

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Mission Militaire Francaise en Siberie
May 1919

Envoyé par J. CAMON, radio, 3^e génie, Mission française en
Siberie, poste radio d'OMSK.



Miss Zella RUBLE

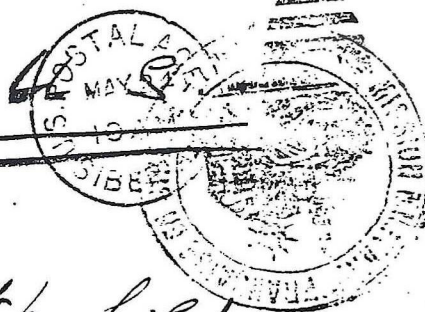
1612, Union street

SAN - FRANCISCO

(Cal.)



A.



Mr. John Rothschild
105 Market Street
San Francisco

French military mail from Siberia addressed to the United States is unusual. Based on the few examples known, it appears that the usual practice was to place such letters in the U.S. mails at Vladivostok, where they received the postmark of our military postal agency.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Mission Militaire Francaise en Siberie
April 1919
May 1919



*E. de J. Baudier Brig. Mission Milit. Francaise en Siberie
Formation Loubignac. p. B.C.M. Paris*



POUR PARIS

French Loubignac Mail

DE L'AVANCEMENT

Monsieur Victor Belloc

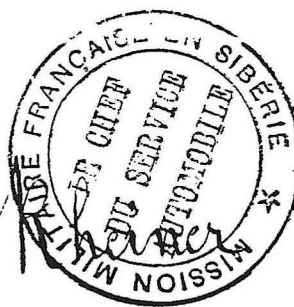


POUR PARIS

METTRE LE NUMERO

Mont-Louis

(Endre et Loui)



Miss Maiza

*1534 Clay Street
San Francisco Cal
U.S.A.*

Above covers indicate origination with a Groupement or Detachement Loubignac, which is not mentioned in the literature. From the unit handstamps, this appears to have been a mobile unit with various technical skills (including automobiles and ski troops) designed to work with the Czech Legion.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Mission Militaire Francaise en Siberie
July 1919
February 1920
April 1920

Ouborg A. Meiano. Mission française en Siberie.
Kativoslok (Siberie)



"WITH THE COLORS"

Monsieur Roger Gimbo



Env. de J. GANON, radio, 8^e genie, Mission française en
Siberie, Poste radio d'OMSK.

France



Du Capitaine Lelong mission française Siberie.

reet,

GENERAL L E L O N G .

MONTGERON

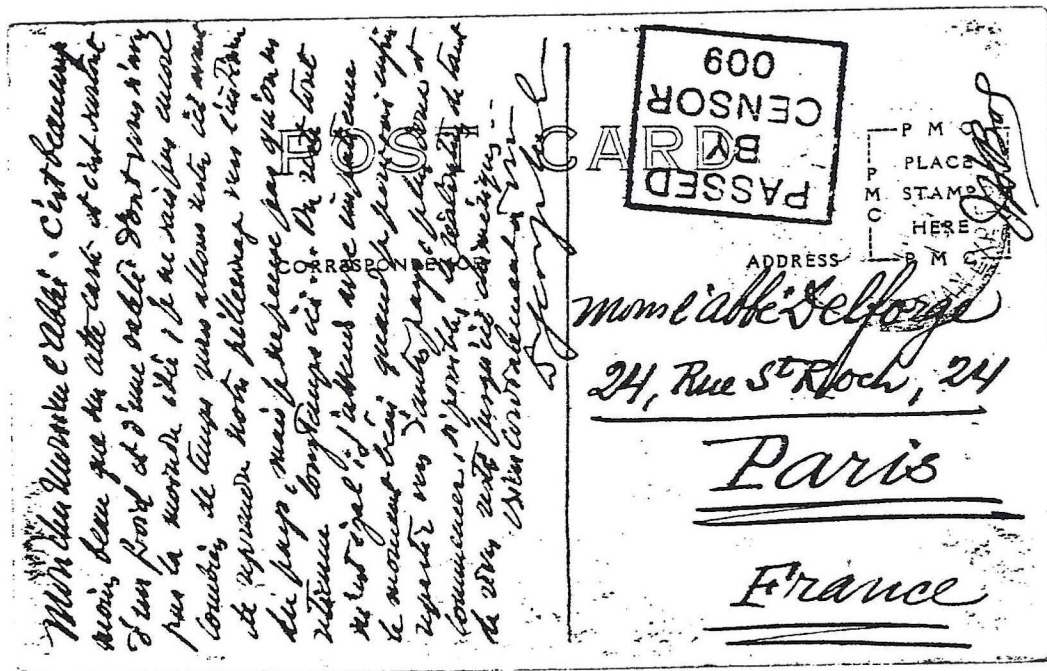
SEINE ET OISE

U. S. A.

FRANCE



A few additional unit handstamps have been recorded from Siberia, and according to Waugh & Luft, all such administrative markings are "rare." The "French Base Vladivostok" and the "Harbin Annex" cachets are only known from late in the campaign.



That French forces serving with the Czech Legion would have occasionally used the Czech fieldpost system is understandable. However, the use of the Canadian FPO in Vladivostok is inexplicable and has not been previously recorded.

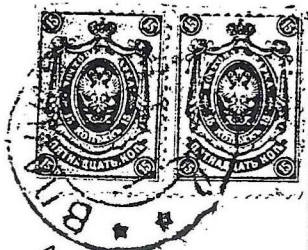
FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Mission Militaire Francaise en Siberie
April 1919



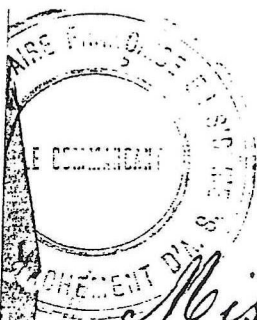
Ex-celence
Capitaine Zelony,
Bataillon Colonial Siberien

M. Zelony



Opened

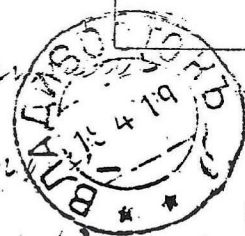
(T)



Miss Barbara Eissler
271 Dolores street
San Francisco Calif.

POST CARD

Mr. Eissler
271 Dolores street
San Francisco



きかは便郵



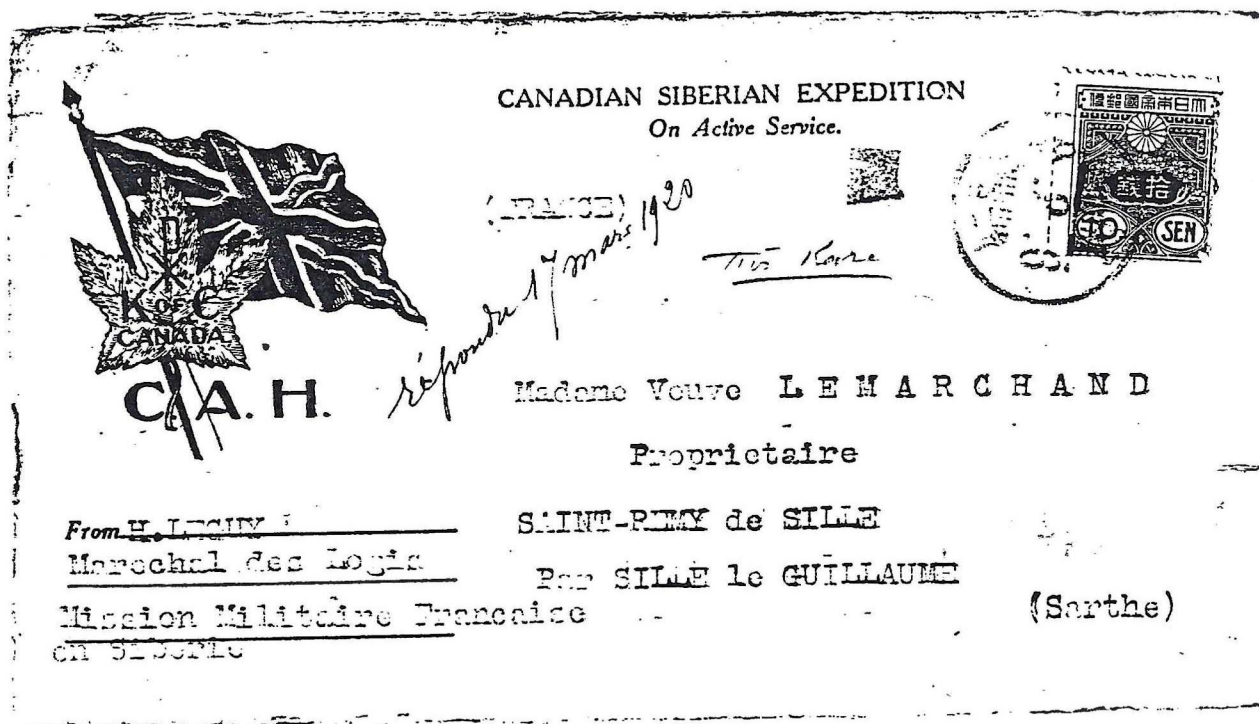
French troops could and did use the Russian civil post office in Vladivostok, although doing so subjected them to postal charges and to the local (Russian-American) censorship.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Nagasaki
3 March 1919
6 February 1920



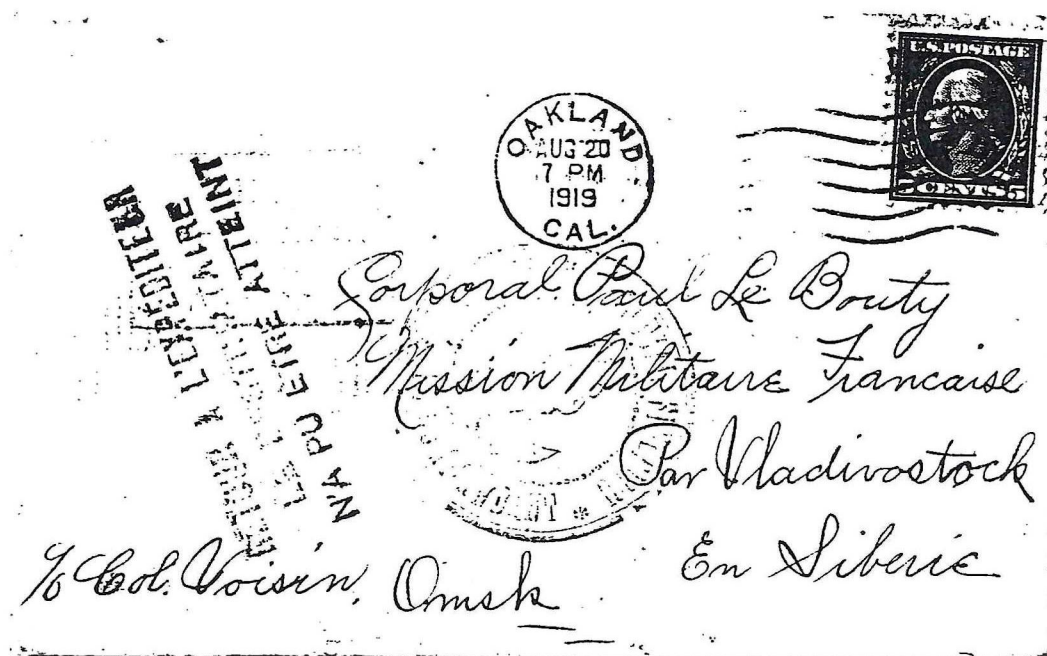
Madame Louis Leveque
8 rue de l'Hotel
Poitiers (Vieux)
France



French mail posted in Japan is encountered very infrequently, probably because postage had to be paid at full UPU rates. It is impossible to say whether the above covers were mailed by French troops in Japan for R&R or sent via Japan (officially or privately) in order to reach the addressees in France more quickly.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Siberia

Mission Militaire Francaise en Siberie
September 1919
July 1920



Incoming mail to the French contingent is not often encountered. The inbound registered cover from Japan is very late in the intervention period (after the removal of the French combat troops) and delivered via the Russian civil post office in Vladivostok.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
South Russia

Tresor et Postes
20 February 1919
31 March 1919

30 Mars 1919

à tous, mes amis,
je n'oublie pas les
amis fidèles.
à quand le voir à
Métairie ?

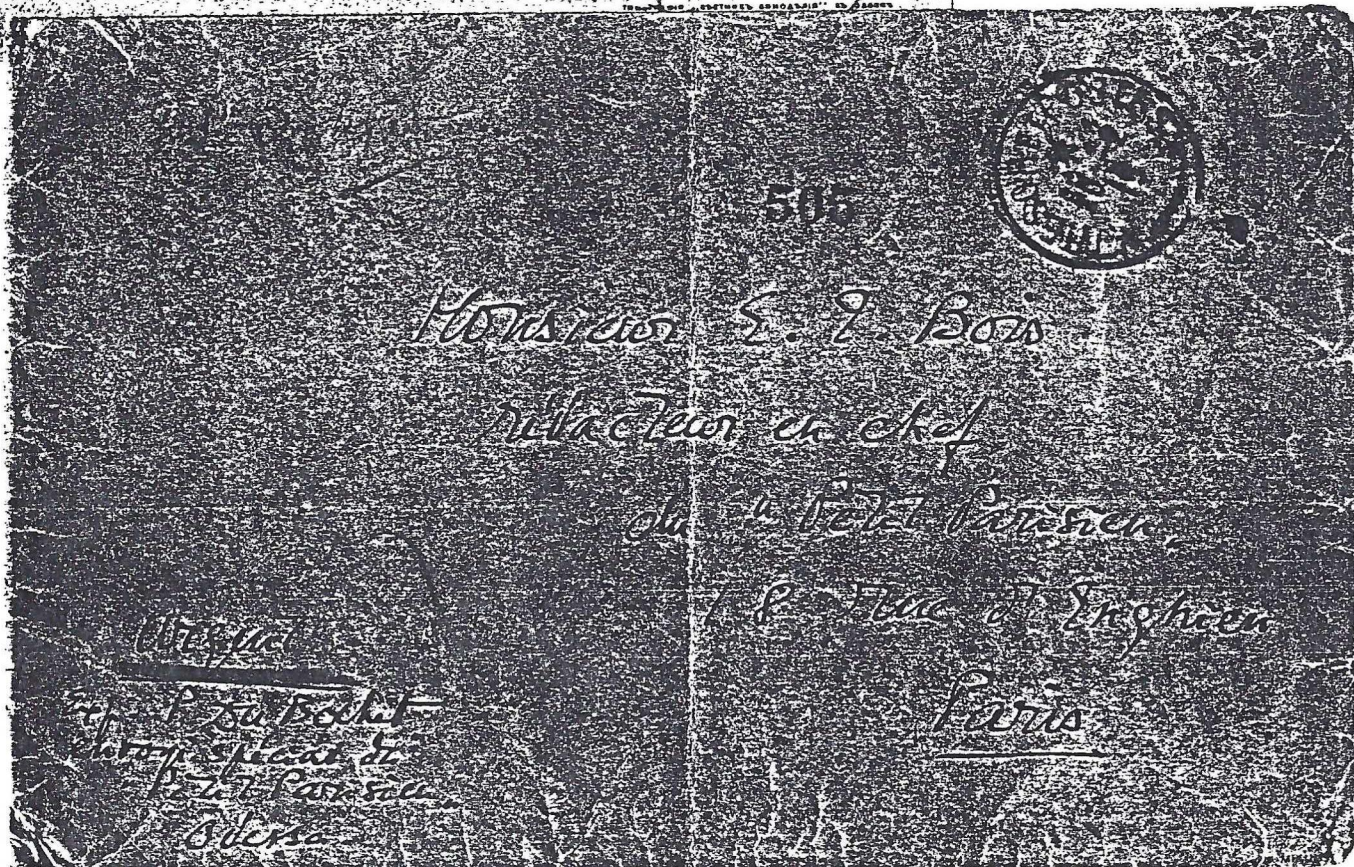
[Signature]

ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО



Monsieur Marie Robert
31, rue de la Paix
à Métairie
(Lyon)

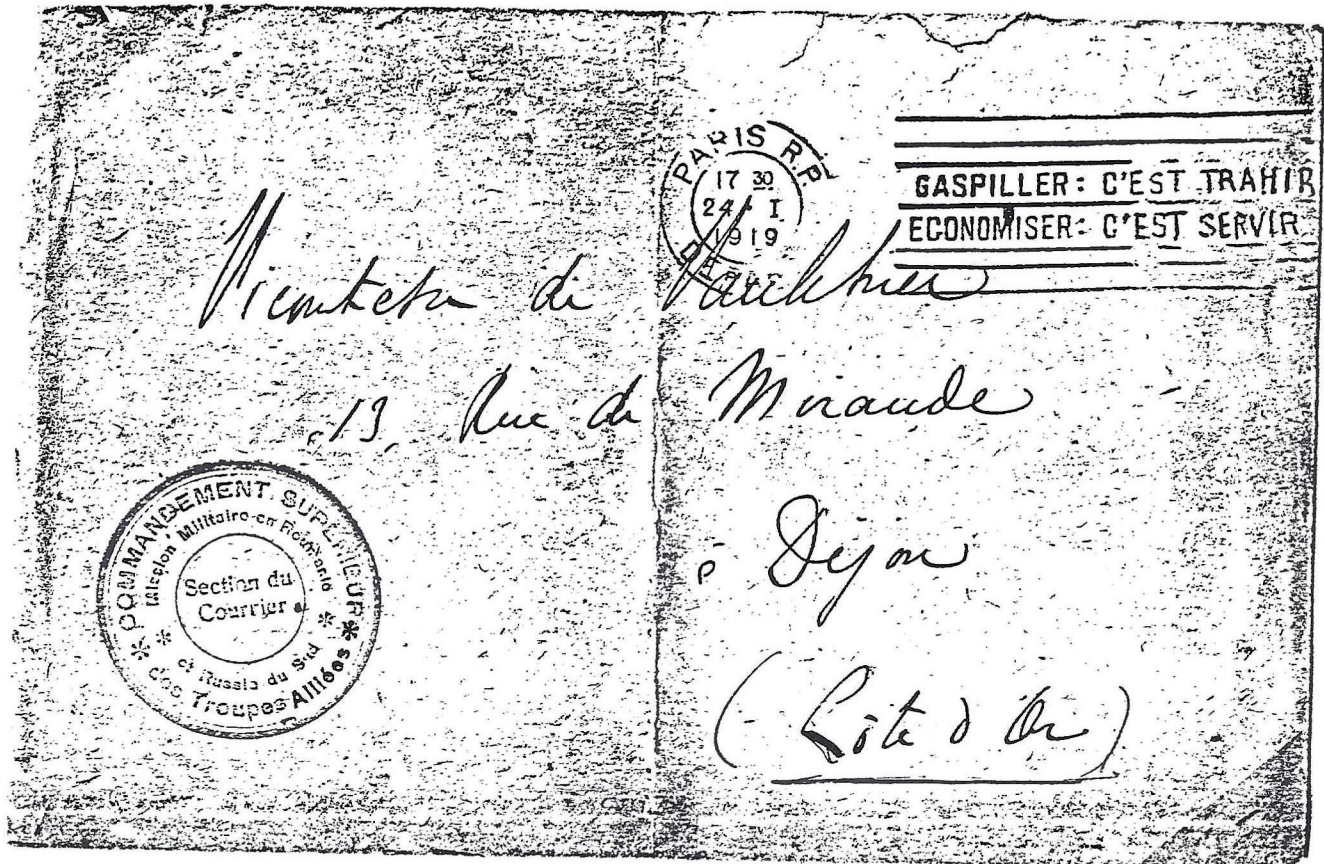
16. Одесса. Городской Театръ.
Odessa. Théâtre de ville.



The French intervention in South Russia was half-hearted and totally inadequate to produce any positive result. On 18 December 1918, the 156th Infantry Division landed at Odessa. This unit consisted of 10,000 men, mostly Algerian and Senegalese troops, accounting for the paucity of philatelic material. In the face of Bolshevik attacks, the French negotiated the withdrawal of their occupation force from Odessa on 5 April 1919.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
South Russia

Mission Militaire en Russie du Sud
January 1919

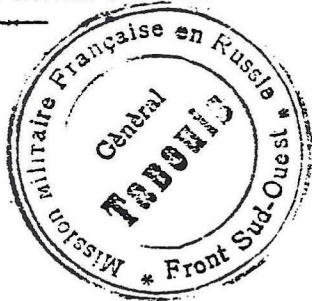


France and Britain divided the responsibility for military affairs in South Russia based on an agreement reached in December 1917. The area assigned to the French was to the west of the River Don, in which the military situation proved to be completely chaotic. However, a French military mission was established, first in connection with the mission in Romania, later as a separate operation in South Russia.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
South Russia

Mission Militaire Francaise en Russie

DOCTEUR PIERRE PIETRI



*Madame Pierre Pietri
5 Boulevard Pierre
Dax*

MISSION MILITAIRE FRANÇAISE
EN RUSSIE DU SUD

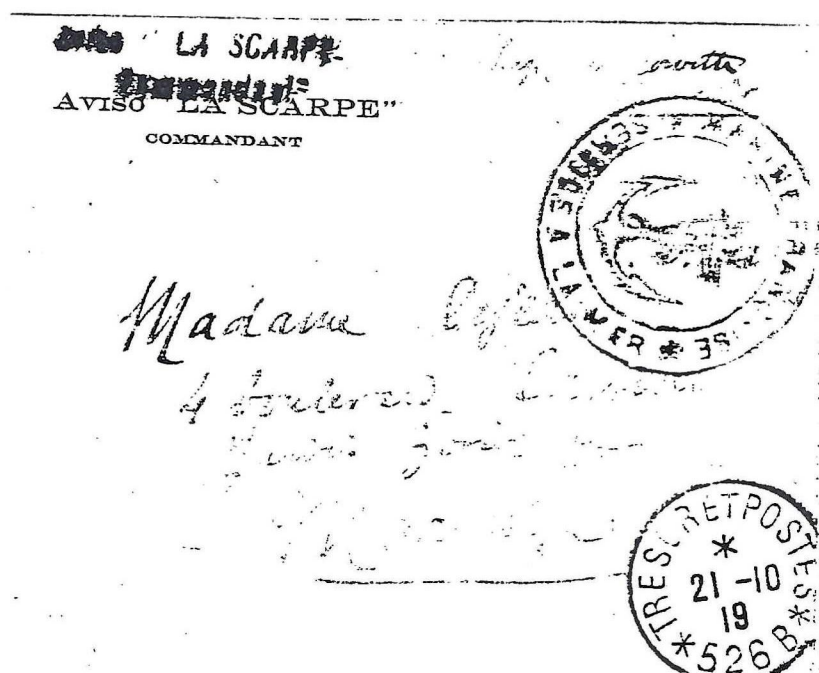
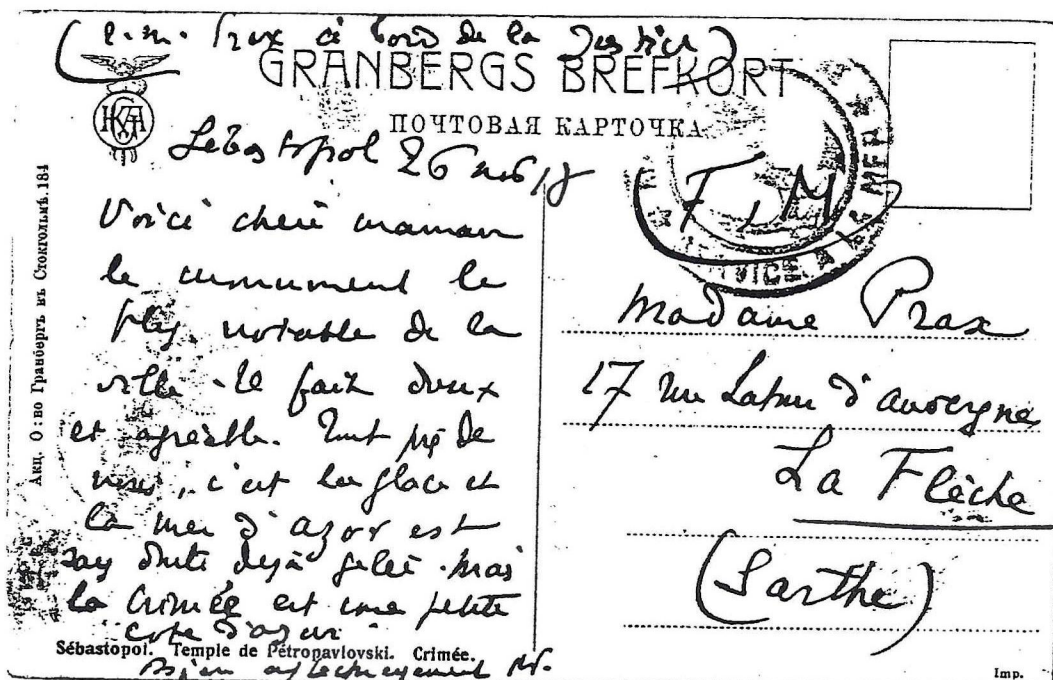
*Mission Militaire Britannique
Service des Evacués
Novorossisk*

Except for Odessa, the French did not have their own field post stations in South Russia. As a result, mail was identified by unit cachets and transported via military pouch. Note lower cover was addressed to the British Military Mission, Refugee Service in Novorossisk.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
South Russia

Sebastopol
16 November 1918

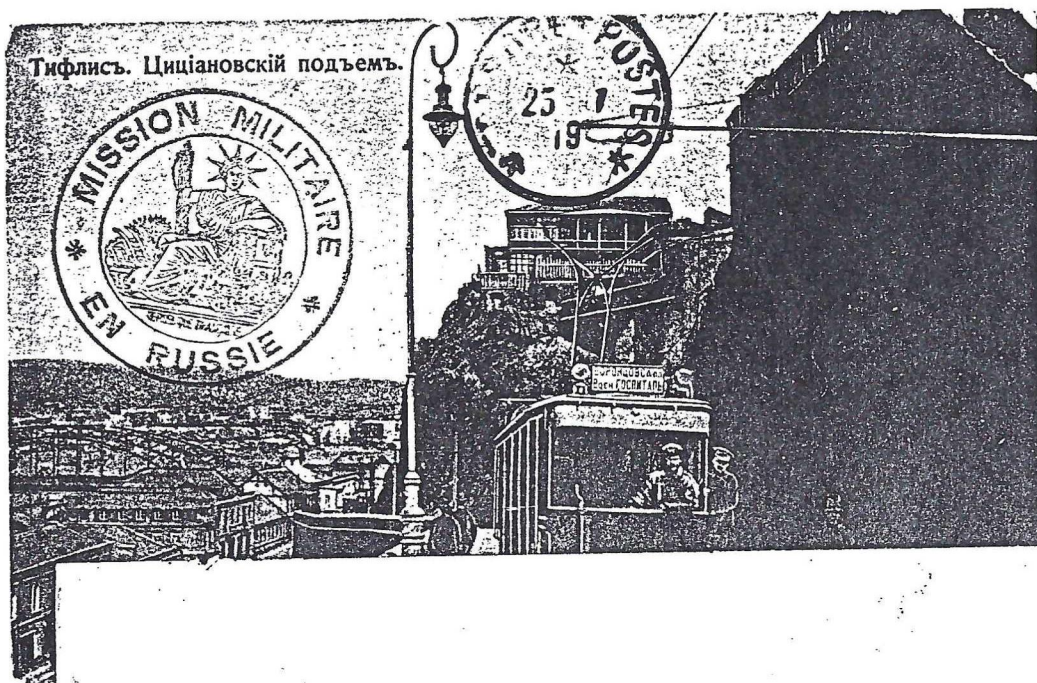
Odessa
15 October 1919



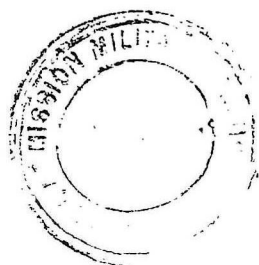
Unwilling to fight on land, the French commanders used their Black Sea fleet in an attempt to project the image of power in South Russia (somewhat hampered by a brief mutiny in the fleet in April 1919). The French ships continued to import supplies and evacuate White Russians through the summer of 1920.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Transcaucasia

Tresor et Postes
25 July 1919
28 September 1919



Monsieur Th. Champion,
13 - Rue Brouot
Paris.

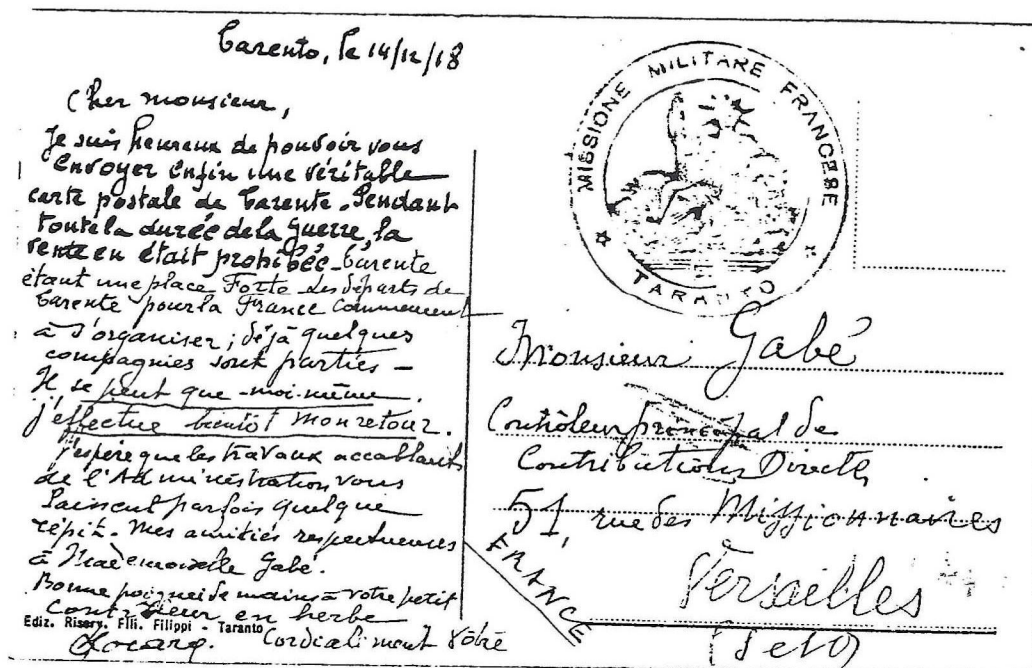
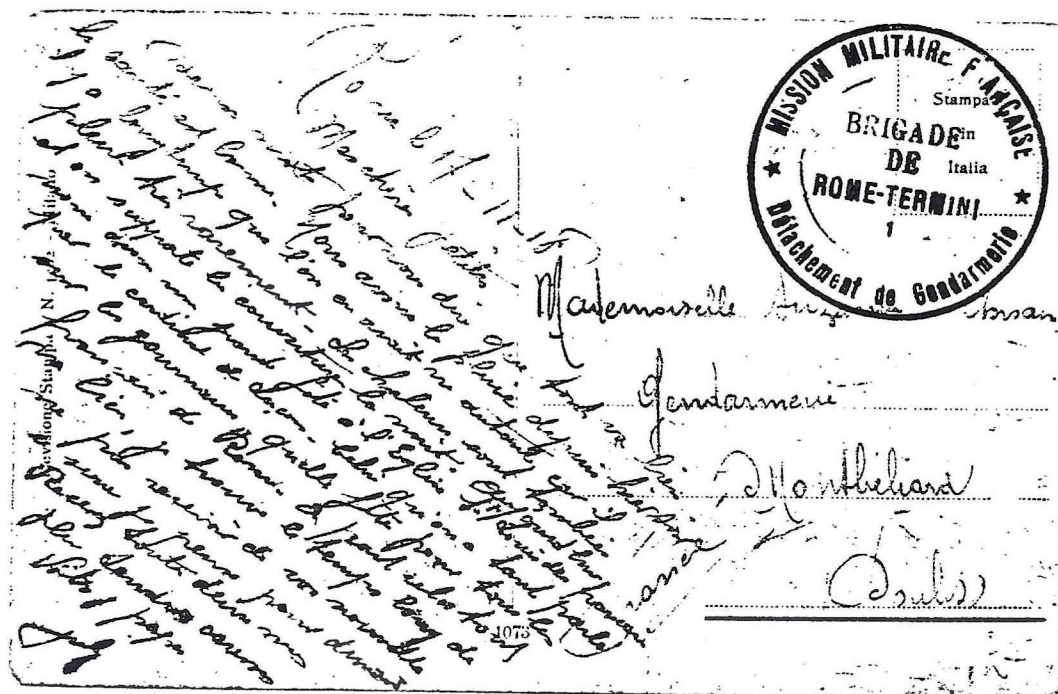


TX

The French also maintained a small military mission without combat capability (Mission Militaire Francaise au Caucase) in Tiflis, Georgia, even though this was in the British sphere of influence. Picture post card of Tiflis has Military Mission cachet. Cover is addressed to a prominent stamp dealer but shows the only recorded example of the Caucasus marking.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Italy

Mission Militaire Francaise
17 November 1918
14 December 1918

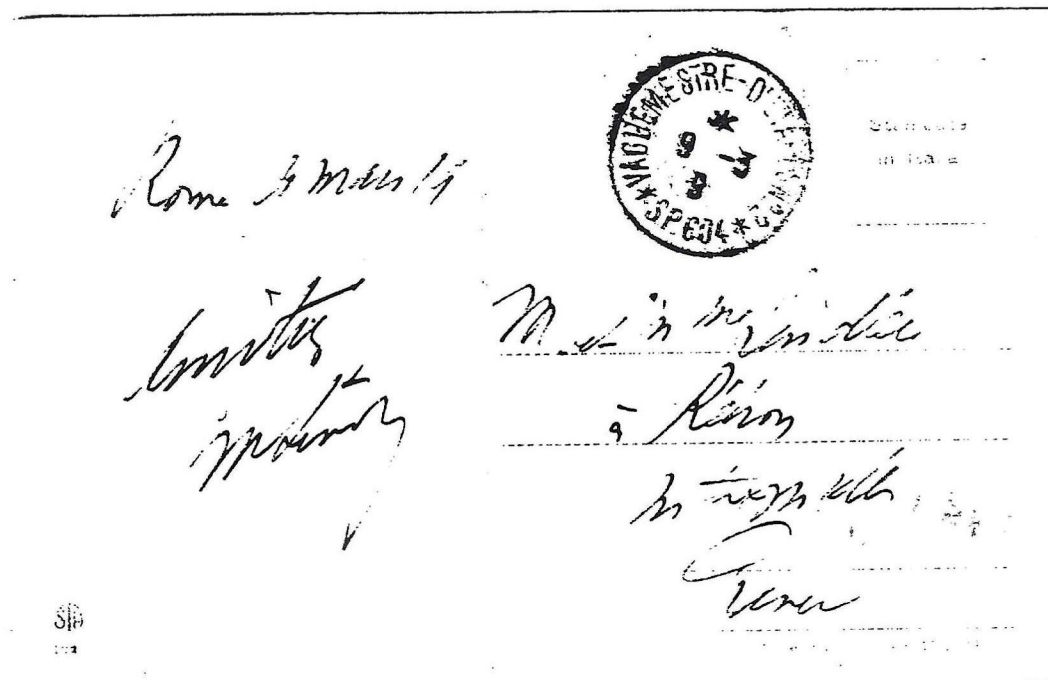
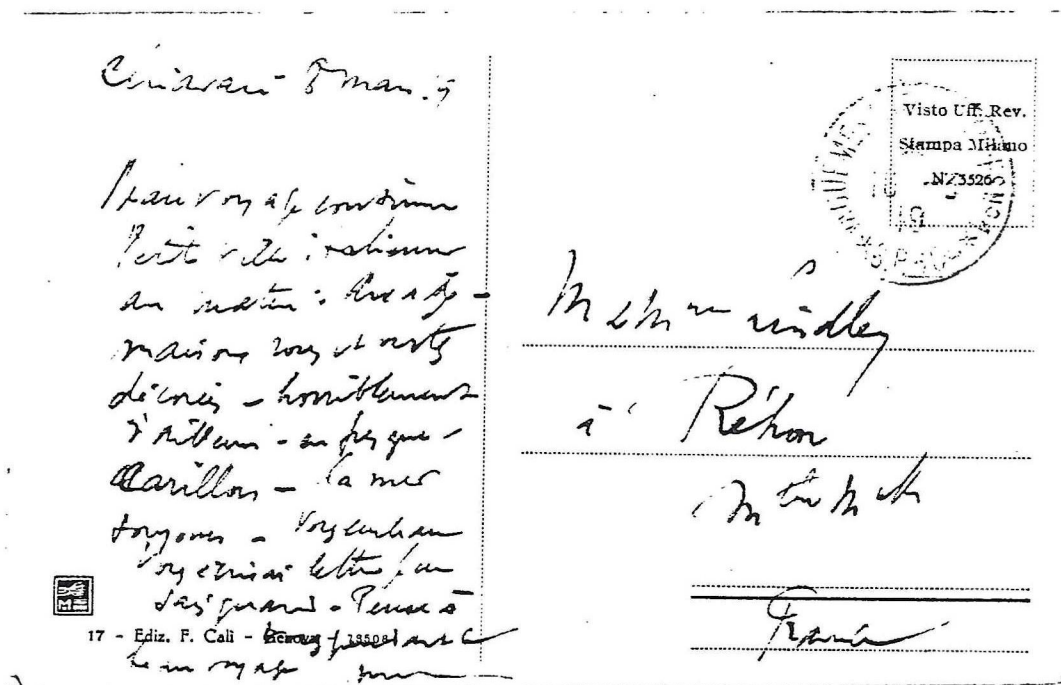


A military mission was sent to Italy to establish lines of communication with the Allied Army of the Orient based in Salonica. This force was substantially augmented in 1917 following the Italian defeat at Caporetto, when the Austrian advance threatened Venice. Even after the armistice, French military units were deployed in various areas of Italy. Above unit cachets indicate mail from forces located in Rome and Taranto.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Italy

Vaguemestre d'Etapes No.1
10 March 1919

Vaguemestre d'Etapes No.2
9 March 1919



The Military Mission in Italy used two unusual postmarks for the regimental mail offices associated with FPO #604 in Rome. (The marking for office number 1 was always applied in red.)

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Italy

Venezia
15 May 1919

Verona
13 November 1919

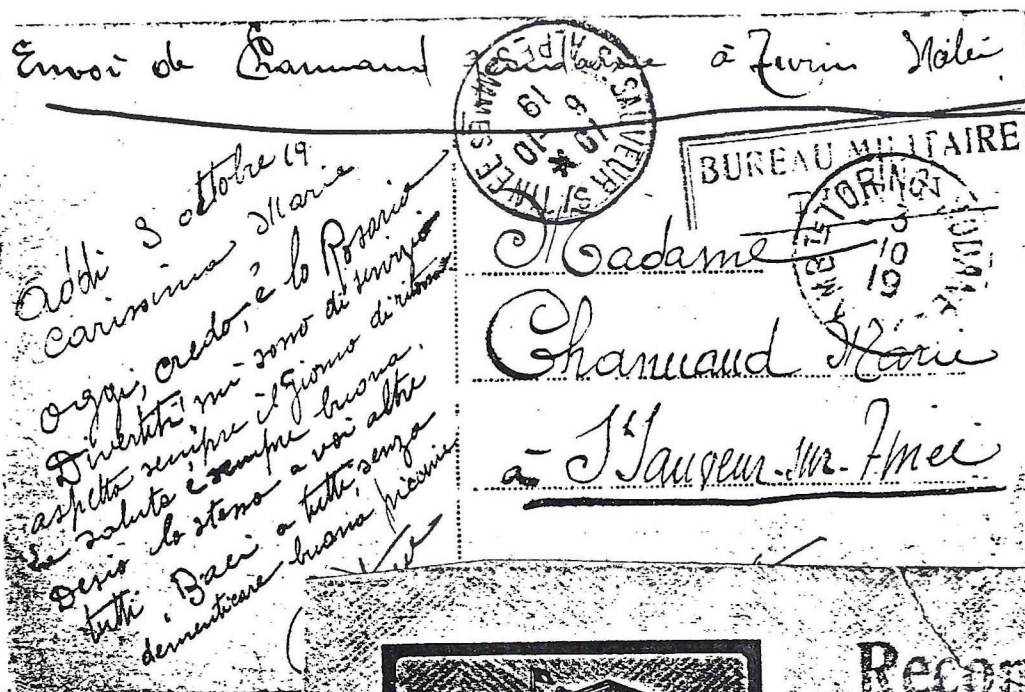


Additional unit cachets used in Italy after the end of the war included "French Aviation Detachment in Venice" and "French Regional Office/Verona."

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
Italy

Torino
3 October 1919

Tresor et Postes 604
25 January 1919



The members of the French Mission used both civilian and Military postal facilities. The card above is an example of the latter, being postage free due to the unit cachet "Military Bureau/Turin." The latter originated in Florence and was sent through FPO #604 in Rome, as military mail, but had to pay the registration fee.