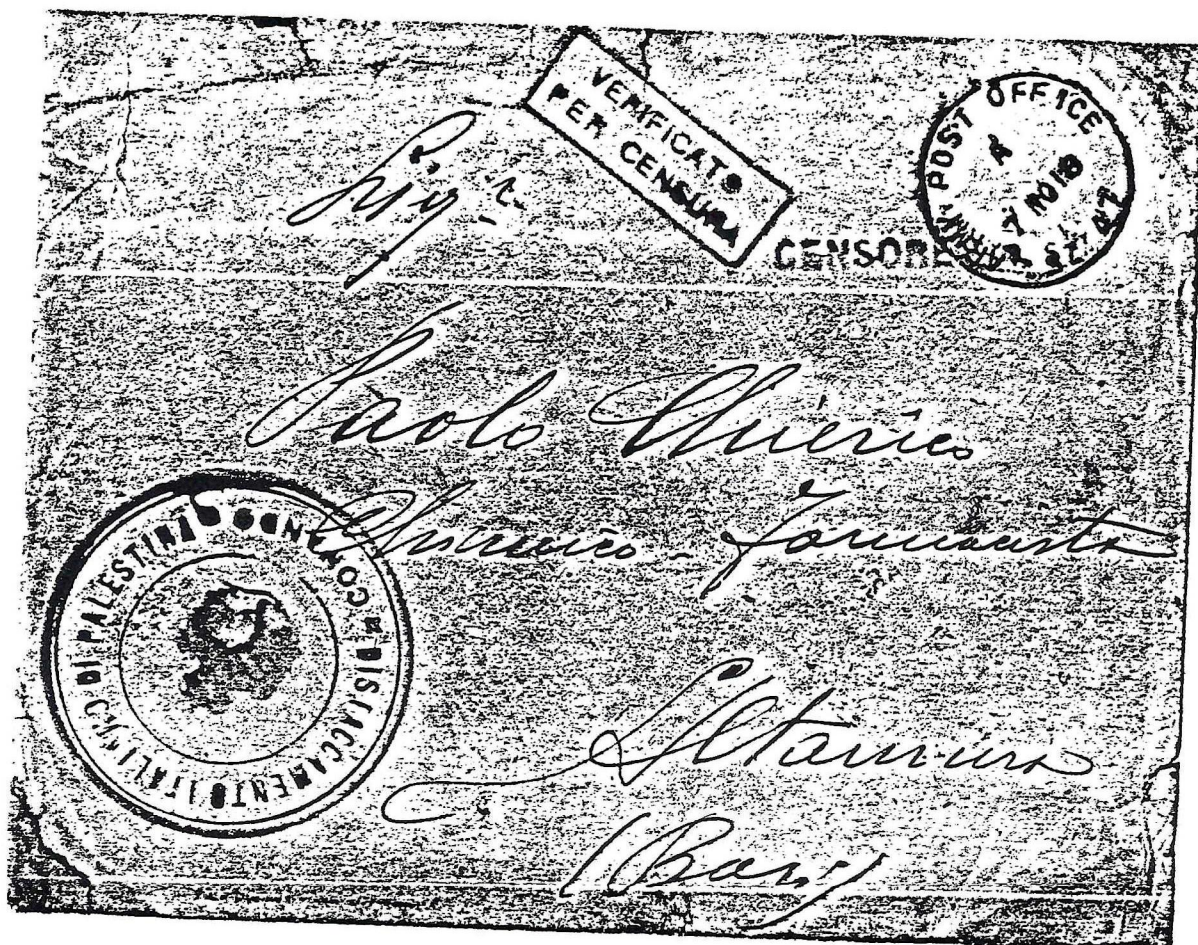


ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Palestine

Army Post Office SZ47
7 November 1918



On 13 June 1917, most of the men of the Italian Detachment entered Palestine, being encamped at Rafiah in what is today the Gaza Strip. In November, they participated as a part of General Allenby's force in the capture of Gaza and Jaffa and, on 11 December, the liberation of Jerusalem. Following the armistice with Turkey, most of the Italians were assigned to garrison duty in Jaffa or Sarona, where their headquarters was located.

Most of the mail was sent through the British field post, such as SZ47 (Sarona) shown above. The unit marking most often encountered is a large red cachet inscribed "Italian Detachment in Palestine/Headquarters."

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Palestine

Army Post Office SZ47
7 December 1918
20 January 1919

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

R. 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
 Armata
 Compagnia
 Squadriglia
 Batteria
 Ripartizione

Al
 Massimo Jacucci
 P. 100
 VERIFICATO
 CENSURA
 (Prov. di) Italia

ENO DI PALESTINA
 V. E. SUITE AUMARA

Salut. affettuosi
 Mio ott.
 Carmo Gattaf
 Al. di Palestina
 Reparto Speciale
 Giuffrè
 18. 1. 1919

Postkarte — Carte Postale
 Union postale universelle
 Weltpostverein

4 EEP 4
 POSTAGE
 PAID
 4 EEP 4

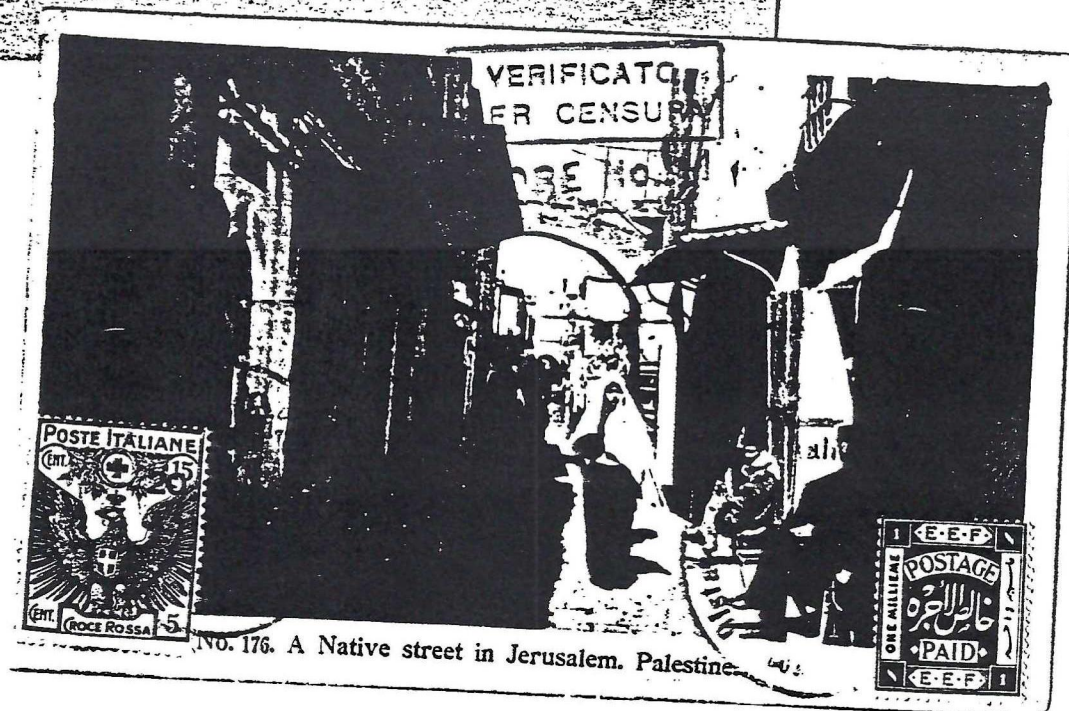
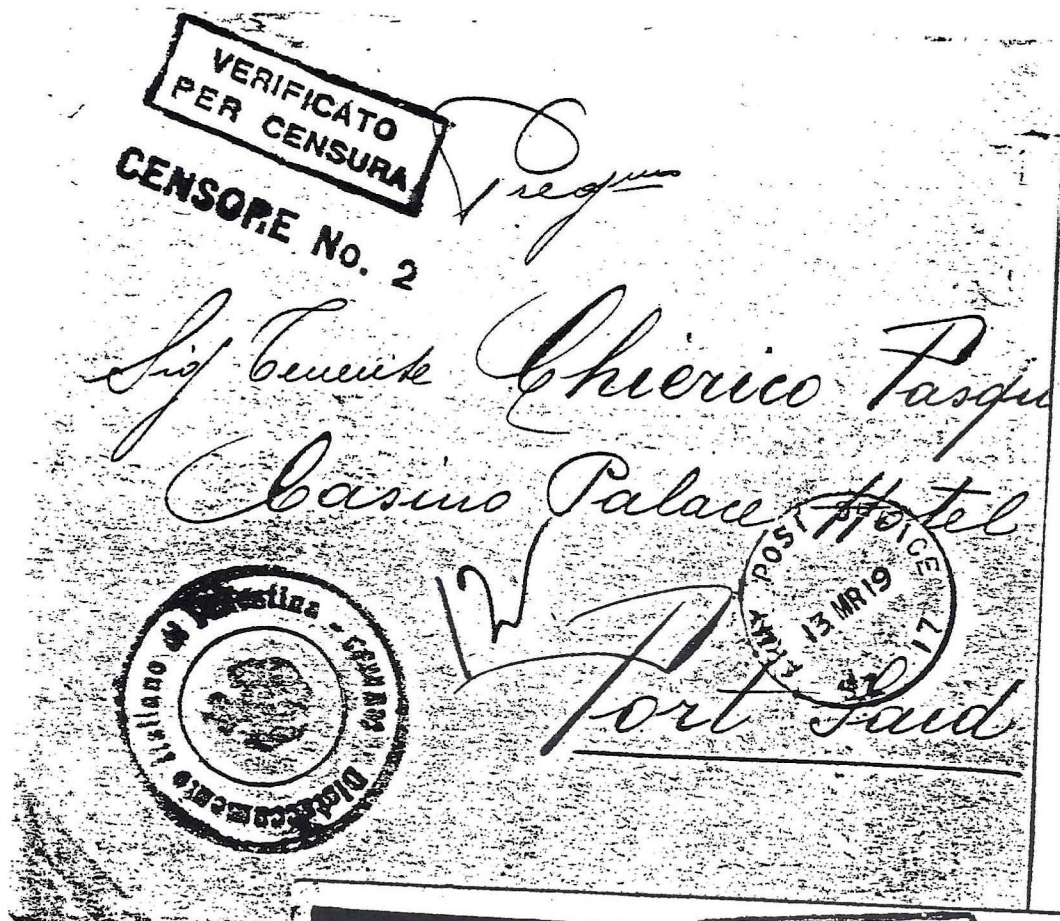
20 JAN 1919
 S. Umberto
 Egyptian Expeditionary Force
 Alexandria
 Egitto

(152122)

The bulk of the mail was sent home to Italy. However, occasionally an example is found to another country, as is the case with the lower card which went to Alexandria, Egypt.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Palestine

Army Post Office SZ17
13 March 1919



No. 176. A Native street in Jerusalem, Palestine.

A second type of administrative cachet was smaller and had the inscription in upper and lower case letters. Cover used from British APO SZ17 (Jaffa).

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Palestine

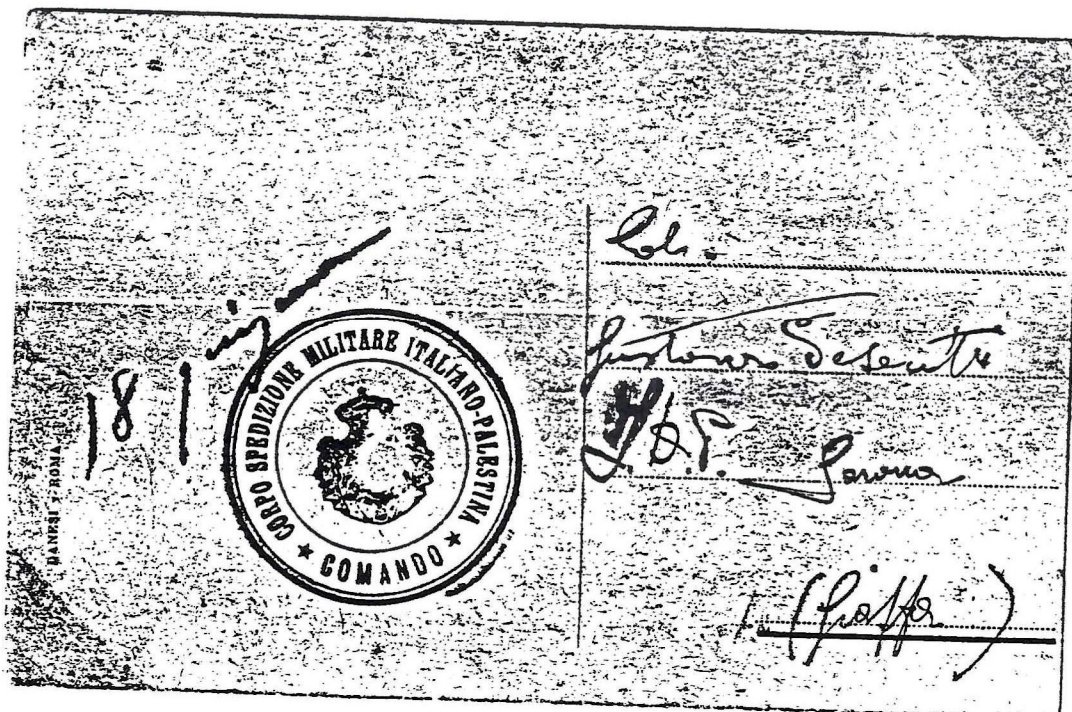
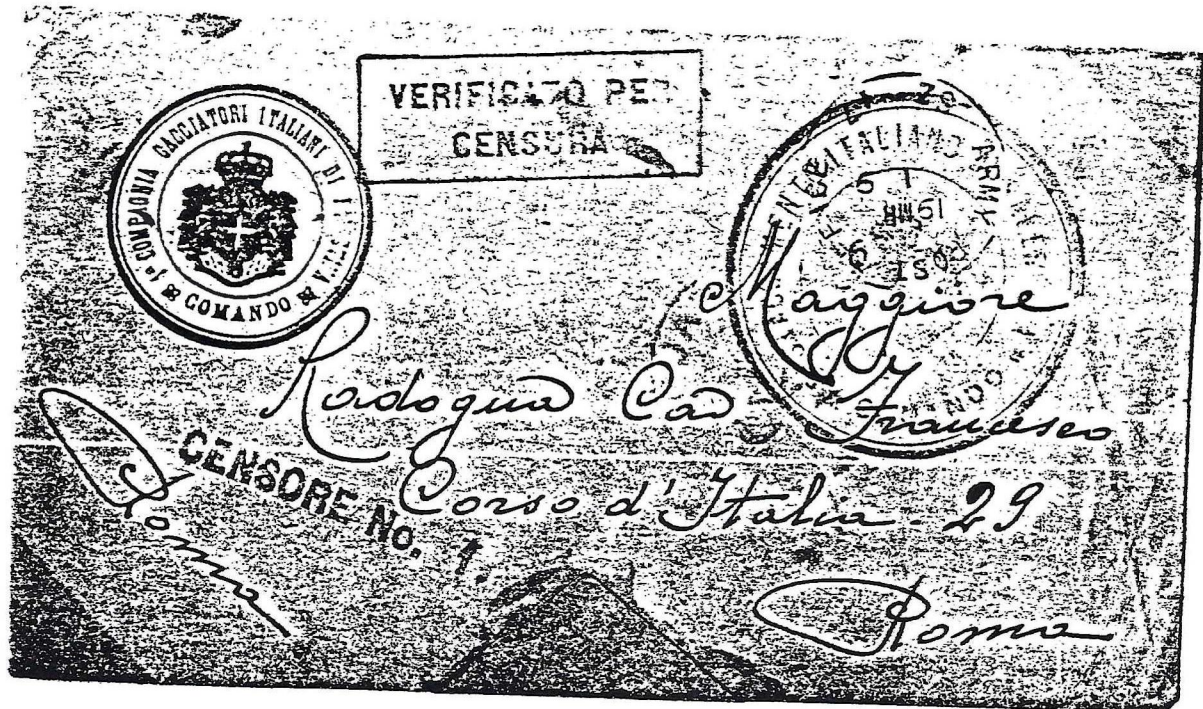
Army Post Office SZ17
13 August 1919
29 June 1919
6 July 1919



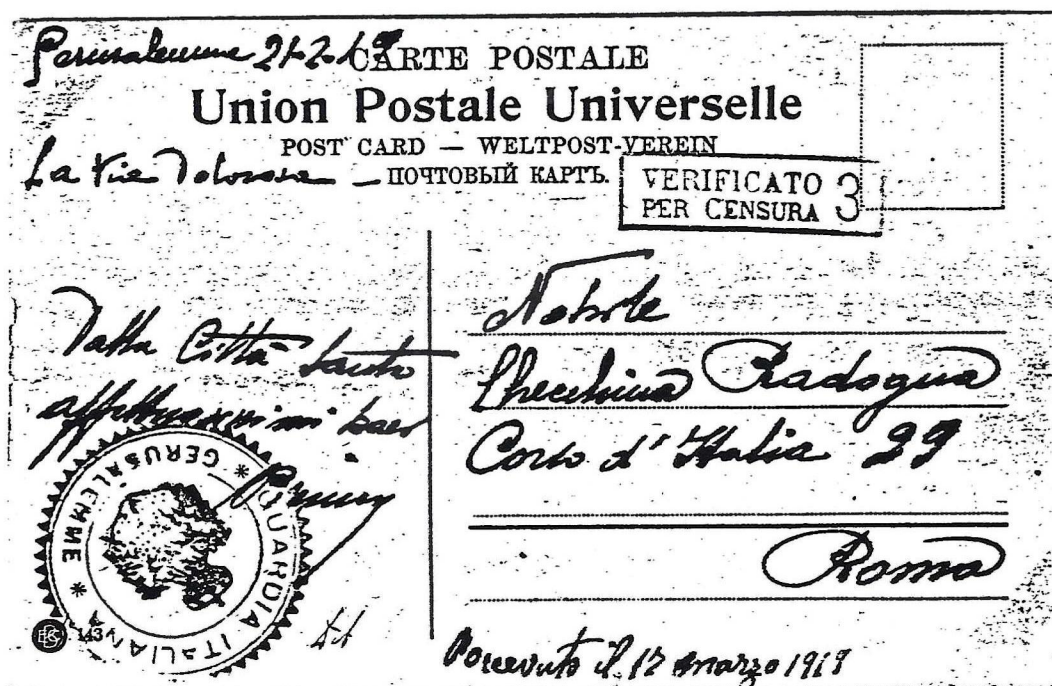
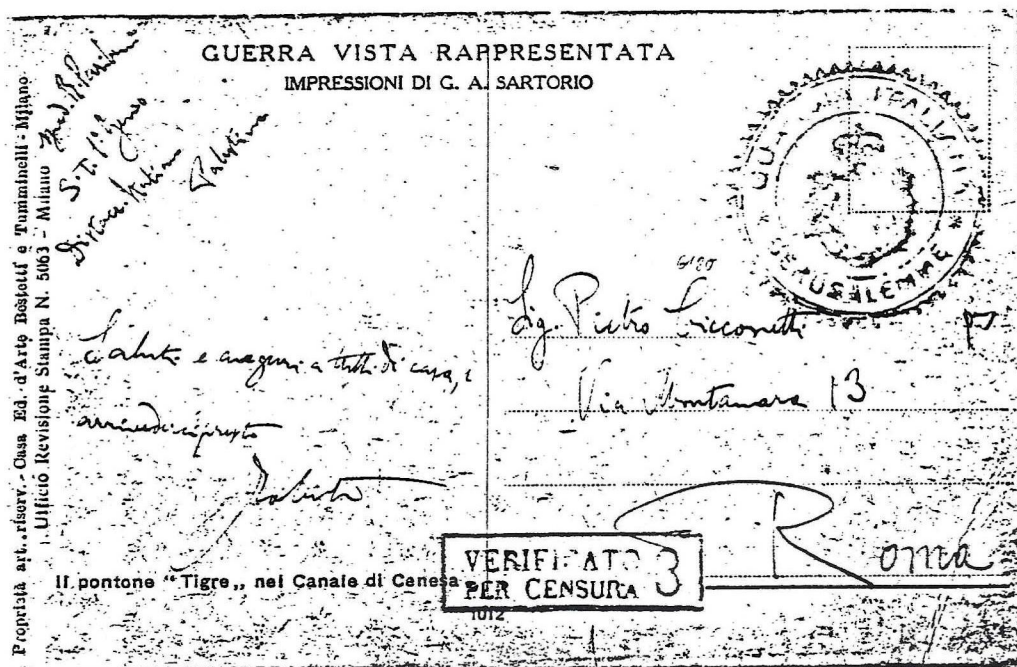
One type of marking was used as a combination unit cachet and censor verification. It is oval in shape and comes in violet, red brown and red, as shown above.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Palestine

Army Post Office SZ17
19 March 1919
18 June (19)



As fighting ended elsewhere, some reinforcements were available for Palestine, although the force there never exceeded 1,500 men. As a result, additional unit cachets were used. Above are shown the "1st Company of Italian Hunters in Palestine" and "Italian Expeditionary Corps - Palestine" (only two examples known).



A few of the Italians were assigned to Jerusalem as guards for the Christian shrines. These troops used a special marking with the Italian coat of arms and inscribed "Italian Guard/Jerusalem."

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Krasnoyarsk
15 April 1919

RR. Truppe Italiane in Estremo Oriente
COMANDO

Krasnojarsk, 15-4-19.

Dear Sir,

by order of the Chairman of the Upper-Commission I have the honour to inform you, that the incident Ketskix has been resolved. He has been released in reference to the protocols of the Russian Milizia.

L'ufficiale addetto al Comando

RR. Truppe Italiane In Estremo Oriente
COMANDO

To Lieut. P A D L E Y

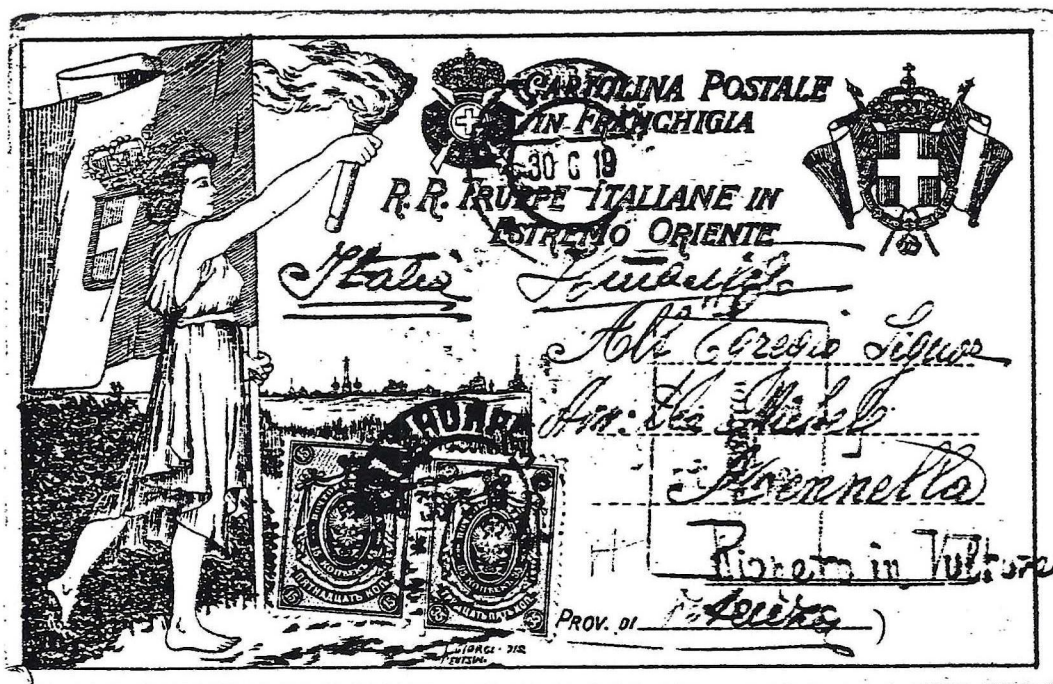
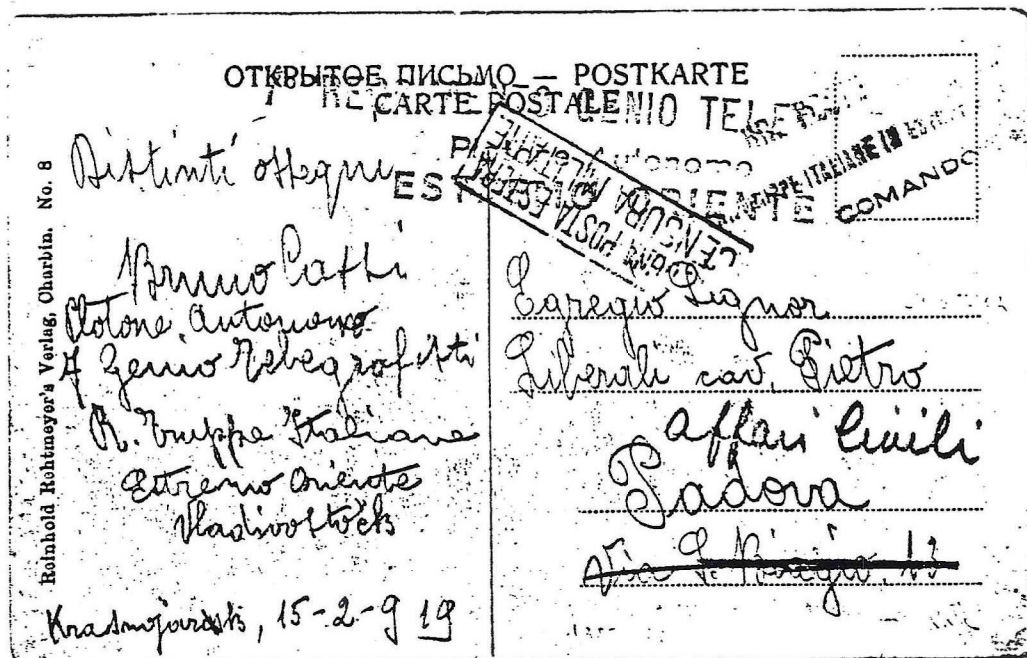
COMMANDING THE BRITISH TROOPS

KRASNOJARSK



In the summer of 1918, the Italian government decided to sent a small contingent to participate in the Allied intervention in Siberia. To this end, the *R. Nave Roma* was despatched from Italy in July with 275 officers and men, whose numbers were augmented by troops boarded in Massaua, Eritrea and from the Italian Concession at Tientsin. Several hundred additional men were recruited from among the former POW's from the Italian-speaking parts of the Austrian Empire (Dalmatia, Trentino and Venezia Giulia) recently released from prison camps in Russia. The last unit of the contingent reportedly returned home to Naples in April 1920.

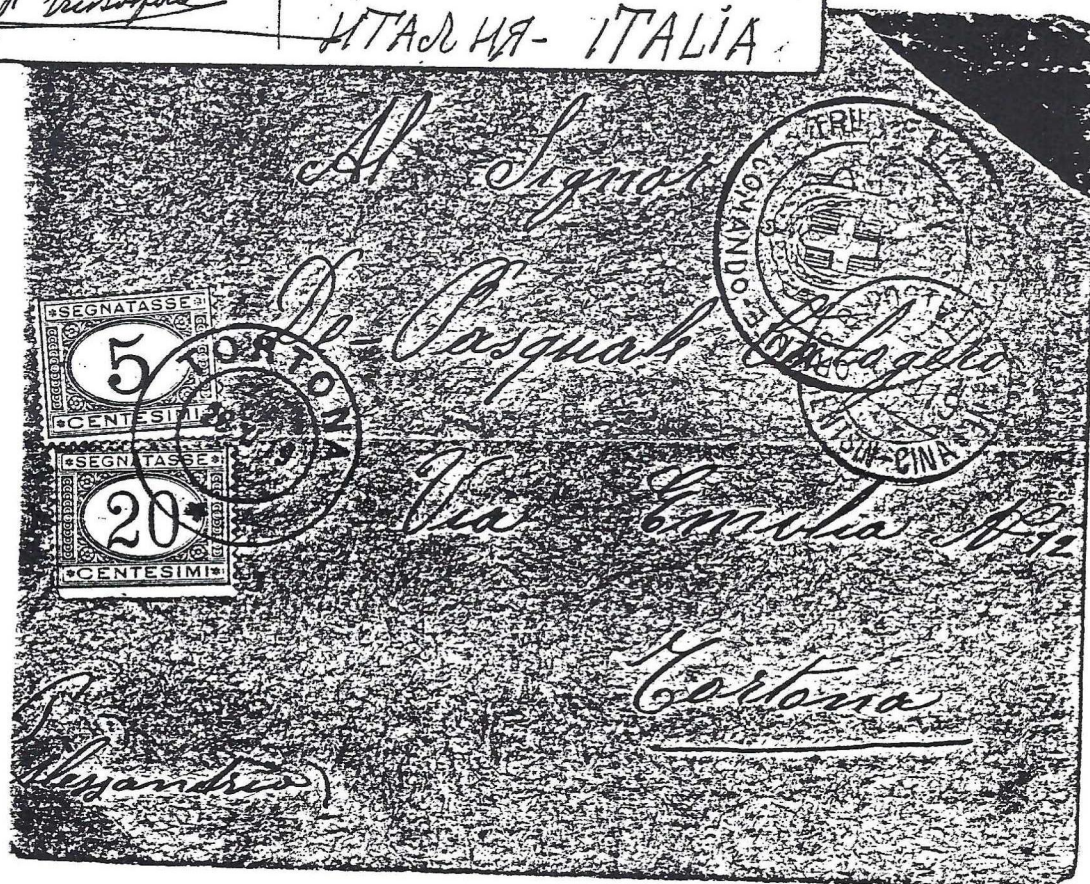
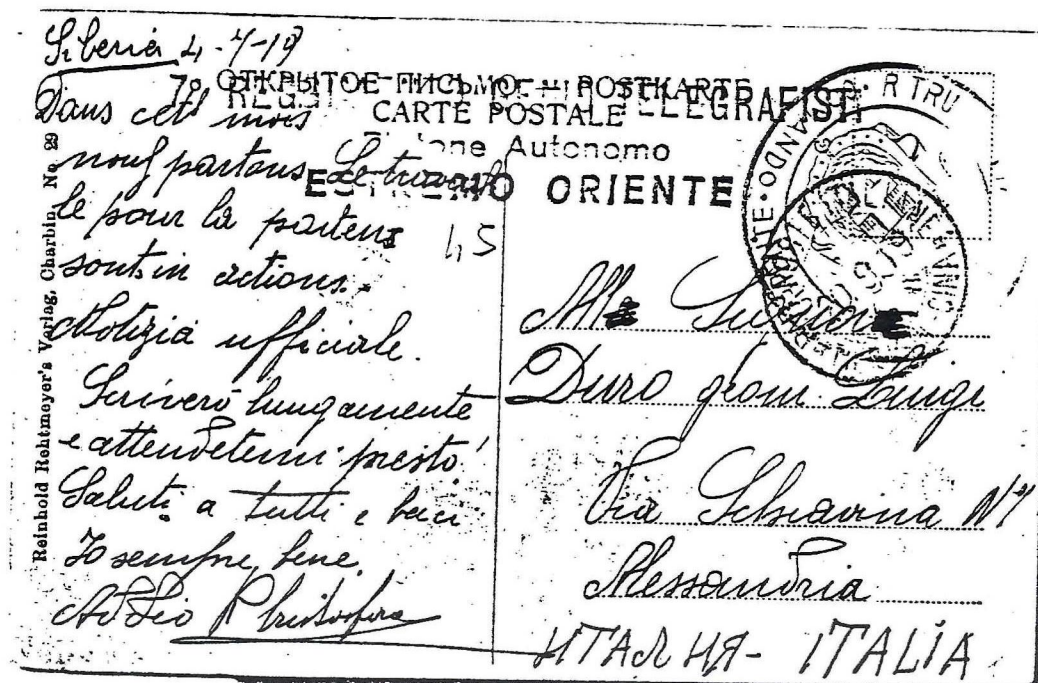
The base of the "Royal Italian Troops in the Far East," as this unit was known, was at Krasnoyarsk, on the Trans-Siberian Railway about 500 miles west of Irkutsk. Above example of official mail was delivered by messenger to the commander of the local British forces.



The Italians did not open field post offices for their forces in Siberia, but the above cards were sent by members of the contingent. One is unfranked but has unit markings of the "Royal Italian Troops in the Far East." The other was sent through the Russian post office.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Vladivostok
4 July 1919
September 1919



The above pieces originated in Vladivostok, receiving the large circular unit marking of the "Royal Italian Troops in the Far East," and passed through the Italian post office at Tientsin in North China. The flap of the envelope is imprinted with the corner card of the "Royal Italian Troops in Siberia/ 1st Black Battalion" and coat of arms.

CARTOLINA IN FRANCHIGIANE

FRANCHIGIA
CENSURA MILITARE

COMAND

Two Special
class officers
fugitive

Ignor
 Car. Quentilis Terentius

Italy Rovereto
Trentino

Sped. in ec.
Per: Mario Serini
R.R. Truppe Italiane in
"Estremo Oriente" Vladivostok.

POST CARD

R.R. POS

LEGISLATIVE

REDENTA DI SER

COMMAND

Signora

Pia Palla

in Ansbach

Pieve di Livinallongo

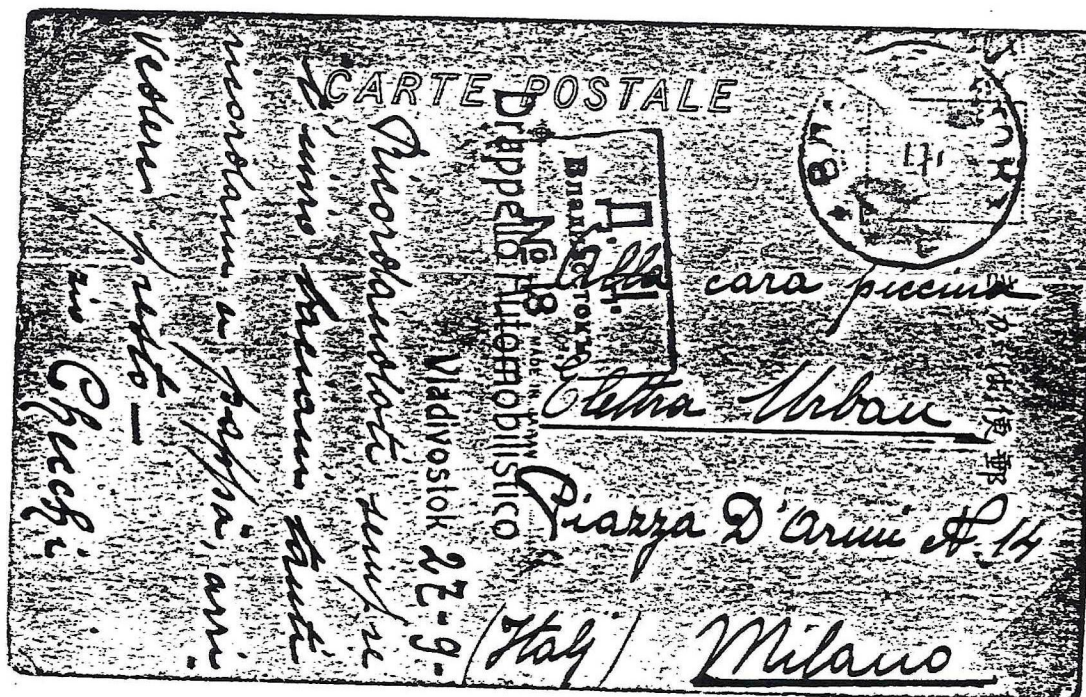
Italia

Tere redente

POST
 14. Placido 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 8

On 7 August 1919, Krasnoyarsk had to be abandoned to the advancing Red Army. As a result, the subsequent activity of the Italian forces in Siberia was confined to the Vladivostok area.

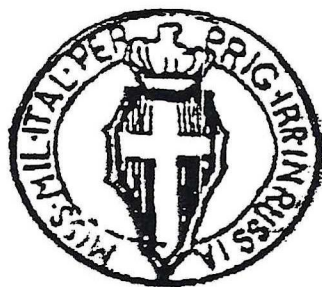
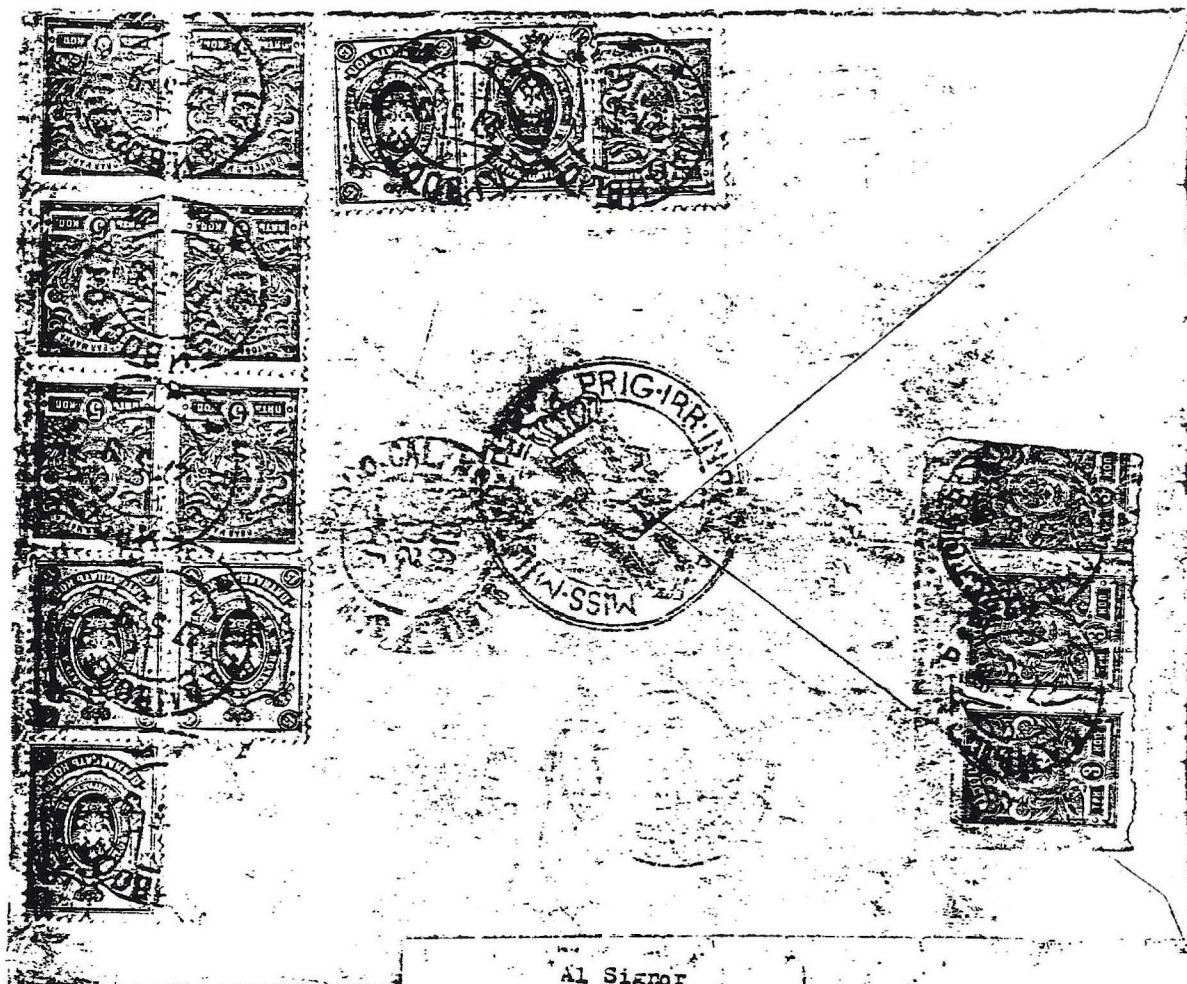
Vladivostok
8 March 1919
27 September 1919



The sender of the cover above can be located by manuscript return address reading "deposito Vladivostok," but it was apparently not censored until arrival in Trieste. The post card was sent through the normal Russian post office (stamp removed) but has a hitherto unrecorded unit marking of the "Automobile Company/Vladivostok."

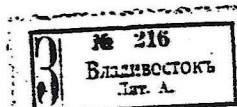
ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Vladivostok
27 May 1919



PITTSBURGH Pa

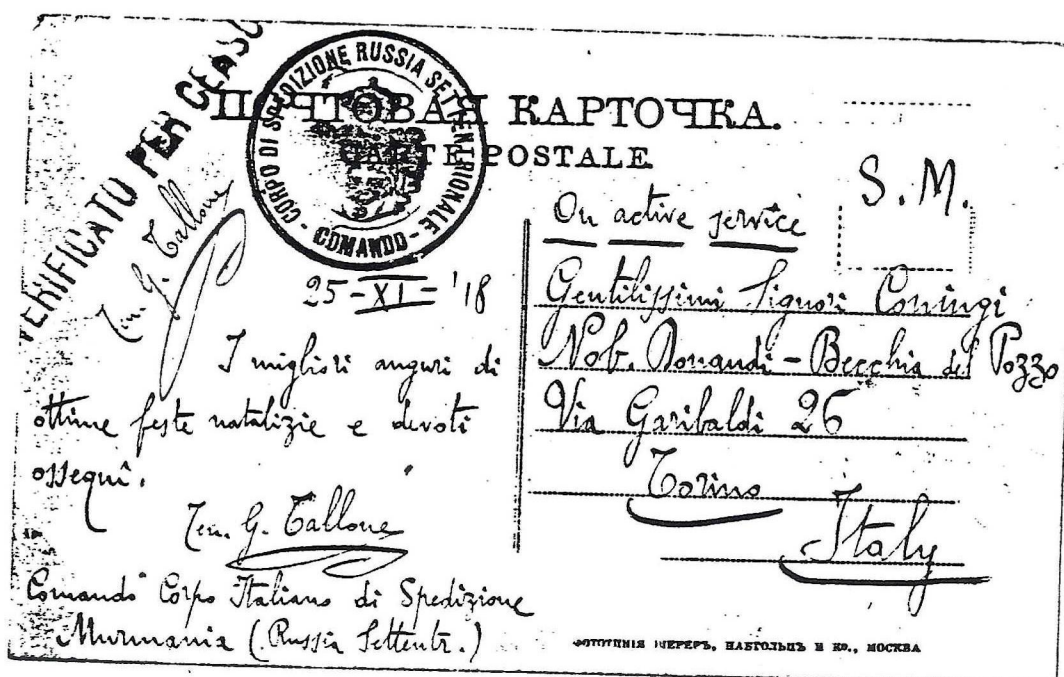
U. S. A.



Many of the troops were recruited from Italian-speaking areas of the Austrian Empire who had been taken prisoner by the Russians on the Eastern Front. This fact is reflected in some of the unit markings which were used on mail. Above registered cover, sent to Pittsburgh through the Russian post office in Vladivostok, has such a marking reading "Military Mission for the Unredeemed Prisoners in Russia."

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
North Russia

Murmansk
28 November 1918



A contingent of 1,250 Italian troops, including engineer and communications platoons, was sent to North Russia in August 1918 to prevent military supplies shipped by the Allies to Murmansk earlier in the war from falling into German hands. Their mail was not postmarked but endorsed with a special unit marking inscribed "North Russian Expeditionary Corps/Headquarters," which entitled it to be carried free of postage. The expedition was in operation for a relatively short time, being recalled in September 1919.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
North Russia

Murmansk
— 1919
7 February 1919
18 March 1919



A second and much larger version of the "North Russian Expeditionary Corps/Headquarters" cachet was placed in service soon thereafter and is the marking most often seen from this area. It is known in black, red and violet.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
North Russia

Inbound
March 1919
January 1919

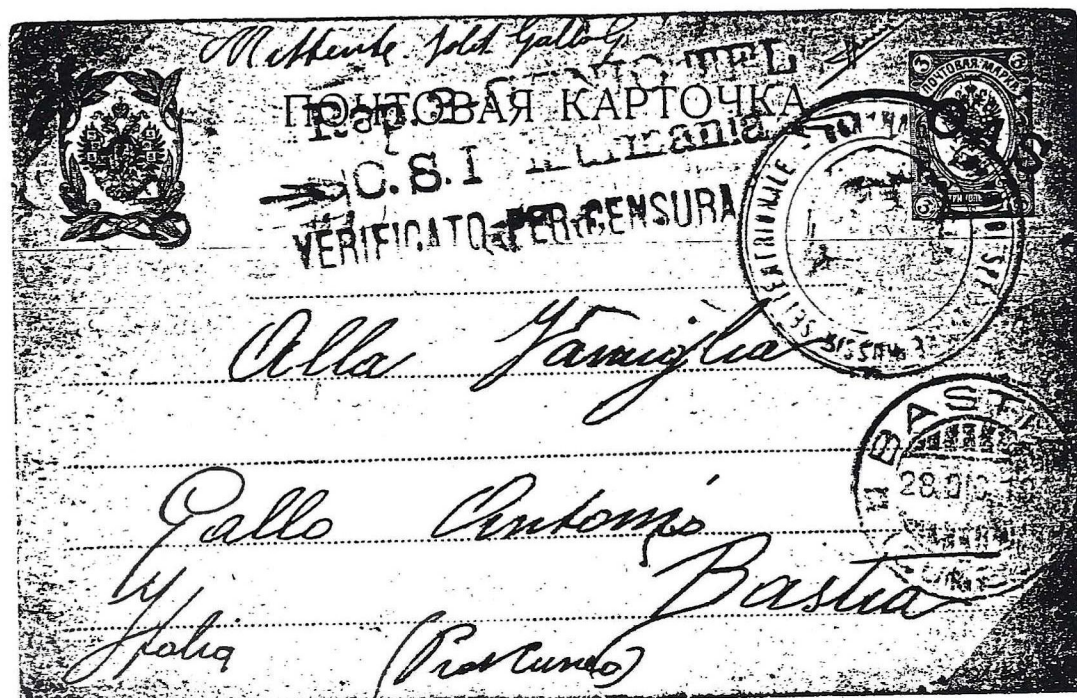
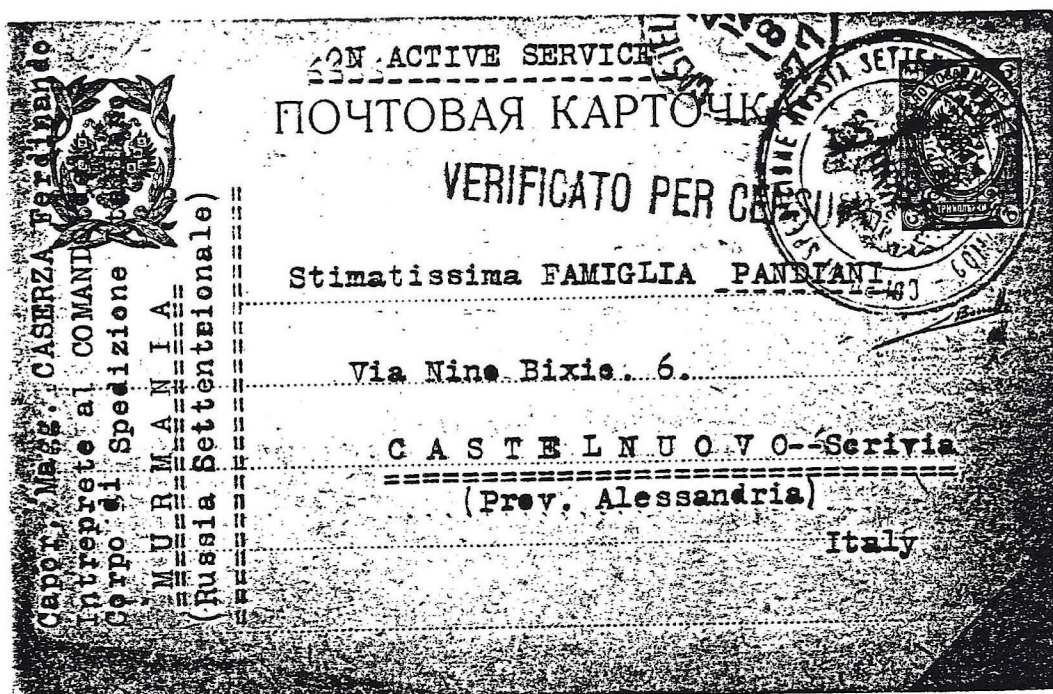


General
Caroldi Amadeo
Comandante Reggimento Alpini Sciatori
Corpo Spedizione Italiana
(Russia letterhead) Murman

Inbound mail to the members of the Italian Contingent is even more elusive than cards and letters sent home by the troops. The upper cover was addressed to a Sergeant no longer in Murmansk, so it was forwarded to Turin after receiving the North Russian unit marking. The lower cover was apparently successfully delivered to its addressee, a Lieutenant in the Alpine Brigade.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
North Russia

Kola Peninsula
24 November 1918
2 December 1918



Some of the Italian troops served in a liaison capacity with British and other Allied forces. The upper card was sent from a soldier serving as an interpreter at headquarters. The lower card shows the only marking known with a specific unit designation in North Russia (previously unrecorded); it reads "3rd Telegraph Engineers/Italian Expeditionary Corps in Murmania." Both cards are datelined "Penisola di Cola" on the reverse.