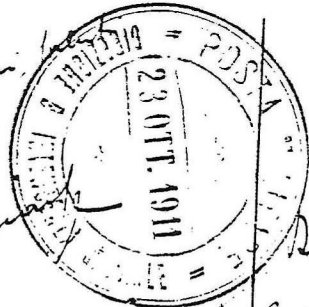
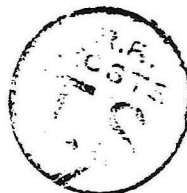


ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

Direzione D'Intendenza Speciale
23 October 1911
4 November 1911

Tripoli - 22 - 10 - 11

CASERTE POSTALE



Tanti affettuosi saluti

Tan. Nanni

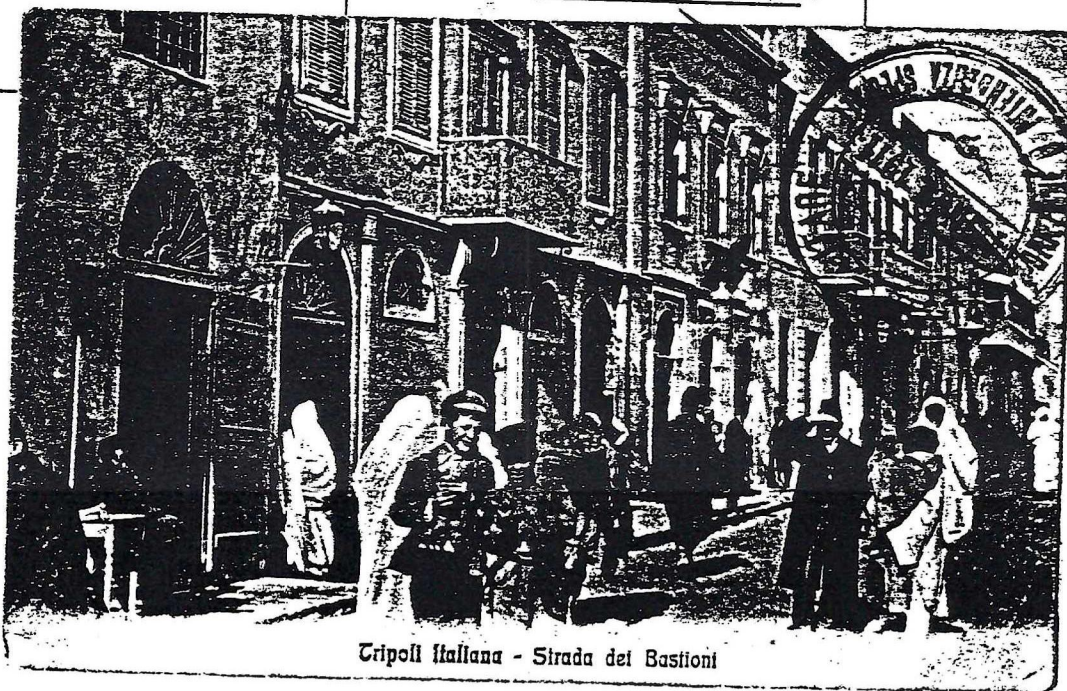
Calvitano

Robt. Rafali Pietro

Comandante M. Ministero Guerra

Roma

DANKS - ROMA

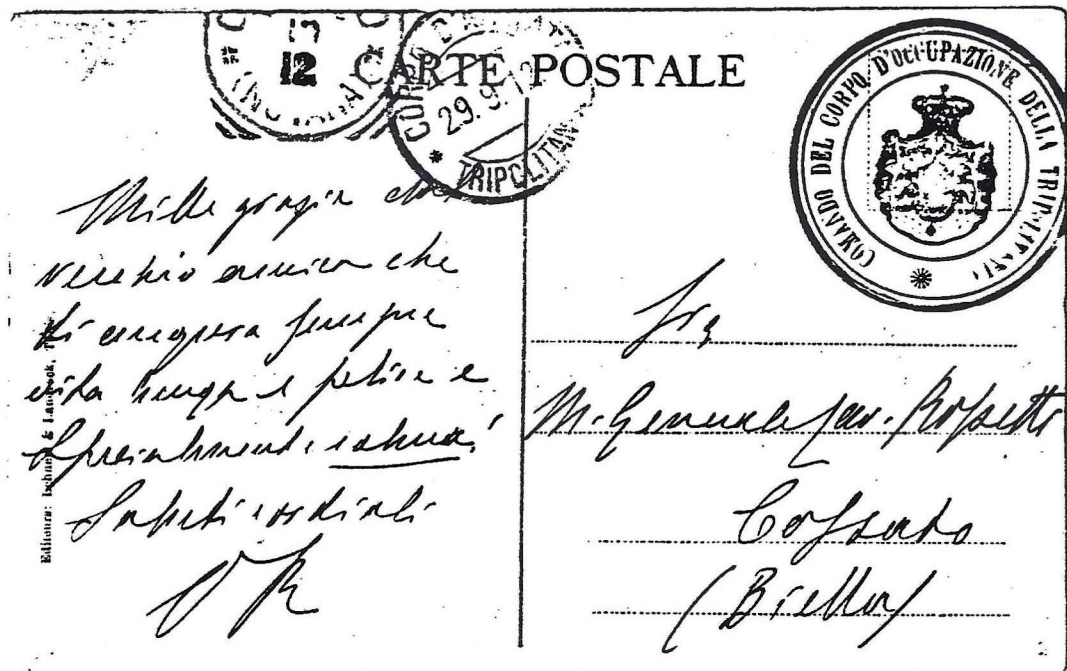


Tripoli Italiana - Strada del Bastioni

Sensing that the time for acquiring colonies was running out and that the Ottoman Empire was tottering, Italy looked south to the Turkish possessions in North Africa as an outlet for its expansionist instincts. With the settlement of the Moroccan crisis in favor of France, the time seemed ripe and war was declared on Turkey on 29 September 1911. Hostilities commenced on 3 October when Italian warships bombarded Tripoli harbor, and marines landed two days later. The military post offices commenced operations in Tripoli on 19 October 1911.

For the Superintendency or Supply Corps, a large rubber postmark was introduced when the military post office opened. Initially, purple ink was used, but in November a black ink was substituted. This latter had a high acidic content, which caused the rubber to deteriorate quickly. As a result, this marking had to be taken out of service around the end of the month, after only limited usage.

Corpo D'Armata/Tripolitania
22 July 1912
29 September 1912



Steel circular postmarks reading "Army Corps/Tripolitania" were introduced at the main military post office in Tripoli during October 1911. The initial version included a hooded scroll with the wording "Military Post" at the top. The postal clerks did not like this appendage, and it was removed during the third quarter of 1912. As a result, a purely circular device was used to cancel mail from then until this office closed in July 1913.

Libya

27 August 1912

10 October 1912

19 December 1912

22/12

CARTOLINA POSTAL

FUORI COMMERCIO

Salvadori

Pharmac

«Francia di porto»

POSTA MILITARE - TRIPOLITANIA
INTENDENZA GENERALE

R

R
Scienti viri dicuntur
S. Men

S. M. M. M.

Luigi Capistrano Bucciantini

Ministero Guerra

BOVA

lvira

Chiasso

no 22

The steel postmarks which replaced the rubber version for the Supply Corps in November 1911 came in several versions, including hooded and plain circular markings as well as with slightly different wording. These appear to have been used interchangeably until this office was closed in July 1913.



In addition to the central Army Corps and Supply Corps markings, each of the Army Divisions sent to Libya had its own military post office. The First Division landed in Tripoli on 11 October 1911 and its postal facility was opened for business eight days later.

Note the application of the circular marking with "T.S" which stood for "Tassa Semplice" or Single Tax. Based on an order of 21 October 1911, unfranked mail could be sent back to Italy by soldiers and sailors. The T.S marking meant that only the normal postage due would be charged, not the double deficiency rate.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

II Divisione/Bengasi
15 December 1911

2a Divisione Speciale
27 August 1912

Raccomandata

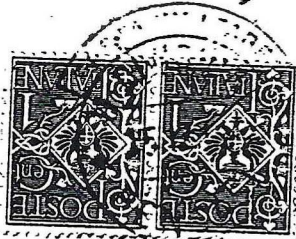
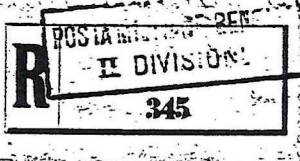
Sig: Gioacchino Saraceni

Francobolli per Collezione

Via delle Muratte 96

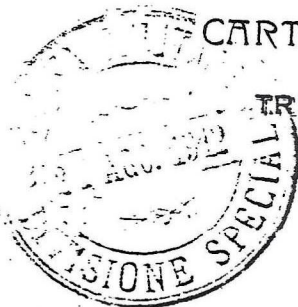


ROMA



CARTOLINA POSTALE ITALIANA

TRIPOLITANIA e CIRENAICA 1911



*Ringrazio te e
l'amico Vaccaro
per saluto
aff
S. Arlano*

AI VALOROSI COMBATTENTI NEL NOME D'ITALIA NOSTRA
LA LITOG. DOYEN DI LUIGI SIMONETTI - TORINO

*3
Sig. Mattone
Divisione Generale
Servizi Elettrici
Via Frattina
Roma*

The Second Division was sent to Benghazi in the province of Cyrenaica in eastern Libya. The initial landing took place on 4 October 1911 and the post office opened on the 23rd. A rubber handstamp and two metal datestamps were issued to the Division. One of the latter was inscribed "Tripolitania," clearly an erroneous designation.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

Posta da Campo/Bengasi
7 February 1912
28 February 1912



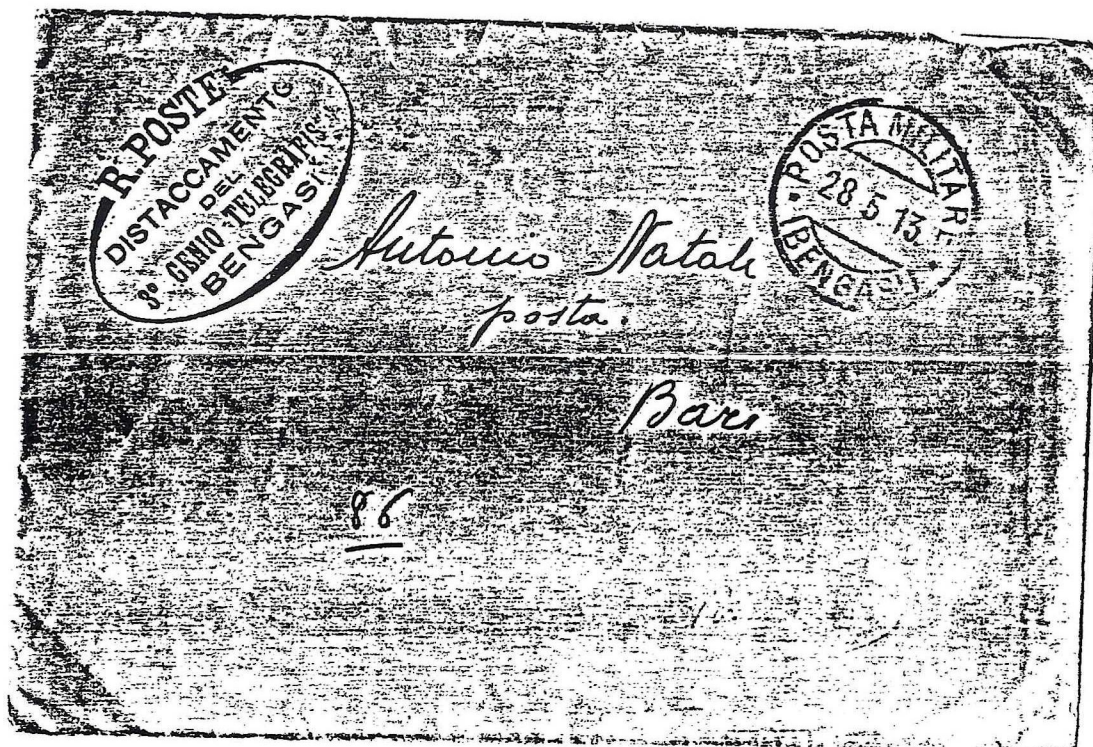
*Alla Signorina
Sig.^a Maria Cotti
Cantiere Insaldo
(Genova) Sestri Ponente*



An additional postmark was introduced with the wording "Field Post/Benghazi." However, the wording used in the 2-line marking on the registration labels continued to show "II Divisione."

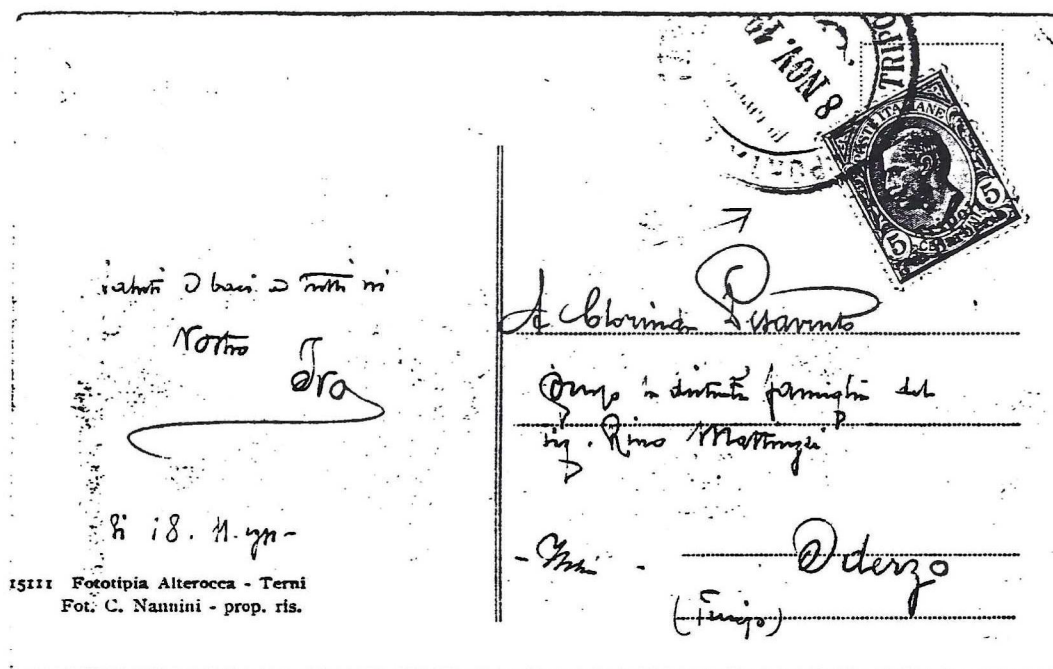
ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

Posta Militare/Bengasi
27 November 1911
28 May 1913



A further type of metal cds for Benghazi worded "Military Post" was introduced in November 1911 and used until the military post office there was closed on 1 August 1913.

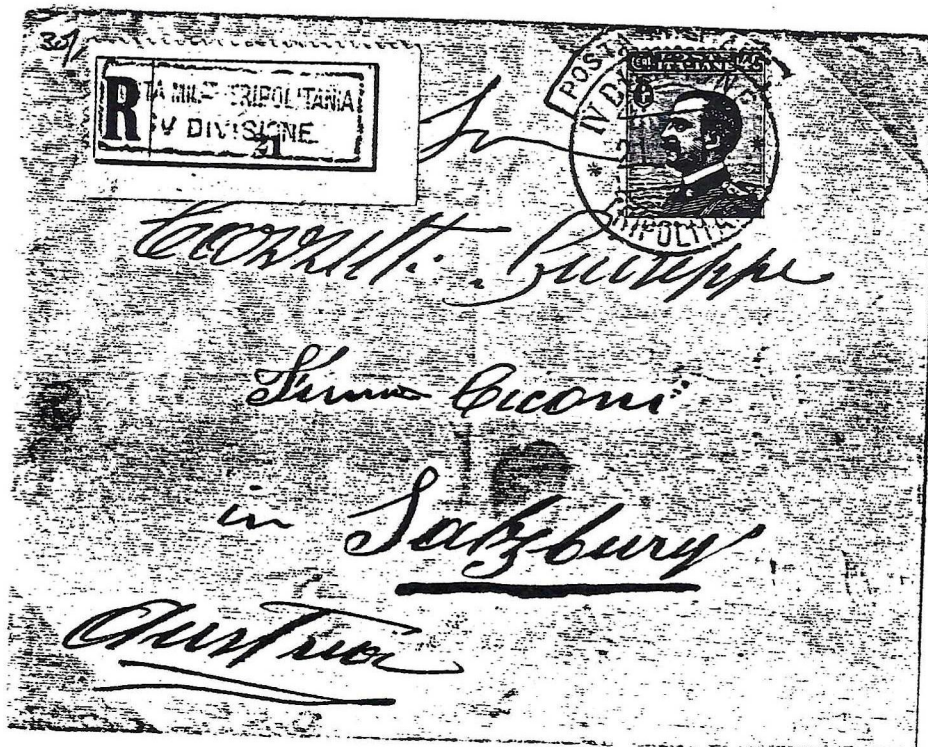
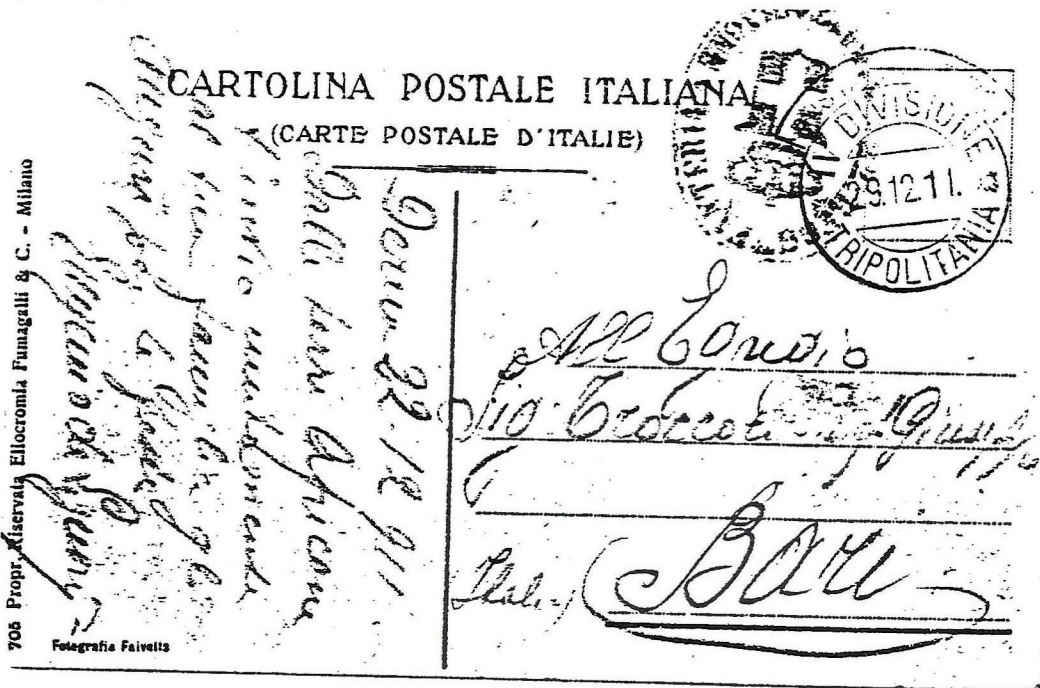
Porta Militare/Tripolitania
11 November 1911
18 November 1911



Because of continued resistance by the Berber tribesmen, the Third Division was ordered to Tripoli as reinforcements for the First. Its post office opened on 10 November 1911. Unfortunately, the rubber postmark was misspelled "Porta" instead of "Posta." A rose lilac ink was initially used with this cancel, then black for a few more days starting on 14 November.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

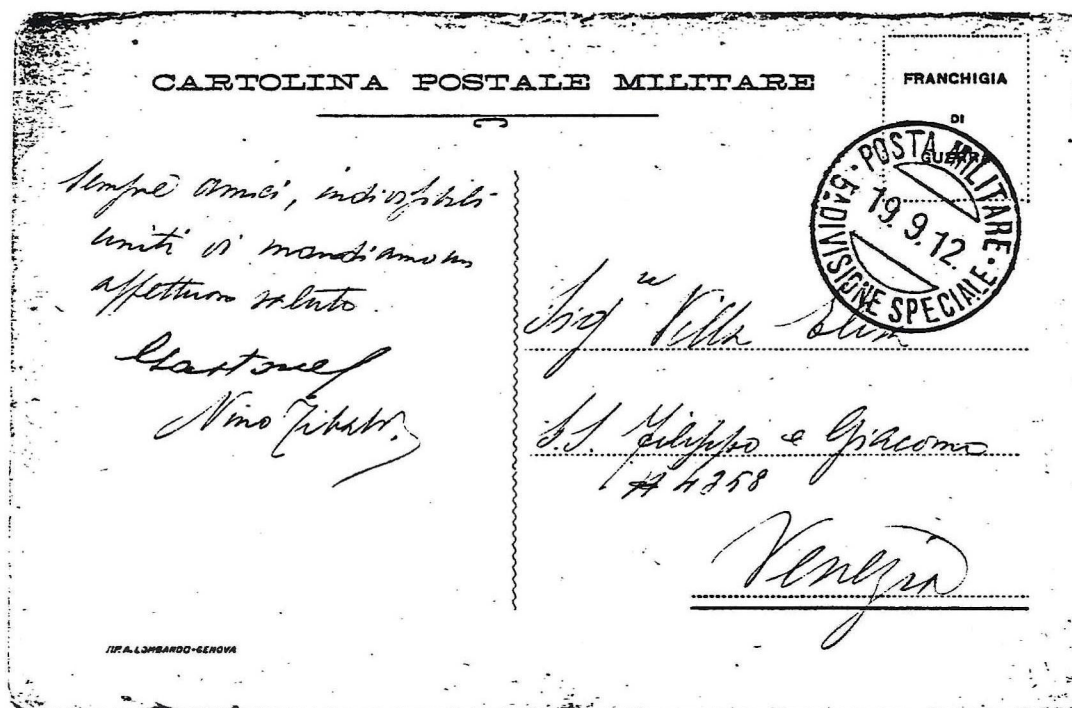
IV Divisione/Tripolitania
29 December 1911
21 September 1912



Because of Turkish counterattacks, the Fourth Division was ordered to Derna so that the Second could concentrate its attention on pacifying the Benghazi area. This post office opened on 10 December 1911 and closed on 30 June 1914. In yet another of the numerous errors created in this campaign, the postmark is inscribed "Tripolitania" even though the force spent its entire service in Cyrenaica.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

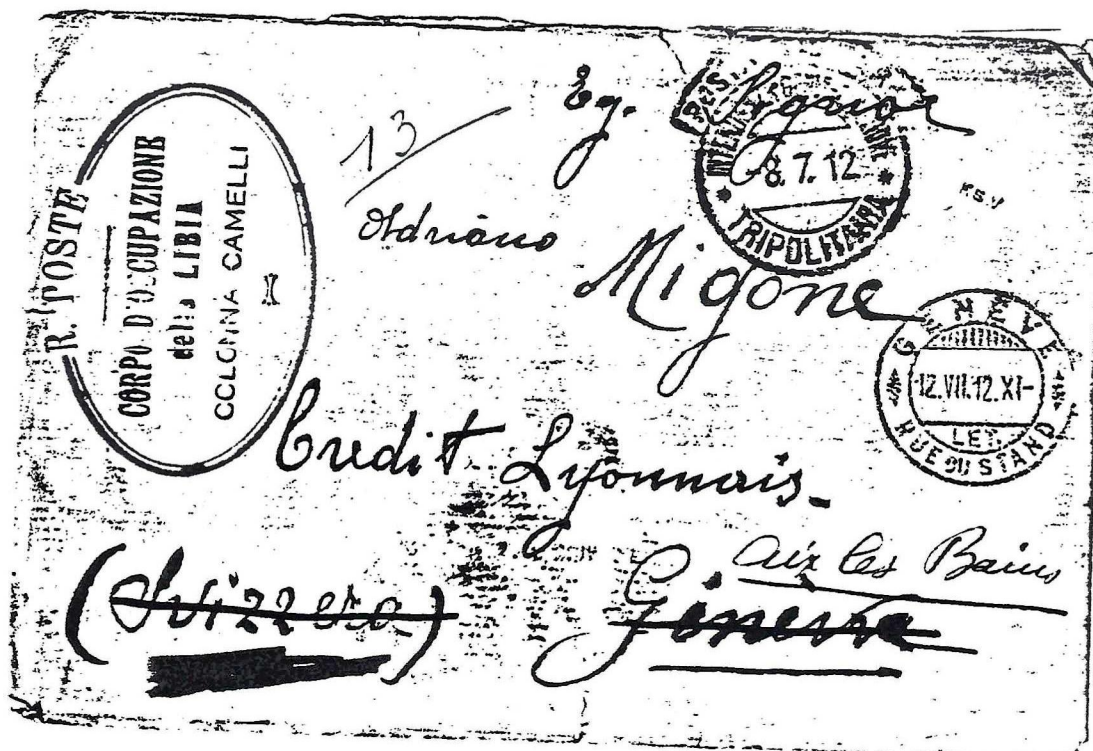
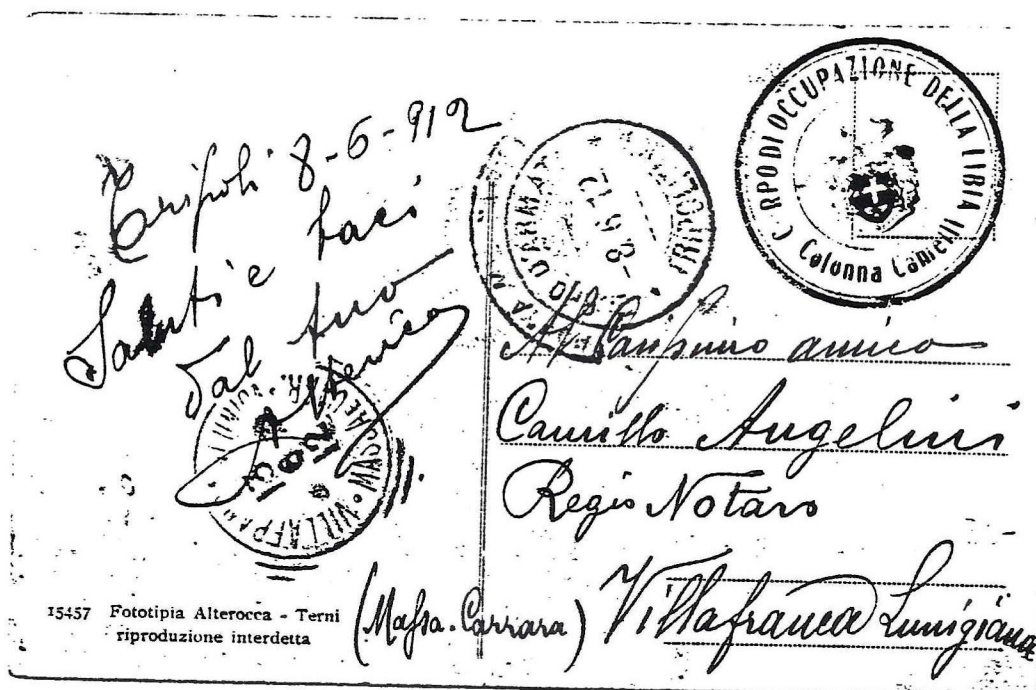
5a Divisione Speciale
19 September 1912



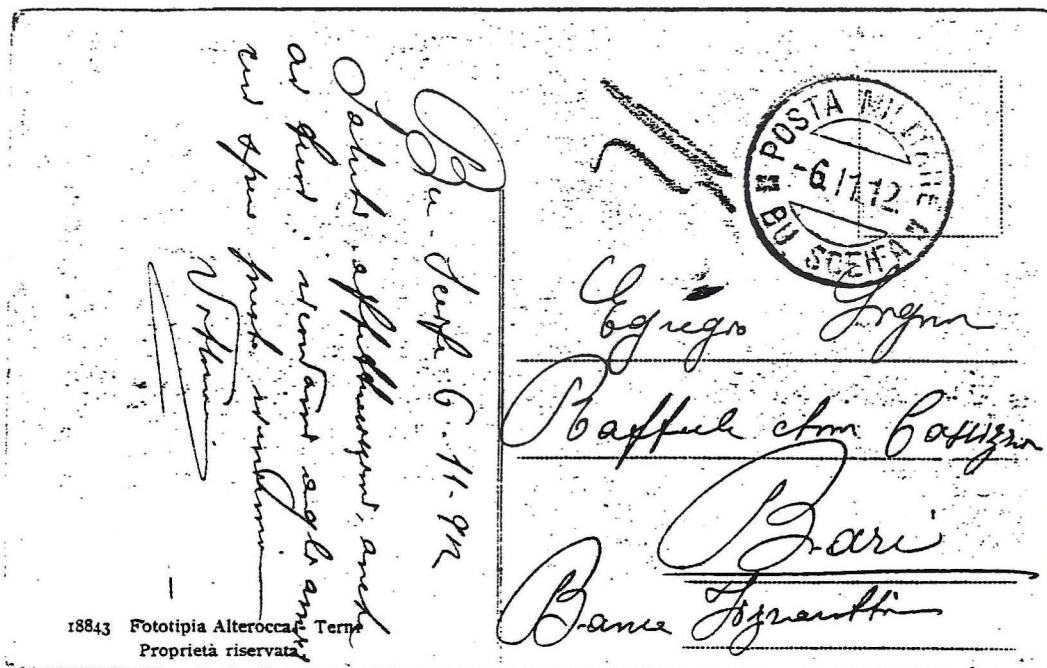
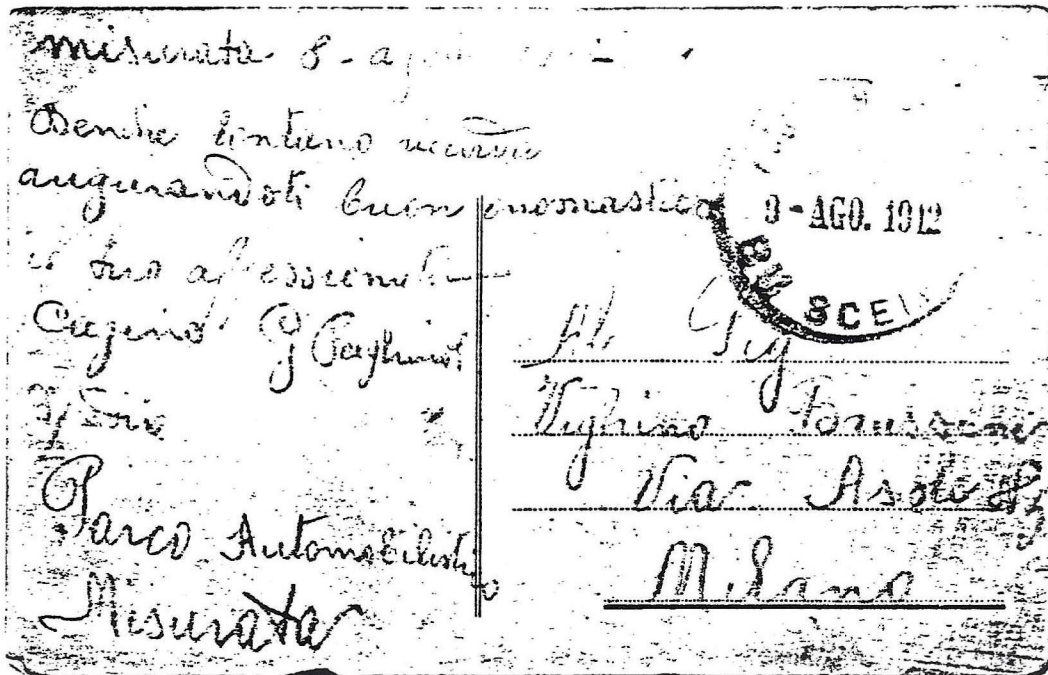
The Fifth Division landed at Ferwa in western Tripolitania on 10 April 1912. Its field post office operated there from April through September, before being moved to Zuara.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

Colonna Camelli
8 June 1912
8 July 1912



Another unusual aspect of this campaign was the use of camels for military purposes. The Italians were able to use conventional cavalry to patrol the coastal areas, but horses could not cope with the deep sand and lack of roads in the interior of the colony. As a result, camel columns were organized for this duty, with special markings for such units being unusual.

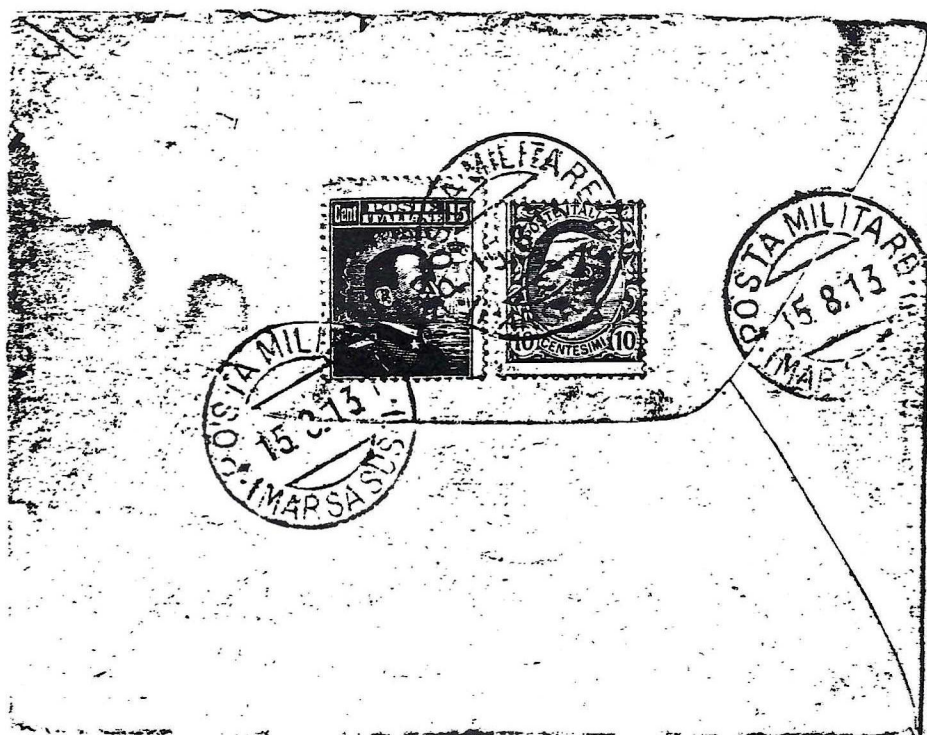


In the second phase of the campaign, the Italians decided to take control of the balance of the Libyan coastline. As part of an operation to take Misurata, troops were landed at Bu Sceifa on 16 June 1912. A military post office was opened on the following day. Initially, a rubber datestamp was used, but it was replaced with a metal one at the end of the month. This office was converted into a civilian facility on 15 May 1913.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

Posta Militare/Cirene
5 September 1913

Posta Militare/Marsa Susa
15 August 1913

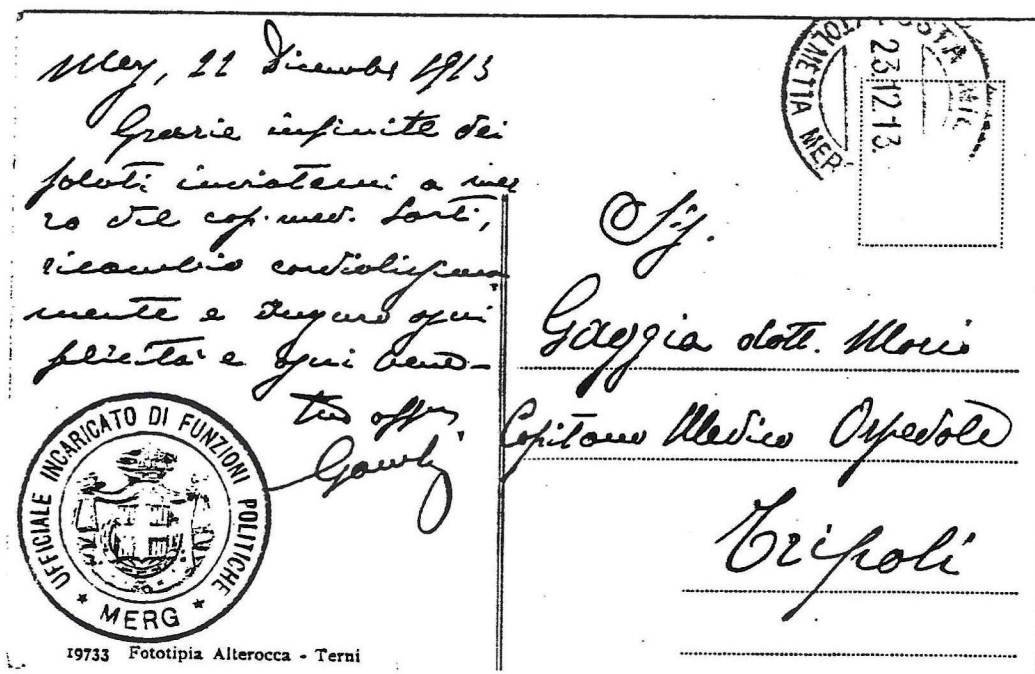


In Cyrenaica, General Tassoni led a column to secure the coastal areas by marching from Derna on 11 April 1913 to Tolmetta, Merg, Cyrene and Marsa Susa, before returning on 20 June. Garrisons established in these towns were provided with military post offices and appropriate markings.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

Posta Militare/Tolmetta
23 December 1913

Posta Militare/Tolmetta Merg
23 November 1913



The Tassoni column established a military post office at Tolmetta on 11 April 1913. The office at Merg was opened on 6 June. At one time, it was planned to have a joint office for the forces in the two towns so a postmark incorporating both names was placed in service. Both offices were converted to civilian usage on 21 May 1915.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

Posta Militare/Zuara
24 February 1913
21 November 1912

Al Signor
Nicola Valente
Gambatesa
Italia
Campobasso



ZUARA
FRANCHIGIA POSTALE
SIDI-ABDESSAMAD
H. N.
Sig. M. Angelo
Ministro T. Morina
P. 1112

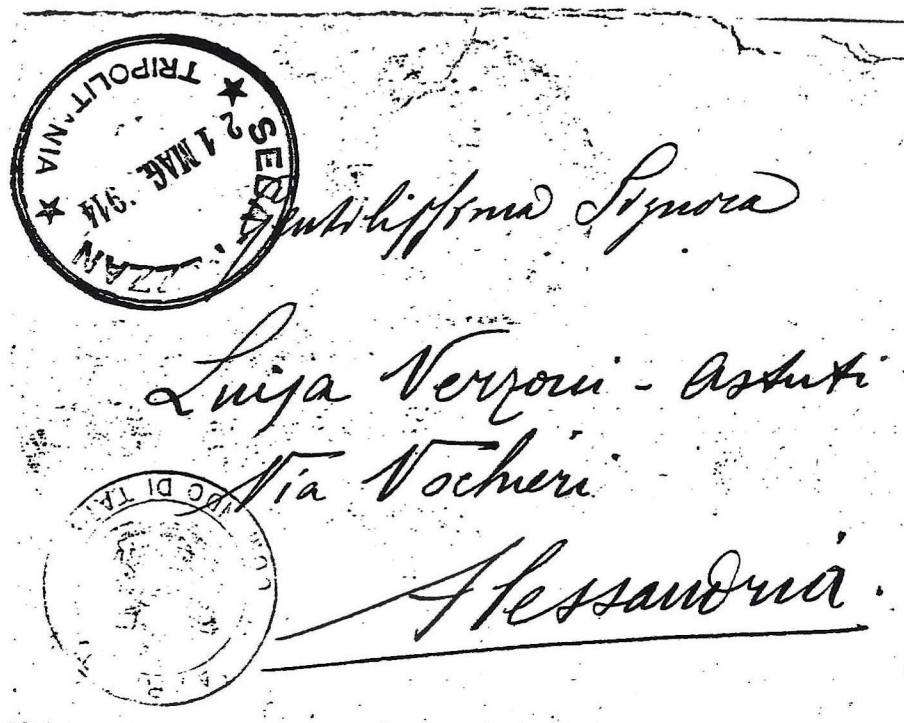


In order to deal with the smuggling of arms and other contraband from across the Tunisian border to the Berber tribesmen, it was decided that Zuara must be siezed. Although troops were landed on 10 April 1912, a number of battles were fought in the area before the Italians were able to capture the town on 6 August., at which time a rubber cds was introduced, followed by a metal cancel in September. The office was converted to civilian status on 31 July 1913.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Libya

Fezzan
2 February 1914

Seba - Fezzan
21 May 1914



For many months, Italian control was confined to the coastal areas of Libya. However, on 26 August 1913, Colonel Miani led a column of native troops with Italian officers into the Fezzan or southern part of the colony. The upper cover shows three strikes of the provisional Fezzan postmark. The lower cover shows a second type which was used prior to the closing of the office on 28 November 1914.