

# Military Postal Cards of Greece 1915-1917

World War I began in Europe on 28 July 1914. Greece initially maintained a neutral stance; nevertheless, it gradually began preparing for war.

Fifteen months later, by Royal Decree published in Government Gazette No. 401A/29.10.1915, the Regulation "On Military Postal Service" was ratified. Among its provisions, Article 10 stipulated that: "Correspondence, both from the army to the homeland and from the homeland to the army, shall be conducted exclusively by means of special postal cards supplied by the postal service. The former (from the army) shall be postage-free, while the latter (to the army) shall bear a printed fee of five lepta." However, such postal cards did not yet exist and had to be produced.

By a subsequent Royal Decree (Government Gazette No. 459A/14.12.1915), it was decided that, as from the date of publication, new types of inland postal cards would be issued for correspondence between military personnel and civilians. At the top, the inscription ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ – ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ (MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE – POSTAL CARD) was printed. On the left side of the front appeared the national emblem (Royal Crown), while on the right the cards sent by the military bore the indication ΑΤΕΛΕΣ (postage-free), whereas those sent to the military carried a 5-lepta imprinted stamp depicting an Evzone bugler. Owing to this design, the issue is referred to in the literature as the "Evzones" postal cards. The reverse side was blank. Alongside the military postal cards, earlier types of ordinary postal cards remained in circulation.

A further Royal Decree (Government Gazette No. 86A/6.5.1916) permitted, from its date of publication, the use of the 5-lepta postal cards not only for correspondence to the military but also for general inland and international mail, provided that additional adhesive stamps were affixed to make up the required rate.

Following the increase in postal rates on 7 September 1917, new military postal cards were issued for civilian correspondence to the military, of the same design as the earlier ones but bearing a 10-lepta imprinted stamp. The exact date of their first issue remains unknown. These cards followed the same regulations as their predecessors.

All postal cards were printed lithographically by the Aspiotis Brothers printing house in Corfu.

The earliest and latest recorded dates of postal use are 22 December 1915 and the end of 1935, respectively.



5L postal card posted from **SYROS 21.8.1917**, with British boxed censor marking in Syros **CENSORED**, via Athens 26.8.1917, send to Telegraph Office Arachova Voiotias 27.8.1917. [Postal Rates 5L](#) to inland, from 14.12.1915 to 6.9.1917.

**The exhibit presents the two issues of the "Military" postal cards, both unused and postally used, arranged in chronological order according to their date of issue and postal usage. It also includes examples illustrating special postal services, routes and means of transport, destinations, and other postal aspects. The applicable postal rates for each period are also examined.**

#### Bibliography:

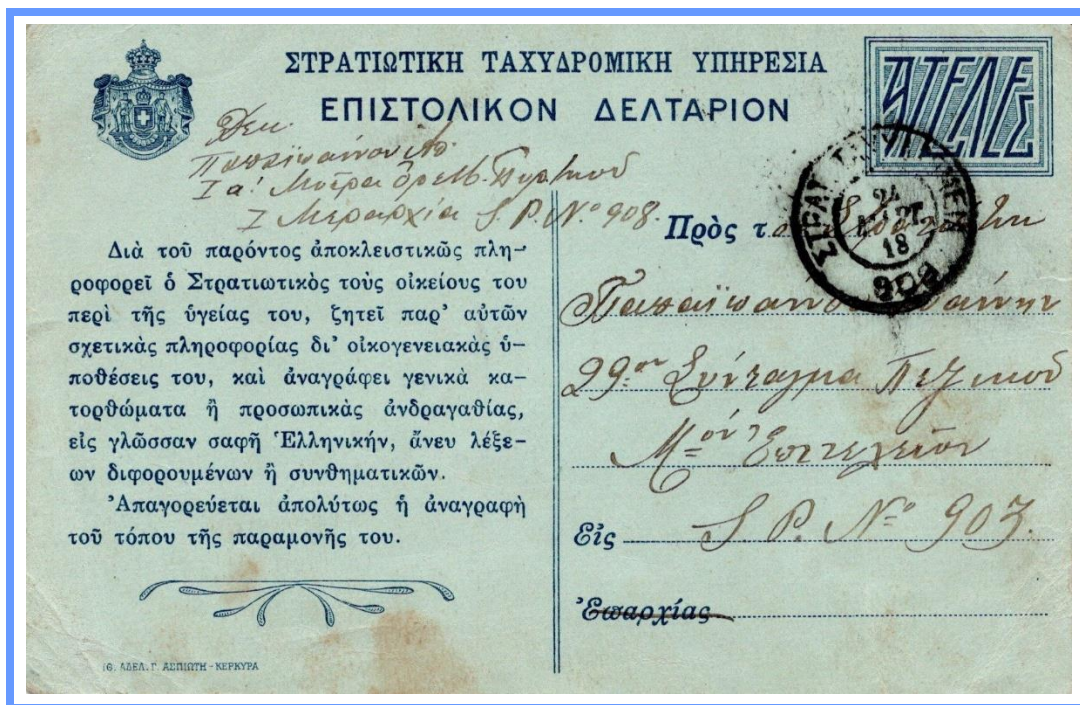
Zeis, Andreas, "Catalog of Greek Postal Stationery" *Edition 1969, Athens.*

Karamitsos, Argyrios, "Hellas Volume V, Postal Stationery 1876-2012" *Edition 2013, Thessaloniki.*

Paschos, Athanasios, "Military postal cards of Greece" *Philotelia* no 756/2026, p. 45.

*Until February 15, 1923, Greece, unlike many other countries in the world, was still using the Julian calendar, and only after March 1, 1923, did it adopt the Gregorian calendar. To align the former with the latter, 13 days must be added to the former.*

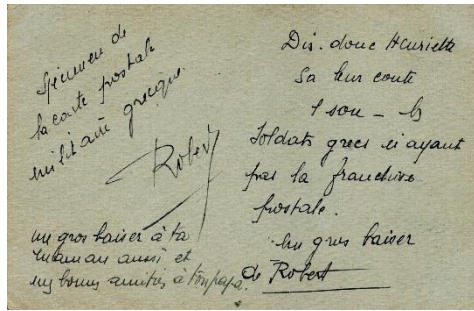
Free of charge military postal card, with pre-printed instructions for military correspondence, in place of the stamp, the inscription "ΑΤΕΛΕΣ" (without postal fees), were printed in two different shades. They were issued on December 14, 1915.



Free of charge postal card posted from **MILITARY POST OFFICE 908 24.3.1918** (I Division, Asia Minor Hellenic Administration), to 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Military Post Office 903 (XI Division, Asia Minor).



The military postal cards intended for correspondence from civilians to the military, with a face value of 5-lepta, were printed in various colors on thin or medium-thickness paper of the same color on both sides, and on thick paper with a white reverse side. They were issued on December 14, 1915.





photocopy

**ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ**  
**ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ**

Όνομα *R. Paudrillien.*  
 Αποστολέως  
 Διεύθυνσις *Aviation, Armee d'Orient*  
 Τόπος *P.E.S.*



Σύνταγμα *Harriette Wolters*  
 Δόχος  
 ή Ήλη *6 rue de Liberte*  
 Βαθμός *Parc St Maur*  
 Όνομα *Leini*

Διά του παρόντος πληροφοροῦσιν οἱ οἰκεῖοι τοὺς Στρατιωτικοὺς περὶ τῆς ὑγείας των, καὶ ζητοῦσι παρ' αὐτῶν σχετικὰς πληροφορίας δι' οἰκογενειακὰς ὑποθέσεις των, εἰς γλῶσσαν σαφῆ Ἑλληνικὴν, ἄνευ λέξεων διαφορουμένων ἢ συνθηματικῶν.

ΑΙΘ. ΑΒΕΛ. Γ. ΑΔΗΠΟΤΗ - ΚΕΡΕΥΡΑ

Military postal card sent by a French soldier serving in the Air Force of the Army of the Orient in Thessaloniki, to his wife or girlfriend in Le Parc St. Maur (Seine department). With this card, he mocks the fact that Greek soldiers did not have free postage for correspondence from their loved ones, whereas the French did.

**ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ**  
**ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ**

16.10ΥΛ.16.12.1

Όνομα *Αν. Εριτοδουζ*  
 Αποστολέως  
 Διεύθυνσις *7ου Συντάγματος*  
 Τόπος *Αθήναι*

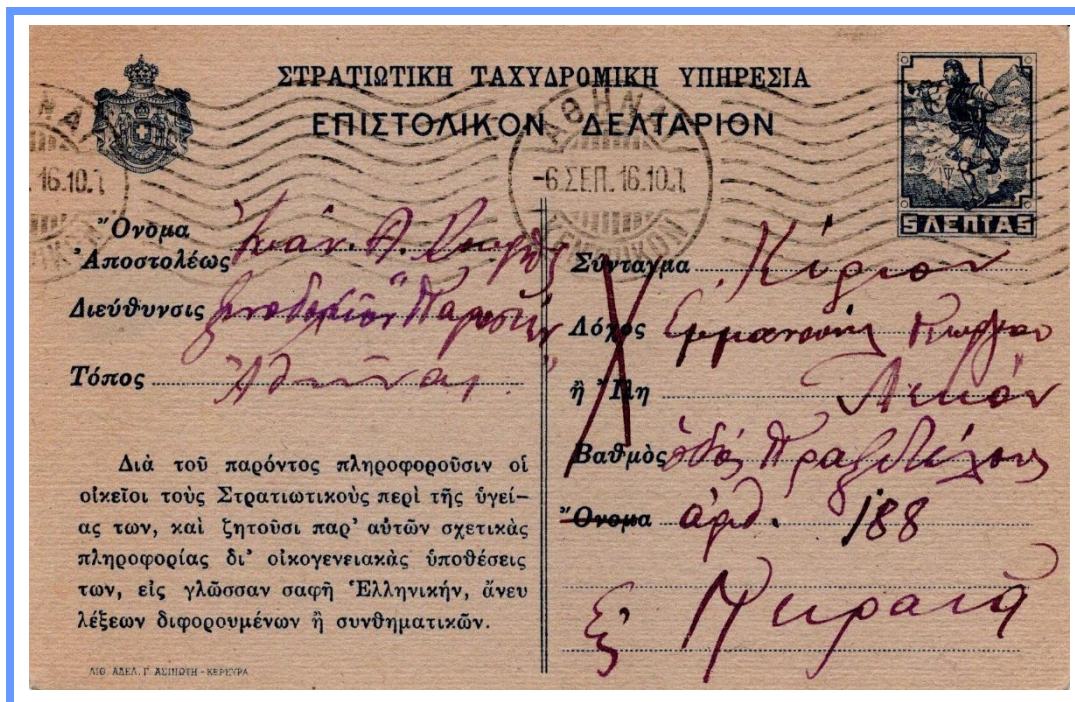
16.10ΥΛ.16.12.1  
~~Σύνταγμα~~ *Κύριον*  
 Δόχος *Ι. Μουσαφίον*  
 ή Ήλη *Αρκαδικαί*  
 Βαθμός *7ου Συντάγματος*  
 Όνομα *εἰς Θράκιαν*

Διά του παρόντος πληροφοροῦσιν οἱ οἰκεῖοι τοὺς Στρατιωτικοὺς περὶ τῆς ὑγείας των, καὶ ζητοῦσι παρ' αὐτῶν σχετικὰς πληροφορίας δι' οἰκογενειακὰς ὑποθέσεις των, εἰς γλῶσσαν σαφῆ Ἑλληνικὴν, ἄνευ λέξεων διαφορουμένων ἢ συνθηματικῶν.

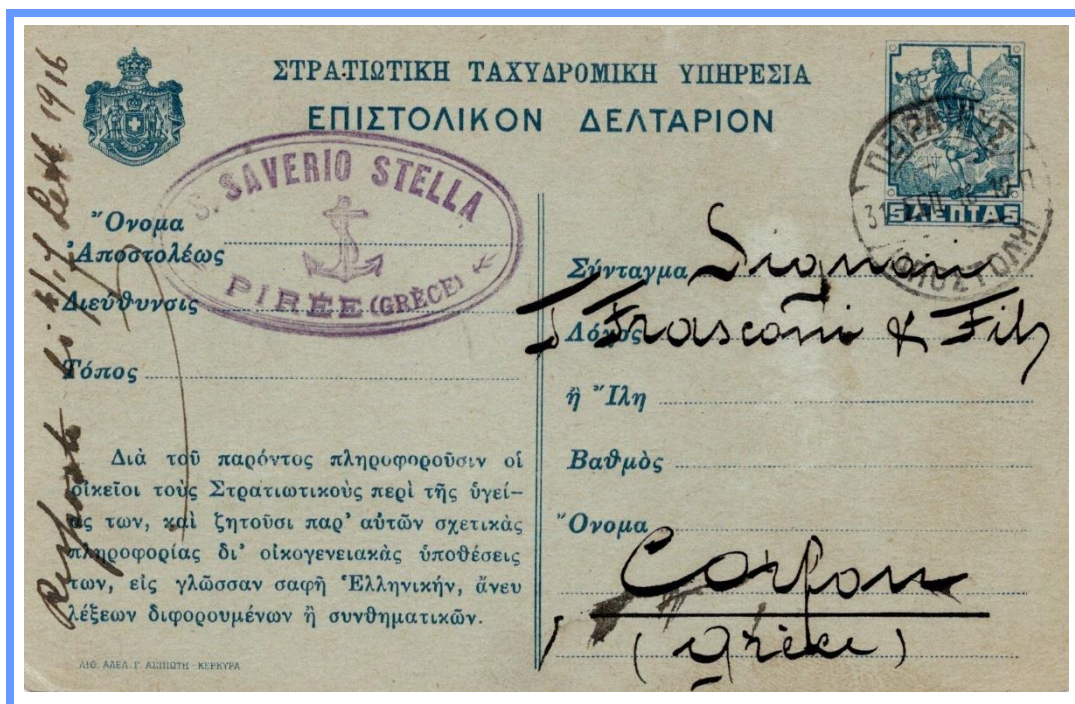
ΑΙΘ. ΑΒΕΛ. Γ. ΑΔΗΠΟΤΗ - ΚΕΡΕΥΡΑ

5L postal card posted from **ATHINAI 16.7.1916**, to 7th Artillery Regiment, Drama 26.7.1916. Postal Rates 5L to inland, from 14.12.1915 to 6.9.1917.

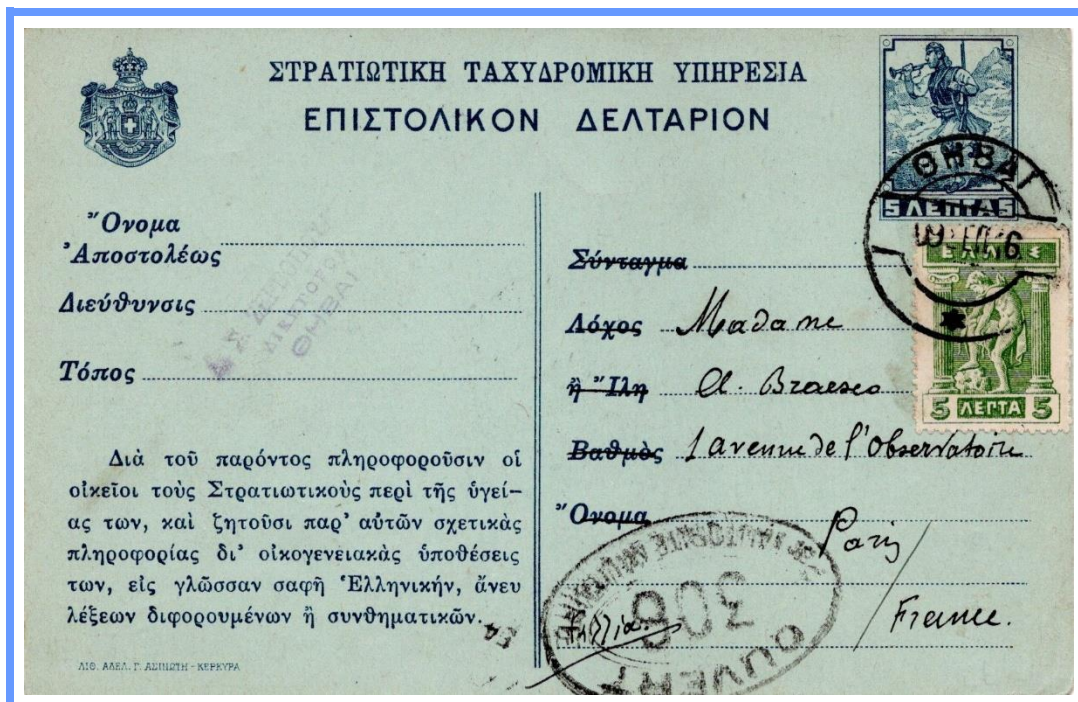
As of May 6, 1916, the use of the 5-lepta postal cards was permitted for all correspondence, both domestic and international, and not only for communication with the military.



5L postal card posted from **ATHINAI 6.9.1916**, to Piraeus.  
Postal Rates 5L to inland, from 14.12.1915 to 6.9.1917.



5L postal card posted from **PIRAEUS 31.8.1916** with ship's stamp of the sender **S. SAVERIO STELLA - PIREE GRECE**, to Corfu.  
Postal Rates 5L to inland, from 14.12.1915 to 6.9.1917.



5L postal card posted from **THIVAI 9.9.1916**, via Piraeus 10.9.1916, censored upon transit in Marseilles, with oval OUVERT Par l' AUTORITE MILITAIRE 306, to Paris France. Postal Rates 10L to abroad, from 14.12.1915 to 1.5.1921.



5L postal card posted from **THESSALONIKI 11.10.1916**, with French Censor marking in Thessaloniki **ARMEE D' ORIENT CENSURE MILITAIRE 15** and triangular **NO** (Non Ouvert = Not Opened), to Troyes France. Postal Rates 10L to abroad, from 14.12.1915 to 1.5.1921.

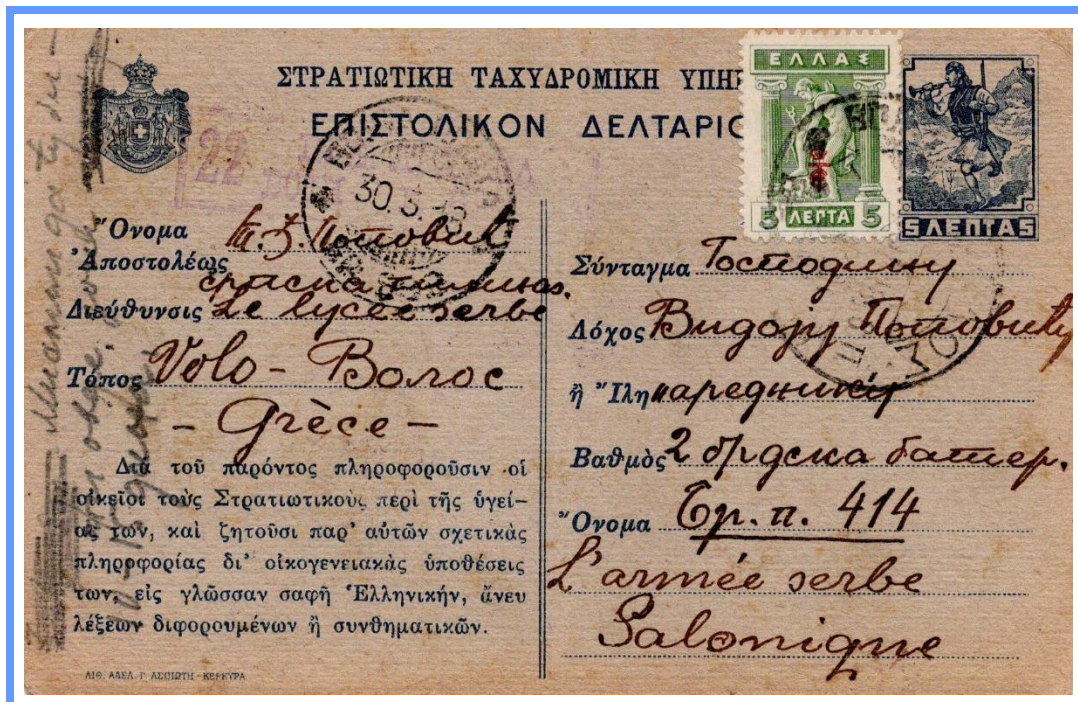


5L postal card posted from **VOLOS 18.6.1917** (Thessaly), via Thessaloniki, with French Censor marking in Thessaloniki **ARMÉE D' ORIENT CENSURE MILITAIRE 35** and triangular **NO** (Non Ouvert = Not Opened), to Paris France.  
 Postal Rates 11L to abroad, from 14.12.1915 to 1.5.1921.

During the period from 7.9.1917, to 1.5.1921, the domestic and international postal rate was 10 lepta



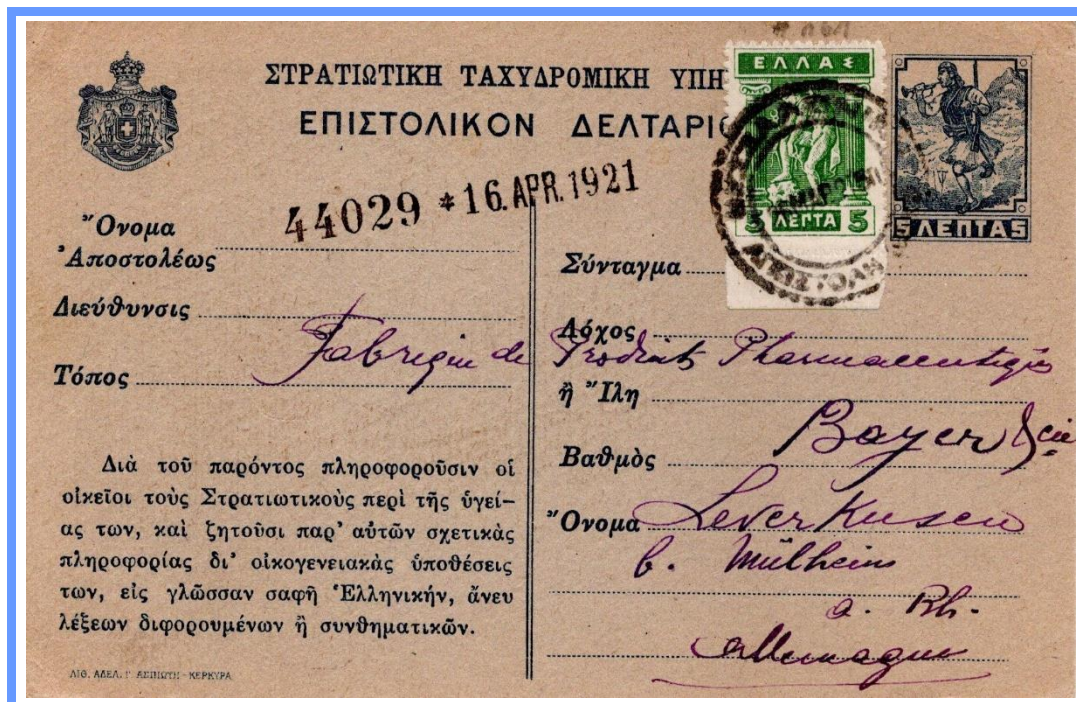
5L postal card posted from **THESSALONIKI 15.2.1918**, with French Censor marking in Thessaloniki **CONTROLE Par l'AUTORITE MILITAIRE 6** and triangular **NO** (Non Ouvert = Not Opened), to Cairo Egypt and British Censor marking **PASSED BY CENSOR 2** in Egypt.  
 Postal Rates 10L to abroad, from 14.12.1915 to 1.5.1921. The printed stamp was not counted toward the total postal rates.



5L postal card posted from **VOLOS 28.3.1918** (Thessaly), send from Serbian High School of Volos, to **ΒΟJΗΑ ΠΟJΗΤΑ Б.Р. 999 30.3.1918** (Central Serbian Post Office of the General Headquarters, Thessaloniki). French Censor triangular marking in Thessaloniki **NO** (Non Ouvert = Not Opened), and Serbian Censor **ΠΡΕΓΛΕΔΑΠΑ - ΒΟJΗΑ ЦЕНЗУРА 22** to Дунавска Division (**ΒΟJΗΑ ΠΟJΗΤΑ Б.Р. 414**)  
Postal Rates 10L to inland, from 7.9.1917 to 7.8.1922.



5L postal card posted from **PATRAI 5.6.1918**, via Athinai to Chalkis.  
Number **318** in circle is a Greek censorship cancel.  
Postal Rates 10L to inland, from 7.9.1917 to 7.8.1922.



5L postal card posted from **THESSALONIKI 26.3.1921**, to Germany.  
 Postal Rates 10L to abroad, from 14.12.1915 to 1.5.1921.



5L postal card posted from **THESSALONIKI 27.7.1921**, to La Haye Netherland.  
 Postal Rates 30L to abroad, from 2.5.1921 to 18.7.1922.

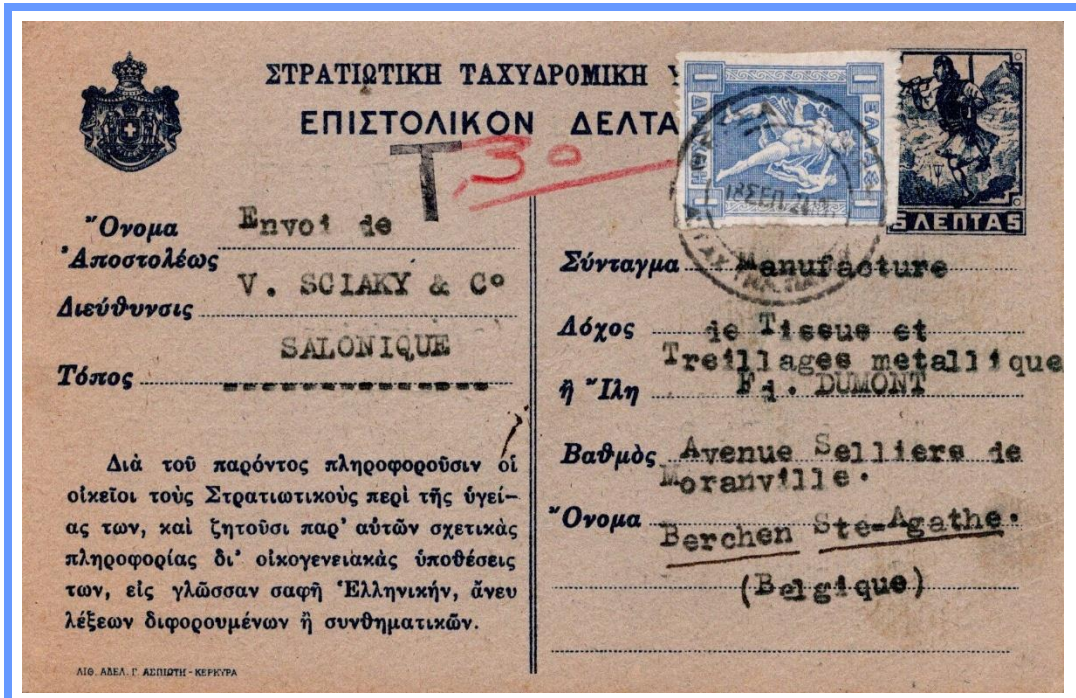
After the Asia Minor Catastrophe of 1922, Greece faced a severe economic crisis, which led to a significant increase in inflation and a devaluation of the drachma. As a result, there were substantial and continuous increases in basic postal rates.



5L postal card posted from **THESSALONIKI 13.2.1924**, to Massa Italy.  
Postal Rates 1,20Drs to abroad, from 1.1.1923 to 31.12.1924.



5L postal card posted from **SYROS 1.4.1924**, via Athens 2.4.1924 to Karlsruhe Germany. The postal card has a total postage fee of 1,05 Drs instead of 1,20 Drs. Stamps worth 0,15 Drs (15 Lepta) are missing. Cancel with triangular "T" (Taxe) and manuscript with red pencil "30" (Lepta), double of missing stamps.  
Postal Rates 1,20Drs to abroad, from 1.1.1923 to 31.12.1924.



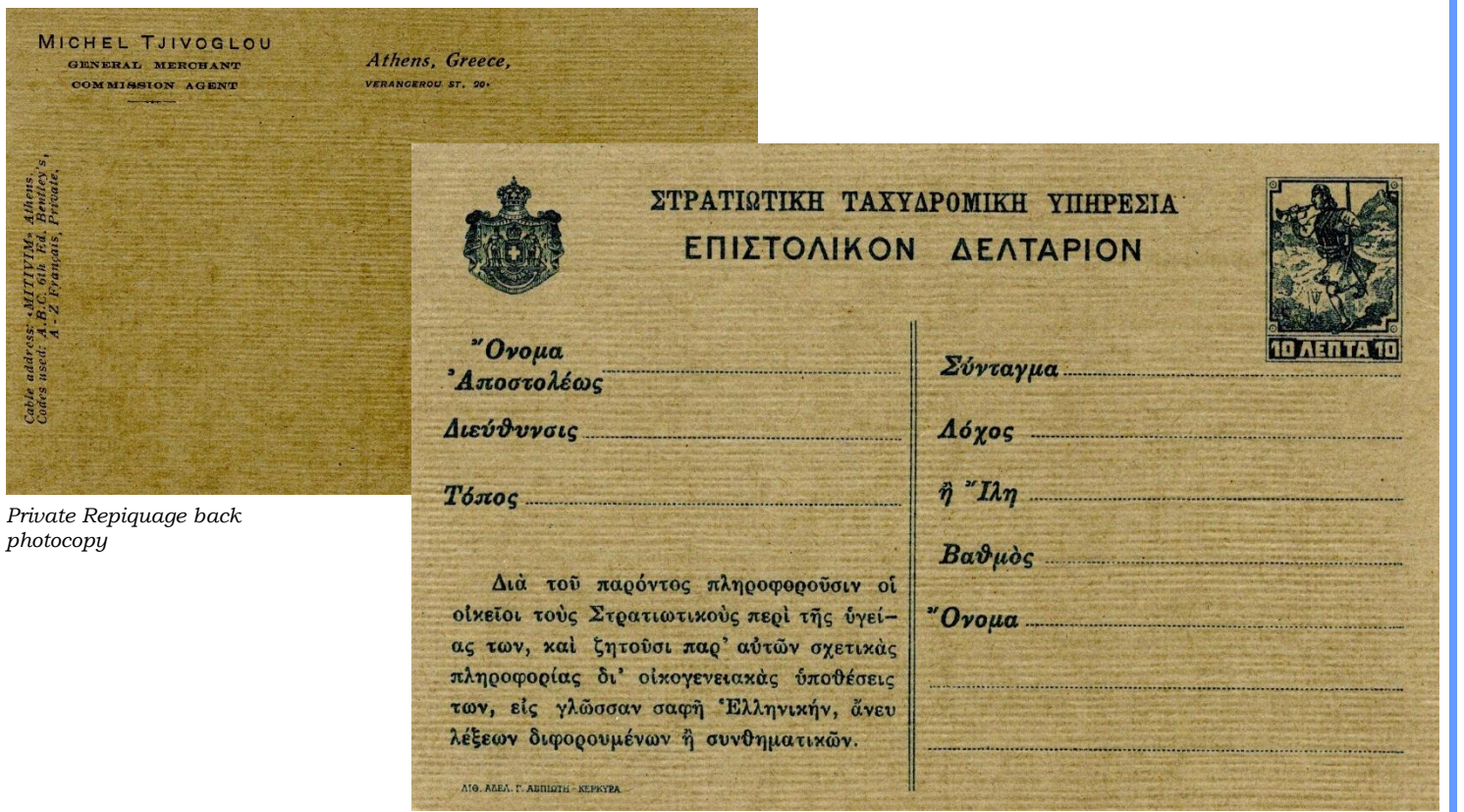
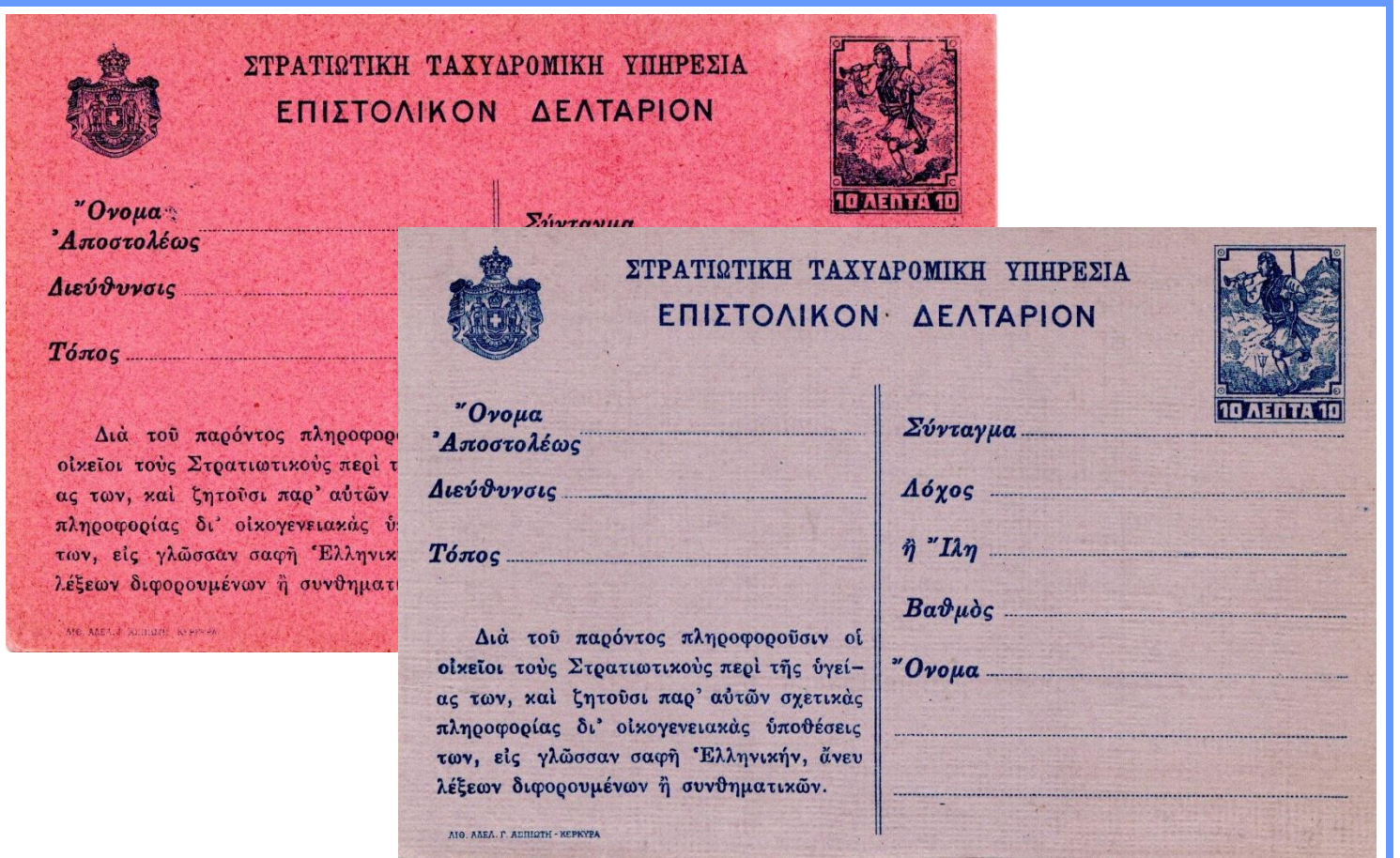
5L postal card posted from **THESSALONIKI 18.9.1924**, to Berchem Sainte-Agathe Belgium. The postal card has a total postage fee of 1,05 Drs instead of 1,20 Drs. Stamps worth 0,15 Drs (15 Lepta) are missing. Cancel with "T" (Taxe) and manuscript with red pencil "30" (Lepta), double of missing stamps. Postal Rates 1,20Drs to abroad, from 1.1.1923 to 31.12.1924.




5L postal card posted from **THESSALONIKI 9.3.1926**, to Milano Italy. Postal Rates 1,50Drs to abroad, from 1.1.1925 to 31.5.1926.



The military post cards intended for correspondence from civilians to the military, with a face value of 10 lepta, were printed in various colors, on thick and smooth paper of the same color on both sides or with a white reverse side, as well as on thick or thin quadrille paper. Was permitted for all correspondence, both domestic and international, and not only for communication with the military. They were issued on September 9, 1917.



 ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ  
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ



Όνομα .....  
Αποστολέως .....  
Διεύθυνσις .....

Σύνταγμα .....  
Δόχος .....

Τόπος .....

Διά τοῦ πα  
οἰκεῖοι τοὺς Στ  
ας τῶν, καὶ ζη  
πληροφορίας δι  
των, εἰς γλῶσσ  
λέξεων διαφοροῦμ

ΛΙΘ. ΔΕΛ. Γ. ΔΕΛΦΙΝΩΝ - ΚΕΡΚΙΡΑ

 ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ  
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ




Όνομα .....  
Αποστολέως .....  
Διεύθυνσις .....


Σύνταγμα .....  
Δόχος .....

Τόπος .....

Διά τοῦ π  
οἰκεῖοι τοὺς Σ  
ας τῶν, καὶ ζ  
πληροφορίας δ  
των, εἰς γλῶσσ  
λέξεων διαφοροῖ

ΛΙΘ. ΔΕΛ. Γ. ΔΕΛΦΙΝΩΝ - ΚΕΡΚΙΡΑ

 ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ  
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ



Όνομα .....  
Αποστολέως .....  
Διεύθυνσις .....


Σύνταγμα .....  
Δόχος .....  
ἢ ἴλη


 ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ  
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ



Όνομα .....  
Αποστολέως .....  
Διεύθυνσις .....

Σύνταγμα .....  
Δόχος .....

 ΣΤΡΑΤΙΩΤΙΚΗ ΤΑΧΥΔΡΟΜΙΚΗ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑ  
ΕΠΙΣΤΟΛΙΚΟΝ ΔΕΛΤΑΡΙΟΝ



Όνομα .....  
Αποστολέως .....  
Διεύθυνσις .....

Σύνταγμα .....  
Δόχος .....  
ἢ ἴλη  
Βαθμὸς .....

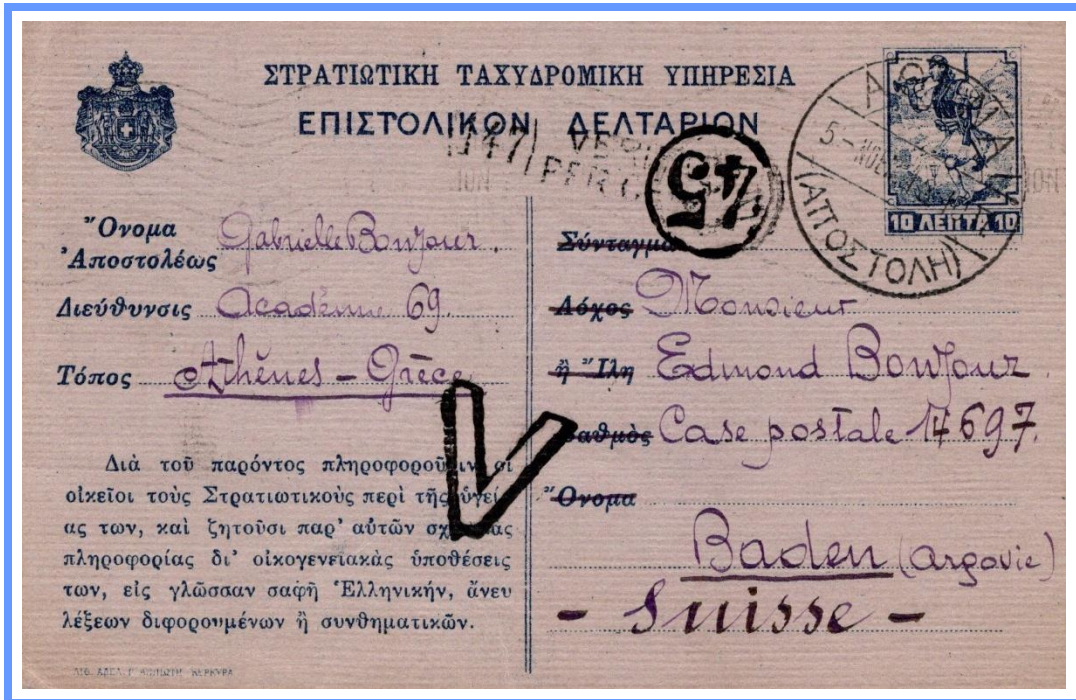
Όνομα .....

Διεύθυνσις .....

Τόπος .....

Διά τοῦ παρόντος πληροφοροῦσιν οἱ  
οἰκεῖοι τοὺς Στρατιωτικοὺς περὶ τῆς ὑγεί-  
ας τῶν, καὶ ζητοῦσι παρ' αὐτῶν σχετικὰς  
πληροφορίας δι' οἰκογενειακὰς ὑποθέσεις  
των, εἰς γλῶσσαν σαφῆ Ἑλληνικὴν, ἄνευ  
λέξεων διαφοροῦμένων ἢ συνθηματικῶν.

ΛΙΘ. ΔΕΛ. Γ. ΔΕΛΦΙΝΩΝ - ΚΕΡΚΙΡΑ



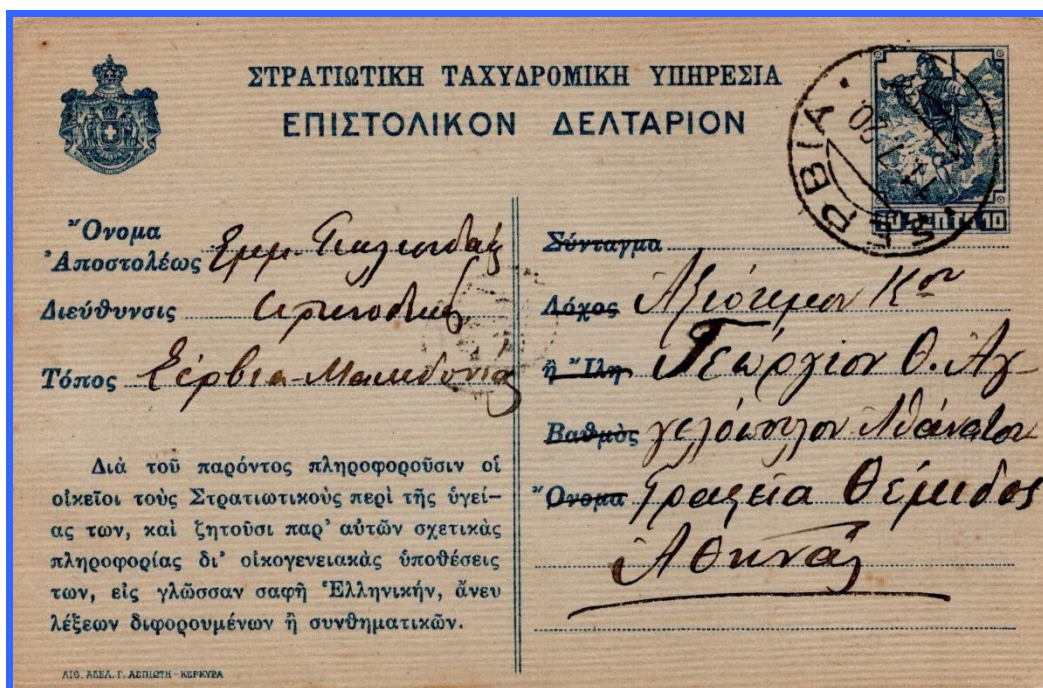
10L postal card posted from **ATHINAI 5.11.1918**, with Greek Censorship "V" and number **45** in circle is a Greek censorship cancel, via Italy with Italian censorship VERIFICATO PER CENSURA 147, to Baden Switzerland.  
 Postal Rates 10L to abroad, from 14.12.1915 to 1.5.1921.



10L postal card posted from **ATHINAI 8.11.1918**, with number **228** in circle is a Greek censorship cancel, to Alexandria Egypt.  
 Postal Rates 10L to abroad, from 14.12.1915 to 1.5.1921.



From **ATHINAI 9.11.1918**, with number **448** in circle is a Greek censorship cancel, to Seine France.  
 Postal Rates 10L to abroad, from 14.12.1915 to 1.5.1921.



10L postal card posted from **SERVIA 11.7.1920** (Kozani, Macedonia), to Athens.  
 Postal Rates 10L to inland, from 7.9.1917 to 7.8.1922.