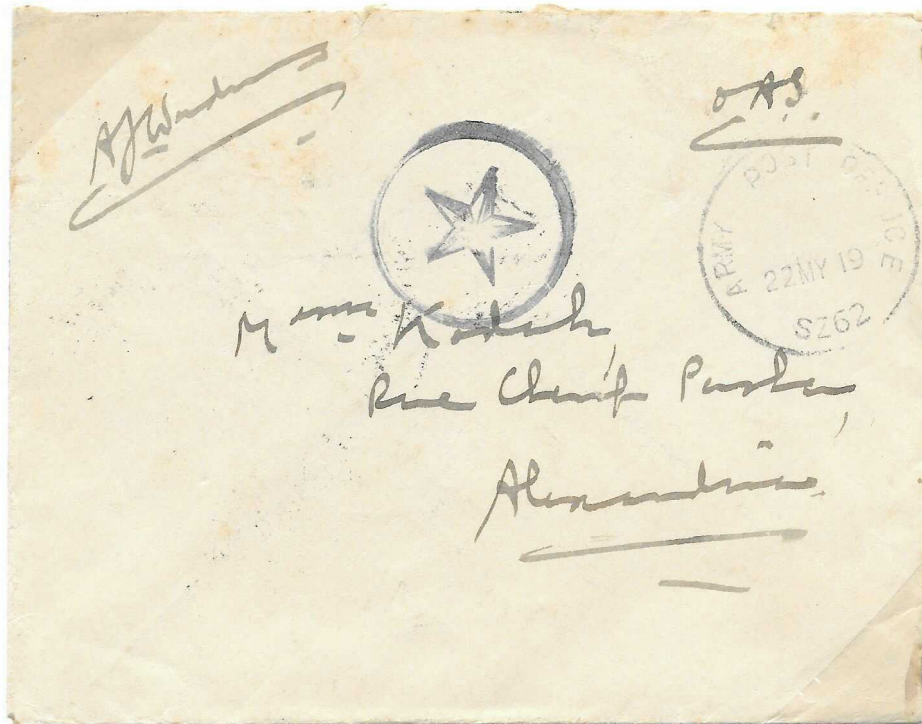


SYRIA

At the time of the Armistice with Turkey on 30 October 1918, the Egyptian Expeditionary Force had advanced through Lebanon and into Syria as far north as Aleppo. Damascus had been captured on 30 September,



Army Post Office SZ62
22 May 1919

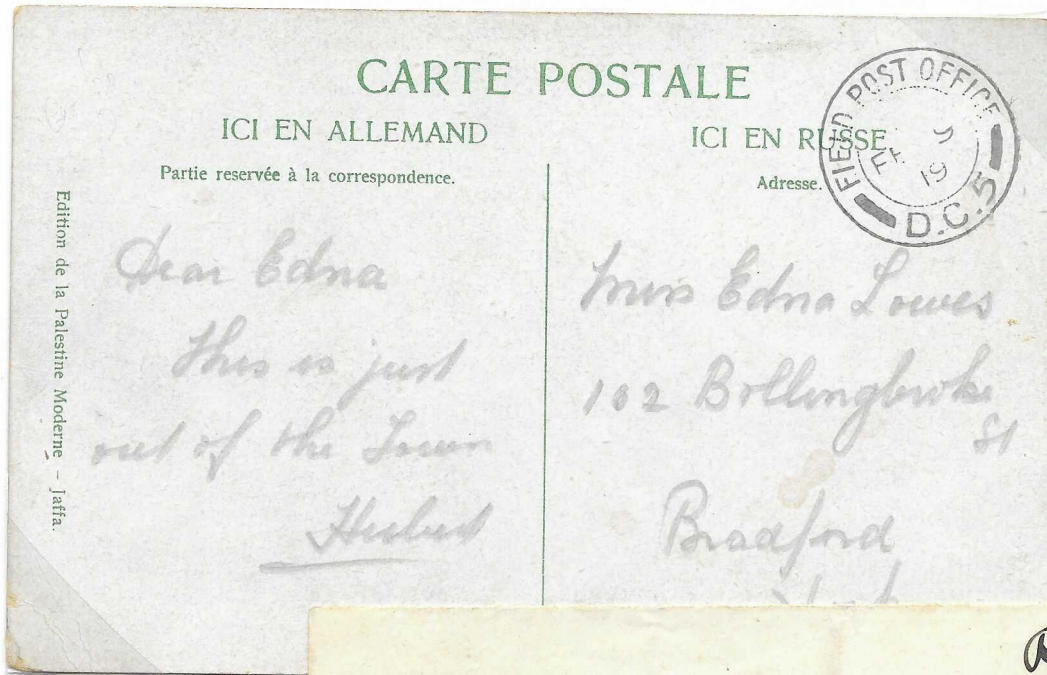


This new British military post office was set up in Damascus, with SZ62 recorded from 23 October 1918 to 24 June 1919, closing when Syria was turned over to French authority.

SYRIA
Military Mail

Field Post Office D.C.5
9 February 1919

Alep
26 March 1919



Field post office D.C.5 (HQ 5th Cavalry Division) operated in Syria from early October 1918. It is recorded used at Aleppo from 26 October 1918 to 3 March 1919. Registered cover with EEF stamps mailed by a Captain Davidson to a fellow officer in Egypt through the civil post office in Aleppo. (Receiving mark of FPO SZ11 at Mustapha Barracks on 9 April.

SYRIA
EEF Franking

During the British presence in Syria, civil mail was franked with the Egyptian Expeditionary Force adhesives. Firebrace reports these were used there from 21 September 1918 to 23 February 1922.

Army Post
Office SZ22
4 Dec. 1918

Damas
23 Nov. 1919



Covers from Aleppo (through APO SZ22) and the civil post office in Damascus with EEF stamps paying 1 piastre for an international letter and an additional 1 piastre for registration.

CILICIA

A small detachment of British troops advanced into southern Anatolia in November 1918 following the Turkish surrender. The British occupation lasted until January 1920, when the area was turned over to the French. In turn, the French evacuated Cilicia in favor of the Turkish nationalists in November 1921.



Army Post Office SZ50
21 February 1919



British Army Post Office SZ50 was established at Mersine, and its postmark is recorded as used from 1 November 1918 to 1 March 1919. Examples are very elusive, even with philatelic franking, as the British offices were replaced by Indian FPOs early in 1919.

CILICIA
Military Mail

Field Post Office C.13
16 January 1919

Field Post Office 310
15 January 1919

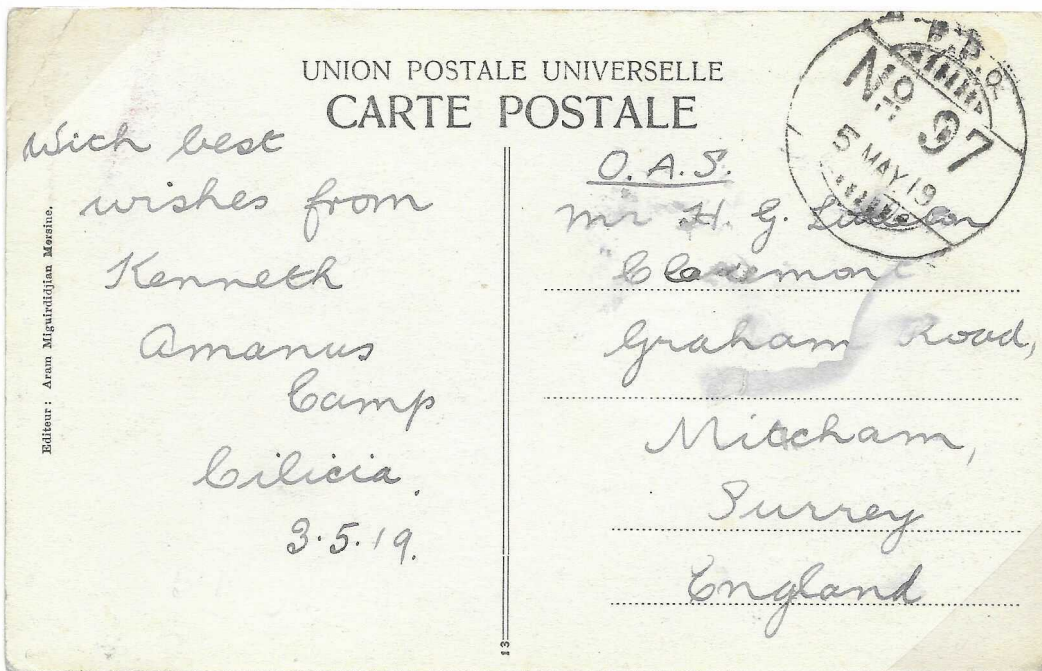
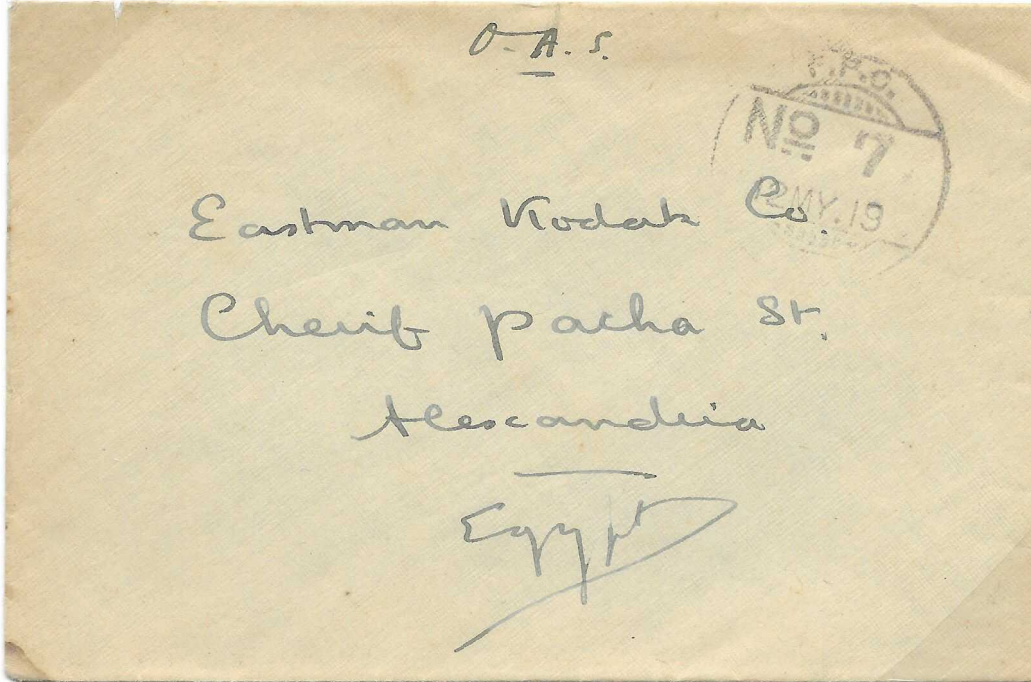


British FPO C.13 was located at Aintab, Cilicia from November 1918 until March 1919. However, in early 1919, the British offices were replaced by Indian Army facilities, such as FPO 310 shown on the lower cover. Postage was free, but the registry fee was paid by affixing 2d or its equivalent in adhesives, including the mixed I.E.F./British franking shown on the lower cover.

CILICIA
Military Mail

F.P.O. No. 7
12 May 1919

F.P.O. No. 97
5 May 1919

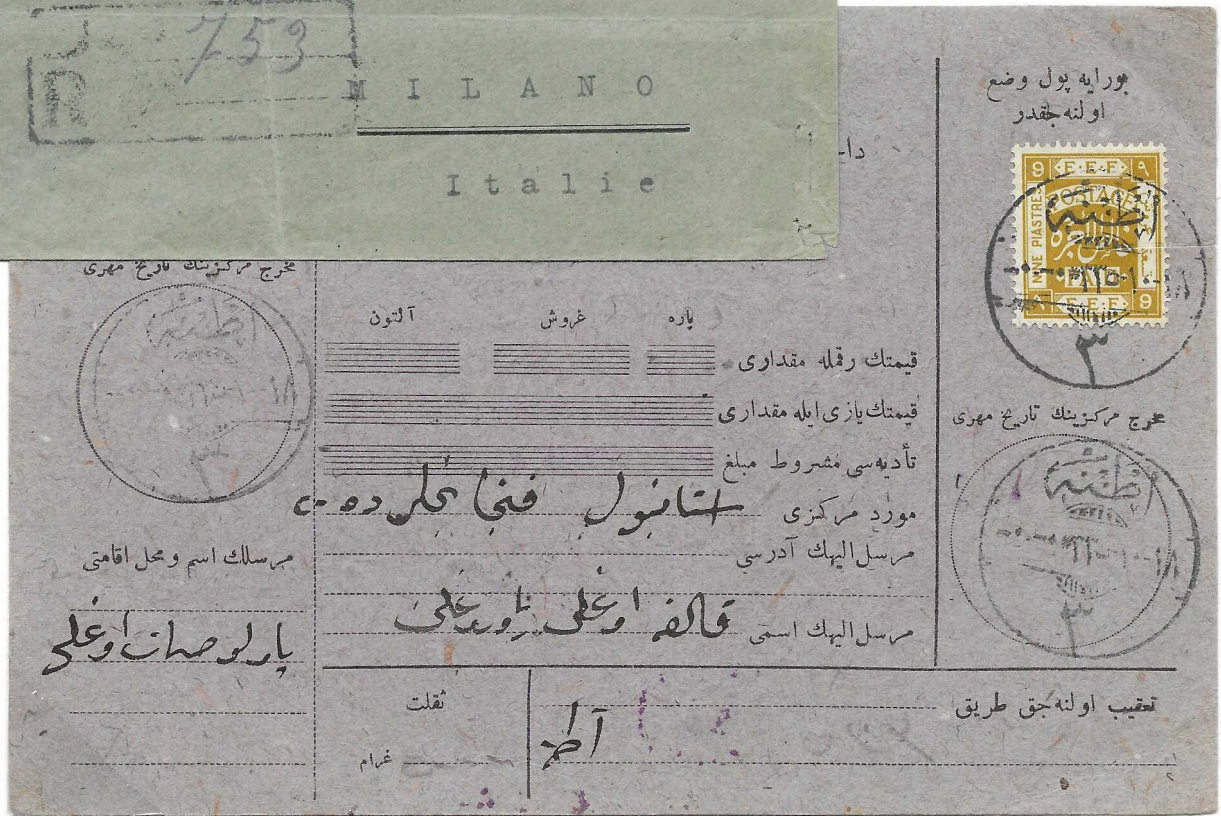


Several Indian post offices operated in Cilicia in 1919. FPO 7 operated at Aintab from 22 February to 8 December 1919. FPO 97 served Amanus Camp, near Mersina, in May and June 1919.

CILICIA
EEF Franking

Occupation stamps issued by the Egyptian Expeditionary Force were used in various parts of Turkey during the early postwar period. They are recorded (Firebrace) as used in Cilicia from 2 September 1919 to 16 July 1920.

Adana
 24 October 1919



Examples shown here are used from Adana on a registered letter and parcel address card.

CILICIA
EEF Franking

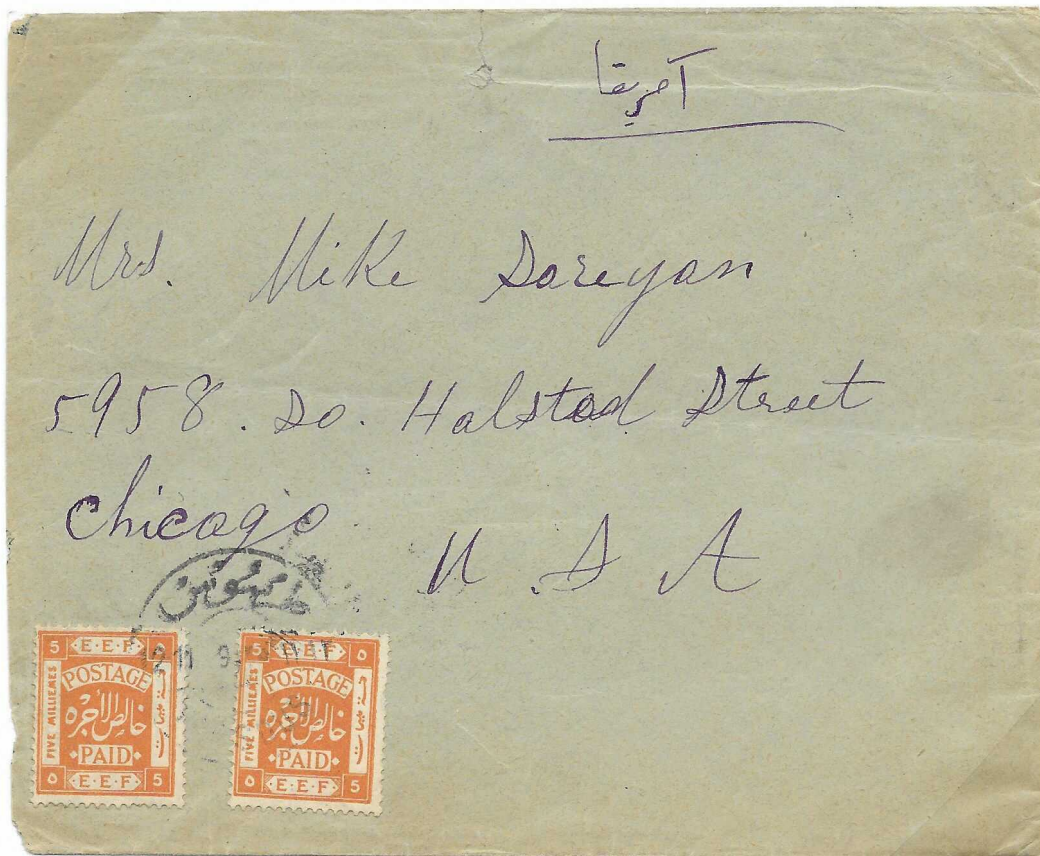
Mersine
9 September 1919
10 September 1919



Examples shown here are used from Mersine on an overseas letter and parcel address card.

CILICIA
EEF Franking

Tarsous
12 November 1919



EEF occupation stamps shown here paying 1 piastre surface rate from Tarsous to Chicago.

YEMEN

This outpost of the Ottoman Empire was located on the Red Sea at the southwest corner of the Arabian Peninsula. It was cut off from the rest of the Turkish possessions by the Arab uprising in Hedjaz so did not warrant the attention of the Allies during the war. However, in 1919-1920 a small contingent of Indian troops was sent there pending the selection of a new ruler.

F.P.O. No. 330
1 February 1920
20 October 1920



Only a handful of examples of mail have been recorded from Yemen. Most such items were sent through FPO 330 at Hodeida, where the postmark is recorded from 5 October 1919 to 20 October 1920 (LRD shown above).

YEMEN

F.P.O. No. 324
15 October 1919



Stampless "On Field Service" cover to London with extremely elusive marking of FPO 324 located at Sheikh Othman in the Aden Protectorate. The cover originated at the Orderly Room of the 1st Yemen Infantry (likely in Sanaa, which did not have its own field post office).

The oval strike with the designation of this group is considered one of the most "impossible to find" military markings of the period.

TURKEY

Following the surrender of Turkey on 30 October 1918, Allied forces on the Salonica Front quickly advanced eastward and occupied key points in the former enemy nation, occupying Constantinople on 13 November.



Field Post Office 83
5 February 1919

Field Post Office 84
26 February 1919

Field Post Office 85
17 December 1918



At first, the same postmarks were employed that had been used in Greece, as examples shown from Chanak, Gallipoli and Constantinople, respectively.

TURKEY
Military Mail

The GHQ of the British Salonica Force moved to Constantinople in December 1918 and the name of the group was changed to the Army of the Black Sea on 13 May 1919.



Army Post Office Y
 28 March 1919

Army Post Office Y1
 14 September 1920
 15 November 1920

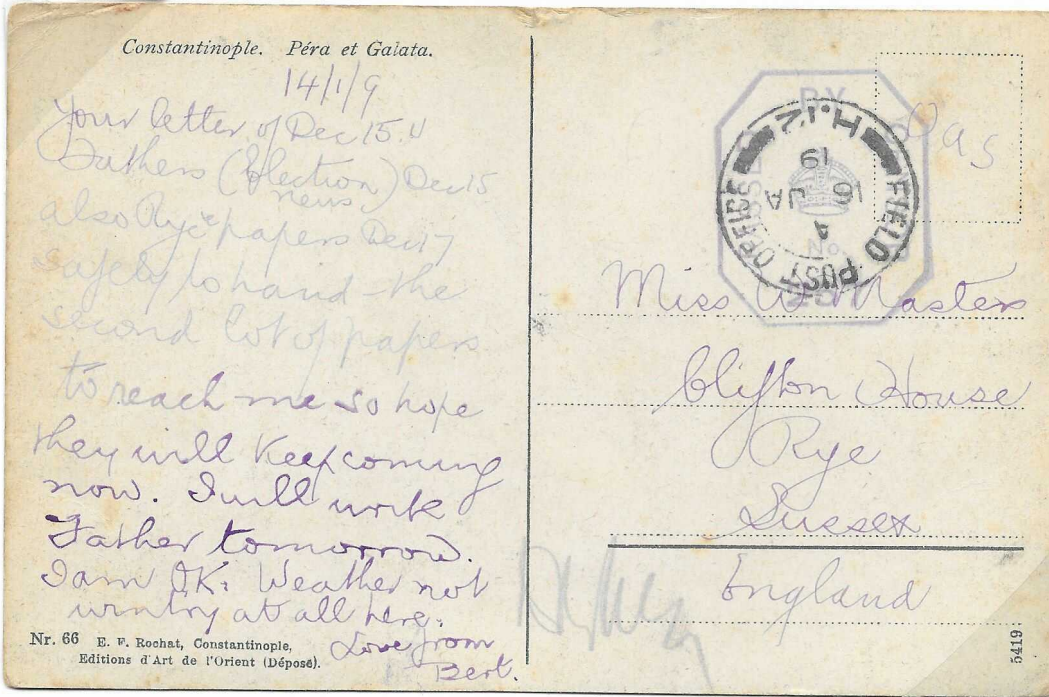


A new base post office, designated "Y," was opened and is recorded from 27 March 1919 to 12 February 1920. APO Y1 was a suboffice at Chanak for the processing of mail from detachments in locations without their own offices. The double-circle version of its cds was used only briefly from 2 October to 15 November 1920.

TURKEY
Military Mail

Field Post Office H.12
16 January 1919

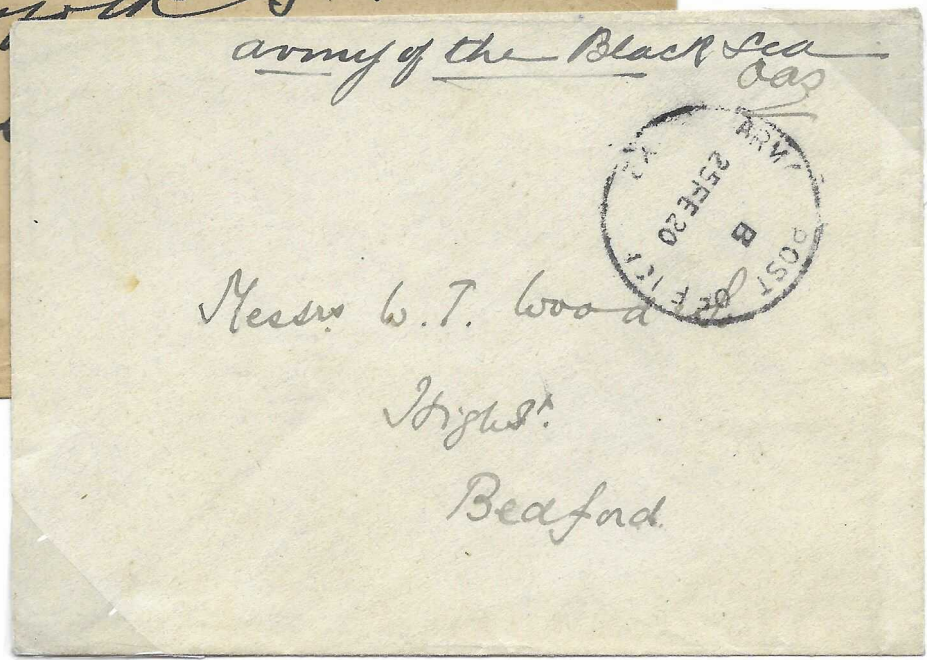
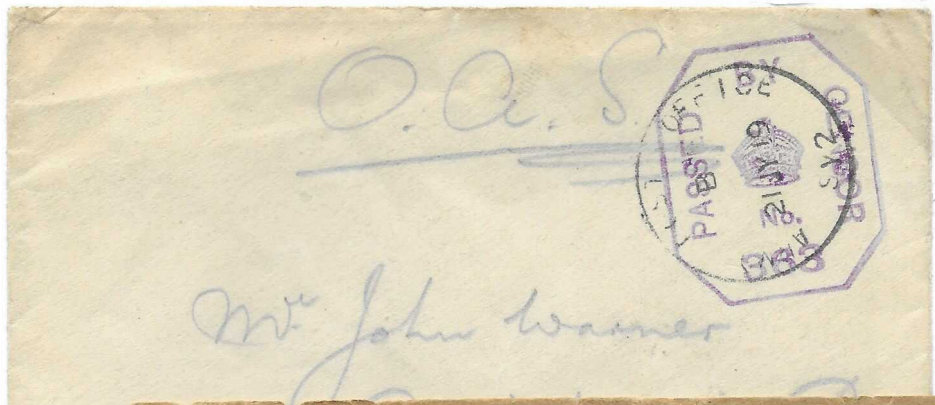
Field Post Office D.28
11 August 1919



Additional examples of FPOs that moved with the forces from Greece into Turkey. Examples shown above are H.12, which acted as base post office on the quay in Constantinople until 16 March 1919, and D.28 at Moda.

TURKEY
Military Mail

Army Post Office Y2
21 July 1919
25 February 1920
17 May 1920

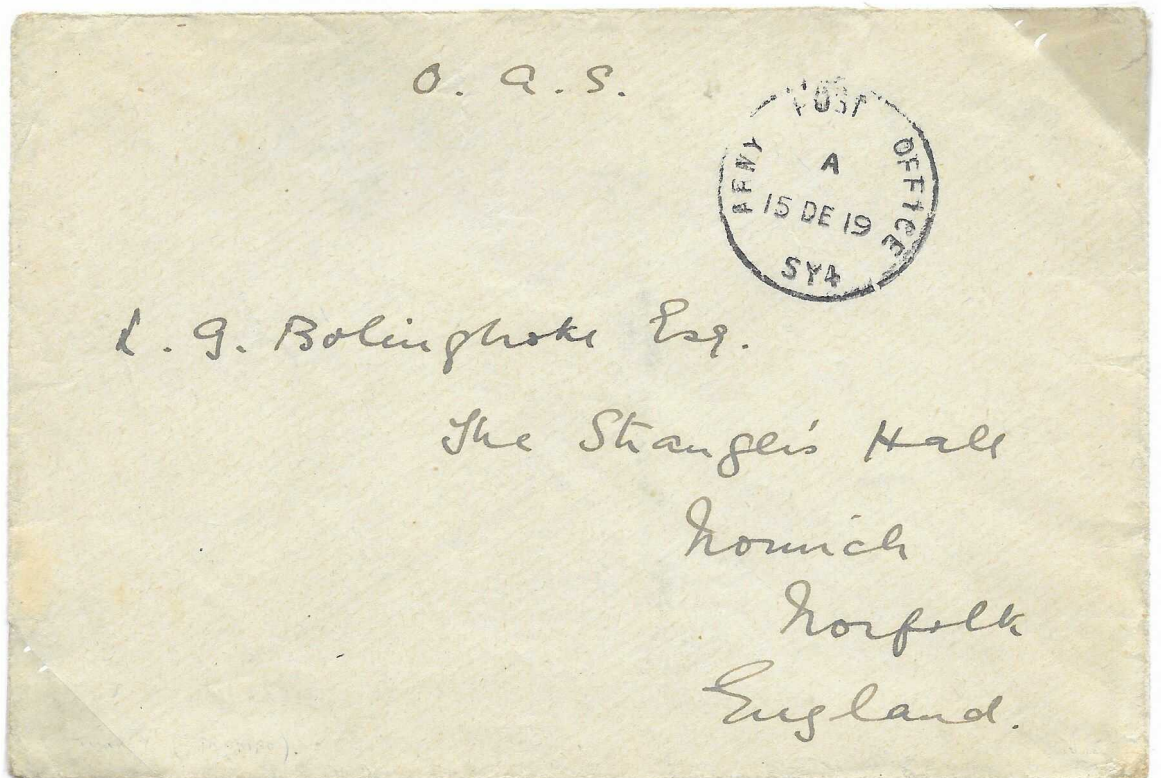
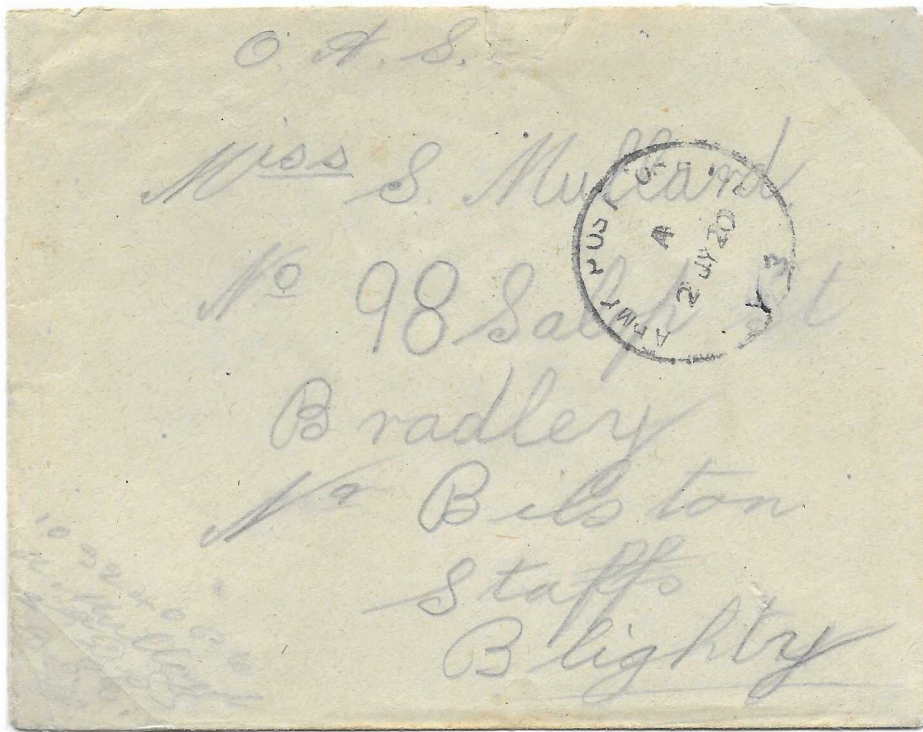


APO Y2 was designated as a stationary office under base Y. Its datestamp originally read SY2 but later versions used Y2 -- with differing spacing between the "Y" and "2."

TURKEY
Military Mail

Army Post Office Y3
2 July 1920

Army Post Office Y4
15 December 1919



APO Y3 and Y4 were further stationary offices under base Y. They were located in Bostanji and Galata, respectively. On 2 July 1920, the RAF made an experimental flight from Batum to Constantinople, where mail was postmarked on arrival. (The above Y3 example is stated to be one of only two covers carried on this flight.)