

SOUTH RUSSIA

AMERICAN INTERVENTION

Postal Express Service No. 975
15 July 1919

In the southern part of the Russian Empire, a particularly vicious civil war between the Bolsheviks and their opponents raged for nearly three years, with significant British and French military involvement in support of the White forces. However, the U.S. small force was committed not to become involved in the civil war.

AMERICAN RELIEF ADMINISTRATION

W. S. Mitchell
Colonel, Inf
Piflix, Caucasus

W. S. Mitchell

W. S. Mitchell
213 East Church St.

Carbondale Ohio

W. S. Mitchell
Col. Inf



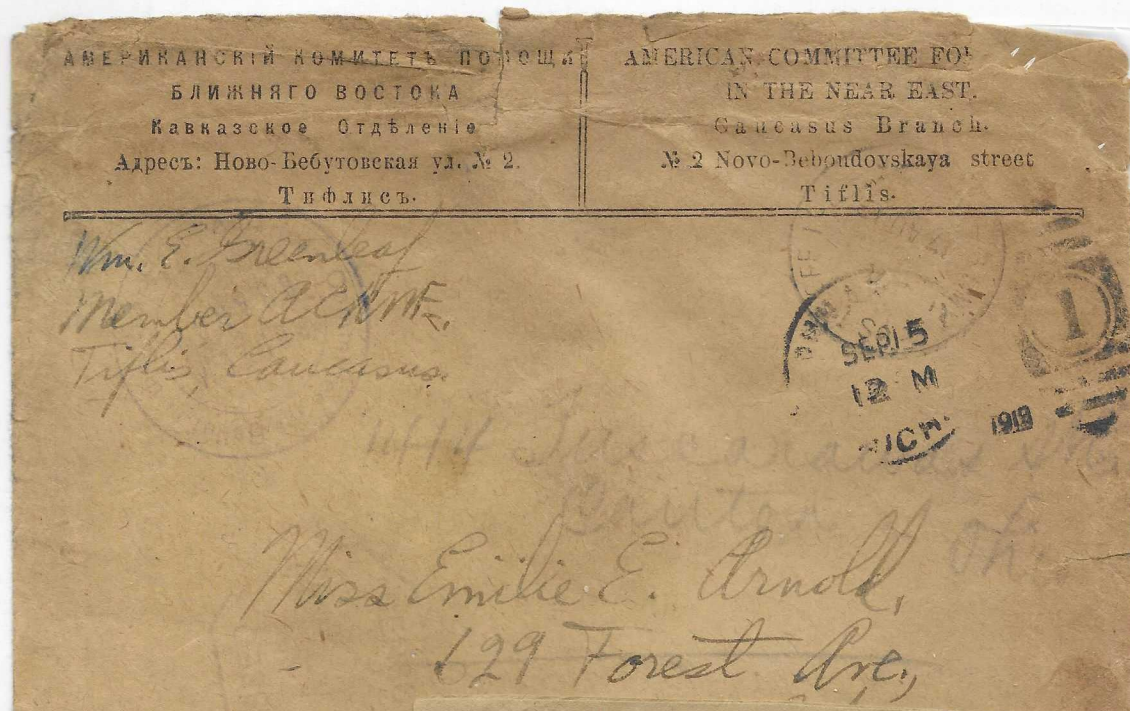
Without a combat role, the presence of U.S. Army personnel was restricted to intelligence and liaison activity.

APO 975 was established in Paris and used for mail brought in from locations throughout the disintegrating European empires by the U.S. Army Courier Service.

**AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN SOUTH RUSSIA
Relief Agencies**

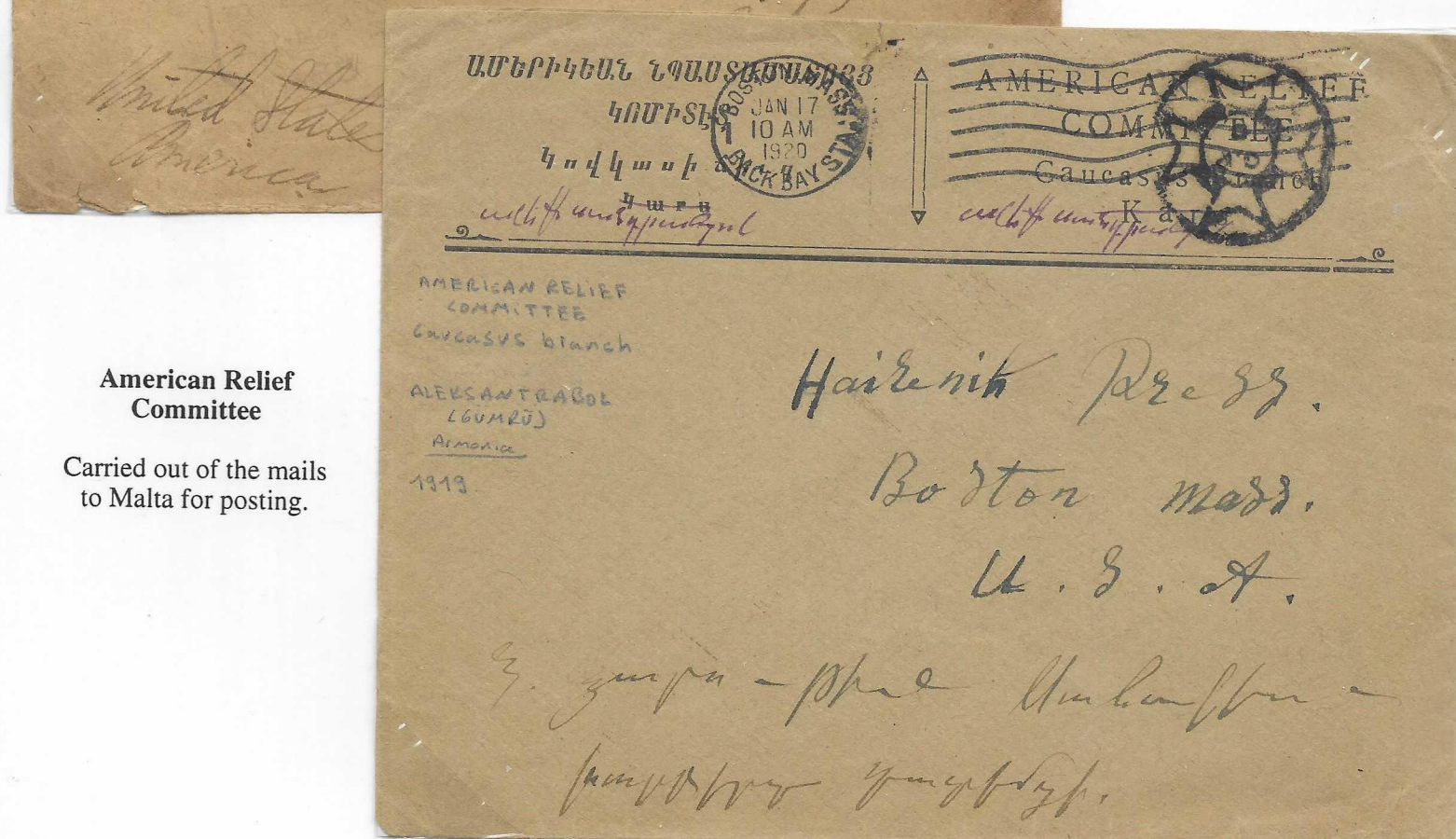
Tiflis, Georgia
August 1919

Gumru, Armenia
December 1919



**American Committee for
Relief
in the Near East**

Mailed via British APO
(SX 22 at Batum or Y 1
at Constantinople).



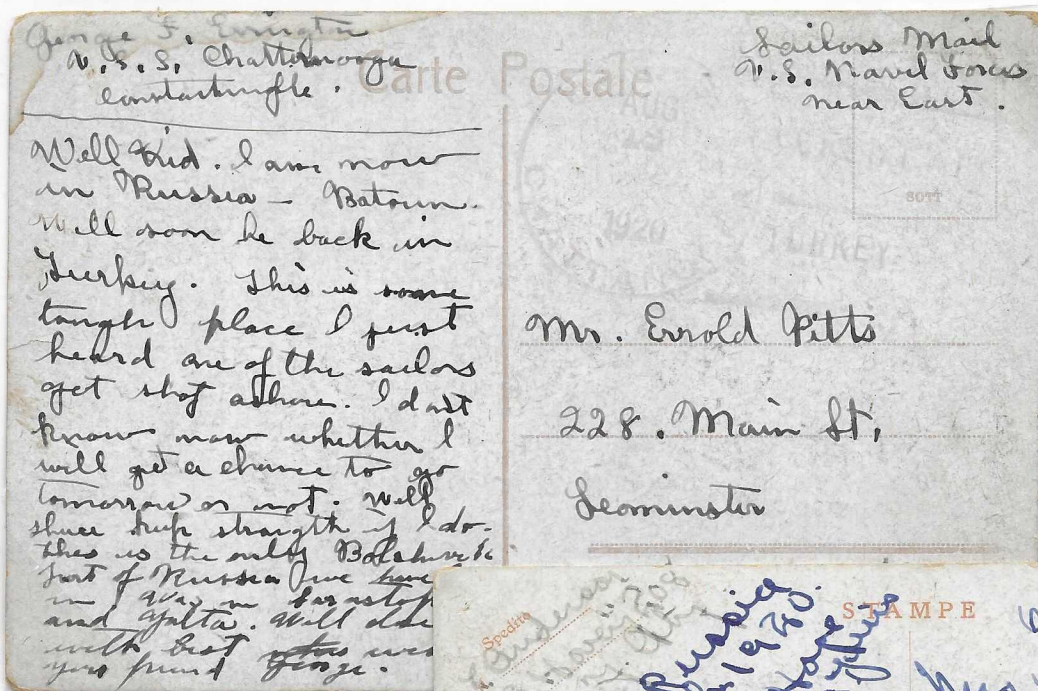
**American Relief
Committee**

Carried out of the mails
to Malta for posting.

Numerous private organizations, some of which had been operating before the fall of the Czar, distributed food and medicine to the war refugees, especially in Armenia. Protecting American citizens in these groups gave the U.S. a further reason for concern about, and a naval presence near, the South Russian war zone.

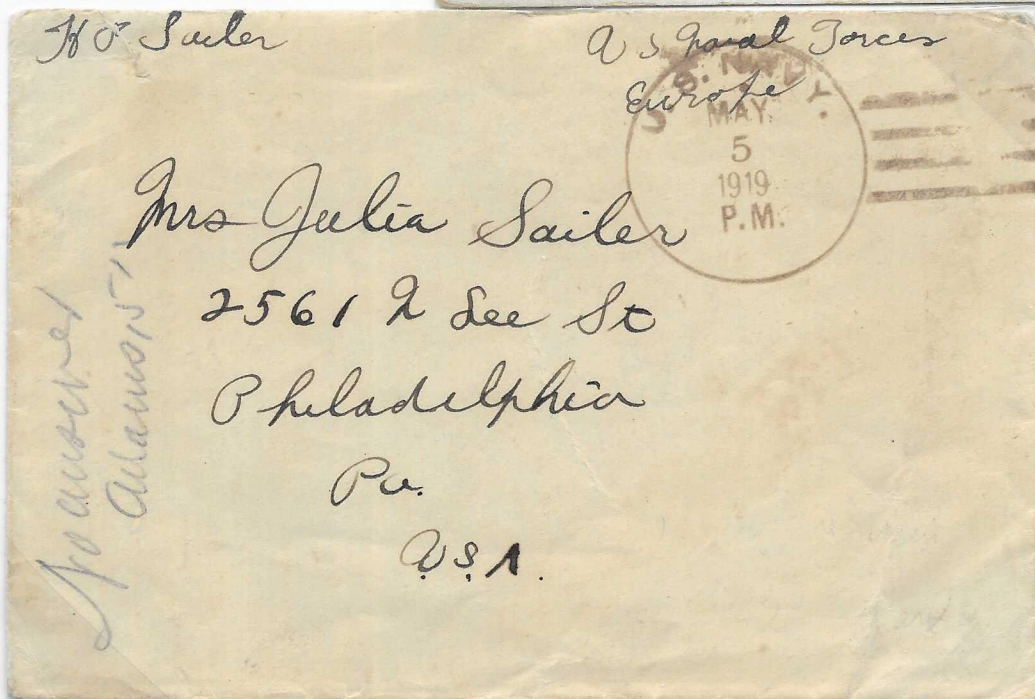
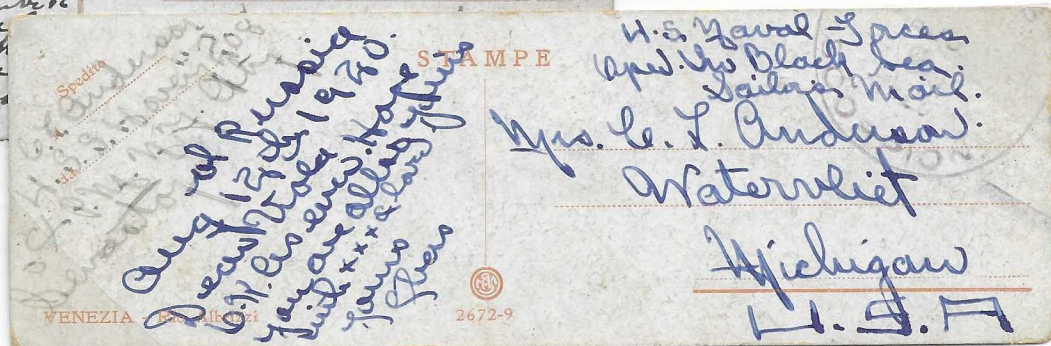
AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN SOUTH RUSSIA

Naval Mail



U.S.S. Chattanooga
Old cruiser that served as the flagship of the U.S. Naval Forces in Turkish waters after the end of World War I. This card datelined from Batoum and postmarked 28 August 1920.

U.S.S. Hovey
Destroyer serving in the Black Sea from late July to December 1920. Tiny card datelined Sevastopol.



U.S.S. Noma
Steam yacht with complement of 80. Noma did not have an on board post office. Letter datelined Baku, 27 April 1919. Sent by naval pouch to Turkey where it was cancelled eight days later.

Ships of the U.S. Navy cruised the Black Sea carrying military observers, relief supplies and refugees. Mail from these ships is rarely seen, and there is a paucity of literature describing their activities. Ships without on board post offices generally turned their mail over to the USS Scorpion, dispatch vessel for the U.S. High Commissioner at Constantinople, for processing.

AMERICAN INTERVENTION IN SOUTH RUSSIA
Naval Mail

AMERICAN RED CROSS
(CROIX-ROUGE AMÉRICAIN)



South Russian Commission

C. Kissel. Zinker.

U.S.S. Overton

U.S. Naval Forces.

Eastern Mediterranean



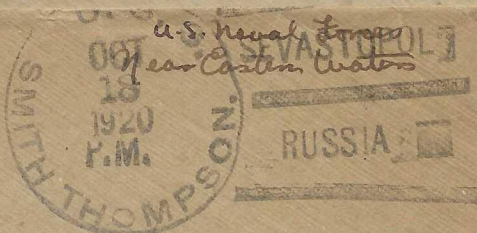
U.S.S. Overton

Destroyer serving in the
Black Sea from October
1920 to July 1922.
Cover from the South
Russian Red Cross
Commission.



Peter Reilly & Co.

J.C. KING.
U.S.S. Smith & Thompson.



T. MC,
Philadelphia,
Pa.

Mrs. & Mr. A. N. Vaughn,
28 Front Street,
Putnam,
Conn.,
U. S. A

U.S.S. Smith Thompson
Destroyer serving in the
Black Sea from February
1920 to May 1921.
Notations in cancels read
"Sevastopol" and "Batoum."

On 20 October 1920, the Bolsheviks began the counter-offensive that drove the White forces out of the Crimea. At the time the *Overton* cover was mailed, she was transporting refugees from the Crimea to Turkey following the collapse of Wrangel's army.