

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I

Mamuras
20 May 1918

Oroshi in Albanien
27 June 1918

Puka
4 April 1918

A feladó: Dr. Káner
neve: Tel. Ház Vezér
 címe: Magyar Hírnévtár Alkalmazás

K.u.k. Küstenschiff
TÁBORI POSTAI LEVELEZŐLAP.
Administration
Czím: *Dr. T. Kemencsár*
Oroshi
Albania

M. kir. VI/1 Hadtápszótló

TÁBORI POSTAI LEVELEZŐLAP.
Czím: *Redakción a.*
"Országos Hírlap"

M. k. r. államfő nevére

K.u.k. Bezirkskommando in Puka (Albanien.)

Wohlg
20 pr
Gran Hermann Hauptkorn

K.u.k. Feldpost
15
25
5

K.u.k. Etappenpostamt Puka 9

Brassó, Ungarn
Langgasse Nr. 65.

The Mamuras office did not open until March 1918. Its marking is considered quite elusive.

Schkodra
13 March 1917

Scutari (Schkodra)
5 February 1918

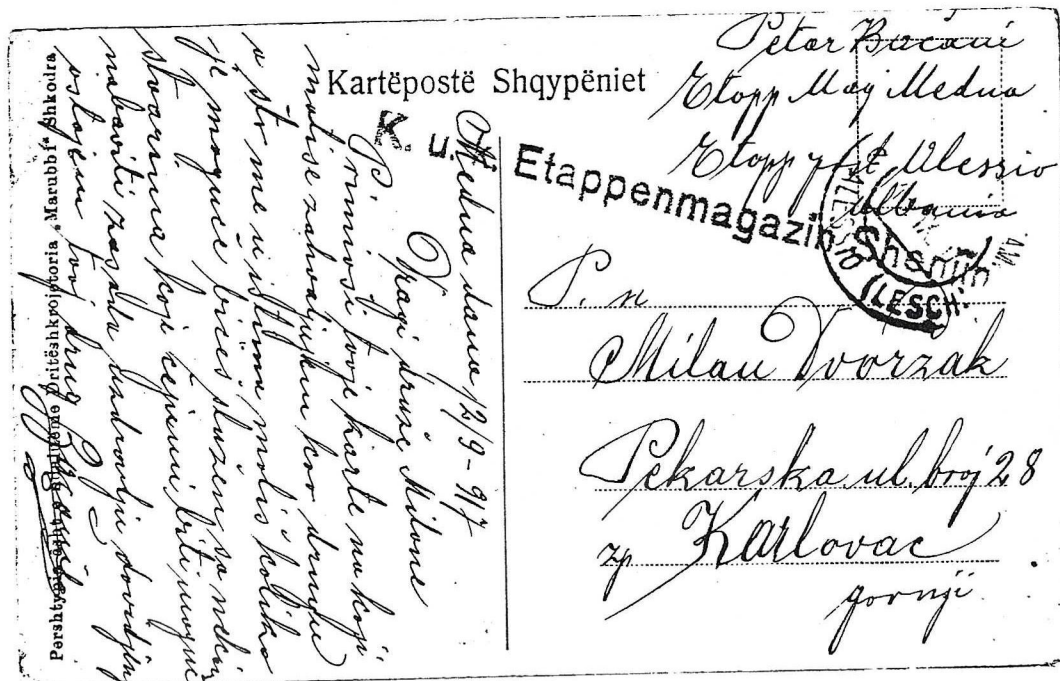


When the post office in Scutari was initially opened in September 1916, the Albanian spelling was used in the cancel. However, Scutari was the name customarily associated with the place, so a new postmark with both names was placed in service in March 1917.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I

Shenjin
12 September 1917

Tirana
24 November 1917



The Austrians did not open an Etappenpostamt at Shengjin (San Giovanni di Medua) but established a military post there. The postcard above is datelined "Medua" and has a unit marking inscribed "Shenjin." The lower example was sent from Tirana to Vienna franked with 35 heller in Feldpost stamps. (Registered postcards from soldiers are not often seen as they could not be sent free of postage.)

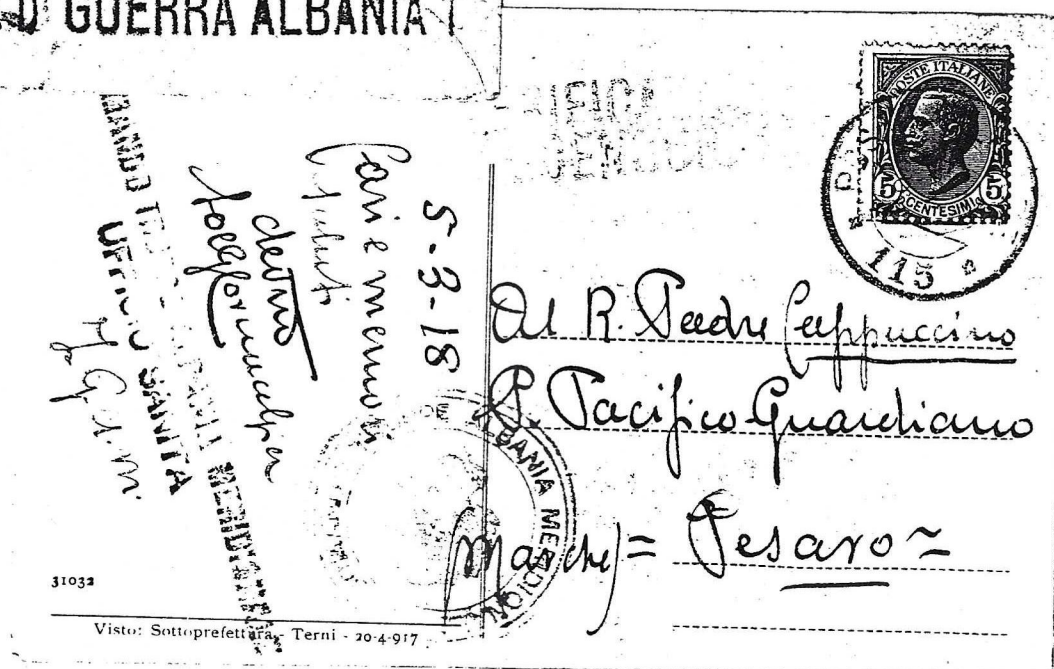
ALLIED OCCUPATION -- WORLD WAR I

With Austria-Hungary and Germany posing a threat to the Balkans, the major Allied Powers (France, Great Britain and Italy) were sufficiently concerned about the independence of Albania that they decided to send troops there. Due to the proximity just across the Adriatic Sea, the Italians were especially concerned about protecting their interests and sent small detachments to Valona and Saseno even before they officially entered the war. With the threatened Austro-Hungarian invasion of Albania, Italian reinforcements were sent in December 1915, followed by British and French contingents. The Allied occupation did not end until 1920.

Italian Forces

Posta Militare Albania N.1
6 April 1916

Posta Militare 115
8 March 1918



Cover is inbound and shows the use of Italian postage dues cancelled with the first provisional FPO marking; the addressee was no longer in the "Albanian war zone" so the letter was forwarded to Verona. Postcard shows the unit cachet of "Headquarters of the Troops in South Albania."

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces

PM Truppe Occupazione 1
16 December 1916

PM Truppe Occupazione 2
28 July 1917

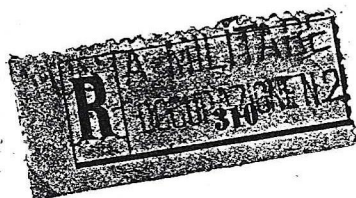


N. 477 P.A.

RACCOMANDATO



*Direzione Generale Province dello Stato
Sezione Commerciale*



Roma

The first standard postmarks for Albania were designated for the occupation troops and numbered from 1 to 6. These were used from 12 January 1916 to 1 August 1917, when cancels with FPO numbers replaced them.

MAISON CARSONARA, EDITORE - VALONA - PROPRIETÀ RISERVATA

PM Truppe Occupazione 6
21 June 1917



Corrispondenza del Censura



Corrispondenza del R. Esercito



Alta Luz, ^{ms} 19, 22
Carolina Gualdriz German
Cous Vittorio Piumbo
Corico

(Prod.)

Indirizzo dell'utente da riprodurre nelle risposte

Coanone

Name _____

Grade _____

Requiments

Arma

Compagnie

Squadron

Battoria

Riparti spe



Cartolina postale Italiana n. 174
Corrispondenza del R. Esercito

Indirizzo del mittente da riprodurre nelle risposte

Codname.

Nome

Girado -

Reggimento

Arma

Compagnia

De la formation

Discont. amount: 1000.00 1000.00

Al *Caro* Signore
Fedele Colombo
Via Marsala 11/2
Palmarate
(Prov. di *Monza*)

(Prov. di ~~Alto~~ Adriatico 7

ARMANI - ROMA

These postmarks come in several varieties (not shown) mainly relating to the placement of the number in the dial.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces

Argirocastro
11 January 1920

Berat
26 July 1919

Delvino
20 March 1918



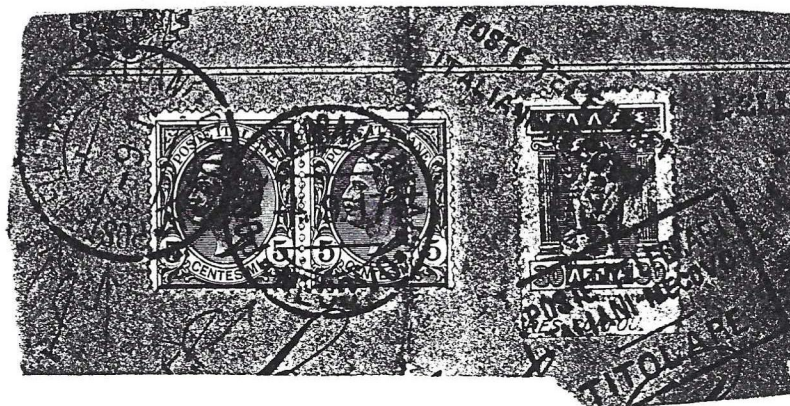
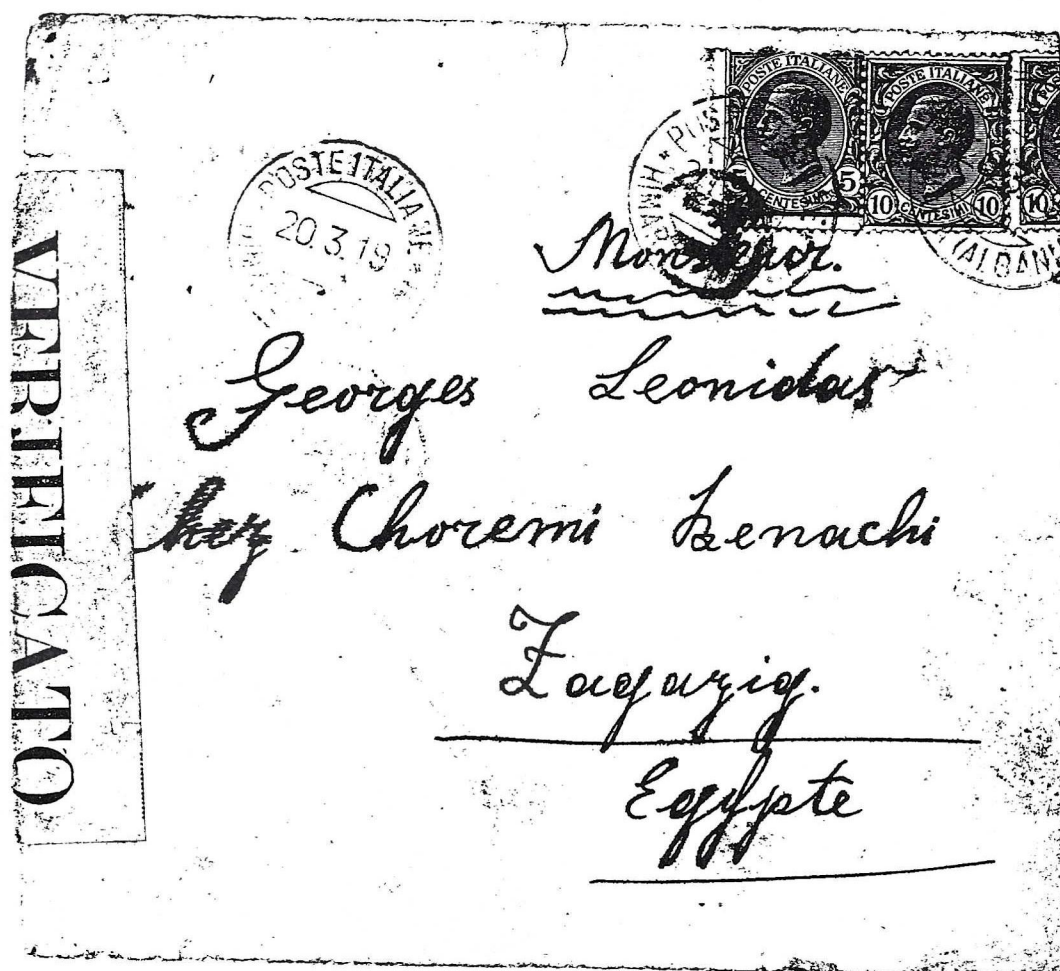
Due to the breakdown of civil services in Albania at the time, the Italians established post offices in 15 towns in the areas it administered. Examples of most of these are quite elusive.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces

Himara
20 March 1919

Kanina (Valona)
28 December 1915

Mecovo
3 September 1917

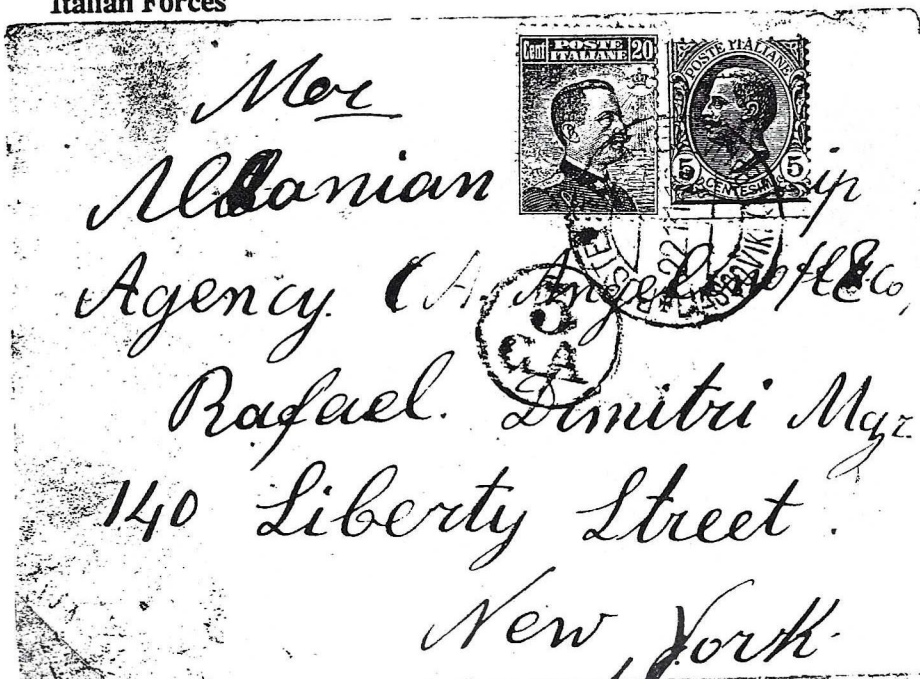


Most of the Italian offices in Albania remained in operation into 1920, when the local postal system was restored from the wartime disruption.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces

Liascoviki
22 November 1918

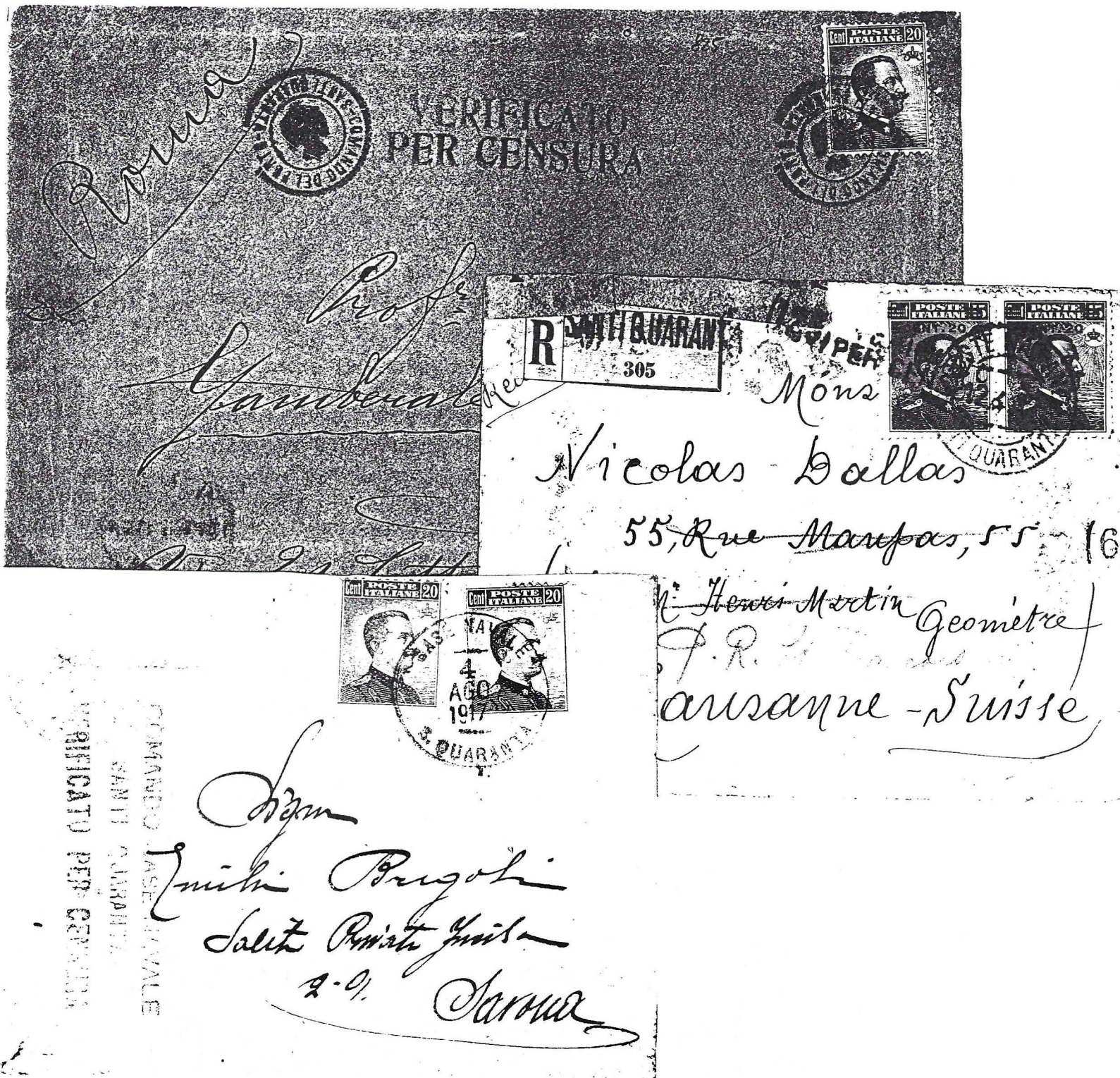
Premeti
16 May 1917



Examples of the postmark of Liascoviki have the highest scarcity rating in the Buzzetti handbook.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces

Santi Quaranta
20 June 1916
12 April 1917
4 August 1917

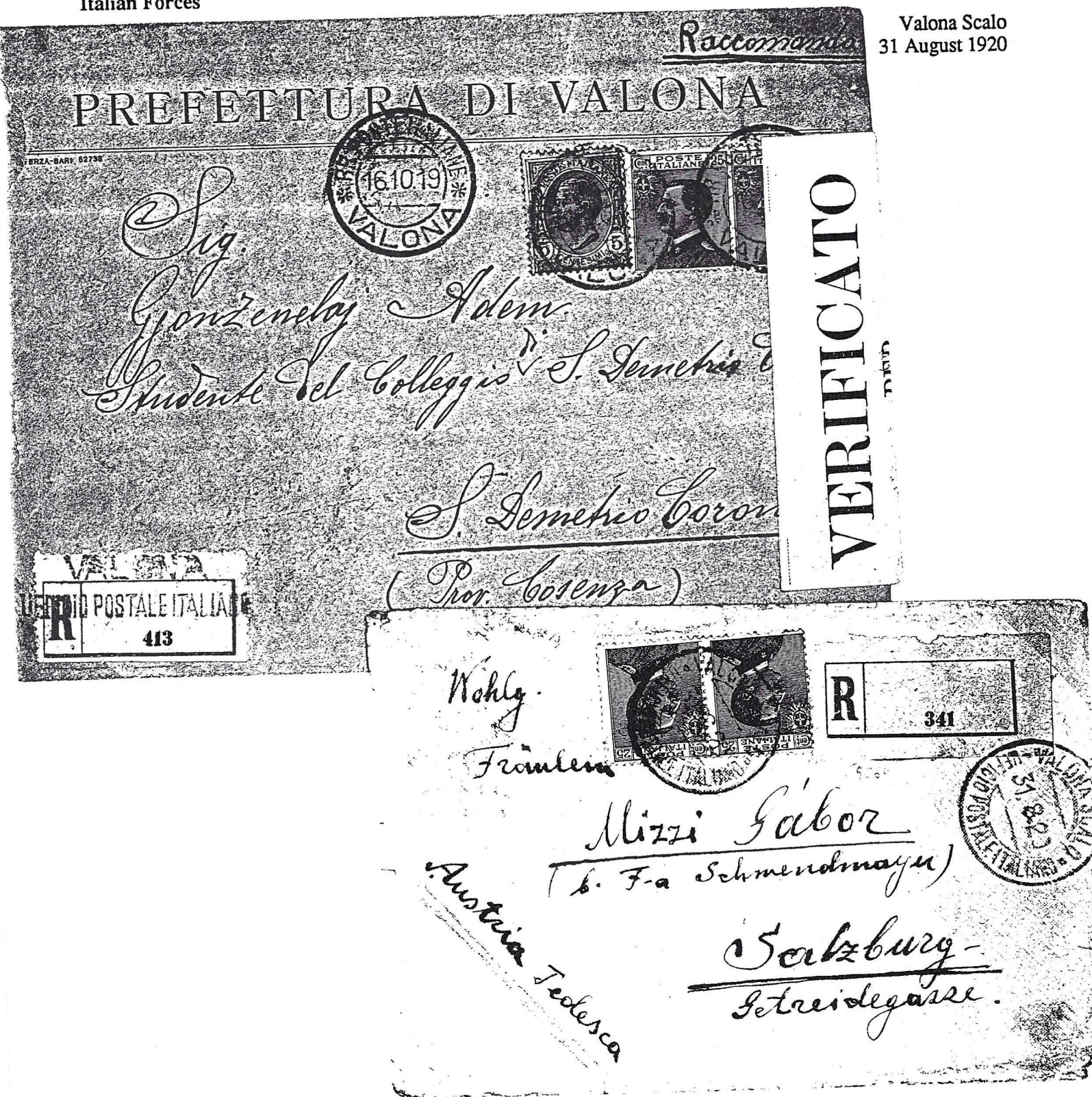


Santi Quaranta was a port in the far south of Albania. It had a civil post office and also served as an Italian naval base with its own distinct markings.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces

Valona
16 October 1919

Valona Scalo
31 August 1920



In addition to the main post office in Valona, a branch was opened in the port area, designated "Valona Scalo." Examples of its postmark are uncommon and registered mail from this location is very scarce.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces on Saseno

Saseno
11 June 1917
17 October 1917

CARTOLINA POSTALE ITALIANA IN FRANCHIGIA
CORRISPONDENZA DELLA R. MARINA

Indirizzo del mittente da riprodurre nelle risposte.

Cognome *Alto capo Cremonesi*
Nome
Grado *Segretario Grifone*
Nave *Saseno offesa*
Silurante
P. Maritt

VERIFICATO PER CENSURA
COMANDO DISTACCAMENTO SASENO

Al sotto capo P.S. *Haric.*
Giuseppe R. Botta P. Botta
La Maddalena
(Prov. di *Napoli G. Lencore*)





VERIFICATO PER CENSURA
COMANDO DISTACCAMENTO SASENO

Giust. me
Sig. me Ida Aprea
Via Guarnelli De Deo, 33
Napoli

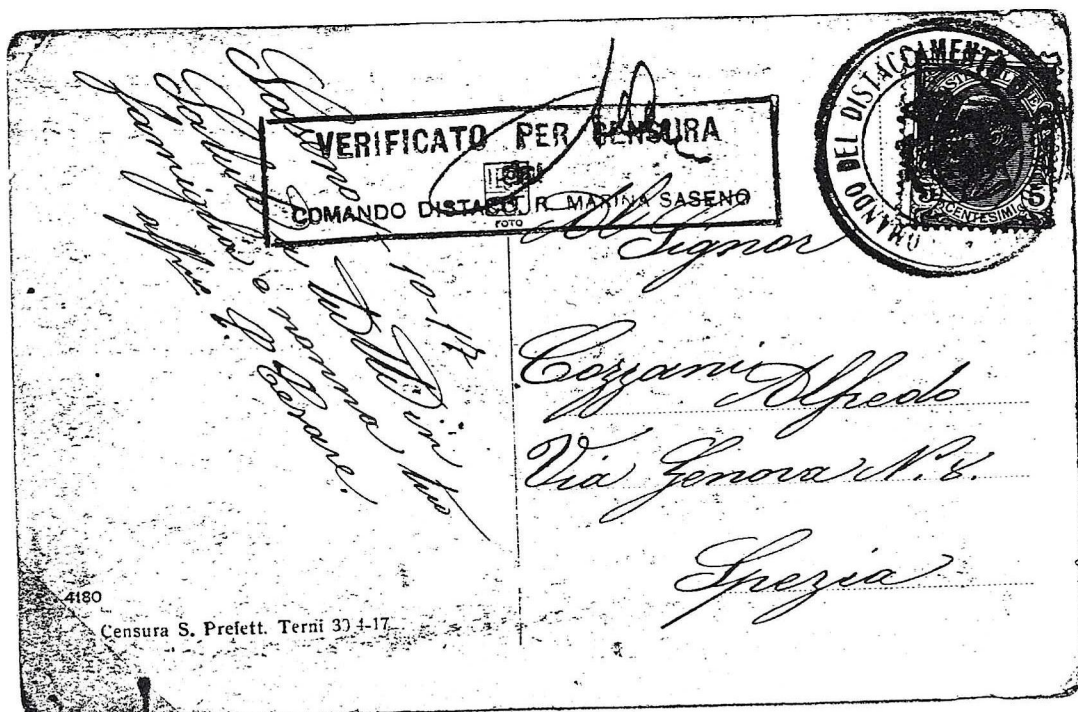


Saseno was a small island offshore from Valona. Occupied by the Italians in late 1914, it was the only part of Albania not handed back when civil government was restored after the war, remaining in Italian hands until 1943.

Initially, the garrison did not have a postmark, so mail was cancelled with a unit cachet reading "Headquarters Royal Naval Detachment Saseno." Two different sizes and lettering are noted.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces on Saseno

Saseno
1 October 1917
17 August 1918



CARTOLINA POSTALE ITALIANA IN FRANCHICIA
CORRISPONDENZA DELLA R. MARINA

VERIFICATO PER CENSURA
COMANDO ISOLA SASENO

17 AGO

Indirizzo del mittente da riprodurre nelle risposte.

Cognome	Amici
Nome	Luigi Vase.
Grado	1 ^o M. 1 ^a A. 6
Nave	
Silurante	
P. Maritt.	

Al Felice Amici
Via Balbo 43
Roma

(Prov di)

Mail from Saseno with cachets and censor markings that differ in wording, style and/or size from those shown on the prior page.

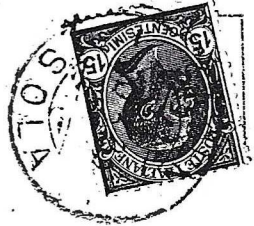
ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Forces on Saseno

Saseno
 6 January 1922
 25 January 1923



After the end of the war, Saseno was given a distinct postmark as a substation of Valona. In this case, the wording read "Royal Naval Detachment/Saseno (Valona)" as shown above on a piece of a registered letter and on a cover with Esperanto propaganda.

Saseno/Isola
20 March 1923
30 March 1923



 Karlopostë Shqypënië

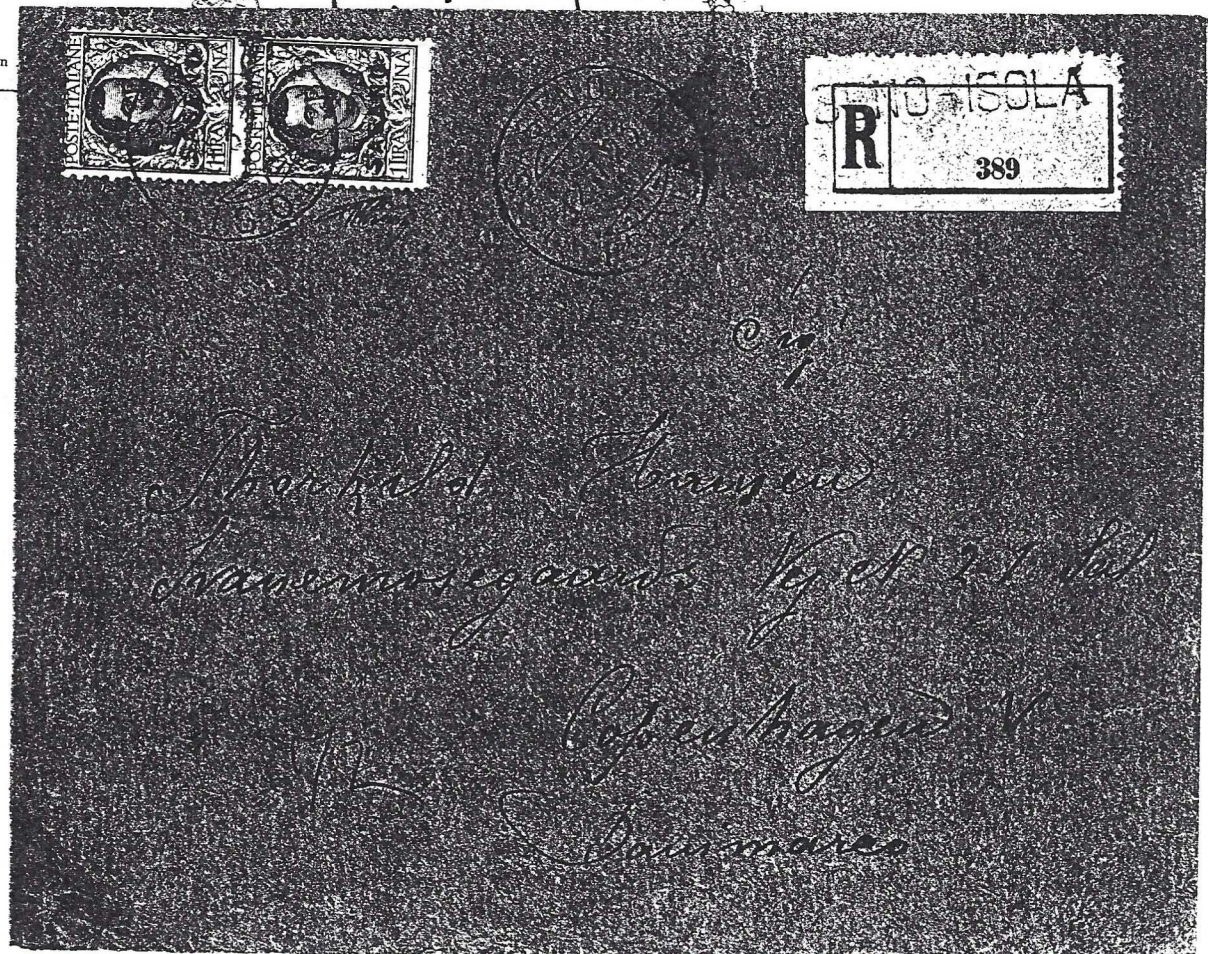
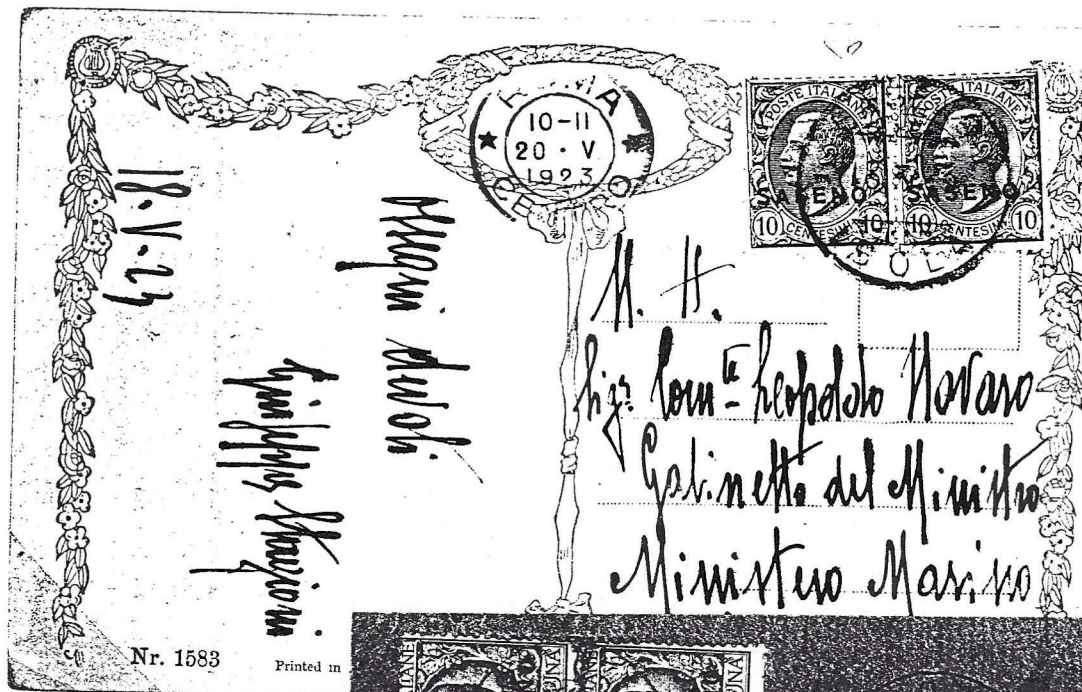
Zëll gërmues dhe shok
 komunist i rinisë
 e juaj përshëndet me nder
 dhe shpresë të
 mirë për të ardhurën
 tuaj.

Shkruar nga
 Komiteti i Rinisë
 të Shkupit

When the decision was made to retain Saseno, it was then treated as an Italian territory, and beginning in 1923 Italian stamps were used there. A new postmark inscribed "Island of Saseno" was introduced, as shown in the above examples on registration receipt and picture postcard.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Annexation of Saseno

Saseno/Isola
18 May 1923
12 July 1923



In April 1923, a set of 8 stamps overprinted "Saseno" was placed on sale for a very limited period. In fact, covers franked with these overprinted stamps are among the most elusive items of Italian postal history of the 20th Century, with only four examples being recorded.