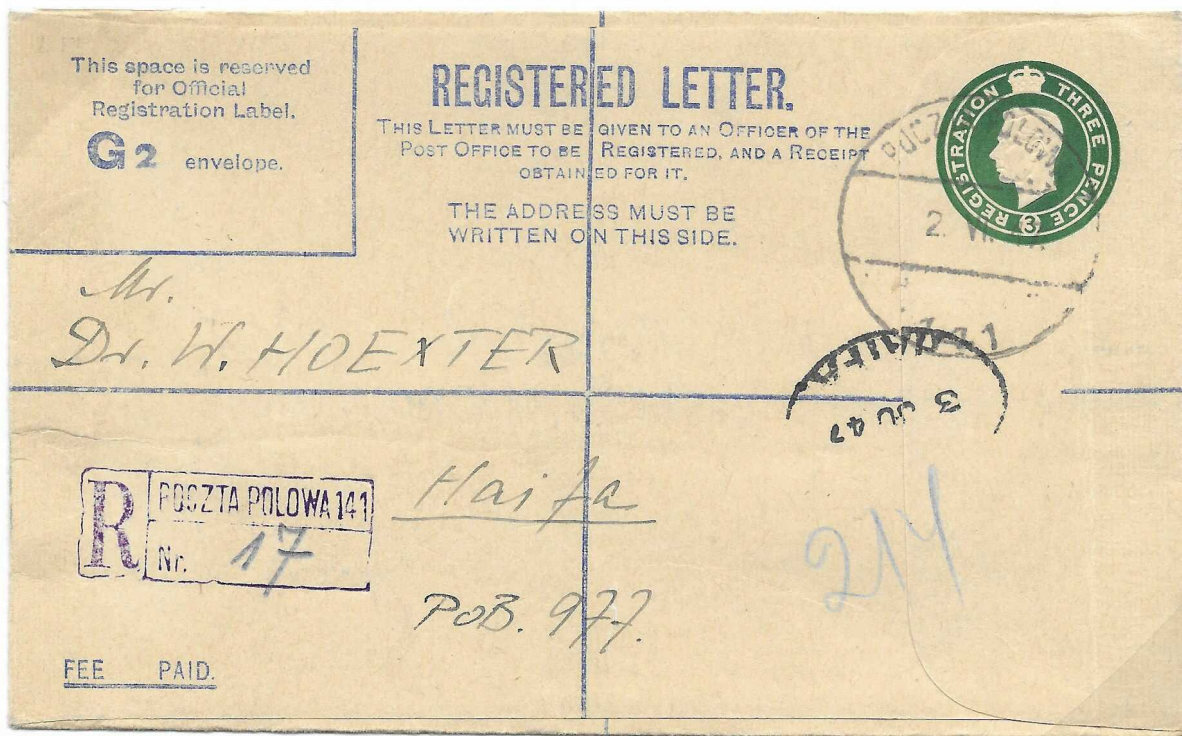


CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE
Field Post Office 141

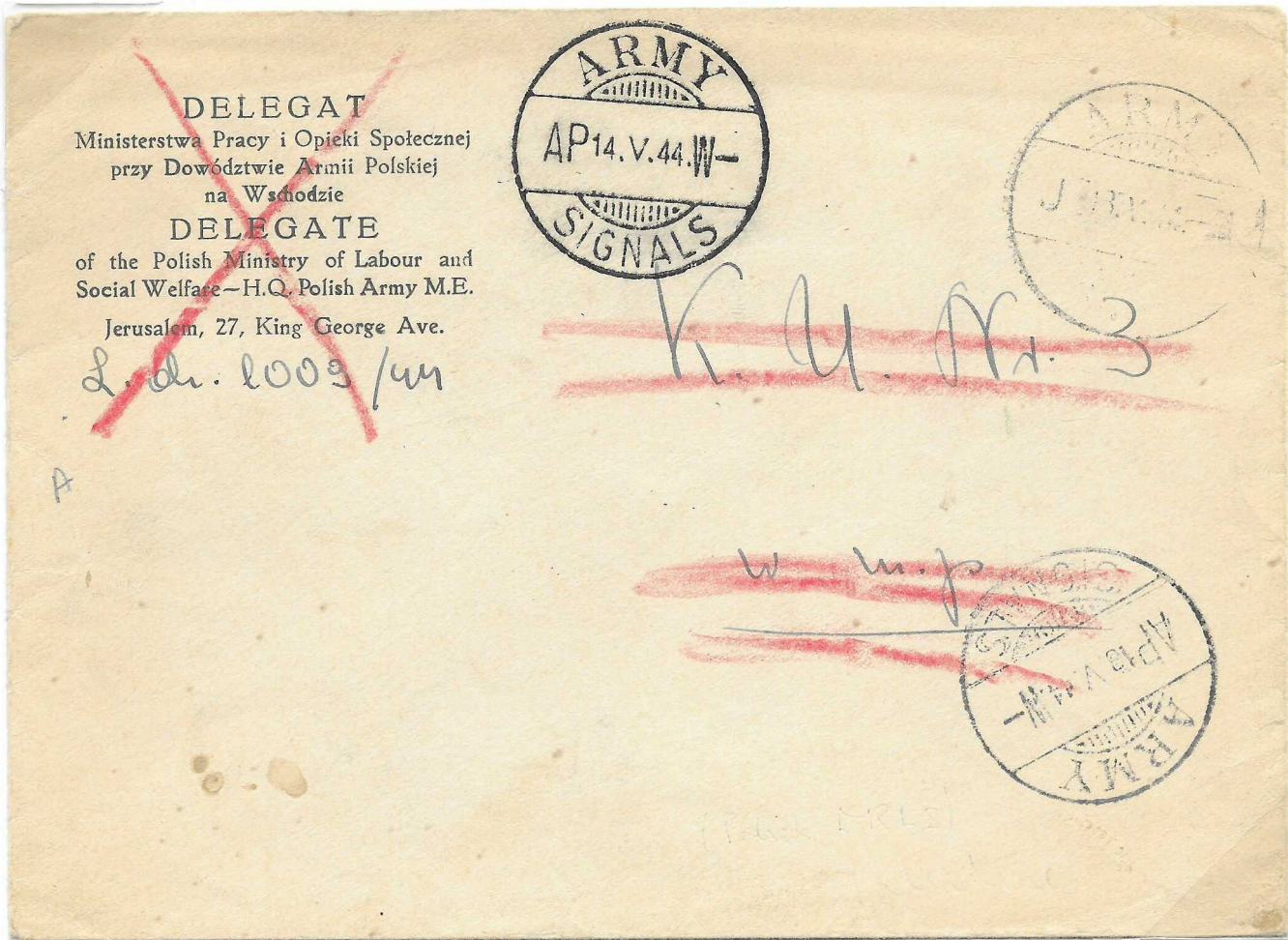
Poczta Polowa 141
20 February 1946
2 July 1947



Upper cover sent from Nazareth, Palestine to the Polish Red Cross in Jerusalem. Lower example of a British registered stationery envelope was sent from the same location to Haifa, where it was received on 3 June 1947 -- a very late usage.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN FORCE
Courier Mail

Army Signals AP_W
14 May 1944



Letters containing secret information were sent by British military couriers. This service used special handstamps inscribed "Army Signals" with a code for the various units and locations. "AP_W" stands for Polish Army East from which cover originated; "JE_M" indicates Jerusalem. The particular unit to which the cover was addressed was not there, so it was returned as indicated by a second strike of AP_W four days later.

ITALY

Red Cross Mail by Courier

Warszawa
29 December 1945

M. J. Z. Warszawa alja Szucho 23
dla Ambasady R. P. w Rzymie
Nad: Kapr. Wilhelm Dugaiczak
British Control Polish
Repatriation Camp
Wing 5 Komp 4
Italy

Obyw.

POLSKA
BIURO INFORMACYJNE
WARSZAWA

Maria Dugaiczak
Wesola

Wolno od opłaty pocztowej
Rozp. Min. P. i T. z dn. 30. IV. 1945
Nr. PZ 122

ul. Wiejska 19
pow. Pszczyna
poczt. Przecznica

Górnj- Klask

WARSAWA
29.12.45 - 80

This cover originated from a Corporal in a Polish Repatriation camp under British control and was delivered to the Polish Embassy in Rome. From there, it went by diplomatic pouch to Warsaw, where it was endorsed by the Polish Red Cross and received a red handstamp that indicated that it was to be sent free of charge according to the PTT regulation PZ 122 of 30 April 1945. It was then postmarked in Warsaw and forwarded to the addressee in Wesola, Upper Silesia. A most unusual usage.

ITALY
Second Polish Corps Issue

After the end of the war, the men of the II Polish Corps did not wish to return to then Communist-controlled Poland, so remained in Italy. In January 1946, Polish officials had a set of four stamps and a souvenir sheet printed for use by the troops sending mail through the fieldpost stations. In fact, they were only valid for postage on letters sent between the FPOs, and additional British postage was required for other destinations.



Polska-Poczta-Polowa
 18 January 1946

Poczta Polowa 117
 10 March 1946

First Day Issue

O.A.S.

Apr Post
POLISH FO:CES
C.M.F. Michaleki

Polish Troops
C.M.F 295

Upper cover shows the set of II Corps stamps on an envelope printed for use on the first day of issue; it has a postmark not otherwise seen by exhibitor. Below is a set sent from FPO 117 at Porto Recanati to a Corporal in the Central Mediteranean Force and backstamped at FPO 123 in the same town. Because it was sent internally through the Polish postal system, no additional franking was required.

ITALY
Second Polish Corps Issue

Poczta Polowa 135
 1 March 1946

Główna Poczta Polowa 104
 3 February 1946



II Corps postage stamps were sold at the Polish fieldpost offices at the exchange rate of 1 zloty = 10d but were not valid on mail sent outside the Polish system. Thus, letters sent to other destinations, i.e. from FPO 135 at Recanati to Switzerland and from GPP 104 in Naples to the U.S. in the case of the covers shown, had to be franked with 3d in British stamps for the international letter rate plus 3d for the registry fee.

ITALY
Second Polish Corps Issue

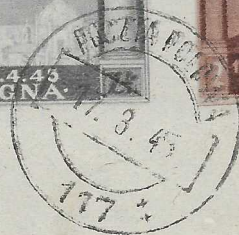
Poczta Polowa 117
17 March 1946



POLSKA
POCZTA POŁOWA
2 KORPUSU



DOPEŁATA
ZŁ. 4. - NA
WDOWY I
SIEROTY
PO
POLEGŁYCH
ŻOŁNIE-
RZACH
2
KORPUSU



O.K.S.

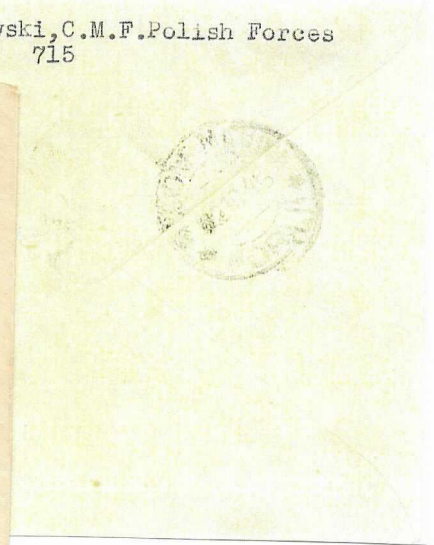
*mjr. Felicjan Pawlak
Polish Forces 384
E.M.F.*

Also in January 1946,
20,000 imperforate
souvenir sheets of the
four II Corps stamps
were placed on sale.
Covers are elusive
and seldom seen.

ITALY
Second Polish Corps Issue

Poczta Polowa 117
1 October 1946

Cpl. S. Barszczewski, C.M.F. Polish Forces
715



On 1 October 1946, 10,000 of the remaining 2 zloty stamps were overprinted "Wartosc" and a surcharge of 5 zloty applied. This additional money was for the benefit of the . Covers above were mailed on the first day to Italy and to the Polish Embassy to the Holy See in Vatican City (backstamped for receipt on 4 October.)

ITALY
Barletta-Trani Camp

Also in early 1946 a set of ten stamps were issued for use in the Barletta-Trani Camp for wounded soldiers and civilian refugees. These were neither endorsed by nor used in the Polish fieldpost but were a privately-sponsored issue of the Polish War Relief Services. However, they were denominated in lire, produced at the Italian government printing works in Rome and accepted for postage within Italy.

Poczta Osiedli Polskich
 w Italii/Barletta Trani
 11 February 1946



There were nine denominations for regular postage from 15 cent. to 10 lire plus the 1 lira stamp printed in yellow-orange, overprinted "Airmail" and surcharged 25 + 100 lire. The low values of the regular stamps are shown above in mint along with a philatelic cover franked with the higher values and sent to Rome.

ITALY
Barletta-Trani Camp

Osiedle/Barletta
12 February 1946



The lire 25 +100 airmail was also issued imperforate. An example is shown above on cover to the office of the War Relief Services in Rome, where it was backstamped for arrival on 14 February.

ITALY
Barletta-Trani Camp

JESZCZE POLSKA NIE ZGINĘŁA



POCZTA OSIEDLI POLSKICH W
1945



POCZTA OSIEDLI POLSKICH W ITALII
1945

L. 5 + 195

Z ZIEMI WŁOSKIEJ DO POLSKI



POCZTA OSIEDLI POLSKICH W ITALII
1945

L. 3 + 247

In addition to the set of stamps, three of the high values were issued as souvenir sheets, but in different colors from the originals.

ITALY
Barletta-Trani Camp

Pocata Polskich w Italii
15 August 1946



PER VIA AEREA
PAR AVION
Mod. 24-R

Later in 1946, the low values of the set were overprinted "Airmail" with the image of an airplane and surcharged "+ L.25" Above is a set postmarked on envelope, but exhibitor has never seen any of these actually used.

ITALY
Barletta-Trani Camp

Pocata Osiedli Polskich
9 October 1946

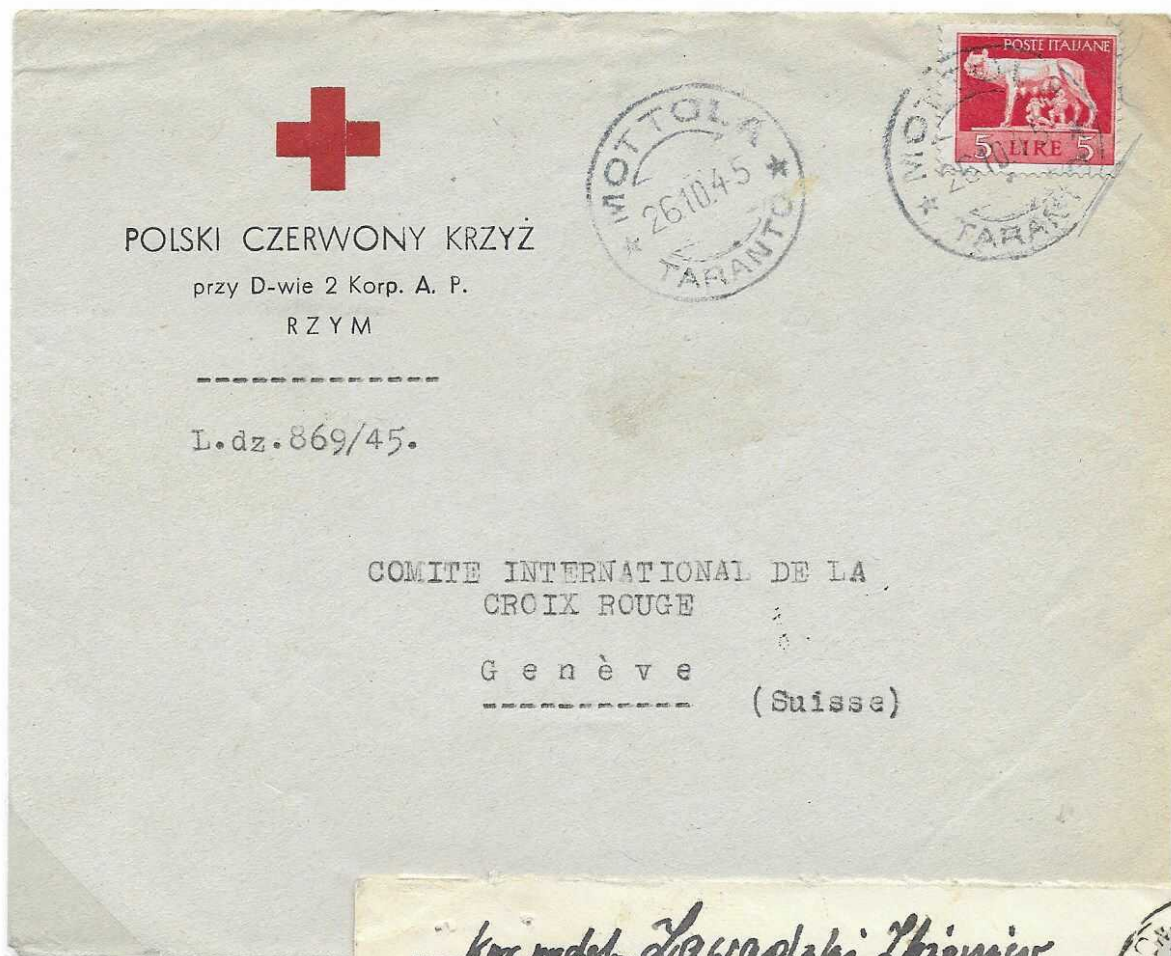


In the final iteration of these stamps, the five low values were overprinted "Honor the Four Freedoms" in English, French and Polish, with a facsimile signature of President Roosevelt below. Above is a cover with these stamps affixed, but it appears that the postage to Genoa was paid with normal Italian adhesives. Backstamped for arrival on 12 October.

ITALY
Red Cross Mail

Mottola
26 October 1945

Roma
21 June 1946



These covers were mailed by Poles through the Italian civil postal system. Above is a letter from the Polish Red Cross in Rome to the International Committee in Geneva. Below is a cover from a member of the CMF to the Catholic League in Chicago.

ITALY
Use of British Fieldpost

Field Post Office
2 September 1946

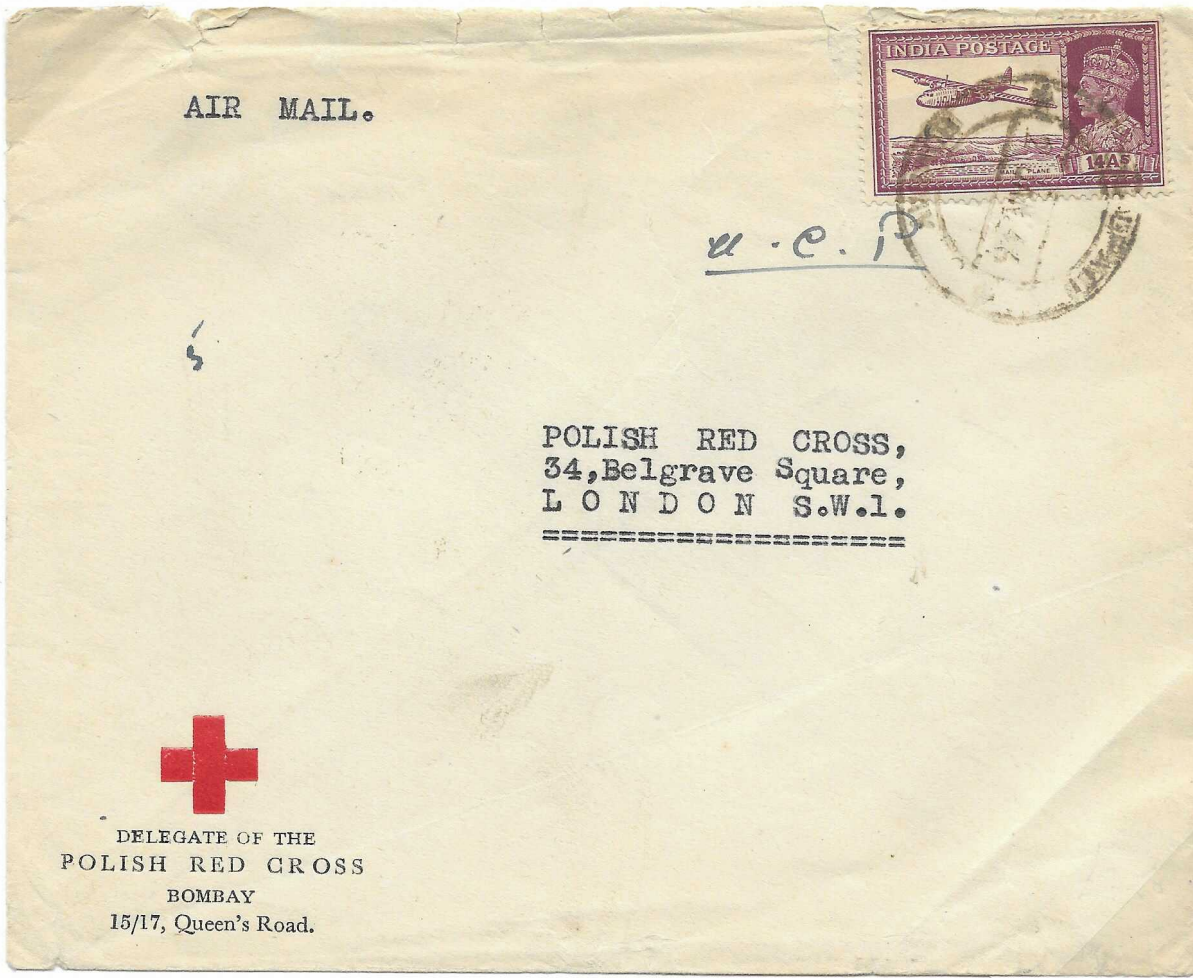


Late usage of the British fieldpost office in Rome to send a registered letter from the Soldiers Philatelic Section of the Polish 2nd Corps to the American Relief for Poland in Chicago, where it was received on 23 September.

Polish Red Cross

INDIA

Bombay
2 January 1946



A small number of Polish wounded were sent to hospitals in India. As a result, the Polish Red Cross established an office in Bombay to establish contacts with these men. This cover sent by a delegate of the PRC to its office in London, paying 14 annas for the airmail rate to Britain.

SWEDEN

Naval Internee

Wabrezno
23 March 1945



At the time of the invasion, some ships of the Polish Navy escaped and went to Sweden, where the crews were interned from October 1939 until the end of the war. This was the case with the men from three submarines, O.R.P. *Rys*, *Sep* and *Zbik*. Once parts of Poland were liberated and the postal system reestablished, letters could be sent to the internees. In the case of the cover above, which was censored by the Poles and Swedes, it arrived just after the sailor had been released, as confirmed by the red manuscript notation "Left for England 12 VI 1945." Note the handstamp of the Polish Naval Attaché in Stockholm with filing number.