

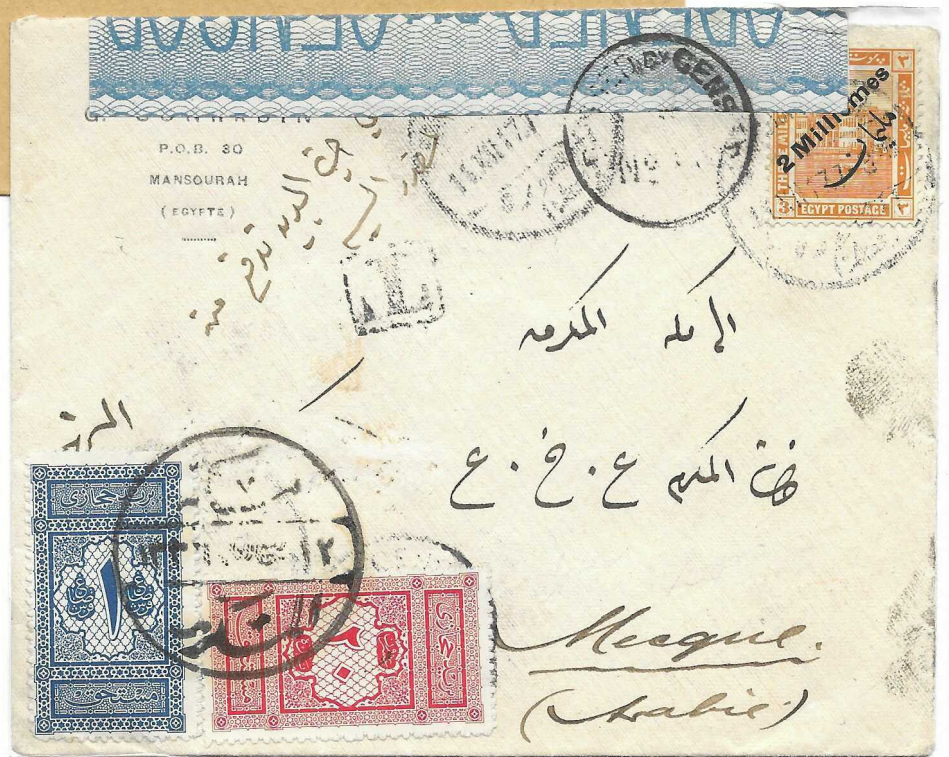
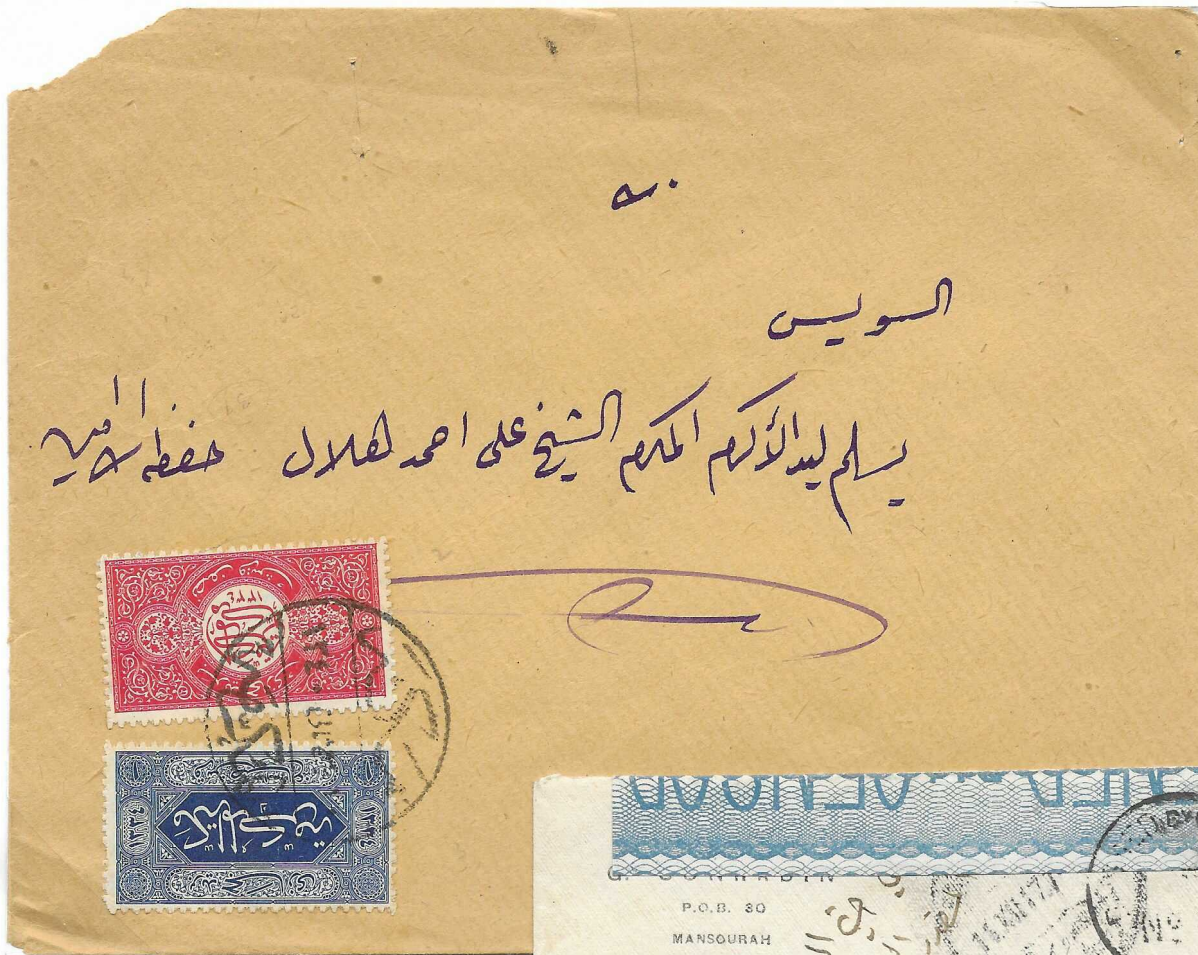
HEDJAZ
Arab Franking

The British arranged for a supply of stamps for Hedjaz to be printed by the Egyptian Government's Survey Department in Cairo. The first stamp -- a blue 1 piastre value to pay postage on international letters -- was issued on 20 August 1916. This was followed by a 1/2 piastre red for domestic letters on 10 September and a 1/4 piastre green for local letters on 3 October. In 1917, two additional denominations were provided: a 1/8 piastre orange for printed matter and a 2 piastre pale purple for international registered letters.

Djeddah
 11 November 1916
 10 November 1917



Upper cover franked with 1 piastre stamps plus a quarter piastre and sent to Djibouti in French Somaliland. Lower cover has the complete set. Note that the stamps are inscribed entirely in Arabic, e.g the 1 piastre has "Barid Hijazi (Hedjaz Post)" in the top panel, "Mekka al-Mukarrama (Holy Mecca)" in the center, and "Qirsh Sagh (One Piastre)" in the lower panel. The year date "1334 (1916)" is at the sides.



Upper cover franked with 1/2 piastre and 1 piastre Hedjazi stamps and sent to Port Tawfik, Egypt. In addition to the regular issues, the Survey of Egypt printed postage due stamps. Two of these (20 para and 1 piastre) are shown on the lower cover inbound from Mansourah, Egypt to Mecca.

HEDJAZ
Arab Franking

Yambo
1918

El Akaba
January 1919



Covers with 1/2 piastre domestic letter rate stamps. The lower example is from Aqaba, which was later assigned to Transjordan so that country could have an outlet to the Red Sea. Only a few examples are recorded from Aqaba during the Hedjazi period.

LONG ISLAND

In April 1916, a British naval force occupied this small island in the Gulf of Smyrna. The local Civil Administrator produced stamps inscribed "G.R.I./Long Island" with a typewriter. They were used only from 7 to 26 May, and their necessity is questionable. However, covers passed through the post and are very scarce.



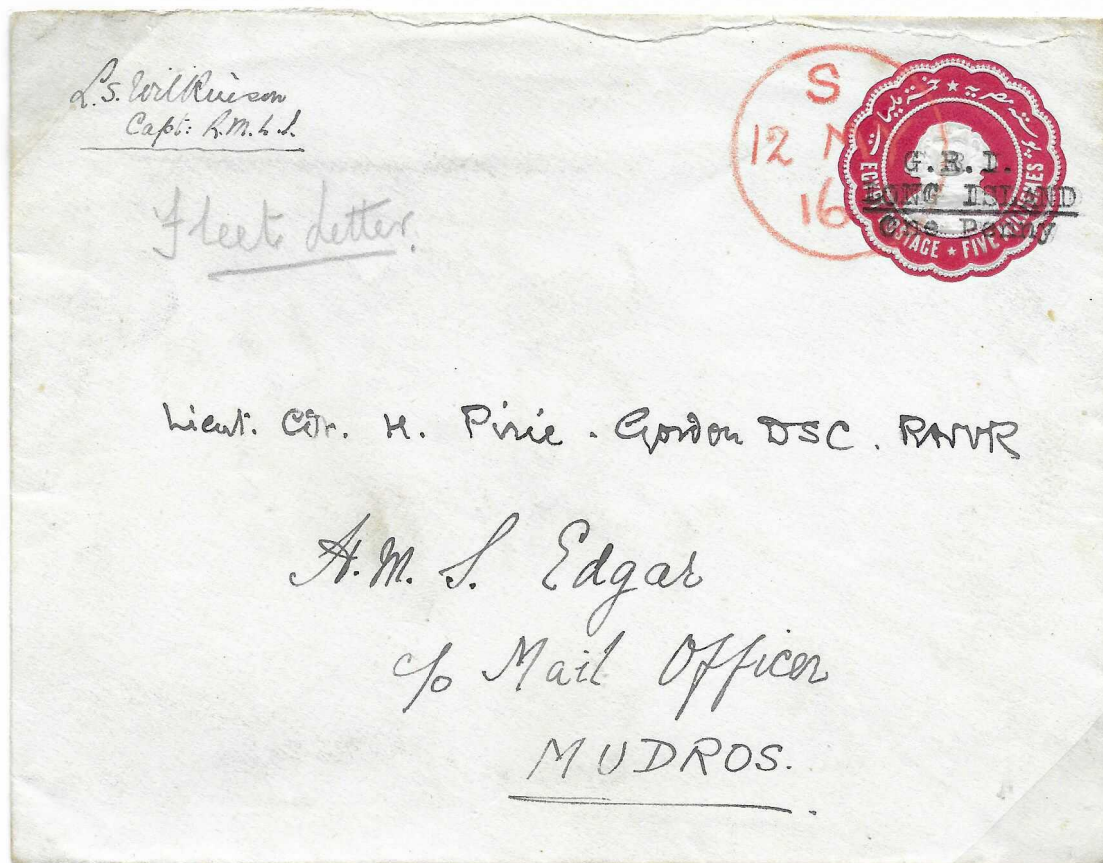
Long Island N
13 May 1916



Covers from this minor occupation are extremely elusive, with only a dozen or so produced. Those with the blue "N" (for North) handdrawn postmark are especially sought after, as compared with the more widely noted red "S" (for South) marking.

LONG ISLAND

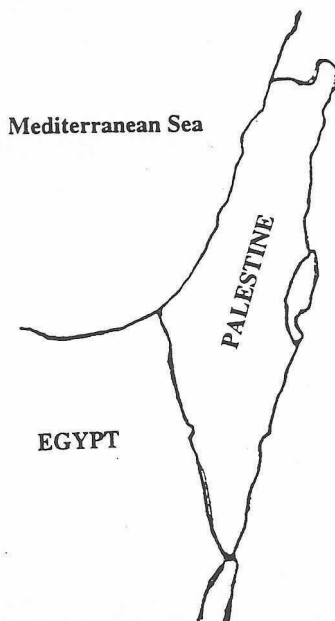
Long Island S
12 May 1916
19 May 1916



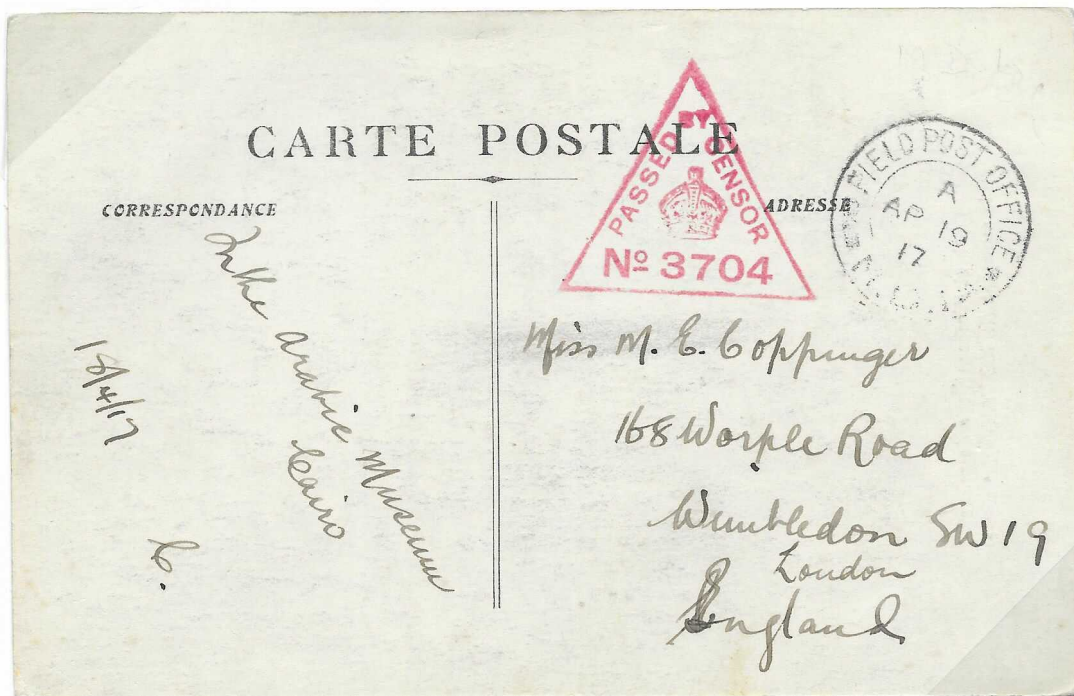
In addition to the "stamps" produced by typewriter, the typist also created a stationery envelope for Long Island by overwriting an Egyptian one. Only example seen by exhibitor.

PALESTINE

Having successfully defended the Suez Canal against attempted Ottoman attacks in 1915 and 1916, the British made preparations to invade Palestine using the Sinai as their base. The Egyptian Expeditionary Force first crossed into Palestinian territory near Rafa on 9 January 1917. However, its advance was held up by strong Turkish resistance at Gaza until late that year. Jerusalem was finally captured on 9 December 1917, and the entire area of Palestine was cleared by the time of the Armistice with Turkey on 30 October 1918.



Field Post Office M.D.1
19 April 1917

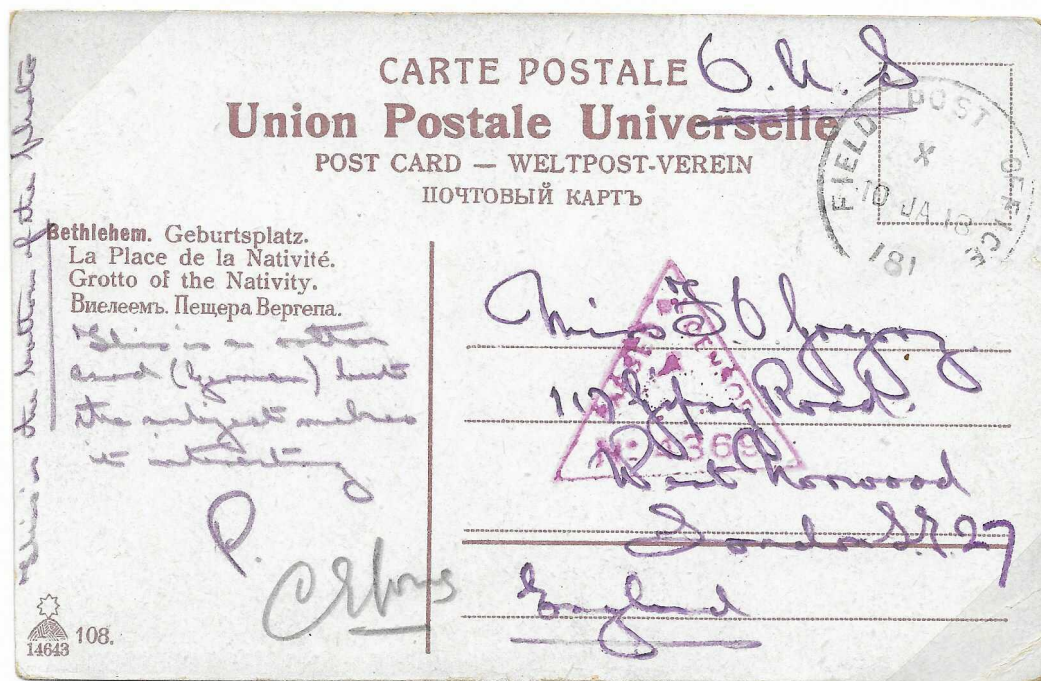


FPO M.D.1 was assigned to the ANZAC Mounted Division, which was in Deir el Balah in the Gaza Strip when this postcard was sent in the early part of the Palestinian campaign.

PALESTINE
Military Mail

Army Post Office SZ14
14 September 1917

Field Post Office 181
10 January 1918

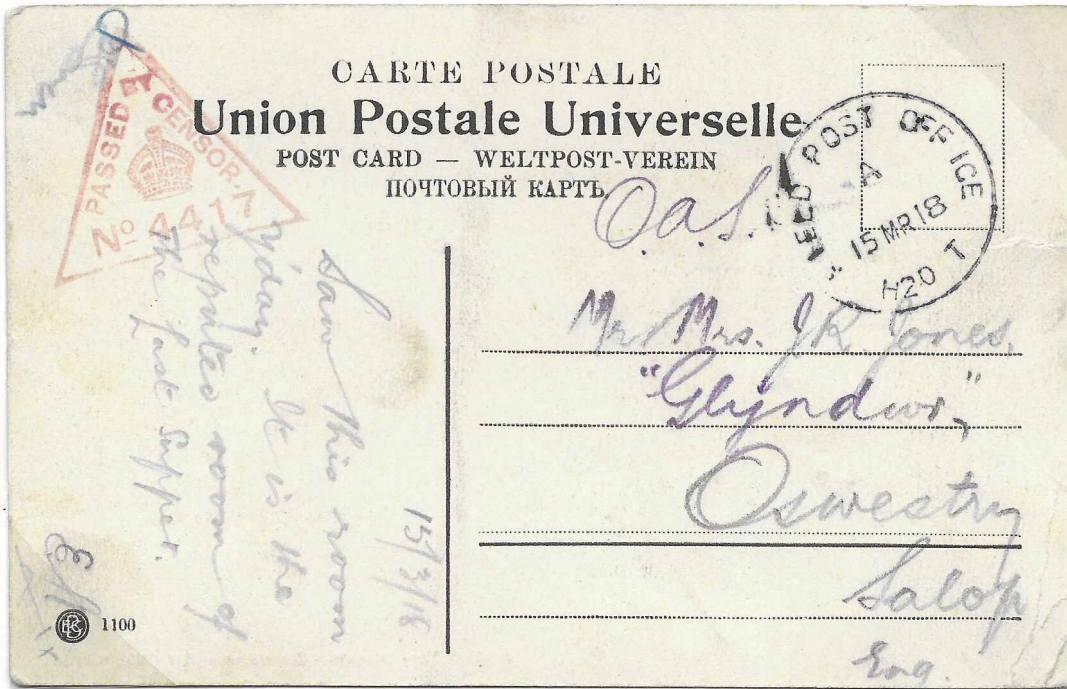


Items sent before and after the capture of Central Palestine.. APO SZ14 (a stationary office) was located at Deir el Balah and lower postcard sent from FPO 181 (an office that moved with its assigned troops) in Jerusalem.

PALESTINE
Military Mail

Field Post Office H20 T
15 March 1918

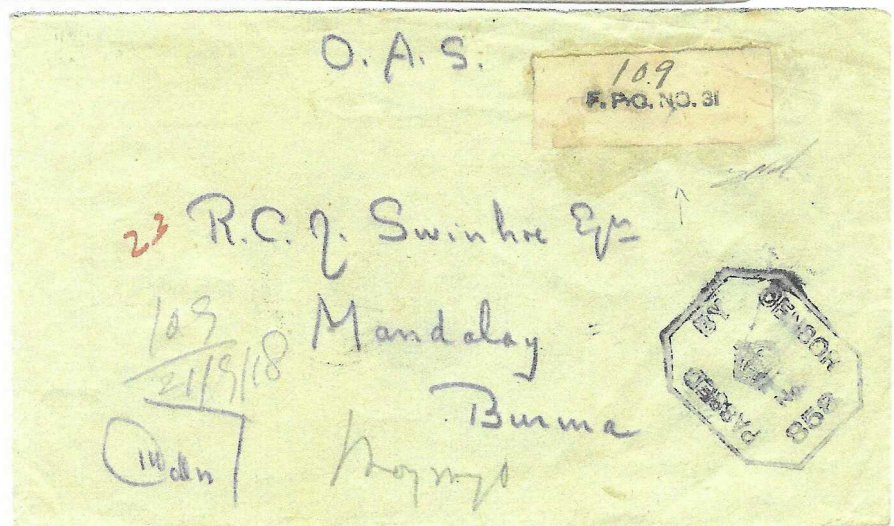
Field Post Office 30
10 May 1918



The field post service in Palestine was quite extensive both during and after the fighting. These examples sent from FPO H20 T in Jerusalem and FPO 30 at Tel Asur.

PALESTINE
Military Mail

F.P.O. 31
21 September 1918



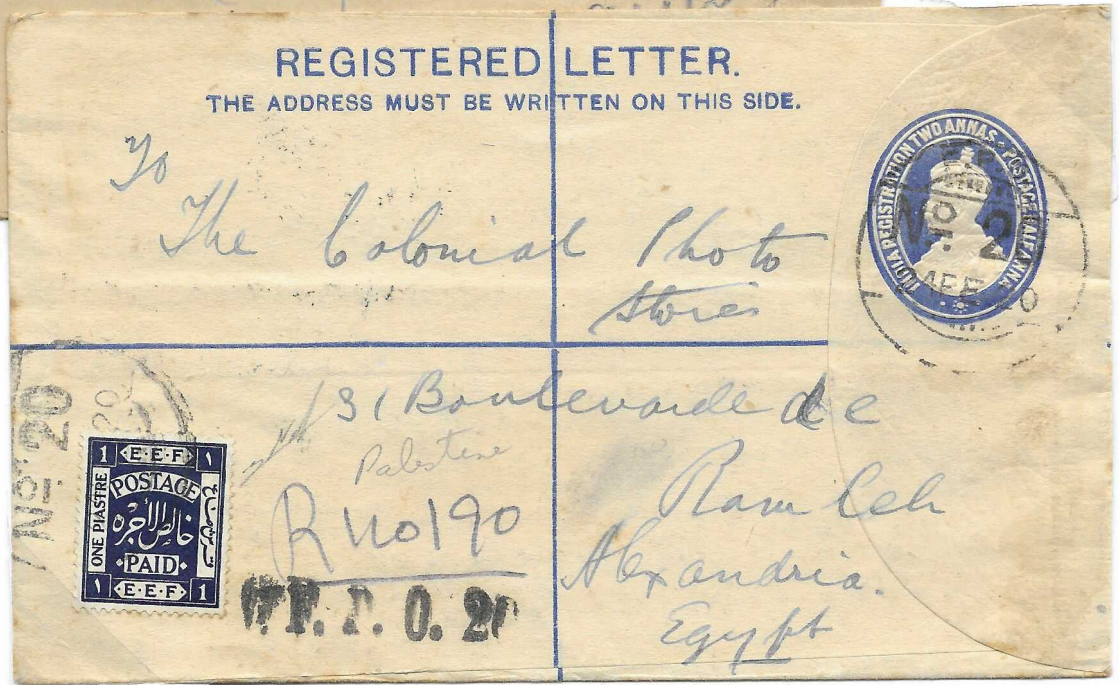
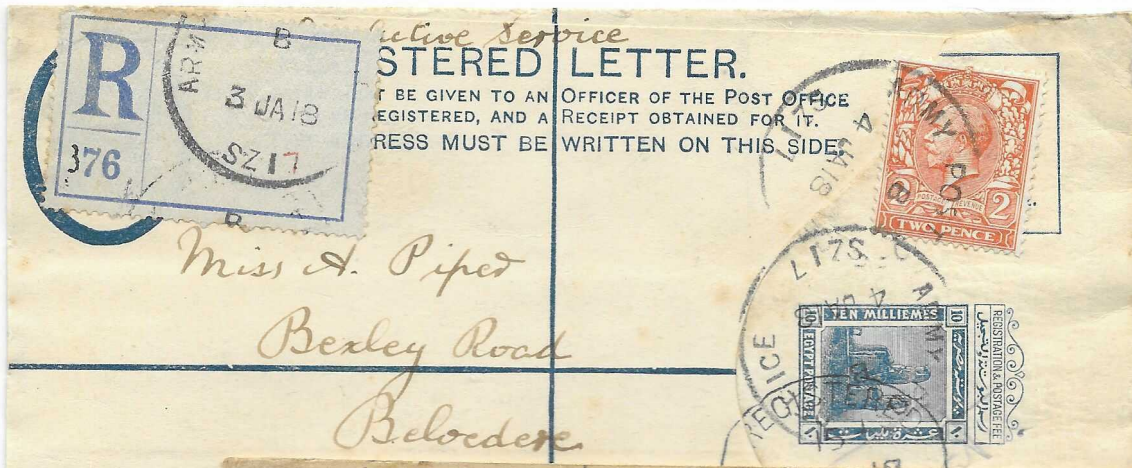
Registered cover, sent through Indian FPO 31 at Kantara in the Egyptian Sinai to Mandalay, Burma. Note the manuscript endorsement "From Palestine written 19-9-18 on which day Allenby broke thro' the Turkish line." Presumably mailed by a soldier from a location without FPO and forwarded to Kantara for processing. Postage was free but stamp of 2 annas affixed to pay registry fee. Has elusive registration label of the field post office.

PALESTINE
Military Mail

Army Post Office SZ 17
3 January 1918

Army Post Office SZ 27
12 March 1918

F.P.O. No. 20
24 February 1920

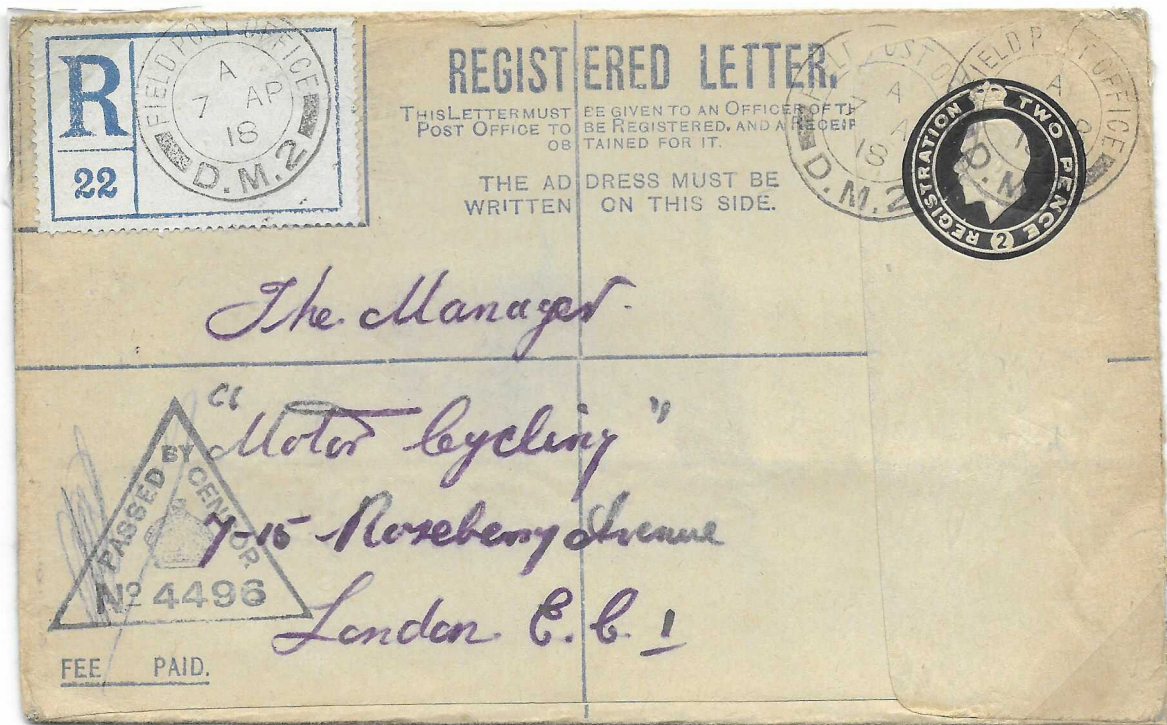


A selection of registered envelopes showing the various kinds of postage that was being used in Palestine at the time -- Egyptian, British and Indian.

PALESTINE
Australian Forces

Field Post Office/D.M.2
7 April 1918

1st Aust. L.H. Bde. Field P. O.
23 August 1918



Upper cover from the Australian Mounted Division (of the Desert Mounted Corps), which was north of the Dead Sea advancing toward Es Salt at the time. The Australian Light Horse Brigade was part of Chaytor's Force engaging the enemy north of Jericho when the lower cover was mailed.

PALESTINE
Free Postage
EEF Franking

Since Palestine was a battleground for nearly a year, there was very little civil mail initially. However, once the front moved north, a postal service became necessary. For a three-month period starting in December 1917, both military and civil mail was handled free of charge at the APOs. Then, on 10 February 1918, the first Palestinian stamp was issued -- a dark blue 1 piastre denomination inscribed "EEF (Egyptian Expeditionary Force)" -- to pay postage on international letters.



APO SZ44
22 Dec. 1917

APO SZ45
5 March 1918



Upper cover shows a cover from Jerusalem to The Netherlands sent free of postage in the appropriate period. This is an early example of such mail, which is very elusive. When EEF stamps became available, they were affixed to letters by the postal clerks at the three main APOs (Bir Salem, Jaffa and Jerusalem) in order to forestall speculation that might cause a stamp shortage. Examples are sought after by collectors of Israel forerunners.

PALESTINE
EEF Franking

Army Post Office SZ44
24 May 1918



When the initial stamps were exhausted, a second printing was made -- this time in light blue -- and issued on 5 March 1918. A pair was used to pay the 1 piastre international letter rate plus 1 piastre registration from APO SZ44 in Jerusalem to England.

PALESTINE
EEF Franking

Army Post Office SZ45
21 May 1918

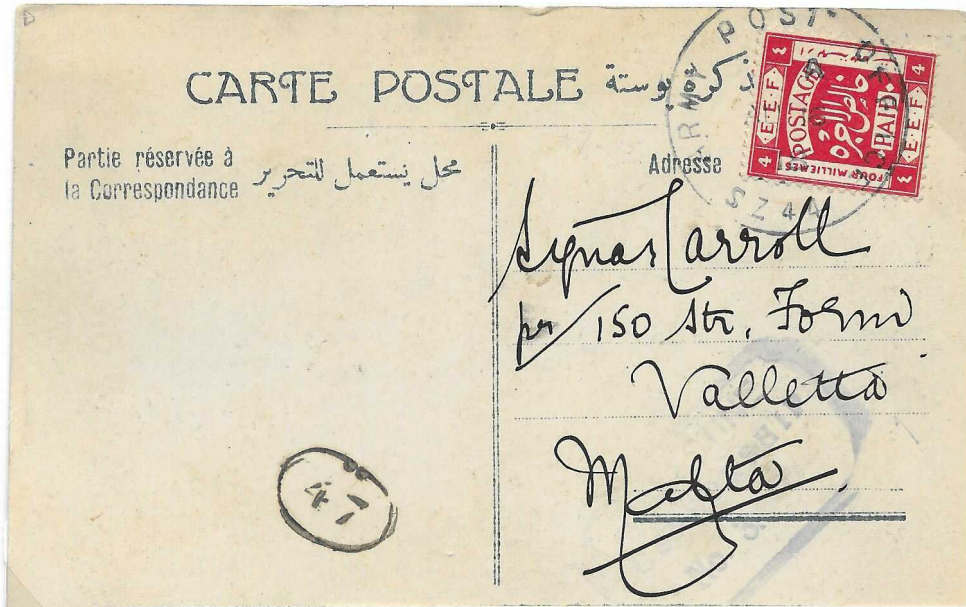


On 16 February 1918 a domestic letter rate was established at 5 milliemes or a half piastre, which required a new stamp of this denomination. To meet this need, some 1 piastre stamps were surcharged in Arabic and English. One example used here to pay the letter rate (along with 1 piastre for the registry fee) from Jaffa to Jerusalem.

PALESTINE
EEF Franking

Army Post Office SZ44
16 August 1918

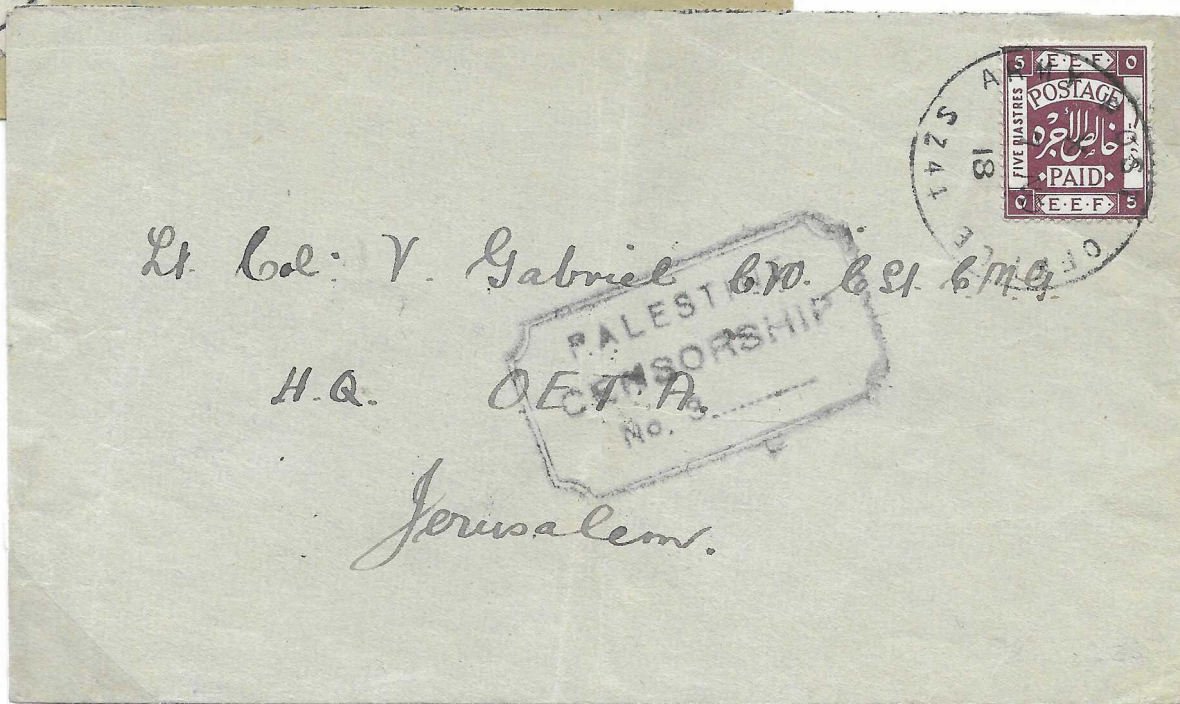
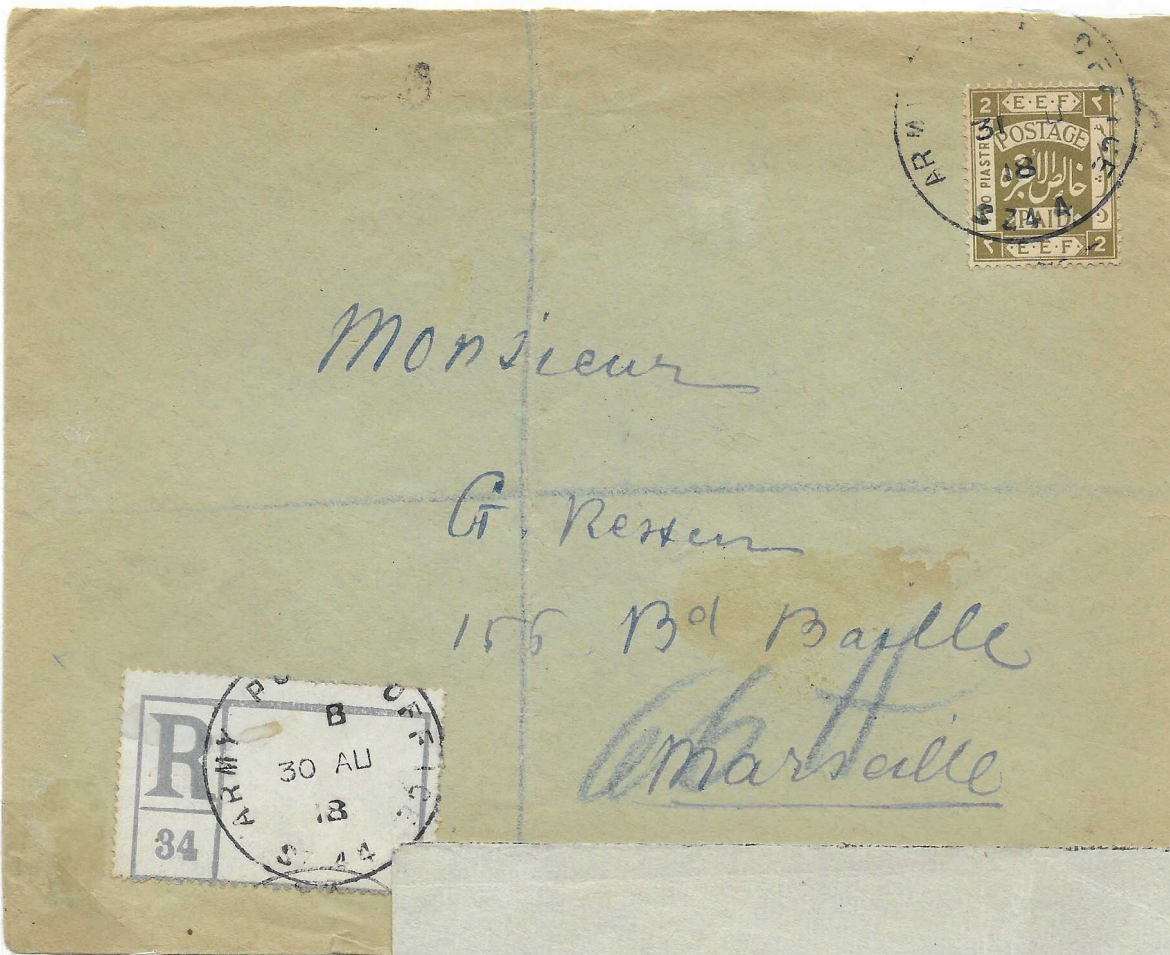
Army Post Office SZ32
3 March 1919



As additional denominations of the EEF stamps were needed, a new printing was made in London, with the stamps being perforated rather than rouletted. A 4 millimemes for postcards (shown here used to Malta) was issued on 16 July 1918, and a definitive 5 millimemes on 25 September 1918 to replace the earlier surcharged one for domestic letters (shown here as a pair used from APO SZ32 at Bir Salem to Cairo).

PALESTINE
EEF Franking

Army Post Office SZ44
30 August 1918
7 November 1918



Additional denominations issued on 16 July 1918 included 2 piastres for international registered letters (shown used from Jerusalem to France) and a 5 piastres high value (used here on an overfranked souvenir cover to OETA Headquarters).