

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC

Lydda Airport was closed by the British on April 25, 1948 and handed over to the Arab Legion. All official airmail ended on May 1 when the U.S. announced it would not allow its' planes to land in belligerent territory. After the SS Kedma left Haifa on May 6th, Palestine mail was shut off from the rest of the world.

In response to these facts, the Jewish Agency in New York created the PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC. This was the first time in U.S. Postal History that a specially created private organization was authorized to collect, cancel, and forward U.S. mail to a foreign country. Mail to Israel was franked 25 cents, the U.S. airmail rate, enclosed with a fee for handling in the larger envelope and was sent to the PEDI office. Most franking used postage stamps, but occasionally meters were used. The latter are very uncommon. The enclosed envelope was then removed and stamped with the following markings: a, for the First Flight a rubber one line stamp inscribed "First Flight to Israel". b, a dateless device with the word "CANCELLED" in serif letters surrounded by diagonal bars (type I). The highest number found so far is 211. c, While the first mark was being applied, a second device was obtained with a changeable dating portion and also applied (Type II). This was then used on all subsequent mail. d, all envelopes were stamped with a number, in sequence, the lowest recorded being "21". This work was supervised by Sarah Behrman, secretary in the office.

The first flight mail was date May 21, 1948, but actually left later. It was flown by a U.S. plane to Rome where it was transferred to a Czechoslovakian airline flight of June 2, 1948 that was routed through Athens for refueling and then on to Israel. Unable to land in Tel Aviv because of bombing, it went directly to Haifa. There, Mr Taussig, the CESKOSLOVENSKE AEROLINE representative, and his wife, spent the night applying the cachet in violet or black on arrival and then they transported this mail to Tel Aviv during the morning of June 3, 1948 where it was deposited in the Israeli postal system. This cachet was applied only on the first flight in which over 1100 pieces were carried.

The U.S. reestablished postal services on June 29 but PEDI continued until the end of July.

Rather than show examples of each flight, this collection exhibits varieties of the First Flight and subsequent ones in regard to markings, rate, and unusual transmission.

ORDER OF EXHIBIT

1. Title Page
2. Proof
3. FDC example signed by Sarah Behrman who ran service-not mailed
4. First Flight with both type I (diagonal) and Type II (dated)- No. 57
5. First Flight with type I and type II cancels-double weight-No. 188
6. First Flight only type II postmark No.341
7. First Flight without cachet and without number
8. First Flight "RETURN TO SENDER" New York Date April 26 No.1054
9. Dated June 23rd, 1948, no cachet after First Flight No.19455
10. "RETURN TO SENDER" Evanston, Illinois April 21, meter postage dated June 20, No. 19048
11. Returned, with proper franking via Israel Postal Service-Rare example
12. Meter postage, double weight, date illegible, but probably June 25. No.23245
13. Dated June 25 with inverted date No 22258
14. Backstamped Hakirya 10-7-1948—very few known backstamped 17155
15. Second PEDI cover known with D'mei Do'ar postage-assessed in error; also backstamped
16. Four dollars franking!!!! Dated June 28, 1948, probably second highest postage used, No 5586 (missing a "2"?)

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES, INC.

United States-Israel

Proof

Proof of First Day "PEDI" Flight Cover
Cancellation: May 21, 1948 x 2
Cachet: First Flight to Israel
Imprint on cover: Keren Hayesod



ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES, INC

ONLY EXAMPLE KNOWN

"ESSAY"

United States-Israel

ex L.S. 567
KEREN HAYESOD
Palestine Foundation Fund, Inc.
41 EAST 42nd STREET • NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

This is a first day cover
of Palestine Emergency Deliveries, Inc.
trailing, from New York to
Israel by special ar-
rangement.
Sarah Behrman

FIRST FLIGHT TO ISRAEL

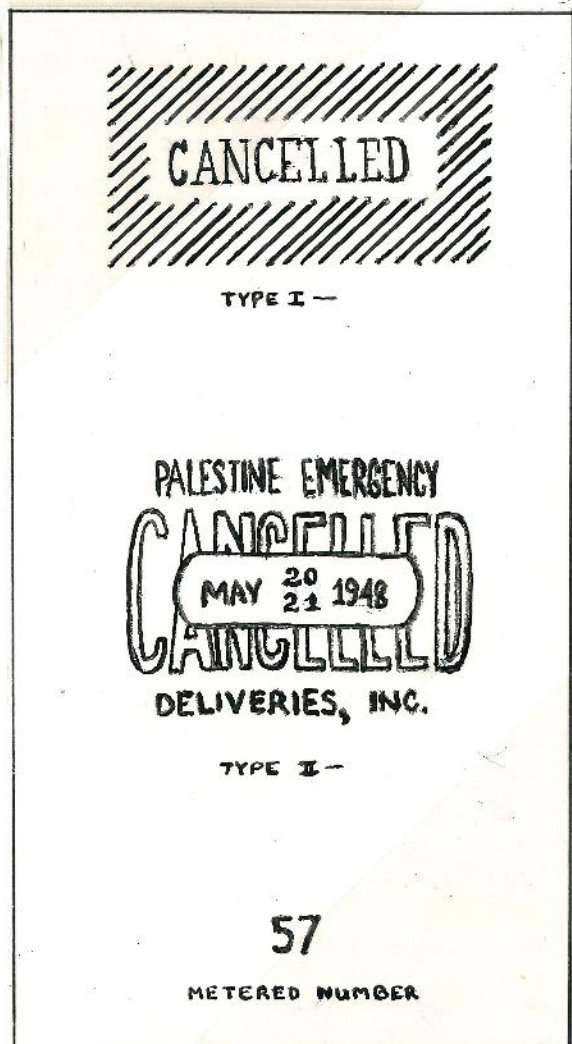


Message signed by Sarah Behrman,
who ran service. Cover was created to
serve as a document of this service for
agency records and to see how the cover
would look

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC.

First Flight May 21, 1948

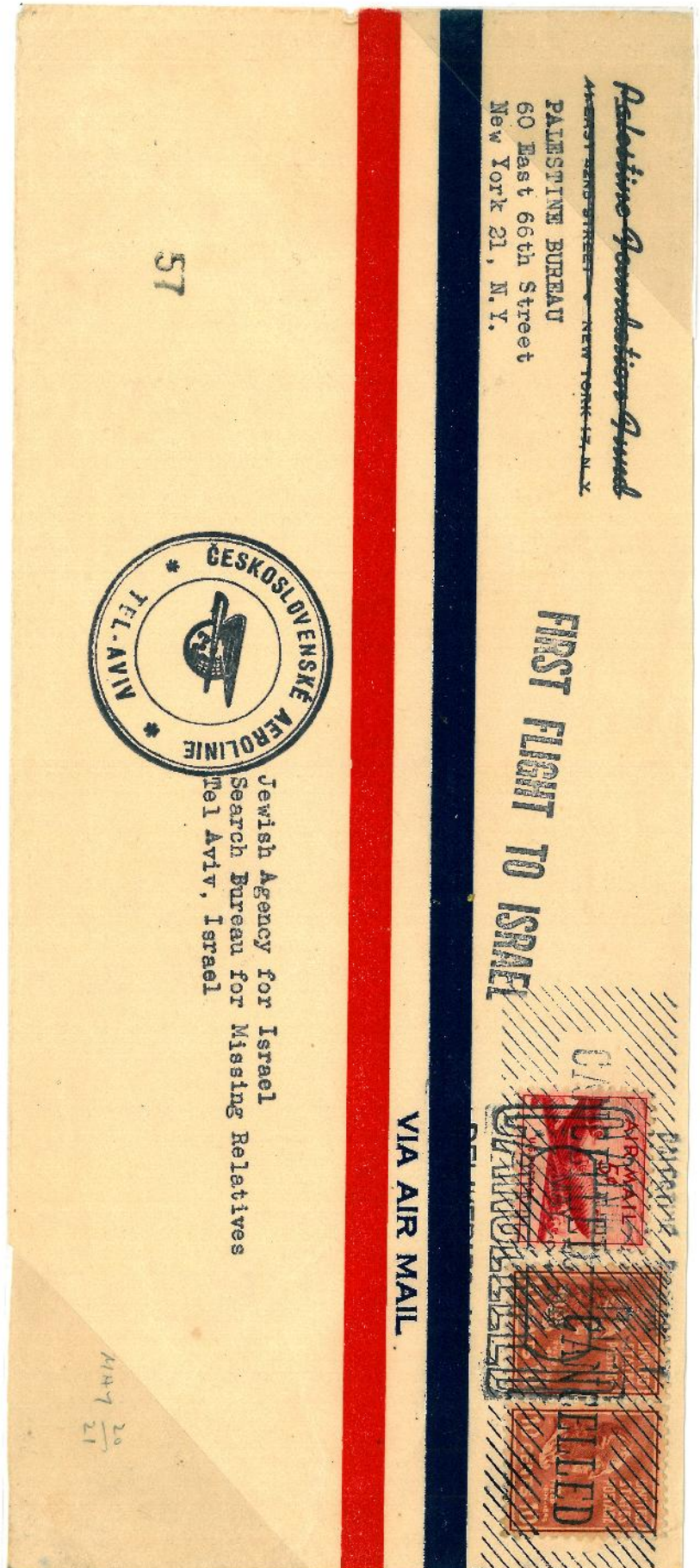


Type I Cancel appears on approximately the first 211 First Day Flight Covers

Carried from Rome by C.S.R. Flight

June 2, 1948 Arrival Haifa

Carried from Haifa to Tel Aviv by Mr. Taussig (C.S.R. Palestine Representative) who affixed the cachet, helped by his wife CESKOSLOVENSKE' AEROLINE* TEL AVIV



ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC.

First Flight May 21, 1948

Double rate 50 cents (2 x 25) for double weight

Both types of cancel



No. 188

Cachet: black

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC

First Flight May 21, 1948

Air Letter Sheet with Types I and II Cancellations



No 43

Postage only 10c accepted despite regulation that airmail was to be 25c

Black cachet repeated on reverse. Message written May 18, 1948

Type II Cancellation-No Bars



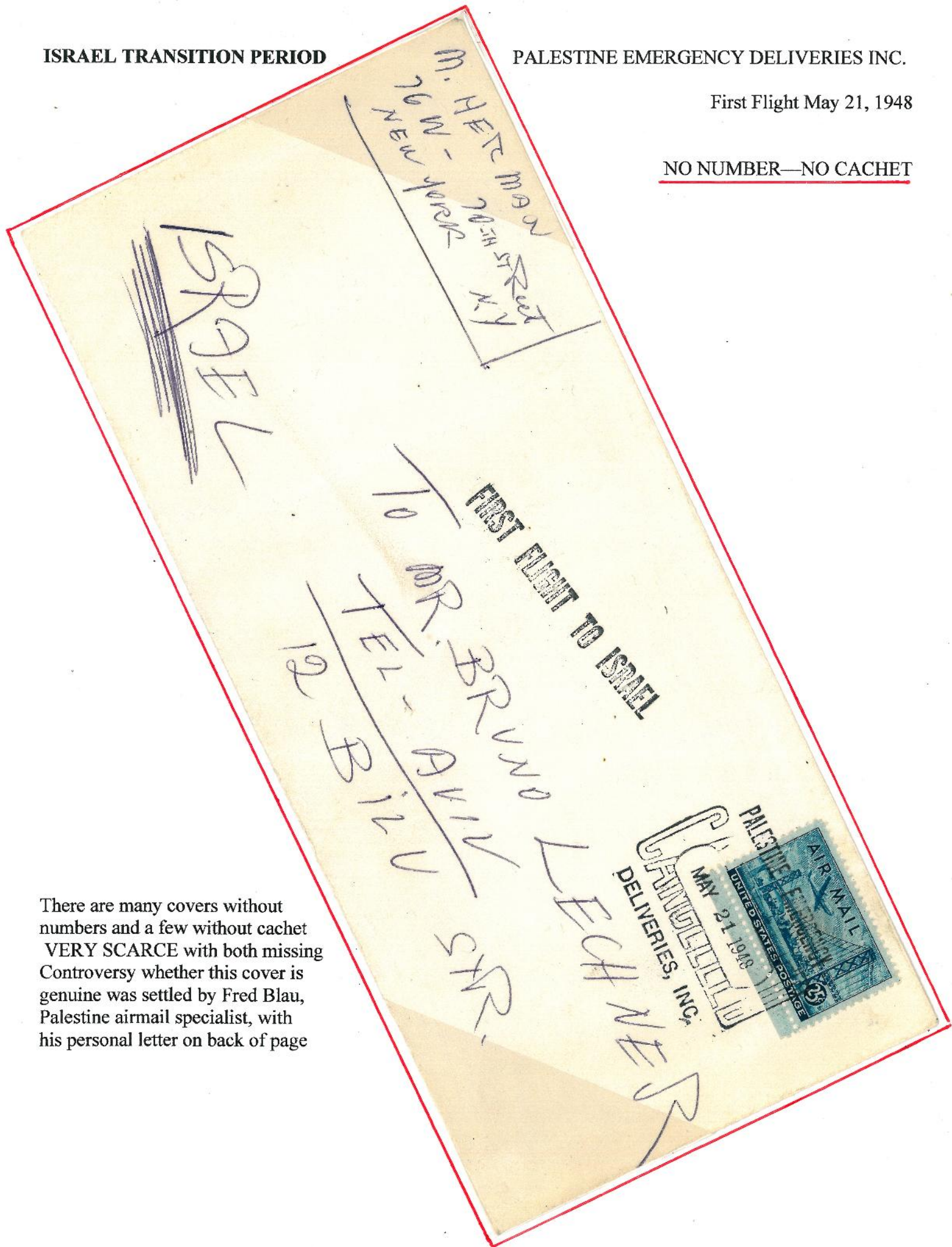
No. 341 Total First Flight over 1000 Letters

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC.

First Flight May 21, 1948

NO NUMBER—NO CACHET



There are many covers without numbers and a few without cachet
VERY SCARCE with both missing
Controversy whether this cover is genuine was settled by Fred Blau, Palestine airmail specialist, with his personal letter on back of page

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC

First Flight May 21, 1948

'RETURN TO SENDER'

Mailed April 26, 1948 from New York City

Posted to Haifa but too late for last flight

Unusual Combination

Less than 10 recorded



FIRST FLIGHT TO ISRAEL

P. O. B. Company, Ltd.
Haifa, Palestine

SERVICE SUSPENDED
RETURN TO SENDER



VIA AIR MAIL
DELIVERIES, INC.

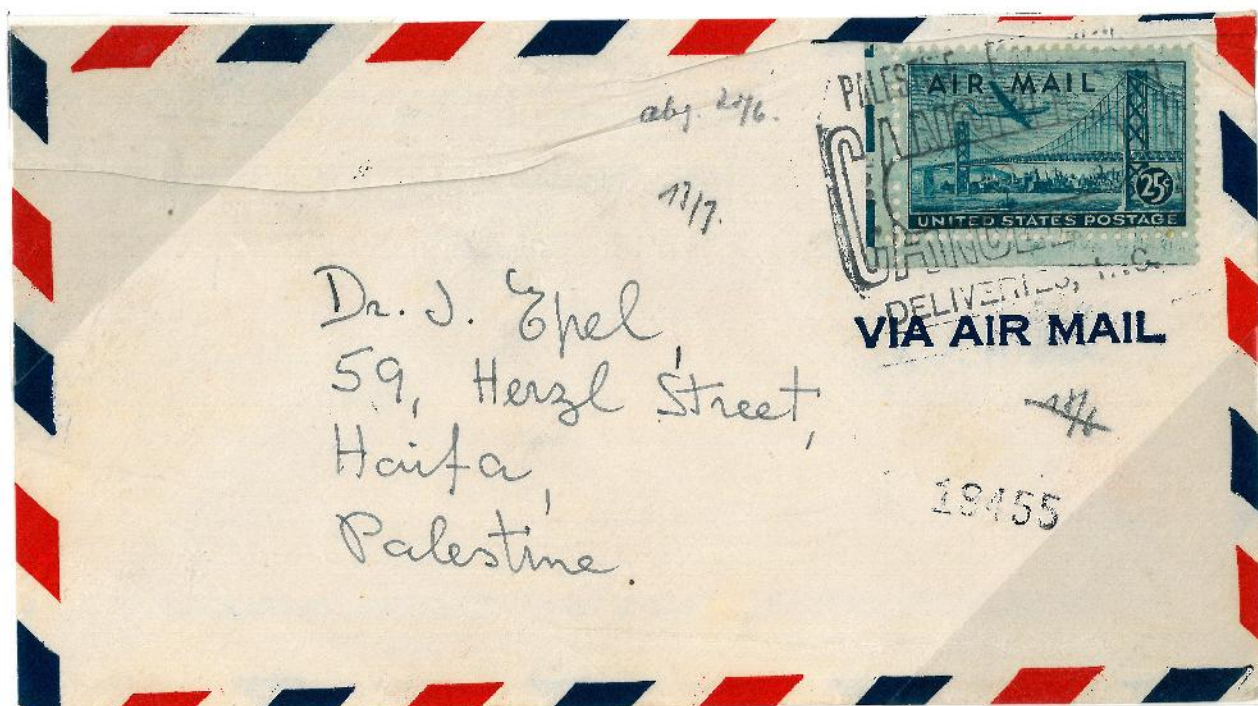


Remailed per instructions
Difference of 25 days

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC.

No cachets after first flight



No. 19455
Postmark: June 23, 1948

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC.

"RETURN TO SENDER"

Mailed April 21, 1948 from Evanston Ill
U.S. and England officially suspended
all service April 27, 1948
However, U.S. was suspending service
as early as April 21

Meter Postage uncommon



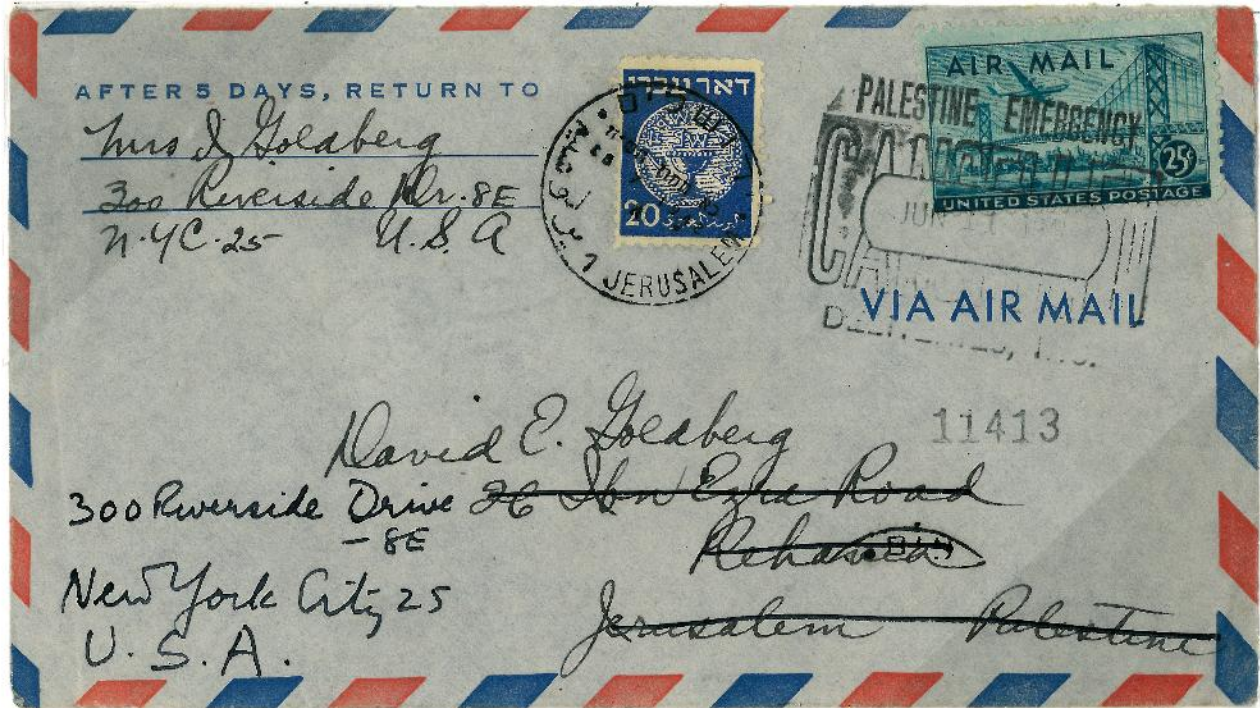
REMAILED per instructions,
No additional postage requested by U.S.
Dated June 20, 1948
Difference of 2 months

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC

Returned to Sender

Return Fee Paid by 20m Do'ar Ivri



Rare Example of foreign mail received via non-governmental forwarding service and returned, with proper franking via Israel Postal service

Postmarks: PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC. 11 June 1948

Israel trilingual: Jerusalem 1, 28-7-1948

Franking: Do'ar Ivri 20 mil-foreign surface mail rate

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC

HAS U.S. POSTMARK
NEW YORK JUN 24, '48
U.S. Postmark Uncommon

Double Weight

Meter Postage

PEDI CANCEL WITHOUT DATE
Due to underinking



ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES INC.

Inverted Date June 25, 1948



No. 22258
Addressed to Haifa

ISRAEL TRANSITION PERIOD

PALESTINE EMERGENCY DELIVERIES, INC

United States-Israel

Meter Mail
Back Stamped



16 EAST 66TH STREET
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

לכבוד
משרד החוץ
ממשלת ישראל
בירושלים

VIA AIR MAIL

17155

Addressed to "Foreign Office"
Back stamped Hakirya 10-7-1948
Very few known backstamped

ATTEMPTED TAXED COVER REVERSED

SECOND Recorded Cover with Dmei Doar Adhesives

June 7, 1948



Reason for attempted taxation unknown

U.S. circular Postage Due hand stamp, without indication of amount

No Israeli postage due cachet on cover

Straight line cachet: PRINTED MATTER

However, no different rate for printed matter

Reverse: Rehovot transit postmark 13-7-1948

Givat Brenner arrival postmark 14-7-1948

Dmei Doar adhesives with tabs not postally cancelled

Apparently no tax penalty requested

Palestine Purchasing Service, Inc.
386 Fourth Avenue
New York 16, N. Y.

9808

Airmail



NOA COMPANY LTD.

P. O. B. 877

TELAVIV, PALESTINE

5586

June 28, 1948 No. 5586 \$4 franking. May be highest postage used