

EPIRUS
Autonomous Republic

Koritza
1914

TAXYΔPOMEION
KOPYTZAZ

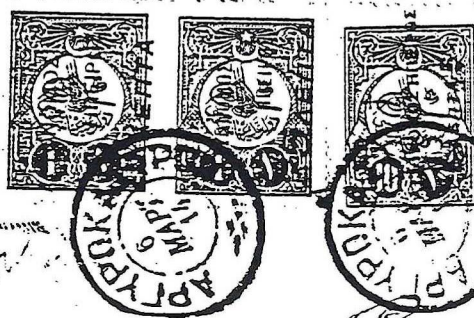
Argyrokastro
6 March 1914



Messieurs M. & J. FLECHET
12 - Rue du Toinçon

BRUXELLES

Belgique



Recommandée

APIO 84g
GRAM.

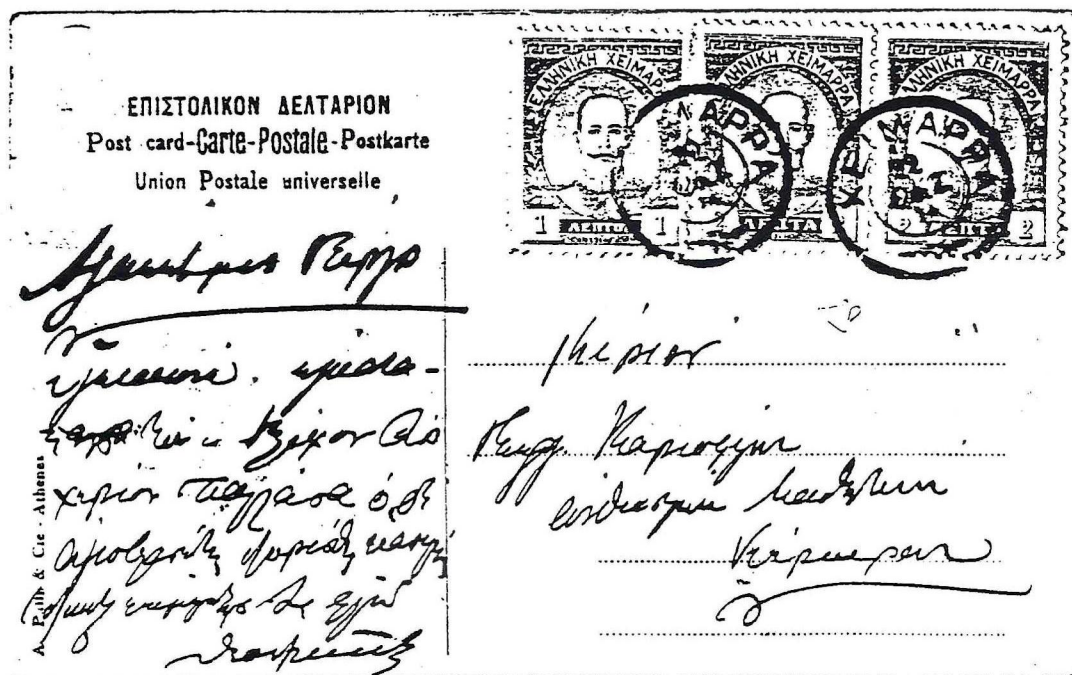
Monsieur
Pierre V. Vassel
Poste restante

Athènes

In addition to the official issues of the Autonomous Republic, local issues were prepared in several towns -- with varying claims to legitimacy. Among these issues were Albanian stamps overprinted at Koritza and Ottoman stamps overprinted at Argyrokastro, both of which read "Autonomous Epirus" and have new values in lepta.

EPIRUS
Autonomous Republic

Himarra
21 February 1914
22 October 1914



Local issues were also prepared for use in Himarra. The first set, issued on 10 February 1914, depicted a Byzantine eagle over skull and crossbones. A blue oval negative seal with the initials "SP" was applied as a form of endorsement by Spiro Spiromilios, the local militia commander. Cover shown above has additional 25 lepta stamp on reverse to pay the registration fee and shows receiving mark of Athens dated 7 March. A new set with the portrait of King Constantine of Greece was printed in Athens and issued in Himarra in October 1914. Genuine stamps of these issues properly used in Epirus are exceedingly elusive.

EPIRUS
Autonomous Republic

Erseka
November 1914

Moschopolis
November 1914

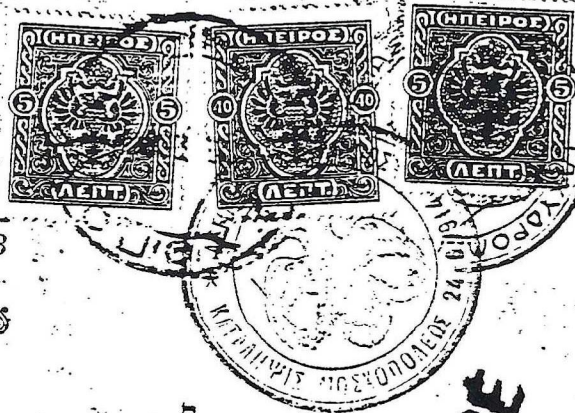


Monsieur

Stanley Gibbons

391 Strand

a. London W.C



Monsieur Richard Borek

35 Neuvestrasse

R N° 567

*Braunschweig
(Allenstein)*

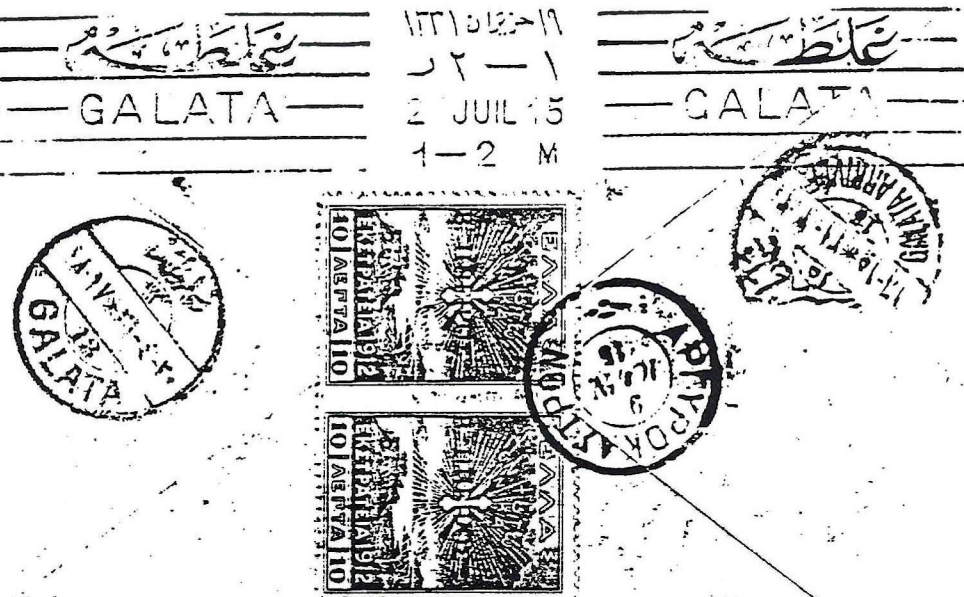
ASSURE

Just prior to the second Greek occupation, several other sets were issued by local authorities. Two of these that are listed in the Vlastos catalogue are from Erseka and Moschopolis. The above covers, both sent to prominent stamp dealers, have a transit mark of Athens dated 17 November and receiving mark of Braunschweig on 27 November, respectively.

EPIRUS
World War I

Argyrokastro
20 November 1914

Delvinon
8 March 1916



Mr
Georges Langin
18 Kneeland

Boston Mass St.
U. S. A.

The second Greek occupation lasted from late 1914 into the fall of 1916, when the Greek troops were replaced with French and Italian forces. Overprints for "Northern Epirus" on the New Greece definitives were introduced on 8 December 1914 in the main towns.

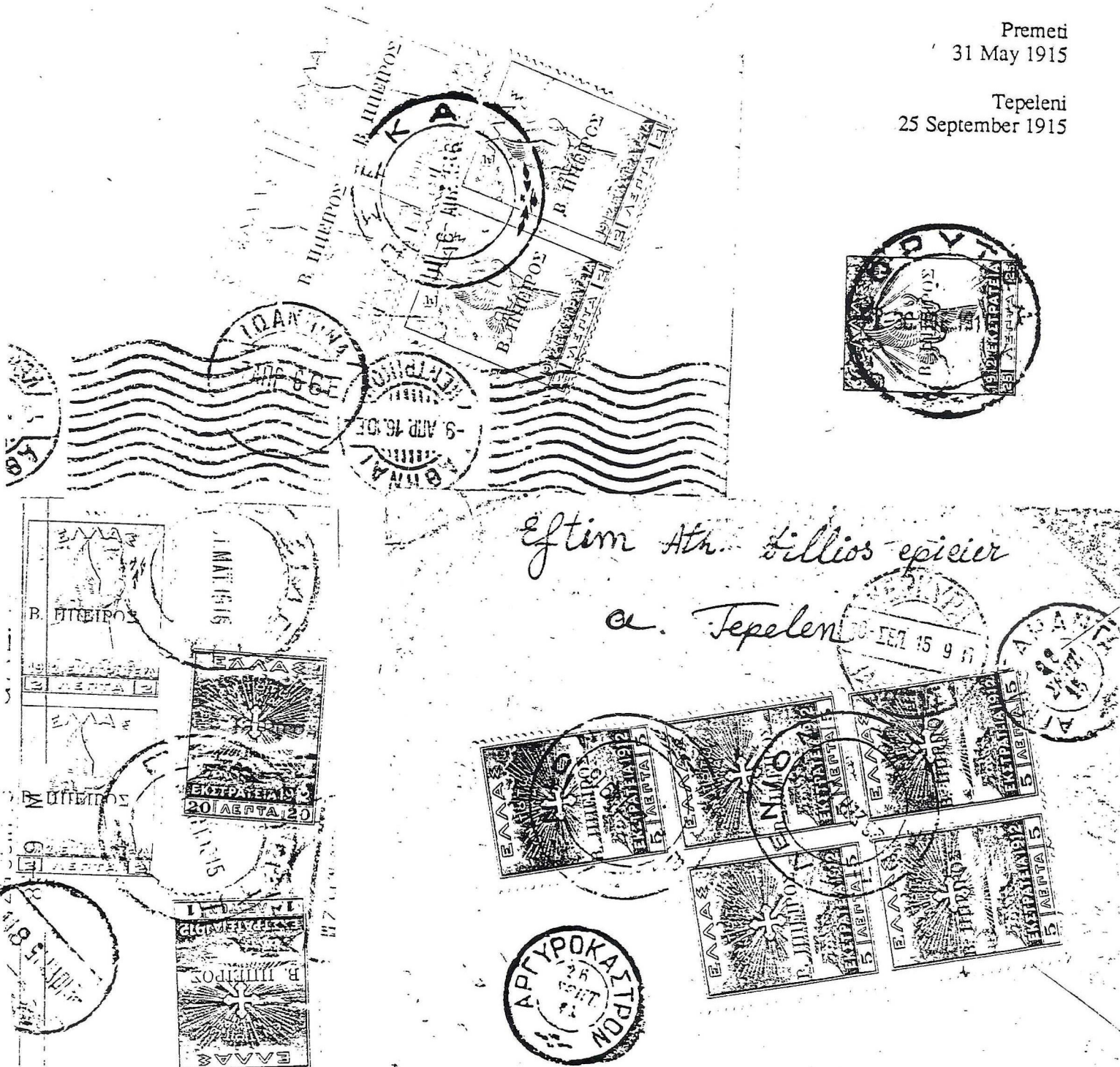
World War I

6 April 1916

20 November 1915

31 May 1915

25 September 1915



Additional examples of "Northern Epirus" overprints used during the second Greek occupation.

EPIRUS
World War I

Ayii Saranda
21 February 1916

Argyrokastro
16 December 1915

Himarra
15 March 1916

ΙΩΑΝΝΗΣ Σ. ΚΟΥΡΕΜΕΝΟΣ & Σ^Α - ΑΓΙΟΙ 40
JEAN S. COURÉMÉNOS & C^{IE} - SANTI 40

16 Sep 1915

Epirus

Argyrokastro

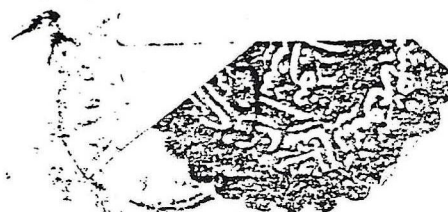
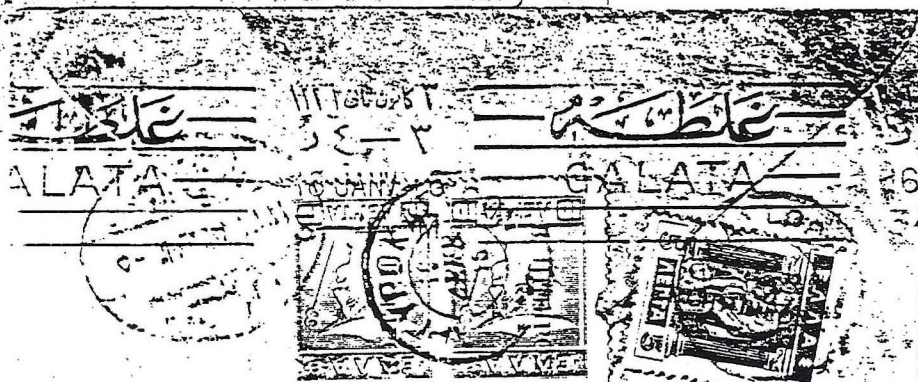
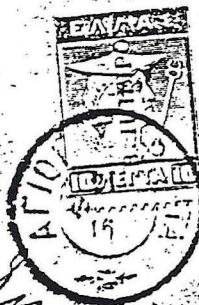
28 Eos Ninos A. 28

San K.

Joan. Couréménos

Santi

Argyrokastro



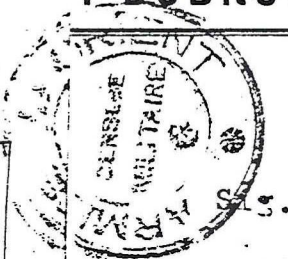
In late 1915 and early 1916, a further set was distributed in Northern Epirus, consisting of overprints on the current Greek definitives. This issue was used until the final withdrawal of the Greek forces later in the year.

WORLD WAR I

The situation in Greece was anomalous in that the country was officially neutral for the initial three years of fighting but a large contingent of Allied troops was deployed on its territory. Moreover, for a time it had two competing governments. Even after entering the war on 29 June 1917, the Greeks did not commit their forces to the fighting until May of 1918. In the interim, there was a national schism between neutralist King Constantine and pro-Allied Prime Minister Venizelos. The latter had invited Britain and France to land troops at Salonica to aid Serbia, which resulted in his dismissal by the king. Although it was too late to help the Serbs, the Allies remained in northern Greece for the balance of the war. In October 1916, Venizelos set up a provisional government at Salonica and eventually returned to power in Athens in June 1917 when the Allies forced the king and crown prince into exile.

P. DOBROWOLSKY & C^{ie} - SALONIQUE

Thessalonica
2 May 1917
23 August 1918



R 127



Rag. Agostino Ghezzi

Via Cimara 13

Covers sent to Italy and Switzerland with manuscript registration markings and franked with postage stamps of the provisional government (lower example mixed with earlier issue).

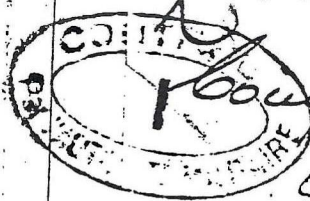


ONIAN BANK Ltd
SALONICA BRANCH

R 995



Co. Baloin
Compagnie d'Assurances
Comis & Prendre



Recomm. 1917



Rail
(Suisse)

After the declaration of the provisional government, replacement supplies of stamps could no longer be obtained from the royalist authorities in Athens. As a result, a new set depicting the Goddess Iris was ordered from a printer in England. It was issued on 5 February 1917 and used in the territory under the control of the Allies.

WORLD WAR I

Athens/Branch 1
9 April 1917

Athens
18 May 1917



M^{rs} A. L. Benachi
879 Beacon Street
Boston
U.S. America Mass.



Κυρία

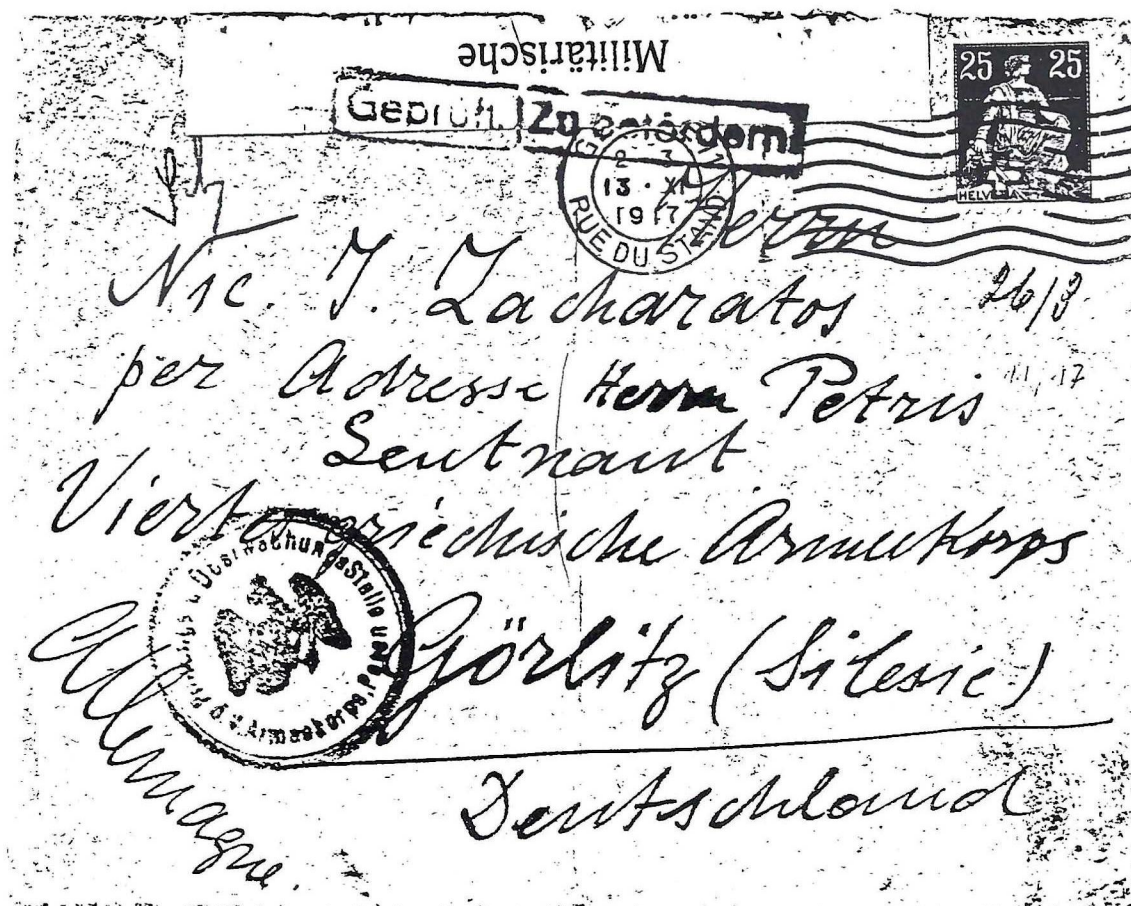
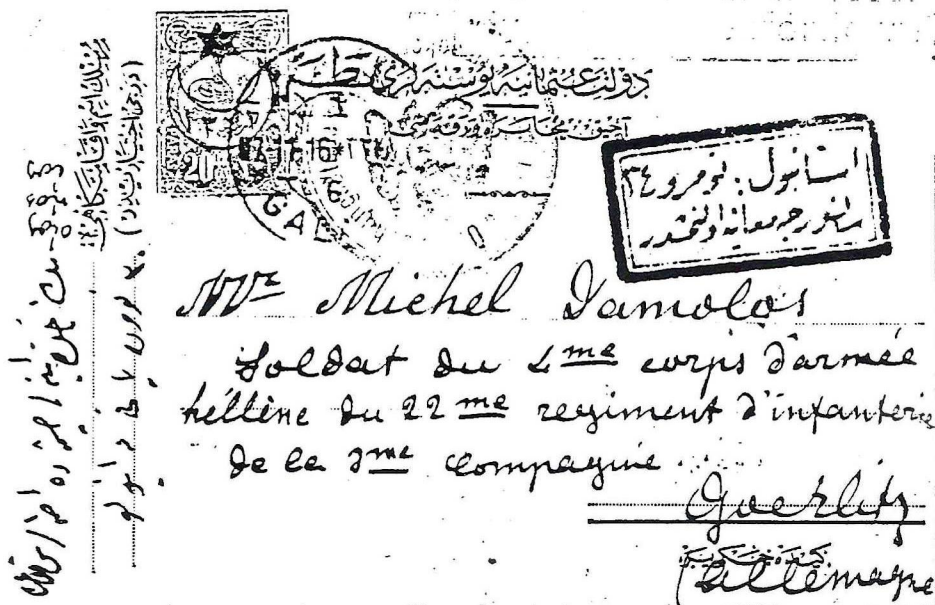
Καρίαν Μυ. Μυαροβ

Βόλον.

In order to adequately distinguish their stamps from those of the Provisional Government in Salonica, the authorities in Athens ordered the old stamps overprinted with a crown and "E.T. (Greek Posts)." After the fall of the royalist government, all issues, overprinted or not, could be used interchangeably throughout Greece.

Galata
7 November 1916

Geneve
13 November 1917



Examples of inbound mail addressed to Greek military internees in Germany from Turkey and Switzerland.

WORLD WAR I

Greek Internees in Germany

Pera
7 November 1916

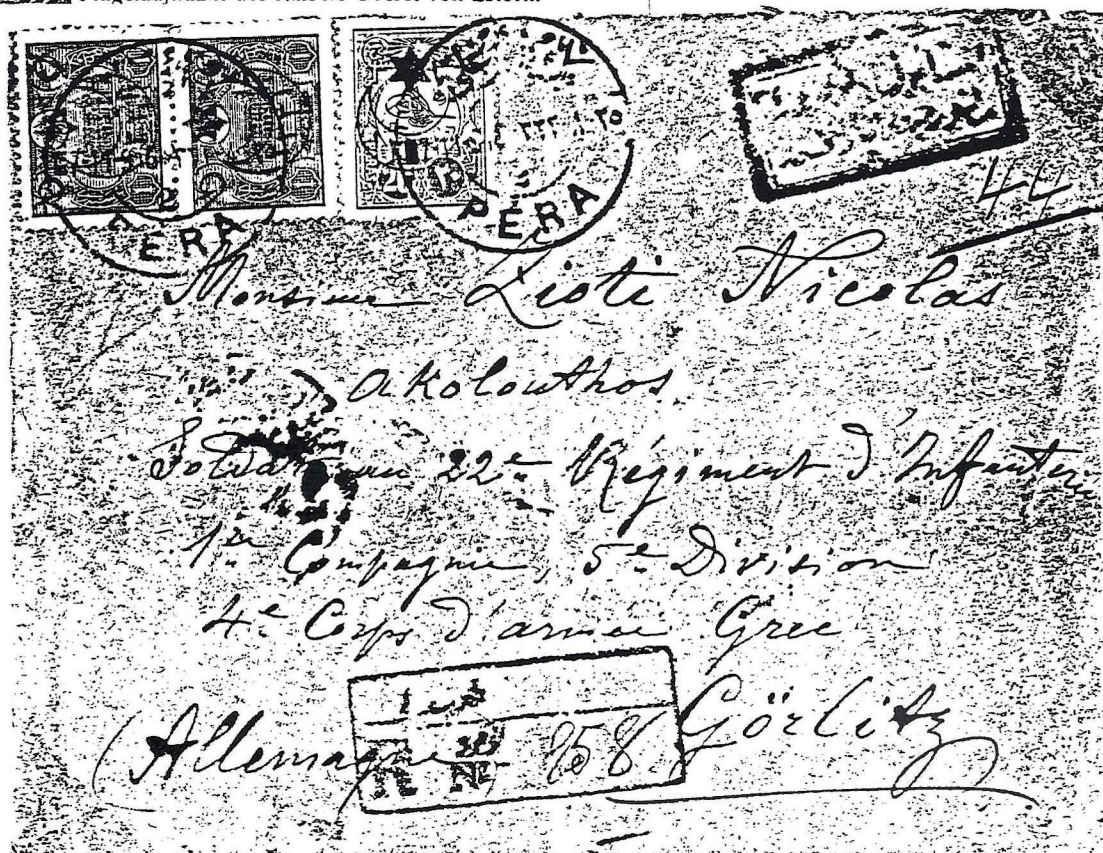
Ankunft des 4. griech. Armeekorps
in Görlitz am 28. Sept. 1916.



Begrüßung des griech. Obersten Karakallos durch den
Flügeladjutant des Kaisers Oberst von Estorff.

Picture postcard showing
the arrival of the Greek
garrison from Cavalla in
Görlitz.

Registered cover from
Pera to a Greek
soldier in Görlitz.
Note the extensive
description of his unit,
i.e. 1st Company,
22nd Regiment, 5th
Division, 4th Greek
Army Corps.



Before Greece had entered the war but after Allied forces had been deployed on a perimeter north of Salonica, Bulgarian troops moved south to oppose them. In this effort they occupied the Greek port of Cavalla. To avoid a conflict with the Bulgarians, Germany arranged to evacuate the Greek garrison there to internment at Görlitz, where they arrived on 28 September 1916. No direct mail service was possible between the internees in Germany and their families in Greece, but letters could be sent to them from Turkey or neutral nations.

INTERVENTION IN SOUTH RUSSIA

With the Greek army still being relatively fresh at the end of the war, the Allied command requested that it participate in the Intervention in South Russia on behalf of the "White" forces of General Denikin. Consequently, in December 1918 some 30,000 men from several divisions were assembled at Cavalla and transported by ship to Odessa and Sevastopol. The first group was involved with Odessa's main defense line and later served at Gregorievka, about 25 km. to the east. After the defeat of the White forces, the Greeks retreated through Bessarabia in Romania.

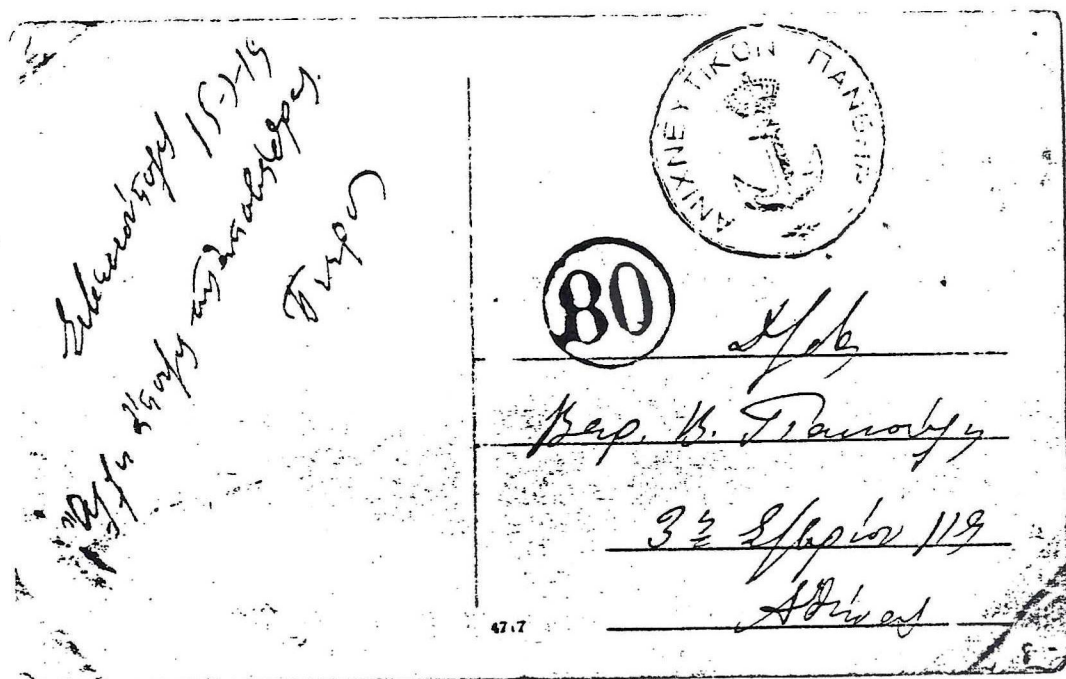
FPO 907
20 March 1919



Picture postcard of Nicolas Boulevard in Odessa used as a fieldpost card by a pharmacist at the HQ of the Second Division, which was served by FPO 907. Examples of mail from this campaign are exceedingly elusive.

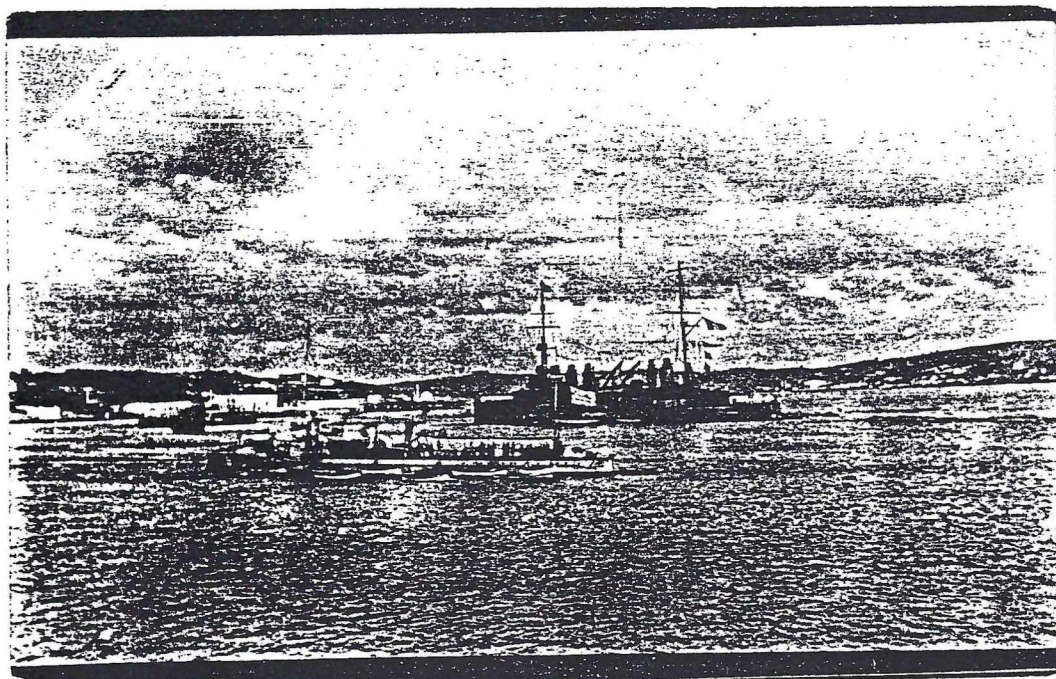
INTERVENTION IN SOUTH RUSSIA
Naval Mail

Sevastopol
15 January 1919



Picture postcard sent by naval pouch to Athens. Datelined "Sevastopol 15-1-19." The cachet of *HHMS Panther* (compliment about 80 men) assured the free franking privilege for the sender.

Photo postcard showing a Greek *Nike* class destroyer and French flagship in Sevastopol harbor on 12 December 1918.



MILITARY MISSION IN BULGARIA

With the surrender of Bulgaria on 29 September 1918, Allied forces (largely British, French and Greek) occupied strategic points in that country in order to enforce the disarmament of the Bulgarians and other provisions of the armistice agreement. Initially, letters to and from the Greek troops were transported by military pouch but later military post office #921 was established in Sofia. After the peace treaty was signed between Bulgaria and Greece in September 1920, the Greek FPO was closed.



MISSION MILITAIRE HELLENIQUE
EN BULGARIE

*Κύριον
Τατατάρ*



*Κύριον
Κωνσταντίνον Πλωμακίου
αριθμ. 20/20
Επιμ. Στρατ. Αεροσκάφης
Σόφιας*

Examples of outbound and inbound mail transported by military pouch. Lower cover sent from FPO 940 and has the cachet of the Army Commander's Office. Addressed to a lieutenant at the Greek Military Mission in Sofia.

MILITARY MISSION IN BULGARIA

FPO 921
21 April 1920

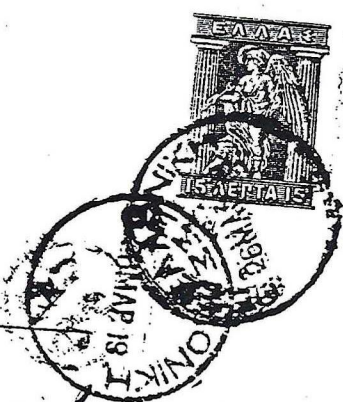
MISSION MILITAIRE HELLENIQUE
EN BULGARIE

Λεωάνδρα

*Νεγίμω Λεωολογούρου
πρὸς Γενικὸν ἀρ. 7*

Ε 7

Ἀθήναι



Ἀποστ. Στρατ. Ἀγοραστός Ἀγοραστός.

Ἑλλ. Στρατ. Ἀποστλ. ἐν Βουλγαρίᾳ.

Σόσια Τ.Τ. 921.



*α/β 20
α/β 20
α/β 20
α/β 20*



Covers with printed corner card and cachet of the Greek Military Mission in Bulgaria. Upper cover sent by military pouch to Salonica, where a stamp was affixed and forwarded in the post to Athens. Lower cover was official mail sent to Cavalla without franking.

MILITARY MISSION IN BULGARIA

FPO 921
12 March 1920
12 June 1920

GEORGES D. TSITSINIAS

Rue Nischka 26
SOFIA



Εξοχότης



Honorable

Cranska Thread Company

49 Hermon Street

Worcester, Mass., U.S.A

ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ Υ.
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΙΟΝ

Όνομα *Μαργαρίτης Αδελφής*
Αποστολέως
Διευθύνσεις *Εξοχότης*
Τόπος *Σόφια*

Διά του παρόντος πληροφοροῦσιν οἱ
οἰκῆτοί τοις Στρατιωτικοῦς περὶ τῆς υγιεί-
ας των καὶ ζητοῦσι παρ' αὐτῶν σχετικὰς
πληροφορίας δι' οἰκογενειακὰς ὑποθέσεις
των, εἰς γλῶσσαν σέρβη Ἑλληνικὴν, ἄνευ
λέξεων διφθορούμενων ἢ συνθηματικῶν.

Σύνταγμα
Δόχος
ἢ Ἴλη
Βαθμὸς

Όνομα *Εξοχ. Μαργαρίτης*
Ποστ. 92
Αδελφὴ

ΑΙΘ. ΑΒΕΛ. Γ. ΑΣΠΙΩΤΗ - ΚΕΡΚΥΡΑ

In addition to military use, civil mail could be sent through FPO 921 if proper postage was affixed. In June, a new postmark with a clearer indication of the nature of the post office was introduced. It read in abbreviated form "Greek Military Mission in Sofia/Post Office 921." The earliest reported date of use of this cancel (per Drossos) is 12 June 1920 as shown on the postal card above. Latest date seen by exhibitor is 4 August 1920.

