

# THE END-OF-WAR ISSUES OF 1945.

When the Third Reich had been evicted, its postage stamps were unacceptable. If there was to be any postal service, a temporary expedient was needed while a more permanent solution was negotiated and implemented. This had to be the overprinting of Hitler-head definitives and a few commemorative issues. A huge variety of printing errors are catalogued.



**First Vienna Temporary Issue.** A 3pf was prepared but not issued as there was no corresponding postal rate; the 6pf has two colour variants. 5pf was the rate for a local card and 8pf for a local letter; these were issued on 2 May 1945. 6pf was the rate for an inland card and 12pf for an inland letter; these were issued on 18 May 1945.



**Second Vienna Temporary Issue.** The four values overprinted on politically-acceptable German commemoratives



**Third Vienna Temporary Issue.** The four values overprinted on Hitler-heads with a vertical grid as well as the diagonal ÖSTERREICH, at the instruction of the Russian occupation forces who wanted the head more obscured.



42pf issued 26 June 1945  
(possibly for a registered inland letter)



Three 5pf values showing overprint varieties.



High value stamps were overprinted but not issued.



As the war ended, Graz was the capital of the Russian Zone of Steiermark. Every available value (19) was overprinted, and issued on various dates beginning on 22 May. There are many variations in the printing!