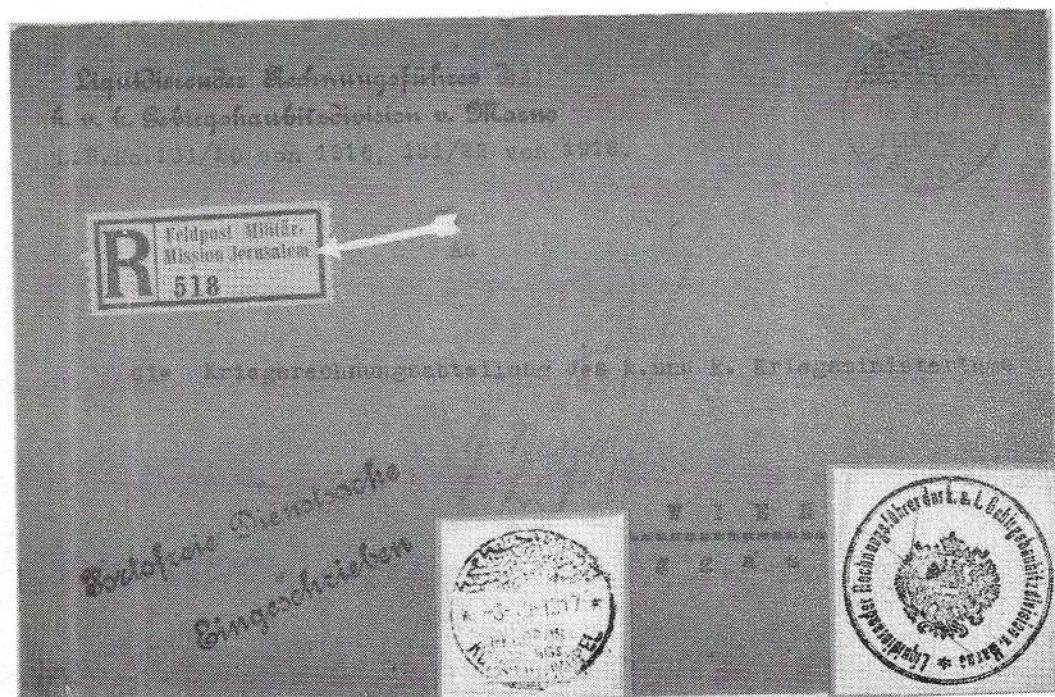


# Holy Land Postal History

III  
49-50

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



מכתב רשום נדיר, שנשלח לווינה ע"י חייל ביחידה אוסטריה בירושלים ב-18.9.1917,  
באמצעות דואר השדה של "המשלחת הצבאית הגרמנית" בירושלים

A rare registered letter to Vienna, sent by an Austrian soldier in Jerusalem  
on 18 September 1917, through the fieldpost of the "German Military  
Mission" in Jerusalem (see article on page 435)

\*\*\*\*\*

WINTER/SPRING 1992

# HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

## Official Bulletin of the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

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## Editorial and Society News

★★★ The authors and editors of the book "Israel Foreign Postal Links" (1948), published recently by this Society, are sorry for the following omission of credit: The cover of Figure 6-14 (p. 127) in the book was previously reported by Sh. Ladany of Beer Sheva. Ladany reported this cover already in 1986, in his article "Back and Forth via the Jewish Agency in Paris – the Routing of Two Transition Period Covers" (HLPB #25-26, pp. 205-209).

★★★ A. Zakai's Part III of his article on the Postal History of the Negev does not appear in this Issue due to technical reasons. It will be published in the next issue of the Bulletin.

★★★ **Life Membership.** According to a request of several Members we have established the "Life Membership" option for the Holy Land Postal History Society. The basic charge is **\$250**, but if airmail delivery of HLPB Bulletin is requested, the following charge should be **added: \$50 (Europe), \$100 (U.S.A., Canada, R.S.A.), \$125 (South America and Australia)**. The total fee is payable in one or two yearly installments.

Life Members will get a special numbered Society Cards and their names will be published in the Bulletin.





## World War I Austro-Hungarian Fieldpost in Palestine\*

*Fred F. Blau, Chicago*

Very little has been written about the Austro-Hungarian Fieldpost in Palestine during World War I. Most collectors are not even aware of its existence. The only literature on the subject was written in the 1920's by two former military experts, Werner Ahrens of Germany and Major Clemens of Austria. Bapip Journal had several descriptions of covers and cards, mainly from collectors requesting information.

Inquiries at the Ministry of War in Vienna produced no tangible information. A visit to the "Arsenal" Heeres Museum (Arsenal-Military Museum) in Vienna resulted in some information. Additional bits and peices of data was gathered from individuals throughout the world. Some of this proved to be accurate, while other theories still have not been verified.

Based on the many covers in my possession, as well as copies of covers owned by others, I have been able to piece together a history of the military mail during that period.

### Military History

The Ottoman high command and its allies, Germany and Austria, started an offensive assault against the British and their Commonwealth allies near the Suez Canal. The Turks, Germans and Austro-Hungarians were slowly pushed back. British General Allenby reached the East Coast of the Suez Canal in 1916. Later in the war, Allenby was helped by the famous Lawrence of Arabia who destroyed enemy railway lines.

The Austro-Hungarian forces were mainly in artillery, medical and transportation units. In addition to their own countrymen, they also worked with Turkish and German troops.

It should be noted that Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Iraq did not exist at the beginning of World War I. These states were created by the former League of Nations (now the United Nations) after World War I. In Palestine, Austro-Hungarian mail originated from the Northern part of the Negev, Gaza, Jerusalem, Nablus, Beersheva, Tulkarem, Nazareth and Tiberias; in other parts of the Ottoman Empire - from Constantinople and the areas now known as Jordan, Lebanon and Syria.

The Austro-Hungarian Army faced problems from the beginning. They provided nearly all the artillery, which were shipped by rail from Vienna to

---

\* This article is a revised version of an article first published in Complex Directory, Chicago (May, 1992).

Constantinople. Since there were no rail lines or hard surfaced roads from that point to the battle lines, the weapons had to be taken apart and placed on camels for the trip to their destinations, Gaza and the Sinai. Workers from the Czechoslovak Skoda Works, manufacturers of the artillery pieces, had to be brought to the front lines to reassemble the mortars, cannons and light artillery pieces.

## Postal History

Germany maintained a military presence in Greater Syria from 1914 to 1918, and mail from their estimated 25,000 troops is fairly common. However, mail from the 1,000 Austro-Hungarian troops is quite scarce, also because they were in the area only from 1916 to 1918. Mail was postage free and subject to censorship.

There were no postal obliterators issued to the Austro-Hungarian troops, while the Germans had military post offices throughout the entire territory. Unit cachets were used on the Austro-Hungarian mail, but most of the mail went through the system without being cancelled.

The mail was handled by soldiers who were unfamiliar with postal regulations, and they accepted any military cachet as official for mail. It was handled by either Austrian or German field postal workers.

There were only two Austro-Hungarian field post offices, in Aleppo and Constantinople, where the mail was brought on a regular basis. The mail from the battlefield was collected and delivered to Aleppo and/or Constantinople by military courier. Aleppo postmarked their mail with a fieldpost mark numbered 452, 452a, 452b or 452c. Constantinople applied a fieldpost mark with numbers 451, 451a, 451b or 451c. From those points, the mail was transported by military or diplomatic courier to Vienna and then forwarded to its final destination.

The following illustrations demonstrate some aspects of this postal history.



**Fig. 1: Card from a soldier waiting for his travel orders before going to the front in Palestine. Handstamped "K.u.K. Austro/Hungarian Military Station Command in Constantinople".**





Fig. 2: Special fieldpost card printed in Turkey in 1915, and sent from an aide to the military attaché at the headquarters of the Austro-Hungarian army in Turkey. Handstamped "K.u.K. military plenipotentiary in Constantinople" and "Examined Vienna 1".

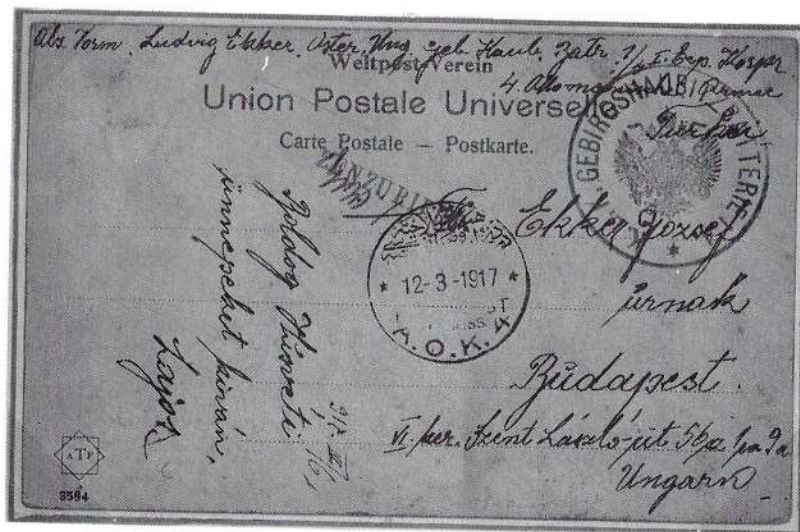


Fig 3: Card from an Austro-Hungarian soldier ("K.u.K. Howitzer Battery 1-4") dropped into a German military mail box, cancelled with German fieldpostmark ("Military mission A.O.K.4" in Jerusalem), censored in Vienna and forwarded to Budapest.

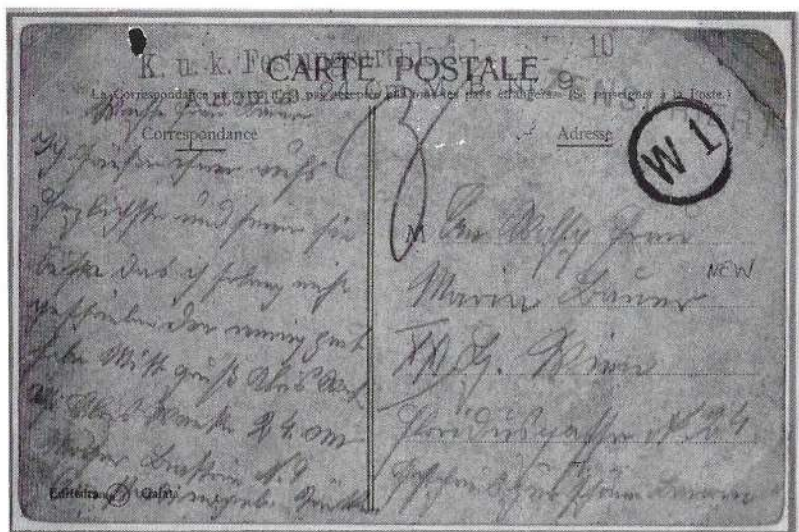




**Fig. 4:** Postcard sent by an Aust.-Hun. soldier of the "K.u.K. 10,4 cm Cannon Battery No. 20" (cachet) through the Turkish field post office "61" serving the 7th division of the Ottoman Army, while at Gaza. Later processed by the German "Feldpost, Mill. Miss., Jerusalem".



**Fig. 5:** Registered letter posted in Jerusalem (18.9.1917) by the paymaster of the K.u.K. Mountain Howitzer Division V. Marno and carried by German military mail to Vienna. The only recorded Military Mission registration label of Jerusalem. (Reproduced also on the Front Cover).



**Fig. 6: Card from Automobile Battery No. 9, located near Jerusalem, with scarce postally used Austrian military stamp. Also marked "K.u.K. Fortress Artillery Battalion No. 10", and "WI" (diplomatic mail arrival marking in Vienna).**



**Fig. 7: Private courier mail. An officer of the Austrian Headquarters in Jerusalem had this carried to Vienna, where local postage stamp of 15 Heller was applied, and dropped in a regular letter box.**







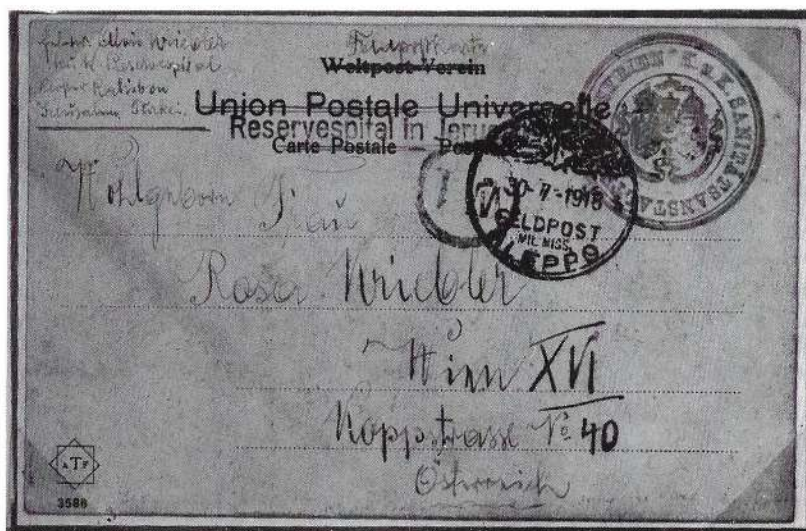
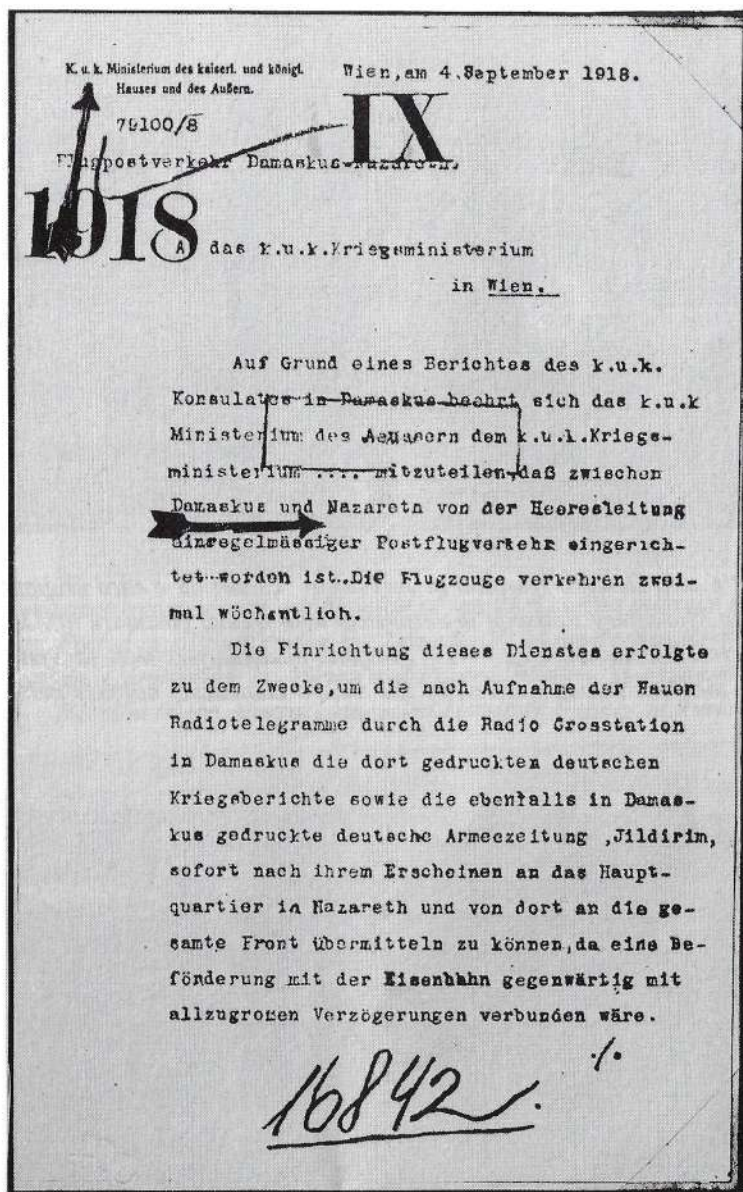


Fig. 10: "K.u.K. Reserve Hospital in Jerusalem" cachet on a card originating from the Monastery Ratisbon in Jerusalem with transit postmark of Aleppo and arrival Vienna marking "W1". Hospital headquarters were in Syria and the local institution was run by the Austro-Hungarian military personnel.



Fig. 11: "K.u.K. Motor Vehicle Repair Station, Turkey Nr. 3" cachet on a card from Aleppo to Vienna. Postmarked "Feldpost Mil. Miss. Aleppo"; (German military post).



*Fig. 12: Communication from Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Minister of War, dated Sept. 4, 1918, that a biweekly army airmail service between Damascus and Nazareth has been inaugurated (for more details cf. F.F. Blau, HLP#39, p. 1047).*





Fig. 13: Part of the first page of the German Army Newspaper "Jildirim", mentioned in the letter of Figure 12. This particular example, of September 2, 1918, was sent from Damascus to Corp. Müller in Nazareth, probably with the first "regular" army flight Damascus-Nazareth.



## The Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem P.O.W. Airmail Route 1942-1943

*Norman J. Collins\**

### Introduction

Articles on this subject have been published in The BAPIP Bulletin, The Israel Philatelist, OPAL Journal and latterly in Fil-Italia. With the publication of each article new information was reported and hopefully this article will conclude the research. During the preparation of the last article, which was published in Fil-Italia, Colin Pilkington (the editor) brought to my attention the Italian regulations for P.O.W. airmails previously published in his journal: these can now be included, with his permission. In the Fil-Italia version two new route cachets were reported, plus a new cachet indicating that stamps were removed by the censor; these by Richard Harlow. Since this version has been published, a further (and earliest known) route instruction cachet has been reported by Francesco Gerini and Zvi Alexander.

After the Fil-Italia version had been prepared for publication, there was a late report by Zvi Alexander of a cover with manuscript route instruction for the route posted in July 1943, with a United States civil censorship mark. Colin brought to my attention a similar item which had been reported in Fil-Italia (Vol. XI, p. 71). These were published as a Postscript to the last article, but no information was available as to where the censor mark was applied. Since then, due to the good offices of Nathan Zankel, I have received from Dann Mayo confirmation as to where the censor marks were applied.

In previous articles I have listed route instruction marks as Type 1 up, but as the last article showed, using this method one needs to re-assign type numbers if something new is reported. The newly reported type by Francesco Gerini also proves that the original Type 1 was not the first type used, according to information to-date. Therefore, I have decided to re-assign types as Type A etc., to allow additional types if they come to light to be added out of date order.

There are still gaps in our information as to when the route actually opened (date of starting). The late Stuart Rossiter noted (in BAPIP #102, p. 53) that the agreement for this route between Great Britain and Italy was obtained by Brazil (the protecting power). The Italian government then agreed to the Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem route in April, 1942. The route was by train from Chiasso to Sofia, thence by air to Istanbul, by train to Jerusalem and then via BOAC air Lydda-Cairo for onwards transmission.

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\* Copyright N.J. Collins (1991).

The earliest cover seen is one with a date of 14th March, 1942 at Marmorta, with a manuscript endorsement "Posta aerea per prigioniero da Guerra via Chiasso Gerusalemme", which goes over the postmark (Fig. 14). It is possible that mail was held back pending the finalisation of the route and that the endorsement was applied by an official once the route had been agreed to, but there is no way of proving that this endorsement is genuine. My hypothesis is that route instruction cachets were applied only to the top cover of a bundle, like AV2 marks, and this endorsement was before cachets were prepared – not to be confused with sender's endorsements.

Stuart also reported that by December, 1942 the British GPO suggested it would be shorter and more convenient to make the exchange at Adana (Turkey). Thereafter the route was by train through to Adana (Orient Express, Taurus Express) and thence by BOAC air to Cairo for onwards transmission. The new route must have come into use earlier than December, 1942, as a cover in Alexander's collection endorsed for the Sofia-Istanbul route is known postmarked

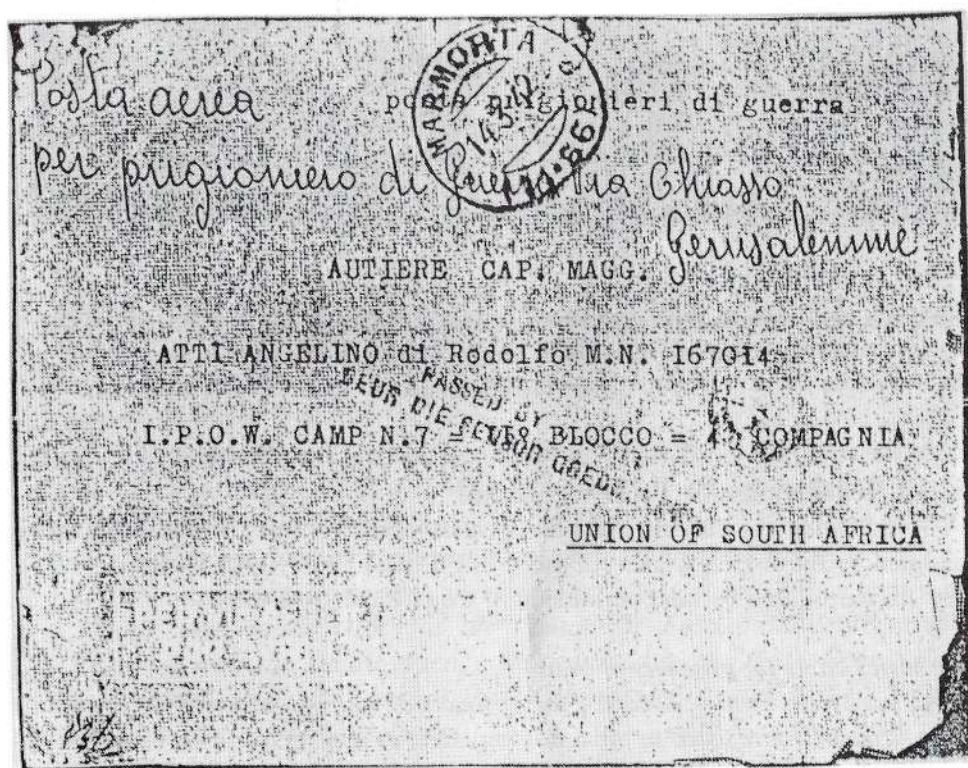


Fig. 14: Cover posted at Marmorta, Italy on 14th March 1942, with manuscript route endorsement reading "Posta aerea/per prigioniero di Guerra via Chiasso/Gerusalemme". (Coll. B.A. Remington).



2nd November, 1942 (Fig. 15). Note that the stamps have not been removed; it was usually the British censor who removed them and this applied as a general principle only to mail addressed to Italian P.O.W's.



Fig. 15: A cover from a civilian internee to Haifa, posted in Italy on November 2nd, 1942. Note the manuscript 'Posta Aerea per Internati di Guerra via Sofia-Istanbul'.

### Italian Regulations for P.O.W. Airmail

The following regulations are the essential portion from the full regulations translated by Barth Healey and published in *Fil-Italia* (Vol. XI, p. 51, Spring 1985). They are reproduced by kind permission of Colin Pilkington, the editor.

#### *"Air Mail Letters for prisoners of War:*

10. Air mail letters will be accepted for prisoners of war who are held in the nations of the British Empire listed in the following table, as long as the items do not weigh more than five grammes (including the envelope), are franked with Italian air mail or regular issue stamps to the value indicated in the table, and carry a marking indicating the air route to the country concerned.

In addition, in the case of the sending of documents whose weight exceed



five grammes, the letters are to be franked to cover each unit of five grammes and fraction of five grammes (e.g. for an item of 27 g – six times the rate listed).

One exception is mail for Great Britain, which will be carried air mail without payment.

<u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>ADDITIONAL POSTAGE</u>	<u>AIR ROUTE</u>
Great Britain	NIL	Via Rome – Lisbon
South Africa, Italian		
East Africa, British		Via Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem
East Africa including		
Kenya and Tanganyika	L2.50	
British India	L2.50	Via Chiasso-Sofia-Baghdad
Egypt & Sudan (1)	L2.50	Via Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem
Palestine	L0.50	Via Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem
Australia, New Zealand,		
Canada, Jamaica,	L2.75	Via Rome-Lisbon-New York
West Indies		

-----  
(1) The British Administration recognises that it is problematic whether there is any gain in time in sending letters to Egypt and Sudan by air rather than by surface mail.

11. The address of the prisoner of war has to be written as indicated in paras 3 or 4. Above the address on the envelope must be written the note: – “Air Mail for Prisoner of War” and thereafter the air route and then the address.

12. The letters have to be sent promptly by despatching offices in Envelope 147 PA1 to one of the following addresses. If the addressee is in the army or air force, to Rome Foreign Post Office, Via Lago Lesina; or if in the navy or merchant marine, to Navy Mail Office, Rome.

13. On arrival at Rome the envelopes are opened and the contents are handed over to the Office of the Censor for Foreign Mail. There it is examined with the utmost urgency and returned to the Posta Estera. Naval mail is treated similarly except that it is censored by the U.C.E.C. Office and then sent to the Posta Estera.

14. The Rome Foreign Post Office makes up two shipments – one for Chiasso and the other for Lisbon. In the shipment for Chiasso, which will be sent by train, there will be two separate labelled bundles, comprising mail for (a) South Africa, Italian East Africa, British East Africa (including Kenya and Tanganyika), British India, Egypt, Sudan; and (b) Palestine.

The despatch is sent to Chiasso 2, marked "Correspondences Avions" and accompanied by a dispatch note, Form AV2, on which is noted the weight of the package.

In the shipment for Lisbon, to be sent by Italian air mail, the Rome Foreign Post Office will make up two labelled bundles, one covering the correspondence for Great Britain, and the other covering the correspondence for Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Jamaica and the West Indies. The shipment is sent to Lisbon marked "Correspondences Avion" and accompanied by Form AV2 on which is noted the weight of the material covered by the second list. Of the material despatched to Great Britain, two packages must be made up – one comprising mail addressed to Italian prisoners of war in Great Britain, the other containing any other correspondence.

15. The Rome Foreign Post Office notes the weights mentioned above in Register 34 PA1, summarising the data each month for the Director-General, Servizio 4°, Air Mail Office, on Form 34-PA headed "Air Mail for Prisoners of War".

### The Route Instruction Cachets

As stated in the introduction, there are now five different types of cachet known so far. Four of the cachets relate to the Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem and Sofia-Istanbul routes, the fifth to Chiasso-Sofia-Baghdad route (for mail to POW's in India). These will be designated as types A, B etc., to allow for any new types that might come to light and to save re-adjusting type numbers. Table 1 summarizes these types and refers to the following Figures for illustration.

Table 1: The various known Types of Route Instruction Cachets

Type	Text of Cachet	Illustrated in fig.	Collection
A	Posta aerea per Prigionieri di Guerra/Via CHIASO-SOFIA-GERUSALEMME	16	Alexander
B	POSTA AEREA PER PRIGIONIERI DE GUERRA / VIA CHIASO-SOFIA- GERUSALEMME	17	Collins
C	POSTA AEREA PER PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA / VIA SOFIA-GERUSALEMME	18	Harlow
D	POSTA AEREA PER INTERNATI CIVILI DI GUERRA / VIA SOFIA-ISTANBUL	19	Alexander
E	Posta Aerea per Prigionieri di Guerra / Via CHIASO-SOFIA-BAGDAD	20	Harlow



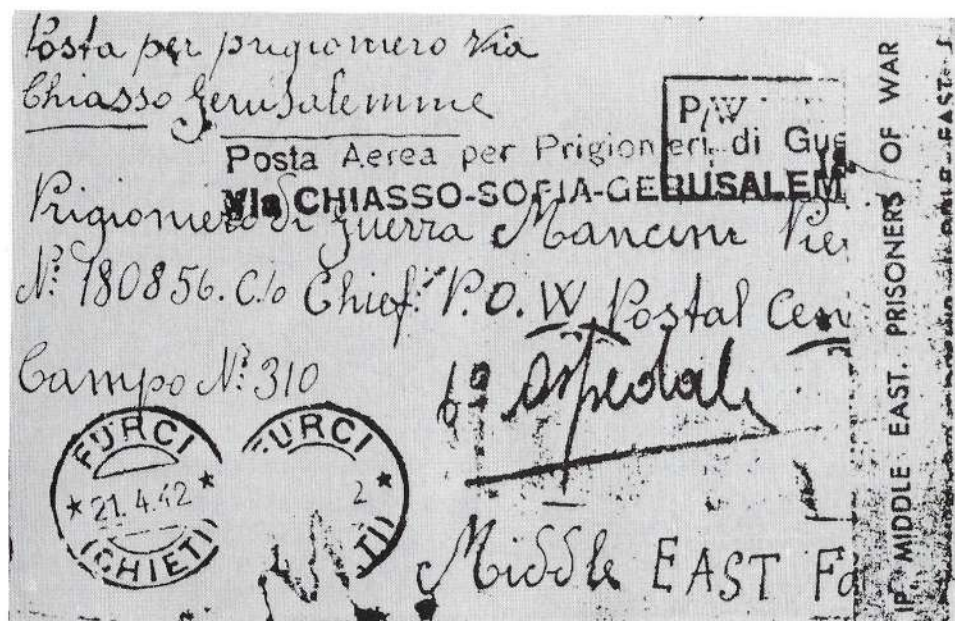


Fig. 16: Cover from Furci, Italy, posted 21st April, 1942 with the earliest cachet recorded so far (Type A). Two more examples are known on covers, one of which was posted on 17th April, 1942.

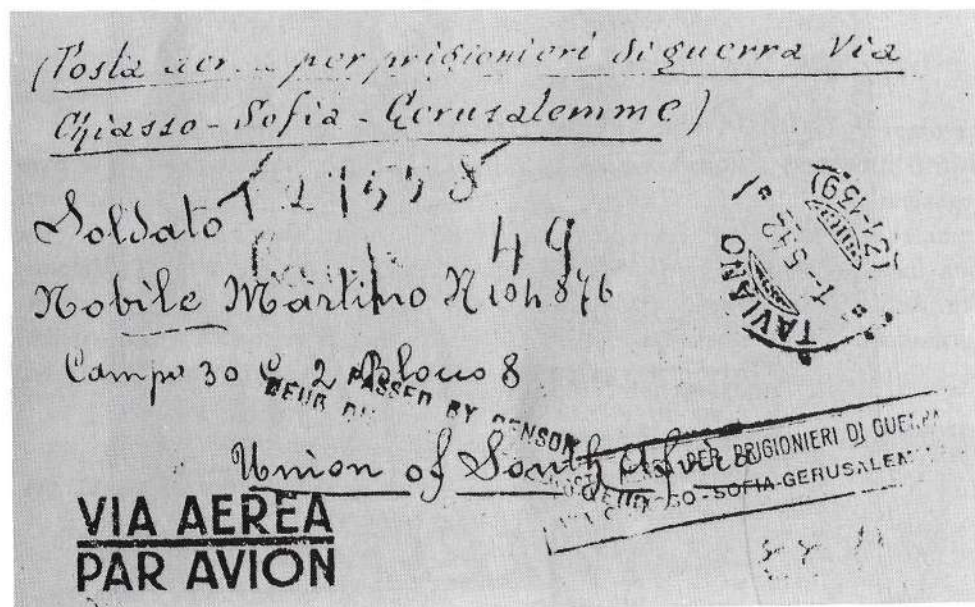


Fig. 17: Cover from Taviano, Italy dated 1st May, 1942, with Type B cachet. This is the earliest seen so far of Type B.

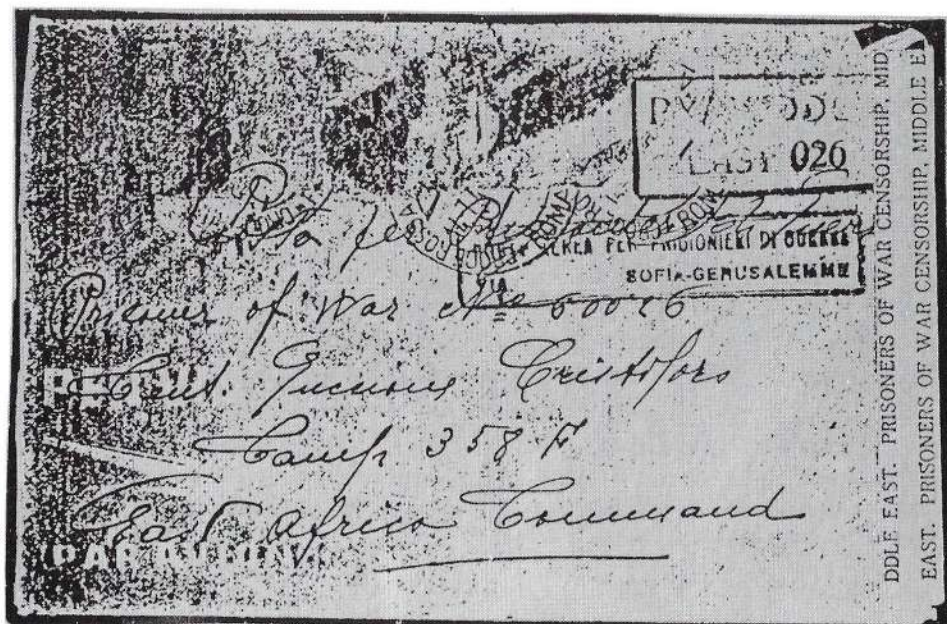


Fig. 18: Cover with cachet Type C, similar to Type B but with the word *CHIASSO* removed.



Fig. 19: Cover with the cachet for the Sofia-Istanbul route (Type D). The stamp on the cover does not belong to it; someone had tried to enhance the cover, due to his ignorance that it was not a damaged cover.





*Fig. 20: Red Cross P.O.W. postcard to an Italian prisoner in India, with the cachet for this route, which branched off from the Jerusalem route after arrival in Turkey (Type E). The stamp was removed by the censor.*

### Removal of Stamps by the Censors

As stated in previous articles, I thought at first that covers with stamps removed were vandalised. As research has continued it has been proven that both British and Italian censors removed postage stamps to ensure that no secret messages were concealed beneath them. Not all of the covers have had the stamps removed, but those that do must be considered as normal for such mail and are **not damaged**. Below are shown two cachets that prove that both British and Italian censors removed stamps (Figs. 21, 22), plus a cover where manuscript endorsements for rerouting also prove this fact (Fig. 23).

*Fig. 21: Cachet (Type SR1) on the reverse of a cover to an Italian P.O.W. in South Africa, which proves that it was the censor who removed the stamps.  
(Courtesy R. Harlow).*







## Civilian Mail to Papal Delegates

Italian civilians were only allowed to use this route for mail to Italian P.O.W.'s in Allied hands, with one exception: Mail was allowed to Papal Delegates who worked in conjunction with the Red Cross looking after the interests of Italian P.O.W.'s (e.g., Fig. 24). More information on the role of the Vatican and its delegates regarding prisoners of war can be found in an article "Vatican Messages during World War II" by M. Carnevale-Mauzan.



*Fig. 24: A cover to the Papal Delegate in Egypt, proving that mail was also allowed by this route to such delegates. (Courtesy R. Harlow).*

## Mail to Italy by the Route

There is one mystery as regards this route: this is that no mail has been seen to either British Commonwealth P.O.W.'s or Internees, and also from Italian P.O.W.'s in Allied hands, back to Italy by this route. By this I mean that no mail has been seen with endorsements for the reverse direction, i.e. JERUSALEM-SOFIA-CHIASSO etc. I wonder if any reader can produce a 'proving' cover indicating that mail was to be returned by the reverse of the outward route?

### The Closing of the Route

The route was closed in June 1943, and it would seem that mail was diverted to a new route via Lisbon and New York. The cover shown in Figure 25, proves that by the 30th June 1943, the route had been suspended and mail was being returned to senders. The P.O.W. postcard shown in Figure 26, which was written on 9th July 1943, has a United States civil censor mark. This was at first a puzzle, due to the fact that I did not know where it had been applied. Through the good offices of Nathan Zankel, I was put in touch with Dann Mayo. Mayo and W.N. Broderick published in 1980 their research which shows that the censor mark on the cover illustrated was applied in New York. A P.O.W. letter sheet written in July 1943 and addressed to South Africa, also has a New York civil censor mark (Fig. 27). This proves that a new route was operating for P.O.W. mail to South Africa (at least), via Lisbon and New York, in early July, 1943.

Thus, with these three final items we have positive proof that the route via Sofia and Turkey was closed by July, 1943.



Fig. 25: Cover addressed to Asmara, Eritrea, dated 30th June 1943, which has the manuscript instruction for the Chiasso-Jerusalem route. On the front there is a cachet "AL MITTENTE / PER SERVIZIO SOSPESO" = RETURN TO SENDER / SERVICE SUSPENDED.





### Information Request

I would appreciate if any reader can report any new cachets or information from official sources as regards this route that may help this research. Material can be sent to Norman J. Collins, 21 Torrington Drive, Thingwall, Heswall, Merseyside L61 7UZ, England.

**Acknowledgement:** I would like to express my thanks to all those philatelists who have contributed to this research over the last 12 years.

### References:

- (1) N.J. Collins, "P.O.W. & Internees' Mail, by Air via Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem 1942-1943", BAPIP #100, Autumn 1981.
- (2) N.J. Collins, "More Covers via Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem", BAPIP #101, Spring 1982.
- (3) N.J. Collins, "Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem Mail Route 1941-43", BAPIP #120, July 1988.
- (4) N.J. Collins, "The Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem Mail Route 1942-1943", *Fil-Italia*, Vol. XVII, No. 1 (Winter 1990/91) p. 19.
- (5) S. Rossiter, "Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem", BAPIP #102, Summer 1982.
- (6) E. Kaplan, "Italian POW Mail - The Chiasso-Sofia-Jerusalem Route", *The Israel Philatelist*, June 1982.
- (7) Italian Regulations (trans. B. Healey), "Prisoner of War & Internee Mail in World War II", *Fil-Italia*, Vol. XI (Spring 1985) p. 51.
- (8) M. Carnevale-Mauzan (trans. by C. Pilkington), "Vatican Messages during World War II", *Fil-Italia*, Vol. VIII, p. 3.
- (9) W.N. Broderick and D. Mayo, "Civil Censorship in the United States During World War II". Published by Civil Censorship Study Group and War Cover Club, 1980.



## Palestine Postal Administration Economy

*Arthur M. Hochheiser*

While economy use of materials was a watchword of the government during the Palestine Mandate, at no time was this more evident than during the period of World War II. Moreover, this was especially true in the Postal Administration. Previous articles on this subject have appeared in the literature but they were confined in the main to the use of envelopes.

POST OFFICE CIRCULAR LETTER No. 131/39 dated 27th Sept., 1939 reads as follows:

*"Owing to the War, difficulty will probably be experienced in obtaining supplies of postal stores and stationery. Every possible economy should therefore be exercised.*

*The Postmaster-General calls for the earnest cooperation of all members of the staff to ensure that there is no waste or unnecessary use of stores and stationery of all kinds".*

This circular set the tone for use of all materials for the coming war years. Subsequent circulars issued during this period covered the following use of materials:

- 1) Both sides of paper should be used where practicable.
- 2) Pencils should be sharpened by knife only.
- 3) Pencil holders should invariably be used.
- 4) Officers requiring a new pencil must produce the stub of the old one to show that it has been used to the limit of its capacity.
- 5) All letters must be written on both sides of the paper with a one inch left margin and as small a right hand margin as possible.
- 6) Carbon paper should be used sparingly and should not be discarded until completely worn out.
- 7) The use of carbon paper can be extended by rubbing gently with a terry cloth towel.
- 8) Typewriter ribbons must not be discarded and must be submitted for inspection when new supplies are requisitioned.
- 9) Typewriter supplies were limited per yearly use. This includes brushes, duster cloths, oil cans, oil and erasers.
- 10) To facilitate the opening of envelopes sealed with "economy labels", the moistening of the gum should be restricted to a strip one-half inch wide at the top and bottom of the label.
- 11) Postmasters should tactfully approach addressees who are known to receive large numbers of airgraphs or other Departmental communications. They should be asked to return the covers for reuse to ease the paper shortage.

- 12) The use of brown paper wrapping for records to be dispatched to the Returned Letter Office should be discontinued. These should be sent by paper fasteners or tied with string.
- 13) To avoid excessive use of forms for Postal Messages Vouchers, only one message form per voucher shall be used.
- 14) The backs of obsolete forms should be utilized wherever possible, especially previously used forms on file.

on 10/10/41, Mr Asakhenagi should therefore see that the doors are properly locked at the appropriate key hand over to the person in the next senior office should do this duty in the absence of Sir, Gentlemen.

Please enclose herewith cheque No. all under your Mils settlement of the following account these papers Invoice No. LP. Mils Invoice No. LP. Mils

3. 2. 1.11

Best des! Act.

I shall be glad if you will kindly complete the detachable portion of this form and return it in the enclosed envelope (which need not be stamped) by first available post.

T. GRIFFITHS  
Chief Accountant.

Figure 28a



A sampling of obsolete Postal Administration forms whose backs were used for departmental purposes is illustrated below:

- 1) A P.T. 337 blank form was used for a departmental letter (Figs. 28a/28b, part of form).

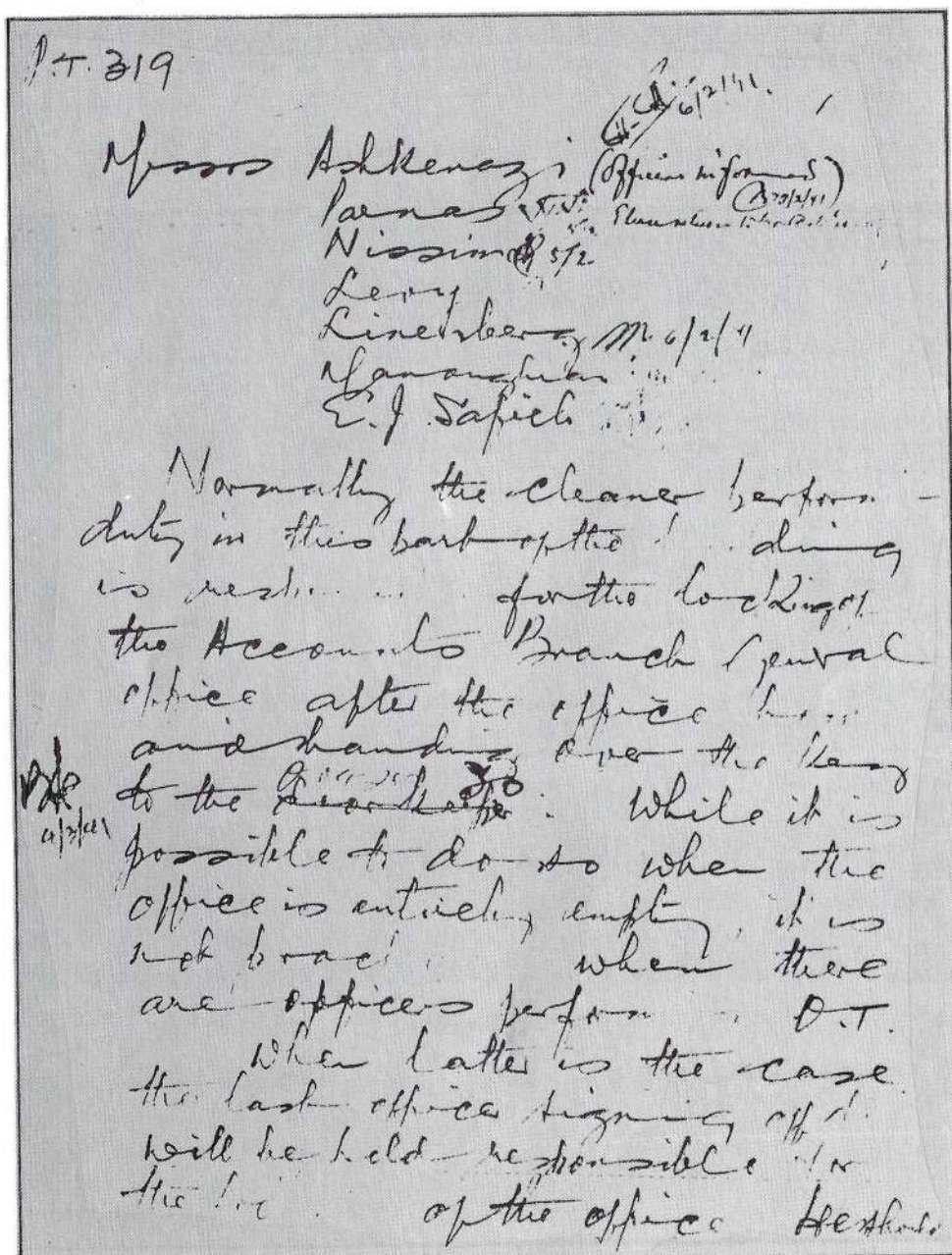


Figure 28b

- 2) The lower half of a used P.T. 502 form was used to distribute a Department of Posts & Telegraphs Circular Letter (Figs. 29a/29b).
- 3) Part of an old Radio License (issued under Postal Administration Authority) was used for a Post Office Circular Insert (Fig. 30).
- 4) The upper left corner of a P.T. Form was used for an official letter of the Agricultural Office (Fig. 31); this was one of the largest P.T. forms issued.

[illegible]

**Figure 29a**



DEPARTMENT OF POSTS & TELEGRAPHS.  
CIRCULAR LETTER No. 11 OF 1944.

Postal Services with Allied Occupied  
Italy.

With reference to the notice which appeared in Post Office Circular No. 839 of 29th March, 1944 on the above subject it is notified for information that commencing forthwith unregistered business letters for provinces of Allied Occupied Italy to which the postal service already extends will be accepted at all Post Offices.

The restriction of the postal service to Italy to correspondence of a purely personal nature has been withdrawn. Commercial and financial correspondence must, however, at present be limited to communications ascertaining facts and exchanging information. No actual commercial contracts may yet be entered into, nor may instructions to effect transactions, or financial instruments (such as powers of attorney, proxies, payment orders, etc.) be sent to Allied Occupied Italy without the permission of the Custodian of Enemy Property.

The maximum weight for any one article is 40 grammes.

The current rates of postage for foreign countries are applicable.

A Public Notice is distributed with this Circular.

GENERAL POST OFFICE,  
JERUSALEM,  
3rd December, 1944.  
NM/MF

100 090 1000

Figure 29b

Jernsalem		Page 1 of 1	
City of B.O.(C)	Hit	7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Daily	Telegrams and express correspondence delivered 13 to 2000 hours.
Green Colony T.O.(B)	Hit	8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mon. to 5 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sat.	
Munro Yehuda B.O.(D)	Hit	Sunday - Closed.	
Meashkarm B.O.(B)	Hit	8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sun. to 5 p.m. to 5 p.m. Thurs.	
Rehavia B.O.(E)	Hit	8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.	
	Hit	Saturday - Closed	
	Hit	-do-	
	Hit	-do-	
	Hit	-do-	

Issued with Post Office Circular No. 288 dated 17th January, 1914.

Serial **ME 117630**

\*R N=

Old Licence No. **71900**

19

P.T. 806 sent *W/N*

List sent

Search Warrant requested *1:15*

Licence renewed

No. of renewed Licence

Licence cancelled

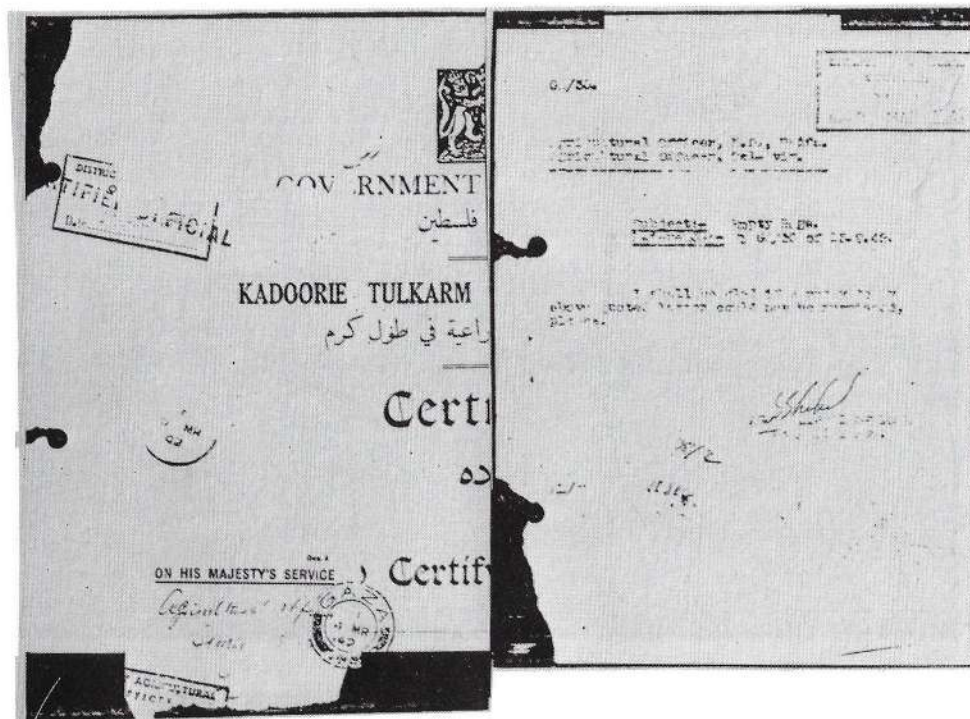
Date of receipt at licence office

Stamp: **JE 22 FEB 40**

\* Strike out the letters inapplicable

Figure 30





*Figure 31*

- 5) The lower half of an Airgraph Form P.T. 273 was used by the Postmaster General for an official letter (Fig. 32).
- 6) The upper half of an Airgraph Form P.T. 273 was used to add an extract from a Post Office Circular to a regular manual (Fig. 33).
- 7) The back of a serially connected group of P.T. 512 forms was used to distribute a Department of Posts & Telegraphs Circular Letter (Fig. 34).

The "economy" use of forms was carried over by the State of Israel, e.g. a P.T. 719 form was used in 1951 (Fig. 35).





[illegible]

**Figure 34**

PT 712

**N<sup>o</sup> 26840 D**

כ"ד אייר תש"א

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**PALESTINE POSTS, TELEGRAPHS & TELEPHONES.**

**NOTICE.**

A postal packet which is too large to be placed in your letter box will be brought to this address at about 4 p.m. on the day and, if not collected then, at the same time on the following day, after which, if still undelivered, it will be retained in the Poste Restante for 7 days.

Postal packets which remain undelivered after the lapse of the period indicated will be sent to the Returned Letter Office for disposal.

**BY ORDER OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL**

**הודעה: סניפים.**

**אספקת: ת.ד. 1136/3 מיום 29.5.51.**

**ادارة البريد والتلغراف والتفون**

**إعلان**

ان رزمة كبيرة الحجم لا يمكن وضعها في صندوقك ستجلب الى هذا المكان حوالي الساعة من اليوم وإذا لم تستلموها عندئذ ستجلب في اليوم التالي أيضاً في الوقت نفسه. فإذا لم يوجد من يستلمها وقتئذ تحفظ في شباك البريد مدة سبعة أيام. والرزم البريدية التي لم يستلمها أصحابها بعد انقضاء المدة المعنية تعاد الى مكتب التجاري المرجعة للتصرف بها.

باسم مدير البريد العام

להלן מספר פוסטרים המועסק בכל אחד מסניפי הדואר תחת פקוחי.

14	סניף הדואר הכרם
6	נחלה
6	הר הכחשל
2	הרצלניה
1	אחוזת
1	הנפל
29	

**הנהלת הדואר, הטלגרף והטלפון.**

**מודעה**

הכילה דואר שנתק יתר מדי בודקה סניף הודעה כתבת הסכנתם שכן חובה להסבסב 10 סכור ליעד

חובה להסבסב 10 סכור ליעד

למחרת חובה שם 10 סכור שעה למחרת: חובה שם 10 סכור חתומה בכל זמן בלתי סכור חובה 10 סכור 7 ימים עדותה דואר סלד בסכור

למסכיתם אחרי כמות הסכור חובה, ואלוהו למסכור הסכנתם המוחזקים למסכור

בפקודת המנהל הכללי של דמי הדואר

י"ב/א"ט

הודעה - 29

29

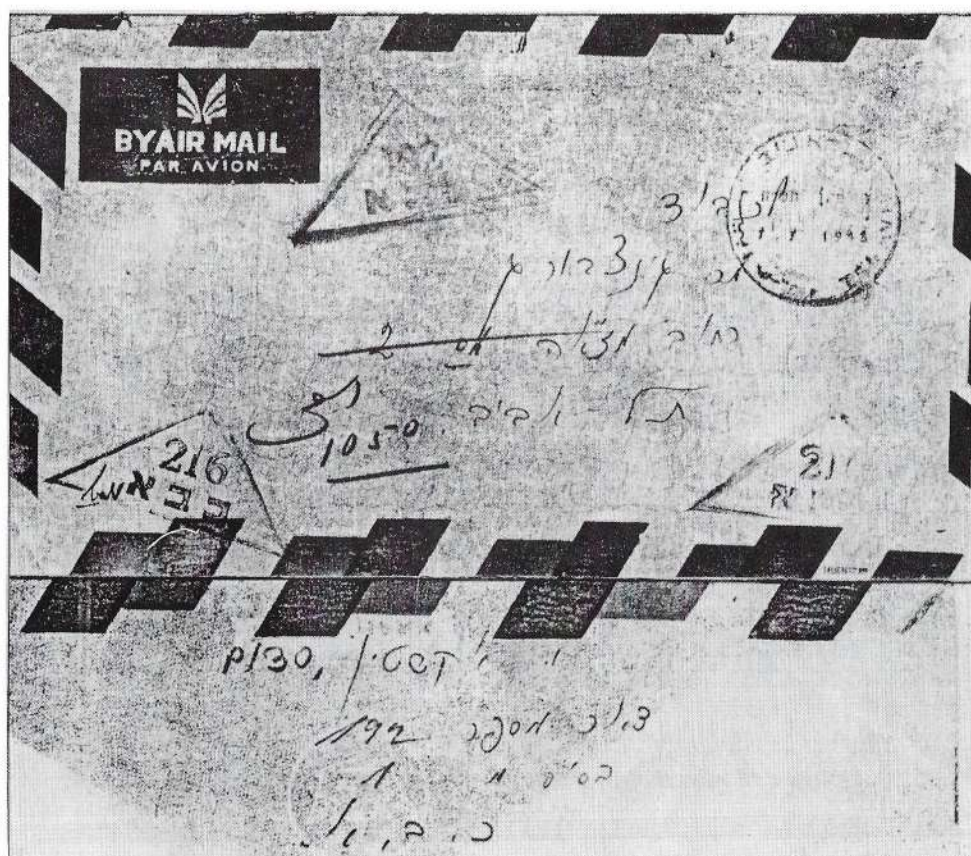
**Figure 35**





192, and in order to remove any doubt, the original handstamp is struck in black, in the proper space. It also states that the connection to Sdom is a "direct air connection". The document was signed by Arie Lovich, which served as a "general quartermaster registrar". On the bottom right we recognize a rectangular handstamp in violet of the Military Post H.Q. from June 11, approving the matter. The document, after the H.Q. approval, was sent to G.H.Q. - A.K.A. (man-power department), as demonstrated by the inscription in the middle-top. Thus the Military Post Authorities had not at all "forgotten" Sdom, but had rather taken care of its matter relatively early.

Figure 37 shows a stampless army cover, sent by airplane from Sdom, arriving at Tel Aviv on July 7, 1948. On the back there is the sender's address "I. Ekstein, Sdom / Post No. 192 / Base 1 / KBA". From this address we learn that KBA 192 was already known to the Sdom inhabitants



*Fig. 37: An army flown cover from isolated Sdom to Tel Aviv (arrival July 7) via Jerusalem. Served by KBA 192 in Sdom and by KBA 216 in Jerusalem.*

before July 7, and that this army post was connected to Base A (בסיס א)\*. On the front of the letter we see a dispatch violet postmark of KBA 192 and two black postmarks of KBA 216. Near the left one there is a handwritten confirmation. On the top right there is the civil postmark of Tel Aviv, July 7.

B. Hurwich, in his article on KBA unit numbers<sup>2</sup>, writes that military unit No. 216 was related to Office 5 (Jerusalem) and served "Shekem Base No. 48, Jerusalem Distr.; (Dead Sea area)"\*\*.

Hence a number of conclusions. First, that KBA 192 did not replace KBA 216, but both operated simultaneously and served the Sdom area. But while KBA 192 was situated in Sdom itself, KBA 216 was in Jerusalem, and probably provided certain logistic services to the Sdom area, and as such was also used for mail delivery. This was possible since in Jerusalem there operated at that time the improvised airfield "Marom", and some of the flights from Sdom landed there on their way to the "Shfela" (the Costal Area) or back. Therefore Ekstein's letter, and also the letter which Alexander brings in his Fig. 25, are letters that on their way from Sdom passed through Jerusalem where they were taken care of by KBA 216, before arriving at Tel Aviv.

The letter which Alexander shows in Fig. 26 is such too. In my opinion, the letter was not flown twice, but only once – from Sdom to Jerusalem. Had the letter been flown first to Tel Aviv and from there back to Jerusalem, we would have had to find on it some kind of a transit mark of Base A or A.P.O. 3.

Figure 38 shows the upper part of a military form No. 1603, regarding a "Road

*Fig. 38: Part of a military "Road Certificate" of a post bag, sent from Sdom on October 30 with the Air Force. Arrived in Army Post Base A, Tel Aviv, on November 2.*

\* Another similar cover is in the collection of Y. Rimón.

\*\* Editor's note: Unfortunately this data is not dated.

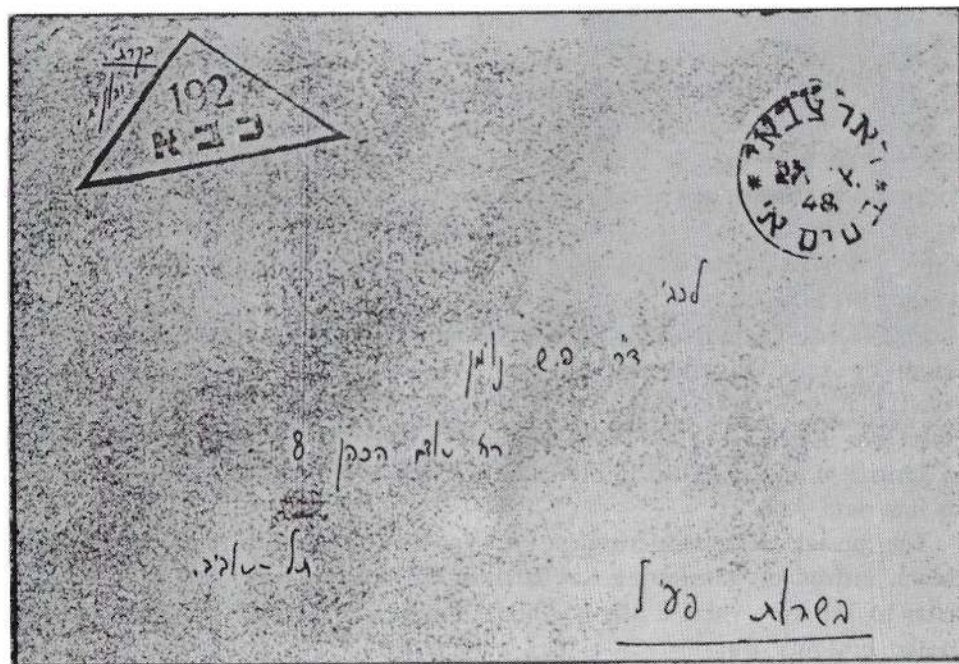


Certificate" of "a Post Bag", which was sent through the Military Post. The rectangular violet mark on the right clearly shows that the bag was sent on October 30, 1948, through the Military Post Office in Sdom. The addressee is "Base A (Alef)", and it is explicitly said that the bag was sent through the "Air Force". On the left we see the arrival handstamp of Base A from November 2.

Most samples of the few letters which remained, carry the arrival handstamp of Base A. Such an example can be seen in Figure 39, which shows a relatively late military letter from besieged Sdom to Dr. Neuman in Tel Aviv. On the top right we see the arrival handstamp of Base A, October 27, 1948. Also clearly seen, is the form of the figures KBA 192, which is exactly similar to the mark appearing in the document in Figure 36.

The hundreds of workers who worked in the potash factory in the south of the Dead Sea were professionally organized in the "General Organization of Hebrew Workers of Eretz-Israel". The local body which actually headed the workers was "Sdom Workers' Council".

A very interesting item which I would like to show is a late courier letter sent from Sdom, through Jerusalem, arriving at Tel Aviv in the end of July (see Back Cover illustration). This letter was sent by Mr. S. Minzberg, who was a member



**Fig. 39: An army letter from isolated Sdom (KBA 192) to Tel Aviv, cancelled on arrival "Army Post / Base A / 27.X.48".**

of the Executive Committee of the Sdom Workers' Council, to the Army Casualty Department, which belonged to the Man-power Section (initialed A.K.A.) and which was situated at that time in the offices of "Beit Hadar" in Tel Aviv. On the back, in addition to the sender's name, one can see the red handstamp "the Sdom Workers' Council - Dead Sea South". On the front, there is a Jerusalem stamp of 10 mil, cancelled with a Tel Aviv trilingual postmark from July 27.

The letter fits and validates what was written previously. It left Sdom by air to Jerusalem as a courier letter, where it was franked with the Jerusalem stamp, and continued with another courier to Tel Aviv. There it was put into a post office box, and sent to its destination by regular civilian post. Actually, there is here a double courier letter, probably with a combination of air and land transportation.

If there was neglect on the part of the postal services to besieged Sdom, it was connected to the civilian side - the mail sent to Sdom from the civilian rear lines - and not to the army services. As we have seen, the Army authorities had arranged the opening of a military post in Sdom on June 10, dispatching the mail as airmail. However, for some reason, they probably did not inform the civilian authorities of this immediately. Evidence shows that they did inform the civilian authorities only a month later, on July 9.

Fig 40 shows an official military letter from this date, the sender being the "Head of the Army Post", where he addresses the "General Postmaster" (civilian) informing him for the first time that "The military postal service has operated a service for regular mail and printed matter for the inhabitants of Sdom". Second, he asks him to hand out instructions to the civilian post offices, to transfer postal items addressed to Sdom to the army post offices.

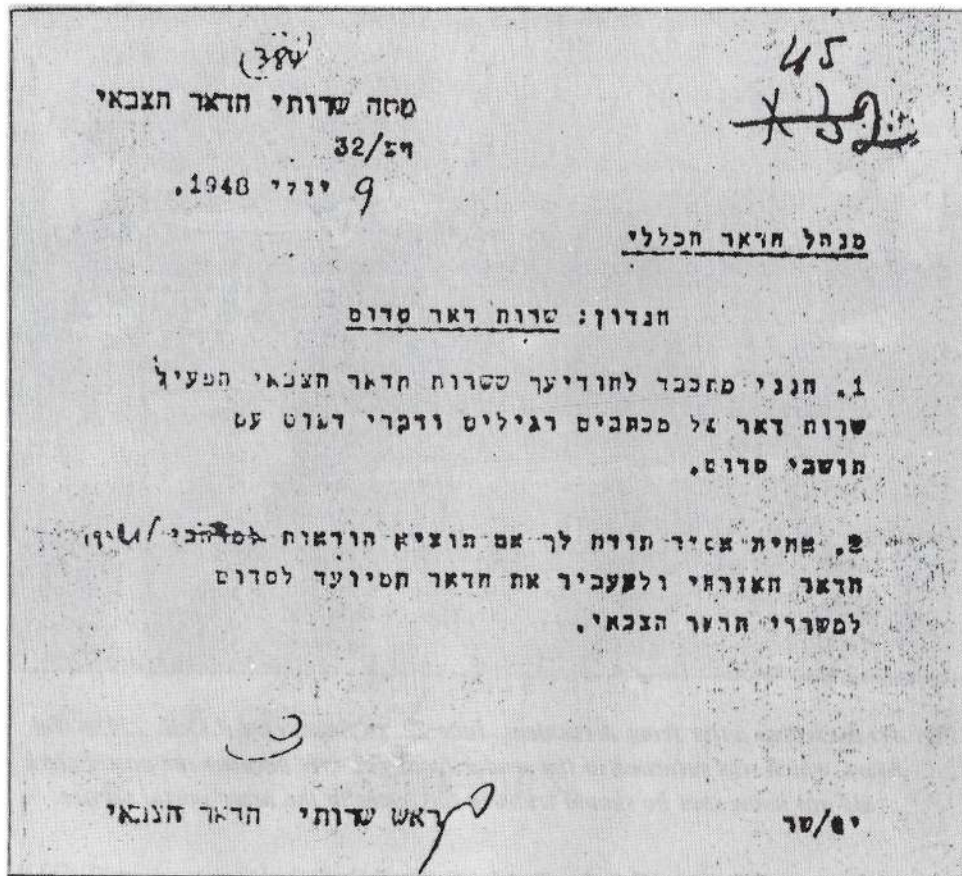
Until this date, every civilian letter sent through the regular post service to Sdom, did not arrive at its destination, but was returned to the sender with a note "no Service".

Fig. 41 shows an interesting example of this. The letter was sent from Jerusalem to Sdom on June 22, addressed to Dov Weisbuch, Dead-Sea, P.O.Box 221, Tel Aviv; that was the civilian address for sending postal items to Sdom at the time (see Reference (1), page 393 and Figure 26). The letter was franked in Jerusalem and cancelled in the main post office with the "Egg" cancellation on its first date, June 22!

The postal clerk in Jerusalem, not aware of the army postal service to Sdom, instead of transferring the letter to the military post, sent it as a regular letter to Tel Aviv where it arrived about July 4 (note Tel Aviv arrival cancellation at the bottom). But there too they were probably not yet aware of the army postal service to Sdom, and therefore, there being no civilian postal service, returned it on July 11 to the sender in Jerusalem, crossing out the address with red ink, and writing above the address the word "Jerusalem".



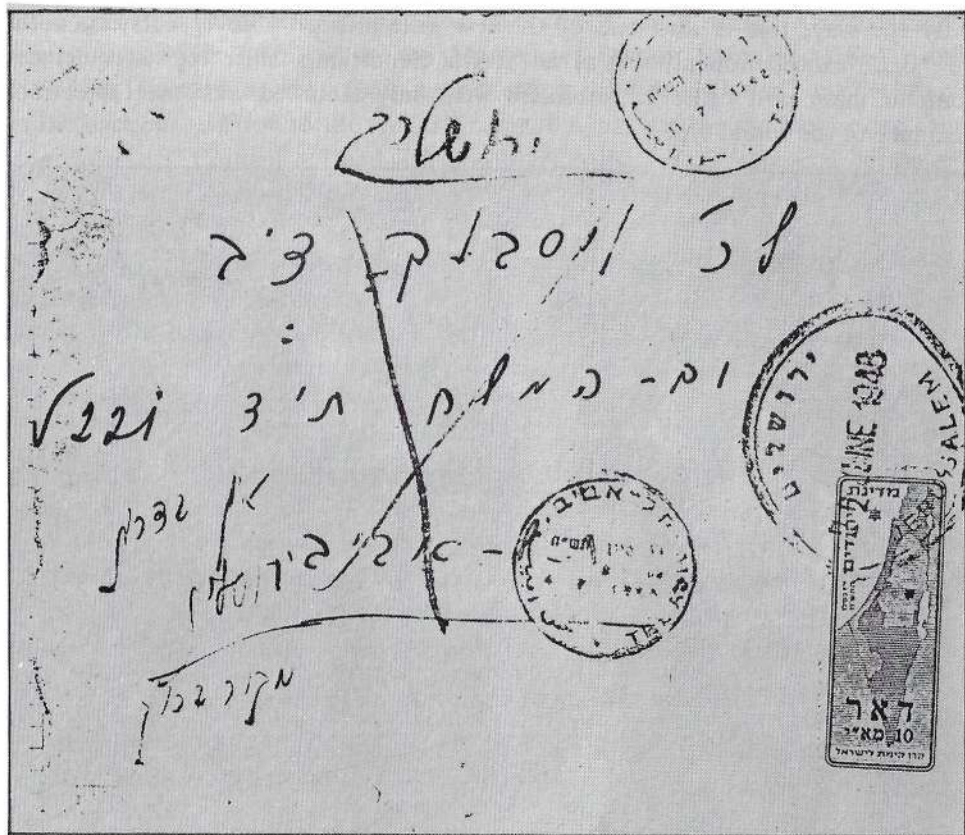
By the way, this is also one of the few examples of a cover carrying both the "Egg" cancellation as well as an arrival handstamp, since registered letters from the main post office in Jerusalem were only cancelled with the Liberation postmark of the round type.



*Fig. 40: A letter from the Head of the Army Post to the (civilian) Postmaster General, dated July 9, 1948 informing that the military postal service has operated a mail service for the inhabitants of Sdom.*

#### References

- (1) Z. Alexander, "Isolated and Besieged Sdom in 1948", HLP# 48 (Autumn 1991) p. 391.
- (2) B. Hurwich, "Revised Classification of the KBA Unit Numbers of Israel Military Mail, 1948/9", HLP# 47 (Summer 1991) p. 321.



**Fig. 41:** A civilian letter from Jerusalem, June 22, to Sdom (via P.O.B. 221 in Tel Aviv), which was returned to the sender from Tel Aviv because the postal clerk did not know that he should transfer the letter to the army postal service.



## Revised Classification of the KBA Unit Numbers of Israel Military Mail, 1948/9

(Part III)

*Baruch Hurwich, Jerusalem*

The following Table concludes the listing of KBA numbers used in Phase 1 of the KBA Period, Period I, of the Israel Defense Forces Military Mail, i.e., through 24 June, 1949<sup>1</sup>. I have arranged the Table in the same fashion as in the previous parts of this paper<sup>2</sup>. KBA numbers 441 through 605 are included.

The following conventions are used again:

CANC	=	Cancelled. Date unknown unless specified.
"about..."	=	within the week preceding the date listed.
"on..."	=	on the date listed.
[...]	=	a description given in Ref. 1 of Part I, not appearing on list 15/A (described in Part I); it probably predated it.
"To..."	=	Transfer mail from this KBA to the new KBA or location.
Coy	=	company. In Hebrew, "pluga"
Btn	=	battalion. In Hebrew, "gdud", the unit above a company.
Bde	=	brigade. In Hebrew, "hativa", the unit above battalion.
APO's	=	these are taken from Ref. 1 of Part I, with additions from the documents described.
Pers	=	Personnel.

**Table (part 3)**

### KBA Numbers with A.P.O.'s Used by the I.D.F., 1948/9 (continued)

KBA	APO(s)	Unit Description	Remarks
441	5	Town Major, Jerusalem	
442	5	Military Hospital No. 11, Jerusalem	("Ziv" Hospital)
443	5	Transportation Base No. 673	
444	5	Ordinance Service Base No. 643	
445	3	Transportation and Traffic Control Unit	CANC. Transfer to Purchasing Section, Transp. Office, Beit Romano, Tel Aviv. About 18.5.49.
446	3	HQ - "Elisha" (Rehab), Medical Service	
447	3	"Elisha", Med. Service, "Daleth" Front	
448	4	"Elisha", Med. Service, "Aleph" Front	
449	4	Frontal Transit Camp No. 762	Change to Transit Camp "Aleph". CANC. and transfer to GHQ/Pers/8 about 25.5.49. Defer CANC. about 5.6.49.
450	4	Military Governor, Western Galilee	

### KBA Numbers with A.P.O.'s Used by the I.D.F., 1948/9 (continued)

KBA	APO(s)	Unit Description	Remarks
451	3	Military Governor, Jaffa	
452	7	Military Governor, Safed	
453	14	Military Governor, Ramle and Lydda	
454	1,10	Military Governor, Negev	
455	14	Central School for Armored Corps	
456	7	Nahal (No'ar Halutzi Lohem)	(Settlement/Armed Units)
457	3	Gadna (Youth Formations), Tel Aviv	
458	2,8	Gadna (Youth Formations), Central area	to APO 8 about 24.3.49.
459	14	Gadna (Youth Formations), Southern area	
460	12	Gadna (Youth Formations), Galilee	CANC. To KBA 161 about 12.6.49.
461	3	Gadna (Youth Formations), Petah Tikva	
462	3	HQ Military Admin., Occupied Territories	
463	3	Discharge Camp No. 751	
464	3	Prisoner of War Hospital	
465	15	Bde 8, Btn 88 (Mortars)	CANC. To KBA 264 about 1.5.49.
466	15	Prisoner of War Camp No. 794	CANC. Transfer to GHQ/POW Section about 22.4.49.
467	3	Hevel S'dom (Dead Sea Area), Rear HQ	
468	3	Welfare Service	
469	3	Town Major, Petah Tikva	CANC. To KBA 291 about 25.5.49.
470	4	Air Force, Haifa	
471	14	Storage Base 561	Until 22.4.49.
		Area Engineers Base No. 561	As of 22.4.49.
472	5	Supply Base No. 613	
473	5	Artillery Btn 403, Jerusalem	
474	14	Prisoner of War Camp No. 793	
475	4	Rest and Rehabilitation Camp No. 3	
476	5		CANC. To P.O. Box 1344, Jerusalem.
477	5		CANC.
478	5	Absorption/Transit/Disch. Camp, Jerusalem	CANC. To KBA 438 about 19.6.49.
479	3,4,5	Military Prison No. 392, Jerusalem	CANC. To KBA 265 about 24.3.49. APO 4 about 31.3.49. CANC. To KBA 153 about 5.6.49.
480	14		CANC. To KBA 257.
481	1,4,10		CANC. To KBA 423.
482	14	Culture Service School	
483	14	[Frontal Transit Camp No. 765]	CANC. To KBA 271 about 12.6.49.
484			CANC.
485	4,6	Ordnance Base No. 6, North	
486	3,4	Air Training Center No. 1	APO 3 about 31.3.49.
			Anti-Aircraft School No. 112 about 19.6.49.
487	3,4,8	Military Police Unit No. 395	CANC. To KBA 589.
488	3	Welfare Service, Bde 4	
489	4	Anti-Aircraft Unit No. 128	
490	5	Military Administration, Jerusalem (South)	CANC. To KBA 211.
491	4	Military Police Unit No. 397	CANC. About 22.4.49.
492	4	Equipment Return Depot No. 662	
493	3	Dog Service, Base No. 2	
494	4	Legal Service, Legal Aid Section, Haifa	
495	3	Security Unit for Production Bases	CANC. To GHQ/Personnel/9 about 5.6.49.
496	3	Military Police, Tel Aviv District	
497	8,14	Central Training Base No. 2	APO 14 about 19.6.49.
498	3		CANC. Transfer to GHQ/Pers/3-POW Section.



### KBA Numbers with A.P.O.'s Used by the I.D.F., 1948/9 (continued)

KBA	APO(s)	Unit Description	Remarks
499	3	Psychological Research Unit	
500	14	Frontal Transit Camp No. 764	CANC. To KBA 483 about 20.5.49.
501	5	Gadna Brigade (Youth), Jerusalem area	
502	14	Training Base No. 3 (Officers and NCO's)	CANC. Change to Absorption and Assignment Camp. CANC. To KBA 271 about 5.6.49.
503	7	Intelligence Service Base, Afula	CANC. To KBA 366 about 19.6.49.
504	14	Rest Camp No. 775	CANC. To KBA 468 about 29.4.49.
505	4	Culture Service Base, North, Front "A"	Change to Culture Service Base No. 472.
506	10	Engineer Field Platoon No. 4	Change to No. 10. Attached to Bde 12 ("Negev").
507	14	Military Prison No. 394	
508	14	Military Prison, "D" Front	
509	5	Anti-Aircraft Unit 168	CANC. To KBA 211 about 12.6.49.
510	3,14	School of Administration (Base No. 20)	
511	3	Returned Equipment Base No. 661	(Laundry Officer)
512	6	Transport Workshop No. 1	
513	6	Transport Workshop No. 2	
514	4,12	Transport Workshop No. 3	CANC. Transfer to Transportation Base No. 672.
515	7	Transport Workshop No. 4	
516	4	Transport Workshop No. 5	
517	3	Civil Defence (Haga), Tel Aviv	
518	5	Liaison to the Red Cross, Jerusalem	CANC. about 19.6.49.
519	4	Liaison to the Red Cross, Haifa	
520	1,3,14	HQ - Women's Corps	
521	9	Women's Corps, Btn 207	
522	4	Military Mail Censor, Haifa	
523	4	Transport Workshop No. 6	
524	4	Btn 300 (Druze)	"Aleph" Base, about 25.5.49.
525	3,14	Women's Corps, Btn 209	CANC. To KBA 143 about 19.6.49.
526	1	Air Force Squadron No. 2, Negev	
527	3	"Elisha" Rest Camp No. 1 - ("Yona" Camp)	
528	3	HQ - Engineers and Ordnance Service	
529	9,10	Culture Service Unit, "D" Front, Kastina	APO 10 about 12.6.49.
530	5	TA'AS (Weapons Production), Jerusalem	
531	10	Military Governor, Majdal (Ashkelon)	
532	12	Anti Malaia Units Nos. 2 to 6	CANC. To KBA 152 about 8.4.49.
533	7	Military Police, Bde 11, "HaEmek" District	
534	14	Rehabilitation Center No. 2	
535	5,14	Intelligence Service No. 2, Jerusalem	
536	5,14	Field Engineering Platoon 14	CANC. To KBA 421 about 5.6.49.
537	4	N.C.O. Course, Base No. 3	
538	9	Main Air Force Workshop	
539	8	Ordnance Service, Base No. 9	
540	14	Ordnance Service, Base No. 11	
541	1,10	Ordnance Service, Base No. 12	
542	2,14	Btn 300 (Druze), Cavalry Coy	About 25.5.49.
543	1,8	Storage Base 566	Until 22.4.49.
		Engineering Base 566	As of 22.4.49.
544	4,7	Engineering Base 564, "Ha'Emek" Section	CANC. To KBA 346 about 24.3.49.
545	4	Supply HQ, North	
546	3,15	Women's Corps, Btn 208, Coy B	
547	12	Intelligence Service Base, Tiberias	
548	2,8	Supply Base No. 616	

### KBA Numbers with A.P.O.'s Used by the I.D.F., 1948/9 (continued)

KBA	APO(s)	Unit Description	Remarks
549	2,4	Navy - Marines Btn	
550	15	Women's Corps, Btn 210	CANC. To KBA 278.
551	7	Gadna (Youth Battalions), Amakim, North	APO 7 about 19.6.49.
552	5	Chaplaincy, Jerusalem Area	CANC. To KBA 428 about 19.6.49.
553	3	Ordnance Engineering Base No. 633	CANC. To KBA 528 about 25.5.49.
554	1	Nahal Coy B ("ב")	
555	12	Nahal Coy C ("ג")	
556	2,4	Ordnance Engineering Base No. 642	
557	4	Haifa Airport	CANC. To KBA 164 about 5.6.49.
558	5	Military Hospital No. 14 ("Avihayil")	Jerusalem. CANC. To KBA 442 about 1.5.49.
559	8	Culture Service Base No. 473	
560	4,7	Btn 192	
561	4,10,15	Field Engineering Platoon No. 9	CANC. To KBA 392 about 19.6.49.
562	9	Base Workshop No. 4	CANC. To KBA 354 about 8.4.49.
563	3	Military Mail Censor - Main Base	
564	3	Military Mail Censor, Tel Aviv area	CANC. To KBA 563 about 12.6.49.
565	4,5	Intelligence Service School	
566	2,8	HQ - Bde 17	APO 8 about 25.5.49.
567	4	HQ - Engineering Base, Haifa District	Transfer to Storage Base No. 562/Engineers about 1.5.49.
568	3	GHQ/Pers/Mahal (Volunteers from Abroad)	
569	5	Women's Corps, Btn 205, Coy A ("Aleph")	CANC. To KBA 356 about 12.6.49.
570	5	Women's Corps, Btn 205, Coy B ("Beth")	CANC. To KBA 356 about 5.6.49.
571	5	Women's Corps, Btn 205, Coy C ("Gimel")	CANC. To KBA 356 about 5.6.49.
572	3	Women's Corps, Btn 205, Coy D ("Daleth")	CANC. To KBA 356 about 5.6.49.
573	4	Women's Corps, Btn 205, Coy E ("Heh")	Air Force. CANC. To KBA 164 about 19.6.49.
574	8	Women's Corps, Btn 203 - HQ	CANC. To KBA 520 about 19.6.49.
575	4	Ordnance Base 642, Sub-Depot, Athlith	
576	4	Ordnance Base 642, Sub-Depot, Kurdani	
577	4	Ordnance Base 642, Sub-Depot, Jalame	
578	15	Transit Camp No. 763, Tel Litvinski	CANC. To KBA 271.
579	3	GHQ/Personnel/Control Center	
580	5	Nahal, "Amal" Btn	
581	15	Base Workshop No. 683, Tel Hashomer	
582	2	Reconnaissance Coy 177	CANC. about 1.5.49.
583	14	HQ - Bde 16	
584	14	Base Workshop No. 684	
585	14	Battalion and Company Commanders School	
586	14	Rest Camp No. 777	
587	3,14	Air Force Central Supply Depot	Assigned about 18.3.49.
588	3,10	Air Force, Fighter Squadron 101	Assigned about 18.3.49. At Shmuel Air Base, Kastina. APO 3 about 1.5.49.
589	3	HQ - Field Security ("Shabak")	Assigned about 18.3.49. APO 3 about 18.5.49.
590	4,12	Military Court, Prosecutor, Galilee & Emek	Assigned about 31.3.49. APO 4 about 20.5.59. CANC. To KBA 408 about 19.6.49.
591	1	Town Major, Be'er Sheva	
592	3	TA'AS (Weapons Prod'n) (Min. of Defence)	
593	3	(Philatelic) "TABUL" Exposition, Tel Aviv	Assigned about 29.4.49. CANC. About 20.5.49.



### KBA Numbers with A.P.O.'s Used by the I.D.F., 1948/9 (continued)

KBA	APO(s)	Unit Description	Remarks
594	15	Army Orchestra	Assigned about 29.4.49.
595	5,15	Heavy Mortars, Frontal Unit No. 333	Assigned about 29.4.49. APO 15 about 20.5.49. APO 5 about 5.6.49.
596	9	Heavy Mortars, Frontal Unit No. 334	Assigned about 29.4.49.
597	14	Shekem Base No. 483	Assigned about 1.5.49.
598	3	Equipment and Training Base	
599	3	Battalion Commanders School	CANC. about 20.5.49.
600	3,8	Infantry School	Assigned about 18.5.49.
601	14	Military Police, "Gimel" ("C") Front	Assigned about 5.6.49.
602	4	Hashahar Unit	Assigned about 12.6.49.
603	3,14		
604	10		
605	10		

### References

1. Hurwich B., "Israel Military Mail: A Proposed New Terminology and Chronology", HLPN Nos. 45-46 (Winter/Spring, 1991) pp. 245-248.
2. Hurwich B., "Revised Classification of the KBA Unit Numbers of Israel Military Mail, 1948/9", HLPN No. 47 (Summer 1991), pp. 321-327; HLPN No. 48 (Autumn 1991), pp. 398-402.

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\* \* \* \* \*

## \* SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES \*

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Ottoman Period

#### Another Forerunner Postcard with Bisected Stamps

*(R. Perry, Princeton)*

HLPB #4, p. 157, described how a sender bisected two stamps, one an Austrian Levant, the other Ottoman, stuck them together so they appeared to be a single whole stamp and sent it on March 27, 1899 through the Austrian mail. This strictly forbidden usage was taxed (struck with a "T" handstamp), probably when it arrived at Brousse.

It seems, from the photocopy in Figure 42, that on an earlier date, October 31, 1898, the same sender did send a similar postcard. Note that the special Austrian Jerusalem Kaiser Visit magenta cancellation has blended into the similarly colored Turkish stamp, but is nonetheless clearly visible on close inspection.

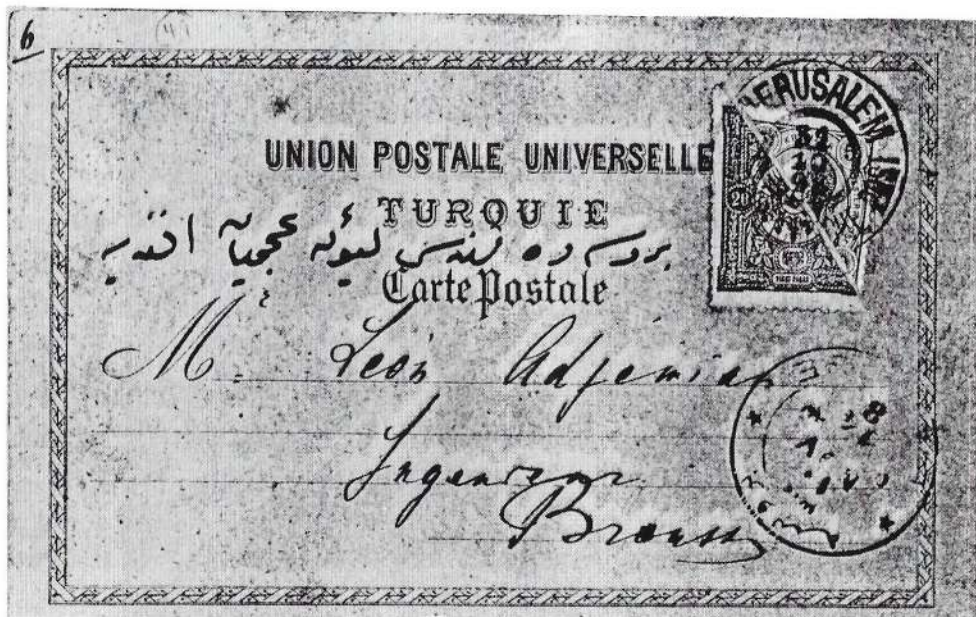


Fig. 42



Some observations:

1. The handwriting on both cards is the same.
2. The addressee last name is the same.
3. Both cards have Brousse arrival cancellation.
4. It seems that the two bisects on one card are the missing half bisects of the second card.
5. The dates are about five months apart.

Most important however:

6. The October 31, 1898 postcard was accepted by the Brousse post office and delivered **without** being taxed. Very unusual.

## The British Mandate Period

### Another British Form Used in Palestine

*(A.M. Hochheiser, Lodi)*

The Civil Administration of Palestine made little improvised use of British forms for their Postal Agency. Quite obviously, such use was selectively confined. With the beginning of the Mandate in 1920, the country had been occupied for a full three years and private companies in Palestine were used for all government printing.

Shown in Figures 43 and 44 are the front and back of one such British form. The printer's legend shows that a revised issue of the form was printed in 1920. It is marked "P.13". The "P" is the British code letter for its Postal Agency much the same as "P.T." was used by the Mandate authorities.

The form was signed in Arabic by Mouteeh Melhas, a postman, and witnessed properly by the sub-postmaster as required. Note that the British "under the Post Office Act., 1920" was crossed out since this did not apply to Palestine even though the same usage was in effect. Obviously, early Palestine Postal Regulations were based on their British equivalents.

P. 13 (Rev. 239622/20).

## Form to be Signed by Officers of the Post Office.

I understand that ~~under the Post Office Act, 1908~~, it is an offence for any Post Office servant to open or delay, or cause or suffer to be opened or delayed, except under proper authority, or to secrete or destroy any letter or other postal packet which may come into his custody by reason of his employment in the Post Office.

I am fully aware that it is contrary to my duty and to the Law to use myself or to disclose to other persons any information whatever which is contained in a letter, telegram, or telephone message, or may otherwise come to my knowledge by reason of my employment in the Post Office.

And in acknowledgment that I fully understand the whole of

the foregoing I set my name hereto. *[Signature]*

Signature.....

Date.....

In the presence of

Signature.....

Rank.....

Date.....

Ref. No. ....

POSTS PAID STAMP  
ASSISTANT POSTMASTER (GENERAL)  
Date: 17/1/20

Stamp of Office.

NOTE.—The person signing this form should sign with his or her ordinary signature in the presence of a Supervising Officer. The Sub-Postmaster should witness the signature of persons employed at a Sub-Office.

[SEE OVER.]

Fig. 43



Office Nablus  
Palestine

OFFICIAL DECLARATION

MADE BY

Moutech Melhas  
(Name in full)

Rank Postman

on the 2nd November 1923

Date of Birth 1825 1878

WT.DKJ 1635 50,000/2 1270 DSG4640

Fig. 44

### A Difficult Hebrew Code... *(Y. Levanon, Jerusalem)*

The year is 1923, the British Mandate is hardly three years old. According to the Mandate granted by the League of Nations, Palestine should have three official languages: one of them is Hebrew.

The telegram shown in Figure 45 has some very strange Hebrew words. Who can decode the meaning of "דרוטק זדזר" ("drotek zadzar")? And how come Palestine is spelled in Hebrew "Palistina"? Another mistake in Hebrew is "ותקבל" ("Vetkabel"; on the right) instead of "נתקבל" ("nitkabel").

Postal Form No. 6813 H&S was not properly proof read. Does any of our readers know the code to this form?

**Palestine Posts and Telegrafs**

78

Office Date Stamp

إدارة البريد والتلغراف في فلسطين  
הדואר והטלגרף, פלשתינה (א"י)

TELEGRAM  
تلغراف

This Form must accompany any enquiry respecting this Telegram

هذا النسخة مع كل تخبري هذا التلغراف

Handed in at Jaffa Time 6:00 Date 2 June 1942

Received at Jaffa 2 June 1942

TO Bahadur Khan

FROM Crown Bahadur

Fig. 45



## The Interim Period

### Incoming Courier Letters to Nahariya via the Emergency Sea Route

*(Zvi Aloni, Raanana)*

Incoming mail to Nahariya during its isolation period in 1948 can be detected by the Local Council Stamp, a 10 mil yellow or a 11 mil red, which was generally cancelled by the Minhelet Ha'am obliterator of Nahariya. We know of domestic and foreign letters which arrived in Nahariya and its satellite settlements during this period (6.5-20.5.48). All were cancelled with the same Minhelet Ha'am obliterator.

The use of this device suggests some questions:

1. The 6 May was the first date of use of the Minhelet Ha'am obliterator. Were there incoming letters that reached Nahariya during the period between 22.3.48 and 5.5.48?

2. If there was incoming mail during this period, how can it be detected?

3. On which date did the Local Council decide to collect fees for incoming mail?

Three letters are illustrated which reached Nahariya by sea via the emergency boat service between 25.4 and 20.5. After arrival, a 10m Local Council stamp was affixed and cancelled by Nahariya "Seventh Slogan", which was generally used for outgoing mail.

The first two letters (one of which is shown in Fig. 46) were probably mailed to the same address by the same sender and did not go through the regular Mandate mail in Haifa (or elsewhere). These letters were possibly handed over to the boat operator who forwarded them to Nahariya and on arrival a Local Council stamp was affixed and cancelled with the device which was then available. While the two described letters, which do not have a sender's address, might appear to be philatelic cancelled in favour covers, a third cover shown here (Fig. 47) with a similar history appears to be a genuine postally used cover which strengthens the validity of the explanation of these covers' route. Apart of being very tatty, which is not characteristic of a philatelic cover, it has a commercial sender's Haifa address on the bottom left of the cover (partly hidden by the stamp and cancellation).

In my opinion, the explanation is that while outgoing mail from Nahariya had been posted in Haifa and went first through the Mandate mail, and later via the Minhelet Ha'am's, mail to Nahariya accumulated in the main post office in Haifa until the 5th of May, as long as the Mandate Authorities were in charge of the Haifa Post Office. Obviously the emergency post was a "private" operation and therefore unrecognized by the Mandate postal authorities. I believe that the above mentioned three covers are from incoming Nahariya "Courier" letters which may have arrived in Nahariya in the period 25.4-5.5.48, when the "Seventh Slogan" postmark already existed but the Minhelet Ha'am obliterator was not yet in use.

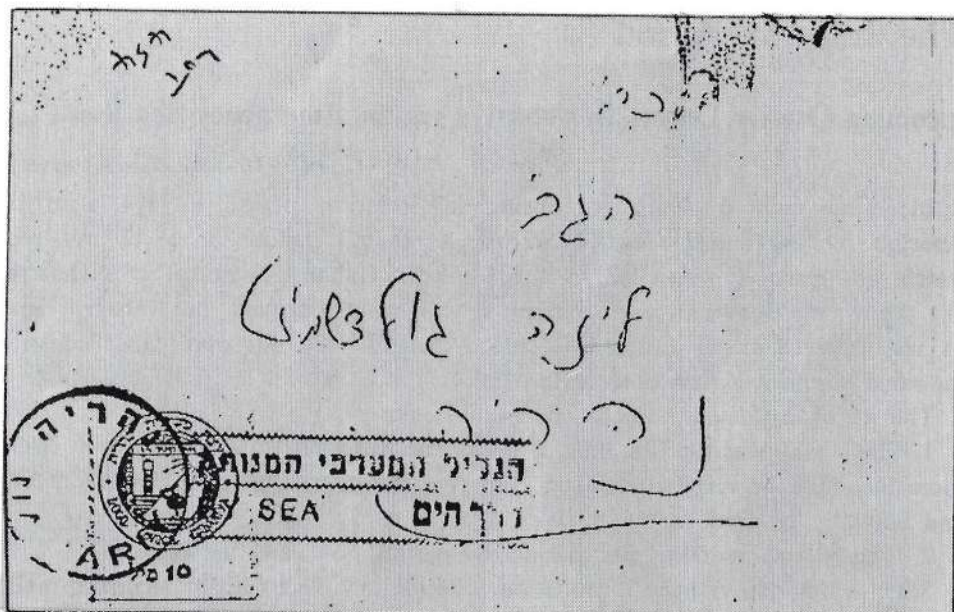


Fig. 46: An incoming courier letter to Nahariya via the emergency sea route, franked on arrival with the Local Council label.

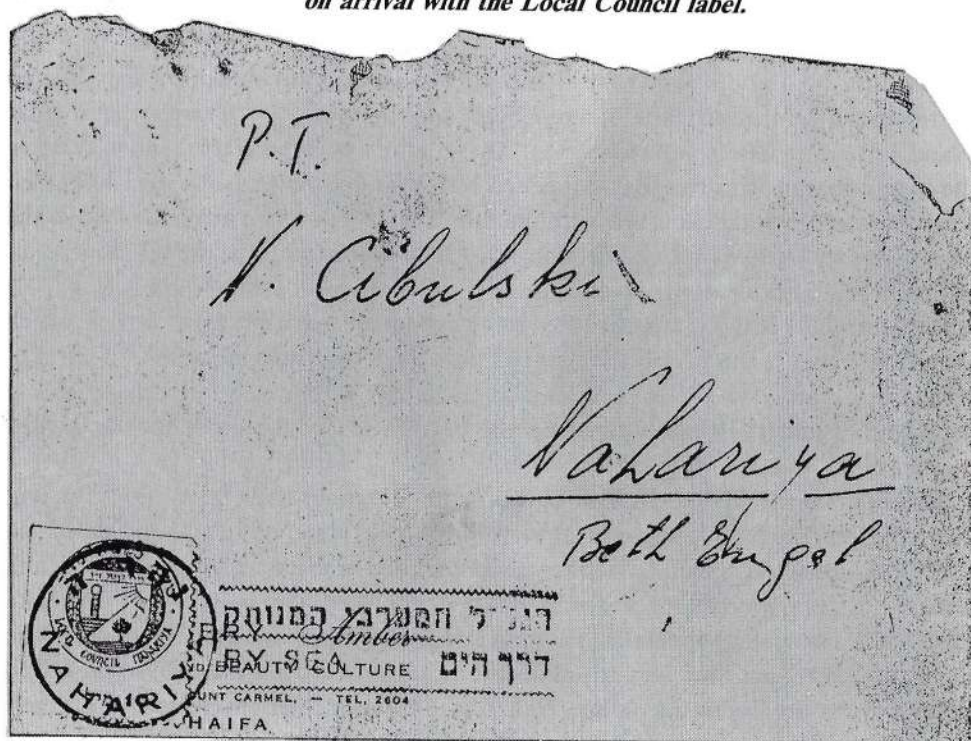


Fig. 47: A commercial incoming courier letter from Haifa to Nahariya via the emergency sea route.

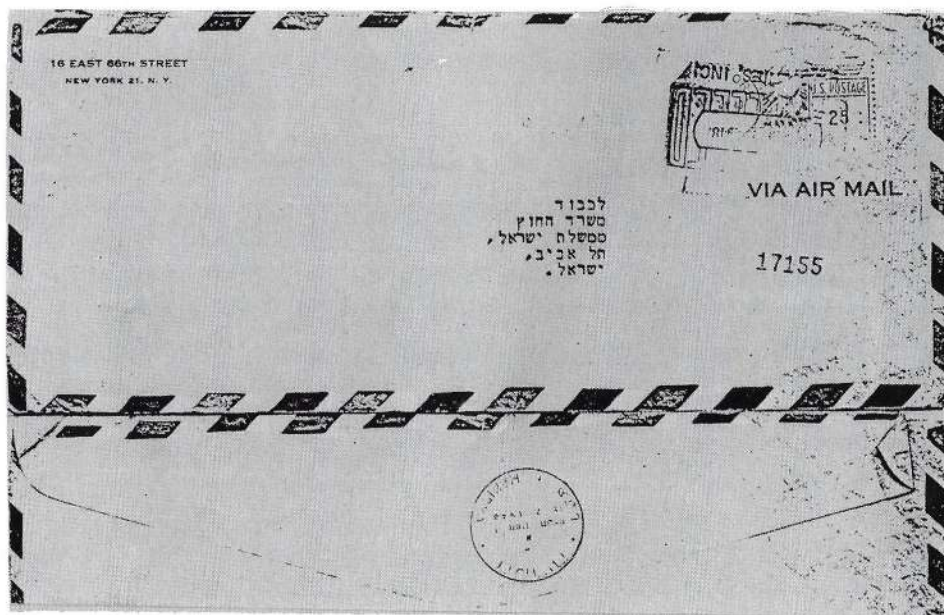


## Some More PEDI covers

*(Marvin Siegel, Ramat Gan)*

To the best of this writer's knowledge, it was in the Summer 1987 Issue #31 of this publication that the only PEDI cover hitherto recorded that had been stamped on arrival with an Israel trilingual postmark, was discussed (p. 543). The cover was numbered 473 and its trilingual Tal Aviv postmark, dated 3 June 1948, had been applied on its face simply because the Tel Aviv postal authorities mistakenly believed that they were dealing with a piece of registered mail and they handled it accordingly by a) duly applying an arrival postmark, b) adding the first slogan handstamp SIGN UP FOR THE NATIONAL LOAN and c) writing that the piece had not been received in the customary manner. The cover had originally been mailed as a registered item on 22 April but it had been returned to sender with an appropriate handstamp when service was suspended. Subsequently, the sender forwarded the letter for transmission by PEDI without crossing out the U.S. Post's original numbered registry notation. Recently two additional pieces that had been backstamped were encountered and their descriptions follow.

The cover shown in Figure 48 is numbered #17155 and was backstamped HAKIRYA, 13 July 1948. It was franked with a 25 cent US meter strip dated 21 June. This combination of meter franking and backstamping certainly is rare if not unique. The letter was addressed to the Foreign Affairs Office of the Government of Israel in Tel Aviv. It was backstamped because it was the



**Fig. 48: PEDI cover franked with U.S. meter stamp and backstamped at Hakirya.**

practice of the mail clerks at the Hakirya Government complex to have these backstampings serve as a record of time of arrival. Thus the cover was backstamped simply because it had been sent to a government office. Had Diplomatic Pouch Service been available, the New York sender probably would have utilized it but PEDI was the only service then operating from New York to Tel Aviv. The trip itself took 22 days which is longer then the previously discussed cover. When displaying this cover to a well known collector, he mentioned that he also possessed a PEDI cover that had been backstamped and he kindly furnished the photo shown in Figure 49. His cover is numbered 9150 and its PEDI date is 8 June. Its BAT YAM backstamp is dated 14 July indicating a time of transit of 29 days. The cover is addressed to Bat Yam Postmaster Peretz Weissbart and AIRMAIL was handwritten

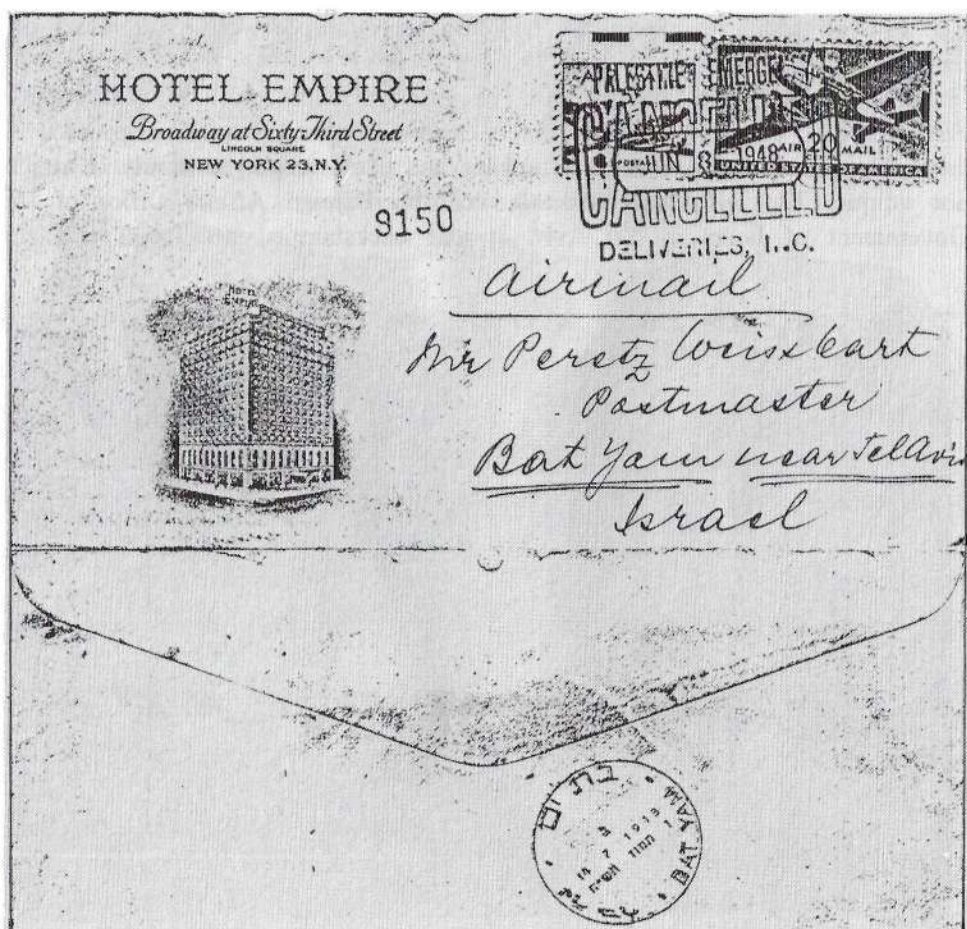


Fig. 49: PEDI cover backstamped Bat Yam, 14 July 1948.



above the address. This piece, while interesting and also rare, possesses certain "philatelic" qualities as follows: a) Its return address is without name, just the address of a hotel and b) 29 days seems too long and points to the possibility that the backstamp was applied some time after its arrival in Bat Yam. Perhaps Mr. Weissbart, being aware of the PEDI operation, somehow requested a friend in the United States to mail him such a memento?

In summary, it can probably be stated that each of these three items was postmarked upon its arrival in Israel for different reasons as follows: a) addressed to a government office who used backstamping to indicate arrival date, b) believed to be a registered piece of mail and c) philatelic reasons.

Another interesting pair of PEDI covers is shown in Figures 50 and 51; both of which are "souvenirs" and were not actually carried on the first PEDI

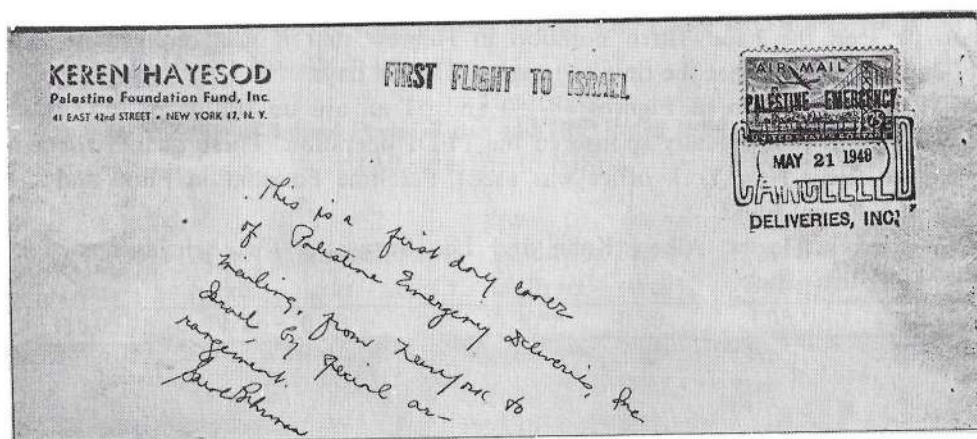


Fig. 50: PEDI cover signed by Sarah Behrman, PEDI's secretary.

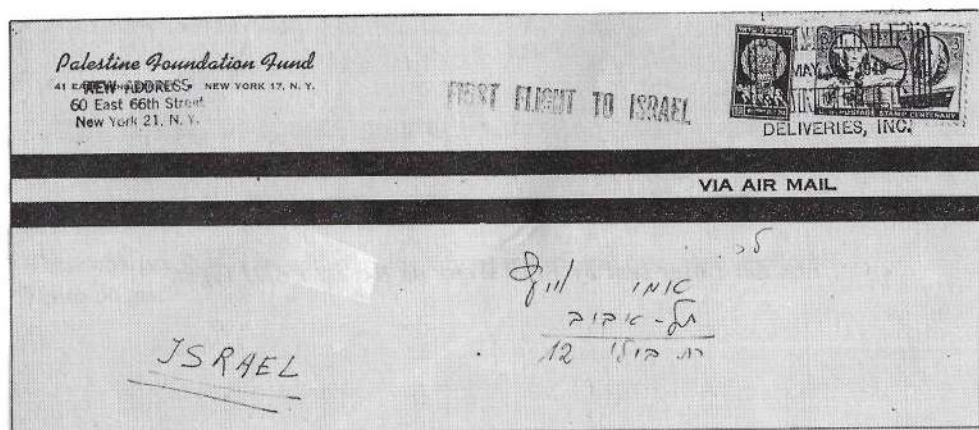
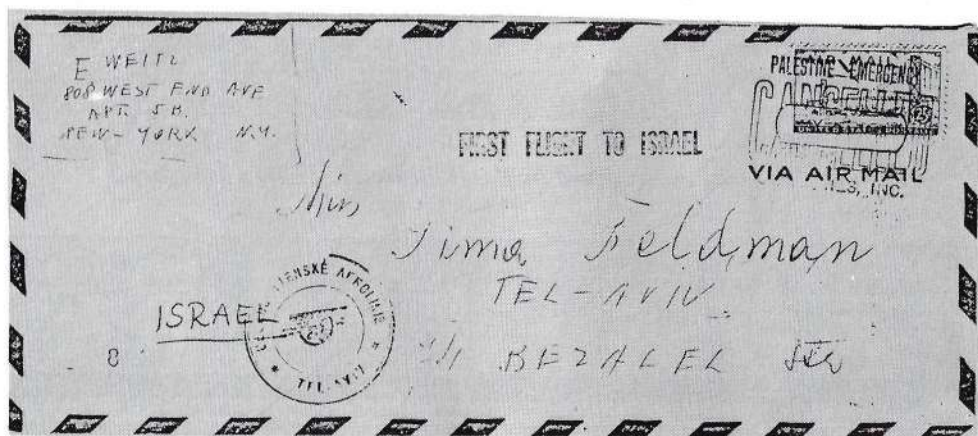


Fig. 51: "Souvenir" 1st flight PEDI cover.

Flight although bearing handstamps to that effect. The first has a handwritten and signed message by Miss Sarah Behrman, PEDI's office secretary (see page 537 of HLPH #31). The message reads, *"This is a first day cover of Palestine Emergency Deliveries Inc. mailing from New York to Israel, by special arrangement"*. The postmark is dated 21 May 1948. The cover shown in Figure 51 is also dated 21 May and is "franked" with a JNF Sport Label and a 3 cent US stamp, obviously shortpaid by 22 cents. It is addressed to the well known philatelist and writer Mr. Emil Weitz at a Tel Aviv address. Both of these covers lack the double circle Czech Airline handstamp that all first flight PEDI letters received upon their arrival, proving them to be "souvenirs". Figure 52 is a PEDI 1st Flight Cover #874 also sent by Mr. Weitz, but this cover is with his actual New York address at the time, and was actually transported by PEDI. On the back of the cover can be seen the handwritten notation in Hebrew that it was received on 3rd of June, indicating that the time of travel totaled 14 days.

The covers shown in Figures 48, 50 and 51 all are on stationery of Zionist organizations that actually sponsored the PEDI operation. These included Keren Hayesod (their New York office was used), Palestine Foundation Fund and the Jewish National Fund.

We thank Messrs. Albert Kahn and Leo Schuessler for their assistance in preparing this article.



*Fig. 52: Cover sent by Emil Weitz on the 1st PEDI flight.*



## The State of Israel

### Doar Ivri Plate Blocks Update *(M. H. Bale, Alfracombe)*

From a collection recently surveyed we can record the following new high and low numbers etc., which may be of interest to plate-blocks collectors:

- (1) Group 13, Serial '29974' on a full sheet.
- (2) Group 24.2 – a new high No. '12495'.
- (3) Group 53 – a new high No. '57794', i.e. considerably higher.
- (4) Group 126 – a new low No. '17270'.

### Inland Postal Rates and IRC Rates 1986–1992

*(B. Fixler, Jerusalem)*

The following table updates the Inland Postal Rates and IRC Rates since the table given in HLPN No. 25/26 (p. 249).

**Table of Inland Postal Rates and IRC Rates 1986–1992**

(All rates are in NIS)

No.	Date	Public Notice	Standard Letter	Post- Card	Non- Standard up to 100 grs.	Regist- ration*	Special Delivery*	IRC
59	16.05.86	39/86	0.20	0.20	0.30**	0.80	3.00	1.50
60	01.03.87	12/87	0.25	0.25	0.40	1.00	3.50	2.00
61	11.06.87	19/87	0.30	0.30	0.50	1.10	4.00	2.00
62	04.05.88	40/88	0.35	0.35	0.60	1.30	4.00	2.00
63	01.11.88	103/88	0.40	0.40	0.70	1.30	4.40	2.00
64	25.05.89	58/89	0.45	0.45	0.70	1.30	4.40	2.00
65	01.09.89	102/89	0.50	0.50	0.80	1.60	4.40	2.50
66	01.05.90	55/90	0.55	0.55	0.90	1.80	4.50	2.80
67	02.12.90	119/90	0.60	0.60	1.00	2.00	5.00	3.20
68	12.07.91	66/91	0.70	0.70	1.15	2.30	5.70	3.60
69	25.11.91	112/91	0.75	0.75	1.25	2.50	6.10	3.90

\* These charges should be added to the appropriate postal rate when applicable.

\*\* Up to 50 grs.

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

### New Cancellations and Post Offices

*(Compiled by B. Fixler & J. Nachtigal)*

#### A. Special Cancellations (see also Fig. 53)

- 25.11.91: "60th FIP congress, PHILA NIPPON '91", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 02.12.91: "Israel Stamp Week '91, Hanukka 2-8.12.91", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 02.12.91: "International Year of Mozart in Israel", Yerushalayim\*.  
 02.12.91: "Philately day", Tel Aviv-Yafo\*.  
 02.12.91: "Dona Gracia (Nasi). Rahel Yanait Ben Zvi", Yerushalayim\*.  
 02.12.91: "60th anniversary of 'ETZEL'", Akko\*.  
 02.12.91: "Barcelona Olympics '92", Yerushalayim\*.  
 02.12.91: "LEHI (A. Stern)", Tel Aviv-Yafo\*.  
 02.12.91: "The Postal and Philatelic Museum", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 03.12.91: "5th convention of Israel Philatelists", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 24.12.91: "Christmas, Noel", Nazareth.  
 24.12.91: "Christmas, Noel", Bethlehem.  
 24.12.91: "50th anniversary of Income Tax in Eretz Israel", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 26.12.91: "90th anniversary of the Jewish National Fund, J.N.F., Herzl Forest, Ben Shemen", Modiin Mobile Post.  
 30.01.92: "1942-1992, 50th anniversary of the death of Yair", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 18.02.92: "50th anniversary of PALMAH", Yerushalayim\*.  
 18.02.92: "Rivka Guber. Hanna Rovina", Yerushalayim\*.  
 18.02.92: Drawing of an Anemone flower, Tel Aviv-Yafo\*.  
 18.02.92: Samaritan Alphabet, in honour of the Samaritans, Holon\*.  
 18.02.92: "Sea of Galilee", Tiberias\*. (Mostly cancelled in violet).  
 25.03.92: "Israel's Philatelists' greetings to CANADA 92 Youth Exhibition", Tel Aviv-Yafo.  
 02.04.92: "The 70th anniversary, 1922-1992", Raanana.

#### B. Definitive Cancellations

- 10.12.91: "Beer Sheva 48", for the postal agency, Grade A, in the Centre of Shehuna Yod-Alef in Beer Sheva. (This postmark was used before in Beer Sheva main P.O.).

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\* These were used as special postmarks for the F.D. of the corresponding stamp issue.





Fig. 53: Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.



*Fig. 53 (continued): Special cancellations used in Israel in the last period.*

- 12.12.91: "Sederot 15ד", new Francotype machine in Sederot. The "15ד" Francotype was used before in Beer Sheva Post Office, but was put out of use there on 01.11.91.
- 16.12.91: "Migdal Ha-emeq 4", for the postal agency, Grade A, in Shehunat Nof Ha-emeq in Migdal Ha-emeq.
- 16.12.91: "Bet Shemesh", new machine cancellation in Bet Shemesh Post Office.
- 31.12.91: "Ha-Negev 2" Mobile Post line was abolished (Last day postmark - 31.12.91).
- 01.01.92: "Yehud 519ד", francotype machine was put out of use.
- 01.01.92: "Ramat Gan 29", for the postal branch in 7 Aba Hilel St., Ramat Gan. This postmark was used before in Ramat Gan main Post Office.
- 01.01.92: "Beer Sheva 46", for the postal agency, Grade B, in the Centre of the Caravans in Nahal Beqa, Beer Sheva. This postmark was used before in Beer Sheva main Post Office.
- 12.01.92: "Nahal Lakhish-Zafon" Mobile Post line was abolished (L.D. postmark - 11.01.92).
- 19.01.92: "ASHDOD 2", for the postal agency, Grade B, in "Shukanyon", Ashdod. This postmark was used before in Ashdod main Post Office.
- 19.02.92: "Tel Sheva", for the postal agency, Grade C, opened in Tel Sheva.
- 20.02.92: "Oranit", Zahal, for the postal agency opened in Oranit.



- 10.03.92: "Yerushalayim 98", for the new postal agency, Grade A, in 5 Beruchim St., Yerushalayim\*.
- 10.03.92: "Yerushalayim 101", for the new postal agency, Grade A, in 14 Sorotzkin St., Yerushalayim\*.
- 10.03.92: "Yerushalayim 104", for the new postal agency, Grade A, in the Shopping Centre in Shaulson St., Yerushalayim\*.
- 01.04.92: "Ayyalon" Mobile Post line was abolished (L.D. postmark - 31.03.92).
- 01.04.92: "Habiqah" Mobile Post line was abolished (L.D. postmark - 31.03.92).
- 01.04.92: "Kafr Qasem 1", in the postal agency in Kafr Qasem (instead of the previous Kafr Qasem postmark which was lost).

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\* These Jerusalem postmarks are not in accord with the details published in the "Public Notice" (No. 17/92 of 24 February, 1992). The Qiryat Wolffson postal agency was not opened at all.



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## New Stamps and Postal Stationery

(1) **Stamps.** The following stamps were issued during the last period:

18.2.92: 50th Anniversary of the Palmah (NIS 1.50); in honour of the Samaritans (NIS 2.60); famous women – Hanna Rovina (80 Ag.) and Rivka Guber (NIS 1.30); Lake Kinneret (the Sea of Galilee; 3×85 Ag.) – this set was issued as a se-tenant minisheet of 9 stamps and 3 tabs at the bottom; Anemone flower (non-denominated “inland” definitive stamp, price 75 Ag. at time of issue). Apart from ordinary sheets, this stamp was also issued in tete-beche sheets of 40 (price NIS 30) for booklet production.

26.4.92: Memorial Day 1992 (85 Ag.); Rabbi Hayyim Joseph David Azulai (85 Ag.); Rabbi Joseph Hayyim Ben Elijah (NIS 1.20); 500 years since the Expulsion of the Jews from Spain (Souvenir Sheet composed of three stamps – 80



*Fig. 54: Recently issued stamp booklets: (top) the cover of the new version of the “olive branch” booklet (25.11.91), and (middle & bottom) the cover and contents (reduced) of the Anemone stamp booklet (18.2.92).*



Ag, NIS 1.10 and 1.40 – sold for NIS 3.30); 500th anniversary of Columbus' Voyage (NIS 1.60); Architecture in Israel – the National Institutions building in Jerusalem (NIS 1.60).

## (2) Stamp Booklets

25.11.91: A new booklet of the "olive branch" non-denominated stamp (with 2 panes of 8). The booklet contents is like in the previous similar booklet, issued on 4.9.84 (see HLP# #19, p. 977), but its cover is different in colour and design (s. Fig. 54, top).

2.12.91: Mozart stamp booklet (this was already reported in the previous Bulletin, p. 421).

18.2.92: Anemone stamp booklet of 40 stamps (price NIS 15), composed of one page of two tete-beche panes of 10 stamps (s. Fig. 54 middle and bottom).

(3) **Illustrated Telegrams:** As in other recent years, the illustrated "Happy New Year" telegram card (flowers) was available during the Festival period (Sept.–Oct., 1991) for inland, USA and Canada delivery (s. article by S.P. Ladany & Z. Shimony in HLP# #40 (1989) p. 1113).

A new "illustrated" telegram card for condolences, No. 92, was introduced on 1 December, 1991 (Fig. 55).



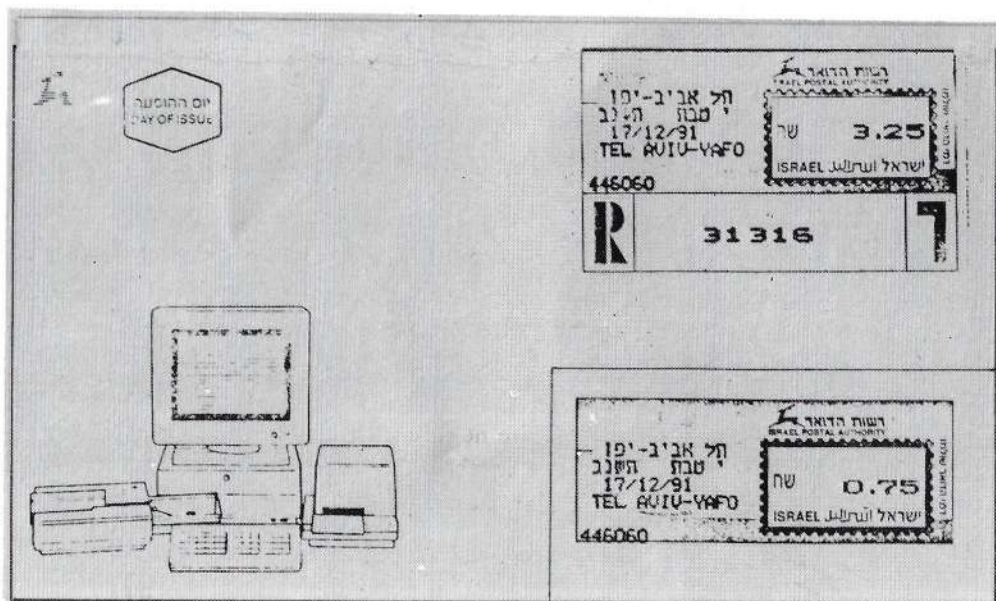
*Fig. 55: The new preprinted condolences telegram card (No. 92), introduced on 1.12.91.*

## New Computerized Meter Postage Labels

*(N. Shereshevsky, Jerusalem)*

A previous article (HLPH #47, p. 345) reported computerized labels which were introduced on a trial basis in the Jerusalem branch office at Beit Hakerem. These labels were withdrawn shortly after (latest reported date 11.7.91) due to what the postal authority called "legal reasons" (see below). A new version of computerized labels was introduced on December 17, 1991, this time at the Soncino branch office, Tel Aviv. Like the previous ones, the labels were produced at the regular counter terminals, using special software. The labels come in two types, one for regular and EMS mail and one for registered mail, which has an additional space at the bottom for the registration number (Fig. 56). The regular type measures 65×25 mm and come in a strip of 10 self-adhesive labels, the registered type measures 65×38 mm and come in strips of 6. The value is printed on the right, in NIS with agorot up to 999 shekel. Other details are printed on the left in five lines as follows: 1) Place name in Hebrew; 2) Hebrew date; 3) Gregorian date; 4) Place name in Latin capitals; 5) Machine ID (left) and time of printing. For EMS labels, "EMS" is printed on the upper-left corner. The colours of the labels are brown and black.

Figure 57 shows a trial proof of label that was eventually not used. It is similar to the June labels, with the addition of the words (in Hebrew) "postage



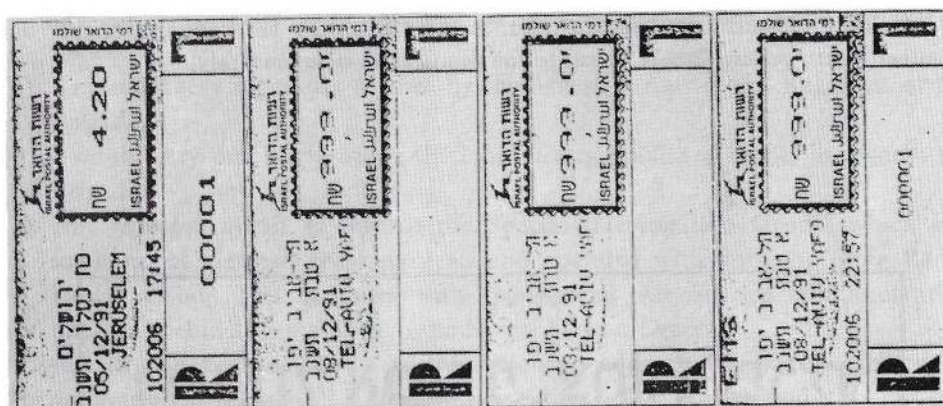
*Fig. 56: The official F.D.C. of the new meter postage label (registered) and (insert on bottom right) the non-registered label.*



*Fig. 57: A trial proof of the meter postage label at an intermediate stage between the previous and new types of labels.*



paid". These labels are also smaller, their size is identical to the dashed frame on the previous design. The author has in his collection another interesting item which appears to be an experiment with the apparatus (Fig. 58). Someone photocopied the labels, cut the paper to the right edge, and put the photostat in the machine. The top label, which has "JERUSALEM" and "05/12/91" is a part of the photostat. The following labels are printed by the machine on the photostat.



*Fig. 58: Experimental typings of the face-value and "postmark" data on the new type of label.*

For the benefit of collectors, the Philatelic Service sold labels in three values – 0.75 (basic local rate), 3.25 (registered), 43.00 (EMS lowest rate, 0.5 kg. to London or Paris), as well as FDC's. All these labels had the same machine ID (446060), and to get all the three ID numbers used on the first day one had to write directly to the Soncino branch postmaster or come in person. It should be noted, that although there are no more than three machines, collectors reported finding more ID numbers on later labels. One collector who asked a Postal Authority official about it was told that the postal clerk keys in the ID number; maybe it is in fact an employee ID rather than a machine ID.

It seems that the "legal problem" with the first design was that it lacked the words "postage paid" and that the place name was not in Roman letters, contrary to UPU rules. It all depends on how the item is defined. Article 196 of the UPU Convention defines the characteristics of "franking machine impressions". Clause 1 of that article states that the place and date of posting is not compulsory;

clause 3 says that the place of origin should be printed in Roman letters. Clause 2 states that the impression should be in red. In light of this, it seems that the first labels (which were printed in red) were defined as "franking machine impressions", and therefore the place name, since it was printed, should have been in Roman letters as well.

The new labels are defined in the Philatelic Service press release as "franking" (not "stamping")\* and can be used only on mail handed over the counter and not through the mail boxes. I could not decide under which UPU Convention article the new labels fall! The addition of the place name in Roman letters would suggest article 196, but the colour is not red. Interestingly, the UPU regulations do not require the inscription "postage paid" to be in any specific language, and therefore its being only in Hebrew on the new labels is permitted.

---

\* This is unfortunately a misleading term, as these labels are not "postage stamps" but rather "meter postage labels" (postage and cancellation simultaneously).

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## Request for Information

### (1) The Jewish Brigade and the Jewish Legion

#### The Jewish Brigade, World War II

It is hoped to start producing a reference work on the Jewish Brigade and its associated philatelic material in 1992. I would like to request the help of fellow Holy Land Philatelists in this project. Material needed is as follows:

- (a) Copies of covers from members of the Brigade and also of the Palestine Regiment which have cachets associated with the units. Notes on the colours of cachets, and also the dates of the postmarks and FPO numbers, if these are not clear. Covers with manuscript marks other than O.A.S. or notes in Hebrew. It would be very much appreciated if copies could be in duplicate.
- (b) Any newspaper reports on Jewish units in the Palestine Regiment, or as regards the Jewish Brigade and especially as regards gallant acts. Also on official notices.
- (c) Any stationery especially for use by the Jewish troops in the Regiment or the Brigade.
- (d) I would very much appreciate the loan of any published works as regards the Brigade.
- (e) Any material at all as regards the Special Interrogation Group, which was made up of German speaking Jews and operated with both the Long Range Desert Group and at times with the Special Air Service elite units that operated behind enemy lines in the North African Desert.

Material can be sent to me at the following address: **Norman J. Collins**, 21 Torrington Drive, Thingwall, Heswall, Merseyside L61 7UZ, England.

I am sure all those who own such material will co-operate, as has happened in the past. Thank you in advance on behalf of myself and my two colleagues Zvi Alexander and Dr. Walter Y. Loebel who will be working with me on this project.


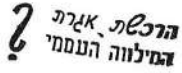





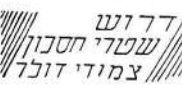
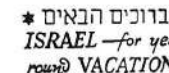



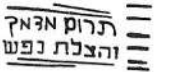





#### Jewish Legion Research

I would like to thank all those who contributed towards this research, which was started to help John Firebrace with his chapter on the 'Legion', in his recently published work. All those who so kindly helped are listed in his Acknowledgements.

At a later date it is hoped to produce a separate work solely on the Jewish Legion and including the reproduction of the actual War Diaries which were written as events happened, and maps made at the time, including the one concerning the 38th and 39th battalions locations in the Jordan Valley, prior to the 'big push' into Jordan. The work on this will follow the completion of the work on the Jewish Brigade in World War II.

### (2) Israel Slogan Cancellations of the First Years

Towards the publication of a Catalogue of the Israeli Slogan Cancellations the following information is requested concerning the cancellations illustrated below.

1)  4.5.49	7)  15.2.51	13)  1.1.53
2)  4.5.49	8)  4.3.51	14)  15.2.53
3)  4.6.50	9)  27.6.51	15)  4.2.53
4)  1.10.50	10)  11.9.51	16)  1.3.53
5)  19.12.50	11)  14.12.51	17)  16.4.53
6)  19.12.50	12)  19.10.52	18)  5.8.53

- Regarding the first two cancellations (of 1949) – what are their First and Last Days of use?
- Regarding all the others: (a) The Last Day of use, (b) In which towns were they used?, (c) What is the source of the information?

Collectors who possess covers with these postmarks are kindly requested to let us know the latest day of use they have of each of them and, if possible, to send photocopies of these latest postmarks.

Please send information to: **Mr. B. Fixler**, 11 Bayit Vagan St., Jerusalem; (Tel. 02-424088).



## Book Reviews

**The Stamp of Conflict** by R. Mendel. (Distributed by Capital Stamps, P.O.Box 3769, Jerusalem 91036. Price: \$23 (incl. airmail), NIS 45 in Israel).

"The Stamp of Conflict" deals with the many propaganda stamps issued by many countries, mainly Arab, against Israel and with other stamps related to the Arab-Israel conflict. This new book supercedes a previous publication on this subject, issued many years ago, and therefore has a far more comprehensive listing of the many issues.

While most of the stamps issued (and listed here) are propaganda stamps against Israel (sometimes very vociferous), listed are also stamps of general character related to the Arab-Israel conflict, war refugees in the conflict and Arab Countries' organisations, such as the Arab League.

The book includes an introduction, covering rather briefly the pre-history of the current conflict. It then proceeds to a very comprehensive listing of the known stamps issued under each country. In each case both the Michel and Yvert numbers are given; perhaps those of Scott would have helped American collectors. Then follows a chapter of propaganda labels (not postal) issued by various Palestinian organisations and a few pages of illustrations of a sample of the listed stamps.

The book, however, suffers from poor proof-reading, which detracts somewhat from its appearance. Empty spaces between sentences in a future edition should be removed. Despite this the book is a worthwhile addition to one's library on the Middle East and of course is essential to those collectors of stamps in the field. Incidentally, the stamps are not all that easy to find.

The book is highly recommended.

*(E. Glassman)*

**The Postal History of the Transition Period in Israel – 1948, Vol III: Israel Foreign Postal Links.** By Chaim Shamir and Marvin Siegel. (Published by the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel. Price \$25 P.P. (surface mail). Orders: E. Glassman, P.O.B. 3563, 91035 Jerusalem).

The authors, Chaim Shamir and Marvin Siegel, have added what this reviewer believes is an indispensable reference work to the Holyland philatelist's library. The double goal of the book was outlined on the (attractive) cover page: to deal with "the postal history of the transition period in Israel, 1948"; to describe "Israel foreign postal links". A number of standards should be met by authors, and the prime one is to achieve what the book's title claims. The six chapter headings immediately give us an overview of the approach used in fulfilling the authors' goals:

1. Deterioration and Suspension of Postal Services: January to May, 1948

2. Israel's Merchant Marine and 1948 Sea Mail
3. Foreign Air Mail Postal Connections with Israel in May and Early June, 1948
4. The Peltours Service
5. The Palestine Emergency Deliveries, Inc. (PEDI)
6. European Offices

A cornucopia of excellently reproduced figures which accompany each of the six chapters almost exclusively follow the text. This was a wise decision. The space given to figures was nearly triple that of the text. Instead of attempting to intersperse the figures with the lean, clearly stated descriptive historical text, both general and philatelic, the reader is free to take in at a short sitting each chapter's story, possibly occasionally referring to the figures. Then, he/she can review the remarkable, graphic, clear living history as exemplified by the rich collection of postal historic covers. Added to these were a few quite pertinent non-philatelic photos, such as that of the S.S. Kedmah, the first Israeli passenger liner, and the crew that landed the Czech plane at Tel Aviv's Sde Dov airfield on 5 May, 1948, re-establishing Israel's air link with the world.

I believe a good philatelic book should be a good read, as well as an authoritative text. This small volume, the first of an intended series on the general subject sponsored by the Holy Land Postal History Society, sets a standard that future authors will have to meet. A short but pertinent bibliography, clear and literate writing, an affordable price (\$25.00) – all these combine to make this book a pleasure to own. I might even add that it seems to me that it would be a pleasure to receive. It is so captivating in the wealth of its graphics and its story is so compelling, that I do not hesitate to recommend it as a gift to anyone interested in the State of Israel. It is FUN!

There remains one weakness in the book, one of omission and not of commission. Just as the British Mandate over Palestine expired, and as did "Palestine" itself, so did its postal services. In the place of the short-lived "Palestine" there arose (or re-arose) the State of Israel. This book does not give an adequate picture of the revivification of the postal service in the newly-born state. I hope the Society will correct this deficiency in an equally successful fashion as was done in sponsoring the publication of "Israel Foreign Postal Links".

*(Arye Ben Zeev)*



## Holy Land Auctions' Realizations

Prices are in U.S. Dollars. 10-15% buyer's commission and 1.5-2.5% V.A.T. should be added.

### Wallach Public Auctions, December 1991

*1914, "Poste Catra" on postcard mailed through Austrian post to USA -	\$4400
*1917, 1st Interim Period stampless civilian postcard from Jerusalem, "SZ44, 27 Dec 17", to Jaffa -	\$575
*Ditto, prepaid postcard with cachet "Assistant Adm. O.E.T. - Hebron", 5 mil stamp affixed in Jerusalem and cancelled "SZ44, 6 Mr 18" -	\$2750
*1920, "Jerusalem I" trial overprint on 5 mil -	\$2000
*1948, Courier cover from Switzerland with JNF label cancelled Tel Aviv Minhelet Ha'am on arrival -	\$2000
*1948, Jerusalem "Menorah" cover, Tel Aviv Minhelet Ha'am arrival -	\$2850
*1948, Courier cover to besieged Jerusalem, with Doar Ivri 10 mil stamp cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am Jerusalem pmk of 6 June -	\$3150
*1948, Doar Ivri 15, 20, 50, 250, 500, 1000 mil on Mea Shearim, Jerusalem registered cover to USA, cancelled by Minhelet Ha'am pmk -	\$21,500
*1948, Festivals set, in strips of 30 tete-beche pairs (from top to bottom of printer's sheet) -	\$3000

### Negev Holyland Stamps, January 1992

(Specialised Auction of 1948 Doar Ivri plate blocks)

*3 mil, group 93 -	\$7000
*3 mil, group 12.1, transparent paper -	\$4600
*5 mil, group 26.2 -	\$5500
*5 mil, group 28.1 -	\$5000
*10 mil, group 73 -	\$3700
*500 mil, group 155, CD 14½mm -	\$4000

### Zodiac Stamps Ltd., March 1992

*1948, Nahariya 3rd Slogan, 11 April 1948, on cover to C.S.R. -	\$600
*1948, flown siege cover from Jerusalem, cancelled in Tel Aviv "Army Post, Office 3, 13.6.48". Boxed cachet on back "Commander of the Brigade Air Service" (in Hebrew) -	\$1200
*1948, 6 fr. overprinted "Jerusalem 20 milliemes", cancelled "Jerusalem Postes Francaises" on 6 Oct. 1948, readdressed in France and arrival 21 October -	\$550
*1949, "Jerusalem" 250 pr. on private registered FDC -	\$650

**Tel-Aviv Stamps, April 1992**

*1909, Petach Tiqwa colony local 14 para stamp on cover to Zikhron Yaaqov -	\$2400
*1904, Rishon Le-Zion JNF label tied by Austrian cachet to Austrian levant postcard to Constantinople -	\$2900
**"Caifa 1" (St. 19/08), 20.3.18, on registered cover to Vienna -	\$900
**"Quart Israelite" (St. 30/06) on registered entire to Germany -	\$1800
**"Aerial Post E.E.F." boxed on OHMS cover from Alexandria to Beer Salem -	\$390
*1918, Registered cover addressed to detainees camp, franked only 1 pi registry fee by S.G. 3 cancelled "SZ45, 24 Ju 18" -	\$320
*1948, Jerusalem, mixed franking of 5 mil local 1st issue and Mandate 2 + 3 mil, 12 May 1948 -	\$220
*1948, Doar Ivri "Yehuda essay" between long vertical bars -	\$9300
*1948, "Broadway" sheet colour proof in green (5 mil) -	\$10,300
*1948, "Eretz Israel" imperforate sheetlet of 4, yellow photolitho with line shading -	\$3,800
*1948, Doar Ivri 15 mil perf. 10¾, marginal tab Type 1 -	\$550

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Copies of the book by John Firebrace ("British Empire: Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East, 1914-1924, A Postal History") are also available (apart from Robson Lowe in London), postage free, at £65 or \$120, from J. Benson, P.O.Box 6484, Limmasol, Cyprus.

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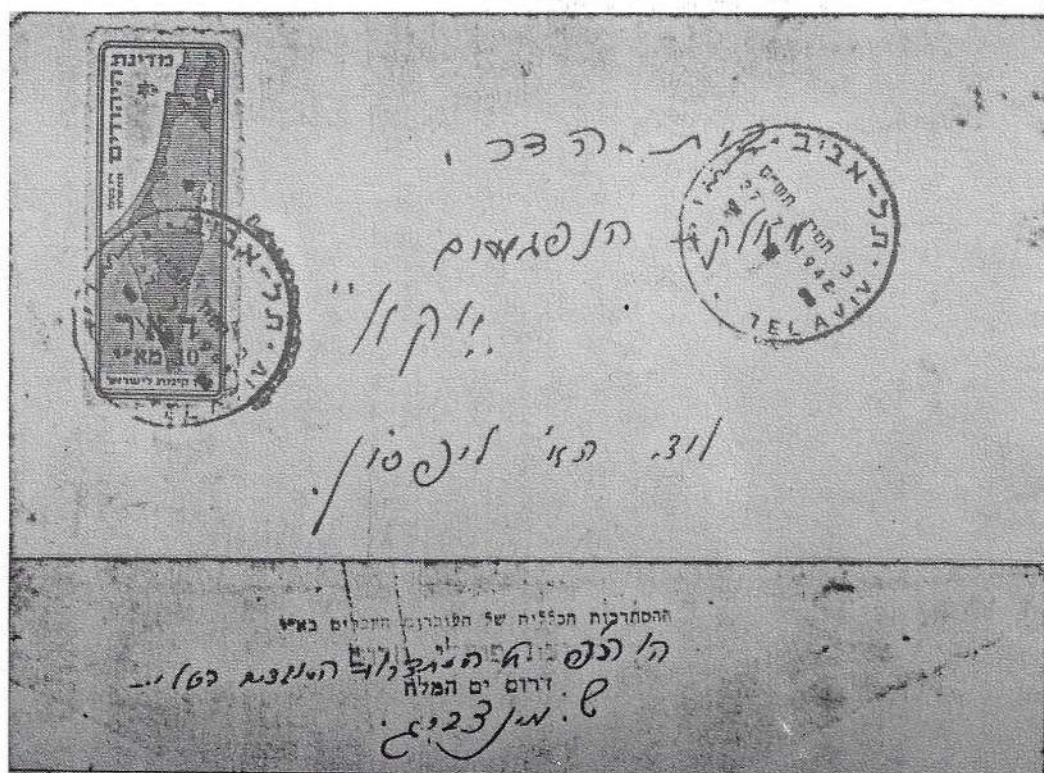
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A "double" courier letter from besieged Sdom to Tel Aviv, via Jerusalem. Dispatched to Jerusalem by airplane and franked there by "Jerusalem stamp". Then to Tel Aviv by courier, where it was postmarked on July 27, 1948 and delivered (see article on page 466)

\*\*\*\*\*

חורף/אביב תשנ"ב