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# Sudetenland – a New Perfin Issuing Entity

Joe Laura (#1238)

Sudetenland is an area in the Sudety Mountains which extends approximately 170 miles in length and 20-30 miles in depth, on the border of the old Austrian crown-lands of Bohemia and Moravia. Germany and Poland form the north border of this area. In the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries some 3,000,000 Germans emigrated here to develop it. Sudetenland had postage of its own (overprinted Czechoslovakian stamps) as is indicated in the Michel Germany Specialized Catalog.



Michel lists close to 400 overprinted Czech stamps produced for this region; listing is by District such as Asch and Karlsbad. Some, like those used in Rumburg incorporate a swastika in the overprint. None of these are known with perfins.

During the wartime occupation (World War II; German) of this area and Bohemia & Moravia, some stamps of Germany were used. They can be distinguished only by their postmarks which show either city names from the region or the word "Sudetenland".

A single pattern HFS (ARGE #HFS,5) has been seen on three different German issues. Cancels on these stamps confirm their use in Sudetenland during German occupation.

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**Editor's note:** Joe included a photocopy of the three stamps: two are Scott type A64 (von Hindenburg) and one is Scott type A115 (Hitler). The photocopy is clear – but I know from experience that it would not reproduce clearly due to a lack of contrast. So, with apology to Joe, I am not attempting to reproduce the picture he included.

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