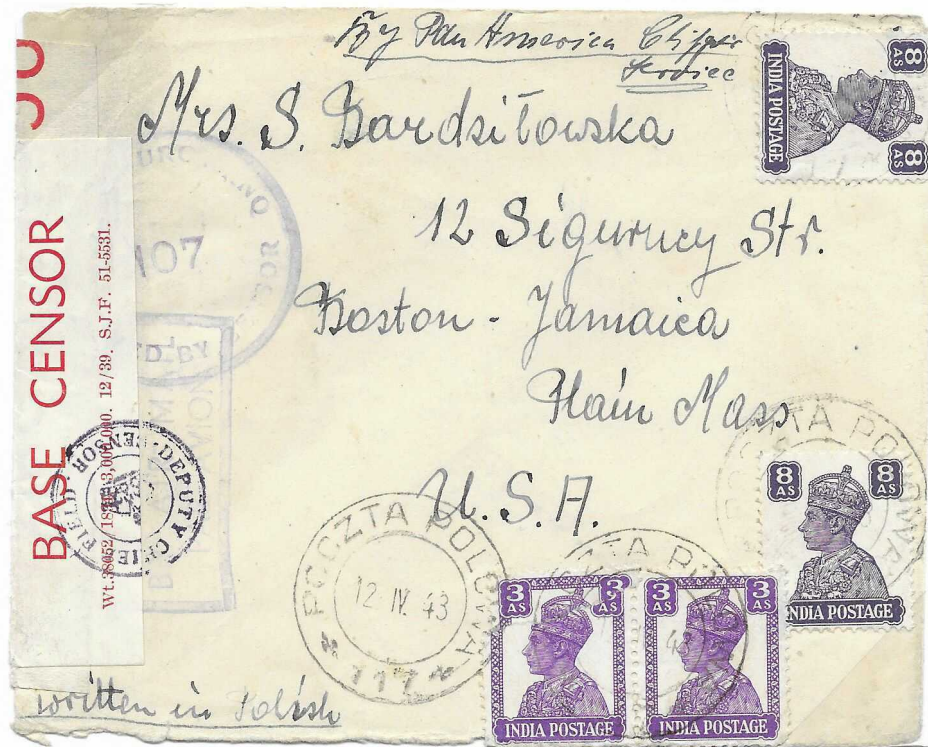


IRAN  
Polish FPO

Poczta Polowa 117  
12 April 1943



This example of Polish mail was despatched through P.P. 117 located at Kirkuk, Iraq at the time. Addressed to Boston, it was docketed for transmission by Pan Am Clipper from Baghdad, although apparently 1 anna underpaid. Teheran origin is indicated by the #107 censor mark.

IRAN  
Polish FPO

Poczta Polowa 130  
15 September 1943



Polish FPO 130 in Teheran was the only such office that operated in Iran. It was in service from 20 April 1943 to 15 March 1944. This letter was addressed to a Polish soldier, who couldn't be located. Note cachet reading "Return/Address Invalid."

IRAN  
Polish FPO

Poczta Polowa 117  
10 February 1943

Poczta Polowa 130  
12 April 1943

Referat Rodzin Wojskowych  
Sekcja Poszukiwań  
L.-14/p.43.

Teheran, dn. 27/1-1943r.

por. Świdera Alfred O.V.  
Arm. Pol. na 13. Wsch.

Wzrost. P.P. 112 nie fig.

POCZTA POLOWA  
10. 11. 43  
717

W OŚRODKU  
ABRAHAM  
MIRABA TEHRAN

sp. pp. 112

Referat Rodzin Wojskowych  
Sekcja Poszukiwań  
150/p.143

Teheran dn. 16/VII.43

Junak Sikora Władysław  
Polish Forces Abroad # 254

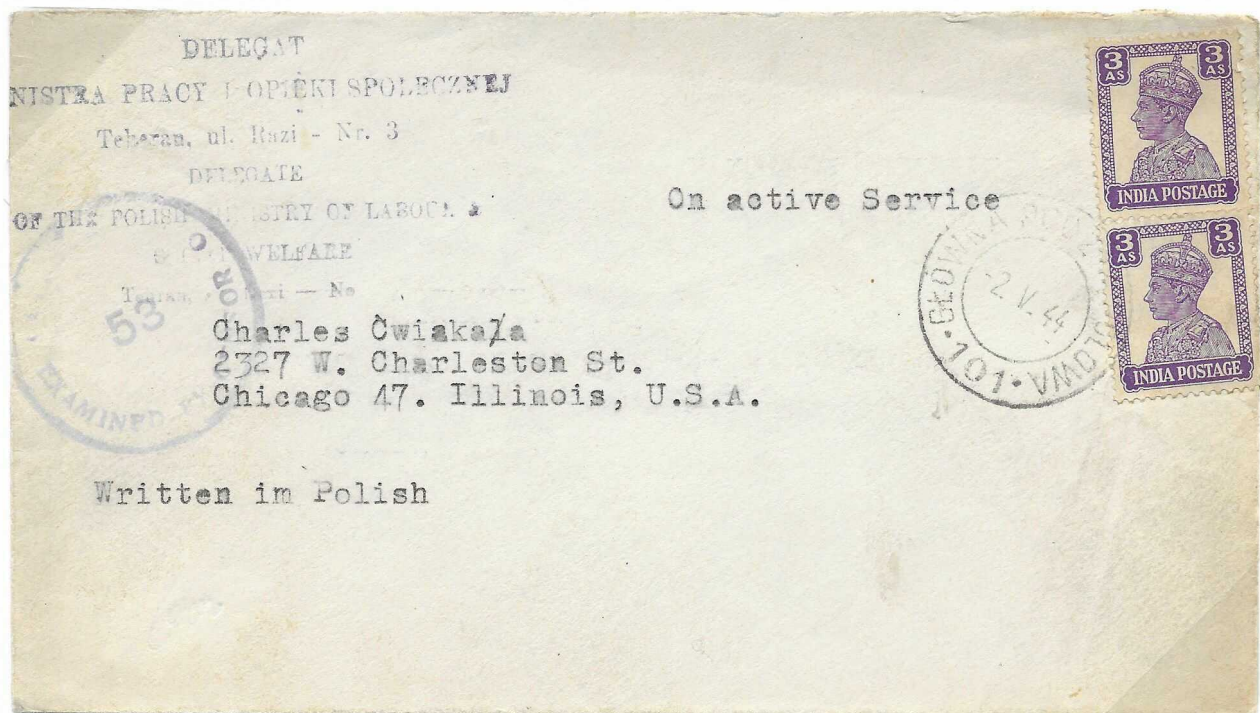
Mommu

w Ew. D-twa Szkół Jun.  
nie figuruje  
30.VII.43

Missing Persons Inquiry Office forms used during 1943 (with unsuccessful results in each case). Upper example dated 27 January ended up with a receiving mark of P.P. 117 in Kirkuk, Iraq. Lower example dated 16 July has a receiving mark of P.P. 130 in Teheran.

IRAN  
Polish FPO

Główna Poczta Polowa 101  
2 May 1944



This letter from the Polish Ministry of Labor in Exile in Teheran was apparently franked with Indian stamps in Iran and sent by diplomatic pouch to Egypt, where it was processed by GPP 101 en route to the U.S. On the back flap, a Polish censor label was applied; these are very seldom seen.



# EGYPT

## Egyptian Military Postal Service

The first Polish forces in Egypt were assembled from the men interned in Hungary and Romania in 1939 who were later released or escaped and made their way to the Middle East. These troops were first organized and armed in October 1940 and were initially assigned postmarks #32 and 64 of the British military post offices in Egypt. These markings were in use at Alexandria concurrently with Polish FPO #111, which was introduced on 1 November 1941 and used until April 1942, when it was moved to Palestine. Later, other Polish FPOs were used in Egypt, but these are shown in the section of the exhibit dealing with the Central Mediterranean Forces.

Egypt FPO 64  
5 January 1942



Registered letter from Alexandria to the U.S. sent through the Egyptian military post office. Note three different censor markings and censor label.

EGYPT  
Polish FPO

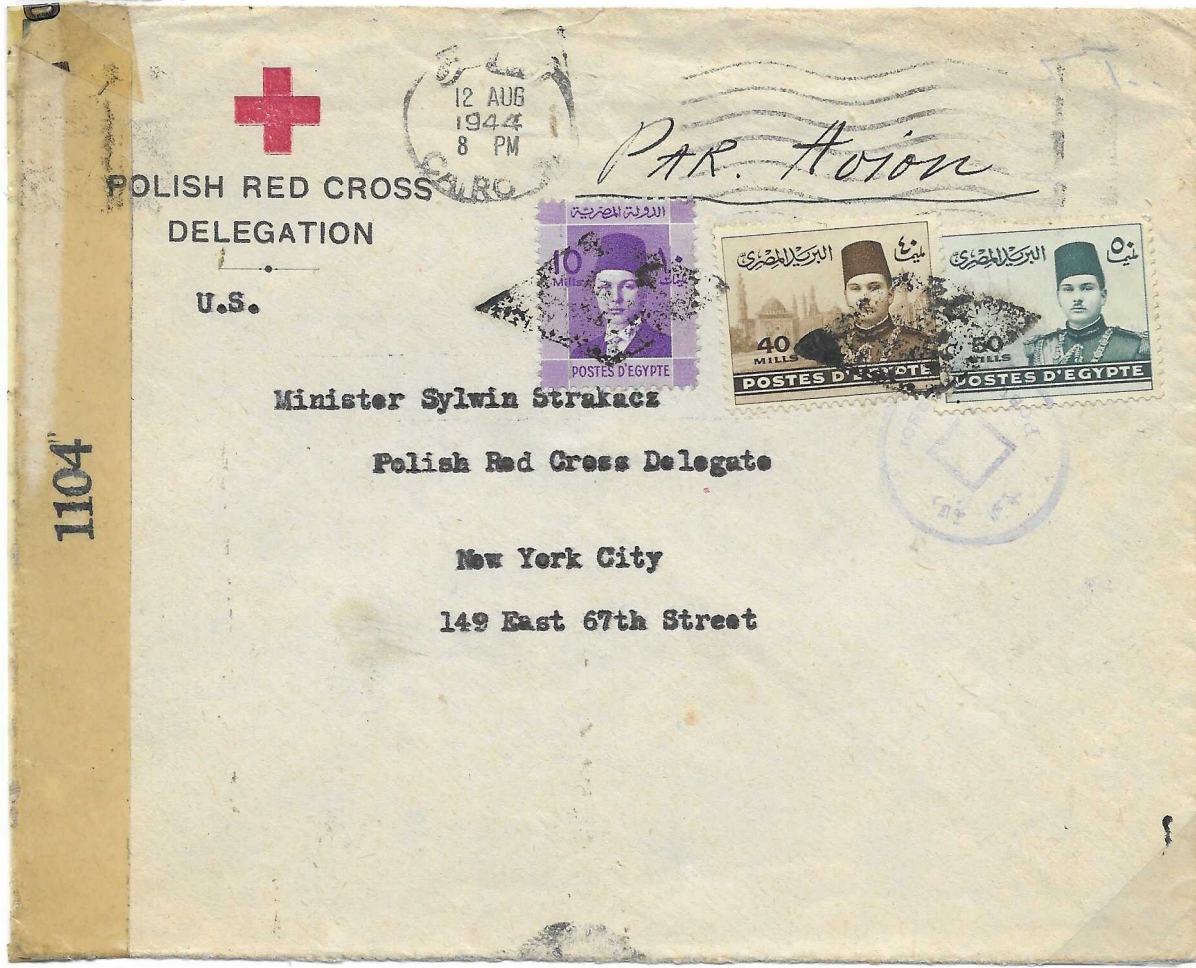
Poczta Polowa 111  
11 May 1941  
12 March 1942



The first Polish FPO in Egypt was #111, which opened on 1 November 1940. Upper cover was sent by a soldier to Boston, paying the fee of 22 mils for a surface letter. Lower example was sent by airmail to the same addressee, but the postage was 120 mils in this case.

EGYPT  
Polish Red Cross Mail

Cairo  
12 August 1944



Cover from the Polish Red Cross at 30, Rue Mansour in Cairo to the Polish Red Cross Delegate in New York. No military postmark but machine cancel of Cairo was applied. Censored in Egypt and the U.S.



EGYPT  
Egyptian Military Postal Service

Egypt FPO 21  
23 August 1946  
23 October 1946



Late use of the Egyptian military post office for registered letters from Qassasin to Chicago, one to the American Relief for Poland organization. Postage was 122 mils for each, although the upper example was endorsed for airmail and so treated based on 8 days transit time versus 54 days for the other. Note use of registration cachets of the Polish Base Field Post Office 101.

EGYPT  
Polish FPO -- Inbound Mail

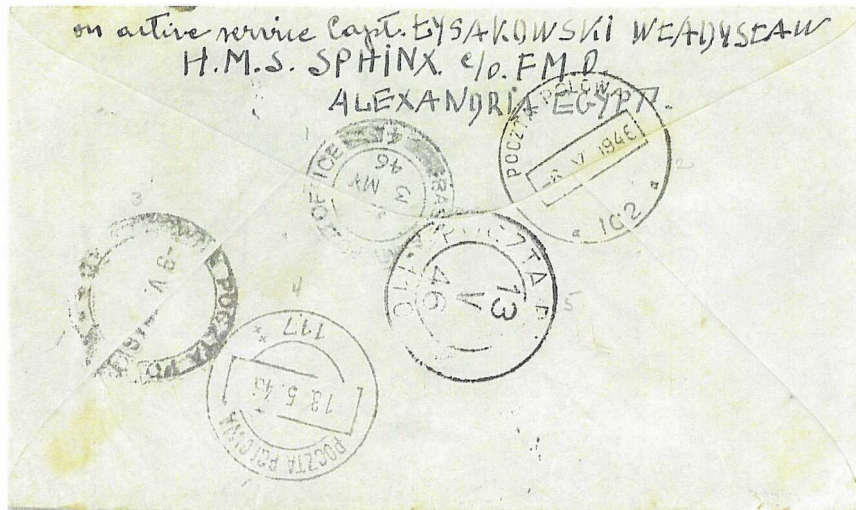
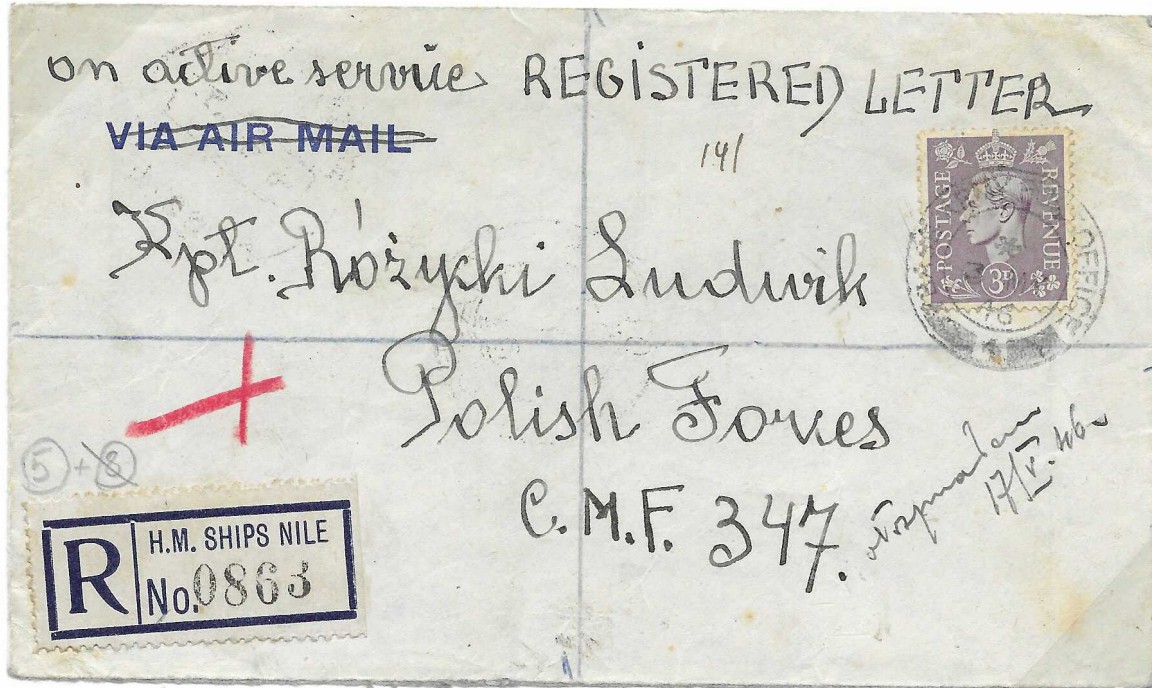
Główna Poczta Polowa 101  
20 February 1948



Very late use of a cover sent by an officer at the Polish Camp in Penrith, Scotland to Qassasin, Egypt. A 2-1/2d stationery envelope was uprated to airmail by addition of a 2-1/2d adhesive. Processed through Farouk Airpost and the civil post office in Cairo, then transferred to British Base Army P.O. 4 and finally to GPP 101, where it was received on 20 February 1948.

EGYPT  
Polish Naval Mail

Base Army Post Office 1  
3 May 1946



Registered letter mailed by Capt. Lysakowski of the H.M.S. Sphinx of the Nile River Flotilla at Alexandria to an officer in the Polish Army in Italy. Sent from British Base Army Post Office 1 through #4 and then to Polish PP 102 and on to Polish HQ in Italy at GPP4, where it was routed to PP117 and delivered at PP110 on 13 May 1945.

# CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE

## Base Field Post Office 101

As the various Polish forces became organized, a field post system was established starting in November 1941. Eventually a system of 37 Polish numbered postal stations were operating, generally moving with the particular forces to which they were assigned rather than remaining at a specific location. The troops moved frequently as needed, mostly between Egypt, Palestine and Iraq in the early campaigns and then to Italy later. This makes a geographical or chronological showing of the material more difficult and, in the end, it was decided to show it in numerical order based on the numbers in the postmarks, with date and location being identified in each case. Note that numbers 101 and 104 were base post offices (GPP) for the Middle East and Italy, respectively. Stations number 5, 7, 8 and 134 were never placed in use. In due course, these troops were named the Polish Second Corps.

Główna Poczta Polowa 101  
13 August 1942  
19 August 1942

Regn. No. 10 Certificate of Posting of a Registered Postal Packet.

A Postal Packet addressed as under, upon which a Fee of Three Pence has been paid, in addition to the Postage of \_\_\_\_\_ s. \_\_\_\_\_ d. has been registered and posted here this day.

See also OVERLEAF for Parcels only.

*Milopoma  
Gyhdalawice  
Siemipatacinisk 2.35*

Accepting Officer's Initials *MDD*

Date Stamp  
13.VIII.42  
GŁÓWNA POCZTA POLOWA 101



Receipt for a registered letter and an airmail cover to Boston, used from GPP 101, which was serving the Headquarters of the Polish Forces in the Middle East located at Rehovot, Palestine at the time.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE  
Base Field Post Office 101

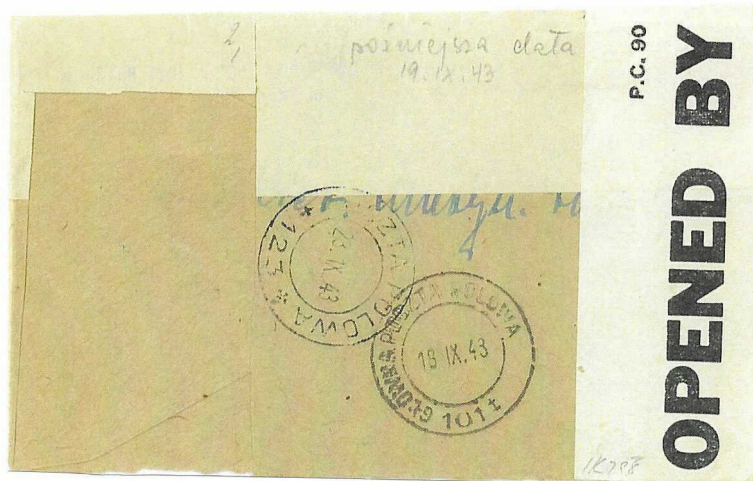
Główna Poczta Polowa 101  
16 April 1943



PP 101 moved to Baghdad, Iraq, where it operated from January to August 1943. This cover to the U.S. was franked with an Iraqi 20 fils stamp and passed by Polish and Indian military censors. The marking of a "7" in a small circle is said to have been applied in Iran.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE  
Base Field Post Office 101 -- Inbound Mail

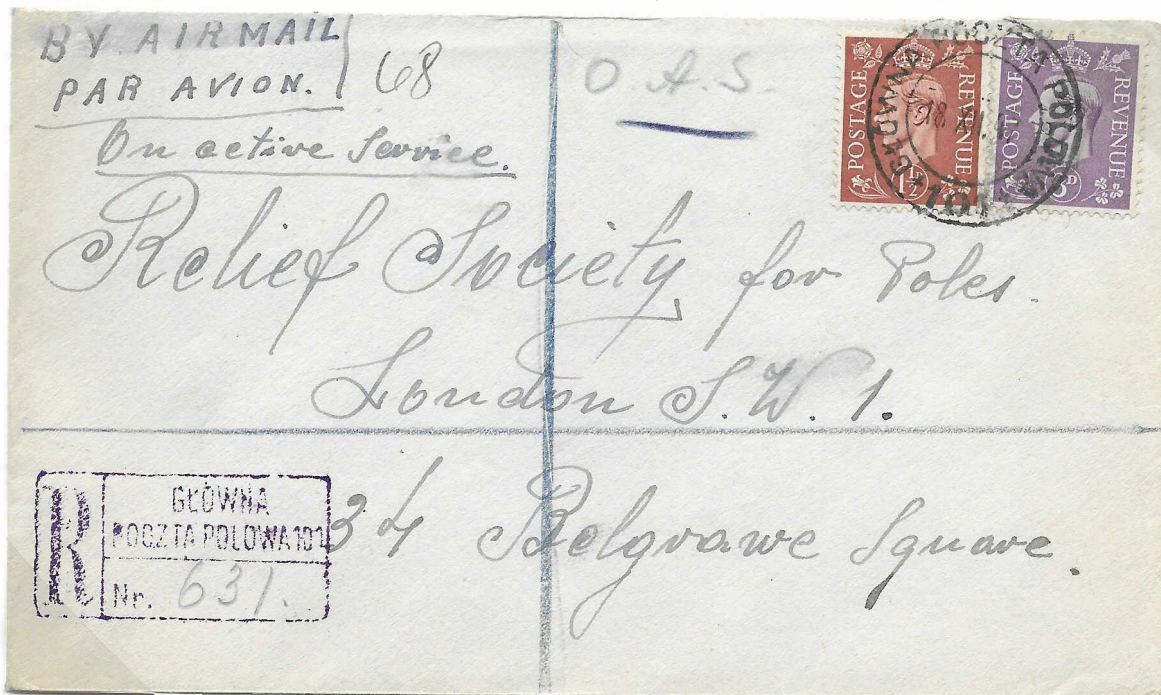
Główna Poczta Polowa 101  
18 September 1943



Inbound mail to Polish troops is much more elusive than outbound, importantly because the soldiers had no way to save correspondence. This letter from London was franked with the appropriate 2-1/2d international letter rate postage to Baghdad, where it was backstamped by a GPP 101 postmark and forwarded to PP 123 in Kirkuk. Censored by both the British in London and the Poles in Baghdad.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE  
Base Field Post Office 101

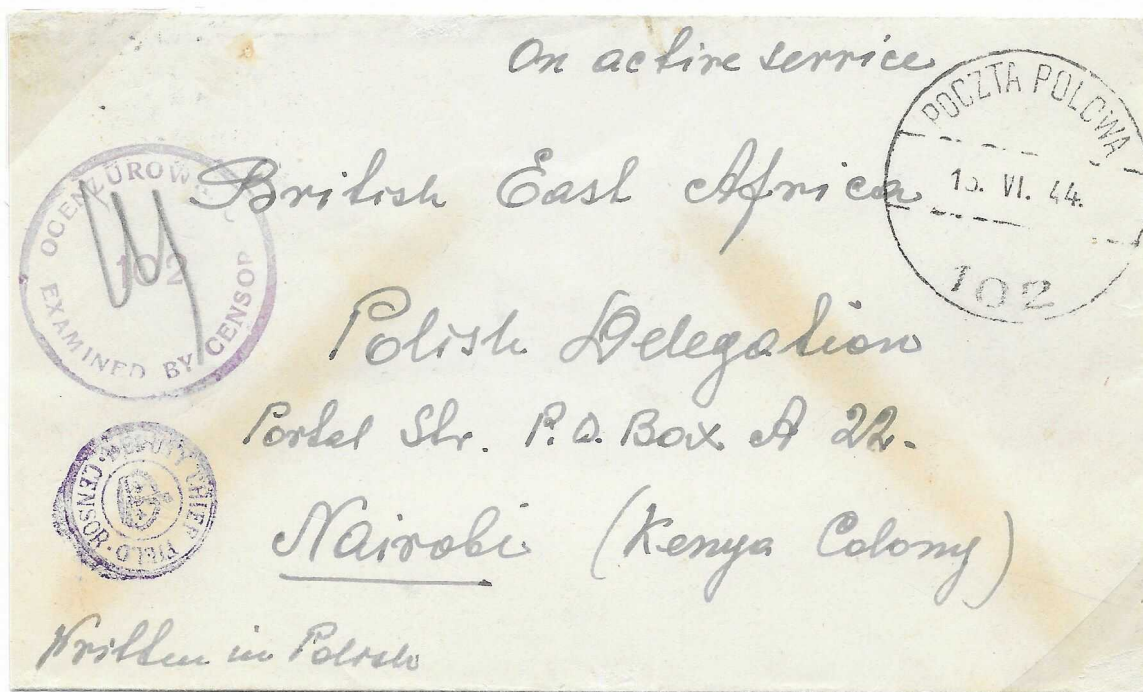
Głowna Poczta Polowa 101  
9 December 1944  
18 December 1947



Later, GPP moved to El Qassasin Camp, Egypt, about 25 miles west of Ismailia, in March 1944 and remained there until it was closed down on 6 April 1948. Shown here are an unfranked military letter to a Polish officer in Scotland (censored in Cairo) and a registered letter to the Polish Relief Society in London after the war.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE  
Field Post Office 102

Poczta Polowa 102  
15 June 1944



PP 102 opened in Cairo, Egypt in March 1943 and operated there until the beginning of 1947. This cover was sent to the Polish Delegation in Nairobi, Kenya. Censored both by the Poles and British.