In times of conflict or war censorship is the official tool of the authorities not only to control the own people but to prevent that 'valuable' information in writing or photography get in the hands of the enemy.

The big German postcard publisher **Gebr. Metz** from **Tübingen**, with many aerial/panorama views in his ppc programme, experienced censorship from the Nazi authorities a great deal. The officials did not want to have anything in open distribution which could give allied aircrafts information on potential targets, their exact location and actual look. This included of course all mil-

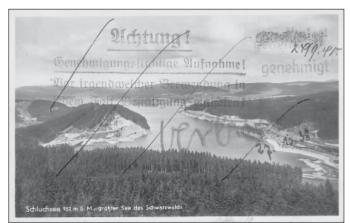


itary facilities but also power stations, factories and other places of strategic interest etc. Gebr. Metz went broke in 1988. Their huge (almost complete!) archives and all fittings were auctioned = split up on October 4, 1990. A great pity for postcard research. This postcard company had been around since 1888. I show four censored Metz cards (bromide

'real' photo prints) which were offered to me by a postcard dealer who had bought a truck full of cards and documents at the auction. The three Black Forest region views are quite common, also the panorama of the city of Kempten but with the official remarks and rubberstamp imprints on, are of great historical interest; *unique*.

By the way, I remember that you needed an official permission in Germany every time you wanted to have an aerial view of a city printed on postcards, but especially for use in newspapers. Think this was dropped some time in the early 1990's.





- ↑ Schluchtsee-Aha (952 metres above sea-leavel), Black Forest (Baden) with advertising imprint of "Guesthouse Auerhahn" in Aha on address side. Gebr. Metz card series/no. 225/50 W e. Rubberstamp imprint in blue ink across picture reads: Attention! Before using this photo in any form you need a 'confirmation' first.
- **7** Schluchtsee largest lake of the Black Forest with same rubberstamp imprint as above plus in red ink "verboten" = forbidden/prohibited dated 27.10.(19)38. But also in upper right corner we see a "genehmigt" = permission granted stamp imprint in red ink and dated 2?/9. (19)40. Officials seemed to have changed their minds.
- → Schluchtsee-Seebrugg. Censors did not wanted to have the lower portion of the picture with view of dam published. Dated 27.10 (19)38 with *forbidden* but both notes crossed out again. Confusing. No idea if Metz Bros. used this photo for postcard production anyway. To find out p/u cards with of this view are needed.



Kempten (Allgäu) panorama view. Gebr. Metz series 164 card no. 106 Be. Permission granted when the left portion of photo, which was carefully marked, is left out. Dated June 6, (19)40. I used a magniying glass to find out why authorities did not like to have the entire photo published. The only object I found that might had been of interest to the censor is the bridge across the River Iller. By the way the entire photo was retouched, all details, all the tiny houses and every bush went over and the result looks more like a painting and has only very little in common with a photographic view anymore. Meant plenty of work for somebody indeed. Also in this case it would be interesting to find out if Metz Bros. did put this card – without the censored portion into distribution during WW2.



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