

After the fall of Rome in June of 1944, several free zones were established by partisans in summer and fall of 1944. These lasted a few days to a few months. All these territories were taken back by nazi-fascist troops by the end of October 1944.

Free State of Ossola is the only one, out of about twenty, known to have a postal history footprint. Being located on the Swiss border, it also exchanged international mail. Was established on 4 September 1944 and occupied by RSI forces on 23 October 1944.

*There are about two dozens of documents known from this period. The cover presented below is one of the two known covers with government letterhead.*



Copy of the arrival mark from reverse, about 70% original. The town of Locarno is just few miles across the Swiss border.



Cover with letterhead of the Government of Free Domodossola Zone, mailed to Postal Administration in Bellinzona, Switzerland. The cover also shows an official seal of the Government used as a censorship seal. Franked 1.25 Lire for an international letter. Carried across the border to Locarno the same day