

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Saar

Comando Truppe Italiane nella Saar
21 January 1935



The final plebiscite in the aftermath of World War I took place in the Saar territory on 13 January 1935. Again, Italian troops were sent as part of the interallied forces to oversee the voting as residents decided whether to rejoin Germany, be annexed to France or remain separate. The Italians arrived in Saarbrücken on 21 December 1934 and remained until 26 February 1935.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Saar

Comando Truppe Italiane nella Saar
13 January 1935
13 January 1935



Signora
Antonia Oraldonio

Via Lombardo 98
Treviso (Italian)



Preg-mo Signor
1° Ten. D'Enrico Cav. Giuseppe, *AVS*
Comando Trupe Italiane dislocate nella Sarre,
2° Batt. Granatieri.
Sarrebruck.
Territorio della Sarre.

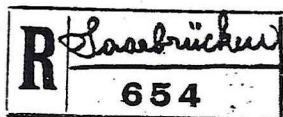
Uff. Post. Roma 13.

Mail postmarked on the Plebiscite Day is especially sought after by German collectors. Above are shown a philatelic cover to Italy and an unusual example of an inbound cover from Rome, which happened to be received on the appropriate date.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Saar

Comando Truppe Italiane nella Saar
5 February 1935

raccomandata



Car.
Virgilio Lunardon
Viale Monzoni 34

10

Roma

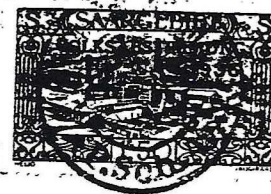
Registered mail from the Italian troops in the Saar is uncommon. Although ordinary postage was free for mail from the soldiers to Italy, the registration fee was assessed at the domestic rate of 1.75 lire. Note that there was so little demand for registration that blank labels were used, with the name of the town inserted by manuscript.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Saar

Saarbrücken
January 1935



IL GENERALE COMANDANTE



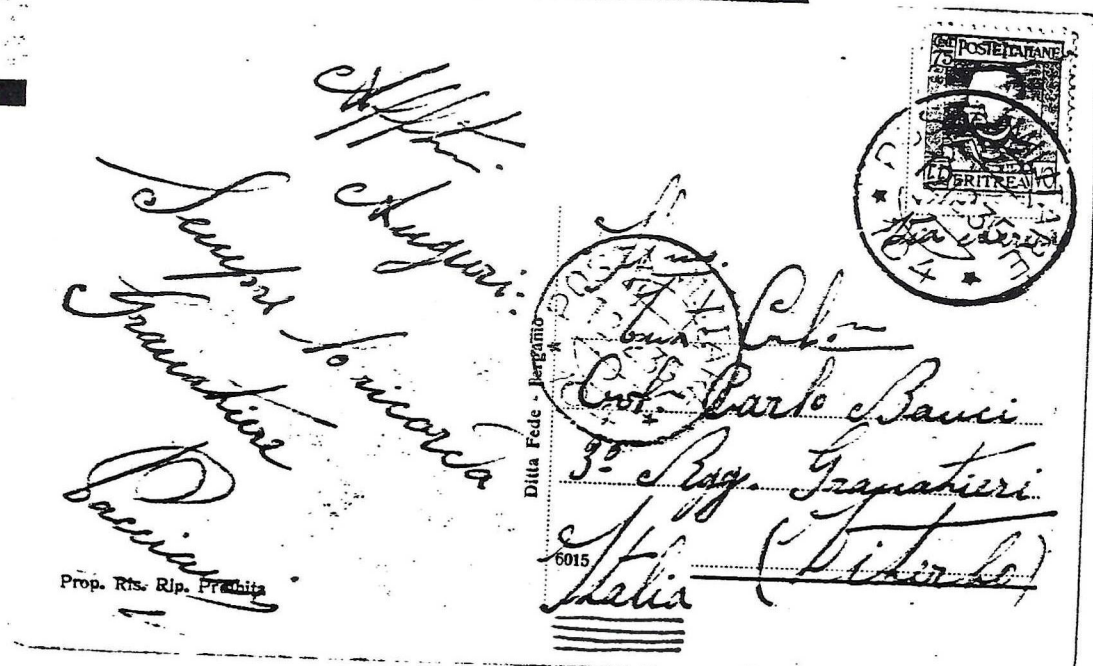
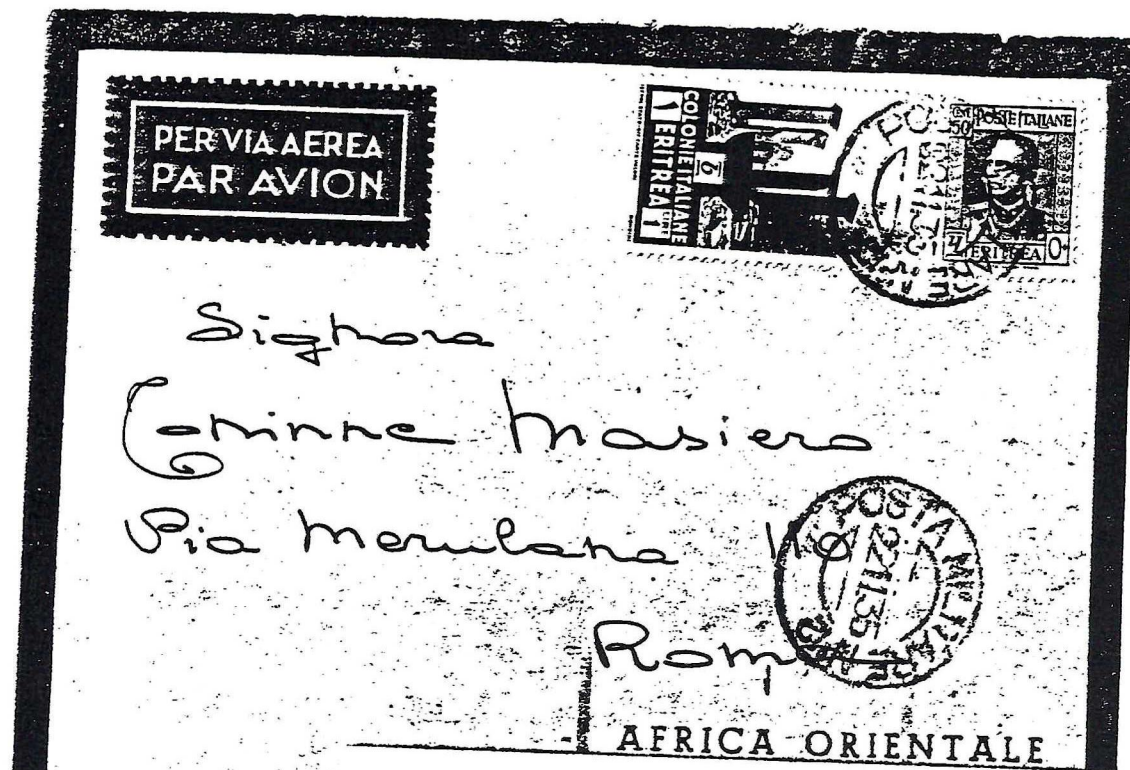
M^{re} G. M.
Barone A. Lumbrico
Via M. Doria
(Italia) Genova

Imprinted return address of the "Commanding General of the Italian Contingent in the Saar" on cover mailed in civil post office (thus requiring international postage, i.e. Fr. 1.50 "Plebiscite" commemorative.)

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Ethiopia

Posta Militare No.12
22 November 1935

Posta Militate 104
12 December 1935



Following the crowning of Emperor Haile Selassie I in November 1930, relations between Ethiopia and Italy deteriorated, with frequent disputes and incidents on the Eritrean and Somali borders. Remembering the events of 40 years earlier, which culminated in their ignominious defeat at Adua, the Italians began a significant build-up of their forces in the East African colonies. After the failure of an arbitration commission to assess blame for a particularly severe border clash, Italy invaded Ethiopia on 3 October 1935.

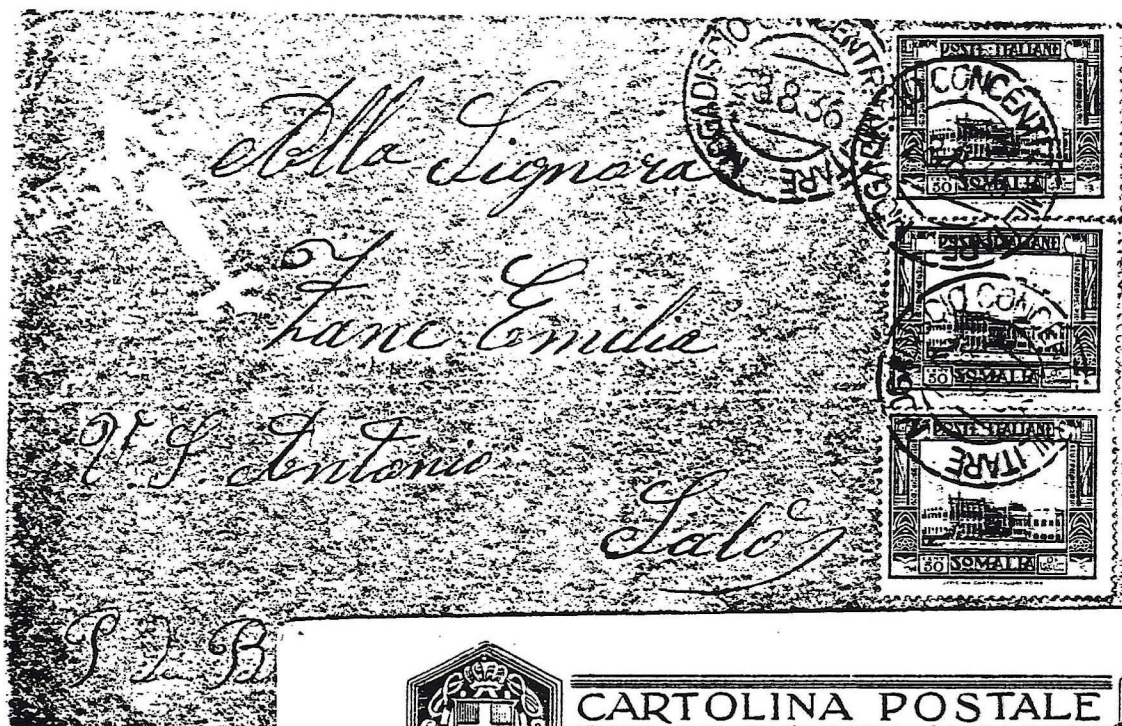
PM 12 was established in May 1935 for the High Command in East Africa; it operated until July 1937. PM 104 opened in November 1935 to service the Fourth Blackshirt "3rd of January" Division; open until May 1937.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD

Ethiopia

Mogadiscio Concentr. Militare
28 August 1936

Concentr. Suss. P.M./Asmara
16 December 1936



CARTOLINA POSTALE PER LE FORZE ARMATE AFRICA ORIENTALE



Il militare scriva nello spazio seguente il suo preciso indirizzo (cognome, nome, grado ed ogni altra indicazione) attenendosi alle Istruzioni ricevute dal proprio comando.

[illegible]

A Family

Book

No. 100

Jan 1890

By Mrs. J. W. H.

Mail concentration centers were established in Mogadiscio (Somalia) and Asmara (Eritrea) to handle the large quantities of mail to and from the troops. They also postmarked items deposited by soldiers passing through the area en route to the front. The special "Post Card for the Armed Forces in East Africa" was widely used to provide a postage-free means for the troops to communicate with friends and relatives at home.

Ethiopia

28 July 1936

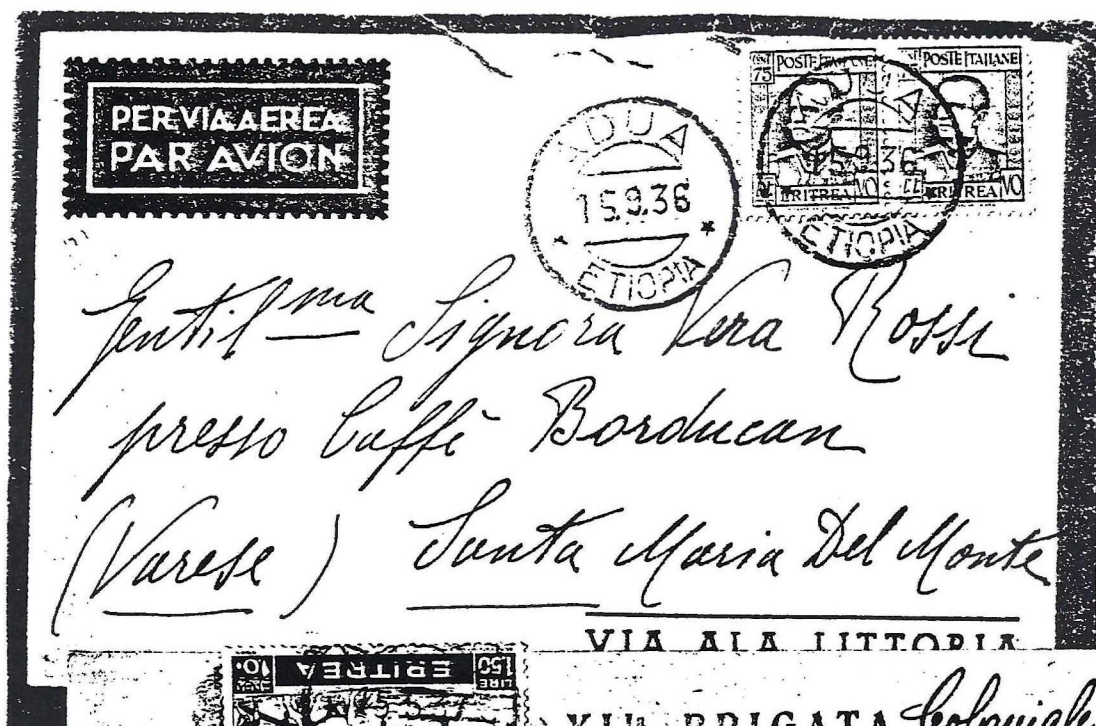


P.M. 55 was established in June 1935 to service the Sabauda Division. Postage had to be paid for special service fees (highly valued registration and airmail, in this case). Mixed franking of Italian Ethiopia (depicting King Victor Emmanuel as Emperor) with Eritrea and/or Somalia was acceptable (later with Italian East Africa as well).

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Ethiopia

Adua
15 September 1936

Adigrat
15 May 1937



As in 1895-96, the Italians again occupied Adua and Adigrat. Initially, the new postmarks for these towns read "Ethiopia." However, as recompense for the ignominy of the first Ethiopian campaign, the northwestern area of the country was annexed to Eritrea, requiring a second set of postmarks, as shown on the lower cover

Dabat
29 July 1938



Once military activity became normalized into routine garrison duty, soldiers' mail was no longer free of postage. However, a special military postal card was issued for Italian East Africa which permitted the sender to utilize the printed matter rate of only 15 centesimi.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Djibouti

Posta Militare 130 E
18 December 1937



Race

DELEG. INTEND. ITALIANA

SERV. POSTA MILITARE

R GIBUTI
328



Al Maggiore Ing.

REGIO ESERCITO ITALIANO
Servizio della Posta Militare



VIA AEREA

UFFICIO IMBARCHI E SBARCHI

DELEGAZIONE INTENDENZA ITALIANA

POSTA MILITARE

GIBUTI

Following the successful end to the war with Ethiopia, Italy opened a military management office at Djibouti in French Somaliland, the port for supplies moving to Addis Abeba by rail. Little is known about this operation, but covers are shown above both outbound and inbound. The upper cover shows an unusual provisional registry label marked "Military Postal Service/Djibouti."

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Spain

Direzione Postale Intendenza C.T.V.
23 April 1938
24 December 1938



Tenente

Nieri Sig. Giovanni

Ufficio Postale Militare

CORPO TRUPPE VOLONTARIE

Mittente

Cognome

Nome

Grado

Reparto

Servizio

Posta Speciale **500**

Cartolina Postale
in franchigia

Signor

Gen: Nieri Giovanni
Ufficio Superiore Poste Militari
Roma - appio



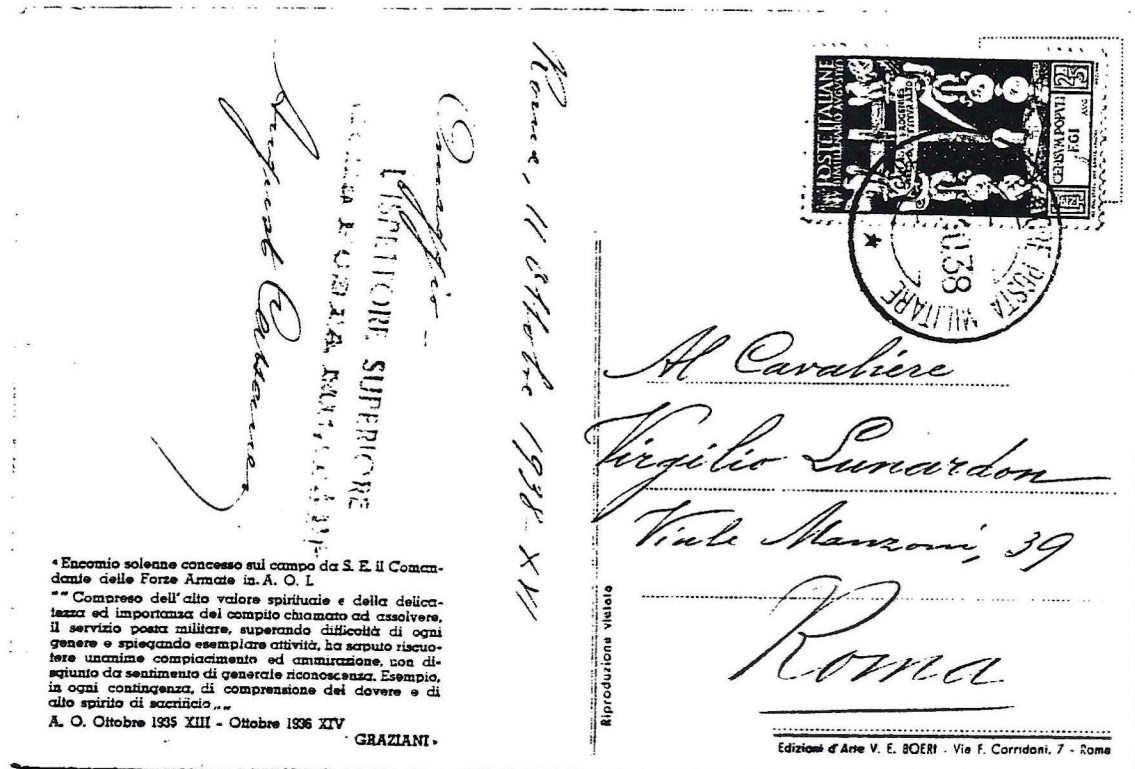
Appio

In support of Generalissimo Franco in the Civil War, some 50,000 Italian troops were sent to Spain. Ostensibly a corps of "volunteer" troops, this group was equipped with standard Italian Army equipment and included technicians, aviators, tank drivers, field hospitals, etc. There were three all-Italian divisions -- Littorio, Fiamme Nere and XXIII Marzo. In addition, three mixed brigades -- Frece Nere, Azzure and Verde (Black, Blue and Green Arrows) were formed with 90% Spanish troops, 50% Italian officers and all Italian equipment. The C.T.V. started arriving at the port of Cadiz on 26 December 1936 and rapidly built in strength during the ensuing months.

The staff headquarters of the "Corpo Truppe Volontarie" was established in the Grand Hotel in Salamanca, which used the above postmark, indicating the Commisariat of the C.T.V.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Spain

Ispezione Superiore Posta Militare
11 October 1938



Although unrecorded in the available literature, the Inspectorate General of the Military Posts in Rome had its own distinctive cds, which is regarded as the most elusive of the Italian postmarks related to the Spanish Civil War period.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD

Spain

Uff. Postale Speciale 1
22 February 1937
9 May 1937



1ª Divisione Volontari

"Dio lo vuole"

IX GRUPPO OBICI DA 100/17

CARTOLINA POSTALE

O.M.S. 8-5-37 XL

Ricordandola sempre
Devotissimo
Ten. Ramajo

Al Sig. Alessandro Cottalava
9. Artiglieria "Brennero"

BOLZANO
ITALIA

A dozen numbered special post offices were set up to process mail to and from the Italian troops. Post offices numbered 1 through 8 were opened in the first four months of 1937. The above items emanated from Salamanca during the first half of that year. Ordinary mail from the soldiers was free of postage. However, when special service was desired, postage was required to be paid, which accounts for the stamps totaling Lire 1.50 to pay the airmail surcharge on the cover above.

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Spain

Uff. Postale Speciale 2
24 April 1938
31 August 1938

= 2010-11-12-13-2014 =

Raccomandata

Servizio Tecnico



UFF. POSTALE SPECIALE 2

R

1182

Mittente

Cognome *Laighetta*

Nome *Clemente*

Grado *Cap. di 1^a Mol.*

Reparto *130^a Sig. aut.*

(O.A.)

Posta Speciale 500

Roma

Cartolina Postale
in franchigia



Signor

Diatt "Var."

Corsa Italia al 22

e Milano

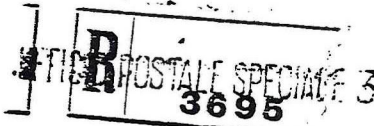
Special Post Office 2 had two distinct types of postmark. In the first, "Ufficio" was abbreviated as "Uff." while the word was fully spelled out in the subsequent version. Much of the correspondence from the troops was on special imprinted field postcards which come with a wide variety of wording and paper colors. The designation "Posta Speciale 500" was the code return address to which mail from friends and relatives in Italy was to be sent. Manuscript dateline on the card above reads "Alcaniz 22/8/38."

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Spain

Uff. Postale Speciale 3
20 February 1938
6 September 1938



ALTA CASA EDITRICE
VITTORIO EMANUELE BOERI
VIA FILIPPO CORRIDONE 7



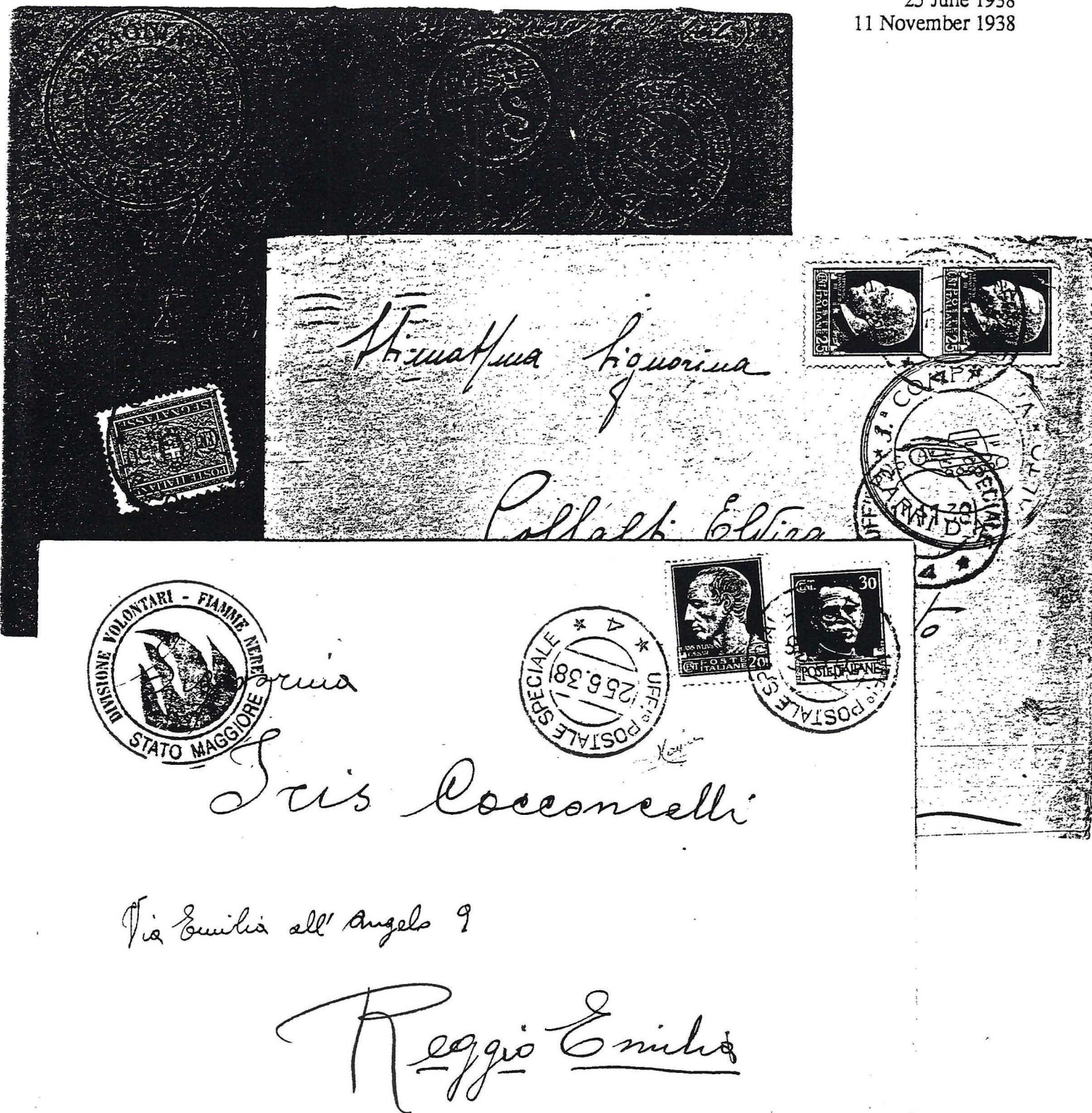
R O M A

Mittente	Cartolina Postale in franchigia
Cognome <i>Brunelli</i>	Signorina
Nome <i>Brunelli</i>	<i>Brunelli Silvana</i>
Grado <i>C.N.S.</i>	<i>Via Aurelia Varenna</i>
Reparto <i>1° Fanteria</i>	<i>Nieggis</i>
<i>Volontari del Fittou</i>	
<i>e e R</i>	
Posta Speciale 500	

Special Post Office 3 was established to handle the mail of the Littorio Division. Registered mail from the soldiers is uncommon, as it required payment of the Lire 1.75 fee (if sent back to Italy).

ITALIAN FORCES ABROAD
Spain

Uff. Postale Speciale 4
27 April 1937
25 June 1938
11 November 1938



Special Post Office 4 was responsible for dealing with the mail of the Fiamme Nere (Black Flame) Division. Note the unusual unit cachets of the 1st and 3rd Armored Car companies and the General Staff of the division.