

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Eastern Silesia

Skoczow
23 April 1920

Posta Militare 1
28 June 1920



BATTAGLIONE ALPINI
MONTE BALDO

Skotschau 21-4-20

Carissimo -

Dai

non

scriv

Il

lavo



*Al Signor
Altomani Romano
via 20 Marzo 1. Parma
(Italia)*

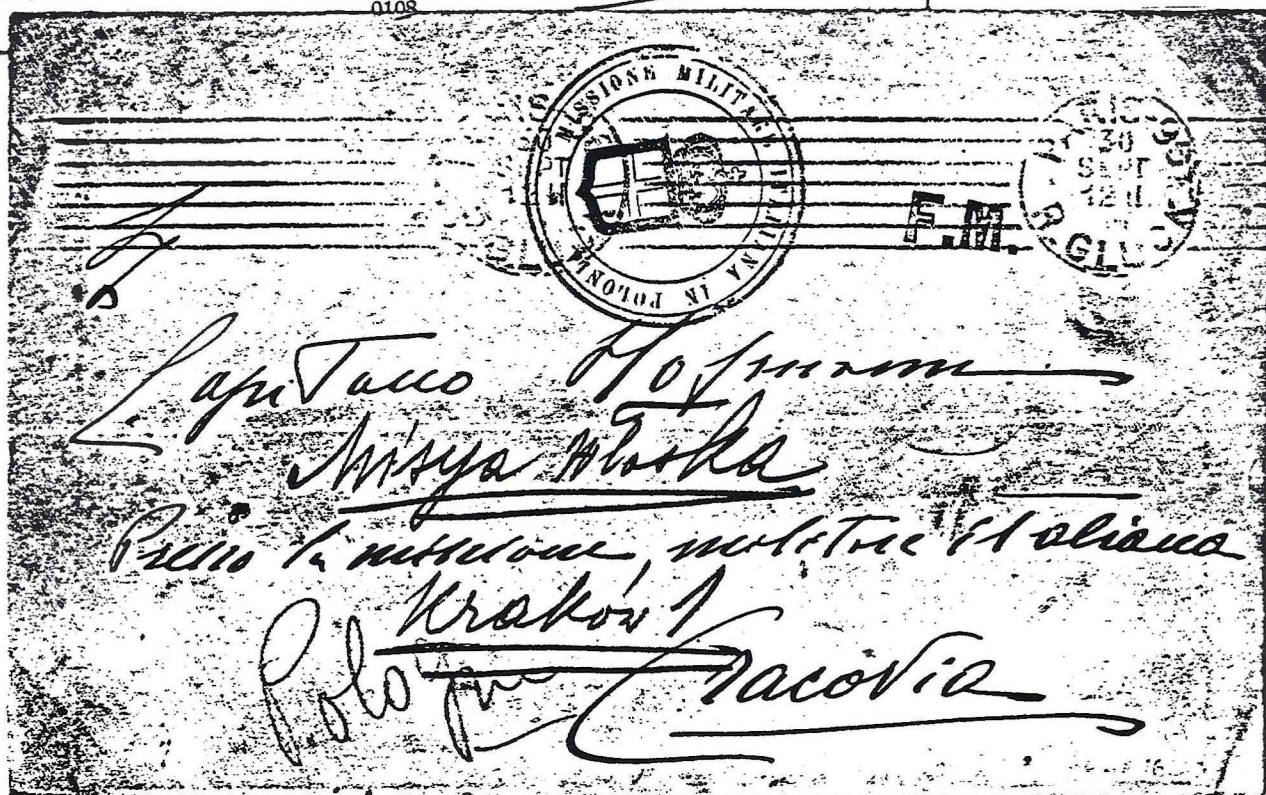
Grüsse aus Karwin.



*Al Signor
Altomani Romano
via 20 Marzo 1. Parma
(Italia)*

Pending a vote by the citizens in Eastern Silesia, to determine whether on whether this territory should be part of Czechoslovakia or Poland, troops from Italy and France were sent to maintain order. Cover sent home by a member of the 6th Alpine Battalion via the civil post office. The card was mailed from Karwin.

Poznan
September 1919



MISSIONE MILITARE ITALIANA
POZNAŃ

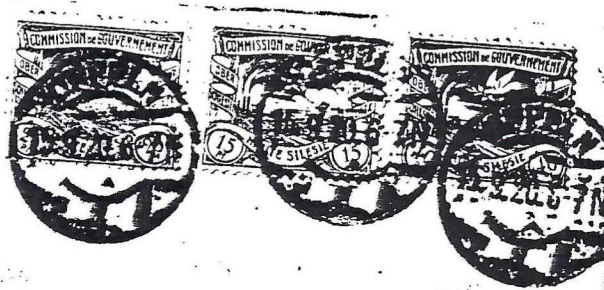
Poland declared its independence at the end of World War I. In order to assist the Polish Army in defending its new (but undefined) borders, the allies sent training missions and equipment. The Italians provided a small mission, which functioned in Krakow and Poznan in 1919. No fieldpost station was activated, and the mail was sent by French courier through Paris -- even, in the case of the cover shown above, from one unit to the other.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Upper Silesia

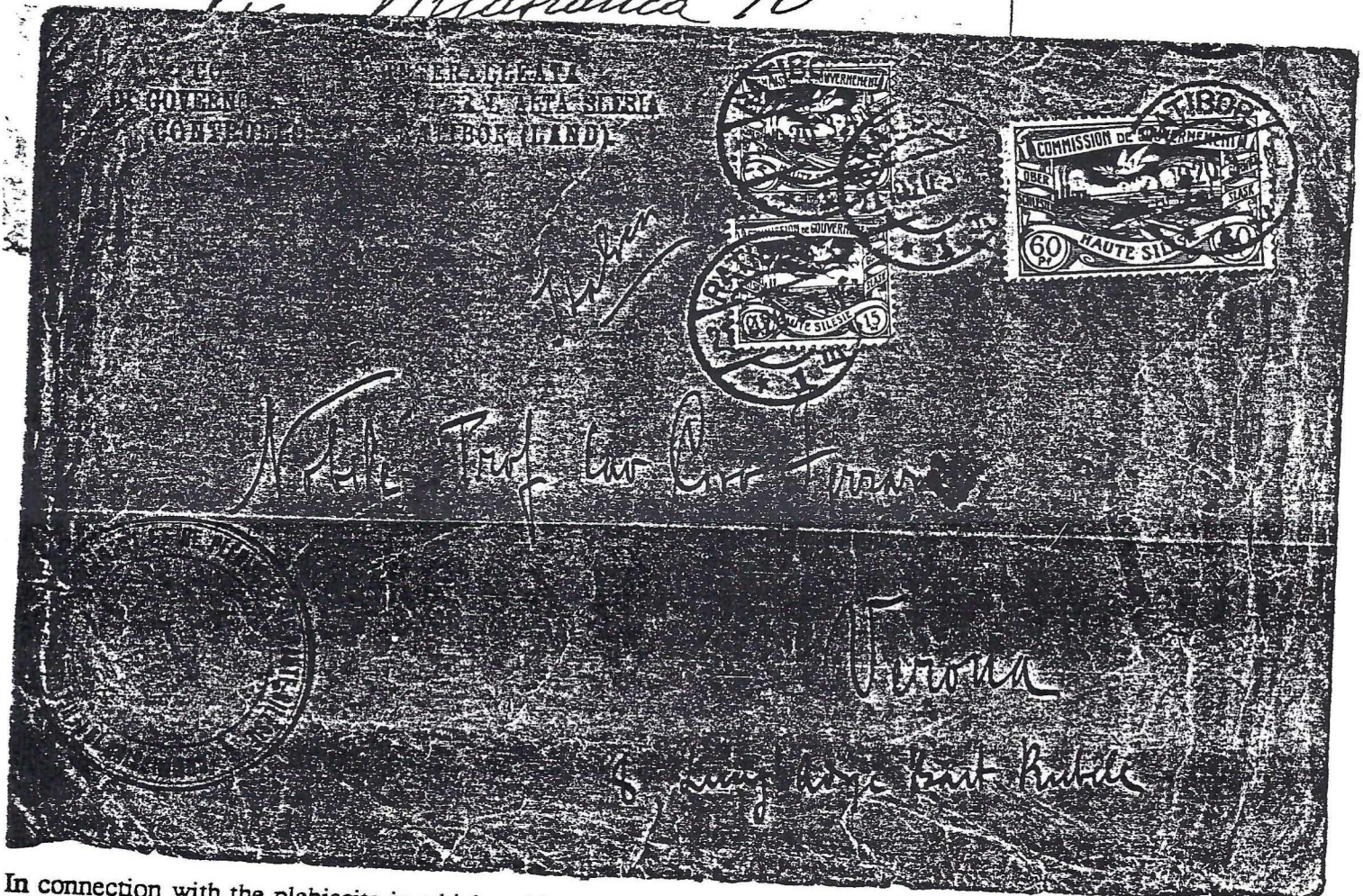
Oppeln
15 September 1920

Ratibor
21 October 1920

COMMISSIONE INTERALLEATA
PER IL GOVERNO E IL PLEBISCITO
DELL' ALTA SLESIA



Sig^{na} Margherita Berio
Via Villafrauca 10

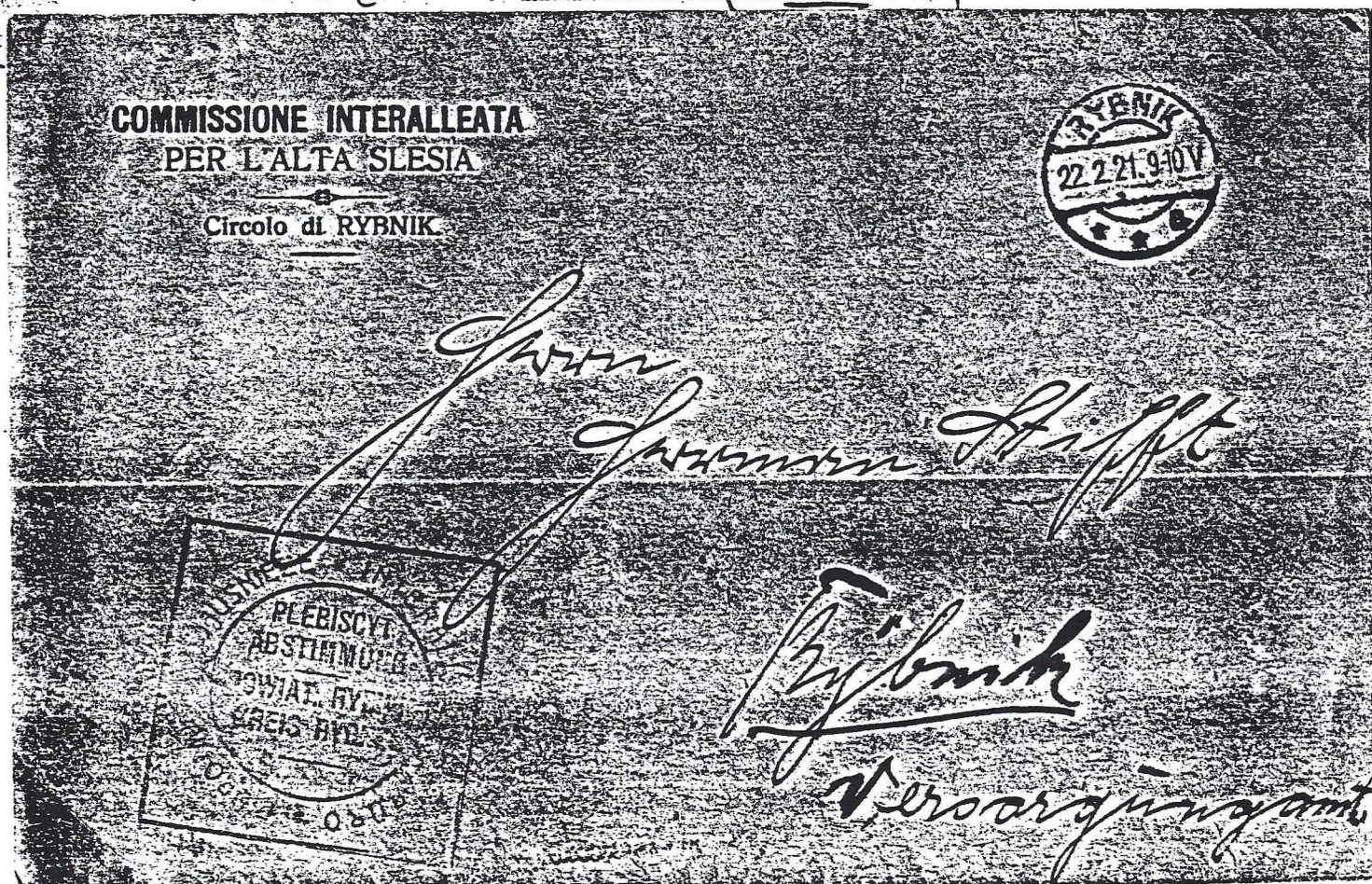
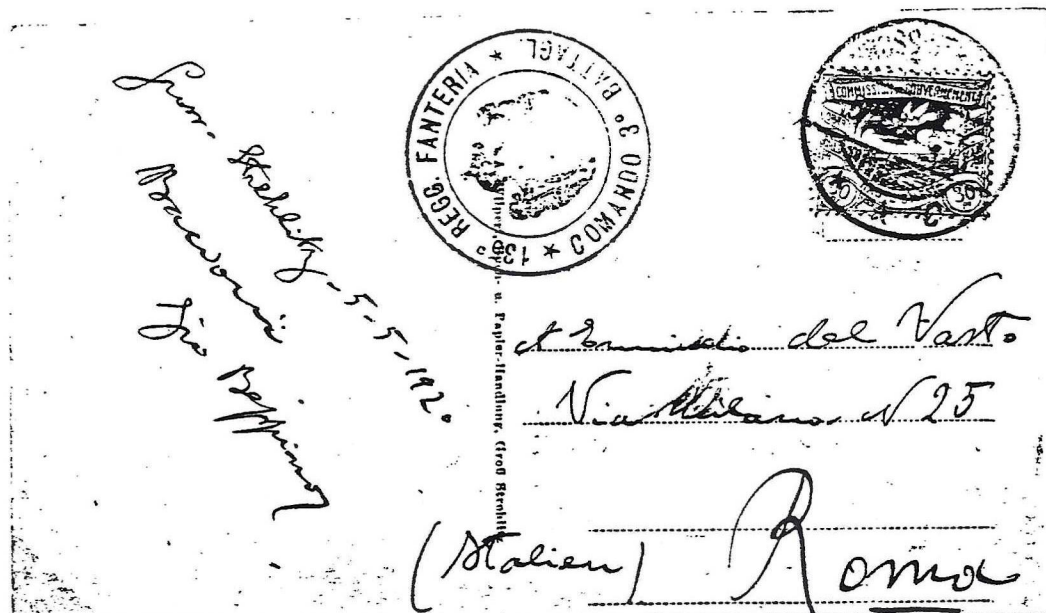


In connection with the plebiscite in which residents of Upper Silesia would vote on whether to join Poland or remain as a part of Germany, a small group of Italians were part of an allied commission sent to organize matters prior to the voting. Initially, the mail sent by these officials was franked with the special Upper Silesian postage stamps, and can only be distinguished by the imprinted or handstamped return addresses.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Upper Silesia

Gross Strehlitz
5 May 1920

Rybnik
22 February 1921



The postcard above has the cachet of the Headquarters of the 3rd Infantry Battalion and is franked with a 30 pf. Plebiscite stamp. The cover shows that official mail related to the plebiscite administration was accepted without payment of postage.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Upper Silesia

Ratibor
6 March 1922

Kreuzburg
29 May 1922

RIPRODUZIONE E VENDITA PUNITE ART. 268 E 270 C. P.

R. ESERCITO ITALIANO
Corrispondenza in franchigia

TRUPPE ITALIANE
"Cittadini e soldati state un esercito solo"
V. Emanuele III
COMANDO

IN SILEZIA
13.3.22-14

ARRIVI-PARTENZE

Indirizzo del mittente di riproduzione delle risposte
Cognome e Nome: *Cap. M. M. M. M.*
Grado: *Cap. M. M. M. M.*
Reggimento: *Reggimento M. M. M. M.*
Compagnia: *Compagnia M. M. M. M.*
Squadron: *Squadron M. M. M. M.*
Batteria: *Batteria M. M. M. M.*
Ripartiti speciali: *Ripartiti speciali M. M. M. M.*

Via Loucino 10/1
Milano (23)

GASTIERE BINDA - MILANO

RIPRODUZIONE E VENDITA PUNITE ART. 268 E 270 C. P.

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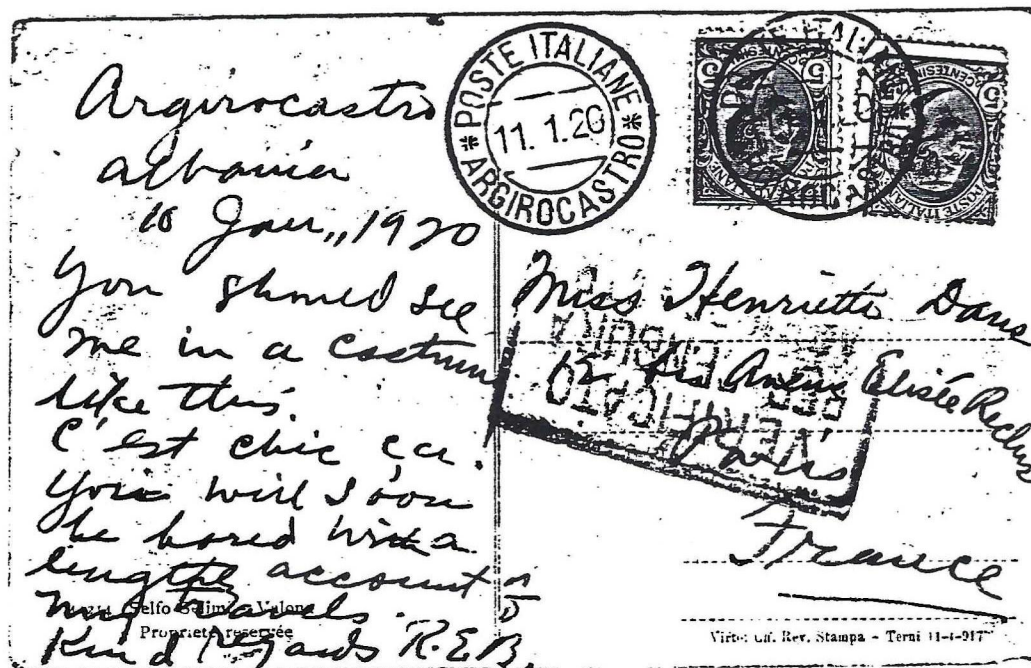
ARRIVI-PARTENZE

Indirizzo del mittente di riproduzione delle risposte
Cognome e Nome: *Cap. M. M. M. M.*
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Batteria: *Batteria M. M. M. M.*
Ripartiti speciali: *Ripartiti speciali M. M. M. M.*

Via Loucino 10/1
Milano (23)

GASTIERE BINDA - MILANO

Also related to the plebiscite, a small group of Italian troops were sent to Upper Silesia to maintain order prior to the voting. The above cards were sent by soldiers in the 2nd Grenadiers and 32nd Infantry, respectively, back to Italy. No fieldpost office was opened, but a special cachet reading "Headquarters/Italian Troops/in Upper Silesia" was applied so that no postage would be assessed.

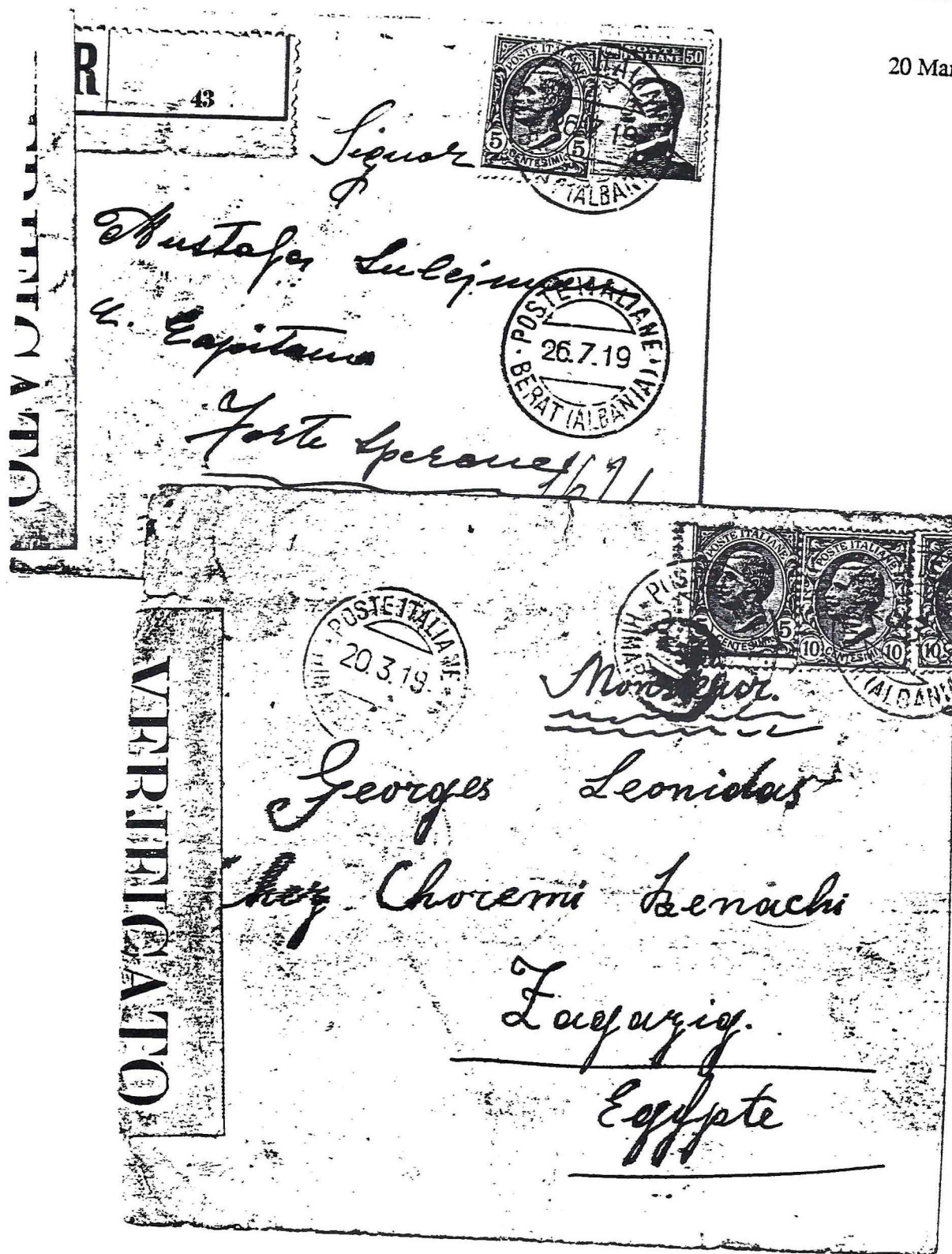


Following the Armistice in World War I, Italian troops expanded their positions throughout Albania as the Austro-German forces retreated. P.M.113 operated in Argirocastro until 25 May 1919, as indicated by the upper card from the Headquarters of the Argirocastro-Berat Zone. For civil mail, a postmark was used showing the name of the town. The Italians withdrew from this area in May-June 1920.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Albania

Berat
26 July 1919

Himara
20 March 1919

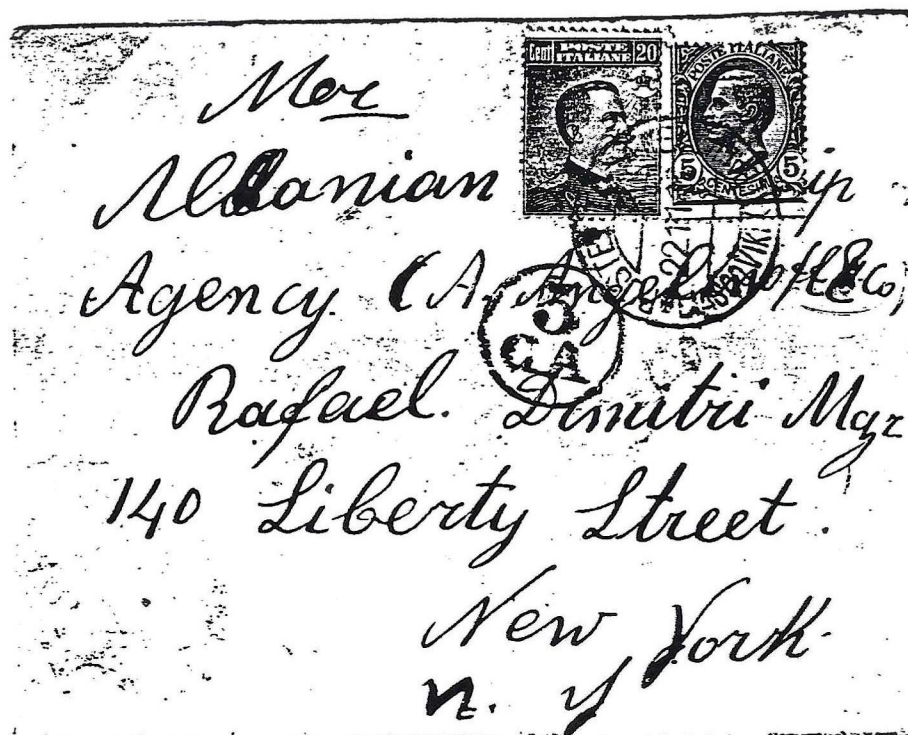
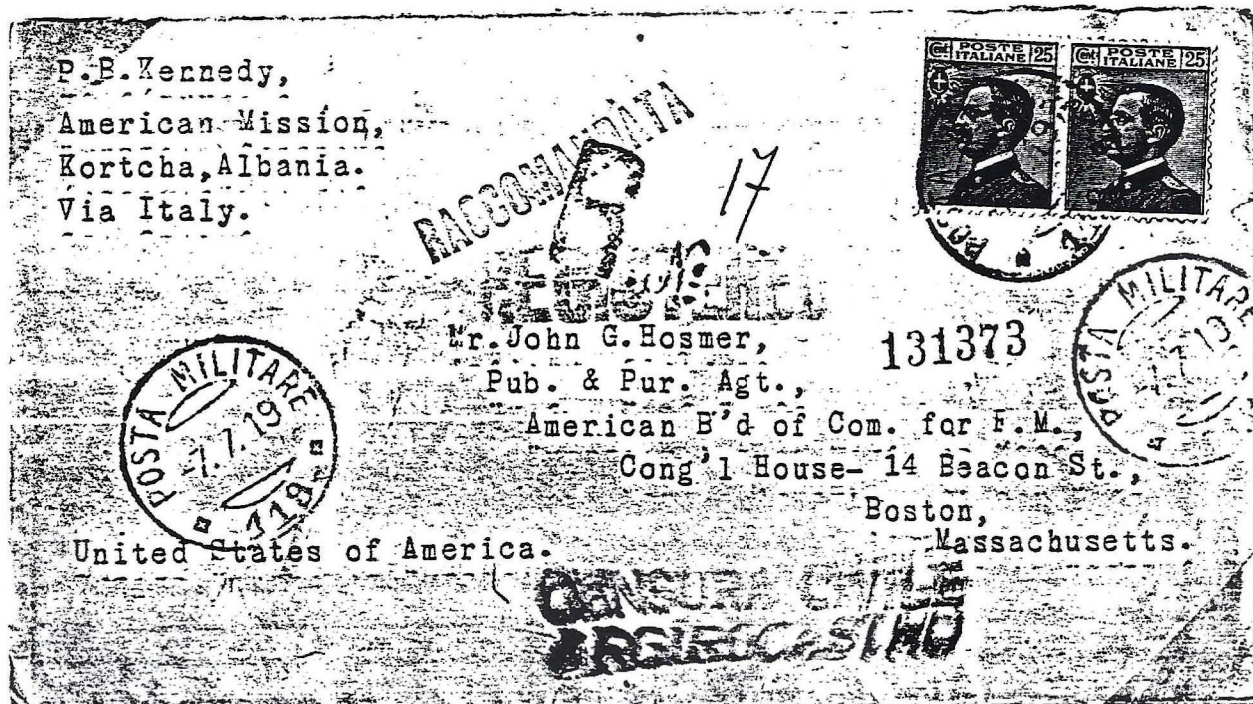


Italian post offices operated in Berat and Himara until May 1920. Registered mail is uncommon; note use of the registry label without imprint of town name.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Albania

Posta Militare 118
7 July 1919

Lascoviki
22 November 1918



There was an Italian military post office (P.M. 118) in Kortcha until 30 September 1919. A civil post office operated in Lascoviki after the end of the armistice.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Albania

Posta Militare 116
13 December 1919
14 September 1921

Indirizzo del mittente da riprodurre nelle risposte
Cognome e Nome } SERG. TOMIOLA TSIDOC
Grado e Reggimento } BATT. ALPINI BORGOGNA
Arma } S. M.
Insignia } S. GIOVANNI DI MEDUA
Battaglione } (ALBANIA)
Unità }
Parti speciali }

RIPRODUZIONE
FRANCIA
UNITA
ARRETRATI 270C.F.

R. ESERCITO ITALIANO
Corrispondenza in franchigia

"Cittadini e soldati
siate un esercito solo."
V. Emanuele III.

POSTA MILITARE
13.12.19

Al EGG. SIGNOR
REVELLI ANDREA
UFFICIALE GIUDIZIARIO
VILANNOVA di MONDOVI

TERE BIRDA - MILANO

Zef Prëndushi
Scutari (Shkoder)
Albanie

POSTA MILITARE
116

POSTA MILITARE
14.9.21
116

E. Colarco Belmonte
Box 217 G. P. O.
Sydney N.S.W.
Australia

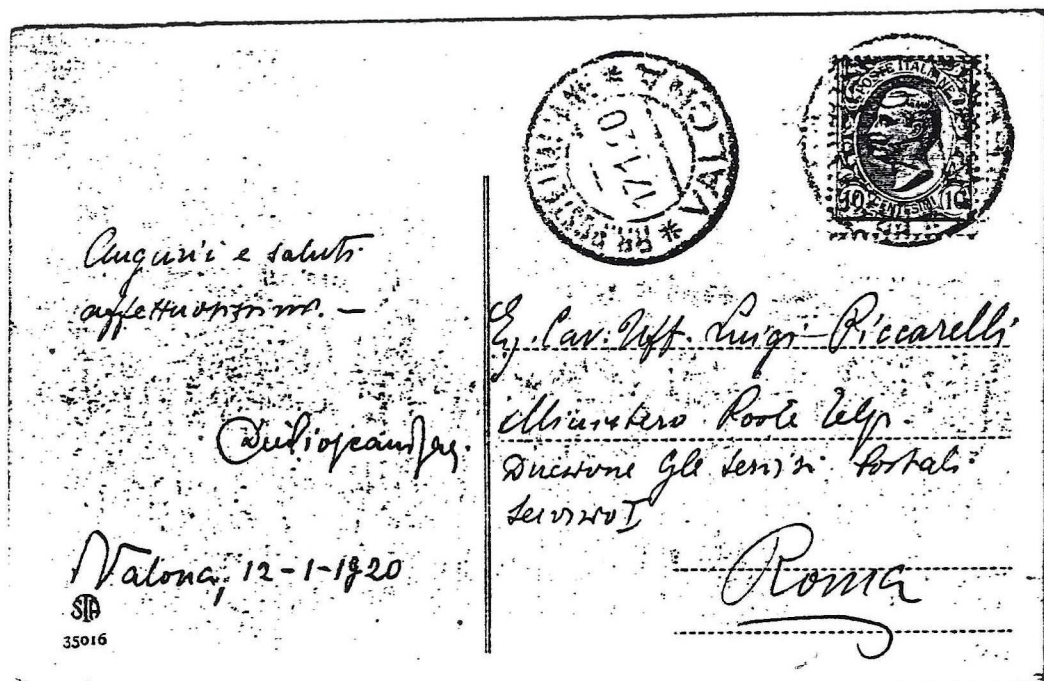
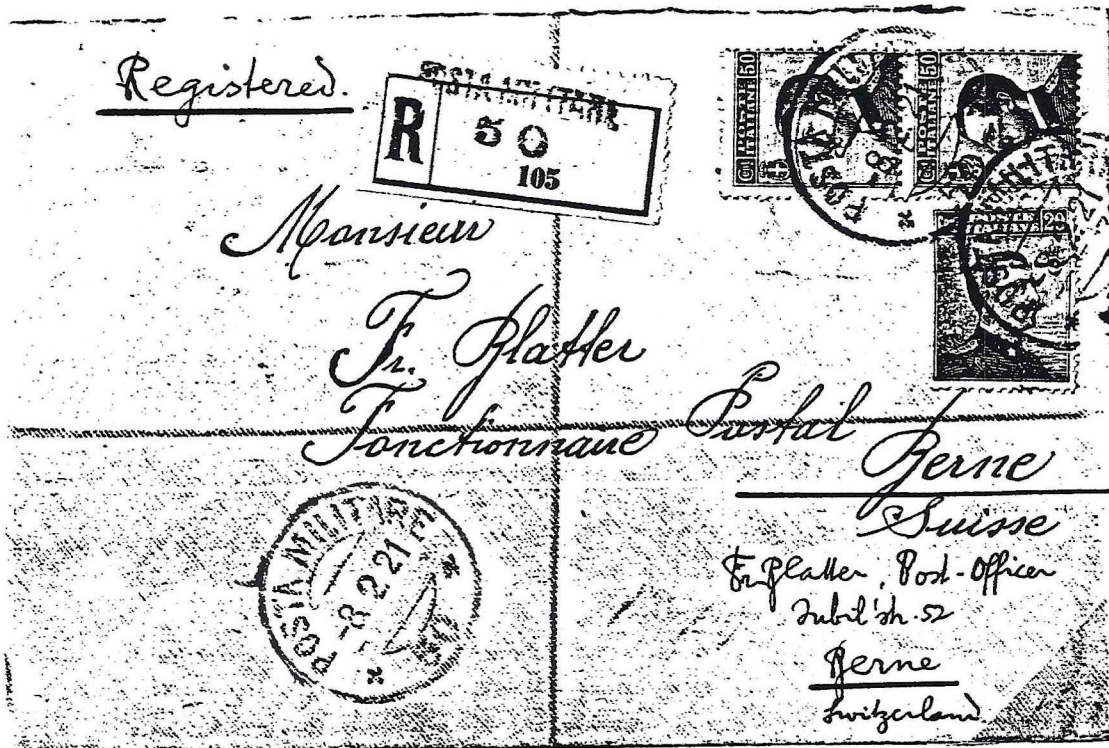
Recomandata

P.M. 116 moved north with the troops after the withdrawal of the Austrians. Above covers used from San Giovanni di Medua in 1919 and from Scutari in 1921. This office remained active well after most of the fieldpost stations, finally closing on 31 December 1922.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Albania

Posta Militare 50
8 February 1921

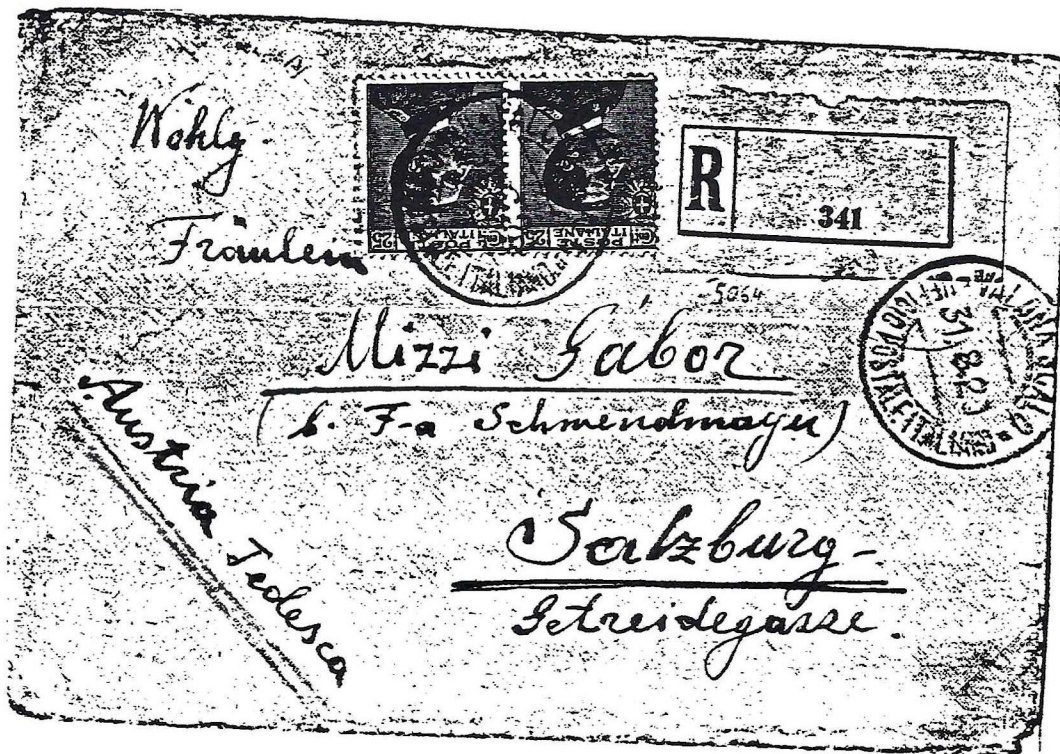
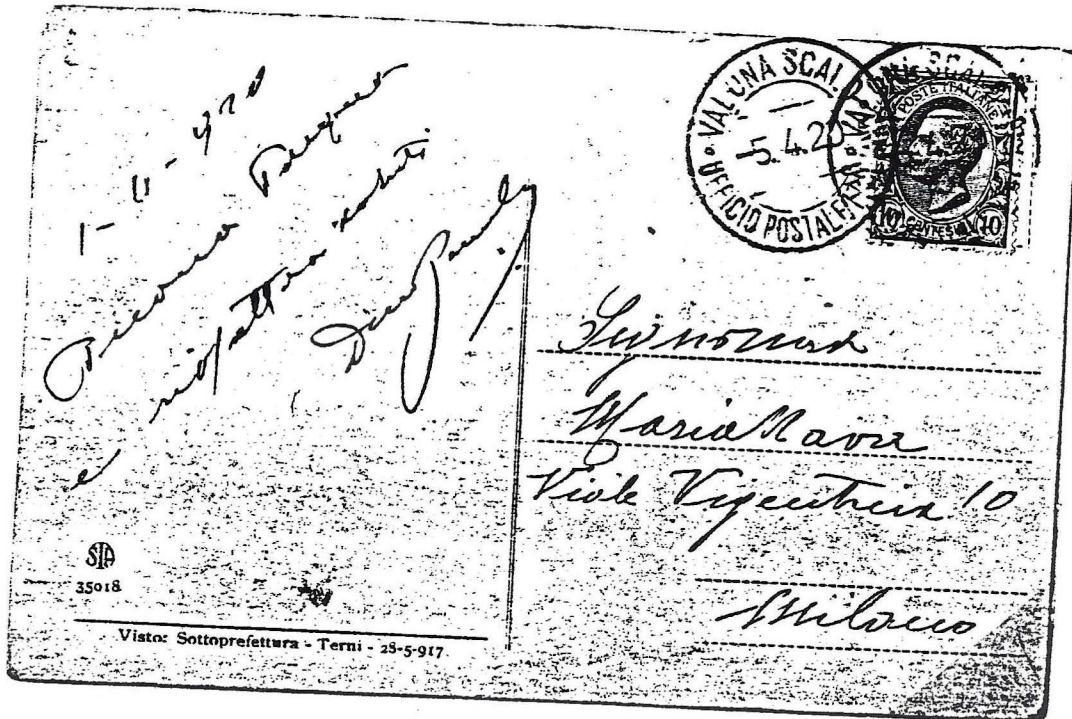
Valona
17 January 1920



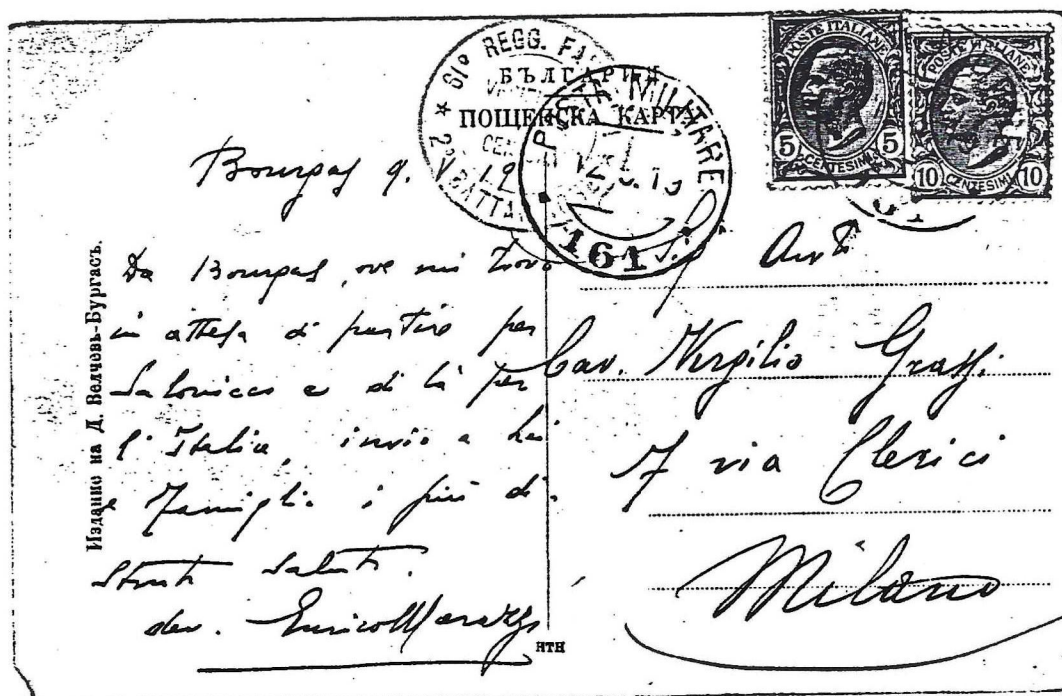
The Italians operated military and civil postal facilities in Valona (southern Albania) during the war, and continued to use the area as a major base in the postwar occupation period. P.M. 50 was active there from 20 September 1918 until the withdrawal from Albania at the end of 1922. A civil post office was opened, which included the name "Valona" in its postmark.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Albania

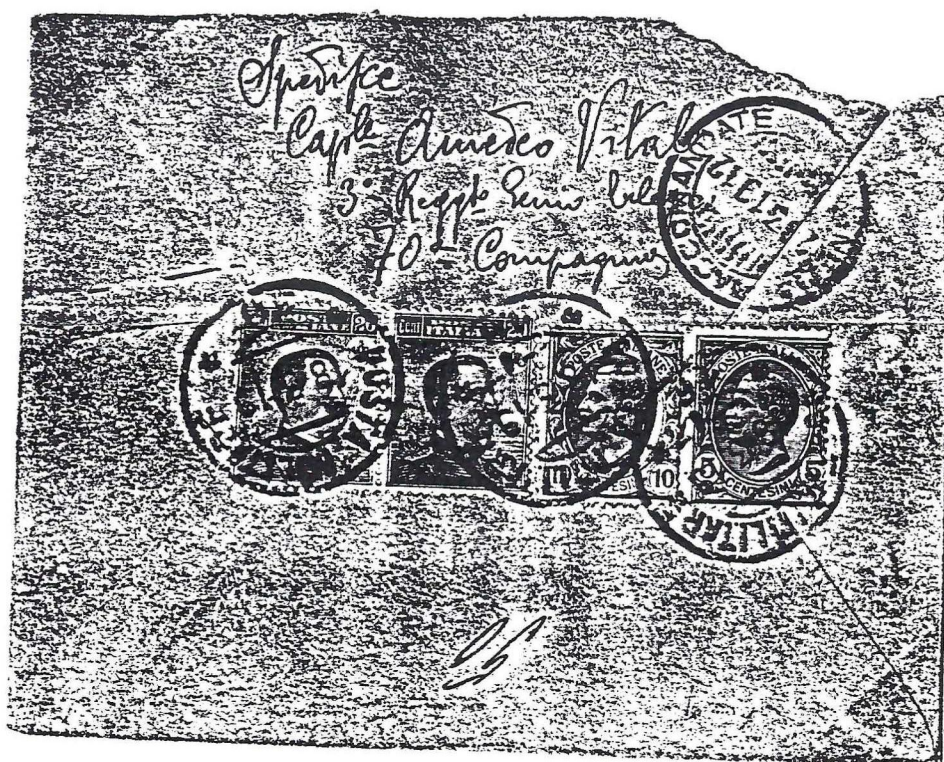
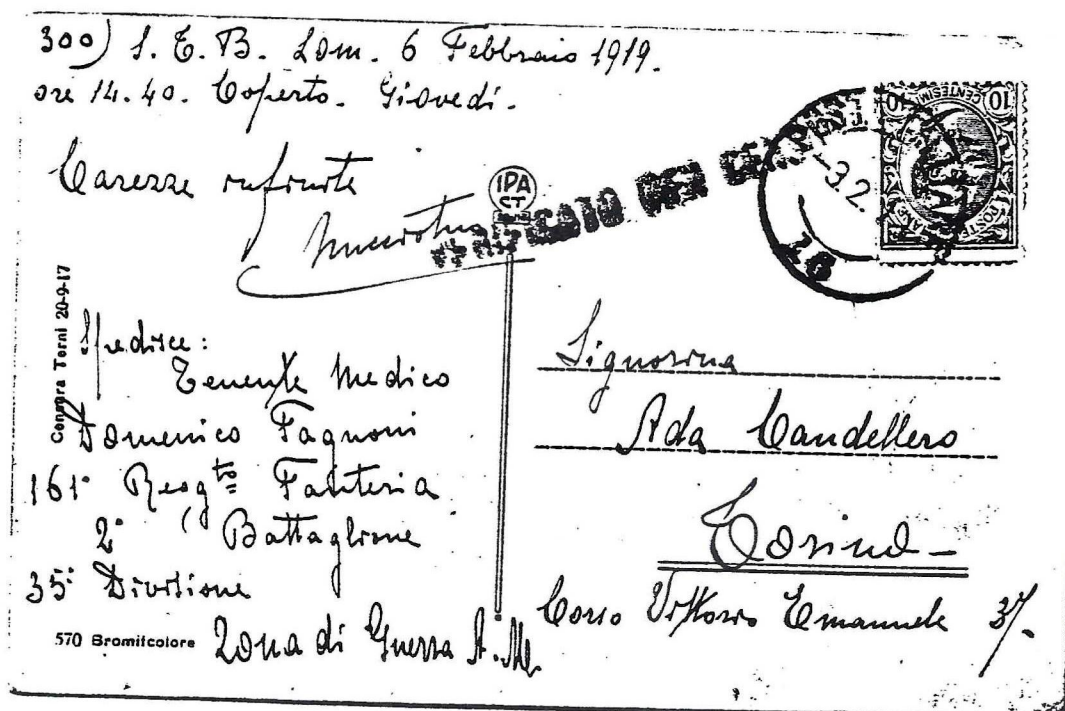
Valona Scalo
5 April 1920
31 August 1920



In addition to the main Valona post office, a branch office called "Valona Scalo" was opened in the port area. Examples of this postmark are uncommon, and registered mail is scarce.



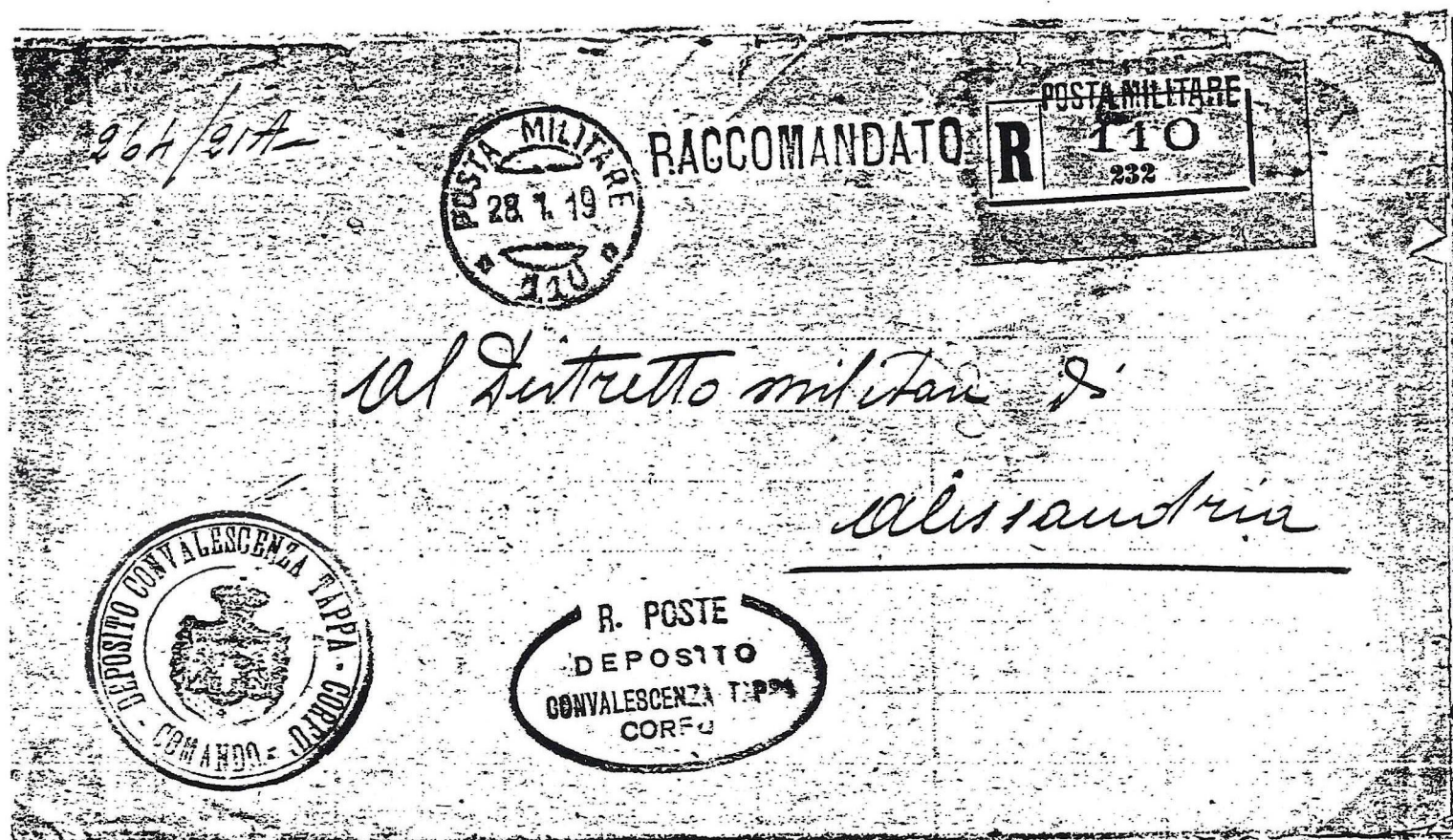
Italian forces based in Salonica advanced northward into Bulgaria following the armistice. P.M.161 served there from 1 January until 31 May 1919. It was assigned to the 61st Infantry Regiment, which was stationed in Bourgas at the times the above cards were mailed.



P.M. 16 served in Bulgaria from 11 November 1918 until 10 July 1919. Registered letters, as above originating from Lom Palanka, are uncommon.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Greece

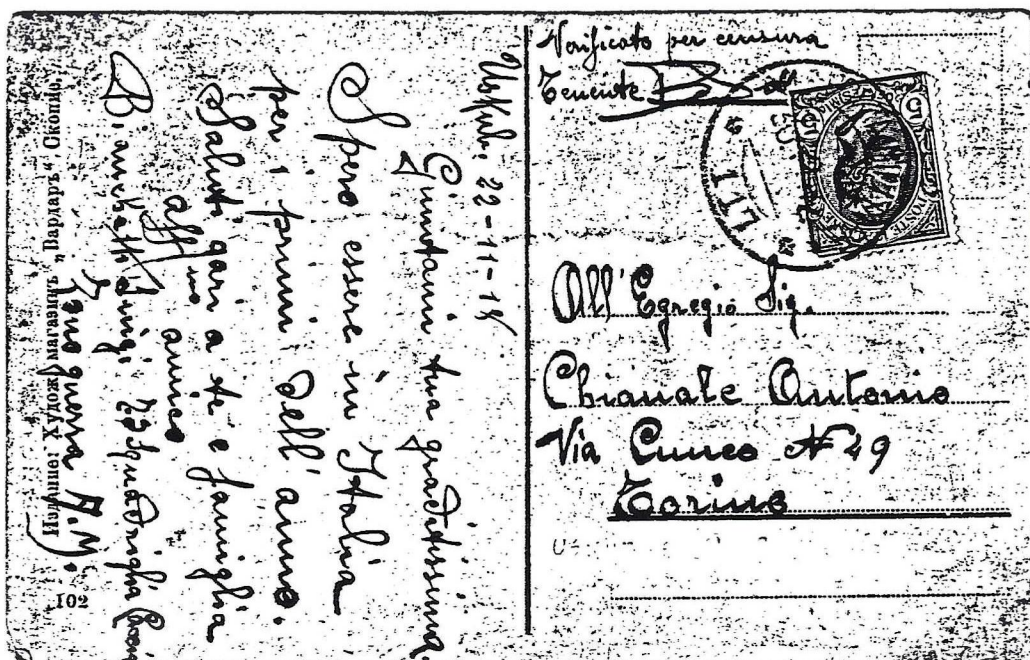
Posta Militare 110
28 January 1919



P.M. 110 operated in December 1917 when Italian troops landed on Corfu. Although most of the forces in Greece were deployed elsewhere after the armistice, the post office continued to serve the remaining small contingents on the island (including the convalescent depot shown in the cachet on the cover above) until August 1919.



P.M. 117 operated in Macedonia both during and after World War I. The above examples are from the latter period and have cachets of the specific units of the senders, both based in Salonica.



P.M. 117 operated with the Italian forces in Macedonia from 1917 until 20 January 1920. After the armistice, some of the troops moved forward into Serbian territory, which had been occupied by the Bulgarians during much of the war. In this case, it was used 8 days later to cancel a postcard forwarded from a soldier in Skopie.