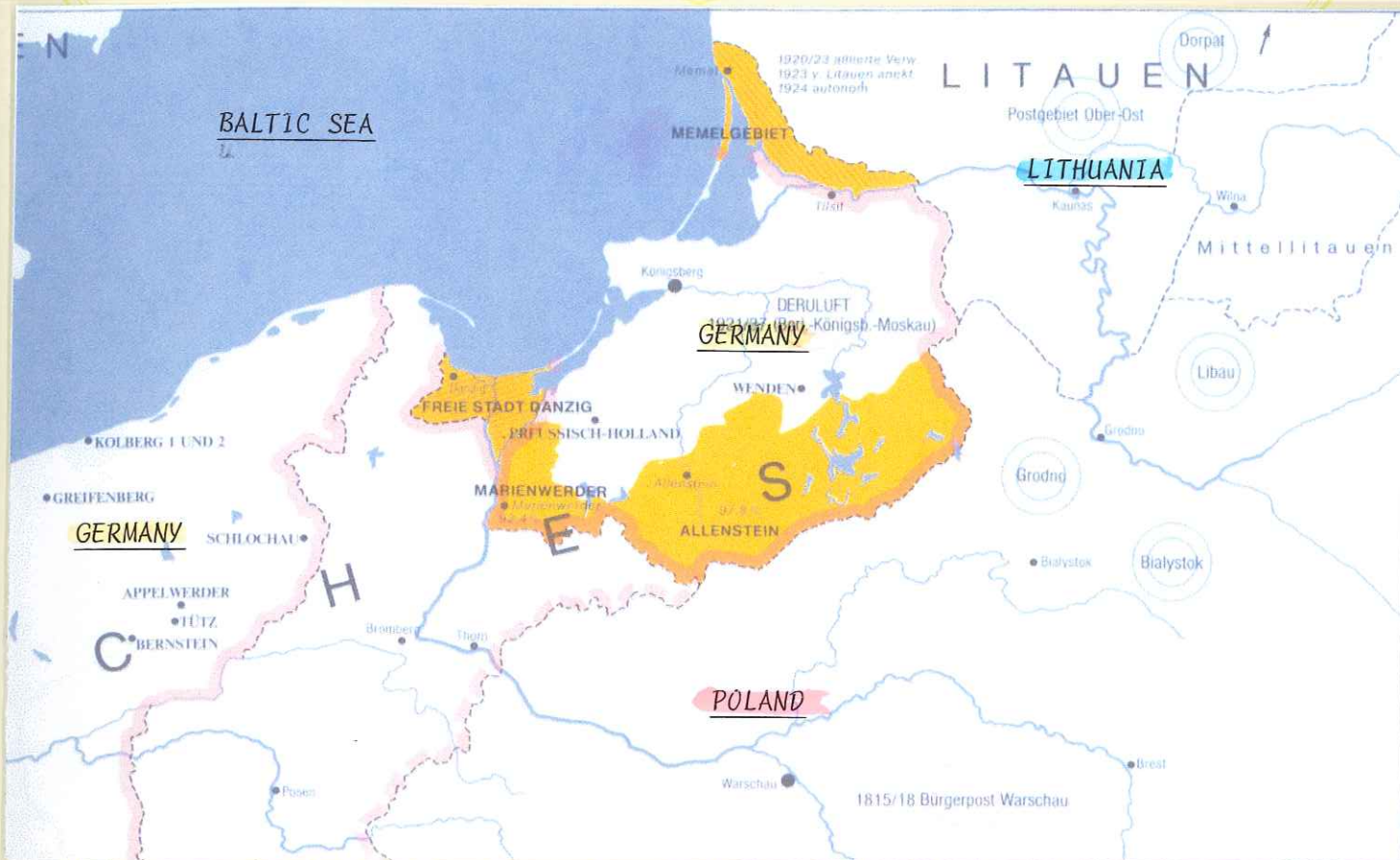


MEMEL - KLAIPEDA.

HISTORY.

- 1252 Founding of Klaipeda. Eberhardt von Sein the vice-master of the Livonian Order builds a wooden castle at the mouth of the Dane River. The fortifications become known as "Mommelburg" since the Order mistakenly took the Curonian Lagoon for the mouth of the Memel River.
- 1254 The city is granted city status and is subject to attacks from Lithuanian and Zemaitija tribes.
- 1410 Despite the crushing defeat the Lithuanian-Polish armies inflict on the Teutonic Knights at the battle of Tannenberg, Memel stays in the hands of the Order.
- 1540 Fires destroy large parts of Memel.
- 1629-1635 Swedes conquer the city and destroy it.
- 1709-1710 The plague kills at least 3,000 inhabitants.
- 1757-1762 Russian occupation.
- 1807 Memel becomes, for a short time, the capital of Prussia as King Frederic Wilhelm III settles here while retreating from Napoleon's armies.
- 1854 The last big fire destroys large parts of the city.
- 1919 The Versailles Treaty puts Klaipeda and "Memelland" under French administration.
- 1923 (15th January) Lithuanian insurgents chase the French out. Klaipeda becomes Lithuanian.
- 1939 According to the secret protocols of the Hitler-Stalin pact. Klaipeda is under the German sphere of influence.
- 1939 (22nd March) Adolf Hitler pressures Lithuania with an ultimatum to give up Klaipeda and comes personally to Memel to proclaim it's incorporation in the German Reich.
- 1939 Post under German administration from 23rd March 1939.
- 1945 The Red Army enters Klaipeda after heavy fighting. Lithuania is annexed by the Soviet Union and Klaipeda closed to foreigners.
- 1961 Visited Klaipeda on the "BALTIC MERCHANT" (23rd April.)
- 1990 Lithuanian independance restored on the 11th March.

MEMELGEBIET.



After the First World War when Poland and Lithuania were independent countries, they, along with Germany claimed rights to the city and the thin piece of territory between East Prussia and Lithuania. Germany based its claim on the fact that it belonged, historically, to Prussia. The city inhabitants were of German extraction but the inhabitants of the rural areas were Lithuanian which was the basis for the Lithuanian claim. Poland claimed rights to the area because it needed access to the port of Memel.

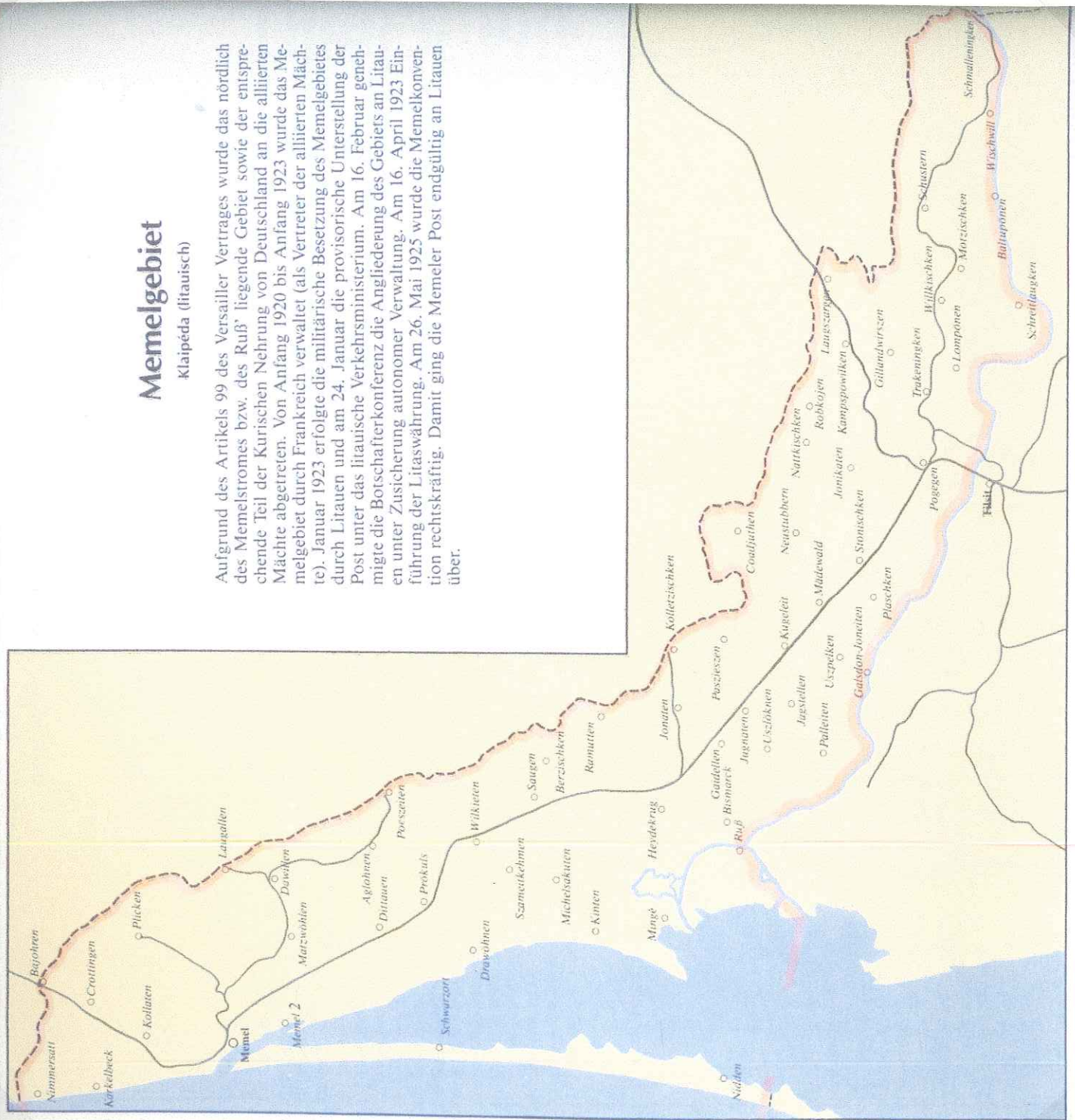
On the 10th January, 1920, the City of Memel and adjacent area were provisionally declared under the control of Allied Powers to be under **French** administration. On the 18th February, 1920, the first train loads of the 21st Infantry Battalion arrived in Memel under the command of General Odry and ten civilian specialists in government affairs. The main work of the Commission was to set up a plebiscite for the area - but, somehow, for one reason or another time slipped by and very little was accomplished. Meanwhile the French soldiers had dwindled to about two hundred men.

In January 1923, sensing the weakness of the French administration, some two thousand **LITHUANIAN** troops invaded the territory. At an Ambassadorial Conference on February 16th, the Commission, acceded to Lithuania's demand for annexation after it was assured the area would be administered autonomously. A treaty signed on May 26th, 1925, permitted complete annexation as from 1st June that year.

Memelgebiet

Klaipėda (litauisch)

Aufgrund des Artikels 99 des Versailler Vertrages wurde das nördlich des Memelstromes bzw. des Ruß' liegende Gebiet sowie der entsprechende Teil der Kurischen Nehrung von Deutschland an die alliierten Mächte abgetreten. Von Anfang 1920 bis Anfang 1923 wurde das Memelgebiet durch Frankreich verwaltet (als Vertreter der alliierten Mächte). Januar 1923 erfolgte die militärische Besetzung des Memelgebietes durch Litauen und am 24. Januar die provisorische Unterstellung der Post unter das litauische Verkehrsministerium. Am 16. Februar genehmigte die Botschafterkonferenz die Angliederung des Gebiets an Litauen unter Zusage autonomer Verwaltung. Am 16. April 1923 Einführung der Litawährung. Am 26. Mai 1925 wurde die Memelkonvention rechtskräftig. Damit ging die Memeler Post endgültig an Litauen über.





BALTIJOS JŪRA



STANLEY STARBUCK PUBLICATIONS LTD, LONDON
MADE AND PRINTED IN ENGLAND



STADTPLAN KLAIPĖDA NR 2

Palanga, Kretinga

Nida, Kaliningrad (Königsberg)

Silutė



MEMELGEBIET.



ultramarin

violettblau



*Various shades of German
overprinted issues.*

BRISTOL WASHINGTON ALBUM LEAF
No. 44
MADE AND PRINTED IN ENGLAND

X

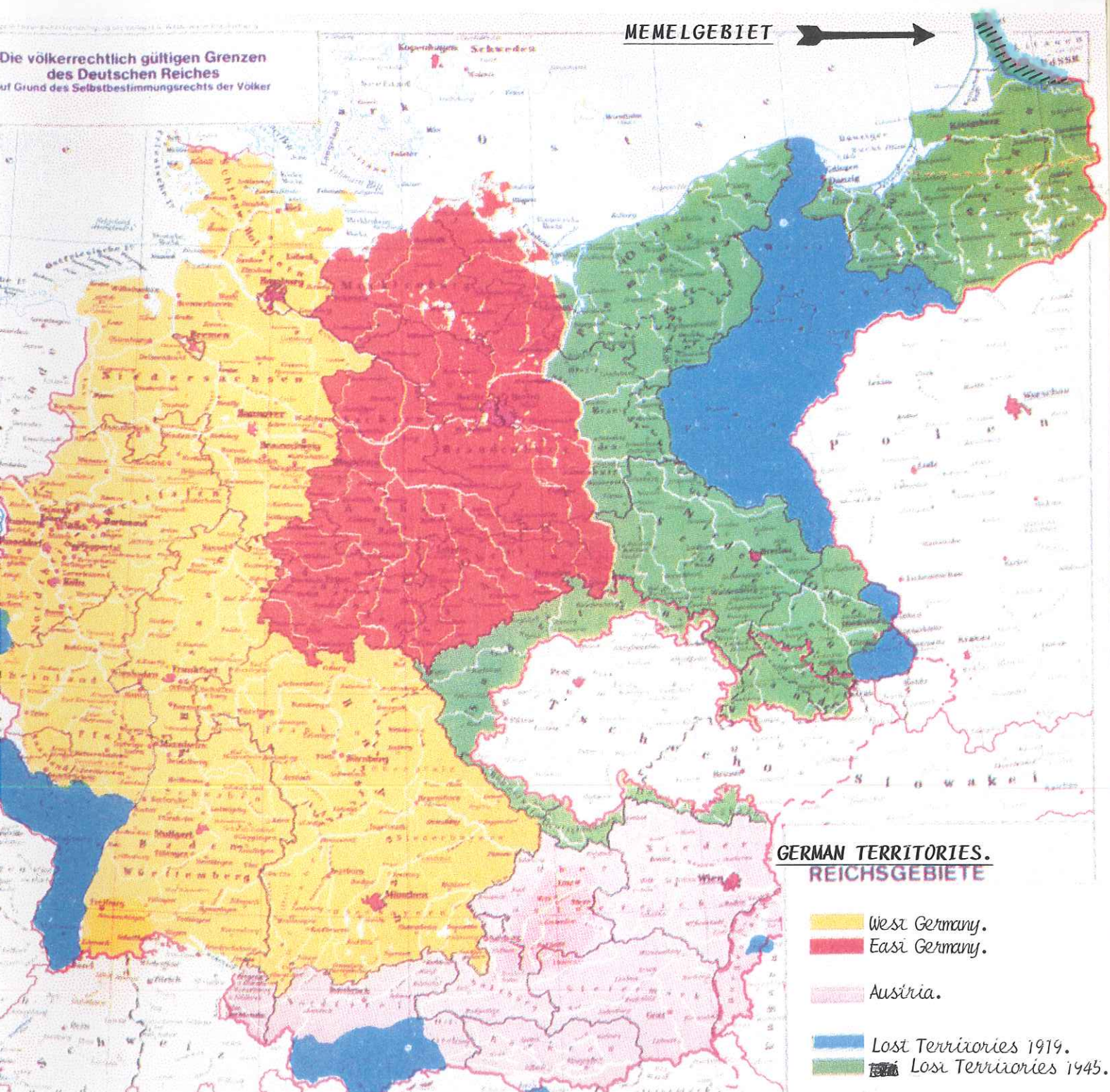
The Post Offices and their Cancels.

1	2	3
<p>Die Postanstalten des Memelgebiets und ihre Stempel</p> <p>Etwa die Hälfte der Orte hat zwei und mehr deutsche Stempel. Ortsstempel mit Zusätzen des Namens des Kreises (s. Spalte 2) sind die älteren; sie wurden mit wenigen Ausnahmen Nov./Dez. 1920 durch Stempel mit dem Zusatz „Memelgebiet“ abgelöst. Vom Frühjahr 1923 bis Frühjahr 1924 wurden an Stelle der deutschen die litauischen Stempel — Spalte 3 — eingeführt. Abkürzungen Kr = Kreis; M = Memel, H = Heydekrug, T = Tilsit, R = Ragnit, Mg = Memelgebiet.</p>		
<p>Aglohen Bajohren Baltupönen Berzischken Bismarck Coadjuthen Crottingen Dawillen Dittrauen Drawöhnen Gaidellen Galsdon-Joneiten Gillandwirszen Gr. Schilleningken Heydekrug Jagstellen Jonaten</p>	<p>Kr M Ostpr. u. Mg Dt. Crott. u. Mg Kr M u. Mg Kur. Half u. Mg Kr T u. Mg Kr T u. Mg geschlossen I. XII. 23 M.-Nieder. u. Mg 4 versch. Zus. Kr H u. Mg</p>	<p>Aglonėnai Bajorai Baltupėnai — — Katyčiai Kretingalė Dovilai Ditava Dreurna Gaidėliai Galsdonai — — Silininkai Silutė Jagsteliai Jonaičiai</p>
<p>Jonikaten Jugnaten Kampspowilken Karkelbeck Kinten Kollaten Kolletzischken Kugelleit Lankuppen Laugallen Laugszargen Lomponen Mädewald Matzwohlen Memel Michelsakuten Minge Motzischken Nattkischken Neustubbern Nidden Nimmersatt Palleiten Paszeszen Pictupönen</p>	<p>Kr T u. Mg Kr T u. Mg Kr M u. Mg Kr H Kr M u. Mg geschlossen. I. 24 auch mit Mg Kr T u. Mg Kr M u. Mg 14 versch. Zus. u. 2 Masch.-St. Kr H u. Mg geschlossen I. VII. 22 Kr R u. Mg Kr T u. Mg Ostpr. u. Mg Kr M u. Mg Kr T u. Mg</p>	<p>Jonikaiciai Jugnaiciai Kamsčiai Karklininkai Kintai Kalotė — Kugeliai Lankupiai Laugaliai Lauksargiai Lumpeniai Usėnai Skrandziai Klaipėda Sakuciai — Mociskiai Natiskiai Naustubriai Nida Nemerzate Paleiciai Pasysiai Piktupėnai</p>

Fortsetzung auf Seite 85

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.

MAP OF GERMANY SHOWING TERRITORIES
"LOST" IN 1919 AND 1945.



MEMEL.

German issues used in the Memel Area.



Bismark.

1875. "Pfennige" issue.



1880. "Pfennig" issue.

MEMEL.

German Issues used in Memel.



MEMELGEBIET.

French Administration from February 1920.



Dark green



Dark green



Dark grey-green



Myrtle-green



*Dark green with
part plate number
in margin.*

*1920 (1st August). German stamps overprinted
"Memelgebiet".*

MEMELGEBIET.



*Dark brown
-lilac*



*Dark brown-
purple*



*1920 (1st August). Various shades of
German stamps overprinted
"Memelgebiet".*

MEMELGEBIET.



← On buff paper →

On cream paper



1920 (1st August). Various shades of
German stamps overprinted
"Memelgebiet".

MEMEL - French Mandate.



1920 (1st August). Various shades of
the overprints on German Stamps.

MEMEL - French Mandate.



Different shades of the 2 Mark value
25 : 17 perforation holes.

26 : 17 perforation holes.



Lilac-red.



Purple-lilac.



Red-lilac shades.

1920 (1st August). Overprints
on German Stamps.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Heydekrug



Russ



Pogegen

Surcharge misplaced.



Heydekrug

1920 (1st August) Surcharge on German Stamps.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Prökuls.



Bismarck



Used provisionally in Heydekrug, June 1920

1920 (1st August) Overprint on German stamps.

MEMEL - French Mandate.



Grey-ultramarine.

1920. German issue, new colours, of 1920
overprinted "Memelgebiet".
Various shades of each value.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Bismarck

Heydekrug



Bismarck



Stonischken



Grey-ultramarine

1920 Overprint on
German 1920 issues.

MEMELGEBEIT - French Mandate.



Heavier surcharge
May '21



Heavier surcharge
December '20

1920 (7th July)-22. Surcharges on French stamps (white paper).
Various shades.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.

Gutter pairs from the issue of 7th July, 1921.



MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Obliteration bar shortened
at right.



1920 (7th July)-22
Surcharges on French stamps.
White paper.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Surcharge positioned lower on the stamp.



Bars obliterating "2fr" further to the left than normal



Thick figure "4"



Wider space between "1" & "0" of the "10" in the surcharge. Stamp on a darker paper.



1920 (7th July)-22.

Surcharges on French stamps.

White paper.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



1920 (7th July)-21. Surcharge on stamps of France showing three examples of the "Thick figure 4".

In addition the two lefthand side stamps in the block of four show the figure "4" of the surcharge with the horizontal bar of the figure straight with almost on upward curve at right "4".

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Heavier surcharge
August '21



The 40pf value was
only issued on
"G.C." paper.



1920 (7th July)-22. Surcharged on French stamps
printed on "G.C." paper.

Because of paper shortages during W.W.I. the French had to utilise
grey to brown granite paper ("G.C.") from time to time to print
their stamps on.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Bars over "2fr" further
to the left

Thick figure "4"



1920 (7th July) - 21. Surcharge on
French Stamps printed on "Grey Granite" type paper.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



1920 (7th July)/1921 Surcharges on French Stamps.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Thick figure "4"



1920 (7th July) / 1921 Surcharge on
French Stamps.
Letter of surcharge upright.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



1920 (7th July) - 21. Surcharge on French Stamps
printed on "Grey Granite" type paper.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Parcel cancellation.

1920 (7th July) - 21. Surcharge on
French Stamps printed on "Grey Granit" paper.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.

Gutter pairs from the issue of 14th May, 1921.



MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



1921 (April) Additional surcharge.



1921 (May/July) New surcharge with capital "P" & "M" for values.
Distance between bar and Mark 1.9mm on 10 & 20M values.



1922 New plate for surcharges.
Distance between bar and Mark 1.45mm on 10 & 20M values.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Gutter pair showing
Millesime "0".



Horizontal and vertical gutter pairs from the
additional surcharge issue of April, 1921.

MEMELGEBEIT - French Mandate.



1921 (14th May)-1922.

20 Mark or 45 c surcharge showing positioning of
double bars and "20 Mark" in two different positions
Distance between thick bar and "20 Mark" 1.45mm.



MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



1921 (April) Additional Surcharges.



1921 (May/July) New Surcharges with
Capital "P" and "M" for values.
(On 10 & 20 Mark distance between "Mark" and "Bar" 1.9mm.)



1922 New Surcharges.
(On 10 & 20 Mark distance between "Mark" and "Bar" 1.45mm)

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.

Thick bars →



Thin bars. →

1920 (7th July). Surcharge on
French stamps showing "thick" and
"thin" bars cancelling
the original value.

AIRMAIL STAMPS ISSUED
BETWEEN JULY 1921 AND OCTOBER 1922.

In April, 1921 an airmail route was opened between Berlin-Danzig-Königsberg and Memel. Subsequently the first set of airmail stamps were issued on the 6th July, 1921 when the surcharged stamps of Memel were overprinted "FLUGPOST" in large open letters with values from 60 pfennig to 4 marks.

A further set was brought out on the 12th May, 1922 when the surcharged stamps of Memel were overprinted with a script version of "FLUGPOST". The values ranged from 40 pfennig to 9 marks as the devaluation of the German mark started to set in and postal rates were increased.

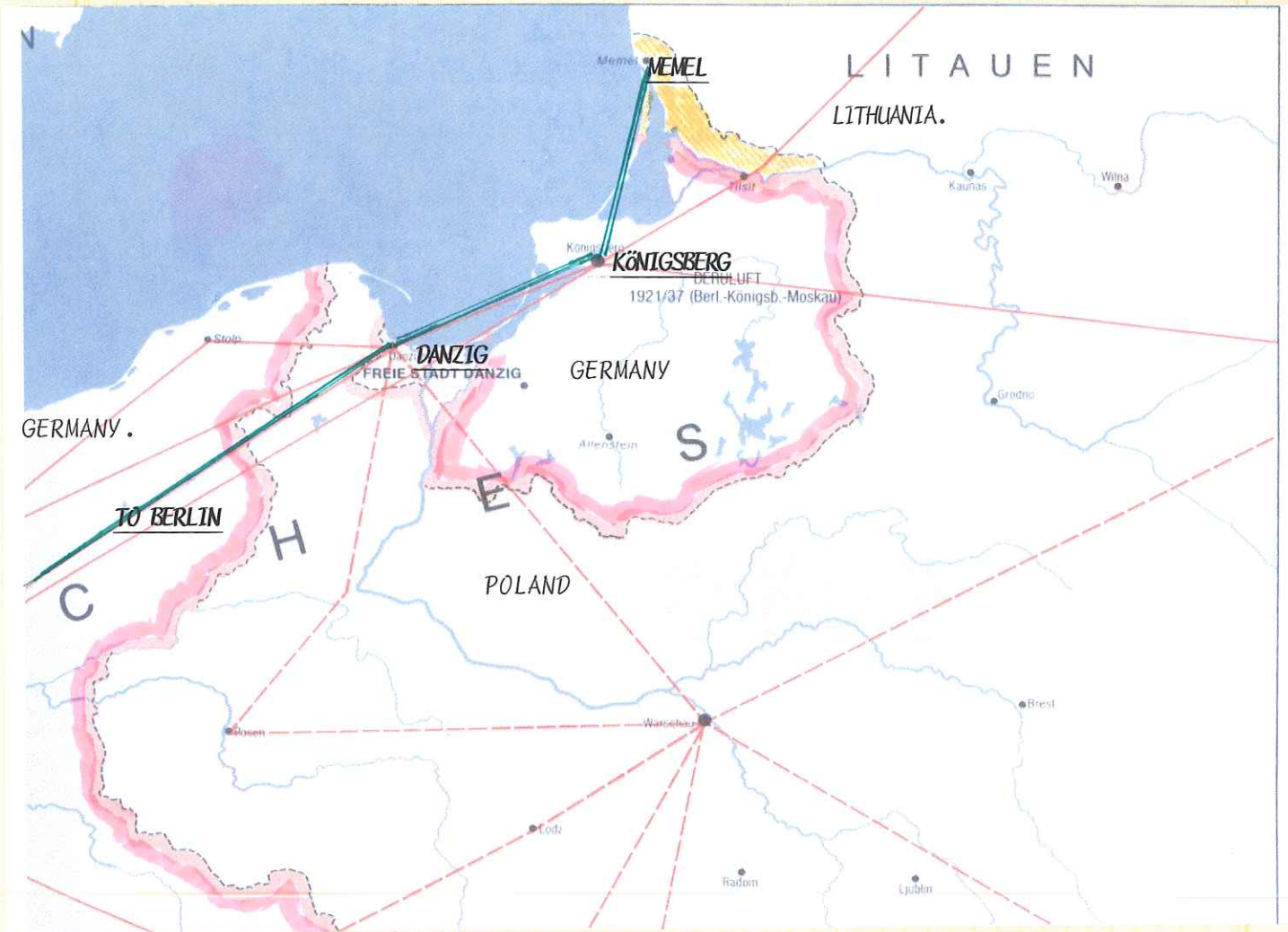
A final set was brought out on the 17th October, 1922 when, once again, the surcharged stamps of Memel were overprinted "FLUGPOST" in plain capital letters with the values, again, between 40 pfennig and 9 marks.

These stamps could, however, be used to prepay regular first-class mail.

The Lithuanian occupation and the subsequent annexation of Memel on the 16th February 1923 brought an end to the airmail service and use of airmail stamps.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.

AIRMAIL ROUTES.



The green line shows the route from MEMEL to
KÖNIGSBERG, DANZIG and
onwards to BERLIN.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Small "p" in pfennig.
"FLUGPOST" plate I.



Retouched plate, Feld 67.



Small "p" in pfennig.
"FLUGPOST" plate II.



Large "P" in Pfennig.
"FLUGPOST" plate II.



Only a trace of the dot in
the top bar of the "T".



Large "P" in Pfennig.
"FLUGPOST" plate I.

1921 (6th July). Airmail issue.
Plate II of "FLUGPOST" has a dot in the top bar of the "T".

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



"FLUGPOST" plate I.

"FLUGPOST" plate II.

Plate II has dot in the top bar of the "T" of "FLUGPOST".



1921 (6th July). Airmail issue.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Gutter pair.
Plate I.



Badly misspelled "FLUGPOST"
overprint, Plate I



Lighter shade
Plate II



Pair showing printing data
in the margin.
Plate I.

The 1 mark value from the "FLUGPOST"
issue of 6th-31st July, 1921.

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



1921 (6th July). Airmail Issue.

4 Mark value showing the thick
figure "4" of the surcharge
on the top stamp.

and on the right hand stamp in the
horizontal pair.

MEMEL - French Mandate.



1921 (6th/31st July). Airmail issue
on "GC" (granite) paper.

MEMELGEBEIT - French Mandate.



Small "p" in pfennig.
"FLUGPOST" Plate I.



Small "p" in pfennig.
"FLUGPOST" Plate II.



"FLUGPOST" Plate II.

Capital "P" in Pfennig.

"FLUGPOST" Plate I.



1921 (6th July). Airmail Overprints.

Plate II overprint has a dit in the centre of
top bar of the "T" of "FLUGPOST".

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



"FLUGPOST" Plate I.
Heydekrug cancellation.



"FLUGPOST" Plate II.



Russ cancellation.



Thick figure "4" in
"4 mark".

1921 (6th July). Airmail Overprints.

Plate II overprint has a dot in the centre of
top bar of the "T" of "LUFTPOST".

MEMELGEBIET - French Mandate.



Small "p" in pfennig.
"FLUGPOST" price 1.
Right end of wavy bar broken.



The 3 Mark value showing a
complete "offset" of the "FLUGPOST"
overprint on the reverse of the stamp.