

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Albanian Volunteers

Poste Militare 115
3 January 1919
15 February 1919



To help keep order in the occupied territory, the Italian authorities actively recruited ethnic Albanians to serve in militia units with Italian officers. Mail from these units can be identified by unit cachets as above "Headquarters Albanian Militia/1st Cohort" and "Headquarters Albanian Irregular Company." Such examples are very elusive.

**ALLIED OCCUPATION
WORLD WAR I
American Red Cross
in Albania**

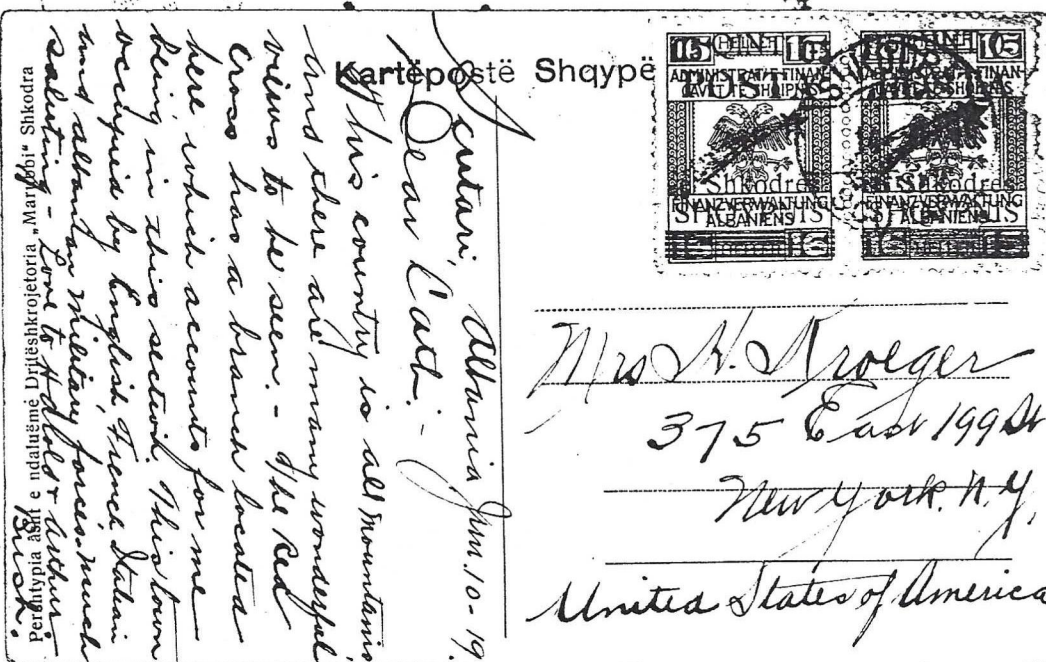
The United States did not send troops to Albania in the aftermath of the war. However, Red Cross personnel were sent and provided humanitarian aid to the Albanian people. Only a few examples of mail from the Red Cross workers there survived.

Shkodre
14 June 1919

Tirana
26 February 1920

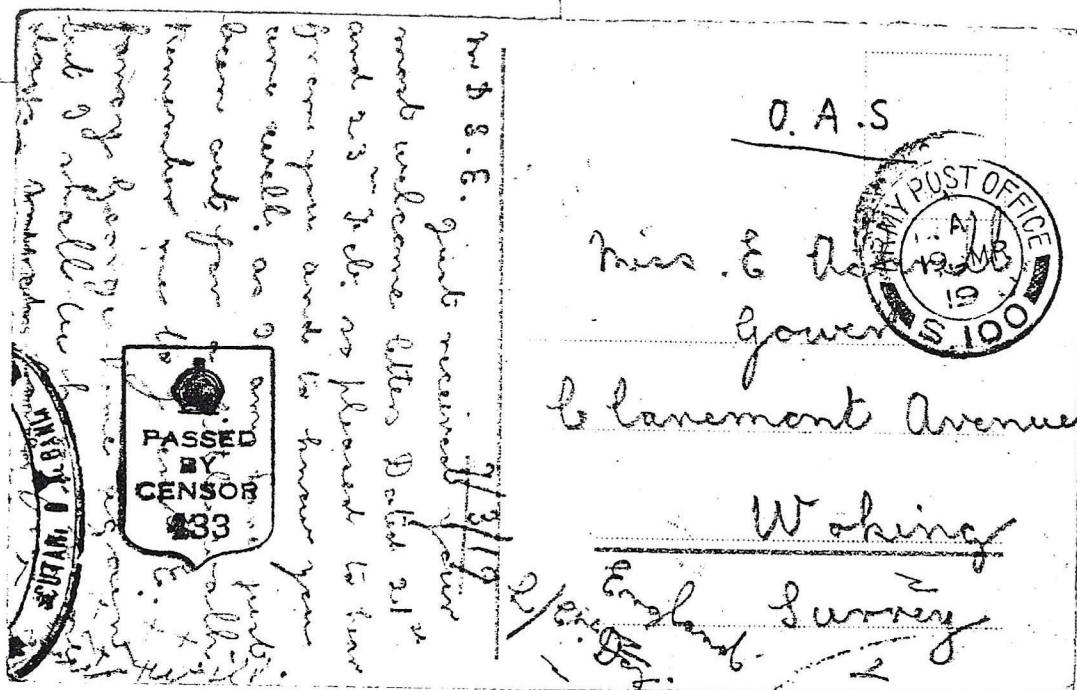


1870 Beacon St
Brookline
Mass

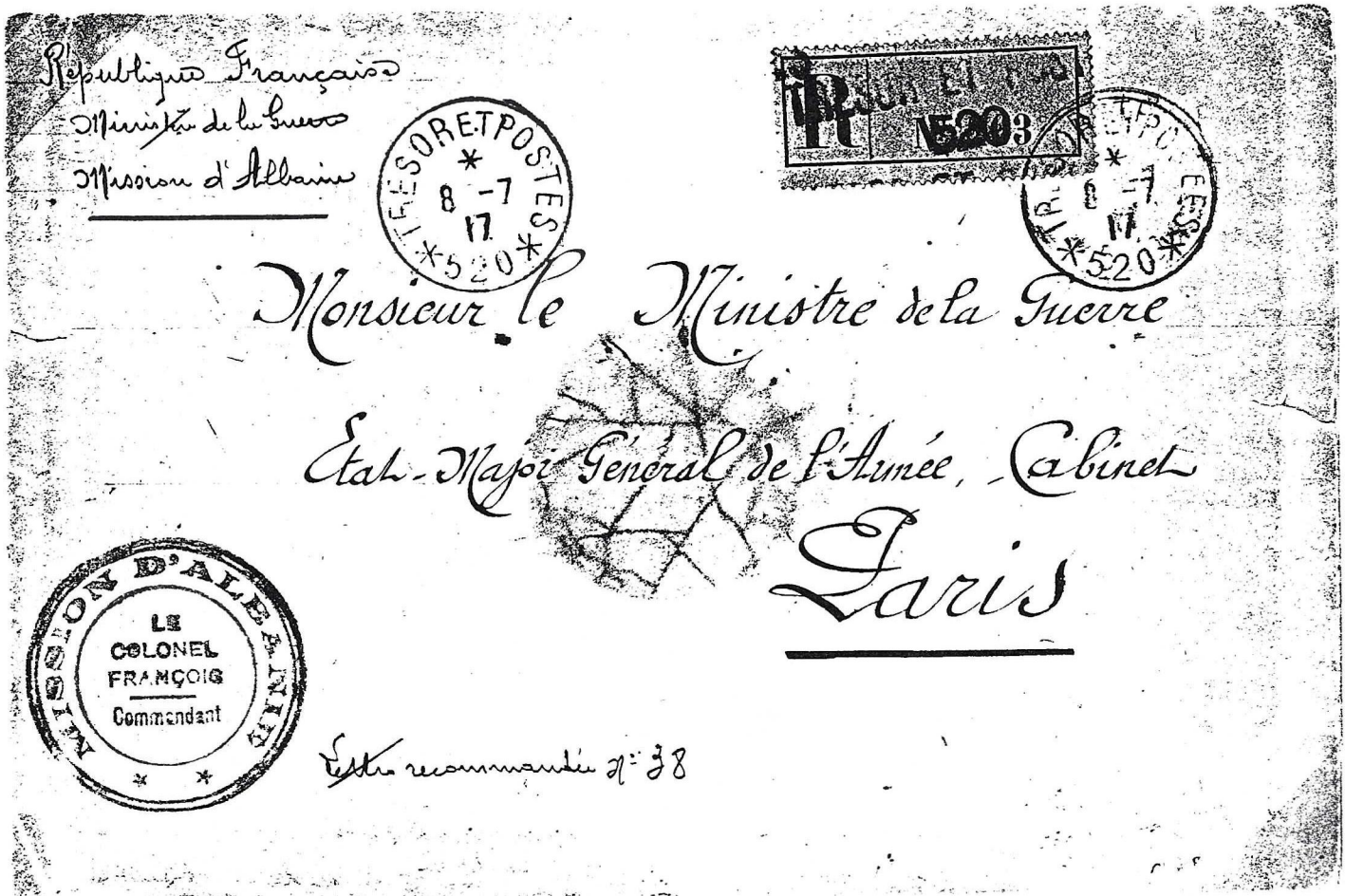


Picture postcard of Scutari sent by a Red Cross worker to New York. The large cover was sent by pouch to Paris, where the letter was turned over to the postal service with a 25 centimes French stamp affixed.

Army Post Office S.100
19 March 1919



Following the armistice, other troops were on hand for a few months. The lower card was written by a soldier at Scutari on 7 March 1919 and then carried by military pouch to the nearest APO in Taranto, Italy where it was placed in the mail stream 12 days later.



A French Mission from the Army of the Orient based at Salonica advanced into southeast Albania in February 1917, and it occupied a small corner of the country for the balance of the war and into the postwar period. T&P 520 is listed as located in Macedonia, but served the forces in Albania, probably at their headquarters in Korytsa.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
French Forces

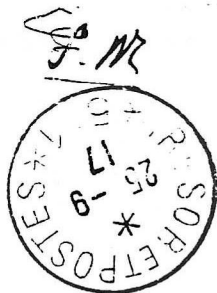
Tresor et Postes 511
25 September 1917

Tresor et Postes 512
31 March 1918

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTÈRE DE LA GUERRE

MISSION D'ALBANIE



Monsieur le Capitaine Robert
Commandant la Base Française.

Santi-Quaranta

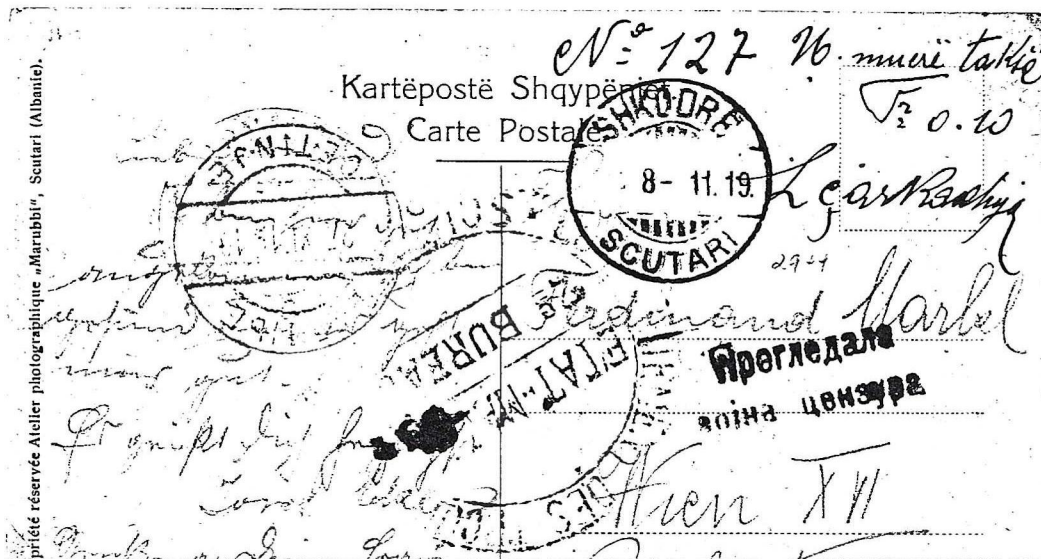
par l.-D. 525



Official cover from the French Mission sent through T&P 511 at Itea to Santi Quaranta. The postal card was sent by a member of a French aviation unit serving with the Serbian army that had been renamed the "Escadrille d'Albanie" as indicated in its unit cachet. A very elusive usage.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I French Forces

Following the Armistice, Allied troops expanded their positions throughout Albania as the Austro-Hungarian forces retreated. The French assumed responsibility for the area around Scutari.



Shkodre
8 November 1919

Shkoder
6 March 1920

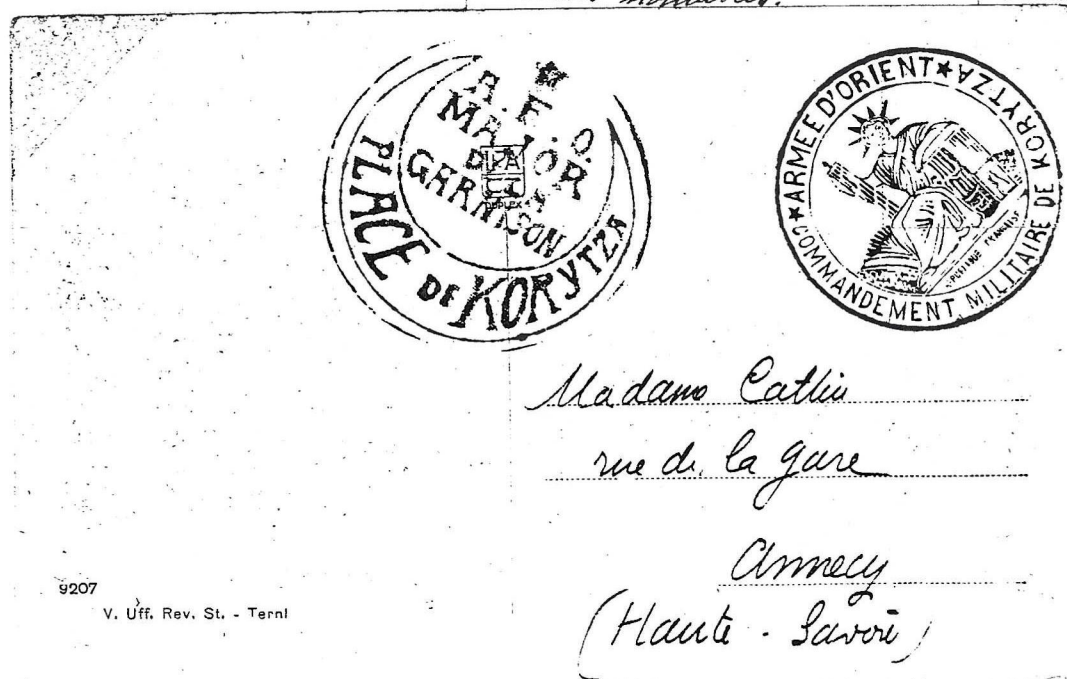
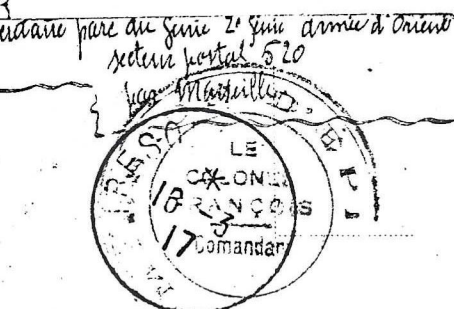
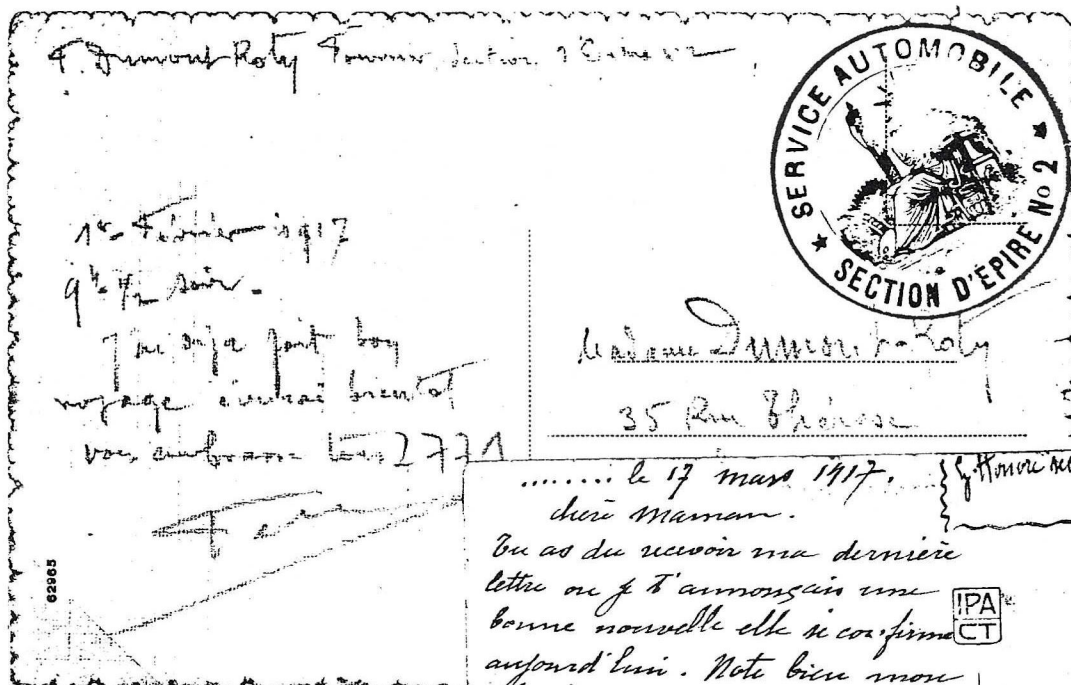


Above examples show two different types of unit markings which read "Command of the Allied Troops/Scutari/Headquarters of Intelligence."

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
French Forces

Epirus
1 February 1917
16 March 1917

Korytza



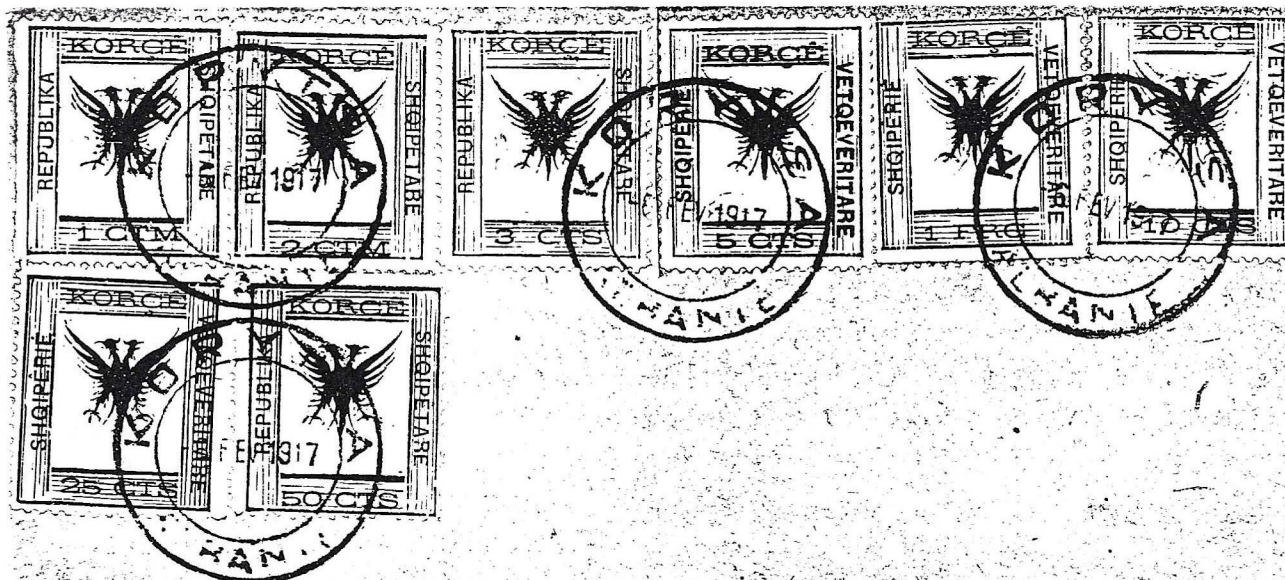
Madame Sapet
26 Cours Lafayette
FRANCE

Southern Albania was also referred to northern Epirus (as opposed to southern Epirus which was a part of Greece). As a result, French unit cachets for this area sometimes used that nomenclature. Lower card has cachets indicating origin at Korytza; it is undated but probably used in 1917.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
French Administration of Korytsa

Korytsa
6 February 1917

Mpilsta
17 January 1917

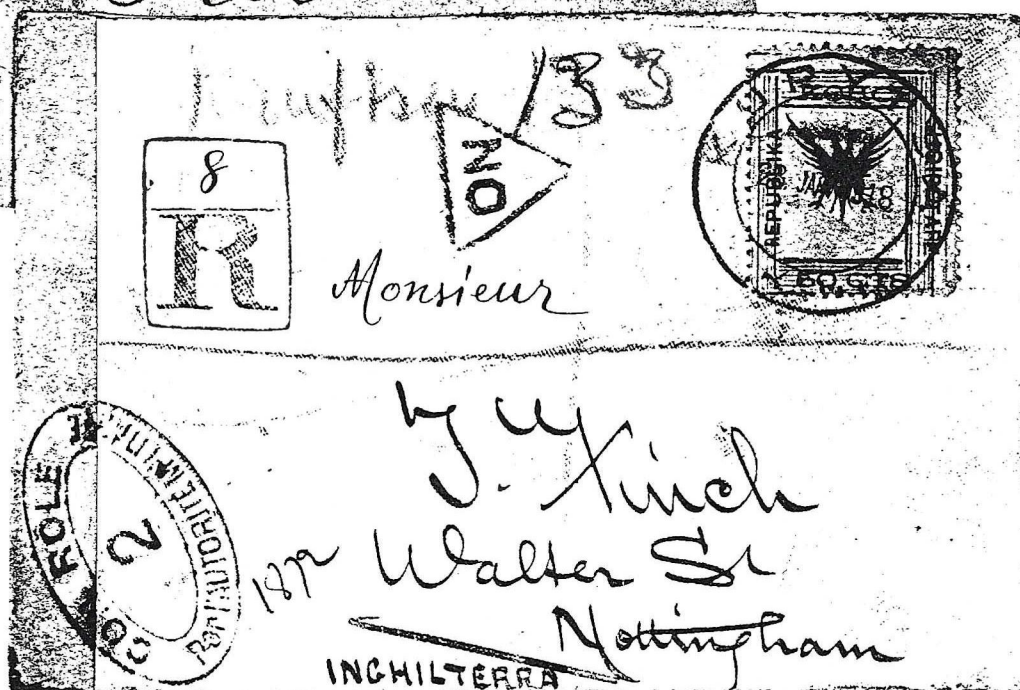


*Yona Trummer
Impiegato al Consolato Russo
Korytsa*

The French were anxious to restore postal service in the area which they occupied around Korytsa. To this end, 4,440 sets of stamps inscribed "Autonomous Albania/Korce" were issued in January 1917. However, it was soon decided that the country wasn't autonomous but independent, so 7,150 sets of stamps with a similar design but inscribed "Albanian Republic/Korce" were issued in May 1917.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
French Administration of Korytsa

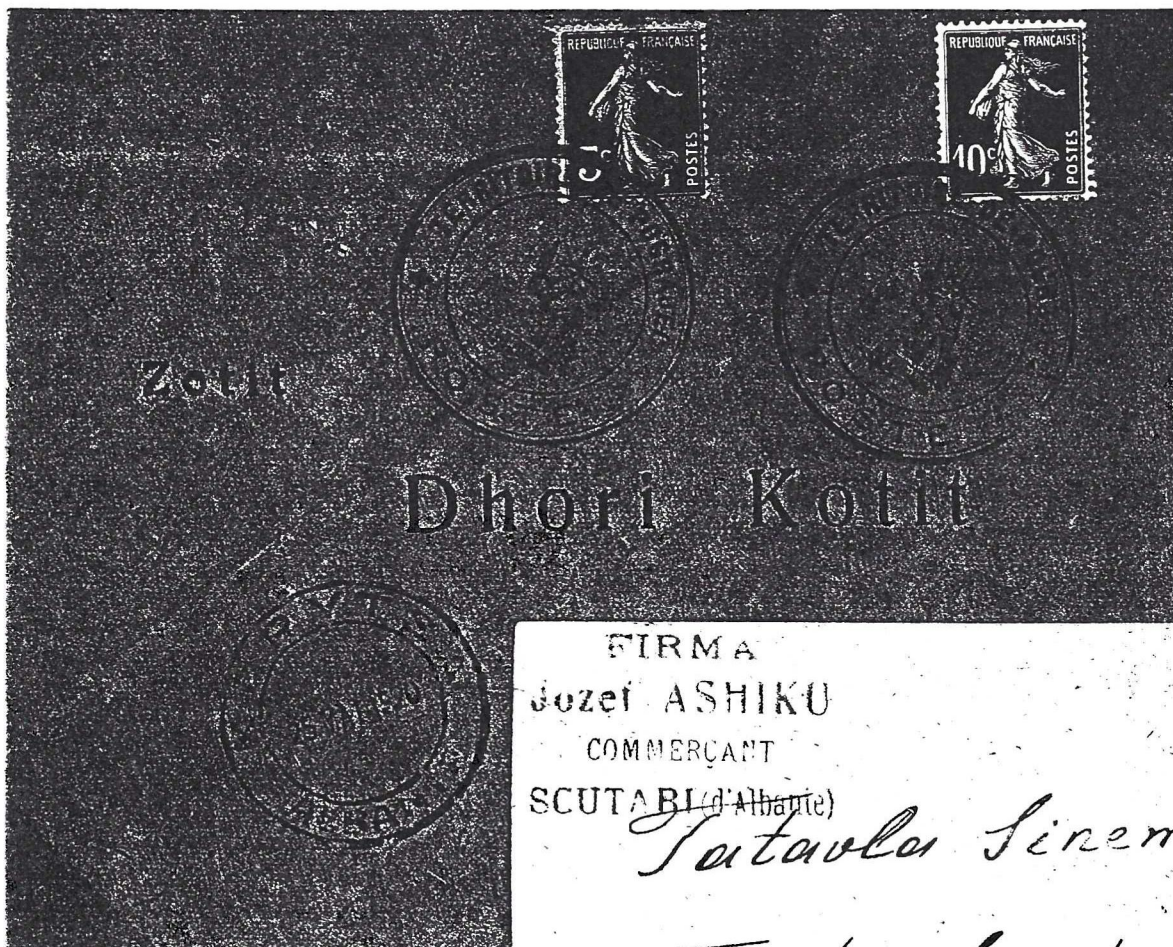
Korytsa
6 February 1918
28 January 1918



The autonomous district of Korytsa was abolished in February 1918, although the local stamps are known to have been used for some while beyond that period, pending the arrival of supplies of French postage.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
French Administration of Pogradec

Pogradec
May 1920
July 1920



FIRMA
Jozef ASHIKU
COMMERÇANT
SCUTAB (d'Albanie)

Tatavla Sinem & Co

Toutzi Locade N° 35

Madame Melicia



A. Constantinople

The French occupied Pogradec in October 1917, but no attempt was made to establish postal service until mid-1918. The only recorded official marking is an undated cachet inscribed "Territory of Pogradec/Posts" with emblematic "France" in the center. Upper example franked with French adhesives has a receiving mark of Korytsa of 25 May 1920. Lower example is franked with a revenue stamp issued for Pogradec and cancelled with the same cachet. It has a transit marking of Korytsa of 14 July 1920, at the end of the French occupation period.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
French Commissioner to International Boundary Commission

An international commission was established in 1923 to deal with the dispute over the boundary between Albania and Greece. There was a French delegation appointed to participate in this effort, which essentially confirmed the previous frontiers (as drawn up by the European Powers in 1913).

Shkoder
15 July 1923

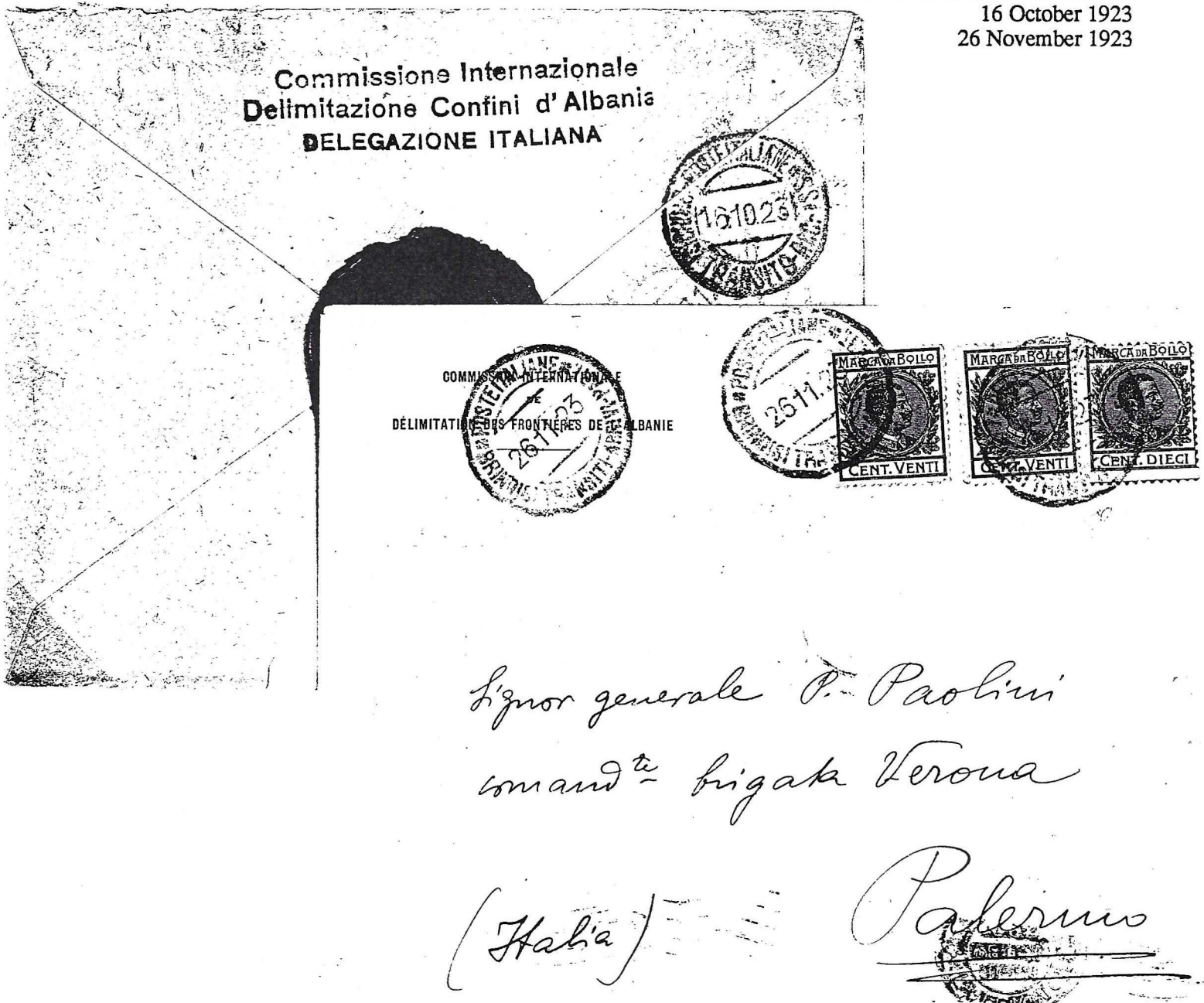


Cover franked with a current Albanian adhesive and sent to the Army Geographic Service in Paris. Mail from the Boundary Commission is very scarce.

ALLIED OCCUPATION - WORLD WAR I
Italian Delegation to International Boundary Commission

A dispute over the boundary between Albania and Greece resulted in the formation of another international commission in 1923. The Italians provided a delegation to the commission, but unfortunately in August 1923 the group was ambushed by terrorists, with its leader and two aides being killed. This event provided the basis for a temporary punitive Italian occupation of the Greek island of Corfu.

Poste Italiane/Brindisi Transiti
 16 October 1923
 26 November 1923



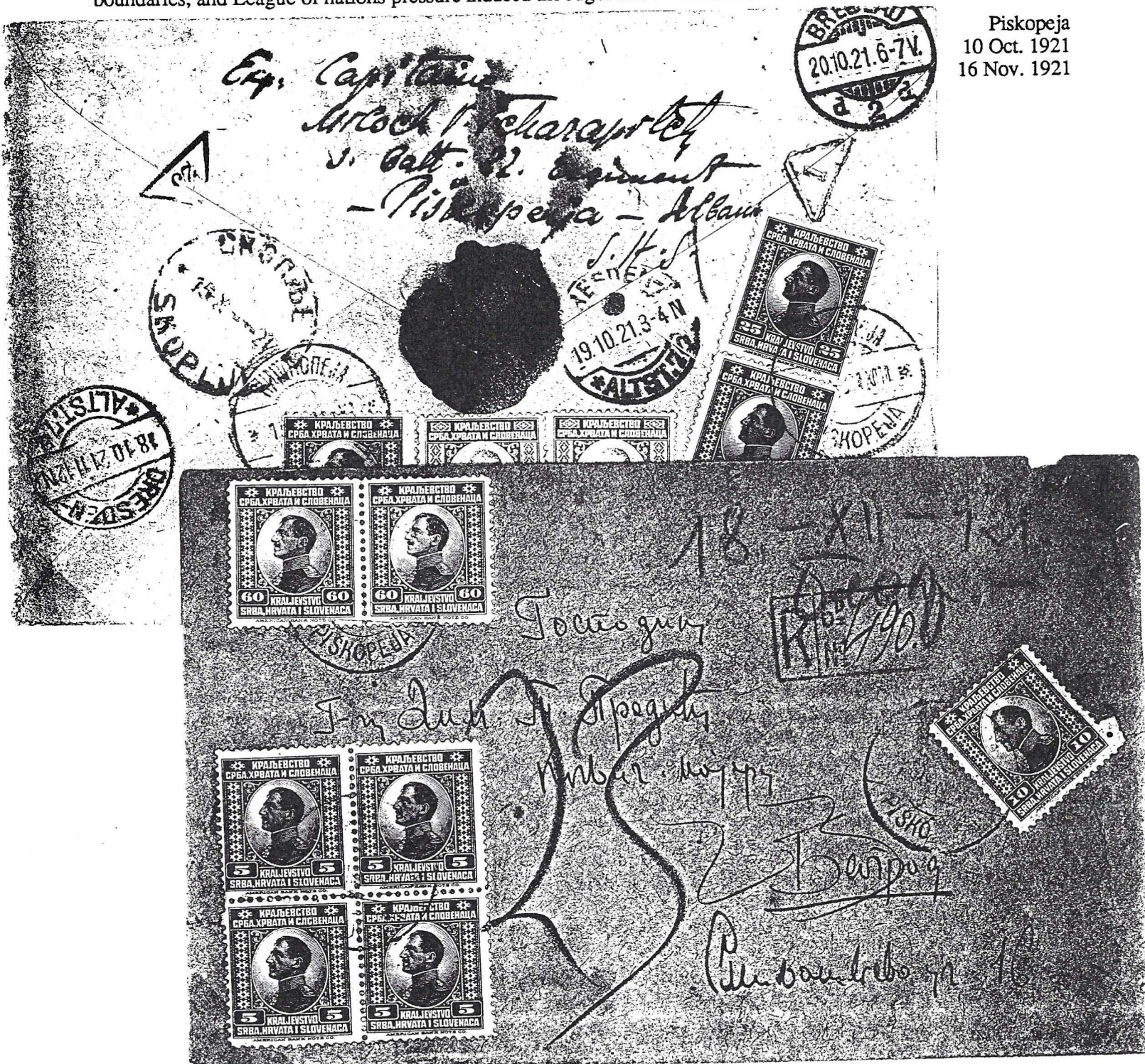
LATERZA-BARI 80927

Upper cover is an unfranked official registered letter to Bologna. Lower cover is franked with 50 centesimi in revenues in lieu of postage stamps and was sent to the general commanding the Verona Brigade in Palermo. Mail from the Boundary Commission is very scarce.

JUGOSLAVIAN OCCUPATION -- POST-WORLD WAR I

Following World War I, Yugoslav forces occupied a disputed border area around Peshkopi, Albania from September to December 1921. However, in November the Conference of Ministers reaffirmed Albania's 1913 boundaries, and League of nations pressure induced the Yugoslavs to withdraw.

Piskopeja
10 Oct. 1921
16 Nov. 1921



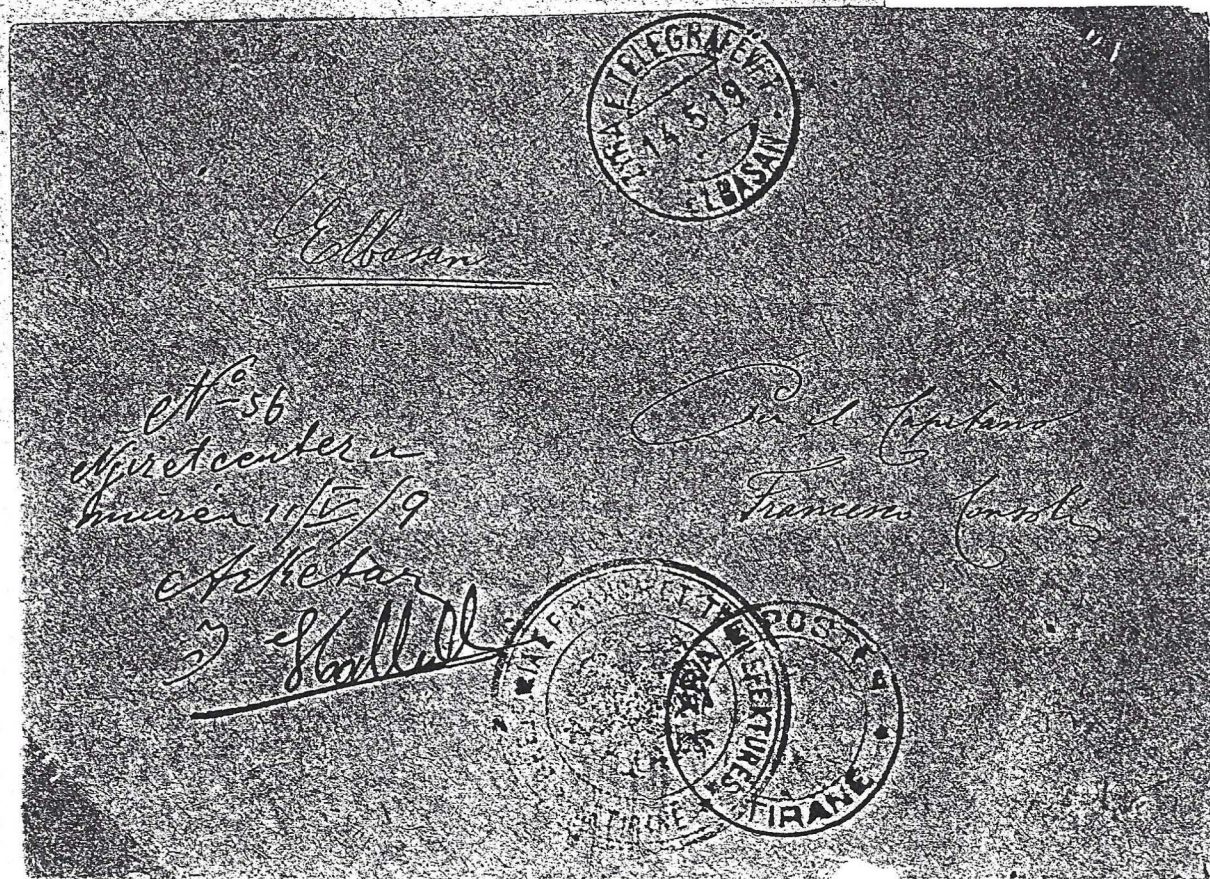
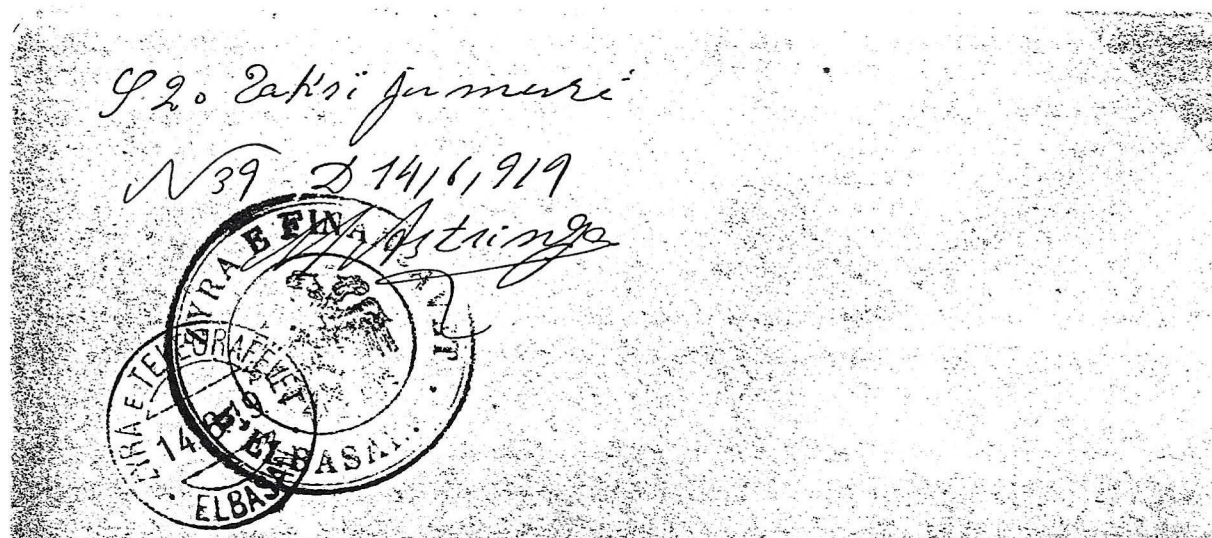
Covers from this period are extremely elusive, especially registered mail as shown above. Upper cover from a captain in the 3rd Battalion, 22nd Regiment sent to Breslau, Germany. Sender was uncertain about the return address, so used both "Albania" and "S.H.S. (initials that stood for the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes).

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

In the confusion of the immediate postwar period, various local authorities without a supply of postage stamps marked the mail with the cachet of their postal (or PTT) office and a manuscript endorsement that postage had been properly paid.

Tirana
11 May 1919

Elbasan
14 June 1919

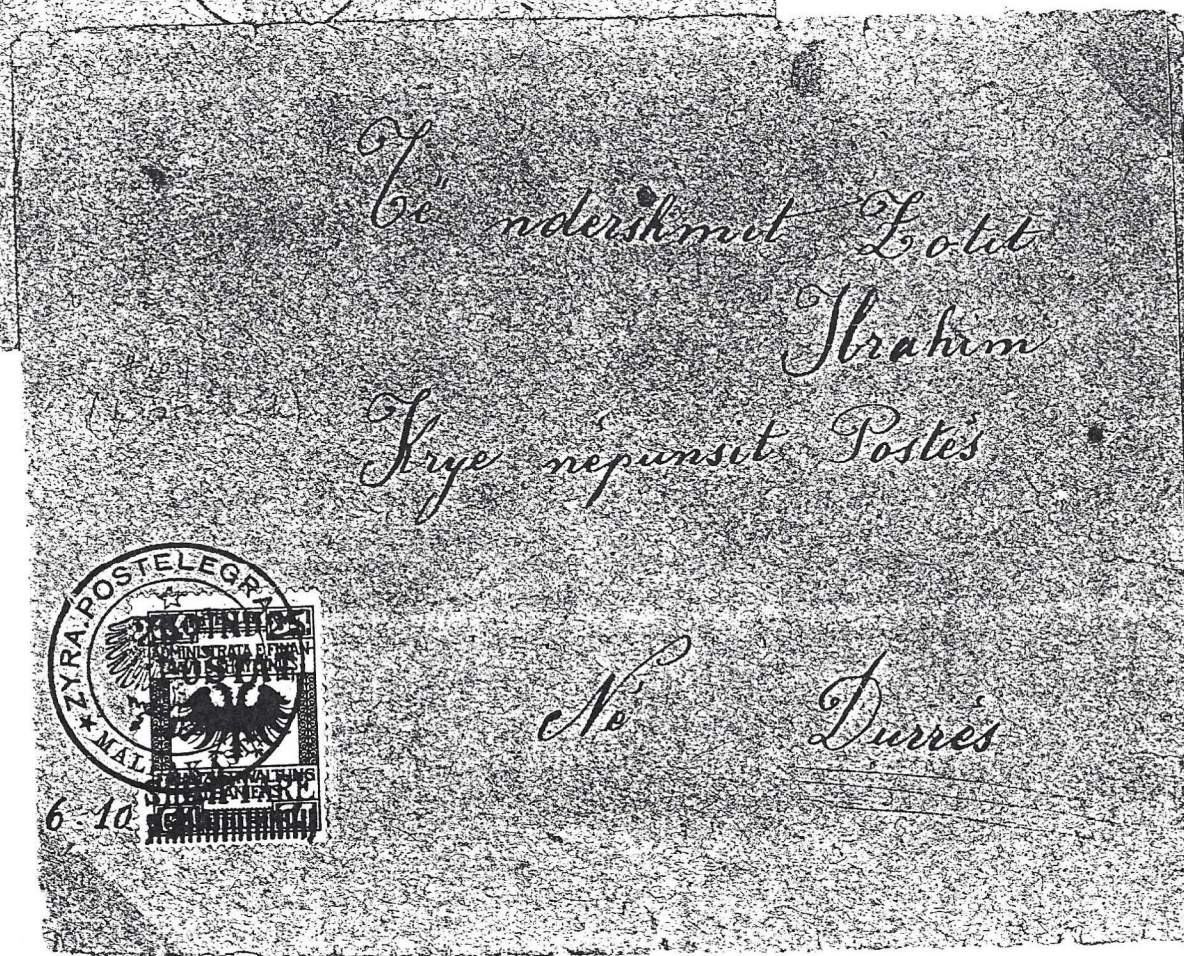
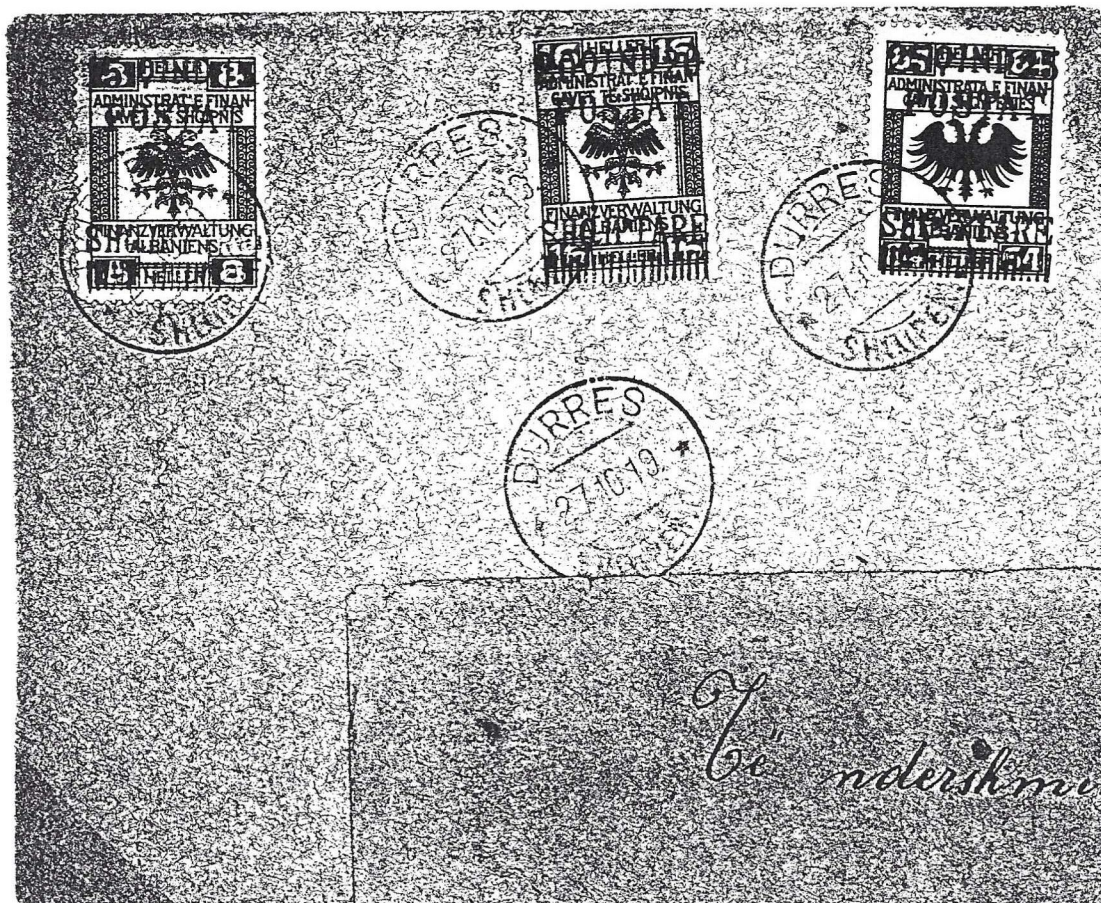


Covers above from Tirana to Elbasan and from Elbasan to Pequin are typical usages of these provisional markings. The one for Elbasan has been recognized in the Michel catalogue as a legitimate but rare local issue.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

Durres
27 October 1919

Mallakaster
October 1919

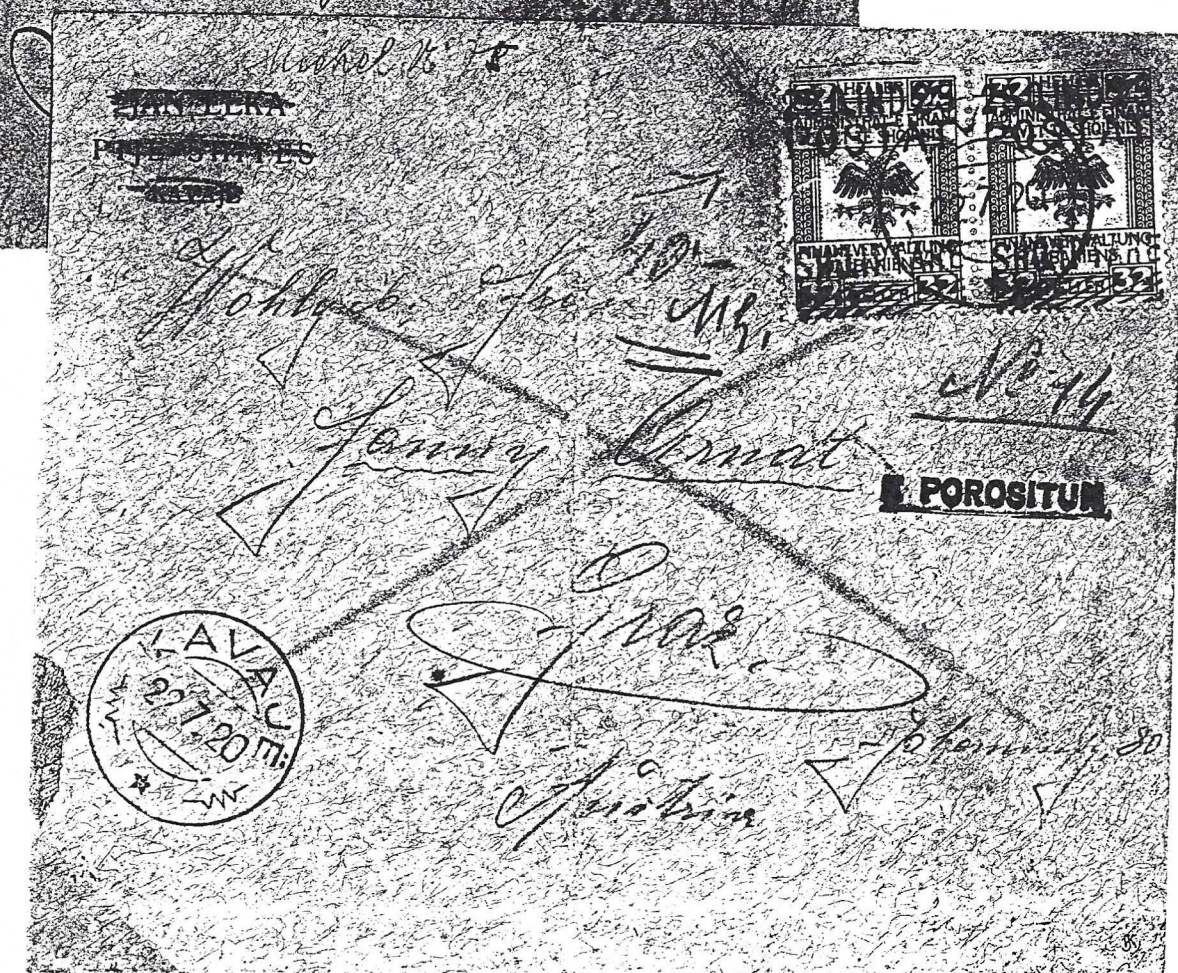
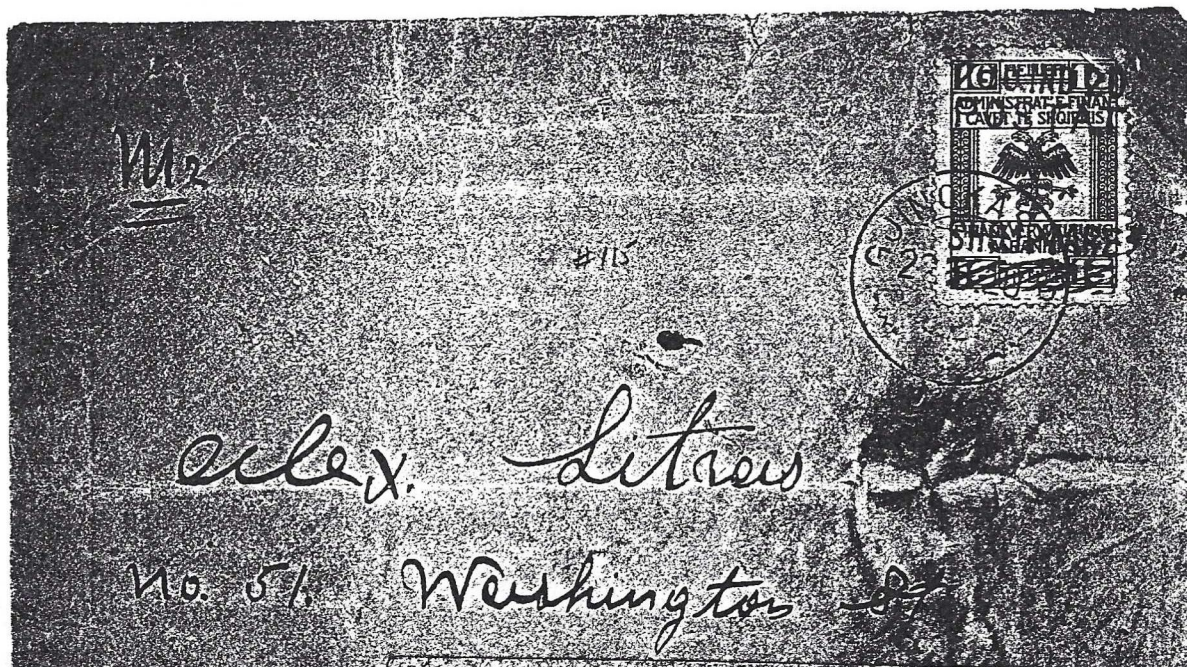


The first postwar stamps used in all of Albania were new overprints on the Austrian occupation fiscal stamps produced in Durazzo. These overprints were inscribed "Albanian Posts" and were surcharged with new values in qindar and frank. Note cover from Mallakaster with undated cachet of the PTT. It was backstamped for receipt in Durres on 14 October 1919.

PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT II

Gjinokaster
22 May 1920

Kavaje
22 July 1920



The second set of provisionals received an overprint very similar to the first, but the lines at the bottom blocking out the Austrian denominations are diagonal instead of vertical.