

STAMPS GO TO WAR (WWI) - Espionage Forgeries

The World War I British forgeries of the German Germania issue were produced in September 1918. Great Britain produced official high quality forgeries of two current German postage stamps: the 10pf and 15pf values of the Germania design. These were used to post propaganda leaflets in the German postal system. They were produced by Waterlow & Sons for use by agents resident in Germany. Why go to so much trouble as an agent in Germany could easily purchase postage stamps in the country? Perhaps there was a perceived risk that it might be suspicious if large quantities of postage stamps were bought at the same time or perhaps the intent was to defraud the German Post Office causing some economic damage? The forgeries can be distinguished quite readily from the originals as shown below. Same distinguishing features for both values

Distinguishing features of the Forgeries

The forgeries have 15 horizontal perforation holes at top and bottom, whereas the genuine stamps have 14 holes. The forgeries have less shading (more white space) along the brow and nose line as compared with the genuine and the letter "H" in "REICH" has no or minimal serifs.

Originals in booklet panes



Originals

Forgeries



After WWI, the Allies imposed ruinous reparations on Germany. This caused Germany's economy to collapse and Germany printed money with no underpinning wealth and hyperinflation resulted. There was also a lot of discontent at the loss of Germany's Colonies and European Territories. A range of labels mourning the loss of the German Colonies and Territories were produced in the 1920s. The main type is an adaption of the German Colonies Hohenzollern yacht high value stamps with a black surround. Examples for the Mariana Islands and Togo are shown below along with copies of the corresponding postage stamps. Mourning labels and the Territories labels are shown below.

Mariana Islands and Togo Colonies postage stamps and the corresponding mourning labels.



Mourning labels of all the lost Colonies



Mourning labels of all the lost Territories



STAMPS GO TO WAR (WWII) - British and US Espionage Forgeries of German Stamps

British forgeries of the Hitler head definitive stamps produced by Waterlow & Sons. Printing was of very good quality and colours are quite accurate apart from the 6pf value

British forgery of the Luftfeldpost Military Franchise stamp which were used on letters to or from troops on active service

US forgeries of the Hitler head definitive stamps which were not produced by a stamp printer and so are not as realistic as the British versions. Only the 6 and 12pf stamps were forged

Originals which had the value of the column of stamps printed in the top selvedge
Blue tinge under UV

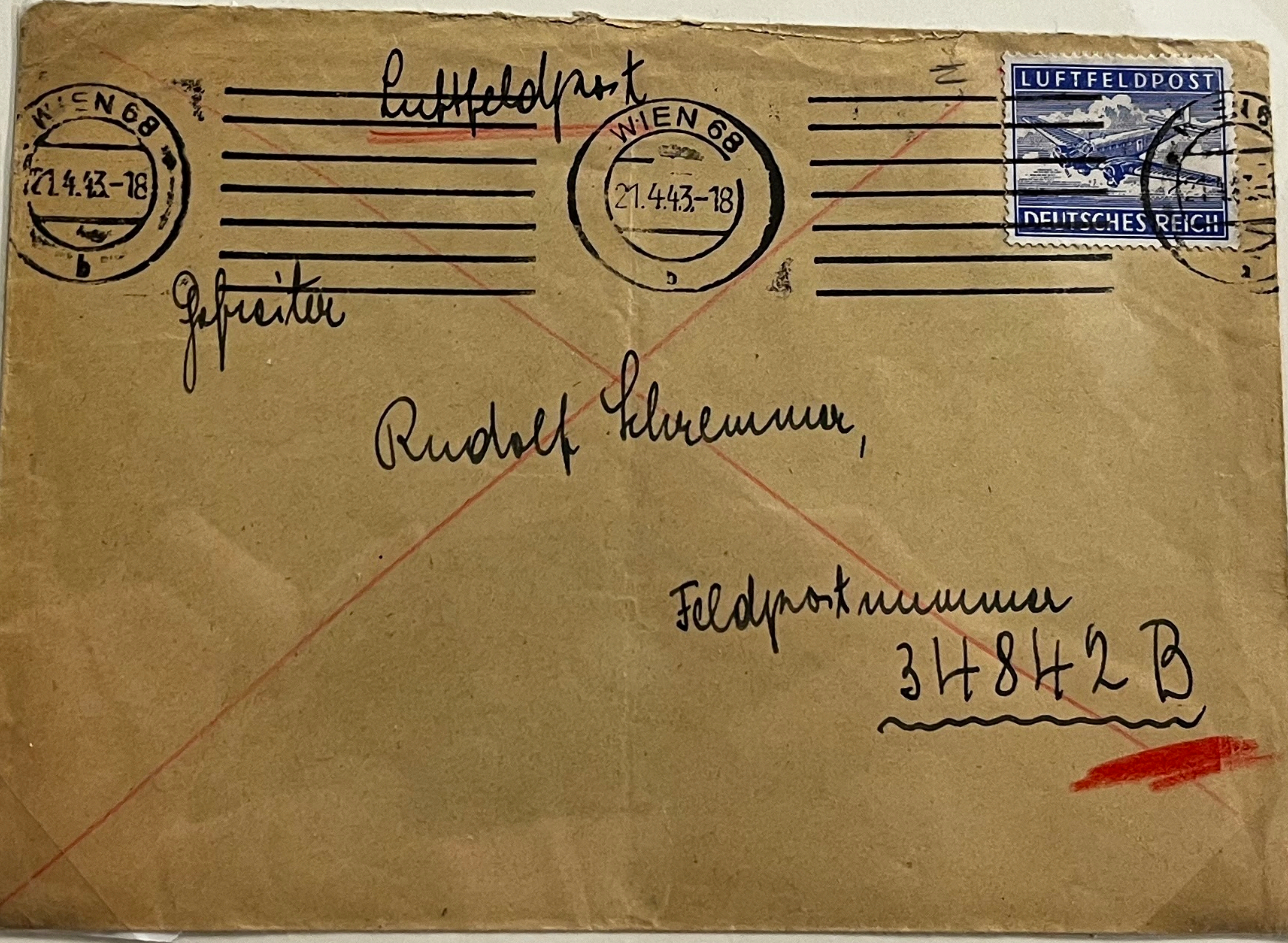
Forgeries which do not have the printing in the top selvedge
Yellow tinge under UV

Original
Perf 13 3/4

Forgery
Perf 12 1/2

Original
Perf 14 x 14 1/2

Forgery
Perf 11 1/2 x 12 1/2 or 13 x 12 1/2



Original stamp used on envelope sent from home to the front



STAMPS GO TO WAR - British anti German Propaganda

STAMPS GO TO WAR (WWII) - British Espionage Forgeries of German Stamps

The British espionage forgery of the 3pf Hitler Head definitive was used to send propaganda cards through the German Postal system.

The "Ley" propaganda card

the picture side

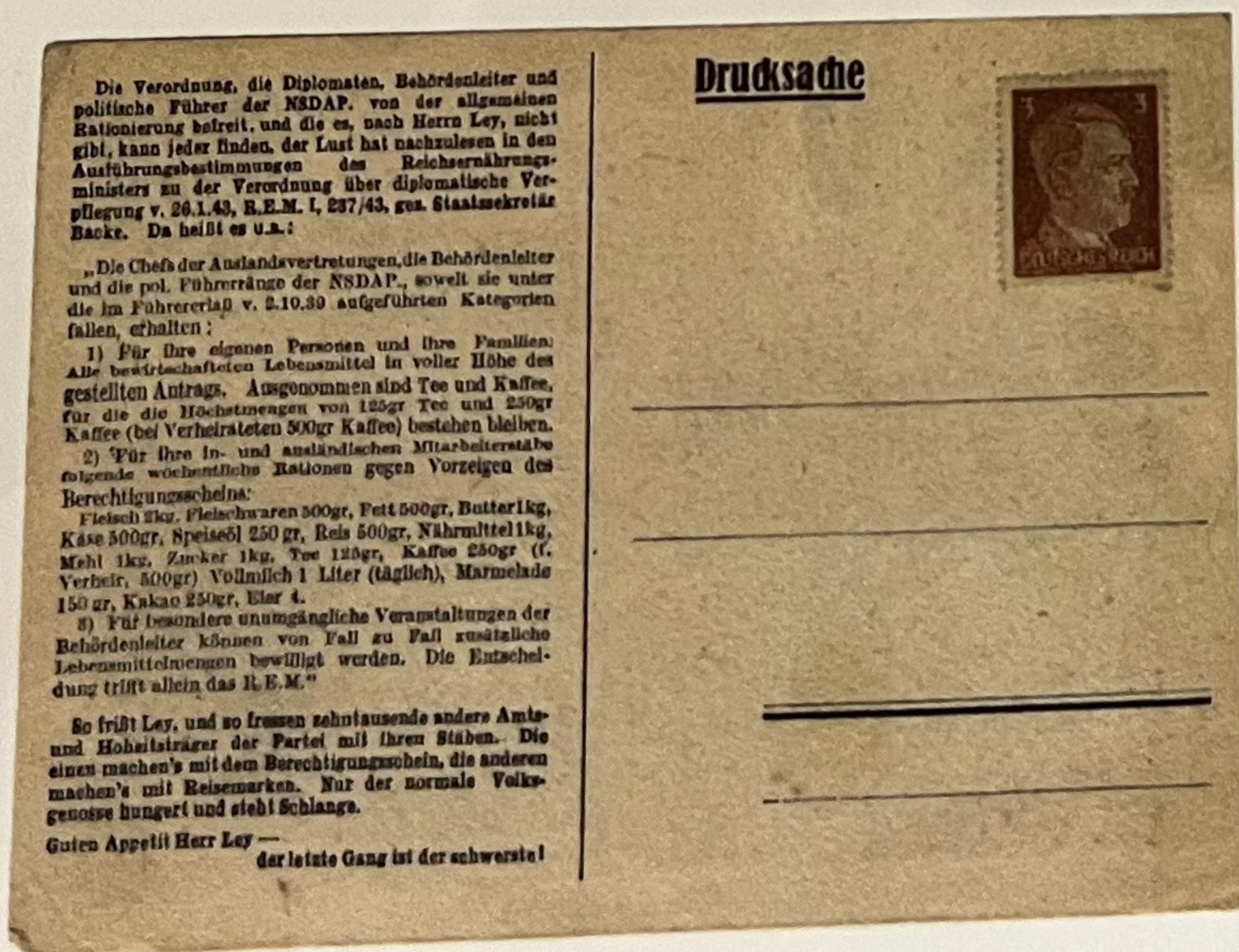
al Consumer and
mmissar, Reich
Robert Ley, said
ff of 12 October
National Socialists
such thing as
ions. Every man,
a Reich minister
er, has to live on
ke any ordinary
mechanic, and
ormal rations are
lf am a normal
ive on them...



ext on
side

The address side of the cards with the forgery attached

received
ns:
selves
nilies...
o-
nestic



The "Mann" propaganda card depicting Dr Gustav Adolf Scheel

Text on picture side

"This German Mann is free"

Certain roles, Gruppenführer and Oberführer, within the regular rank and file of the SA are known by the title of "Mann". These titles were confined to the SA while the rest of the Nazi Party still had no formal ranks and insignia except for the title used by senior Nazi leaders such as Hitler. The insignia shown in the picture is the rank insignia of a Gauleiter and Reichsleiter

Part of text on
address side



...all the worries and troubles of the German people, from which his relationships protect him, even from the bombing, because he gets the fuel to drive out of the city every evening to his bomb-proof country estate

and finally.....

"This person is free from any affiliation with the German people"

Stamps produced and delivered to the French Underground for use on envelopes containing copies of *La France Libre* and *Weekly Times* using fake business envelopes to avoid the internal censorship.

Mercury Design
15 and 30 centimes
10,000 copies delivered in
October 1942

Original
4 x 13 1/2

Forgery
Perf 15 x 14



Petaïn Bare Head Design
1 franc 50 centimes and 2 francs
10,000 of each delivered in
October (1 f 50c) and November (2f)

Original

Forgery



Petaïn with Cap Design
50 and 70 centimes and 1 franc
and 1 franc 20 centimes
10,000 of each delivered in October 1942

Original

Forgery



Iris Design
1 franc 50 centimes
Probably delivered October 1942

Original

Forgery



Forgery
Perf 15 x 14

3 1/2



no acute

"1" hollow

"1" solid



Underground correspondence and propaganda. As they were not produced by an established stamp printer, the stamps are a very crude reproduction, entitled "Le Faux Petain".

Pétain Bare Head Design

1 franc 50 centimes

Produced early in 1944

Original
Perf 14 x 13½



Forgery
Perf 11 ½

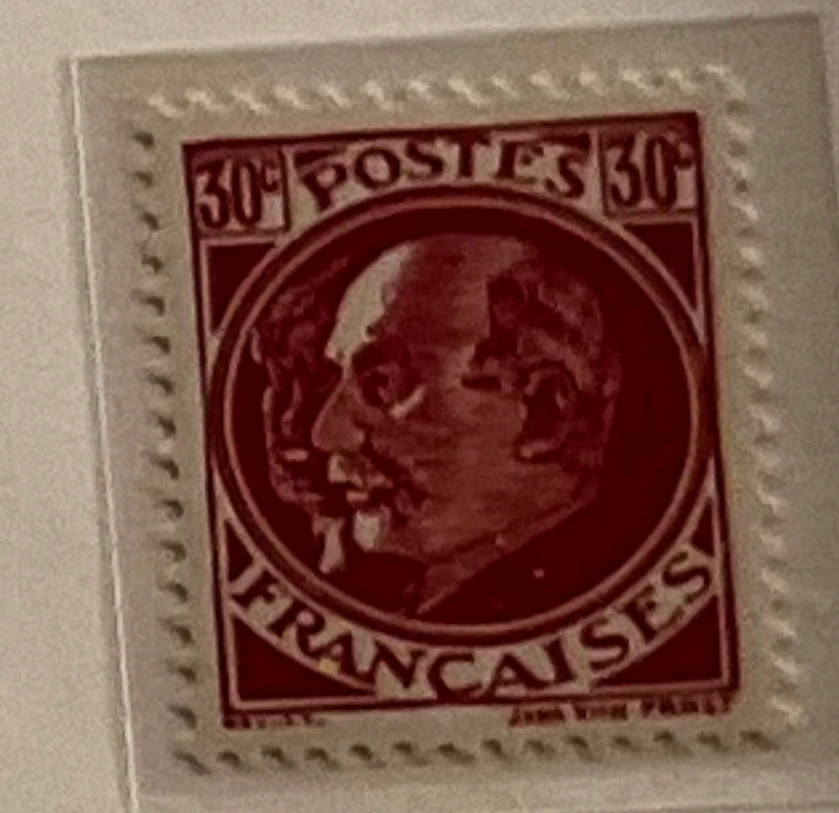


A parody produced for propaganda purposes. It shows the profile of Pierre Laval behind the head of Pétain implying he was behind the French government.

Original



Forgery



The back of each forged quarter-sheet panel of 24 stamps contains a hand stamp covering from 4 to 9 stamps, varying in colour from red to violet and consisting of a 37 mm circle enclosing the Cross of Lorraine and the text "Defense de la France - Direction / Atelier des Faux" ("French Underground - Directorate / Forgery Bureau").

STAMPS GO TO WAR - British anti German Propaganda

Hans Frank Parody

The PWE produced a parody of the genuine Hitler stamp, instead depicting Hans Frank, the General Governor of occupied Poland. The stamp is a black parody of the General Government 1941 20 groschen sepia Hitler-head stamp showing Hans Frank full-face.

Original



Parody



Parody was printed by Waterlow & Sons and copies were delivered on 11 March 1943. The British airdropped the Frank stamps in containers between the end of January and the end of April. In June 1943, the Polish Underground produced a small number of cancelled covers featuring the Frank parody and two genuine General Government 2-groschen Hitler-head stamps and including a propaganda leaflet.

Himmler Parody

Two "Himmler" parodies of the Germany 1941-1944 6 pfennig violet Hitler-head stamp that depicted SS Reichsführer Heinrich Himmler full-face were produced. Probably suggesting that Himmler was more powerful than Hitler.

Original



Parody
First type



EC

Both parodies were printed typographed in violet in sheets of 20 (5x4). The first (produced in December 1942) has facial shading of narrowly spaced lines that are rough and ill-defined with white uncoloured patches around the eyes, cheek, and chin. The hair is poorly defined and appears to run into the background.

Witzleben Parody

A "Witzleben" parody of the Germany 1943 24+26 pfennig brown-red stamp commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Munich rising was produced in November 1944. The parody shows General Field Marshall Erwin von Witzleben, whom Germany hanged for his role in the unsuccessful plot to blow up Hitler.

Original



Parody



The text is "Gehängt am 8 Aug 1944: und ihr habt doch gesiegt," ("Hanged on 8 August 1944: and despite all you were victorious."). The British product parodied an earlier genuine German stamp depicting a Storm Trooper. The parody was printed photogravure in sheets of 20 (4x5), perforated 14. 5,000 sheets were sent to a Major Wintle for the SOE on 7 December 1944.

STAMPS GO TO WAR - American Parodies of Hitler

Hitler "Deaths Head" stamp

American OSS "death's head" parodies of the 12 pfennig Hitler stamp produced in Italy in 1944 intended to signify that Hitler and his activities spelled death for the German nation. The inscription at the foot has been changed from "Deutches Reich" to "Futsches Reich" ("Finished Empire")

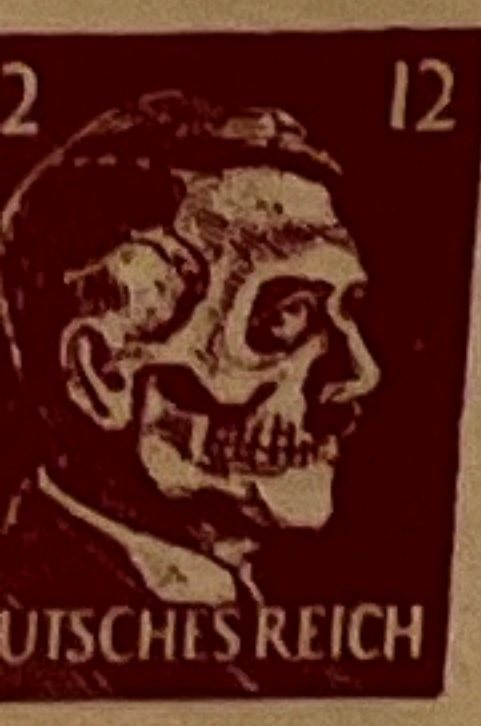
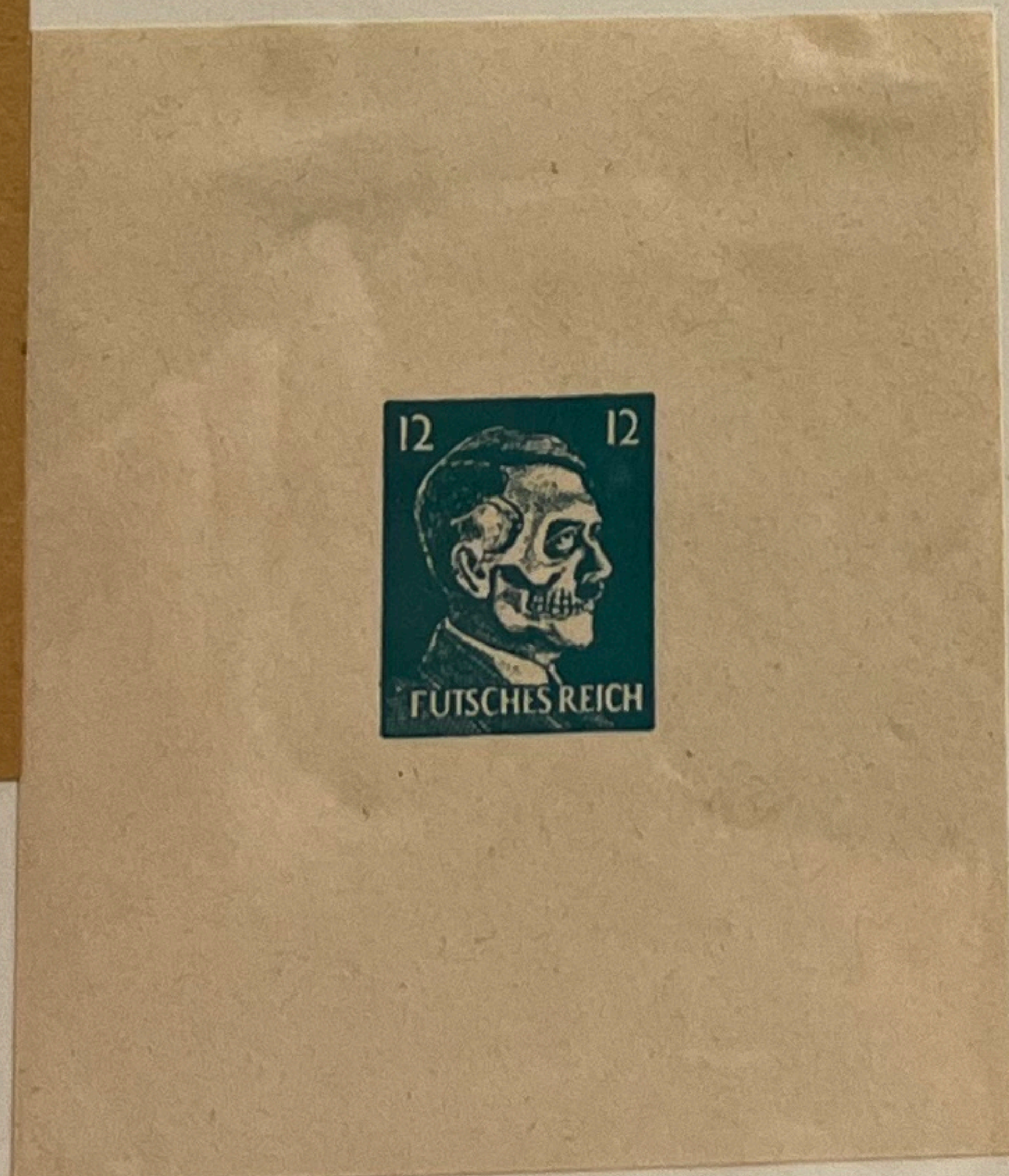
Original stamp



"Genuine" Parodies



After the War, forgeries of the parodies were produced in Austria



The "Spitler stamp"

This "stamp block" is a private patriotic parody of Germany 1940 12+38 pfennig brown-red Hitler's birthday stamp, with a child spitting in Hitler's face and the legend "Deutsches Ziel" ("German aim"). The German original shows Hitler receiving a bouquet of flowers from a young girl, with the legend "Deutsches Reich." The parody was produced in America by Lawrence & Graves, Los Angeles stamp dealers, in miniature sheets of four (2x2). The sheets have full margins bearing the small inscription "Copyright 1943 / Lawrence & Graves" beneath the left label and "Hollywood / California" beneath the right label.

Original Stamp



Parody



Child spitting



STAMPS GO TO WAR in Norway - British and German Propaganda

BRITISH

A sheet of four propaganda labels produced in late 1940 and dropped into Norway from January to April 1941. Each label has statement from King Haaken and the three Allied leaders: Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt and Josef Stalin

King Haakon's statement:

"Thank you for your loyalty to our country. Fight in the new year as steadfastly and proudly as in the old."

**Tapre nordmenn for-
tvil ikke, eders land
skal bli befriet, ikke
bare for de tyske
horder, men også for
de nedrige quislinger
som er tyskernes red-
skaper.**
WINSTON CHURCHILL

**De tyske hor-
der ønsket en
tilintetgjørel-
seskrig. De skal
få den.**
STALIN

GERMAN

Norwegian definitive stamps overprinted "V" for victory by the German post Office in August 1941

(or 'V' for victory = lost?)

Watermarked stamps



Only 23,200 of the 50 ore were issued

Unwatermarked stamps



ES

Only 200 of the 20 ore stamps have the

**Goering Parody
Bogus**

"imprisoned" label was apparently
privately for profit. Some individual who
British propaganda stamps showing
Himmler and Hans Frank apparently
he could swindle a gullible public by
Hermann Göring stamp. It is believed
privately produced in Germany after the
stamp is an imitation of the German 1943
stamp issue. It represents an unissued 54+96
denomination in deep purple, showing Field
Marshal Göring, Commander in Chief of the
Wehrmacht behind a wire fence suggesting

Original



Parody



Himmler Parody

A British parody of Himmler depicts him
shackling a civilian. This parody of the German
9 November 1944 stamp for the 21st anniversary
of the Munich uprising shows Himmler leading
a manacled civilian man, who represents
Germany in the chains of fascism

Original



Parody



Mussolini Parody

Britain produced two parodies of the Italian 1941 Italian-
German friendship issue. Both parodies call attention to
the notion that Hitler is in full charge of the Axis
partnership and is sternly looking at Mussolini. They
were probably prepared in fall 1943

Originals



Inscribed "Two Peoples, One War"
In Latin

Inscribed "POSTE ITALIANE"

Parodies



Inscribed "Two Peoples, One Leader"
In Latin

Inscribed "Two Peoples, One War"
In German

STAMPS GO TO WAR - German Propaganda against British Leaders

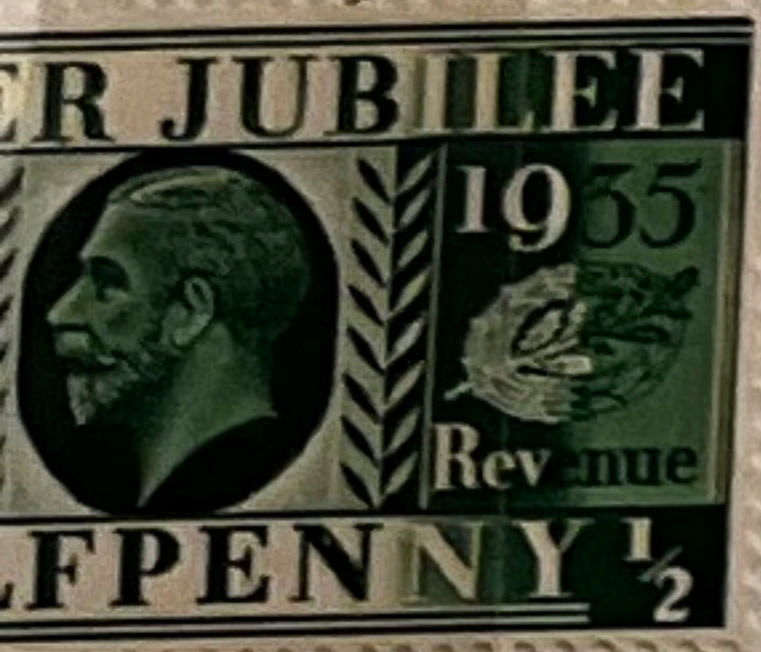
STAMPS GO TO WAR - German Parodies of British Stamps

Produced in Sachsenhausen concentration Camp

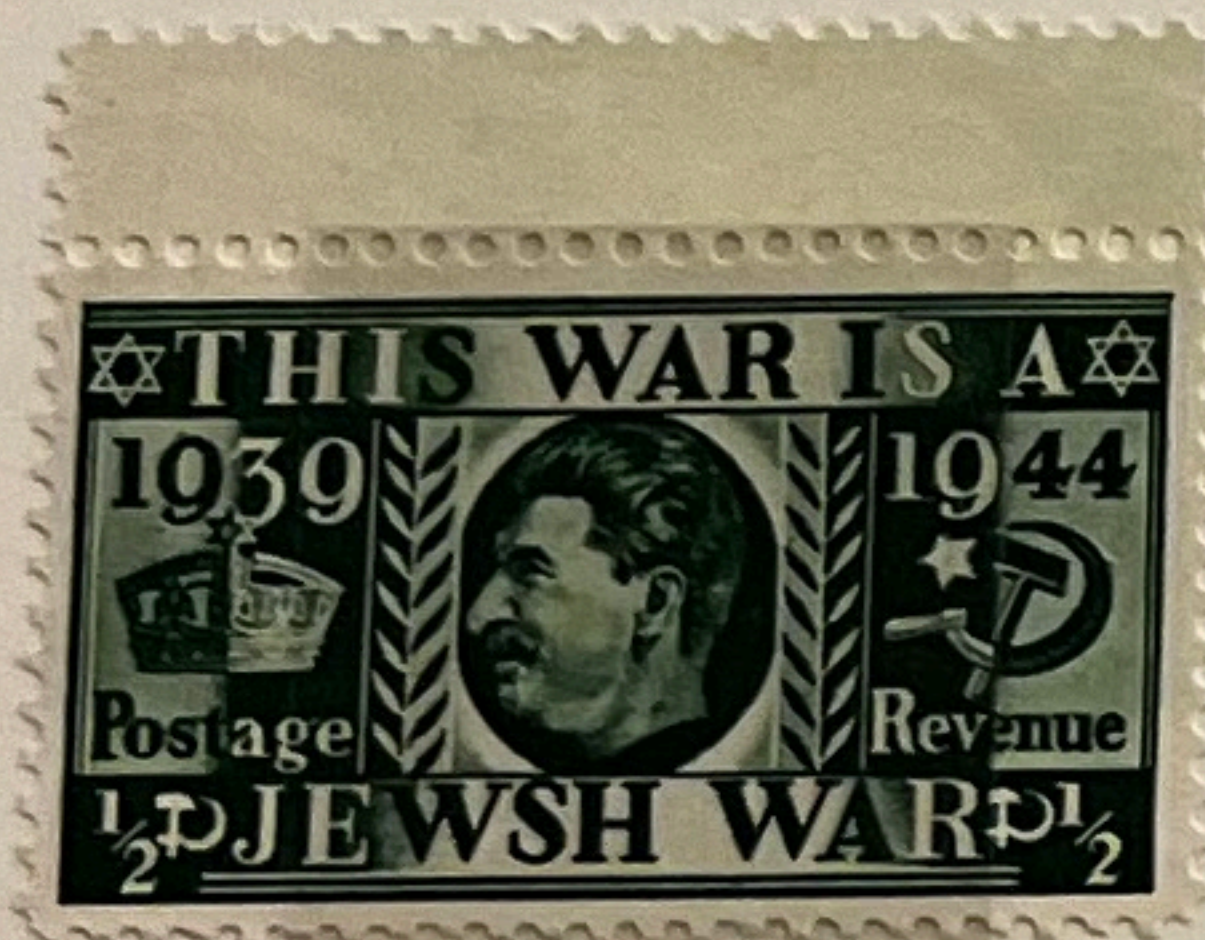
1935 George V Silver Jubilee 1/2 d green

This German parody of the Great Britain 1935 1/2d dark green Silver Jubilee stamp, has a bust of Stalin in place of King George V, and misspelled English text "This war is a / Jewish (sic) war" replacing "Silver Jubilee / Half Penny." The dates have been altered to read 1939-1944 instead of 1910-1935. The Star of David and the hammer and sickle appear prominently in several places (times each)

Original



Parody



GVI Definitives

The six German parodies of the Great Britain 1937 King George VI issue have the Star of David and Soviet hammer and sickle inserted into the design. The Star of David appears atop the crown at top centre and in the thistle at top right. The hammer and sickle appears in the flower at top left and replacing the "pence" symbol in the value field.

Originals



Parodies



Bogus Parodies of Original British and German stamps overprinted "Feldpostamt Kanalinseln"



1937 Coronation of GVI 1 1/2 d brown lilac

This parody of the Great Britain 1937 1 1/2 d pence brown-lilac stamp has a bust of Stalin replacing Queen Elizabeth, and the text "S.S.S.R. Britannia / Teheran 28.11.1943" replaces "Queen Elizabeth / 12 May 1937". The ornate script "G E R" at centre is modified to read "S S S R". The Star of David appears at top centre and in the thistle at top right, and the hammer and sickle appears within the crown at top left and in the right border.

Parody



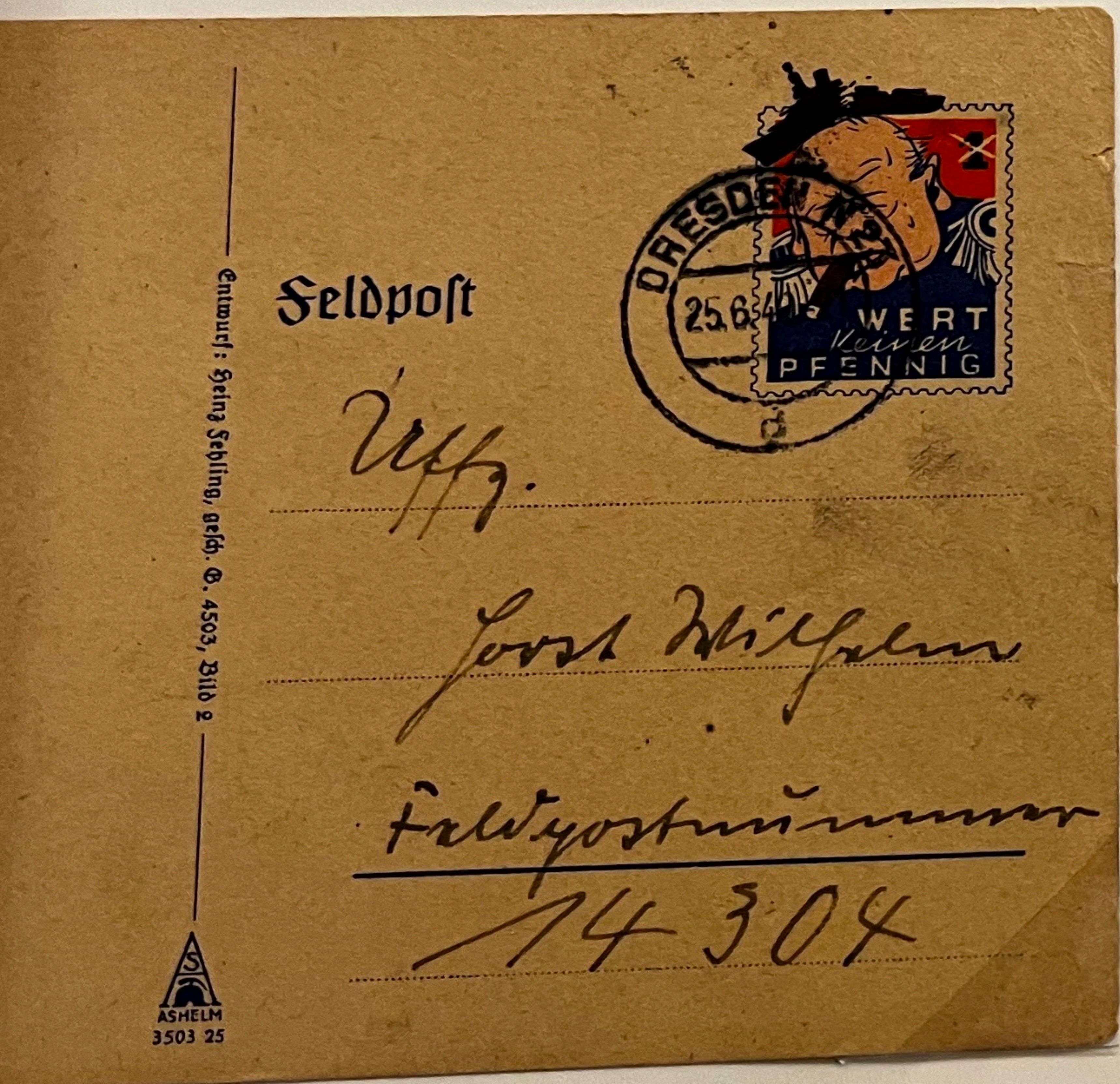
Parodies overprinted with "Liquidation of Empire"



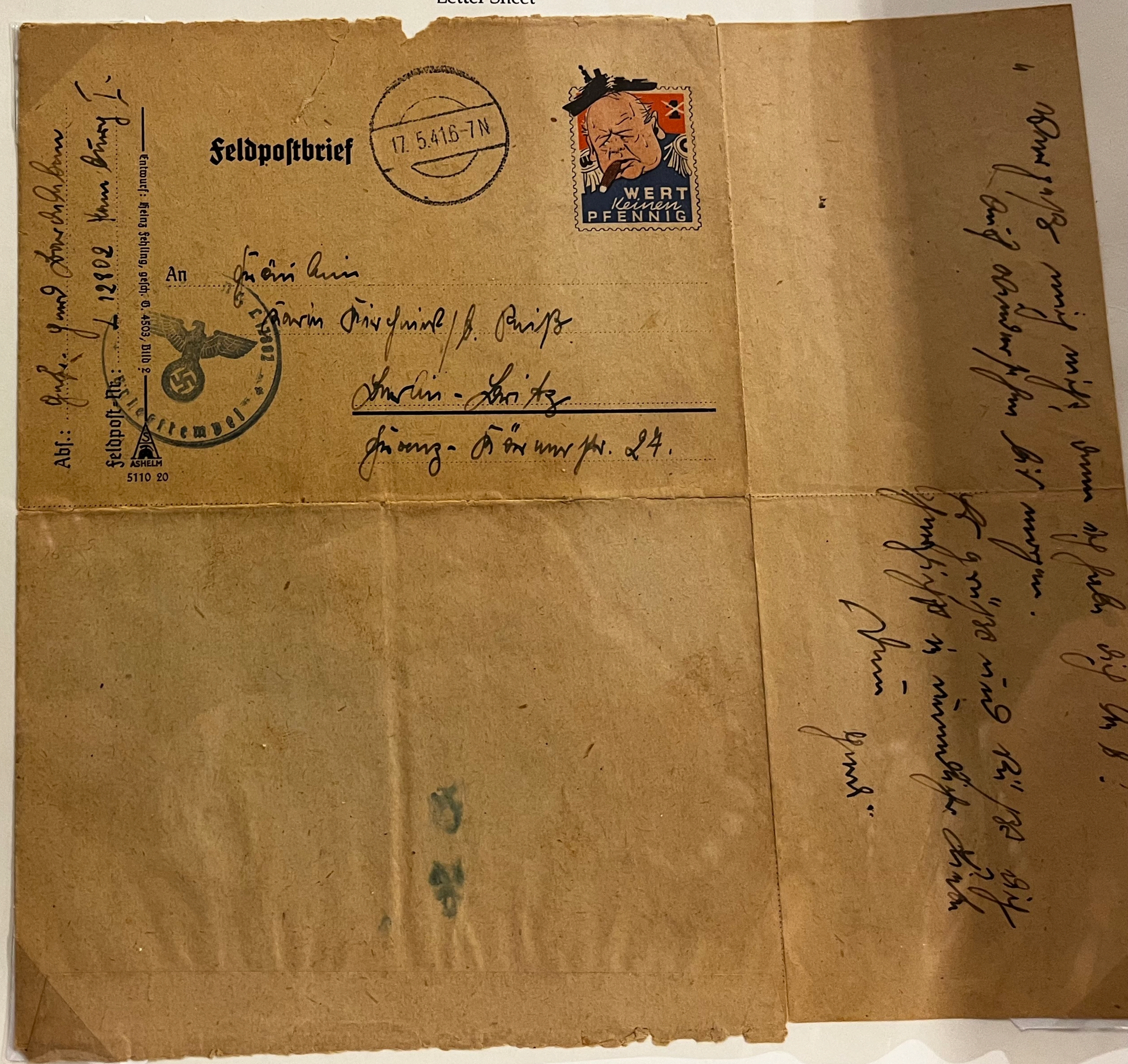
Churchill

The Germans produced a number of different propaganda postcards and letter sheets bearing mock stamps. The best known are the postcards ridiculing the Allied leaders; Winston Churchill, Neville Chamberlain and Josef Stalin. The Germans hated Churchill the most and produced a number of different cards to ridicule the man Hitler called "The old Jew." In the ones shown below, the Germans attack Churchill and his navy by depicting a British destroyer being broken over his head. The cards were designed by Heinz Fehling, with imprinted stamp-like labels bearing a crossed-out denomination "1" and text in German "Wert keinen Pfennig" ("Not worth a penny"). As the cards shown are annotated "Feldpost" or "Feldpostbrief", no postage was paid and so they only bear the propaganda stamp.

Postcard



Letter Sheet

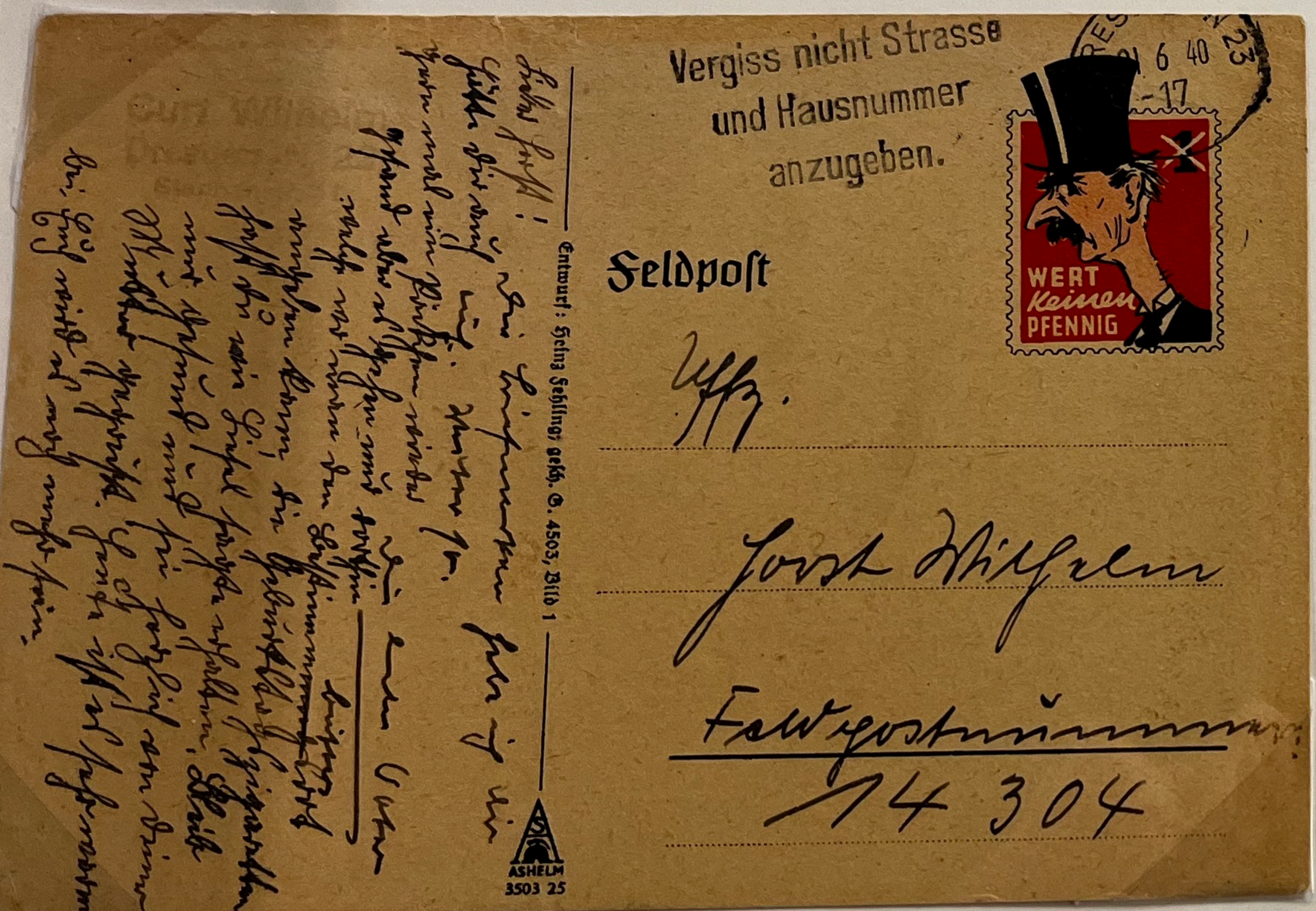


Chamberlain

In the ones shown below, the Germans attack Chamberlain by depicting as an aristocrat with a top hat. The cards were designed by Heinz Fehling, with imprinted stamp-like labels bearing a crossed-out denomination "1" and text in German "Wert keinen Pfennig" ("Not worth a penny"). The cards shown are annotated with "Feldpost" and so no postage was paid and so they only bear the propaganda stamp or without "Feldpost" in which case postage had to be added.

Postcard
"Feldpost"

Postcard
No "Feldpost"



The postcard was sent by a father in Dresden to his son on active service at Feldpost No 14304 in June 1940. This Feldpost number was used by the 234th Infantry Regiment which served in Northern France at Dunkirk.

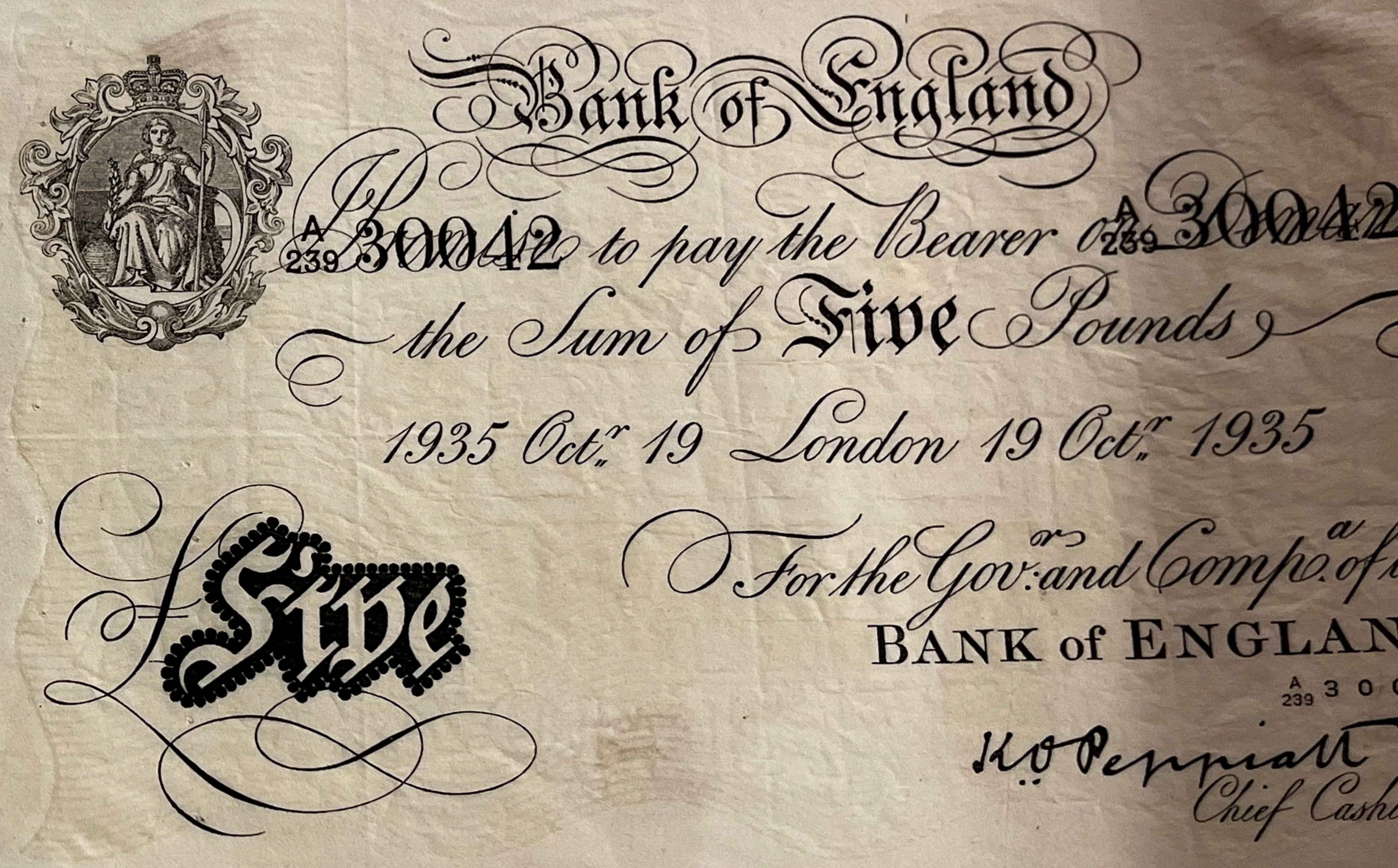
CURRENCY GOES TO WAR (WWII) - German Forgery of British £5 note

In 1940 Hitler authorized a scheme to counterfeit British currency (£5, £10, £20 and £50 banknotes). The German SS (Department VI-F-4) established a forgery operation in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp at Oranienburg near Berlin, using forced Jewish skilled labour. SS officer Bernhard Krueger was in charge and from his name arose the unofficial name of the currency forgery operation: Operation Bernhard. The currency counterfeiting began to print and use the notes in 1942 and the operation was highly successful, providing a rich source of readily negotiable notes to pay for various German operations.

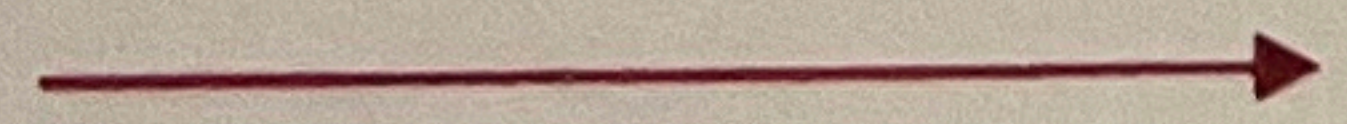
Despite success with printing plates and paper, the Germans tried, but failed, to crack the numbering system on banknotes and were forced to re-use serial numbers from genuine banknotes. This led to the first counterfeit note being detected in 1943. It had passed through a British bank in Morocco

GENUINE

FORGERY



There are a number of differences in the forgeries by which they can be detected. One of which is the detail of the spur at the bottom right of the Britannia shield.



Genuine - spur shading well formed



Forgery - spur shading crude with dark line at right

