

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
ARC Support before 1917

American Hospital
American Relief Clearing House



ARC provided both financial and material support in Italy prior to April 1917. Ospedale Territoriale No. 10 or American Hospital for Italian Wounded equivalent to the American Ambulance in France. American Relief Clearing House as in Paris but here openly identified as "Comitato Centrale Dei Saccorsi Americani - ARC"

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19

ARC Support after 4/17 American Relief Clearing House



After April 1917, American Relief Clearing House continued to serve as the ARC agent in Italy. Following the disastrous Battle of Caporetto in November 1917, the ARC sent an Emergency Mission. It directly took control of the Clearing House. US declared war on Austria-Hungary in December 1917.

Yanks at War Italy
1917-19
ARC locations

ARC Headquarters Rome

Mail of the
Emergency
Commission



ARC volunteer
mail used
Italian postage
was subject to
Italian
censorship and
went thru the
Italian post

ARC headquarters in Rome was initially located at the Clearing House at 112 via del Plebiscito.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
ARC Locations

ARC Headquarters Rome

AMERICAN RED CROSS
Croce Rossa Americana



166, Via Sicilia
ROMA

Captain A. J. Akin -

Croix Rouge Americane

~~Place de la Concorde 4-~~



France

AMERICAN RED CROSS
CROCE ROSSA AMERICANA



14, Via Sardegna
ROMA



B. H. Blackwell Esq.

Bookseller

Oxford

Inglaterra.

Express mail addressed to ARC Paris Headquarter.
Final ARC Rome office was at 14, Via Sardegna.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
District Offices

Naples District Offices



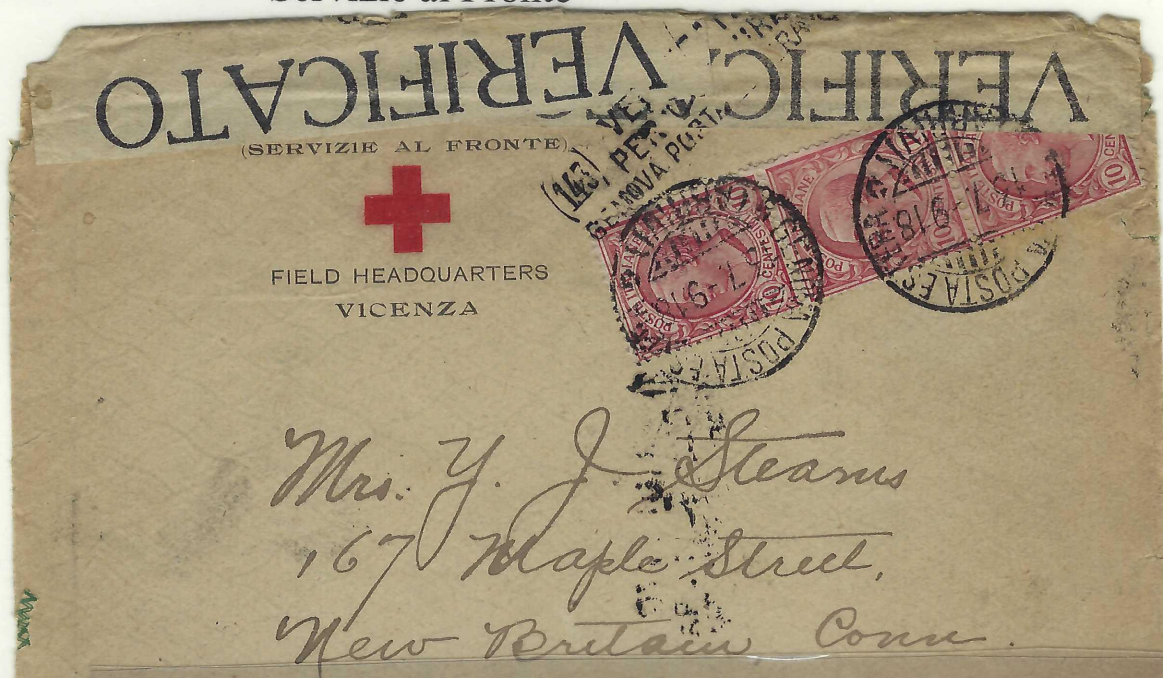
TO WHOM IT MAY

The Bearer of this letter,
ciated with friends of mine
I have, perscnally, known
tation for cleverness and e
riends here.
Any thing that the American

The ARC function in Italy was focused primarily on raising Italian morale particularly among the civilians. Accordingly district office were established though out the peninsula and Sicily.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
District Offices

Vicenza "Field Headquarters"
"Servizie al Fronte"



Rimini
subsection
Ancona


CROCE ROSSA AMERICANA
SOTTOSEZIONE
DI
ANCONA

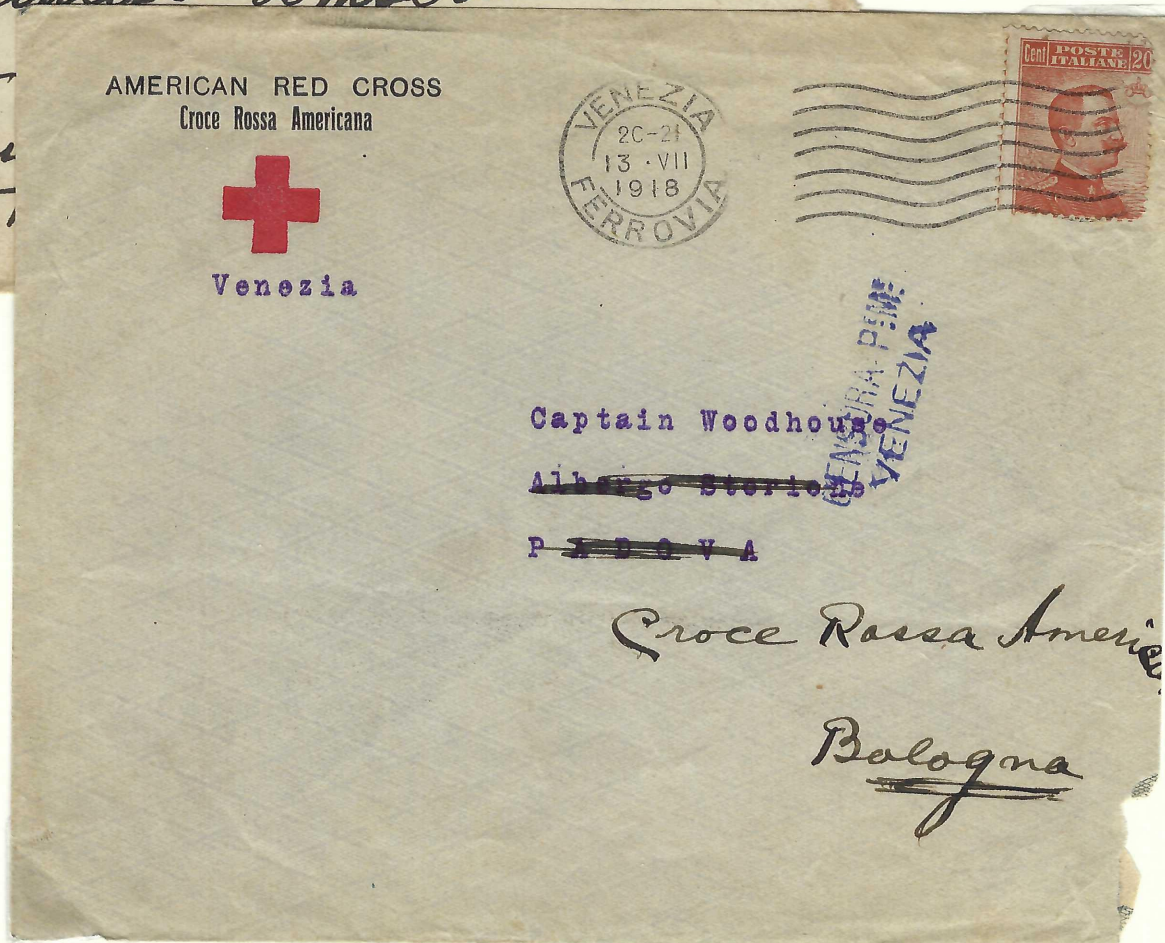
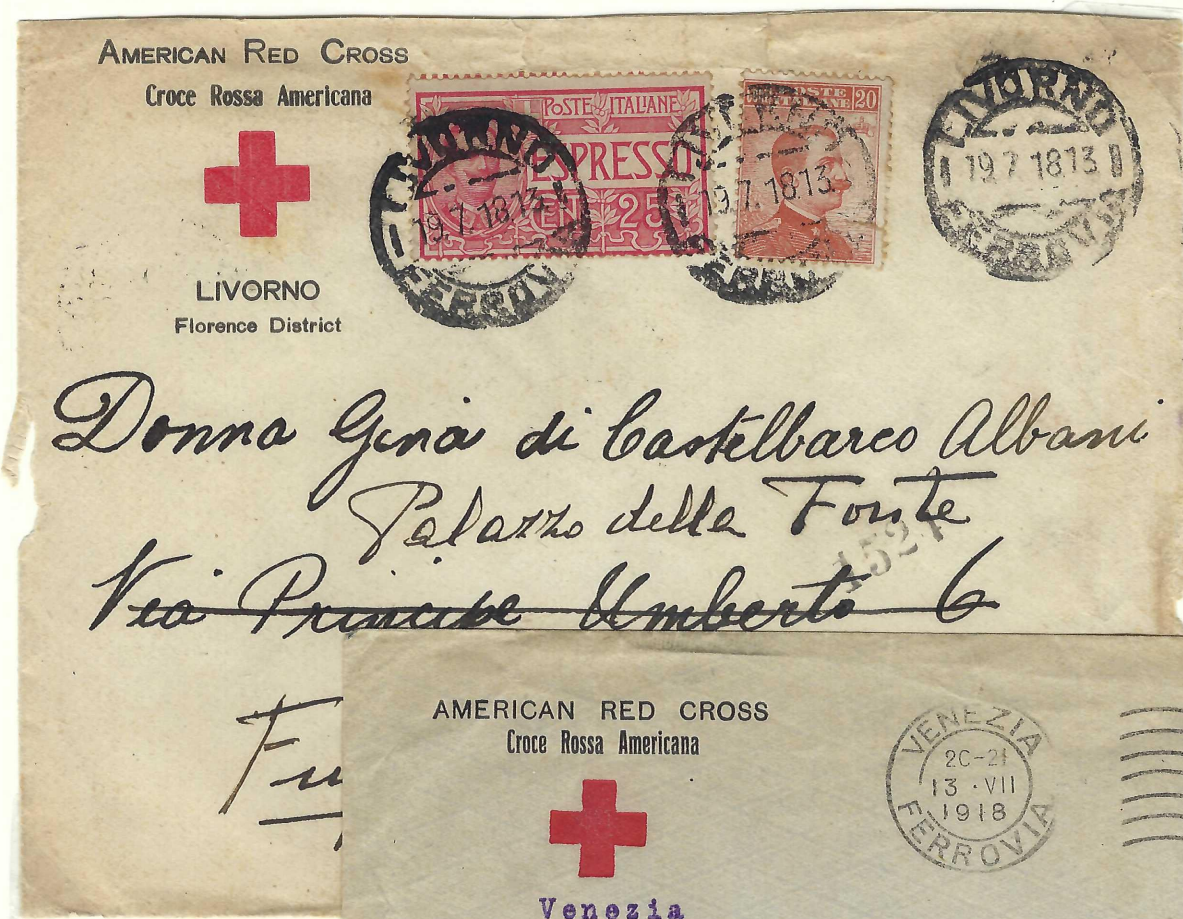
Dearest Mother,
As
writing, but it
I am extremely
~~the~~ economic
supply food to



ARC office in Vincenza was distinct in providing direct support to the Italian army. The Rimini office was more typical. The writer was managing a kitchen feeding 6000 civilians, two orphanages, refugee housing, a hospital, a dispensary and several workhouses as well as a canteen service with meals for 5000 soldiers daily.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
District Offices

Livorno & Venezia



Livorno office within the Florence district an indication of dispersed nature of the ARC in Italy. Venezia (Venice) was another district office. The letter directed to the ARC Padua office forwarded to the Bologna office.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
Free Franking

"Franchigia Postale"
free franking

AMERICAN RED CROSS
Croce Rossa Americana



Venezia



Capt. Woodhouse

Croce Rossa Americana

PADOVA

CROCE ROSSA AMERICANA
IN ITALIA



DELEGATO PER IL VENETO
CAPITANO F. C. THWAITS
PADOVA
VIA DANTE, N. 18



CENSURA PIMS
VENEZIA

Croce Rossa Americana

Bologna

Attention Capt Woodhouse.

2500

In July 1918 the Italian government and post allowed the use of unit stamps with the words "Franchigia Postale" (Post Allowed) to serve as free franking. This type of unit stamp was also used by the YMCA, and the AEF. Each unit's stamp was distinct; all are scarce. Both the Venice and Padua stamps have "ARC" in Italian and "FRANCHIGIA POSTALE". **RARE.**

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
Propaganda Postcard

The Morale Postcard



Two card variants
Both above examples
with railway station
cancels



“Distributing the card to Soldiers on Arrival”

Italian morale was shattered by the loss at Caporetto. Allied Supreme Command would not send AEF troops. The ARC became the US force in Italy. To carry that message this postcard was created. The lower card shows ARC “Rifugio del Soldato CRA”(Soldiers Refuge ARC) in Milan

Yanks at War

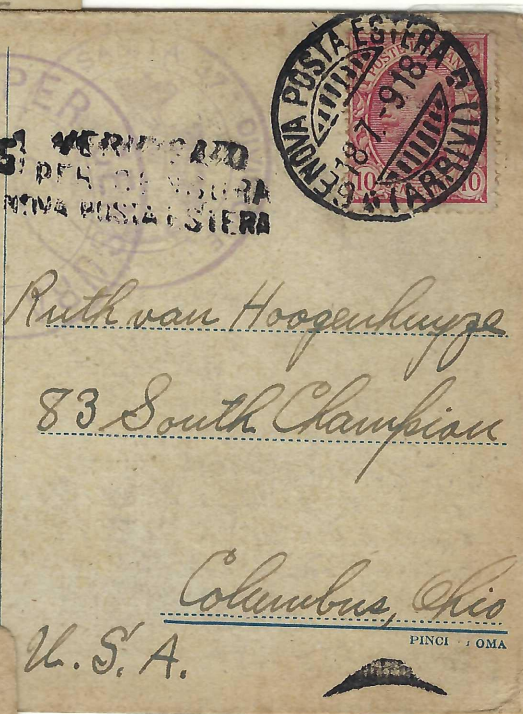
Italy 1917-19

Propaganda Postcard

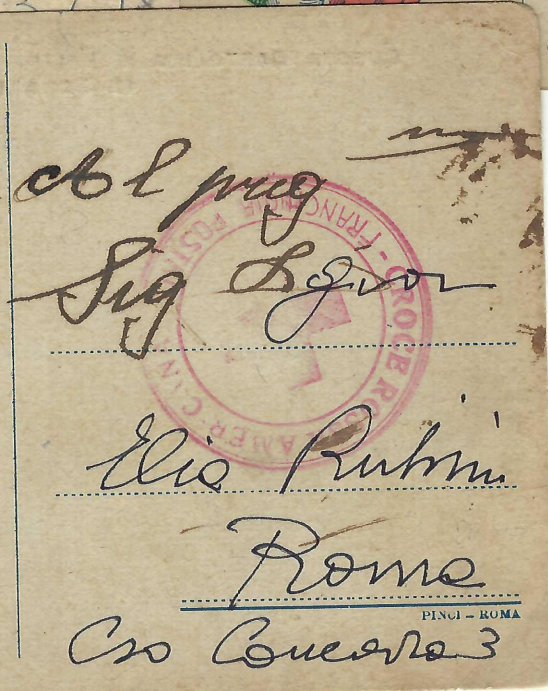
Morale Post Card



YMCA franchigia postale but postage due in Switzerland.



QUESTA CARTOLINA È VALIDA SOLO SE DIRETTA A MILITARI IN ZONA DI GUERRA



Third "CRA franchigia postale" unit stamp

At least two printers Pinci (2 styles previous page) and Cassetti produced the card. With a number of printings variants exist. The printed message on reverse of this card "this card is only valid if sent to a soldier in the "Zone of War" demonstrates the card's special purpose.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
Postcards

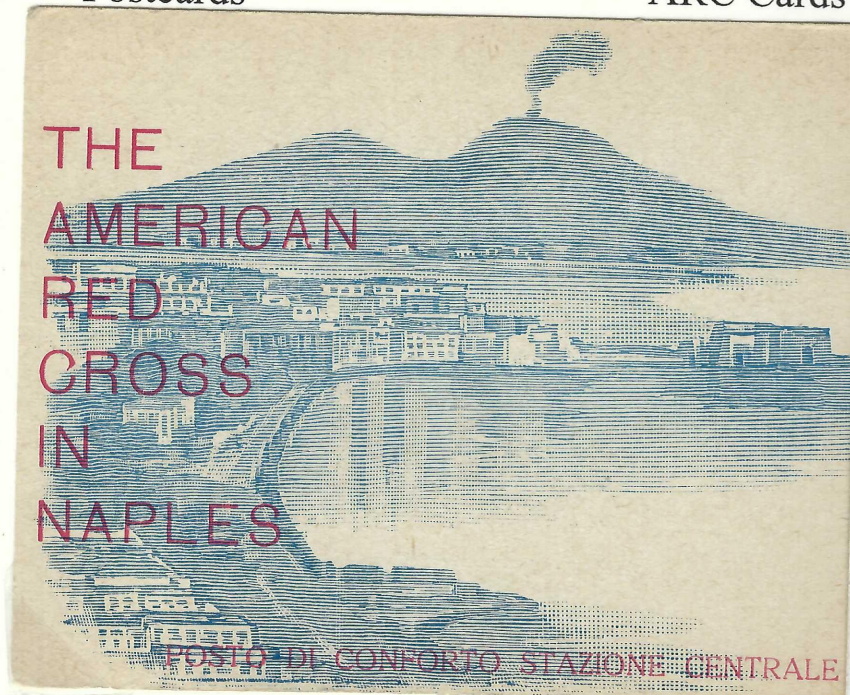
Unity



The message, Unity: "A Symbol. The Allied Nations are bonded with the spontaneity of a child" "ARC 166, Via Sicilia, Roma", ARC headquarters. Two versions produced by Casetti.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
Postcards

ARC Cards



A medley of less common ARC cards. The image on the multicolored card is the Winged Victory of Brescia. The creator artfully blends the four Western Allies national flags.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
Ambulance

"CROCE ROSSA AMERICANA
1st SEZIONE AMBULANZE"



RARE circular "SERVIZIO AMBULANZE 1ST SEZIONE" unit stamp

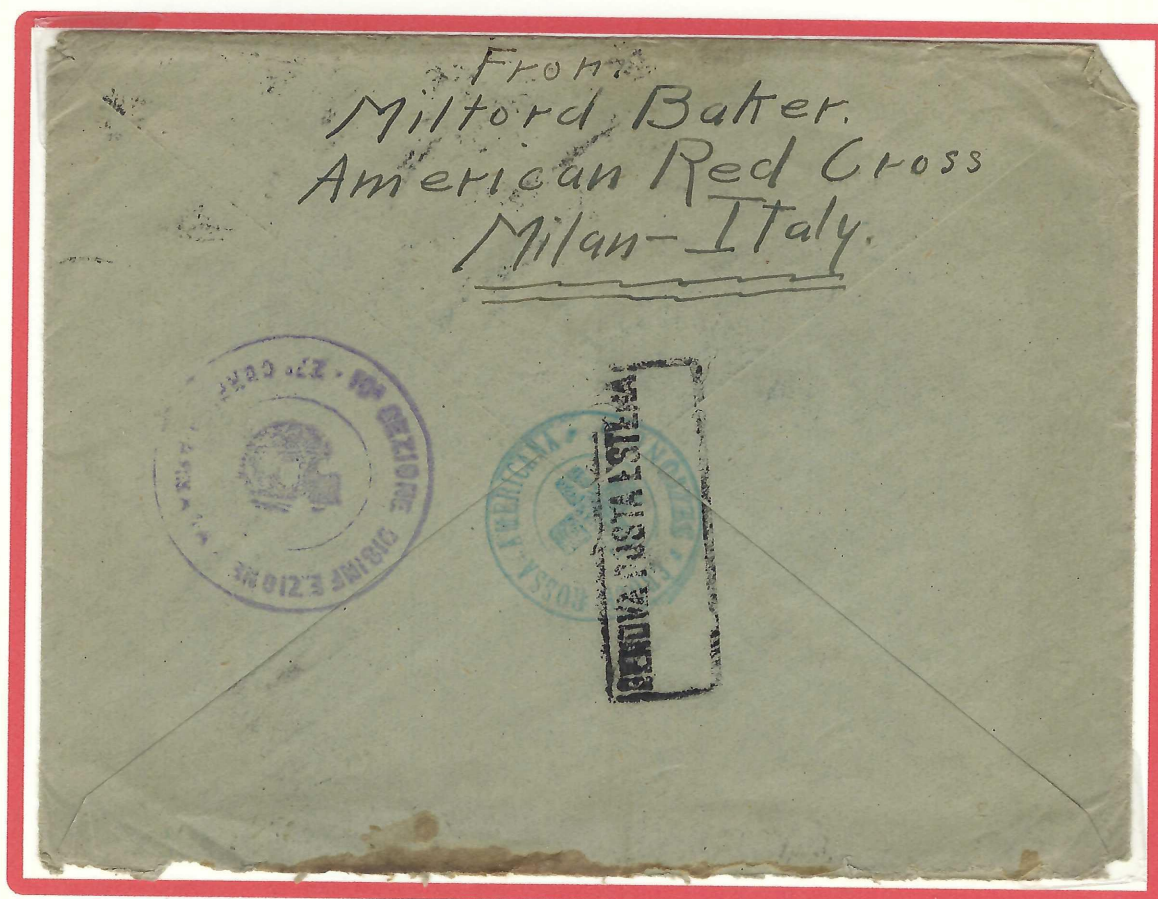
5 rue Francois 1er
Return address of
ARC ambulance
service in France



Both envelopes have the straight line "ARC 1st Ambulance Section" unit stamp and use Paris return addresses with Italian postage thru the Italian civilian post and censorship.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
Ambulance

ARC Milan Mail



These envelopes both use Milan in the return addresses, the American Consul and the ARC respectively. Both with boxed Genoa censor. The lower has an Italian Army medical "10th Disinfection Section..." **RARE** circular "ARC- SECTION".

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
Military Mail

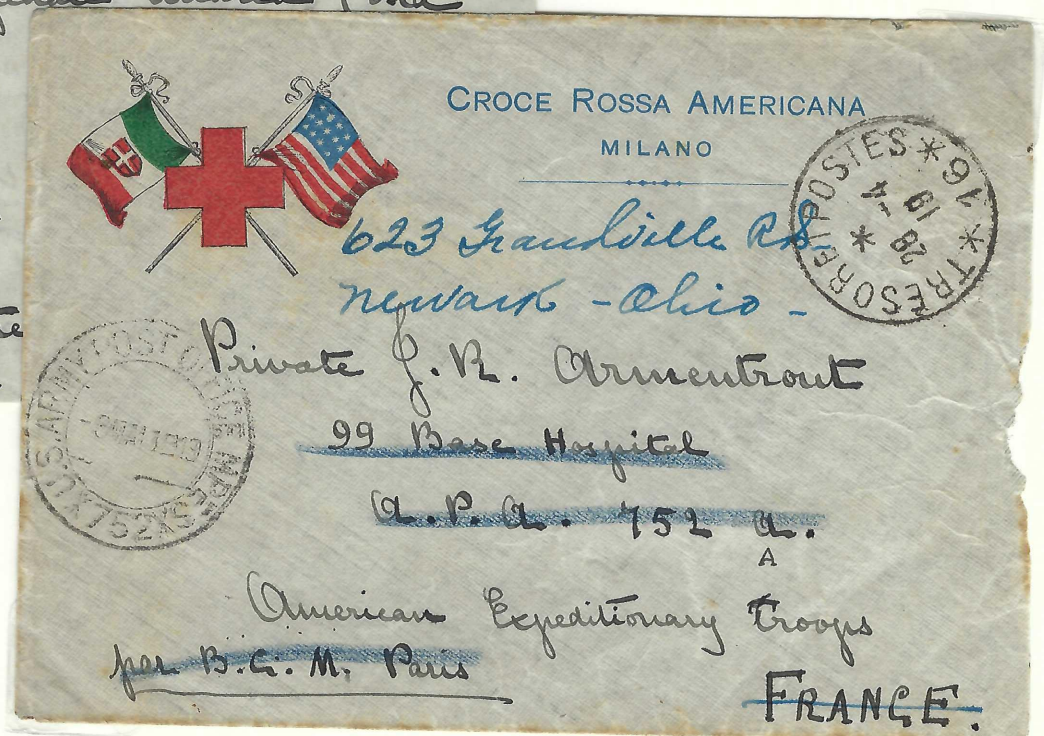
Mail Military Routing



AEF censor 1499
free franking
through APO 901



French military post
"TRESOR ET POSTES 16"
forwarded by "US ARMY
POST OFFICE MPES 752"

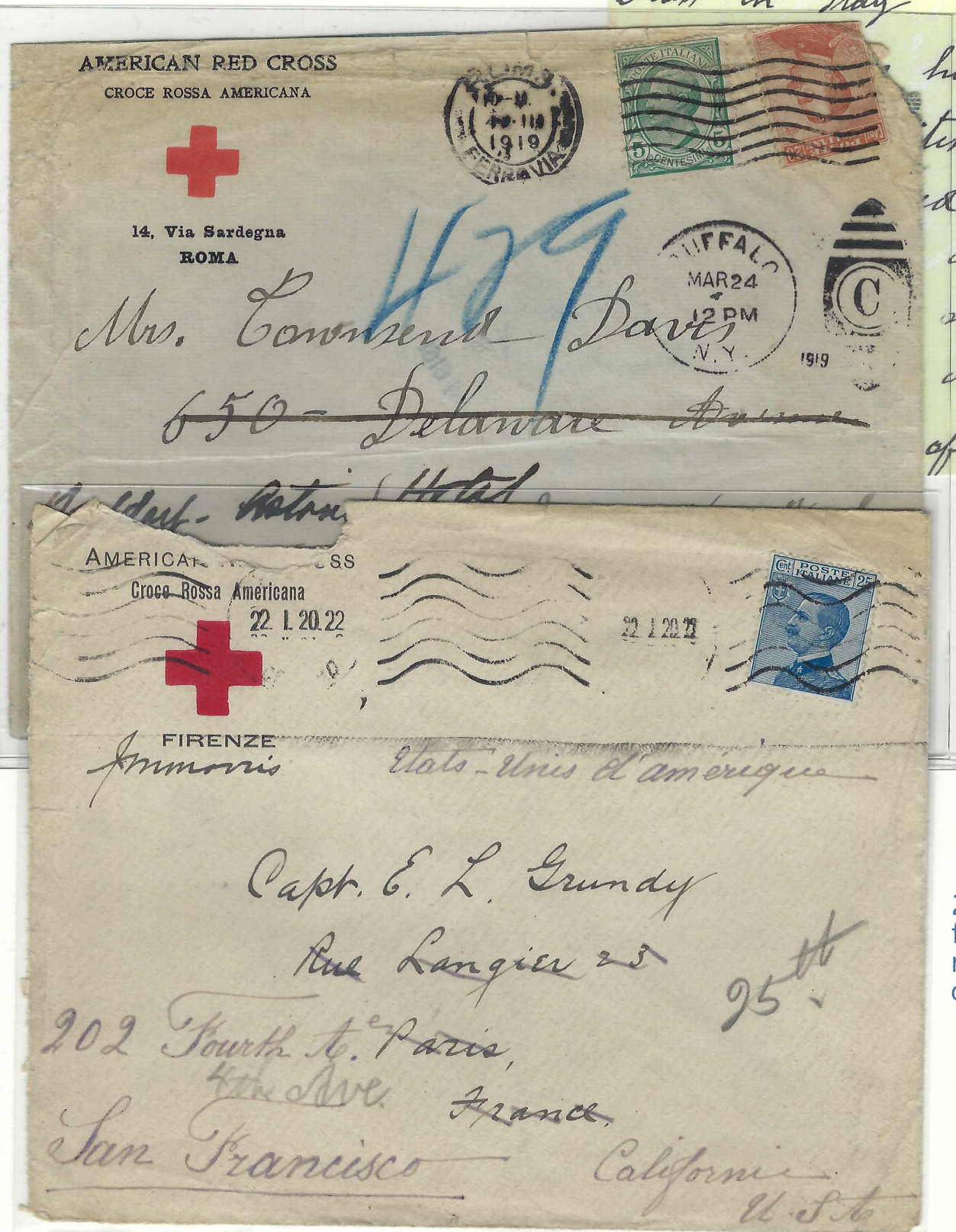


The Morale card used by a soldier in Company B 332nd Infantry, the only US Army combat unit to serve in Italy through US military mail.
The "ARC Hospital Andrea Costa Milano" mail sent through the French military post.

Yanks at War
Italy 1917-19
End of Mission to Italy

ARC. "FINITO"?

The American Red
Cross in Italy is finished.
have been
kitchens for poor
a, the ware
closed, the
only is still
days, to make
of the stock



25 centesemi
foreign letter
rate. No longer
censored.

The letter of 3.III.1919 says: "The ARC in Italy is finished. The kitchens for the poor people are closed, the warehouses are been(sic) closed... the inventory... transferred to the ARC Balkan Commission." The Firenze ARC district mail of 22.1.20 establishes that rather than ending the ARC found new missions.