



# WWII Propaganda Forgeries

## WWII Operation "Cornflake" Propaganda forgery stamps

Catalogued by Michel, #15-17 Never Hinged complete set of three, the 6pf and 12pf of Hitler heads as well as the infamous Adolf Hitler grinning "Death Head" stamp inscribed "FUTSCHES REICH" (Ruined Empire)

### Why Operation Cornflake?

These stamps were a key part of a high level clandestine plan to undermine the morale of the average German citizen. The Allies felt that if many German people started receiving Anti-Nazi propaganda in their morning mail delivered punctually at breakfast time by the mailman, they would feel that their "German Empire" was falling apart from within.

### How were these stamps Created?

General "Wild Bill" Donovan, head of the OSS (Office of Strategic Services) the U.S. espionage agency during World War II (later to become the CIA) ordered the stamps printed by OSS operations in Switzerland. The standard 6pf and 12pf Hitler Head stamps were forged in sheets of 50 instead of the sheets of 100 of the originals. The main differences lie in the paper (chalky coated paper for the originals, dull for the forgeries) and the perforations (14 x 14½ for the originals, 11½ to 13 x 12½ for the forgeries) Also, an additional forgery of the 12pf was made, but the inscription was altered to read "Futsches Reich" meaning "Ruined Empire".

### How were these propaganda forgeries used?

The OSS decided that the best way to smuggle the mail into the regular German postal system was to bomb mail trains. In addition to dropping bombs to possibly wreck the trains, they dropped sacks of mail containing Anti-Nazi propaganda. During the confusion of cleaning up the wreck, the false mail sacks were mixed in with the damaged German mail. The OSS re-created all aspects of the German Postal system from real business return addresses to many thousands of names and addresses pulled from telephone directories. They even replicated the mail bags, postal mailing and every other detail of the postal system. Every letter was franked with a 12pf stamp or two 6pf stamps. On opening the letter, they would find it filled with anti-Nazi propaganda including the 12pf Futsches Reich stamp.



### How were these stamps uncovered?

The sale of President Roosevelt's collection in the late 1940's provided the first inkling to philatelists that these forgeries were even prepared! Our supply came from a personal aide to General Donovan who safely stored them away since 1944. Dealers in Europe and the US have already eagerly bought those that we had allotted to our wholesale trade.



### Good News!

We received a small quantity of the best quality for our private clients like yourselves. We can therefore offer the following: (All offers include the normal 6 pf & 12 pf for comparison)

- U.S. Michel #15-17 F-VF NH set of 3 E160=\$185. .... \$165.00
- U.S. Michel #15-17 VF/XF NH set of 3 (rare centered so nicely!) \$210.00

• Michel #16 variety 12pf forgery with full of fset printing on the gum! We are breaking up a probably unique sheet of this striking variety, never before offered!

- Michel #16 variety F-VF NH ..... \$85.00
- Michel #16 variety VF/XF NH ..... \$100.00

Also available are distinctive plate varieties for each stamp found in individual plateau position on each sheet. Only a few of each are available. Please ask for further details. For example:

- Michel #15 (6pf) variety in position 44 with a large white spot in the "H" of REICH, completely distortinnng the "H" F-VF NH ..... \$75.00

### Why should I buy these stamps?

If you collect US stamps, then these are legitimate US stamps printed by the US government. While we can't promise that they will be listed in the US Specialized Catalogue, they should be listed! If you collect German stamps, these represent an important historic addition to your 3rd Reich Collection. No matter what you collect, this may be the most interesting and important set of stamps you will ever have the chance to add to your collection! Each set will be supplied with our Certificate of Authenticity and lifetime guarantee as well as their fascinating story!



### 1941-44 Hitler Set

506-27 +529 complete set of 25 values, 1pf to 5 mark issued during the height of WWII.

F-VF NH ..... \$15.00

VF/XF ..... \$22.50

Blocks of 4 pro rata, corner blocks - add 10%.

**Beware!** of forgeries offered on internet auctions. There exists photo offset reproductions made in Germany from an original set of sheets as a model. They are on a smooth paper, lack some of the fine detail of the original OSS Forgeries and have much larger perforation holes. All those that we sell are genuine and from the personal aide to General Donovan!



### WWI Forgeries

During WWI, Britain made forgeries of the, then current, German 10pf and 15pf stamps. (Michel #4-5) We can offer them as follows:

10pf F-VF NH ..... \$10.00

VF/XF NH ..... \$15.00

15pf Just Fine NH ..... \$10.00

F-VF NH ..... \$15.00

**TERMS OF SALE Payment:** \$US; check, money order, credit cards Sales Tax: NY addresses must add sales tax.

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*Philately - The Quiet Excitement!*