

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years

INTRODUCTION

The beginning of the 20th Century found Crete as an Autonomous State under the High Commission of the four protecting powers and Greece. It would take another 12 years for the Union with Greece to be realized. During this first decade of the 20th Century, not only beautiful stamps were produced in Crete, but an efficient Postal System and, especially, a widespread Rural Postal Service was founded. This system successfully replaced the Foreign Post Offices which were operating in Crete during the 19th Century, under the legal status of capitulations.

The rural Cretan Postmen were covering various routes in the Island, in order to serve the small and widely scattered villages and hamlets of the mainland. Their services were vital for these areas because they were delivering and collecting letters, selling stamps, handling money orders and even serving for judicial affairs (handing Court summons etc). They were using their own Numeral Postmarks, corresponding to the Route they were serving. The Rural Postal Service started during the period of Autonomous Crete, and continued and expanded after the Union. For 50 Years after the Union, the postal system was extended to include all small towns, villages, communes, even hamlets of the Island. There were 4 Classes of Offices (A to D), plus the travelling rural postmen and their itineraries.

2nd WW. Crete was conquered by the Germans on the last days of May 1941, after fierce battles. It was the last European stronghold, close to Middle East. Consequently, it was always considered as "Front" and named "Festung Kreta" (Fortress of Crete). For almost 1 year (Summer 1941 to May 1942) Cretans were obliged to exchange correspondence written only in German. For the whole period of the (severe!) German Occupation, correspondence was only allowed with Cards – Covers were forbidden. This is not the case for the (light) Italian Occupation of Lasithi – Eastern Crete (June 1941 to September 1943). The Italians were planning to join Lasithi to their dominion of Dodecanese (Isole Italiane dell Egeo).

CLASSIFICATION AND CONTENTS

Pages 3 - 6 (1st Frame). **Before the outbreak of war**

Pages 7 - 20 (1st 2nd Frames). **The Greek Defense – November 1940 to May 1941**

Pages 21 - 26 (2nd Frame). **Collapse of the Greek Front, Battle of Crete – April to May 1941**

Pages 27 - 53 (2nd 3rd 4th Frames). **German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.**

Pages 54 - 63 (4th Frame). **Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration - June 1941 to September 1943**

Pages 64 - 66 (5th Frame). **Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – German Administration from September 1943.**

Pages 66 - 67 (5th Frame). **The Days of the German Retreat - 25 Sep. to 10 Oct. 1944**

Pages 68 - 80 (5th Frame). **The Difficult Times after Liberation**

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years

Before the outbreak of war

An **efficient Postal System** and, especially, a widespread Rural Postal Service **was in operation in Crete**. Their services were vital for these areas because they were delivering and collecting letters, selling stamps, handling money orders and even serving for judicial affairs. They were using their own Numeral Postmarks, corresponding to the Route they were serving.

The Rural Postal Service started during the period of Autonomous Crete, and continued and expanded after the Union. For 30 Years after the Union, the postal system was extended to include all small towns, villages, communes, even hamlets of the Island.

This effective edifice, during the whole period of the (severe!) German Occupation, continued operating, although unbelievably hard measures were taken against the local population (i.e. for almost 1 year 1941-1942, Cretans were obliged to exchange correspondence written only in German !!!, and for the whole period of the Occupation, correspondence was only allowed with Cards – Covers were forbidden !!!). The system almost collapsed only during the last months of the Occupation.



Cover posted from Nefs Amari (rural 798 of Rethymnon), **5 Jan. 1939**, to Lindi, Tanganyika Territory, east Africa.

Foreign Exchange Control of Rethymnon.

Postal Rate: 8 Dr. for Foreign Letter + 1.10 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years

Before the outbreak of war

Sending Money by the Post
("Declared Value" Covers)



Registered and Declared Value (for 440 Drachmas) Cover, posted 31-10-1939 from HERAKLEION to Athens.

Large Rose Label in French (VALEUR DECLAREE)

Postal Rate: 10 Dr. (3 Dr. for Internal Letter+ 4 Dr. for Registration + 0.50Dr. /100Dr. of Declared Value) + 50 l. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years

Before the outbreak of war

Sending Money by the Post
("Declared Value" Covers)



Registered and Declared Value (for 600 Drachmas) Cover, posted 4-4-1939
from HERAKLEION to Chios.

Small Red Label in French (VALEUR DECLAREE)

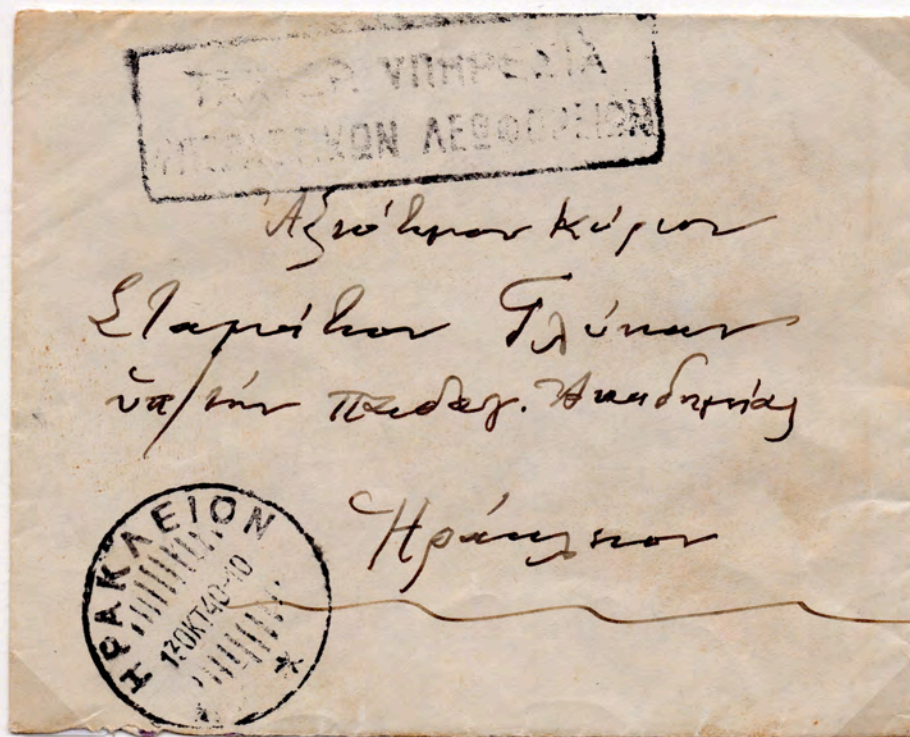
Postal Rate: 10.50 Dr. (3 Dr. for Internal Letter+ 4 Dr. for Registration +
0.50Dr. /100Dr. of Declared Value) + 50 l. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Winds of War

Before the outbreak of war

There was even a Mobile Postal Service - the only one in Crete
(and the only one by Coaches in Greece !)

TAXYΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ ΥΠΕΡΑΣΤΙΚΩΝ ΛΕΩΦΟΡΕΙΩΝ
(Postal Service by Intercity Coaches)
The service was short lived and had a very limited use.



Cover, posted **13 Oct. 1940** to HERAKLEION,
by the Postal Service of Intercity Coaches.
Postal Rate: 3 Dr. for Internal Letter+ 50 l. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Winds of War

Before the outbreak of war

A few days before the Declaration of War between Greece and Italy (28 Oct. 1940), there is a Census of the population throughout the Country.

The **Post Office postmark advertises the Census** and calls the population to take care in completing the records.



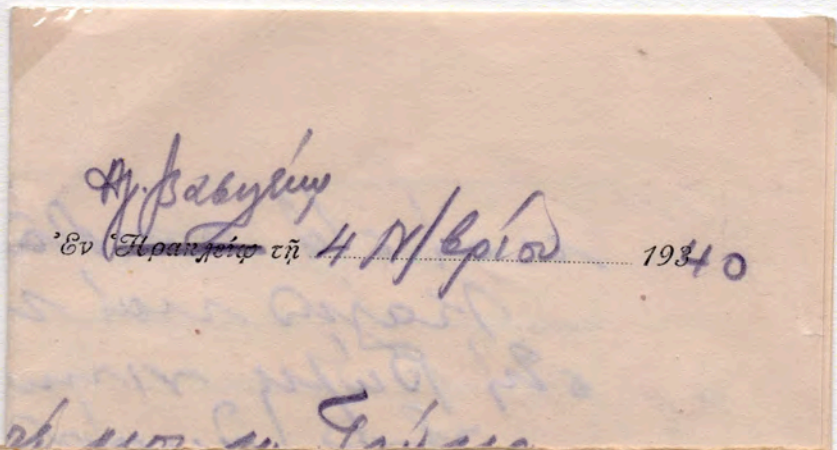
Cover, posted **17 Oct. 1940 (9 days before the Italian assault)** from HERAKLEION to Chios.

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. for Internal Letter+ 50 l. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense – November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships
 First Days of the War – the Army Recruitment
 Circular Postmark “Heraclion P.O. Censorship”



Cover posted **4 Nov. 1940**, from Agios Vasilios, 20Km from Herakleion, where the recruitment camp was, to Herakleion.
Postal Rate: Printed 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense - November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

ΕΛΕΓΧΟΣ ΣΥΝΑΛΛΑΓΜΑΤΟΣ (Exchange Control) printed tape placed with text facing down, used in the first few days of the war as censor tape.

+ Circular Postmark "Heracleion P.O. Censorship"

+ "Censored 8" examiners' handstamp



Cover posted **22 Nov. 1940** from Herakleion to Vrontados. *

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense – November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

Plain paper tape + Circular Postmark “Heracleion x P.O. x Censorship” +
 a. “Censored 6” examiners’ handstamp (blue)
 b. “Censored 8” examiners’ handstamp (violet)

Stationery cover
 posted **Jan. 1941**
 from MALLIA to
 Herakleion.

Postal Rate:
 Printed 3 Dr.
 Internal Letter
 Rate + 0.50 Dr.
 Charity



Cover posted **2 Jan. 1941**, from Herakleion to Chios.
Postal Rate: 3 Dr.
 Internal Letter Rate +
 0.50 Dr. Charity +
 0.50 Dr. Anti TB (23 Dec. to 6 Jan. only)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense – November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

Circular Postmark “Heracleion x P.O. x Censorship” +

a. **Plain paper tape** + “Censored 12” examiners’ handstamp (blue)

b. **“Greek censorship” printed paper tape** + “Censored 9” examiners’ handstamp (violet)



Two Covers posted: a. **11 Dec. 1940** from Herakleion to Chios.

b. **23 Mar. 1941** from Herakleion to Ampelouzi Messaras, arrival Agioi Deka.

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense - November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

Plain paper tape + Circular Postmark "Heracleion x P.O. x Censorship" +

a. "Censored 13" examiners' handstamp (black)

b. "Censored 14" examiners' handstamp (violet)



Two Covers posted **10 Feb. 1941** (both!), from Herakleion to Chios, censored by different examiners.

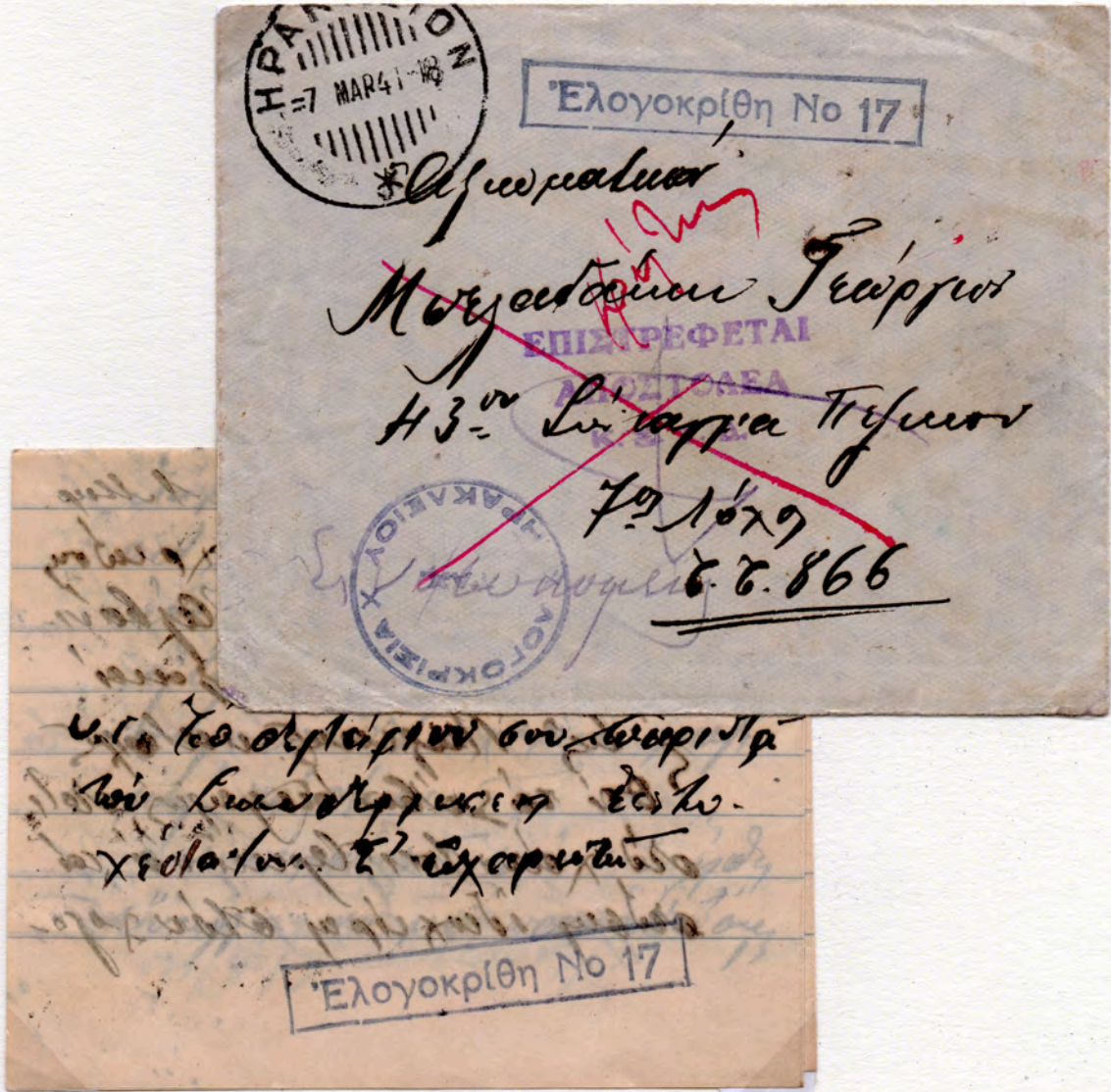
Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense - November 1940 to May 1941

The Letter was returned to the sender because the addressee was wounded in the hospital.

The Greek Censorships
Circular Postmark "Heraklion x P.O. x Censorship" + "Censored 17" (Blue)



Cover posted **7 Mar. 1941**, from Herakleion to the 43rd Infantry Regiment.
The Letter was returned to the sender.

Handwritten: **ΕΙΣ ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟΝ** (in the Hospital)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense – November 1940 to May 1941

Rural postmark 58 + The Greek Censorships
Circular Postmark “Heraclion x P.O. x Censorship”
“Censored 3” examiners’ handstamp



Cover posted **12 Mar. 1941**, from Vrachasion (Rural 58) to Herakleion. *

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Printed on the envelope (post office's rubber stamp):
ΓΡΑΦΕΤΕ ΣΥΝΤΟΜΑ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΘΑΡΑ: Write short and clean

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense - November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

Circular Postmark "RETHYMNON x P.O. x Censorship" (blue and violet),
With or without tape.



Two Covers:

a. Posted **2 Jan. 1941**, from Rethymnon, to Sfakia.

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity + 0.50 Dr. Anti-TB

b. Posted **8 Mar. 1941**, from Herakleion to Rethymnon (censored in Rethymnon).

Postal Rate: Franchise (Official from the Teachers' Training Academy of Herakleion)

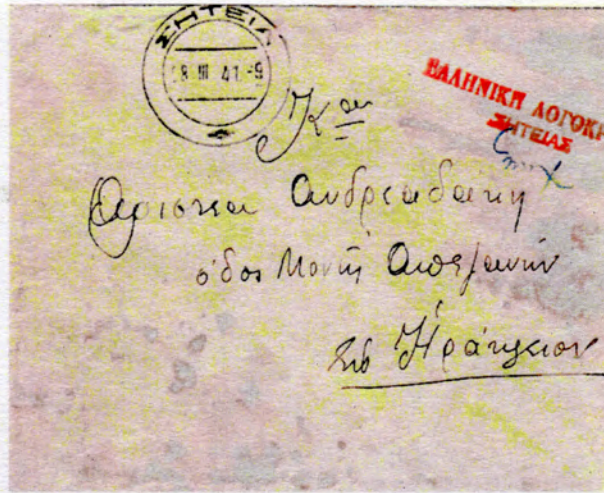
Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense - November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ ΣΗΤΕΙΑΣ

Greek censorship of Sitia (in red)



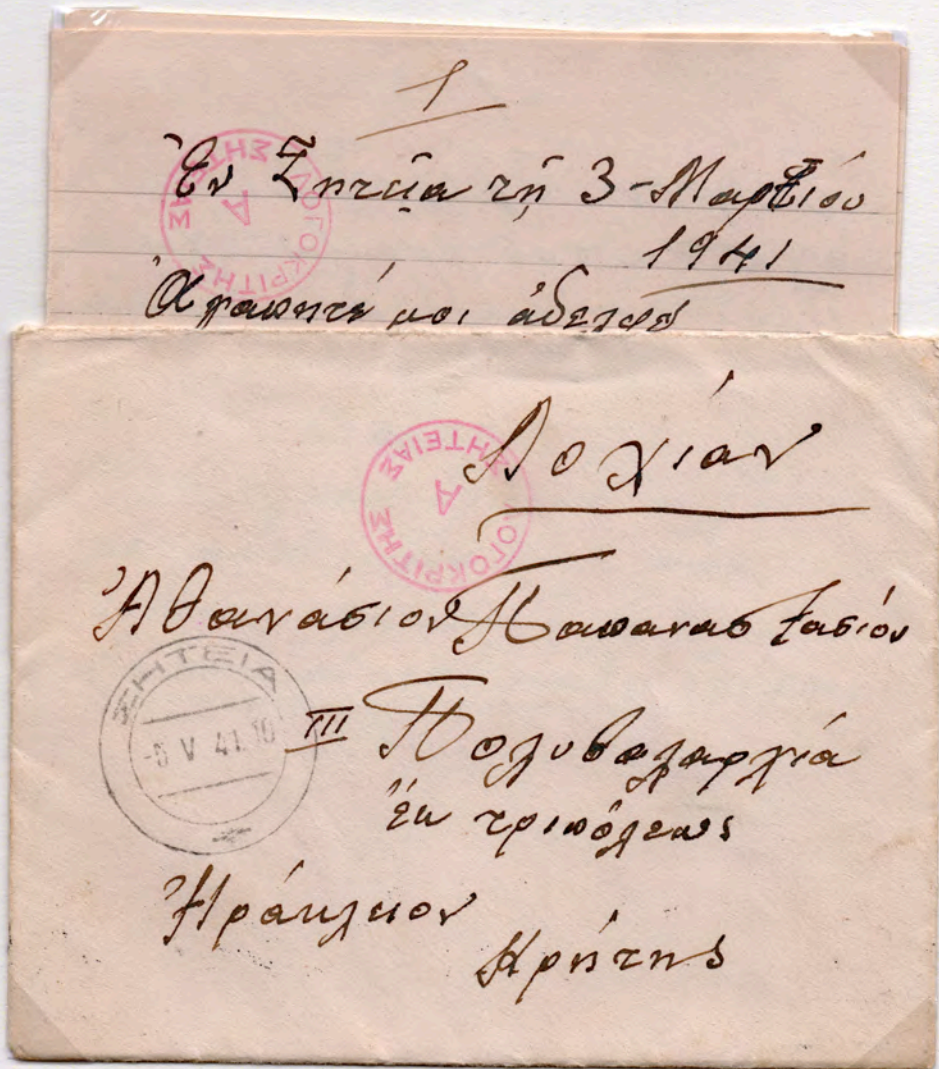
Cover posted **8 Mar. 1941**, from Sitia, to Herakleion. *
Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense - November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

- a. Small Circular Postmark **ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ ΣΗΤΕΙΑΣ Α** - "Censorship of Sitia A"
- b. **ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ ΧΩΡΟΦΥΛΑΚΗΣ ΑΓΙΩΝ ΔΕΚΑ** - Agioi Deka Gendarmerie Station



Two Covers posted: a. **7 Jan. 1941** from Agioi Deka to Herakleion. *

b. **5 Mar. 1941** from Sitia to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: a. 1.50 Dr. Open Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Anti-TB,

b. Free Franchise (from the Police Academy of Sitia)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense – November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

Circular Postmark “IERAPETRA x P.O. x Censorship”



Stationery Cover posted **1 Jan. 1941**, from Ierapetra, to Herakleion.
Postal Rate: Printed 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense – November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships
ΛΟΓΟΚΡΗΣΙΑ ΤΑΧ. ΔΑΦΝΩΝ
Circular Postmark “Dafnes x P.O. x Censorship”



Cover posted **9 Feb. 1941**, from Dafnes to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

**

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

The Greek Defense - November 1940 to May 1941

The Greek Censorships

ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ ΤΑΧ. ΤΥΜΠΑΚΙΟΥ

Circular Postmark "Tympakion P.O. Censorship"



Stationery Cover posted **27 Feb. 1941**, from Tympaki, to Herakleion. ***

Postal Rate: Printed 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

Collapse of the Greek Front, Battle of Crete - April to May 1941

Communication with Greece interrupted.

Greek Administration in the Greek mainland ended on 23 April 1941.

The Greek Censorships

Circular Postmark "Heraclion x P.O. x Censorship" + "Censored 17" (Blue)

No paper tape: the letter was given open to the examiner, who put his handstamp (17) and **signed on the letter**.



Cover posted **19 Apr. 1941**, from Herakleion to Pireaus.

The letter was returned to the sender because
Communication with Greece was interrupted.

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity
+ 0.50 Dr. Anti TB (for the 2 weeks of Easter)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

Collapse of the Greek Front, Battle of Crete - April to May 1941

Communication with Greece interrupted.
Both Letters returned to sender

The Greek Censorships

Circular Postmark "Heraclion x P.O. x Censorship" + "Censored 6 and 9" (Blue) + Tape

Cover posted **Apr. 26 1941** from Herakleion to Tripolis Arkadias (Greek Mainland). The Letter was **taxed (for Postage Due)** in Herakleion, but it was returned to the sender, because communication with Greece was interrupted.



Cover posted **Apr. 17 1941**, from B' War's Prisoners Camp (most probably by a guard), **Xoudetsion (Pediados)**, to Nea Ionia, censored in Herakleion and returned to the sender.

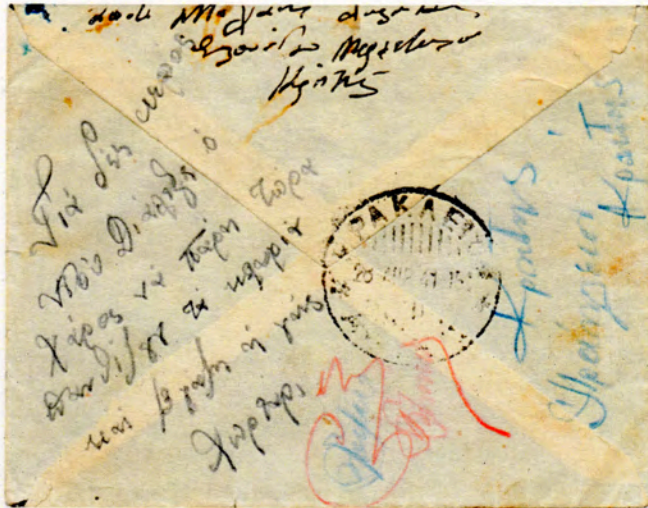
Postal Rate: Free *

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

Collapse of the Greek Front, Battle of Crete - April to May 1941

War Prisoners' Correspondence
Rural Postmark 53 + Greek Censorship

ΕΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΘΗ
ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ ΧΩΡΟΦΥΛΑΚΗΣ ΛΑΣΗΘΙΟΥ
Censored / Lasithi Gendarmerie Direction
(in Agios Nikolaos)



Cover posted **26 Apr. 1941**, from Ελουντα Μεραμπελου Crete (Rural 53), to the 2nd Center of War Prisoners.

The Prisoner wrote on the cover the famous saying by ATHANASIOS DIAKOS :
"Για δεσ καιρό που διάλεξε ο χάρος να με πάρει, τώρα που ανθίζουν τα κλαδιά και βγάζει η γης χορτάρι".

(Look at which time death chose to take me, now that the flower stems and the grass turns the earth)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

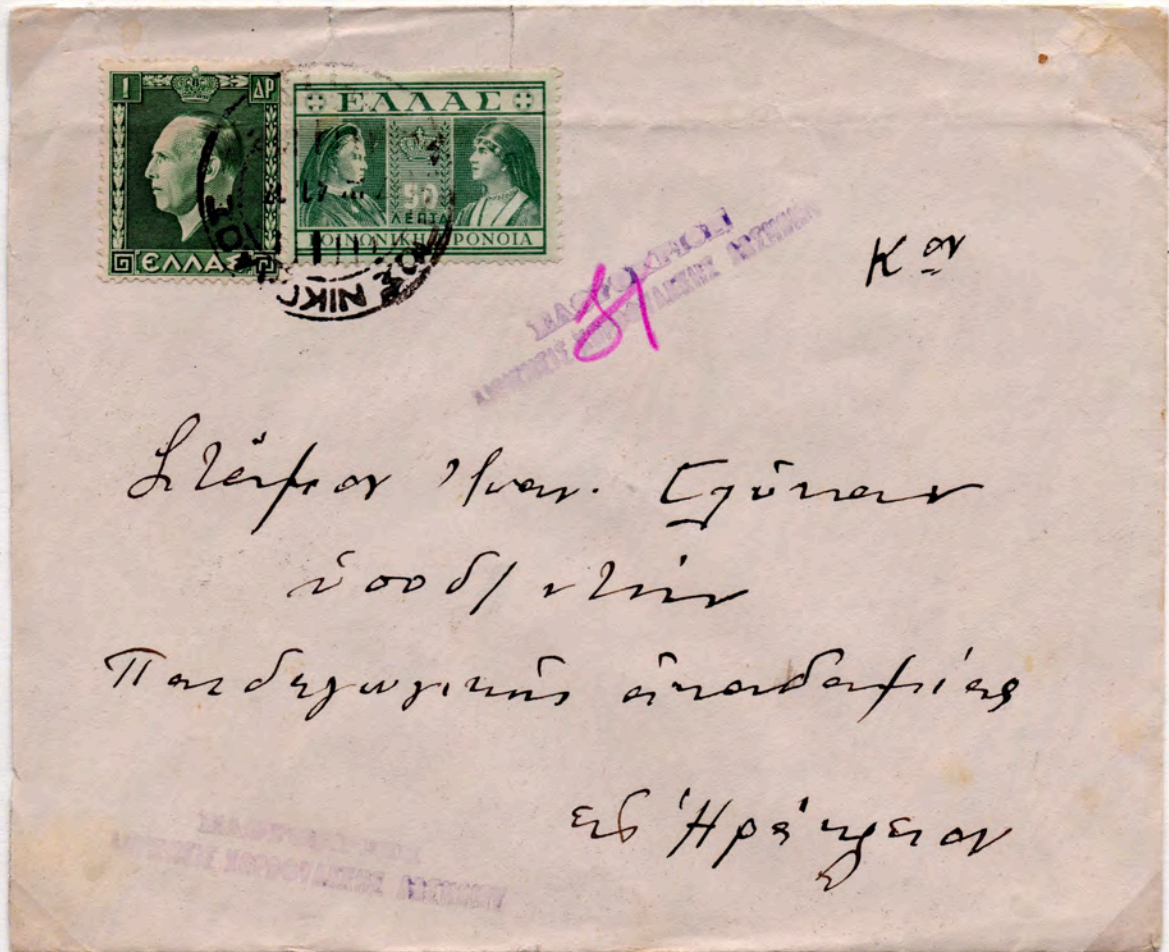
Collapse of the Greek Front, Battle of Crete - April to May 1941

Greek Censorship

ΕΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΘΗ

ΔΙΟΙΚΗΣΙΣ ΧΩΡΟΦΥΛΑΚΗΣ ΛΑΣΗΘΙΟΥ

Censored / Lasithi Gendarmerie Direction



Cover posted **8 Apr. 1941**, from Agios Nikolaos to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity



Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

Collapse of the Greek Front, Battle of Crete - April to May 1941

Correspondence into Crete continues till late May 1941
The Greek Censorships

Small Circular Postmark "Censorship of CHANIA x 1"



Registered Cover posted **7 May 1941**, from Chania, to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: 7 Dr. (3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate+4 Dr. for Registration) + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

Collapse of the Greek Front, Battle of Crete - April to May 1941

The Greek Censorships
ΣΤΑΘΜΟΣ ΧΩΡΟΦΥΛΑΚΗΣ ΧΑΝΔΡΑΣ



Cover posted **1 May 1941**, from Chandras Sitias (Rural 871) to Herakleion.
Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity
 + 0.50 Dr. Anti TB (for the 2 weeks of Easter)

**

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

FESTUNG KRETA: Fortress Crete

Crete was the farthest German stronghold in South East Europe and the island was always considered by the Germans, a "War Front".

Postal Regulations

One measure set by the Germans was the obligatory use of Postcards. Only Public services and some organizations (i.e. Banks) were allowed to use envelopes. And from June 1941 till May 1942, the cards had to be written in German. The Greek Language was only allowed after May 1942.

The German Censorships

(According to Bosovitch the German Military Censorship office was originally in Chania, according to Riemer it was in Herakleion.)



: Zensiert Feldkommandantur

Thank you so much ~~Winn~~ Lieber Mama.
Alle wir sind gesund. Wir wünschen gleich
ihnen trotz weniger Lage haben wir an George
geschriebten.
Unsere herrliche grüße alle
Wir haben sie
ihre Kinder
Stamm Alexander



Card posted 3 Sept. 1941, from Herakleion to Chios. Written in German. *
Postal Rate: 2 Dr. Internal Card Rate + 0.10 Dr. Charity (for Cards)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

The German Censorships

According to Bosovitch the German Military Censorship office was originally in Chania.

CHANIA June 1941

Zensiert Feldkommandantur

: **Zensiert Feldkommandantur**

Chania 29/6/41.
Meine lieber Vater.
Von ihre ~~ganze~~^{Briefe} ich habe was es gehen ~~es~~ sie
gut lernen. Und es geht ~~es~~ mir gut auch.
Gestern habe ich der Herr Kremenin sehen.
Mittag ~~was ich~~ werde ich am Herr Sfikas
gehen. Im meine Mutter und Schwester Maria
viele ~~für~~ ^{grüßen}.
Mit Liebe
Georges

Card posted **29 June 1941**, from Chania to Pireaus. Written in German. *

Postal Rate: 2 Dr. Internal Card Rate + 2 Dr. for Airmail + 0.10 Dr. Charity (for Cards)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation
 German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

The German Censorships
 ZENSIERT FELDKOMMANDANTUR

Card Written in German

Heraklion d. 18. 1. 1942
 Mein Sieber Giorgo.
 Vorzeit haben wir die Briefkasten,
 deinen Brief und die Zeitung.
 Ich habe für die Mutter geschickt
 am 14. 11. 41 zwei tausend Drahtchen
 und auch am 8-1-1942 zwei tausend.
 Drahtchen - wir sind gesund, wir erwarten
 deinen Brief mit großer Neugier -
 Meine Grüsse allen.
 glücklich neugierig - Ich küss dich
 Stamos

ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ



5 ΔΡ. ΕΛΛ. ΕΣ.

18 JAN 42

ZENSIERT FELDKOMMANDANTUR

For
 Georgios I. Ziogas
 Ερασμίου Κράσιου
 rue Hellas
 Chios
 Chios

ΑΠΟΣΤΟΛΕΥΣ
 Σταύρος Ζιώγας
 Νοσοκ. Π. Αναστάσιος
 Ερασμίου Κράσιου

Τύπος Ν. ΑΛΙΚΙΩΤΗ - Ηράκλειον

Post Card posted 18 Jan. 1942, from Herakleion to Chios.
 Postal Rate: 5 Dr. Internal Card Rate

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

The German Censorships

Circular **KREISKOMMANDANTUR IRAKLION**
 2 types: **ZENSIERT** in center or **ZENSIERT** in lower third



Stationery Card (of 7 Dr.) posted **2 May 1943**, from Herakleion to Chios.
Postal Rate: 75Dr. Internal Card Rate (from 1 Feb. 1943)



Registered Card posted **15 June 1944**, from Herakleion to **Chios**.
Postal Rate: 7000 Dr. Registered Card Rate (from 15 Mar. 1944)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Censorship on incoming letter (in a closed stationery envelope)

The German Censorships

Circular (Large) **KREISKOMMANDANTUR IRAKLION ZENSIERT**



Stationery Cover (of 30 Dr.) posted **18 Sept. 1942**, from Athens to Herakleion. **

Postal Rate: 120 Dr. Internal Stationery Cover (from 1 Feb. 1943)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Summer of 1941

Although the German rule on Crete was established since June 1941, there are some rare cases of mail contrary to regulations (i.e. uncensored envelopes), during the summer of 1941, only from small villages and to destinations into Crete.

Two envelopes from **Moulete Kissamou (VOUKOLIES)** and Pisidia Messaras (**TYMPAKI**).



Cover posted **14 July 1941** from Moulete Kissamou (VOUKOLIES) to Herakleion. *

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity



Cover posted **30 June 1941** from Pisidia Messaras (TYMPAKI). to Herakleion. *

Postal Rate: 3 Dr. Internal Letter Rate + 0.50 Dr. Charity

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Even in 1942, after the acceptance of the Greek language, there was a tolerance for envelopes, posted even without censor marks or signs at all, but only for local destinations from small villages or rural routes.

Two Uncensored envelopes from Cretan Rural Routes
23 (Mesi Rethymnis) and 30 (Neys Amari)



Cover posted **18-7-1942**, posthorn 23 to Herakleion. *

Postal Rate: 10 Dr. Internal Letter Rate



Cover posted **2-8-1942**, posthorn 30 to Herakleion. *

Postal Rate: 10 Dr. Internal Letter Rate

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

After the Greek language was accepted (May 1942), the old Greek Censorship postmark was brought back into use, by the Germans.

The German Censorships

Circular ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ * TAX. * ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΥ



Stationery Card (of 7 Dr.) posted **18 Sept. 1942**, from Herakleion to Kallithea.
Postal Rate: 15Dr. Internal Card Rate (from 1 Sept. 1942)



Post Card posted **24 Nov. 1942**, from Herakleion to Athens.
Postal Rate: 25 Dr. Internal Card Rate (from 1 Nov. 1942)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

The German Censorships

Circular ΛΟΓΟΚΡΙΣΙΑ * TAX. * ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΥ



Stationery Card (of 7 Dr.) posted **16 Nov. 1942**, from Herakleion to Kallithea.
Postal Rate: 25Dr. Internal Card Rate (from 1 Nov. 1942)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Incoming Letter

An incoming Letter (1943) to Herakleion is accepted and treated in a much lighter way (closed envelope – no sign of signature) than outgoing.



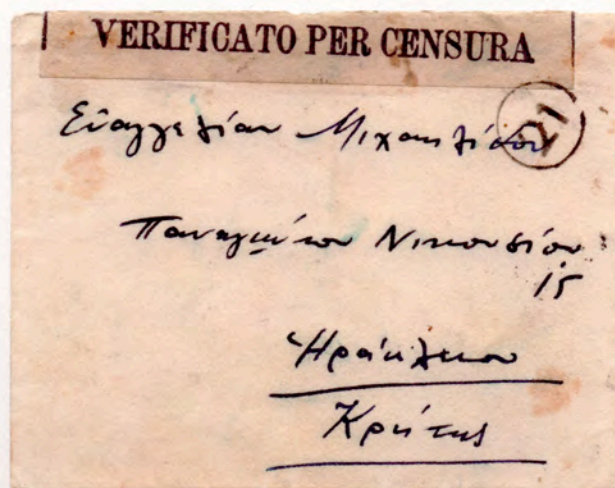
Registered Stationery Cover (of 120 Dr.) posted EXPRESS, **21 Dec. 1943**, from Patrai to Herakleion – it arrived after 20 days, although Express and Air Mail.
Postal Rate: a. 1700 Dr. Inland Cover Rate (600 for stationery cover + 500 for registration + 500 for EXPRESS + 100 for Air Mail) + 30 Dr. Anti TB

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Incoming Letter

But another incoming Letter (1943) from Aigion to Herakleion, has been censored twice
Italian censorship on dispatch, examination and signature on arrival.



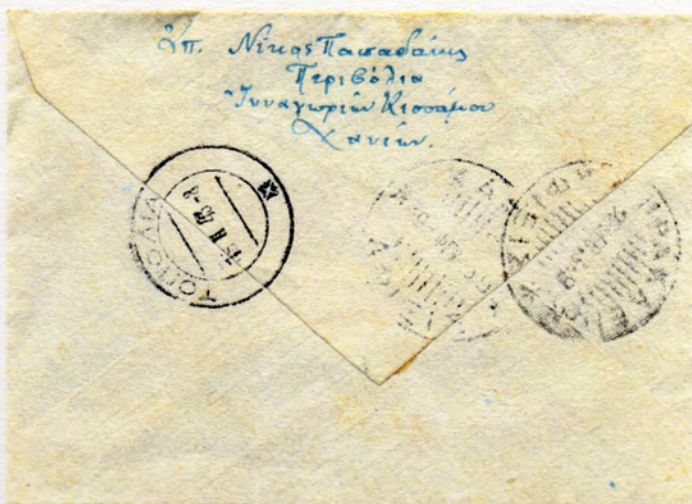
Cover posted, **13 Aug. 1943**, from Aigion to Herakleion, arrival 23 Aug (much sooner than the EXPRESS cover, although this one had been censored twice!!).

Postal Rate: 200 Dr. Inland Cover Rate (50 Dr. Air Mail stamp used as normal)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Another uncensored envelope from Kouneni



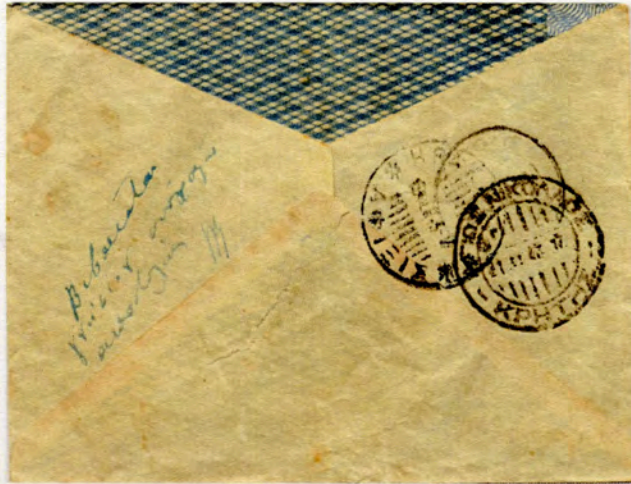
Cover posted **13-2-1943**, Kouneni, via Topolia to Herakleion. *
Postal Rate: 100 Dr. Internal Letter Rate (from 1-2-1943)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

A stationery envelope, posted open from Anogeia

Censorship: handwritten on the back «βεβαιούται γνησίον υπογραφής αποστολέως»
(we certify the genuine signature of the sender).



Stationery Cover posted **1943** from Ανώγεια, via Άγιος Νικόλαος to Νεάπολις.

Postal Rate: The rate for a stationery cover was (from 1-2-1943) 120 Dr., while the rate for an internal letter was only 100 Dr. The sender tried to send it as an ordinary letter, franking it with $4 \times 25 = 100$ Dr. and ignoring the stationery value (and he fixed the adhesives on the printed stamps). But the Post Office clerk did not accept it: he considered the cover as Stationery, he counted the Franking as $4 \times 25 + 10 = 110$ Dr. and he charged it ΠΑ (Taxed for insufficient payment) 20 Dr. (2×10).

A knowledgeable and strict postal clerk

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Uncensored envelopes from Crete to destinations into Crete (1943).



Two Covers posted: a. **Jan. 1943** from Pompia to Herakleion.

b. **Jan. 1943** from Pyrgos Monofatsiou to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: 60 Dr. Internal Stationery Cover Rate (from 1 - 11 - 1942)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Uncensored envelopes from Crete to destinations into Crete (1942).



Two Covers posted: a. **2 June 1942** from Rethymnon to Herakleion.
b. **19 Oct. 1942** from Kassanous Pediadas to Herakleion. Stamps cancelled on arrival.

Postal Rate: a. 15 Dr. Internal Stationery Cover Rate (from 15 – 5 – 1942)
b. 25 Dr. Internal Cover Rate (from 1 – 9 – 1942)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

The Envelope was accepted and uncensored because the sender was The National Bank of Chania and the addressee was the Education Academy in Herakleion.

Partly Prepaid Letters: **T in a triangle** of Herakleion + Postage Dues.



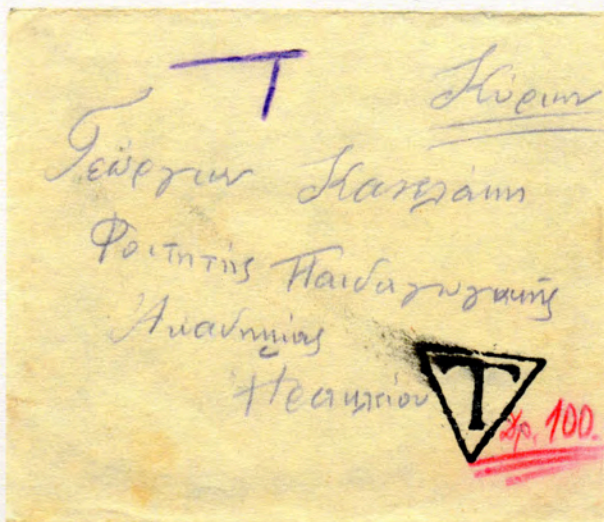
Cover posted **26-11-1942**, in Herakleion (in city).

Postal Rate: It was franked 20 Dr. (the cover was written in Chania, but posted in Herakleion), instead of 25 Dr. (from 1-11-1942). So it was charged 10 Dr.: 5x2 Dr. for In City Postal Rate.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Partly Prepaid Letters: **T in a triangle** + Postage Dues.



Cover posted **18 Feb. 1942**, from Chania to Herakleion. *

Postal Rate: It was franked 50 Dr. instead of 100 Dr. (from 1-2-1943). So it was charged 100 Dr.: 2x50 Dr.

The 100 Dr. Postage due stamp had a very limited use.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Uncensored stationery envelope from Pompia



Cover posted 13-10-1942, from Pompia to Herakleion. *

Postal Rate: 25 Dr. Internal Letter Rate

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Identity Card Control - Censored at Arrival

The use of Children Welfare stamps

This is the 1st Greek Semi-Postal Issue with a Combination of Basic and Charity Rate in the face value. The use of these stamps was mandatory in domestic mail for a period of 1 month (October 1943) after which they were withdrawn.



Stationery Card (of 7 Dr., which were not taken into account for the rate) posted **10 Oct. 1943**, from Herakleion to Chios.

Postal Rate: 125 Dr. Internal Card Rate (from 1 Aug. 1943)

This is, of course, an issue of Philatelic Inspiration, nevertheless it is a part of the postal history of that era.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

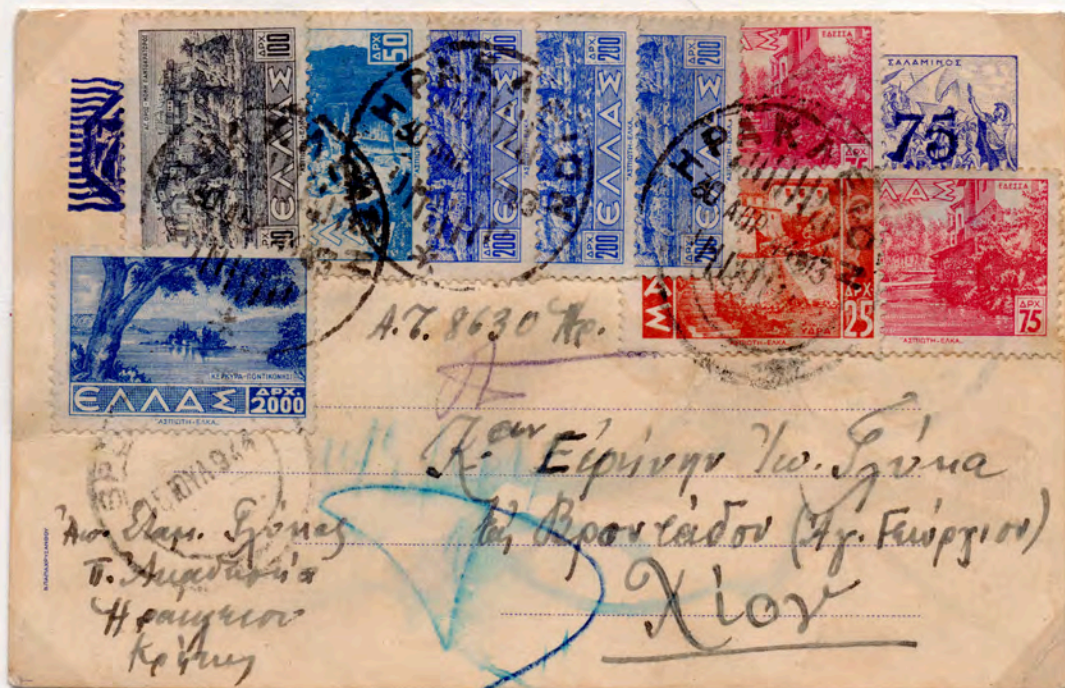
German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Identity Card Control

In the last year of occupation (late 1943 to September 1944), the sender has to write on the Card (still obligatory for mail outside Crete) his **Identity Card number**. Most items in this period are found with examiner's signature only or no censor marking at all.



Stationery Card (of 7 Dr.) posted **19 Sept. 1943**, from Herakleion to Athens.
Postal Rate: a. 125 Dr. Internal Card Rate



Stationery Card (of 75 Dr.) posted **30 Apr. 1944** from Herakleion to Chios. The card reached its destination at 15 July (2 and a half months after posting) and indicates the complete disorganization of the postal services (most of the Cards have no arrival markings).

Postal Rate: 3000 Dr. Internal Card Rate (almost always paid by lots of low face value stamps, due to high inflation)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Identity Card Control
Censored at Arrival: DEUTSCHE ZENSUR CHIOS

In cases of correspondence between German occupied places, the censorship could be made at arrival. The indication of the Identity Card Number was necessary.



Two Stationery Cards (of 7 Dr. and 75 Dr.) posted **17 Sept. 1943** and **8 May 1944**, from Herakleion to Chios.

Postal Rate: a. 125 Dr. Internal Card Rate (from 1 Aug. 1943)

b. 3000 Dr. Internal Card Rate (from 15 Mar. 1944)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Partly Prepaid Letters: A very rare Postage Due stamp.



Cover posted **9 Jan. 1944**, in Herakleion, in city. *

The dispatch p.o. is Herakleion 10, the arrival p.o. is Herakleion 9.

Postal Rate: It was franked 400 Dr. instead of 500 Dr. (from 10- 11 -1943). So it was charged 200 Dr.: 2x100 Dr.

Perhaps the cover is of Philatelic inspiration, but the rate is correct and the 100 Dr. Postage due stamp had a very limited use (for 3 months), if any (I have never seen a 2nd envelope to any destination in Greece with this stamp).

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

The German Censorships

Circular **KREISKOMMANDANTUR IRAKLION ZENSIERT**

Used very late, 15 June 1944,
on a registered card, together with the optional surtax stamp of 100.000 Dr.
for the victims of the Pireaus bombardment.



Registered Stationery Card posted **15 June 1944**, from Herakleion to Chios.
Postal Rate: 7000 Dr. Registered Card Rate (from 15 Mar. 1944)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

From 1943 Stationery envelopes were accepted by the German Authorities to destinations in Crete, and they were posted open with examiner's signature.

Censorship: handwritten on front «ηλέγχθει» (checked).



Stationery Cover of 10 Dr. posted **11 Nov. 1943** from Rethymnon to Herakleion.
Postal Rate: 600 Dr Stationery Cover Rate (from 10 Nov. 1943)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

A Stationery Cover from Pompia
Censorship: Signed by the examiner



Stationery Cover of 30 Dr. posted **10 Jan. 1944** from Pompia to Herakleion.
(aesthetic amelioration)

Postal Rate: 600 Dr Stationery Cover Rate + 30 Dr. Anti-TB

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

During 1944 there is a complete disorganization of the postal services.

Most of the Cards or Covers have no arrival markings, some no censorship or signature.

No Sign at all.



Cover posted **5 June 1944**, from Kalyves Apokoronou to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: 4000 Dr. Internal Cover Rate + 5000 Dr. Anti-TB



Stationery Card (of 75 Dr.) posted **8 May 1944**, from Herakleion to Athens.

Postal Rate: 3000 Dr. Internal Card Rate

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Spring to Autumn 1944: Period of Highest Inflation

Rates from 15 March 1944



Stationery Cover (of 120 Dr.) posted **26 Apr. 1944**, from Rethymnon to Herakleion.

Signed for censorship.

Postal Rate: a. 5000 Dr. Stationery Cover Rate + 100 Dr. Anti-TB

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Rates from 15 March 1944
(in thousands)



Stationery Card (of 75 Dr.) posted **30 May 1944**, from Herakleion to Chios.
 Signed for censorship and Identity Card number.
Postal Rate: a. 3000 Dr. Stationery Card Rate



Stationery Cover (of 30 Dr.) posted **15 June 1944**, from Pompia, to Myrthion Rethymnou. Signed for censorship.
Postal Rate: a. 4000 Dr. Cover Rate (treated as normal cover – stationery was disregarded) + 100 Dr. Anti-TB

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Rates from 1 July 1944
(in tens of thousands)



Reconstructed Cover (from used Paper) posted **3 August 1944**, from Βόρους Πυργιωσιών to Αμπελουζούς Καινούργιου.

Cover posted **13 August 1944** from Καλύβες Αποκορώνου to Rethymnon
Postal Rate: 50000 Dr. for Internal Letter + 25000 Dr. Charity. (1/7 - 15/8/1944)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete - June 1941 to September 1944.

Highest Inflation

Rates from 15 September 1944, valid for about a month
(Herakleion was Liberated on 11 October 1944)
(rates in millions)



Stationery Card (of 3000 Dr.) posted **26 September 1944**,
from Herakleion to Limnes Meramvelou.

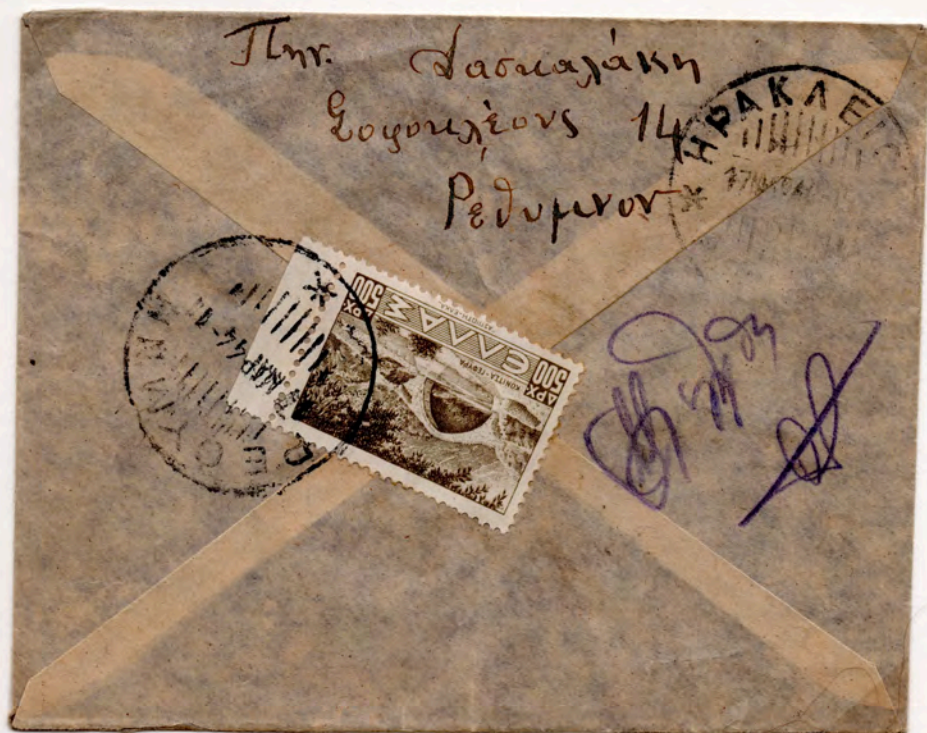
Signed for censorship (still!).

Postal Rate: a. 3000000 Dr. Inland Card Rate (stationery ignored)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

German Occupation of Crete – June 1941 to September 1944.

Censorships: Signed by the examiner and handwritten «ηλέγχθει» (checked).



Cover posted **11 Mar. 1944** from Rethymnon to Herakleion.
Postal Rate: 500 Dr Internal Cover Rate (from 10 Nov. 1943 until 14 March 1944))



Stationery Card of 75 Dr. posted **21 Feb. 1944** from Athens to Herakleion.
Postal Rate: 300 Dr Stationery Card Rate (from 10 Nov. 1943)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / 2nd WW

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration. June 1941 to September 1943

On May 27th 1941, Italian Forces of the REGINA Division disembarked in the Gulf of Sitia and gradually occupied the whole area, to Ierapetra and Agios Nikolaos. The guarding of the area of Lasithi - Eastern Crete was left to the Italians.

By 20 June 1941 the post office of the REGINA Division (POSTA MILITARE 550) started operation at Lasithi. The correspondence of Lasithi was censored and directly forwarded to Rhodes.

During the first months of the Italian occupation there was lack of stamps and stationery cards and, for this reason, according to the order of the general post office 563613/164634/26-2-1941, special "cachets" were made to declare this postal franchise of free correspondence.

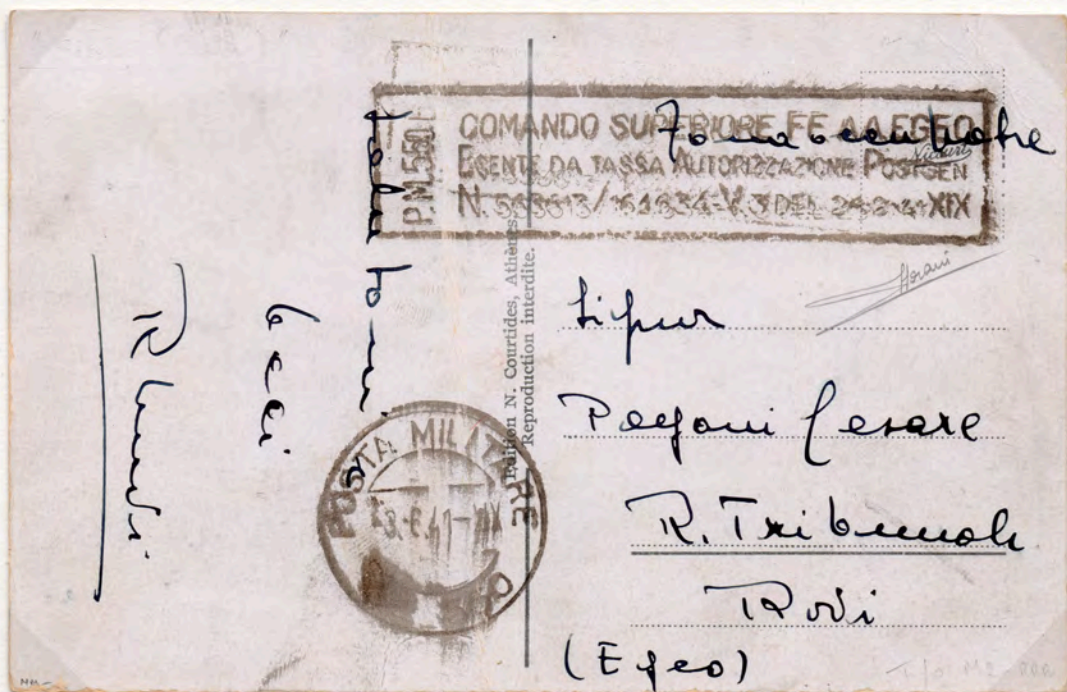
Postal Franchise Postmark

**P.M. 550E – COMANDO SUPERIORE FF.AA. EGEO – ESENTE DA TASSA
AUTORIZZAZIONE POSTGEN N. 563613/164634 – 26.2.1941.**



980 - ΣΙΤΙΑ-ΚΡΗΤΗ - Ηλιοσπολείων, αρχαίος

Sytia-Crete - Panorama



Post Card (of Sitia !!) posted from Sitia, **23-6-1941** to Rhodes.

Earliest Known date for the Italian P.O. at Lasithi

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration.

June 1941 to September 1943

Mail carried by the branch post office of the Siena Division in Lasithi – Summer 1941

Postmark **POSTA MILITARE N.121**

Censorship Label **Verificato per censura** and (110) examiners' handstamp.



Air Post cover posted from Lasithi to Genova, **12th April 1942**,
franked 50c + 50c Air Rodi,

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration.

June 1941 to September 1943

FROM AGHIOS NIKOLAOS

VERIFICATO PER CENSURA Sealing Tape used at Aghios Nikolaos and (2) examiners' handstamp.



Two Covers posted 16 Nov. 1941 and 22 Jan. 1942, from Aghios Nikolaos to Athens. Both franked stamps of RODI.

Postal Rate: a. 130 Centesimi b. 150 Centesimi (overfranked)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration.

June 1941 to September 1943

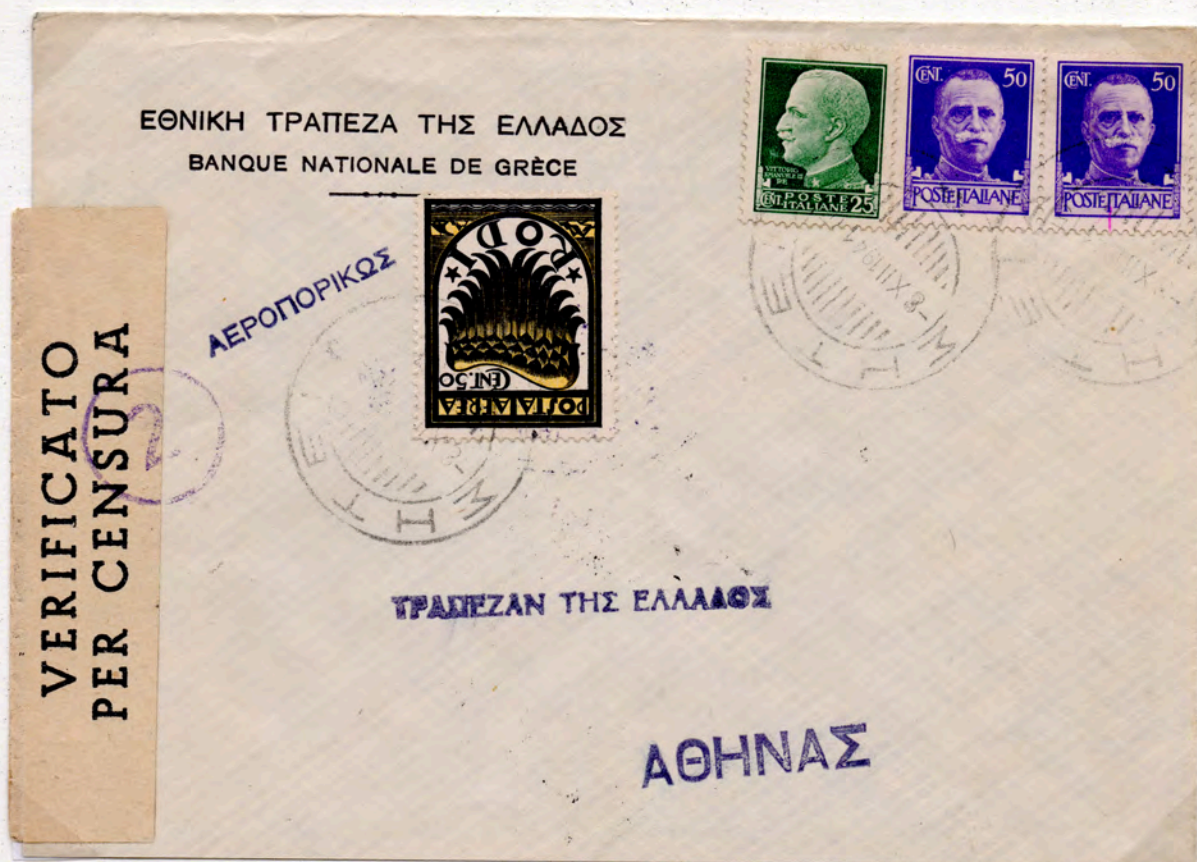
1st Period August 1941 to Spring 1942 – Use of Rodi and Italian stamps

From the summer of 1941 (1st of August), the post offices of the area were supplied with stamps of RODI and ITALY. The stamps were affixed at the counter, originally cancelled at Rhodes (till October), than at the place of origin with the Greek postmark.

The postal dependence from Agios Nikolaos started by mid – October 1941, and it almost coincided with the opening of the censorship office at Agios Nikolaos. Until January 1942, the letters were censored either in Agios Nikolaos or in Rhodes.

FROM SITIA

VERIFICATO PER CENSURA Sealing Tape used at Aghios Nikolaos



Air Mail Cover posted **8 Dec. 1941**, from Sitia, via Herakleion (18 Dec.),
Chania (20 Dec.) to Athens.

Franked stamps of RODI and Italy.

Postal Rate: 125 Centesimi + 50 Cent. Air Mail.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) - Italian Administration.

June 1941 to September 1943

FROM SITIA

Censorships (both used at Rhodes):

Circular **UFFICIO CENSURA A RODI (EGEO)**

Straightline **Verificato per censura**



Two Air Mail Covers posted **28 Nov. 1941** and **24 Jan. 1942**,
from Sitia, to Athens.

Franked stamps of RODI and Italy.

Postal Rate: a. 125 Centesimi + 50 Cent. Air Mail.

b. 125 Centesimi (no Air Mail stamp although it is printed ΑΕΡΟΠΟΡΙΚΩΣ)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation
Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration.
June 1941 to September 1943

FROM IERAPETRA

VERIFICATO PER CENSURA Sealing Tape used at Aghios Nikolaos
and (2) examiners' handstamp.



Air Mail Cover posted **19 Dec. 1941**, from Ierapetra to Athens. *

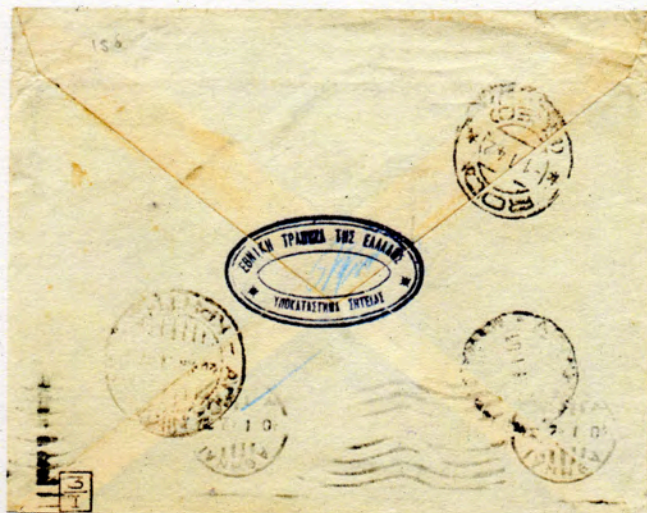
Franked stamps of RODI.

Postal Rate: 130 Centesimi

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation
Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) - Italian Administration.
June 1941 to September 1943

FROM SITIA

Censorship **LIBERO CORSO** used at Rhodes.



Air Mail Cover posted **19 Dec. 1941**, from Sitia, Aghios Nikolaos (20 Dec.), Rhodes (1 Jan.) to Athens (20 Jan.). One month plus (with Air Mail) !!!
Franked stamps of RODI and Italy.
Postal Rate: 130 Centesimi + 50 Cent. Air Mail.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation
Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration.
June 1941 to September 1943

FROM AGHIOS NIKOLAOS

Censorship:
Circular **UFFICIO CENSURA A RODI (EGEO)**



Air Mail Cover posted **15 Jan. 1942**, from Aghios Nikolaos, to Athens.
Franked stamps of RODI.
Postal Rate: a. 150 Centesimi

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration.

June 1941 to September 1943

2nd Period From Spring (February to March) 1942 – Use of Greek stamps

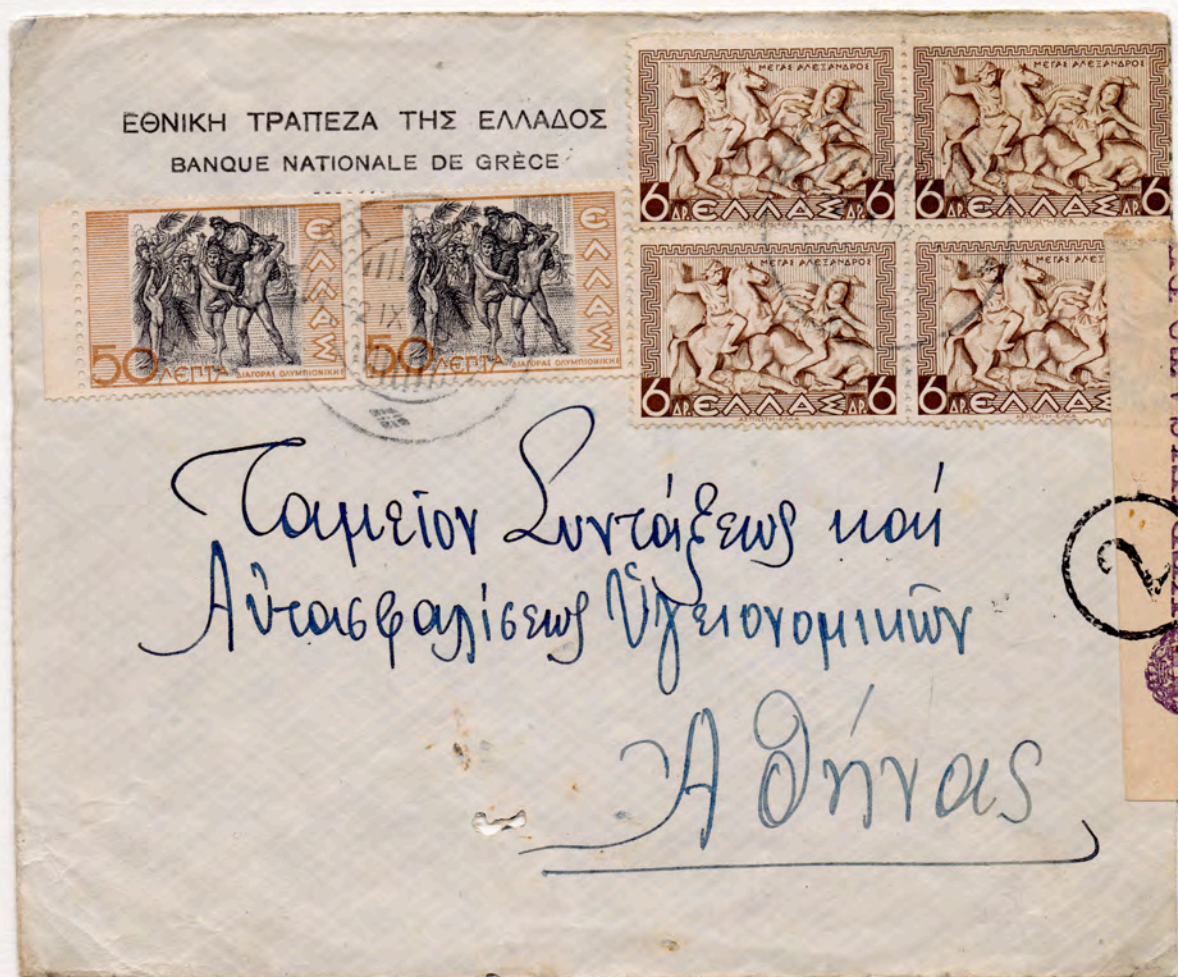
From the spring (February) of 1942, the post offices of the area started operating under Greek Civil Administration and they were supplied with stamps of GREECE.

Covers were allowed to simple citizens.

Originally (until late summer 1942) the censorship office at Agios Nikolaos continued operation with labels. Later they were replaced by the Examiner's Signature

FROM SITIA

VERIFICATO PER CENSURA Sealing Tape used at Aghios Nikolaos
and (2) examiners' handstamp.



Air Mail Cover posted **2 Sept. 1942**, from Sitia,
via Herakleion (11 Sept.), to Athens.

Franked stamps of Greece.

Postal Rate: 25 Dr. for Internal Cover Rate.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation
Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – Italian Administration.
June 1941 to September 1943.

FROM ZIROS (HANDRAS) and KATO CHORIO
 Censorship by the Examiner's Signature
 Rural Postmarks Dotted 871 and Cretan Posthorn 63



Cover posted **2 Dec. 1942**, from Ziros Handras (Rural 871) to Herakleion, *
Postal Rate: 50 Dr. Internal Cover Rate (from 1 Nov. 1942)



Stationery Card posted **26 Aug. 1942**, from Kato Chorio (Rural posthorn 63), *
 to Herakleion.
Postal Rate: 15 Dr. for Stationery Card (overprinted 7 dr. + updated 8 dr.)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – German Administration from September 1943.

From September 1943 the German Authorities established their power in Lasithi. Regulations were the same as for the rest of Crete. Cards only and Identity Card control.

Censorship: Handwritten **Ηλέγχθει** and signed.
No identity card number.



Stationery Card posted **6 Jan. 1944**, from Sitia
to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: 300 Dr. Card Rate (from 10 Nov. 1943), plus 30 Dr. Anti-TB

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – German Administration from September 1943.

A Cover of September 1943, during the days of the change of power

Censorship: **Βεβαιούται η ταυτότης του αποστολέως**
(the identity of the sender is certified)
So, the Germans were already there.



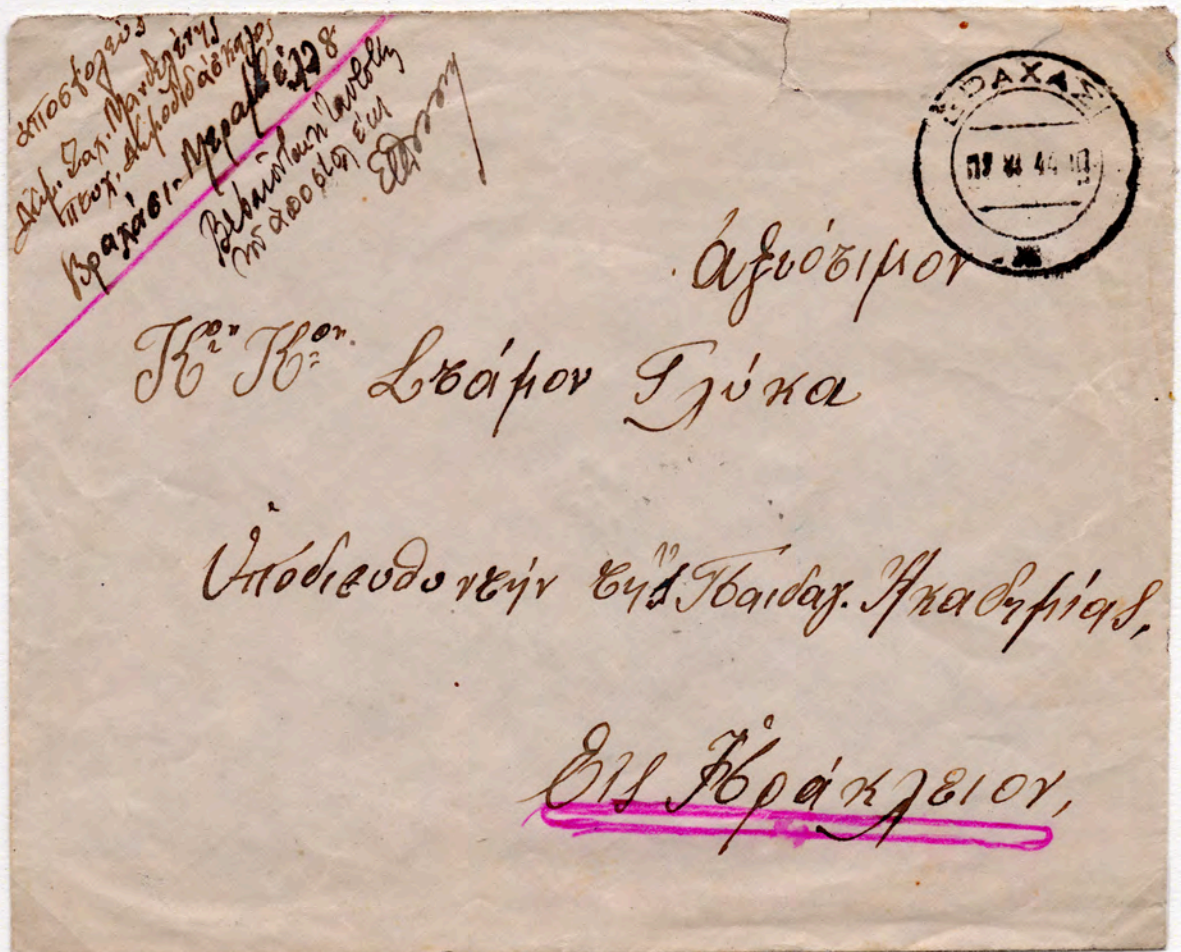
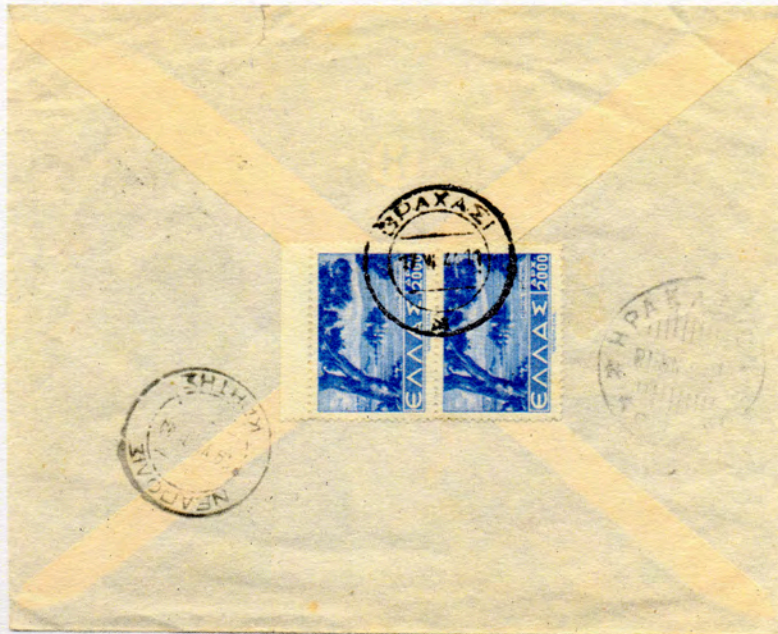
Cover posted **23 September 1943**, from Stavrochori (Lasithi)
to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: 200 Dr. Inland Letter Rate (1-8-1943 to 10-11-1943)

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Occupation

Occupation of Eastern Crete (Lasithi) – German Administration
from September 1943.

Censorship: Βεβαιούται η ταυτότης του αποστολέως
(the identity of the sender is certified)



Cover posted 17 June 1944, from Vrahasi (Lasithi)
to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: 4000 Dr. Inland Letter Rate

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

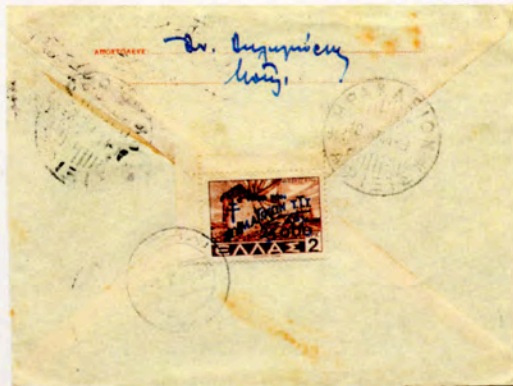
The Days of the German Retreat - 25 Sep. to 10 Oct. 1944

Lack of stamps - Area of ΣΠΗΛΙ

Handwritten Greek text on a yellowed envelope flap:
Καθώς οι φίλοι είκοσι πέντε ημερών από τότε
δεν χρησιμοποιούμε πλέον τα γραμμάτια, αλλά
δεν έχουμε το δικαίωμα να πληρώσουμε με τα χρήματα.
Επειδή λοιπόν οι κεντρικοί έχουν πληρώσει.

Abstract from the letter, inside the cover:

“As you can see, we do not use stamps anymore, because there **are no stamps in Rethymnon** and we pay for the postage in cash.” And some historical information, again from the letter **“The Germans abandoned the area on September 27th, but they have blasted the bridges”**. That is why the letter took 7 days from Spili to Herakleion (a distance of a few dozen kilometers).



Stationery Cover, posted **3 Oct. 1944** (Period of Highest Inflation: 15-9-1944 to 11-11-1944), from SPHLI, via RETHYMNON, to HERAKLEION.

Postal Rate: 6.000.000 Dr. for Stationery Cover + 25.000 Dr. Charity.

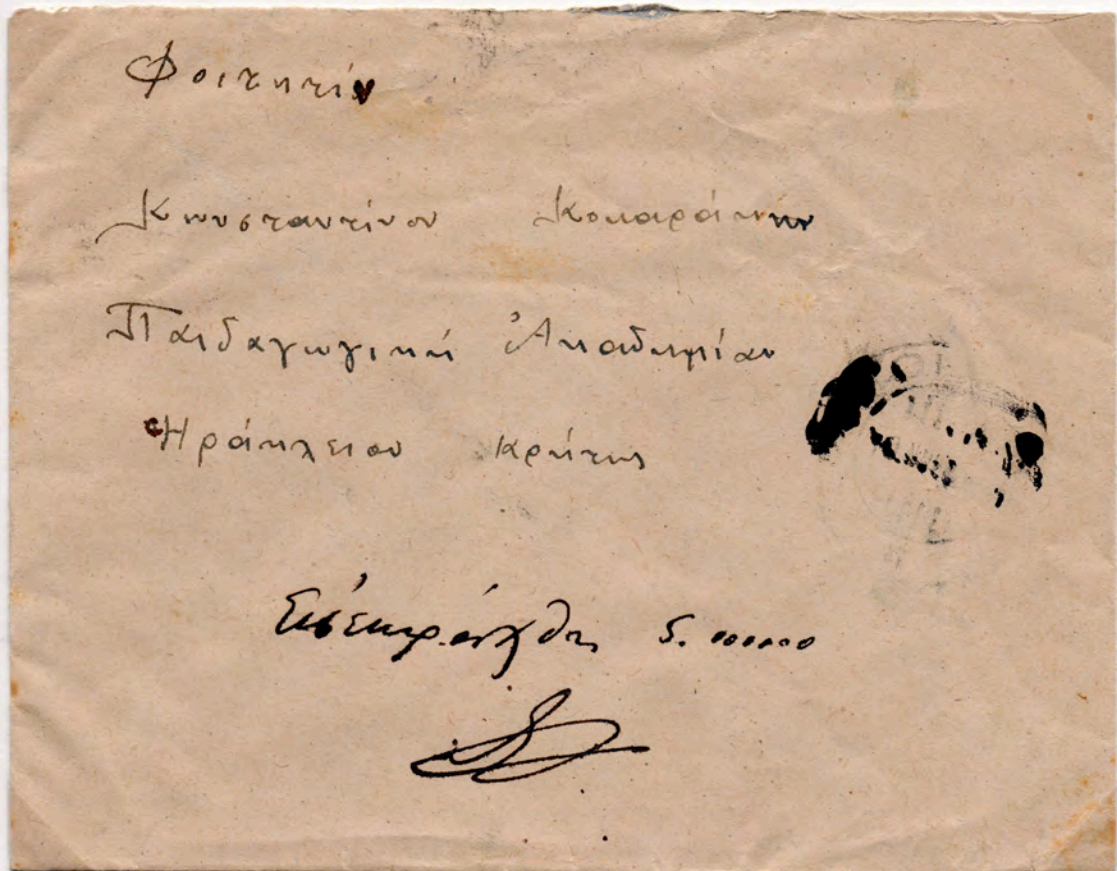
The low value Charity stamp was available and it was affixed on the back of the envelope.

The postman wrote **“6 Million drachmas have been paid”** and signed it.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Days of the German Retreat - 25 Sep. to 10 Oct. 1944

Lack of stamps - Area of Pompia



Cover, posted **6 Oct. 1944** (Period of Highest Inflation), from ΠΟΜΠΙΑ, to
HERAKLEION.

Postal Rate: 5.000.000 Dr. for Internal Letter + 25.000 Dr. Charity.
Some available low value stamps (8x25.000=200.000 + 5x5.000=25.000
Charity) were affixed by the sender on the back of the envelope. The
postman wrote "**5 Million drachmas have been paid**" and signed it.



Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

Payment of Postage By Cash due to Lack of stamps, 1st Period Autumn 1944

Because of the High Inflation and the continuous changes in Currency and Postal Rates during the Period 1944-46, lack of stamps, mostly of higher denominations, was observed in a few cases, especially in smaller Rural Post Offices.

In these rare cases the prepayment was certified by the local Postal Employee by a note with his signature.



Registered Cover, posted 22-10-1944 (Period of Highest Inflation: 15-9-1944 to 11-11-1944), from SPHLI, via RETHYMNON, to HERAKLEION.

Postal Rate: 5.000.000 Dr. for Internal Letter + 5.000.000 Dr. for Registration + 25.000 Dr. Anti-TB.

The low value Charity stamp was available and it was affixed on the back of the envelope. But 10 Million Drachmas stamps were not available, and the postman wrote **"10 Million drachmas have been paid"** and signed it.

This is the only **Registered** letter I have ever seen (for all Greece) with such a franking.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

Lack of stamps

Area of ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΕΡΑΜΒΕΛΛΟΥ)



Cover posted **28 Oct. 1944** (Period of Highest Inflation), from ΝΕΑΠΟΛΙΣ (ΜΕΡΑΜΒΕΛΛΟΥ), to ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΝ.

Postal Rate: 5.000.000 Dr. for Internal Letter.

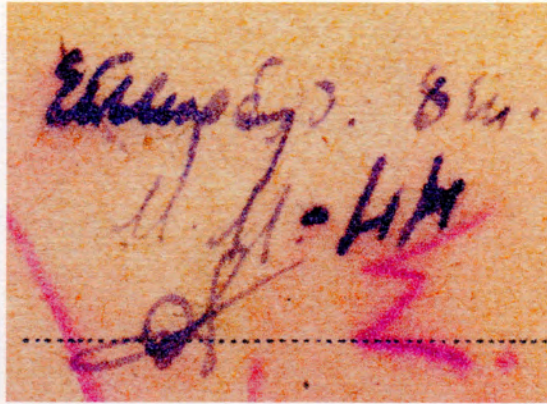
The postmen wrote "**5 Million drachmas have been paid**" and signed it.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

11 Nov. 1944: the Day of the monetary reform Lack of stamps - Rethymnon !

On 11 Nov. 1944 the post war monetary reform took place, but this was not immediately applied in Crete, which was not yet fully liberated and it was not immediately provided with NEW DRACHMAS stamps.



+100%

Εισεπραχθήσαν 8 Εκ., 11-11-44
(8 Mill. have been paid)



Registered Card posted **11 Nov. 1944**, from Rethymnon to Herakleion. **

Postal Rate: 8.000.000 Dr. (3.000.000 Dr. Internal Card Rate + 5.000.000 Dr. for Registration).

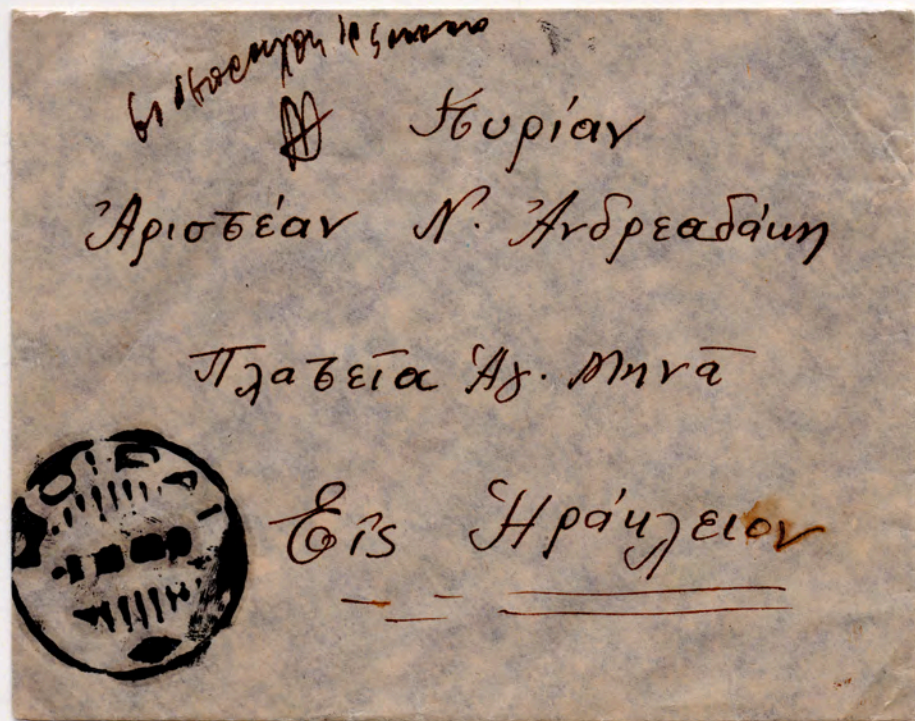
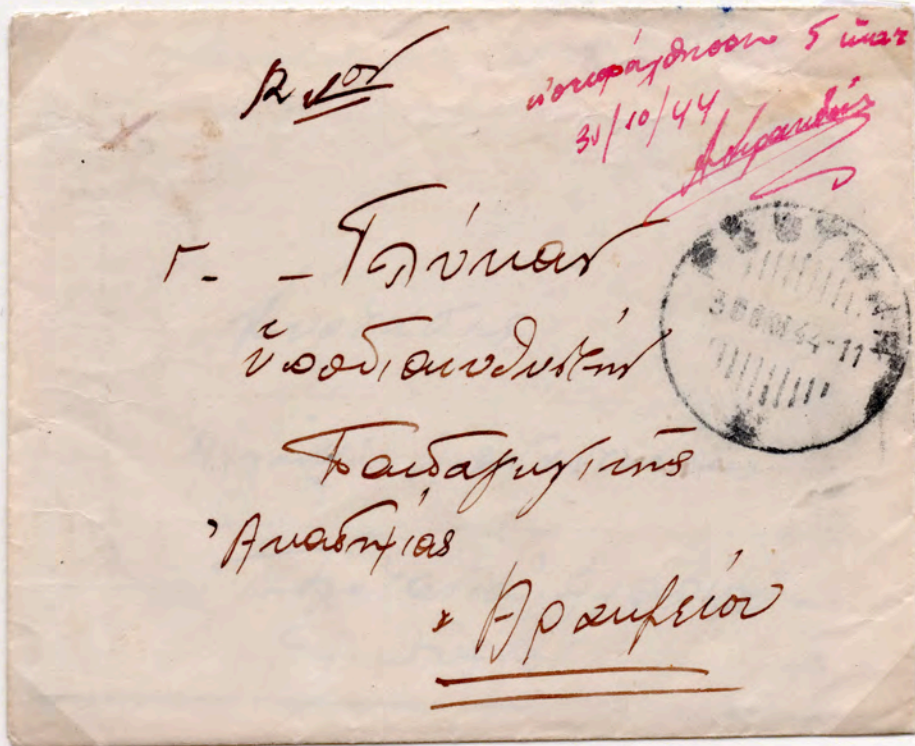
Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

After the Monetary Reform of 11-11-1944

The first post-war Monetary Reform took place on 11-11-1944 (New Drachmas replaced the Billions – the new Rate was 3 New Drachmas for Internal Letter), but certain remote areas of Crete continue to charge the 5 Million Rate and Consider the Letter “Paid”.

Areas of AMAPI (PEΘYMNOY) and MOIPAI



Two Covers, posted **30 Oct. 1944** and **2 Dec. 1944** (after the Monetary Reform), from ΠΛΑΤΑΝΙΑ ΑΜΑΠΙΟΥ (PEΘYMNOY) and ΜΟΙΠΑΙ, to ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΝ.

Postal Rate: 5.000.000 Dr. for Internal Letter until 11-11-1944, afterwards 3 Dr. The postmen wrote “**5 Million drachmas have been paid**” accepted it and signed it.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

Postage handled by the "Postal Savings Bank" branches

Ταχυδρομικό Ταμειστήριο ΚΡΗΤΣΑΣ



Postal Card, posted Aug. 5 **1945**, cancelled with the cachet of the "Postal Savings Bank" branch of KRHTSA

Postal Rate: 7 Dr. for Internal Postal Card (1-4-1945 to 16-9-1945) + 2 Dr. Anti TB

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

Unprepaid or Partly Prepaid Letters
During the time of Liberation

A Free Military Letter from the British Fleet
is charged for the "POSTE RESTANTE" service.



Cover posted **25-3-1945**, from H.M.Ship Admiralty to Herakleion Poste Restante.

The DRACHMAI NEAI stamp used as Postage Due

Postal Rate: It was free, as military correspondence, but it was charged 2 Dr.: 1 Dr. + 1 Dr. (for unprepaid) for the extra service.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

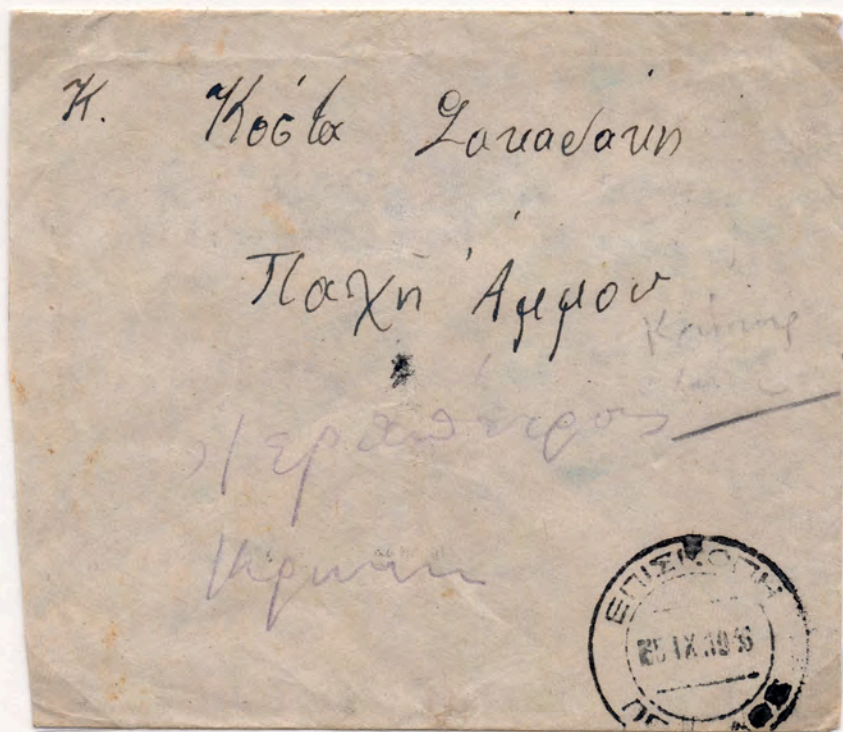
Rural Routes

Old Cretan Rural Route 72 + Rural Route 852



Cover posted Nov. 1945 from Rural 72 (Old Cretan Type), Αλφα Μυλοποταμῶν, via Πέραμα, to Ηρακλείον.

Postal Rate: a. 20 Dr. for Internal Letter + 2 Dr. Charity



Cover posted 1946, from Rural Route 852, Επισκοπή Πεδιάδος to Πάχη Αμμοῦ (Ιεραπετρας).

Postal Rate : a. 250 Dr. for Internal Letter + 20 Dr. Charity.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

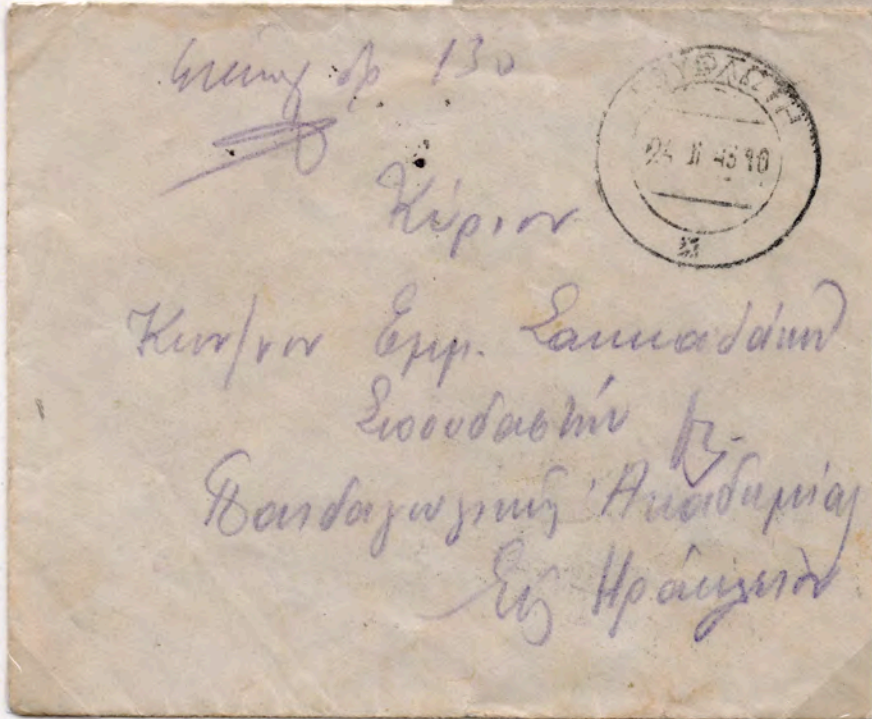
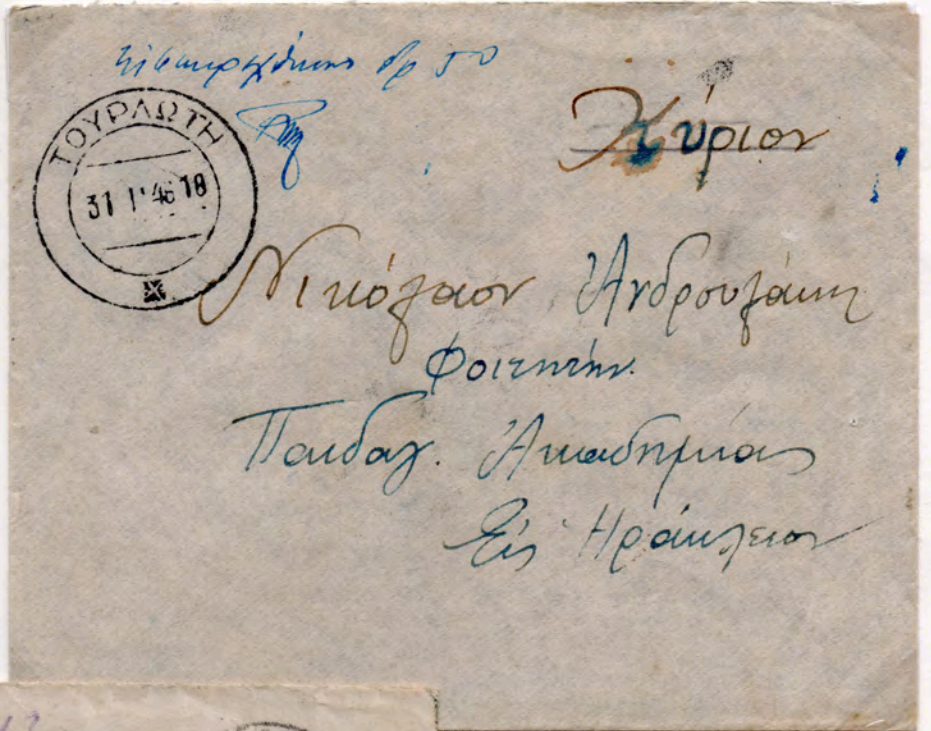
Payment of Postage by Cash due to Lack of stamps, 2nd Period (January - March 1946)

A second shortage of stamps happened during the early months of 1946, again because of the rapid increase of the Inflation rate, which did not allow the Central Post Office to stock with stamps the remote areas of the country (i.e. the villages of Crete).

Area of ΤΟΥΡΑΩΤΗ 50 Dr. + 130 Dr.



**



Two Covers, posted 31-1-1946 and 24-2-1946, from ΤΟΥΡΑΩΤΗ, to ΗΡΑΚΛΕΙΟΝ.

Postal Rates:

- 50 Dr. for Internal Letter (16-1-1946 until 10-2-1946, 25 days only) + 2Dr. Charity
The postmen wrote "**50 Drachmas have been paid**" and signed it.
 - 130 Dr. for Internal Letter (10-2-1946 until 10-6-1946) + 2Dr. Charity
The postmen wrote "**130 Drachmas have been paid**" and signed it.
- In Both Cases a 2 Dr. Value Charity stamp was available and it was affixed on the back of the envelope.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

Areas of ΣΗΤΕΙΑ and ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ (ΡΕΘΥΜΝΗΣ)



Two Covers, posted 18-2-1946 (both), from ΣΗΤΕΙΑ and ΕΠΙΣΚΟΠΗ (ΡΕΘΥΜΝΗΣ), to HERAKLEION.

Postal Rate (for both):

130 Dr. for Internal Letter (10-2-1946 until 10-6-1946) + 2Dr. Charity
The postmen wrote "130 Drachmas have been paid" and signed it.

In Both Cases a 2 Dr. Value Charity stamp was available and it was affixed on the envelope.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

Area of ΝΕΥΣ ΑΜΑΡΗ (Village of ΒΙΖΑΠΗ)

A Letter to Belgian Congo paid by cash because of lack of stamps.



Air Mail Cover, posted 6-3-1946 from Νεύς Αμαρή,
to Sake, Lac Kivu, CONGO BELGE.

Postal Rate:

The postmen wrote "Taxe Percue Fr. 1700" and signed it.
And an examiner (the same person?) wrote "Language Grecque"

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

Lack of Postage Due stamps

T in a triangle of Herakleion, overprints for Postage Due Use.



Cover posted **23-3-1946**, from Athens to Herakleion.

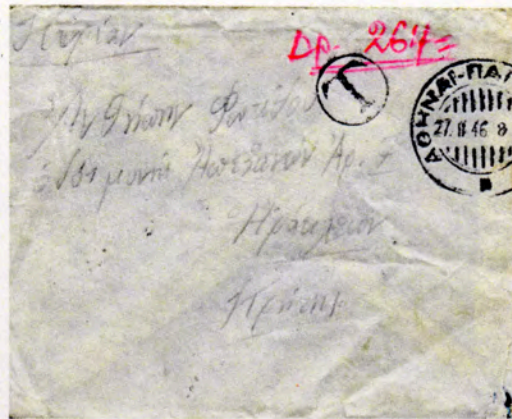
Postal Rate: It was not franked. So it was charged 280 Dr.: 2x130 Dr. for Inland Postal Rate (from 10-2-1946 till 10-6-1946) + 20 Dr. for Charity from 11-3-1946 (correct !! – the charity postage due should not be doubled). The postage Due was paid by stamps overprinted with the “T in a triangle” of Herakleion.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

The last Greek Postage Due stamps were printed in 1943 – and had a very limited use. After the War, the Greek Post Office used common definitive stamps to pay postage due. In some rare cases, such stamps were overprinted with the local Post Office's Postage Due Cachet (usually the T mark) to show the different use.

T in a triangle of Herakleion, overprints for Postage Due Use.



Cover posted **27-2-1946**, from Athens to Herakleion.

Postal Rate: It was not franked. So it was charged 264 Dr.: 2x130 Dr. for Inland Postal Rate (from 10-2-1946 till 10-6-1946) + 2x2 Dr. for Charity (wrong !! – the charity postage due should not be doubled). The postage Due was paid by stamps overprinted with the “T in a triangle” of Herakleion (the T in a circle – front – is of Athens Pagrati).

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

Lack of Postage Due stamps

T in a triangle of Herakleion, overprints for Postage Due Use.



Cover posted **Jan. 1946**, from Mytilene to Herakleion (21 Jan. 1946).

Postal Rate: The cover was not franked because it was sent by a soldier, but there was not "franchise" military unit postmark.

So, in Herakleion, it was charged postage due 102 Dr.: 2x50 Dr. for Inland Postal Rate (from 16-1-1946 till 10-2-1946) + 2 Dr. The postage Due was paid by cash.

Crete 1940-46: the Harsh Years / Freedom

The Difficult Times after Liberation

As a Closure, a tribute to the Resistance

A Letter from Crete to "PADDY" **Patrick Michael Leigh Fermor**, the famous British Author and organizer of the resistance in Crete during WW2. Leigh Fermor led the party that in 1944 captured and evacuated the German Commander, General Heinrich Kreipe. Paddy always kept tight his special relation with Crete.



Registered Cover posted **6-3-1947**, from Herakleion to Leigh Fermor in Athens.
Postal Rate: 600 Dr. for Registered Air Mail + 50 Dr. Charity.