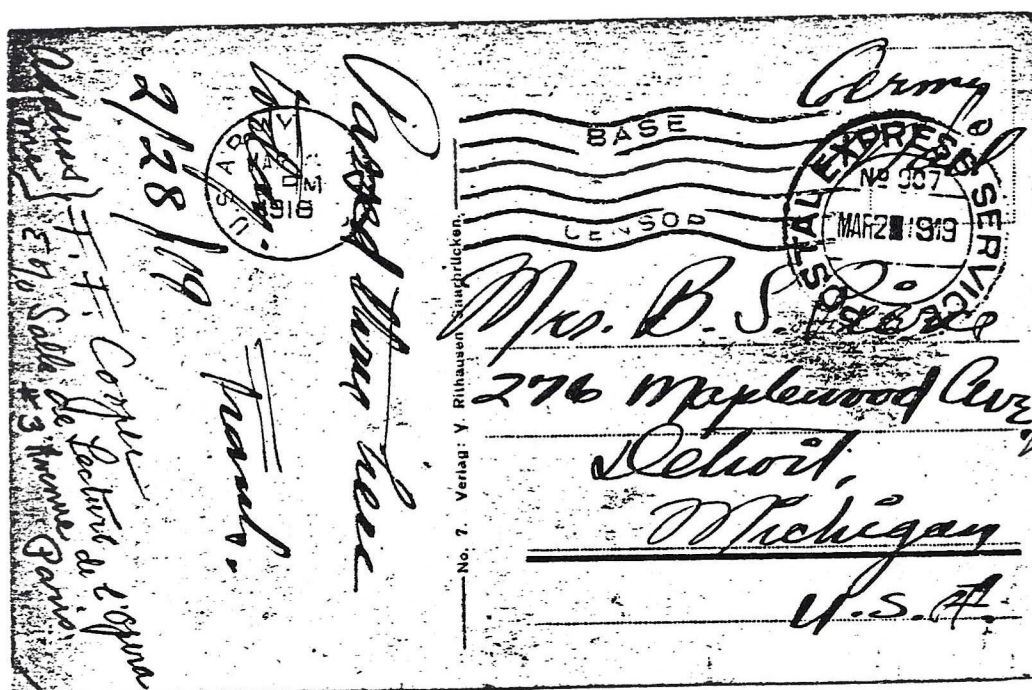


AMERICAN FORCES
Saar

Postal Express Service 907
2 March 1919



Although the Saar territory was in the sector designated for French occupation, U.S. Army personnel traversed the area enroute to the assigned American Zone located to the east along the Rhine. This event resulted in the notation "Passed thru here today. 2/28/19" on the above picture postcard of Saarbrücken. Censorship is indicated by the machine "Base Censor" marking applied on 4 March.

Postes Militaire Belgique 1
28 August 1927

MINISTÈRE DE LA DÉFENSE NATIONALE

Armée Belge d'Occupation — Bureau postal N° 1 — Boulangerie Militaire

Tresor et Postes 219
21 June 1928

Necessité de l'ordre

Au Commandant du détachement Belge
de la / Sarre
Secteur postal français 219

ARMÉE BELGE — BELGISCH LEGER

Nécessité de clore.
Noodig te sluiten.

Au Lieutenant-Colonel, Commandant d'Armes
de la Place de Sarrebruck
à Lecteur Postal n° 219

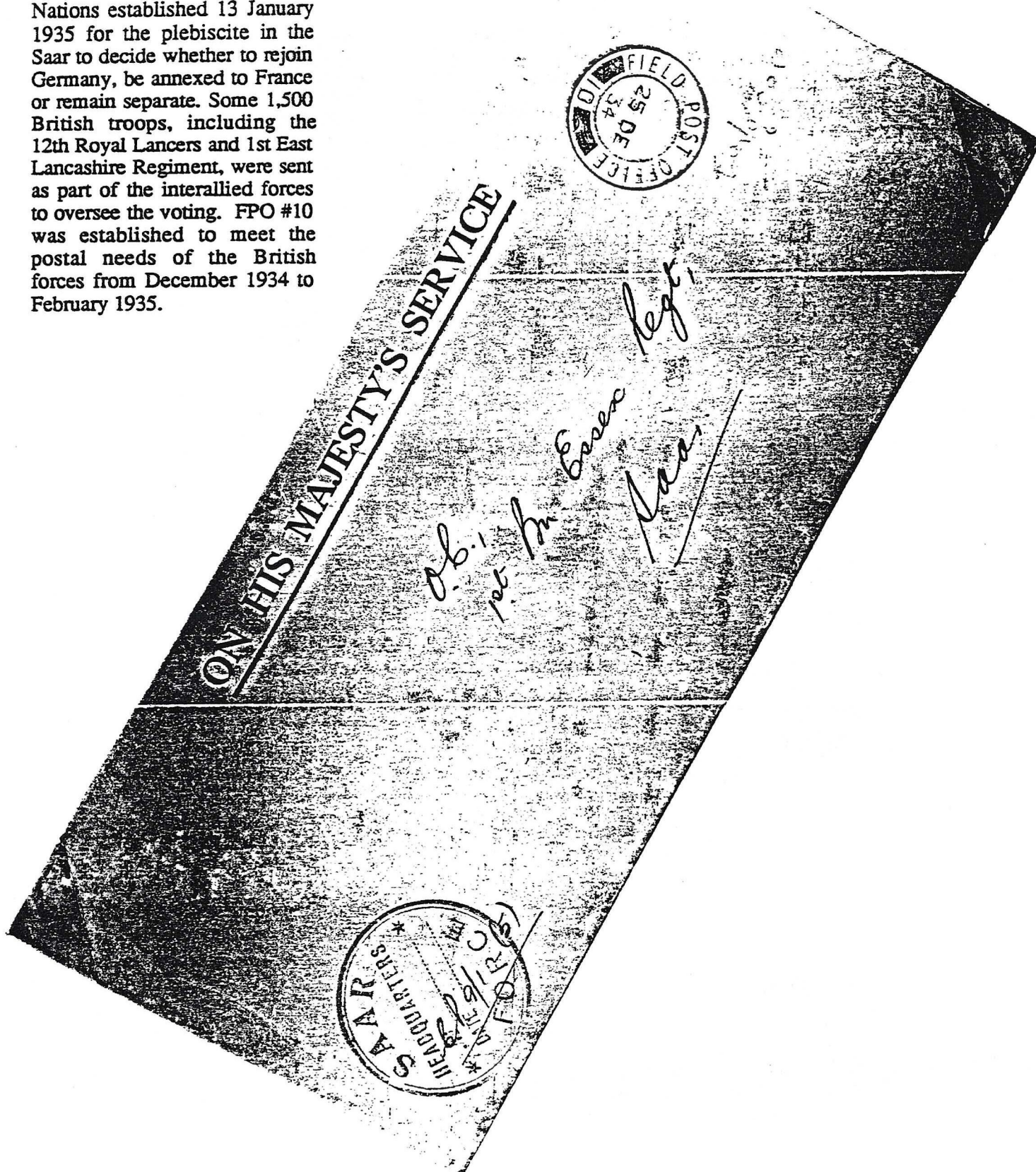
Intendance A. B. O. d. M. O. T. d. Aix-la-Chapelle

A 68-man contingent of Belgians was sent to Saarbrücken on 10 July 1927 as part of the allied force guarding the railways. Philatelic evidence of their presence consists of a handful of pieces. Above are examples of inbound (from Belgian FPO #1 in Aachen) and outbound mail. The latter bears the only recorded example of the oval marking for the "Belgian Detachment in the Saar."

BRITISH FORCES
Saar

Field Post Office 10
25 December 1934

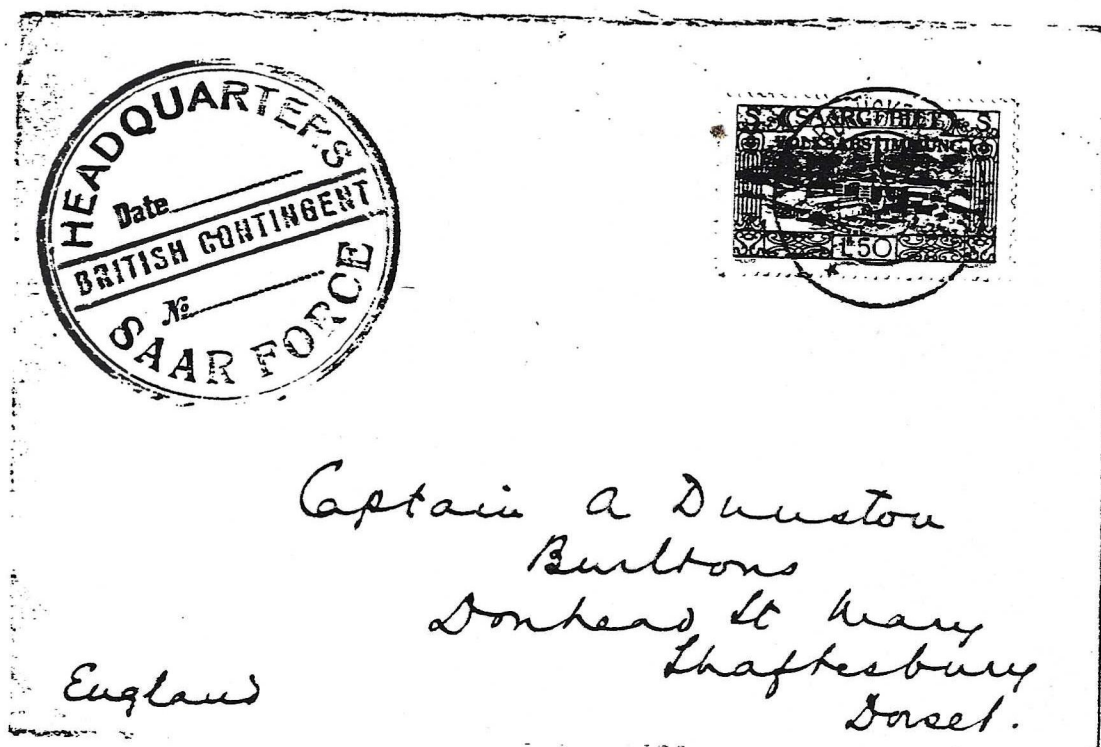
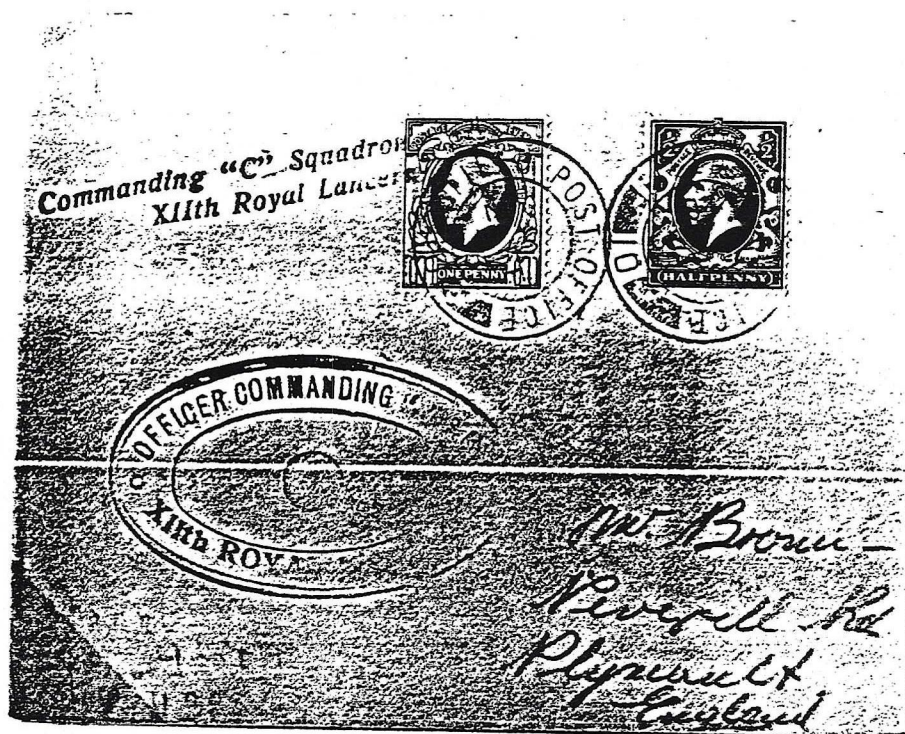
In June 1934, the League of Nations established 13 January 1935 for the plebiscite in the Saar to decide whether to rejoin Germany, be annexed to France or remain separate. Some 1,500 British troops, including the 12th Royal Lancers and 1st East Lancashire Regiment, were sent as part of the interallied forces to oversee the voting. FPO #10 was established to meet the postal needs of the British forces from December 1934 to February 1935.



BRITISH FORCES
Saar

Field Post Office 10
21 February 1935

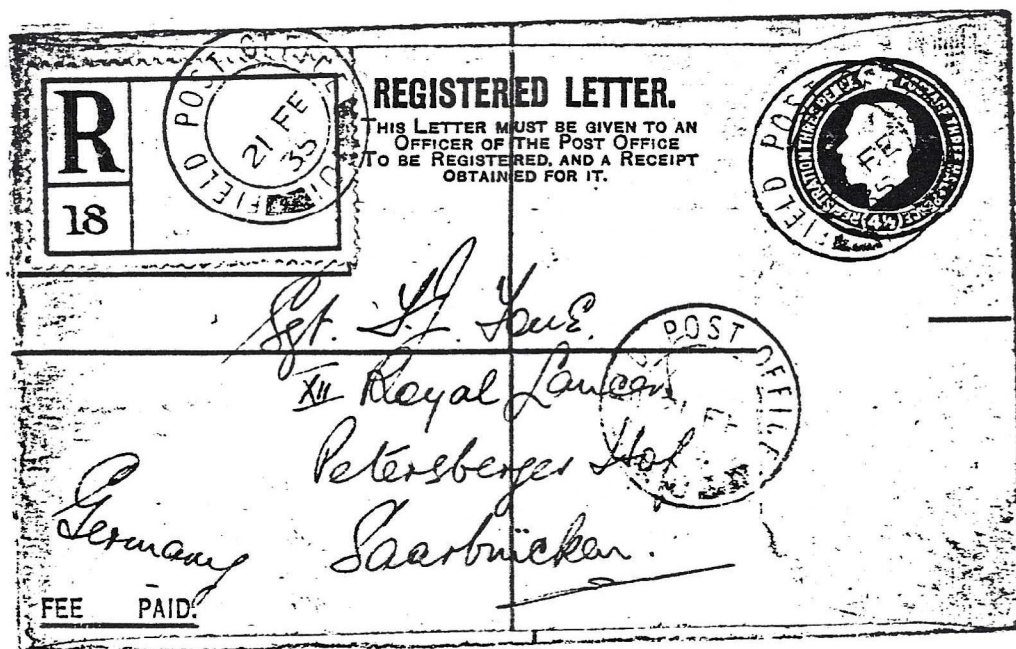
Saarbrücken
17 __ 1935



Unit markings on mail from the British Saar Force are uncommon and sought after by specialists. Above examples are from the Commander of the Royal Lancers and the Headquarters of the British Contingent.

BRITISH FORCES
Saar

Field Post Office 10
23 January 1935
21 February 1935



Registered mail involving the Saar Force is very unusual. Above covers provide examples of both incoming and outgoing correspondence.

SAAR PLEBISCITE
Dutch Contingent

Emmerich-Amsterdam TPO
January 1935

Saarbrücken
January 1935

*Nederlandsch Contingent Saartroepen
Bleichstr. 1. Saarbrücken.*



KORPS MARINIERS



KORPS MARINIERS

Heute
Volksabstimmung
im Saargebiet



B. HERTZBERG,
554 MERRITT AVENUE,
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA.

Holland, along with Britain, Italy and Sweden, was requested by the League of Nations to send troops to supervise the Saar plebiscite. Some 250 Dutch marines made up the contingent. No special FPO was provided, but a few examples of mail are known sent via the civil post office in Saarbrücken or placed in the mails on the Emmerich-Amsterdam railway post office once it entered the Netherlands.

DUTCH FORCES
Saar

Saarbrücken
13 January 1935



Inbound mail to the Dutch forces is extremely elusive. The above cover was sent from Saarbrücken to a Dutch marine in Rotterdam, where it was forwarded to his new posting as a member of the Saar Force himself.

FRENCH FORCES
Saar

Tresor et Postes * *
24 March 1919
9 January 1920



Monsieur L. Guillemin
Chemin du Bidon

Champagne au mont d'or
Rhône



RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE
SERVICE DU CONTRÔLE DES MINES
DU BASSIN DE LA SARRE
à SARREERUCK

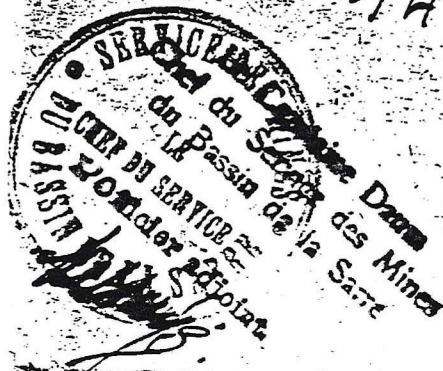
H. 1272



Mme J. Huet

14 Rue Lortaubert

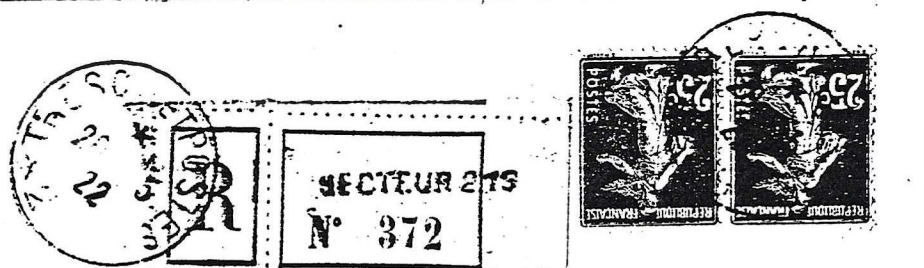
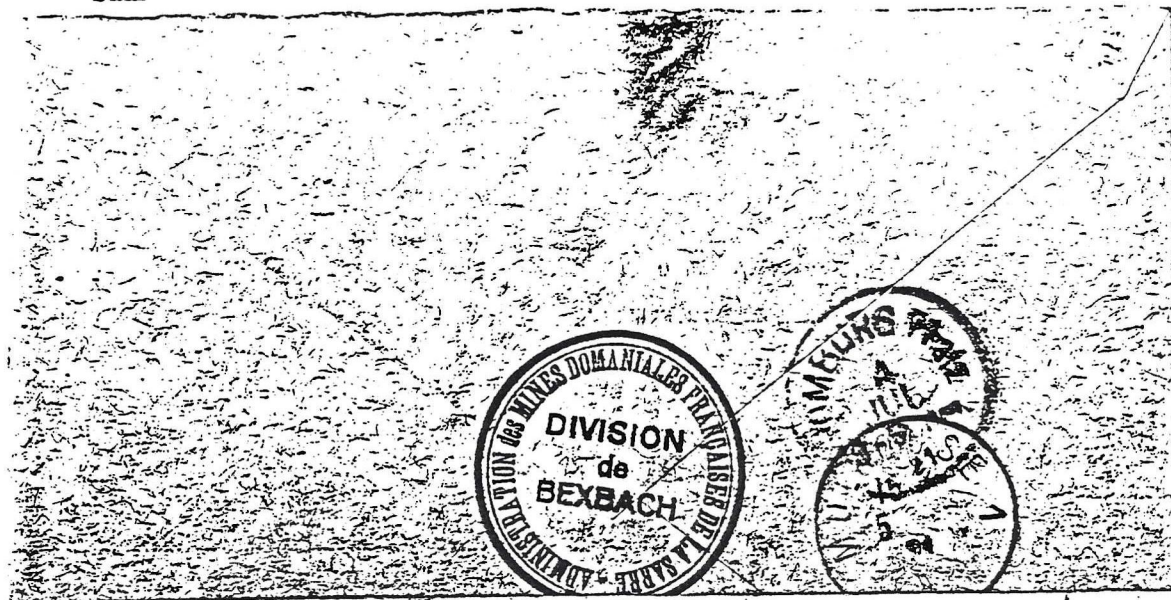
Paris (16)



As part of the occupation of the Rhineland following the armistice, French forces moved into the Saar territory at the end of 1918. The territory was to be administered by France pending the final plebiscite in the aftermath of World War I scheduled to take place in the Saar on 13 January 1935.

Mittelbexbach
4 July 1921

Tresor et Postes 219
20 May 1922
8 August 1923



Monsieur
adjoint

adjoini

1

Le Capitaine DEGACHE
Substitut Fds le Colonel de guerre
des Troupes de la SARRE
Secteur Postal 219

[illegible]

The French were very interested in control of the mines in the Saar; upper cover sent registered by the Administration of the French mines at Bexbach to Alsace with appropriate cachet on reverse. Field post office 219 was assigned to Saarbrücken during the period of the Allied occupation of the Rhineland, which lasted until 30 June 1930. Normal postage for troops was free, but fees were assessed for special services such as registration. The franchise did not apply on mail sent to foreign destinations, i.e. postage due was assessed in Luxembourg.

FRENCH FORCES
Saar

Tresor et Postes 219
29 February 1928
26 March 1928

29/2/28
M. J. J. J.
Paris
Saarbrücken

Mad. Clotilde Lamberot
Présidente de la Section
61 Chemin de Trancherville
Lyon

g. 2132/28.

Recommandé

Monsieur Ch. TOLLU
Notaire
70, rue Saint-Lazare
- PARIS -



R
RECEPTEUR 219
N° 147

(9°)

Examples of military mail sent in the late period of the occupation is uncommon, presumably because most of the troops had been demobilized. Cover is official mail of the Secretary General of the Government Commission for the Saar Territory sent registered to Paris through field post office number 219.

ITALIAN FORCES
Saar

Comando Truppe Italiane nella Saar
21 January 1935

COMANDO DELLE TRUPPE ITALIANE NELLA SAAR
BATTAGLIONE CARABINIERI REALI

*Al Comando della
Legione per Carabinieri Reali
di
Perona*



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
Saar

Comando Truppe Italiane nella Saar
13 January 1935
13 January 1935



Signora
Antonia Oraldonio

Via Lombardo 98
Treviso (Italian)



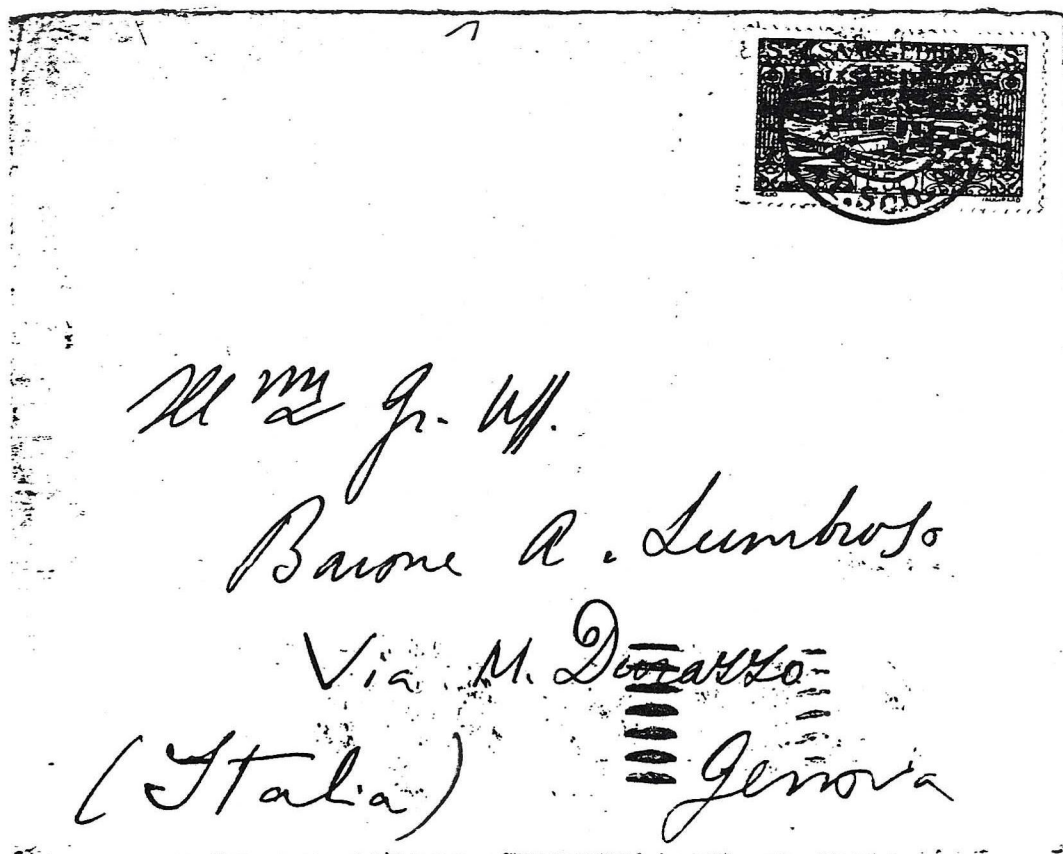
Preg-mo Signor
1° Ten. D'Enrico Cav. Giuseppe
Comando Trupe Italiane dislocate nella Sarre,
2° Batt. Granatieri.
Sarrebruck.
Territorio della sarre.

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
Saar

Saarbrücken
January 1935



M^{re} G. W.
Barone A. Lombroso
Via M. D'Arzo
(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
Saar

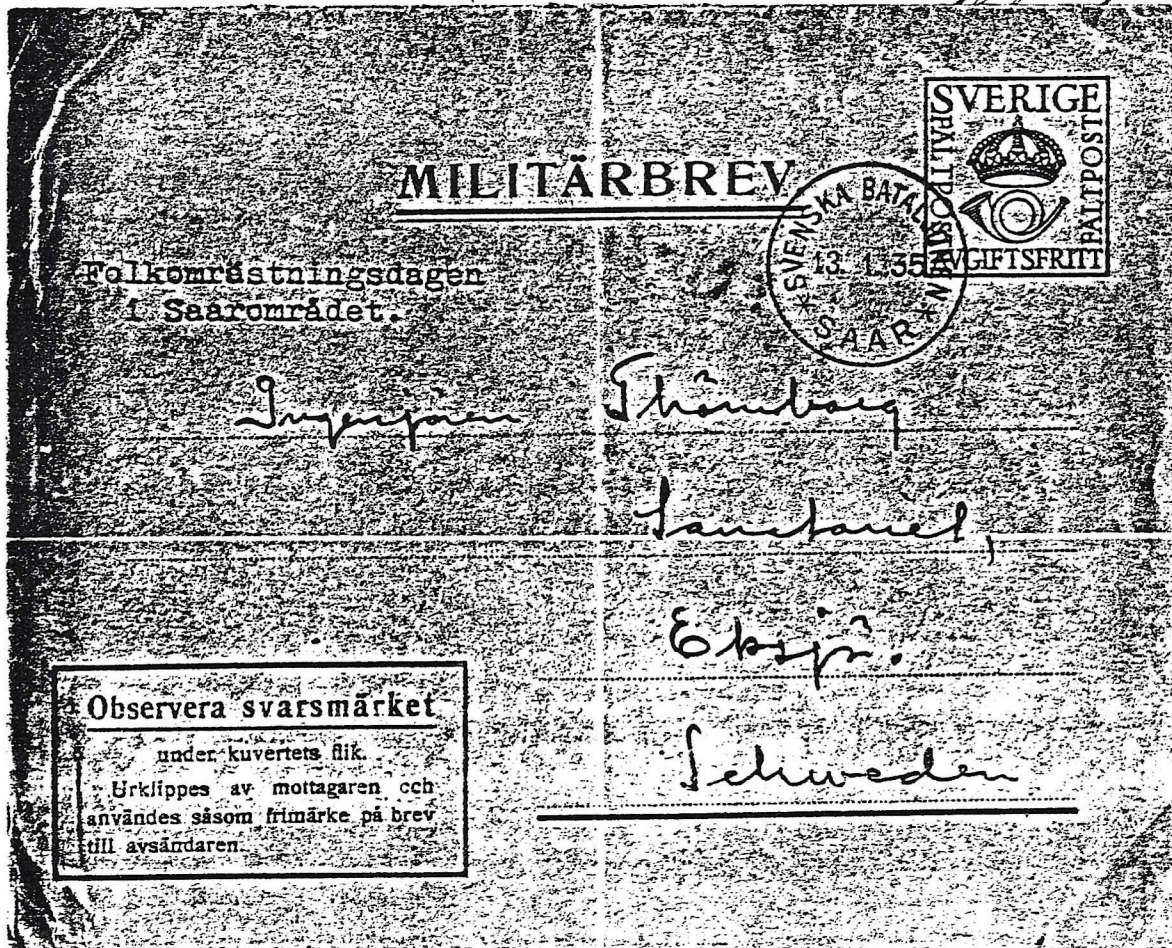
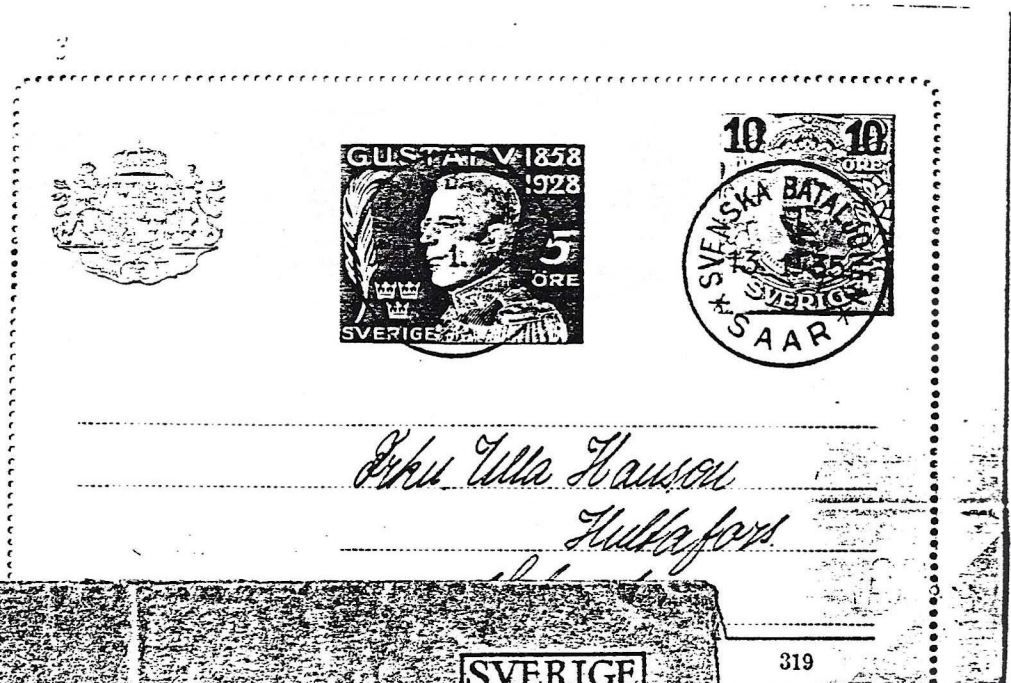
Comando Truppe Italiane nella Saar
5 February 1935



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.

SWEDISH FORCES
Saar

Svenska Bataljonen/Saar
13 January 1935



Sweden, along with Britain, Italy and The Netherlands, sent troops to supervise the Saar plebiscite in what was to become a foretaste of today's multinational peacekeeping by the United Nations. A special FPO serviced the 260 Swedes, and its marking is recorded from 23 December 1934 to 17 February 1935.

SWEDISH FORCES
Saar

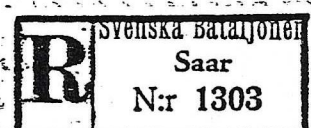
Svenska Bataljonen/Saar
2 February 1935
16 February 1935



Rek.

289

lands hans lister P. E. Gustafsson



Vänersborg.

Rek.

BREVKORT MED BETALT SVAR
CARTE POSTALE AVEC RÉPONSE PAYÉE

4663



Dr. P. O. Lagerstedt
Box 73
Stockholm 1.

Registered mail from the Swedish Battalion is encountered more frequently than for other plebiscite contingents. In fact, a special printed label was provided, which suggests that a large amount of such mail was anticipated.