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Introduction to the Official Postal Matter Cards

The increasingly difficult situation in sustaining the Polish population in the occupied territories, led the Polish Government in Exile (Ministry for Work and Social Welfare) to organize the shipment of food parcels over London to Portugal.

The shipping department of the „Polish Help-Committee for Poles in Portugal“ was located in Lissabon. Since beginning of this action in the winter of 1940, this department shipped tens of thousands of parcels. In the Fall of 1942 the figures climbed to somewhere between 9,000 and 18,000 parcels per month! Due to Portuguese Postal Regulations, the parcels were limited to a weight of 0,5 Kg and contained coffee, tea, cocoa, almonds, chocolate, raisins, figs, sardines in oil and other delicatessen. These parcels would travel an average of 10 days before reaching the receiver in the GG.

In the face of such a flood of parcels, the DPO decided to use and overprint those Polish stationeries which had not yet found their way to the collectors' office in Krakow, to this purpose. These DPSK were also used to inform other consignee over the arrival of parcels in general, as well as to inform it's own personal. This is clearly shown by the few remaining used DPSK.

The overprinted text on both sides of the official postal matter cards is identical for all cards. The consignee was informed over an incoming parcel.

The receiver of such a parcel was authorized to withdraw it from the Post-Office C1 in WARSAW. After a control at the entrance the card was torn in half. The second half was to be shown, or handed-over at the reception counter. For this reason certain catalogs list and evaluate also half-cards.

The above mentioned procedure explains why so few official postal matter cards have been preserved as a whole. Another reason is that the Post-Office Warsaw C1 was one of the first-day targets of the Polish Uprising on 01.08.1944, and was utterly destroyed as a consequence of the fighting (in opposition to the Post-Office Warsaw C 2).

Recorded unused official postal matter cards were probably “retrieved “from the post-office after the war.

With exception of DPSK 12b, the overprint „DIENST-POSTKARTE“ is identical on all official postal matter cards: ca. 53,3 Millimetres.

The back-side of the Postal Matter Card

Postamt 1 Urząd pocztowy 1	Warschau C 1, den 1942 Warszawa C 1, dnia
<u>Benachrichtigung</u> <p>Sie werden ersucht, alsbald bei Stelle XI, Postamt C 1 Zimmer 108-109-110 (Eingang Poststrasse) von 8-12, 15-17 Uhr wegen einer Postsendung vorzusprechen.</p>	<u>Zawiadomienie</u> <p>Uprasza się o niezwłoczne zgłoszenie się w Urzędzie Pocztowym Warszawa C 1 Oddział XI, pokój 108 - 109 - 110 (wejście od ul. Wareckiej w godzinach od 8-12, 15-17 w sprawie przesyłki pocztowej.</p>
I. V.	

Text 1: Warschau C1, den**1942** (in German and Polish)
 3. Line Germ. Text: 108-109-110
 4- Line Pol. Text: 108 – 109 – 110
 5. Line Pol. Text: ... Wareckiej (without bracket at the end)

Postamt 1 Urząd pocztowy1	Warschau C 1, den1942
<u>Benachrichtigung</u> <p>Sie werden ersucht, alsbald bei Stelle XI, Postamt C 1 Zimmer 108,109,110 (Eingang Poststrasse) von 8-12, 15-17 Uhr wegen einer Postsendung vorzusprechen.</p>	<u>Zawiadomienie</u> <p>Uprasza się o niezwłoczne zgłoszenie się w Urzędzie Pocztowym Warschau C 1 Oddział XI, pokój 108, 109, 110 (wejście od ul. Wareckiej w godzinach od 8-12, 15-17 w sprawie przesyłki pocztowej.</p>
I. V.	

Text 2: Warschau C1, den**1942** (Only in German)
 3. Line Germ. Text: 108-109-110
 4- Line Pol. Text: 108 – 109 – 110
 5. Line Pol. Text: ... Wareckiej (without bracket at the end)