NORTH INGERMANLAND
Local Administration

Kirjasalo
20 September 1920
14 October 1920

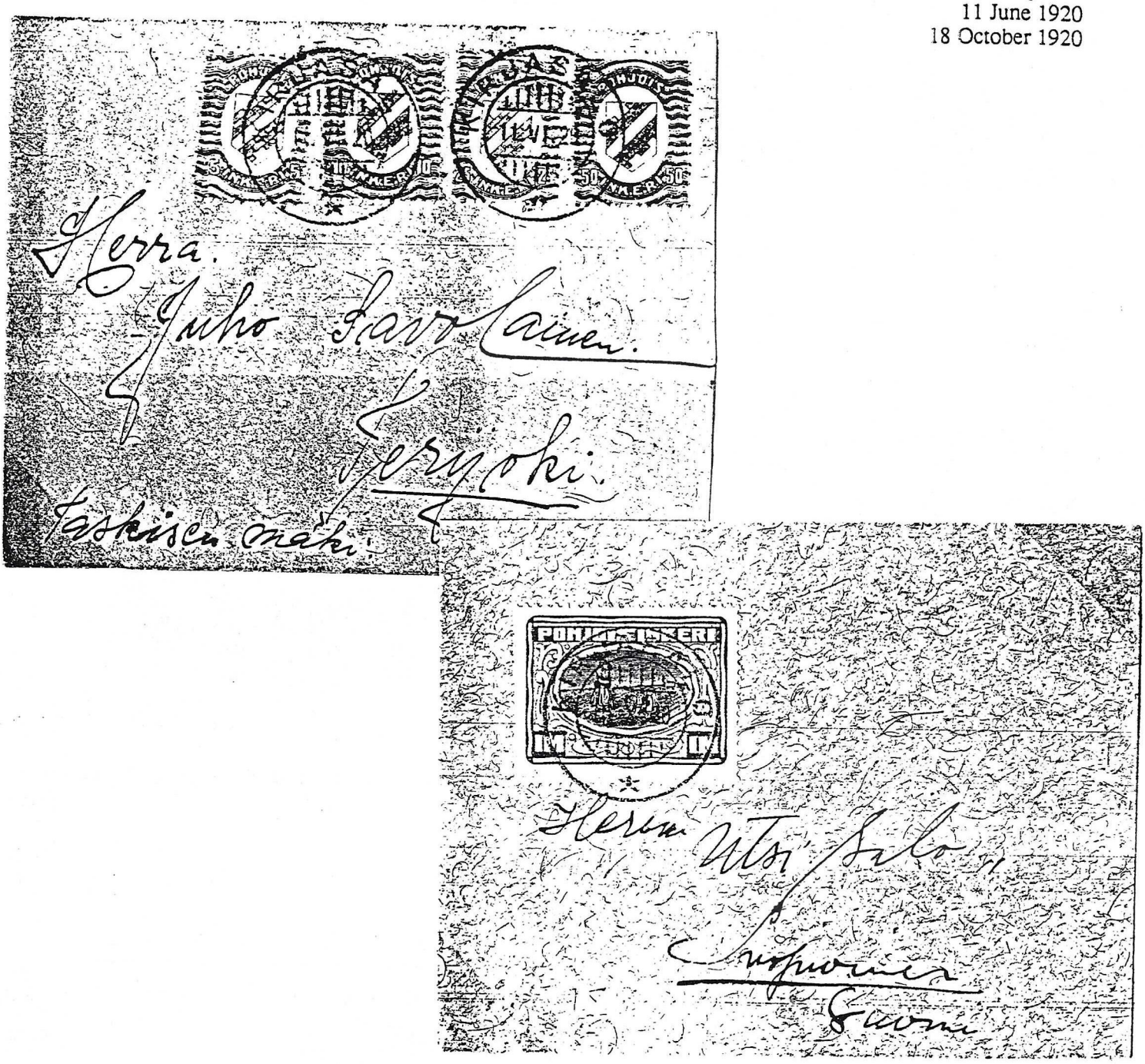


Stamp dealers in Helsinki provided most of the supply of covers from North Ingermanland, and commercial uses are very unusual. The same can be said for covers sent to destinations outside of Finland.

NORTH INGERMANLAND

Local Administration

Kirjasalo
11 June 1920
18 October 1920



In 1920 during the chaos of the Russian civil war a Russian-trained Finn, Lt. Col. Y. Elfvengren, assembled a North Ingermanland "army" of 2,250 men and took over this province in the eastern part of the Karelian Isthmus. A set of four stamps resembling the first issue of Finland, but depicting a modernistic representation of the River Neva and its shorelines instead of a lion, was issued on 21 March 1920. A pictorial set came out on 2 August 1920. Both issues were valid until 5 December, when the Soviets regained control and executed Elfvengren.

The only post office to operate in North Ingermanland was in the town of Kirjasalo.

KARELIA

Local Administration

Uhtua
5 February 1922



In early 1922, a short-lived rebellion took place in the north and central parts of Russian Karelia. A set of 15 stamps with the Karelian bear was placed on sale by the provincial authorities on 31 January 1922. The stamps remained in use for 19 days before the Red Army regained control of the area. However, due to an accident to the postmark, the latest date shown in original cancels is 6 February; later ones are cancelled to order in Finland.

The only operating post office in the territory was at Uhtua.

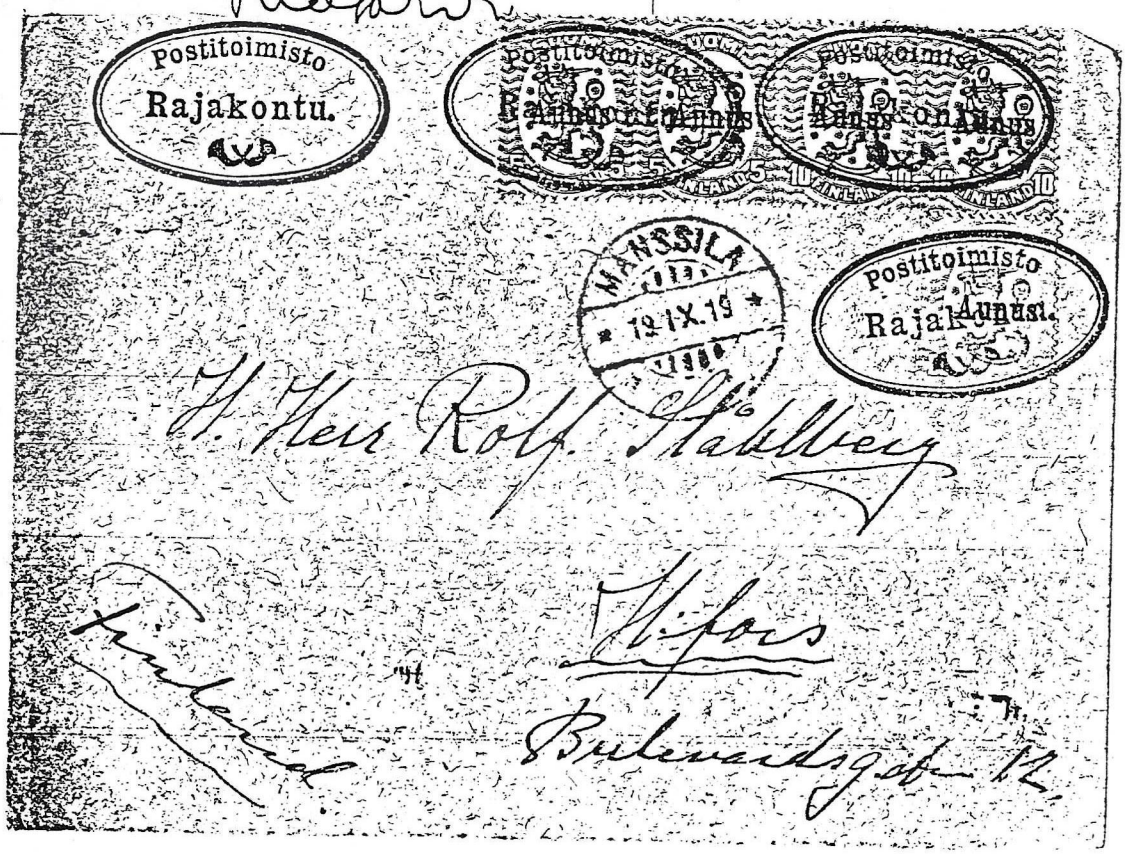
AUNUS

Finnish Occupation

Saamajarven
14 August 1919

Rajakontu
19 September 1919



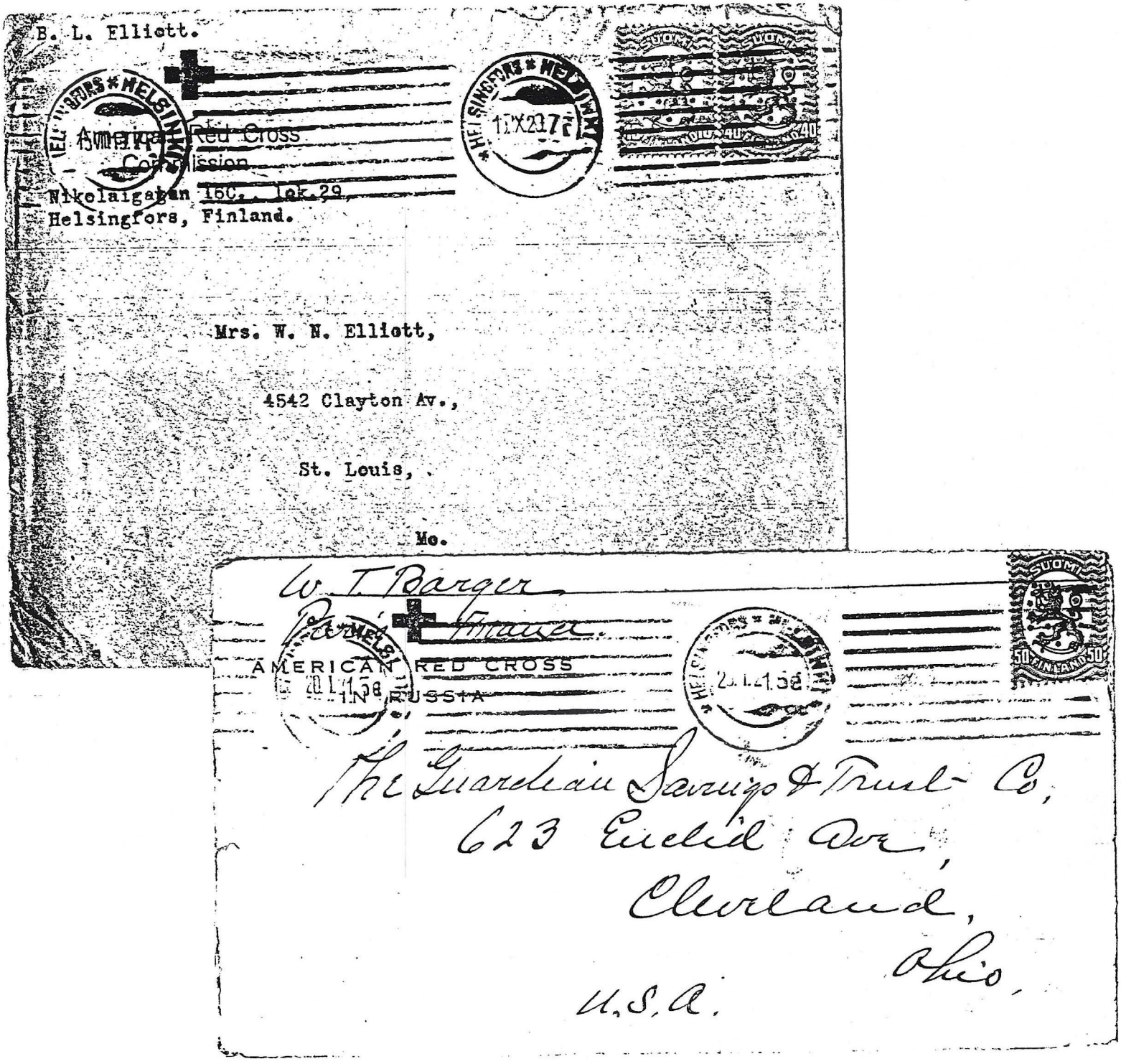


During the Allied intervention in North Russia, a volunteer force of Finnish Civic Guards, stationed on the Karelian border, invaded the Russian province of Olonetz (Aunus) with little resistance from the disorganized Bolsheviks. To meet postal needs, a small quantity of Finnish stamps overprinted "Aunus" was placed on sale on 7 July 1919. This issue was valid until 15 October 1919.

Eight towns in the Olonetz district received postmarks. Only one of these, Saamajarven had a standard cds; the others used oval rubber markings with the name of the town and crossed posthorns.

FINLAND
American Relief Organizations

Helsinki
15 September 1920
20 January 1921



American relief organizations, including the Red Cross, were active in providing food and other supplies to the Finnish population.

FINLAND
French Naval Mission

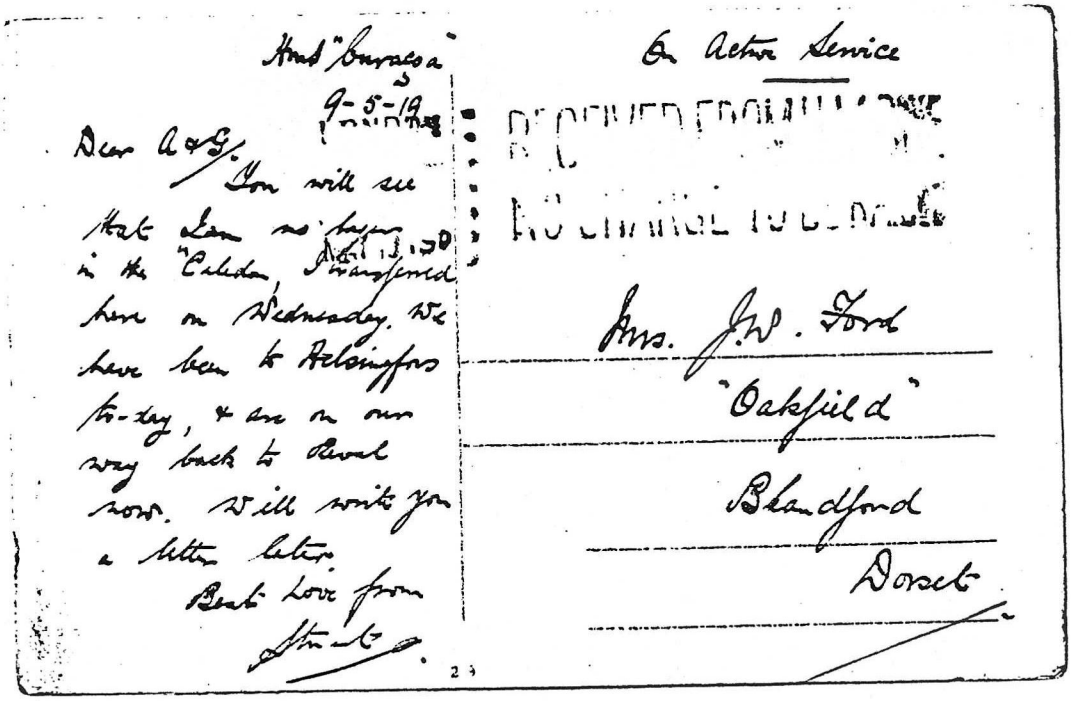
Helsinki
9 April 1923

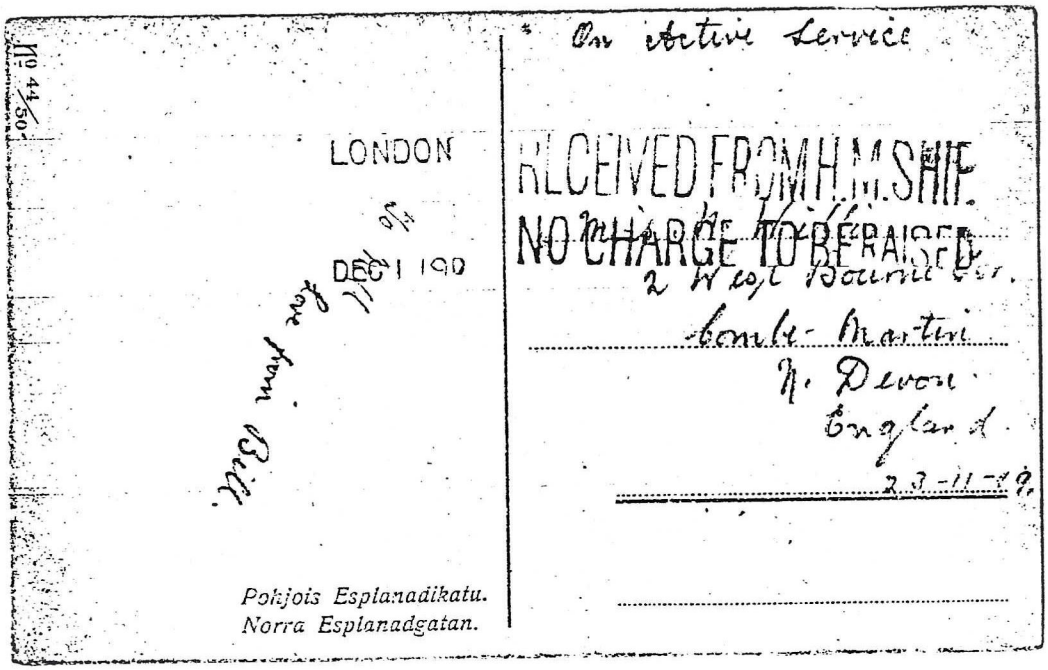


Cover from a member of the French Naval Mission in Finland to the Chief Commissioner of the Naval Administrative Center in Paris. Franked with 2 markka in stamps and sent via the Finnish civil postal system.

FINLAND
British Naval Forces

Naval Mail
9 May 1919
1 December 1919





Postmarks reading "Received from H.M. Ship" on picture postcards of Helsinki mailed by sailors aboard British naval vessels that were "showing the flag" in support of the Finns against the Russians. Upper card datelined "*H.M.S. Curacao*" mentions a brief visit to the city and that the ship is now en route to Reval.

FINLAND
Swedish Aland Detachment

Fieldpost
15 April 1918
19 July 1919



A small group of Swedish engineers known as the Aland Demolition Detachment were on the islands from April to October 1919 to destroy the fortifications which the Russians had left behind.

Upper military envelope is inbound mail to the Aland Detachment addressed to "Stockholm 30." Lower envelope sent by Chaplain Algard to his wife in Granna has special cachet of the "Demolition Detachment."

FINLAND
Swedish Aland Detachment

Fieldpost
28 March 1918
10 April 1918



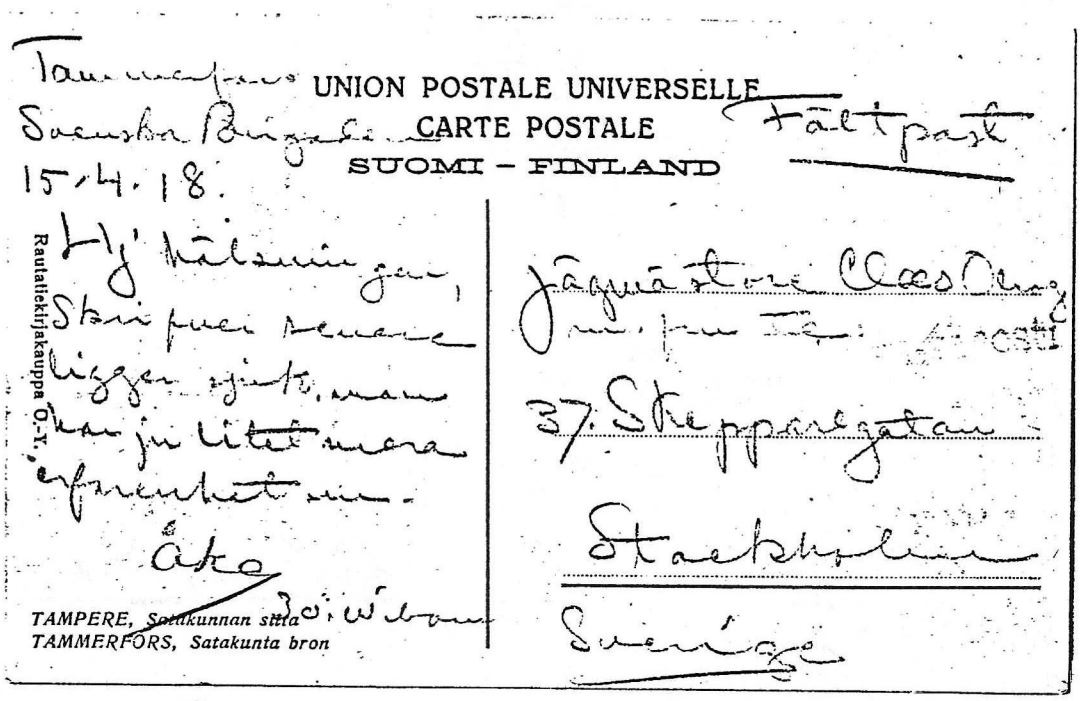
Fearful that the Russian-held Aland Islands could be used as a springboard to attack White forces in Finland proper, the Swedish government on 26 February 1918 sent the 625-man Aland Detachment to force the Russians and Red Guards to withdraw. Most of the Swedes then left on 10 May 1918.

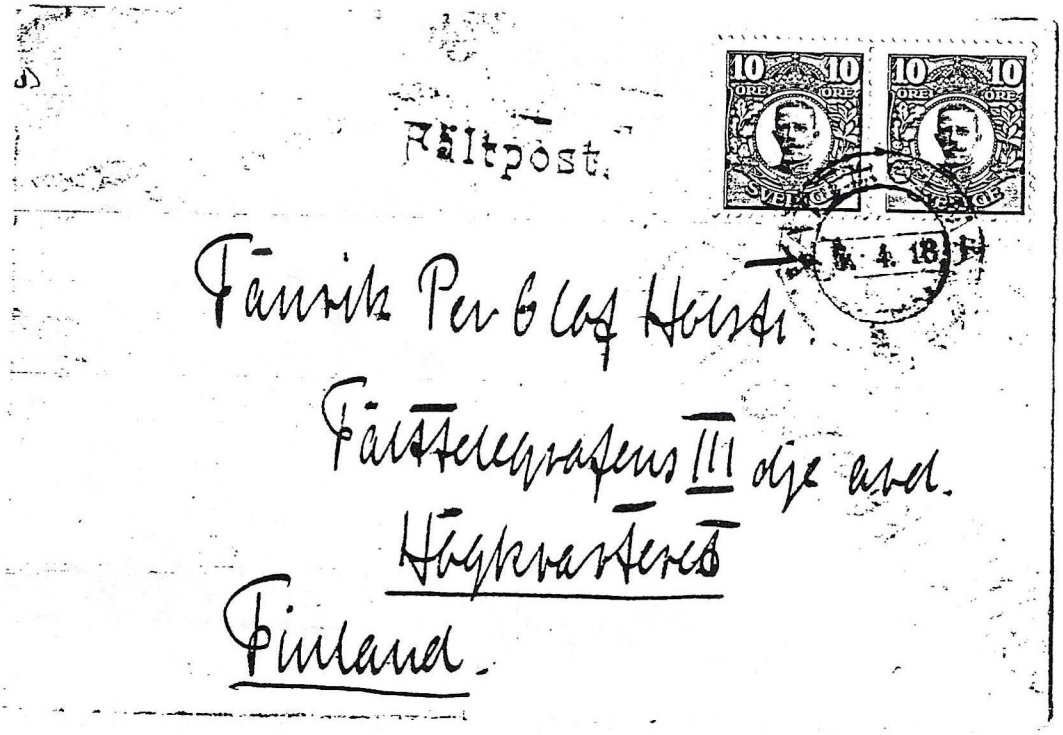
Military postal card sent by Lt. Haffner to his wife was postmarked with special "Stockholm 30" postmark on the warship Oscar II and forwarded. (Red triangle with dot above was a censor mark.) Cover was not postmarked but sent from an artilleryman on Aland to Stockholm.

FINLAND
Swedish Volunteers

Fältpost
15 April 1918

Inbound
5 April 1918



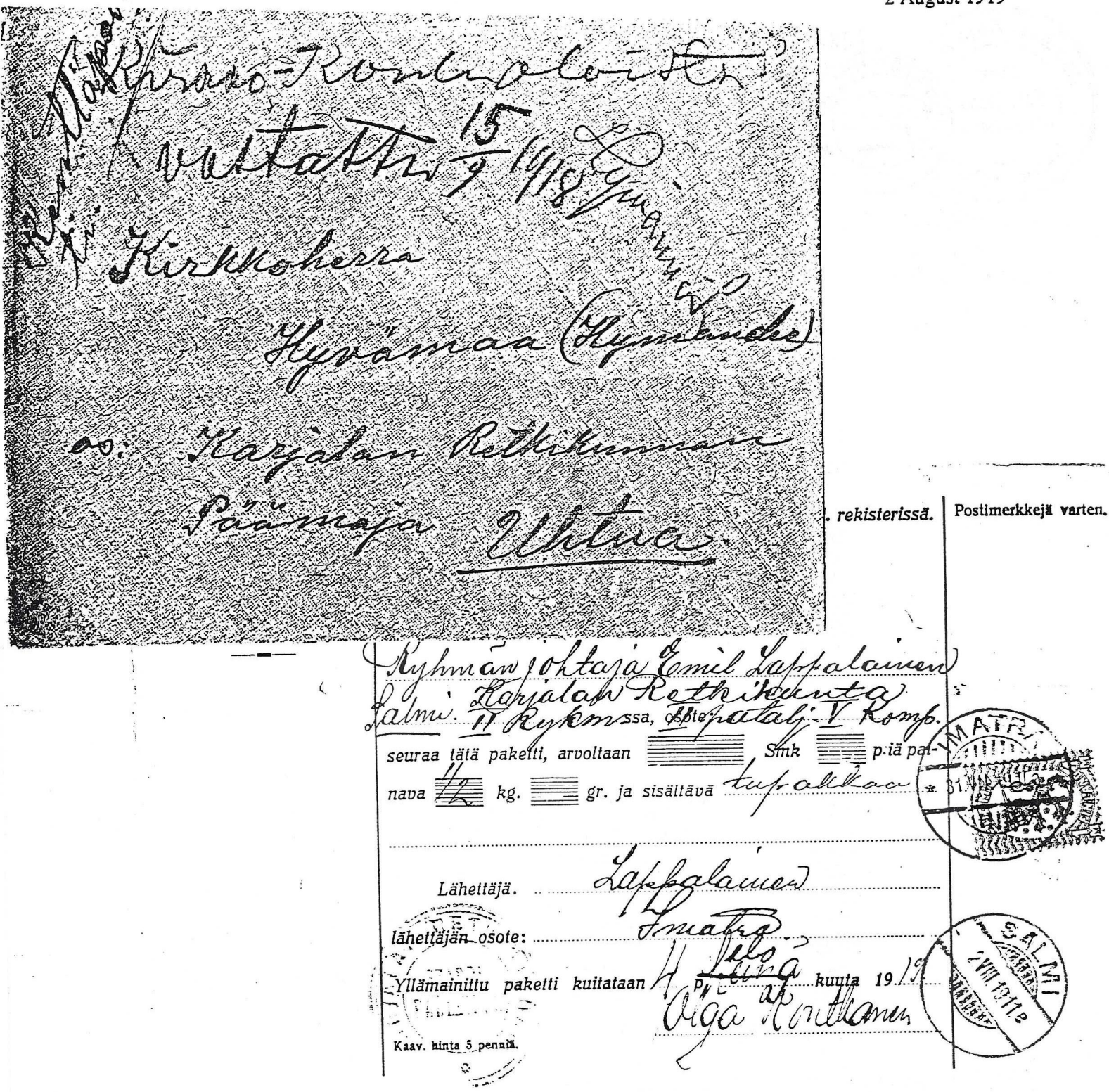


Due to the close relations between the Swedes and Finns, a substantial number of Swedish volunteers took part in the civil war on the side of the Whites.

Picture card of Tampere endorsed "Fieldpost" was sent by a member of the "Swedish Brigade." Cover represents an inbound usage to a member of the Swedish volunteers with "Fieldpost" marking applied in red.

FINLAND
Military Mail to Karelia

Fieldpost
September 1918
2 August 1919



. rekisterissä. | Postimerkkejä varten.

Ryhmän johtaja Emil Lappalainen
Salmi. Karjalan Retkikunta
II Rykmssa, osote: patalj. V Komp.
seuraa tätä paketti, arvoltaan Smk p:iä painava 1/2 kg. gr. ja sisältävä tupakkaa

Lähettäjä. Lappalainen

lähettäjän osote: Imatra

Yllämainittu paketti kuitataan 4 p. Elo kuuta 1919
Olga Kontkanen

Kaav. hinta 5 penniä.

Inbound mail to Finnish troops in Karelia is especially elusive. Cover addressed to the Finnish Expeditionary Force HQ in Uhtua, Russian Karelia is endorsed "answered 15/9/1918." Parcel card addressed to the Aunus troops in Salmi has blue cachet of the Karelian Headquarters. Only two recorded examples of such usage.

FINLAND
Military Mail from Karelia

Fieldpost
31 October 1918
2 February 1919



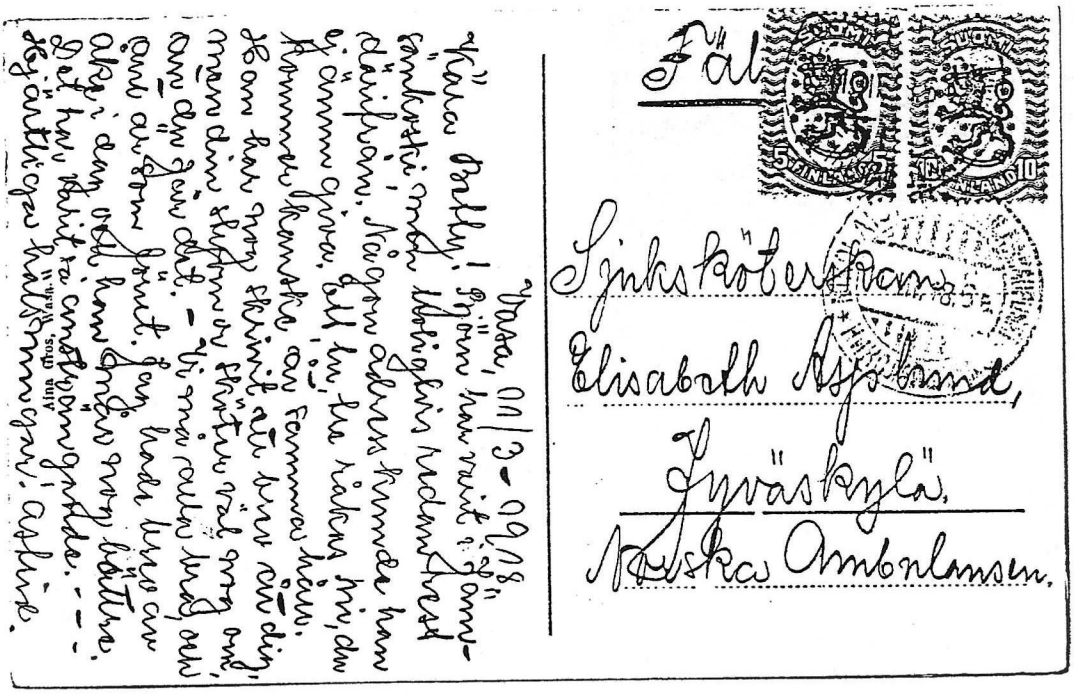
Post card with unit cachet of the Finnish Frontier Guards of Lapland; message states that "this card has been in the fighting in Russian Karelia."



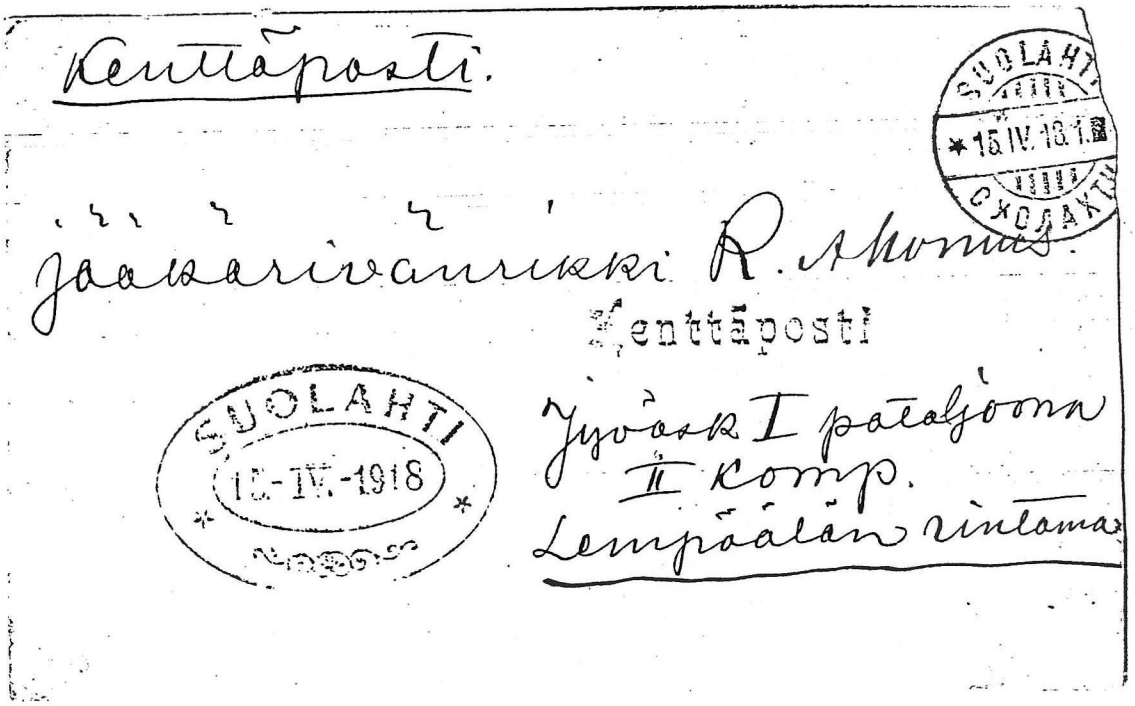
Finnish forces fought against the Russians as well as the Red Guards. Military mail from the Karelian front can be identified from the unit cachet or the message text. Cover shown above has corner card and cachet of the 3rd Karelian Regiment.

FINLAND
Inbound Military Mail

Fieldpost
11 March 1918
15 April 1918



Post card from Vasa addressed to a nurse with the Norwegian Ambulance located in Jyvaskyla.



As in most other campaigns, inbound mail to the troops is scarcer than that sent by them. Presumably, the post card above needed stamps because it was sent to an addressee who was not a member of the Finnish armed forces.

FINLAND
Civil War Military Mail

Fieldpost
24 March 1918
17 June 1918
20 July 1918

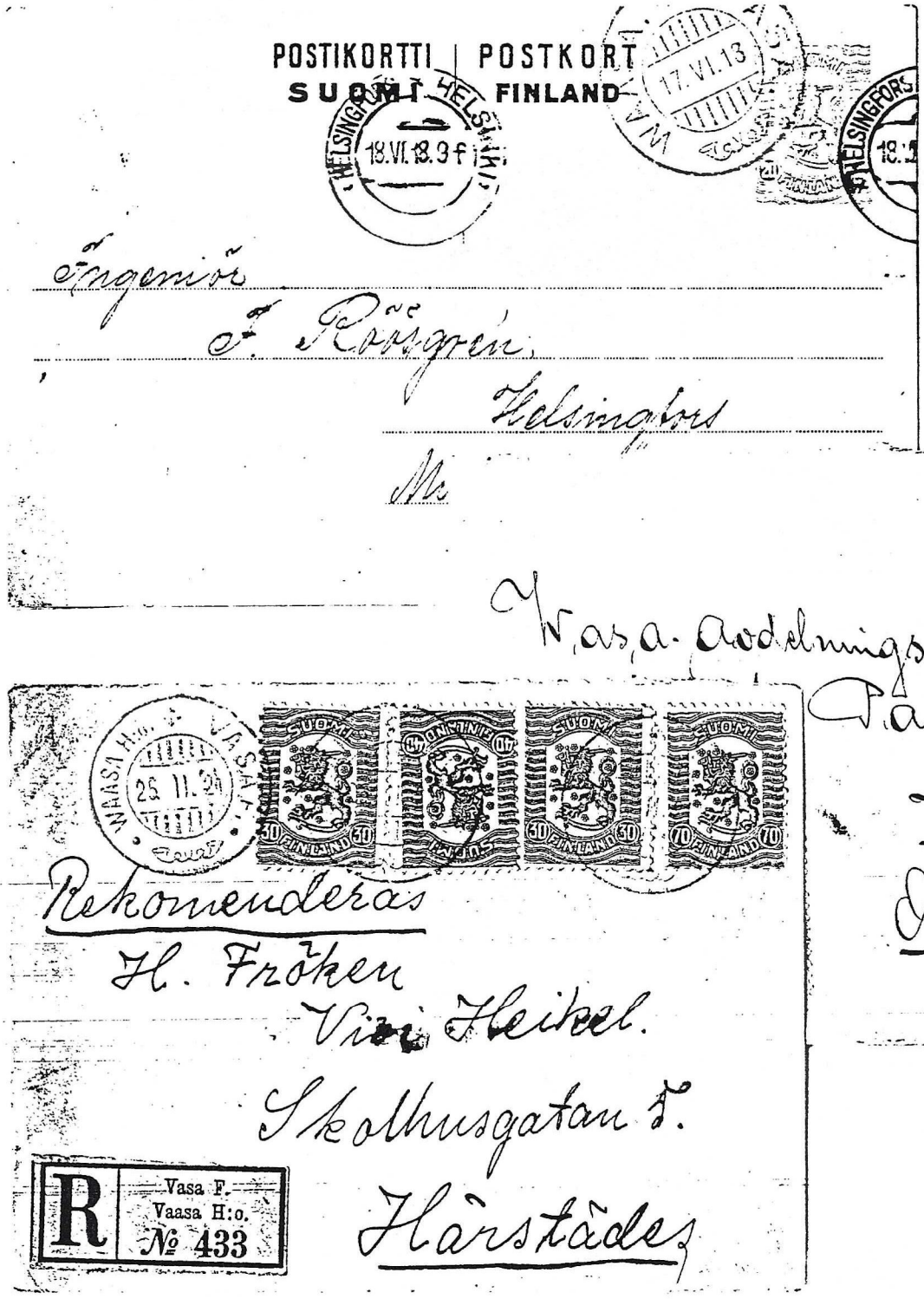


Finnish authorities did not establish special post offices for the forces during the civil war period. Most military mail was endorsed Kenttaposti (Finnish) or Fältpost (Swedish) and stamped with the cachet of the sender's unit in order to qualify for free franking. Generally, but not always, it was postmarked at a nearby civil post office.

FINLAND

Waasa
17 June 1918
25 February 1921

Kristiina
15 May 1919



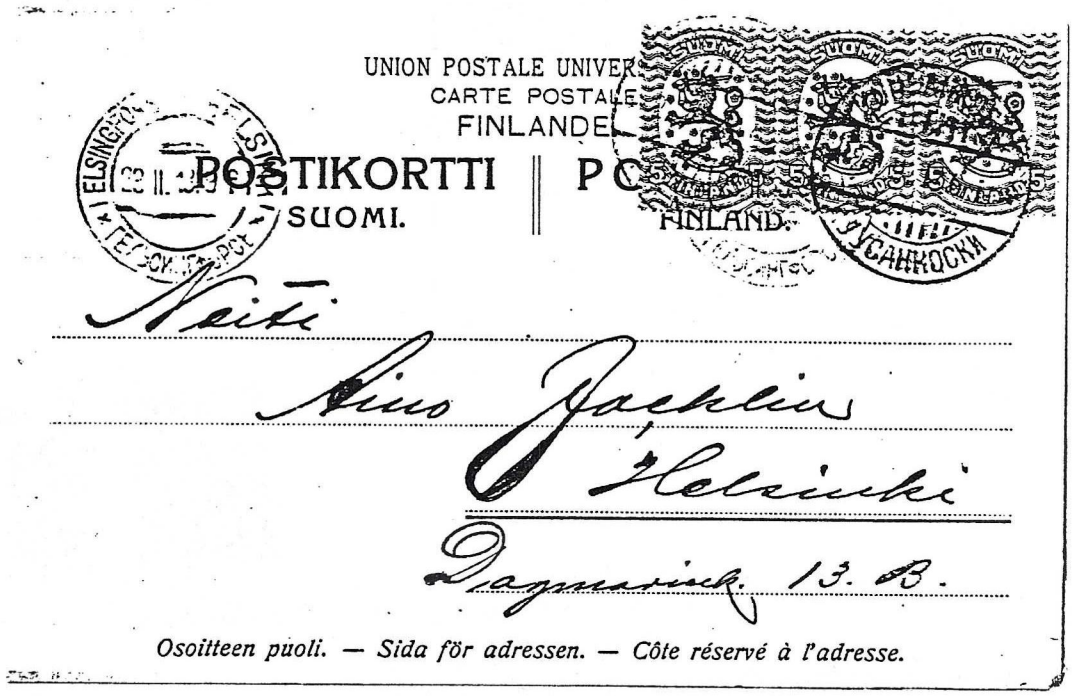
One variation in the Lion stamps was a separate printing done in Waasa (Vasa) while the city was cut off from normal supplies due to activity of the Red Guards. The design is similar, but the numerals of value were placed within circles. Issued from 5 March to 3 April 1918, the need for the special series soon ended, but they remained valid for postage until April 1923.

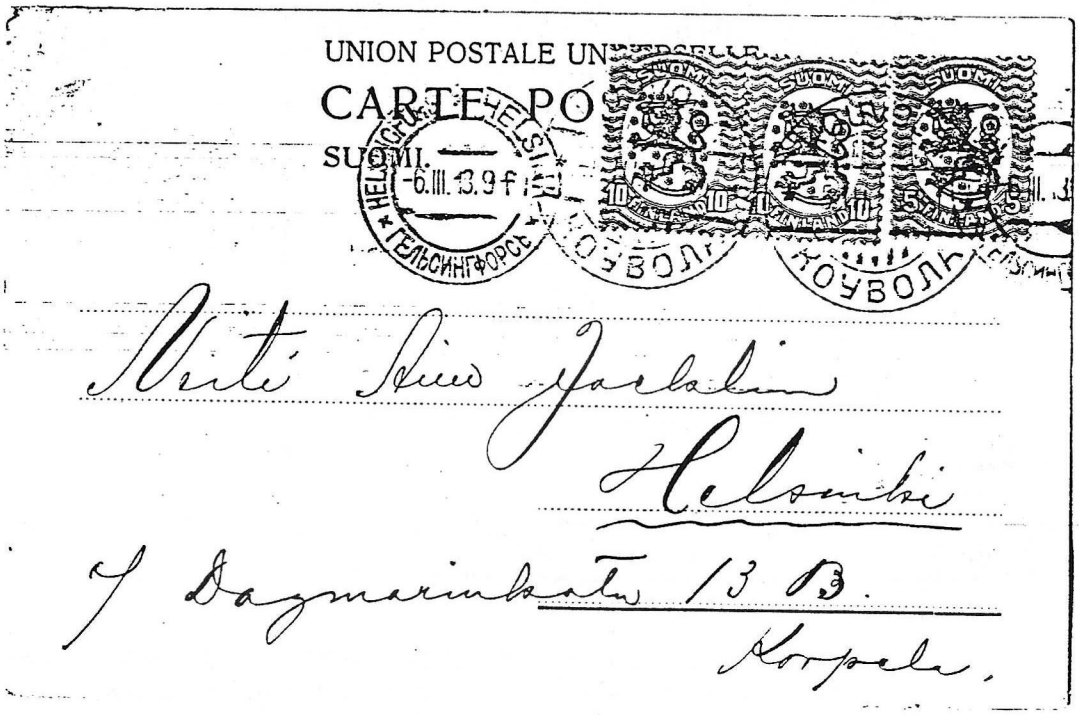
Postal card, ordinary letter and registered letter with Vasa stamps are shown.

FINLAND
Red Zone Mail

Kuusankoski
21 February 1918

Kouvola
5 March 1918





Mail in the area controlled by the Red Guards was franked with the same "Lion" stamps as used elsewhere in Finland, with the only identification being the postmark of the appropriate towns. One obvious difference is that the Reds did not "purge" their postmarks of the Russian spelling.