

STAMPS
IN
BATTLEDRESS



By JOACHIM HOSANG



PRICE FIVE SHILLINGS

A GERMAN PHILATELIC REVIEW
P U B L I C A T I O N

Published at 152 Finchley Road, London, N.W.3, England

Edited by Peter C. Rickenback

Vol. 3 No. 4 (16) September 1955

Stamps in Battledress

by
JOACHIM HOSANG

Previously published in German under the title "Gezahnte
Kriegspropaganda"
1st English Edition
translated by
PETER C. RICKENBACK

Covering pages 97-128 of the German Philatelic Review

All rights reserved, including the right to reproduce or translate this book or
portions thereof in any form.

Preface To The Second Edition

I am very pleased to present the English version of my essay "Gezahnte Kriegspropaganda" and I hope that my notes will be received with interest by English speaking collectors. The Philatelic Section of this second edition has been brought up to date whilst I have slightly compressed the general sections.

I have not been able to clear all the points, far from it. This is issued in the interest of research and specially to prevent forgeries and I should very much like to complete the picture. I happen to be the secretary of the Study-group for Propaganda and Espionage Forgeries and would be grateful for any further information. Needless to say I hope that some of the new readers will become members of our group.

JOACHIM HOSANG.

Sollingen, über Schöningen, Germany.

January 1st, 1955.

Preface To The First Edition

"Psychological Warfare" has become an essential part in modern war, be it a shooting war or just a "cold" one. Radio, press and leaflets are immediately enrolled. Little wonder then that stamps had to play their part too, be it for bringing propaganda to the opposite side or presenting propaganda in itself, stamps are popular the world over and are kept. Aerial leaflets are much less popular for collectors and they are therefore read and discarded. Stamps at least were saved, as everybody, if not the finder himself knows someone who collects. The only drawback is its small size. Both propaganda and espionage stamps were issued by the major warring parties of the second world war and it is intriguing to delve into the secrets of production, distribution, etc. Several collectors have now been able to find most, if not all, of the knowhow and their findings should make interesting reading.

Complete information will probably never be obtainable for secrets lie hidden in documents in the safes of the secret services and much has been lost through death of those who were actively engaged in the preparations. The secret service of the Third Reich no longer exists so no secrets are being betrayed. The actual documents have not been available but the knowledge of those involved in production and distribution has remained. This booklet brings for the first time authentic facts about the

German forgeries of the last world war, which were intended both for propaganda in and against England.

I intentionally resist writing about the many Allied forgeries as insufficient information is at present to hand. I also wish to limit this booklet strictly to German issues. At a later date the research on the Allied issues will be published as a second volume.

It can be expected that readers of this book will not only be stamp collectors and the first part of it is therefore devoted to a detailed historical study, whilst the second part is taken over by pure philatelic findings.

I trust the reader will find the contents of interest and I close with the request that if any further and additional information is available, that I shall have the favour of hearing about it so that all can share the knowledge.

JOACHIM HOSANG.

Sollingen, May, 1954.

'Why Forgeries

Stamps were used for propaganda distribution purposes and here we have to differentiate between direct and indirect forgeries. The direct ones we consider those which were strictly based upon a genuine stamp and were intended for mail to be dropped by plane over enemy territory or to be infiltrated into the enemy postal system by some other means. Direct forgeries however, always show certain differences from the original, such as for example the Himmler or Frank forgeries. The alterations always indicate some sort of propaganda tendency. Distribution of these was manifold. They have been found inside propaganda letters, on airletter sheets or dropped loose from the air.

The indirect propaganda stamps are considered as "espionage" forgeries, whilst the direct products are considered as "propaganda" forgeries. Though this is not strictly correct, the above definitions have taken root and are generally accepted and little use would be served by altering these things now. Precise details of all the how and why are given with each different issue as no hard and fast rule can be applied.

The German Propaganda Forgeries

Germany entered the field of psychological warfare through the medium of stamps comparatively late about the end of summer 1943.

Strangely enough, Berlin was well aware that from the British side preparations were already well in hand, and it is believed that the actual British stamps were already known in Berlin. In the middle of 1943, however, imitations of the 6 Pfg. Hitler stamps in violet showing the portrait of Himmler appeared in the Ruhr. The Gestapo collected all these and forwarded them to Berlin with a statement that they were found after an air raid by British planes. Himmler, on seeing these stamps, surprisingly considered himself and the entire Nazi State to be insulted and decided to get his own back in particular against England. The easiest and most useful counterstroke appeared to be in the production of stamps.

I have mentioned the advantage of stamps for propaganda purposes in my preface. The stamp collector differentiates between propaganda and espionage forgeries. Espionage forgeries were known in the first world war. German, Bavarian and Austrian stamps were then forged in England, but it has not yet been proved whether they were actually used. It was considered that they were intended for franking letters written by allied agents working in enemy territory.

This sort of thing was obviously quite out of the question in a modern war. Foreign agents most certainly did not use forged stamps considering they most likely never wrote more than one report per day and they could quite easily have obtained their normal stamp requirements at a post office or a stamp machine; and what secret service would endanger its agents by letting them use forged stamps? After all the German secret service managed to dress one of their agents into uniform of a British post office official. He worked in London during the second world war. No, the agents certainly used genuine everyday stamps when they did not make use of the radio, which was the most common link in the second world war.

The Headquarters of the Gestapo were in Berlin. One need hardly doubt that this department was well organised. Seven sections called "Amt I bis VII" were stationed there. "Amt VI" was in charge of counter espionage. This section was subdivided into groups VI A to VI F and VI WI and VI S. We are interested just now in VI F Subsection 4. This department dealt with documentary forgeries, under which fall foreign passports, identification papers, etc., of foreign countries.

Major K. was in charge of this department, the offices were in Berlin, Berkaerstr, formerly an old age pensioners' home. The most important

section, however, was the printer's shop in Oranienburg Sachsenhausen. Staffed by specialists, among whom we find concentration camp inmates who were formerly forgers, experts on paper and print, in short a very selected crowd. This was a soft job with special food privileges. It was therefore easy to get hold of good experts.

This section had been at work for years on the codeword "enterprise Bernhard." This was the code word for the production of forged money. First of all only £ notes used for payment of German agents abroad, such as for example the famous Cicero in Turkey, but also intended for dropping from planes over England with the intention of dislocating British finances. It is contended that Himmler himself thought of this "Enterprise Bernhard," and one can fully understand that the order for printing postage stamps was given to this department VI/F/4. The order itself has not been traced, but its contents have been reconstructed, so that the whole thing should read as follows

1. As examples for propaganda forgeries, genuine British postage stamps must be used and the basic forms must be retained.
2. The basic design and colour must be retained as near as possible.
3. There must be no alteration whatsoever to the profile of the King.
4. Communist tendencies must be incorporated in the design and show the implications of Communist influence upon the Allies and especially upon England.
5. Over-prints pointing to actual war reverses are to be applied with the aim of influencing the British national feeling.
6. Drawings, designs, and proofs for these stamps based on the above directions will be submitted not later than within 14 days from this instruction.
7. Quantities of the accepted designs must be ready for distribution within 6 to 8 weeks.
8. Distribution of the stamps is intended over troop concentrations and the larger towns of England by the Luftwaffe.

This order is pretty precise, but all the same, ample leeway is left to artistic development. The task was not easy, as one was not allowed to modify the head of the King and there is very little else of the British stamp. On the other hand, ample scope was given with regard to the scheduled overprint.



The stamps were first of all photographed and magnified and into these large photographs the propaganda ideas were incorporated. Detail was not of great importance, as the final product quite obviously had to look like a forgery. Three designs were submitted. First of all the six low values showing the head of H.M. King George VI with the following alterations: The crown in the top centre was replaced by a Jewish Star of David and the shortening in the value tablets for Penny was replaced by the hammer and sickle. Two other small alterations were made, but are barely visible; the rose in the top left corner is replaced by a hammer and sickle and the thistle in the top right corner is replaced by the star of David. With the exception of the alteration on the crown, the new additions were hardly visible. At the same time, proofs for the overprints were submitted. Further ideas resulted in the propaganda forgeries of the Coronation and Silver jubilee issues. The latter were really pulled to pieces yet the final forgery does immediately remind one as being the Jubilee issue. The head of the King is replaced by the profile of Stalin. The inscriptions, true to the propaganda of a " Jewish and Communist " war, are removed and are placed on the top with a star of David followed by the words "This War is A" followed again by a star of David. The lower inscription reading "½ Halfpenny;" is altered by inserting the hammer and sickle and then, continuing the sentence started in the upper margin, by the words "Jewish War." The crown in the left frame and the laurel wreath are again replaced by Jewish and Soviet emblem, and the year indications 1910-1935 are altered into 1939-1944. The 1944 was chosen, as this was to be the year of victory, and thereby the end of Great Britain.

The coronation stamp of 1937 was maltreated as well. Here the Queen is replaced by Stalin, the emblems and inscription "Postage-Revenue" are replaced by "SSSR Britannia" flanked by two David stars. The implication of the inscription was intended to show that England had become one of the Socialist Soviet Republics. In the lower margin, the inscription "17 May 1937," the date of the Coronation, is replaced by the date of the Teheran Conference, reading "Teheran 28.11.1943." The eagle in the right ornament is replaced by the Soviet star; the right part of the crown is also tampered with, and the monogram "GER" is altered into "SSSR."



These designs were submitted to Himmler, who was satisfied and gave the all clear for printing. One difficulty encountered at this stage was the actual printing. The entire job was secret, the State Printing Works therefore could not be used. They, however, had the experience, whilst Major K. had no idea whatsoever regarding stamp production. I should mention at this stage that philatelists have often remarked that the admitted high quality of German printing should have produced a better quality stamp and that they considered the stamps could not possibly be "genuine." This is a wrong conclusion. There is no doubt that very much better work might have been done, but why? Special efforts, special expenditure when in the end the finished product was anything but a likeness of the original stamp. These stamps were right from the start to be obvious forgeries, and this must be borne in mind when reading about and studying these issues.

The printing process available at the time was an offset press. The planned issue was nine million stamps. An awful lot of paper was needed for that. Paper was short at the time, and it was decided to use remaining stocks of old food coupons. This paper with watermarked wavy lines had become useless as the Americans had started to forge paper and watermark and print food coupons which were dropped from aeroplanes over the Reich. They had to produce new ration coupon paper thereby making large quantities of the old stock obsolete.

This paper is greyish and thick and far from ideal for stamps, but the watermark compensates and the code name "enterprise Wasserwelle" comes from "Wasserzeichen" and "Wellenlinie." The printing blocks, once prepared were spaced to approximately 12 mm between each stamp, as first of all no one in the department had any idea about printing, and secondly one considered that this space might eventually be used for the new overprint. The stamps were printed on large sheets of 12 horizontally with a gutter between the sixth and seventh, and probably 18 vertically. I cannot be positive about this, as not one complete sheet has been salvaged. The printing took very little time and amounted as ordered to 9 million copies. The final document is not available but every reason exists to consider that the six values were printed to 7 million, and that the two other values showed a printing of one million each. Only a very small fraction of the 7 million were left in their original state, by far the biggest part was over-printed as arranged. One had plenty of ideas, so plenty of over-prints were found. All in all, there are four different sets, the first of which is called the Bomb series with six over-prints. The propaganda value of this set was considered rather good, as the overprints indicate six different bombed towns or monuments of neutral countries, and one expected the British public to show special sympathy in this case. Intentionally only one over-print refers to Germany and is called "Cathedral of Cologne." Another one refers to France, "Cathedral of Rouen," one refers to San Marino, and the others to Monte Cassino and the Papal Residence, Castello Gondolfo. The last over-print deals with the unfortunate U.S. bombing of Schaffhausen in Switzerland on April 1st, 1944, where 50 people were killed. On top of each over-print is the inscription "Murder Ruin" framed by two bombs.

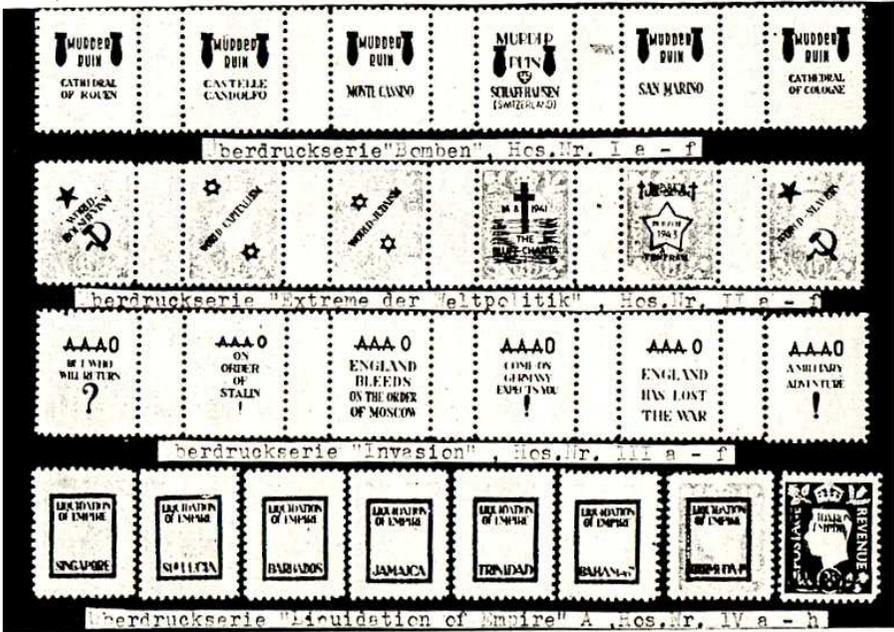
The second set is known as "Extremes of World Politics." One could to-day also call it "Nazi Propaganda Slogans." The set was intended to drive home, especially to the English population, the influence of Jews and Communists on British politics and also to explain the reasons for

the Second World War. Four overprints simply bring slogans which are well known to most Germans.

Framed in hammer and sickle we see the word "World-Bolshevism" on one stamp, and "World-Slavery" on another one. Two further overprints are framed by two stars of David, the words being this time "World-Capitalism" and "World-Judaism." The fifth value refers to the Atlantic Charter something very near at heart to Nazi ideology. This over-print is as follows: A cross underneath the date 14.8.1941, wavy lines to symbolise the Atlantic Charter as it was signed on the high seas. Incorporated in the wavy lines are the words "The Bluff Charta," it appears that the mis-spelling "Charta" instead of "Charter" had never been noticed. The last value of this set refers once more to the Teheran Conference and reads "Empire's Liquidation " between two crosses; underneath a large Soviet star with the dates "28.11./1.12.1943 " and below this the continuation "At Teheran."

The third over-print was mainly intended for dropping over troop concentrations in Normandy, as can be seen from the overprint. On the top of each overprint we find A A A O. This was supposed to be "Allied Army Amphibian Operation." The propaganda wordings read as follows: "But who will return," "On Order of Stalin," "England Bleeds On The Order of Moskow." "Come-On, Germany Expects You," "England Has Lost The War," and the sixth over-print reads "A Military Adventure." This last over-print was added very late and on earlier printings the fourth and sixth are identical. So far only one single copy of the sixth over-print has been recorded.

The fourth and last set is the longest of them all. All in all there are 14 over-prints. The first line is identical throughout, reading "Liquidation of Empire." Thereafter the name of certain Colonies or islands are found. I have to add one or two words of explanation here. The unity of the British Empire had never been in doubt and prior to the second W.W. its size was certainly static. But during the last war, certain parts of the Empire had been Strips showing the position of the different overprints occupied by the Japanese, whilst certain specific, but strictly limited, concessions were conferred on the U.S.A. on September 4th, 1940, in exchange for 50 urgently needed destroyers, which the then neutral U.S.A. could naturally not pass on to Britain free of charge.



Strips showing the position of the different overprints

This exchange presented the German Propaganda Department with a wonderful opportunity, as they naturally refrained from mentioning that only a military base and supply depot had been ceded and that the island definitely remained within the Empire. Eight of the 14 over-prints can be based on this agreement: St. Lucia, Barbados, Granada, St. Vincent, Jamaica, Trinidad, Bahamas and Bermuda-Inseln. The six other over-prints referred to the Far East and are: Singapore, Hongkong, Rabaul (which by the way was the capital of the former German Neu-Guinea in the Pacific). Borneo, Rangoon, and last but not least Bougainville.

An interesting thing is that now after all the over-prints had been added, the question of perforating seems to have arisen, and VI/F/4 has not got such a thing. Frantic searching finally resulted in an old second-hand but still usable machine being made available. The only trouble is the perf. 11½ instead of 15 x 14 of the originals. But then the new machine had been in use for perforating theatre tickets and similar items, so one could not expect too much from it. One also found that the gutters between the stamps were not needed, as the overprints fitted on the

stamps, so the gutters were perforated too. We find larger and smaller stamps, caused by line perforation.

Collectors have asked why the stamps were never gummed. This is explained by the fact that they were intended to be dropped from planes, and had they been gummed, they most likely would have either stuck together or stuck to the ground. The programme of this counter espionage section, however, also consisted in the preparation of souvenir sheets for stamp collectors with the hope that stamp dealers would thereby indirectly cooperate in spreading propaganda, and for these sheets ungummed stamps proved a drawback. Two sheets were printed, both of them showing in the left corner the British, and the right corner the Soviet emblems, between these the English and Russian inscription "Special Stamp in Memory of the First Day of Invasion." One sheet had the six values King George VI glued on them, the other one the two souvenir issue stamps. Once glued on, an imitation of a British cancellation, reading " London / A A A O/-6 June/44 Special-Stamp." No one can say if the last two words are supposed to be a special cancellation or souvenir stamp. So far, so good; all preparations are complete, it has taken a bit longer than initially intended, we reach the summer of 1944.

Nine million stamps, and what to do with them. After all, the fortunes of war don't look too good, the Allies have landed. and the Allied Air Forces dominate. The few aeroplanes that fly against England have more important loads to carry than postage stamps. One therefore made good use of the extensive net of agents and informers in neutral Europe. Section VI/F/4 had to hand over its stamps to four different sections ; VI/D in charge of the English speaking world, VI /E3 for the French speaking world and Switzerland, VI/C for the Near East, Turkey and Soviet Russia, and V1/E Scandinavia. These sections received only limited quantities of the stamps, and in turn distributed them first of all to their agents in Sweden, Turkey and Switzerland. But instead of carefully distributing the stamps, the agents decided that this was a welcome source of revenue and sold out stocks to stamp dealers, the price being 15 Swiss francs or 18 Swedish crowns per copy. Having made a nice profit, the agents contacted Berlin for more and received a further, though smaller, supply. Unfortunately, Berlin had found out by then and very much disagreed with the so-called distribution. Besides this, once they got known to stamp dealers, their identity and connections were also known, and the entire Secret

Service was placed in jeopardy. A different distribution was independently made in Sweden and Switzerland, where well known stamp collectors received letters containing odd values of the six value set, the two propaganda stamps, and of the liquidation set. No one could identify the sender, and it is difficult to judge what results this " philatelic mail " produced.

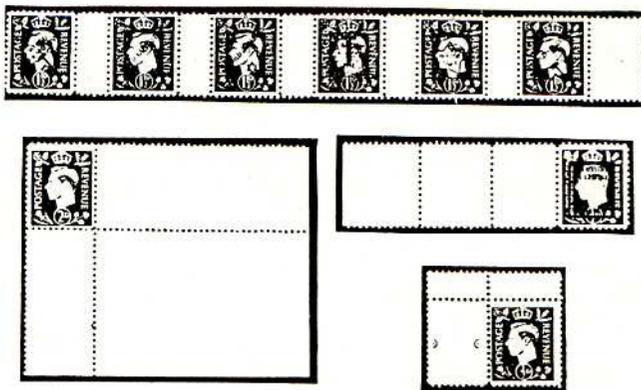
All in all, fifteen to twenty thousand copies were distributed abroad. No complete sets were sent, only odd values of the individual sets. Precise figures are not available, but based upon information the following conclusions can be drawn: Coronation and Silver Jubilee issue were distributed twice, 500 copies each time. Liquidation of Empire over-print was also distributed twice, but because of its considered propaganda value, each time in quantities of 3-5,000. One cannot expect that equal quantities of each value were sorted out. The three other over-prints were only supplied approximately 1-2,000 copies, and the souvenir sheets were distributed once, 1,000 each.

As can be seen, Himmler did get his own back, as the stamps did cause quite a commotion and were mentioned in the official newspaper of the UPU, as well as in several Swiss papers under the heading of "A New Nazi Secret Weapon" and similar captions.

Thereby interest was created and collectors are now trying to get hold of them. The biggest and best buyers, however, were the Foreign Legations and Consulates, who sent these stamps back to their own governments, and in this way, some of them found their way back to Berlin, much to the surprise of von Ribbentrop and the Foreign Office, who were never told of them.

The bulk of the stock remained in a Berlin air-raid shelter. Stacked between forged passports and counterfeit notes, they were safely locked away, and only two keys could open the doors. One belonged to Major K., the other one to his first assistant. One hundred sheets were in Major K.'s personal possession. He carried them about on his lecture tours together with samples of forged passports and banknotes. During the final stages of the war K.'s forgers were transferred to Redzipf, but the stamps remained in Berlin, whilst K. went to somewhere in Western Germany. The sudden order to evacuate Berlin meant transferring the contents of the air-raid shelter, and a lorry load travelled under S.S. Supervision towards Thuringia, whilst the confidential files and therewith the 100 sheets of K. are transferred by

convoy to Innsbruck. K. returned to Berlin and found that not only had his entire section left, but also the 100 sheets were transferred. When he finally found out where his section is stationed and arrives in Jena, all that is left of his 9 million stamps are neat little heaps of ashes. Knowing the American troops to be very close, the officer in charge of the transport decided to burn the entire material. None of the men had saved any stamps, as they would obviously have been incriminating, and all they really wanted to do was to get home. K. carried on towards Innsbruck to check up on the documents and files of his section. Part of it was located, but some of them were missing, and amongst the missing cases are the 100 sheets of his personal file. And that was the end of "Enterprise Wasserwelle."



The Philatelic Angle

Where do the stamps come from?

The German forgeries are rarely collected nowadays on the world market. There are several reasons for this. Some of the stamps are extremely rare; the fact that very little is known about them does also affect demand. Hardly anybody in America and very few collectors in England have any fundamental knowledge about these issues, and this lack of knowledge tends to rank these stamps, especially in U.S.A., not as propaganda forgeries and thereby W.W. II documents, but rather as "labels."

This fundamental study might alter the entire approach of the American collector to these stamps. After all not as some of the English forgeries, these stamps really did serve their propaganda purpose, even if not quite in the way as was initially planned by Himmler.

I should like to deal here with the stamps which at present are offered on the market with their origin. In the previous chapter I mentioned the possible sources of supply. I was rather surprised to see the appearance suddenly of some bigger units of some of the values, which theoretically could not exist as the VI/F/4 section only distributed single copies.

No. 1. The stamps which were sent to philatelists during the war in Sweden and Switzerland contained as far as we know only certain issues. It is also known that units of up to ten copies were sometimes thus distributed. We cannot check up if any of the souvenir sheets were distributed in that way.

No. 2. They could also have been stolen, either in Berlin from the air-raid shelter or just prior to the burning of the stock near Jena. Neither of these possibilities is difficult to counter, as first of all only two keys existed for the air-raid shelter and as the chief assistant to Major K. was an extremely reliable person any Berlin theft can be ruled out. And considering that the personnel involved in the burning of the stock at Jena consisted of S.S. men, who fully realised that they would get into much more trouble if arrested with these stamps, the second theory could also be rejected.

No. 3. They could come from the 100 sheets which were sent to Innsbruck, but these have never been found, or shall we say, they have

never been put on the market. One must presume in view of the certain large units of the Silver Jubilee issue that these units at least might come from that lost stock. It is difficult to say nowadays precisely what was in those boxes. Based on calculations and memory the following conclusions can be drawn about the contents: largish quantities of the Silver Jubilee stamp, small quantities of the Coronation stamp, very few souvenir sheets. Probably two or three complete sheets of each of the un-overprinted values ; considerable quantities, probably 30 to 40 sheets, of the " Liquidation of Empire " series. Tiny quantities or none at all of the three other over-prints. These latter, in any case, are completely unobtainable on the market at present.

No. 4. One incomplete collection of approximately 10 sets was in the private documents of Major K. No sheets were amongst these, only a few strips of six. K. did not know anything about philately, presented some to his friends, exchanged others against food and his own collection hardly has any stamps at all to-day.

No. 5. A fair sized lot appeared some time ago on the German market and it is likely that these come from one of the four sections, charged with the distribution to foreign agents during the latter part of the war. The quantity is small but several big units have been recorded in this lot. One must conclude that the one or other official instead of forwarding the stamps to the foreign agents preferred to keep them for himself.

One can safely say that stocks of these stamps are non-existent in the U.S.A., that hardly anything is held in Germany and that most of what there is still about is to be found in England, as interest in them was considerable. Distribution of late appears to have also been through Switzerland, where small quantities are offered now and then. These usually are bought up by English dealers.

Something about Prices

It is extremely difficult to put a fair valuation or market price on these issues, yet I do feel that in the interest of all collectors some indication ought to be given. Whilst most English forgeries are frequently found on the market and can be seen in auctions and dealers' price-lists, German forgeries are hardly ever offered. Prices for English forgeries are by now established whilst those quoted for German forgeries fluctuate tremendously. The valuation I propose to give is based on comparison. Not on comparison with regular issues, as the circle of forgery-collectors is much smaller !and the prices will have to be adjusted

accordingly. I propose to base my comparison-prices on those of the English forgeries. For neither of them are precise issue-figures known, which in itself does not matter as we are only concerned with the stamps which have been saved. One can estimate that there are more collectors for English and American forgeries than for German forgeries at present, but after appearance of this manuscript this discrepancy might level out. I am convinced that the German forgeries will not suffer a collapse in respect of prices though fluctuations might still occur. I consider principally that used copies are more valuable.



There exist two different propaganda cancellations, more about these in the section "Souvenir Sheets and Cancellations." As can be ascertained the metal canceller was only used in black ink on the two propaganda stamps and on the six un-over-printed values stuck on the souvenir sheets. Souvenir sheets being scarce, stamp emanating from these sheets should be rated higher. The other cancellation is of the same appearance but is made by a rubber instrument in violet ink. This is found on all the stamps. Most of the "Liquidation" sets and probably more than half the un over-printed King George VI values, as well as the two propaganda forgeries were thus cancelled. "Used" thus these stamps are relatively cheaper as more cancelled than uncanceled stamps are found. The three other over-print series are so scarce anyway the a valuation for cancelled and uncanceled appears unnecessary. Worth mentioning here for the un-over-printed six values is a third cancellation which can be that of any post-office in Great Britain Theoretically all these values are to found used normally an should be of higher value thus.

Larger units are few and far between and must automatically be of higher value. There appears to be no likelihood that further blocks will come on the market, on the contrary the higher price will tend to push them off the market more and more.

THE CATALOGUE BASIS

The listing of these issues is bound to be complicated but that cannot be avoided. Each stamp can be found, in theory, with each over-print. Hardly anybody will be able to collect all known issues as there is just not enough stock available. All the same, each stamp must be properly classified. I have therefore listed the six un-over-printed values and the two special stamps with Nos. 1 to 8 and given to the over-printed series the Roman Nos. I to V as I consider the Liquidation Set to fall into two separate series especially because of the over-print colours. The individual over-prints are classified by small letters, in the four sets with 6 over-prints a-f, in the fifth set with 8 over-prints with a-h.

An over-printed stamp therefore will have a catalogue number combined of three indications such as, e.g. 4 II c or 8 IV d.

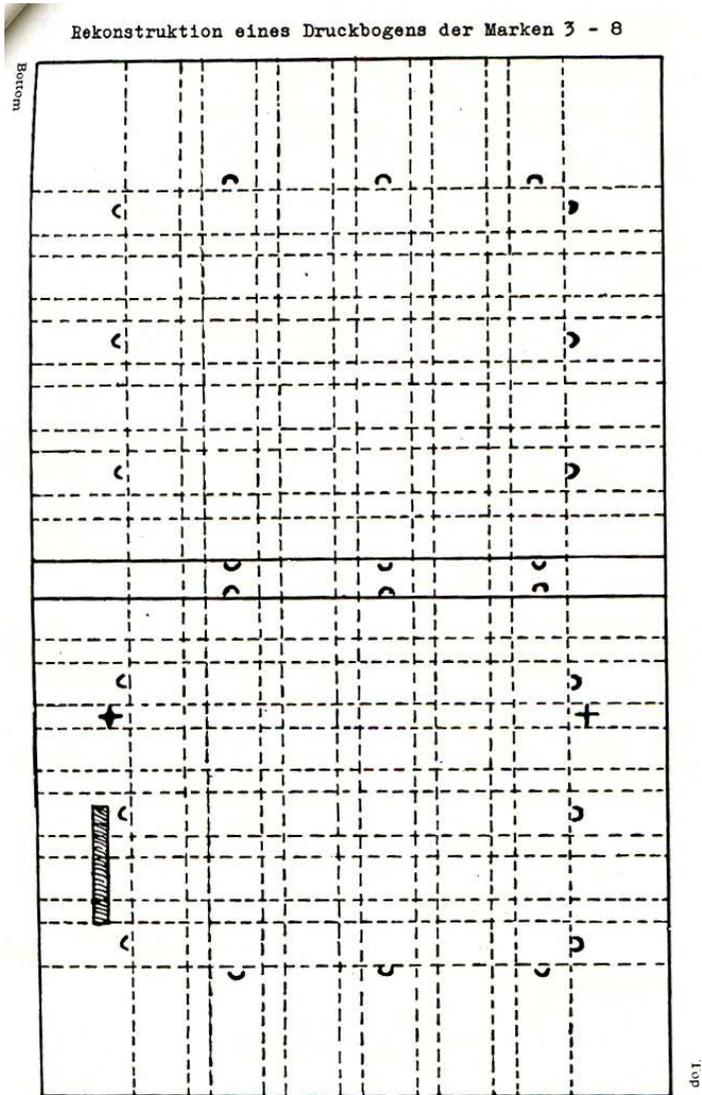
PRINTINGS

Prior to listing, a few technical details regarding the print must be mentioned. All stamps were printed in offset and were perforated line 11½. The paper, as mentioned before, is of a rough quality, watermarked wavy lines. The stamps are ungummed.

Two different sizes of sheets have been used as the stamps are not of identical size. Precise details are not available and I have tentatively reconstructed a sheet based on marginal strips that I managed to obtain. The sheet for the two special issues, Coronation and Silver Jubilee stamp, could not be reconstructed as the biggest unit available to me was a marginal block of four. A marginal copy of No. 2 shows a dot in the same colour as the stamp on the margin. All the same no definite conclusion can be drawn and one cannot say what margins in the sheet show these markings and what margins are left blank. I assume that the size of the sheet was six stamps vertical, but whether this was divided in the middle by gutters or not I cannot say. The width of the sheets was most likely 12 rows of stamps, each pair being divided by a gutter. Quite a bit more is known in regard to the sheets of the King George VI set, where all six values were printed in the same sheet size. Here again marginal markings come to our help.

The markings vary in size and are of different type for each value. The ½d and 3d. value show a mark of a semi-circle open towards the stamp. The 1d. red, 2d. orange and 2½d. blue have a dot instead of the semi-circle and the 1d. value has no markings at all. All these marks are in the same colour as the stamps and are found on the top and bottom sheet margins on the right, thereafter on each third, fifth, etc., margin. As I have insufficient material coming from the left half of the sheet, I cannot give an authoritative statement for that half. These marks are also found on the top margins of the 1st, 3rd, etc., stamp. They have furthermore been noted on the gutters. The second type of marking found on all values is a registration cross, varying in length between 8 and 12 millimetres. I found these crosses on the right part of the sheet; also on the upper and lower gutter margins between the 4th and 5th stamp from the right. I could not check whether the crosses also appear on the left margins. The cross is always in identical colour with the stamp. The third constant mark is a coloured line, 5 cm. long and 1 cm. thick. This line is divided horizontally only once but frequently vertically. On the right of the line the letter E has been found inverted, followed by a number from 1-6 according to the value, No. 1 being the

$\frac{1}{2}d$ value, No. 6 is the $3d$ value. These lines are only found on the bottom margins and irregularly start either under the 1st, 2nd stamp or the gutter between these two.



We have been able to prove definitely that the gutter between the 6th and 7th stamp horizontal, which is nearly as wide as the actual stamp, divides the sheet into two parts. On this gutter, however, the first

mentioned markings always appear twice, one belonging to the left, the other to the right hand stamp.

The illustration shows clearly where the various markings are found. Shown is a hypothetical sheet having twelve vertical rows but only six horizontal ones. This was obviously not a complete sheet, but as the arrangement is the same with 6, 12 or 18 horizontal lines, this was the easiest way out. Neither the crosses nor the coloured lines are indicated on the left part of the sheet.

I have already explained the reasons for the gutters between all stamps. Mention should still be made that the enormous outer margin which is vertically 4.5 cm. and horizontally up to 6 cm. and shows frequent but irregular additional perforations.

I have also reconstructed the plate used for applying the overprints. This plate consisted of six over-prints horizontal and 12 or 18 vertical, so that one half of a sheet was over-printed in one go. For the sake of order I should mention that the left part was always the first to be over-printed.

These six overprints were normally different and only if this is not the case will special mention be made in the catalogue. The same plate was used for over-printing all values with the result that each of the six values of the King George VI set exist with each over-print.

I must mention that the setting of the over-print type cannot have been constant, as had this been the one case, over-print would always be marginal at the end of the sheet. This is not the case as practically every over-printed stamp could be traced as a marginal copy. The conclusion might therefore be drawn that in the individual horizontal rows the over-print type was inserted without any preconceived scheme. The best proof of this would naturally be a vertical strip, but unfortunately no one has found one up to date.

The over-print on the 1, 1½ and 2 penny values is always black whilst the other three values are known with black and red overprints. The material I have seen has brought very constant colours to light, one set showing only the ½d value in red, another only the 1d. and 2½d. This is indicated with each set in the catalogue. None the less it is quite possible that other colours will turn up, considering my material having practically all come from one source. I therefore would be pleased to hear more about them from readers.

THE CATALOGUE

A. Special Issues

Propaganda forgery of King George V, 1935, Silver Jubilee Issue.
Picture of Stalin instead of the King, altered inscription.

No. 1½d green

A. Inscription " Jewish War "

	Unused	Cancel 1	Cancel 2
I. White paper...	15,-	50,-	12,50
II. Greenish paper ...	20,-	60,-	15,-
B. Inscription "Jewish"	-, -	-, -	-, -

Large units: 1 A 10-20% increase.

Total remainder: 1 A approximately 800 copies.

No. 1 B is the correction of 1 A. This was only made after the material destined for abroad had been despatched. These newly inscribed stamps were probably all burned at Jena, no copy yet having been recorded.

1 A 11 is scarcer than 1 A 1. Large units are known and not uncommon.

Propaganda forgery of King George VI, Coronation Issue.

Picture of Stalin instead of the Queen, altered inscriptions.

	Unused	Cancel 1	Cancel 2
2½d dark brown	30,-	50,-	-, -

Large units: 50% price increase.

Total remainder: approximately 300 copies. Large units practically unrecorded.

B. Regular Issues

Propaganda forgery of the 1937 current set King George VI to the left. Star of David instead of cross on the crown, hammer and sickle instead of penny indication, also hammer and sickle in the rose and star of David in the thistle.

	Unused	Cancel 1	Cancel 2	P.
3 ½d green	10,-	20,-	8,-	20,-
4 1d. red	10,-	20,-	8,-	20,-
5 1½d. brown	10,-	20,-	8,-	20,-
6 2d. orange	10,-	20,-	8,-	20,-
7 2½d. blue	10,-	20,-	8,-	20,-
8 3d, dark violet ...	10,-	20,-	8,-	20,-

Large units: 20-50% increase.

Total remainder: approximately 350 complete sets.

Very few large units known.

P =genuine British postal cancellation. As these stamps are unknown on such letters, the price can only be a rough indication as each piece merits its price according to condition, etc.

C. Over-prints

1. Over-prints set "Bombs"

6 over-prints on Nos. 3--8.

	Unused	Cancel 2
a. Cathedral of Rouen	25,-	25,-
b. Castelle Gondolfo	25,-	25,-
c. Montecasino ...	25,-	25,-
d. Schaffhausen (Switzerland)	25,-	25,-
e. San Marino	25,-	25,-
f. Cathedral of Cologne	25,-	25,-

Large units: 50-100; increase,

Total remainder: approximately 30 complete sets.

No large units recorded excepting one strip.

Over-prints: Black, 1d, 1½d, 2d and 2½d
Red, ½d. and 3d.

This over-print was a very late manufacture and therefore hardly distributed abroad. Probably no stamps of this set were in the boxes which got lost near Innsbruck, This set has completely disappeared from the market.

II Over-print set "Extremes of World politics."

6 over-prints on Nos. 3-8.

	Unused	Cancel
a. World-Bolshevism	25,-	25,-
b. World-Capitalism	25,-	25,-
c. World-Judaism	25,-	25,-
d. The Bluff-Charta	25,-	25,-
e. Empire's Liquidation at Teheran	25,-	25,-
f. World-Slavery...	25,-	. 25,-

Large units: 50-100% increase.

Total remainder: approximately 30 complete sets.

With the exception of one strip no larger units recorded.

Over-prints: Black, ½d, 1d, 1½d 2d and 2d.
Red, 3d.

The same remarks apply as mentioned after Set I.

III. Over-print set "Invasion."

6 over-prints on Nos 3-8.

	Unused	Cancel 2
a. AAAO. But Who Will Return?	25,-	25-
b. AAAO. On Order of Stalin!	25,-	25,-
c. AAAO. England Bleeds on the Order of Moscow	25,-	25,-
d. Come-on Germany Expects You!	12,50	12,50
e. AAAO. England Has Lost the War	25,-	25 -
f. AAAO. A Military Adventure	.-	.-

Large units: 50-100% increase.

Total remainder: a, b, c, e: approximately 30 each. d approximately 60. f not more than 5.

With the exception of one strip no larger units recorded.

Over-prints: Black, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 2½d.
Red, ½d and 3d.

The same remarks apply as mentioned after Set 1.

The initial six type over-print actually consisted only of five different types, the sixth being a repeat of over-print d, over-print f being non-existent. Over-print f was only added much later and definitely after supplies had been sent abroad. It therefore never left Germany and it is known for practically certain that no sheets were in the lost box at Innsbruck. The only recorded copy is in the hands of Major K. It might well be that K. had more, but this is not known. The one existing value is over-printed on the Id. red (No. 4), the stamp therefore is recorded as 4 III f. It cannot be ascertained whether this copy was the 4th or the 6th in the row, but I believe it to have been the 6th.

IV. Over-print set " Liquidation of Empire," Series A.

8 over-prints on Nos. 3-8.

	Unused	Cancel 2
a. Singapore	8,-	6,-
b. St. Lucia	8,-	5,-
c. Barbados	8,-	6,-
d. Jamaica	8,-	6,-
e. Trinidad	8,-	6,-
f. Bahama Is.	8,-	6,-
g. Bermuda Is.	8,-	6,-
h. Hongkong	8,-	6,-

Large units: 20-50%, increase.

Total remainder: approximately 400 sets.

Large units rarely recorded.

Over-prints: Black, 1d, 1½d, 2d and 3d.

Red, ½d. and 2d.

This set IV was the first one to be printed in large quantities and all were sent abroad. Quantities were also in the boxes lost at Innsbruck.

One strip of six over-prints is recorded showing only overprints a-f, with over-prints g and h missing, None the less it was initially planned to apply 14 different over-prints to the complete Empire series (A and B). It can no longer be determined which over-print types were removed after the first half of the printing was done, to make room for the different types. One can therefore give no definite ruling whether over-prints g and h belong to series IV or V. I have added them to series IV, as I believe they belong there, judged from the colour of the over-print.

Series IV and V are practically non-existent as a complete collection. One can, however, find now and then odd values or individual complete sets according to the over-print.

V. Over-print set "Liquidation of Empire,"

Series B. 6 over-prints on Nos, 3-8.

	Unused	Cancel 2
a. Rabaul	8,-	6,-
b. Borneo	8,-	6,-
c, Grenada	8,-	6,-
d. Rangoon	8,-	6,-
e. Bougainville	8,-	6,-
f. St. Vincent	8,-	6,-

Large units: 20-50% increase.

Total remainder: approximately 400 sets.

Large units rarely recorded.

Over-prints: Black, on 1d, 1½d, 2d. and 2½d

Red, on ½d and 3d.

The remarks given after IV apply in this case.

SOUVENIR SHEETS AND CANCELLATIONS



SPECIAL-STAMP IN MEMORY OF THE FIRST DAY OF
INVASION



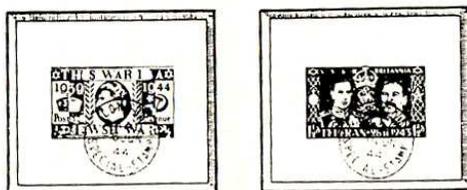
Особые марки в память первого дня вторжения



SPECIAL-STAMP IN MEMORY OF THE FIRST DAY OF
INVASION



Особые марки в память первого дня вторжения



I have mentioned in the introduction the souvenir sheets and propaganda cancellations. Two types of sheets exist, one was intended for two special stamps. It shows two double-line frames intended for the stamps, whilst the other one, intended for the six un-over-printed stamps shows six small single-line framed spaces. The top of both sheets is identical, the English inscription explains itself, the Russian inscription reads in

translation: "Special stamps in memory of the first day of invasion." It will be noted that whilst the English inscription talks of Stamp, the Russian inscription is given in the plural, Stamps.

Some of the sheets are numbered in the right bottom corner, other sheets are unnumbered. Souvenir sheet No. 1 has only been found in dark violet-brown, whilst sheet No. 2 for the six values has been recorded both in black and blue. Both sheets are 185 x 272 mm,

The only stamps originally affixed on these sheets are Nos. 1-8. The stamps were glued on and were either cancelled with a black steel instrument or were left unused. No copies were cancelled with a rubber cancellation. Someone manipulated these sheets, especially the second one, by removing the un-over-printed stamps and replacing the over-printed values of IV or V in their place. In such cases a different valuation must be made and I suggest the stamps at catalogue value plus DM 20,- for the blank souvenir sheet. The genuine souvenir shots are worth DM 100, each.

The propaganda cancellation is in shape an imitation of the Normal London postmark, but with the Inscription

LONDON
AAAO
-6 Jun
44
SPECIAL STAMP

The diameter of this strike is 23 mm. We differentiate between two different types.

(1) - A metal instrument, showing consistent clean and clear impressions, always in black. So far only recorded on the souvenir sheets and therefore only possible on Nos, 1 to 8 in the catalogue.

(2) - Identical type but a rubber instrument, always producing smudgy and irregular impressions. So far only recorded in violet. Never recorded on the souvenir sheets, but exists on all stamps as listed in the catalogue. Blocks have been noted with this cancellation.

Based on the information of a former member of VI/F/4, I must state that the second type was supposed never to have been used. I therefore wrote in the first edition of this book that this impression too should be considered as a forgery. Since then this theory has been proved wrong,

as I received information, especially from Switzerland, that in letters, containing these stamps and sent there during the war stamps with this second cancellation have been recorded. I must therefore consider both cancellations to be genuine. All the same I must record that all stamps received by Swedish collectors during the war were uncanceled copies. My theory is that this instrument was not at all handled by section VI/F/4 but by section VI/B, the department responsible for distribution to Switzerland. This would, however, be an exception as this department normally had nothing at all to do with stamps and it appears strange that they prepared just for this purpose, a special instrument. The other theory which perhaps is the simplest and most reasonable one, is that my informant did not know that both instruments were available to VI/F/4. This is only one of the points where the information available is not absolutely complete and it is again my sincere request that all readers should assist me with any further information they might have.