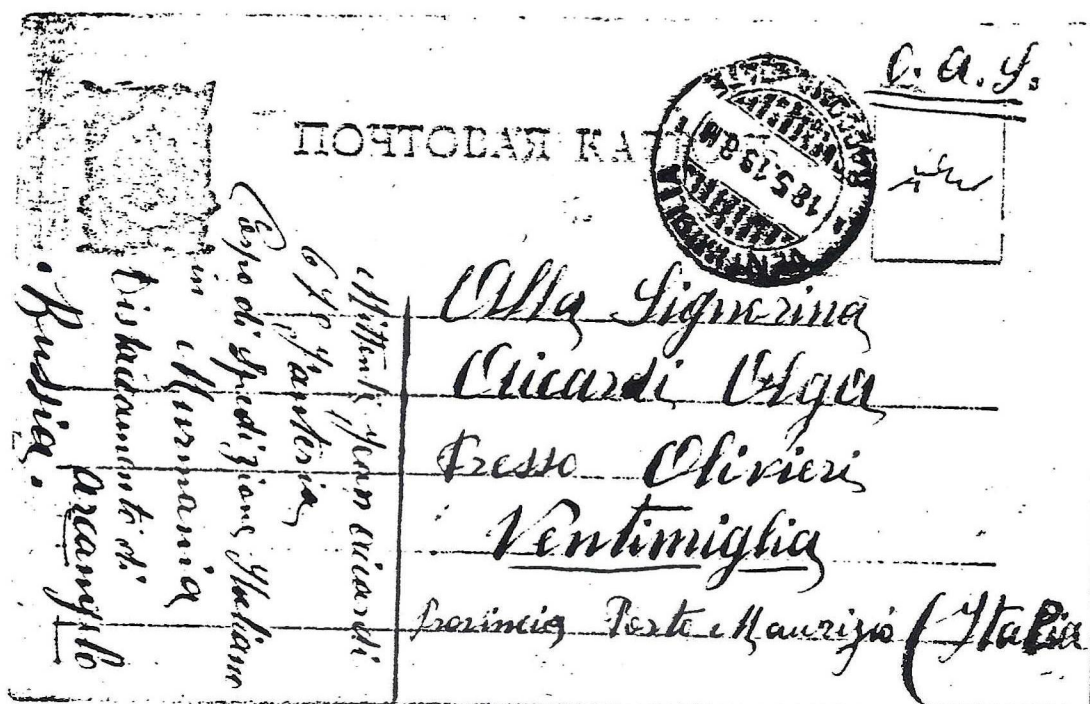


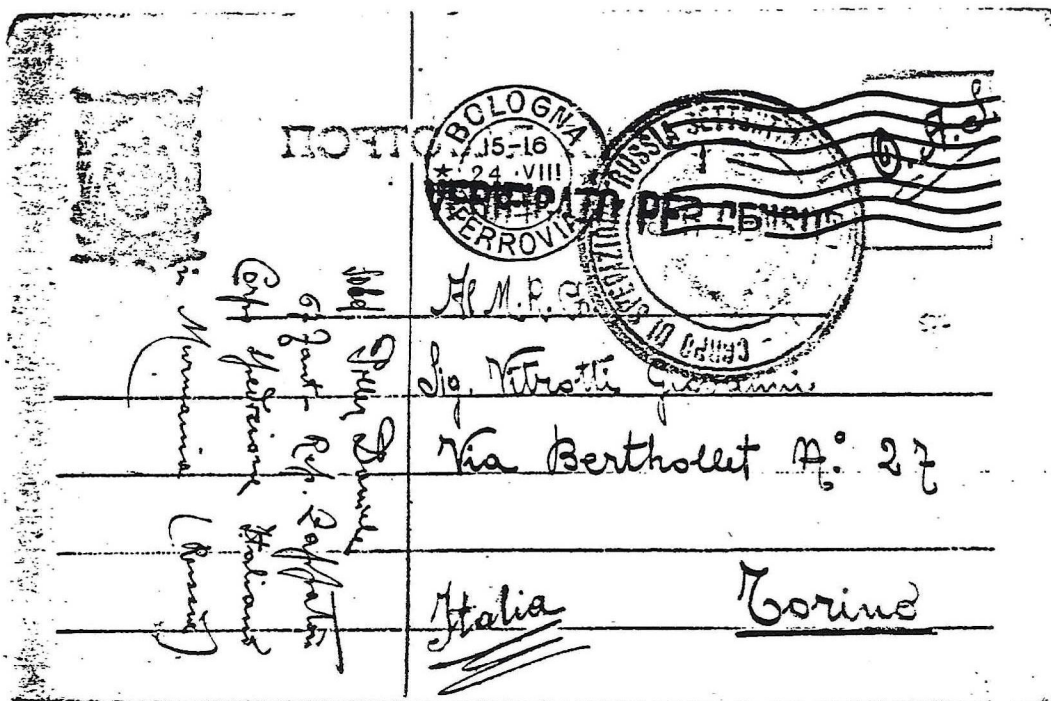


A small group of the Italian Contingent was sent to Archangel, which was the headquarters of the Allied Command in North Russia. The above card was sent to Italy by a member of this detachment as reflected in the dateline "Arcangelo, 18/4/19."

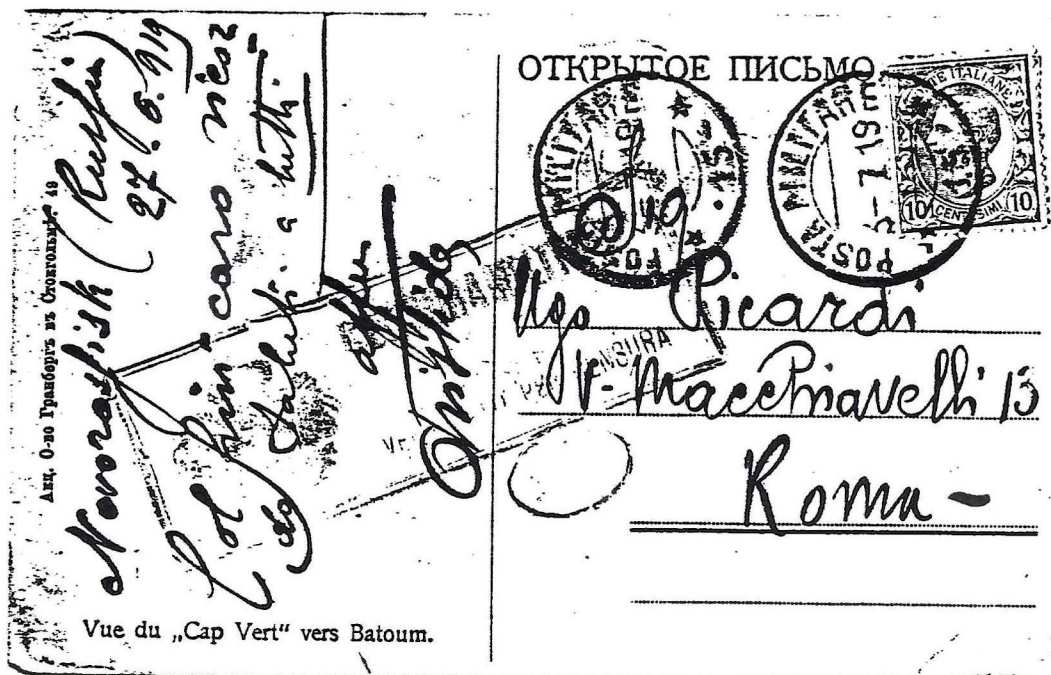
ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD

North Russia

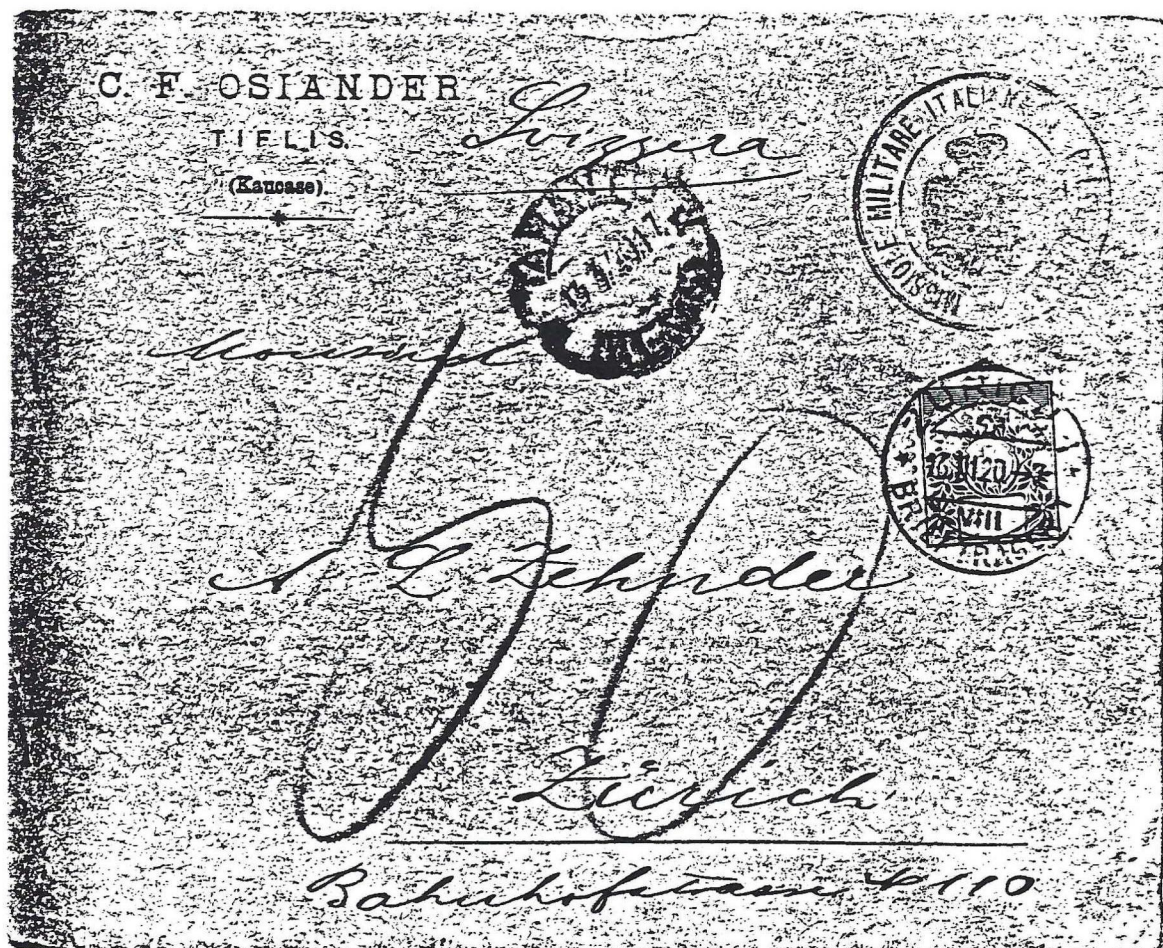
Medveya Gora
1 July 1919



A few of the Italians were sent to reinforce small garrisons of Allied troops in the outlying villages. This card was sent by a soldier from the small town of Medveya Gora, located some 350 miles south of Murmansk -- a most unusual usage.



During the Russian Civil War which occurred in the aftermath of World War I, the Allies supported the "White" or anti-Communist forces against the "Reds." In South Russia, there was active intervention in the form of military equipment and advisors for General Denikin, largely by the British and French. However, very small groups representing other Allied powers, including Belgium, Greece, Italy and even the United States, were present for a limited time. The above card was sent by a member of the Italian forces at Denikin's headquarters at Novorossisk. It went by ship to Constantinople, where it was postmarked at FPO 15 six days later.



Another very small group was sent to the Caucasus to support the newly-independent governments in that region. This cover has the very elusive marking of the "Italian Military Mission in Transcaucasia," applied at Tiflis, Georgia. It traveled to Italy (Taranto transit marking) on the military franchise, but was assessed postage due on arrival in Switzerland.

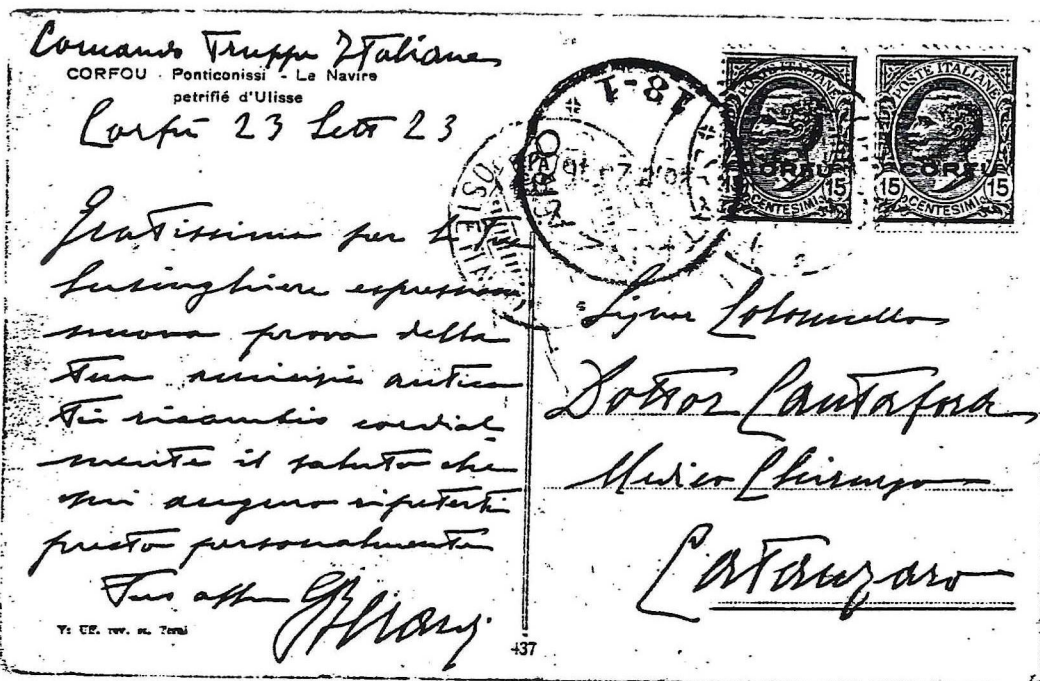
ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Ionian Islands

Corfu
7 September 1923

R. Nave Conte di Cavour
22 September 1923



In August 1923 the Interallied Mission for the deliniation of the border between Albania and Greece was ambushed by terrorists (believed to be Greek) and its leader, Italian General Telli, and two aides were killed. As a result, the Italian government demanded that Greece pay a heavy indemnity to the families of the victims. When prompt action was not forthcoming, Italy sent warships to Corfu and landed 8,000 men to take control of the island on 31 August. The earliest examples are covers and cards with markings of the *R. Nave San Marco*, but mailed at the Greek post office in Corfu. Later, mail has been recorded with naval postmarks from the on board offices, such as that from the *Cavour* on the lower card.



Note manuscript indication on the lower postcard reading "Headquarters Italian Troops/Corfu."

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Ionian Islands

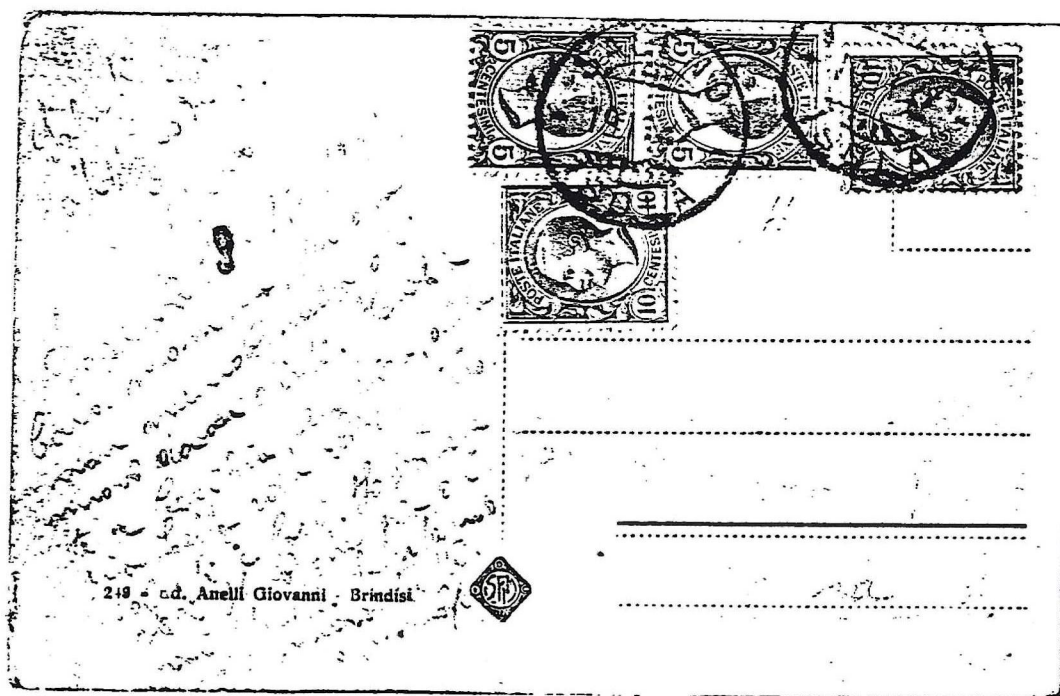
Corfu
24 September 1923



Elusive (although overfranked) cover properly mailed by a sailor on board the *R. Nave Giulio Cesare* during the period of usage of the "Corfu" overprints. Reportedly the only example of a 60 centesimi stamp used on cover other than philatelic ones with full sets.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Albania

Saseno
19 November 1927



In connection with its occupation of southern Albania during World War I, Italy built fortifications on the Island of Saseno, which lies about 15 miles to the west of the harbor of Valona. When the boundaries of Albania were settled in the early 1920s, Italy was permitted to retain Saseno. Although the Italian post office in Valona served the needs of the Italians on Saseno, it was closed at the end of 1922. Subsequently, a set of 8 stamps was overprinted "Saseno" and placed on sale in April 1923 for a very limited period. Covers franked with overprinted stamps are extremely elusive. However, the island remained in Italian hands until 1943.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Oltre Giuba

Kisimaio
6 July 1925
14 July 1925



Egregio Signor

Assicurata per
Co. Lire Seimila (6000)



(Italia)

Lig.



Leonezio Salvatore

Pausa d' Haha

(Somalia Italiana)

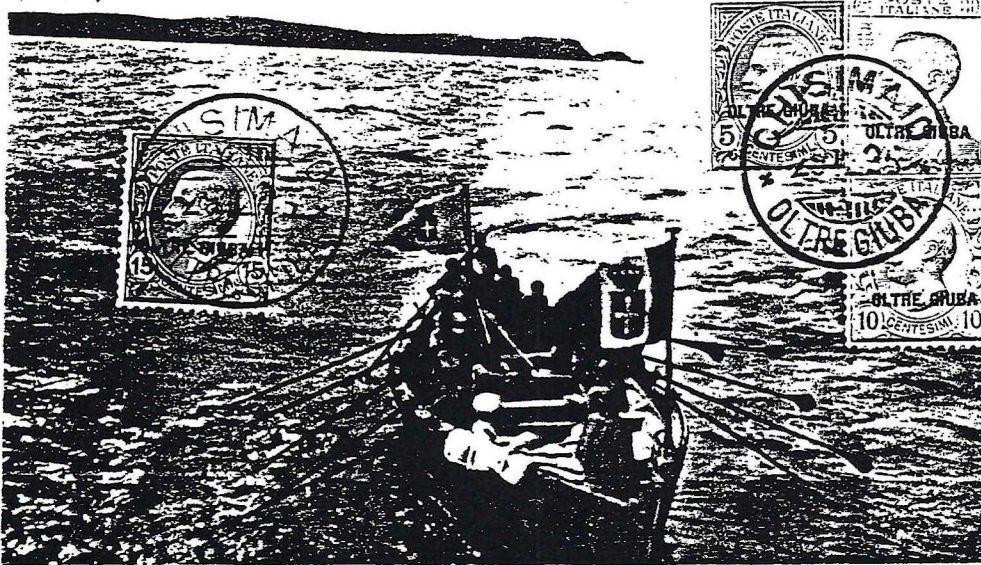
Mogadiscio

The name given to this area is literally "Trans Juba," meaning the land across the Juba River. To reward Italy for its participation in World War I and to reflect the fact that it has not benefitted from the dividing up of the former German colonies, the British government agreed to transfer title to Jubaland to Italy on 29 June 1925. It was subsequently annexed to Italian Somaliland on 10 July 1926 but, in the meantime, stamps overprinted with the name of the new colony were issued.

Note the initial spelling of the name of the principal city. This appears to be a Somali version, which was shortly to be replaced with a more suitably Italian one. Insured cover with Lire 18.- franking is extremely uncommon.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Oltre Giuba

Chisimaio
29 December 1925
30 December 1925



Sbarco dal piroscafo "Roma" di S. E. Zoli a Kisimajo (Somalia Italiana)
29 Giugno 1925



The new Italian name for the capital city was introduced in the cancellation in September 1925 and is the one most often seen on covers from this territory.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD

Oltre Giuba

Chisimaio
29 January 1926
7 June 1926

300	VAGLIA VALIDO FINO A LIRE TRECENTO
200	VAGLIA VALIDO FINO A LIRE DUECENTO
100	VAGLIA VALIDO FINO A LIRE CENTO
50	VAGLIA VALIDO FINO A LIRE CINQUANTA

A Prov. 60 UFF. KISIMATO

Amministrazione delle Poste

OLTRE GIUBA

VAGLIA N° 63

pagabile nell'Ufficio
di Milano

per Lire trecento cent. —

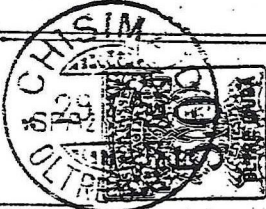
a favore di La Amasanta

addì 28.1.36

715 L'UFFICIALE DI POSTA Pope

N° d'arrivo _____





GNATASSE

CARTOLINA POSTALE
RISPOSTA PAGATA
POSTE ITALIANE
-762-
OLTRE GIUBA
VI. CENTENARIO FRANCE/CAPO
1926
OLTRE GIUBA

22
A Signor
Carlo Fucchi
V. S. Giovanni 49
Milano (22)

Money order form, with special stamps to pay the remittance fee, and postal card with attached reply, both overprinted for use in "Oltre Giuba." Unusual examples of special postal paper from this short-lived territory.



A small force of Italian officers was sent to Yemen as military advisors in order to help the Imam's troops put down tribal unrest. Cover sent by Lt. Colonel Corazzini. As a non-UPU member, the Yemeni stamps were not valid for postage overseas. Thus, Eritrean stamps were added and the letter registered in Massaua on 20 March. Bologna receiving mark of 3 April. Mail with such combination franking from this period is very unusual.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
China

Battag. Italiano in Cina/Tientsin
19 February 1932
14 August 1933

Esclusività della Casa Belloni - Livorno



Signor Avvocato

Gioacchino Saraceni

Via Crescenzo 103



R O M A

Fot. Miniat. - Riproduzione vietata

4212

Al Comando in capo del Dipartimento
Mittimo Alto Tirreno e Piazza M.M.

LA SPEZIA

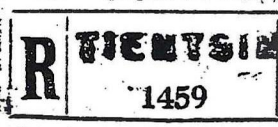
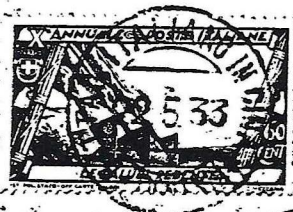


Following the death of Sun Yat-Sen in March 1925, the struggle between the Nationalists and Communists for control of China greatly intensified. The fighting spread into many areas of China, including Shanghai and other major cities. Mindful of the problems caused by the Boxers a quarter century earlier, several of the great powers (including America and Britain) sent forces to protect their citizens and property in the international settlements. Italy sent marine and army units, including grenadiers.

The Italian Battalion in China was posted to Tientsin, where it remained until World War II.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
China

Battag. Italiano in Cina/Tientsin
22 May 1933
9 December 1937



Lig.

D. D.

Prodi

4 int. 14

va

MANDATA
29



BATTAGLIONE ITALIANO
IN CINA

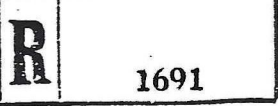
Mia Siregione

di "Novella"

Pietro Carlo Erba n. 6

1003

Milano



Registered mail from the Italian Battalion is highly unusual.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
China

Distacamento R. Marina Italiana in Cina
10 October 1932
8 October 1936

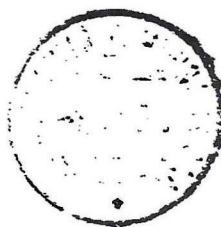
Stampa



B. HERTZBERG,
554 MERRITT AVENUE,
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

U.S.A.

719



*Al Comandante in Capo del Dipartimento
dell'Alto Tirreno*

Lo Spazio

The Marine Detachment operated out of Peking, using two different postmarks to cancel mail, as shown above.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
China

Battaglione Granatieri Savoia E.O.
- 1938
23 January 1939



ALL'UFFICIO SUPERIORE POSTA MILITARE

P.M.



SHANGHAI

Gent.ma Sig.ra
Emma Bianchi
Via Torino, 8
Milano



The Grenadier Battalion of Savoy in the Far East was stationed in Shanghai.