

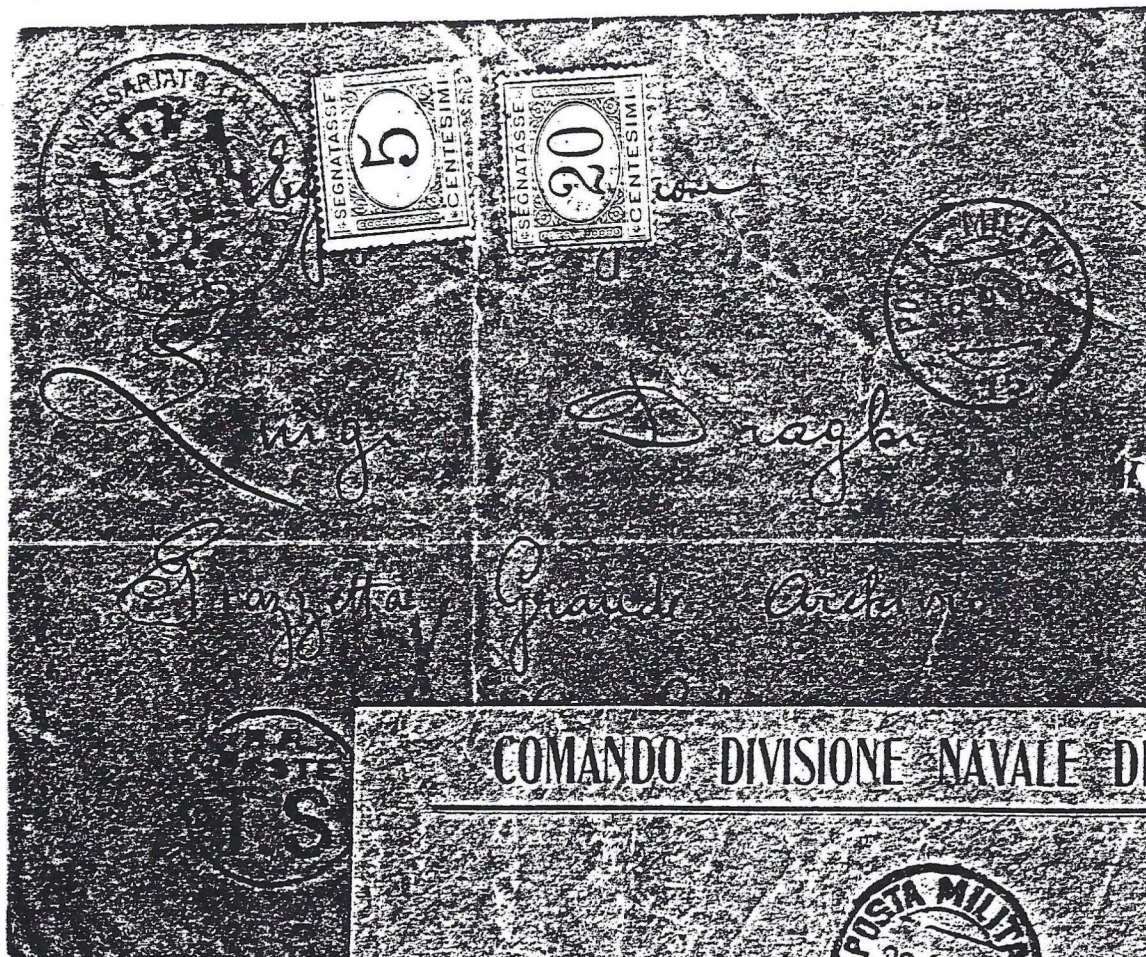


Following the Turkish surrender and the Armistice of Mudros, an allied occupation force, including a battalion of Italian infantry and a company of Carabinieri, arrived in Constantinople (Istanbul) on 6 February 1919. PM 15 opened a week later and served there until 10 July 1921, when it was replaced by an Italian civil post office.

The military post office served civilians and military personnel of all nationalities. International postal rates through January 1921 were 10 cent. for postcards, 25 cent. for letters to 20 grams, and 25 cent. registration fee.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Turkey

Posta Militare 15
16 September 1919
29 March 1921



Whereas official military mail was entitled to free postage, that of the Italian High Commission in Constantinople was not, thus postage due was assessed on arrival in Italy.

COMANDO DIVISIONE NAVALE DEL LEVANTE

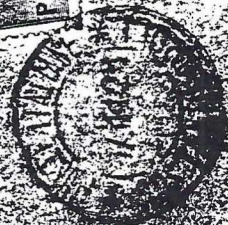
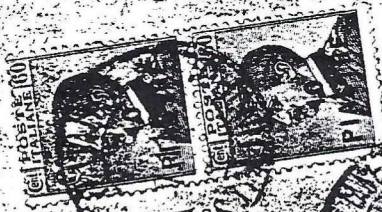


Stimatissimo Signore

CONTRAMIRAGLIO Cap. Uff. GALEANT LEONIERO

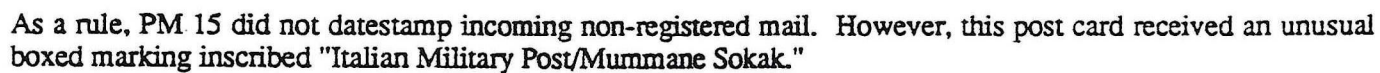
Via de BAULLARI N. 4

Raccomandata



R. NAVE
GALEANT LEONIERO

(37)



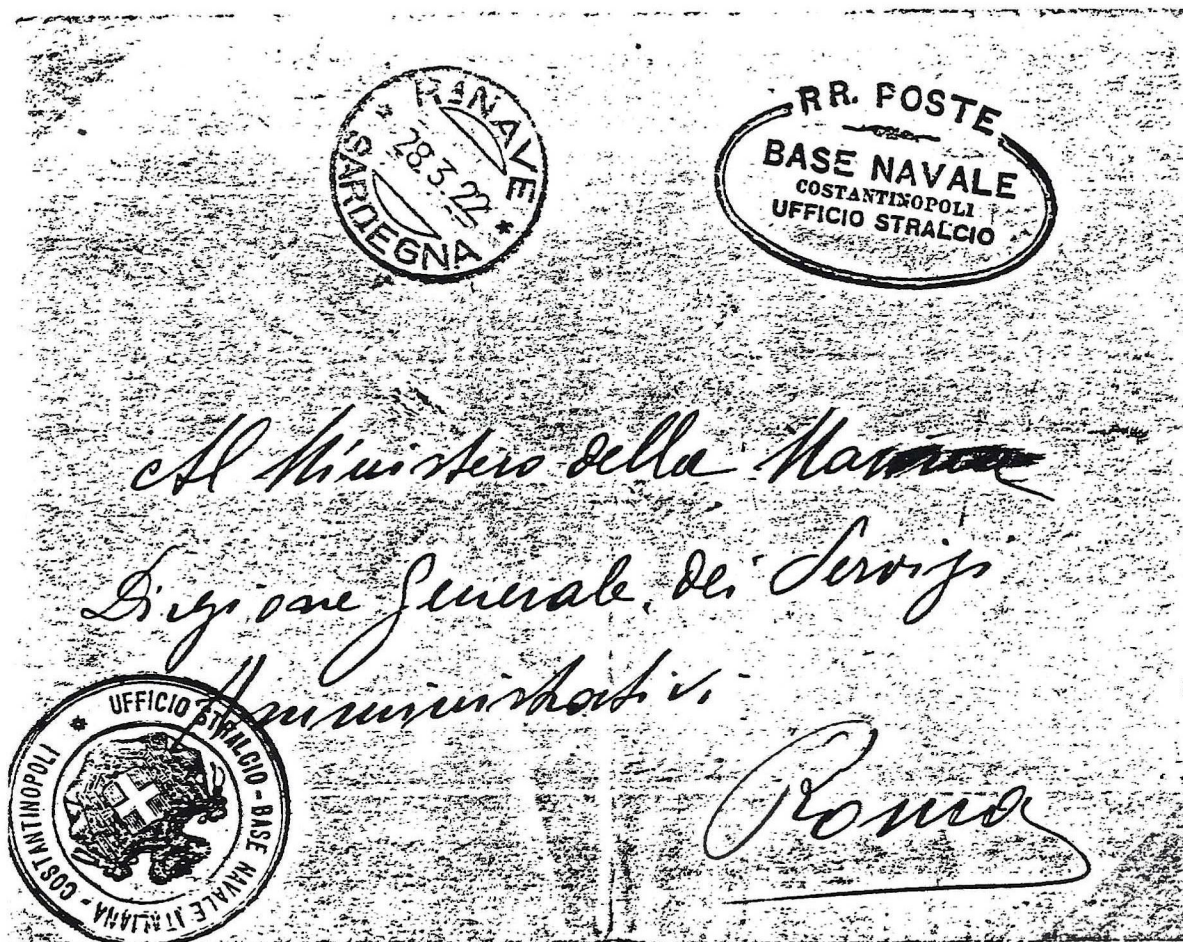


Colonnello G. S. M.
Maggiore dei Granatieri
G. Augusto Speckel
~~Ministero degli Affari Esteri~~
Comando del Corpo d'Armata

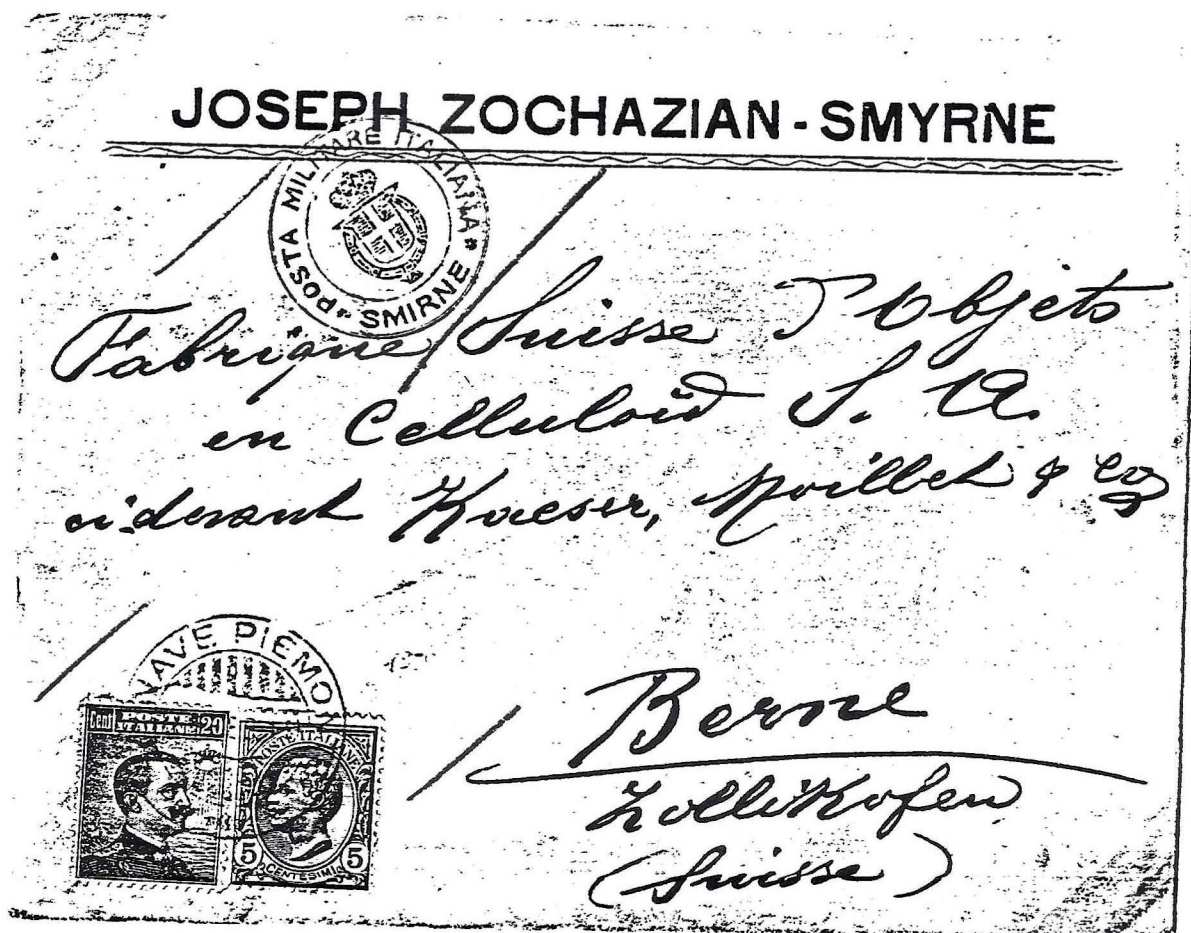
Following an agreement between Italy and the Nationalist Turkish government under Mustapha Kemal on 13 March 1921, tensions between the two sides were reduced and, as of 10 July, PM 15 was converted into an Italian civil post office in Constantinople. With this change, mail was charged at full international rates (e.g. 40 cent. per 20 grams for letters). This office remained open until 30 September 1923.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Turkey

R. Nave Sardegna
28 March 1922



Official military mail was still entitled to be sent postage free from Italian warship post offices in 1922. The old-style battleship *Sardegna* had been converted to a floating workshop in 1919, but was still postmarking mail three years later. Cover sent from the "Liquidation Office/Italian Naval Base/Constantinople."



The first Allied activity outside Constantinople occurred at Smyrna (Izmir) on 28 February 1919. The above postal marking was used only on the first day of the occupation. As the field post office was not fully operational on that date, mail was sent to shipboard post offices for processing – in this case to the *R. Nave Piemonte*, an Italian cruiser sent to Smyrna harbor to support the occupation.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Turkey

Posta Militare 171
5 June 1919

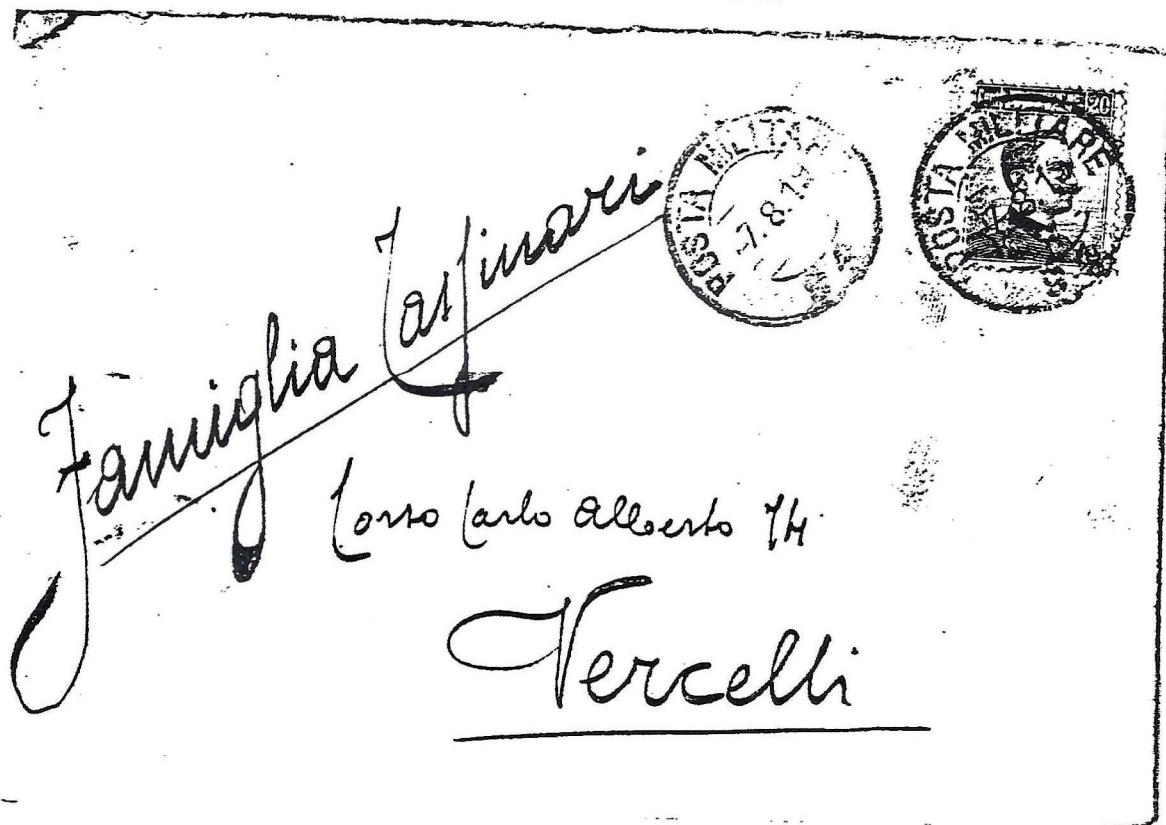
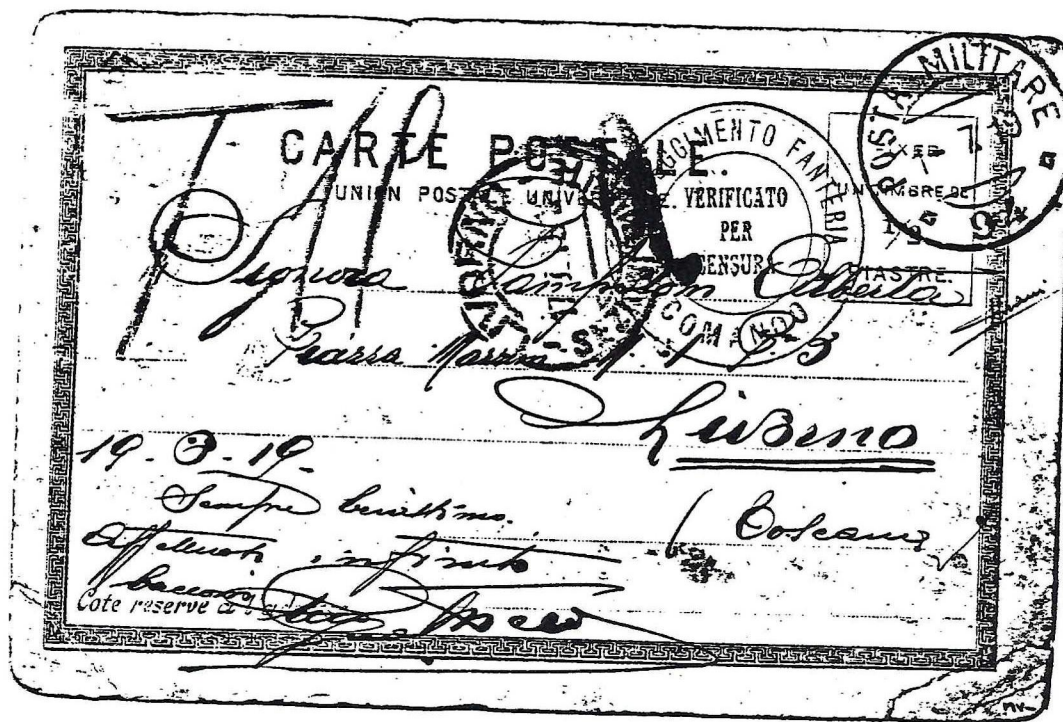
Posta Militare No. 171 Smirne
21 February 1923



PM 171 opened in Smyrna on 1 March 1919. Unlike the other Italian military post offices in Turkey, Smyrna was not converted to civilian status in the Spring of 1921 because the city had been occupied by Greek forces. Although the Turks retook the town in September 1922, the Italian field post office continued to operate through mid-June 1923. The lower cover shows the latest, and by far the scarcest, of the datestamps used at Smyrna.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Turkey

Posta Militare 94
1 July 1919
7 August 1919



PM 94 operated on Rhodes in connection with the Expeditionary Corps in Anatolia from 11 May to 18 December 1919 and from 16 to 30 June 1920. Two datestamps were used -- differing in side ornaments as shown above.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Turkey

Posta Militare 115
26 June 1920
15 November 1920

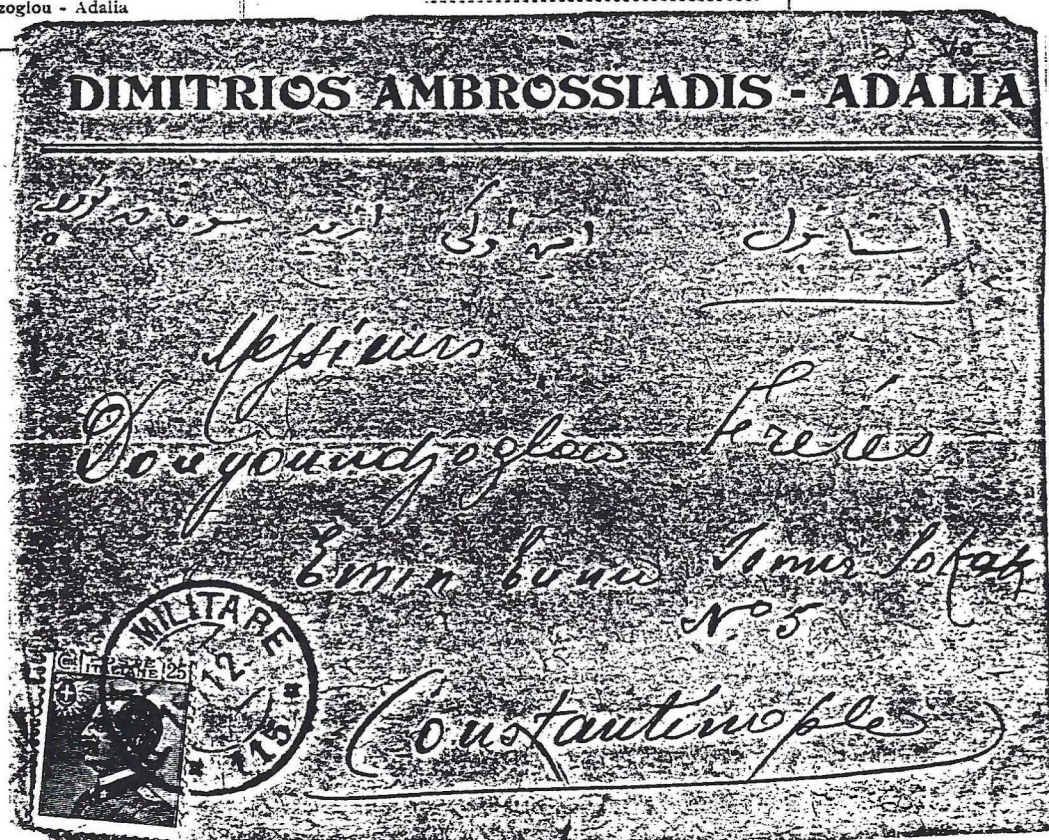
*Muchos saludos
desde Adalia
Moring*



26/6/20

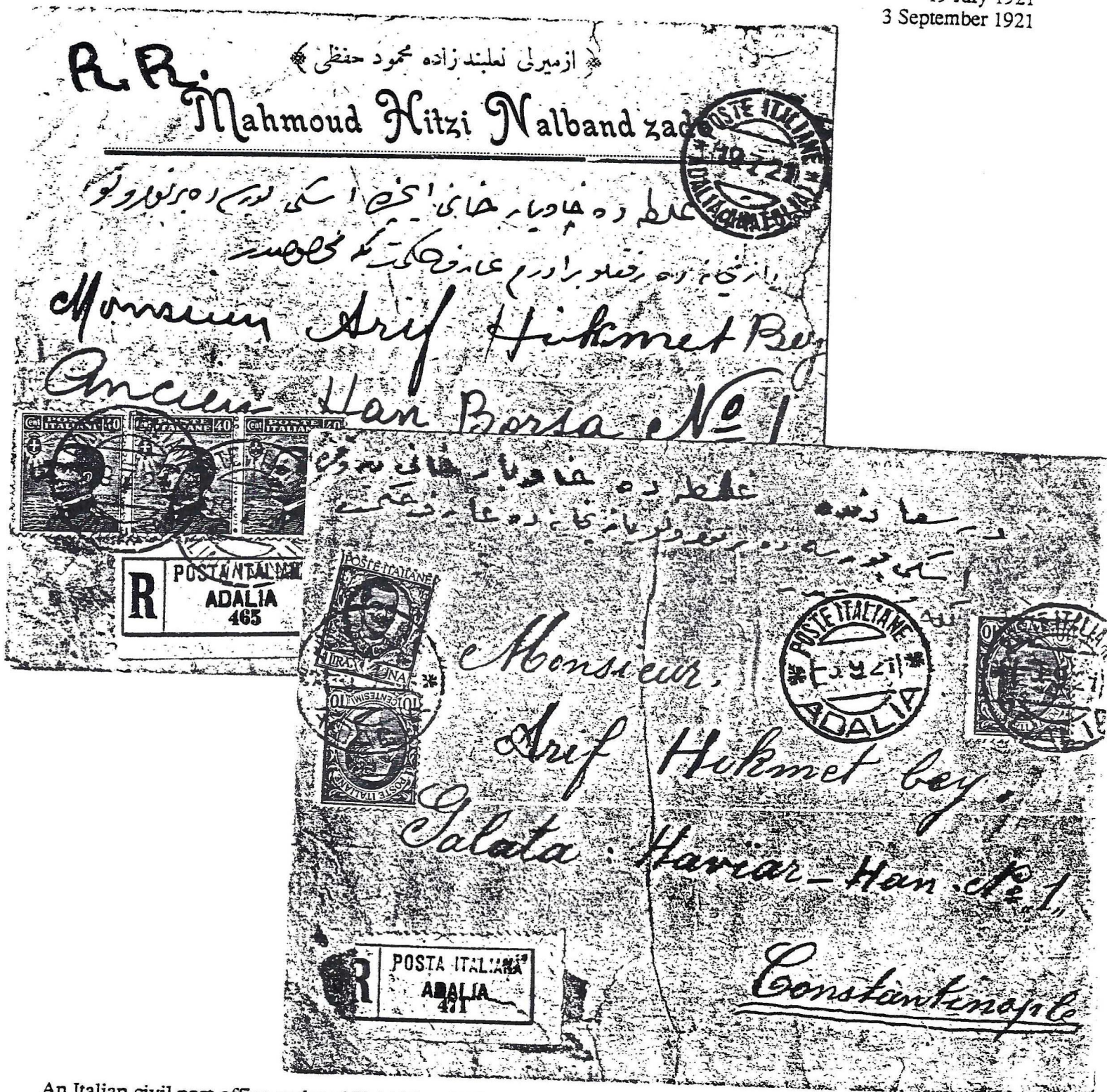
*Monsieur
Sam. A. Ascher
Bisindji Vakif Ham n° 20
Stamboul
Constantinople*

54321 Stavros I Papazoglou - Adalia



PM 115 operated at Adalia (now Atalya) from 4 February 1920 until 28 February 1921, using the datestamp shown above. As the Italian garrison was small, the bulk of the mail processed was from local civilians. Mail to Turkey had to be paid at full UPU rates.

Adalia
19 July 1921
3 September 1921



An Italian civil post office replaced PM 115 at Adalia on 28 February 1921 and continued to operate until 18 June 1923. Two different datestamps plus a handstamp for marking registry labels were used. The bulk of the mail continued to be from local civilians. Beginning 1 February 1921, Italian rates for international mail were increased to 40 cent. per 20 grams for letters and 40 cent. for registration.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Turkey

Posta Militare 162
25 October 1919

Scalanova
31 January 1922

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Turkey

Posta Militare 162
25 October 1919

Scalanova
31 January 1922

REPUBBLICA ITALIANA
MINISTERO DELLA GUERRA
UFFICIO CENTRALE
MILANO

ESERCITO ITALIANO
Corrispondenza in franchigia

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

Indirizzo del mittente da riprodurre nelle risposte
Cognome e Nome
Grado Reggimento e Arma
Compagnia Squadriglia Batteria

Al Signorino
Dato e Pizzi
Mauricio

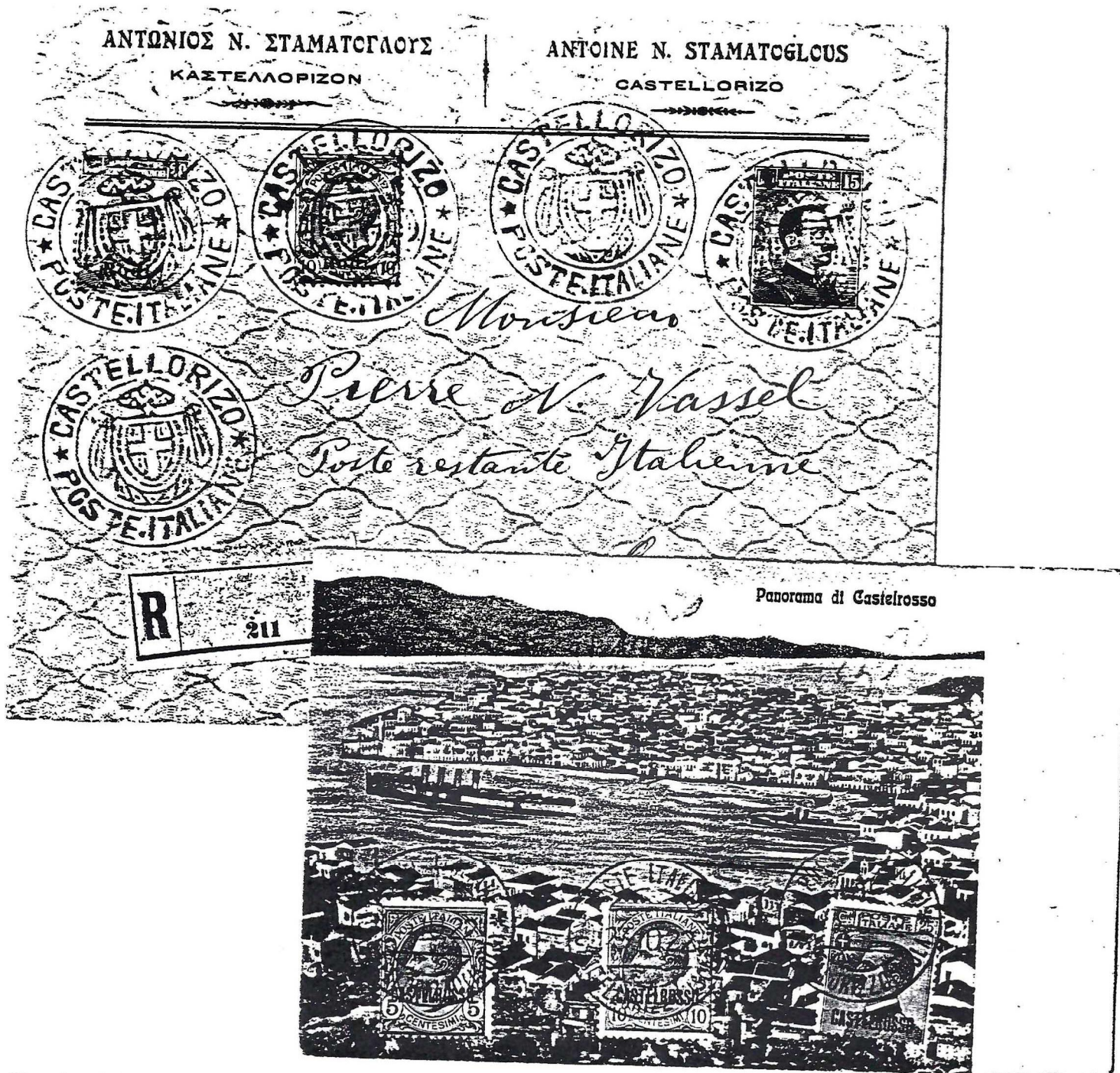
MILANO



The last field post office in Anatolia, PM 162, operated at Scalanova (Kusadasi) from 3 June 1919 until 23 March 1921. It used only a single datestamp during this period. As in other locations, PM 162 was replaced by a civil post office, which continued to operate until 10 August 1922. Mail from this location is particularly scarce.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Turkey

Castellorizo
- April 1921
23 October 1922



The tiny island (4 square miles) of Castellorizo, which lies off the southern coast of Anatolia, was one of the spoils of war of the Ottoman Empire assigned to Italy by the Treaty of Sevres. The Italians took control from the French, who had occupied the island during World War I, on 1 March 1921. As the special datestamp had not been delivered from Rome on time, the post office used a temporary device featuring the Italian coat of arms for a few weeks. Stamps available initially were those overprinted for Rhodes.

On 11 July 1922, a special set of Italian stamps overprinted "Castelrosso" was placed on sale.



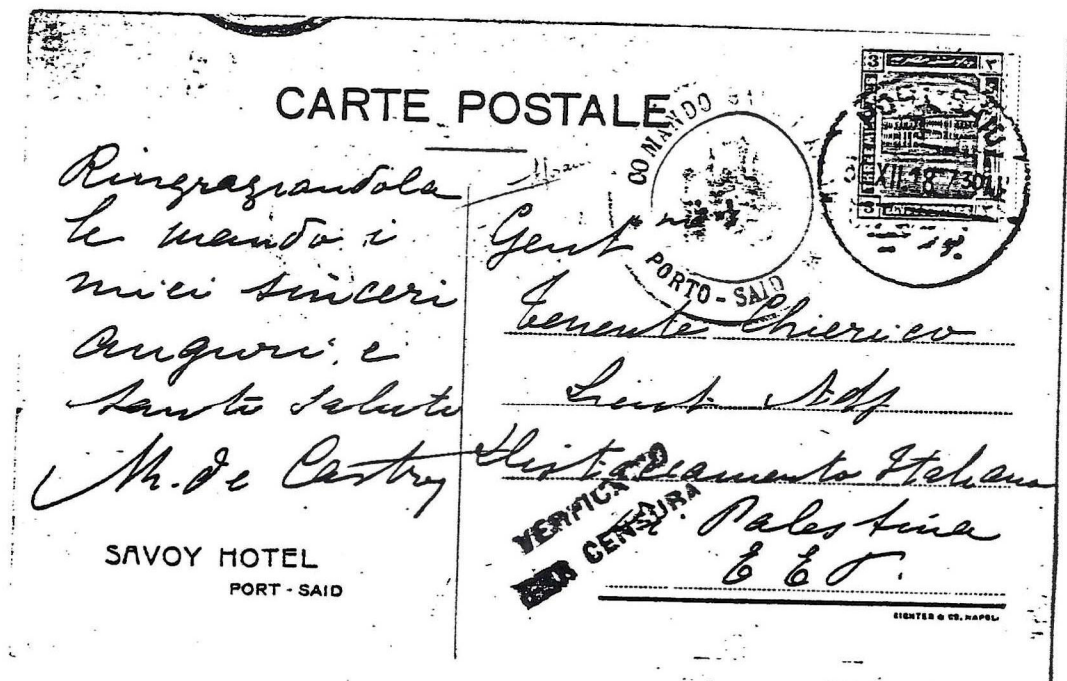
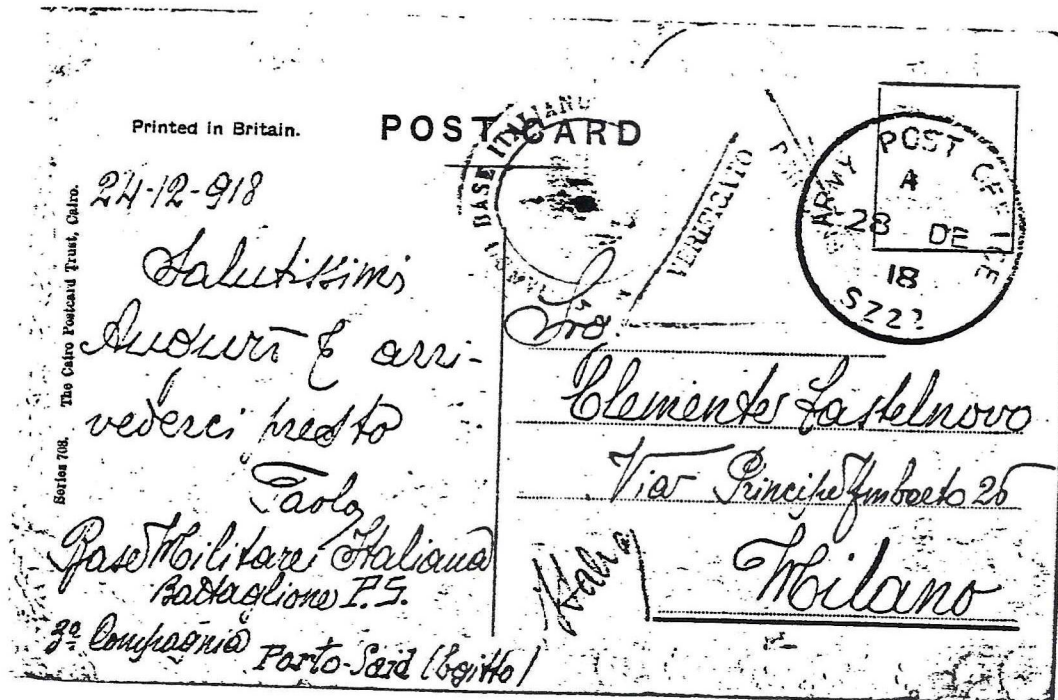
Commercial mail from Castellorizzo is elusive, and that showing that showing mixed franking of overprinted and unoverprinted Italian stamps even more so. A second set with a map design was issued in January 1923 to commemorate the occupation of the island by Italy.

Although Castellorizzo is not located in the Aegean, it was placed under the administrative authority of the Officials on Rhodes and used the stamps of the Aegean Islands from 1929 to 1945.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Egypt

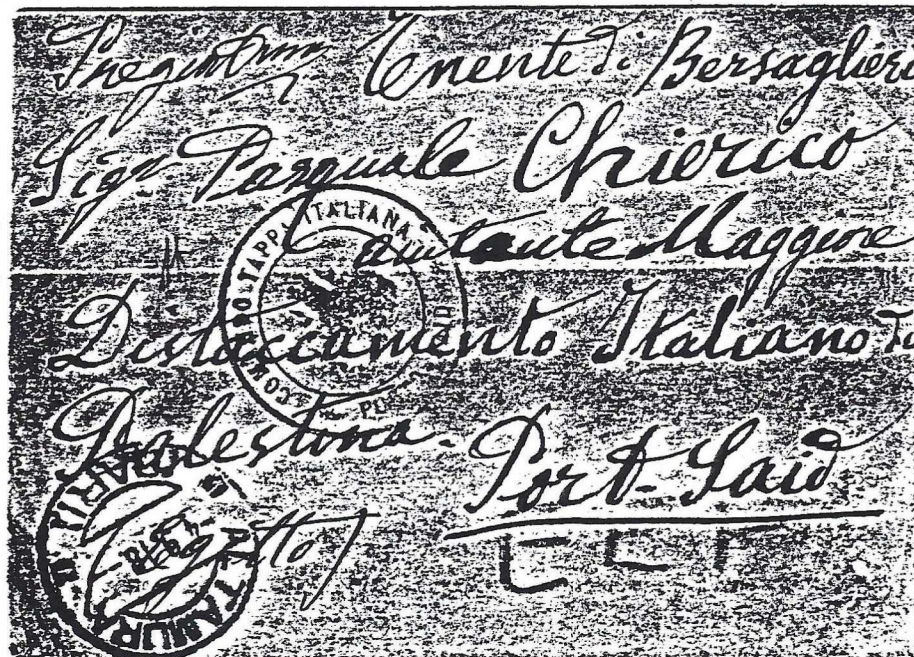
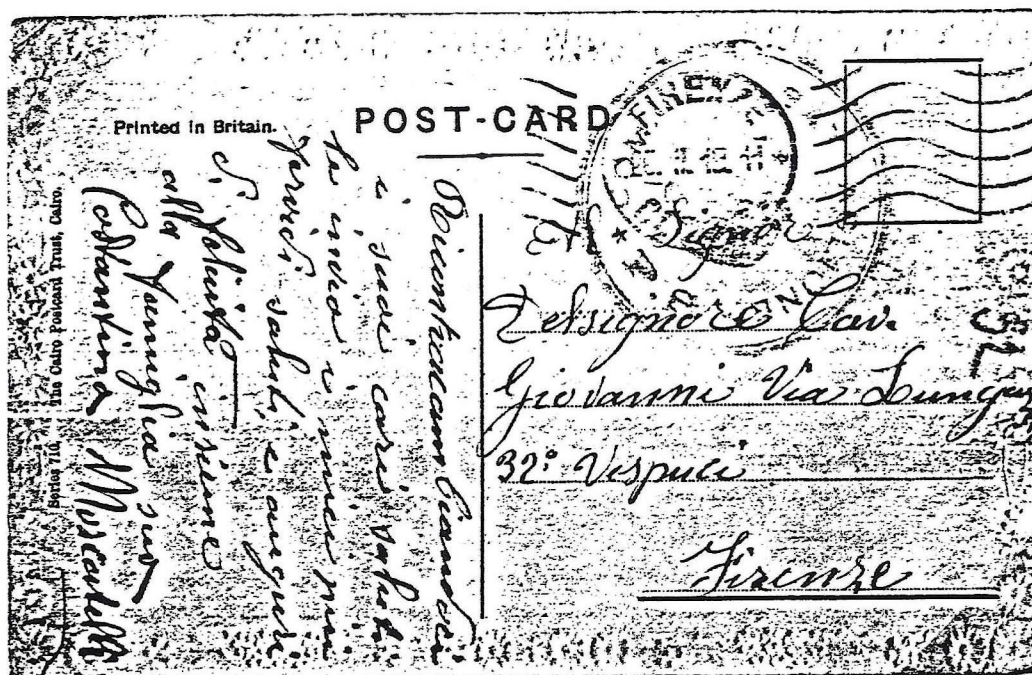
Army Post Office SZ22
28 December 1918

Port Said
30 December 1918



A small group of Italians was assigned to assist the Egyptian Expeditionary Force in the planned invasion of Ottoman-held territory in the Arabian Peninsula. On 19 May 1917, the first contingent of approximately 450 men landed at Port Said, which was to be the base of operations for the "Italian Detachment in Palestine" until the repatriation of that force in mid-August 1919.

Mail from the support units which remained in Egypt after the armistice with Turkey could be sent through either the British field post or the Egyptian civil post office as shown above.



Because the Italian forces in Port Said did not have their own military post offices, mail was sometimes sent out without a despatch postmark, as was the case with the upper card. However, it has a unit marking with "P.S." (Port Said) which entitled it to be sent postage free. A third unit marking is shown on the lower (inbound) card.