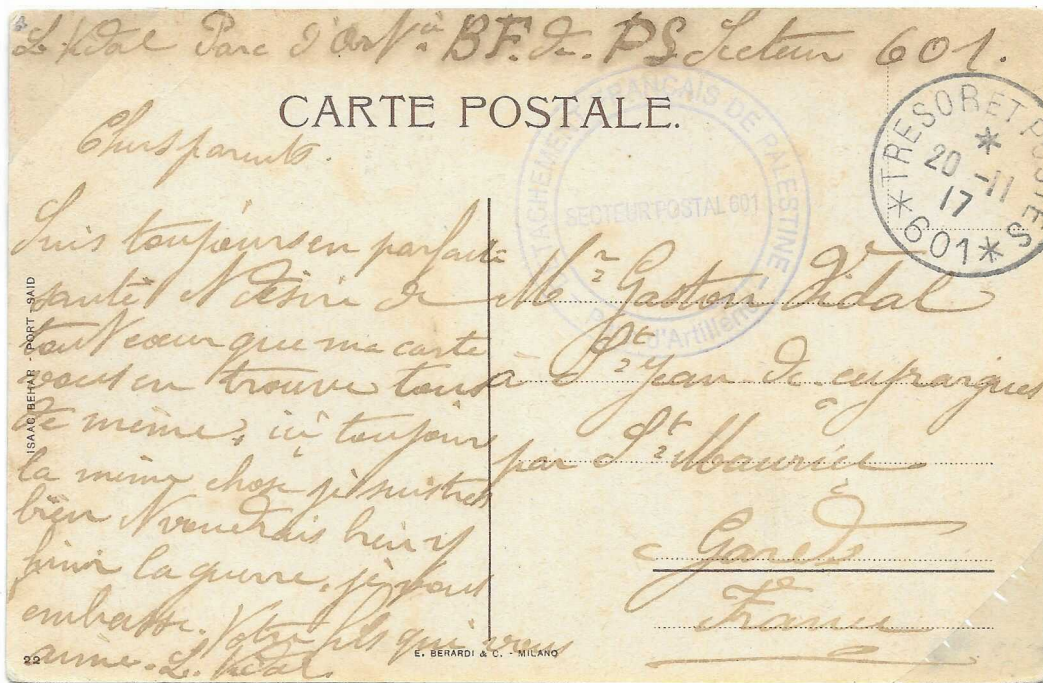
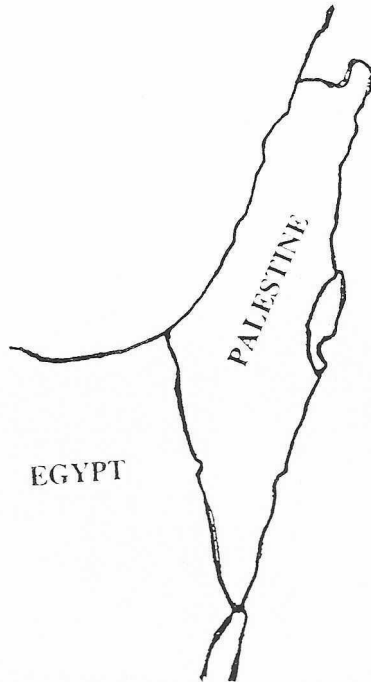


PALESTINE

With its long-term interest in the Holy Land, dating back to the Crusades, France organized a 2,500 man "French Detachment in Palestine," which landed at Port Said in April 1917 to participate in the Allied expedition to be mounted from Egypt against the Ottoman Empire. The advance went well, culminating in the capture of Jerusalem on 17 December 1917. The war on the Palestinian front ended on 30 October 1918 with the surrender of Turkey.

Tresor et Postes 601
20 November 1917

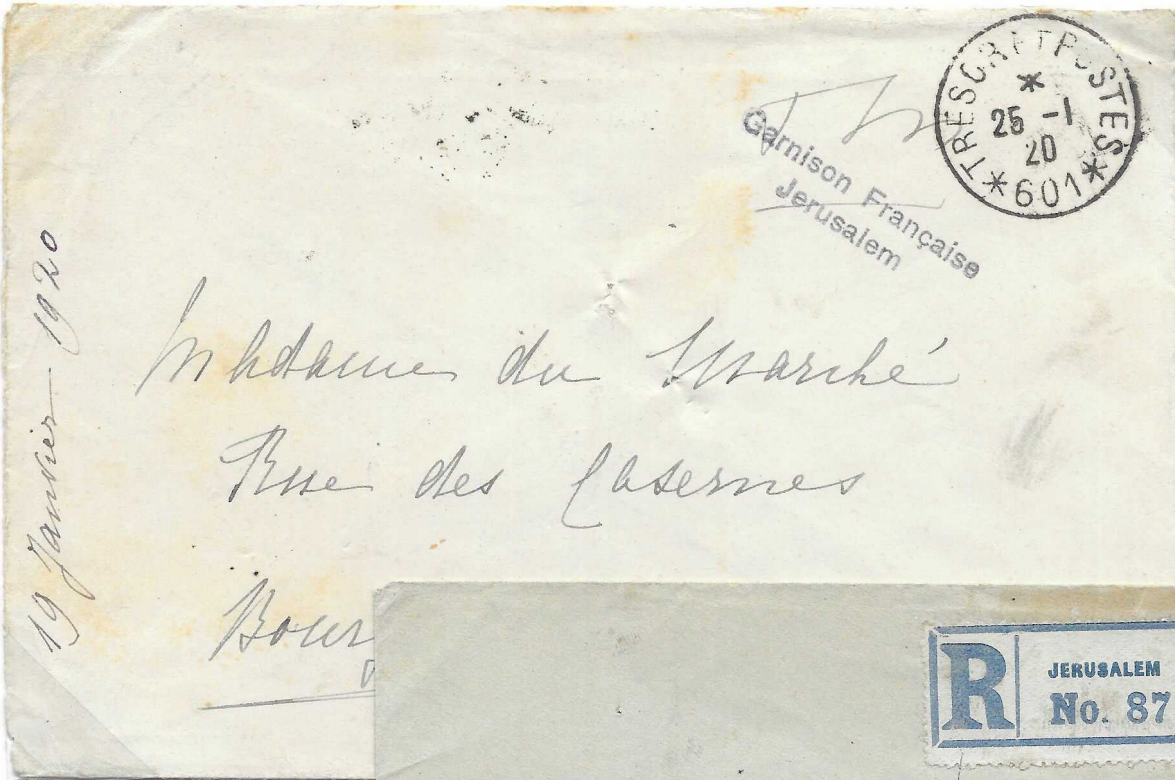


Although the unit cachet is inscribed "French Detachment in Palestine/Artillery," this card was postmarked at the base in Port Said as it is reported (BAPIP Bulletin) that FPO #601 did not move to Palestine until late 1918.

PALESTINE
Garrison Francaise de Jerusalem

Tresor et Postes 601
25 January 1920

OETA Jerusalem
4 June 1920



The French Detachment in Palestine was officially demobilized in January 1919 and FPO #601 moved to Aleppo and subsequently Beirut. The remaining forces in Palestine were constituted as the "French Garrison/Jerusalem." Note that the upper example was not postmarked until it reached the French FPO in Beirut six days later.

PALESTINE
Detachement Francaise de Palestine-Syrie

Tresor et Postes 600
3 July 1919
2 October 1920
25 November 1921

POST CARD

ADDRESS ONLY



Bous baïers.

Verre

Mme et M. Dumas

Impasse Château Brun



Armée du Levant
Detachement français de Palestine-Syrie

P.M.

Envoi par Magasin Central d'Habillement
Beirut, Syrie

SERVICE de l'HABILLEMENT
et du CAMPMENT

DÉTACHEMENT FRANÇAIS DE PALESTINE
SYRIE
MAGASIN D'HABILLEMENT
de la Base de BEIRUT



serie Fitz Kayser
Beirut

Monsieur le Colonel Edouard Lambue,
Médecin Principal de 2^e classe
N° 25 Avenue de Châtillon N° 25
Paris
14^e Arrondissement.

France

Additional "Palestine-Syrie" cachets, including one from the telegraphic service and a straight-line version not previously recorded.

PALESTINE
Fieldpost

Tresor et Postes 601
29 April 1918
11 October 1918

Tresor et Postes 601A
7 November 1918

Enoir n° 4 char. S' Af. 15 Escadron secteur 601
D.P.P.S.

CARTE POSTALE
UNIVERSAL POST CARD

29-4
18
601

Mon cher Henri.

Reçu hier volumineux courrier de lettres.
2 seulement de toi. Et des nouvelles. Pourtant
les renseignements auxquels je tenais y sont.
... Un peu impressionnant m'écrivent... qui servent à
car de ta nouvelle fraîche me manquent
X est impossible qu'un courrier de France
manque. De ma sœur toutes les lettres y sont
de moi il faut compter ne pas en avoir
du 19 mars ni du 26 (16 pages, je crois) ni du 3
avril. Du camp on nous le dit demain
M. veut encore. Ici ça va très bien quoique
tu le sais il y a de haut les bas.
Je t'écris plus longuement de ce que je
le pourrais à tant.
LE CAIRE - 53 - Tombé le 11 mai
Je t'embrasse affectueux
Alphonse

B.B.

Henri Beulque
N° 1 Rgt d'Infanterie
6ème Compagnie

POST CARD - EGYPT

DU DETACHEMENT FRANCAIS DE PALESTINE

TRESOR ET POSTES 601

Le Louvain sur Bonnaudet
Libourne Gironde
France

2^{ème} TIRAILLEURS INDIGÈNES
9^{ème} BATAILLON
35^{ème} COMPAGNIE
Loppay S. mar. S.P. 601 A
ADRESSE

M. de la Roche
E. de la Roche
6 Square Médecine Vallois
Paris 15^e

7 nov. 1918

Carte postale

Correspondance
pour les pays seulement où cela est admis.

Acquies. au front
de monts Liban.
La ville est jolie et le
environs aussi.
Dis à papa que
m'écrit big vite
Joy Papa
Je vous embrasse big
Soutis deux

Other special unit markings used in Palestine. The cachet on the upper card is from the 1st Spahis of the Palestine Detachment; middle card is from the French Flying Corps supporting the infantry in Palestine. The lower card is endorsed "S.P. (Postal Sector) 601A but not postmarked; it was transported to France by military pouch. Unit marking is of "9th Battalion of 2nd Algerian Sharpshooters."

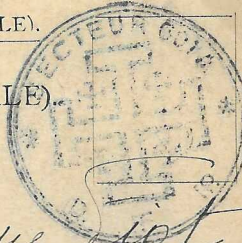
PALESTINE
Fieldpost

Tresor et Postes 601A
11 February 1918
19 July 1918
6 November 1918

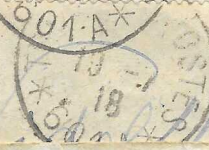
~~WELTPOST VEREEN~~ (UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE)

~~CORRESPONDENZ KARTEN~~ (CARTE POSTALE)

Madame Henriette



Reservé exclusivement à l'adresse.



Monsieur

TERRITOIRES ENNEMIS OCCUPÉS
ADMINISTRATION CENTRALE
SECTION DU COURRIER



CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE

Monsieur J. J. Batina

B. P. 999

Alexandrie

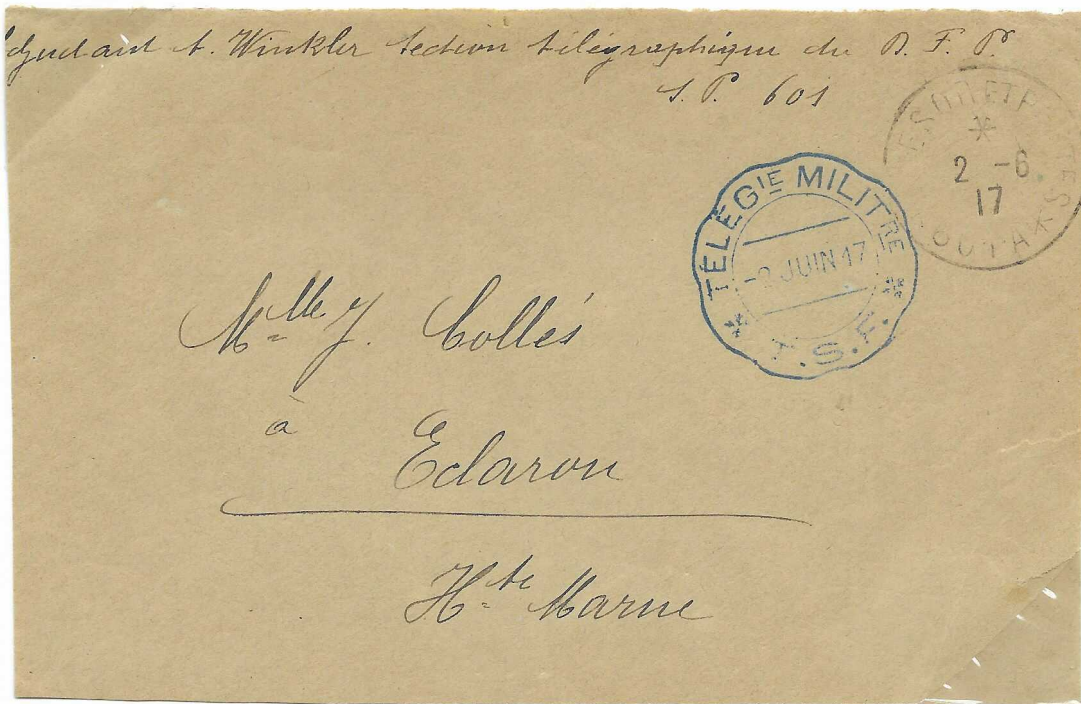


The volume of mail was sufficiently heavy that a branch office, FPO #601A, was opened at Jaffa to service the postal requirements of the Detachement Francaise de Palestine. Postcard has unrecorded marking of "Secteur 601A/D.F.P." and depicts a Jerusalem cross. Red cachet on middle cover reads "1st Spahis/Squadron de Palestine." Marking on lower cover is "Occupied Enemy Territory/Central Administration/Courier Service."

PALESTINE
Fieldpost

Tresor et Postes 601A
2 June 1917

French Military Telegraph Station at Khan Yunis



This Military Telegraph cds is the scarcest of the French military postmarks used in Palestine. The Telegraph Section was located at Khan Yunis near Gaza, and its postal unit consisted of 3 men, 4 camels and an automobile. This is the earliest reported example of its marking, and the Steichele handbook records only two other examples: dated 24 July and 4 October 1917. This cover front sent to France by a member of the "Section Telegraphique du Detachement Francaise de Palestine."

PALESTINE
Fieldpost - EEF Franking

Army Post Office SZ44
16 July 1918
5 September 1918



**Internal Mail
Between
French Units**

Cover from a sergeant in the French Garrison in Jerusalem to a corporal of the Detachment in Jaffa. Such inter-unit mail is highly unusual.

**Card from the French
High Commissioner
in Palestine**

Postcard sent from Jerusalem to France. The only example of the High Commissioner's cachet seen by exhibitor.



PALESTINE
Legion Armenienne

Tresor et Postes 601-B
28 February 1918
12 March 1918

CORRESPONDANCE
DES ARMÉES DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

F.M.

CARTE EN FRANCHISE

Insp. Nr. — Modèle A¹ pour les troupes en opérations.

EXPÉDITEUR :

Nom et prénoms : *Stanislas Lianou*

Grade :

Régiment (ou Service) : *Régiment Arménien*

Compagnie, Escadron, Bataillon, Section, etc. : *D.I.S.S.*

Secteur postal n° : *601-B*

(Les indications ci-dessus sont à reproduire dans l'adresse de la réponse.)

Adresse :



M. Mourouzi
La Bonne Presse
5-Rue Bergard 5-
à Paris (8^e) (Seine)



Franchise militaire



Maitre V. Malérian
avocat à la Cour

Union Générale de Bienfaisance Arménienne
Rue de Madabekh

Le Caire

(Egypte)

To augment their forces, the French recruited others to serve in a "Legion of the East." Most members were Armenians, who strongly desired to fight the Turks. A special postal branch called #601-B was opened at Monarga, then Lydda, to serve the Legion. Per the Sinais handbook, its postmark is the most elusive of all French FPOs that operated in the Levant. Postcard to Paris has sender's endorsement " Legion Armenienne." Cover to Egypt was routed through a British FPO and received in Cairo on 22 March.

PALESTINE
Detachment Francaise de Palestine

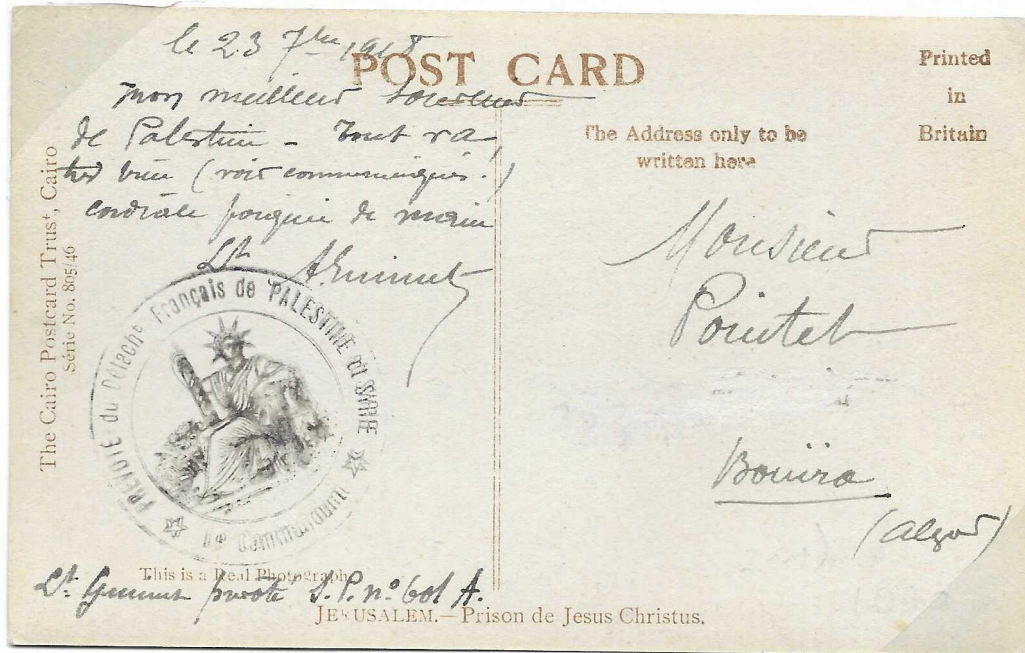
Port-Said
7 May 1918



Cover sent by the Cooperative (PX) of the French Detachment in Palestine to Cairo. Sender's detail on reverse indicates that this unit was located at Ramleh. The French fieldpost did not have facilities to process registered mail at the time, so the letter was likely sent by military pouch to the civil post office in Port Said, where it was registered and the registry fee paid by affixing an Egyptian stamp. A most unusual usage.



A substantial number of different unit cachets were used by the French troops in Palestine, including those shown above of the Cavalry and Infantry.

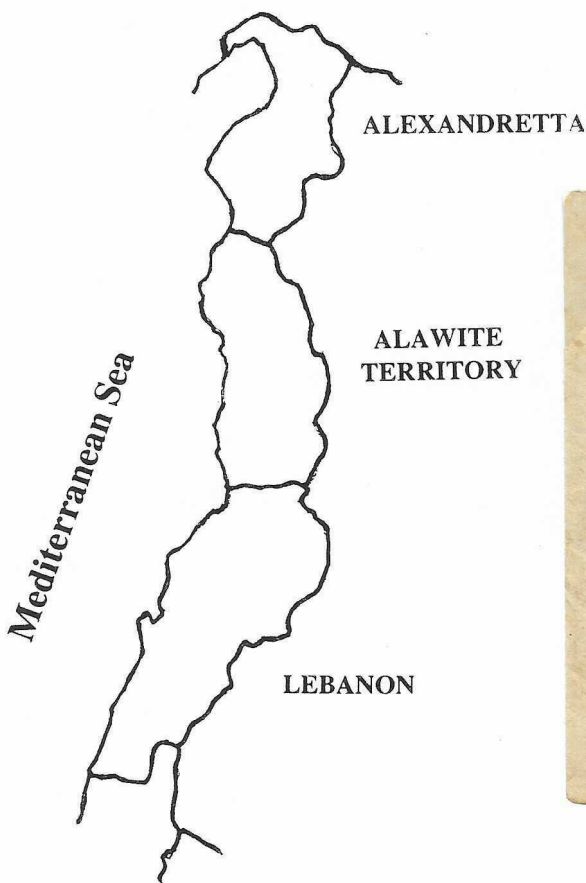


As the French forces spread northward into Syria and Lebanon, the nomenclature used in the unit cachets changed to include references to Syria. Examples shown here are from the Provost and Automobile Service. All such markings should be considered very elusive.

SYRIA

In the initial phase of the occupation, the French focused on Lebanon, where naval forces were landed and Beirut secured on 7 October 1918, but they were soon vying for influence with the British and an independent Arab government that was set up in Damascus. During 1919 and the first half of 1920, French forces were occupying the coastal areas along the eastern Mediterranean and north of Palestine, which consisted of Lebanon, the Alawite Territory and Alexandretta. The first postage stamps used in this territory were those issued by the British E.E.F. (Egyptian Expeditionary Forces), which remained in use until the French produced their own issues in late 1919.

Tresor et Postes 600
12 May 1919



Cover sent from FPO 600 in Beirut to France. It was franked with a 1 piastre E.E.F. adhesive even though it bore the cachet of the "French Troops in the Levant/Officers Quarters." Received in La Basse-Indra on 29 May 1919.

SYRIA
E.E.F. Franking

Tripoli-Syrie
23 June 1919

Djon (Liban)
10 April 1919

Tripoli-Syrie - M. & N. NAHAS - Tripoli-Syrie

Honorable
Le Directeur de la 9^e C^{ms} des Contrées
Mécaniques

Fontaine-Évoques
Belgique



José Abboud
apartado
à Hihwahua
Mexico

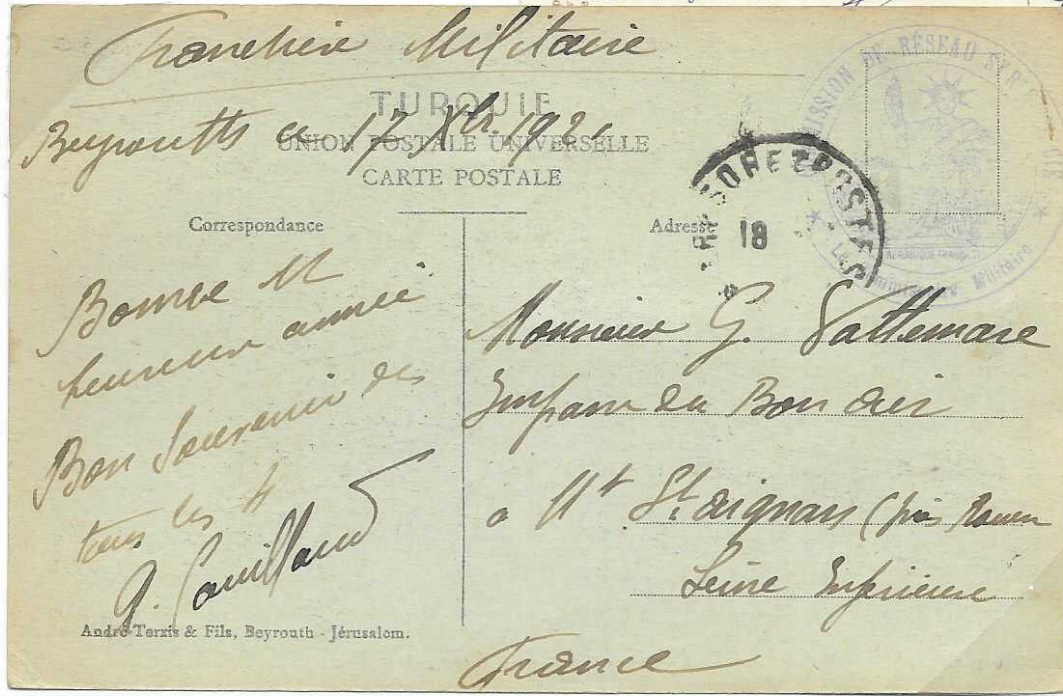
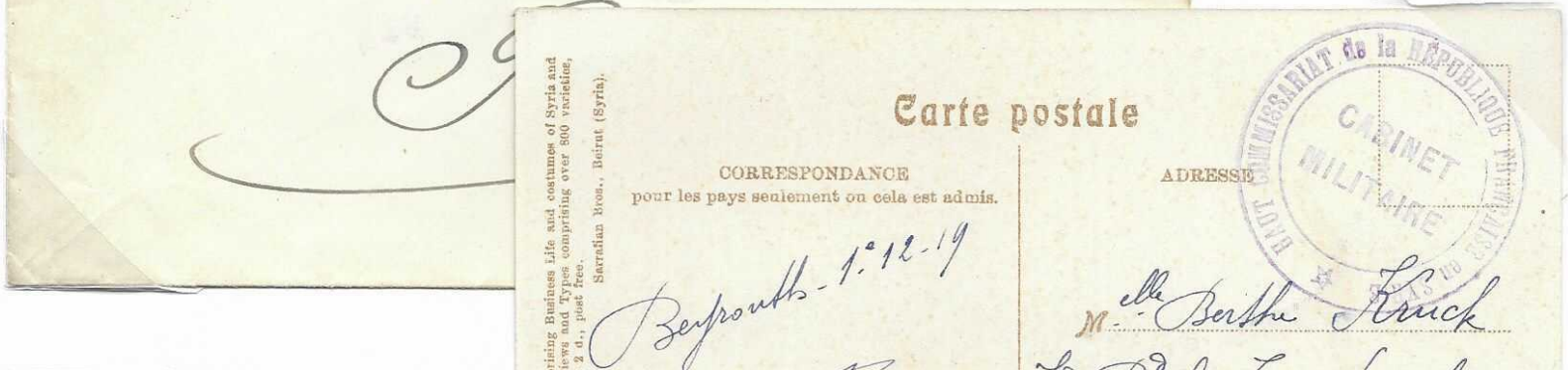


Commercial covers mailed from French-occupied territory (now Lebanon), franked with E.E.F. stamps and cancelled with old Ottoman postmarks. Oval French censorship markings in black and violet, respectively, read "Passed by the/Censor/O.E.T.A. (Occupied Enemy Territory Administration) West." Sent to Belgium and Mexico -- most unusual destinations.

SYRIA
Official Mail

Tresor et Postes 600
26 August 1919

Beyrouth
1 December 1919
17 October 1921



Official mail could be sent free of postage through the French fieldpost stations. Above covers sent from Beirut by the "High Commission of the French Republic in Syria and Armenia," "High Commission of the French Republic in Syria" and "Network Commission in Syria - Cilicia."

SYRIA
Legion Armenienne

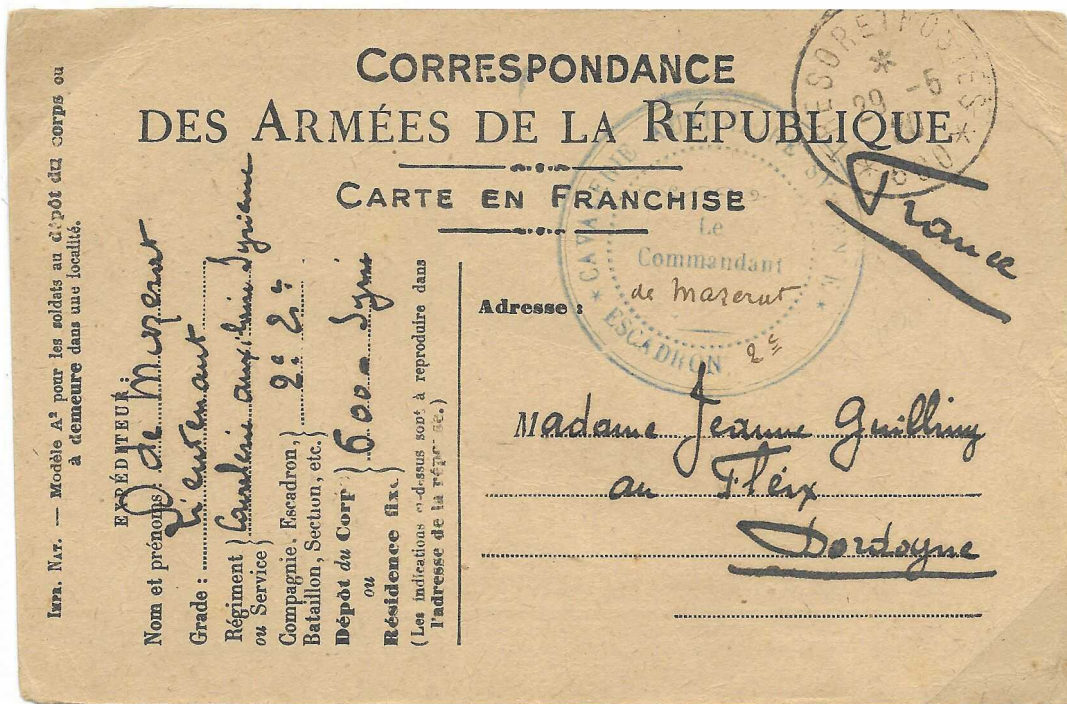
Tresor et Postes 601
3 April 1919



In 1919, FPO 601 moved to the Headquarters of the French Army in Beirut. Some Armenians were recruited to help quell disturbances by Arabs and a few remaining Turks in the occupied territory. Above cover sent by a Sergeant in the "Armenian Legion" to Paris. This is the only recorded cover from this small detachment serving in the Levant.

SYRIA
Cavalerie Auxiliaire Syrienne

Tresor et Postes 600
27 January 1920
29 May 1920



To augment their own forces, the French recruited local troops from Lebanon and the coastal areas of Syria. The above examples show two different unit cachets of the "Syrian Auxiliary Cavalry" and were sent by French officers in those units back to the home country.