

St. Louis Stamp Show 2019

SAINT LOUIS STAMP EXPO

Free Franking for Displaced Persons in the British Zone of Germany

Using the Example of the DP Camp Meerbeck, 1945 - 1948

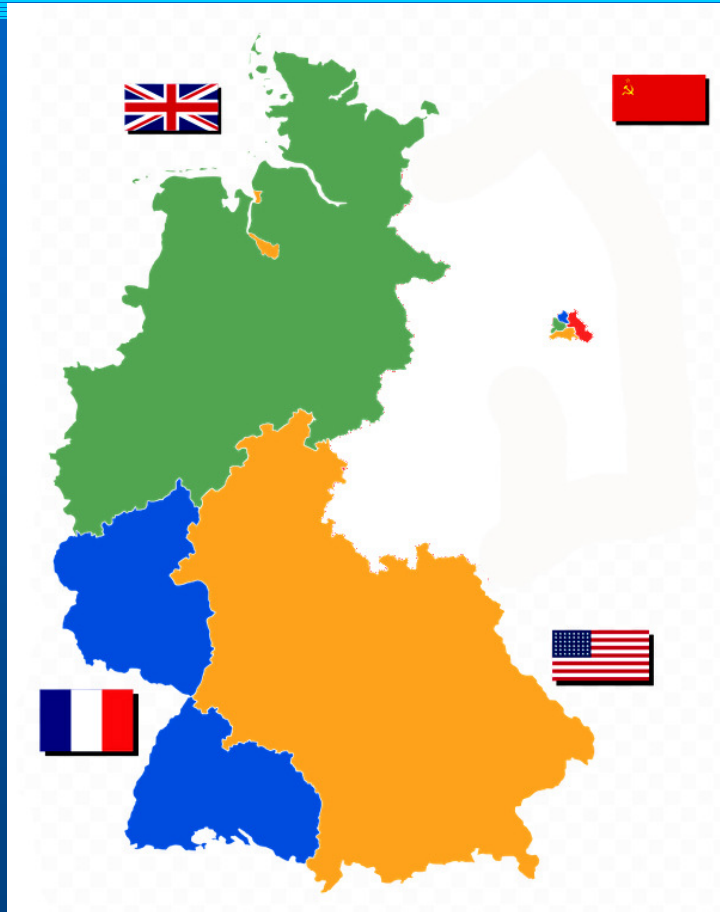
Heinz K. Selig, Ludwigsburg, Germany
SAINT LOUIS STAMP EXPO 2019

March 2019

DP Camp Meerbeck

Refugee stream 1944 – 1946

In May 1945 more than 4 million “Displaced Persons” (DP’s) were in the West Zones of the occupied Germany. 2.3 million of these were east Europeans.

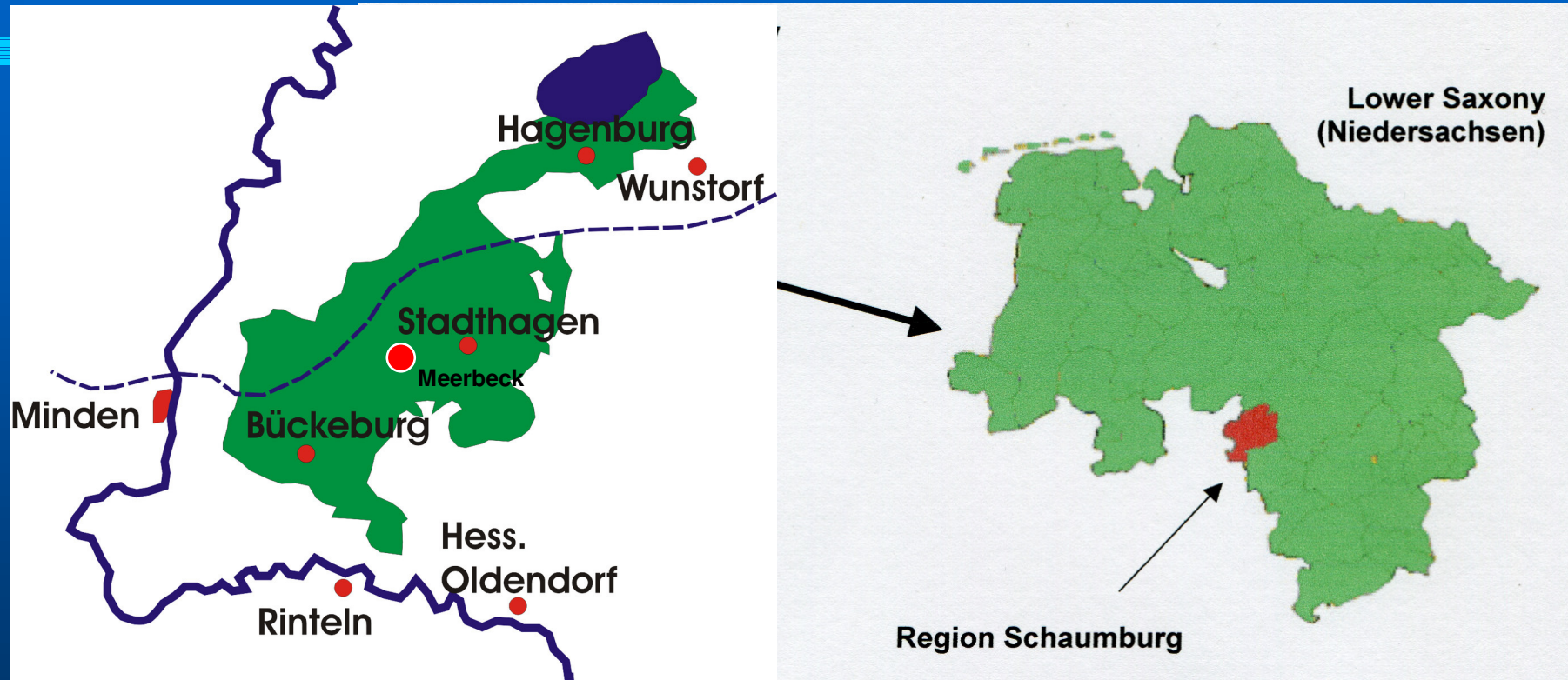


protracted prisoners of war,
political refugees,
civilian internees,
forced or
voluntary foreign workers,
surviving victims of the
concentration camps

**At the end of 1945 there were
still about 1.7 million DPs
in the three western zones.**

District Schaumburg-Lippe

340 km²; 1939: 55.000 local inhabitants



Schaumburg-Lippe was until 1946 an independent German country (county, principality, Free State) located in the area of today's Lower Saxony between the city of Hanover and the Westphalian border.

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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

Meerbeck



Copyright source:
Hermann Bansen:
„Meerbeck 1945-1948“

13 km²; 1945: about 750 local inhabitants in addition 550 refugees

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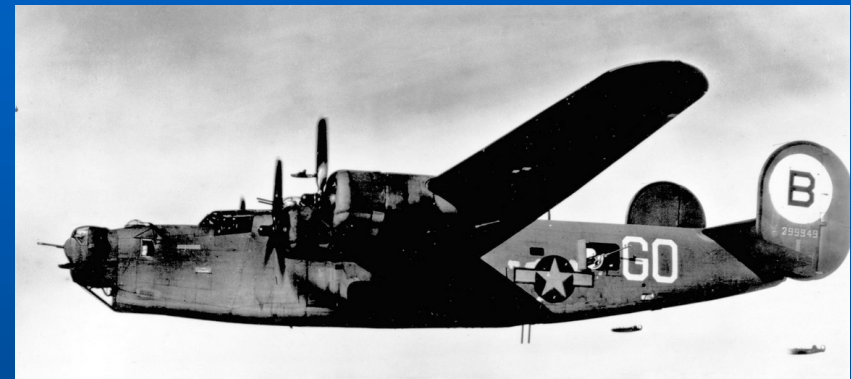
DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

Meerbeck B-24J Bomber

The Bomber crashed 26. November 1944 in the area domain Brandenburg near Meerbeck

Byrnes Hartwell
Josef R. Caruso
Samuel Yuzwa

SUBJECT: Aircraft loss--26 Nov 1944		DATE: 14 Jun 1984
TO: Mr. Hermann Banser Driftstrasse 7 3061 Meerbeck GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC	FROM: HQ USAF Historical Research Center Research Division (RT) Maxwell AFB AL 36112	
RESEARCHER MSgt Martin E. James		
Reference your 5 Apr 1984 letter. We were unable to identify which aircraft/crew of the 491st Bombardment Group crashed in the area of Nordsehl/Brandenburg on 26 Nov 1944. Mission reports indicate that 15 aircraft went missing and with them 141 personnel missing in action as the result of the attack on Hannover-Misburg. Eight aircraft were seen to go down over the target area. The U.S. Army conducted a massive program, between 1946 - 1951, to recover U.S. war dead and bury them in military cemeteries or return them to the United States for burial. Further information about the movement of remains may be available at the address cited in item 5.		
TYPED NAME AND TITLE R. CARGILL HALL Chief, Research Division	SIGNATURE <i>R. Cargill Hall</i>	
USAFHRC FORM NOV 83 4 PREVIOUS EDITIONS ARE OBSOLETE. HISTORICAL RESEARCH REQUEST		



Status 1984:
USAF Historical Research Center
are unable to identify which
aircraft/crew of the 491st
Bombardment Group crashed.

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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

Meerbeck

13 km²; 1945: about 750 local inhabitants in addition 550 refugees



Copyright source:
Hermann Bansen:
„Meerbeck 1945-1948“

These 1300 inhabitants of Meerbeck were expelled on 8 May 1945 by order of the British military government. Meerbeck became a camp for former prisoners of war.

After the former prisoners of war had returned to their home countries, Meerbeck was from September 4, 1945, a "DP camp" for displaced persons.

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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

DP-Camp „Meerbeck“

Arriving refugees in DP camp "Meerbeck"



Arriving refugees from the Baltic States: registration

Copyright source:
Hermann Bansen:
„Meerbeck 1945-1948“

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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

Status of Baltic Displaced Persons

The term "Displaced Person (DP)" for "a person who is not resident in this place" was used in the World War II by the allies
(SHAEF - **S**upreme **H**eadquarters **A**llied **E**xpeditionary **F**orces).

- 1.) the refugees out of fear of the Soviets,
- 2.) the ex-soldiers who fought on the German side,
- 3.) prisoners of war and
- 4.) forced workers (Ostarbeiter / Fremdarbeiter).

„United Nations nationals who were displaced as a result of the war; persons not of United Nations nationality who were displaced as a result of the war and who were obliged to leave their country or place of origin or former residence by action of the enemy, because of their race, religion, or activities in favour of the United Nations (soon to be known as persecutes); and the stateless who had been displaced.”

* Lynn: Taylor: „Please report only :rue nationalities“: The Classification of Displaced Persons in Post-Second World War in Germany and Implantations, in. David Cesarani/Suzanne Bardgett/Jessica Reinisch u.a. (Hg.). Survivors of Nazi Persecution in Europe after the Second World War. London/Portland 2010. S. 39.

DP- Camp Mail

From 20.10.1945 foreign refugees / Displaced Persons (DPs) were allowed to send free letters via the British FPO (Field Post Office).

Note: The civilian postal service for Germans was allowed only from 1.04.1946 abroad.

Classification of DP Mail and DP Camp Stamps

1. International mail.

Postage free status carried via British Military Post (FPO - Field Post Office).

Shipments via Deutsche Post abroad

2. Domestic mail

Postage free status carried via British Military Post (FPO - Field Post Office).

Postage free status carried via Deutsche Post

The End of free shipment

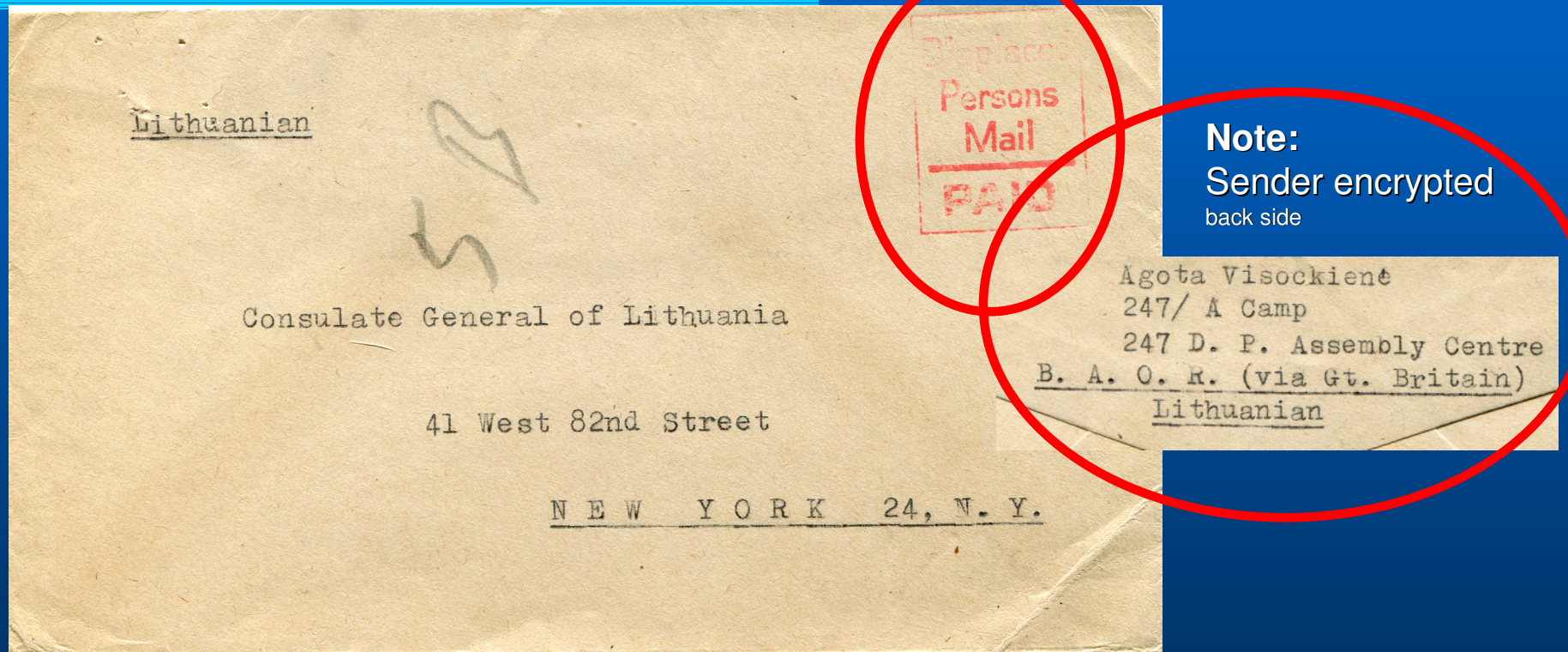
3. Lagerpostmarken (DP Camp Stamps)

"Lagerpostmarken" (DP stamps) from Meerbeck (vignettes)

Baltic Philatelist Association „Balta“

DP- Camp Mail

1. 1 Shipments via British Field Post abroad



Route: Assembly Center, with the British Field Post Office (FPO) to the censorship office, stamp office ("Displaced Persons Mail / PAID" stamp), FPO to the Civil Foreigner Post Office (London Foreign Section - FS), civilian mail to recipients. (Stobel: (20.10.45 - 01.1949) 105 letters, 50 of them to the USA)

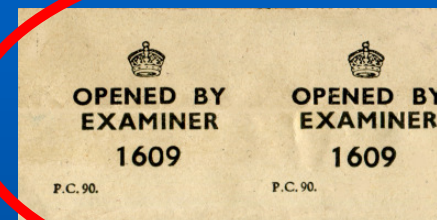
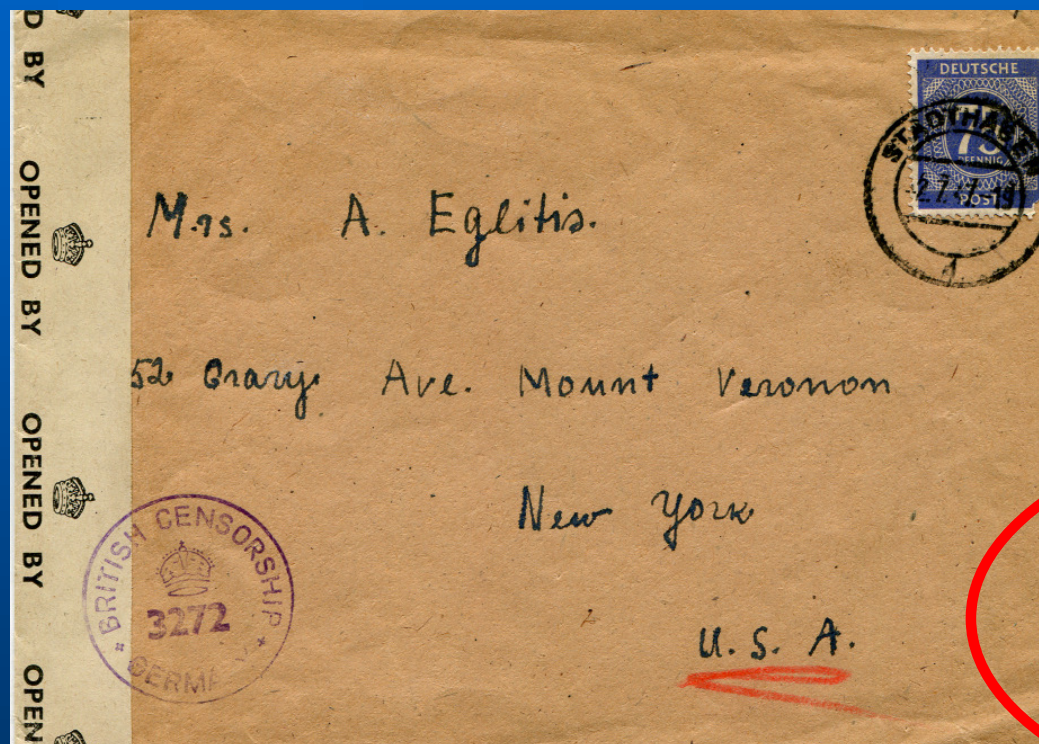
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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

DP camp „Meerbeck“

1. 2 Shipments via Deutsche Post abroad

From 1.04.1946 it was generally allowed to send letters abroad with Deutsche Post. The DPs of the camp Meerbeck used mostly the service over the Deutsche Post Instead of sending letters free of charge.



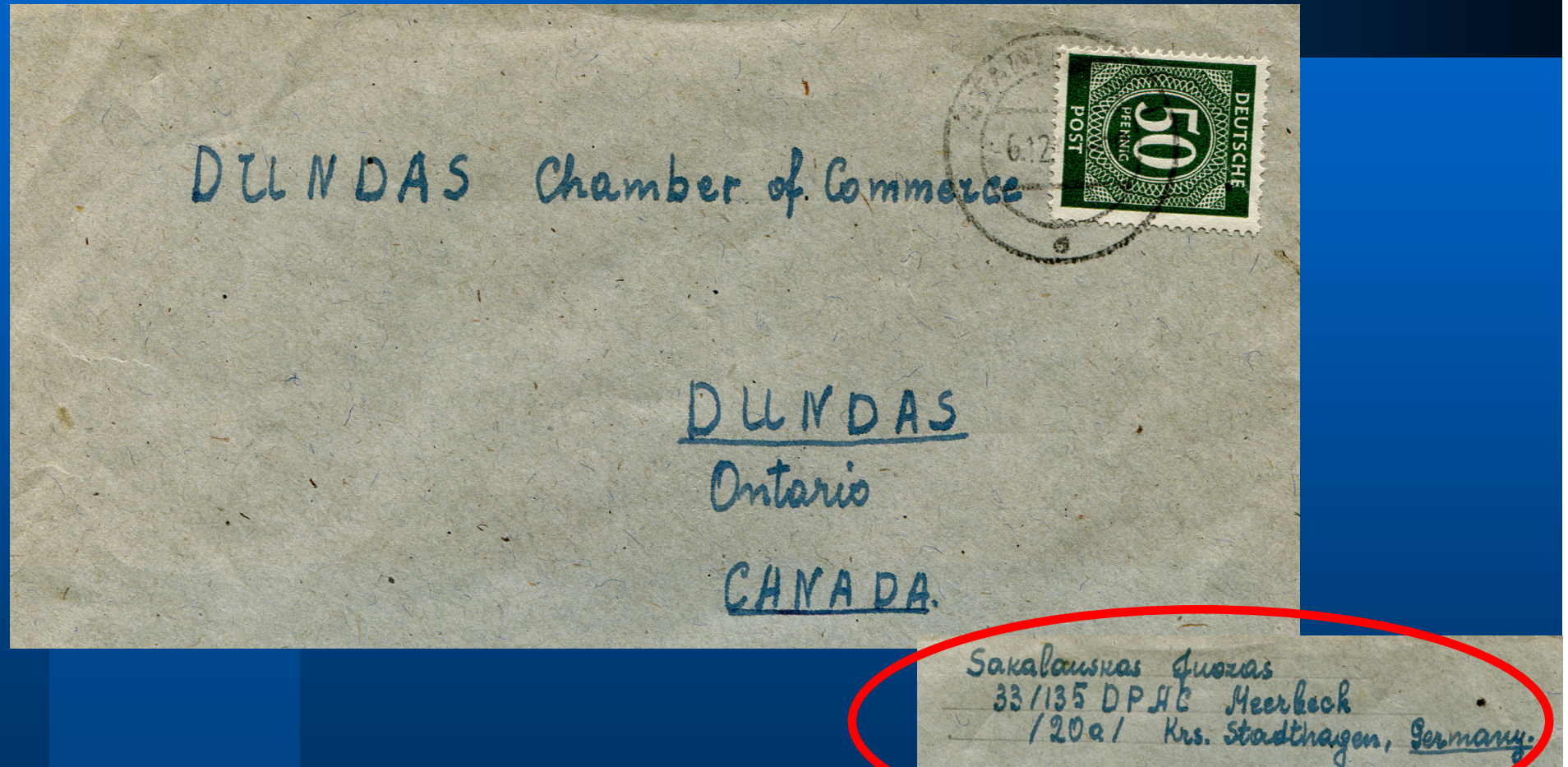
Note:
Sender partly encrypted
back side

from: M. Kampars 33/135 assembly centre
Meerbeek Nr. Stadthagen.
(20a) Germany

International letter with Deutsche Post sended to New York (USA). Post office postmark „**STADTHAGEN**“ 2.07.1947. Fee 75 Pfennigs (fee for foreign letters up to 20g). Censorship strips of the British Censorship Bonn.

DP camp „Meerbeck“

1.2 Shipments via Deutsche Post abroad



Foreign letter to Canada with Deutsche Post, franked with 50 Pfennigs
(fee for foreign letters up to 20g 15.09.1947 - 31.08.1948)

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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

DP camp „Meerbeck“

2. Meerbeck camp assembly centre Post Office

As the camp increased to more than 3,000 DPs, the amount of mail was so large that English Colonel Krolikevies set up a camp post office. "Meerbeck camp assembly centre" used two different rubber stamps to legitimised the shipments as postage free. Only a few camps used "Paid" markings with the camp name.

The Rubber hand cancel of the assembly centre Post Office Meerbeck.



Dimensions:
height 20 mm
width 19 mm

Using time:
01.12.1945 - 18.09.1947



Dimensions:
height 29 mm
width 24 mm

Using time:
08.07.1946 - 29.08.1947

Labelling of the mail pieces with the stamp „ ... Mail Paid" at the camp post office of Meerbeck

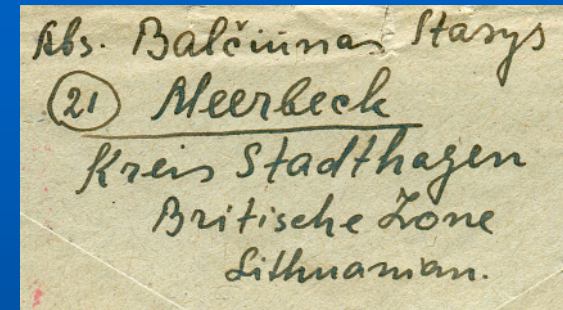
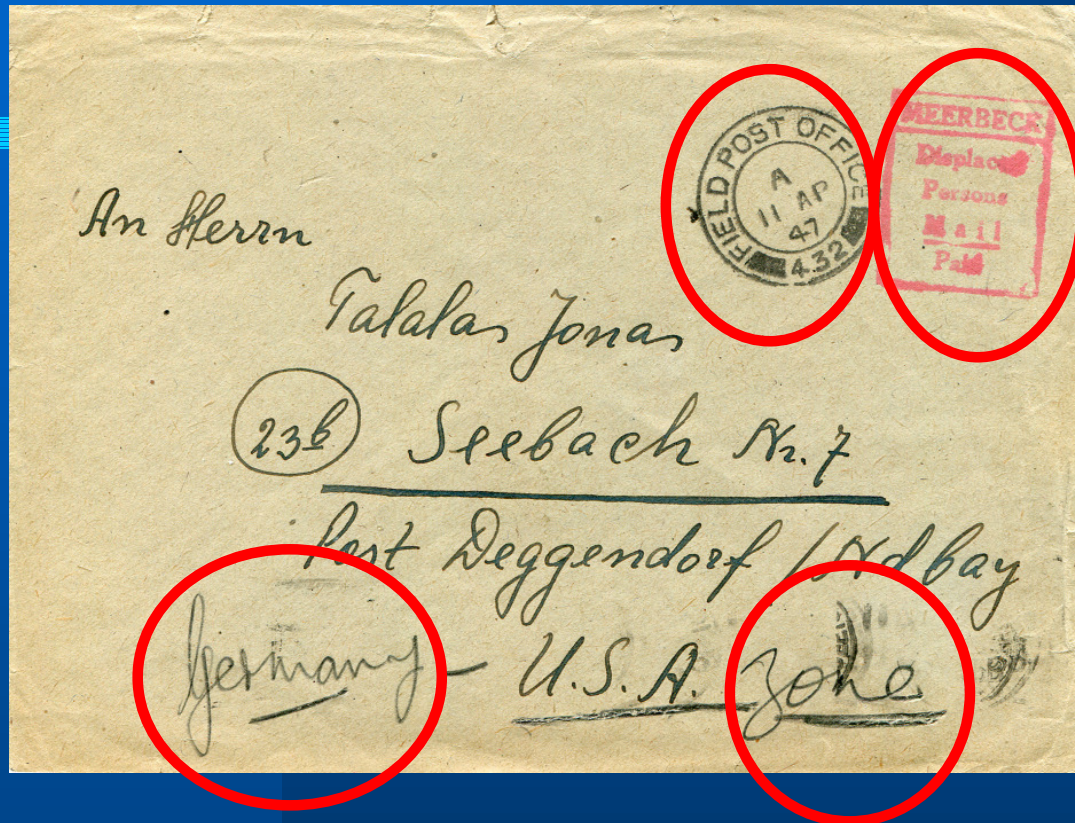
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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

DP-Lager „Meerbeck“

2. Domestic mail

postage-free status carried via British Military Post (FPO - Field Post Office).

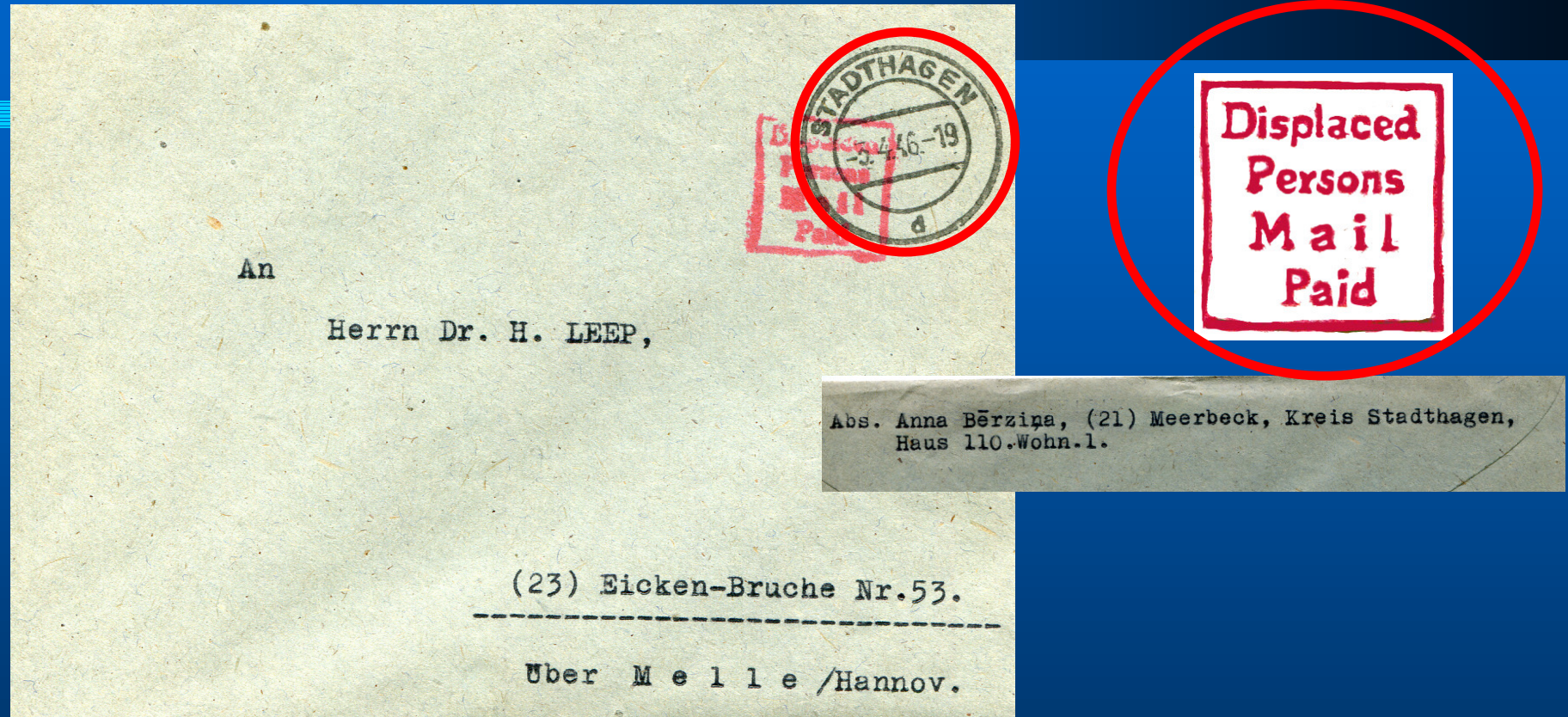


Route: Meerbeck camp assembly centre, read postmark "**MEERBECK / Displaced / Persons / Mail / Paid**". Via FPO (Field Post Office - British Military Post) to the British censor office Hamburg (Censorship Hamburg), postmark Field Post Office 432 (= Hamburg) "**FIELD POST OFFICE - 432 -**", date 11. April 1947. Error found. Handwritten added "Germany" and "Zone". Underline USA and Zone. Continue via FPO 432 Foreign Office (wavy line handstamp "**ARMY POST OFFICE / 11 APR 1947 / 432**" on the back side). Sent to Seebach/Post Deggendorf/Nordbayern in the American zone.

DP-Lager „Meerbeck“

2. Domestic mail

postage-free status carried via Deutsche Post

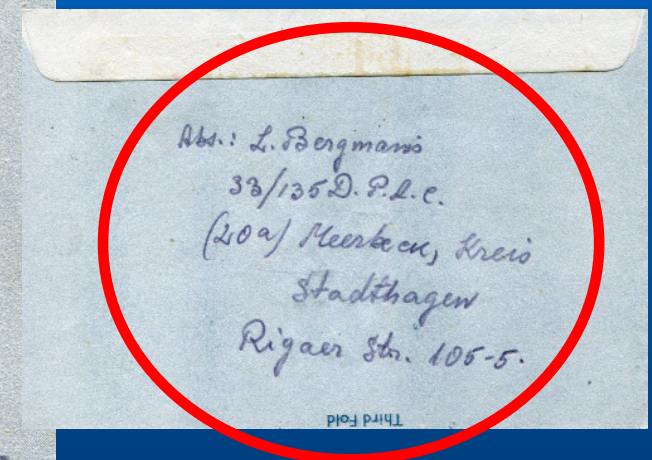
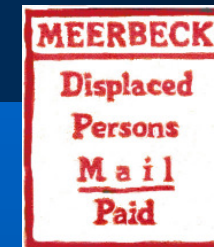
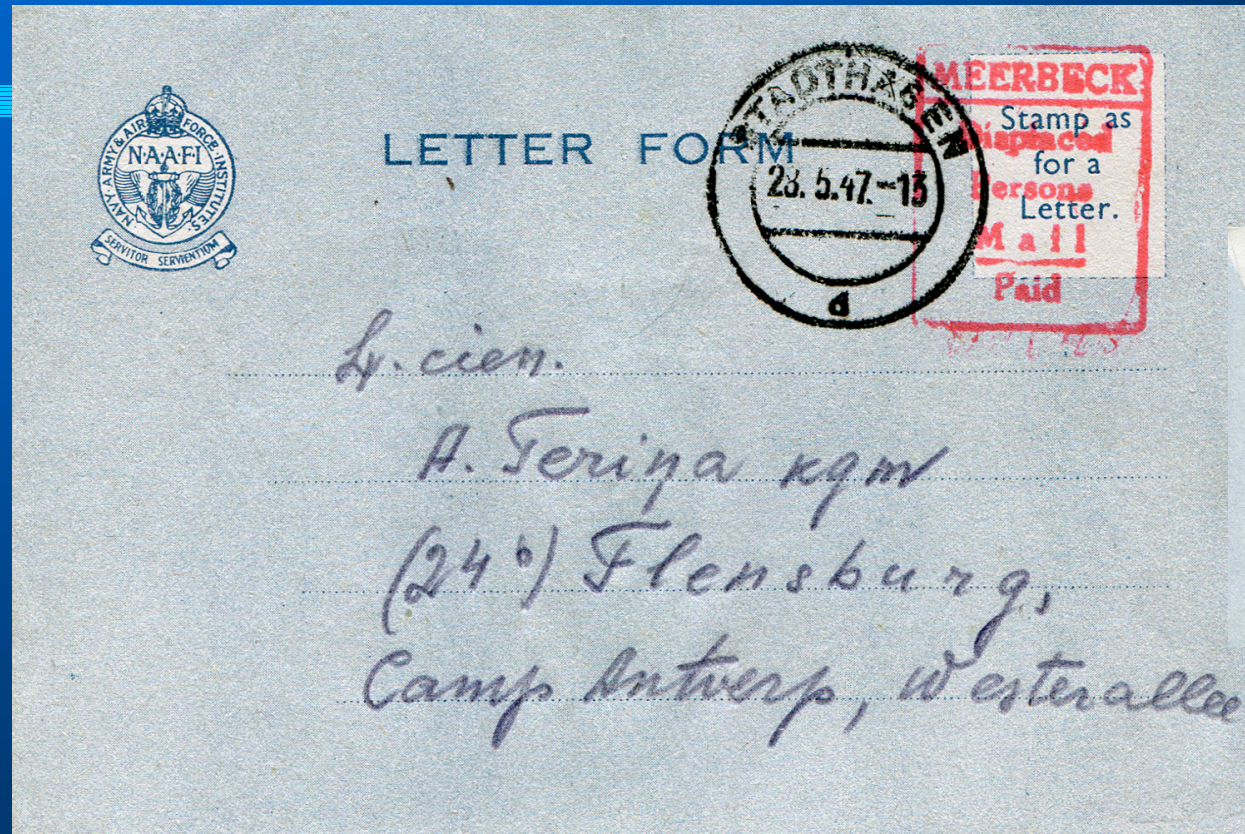


Route: Meerbeck camp assembly centre, read postmark "**Displaced / Persons / Mail / Paid**",
via Deutschen Post **posted to a private citizen.**
The domestic Mail cancelled by the post office of the town of Stadthagen dated from 5. April 1946.

DP-Lager „Meerbeck“

2. Domestic mail

postage-free status carried via Deutsche Post



Route: Meerbeck camp assembly centre, read postmark "**MEERBECK / Displaced / Persons / Mail / Paid**", via Deutschen Post **posted to DP UNRRA Flensburg camp.**

The domestic Mail cancelled by the post office of the town of Stadthagen dated from 28. May 1947.

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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

DP camp „Meerbeck“

2. Meerbeck camp assembly centre Post Office

The End of rubber hand cancel of the assembly centre Meerbeck



The British requirements for postage-free transport were increasingly ignored. Originally, a charge postage free was only allowed for shipments from the DP camp to a DP camp, not for shipments to people outside of the DP camps. Nevertheless, such shipments were transported unopposed by the Deutsche Post.

In August and September 1947, the stamps were confiscated by the military government via the Deutsche Post. From then on, all mail of the camp inmates was subject to a charge.

Foreign mail was released until 31.08.1949.

DP camp „Meerbeck“

3. Lagerpostmarken (DP Camp Stamps)



perforated

imperforated

08.09.1947: Due to private initiative "Lagerpostmarken" in the postage rates
20 Pfg. plus 0.80 Reichsmark (donation),
50 Pfg. plus 1.20 Reichsmark (donation) and
80 Pfg. plus 1.50 Reichsmark (donation),
as well as the expenditure of a Commemorative block printed for 5 Reichsmark.

Design of the "Lagerpostmarken": Eduard Krasauskas
"open book before rising sun, in the background a house "
(on the occasion of "400 years of printing the first book in Lithuania").

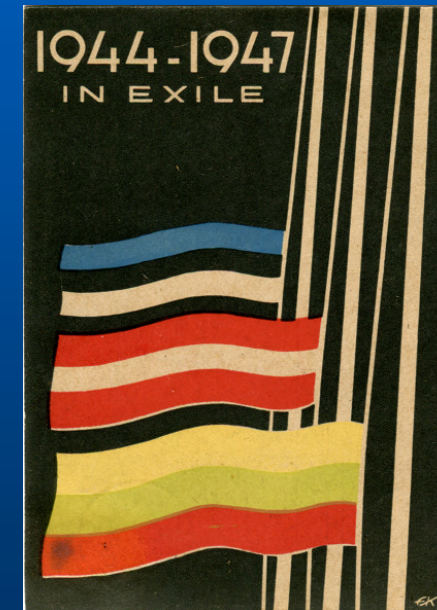
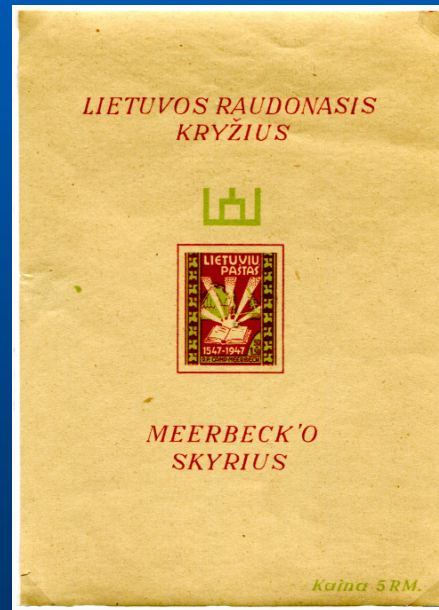
DP camp „Meerbeck“

3. Lagerpostmarken (DP Camp Stamps)

Designer Eduard Krasauskas

Design of the "Lagerpostmarken": Eduard Krasauskas

"open book before rising sun, in the background a house "
(on the occasion of "400 years of printing the first book in Lithuania").



KRASAUSKAS, EDUARD

was born 26 May 1911 and died April 1979 in Waterbury, Connecticut, USA.

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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

DP camp „Meerbeck“

3. Lagerpostmarken (DP Camp Stamps)



16.02.1948: "Lagerpostmarken" of the issue of 8.09.1947 received a "1918 - 16.2. - 1948 / Vokietikija "Overprint on the occasion of the Lithuanian Independence Day.

The 10, 20 and 50 Pfennig stamps were printed together in sheets of 88 stamps (48 X 10 Pfennigs, 24 X 20 Pfennigs and 16 X 50 Pfennigs).

About 450 sheets were printed.

This results in approximately 21,000 stamps of 10 Pfennigs, 10,800 stamps of 20 Pfennigs and 7,200 stamps of 50 Pfennigs vignettes.

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DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

DP camp „Meerbeck“

3. Lagerpostmarken (DP Camp Stamps)

DP Camp Stamps 20 Reichspfennig plus 80 Reichspfennig donation; 50 Reichspfennig plus 1.20 Reichsmark donation and 80 Reichspfennig plus 1.50 Reichsmark donation.



Souvenir cover on the occasion of "THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE PHILATELISTIC SOCIETY * BALTETIA" on 5.10.1947. Postmarked with black "THE ANNUAL CONVENTION OF THE PHILATELISTIC SOCIETY * BALTIA".

DP camp „Meerbeck“

4. Deutsche Post

For the DP camp Meerbeck could after collection of the red „... Paid,-rubber-stamps, on 29.08.1947 or 18.09.1947, until the dissolution of the DP camp 14.09.1948, no envelopes was found.



Incoming letter to DP camp Meerbeck (dated 3.05.1948); Postcard from DP camp Meerbeck posted to Stadthagen (dated 20.11.1947).

DP camp „Meerbeck“

Summary

20.10.1945 until January 1949:

postage free service in the British occupation zone
from DP camp to DP camp was possible

20.10.1945 until 31.08.1949:

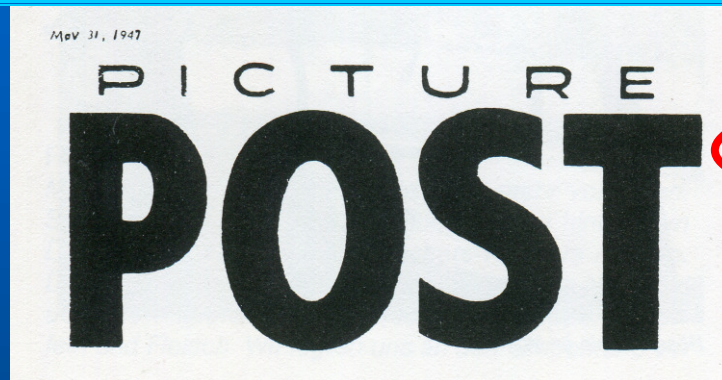
A postage-free service abroad was possible up to 1949.

For the DP camp Meerbeck could after collection of the red
„ ... **Paid** „-rubber-stamps, on 29.08.1947 or 18.09.1947, no
domestic correspondence and until the dissolution of the DP
camp 14.09.1948, no abroad envelopes could not be found.

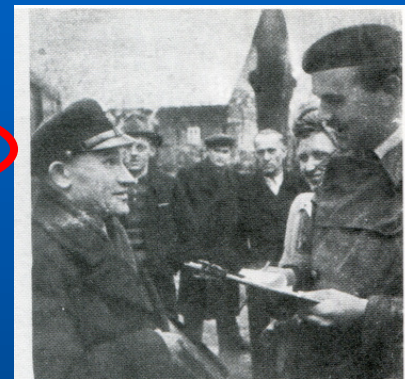
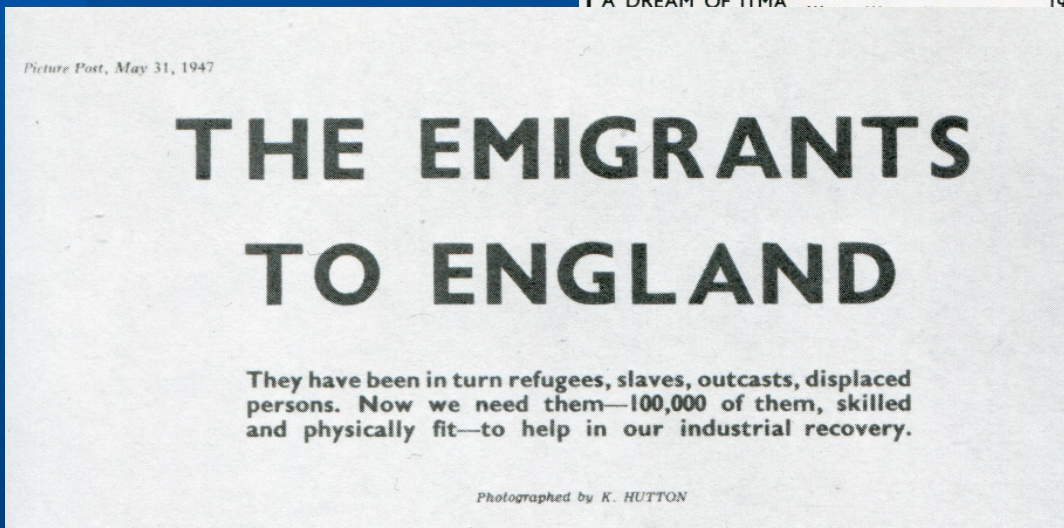
Letters to foreign countries from DP Camp Meerbeck are rare.
The DPs of the camp Meerbeck used most from 1.04.1946 the
Deutsche Post for foreign letters.

Clearance of the camp Meerbeck

Since the DPs could not return to their original homeland, the IRO (*International Refugee Organization*) searched for countries that received DPs.



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A Sailor En Route for Britain
Peter Hunt, one of a batch of Estonian D.P.'s, says goodbye to the UNRRA director of Meerbeck camp.



The Last of Meerbeck
He leaves the village in the British Zone which has been the home of the Estonians since war ended.

Quelle: Hermann Bansen:
„Meerbeck 1945-1948“

March 2019

DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948

Clearance of the camp Meerbeck

By the end of 1948, 14 states had undertaken to accept refugees.

the Lithuanian refugees find a new home in

USA 49%

West Germany 12%

Canada 12%

Australia 9%

South America 7%

Great Britain 5%

other countries / regions 6%

On the 15th September, 1948 the DP camp Meerbeck was closed.
The inhabitants of Meerbeck came back to their houses.

Clearance of the camp Meerbeck

14. September 1948

Der Staatsbeauftragte
für die Zusammenlegung der
Kreise Bückeburg-Stadthagen

-Feststellungsbehörde-

Stadthagen, den 14. Sept. 1948

Ausgef.	14.9.48 / Hs.
Abges.	1579 A
mit..... Anl.....	

thank you for listening to
the presentation

Militärregierung geräumt werden. Die Räumung erfolgte zum Zwecke der Belegung der Ortschaft mit Russen. Etwa im August 1945 wurden die Russen abtransportiert, gleichzeitig zogen aber Italiener wieder in das Dorf ein. Im Oktober 1945 wurden diese wiederum verlegt und es erfolgte eine Neubelegung mit Letten, Esten und Litauern. Nunmehr ist die Räumung der Gemeinde Meerbeck durch die Ausländer vollzogen worden.

You find more Information

www.schaumburgerpostgeschichte.de

March 2019

DP-Lager "Meerbeck" 1945 - 1948