

# Tunisi

Occupazione Italo-Tedesca



Brown

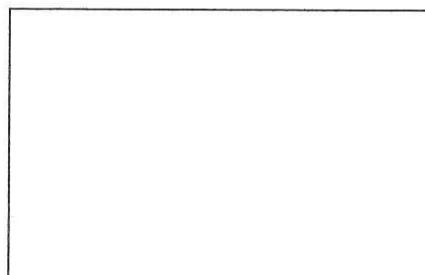


Brown-red  
(SIGNATO)  
[GIERTEL]

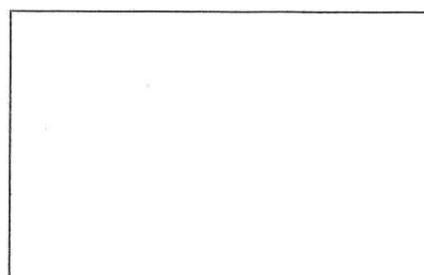


?

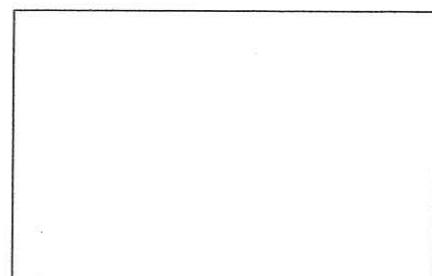
Authorized by  
Rommel for  
the German  
troops.



azzuro smorto



azzuro vivo

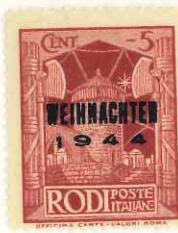


verde azzurro

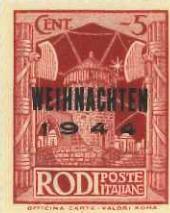
173



TYPE II



TYPE I



**RAYBAUDI**  
EXPERTS

Roma, 1 marzo 1991

Egeo 1944, occ.ne tedesca: 5 c. + 5 c. lilla rosso, coppia orizzontale con soprastampa "Weihnachten 1944" del I e del II tipo (Sass. N. 9c) nuova.

A nostro parere la coppia qui sotto fotograficamente riprodotta ha soprastampe originali e gomma integra. Poiché trovasi tuttora in ottimo stato di conservazione, è stata firmata.



*C. M. Bystow*

CONTI  
A.P.S.  
105754

P.O. BOX 756 - TEL. 678.42.96

ROMA  
00187

VIA DI PROPAGANDA, 27

# Occupazione Tedesca

Franchigia Natalizia (Christmas)

RODI

rockin'



SIGNED Rodi

MICHAEL TYPE IV



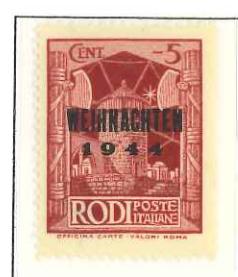
Rodi I

SIGNED  
M III



Rodi IV

M II



Rodi II

SIGNED  
M I

## Unofficial Specimens



Rodi



Rodi



Rodi



Rodi



Rodi



Rodi

**RAYBAUDI Experts**  
ROMA  
C.P. 456 - Tel. 06.6784296



5b



M Q 2



BLUE  
52 a 5b

Possible  
error  
3



zu kniffen!

52 a 5b



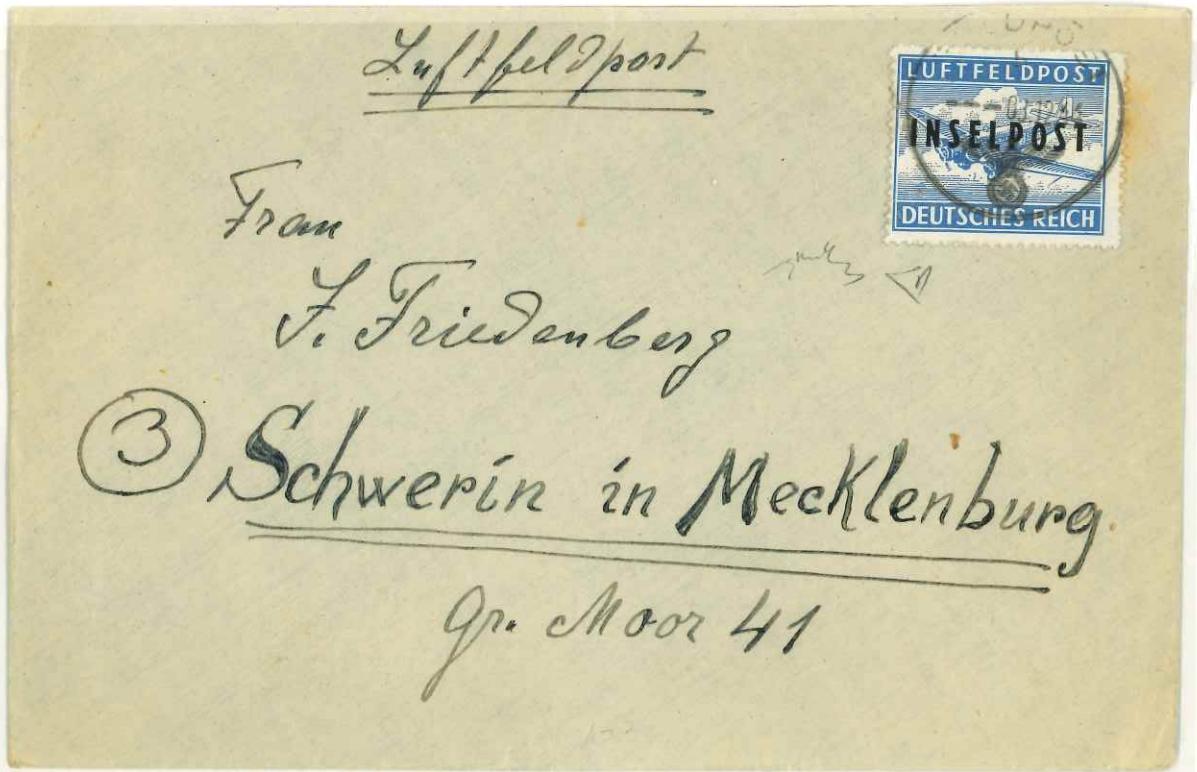
2  
ZIGZAG



OVERTPRINT  
SHIFTED  
2  
ZIGZAG



5 ZIGZAG



# Germany's military post issues of 1942-44

Between the airmails and to the Eastern Front threatened the already minimal morale of German soldiers serving there. To meet that problem, in April 1942, the German postal service adhesives that had an important role to play during

## Germany and Area

By Fred W. Baumann

### World War II.

Like the United States and most other Western nations, Germany offered free military mail service ("Feldpost") to members of its armed forces in time of war.

But unlike the United States, which fought WWII on a truly global basis, Germany had a direct overland route to most of the territory it occupied during the conflict. Mail between troops and their families back in Germany was chiefly carried by truck or train.

That changed after Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in 1941. German troops swiftly advanced hundreds upon hundreds of miles into a hostile land that had only the most rudimentary roads. What few rail lines there were had to be converted mile by mile to accommodate the different gauge of the German trains. And all routes were constantly menaced by partisans.

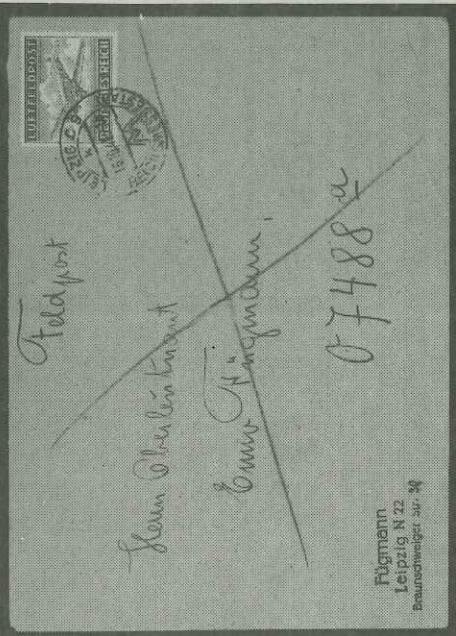
Delayed movement of mail from his father in Leipzig, from his father in Leipzig; Figure 2 shows the perforated version of the stamp used on the Figure 1 letter. It aptly depicts Germany's aerial workhorse, the Junkers Ju-

52, military airmail service later was extended to Greece, the Aegean Islands, the Baltic and Norway. There is no denomination on the stamp, of course, because the service was free. This adhesive was affixed to a letter in order to show that the sender was entitled to use military airmail service.

The stamp was printed in sheets of 100 perforated 13½ (Scott MC1) and later issued in a rouletted version as well (MC1a). Both are quite common, unused or used.

In an excellent study of German military airmail service begun in the Germany Philatelic Society's January 1987 *German Postal Specialist*, military mail specialist Gianluigi Soldati also illustrates a far scarcer and rather good forgery of the perforated stamp produced by British Intelligence in panes of 20 printed four by five. According to Soldati, the forgery "was intended for franking propaganda material to be sent through the Feldpost system from Norway to Germany." Germany's Michel catalog describes this so-called propaganda forgery as perf 12, and values it at 100 deutschemarks — about 400 times the Scott catalog value of a genuine, unused stamp!

Figure 3 shows the later, rouletted version (MQ1a) of a red brown stamp issued July 10, 1942 (MQ1), for use on airmail permit stamp used on a letter dated Oct. 16, 1942, sent to a first lieutenant



**Figure 1.** Dated Oct. 16, 1942, this letter was sent using a military airmail permit stamp from Leipzig to a German first lieutenant stationed somewhere on the Eastern Front.

most military airmail (and nearly everything else, the Germans transported by air). Though established to serve the forces on the Eastern Front,

Because of the limited space available on German military transport planes, stamps were issued to ration airmail service fairly among the soldiers. Each received four stamps each month — two for use on his mail home, the other two for use by the recipients there on letters sent back to him.

Figure 1 shows an example of the latter, a military airmail permit stamp used on a letter dated Oct. 16, 1942, sent to a first lieutenant

postal service, with the Nazi eagle and swastika emblem.

Its "ZULASSUNGSMARKE/DEUTSCHE FELDPOST" inscription translates as "Permit stamp/German military mail."

These stamps served to ration parcel post service just as the earlier permit stamps rationed airmail, in order to make the most of the limited transportation capacity that was available for non-essential material.

According to Billig's *Philatelie Handbook*, one (and later two) of the Figure 3 stamps were made available to personnel in qualifying units each month, to be sent home to their families.

Although small packets up to 250 grams could be sent in regular mail, larger parcels required both postage and the use of these parcel post permit stamps. The rate was one permit stamp and 20 pfennigs for parcels in Germany's military

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According to Billig's *Philatelie Handbook*, one (and later two) of the Figure 3 stamps were made available to collectors at philatelic windows, all canceled to prevent improper use.

A much smaller stamp in this design (MQ2), printed in bright green, was issued Oct. 20, 1944, for use on Christmas gift parcels to the front weighing up to 1kg.

Figure 4 shows a 40pf Hitler Head stamp overprinted "FELDPOST/2 kg," the last German regular military post issue of the war (MQ3).

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Delayed movement of mail

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**Figure 3.** Though it shows part of a German feldpost cancel, this 1942 military parcel permit stamp is probably canceled to order.

Note the altogether too-crisp-looking Feldpost cancel almost perfectly struck in the top-left corner of the Figure 3 stamp. It indicates that this copy almost certainly came from the stock of canceled-to-order stamps made available to collectors at philatelic windows, all canceled to prevent improper use.

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**Figure 4.** This 40-pfennig Hitler Head was overprinted "FELDPOST/2 kg" in November 1944 for use on parcels of winter clothing sent to German soldiers.

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Cover fr.  
military stamp, Zagreb "THESELFOST",  
canc. "FELDPOST d\*22.12.44".  
ovpt German parcel post  
(Hellas 4).



Amelie Weber



# Occupazione Tedesca

Egeo: Emissioni per tutti le isole



Dodecanneso, Vukovar

SIGNED  
1



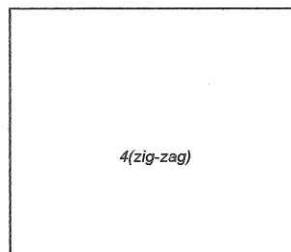
Rodi

2



Rodi

3



4(zig-zag)



Agram (Zagabria)

5



Agram (Zagabria)

6 SIGNED



10



Leros

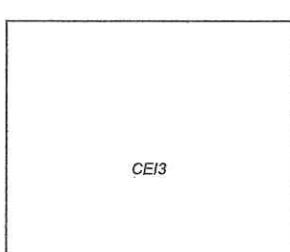
7



Leros

8

3 SIGNATURES  
A G R A M



CE13



Creta

⑤ Creta (SIGNED w/ CERT)

MITA  $\leftarrow$   $\rightarrow$  MITA



SIGNED  
ON THE

ITALY



FACTORY No. 649, FIRST DIST. N.Y.



73



Egyptienne STRAIGHTS Cigarettes

# The advertising stamps of Italy

By Robert E. Lana

Do you remember the company that planned to combine discount-priced United States postage stamps with advertising and offer the finished produce for sale at convenience stores? The government successfully blocked that scheme, but many U.S. collectors were upset at the very idea.

Someone had the same sort of bright idea in Italy about 65 years ago.

A royal decree issued May 16, 1923, specified that a number of definitive stamps would have advertising labels attached to them as a vertical tab below the stamp itself.

These unusual stamps were to be sold to the public, and especially to businesses, at a discount from the usual face value. The post office made up that difference plus a profit from the fee charged to the advertisers for the privilege of promoting their products.

Philatelists around the world protested. Italian newspapers that opposed Mussolini, who had come to power in 1922, took this opportunity to attack the new fascist regime.

Their protests were to no avail, and at the beginning of November 1924, the first advertising stamps were issued. Scott catalogs the 19 issued definitives with labels in chronological order in the Italian listings for 1924-25 in Vol. 3.

Figure 1 shows two of the stamps. On the left is a 15-cent-

tesimo Victor Emmanuel III above an advertising label for Campari bitters. To the right is the corresponding 50c de-



Figure 1. Two of Italy's advertising stamps of 1924-25.

finitive with a tab promoting Reinache motor oil.

In all, there are 13 different advertising vignettes. Each stamp and label combination is perforated all around, but the space between the stamp and the label is imperforate.

Three 15c stamps, five 25c, one 30c, nine 50c and a single 1 lire stamp and label combination were issued in this fashion.

In addition, two other values were prepared but not issued — a 20c definitive stamp and a 60c express delivery issue.

The advertisers were selling phonographs, four types of liquors, three brands of linen, lubricants, light bulbs, a patent medicine, and Singer sewing machines. As if that weren't enough, the unissued express delivery stamp fea-

tured chocolate kisses.

Other stamp-issuing entities have launched similar experiments in advertising with stamps, both before and since the Italian experience. Like these others, Italy apparently discovered that the negligible profit didn't make up for the negative public reaction and the inconvenience of producing them.

Production of the advertising stamps was quietly halted after 1925.

When all is said and done,

recently.

Italian advertising stamps on cover are also prized, such as the example that is shown in Figure 2.

The cover is franked with a pair of 50c stamps with Singer sewing machine advertising labels. These have a catalog value as mint or used singles of less than \$1 apiece, yet this pair on cover sold in the United States recently for \$100.

For the well-heeled specialist, Scott catalogs the price of

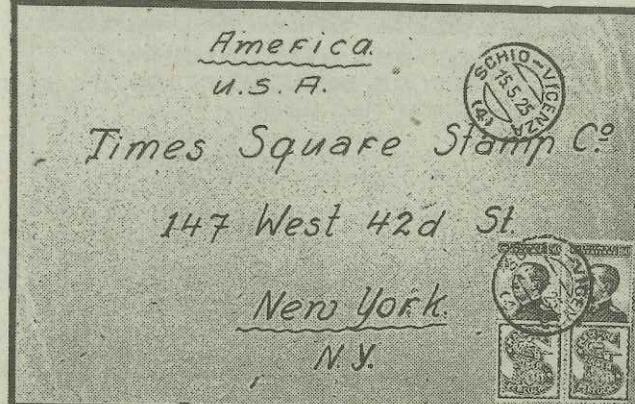


Figure 2. A pair of Italian 50-centesimo stamps with Singer sewing machine advertising labels on a 1925 cover.

are these reviled advertising stamps collected today? You bet they are!

One of the scarcer ones, an unused 50c stamp with a green Piperno label, sold for \$425 at a European auction

a unused set of the 19 advertising stamps at \$3,764.

For those of us on a limited budget, the same stamps in used condition, along with the two unissued values, can be purchased for about \$225. ■

# The Traitors of Laibach Cachet

▼ JAMES A. LEES

**A**n item of potential interest to both German and Italian collectors is the "Traitors of Laibach" cachet. On Sept. 8, 1943, four days ahead of schedule, the Allies publicly announced over the radio the armistice reached with Italy. However, King Victor Emmanuel III, commander of the Italian military forces, had that morning reassured Hitler's special representative that Italy would never surrender to the Allies. With Italy's military unprepared for the unscheduled switch, Germany's armed forces, the Wehrmacht, struck.

Moving at a fast pace the next day against demoralized Italian troops, the Germans executed Operation "Achse" (Axis) and quickly obtained the surrender of most of their former ally's soldiers in Italy, Croatia, Dalmatia and Greece.

In German eyes, Italian duplicity had reached its lowest limit. Prior to his reassurances that Italy would never surrender, the king had cooperated in the downfall of Italy's fascist premier Benito Mussolini, which was followed by additional defections by many former fascists.

Nazi postal officials set up office in the Laibach province (now the location of the Slovenian city Ljubljana). Due to the short notice prior to the seizure of this territory, an inventory was immediately made of confiscated Italian stamps that were still authorized for usage during the interim period. It was at this point that a German postal official must have come across Italian canceling devices and 11

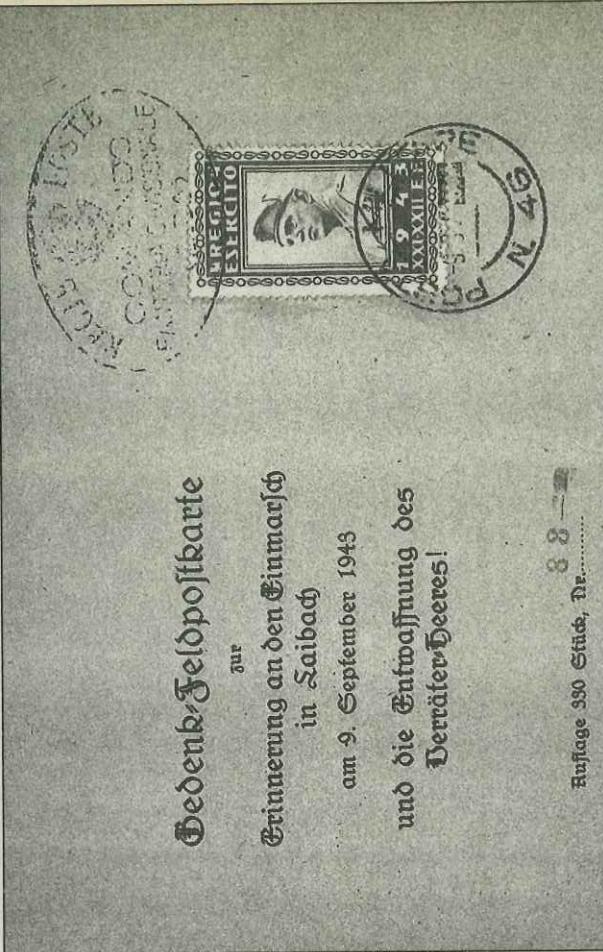
sheets of Royal Army labels, which were designed for placement on military documents.

The vignette or central design of the red labels depict the Italian king with the words "REGIO ESERCITO" (Royal Army) above and the dates of the fascist regime in Roman numerals at the bottom. Once the label — which was not designed for postal usage — was attached to an official document with the appropriate Italian army unit postmark, the document was certified as genuine.

Since the image of the Italian King would have been just as distasteful in the German eyes as anything associated with his Royal Army, someone came up with the idea of making a cachet, using the Italian labels, to note the Italian defection to the Allies and the subsequent seizure of Laibach.

After acquiring the talents of a printer, 550 standard "feldpost" (field post or military post) postcards were printed as collectable philatelic material to commemorate the occasion. Each card states (in German), "Commemorative Field Postcard for the Remembrance of the March into Laibach, 9 September 1943, and the Disarming of the Traitorous Army."

Each piece was additionally numbered from 1 to 550. For example, the item illustrating this article bears the number 83 of 550 made. The postcard also had one Royal Army label placed on the right side, tied to the card with a Royal Army Command cancellation and a standard Italian Army Unit No. 46 postmark, dated Sept. 9, 1943. The other side of the card was canceled Sept. 15, 1943, with a German feldpost military cancellation.



An Italian Royal Army label in red, tied to a German field post postcard by two Italian postmarks. The cachet claims a German victory over Italian betrayal.

The date of the German feldpost cancellation may also be a clue of when the cachet was actually produced. Since there were strict German postal regulations concerning the usage of their canceling devices, which could be ignored when using the captured Italian ones, these postal officials may have just backdated the Italian devices used on the front side of the cachet to the appropriate commemorative date. It may well have been the date on them when they were found.

Over the years examples of this cachet have popped up in auctions and have begun to demand a high price. Like many other covers produced during the war noting great historic events, this item has captured the feelings of those involved, as it philatelically documents a key change of postal ownership. For these reasons, both German and Italian collectors may wish to take a second look at this piece, if they come across it in the future. ▶

Gedenk-Feldpostkarte  
zur  
Erinnerung an den Einmarsch  
in Laibach  
am 9. September 1943  
und die Entwaffnung des  
Verräter Heeres!

Auflage 330 Stück, Nr. ....

72 -



# Royal Army adhesive difficult to describe

It is difficult to know what to call the Royal Army adhesive shown in Figure 1. It was not intended to be used as postage, nor did it have a value appearing on its face.

From time to time it turns

**Italy**  
By Robert E. Lana

up in a collection with the owner rarely knowing what it is.

The top of this red label reads "Regio Esercito" (in translation, "Royal Army"). King Victor Emmanuel III is pictured in the vignette.

The label, with the appropriate army unit postmark, was intended to indicate that

deed, genuine as certified by the issuer. It was used as part of a control process involving official army documents.

Those documents included hospital release forms, travel orders and various licenses issued to soldiers and noncommissioned officers for leaves, convalescent stays and so on.

A genuine use of the adhesive is shown in Figure 2. It illustrates a travel order for a second lieutenant who is being transferred to another unit. The adhesive was always placed on the upper-right-hand side of the document.

The first day of use of the Regio Esercito adhesive was apparently July 20, 1943. Interestingly, the adhesive was used into 1944, even though Italy surrendered to the Allies

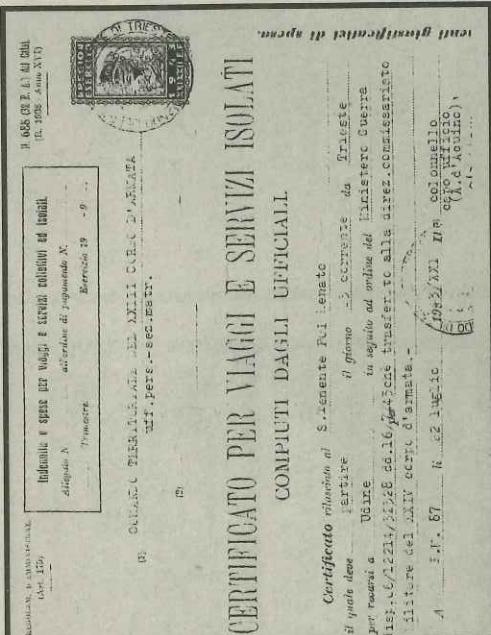


Figure 2. Military transfer paper showing proper use of the Army adhesive, indicating the transfer order was genuine.



Figure 3. Fraudulent use of the adhesive as postage. The label was never intended to be used as postage.

tion that whoever issued the document in the first place did so legitimately, as attested to by the "countersign" in the form of the adhesive.

However, whatever looks like a postage stamp is, sooner or later, treated as a postage stamp, if only by the unscrupulous.

Figure 3 shows a counterfeited cover with the adhesive affixed to a military letter as if it had a postal function.

Notice that the letter is addressed to a sergeant in the "Zona di Guerra" or war zone. Only letters addressed to military personnel during World War I were addressed in that manner. "War zone" addresses were not used during World War II.

The label is also found overprinted as shown at right in Figure 1, but this is generally referred to as a private overprint in some catalogs. In short, it's a fake. ■



Figure 1. World War II Italian military approval label. The example at right was privately overprinted and is not official.

## Royal Army Adhesive

