

THE RISE & FALL OF WW II POSTAL CENSORSHIP

Swiss Perspective

Because of its location at the epicenter of World War II and its exceptional postal connections, neutral Switzerland provides the perfect location from which to study WW II censorship development including initiation, application and cessation of such censorship. This pioneering exhibit of WW II censorship development is based upon 30+ years of intensive research and clearly documents results of the of the study.

Methodology

- 1 - Employ classic postal history disciplines to WW II Swiss card mail.
- 2 - Use card mail because postal rates for this mail were quite simple.
- 3 - Analyze and document global WW II postal censorship of Swiss mail.

Rates - Swiss WW II postage rates for domestic cards were 10 centimes, for international cards 20 centimes. Any special service rates are explained throughout the exhibit as they arise.

Routes - Postal routes for Swiss mail were dictated by influences beyond Swiss control. Censorship development will be related to the routes for Swiss card mail.

Markings - Censorship played a huge role in the postal history of WW II mail. Mail routes, destinations and resulting censorship or lack of it were intimately related. Analysis of this relationship via censor markings is the purpose of the exhibit.

Approach

The exhibit begins within Switzerland itself, expands to Switzerland's immediate Axis neighbors, then to Axis occupied nations & allies. Great Britain follows, then European neutral countries. The exhibit concludes with key overseas locations such as Palestine, Africa, the British Dominions and the USA.



Postal card of 24 June 1941 from Schauenberg Labor Camp (road building) to Freiburg, Germany. Swiss special Jewish mail censorship in Bern (green Zr and Censor XV). German Frankfurt Censor Number 208. One of six known examples.