

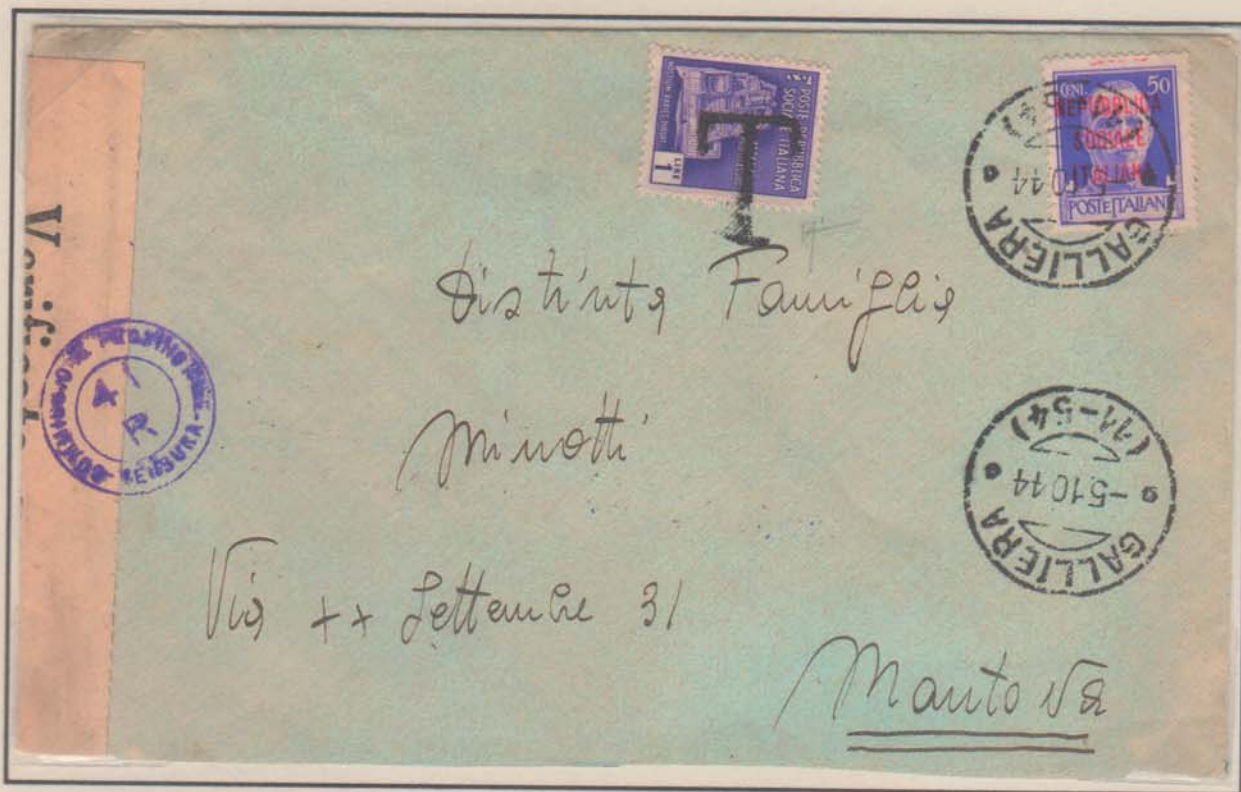
Used as Postage Due



Letter within the city of Brescia, sent poste restante. Marked postage due for franking with a previously used stamp. Would have been taxed even if the stamp was valid, as the rate was increased to 50 centesimi as of 1 October. Second set 50 centesimi stamp used as postage due. This amount is low. Correct amount would have been 1.50Lire: 50 c x 2 for same-district letter and additional 50 c poste restante fee. The recipient, an officer, did not have right to postal franchise.

DATE: 27 October 1944

ARRIVAL: 29 October 1944



Letter Galliera to Mantova. Franked 50 centesimi for a letter from older rate schedule. Deficiency of 50 centesimi detected, and second set 1 Lira stamp used for the postage due amount. Censor marks and tape are also seen.

DATE: 5 October 1944

ARRIVAL: 10 October 1944

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Confusion After Rate Change in October 1944



Postcard from Peschiera Borromeo to Codogno. Franked 60 centesimi, 55c with two stamps from destroyed monuments, and 5c with a revenue stamp. The postcard rate increased from 30c to 50, while everything else was doubled. The sender must have thought the postcard rate also doubled to 60, and tried to make up the "missing" 5c with a revenue stamp. Not taxed because the 55c was enough to cover the rate, with 5 centesimi in excess. Censor marks are seen. DATE: 23 November 1944



Cover from Somma Lombardo to Cavenago d'Adda. Franked 50 centesimi from second set according to the old rate schedule. Taxed 1 Lira, double the missing amount of 50 centesimi, and postage due stamps applied. DATE: 7 October 1944 ARRIVAL: 8 October 1944



Express Cover from Milano to Rota D'Imagna, Bergamo. Franked 1.75L, 50c for letter and 1.25L for express charge.  
 DATE: 12 September 1944 ARRIVAL: 14 September 1944



Registered express letter from Milano to Torino. Franked 3.5L made of seven stamps of 25c first set (one strip of three, one pair and two singles) with the express stamp of first set. 1L letter + 1.25L registration + 1.25 express = 3.50 Lire  
 DATE: 19 July 1944 ARRIVAL: 22 July 1944

Express Delivery Service



Cover from Intra di Verbania to Genova, sent express.

The express delivery agency sticker with distribution number, usually taken off at the time of delivery, is still seen on the cover. This is unusual.

Franked 3.50L (1L letter and 2.50 express)

DATE: 15 December 1944

NOVARA TRANSIT: 16 December 1944

ARRIVAL: 19 December 1944

Express cover from Milano to Fossano (Province Cuneo)

Supposed to be franked 3.50L like the cover above. However, there are only 2.50L for express fee, paid for by a pair of 1.25L express stamp. As the express fee, the mandatory portion, was paid, the letter was accepted by the postal service and delivered. However, postage due of 2L, twice the missing amount of 1L, would be expected. This was not applied.



DATE: 8 November 1944

CUNEO TRANSIT: 14 November 1944

ARRIVAL: 11 November 1944

Express Services During Second Rate Schedule Period



Death notification of a patient, from Brescia to Passirano. Sent express, franked 3L; two 25c second set stamps for postcard and two 1.25 express stamps to pay the express fee. DATE: 15 December 1944 ARRIVAL: 17 December 1944



Registered express cover from Venice to Strambino Romano, near Turin. Franked 5L total, 1L for letter, 1.5L for registration, all second set stamps, and 2.5L for express. Traveled by rail through Turin. DATE: 8 November 1944 TURIN TRANSIT: 1 December 1944 ARRIVAL: 2 December 1944. The delay is considerable. Venice and Turin are at the opposite ends of Northern Italy. Frequent Allied bombings or partisan activity may have delayed the transport through railroad.

Cover Damaged During Allied Air Attack



Express letter damaged during Allied air attack, with burns and fallen, later reaffixed, express stamps. One 1 Lira stamp seems to be missing. Portion of reverse with Verona transit postmark shown above.  
Sent from Fiesso Umbertiano(Rovigo) to Bologna. Traveled through Verona and Modena, which is a longer route. The direct railroad was probably not available due to being already destroyed.

Protective envelope provided by the Postal Administration. Above letter was inserted in this envelope. The handwritten message states that the correspondence was properly franked but damaged by strafing. Was probably damaged in Verona, taken back to Modena and processed, then sent back to Bologna through Verona once more.

DATE: 23 February 1945  
AT VERONA: 4 March 1945  
AT MODENA: 16 March 1945  
VERONA: 20 March 1945

Unfortunately, the rectangular Bologna railway arrival mark does not show a date.





Letter from Malo' (Vicenza) to an Italian soldier serving at a German unit. Feldpost 03999 was the POW camp number 38. Franked 1L for an international letter, despite being entitled to be sent free.

DATE: 10 July 1944



Letter from Italian FPO 873, vice-ministry of the Navy of the Armed Forces Ministry. Sent to a private business in Udine, fee to be paid by the recipient (the two purple hexagonal marks). 1L second set stamp with a T overprint has paid the standard fee, without postage due penalty. 1 Lira was the domestic letter fee after 1 October 1944.

DATE: 3 April 1944

ARRIVAL: 26 April 1944

# Suspended Service Due to War

City of Siena was taken by the Allies four weeks after Rome. By the time this cover was mailed, the Allies were advancing North, and Siena was in the war zone. It was not possible to provide mail services in that direction.



Official letter from Milano to Siena. Returned to sender due to service being suspended. German army withdrew north, and left Siena to Allies on 2 July 1944. Franked 1.70 Lire three stamps with three different issues: 20 c first set, 50 c overprinted, and 1 Lira Kingdom.

DATE: 21 June 1944

RATE ANALYSIS: More than one fee was possible. The least costly was chosen. "Manoscritti" means official forms with handwritten annotations. The base rate was slightly cheaper than letter and allowed heavier envelopes, but extra services cost more. Handwritten annotation under the purple mark says "con lettera" (with a letter), which would have increased the rate. The cheapest way would have been to process the letter as an open official letter with registration. The open flap proves the envelope was sent open.

Chosen rate is 60c open official letter + 1.10 open registration fee = 1.70 Lire

Registered official mail with an additional letter would have cost 2.20 Lire, with additional 1.25 Lire for registration= 3.45 Lire



## Official correspondence "to fill and return"

The population registries were updated using forms that needed to be exchanged between government agencies. The mailing fees were discounted (50 centesimi instead of 1 Lira), but needed to be franked for every exchange of information. The typical forms are one large sheet folded in half, with opposite sides being franked and addressed for initial request and following response. This document, franked three times and exchanged four times (probably once as an enclosure, and three times independently in the mail), is a very interesting testimonial of these complex bureaucratic interactions.



Other side, reduced



Information exchange between Ghedi and Poncarale. All mailings performed with second set stamps for 50c fee.  
Initial mailing: Ghedi 9 January 1945, arrived Poncarale 16 January 1945. Franked pair 25c for 50c  
Sent back, most likely as an enclosure inside another letter. Arrived to Ghedi on 20 January, according to official mark inside.  
Mailed again from Ghedi on 22 January, arrived Poncarale 25 January. Franked 50c  
Mailed back from Poncarale on 29 January, arrived at Ghedi 1 February. Franked again a pair of 25 c, this one above the previously affixed pair for lack of space.  
These forms were prepared with only two mailings on mind. More than two was not expected, and is very uncommon.



Insured registered letter  
from Ranica to Asso.  
Insured 1000 Lire.  
Franked 11 Lire with  
multiples of 50c and  
three stamps of 1 L  
Kingdom.  
1L x 2 = 2L heavy letter,  
1.50L registration  
7.50L insurance

DATE: 12 February 1945  
ARRIVAL:  
22 February 1945



Registered official  
correspondence  
From Milan to  
Verona, 17 Lire  
COD.  
Franked 3.70 Lire:  
1.20 official mail,  
1 L COD fee,  
1.50 registration

DATE:  
4 November 1944

Form for Documentation of Stamp Unavailability

AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE

Foglio per la trasmissione

Spedizione N. \_\_\_\_\_ del giorno \_\_\_\_\_  
 dall'Ufficio di 139  
 all'Ufficio di \_\_\_\_\_

del  
sp

N. d'ord.	PROVENIENZA	Numero	Valore dichiarato	Peso in grammi	DEST
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

MANCANZA REGNATESE

13. - Per uso esclusivo delle ricevitorie e delle cd

Da Brescia a Carpendolo. Apparently a letter was taxed for 30c, but there were no postage due stamps available. The fee was collected in cash, and an ordinary 30 Centesimi stamp from the first set was used on this form to document the incident. By using an ordinary stamp, the accounting of the cash at hand and the stamps sold were balanced. This was supposed to be the standard procedure when postage due stamps were not available.

CARPENDOLO circular stamp and ANNULLATO (cancelled) mark on the stamp. BRESCIA circular postmark on the heading.

In RSI period, most post offices did not use this procedure, instead used ordinary stamps as postage due directly on the cover. The reason was most likely a chronic unavailability of stamps. This procedure was certainly time consuming and designed for rare occasions, not as a daily occurrence, which was mostly the case in the RSI.

DATE: 16 August 1944

# Form for Wholesale Payment of Mail

This service existed since 1861, and continued during the RSI period. By opening a dedicated credit account, it was possible to hand over mail to post-office, where it was processed and sent stampless. At the end of the business day, the accounting was made using this form, where postage due stamps were affixed and the client billed accordingly. A monthly convenience fee was the post office's gain, while the client had the time savings. In the RSI, the clients also had the advantage of not having to purchase stamps that were becoming increasingly difficult to find, especially in high-demand denominations.

MODULARIO  
C Dir. Pr. Poste - 3

Mod. N. 1-A bis (Edizione 1944)  
(form. 1944)


**AMMINISTRAZIONE DELLE POSTE**





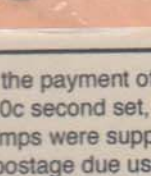




## Foglio per la trasmissione di raccomandate ed a


Spedizione N. \_\_\_\_\_ del giorno \_\_\_\_\_  
dall' Ufficio di \_\_\_\_\_  
all' Ufficio di \_\_\_\_\_

Bollo  
dell' Ufficio  
speditore

Foglio N. \_\_\_\_\_ delle presenti sped.



Num. d'ord.	PROVENIENZA	Numero	Valore dichiarato	Spese in greggio	DESTINAZIONE	DESTINATARIO	IMPORT dell'assegno
1							
2		3	50		1.50		
		1			1.-		
		2	1.20		2.40		
					4.90		
							
							
							
							
							
							



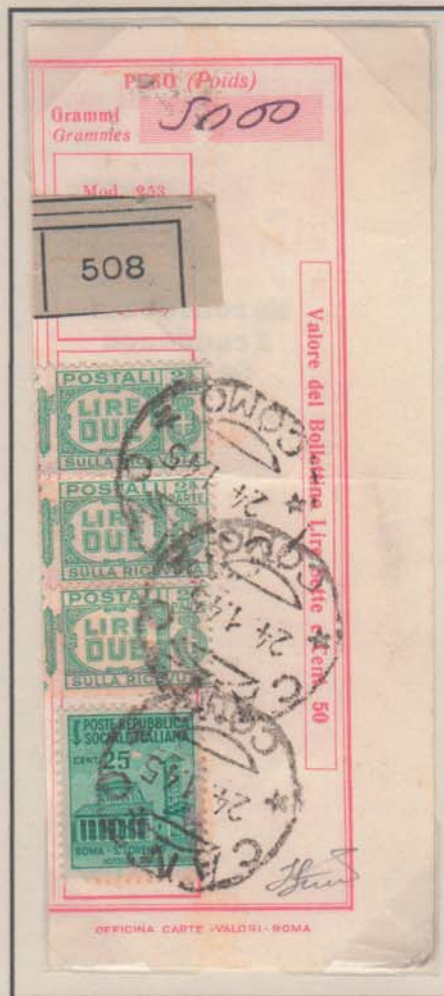
- Per uso esclusivo degli uffici principali ed ambulanti.

Form 1-A bis for the payment of six pieces of mail with total cost of 4.90L processed by Trieste post office. Fee paid for by strip of four of 1L second set, 10c second set, pair of 25c first set, and 30c overprinted from a previous issue. Postage due stamps were supposed to be used on this form. Due to lack of postage due stamps, ordinary stamps were cancelled with a "T" to show the postage due use. Document marked with "TRIESTE CENTRO CORRISPONDENZE TASSATE" (Postage Due Correspondence Trieste Central Office).

DATE: 14 January 1945

## Unintended Use on Parcel Receipt

Parcel fees were supposed to be paid using special stamps with two portions. The parcel receipts were torn in two, and half of the parcel stamp remained on the receipt, while the other half traveled with the part left with the parcel. There were problems with parcel stamp availability same as other categories, and ordinary stamps had to be used, against protocol, on parcels. This is a very unusual usage, of which very few are known.



Receipt of a 5kg postal parcel sent from Canzo (Como) to an Italian worker in Germany. No declared value. 13.75 Lire fee required. 7.5 Lire paid by the parcel card itself, and three parcel stamps of 2 Lire each paid additional 6 Lire. The remaining 25 centesimi was paid with a 25c stamp from second set, most likely due to absence of the 25 centesimi parcel stamps.

DATE: 24 January 1945

## Slogan marks

Propaganda was one of the foundations of the RSI right from the start. A puppet state was being sold as the true national government. Slogan marks on the postal material were also used for similar reasons.



"E VINCERA" MALGRADO TUTTO", "And (he) will win, despite everything", with the profile of a soldier that looks suspiciously like a German soldier rather than Italian. From Campagnola Emilia to Mati, Torino. Franked 1 L for letter, stamp from second set.

DATE: 29 January 1945

ARRIVAL: 10 February 1945



"BENEDITE, GRAN DIO, L'ITALIA, PIO IX", "Bless o Lord, the Italy, Pope Pius IX". A quote by Pope Pius IX, taken from an announcement made in 1848. Express sent postal stationery from Cremona to Milano. Franked 4 Lire instead of 3 (50c + 2.50). The message is commercial. Overfranking probably an error rather than purposeful. 20c from second set, and express stamps from first set. No arrival, but the slogan mark and black 610 express number prove the card went through mail.

DATE: 4 April 1945

Slogan marks



"QUANDO UN POPOLO SI DESTA, DIO SI METTE ALLA SUA TESTA" (When a nation awakens, Lord puts himself ahead of them), a quote from Giuseppe Mazzini, national hero of Italian War of Independence. Postcard mailed within Cremona. Franked 50c with second set stamp. Censor marks noted. DATE: 24 March 1945



"OGNI VILTA' CONVIEN CHE QUI SIA MORTA" (All cowardice should die here, Dante). from Dante's Divine Comedy. Cover from Milan to Cremona, forwarded to Como, returned to sender. Mailed on 18 April 1945, last days of RSI. Partisan insurrection in Milan started on 25 April, and RSI officially ended by unconditional surrender on 2 May 1945. Censor tape and marks also seen. Franked 1 L second set for ordinary letter. DATE: 18 April 1945 AT CREMONA: 23 April 1945 AT CASANOVA LANZA (COMO) 28 May 1945