

INTERNEES RELATING TO GREECE, 1940-1947

The exhibit presents a balanced material pertaining to the different types of interned persons related to Greece (prisoners of war, civilian internees, refugees, and displaced persons), during and shortly after the Second World War (1940-1947).

Vital significance is given to the armistice signed by Italy on 5 September 1943 (effective from 8 September), as this forced Germany to take over the areas which were under the Italian Administration until then. This event inevitably adds to the present exhibit a separate chapter (part), as it certainly changed the previously existing "status quo" with some very important consequences.

The **FIRST PART** is focused on GREECE AT WAR and the operations from October 1940 to May 1941 on:

- The war between Italy and Greece (October 1940 to April 1941).
- The German attack against Greece (April/May 1941).

This part of the exhibit shows mail from:

1. Italian civilian internees and POWs kept in Greek camps (October 1940 to April 1941) or POWs transferred to Egypt on their way to Australian camps (March 1941).
2. Greek civilian internees and POWs in Italian camps; these were kept there until September 1943.
3. Allied POWs captured by the Germans in mainland Greece (April 1941) and on Crete (June 1941), gradually transferred to Germany from June 1941 to February 1942.
4. Greek POWs captured by the Germans in northern Greece and on Crete Island, being gradually released on 5 May 1941 and from June 1941 to February 1942 respectively.
5. Italian POWs in Greek camps liberated by the Germans (July 1941).

The **SECOND PART** deals with GREECE UNDER OCCUPATION, Italian and/or German, and includes:

- The Italian military administration of territories trusted to them by the Germans; this lasted till September 1943.
- The German military administration of the territories kept by the Germans; this lasted till October 1944.

This part of the exhibit contains mail from/to:

1. Greek civilians and ex-officers interned in Italian Concentration and other camps or jailed and exiled in Greece or Italy (May 1941 to September 1943).
2. Greek POWs / civilian internees kept in German Concentration and other camps in Greece or displaced persons and forced workers transferred to Germany (April 1941 to October 1944).

A **THIRD PART** refers to the consequences of ITALY'S ARMISTICE with the Allied Powers, and includes:

- The taking over by the German military authorities in Greece and the disarming of Italian units in September 1943, ending for a large number of Italians to become prisoners in German hands.
- The capture by the German Army of a part of the Allied troops that had attempted to occupy some of the Aegean and the Dodecanese islands (September to November 1943).
- The recapture of Greek POWs in Italy by the advancing German troops, but also the refuge for some others who succeeded escaping to neutral Switzerland.

According to the above, this part of the exhibit comprises:

1. Mail between Greece and Italy to/from Italian service men in Greece, seized by the Germans and forwarded to Germany for inspection prior to be released to addressees.
2. Italian Military Internees (IMIs) detained in German camps, military units and services in Greece (September 1943 to October 1944) or housed in camps in Germany and Yugoslavia (February 1944 to May 1945).
2. Allied POWs, captured in the Dodecanese area (September 1943 to January 1944).
3. Former Greek POWs and civilian internees in Italy, recaptured by the Germans and interned in the Italian Social Republic or Germany (September 1943 to May 1945) or escaped to Switzerland (October 1943 to July 1945).

It should be noted here that, of all the above material gathered for the present exhibit, certain items were selected to form an interestingly special entity: the suspension of postal communications mainly due to war actions.

Finally, references are made on the refugees who fled either to save their lives from the acts of the Reich against them (Jews) or to enjoy freedom (Greek civilians escaping to refugee camps in the Middle East).

The exhibit closes with a post-war section on liberated Greek civilians and POWs (May 1945 to April 1946), captured Italian and German militaries transferred from Greece to British camps in Egypt (Oct. 1944 and May 1945) and German POWs brought by the British back to Greece after the end of the war in Europe to work (July 1945 to early 1947).

REFERENCES:

- Military Internment, Instructions for camp postal-orderlies [Swiss Army Post Office 1943]
- Report of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC 1948]
- Prisoners of War [W. Mason 1954]
- Deutsche Kriegsgefangenen- und Internierteneinrichtungen [G. Mattiello / W. Vogt 1986]
- Gli internati militari italiani nei campi tedeschi 1943-45 [G. Giannoccolo 1989]
- Das nationalsozialistische Lagersystem [M. Weinmann et al. 1990]
- 1943, L'anno dell'armistizio [Studio Filatelico Nico 1993]
- German Concentration Camps 1933-1945 [E. Loerdal 2000]

EXHIBITOR'S PUBLISHED WORKS (selection):

- World War II correspondence via Red Cross between Greece & Egypt [1983]
- Les internés grecs en Italie 1940-43 [1986]
- German Stalags for Italian Military Internees 1943-45 [1987]
- Prisonniers de guerre grecs évadés réfugiés en Suisse 1943-45 [1988]
- The German provisional POW transit camp at Corinth, 1941 [1989]
- Odyssey of a letter (to an Indian POW in Greece) [1989]
- Correspondence escaping censorship in occupied Greece [1992]
- Undercover addresses during the 2nd World War (including: Greek military internees escaped to Turkey) [2000, 2008]

GREECE AT WAR

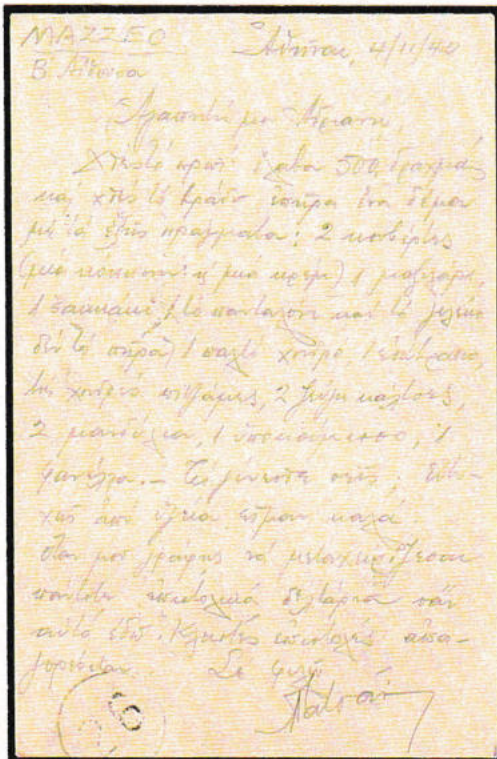
Italy attacked Greece on 28 October 1940. The Greek forces attacked in turn on 14 November and after ten days passed the borders and entered deep in southern Albania. The war ended on 23 April 1941 after the invasion of Germany to Greece, which already had been launched on 6 April and led to the occupation of the country.

Both countries collected and gathered immediately the enemy civilians. Except of some of them exchanged in November 1940, the rest were housed in concentration camps.

ITALIAN CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN GREECE

The Italian subjects and the Greeks of Italian origin in Greece were kept in camps in Attica and Peloponnese, Greece, being released after the end of hostilities in April 1941.

Their mail was first sent on Greek 2dr. prepaid postal stationery cards, inland rate, recorded censored in Athens.



photocopy

PROVISIONAL COLLECTION CAMP, ATHENS.

Message from internee of Italian origin in "Hall B", 4.11.1940, to internal address. Athens GPO m/s 5.11.40; arrival in Piraeus 14.11.40. Athens censor markings; examiner #73.

← ←

Correspondence instructions to relative: *When writing to me, always use postcards like this one. Sealed letters are prohibited.*



AREA No. 3 CAMP, PATRAS.

photocopy



E92 li 3 Dicembre 1940

Caro figlio -

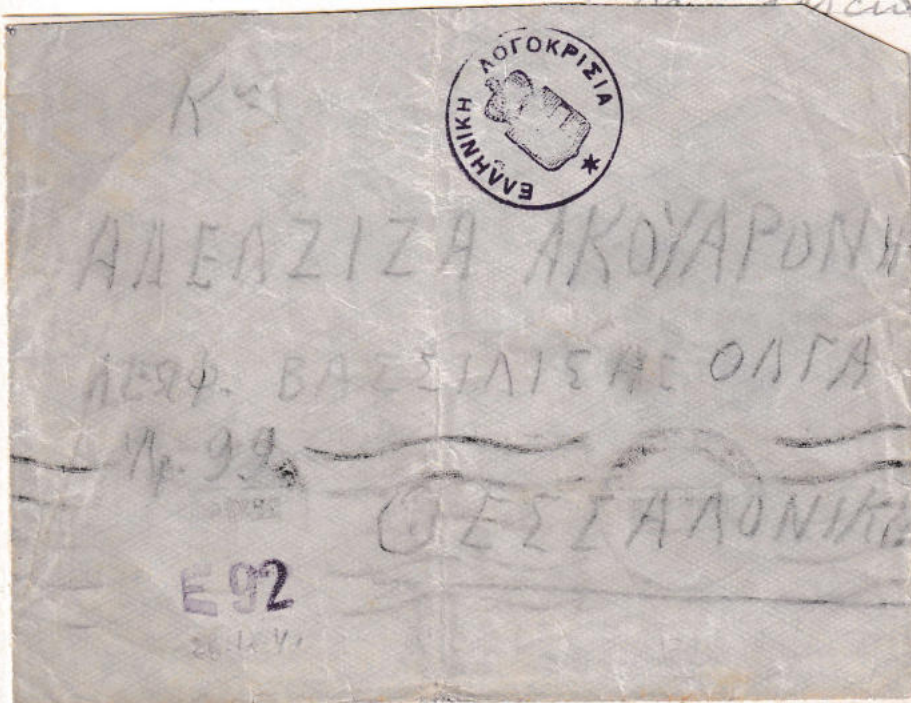
Vai al comando della Gen-
darmeria dell'A.T.I. quando
son partito, le coperte Cuscino
ben legati con uno straccio, le
ho lasciati la perché non
mi lasciavano portarle con
si sono incaricati

in lettere grandi
il mio nome,
non ho nulla ricevuto
tutta, protesta anche
da Varlamidis,
ai le coperte, non
le,

la biancheria
combrice -

la 2^a lettera che

scrivo = spero che tutti.



Writing material provided by the camp administration to internal address from internee of Italian nationality, resident in Greece. Sender's address: 3rd Area, Greece. The cover is written in Greek; message in Italian, 3.12.1940. Greek censor cachet; examiner No. "E.92", 25.12.40.

The stamps affixed on back were cancelled at destination, Thessaloniki 26.12.40 (photocopy), to keep secrecy of the camp's location.

CAMP AREA No. 3, PATRAS.

Following instructions of the Greek Ministry of Security (5.12.40), the Greek Red Cross soon prepared and printed postage-free stationery on light blue carton for the interned Greek civilians of Italian origin and Italian subjects.



Messages from Greek civilian internee of Italian origin, dated 18.12.1940 and 29.12.1940, to internal addresses.

Greek censor cachet; examiner Nos. "E.4", "E.93".


ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ
CROIX ROUGE HELLENIQUE

ΕΛΛΑΣ Περιοχή: 3^η
GRÈCE Zone: 3^η

ΑΤΕΛΕΣ
FRANC DE PORT.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΕΥΣ - EXPÉDITEUR

Όνοματεπώνυμον:
Nom et prénom: Αϊγρονέζ Μουρέλ

Περιοχή: 3^η
Zone:

ΕΛΛΑΣ — GRÈCE

Κ^α Μαρίττα Πίρο
M


Όδος: Rue: Αγίου Νικολάου

Πόλις: Ville: 2^η Ελευθ. Πασαφ. κέντ. Σαρων

Έπαρχ.: Province: Σαρων

Χώρα: Pays: (Ελλάς)

E.93


ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ
CROIX ROUGE HELLENIQUE

ΕΛΛΑΣ Περιοχή: 3^η
GRÈCE Zone: 3^η

ΑΤΕΛΕΣ
FRANC DE PORT.

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΕΥΣ - EXPÉDITEUR

Όνοματεπώνυμον:
Nom et prénom: Αϊγρονέζ Μουρέλ

Περιοχή: 3^η
Zone:

ΕΛΛΑΣ — GRÈCE
29/12/40

Κ^α Μαρίττα Πίρο
M


Όδος: Rue: Νικολάου

Πόλις: Ville: Αχαΐα 32

Έπαρχ.: Province: Αχαΐα

Χώρα: Pays: (Ελλάς)

E.4



Manuscript instruction on top left corner, in Greek: *Correspondence permitted with postcards only. Censorship (office).*

GREEK CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN "EGEO" ITALIAN COLONY (DODECANESE)

CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO ELLENICO, RHODES ISLAND.

With Italy's offensive against Greece on 28.10.1940, all the about 300 Greek subjects in the "Egeo" Italian Colony (Dodecanese, south Aegean) were arrested and first concentrated in tents at a camp on the moat of Rhodes-town Castle.

In early-January 1941, the camp was transferred to the stables of the little horses for the Italian officers and public servants' children, while the aged prisoners were released. The rest were released after the occupation of Athens by the German forces on 27.4.1941.

Correspondence with relatives was exchanged on metropolitan Italian 30c. postal stationery cards (inland rate); the internees had to buy them or be provided with by relatives.

The messages were obligatorily written in Italian; however, very few have been seen written in Greek.

RHODES-TOWN CASTLE MOAT, OCTOBER 1940 - JANUARY 1941.



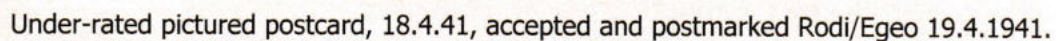
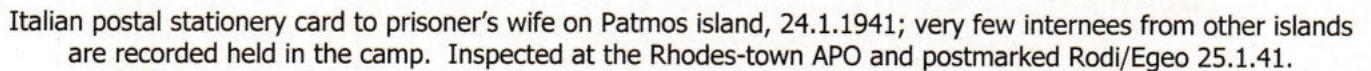
Postal stationery 30c. (inland rate) postmarked Rood/Egeo 20.11.1940, from Greek resident of Rhodes interned in the "Hellenic Concentration Camp" to relative in town.

Text in Italian. Prisoner's underlined instruction to addressee at postcard's top: *Esgrivate in Italiano a la cartolina* (Write in Italian on the postcard).

2-line camp administrative handstamp "CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO SUDDITI NEMICI" (Enemy subjects concentration camp) used as censor mark.

Inspected also at the Rhodes-town Army Post Office: linear handstamp "Verificato per censura - 1".

RHODES-TOWN LITTLE HORSES STABLES, JANUARY/APRIL 1941.



Text allowed in Greek. Inspected at the Rhodes-town Army Post Office.

GREEK CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN ITALY

Nearly 450 Greeks, mainly students and seamen found in Italy, were kept detained until the country signed an Armistice in September 1943. Their short messages, obligatorily written in Italian and examined by the camp censors during the six months of the war against Greece, are found on picture postcards, which were forwarded postage-free.

CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO "VILLA OLIVETO", BADIA AL PINO / AREZZO.



Message dated 20.1.1941, sent postage-free from one of the four Greek civilians interned at the *Campo di Concentramento "Villa Oliveto" / Civitella della Chiana (Arezzo)*, a large villa in the centre of a park in Chiana Valley. INTER-CAMP mail to Greek civilian internee at Montechiarugolo camp, Parma. Postmarked Badia al Pino 21.1.41.

CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO BAGNO A RIPOLI, PONTE A EMA / TOSCANA.



Message dated 2.2.1941, with manuscript endorsement "*Internato civile di guerra*" (civilian internee of war) from a sailor arrested with the crew of a Greek merchant ship in Italian port, on the day the war was declared. The crew were interned at the "*Villa la Selva*" in a park near Florence. INTER-CAMP mail to Greek civilian internee at Montechiarugolo camp, Parma, recently transferred from Bagno a Ripoli. Postmarked on departure, Ponte a Ema (Firenze) 4.2.41.

ITALIAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN GREEK CAMPS

About 22000 Italian service men were captured by the Greek Army on the Albanian Front during the 6-month operations of the two countries (October 1940 to April 1941).

They were kept in Greek camps in Peloponnese, Attica and, later, on Crete except a few officers, who had been transferred by the British to Egypt on their way to camps in India and Australia. Those in Greece were released by the German Army in July 1941 and repatriated.



Italian and Greek military postcards (16/17.3.1941) to Italy, used by Italian POWs in Greece; lower card used as "capture-card". Greek censor markings (examiners "E.81", "E.143"); 3-line instructional cachet on both cards, Italian text: *Greek censorship. Be clear and short; postcards have priority.*

Inspected also in Italy (Rome, examiner Nos. 30, 167). The Greek postcard was forwarded by the Italian Red Cross Section at Pordenone/Udine (17.5.41) registered for the rest of the route.

ΕΛΛΑΣ
 ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ
 ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ ΑΤΕΛΕΣ

Διεύθυναι: ἀποστολέως:
 Βαθμός *Ross Giovanni*
 Ἐπώνυμον *Rathina*
 καὶ ὄνομα *Caserna*
 Ἐνδείξις *Giannina*
 μονάδος
 Τ. Τ.

Πρὸς τὸν
Per la Famiglia Ross Catherine
Carantasca Lottana N. 19
di Cuneo
 Εἰς *Piemonte Italia*

Τὸ σύνθημά σου, Νεολαία τῆς Ἑλλάδος, εἶναι: ΠΙΣΤΙΣ—ΑΓΩΝ—ΝΙΚΗ.
 Ι. ΜΕΤΑΞΑΣ

ΕΛΛΑΣ

Ε92

ΕΡΑΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΑ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ

1941

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΕΛΕΞ

Διεύθυνσις αποστολέως:

Βαθμός *Roma Gioi Battista*

Επώνυμον { *Per la famiglia e Roma Caterina*

καὶ ὄνομα { *Via Costa Sottana n° 19 Carantassoa*

Ενδειξις μονάδος *Grécia*

Τ Τ *Provincia di Cuneo*

Elis Piemonte Italia

Θυσίες, δουλειά, αγώνας για την Ελλάδα μ' ένα μοναδικό σκοπό: ΤΗ ΝΙΚΗ

καὶ γι' αὐτὴν τὰ πάντα.

I. ΜΕΤΑΞΑΣ

Both items were inspected in Greece and Italy.

GREEK MILITARY BARRACKS, IOANNINA.

Photocopy



Cover with contents from Italy sent on 4.5.1941, about two weeks after hostilities ended, to Italian POW once housed by the Greeks at Ioannina barracks. Prisoner's details in Italian/German: *Caserma Giannina (seit 13. Februar 1941)* [Ioannina Barracks (since 13 Februar 1941)].

The addressee was not found at Ioannina and the 37th Italian "Modena" Division, then occupying Epirus, returned the letter back to sender on 2.10.41. Boxed cachet AL MITTENTE / INDIRIZZO A TERGO (To sender / Address on rear).

Censored in Italy (GR 14, Grosseto) on departure but also in Germany (OKW "g", Vienna) as Greece had been typically occupied by Germany.

PRISONERS-OF-WAR TRANSIT CAMP, ATHENS.

CARTOLINA POSTALE PER LE FORZE ARMATE

ESENTE DA TASSA PER L'ITALIA E SUE COLONIE

Mittente

Cognome Chironi

Nome Donatello

Grado Prigioniero n. 14799

Reparto 14799

POSTA MILITARE

27. FEB. 1941

Alla Famiglia

Giovanni Giacinto

Assisi del Sole

Bollate

Milano (Italia)

CARTOLINA POSTALE PER LE FORZE ARMATE

ESENTE DA TASSA PER L'ITALIA E SUE COLONIE

Mittente

Cognome Chironi

Nome Donatello

Grado 14800

Reparto 14800

POSTA MILITARE

27. FEB. 1941

Alla Fam.

Pietro Solpi

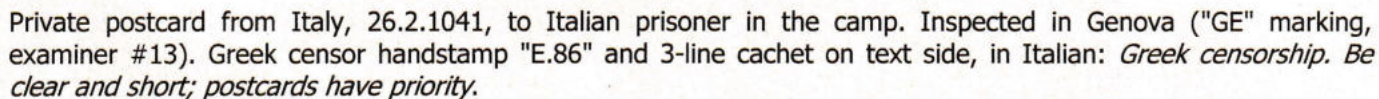
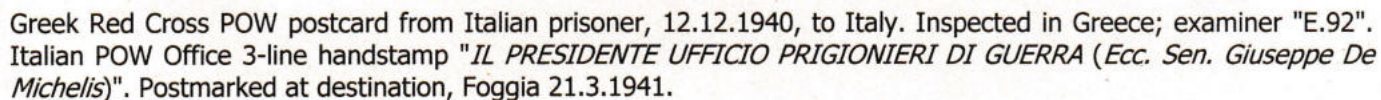
Bollate via Magenta

Milano Italia

Italian armed forces postcards to Italy, used by Italian prisoners as "capture-cards", 24 and 25 February 1941. Both writers were from the same village, being caught together on the same day (consecutive register POW numbering).

To deface the place of origin (*Atene*) written by the prisoners, the Greek examiner erased it on the top card, but had to cut off a part of the other. Censored in Greece (Athens 27.2.41, examiner E.71) and in Italy (Rome, examiner 99). Italian Red Cross handstamp (Rome) on both cards.

OUTGOING – INCOMING MAIL



PRISONERS-OF-WAR CAMP "E", LAVRION (ATTICA).



Greek official printed franchise postcard used by Italian POW, to Italy. Prisoner's address: *Campo Concentramento Lavrion, Grecia.*

Greek censor markings "E.97", 21.FEB.1941 along with a 3-line instructional cachet in Italian: *Greek Censorship. For your interest and to avoid delays, be short and clear.*

Italian Red Cross cachet (Rome); postmarked Roma 2.IV.41 and Lequile 4.4.41.



PRISONERS-OF-WAR CAMP No. 3, TRIPOLIS (PELOPONNESE).

Greek Red Cross lettersheet used as "capture-card" by Italian officer, 16.3.1941. Greek censor markings; 3-line cachet on text side, in Italian, *Greek censorship. Be clear and short; postcards have priority.* Forwarded to Italy after the end of hostilities. Postmarked upon arrival at final destination, Sestri/Genova 18.6.41.

OUTGOING – INCOMING MAIL


 ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΩΝ
 POSTE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

ΚΕΝΤΡΟΝ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΩΝ № 4 ΑΤΕΛΕΣ—FRANC DE PORT.

Κ Ally
 Μ Signora

Ε 92

Ονομα: Nom: Moscutti Elena
 Οδός: Rue: Via Roma № 20
 Χώρα: Pays: Ligonis
 (Έπαρχία κ.λ.) (Province etc.) (Udine) Italia

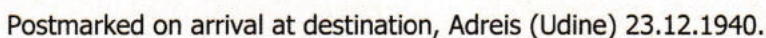
FEB. 1941



Picture postcard, 8.2.1941, sent postage-free from Italy to *Campo prigionieri N. 4*, postmarked Gragnano 9.2.41. Censored in Italy (Rome) and in Greece "E.81" and 3-line instructional cachet, in Italian: *Greek censorship. Be clear and short; postcards have priority.*

2nd GREEK MILITARY HOSPITAL, ATHENS.

9. DEK. 1940
 Caro signore,
 Dopo una lunga assenza ho ora un
 notizie una ve dico che col primo di dicembre
 sono stato ferito leggermente e sono prigioniero.
 Quindi io mi trovo ricoverato nell'ospedale dove
 sono, guarito. ~~_____~~
 Quindi non preoccuparsi
 del mio stato perché io mi trovo benissimo.
 Qui spero che lei tutti, si raccomandi di stare
 tranquilli, spero un giorno di ritornare in questa
 compagnia. Così saremmo tutti contenti.
 Vi saluto di cuore vi abbraccio vostro figlio
 Bruno Gino Battista Saluti alla zia e alla famiglia.
 Spero non è tutto. parenti e non.



1st GREEK MILITARY HOSPITAL, ATHENS.

ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΩΝ
POSTE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE
ΕΛΛΑΣ - GRÈCE

12.1.1941
 27
 M

ATEΛΕΣ - FRANC DE PORT

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΕΥΣ - EXPEDITEUR

*Όνοματεπώνυμο: *Trigianina*
 Nom et Prénom: *Tolles Bino*

*Αρ. Αιχμαλώτου: *Ερφεσλακ*
 No du Prisonnier: *mi. 1.2.20*

Κέντρον Αιχμαλώτων: *mi. 1.2.20*
 Camp de Prisonniers: *(Ateuc) Greece*

ΑΕΤΑΔΙΟΝ - CARTE POSTALE

Alla Signora

*Όνομα: *Carullo Caterina*
 Nom: *Carullo Caterina*

*Οδός: Rue: *Scaloria Bello*

Χώρα: Pays: *(Poularo) Carullo*

*Επαρχία: Province: *(Prov. Molise)*

ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΩΝ
POSTE DE PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

16.9.18

ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΩΝ
PRISONNIERS

Alla Signora

Valvano Bonetto

Κ

COMMISSIONE PROV. DI CENSURA ROMA

22

*Διεύθυνσις: Destination: *vico Loreto n° 2*

*Οδός: Rue: *Beliceto Provincia*

Χώρα: Pays: *di Taggia*

(*Επαρχία κ.λ.) (Province etc.): *Italia*

ATEΛΕΣ
FRANC DE PORT.

Greek Red Cross postcard (12.1.1941) and lettersheet (2.3.1941) used by wounded Italian POWs. Greek and Italian censor markings. Part of the lettersheet with fascist year indication on the prisoner's message was cut off by the Greek censor; the cutting was stamped with the censorship office's cachet.

3-line instructional cachet in Italian: *Greek censorship. For your interest and to avoid delays, be short and clear.*

GREEK MILITARY HOSPITAL, KORYTSA (OCCUPIED ALBANIA)

Italian non-military stationery card captured with the wounded prisoner. The hospital's official cachet was applied on in order to allow him in using the postcard to announce his captivity. Message written on 11.3.1941.



GREEK MILITARY HOSPITAL, SALONICA.

Card from Italy postmarked Ambra/Arezzo 3.3.41 to Italian POW at *Ospedale Militare, Salonicca, Greece.*

→ Both items were examined in Greece (see also the 3-line instructional cachet in Italian: *Greek censorship. Be clear and short; postcards have priority*), and in Italy.

BASE REGIMENT CONVALESCENT UNIT, IOANNINA (EPIRUS).

Greek military postcard used by Italian POW as "capture-card", 22.1.1941, to Italy. Greek censor markings applied on 13.2.41 along with a 3-line cachet in Italian: *Greek censorship. For your interest and to avoid delays, be short and clear.* Inspected also in Udine, Italy.

VERIFICATO PER CENSURA
Ε Λ Λ Α Σ

ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ ΑΤΕΛΕΣ



UD

Διεύθυνσις ἀποστολέως :

Βαθμός *Pastor*

Ἐπώνυμον { *Umberto*

καὶ ὄνομα { *Domenica Pastor*

Ἐνδείξις μονάδος *Meduna*

Τ. Τ. *Italy*

Πρὸς τὸν *Italy*

Εἰς *Italy*

Παιδιά μου, Ἐμπρός !
Ριχθῆτε μὲ λύσσα, μὲ φανατισμό, μὲ τρέλλα στὸν ἀγῶνα.
Ὁ καθένας καὶ ἡ κάθε μία στὴ θέσι του μέχρις ἐσχάτων.

I. METAXAS

*Απαγορεύεται ἀπολύτως ἡ ἀναγραφή τοῦ τόπου σταθμεύσεως τῆς μονάδος

Ε Λ Λ Α Σ

ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ ΑΤΕΛΕΣ



Διεύθυνσις ἀποστολέως :

Βαθμός *Pastor*

Ἐπώνυμον { *Pastor*

καὶ ὄνομα { *Umberto*

Ἐνδείξις μονάδος *Σ.Σ.Λ.Ε. - 752*

Τ. Τ. *Grecia*

Πρὸς τὸν *Italy*

Εἰς *Italy*

Θυσίαι, δουλεία, ἀγῶνας γὰρ τὴν Ἑλλάδα, μ' ἓνα μοναδικὸ σκοπὸν : Τῇ ΝΙΚῇ

καὶ γι' αὐτὴν τὰ πάντα

I. METAXAS

*Απαγορεύεται ἀπολύτως ἡ ἀναγραφή τοῦ τόπου σταθμεύσεως τῆς μονάδος

From the same prisoner, almost two months later, 12.3.1941. Camp designation in Greek added under his name: "Σ.Σ.Λ.Ε., Τ.Τ. 752" [2nd Base Company (Sanitary), Army Postal Sector 752] and "Grecia".

Inspected only in Greece as the card arrived in Italy (19.6.41) two months after the end of hostilities in April 1941.

CAMPO P.G. SERVIGLIANO, ASCOLI PISENO (ITALY).

Ἐν Σερβηγιάνον {Παζίας} τῇ 1-10-41
 (Γαβριέλ Μωσὰ γαίρε ~~~~~
 Εὐχόμε οὐδὲς ἡ Παρὼσα μου καίρια σὰς εὐρὴν ἐν
 ἀρετῇ ὕγια, οὐδὲς καὶ ἐγὼ καλῶς ὑγίειν. Πρὸ κα-
 ροῦ σὰς ἔγραφα ἓνα γράμμα, καὶ δὲν ἀνέβη ἀδελφὸς
 εἰς, αὐτὸ μὲ σινοχυρὴν ἀπορὸ γιαννίου ἀδελφῶν εἶχε
 γράψῃ ὅτι πῶς οὐκ ἐπὶ καλῶς χωροφύλας. ἀσφαρῶς
 δὲ ἔγρησ' ὅτι εἶμαι αἰχμαλωτὸς ὑπὸ ἀδελφῶν μῆτις
 ὁ θόρυβος μου εἶναι γράψῃ ἓνα γράμμα καὶ μου
 ἔγραψ' ὅτι παραμένει ἀπομένῃ σὲν δὲ σὲν.
 εἰαν μοῦ γράψῃς γὰρ μοῦ ἰὸ σὲν καὶ γράψῃς ὅτι ἀπομέν-
 ριμὸς ἐν εἶναι δυνάμει γὰρ ἐν καπομπρὸν ἀλλ' ὁ ἰὸ γράψῃ
 ἀνα. ~~~~~ Πορὰς περὶ σὲν εἰς τὴν ἐλπίδα καὶ σὰ
 ἀδελφὰ Νίκο - χρῆσαντες ἐν εἶναι ἀπομένῃ σου
 Σὲν χερσὶ μὲ ἀδελφὴ ἀγαπῶ (Μαυρινιώτης)

POSTE ITALIANE
 CARTOLINA POSTALE
 PER PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA

ES. NI. 1
 DA TASSE
 POSTALI

Mittente

Cognome Carabinieri

Nome Macchiotti

Grado Angelo

Campo p. g. prigioniero ascoli - pizeno servigliano

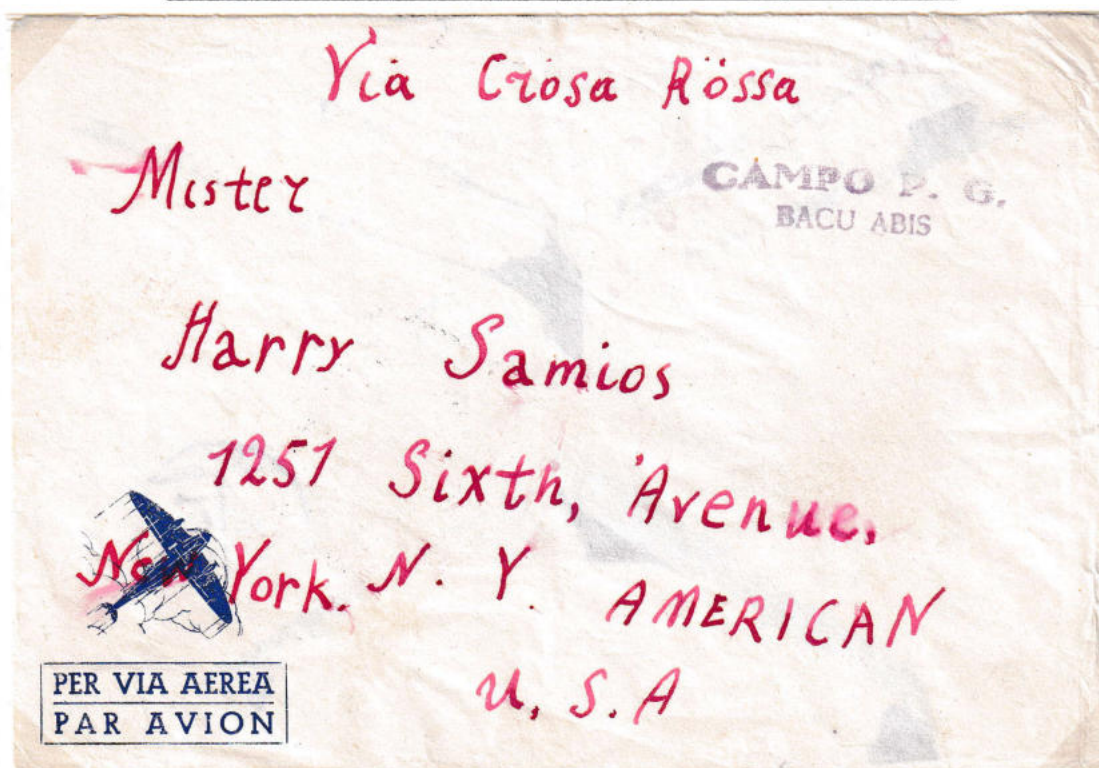
Italia = Italia

95 196
 I

A Ταξίαρχον
Μαυρινιώτην
Κυοταμίον
Τορίνον χωροφύλακῆς
Κερκυρα
Ελλάς - σπεία

POW Italian postcards to Greece, 1.10.41 & 23.11.41, sent by a Greek constable, captured on Crete Island in May 1941 and transferred to POW concentration camp near Servigliano. Inspected both in Rome. Postmarked on arrival, Kerkyra (Corfu) 8.11.41 and 15.1.42 respectively.

CAMPO P.G. BACU ABIS, SARDINIA (ITALY).



Undated envelope from Greek prisoner to the USA; 2-line camp cachet and manuscript endorsement "Via Crosta Rossa" (Via Red Cross). Return address on flap (photocopy).

Estimated sent before February 1942, as camp designation numbers in Italy were not introduced yet.

Inspected in Rome (numeral "I", examiner #196); markings and sealing tape on rear.

THE GERMAN INTERVENTION AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

The German assault against Greece, to assist her ally Italy, was foreseen coming by the time the German armed forces entered Romania in January 1941.

By order of the Greek Military High Command, the prisoner-of-war Greek camps were disbanded with the exception of the camp at Corinth (8,000 population), and about 14,000 Italian prisoners were transferred to Crete in February and March.

Germany's attack was finally launched on 6 April, and Greece except Crete was occupied by the end of the month. In the meantime, withdrawing British forces took as many Italian officers as possible with them to Egypt. All these were soon sent further to POW camps in India and Australia.

Those left in Greece were gathered to a special camp near Corinth, where the former Greek camp for Italian POWs was, from which they were repatriated since mid-July 1941.

ITALIAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR CAMP No. 1, CORINTH (PELOPONNESE).

KENTRON AIXMALQTON - CAMP DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Date: 9/4/1941

Ricevuta il 18/6/41

ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ - CARTE POSTALE

ΕΛΛΑΣ - GRÈCE

ΑΤΕΛΕΣ - FRANC DE PORT

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΕΥΣ - EXPEDITEUR

Όνοματεπώνυμον: *Sottotenente*
 Nom et Prénom: *Luigi Burlando*

Αρ Αιχμαλώτου: *1^o Campo*
 No du Prisonnier: *Prigionieri - Grecia*

Όνομα: *Signora*
 Nom: *Lidia Lorenzini Clavario*

Όδός: Rue: *Piazza Montesanto, 3/10*

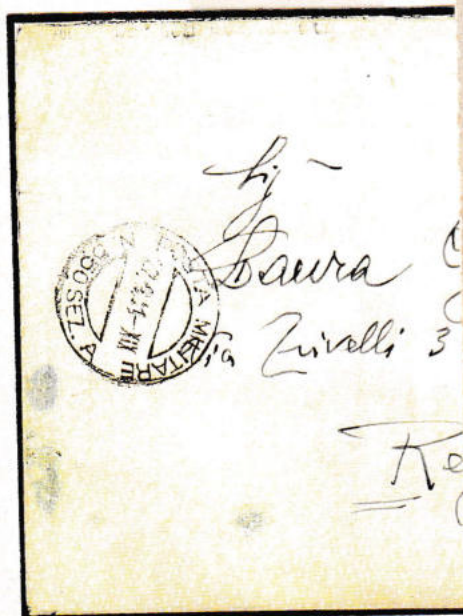
Χώρα: Pays: *Genova Sestri*


Έταρχ: Province: *Genova (Italia)*

Greek Red Cross stationery card dated 9.4.1941, from Italian officer in Greek Camp No. 1, Corinth; not submitted for examination due to abnormality of communications. The postcard was given to be forwarded by the Italian military postal service after the Germans occupied mainland Greece by the end of the month. No Italian censor/postal markings. Addressee's manuscript endorsement for receiving: *Ricevuta il 18/6/41*.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP I, CRETE.

photocopy



		ΔΕΛΤΑΠΙΟΝ - CARTE POSTALE	
TAXYAPOMIKH XHPHEZIA AIXMALΩΤΩΝ POSTES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE ΕΛΛΑΣ - GRÈCE ΑΤΕΛΕΣ - FRANK DE PORT ΣΤΟΙΧΕΥΕ - EXPÉDITEUR		MILITARE N. 550 SEZ. A 21.9.41 22.9.41	
Όνοματεπώνυμον: <i>Sergente</i> Nom et Prénom: <i>Cuffari Biagio</i> Αρ. Αιχμαλώτου: <i>2128</i> No du Prisonnier: Κέντρον Αιχμαλώτων: <i>B!</i> Camp de Prisonniers: <i>Campo Prigionieri</i>	Κ <i>Al Sig.</i> M Όνομα: <i>Moletti Antonino</i> Nom: <i>Italia</i> Όδος: Rue: Χώρα: Pays: <i>Messina Via Lucia</i> <i>no Manara N° 109 - Tel. 121</i> Έπαρχ.: Province: <i>Messina</i>		

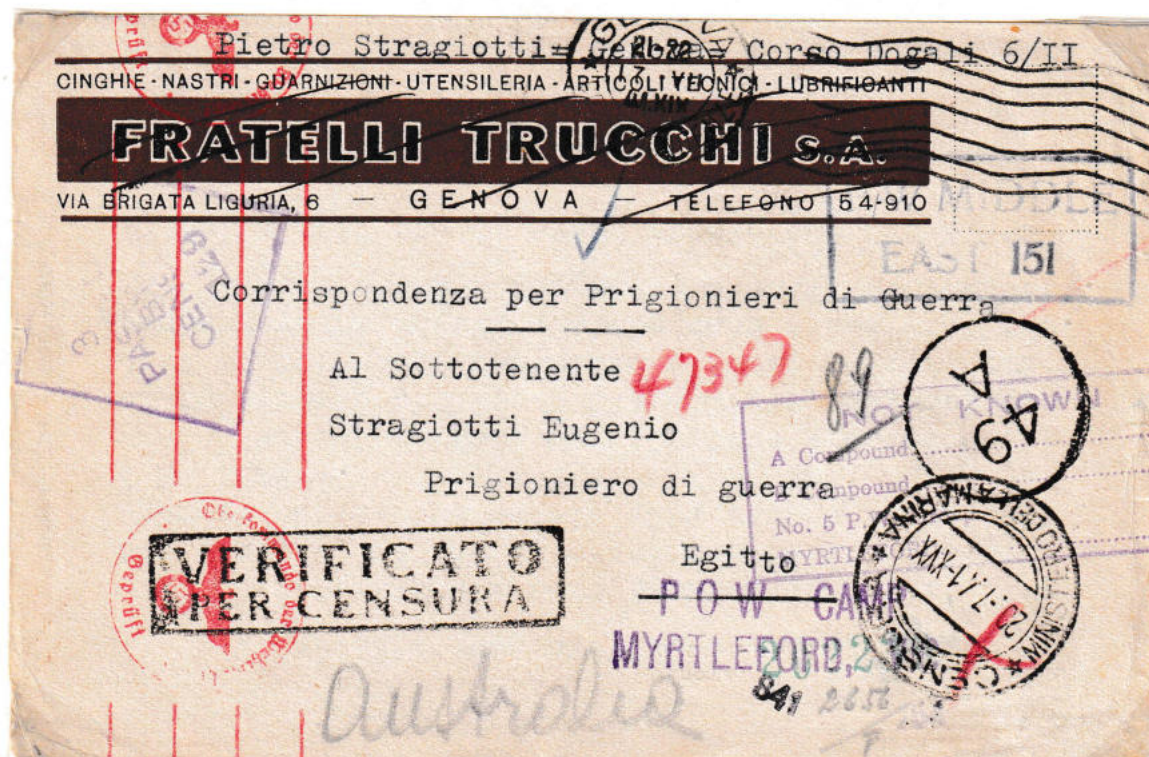
Messages dated 22.4.1941 (Greek Red Cross stationery card supplied to Italian POW while he was before in the Greek Camp B, Kalamai/Peloponnese –cert. attached) and 26.4.1941 (plain paper and cover with camp's administrative cachet on unsealed flaps provided to another POW by the administration of the newly established camp on Crete due to lack of stereotyped Greek Red Cross stationery).

Both items were dispatched after 5 months, following the island's seizure by the Germans in end-May and the restoration of communications with Athens and Italy much later. Postmarked POSTA MILITARE N. 550 SEZ. A 21.9.41 and 22.9.41 respectively by the Italian Field Post Office 550, Section "A" based at Aghios Nicolaos in the Italian-administrated sector of (Eastern) Crete. Faint transit Rome postmark on the cover, 8.10.41.

ITALIAN P.O.W. OFFICERS TRANSFERRED ABROAD



Private postcard from Italy, written on 29.6.1941, forwarded through the **Red Cross** channel to Italian officer captured in Greece and transferred to Egypt. Redirected to Murchison, Camp No. 13, Victoria/Australia. Addressee's m/s endorsement "6.12.41" for receiving. Inspected in Italy, Egypt (British censor) and Australia.



Postcard from Italy, written on 17.7.1941, expedited **via Germany** to the same POW in Egypt. Pencil endorsement "Australia" for redirection to Myrtleford, Camp No. 5, Victoria; camp's handstamp on receiving.

Stamped **NOT KNOWN** by the Melbourne POW Information Bureau as the prisoner had not arrived (from Murchison Camp) yet. Inspected in Italy (Rome, Ministry of the Navy), Germany (Vienna OKW 'g'), Egypt (POW British censor) and Australia (Military District 3, Victoria).


GREEK PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN TEMPORARY GERMAN CAMPS, GREECE

After truce was signed by the German and the Greek High Command, two German temporary camps were formed near the towns of Florina and Drama, Macedonia on 20 April 1941, to house the Greek units surrendered in northern Greece. On Hitler's orders in the end of the month, the capitulated Greek army was set free and both camps closed the first days of May.

PRISONERS OF WAR CAMP, DRAMA (NORTHERN GREECE).

Ε Λ Λ Α Σ

ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ ΑΤΕΛΕΣ



Διεύθυναι ἀποστολῆς:

Βαθμός... Υπολοχαγός,
Ἐπώνυμον... Ἀδριανός
καὶ ὄνομα... Σωτήρ.
Ἐνδείξις μονάδος... Στρατόπεδον
Τ. Τ... Ἀληκωνῶν
Δράμα

Πρὸς τὸν Κυρία
Εἰρήνην Στ. Ἀδριανοῦ
Δικηγόρου
Θήβας

Εἰς Θήβας

... Θυσίες, δουλεία, ἀγῶνας γιὰ τὴν Ἑλλάδα, μ' ἓνα μοναδικὸ σκοπὸ: ΤΗ ΝΙΚΗ
καὶ γι' αὐτὴν τὰ πάντα

I. ΜΕΤΑΞΑΣ

Ἀπαγορεύεται ἀπολύτως ἡ ἀναγραφὴ τοῦ
τόπου σταθμεύσεως τῆς μονάδος

Short message on Greek military postcard, 21.4.1941, sent to relative from a Greek officer held in the camp. Text in Greek, not censored. Postmarked Drama 24.4.41; backstamped on arrival at destination, Thivai 17.5.41.

KRIEGSGEFANGENENLAGER, FLORINA (NORTHERN GREECE).

DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE

Prisoner *Filipoussis Frankiskos* was today released from captivity. He is permitted to reach his domicile in *Athens*. Florina 3 May 1941.

Signed by the camp's commandant and stamped with the "Dienststelle Feldpost Nr. 27389" cachet, allotted to Landeschützen Bataillon 576, one of the independent guard units under the orders of the Wehrmacht.

ENTLASSUNGS — SCHEIN


Der Gefangene Filipoussis
Frankiskos

wurde heute aus der Gefangenschaft entlassen. Er
darf in Athènes

Wohnung nehmen.

3 Mai
April 1941

Ober. Lt. u. Lagerkommandant



ALLIED PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN GERMAN CAMPS, GREECE

Greek, British, Australian, New Zealand, Indian, Cypriot, and Palestinian combatants were held prisoners. The Greeks were progressively liberated between May/June 1941 and February 1942; the allies were transported to Germany during the same period. German POWs have also been recorded but no mail from them likely exists as they all were released by the Greeks right after Germany's victory.



Cover from New Zealand with 9d. stamp cancelled Nelson 22.8.1941, to N.Z. POW in Greece through the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva.

Manuscript instructional endorsement *Air Mail* crossed out. New Zealand O.B.C. tape with Wellington censor #24.



Cover from England with 5d. stamp cancelled Cardiff 20.9.1941, to British POW in Greece through the ICRC, Geneva. P.C. 90 tape O.B.E. 4064 (London). ICRC manuscript endorsement with POW's new number and camp "Stalag VIIIB", Lamsdorf (Lambinowice, Poland) to forward the received message to.

DULAG CORINTH, PELOPONNESE.

Photocopy

KENTRON AIXMALOTON - CAMP DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

My Dearest Wife, L/Bpl Rapperport. T/142785.
Hμερ. 14.5.1941.
Date

I expect by now you have been informed that I am a prisoner of war. Please try not to worry dearest one, I am keeping quite well and am actually as fit as I possibly could be. I am sorry there is no address to write to yet, but the Red Cross are getting things organised very quickly so it shouldn't be very long. Give my love to Paul dear and Mother & Father. Could you let my Mother & Father know that I'm O.K. You ever loving and adoring husband, Vic.

Kriegsgefangenenpost
Gebührenfrei!

TAXYΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΩΝ
POSTE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE
ΕΛΛΑΣ - GRÈCE

ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ - CARTE POSTALE

ATEΛΕΣ - FRANC DE PORT
ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΕΥΣ - EXPEDITEUR

*Όνοματεπώνυμον:
Nom et Prénom:
L/Bpl Rapperport.

*Αρ. Αιχμαλώτου:
No du Prisonnier
T/142785.

Κέντρον Αιχμαλώτων:
Camp de Prisonniers:

*Όνομα:
Nom
Mrs R. Rapperport,

*Οδός: Rue:
England.

Χώρα: Pays:
Oxford,

*Επαρχ.: Province:

50621 7287

PASSED
P.W.4515

Greek Red Cross postcard for use by Italian POWs in Greece before the occupation to England, 14.5.1941, used in the German transit POW camp at Corinth as "capture-card" by a British soldier surrendered at Kalamai on 27.4.1941.

Itinerary: Corinth, Berlin, Stuttgart, by air to Lisbon and London; no intermediation of the Red Cross.

2-line blue handstamp in German *Kriegsgefangenenpost Gebührenfrei* (POW Mail / Postage-free) applied by the camp administration.

Censored in Germany (OKW Berlin cachet and examiner numbers) and in England (London POW censor handstamp "P.W. 4515").

EXHIBITOR'S PUBLISHED WORK:

- "To prossorino germaniko stratopedo dierchomenon echmaloton stin Korintho, 1941" (The German provisional POW transit camp at Cori 1941), *Philatelic Echo* 1989(151):254-258, Piraeus/Greece.

DULAG CORINTH, PELOPONNESE.



Cover from India (Prisoner of War Camp 9, 26.8.1942), censored in Bairagahr and Karachi, and sent via Sweden and Germany to Indian cavalry trooper, held in the German transit POW camp at Corinth after his capture at Kalamai, Greece on 27.4.1941. The sender, most probably a guard at the POW Camp 9, apparently knew the prisoner's address from the latter's previous communication. However, the prisoner was not found there as the Corinth camp was already closed since June 1941.

To trace the prisoner, the cover traveled three times back and forth between Greece and Germany till June 1943, in a period of ten months: Berlin (opened and inspected) → Athens, Corinth, Kiaton, Corinth (Greece) → Vienna (opened and inspected) → Athens, Kalamai (Greece) → Vienna (opened for a third time; three edges cut to open flat and check cover's inner surfaces with blue chemical ink) → Athens (Greek Red Cross manuscript instructional notation with red pencil: "*Retour / détachement du gros / de l'Armée démêlée*" (Return [to the] large detachment of the disentangled Army) → Vienna or Berlin (not opened this time; only no. 6110 censor's handstamp applied).

In total, 16 endorsements and markings show the persistent efforts of all involved (postal or censure services, Red Cross and individuals) for some 10 months to deliver the letter to the prisoner contrary to any situation.

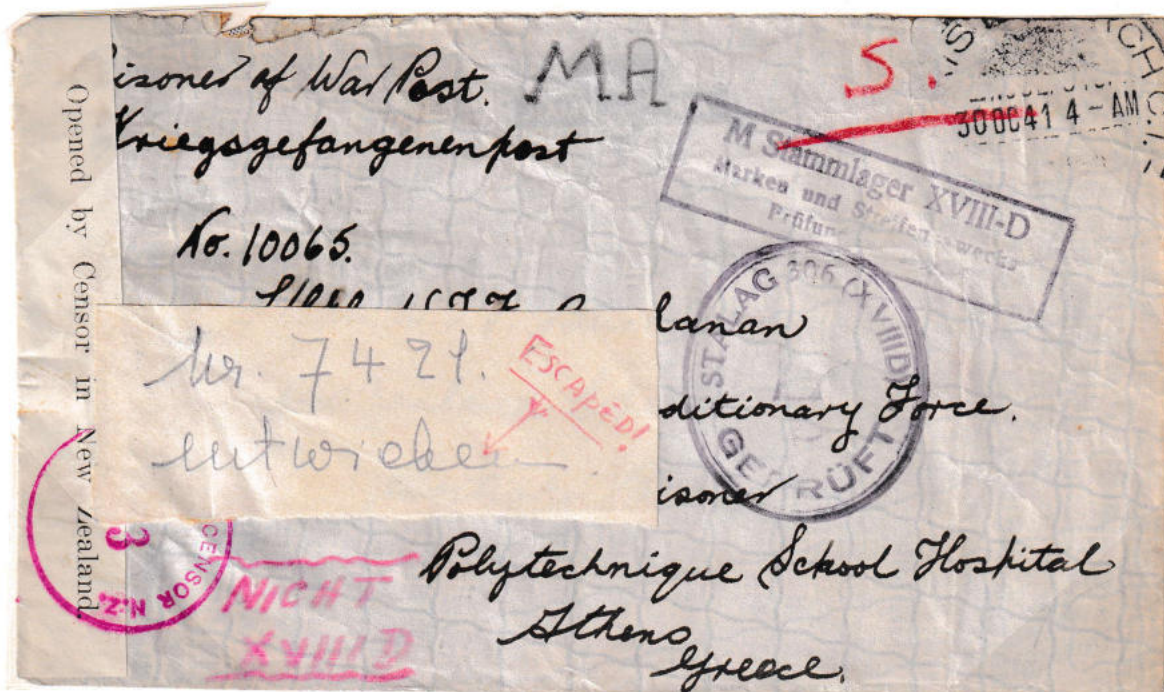
EXHIBITOR'S PUBLISHED WORK:

- "I odyssea mias epistolis" (Odyssey of a letter), *Philatelic Echo* 1989(150):226-231, Piraeus/Greece.

KRIEGSGEFANGENEN LAZARETT, ATHENS.



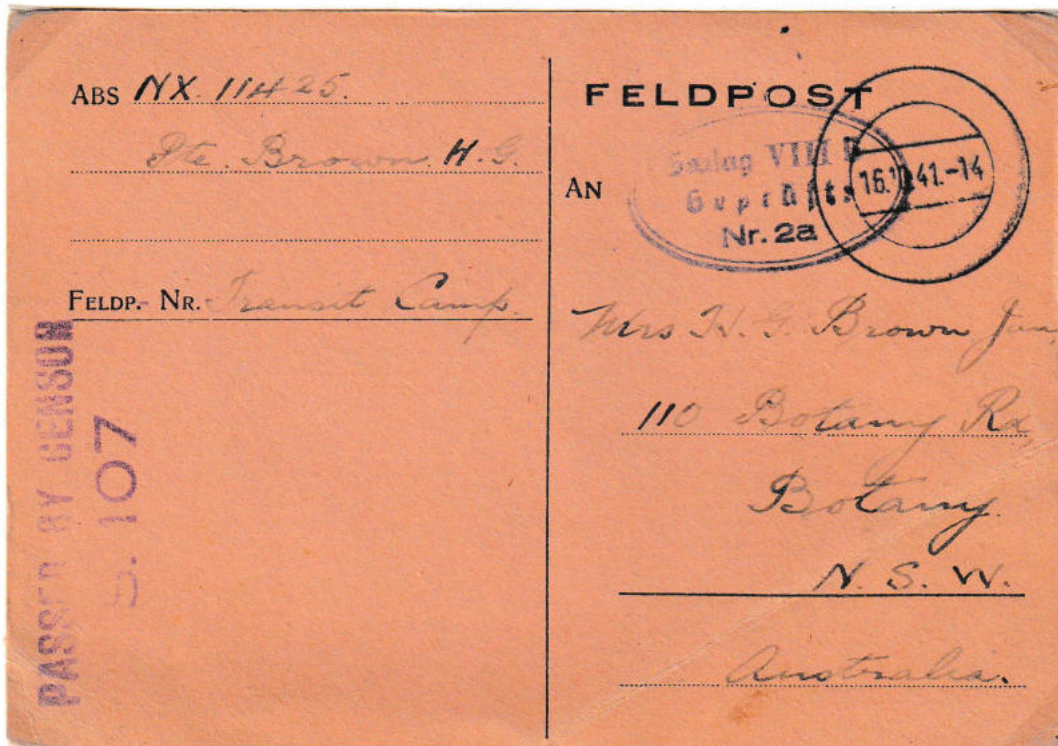
Cover from wounded New Zealander POW transferred from Crete to the German temporary Camp Hospital that operated for two months in the Greek National Technical University, Athens. Estimated sent in July 1941. German "Kriegsgefangenen-Post" (Prisoners-of-War Mail) linear marking in red for free transmission. Expedited open via Berlin, Geneva (ICRC) and Cairo (ICRC Delegation). Delivered to and postmarked by the N.Z. Army Postal Service in Cairo: EGYPT 62 PREPAID, 28.12.41. Examined by German (Berlin, OKW "b" machine stamp on backside) and British (Cairo, D.C.F.C.) military censors.



Cover sent postage free from New Zealand (Christchurch, 30.10.1941), to wounded New Zealander POW in the Polytechnique School Hospital, Athens. Expedited by post via London, Lisbon, Stuttgart, and Berlin. As the hospital had already been closed since July, the item was redirected to Stalag 306 (XVIIIID) camp at Marburg, Germany, which had received the New Zealanders from Greece and Crete. The prisoner was not found there (manuscript notation "Nicht XVIIIID", red pencil), and the tracing service discovered he had escaped: manuscript endorsement "Nr. 7421 / entwiechen" (disappeared) on attached strip of paper. Censored in New Zealand; examination markings applied also in the German camp.

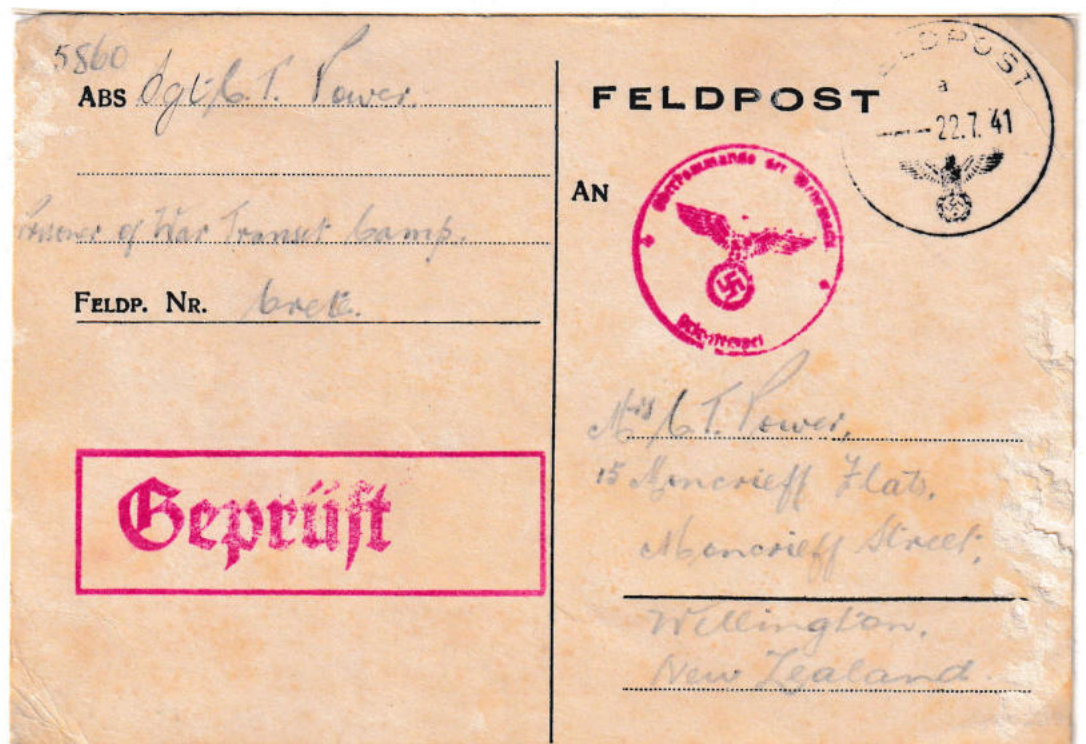
DULAG KRETA, GALATAS (CRETE).

German Army postcards were given to Australian and New Zealand POWs in the Transit Camp "KRETA" (Crete).



FIRST DISPATCH OF MAIL. Message written on 26.6.1941; same text given to all the prisoners, to inform relatives in homeland: *I am a prisoner in German custody. Please do not write to me until you hear from me again as I am at present only in a Transit Camp.*

Forwarded to Stalag VIII B, Lamsdorf (Lambinowice, Poland) for inspection. Censor cachet *Geprüft Nr. 2a* and mute postmark 16.10.41 for dispatch. Sent further to Berlin, Stuttgart, by air to Lisbon and London on its way to Australia (no intermediation of the Red Cross). Examined also in Sydney: *Passed by censor / S.107* stamp.



SECOND DISPATCH OF MAIL. Message dated 18.7.41: *I am still in Transit Camp please do not attempt to write meanwhile.* Postmarked at the camp, 22.7.41.

Sent to Berlin, where it was censored and stamped by the special department XI ("Abteilung XI", OKW "b"), assigned to examine the Red Cross mail. Forwarded via the ICRC, Geneva to New Zealand.

TEMPORARY ALLIED POW CAMP, PLATANIAS (CRETE).

Handwritten: *17. Hill House, Wellington Rd, 01.11.42, in hand*

Stamp: *ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ* (Greece)

FROM (SENDER'S FULL NAME & ADDRESS):
MRS. R. FAVILLE BROWN

PRISONER OF WAR POST
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

THIS LETTER HAS BEEN RETURNED BY THE INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS COMMITTEE AT GENEVA WHO WERE UNABLE TO REFORWARD IT.

Postage stamp: 2½ p (British)

2576689

RANK & NAME: (BLOCK LETTERS)
CORP. R. F. BROWN

British Prisoner of

PRISONER OF WAR NO.: 5023
(SEE NOTE ON FLAP)

CAMP NAME & No.: CRETE.
(INCLUDING SUBSIDIARY NUMBERING OR LETTERING IF ANY—E.G. WORKING CAMP)

COUNTRY:

PASSED
P.141

IMPORTANT: FOR PRISONERS IN GERMAN HANDS THE PRISONER OF WAR No. MUST BE CLEARLY SHOWN. IT MUST NOT BE CONFUSED WITH HIS BRITISH SERVICE No.

Geoffinet

British 2½ p POW air letter cancelled Cheltenham

26.1.1942 to British POW in the camp. Prisoner's details:

No. 5042, Crete. British censor handstamp "Passed P.141" (London);

German tape with OKW "b" censor cachet and examiner numbers (Berlin).

As the prisoner had escaped on 29.12.41, the camp administration forwarded the item by post to the Greek Red Cross (illegible Canea PO datestamp 26.2.42 for dispatch to Athens). Greek Red Cross cachets, in Greek (on receiving) or in French (for dispatch to the International Committee of the Red Cross in Switzerland).

British boxed handstamp *Returned to sender by ICRC/Geneva* and text (London).

GREEK PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN GERMAN CAMPS, GREECE

KRIEGSGEFANGENEN LAGER, AYII APOSTOLI (CANEA, CRETE).

Greek stationery 2dr. postcards were in use by the Greek POWs before the camp postal service was fully organized. Forwarded to internal address through the Greek civil postal service. Return address: "Poste Restant, Canea". Text obligatorily translated into German on both cards; prisoner's signature in Greek. Examined by the German Field Command at Canea; linear handstamp "Zensiert Feldkommandantur".



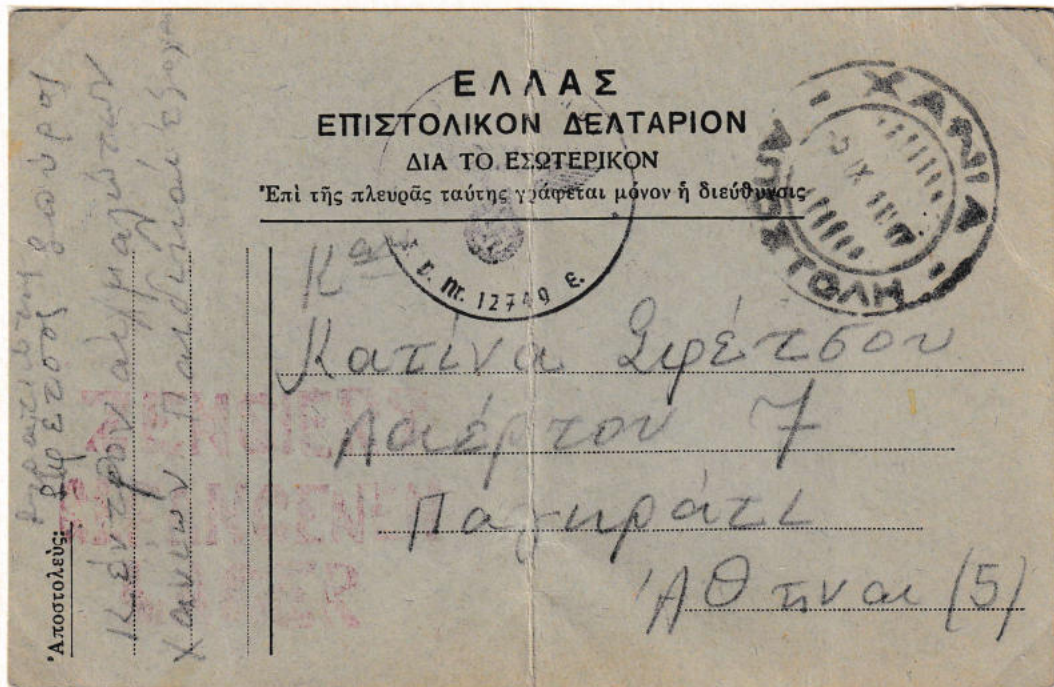
Written on 12.7.1941; 2dr. airmail postage added as no surface mail service was available. Postmarked Canea 16.7.41.



Written on 20.7.1941; insufficient postage marking "T" as no airmail postage was added. Postmarked Canea 21.7.41. No postage due collected at destination.

KRIEGSGEFANGENEN LAGER KRETA VI, AYII APOSTOLI (CANEA, CRETE).

Greek postcards to internal addresses from Greek POWs at Ayii Apostoli German camp, expedited free of charge after the German military postal and censoring services started operating in the camp. The prisoners were allowed to write in Greek.



Written on 1.9.1941; Return address: *Prisoners-of-war Camp, Canea summer camp* [Ayii Apostoli]. Examined in the camp, where the provisional handstamp "ZENSIERT / GEFANGENEN / LAGER" (Censored / Prisoner / Camp) in red was used in early September. Forwarded through the German Army Postal Service (Briefstempel Dienstelle 12749E allotted to 746 Inf. Reg., III/12comp.) to the Greek Postal Service. Postmarked Canea/Dispatch 5.9.41.



Written on 22.9.1941; Return address: *Prisoner-of-war, Canea*. 2-line camp censor handstamp in German "Zensiert: Kriesgefangenen Lager Kreta (VI)" [Censored: POW Camp Crete, Sub camp (VI)]. Forwarded via Germany and censored again in Berlin ("Oberkommando der Wehrmacht / Briefstempel" cachet).

ITALIAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR LIBERATED BY THE GERMAN ARMY

PATRAS, PELOPONNESE.

Photocopy

7. 1941. Patrasso
Carissimi genitori dopo la
mia lunga assenza ritorno
ancora a scrivere una
volta per darvi le mie
notizie che io sto bene
ancora di salute e così spero
anche di voi tutti in famiglia
non so mai potrei mai scriver
il motivo perché prima
non mi trovavo prigioniero
e ora sono liberato e posso
mandarvi i miei più sinceri
auguri in occasione della mia
libertà. Sperando di ritrovarvi
tutti in compagnia.
Vostro figlio Paolo e Maria

Greek military postcard, 19.7.1941, used by Italian ex-POW released some three months after the German Army occupied Greece. The place of origin *Patrasso* on the message most likely indicates that he was previously interned (by the Greeks and the Germans) in the former Greek camp near Patras.

The prisoner informed his father that *after a long silence* he was now liberated and able to send his most sincere wishes (photocopy).

No postal markings; the card was dispatched by the Italian Naval Command 869, Patras, and forwarded through the Italian Navy postal service.

Censored in the Ministry of the Navy, Rome; examiner's fractional handstamp 1 D(1).

Ε Λ Λ Α Σ

ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ ΑΤΕΛΕΣ

Διεύθυνσις, Αποστολὴ

Πρὸς τὸν

Βαθμὸς.....

Ἐπώνυμον {

καὶ ὄνομα {

Ἐνδείξις μονάδος.....

Τ. Τ.....

1 D(1)

Sign Patrasso

Giuseppe Maria

Compagnolo

F. 4

Τὸ σύνθημά σου, Νεολαία τῆς Ἑλλάδος, εἶναι : ΠΙΣΤΙΣ—ΑΓΩΝ—ΝΙΚΗ.

Ι. ΜΕΤΑΣΑΣ

ἡ παραλαβὴ ἀπολύτως ἢ ἀναγραφὴ τοῦ τοῦ σταθμίσματος τῆς μονάδος.

CAMPO CONCENTRAMENTO PRIGIONIERI LIBERATI, P.M. 550/E.
HERAKLION, CRETE

photocopy

leg. maggiore Taro Agatino
Campo Concentramento prigionieri liberati
4^a Comp.
P.M. 550/E

P.M. 550 E
COMANDO SUPERIORE FF. AA. EGEO
ESSENTE DA TASSA AUTORIZZAZIONE POSTGEN
N. 563613/164634-V.3 DEL 26-2-41XIX



Taro Agatino
Via Barbagallo Pitta 27

Catania

Michel C. Zoulikis & Co.
Grecia - Crete

(Sicilia)

Greek commercial envelope (requisitioned writing material from Crete shops) used by Italian POW in the former Greek camp near Heraklion and liberated by the German Army but still kept in the camp. Greek merchant's printed return address (Heraklion) obscured with violet ink. Sender's details in Italian on flap: *Liberated prisoners' concentration camp, 4th Company, F.P.O. 550/E.*

Italian Army franchise cachet "P.M. 550E / COMMANDO SUPERIORE FF.AA.EGEO / ESSENTE DA TASSA AUTORIZZAZIONE POSTGEN / N.563613/164634-V.3 DEL 26-2-41XIX" (F.P.O. 550e / Aegean Supreme Armed Forces Command / Exempted from dues / Post General Direction Authorization / N.563613/164634-V.3 OF 26-2-41XIX) applied on the island (Aghios Nicolaos) upon departure. Postmarked in transit POSTA MILITARE N. 550, 17.6.41 (Rhodes). Backstamped on arrival, Catania 22.VI.41.

ITALIAN ex-POW REPATRIATION CAMP, CORINTH (PELOPONNESE)

Photocopy

Corinto 18-6-41. Cara Mamma e famiglia
giungo a voi con questo mio scritto per farvi
sapere che la mia salute è sempre buona come
sempre nel passato e con come lo credo anche di
tutti voi in famiglia e dei cari nipotini tutti.
Spero di presto vedervi tutti in persona e
con come lo sarà anche di voi per me. Termino
salutandovi tutti di tutto cuore e cordialmente
d'albraccio tutti sono il vostro figlio e fratello Giovanni
Battista Rosso.

CARTOLINA POSTALE PER LE FORZE ARMATE

ESENIE DA TASSA PER L'ITALIA E SUE COLONIE

POSTA MILITARE

Mittente

Cognome Rosso

Nome Giovanni Battista

Grado Caporale

Reparto 4th returning Alpine Battalion, 3rd Company, Corinth, Greece

Ala Famiglia Rosso

Catterina Via Riada Sottana

R. 19 Carantasca Prov.

di Cuneo P.

Piemonte

(Italia)

Italian Armed Forces postcard, 18.6.1941, postmarked POSTA MILITARE NRO 29 21.6.41 (Tripolis, Peloponnese) from liberated Italian POW in former Greek camp near Corinth. Sender's details in Italian: *Royal Italian Legation, Athens, 4th returning Alpine Battalion, 3rd Company, Corinth, Greece.*

Text censored at Cuneo, Italy. Postmarked Carantasca/Cuneo 6.7.41.

GREECE OCCUPIED

ITALIAN-ADMINISTRATED AREAS

In June 1941, Italy was given large areas of Greece to administrate with Germany's consent, and during that occupation quite a great number of Greek civilians and ex-officers, who had been considered as opponents or threats to the new regime, were either interned in the country or sent to camps, jails or exile in Italy. They all remained there until the country's armed forces collapsed, following the signing of the Armistice in September 1943.

Those destined to be deported were concentrated to a Transit camp near Patras, Peloponnese.

CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO, KALAVRITA (PELOPONNESE).



Postcard from Greek civilian internee housed in the Italian concentration camp near the town, 12.12.1942, to internal address. Dispatched from Kalavrita on 13.12.42.

Passed by military censor at Patras [VERIFICATO PER CENSURA / 11a ARMATA handstamp], in transit.

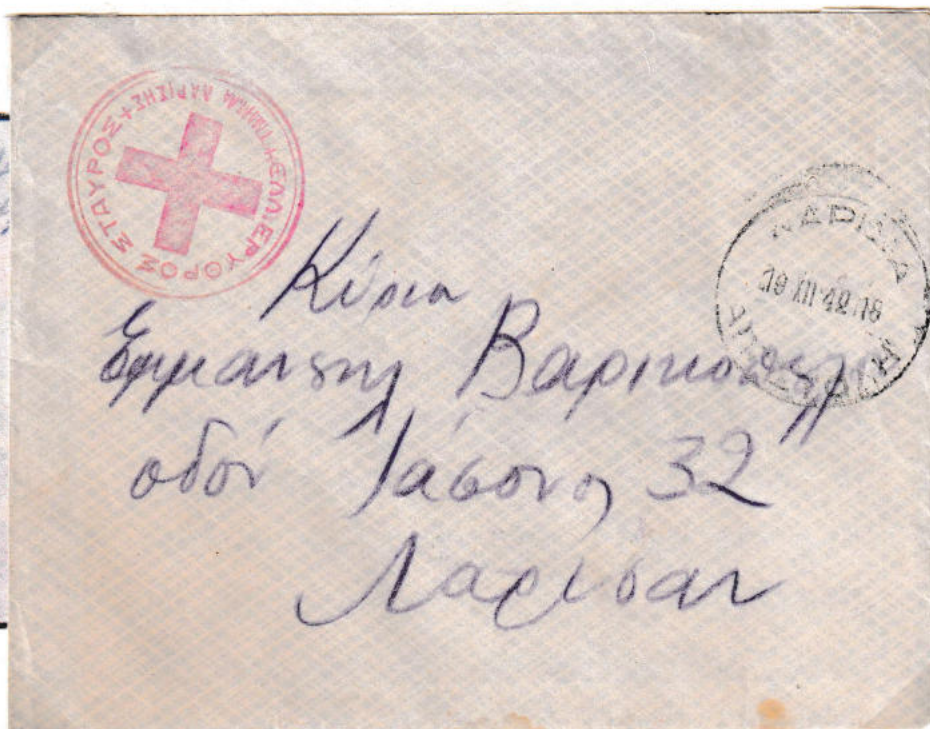
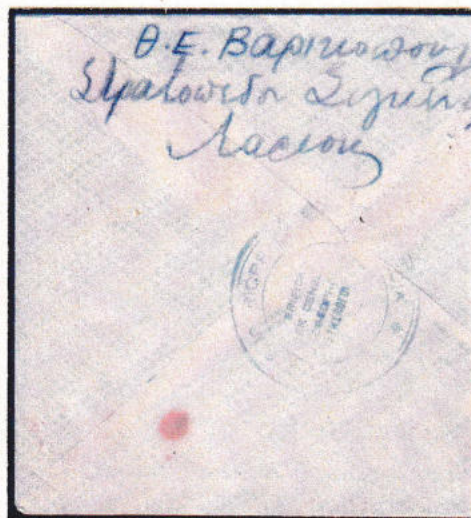
Postmarked upon arrival, Pyrgos 17.12.42.

CIVILIAN INTERNEE FRANCHISE CORRESPONDENCE, DOMESTIC MAIL

The Greek Ministry of Communications agreed with the request of the Greek Red Cross to grant postage-free correspondence to/from civilian internees and political detainees in Greece. On 31.5.1941, an order was given to the Greek Postal Authorities to accept such mail provided it bears the Red Cross cachet.

CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO, LARISSA (THESSALY, GREECE).

Photocopy



OUTGOING MAIL. Plain envelope with enclosed message dated 26.11.1942 to Larissa from Greek civilian internee in the Italian concentration camp near the town. "Greek Red Cross / Larissa Section" cachet on face.

The envelope was given open to be inspected by the Greek Red Cross and the Italian Army High Command at Larissa; bi-lingual censor handstamp tying the flap sealed later. Postmarked Larissa Dispatch 19.XII.42.

Photocopy



INCOMING MAIL. Cover from Athens, 24.7.1943, given open for inspection by the Greek Red Cross and the Italian censure office in Athens; censor handstamps tying the flap sealed later. Postmarked Larissa Arrival 28.7.43.

ITALIAN TRANSIT CAMP, PATRAS (GREECE).

Cover from Athens, postmarked 13.1.1943, to Greek ex-officer interned in the Italian transit camp near Patras. Prisoner's address: *P.M. 82* (Field Post Office 82, in the district under control of the 29th Inf. Division). Examined by the Italian military censor "4" upon arrival in Patras.

The prisoner was transferred by ship to Italy one week later and carried the letter in the cover with him.

After the ship was torpedoed and sunk in the Ionian Sea, the cover in his pocket was soaked through and the stamps were gone away but the sea water "imprinted" the blue color of one of them on the cover's surface. A copy of this stamp is shown here --->



Upper and lower flaps are also missing.


The survivor saved the envelope in this condition during his 2½ years adventure in six camps, and brought it back to Greece.

ITALIAN ARMY BARRACKS HOSPITAL, VALONA (ALBANIA).


FIRST (GENERAL) DISPATCH OF MAIL, 26.1.43. Italian military postal stationery used by (one of) the 82 Greek prisoners rescued and brought to the Italian Military Hospital, Valona, to recover after the ship transporting them to Italy had been torpedoed in the Adriatic.

Same text given to all, to inform relatives in Greece: *I am well. Soon I will write to you my new address.* Inspected in Rome: Numeral "I" censor markings; examiner #196.

Affermo solennemente, e senza tema di essere smentito nè oggi nè mai, che la responsabilità della guerra ricade esclusivamente sulla Gran Bretagna. MUSSOLINI



CARTOLINA POSTALE PER LE FORZE ARMATE



Mittente	Cognome <u>Mavrias</u>	Nome <u>Haris</u>	Grado <u>Stafis</u>	Reparto _____	POSTA MILITARE	<p><u>A Kuprian</u></p> <p><u>Kiniha Mavria</u></p> <p><u>Ydri 'Eressos 45</u></p> <p><u>Adinas</u></p>
-----------------	------------------------	-------------------	---------------------	---------------	-----------------------	---



ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ

Αποστολὴς:

Πατρις

καρὰ ψυχῆς

NIT GAV. X. ΠΕΤΡΙΤΩ

Οδὸς Κωνσταντινῆς 1

ΑΘῆΝΑΙΣ

ΕΖΕΣΙΩΝ

SECOND (EXCEPTIONAL) DISPATCH, 1.2.1943. Greek postcard to Greece, written by one of the above Greeks before leaving the hospital to POW camp in Italy; after he unfolded the card, carried secretly in his pocket since he was arrested in Greece, he repeated the above message. Forwarded via Rome: Numeral "I" censor markings; examiner #196. This item was the only one allowed by the Italian Army PO for a second dispatch; first denied but later emotionally accepted for expedition it as it depicted the Madonna.

Photocopy





Message in Greek, censored in Rome. The prisoner presented the difficult situation he lived, and the censor defaced two lines of the text.

CAMPO P.G. 75, BARI (ITALY).

POW Italian postcards to Greece from two Greek prisoners in Transit Camp No. 75. The senders were among the 82 survivors of the ship bound for Bari but foundered in the Adriatic on 21 January 1943. A week after their stay in the Italian Military Hospital at Valona, Albania to recover, they were transported to Bari on their way to POW camp 38 near Poppi/Toscana.

Messages inspected in Rome: numeral "I" censor machine stamp on text sides; examiner handstamps #196 or #730 in front.

		POSTE ITALIANE CARTOLINA POSTALE PER PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA			
Mittente					
(Sender's)					
(Отправитель)					
Cognome	BUAZ				
(Surname)					
(Фамилия)					
Nome	PAOLO				
(Name)					
(Имя)					
Grado	CAPITANO				
(Rank)					
(Чин)					
Campo p. g.	75				
(P. of W. Camp.)					
(Лазерь в. п.)					
	P.M. 3450				
			VERIFICATO PER CENSURA GITCHI BUA VIA ERESSU 45 ATENE		

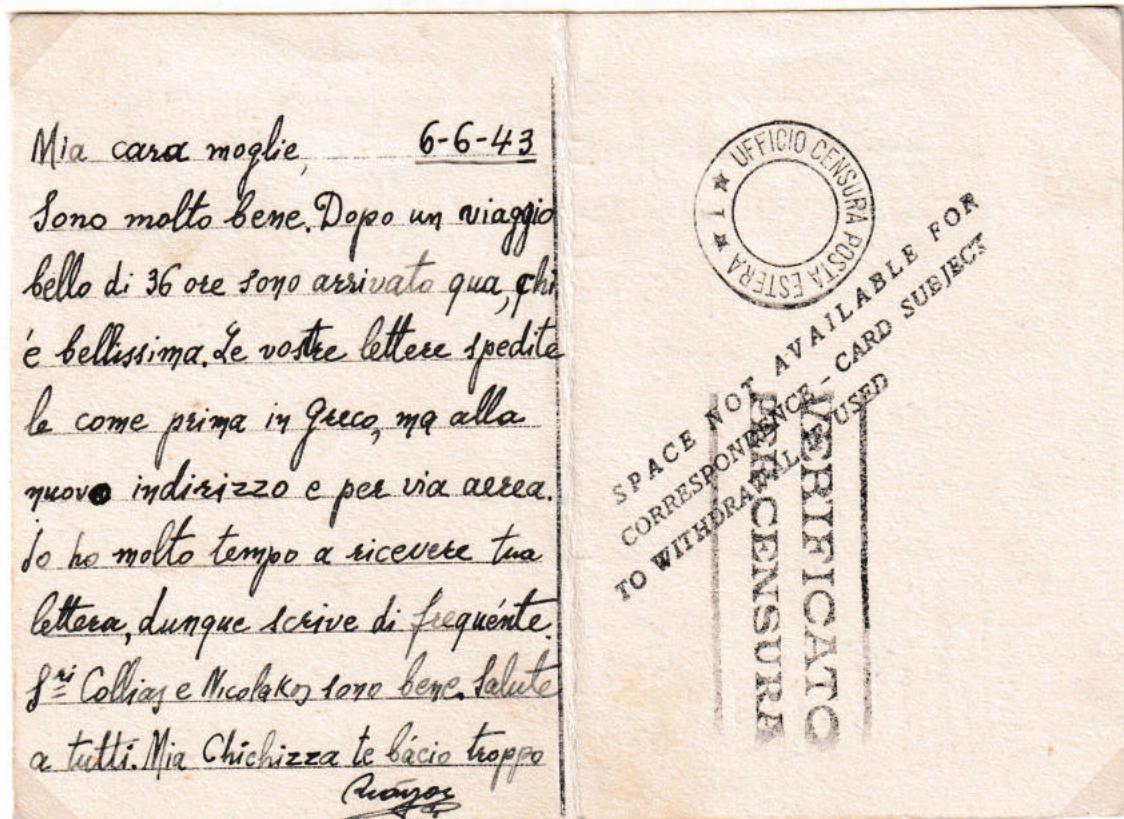
Written on 5.2.1943, the first day the sender arrived in Italy. Text includes: *I arrived in Italy safely. Write to me at address overleaf which is not the final one.* Numeral "I" examiner #196 marking.

		VIA AEREA POSTE ITALIANE CARTOLINA POSTALE PER PRIGIONIERI DI GUERRA			
Mittente					
(Sender's)					
(Отправитель)					
Cognome	PETRATOS				
(Surname)					
(Фамилия)					
Nome	CHARALABOS				
(Name)					
(Имя)					
Grado	S. TENENTE				
(Rank)					
(Чин)					
Campo p. g.	75				
(P. of W. Camp.)					
(Лазерь в. п.)					
	P.M. 3450				
			ITALIA SIGNORA NITSAN.CH. PETRATU VIA CUMANUDI №1 ATENE (7) GRECIA		

25.4.1943. Oblong mute cancellation on additional airmail postage. Numeral "I" examiner #730 marking.

CAMPO P.G. 38, POPPI (TOSCANA/ITALY)

Isole Jonie prestamped postcard from Corfu, 15.5.1943, to Transit POW Camp No. 75 (Bari). Readdressed to Camp No. 38, Poppi, where the prisoner was transferred to in the meantime. Corfu AFFARI CIVILI censor cachet and examiner handstamp CENSORE 3/1 in circle. Postmarked Kerkyra (Corfu) 23.5.43.

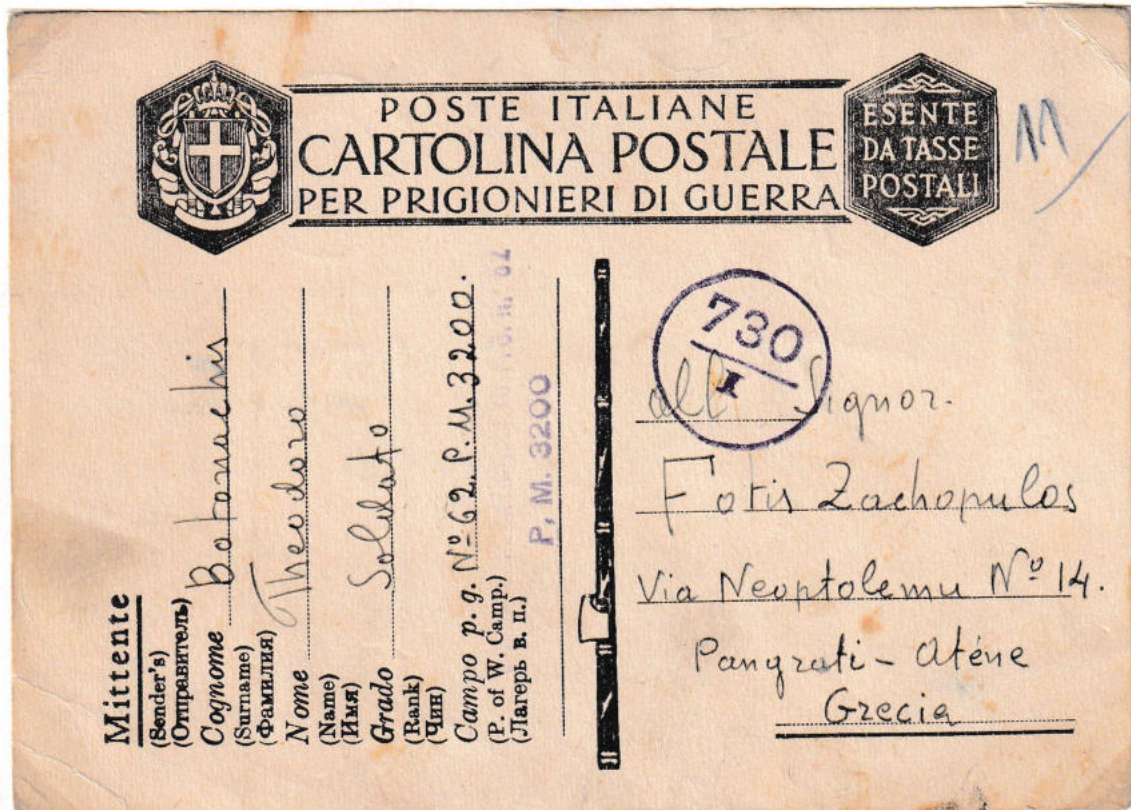


Internee's first message to Greece (6.6.1943), written on the day the camp operated with Greek prisoners, obligatorily in Italian. Inspected in Rome: numeral "I" m/s, examiner "129" handstamp on face.



CAMPO P.G. 27, SAN ROMANO (ITALY).

POW Italian postcard, 27.4.1942, from Greek prisoner in Camp No. 27 to Greece.
Italian numeral "I" censor markings (Rome), examiner #196.

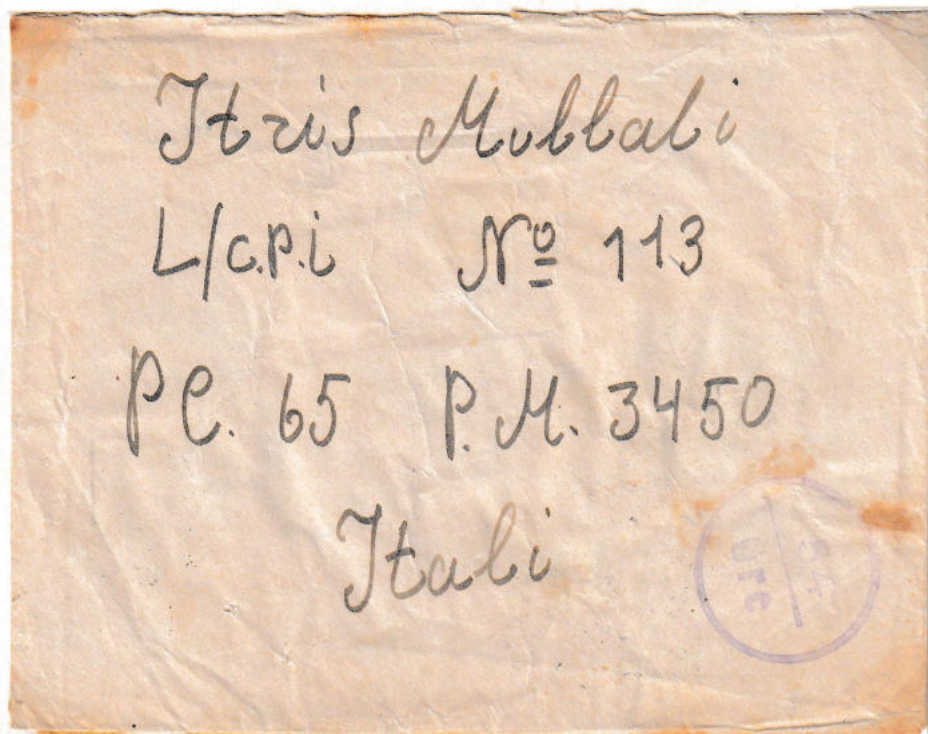


CAMPO P.G. 62, GRUMELLO DEL PIANO/BERGAMO (ITALY).

POW Italian postcard to Greece, 29.5.1943, from Greek prisoner in the camp; 2-line camp designation cachet applied. Inspected in Rome: numeral "I" censor machine stamp on text side; examiner #730.

CAMPO P.G. 65, GRAVINA ALTAMURA (PUGLIA, ITALY).

Photocopy



Airmailed cover from Athens/Greece to Greek prisoner in the Camp, care of (Army Post) P.M. 3450.
Italian censor markings and tape on the back side, examiner "54/Gre" handstamp (Athens).
Postmarked Athens 12.12.1942.

CAMPO P.G. 95, CAIRO MONTENOTTE/SAVONA (ITALY).

Cover airmailed from Athens/Greece, 10.3.1942, to Greek POW in the camp. The 5dr. stamp goes for the airmail surcharge paid. The camp has designation number "95" as this system was introduced in Italy since February 1942. Backstamped with Rome numeral "I" censor markings on sealing tape; examiner #196.



Italian Red Cross POW postcard, 13.5.1942, from Greek prisoner to Greece. 3-line instruction handstamp in Greek applied in Italy: *Short letters and very legible in order to avoid certain restraint by censor.* Military postmark P.M. 3100, 16.5.42 (Alessandria). Rome numeral "I" censor markings; examiner #196.

CAMPO P.G. 17, REZZANELLO/PIACENZA (ITALY).

PARCEL POST

110502 g 1800

ΔΕΛΤΙΟΝ ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΗΣ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΟΥ ΔΕΜΑΤΟΣ
ΣΥΝΗΘΟΥΣ Ή ΜΕΤΑ ΔΕΔΗΛΩΜΕΝΗΣ ΑΞΙΑΣ

ΑΞΙΑΣ
20

Επιγραφή: *destinataire: Maggiore Vamvakopoulos Theodore*
no 55 P.M. 3200

Εις *Italia*

Περιεχόμενον

Δεδηλωμένη αξία

Εν *Thessaloniki* τῇ *28-4-43* 193

Ονοματεπωνυμὸν ἀποστολέως *Expediteur: Croix - Rouge - Hellénique*

Διευθύνσις ἀποστολέως, ὁδὸς *griec* ἀριθ.

Δι' ἐνὸς δελτίου στέλλονται 3 δέματα συνήθη πρὸς τὸν αὐτὸν παραλήπτην περιέχοντα τὸ αὐτὸ εἶδος

Χῶρος πρὸς ἐπικόλλησιν τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ τοῦ δέματος	Βάρος γραμμάρια	Χῶρος πρὸς ἐπικόλλησιν τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ τοῦ δέματος	Βάρος γραμμάρια	Χῶρος πρὸς ἐπικόλλησιν τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ τοῦ δέματος	Βάρος γραμμάρια	Χῶρος πρὸς ἐπικόλλησιν τοῦ ἀριθμοῦ τοῦ δέματος	Βάρος γραμμάρια

Χῶρος πρὸς ἐπικόλλησιν παγο-
μοτυποῦ ἐστῆσαν
τοῦ κηροῦ σφραγισ-
θῆναι ἢ ἐσφραγισθῆναι
τὰ δέματα μετὰ δεδηλω-
μένης αξίας

Χῶρος πρὸς ἐπικόλλησιν
ταχυδρόμου τοῦ ἀριθ-
μοῦ τοῦ δέματος
«Μετὰ δεδηλωμένης αξίας»

VILLACH
-15.43

Internal parcel post card postmarked Thessaloniki 28.4.1943, to Greek prisoner in Camp No. 55 (Busseto/Parma) through the Greek Red Cross Salonica office (red cachet).

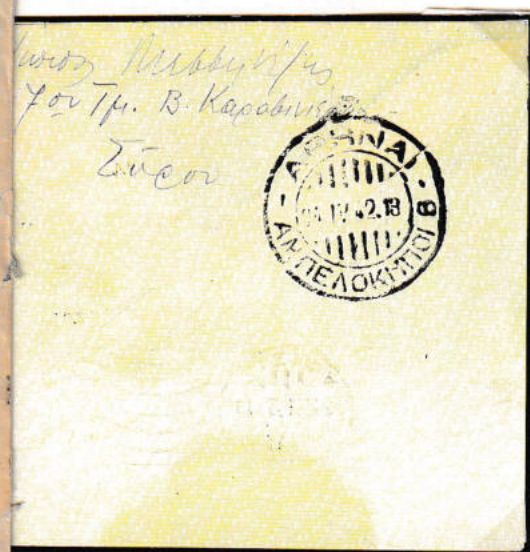
Manuscript endorsements for serial number *No 502* and parcel's weight *g. 1800*.

3-line handstamp *Bureau d'echange / Hellénique / de Thessaloniki - Duane* for inspection and clearance by the customs.

Postmarked in transit Vienna 27.5.43 and Villach 1.6.43, Germany.

Redirected to Campo P.G. 17, where the prisoner was transferred to in the meantime.

GREEK CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN ITALIAN PRISONS

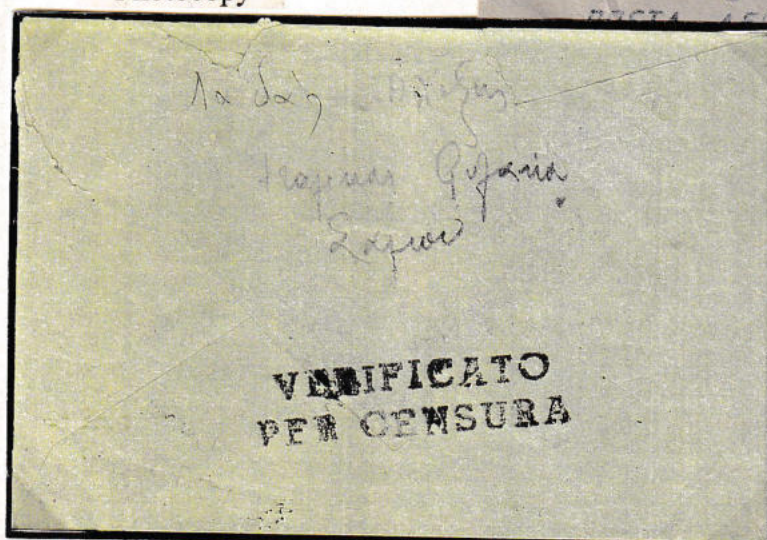


Photocopy

170 COMMISSARIATO RR.CC., SYROS ISLAND (GREECE).

Letter sent postage-free to internal address, 14.4.1942, from a Greek detained at the 17th Italian Military Police Station, Syros Island. Censored on the island; note the use of the Greek censorship office marking used before the occupation. Postmarked Syros 16.4.42, Athens 24.4.42.

Photocopy



ITALIAN PRISON, SAMOS ISLAND (GREECE).

Cover from Greek civilian detained in the island's Italian prison, 25.11.42, to internal address. Italian censure VERIFICATO PER CENSURA and (examiner) "39" markings applied in Vathy/Samos.

PENITENZIARIO DI VOLTERRA, PISA (ITALY).

Italian VINCEREMO postcards postmarked Volterra to relative in Greece from Greek detained in the Volterra Penitentiary House, forwarded through different routes. 7-line text and signature stamp with Penitentiary's cachet to certify that sender had no identity card. Both were first censored in the establishment with the official cachet of the prison applied on text as censor mark.

6.4.1943: Manuscript endorsement *Greco* in red pencil to indicate the language of the message. Sent via Rome (numeral "I" censor cachets; examiner #52).

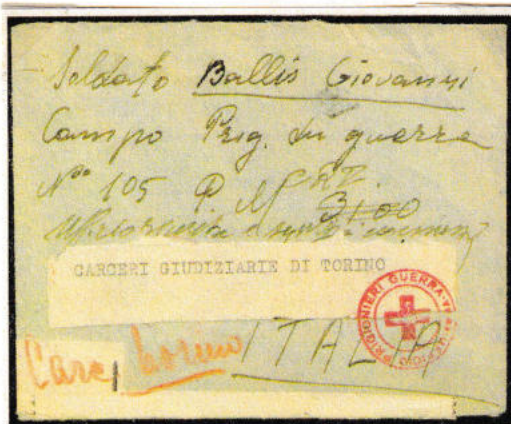
13.4.1943: Express fee paid. Penitentiary's oval censor cachet VISTO PER CENSURA on text side. Sent via Bologna (numeral "II" censor markings; examiner #230). Addressee's manuscript notation *Ελήφθη Παρ. 7/5/43* for receipt.



CARCERI GIUDIZIARIE, TORINO/PIEMONTE (ITALY).

Envelope from Greece postmarked Athens 8.9.1942 to Greek POW in Camp No. 105 (Torino), forwarded by the camp administration to the Italian Red Cross, Rome, to trace the prisoner.

Manuscript localization endorsement "*Carc. Torino*" and new address on attached piece of paper "CARCERI GIUDIZIARIE DI TORINO" (Judicial Prison, Torino), tied with Italian Red Cross cachet (top left photocopy).



Italian reader $\frac{29}{Gre}$ cachet (Athens). Italian tapes on rear with censor cachet ATENE (Athens) and numeral "I" censor marking (Rome); examiner #196 (lower photocopy).

COLONIA CONFINO, ISOLA PONZA / LITTORIA (ITALY).



Italian postcard, VINCEREMO type, airmailed to Athens/Greece from a Greek hostage exiled in Ponza Island's internment camp, 30.3.1943, with manuscript endorsement *Greco* to indicate language of message. Inspected in the camp; colony's cachet DIREZIONE COLONIA CONFINO / PONZA applied in violet.

Examined at the Napoli Police Headquarters, where the R. QUESTURA DI NAPOLI cachet with framed VERIFICATO stamping were applied in red.

Stamps canceled with Napoli P.O. machine stamp, 13.4.43.

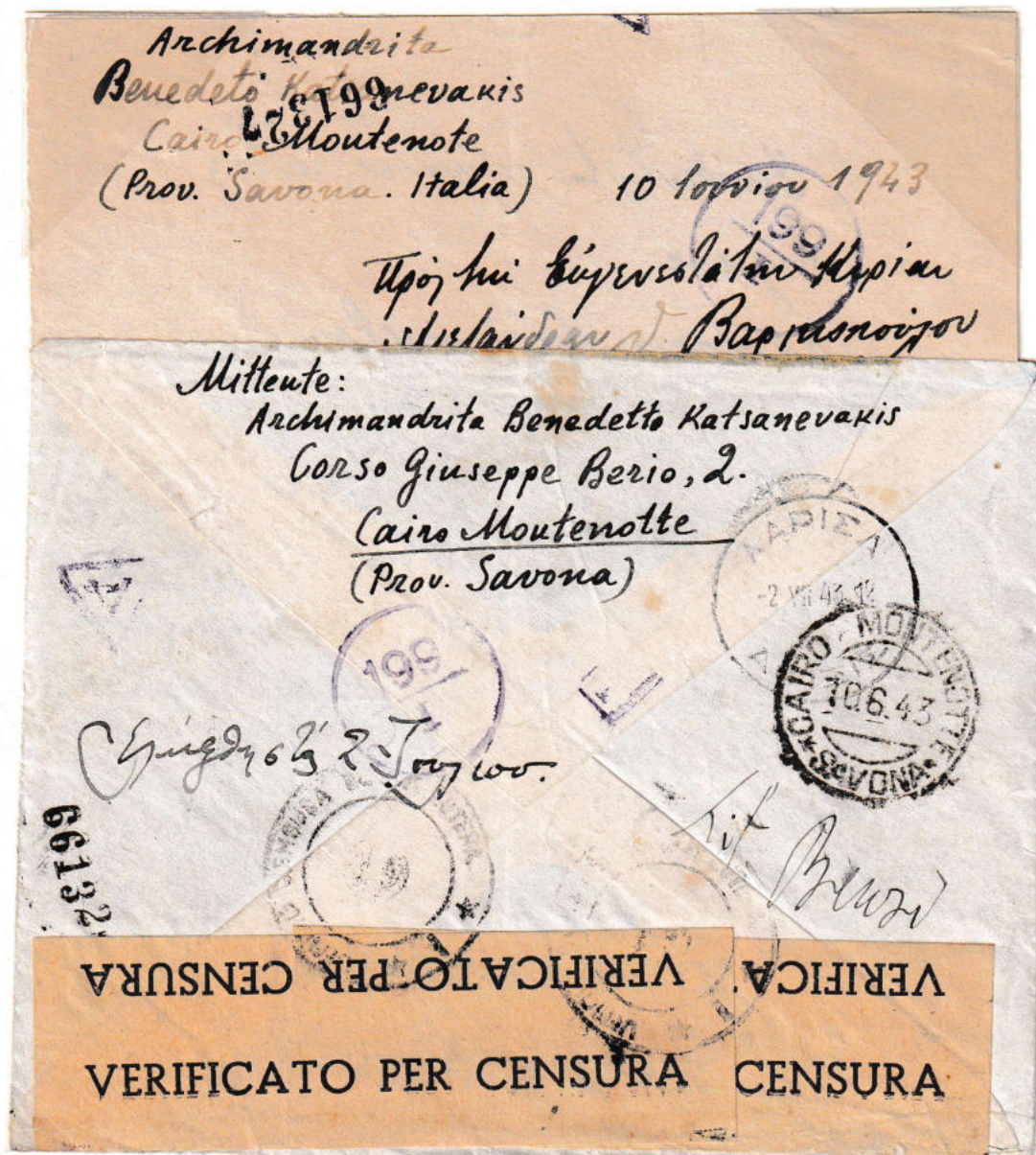
Inspected also in Rome: Numeral "I" censor markings; examiner #52.

FORCED RESIDENCE

(Confinement to a village or town)

ARCHIMANDRITE (DEAN) BENEDICT KATSANEVAKIS, ITALY.

Born in Crete/Greece, he stayed at Naples where he was arrested with the outbreak of war between Italy and Greece and sent to confinement at Cairo Montenotte, northern Italy. After repeated persistent appeals to the Italian military authorities, he was permitted to visit the camps where Greek (Orthodox) internees were housed, to help them carry out their religious duties.



Cover from his residence at Cairo Montenotte, 10.6.1943, to Greece. Enclosed letter giving information to relatives of a POW in Camp No. 17 (Rezzanella) after his visit to that camp. Sender's correspondence registration number "661327" applied on both cover and letter.

Rome numeral "I" censor markings and examiner #199 cachet.

Greek arrival c.d.s. Larissa 2.7.43.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY EMMANUEL KOMNINOS, ITALY

Public Prosecutor in the Court of Appeal for the Ionian Islands, displaced from Corfu, Greece to central Italy.



Airmailed postcards to Greece. Messages written on 18.11.1942 and 17.12.1942; on the first, the sender announced the order he received to re-settle soon to a better place (Pesaro), likely an indication of good will.

Both items were first censored locally, by the Security Police at Camerino and the Police Headquarters at Pesaro respectively (text obligatorily written in French), and in Rome as well.

Additional stamps cancelled in transit (oblong mute handstamp, Rome) or on departure (Pesaro, 18.12.42).

ARCHIMANDRITE MODESTE ARMAKOLIS, GREECE

Exiled from Marseilles, France to Tinos Island, Greece since 1942.

Red Cross message form
"61" for civilians between
enemy countries, dated
29.9.44, to France /
Vichy State.

Forwarded via Athens
(Greek Red Cross / POW
Section), Geneva (CICR),
and Cairo to Marseilles
(French Red Cross).

Censored in Egypt.
Postmarked Marseille
1.3.45.

**CROIX ROUGE
FRANÇAISE**

**11, RUE LAFON
MARSEILLE**



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΩΝ
ΟΔΟΣ ΚΟΛΟΚΟΤΡΩΝΗ 7 - ΑΘΗΝΑΙ

CROIX ROUGE HELLÉNIQUE
OFFICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE
RUE KOLOKOTRONI 7 - ATHÈNES (GRÈCE)




Ο ΑΙΤΩΝ - DEMANDEUR - ENQUIRER

Επώνυμον—Nom—Name ARMAKOLIS

Όνομα—Prénom—Christian name Archimandrite

Όδος—Rue—Street TINOS

Πόλις—Ville—Town }
Χώρα—Pays—Land }

ΜΗΝΥΜΑ ΠΡΟΣ ΔΙΑΒΙΒΑΣΙΝ : MESSAGE :
(25 λέξεις κατ' ανώτατον όριον, απολύτως προσωπικών).
(25 mots au maximum—not over 25 words, family news).

Bonne santé. Attendons nouvelles maman
vôtres. Me trouve encore Tinos Elenis.
Salutations Nina Roger Maman.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ
ΚΕΝΤΡΙΚΗ
ΕΠΙΤΡΟΠΗ
ΤΗΣ
ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑΣ
ΕΠΙΣΤΑΣΕΩΣ

Ημερομηνία—Date 29.9.44

Ο ΠΑΡΑΛΗΠΤΗΣ-DESTINATAIRE-ADDRESSEE

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ
ΓΡΑΦΕΙΟΝ ΑΙΧΜΑΛΩΤΩΝ

Επώνυμον—Nom—Name KIRIAZOGLOU

Όνομα—Prénom—Christian name T.

Όδος—Rue—Street Rue Mazenod 22

Πόλις—Ville—Town MARSEILLE

Χώρα—Pays—Land France

Η ΑΠΑΝΤΗΣΙΣ ΟΤΙΣΘΕΝ **RÉPONSE AU VERSO** **REPLY OVERLEAF**
 Γράψατε πολύ ευσάγιστα—Prière d'écrire très lisiblement—Please write very clearly

Notice:

The addressee never
responded as he was in
the meantime sent to
Germany as forced
laborer.

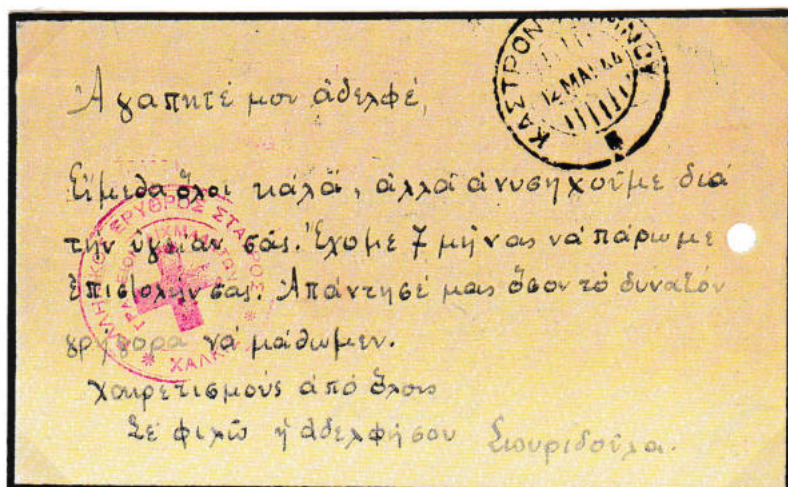
GERMAN-ADMINISTRATED AREAS

Germany kept under own control certain districts in Greece of strategic importance (Thessaloniki greater area; Attica; most of Crete; Milos and other islands in the Aegean Sea).

When Italy signed the Armistice on 8 September 1943, the German Army extended their control to the areas administrated by Italy until then. For Greece, this ended with the German Forces left the country in end-October 1944.

CIVILIAN INTERNEE CAMP, AGHIOS EFSTRATIOS ISLAND (AEGEAN, GREECE).

Photocopy



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ
 CROIX ROUGE HELLENIQUE

ΕΛΛΑΣ Περιοχή:
 GRÈCE Zone

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΕΥΣ - EXPEDITEUR

Όνοματεπώνυμον: Ευριδούξα
 Nom et Prénom: Μαστρογιάννη

Περιοχή: Χαλκίς-Εύβοιας
 Zone: δδγ Κύμη 3.

ΕΛΛΑΣ — GRÈCE

Κ Αναστάσιον Μαστρογιάννην
 Μ Άγιον Εφστράτιον

Όδος: Rue: Λήμνου

Πόλις: Ville: Λήμνος

Έπαρχ: Province: Λαρυμνίων

Χώρα: Pays: Λήμνος

ΑΤΕΛΕΣ
 FRANC DE PORT.

Greek Red Cross postcard for use by foreign civilian internees in Greece during the Italo-Greek war before the occupation, printed by and sent through the Greek Red Cross/POW Agency at Chalkis/Euboea Section.

Addressed to a Greek civilian internee in the German concentration camp on Aghios Efstratios Island.

German censor manuscript endorsement $\frac{4/3}{2}$ (4.3.44, examiner #2) and signature in transit on Lemnos Island.

Postmarked Chalkis 3.12.43, Piraeus 7.12.43, and Aghios Efstratios 29.3.44 on arrival.

Manuscript endorsement in Greek "Departed" to be returned to sender; backstamped Kastorn Limnou 12.4.44 (Lemnos island).

ΣΤΡΑΤΟΠΕΔΟΝ ΣΥΓΚΕΝΤΡΩΣΕΩΣ ΠΑΥΛΟΥ ΜΕΛΑ, SALONICA (GREECE).

Civilian concentration camp under German command, administrated by the Greek Gendarmerie.



Postcard from two brothers detained in the camp, 28.5.1943, to internal address. Stamped and signed at the camp for inspection; cachet HELLENIC STATE / CONCENTRATION CAMP "PAVLOS MELAS", Greek text.

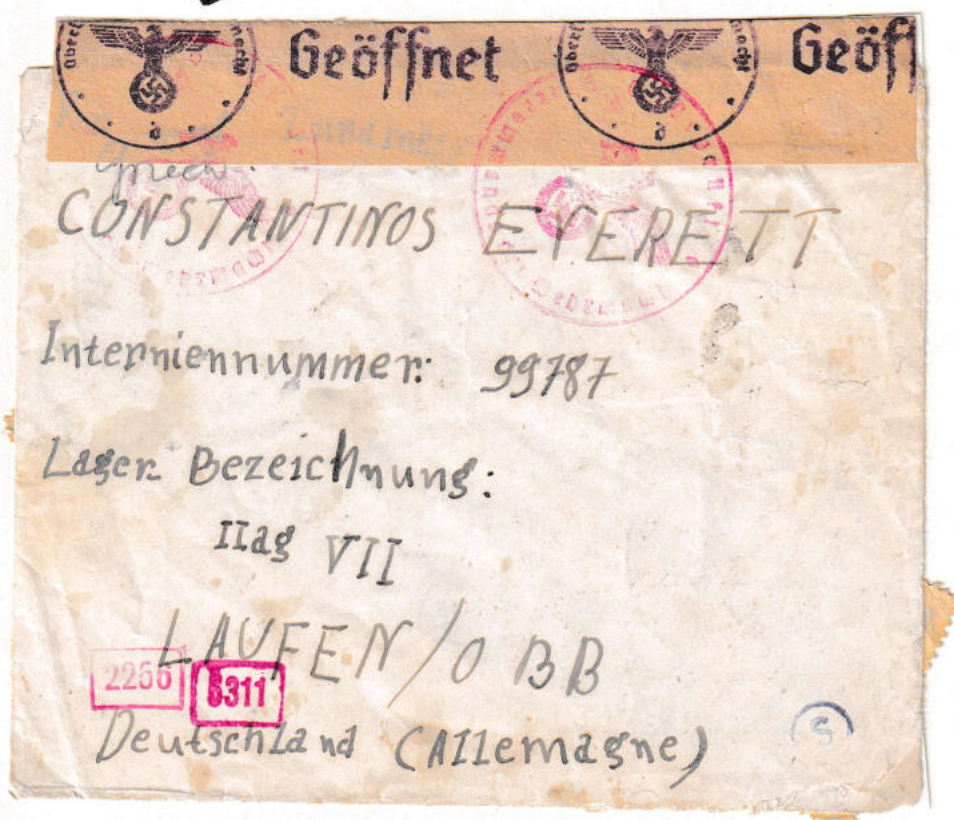


Registered airmail cover from prisoner in the camp, 2.3.1944, to internal address. Given opened for examination; inspected, stamped and sealed by the 1st Police (Gendarmerie) Station at Neapolis/ Thessaloniki, situated close to the camp.

GREEK CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN GERMAN CAMPS

ILAG VII, LAUFEN/OBERBAYERN (GERMANY).

Photocopy



Cover with Greek stamps cancelled Athens 28.4.1944 to Greek civilian in Civilian Internment Camp No. 7, Bürgermaster. Inspected in Munich (OKW tape with "d" censor cachet, instead of OKW Vienna where the mail from Greece was regularly examined).

ILAG VII, LAUFEN/OBERBAYERN (GERMANY).

UNDERCOVER ADDRESSES

Interniertenpost
Postkarte

RECEIVED
MAR 19 1943
NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U.S. CENSORSHIP
EXAMINED
By 325

Swastika stamp: DEUTSCHER LUFTPOST-VERBAND

An The National Herald

Gebührenfrei

Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: THOMAS ECONOMOU
Gefangenenummer: 649
Lager-Bezeichnung: Ilag VII
2251 Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort: New York City
Straße: 140 W 26th St
Land: U.S. A.
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Interniertenpost
Postkarte

Luftpost cachet: MIT LUFTPOST PAR AVION

Swastika stamp: DEUTSCHER LUFTPOST-VERBAND

An The National Herald

Gebührenfrei

Absender:
Vor- und Zuname: Th. Economou
Gefangenenummer: 649
Lager-Bezeichnung: Ilag VII
Deutschland (Allemagne)

U.S. CENSORSHIP
EXAMINED
By 218

Swastika stamp: DEUTSCHER LUFTPOST-VERBAND

Empfangsort: New York City
Straße: 140 West 26th St
Land: U. S. A.
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Civilian Internment Camp No. 7, Bürgermaster, preprinted postcards to USA, 30.11.42 and 20.12.42, from Greek civilian internee with US citizenship arrested in Greece.

Additional airmail postage cachet stamped at the camp with manuscript endorsement 40pf. on lower card.

OKW Berlin censor marking on upper card (prisoner's text in Greek); camp censor Nr. 4 on lower card (text in English). Both were also censored in USA.

GREEK POLITICAL PRISONERS IN GERMANY

UNTERSUCHUNGSGEFÄGNIS II, LEIPZIG C1.

15. Mai 1943

Die Gefangenen dürfen aller Wochen einen Brief absenden. Besuche Angehöriger sind aller Wochen gestattet. In dringenden Fällen können Ausnahmen gestattet werden.

Sprechzeit nur montags und freitags 8—10 Uhr vormittags, mittwochs 3—5 Uhr nachmittags.

Zusendungen aller Art sind **nur** nach **vorher** eingeholter schriftlicher Genehmigung statthaft.

Lebens- und Genussmittel sowie Tabakwaren werden nicht angenommen.

Untersuchungsgefängnis II Leipzig C 1, den 15. Mai 1943
Beethovenstraße 2b.

Meine Liebe Helene und mein Liebes Kind

Se
Anst
ferte
geg
Woh



Frau

Helene Nantzu

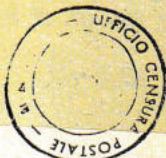
Athen 40255
Omiri 52
Dapov 52

Abz Lambro Nantzu, Leipzig C 1
Untersuchungsgefängnis II
Beethovenstraße 2b

Auffeliefert am 17. 5. 43

Durch

Ullrich, Ober...



VERIFICATO PER CENSURA

Photocopy

Prisoner's first letter from the Remand Prison in Leipzig, 15.5.1943, to Greece. On the printed top of the lettersheet, the prison's administration filled also the correspondence regulation for the prisoner to follow: "1 letter every 4 weeks".

Censored by the Prison's administration, the OKW office in Vienna and by the Italian censorship office in Athens.

WEHRMACHTUNTERSUCHUNGSGEFÄGNIS WIEN, VIENNA (AUSTRIA).

Kriegsgefangenenpost

Prüfstempel fehlt! Zurück Stalag XII B.

An *Madame G. Panas*



Gebührenfrei!

S. 3081 - Heidelberger Gutenberg-Druckerei GmbH.

Empfangsort:

Athen

Straße:

Ipсилantu 23 B'

Land:

Griechenland

Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

Deutschland (Allemagne)

Lagerbezeichnung: Stalag XII B

Gefangenennummer:

Vor- und Zuname:

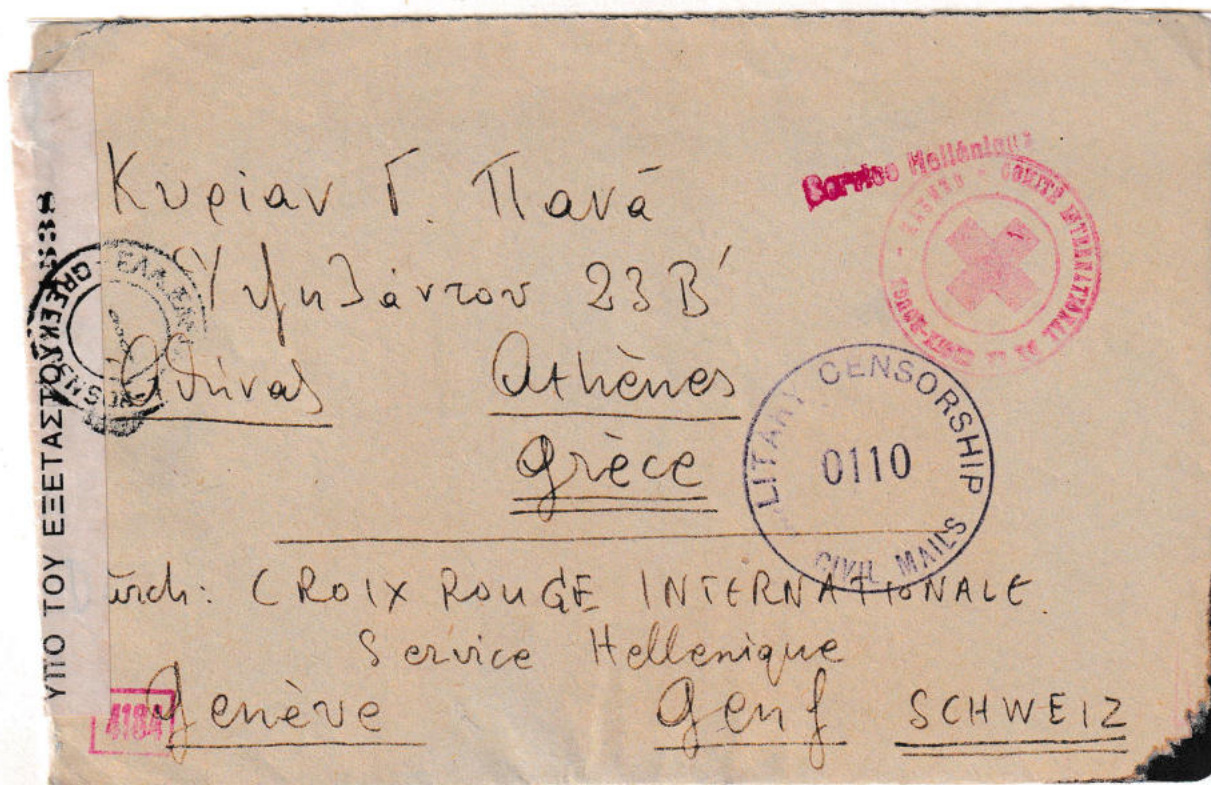
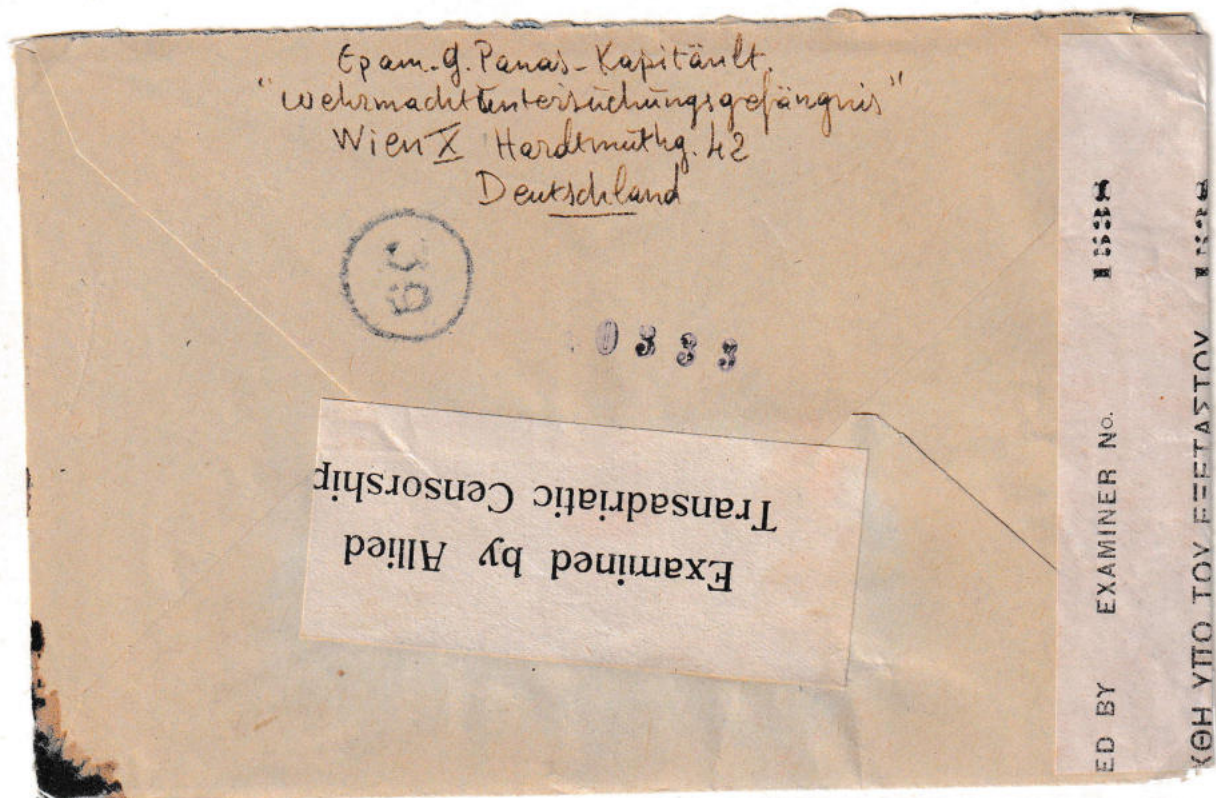
Absender:

Commandant G. Panas

W.U.G. Wien IX Handelsk. 42

Stalag XII B (Frankenthal/Pfalz, disbanded since March 1942) pre-printed lettersheet given for use in the Vienna Military Remand Prison, 26.7.1943, to Greece. It was forwarded to the Vienna OKW office to be examined but that office returned the item to Stalag XII B with the endorsement *Prüfstempel fehlt! Zurück Stalag XII* (censor mark is missing! Back to Stalag XII), apparently not knowing that the camp had been disbanded for more than a year. The prison's administration applied its own censor handstamp.

WEHRMACHTUNTERSUCHUNGSGEFÄGNIS WIEN, VIENNA (AUSTRIA).



Letters from detained a Greek Navy officer, 19.2.1945 & 5.3.1945, to the ICRC in Geneva for transmission through the mail bag system.

Forwarded open for inspection via Frankfurt/Main (OKW "e" censor markings); examined also in Switzerland (ICRC / Geneva, *Service Hellénique*), and Italy (Bari, Allied Transadriatic Censorship markings and tape). Censored also upon arrival in Athens (bilingual sealing tapes and markings).

KONZENTRATION LAGER GROSS ROSEN, WÜSTEGIERSDORF (GERMANY).



Letter from Greece, 6.10.1942, to a Greek prisoner employed by Philipp Holzmann firm (Gemeinschaftslager = civilian workers camp).

Censored in Italy (Milan UCPE II) and Germany (Vienna OKW "g").

Manuscript endorsement *Retur nach Griechenland* to be returned to Greece.

Postmarked Thessaloniki (Salonica) 22.11.42.

WOHNLAGER PERNLOHNER KELLER, ROSESHEIN/OBERBAYERN (GERMANY).

5504- ✓ 3787



Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
Präsidium / Auslandsdienst
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2



ANTRAG
an die *Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genf*
— *Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz* —
auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

REQUÊTE
de la *Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Etranger*
à l'*Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève*
— *Comité International de la Croix-Rouge* —
concernant la correspondance

1. Absender Kyriazoglou T.
Expéditeur Wohnlager Pernlohner Keller ROSESHEIM Obb
an
pri. U faire parvenir à
Ehefrau
Verwandtschaftsgrad: ..
Empfänger Meme Kyriasoglou, Marie-Jeanne chez I
Fontrier..Simon
Destinataire A Salsigne par Lastours
.. dep. Aude..France..
Frankreich
folgendes zu übermitteln / ce qui suit:
(Höchstzahl 25 Worte!) Suis en tres bonne sante. Espere que
(25 mots au plus!) tu est de meme. Toujours tranquille. Donne tes
nouvelles plutot possible. Je t'embrasse bien
fort. Tout a toi
(Datum / date)
3. Empfänger antwortet umseitig
Destinataire répond a












17 NOV 1944

Civilian message form through the German Red Cross to France from a Greek prisoner employed by Pernlohner Keller firm (Wohnlager = housing unit).

Censored in Frankfurt/Main OKW "e" office; inspected also with chemical ink.

Forwarded to ICRC/Geneva, 17.11.1944. Sealed by the French Red Cross and mailed at Carcassonne 14.12.44.

OFLAG X B, NIENBURG/WESER (GERMANY).

Photocopy

Dattij J. Jerevicki.
Kastoria. - Macedonia
GRIECHENLAND.

ΤΡΑΠΕΖΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ

21. Aug. 1944

Oberleutnant : grec

Jeremias Joh. 1486
gefangenennummer: 1486

Baracke: 1 Stube: 5

Kriegsgef-Offizierlager X B

20

Nienburg - Weser.

Deutschland

GEÖFFNET
D K W
(9)

Bank of Greece official cover used privately, from Greece to Greek POW in Officers Camp X B. Its use was exceptional, as only pre-printed reply stationary provided by the camp should be used by internees' relatives.

Forwarded postage-free and postmarked Kastoria 31.7.1944; backstamped Thessaloniki (Salonica) 10.8.44.

Vienna OKW (g) censor machine stamping on unprinted tape.

Camp linear date cachet *21.Aug.1944* for arrival at.

GREEK PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN GERMAN CAMPS, GERMANY

STALAG VII A, MOOSBURG/OBERBAYERN (GERMANY).

Postkarte

An *Madame*
Maria Paleocrassa

27.10.44

203

Gebührenfrei!

Absender:

Vor- und Zuname.
PALEOCRASSAS NICOLA

Gefangenenummer: *128394*

Lager-Bezeichnung:
M.-Stammlager VII A
K 3953
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Empfangsort: *ATENE*

Straße: *Rue Pagasson No 5*
SEPOLIA

Land: *GRIECHENLAND*
Landesteil (Provinz usw.)

POW German postcard (German text) with printed camp's designation, 9.10.1944, from Greek POW soldier at transit camp VIIIB to Greece. Prisoner's manuscript endorsement K 3953 stands for camp's "Arbeitskommando (Working Detachment) 3953".

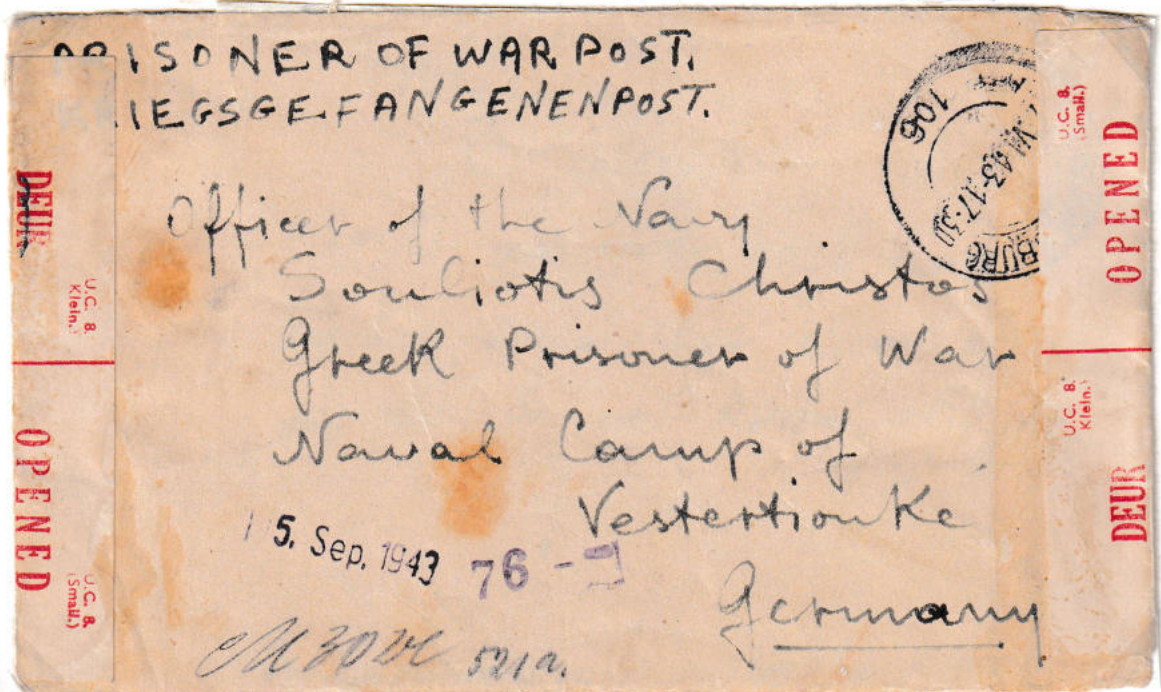
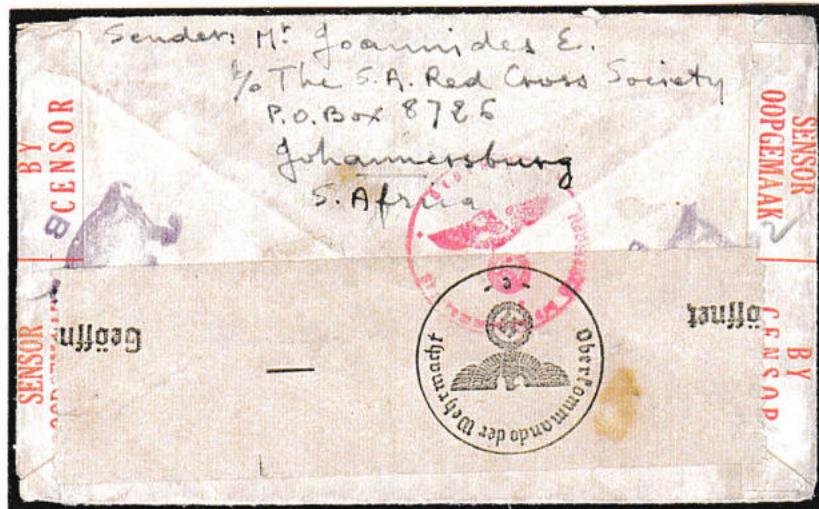
Stalag's mute machine postmark for departure, 27.10.44.

Dispatched via Switzerland and Egypt as the German forces had completed their retreating from Greece by that time.

Inspected in the camp (examiner #47); British censor markings applied in Cairo (examiner #203).

MARLAG u. MILAG NORD, WESTERTIMKE/POST TARMSTEDT (GERMANY).

Photocopy



Stampless envelope with contents from South Africa postmarked Johannesburg 17.VI.43 to Greek POW in "Marlag O" Prison Camp for Navy Officers. S.A. tapes with Johannesburg "B" censor cachet.

Text written in Greek; examined also in Germany; Frankfurt OKW "e" tape and censor cachet.

Camp linear date handstamp 5.Sept.1943 for arrival.

ITALY'S ARMISTICE

Following the armistice between Italy and the Allies, announced 8 September 1943, about 265,000 Italians in Greece were disarmed by the Germans till 12 September. A first measure by the latter was to seize the incoming/outgoing Italian mail and send it first to Germany, for inspection. Some 15,000 Italians were kept prisoner in several German camps, transferred later to Germany, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia.

By November 1943, even forced labor could not meet the Wehrmacht's needs in occupied Greece, and the German Army relieved the situation by turning to forced, unpaid Italian labor. So, 29,000 others had "solemnly" offered themselves to work for the German military authorities, by serving either as "Hilfswilligen" (Hiwis, voluntary worker) or in the two Italian battalions of "Kampfwilligen" (Kawis, security guard).

As for the Greek POWs and civilians interned in Italy, most of them succeeded to run away from their camps. Many headed either south to reach the advancing Allied troops or north over the Alps to seek refuge to neutral Switzerland, while few were recaptured and sent to Mussolini's Salò State or to Germany.

MAIL FROM/TO GREECE CAPTURED BY THE GERMANS

GERMAN ARMY HIGH COMMAND CENSORSHIP OFFICE "g", VIENNA (AUSTRIA).



COLONIA CONFINO, ISOLA PONZA (LITTORIA, ITALY).

Italian postal stationery, 27 May 1943, to Corfu/Greece from a Greek hostage exiled on Ponza island internment camp (confinement colony). Inspected in the camp; colony's cachet in violet with censor's signature. Dispatched through the island's PO on 1 August 1943.

Censored again in Rome and remained there until after the announcement of Italy's armistice.

Seized by the Germans and sent to Germany for inspection by the Army censorship office in Vienna: registration number, blue chemical brush line on text side, and OKW red machine stamp.

GERMAN ARMY HIGH COMMAND CENSORSHIP OFFICE "d", MUNICH (GERMANY).



COMANDO 11a ARMATA, P.M. 23 (ATHENS, GREECE).

Airmail cover to Italy postmarked P.M. 23 (11th Army Superintendence, Athens), 8.9.1943; last day of P.M. 23 operation.

Captured when the German Army disarmed the Italian units in Greece.

Sent to Germany for inspection: Munich Army Censorship Office registration number "322524" for admission, examiner numbers, OKW "d" machine stamping.

STALAG X B, SANDBOSTEL (GERMANY).



COMANDO DIVISIONE FANTERIA "PINEROLO", P.M. 65 (LARISSA, GREECE).

Lettersheet and cover airmailed to Italy, postmarked P.M. 65, 5.9.1943 (Pinerolo Division, Larissa). Captured when the German Army disarmed the Italian units in Greece and sent to POW Camp X B, Germany for inspection. Camp examiner cachets "Geprüft 58" and "Geprüft 69" with stamp sheet selvage pieces used as sealing tape on both.

GERMAN ARMY HIGH COMMAND CENSORSHIP OFFICE "g", VIENNA (AUSTRIA).



CAMPO P.G. 17, REZZANELLO/PIACENZA (ITALY).

POW Italian postcard and lettersheet from Greek prisoner in Camp No. 17 to Greece, written on 9 July and 7 August 1943. Censored in Rome (numeral "1" markings, examiner #196) and captured by the Germans when found still there in mid-September, following Italy's armistice.

Sent to the OKW Army Censorship Office in Vienna for inspection. Registration numbers for arrival 311744 and 281181; large/small machine stampings and examiner numbers.

Greek arrival postmarks on both.

ITALIAN MILITARY INTERNEES IN GERMAN CAMPS

TEMPORARY COLLECTION CAMP, TRIPOLIS (GREECE).

L. 21-9-43
 Carissimi genitori vengo a voi con questo
 mio scritto per porgervi i miei più
 cari e sinceri saluti. Con questo non
 pensate male di me perché io sto
 bene e spero presto di vedervi tutti.




Photocopy

Envelope with contents to Italy, 21.9.1943, from Italian soldier held in the temporary camp near Tripolis. Return address on rear: 363 Reg. Fant., III Btg., Comp. Comando (photocopy), as typically the unit was not disbanded until 26 October 1943. Postmarked Feldpost "f" 25.9.43 for dispatch.

Inspected in Munich; blue chemical brush line and examiner numbers on cover and letter, tape tied with OKW "d" machine stamp.

Italian postmark on arrival, Bellinzario Novarese 1.11.1943.

CATHOLIC CHURCH, HERACLION/CRETE (GREECE).



Αὐτ. Ἀριθ.

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ
ΤΜΗΜΑ ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΥ - ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

GRIECH. ROTES KREUZ
IRAKLION-KRETA

Ἐπώνυμον Name-Nom *Giuseppe*

Ὄνομα - Vorname-Prenom *Giuseppe*

Ὀδὸς - Strasse-Rue *Peter Gutzwiller Strasse*

Πόλις - Stadt - Ville *Iraklion*

Χώρα - Land - Pays *Creta (Grecie)*

ΣΗΜΕΙΩΜΑ ΠΡΟΣ ΔΙΑΒΙΒΑΣΕΙΝ—Mitteilung—Message.
(25 λέξεις κατ' ἀνώτατον ὅριον ἀπολύτως προσωπικόν).
(nicht über 25 worte nur persönliche familiennachrichten)
(25 mots au maximum)

*Ho sto benissimo non preoccupatevi di me. La mia famiglia Principato e me
e la mamma e il papà e il mio marito sto bene
attendiamo notizie*

Baci
Giuseppe

Ἡμερομηνία: Datum—Date *27*

ΠΑΡΑΛΗΠΤΗΣ EMPFÄNGER - DESTINATAIRE

Ἐπώνυμον: *Notica*


Ὄνομα: *Giuseppe*

Ὀδός: *Via Rafanella N° 42*

Πόλις: *Catania*

Χώρα: *Catania (Italia)*

Ἡ ἀπάντησις διασθεν—Antwort umseitig—Reponse au verso.
Γράψατε πολὺ εὐανάγνωστα—Bitte deutlich schreiben—ecrire très lisiblement



Undated Greek Red Cross message form edited locally by the Heraclion Section from Italian soldier interned at the Temporary Collection Centre in the town's Catholic Church (*Eglise Catholique, Iraklion, Creta*) to Catania/ Sicily, Italy. ICRC/Geneva cachet, in transit.

Allied dated censor cachet "VERIFICATO / PER CENSURA / 10.11.43" applied on arrival at destination.

ITALIAN ARMY BARRACKS, AGHIOS NIKOLAOS/CRETE (GREECE).

In questa immane battaglia fra l'oro e il sangue, l'Iddio giusto che vive nell'anima
dei giovani popoli, ha scelto. VINCEREMO

MUSSOLINI

 **BIGLIETTO POSTALE
PER LE FORZE ARMATE** 

Alla Famiglia
Cornio Francesco
Roncaglia per S. Maurizio Monf.
Valin P. Alessandria



POSTA MILITARE N. _____

Grado _____

Cognome _____

Nome _____

Reparto _____

Mittente _____



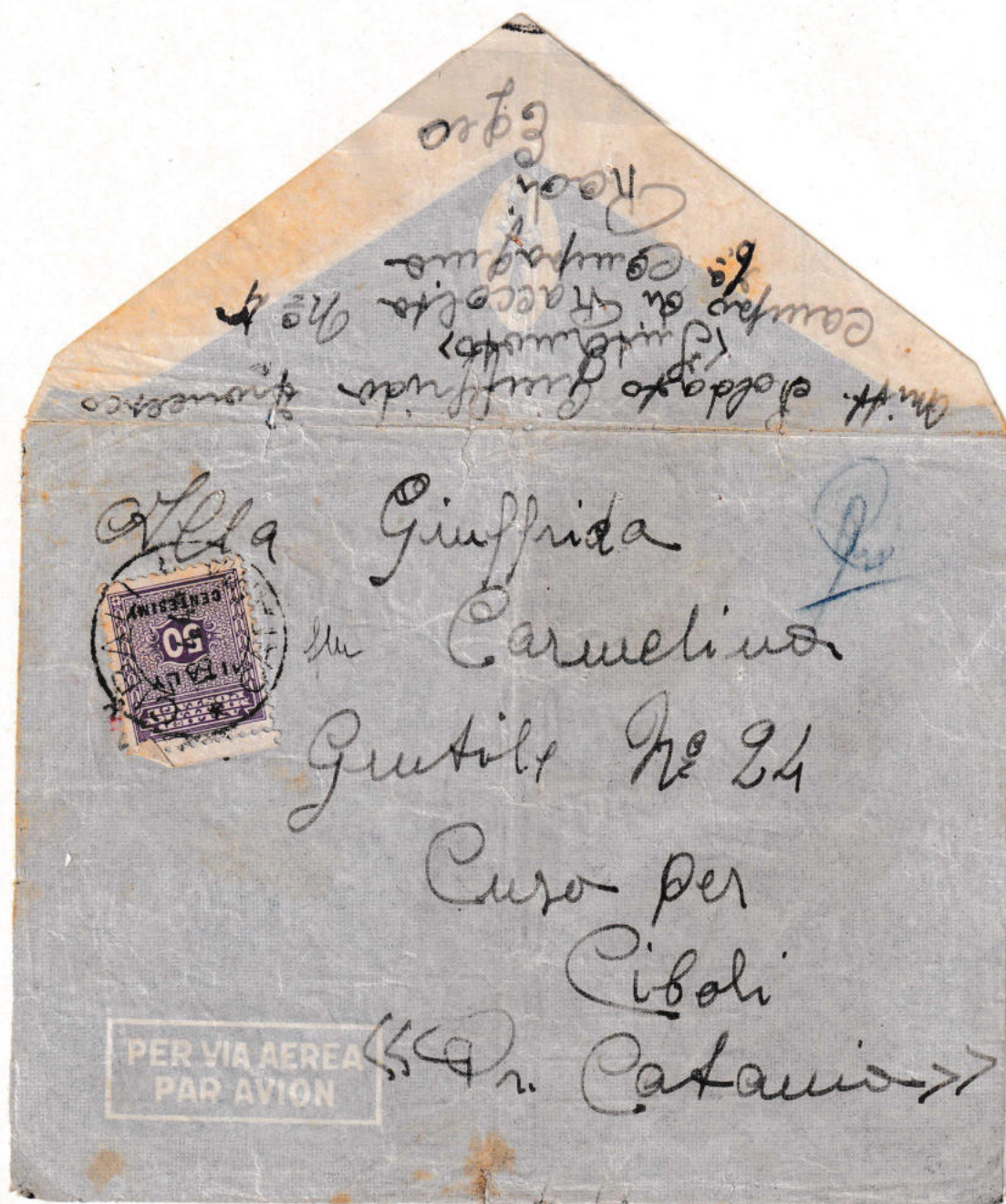
3° Lembo da piegare

Italian Armed Forces lettersheet forwarded through the Red Cross to Northern Italy (Salò State) from Italian soldier interned at the Barracks of his unit. Place/date of message: P.M. 121, 6.10.1943 (Aghios Nikolaos, Crete). ICRC/Geneva cachet in transit.

Inspected in Verona (Italian Social Republic), examiner #10.

Postmarked on arrival, Roncaglia/Alessandria 27.12.43.

CAMPO DI RACCOLTA N. 4, RHODES ISLAND (DODECANESE).



Undated cover to Southern Italy, under Allied control, from Italian POW held in the Collection Camp No. 4 near Damatriá village, Rhodes. Dispatched to Italy before the end of February 1944.

Censored in the camp; examiner's signature with initials on top right corner (blue crayon).

Inspected also in Munich (OKW "Ad" machine stamping on back).

Backstamped on arrival Cibali/Catania 17.4.44 (Sicily) and taxed with 50c. Allied Military Administration stamp, letter rate, probably because the postal clerk was not familiar to sender's particularity or status.

CAMPO DI RACCOLTA N. 6, RHODES ISLAND (DODECANESE).

Photocopy




Undated cover to Italy from Italian POW held in the Collection Camp No. 6 near Calato village, Rhodes, dispatched before the end of February 1944.

Censored in the camp; examiner's rank and signature with initials on top right corner.

Inspected also in Verona (Italian Social Republic). Italian tape with Army Censorship Office No. 529 oblong framed cachets for receipt from and return to the Post Office, dated 31MAR 1944; examiners' markings.

DULAG 135, ATHENS (GREECE).

 **Comité International de la Croix-Rouge**
Agence Centrale des prisonniers de guerre
GENÈVE

61
135
10
Geprüft

ANFRAGESTELLER - MITTENTE

Name - Cognome Janelli
Vorname - Nome Casimiro
Strasse - Via
Stadt - Città Rodi Egeo
Land - Paese

Mitteilung - Messaggio
(nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (non più di 25 parole, notizie famigliari di natura esclusivamente personale).

Cari genitori
Chiedo se prigioniero sto bene moralmente
fisicamente lasciare tutti parenti in
parte lacio Buon Natale auguri festivi
coraggio pregate Dio presto ritorno Casimiro

Datum - Data 13.12.1943

EMPFÄNGER - DESTINATARIO

Name - Cognome Janelli
Vorname - Nome Luigio
Strasse - Via Piazza Margherita N° 25
Stadt - Città Baranto
Land - Paese Calabria

ANTWORT **RISPOSTA**
Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben. ↓ Pregasi scrivere chiaramente.

German bi-lingual ICRC civilian message form "61", 13.12.1943, to southern Italy (under Allied control) via Switzerland, used as "capture-card" by Italian soldier captured on Rhodes island. Manuscript notation *Rodi Egeo* for place of origin.

Sent to German Transit POW Camp 135, Athens, for inspection; camp censor cachet "10 Geprüft" and signature. ICRC/Geneva cachet in transit.

CAMPO CASERMA "MUSSOLINI", CEFALONIA ISLAND (GREECE).

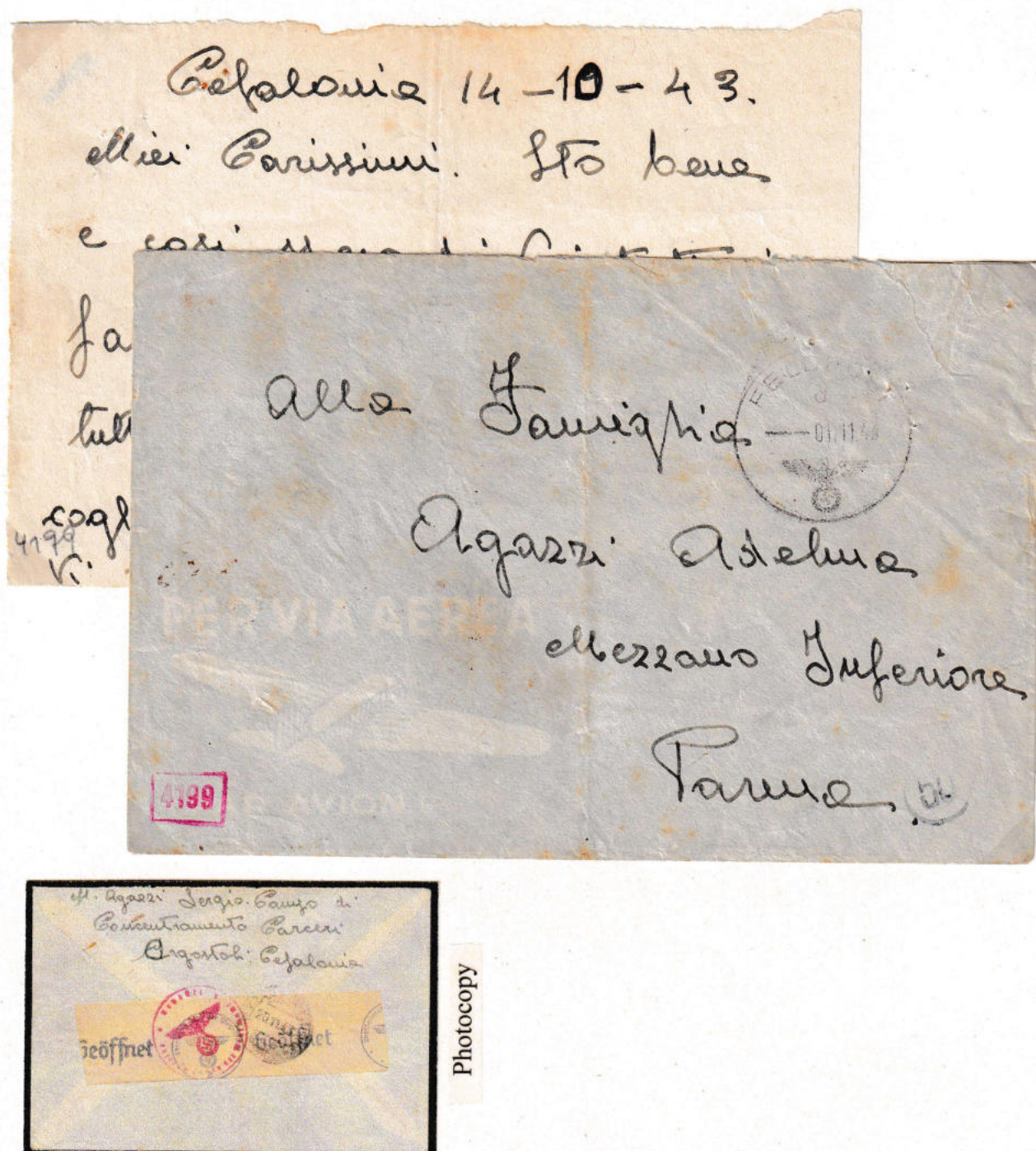


Cover with enclosed message to Italy, 15.10.1943, from Italian POW held in the former Italian Barracks *Mussolini* provisional concentration camp at Argostoli. Postmarked *Feldpost "d"* 1.11.1943.

Munich OKW "d" censor markings (in red) and sealing tapes on back; hand-written same examiner number "410-8" on message.

"Commune di Terenzo / Prov. di Parma" cachet on cover's both sides. Backstamped on arrival Cassio 20.11.43.

CAMPO DI CONCENTRAMENTO CARCERI ARGOSTOLI, CEFALONIA ISLAND (GREECE).



Cover and message to Italy from Italian service man held in the Argostoli Penitentiary Prison provisional Concentration Camp. Message is dated 14.10.1943.

Postmarked with Feldpost "d" datestamp, 1.11.1943.

German tape with Munich OKW "d" censure markings in red (photocopy); examiner 4199.

Backstamped on arrival, Mezzano Inferiore 20.11.43.

KRIEGSGEFANGENEN LAGER, PREVESA (GREECE).

Absender: P. Mantovani
 Dienstgrad: Drum.
 Vor- und Zuname: Drum.
 Feldpostnummer: Feldpost 13 347
Bezeichnung des Truppenteils verboten. Als Dienstgrad nicht Schütze, Pionier, Flieger usw. angeben, sondern nur Soldat, Gefreiter, Leutnant usw.)
 Franco etc. lo
 penso con tanto
 affetto di vedersi
 presto soliti a tutti
 di famiglia e anche
 quella di dopo
 la ci a tutti Drum.
„Es ist gänzlich unwichtig, ob wir leben, aber notwendig ist, daß unser Volk lebt, daß Deutschland lebt.“
 (Adolf Hitler am 1.9.39)

Feldpost
 An alla signora
Montovani Bozetta
Via Boldoni
Bovolenta
 in Verona
Straße, Hausnummer, Gebäudetell, Stockwerk oder Postschließfachnummer
 © (B. 48) 7 Δ Fp 50 Din A 6

German Army postcard (19.4.1944) to Italy from Italian POW in the German camp near Prevesa (Central Greece). Return address: *FPN 13 347*, given to the camp five days earlier. No postal markings (mute postmark recorded later).

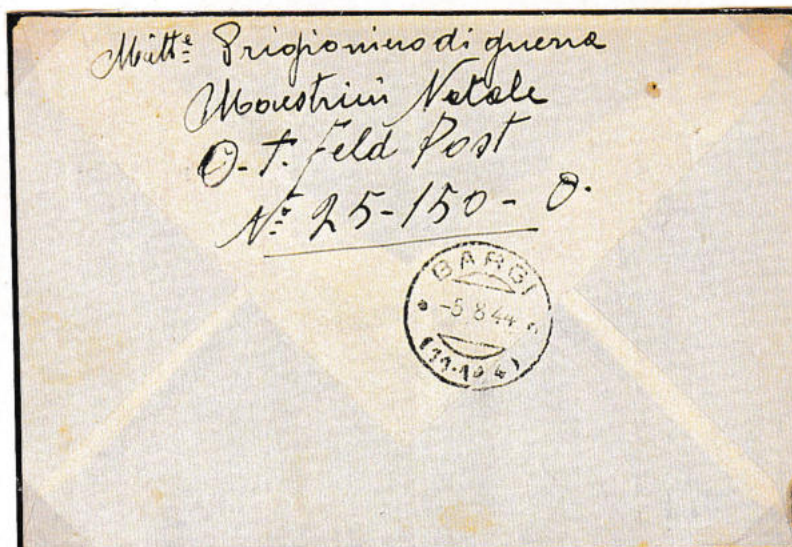
Camp censor number "7" on top right corner.

Inspected also in Germany (Munich OKW "Ad" machine stamp).

ITALIAN POW WORKERS IN GERMAN MILITARY UNITS AND SERVICES

"ORGANIZATION TODT" BAULEITUNG, ATHENS (GREECE).

Photocopy



Cover to Italy postmarked Feldpost "d" 21.6.1944 from Italian POW worker of the "O.T." Construction Organization, Athens Office. Return address: *Prigioniero di guerra* (Prisoner of war), *O.T. Feld Post*, *FPN 25 150 D* (photocopy) allocated to the O.T. Construction Supervision Branch. Dienststelle dispatching office handstamp showing same code number.

Inspected in Munich (OKW "d" markings). Backstamped on arrival, Bargi 5.8.1944.

"ORGANIZATION TODT" OBERBAULEITUNG, SALONICA (GREECE).

Plain covers to Italy from Italian POW workers of the "O.T." Construction Organization Head Office at Salonica with Field Post Number "16 403" allocated to the Higher Construction Supervision.

Both items were inspected in Germany (Munich OKW "d" markings).



Return address: FPN 16 403 E. Postmarked Feldpost "a" 1.12.1943; backstamped San Benedetto 18.12.43.



Return address: FPN 16 403 H. Previously affixed Italian stamps were taken off and replaced with manuscript endorsement *Feldpost* for postal franchise. Postmarked Feldpost "a" 2.2.1944.

654 ARTILERIE REGIMENT, EPIRUS (GREECE).

Plain cover and German Army postcard to Italy from Italian POW workers with the 654th German Artillery Regiment. Munich OKW "d" censor marking and examiner numbers.

Senders' details: "M. Lavoratore" (Military worker), FPN 42 661 B on the flap allocated to the 7th Battery. Same FPN on the Dienststelle dispatching post office handstamp. Postmarked Feldpost "c" 20.3.44. Backstamped at destination 20.4.44.




Senders' details: "Lavoratore" (worker), changed by the Germans into "Hilfswilliger" (voluntary assistant), FPN 42661A (III Battalion). Dienststelle dispatching office cachet "42661D" allocated to the 9th Battery.

Postmarked Feldpost "b" 5.11.1943.

IRISH PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN GERMAN CAMPS

DULAG 185, ATHENS (GREECE).

6



Comité International de la Croix-Rouge
Agence Centrale des prisonniers de guerre
GENÈVE

ANFRAGESTELLER - ENQUIRER

Name WILLIAM

Christian name - Vorname MAIN

Street - Strasse 31 CASTLE STREET

Town - Stadt DUBLIN


Country - Land EIRE

International Red Cross British Section Geneva

Message - Mitteilung
 (not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character) — (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten).

*Dear Lily I am fit and well
 and a prisoner of War I hope
 you and all at home are well.
 Please cable my home. Love
 William*

Date - Datum 23/11/43 Athens



EMPFÄNGER - ADDRESSEE

Name LILIAN

Christian name - Vorname LANZON

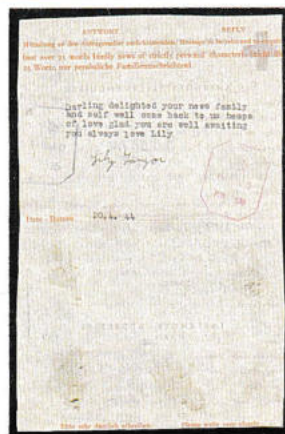
Street - Strasse 24. BAKERY STREET

Town - Stadt LITA

Country - Land MALTA. G.C

ANTWORT **REPLY OVERLEAF**
 Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben. Please write very clearly.

Photocopy



ICRC civilian message form "61" to Malta, used as "capture-card" (23.11.1943) by Irish soldier captured by the Germans on Leros island, Dodecanese, written while the prisoner was in the German Transit POW Camp 185, Athens, on his transfer to Germany. Typewritten additions on the form made by the camp administration. Camp censor cachet 10 Geprüft and signature.

ICRC/Geneva cachet in transit. Malta DD/25 censor cachet on arrival.

Reply message on rear (20.4.1944) sent via England. Censor cachets in Malta (DD/25) and London (P.W. 7829).

As the prisoner rationally had been transferred from Athens to Germany long before the reply reached the ICRC in Geneva, the latter halted forwarding the form until the prisoner can be traced and receive the message otherwise.

GREEK "ESCAPED" PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN SWITZERLAND

With the collapse of the Italian forces after Italy signed an armistice in September 1943, great numbers of Allied service men were transferred by the German Army from camps in Italy to others in the Italian Social Republic and in Germany. However, 835 Greeks left their prison camps and succeeded to walk over the Alps and escape to Switzerland, where they were interned.

Among other measures, the "escaped" POWs were granted free letter and parcel post direct with their relatives.

In normal times, they were using special pre-printed covers, offered by the YMCA and other aid organizations in the country, while they were permitted to use the Red Cross civilian message forms "61", reserved in principle for exchange of news between civilians of enemy countries, whenever the postal communications between Switzerland and Greece were suspended.



Photocopy

Greek prestamped postcard with additional stamps from Athens, 15.4.1945, to Greek interned in Switzerland. Postmarked Athens 28.4.45. Greek censor cachet (Athens, examiner #213a).

Swiss military censor handstamp "380" (Berne).

Forwarded to the Director of the Swiss Army Post Office in Berne to trace the addressee. Oblong framed cachet *Zuzustellen / Feldpostdirektion* to allow delivery.

TRANSIT/SORTING CAMP VISP, VALAIS.

Message to Greece on undated civilian message form "61" with no letterhead or acronym, written by a Greek escaped POW during his stay in the camp (27.11.1943 to 13.12.1943); most probably the first he sent to his family. Sender/addressee details and message type-written by the camp administration in Greek language with Latin characters; text reads: *I am well. Happy holidays. Thousand kisses. Theodore.*

61

DEMANDEUR — ANFRAGESTELLER — ENQUIRER

Nom - Name VARIKOPOULOS

Prénom — Vorname — Christian name Théodoros

Rue - Strasse - Street

Localité - Ortschaft - Locality

Département - Provinz - County

Pays - Land - Country

Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message

(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) —
(nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words,
family news of strictly personal character).

Imai kala. Kalés giortés. Chilia filia



Théodoros

Date - Datum

DESTINATAIRE — EMPFÄNGER — ADDRESSEE

Nom - Name VARIKOPOULOU

Prénom - Vorname - Christian name Alexandra

Rue - Strasse - Street odos Iassonos 32

Localité - Ortschaft - Locality LARISSA

Province - Provinz - County

Pays - Land - Country Grèce

RÉPONSE AU VERSO

ANTWORT UMSEITIG

REPLY OVERLEAF

Prière d'écrire très lisiblement

Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben

Please write very clearly

ICRC/Geneva
handstamp for dispatch
through the Red Cross
bag system as the
postal communications
between Switzerland
and Greece were still
suspended due to the
armistice signed by
Italy in September
1943.

CAMP MONTET (BROYE), FRIBOURG.



Cover with enclosed letter, 5.3.1944, from Greece to Greek escaped POW at the camp. Between January and July 1944, 78 Greek "escaped" internees were housed there.

Sent through the Red Cross bag system.

International Red Cross Delegation in Greece cachet applied in Athens for dispatch, along with its two-line instructional "PRISONERS OF WAR" handstamp in German/Italian.

ICRC and *Service Hellénique* (Greek Section) markings upon arrival at Geneva.





CAMP ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC, FRIBOURG.

Civilian message form "61" stamped overhead "IMCH", 23.12.1943, to Greece from Greek escaped POW. The acronym stands for Internement Militaire de la Confédération Helvétique (Swiss Confederation Military Internment), internal naming for the International Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva.

61

IMCH

DEMANDEUR — ANFRAGESTELLER — ENQUIRER

Nom - Name *Theodoros*
 Prénom - Vorname - Christian name *Varicopoulos*
 Rue - Strasse - Street 
 Localité - Ortschaft - Locality 
 Département - Provinz - County 
 Pays - Land - Country 

Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message

(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) —
 (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words,
 family news of strictly personal character).

*Ηγουσαν μου Αλεξάνδρα
 υγιάνω. Μελομένησαι Αθήνας όντας και πρό
 ελαμνίου ερραγα. Εν Αθηναις γελομνίαις δια
 τροφής σας και φωτογραφίες.
 Εμάρτυς υγιής και ομόδερμα μου Αλεξάνδρα
 Varicopoulos σου.*

Date - Datum *23 Dec 1943*

DESTINATAIRE — EMPFÄNGER — ADDRESSEE

Nom - Name *Alexandra*
 Prénom - Vorname - Christian name *Varicopoulou*
 Rue - Strasse - Street *Rue Tassonos N° 32*
 Localité - Ortschaft - Locality *Larissa*
 Province - Provinz - County *"))*
 Pays - Land - Country *Grèce*

RÉPONSE AU VERSO ANTWORT UMSEITIG REPLY OVERLEAF
 Prière d'écrire très lisiblement Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben Please write very clearly

Sender's first handwritten message since he had been transferred from the Transit Camp at Visp on 13.12.1943. Locality and County namings were cut off as he was not allowed to give this information.

ICRC handstamp for dispatch through the Red Cross bag system as the postal communications to Greece were still cut.

CAMP GUDO (or ROVEREDO), TICINO.

Photocopy

Βασίλιος Ρίγας
champ d'internes militaire
grec

Comité International
de la
Croix-Rouge
service Hellénique
Genève



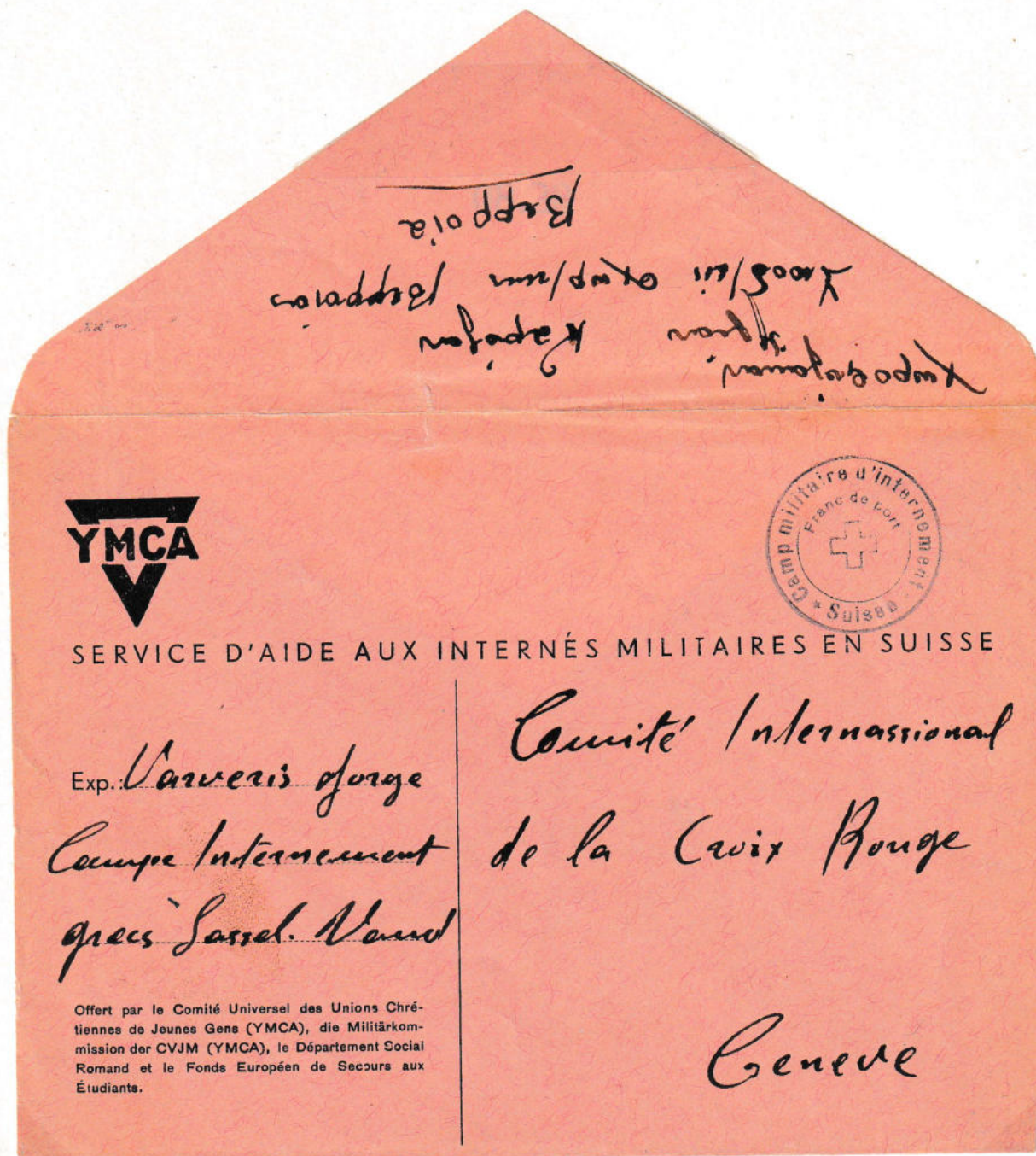
Undated plain cover from GUDO Camp (or its dependent camp at ROVEREDO) to ICRC/Geneva from a Greek escaped POW. Greek "escaped" internees in either of these two camps are not recorded but it is estimated that this was sometime between March and September 1945.

Sender's address on flap; no camp designation (photocopy).

Neutral camp postmark applied at the near-by village's Post Office, Italian text.

Colonel Vassilios Rigas escaped from Italy; while in Switzerland, he acted as Inspector of the escaped Greek POWs.

CAMP SASSEL, VAUD.





Undated cover to ICRC/Geneva from a Greek in the camp.

The sender wrote on the flap the intended final addressee's details in Greece, to whom the enclosed message should be forwarded: *Gendarme Elias Carolou, Verria Gendarmerie Sub-direction, Verria.*

Sent between September 1943 and April 1944, when 72-87 Greek "escaped" internees were housed in this camp.

Neutral camp postmark applied at the near-by village's Post Office, French text.

INSIDE SERVICE STAGES TO FORWARD A MESSAGE FORM "61": *message fait 61; fait 61.*

 *message fait 61* 



SERVICE D'AIDE AUX INTERNÉS MILITAIRES EN SUISSE

Exp.: *Soldat*

Yagenas Paul
Camp d'interné
Grec
Estavayer de Lac

Offert par le Comité Universel des Unions Chrétiennes de Jeunes Gens (YMCA), die Militärkommission der CVJM (YMCA), le Département Social Romand et le Fonds Européen de Secours aux Étudiants.

COMITE
CROIX-ROUSE
INTERNATIONAL
GENEVE

 *fait 61* 

SERVICE D'AIDE AUX INTERNÉS MILITAIRES EN SUISSE

Exp.: *Evangelos*
Chiotis
tenente.

Offert par le Comité Universel des Unions Chrétiennes de Jeunes Gens (YMCA), die Militärkommission der CVJM (YMCA), le Département Social Romand et le Fonds Européen de Secours aux Étudiants.

Comite internationale
della croix Rouge
Section. greque
Genève.

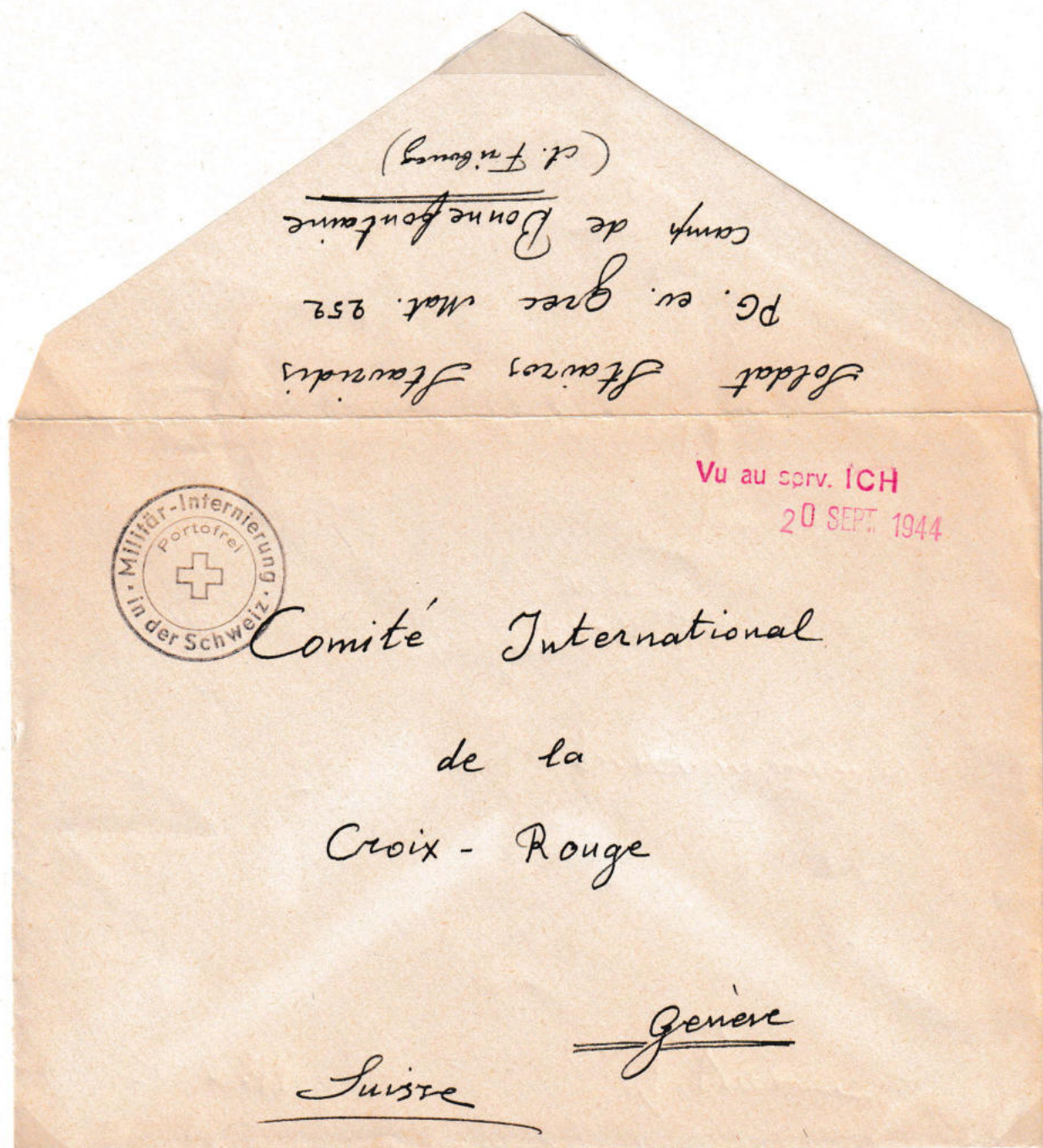
YMCA covers from Greek escaped POWs to the ICRC/Geneva, Greek Section.

-CAMP ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC, FRIBOURG. Camp name postmark applied at the near-by town's Post Office, French text; sent between October 1943 and July 1944, when 170-350 Greek "escaped" internees were housed in this camp.

-CAMP YVONAND, VAUD. Postmarked at the near-by town's Post Office, Yvonand 16.11.1943.

After the enclosed messages to relatives in Greece were transcribed on ICRC forms "61", notations *message fait 61* or *fait 61* were handwritten on the covers, in French, to confirm the job was done.

INSIDE SERVICE STAGES TO FORWARD A MESSAGE FORM "61": **Vu au serv. ICH.**



Cover to ICRC/Geneva from Greek escaped POW soldier (address on flap) in the camp near Bonnefontaine village, Friburg [89 Greeks were recorded being housed in this camp between September and December 1944].

Neutral Swiss Internment franchise camp postmark applied at the near-by village's Post Office, German text.

For some reason, the message was sent for inspection to the ICRC/Internment Section before being transcribed on the form "61", and a linear cachet *Vu au serv. ICH* (Inspected at the ICH Section) and date *20 SEPT. 1944* in red were applied on the cover, in French, to confirm this was done.

The acronym "ICH" stands for **I**nternément de la **C**onfédération **H**elvetique (Swiss Confederation Internment).

UNDERCOVER (PRIVATE) ADDRESS

CAMP ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC, FRIBOURG.



Envelope with letter, dated 9.4.1944, from a Greek escaped POW officer to Greece. Posted from Konstanz/Germany on 17.5.44 by internee's friend (photocopy) and censored in Vienna; blue chemical brush line and OKW "g" machine stamp tying the sealing tape.

Backstamped in Greece, Salonica 28.5.44 and Larissa 30.5.44. Addressee's hand written notation: *Received 31/5/44.*

The sender seemingly persuaded a German lady visiting Switzerland to take his letter and post it from her home in Germany, in order to surpass difficulties and delays in communications. It should be noted here that other examples exist of his letters mailed by different German ladies living in Konstanz, a town close to the borders.

CAMP ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC, FRIBOURG.

Undated civilian message form "61" stamped overhead "IMCH" to Greece from Greek escaped POW. The acronym "IMCH" stands for Internement Militaire de la Confédération Helvétique (Swiss Confederation Military Internment), internal naming for the International Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva.

61

IMCH

DEMANDEUR — ANFRAGESTELLER — ENQUIRER

Nom - Name Θεόδωρος

Prénom - Vorname - Christian name Βαρνιόπουλος

Rue - Strasse - Street

Localité - Ortschaft - Locality

Département - Provinz - County

Pays - Land - Country

Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message
 (25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) — (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) —
 (not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character).

Υγιαίνω. Τελικά είχα χαρτί για να έρθω
 στο σπίτι μου 23 Αυγούστου, Αθήνα 5 το πρωί.
 Χαίρομαι πολύ. Γράφω να σου πω
 ιδιαιτέρως. Προσέλαβα από την Ελλάδα
 υγιαίνω και είμαι καλά.
 Θεόδωρος

Date — Datum 31-3-44

DESTINATAIRE — EMPFÄNGER — ADDRESSEE

Nom - Name Alexandra

Prénom - Vorname - Christian name Varicopoulou

Rue - Strasse - Street Rue Lassonou n° 32

Localité - Ortschaft - Locality Larissa

Province - Provinz - County "

Pays - Land - Country Greece

RÉPONSE AU VERSO
 Prière d'écrire très lisiblement

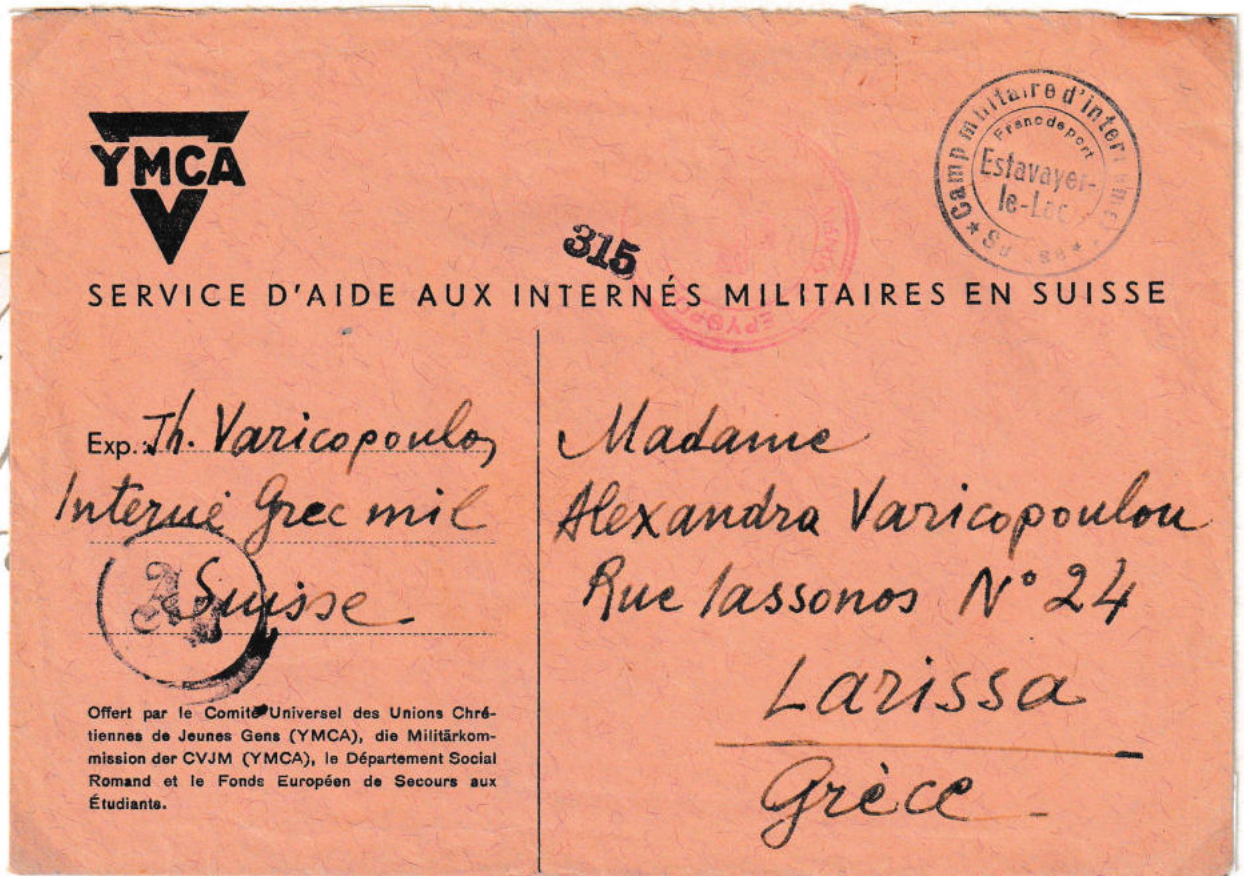
ANTWORT UMSEITIG
 Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben

REPLY OVERLEAF
 Please write very clearly

ICRC handstamp for dispatch through the Red Cross bag system as the postal communications to Greece were suspended.

The POW Section of the Greek Red Cross applied its handstamp adding the day of arrival "31-3-44" in pencil.

CAMP ESTAVAYER-LE-LAC, FRIBOURG.



YMCA cover to Greece from Greek escaped POW. Swiss Internment franchise camp handstamp with place name applied at the near-by town's Post Office, in French.

Sender's message, dated 11 April, on enclosed picture-postcard of Lausanne with printed code "A.C.F.-3.10.1939" on text side for admission by the Swiss postal service to be sent abroad, according to regulations set with the outbreak of WW2.

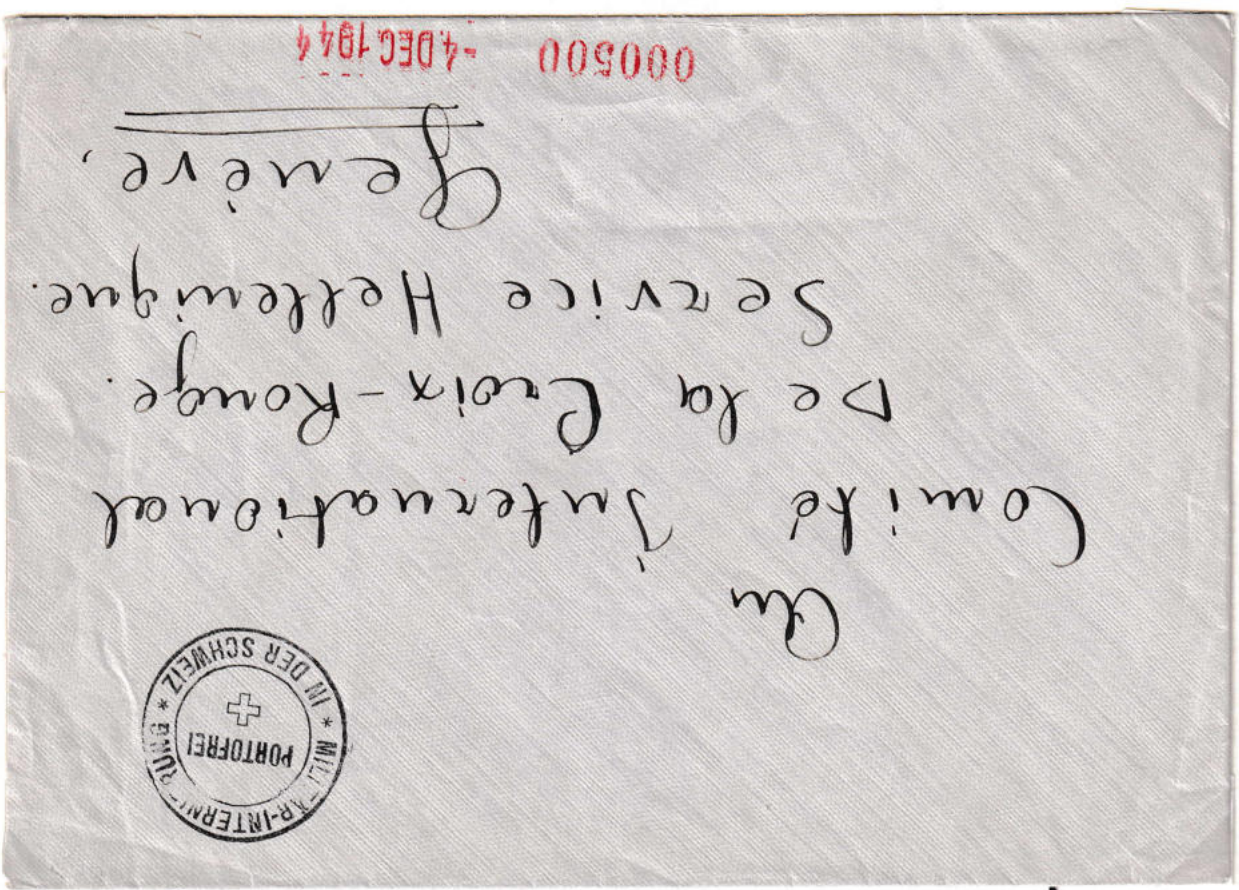
Examined in Berne (military censor "315") and forwarded to Germany; censored also in Vienna ("Ag" marking).

Transmitted to Athens/Greece, where the Greek Red Cross / POW Section stamped and passed it to the Central Post Office.

Backstamped upon arrival at final destination, Larissa 19.5.44.

Photocopy

Kr. Cap. Patsonas Jean.
Camp de P.G.E. grec.
Grindelwald.
Bern.



Undated cover to ICRC/Geneva from Greek escaped POW. 46 Greek "escaped" internees were housed in this camp between September and December 1944.
Neutral Swiss Internment franchise camp postmark applied at the near-by village's Post Office, German text.
Unframed ICRC registration number handstamp "000500" for admission, dated 4.12.1944.

GREEK CIVILIAN INTERNEES IN THE ITALIAN SOCIAL REPUBLIC
(SALÒ STATE, SEP. 1943 - MAY 1945)

CAMPO CONCENTRAMENTO FOSSOLI, CARPI (MODENA).



Italian picture postcard sent postage-free to Greece, 12.3.1944, from Greek civilian internee in the camp (under Italian administration). The postage stamp remained uncanceled but was pulled out by the (philatelist!) sender after he returned home about 1½ years later.

Text written obligatorily in Italian.

Censored in the near-by German Army camp; examiner's number with pencil on lower right corner.

Transmitted through the Red Cross bag system; stamped in Croatia (Zagreb), Switzerland (Geneva), and Greece (Athens).

JEWISH CAMP, MANTOVA.

N.

MOD. 3
Message

Demande de la Croix-Rouge Italienne
au
COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
GENÈVE (Suisse)



RICHIEDENTE - DEMANDEUR - ENQUIRER

Cognome - Nom - Name Bua
Nome - Prénom - Christian name Paolo
Indirizzo - Adresse - Address Via G. Gori n° 11
Mantova.

Paese - Pays - Country

Testo da trasmettere - Message à transmettre - Message
(Non più di 25 parole - solo notizie familiari) - (25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) - (Not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character).

Sto bene ma sono senza notizie tue, da
18 mesi. Sono inquieto per il tuo silenzio.
saluti e baci. Paolo

Data - Date 18 Gennaio 1945

DESTINATARIO - DESTINATAIRE - ADDRESSEE

Cognome - Nom - Name Bua
Nome - Prénom - Christian name chichi
Indirizzo - Adresse - Address Via Eressi n° 45
ATENE - Grecia

Paese - Pays - Country

6.18N.1945

RISPONDERE A TERGO
Si prega di scrivere leggibilmente

RÉPONSE AU VERSO
Prière d'écrire lisiblement

REPLY OVERLEAF
Please write clearly





Italian Red Cross (Salò State) civilian message form "Mod. 3" (18.1.1945) to Greece, sent by Greek civilian internee in the camp (former Jewish Home for the Aged). Italian Red Cross / Campaign Headquarters cachet.

Forwarded through the Red Cross Agencies in Geneva, Switzerland, and Naples (Southern Italy under Allied control) to Athens; Greek Red Cross cachet and date 6.10YN.1945 (6.6.45) applied upon arrival.

Passed by US military censor in Naples; Civil Mails 0124 and C.C.O. cachets applied.

CAMPO CONCENTRAMENTO FOSSOLI, CARPI (MODENA).

Photocopy



Envelope postmarked Fossoli 5.6.44 to ICRC/Geneva from Greek civilian internee in the camp (Italian administration). Camp postal cachet *CAMPO CONCENTRAMENTO / FOSSOLI / Ufficio P.S.* and censor mark *POSTA DI INTERNATO CIVILE / VERIFICATO PER CENSURA*.

Inspected also in Verona (64R stamp and admission/release cachets) and in Munich/Germany (tape with OKW "d" machine stamp).

GREEK INTERNEES IN NORTHERN ITALY LIBERATED BY ALLIED TROOPS

JEWISH CAMP, MANTOVA (ITALIAN SOCIAL REPUBLIC).

Mantova 1 May 1945

My dear Kikicha,
I am very well. Thanks to
heroic advance of the English
Americans and therefore I hope
to return very soon at home...

I am anxious because I have
not received your letter twenty
one months.

Signora

Chichiza Bua
Via Eressu N° 45

Athens - Greece

ΗΝΟΙΧΘΗ ΥΠΟ ΤΟΥ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΤΟΥ 1552



Envelope with message to Greece from Greek civilian internee in the camp. Written in English, 1.5.1945, five days after the sender was liberated by the Allied troops.

No postal markings.

Censored upon arrival in Athens: Greek "Examiner No. 1552" tape with censor cachet.

SUSPENSION OF POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Throughout the war, the mail often became precarious as war operations might well result to the suspension of postal communications.

In general, two were the major reasons for the disorder and delays caused: the events that followed in Italy after the armistice was signed in September 1943 and the advance of the Allied armies to reach Germany, especially during the period from September 1944 to the end of the war in Europe, in May 1945.

When postal communications with Greece were cut off, it frequently occurred that weeks or even months passed by without mail being received from or sent to Greece.

As regards the Greek POWs escaped to Switzerland, it is worth to note that, in cases the postal communications with Greece were suspended, permission was given to them for the use of the civilian message form, reserved in principle for exchange of news between civilians of enemy countries.

GERMAN ARMY HIGH COMMAND CENSORSHIP OFFICE "g", VIENNA (AUSTRIA).



CAMPO P.G. 17, REZZANELLO/PIACENZA (ITALY).

Cover estimated mailed in late August / early September 1943 from Larissa/Greece to the camp. Censored by the Italians in Athens, and seized by the Germans in that office when Italy declared the armistice on 8.9.43.

Sent to Vienna, it passed twice by censor and finally was stamped "Zurück / Verkehr gesperrt" (Return / Communication suspended) and "Retour" to be returned on 4.11.43 to sender in Greece.

Backstamped Thessaloniki (Salonica) 1.12.43; Larissa 3.12.43.

KONZENTRATION LAGER NEUENGAMME, HAMBURG (GERMANY).

Photocopy

Absender : Stavros Matzukas
Athen,
Skopelou 22
Griechenland .



Interne' civil

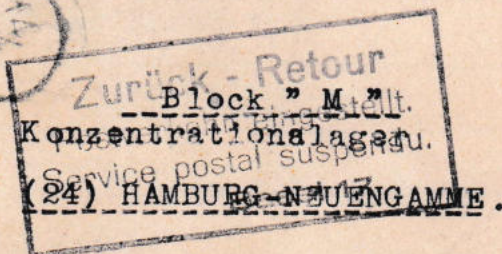
KRIEGSGEFANGENENPOST
POSTA DI PRIGIONIERO DI GUERRA

Schutzhäftling



NIKOS MATZUKAS

Nº 32684



Letter dated 27.10.1944, to a Greek prisoner in security Block "M", Neuengamme Concentration Camp, from Athens/Greece. As Athens was liberated on 12 October, and the German troops were still in Central Greece retreating northwards to Germany, the letter remained in the City Central Post Office. Finally, it was backstamped on 20 November for dispatch to the International Red Cross Delegation in Greece, based in Athens.

It was forwarded through the Delegation's POW Section in its bag to the ICRC/Geneva, given to the town Post Office and sent to Basle.

As the postal communications with Germany were also cut off, the cover was stamped at Basle with a framed 4-line marking in German/French "Zurück - Retour / Postverkehr eingestellt / Service postal suspendu / Basel 17" (Return / Postal communication suspended / Basel 17) to be sent by post back to sender via England.

Censored in London, (Private correspondence examiner 56).

Postmarked upon arrival in Athens on 17.10.1945, almost one full year later.

WEHRMACHTUNTERSUCHUNGSGEFÄHNS WIEN, VIENNA (AUSTRIA).



Greek postal stationery card from Athens, 1.3.1945, to officer detained in the Vienna Military Remand Prison. Returned to sender by the British Military Postal Service, Taranto/Italy, following instruction by the US War Department; 3-line handstamp "RETURNED TO SENDER/ by Direction of the War Department / Undeliverable as Addressed" in violet.

Backstamped Athens [unreadable day/month] on dispatch to sender. Greek censor markings applied in Athens.



Greek postal stationery card from Athens, 9.3.1945, to officer detained in the Vienna Military Remand Prison. Returned to sender by the Greek Postal Service, Athens GPO: handwritten endorsement "Επιστρέφεται / δεν υπάρχει / συγ/νιδ" (It is returned; no communication exists).

Backstamped Athens 10.3.45 on dispatch to sender. Greek censor markings applied in Athens.

Kriegsgefangenenpost
Rückantwort
Lettre de réponse

An den Kriegsgefangenen
Au prisonnier de guerre

Oberleutnant
Johann Jereoudakis
1486

Gefangenenummer:
No. du prisonnier

Lager-Bezeichnung:
Designation du camp

Kriegsgef. Offizierlager 8
(2) Wutzetz
über Friesack/Mark
Fernruf: Nackel 19
Deutschland (Allemagne)

Gebührenfrei! Franc de port!

Absender:
Expéditeur

Vor- und Zuname:
Nom et prénom

Ort:
domicile de l'expéditeur

Kreis:
Arrondissement

Landesteil:
Dept.

Grüßendruck:
DE HELLEN
Macedonia
Kastoria
SECTION THESSALONIKI
PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE

Censored by examiner 210 *E* and postmarked ΑΘΗΝΑΙ – ΕΠΙΣΗΜΑ (Athens – Official) 6.4.45, but it was returned to sender by post as all communications were suspended due to the Allied advance in Germany. Postmarked Thessaloniki 13.4.45, Kastoria 30.4.45.

Greek arrival postmark, Athens/Registered 11.1.46.

POSTAL COMMUNICATIONS SUSPENDED DUE TO THE ARMISTICE SIGNED BY ITALY

CAMPO P.G. 38, POPPI (TOSCANA, ITALY).

Photocopy



Registered cover from Filiatra, Greece (14.8.1943), to Greek prisoner in the camp. Examined in Athens by the Italian censure office; tape with censor cachet on back side (photocopy) and examiner "18/Gre" marking in circle.

2-line Athens GPO handstamp, in Greek: "ΕΠΙΣΤΡΕΦΕΤΑΙ ΛΟΓΩ / ΔΙΑΚΟΠΗΣ ΣΥΓΚΟΙΝΩΝΙΩΝ" (Return due to suspension of communications) for the return to sender as the letter was available to be forwarded to Italy at the time it was announced that Italy signed the armistice.

Sent back to Filiatra and again readdressed to Athens (8.11.43); postmarked on arrival, Athens 18.12.43.

CAMP VERSOIX, GENEVE.

Photocopy



Cover postmarked Geneva 13.4.44 to Greece from a Greek escaped POW with no camp designation on return address. Neutral Swiss Internment franchise cachet in French. Passed by military censor "315" in Bern.

The Berne Post Office applied the boxed *Retour - Zurück / Service postal suspendu / Postverkehr eingestellt* cachet due to suspension of postal communications with Greece.

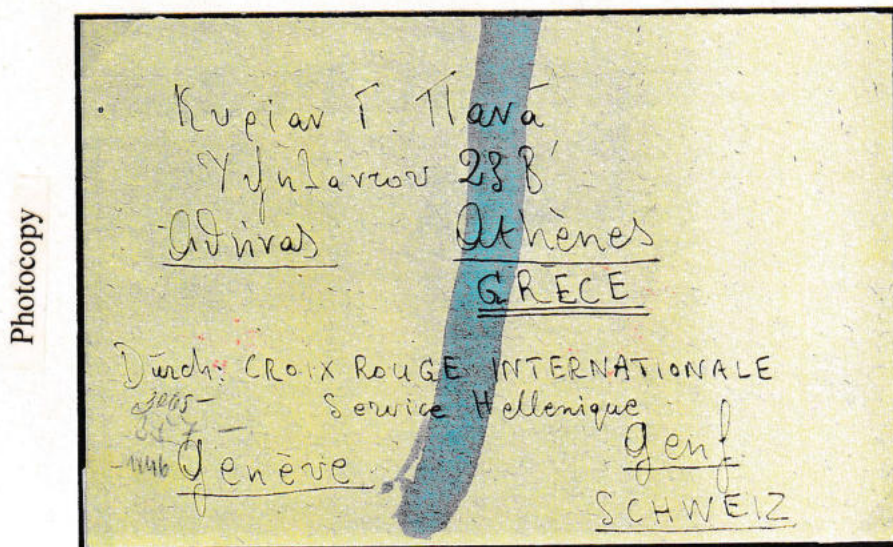
Forwarded to the ICRC, Geneva, where the above indication was crossed out and the envelope was put in the bag for Athens.

The Greek Red Cross POW Section applied its cachet on arrival to Athens, and the cover was put into the Greek postal circuit. Backstamped at final destination, Larissa 6.5.1944.

THE RED CROSS MAIL BAG SYSTEM

The exchange of POW mail by the Red Cross went on continuously all through the war even in cases of suspension of postal communications between the belligerent countries in Europe.
Such mail was handed to the Red Cross mainly because it was able to overcome all obstacles and ensure more reliable delivery.

WEHRMACHTUNTERSUCHUNGSGEFÄGNIS WIEN, VIENNA (AUSTRIA).



Letter from detained Greek Navy officer detained in the Vienna Military Remand Prison, 8.1.1945, to the ICRC in Geneva for transmission through the mail bag system; .

Cover sent open for inspection. Censored by the OKW "e" office in Frankfurt/Main; inspected also with blue chemical ink.

REFUGEE SECTION

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN and GERMAN JEW REFUGEES IN THE DODECANESE

The Pentcho, a paddle steamer purchased by a Zionist youth movement, arrived in Bratislava in May, 1940. On 16 May, some 400 Czechoslovakian young men and women boarded on it, and left down the Danube to Bezdan, Yugoslavia, where 100 more passengers, mostly German Jew refugees boarded two weeks later. During the next five months, the Pentcho called at Vidin/Bulgaria, Sulina/Romania and Piraeus/Greece. After leaving Piraeus on 9 October 1940, the ship foundered on Camiloni rocky islet, in the Egeo Italian Colony, on 25 October. Soon afterwards, they were taken to the Island of Rhodes.

All survivors were brought to the City Stadium immediately after the wreck, where the "Campo Sportivo" (or "Campo Stadio") was established; of them, 124 women and 9 infants were sheltered by the Jewish community of Rhodes. The rest were later transferred to the "Campo dei Naufraghi San Giovanni" (Shipwreck victims camp 'San Giovanni') in the main barracks of the Regina Division, being interned there until February 1942, when they were transferred to Camp Ferramonti-Tarsia, Italy.

CAMPO STADIONE, RHODES.



Cover postmarked Rhodes 17.10.1941 to the International Red Cross - Geneva from German Jew, Survivor of the Pentcho Shipwreck interned in the "Stadium Camp" - Rhodes.

2-line "INTERNATI CIVILI DI GUERRA / FRANCHIGIA POSTALE" (Civilian Internees of War / Postal Franchise) cachet to grant postage-free transmission. Rhodes censor markings on both sides.

CAMPO DEI NAUFRAGHI, RHODES ISLAND.

Photocopy

Mitt.: Israel Perlmann

Campo dei Naufraghi "San Giovanni"

Rodi /Egeo/ Italia.



Geöffnet



Geöff

CENZUROVANÉ

Herrn

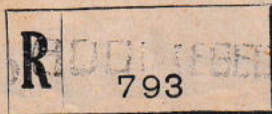


Direktor Otto Lederer

per Adresse Verwandtenausschuss--H I C E M

Verificato per censura
Venturka 3
BRATISLAVA
Slovakia-Slovensko

RACCOMANDATA



2315

5404



Registered and insured cover to HICEM Immigrant Aid Organization Committee in Slovakia, postmarked Rhodes 2.9.1941, from Czech Jew refugee in the Shipwreck victims Camp "San Giovanni", Rhodes. Italian local censor cachet "Verificato per censura". Inspected also in Germany (tape with Munich OKW cachet on back side), and in Slovakia (tape with Bratislava examiner #11 handstamp).

CAMPO DEI NAUFRAGHI, RHODES ISLAND.

International Red Cross civilian message form "61", dated 13 February 1942, from Shanghai, China to Jew shipwrecked refugee in Camp "San Giovanni", Rhodes. ICRC/Geneva cachet.

Redirected to civilian internees Concentration Camp Ferramonti-Tarsia Italy, where the addressee was transferred to.



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

Palais du Conseil Général

GENÈVE (Suisse)

61

67 26/2

DEMANDEUR — ANFRAGESTELLER — ENQUIRER

Nom - Name **DAMM**
 Prénom - Vorname - Christian name
 Rue - Strasse - Street **c/o Hiam P.O. Box 1425**
 Localité - Ortschaft - Locality **Shanghai**
 Département - Provinz - County
 Pays - Land - Country **Chine**

Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message

(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) —
 (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words,
 family news of strictly personal character).

Geliebter Bruno, wir hoffen dich gesund
 hab mit Gottvertrauen, sind alle gesund
 sorgen für dein herkommen sowie Fahrt
 Möglichkeit. Kinder senden Küsse Grüss
 Hans Lonia

Date - Datum **13 Februar 1942**

DESTINATAIRE — EMPFÄNGER — ADDRESSEE

Nom - Name **DAMM**
 Prénom - Vorname - Christian name **Bruno**
 Rue - Strasse - Street **Campo San Giovanni**
 Localité - Ortschaft - Locality **Prodi Egeo**
 Province - Provinz - County
 Pays - Land - Country **Italia**

RÉPONSE AU VERSO

Prière d'écrire très lisiblement

ANTWORT UMSEITIG

Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben

REPLY OVERLEAF

Please write very clearly

REPLY
 Message à transmettre au demandeur — Mitteilung an den Anfragsteller
 (25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial) —
 (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words,
 family news of strictly personal character)

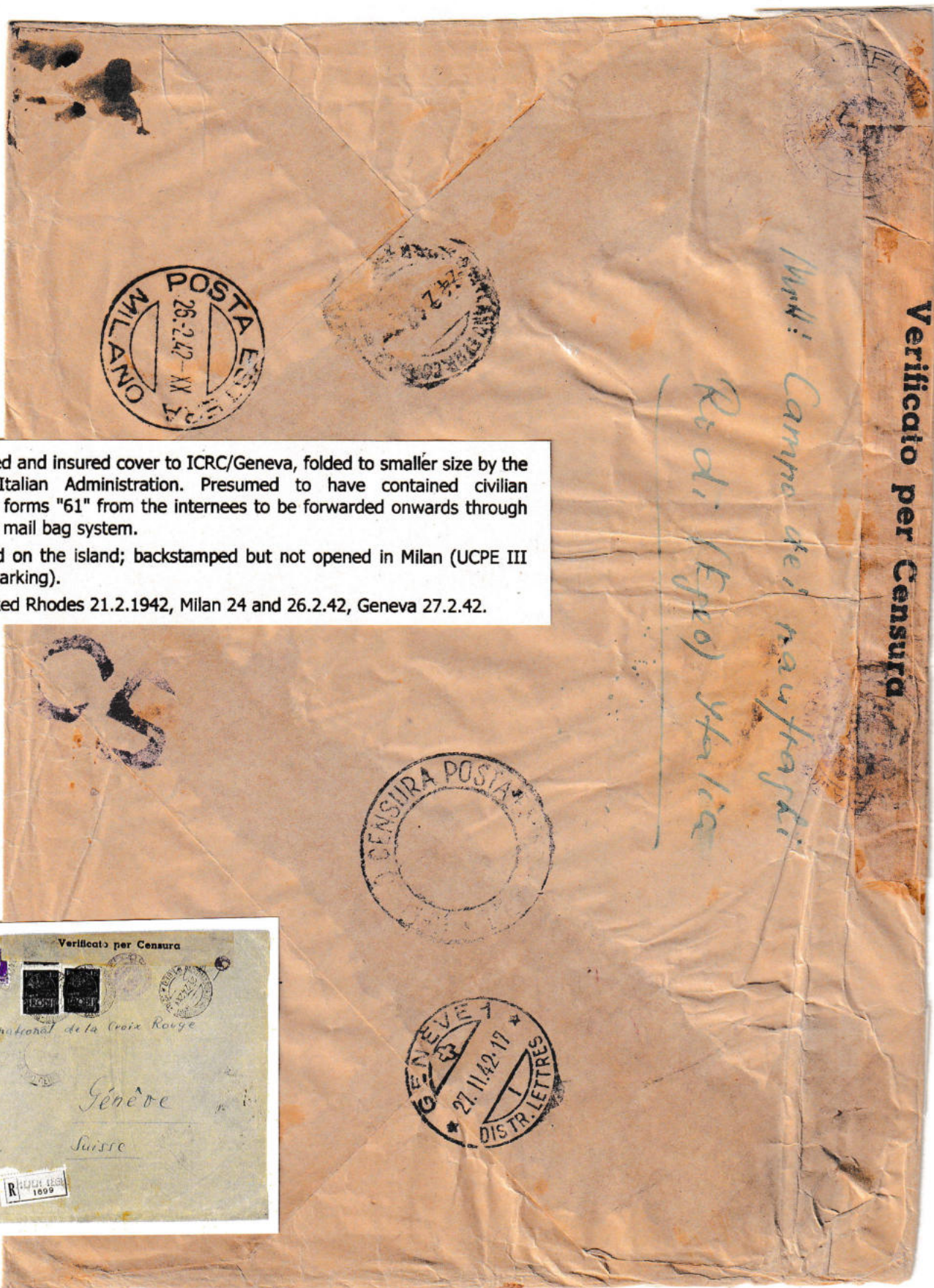
Einverständniserklärung: ausgetauschte goldenen
 kann dadurch Litzungen erreichen und
 das einweisen. Beauftragte, von dort Haupt
 und Japanismus Rom. Einzelne, stellen
 jederzeit möglich. Alles daran setzen.

Sonne
 Bruno

Date: **1. November 42**
 Ferramonti Tarsia
 Prov. Corsica
 Italia

Reply to China written overleaf on 1st November 1942.

CAMPO DEI NAUFRAGHI, RHODES ISLAND.



Registered and insured cover to ICRC/Geneva, folded to smaller size by the camp's Italian Administration. Presumed to have contained civilian message forms "61" from the internees to be forwarded onwards through the ICRC mail bag system.

Inspected on the island; backstamped but not opened in Milan (UCPE III censor marking).

Postmarked Rhodes 21.2.1942, Milan 24 and 26.2.42, Geneva 27.2.42.



GREEK REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

CAMP DES REFUGIÉS GRECS, SOUK EL GHARB (LEBANON).



Cover to the USA from the *Greek Refugees Camp, Souk el Gharb, Beyrouth*".

Posted at the near-by village, 1.3.1944; Aley 7.3.44 in transit.
Censored in Beyrouth and in New York.

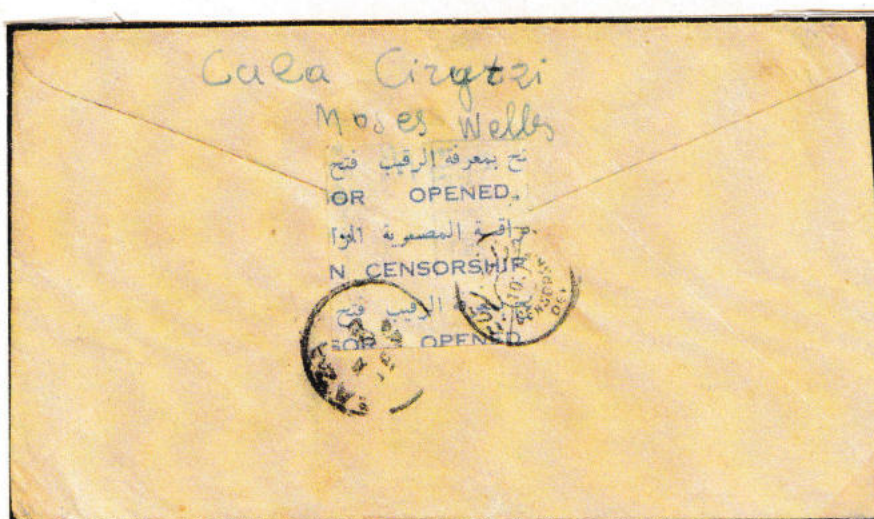
U.N.N.R.A. REFUGEE CAMP, EL ARISH (EGYPT).



Cover from Salonica/Greece, 8.12.1944, to Greek Jew refugee.
Note sender's address: *Hôtel Makedonikon, Thessalonique*, a relative recently returned to homeland.
Postmarked KANTARA 19.12.44 (Egypt).

MOSES WELLS REFUGEE CAMP (EGYPT).

Photocopy



INTER-CAMP MAIL. From Greek refugee in the camp to another in the "Greek Refugee Camp BE 179" (U.N.N.R.A. Refugee Camp, Greek Sector), Gaza/Palestine. The cover was sent open to Cairo for inspection; sealed by the Egyptian censorship office.

The pre-affixed stamps were cancelled at Cairo, 16.7.1944.

Postage due handstamp TO PAY 3 MILS; the due was not collected.

Backstamped Gaza 19.7.44.

MOSES WELLS REFUGEE CAMP (EGYPT).

Photocopy



From Greek refugee in the camp to the USA.
The cover was sent open to Cairo for inspection; sealed by the Egyptian censorship office.
The pre-affixed stamps were cancelled at Cairo, 3.12.43.
Examined again upon arrival in New York.

MOSES WELLS REFUGEE CAMP (EGYPT).

Photocopy



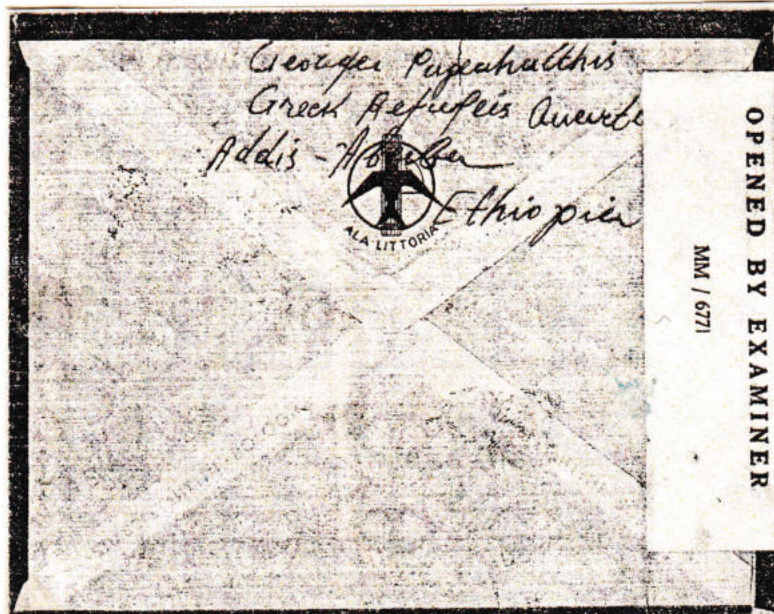
From Greek refugee in the camp to the USA with "AIR MAIL / GREEK TEXT" camp marking. Sender's address: "4620-51B, Moses Wells, Egypt". The cover was sent open to Cairo for inspection; sealed by the Egyptian censorship office.

The pre-affixed stamps were cancelled at Cairo, 30.11.43.

Examined again upon arrival in New York.

GREEK REFUGEES' QUARTERS, ADDIS ABABA (ETHIOPIA).

Photocopy



Airmailed to the USA and cancelled ADDIS ABABA 10.11.1943.
Manuscript endorsement "Passed by censor" by the camp administration.
Opened and examined again at Khartoum, Sudan.

POST-WAR SECTION

LIBERATED GREEK INTERNEES and PRISONERS-OF-WAR

CENTRO RACCOLTA PROFUGHI, FIRENZE (ITALY).



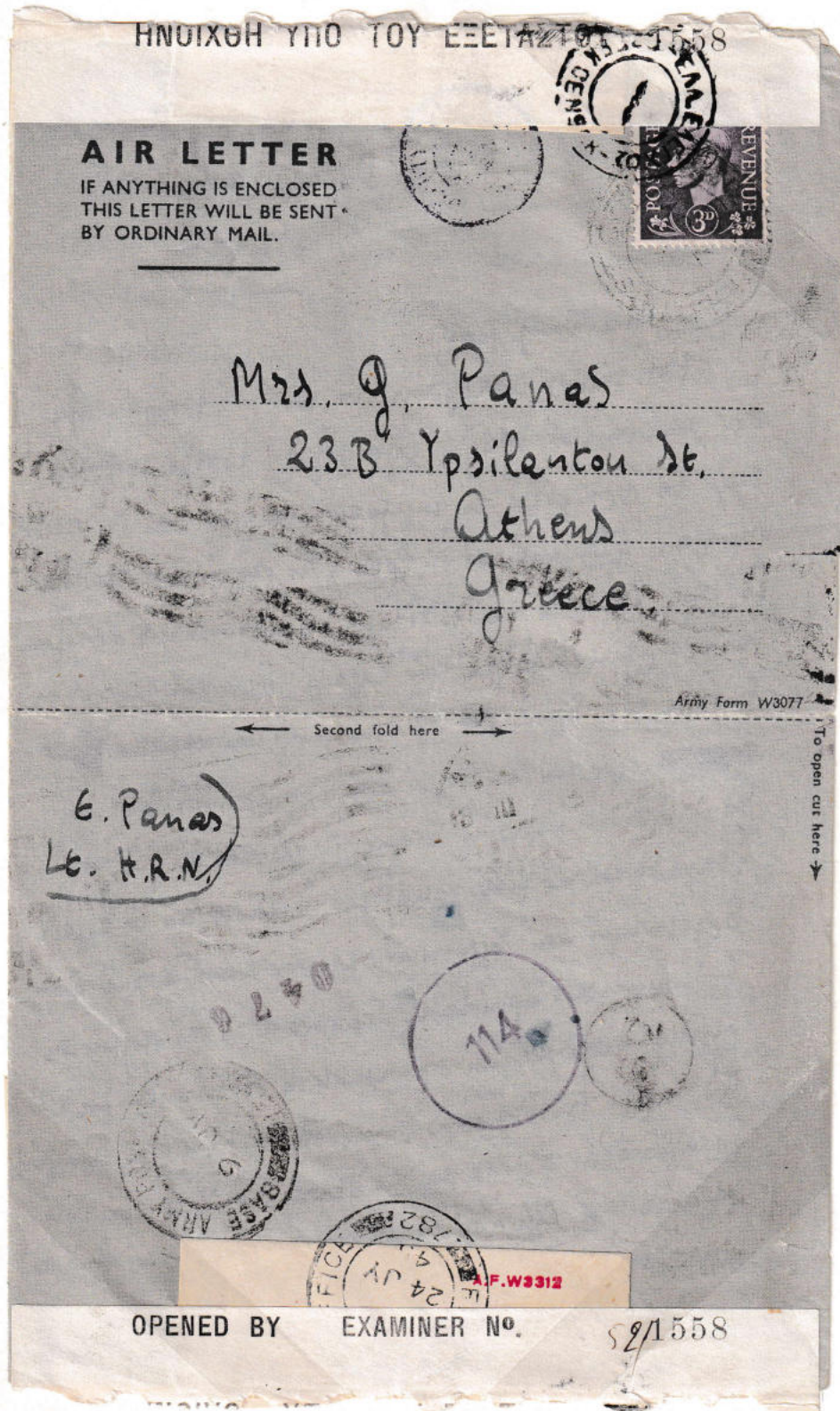
Postcard sent by a Greek refugee transported by the Allies to Venice port to embark for repatriation to Greece. Message written on 5.12.1945, the day of the ship's departure to Piraeus. Sender's address: *Centro Raccolte Profughi, Firenze* (Refugees Collection Camp, Florence).

Postmarked Venezia 7.12.45.

Passed by Allied military censor (Censura Militare / 0111 / Posta Civile, Italy).

Greek postmark ΝΑΥΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ (Navy Yard), 10.1.46.

ALLIED P.W. REPATRIATION DETACHMENT, TARANTO (ITALY).



British Army air letter to Greece, 7.7.1945, from Greek ex-prisoner in Officers Camp "O" (No. 1), Taranto.

Forwarded to Greece through the British Army Postal Service; FPO 531 7.7.45 (Taranto/Italy), BAPO 15 9.7.45 (Naples/Italy), FPO 782 24.7.45 (Prevesa/Greece).

British A.F.W3312 and Greek 52/1558 OBE tapes and censor cachets.

CENTRO RACCOLTA PROFUGHI, FIRENZE (ITALY).

Photocopy



Registered envelope postmarked Firenze 15.2.46 to Greece from Greek ex-hostage sheltered after the war at the Fugitives Collection Camp, Florence.

Foreign correspondence military censor cachet UFFICIO CENSURA MILITARE / POSTA ESTERA / TRANSITO applied in Genoa.

Postmarked in Greece: Athens 4.III.46 and Kerkyra (Corfu) 14.MAR.46.

GREEK DISPLACED PERSONS LIBERATED

TINOS ISLAND, GREECE.

Photocopy

+ Rev Pere Modeste Archimandrite
Tinos Greece

Bisoggi

Au bon soins du SLOM de MARSEILLE

Monsieur



Roger Kyriazoglou
Hotel d'Orta
rue Mazenod

B-d-R.

Marseille

France

Envelope with contents (13.2.45) to France from French Archimandrite of Greek origin displaced on Tinos Island, Greece. Text includes: "I am interned on Tinos for 3 years with no mail no ships. We suffered too much".

Carried on French warship having called at Tinos. Cachets *Au bon soins du SLOM de.....* and "Marseille" (In good care of Military Works Local Service of Marseilles).

Postmarked Poste Navale 15.3.45.

GERMAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN BRITISH CAMPS

After Germany capitulated in May 1945, the German troops in the Dodecanese, Milos Island and Crete surrendered. Shortly after, they all were sent to British camps in Egypt, from where special "Working Companies" were formed under British command. Some of those units were sent back to Dodecanese and Crete (sea-mine collectors) and mainland Greece (electricians).

They all were transferred back to Egypt after having done their job.

2719 INDEPENDENT GERMAN P.W. WORKING COMPANY, DODECANESE.

Photocopy

KRIEGSGEFANGENER
DIESE SEITE NUR FÜR ANSCHRIFT
ZU BENUTZEN

PORTOFREI

Prisoner of War Mail Postage free

Herrn
Friedrich GOTTSPENN & Frau
Hausdeich 97
(24) HAMBURG - Neuengamme 1
GERMANY British Zone

1892/3a, GHQP/12-42

2719 Indep. GERMAN P.W. Wkg. Coy.,
~~Lager Nr.~~ DODECANESE DISTRICT,
c/o CHIEF P.O.W. POSTAL CENTRE, MIDDLE EAST

M.E. Form 62

Von Kriegsgefangenem Nr. ME 116590

Name Arno GOTTSPENN Dienstgrad Fw.

No. 38 - Rhodes 13 Okt 46 - Meine beiden haben! Am heutigen Sonntag wieder einen Brief von mir. Es wird nun schon kühler. Heute regnet es ziemlich und wenn ich auf das blaue Meer blicke, so sehe ich die mächtigen Wogen mit weißen Schaumköpfen - Vor einigen Tagen traf ich einen engl. Corporal, der vorigen Jahr im Winter in der Gegend gelegen hat. Er zeigte mir die Fotos. Wir haben übrigens mehrere in unserer Kompanie, die in Hamburg gewesen sind, so daß man mir schon so ziemlich ausführlich berichtet hat, wie es dort aussieht. - Ich denke, daß wir nun wohl bald von hier nach Ägypten fahren. Sind auch N. welche in Afrika sind, kennt ihr deren Namen u. Adressen? Vor einigen Tagen habe ich im Radio ein Tanzkonzert aus dem Cafe Vaterland, Hamburg, gehört. Da scheint ja allerhand Betrieb zu sein. - Nun für heute herzlichste Grüße & liebe Grüße
DEUTLICH SCHREIBEN

POW British postcard, 13.10.1946, to Germany/British zone from German POW on Rhodes Island. He was captured on Leros Island (8.5.45), transferred to Egypt and brought to Rhodes with the 2719th German Prisoner-of-War Working Company.

Postcard prepared/typewritten by the British Camp administration.

2719 IND. GERMAN P.W. WORKING COMPANY (BITTER LAKE, EGYPT).

Photocopy

M.E. Form 62

Lager Nr. 2719 G. S. P. W. Egypt

CHIEF P.O.W. POSTAL CENTRE, MIDDLE EAST

Von Kriegsgefangenem Nr. 2719

Name Herrn Müller Dienstgrad Leutnant

74/ 2719, meine liebe Mutter! Meine Freunde haben mich
am 22.2.47 in 94.33. inhaft. Inzwischen sind die
Situationen in unserer Partei verändert. Ich habe
meine militärische Ausbildung in der 94.33. beendet
und bin nun in der 94.33. inhaft. Ich habe
keine Zeit mehr, um Ihnen zu schreiben. Ich werde
noch mehr Zeit mit Ihnen verbringen. Ich werde
noch mehr Zeit mit Ihnen verbringen. Ich werde

DEUTLICH SCHREIBEN

Brit. Zone

KRIEGSGEFANGENER

DIESE SEITE NUR FÜR ANSCHRIFT
ZU BENUTZEN

PORTOFREI

Frau
Herrn Müller
(24) Hamburg 30
Krankestr. 12

4888/QHQP/10-44

Postcard from German POW, 22.2.1947, after the Company had been transferred from Rhodes Island back to Egypt.

The prisoner was captured on Crete Island (FPN 68032 C, 733 Grenadier Regt.).

2772 IND. GERMAN P.W. WORKING COMPANY (BITTER LAKE, EGYPT).

Photocopy

MESSAGE — All communications should be of strictly private nature only. Please write very clearly and on the lines.

MITTEILUNG — Ausschliesslich Familiennachrichten. Bitte deutlich und auf den Linien schreiben.

Liebe Frau u. Kind!

Seit 8.5.45 in englischer Gefangenschaft.

Bin gesund und hoffe das gleiche von Euch und erwarte in Kürze eure Antwort. Hoff mit mir auf ein baldiges Wiedersehen. Viele Grüsse

Date 28.11.46 Signature Ernst Henkel

Datum Unterschrift

Postage free unless sent by Air Mail. Bei Luftpostbeförderung muss die Luftpostgebühr bezahlt werden.

Wird

AU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE-GENÈVE

MESSAGE-EXPRESS — Urgent Dringend

Reserved for prisoners of war or civilian internees and their families without news for over six months.

Ausschliesslich für Kriegsgefangene oder Zivilinternierte und deren Familien bestimmt die seit mehr als sechs Monaten ohne direkte Nachrichten sind.

SENDER Name and Christian name in full: Stabschef E. Henkel P.O.Nr. 332318

ABSENDER Name and Vorname (Voll ausgeschreiben): 2772 Ind. Germ. P.O.Nr. 332318

ADDRESS Anschrift: G.D. Chief P.W. Censor M.E.

ADDRESSEE Name and Christian name in full: Frau Johanna Henkel

EMPFÄNGER Name und Vorname (Voll ausgeschreiben): Heiligenwald, Saar, Karl-Friedrich

ADDRESS Anschrift: Heiligenwald, Saar, Karl-Friedrich

DATE Datum: 11.12.46

• For prisoners state rank, POW number and Camp.
• For civilian internees state internee number and Camp.
• Bei Gefangenen sind Dienstgrad, Kriegsgefangenen und Lagernummer anzugeben.
• Bei Zivilinternierten ist die Lagernummer anzugeben.

Message Overleaf! Mitteilung umseitig!

ICRC express message, for use in cases without news for over six months, to Germany from German POW in Egypt. Sender's first message, 28.3.1946.

The prisoner was captured on Crete Island (Pigeon-post service) and transferred to Egypt after Germany's capitulation.

306/4 POW CAMP, FAYED (BITTER LAKE, EGYPT).

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE		
AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE		
Nationalität - Nationality - Nationalité	2780	
Geburtsdatum - Date of birth - Date de naissance	Gebührenfrei Free of charge Franc de port	
Militäreinteilung - Unit - Incorporation	29.10.00 Berlin	
Erkennungsmarke - Army No - Matricule	Insel Rodus	
Name - Surname - Nom: H S P I G		
Vorname - Christian Name - Prénom: Herbert		
Dienstgrad - Rank - Grade: 102 Gefreiter		
Kgt. Nr. - Pow Nr. - N° P. G. *: 102 702 / Camp 306 4		
Anschrift - Address - Adresse*: c/o Chief POW Postal Centre		
Middle East / Egypt		

ICRC postcard, 15.3.1946, sent from Germany via Geneva (ICRC cachet) to German POW captured on Rhodes Island (1002 Batt.) and transferred to Egypt after Germany's capitulation.

Former location and FPN 68 064 D typewritten earlier by the British Camp administration.

Re-addressed to 2780 Ind. German POW Working Coy.

383/12 POW CAMP, EL DAABA, EGYPT.

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE		
AGENCE CENTRALE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE		
Nationalität - Nationality - Nationalité	307 / 56	
Geburtsdatum - Date of birth - Date de naissance	Gebührenfrei Free of charge Franc de port	
Militäreinteilung - Unit - Incorporation	S.P. 68090 A D.G.P.	
Erkennungsmarke - Army No - Matricule	Wien	
Name - Surname - Nom: Himmel		
Vorname - Christian Name - Prénom: Ottmar		
Dienstgrad - Rank - Grade: Major		
Kgt. Nr. - Pow Nr. - N° P. G. *: ISN Me 219 907 / Camp No. 383/12		
Anschrift - Address - Adresse*: c/o Chief POW Postal Centre		
MIDDLE EAST / Egypt		

ICRC postcard dispatched in late summer 1945 from Czechoslovakia via Geneva (ICRC cachet) to Czechoslovakian (or Sudeten German) POW captured on Leros Island (Garrison's Administration Company) and transferred to Egypt (Camp 383, Sub-camp 12) after Germany's capitulation. Former location Leros and FPN 68 090 A written by the sender. Re-addressed to Camp 307, Sub-camp 56.

ITALIAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN BRITISH CAMPS

304 POW CAMP, (EGYPT).

Photocopy

M.E. Form 65

Campo Numero. 304

c/o CHIEF P.O.W. POSTAL CENTRE, MIDDLE EAST

Dal prigioniero di guerra No. 248402

Nome Manlio Alfonso Siorrentino

Carissimo Andrea, 13/9 Grado S. Tenente

Altre volte ti ho scritto prima di questo mio biglietto
portandoti il mio saluto e ringraziandoti sempre
di quanto facisti per me l'anno scorso. Sfortunatamente
tutto andò a male, ormai però non
occorre più dispiacere. Come mai non mi hai risposto?
Stai bene? Io di sì, però sono molto triste
perché anche da qui non ricevo da più di 6
mesi, né di un po' per fornire cose e succedere.
grazie infinite. Saluti. Manlio

SCRIVETE IN MODO LEGGIBILE

PRIGIONIERO DI GUERRA

SOLO L'INDIRIZZO DA QUESTO LATO

MIDDLE
POSTA
GRATIS

Mons.

Andrea Agrippioles
30 Rue Filippouli
(Grèce) Athènes

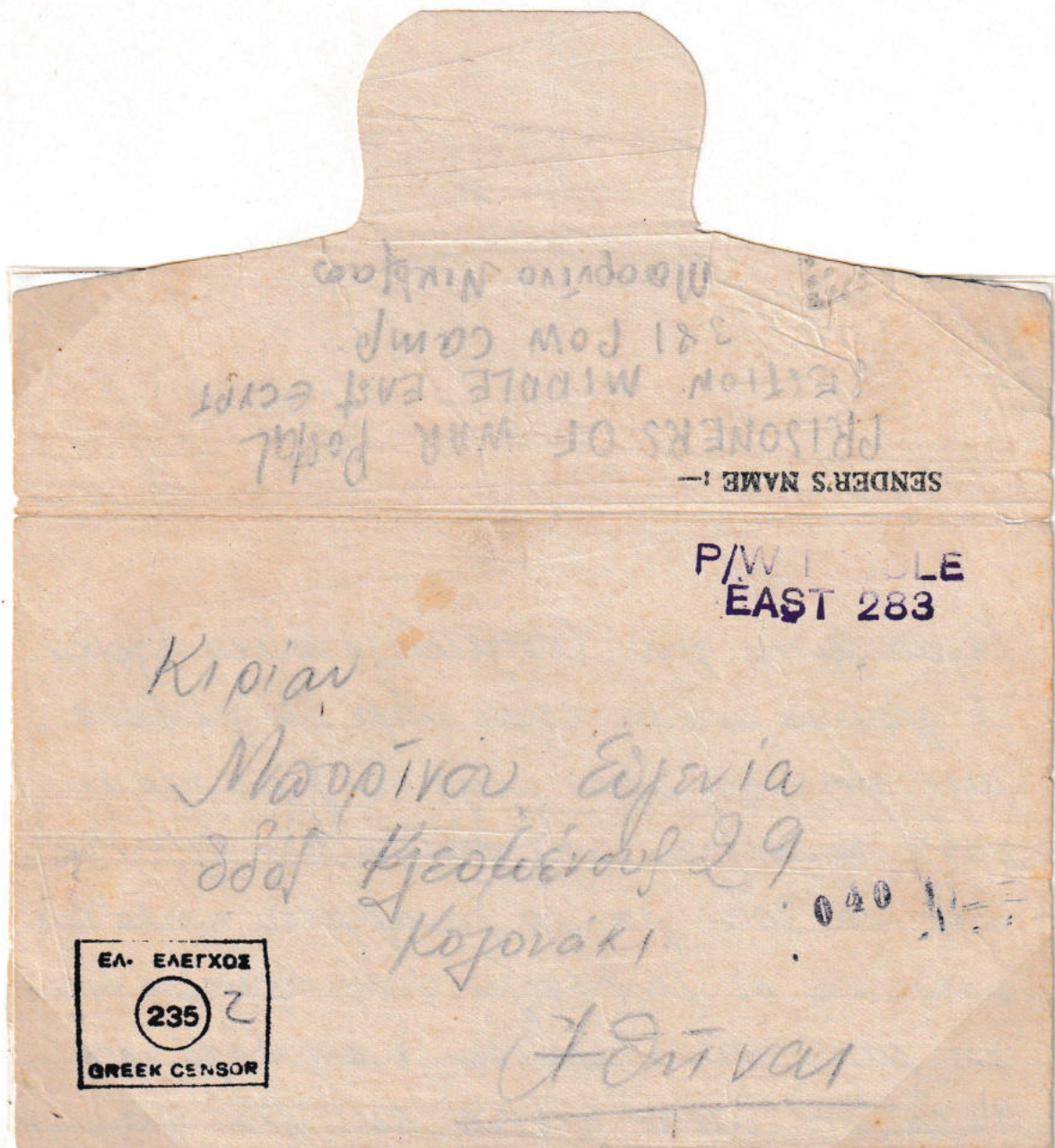
0124

4631/GHQP/8-44

Postcard to Greece, 13.9.1945.

The prisoner was captured on Rhodes Island, Dodecanese, but he was stationed in Athens, Greece before that.
Censored by the British in Egypt.

381 POW CAMP, EL DAABA (EGYPT).



Lettercard written in Greek by Italian POW to his Greek wife in Athens, Greece.

The sender was a Greece resident of Italian ancestry enlisted to the Italian Army after the outbreak of war between Italy and Greece.

He most probably was captured in Greece after the withdrawal of the German forces in October 1944.

Message written in August 1945; censored in Egypt and Greece.