

Concentration Camp Dachau

This prisoners' formular envelope was posted March 12, 1937, after the camp censor had examined the contents. Inmate mail dated before 1939 is uncommon, because concentration camp populations did not soar until after the Kristallnacht (Crystal Night, or Night of the Broken Glass) anti-Jewish pogrom of November 1938, when the mass arrests and detention of Jews began throughout Germany and Austria. During earlier years, the rules were ordinarily more lenient than later, but still strict enough to keep every German fearful of falling afoul of the Nazis. Printed regulations at the left of this fairly early letter state:

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The following instructions are to be observed in written communications with prisoners:

- 1.) Each prisoner may receive one letter or one card each week from his relatives. The letter to the prisoner must be legibly written and may contain only 15 lines on one page. Only letter sheets are permitted. Only five 12-pfennig stamps may be enclosed in one letter. Everything else is forbidden and subject to confiscation. Postcards have 10 lines.**
 - 2.) Sending money is permitted.**
 - 3.) Newspapers are permitted, however they may only be ordered through the postal authorities of K.L. Dachau.**
 - 4.) Packages may not be sent since the prisoners can buy everything in the camp.**
- All mail which does not meet these requirements is returned to the sender. If no sender is known, then it will be destroyed.**

The Camp Commander

