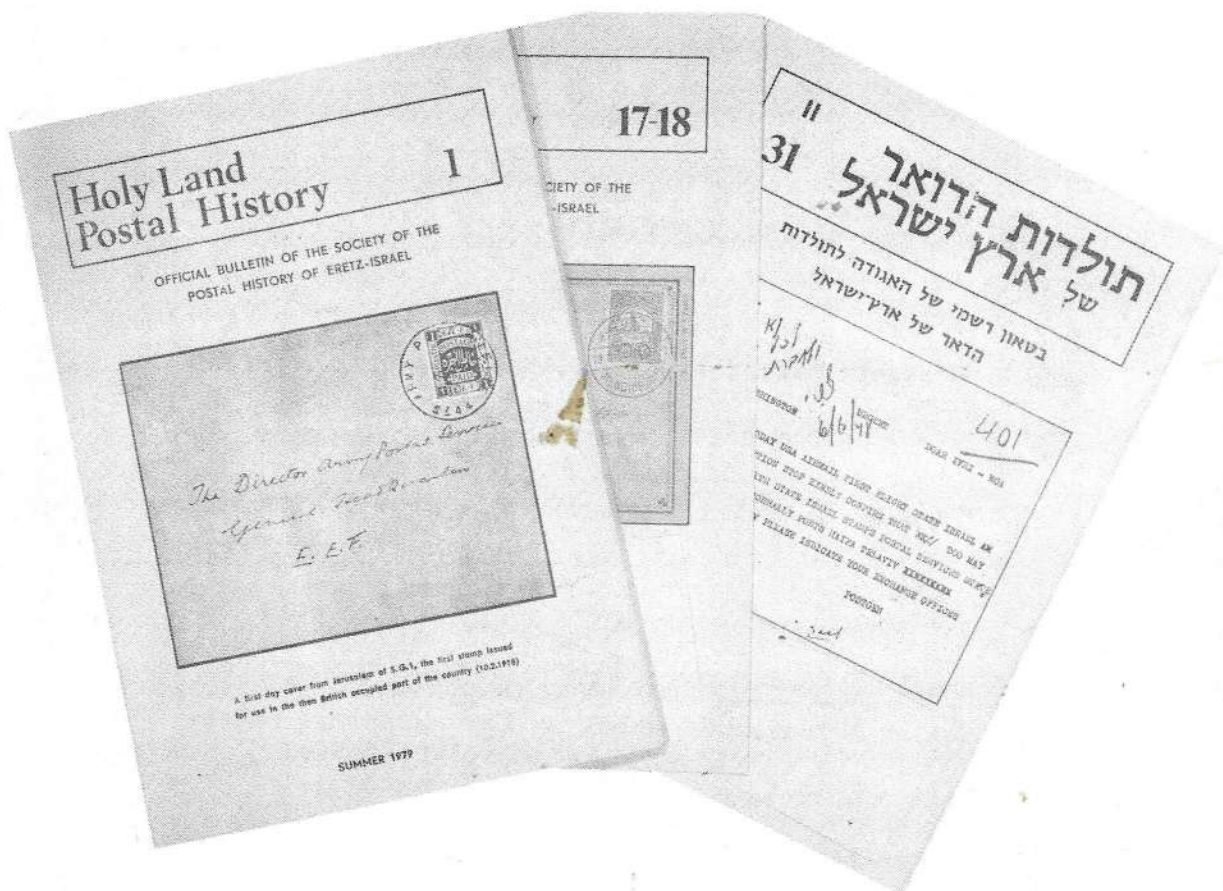


Holy Land Postal History

II
32



The 10th Anniversary issue

AUTUMN 1987

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

Affiliated to the Federation of the Philatelic Societies in Israel

ISSN 0333-6875

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THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Due to the continuous increase in recent years in the cost of paper and printing, we are enforced to update the membership fee of the Society.

The annual fee for 1988 will be \$15 or NIS 24 for Israeli members (but the shegel fee will be linked to the \$ in case of devaluation). The airmail additional charges remain as previously: \$4 - for Europe, \$6 for America and South Africa.

For members who already paid 1988 (according to the old rate) before 1st November 1987, there will be no increase.

The 1988 dues should be paid during January, 1988. Members are kindly requested to pay their dues as early as possible to facilitate proper operation of our Society and Bulletin.

HAPPY 10th ANNIVERSARY!

In the summer of 1979, this writer was pleased to receive Issue #1 of The Bulletin of the Society of Postal History of Eretz-Israel. These initial feelings of pleasure quickly changed into absorbing and enlightening and educational moments as the publication's contents were perused. Now, 31 issues later, the publication continues to hold the same fascination for me; only more so! Each issue is eagerly awaited and read through cover-to-cover several times. In short, it has grown in stature and importance until it is, today, the most important publication of its type and specialty of Holyland Postal History being published anywhere in the world.

To arrive at such a pinnacle was no easy task. Thus, a few words about the Society's aims and history is certainly in order. Originally organized in 1977 by a group of patriotic and dedicated collectors who lived in Jerusalem, the society has grown in size and stature until it numbers currently about 300 collectors from some 15 odd countries. These hail from such distant and far-apart lands as Australia, Venezuela, South Africa, Canada and Sweden. During our extensive travels, we have heard praises of the Society universally sung by so very many collectors. Most all Holyland Exhibitors and collectors of note are members and the roll continues to grow. Already Issue #1 of the Society's Bulletin is unavailable and thus a "collector's item" - remarkable progress indeed in such a short period!

There was then a pressing need and the Society filled it! This more than any other reason (with the possible related exception of the excellence of the Bulletins) accounts for this remarkable growth and unrivaled importance in the spectrum of Holyland Philatelic Publications. This need was for an Israeli-based Postal History enterprise. Since the premature demises of the publications of the Haifa Study Circle in the early 1950's

and F.W. Pollack's "The Holyland Philatelist" in 1961, no serious undertaking existed here in the land which was and is the source of so much present and past history (postal and otherwise). This need or lack inspired the founding Jerusalemites to formally organize. Among their original specific objectives was the publication of "A Bulletin...issued by the Society in which original research, information, reviews and original discoveries will be published. The Bulletin will be issued free to all members but subscriptions will be accepted from non-members (Quote from Proceedings of 1977 Organizational Meeting).

This noteworthy progress is due primarily to the excellent relationships between the cast of outstanding philatelists (Israelis and non-Israelis) who regularly contribute to the Bulletin and its Editors Dr. Zvi Shimony and Mr. Emanuel Glassman. The dedication and devotion of Society Chairman Shimony, the Editor Mr. Glassman and the Treasurer Mr. Sondak are without bounds or limits. Speaking on behalf of the entire membership we wish the editors, writers and all who have contributed in any manner to this success a **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY** ☺ and hope that they and the Society will together go from strength to even greater strength and prominence.

Sincerely and affectionately, Marvin Siegel.



THE EMERGENCY MAILS IN 1948

Part C: EUROPEAN OFFICES

Chaim Shamir and Marvin Siegel, Israel

The third major grouping of the 1948 Emergency Mails were European Offices of the Jewish Agency and other Zionist and Palestine organizations. After the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, these almost immediately were transformed into the embassies and consulates of the new State.

Offices directly involved included those in Rome, Geneva, Paris, Trieste, Milan and Marseille. These served as Jewish Agency, Eretz Yisrael, Youth Aliyah or Immigration Offices. With the exception of England, which was served by Peltours, most all of the Emergency Mail from Europe to Israel was processed in one or more of these. However, mail could only be forwarded in a haphazard manner whenever an opportunity presented itself. The opportunities consisted of access to an outgoing plane or vessel or contact with some Israeli official(s) or immigrants and personnel escorting them to the new State. This was in direct contrast to PEDI or PELTOURS, which operated in a systematic manner. Some of the European Offices made only one or two shipments while others operated for a relatively long period of time and sometimes even after normal official Postal Relations had been established.

(A) Eretz Yisrael Office of the Jewish Agency, 8 Rue Petitot, Geneva, Switzerland: The office was then headed by Dr. Chaim Posner. He was born in Poland in 1899. He was very active in the Zionist movement in Danzig and served as a delegate to the 1921 Zionist Congress. In 1937, he moved to Switzerland and with the outbreak of World war II, dedicated himself to the saving of European Jewry and the defeat of Nazi Germany. Dr. Posner was among the first to inform the Allies of Hitler's

"Final Solution" for the Jewish People and was deeply involved in exchanges of Dutch and Belgian Jews for Palestine German Templars and South American Germans. He was also involved in the rescue of Hungarian Jews by issuing forged passports of certain Central American countries and forged Palestine Aliyah Certificates. After the Nazi surrender in 1945, he switched his attention to matters of illegal immigration (Aliyah Bet) and the purchase of weapons for the future State. He was responsible for the financial operation of the Jewish Agency in Europe and his office financed the purchases of weapons from Czechoslovakia including the Messerschmitts built there which were to be Israel's first fighter planes. He served as the first Israel Consul to Switzerland from 1948 to 1953. Dr. Posner passed away in Jerusalem on May 14, 1981.

The Agency's Geneva Office was located in the same building as the Swiss Offices of the Jewish National Fund (K.K.L.). On April 25th, Lydda Airport was finally closed down and all scheduled flights to and from the Holyland were suspended. Thus some very important people, whose presence was urgently required in Palestine, were stranded in Europe. These included the journalist I.P. Stone, Colonel David Marcus, Teddy Kollek, Ephraim Katchalsky (later President Katzir) and Munya Mardor (head of the undercover group purchasing arms in Europe).

On May 8th, a Pan-African Dakota airplane that had been hired by the Hagana, left Sde Dov Airfield and arrived in Geneva that evening. The pilot of that memorable flight was Claude Duval and his co-pilot was Del Web. Both aviators were South African Christians. In the early morning hours of the following day, just prior to the planned return flight to Tel Aviv with the passengers listed above and others, Dr. Posner arrived at the Swiss airport and turned over two suitcases and a bag of mail to Mr. Mardor. The suitcases contained some £30,000 (Pounds Sterling) in £1 notes.

It was intended that these funds be used to purchase weapons illegally from British servicemen about to be evacuated from Palestine. These "Tommies" would only accept £1 notes as they had heard of the forged £5 notes produced by the Nazis during World War II and they were afraid to accept notes of that denomination. The bag of mail had been gathered at Geneva's Agency and K.K.L. offices during the preceding few days awaiting some courier arrangement.

The plane arrived on the evening of May 9th after stopping only at Brindisi in Southern Italy to refuel. On hand at Sde Dov to greet the arrivals was General Aharon Remez, the first commander of the Israel Air Force and later to serve as Ambassador to England. He was the son of David Remez, Israel's first Minister of Posts and Communications. Figure 1 shows a cover from this flight to

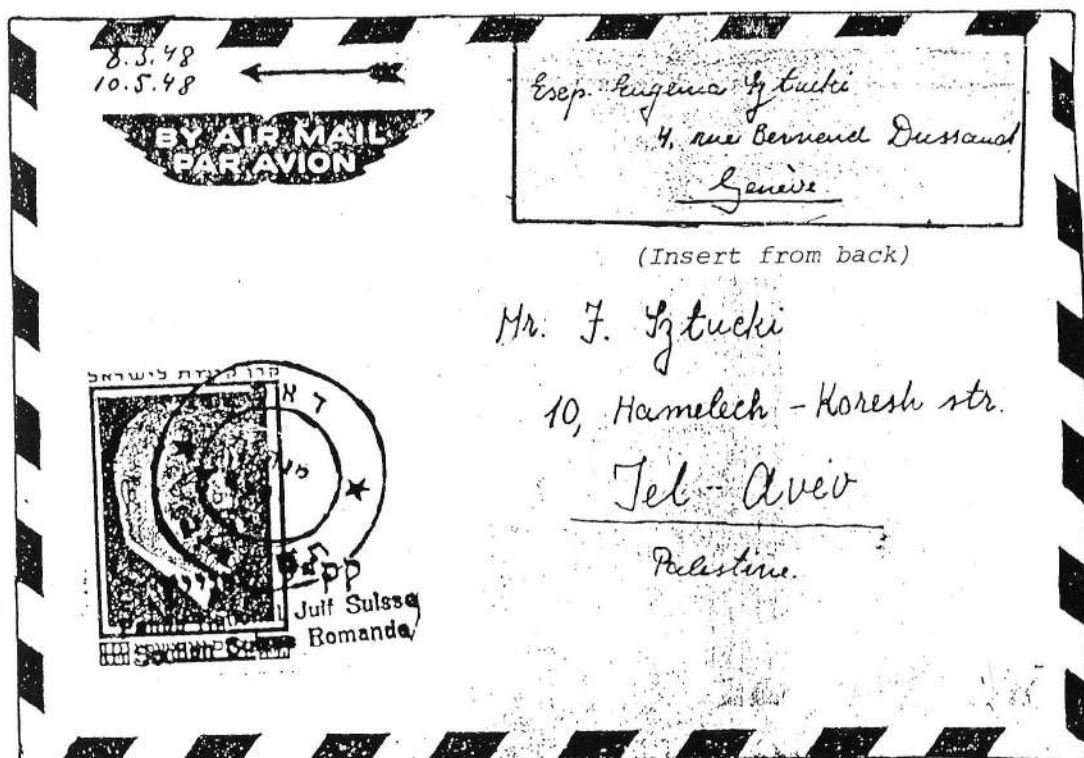


Fig. 1: Cover of the special flight Geneva-Tel Aviv with
a J.N.F. Label franking and the cachet of K.K.L.

Switzerland

Tel Aviv franked with a Ussishkin K.K.L. label overprinted with the bilingual Swiss K.K.L. handstamp. Two dates are visible on the cover's top left corner: 8/5/48 and 10/5/48. The first was the date the mail was prepared for shipment and May 10th was the date it was delivered to the Tel Aviv Post Office. Figure 2 shows another cover carried on this flight but its K.K.L. label has an additional "Fr. 1" handstamp. The Minhelet Ha'Am Post in Tel Aviv did not impose any charges on these covers as their labels were deemed acceptable franking.

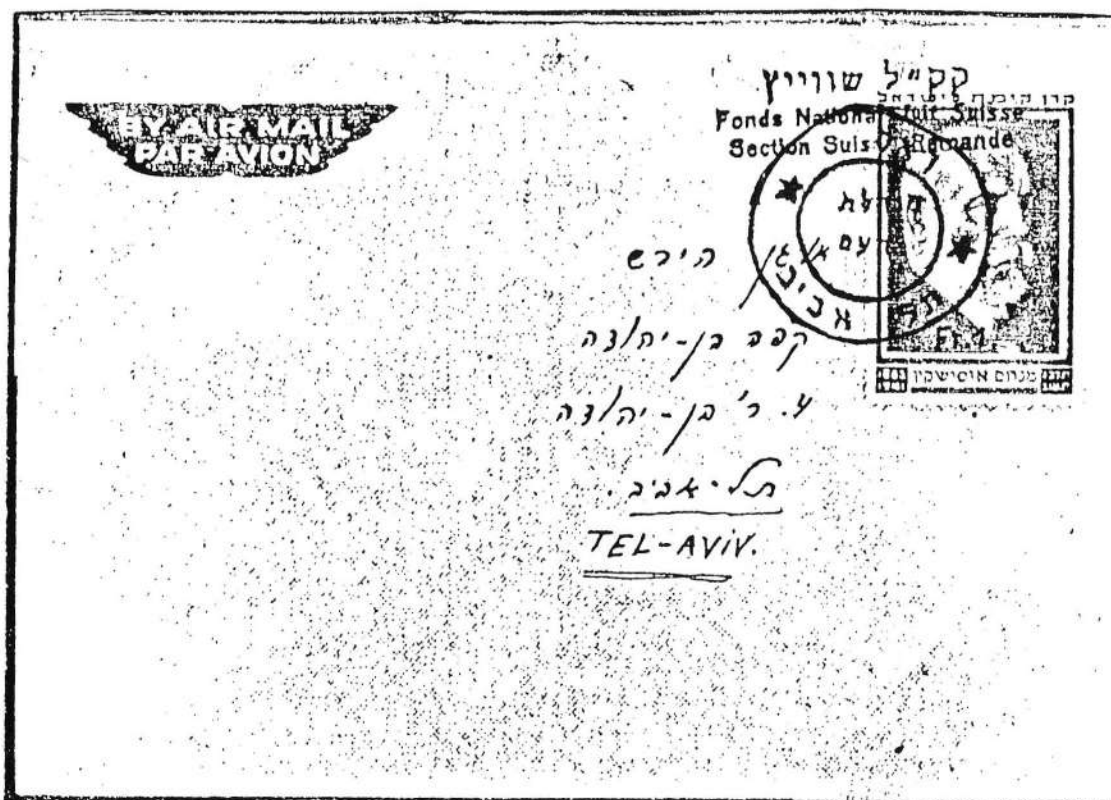


Fig. 2: Cover of the special flight Geneva-Tel Aviv with Ussishkin J.N.F. Label overprinted "Fr. 1" and the cachet of K.K.L. Switzerland

Letters that arrived after this flight at the Geneva Office were prepared for shipment and the lot awaited the arrival of another aircraft. However, since none appeared nor was there any notice of a future flight, the Geneva Office pressed a Mr. Chaim Silberling into service as their courier. He was the proprietor of Tel Aviv's Patra Travel Agency and had unexpectedly stopped in Geneva on his way to Rome to catch the CSA flight of May 25th. That flight arrived in Haifa on May 26th. On May 28th, Mr. Silberling dutifully posted the letters given to him in Geneva after franking each with a 10 mil Doar Ivri stamp and applying the 'PATRA, 63 NACHLAT BENYAMIN ST., TEL AVIV, PHONE 6297' handstamp. No mail from this 2nd flight has yet been



Fig. 3: Courier mail Geneva-Tel Aviv, last of 2 consignments. Franking: J.N.F. label & 10 mil D.I.
Cachets: K.K.L. Switzerland, 23.5.48 & Patra Travel Agency.

found with Ussishkin labels overprinted with the 1 franc handstamp. Instead, on all can be seen the handstamped date 23 May 1948 - the date they had been entrusted to Mr. Silberling in Geneva. Figures 3 and 4 are two examples of this mail, originating

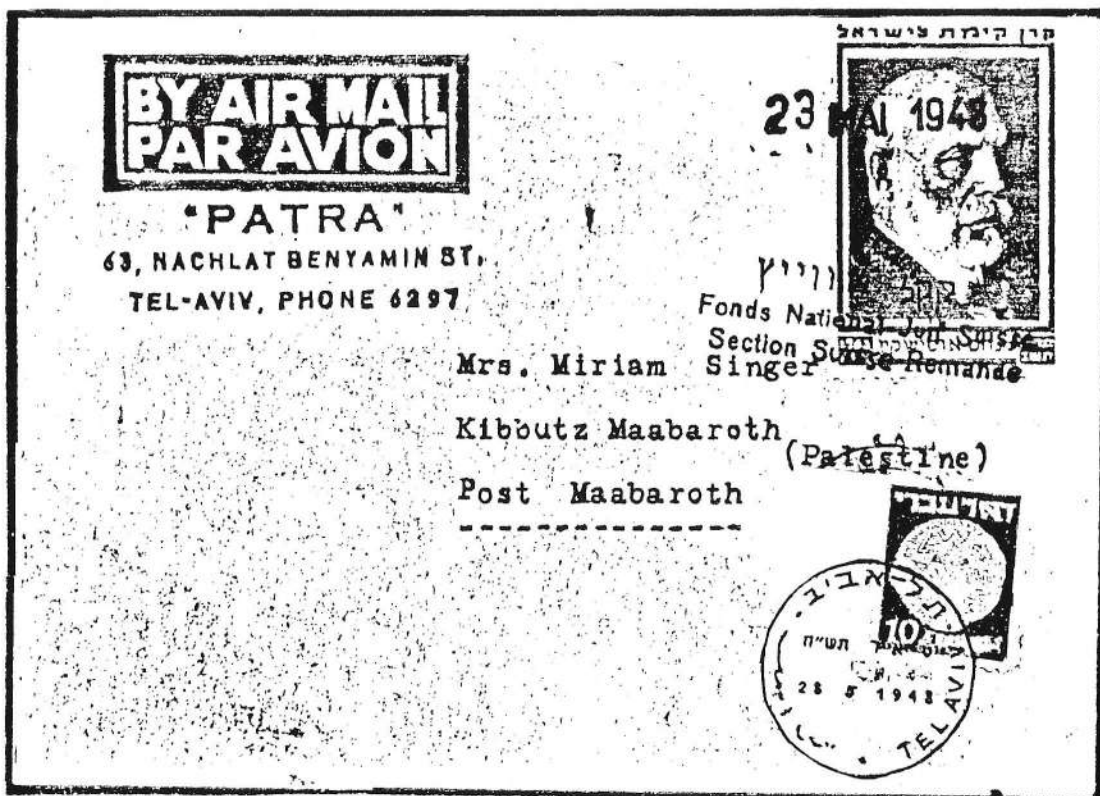


Fig. 4: Courier mail from Geneva. Franking: J.N.F. label & 10 mil D.I. (domestic rate). Cachets: K.K.L. Switzerland, May 23, 1948 and Patra Travel Agency.

in Geneva and which were carried on this second flight. Subsequently, this Geneva Office stopped shipping mail directly, as mail could be sent through regular channels.*

*First shipment of Airmail from Geneva to Tel Aviv via Haifa (C.S.A. place of landing) was received on May 19, 1948.

is a Telegram to the Israel Postmaster General in Tel Aviv from the Haifa Postmaster concerning this flight, which had carried mail from five countries. Its translation follows:

"Subject: Air Mail Received From Air France Plane of May 29, 1948.

We received six Mail Bags through an airplane of the Air France Company on May 29, 1948. The mail consisted of one bag of letters and 5 bags of printed matter. The mail bags were not closed by the French Post but by the Representative of the Paris Office of the Jewish Agency. The airline attached their airline labels to the mail bags. The weight of the printed matter is 148.3 kgs (326 pounds) and the letters weighed 32.2 kgs (71 pounds). There are also registered letters without any lists or descriptions. A large number of letters are without stamps and postmarks. Please inform us whether or not to tax these letters and which tax rate is applicable."

Figure 6 is of a cover from this shipment sent from Paris. It is a Jewish Agency envelope with their early Paris address (83 Rue de la Grande Armee) crossed out by the sender. The cover was taxed without penalty with a 10 mil Doar Ivri Postage Due stamp postmarked Tel Aviv Branch Office No 2 on June 2, 1948. Figure 7's cover also arrived on that early flight. Originally machine franked with the amount of 30 francs on May 25, 1948, it was posted from Mulhouse Nord to Tel Aviv. On the cover can be seen the vital handwritten forwarding instruction in French TO THE CARE OF THE JEWISH AGENCY IN PARIS. It bears the same tax and postmark treatment as the cover in Figure 6. This Agency shipment of May 29th is the only one known of Paris Emergency Mail that arrived by air.

Available information and evidence leads to the conclusion that it had been decided by the Israel Post not to penalize Jewish Emergency Mail that arrived into Israel unfranked, with the full

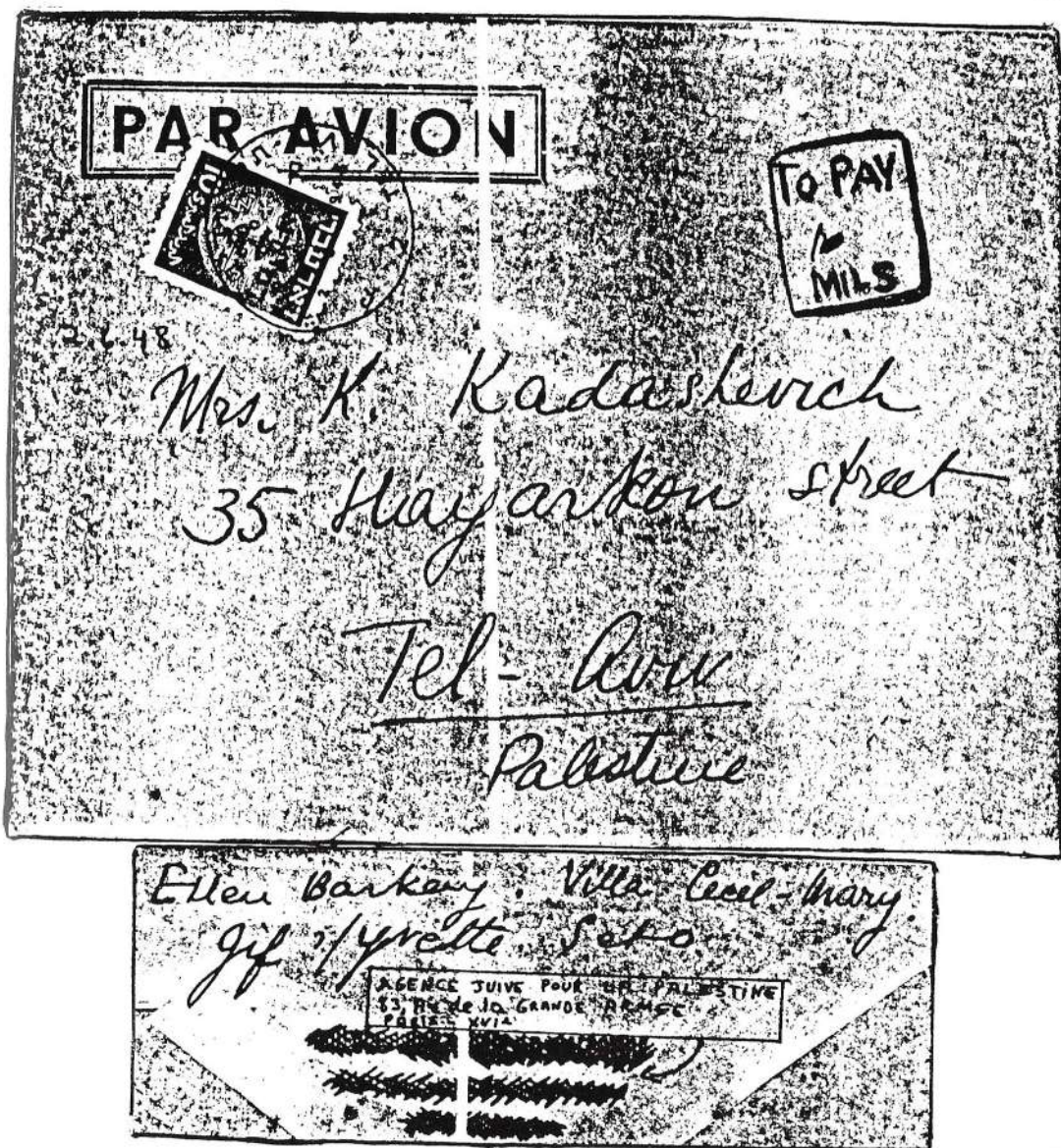


Fig. 6: Emergency mail on board Air France. Arrived Haifa
May 29, 1948, franked 10 mil D.I. Postage Due and can-
celled Tel Aviv Trilingual of June 2, 1948.

amount of the tax specified by regulation. This theoretical tax would have been the appropriate postal fee plus a 100 percent

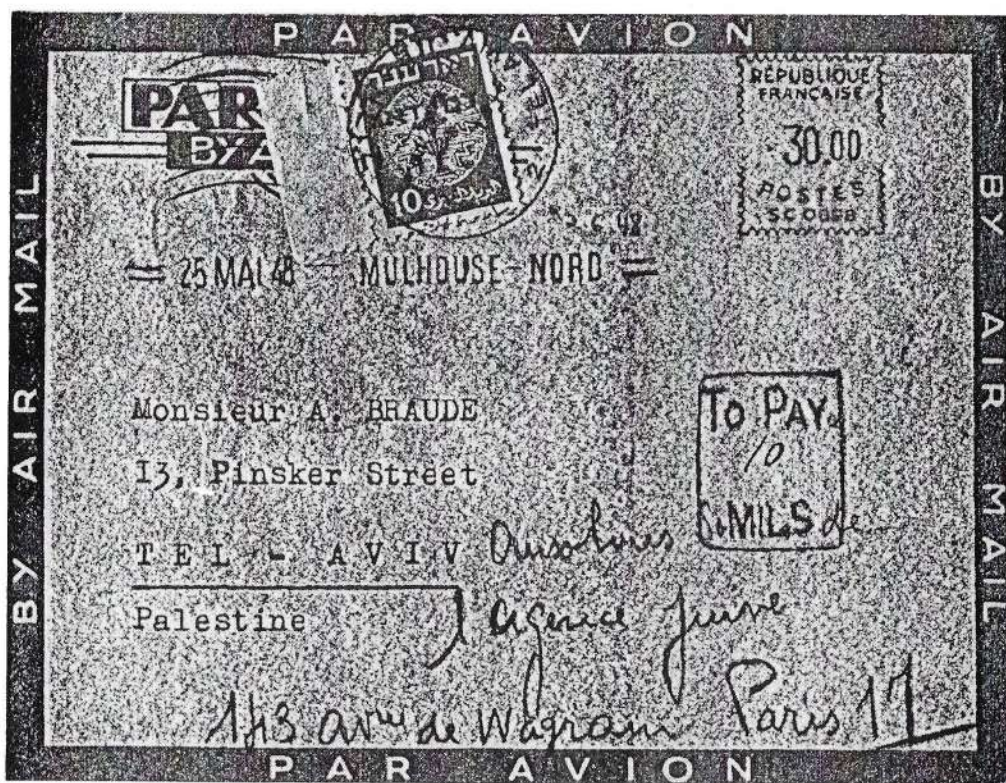


Fig. 7: Emergency mail via Air France. Machine French Franking and 10 mil D.I. Postage Due canceled Tel Aviv, 2.6.48.

penalty or twice the correct rate. Apparently the hardships suffered by the surviving remnants of European Jewry were taken into account in making this decision, since they were desperately trying to communicate with their Israeli relatives.* It was decided instead to impose a fee equal to the domestic rate of 10 mils. However, this policy was not consistently applied and it was an almost impossible task to segregate arriving mail posted by Jewish refugees or displaced persons or from Jewish organizations. When the origins were uncertain or non-Jewish or commercial

*For additional information see HLP# #20, pages 1025/1027: "Two Examples of Late Courier Letters" by Rothman and Tsachor.

only twice the local rate or 20 mils was charged although the appropriate postal fee from Europe was considerably more. The word "tax" is sometimes used in conjunction with these 10 mil charges, but "fees" would be a far more appropriate term.

The knowledge that Paris' Jewish Agency Office was acting as a processing center for Israel-bound mail became widespread among European Jewry. Thus, onto many envelopes were written the Paris Agency's famous address (143 Avenue de Wagram) in addition to the Israel destination. Much sea mail arrived in Israel during this period, having been shipped from Marseilles. Figure 8 shows a

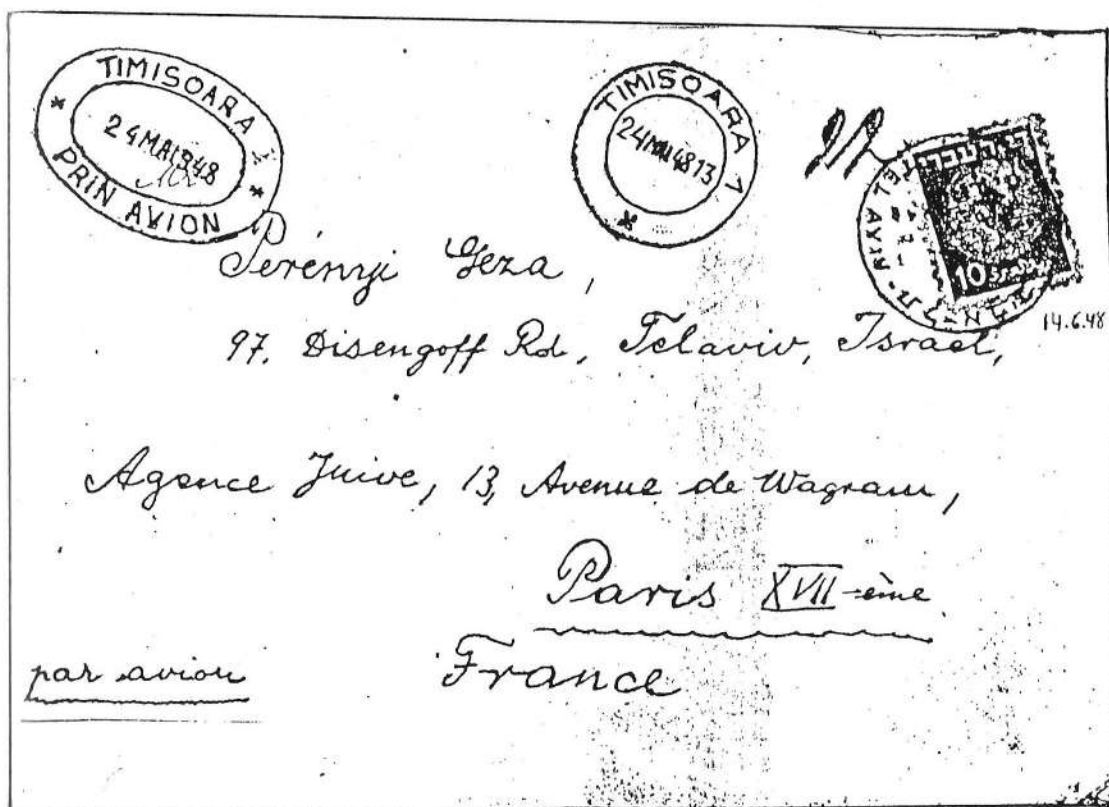


Fig. 8: Emergency mail Romania-Tel Aviv, via Paris Jewish Agency Offices (Sea Mail).

Romanian cover addressed to Tel Aviv that also has the Avenue de Wagram address. It was posted on May 24, by air to Paris and forwarded by the Agency to Tel Aviv. It was charged the 10 mil fee (domestic letter rate) and postmarked in Tel Aviv on June 14th. As in all other cases, the addressee paid this relatively small charge. Figure 9 is a cover from a Displaced Person in the American Occupied Zone of Germany addressed to Haifa via the Paris Agency. The 10 mil fee stamp was postmarked with the Haifa trilingual device on June 14th.

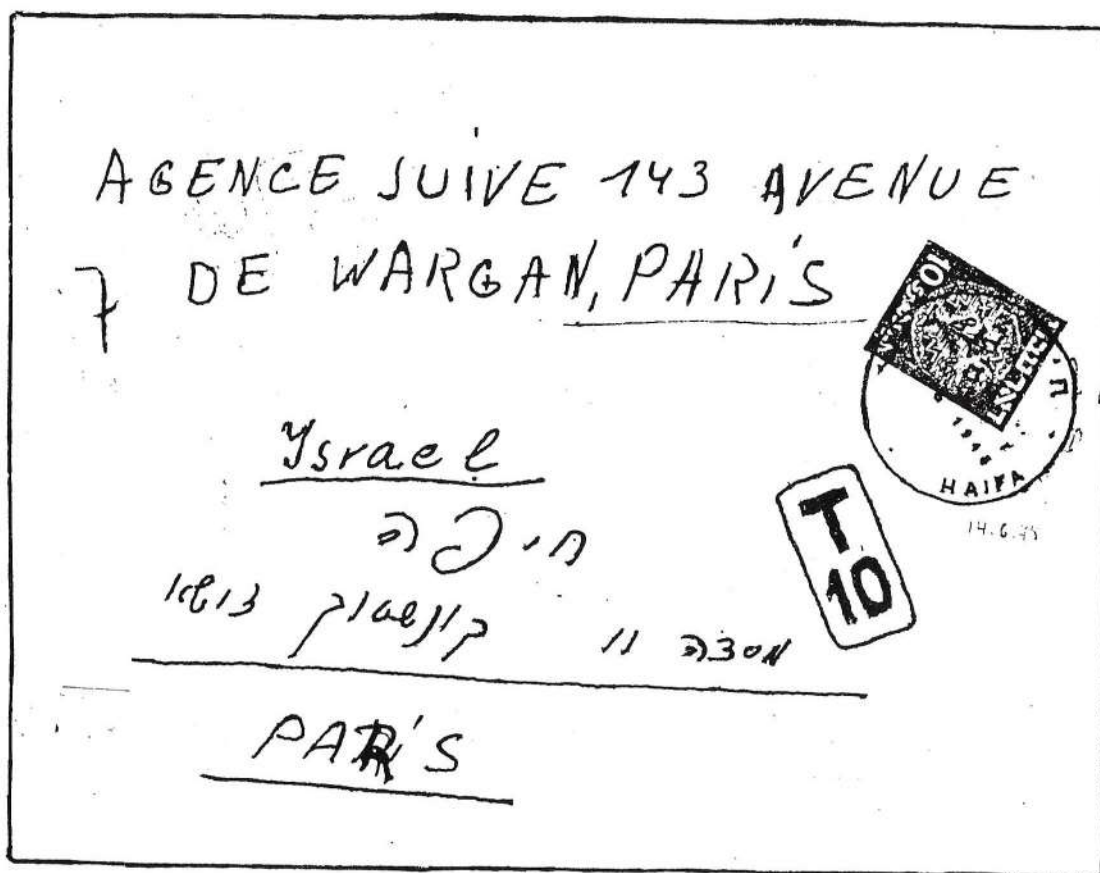


Fig. 9: Emergency mail U.S. Occupied Zone in Germany to Haifa,
via Paris Jewish Agency Offices (Sea Mail).

Figure 10 shows a June 4th Copenhagen to Tel Aviv cover with the Avenue Wagram address that arrived without Israel fee marks, franking or postmarks. Figure 11 is a similar item from Germany sent from Munich on July 5th to Pardes Hanna via the Paris Agency. While it has a 10 mil 'TO PAY' handstamp, it is without a cancelled stamp which would have proven that the specified fee had in fact been collected as well as proving the date of delivery. Figure 12's cover is from Germany similar to that of Figure 10. Figure 13 is a cover sent from an Israel Government Office in Paris to Tel Aviv as per its official handstamp which reads REPRESENTATION OF THE TEMPORARY GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION, 143 AVENUE DE WAGRAM, PARIS 17 - the very same location as the Agency!

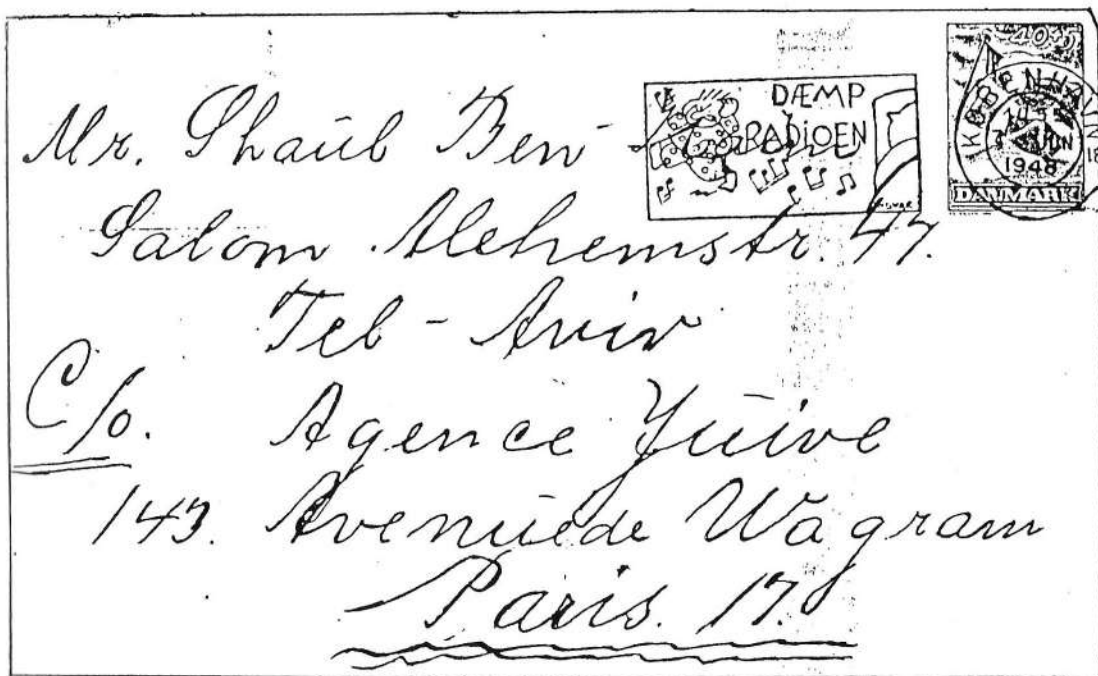


Fig. 10: Emergency mail Denmark-Tel Aviv, via Paris Jewish Agency Offices. Franking and postmarks only Danish.

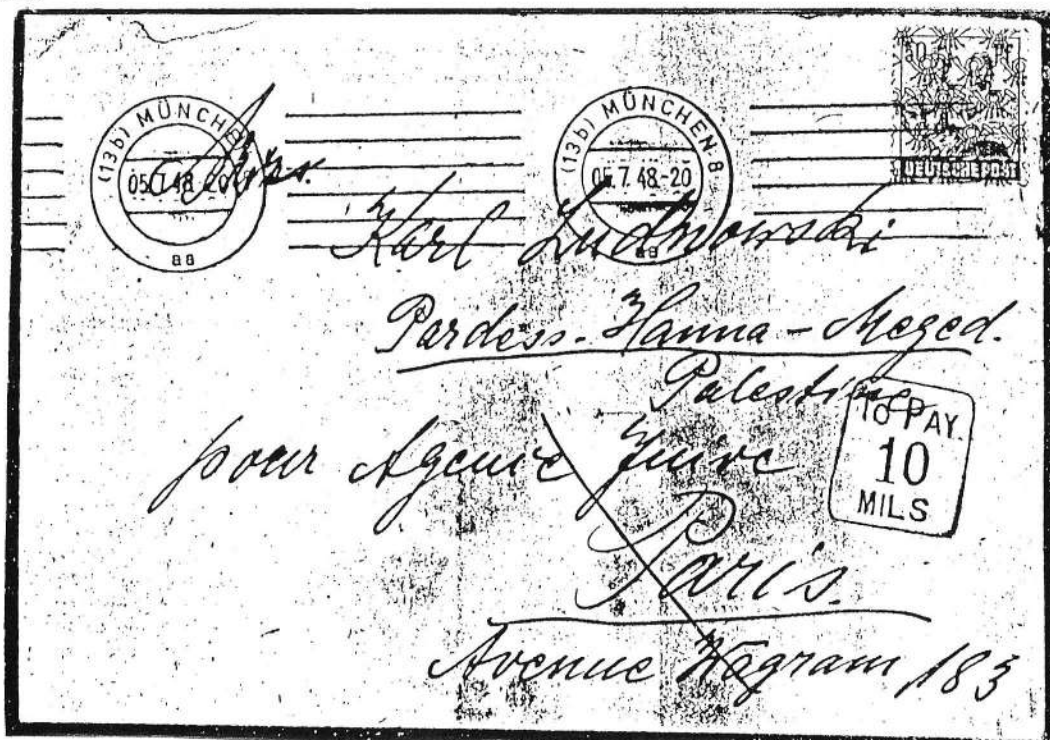


Fig. 11: Emergency mail from Germany to Pardess Hanna, via Jewish Agency, Paris. Handstamp "To pay 10 mils", Postage Due not collected.

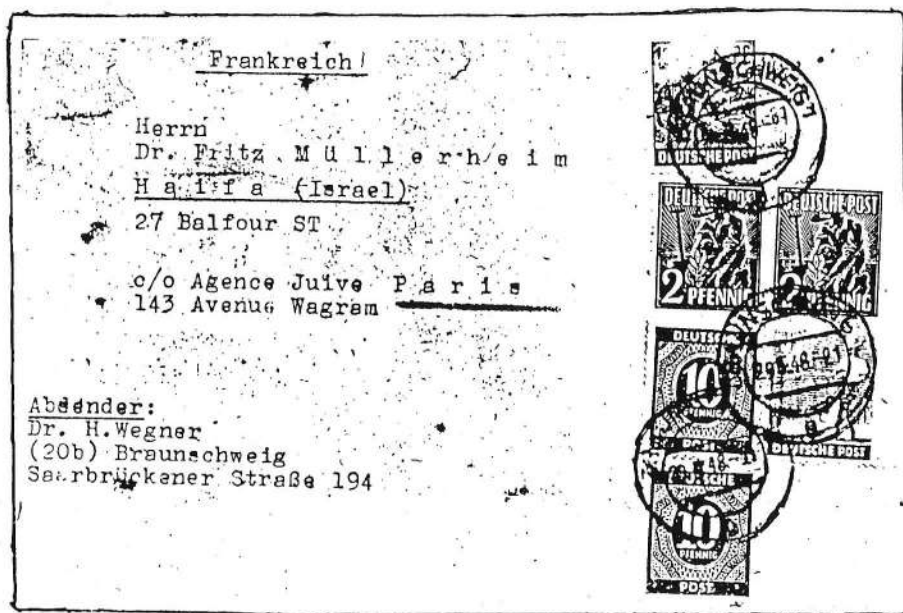


Fig. 12: Emergency mail Braunschweig-Haifa, through Paris Jewish Agency Offices. Franking and postmarks German only.

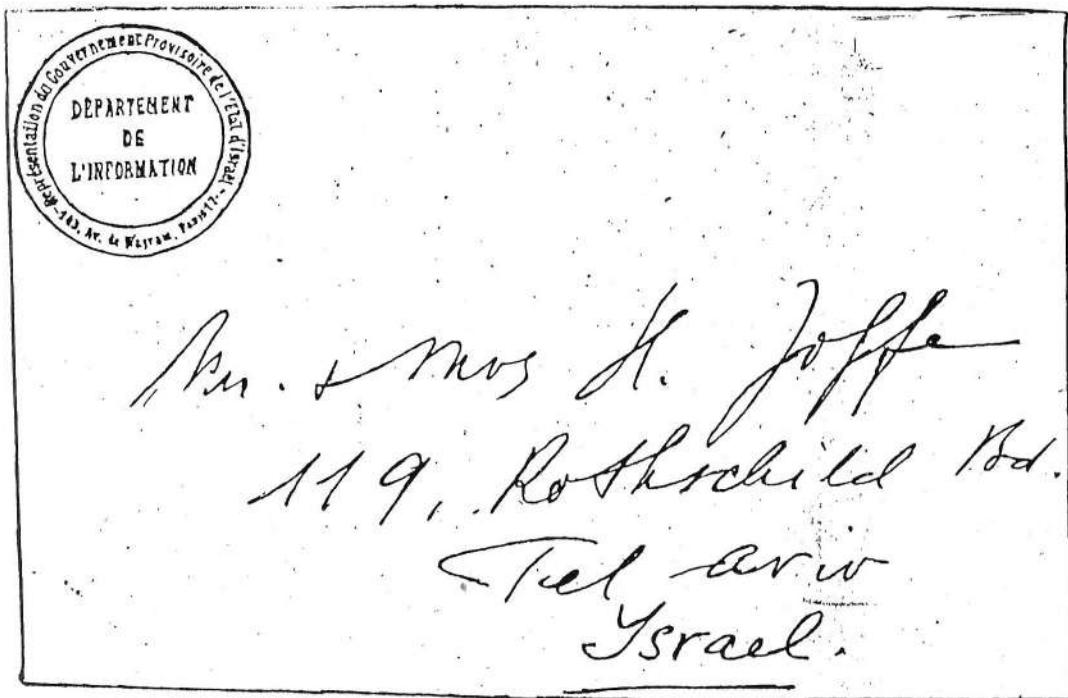


Fig. 13: Emergency mail Israel Consulate, Paris, to Tel Aviv.
Consulate cachet only.

As late as October 21, 1948, mail was still being forwarded to Israel via Paris' Jewish Agency. Figure 14 is of such a late piece of mail, posted from East Germany on that date to Jerusalem via the much used Avenue de Wagram route. The item was charged 15 mils with five 3 mil Post Due I stamps. This was the higher domestic rate which had gone into effect on October 1, 1948. As Figure 14's cover indicates, the Paris Agency served as a transit point for mail between Israel and countries that did not have postal or diplomatic relations with the new state.

Figure 15 is a June 7, Hertsliya cover that was addressed directly to Algiers and not via the Paris Agency route. It was not forwarded by the Israel Post but instead returned with the

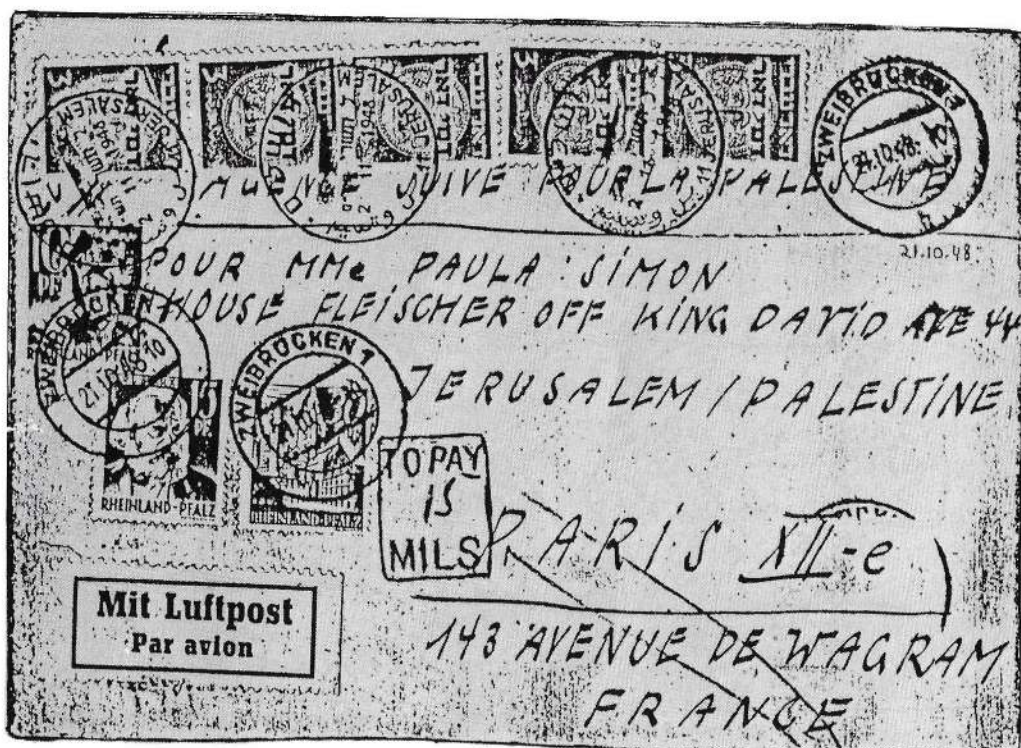


Fig. 14: Late emergency mail from East Germany to Jerusalem, through Paris Jewish Agency Offices.

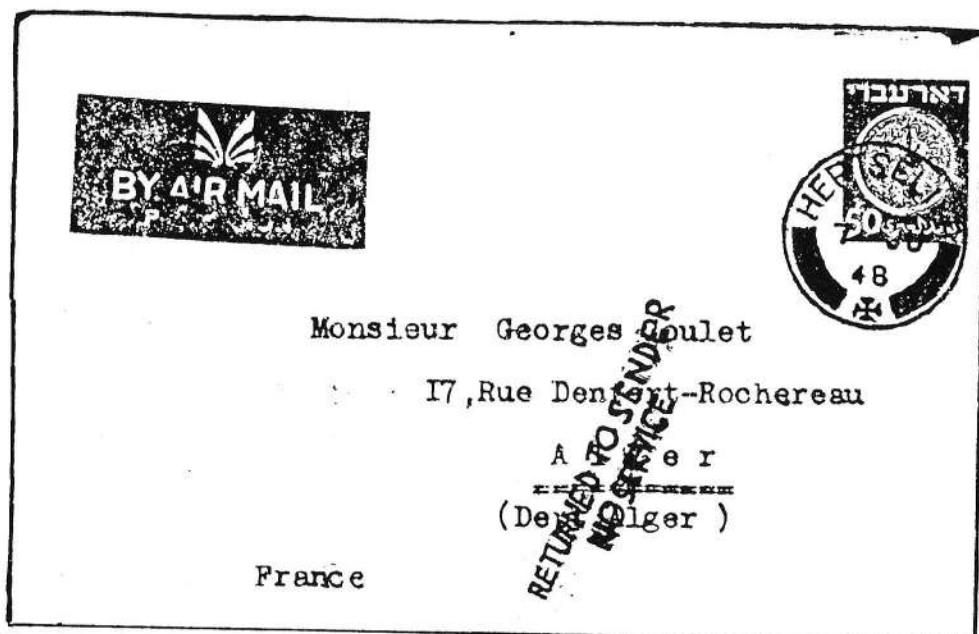


Fig. 15: Letter from Hertseliya addressed to Algeria, handstamped "Returned to Sender/No Service".

handstamp RETURNED TO SENDER / NO SERVICE. As contrast, Figures 16 and 17 are of covers that did arrive apparently because they utilized the Paris transit address. Figure 16 was posted on June 28, 1948 from Algiers to Rishon Le Zion. While it is without arrival postmark, it is also without any handstamp that would indicate RETURN TO SENDER or NOT FORWARDED handling. Figure 17's April 3, 1949 cover from Jerusalem to Algiers bears the important handwritten instruction "I request the Paris Jewish Agency to

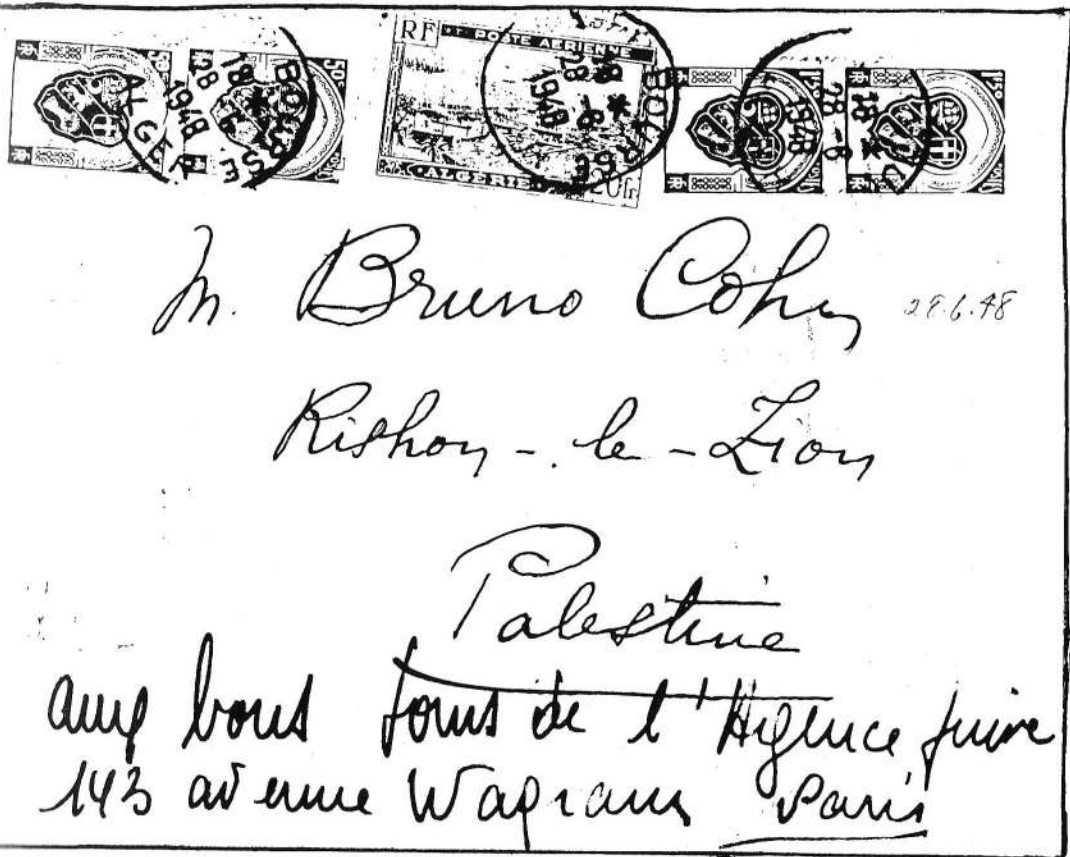


Fig. 16: Letter from Algeria to Rishon LeZion, through Paris Jewish Agency Offices. No arrival postmarks visible but also no marks of returning to sender.



Fig. 17: Letter from Jerusalem to Algeria, through "The Care of the the Jewish Agency, Paris". Handwriting from back of cover: "I request the Jewish Agency, Paris to deliver this to Algeria."

deliver (this letter) to Algiers", in addition to the usual Paris address. Before the latter notation can be seen the phrase "To The Care Of..." The cover was censored as per its No. 1003/7 sealing label and it is without RETURN or NO SERVICE handstamps. Another example can be seen on page 208 of HLP# #25/26 (Figure 36). It is a letter from Jerusalem posted in June, 1948 to Rome via the Paris Agency.

The obvious reason that such a large quantity of mail was being sent through the Paris Agency was the absence of any other reliable, regular or scheduled Postal Services between the new state and much of the world. However, the early raindrops of mail turned into a deluge and finally on September 27, 1948, Mr. S. Lev-Cohen of the Paris Office sent the official letter shown in Figure 18 to Mr. David Remez, Israel's Minister of Posts and Communications. The translation of its main content is "...Most of the French Post Offices, when they encounter in the post boxes letter

הנהלת התחבורות הציונית והסוכנות היהודית לארץ ישראל

EXÉCUTIF DE L'ORGANISATION SIONISTE MONDIALE
AGENCE JUIVE POUR LA PALESTINE

DÉPARTEMENT DE L'ORGANISATION
BUREAU DE PARIS

143, AVENUE DE WAGRAM

PARIS-XVIII

TÉLÉPH. : WAGRAM 25-09

ADR. TÉLÉGR. : JEVAAGENCY-PARIS

PARIS. le

יום 27/9 שנת 1948

מספר סדורי		5961	
נחקל ביום		ה'תש"ח	
האגף	התקן	היד	פריו

לכבוד

מחלקת הדואר, ר.מ.ו. נתי

שר הדואר והתחבורה בישראל

1 OCT 1948

487/48

כהיותי בארץ לפני שבועות מספר, אמרתי לך שענייני הדואר מצרפת לא יסרס מסודרים. כשחש ממני להמציא לך הוכחות.

בשובי לפריס ביררתי את העניינים והתברר לי שאמנם הדבר סרס מסודר.

רוב משרדי הדואר בצרפת סרס מקבלים מכתבים לא י. אני מצרף שתי מעטפות

של הדואר הצרפתי שבהן הועברו אלינו מכתבים שנשלחו ע"י אנשים לפי כחכות

שונות בארץ. שתי המעטפות האלה הן מתאריך 28/9. רוב משרדי הדואר בצרפת

כשמוציאים כתיבות הדואר מכתבים עם כחכות לא י. מכניסים את המכתבים למעטפות

כנצל ומעבירים אלינו את המכתבים במקום לשלוח אותם ארצה.

כן לא מקבלים כל משרדי הדואר בצרפת בלי יוצא מן הכלל שום חכילות

המיועדות למשלוח ארצה.

יש לעשות את כל האינטרבנקציות הדרושות למען להסיר את המכשלים לקשר

דואר נורמלי בין צרפת וישראל.

בכבוד רב
ש. לב-הכהן

מנהל (שש"כ)
פלמ"ח
487/48

Fig. 18: Official letter from Paris Bureau of The Jewish Agency to Mr. David Remez, Israeli Minister of Post and Transport.

with addresses of Eretz Yisrael, put the letters into envelopes of the French Post and hand them to us instead of sending the letters to Israel...No packages are accepted by the French Post for Israel...All necessary intervention should be initiated to remove the obstacles for normal postal relations between France and Israel". Across its top can be seen the handwritten boxed notations "Forward to Prihar (The Postmaster General) and the date of arrival. Remez wrote the note found on the bottom of the letter "Mr. Shenkar, please attend to this immediately".

Figure 19 is a May 13, 1949 cover from the French Zone of Occupied Germany addressed to Tel Aviv. However, on this item,

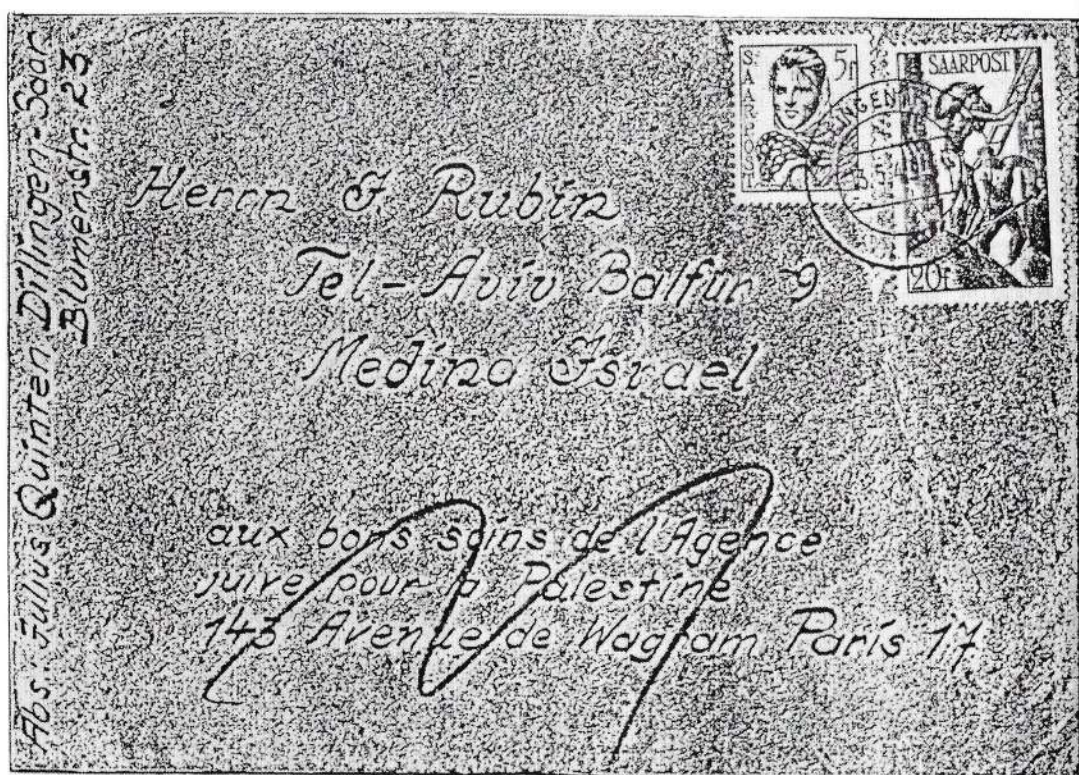


Fig. 19: Cover from French Occupied Zone of Germany (Saar) to Tel Aviv with the crossed out address: "To the Care of the Paris Jewish Agency for Palestine...."

the Paris Agency address was crossed out and thus the letter was forwarded directly through the regular postal route without a Paris Agency transit stop.

Not all Emergency Mail from France was transmitted via the Agency. Figure 20 shows a cover sent through THE PATRA TRAVEL AGENCY in Paris and their Tel Aviv Office. It is almost certain that it was carried by courier on Air France's second OFFICIAL flight to Israel. This flight arrived in Haifa around June 15th. The cover was mailed in Tel Aviv on June 16th, after a 10 mil Doar Ivri stamp was affixed.

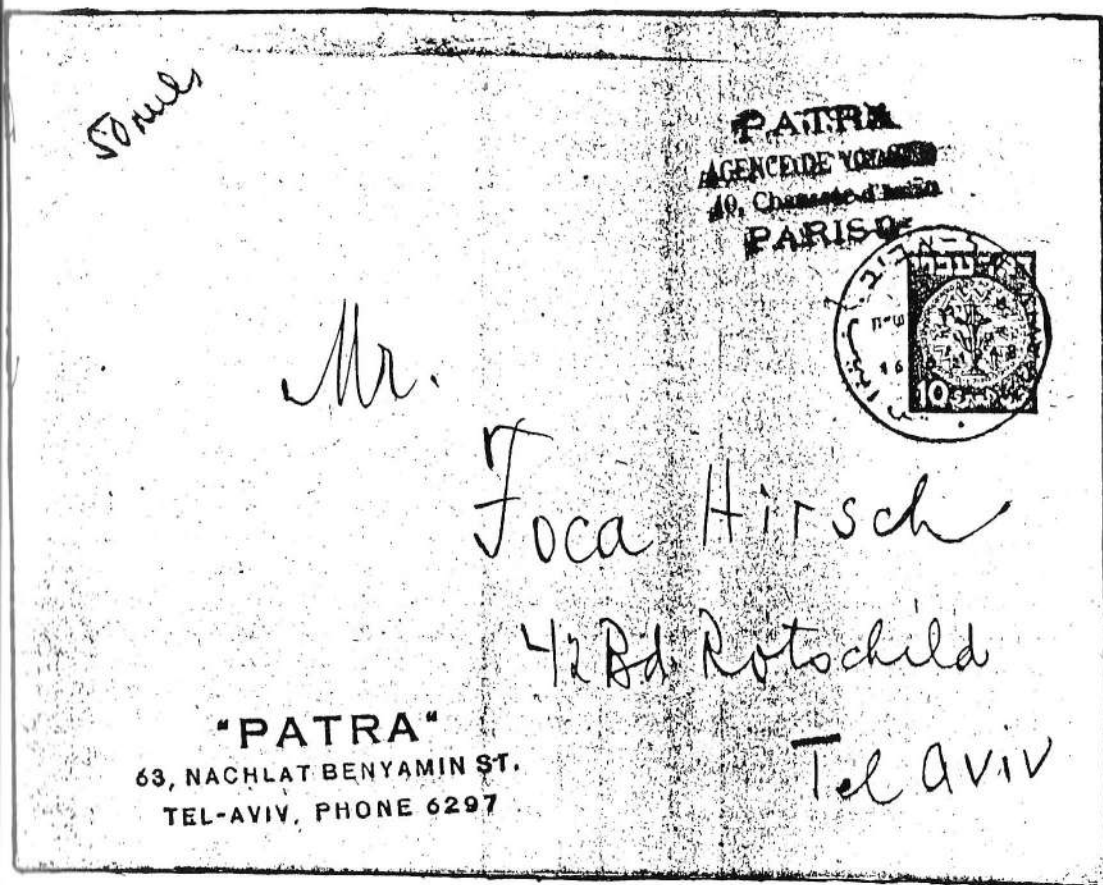


Fig. 20: Emergency mail forwarded by Patra from France to Tel Aviv.
Handstamps "Patra" Paris and "Patra" Tel Aviv.

The important French seaport of Marseilles on the Mediterranean was a departure point of immigration to Israel as well as the location of many camps of displaced Jews preparing to make that voyage. It was also the most westerly port-of-call of the S.S. Kedmah. At that time, this busy vessel was fully engaged in transporting these immigrants, often ignoring maritime safety procedures which specified its maximum number of passengers. However, these were the survivors of Hitler's Ghettoes and Extermination Camps who were yearning to reach the Jewish Homeland. It would have indeed been difficult to postpone their passage on the basis of safety codes intended for normal passages.

The mail gathered at Avenue de Wagram was transported by train or truck to Marseilles and was taken aboard together with its Israel-bound immigrants. Funds were not available for mail fees nor were any charged for this special transport of mail to Israel. Once in Haifa, the letters were dropped into any post box or at a local post office. As previously discussed, they were processed and delivered with a fee of 10 mils charged to the addressee. The number of immigrants was large and much courier mail followed this route in addition to the mail handled by the Jewish Agency in Paris. The courier could have been an immigrant doing a favor for a companion whose turn to immigrate had not yet arrived or an Israeli on some official business such as being in charge of a group of immigrants (a "shaliach") or even a crewman of the vessel itself. Again, once in Israel, the courier would simply drop the letters into a post box.

(to be continued)

Acknowledgements: The Israel National Archives, The Central Zionist Archives, Mr. Meir (Munya) Mardor (Z.L.) and Mrs. Mardor, Mr. Eliezer (Chita) Hacohen (El Al Pilot), Mr. Nathan Haber (Former El Al employee, who in 1948 worked at the Paris Office of the Jewish Agency), Mr. Arie Oron (Shtern) (former Israel Consul to

Italy), Colonel (Retired) Uri Goren, Mr. and Mrs. Bechar, Mrs. Gini Pazner (Wife of the late Dr. Chaim Posner), Mr. Avi Pazner (Prime Minister's Media Advisor & Dr. Posner's son).

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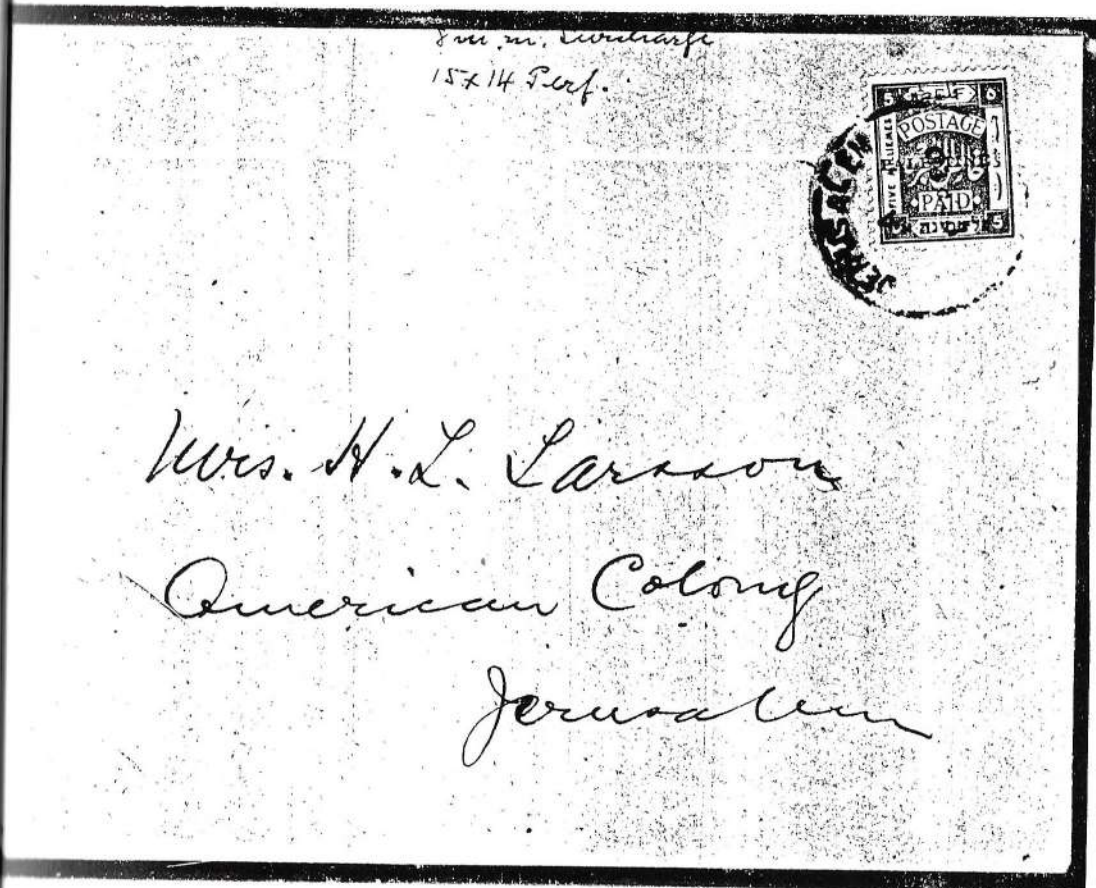


Fig. 22: First day usage of 5m., "Jerusalem, 1 Sept. 1920".

fairly quickly.^{3,4} This is hard to accept simply because the low value stamps are found on mail to foreign destinations, mailed at this period (Figs. 23, 24, 25).

During this period of the restricted sale of the low value stamps, Postage-Paid handstamps were introduced, as a further step to reduce the consumption of stamps and also to make it easier to process the letters presented to the postal officials. These postmarks are known to have been used in Jerusalem and Haifa. Such postmarks from other towns - Jaffa for example - may exist but have not yet been reported.

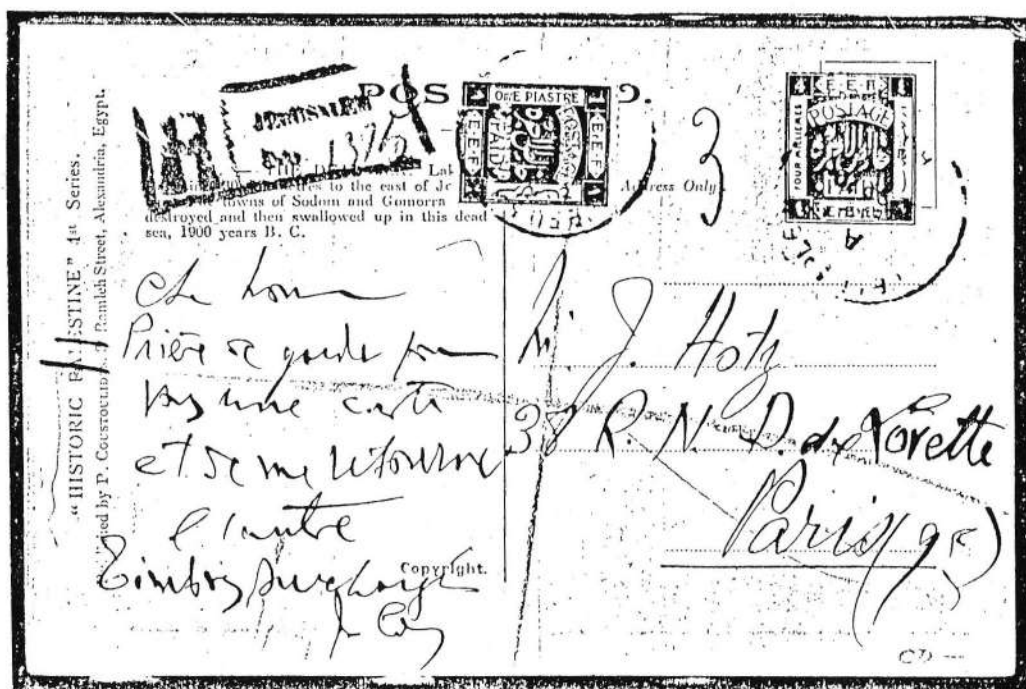


Fig. 23: 4m. together with 1p. on a registered postcard to Paris, mailed on Sept. 2.

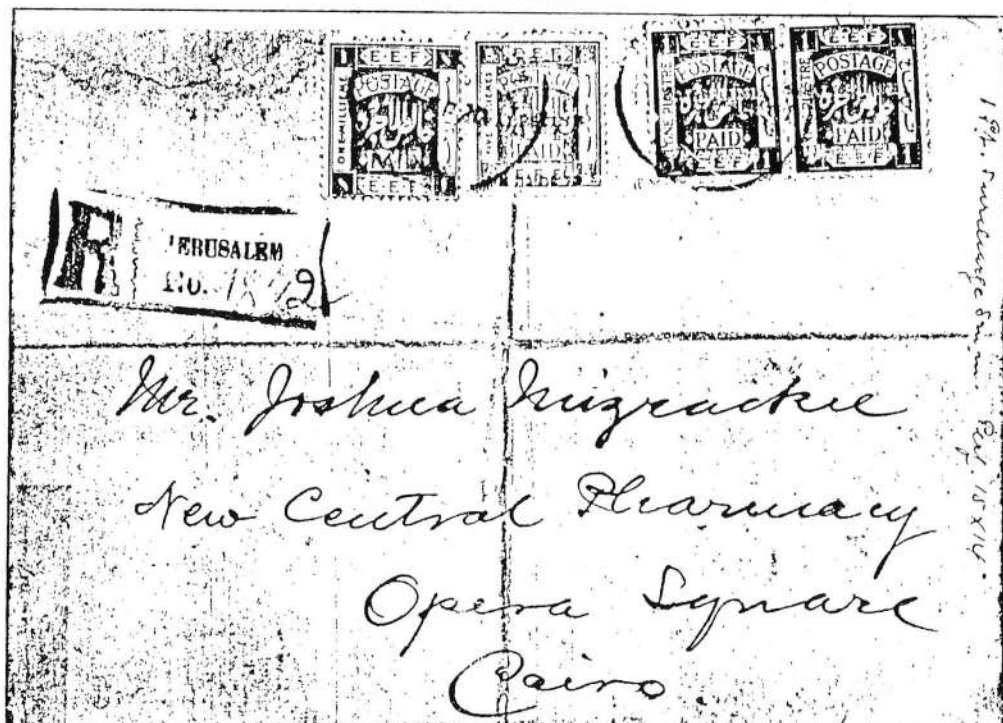


Fig. 24: 1. & 5m. paying the 6m. overweight rate on a registered cover from Jerusalem to Cairo, mailed on Sept. 4.

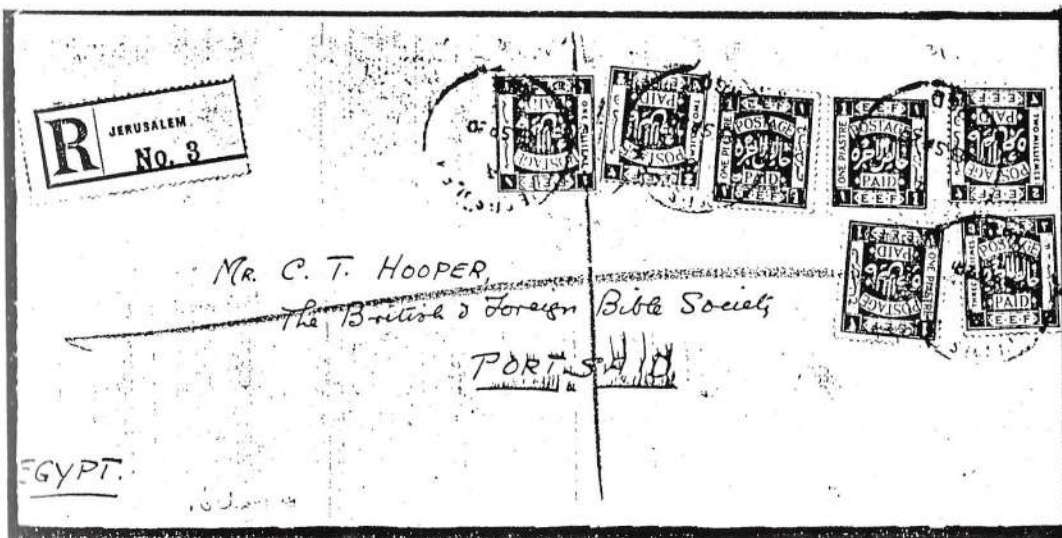


Fig. 25: 1m., 2m. & 1p. forming together with some unoverprinted stamps the 32m. rate of registered letters over 40 gms; cancelled "Jerusalem, 8 Sept. 1920".

General Characteristics

The "Paid" handstamps dealt with here, are all single circle skeleton postmarks modified by the addition of the word "Paid" to the name of the town and to which the words "- Mills" were shortly afterwards added. These were used to stamp inland mail and were usually accompanied by a regular dispatch postmark. The ink used was of a pale-red shade, which faded easily, leaving in time a very weak impression. In certain cases the impression today is so weak that only traces of it can be seen, leaving an embossed ("albino") strike. Therefore, most of the examples illustrated here have been retouched, the letters faintly seen were strengthened, but other letters (not discernible) - omitted altogether.

Jerusalem

The earliest date recorded for the usage of these handstamps in Jerusalem is Sept. 2, 1920 and the latest, Sept. 22. Several types are known, all of a diameter of 29mm. Due to the characteristics of skeleton handstamps, the pale, fugitive ink and the

scarcity of material for study, it is not possible to determine with certainty whether certain handstamps were changed by slug replacements to appear in more than one form.

(1) The Undated Types:

These were the first to be introduced and were usually accompanied by a single circle dispatch postmark.

(I) "Jerusalem Paid 1 Mills" - newspaper rate - recorded on two Arab newspaper cuttings (Fig.26). There is no dated postmark

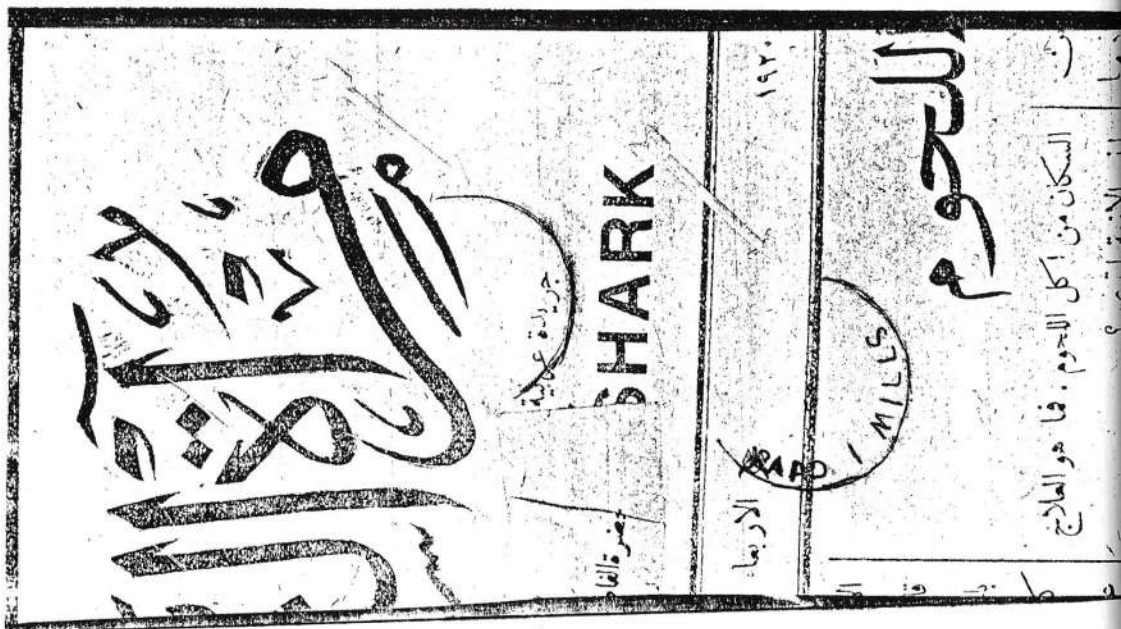


Fig. 26: "Jerusalem Paid 1 Mills" twice on a fragment of an Arab newspaper.

nor can the date be read on the newspaper fragments. The plural "s" in Mills may suggest that this type was made from another type, probably type II.

(II) "Jerusalem Paid 5 Mills" - the first to be introduced and the most common, for the inland letter rate. Illustrated on a letter of the earliest date recorded, Sept. 2 (Fig. 27).

(IIa) "Jerusalem 5 Paid Mills" - obviously a variety, caused

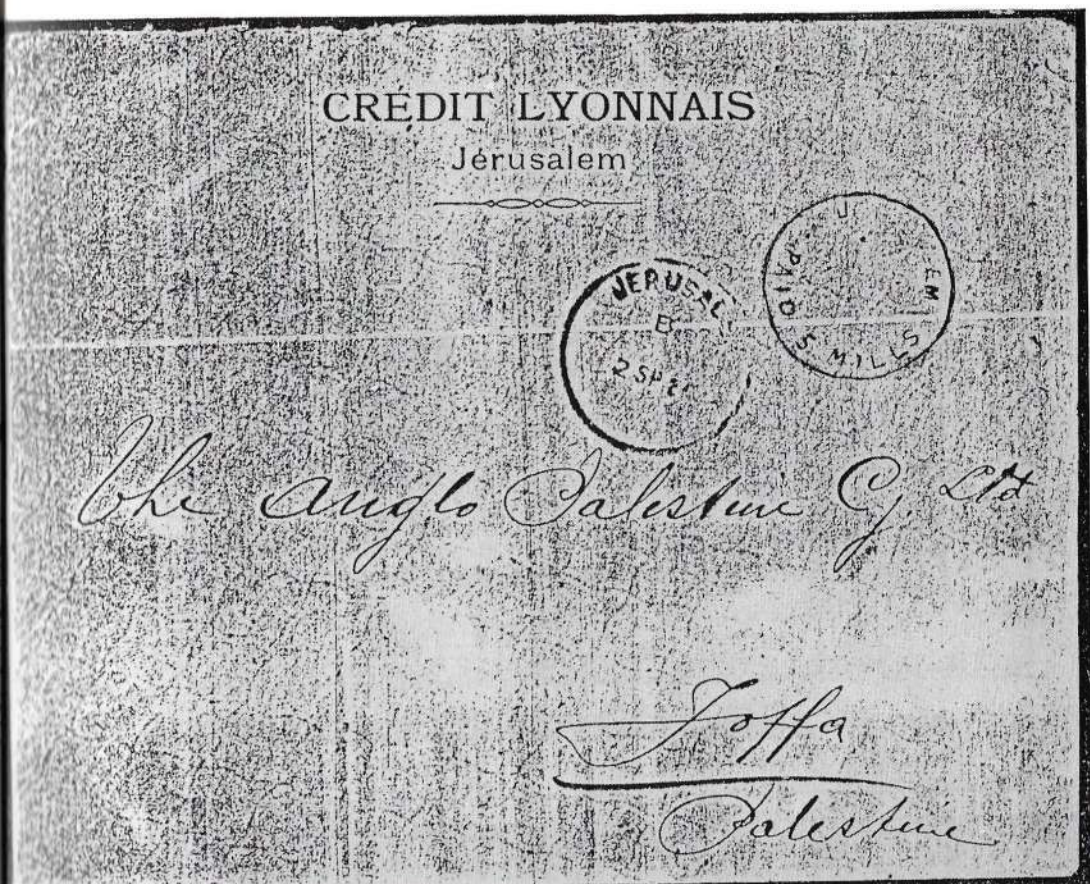


Fig. 27: "Jerusalem Paid 5 Mills" on cover mailed to Jaffa on Sept. 2, 1920. Earliest recorded date.

by the erroneous insertion of the digit "5" in an illogical position. Known used on Sept. 4. (Fig. 28).

(III) "Jerusalem Paid 15 Mills" - inland registered letter rate. The only cover reported is shown (Fig. 29).

(IV) "Jerusalem Paid --- Mills" - no value included; the actual postage inserted in by manuscript. This flexible handstamp was used for a variety of values from 1m. to 30m. (Figs. 30-32). The higher postage is for registered letters heavier than 20 grms, increasing by 3m. for each additional 20 grms. Such rates known are 18m., 21m. and 30m.

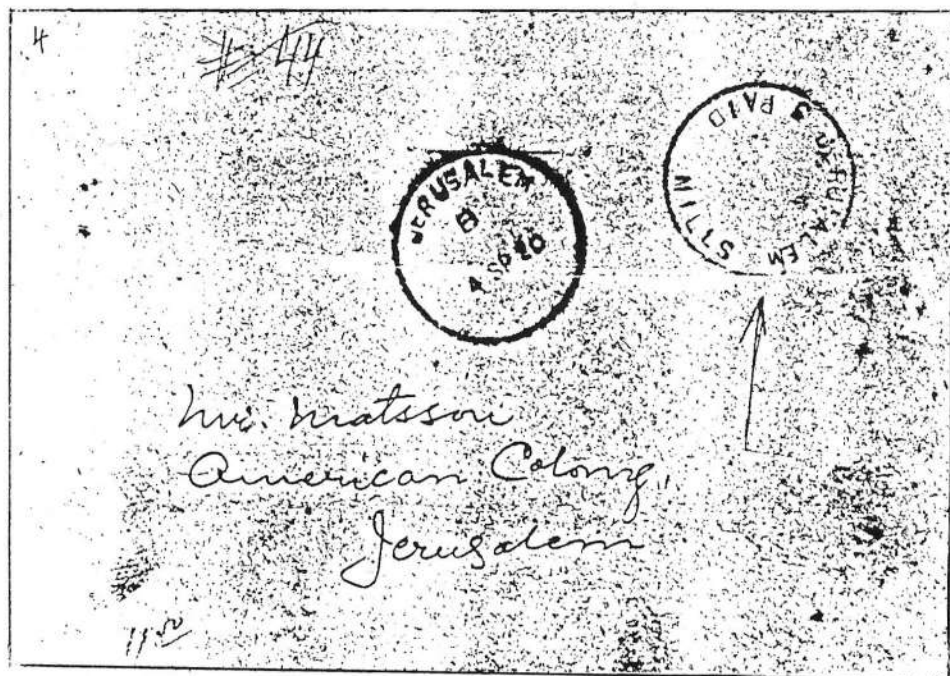


Fig. 28: "Jerusalem 5 Paid Mills" on a local cover.

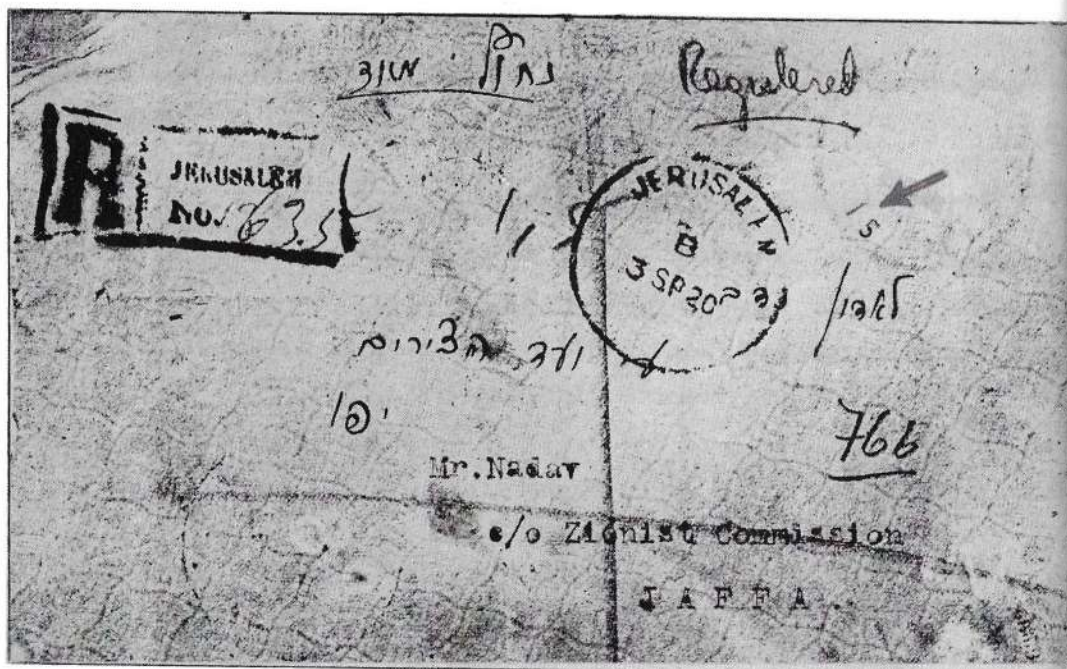


Fig. 29: "Jerusalem Paid 15 Mills" on a registered cover to Jaffa, mailed on Sept. 3.

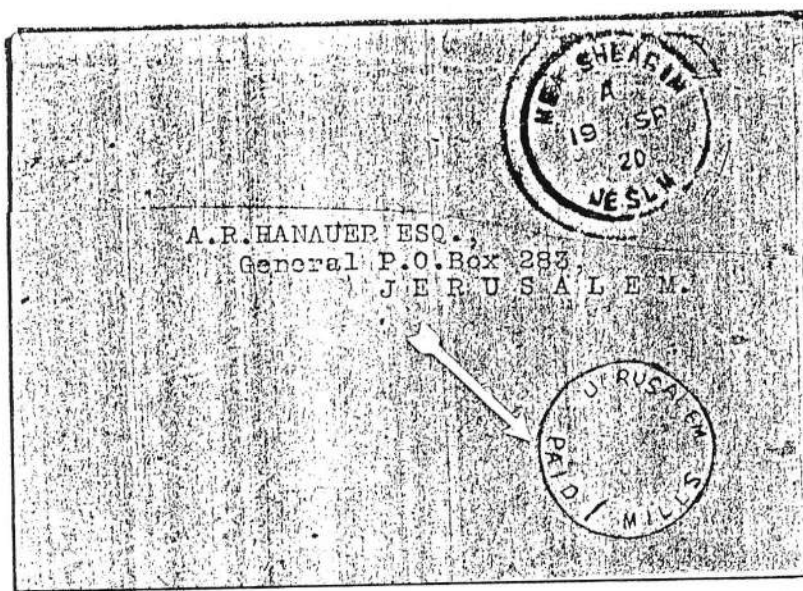


Fig. 30: "Jerusalem Paid 1 Mill" on a newspaper wrapper mailed from Mea Shearim B.O. to the G.P.O. on Sept. 19.

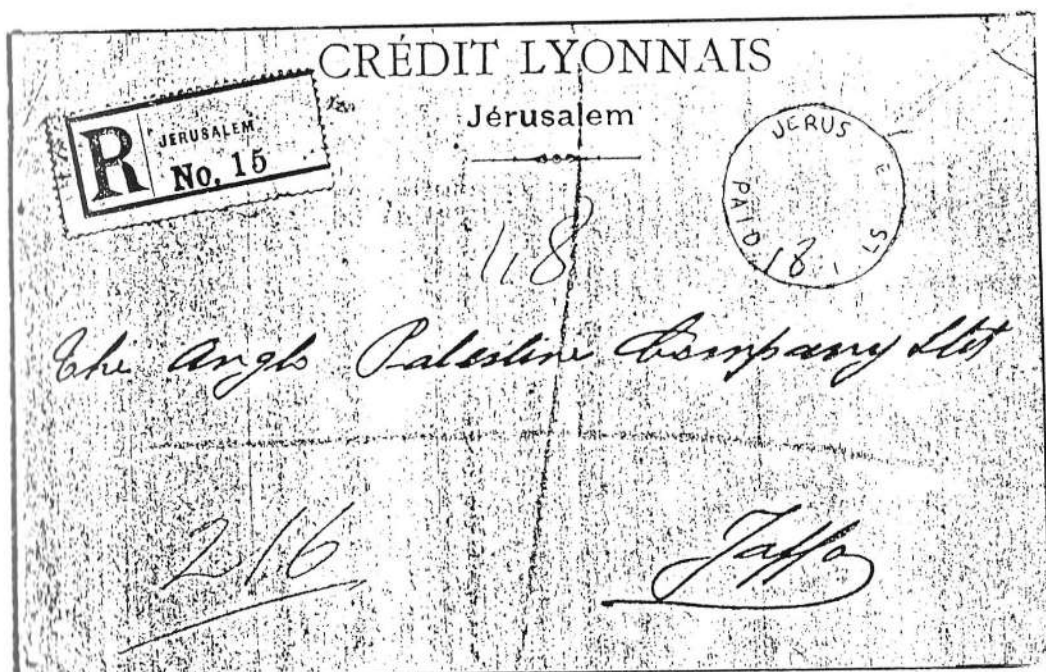


Fig. 31: "Jerusalem Paid 18 Mills" on an overweight registered bank cover.



Fig. 32: "Jerusalem Paid 30 Mills" on a heavy registered bank cover requiring 5 times the overweight charge, mailed on Sept. 6 (backstamp).

(2) The Dated Types:

(V) "Jerusalem Paid 2 Mills" - printed matter rate, shown on an undelivered local printed matter cover dated Sept. 12 (Fig. 33).

(VI) "Jerusalem Paid 3 Mills" - recorded on local postcards - although the rate had been raised to 4m. on Sept. 1! Shown is the variety with the value slug inverted (Fig. 34). Sept. 9 is the only date recorded for this type.

One item of this type is known in black (Fig. 35). It is a faint impression on a front of a wrapper, reading "Jerusalem Paid 4 Mills, 13 Sept. 1920". The figure '4' is handwritten in the

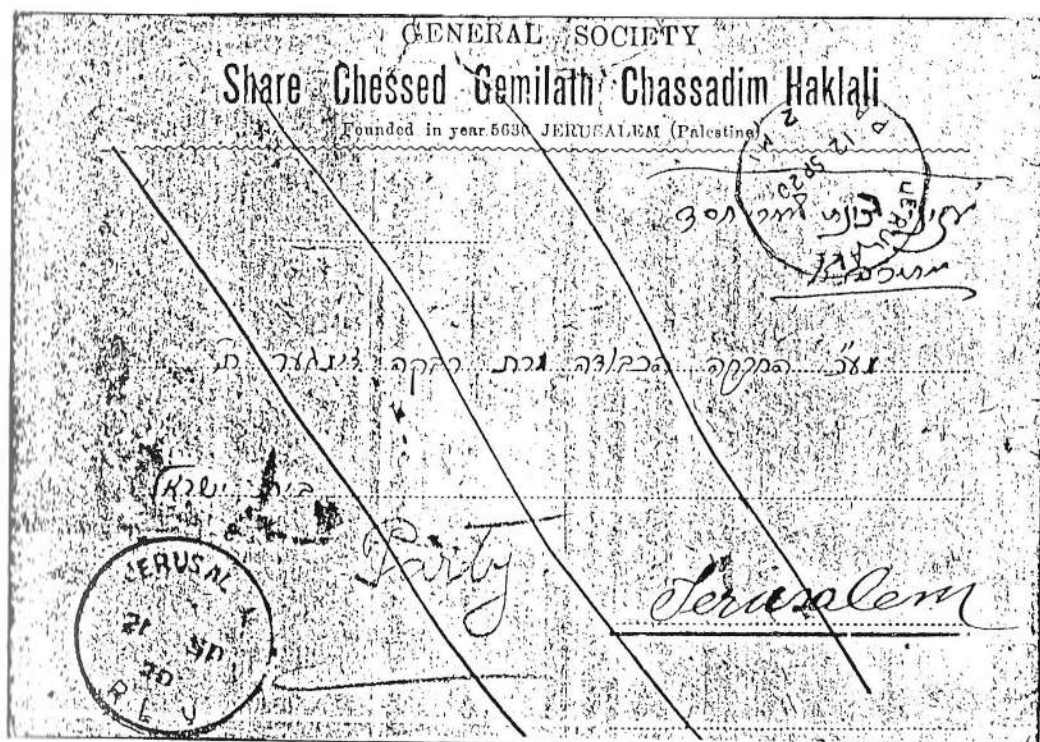


Fig. 33: "Jerusalem Paid 2 Mills, 12 Sept. 1920" on undelivered
printed matter cover.

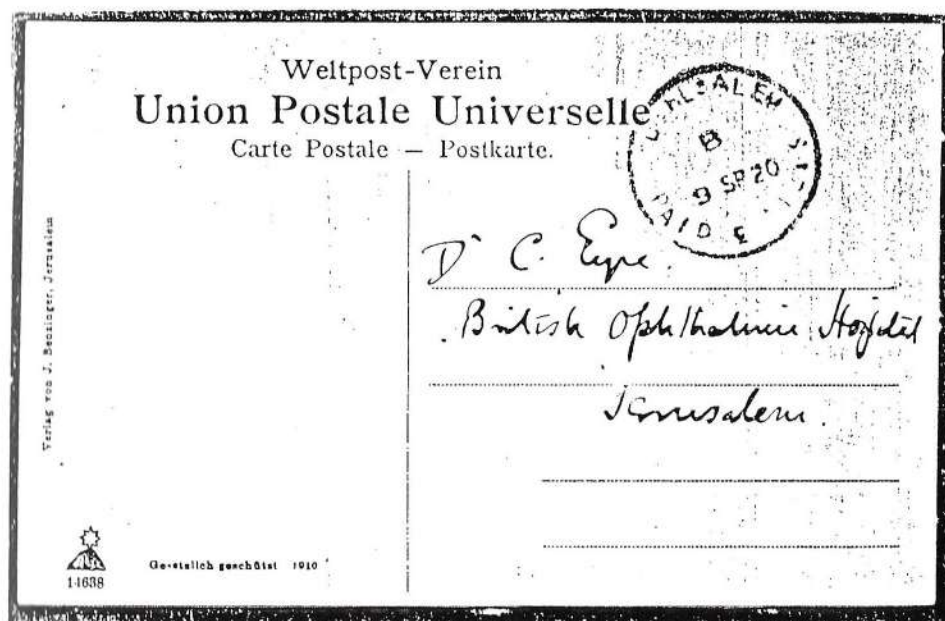


Fig. 34: "Jerusalem Paid 3 Mills, 9 Sept. 1920" ("3" inverted)
on a local postcard.

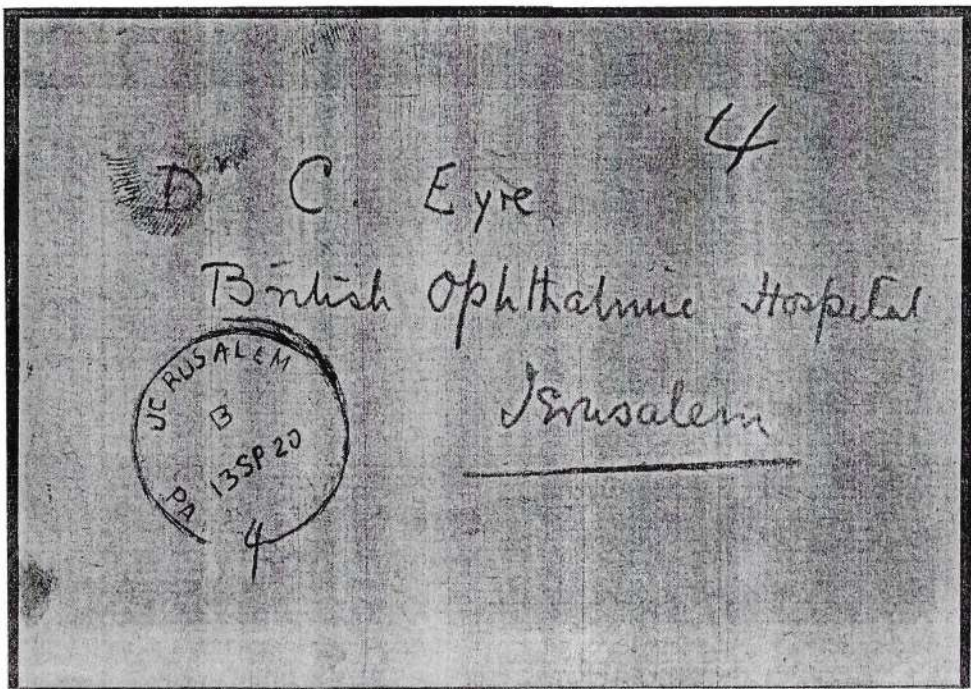


Fig. 35: The only recorded BLACK impression "Jerusalem Paid 4 Mills, 13 Sept. 1920" on a wrapper.

value space, possibly with another figure underneath. Other cases in which the rate had been corrected by manuscript are known.

The item in Fig. 30 requires special attention. This newspaper wrapper was mailed from the Mea Shearim Branch Office to a P.O.B. at the General Post Office on Sept. 19. The "Paid" handstamp is identical to the handstamp shown on Fig. 31, certainly applied at Jerusalem General Post Office on this registered cover. Had the "Paid" handstamp been transferred at some stage to Mea Shearim B.O.? Or had the postage been prepaid at Mea Shearim but the wrapper "franked" later at the G.P.O.? Another cover of the same correspondence, mailed on the same day from Mea Shearim, but franked by the handstamp designated here as type II, is known.

Haifa

The "Paid" handstamps of Haifa are a recent discovery, unmentioned in the literature. Only two items have been reported, of a diameter $28\frac{1}{2}$ mm, both accompanied by Haifa double circle "OETA removed" engraved postmarks, dated Sept. 10. The values are included in the handstamps.

(I) "Haifa Paid 4 Mills" - postcard rate. Illustrated on a postcard to Tel Aviv (Fig. 36).



Fig. 36: "Haifa Paid 4 Mills" on a postcard mailed on Sept. 10.

(II) "Haifa Paid 5 Mills" - inland letter rate. Shown on a cover to Jerusalem (Fig. 37).

Other unrecorded types of these elusive handstamps undoubtedly exist. Additional material and information is needed to continue this study.

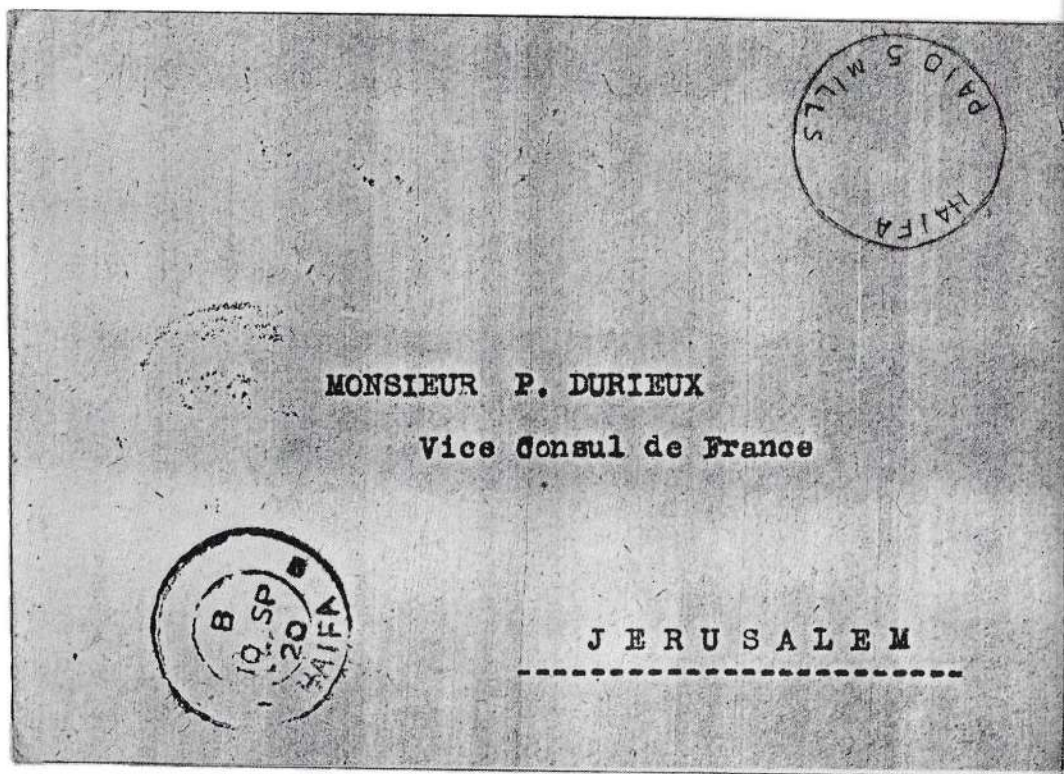


Fig. 37: "Haifa Paid 5 Mills" on a cover to Jerusalem.

The author wishes to thank Dr. Z. Shimony, J. Hackmey and E. Glassman for their cooperation.

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THE ALLIED MILITARY "AIR MAIL" TO AND FROM PALESTINE - WORLD WAR II*

Fred F. Blau, Chicago, Illinois

Since Biblical times, Palestine was always the crossroad between the Occident and the Orient. Therefore, it is not surprising that it had the largest concentration of Allied Military troops in World War II, outside of Egypt.

The civil population of about 1 million (600,000 Arabs and 400,000 Jews) was nearly equaled by the presence of Allied troops from Great Britain, Australia, Poland, South Africa, United States, Rhodesia, India, Czechoslovakia, Greece and by soldiers in the Palestine Regiment and the Jewish Brigade.

Mail was carried by air in the Holy Land from 1918, when the German Army stationed in Palestine was forced to airlift its army newspaper "Jilderim", from Damascus to Nazareth, as railway lines were blown up by the British Forces. Fig. 38 shows this paper, flown on the first day of the air service.

The first organized military airlift for transporting mail in the world took place in Palestine as well, as a general strike spread over the whole Middle East. At that time, General Allenby ordered that the fleet of three planes stationed at Gaza and called "The Palestine Brigade" was to carry military and important government mail in Egypt and in Palestine. Fig. 39 is one of the two pieces known to be flown to Palestine from Egypt.

Returning to World War II: After the build-up of the Allied troops, they were engaged in battles for the liberation of Africa at El Alamein and Tobruk, against the so-called "Africa Korps" under the command of Field Marshal Rommel. Later, after the surrender of the Korps and some rest and reorganization, the Allied troops were the first to participate in the assault of Europe, landing in Sicily and Italy, and fighting their way up to northern

*Reprinted from "The Airpost Journal", September 1987.



Fig. 38: German Army Newspaper addressed to Corporal Müller, flown on the first day of airmail service Damascus-Nazareth (German Military Headquarters in Palestine).

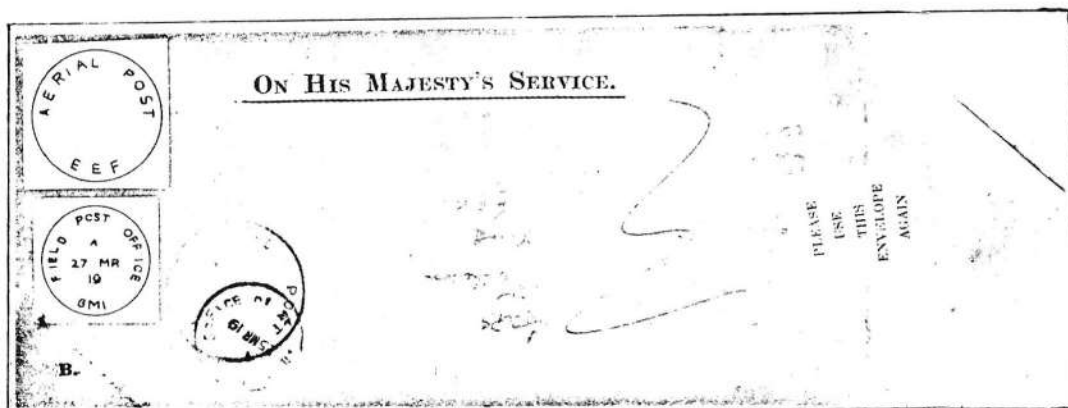


Fig. 39: Aerial Post/Egyptian Expeditionary Forces flown between Kantara and Bir es Salem (G M 1), which was the Headquarters of General Allenby at that time. The very scarce "secret" cachet is barely visible under the label. This cover is one of two pieces known, out of 14 with the circular cachet.

Europe as far as Holland. They stayed there until victory was complete and even later as the Occupation Force of liberated Europe.

The British forces were the largest, and were estimated to number between 500,000 and 600,000. There were countless army camps with the general headquarters in Jerusalem (Fig. 40). An



Fig. 40: British Field Post Office 122 was located in Jerusalem and operated from 1940 to 1942. A special Christmas air mail service was provided for the troops.

officers' staff college was in Haifa and there were huge air bases in the Negev, at Lydda and Haifa. The big Port City of Haifa was the Allied's main naval base in the Mediterranean during World War II. The Eastern Wing of the Royal Navy located its depots there. Of course, it had its own military field post offices and there were a large number of these scattered around the country, together with a naval post office at Haifa. The largest British military hospital

in the Middle East was at Tel Litwinsky which served the Allied troops of all nations.

Australian military troops were the second strongest contingent. Their number was estimated at 125,000, with their headquarters in Jerusalem. (See Fig. 41). The troops pitched their camps and



Fig. 41: Australian Base Army Post Office B.W.I. operated in Jerusalem from February to August 1940. It was later moved to Gaza (Negev) and operated there until September 1942. The cancellation device was returned to Australia.

tents mostly on the roads in the Negev at places with such colorful names as Barbara and Julie. The arrival of their first troops was in 1940 and they remained until the end of the War in 1945.

Polish troops were the third largest contingent. They moved in and out of Palestine three times. The first arrival of troops was immediately after the invasion by Hitler of their homeland. Refugees formed this unit of approximately 5,000 soldiers. Later, as more Poles escaped and went to Iran and Iraq, additional army units were formed. The troops stationed in Palestine were transported to Iran and the two forces were consolidated there.

Shortly thereafter, in August 1943, they returned to Palestine. When Stalin finally agreed that Poles could form their own army, the troops in Palestine again were brought to Iraq to reform into regiments and brigades. Their strength at that time grew to about 45,000 and they returned to Palestine in March 1944. Later they participated in the liberation of Europe, and were among the first assault troops in Italy. They fought at the historic battle of Monte Cassino and sustained heavy casualties there. (See Fig. 42).

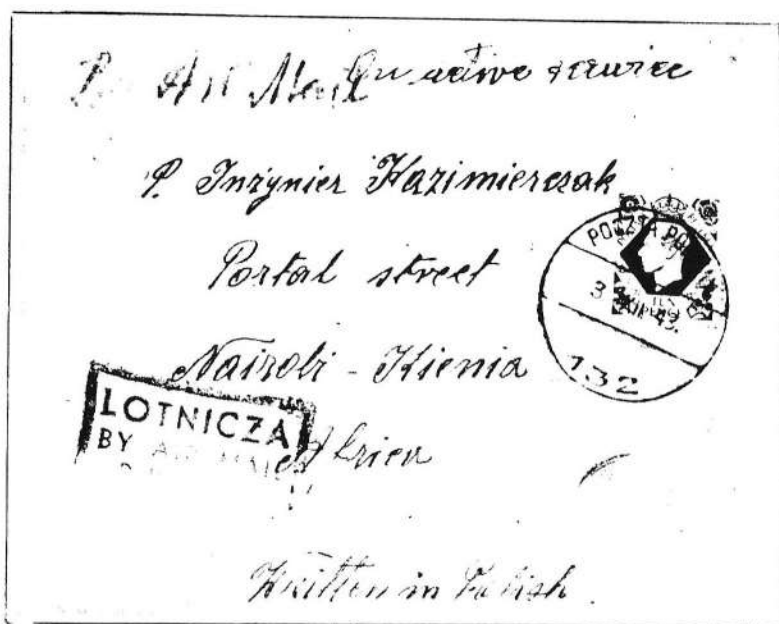


Fig. 42: Polish Field Post Office 132 operated at Beit Jirja (Negev), from October 6, 1943 to December 16, 1943, a period of two months. Only three skeleton postmarks are known.

Other nations had smaller contingents with the exception of Jews who joined the ranks of the British Forces. When the first appeal for help in the liberation of Africa was made by the British Home office for voluntary services in the British Army, 12,000 Jews and 500 Arabs joined their ranks and they formed the

Palestine Regiment. They functioned as mechanics, truck drivers, and served in military transport, aviation, anti-aircraft gun crews and as road builders in Africa. As the scope of the war widened, Sir Winston Churchill finally agreed to the formation of Jewish units called the Jewish Brigade. The Brigade was still a unit of the British forces, but it was organized under its own officers and had a unique blue and white badge on their uniforms. Some 40,000 men and women joined the Allied Forces, nearly 10 percent of the population. This was the highest percentage of any of the United Nations. They participated in the liberation of Africa and were among the first to land in Italy. Later they fought their way

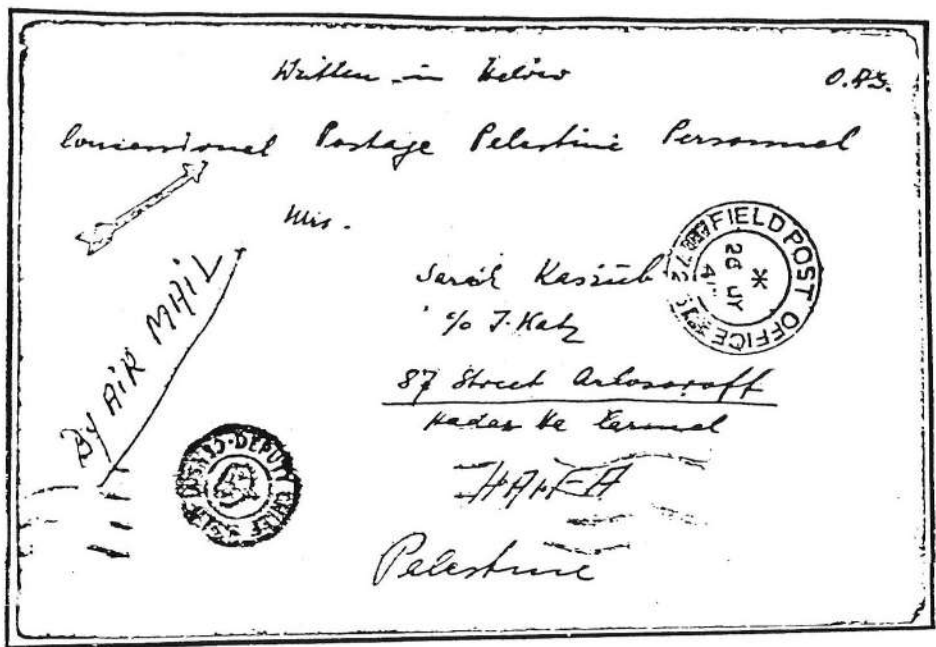


Fig. 43: British Field Post Offices postmarks were used by the Palestine Regiment and the Jewish Brigade. F.P.O. 725 was situated in Northern Italy. Both Jewish units were exempt from additional postage for air mail conveyance (Concessional Postage Palestine Personnel).

into northern Europe. They remained after the war as part of the occupation force in Germany and liberated some of the concentration camps with the US Forces in Germany, Poland and Austria. Mail from soldiers of the Jewish Brigade and as well from the Palestine Regiment is known from Italy, Germany, France, Holland and Belgium (see Fig. 43).

American troops consisted mostly of air force personnel, including pilots, navigators and mechanics. They trained Allied troops in the use of American aircraft. It was a small contingent and mail was scarce. Five army post offices are known, with APO 681 and 685 practically non-functioning (see Fig. 44).

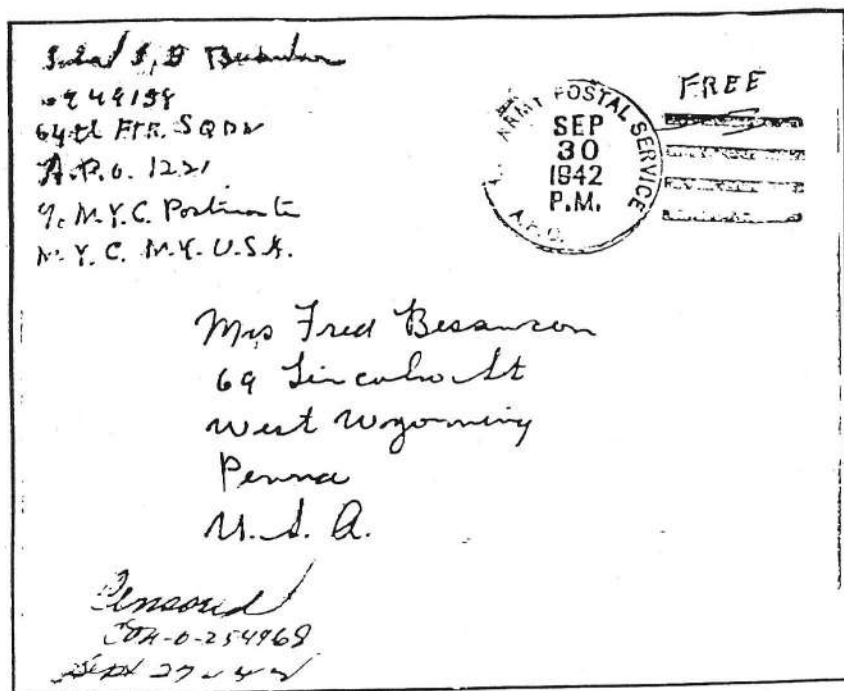


Fig. 44: United States Postal Service, A.P.O. 1221, was located at Muqueibila, near Lydda, Palestine. They used a small airfield built by the Germans in World War I. The postmark was used from July 6 to July 29 and from August 6 to the end of September. This piece of mail is "unique", no other such covers are known so far.

India had the smallest contingent of officers and troops, who were mostly stationed for a short time in Hadera. Officers took their military training in the nearby staff college in Haifa.

At various times there were small military forces of Czechoslovakia, South Africa, Rhodesia and Greece in Palestine. Needless to say, all of these had their own postal facilities. Some of their mail is scarce and seldom seen. After the conclusion of the war, these troops remained in Palestine for some time until transportation could be found for return to their homelands. The troops which stayed longest were from Poland. Poland was occupied by

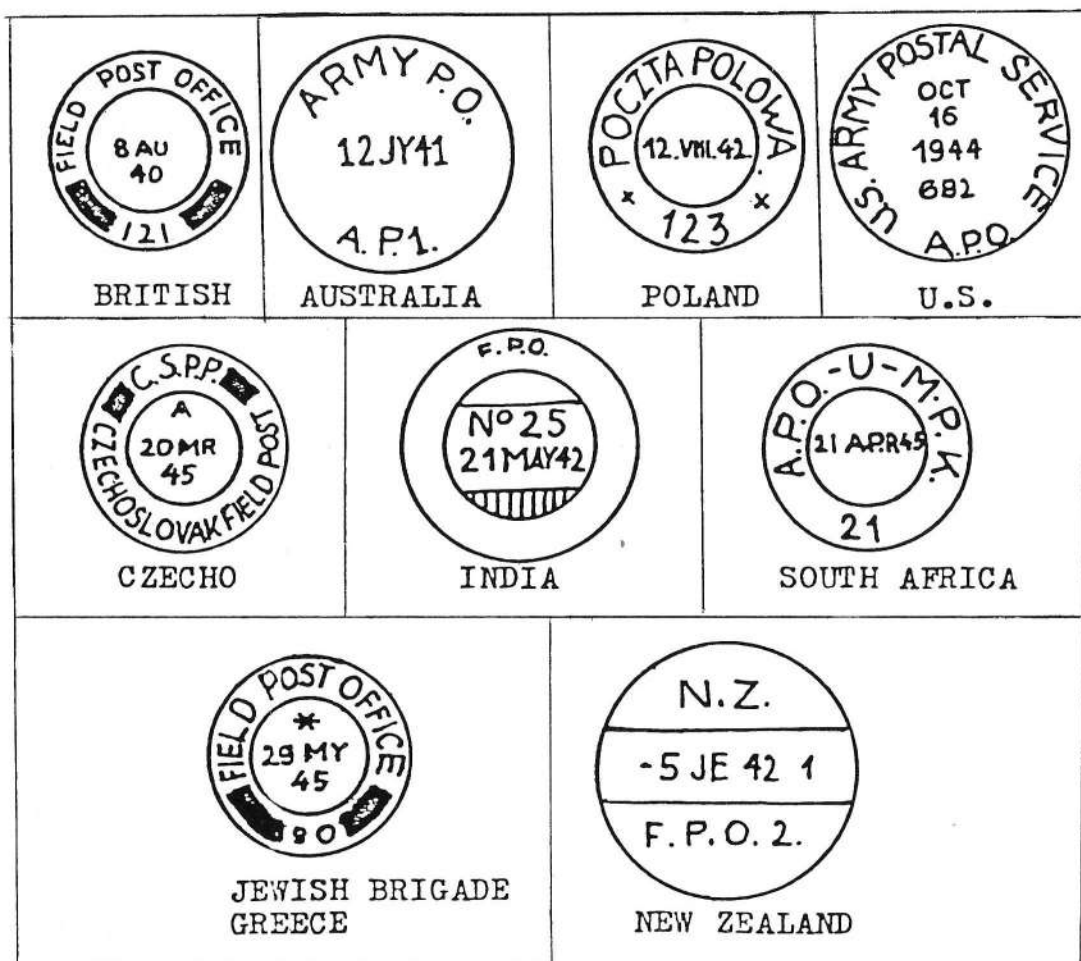


Fig. 45: Types of postmarks used by the various Allied Military Forces.

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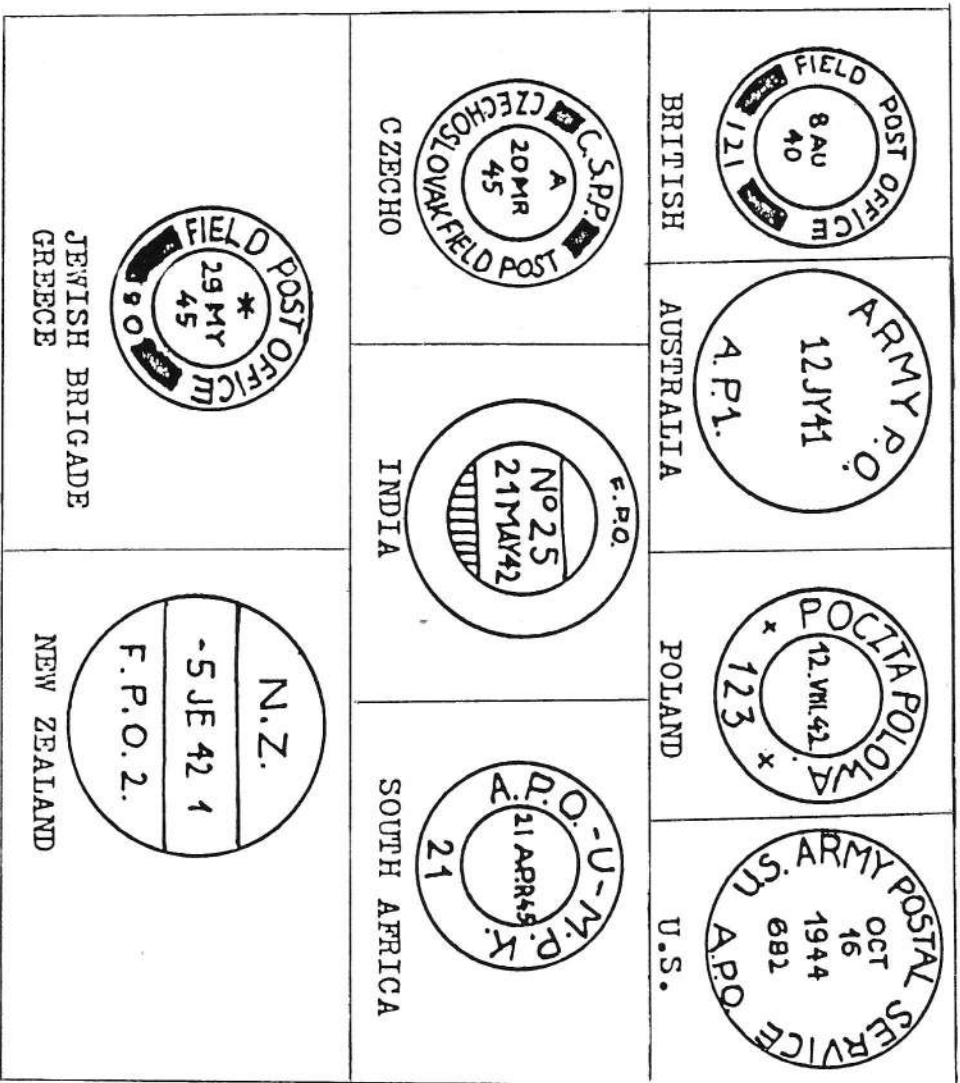



Fig. 45: Types of postmarks used by the various Allied Military Forces.

Russia and they could not return. Their headquarters were established in Jerusalem and from there their units enjoyed their own postal facilities, which served Polish units in Egypt and Lebanon as well. We find their postmarks on letters and cards in 1948 and 1949, long after the State of Israel was created.

Postmarks from military post offices of the participating countries are shown in Figure 45.



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THE FORWARDING ADDRESSES OF BESIEGED JERUSALEM

Y. Rimon, Haifa

The practice of using forwarding addresses and mail agents in areas where mail delivery was intermittent and unreliable is well documented in Postal History in general and in the Holy Land in particular. One of the most outstanding examples which comes to mind is that of Moses Yedid Halevi, a merchant in Beirut, who served as a forwarding agent for mail coming from Europe for the Jewish communities in Safed and Tiberias around 1880.¹ More recently we find this practice in the distant Negev settlements having postal boxes in Gaza and Tel Aviv at the end of the Mandate period and during the siege of the Negev.² These were used for forwarding mail in both directions.

However, very little attention has been paid by postal historians to the existence of this practice also during the Jerusalem siege. A few mail items indicating that some of the Jerusalem siege mail was delivered through forwarding addresses has surfaced recently and from them we deduce the existence of at least two such addresses in which mail accumulated before delivery to and from Jerusalem.

The first item is a letter from the collection of the author, addressed to a settler in Yokneam, which was delivered by the Army Post sometime between the 22nd and 27th of May 1948 as proved by the dateless A.P.O. 3 cancellation (See Fig. 46). The sender's address translates as follows: "SAAD, the Yishuv committee, Hadar House, Petah-Tiqva Road, T.A. for S. Maybom, Science Corps Permanent Camp No. 1."

In May 48 Dr. Maybom was a scientist in the fledgling Science Corps which evolved from a group of scientists working clandestinely in arms development for the Haganah. Their permanent camp No. 1 was located in the Schneller Orphanage buildings in the northern

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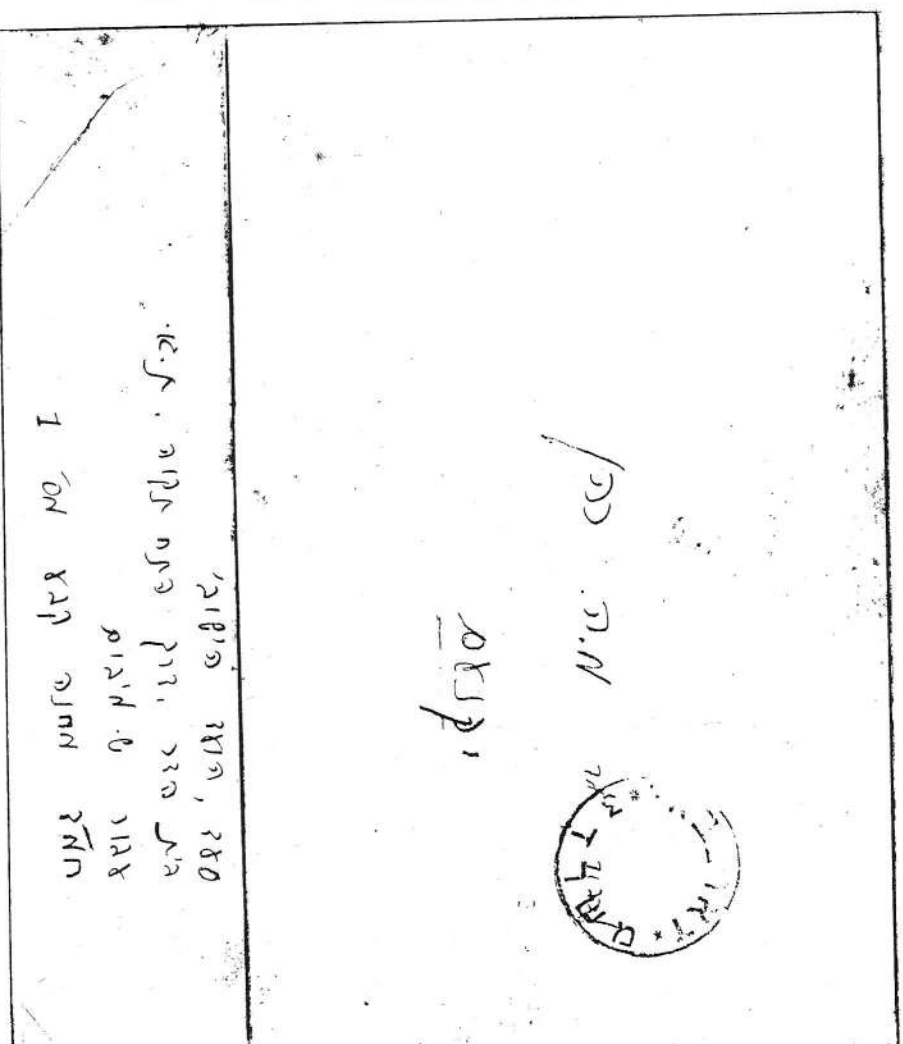


Fig. 46: Cover from a scientist of the Science Corps, flown from Jerusalem between 22-27, May 1948. Forwarding return address "SAAD, Beit Hadar, Tel Aviv".

part of Jerusalem. These facts are certified by a prominent colleague of Dr. Maybom, the former President of Israel Prof. Ephraim Katzir, who was also a scientist in the Science Corps. Thus, the origin of the letter in Jerusalem is established and it was certainly flown to Tel Aviv by the Army Post and cancelled there.

The word "SAAD", appearing in the address, means Support, and the Yishuv Committee was a civilian organization which took care

of the soldiers' needs and their support. One of the essential needs was mail connections during the war, thus the Committee organized the collection of soldiers' mail using its Hadar House address in Tel Aviv in order to deliver it to and from Jerusalem whenever the opportunity arose. By giving the address of the Committee as a return address the sender hoped that he would be able to get a reply to his letter, which was otherwise impossible.

Three more letters with the same return address are known to the author and they prove that we are dealing with an established forwarding service, which operated for a long period during the siege. The second letter, also in the author's collection (ex. Stein), was sent by a soldier in the 4th Company of the Moriyah Battalion of the Jerusalem Brigade (see Fig. 47) to Dr. Samuel Levi his relative in Tel Aviv. The arrival cancellation in Tel Aviv is that of Basis Aleph on June 1, 1948, and the cover is a reused German Consulate of Jaffa envelope. The return address states specifically that the Committee is for the support of soldiers and reads: "From: Zeev Levi, Moriyah 4th Company Jerusalem, SAAD, the Yishuv Committee for the enlisted, in Hadar House, T.A."

The third letter, shown in Fig. 48, (courtesy E. Leib and ex. Stein), is the only letter known to me sent stampless via a courier or an agent inside Israel and so taxed with Postage Due stamps of 10 mils only, i.e. a single inland rate. This means that the lack of a stamp on the cover from Jerusalem was accepted as legitimate and the receiver had to pay only the regular rate and not the double rate of a taxed stampless letter. The sender Zeev Levi is the same as of the previous letter and again he gives "SAAD, The Yishuv Committee for the enlisted, Hadar House" as his return address. Only the addressee is different in this case.

of the soldiers' needs and their support. One of the essential needs was mail connections during the war, thus the Committee organized the collection of soldiers' mail using its Hadar House address in Tel Aviv in order to deliver it to and from Jerusalem whenever the opportunity arose. By giving the address of the Committee as a return address the sender hoped that he would be able to get a reply to his letter, which was otherwise impossible.

Three more letters with the same return address are known to the author and they prove that we are dealing with an established forwarding service, which operated for a long period during the siege. The second letter, also in the author's collection (ex. Stein), was sent by a soldier in the 4th Company of the Moryah Battalion of the Jerusalem Brigade (see Fig. 47) to Dr. Samuel Levi his relative in Tel Aviv. The arrival cancellation in Tel Aviv is that of Basis Aleph on June 1, 1948, and the cover is a reused German Consulate of Jaffa envelope. The return address states specifically that the Committee is for the support of soldiers and reads: "From: Zeev Levi, Moryah 4th Company Jerusalem, SAAD, the Yishuv Committee for the enlisted, in Hadar House, T.A."

The third letter, shown in Fig. 48, (courtesy E. Leib and ex. Stein), is the only letter known to me sent stampless via a courier or an agent inside Israel and so taxed with postage Due stamps of 10 mils only, i.e. a single inland rate. This means that the lack of a stamp on the cover from Jerusalem was accepted as legitimate and the receiver had to pay only the regular rate and not the double rate of a taxed stampless letter. The sender Zeev Levi is the same as of the previous letter and again he gives "SAAD, The Yishuv Committee for the enlisted, Hadar House" as his return address. Only the addressee is different in this case.

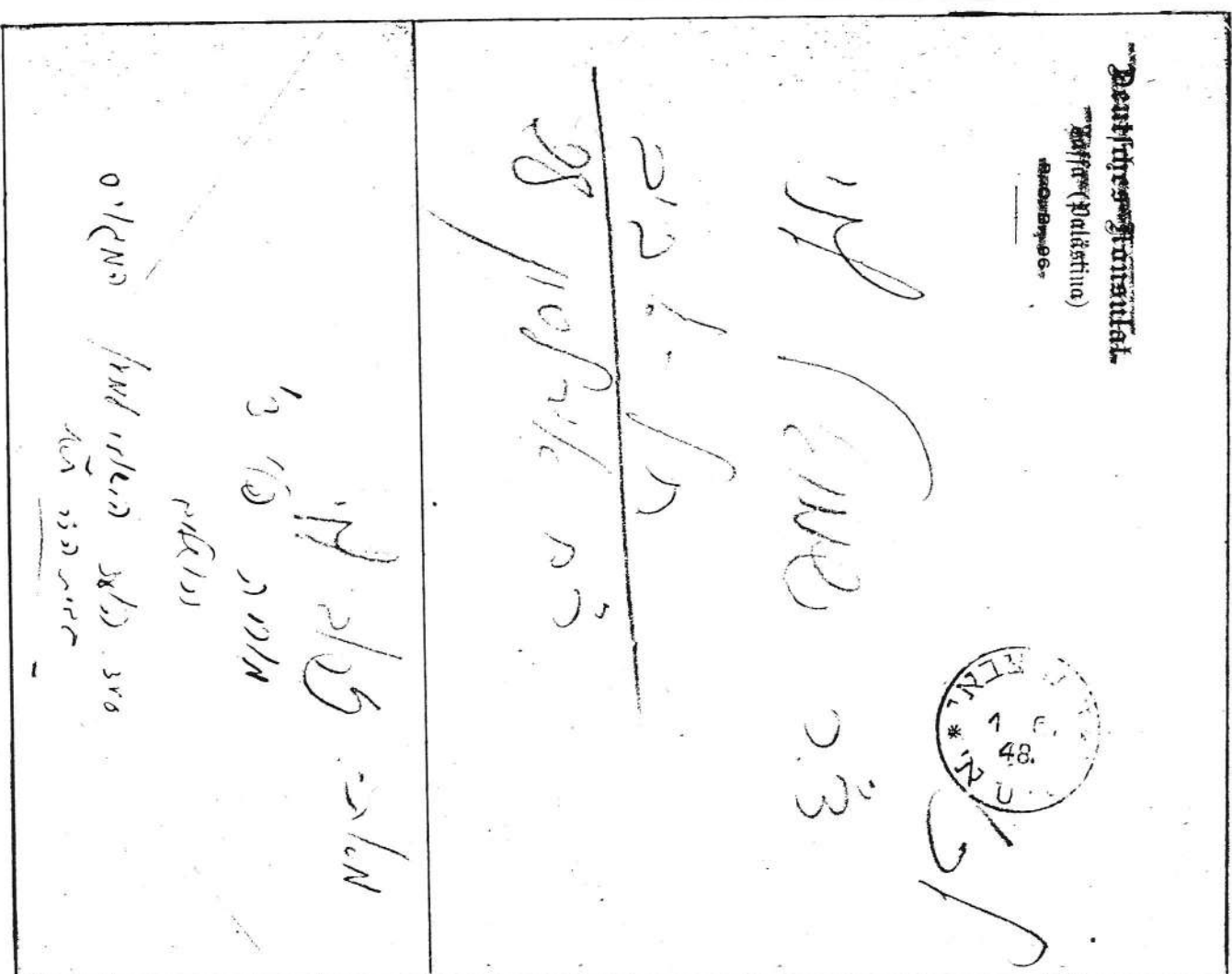


Fig. 47: Cover from a Jerusalem Brigade soldier, flown to Tel Aviv on 1 June, 1948. Forwarding return address "SAAD Beit Hadar, Tel Aviv".

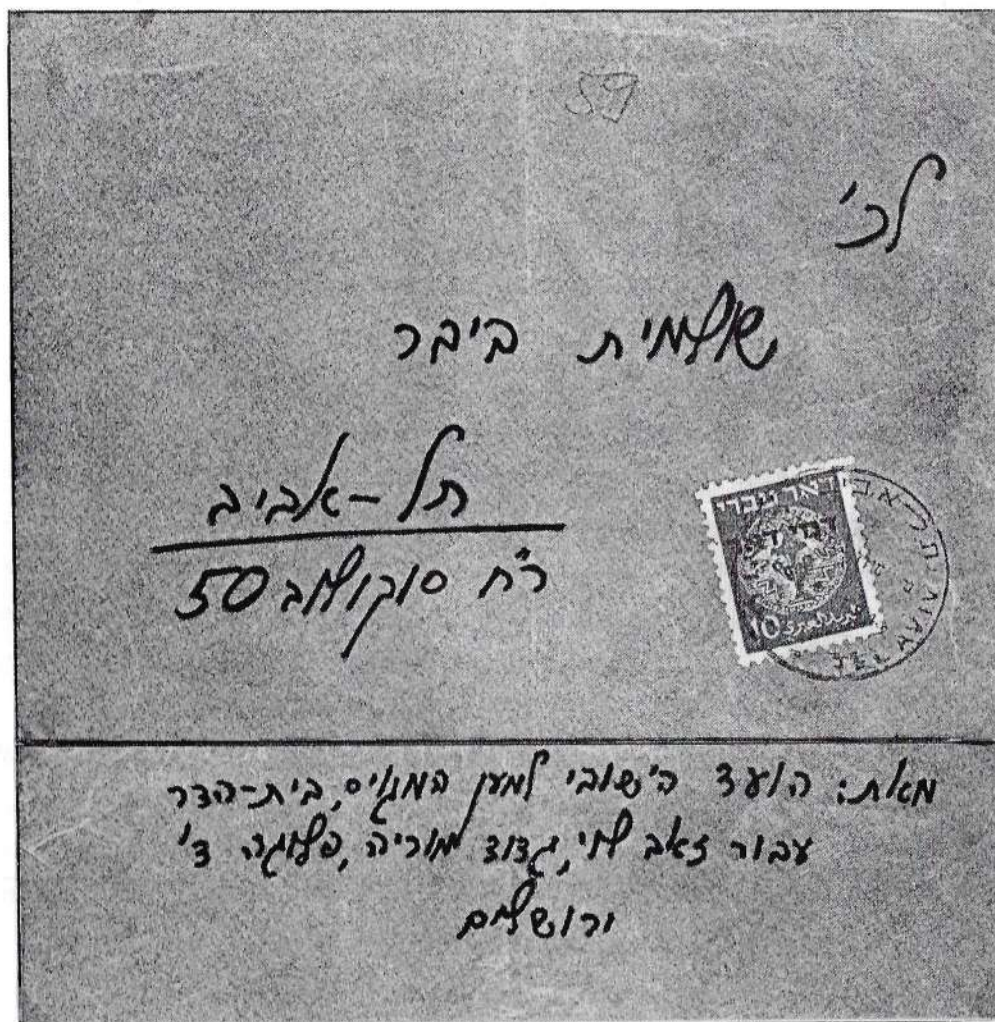


Fig. 48: Cover from a soldier of the 4th Company (Moriah Battalion, Jerusalem Brigade). Taxed upon arrival in Tel Aviv by a single rate Doar Ivri Postage Due 10 Pr. stamp on 16 June, 1948.

A second forwarding address, which was an intermediary link in the mail delivery to and from besieged Jerusalem and its surrounding Jewish settlements, is the Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv. It is not clear who was responsible for its establishment and operation but from the two letters which indicate its existence, it seems that it served Palmach soldiers stationed in

Qiryat Anavim and Ma'aleh Hachamisha near Jerusalem. These settlements were also under siege.

The first letter (ex. Stein) of this forwarding address is from a Palmach soldier of Gdud Haporzim (Stormers Battalion), stationed in Qiryat Anavim, to Tel Aviv (See Fig. 49). It was



Fig. 49: Cover from a Palmach soldier in Qiryat Anavim, flown to Tel Aviv on 16 May 1948. Forwarding return address of the Central Bus Station in Tel Aviv.

cancelled in Tel Aviv by an Israeli postmark on 16 May 1948, which means that the letter was flown to Tel Aviv from Jerusalem. Despite the lack of an overprint "DOAR" on the J.N.F. label,

which makes it an invalid stamp, the letter was not taxed, either because the missing overprint was not noticed, or because the origin of the letter was accepted as justifying this franking. On the front appears the forwarding address crossed out, probably to avoid confusing the mailman. It reads: "Jacob Schechter, T.A., The Central Station 2nd floor, Room No. 5". On the back is the sender's instruction: "In the address of the Central Station please stress that the letter is for Ariyeh Katz, Gdud Haporzim, Qiryat Anavim." This means that the sender expected a reply via this forwarding address.

The second mail item (courtesy I. Karpovski) is the only one known in the direction to Jerusalem (See Fig. 50). It was mailed

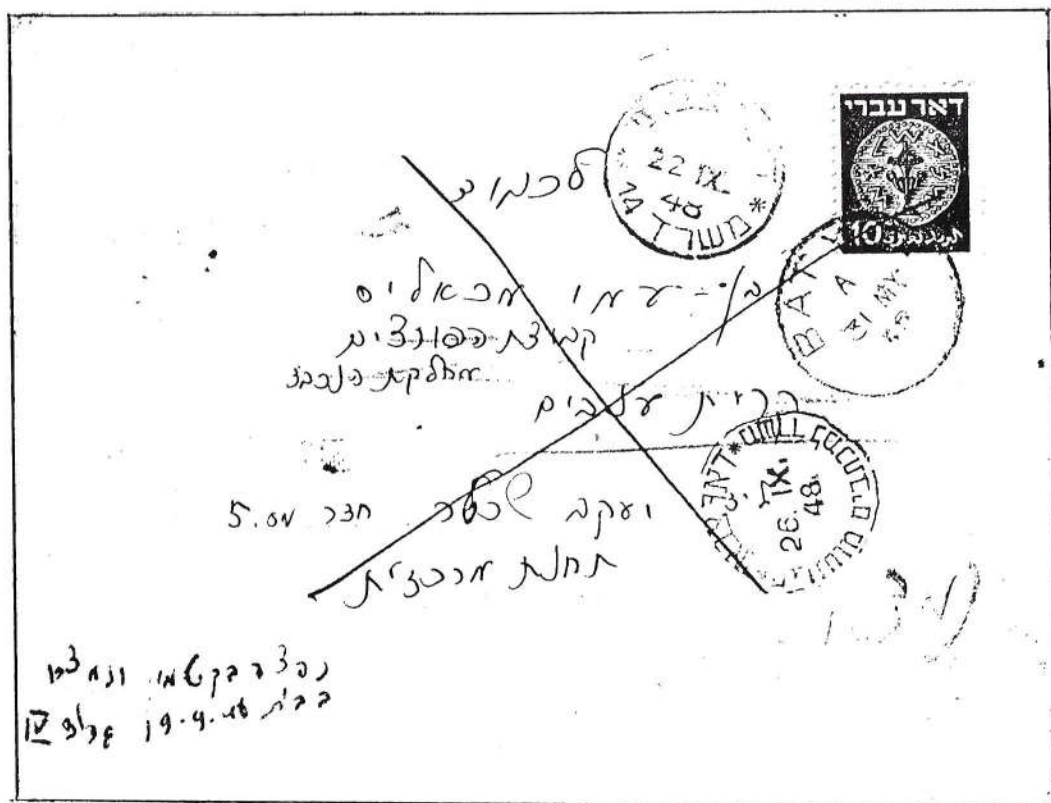


Fig. 50: Cover to a Palmach soldier, mailed on 31 May 1948 through the Central Bus Station forwarding address.

by a civilian in Bat Yam on 31 May 1948, with the addressee also being a Palmach soldier stationed in Qiryat Anavim. The address reads: "Ben-Ami Michaelis, Haporzim Group, 'Hanichbad Platoon' (the name of the heavy weapons platoon of the Stormers Battalion), Qiryat Anavim, Jacob Schechter, Room No. 5, Central Station." The address points out clearly that the letter was meant to be sent through the forwarding address and not directly. It is not clear when it reached its destination. The first dated notice on it is from 19 Sept. 1948 and reads: "Wounded in Katamon and is at home/4th Battalion." The letter was returned to A.P.O. 14 of Tel Litwinski, headquarters of the Harel Brigade, on 22 Sept. 1948, with a pencil written notice: "He is at home." Finally it was transported to the Returned Letters Office of the Army Post where it was cancelled on 26 Sept. 1948.

From all the examples described above we can conclude that the two forwarding addresses in Tel Aviv were active in the delivery of mail to and from Jerusalem during the siege. Therefore we must add them to the other well known channels of mail delivery like the Army Post, Menorah Club, Convoys, and Couriers. This makes the mail delivery during this period even more elaborate and fascinating, from the postal history aspect, than we believed previously.

References:

- (1) A. Stempler, *The Israel Philatelist* (1974), p. 794 and "A Jewish private service between Beirut, Safed and Tiberias in the 19th century", *HLPH Vol. I*, #3 p.84.
- (2) Y. Tsachor and S. Rothman, "More about 1948 army postal services from besieged units and settlements", *HLPH Vol. II*, #31, p. 555.

THE CONCEIVING AND BIRTH OF A STAMP - THE BASILICA OF THE ANNUNCIATION

Zvi Shimony, Jerusalem

Through the courtesy of the artist, Mr. Asaf Berg, and of the Philatelic Services, we can show here the stages of the conception and birth of a stamp.

The stamp, which portrays the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, is one of a series (issued during 1986/7), honouring the Minorities' faiths in Israel. It honours Christianity, for which Nazareth is a Holy City. The Philatelic Services' pamphlet (No. 355), issued together with the stamp, gives the background to the stamp as follows:

"The Basilica of the Annunciation, Nazareth

Nazareth, an old city in the heart of Lower Galilee, has many tourist attractions and many points of interest for pilgrims. Its name is not mentioned in the Old Testament but appears several times in the New Testament and in non-Christian sources from the third and fourth centuries. For hundreds of millions of Christians, Nazareth is the cradle of the origin of their faith as according to the Christian religion, it was here that Mary was annunciated on the birth of her son and it was here that he spent his formative years.

The town has gone through many historical phases; more than once it has been conquered, destroyed and rebuilt. During recent years Nazareth has developed and become the centre of Galilee where many tourists and pilgrims come to see the holy sites of Christianity and other religions such as the Grotto of the Annunciation and the Catholic Basilica of the Annunciation, Mary's Well, St. Joseph's Church, Greek Orthodox Churches and also smaller churches, monasteries, seminaries and mosques of which the most important are the White Mosque and the Mosque of Peace. Nazareth is also a good base for visitors to the holy and historical sites which are in the vicinity, like Zippori and Kfar-Kanna, Mount Tabor and sites around the Sea of Galilee.

The Basilica of the Annunciation -- the Franciscan Basilica, which is shown on the stamp, is located in the centre of Nazareth and impresses one with its architectural beauty. Its rebuilding was initiated by the Franciscan Fathers of the custody of the Holy Land during the 1960s, above the Grotto of the Annunciation and on the remains of old churches that had been built above the cave during different historical periods. Pope Paul VI visited the Church during his visit to Nazareth in 1964. The Church was planned by the Italian architect Giovanni Muzio and built by the "Solel Boneh" Company. The Basilica is made up of two parts -- the lower part which includes the Annunciation Grotto and different old remains, and the upper part which is crowned with a dome which resembles an inverted rose, the roots of which reach up to 60 m. Inside the Church there is a large mosaic depicting the Madonna, the Mother of the Church, which can be seen above the main altar. The inside walls of the Church are adorned by several mosaics -- gifts from different countries round the world.

Antoine Shaheen, Nazareth"

The idea of the stamp was proposed by the (then) Minister of Communications Prof. A. Rubinstein and approved by the Ministerial Committee for Ceremonies and Emblems. The design was ordered from Mr. A. Berg, a well-known Israeli stamp designer, as he was the artist who designed the previously issued stamps honouring the Druse and Muslim religions. It was desired that the whole series should have the same general characteristics.

It should be noted that there exists another "Annunciation" church in Nazareth, but the Franciscan one was chosen for the stamp as it is more well-known and is a famous tourist and Christian symbol in the world.

We can follow the birth of the stamp through a series of progressive artist sketches. The first, shown in Fig. 51, is a rough sketch in black pencil with some colour shadings (in carmine, which

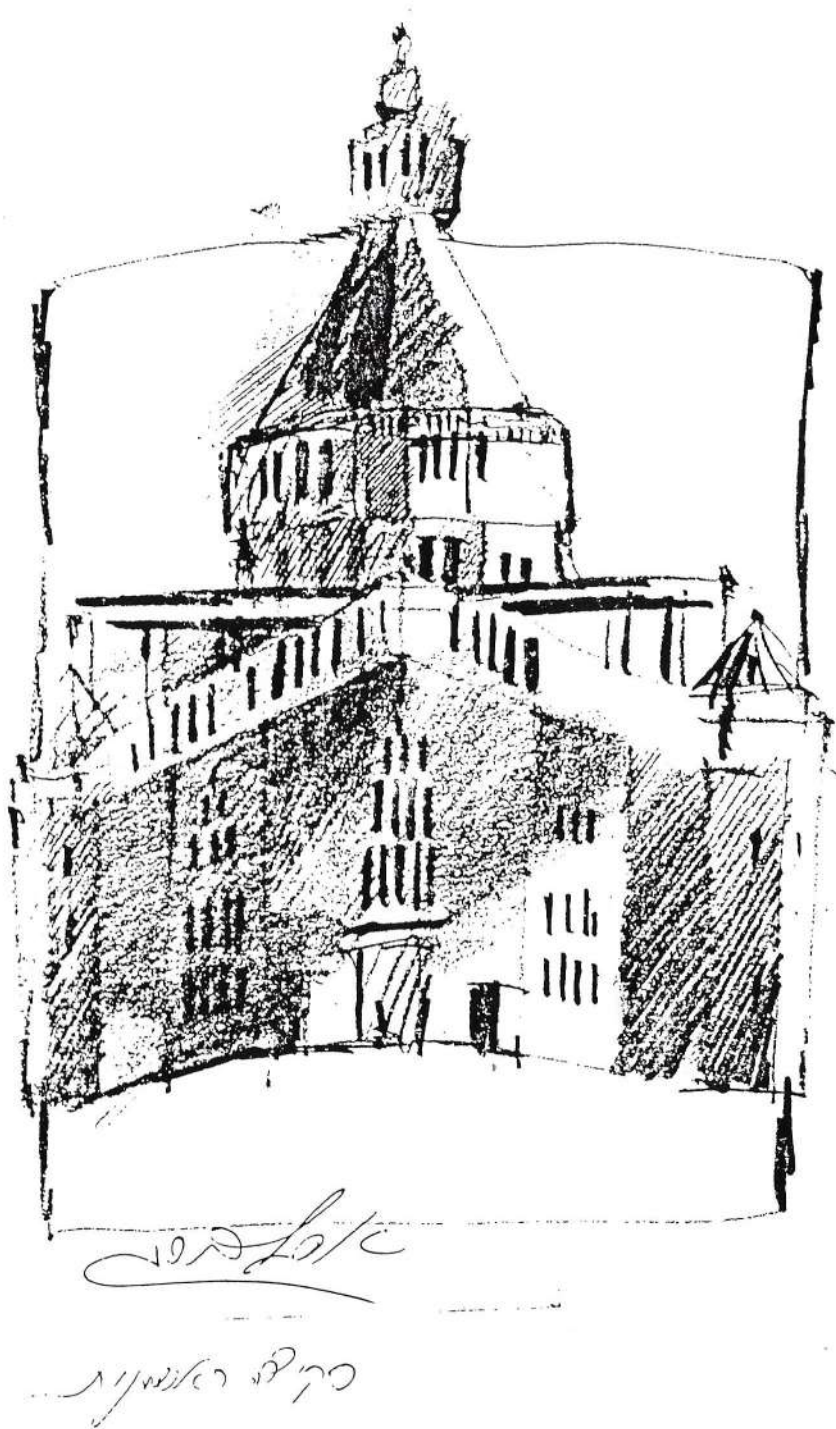


Fig. 51: A first general artist impression of the Nazareth Basilica of the Annunciation.

colour however does not show at all in the final stamp).

The second, shown in Fig. 52, is a far more detailed drawing, described by the artist as "a drawing for the execution of the stamp". It includes the full details of the church and is built of several patches of superimposed pieces of paper (which can hardly be seen in the illustration), showing us a little of the technique used by the artist.

The back-cover illustration, which is already in a form of a stamp, is a reduced photo of Fig. 52, taken on a transparent film

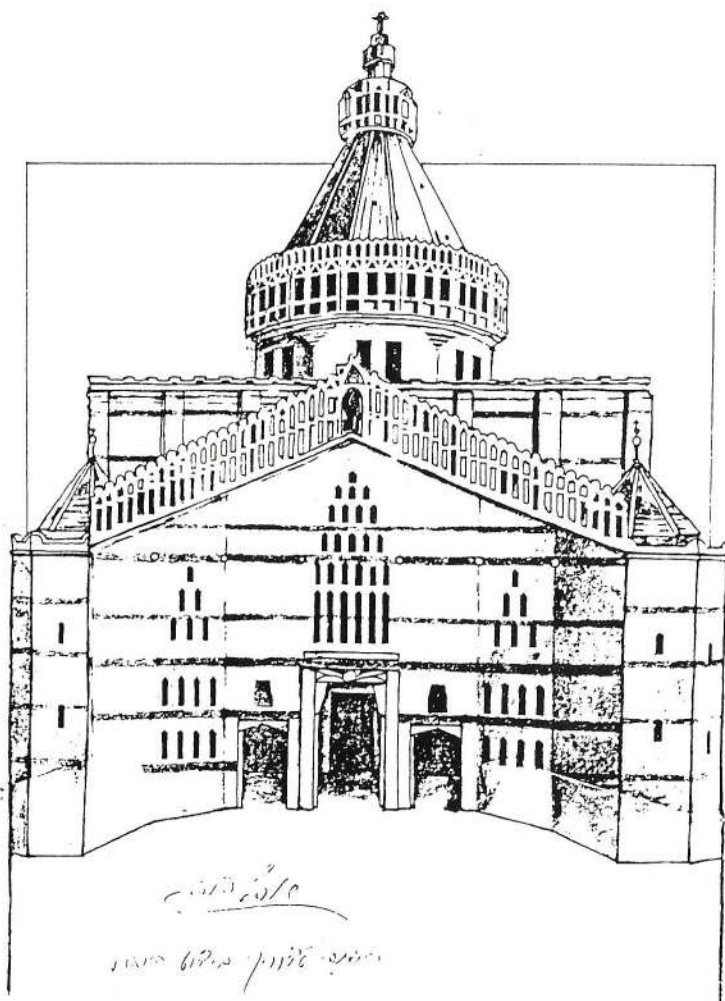


Fig. 52: The artist "drawing for the execution of the stamp" of the Basilica.

and showing its position on the proposed stamp. It shows parts of a wall and the gate in front of the Basilica, which do not appear in the original or final design. But in fact these details were included in the original and had been removed when it was decided not to include them in the stamp. The transparency shown in Fig. 53 is a reduced photo of the 'cleaned' original drawing in its final state and served as the basic design for the preparation of the stamp itself.

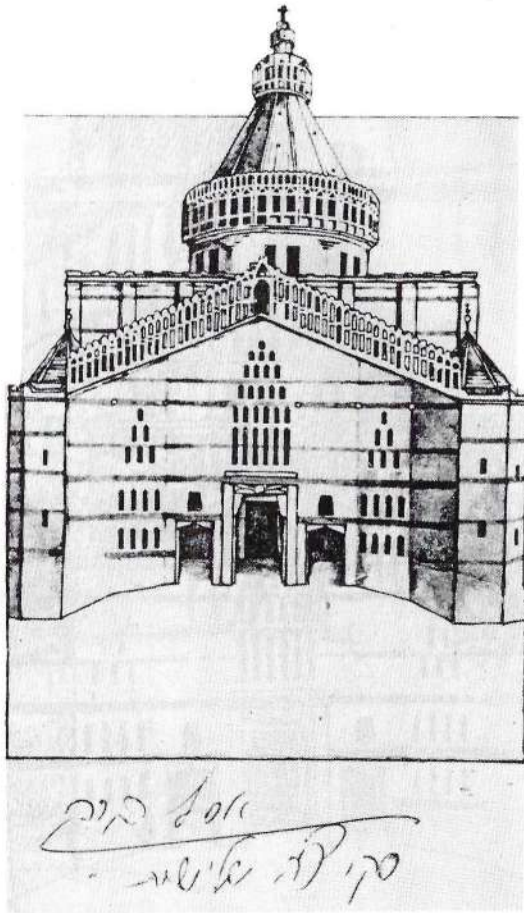


Fig. 53: A transparency of the third sketch of the Basilica, in the completed form for the stamp.

The removal of the front wall and gate was made for two reasons: the picture looked too congested and the wall obscured the grandeur of the facade of the Basilica. Secondly, this space was needed for the inscription

As the stamp was printed in multicoloured photolithography, a "separation of colours" had to be carried out before the final printing: four different plates were prepared for the four colours, including black. These are shown in Figure 54 (a) to (d) and were

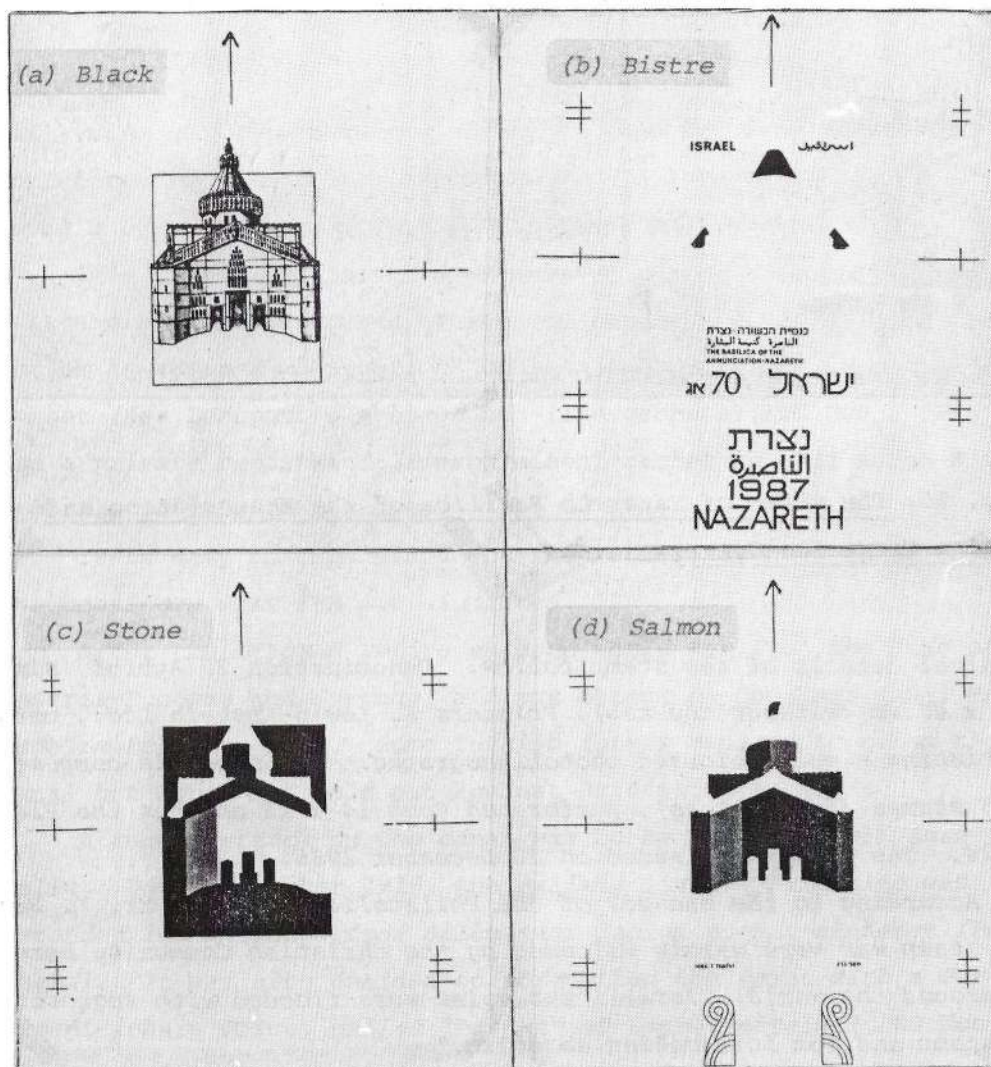


Fig. 54: The "colour separation" plates of the stamp, which are printed in the following colours: (a) black, (b) bistre, (c) stone, (d) salmon.

printed in black, bistre, stone and salmon respectively.

The stamp and its First Day Cover are shown in Figure 55. Some



Fig. 55: The stamp of Nazareth Basilica of the Annunciation and its First Day Cover.

technical details of the stamp follow: Denomination 70 Agorot, size 25.7 x 40 mm (without the tab), Printers E. Lewin-Epstein Ltd., method of printing - multicoloured photolithography. The sheet is composed of 15 stamps (5 with tabs), perforated Comb 14 x 13 and has the Plate No. 24. The stamp was issued on 18 December 1986.

According to the Manager of the Philatelic Services, Mr. Y. Beilin "the stamp was very warmly welcomed by the Christian Community here and all around the world. Israeli Embassies were flooded with requests for the stamp and for information about it."

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

MAILS OF THE GERMAN FLIGHT DETEACHMENT IN TURKEY, 1916-18*

(Behcet Ciragan, Zurich)

An extensive collection of German World War I military air mails sold at an auction in Germany on June 29, 1985 included an interesting fake which already once had been mentioned in an article by the late doyen of German field post Werner Ahrens.¹

This piece is a letter to Frankfurt posted from the German Military Mission in Smyrna, Turkey on December 9, 1916. The letter is adorned with various cachets: A propeller, a single-line cachet (Per Luftpost), a boxed two-line cachets: (FFA 300 / "PASCHA") and a private registered (Einschreiben) cachet as well as an E in a circle to make it complete.

It is easy to understand why the letter has been faked when one considers what FFA 300 signifies.

After the Ottoman Empire entered World War I on the side of Austria-Hungary and Germany, a first attack on the Suez Canal was made in February 1915. Some Turkish forces managed to cross the canal but could not hold out against British defences.

A second attack on the canal was to be prepared more carefully. Until November 1915, the railway line in Palestine was extended 165 km south from Sileh near Nablus to Bir-el-Sebee (Beer-sheba). It was also decided to strengthen the front with a German Expeditionary Force, called "Pascha" of approximately 1,200 mostly

 *Reprinted from "The Airpost Journal", January 1987.

technical troops. The vanguard of this Force was a flight detachment, the Feld-Flieger-Abteilung 300 (FFA 300). The detachment was established January/February 1916 in Doberitz west of Berlin and was sent by rail to Turkey at the end of February. Major stations of the transport were Istanbul (March 6) and Aleppo (March 26). Beersheba was attained on April 1. Operations started immediately with one Fokker E, two Pfalz E and six Rumpler C. On from mid-April a second airfield at El Arish on the Sinai was put into use. The field at El Arish was given up on September 30, and the main base moved from Beersheba to Ramle on December 28 due to the advance of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force.

During 1917 the main base remained at Ramle, while two additional fields were kept at Beersheba and Huj between Gaza and Beersheba. All three were lost to the E.E.F. during the three Gaza battles, Beersheba on October 31, 1917, Huj on November 1 and Ramle on November 15.

In 1918 main quarters of the FFA 300 was at Samah on the south end of Lake Tiberias. Following the final attack of Allenby on September 18/19, 1918, Samah was lost on September 25 and the detachment ceased to exist.

It is now evident that the FFA 300 was nowhere near Smyrna during its existence and that the cachet must be a fake.

Three different troop identification cachets are found on true mail of the detachment:

(a) a circular bilingual German/Turkish cachet reading *Deutsche Feld-Flieger Abt. 300* / ★"Pasha"★, diameter 40mm, usually violet or blue, seen from May 11, 1916 on mail with German Military Mission date stamps 1. Expeditionskorps, Bir-es-Seba, A.O.K.4, Jerusalem and Damaskus.

(b) a circular cachet reading *KGL. PREUSSISCHE FIELD-FLIEGER-ABTEILUNG* ★ around a Prussian eagle, diameter 30mm, usually violet, found July 8, 1916 to August 27, 1918 on mail with German Military

Mission date stamps A.O.K.4 and Jerusalem or F.P.O. date stamps of Deutsche Feldpost 372 resp. 663. This cachet is often found with a handwritten 300 on the star. (See Fig. 56).

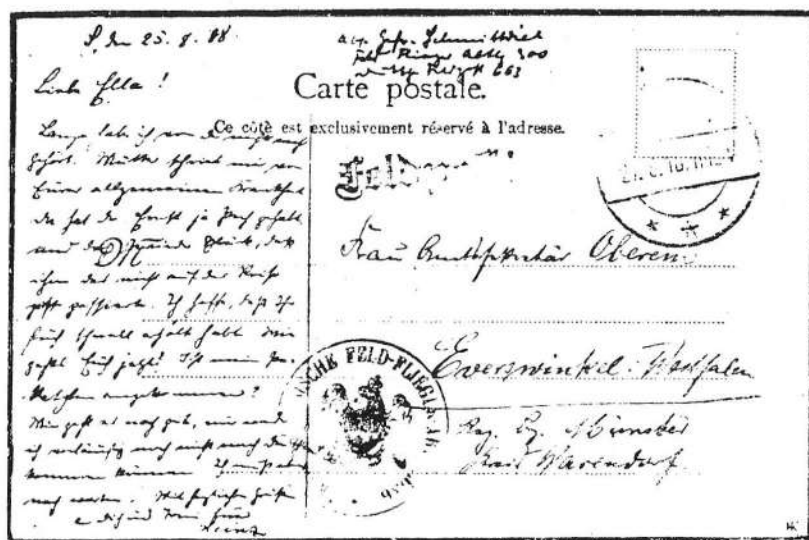


Fig. 56: Card from Samah with cachet type b of the FFA 300 and datestamp of the F.P.O. DF 372.

(c) a rare 4-line violet cachet reading Feldfl. Abt. 300 Pascha / Militärmission Konstaninopel / l. Expeditionskorps / durch Berlin C2, Marinepostburo, seen during February-April 1917 on mail with German Military Mission date stamps of A.O.K.4 and Damaskus (Fig. 57)

These cachets identify the mail as originating from the FFA 300, but do not mean that it was carried by air. It is certain, however, that some mail was carried by air in Palestine during World War I. At least between February 21-28, 1918 there was a daily air mail service connecting the staff divisions at Damascus and Nazareth.² A British flyer reports that after the conquest of Afule on September 20, 1918, a German mail plane from Nazareth unwittingly landed among the British and was captured.³ It seems that besides official mail, private mail from Germany and the

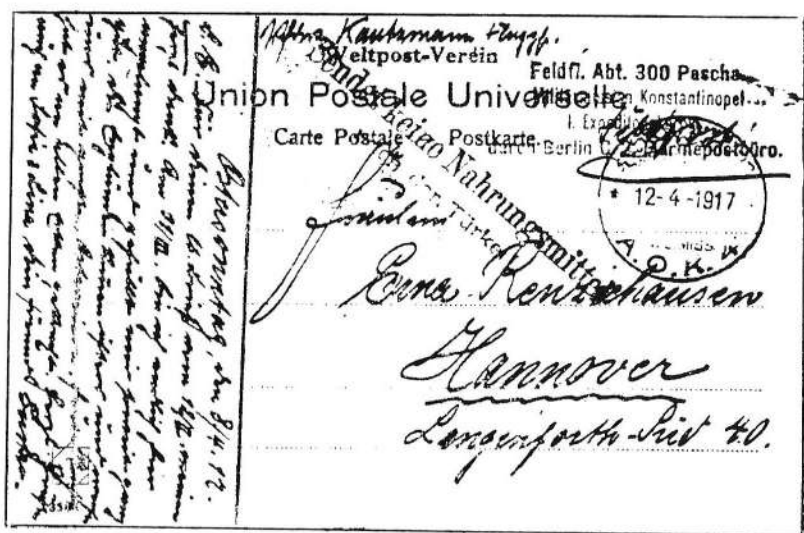


Fig. 57: Card with cachets type b and c of the FFA 300 and date-stamp A.O.K. 4. (A. Haskiya collection).

army newspaper "Yildirim" were also forwarded by plane when land transportation was difficult.⁴ None of this mail, however, had special air mail markings and is almost impossible to identify today as such.

Bibliography:

- (1) Ahrens, W., "Die Trippenstempel der deutschen Fliegerformationen in der Türkei im ersten Weltkrieg", Die Sammler-Lupe, Nr. 3, 1968.
- (2) Dr. Steuber, "Jildirim" Deutsche Streiter auf heiligem Boden, Schlachten des Weltkrieges, Vol. 5, Oldenburg/Berlin, 1925.
- (3) Turk Havacilik Tarihi 1917-1918, Eskisehir, 1952.
- (4) "Die Woche", Nr. 31, August 3, 1918.

BRITISH MANDATE PERIOD

A WORLD WAR II BRITISH FORCES ISSUE

(A. M. Hochheiser, Lodi, N.J.)

During the period of the Palestine Mandate, there were three general categories of registered envelopes in use. These are described and illustrated in the Hochheiser Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the Palestine Mandate, published by the S.I.P. Educational Fund.

These issues are: (1) British Forces Issues - World War I & II, (2) Formular (Stampless Regular Issues), (3) Prestamped Regular Issues. The British Forces Issues of both World Wars would show cancellations of military units stationed in Palestine.

Of all of these, there is only one known issue not fully described or illustrated in the catalogue mentioned above. This is one of the British Forces Issues of World War II, listed in the catalogue as BF 2-la. Fig. 58 shows the front of the BF 2

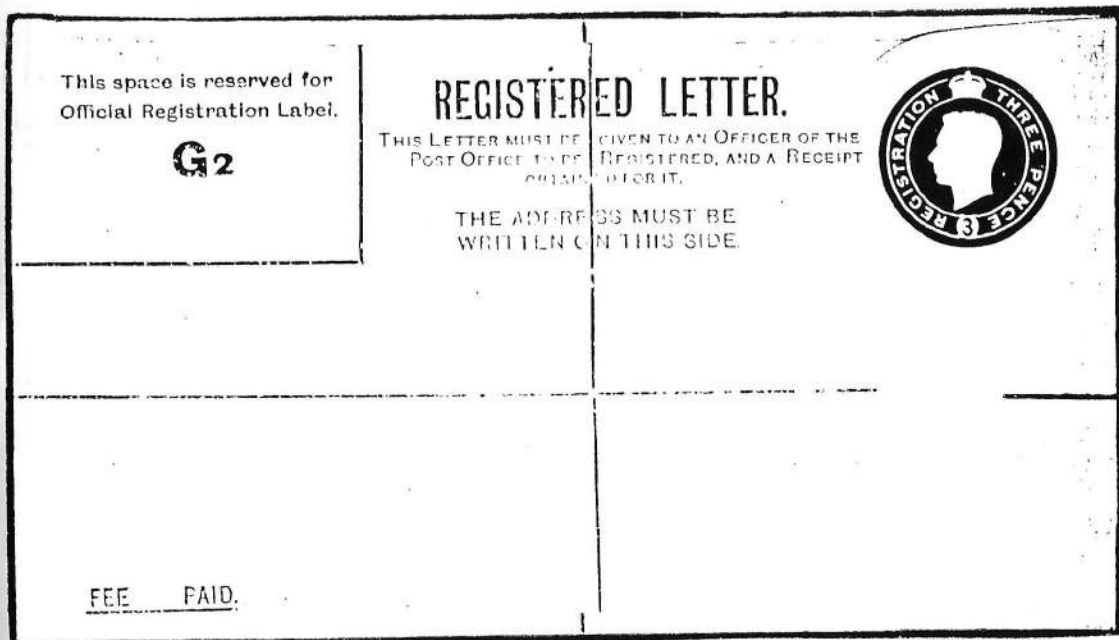


Fig. 58: The front of the British Forces registered envelope No. BF2.

issues. It is the back which contains the distinguishing features of the two types, BF 2-1 (Fig. 59) and BF 2-2 (Fig. 60). There are

Registration.	
Compensation is given for Inland Registered Letter, and Letter sent to a place abroad, and conditions notified in	loss or damage in respect of an for the loss of a Registered subject to the limitations the Post Office Guide.

Fig. 59: Part of the back of the British Forces registered envelope
No. BF2-1.

Compensation.	
Subject to the limitations Office Guide, the registration fee for loss or damage of an Inland the entire loss of a Registered	and conditions notified in the Post of 3d. covers compensation up to £5 Registered Letter, and up to £2 for Letter sent to a place abroad.

Fig. 60: Part of the back of the British Forces registered envelope
No. BF2-2.

two subtypes of the BF 2-1 issue: Shown in Fig. 59 is BF 2-1b and in Fig. 61 the subtype BF 2-1a. The latter is distinguished by a

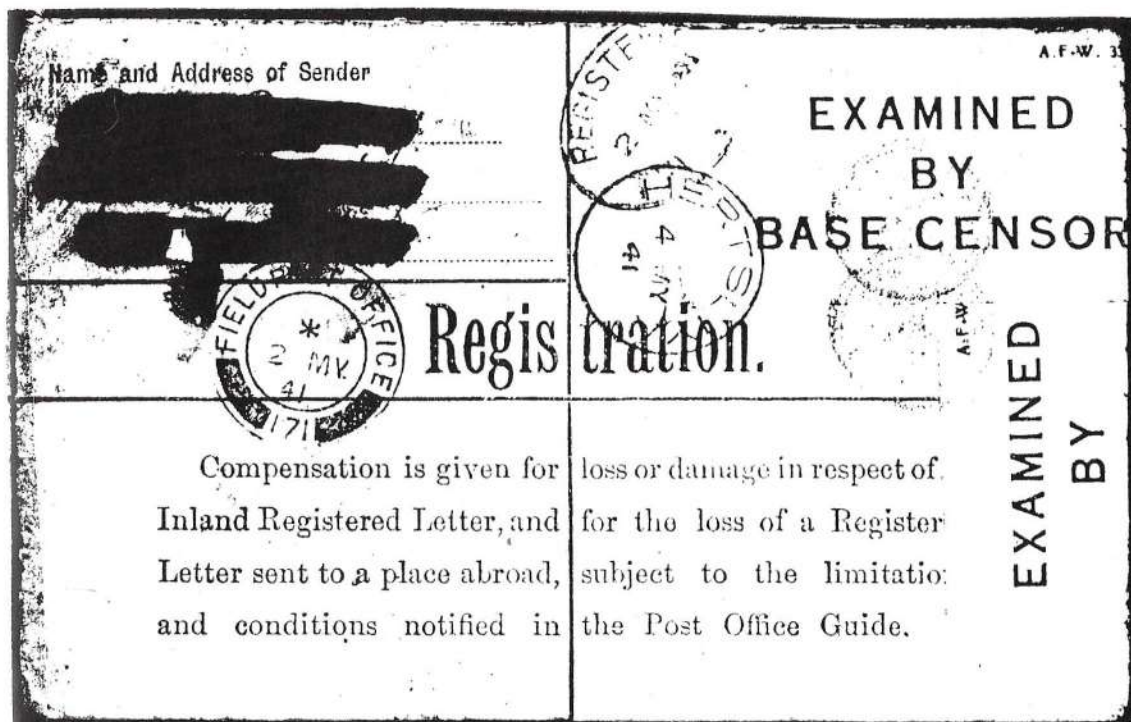


Fig. 61: Back of the British Forces registered envelope No. BF2-1a with the sender's name and address inked out.

special space for the "Name and Address of Sender". It is this last subtype, BF 2-1a, which requires some additional explanation.

On this registered envelope mailed into Hertsliya, Palestine in May 1941, the name and address of the sender have been heavily inked out. While I was initially disturbed by this apparent defacing, the reason for this is obvious. It was imperative during war time periods that the location of military units not be revealed. The envelope BF 2-1a was first issued in December 1939. It duplicated the 4 pence envelope already in use for the general public, which contained this space for the name and address of the sender. The only difference between the two is that the stamp was for 3 pence only, a concession to the British military personnel on active duty

anywhere in the world. The stamp paid for the registry fee. Postage was exempt for military personnel.. The need to eliminate the "Name and Address of Sender" designation was immediately imperative since Great Britain had declared war on Germany in September 1939. As a result, in March 1940 the issue was changed to the BF 2-1b, omitting the "Name and Address of Sender" space and designation. These were in use until November 1944 when the new format BF 2-2 (Fig. 60) was introduced.

Certainly the BF 2-1a, produced for a period of only some three months, must be relatively rare. This is the only copy I have ever seen and while the Field Post Office Unit numbers do not reflect Palestine origin, the fact that the addressee lived in Hertsliya and that the cover was backstamped by both Tel Aviv Registered and Hertsliya Receiving cancellations does give this envelope Mandate usage. It may well be that copies cancelled by a Field Post Office unit stationed in Palestine may be found.

Some of the details in this text are taken from the book "British Postal Stationery" by Dr. A.K. Huggins.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE AIR LETTER SERVICE PALESTINE-U.S.A.

Further to the note by J.C. Has on "First Air Letter Service Palestine-U.S.A.: 15 May 1947" (HLP# #31, p. 576), Joseph Wofchuck sent us the following illustration (Fig. 62). It seems, then, that in addition to the "Rowton" and "Rubin" Air Letters, sent by Dr. W. Hoexter and Mr. A. Goldschmidt respectively, there were also "Grad" Letters, which were sent by Mr. M. Brisker from Haifa.

AN UNLISTED MANDATE POSTMARK

(Marvin Siegel, Ramat Gan)

We recently acquired the pair of postal receipts shown in the accompanying illustrations (Fig. 63). To our knowledge, their Petah Tiqva M.O. postmarks have not been described in our literature. Characteristics of this single circle device are:

anywhere in the world. The stamp paid for the registry fee. Postage was exempt for military personnel.. The need to eliminate the "Name and Address of Sender" designation was immediately imperative since Great Britain had declared war on Germany in September 1939. As a result, in March 1940 the issue was changed to the BF 2-lb, omitting the "Name and Address of Sender" space and designation. These were in use until November 1944 when the new format BF 2-2 (Fig. 60) was introduced.

Certainly the BF 2-la, produced for a period of only some three months, must be relatively rare. This is the only copy I have ever seen and while the Field Post Office Unit numbers do not reflect Palestine origin, the fact that the addressee lived in Hertsiya and that the cover was backstamped by both Tel Aviv Registered and Hertsiya Receiving cancellations does give this envelope Mandate usage. It may well be that copies cancelled by a Field Post Office unit stationed in Palestine may be found.

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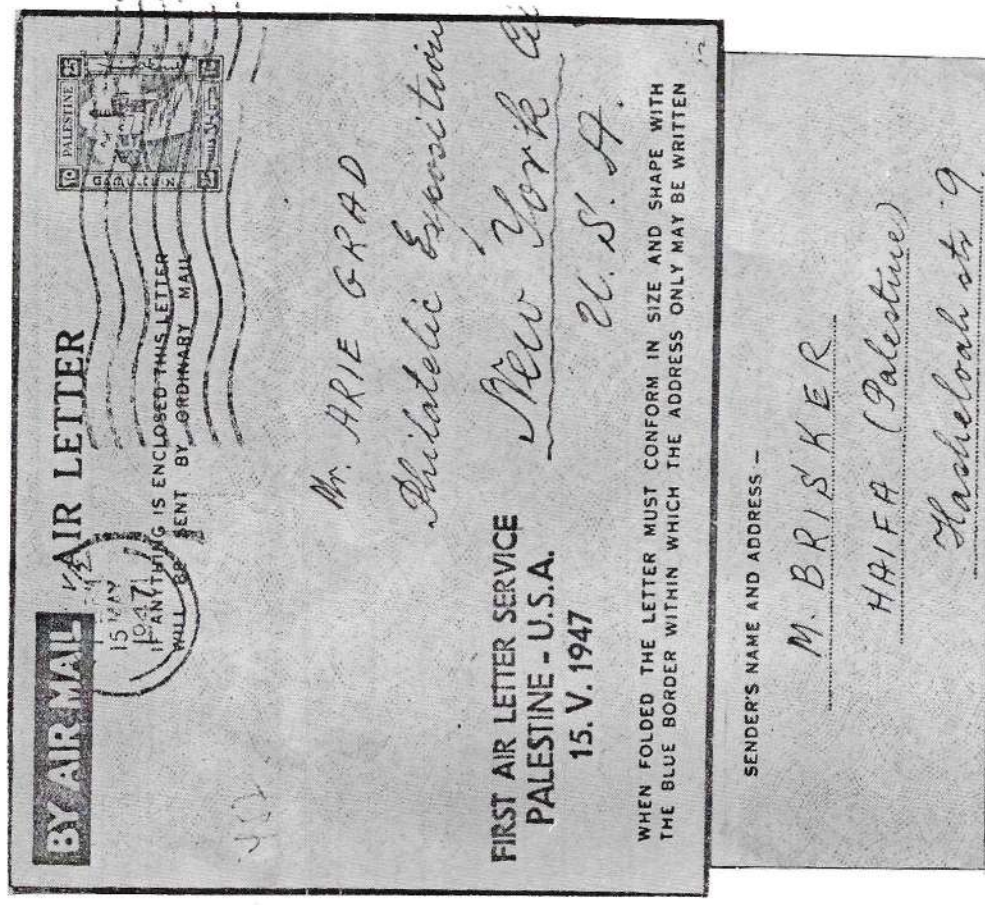


Fig. 62: Another first day Air Letter Palestine-U.S.A., sent by M. Brisker to Arie Grad.

24½ mm. diameter with a letter size of 3mm. Both receipts bear Index "A" and they were used on 27 June and 30 July 1947 with the months appearing in the usual two letter format.

It has been established that the letters "M.O." stands for MONEY ORDER. Glassman & Sacher, in their POSTMARKS OF MANDATE JERUSALEM (p. 50) state "The sale of money orders was a very important service of the Post Office. This Department had its

THIS PORTION MAY BE DETACHED BY THE REMITTER.		يُطْعَم وَحُظُّهُ هَذَا الْجُزءُ مَعَ الرِّسْلِ	
No. of Money Order. <i>823</i>		رقم الحوالة	
Amount £P. <i>100</i> Mils		مبلغ الحوالة	
Commission <i>100</i> Mils		قيمة الحوالة جنيه فلسطيني	
Telegraph Charge		مبلغ الحوالة (م.ي.)	
Supplementary fee		العمولة	
Total		رسم عقيلون	
		رسم امتالي مل	
		رسم نوفا مل	

THIS PORTION MAY BE DETACHED BY THE REMITTER.		يُطْعَم وَحُظُّهُ هَذَا الْجُزءُ مَعَ الرِّسْلِ	
No. of Money Order. <i>935</i>		رقم الحوالة	
Amount £P. <i>15</i> Mils		مبلغ الحوالة	
Commission <i>15</i> Mils		قيمة الحوالة جنيه فلسطيني	
Telegraph Charge		مبلغ الحوالة (م.ي.)	
Supplementary fee		العمولة	
Total		رسم عقيلون	
		رسم امتالي مل	
		رسم نوفا مل	

Fig. 63: Unrecorded postmark "Petah Tiqva M.O." on two postal receipts of 1947.

own instruments." They illustrate 9 different types of M.O. postmarks (catalog numbers H12 to H20). Goldstein and Dickstein in their HAIFA & JAFFA POSTMARKS OF THE PALESTINE MANDATE show three types used in Haifa (their numbers 73 to 75) and one for Jaffa (their number 40). Dr. Art Groten includes two types in his soon-to-be-published Tel Aviv handbook. Of the smaller towns and cities, Dorfman only shows such a postmark as being used in Ramat Gan (his #6).

It was logical for Petah Tiqva to have such a device since it was one of Palestine's five largest cities in terms of population in 1947 and such devices were known in the other four as per the above listing. Also, Ramat Gan had fewer inhabitants at that time and if it possessed such a device isn't it logical to assume that the larger city of Petah Tiqva should also have one?

This writer has only seen the Ramat Gan M.O. cancellations used postally as arrival backstamps on two 1948 Transition Period covers. Does anyone know of other cases of these being used on covers or cards?

THE INTERIM PERIOD

MANDATE REGISTRATION LABELS USED DURING THE MINHELET HA'AM PERIOD

(I. Karpovsky)

In HLPH #29/30 (p. 490), M. Siegel refers to unusual Mandate Registration Labels, particularly to those used at the postal agency at Kibbutz Gevat in March 1947, the name of the office having been written in Hebrew instead of the regulation English.

As is known, during the period of Minhelet Ha'am (May 2nd to 14th, 1948), the postal arrangements were organised by the interim administration set up prior to the establishment of the State. During this period the 80-odd postal offices continued to use these Mandatory registration labels for their registered letters, mostly with the name printed in English. The only change was that, according to the new instructions, the name should be added in Hebrew by hand, in cases of use of blank labels (without name).

We show hereunder some interesting examples from this period: (A) Fig. 64 shows a registered letter from the moshava Kfar Yona, near Netanya, sent on May 11th, 1948 to Netanya. Minhelet Ha'am stamps to the value of 25 mils were used, and the Mandate postmark on this letter was used as a date stamp only, the stamps themselves being cancelled with the Minhelet Ha'am postmark. On looking at the registration label we note that the name has been added by hand in Hebrew.

Fig. 65 shows another registered letter from the same moshava, also sent to Netanya, with the label number 0447, but here the name has been added by hand in English instead of in Hebrew, i.e., against the instructions.

The explanation for this is apparently the fact that the postal clerk was so accustomed to write the name in English that he momentarily erred. Of the ten or so registered letters known from Kfar Yona of this time, excluding this number 0447, all are named in



Fig. 64: A Minhelet Ha'am letter with a handwritten registered label far Yona in Hebrew.

Hebrew. Incidentally of all the Minhelet Ha'am registered letters this is the only label known to the writer written in English.

(B) Fig. 66 shows a registered letter from Kibbutz Gevat, the same kibbutz mentioned in Siegel's article. This letter was sent to Haifa on the last day of the Minhelet Ha'am period i.e., on May 14th. The number of the label is 0003; Fluri in his Handbook mentions that only four such registered letters are known from this kibbutz during



Fig. 65: A Minhelet Ha'am letter with a handwritten registered label
Kfar Yona in English.

this particular period. The interest in this letter is that the clerk, to be "in order", added the name in Hebrew next to that in English on the label itself.

Fig. 67, another registered letter from Gevat, numbered 0014, which dates to the period of the State of Israel (August 1, 1948), also received the same handling as that of the above. Incidentally, the handwriting style of these two letters and that of Siegel's are the same.

In connection with the registration label from this kibbutz, some points of interest should be noted. Firstly, the spelling on

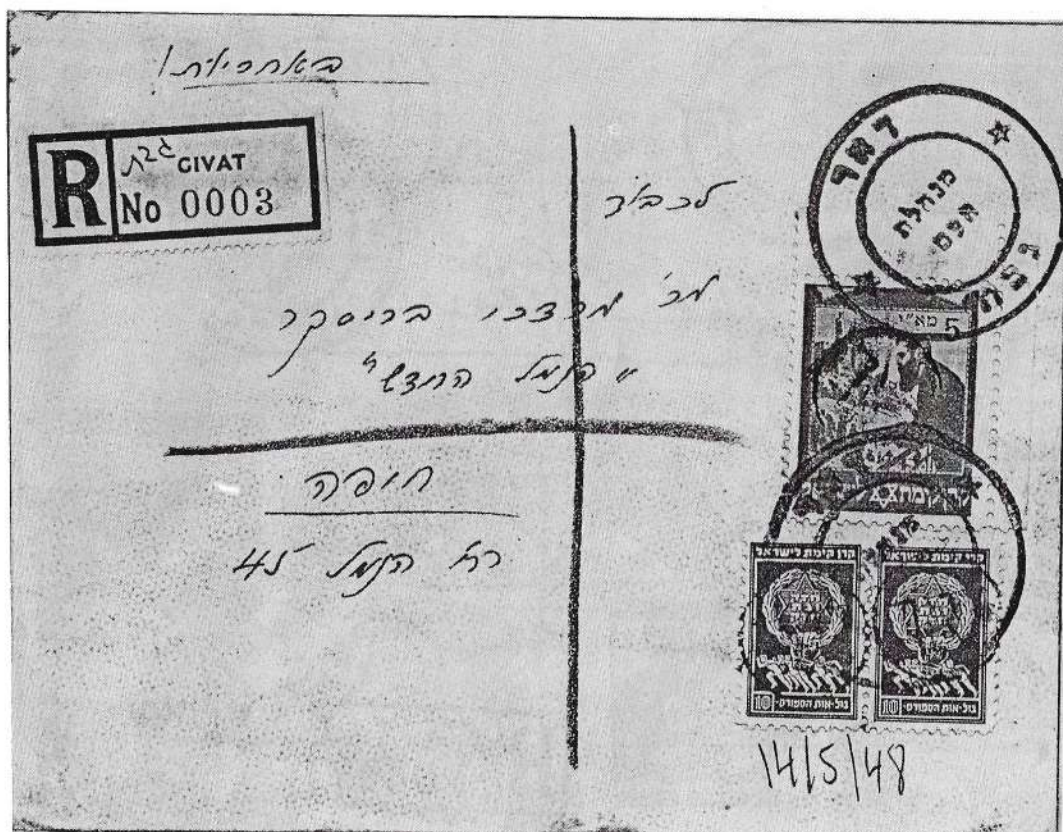


Fig. 66: A Minhelet Ha'am letter with the Mandate registered label of "Givat" (Gevat), with added "Gevat" in Hebrew handwriting.

the label differs from that used in the postmark - GIVAT instead of GEVAT. Secondly, it would appear that Fluri in his Handbook (page 47) erred in that the example shown from Gevat shows the temporary Mandatory label (as Siegel shows too, without the Hebrew addition). The two examples shown above are quite different. It could well be that the regular stocks were used up, so that the reserve stocks, with numbers only and no name, were then drawn on for a few letters until new correct stocks were received.

One last comment which requires to be stressed is the small number of registered letters used from Kibbutz Gevat during the first

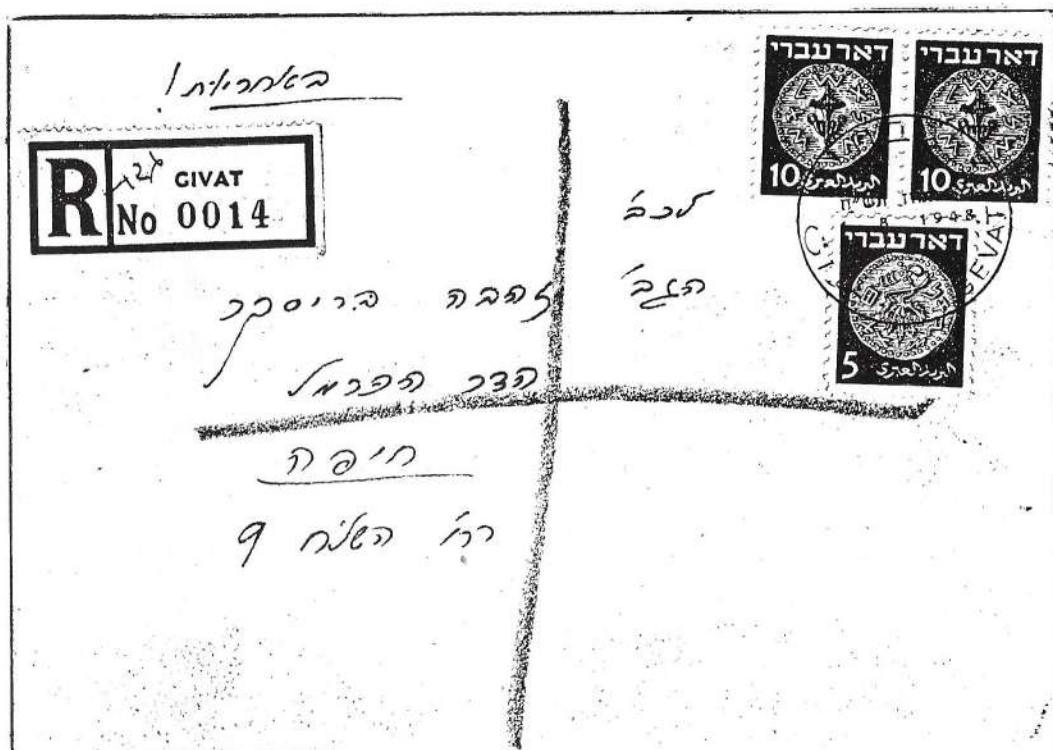


Fig. 67: The same type of registered label of "Givat" (like in Fig. 66) on an August 1948 Israeli Post letter.

months of the State. We see that during a period of some three months, only fourteen such letters were sent. This explains why it is so difficult to find registered letters from many similar small settlements.

MORE ABOUT 1948 MAIL INTERCEPTED BY THE EGYPTIANS (I. Karpovsky)

Further to the article by M. Siegel in HLP#29/30 (p. 498), I would like to show two interesting examples of similar treatments:

(A) Fig. 68 shows a commercial registered airmail letter, sent from the Banca Nazionale del Lavoro in Rome to the Discount Bank in Jerusalem on April 22nd 1948, i.e., a few days after the beginning



Fig. 68: An April 1948 letter from Rome to Jerusalem, intercepted by the Egyptians, with the Egyptian censor mark and sticker.

of the siege of Jerusalem, a fact not known in Rome at that time. The letter left Rome on the 25th and on its way was intercepted by the Egyptians. The censor mark and the censor label show that the letter was opened and censored by the Egyptian censor. According to the Jerusalem postmark on the back of the letter (Fig. 69), it appears that the letter was returned to Italy at some later date, and apparently then sent again to Israel, arriving at the airfield at Haifa in August, the airfield at Lod still being in the hands of the Arabs and under attack. Four days later, on August 22nd, the letter finally arrived in Jerusalem. This is a superb example of a registered letter which arrived some four months after having been posted.

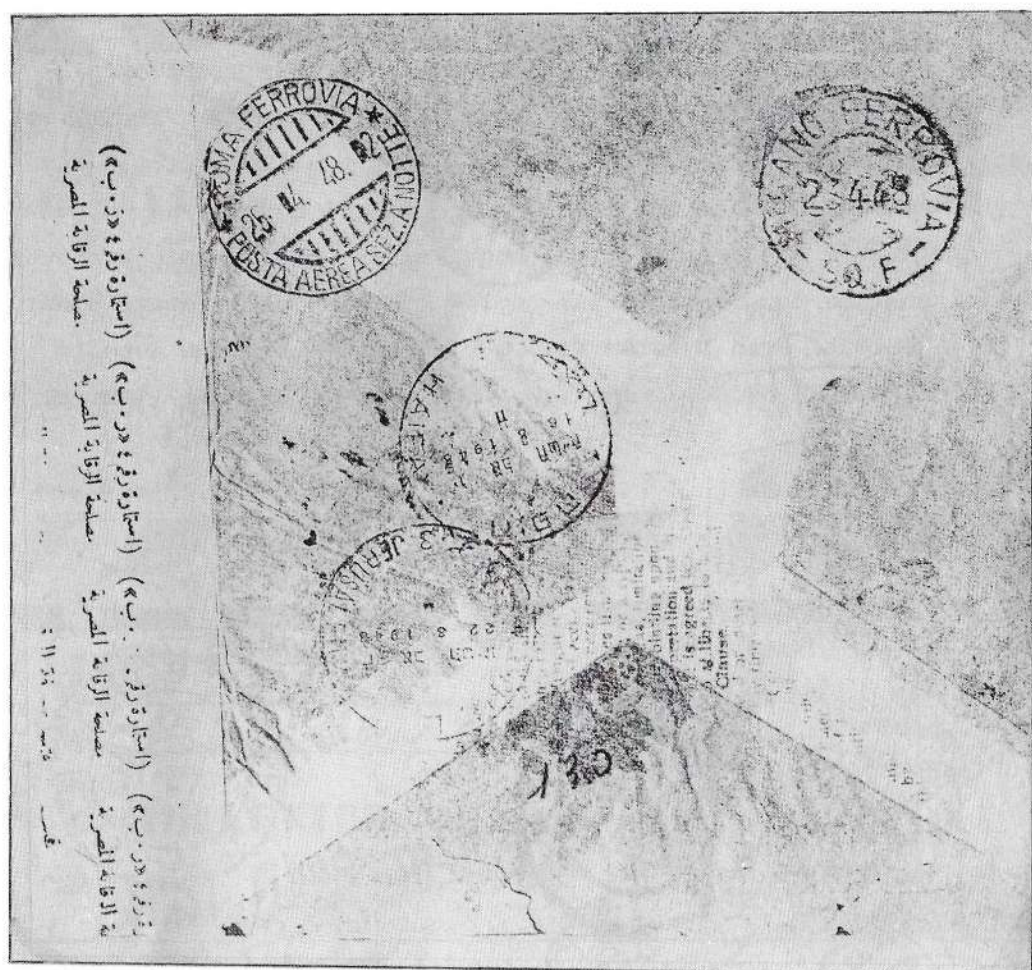


Fig. 69: The back of the intercepted cover showing the Rome dispatch postmarks and the Haifa transit and Jerusalem arrival postmarks of August 1948.

(B) Fig. 70 is a commercial airmail letter sent from Bombay, India, on April 21st, 1948 to Tel Aviv. This too was intercepted by the Egyptians and censored by them. According to the postmark on the back of the letter, the letter was returned by the Egyptians on August 11th - three and a half months later! The Indian postal authorities returned the letter to the sender after adding the mark "Airmail service not available".



Fig. 70: An April 1948 Indian letter to Tel Aviv, intercepted by the Egyptians, censored and returned to sender with "Air Mail Service not Available" handstamp.

The two examples discussed here show that at some time in August, 1948 the Egyptians returned all of the intercepted letters held by them to the dispatching offices, after opening and censoring the contents. The date in September in Siegel's article is probably that of the redispach of the letter to Israel.

"PEDI" 1948, COMMENTS AND RESPONSE

Let me congratulate you on your Holy Land Postal History publication. Your bulletin #31 featuring part B of Chaim Shamir and Marvin Siegel's article was, as usual, an excellent research piece. I was impressed with its contents but at the same time found many questions unanswered. It is hoped, by raising these questions, perhaps answers can be found which will satisfy your readership.

I have enclosed three PEDI covers which I have labeled A, B, C (Figs. 71 to 73). May I draw your attention to HLPH No. 31,

(A)



Fig. 71: A PEDI letter #109 of May 20, 1948, cancelled with both types of the cachet.



Fig. 72: A PEDI letter #421 of May 20, 1948, cancelled with type II of the PEDI cachet.

(C)

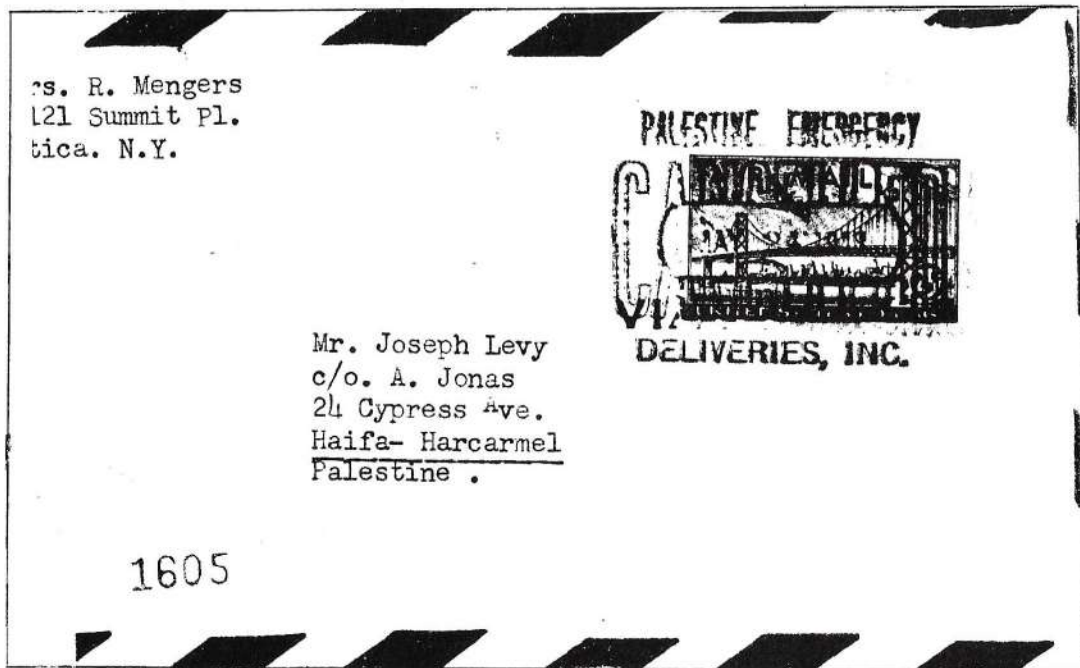


Fig. 73: A PEDI letter (#1605) with the type II cachet in blue.

page 540, Figure 9, which features Type I and Type II cancellations, and carries the #9 number; it is dated May 21, 1948. Comparing same to my Cover A dated May 20, 1948, with both Type I and II, numbered #109, the question therefore arises, how can there be with the same cancellation a #109 on May 20, 1948, and a #9 on the 21st? Is it possible that Mrs. Behrman had a numbering system for the 20th of May, and then started a new numbering system which was continuous from the 21st of May onward?

Regarding Cover B with Type II cancellation dated 20th May 1948, which carries a #421. Figure 11, page 541 of HLPH No. 31, same Type II cancellation of May 21 carries a #104. This again points to a different numbering system from May 21st onward versus the May 20 date referred to.

Cover C of the writer's collection was purchased from Mr. Marco almost 20 years ago. It carries the Type II cancellation of the 24th May 1948, and is numbered #1605. The unusual part of this cover is the imprint in a blue/green colour, not the normal black ink. I have not seen any other PEDI in the blue/green imprint and at the suggestion of Chaim Shamir, I bring this to your attention.

(N. Aaron Naboicheck)

Response to the previous questions:

Covers A and B. The answer is yes; it is possible, since there were different devices used in the cancelling and as stated by Mrs. Behrman-Deutsch in 1957, "There were several people involved in the cancelling process, among them my Keren Hayesod secretary". This and the fact that the numbering of the envelopes was done separately and after the cancellation of the stamps explains why cover #104 bears a Type II cancel while Naboicheck's Airletter #109 bears both Type I and Type II cancels.

It is also likely that due to the flexibility of the dating control numbers and its locking mechanism, the month digits

(numbers) moved. A close look at the left center cutout of Figure 17 (Page 547 of HLPH No. 31), dated JUN 28 1948, will reveal a number that can be seen under the 28 digits as if it were coming up. In this case I believe it is June 29.

Cover C. Regarding the Blue/Green colour PEDI imprint. As stated on pages 546-547 and Figure 17, some errors and mistakes occurred and while some were simple and hard to detect others, like the present case, were of a more spectacular nature.

We thank Mr. Naboicheck and welcome comments other collectors might have on the subject.

(Chaim Shamir)

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

DOAR IVRI USAGE

(D.A. Chafetz, Mt. Freedom, N.J.)

In the article entitled "Irregular or Unusual Cancellations of Do'ar Ivri Stamps" (Issue #28), the authors discussed a cover cancelled by two different triangular army unit handstamps (see p. 422, Fig. 50). The enclosed illustration is another example of a Do'ar Ivri stamp cancelled by a military unit handstamp (Fig. 74).

In this example, the cover has a return address of Tel Aviv on the back. It was probably sent by a civilian since it was franked, whereas if it had been sent by a soldier on active duty it would have been free of charge. To the right of the return address, a number has been written in, 869731, which most probably is the military ID number of the recipient of the cover.

The cover is franked with a 3 mil Do'ar Ivri stamp, which was the printed matter "holiday rate" in 1948. It is addressed to Ramat Gan. Apparently when the cover arrived at military unit 202, the postal clerk noticed the stamp was not cancelled and applied his unit's triangular cachet to the stamp.

The attached table, based upon information I have gathered, indicates the use of Registered Labels. The first column reflects the highest Id. number known to me; the second one shows the number of labels Id. Nos. that were used or are still in use.

Highest No. and number in actual use of
Registered Labels Id. Nos.

	<u>Highest</u> <u>No.</u> <u>Existing</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>of</u> <u>Id. Nos.</u> <u>in use</u>		<u>Highest</u> <u>No.</u> <u>Existing</u>	<u>Number</u> <u>of</u> <u>Id. Nos.</u> <u>in use</u>
Afula	11	7	Netanya	32	32
Akko	8	8	Petah Tiqwa	24	24
Ashdod	31	22	Qiryat Malakhi	9	9
Ashqelon	17	17	Qiryat Gat	12	3
Bat Yam	19	15	Qiryat Ono	5	5
Beer Sheva	30	14	Qiryat Shemona	3	3
Bene Beraq	21	19	Qiryat Tivon	3	3
Dimona	6	4	Qiryat Hayyim	9	4
Elat	20	20	Qiryat Bialik	6	6
Givatayim	10	7	Qiryat Motzkin	6	4
Hod Hasharon	10	7	Qiryat Yam	18	4
Holon	32	32	Ramla	18	17
Hadera	17	17	Ramat Gan	36	36
Herzliya	17	11	Ra'anana	14	10
Haifa	110	106	Rehovot	33	33
Kefar Sava	14	12	Rishon LeZion	21	6
Lod	8	7	Tel Aviv	299	245
Mizpe Ramon	6	6	Tiberias	13	13
Nazareth	9	9	Yerushalayim	120	120
Nazerat Illit	10	10	Yavne	5	4
Nahriya	12	12	Zefat	5	2
			Ramat Hasharon	8	6

Some particular remarks about the article and the table are due.

- (1) In Tel Aviv, labels were in use by the aid of numerator Nos. 251-257, a special stamping machine Nos. 211-225 and a numerator, or even printing on envelopes (Nos. 300-305).
- (2) In Beer Sheva, despite its size, no institute owns a special label with its private Id. No. printed on it. However, in Elat, among 20 labels, 16 are in use by institutes and firms, and only 4 are used by the Post Office Agencies.
- (3) In Qiryat Yam, the highest Id. No. is 18; however, only 4 labels are in use. In Rishon LeZion similar situation prevails, where the highest Id. No. is 21, but only 6 are in use.
- (4) In courts, some labels are printed on envelopes or by a special stamping machine, bearing the No. 201.

In conclusion, I would appreciate receiving any other details or amendments concerning the above article.

ILLEGAL USE OF OLD SHEQEL STAMPS

(E. Foa, Rehovot)

In an article which appeared in the October 1984 issue of "The Israel Philatelist" I showed a registered letter with a 20 Israel Lira stamp of the landscape issue used instead of a 20 Sheqel stamp. Since the New Sheqel was brought into use (1 New Sheqel = 1000 Sheqel), I have found two interesting cases of improper use of the old Sheqel stamps.

The first letter (Fig. 75) is a registered one with a no-value stamp plus four stamps of the Sheqel definitive issue of 2 Sheqel each, all together corresponding to 0.208 New Sheqel instead of the correct fee of 1 New Sheqel.

The second case is also a registered letter bearing five stamps of 0.20 Sheqel each equivalent to 1 Sheqel or 0.001 New Sheqel instead of the correct fee of 1 New Sheqel (Fig. 76).

The strange fact or perhaps not so strange, is that both letters

have been mailed from the same Post Office as indicated by the registration label and by the date stamp: 19.10.86 mailing date, 20.10.86 arrival date of the first letter, bearing registration label No. 2393 and 23.11.86 mailing date, 24.11.86 arrival date of the second letter, identified by registration label No. 2700.

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

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NEW CANCELLATIONS AND POST OFFICES

(Compiled by B. Fixler and I. Nachtigal)

A. Special Cancellations

- 24.08.87: "9th International Biophysics Congress 1987", Yerushalayim.
- 25.08.87: "Kefar Shemaryahu Jubilee", Kefar Shemaryahu.
- 31.08.87: "Fifth European Symposium on Organic Chemistry",
Yerushalayim.
- 06.09.87: "Nazerat Illit 30th Anniversary", Nazerat Illit.
- 10.09.87: "Kupat Hollim 75 anniversary", Afula.
- 10.09.87: "Synagogues in the Diaspora", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 10.09.87: "Tel Aviv Great Synagogue", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 14.09.87: "European Intraocular Implant Lens Council. Israel. 5th
Congress", Yerushalayim.
- 15.09.87: "International Society of Pediatric Oncology. XIX SIOP
Meeting", Yerushalayim.
- 01.10.87: "35 Neshet Municipality", Neshet.
- 09.10.87: "Regional Stamp Exhibition, The Harvest Festival", Afula.
- 13.10.87: "To the success of the ships on their journey. A show in
honor of the opening of the gates of the country", Haifa.
- 20.10.87: "Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami-Or Aqiva", Or Aqiva.
- 22.10.87: "Habimah - First 70 Years", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 23.10.87: "56th Congress Hafnia '87", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 25.10.87: "Amal at Sixty", Tel Aviv-Yafo.
- 27.10.87: "Ben Shemen Youth Village, 60 years to its foundation",
Ben Shemen.
- 24.11.87: "Pinhas Rosen", Yerushalayim. A special postmark for the
F.D. of issue of Pinhas Rosen commemorative stamp.
- 24.11.87: "Tiberias". A special illustrated postmark for the F.D. of
issue of the stamps of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea Explorers.

B. Definitive Cancellations

- 04.03.87: "Yerushalayim 83", for Gillo B.P.O., replacing its previous postmark (No. 52) which disappeared on 19.2.87. It was a reserve instrument.
- 15.07.87: "Alram", for the new P.A. in Alram.*
- 21.07.87: "Ashdod 4087". Francotype machine in Ashdod (Quarter B) B.P.O.
- 02.08.87: "Bene Na'im", for the new P.A. in the Arab village.*
- 26.08.87: "Kafr Kanna", a postmark with new design of the letters instead of the old postmark.
- ? .08.87: "Ramat Ha-Shofet", a postmark with new design of the letters instead of the old postmark.
- 09.09.87: "Alyamun", for the new P.A. in Alyamun.*
- 09.09.87: "Silt Alharthiya", for the new P.A. in Silt Alharthiya.*
- 13.09.87: "Or Aqiva 3", a new postmark in Or Aqiva Post Office.
- 16.09.87: "Rehovot 4097" (internal No. 2), a new Francotype cancellation instead of the previous "Rehovot 737".
- 20.09.87: "Quiriat Bialik 6127", a new Francotype machine in Quiriat Bialik.
- 20.09.87: "Quiriat Bialik 6137", a new Francotype machine in Quiriat Bialik B.P.O., 9 Hen Avenue.
- 20.09.87: "Quiriat Bialik 6147", a new Francotype machine in Quiriat Bialik B.P.O., 11 Hapalmach Street.
- 20.09.87: "Zichron Yaacov 6157", a new Francotype machine in Zichron Yaacov Post Office.
- 20.09.87: "Naharia 6167", a new Francotype machine in Naharia B.P.O. in Shikun Memshalti.
- 12.10.87: "Ramalla 3", "Ramalla 4" reintroduced postmarks which were put out of use on 1.7.69.
- — — — —

* These Postal Agencies in Judea and Samaria had, at least on the first days, blank registration labels on which the place name was handstamped in Hebrew (in lilac colour).

- 18.10.87: "Tul Karem 3", "Tul Karem 4", reintroduced postmarks which were put out of use on 1.7.69.
- 20.10.87: "Genin3", reintroduced postmarks which were put out of use.
- 01.11.87: "Yerushalayim 84", for the new P.A. in Pisgat Ze'ev. It was previously a reserve postmark.
- 03.11.87: "Alkhadr", for the new P.A. in the Arab village.*
- 03.11.87: "Bet Fajar", for the new P.A. in the Arab village.*
- 08.11.87: "Alzababda", for the new P.A. in the Arab village.*
- 08.11.87: "Shaar Ha-Amaqim", a postmark with new design of the letters instead of the old postmark (see Fig. 77).
- 17.11.87: "Omer 1", a new postmark in Omer P.O.



Fig. 77: The new design of the Shaar Ha-amaqim postmark (left), compared to the old design (right).

CORRECTIONS AND NOTES FOR PREVIOUS "NEW CANCELLATIONS AND POST OFFICES"

(I. Nachtigal & B. Fixler)

Some spelling errors, inaccuracies or minor omissions occurred in a few cases in our section "New Cancellations and Post Offices" of previous issues. The issue #, page number, date of the postmark and the correct form of the corresponding postmark or other detail is given below.

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Correct form</u>
3	103	03.02.80	"BENE BERAQ=21"
3	103	26.02.80	"EVEN YEHUDA PAYE" handstamp

<u>Issue #</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Correct form</u>
6	260		ASERET (A) 2.3.1962 (and not 12.3.1962)
19	977	19.07.84	"QARNE SHOMERON"
23-24	147	19.04.85	The date should be <u>19.05.85</u> .
23-24	147	19.05.85	"Yerushalayim I" ... with <u>star</u> on the First Day (not with 'stag').
27	338	09.03.86	..."BEN-GOURION-A.P. 506 7" Francotype Machine.... "N.T. BEN-GOURION 506 7", Ben-Gourion A.P.
29-30	510	01.02.87	"Y'ANOAH"

In several cases "new" postmarks have been reported, which in fact were a reuse of a reserve previously used postmark. In the following table the cases whose previous use was not reported before are given. In many of these cases the "stag" sign appeared in the first day of the reuse as well as, naturally, in the first day of the previous initial use. These cases are noted by an asterisk (*) in the table.

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Postmark</u>	<u>Previous Use First Day</u>
19	977	29.05.84*	"RAFIAH 2"	23.07.67
20	1032	22.08.84*	"ROSH PINNA 3"	02.04.68
20	1033	23.10.84*	"GABALYA 2"	20.11.67
25-26	248	16.01.86	"TEL AVIV-YAFO 148"	17.02.59
27	339	19.06.86	"QIRYAT BIALIK 8"	09.04.67
27	339	19.06.86	"QIRYAT BIALIK 9"	08.05.72
28	426	03.11.86	"MAALOT TARSHIHA 3"	19.07.70

The Francotype "YERUSHALAYIM 73 7" of 1.1.86 was in experimental use only on this single date, and was not used later.

The postmark "HA-UNIVERSITA HA-IVRIT YERUSHALAYIM 1", used in the Hebrew University, was used by the Philatelic Services for the

F.D. cancelling of the Festival Issue of 1986, with a special dater showing the full year "1986", instead of the usual two-digits number "86".

Editor's Note: There are many postmarks in which the Post Office introduced various marks, like accents and underlines over or under letters to specify the Hebrew or Arabic pronunciation of place names. Due to technical difficulties we have generally not reproduced these marks and will not do it in the future.

NEW STAMPS

The following stamps were issued during the last period:

- 14.06.87: Israel Radio Amateurs (NIS 2.50); 1987 World Dog Show (NIS 0.40, 0.50, 2.-); A clean environment ("Clean Israel"; Ag. 40).
 10.09.87: 75th anniversary of "Kupat Holim", the Histadrut Health Insurance Institution (NIS 1.50); Rabbi Moshe Avigdor Amiel (NIS 1.40); Festivals, depicting the famous Synagogues in Prague, Aleppo and Florence (Ag. 30, 50, 60).
 24.11.87: Pinhas Rosen, Israel first Minister of Justice (Ag 80); 19th century exploration of the Holy Land (Ag 30, 50, 60); Also a Souvenir Sheet incorporating the same stamps (but values of Ag 40, 50, 80 respectively, selling for NIS 2.50) and the emblem of the National Stamp Exhibition "Independence 40", to be held in Jerusalem on 19-26 April, 1988.

HOLY LAND AWARDS IN "HAFNIA 87"

The International Stamp Exhibition "Hafnia 87" was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, from 15 to 25 October, 1987. The awards for exhibits concerning Holy Land and Judaica were as follows:

SPECIAL AWARD: Fred F. Blau, "The Airmail History of the Holy Land".

Gold Medals: Dr. Jerome L. Byers (with special prize and felicitations of the jury), "Forerunner Post of the Holy Land"; Curt Fischel,

"Ottoman Empire Cancellations".

Large Vermeil: Fred F. Blau, "The Allied Military Air Mail, WWII, Palestine"; Johan D.H. van As, "The Airmail History of Palestine"; Evyatar (with special prize), "Turkish Post in the Holy Land"; Z. Galibov, "Palestine - The EEF and Mandate Periods, 1917-48".

Large Silver: Yehuda Kleiner, "The Field Post of the German Military Mission in the Ottoman Empire"; Avraham Zakai, "Postal History of Sinai & Negev (Palestine)".

Silver: Yacov Shabtai, "Israel 1948 - Transition Period".

Literature - Silverbronze: W.P.C. 20th Anniversary Publication; S.I.P. "Postal History of the Polish Field Post Offices in the Holy Land - 1940-1947"; S.I.P. "The Haifa and Jaffa Postmarks of the Palestine Mandate"; Dr. Oscar Stadtler, The Israel Philatelist; Bronze: A. Ben David, W.P.C. Newsletter.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Sir,

Referring to your general news item on electronic mail and the assumed threat it represents to philately. As a personal computer owner and subscriber to an electronic mail service I can agree that a threat exists but not necessarily to postal history. On the contrary, the threat of a potential revolution in the oldest means of communication, the transfer of documents from one place on earth to another, by a new and different method, is surely a challenge for the postal historian. Did the introduction of telegram and cable services cause the postal historian and philatelist to abdicate?

Documents there will certainly be and identification markings, time spans, routes, carriers and all the other elements and combinations of elements that are the essence of a fascinating hobby will still be present. If, as yet, computer communication

materials are not collectible for lack of recognised standards and the absence of any aesthetic content it is surely the task of those with experience to ensure that change is brought about. There are already certain aspects of the systems which could rival one another in content and interest, e.g. the different logos used by the various communication services, transmission rates could be as interesting as perforations, and high definition colour printing is coming to stay though as yet not used by all subscribers to a service. Present examples of E-mail may look like your illustration but future letters need not necessarily be so. One can imagine there were negative comments aplenty directed at the first penny blacks.

The challenge then is to be prepared for and to document the revolution itself as scientifically as possible and to lay down now the foundations and, if possible, build those structures which will continue the best traditions of postal history. It would be an appropriate opening to the new era if our own Society for the Postal History of Eretz Yisrael was among the first to take up the task.

Yours Sincerely, S.J. Hillel, Ramat Chen.

Dear Sir,

I would like to comment about the article "DETACHEMENT FRANCAIS DE PALESTINE in W.W.1" by A. Zakai, in your last issue (HLPH #31, p.567).

It is of course correct that the French detachment in Palestine had a telegraphic section, but it is quite doubtful that the meaning of the shortened form T.S.F. means Telegraphique Section Francaise.

First of all grammatically speaking the word order would be

"Section Francaise Telegraphique" (S.F.T.) or "Section Telegraphique Francaise" (S.T.F.). In French the common meaning of T.S.F. is "Telegraphic Sans Fil" i.e. "wireless telegraphy", colloquially still used for "radio", "radio receiver". The letters on top of the mark are not TELEG-MILITAR but TELEGIE - MILITRE abbreviation of TELEGRAPHIE MILITAIRE (military telegraphy).

During W.W.I each French unit had such a mark. It was used on telegram or telegraphic forms. The shape is generally identical but there are sometimes slight differences in the letters.

It is very rare to find that mark on a cover or on a postcard which would happen only occasionally. That use is not quoted in the different French military postmarks catalogues. As it is sure that this postmark was used by the French detachment in Palestine, it really is a rare item.

Sincerely, M. Foliquet, France

Avraham Zakai, responding to the letter of Mr. Foliquet, would like to stress the authenticity of the facts described in his article, which originated in the Public Record Office in London. Specifically, the meaning of T.S.F. as "Telegraphique Section Francaise" was given by Colonel de Piepape himself, the French Commander, in his letter to General Allenby.

BOOK REVIEW

FORERUNNERS TO THE FORERUNNERS - a pre-Philatelic Postal History of the Holy Land by Joseph Aron (Published by the Society of the Postal History of Eretz Israel, P.O.B. 10175, 91101 Jerusalem. Price \$15 plus postage \$2.- by sea mail).

Our member in Australia has produced a book covering the pre-history of Holy Land philately prior to that of the Turkish Forerunner period which began in the 1850s.

The Postal History of the Turkish Forerunner period and the subsequent administrations have been relatively comprehensively covered by many authors so that today there are very few areas which have not, in fact, been documented at all. This new book complements and completes the first part of the Postal History, extending the range of our knowledge back to the first known correspondence and even further back from that.

Aron has widened and considerably enlarged the first published information on this period which appeared originally in Pollack's "Holy Land Philatelist". Since then much additional information has become known, more letters have come to light, and correspondence has been read so that our knowledge of the postal routes and methods is far greater today than it was then.

All of these are covered comprehensively in this new book. Starting with the earliest known information on postal matters, it shows the first letter actually known today and goes on to a very exhaustive detailing of the Middle Age postal systems, ending with the post immediately prior to the introduction of postage stamps and the opening of the first postal agencies in the Holy Land under the Turkish administration.

Naturally the book is extensively illustrated, and where necessary the author has included maps to show the routes taken by mail to and from this end of the Mediterranean Sea to other countries.

The book is a very welcome addition to the slowly growing library of works on the Postal History of the Holy Land and certainly fills a very real gap in our knowledge. The author is to be complimented on his excellent work. It is certainly a book which the Holy Land historian should add to his library.

(E. Glassman)

HOLY LAND AUCTIONS REALIZATIONS

(Compiled by E. Leibur)

Prices are in U.S. Dollars. 12% buyer's commission and 1.8% V.A.T. should be added.

Siegel's Newsletter, Oct. 1, 1987†

- * 1908, Austrian Post, "Petach Tikva" handstamp on Crete Postcard entire, Jaffa postmark & Jerusalem arrival - \$1425
- * 1920, First Local Ovpt., Setting II, 5m Arr. Delta, partially reconstructed sheet including upper block of 72 (with the "Fifth row") - \$2650
- * 1947, Unlisted Postmark: Petach Tiquva M.O. on receipt - \$106
- * 1948, Unfranked cover mailed in June from South Africa, taxed in Tel Aviv 10 and 20m. P.D.I - \$106

From the Tower of David, Oct. 17, 1987†

- * 1900, Austrian Post, Reg. Caifa with "Avis de Reception" to USA - \$950
- * 1909, Turkish Post "Jerusalem (Gare)" on postcard to Canada - \$560
- * 1918, 1p. Contral block Cl8B, Transfer "B" - \$910
- * 1922, Ludd Junction (D8), three strikes on cover to England - \$340

Negev Holyland Stamps Ltd., Oct. 29, 1987

- * Medjdil (St. 38/02) dated Oct. 1899 on letter card to Jaffa - \$4650
- * Jaffa-Jerusalem red-violet T.P.O. pmk. (St. 53/06) on postcard - \$1425
- * 1918, 10 Feb. 1p. set of the three shades, unused - \$480
- * 1920, First Local Ovpt, 9p. Transposed error, used - \$660
- * 1925 Early flight cover from Danzig, (Aug. 4) to Tel Aviv (Aug. 12) repaired - \$350
- * 1948, Minhelet Ha'am, Kefar Shemaryahu Regis. Cover - \$240

†No buyer's commission.

- * 1948, Doar Ivri, 250, 500 & 1000m plate blocks on 3 official F.D.C.'s - \$3350
- * 1948, Doar Ivri, 20 m perf. 10 x 11 used with tab - \$180

Unistamps, Nov. 11, 1987

- * 1920, Third Local ovpt. 20 p perf. 14; fine - very fine - \$2000

Capital Stamps, Nov. 25, 1987

- * 1919, OHMS cover from "BAPO Z" to Palestine, unframed "Aerial Post E.E.F." cachet - \$280
- * 1948, Courier cover bearing 10m. Jer II, dropped and taxed in Tel Aviv with 20m. P.D.I on June 8 - \$850
- * 1949, Jordanian "Beit-Jala" canc. on Egyptian stamps with "Palestine" ovpt. on censored cover to London - \$1200

Wallach Auctions, Dec. 8-9, 1987

- * Turkish Post, 1885 Acre St. 01/05 on cover - \$700
- * Ditto, 1898, Jerusalem St. 28/05 two strikes on reg. postcard, reg. handstamp St. 28/28 - \$760
- * Ditto, 1918, Saffed all Arabic on reg. cover (reg. handstamp St. 47/09) to Switzerland, detained by the British and bearing no cachets - \$5000
- * Austrian Post, Caifa ornamental (or 311) tying 5 + 15 Soldi to Corfu, with Greek 20L. stamp, fine - \$1600
- * German Post, "Temple Colonie Wilhelma" cachet on cover, stamps cancelled in Jaffa - \$800
- * 1918, First interim cover from "PPO SZ 44" to USA, mailed free of Postage, fine - \$420
- * 1918, Indian Forces, F.P.O. No. 40 reg. cover - \$120
- * 1948, Minhelet Ha'am Diaspora 10m x 2 as Postage Dues on philatelic cover franked with Kofer Hayeshuv stamps - \$400

- * 1942, 250, 500, 1000m full hinged tabs, unused - \$2100
- * 1949, Mered (2nd coins) proof sheetlets of four 3, 5, 10, 20! and 50 pr. imperf., unrecorded - \$1,100

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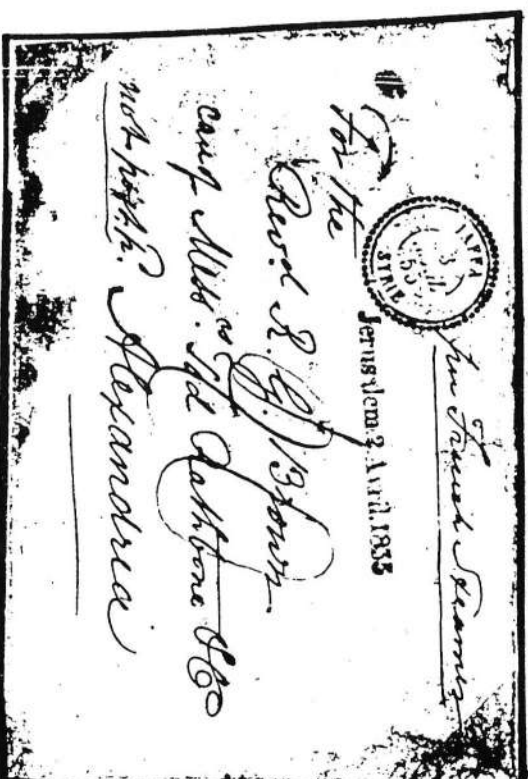
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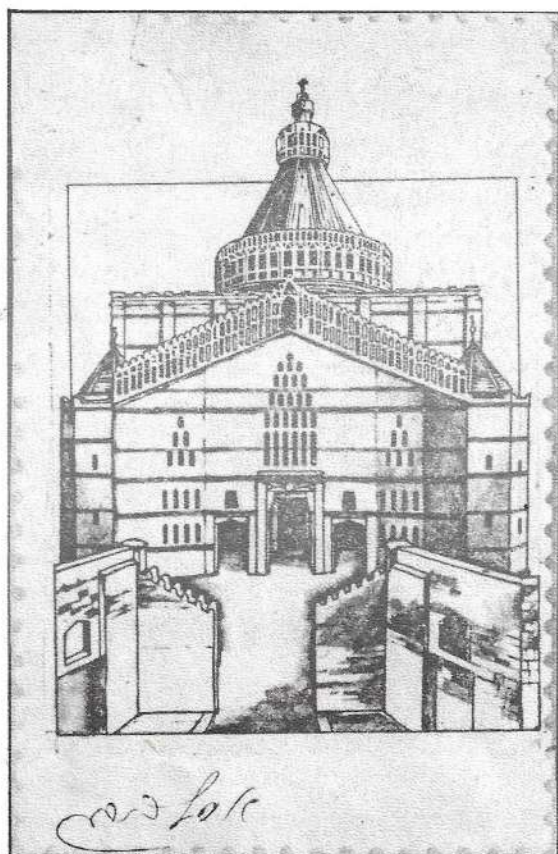
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(see article on p.670)



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