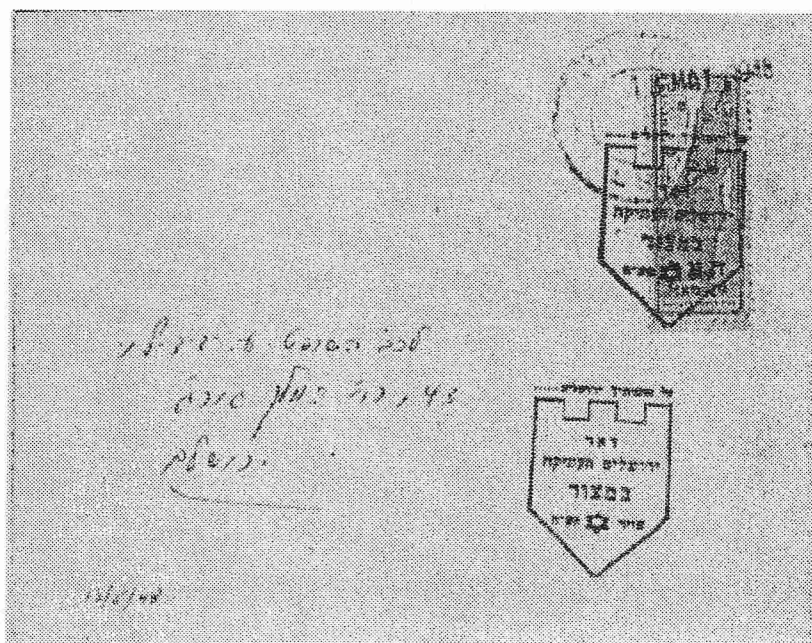


# Holy Land Postal History

V  
83-84

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE SOCIETY OF THE  
POSTAL HISTORY OF ERETZ-ISRAEL



אחת מהמעטפות הבודדות שכנראה חובאו מהרובע היהודי בעיר העתיקה, במאי 1948, והועברו אח"כ  
ליעדן ע"י דואר מנהלת העם. בתחילה הוחתמה המעטפה ברובע היהודי ע"י  
"חותמת החומה" של אבולפיה.

One of the few covers believed to have been brought from the Old City Jewish Quarter in May  
1948, and which was then delivered by the Minhelet Ha'am post. At first it was cancelled in the  
Jewish Quarter, with the Abulafia "Rubber Wall Postmark" (See article on p. 128)



# HOLY LAND POSTAL HISTORY

## Official Bulletin of the Society of the Postal History of Eretz-Israel

Affiliated to the Israel Philatelic Federation

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# תערוכת בולים בין לאומית "ירושלים 2000"

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## El Arish Postmarks Until 1925

*Avraham Zakai, Beer Sheva*

### Historical Background

El Arish, the city with 1500 inhabitants on the sea shore of the Mediterranean, was the main or capital town of the peninsula of Sinai. The town was surrounded by palm groves, fig tree orchards and vegetable gardens in the middle of the big sand dune desert of Sinai.

The Sinai Peninsula was under joint British - Egyptian administration. The British patrolled the area with small police units. A post office was opened by the Egyptians in the late 1880's.

When Turkey entered the war on the side of the "central powers" Germany and Austria-Hungary in November, 1914 - the British commander in Egypt decided that it was more important to concentrate the small British units for the defence of the "Jugular Line" of the British Empire - the Suez Canal, and relinquished Sinai.

The Turks, under the command of Major Muntas Bey, occupied the whole peninsula by November, 1914 and under the command of Jemal Pasha and Colonel Kress Von Kressenstein attacked the Suez Canal in February, 1915 and were repulsed. At the beginning of 1916 the British command in Egypt decided to advance their defence line of the Suez Canal into Sinai. They occupied the area of Katia and Romani and built a railway and water pipe line to these places. The Turks under the command of Colonel Kress von Kressenstein attacked the area of Romani in the beginning of August, 1916 and again were defeated retreating to Bir El Mazar, Bir El Abd and El Arish. At the end of summer 1916 the British advanced and the Turks evacuated, under the pressure of the British army, at first Bir El Mazar, then Bir El Abd and on the 21 December, 1916 - El Arish. Steichele mentions in his book "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine 1840-1918" that El Arish was relinquished on 23 November 1916, but in the British "Official History of the War - Military Operations Egypt & Palestine" reports, "The town was surrounded on the morning of the 21st (December) and found to be indeed empty of Turks". Also Oberst Kress von Kressenstein the Commander of the Turkish/German units in Palestine and Sinai - the 1. Expeditionskorps - mentioned in his memories of the war "Zwischen Kaukasus und Sinai" (p. 24) that in December, 1916 they had to relinquish El Arish.

### The Postmarks

Steichele in his above-mentioned research, writes that during 1883 a post office (rank 4) was opened in El Arish and shows a cover with a postmark "ARICHE" from 19.XI.1892 (Fig. 1).

In my possession is a postcard sent from the Egyptian post office in El Arish with a postmark from 16.VI.1914 (Fig. 2). This postcard went through Port Said, Alexandria and received an arrival postmark in Galata on 27.VI.1914. Another postmark from these dates is known and was described some years ago in a BAPIP publication.

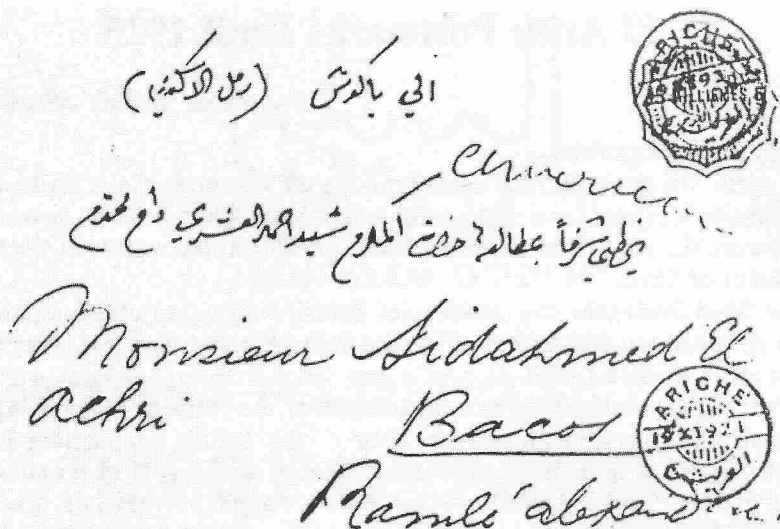


Fig. 1: A cover from El Arish to Ramle, Alexandria, with postmark ARICHE (Steichele #101), dated November 1892.

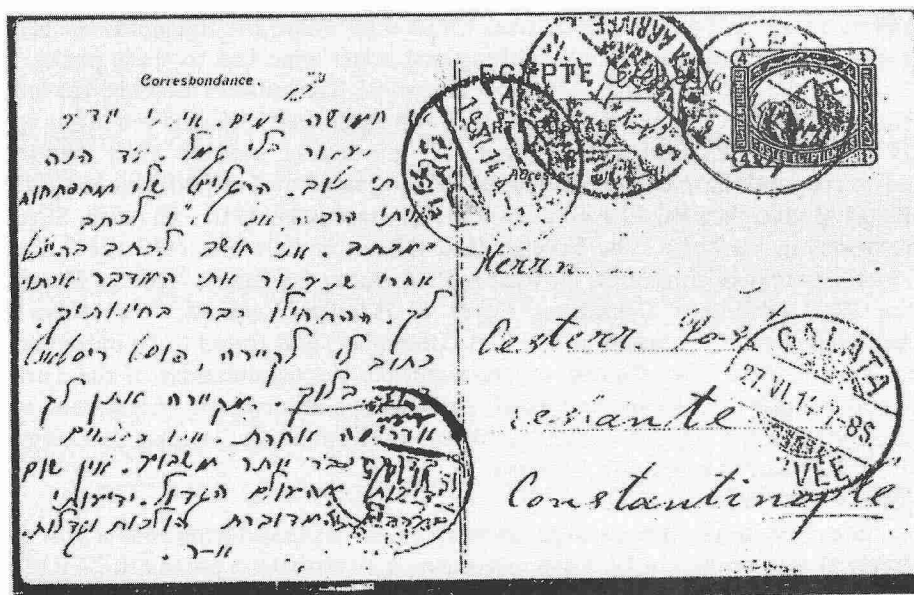
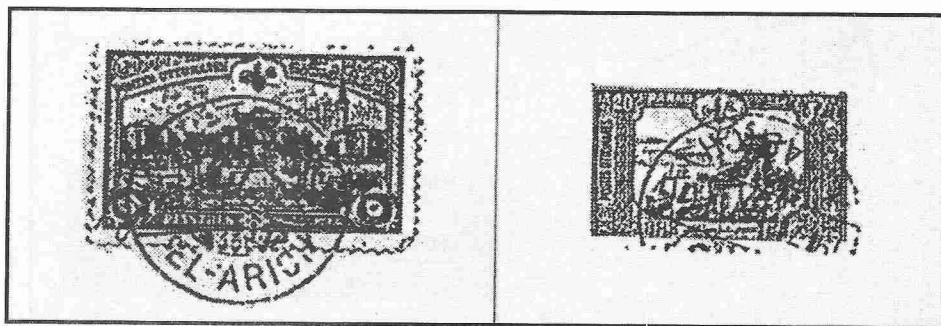


Fig. 2: Pmk "ARISH" of the Egyptian Post Office at El Arish, Sinai of 16.VI.1914.

The contents of the above postcard by itself is very interesting. It is written in Hebrew by Aharon Reubeni, who walked in 1914 from Jerusalem to Cairo and wrote another postcard (also written in Hebrew) to the same address some days earlier from Beer Sheva. The name of the addressee is erased but we presume that the card was sent to Itzhak Ben Zwi, (the second president of Israel) the brother of Reubeni, who was at that time in Constantinople.\*

During the First World War the Turks opened a civil post office in El Arish. Some covers and cutouts are known from this period. The two postmarks on the cutouts differ only by the punctuation marks between the numerals of the date. The one from 29.11.15 has a hyphen (Fig. 3(a) as shown by Steichele 70/01) and the other from 19.7.16, a small square figure (Fig. 3(b)). The diameters of both is 27.5 mm (Steichele does not mention the differences).



**Fig. 3(a): Turkish cutouts of El Arish; dated 29.11.15 - the first kind - with small hyphens as punctuation**

**Fig. 3(b): Dated 19.7.16-the second kind-with small square figures as punctuation marks.**

Figure 4 is a cover sent from El Arish ,12.10.1915, to Aleppo, arrival 23.11.1915. The postmark is with the small square figure in the date. (courtesy Zvi Alexander).

The first known postmark of an Egyptian post office in Arish after the British occupied Sinai is from 25.AP.17, on a letter sent by a doctor (Medical Officer-M.O.) serving in the Egyptian Camel Transport Corps (C.T.C), to Alexandria (Fig. 5). Its size is 26.5 mm (published in BAPIP 117, November 1987).

Zvi Alexander published in BAPIP 118: "I have recently bought a cover with the same postmark dated two years later - 17.7.1919. It was registered as SZ 43, then at Arish on 15th July, and sent by a sergeant in the Jewish legion, serving in the 40th battalion, the Royal Fusiliers, composed of Jewish Volunteers from the liberated parts of Palestine." (Fig. 6).

Ben Remington has shown in BAPIP 112 a similar El Arish postmark, dated 25.5.1920, but with a larger diameter of 29 millimeters. Several possibilities come to mind i.e. either a new instrument of 29 millimeters was introduced and superseded

\* I will be most grateful if readers send me their comments to this piece of research and especially if some one can find the article published in "BAPIP" about the other postmark known earlier than WW1.





*Fig. 4: A cover from Turkish occupied El Arish (12.10.15) to Aleppo (23.11.15), with an additional 10 para War Tax stamp and Aleppo censor mark.*

the 26 millimeters postmark or both instruments were used concurrently, although no examples of earlier use of the 29 millimeters instrument has been recorded so far."

The next postmark known is dated 25.MR.20 (Fig. 7), published by Ben Remington in "BAPIP" No. 112. This postmark is nearly similar to the one in Figure 5, except the size - 29mm and some differences in the Arabic letters.

The last postmark from this period is from 20.MA.25 (Fig. 8) on a letter to Vienna and from there to Paris (size 30 mm).







Fig. 6: El Arish (15.7.1919) A.P.O. SZ 43 & SZ 43 El-Arish.  
 El Arish, registered, transit civilian post office in  
 El Arish, arrival 19.7.1919 Alexandria.





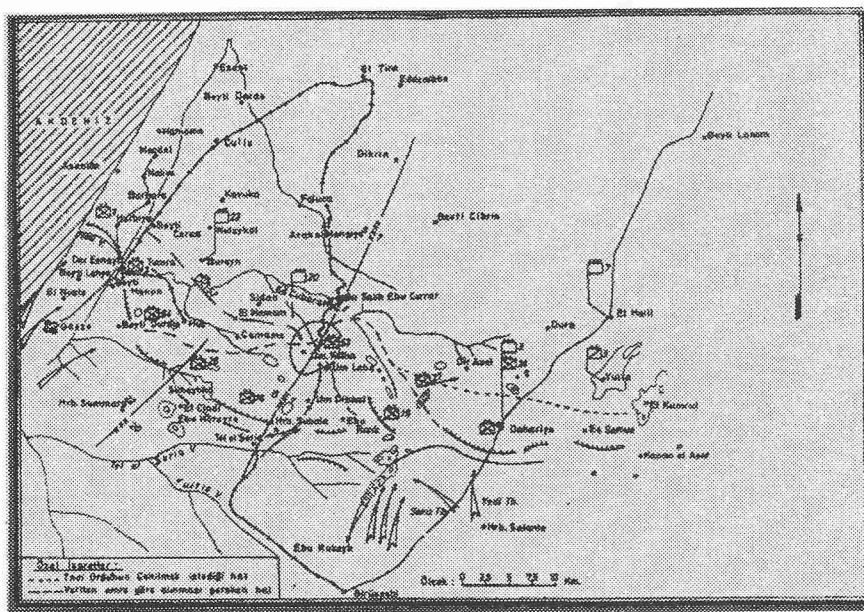
## Letters Relating to the Fall of Gaza, 1917.

*Zvi Alexander, London*

Ten letters, written by the same Turkish officer, have been identified by Unal Karakas, the foremost expert of Turkish Military Mail of WW1. These letters were part of Salih M. Kuyas collection of "Holyland Turkish postal stationery, the Palestine Front, World War 1", which I have purchased recently.

All the letters were written by a Turkish officer serving in the 3rd Machine Gun Company, 134 Regiment, 7th Division, 22nd Army Corps, 4th Army.

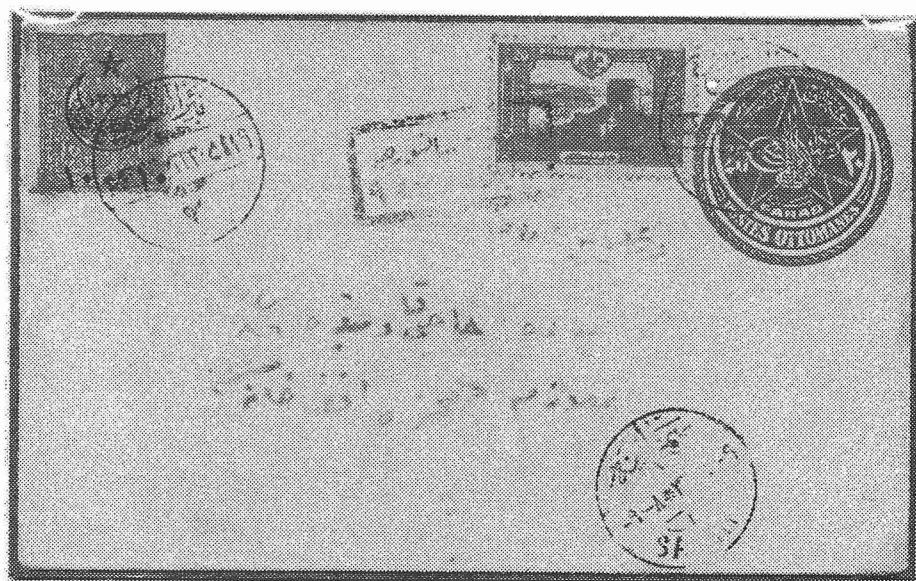
The 7th Division fought on Gallipoli Front in March, 1915, was then transferred in July, 1916 to the Caucasus Front and from there, at the beginning of 1917, to Istanbul. In April/May, the 7th Division was transferred to the Palestine Front arriving in Beersheba in April/May, 1917. It became a part of the 22nd Army Corps, 4th Army, which defended the Beersheba - Gaza Front Line (Fig. 9).



**Fig. 9: 1917 Turkish map of the Southern Front.**

Most of the covers included the original letters, which are now in the process of being translated. Very interesting information is expected to be derived from these the relevant part of which will be published in the future, in this Bulletin. The envelopes of these letters, which are shown below, are indeed exceptional postal history items, carrying some very rare Turkish Fieldpost and other postmarks from Palestine and some unrecorded Army marks. They are shown below in chronological order, spanning the period. 12.5-18.11.1917 (Figs. 10-18 and the Back Cover).





*Fig. 10: 12.5.1917 Beersheba addressed to Istanbul. Letter postmarked with All-Turkish postmark "Beersheba 2".*



*Fig. 11: 19.7.1917 Gaza, arrival Istanbul 8.9.1917. Censored in Istanbul.*





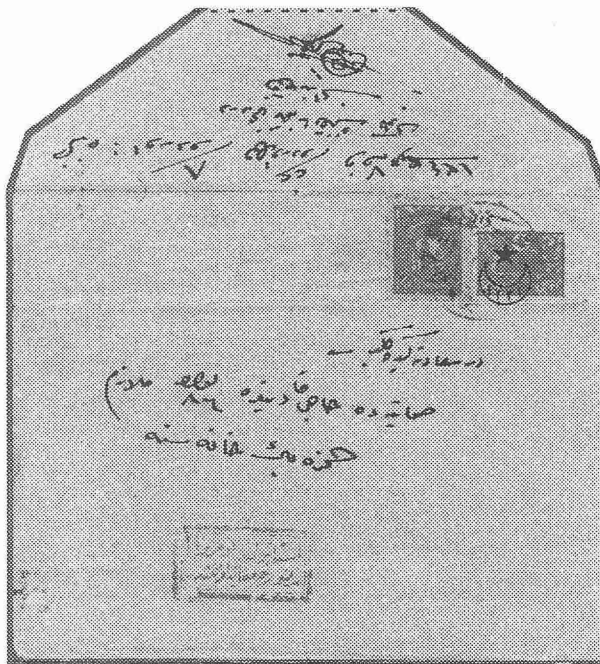
Fig. 12 : 9.9.1917 134th Regiment located in the Gaza area. The only known example of the 134th Regiment Seal. As the letters used official Military Stationery it was not franked with stamps, although officers had to affix stamps to their letters.



Fig. 13 : 6.10.1917 arrival Istanbul 24.10.1917. Censored in Istanbul. Letter postmarked with an unrecorded seal of F.P.O. 2 of the Gaza Area.

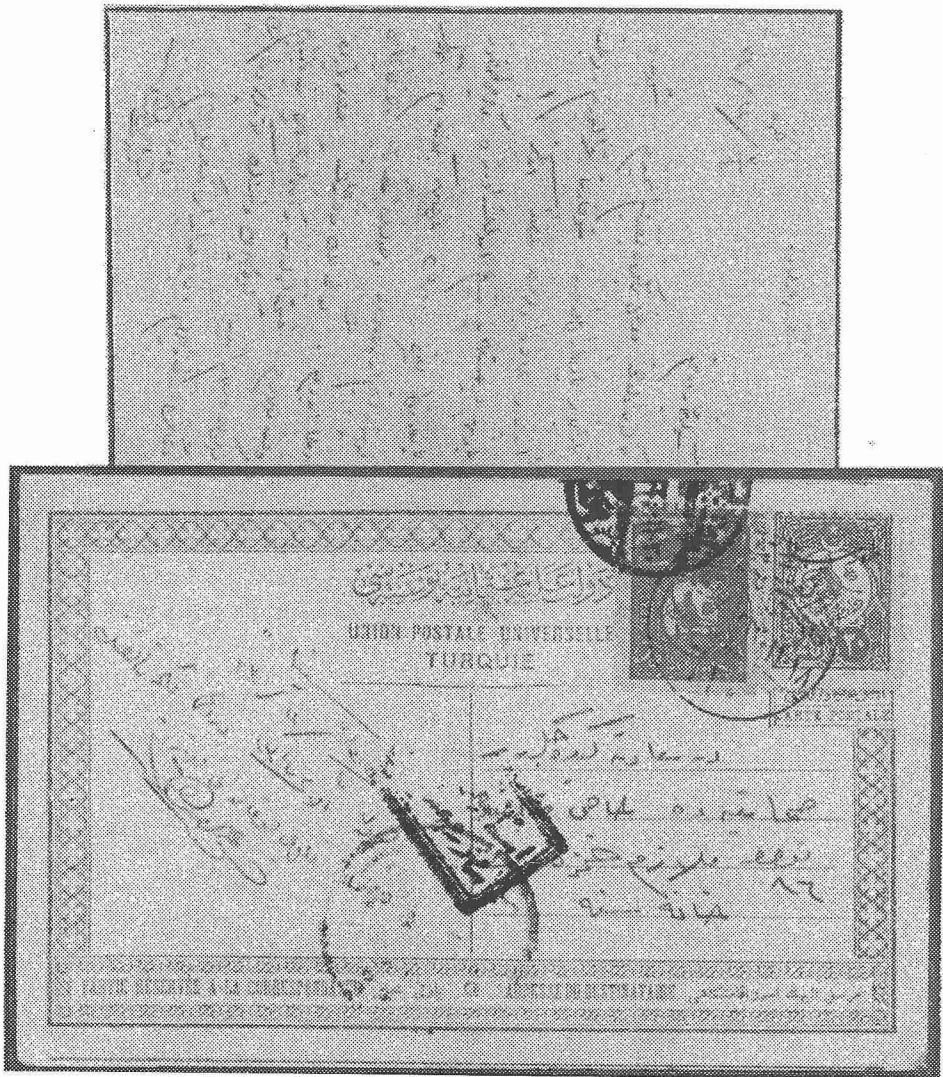


*Fig. 14 : 11.10.1917 arrival Istanbul 29.10, and censored there. Letter postmarked with an unrecorded seal of F.P.O. 2 of the Gaza Area.*



*Fig. 15: 26.10.1917 Gaza, arrival and censored in Istanbul. Gaza postmark in large letters. Letter written five days before the fall of Beersheba.*





**Fig. 16 : 18.11.1917 F.P.O. 61 Culis (present day Julis), arrival and censored in Istanbul. Postcard written in Gaza on 3-4 of November, during the 3rd Battle of Gaza. Gaza fell on the 7th of November. The Machine Gun Unit retreated to Julis, north of Gaza, from where this postcard was sent. F.P.O. 61 served the 7th Division in 1917.**





*Fig. 17 : 18.11.1917 F.P.O. 61 Culis (present day Julis), arrival and censored in Istanbul. Postcard written on 6.11.1917 (one day before the fall of Gaza) and dispatched from the F.P.O. 61 HQ 7th Division eleven days later.*



*Fig. 18 : As the previous item (Fig. 17) but with a prestamped envelope.*



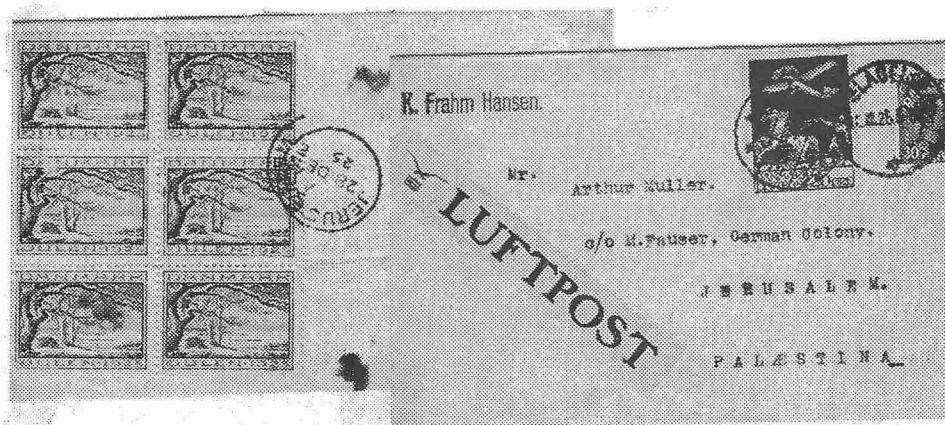
## The Role of KLM in the Story of Civil Air Transportation and Airmail in Palestine, 1919 to 1939

*Yoel Amir, Hefar-Tava*

Four lots offered at Sid Morginstin's Button Stamp Co. (Negev Holyland Stamps) April 2000 auction renewed my interest in the history of air transportation and airmail in Palestine, particularly in the mid 20s to mid 30s.

A first clue was an anecdote told in 1997 by Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi<sup>1</sup> in a lecture on the Templer Settlement in Palestine, quoting Waldemar Fast<sup>2</sup> recalling the use in the Twenties, by a Dutch airline company, of an air strip near Wilhelma (today Bnei Atarot, next to Ben Gurion Airport) for landing on the way to Indonesia (then Dutch East India).

The second clue was an airmail letter (Fig. 19) posted on December 16th, 1925 in Denmark to a Templer family in the German Colony of Jerusalem, arriving at its destination on 28th. Was there any connection between the two? I have plunged into a historical search including correspondence with the Danish and Dutch PTT post Philately and experts in early airmail history, but in vain. I did nevertheless come up with a clear understanding of the important milestone in the history of



**Fig. 19: An "airmail" letter posted in Slagelse, Denmark with a 25 Ore air stamp surcharge over the 30 Ore regular tariff to Jerusalem, Palestine. In fact the letter was carried by KLM only between Copenhagen and Amsterdam, and train and boat covered the rest of the itinerary.**

early air transportation and airmail services in Palestine, which was the basis of an article on the subject<sup>3</sup> published in the Holy Land Postal History in 1999.

Two important findings of that research were relevant to my initial dilemma: first, Waldemar Fast, a pioneer and entrepreneur of civil air transportation in Palestine, was indeed in a position to tell the anecdote about the Wilhelma airstrip, and second the existence of the airstrip was confirmed by N. Hartoch, in his historical overview, "The Ben-Gurion Airport - Its History and Development"<sup>4</sup>. That air strip was situated approximately Northeast to the exiting Ben-Gurion runway, and was still used in 1943, while the Lydda Airport runways were upgraded by the Allies to serve the war efforts.

KLM, the Royal Dutch Airlines, started its operation in 1920 in the European theatre and in October, 1924 pioneered the first flight from Amsterdam to Batavia (now in Indonesia). According to KLM documentation<sup>5</sup> the distance of 15,373 Km was covered in 55 days with a total of 127 flight hours. The Fokker three-men aircraft had to stop for refueling and service in 21 airstrips including: Prague, Belgrade, Constantinople, Aleppo, Baghdad, Bangkok and Batavia. The second Amsterdam-Batavia flight took place on 28 May, 1926<sup>6</sup> and in 1928 KLM operated this line, which was up to W.W.II the longest flight route in the world, on an irregular basis, using a three-motor Fokker. The journey took 12 days with 89 flying hours. In 1932 a new and better Fokker aircraft served on a bi-monthly service to Batavia, landing on its way in Gaza, Palestine and shortening the travel time to nine days. In 1934 regular weekly airmail service was operated by KLM between Amsterdam and Batavia (at an additional tariff of 15c.) servicing the 18 intermediate stops on the way including Athens, Cairo, Gaza, and Baghdad. The letter of Fig. 20 was sent in June, 1935 from Amsterdam to Gaza, on the occasion of KLM's first twice-a-week flight service to Batavia.

Waldemar Fast was KLM's agent in Palestine from the early Thirties, and was deeply involved in the plans of the new and modern Lydda airport probably from 1934. According to his memoirs<sup>7</sup> the Wilhelma Templers were actively engaged in the construction of the airport between 1935 and 1936.

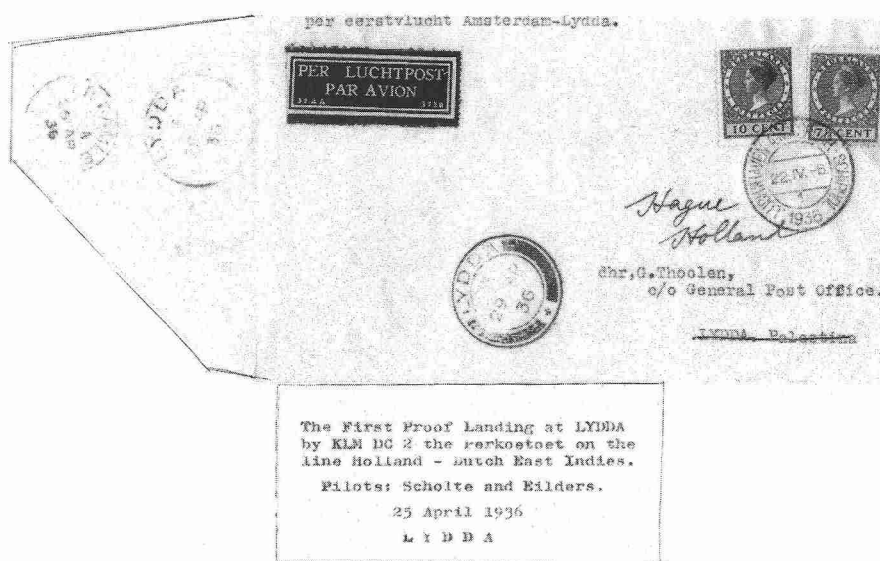
The "Arab revolt" erupted on April 19th 1936, and threw Palestine into a political and economical turmoil. In the above mentioned article I have concluded that the violent occurrences had accelerated the construction of the Lydda airport, as a possible alternative to the Gaza, Ramleh and Jericho airstrips, which were now defined as dangerous areas. The document of Fig. 21 is evidence to the quick reaction of KLM to the situation. Most probably directed by their industrious agent, KLM's new DC2 passenger aircraft<sup>8</sup> was flown from Schiphol on April 22nd, barely three days after the brakeout of the revolt, for a test running of the unfinished runways of Lydda on route to the Dutch East Indies. The aircraft landed in Lydda on the 25th carrying the usual airmail consignment, including the letter of Fig. 21 that was marked by the knowledgeable sender "by first flight Amsterdam-Lydda". The letter was addressed to the sender himself c/o "post restante" services of nearby Lydda. The letter was cancelled in Lydda town on the same day (25.4.36), in Ramleh (25.4.36) and finally returned to Lydda on the 29th of April on route to





Fig. 20: G. Thoolen ("Air Post Specialist") of Gravenhage, Holland sent this KLM special cover, commemorating the first twice-a-week service Amsterdam-Batavia, to the Gaza GPO. The letter was mailed in Amsterdam on the 12th of June 1935, and arrived in Gaza on the 13th. The "unclaimed" letter was returned to the sender 3 weeks later on July 7th.



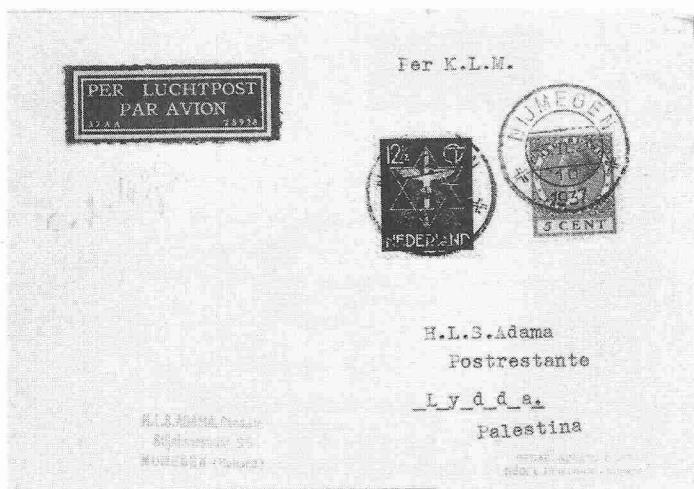


**Fig. 21: A letter which was carried by the KLM DC-2 aircraft testing conditions of the unpaved runways of the Lydda Airport. It was mailed in Amsterdam-Schiphol on the 22nd of April 1936 and arrived in the Lydda PO on the 25th April. The sender annexed written information identifying the specific flight.**

the sender in Holland. April 25th, 1936 can be regarded as the unofficial opening of the new Lydda Airport, much the same as the Tel Aviv Seaport was opened on May 19th, 1936, both a response to the Arab economical blockade. The letter of Fig. 22 was mailed from Nijmegen, Holland on February 5th, 1937 (21.00) and was carried by the KLM aircraft landing in Lydda on the 7th. **This flight according to Proud<sup>9</sup> was official first landing of the Amsterdam-Batavia service in Lydda Airport.** Gaza was abandoned by KLM as an intermediate landing site.

Another interesting document, related to KLM far-eastern line, is shown in Fig. 23, which is a letter carried by KLM's airmail services commemorating the 500th flight of this famous line. The letter was cancelled on November 13th, 1937 on departure from Amsterdam with a special decorated cachet. On the arrival in Lydda airport the letter was handled by a newly opened local post office and cancelled with the Lydda Airport SC dated 15th NO 1937. Starting with the date of the 500th flight, a back calculation based on the known flight frequency of Amsterdam-Batavia line during the years 1932 to 1937, gives a number of approximately 100 flights during the years of 1928 to 1931. It is my assumption that Waldemar Fast's remark on his test landing on the Wilhelma airstrip did indeed happen in one or more of those 100 flights during the late Twenties or early Thirties. KLM followed finally Imperial Airways and in 1932 chose Gaza as its Palestine stop on the way to the East, until February of 1937.

I am thankful to Sid Morginstin, President of Button Stamp Co., for the copies of the documents of Fig. 20 to Fig. 23 which were essential for this study.



**Fig. 22:** This letter, mailed on 5th February 1937 from Nijmegen, Holland to "post restant" Lydda, Palestine, was carried by the first regular KLM flight on the Amsterdam-Batavia service, landing (according to Proud) on February 7th in Lydda Airport.



**Fig. 23:** This special flight registered letter was carried from Amsterdam to Lydda Airport by the 500th flight on the Amsterdam-Batavia route, landing at destination on November 15th 1937. The letter carries a "special flights" triangular 30c. stamp and the decorated cachet struck for this occasion.



## References

- (1) Prof. Yossi Ben Artzi, Head of the Eretz-Israel Study Group, the Haifa University.
- (2) Waldemar Fast (1911 - 1994), a Jerusalem Templer, Pioneer and entrepreneur of Palestine civil air transportation.
- (3) Y. Amir, "Another Look at the History of Civil Air Transportation and Airmail in Palestine, 1919 to 1939", Holy Land Postal History #77-78 (Winter/Spring 1999).
- (4) N. Hartoch, "The Ben-Gurion Airport, its History and Development " (in Hebrew), "Be'eaf" Aviation Magazine No. 38 (1980?).
- (5) "From Myth to Reality", a KLM historical overview document (1995?).
- (6) Private correspondence with the PTT Post Filatelie, Netherlands.
- (7) "Erzaehlbuch-Damals in Palestine", an internal publication of the Templegesellschaft in Deutschland (TGD), 1990.
- (8) Douglas DC- , an all metal American passenger aircraft; a later W.W.II model was called "Dakota".
- (9) E.B. Proud, "The Postal History of British Palestine, 1918-1948".

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## Advances in the Techniques of Improvisation

*Arthur M. Hochheiser, Hackensack, N.J.*

When any authority takes control over a previous administration, there is an immediate necessity to provide the forms to continue the operation. This is especially true of Postal Administration, which requires hundreds of different forms to conduct the daily business. The only immediate answer is "Improvisation", using the forms of the previous administration either directly or modified to suit the needs of the new authority. The periods during which "Improvisation" exists are called "Interim" periods.

The term "Interim" is used in philately to describe a period of necessary improvisation by an authority before it has had time to provide its own postal materials. In this sense, it is synonymous with the terms "transitional" and "provisional" which are often found in the literature in referring to such periods. Actually, the time frame can vary for different aspects of postal service during the same "Interim" period with reference to: 1) stamps and stationery, 2) cancellations, 3) related postal materials. While the start of the "Interim" periods are usually known accurately, determining the termination of the various aspects of postal service is quite difficult at times. In some cases, "Interim" use can involve some extended periods of "economy" use of materials.

There were three such periods in Palestine under British control.

- 1) The "First Interim" period with which we are concerned here began with the invasion of Southern Palestine on Jan. 9, 1917.
- 2) The "Second Interim" period deals with the period between the time when the British were closing postal facilities in Palestine starting on March 15th, 1948 and the authorities of the fledgling country could set up the first State of Israel's Postal Service terminating the use of Mandate materials.
- 3) The "Third Interim" period is lesser known. It involved the takeover from the Military Administration by the Civil Administration on July 1st, 1920.

To demonstrate the advance in the techniques used in the "Improvisation", examples will be shown of the use of postal forms during each "Interim" period. They will be shown in chronological order to show the improvement in the methods used to accomplish the necessary end. In each of the three successive periods, one example is illustrated to show the original form of the previous administration used until the new authority would provide its own form. Then a second form is illustrated to show a revised form for use by the new administration.

The Postal Administration in Palestine was always required to handle the services of other forms of communication. Of these, the "Telegraph" service was primary. As a matter of fact, the need for the telegraph service during the first "Interim" period preceded the need for mail service. Accordingly, one of the first "Improvised" forms is shown in Figure 24. The Egyptian telegraph form would have an "O.E.T.A." (Occupied Enemy Territory Administration) hand stamp overprinted on the form. Figure 25 shows the first form printed for General use by



283		Dist. No. 263	Words 21	Date Stamp J 24. 1941 ARMY SIGNALS		EGYPTIAN STATE TELEGRAPHS جمهورية المخابرات المصرية		No. 11
RECEIVED AT 9140	TO At By alt	FROM 1545	BY alt	British State Lco Jeffs		O. E. T. A. PALESTINE		
MESSAGE 11/11/41 Haifa				Date of Origin 8		Time of Origin 0910		
Henry Frick libere service sera en et Jeffs done huitains prier prevarir major James Wechsler Levy								

Figure 24

No. 14		Original No. 1869	Words 14	Date Stamp ١٤	T. 3	B. & C. OCCUPIED ENEMY TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION PALESTINE-TELEGRAPHS
From ر At السفارة By الترانس	SENT	To ال At السفارة By الترانس	RECEIVED JAFPA ٥ DE 19 CEP	To Ravn Anglsbank Jfa	ال	
REMARKS				ملاحظات		
Office of Origin مكتب المصدور Cairo	Date تاريخ ١٤	Time وقت ١٤				
<p>Analysis pressantes de marches into iron and steel, especially at a new cable steel and steel, information at Chirchberg</p>						

*Figure 25*

the public, by the military administration. The form contains the necessary preprinted contents and the layout is similar to the previously used Egyptian form.

Now let us examine forms used during the later but lesser known "Third Interim" period when the Civil Administration took over control from the Military Administration. Figure 26 shows a form for reporting "Letter And Parcel Post Errors". This is actually a British forms coded P. 1126B according to the British system with a "Printer's Legend" (Revd. 100739/28). However, this form was "improvised" for use in Palestine in 1932. Now examine Figure 27. This form is a duplicate of Figure 26 with only the references to the "Bankers Letter" below and "London Offices" above having been eliminated. In addition, this form is Palestine coded P.T. 589. The form shown in Figure 27 was used in 1945. There is no way of knowing when Form P.T. 589 was first introduced. What is significant only is the similarity of this "Improvisation" used to the original form.

**LETTER AND PARCEL POST ERROR**

P. 1126 B.  
(Revd. 100379/28)

Name of Office in fault Jerusalem

When reporting London Offices it must be stated whether the Bag or other receptacle received from the Inland, E.C., or Foreign Section, or from a Post Office in London. When reporting a T.P.O. the full designation of the Mail must be given.)

Description of Mail Correspondence whether Letter, Parcel, or Combined)

Date of Mail and Time of Despatch 10.8.32 1:29 M.

Nature of Error Mis-sent

Signature of Reporting Officer [Signature]

**POSTMASTER'S CERTIFICATE**

13 AUG 1932

Ret. 11 Clock 4:30 1932

Place where posted. Date. Time of Index. No. of Letters. Date Stamp. Figures.

**Particulars of Postal Packets irregularly treated.**

HOW ADDRESSED.		* No. for each town.			Whether in labelled or unlabelled bundle or loose in bag.	Correct address of incompletely or incorrectly addressed items.
PROPERLY ADDRESSED ITEMS.	INCOMPLETELY OR INCORRECTLY ADDRESSED ITEMS.	Small Letters and Parcels.	Large Letters.	Packets and News.		
	<u>Bamallah.</u>	<u>1</u>				<u>Labelled parcel</u>
	<u>24/7/1932</u>					

\* If a Bundle or a Banker's Letter is mis-sent, the fact should be stated.

Mr. A. S. [Signature] To note the mis-sending. 13/8 1932

The Head Postmaster, Noted. 14.8.1932 [Signature]

12/8

Figure 26



[illegible]

**Figure 27**

Now let us look at the last of the three "Interim" periods, known as the "Second Interim" period and the necessary "Improvisations" at this time. This is found when the newly formed State of Israel took over the Postal Administration. Shown in Figures 28a and 28b are the front and back of Form P.T. 602, "A requisition for Postage Stamps, etc." As listed in the compilation of Palestine P.T. Forms. This Form has a "Printer's Legend" reading 33568-10000-16.9.46-G.C.P., clearly printed for use during the Palestine Mandate. However, this particular form was obviously "Improvised" for use by the State of Israel on August 28, 1948 (The "Printer's Legend" is encircled by A.M.H. for clarity).

Now look at Figures 29a & 29b, duplicated in every detail of Figures 28a & 28b with one significant omission: There is no "Printers Legend", indicating that this form was printed for use by the State of Israel. Actually, as the date indicates, it was used on September 3rd, 1948. While the contents of the two sets of forms front and back, were identical, the type characteristics are different. Note, too, that the State of Israel continued the use of the same numbering system for its forms as was used by Palestine authorities. However, they later changed the initials from P.T. to .p.7 the Hebrew equivalent letters found on later forms.

Chief Accountant,  
I request to be supplied with the stock detailed below:—  
Office 25 date 25 1947 P.T. 602

POSTAGE STAMPS				REVENUE STAMPS				POSTAGE DUE LABELS			
Denomination	Quantity	Value required		Denomination	Quantity	Value required		Denomination	Quantity	Value required	
		LP.	Mils			LP.	Mils			LP.	Mils
2 mils				5 mils				1 mil			
3 "				10 "				2 mils			
4 "				20 "				4 "			
5 "				50 "				6 "			
6 "				100 "				8 "			
7 "				250 "				10 "			
8 "				500 "				15 "			
10 "								20 "			
13 "				Value in hand				50 "			
15 "				LP. : Mils	Total						
20 "								Value in hand		Total	
30 "								LP. : Mils			
50 "				REPLY COUPONS							
100 "											
200 "				Quantity required		Value		Official Publications on Wireless			
250 "						LP. : Mils		Licence Books			
500 "				International				Quantity		Value	
LP 1				Imperial				LP. : Mils			
Value in hand				Value in hand				Value in hand		Total	
LP. : Mils	Total			LP. : Mils	Total			LP. : Mils	Total		

Received from Chief Accountant credit stock as under:—

Postage Stamps	Revenue Stamps	Postage Due Labels	Reply Coupons	Wir. L. Books	Official Publications
LP. : Mils	LP. : Mils	LP. : Mils	LP. : Mils	LP. : Mils	LP. : Mils
Office Date Stamp	Date stock supplied	Date recorded in stock book	Date of Cash Account in which Credited	Signature of Postmaster	

Figure 28 (a)

Chief Accountant,  
I request to be supplied with the stock detailed below:—  
Office 25 date 25 1947 P.T. 602

STAMPED POSTAL STATIONERY				RED CROSS VOUCHERS				P.O.B. RENTAL CARDS					
Quantity		Value		Description	Quantity		Value		Description	Quantity		Value	
LP.	Mils	LP.	Mils		LP.	Mils	LP.	Mils		LP.	Mils		
eg. Envs Small size	30	Mils		Postal Message 50 mils					P.T. 635				
do Medium size	40	"		Reply Coupon 30 mils					635(a)				
do Large size	50	"							635(b)				
Post Cards Island	9	"		Telephone Directories & Civilian Air Letters					636				
do Internat'l	10	"							636(a)				
Letter Cards	13	"		Description	Quantity	Value			636(b)				
Wrappers	3	"			LP.	Mils			254				
"	4	"							254(a)				
									254(b)				
Value in hand				Value in hand				Value in hand					
LP.		Mils	Total	LP.		Mils	Total	LP.		Mils	Total		

The Postmaster,

Postal Agent

Stocks as detailed are herewith

Chief Accountant

Date

Received from Chief Accountant credit stock as under:—

Stamped Stat.	Red Cross Vouchers	Civilian Air Letters	Teleph. Directories	P.O.B. Rental Cards
LP. : Mils	Message LP. : Mils	LP. : Mils	LP. : Mils	LP. : Mils
Office Date Stamp	Coupons LP. : Mils			
Date stock supplied	Date recorded in stock book	Date of Cash account in which credited	Signature of Postmaster	

Figure 28 (b)



Chief Accountant,  
I request to be supplied with the stock detailed below:—

Office 901, 9010, 10 date 2. 9. 48 19 48 10. 9. 48 Postmaster.

P. T. 602

POSTAGE STAMPS				REVENUE STAMPS				POSTAGE DUE LABELS			
Deno-mination	Quantity	Value required		Deno-mination	Quantity	Value required		Deno-mination	Quantity	Value required	
		LP.	Mils			LP.	Mils			LP.	Mils
2 mils				5 mils				1 mil			
3 "				10 "				2 mils			
4 "				20 "				4 "			
5 "	30.000	150	000	50 "				6 "			
6 "				100 "				8 "			
7 "				250 "				10 "			
8 "				500 "				13 "			
10 "				Value in hand				20 "			
13 "				LP : Mils	Total			50 "			
15 "								Value in hand		Total	
20 "				REPLY COUPONS				LP : Mils			
50 "				Quantity required				Value			
100 "				LP.				LP.	Mils		
200 "				International				Official Publications on Wireless			
250 "				Imperial				Licence Books			
500 "				Value in hand				Quantity			
LP 1				LP : Mils				LP.			
Value in hand				LP : Mils				Value			
LP : mils	Total	150	000	LP : Mils				LP : Mils			
				Total				Total			

Received from Chief Accountant credit stock as under:—

Revenue Stamps	Postage Due Labels	Reply Coupons	Wir. L. Books	Official Publications
LP.	Mils	LP.	Mils	LP.
Date stock supplied		2. 9. 48		
Date recorded in stock book		3. 9. 48		
Date of Cash Account in which Credited		10. 9. 48		
Signature of Postmaster <u>10. 9. 48</u>				

Figure 29 (a)

Chief Accountant,  
I request to be supplied with the stock detailed below:—

Office 901, 9010, 10 date 2. 9. 48 19 48 10. 9. 48 Postmaster.

P. T. 602

STAMPED POSTAL STATIONERY				RED CROSS VOUCHERS				P. O. B. RENTAL CARDS			
Quantity required	Value			Description	Quantity	Value	Description	Quantity	Value		
	LP.	Mils			LP.	Mils		LP.	Mils		
Reg. Envs. Small size 30 Mils				Postal Message 55 mils			P. T. 635				
do Medium size 40 "				Reply Coupons 30 mils			635 (a)				
do Large size 50 "							635 (b)				
Post Cards Inland 9 "				Telephone Directories & Civilian Air Letters			636				
do Internet 10 "							636 (a)				
Letter Cards 13 "							636 (b)				
Wrappers 3 "							254				
" 4 "							254 (a)				
							254 (b)				
Value in hand				Total			Total				
LP.	Mils	Total									

The Postmaster,  
Postal Agent

Stocks as detailed are herewith

Chief Accountant,  
Date 19 48

Received from Chief Accountant credit stock as under:—

Red Cross Vouchers	Civilian Air Letters	P. O. B.
Message LP.	Teleph. Directories	LP.
Coupon LP.		
Date stock supplied		
Date recorded in stock book		
Date of Cash Account in which credited		
Signature of Postmaster		

Figure 29 (b)

## Mail of The Jewish Quarter - Jerusalem, 1948

*Z. Aloni, Phoham*

### 1. General Information.

The Jewish Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem was practically under siege as from November, 1947 and the condition was deteriorating rapidly. Convoys were arranged to support the people in the Old City\*. On 3 January, the intelligence service of the Hagana received information that the Arabs were planning an attack on the convoy coming to the Old City near "Jaffa Gate". The siege was complete; for more than a week no convoy entered the Old City, it was detained in the New City at the "Va'ad Hakehila" yard (the Public Committee) on Jaffa Road.

At the end of January an agreement was reached regarding the convoys to the Old City. The British Army agreed to escort three convoys a week, consisting of 3 small vehicles only, which had to be controlled at Arab checkpoints as well. Nevertheless longer intervals between convoys happened from time to time. The convoys carried food supplies and medical and educational personnel to replace those who have finished their service.

Aharon Liron (Altshuler) in his book "The Old City in Battle and Siege"<sup>1</sup> mentions: *"In the days on which convoys reached us, the usual mail service was provided by a young civilian, Abraham Cohen, who was later killed on the day when the "Nisan Bek" synagogue fell to the enemy"*. The letters were sometimes delayed, either by fault of the military (British Army) or by lack of efficiency in the office of the "Public Committee" in New Jerusalem. "Va'ad Hakehila" was in charge of the supply of civilian support to the Old City, including the mail, incoming and outgoing (e.g. Fig. 30).<sup>2</sup>

### 2. Unmarked Mail

Most of the mail from the Old City had no special markings by which it could be identified as have coming from that area, unless there was a clear sender address or a positive verification that the letter was sent from the Old City. Dr. E. Proper, who was a medical officer, and often carried the mail from the Old City in the convoys, stated that: "All the mail was neither franked nor marked, I personally took care of posting it in the New City".

Such verified correspondent from the Old City, is Miriam Neustadt's letters. Miriam Neustadt was the commander of the "Hagana" girls in the Old City, and she wrote frequently to her family in Tel Aviv, where her father was one of the "Histadrut" members. Most of her letters were mailed by Mr. Dvorkin from the Jewish Agency, a few of them were flown to Tel Aviv by the army planes. Most of the covers are dated, by manuscript probably by the dates of the enclosed letters. The letters covered the period March-May, 1948 (see Figs. 31 - 33). Miriam Neustadt left the Old City on the last convoy with the Hagana girls, on 13th May.

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\* In this article "Old City" always refers to "Old City Jewish Quarter".



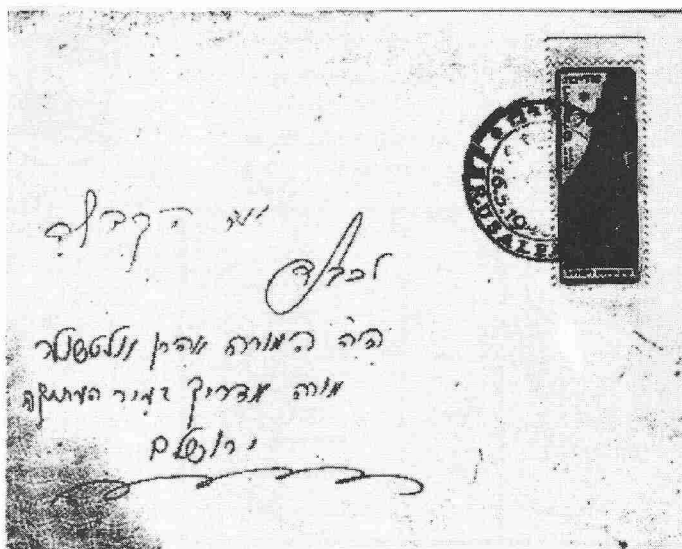
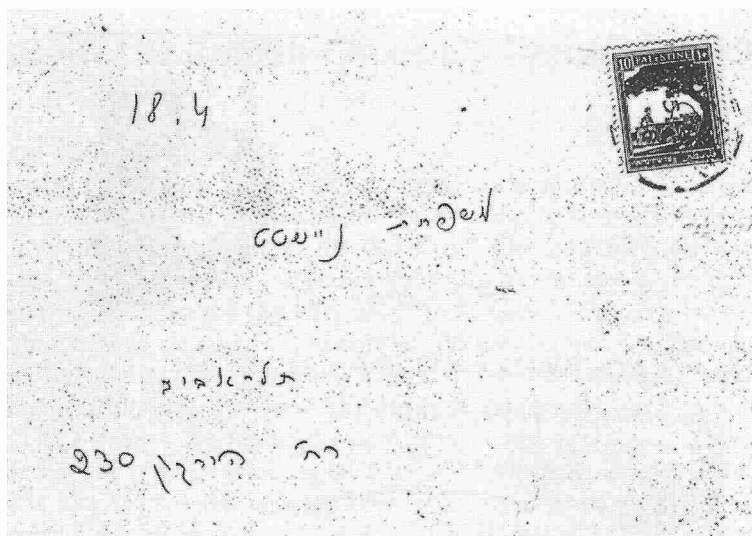


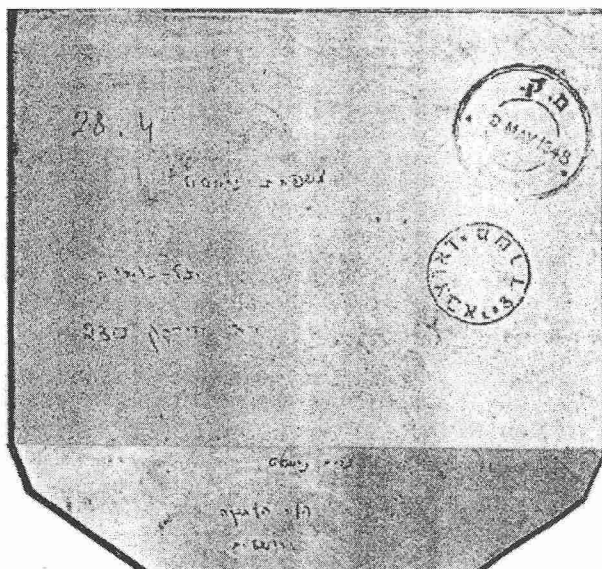
Fig. 30: A letter addressed to Aharon Altshuler (later Liron), teacher in the Old City, Jerusalem, sent on 16th May, but never reached the Old City. Marked by the post office clerk "Va'ad Hakehila", to be delivered by the next convoy. (Actually delivered 52 years later).



Fig. 31: A letter sent from the Old City, by Miriam Neustadt to her family in Tel Aviv. Written on 4 March, 1948, transferred from the Old City by one of the convoys, and sent to Tel Aviv by taxi Yael, Rehavia Branch on 12 March. 80 mils + 5 mils "Kofer Hayeshuv" were prepaid by the sender, "Miriam, the Old City, Jerusalem" (hand written on reverse).



**Fig. 32:** Another letter from the Old City, by Miriam Neustadt to her family. Written on 18 April, 1948, flown to Tel Aviv by army plane and cancelled upon arrival with the single circle Mandate postmark, 5 May, 1948, the last day of Mandate post in Tel Aviv. On the back the sender address, "Miriam, the Old City".



**Fig. 33:** Another Miriam Neustadt letter from the Old City to her family in Tel Aviv. Written on 28 April, cancelled by the "Hagana" "Misrad Kesher" (הגנה) postmark of 8 May it was flown to Tel Aviv by army plane and cancelled upon arrival with the A.P.O. 3 dateless postmark, which was in use 22 - 27 May.



### 3. The First Postmark

Moshe Rusnak was the commander of the Old City forces from the beginning of March, when Halperin, the former commander was arrested and deported to the New City. Rusnak was a prisoner of war of the Arab Legion in Mafrak, and was released on March 1949. He initiated the manufacturing of a postmark in order to mark official mail from the Old City. The story of the "Birth" of the postmark (which we shall name the First Wall Postmark) - as told by Moshe Rusnak - is published in the previous Bulletin. As narrated there, this cachet was designed with the idea of a wall-like frame resembling the Arms of a Beitar youth movement "Brit Ha'hashmona'yim" (see Fig. 34).



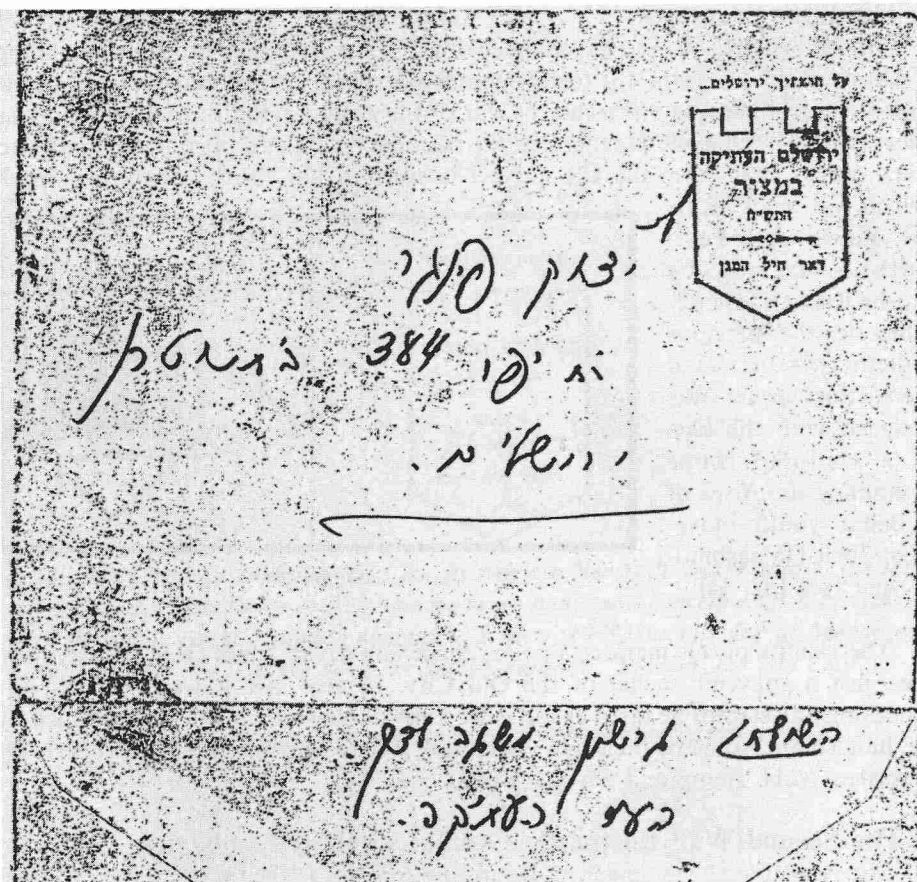
Figure 34

The validity of this mark as a postal cancelling device is not clear - it may have been just a souvenir cachet of the Old City. In any case it was not used for cancelling any stamps de facto as far as we know. Some letters are known struck by the handstamp, some of them are stamp-less (Fig. 35), some franked properly by Jerusalem M.H. stamp and postmark (e.g., Fig. 36).

### 4. The Second Wall Postmark - Abulafia rubber handstamp

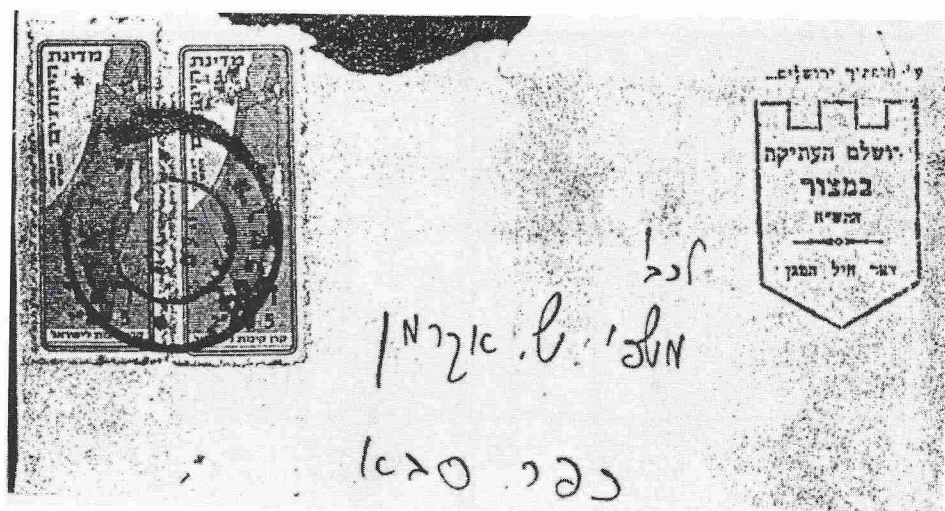
Mr. Abulafia, at the time in charge of the supplies to the Old City forces, states that on the receipt of a request from Jacob Tangi he arranged the manufacture and supply of a special rubber handstamp which, together with a supply of Minhelet Ha'am stamps, was sent to the Old City on 10th May when the last convoy entered the Old City. Discussing the matter with Rusnak, Moshe noted that the only radio was in his office, and nobody can use it unless authorized by him. He said that the reason for asking for a special postmark was that the one in use was not portable and without a changeable date slug. Looking at the rubber postmark we can see that the date is "Yiar Tashach". Alef Yiar was 10th May, Monday, the day that the last convoy entered the Old City. It is unlikely that the manufacturer of the postmark would create one with such a resemblance to the first metal type made in the Old City a few weeks before.

A number of letters cancelled with this rubber device are known, part of them with a transit "rosette" postmark of the sorting office, and part without (Fig. 37, 38 and on the Front Cover). In my opinion the letters were made as souvenirs by the people involved, even if some of them past through the legitimate postal service.

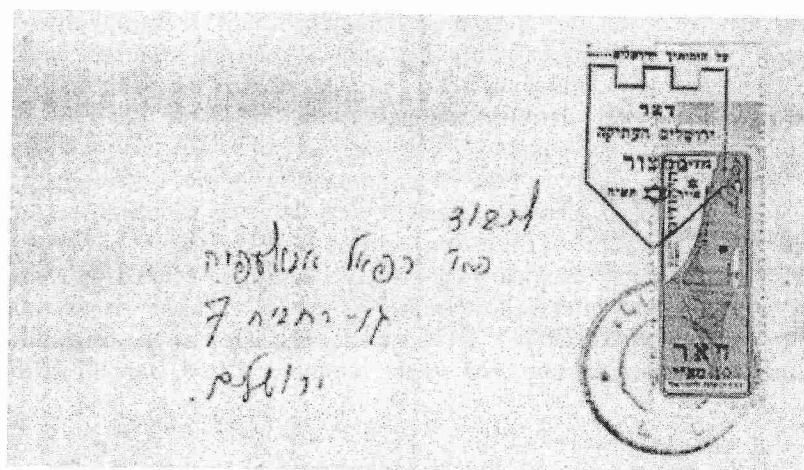


*Fig. 35: A courier letter from Gershon Finger from the Old City, taken out by one of the convoys to his father in West Jerusalem struck with the "First Wall Postmark". Gershon Finger was the armorer of the Hagana forces in the Old City, and left the quarter on the last convoy, 13 May, in order to take care of his sick father, and was unable to come back to the Old City. Rusnak told me that he personally authorized Finger's leave, and that was the reason he was not taken a war prisoner.*

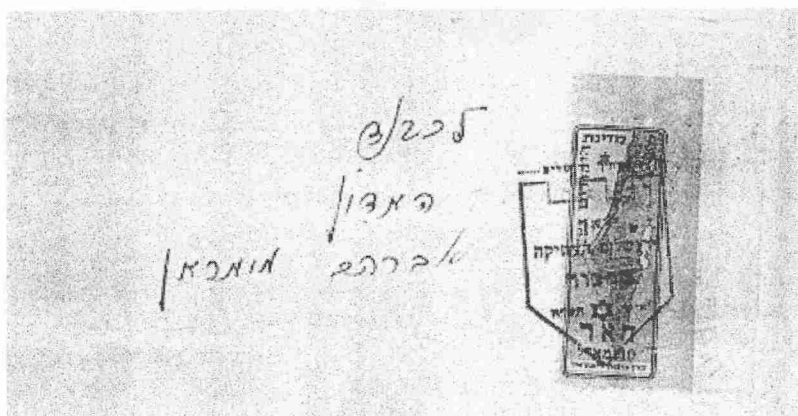




*Fig. 36: A letter sent from the Old City, handstamped with the First Wall Postmark, to Akerman in Kefar Saba. It was taken out by courier in one of the convoys going out of the Old City and then posted in a civilian post box. Franked 10 mil Jerusalem stamps and cancelled by the "rosette" postmark of the sorting office.*



*Fig. 37: Letter sent from the Old City, franked by Second Jerusalem issue 10 mil stamp and cancelled by the Abulafia Rubber Postmark and transit "rosette" postmark. Addressed to Mr. Refael Abulafia. (No sender's address on reverse).*



**Fig. 38: Letter sent from the Old City franked by Second Jerusalem issue 10 mil stamp and cancelled by the Abulafia Rubber Postmark, without the "rosette" transit cancellation.**

These letters were taken out from the Old City on 13th May when the last convoy left, or on 28th May when those who were not taken as prisoners by the Arab Legion, left for the New City.

Since a large number of "replicas" have also subsequently appeared on the market, the validity of this postmark must remain in doubt. It is quite interesting that none of the covers in existence has any attestation attached as to its authenticity. According to Glassman<sup>4</sup> there is a letter of May 1948 and three letters of 1951 by people who were involved, who certify that all details told above about the Abulafia Postmark were correct.

These letters weigh in favor of the Abulafia handstamp, but on the other hand the necessity of philatelists already so early to deal with this problem does not by itself help the case. Nevertheless these covers, when they appeared to be commercial commanded very high prices when (very rarely) they were offered in Auctions. Figure 39 shows the four letters whose translation from the Hebrew is given below (courtesy E. Glassman): Letter No. 1 (upper left) is a copy of the original letter ordering the Old City handstamp. The others, numbered 2 to 4, were all written in 1951.



① 5/2

לכבוד  
הגב' יוגל וזמר אבולעפיה

הנני להודיעכם בזה ששרדתי  
לכם את הדברים הנכבדים

להמציא ולהכין חותמת דאר  
רגילה של המדינה העברית בצירוף  
המלים במסגור בעיר העתיקה וכן  
בולי דאר שתוצאו על ידכם

להמציא לנו באופן דחוף  
300 שחילים לעגבניות. האדמה חקשמה

אם הג'ל סרס מוכן, נא לשלח  
לנו את הכל בקיפה שליוס ד'.

ב ב ר כ ה

9.8.48

X (1) מנה מנה 100,000 (המנה)  
מנה (המנה) 100,000 (המנה)

③ ירושלים, 9.5.51

לכל הסגובין בדבר

הנני מעיד בזה כי כיום התקבל מכתב מר יעקב טננ'י  
מיום 9.5.48 בו בקש לשלח לו חותמת דואר סיומת  
עם המלים "במסגור בעיר העתיקה", המכתב מיד  
אצל מר אליהו אורבך, בעל המרסא "קדימה" אשר  
בנחלת שבעה ברחוב יפו, ושלחתיה בין יתר הדברים  
שבקש עם השיירה שנכנסה לעיר העתיקה.  
מר טננ'י היה ביחד עם הרב יצחק אורנשטיין ו'ל  
האחראי לצרכי תושבי העיר העתיקה אשר היתה במסגור,  
סמסע ועד הקהלה בירושלים.

רמאל אבולעפיה

הכתובת:  
רמאל אבולעפיה  
מנהל בית החולים טננ'י בדרך  
ירושלים.

② ירושלים, 7.5.51

לכל-הסגובין בדבר

הנני מעיד בזה כי בהתקבל מכתב מיום 9.5.48  
ממר יעקב טננ'י, המסגור על עניני העיר העתיקה  
בתקופת המסגור בעיר העתיקה, בו הוא מבקש לשלח  
לו חותמת דאר בצירוף המלים "במסגור בעיר העתיקה"  
וכן בולי דאר עבריים שתוצאו כמסגור, חותמה  
החותמת אצל עושה החותמות "קדימה" ברחוב יפו,  
ונשלחה אליו כשיירה הראשונה לעיר העתיקה, עם  
יתר הדברים שהזכיר.

שוכה יוגל-הורביץ

הכתובת: שוכה יוגל הורביץ  
מרכזת רשת גני הילדים הצעירים בירושלים

④ תל-אביב, 13 במאי, 1951.

לכל מנה דכע

בסדר מוכר ונאמרי לעניני העיר העתיקה, בזמן  
היותה במסגור, הדיני לאשר בזה כי בזמן עזר לפני  
סיום המנדט ונחלק הממלכה בין ירושלים העברית  
ועיר העתיקה, שרדתי בקשה (דרך שטור המבנה)  
ואחר כך ארדתי זאת בכח אל מר רמאל אבולעפיה  
ובמני טובה יוגל, שחיד מסגור במסגור על עניני  
העיר העתיקה שסמסע המסגור היותה בדרך הקהלה,  
לשלח לי בין היתר חותמת דאר עם המלים  
"במסגור בעיר העתיקה"

הנני וזכר שזה חותמת דואר עכלתי ולדו מסמקי  
להחלים מכתבים אחרים שנשלחו גם בדרך ובמנה  
לדרך עם הדאר שיגה בשיירה המסגורית בשמים המסגורית.  
את חותמת וכתובת שנסגרו המסגורית במסגור לעניני  
העיר העתיקה אשר שולחתיה במני הענין אחרים  
שבער יייר.

יעקב טננ'י - בעל  
מי שהיה המנהל והמנהל  
לעניני העיר העתיקה במסגור

יעקב טננ'י בעל  
מנהל המסגור, מנהל המסגור,  
בניק מסגור מנהל המסגור  
דמי אלגבי 180  
תל-אביב.

Fig. 39: Letters concerning the Old City (Jewish Quarter) Mark  
(courtesy E. Glassman).

**Letter 1:** To Mrs. Yugal and Mr. Abulafia,

"This is to advise that I have notified you about the following items:

- (a) To supply and prepare a regular postal handstamp of the Hebrew State with the additional words 'Under siege in the Old City' and postage stamps issued by yourselves.
- (b) To prepare for us urgently 500 tomato seedlings. The earth is hard. If the above are ready, please send them to us with the convoy of Wednesday. With regards.  
Signed (Tenghi)"

In handwriting next to (a): "You must admit that this will be a great historical occasion".

**Letter 2:** 7.5.51, Jerusalem

"To whom it may concern

It is hereby certified that upon the receipt of the letter on 9.5.48 from Mr. Jacob Tenghi, officer in charge of the affairs in the Old City during the siege of the Old City, in which he requested to be sent a postal handstamp with the added words 'Under siege in the Old City', and also Hebrew stamps issued then, the hand stamp was ordered from the maker Kadimah, in Jaffa road, and sent to him by the first convoy to the Old City with the other items ordered."

Tova Yigal-Horowitz, Coordinator, Public Kindergarden organization, Jerusalem.

**Letter 3:** 9.5.51, Jerusalem

"To all who are interested

I hereby give witness that on the day that the letter from Mr. Jacob Tenghi dated 9.5.48 was received in which he requested to be sent a special postal handstamp with the words 'Under siege in the Old City', it was ordered immediately from Eliahu Auerbach, owner of the firm Kadimah, in Nahlat Shiva on Jaffa road, and was sent with other items ordered with the convoy that entered the Old City. Mr. Tenghi was with Rabbi Isaac Orenstein, responsible for the needs of the Old City inhabitants who were under siege, appointed by the Public Committee of Jerusalem".

Raphael Abulafia (Director, Misgav Ladach Hospital, Jerusalem).

**Letter 4:** Tel Aviv 13.5.51

"To whom it may concern

As secretary and responsible for the Old City affairs, when it was besieged, I certify herewith that a short time before the end of the Mandate, with the stopping of the transport between the Jewish area of Jerusalem and the Old City, I arranged a request (through the Hagana office) and afterwards confirmed this by letter to Mr. Raphael Abulafia and Mrs. Tova Yugal, who were the officers in charge at that time on Old City affairs appointed by the Jewish Agency Public Committee, to send me amongst others a postal handstamp with the words 'Under siege in the Old City'.

I remember that I received the postal handstamp and managed to cancel a few



letters that were sent out to this country and to foreign countries with the post that left with the last convoy or the last two convoys. The handstamp and postage stamps were left in the office when I was imprisoned by the Arab Legion over the Jordan".

Jacob Tenghi (past secretary responsible for the Old City under siege)  
Accountant, Insurance Section, Israel Union Bank, Allenby St., Tel Aviv.

## 5. The Third Wall Postmark - The Doctors' Postmark

In January, 1985 Mr. Aharon Liron interviewed Dr. Riss who was a member of the health forces in the Old City in April-May 1948. The interview took place at Mr. Uri Milstein's request. Among the things Dr. Riss told about a postmark that was made by him after the establishment of the Jewish State (Fig. 40):

*"I have an interesting story to tell you which is not exactly connected to the war, but somehow tells the spirit of the time. When the Palmach broke in, stamps were*

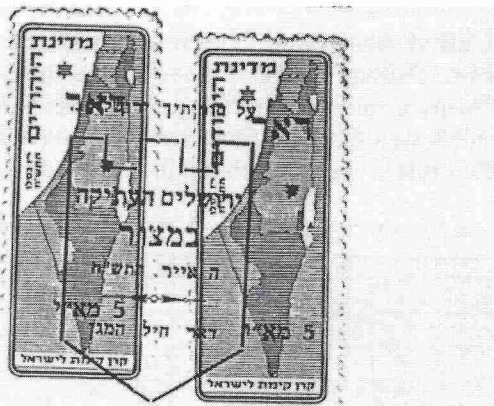


Fig. 40: The third "Wall Postmark" tying two "Jerusalem Stamps" of the First Issue to a plain cutout.



Fig. 41: The three Jewish Quarter "Wall Postmarks" side by side for easy comparison.

brought from the New City. (Stamps were brought to the Old City on 10th May by the last convoy, the Palmach entered 18th -19th May) ;K.K.L. or Doar Ivri stamps, or something like this. We were very impressed by it. Laufer said, "they even have stamps, we will have something as well, "STAMPINA", a postmark of the Army Post". I drew the emblem that is like a bus company Hamavir in Jerusalem, wall and shield, ... There was a small printing house, we made the postmark for letters and gave it to the people who left the Old City."

The postmark that was made by Dr. Riss was made in the same printing house, which made the first postmark and was based on the same device. The only difference is in the date, instead of "התשי"ח" the inscription is "ה' אייר התשי"ח". This postmark was used only on souvenir envelopes or cutouts, never on real mail that was sent from the Old City.

As the three Wall Postmarks are very similar to each other, we show in Figure 41 a photo of all of them side by side, to facilitate distinguishing between them.

## 6. The So-Called Army and Hagana Postmarks

I then showed Rusnak copies of the two large circle postmarks of the Old City, presumably "Army Command" or "Hagana" postmarks <sup>4, 5</sup> (Fig. 42). His reaction was: "I have never seen those postmarks and they have never been in use in the Old City". He added that it was probably fabricated later to defraud collectors.



Figure 42

## References:

- (1) Aharon Liron, "The Old City in Battle and Siege".
- (2) Aharon Liron, private communication.
- (3) Zvi Aloni, HLP# #81-82 (2000), p. 81.
- (4) Emanuel Glassman, "The Postal History of Jerusalem from 1948".
- (5) P. Kanner, "Mail of the Jewish Enclaves in Jerusalem during the Siege, 1948".



\* \* \* \* \*

## SHORT NOTES AND DISCOVERIES

\* \* \* \* \*

### The Ottoman Period

#### An Unusual Taxed Telegram Receipt (*A. Kaplanian, J. Kaufmann*)

Sending a telegram from the Ottoman Empire during the period 8 July, 1915 and 19 February, 1919 necessitated the payment of a "War Orphan Tax" which according to Collins and Steichele in the latest book<sup>1</sup>, should amount to 5 piastres per telegram.

Shown here in Figure 43 is a sheet of five attached telegram receipts forming a whole page from the book of receipts. Although the sender of each telegram is a different person, and the destination of each telegram is a different place, it seems that these telegrams were sent and paid for by one person or organization. The receipts were filled by hand starting from the top to the bottom and they carry the chronological numbers 1617 to 1621. The number of words sent in each telegram, again from top to bottom is: 23, 24, 11, 14 and 15.

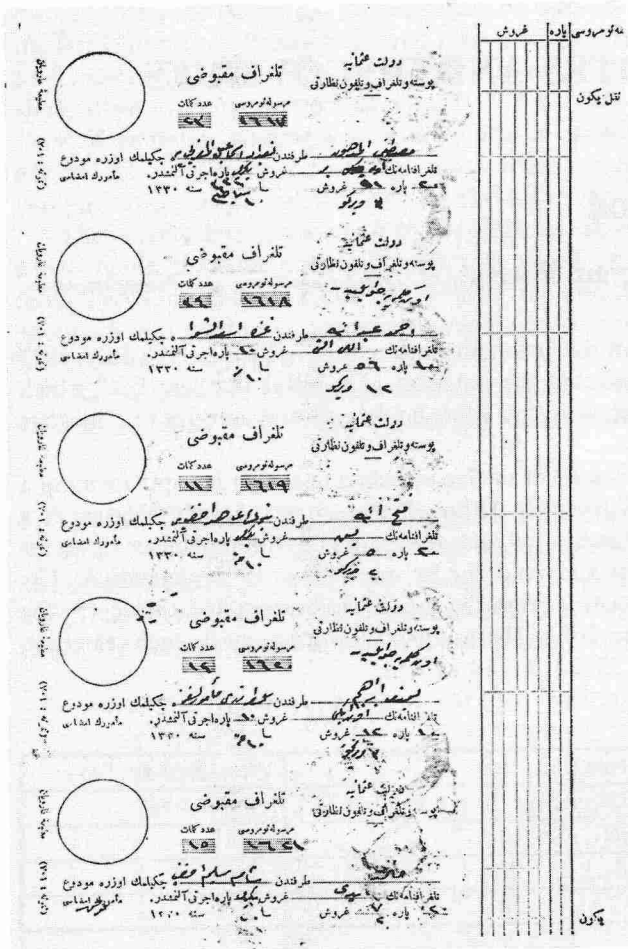
The fees and "War Orphan Tax" paid for these telegrams are as follows:

Telegram No.	Telegram fee	War Orphan Tax
1617	32 piastres 20 paras	3 piastres
1618	56 " 10 "	12 "
1619	5 " 20 "	2 "
1620	12 " 10 "	3 "
1621	7 " 20 "	2 "
Total		22 piasters

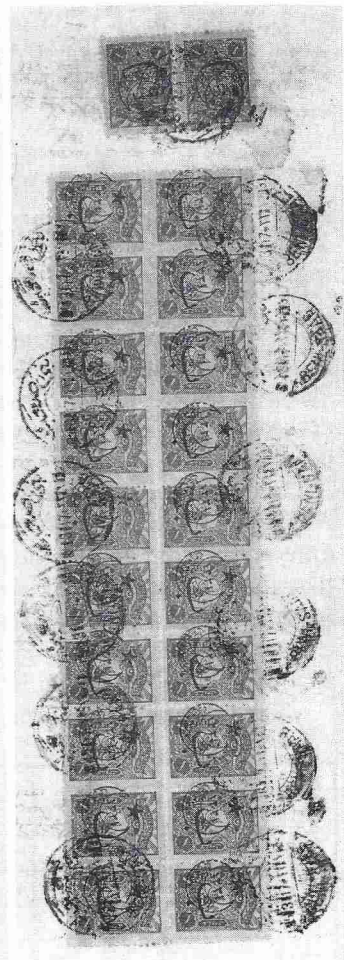
The total of the "War Orphan Tax" paid by sticking stamps on the back is 22 piastres (see Figure 44) and not 25 piastres as stated by Collins and Steichele. Furthermore, we see that the amount of this tax varies per telegram apparently according to the number of words and destination and is definitely not a uniform amount per telegram regardless of content and destination.

When we look at the back of these five receipts, we see 22 one piastre tax stamps stuck to complete the needed total tax money. These 22 stamps were cancelled by 13 black bilingual bridge type postmarks of Beni-Saab (Collins & Steichele type PM3, p. 44), dated 10 March, 1917.

What makes this item more interesting and certainly unusual is first, the fact that all five telegrams were sent simultaneously at the same time; second, the use of such a big block of 20 war tax stamps (plus 2); and third, the presence of 13 Beni-



**Fig. 43: A strip of five (full page) of telegram receipts of Beni-Saab with War Orphan Tax Stamps, (s. next Figure) from March, 1917.**



**Fig. 44: Back of telegram strip.**

Saab postmarks. Could this be the biggest known piece so far with so many of this "War Orphan Tax" stamps and so many of this Beni-Saab postmark?

#### References:

- (1) N.J. Collins, A. Steichele, "The Ottoman Posts and Telegram Offices in Palestine and Sinai", Sahara publications Ltd., London (2000).



## More about the R-Labels of the French P.O. in Palestine

*(George H. Muentz, Tel Aviv)*

Two additional registered covers with R-labels of the French P.O. in the Holy Land have been recently reported to the author bringing the total of recorded covers to 14.

The cover illustrated below (courtesy of our member Z. Alexander - Fig. 45) was posted in Jerusalem on Sept, 2 1910. The R-label (type Bb) differs from type B labels in one aspect: the size of "JERUSALEM", handstamped in black, is different: 18mm x (ca) 4mm instead of 25mm x 3mm.

The cover mailed in Haifa on May 2, 1910 (early date) bears an R-Label type E (Fig. 46).

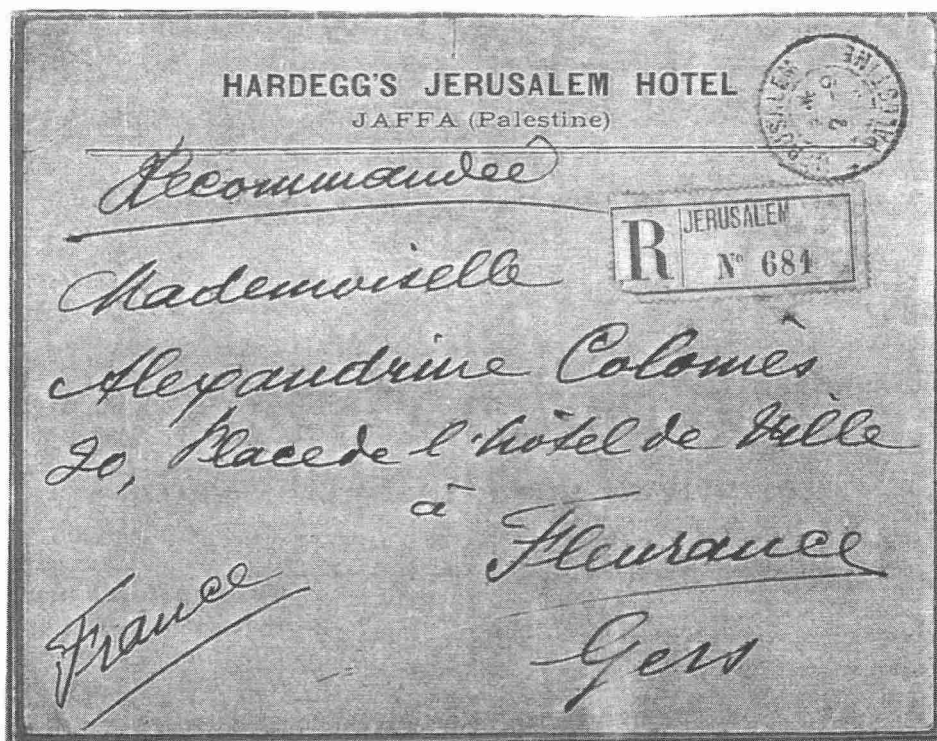


Fig. 45: Registered cover from Jerusalem to France with unrecorded R-Label type Bb No. 681 (Jerusalem in tall narrow letters).



Fig. 46: Registered cover from Haifa to Germany with type "E" R-Label No. 432 (Coll. Cihangir).

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## The British Mandate Period

### Express Services during the British Mandate, Minhelet Ha'am and the Young State of Israel

*(Z. Aloni, Phoham)*

In Hochheiser and Groten's article, "More on Express Rates and Regulations in Palestine", we can find a postal form dealing with some express and special delivery charges, and some examples of "Express" letters. The article is somewhat confusing and the issues is not sufficiently clear, due partly to a sometimes incorrect translation of a Hebrew Postal document into English.

A careful reading of the "Palestine Post Office Guide" of April, 1948 reveal some very interesting information regarding the "Express Services" that have been given by the postal authorities. Since the Minhelet Ha'am and the young State of Israel Posts adopted the Mandate Postal Regulations, they would have had the same Express Services. There were three very distinctive services:

#### 1. "Conveyance of an article all the way by post office officer at the request of the sender"

*Postal packets for express delivery by this service are accepted at all post offices and postal agencies from which there is a delivery of telegrams.*

*Charges:*

<i>For the first 1 1/2 km. or part thereof</i>	<i>40 mils</i>
<i>For above 1 1/2 km. And not more than 3 km</i>	<i>80 mils</i>
<i>For every add. 1 1/2 km or part thereof</i>	<i>35 mils</i>
<i>(Ordinary postage is not charged.)</i>	

*If the sender wishes a taxi or other special conveyance, the actual charge is charged in addition to the kilometric fee.*

*If the postman messenger has to wait at the address, there is a waiting fee of 20 mils for each 10 minutes or part of ten minutes, beyond the first 10 minutes.*

Someone could send by this service money, jewelry, live animals and other packets according to the post office regulations. This service had to be prepaid at the post office and the letter or packet was sent immediately to its destination.

In Hochheiser's article we can find a similar structure of rates valid for that time (1939); "25,50 and 10 mils, respectively". This service is what we refer today to as "Messengers service". In this service only the post office of posting is involved.

Till now I have not seen any letter or packet posted and charged according to this service, probably because it was very expensive and seldom used and the prepayment was in the post office and not by stamps on the letter itself

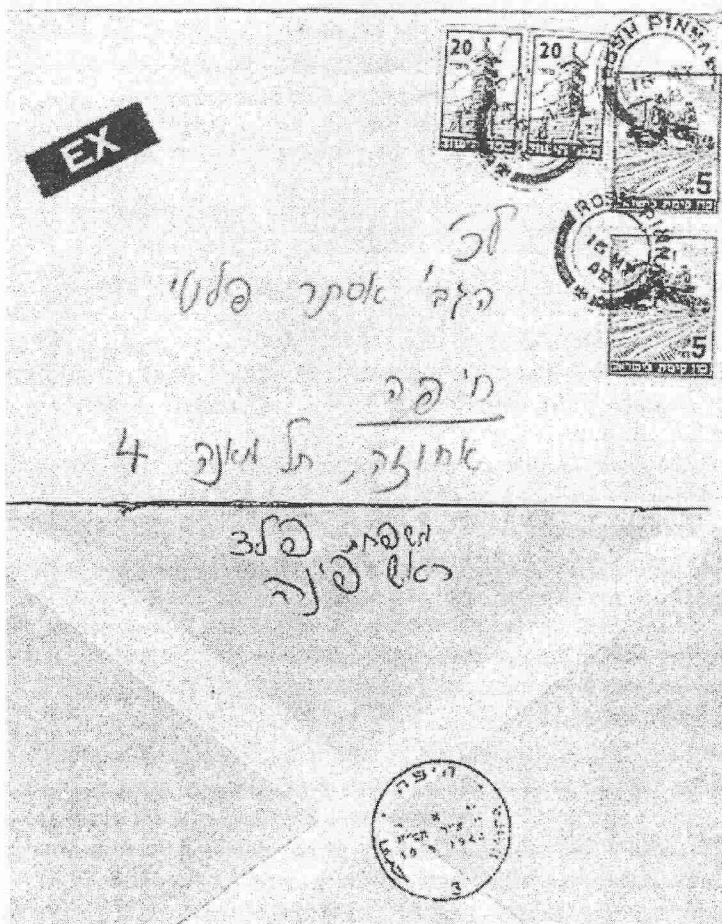
For example, for an "express" letter from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, about 70 km apart, the charge will be: 80 mils for the first 3 km + 1575 mils for the remaining 67 km + bus or taxi fee.

## 2. "Special Delivery" - by the sender

*"Under this service the sender of a postal packet may arrange for its special delivery after its arrival at the office of delivery. The packet is dispatched from the office of posting by the next ordinary post dispatch and receives no express treatment until it reaches the office of delivery, when it is picked out of the rest of the mail and delivered by special messenger."*

*Letters for special delivery may be handed in at a post office or, unless intended for registration, may be posted in a letterbox. If posted in a letterbox full charges should be prepaid in stamps."*

This is the service we call now "express mail" and the prepaid charge was, in 1948, 40 mils in addition to the regular fee of the letter, printed matter or packet. (e.g. Fig. 47).



**Fig. 47:** A "Special Delivery" prepaid express letter, sent from Rosh Pina, by ordinary mail to Haifa on 16th May, 1948, reached Haifa on the 19th (back stamped) and was delivered by "Special Delivery" to the addressee.

Our knowledge of the express fee is based on letters we have seen. In no place can I find a definite rate for "express" letters. We can assume that the "special delivery" service was given by the post office of delivery by a special messenger. In most cases the distance from the district post office or agency to the address was not more than 1.5 km and the first express rate for 1.5 km was used as prepayment for this service.

### 3. "Express service from office of delivery at request of addressee"

*"Application to this service must be signed by the persons to whom the postal packets are addressed"*

*The express fee on at least one packet must be prepaid in stamps affixed to the application form. All additional fees must be paid to the delivering officer on delivery.*

*Where express delivery is required regularly, one form of application is sufficient. The charges are collected on delivery of the postal packets".*

This service could be used for specific predicted letter, or on regular bases of incoming letters and packets. When a postal packet was received in the post office of delivery it was picked out from the bag and received an express treatment, and charged as such. Due to the fact that the postman collected the charge on delivery or on application in advance at the post office, no evidence of existing letters is known to me.

### References:

- (1) Hochheiser and Groten, "More on Express Rates and Regulations in Palestine", H.L.P.H. #56, p. 851.
- (2) "Palestine Post Office Guide", April 1948.

## Some More Examples of Fraudulent Use of Bisected Stamps During The British Mandate (G.H. Muentz)

1. Bogus bisects of the 2 pias 1918 (SG/Bale #11) have been described on p. 673 of our Bulletin (#79-80). An example is illustrated here (Fig. 48).
2. An enterprising philatelist from Ben Shemen has fabricated the envelope addressed to Tel Aviv using one and a half 10 mil pictorials (Fig. 49).
3. A special cancellation was in use during the 1946 Philatelic Exhibition in Tel Aviv. Paul Weiber (a local dealer) has fabricated, with the help of an obliging postal clerk, "printed matter" envelopes at the current rate of 3 mils using one and a half 2 mil stamps (SG Bale #90). Other visitors to the Exhibition used 3 mil stamps which were available in quantities (Fig. 50).



*Fig. 48: Bogus bisect of Palestine 1918, 2 pias. SG 11. Tied to piece by a genuine postmark  
FIELD POST OFFICE  
SZ 55, dated 18 JA 19.*



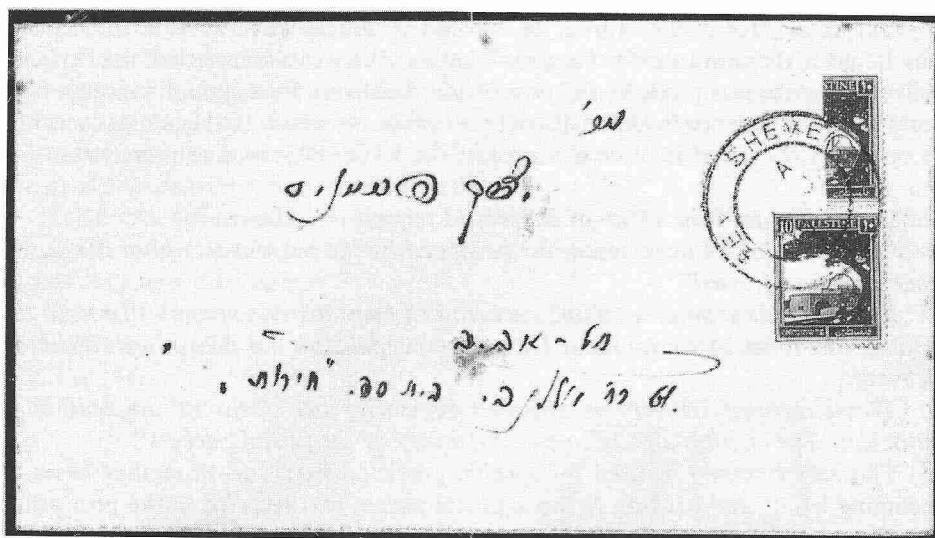


Fig. 49: Fraudulent bisect of 10mil Mandate Pictorial on cover from Ben Shemen to Tel Aviv. (courtesy Doron Waide).

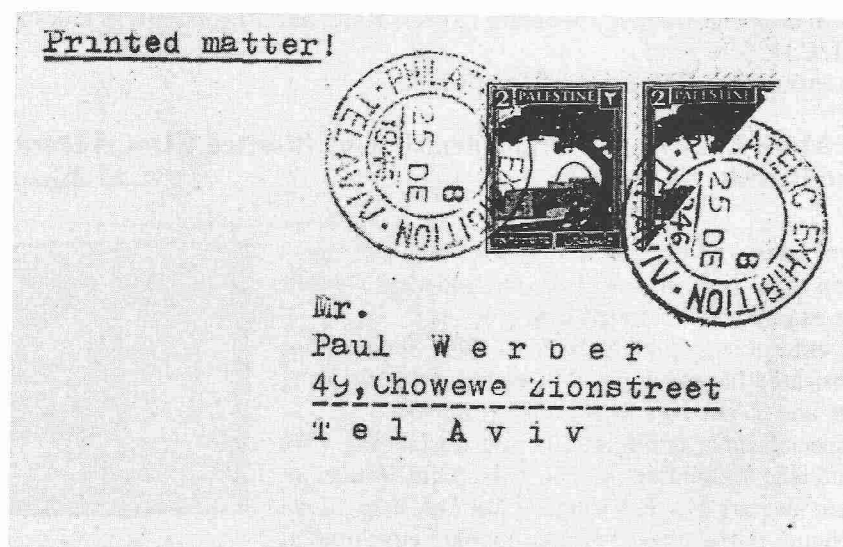


Fig. 50: Fraudulent bisect of 2m Mandate Pictorial on local printed matter envelope (courtesy Mr. Ziskind, Jerusalem).

## Watermark Varieties on Mandate Stamps - An Update

*(G. H. Muentz)*

Several rare items have been reported after the publication of the article<sup>1</sup>:

### (1) Crown Missing in Watermark

SG / Bale #3 1 pias. ultramarine

\*\* block of 4 on RIBBED PAPER,  
transfer G, variety in pos. 59

\*\* block of 4,  
transfer F, variety in pos. 11

\*\* block of 9,  
transfer F, variety in pos. 35

\*\* block of 9,  
transfer D, variety in pos. 83

SG / Bale #4 5m. on 1 pias. ultramarine

one stamp (position unknown)  
In \*\*block of 4 from transfer G

SG / Bale #10 1 pias. EEF

\*\* single

### (2) Crown Missing in Watermark on Margin

SG / Bale #3 1 pias. ultramarine

\*\* corner block of 9, transfer B,  
variety below the position 119

### (3) Inverted Watermark

SG / Bale #3 1 pias. ultramarine

\*\* block of 4, transfer D  
Pos. 40-41, 52-53

\*\* block of 4, transfer D,  
Pos. 106-7, 118-119

SG / Bale 21 1 pias. Jerusalem I

\*\* block of 4, setting 2, arr. Beta  
Pos. 227-228, 239-240

SG / Bale #73 3m. Waterlow Printing

\*\* plate block of 4 (Fig. 51)

SG / Bale #78 8m. Waterlow Printing

bl. of 4 with gutter at bottom (Fig. 52)

SG / Bale #79 13m. Waterlow Printing

\*\* plate block of 4, pos. 217-8, 229-230

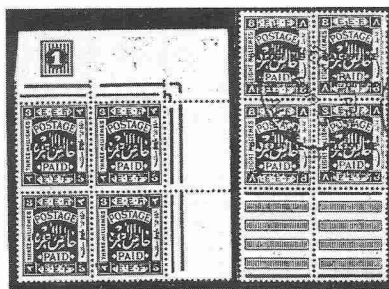


Figure 51

Figure 52

### References:

- (1) G.H. Muentz, "Watermark Varieties on Mandate Stamps", HLPB #79-80 (1999), p. 643.

# **Some Postal Forms Unusual Either in their "Economy" Production or in their Use** *(A. M. Hochheiser, Hockensack, N.J.)*

In the December, 1998 issue of The Israel Philatelist, I wrote an article entitled "Multiplication In Printing Palestine Postal Forms". This included a listing of single printings, some in duplicate and a third variety in triplicate. The article concluded with a single known listing of a form P.T. 684 printed in quadruplicate. The presumption is that the four copies were all listed as P.T. 684 with an included single identifying number. The purpose of the four copies was to furnish each agent or agency involved with a copy of the Local Purchase Order. This is shown in Figure 53.

On going through my accumulation of postal forms, I found Form P.T. 595 shown in Figure 54. Actually this illustration has been reconstructed from the parts

P. T. 684.

DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS.

**LOCAL PURCHASE ORDER. B N<sup>o</sup> 2951**

To \_\_\_\_\_

19 \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply the undermentioned articles.— 33438—750 Bks.—22.4.46—G.C.P.

Description	Quantity		Rate	Amount		Head and Sub-Head of Expenditure
	No.	Weight or Measurement		LP.	Mils	

Station \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

To be prepared in quadruplicate. \_\_\_\_\_ Designation \_\_\_\_\_

*Figure 53*



**317**

REGISTERED ARTICLES for

Address: *131*

Date Stamp: *2 JUL 22*

Dispatched by: *VERONICA*

No.	Office of Posting	Reg. No.
1	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>4708</i>
2	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>4718</i>
3	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>4716</i>
4	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>4723</i>
5	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>4727</i>
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

TOTAL NO. *5*

Received the above *5*

Registered *5*

Signature: *[Signature]*

**318**

REGISTERED ARTICLES for

Address: *131*

Date Stamp: *2 JUL 22*

Dispatched by: *VERONICA*

No.	Office of Posting	Reg. No.
1	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>2651</i>
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

TOTAL NO. *1*

Received the above *1*

Registered *1*

Signature: *[Signature]*

**319**

REGISTERED ARTICLES for

Address: *131*

Date Stamp: *2 JUL 22*

Dispatched by: *VERONICA*

No.	Office of Posting	Reg. No.
1	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>2641</i>
2	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>1254</i>
3	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>1257</i>
4	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>9866</i>
5	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>2647</i>
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

TOTAL NO. *5*

Received the above *5*

Registered *5*

Signature: *[Signature]*

**320**

REGISTERED ARTICLES for

Address: *131*

Date Stamp: *2 JUL 22*

Dispatched by: *VERONICA*

No.	Office of Posting	Reg. No.
1	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>1731</i>
2	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>1702</i>
3	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>552</i>
4	<i>Mayaguez</i>	<i>648</i>
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		

TOTAL NO. *5*

Received the above *5*

Registered *5*

Signature: *[Signature]*

3) *[Signature]*

2) *[Signature]*

1) *[Signature]*

**Figure 54**

of two P.T. 595 forms, which enabled me to complete the illustration in detail as shown. The one larger piece contained everything across down to the heading TOTAL NO. and the line below it. The other part sheet contained everything across the bottom including parts of two columns at the right. Thus I was able to reconstruct the full sheet of four columns as illustrated.

What is of interest is that this form consists evidently of only a file copy, listing the transfer of registered articles. However, the form contains four parts, each separated and listed with an overhead identification number but only the right one shows the Form P.T. 595 number on its part. This is certainly a form of quadruplicated printing, although not in the usual sense. It certainly was more "Economy" was to print a full sheet rather than four single units.

It is of further detail that other forms have been printed in multiple copies on a single sheet. Figure 55 shows an example Form P.T. 512 printed with five copies on one sheet but note that each single copy is listed as P.T. 512.

Previous articles have established that the "Economy" use of materials was uppermost in the minds of Palestine Government under British rule. This was especially true of the Postal Administration, which probably issued more operating forms than all other agencies combined. "Economy" use was especially prevalent

**Figure 55**

during the late 1930's and the war years of World War II. This "Economy" use continued until the formation of the State of Israel in 1948.

"Economy" use as reported may be summarized as follows:

1. "Interim" use of the forms of the Military administration by the Civil Administration beginning in July 1920.
2. Duplicated British forms to be used on an "Interim" basis.
3. Strict supervisory control over the reordering of new equipment including pencils, typewriter ribbons, carbon paper, etc. to avoid undue waste.
4. Instruction for carefully opening departmental envelope flaps so as not to require tearing of envelopes in opening, preserving them for future use.
5. Use of small overlay tabs to close envelope flaps to avoid tearing of the flaps.
6. Requiring writing on both sides of paper and limiting the margins to one inch on the right and left.
7. Using the backs of all duplicated forms on file for message writing and keeping all usable correspondence as well for the same reason.
8. Approaching large commercial firms to secure their cooperation in keeping envelopes to be returned to the Postal Department for its own future use.

As the title of this article indicates, the previous listing of "Economy" use missed one example. There was one other method of "Economy" use that was significant and unreported. Shown in Figure 56 and 57 are two copies of the same P.T. 684, a "Local Purchase Order". However, these were printed by two different firms at two different times. Figure 56 bears a "Printer's Legend" (31329 - 100 Pads - 4.9.39 - B.M.P.). Figure 57 bears a "Printer's Legend" (33438 - 750BKS - 29-4-46 - G.C.P.).

Note that the printed contents are identical. Figure 56 has measurements of  $7 \frac{5}{8}'' \times 12 \frac{7}{8}''$ . The total square area is 98.17 square inches. Figure 57 has measurements of  $6 \frac{3}{4}'' \times 6 \frac{5}{8}''$ , a total square area of 42.61 square inches. Thus the earlier issue was more than twice the size of the later issue. This was the best method in economizing on the use of materials and this is the best example of this use. This is multiplied by the fact that, as the forms show, this form was to be issued in quadruplicate. Thus the saving in paper was fourfold.

Illustrated in Figure 58 is the face of Postal Form P.T. 719, a "Notice", printed trilingually in pads of 100. As the Printer's Legend indicates, 600 of these pads were printed in 1936 by the Commercial Press in Palestine. The form use is self-explanatory. It was delivered in place of large parcels too big to be placed in a letterbox. Postal packets, which remained undelivered after the laps of the period on the "Notice", would be sent to the Returned Letter Office for disposal.

Obviously, many of these form pads remained unused when the Mandate Period was terminated in 1948. These forms were not discarded but the Israeli Agencies, on an "Economy" basis, used the backs of the forms for other purposes. Shown in Figure 59 is the back of one of the forms used by Israeli Authorities to distribute information regarding the twenty nine workers involved under a specific code with every one of the departments under the sender's control in six different Israeli cities. Note the date of the mailing, May 29, 1951. Since used copies of Forms P.T. 719 do not exist, this copy lived for 15 years before "Economy" use put it to work.



[illegible][illegible]

Figure 56

Figure 57



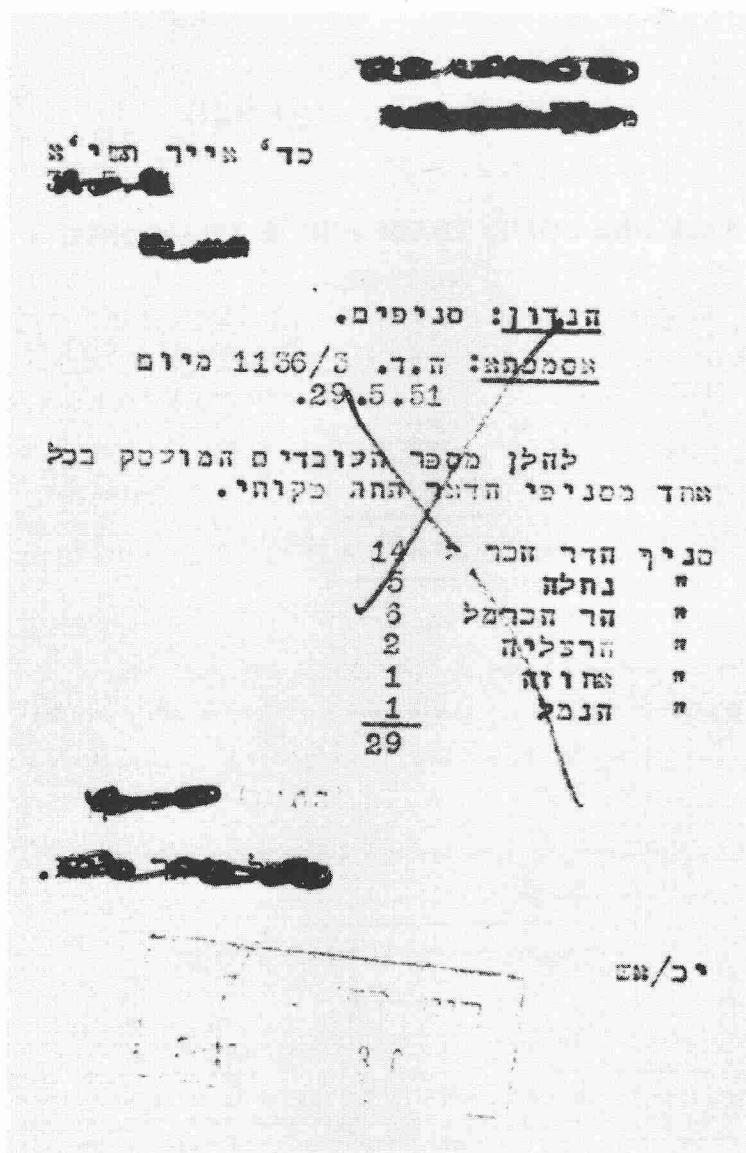


Figure 59





\* \* \* \* \*

## GENERAL NEWS

\* \* \* \* \*

### New Cancellations and Post Offices *(Compiled by J. Nachtigal)*

#### A. Special Cancellations: (see also Fig. 61)

- 25.7.2000: "85th World Congress of Esperanto Speakers", Tel Aviv-Yafo  
 25.7.2000: "Olympic Games Sydney 2000", Tel Aviv-Yafo\*  
 25.7.2000: "JUARA Buildings & Historic Sites", Yoqneam Illit\*  
 25.7.2000: "H.M. King Hassan II, of Morocco", Jerusalem  
 25.7.2000: "Israeli Food", Tel Aviv-Yafo\*  
 27.7.2000 "50 Years of Settlement on the Confrontation Line", Hagalil Hama'aravi (MP)  
 29.8.2000 "Gan Yavne - 70 Years", Gan Yavne  
 15.9.2000 "Israel, "Sydney Olympiad" 2000, 1.10.-15.9.", Tel Aviv-Yafo  
 19.9.2000 Festival - 5761 (2000) Happy New Year, Haifa\*  
 19.9.2000 "The Dohany Street Synagogue, Budapest", Jerusalem\*  
 19.9.2000 "Look after your Teeth", Jerusalem\*  
 5.10.2000 "50 Years Nir-Eliyahu", Hasharon Htikhon (M.P.)  
 6.10.2000 "Greetings from Israel's Philatelists": "ESPANA 2000", Tel Aviv-Yafo  
 16.10.2000 "Zaglembie - Generational Gathering", Modi'in  
 9.11.2000 "Assasinated 1995 / Shalom Chaver - Yitzhak Rabin - The 5th Memorial Day", Tel Aviv-Yafo  
 12.11.2000 "International Volunteering Year", Tel Aviv-Yafo  
 21.11.2000 "Electricity 2000 Convention", Be'er Sheva  
 5.12.2000 "The Aleppo Codex", Jerusalem\*  
 5.12.2000 "Dinosaur Judean Hills - Philately Day", Tel Aviv-Yafo\*  
 5.12.2000 "Science Fiction", Tel Aviv-Yafo\*  
 5.12.2000 Mitzpe Revivim - Buildings & Historic Sites", Be'er Sheva\*



Fig. 61: Special Cancellations issued in the last period.

\* This is used also as a special postmark for the F.D. of the corresponding stamp issue.



Fig. 61: (continued) special cancellation issued in the last period.





Fig. 61: (continued) special cancellation issued in the last period.

### New Stamps and Postal Stationery

The following stamps were issued in the last period.

- 25.7.2000: Buildings & Historic Sites series - Juara (IS 1.20); Olympic Games "Sydney 2000" (2.80); Israeli food - Couscous (1.40), Gefilte Fish (1.90), Falafel (2.30), also a booklet with one pane (strip) of these stamps se-tenant (1.40 + 2 x 1.90 + 3 x 2.30); H.M. King Hassan II of Morocco (4.40).
- 19.9.2000: Festival (התשס"א) 2000- Jewish New Year Cards (1.20, 1.90, 2.30); Dental Health (2.20); The Dohany Synagogue, Budapest (a joint issue Israel - Hungary; 5.60).
- 5.12.2000: Buildings & Historic Sites series - Mitzpe Revivim (2.20); Science Fiction - Robotics (2.80), Travel in time (3.40), Travel in space (5.60); Philately Day - Dinosaur Judean Hills (3x2.20) - issued as an "irregular sheet" of 9 stamps (3 rows of the 3 stamps se-tenant) with decorated margins and 3 tabs (Fig. 62); The Aleppo Codex ("Keter Aram Zova"; 4.40).

**Postal Stationery:** 28.5.2000; An illustrated prestamped envelope was issued in honor of the "Be'er Sheva 2000" stamp exhibition (Fig. 63). The imprinted "Stamp" is the Hyacinth stamp (already had been issued before, therefore there was no "First Day" cancellation involved) and the cachet shows "Be'er Avraham" (Abraham's Well) in Be'er Sheva.



Figure 62

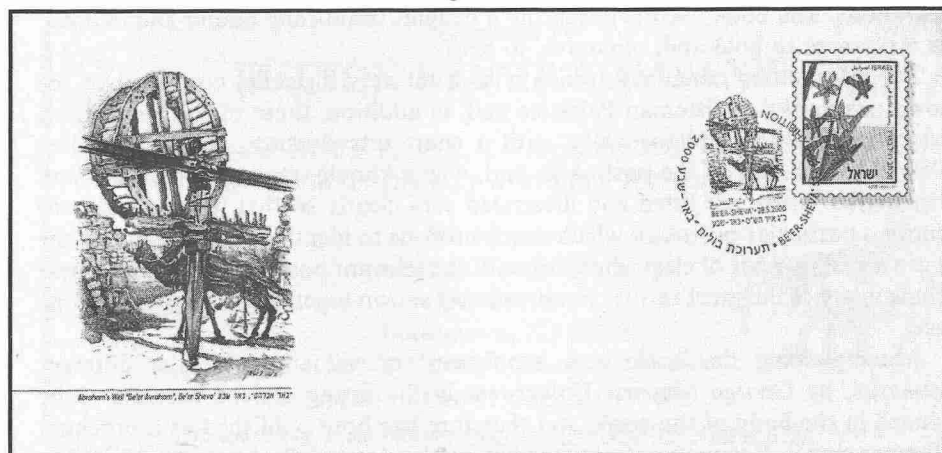


Figure 63



## Book Review

### **"The Ottoman Posts and Telegraph Offices in Palestine and Sinai"**

by Norman Collins and Anton Steichele; Sahara Pubs., London , 2000.

The book under review is the third and ultimate book in an amazing series of three books devoted to the posts of Ottoman Palestine.

Anton Steichele began his monumental researches in 1981 and published the results in the magazine of the German "Der Israel-Philatelist", appearing in instalments in that publication. He was approached by Norman Collins, who pointed out that an English publication would reach a far wider public of collectors. Steichele agreed and the memorable cooperation between these two and Paul Dickstein, who undertook to do the translation, began. Unfortunately Steichele died, after a very short illness, in 1988 and Dickstein followed in 1990, so that Collins was left to see the entire opus completed.

The first two volumes of the series, "The Foreign Post Offices in Palestine", appeared in 1990 and 1992, respectively. Whilst basically translations of the original work in German, the English version contained additional research material not known to Steichele. These two volumes were published under the aegis of the World Philatelic Congress. They immediately established a standard of information unknown beforehand.

The third and last volume appeared earlier this year. Based as it is on Steichele's original work, the vast majority of research information was accumulated by Norman Collins through his vast base of fellow collectors from all over the world, contacts with other organizations and information supplied by the Turkish Postal authorities. It is a mark of great respect shown to the authors that so many of the profuse illustrations with which the book is graced were sent by private collectors.

This volume was privately printed in London. It shows: The quality of the printing is superb, on high-grade chrome paper, which lends itself to clear and sharp illustrations. The book itself is physically a delight: beautifully bound and clothed, it is a pleasure to hold and, of course, to read.

The information contained, which is laid out very logically, covers all of the known postmarks of Ottoman Palestine and, in addition, those of the Sinai. Each post office is listed alphabetically, with a short introduction, and this is then followed by a listing of the postmarks and, where known, registration strikes and other marks. These are listed and illustrated very clearly so that it is very easy to identify a particular postmark which one is anxious to identify. Accompanying the list are a vast number of clear illustrations of the relevant postmark on cover. These include many of the great rarities not previously shown together, so to speak, in one place.

Accompanying the book is a supplement of valuations of the different postmarks, by George Muentz. Unfortunately the listing arrived too late to be included in the body of the book, and therefore has been published as a brochure accompanying it. It is so important that potential owners of the book are advised to



tape this supplement to the cover of the book. This guide to values of the different postmarks is unique and of tremendous worth to the collector.

The work is monumental and astonishing in its completeness. There are very few postmarks not illustrated, and several of which the only known examples come from the postal Archives of the Turkish Administration. It is highly unlikely that anything of comparable stature will ever be written again.

Norman has always been a brilliant star in a rapidly diminishing firmament of original research workers. His contribution to the field of knowledge of the Postal History of Palestine has been tremendous and very encompassing. It is sincerely to be hoped that despite poor health he will be able to continue in his field of expertise - perhaps even to revise the first two volumes and reissue them as a companion to the marvelous latest one. Norman is to be heartily congratulated on having completed such a monumental and comprehensive work, covering a specific area of Postal History. All collectors in this area, and the world of Postal Historians in general, owe him a tremendous debt.

(E. Glassman)

## Members' Free Advertisement

(Every member is entitled to a 3-line free ad, once a year)

Collector of post-1948 Tel Aviv - Yafo trilingual postmarks would like to correspond/trade with postal history of TA collector. I can offer in trade/exchange other TA postmarks, and R-labels, also from other towns and cities of collecting interest. **William D. Farber, P.O. Box 2026, San Rafael, CA 94912 USA.**

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## Obituary

### Mordechai Sondak (April 1915-July 2000)

With the passing of our Treasurer Mordechai Sondak (in July last year), we have lost a very dear friend and keen philatelist.

Mordechai was born in 1915 in Brisk, Eastern Poland, to a middle-class family. His family was traditional so that he retained throughout his life the values and beliefs taught to him by his liberal parents. He received his education initially in a traditional "Cheder" ("חדר"), and then in a private school followed by the semi-technical "Tachkemoni" school. Since his family were Zionists he grew up as a member of various Zionist youth groups, preparing himself as he grew older for emigration to Palestine. Despite some problems in emigrating, he finally arrived in Rehovot in 1935.

Here he joined the core group collected to set up the Kibbutz Ma'aleh Hachamisha, which was established in the hills of Judea to the west of Jerusalem in 1938. As a member of the young settlement he was given many different jobs, but eventually began to work at Tenuva (the milk products co-operative) in 1940, in Jerusalem. From 1950 he studied in some economics courses, and returned to his kibbutz as a Treasurer which position he held until his retirement.

His greatest joy in the kibbutz was the establishment of the communal library, which he promoted and devoted many after-work hours to the organizing and collecting of books for it.

His second love was philately. He began, as many friends of us did, in his youth in Poland where the very many foreign letters received by his friend's father in the factory enchanted him. He continued when he came to Palestine. His work at Tenuva and in particular at the regional rest house of the kibbutz started him on a life long love of, and interest in, Postal History. The Post Office of Mea Shearim was only a few meters from Tenuva, so that he was able to obtain the various emergency issues of Jerusalem there. The basis of his collection was begun at this time, when he obtained many unusual and interesting covers sent to the various soldiers recovering from the different battles.

His personal collection, on "The Postal History of Jerusalem during the War of Independence of 1948", was shown at almost every Stamp Exhibition both here in Israel and overseas, where it won several prizes. He was also the author of several articles on the subject of the Postal History of Jerusalem, particularly of the period of the War of Independence, and was the author of a book, which the Holy Land Postal History Society published. His second collection dealt with the Traveling Post Offices of Israel - one of the major collections in this field.

His activities in the Society were many. He was one of the founder members, and was a member of the Organizing Committee for very many years, acting not only as the Treasurer but also, on occasion, as the Chairman. He was also active in the Jerusalem Philatelic Society and the Israeli Philatelic Federation.

His activities in the Society diminished during the past few years as he fought the illness from which he eventually died. His loss will be deeply felt by the many members of the Society.

May his memory be blessed.

(E. Glassman)

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חלסה (רק שלוש דוגמאות מוכרות!) מיוני, 1917

A prestamped Ottoman cover from W.W.I from the Turkish military camp in Halsä (then an  
important crossroads 20 km south-west from Beer-Sheba) to Istanbul with the extremely rare  
Halsä negative seal (only 3 reported) of June 1917 (See article on p. 110)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

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