

The Fraktur

VOL. VI, NR. 8

August 1993

MONEY USED BY POLISH OFFICERS IN GERMAN PRISON CAMPS IN WORLD WAR II

By JOHN GLYNN

Introduction

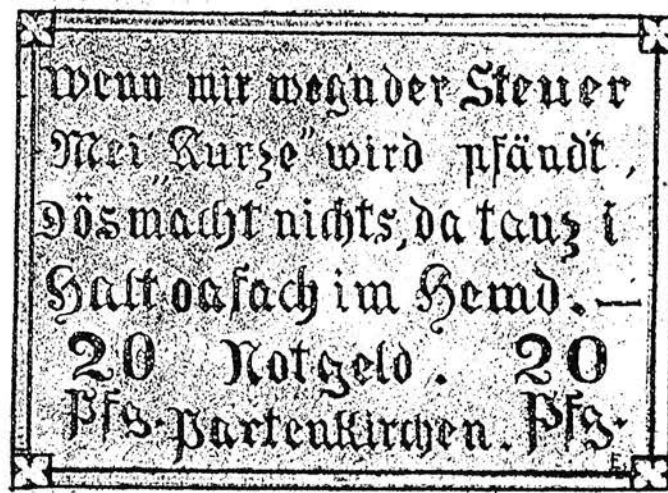
When we turn back the pages of history to World War II, we find that Nazi Germany attempted to break the spirit of the Polish people and turn them into slaves of the Third Reich by establishing concentration camps, ghettos and prisoner of war camps, but they failed.

The War

The second World War commenced for Poland and Germany on Sept. 1, 1939, when the Nazis launched their attack at 4:45

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MONTHLY NOTGELD QUOTE . . .



Partenkirchen 20 Pfennig
L-1020

When, because of the taxes,
My "short ones" (Lederhosen!)
are impounded,
It doesn't matter. I simply
Dance dressed in my shirt.

a.m. The Germans, under the command of General von Brauchitsch, invaded Poland from three directions, north, south and west, with Germany's pride panzer division. Their method of using fast, powerful and violent thrusts of highly mechanized army units became universally known as "blitzkrieg."

The Polish army, under the leadership of Marshall Rydz-Smigly, bravely defended their country with horse cavalry against tanks. The Polish arm fought a defensive battle against swift, mobile and potent tanks which advanced quite easily for the first 10 days.

On Sept. 15, Poland tightened its defense at the city of Lodz (renamed Litzmannstadt in 1940 by Germany) and stopped Germany's army and its mighty machinery. The victory, however, was short-lived, as Poland was then attacked from the east.

At 5 a.m. on Sept. 17, the Soviet Union invaded Poland without a declaration of war and in defiance of many treaties then in force. This incursion came as a great surprise to the Polish government and the German military high command in Poland.

Although the Polish armed forces continued to fight gallantly, they had no hope of driving the two enemies from their soil. Warsaw, the capital, was captured by Germany on Sept. 27. The next day Poland was divided almost equally between her two invaders, Germany and the Soviet Union.

The Prisoners

The defeat of the Polish armed forces resulted in the Soviet Union taking an estimated 180,000 prisoners, who were transported to prisoner of war camps in Russia. Most of the enlisted men were sent to 140 prison camps throughout the Soviet Union, while the officers were mainly sent to three prison camps, Kozielsk, Ostashkov and Starobielsk.

Fifteen thousand officers were separated from the main group. Four thousand, five hundred were later found murdered in the Katyn Forest, near the Russian city of Smolensk. Today the 10,500 are still missing and now presumed to have been murdered.

The Germans captured an estimated 700,000 prisoners. A number of prisoner of war camps were established to intern the Polish prisoners until they could be transported to permanent prison camps.

Before their departure the officers were separated from other ranks. They were transported to Germany and confined to 30 Oflag (camps for officers). The enlisted men were sent to 50 different Stalags (camps for enlisted men).

Prison Camp Money

Article 24 of the Geneva Convention of 1929 governing the financial problems of prisoners of war required that prisoner of war officers were entitled to be paid a salary prevailing in their own branch of service or equivalent in the captors' armed forces, whichever salary was the lower.



The map indicates the location of prisoner of war camps of Polish officers in Germany and countries occupied by Germany during World War II. □ indicates cities • POW camps for officers.

Officers were not required to work and their pay was granted them once a month if possible and without being liable to any deduction.

After the defeat of Poland, Germany prepared a general issue of "Kriegsgefangenen-lagergeld" (prisoner of war money) in denominations of

- 1 (red and gray);
- 10 (pink and red);
- 50 (green and red) Reichpfennig;
- 1 (red and white);
- 2 (red and blue);
- 5 (yellow and red)
- 10 (pink and red)
- 20 (mauve and red) Reichmark

The 20 Reichmark note was not issued for circulation and existed in proof form only.

The notes were issued on distinctive watermarked paper, differing with the denomination. They were undated but were issued in the latter part of 1939. The notes were signed by "der chef Oberkommandos der Wehrmacht" Commander of the Army).

A red overstamp with the word "Oflag" or "Stalag" followed by a Roman numeral which identified the camp can be found on the obverse or on the blank reverse side of the note.

The numbers were derived from the military district in which the camp was situated (see appendix). Large quantities of unused notes were found after the war ended. These notes are without the overstamp and therefore were not used in any prison camp.

By the end of 1941, Germany was experiencing problems with overcrowded prison camps. New camps were arranged with a larger intake of prisoners than the previous camps. Three of the new camps were used for Polish officers, Oflag II-B, Oflag II-D and Oflag VII-A.

Oflag II-D

The German prisoner of war camp known as Oflag II-D (Gross-Born) was established on Dec. 3, 1943. It held approximately 3,000 Polish officers plus a few hundred Polish prisoners of lesser rank. The prisoners were transferred to from overcrowded camps to Gross-Born.

The camp was first used as a prison camp for French prisoners and later as a concentration camp for Soviet Union soldiers. It was located not far from the town of Pila, in the province of Bydoszy on the German side of the Polish-German border. The camp today is located within the boundaries of Poland.

When the German Kriegsgefangenen-Lagergeld was withdrawn from circulation, the inmates of the prison designed their own paper currency as a replacement. The currency was given a new Polish unit called Piast, which was divided into 100 groszy. The notes were printed in five denominations and with Polish text. The legend "Bank obozu IID (Bank Camp II D), and "prawny srodek platniczy w ob ozu" (lawful money for camp II D).

The notes were in different sizes and with different lettering:

- 10 Groszy 90 mm by 50 mm brown lettering
- 50 Groszy 90 mm by 55 mm tan lettering
- 1 Piast 95 mm by 60 mm gray lettering
- 5 Piast 90 mm by 65 mm black lettering
- 10 Piast 90 mm by 65 mm blue lettering



Oflag II-D (Gross Born) used a 1 Piast note dated 16 X 44 (Oct. 16, 1944), designed by Polish officers in the camp.

Undated Serial III scrip of 50-fenigow value was used at Camp Woldenberg (Oflag II-C).



The money was dated 16-X (October), and was named BANK SCRIP by the inmates. It showed a small circular bank stamp which consisted of a Polish eagle centered and surrounded with text "Bank of II-D." The notes were signed by the camp bank manager and they remained in circulation until the camp closed.

Because of advancing Soviet troops the Germans evacuated the camp on Jan. 25, 1945. Seventy-five percent of prisoners were ordered to march westward to Camp Oflag X-A (Sandbostel), near Bremen, a total of 450 miles. The remaining 25 percent of the prisoners were set free.

Oflag II-C

The largest prisoner of war camp for Polish prisoners was Oflag II-C (Woldenberg). It was established on April 4, 1942, located near the town with the same name. It contained about 7,000 prisoners, of which 4,000 were Polish. Considering the size of the camp (over 60 acres) and the number of buildings (about 85), the camp could be considered a small town in itself. It was also near the Poznan-Szczecin railway which was located near the German-Polish border.

When the Kriegsgefangenen-Lagergeld lost its value and was withdrawn from circulation, the prisoners from Oflag II-C issued their own camp money. The money was known as "Credit Union Scrip" and was issued in different series. The notes came in values of:

1. 10 Fenigow 48 mm by 37 mm blue paper Serial AI and AII
2. 10 Fenigow 51 mm by 45 mm blue paper Serial AII, AIII, AIV
3. 50 Fenigow 65 mm by 50 mm cream paper Serial AI and AII
4. 50 Fenigow 55mm by 35 mm cream paper Serial AII, AIII, AIV
5. 1 Mark 92 mm by 60 mm cream paper Serial A, B
6. 2 Mark 82 mm by 55 mm grayish paper Serial A, B
7. 5 Mark 92 mm by 60 mm grayish paper Serial A, B
8. 10 Mark 115 mm by 70 mm grayish paper Serial A



Five Marek notes were issued at Oflag II-C (Woldenberg), signed by the camp commander by not dated and without a serial number.

(To be Continued)

HOW MY NOTGELD COLLECTION IS MAINTAINED

By Tony Argue

Individual Notgeld notes are kept in 3" by 5" Mylar fractional currency holders. For notes wider or taller, I use a regular size currency holder which has been cut down with scissors or a razor blade, to make an even cut.

The holder is cut to the 5" length and slightly wider and taller than the note to be placed in it. Though a bit larger, it fits well with the smaller holders.

For instance, this larger size accommodates the 50-Pfennig note of Fuessen, Pick-Siemsen 683.

Notes in the Mylar holders are kept in a box slightly wider than the 5" holders. Many kinds of file boxes are available, including fireproof types.

Notes are recorded following the Pick-Siemsen book, since I collect only the notes which actually saw circulation. Adhesive labels, cut in quarter-inch widths, are placed at the upper left of the holders, with an indication of the province represented, and the country.

In the top left corner also will be the catalog number and suffix, if any. In the upper right corner is the name of the city/town and on the right side is the date of the note, or "ND" for notes without a date.

This system works very well for me, even though buying several hundred Mylar holders can be expensive.

AND FROM MINNESOTA. . .

By John Olson

Polyethylene bags are used to hold the Notgeld in my collection.

Three years ago I found baseball-card envelopes. Also a plastic bag company can provide sizes 2 by 2, 2 by 3, 2 by 4, 3 by 4, 3 by 5 and 3 1/2 by 6 inches

I cut the bags to fit the Notgeld, leaving a bit extra of space, and use Scotch tape on the cut edge. I place these in magnetic pages, and put them in notebooks.

Once I did obtain a collection where they just put the notes in magnetic pages with nonplastic pages. In time the adhesive in the pages will stick to Notgeld.

So far I have 22 notebooks of German notes, and 21 of Austrian. Notes are arranged by town and catalog number.

Classified Advertising

GERMAN METAL NOTGELD bought and sold. Sell municipal, private, POW, transportation, encased postage, beer tokens and some French. Also sell related literature. T.J. Orlik, P.O. Box 947, Lewiston, N.Y. 14092.

* * *

GERMAN- FRENCH world paper Notgeld. Over 10,000 pieces in stock! Large free lists. Ian A. Marshall, Parkway Mall Box 62509, 85 Ellesmere Road Scarborough, Ontario, Canada M1R 5G8

THE NOTGELD PRICELIST

AUGUST 1993

Calbe/Saale April 23, 1917 50 4) Pf L-205b \$3
 Camburg/Saale 1919 10, 50 Pf P-S 362e \$2*
 Camburg/Saale March 4, 1921 10 Pf L-209 \$.60*
 Camp Bornhofen/Rhine July 1921 50 Pf L-211 \$.60*
 Carlshafen ND 50 Pf; 1, 1.50, 2 Mark L-214 w/control Nr.
 \$7.50*
 Cassel Aug. 20, 1923 1 Millionen Mark K-718e \$3
 Celle ND to April 1, 1918) 25 Pf, 1/2 Mark P-S 373 Harry
 Trueller \$5.50
 Celle ND 25, 50, 75, 100 Pf L-218b 1 w/ printing firm; 3
 without) \$8*
 Celle ND 25, 50, 75, 100 Pf L-218d with printing firm \$2.50*
 Chemnitz ND 20 Pf Campbell 2814 folds \$5
 Cleve 1921 75 2) Pf Map L-223 II, IV \$18*
 Coblenz May 1, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-225 \$1.25
 Cochem Landkreis) Nov. 19, 1918 1, 5 Mark K-76 Stamp
 cancellation \$3
 Cottbus Aug. 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-235 \$10*
 Corbach/Waldeck Feb. 1, 1922 100 6) Pf Sportverein L-232
 \$18*
 Cranenburg F. 1, 1921 1 Mark 3) 50 Pf+50 Pf) L-236 \$9.50*
 Crefeld Feb. 24, 1921 25, 50 Pf L-238 II \$1.25*
 Crivitz ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-239b Reutergeld \$2.25*
 Cuestrin/Oder Feb. 1, 1921 50 Pf L-240 \$.65*
 Cuxhaven Oct. 1919 25 Pf P-S 425b folds \$.50
 Dahlenburg Sept. 15, 1921 50 Pf L-243 \$.65*
 Dalhausen Nov. 5, 1921 50 Pf; 1, 2 Mark L-246 \$2.50*
 Dannefeld/Altmark May 1, 1921 50 Pf L-248 \$3*
 Dargun ND 50 Pf L-249 Reutergeld \$.65*
 Darmstadt Aug. 22, 1923 2 Millionen Mark K-956a \$3
 Dassow ND 10, 25, 50 Pf L-251 \$2*
 Deggendorf/Bayern Sept. 1920 50 Pf P-S 442e \$.75*
 Delbrueck/Westfalen Jan. 27, 1921 25 Pf L-252 \$2*
 Derenburg/Harz Dec. 20, 1920 25 Pf L-254 \$1.25*
 Dessau April 1, 1920 25, 50 Pf P-S 42c \$1
 Detmold Nov. 13, 1918 50 Pf P-S 1275 \$.60*
 Detmold Nov. 13, 1918 5 Mark K-298 \$3
 Detmold August 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf \$1.75*
 Detmold August 1920 50 10) Pf L-259f \$6.50
 Diepholz Sept. 1, 1920 10, 50 Pf L-264b* \$1.25*
 Diepholz Aug. 15, 1921 50, 75 2) Pf L-264c \$2.25*
 Diepholz Sept. 15, 1921 75 2) Pf L-264d \$1.25
 Diepholz Sept. 28, 1921 75 2) Pf L-264e \$1.25*
 Diez/Lahn Dec. 1920 10, 25, 50 Pf P-S 462f \$2*
 Dippoldswalde/Sachsen ND 10 Pf P-S 470a fold \$.75
 Dirschau/Westpreussen Nov. 15, 1918 K-97 \$4.50*
 Ditfurt July 1, 1921 50 5) Pf* +one with foxing) L-266b
 \$6.50
 Ditfurt July 1, 1921 10, 25, 50, 75 Pf L-266a \$3
 Doberan ND 10, 50 Pf L-266 Reutergeld \$.50*
 Doebeln Sept. 1, 1921 50 7) Pf L-268 \$5
 Doemitz June 1, 1920 10, 25 Pf P-S 476 \$1.25
 Dornburg/Saala 1921 25 2), 50 4) Pf L-272 \$4
 Dortmund Oct. 10, 1922 25 Mark 4); 50 Mark 4) K-131d \$25*

Dortmund-Hoerde Aug. 15, 1923 5,000,000 Mark K-1061f \$3
 Dramburg Aug. 6, 1920 10, 50 Pf; 1 Mark L-276a \$4*
 Drenke Nov. 5, 1921 1 Mark L-277 \$1.25*
 Dresden March 1917 50 Pf \$1
 Dresden Aug. 15, 1923 5 Millionen Mark Saechsische Bank
 K-1106d \$2.75
 Dresden-Altstadt ND 10 Pf P-S 506a folds \$.50
 Dresden-Neustadt Sept. 30, 1921 P-S 507e \$1.25*
 Dresden-Neustadt Aug. 14, 1923 1 Millionen Mark \$3
 Dresden-Neustadt Aug. 25, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-1121c \$3.50
 Driburg, Bad Sept. 1921 25, 50 Pf; 1, 2 Mark L-280 \$5
 Duerkheim, Bad Sept. 8, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-1148b \$3.25
 Duesseldorf Dec. 1, 1918 25 Pf worn \$.50
 Duesseldorf Oct. 15, 1919 25 Pf P-S 515e folds \$.50
 Duesseldorf Jan. 10, 1920 10 Pf P-S 515f worn \$.50
 Duesseldorf/Stadt Feb. 1, 1923 5,000 Mark K-145c \$2.75
 Duesseldorf/Stadt July 15, 1923 500,000 Mark K-1150c \$2.75
 Duesseldorf/Stadt July 15, 1923 500,000 Mark K-1150f \$2.75
 Duesseldorf/Stadt Aug. 1, 1923 500,000 Mark K-1150g-1
 available Reihe 3 through 7) \$2.75 each
 Duesseldorf/Stadt Aug. 15, 1923 100,000 Mark K-115-m \$2.75
 Duesseldorf/Stadt Aug. 21, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-1150r
 \$2.75
 Duesseldorf/Stadt Aug. 25, 1923 10 Millionen Mark K-1150t,u
 \$3 each
 Duesseldorf/Stadt Sept. 1, 1923 20 Millionen Mark K-1150v
 \$2.75
 Duesseldorf/Landesbank Aug. 1, 1923 500,000 Mark K-1166c \$3
 Duesseldorf/Landesbank Oct. 20, 1923 50 Milliarden Mark
 K-1166bb \$3
 Duesseldorf/Landesbank Sept. 1, 1923 2 Millionen Mark K-1166h
 \$2.75
 Duesseldorf/Landesbank Sept. 1, 1923 10 Millionen Mark
 K-1166l \$2.75
 Duesseldorf/Phoenix Aug. 15, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-1170p \$3
 Duesseldorf/Landkreis Aug. 29, 1923 10 Millionen Mark K-1178d
 \$3
 Duesseldorf/Landkreis Sept. 14, 1923 500 Millionen Mark
 K-1178e \$3
 Duisburg March 22, 1923 100 Millionen Mark K-153b \$3
 Duisburg July 30, 1923 100,000 Mark K-1179b \$2.75
 Duisburg July 31, 1923 500,000 Mark K-1179c \$3
 Duisburg Aug. 10, 1923 1 Millionen Mark K-1179d \$3
 Duisburg Aug. 15, 1923 5 Millionen Mark K-1179e \$3

*Uncirculated

K-Keller catalogs; L-Lindman Serienscheine; P-S Pick Siemsen

The Fraktur, P.O. Box 334, Iola, Wis. 54945-0334
 The Notgeld Hotline 1-800-547-1067