

LES "DEUTSCHE KAMPSPIELE" – LES JEUX NATIONAUX ALLEMANDS

En 1915, le CNO allemand, frustré de devoir renoncer à l'organisation des Jeux Olympiques de 1916, décida d'organiser les "Olympiades nationales allemandes". Le 17 janvier 1917, la Fédération sportive allemande décida d'organiser à la place, tous les quatre ans, les "Deutsche Kampfspiele", les Jeux nationaux allemands, même si GEBHARDT et le membre du CIO en Allemagne le comte Adelbert von FRANCKEN-SIERSTORPFF étaient opposés à cette idée et voulaient que l'Allemagne restât dans le Mouvement olympique. DIEM fit un long discours pour défendre l'idée nationale. Les premiers Deutsche Kampfspiele étaient prévus pour 1921 mais, pour des raisons économiques, ils ne furent organisés qu'en 1922.

DIEM pensait que l'Allemagne serait frappée d'ostracisme après la guerre et voulait que son pays affichât sa force dans le sport à travers ces Jeux nationaux. En fait, les Jeux interalliés en 1919 et l'exclusion de l'Allemagne des Jeux Olympiques de 1920 à Anvers prouvent que DIEM avait raison. Or, celui-ci joua dans les deux camps en préconisant également la réintégration de l'Allemagne dans le Mouvement olympique.

Bien que l'Allemagne fût réintégrée dans la famille olympique en 1927, DIEM et ses collègues continuèrent d'organiser les Deutsche Kampfspiele. En fait, ces jeux se poursuivirent jusqu'en 1934.

L'objectif de l'Allemagne était clair : montrer qu'elle était la plus forte en sport et qu'elle pouvait organiser ses propres jeux avec un programme aussi vaste que celui des Jeux Olympiques. Elle voulait montrer qu'elle n'avait pas besoin des Jeux Olympiques pour prouver sa force dans le sport. DIEM n'exclut pas la compétition avec d'autres pays, mais limita celle-ci à des pays "amis" et alliés. DIEM voulait lancer un avertissement au Mouvement olympique : "Soit vous nous acceptez ou nous organisons nos propres Jeux et défions votre supériorité". Ces Jeux s'avérèrent avoir l'effet opposé. Parfaitement conscient de la menace, le CIO contre-attaqua en n'invitant pas l'Allemagne aux Jeux Olympiques de 1924 à Paris. Et DIEM perdit sa chance de devenir un jour membre du CIO.

THE «DEUTSCHE KAMPSPIELE» - THE GERMAN NATIONAL GAMES – LES JEUX NATIONAUX ALLEMANDS

In 1915, The German NOC, frustrated by the necessity to renounce to the organisation of the 1916 Olympics, decided to organise the « German National Olympia ». On the 17th of January 1917, the German Sports Federation decided to organise instead every four years the German National Games, the "Deutsche Kampfspiele". Though GEBHARDT and the German IOC member Count Adelbert von FRANCKEN-SIERSTORPFF opposed the idea and wanted that Germany should stay in the Olympic Movement. C. DIEM made a long speech and stood for the national idea. DIEM prevailed and the first Deutsche Kampfspiele were scheduled for 1921. Because of economic reasons, the date was postponed for 1922. DIEM felt that Germany would be ostracised after the war and wanted Germany to show its sport strength through these national games. In fact, the Inter-Allied games in 1919 and the exclusion of Germany from the 1920 Antwerp Games proved DIEM to be right. But Diem played it both ways by advocating that Germany ought to reintegrate the Olympic Movement.

Though Germany was reintegrated into the Olympic Family in 1927, DIEM and his colleagues persisted in continuing the Deutsche Kampfspiele. In fact, the games were continued until 1934.

The German aim was clear: Germany wanted to demonstrate that it was the strongest sport country and could organise its own games with a programme as large at the Olympic one. In fact, it was a show that Germany did not need the Olympic Games to demonstrate its strength in sports. DIEM did not exclude competition with other nations but limited the latter to "friendly" and allied nations. DIEM wanted a permanent warning signal to the Olympic Movement: "Either you accept us or we can organise our own games and defy your superiority". The games proved to provoke the opposite: the IOC being fully aware of the threat, counter attacked by not inviting Germany to the 1924 Paris Olympics. And DIEM lost his chance to ever become an IOC member.



„DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE“ – A COUNTER MOVEMENT AGAINST THE OLYMPIC GAMES

In 1919, a prelude to the 1920 Olympic Games took place on the outskirts of Paris. These were the 1919 Inter-Allied Games and they had their origins in 1910 in the Philippine Islands. In that year, Elwood S. Brown was sent to the Philippines as the Physical Director of the American YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association). His charge was to build up sporting activities among the American civilian population and eventually the Filipino natives. Brown was successful and was also instrumental in helping convince the Filipinos to compete in the first Far Eastern Games in 1919. Through Brown's efforts, sports became much more popular in the Far East.

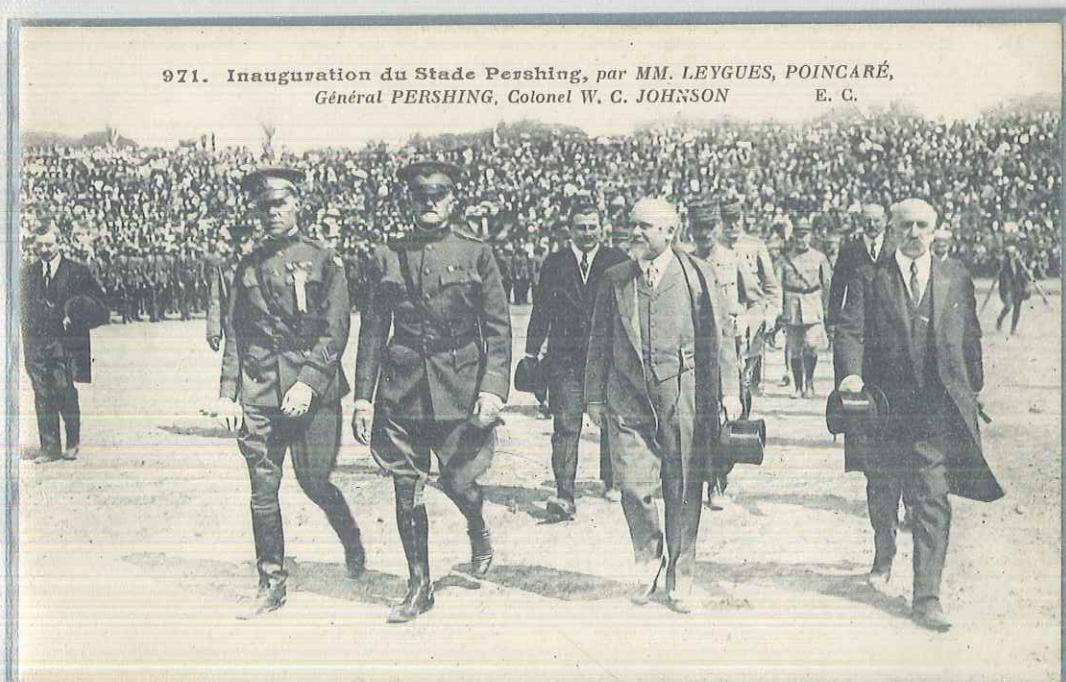
In April 1918, Elwood Brown requested war service and was shipped to France as one of the YMCA athletic directors. As the war neared an end, Brown sought a way to bring the soldiers of the many nations "together in order that they might know each other face to face and thus lay the foundations for those enduring friendships which can come only from personal contact and which, in this case, were of such fundamental importance to the future welfare of the world,"

In December 1918, Elwood Brown sent a letter to Colonel Bruce Palmer, the First Section of the General Staff, G.H.Q., A.E.F., whose subject was "Proposed Athletic Program for Demobilization Period." Brown made four suggestions in his letter, as follows:

1. Great mass games and play for every possible man - "Athletics for everybody."
2. Official A.E.F. championships in a wide variety of competitive sports including military events, beginning with elimination regimental contests, ranging upwards through the divisions, possibly the army corps, and culminating in great finals in Paris.
3. Physical pageants and demonstrations to be held in many centres demonstrating to our allied friends Americans best in sport, her great play spirit and incidentally her finest in physical manhood.
4. Interallied athletic contests - open only to soldiers of the Allied Armies - a great set of military Olympic Games.

And thus was born the Inter-Allied Games. They were truly considered a military Olympic Games. The only requirement for entry was that all competitors had to have been an officer or an enlisted man in one of the Allied military forces. The entry asked, "Were you a soldier in the Great War? The eligibility rules noted that "Each nation participating may enter any officer, non-commissioned officer or private soldier, who has at any time between 4 August 1914 and 11 November 1918 been a member of the military forces of that nation." The invitation to nations was sent on 9 January 1919 by General John J. Pershing, the Commander-in-Chief of the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF). This excluded Germany and its allies.

„Deutsche Kampfspiele“ da von den Inter-Allied Spielen ausgeschlossen.
The Pershing stadium was built for this occasion





DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE – GEGENBEWEGUNG ZU DEN OLYMPISCHEN SPIELEN. „DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE“ – A COUNTER MOVEMENT AGAINST THE OLYMPIC GAMES

29 Allied nations were invited to participate: Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, France, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hedjaz, Honduras, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Newfoundland, New Zealand, Panama, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Siam (Thailand), South Africa.

Brazil, China, Cuba, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia, Montenegro, Nicaragua, Panama, Russia (obviously) did not participate.

The British Army of the Rhine and the USA (obviously) also participated at the Games.



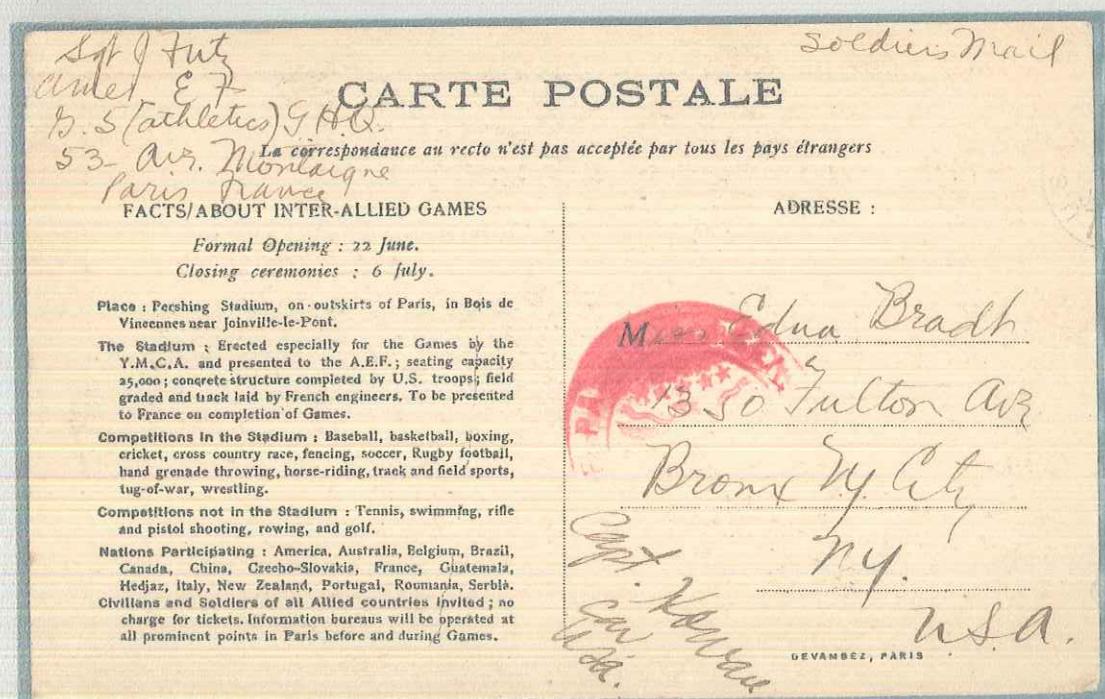
The « Mittelmächte » - Germany, Austria, Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria were intentionally not invited. This ostracism was a prelude to the 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games. The same countries, out of political reasons, were not invited for "lack of representation in the IOC".
Germany, therefore, organised its own national games, the "Deutsche Kampfspiele".

Initially, the games were scheduled to take place at the Colombes Stadium, but in order not to favour (?) the US team, the Pershing Stadium was built in Joinville in 60 days. The Games: 22.6.-6.7.1919.

The Inter-Allied Games were, indeed, a prelude to the 1920 Olympics: many participants participated in 1920 (and 1924), some of them becoming Olympic Champions. The games were opened by the French Minister of the Navy – Mr Leygues and closed by General Pershing.

„Deutsche Kampfspiele“ da von den Inter-Allied Spielen ausgeschlossen.

Special postcards were edited for the Inter-Allied Games, in French and English. The list of the participating countries is incorrect. This card was sent by Soldiers Mail.





DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE – GEGENBEWEGUNG ZU DEN OLYMPISCHEN SPIELEN.

Da die geplanten Olympischen Spiele von Berlin 1916 aufgrund des Krieges nicht stattfanden und Deutschland aus der olympischen Gemeinschaft ausgeschlossen wurde, wurde der Deutsche Reichsausschuß für Olympische Spiele (DRAfOS) und seine, auf die Durchführung olympischer Spiele fokussierte Arbeit, hinfällig. Im Mittelpunkt der deutschen Bestrebungen stand nunmehr nicht der internationale, sondern der nationale Aspekt. Aus diesem Grund wurde der ehemalige DRAfOS im Jahre 1917 in den Deutschen Reichsausschuß für Leibesübungen (DRAfL), mit Carl Diem als Generalsekretär, umbenannt. "Mit den Anträgen auf Änderung des Namens wurde deutlich, daß man sich von den Vorstellungen des internationalen Sports abwenden wollte und gleichzeitig noch deutlicher als bisher den Anspruch erhob, Dachorganisation des deutschen Sports zu sein." (LENNARTZ, K)

Deutschland hatte beim Ausbruch des Krieges im Jahre 1914 die belgische Neutralität mißachtet und war mit seinen Truppen auf dem Weg nach Frankreich durch Belgien gezogen. Ziel dieser Aktion war es, die Befestigungen der "Maginot-Linie" an der deutsch-französischen Grenze zu umgehen. Dieser Fehlschritt Deutschlands in seiner Kriegsstrategie blieb jedoch nicht ohne Folgen. Dies veranschaulicht der Versailler Friedensvertrag, der zum 10. Januar 1920 in Kraft trat, deutlich. Demzufolge hatte das geschlagene Deutschland nicht nur die Gebietsabtretungen an der West-, Ost- und Nordgrenze, die Reparationszahlungen an die Siegermächte und die Alleinschuld am Ersten Weltkrieg anzuerkennen, sondern mußte auch den Ausschluß aus der olympischen Bewegung hinnehmen.

Auch an den Inter-Allied Games, die 1919 in Paris ausgetragen wurden, um den noch verbliebenen Sportlern "eine Art Generalprobe für die nächsten Olympischen Spiele" zu ermöglichen, durften die Deutschen nicht teilnehmen

Diese Ausgrenzung der deutschen Sportler von der Bühne des internationalen Wettkampfsports - nochmals untermauert durch den Versailler Vertrag von 1919 nochmals untermauert - führte dazu, daß in Deutschland eine Art Gegenbewegung zu den Aktivitäten des IOC entstand.

Für Deutschland zählten fortan nur noch die "Nationalen Olympischen Spiele", die den Namen "Deutsche Kampfspiele" erhielten. Das Programm ähnelte stark dem der Olympischen Spiele: Sommer und – Winterveranstaltung; ein Zyklus von vier Jahren und die Gold-, Silber- und Bronzeplatetten für die Sieger.

Deutsche Kampfspiele da von den Spielen der VII. Olympiade ausgeschlossen.





14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPiele – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.1. The 1st edition of the German Sports Games – 1922.



29.7.1922: The special postcard edited by the DRAfL on the occasion of the 1st "Deutsche Kampfspiele", written a few weeks after the event.

The special post office at the German Stadium could have been operational (postmarks of later date are known), but until now no special postmark with the dates of the games has been found.





14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.0. The Genesis of the "DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE".

25.1.1917: General Assembly of DRAfOS. All members with the exception of Gebhardt and IOC member Baron A. von Francken-Sierstorpff, concurred to change the name of the Committee to "Deutscher Reichsausschus für Leibesübungen" (DRAfL). It should concentrate on the organisation of "National Olympic Games" since the members doubted the continuation of the Olympic Games in the future. DIEM was the spurring person in this direction.

1.4.1919: First General Assembly of the DRAfL. LEWALD is elected as President, DIEM as Secretary General. It is definitely decided to hold the "Deutsche Kampfspiele" in 1921. The just terminated 17th IOC Session, where it was decided that only countries with representatives in the IOC could participate in the Olympic Games, convinced DIEM that Germany would not be invited to the Antwerp Olympics and that the "National Games" should be the core of German sports.



22.11.1919: The Sports Commission of the DRAfL decides to invite all Germans – worldwide – to participate in the 1922 (changed from 1921) "Deutsche Kampfspiele".

20.7.1920: The Sport Commission determines the programme of the National Games, corresponding in its main lines to the Olympic programme.

22.1.-29.1.1922: Winter Games at Garmisch, Partenkirchen, Triberg and Titisee, as part of the 1st "Deutsche Kampfspiele".

18.6.-2.7.1922: The first "Deutche Kampfspiele" in the German Stadium in Berlin.

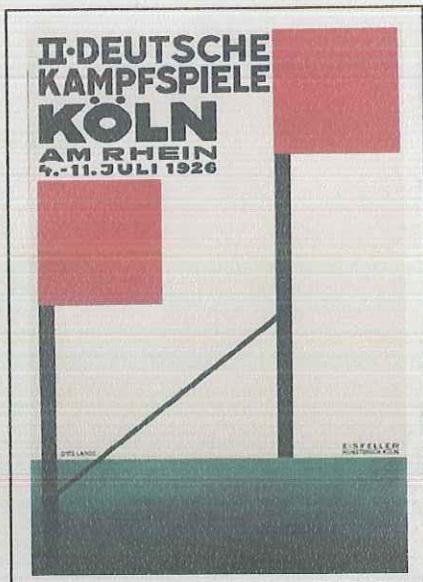




14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.2. The 2nd edition of the German Sports Games – 1926.



THE SECOND EDITION OF THE German Sports Games took place in Köln (Cologne) in 1926, 4.-11.7.1926. Carl Diem, who at this time was already a domineering personality in the German sports movement, had not yet reconciled himself with the Olympic movement, in spite of the fact that Germany was again IOC recognised and had two members in the IOC. Consequently, "HOCH DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE"

THE POSTER
Lange, Otto (Ottolange) 1879 - 1944
II. Deutsche Kampfspiele
Offset 1926
24.8 x 16.5 in. (63 x 42 cm)

3.6.1926: A registered letter from Berlin with the manual publicity cancellation for the 2nd German Sports Games to take place in Cologne. The cancellation was applied in the Berlin W62 Post Office.





14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.2. The 2nd edition of the German Sports Games – 1926.

Cologne with its new stadium was the leading city in Germany to organise giant sports events. In 1926, two major sports events took place, on both sides of the political rainbow. The first one was the 2nd edition of the "Deutsche Kampfspiele", Carl Diem's brainchild. 8000 participants, 60.000 spectators. Lange and Deres claim that the choice of the site – Cologne, in occupied Rhineland was an intentional, provocative action against the occupants.

4.5.1926: A cover with the publicity slogan postmark for the "Deutsche Kampfspiele". The slogan was used in Cologne since March 1926.





14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917 – 1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – 1926 – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.2. The second edition of the German Sports Games

2 postcards with the publicity slogan postmark used in the KÖLN p 1 Post Office since February 1926





14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

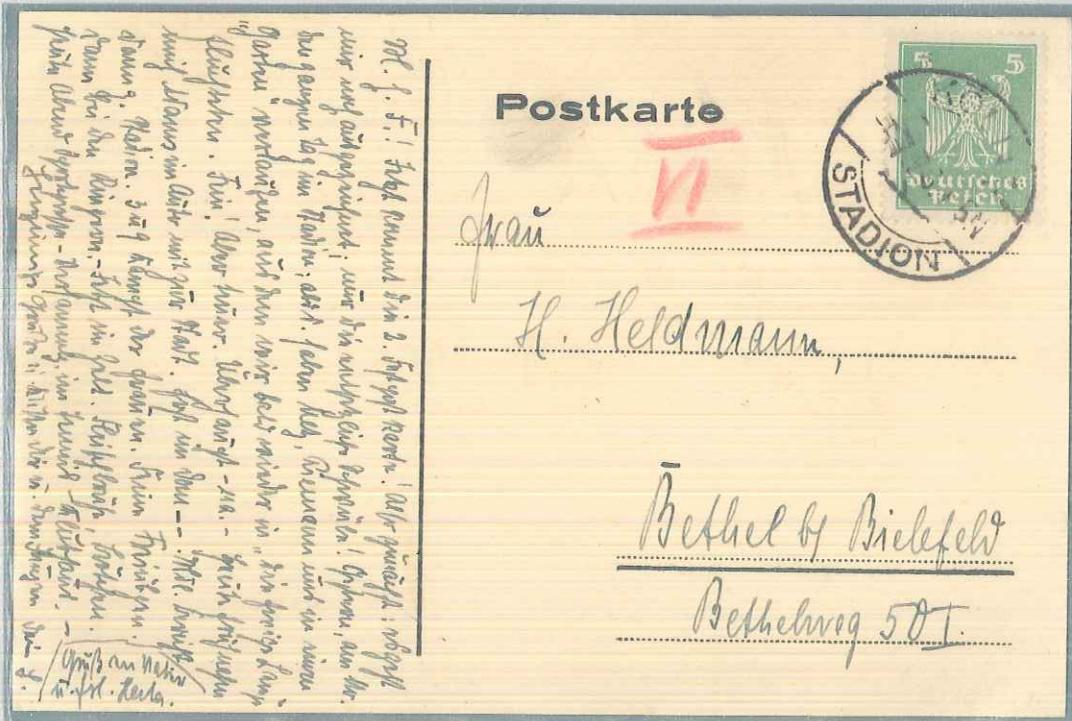
14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.2. The 2nd edition of the German Sports Games – 1926.



5.7.1926: One of the special postcards edited for the games. The card was posted on the second day of the games by a participant. He also describes some of the events. Of interest is the mention about the women's competitions.

The card was posted at the special STADION post office. The latter was installed in the new stadium. The construction of the Müngersdorfer stadium started in 1921 and the inauguration was on 16.9.1923. The Kampfspiele, however, were, the first major event in the new stadium.





14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.2. The 2nd edition of the German Sports Games – 1926.



7.7.1926: The second special postcard edited for the games. The card was posted on the fourth day of the games by a participant. The card was posted at the special STADION post office. The latter was installed in the new stadium. It received the second postmark used in the special Post Office, namely the mechanical cancellation "Stadion".

That day the German NOC (DRAfL) met for its annual General Assembly in Cologne. Statuary changes were discussed.



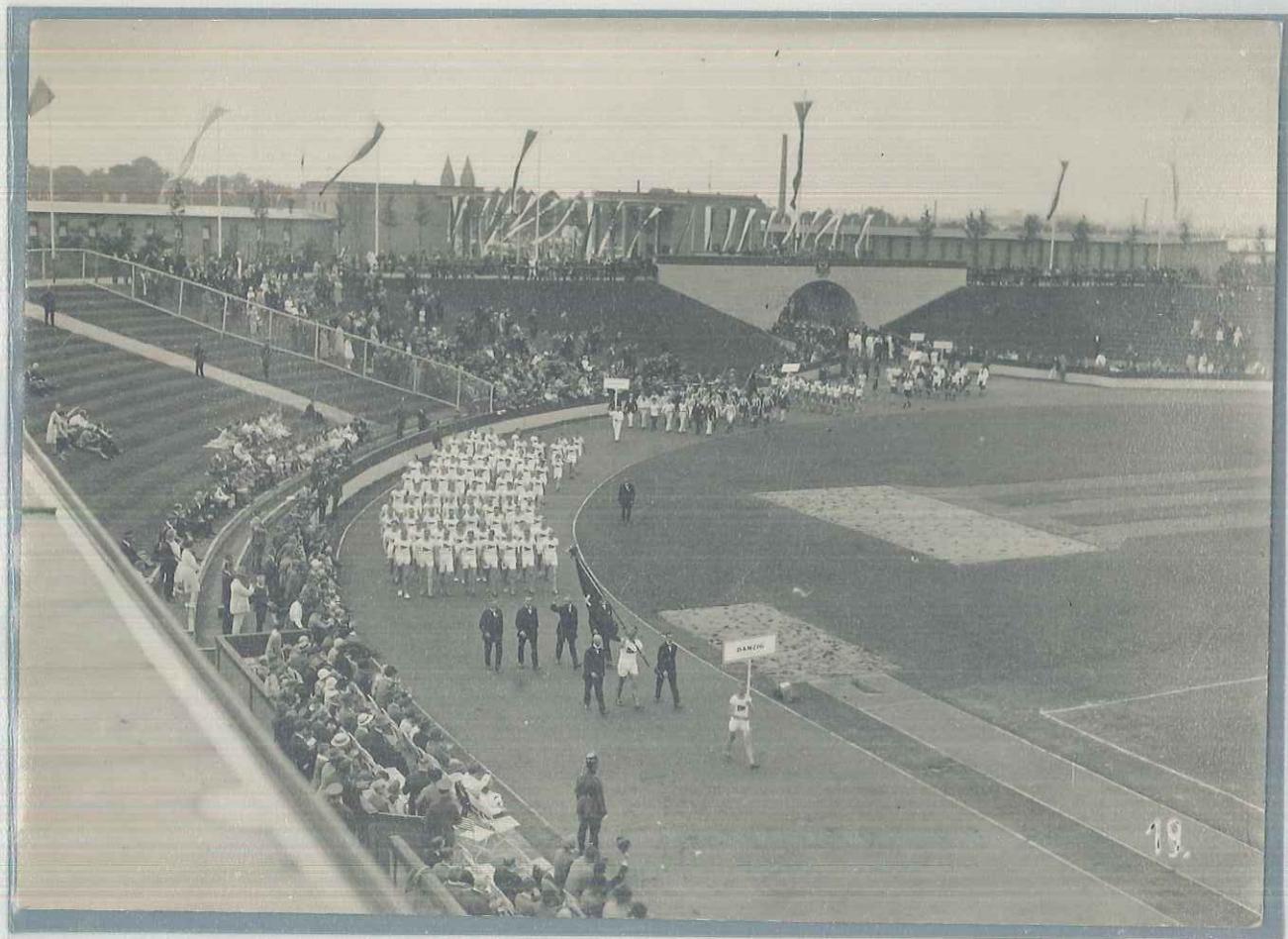


14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.2. The 2nd edition of the German Sports Games – 1926.

A picture taken during the opening ceremony - 4.7.1926. The entrance of the teams. Note that the "DANZIG" team was, in fact, a team with German athletes from abroad, as "The Free City of Danzig" did not belong to Germany.





14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE - 1926 - THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.2. The 2nd edition of the German Sports Games – 1926.

2.4.1926: The special manual postmark used in BERLIN W 62 on a COD envelope.



15.5.1926: The same special postmark used in KÖLN KAL..





POLITICS AND THE VIII OLYMPIAD – 4.5.1924 – 11.5.1928
 THE «BLACK/NATIONALISTIC» OPPOSITION CONTINUES
 THE 2ND DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE 1926

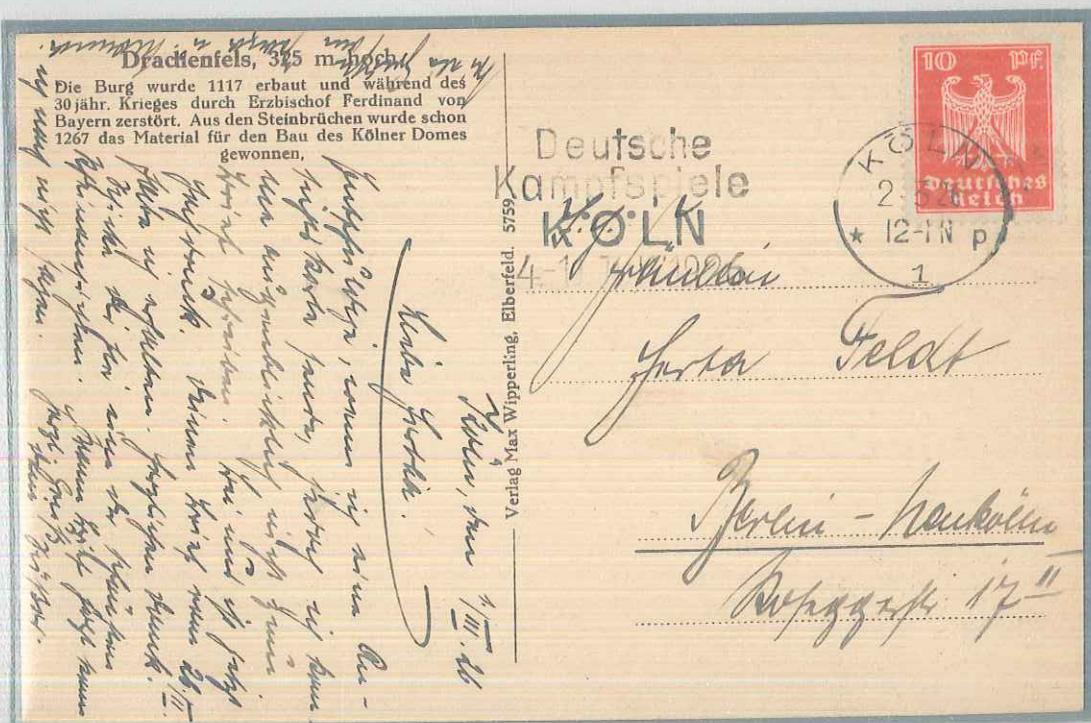
Germany just returned to the Olympic Movement and already starts “showing its muscle” – an old tradition. **7.7.1926:** In the midst of the DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE, which in themselves were an affront to the Olympic Movement, the DRAfL – the German All Sports Federation, managing also Germany’s IOC participation – held its general assembly. Amongst others, LEWALD obtained a prophylactic statutes modification, allowing large federations – meant were the German Turners – the veto rights on important tasks [of the DRAfL]. This was to encourage the German Turners to re-integrate the DRAfL in view of the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.



A triple affront to the Olympic Movement: 1. Organising the Games (see picture) 2. Holding a general assembly on that occasion 3. Allowing the arch enemies of the Olympics – the German Turners - the right to veto Germany's participation at the Olympic Games. IT STARTED HERE AND CULMINATED IN 1936.

The opening ceremony with the DRAfL's flag heading the parade. The flag bearer, Arno HOLZ, played a role in the 1924 Paris games, though a German (see 1924 - Spain)

2.3.1926: A machine canceller used in the Köln 2 Post Office to advertise the forthcoming DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE.



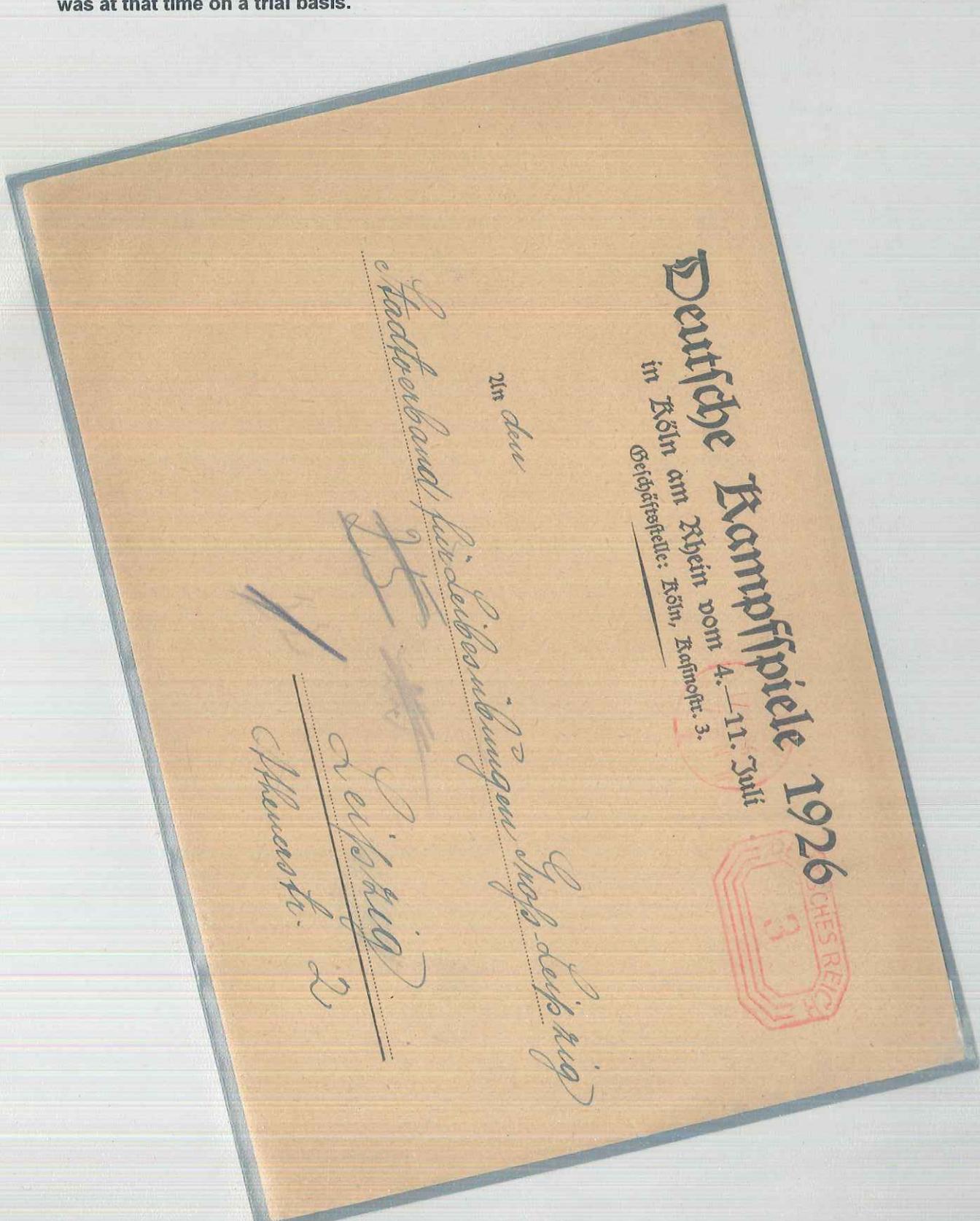


14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.2. The 2nd edition of the German Sports Games – 1926.

17.5.1926: Cover of the Organising Committee. Observe the use of a franking machine, which was at that time on a trial basis.





POLITICS AND THE VIII OLYMPIAD – 4.5.1924 – 11.5.1928 THE «BLACK/NATIONALISTIC» OPPOSITION CONTINUES THE 2ND DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE 1926

21.31.1.1926: Winter games of the 2nd DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE in TITISEE and TRIBERG.
4.-11.7.1926: The 2nd DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE in COLOGNE.



In spite of Germany's «Olympic» integration – Prague 1925 – and its acceptance, in general, to international sports [European Ice Skating Championship in Berlin, 1925], the DRAfL continued with the staging of the German National Sports Games, the “DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE”. These games alarmed the IOC members in 1922 and 1923 and were the main reason why Germany was still “shut out” of the 1924 Paris Olympics. In 1926 their existence did not seem to bother the IOC!!

21.31.1.1926: Winter games of the 2nd DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE in TITISEE and TRIBERG.

4.-11.7.1926: The 2nd DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE in Cologne.

4.7.1926: The opening ceremony of the 2nd DEUTSCHE KAMPFSPIELE was taken by the official photographer A. RHEINHOLD. He had the proprietary rights on all pictures taken during the games.





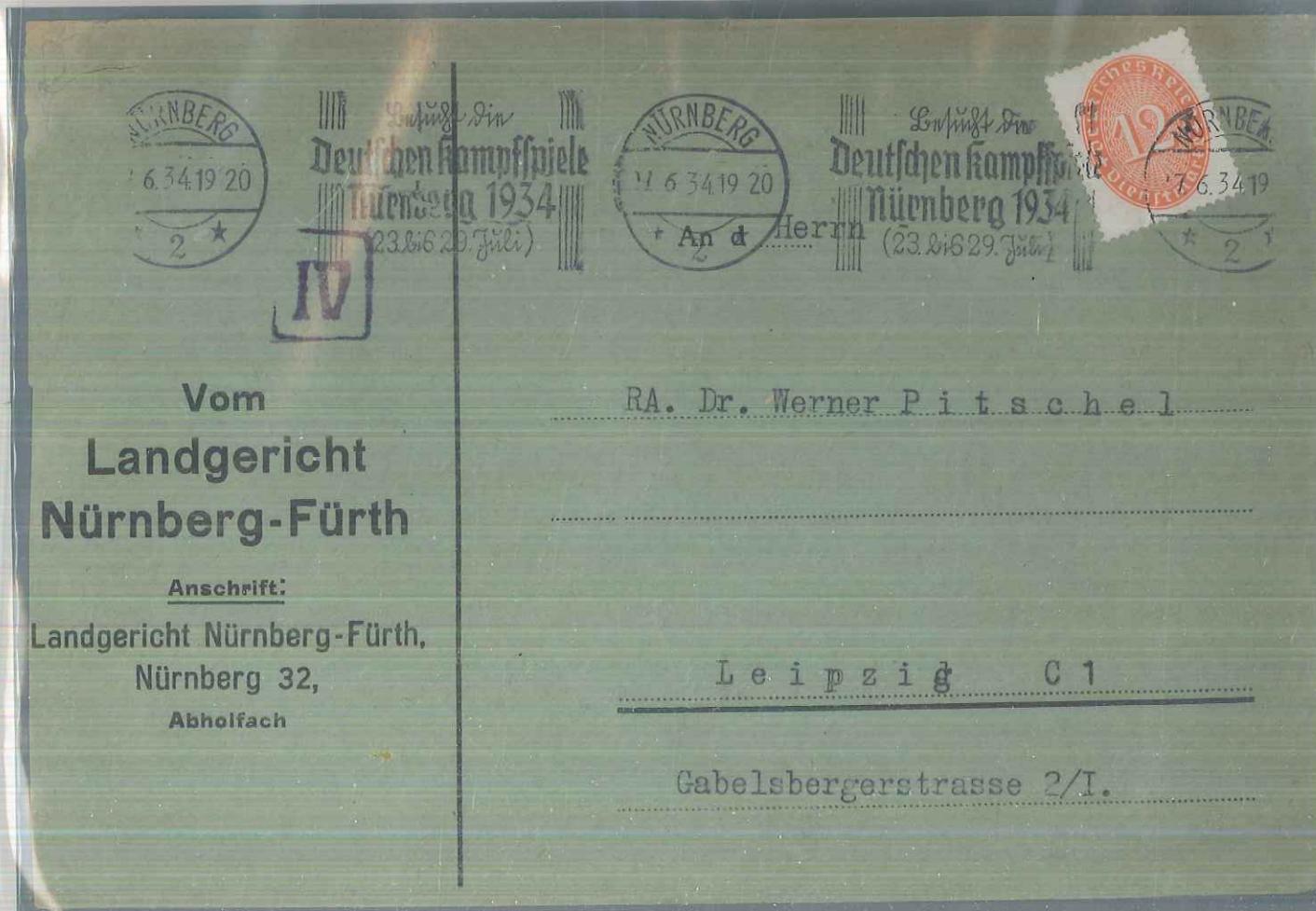
14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – 1934 - THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.4. The winner's medal awarded at the 4th edition of the German Sports Games in 1934.



17.6.34: PROPAGANDA SLOGAN FOR THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES AT NÜRNBERG,





14. POLITICS AND GERMANY'S POSITION IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT 1917-1936

14.1.2. DIE DEUTSCHEN KAMPFSPIELE – THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES

14.1.2.4. The 4th edition of the German sports games took place again, in spite of Germany's integration into the Olympic movement and its participation in 1928 and 1932; in spite of having been awarded the organisation of the 1936 games. The reason was mainly the desire of the new Nazi regime to underscore its specific Aryan sports domination.

3.3.34: PROPAGANDA SLOGAN FOR THE GERMAN SPORTS GAMES AT NÜRNBERG, 23.-29.7.1934.



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