



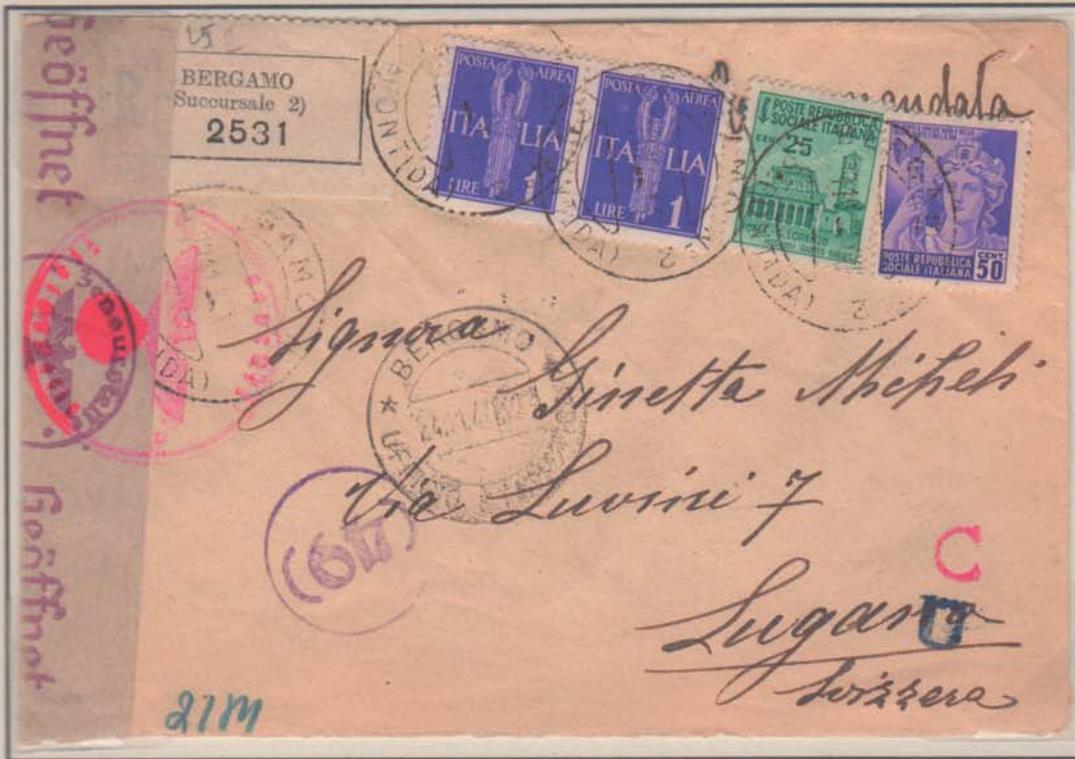
Registered letter from Rovereto to Belfort, France. Franked 2.75 l (1.25 letter and 1.50 registration). Munich censorship mark is seen. 25 c first set. One overprinted stamp is defective. DATE: 17 July 1944 BOLZANO TRANSIT: 20 July 1944



Registered letter Gries di Bolzano to Sweden. 2.75 Lire (1.25 letter and 1.50 registration). Three 25c stamps from first set. Censorship marks prove the cover went through mail. DATE: 28 October 1944

Mail to Switzerland

Mail to Switzerland had established itself in two distinct categories: Red Cross, and private. Red Cross letter was POW information, carried regardless of the procedural. All international correspondence was expected to be presented to the post office for ID and stamp check, but the authorities showed considerable leniency for the Red Cross correspondence. The rest (private, commercial, etc) had to be done "by the book".



Registered letter from Bergamo to Lugano, Switzerland. Private address. ID verified on reverse. Franked 2.75 L (1.25 letter, 1.50 registered). Italian (Bergamo) and German (Munich) censor tapes and marks.

DATE: 24 November 1944
ARRIVAL: 1 March 1945

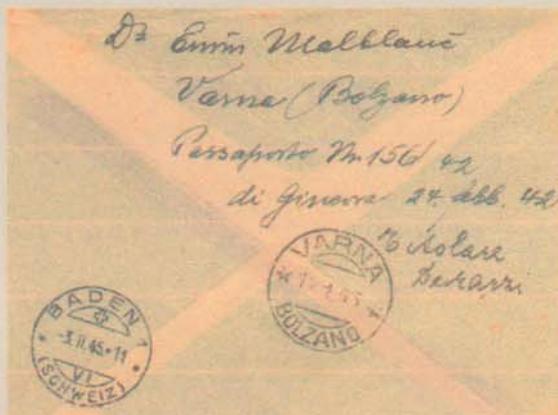


Letter from Venice with three infractions: 50c instead of 1.25 L, fiscal stamp instead of postal stamp, and dropped in the box instead of being taken to postoffice (No ID verification on reverse). Accepted because it was sent to the Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. Censor marks of Munich prove it went through mail.

DATE: 4 August 1944

Postage Due to Switzerland

Because of security concerns, international correspondence had to be brought to post office without stamps. The post office clerk had to make sure that nothing was written on the paper surface under the stamps, and was also responsible for completeness of the appropriate fee paid. International postage due was not allowed. The postal employee committing negligence ran a high risk of being reported to "Verificatore", the postal inspector, with consequences that could be severe. Incompletely franked international correspondence is very unusual in RSI period.



Reduced detail of reverse, showing return address and arrival postmark



Registered express letter from Varna, Bolzano to Baden (Zurich), Switzerland. Franked 5.10 Lire with multiple stamps. Was supposed to be franked 5.25: 1.25 for letter, 1.50 for registration and 2.50 for express. Taxed 5 cents of Swiss Frank at the office of arrival. Censor number from Munich on front, arrival postmark of Baden on reverse.

DATE: 12 January 1945

ARRIVAL: 3 February 1945



Registered express letter from Venice to Zagreb. Franked 5 Lire, including strip of three 50 Centesimi from second set. Was supposed to be franked 5. 25 (1.25 international letter, 1.5 registration and 2.50 international express). Properly reached the destination. Censor marks and tape can be seen.

Postage due international mail was not allowed. Post office employees were supposed to ensure international mail to be properly franked. This is an unusual example of underfranked international mail, also because it was accepted and not taxed at arrival.

DATE: 26 August 1944
ARRIVAL: 11 September 1944

Registered express letter from Milan to Trebinje, then Croatia (NDH), today Bosnia and Hercegovina. Returned, as evidenced by the Croatian mark "Promet Obustavljen Natrag" (Service suspended, back to sender) Multiple censor marks and tapes. Correctly franked for 5.25 Lire, with 25 centesimi from first set. DATE: 26 August 1944

Trebinje, then part of Dubrava province of the NDH, was located at the southmost end of the country. It had very high Partizan activity at the time. Mail service to Croatia was known as open, but there were remote parts of the country such as southern Dalmatian coast, including Trebinje, that mail could not reach because of the Partizans.



Mail to Denmark

Postal routes to Denmark enjoyed an exception: even most parts of Germany could not receive mail starting January of 1945, but Denmark received mail well into the month of April.



Registered letter Varese to Denmark. Franked 2.75L: 1.25 letter and 1.50 registration, 95 centesimi of which franked with first set stamps. Italian censor tape covered by the German one. Varese and Munich censorship marks.

DATE: 17 July 1944



Registered Letter Udine to Copenhagen, Denmark. Franked again 2.75 (1.25 +1.50). This time second set stamps used as complementary for 75 centesimi. Italian and German censor tapes. Munich censorship marks.

DATE: 8 February 1945
ARRIVAL: 9 April 1945

Udine, in Northeast Italy, was under direct German occupation, but some Italian presence was permitted. International mail from Udine was directly processed by Germans, while that from most other cities had to go through Milan first.

POW Correspondence to USA

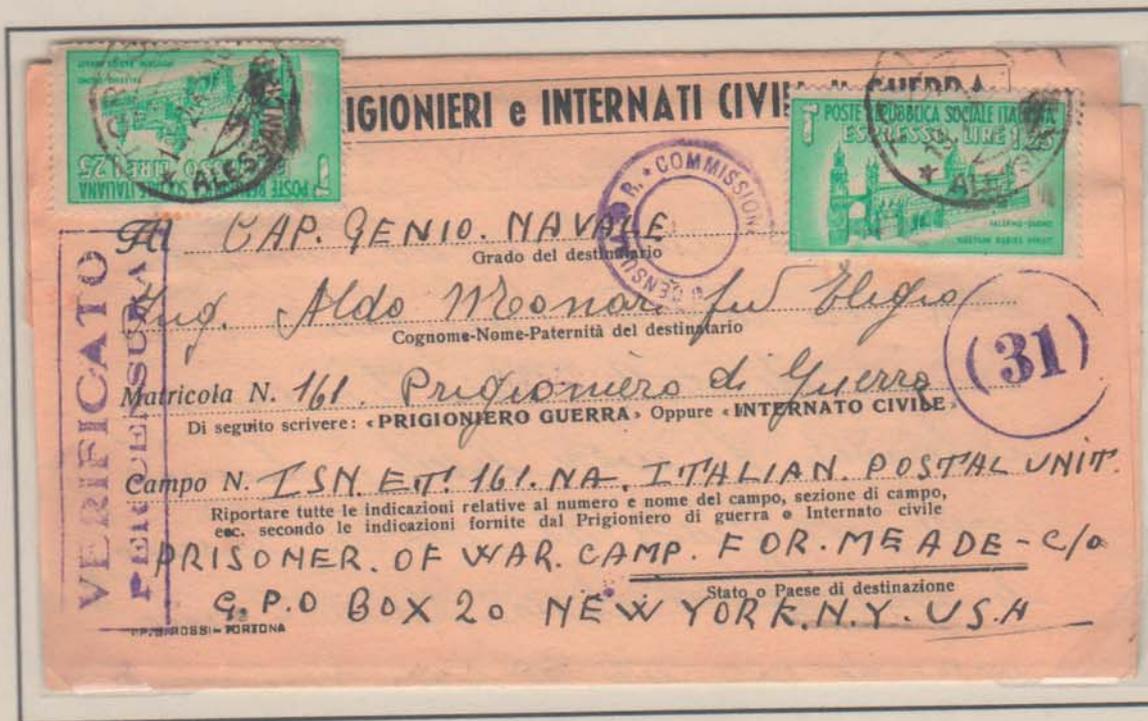
As an enemy country fighting against RSI, no direct correspondence to USA was allowed. The exception was POW correspondence, which was first transferred to Lisbon, and then sent to USA. This mail was free, but 2.75L air mail surcharge had to be paid with postage stamps. This rare "loophole" provided the only opportunity to obtain stamped mail to a belligerent party. Two letters are presented here. These are unusual items.



Letter from Parma to the POW camp in Florence, AZ.

Franked total 2.75L entirely with second set stamps: 1L pair, 50c and 25c.

DATE: 23 February 1945



Letter from Tortona, Alessandria to Fort Meade POW Camp. Two 1.25 L express stamps are used as regular stamps, to pay the air mail fee. Another 25c stamp present on reverse from a different set to complete the 2.75L.

DATE: 19 February 1945

