

Holy Land Postal History

15

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SOCIETY OF THE
POSTAL HISTORY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL



מעטפה נדירה מסואץ לירושלים, שהוטסה ב"מעוף המצרי"
של ספינת האוויר גרף צפלין ב-1931.

Rare cover from Suez to Jerusalem, carried by the
airship Graf Zeppelin in its "Egypt Flight" of 1931
(See article on page 735)



SUMMER 1983

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* H O L Y L A N D P O S T A L H I S T O R Y *
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OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SOCIETY OF THE POSTAL HISTORY OF
ERETZ-ISRAEL

Affiliated to the Federation of the Philatelic Societies in Israel

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THE PROGRESS OF "TEL AVIV 83"

The preparations for the "Tel Aviv 83" enlarged national stamp exhibition are well ahead. From the many requests for exhibits from all over the world, it seems that it is going to be a success, at least as far as Holy Land philately and postal history is concerned.

The exhibition comprises about 1500 frames composed of 200 out-of-competition (Class of Honour, Jury, Invited), 700 for the national, and 550 in the International section, devoted solely to the Holy Land. We will undoubtedly see some of the most spectacular collections of Holy Land philately and postal history.

Some important events concerning Holy Land philately will take place during the exhibition. A ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone for the Philatelic Museum of Postal History of the Holy Land will be held on 26th September. The W.P.C. convention will take place on the 2nd and 3rd of October. At the same time there will be a Symposium on Holy Land philately and postal history, offering about six lectures given by experts in their fields. This symposium, which is an innovation for Israeli stamp exhibitions, is organized by our Society with the sponsorship of the Organizing Committee, and we hope to make it a permanent feature of the program of Israeli and other stamp exhibitions. Other events for the young collectors and in other philatelic fields will also be organized.

THE PHILATELIC MUSEUM

The Philatelic Museum (its exact name has not yet been declared), a dream of many years has finally come true! On July 5th, 1983, a formal contract was signed between Mr. M. Zipori, the Minister of Communications, Mr. S. Lahat, the Mayor of Tel Aviv, and Mr. R. Ze'evi, the General Director of Ha'aretz Museum, declaring the establishing of such a museum among the complex of pavilions in Ramat Aviv (near Tel Aviv). Last but not least among the signatories of the contract was the famous artist Ya'acov Agam, who will help finance the building

of the Museum. It will probably be called the Agam Pavilion, in memory of his late wife Klila Agam. As mentioned previously, the foundation ceremony will be held during the "Tel Aviv 83" exhibition. It is hoped that the inauguration of the Museum will take place during our International Stamp Exhibition in 1985.



The ceremony of signing the contract - establishing the
Museum of Postal History and Philately of the Holy Land.

(From left to right): Mr. R. Ze'evi, Mr. M. Zipori,
Mr. S. Lahat and Mr. Y. Agam.



OBITUARY

The Society of the Postal History of the Holy Land regrets to advise our members of the passing away of our member and contributor ZVI HALPERIN, the postmaster of Qiryat Motzkin. We join the family in their deep sorrow.

Zvi was one of our founder members, and a well-known historian of the early days of the development of the postal system of the State. His articles on this subject have appeared in the Bulletin of the Society and elsewhere. His contributions to the subject have helped very considerably in understanding what happened then.

May his memory be long remembered.

THE PALESTINE ROUND TRIP OF THE LZ 127 - GRAF ZEPPELIN

(Egypt Flight, 1931)*

Fred F. Blau, Chicago

The airship Graf Zeppelin left Friedrichshafen on its second visit to Palestine on April 9, 1931. It made a non-stop flight to Cairo, where it landed on April 11, 1931 at 05:15. During the stay of thirty minutes, passengers and mail were unloaded and persons making the round trip were taken on board. Mail for the so-called "Palestine Round Trip" went on board as well. At 05:45 British soldiers released the ropes and the airship started its flight to Jerusalem, where it arrived at 10:00 a.m. Over the Holy Sepulchre the engines were turned off, and the airship hovered over the Old City for a few minutes, at a height of about 300 feet (100 meters). It then returned via Sichem, Emmaus and the desert to Cairo, where it landed on April 11, at 17:00 hours.

Mail addressed to Palestine, and this applies to pieces of mail from the various Contracting States, was unloaded at the second landing in Cairo and forwarded by rail to Palestine. No private drops were made over Jerusalem.

For the occasion of the Visit of the Graf Zeppelin, the Egyptian Postal Authorities overprinted the 27 milliemes airmail stamp with "Graf Zeppelin Avril 1931". A 50 mm overprint with blue ink and a 100 mm overprint in black was applied by the Government Printing Office in the Boulaq section of Cairo. 25,000 sets were issued, of which 1660 went to the Universal Postal Union in Berne, Switzerland. 2000 sets were kept by Government officials; 2950 sets were destroyed because of faulty overprints, over 8000 sets were used and about 1000 sets were cancelled, most probably to order. Constant varieties appear on both overprints, the best known being with the year "1951" instead of 1931.

*Editor's note: For a full review of the subject, see the book by Blau & Deighton: "The Egypt Flight of the LZ 127".

These special airmail stamps were on sale at the post offices in Cairo, Alexandria, Port Said and Suez, and only in these post offices was mail accepted for that flight. The Egyptian mail consisted of 4,793 cards and 7,619 letters. The correct postage was 50 mm for a card and 100 mm for a letter, but most letters were franked with both values. Each piece of mail received a commemorative cachet, which is shown on the illustrated pieces.



Fig. 1: A cover of "The Egypt Flight 1931" of the LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin, from Cairo to Jerusalem.

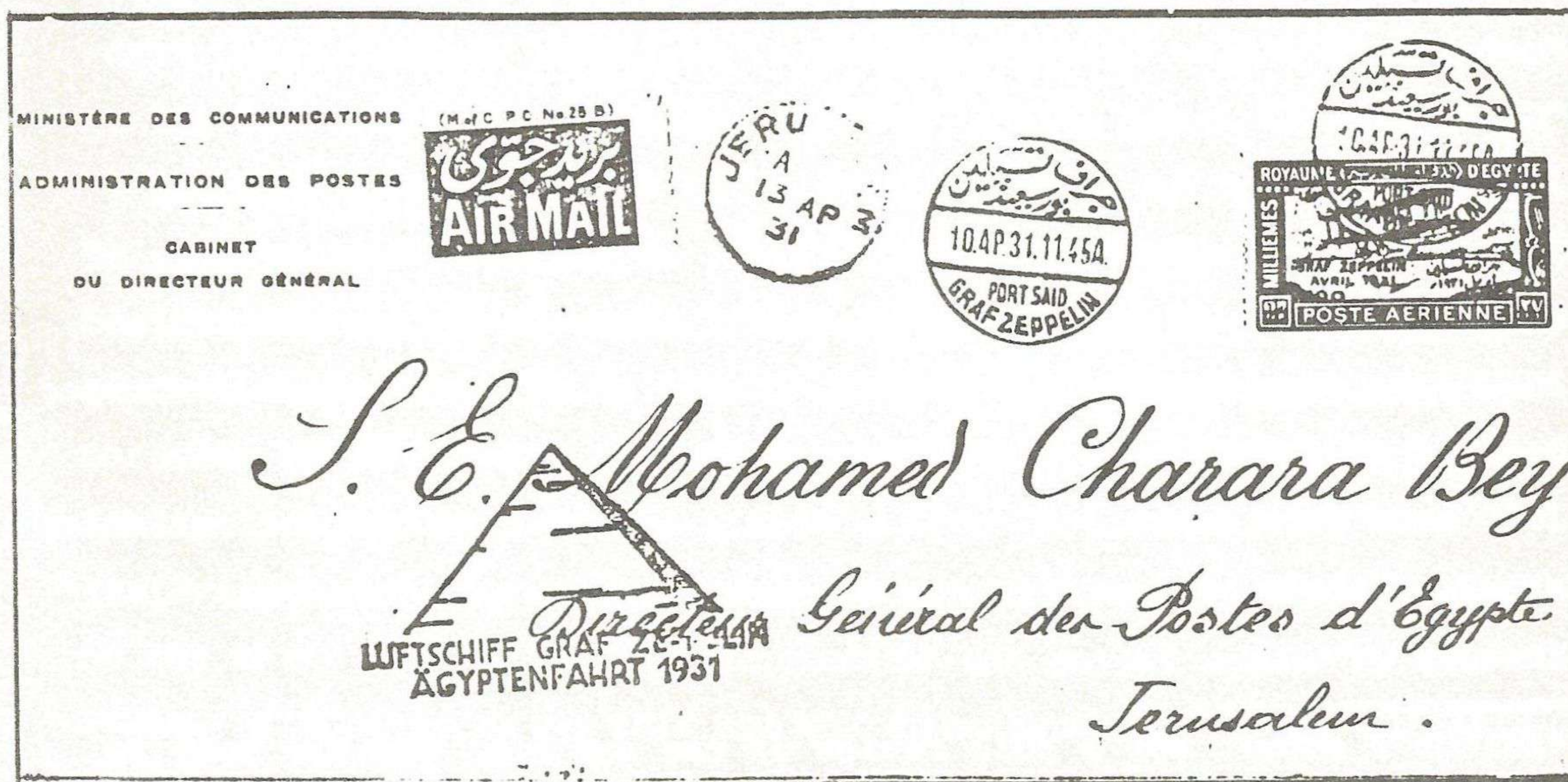


Fig. 2: Port Said to Jerusalem - a cover of "The Egypt Flight 1931", LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin.

Owing to the large population in Cairo and Alexandria many cancelled cards and letters are known (Fig. 1). Port Said cards and letters are scarce (Fig. 2), and it is estimated that about 400 pieces of mail from that office exist.

The letter with the "SUEZ" postmark (front cover) is called by airmail experts as the "maximum" in aerophilately. It belonged once to King Farouk of Egypt. As a matter of fact, all the pieces shown (front & above) were posted by the Director General of Posts of Egypt for the late monarch. For over forty years not one single piece with a SUEZ postmark was known. The postmark was listed in the well-known Sieger catalog but without a price, meaning that Sieger never saw one.

For over thirty years I looked for such a piece, the more so, because I once had a cut-out with a Graf Zeppelin Suez postmark. At the Jerusalem International Philatelic Exhibition I was approached by our friend Mr. Silvano Sorani, who told me that I was missing such a piece in my collection. He assured me that he had found one in a shoe box and that he would mail me a photocopy. I did not believe it, to be honest, but it did arrive. What we all know is that once a piece appears, probably another one would follow. And sure enough, a few months later a card with a Suez cancel addressed to Haifa, but without an arrival postmark, appeared in an Orlandini, Rome, auction. The start price was \$150.00. My bid was unsuccessful and it was acquired by a German Zeppelin collector.

During the London International Philatelic Exhibition in 1980, I was invited by the late Mr. Graham to see his collection. He was the greatest Zeppelin collector of all. I was told by a friend of mine, who arranged this meeting, not to say anything when this piece of mail would be shown to me; and especially that an offer to buy it would end the visit. I looked through his collection for three or four hours, and had to leave. When I said "Good bye and thank you", Mr. Graham said: "Fred, I know why you came here. You would like

to own the SUEZ letter. I am sure," he continued, "that owning and displaying this piece would finally get you a large gold. If the price is right, you can have it." It took just one minute to acquire it.

One more piece came on the market after that. The letter is addressed to Jerusalem, but it is exploded, so that the Jerusalem postmark on the back can be seen. The cover went for \$16,000.00.

In conclusion I would like to show a letter posted in Port Said (Fig. 3): On the left 50 mm stamp is the error "1951".

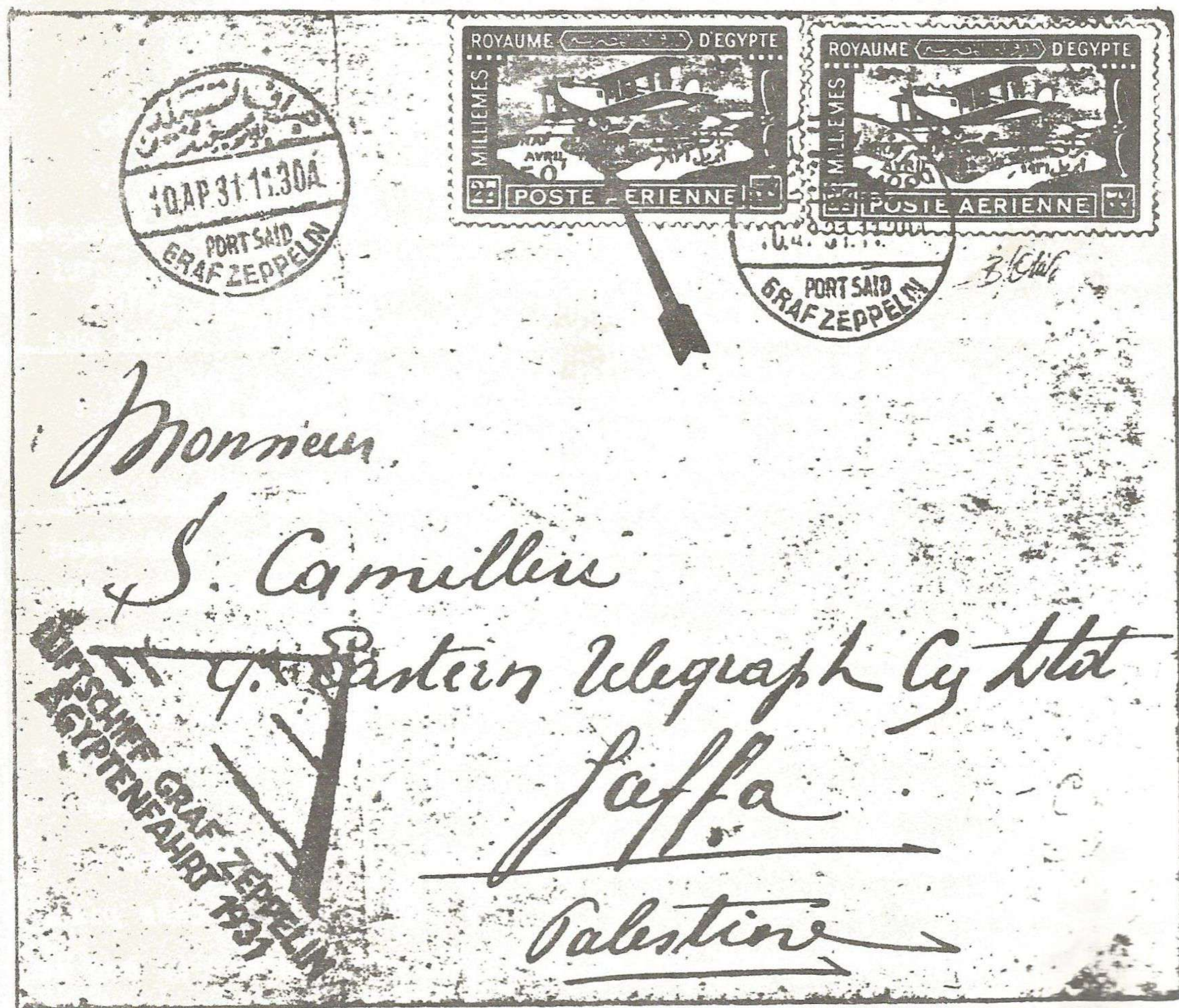


Fig. 3: The error "AVRIL 1951" (instead of 1931) on the 50 M stamp of the specially overprinted issue, commemorating the LZ 127 Graf Zeppelin "Egypt Flight". Cover from Port Said to Jaffa.

For lack of time, not all the mail from the round trip could be unloaded. Some of the mail was carried back to Germany, and then forwarded by surface to Palestine. Pieces with an arrival postmark of the 7th and 8th May are known. In Fig. 4 is such a postcard from Alexandria, addressed to Jerusalem, with the arrival postmark May 7, 1931.

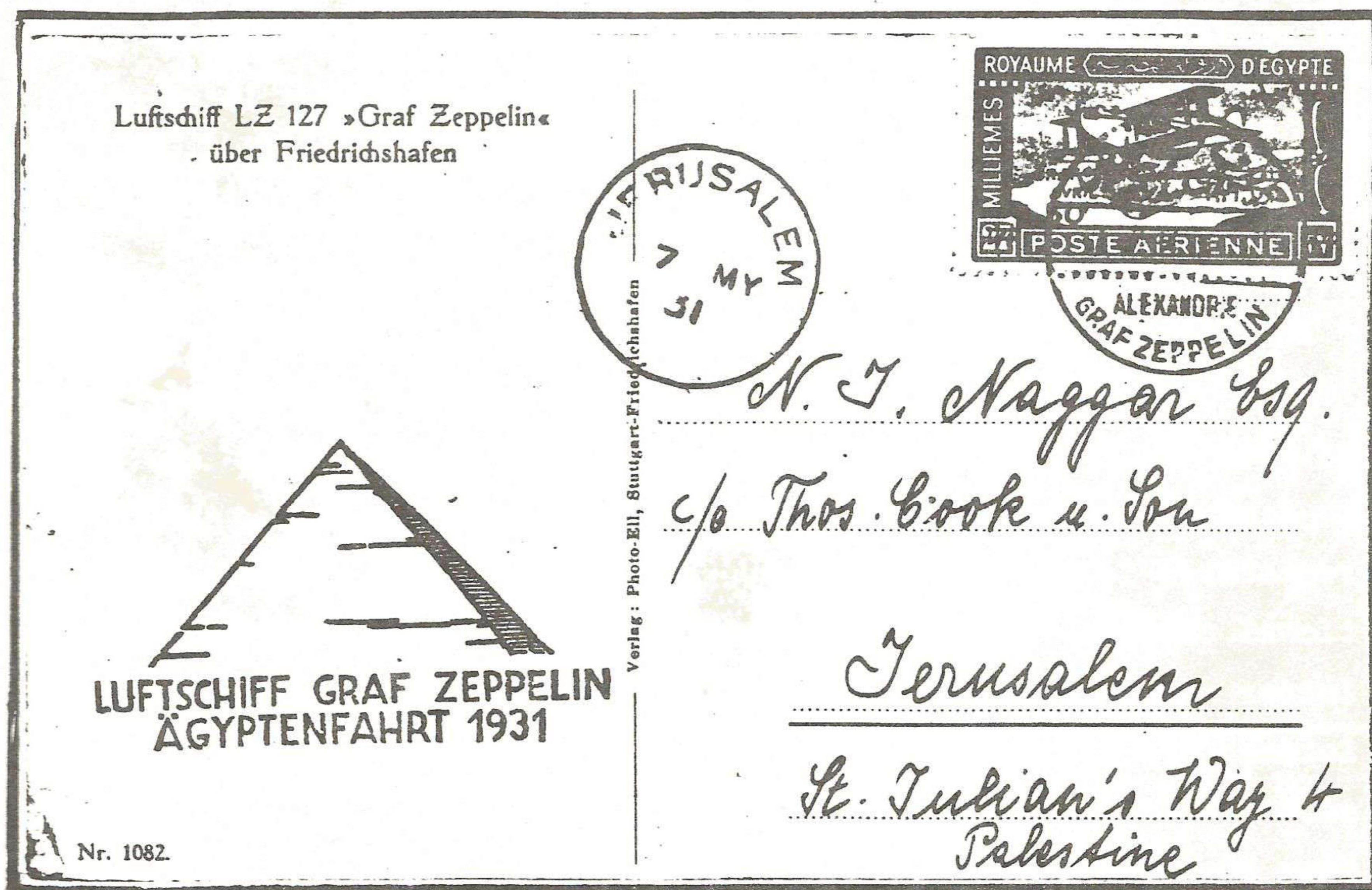


Fig. 4: A postcard of "The Egypt Flight 1931" Graf Zeppelin, from Alexandria to Jerusalem. Not unloaded directly from the airship, it went to Germany and was sent to Jerusalem by ordinary mail.

THE LETTER THAT MADE THE HADJ

Arthur M. Hochheiser, Lodi, N.J.

"HADJ" (also spelled HAJJ) is a word derived from the Arabic, which means 'pilgrimage'. In Islam, this refers specifically to the pilgrimage (and return) to the Holy City of Mecca in Saudi Arabia, birthplace of Mohammed. After the completion of certain rituals in Mecca, the pilgrim proceeds to nearby Mina, his goal, to perform a certain sacrifice to complete the Hadj rituals. Each Moslem is expected to make the Hadj at least once in a lifetime, unless health or financial reasons prevent him from making the trip.

This letter, mailed from Lydda in Palestine, travelled to Mecca in Saudi Arabia and an effort was made to find the pilgrim at Mina. Palestine and Saudi Arabia were member countries of the Universal Postal Union (U.P.U.), whose regulations governed the disposition of such mail. The letter could not be held for more than two months to find the addressee. According to U.P.U. regulations, this registered letter was to be returned to the sender with no additional charges. Since the sender could not be found as well, the letter was sent to the Returned Letter Office (also called "Dead" Letter Office) in the country of origin. With no contents of value, such a letter would normally have been destroyed. We can only surmise how mail from the Returned Letter Office has survived. There are three possibilities. First, employees entrusted with the disposal of such mail did not perform their duties properly. Second, at this time, with the turmoil going on in Palestine, authorities did not pay much attention to such relatively unimportant matters. The third reason is the most probable. U.P.U. regulations provided that such material with no contents of value could be sold in bulk without any holding period. One can readily understand how such material would end up in philatelic hands. This posted letter has human interest details as well as many elements of postal history.

Fig. 5 shows the front of the letter as originally posted. Only the small post office label in Arabic and French "PARTI" (departed)

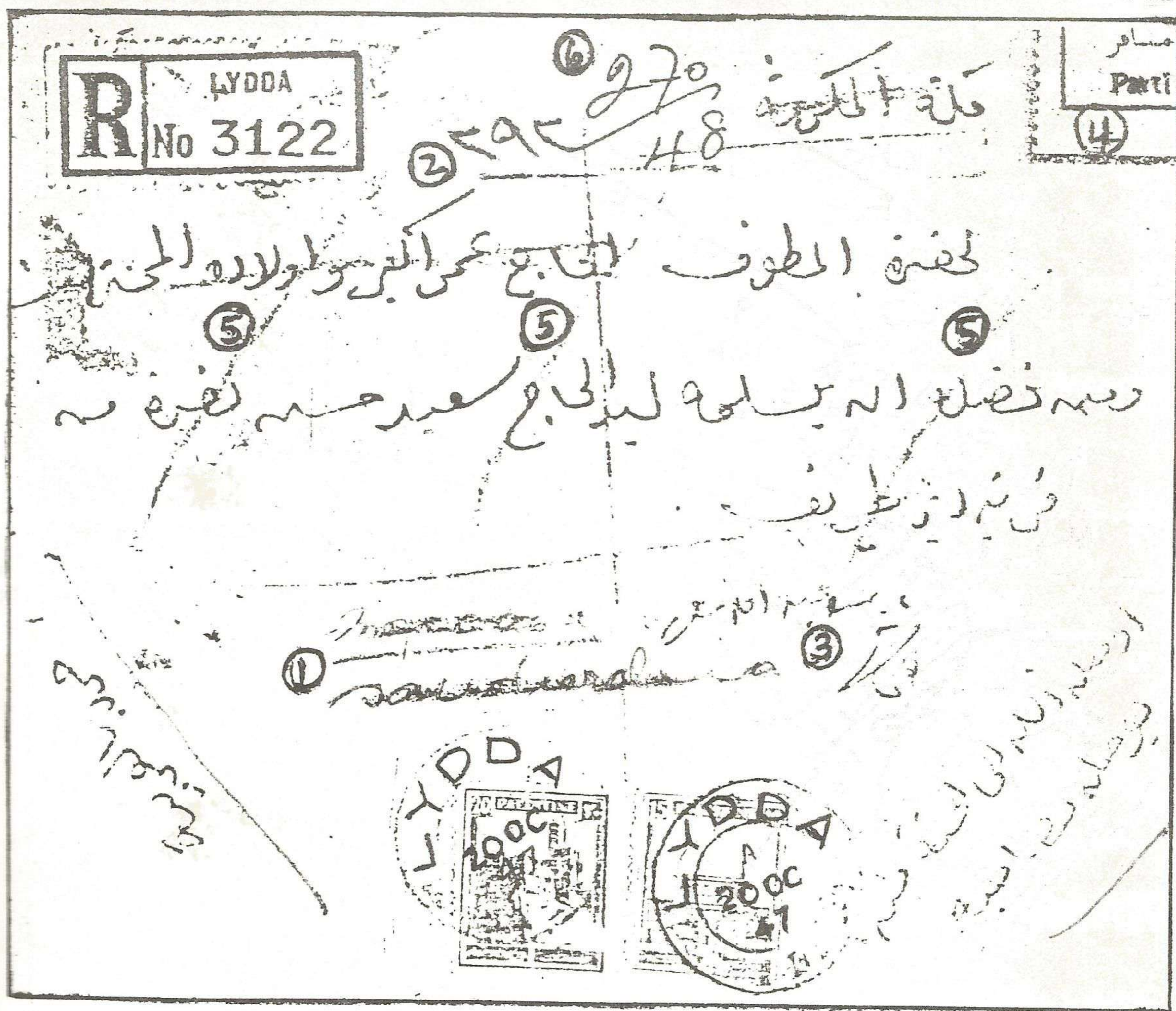


Fig. 5: The front of a cover from Lydda, which "made the Hadj" to Mecca.

applied in transit had been moved to the right to show part of the original address that was beneath it. On the envelope it is pasted over the city name "HOLY MECCA". Fig. 6 shows the back with the return address, and all transit markings. The stamps affixed are the correct amount for a registered letter to a foreign country other than the United Kingdom; 20 mils postage and 15 mils registry fee.

Fig. 7 shows the front of the letter as originally addressed and posted with the Arabic translated. Remember that Arabic, like Hebrew, reads from right to left. The back return address reads:

Sender: Mohammed Rashid Mustafa Daoud

Address: Der Tariff, El Led

(Note: El Led is the Arabic name for Lydda. Lod is the Hebrew name.)

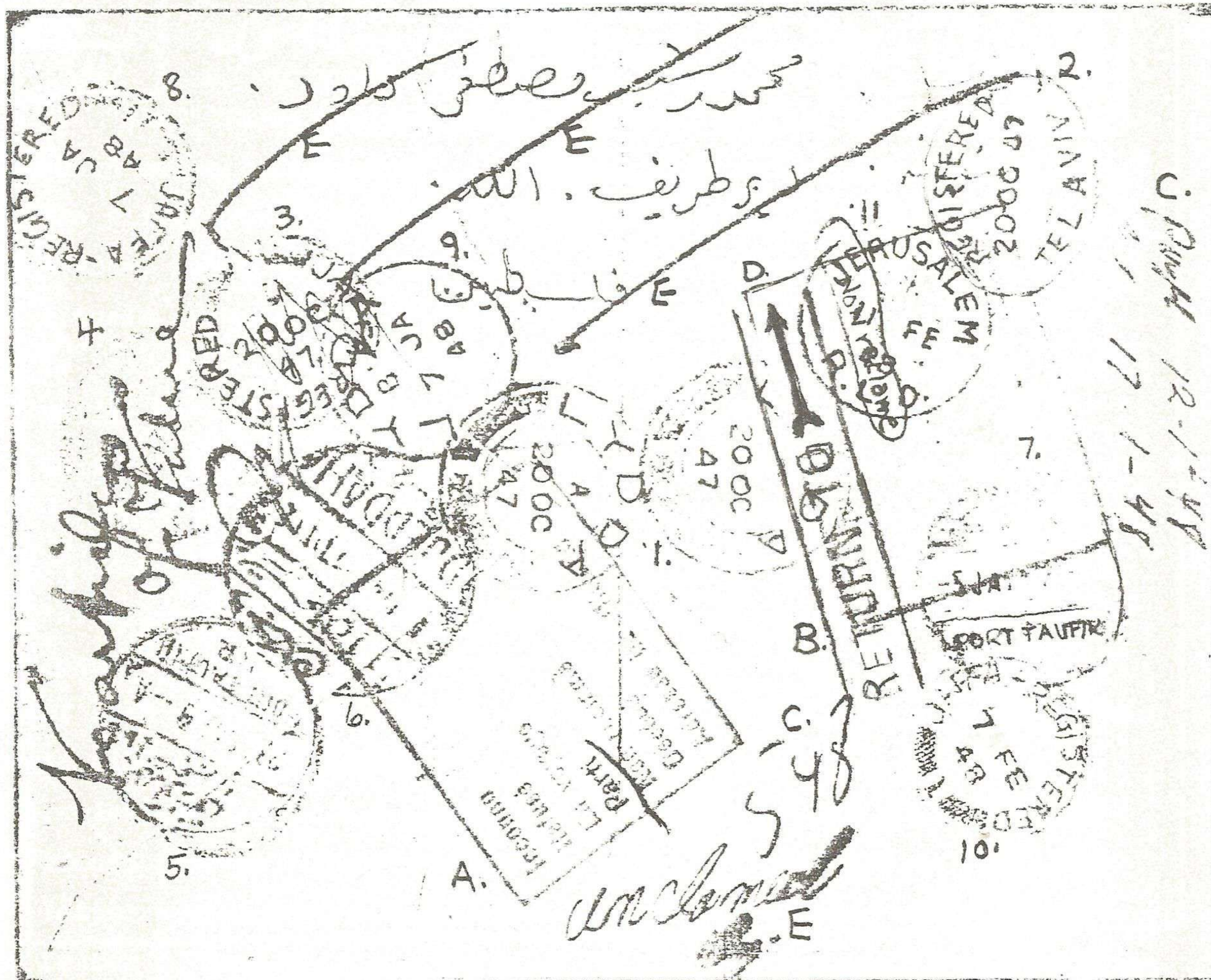


Fig. 6: The back of the "Hadj Cover" - a real adventure.

In Fig. 6 the cancellations in order are:

- 1) Lydda, 20 Oct 47; the double circle despatch cancellation. Most small post offices did not have registry strikes. This is the same strike used to cancel the stamps on the front.
- 2) Tel Aviv (REG), 20 Oct 47; registry cancellation. The nearest large city provided the registry cancellation.
- 3) Jaffa (REG), 20 Oct 47; port city for foreign mail. It is interesting that the first three cancellations were all struck on the same day.
- 4) Cairo, 22 Oct 47; transit city for Arabian mail.
- 5) Port Taufik, 23 Oct 47; Egyptian port city for mail to the south.

- 6) Djedda (Jidda), ? Nov 47; port city for Mecca, in Saudi Arabia.
- 7) Port Taufik, 5 Jan 48; first stop on return trip.
- 8) Jaffa (REG), 7 Jan 48; arrival in Palestine.
- 9) Lydda, 7 Jan 48; return to town of original despatch.
- 10) Jaffa (REG); 7 Feb 48; unable to locate sender. Letter is routed to Returned Letter Office.
- 11) Jerusalem, 11 Feb 48; single circle cancellation R.L.O. (Returned Letter Office).

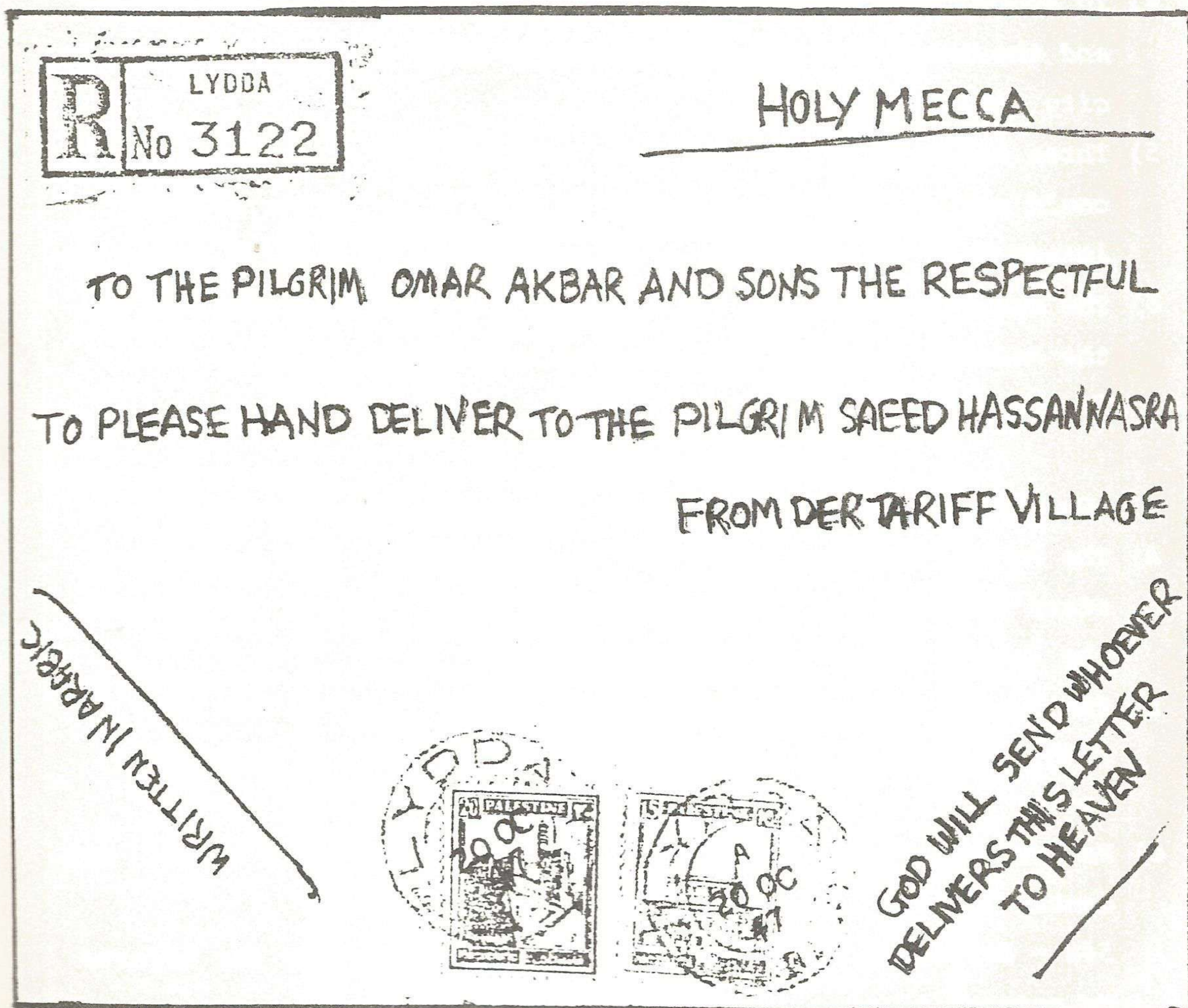



Fig. 7: A "copy" of the front of the "Hadj Cover", translated to English.

On the front of the cover there are additional markings:

- 1) Some postal employee, while the cover was en route, wrote in "Mecca / Saudi Arabia" in two lines in English. Presumably this was done to facilitate delivery.
- 2) In Mecca the name is underlined and an Arabic '292', underlined, is pencilled in. This was obviously an indexing number for this registered letter.
- 3) In Arabic "In the vicinity of Mina" is written in and initialed to direct the letter to the place where the pilgrims congregated.
- 4) In Mecca, the addressing in 2) and 3) above was blue-pencilled and the label in Arabic and French (PARTI) was applied over the city name "HOLY MECCA".
- 5) Three hatch lines (in red) have been applied after the addressee could not be located, in order to facilitate returning this letter back to the sender. This was probably done in Palestine.
- 6) The numbers at the top (in red) 270 / 48 are file markings of the Returned Letter Office in Jerusalem, the office of final disposition.

On the back of the cover there are additional markings:

- A) The boxed handstamp with "PARTI" underlined. This boxed handstamp notation was required by the U.P.U. in order to redirect the letter to its country of origin.
- B) The bracketed handstamp marked "RETURN TO ". This was probably applied in Jaffa on 7 Jan 48 in order to return the letter to Lydda, the town of origin.
- C) Handwritten: Signature 12-1-48, 17-1-48, applied in Lydda. Evidently dates of attempt to make return delivery.
548 - Evidently the number assigned to this letter for efforts to return it.
- D) The boxed handstamp with "Non reclame" (not claimed) circled. This was required in order to direct the letter to the Returned Letter Office.

E) The final markings of the Returned Letter Office:

Three hatch lines (in red) to cross out the return address. Post office notations "Unclaimed" and "No Articles of Value" (both in red) each with an initialed signature.

I would like to thank Marvin Siegel of New York City for clarifying the significance of some of the cancellations and postal markings. I would also express my appreciation to Jack Namuj of Lodi, New Jersey for translating the Arabic for me.

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A PETITION FOR A POST OFFICE IN SAFAD

D. Genachowski, Jerusalem*

"These lines witness and prove what we, the undersigned, say: that Mr. Tuvia Unger is an honest man, and can be relied upon in the matter of delivering mail. Hence our petition to the most excellent authorities, that if they wish to open a post office in the Jewish Street, this position may be given him, as he is an honest, sure and able man, fit for it. In witness thereof, the eleventh day of Ellul 5661, Safad, may it be built and founded" - and here come the signatures and seals of several rabbis and other substantial Jewish citizens of Safad. The date corresponds to October 1901. The text is repeated in Arabic (see Fig. 8).

Tuvia Unger was a merchant. A business envelope of his from the late 20's, under the British mandate, carries the following heading, in Hebrew, Arabic and English: "Tobias Unger Commercial House, Founded in Year 1896, Safed, Palestine, Tel. No. 11, P.O. Box 26". The Hebrew text is more precise: "Wholesale warehouse". Among other things, Unger served as chief agent for Safad and the Upper Galilee for several fuel companies - a position which implied a certain degree of wealth and above that of trust in the later period following the First World War. His main business was in imports, hence his interest in the mail service and his involvement in the Jewish community.

The petition refers to a "post", obviously, a post office. As far as I could ascertain, no post office was opened by the Turks in the Jewish quarter of Safad. But Unger did receive, in part on the power of this petition, an appointment as a postal agent - a position he continued to hold in the early days of the mandate.

*I am grateful to Mr. Y. Hameiri of Safad, Director of the Institute for Research of Jewish Settlement in Safad, for his help in preparing the above.

The "agency", granted to Unger sometime after the turn of the century, consisted mainly of receiving and delivering letters to and from Eastern European countries for the various "Kollelim" (sub-communities of European Jews according to their countries of origin) then active in Safad, as well as the leadership of the Jewish community. Unger received and delivered the mail by a special "messenger" he employed in the "line" Safad-Tyre-Siddon-Beyruth. These messengers were primarily for his business, and riding a horse or a donkey, delivered the mail from Safad to the port of Siddon or Beyruth, and collected Safad's mail there to be brought home. Since this incoming mail consisted mainly of monies sent from abroad, Unger's messengers were permitted to carry arms.

Following the British occupation, Unger continued for a while as a postal agent, mainly selling stamps, accepting telegrams etc. His position was "recognized" by the placing of a postal collection box near his house's entrance. The box is still there today. It should be remembered that even after the British occupation, for quite a while Safad was nearer the Lebanese ports than it was to Haifa or central Palestine.

Two points regarding the signatures and seals-stamps. The first is that all those who signed this petition are "Ashkenazim", none of them being a "Sephardi", or Oriental, Jew. One is tempted to guess that the Sephardi community had its own "postal agent", perhaps somebody in a similar social and economic position to Unger's, who performed this service for them. There might have been a good reason for this kind of "separation", as both communities were dependent upon aid from abroad, and none was overeager to disclose its sources of income to the other - in some cases, one "poached" on the other's "preserve".

The second point concerns the 'stamps'. As can be seen in a glance, most of those who signed the petition used 'stamps', in addition to their signatures. The use of a 'stamp' implied a certain position and standing, while it also conformed to a degree

with the prevalent Arab usage of a 'stamp' instead of a signature or in addition to one. Moreover - 'stamps' could represent their owner. Some of the 'stamps' on this petition are without an accompanying signature. In other words, 'stamps' could be entrusted to someone else. This might have been especially so in the case of a postal agent like Unger in a place like Safad, who had to be in position to acknowledge "receipt" of letters for his "clients", not all of whom might be available every moment to sign themselves. Perhaps because of this, almost all the 'stamps' are bi-lingual.

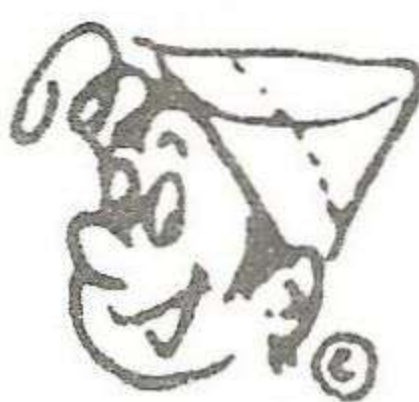


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THE STANDBY SHEQEL AND INLAND LETTER DEFINITIVES

(Updated to 5th August, 1983)

B.J. Reuter and J. Slutzki

The standby sheqel stamps were first issued on December 16th, 1980. The original issue contained 13 denominations, six more values were added later on and a new design of 1.40 ("the seven species" standby sheqel) was issued in June, 1982, with 3 additional values following. Also an "inland letter" stamp was printed in August, 1982 to cover the local cost of postage. It has no denominational value and so adapts to the monthly increase of the local rate by 5% due to rising inflation. In the three years that the sheqels have run, very many printings and stamps have been issued. For the plate block collector it has been a real bonanza.

In the 19 values of the first standby sheqel issue, 75 different printing dates appear with 205 separate "runs". These runs are actually separate printings with the printing date remaining unchanged. All in all, some 13.3 million sheets have been printed to date, nearly 380 million stamps, including over 91 million tabs - a vast number indeed. In the second standby issue of the "seven species" 4 values were issued with 8 different printing dates and with 20 separate runs. Some 884 thousand sheets have been printed till now, over 44 million stamps, with 8.84 million tabs. For the inland letter stamp 4 dates with 14 possible runs have appeared, as much as 1,400 thousand sheets have been printed, i.e. 70 million stamps with 14 million tabs.

In the Israel definitives each printer's sheet around the circumference of the printing cylinder holds from 1 to .3 panes per revolution, differentiated in the tables by cylinder types A, B, C respectively. Cylinder type A was used exclusively for the landscapes issue of the 1970's. Cylinder type B was used for all definitive issues: provisionals, zodiac, town emblems I & II, standby lira, standby sheqels, and now the inland letter stamp. Cylinder type C was used in town emblems I, landscapes and standby sheqels I.

In the standby shegels the printer's sheet layout for the ten low values 0.05, - 0.90, 1.20, 1.40, contains 2 panes of 50 stamps each (10 tabs). The same is true with the new valueless (original tariff of 1.70 shegels) local post stamp called "the inland letter" stamp (IL). These values were printed on a 2-pane cylinder sheet with the colour T T alignment or cutting markers at the top of the pane (appearing on the plate block), and T T cutting markers at the bottom (appearing on the tab row of the bottom pane).

For the ten high values 1.00, 1.10, 2.00 - 10.00, each printer's sheet at one rotation of the cylinder contains 3 panes of 15 stamps each (5 tabs per pane).

The 50 stamps sheets for the top and bottom panes may be easily distinguished by their colour cutting markers T.T. The top pane with these markers appearing on the plate block, while in the lower pane these markers appear at the bottom of the tab row. Since the "shegel" design and value frame have different colours, it means that two separate cylinders were used in the printing process. This means that the value cylinder T T colour markers must be aligned with the shegel design cylinder T T colour markers for proper stamp formatting and for guillotine purposes. Thus two different T T colour markings appear on the sheets and of course plate blocks. Also another major difference in the 2-pane sheets of the standby shegels is the proximity of the standby box (SB) on the plate block margin to the stamp's rectangular value frame - 4 mm away for the top pane and 5 mm apart for the bottom pane (except for the 1.20 value both being 4mm apart). Four different cylinders have been used for these 2-pane sheets. They are readily differentiable between themselves by different lengths of the T T markers and other minor flaws of the printing cylinders.

For the 3-pane 15 stamp sheets, the middle pane can be easily distinguished from the other two panes by the proximity of the (SB) standby box. Pane .1 and pane .3 are 5mm apart, pane .2 (middle) 4mm apart (except for the 1.10 value, where all three

panes are 4mm apart). Two different cylinders have been used for the 3-pane sheets. Panes .1 and .3 can be distinguished between themselves again by minor flaw differences of the printing cylinder as seen on the stamp panes under a magnifying lens only. (The alignment markers were cut away). Hence, separate runs are relatively simply differentiable within the different printings, and not only by the change of the printing date.

The "Inland Letter" stamp has the box 4mm away, except in the top pane .2, only within the range 100,000 - 120,000, where it is 6 mm apart. The 1.40 value of the standby sheqel II has two distinguishable T T colour markers of different length, signifying that two different value cylinders were in use: value cylinder B1A has the red colour T T markers 2 mm long. Value cylinder B1B has the red colour T T markers 4 mm long.

Notice that in the 0.30 value of the standby sheqel I, the T value colour marker on the plate block was broken into 2 separate parts in the first printings, but subsequently the T T markings of the original cylinder were repaired to a continuous stroke for the later printings. Value cylinder B1A, B2A, B3A has its colour T T markers broken. Value cylinder B3B has its colour T T markers continuous.

Note that in five cases the cyclometric numbering has gone over the million range - for 0.10, 1.00, 2.00, 5.00, 10.00 values, sometimes with a slight jump of a 1000 in the numbering. In the 10.00 sheqel, one run is not known between 915,000-1,000,000. Also the 4.20 value may have a jump of a thousand. On the other hand, there is a large overlap of 100,000 in the inland letter stamp of the first date, 290882*, covering the range between 100000-200000.

In the tables below the cyclometric ranges of the various printings and runs are tabulated, using the following notations: Cylinders with 2-panes per printer's sheet are of type B. Cylinders with 3-panes per printer's sheet are of type C.

B-cylinders have 2 panes: .1 without T T colour markers,

.2 with T T colour markers. They range from B1-B4 for various values.

C-cylinders have 3 panes: .1, .2, .3. They range from C1 - C2 for various values.

Cylinder numbers within brackets means that these have not been authenticated. Ranges within brackets: (1) Either differentiate between phosphor + on plate or no + , (2) or differentiate between papers - net or plain. (The netted paper is seen as a 0.8 mm pressed netting on the paper).

N - netted paper, the netting parallel to frame.

ND - netted paper, the netting diagonal to frame.

SP - spots on margin of plate block.

+ - plus between ranges signifies a phosphor + marker on plate margin.

* - after date signifies the first printing for that value.

THE 2 PANES OF STANDBY SHEGEL I. 0.05 - 1.20

DATE.	PANES	41	114(131)RUNS	CYCLOMETRIC	RANGES
2-PANE	CYLINDER	B	B	B	
	1ST. RUN	2ND. RUN	3RD. RUN		
	4TH. RUN	5TH. RUN	6TH. RUN		
0.05	2 DATES	5(6)RUNS	B1-2	CYLINDERS	
120880*	B1	B1	B2		
.1	000001-030000 30	060001-065000 5	070001-105000		
.2	030001-060000 30	065001-070000 5	105001-140000		
100981	B2 ND	B2 N	B2		
.1	(140001-160000 20	160001-170000 10)	200001-205000		
.2	(170001-190000 20	190001-200000 10)	205001-210000		
0.10	7 DATES	25(28)RUNS	B1-3	CYLINDERS	
080880*	B1	B1	B2		
.1	000001-030000 30	060001-065000 5	070001-104000		
.2	030001-060000 30	065001-070000 5	105001-139000		
080381	B2	B2	B2		
.1	104001-105000 1	140001-160000 20	180001-184000		
.2	139001-140000 1	160001-180000 20	184001-188000		
	B2	B2	B2		
.1	188001-288000 100	388001-398000 10	408001-415000		
.2	288001-388000 100	398001-408000 10	415001-422000		
240781	B3	B3			
.1	422001-472000 50	522001-527000 5			
.2	472001-522000 50	527001-532000 5			
020981	B3	B3	B3		
.1	532001-582000 50	632001-638000 6	644001-694000		
.2	582001-632000 50	638001-644000 6	694001-744000		
	(B3)				
.1	744001-749000 5				
.2	749001-754000 5				
060182	B3				
.1	754001-804000 50	854001-859000 5			
.2	804001-854000 50	859001-864000 5			

0.10 (continued)

B3				B3 N				B3 N			
170282	1	(864001-871333	7.3	871334-894000	22.7	924001-929000					
	2	(894001-901333	7.3	901334-924000	22.7	929001-934000					
B3 N				B3				B3			
	1	(934001-951000	17	951001-964000	13	994001-997000					
	2	(964001-981000	17	981001-994000	13	997001-000000					
B3				B3				B3 N			
	1	000001-020000	20	(040001-041000	1	041001-042000					
	2	020001-040000	20	(042001-043000	1	043001-044000					
B3				B3							
250183	1	044001-074000	30	104001-117000	13						
	2	074001-104000	30	117001-130000	13						

0.20	5 DATES			15(16) RUNS			B1-3 CYLINDERS		
B1				B1			B2		
060880*	1	000001-030000	30	060001-063500	3.5	067001-097000			
	2	030001-060000	30	063501-067000	3.5	097001-127000			
B2									
	1	127001-132000	5						
	2	132001-137000	5						
B3				B3					
110182	1	137001-187000	50	237001-242000	5				
	2	187001-237000	50	242001-247000	5				
B3				B3 N			B3		
	1	(247001-278000	31	278001-297000	19)	347001-352000			
	2	(297001-328000	31	328001-347000	19)	352001-357000			
B3				B3					
040782	1	357001-387000	30	417001-422000	5				
	2	387001-417000	30	422001-427000	5				
B3				B3					
261182	1	427001-457000	30	487001-491000	4				
	2	457001-487000	30	491001-495000	4				
B3				B3					
010683	1	495001-515000	20	535001-539000	4				
	2	515001-535000	20	539001-543000	4				

0.30	8 DATES			18(23) RUNS			B1-3 CYLINDERS		
		B1A			B1A			B2A	
100880*	1	000001-030000	30	060001-065000	5	070001-100000			
	2	030001-060000	30	065001-070000	5	100001-130000			
		B2A							
	1	130001-134000	4						
	2	134001-138000	4						
		B2A			B2A SP			B2A	
010481	1	(138001-160000	22	160001-188000	28)	238001-243000			
	2	(188001-210000	22	210001-238000	28)	243001-248000			
		B3A SP			B3 SP				
240981	1	248001-278000	30	308001-313000	5				
	2	278001-308000	30	313001-318000	5				
		B3B N			B3B			B3B N	
140282	1	(318001-328000	10	328001-331000	3	331001-333000			
	2	348001-358000	10	358001-361000	3	361001-363000			
		B3B			B3B N			B3B	
	1	333001-336000	3	336001-348000	12)	378001-383000			
	2	363001-366000	3	366001-378000	12)	383001-388000			
		B3B			B3B				
070582	1	388001-418000	30	448001-455000	7				
	2	418001-448000	30	455001-462000	7				

0.30 (continued)

020982	1	B3B		462001-492000	30	522001-529000	7
		B3B		492001-522000	30		7
281182	1	B3B		536001-566000	30	596001-601000	5
		B3B		566001-596000	30		5
060683	1	B3B		606001-626000	20	646001-649000	3
		B3B		626001-646000	20		3

0. 50	6 DATES		14 RUNS		B2-4 CYLINDERS	
		B3		B3		B3
151080*	1	000001-030000	30	060001-063000	3	066001-086000
	2	030001-060000	30	063001-066000	3	086001-106000
		(B3)				
	1	106001-108000	2			
	2	108001-110000	2			
		B2		B2		
050481	1	110001-140000	30	170001-173000	3	
	2	140001-170000	30	173001-176000	3	
		B3		B3		
140881	1	176001-226000	50	276001-281000	5	
	2	226001-276000	50	281001-286000	5	
		B4		B4		
180482	1	286001-316000	30	346001-351000	5	
	2	316001-346000	30	351001-356000	5	
		B3		B3		
260782	1	356001-386000	30	416001-421000	5	
	2	386001-416000	30	421001-426000	5	
		B3		B3		
051282	1	426001-456000	30	486001-494000	8	
	2	456001-486000	30	494001-502000	8	

0.60	7 DATES			17 RUNS		B2-3 CYLINDERS	
		B3			B3		
121080*	1	000001+100000	100	200001+215000	15		
	2	100001-200000	100	215001-230000	15		
		B3		(B3)			
101180	1	230001-280000	50	330001-335000	5		
	2	280001+330000	50	335001-340000	5		
		B3		B3			B2
160181	1	340001+390000	50	440001+445001	5	450001+500000	
	2	390001-440000	50	445001-450000	5	500001-550000	
		B2		B2			B2
	1	550001+555000	5	560001-610000	50	660001-665000	
	2	555001-560000	5	610001+660000	50	665001+670000	
		B3		B3			
100182	1	670001-690000	20	710001-712000	2		
	2	690001-710000	20	712001-714000	2		
		B3		B3			
010382	1	714001-744000	30	774001-779000	5		
	2	744001-774000	30	779001-784000	5		
		B3		B3			
010482	1	784001-814000	30	844001-849000	5		
	2	814001-844000	30	849001-854000	5		
		B3					
090683	1	854001-874000	20				
	2	874001-894000	20				

0.70	2 DATES	5(6) RUNS	B2-3 CYLINDERS
	B2	B3	
240381*	1 000001-020000 20	040001-070000 30	
	2 020001+040000 20	070001+100000 30	
	B3	B3	
240381	1 (100001-150000 50	150001+170000 20)	
	2 (170001+220000 50	220001-240000 20)	
	B3	B3	
200781	1 240001-290000 50	340001-348000 8	
	2 290001+340000 50	348001+356000 8	

0.90	3 DATES	8(9) RUNS	B3 CYLINDER
	B3	B3	
030581*	1 000001+025000 25	112001+129000 17	
	2 050001-075000 25	129001-146000 17	
	B3	B3	
030581	1 025001+050000 25	100001+106000 6	
	2 075001-100000 25	106001-112000 6	
	B3	B3 N	B3 N
060981	1 (146001-206000 60	206001-246000 40)	346001-361000
	2 (246001-306000 60	306001-346000 40)	361001-376000
	B3 N	B3 N	
121181	1 376001-476000 100	576001-591000 15	
	2 476001+576000 100	591001+606000 15	

1.20	1 DATE	7(12) RUNS	B3-4 CYLINDERS
	B4 N	B3 N	B3
240282*	1 (000001+005000 5	005001+025000 20	045501+050000)
	2 (050001-055000 5	055001-075000 20	095501-100000)
	B3		
	1 100001+110000 10		
	2 110001-120000 10		
	B3 N	B4 N	B4
240282	1 (025001+029000 4	029001+030000 1	030001+042000
	2 (075001-079000 4	079001-080000 1	080001-092000
	B3	B4	B4
	1 042001+045500 3.5)	120001+150000 30	180001+185000
	2 092001-095500 3.5)	150001-180000 30	185001-190000
	B4	B4	
	1 190001+220000 30	250001+255000 5	
	2 220001-250000 30	255001-260000 5	

THE 3 PANES OF STANDBY SHEGEL I.			1.00 - 10.00
DATE. PANES 34	64(74) RUNS	CYCLOMETRIC	RANGES
3-PANE CYLINDER C	C	C	C
1ST. RUN	2ND. RUN	3RD. RUN	
4TH. RUN	5TH. RUN	6TH. RUN	
1.00	7 DATES	11(15) RUNS	C1-2 CYLINDERS

	C1	
201080*	1 000001-070000 70	
	2 070001-140000 70	
	3 140001-210000 70	
	C1	
131180	1 210001-260000 50	
	2 260001-310000 50	
	3 310001-360000 50	

1.00 (continued)

C2A				C2B							
260181	1	(360001-374000	14	374001-430000	56)						
	2	(430001-444000	14	444001-500000	56)						
	3	(500001-514000	14	514001-570000	56)						
C2				C2 N				C2			
311281	1	(570001-589000	19	589001-621000	32	621001-638000					
	2	(640001-659000	19	659001-691000	32	691001-708000					
	3	(710001-729000	19	729001-761000	32	761001-778000					
C2 N				C2							
	1	638001-640000	2)	780001-785000	5						
	2	708001-710000	2)	785001-790000	5						
	3	778001-780000	2)	790001-795000	5						
C2				C2				C2			
130482	1	795001-855000	60	975001-983000	8	000001-012000					
	2	855001-915000	60	983001-991000	8	012001-024000					
	3	915001-975000	60	991001-999000	8	024001-036000					
C1				C1							
151282	1	036001-086000	50	186001-188000	2						
	2	086001-136000	50	188001-190000	2						
	3	136001-186000	50	190001-192000	2						
C1											
030583	1	192001-252000	60								
	2	252001-312000	60								
	3	312001-372000	60								

1. 10	1	DATE	4(8) RUNS	C2	CYLINDER
C2 N					
150182*	1	000001-060000	60		
	2	100001-160000	60		
	3	200001-260000	60		
C2 N					
150182	1	(060001-080000	20	080001-100000	20)
	2	(160001-180000	20	180001-200000	20)
	3	(260001-280000	20	280001-300000	20)
C2 N					
	1	(300001-355000	55	355001-390000	35
	2	(400001-455000	55	455001-490000	35
	3	(500001-555000	55	555001-590000	35
C2 ND					
	1	(600001-625000	25	625001-660000	35)
	2	(660001-685000	25	685001-720000	35)
	3	(720001-745000	25	745001-780000	35)

2. 00	5	DATES	10(11) RUNS	C1-2	CYLINDERS
C1					
171080*	1	000001-050000	50		
	2	050001-100000	50		
	3	100001-150000	50		
C1					
201180	1	150001-200000	50		
	2	200001-250000	50		
	3	250001-300000	50		
C2					
290181	1	300001-370000	70	510001-610000	100
	2	370001-440000	70	610001-710000	100
	3	440001-510000	70	710001-810000	100
C2					
	1	861001-871000	10	810001-827000	
	2	871001-881000	10	827001-844000	
	3	881001-891000	10	844001-861000	

2.00 (continued)

C2				C2			
180582	. 1	891001-921000	30	981001-987000	6		
	. 2	921001-951000	30	987001-993000	6		
	. 3	951001-981000	30	993001-999000	6		
C2				C1			
	. 1	000001-017000	17	017001-040000	23)		
	. 2	040001-057000	17	057001-080000	23)		
	. 2	080001-097000	17	097001-120000	23)		
C1							
090583	. 1	120001-190000	70				
	. 2	190001-260000	70				
	. 3	260001-330000	70				

2. 80	2 DATES	5 RUNS	C1-2	CYLINDERS
C1		C1	C2	
051180*	. 1 000001-070000 70	210001-215000 5	225001-245000	
	. 2 070001-140000 70	215001-220000 5	245001-265000	
	. 3 140001-210000 70	220001-225000 5	265001-285000	
C2				
	. 1 285001-290000 5			
	. 2 290001-295000 5			
	. 3 295001-300000 5			
C1				
301282	. 1 300001-350000 50			
	. 2 350001-400000 50			
	. 3 400001-450000 50			

3. 00	1 DATE	3 RUNS	C2	CYLINDER
C2				
270481*	. 1 000001-050000 50			
	. 2 050001-100000 50			
	. 3 100001-150000 50			
C2		C2		
270481	. 1 150001-220000 70	360001-387000 27		
	. 2 220001-290000 70	387001-414000 27		
	. 3 290001-360000 70	414001-441000 27		

3. 20	3 DATES	6 RUNS	C1-2	CYLINDERS
C1		C2	C2	
231080*	. 1 000001-050000 50	150001-170000 20	210001-215000	
	. 2 050001-100000 50	170001-190000 20	215001-220000	
	. 3 100001-150000 50	190001-210000 20	220001-225000	
C2				
090481	. 1 225001-295000 70			
	. 2 295001-365000 70			
	. 3 365001-435000 70			
C1		C1		
300782	. 1 435001-465000 30	525001-533000 8		
	. 2 465001-495000 30	533001-541000 8		
	. 3 495001-525000 30	541001-549000 8		

4. 00	1 DATE	3 RUNS	N. B. -	PANE NUMBERING
C2				
040581*	. 2 000001-050000 50			
	. 3 050001-100000 50			
	. 1 100001-150000 50			
C2		C2		
040581	. 2 150001-220000 70	360001-370000 10		
	. 3 220001-290000 70	370001-380000 10		
	. 1 290001-360000 70	380001-390000 10		

4. 20	4 DATES	6 RUNS	C1-2	CYLINDERS
	C1			
301080*	1 000001-070000 70			
	2 070001-140000 70			
	3 140001-210000 70			
	C2	C2		
150281	1 210001-263333 50	3 370001-420000 50		
	2 263334-316667 50	3 420001-470000 50		
	3 316667-370000 50	3 470001-520000 50		
	C1	C1		
050882	1 520001-550000 30	610001-618000 8		
	2 550001-580000 30	618001-626000 8		
	3 580001-610000 30	626001-634000 8		
	C1			
110183	1 634001-674000 40			
	2 674001-714000 40			
	3 714001-754000 40			

5. 00	5 DATES	9 RUNS	C1-2	CYLINDERS
	C1	C1		
281080*	1 000001-050000 50	150001-200000 50		
	2 050001-100000 50	200001-250000 50		
	3 100001-150000 50	250001-300000 50		
	C2	C2 N		
200981	1 300001-370000 70	510001-515000 5		
	2 370001-440000 70	515001-520000 5		
	3 440001-510000 70	520001-525000 5		
	C2			
030582	1 525001-565000 40			
	2 565001-605000 40			
	3 605001-645000 40			
	C1			
081282	1 645001-695000 50			
	2 695001-745000 50			
	3 745001-795000 50			
	C1	C1	C1	
010583	1 795001-855000 60	975001-983000 8	000001-007001	
	2 855001-915000 60	983001-991000 8	007001-014000	
	3 915001-975000 50	991001-999000 8	014001-021000	

10. 00	5 DATES	7(8) RUNS	C1-2	CYLINDERS
	C1	C1		
261080*	1 000001-050000 50	150001-200000 50		
	2 050001-100000 50	200001-250000 50		
	3 100001-150000 50	250001-300000 50		
	C2			
231281	1 300001-350000 50			
	2 350001-400000 50			
	3 400001-450000 50			
	C1	C1		
070782	1 450001-520000 70	660001-665000 5		
	2 520001-590000 70	665001-670000 5		
	3 590001-660000 70	670001-675000 5		
	C1			
060183	1 675001-755000 80	?		
	2 755001-835000 80	?		
	3 835001-915000 80	?		
	C1			
220583	1 000001-050000 50			
	2 050001-100000 50			
	3 100001-150000 50			

THE 2 PANES OF STANDBY SHEGEL II. (THE SEVEN SPECIES)

DATE. PANES 8		19(21) RUNS		CYCLOMETRIC		RANGES	
2-PANE CYLINDER B		B		B		B	
		1ST. RUN		2ND. RUN		3RD. RUN	
		4TH. RUN		5TH. RUN		6TH. RUN	
0.40		2 DATES		4 RUNS		B1A-B CYLINDERS	
		B1A ND		(B1A)			
241082*	1	000001-030000	30	060001-065000	5		
	2	030001-060000	30	065001-070000	5		
		B1A		(B1A)			
140183	1	070001-130000	60	190001-202000	12		
	2	130001-190000	60	202001-214000	12		
0.80		2 DATES		4 RUNS		B1A-B CYLINDERS	
		B1A		(B1A)			
140682*	1	000001-030000	30	060001-065000	5		
	2	030001-060000	30	065001-070000	5		
		B1A		(B1A)			
180183	1	070001-130000	60	190001-195000	5		
	2	130001-190000	60	195001-200000	5		
1.40		2 DATES		7(9) RUNS		B1A-B CYLINDERS	
		B1A					
010682*	1	000001-025000	25				
	2	050001-075000	25				
		B1A		B1A			
010682	1	025001-050000	25	100001-105000	5		
	2	075001-100000	25	105001-110000	5		
		B1A		B1B		B1B	
	1	110001-126000	16	126001-160000	34)	210001-215000	
	2	160001-176000	16	176001-210000	34)	215001-220000	
		B1B		B1A		B1A	
230782	1	220001-228000	8	228001-270000	42)	320001-325000	
	2	270001-278000	8	278001-320000	42)	325001-330000	
6.00		2 DATES		4 RUNS		B1A-B CYLINDERS	
		B1A		B1A			
041182*	1	000001-030000	30	060001-065000	5		
	2	030001-060000	30	065001-070000	5		
		B1A		(B1A)			
090383	1	070001-100000	30	130001-135000	5		
	2	100001-130000	30	135001-140000	5		

THE 2 PANES OF INLAND LETTER

(1.70-2.70)

DATE. PANES 3 11(12)RUNS CYCLOMETRIC RANGES

2-PANE CYLINDER B

1ST. RUN
4TH. RUNB
2ND. RUN
5TH. RUNB
3RD. RUN
6TH. RUN

(IL)

4 DATES

13(14)RUNS

B1-2 CYLINDERS

		B1 ND			B2 ND			B2 ND
290882*	1	000001-020000	20	(020001-074000	54			074001+090000)
	2	100001+120000	20	(120001+174000	54			174001-190000)
		B3 ND			B3 ND			B3 ND
	1	090001+100001	10	100001+200000	100			300001+333000
	2	190001-200000	10	200001-300000	100			340001-373000
261282	1	B3			B3			B3
	1	333001+340001	7	380001+480000	100			580001+660000
	2	373001-380000	7	480001-580000	100			660001-740000
		B3			B3			B3
	1	740001+752000	12					
	2	752001-764000	12					
190483	1	B3			B3			B3
	1	764001+864000	100	964001+982000	18			
	2	864001-964000	100	982001-000000	18			
070783	1	B3			B3			B3
	1	000001+100000	?	200001+270000	70			
	2	100001-200000	?	270001-340000	70			

זודיאק סטמפס בע"מ.

מכירות פומביות של בולים ומטבעות

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* S H O R T N O T E S A N D D I S C O V E R I E S *

* * * * *

O T T O M A N P E R I O D

MAIL FROM THE PALESTINE FRONT, MAY/JUNE 1916 (A. Steichele, Kassel)

The first German and Austro-Hungarian Military formations arrived on 1st April, 1916, with about 1200 men, to strengthen the 3rd Ottoman Infantry Division (it was the Field Air Unit 300 in Ramle) and thus form together the 1st Expeditionary Corps. Its H.Q. was sited in Beersheba and was under the High Command of the 4th Army in Damascus. Later it was temporarily situated in the Augusta-Victoria building on Mount Olives in Jerusalem.

The German troops played a considerable part in the defence of El Arish (Sinai). The postal services of the Turkish units were supplied by the Ottoman civilian offices of Sinai as well as by the Field Post Offices Nos. 44 and 45, and for the German associates - by the newly established fieldpost of the "German Military-Mission" (under Turkish authorities).¹

According to Lindenberg², who was a friend of Major Hensel (the manager of the Military-Mission fieldpost), the fieldpost office of the 4th Army High Command was situated in Damascus and Jerusalem. But no mail is known from Damascus with the postmark "A.O.K. 4" (Armee-Ober-Kommandos)! Nevertheless, W. Ahrens suggests that this postmark had firstly been used in Damascus and then "it moved to Jerusalem, closer to the front, as normally a fieldpost of an Army Command would be stationed with its H.Q." (see Fig. 9).

According to my own and others' fieldpost items, which are summarized in the following list, I am of the opinion that the A.O.K. 4 instrument arrived simultaneously with the first columns of the Field Air Unit 300 in mid-May 1916, at the H.Q. of the 1st Expeditionary Corps (under Kress of Kressenstein) in Beersheba: its use in Damascus never happened. This assumption is based on the fact that most of the examples in my list have the same writing (ex Beersheba) and

postmark dates or are only one day separated; therefore, a transport from Beersheba by land to Damascus in such a short time is impossible. Consequently the postmark should have been applied in the place of origin - Beersheba. Fieldpost from Jerusalem would similarly pass through either Aleppo (not Damascus) or Beersheba and be cancelled there.

Mr. Ahrens states, concerning the cases of identical dates of writing and cancelling (A.O.K. 4): "Either the postcards arrived at Damascus by a plane of the Field Air Unit 300 or the sender had written an incorrect date." This opinion I cannot accept. Far more logical is my proposal that most of the post was processed near the front (Sinai/Negev) and not on the communication line (Damascus/Jerusalem). Inside the country there was also, in almost every village, a civilian post office, where mail could be despatched. Later, in my opinion, the fieldpost office A.O.K. 4 was ~~transferred~~ from Beersheba to Jerusalem, due to the change of the situation.

The H.Q. of the 4th Ottoman Army in Jerusalem also contained a Turkish fieldpost, number 41, which used one positive cancelling device and two negative seals as follows: A round seal, reading "derdündschü ordu hümajünbachra postassi schubesi" (= Fourth Imperial Army - Fieldpost unit) and an oval seal, reading "derdündschü ordu qararka posta memürlüğü" (= H.Q. of the Fourth Army - Postal Management).

21st June, 1916, is considered the first day of the postmark "1. Expeditionskorps". The postmark A.O.K. 4 must have arrived in Jerusalem at the latest on this date; consequently the "1st Expeditionskorps" was then brought to Beersheba and not initially to El Arish or nearby. A prior use of the A.O.K. 4 in Jerusalem could also be surmised, but not before 1st June, 1916. According to Ahrens, the device arrived on 28th June from Damascus to Jerusalem.

In closing I would like to ask the readers who are interested in this research, to look over the following list and add to it any information they can find from their own documents. Perhaps as a result of this, it would be possible to establish finally the

exact places and dates of introduction of the "A.O.K. 4" during the early period May/June 1916.

Fig. 9: "A.O.K. 4" German military postmark



List of Known German Military-Mission Postal Items of May/June 1916

<u>No.</u>	<u>Place of origin</u>	<u>Date of writing</u>	<u>Postmark</u>	<u>Date of Postmark</u>	<u>Difference (days)</u>
1	Damaskus	15.5.16	ALEPPO	23.5.16	8
2	Berscheba	18.5.16	AOK 4	20.5.16	2
3	Jerusalem	20.5.16	AOK 4	24.5.16	4
4	Probably Jerus.	20.5.16	ALEPPO	7.6.16	18
5	The desert	26.5.16	AOK 4	26.5.16	-
6	Berscheba	26.5.16	AOK 4	26.5.16	-
7	Berscheba	28.5.16	ALEPPO	3.6.16	6
8	Berscheba	29.5.16	ALEPPO	3.6.16	5
9	Jerusalem	31.5.16	AOK 4	1.6.16	1
10	Betlehem	1.6.16	AOK 4	2.6.16	1
11	Jerusalem	?	ALEPPO	3.6.16	?
12	Jerusalem	6.6.16	AOK 4	7.6.16	1
13	The desert	6.6.16	AOK 4	21.6.16	15
14	Vicinity of Jer.	7.6.16	AOK 4	8.6.16	1
15	Syria	7.6.16	AOK 4	11.6.16	4
16	Jerusalem	7.6.16	ALEPPO	13.6.16	6
17	Berscheba	7.6.16	AOK 4	11.6.16	4
18	Jerusalem	9.6.16	AOK 4	10.6.16	1
19	Berscheba	9.6.16	AOK 4	11.6.16	2
20	The desert	10.6.16	AOK 4	11.6.16	1
21	Berscheba	11.6.16	AOK 4	12.6.16	1
22	Berscheba	11.6.16	AOK 4	13.6.16	2
23	Suezfront	12.6.16	AOK 4	18.6.16	6
24	Berscheba	12.6.16	AOK 4	13.6.16	1
25	Jerusalem	12.6.16	ALEPPO	24.6.16	12
26	Berscheba	13.6.16	AOK 4	14.6.16	1
27	Berscheba	14.6.16	AOK 4	15.6.16	1
28	Berscheba	15.6.16	AOK 4	17.6.16	2
29	Jerusalem	16.6.16	AOK 4	17.6.16	1
30	The desert	16.6.16	1.EXP.	6.7.16	20
31	Berscheba	18.6.16	AOK 4	21.6.16	3
32	Berscheba	25.6.16	1.EXP.	26.6.16	1
33	Jerusalem	27.6.16	AOK 4	28.6.16	1
34	Jerusalem	28.6.16	ALEPPO	4.7.16	6
35	Jerusalem	1.7.16	ALEPPO	9.7.16	8

References

- (1) A. Steichele, "Die Postgeschichte Palästinas von 1841 bis 1918", pp. 1035.5 ff and 1036.1 ff.
- (2) Lindenberg, "Die Postmarke", No. 200 (1929), Wien.

BRITISH MANDATE PERIOD

THE FIRST INTERIM PERIOD: TWO COVERS FROM JAFFA

(E. Leib, Qiryat Byalik)

During the first months of the British occupation of Palestine, until the first stamps were issued, the British military post office accepted and forwarded civilian mail free of charge.¹ This arrangement was applied at "APO SZ 44" in Jerusalem (opened on 16th December, 1917) and "APO SZ 45" in Jaffa (opened late December, 1917). Mail of this kind from Jerusalem is rare, and from Jaffa even harder to find. Two such covers from Jaffa, which merit recording for specific reasons, are presented here.

The first cover (Fig. 10) was mailed to Alexandria on 17 December 1917, through "FPO D52" (H.Q. of the 52nd Division, then near Jaffa);

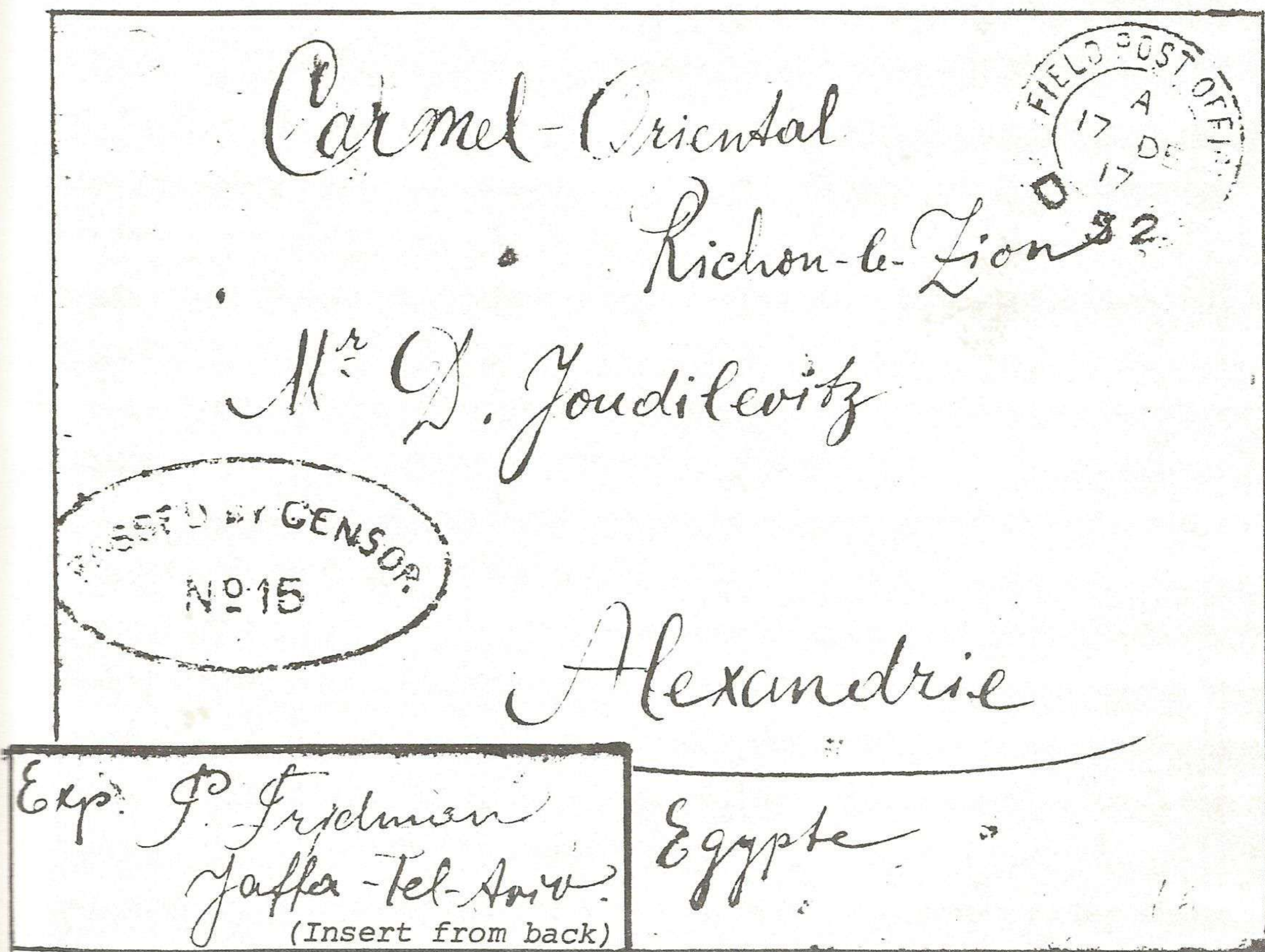


Fig. 10: The earliest recorded cover from Jaffa in the First Interim Period - a civilian cover cancelled by "FPO D52".

it shows the senders' address on the back as Jaffa-Tel Aviv. This is the earliest cover recorded from Jaffa after the British occupation (incidentally, the earliest covers known from Jerusalem were mailed on the same day). More important is the fact that civilians used the post office belonging to a military formation, most probably before the "civilian" "APO SZ 45" was opened. In this context mention should be made of another civilian cover from Gedera, mailed on November 20, 1917 through "FPO H.M."²

While the privilege of free mail to other countries was withdrawn on February 10, 1918 (in connection with the issue of the 1 p. stamp), inland mail continued to be accepted free for a few more days, until February 16 (when the 5m. stamp was issued). During this short period, on February 11, the cover shown in Fig. 11 was mailed from Jaffa (APO SZ 45) to Jerusalem. It is of interest that already

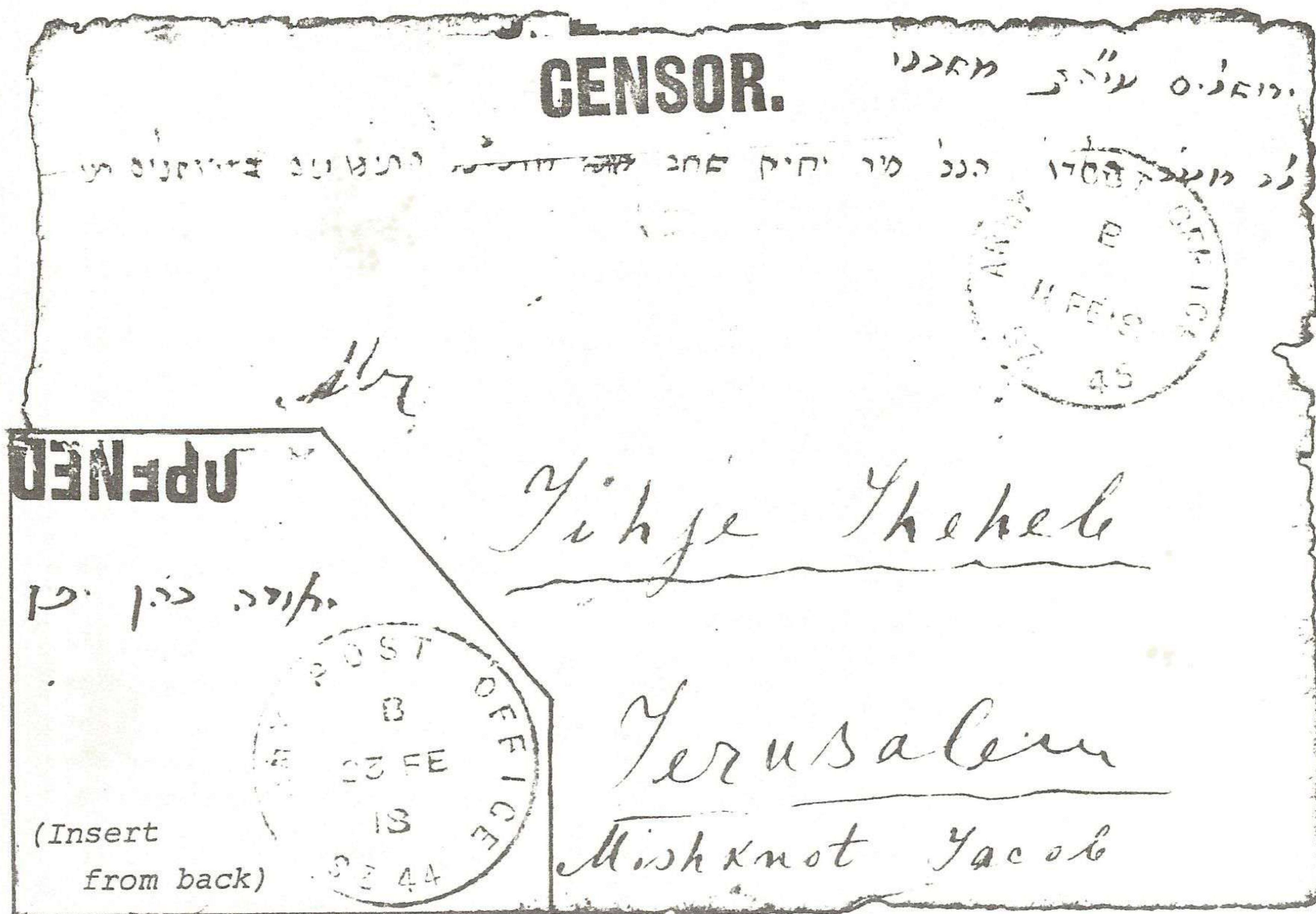


Fig. 11: An inland stampless cover, cancelled at Jaffa "SZ 45", from the short period when inland civilian letters were still free of charge.

at this early stage of operation of a British postal system, the address was written in Hebrew and English with the return address only in Hebrew. Upon arrival in Jerusalem the letter was censored, sealed with a "opened by censor" label and handstamped with the purple triangular censor mark No. 3346. On the back the "APO SZ 44" arrival datestamp was applied on February 23, 12 days after despatch. This delay can be explained by the possibility that the letter was written in Hebrew in Yemenite dialect, causing some difficulties to the censor.

¹ Leibu E., "The First Interim Period - a Review", HLPB No. 7 (1981).

² Sacher M., BAPIP No. 69, p. 12.

THE POST OFFICE CIRCULARS OF THE BRITISH MANDATE

(M. Siegel, New York)

An invaluable source of information for the Mandate Postal Historian has always been the Post Office Circulars as issued by the Jerusalem Head Post Office. Whenever the Head Postmaster had anything to announce, whether it was a change in procedure or rate or notice of a tender or any one of a thousand possible matters, an appropriate bulletin was prepared. These were then dispatched to all operating offices and agencies for their information and edification. They were numbered consecutively as issued and were assembled into "master volumes" and retained for information purposes at these various postal agencies and offices.

Postal History is but a specialized reflection of actual events. Therefore, a thorough knowledge of the subject academically called "History" is certainly vital to the Postal Historian of any period. In these Mandatory Circulars can be found many echoes of the events that transpired at the time of a particular circular's issuance. In a group of these recently gathered, this writer found two that especially merit mention in these columns, if only to confirm the interesting events they describe. In both cases, their connection to Postal History is obvious.

Part 2 of Postal Circular #612, issued on 20 September 1939, states: "SARONA POSTAL AGENCY: It is notified for information that the above mentioned Agency was closed down on the 5th September 1939...." This crisp, brief statement marked the official end of the eighty year adventure of the German Knights Templar Sect with the Holyland. Sarona was their main seat although they maintained other settlements in Haifa, Bethlehem, Wilhelma, Jaffa, Jerusalem and Waldheim. In 1860 this group, which had been expelled from the Lutheran Church, sent their first members to the Holyland. It was their belief that the apocalyptic vision of the Hebrew Prophets could only be realized by their establishment of settlements in the Holyland.

Post Office Circular #823, issued 8 December, 1943 (see Fig. 12), describes a raid on the settlement of Ramat Hakovesh, looking for deserters from the Polish Army. These were not found, but some "military equipment" was. The strange thing about this particular circular is that it was an official communique "republished for information". Apparently, the incident described had so infuriated the Yishuv that the Government utilized every means at its disposal to explain their side of the incident - even Post Office circulars! Obviously there was nothing in the communique that could even faintly then be considered "postal". These circulars always consisted of straight, clipped, non-political phrases without any emotion or editorial comments. This circular was a very rare exception.

As far as the incident itself is concerned, the story is a well-known one. Jews enlisted in the Polish Army-in-Exile originally formed in Russia to either escape from Russia, fight the Nazis or to get closer to Palestine or for all three of these reasons. In 1943 some of their units were based in Palestine. The recently published work by Kucharski* recounts this entire episode in a most thorough and exemplary manner. Because of anti-semitic actions by their superiors, or due to Zionist beliefs, numerous Jews deserted and were given refuge in nearby Jewish settlements, such as Ramat Hakovesh. Hence the raid...and the communique...and the Post Office Circular.

POST OFFICE CIRCULAR

WEDNESDAY, 8th DECEMBER, 1943.

No. 823.

OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE.

Ramat Hakovesh.

The following Official Communique, published in Palestine Gazette No. 1302, dated 25th November, 1943, is re-published for information :—

“Highly tendencious accounts of the search which took place on the sixteenth of November at Ramat Hakovesh have been given wide publicity, calculated to mislead and inflame public opinion.

The actual facts are as follows :—

It was reliably reported to the security authorities that certain deserters from the Polish Army were harboured by Ramat Hakovesh and moreover, that at this settlement was a training camp for a unit of an illegal armed organization, and that illegal arms were concealed in the settlement.

Ramat Hakovesh was accordingly searched on the sixteenth of November by a Police unit acting in conjunction with Polish Provost personnel and Imperial military units.

Certain military equipment was found in a camp within the perimeter of the settlement and the occupants were arrested. The Mukhtar and members of the settlement refused to cooperate in the search for Polish deserters and by their attitude rendered it impossible for the Polish authorities or police to ascertain whether any deserters were present in the settlement.

The settlers further endeavoured by acts of violence to prevent the police from carrying out their lawful duty and generally subjected them to extreme provocation. Notwithstanding the missiles and force to which they were subjected the police maintained the utmost restraint and carried their task to completion with a minimum use of force.

No shots were fired until on the withdrawal of the police party the violence of the settlers reached a hysterical pitch and the officer commanding the party, who was in charge of the rearguard, was obliged, in order to secure the personal safety of the rearguard, to fire two shots from his revolver at the feet of the aggressors, wounding one man but not seriously.

Thirty-five persons were taken into custody.

(P.T.117).

Fig. 12: An unusual Mandate Post Office Circular dealing with political events in 1943.

*See book review in HLPH No. 13-14, p. 725.

Referring to Hochheiser's article in HLPH, No. 12, p. 625, I would like to add the following. Calling for tenders from private printing presses to print government forms is an old accepted procedure and is followed to this day also by the Israel Government Printing Press.

Hebrew spelling was not the strongest point of the printers during the British Mandate period, as shown by the following examples:

Certificate of posting (P.T. 512, used in Hakirya, Israel) has a bad mis-spelling in Hebrew on the top right hand corner (Fig. 13): "תעורת" instead of "תעורת". Notice (P.T. 733) printed by the Greek Convent Press on July 11, 1944, has also a bad mistake in the headline bearing the name of the Department of Posts & Telegraphs (Fig. 14) - "מחלתק" instead of "מחלקת".



Fig. 14: A Hebrew printing error in a Mandate post office form

P. T. 512.

תעודת משלוח

תזכרת משלוח

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING

A postal packet addressed as below is certified to have been registered under No. 338

ان الرزمة للبين عنوانها ادناه قد تم تسجيلها تحت رقم 338

וזאת למען המשלוח אשר למטה

מס' 338

מס' 338

Post Stamp

Accepting Clerk MAIRIA

(See also Overleaf)

מפקד המסכל

لوظيفة المشتري

(ראו גם מעבר לדף)

(راجع للملاحظة بطاقتك)

Fig. 13: A Hebrew printing error in a Mandate post office form
P.T. 512.

APO 682 - TEL LITWINSKY (F.F. Blau, Chicago)

I would like to refer to the article of Marvin Siegel, "Questions and perhaps some discoveries" which appeared in HLPB No. 12, p. 615 ("Cover B"). APO 616 - Camp Huckstep was situated at Heliopolis (Cairo) from July 27, 1942 to October 1, 1943 and then moved to Dahran, eventually coming back to Camp Huckstep on November 25, 1943. They were only a few days in Dahran. Helio-polis is the Cairo airport since 1909.

APO 682 on this cover is not a receiving nor a transit postmark. It is the postal cancellation of the US Army Postal Service stationed or situated in Tel Litwinsky. A huge hospital was situated there. It served as the general hospital for the British Army, but allied service men were admitted as well: Australians, Polish, Greeks and Americans. It served not only as a hospital, but as a recreation center for Americans on leave as well. The cover was posted in Tel Litwinsky by an American soldier on furlough. He might have even been a patient in the hospital, knowing that he would return to his unit in a few days, giving his permanent Army address as APO 616. (On the copy illustrated it appears to be 610). But most important is the Censor mark on this letter

(Cover B). The censor mark is that located in Tel Litwinsky as included on one of my "682" pieces, "Base Army 2300" (Fig. 15). But this was not the only censor number used there. The earliest known so far is "2216". Of course with such a huge population, more than one censor was needed. Therefore it was not censored abroad as stated in the article. As addressed to Rehovot the cover was turned over to the Palestine Civil Postal Administration.

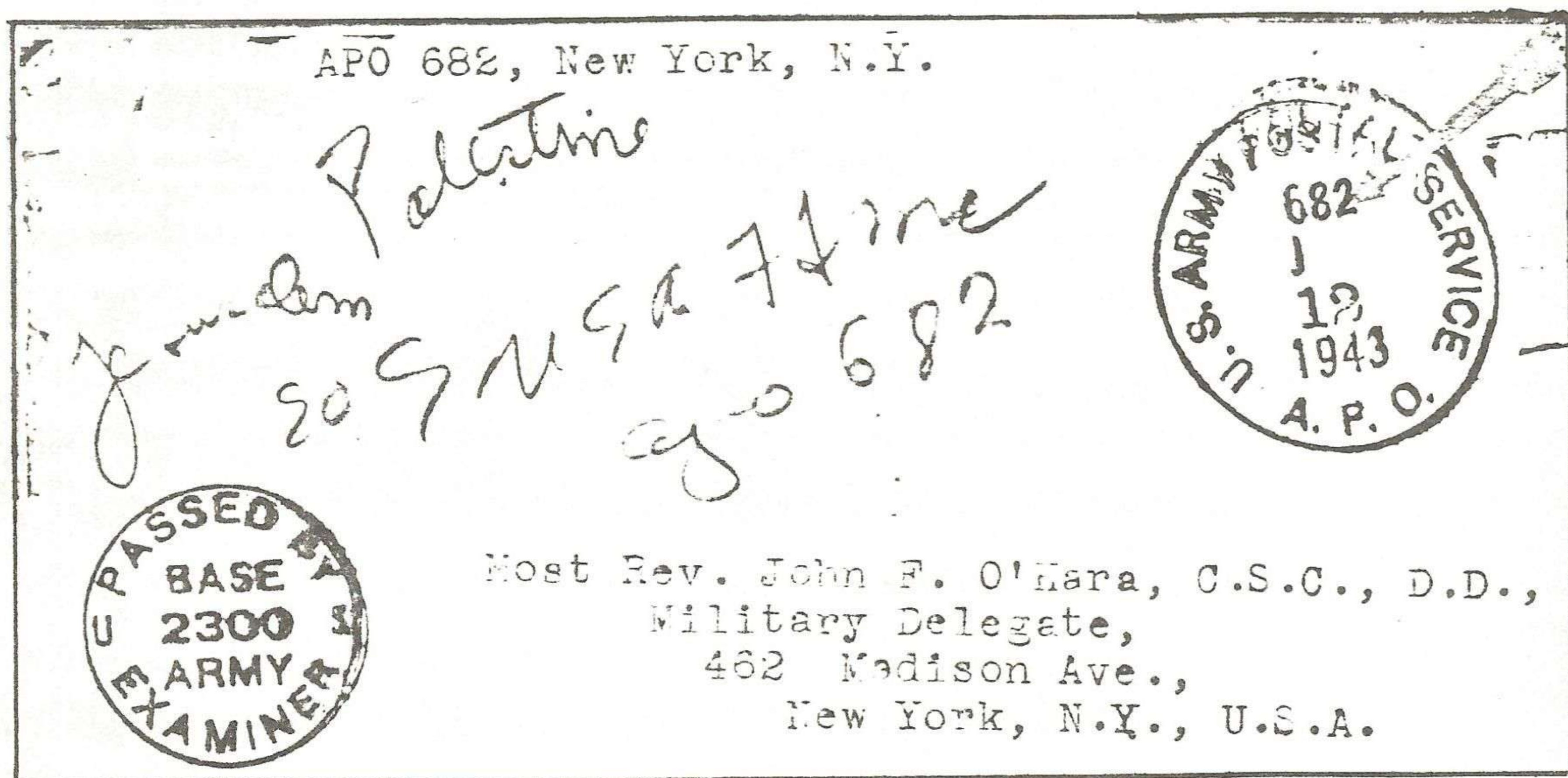


Fig. 15: A cover posted in Tel Litwinsky, postmarked (A.P.O. 682) and censored (Base Army 2300) locally in December 1943.

WORLD WAR II BRITISH MILITARY MAIL (A.M. Hochheiser, Lodi, N.J.)

During World War II, British military personnel who wanted to send registered letters could use a special registered entire (Fig. 16). The 3 pence stamp paid for the registration fee, while the additional postage for mailing the letter was free for military personnel on active service. Identical registered entires for civilian use had a 4 pence stamp. There are several types of this envelope with the imprinted 3 pence stamp, called "British Forces Issues". If they were used in the Holy Land, they show a Field Post Office cancellation of a unit stationed in Palestine.

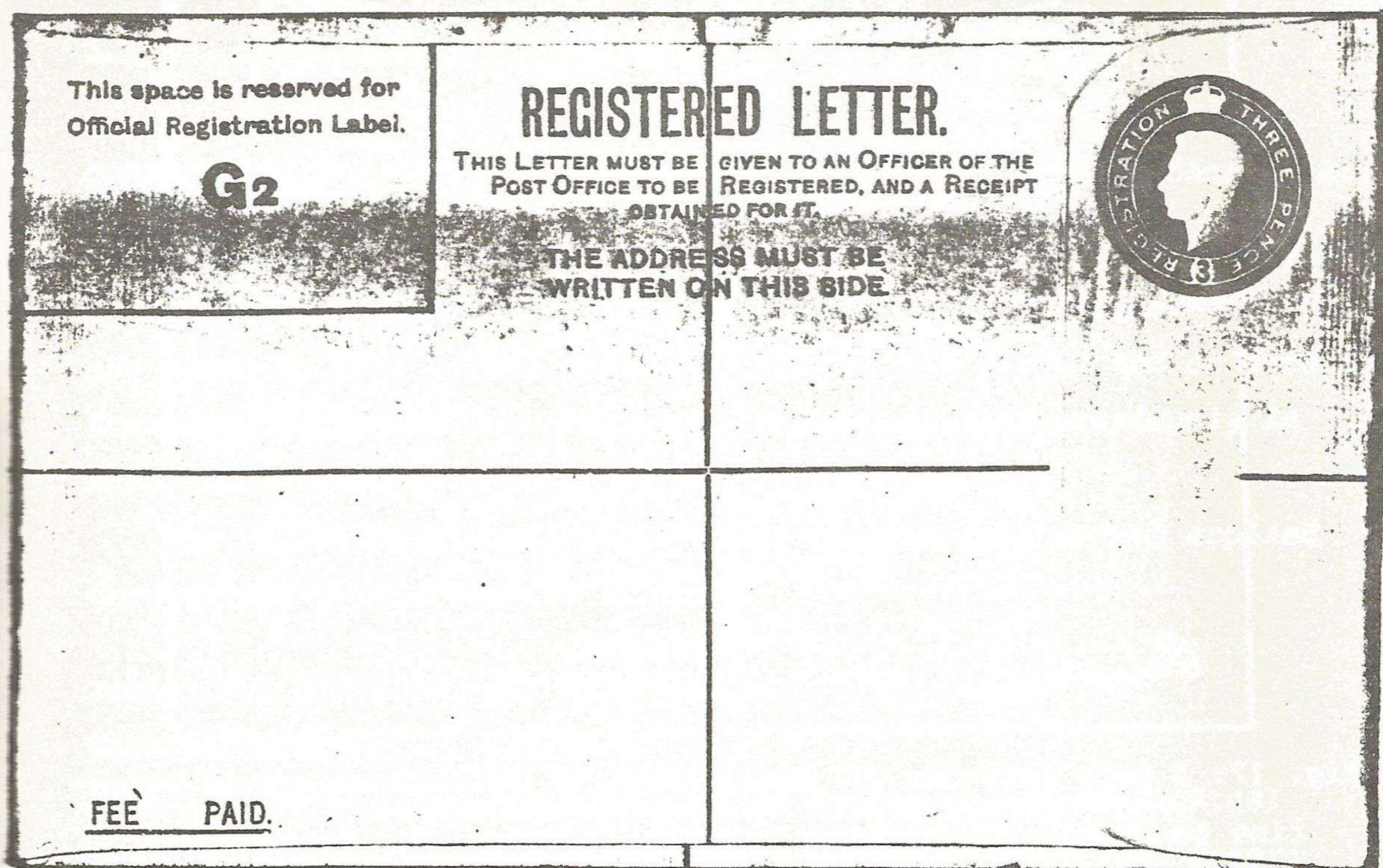


Fig. 16: A special "Registered Letter" envelope for use by the British military personnel during W.W.II.

If these envelopes were not available, the military personnel could use any envelope, the only requirement being the addition of the 3 pence in British stamps to pay for the registration fee. Such use in Palestine is scarcer than the regular British Forces Issues. The cover shown in Fig. 17 was mailed at FPO 731, which was stationed in Haifa. The cross lines (in blue) were, as usual, added at the Field Post Office to indicate registered mailing. This cover is interesting because of the late date of usage: March 17, 1948. This Field Post was stationed in Haifa only until April of 1948. This cover could be an example of the last use of British stamps to supply the registration fee at Field Posts in Palestine. Can anyone report a later usage?

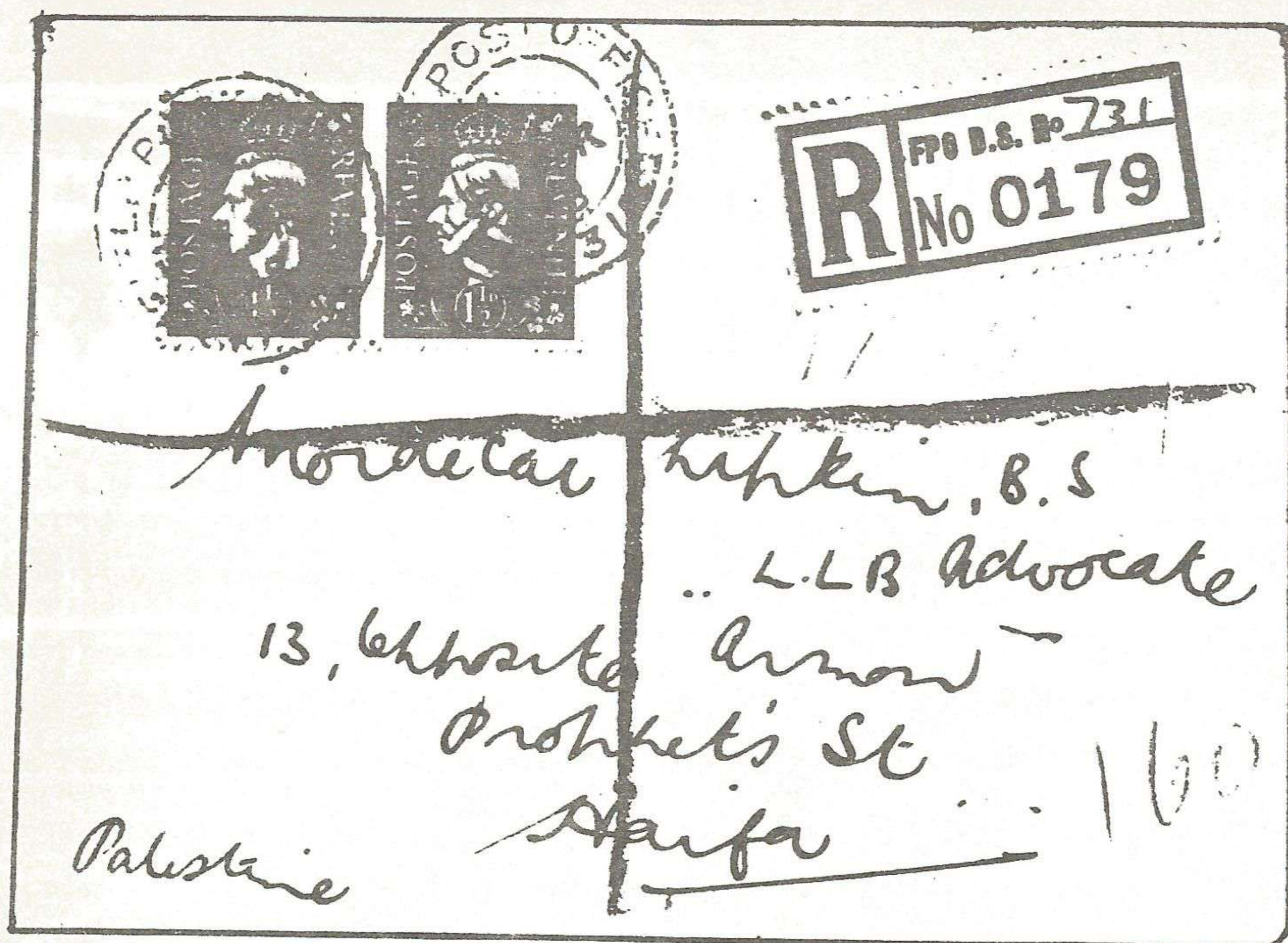


Fig. 17: A very late use (17 March 1948) of British stamps in Palestine to supply the registration fee (3 pence) for letters by British personnel.

A MANDATE CURIOSITY

We show, in Fig. 18, a private mark in Hebrew (with English date), which was placed not only on the letter enclosed in this particular envelope but also on the outside. It is, of course, completely un-official and is here shown so that readers should not be misled if offered it.

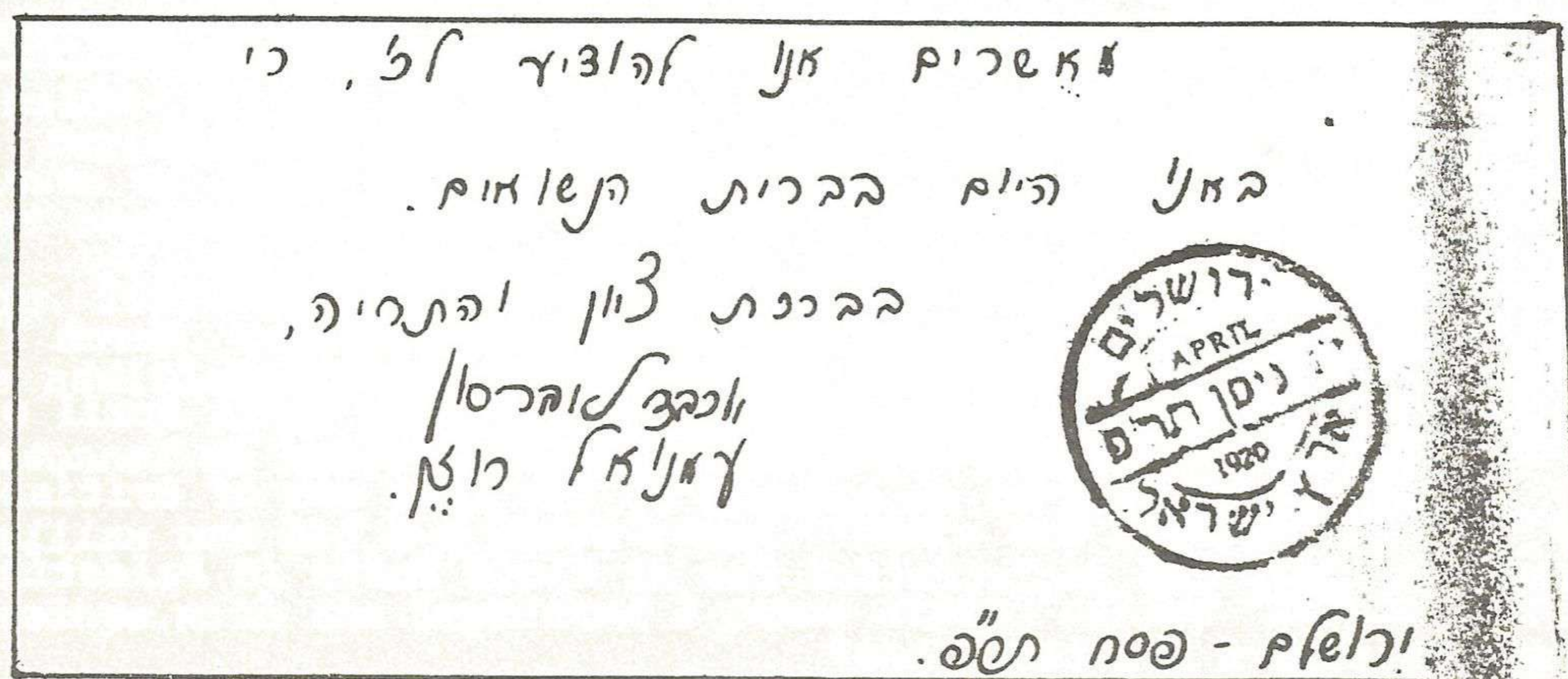


Fig. 18: A funny postmark-like private mark on a letter of 1920.

T H E S T A T E O F I S R A E L

CORRECTIONS FOR PUBLISHED POSTAL TARIFFS IN 1948 (Y. Tsachor, T.A.)

I would like to correct some of the postal tariffs published in the article by Z. Halperin in HLPH No. 11, p. 556.* These corrections are based on post office Public Notices of the period and on actual frankings of mail. Some of these tariffs appeared previously in BAPIP No. 2 (1952).

The following Airmail tariffs for letters from Israel applied through the period 16.5.48-31.10.48:

Italy	25 mils
Western Europe	35 mils
U.K.	40 mils (Public Notice No. 36 of 27.7.48)
Ireland	40 mils (Public Notice No. 60 of 29.8.48)
Rumania	
& Czechoslovakia	40 mils (Public Notice No. 2 of 25.5.48)
Russia	60 mils
U.S.A.	65 mils (Public Notice No. 3 of 25.5.48)

*Editor's note: Mr. Halperin, our veteran and devoted member, passed away in June this year, so it was not possible to reconcile the discrepancies between the above remarks and his findings.

HANDSTAMPED REGISTRY MARKS (Michael Sender, Herzlia)

With reference to the articles concerning Handstamped Registry Notations, published in HLPH (Bulletins 8, 10 and 12), I would like to add the following information:

- (a) In TEL AVIV-YAFO, handstamped marks were in use at seven post-office branches: No. 251-257.
- (b) Other TEL AVIV-YAFO handstamped notations were in current use by official and private establishments. The following are examples known to me:

1. "Tel Aviv-Jaffa 20", Philatelic Service.
2. "Tel Aviv-Yafo 69", Telephone Services.
3. "Tel Aviv-Yafo 302", Sportoto Israel.

As all these marks were stamped by hand and not by numerator, the series numbers had to be added by hand.

(c) Other registry marks, which were in current use at Post Office branches, were Rishon LeZion and Holon 6 (Fig. 19).

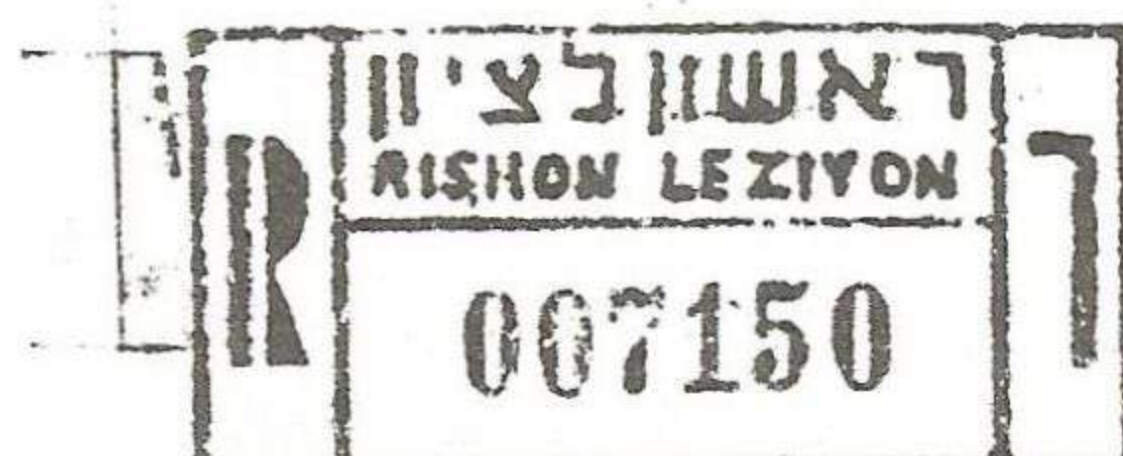


Fig. 19: Handstamped registry marks of Holon and Rishon LeZion.

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Antique Store
"Yashan Noshan"

Antique & rare books
Manuscripts
Religious Articles
Jewish Art
Judaica



בימ"ס לעתיקות
"ישן נושן"

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חשמישי קדושה
אמנות יהודית
יודאיקה

רחוב מאה שערים 21 פינת רחוב חבקוק, ירושלים 95262, ישראל
21 Meah Shearim St. Corner Habakuk, Jerusalem 95262, Israel
טל. 02-286305

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* G E N E R A L N E W S *

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NEW CANCELLATIONS AND POST OFFICES

(Compiled by B. Fixler and I. Nachtigal)

Special Cancellations

- 31.03.83: "Inauguration of the Israel Convention Center IIC", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 06.04.83: "Servas International Conference", Nahariyya.
- 10.04.83: "40 Years After the Ghetto Revolt, A Memorial Convocation for the Holocaust and Heroism", Lohame Ha-Getaot.
- 12.04.83: "35 Israel", Yerushalayim.
- 14.04.83: "The International Precious Stones Congress", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 25.04.83: "The Eleventh Jerusalem International Book Fair", Yerushalayim.
- 26.04.83: "Rotari International 23rd District Conference R.I. District 249, Israel", Yerushalayim.
- 08.05.83: "Industrial Agriculture Exhibition, The Hebrew University, Faculty of Agriculture", Rehovot.
- 16.05.83: "70th Anniversary of Anti-Defamation League of Bnai Brith", Yerushalayim.
- 09.06.83: "70 Years of the Levinsky Teacher's College", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 14.06.83: "International Conference on Multinational Banking in the World Economy", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 15.06.83: "IIA 42nd International Conference", Yerushalayim.
- 09.07.83: "IDF Exhibition: A Nation and Its Army, Israel", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 12.07.83: "35 Years since the Release of the Kenyan Captives", Tel Aviv-Yafo.

Definitive Cancellations

- 12.04.83: "Bet Dagan, Paye K", handstamp "Paid" in Beit Dagan P.O.
- 30.05.83: "Modi'in", for the new Mobile Post Office.
- 07.06.83: "Yerushalayim 79", replacing the previous "Jerusalem 79" instruments used by the Philatelic Services (to cancel F.D.C.s) and in "Hordus" P.O. in Jerusalem (only for F.D. cancellations). This is the first replaced definitive postmark with the new spelling of the city name.
- 15.06.83: "Zawida" (Zahal), for the new P.A. at the Arab village in the "Gaza Strip".
- 03.07.83: "Karmiel 5", for the new P.A. (grade A) in the commercial center of west Karmiel.

NEW STAMPS AND POSTAL STATIONERY

The following stamps were issued during the last period:

- 07.06.83: "Babi Yar - The Last Way" (Painting by Y. Kuzkovski; IS 35.-); Raoul Wallenberg (IS 14.-); The Holocaust - Souvenir Sheet composed of three IS 10.- stamps (price IS 45.-) commemorating the Ghetto fighters.
- 23.08.83: New Year Festival - Synagogues (IS 3.-, 12.-, 16.-, 20.-); Afula (IS 15.-); centennials of Yesud Hama'ala (IS 11.-) and Nes Ziyona (IS 13.-).

International Reply Coupons: Due to the frequent changes of postal rates, including that of the I.R.C., no value is designated on the recent issues of Israeli I.R.C.s. Like the value-omitted local stamp, this new I.R.C. is sold by the post office at the prevailing rate, which changes approximately every month. These I.R.C.s, which were issued on 8 May, 1983 (with an empty space where the price was usually printed; s. Fig. 20), were followed later by older I.R.C.s, in which the values were overprinted by black bars without a new value (s. Fig. 21). The F.D. of issue of this type is not known exactly, the earliest date known to us is 17 May 1983.


		UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE	COUPON-RÉPONSE INTERNATIONAL	C 22
<p>Ce coupon est échangeable dans tous les pays de l'Union postale universelle contre un ou plusieurs timbres-poste représentant l'affranchissement minimal d'une lettre ordinaire, expédiée à l'étranger par voie de surface.</p>				
Empreinte de contrôle du pays d'origine (date facultative)		Prix de vente (indication facultative)		Timbre du bureau qui effectue l'échange
				

Fig. 20: The new I.R.C. (without value) issued on 8.5.83 and sold (then) for IS 24.30.



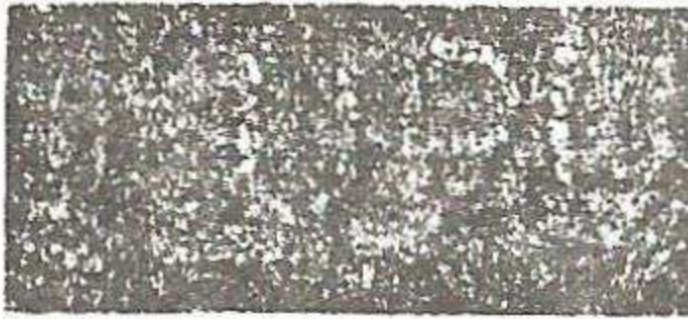
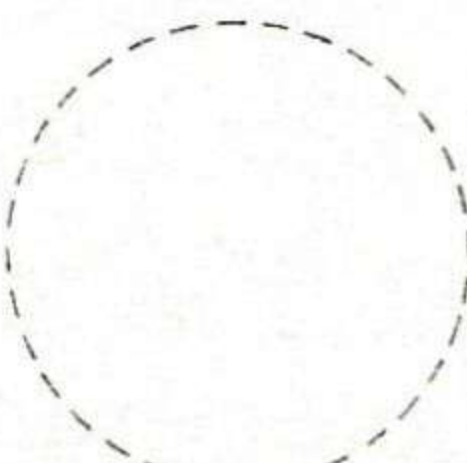
		UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE	COUPON-RÉPONSE INTERNATIONAL	C 22
<p>Ce coupon est échangeable dans tous les pays de l'Union postale universelle contre un ou plusieurs timbres-poste représentant l'affranchissement minimal d'une lettre ordinaire, expédiée à l'étranger par voie de surface.</p>				
Empreinte de contrôle du pays d'origine (date facultative)		Prix de vente (indication facultative)		Timbre du bureau qui effectue l'échange
				

Fig. 21: A later type of value-omitted I.R.C., made by overprinting a previous value by black bars.

The following table summarizes the new I.R.C.s, issued since our previous note in HLPH 13/14 (p. 720):


<u>Issue Date*</u>	<u>Value (IS)</u>	<u>Overprinted on</u>	<u>Orientation of Watermark</u>
08.04.83	22.00	15.50/3.80	Vertical
08.04.83	22.00	9.00/5.60	Vertical, Horizontal
08.04.83	22.00	9.00/6.70	Vertical, Horizontal
08.04.83	22.00	15.50/IL 38.00	
08.05.83	(24.30)**	-	Vertical
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on no-value	
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on IL 2.00	
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on IL 28.00	Horizontal
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on IL 38.00	Horizontal, Vertical
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on IS 3.80	Horizontal, Vertical
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on IS 6.70	Horizontal
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on IS 7.50	Horizontal
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on IS 16.30	Horizontal
17.05.83	(24.30)	Bars on IS 18.10	Horizontal

On 1 June, 1983, the rate of the I.R.C. was changed to IS 29.40 and on 1 July 1983 - to IS 30.90. The various value-omitted I.R.C.s were accordingly sold at the changed prices.

* or earliest date known.

** Brackets around the value designate a value-omitted I.R.C., which was sold at the prescribed price.

A new postcard, for inland use, was issued on 7 August 1983. This time, like the "inland letter" stamp, the postcard has no denomination and will always be sold at the appropriate tariff for inland postcard, now being IS 2.30.




ISRAEL ישראל
 גלוית דואר לשימוש בפנים הארץ בלבד
 POSTCARD FOR INLAND USE ONLY

SENDER _____

השולח _____

מען _____

יישוב _____

מיקוד _____

יישוב _____

A new aerogramme of IS 11.-, with a new design as (partly) shown here was issued on 7 June, 1983.

israel - the miracle on the mediterranean



LEBANESE POSTAL HISTORY

Little has been published to date on the postal history of the recent war in Lebanon. We show, in Fig. 22, the cover (addresses deleted) of a letter sent from the United States to Beirut in June, 1982, which has an American applied handstamp reading "Service temporarily discontinued / Return to sender". This letter was subsequently sent by hand to its Beirut address, and somehow made its way to Israel afterwards.

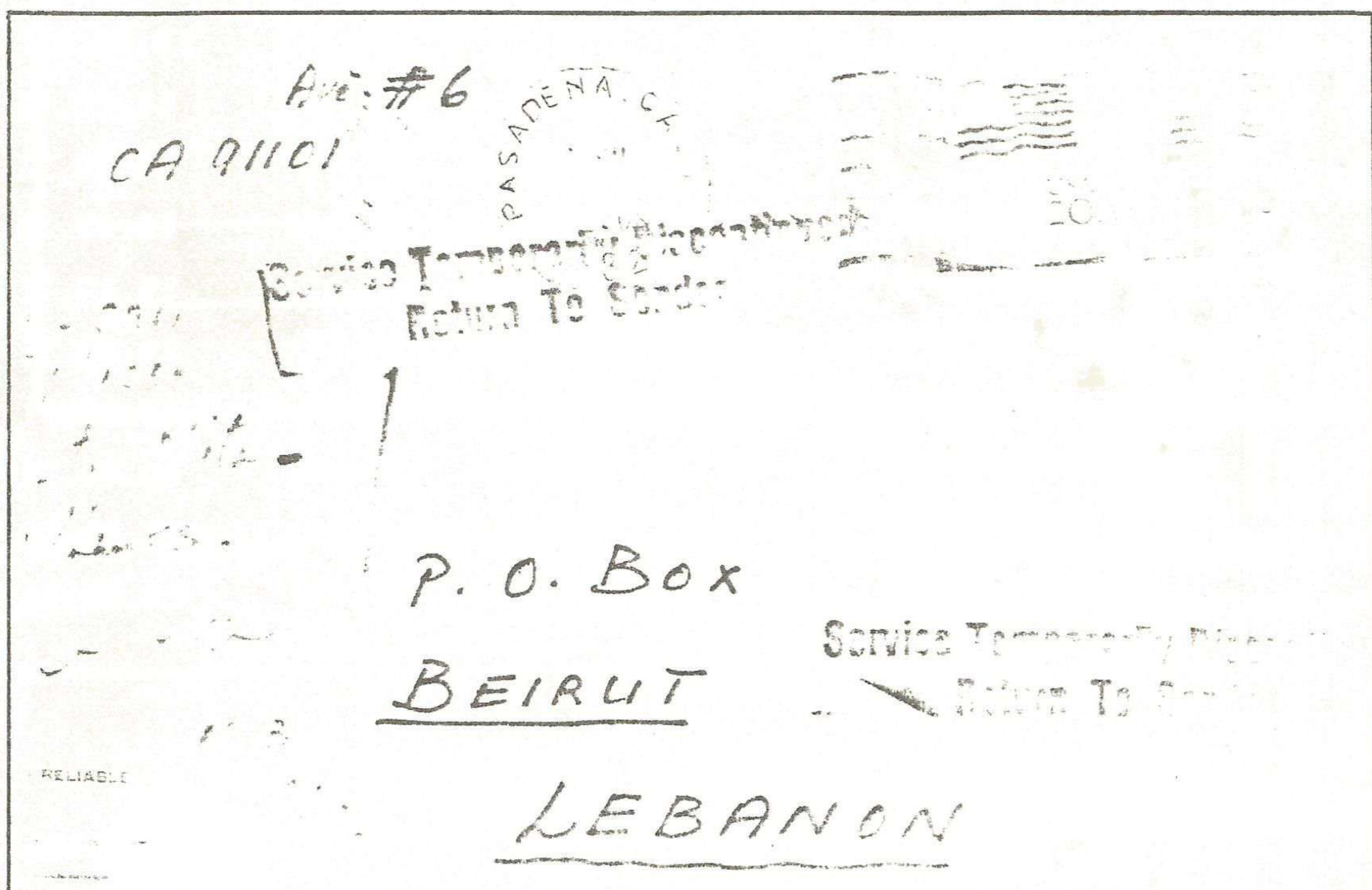


Fig. 22: "Service Temporarily Discontinued" cachet on a letter from U.S.A. to Lebanon in June 1982.

IRAN STOPS POSTAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

The Israeli Ministry of Communications announced in the "Notice to the Public" No. 83/30 (of March 22, 1983) that Iran had stopped its postal relations with Israel and would not deliver letters from Israel. The public is therefore requested not to send mail to Iran.

Latterly letters have been arriving from the United States with a rather peculiar handstamp on the face. An example of one such is shown in Fig. 23, on a private letter received here. The handstamp reads (in a boxed outline) "THERE IS NO POSTAL RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND ISRAEL". We will not comment on the English at this stage, but what has this mark to do with post between the United States and Israel? Mail between the two countries is sent, as far as we know, direct, either via El Al or TWA, and is not "waylaid" en route.

At any rate, the net result of the handstamp on the above letter is that the letter is postmarked 26 February 1983 and was received in Jerusalem on May 24th - three months later. Even sea mail is faster!

Can any of our American members give a reasonable explanation for this handstamp?

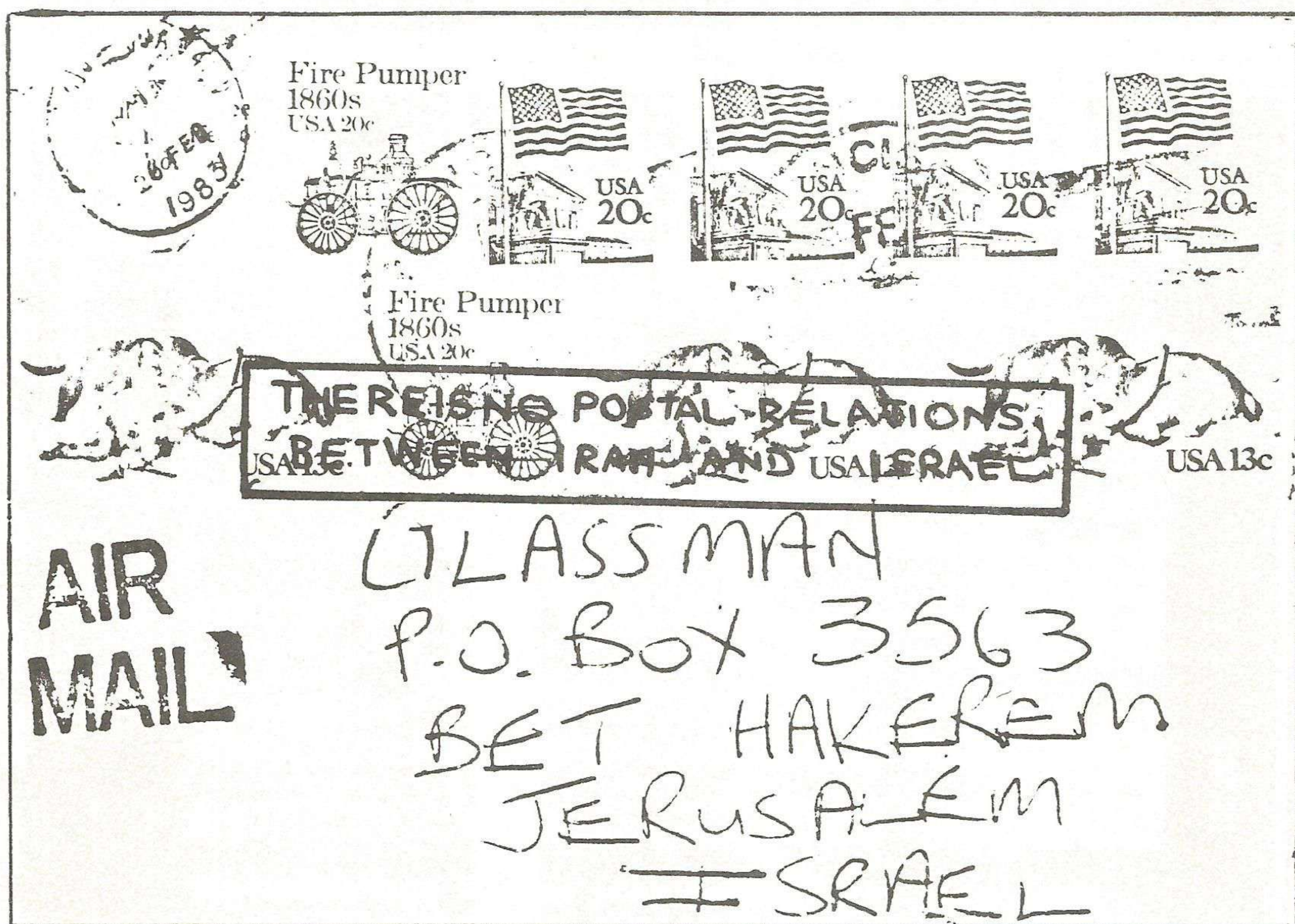


Fig. 23: A cachet "There is no postal relations between Iran and Israel", strangely applied to a cover from U.S.A. to Israel.

MEMBERS' FREE ADVERTISEMENTS

(Every member is entitled to a 3-line free ad, once a year.)

Information wanted for research - Jerusalem Registration Nos. from Minhelet Ha'am period (No. of post office and running number) and date of letter (if possible). Please write to M. Sondak, Ma'ale Hahamisha, Doar Na Hare Yehuda 90 835, Israel.

For Sale - Original 9th Zionist Congress Song Book, December 28, 1909. Self-addressed stamped envelope for photocopy of cover. For information contact Howard Chapman, 5414 Kilbourne Drive, Lyndhurst, Ohio 44124, U.S.A.

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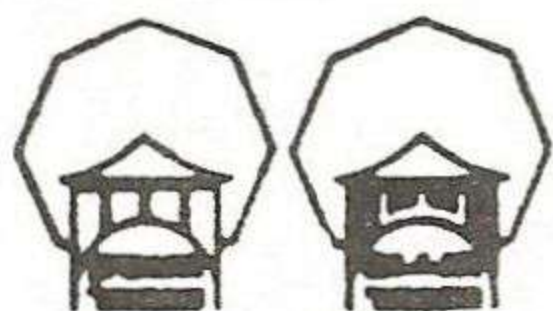
הנהלת "על" נפתח להודיעכם כי

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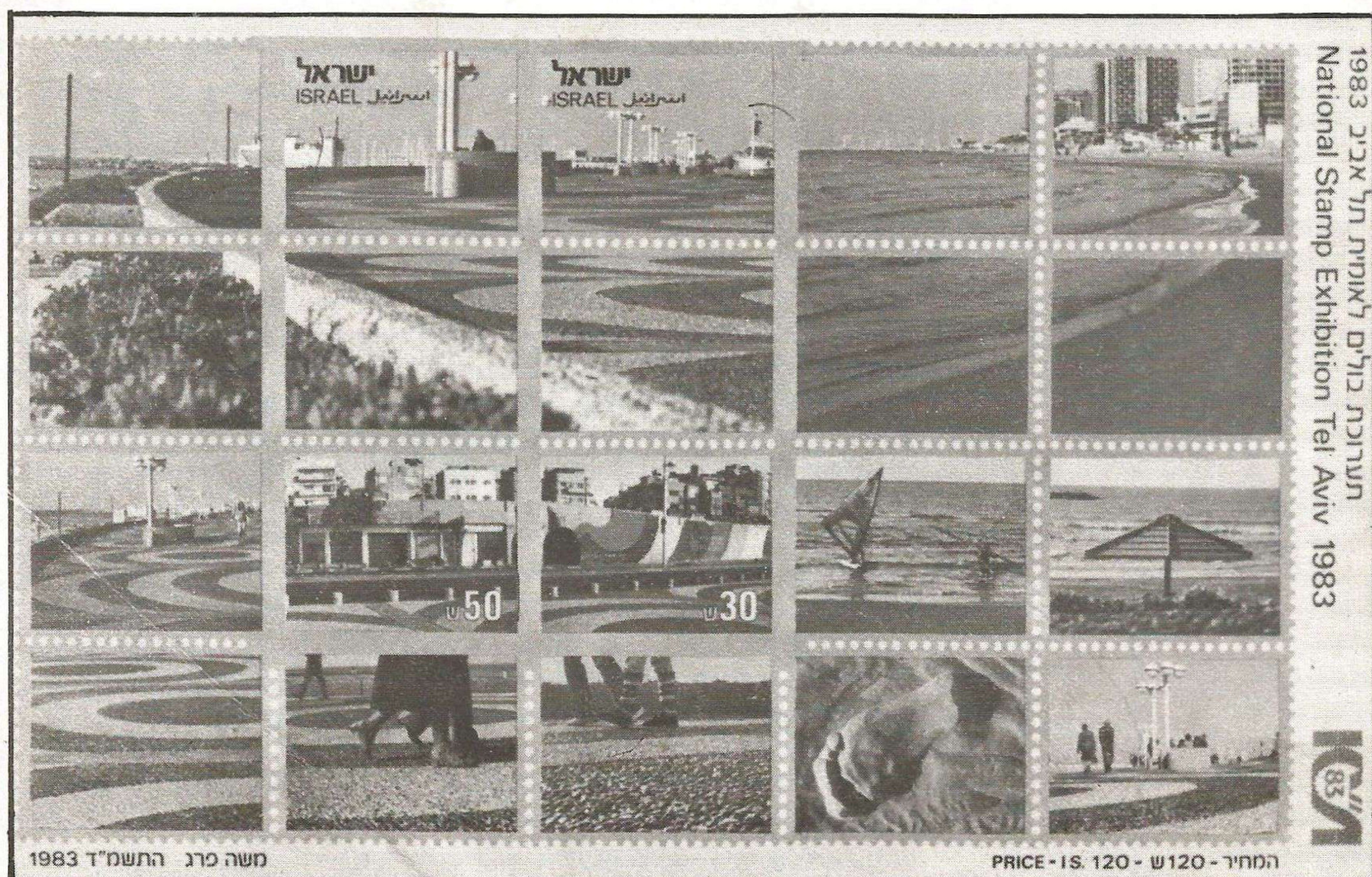
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