

Postal area code (PAC) 9a in Upper Silesia (1944-1945)

The introduction of codes became a necessity during World War II. The volume of mail (mainly feldpost) increased sharply. Most of the experienced workers were called up to the army. They were replaced by the less experienced and geographically unfamiliar, which significantly increased the delivery time of various mail. The Post Ministry announced in Official Journal 407/1941 the introduction of "parcel routing areas" (Päckchenleitgebieten). Initially, the guidelines applied only to parcels. Twenty-four control centers were established, numbered from 1-24. The division in principle mirrored the divisions into areas (Gau), and thus also the Main Postal Directorates (Oberpostdirektionsbezirke). On October 19, 1943, an "instruction manual for the letter delivery service" (Anweisung für den Briefverteildienst) was published with the generally applicable introduction of 32 routing regions in civilian postal traffic (map below). At the beginning of 1944, everyone was called to use code designations universally, and postal codes were made mandatory from May 1944. The territories of Upper Silesia (Gau Oberschlesien) were given the number 9a.

The exhibit shows postal marks used after the introduction of postal area codes within the Upper Silesian territories, until the end of WWII. **Most of them are known in one or at most a few copies.** In the exhibit, those not found in the only available J.Schnellbacher catalog are marked as rarities [R] and placed in red frames. There was one tariff period from 1.12.1933 to 1.03.1946 (for the scope of the exhibit until liberation).

EXHIBIT PLANE

- 1) Cancellation date stamps (cds).
- 2) Meter marks.
- 3) Registered marks.
- 4) Handstamps of postal agencies.
- 5) Other marks.
- 6) Route letters.

References:

J.Schnellbacher - Die Postleitgebietzahl vor dem 8.5.45 (2.Auflage).
 P.Griese - Poststellen - Stempel 1928 - 1988. Neue Schriftenreihe der Poststempelgilde e.V.
 Amtsblatt Reichspostministerium.



Map of assigned code numbers.



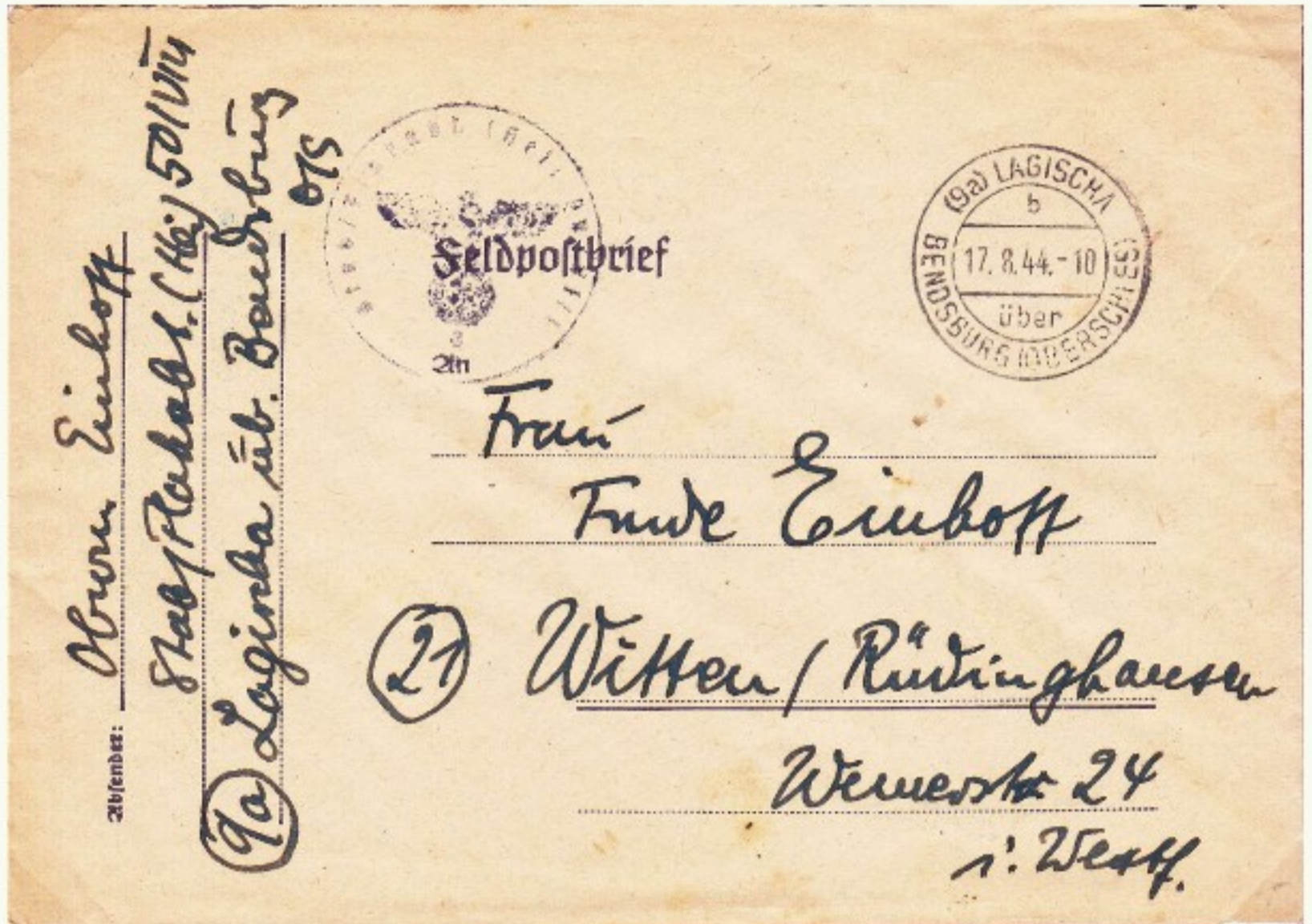
Amtsblatt introducing use of code stamps.

Machine cancell advertising the use of postal code numbers on a letter from OPEL (Opole) to Rosbach vor den Höhe in Hesse, dated 22-03-1944. The sender mistakenly wrote PAC Upper Silesia 9a instead of Hesse (16). Rate 12 Pfg for ordinary letter.

1. CANCELLATION DATE STAMPS / TAGESSTEMPEL

The first cancellation date stamps with the code 9a affixed appeared on May 5, 1944. That's when Otto Braungardt & Sohn made the first testing stamps. Due to material savings, the stamps were not made for all post offices and with all distinctions. They were mainly made where there were changes or as a result of the destruction of current stamps.

Date stamp 9a with a type "b", on a military letter from LAGISCHA (Łagisza) to Witten. Free letter (Feldpost). Lagisza was at that time an agency of the office in Bendsburg (Będzin).



Registered letter, posted in ZOMBKOWITZ (Ząbkowice) to Berlin. Cds 9a with type "b". Provisional registration label with Zombkowitz (Oberschl) handstamp on blanko label. Rate (12 Pfg for a ordinary letter + 30 Pfg registration).

CANCELLATION DATE STAMPS / TAGESSTEMPEL



Ordinary letter dated 27.10.1944 with 9a PROSKAU über OPPELN cds (Prószków near Opole) to Oppeln (Opole). Rate 12 Pfg for a letter up to 20gr. Proskau forest district's business envelope (left).



Registered letter with 9a CZELADZ über BENDSBURG (OBERSCHLES) cds (Czeladź near Będzin), dated 13.11.1944. Rate - 24Pfg for a 20-100g letter + 30 Pfg registration. As feldpost only ordinary letters.

CANCELLATION DATE STAMPS / TAGESSTEMPEL

Absender: *Emil Kolarczyk*
Altstadt 205.

Postanweisung
 auf *21 RM 41 Rpf*, wörtlich: *zwanzig 41/100*

An *Allg. Ostbahnbank*
in Teschen
Moltke Str. 1.

Fingezahlt am
 Absender Name, Wohnort,
 Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudeteil,
 Stockwerk; bei Untermietern auch
 Name des Vermieters
Emil Kolarczyk
Altstadt 205.

betrifft (Rechnung, Kassenz
 zeichen, Buchungsnummer usw.):
17.118.

Postvermerk Nr. *2.500* Eingelungen durch: *beh*
27.8. Eingang
 Nr. *34*

9a
 Karwin-Freistadt

28.4.45-12
 KARWIN-FREISTADT
 OBERSCHLESIE

30
 DEUTSCHES REICH

mark wie oben

△ C 90E

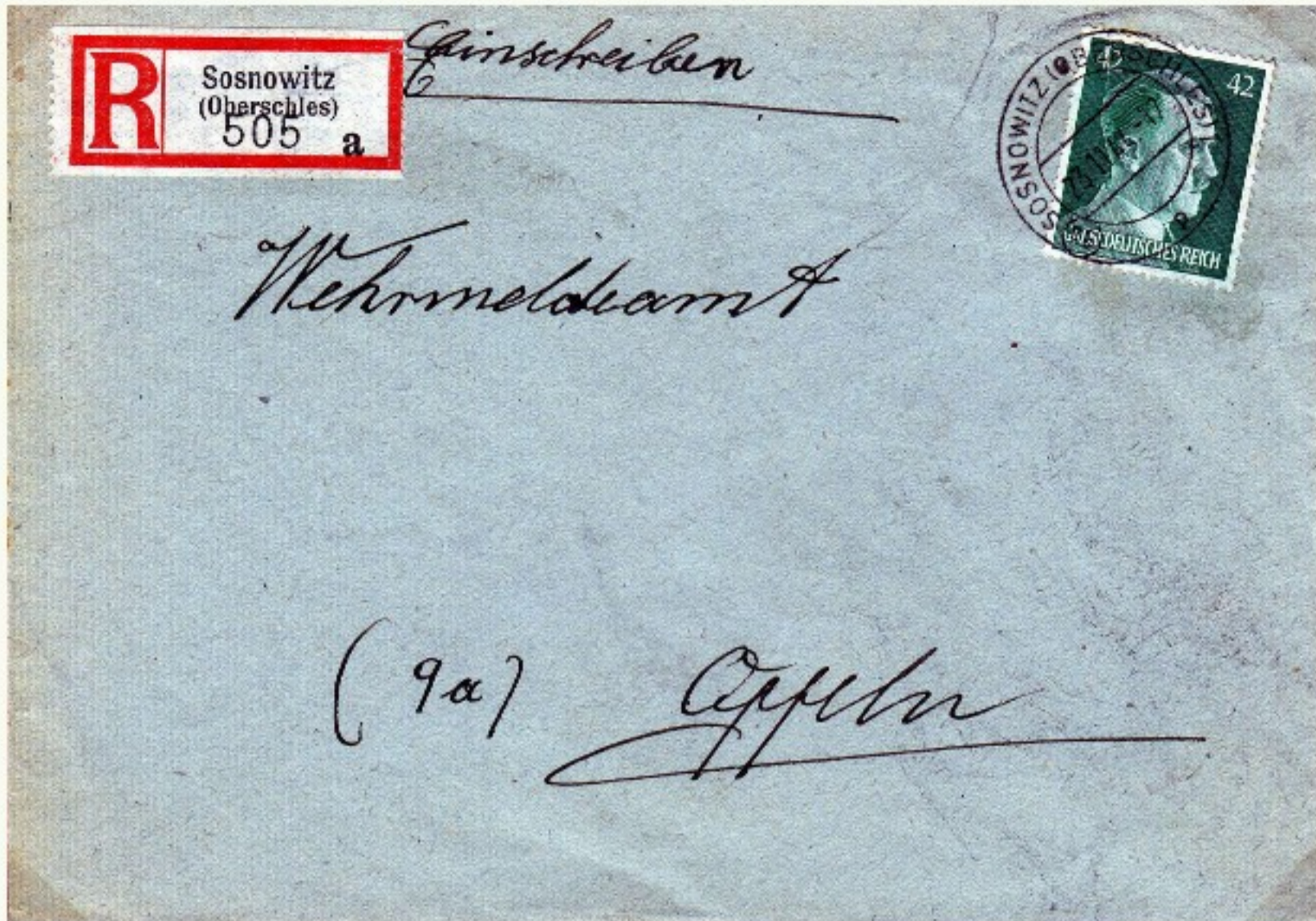
[R]

Postal money order formular dated **28.04.1945** with 9a KARWIN-FREISTADT cds (Karviná Fryštad) to Teschen (Cieszyn). The incorporation of the municipality of Fryštát to Karviná in April 1944. Date stamp type "d". At the bottom the district stamp "34 Karviná-Freistadt". Rate according to the remittance tariff of 10 to 20 Mk.



Ordinary letter with 9a KARWIN-FREISTADT (Karviná Fryštad) cds to Dresden (PAC 10), dated 19.12.1944. Cancellation date stamp type "c". Rate - 12 Pfg for a letter up to 20gr.

CANCELLATION DATE STAMPS / TAGESSTEMPEL



Registered letter with 9a SOSNOWITZ cds (Sosnowiec) dated 23.11.1944 to Oppeln (Opole). Cds type "p.". Rate - 12 Pfg for an ordinary letter + 30 Pfg for a registration.



Registered letter 9a BENDSBURG (OBERSCHLES) cds (Będzin) to Bugmünde (PAC 5b) (now Nowy Dwór Mazowiecki), dated 30.12.1944. Cds type "l". Rate - 12 Pfg for a letter up to 20g + 30 Pfg for registration letter.

CANCELLATION DATE STAMPS / TAGESSTEMPEL



[R]

Post money order formular dated 18.01.1945 with the 9a HEYDEBRECK cds (Kędzierzyn) to Vienna with type "e". At the bottom, the district stamp "34 Heydebreck 1" (Kędzierzyn). Rate - 30 Pfg for a remittance up to 10Mk.



[R]

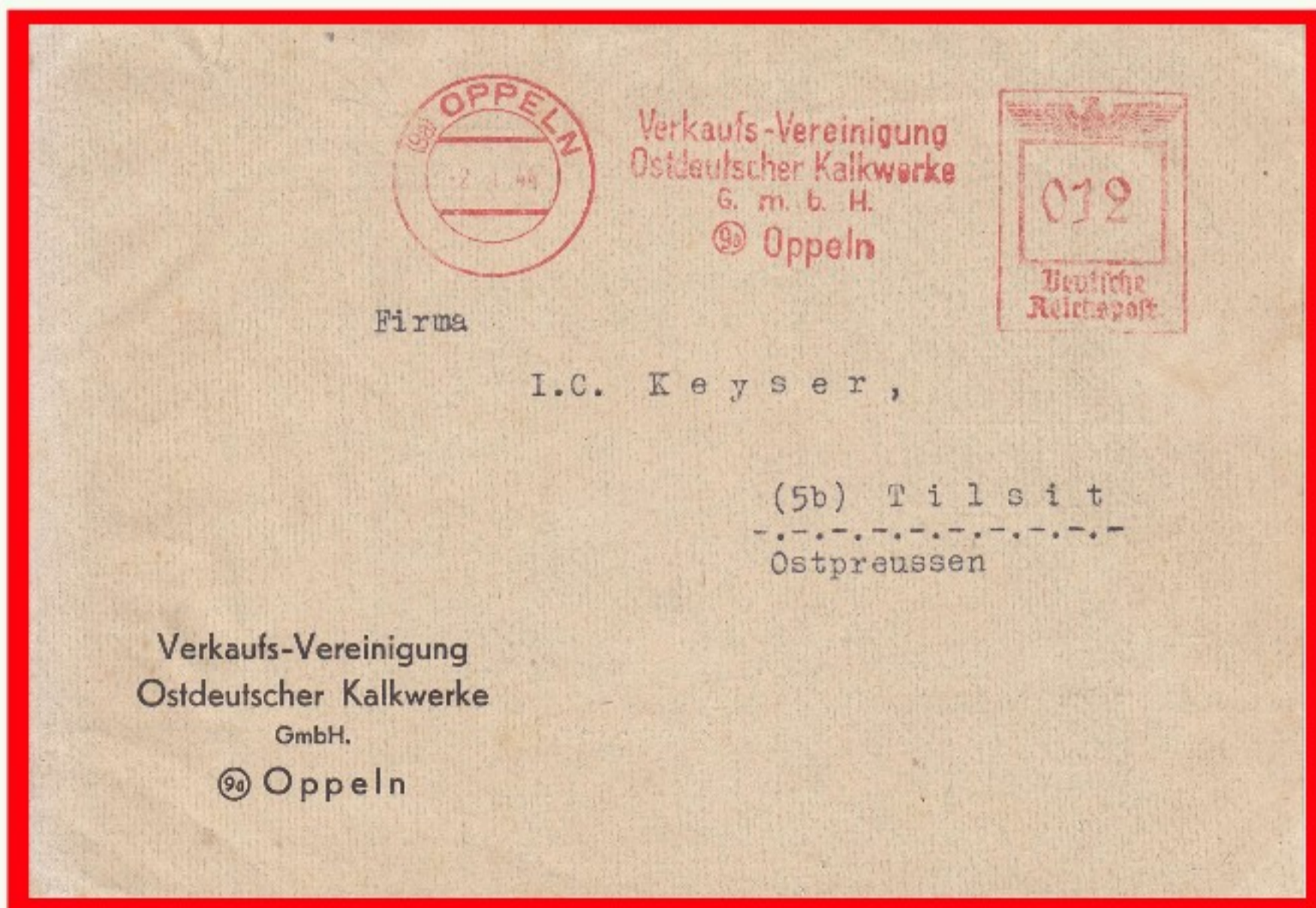
Postal check with 9a OTTMACHAU (OBERSCHLES) cds (Otmuchów) to Grottkau (Grodków), dated 3.02.1945. Cds type "d". As a result of hostilities, the check was redirected to zone (10) - Dresden. Under the stamp you can see most likely the addressee's annotations about the arrival of the mail after the war "Rückpost nach 8/5.45"-returned from the post office 8.05.1945 (last WWII day) and "Eingang 6/6.45" - received 6.06.1945. So called kilerstamp blurring the face of the war criminal, Adolf Hitler on the stamp. Rate- 6 Pfg

2. METER MARKS / FREISTEMPEL

A meter mark, also known as a meter stamp or frank, is an impression left on mail by a postage meter machine. It indicates that postage has been paid. The international use of meter marks was approved by the Universal Postal Union in 1920, effective 1 January 1922. Meter stamps were not introduced by special order. They were manufactured to order for specific companies. Meter stamps with code 9a were converted from other franking machines that were no longer in use. To date, 5 different pieces are known and published: 1 from Gross Strehlitz, 1 from Kattowitz and 3 from Oppeln.



Three meter marks known only from passports of franking machines and one (Kattowitz) from the Internet.



Very rare meter stamp cover sent from the Sales Association Ostdeutsche Kalkwerke GmbH in Oppeln (Opole) to Tilsit (now Sowieck in Russia) (PAC 5b-Ostpreussen). Type of the meter stamp - Francotyp "C". **Rate 12 Pfg - order letter up to 20gr.** So far the only recorded piece.

3. REGISTERED MARKS / R-ZETTEL



Registration label with printed code 9a on a letter sent from RATIBOR (Racibórz) to Berlin (PAC 1) on 23.11.1944. Racibórz's cds also includes code 9a. Cds type "t". Rate letter 20 to 100 gr - 24 Pfg +30 Pfg registration.



Registration label with code 9a on a letter sent from LEOBSCHÜTZ (Głubczyce) to Graudenz (Grudziądz) on 19.12.1944. Głubczyce cds without code 9a. Cds type "c". Rate - letter 20 to 100 gr - 24 Pfg + registration 30 Pfg).

REGISTERED MARKS / R-ZETTEL



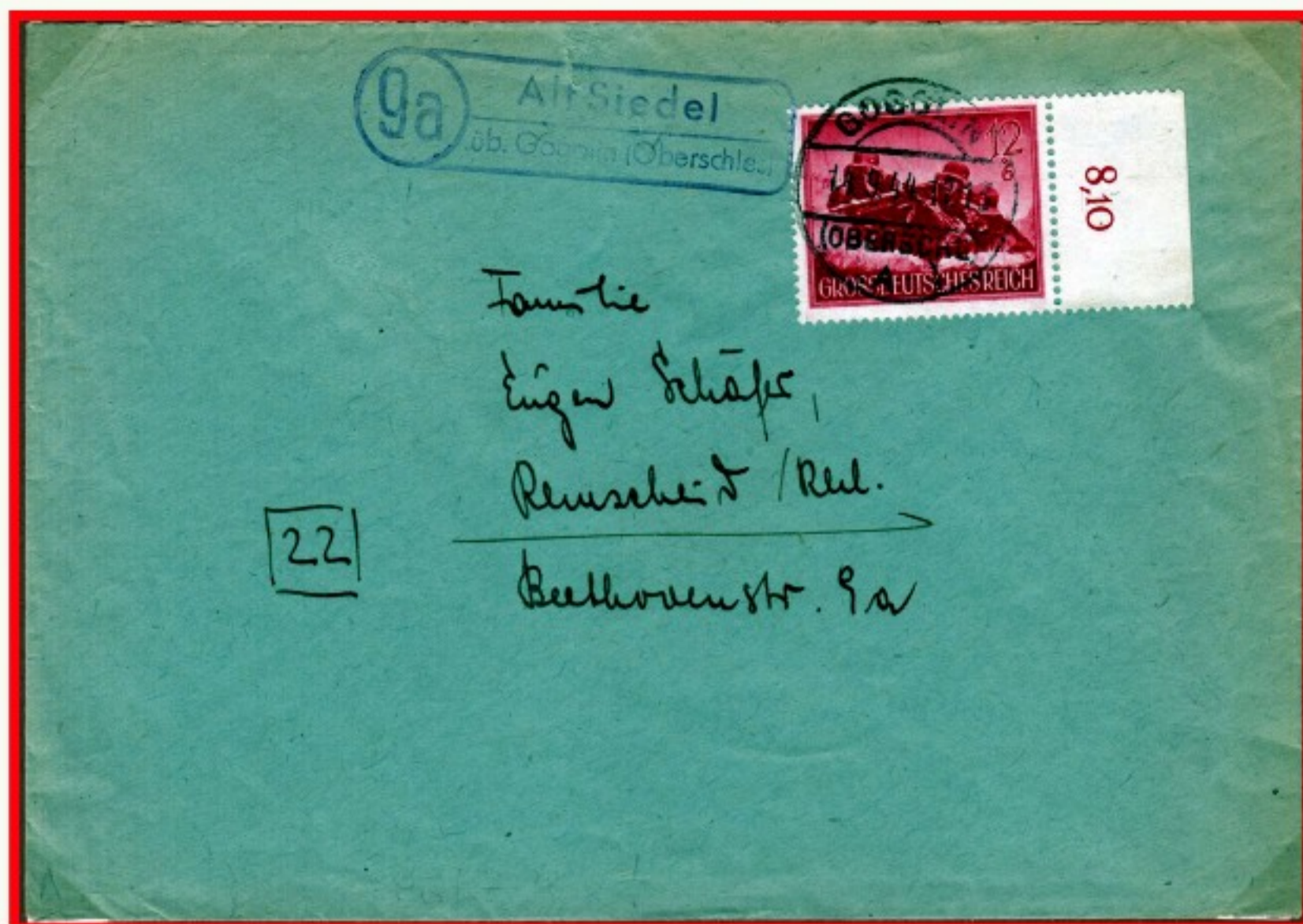
[R]

Provisional blanko registration label stamped 9a in the postal agency in MITTEL LAZISK (Łaziska Średnie) on a registered letter to Gera on 4.09.1944. Cds without code 9a. Cds type "a". Rate letter up to 20 gr - 12 Pfg + registration 30 Pfg.



After WW II used German registered label with code 9a on a letter sent from Lubliniec (Poland) to Stockholm on 24.01.1946. Rate accordance with the tariff from 1.12.1945 (foreign letter up to 20 gr - 6 Zloty + registration 5 Zloty - visible stamp for 1 Zloty + on the reverse 10 Zloty). Circular censorship with No. 3242 (described as known since early February 1946, here 24.01.1946).

4. HANDSTAMPS OF POSTAL AGENCIES / Pst (II) STEMPELN



[R]

Rubber handstamp 9a of the Alt Siedel (Siedlec) postal agency near Gogolin. Letter sent on 4.07.1944 to the Rhineland. Rate 12 Pfg for a letter up to 20 gr. So far the only recorded piece.



[R]

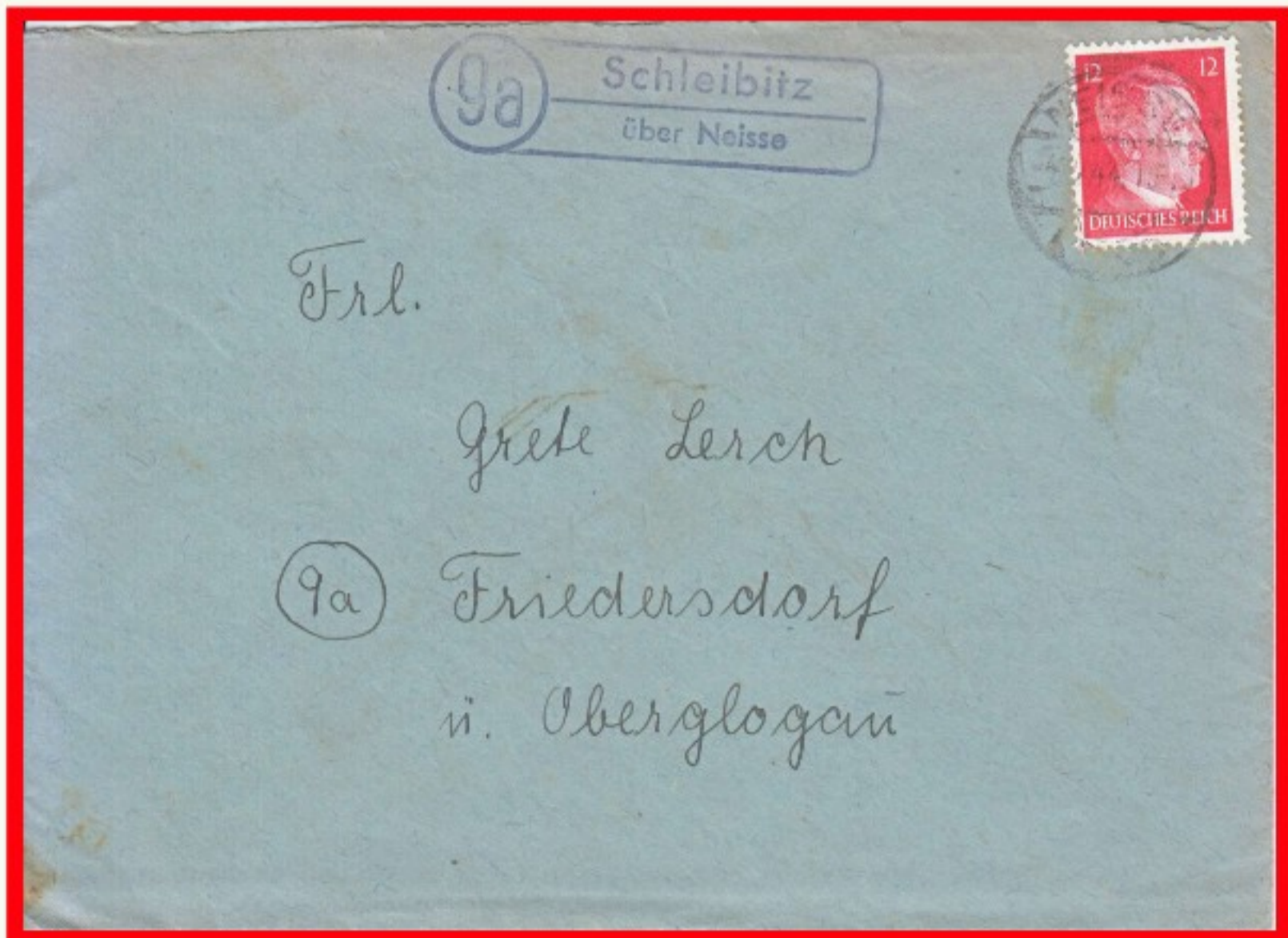
Rubber handstamp 9a of the Altzülz (Solec) postal agency near Oberglogau (Glogówiek). Registered letter, sent on 14.02.1945 to Neustadt (Prudnik). Rate 24 Pfg for letter 20-100 gr + 30 Pfg registration. So far the only recorded piece.

HANDSTAMPS OF POSTAL AGENCIES / Pst (II) STEMPELN



Rubber handstamp 9a postal agency Jarischau (Jaryszów) near Gross Strehlitz (Strzelce Opolskie). Parcel of 4kg sent 30.12.1944 to Saxony. Rate 60 Pfg for parcel up to 5kg.

75% of the size of the second page scan



Rubber handstamp 9a of the Schleibitz (Śliwice) postal agency near Neisse (Nysa). Letter sent on 4.12.1944 to Friedersdorf near Oberglogau (Biedrzychowice near Głogówek). Rate 12 Pfg for a letter up to 20gr. So far the only recorded piece.

[R]

HANDSTAMPS OF POSTAL AGENCIES / Pst (II) STEMPELN

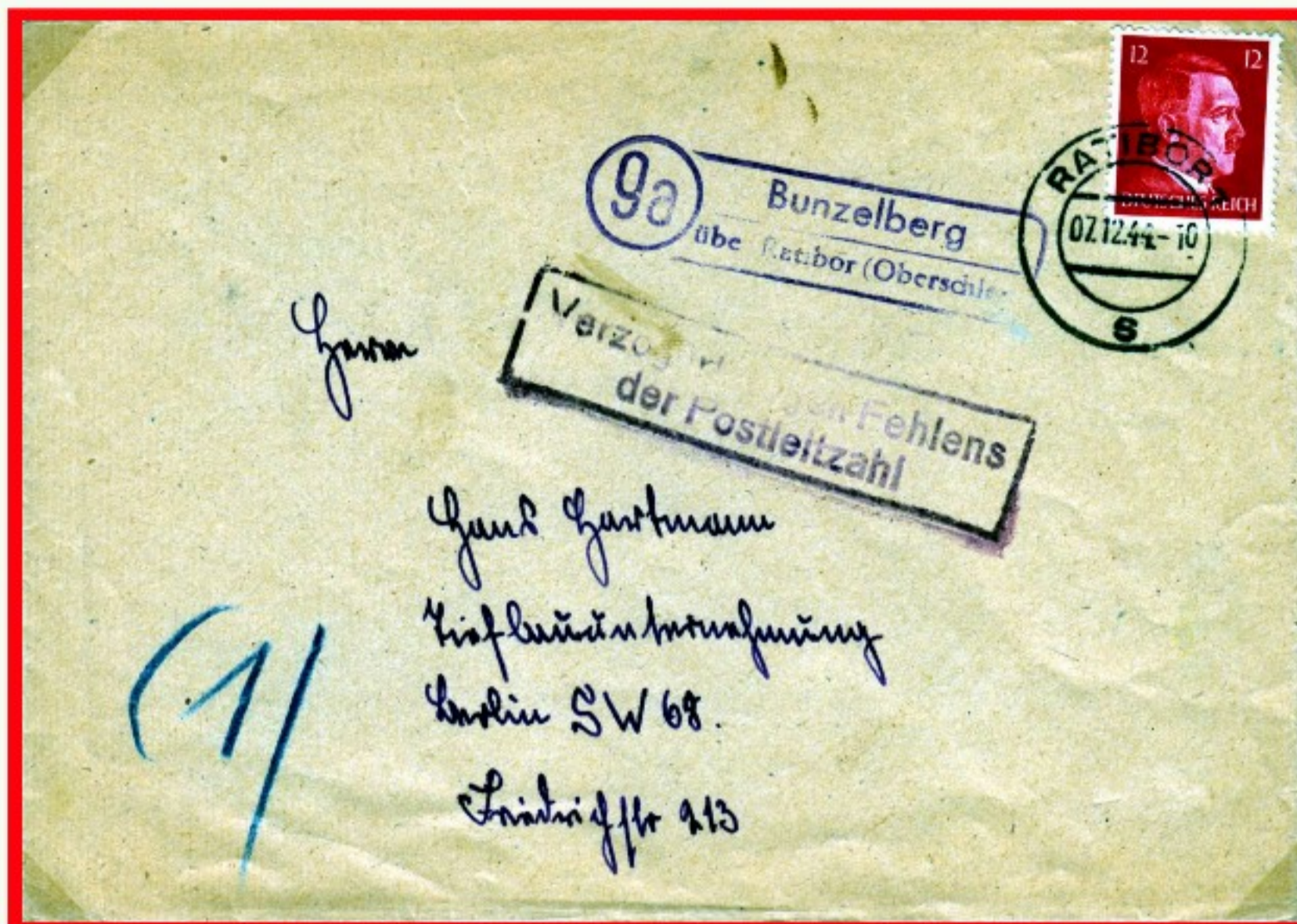


Rubber handstamp 9a of the Hermannstein (Kępnica) postal agency near Neisse (Nysa). Postcard sent on 26.02.1945 to Oppersdorf near Neisse (Wierzbięcice near Nysa). **Rate 6 Pfg for a postcard.** Different 9a stamp type.



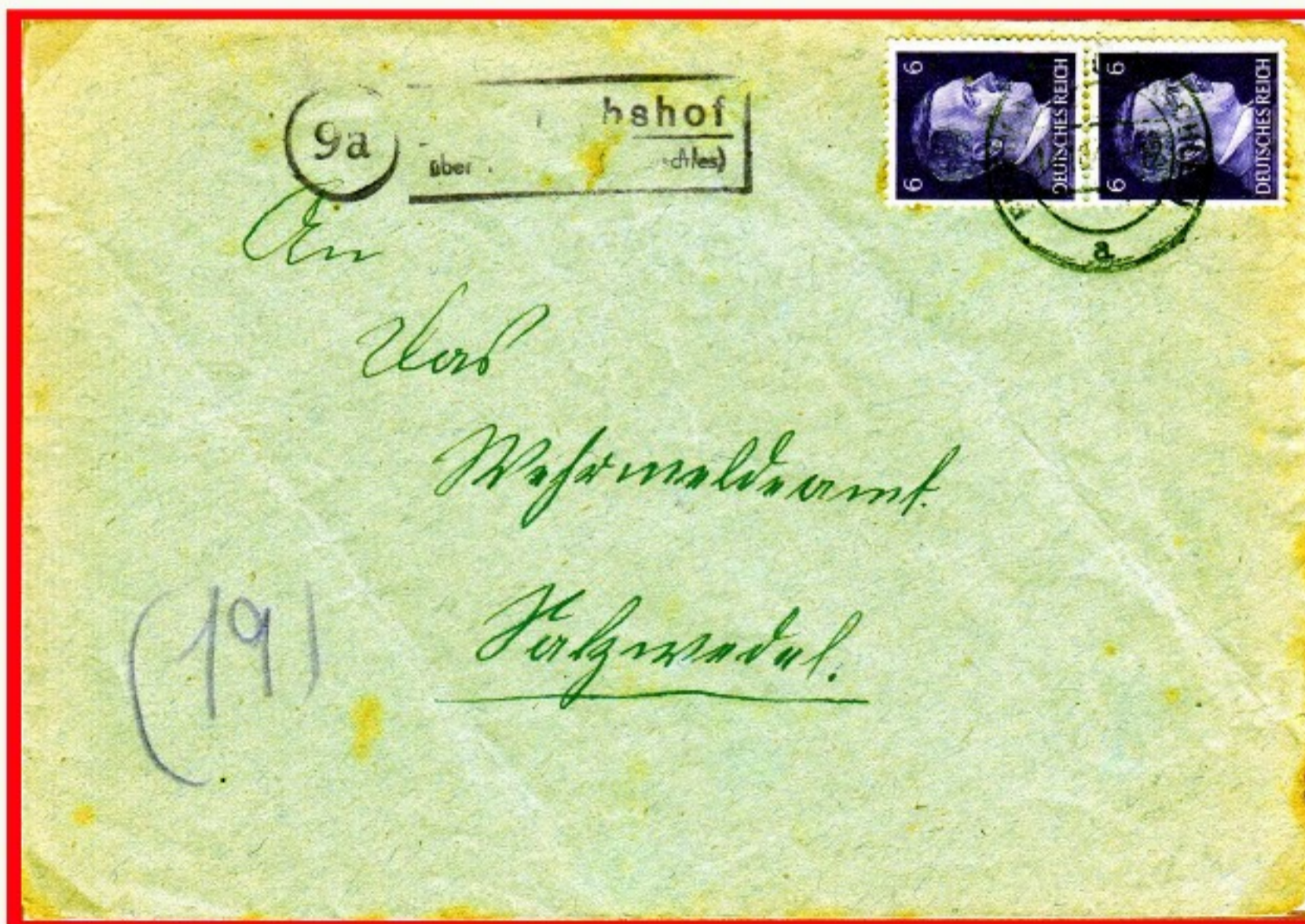
Rubber handstamp 9a of the Babinitz (Babienica) postal agency near Loben (Lubliniec). Card sent on 20.10.1944 to Schlüsselburg Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia (Lnáře in the Czech Republic). **Rate 6 Pfg for a postcard.**

HANDSTAMPS OF POSTAL AGENCIES / Pst (II) STEMPELN



[R]

Rubber handstamp 9a of the postal agency Bunzelberg (Boleslaw) near Racibórz. Letter sent on 7.12.1944 to Berlin. The sender did not enter the addressee's code number. The lack was filled by a postal clerk (1). Additionally stamped: "Verzögert wegen Fehlens der Postleitzahl" (delayed due to lack of postal code). Rate 12 Pfg for a letter up to 20 gr.



[R]

Rubber handstamp 9a of the postal agency Heinrichshof (Stara Jamka) near Friedland (Korfantów). Registered letter, sent on 14.10.1944 to Salzwedel. Different 9a code type. The lack was filled by a postal clerk (19). So far the only recorded piece. Rate 12 Pfg for a letter up to 20 gr.

HANDSTAMPS OF POSTAL AGENCIES / Pst (II) STEMPELN



Rubber handstamp 9a of the postal agency Sedschütz (Dziedzice) near Neustadt (Prudnik) on a delivery note dated 28.10.1944 to Opole. Visible place of stamp remaking.

Rubber handstamp 9a postal agency Rehwalde (Ortowitz) near Cosel (Kozle). Parcel of 10.5 kg sent 8.08.1944 to Reckenfeld. Rate 305 Pfg (rest of stamps on reverse) for parcel up to 20 kg.



Rubber handstamp 9a of the postal agency Falkendorf (Falkowice) near (Konstadt) Wolczyn. Registered letter, sent on 11.11.1944 to Nürnberg. Different 9a stamp type. Only two recorded pieces so far. Rate letter up to 20 gr. - 12 Pfg + registered 30 Pfg.

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5. OTHER STAMPS / ANDERE STEMPEL

The period of introduction of the code designations (including 9a for Upper Silesia) coincides with the final period of World War II. Polish and Soviet troops advancing from the east increasingly "pushed" German troops westward. Related to this was the min relocation of post offices. Those at the approaching front were closed and moved to previously designated ones. This data was reported in the Official Journals.

Amtsbl 1945 Nr. 17, Mitt. d. RPM Nr. 1028-1029 vom 13.3.45
Mitteilungen des RPM

Leite Nr.	Räumungsamt	Aufnahmeamt
49	Loben (Oberschles)	(9b) Deutsch Liebau (Oststuden)

Fragments of Official Journal No. 17 of 13.03.1945 with item 49 concerning the evacuation of the office from Loben (Lubliniec) to Deutsch Liebau (Libinia near Šumperk).

Postamt
(9a) Loben (Oberschles)

Header stamp of the post office in Loben (Lubliniec).

Deutsch-Liebau

Header stamp of the post office in Libinia.

03026 ❖ -2 5 45

c 55
Deutsch Liebau

District stamp of the Libinia office.

Postfache

Stamp indicating the postal nature of the mail.

Very rare postal money order for the amount of RM 825 69Pf, which should have been paid by the post office in Loben (Lubliniec). Due to the closing of the office in Lubliniec and its transfer to Deutsch Liebau (Libinia near Šumperk), the remittance was made by the replacement office on 2.05.1945 (6 days before the end of the war).

6. ROUTE LETTERS / STRECKENBRIEFE

An uncut pair of pre-binding slips (Streckenbrief) to the Upper Silesian province, with the postal code "9a Oberschlesien" printed on them. Such letters were used to mark bundles of mail sent in the same direction. Letters were packed in separate parcels with the pre-binding slips on top for easier processing of the correspondence.



Scan of the back page. The pennant was used after the war in Bad Harzburg for a bag of correspondence headed by train No. E534 from Goslar to Altenbeken.

Pre-binding slip with printed area code 9a Oberschlesien (9a Upper Silesia) used to mark bulk bags of mail addressed to the same zone or locality.