Baden, or in southern Land Hesse, possibly be-
cause of the proximity of Frankfurt am Main, the Headquarters
for the AMG postal operations.

At Lauterbach, the postmaster provisional issue was in use
from July 12, 1945, until September 1, 1945. The town is located
about twenty miles northwest of Fulda, and in the early occupation
was not served by any type of AMG postal service. With authori-
zation of the local Military Commander, the postmaster issued a
permit for postage, selling for 10 pfennig. The issue was rectan-
gular and paid postage in the area of Lauterbach only. Of the
original 40,000 copies produced, 16,000 were sold, with the re-
mainder now in the museum at Lauterbach.[3]

During December 1945, the postmaster at Frammersbach issued
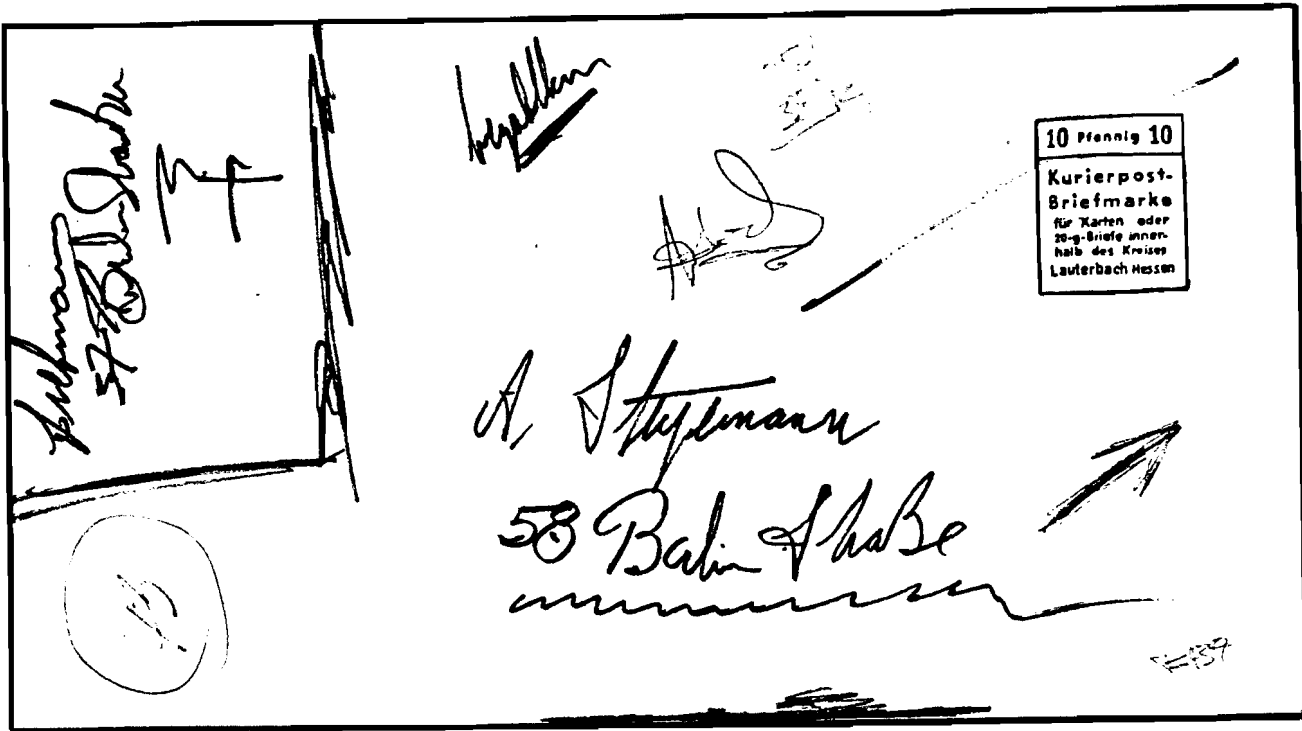a seal with a circular impression reading simply "Postamt," or

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[3]Michel Deutschland-Spezial-Katalog 1977 (Munich: Schwane-
berger Verlag, 1976), p. 783.

Plate VIII

Map showing the points in the United States Zone
where local postal issues were used during 1945
and 1946.

Source: Michel Deutschland-Spezial-Katalog 1977

Plate IX

This is an example of a cover from Lauterbach with the local postmaster provisional issue. Letters enclosed in envelopes were rare, folded letter sheets being more common. Provisional issue is Michel Catalog number Lauterbach 1.

"Post Office." This was a temporary issue to meet the needs of the local office due to a shortage of official AMG stamps. This provisional was printed in black, overprinted in violet with the words "Gebuehr bezahlt." The time period during which this issue was used was short, and although there are many copies which survive, only those still on cover are sought by collectors to avoid the many forgeries which exist.[4]

In the town and area of Frankenau a different situation developed, and two provisional issues were produced. Values of 12 and 24 pfennig were sold for postage due purposes. These were first sold in early April 1946, and removed from sale on April 27. They were printed in sheets of twenty on several different papers. The colors of the 12 pfennig were rose-red and yellow while the 24 pfennig was purple and yellow. AMG authorities did not approve of the issues, and their sale was stopped when reports of their use reached Frankfurt. Their use was discouraged because of the tendency of persons to place mail in the local boxes without payment of postage. The letters would be delivered and the addressee would pay the rate to the Frankenau Post Office. Using this method, no AMG stamps were used and revenues could be channeled away from the AMG use and supervision. While there is no indication that the monies were ever kept from the AMG accounts, authorities were anxious to remove the opportunity.[5]

A complete series of values was issued in Bad Nauheim. In December 1945 a circular label reading "Postamt" and "Bad Nauheim"

[4]Ibid., p. 760.

[5]Ibid.

with assorted values was the first issue for the town. On the 42 pfennig value, printed in black, the value and the words "Gebuehr bezahlt" were added in either red or green. For 54 pfennig, these were added in either red or violet, and on the 70 pfennig value they were added in red. This series was used at various times until February 1946, when a new overprint design was adopted, the numerals of value and "Gebuehr bezahlt" being printed in violet on all three values. In early March 1946, this same circular design on a lable was used with another over-print. The new overprint was used for higher values, ranging from 80 to 140 pfennig. The design was rectangular with the town name across the top, the value along the bottom, and the words "Gebuehr bezahlt" along both sides. Inside this was the town crest printed in different colors according to value: the 80 pfennig printed in grey-black, the 84 pfennig in pale violet, the 104 pfennig in dark blue, the 108 pfennig in grey-green, and the 140 pfennig in brown-red. In late March a new lettering for the circular design was adopted for the label, and the printing was done on grey and white papers. The overprint colors also changed slightly.[6]

Bad Wiessee and Bamberg issues were rectangular lables, those from Bamberg issued in values of 6, 12, and 24 pfennig. These appeared several times during 1946, used for postage due purposes. In Bad Wiessee lables with no value were overprinted showing the value, town name, and date, usually with a typewriter.[7]

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[6]Ibid., pp. 746-48.

[7]Ibid., p. 749.

The issues of Ellingen were rectangular labels reading "Gebuehr bezahlt" and appearing in November 1945 as postage due labels. They were prohibited by AMG authorities, but used in periods of short stamp supply until early 1946. Printed in sheets of thirty, over five thousand were placed in circulation.[8]

The first issues of Mindelheim appeared in October 1945, again as postage due labels. These were printed on white or grey paper and were inscribed "Gebuehr bezahlt!" with a space left to add the value. There were 16,000 printed and sent to the post office at Mindelheim. It has been reported that the issue may have come about as a result of a lost shipment of AMG stamps destined for Mindelheim and Kirchheim. The second provisional issue for Mindelheim was released in January 1946 with a value of 42 pfennig. There were three overprints of the value, and clever forgeries exist of both provisionals.[9]

An issue appeared throughout 1946 in Reit im Winkl, located in the extreme south of Bavaria. This was a round label with the value typewritten across the circle. The inside was inscribed "Postamt Reit: Winkl," and contained a large "V." The issue was used for postage due and printed on various papers in rose-red. A handstamp reading "Gebuehr bezahlt" was also applied.[10]

For the most part local issues and postal services were tolerated by the AMG for the benefits they provided to the populace. Only when the postage due labels began to appear, and a

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[8]Ibid., p. 756.

[9]Ibid., p. 788.

[10]Ibid., p. 795.

potential for some type of fraud emerged, did the occupation
authorities become apprehensive and take steps to curb the use
of postmaster provisionals. From May to October 1945 there was
no official service between points in the United States Zone.
All mail was restricted to a local level, and the place that
provisional issues played in the resumption of these services
is obvious. Local military authorities were not burdened with
methods by which postage must be paid, but rather only with the
mechanics of service itself, and the value of this is more apparent
when the problems of distribution of the AMG postage stamps are
seen.

The Allied Military Government postage stamps for use in
Germany were not the first occupation stamps used. In Italy and
France the Allies had used stamps to replace the issues of the
Nazi or Fascist party. All stamps produced and used by the Allied
Military Governments are commonly called AMG's.

The Allied powers, the United States, Russia, Britain, and
France, had agreed in early 1944 to prepare a special stamp issue
for Germany after defeat and occupation. Because of the problems
of printing machinery and paper stocks in Europe, it was decided
that the stamps would be produced in the United States and later
shipped to Germany for use. All of these actions, including the
design and printing of these stamps, were carried on in great
secrecy. William A. Roach of the United States Bureau of Engraving
and Printing was responsible for the design finally approved for
the Washington printing of the AMG's. This design was approved
April 5, 1944, and was engraved by Edward H. Helmuth. The first
series called for several values.

The earliest printing labels on shipping packages of the stamps were marked August 1944. The War Department received the first shipment of stamps in September 1944: 12 million each of the 5 and 6 pfennig values, 24.6 million of the 12 pfennig, and 8.4 million each of the 3, 4, 8, and 10 pfennig. By November 1944 at least 3.5 million stamps were shipped to Europe and stored at Brussels.[11]

All values shared a common design, differing only in color and numeral. Each design measured .75 inches across and .87 inches top to bottom. The printing was in sheets of four hundred subjects divided into four panes of one hundred each. The center of the design was a large "M" placed in an oval. Around the oval is an ornamental design which meets the inscription on all four sides. The top corners contain the numeral of value with the wording "AM POST" between. "Deutschland" is inscribed along the bottom, with "Pfennig" down each side. The "M" is of the old German style while all other lettering is block Gothic (see Plate X).

On March 11, 1945, SHAEF officials issued the following guidelines for the use of AMG stamps:

> 1. Decision has been given by the Combined Chiefs of Staff that Military Government stamps will be used in preference to any existing stocks of German stamps.
> 2. Reichspost officials will be required to withdraw from sale all existing German stamps. These stamps will be retained pending disposal instruction.
> 3. a. Should a situation develop in which Military Government stamps are temporarily not available, authority to use existing stamps is given provided that such stamps bear no symbols associated with the Nazi regime, or with the German war effort.[12]

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[11]Hugh F. Vallancey, The A. M. G. Stamps of Germany (Shrub Oak, New York: Herman Herst, Jr., 1958), p. 1.

[12]Col. H. H. Newman, SHAEF AG 311.14-1 GE-AGM, "Use of Military Government Postage Stamps-Germany," March 11, 1945, OMGUS.

Eight days later, March 19, 1945, the first AMG stamps for
Germany were placed on sale at Aachen. G-5, First U.S. Army,
reopened the Aachen Post Office, retaining the Reichspost per-
sonnel, including the postmaster, Peter Heun.[13]

The French occupation authorities refused to use the new
stamps, wanting an inscription in French for their zone. The
Russian objected to the wording "AM POST" and "DEUTSCHLAND."
As a result, the AMG's were used only in the American and the
British Zones. Still, the quantities available were insufficient,
and by April 1945, new printing orders were issued. It had been
decided in March that at some future date stamps would be printed
in Germany, as soon as the proper equipment and supplies could
be procurred. It was already evident that the printing in
Washington could not reach Germany regularly and quickly enough
to meet demands. On March 28, 1945, SHAEF decided that no
period of exchange of "objectionable uncancelled postage stamps"
was necessary, and that local commanders should take the first
steps toward their "invalidation."[14]

As each week passed, and more and more local use of AMG's
grew, an increasing number of post offices found their supplies
exhausted. This situation led to the issuance of a number of
postmaster provisionals and increased reliance on the "Gebuehr
bezahlt" handstamps. In June, SHAEF called for an additional
printing of over 100 million stamps urgently needed throughout
the American and British areas of occupation. This quantity was

[13]"AMG First Day," German Postal Specialist, June 1976, p..214.

[14]SHAEF Gable WX 59866, March 28, 1945, OMGUS.

Plate X

DESIGN OF THE AMG STAMPS 1945-46.

The above design was common to all values of the AMG issue
in use from March 1945 until October 1946. The values of
1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 20, 24, and 25 pfennig
measured approximately $19-19\frac{1}{2}$ mm by $22-22\frac{1}{2}$ mm. The values
30, 40, 42, 50, 60, and 80 pfennig measured approximately
$21\frac{1}{2}$mm by 25mm, and the 1 Mark value measured 25mm by $29\frac{1}{2}$mm.

Source: Michel Deutschland-Spezial-Katalog 1977.

still insufficient to meet the rapidly increasing demands, and
so in July 1945 arrangements were made to begin printing additional
stamps in London. By September the firm of George Westermann,
in Brunswick, had been selected to print stamps in Germany.
With the two printers, Harrison & Sons in London and Westermann
in Brunswick, the problems of supply were lessened. The German
printing added values to the series, printing stamps for 1, 3,
4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 20, 24, 25, 30, 40, 42, 50, 60, 80
pfennig, and 1 mark.

With the distribution problems under control, the AMG author-
ities turned their attention to disposal of impounded Nazi period
stamps. In July 1945, PTT officers and G-5 officials experimented
with some of the impounded stamps. They turned them over to a
printer in Munich who blocked out the existing design by reprinting
them with the basic color approriate to their denómination, then
superimposing the approved AMG design on the plain color. A number
of such specimen stamps were prepared and circulated to various
PTT officers for comment. The cost of reprinting was lower than
printing and distribution of new stamps, but adding on the costs
of collection, separation of broken sheets, numerous security checks,
and redistribution, the program became more expensive and less
desireable. In addition, it had been assumed by most AMG and
Reichspost officials from the time the stamps had been impounded
that they would be destroyed. As a result, little care was taken
to preserve the stamps, and few were in condition to be reprinted.[15]

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[15]"Impounded German Postage Stamps," B CC/82503/1/INTR (P&T),
August 31, 1945, OMGUS.

In October 1945, when service between points in the United States Zone was reestablished, only AMG stamps were permitted for this service. Postmaster provisionals and overprinted Reichspost stamps were not considered prepayment of postage outside the local level, and any stamps used as such caused a letter to be either returned or destroyed by Civil Censorship.

Even though provisions had been made for the overprinting of Nazi stamps should the need arise, the AMG authorities in the American and British areas never approved any post office request to do so. The Russian authorities did. A series of stamps, Nazi issues with the bust of Hitler issued in 1944, were overprinted "U.S. Army/v C. S./18.IV.1945." When brought to the attention of OMGUS officials, in February 1946, it was at first felt that some members of the Russian occupation force may have manufactured them in celebration of the American entry into Czechoslovakia. Finally, it was determined that the overprints had been applied by personnel at a Czechoslovakian post office for that reason. The investigation also revealed that the overprinting had not been authorized by the U.S. Third Army. AMG Intelligence Officers sought out the Czech postal authorities who had done the overprinting and found that they had done so as a favor to officials of the Czechoslovakian Philatelic Association for the philatelic market.[16]

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[16]Forrest B. Volkel, Executive Officer OMGUS Internal Affairs and Communications Division to J. W. Lowey, Secretary, Czechoslovak Philatelic Society of North America, March 19, 1946, OMGUS.

Plate XI.

COLORS AND PRINTINGS OF THE AMG ISSUE

Value	Color	Printing
1pf	slate gray	Brunswick
3pf	dull lilac lilac	Brunswick London Washington
4pf	light gray	All
5pf	emerald deep emerald	Brunswick Washington London
6pf	yellow orange-yellow	Brunswick Washington London
8pf	orange	All
10pf	brown yellow-brown	Washington Brunswick
12pf	rose-violet	All
15pf	rose-carmine cerise	Brunswick Washington
16pf	deep green	Brunswick
20pf	blue	Brunswick
24pf	chocolate brown	Brunswick
25pf	bright ultramarine	Brunswick Washington
30pf	olive green	Brunswick
40pf	deep magenta	Brunswick
42pf	green	Brunswick
50pf	slate green	Brunswick
60pf	violet brown	Brunswick
80pf	blue black	Brunswick
1M	dark olive	Brunswick
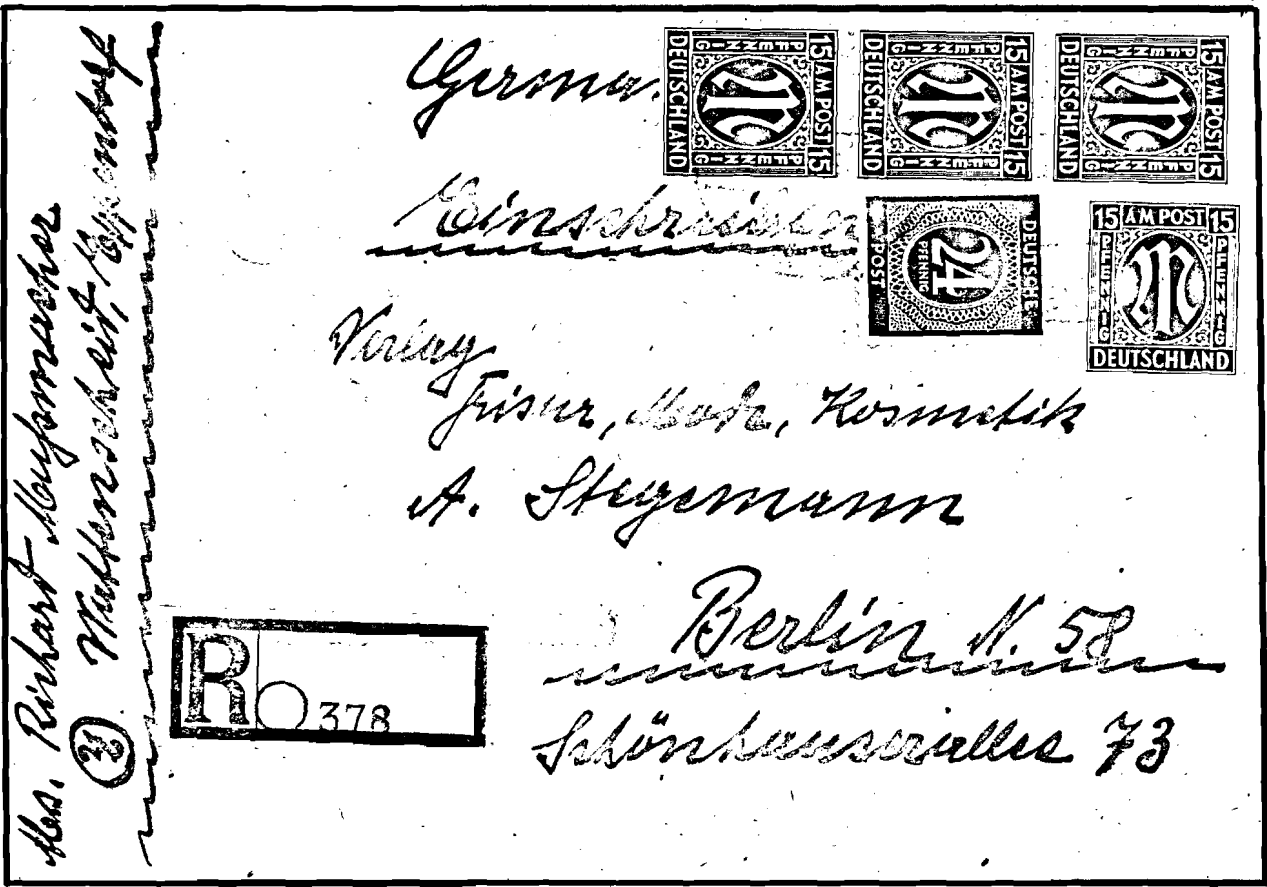
This is an example of a cover mailed in 1946. It contains postage from both the AMG issue and the numeral issue. The cover was registered and mailed at Essendorf, July 19, 1946.

Beginning in early 1946, a second series of uniform postage stamps was issued. This set was valid in the Russian Zone in addition to the United States and British Zones. By the end of October 1946, the AMG's were no longer valid for postage, although there are many examples of their use. The new issue had twenty-four values with the denomination in the center and the wording "Deutsche" across the top and "Post" along the bottom.

In March 1947, representatives of the four occupation powers drafted "Allied Control Authority Law No. 48." This dealt with the final disposition of the pre-occupation postage stamps. All of these stamps in the hands of post offices or any other agency were to be surrendered to the larger post offices (classified as Poststellen I) within ten days of the effective date of the law. The postal authorities for each zone supervised the destruction of the stamps, keeping records as to the numbers destroyed. The printing plates, molds, paper watermarked with swastikas or other Nazi symbols were also destroyed. The sale, exchange, and display of pre-occupation stamps was prohibited. This did not include stamps of the Weimar Republic and earlier. Violation of the law was punishable in either the German civil court system or the AMG legal system, and those convicted were fined up to 500,000 marks or sentenced to five years in prison.[17]

Following the so called "numeral" issue of 1946, the process of design and manufacture of stamps in the Anglo-American Bizone was subject only to the approval of the AMG. Original ideas and designs were made by German employees of the post

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[17]Gen. Joseph T. McNarney et al., "Allied Control Authority Control Council Law No. 48, Pre Occupation Postage Stamps," OMGUS.

office, another step toward complete control of the postal system by Germans.

There were numerous forgeries of the first AMG issue. Otto Thobe, a former government printing office employee, was found guilty of forging the 8, 80 pfennig, and 1 mark values of the Brunswick printing. While the forgeries are excellent, Thobe was convicted after he sold 5000 copies of the 80 pfennig value to a stamp dealer who spotted their bogus nature and turned Thobe in. There are also forgeries of overprints in existance, mostly produced to defraud collectors. Hitler period stamps are overprinted with American flags or airplanes to obliterate their Nazi markings, or with the words "AM Mail/GERMANY." These overprints were not authorized by the AMG and were not valid for postage anywhere, even on a local scale, in the American or the British Zone.[18]

As late as 1949 it was hoped that a uniform postal system for Germany could be constucted. But the rivalries and political differences between the occupation powers made unification of Germany a practical impossibility, and in 1949, the French, American, and British Zones became the Federal Republic of Germany. Postage stamps issued by the new Bundespost were not valid within the Russian Zone, and shortly thereafter, the German Democratic Republic was founded, taking the place of the Russian Zone.

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[18]Werner M. Bohne, Germany Philatelic Society Reference Manual of Forgeries (Baltimore: Germany Philatelic Society, 1975-77), section "Germany-Allied Occupation."

CHAPTER NINE

Summary

We have examined many systems for the movement of mail
established by the Allied Military Government. Each required
time, money, and effort. The strain on the military facilities
was frequently great and nearly overbearing. The number of
personnel employed exceeded one million. New problems exacerbated
the old making it seem as if the AMG authorities would never
get control of the situation.

To examine the performance and function of the AMG postal
system has been our purpose. The judgment of the system can be
made in terms of the goals set out during occupation planning.
The postal system helped to enforce the surrender terms through
extensive censorship activities. It also helped to restore
order by drawing families closer together after the war and
maintaining the financial services depended upon by so many
small businesses. The elimination of Nazism was aided with
the censorship activities. The repatriation of DP's was aided
through the several special postal services.

Another assessment of the AMG postal system can be made
through a contrast in the Reichspost and the Bundespost. Because
the AMG was the intermediary system, some changes may have been
made from the Hitler period to the Federal Republic that remained
as an important part of the present postal system.

We have already seen in Chapter Two that many physical
changes were made by the AMG authorities, such as changing the
color of the street mail boxes and mail trucks. The names
of most organizations and offices within the postal system were
changed to eliminate the word "Reich." Inscriptions on the
postage stamps read simply "Deutschland" or "Deutsche Post."
Certainly these changes were more symbolic than functional, but
they seem to indicate that the AMG wanted no traces of the Nazi
era in the postal service.

One area the Reichspost of Hitler had used heavily for
propaganda was the area of the subjects of stamps and postal
markings. Commemoratives often pictured party symbols, meetings,
or designs. The bust of Hitler was used for the regular issue
definitive series. The Allies were well aware of the impact these
designs had on the German people, explaining the impounding and
eventual destruction of existing stocks. Overprinting was to
be authorized on condition that all designs were obliterated.
The new AMG issue had no pictorial design at all. The use of
any allegorical subjects was initially discouraged with the 1945
AMG issue having an "M" in the middle, and the second issue with
only the numeral of value. In 1948 a new stamp series was begun
using famous buildings in the American and British Zones as the
central feature. One value did show the Brandenburg Gate in
Berlin. This series was not symbolic or propagandic, and was
more attractive than the earlier AMG issues. The building is-
sue replaced the original series which had supplanted the numeral
series. The stamps issued in 1947-48 were removed partially
because of propaganda charges. The stamps depict, in an almost

Communist fashion, happy workers building a new German state.
The high values in the series, 1 through 5 marks, showed chained
hands reaching for the dove of peace, symbolic of Germany reaching
out for quiet. At the time of the issue, the fate of Germany
was still a matter for debate, and hope was still held that the
four zones would be reunited as one nation. Soviet representatives
to the Control Council found the set objectionable.

On September 7, 1949, the Federal Republic issued its first
stamps. They commemorated the opening of the first Federal
Assembly. The 10 pfennig value depicted an allegory of reconstruc-
tion. Since that time there have been numerous other issues, but
very few show symbolic representations of ideals. They instead
show people, places, or things commemorated for their contributions
and accomplishments.

The area of postal markings was another Nazi propaganda tool.
Cancellations containing party slogans were common, but so were
many markings which are still in use today. These remained in
use through the AMG period as well. Among these are "Unter-
stutzt das Rote Kreuz!" or "Spare bei der Postsparkasse!" or
"Werde Postscheckteilnehmer!" urging support and participation
in such things as the German Red Cross and the Postal Savings
and Check programs.

The pneumatic tube service in Berlin and Munich was not
officially restored by either the AMG or the Bundespost. By
1949 similar services in most major cities of the world had been
discontinued. Much of the system had been destroyed in the war,
and no effort was made to rebuild. In Berlin, because of the
sectioning of the city, the continuance of the program was not

possible. There were sections of the tube system that could be and were used. Many firms still have tubes to branch offices.

It was not possible for the AMG postal service to provide the transportation services that the Reichspost had. This was because the mail was initially transported on military vehicles. When the German Civil Postal Service was inaugurated, and some civilian vehicles were used, a limited transport service was also started. During both the Nazi and the reconstruction periods, the highway system was greatly improved, reaching areas of the country which had never been accessible by road before. When the Bundespost came into existence, it was not necessary to have transportation service to as many places.

The Reichspost had a system of postal savings accounts which were used heavily by small businesses and professional people. The same is true of the Bundespost. The money orders, postal checks, and other special services of the Bundespost are similar to the counterparts in the Reichspost. The stamps issued by the Bundespost commemorate national events, but differ from the stamps of the Reichspost in that they are less allegorical and more colorful. The Bundespost uses postal markings eliciting the popular support for organizations and services, as did the Reichspost, but in a less obvious manner. The Bundespost markings are similar to those found in the United States for charitable groups, where the Reichspost markings announced mainly Nazi party functions or slogans.

With this group of similarities, what purpose did the AMG postal system serve?

In a devastated land with no civil government, the Allied

Military Government Postal Service took the first steps to re-
unite families. It helped establish communication between the
Wehrmacht personnel and their families. It did not seek to punish
those who had been enemies, but even helped POW's get in touch
with their next of kin. It cooperated with the International
Red Cross on several occasions to repatriate Germans throughout
Europe.

At one time, the AMG Postal Service ran six distinct systems,
each geared to the needs of a special group. The AMG system ran
efficiently enough to restore international service for civilians
to and from Germany in less than a year. It employed thousands
of Germans in a time when jobs were not common, and kept those
who had been employed under the Nazis whenever possible. The
system kept accounts and savings for thousands of people in a
time when many people had no idea of their own worth. The AMG
post offices even honored accounts from the Reichspost of the
Nazis. For nearly a year, there was no increase in the cost of
mail, keeping the communication system, vital to everyone, within
reach of nearly everyone's income. When there was no income,
alternate services were available to special classes and groups
with no charge..

The AMG service not only helped the German population, but
aided the remainder of the Allied Military Government as well.
The postal financial services replaced banks for a short period,
and gave some security to the monetary structure. Civil Cen-
sorship lessened the load on officials charged with internal
security by screening communications and prohibiting potential
problems.

The Allied Military Government Postal Service was not designed to be a permanant part of the German government. It was designed to fill a temporary void left by the collapse of civil government and social services in 1945. From the beginning, the system used Reichspost employees, Reichspost facilities, and Reichspost channels. These later became part of the Bundespost. Never was it intended to change the German postal system as a whole, for it had long been recognized as one of the finest in the world. The purpose of military control of the mails was to provide authority where there was none, to vet the system of Nazi personnel, and to provide service during the reconstruction period. Services reopened almost exactly as they had been closed, and were resumed as soon as the necessary security arrangements had been made. There was never a question whether or not all services would be restored, only when.

AMG postal systems existed in France, Italy, Austria, and Germany. None of these changed the previous system drastically. Each served a temporary function and returned control of the mails to the post war governments as soon as practicable. The slowest return was in Germany, beginning with local control of censorship, personnel, stamp design and printing, mail transportation, and finally the establishment of the Bundespost.

As the Reichspost had been, the Bundespost of the Federal Republic is one of the world's most progressive postal services. It offers same day delivery in many cities, overnight delivery to much of the country. It issues some of the most colorful and artistic stamps in Europe, and has a large and growing philatelic following. Since 1949, the Bundespost, according to the German

Postal Specialist, has raised 171 million Deutschemarks for welfare and charity organizations. This is a rate far greater than the Reichspost, even though from 1939 to 1945 the Reichspost issued almost nothing but welfare surcharge stamps.

As a part of the Allied Military Government, the postal system did the task assigned. The conquered nation had to be reconstucted, the civilains aided in getting their lives in order once again, the economy had to be preserved and started toward growth again, and law and order preserved. The postal service played a vital part in the overall function of the occupation, and helped make the transition from Nazi rule to the Federal Republic a more personal one, not allowing families to remain separated until self governmwnt returned. Also, the postal service helped make transition from Reichspost to Bundespost more smooth. A direct transfer from one to the other would have placed the Bundespost out of the military control, and perhaps as a more advanced system than the remainder of the civilian sector could use, a position which might have caused its collapse. On the other hand, retention of the Reichspost without the changes made might have caused an anachonism, again making the service unresponsive to the people. With multiple steps and systems employed by the AMG system, a gradual transitory period came about with only minor hitches. Service was disrupted only a short while, and once reopened was never suspended. The Reichspost was not a bad system, and to destroy it would serve no purpose. Instead, it was modified and strengthened, and became the basis for today's Deutsche Bundespost.

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occupation period in Germany, some of which are listed below.
Because many of these deal with the postal service only obliquely,
I relied heavily on two major collections of unpublished documents,
the Walter B. Smith Collection in Abilene, Kansas, and the records
of OMGUS in Suitland, Maryland. The Smith Collection contained
most of the information needed to explain the preoccupation plan-
ning, and the records of OMGUS contained details of implementa-
tion. The records of OMGUS contain documents from SHAEF, OMGUS,
the governments of the German Lander, USFET, and copies of docu-
ments from the British Zone. The Smith Collection contains the
official correspondence which crossed the desk of General Smith
in his capacity as Chief of Staff for SHAEF.

The secondary sources were used mainly for background and
supplimentary information. They are included for the material
on this period which they contain, and should be helpful to the
reader seeking additional information or corroboration. Of par-
ticular interest are John Gimbel, The American Occupation of
Germany, and Alfred Grosser, The Federal Republic of Germany,
for understanding the civil service, and Lucius D. Clay, Decision
in Germany, and Jean Edward Smith, editor, The Papers of General
Lucius D. Clay, for some insight into the problems faced and steps
taken toward their resolution.

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APPENDIX

Postage Rates

The following is a list of postage rates in effect at the time of the Allied occupation of Germany. These rates remained in effect throughout the period of local service restoration. On March 1, 1946, prior to international service resumption, most domestic rates were doubled.

Rate	Service
4pf	Printed matter from 20 to 50 grams in weight.
5pf	Printed matter up to 20 grams Local postal cards Foreign printed matter per 50
6pf	Out of town postal cards
8pf	Printed matter, 50-100 grams Local letters up to 20 grams
12pf	Out of town letters up to 20 grams
15pf	Printed matter, 100-250 grams Foreign postal cards
16pf	Local letters, 20-250 grams
20pf	Printed matter, 250-500 grams Local letters, 250-500 grams
24pf	Out of town letters, 20-250 grams
25pf	Foreign letters
30pf	Return receipt Registration fee, domestic
40pf	Local special delivery Registration fee, foreign Out of town letters, 250-500 grams
60pf	Out of town letters, 500-100 grams
80pf	Out of town special delivery