

**WORLD WAR I
Occupation of Albania**

Tirana
22 November 1915
26 November 1915



The Serbian authorities next introduced new circular datestamps in the Albanian towns they administered. The Serbian 25 para stamp is cancelled with a previously unrecorded special postmark for money orders issued in Tirana. The postal card was addressed to Bohemia and has Albanian transit markings, but it may never have been delivered to Prague due to wartime difficulties. In spite of being philatelically created, the cover is the only example of registered mail from the Serbian occupation seen by exhibitor. It is backstamped with the Albanian postmark of Tirana of the same date and has a receiving mark of Elbasan the following day.

**WORLD WAR I
Occupation of Albania**

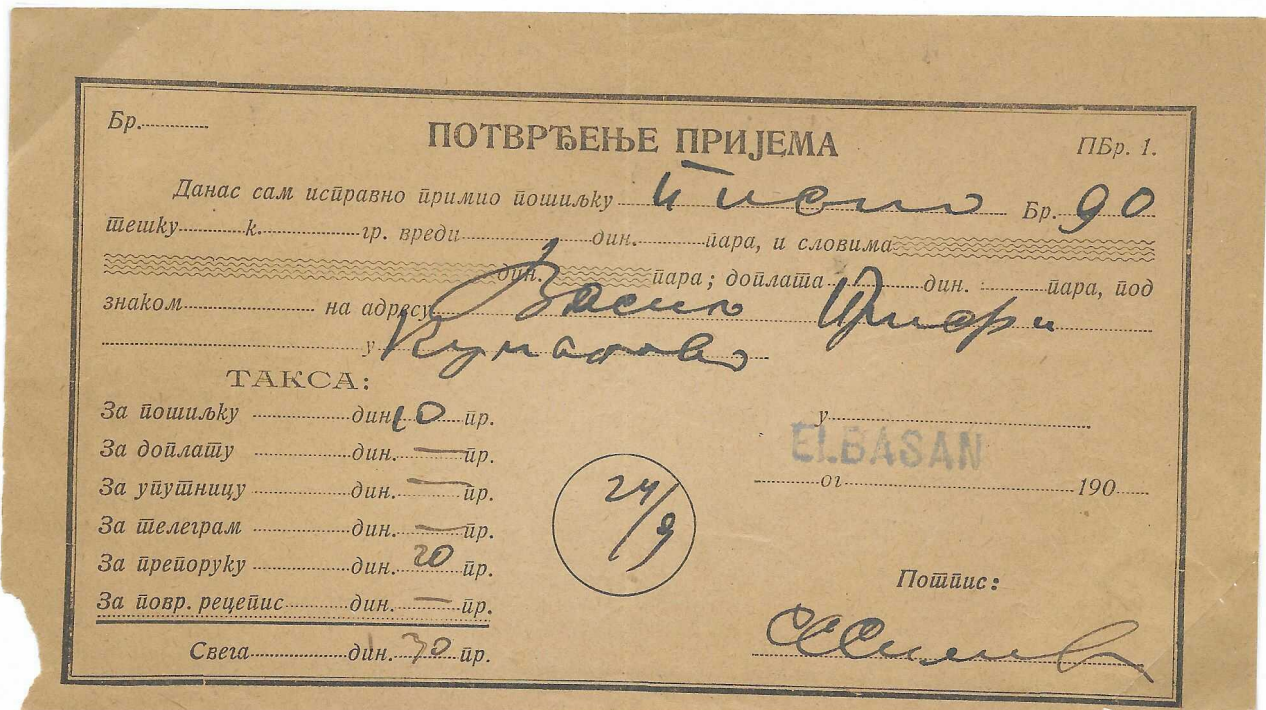
Podgradec
19 November 1915

Elbassan
2 September 1915

Tchoukouss
3 September 1915



Serbian postmarks from Albania are scarce, but those from the smaller towns are exceptionally so. (Certificate from Dr. Velickovic states that the Podgradec post office only functioned for a few weeks.) The Tchoukouss (Qukes) transit postmark on the reverse of the cover from Mollas to Debar is the discovery example of this marking. It is unlisted in Rasic, and the Derocco handbook states that this post office never came into operation.



Postal card above is cancelled with the Elbassan cds provided by the Serbian authorities; it is used internally to Tirana. Below is a receipt for a registered letter sent from FPO 90 at Elbassan to Kumanovo. The straight-line marking "Elbassan" was applied at the lower right. A most unusual usage from the occupation period.

CORFU EXILE GOVERNMENT

Starting on 17 January 1916, Allied ships evacuated government ministries, several thousand refugees and the remnants of the Serbian army -- some 150,000 men -- from Albanian ports to the Greek island of Corfu. A Government in Exile was established and remained in operation there until the end of the war, while the troops were refitted, retrained and sent to Salonica.



Ministerial Postal Station
31 December 1916
30 October 1917



The Serbian authorities, with material assistance from the French, set up a Ministerial Postal Station which used the postmark shown above. Military and official mail was handled free of charge, shown by the outbound and inbound field post cards above.



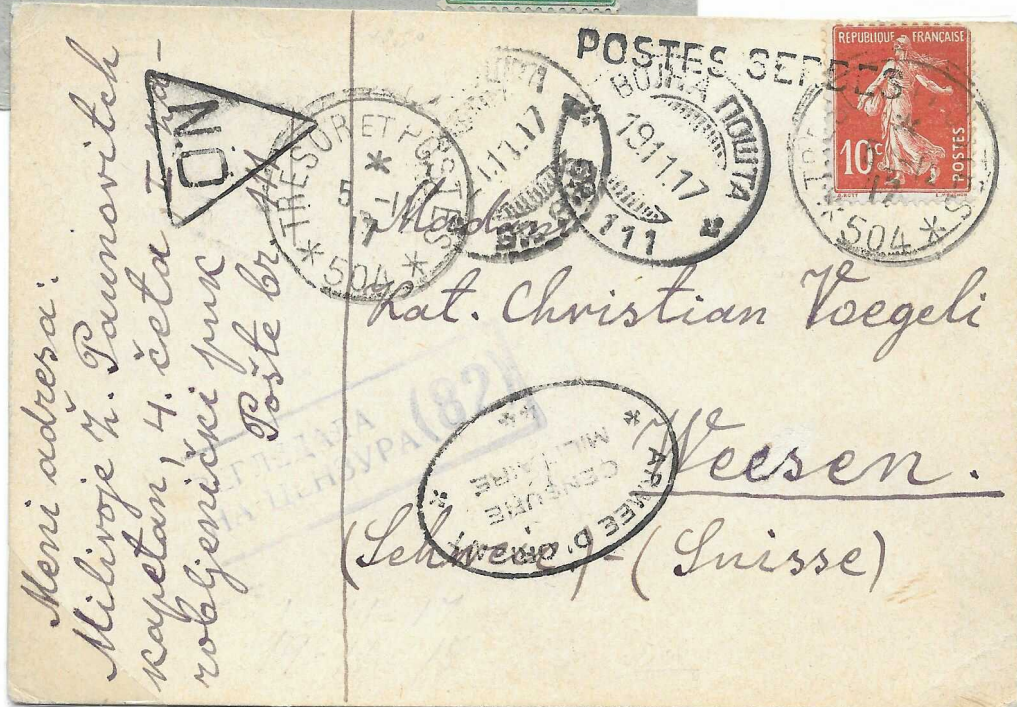
Mail to foreign destinations and registration required payment of postage. With Serbian stamps unavailable, fees at the Ministerial Postal Station were usually paid with French stamps. **Mixed franking with Greek postage is extremely unusual, with few than five examples recorded.** Normally, a handstamp reading "Serbian Posts" was applied to the envelopes, either on or near the stamps; it is neither an overprint nor a cancellation but a cachet applied to more clearly identify Serbian mail.

Registry marking on covers reads "Royal Serbian Posts/Registration." Letter to the U.S. is highly unusual.

CORFU EXILE GOVERNMENT

Ministerial Postal Station
16 November 1917

Tresor et Postes 504
5 November 1917



The "Postes Serbes" cachet can be found applied to at least 14 different French stamps, many of which were cancelled to order after the end of the war. Commercial covers are uncommon and sought after by Serbian specialists. Such mail was either postmarked with the Ministerial cds or at the French FPO 504 on Corfu.

CORFU EXILE GOVERNMENT

Tresor et Postes 504
17 April 1918

Ministerial Postal Station
25 May 1917



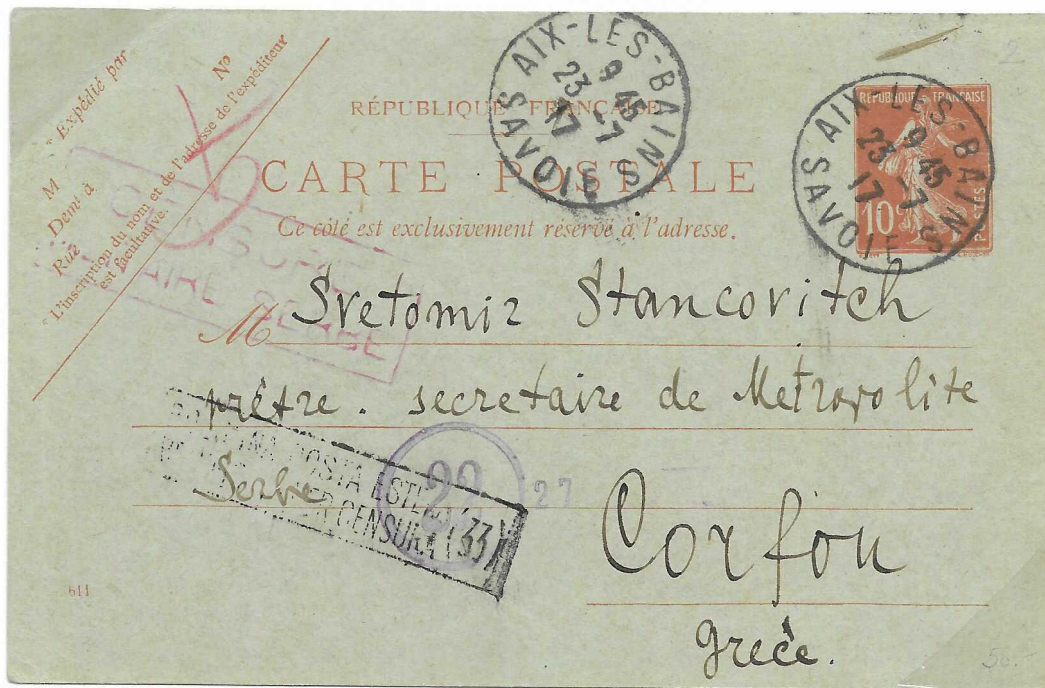
Higher values of the French stamps were used on registered mail, to Switzerland in the case of the examples shown above, which required 50 centimes postage.

Incoming Mail



Examples of incoming mail from Greece and Italy to Serbians on Corfu. These usages are elusive.

Incoming Mail



Examples of incoming mail from England and France to Serb addressees on Corfu. Such usages are quite elusive.

Official Mail



Official Serbian military cover mailed through the French fieldpost office on Corfu to Switzerland, thus requiring postage to pay the double weight letter rate plus registration.

CORFU EXILE GOVERNMENT

Tresor et Postes 512
28 March 1916

FPO 999
8 June 1918
17 September 1918



In 1916, the Serbian Government in Exile on Corfu had military postal cards printed using a smaller version of the "King on Battlefield" design. The Michel stationery catalogue lists two versions, printed on blue gray and lilac rose card stock. The third card shown appears to be an unlisted variety on buff stock. It is also noteworthy as the only example recorded as addressed to America (apparently Akron).

SALONICA FRONT

During April and May 1916, a new field post system was established for the Serbian Army at Salonica. The main postal facility was established at General Headquarters and designated as FPO 999.

FPO 999
24 April 1917
16 May 1917



Normally, military and official mail was free of postage. Examples shown are both inbound (postal card from Switzerland) and outbound (cover to London).


WORLD WAR I
Salonica Front

FPO 999
15 November 1916
1 March 1918

Correspondance
DES ARMÉES DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE
CARTE EN FRANÇAIS

EXPÉDITEUR :
Nom et prénoms : *Marié Lou Ouen*
Grade : *Infirmière Hollandaise*
Régiment ou Service : *Hôpital de l'Intérieur*
Compagnie, Escadron, Bataillon, Section, etc. : *Salonique*
Secteur postal n° : *Armes Serbe*
(Les indications et-dessus sont à reproduire dans l'adresse de la réponse.)

Adresse :
*Monsieur et Madame
Simons
Directeurs "Nestchoppy"
Beider Belang, Rotterdam
Holland Nationalweg.*




Д. К. Бр. *4383*

ПРИЗНАНИЦА

Војна пошта *Држав. болнице* примила је од *Г. Уба*
Кавловића ул. др. 999 на адресу *улица Крашанина*
Сарајево Свученичка ул. др. 8. Београд

монета: _____

_____ 1916. год.

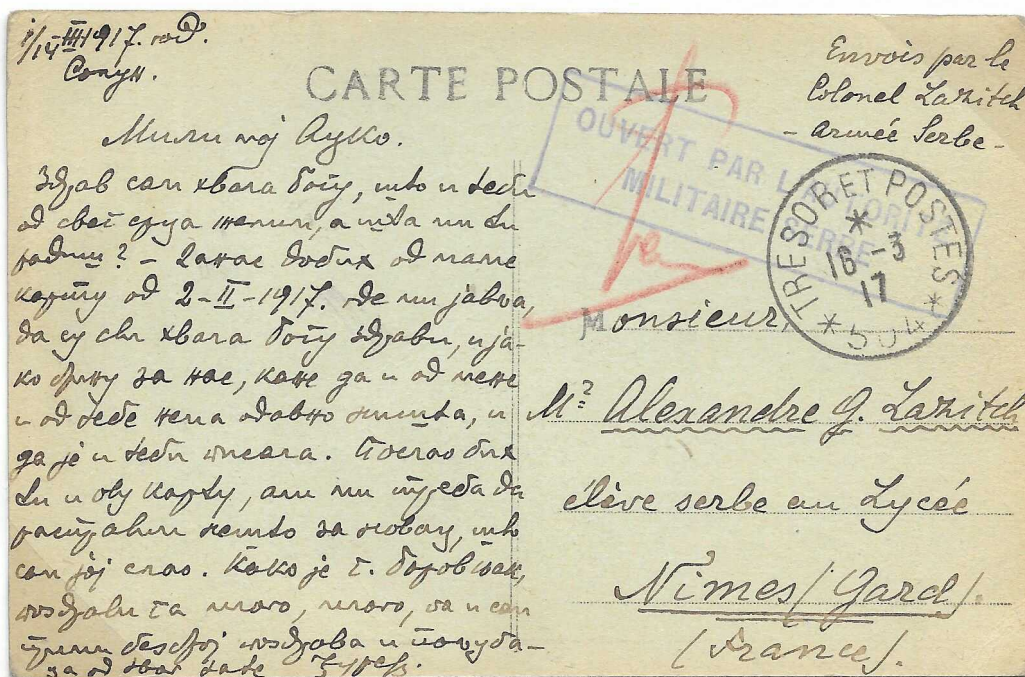


Примио _____

Штам. Аквароне-Согул

Unusual usage of field post card by nurse in Dutch Hospital ("Infirmiere Hollandaise") to friends in the home country mentions that many of the nurses have been afflicted by malaria.

Special cds for postal money orders used on money order receipt. Only five examples recorded per Velickovic.



Nearly all censorship markings on Serbian military mail were either in the Serbian or French language. However, a few bilingual examples were used at GHQ in Salonica. The instructional mark "Military Correspondence" on the upper cover is especially elusive, described by Velickovic as "rare."

WORLD WAR I
Salonica Front

FPO 333
1 September 1916



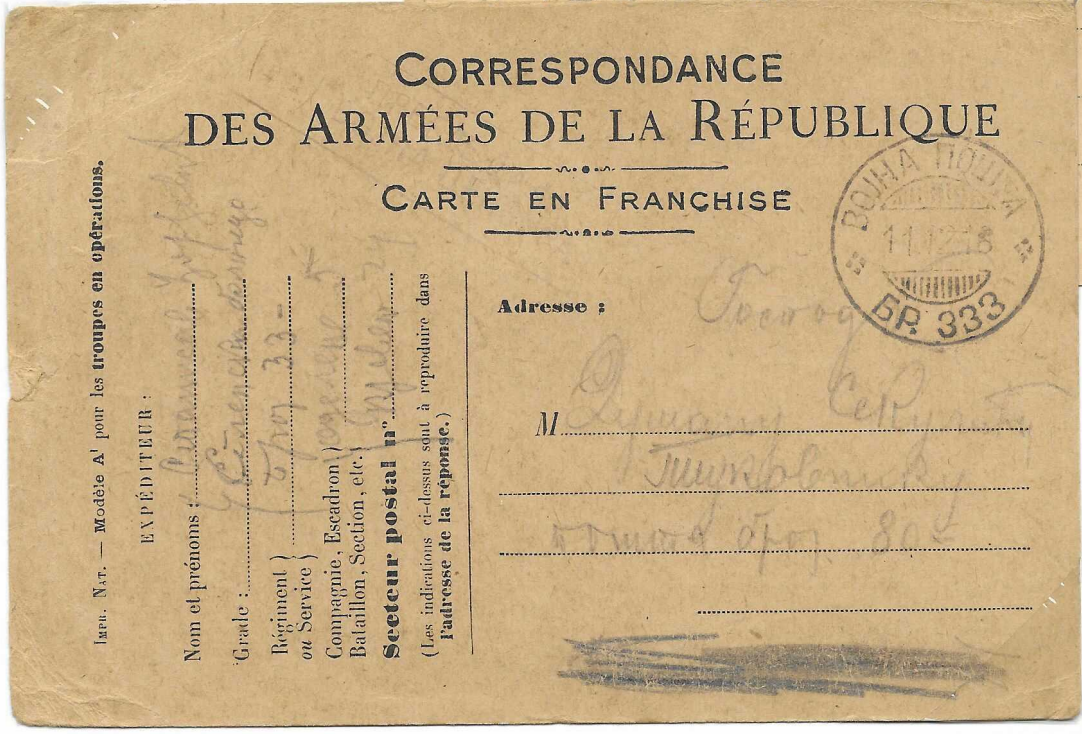
Cover mailed from the Serbian Army Radio Station to France. Backstamped in transit at Headquarters (FPO 999) and for receipt at Montelimar. Unusual bilingual Cyrillic/French censorship label not seen otherwise by exhibitor.

**WORLD WAR I
Salonica Front**

FPO 111
23 June 1917

FPO 222
25 May 1917

FPO 333
11 December 1916



The refurbished Serbian Forces were reorganized into three armies. A main postal station was established at the headquarters of each army, using the FPO designations of 111, 222 and 333, as shown above.