

DENMARK and WWII

Collectors Club New York
4 March 2015

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Denmark and WWII

- This display is based on an 8-frame exhibit in Open Philately, **Denmark: Conscience, Conflict, and Camps 1932-1949**, where the last frame has been developed into another 8-frame exhibit, **Refugee Camps in Denmark 1945-1949**.
- These two exhibits follow the guidelines for the FIP Open Philately discipline, which allows the exhibitor to illustrate the philatelic material with non-philatelic items, although the latter has also been judged in Postal History, Class 2C.
- For this display a number of items will be shown for the first time as they are interspersed in the first exhibit, and thus do not comply with FIP Regulations.

Denmark and WWII

- **Aim**
- The aim of this display is to illustrate the lead up to World War II, the developments and events during the occupation, and the aftermath exemplified in refugee camps - all in relation to Denmark.
- It will provide a taste of the vast amount of material available, through pictures and ephemera, but particularly through the philatelic items, each of which tells its own social-philatelic story.

Denmark and WWII

- **Structure**
- The title of the first part, *Denmark: Conscience, Conflict, and Camps 1932-1949* is divided into three main sections: Conscience, Conflict, and Camps, consisting of a number of sub-sections.
- The structure of the display is mainly chronological, but material or particular topics have been grouped, and some cross-referencing has been included to tie the information together.
- The latter half, *Refugee Camps in Denmark 1945-1949*, is based on Denmark's geography, starting in Copenhagen and moving through the islands to Jutland.
- For this particular display the section on *Camps*, will be shown in its full eight frames.

Denmark and WWII

- **Choice of Material**
- Both the philatelic and non-philatelic material has been chosen to reflect the best possible examples to illustrate the story, not only from a postal history point of view, but also to make the display as attractive as possible.
- Although the display is objective in as far as it includes different sides of the story, the choice of individual items will necessarily be subjective, and this is particularly poignant in the part on the refugee camps.
- As it is difficult to judge how rare and/or exceptional individual items are, ☒ indicates items of special interest and rarity.

Denmark and WWII

- **Bibliography – Part 1**
- Besættelsens Hvem-Hvad-Hvor, Politikens Forlag, Copenhagen 1965
- Flygtningeadministrationen, Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949, Copenhagen 1950
- Hæstrup, Jørgen, Hemmelig Alliance I & II, Thanning & Appel ,Copenhagen 1959
- Jespersen, Knud J V, Brigaden, Gyldendal, Copenhagen 1993
- Autobiographies (Niels Bøgh Andersen, Folke Bernadotte, Aage Bertelsen, E Blygten-Petersen, Bo Bramsen, Ole Chievitz, Kate Fleron, Erling Kiær, Johs Kjærbøl, Lis Mellemsgaard, Ebbe Munck, Flemming B Muus, Varinka Wichfeld Muus, Martin Nielsen, Herbert Pundik, Karl Raloff, Henrik V Ringsted, Harald Sandbæk, Anton Toldstrup
- Bibliographies and research papers; Local history archives all over Denmark
- Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Billedbasen (picture library)
- Frihedsmuseet (Resistance Museum, Copenhagen) and other Danish Museums
- Various books and articles about refugees in Denmark.

Denmark and WWII

- **Bibliography – Part 2**
- Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949, 1959 (the official Government Report)
- Niels H Bundgaard, Danske Forsendelser 1875-2003, 2011
- Arne Gammelgaard, Mennesker i Malstrøm, 1981
- Arne Gammelgaard, På Hitlers Befaling, 2005
- Leif Guldmann Ipsen, Mennesker bag pigtråd, 2002
- Peter Hansen, Flygtningelejren i Rom, Hardsyssels årbog, Anden Række Bind 19, 1985
- Bo Bjerre Jakobsen & Erik Menne Larsen, Danske Censurstempler, 1979
- Birthe King, Ry - a Refugee Camp in Denmark 1945-1949, Posthorn, Vol.65/1, February 2008
- Birthe King, Flygtningelejre i Danmark 1945-1949, DFT, Nr. 4, August 2008
- Anker Bloch Rudbeck & Otto Kjærgaard, Censuren i Danmark 1940-1947, 2004
- Det Kongelige Bibliotek, Billedbasen (picture library)
- Local history archives all over Denmark

Denmark - Europe



Denmark



Denmark, Britain, and the USA



☑ - **21.05.1940** Royal Danish official mail, uncensored, from Amtmanden (Governor General) of the Faroe Islands to the Danish Ambassador in Washington, Henrik Kauffmann. The front carries the handstamp **q** / **FÆRØ AMT**, the signature of the Amtmand, C A Hilbert, and with the FÆRØ AMT red seal on the reverse. It has the correct surface rate 45 øre for a second weight class letter.

The Faroe Islands were occupied by Britain on 13 April 1940, but the letter was official and therefore not censored.

Conscience

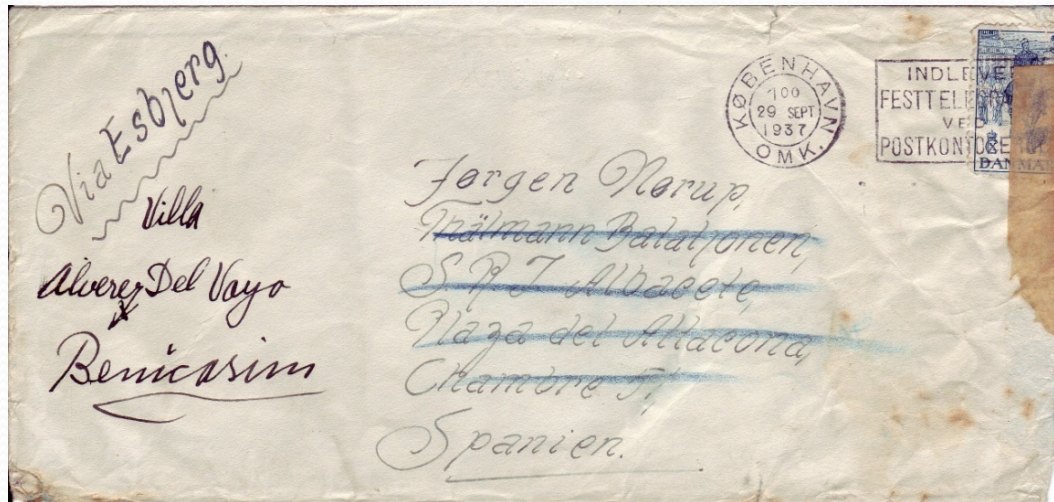


- Postcard **24 April 1937** to Copenhagen, produced by the **Women's Disarmament Committee** in Geneva, and with Danish translation of "Two Families" on the reverse.



- During the 1930s political extremism flourished in Denmark, as elsewhere in Europe. **Aldrig mere Krig** is the Danish affiliate of War Resisters International.

Conscience



- Cover **29 September 1937** to a Danish volunteer fighting with the Thälmann Bataljon in the International Brigade in the Spanish Civil War. It was redirected from Albacete, the headquarters of the International Brigades to Alvarez del Vayo, a convalescent centre, so presumably Jørgen Nørup had been wounded.
- **Ernst Thälmann** was a German Communist politician who died in August 1944 in the Buchenwald concentration camp.

Conscience



- The youth organisations of the political parties were particularly active ranging from the **KU** (Conservative Youth), which adopted the Nazi salute, to the **DSU** (Social Democratic Youth), which adopted a Soviet Communist image. Both cards were produced by KU.

Conscience

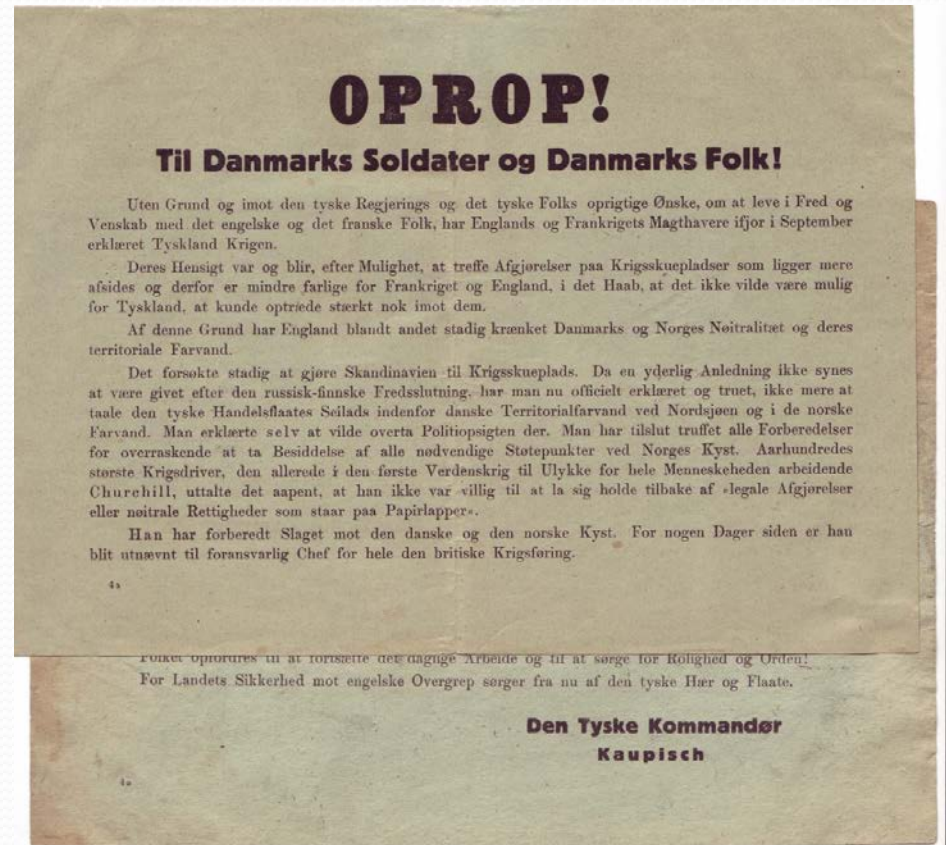
- The Danish National Socialist Workers Party, **DNSAP**, led by Frits Clausen, published propaganda material mostly using Nordic themes, including national costumes, vikings and Dannebrog, the Danish flag.

- The Christmas card **1934**, featuring a favourite Danish Christmas motif with the **Julenisser** (Christmas Elves), has been given a DNSAP propaganda label. 1934 printing of 50,000.



Occupation

- **OPROP! Til Danmarks Soldater og Danmarks Folk!** – German planes dropped this “OPROP!” (a misspelling for Opraab, meaning proclamation) all over Denmark in the early hours of **9 April 1940**.
- Addressed to the Danish soldiers and the People of Denmark, the text explains how Germany has decided to protect the neutrality of Denmark against the threat from England and France to make Scandinavia into a theatre of war. Churchill is accused of ignoring the principle of neutrality and of preparing an attack against Denmark.
- This protection takes the form of the occupation of important military installations, while the independence of the Kingdom and complete freedom for the people and their institutions is assured, and military and local authorities are advised to co-operate with German commanders. The people are encouraged to continue with their daily work and to ensure peace and civil order.



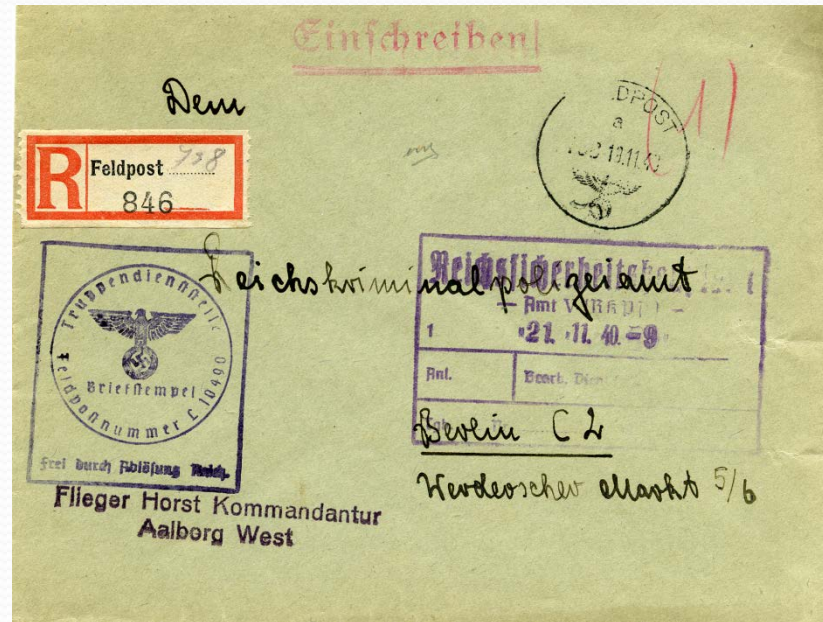
Occupation

- *The Danish military commanders issued orders not to resist the occupation, but these were received too late to avoid limited fighting in the border towns of Åbenrå and Haderslev.*



- The two photographs from a collection issued in 1945 are from Åbenrå, the top one showing Danish soldiers at the ready on 9 April 1940.
- Altogether 16 soldiers were killed and 23 injured in this and other border actions.
- The war memorial in Bredevad with the text "*Jert Offer var ikke forgæves*" - Your sacrifice was not in vain. As ever, the soldiers were aged 19 and 21.

Occupation



- **18 November 1940** Registered Feldpost envelope sent from Aalborg to Reichskriminalpolizei in Berlin with registration label 738 846, **Einschreiben** and receiving mark for the **Reichssicherheitshauptamt** (Gestapo Headquarters). This became the successor to the Reichskriminalpolizei in 1937 and was headed by Reinhardt Heydrich from 1939 until 1942.
- The envelope has handstamps **Truppendienststelle Briefstempel Feldpostnummer 2 10490** (**Gl.H.Rdr.(G) I/XI**) **Frei durch Ablösung Reich** and **Flieger Horst Kommandantur / Aalborg West**. Postmarked **FELDPOST 738 18.11.43**.

Occupation

- **4 January 1943** DNSAP printed postcard:
Soldier with the Danish flag on his helmet
but with FRIKORPS DANMARK armband
and receiving a Christmas parcel
FRA HJEMMEFRONTEN (From the Home Front).



Occupation

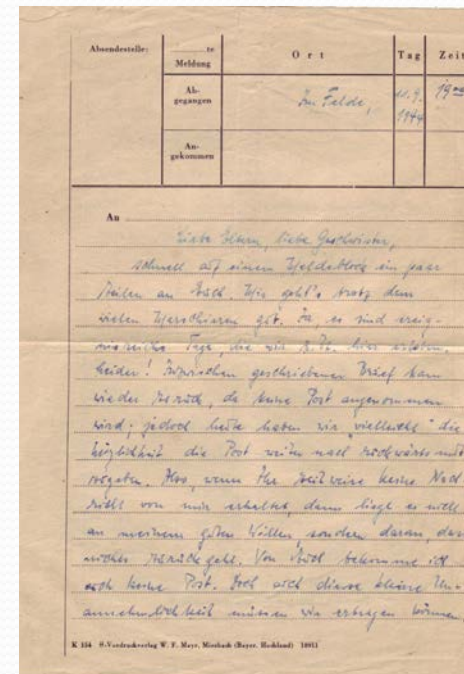


- ☒ **1941** Fieldpost cover with **Waffen SS / Greifcorps Dänemark**. The identity of both sender and recipient are heavily obliterated.
- Only five examples of this unit stamp are believed to be known.

Occupation

- **Hans Tychsen**, from a German speaking family in South Denmark was only 19 years old when he joined the SS, just after 9 April 1940. After basic training in Prague, he was sent to East Karelia in Finland in 1941. Promotion followed after further training in 1942 and 1943, and in August he returned to Finland.
- On 2 September 1944 a peace treaty was agreed between Finland and Russia. Finland was required to expel or intern all German troops (former allies of Finland) by 15 September 1944. The German troops withdrew slowly towards north Norway, but on 20 September fighting broke out between the Germans and the Finns, and Hans Tychsen fell in September 1944.

- **11 September 1944** Letter written “In the field” by Hans Tychsen to his parents and siblings. He writes that the post is very erratic, he has heard of the allied landings (in Normandy), but knows no more as neither newspapers nor radio is available. He sends greetings for family birthdays in September and October. This is his last letter home before his death.



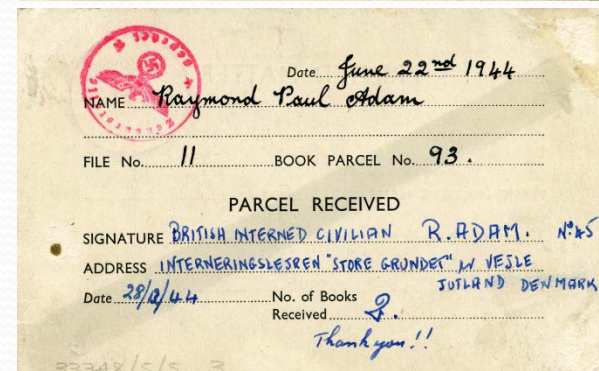
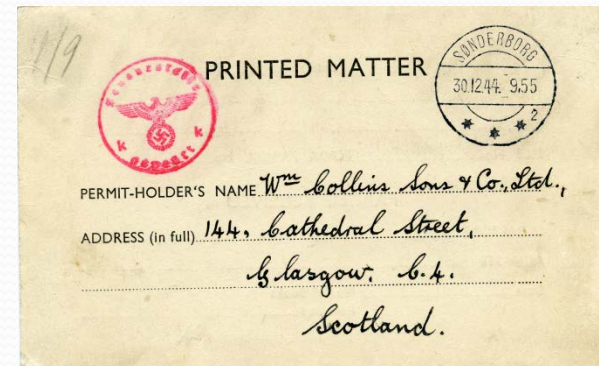
Internment of British Citizens

- Following the occupation on **9 April 1940**, British and French citizens in Denmark were interned at Hald near Viborg. In **July 1941** the British were transferred to **Store Grundet** near Vejle in East Jutland, among them a number of journalists. On 7 January 1943 the British internment camp held 31 men, 14 wives and five children.

- 22 June 1944** Pre-printed **Printed Matter** postcard from Raymond Paul Adam at **Store Grundet** signed 28 December 1944 for a book parcel No. 93 to Collins in Glasgow.

Cancelled in Sønderborg 30 December 1944 and censored with German **Zensurstelle / f / geprüft.**

The censorship office had moved from Copenhagen to Sønderborg in early October 1944



Internment of US Citizens

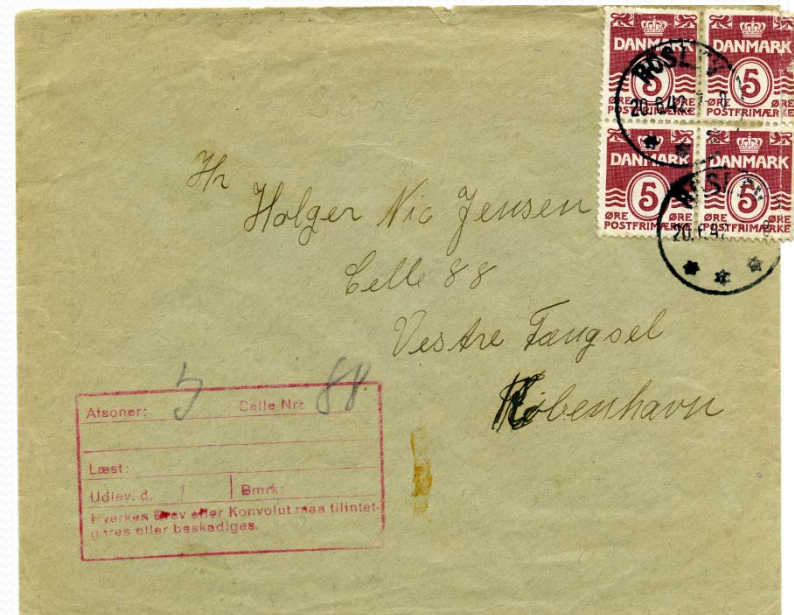
- *When the USA joined the war after the attack on Pearl Harbour 7 December 1941, also American journalists were interned, first at Fårvejele Højskole, but later transferred to **Mern** on South Sealand.*
- **9 January 1945** - Cover from the internment camp at **Mern** to the family in Oregon.
- The official sender was always: Generaldirektoratet for Post- og Telegraf-væsenet i København.
- First censored in Sønderborg, **Zensurstelle f**, then by the US, with handstamp **10830 / U.S.CENSOR** and handwritten **6422**.
- Not previously recorded.



Internment/Prison

- Vestre Fængsel (the West Prison) in Copenhagen was used by both Danish and German authorities, but from May 1944 almost exclusively by the occupying forces. Many Danish prisoners passed through Vestre Fængsel on their way to the internment camps at Horserød in North Sealand, and later at Frøslev, from where many were deported to concentration camps in Germany.*

- 20 June 1942** letter from Roslev near Skive to Holger Nicolai Jensen, a **Danish Communist Party** committee member, who was arrested in June 1941, interned at Horserød, and later transferred via **Vestre Fængsel**, cell number **88**, to the Stutthof concentration camp in East Prussia.



British Allies

- The **RAF** had numerous tasks, among them the dropping of news/propaganda sheets over occupied countries.

This **HILSEN FRA ENGLAND** (Greetings from England), carries excerpts from **Prime Minister Churchill's** speech in the British Parliament on 21 March about *Europe in the Future*, and was dropped on **9 April 1943**, two years after the occupation of Denmark.

HILSEN FRA ENGLAND
TIL DEN  9. APRIL

NO. 2, 1943 MED R.A.F.

Winston Churchill : Fremtidens Europa

**Et europæisk
Forbund med
væbnede Styrker
til at forhindre
nye Overfald**

SIN store Radiotale den 21. Marts beskæftigede Premierminister Churchill sig for første Gang med Efterkrigstidens Problemer.

Man kunde tænke sig, sagde han, at der under en Verdensinstitution, som omfattede eller repræsenterede De forenede Nationer — og før eller senere alle Nationer — vilde blive skabt et europæisk Forbund og et asiatisk Forbund.

"I Europa, fortsatte Premierministeren, findes de fleste af de Aarsager, som har ført til de to Verdenskrige. I Europa bor de historiske Moderracer, hvorfra vor vestlige Civilisation har faaet saa meget. Jeg mener om mig selv, at jeg er en god Europæer, og jeg

(FORTSÆTTES NÆSTE SIDE.)



Englands Premierminister
Winston Churchill

British Allies

- ☒ The text is self-explanatory, but note the “special” Christmas decoration just below the door handle.

JULEN 1944
GLÆDELIG JUL
OG

GODT NYTAAR
“NYHEDER FRA STORBRITANIEN”

Christmas 1944
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
News from Great Britain



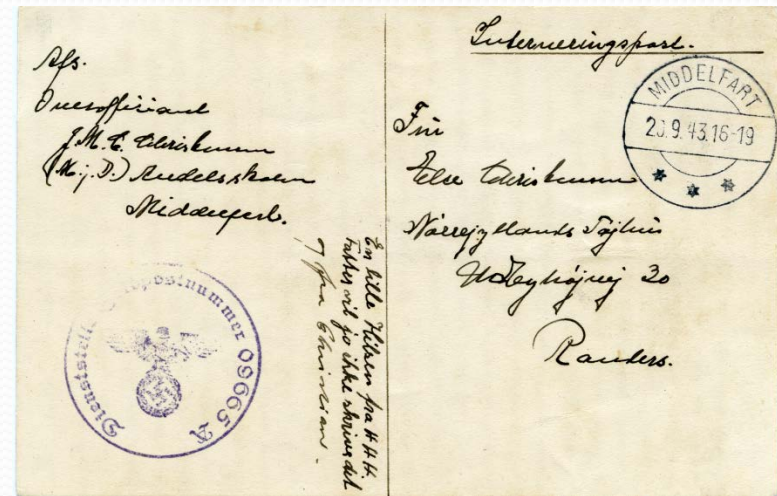
US Allies



- **20 June 1942** Airmail letter from the Free Danes in Bogota, Colombia, to the Danish Ambassador, Minister Henrik Kauffmann, in Washington. He co-ordinated the work of “free” Danes around the world, for example collecting funds to support Danish sailors in Allied Service.

Internment of the Army and Navy

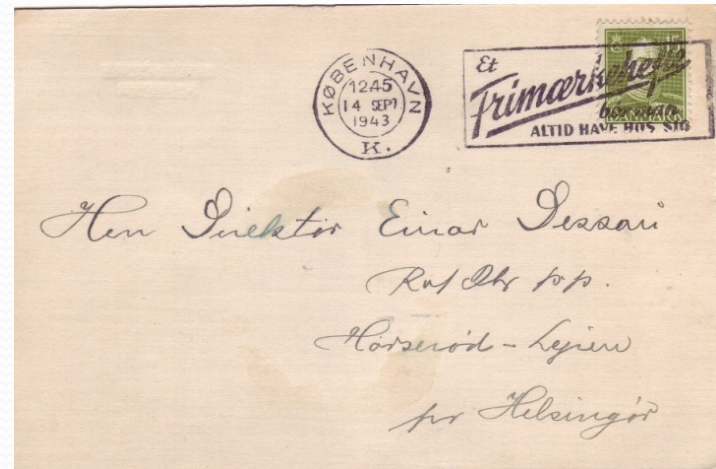
- The summer of 1943 saw a number of strikes and some street fighting leading to a **General Strike 28-29 August** in protest against the increasing terror exercised by the occupying powers. A **state of emergency** (leaflet below) was declared. The strike was supported by the Danish national organisation of trade unions.
- On **29 August 1943** the German forces overpowered and interned the Danish army and navy. The army personnel was interned at 20 different locations, ranging from barracks to seaside hotels for officers. Part of the naval personnel was interned in a sports hall, others on board a barrack ship. All were released during October 1943.
- **20 September 1943** Internment postcard from Camp No 19, **Andelsskolen** in Middelfart to Randers with censorship handstamp
Dienststelle Feldpostnummer 09665 A.
- This fieldpost censorship handstamp was only used on outgoing mail to Randers.



More Internment

- On **29 August 1943** the Gestapo rounded up 272 “prominent” Danes and 132 were interned in the Horserød camp as hostages.
- These were all well-known men (the six women were released due to lack of facilities for women at the camp), and included 22 editors and journalists, ten professors, ten merchants, nine lawyers, seven teachers, five managers, four writers, and four vicars. The intellectual activities in this part of the Horserød camp during the 65 days of internment were of the highest calibre. The last five internees were released on **1 November 1943**.

- **13 September 1943** Postcard to **Einar Dessau**, of the Tuborg Breweries, who was one of the prominent internees.



The Danish Jews

- *The Gestapo action against the Danish Jews had been planned for the night **1-2 October 1943**. However, this information was passed by a German embassy official to a Danish politician on 28 September, and thus the Rabbi at the large Copenhagen synagogue could warn the congregation at the Yom Kippur service on 29 September to leave their homes. The message reached most of Copenhagen's Jewish population, but not those in the province.*
- *They were helped and cared for by Danish friends, members of the resistance movement, and hospital staff, and they were hidden on farms, in hospitals and vicarages, until transport across Øresund (The Sound) to neutral Sweden could be arranged. In this way more than 6,000 avoided arrest, although about 200 were rounded up and shipped to **Theresienstadt** in the Czech Republic, at that time annexed by Germany.*



- **23 October 1943** Letter from a young man in Copenhagen describing life in the capital:

- *“... 6-8 sabotage actions every day (or night), ... and the latest is that about 3000 Jews have fled from Amager to Sweden, it was very exciting, every evening boats sailed from Kastrup harbour with 7-120 Jews every time, ... (I helped with suitcases etc.), ...”*

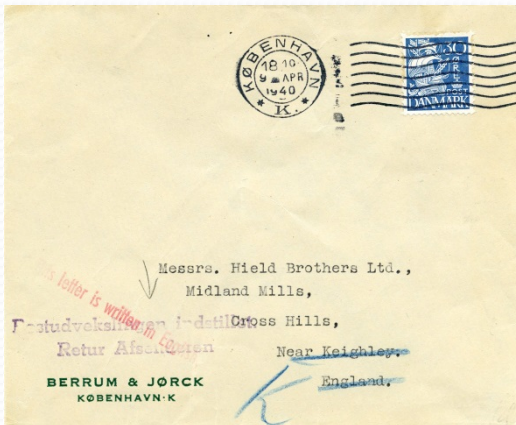
Herovre gaar det ved det gamle. 6-8 Sabotage tilfælde hver Dag (ell. Nat), lidt Skyden i Gaderne af og til, og nu sidst er der herfra Amager flygtet ca. 3.000 Jøder til Sverrig, det var meget spændende kan du tro, hver Aften sejlede der Både ud fra Kastrup Havn med lige fra 7 til 120 Jøder paa en Gang, hvis saa pludselig der blev raabt "Tyskerne kommer" kan du tro at der kom fart over os alle, gemte os i Beskyttelsesrum og andre mærkelige Steder, en Aften var vi helt omringet af Tyskere (jeg hjalp til med Kuffertyer o. l.), men saa kom det danske Politi med Politibiler og tog os med, men de satte os af igen saasnart vi var uden for Tyskernes Rækkevidde.

The Frøslev Camp

- The camp at **Frøslev** was built during the Summer of 1944 and was ready from 13 August 1944. The Danish authorities and the occupying powers had agreed that Danish prisoners could be interned at Frøslev and not deported to camps in Germany. Many internees from Horserød and other camps and prisons were moved here. The camp held twelve barracks for male and two barracks for female internees.
- **3 January 1945** Cover to an internee at Frøslev. It has censorship handstamp **Geprüft / P.G.L. Frøslev** and handwritten initials.
- The camp refused receipt, pink label **Lejren nægter Modtagelse**, and the letter was returned with handwritten **Retur** on front and back. It was resealed with the official Post Office label.



Returned Mail



- **9 April 1940** Cover to England cancelled in Copenhagen on the day of the occupation, and with handstamps **Postudvekslingen indstillet / Retur Afsenderen** (Mail halted / Return to Sender) and **This letter is written in English**. Uncensored.



- **19 June 1941** Cover from Copenhagen to Moscow. Censored and resealed in Berlin with **Oberkommando der Wehrmacht / b** and returned with **Zurück - Kein Postverkehr ABP** (Return - No Mail).
- Germany attacked the Soviet Union on **22 June 1941**.



- **3 December 1941** Christmas airmail cover from Copenhagen to New York, censored in Berlin (circled **Ab**) and with handstamp **Zurück / Postverkehr eingestellt** (Return / Mail halted).
- The USA entered World War II after the attack on Pearl Harbour on **7 December 1941**.

Undercover Mail

- **12 September 1940** Cover from Copenhagen via **PO Box 506** in Lisbon (under the label), an undercover address for mail from Denmark to the UK, operated by Thomas Cook, to Sven Tillge-Rasmussen, arriving in London 27 December 1940.
- Censored and resealed in Munich with handstamp **Geprüft / Oberkommando der Wehrmacht** on the reverse, and by the British with **P.C.90 OPENED BY EXAMINER 1025**.



- Tillge-Rasmussen happened to be in London on 9 April 1940 and became a news reader with the BBC service in Danish. From 1941 he was a member of the Danish Council in London.


Illegal Papers

- The fifth issue **February 1944** of the illegal newspaper **DE FRIE DANSKE**.
- The front page refers to an article on the preparation for the **Invasion** and carries photographs of **General Eisenhower** and **Field Marshall Montgomery**, as well as **Christmas Møller** of the Danish Council in London with Foreign Secretary **Anthony Eden**.
- Several articles were written by members of **Frihedsrådet**, The illegal Freedom Council, in Copenhagen.
- *All illegal papers and leaflets carried notes that they should be passed on to as many people as possible to spread the information.*



Humour

- Allied air dropped leaflets in the form of a bill to **Mr A Hitler (in Liquidation)** from the Company Denmark, for food and irrecoverable cheques at a total of 1,059,900,000 Kroner - **Second reminder**.

 **REGNING**
FRA FORRETNINGEN
DANMARK

til Herr A.HITLER (i Likvidation)

Leveret Varer fra 9.4.40 til 31.12.40.	Kroner.
400,000 Stk.Kvæg	
780,000 Stk.Griise	
24,000 Stk.Heste	
140,000 Tons Flæskekød	
90,000 Tons Smør	
70 Mill.Snese Æg	
Heraf henstod pr.31.3.1941 ubetalt paa Nationalbankens Clearing-Conto.....	498,500,000
Deres Repræsentant i Danmark, Wehrmacht, har desuden udstedt dårligtbetalte Checks, kendt som Reichskreditkassenscheine, til et Beløb af	561,400,000
Ialt	1,059,900,000

Vi ser os nødsaget til at standse
Leveringen af yderligere Varepartier
medmindre vi i den nærmeste Fremtid
modtager et passende Afdrag.Iøvrigt
afventer vi Likvidationens Resultat.

810

Sabotage

- The **Hvidsten Group** was one of the most famous resistance groups, who specialised in receiving parachutists and materials for the resistance movement. They had their base at **Hvidsten Kro** (inn), where the owner, **Marius Fiil**, headed the group. Members of the group were arrested by the Gestapo on 11 March 1944, and eight of the men were executed on 29 June, including Fiil, his son and his son-in-law. Four other men and the two women, Fiil's daughters, were deported to Germany.



- Original photograph of **railway sabotage** by one of the local Holstebro resistance groups in Northwest Jutland.



The Danish Police

- *Even if the Danish Government had resigned after 29 August 1943, civil servants continued with their work, as did the Police, but their work became increasing fraught as they refused to follow orders from the Nazis. On **19 September 1944** all police stations were occupied with 2,000 police officers arrested and deported to the **Buchenwald** concentration camp. Of the remaining 7,000, who avoided capture, many joined the resistance movement.*
- *During the Winter and Spring of 1945 Danish authorities together with the Red Cross and the Swedish **Count Folke Bernadotte** negotiated with Heinrich Himmler (the Nazi Home secretary and Chief of the SS and the Gestapo) and his Deputy and succeeded in gathering about 10,000 Danish and Norwegian prisoners, first in the Stalags at Mühlberg near Weimar, then in Neuengamme near Hamburg, before transporting them on the “**White Buses**” via Frøslev to Sweden, where they had to stay until the end of the war.*
- **11 March 1945** Formula PoW letter from a police officer in **Stalag IVB** with censorship handstamp **45 / Geprüft / Stalag IVB**.
Two lines of the letter have been chemical removed.
- The handstamp **+** / **DANSK RØDE KORS** / **28 MRS. 1945** / **CROIX ROUGE DANMARK** indicates that the letter was carried by Folke Bernadotte’s “White buses”. Note the word **Dane**.



Danes in Sweden

- *Many Danes, members of the resistance movement, members of the armed forces, and police officers had to flee to Sweden to avoid capture by the Nazis. They were provided for by the Swedish authorities, but all adult and healthy refugees had to work in the woods or on road building.*
 - *In the beginning of **1944** training began to build a **Danish Brigade**. It consisted of military personnel, police officers, resistance fighters, and other volunteers, who had to flee the Nazi regime in Denmark. They were trained in various camps in Sweden in readiness for military action if the war should move on to Danish soil.*
 - *By **April 1945** there were five battalions and various auxiliary units amounting to 3350 men and women. As Germany surrendered on 5 May 1945 without any fighting in Denmark, the Brigade was allocated other tasks in the aftermath of the liberation, for example border duty and guarding refugee camps. It was disbanded on 10 July 1945.*
-
- ☒ **11 December 1944** Letter from Nissafors in Sweden thanking the recipient for helping the writer to escape across Øresund to Sweden. "...the letter is sent illegally so please reply in the same manner."
 - It has the handstamp **KAN IKKE EXPEDERES** on both the envelope and the letter sheet.



Liberation

- **5 May 1945** Newspaper bill
- for the national newspaper **POLITIKEN**.

**Denmark's
Liberation
Nation Elated
The new Government**



Liberation

- Unrecorded label with the first verse of **Frihedssangen** (The Freedom Hymn) “A winter long and dark and hard”. Music by Knudåge Riisager and text by Sv Møller Kristensen, 1945.



- Photographic postcard, unused, from Kongens Nytorv in Copenhagen, celebrating the peace in May 1945.



Collaborators



- Collaborators being arrested by members of the resistance movement, identified by the blue, red and white armbands.



- “**Hände hoch**” for Nazi collaborators. The sign “Sandbæks Plageaand” (Sandbæk’s tormentor) probably refers to Pastor Harald Sandbæk.
- A member of the resistance movement, he was arrested and tortured at the Gestapo Head Quarters in Aarhus. He escaped during the RAF bombardment on 31 October 1944 and fled to Sweden.

Post Liberation



- ☒ **14 October 1945** Sunday letter postcard, indicated by the red cross and text *Søndagsbrev*. The label celebrated the 75-year birthday of King Christian X on 26 September.
- The card has censorship handstamp **CENSORED / S.H.A.E.F. MISSION / DENMARK**. A division of SHAEF, the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, was present in Denmark from 6 May until 14 July 1945, while a British Military Mission stayed on. A rare item.

Refugees

- The aim of this part of the display is to provide an overview of the refugee camps in Denmark from May 1945 to February 1949 through mail to and from the camps, as well as with illustrative items and ephemera. Such material cannot by its nature be very colourful, most forms are printed and photographs from the period are usually in black and white.
- As the mail covers both incoming and outgoing letters, and as a number of the envelopes have contents, a social and human history is revealed, not only about daily life in the camps, but also about living conditions in Germany. But it is the hand stamped censorship markings, which give the most reliable picture of the number of camps and the amount of mail.
- Statistics from the Oksbøl camp are the only ones published in *Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949* (Refugees in Denmark 1945-1949).

Refugees



- ***Flygtninge i Danmark, 1945-1949*** - Refugees in Denmark 1945-1949 - is the official publication, July 1950, describing the tasks allocated to **Flygtningeadministrationen** - The Refugee Administration - a government committee set up as part of the Danish Home Office to deal with the problem of the 250,000 refugees, who found themselves in Denmark in May 1945. At that time Denmark had a population of 3 ½ million.

Refugees

- During the winter of 1944-1945 until the end of World War II in Europe in May, refugees of many nationalities fled to Denmark.
- These were mainly Germans, Poles, and Russians, but also nationals from the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania with whom Scandinavia has a special historic relationship.
- At the end of the War, the Allied Powers in Germany (Britain, France, the USA, and the USSR) did not wish immediately to accept the 250,000 refugees from Denmark, and some stayed in camps up until February 1949.

Refugees

- The map shows Europe in the 1920s, illustrating the homelands of the refugees coming to Denmark and the obvious route across the Baltic Sea or by railway into Jutland.



Refugees

- The refugees were spread all over Denmark, and the Danish Government therefore set up a special organisation, **Flygtningeadministrationen** (The Refugee Administration), to oversee all aspects of the administration of the refugee camps. During the summer of 1945 all refugees were registered to distinguish the different categories to be dispersed to the various, smaller or larger camps.
- Nationalities were mainly kept together, although Germans who had fled the Nazi-regime (for example Jews and Social-Democrats) were placed in different camps from other German refugees, as were the “ikke-tyske flygtninge” (non-German refugees) consisting of allied “Displaced Persons”.
- **Dansk Røde Kors** (the Danish Red Cross) administered the camps for Displaced Persons, the others were administered by **Statens Civile Luftværn** (A.R.P. - Air Raid Precautions/Civil Defence).
- **Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949** is the official account of the period. The official administration of the camps was undertaken by Danes with a Danish camp leader, ranging from ex-resistance members to army or civil defence officers, but the daily internal organisation of work, cooking, education, cultural pursuits, religious services, and many health functions was undertaken by the refugees themselves. Guard duties were provided by members of the Danish Civil Defence.

Refugees – Woman and Children



- **Flygtning 71** issued **26 March 1971** for the Nordic campaign for refugees.
- Designed by Povl Christensen.
- Original print.

Camp Populations

- Information from the original typed list from **Statens Civile Luftværn** announcing **Changes during the period from 1 February to 15 March 1946 to the Camp List of 1 January 1946.**
- By comparing the original quarterly lists from 1946, it is clear to see how the reduction in the number of camps took place due to refugees being moved from schools, sports halls, small hotels, and smaller camps to the large camps. Thus the **1 June 1946** list of five pages still includes some schools and sports centres as well as special hospitals, but four months later on **1 October 1946** the list of camps has decreased to four pages. A lot of pressure was exercised to make schools available for the education of Danish children.

Date		No of Refugees	No of Camps
8 May	1945	244,493	1,101
1 October	1945	200,321	465
1 July	1946	198,000	142

Date		No of Refugees	No of Camps
1 January	1947	179,205	90
1 January	1948	66,518	23
1 January	1949	2,365	7

Summary of the largest camps.

Camp	Town	1 June 1946
Kløvermarken	Copenhagen	16,671
Flyveplads Vest	Aalborg	6,555
Flyveplads Øst	Aalborg	11,848
Other camps near	Aalborg/Nr Sundby	16,400

Camp	Town	1 June 1946
Grove-Gedhus	Karup	11,733
Ry Flyveplads	Ry	6,132
Rom	Lemvig	8,784
Oksbøl	Esbjerg	34,985

Postal Censorship and Mail

- The first week after the liberation on **5 May 1945** had no censorship, but from **13 May** - following allied pressure - **Udlandspostkontrollen** (The Foreign Mail Control) was established by the Danish authorities, and Denmark exercised censorship on mail to all countries from **13 May to 5 October 1945**. (Officielle Meddelelser, 10 October 1945, Nr. 41.) Censorship of mail to the Axis countries continued until **2 February 1946**, and mail to Germany (Japan and Spain) was censored until **31 March 1947**. (Rudbeck and Kjærgaard, Censuren i Danmark 1940-1947.)
- However, evidence does seem to indicate that censorship by **Udlandspostkontrollen** was, at least unofficially, being phased out during the latter half of 1946. It also appears that mail to Red Cross offices and similar search organisations abroad were never censored. Incoming letters from Germany would normally be censored by the relevant Allied authorities there and were rarely checked in the camps.
- Up until **5 December 1945**, refugees were only permitted to send inland letters, including mail to other camps, although from November German doctors and nurses were allowed to send letters to Germany. From **5 December** foreign mail was permitted except to Germany, and not until **4 April 1946** were refugees allowed correspondence with Germany. Statistics and the availability of postal material bear evidence to the large increase in letters after this date.
- Outgoing letters from the camps carried Danish stamps or the meter marks of the local post office. Mail from the smaller camps was not censored, but this might have been undertaken at the nearest larger camp. Such camps often had several versions of censorship hand stamps, but there is no complete list of these camp stamps, censorship or other types of rubber stamps.

Postal Censorship and Mail

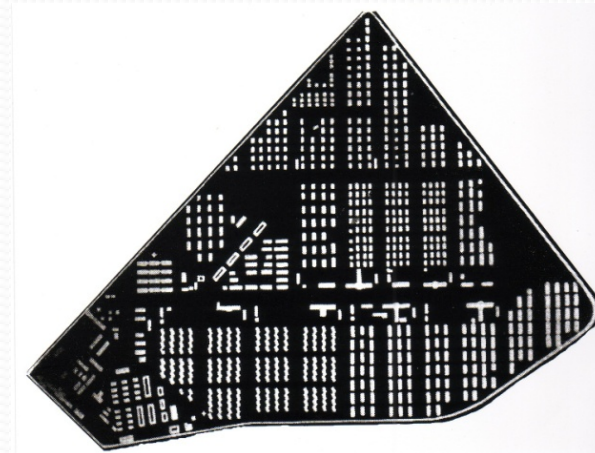
- The importance of letter writing can be seen from statistics from the **Oksbøl** camp, where almost 2½ million letters were sent just in the years 1946, 1947, and 1948.
- 295,483 items were inter-camp mail, 244,746 were foreign letters, not including letters to Germany amounting to 1,892,217 items. There are no statistics on incoming mail and parcels.
- Source: *Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949*.
- The many letters all bear witness to the desperate need to find relatives, spread far and wide, as millions of people had been displaced or fled from their homelands during the war. Letter writing among the refugees was permitted at an early stage, although with limitations in length and content, and with censorship.
- Refugee boys fetching the mail at the camp post office.
- Source: *Det Kongelige Bibliotek Billedbasen*.



Copenhagen: Kløvermarken

- *In the Summer of 1945 Copenhagen and the surrounding areas housed about 90,000 refugees, so approximately 40 hectares of land belonging to the Ministry of War was chosen to establish the large refugee camp at **Kløvermarken** on the island of Amager.*
- By September 1945 wooden barracks began to arrive from Sweden, and during the Autumn a complete infrastructure encompassing water, sanitation, sewage, electrical installations, and heating was built, as well as approximately 6 km of roads.
- The refugees were housed in 950 barracks, including barracks for hospitals, schools, workshops, washing and bathing areas, dental clinics, nurseries, churches, sport and leisure facilities.

- Aerial plan of **Kløvermarken**
from *Flygtninge i Danmark 1945-1949*.



Copenhagen: Kløvermarken and Jagtvej 34



- **26 July 1946** cover from a refugee at **Kløvermarken Lager 130** to the Kirchl. Suchdienst (Church Search Service) in Berlin with censorship hand stamp **Lejr Nr. 130 / Kløvermarken / Amager**.

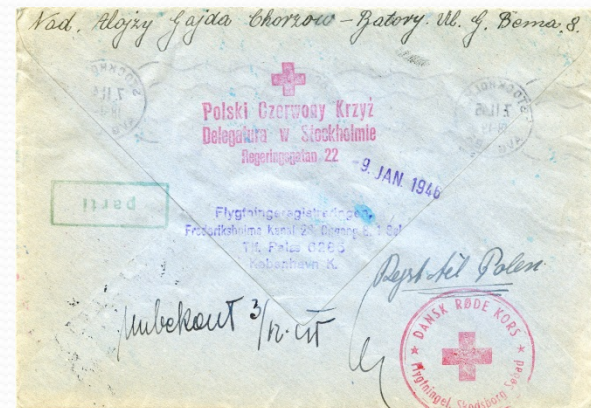


- ☒ **19 September 1945** cover to the Croix-Rouge-Genève from a refugee at **Jagtvej 34 / Lager 72** in Copenhagen.
- The school at Jagtvejen was cleared by 1 February 1946, Statens Civile Luftværns list No **39**.
- Censored by the Danish authorities with the Type 2 label **Udlandspost-kontrollen q Danmark** and hand stamp **q 520 DANMARK** on the front.

North Sealand: Allied Refugees

- A number of large villas, seaside and spa hotels in **North Zealand** were used for the internment of allied refugees.

- **7 November 1945** letter from the Polish Red Cross office in Stockholm to a Polish refugee at **Skodsborg Søbad**, where it received the hand stamp **DANSK RØDE KORS / + / Flygtningel. Skodsborg Søbad**.
- The letter was redirected twice in Copenhagen, to a private address and to **Flygtningeregistreringen** (the Refugee Register) 9 January 1946.
- With a handwritten note: **Rejst til Polen** (Left for Poland) on the reverse, the letter was returned **16 January 1946** with various green “return” hand stamps.

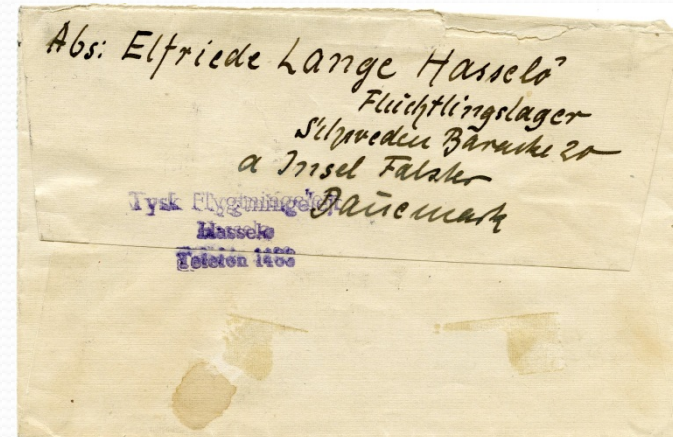


Sealand: Køge



- **4 December 1945** registered airmail cover from Poland to the Danish Red Cross camp for Polish refugee at **Køge** with censorship hand stamp **Sprawdzone przez / cenzura wojskowa / 1046** (Checked by military censorship 1046).

Lolland-Falster: Hasselø



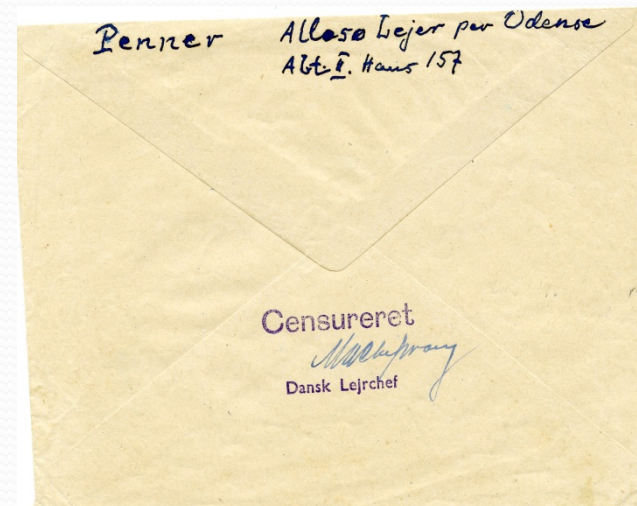
- The number of refugees on the islands of Lolland-Falster in May 1945 was about 7,400. The Hasselø camp alone held up to 3,800, and it was the last camp to be closed on Lolland-Falster in the Spring of 1947.
- **April 1947** airmail cover from a refugee at the **Hasselø** camp to Litchfield, Connecticut, USA. Censored with hand stamp **Tysk Flygtningelejr / Hasselø / Telefon 1488**.

Funen

- The German radar station in **Skovby** was used by British forces immediately after the capitulation. On their departure the site was designated a refugee camp. It closed 6 February 1947, when the remaining refugees were transferred to the Oksbøl camp.

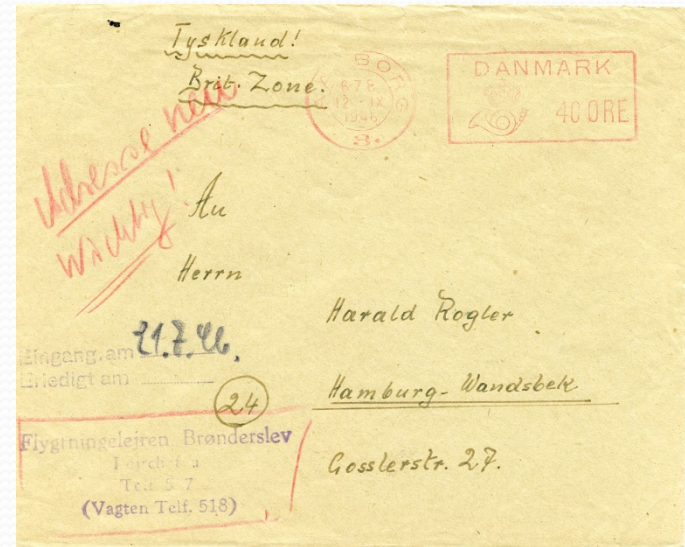


- 3 April 1946** cover from **Luftværnskontoret / Bogense** with hand stamp **Skovbylejren / pr. Kassemose / Telf. Bogense 349** sent to the DRK Refugee Department in Copenhagen.



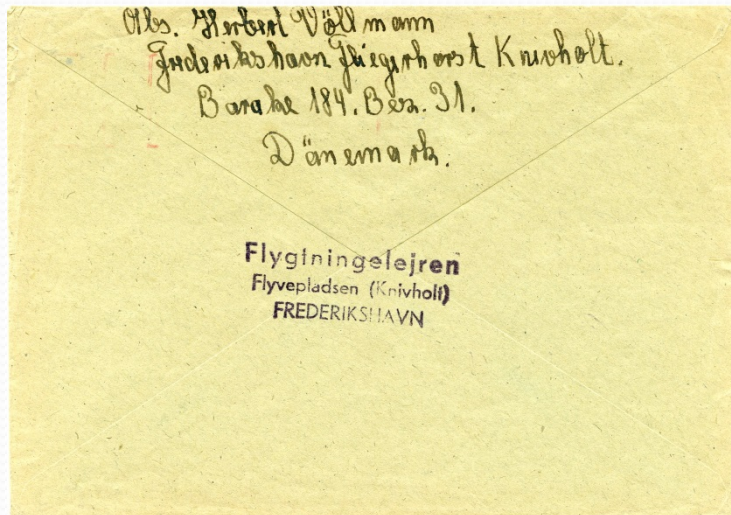
- 22 January 1946** cover from the **Allesø** camp near Odense to a German lawyer in refugee camp No. 3 in **Hjørring** with censorship hand stamp and the signature of the Danish camp leader **Censureret / Mackeprang / Dansk Lejrchef**.

North Jutland: Hjørring and Brønderslev



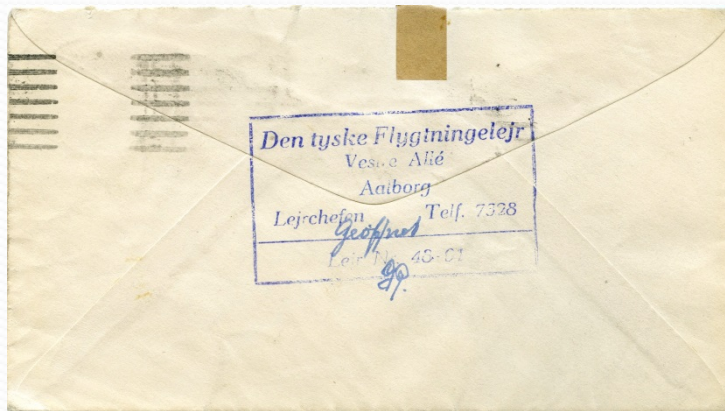
- **16 November 1946** postcard from **Lager 52-05** in Hjørring to Berlin with censorship hand stamp **Luftværnskontoret / Hjørring**.
- The sentence "*ob ich gut aus der russischen Zone in die englische nach Berlin reinkomme*", shows the concern among many refugees about the return to the allied occupation zone of their choice.
- **12 November 1946** cover from a refugee in **Camp 52-01** in **Brønderslev** to Hamburg with hand stamp **Flygtningelejren Brønderslev / Lejrchefen / Telf. 577 / (Vagten Telf. 518)** and with **censureret** and initials on the reverse.
- This camp was established in June 1945, it held approx.. 1,400 refugees until it was cleared early 1947.

North Jutland: Frederikshavn and Sæby



- **19 July 1946** cover to the Zentralbüro Ost des Hilfswerkes der ev. Kirche in Berlin from a refugee at **Fliegerhorst Knivholt** with censorship hand stamp **Flygtningelejren / Flyvepladsen (Knivholt) / FREDERIKSHAVN**.
- Statens Civile Luftværns list No 190/A of 1 June 1946 states 2,451 refugees, rising to 5,254 by 1 October.
- ☒ **23 April 1946** postcard from the **Sæby West** camp to Meissen in the Russian zone with the rare censorship hand stamp in green **q / LUFTVÆRNSKONTORET / SÆBY**.
- The Sæby West camp held 1,656 refugees by 1 June 1946 (Statens Civile Luftværns list No 190/A).

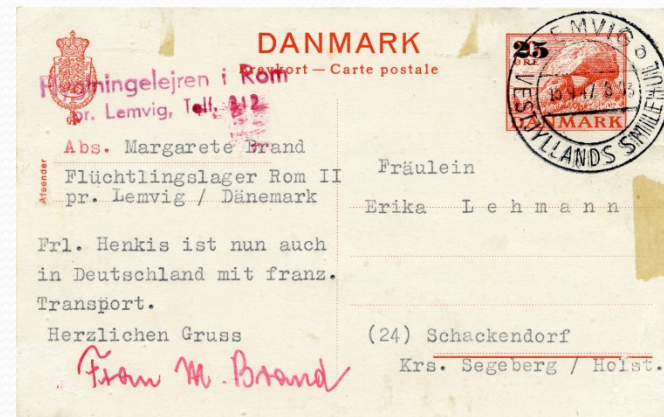
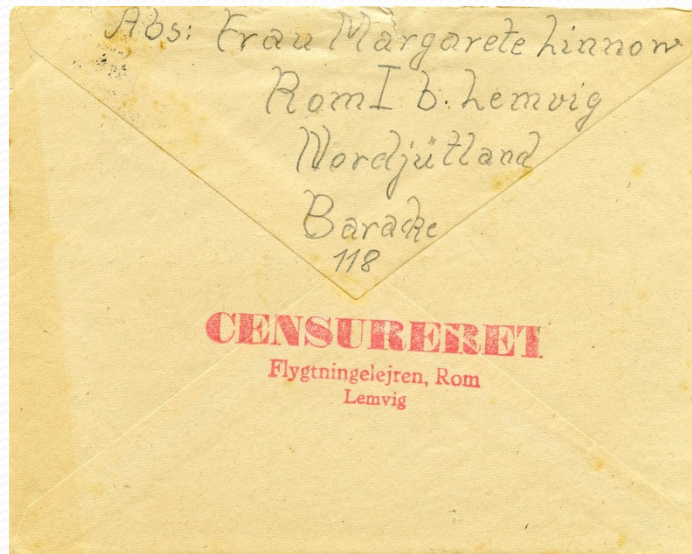
North Jutland: Aalborg



- **21 February 1947** cover from New Orleans in the USA to a refugee in **Lager 48-01** in Ålborg with censorship hand stamp *Den tyske Flygtningelejr / Vestre Allé / Aalborg / Lejrchefen Telf. 7328 / Lejr Nr. 48-01* and with *Geöffnet* and initialed in ink
- **10 March 1948** cover from **49-06 Aalborg Lufthavn Vest** to a German Prisoner of War in **Egypt** with two Danish censorship hand stamps *Krankenrevier Thistedvej / Aalborg* and *LUFTVÆRNS-KONTORET / POST / AALBORG*. Also with British arrival hand stamp **BASE ARMY POST OFFICE / 4 / * / 13 MR / 48**.
- Larger camps often had hospitals within the camp area.

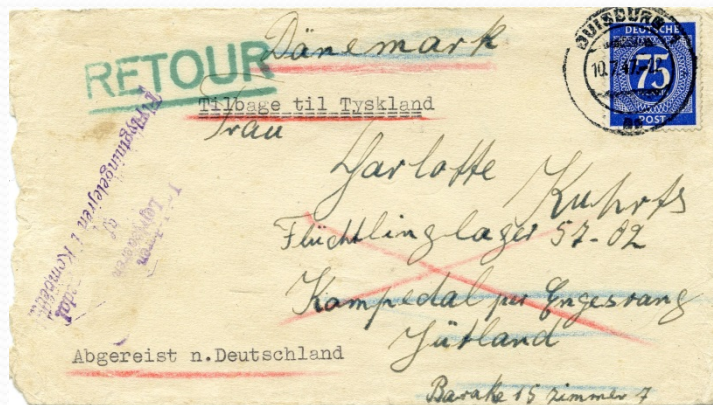
North West Jutland: Lemvig

- At the airfield at **Rom** near Lemvig up to 8,800 refugees were gathered in the twin camps of Rom I and Rom II from all the smaller camps in the area, according to Statens Civile Luftværn's list No 190/A of 1 June 1946.



- 23 January 1946** letter from a refugee in the **Rom I** camp near Lemvig with censorship hand stamp **CENSURERET / Flygtningelejren, Rom / Lemvig**.
- "In this camp things seem to be better organised and we are allowed to write more."
- 15 September 1947** postcard with 25/20 øre over-print, foreign postcard rate, with censorship hand stamp **Flygtningelejren i Rom / pr. Lemvig, Telf. 312**.
- Margarete Brand in **Rom II** writes, "Our camp is being dissolved. We are tidying up and clearing out. Much is left behind and all barracks must be repaired. We are about 450 people. Miss H. has gone to Germany with the French transport."

Mid Jutland: Kompedal (Karup) and Hald Ege (Viborg)



- ☒ **10 July 1947** cover from German Prisoner of War in the **Munster Lager** near **Hannover** to his wife or mother in **Flüchtlingslager 52-02** at **Kompedal** with arrival censorship hand stamp *Lejrlederen / af / Flygtningelejren i Kompedal*. The letter was returned, **RETOUR** with typed note, Abgereist n. Deutschland (Returned to Germany).

Hald Ege near **Viborg** continued its long tradition of housing internees and refugees. **Dansk Røde Kors** administered this camp for Polish refugees.

27 November 1945 cover with **Interneret Post / Portofri** on the front from the **Hald Ege** camp with censorship hand stamp **Polski Obóz im./ Gen. Sikorskiego / pieczęć służbowa / w. Hald Ege - pr. Viborg** (Polish Camp named General Sikorski / hand stamp cancel).

Mid Jutland: Grove-Gedhus (Karup)

- **Grove** and **Gedhus** were twin camps near the airfield at Karup, established by the Luftwaffe in 1940 as Fliegerhorst Grove.
- During the summer of 1945 it was transformed to a camp for German refugees, and by 15 September 1946 Grove had 7,447 refugees and Gedhus 5,476. The Gedhus camp was closed in October 1947 and Grove a little later.

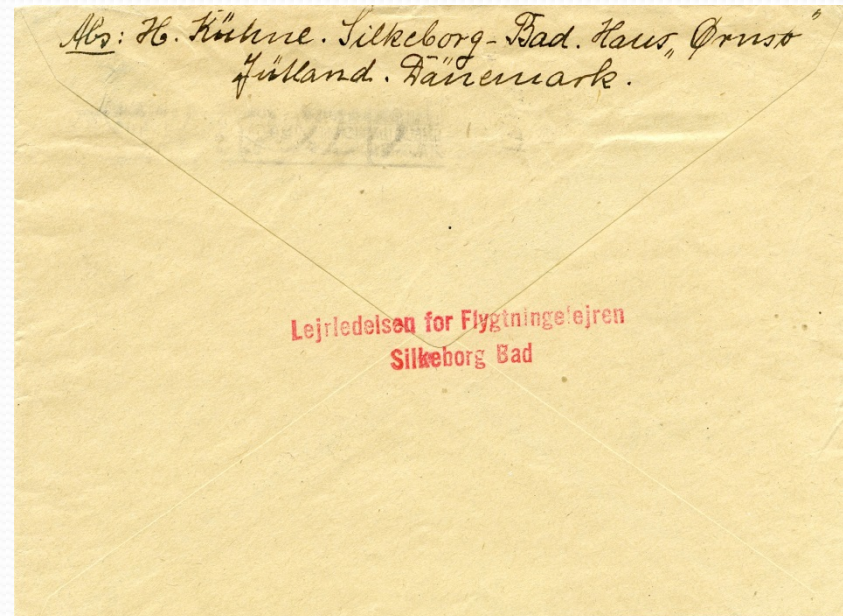


- **25 April 1946** cover from a refugee at the **Grove** camp to Aussig in Czechoslovakia with censorship hand stamp **Grove- /Gedhus / POST / KONTROL**. Returned **VYVOLANO v Ústí nad Labem 1 / adresát všem deručovatelům neznámý** (Addressee unknown).
- ☒ **27 July 1948** cover from Sweden to a refugee at **Grove**, censored and sealed with brown tape and the rare hand stamp **CENSURERET / GROVE-GEDHUS** on the front and the reverse.

Mid Jutland: Silkeborg

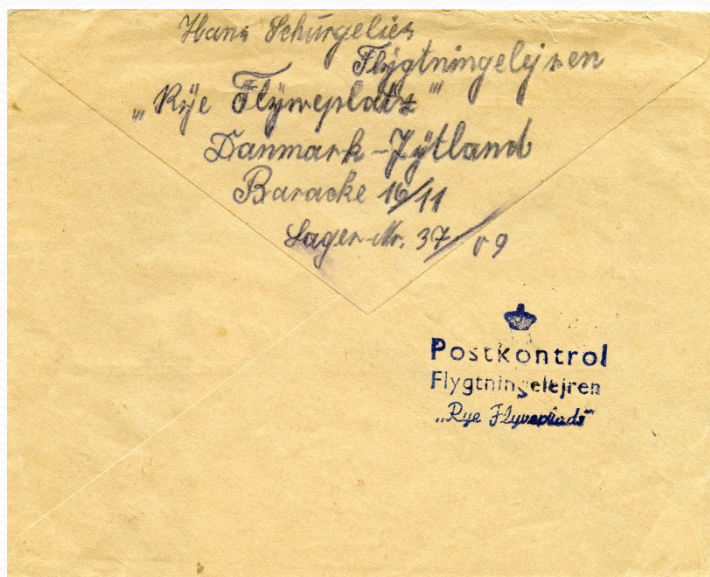
- **Silkeborg**, in the middle of Jutland, had been the German Military Head Quarters in Denmark since the Spring of 1943, first for General Hermann von Hanneken and from 1 February 1945 for General Colonel George Lindemann.
- Hotels and schools were occupied by the variety of auxiliary units necessary to support the Head Quarters at **Silkeborg Bad**, previously a renowned spa.
- In November 1945 Silkeborg had 213 refugees, but by the 1 October 1946 this had increased to 3,796, according to Statens Civile Luftværns list. The majority of these were housed at Silkeborg Bad.

- **25 June 1946** cover to Berlin from a refugee at **Silkeborg Bad Haus "Ørnsø"**, one of the many buildings at Silkeborg Bad, with censorship hand stamp **Lejrledelsen for Flygtningelejren / Silkeborg Bad**.



Mid Jutland: Ry

- **Ry**, south-east of Silkeborg had been a German airfield, and just after the war the buildings and barracks were used to house 1,100 German refugees. The camp increased as many smaller camps were closed, and it held 6,938 refugees by 1 October 1946, including two hospital buildings.



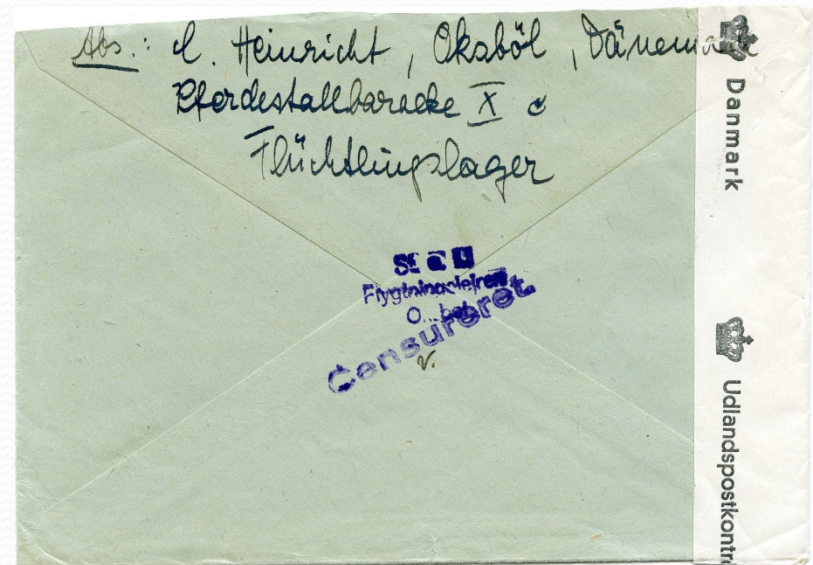
Vaccination card. Vakcinations Karte.	
Name:	Hack Hermann
born (geboren)	17.5.1886
Tyf. Paratyf. I	18 JUNI 1945
Tyf. Paratyf. II	24 JUNI 1945
Tyf. Paratyf. III	20 JUNI 1946

300.000-5-45, III-2.

- ☒ Middle right - **10 November 1947** cover from **Rye Flyveplads Lager Nr. 37-09** to New York with the rare censorship hand stamp **q** / **Post-kontrol** / **Flygtningelejren** / **"Rye Flyveplads"**.
- Vaccination card for **Hermann Mack** for paratyphoid stamped in **June 1945** with **REVACCINATION** and **STATENS SERUMINSTITUT** in 1946 on the reverse.

South West Jutland: Oksbøl

- The building of the camp at **Oxbøl**, or Oksbøl, began in **June 1945**, and by Christmas there was room for 20,000 refugees. The camp was gradually extended to comprise hospitals, schools, churches, a prison, administrative offices, and various buildings to provide the large infrastructure for this “new town”, for example the camp had its own water works and a complete sewage system. By September 1946 the camp housed 35,000 refugees.
 - The refugees established their own town council with a mayor and their own 300 strong police force. About 900 births took place, and more than 12,000 of the refugees were below 14 years of age. The cemetery for the about 1,400 deaths from Oksbøl was later enlarged to incorporate further burials, so the total number buried at the Oksbøl cemetery now is 1,675 refugees and 121 soldiers.
-
- **15 September 1945** cover to Sweden with double censorship hand stamp **St. c. L / Flygtningelejren / Oksbøl** and **Censureret** with handwritten initial.
 - Also with the Danish Type 1 sealing label **Udlandspostkontrollen q Danmark** and the Type 2 hand stamp **q / 364 / DANMARK** on the front.



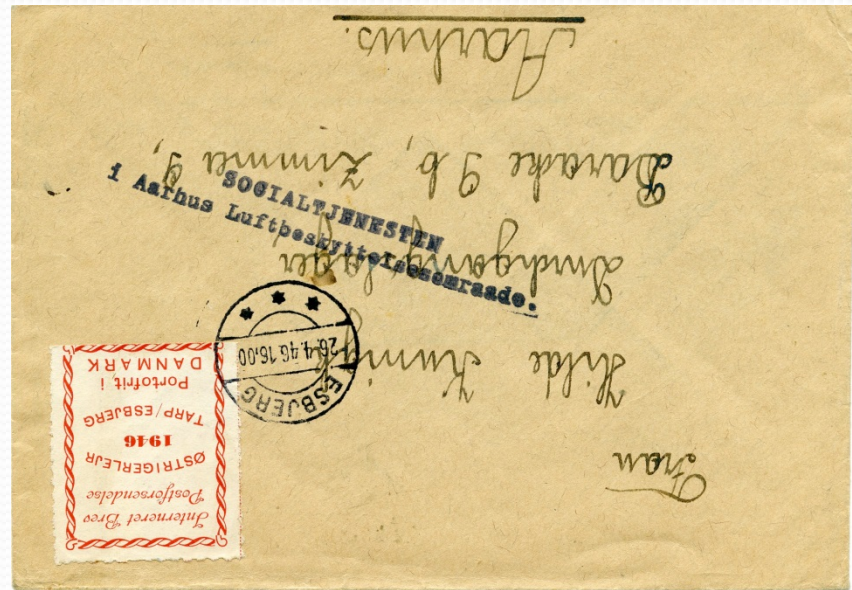
South Jutland: Bramminge and Hørup Klint



- ☒ Top left - **21 June 1946** postcard from a refugee at **Flüchtlingslager Bramminge** to a relative in **Lager 301 Dienst-gruppe 930** near Hannover with censorship hand stamp **q / FLYGTNINGE-LEJREN 65-09 / BRAMMINGE HOVEDGAARD / BRAMMINGE**.
- According to Statens Civile Luft-værns list No 190/A of 1 June 1946 this camp housed 497 refugees.
- ☒ Bottom right - **13 August 1947** cover from Berlin to the German dentist at the camp at **Hørup Klint** at Kirkehørup on Als, censored and sealed with label **OPENED BY / MIL. CEN.-CIVIL MAILS** and hand stamp **U.S. CIVIL CENSORSHIP / PASSED / 30099 / GERMANY**. It was redirected to the **Oksbøl** camp with arrival censorship hand stamp **q / St. c. L. / LEJRCHEFEN / I OXBØL** on the reverse.
- According to Statens Civile Luftværns list No 190/A the Hørup Klint camp housed 1,266 by 1 October 1946, while the attached refugee hospital had 109 patients .

Transit Camps: Århus

- During 1946 negotiations started regarding the return of the refugees to the four allied occupation zones in Germany, including Berlin, where the refugees had family, property or another connection. Approximately 116,000 refugees could be allocated to an appropriate zone, but the remaining 74,000 were declared stateless. To facilitate the return a number of camps were nominated as collection points, including Frederikshavn, Ålborg, Århus, Rom, Grove-Gedhus, Oksbøl, Kolding, Skrydstrup, Tønder, and Kløvermarken in Copenhagen.
- ☒ Bottom right - **26 April 1946** cover from the DRK office in Skolegade in Esbjerg with Tarp label to the **Durchgangslager B.10/5** with the scarce censorship hand stamp **SOCIALTJENESTEN / i Aarhus Luftbeskyttelsesomraade**.



Transit Camps: Kolding

Passerseddel. (Passierschein) N^o 318697

Obs: Bei der Ausfüllung dürfen nur lateinische Buchstaben verwendet werden.

Navn: *Lisbeth Maak* i 1 Per
(Name)

Født den: *34-01* i *Lyn IV*
(født den) (in)

Lejr Nr.: *34-01* Adresse: *Lyn IV*
(Lager Nr.)

har Tilladelse til at forlade Lejren 1 Gang Dags Dato
(erhålder die Erlaubnis zum einmaligen verlassen des Lagers am heutigen Tage)

mellem Kl. *14⁰⁰* og Kl. *19⁰⁰* for at *Lyn II*
(zwischen) (Uhr: und) (Uhr: zwecks) *Gennemgangslejren*

Dato: *6-2* 194 *9* *Kolding*
(Lejreleder (Lagerleiter))

Udfyldes af den danske Vagt i Flytningeforlæggningen: Udfyldes af den danske Vagt ved Sygehus, Klinik etc.

Udgaaet Kl. *14⁰⁰* Ind Kl. *19⁰⁰*

Hjemkommet Kl. *18⁴⁵* Ud Kl. *18⁴⁵*

Underskrift: *Skov* Underskrift: *981. Husemand*

Underskrift: *939. Husemand*

- **6 February 1949** permit for **Lisbeth Maak** and 1 person to leave Camp IV No. 34-01 for a hospital appointment in Camp II with the hand stamp **Gennemgangslejren / Kolding / LEJR IV**, signed in black ink by Skov.
- *Lisbeth and her father Herman Maak had stayed in the camp at **Ry Flyveplads** since June 1945.*



- Unused postcard produced by the national tabloid newspaper *Ekstrabladet* and sold for a children's charity. The text reads,

The last German Refugee, an 18-month-old boy, leaves Denmark on 15 February 1949



Collectors Club New York

Thank you