

Great Britain Declares War on Nazi Germany

On September 3, 1939, two days after Germany invaded Poland, Great Britain declared war on Germany. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain formed a new war cabinet, with Winston Churchill as First Lord of the Admiralty (Navy Minister) and Anthony Eden as Secretary for the Dominions. Churchill and Eden had been the leading opponents of appeasing Adolf Hitler.

Unusual mail from captured British soldiers: Colditz castle, designated Oflag IVC, was a special high security prison for captured Allied officers who had successfully escaped from other German prisoner-of-war camps. The May 5, 1943, formular POW post card was sent from Colditz inmate Lieutenant J. M. Moran to Scotland, censored at both ends of its travel. Corporal Jona Richfield, a Palestinian Jew, was held at Stalag VIIIB, the Lamsdorf, Germany (Lambinowice, Poland) prisoner-of-war camp. His card, sent January 21, 1942, by air mail to his wife at Tel-Aviv, was rated 40 pfennigs postage due at its dispatch after passing the camp censorship, and was passed by a British censor at Cairo, Egypt. During the winter of 1942-1943, several hundred Palestinian Jewish POWs were transferred from Lamsdorf to slave labor detachments at Gliwice and Blechhammer.

Letters and cards from POWs sent by air mail are seldom seen.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte

Oflag IVC
6
An
F.A.
geprüft

PASSED
P.W. 3097
F.C.I.S.

J.D.C. MACKAY ESQ., JP, F.L.A.A.; F.C.W.A.
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2, WEST REGENT ST.,
GLASGOW.
SCOTLAND.

Gebührenfrei!

Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: PAYR. LIEUT. J.M. MORAN R.N.R.

Empfangsort: GLASGOW.
SCOTLAND.

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Postkarte

Stalag VIIIB
Geprüft:
Nr. 31
An

Taxe perçue
- L.M. 40 Rpf

LUFTPOST/AIR MAIL

Gebührenfrei!

Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: CPL. JONA RICHFIELD
Gefangenenummer: 7044
Lager-Bezeichnung: M.-Stammlager VIII B
E. 208
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort: TEL-AVIV
Straße: 76. GORDON STR.
Land: PALESTINE
Landesteil (Provinz) usw.