


SOVIET UNION  
Dzhalal Abad Camp

Military Post No. 3001  
4 August 1942

Росетка  
указан при ст. Погорелов Г.С.  
принято за эти корреспонденции  
со списку № 10 и 6  
на общую сумму 42 р. (сорок два)  
принято ст. Погорелов

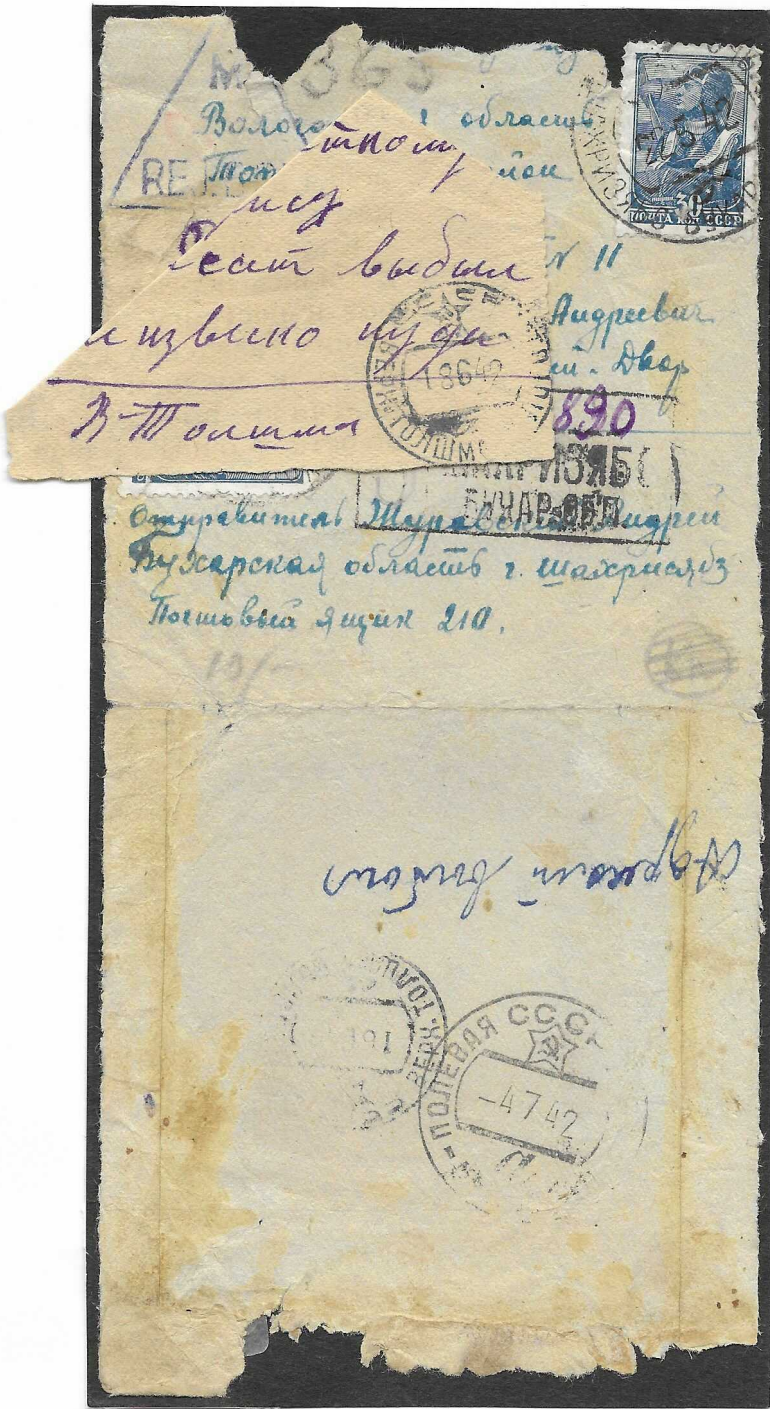


MPO #3001 was assigned to the 5th Infantry Division located at Dzhalal Abad. Its marking is shown here on a receipt which is inscribed "I, St. Pr. Pogorelow G.S., have received for various pieces of correspondence according to lists No. 10 and 6 the total amount of 42 (forty two) rubles." and signed. This is a very late use of the postmark, only four days before the closing down of this office.



**SOVIET UNION  
Shakhrisabz Camp**

Shakhrisabz  
30 March 1942  
31 March 1942  
12 May 1942



№ 890  
ШАХРИЗЯБС  
БУХАР-ОБЛА.

НКО связи СССР  
**ТАЛОН**  
К ПЕРЕВОДУ ПО ПОЧТЕ  
на 30 Р. — К.  
От кого Калишца  
Вера  
Адрес: Бухарская  
Каракумь К/з  
Копуно К/з  
шт. места подачи

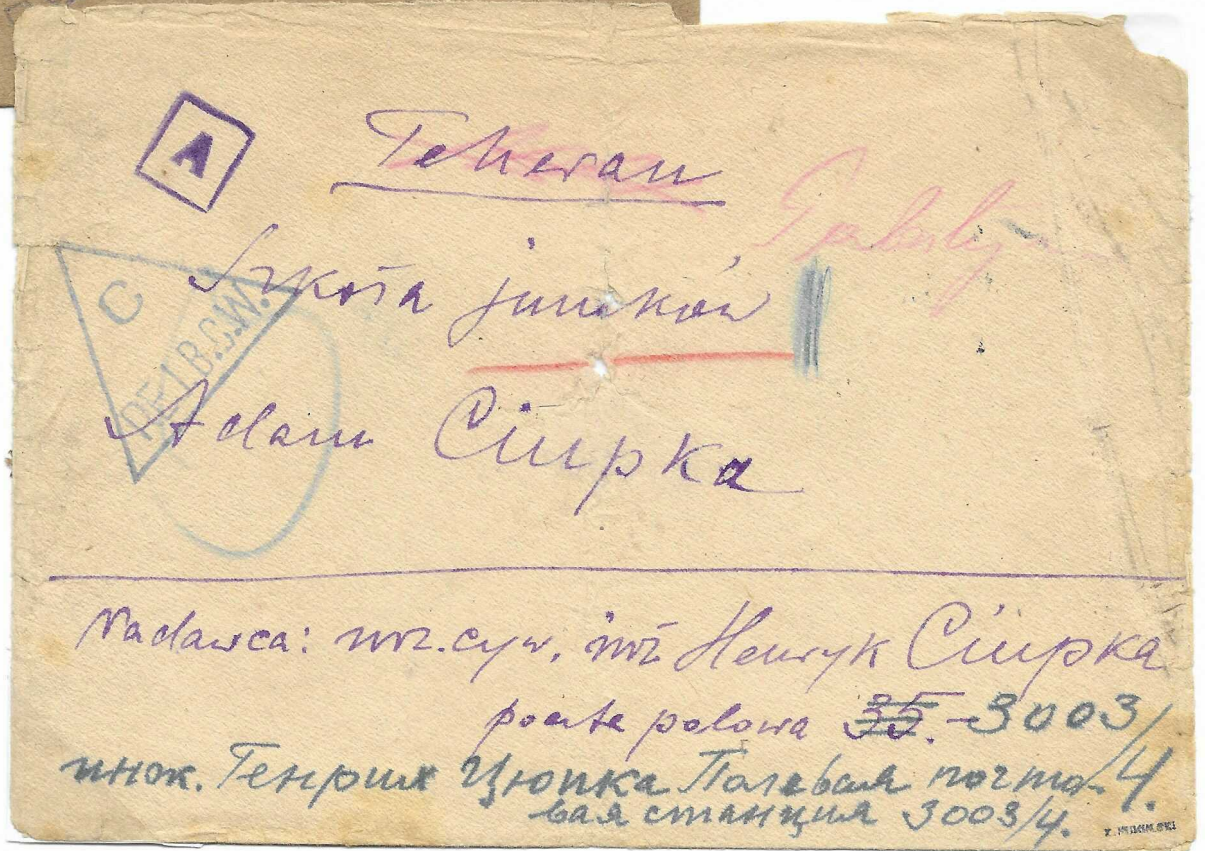
НКО связи СССР  
**ТАЛОН**  
К ПЕРЕВОДУ ПО ПОЧТЕ  
на 450 Р. — К.  
От кого Шмад  
Ильинской Армии  
В. А. Ч. П. Ю.  
Адрес: Дмитрий  
Мав. Машкет  
ской О. Сел.  
шт. места подачи

The 6th Infantry Division was located at Shakhrisabz in Uzbekistan. It used the censor code of "M" and was assigned MPO #3002. Registered cover was sent from Shakhrisabz but the addressee could not be found and it was returned to sender on 4 July as shown by the receiving mark of MPO #3002 on the reverse. Also shown are inbound and outbound money order receipts for 30 and 450 rubles respectively.



SOVIET UNION

Military Post No. 3003  
14 June 1942



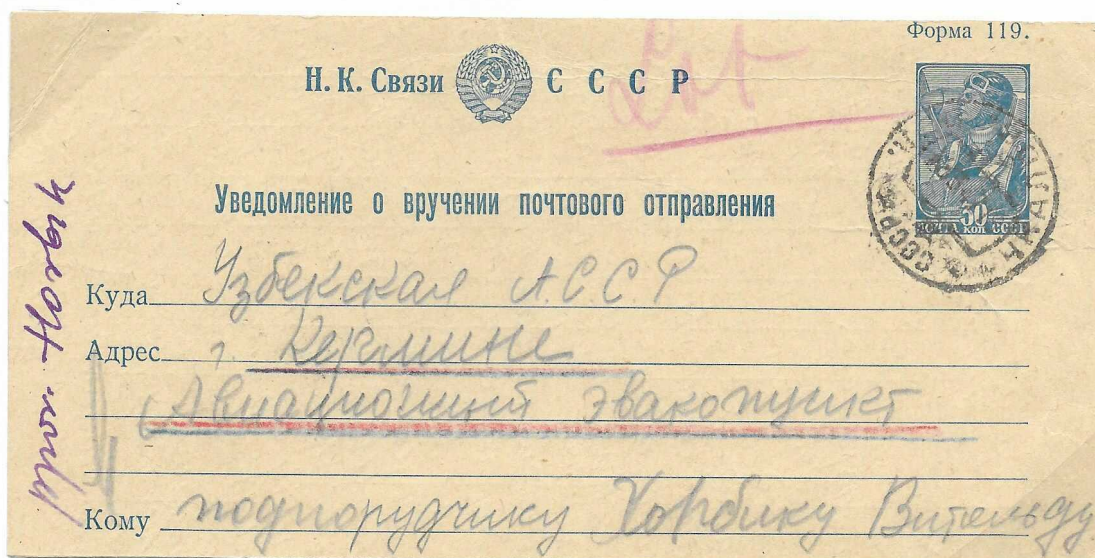
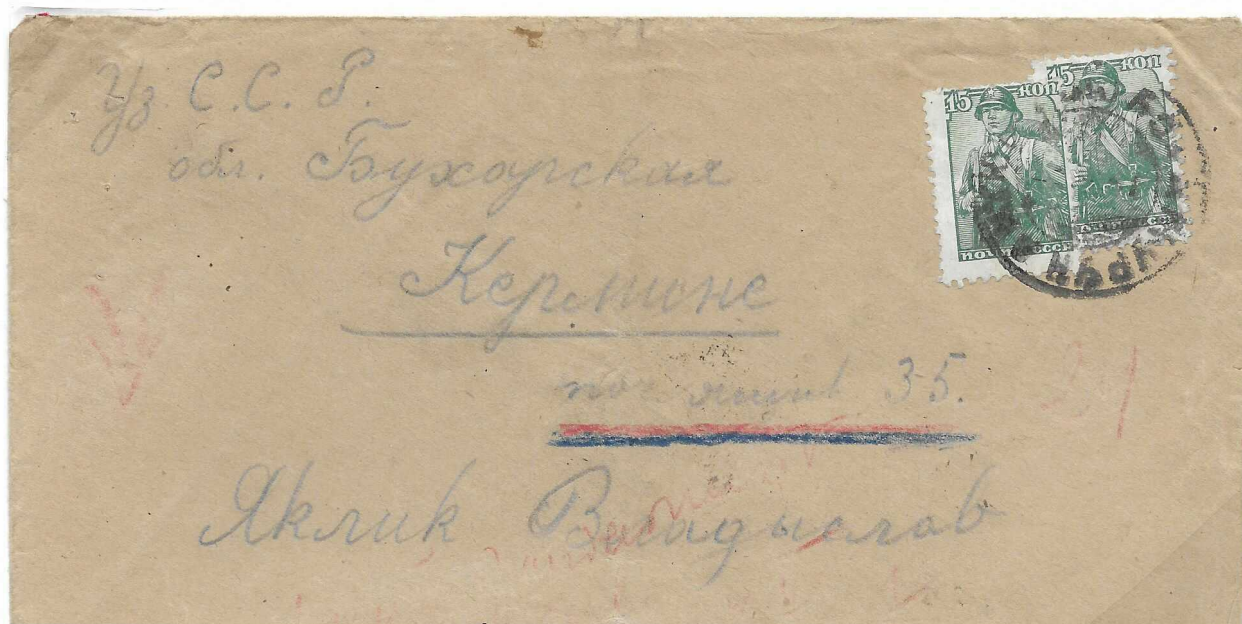
MPO #3003 was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division located at Khanimeh in Uzbekistan. Its marking is shown here on a cover mailed to a town in the Bukhara District. Note triangular censor mark with code "Z," which was assigned to Khanimeh. Below is a cover sent from MPO 3003 to Teheran, Iran by Polish courier, hence no postal markings. Censored at Yangi Jul.



SOVIET UNION  
Kanimekh Camp

March 1942

Czkalov  
18 March 1942

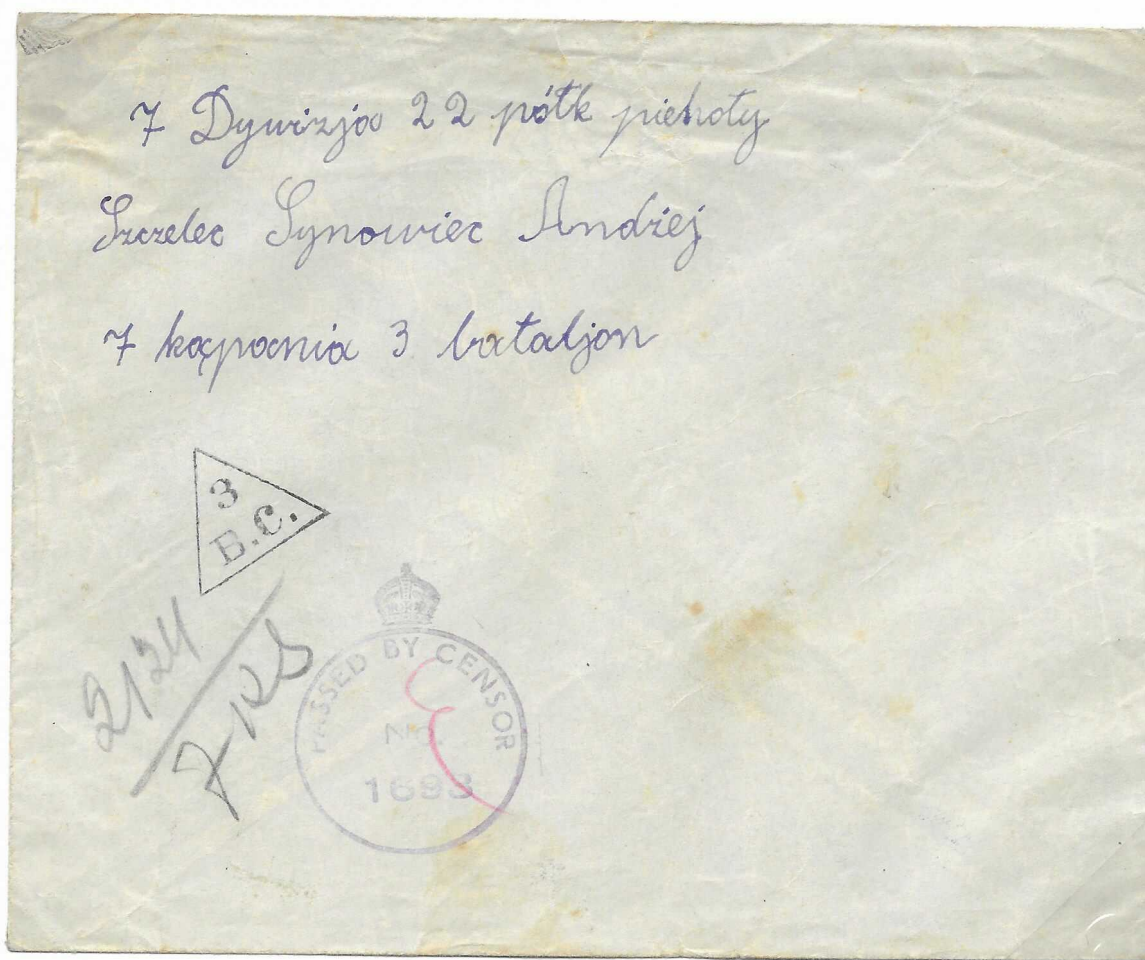


Upper example has an illegible cancel but is addressed to Box 35 (code designation for the 7th Infantry Division) at Kanimekh. Reduced postal card below was sent from Czkalov to a transit camp for airmen at Kanimekh; no censorship or receiving mark.



SOVIET UNION  
Kanimekh Camp

July/August 1942

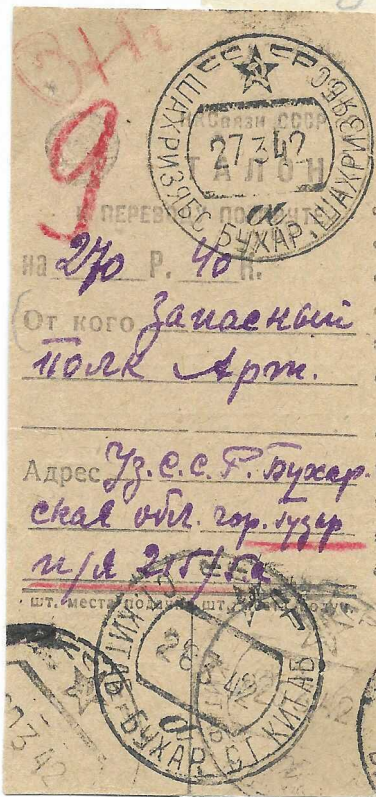
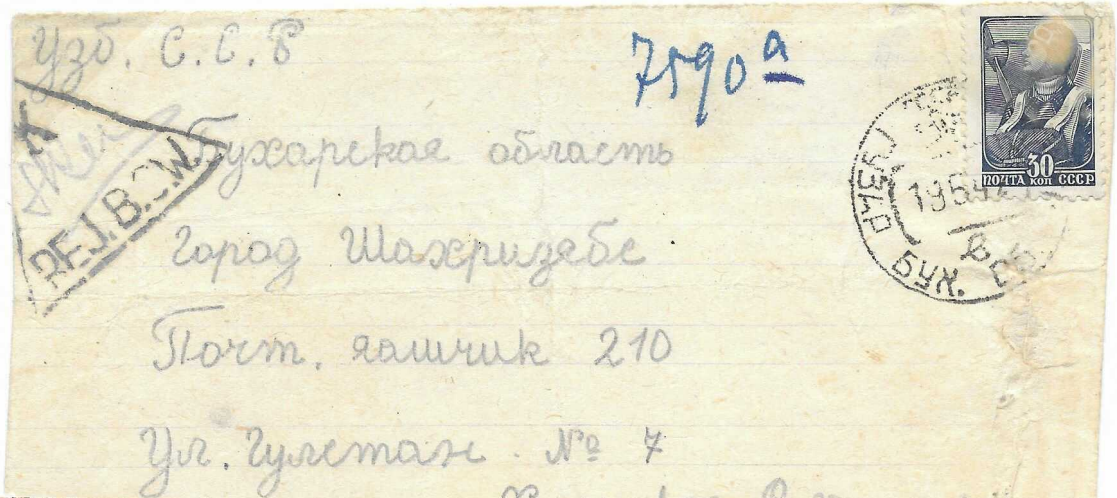


Cover sent from Kanimakh to Teheran, Iran by Polish courier, hence unfranked. British censorship marking applied in Teheran. Origination confirmed by Polish censor mark "3 B.C." which was assigned to MPO #3003 at Kanimekh.



SOVIET UNION  
Guzar Camp

Guzar  
19 May 1942  
20 March 1942

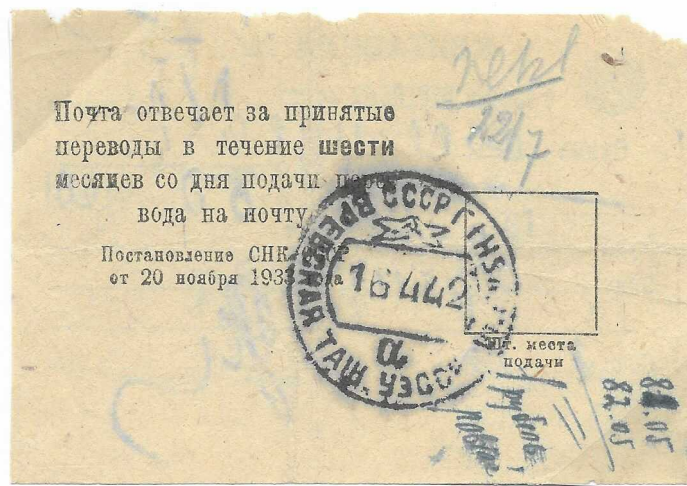


MPO #3004 was assigned to the Army Training Center at Guzar, located in Uzbekistan about 60 miles south of Samarkand, in July 1942. However, the troops had already left this location for Iran by the time it was available, so it was never used. This cover shows the use of the civil cancel of Guzar to Shakhrisabz, where it was received on 22 May. Note triangular censor marking with code "K," which was assigned to this station. Below is a money order receipt for 270.40 rubles from Guzar to Shakhrisabz (received 27 March) via Kitab.



SOVIET UNION  
Vrevskaja Camp

Vrevskaja  
1 March 1942  
16 April 1942



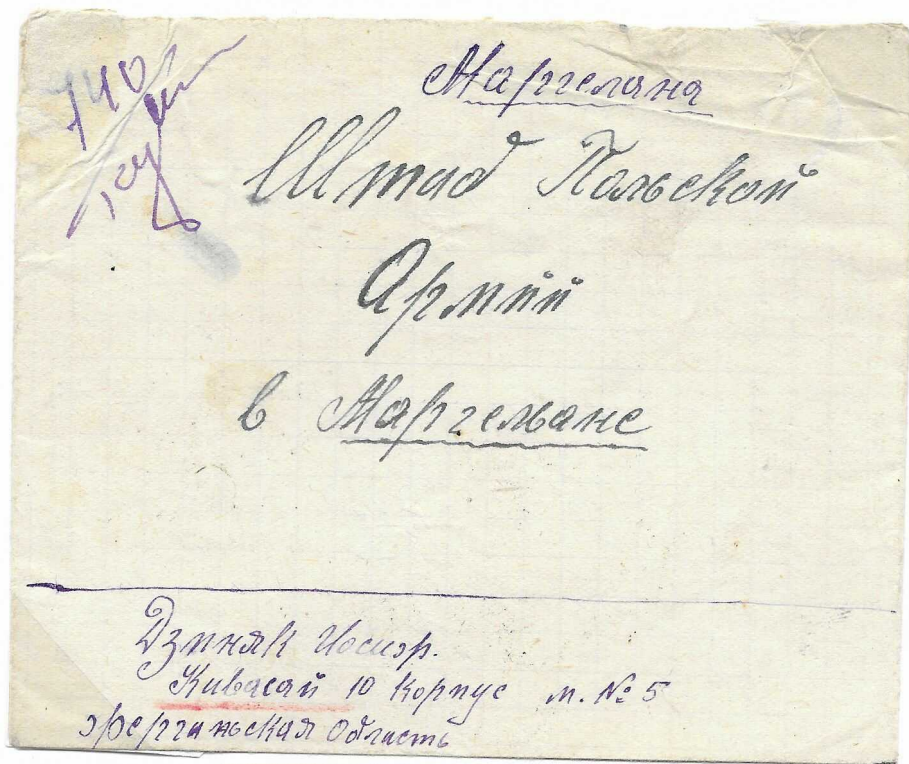
Very early examples of postal service in this small village south of Yangi Jul. Registered cover franked with 90 kopeks (presumably with some valuation surcharge) sent from Vrevskaja to Kanimekh on 1 March 1942 -- which is believed to be the earliest date for any Polish military mail from Central Asia. Below is a money order receipt with the same postmark dated 16 April.







SOVIET UNION  
Maralan & Lugovoy Camps



Kubvesay  
13 February 1942

Kzbur Orda  
17 March 1942



Maralan (Fergana District of Uzbekistan) and Lugovoy (Dzhambul District of Kazakhstan) were the locations of the 9th and 10th Infantry Divisions, respectively. However, as these units had departed for Iran at the end of March, they did not receive MPO or censorship markings. Upper example is a registered cover to the staff of the Polish Army at Maralan with 60 kopeks postage on reverse; received on 16 March 1942. Below is an inbound postal card to the Commandant of the Polish Army at Lugovoy. Illegible receiving mark and a 10 kopek stamp removed (by the censor?) Usage involving these units is highly elusive.



SOVIET UNION  
Tokmak Camp

Tokmak  
19 March 1942  
20 March 1942

Из Луговой Вонзана <sup>157</sup> в 043 Мед. 18/19 42. 20<sup>04</sup>

Мокнак Иванна Томка одна наварин

Иванноейшаде Ме

Др.



Прессе

из г.р. Ш. 2012-нак

В почтово пошту наварин

бу наварин

1. 3/10 17 77 Караевис
2. 11 17 575 зедба

*[Faint handwritten notes and scribbles]*

Нова полковник Луговый  
марси Ми 20 19 42 по реши  
меморандум Луговый

Tokmak in Kazakhstan was the location of the 8th Infantry Division, and like Lugovoy and Maralan, it never received MPO or censorship markings because the unit departed for Iran before these could be supplied. However, examples of the civil postmark exist and are shown above on a telegram received at Tokmak from Lugovoy and on a receipt for two registered letters, which represent very elusive usages.



**SOVIET UNION**  
**Polish Postal Marking**

Poczta K Polowa  
February 1942

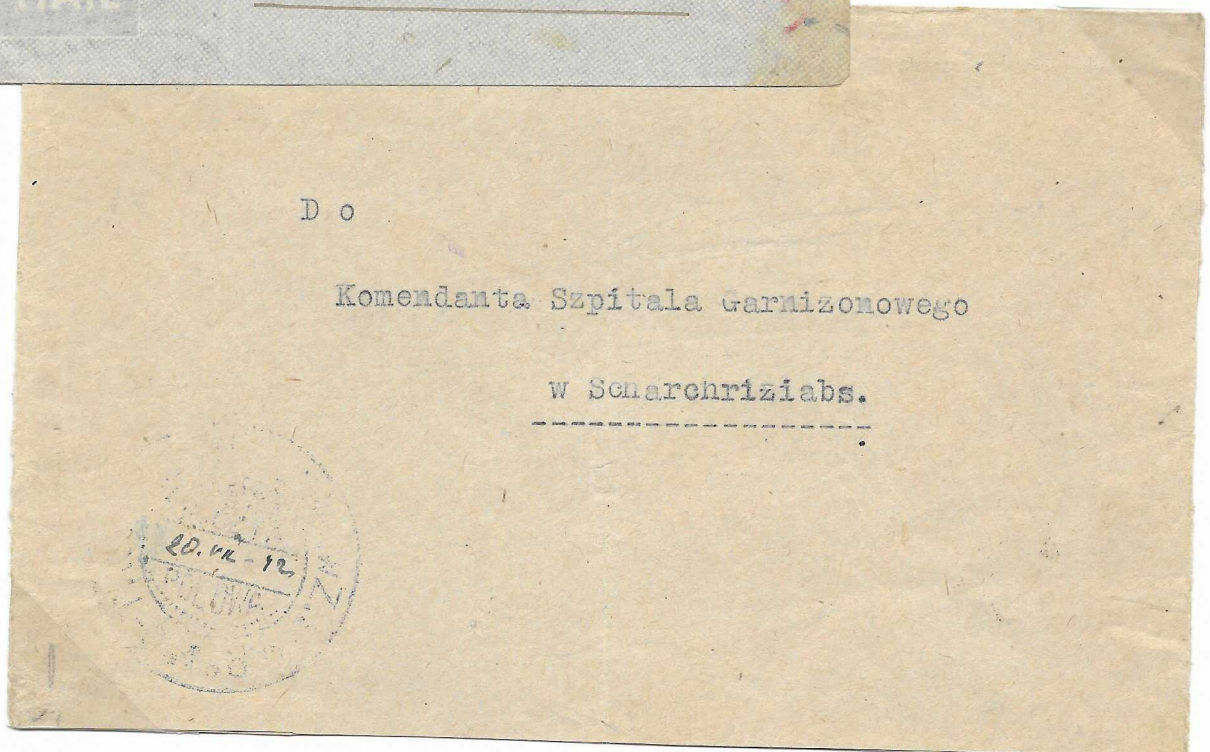


The Poles requested that they be allowed to use a Polish marking on their mail. An octagonal postmark without date was prepared in February 1942 and is believed to have been used briefly at Gusar on local letters. However, the Soviets objected to its introduction, and it was withdrawn. A few examples of proof strikes exist, including this one on obsolete Russian Federation stamps, included here since it is depicted in the literature on the Polish fieldpost in the U.S.S.R.



SOVIET UNION  
Polish Postal Markings

Główna Poczta Polowa  
29 June 1942  
20 July 1942



Examples of the Polish circular postmark used on inbound mail. Upper cover from British FPO 22 in Cairo, Egypt was addressed to Buzutuk Camp and forwarded to Yangi Jul, where the arrival marking was applied more than three months later. Lower cover was sent by courier from the Polish Embassy in Kustanay to the Commandant of the Garrison Hospital at Shakhrisabz, hence not franked. Postmarked at Yangi Jul in transit.



SOVIET UNION  
Polish Postal Markings

Гор. Сталинт  
Ленинский р-н ул. Лукина  
дом № 60  
Толдберг М. Б.

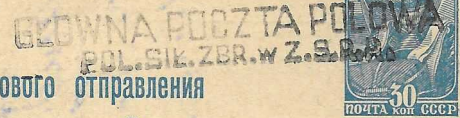


Główna Poczta Polowa  
22 May 1942  
17 June 1942

20Р.  
Толд  
ул

Форма 119.

Н. К. Связи  С С С Р



Уведомление о вручении почтового отправления

GŁÓWNA POCCZTA POLOWA  
POL. SIK. ZBR. W Z.S.R.R.

5-17P

Дзержинский обл.  
Ленинский р-н.  
Успеновка  
Семёновна Анна Л.

Заполните адресную сторону на свое имя



A Polish request to be allowed to use their own postal markings was eventually granted, with 22 May 1942 being the first day of use. There were two types, a two-line marking inscribed "Main Post Office/Polish Forces in the U.S.S.R." and a double-circle version reading "Headquarters Polish Armed Forces in U.S.S.R./Main Post Office." Both were undated, but a manuscript date was sometimes inserted in the circular postmark. Examples shown include a cover from the first day with additional Soviet postmark of Yangi Jul, a postal card with the straight-line marking, and a mail ticket used on a bundle of mail with both markings -- with red initials indicating that the bundle was intended for the 5th Infantry Division at Dzhahal Abad.



**SOVIET UNION  
Polish Fieldpost Stamp**

Military Post #3000  
Główna Poczta Polowa  
18 August 1942



The Poles also agitated to have their own postage stamp. In June 1942 a contest was held to provide a design, but this was unsatisfactory to the Soviet authorities as it showed eastern Poland with the 1939 boundaries (see proof above). A new design was prepared with inscription "Dojdziemy (We Shall Return)" and the stamp issued on 18 August 1942 (shown here on first day cover). There were 3,017 of the stamps printed, of which 263 were sold before the Polish post office closed on 21 August, of which only an estimated 50 were actually used. Unsold stamps were deposited in the Polish military archives, and the cliché was defaced.



SOVIET UNION  
Ashkhabad Evacuation Center



Semipalatinsk  
22 September 1942

Kustanay  
29 September 1942



Ashkhabad, near the southern border of Turkmenistan, was designated as the assembly point for the Polish forces to be evacuated to Iran. These inbound registered items are from the last days of the Poles in the Soviet Union, arriving in Ashkhabad on 14 and 31 October, respectively.



# IRAN

## Indian Army Postal Service

The Polish exodus from the Soviet Union took place in two waves -- from March-May and in August-September 1942. However, due to lack of organization, a Polish postal service was not set up initially, requiring the use of the post offices provided for the Indian troops who were safeguarding the supply route from the Persian Gulf to the Soviets. Initially, two Teheran FPOs were assigned, No. 57 for military mail and No. 103 for letters from refugees or civilians. The Polish troops were not needed in Iran, so most were reassigned elsewhere in the Middle East relatively quickly.



FPO 57  
23 October 1942  
30 October 1942

FPO 103  
23 October 1942

Examples of mail through the Indian FPOs. Upper cover sent from a Polish soldier to Chicago, paying proper 23 annas airmail postage. Lower cover sent by a private individual to a Polish soldier in Teheran with no postage required. Backstamped by both of the FPOs as well as the Indian Base Post Office C.