

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Posta Militare/6a Divisione
3 November 1912
13 March 1913

*Alm. quilibet
dignara. Eum, et
l'amicis. Francus
Pertolini. et al. boni
Pater. Personae. scilicet
ringratiamenti,
omnino. a. cordis.
Pater. et. Alii. et. boni
fieri. et. Alii. et. boni*

*Photogr. Stamati. Vasilou. Rhodes
Ingrati. E. Ragozino. Naples. (Italia). 63320*

3-NOV. 12

COMANDO DELLA DIVISIONE SPECIALE

Cap. Fran. Bertolini

Bertolini Hotel

Napoli

CARTOLINA POSTALE ITALIANA
(CARTE POSTALE D'ITALIE)

Poste. Itali.

5

6a DIVISIONE

Alm. Pertolini

Censina Mariatti

Corso Francia 34

1021

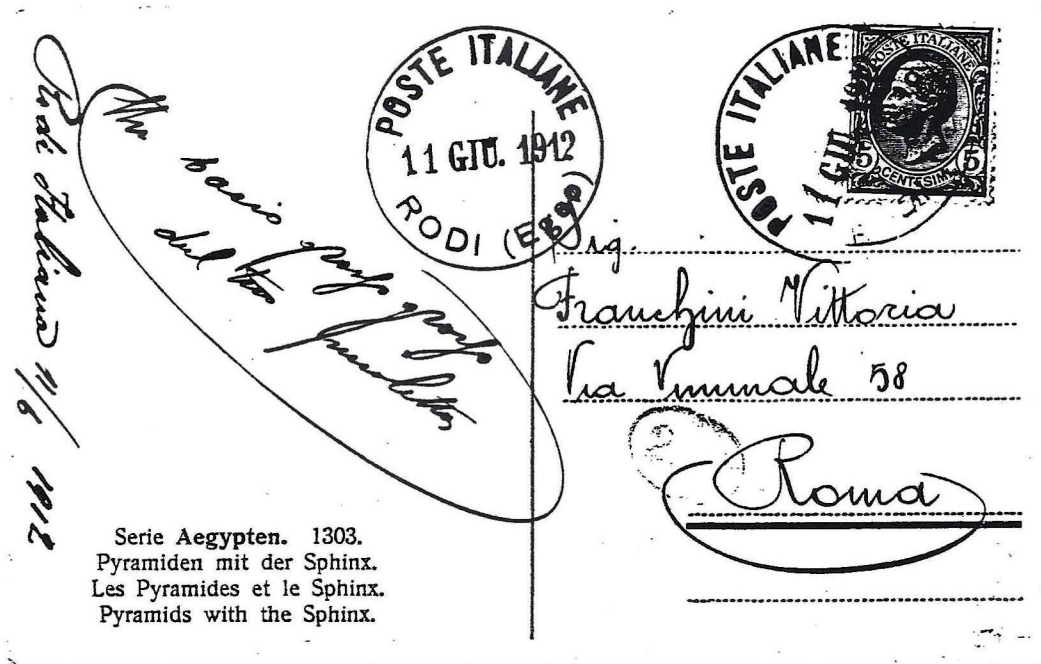
1021

In the spring of 1912, the Italians decided to open a second front against the obviously weak Turks, sending a naval squadron to the Dodecanese ("twelve islands" in Greek) Group in the eastern part of the Aegean Sea. The first landing was by marines from the warships at Stampalia on 26 April, followed by the main force -- the Sixth Army Division -- at Rhodes on 5 May. By the end of that month, all of the islands had been siezed, with the Italian occupation being confirmed when the Turks signed the Treaty of Ouchy on 15 August 1912.

The military post office of the Sixth Division on Rhodes was open from 10 May 1912 until 31 October 1913.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Rodi
11 June 1912
16 October 1912



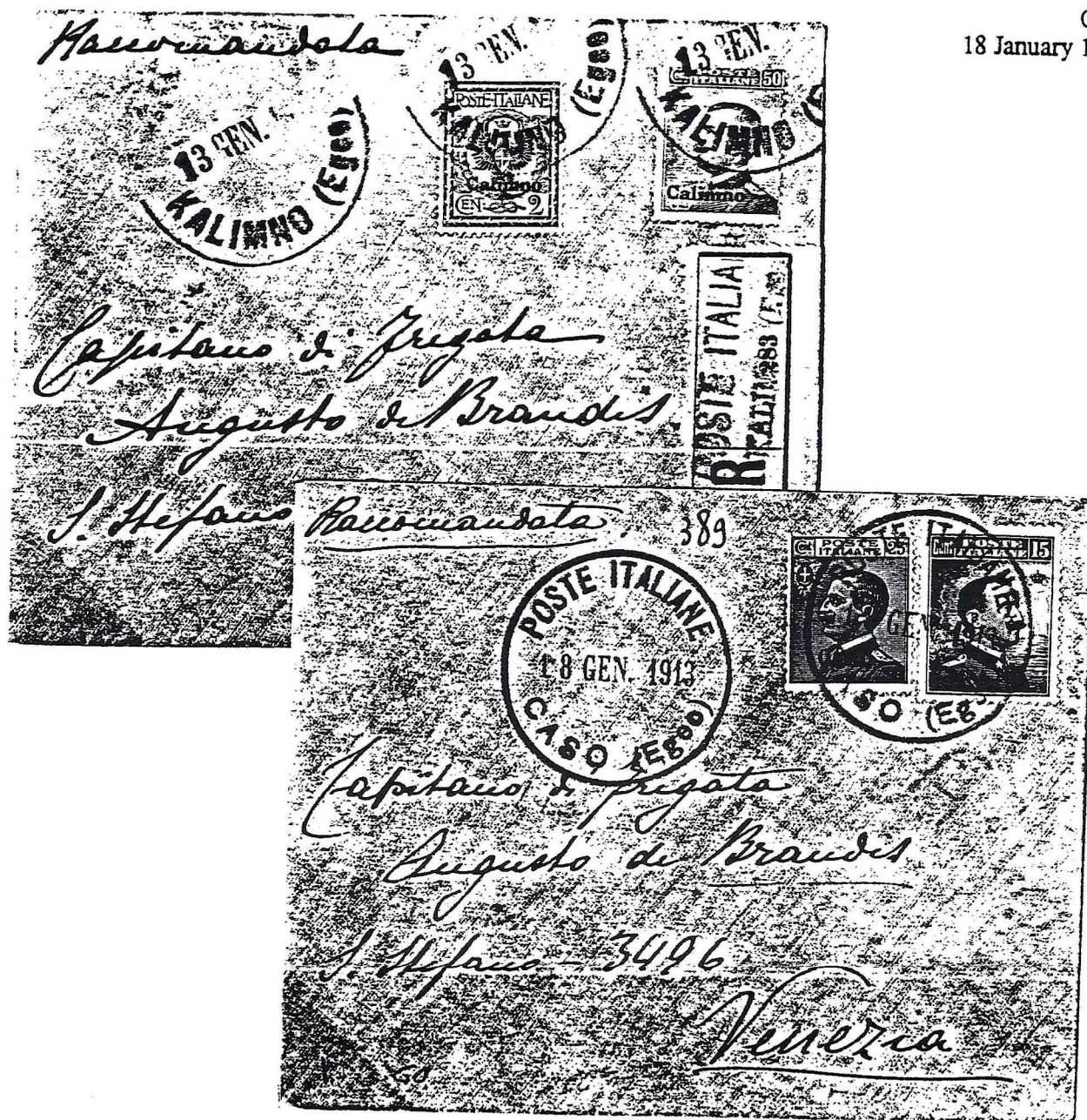
The end of Turkish resistance on 16 May 1912 permitted an early transition to civil government. Thus, a civilian post office opened on 8 June on the premises of the former Harbor Branch (Echelle) of the Turkish Post. Unoverprinted Italian stamps were sold initially, and a rubber cds inscribed "Italian Post/Rhodes (Aegean)" used.

The first stamps specifically for the Aegean Islands were issued on 22 September 1912 consisting of overprints on the Italian 25 and 50 centesimi values.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Calimno
13 January 1913

Caso
18 January 1913



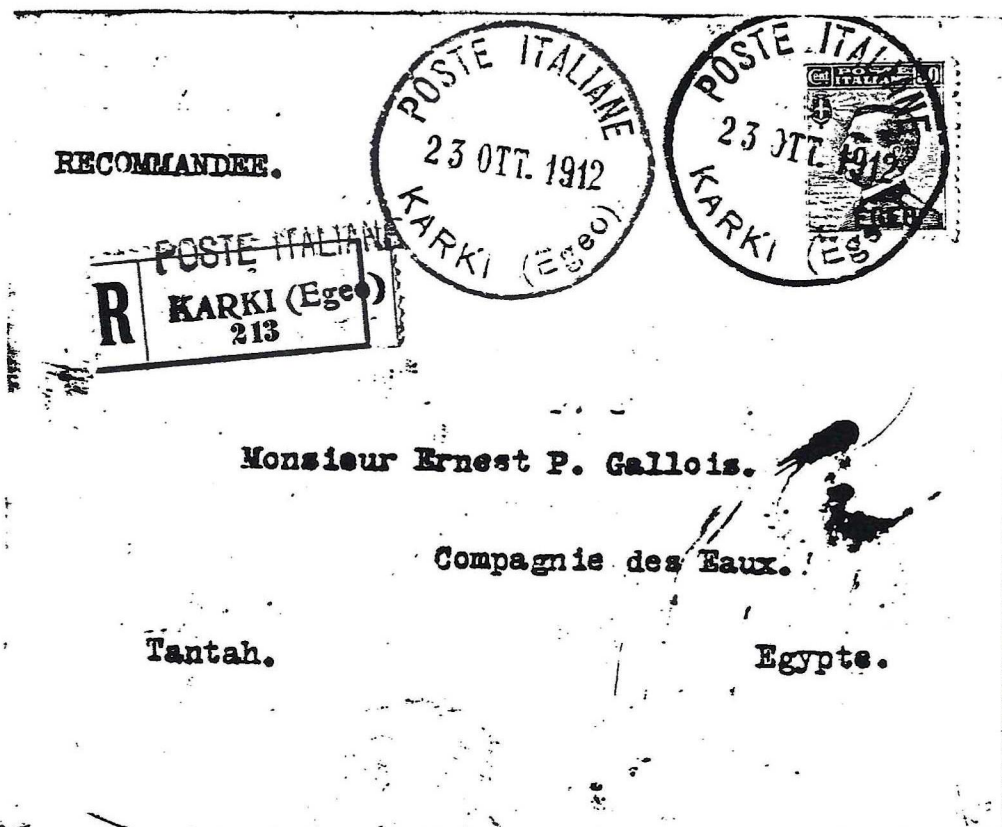
For political propaganda purposes, not to mention philatelic revenues, the Italians decided to issue separate stamps for each of the islands in the Dodecanese Group. Accordingly, sets of overprints were duly prepared and placed on sale on 1 December 1912. Spelling of place names was a problem; while the islands had Greek and Turkish names, these were not easily translated into Italian. Note that the stamps provided for the island called Calymnos in English are actually overprinted "Calimno," while the cancel reads "Kalimno." Later versions are even spelled "Kalymno" and "Calino."

Because of the speed and success of the campaign, it was unnecessary to send troops to most of the islands. Hence, the military post offices were confined to Rhodes. Mail shown for the outer islands illustrates their overprinted stamps and early period Italian postmarks (sometimes sent by visiting military personnel).

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Cos
13 September 1912

Karki
23 October 1912

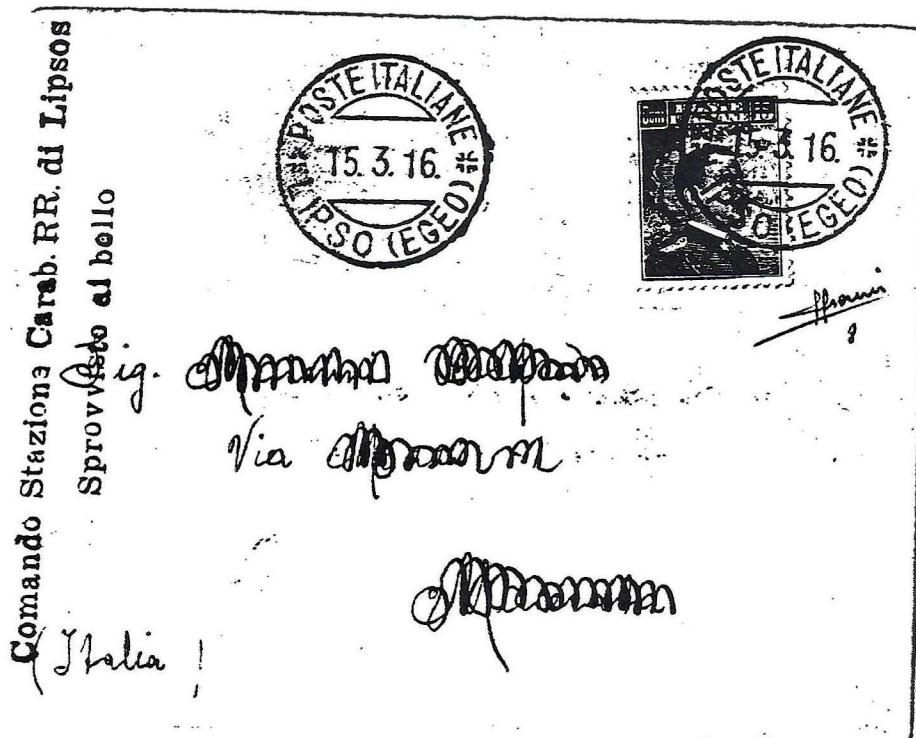


The Italian post offices on Cos and Chalki opened on 10 June and 20 July 1912, respectively. In the case of the former, the postmark was inscribed "Kos."

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Leros
5 January 1913

Lipso
15 March 1916

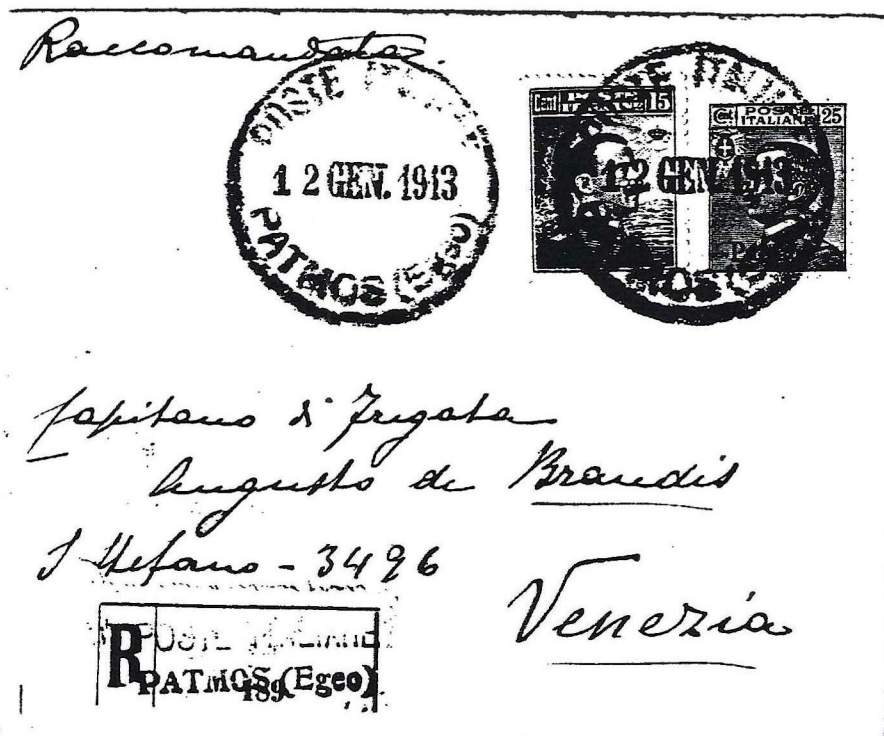
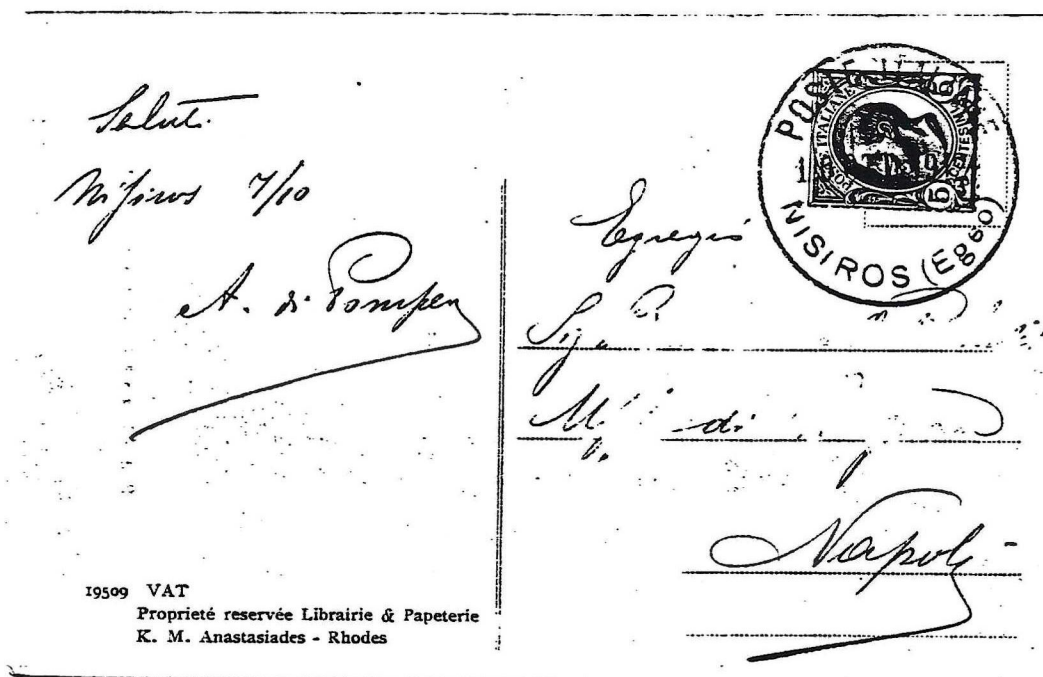


The first Italian postal facility opened on Leros in late June 1912, and the post office on Lipso opened on 21 July 1912. The large rubber cds was in use until March 1913, when it was replaced by a standard steel marking.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Nisiros
10 October 1912

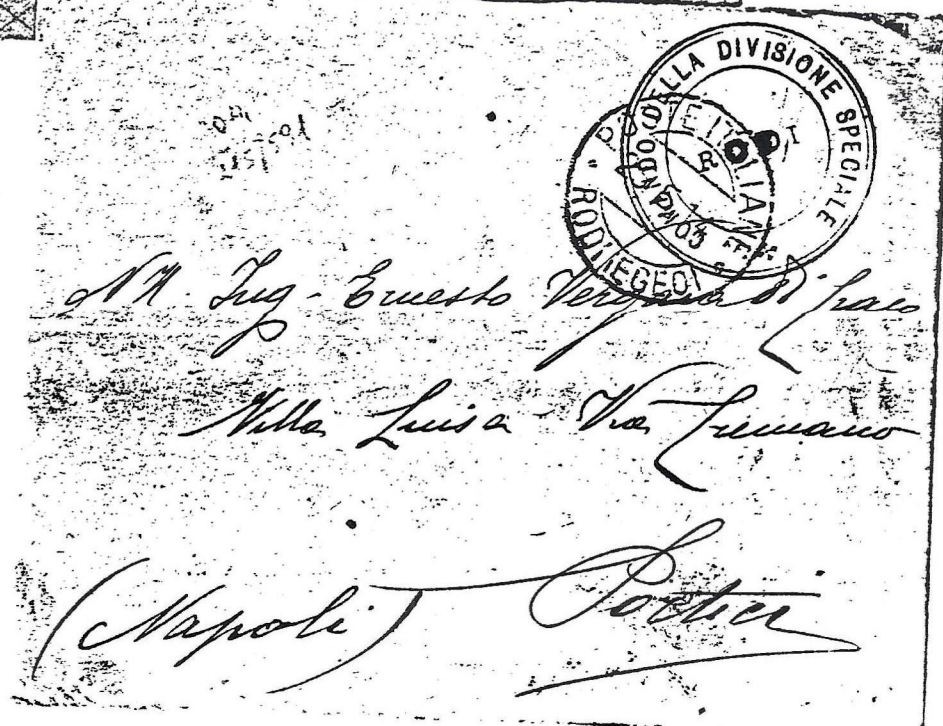
Patmos
12 January 1913



Postal offices were opened at Mandraki on Nisiros and on Patmos on 21 July 1912. In both cases, the large rubber cds was used until February 1913.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Rodi
12 December 1912
25 May 1914

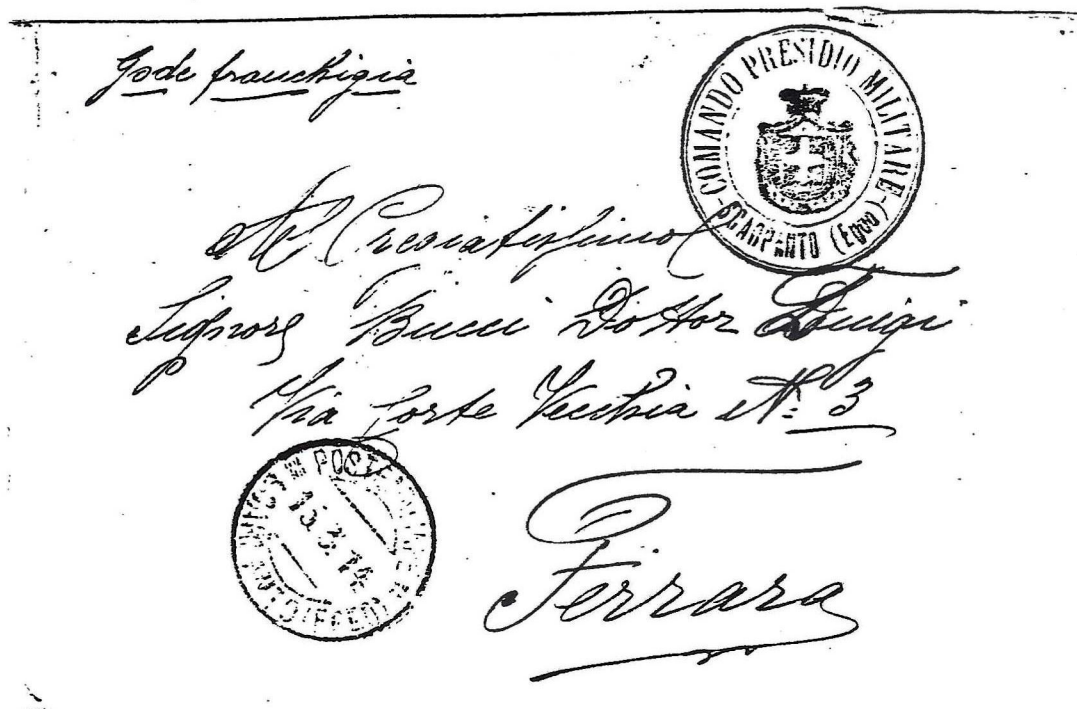


Rhodes was not only the capital but the center of commerce for the Italian islands in the Aegean. Despite this, registered letters with commercial use of the "Egeo" overprints are elusive, and that shown at top is even more unusual in that it is cancelled with the money order/postal savings marking rather than that for registration. Lower cover shows cachet of "Headquarters of the Special Division/Rhodes."

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Piscopi
10 December 1914

Scarpanto
15 March 1914



The post office on Piscopi opened on 7 August 1912, while that at Pigadia on Carpathos had opened on 20 July. The usual steel postmark was introduced in March 1913.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Aegean Islands

Simi
29 July 1912

Stampalia
27 July 1912

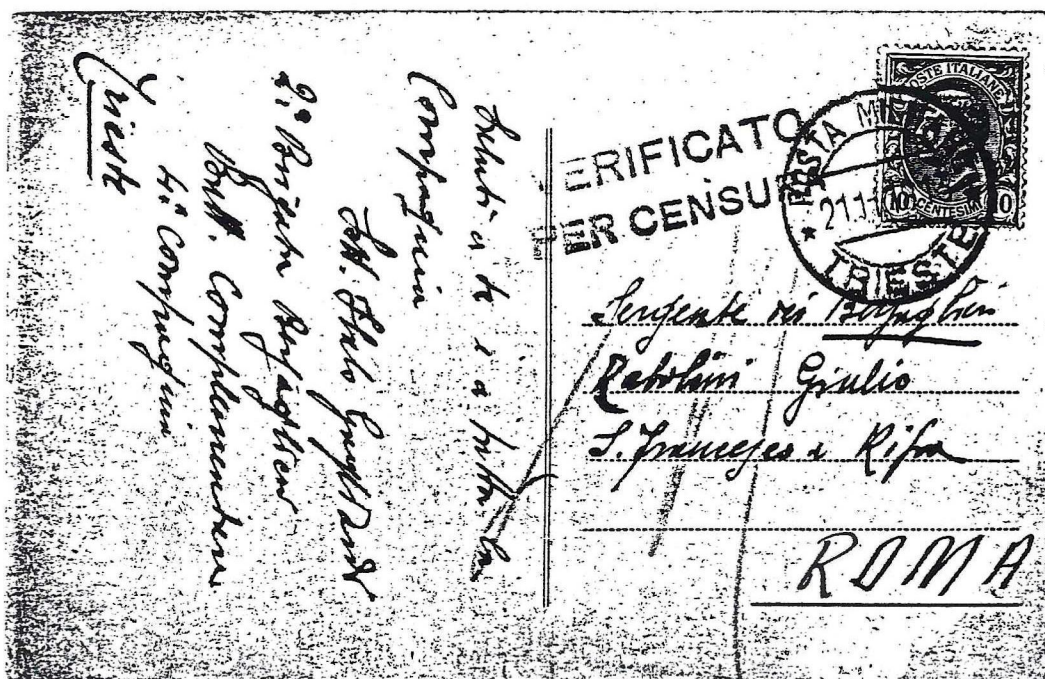


The Italian post office on Simi was one of the first to open in the Aegean, on 9 June 1912. The Stampalia office opened on 26 June.

With Italy's entrance into World War I on 23 May 1915, the chronological sequence of this exhibit is temporarily suspended until 3 November 1918, when Austria signed an armistice. The exhibit then resumes with the occupation of the territories of the former enemies (Austria-Hungary, Bulgaria, Germany and Turkey) and other areas.

Poste Militare/Trieste
21 November 1918

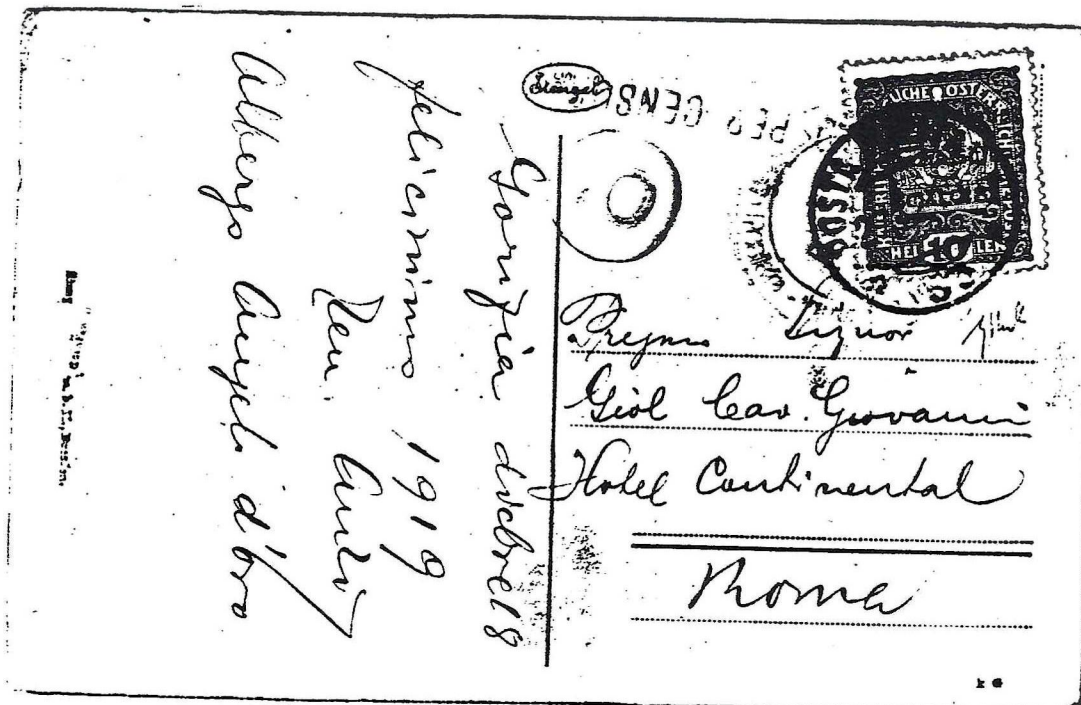
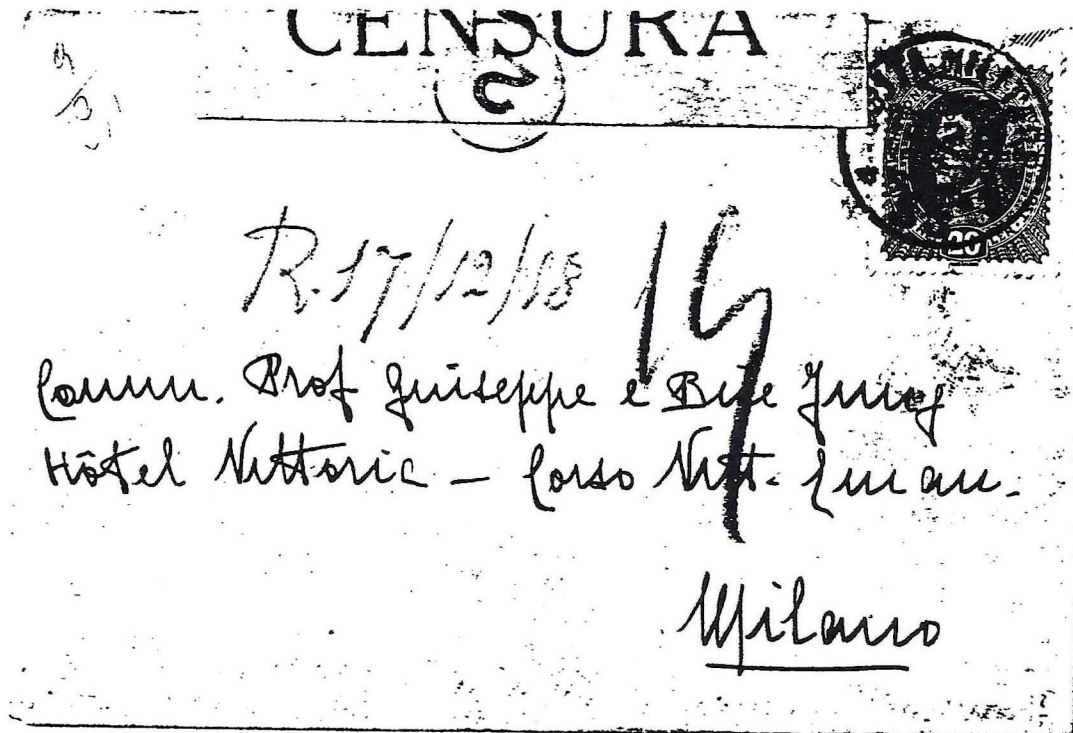
Posta Militare 12
23 November 1918



During the armistice negotiations with Austria-Hungary, Italian troops advanced rapidly into the area around Trieste, the capital of the province of Venezia Giulia. Early in the occupation, Austrian stamps overprinted "Kingdom of Italy/Venezia Giulia/3. XI. 18." were introduced. The postmark of FPO #12 was used in this area by the 31st Infantry Division.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Austria

Posta Militare 53
13 December 1918
27 December 1918

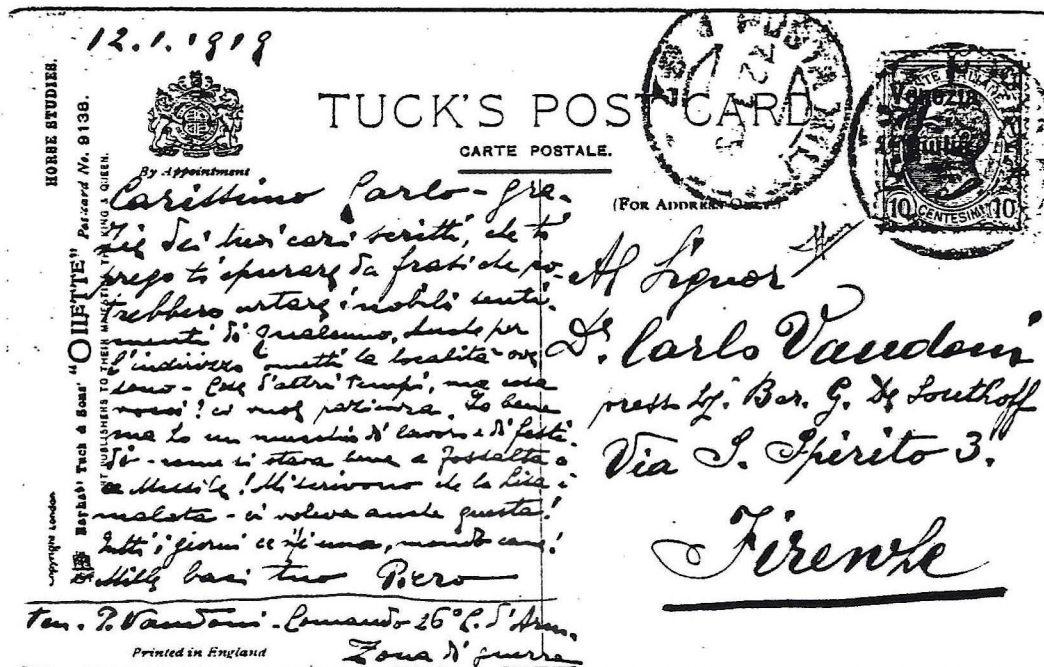
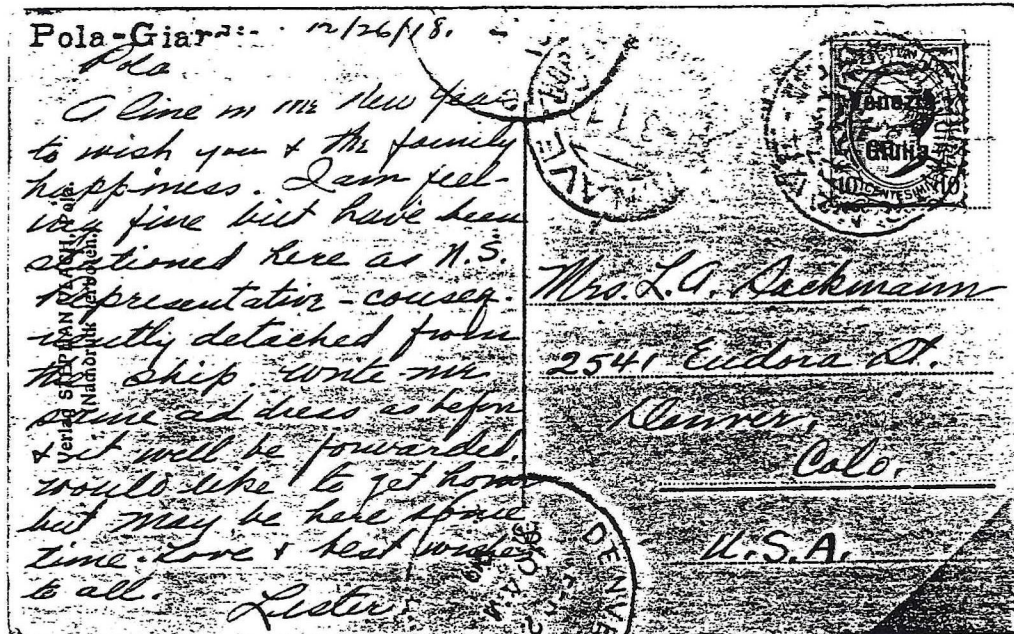


The postmark of FPO #53 was used in this area by the 11th Army Corps, with the postcard being datelined as originating in Gorizia.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Austria

R. Nave Ammiraglio di Saint Bon
3 January 1919

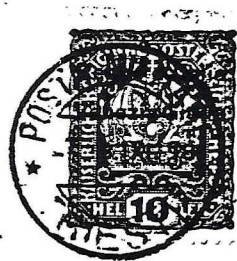
Posta Militare 87
12 January 1919



Italian stamps overprinted "Venezia Giulia" were introduced early in the occupation period, starting on 6 December 1918. Top card mailed aboard the Admiral St. Bon at the captured Austrian naval base at Pola. The postmark of FPO #87 on the lower card was used in this area by the 26th Army Corps.

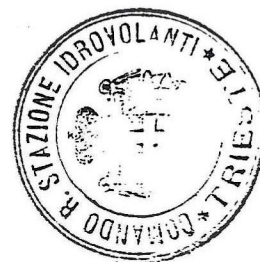
ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Austria

Aviazione Ra. Marina/Trieste
3 November 1918
4 March 1919



Comando R. Capitaneria di

Porto



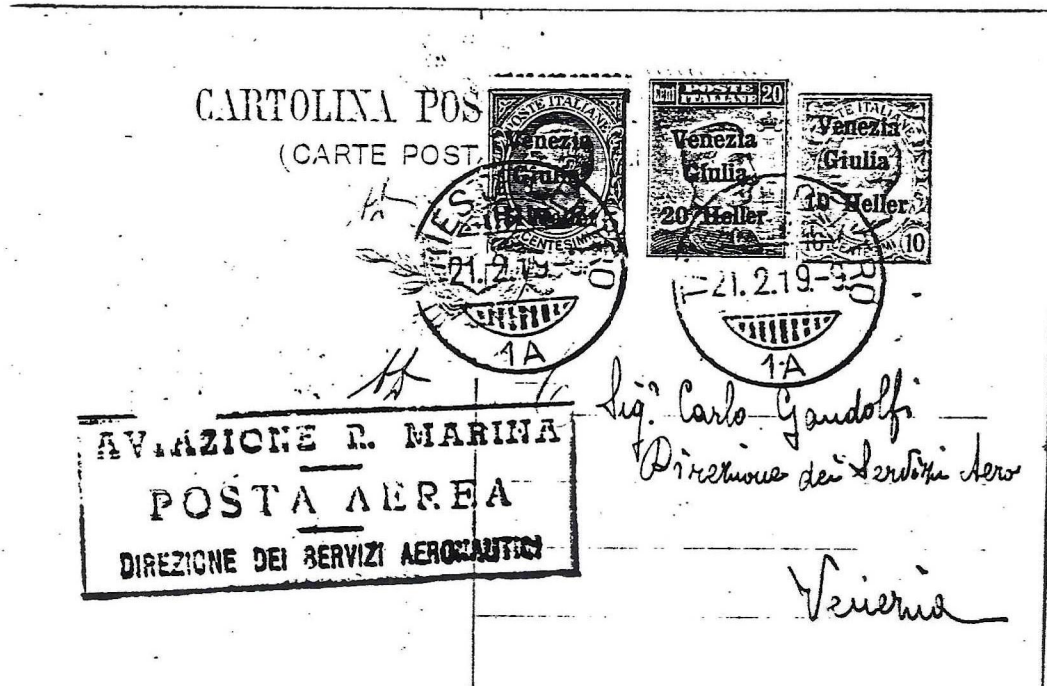
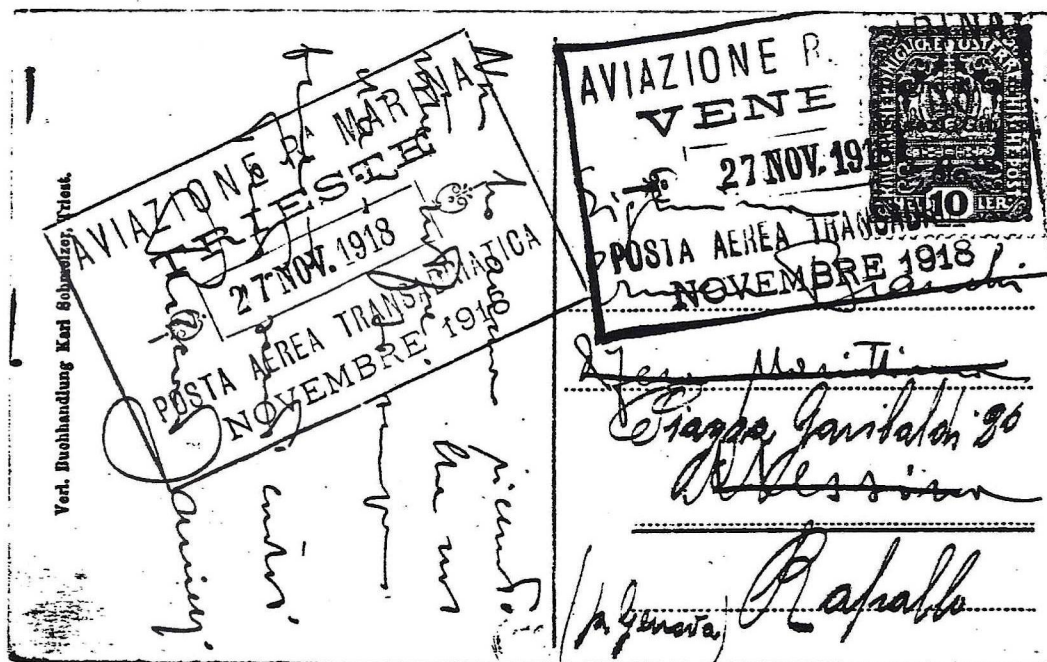
Lionno

In the newly occupied territory, roads were bad and there was no good means of communication. As a result, the Royal Naval Air Service inaugurated a Transadriatic air mail route, which functioned from November 1918 until late 1919. A special boxed cachet of the Naval Air Service was used on such mail, with the above examples originating in Trieste. Note the additional markings of the "Naval Ministry" and "Headquarters of the Royal Seaplane Station/Trieste" on the official letter.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Austria

Aviazione Ra. Marina/Trieste
27 November 1918

Trieste Centro
21 February 1919

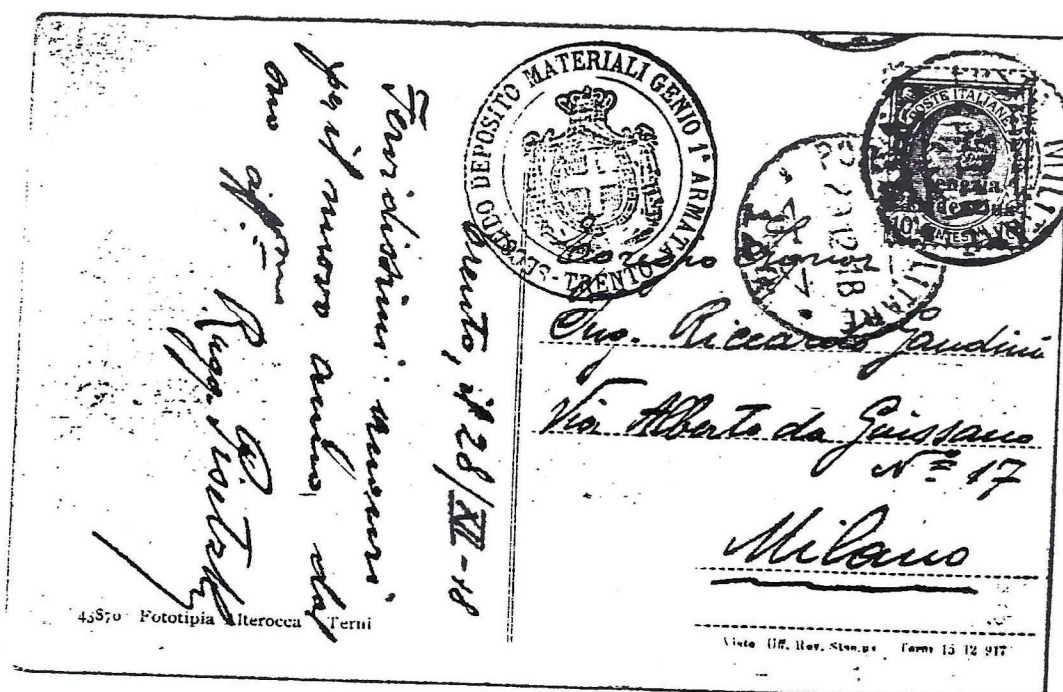


Mail carried by the Transadriatic Naval Air Service is elusive, and examples showing two cachets are especially so. Card on bottom has a later type of "Royal Naval Aviation/Headquarters of Air Services" cachet.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Austria

Posta Militare 70-A
28 November 1918

Poste Militare 124
29 December 1918

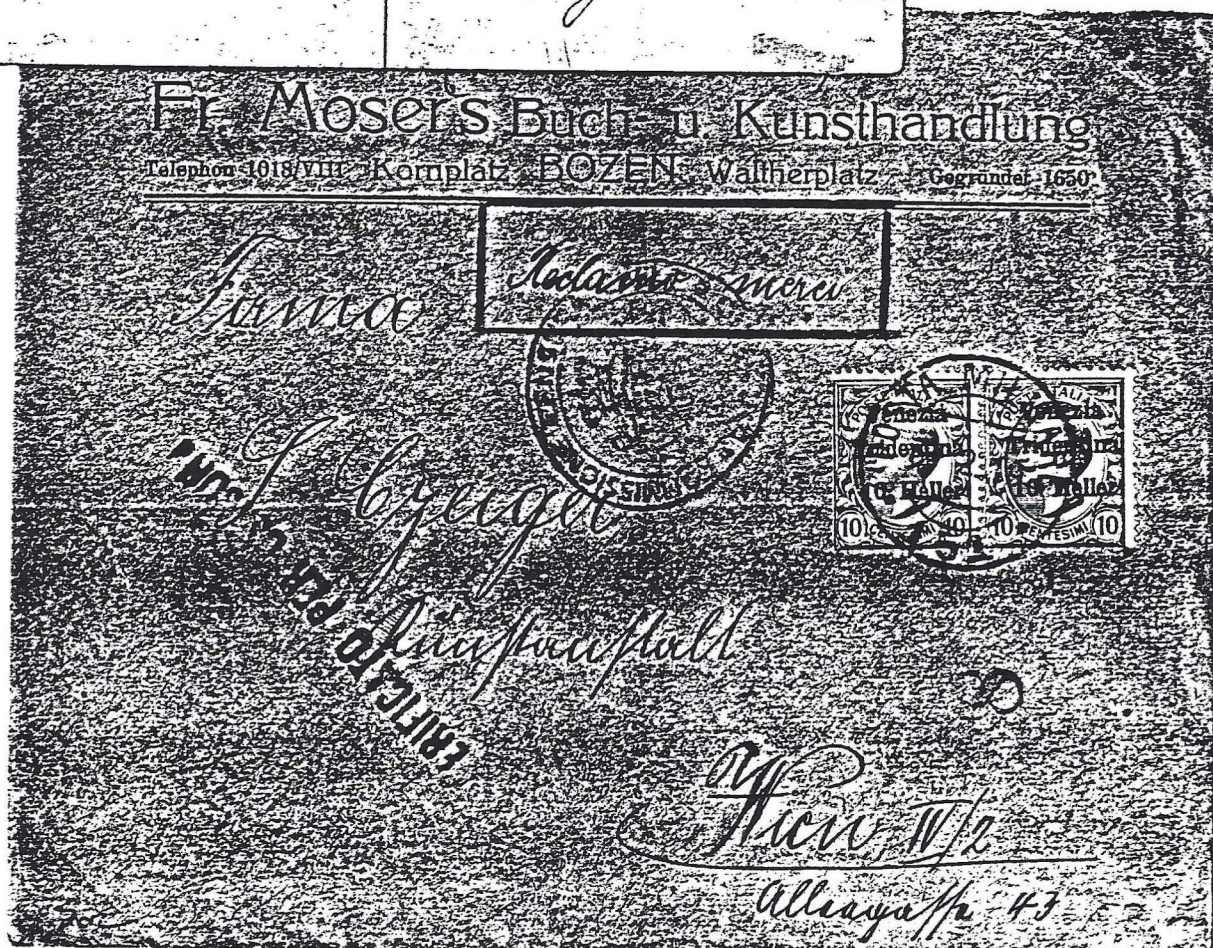
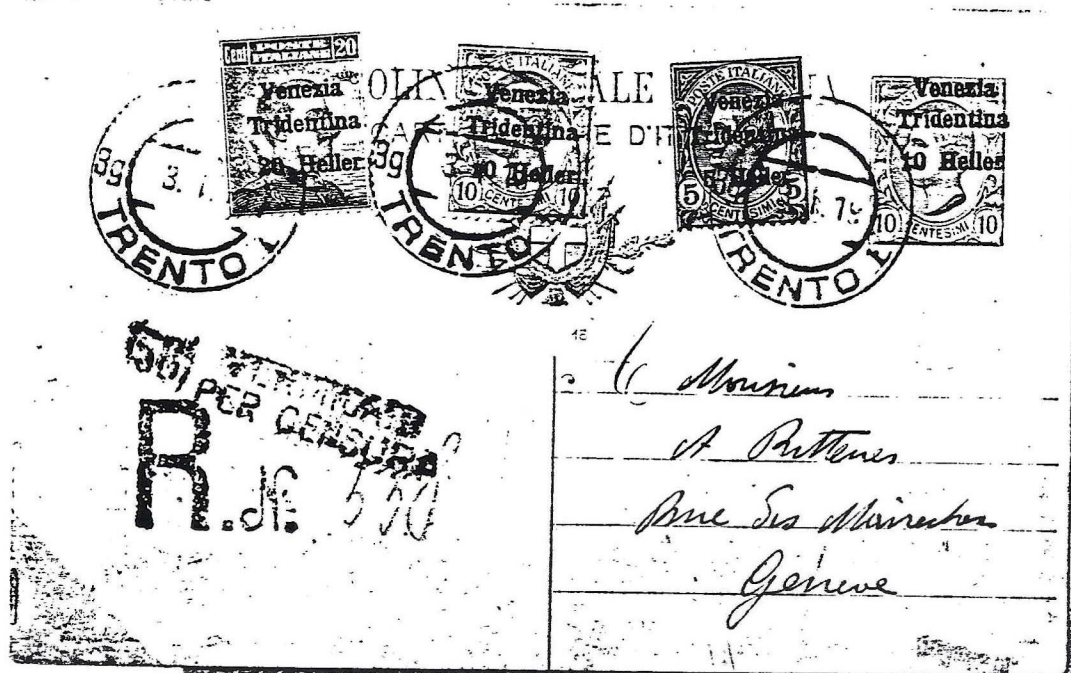


Following the pattern used in Venezia Giulia, Austrian stamps overprinted "Kingdom of Italy/Trentino/3 nov. 1918." were introduced in the area around Trento. These were replaced by Italian stamps overprinted "Venezia/Tridentina" on 20 December 1918. FPO #70-A was used by the 26th Infantry Division and #124 by the 79th Division, both located in Trento at the time.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Austria

Trento
3 January 1919

Poste Militare 151
3 February 1919



A second set of Italian stamps overprinted "Venezia/Tridentina" and the denomination in Austrian currency was issued in January 1919. FPO #151 was used by the 28th Infantry Division, located in Bolzano at the time.