

Survey: Selection of Cancellations used on board German and American ships on the North Atlantic route

Most of the German and American cancellations of Sea Post Offices do not show the ship name. If the writer does not mention the ship or if there is no other hint, the ship remains unknown. We are trying to identify all ships by comparing the sailing timetable with the dates of the postal items and to allocate the anonymous cancellations accordingly to specific ships. The following list contains all types of anonymous cancellations used by the Sea Post Offices of the US and German steamship traffic on the North Atlantic route until WW II.

The dates of use listed and the allocated ship names represent the current knowledge of the community of collectors and are the result of intensive research over many years involving many collectors. If somebody has items with differing dates or items not yet recorded, we kindly ask them to send scans of these items (front and back sides please) to bernd.essler@gmx.de.

The target of this publication is to motivate collectors to look for similar items in their collection and to motivate them to alert us to any new information. Hopefully we can fill many gaps through the help of the community and finally allocate all trips of the ships to specific cancellations. The list will be updated continuously as soon as new information arrives. We have also listed some cancellations combined with specific questions concerning the period of use. We thank everybody for checking the list and for any information we receive.

1. Period 1889-1914 – (only German ships are used on the North Atlantic route to Germany until WW I).

1.1 German Cancellations

1.2.1 LINIE New York 1889-1892 with small letters a-l at right hand side



These cancellations were used on various steamers of the North German Lloyd, inaugurated at 9th Jan. 1889. The steamships of this service are completely identified until 1891, when the joint US-German service started. Some of the North German Lloyd steamships did not participate in the joint service and ran with only German postal equipment (hand stamps, cancellers, etc.) managed by the purser of the ship. Following you find all dates of use required. The service of LINIE NEW YORK stopped in 1892 or 1893. We are still looking for the very final use of these cancellations.

Letter "a"	from 31 st March 1891 onwards
Letter "b"	from 3 rd April 1891 onwards
Letter "c"	from 15 th June 1891 onwards
Letter "d"	from 7 th June 1891 onwards
Letter "e"	from 23 rd April 1891 onwards
Letter "f"	from 10 th Oct. 1891 onwards
Letter "g"	from 18 th May 1891 onwards
Letter "h"	from 17 th April 1891 onwards
Letter "i"	from 20 th April 1891 onwards
Letter "k"	from 9 th April 1891 onwards
Letter "l"	any cancellation

1.2.2 LINIE BREMEN-NEW YORK with small letter a-e 1906-1914



The North German Lloyd reset the postal service on board of his ships on the North Atlantic route in 1906 parallel to his ships participating in the joint US.-German service. The postal equipment was handled on board by the purser of the ship. No postal clerks travelled with these ships. The list contains the period of use of these five different cancellations, as far as

the ships are already identified. In summer 1913 more than five steamships were active on the North Atlantic route at the same time. We do not yet know if an additional cancellation was used or if these ships ran without postal equipment.

Note DD.MM.YYYY date format.

Letter “a”

03.-15.02.1906	BARBAROSSA
26.05.-06.10.1906	BARBAROSSA
04.05.-11.08.1907	PRINCESS ALICE
17.08.-21.10.1907	GNEISENAU
21.03.-12.11.1908	BARBAROSSA
01.-10.05.1909	BERLIN
05.06.-23.11.1909	GROSSER KURFÜRST
15.-26.01.1910	GROSSER KURFÜRST
14.05.-15.06.1910	PRINCESS ALICE
18.-30.06.1910	KÖNIGIN LUISE
28.07.-08.08.1910	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE
15.08.-26.11.1910	GROSSER KURFÜRST
15.-27.07.1911	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE
22.06.-23.09.1912	BERLIN
22.02.-03.05.1913	KLEIST
10.05.-08.06.1913	GROSSER KURFÜRST
28.06.-08.09.1913	BERLIN
20.12.1913-13.04.1914	BARBAROSSA
04.-27.07.1914	BERLIN

Letter “b”

02.03.-05.1906	GNEISENAU
02.06.-23.11.1906	BREMEN
01.06.-04.11.1907	BARBAROSSA
30.05.-07.09.1908	BREMEN
02.-29.03.1909	ROON
08.05.-07.06.1909	PRINCESS ALICE
24.12.1909-14.04.1910	BREMEN
12.06.1909-08.12.1912	GEORGE WASHINGTON
12.07.-10.08.1913	KÖNIG ALBERT
16.08.-22.12.1913	PRINZ FRIEDRICH WILHELM
07.03.-06.07.1914	PRINZ FRIEDRICH WILHELM

Letter “c”

18.04.-21.06.1906	GROSSER KURFÜRST
27.06.-26.07.1908	PRINCESS ALICE
19.06.-31.10.1909	BREMEN
10.09.1910-19.02.1911	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE
22.03.-17.04.1913	PRINZ FRIEDRICH WILHELM
17.05.-20.07.1913	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE

22.08.1912-07.01.1913	GROSSER KURFÜRST
15.-26.04.1913	GROSSER KURFÜRST
27.07.-28.08.1913	KÖNIGIN LUISE
28.08.-23.09.1913	GROSSER KURFÜRST
11.10.-19.12.1913	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE
03.01.-23.03.1914	SCHARNHORST

Letter “d”

31.03.-05.1906	SEYDLITZ
12.05.1906-21.02.1907	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE
06.07.-30.10.1907	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE
06.06.1908-20.05.1912	PRINZ FRIEDRICH WILHELM
17.08.-10.09.1912	BREMEN
13.04.1913-24.07 1914	BREMEN

Letter “e”

05.05.-11.08.1906	PRINCESS ALICE
11.05.-22.09.1907	BREMEN
14.10.-13.11.1907	ZIETEN
11.04.-19.07.1908	LÜTZOW
25.07.-11.10.1908	BÜLOW
05.11.1908-04.04.1909	SCHARNHORST
24.04.-10.10.1909	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE
16.10.-15.11.1909	BARBAROSSA
21.12.1909-02.01.1910	BARBAROSSA
06.05.1011-24.01.1912	BARBAROSSA
15.06.-12.07.1912	GROSSER KURFÜRST
02.12.1912-02.04.1913	BREMEN
24.05.-04.08.1913	PRINZ FRIEDRICH WILHELM
05.-30.08.1913	FRIEDRICH DER GROSSE
05.-22.07.1914	GROSSER KURFÜRST

1.2.3 LINIE HAMBURG-NEW YORK round cancellation with a roman cipher at the bottom I-XX



The cancellations were only used on HAPAG-Liners starting in Hamburg from New York, earlier than the US German Sea Post. The postal equipment was managed by the purser of the ship. It could happen that the US German postal clerks came on board these ships with additional postal equipment and it could happen that these cancellations have been used onboard in parallel with the US German Sea Post cancellations. Most of the cancellations

stayed on board for a long time even if the ship served for some time on other routes. In this case the postal equipment was not used during that period. But in 1913/1914 some of these ships went to Boston instead of New York and continued to use these cancellations for the route to Boston.

Number I.

26.10.1890-05.10.1894	RUSSIA
28.11.1894-17.11.1899	PATRIA
25.01.-08.1903	BULGARIA

Number II.

30/10-22.11.1890	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
02.09.1900-27.12.1906	GRAF WALDERSEE
27.05.1909-27.10.1912	the postal equipment stayed on board until 1914
21.05.1913-08.08.1914	CINCINNATI CINCINNATI

Number III.

31.10.1890-02.1893	
03.-09.1894	
07.-11.1895	
04.-12.1896	
04.-05.1897	all periods until 1897
	BOHEMIA
14.04.1903-13.07.1905	
02.09.1905-20.06.1907	
10.08.1907-19.03.1909	the postal equipment stayed on board during interruption.
	PRETORIA

Number IV.

07.11.1890-12.08.1894	RUGIA (1)
23.03.1897-18.10.1900	PENNSYLVANIA

Number V,

The cancellation was certainly used before 1900. No item recorded so far.

28.10.1900-19.07.1914	PENNSYLVANIA
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Number VI.

07.11.-28.11.1890	NOR;ANNIA
15.04.-14.07.1900	BATAVIA
03.03.-24.05.1900	BATAVIA
02.06.-30.11.1904	
03.05.-08.07.1905	
08.-19.09.1906	
01.-11.09.1908	

22.06.-03.10.1912		
24.12.1912-06.01.1913		
24.10.-16.12.1913		
24.01.-05.02.1914	all	HAMBURG

Number VII.

09..11.1890-11.03.1894		GELLERT
28.05.1895-09.08.1900		PALATIA
11.04.-14.07.1903		BATAVIA
25.07-28.08.1903		PRINZ SIGISMUND
27.05.-10.08.1905		RHAETIA

28.11.-21.12.1908		
22.07-15.08.1909		
16.04.11.05.1912		
02.10.-15.11.1912		
16.10.-15-11-1913	all	KAISERIN AUGUSTE VICTORIA

used on voyages when the joint US. German Sea post was not on board with the exception of the last voyage. On the last voyage this cancellation was used in addition.

Number VIII.

11.11.1890-06.1895		
19.04.-09.10.1896	both	SCANDIA

13.12.1902-25.04.1903		
06.-07.1903		
17.10.1903-01.01.1905	all	BELGRAVIA

01.12.1906-22.01.1907		
11.-21.04.1907		
21.11.1907-29.01.1908		
30.04.-20.06.1908		
30.07.-20.09.1908		
24.10.-24.11.1908		
25.04.-26.06.1909		
08.08.-13.11.1909		
06.-18.01.1910		
21.04.-08.07.1910	all	BLÜCHER

Number IX:

16.11.1890-03.1894		SUEVIA
24.05.1894-10.03.1898		P?RUSSIA

07.05.1899-15.04.1900		
06.01.1901-15.04.1909		
08.-11.1910		
08.-20.12.1911	all	PATRICIA

Number X.

23.11.1890-13.12.1894		RHAETIA (1)
13.01.1895-12.07.1900		
30.12.1900-16.03.1902		
04.07.-30.10.1903		
18.06-19.11.1904	all	PHOENICIA
28.10.1905-24.01.1906		MOLTKE

Number XI:

26.11.1890-16.12.1894		
08.1895-10.04.1896		
08.-09.1896		
27.11.1898-01.1899	all	MORAVIA
02.04.1899-23.08.1900		GRAF WALDERSEE
06.10.1901-17.10.1903		
01.-06.1904	both	PALATIA
11.10.1905-24.07.1914		AMERIKA

Number XII.

18.01.1891-14.01.1894		WIELAND
15.07.1894-20.12.1897		PERSIA
12.02.1898-10.06.1902		PRETORIA
18.09.-07.12.1902		PRETORIA
02.02.1907-11.10.1910		
22.01.-23.02.1912		
04.10.07.11.1913		
08.01.-32.07.1914	all	GRAF WALDERSEE

Number XIII.

30.11.1890-21.11.1895		DANIA
14.09.1907-28.10.1908		
04.04.1909-23.07.1910		
04.09.1910-10.01.1912		
03.02.1912-02.08.1914	all	PRESIDENT GRANT

Number XIV.

29.07.1900-17.09.1901		BULGARIA
07.06.1902-25.10.1903		

12.12.1903-04.07.1904
11.08.1904-26.02.1906 all BLÜCHER

07.04.1906-28.07.1907
19.12.1908-29.01.1909 both BATAVIA

Number XV.

11.1899-05.12.1900
06.-20.09.1901 both BELGRAVIA
09.03.1902-22.10.1905 MOLTKE

01.06.1907-14.11.1908
04.04.06-11.1909
08.01-16.07.1910 all PRESIDENT LINCOLN

21.08.-31.12.1910
12.-22.04.1911 both BLÜCHER

Number XVI.

27.05.1909-18.06.1913
10.07.-14.11.1913 both CLEVELAND

Number XVII.

20.12.1909-15.10.1911
04.01.-26.06.1912
29.08.1912-25.06.1914 PRETORIA

Number XVIII.

24.07.-29.10.1910
17.12.1910-09.08.1911
09.09.1911-04.08.1914 all PRESIDENT LINCOLN

Number XIX

Not yet recorded

Number XX.

21.02.1912-28.12.1913 PATRICIA

1.2 The joint US-GERMAN SEA POST 1891-1914

The joint service on board of North German Lloyd and HAPAG steamships started in 1891 and ended with the outbreak of WW I. A joint team of US and German postal clerks worked together on board and sorted the mail of the closed bags picked up in the ports. The regulation has foreseen that in the direction from Germany to the USA the German Reichspost was the

leading team and only German stamps and German cancellations should be used. On the voyage from USA to Germany the US team was leading and only US stamps and cancellations were used. This list only contains the cancellations of the North German Lloyd and the Americans, because all German cancellations used on board the HAPAG steamships are already known and allocated completely to specific steamships. Some trips were made only one-way, as when the ships changed to the Mediterranean route in New York or returned from there.

1.2.1 The German oval cancellations used on board of the North German Lloyd steamships with roman ciphers I-X at the bottom, only used on the trip from Bremerhaven to New York..



Number I.

31.03.-01.07.1891	HAVEL
04.08.-03.12.1891	LAHN
09.-18.01.1892	EIDER
30.01.-09.03.1892	ELBE
07.02.-05.07.1893	LAHN
09.08.-09.12.1892	TRAVE
25.97.-22.12.1893	ALLER
09.-21.01.1894	SAALE
06.02.-15.03.1894	LAHN
03.04.-09.05.1894	SPREE
18.08.-22.10.1894	SAALE
04.12.1894-29.01.1895	ELBE
22.06.-23.09.1895	SAALE
11.09.-17.10.1897	HAVEL

Number II.

04.04.-06.07.1891	EIDER
25.07.-22.12.1891	EMS
02.04.-02.08.1892	ELBE
20.08.-22.11.1892	SAALE
24.01.-03.02.1893	TRAVE
21.03.-22.06.1893	ALLER
11.-20.07.1893	TRAVE
08.08.-28.11.1893	LAHN
20.03.-18.07.1894	HAVEL
01.09.-05.11.1894	TRAVE
11.06.-04.11.1895	FULDA
21.01.-27.02.1896	LAHN
17.-26.03.1896	ALLER

14.04.1896-26.02.1897	TRAVE
05.04.-29.09.1898	LAHN
09.05.-14.06.1899	KAISER FRIEDRICH
04.-14.07.1899	PRINZREGENT LUITPOLD
01.08.-19.12.1899	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE

Number III.

05.05.-09.07.1891	TRAVE
28.07.1891-20.01.1892	HAVEL
06.01.-10.03.1892	SAALE
08.08.-06.07.1892	SPREE
26.07.-25.11.1892	LAHN
13.-24.12.1892	SAALE
29.04.-11.05.1893	H.H.MEIER
27.08.-25.11.1893	ELBE
11.08.-15.10.1894	EMS
02.04.-10.05.1895	SAALE
13.07.-14.10.1895	EMS
18.04.1896-05.03.1897	ALLER
23.03.-11.11.1897	LAHN
07.-16.12.1897	SAALE
07.-16.06.1898	KAISER FRIEDRICH
12.07.-17.08.1898	TRAVE
27.12.1898-06.01.1899	TRAVE
28.02.-26.06.1899	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
15.08.1899-21.06.1900	SAALE
07.08.-10.10.1900	KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA

Number IV.

11.-20.04.1891	TRAVE
09.05.-14.07.1891	SAALE
01.08.-02.11.1891	EIDER
10.01.-14.07.1892	ALLER
30.07.-08.08.1892	KAISER WILHELM II (1)
27.08.-04.10.1892	ELBE
22.10.-02.11.1892	KAISER WILHELM II (1)
20.05.-13.11.1893	EMS
30.01.-26.07.1894	TRAVE
14.08.-16.11.1894	ALLER
23.07.-01.08.1895	ALLER
17.09.-14.10.1895	ALLER
03.03.-26.10.1896	SAALE
16.02.-04.11.1897	TRAVE
14.02.-19.04.1898	KAISER FRIEDRICH
02.06.-04.10.1898	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
25.10.-01.12.1898	LAHN
17.-27.07.1900	GROSSER KURFÜRST
18.12.1900-07.02.1901	TRAVE
30.07.1901-10.01.1902	KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA

05.08.1902-12.01.1903
14.04.1903-10.12.1913

KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA
KAISER WILHELM II. (2)

Number V.

14.04.-15.07.1891	SPREE
04.08.-10.09.1891	TRAVE
29.09.-06.11.1891	ELBE
24.11.1891-16.06.1892	TRAVE
02-12.07.1892	KAISER WILHELM II. (1)
01.08.-26.11.1892	SPREE
14.-25.02.1893	WERRA
14.02.-21.04.1893	TRAVE
09.05.-30.11.1893	SPREE
10.12.1893-27.01.1894	EMS
14.02.-11.06.1894	ALLER
22.09.-30.10.1894	ELBE
27.11.-06.12.1894	TRAVE
11.06.-04.12.1895	SPREE
31.12.1895-09.01.1896	WERRA
11.02.-22.12.1896	HAVEL
09.02.-15.04.1897	SPREE
21.10.1902-21.10.1913	KRONPRINZ WILHELM

Number VI.

18.04.-24.06.1891	ALLER
08.08.-14.10.1891	SAALE
21.02.-20.06.1892	EMS
06.08.-08.11.1892	ALLER
06.05.-27.11.1893	SAALE
17.-23.03.1894	EMS
07.-16.07.1894	EMS
02.10-08.11.1894	HAVEL
26.02.-14.11.1895	HAVEL
10.03.1896-14.01.1897	LAHN
02.02.-26.08.1897	HAVEL
19.09.-16.11.1897	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
28.12.1897-07.01.1898	TRAVE
25.01.-28.04.1898	HAVEL
08.-16.11.1898	TRAVE
10.01.-25.10.1899	LAHN
02.10.1900-06.01.1901	KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA
19.02.-18.06.1901	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE

Number VII.

21.04.-20.06.1891	LAHN
14.-23.07.1891	WERRA
11.08.-11.12.1891	SPREE
21.01.-03.03.1892	LAHN

27.03.-29.06.1892	SAALE
16.07.-19.09.1892	EMS
05.-16.11.1892	ELBE
20.-29.12.1892	LAHN
15.-24.04.1893	FULDA
13.05.-19.06.1893	TRAVE
08.-18.07.1893	KAISER WILHELM II
02.-10.10.1893	KAISER WILHELM II
20.10.-04.11.1893	TRAVE
31.03.-08.05.1894	ELBE
29.05.-25.10.1894	SPREE
15.01.-30.10.1895	LAHN
04.05.18.10.1897	SAALE
16.-26.11.1897	SPREE
01.03.-03.05.1898	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
16.07.1901-09.11.1912	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
14.12.1912-11.01.1914	GEORGE WASHINGTON

Number VIII.

23.04.-29.06.1891	EMS
18.07.-10.10.1891	ALLER
29.03.-29.06.1892	LAHN
19.-26.07.1892	SAALE
16.08.-19.10.1892	HAVEL
06.12.1892-25.02.1893	ELBE
28.02.-14.04.1893	HAVEL
14.04.-28.11.1894	LAJN
27.07.-20.10.1895	TRAVE
28.01.1896-07.01.1897	SPREE
13.05.-21.06.1897	SPREE
09.01.-05.07.1900	LAHN
18.09.1900-03.01.1901	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
09.01.1901-13.02.1902	KRONPRINZ WILHELM

Number IX.

24.05.-30.06.1898	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
13.09.-23.11.1898	KAISER FRIEDRICH
15.-20.12.1898	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
17.-28.01.1899	SAALE
21.02.1899-07.02.1900	TRAVE
13.03.-11.07.1900	KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA
13.04.-10.10.1901	LAHN
06.04.-05.11.1913	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE

Number X.

06.08.1907-25.11.1913	KRONPRINZESSIN CECILIE
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1.2.2 The American cancellations used on board of the German steamers of North German Lloyd and HAPAG on their way only from New York to Germany. The cancellations have different numbers in the center of the killer between the bars on the right hand side of the date. The list contains those numbers recorded so far. More numbers might exist.



Killer 1

11.04.-01.07.1891	HAVEL
04.08.-03.12.1891	LAHN
11.-20.04.1893	HAVEL
11.05.-06.10.1893	COLUMBIA
12.-21.04.1894	FÜRST BISMARCK
02.-10.08.1894	NORMANNIA
07.-17.01.1896	EMS
18.-27.04.1896	SAALE
01.-10.11.1898	KAISER FRIEDRICH
17.07.-29.09.1899	FÜRST BISMARCK
04.-11.01.1900	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
17.-25.10.1900	KAISER FRIEDRICH
08.-15.11.1904	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
07.03.-11.04.1905	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
20.-27.07.1905	DEUTSCHLAND

Killer 2

16.04.-07.11.1891	COLUMBIA
16.08.-16.11.1892	SPREE
28.03.-04.05.1893	TRAVE
18.-27.07.1893	SPREE
11.08.1896-06.01.1897	HAVEL
24.08.-23.11.1897	LAHN
14.-23.12.1897	TRAVE
22.-30.09.1898	FÜRST BISMARCK
29.11.-07.12.1898	KAISER FRIEDRICH
10.-17.10.1899	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
05.-13.04.1900	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
09.-16.05.1900	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
16.-25.05.1901	DEUTSCHLAND
05.-13.11.1901	KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA
25.03.1902-13.01.1903	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
11.-18.07.1903	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
15.-22.08.1905	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
20.-27.09.1904	KRONPRINZ WILHELM

21.-28.09.1905

DEUTSCHLAND

Killer 3

18.04.-21.07.1891	EIDER
08.08.1891-04.07.1892	EMS
04.08.-03.11.1892	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
23.05.-19.06.1893	SPREE
13.07.—13.10.1893	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
12.-22.12.1893	NORMANNIA
03.-12.05.1894	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
05.-13.07.1894	NORMANNIA
22.09.-14.11.1894	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
17.-26.03.1896	SAALE
19.-27.08.1902	KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA
20.05.-03.06.1903	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
22.-29.09.1903	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
26.01.-02.02.1904	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
12.05.-14.07.1904	DEUTSCHLAND
18.-25.10.1904	KRONPRINZ WILHELM

Killer 4

22.04.-23.07.1891	TRAVE
11.08.1891-20.01.1892	HAVEL
04.04.-06.07.1893	ALLER
19.-27.10.1893	FÜRST BISMARCK
14.-23.11.1893	LAHN
26.04.-05.05.1895	TRAVE
11.02.-01.10.1896	SPREE
26.04.-05.05.1898	TRAVE
22.-31.08.1899	TRAVE
02.-10.05.1901	COLUMBIA
17.-25.04.1902	DEUTSCHLAND
03.07.-27.09.1902	COLUMBIA
07.-14.07.1903	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
26.01.-02.02.1904	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
21.-28.06.1904	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
20.09.-25.10.1904	KRONPRINZ WILHELM

Killer 5

25.04.-28.07.1891	SAALE
15.08.-21.11.1891	EIDER
05.04.-03.08.1892	HAVEL
29.06.-04.08.1893	FÜRST BISMARCK
02.-10.11.1893	COLUMBIA
19.-28.04.1894	COLUMBIA
14.06.-12.10.1894	FÜRST BISMARCK
25.07.-27.09.1895	FÜRST BISMARCK
04.02.-12.03.1896	LAHN

04.02.-21.05.1896	LAHN
28.05.-05.06.1896	FÜRST BISMARCK
18.-26.06.1896	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
17.-25.06.1897	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
04.-12.05.1899	FÜRST BISMARCK
29.06.-07.07.1899	FÜRST BISMARCK
02.-10.08.1900	KAISER FRIEDRICH
01.09.06.10.1900	ALLER
13.-21.11.1900	KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA
23.-30.09.1902	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
10.11.-22.12.1902	DEUTSCHLAND
07.-15.05.1903	DEUTSCHLAND
13.-20.12.1904	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
09.-16.05.1905	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE

Killer 6

28.04.-29.07.1891	SPREE
18.08.-25.09.1891	TRAVE
13.10.-20.11.1891	ELBE
10.06.-05.12.1893	ELBE
20.-28.08.1895	SPREE
06.04.-18.06.1897	LAHN
05.09.-16.11.1899	LAHN
02.-10.07.1903	DEUTSCHLAND
20.10.-22.12.1903	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
15.-22.03.1904	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
07.-14.04.1904	DEUTSCHLAND
12.-19.07.1904	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
29.09.-06.10.1904	DEUTSCHLANF
04.11.07.1905	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE

Killer 7

30.04.-21.11.1891	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
09.04.-12.07.1892	SAALE
28.09.-08.10.1895	KAISER WILHELM II
23.-31.07.1896	FÜRST BISMARCK
21.-30.12.1897	SAALE
15.03.-17.05.1898	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
25.08.-02.09.1898	FÜRST BISMARCK
21.03.-19.08.1899	LAHN
24.05.-30.06.1900	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
18.-25.07.1900	DEUTSCHLAND
13.-21.06.1901	DEUTSCHLAND
02.12.1901-11.01.1902	KRONPRINZ WILHRLM
01.-08.07.1902	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
19.-25.04.1903	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
11.08.-10.11.1903	KRONPRINZ WILHELM

Killer 8

02.05.-07.07.1891	ALLER
22.08.-28.10.1891	SAALE
13.02.-22.03.1892	ELBE
16.04.-16.08.1892	ELBE
11.-20.01.1893	TRAVE
01.-09.06.1893	ÜRST BISMARCK
02.-10.11.1893	COLUMBIA
19.-28.04.1894	COLUMBIA
14.-24.07.1894	ELBE
05.-14.02.1895	EMS
25.07.-27.09.1895	FÜRST BISMARCK
27.07.-05.08.1897	LAHN
08.02.-12.05.1898	HAVEL
04.-12.05.1899	FÜRST BISMATCK
18.-27.06.1901	LAHN
15.-27.07.1902	BARBAROSSA
30.04.-10.05.1903	BLÜCHER
10.-18.09.1903	FÜRST BISMARCK

Killer 9

05.05.-09.07.1891	LAHN
28.07.-06.08.1891	WERRA
25.08.-23.12.1891	SPREE
12.05.-15.07.1892	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
30.03.-28.07.1893	NORMABNIA
26.08.-28.11.1893	EMS
14.01.-03.02.1894	SAALE
19.09.-19.11.1894	TRAVE
16.05.-16.06.1895	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
24.03.-02.04.1898	NORMANNIA
13.-23.11.1898	SAALE
09.-18.11.1899	KAISER FRIEDRICH
19.-27.04.1900	COLUMBIA
08.08.-07.11.1901	DEUTSCHLAND
14.08.-18.10.1902	AUGUSTE VICTORIA

Killer 10

07.06.-27.11.1891	NORMANNIA
08.05.-27.12.1893	HAVEL
09.05.-14.06.1895	COLUMBIA
23.04.-01.05.1896	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
24.01.-02.03.1899	LAHN
03.-11.05.1900	FÜRST BISMARCK
20.-28.09.1900	FÜRST BISMARCK
28.06.-02.08.1904	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
13.-26.09.1904	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
31.10.1905-28.07.1914	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE

Killer 11

09.05.-13.07.1891	EMS
01.08.-02.11.1891	ALLER
30.01.-18.07.1892	ALLER
15.07.-11.12.1893	SAALE
30.05.-08.06.1895	FÜRST BISMARCK
20.-29.10.1896	SPREE
30.09.-30.11.1897	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
27.03.-06.04.1900	KAISERIN MARIA THERESIA
25.09.-10.12.1900	DEUTSCHLAND
30.05.-23.10.1901	COLUMBIA
12.-19.12.1901	DEUTSCHLAND
11.-18.03.1902	DEUTSCHLAND
13.-20.06.1905	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
01.08.1905-14.07.1914	KRONPRINZ WILHELM

Killer 12

21.05.-18.12.1891	FÜRST BISMARCK
21.03.-20.07.1893	LAHN
24.04.-13.12.1894	LAHN
10.-18.10.1895	NORMANNIA
25.02.-22.07.1896	HAVEL
01.-09.07.1897	NORMANNIA
29.08.1899-07.06.1900	SAALE
28.06.-06.07.1900	FÜRST BISMARCK
02.05.-07.06.1902	FÜRST BISMARCK
21.05.-27.06.1903	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
09.-16.02.1904	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
15.09.1905-09.06.1914	KAISER WILHELM II (2)

Killer 13

17.-27.06.1893	SAALE
20.-28.06.1895	NORMANNIA
01.10.-07.11.1895	ALLER
27.08.-02.10.1896	COLUMBIA
29.04.-07.05.1897	NORMANNIA
27.05.-05.06.1897	FÜRST BISMARCK
10.-18.05.1900	KAISER FRIEDRICH
16.08.-19.10.1900	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
11.-20.04.1901	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
11.-20.06.1903	FÜRST BISMARCK
15.09.-19.11.1903	DEUTSCHLAND
21.-28.02.1905	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
11.-18.07.1905	KAISER WILHELM II (2)
20.08.1907-11.07.1914	KRONPRINZESSIN-CECILIE

Killer 14

23.08.-25.10.1893	LAHN
01.-10.05.1894	HAVEL
05.06.-09.08.1894	TRAVE
17.-25.09.1896	FÜRST BISMARCK
13.05.-08.10.1897	COLUMBIA
19.-26.10.1899	FÜRST BISMARCK
18.-26.10.1900	FÜRST BISMARCK
23.05.-29.06.1901	AUGUSTE VICTORIA
27.10.-03.11.1904	DEUTSCHLAND
03.-10.05.1904	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
19.-26.10.1905	DEUTSCHLAND
15.03.1906-15.10.1910	DEUTSCHLAND
04.01.1913-19.07.1914	GEORGE WASHINGTON

Killer 15

25.04.-03.05.1899	KAISER FRIEDRICH
01.-09.08.1901	FÜRST BISMARCK
26.04.-03.05.1904	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
24.-31.08.1905	DEUTSCHLAND
26.10.1905-01.06.1914	AMERIKA

Killer 16

03.10.01.1899	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
31.10.-07.11.1899	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
13.-21.03.1900	KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE
06.06.-12.07.1901	FÜRST BISMARCK
06.-13.05.1902	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
26.06.-05.07.1902	FÜRST BISMARCK
28.12.1905-10.11.1906	BLÜCHER
09.05.-16.06.1907	BLÜCHER
15.08.1907-29.01.1908	BLÜCHER
24.06.-29.09.1911	BLÜCHER
16.-27.04.1912	BLÜCHER
25.06.-08.11.1913	IMPERATOR
21.03.-25.07.1914	IMPERATOR

Killer 17

21.-28.03.1905	KRONPRINZ WILHELM
24.05.-22.12.1906	
18.04.1907-25.02.1908	
23.04.-20.11.1908	
04.02.-11.07.1909	
11.09.1909-22.12.1911	
30.03.-10.04.1912	
30.05.-05.10.1912	

12.12.1912-20.07.1914

all KAISERIN AUGUSTE VICTORIA

Killer 18

26.05.-14.07.1914

VATERLAND

Killer 19

13.-20.08.1904

KAISER WILHELM II (2)

13.-20.09.1904

KAISER WILHELM II.(2)

Killer 20

25.05.-01.06.1905

DEUTSCHLAND

Killer 32

05.-12.09. 1905

KAISER WILHELM DER GROSSE

Killer 35

27.06.-04.07.1905

KRONPRINZ WILHELM

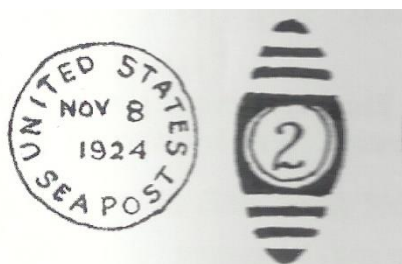
2. The Period 1921-1939 with German and US ships on the North Atlantic route until WW II

Following WW I the start date of the traffic on the North Atlantic run with an on board sea post service is still unclear concerning the US ships, although it is believed that this service started on 25th June 1921 with the steamship AMERICA leaving New York. But it is also clear that at least closed mail bags were already transported earlier. There are no reasons visible why this US Sea Post Service should have started so late. It remains doubtful, until the documents in the National Archive have been checked and could prove the right dates.

Therefore the following list is restricted to the postal equipment, so far recorded and the dates of their use in accordance with the timetable of the allocated ship. More numbers and different dates might exist.

2.1 The US. Sea Post Service on the North Atlantic route 1921-1925

This list is limited to 1925 with some exceptions. In early 1926 the use of anonymous date cancellations ended. New cancellations with the ship name were handed out to all American ships. The ship can be identified by the number in the center of the killer.



Type 1



Type 2

Killer 1, 2 and 10 exist with two different wordings of the cancellations

Killer 1

Type 1

25.06.1921-1923

AMERICA

Type 2

1923-1825

AMERICA

Killer 2

Type 1

03.08.1921-1924

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Type 2

1924-08.01.1926.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

Killer 3

18.02.-22.06.1922

PENINSULA STATE

08.07.1922-20.11.1925

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

Killer 4

25.03.-21.04.1922

LONE STAR STATE

29.04.-30.06.1922

PRESIDENT TAFT

08.07.1922-27.11.1925

PRESIDENT HARDING

Killer 5

11.04.1922-22.09.1926

RESOLUTE

Killer 6

02.05.1922-09.07.1926

RELIANCE

Killer /

15.01.1920-11.11.1923

MANCHURIA

Killer 8

01.1920-12.01.1925

MONFOLIA

Killer 9

31.04.1921-08.01.1926

MINNEKADHA

Killer 10

Type 1

04.07.1923-21.12.1924

LEVIATHAN

Type 2

24.02.1925-27.01.1926

LEVIATHAN

Killer 15

29.04.1924-07.01.11927

REPEBLIC

2.2 The German Sea Post Service on the North Atlantic 1921-1939

The German shipping companies needed more time after the war to reestablish their service on the North Atlantic. The German steamships started with the pre-war postal equipment, handled on board by the pursers of the ships. No postal clerks have been on board these units. Some of these cancellations stayed on board for a long time, even when the ship made cruises or changed the route for some time. Some of the cancellations have been used until the outbreak of WW II.

2.2.1 The cancellations on board of the North German Lloyd ships



The ships of this route of North German Lloyd used the pre-war oval cancellations with a small letter at the bottom, some units until 1939. In the 1930's the cancellations stayed on board for a long time.

Letter „a“

24.02.1922-11.1923

HANNOVER

15.01.-07.1924

06.09.-10.1924

25.11.1924-08.1925

all STUTT GART

05.09.-12.1925

13.01.-02.1926

03.09.-10.1927

LÜTZOW
STUTTHART
DERFFLINGER

28.01.-02.1932

19.03.1931-02.1932

30.03.-05.1933

03.06.-09.1933

31.05.-06.1934

02.07.-08.1935

11.12.-12.1937

12.05.-06.1938

01.09.-10.1938

all

BERLIN

Letter „b“

21.06.1923-01.1824
16.05.07.1924
12.09.1924-02.1925
09-05.-07.1925
29.08.-12.1925
10.02.1926-13.02.1930

all MÜNCHEN

Letter „c“

07.04.1923-10.1927

BREMEN

29.01.-12.1928
30.05.-11.1929
15.03.-11.1930

all KARLSRUHED

10.06.1935- 09.1036

COLUMBUS

Letter “d”
“

11.03.1922-01.1924
04.03.-06.1925
08.06.-10.1927
ß3.04.1930 -09.1935
21-ß1-1937-ß5.1939

YORCK
LÜTZOW
SIERRA VENTANA
STUTTGART
COLUMBUS

Letter „e“

11.02.1922-02.1924
22.04.1924-04.1925
23.05.-10.1925
05.08.1927-09.1933

SEYDLITZ
COLUMBUS
SIERRA VENTANA
DRESDEN

Letter “f”

08.09.1923-01.1924
17.02.-07.1924
12.07.-10.1928
27.02.-03.1930
23.07.-08.1930
09.1930

SIERRA VENTANA
YORCK
LÜTZOW
YORCK
YORCK
LÜTZOW

05.02.-10.1931
25.02.-12.1932
25.05.-07.1933
21.06.-07.1934
16.08.-12.1934

all

GENERAL VON STEUBEN

Letter „g“

20.09.-12.1923	DERFFLINGER
04.09.-11.1926	LÜTZOW
27.06.-07.1927	LÜTZOW
22.08.-09.1927	SIERRA CORDOBA
10.05.-08.1928	YORCK
04.08.-09.1928	SEYDLITZ

Letter “h”

28.05.-06.1929	
24.08.-10.1929	
12.11.-12.1929	all LÜTZOW
05.-06.1932	SIERRA CORDOBA

2.2.2 The cancellations used on board of the HAPAG ships

The service started with the HAPAG-steamship BAYERN on 15th Sept. 1921, but no cancellations are so far recorded from this year. All steamers should have used the pre-war round cancellations with the roman number at the bottom. Very soon additional types of cancellations were added. Some of these anonymous cancellations without ship names were used until WW II. Only the ships of the joint service used cancellations with ship names. In some cases one ship received and used several different cancellations parallel.

2.2.2.1. LINIE HAMBURG-NEW YORK Round pre-war cancellation with roman numbers at the bottom



Number VII.

22.03.1924-01.1925	DEUTSCHLAND
19.06.1929-12.1929	MILWAUKEE

Number VIII.

05.07.1923-08.1924	ALBERT BALLIN
28.03.-1929-1930	ST.LOUIS

Number IX.

28.03.1929-1930	ST.LOUIS
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Number XIV.

27.10.1921-12.1923
05.1924

both HANSA

19.06.1929-1934

MILWAUKEE

Oval Cancellation Number XIV. at the bottom without indicating the route



31.08.-10.09.1935

ST. LOUIS

2.2.2.2. New type with roman numbers, but divided into two segments



Number XX

1930-1934

ST.LOUIS

Number XXI

1930-1932
1934

MILWAUKEE
ST.LOUIS

Number XXII

11.1929-28.09.1931

CLEVELAND

2.2.2.3. New round type with a big letter at the bottom



Letter A

06.09.1926-10.1929

CLEVELAND

Letter B

27.11.1924-06.1925

08.1925-12.1926

02.1927-11.1928

01.1929-04.1930

all WESTPHALIA

Letter C

08.1924-01.1925

ALBERT BALLIN

16.08.-10.1926

08.-10.1927

05.-06.1928

08.-10.1928

12.1928-01.1929

08.-10.1929

12.1929

05.-06.1930

1931-09.1933

all RESOLUTE

Letter D

24.08.-12.1926

05.-26.07.1927

12.1927

18.04.-06.1928

08.-12.1928

08.-12.1929

09.12.1930

04.1931-08.1935 probably

all RELIANCE

Letter E

05.1927-02.1930

THURINGIA

2.2.2.4. New type with two segments and a small letter at left hand side



Letter "a", "b" and "c"

1935-1939

ST.LOUIS

Letter „d“

07.1931-02.1932

DEUTSCHLAND

Letter "e"

Not yet recorded on passenger mail, probably used on board of DEUTSCHLAND.

2.2.2.5. New type of an anonymous segment cancellation only with the inscription HAMBURG AMERIKA LINIE without indicating the route, used on board of ships servicing the Caribbean and New York alternately. The same type with slight differences has been used on board various ships of HAPAG. The following dates only refer to the trips to New York.



22.01.1923-05.1924

09.1924-12.1925

02.-07.1926

09.1926-04.1927

all THURINGIA

21.06.1923-09.1924

WESTPHALIA

2.3 The joint US.-German service 1925-1939

The service started not earlier than with the ALBERT BALLIN of HAPAG-Line leaving New York on 5th Febr. 1925, for the first time with an American team of postal clerks. It is not sure that the cancellation of the joint service was already on board as so far no item has been recorded on this first voyage. The Germans used the pre-war Bremen-New York oval cancellations with the roman numbers at the bottom on all ships of North German Lloyd and

all American ships. The HAPAG-liners have received new cancellations with ship names and are not listed here. No American ship received a German cancellation with a ship name with the exception of LEVIATHAN, which received two different German cancellations.

2.3.1. The German cancellations used by the joint service on the Bremerhaven-New York route without ship name



Number I

11.02.1925-23.12.1927 PRESIDENT HARDING

Number II

04.02.1925-20.12.1929 not yet confirmed PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

Number III

21.01.-23.12.1925 AMERICA

Number IV

27.01.1925-16.10.1931 GEORGE WASHINGTON

In 1929 and maybe also later the roman cipher was blocked out.

Number V

25.10.1925-11.1927 LÜTZOW

Number VI

12.05.-07.1926
06.-12.1927 both STUTTGART

Number VII

25.09.1925-12.1927 BERLIN

Number VIII

02.04.1925-02.1927 COLUMBUS

The roman cipher was blocked out in 1926.

Number IX

25.08.-11.1926
01.-05.1927

both STUTTGART

04.09.1929-04.1930

BERLIN

Number X

30.05.-10.1925
22.10.-11.1925
17.01.1929-03.1930

all STUTTGART

2.3.2. The two German cancellations of LEVIATHAN

10.02.1929-22.12.1931 SOUTHAMPTON-NEW YORK



11.05.-12.1932 and 95.1933 BREMEN-NEW YORK



2.3.3 The US Cancellations used by the joint service after WW I

2.3.3.1. US-GERMAN SEA POST Killer



Number 5

04.-11.1925

COLUMBUS

Bernd Essler

TPO & Seapost Society

March 2013 V2.0

Number 7

05.02.1925-02.02.1926

ALBERT BALLIN

Number 8

02.-12.1925

DEUTSCHLAND

Number 11

06.-10.1925
11.1925

both STUTT GART

Number 12

10.1925-01.1926

BERLIN

2.3.3.2 Special type of US cancellations for German ships

It is funny, but in both cases of these two HAPAG-liners no special German cancellations for the joint service of these ships were provided by the German Post Office. Only the American postal clerks used special cancellations. It is important for our understanding of the service to receive notice of any dates of use beyond the already recorded period.



MILWAUKEE
ST. LOUIS

08.1929-04.1930
09.1929-04.1930

You are kindly requested to give notice of any additions, corrections or contradictions concerning the dates of use of the cancellations or the ships allocated. Scans and/or detailed descriptions of the date of writing, of the date of cancellation and the arrival of the postal item can avoid misunderstandings, misreading or misinterpretation, which are unfortunately common and should be avoided. You will receive feedback on any notice, we receive.

Bernd Essler
bernd.essler@gmx.de
March 2013