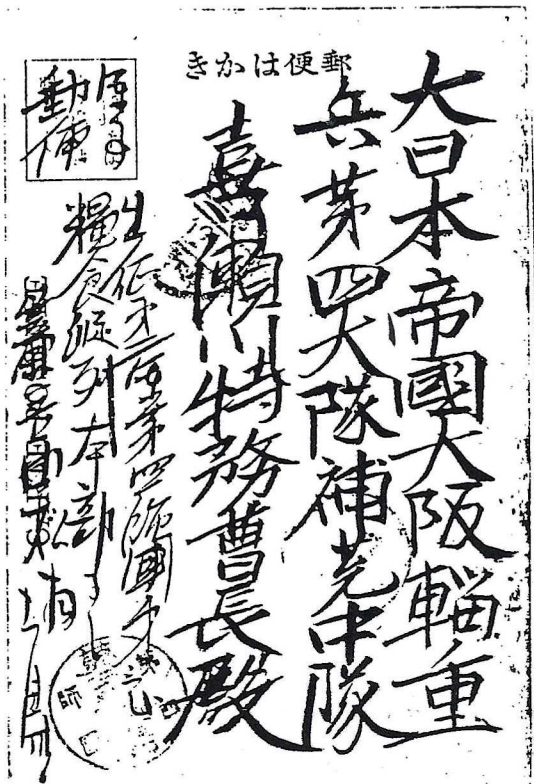


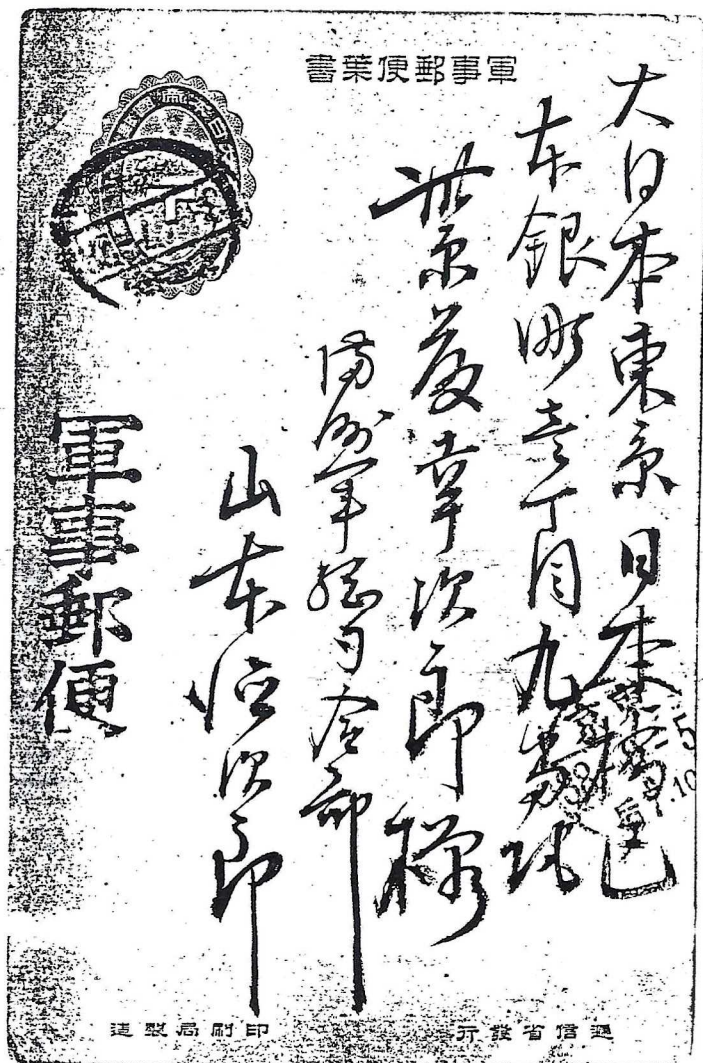
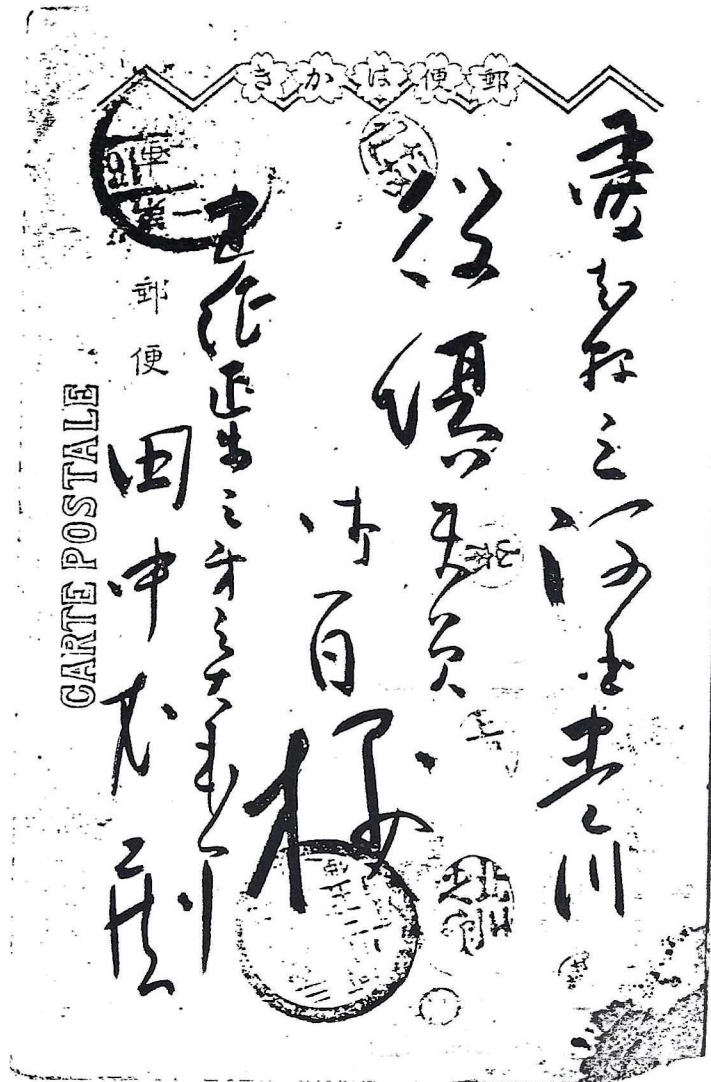
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Field post cover from Korea to Japan containing long letter. Unusual red rectangular box marking reading "Chinhai Gulf Fortress Artillery/Military Post" matches text in return address.

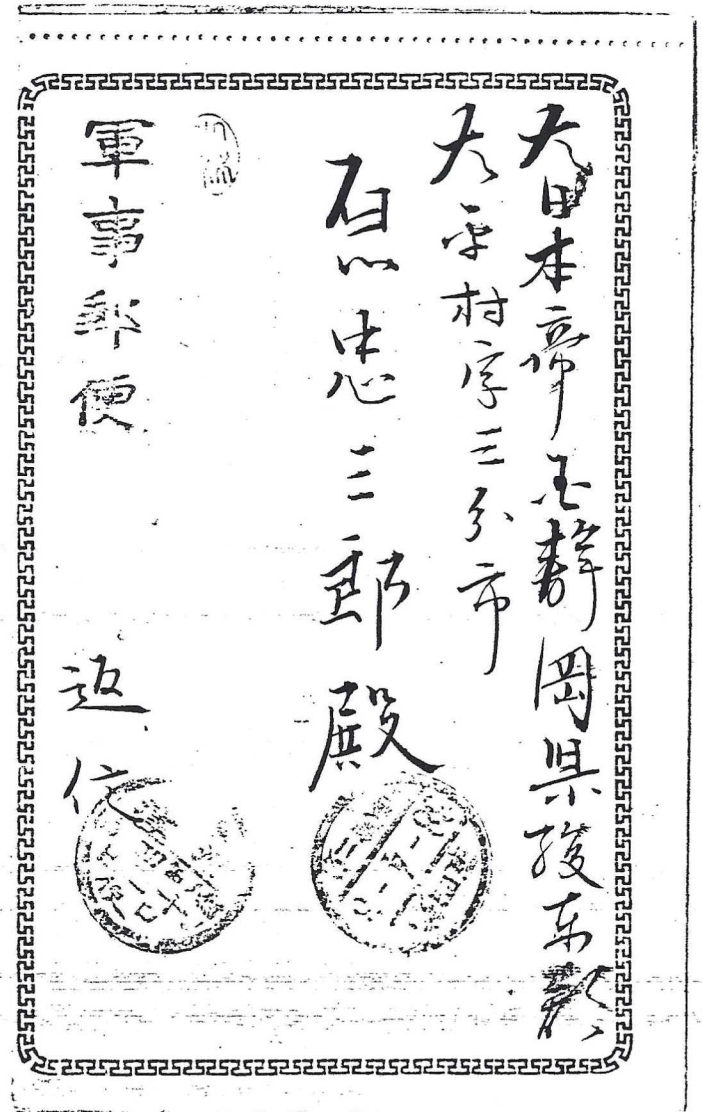
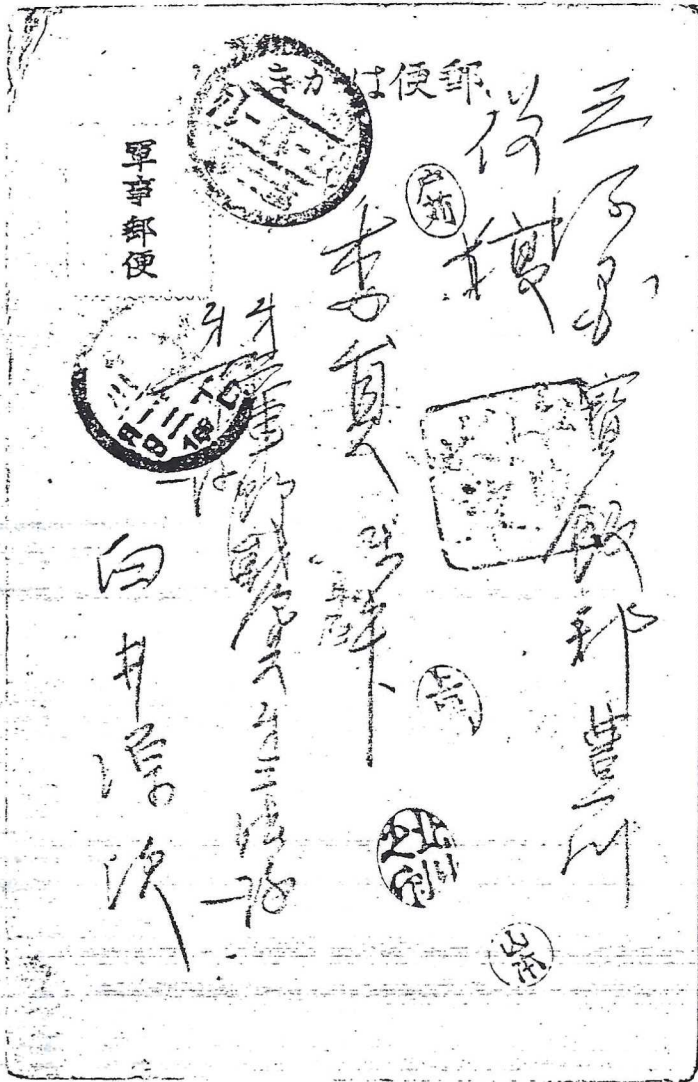


Most of the troops and most of the fighting took place in Manchuria, which had been occupied by the Russians since the Boxer Uprising. The Japanese viewed the stationing of Russian forces in this area as a threat to their political and economic interests.

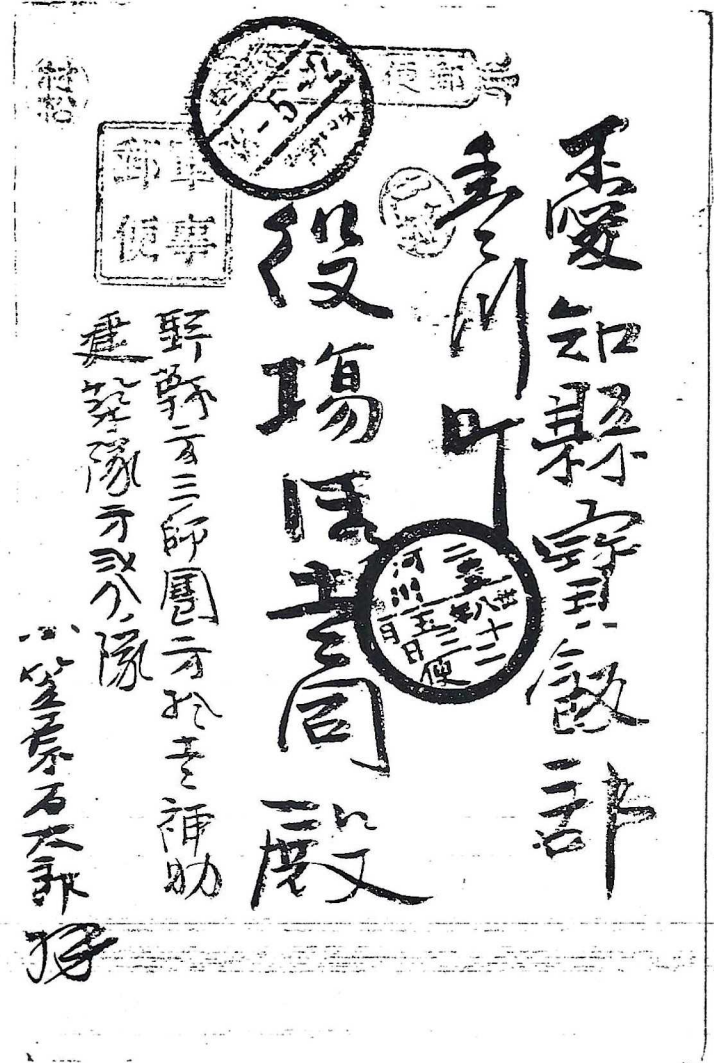
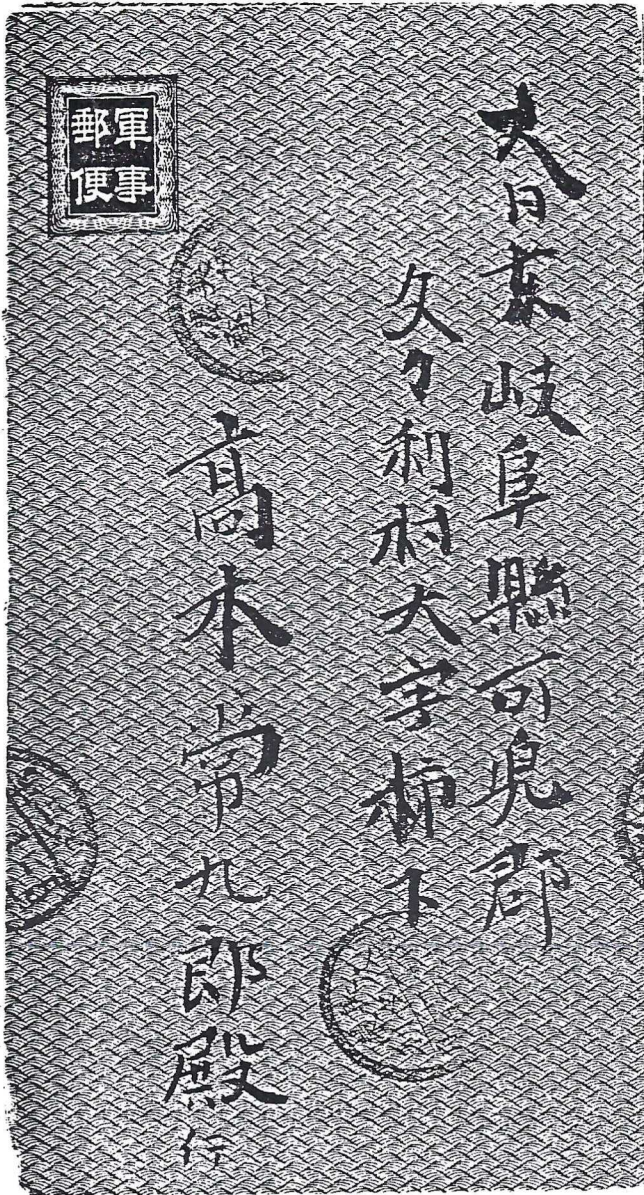
Patriotic card showing Japanese battle flag over map of South Manchurian Railway, mailed to a Sergeant Major with the 4th Battalion, Supplement Company. Postmark incomplete but circular unit marking reads "4th Div. 3rd Sply. Column."



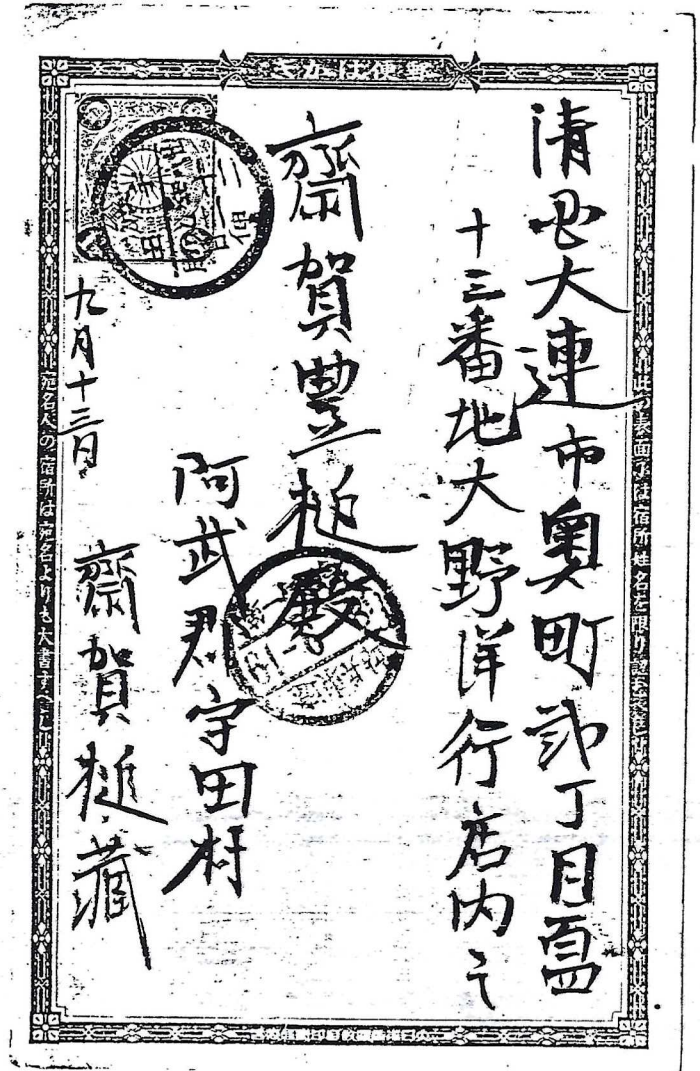
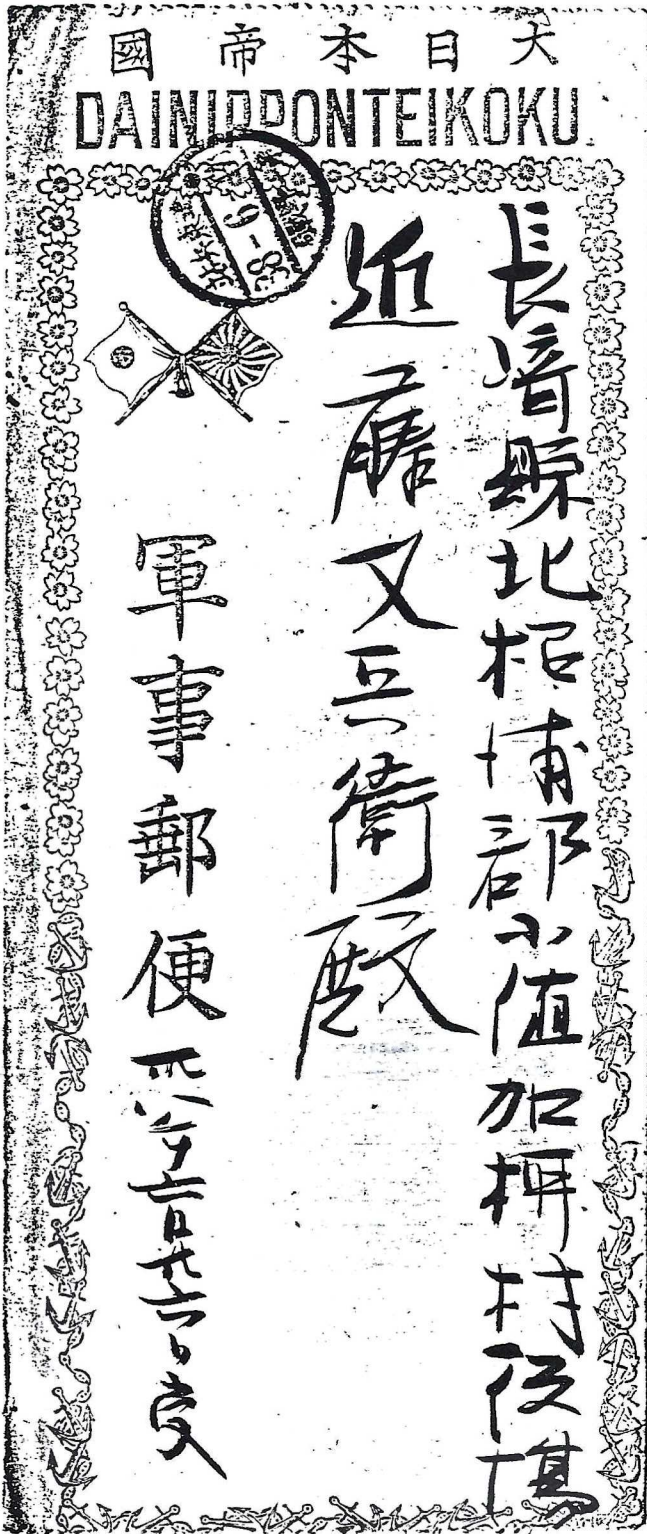
Special postcards inscribed "Gunji Yubin" (Military Mail). Card on left sent by a soldier in the First Army to Toyokawa, where it was received on 25 February. Card on right received in Tokyo on 5 August.



Post card sent from the 2nd Army Field Operations and received in Japan on 22 November. Special letter sheet was sent by a soldier in the Reserve Infantry, 34th Regiment, 3rd Company. Message describes fierce fighting near Mukden in which the regiment suffered 700 killed or wounded and promotion of sender to Jotohei (PFC).

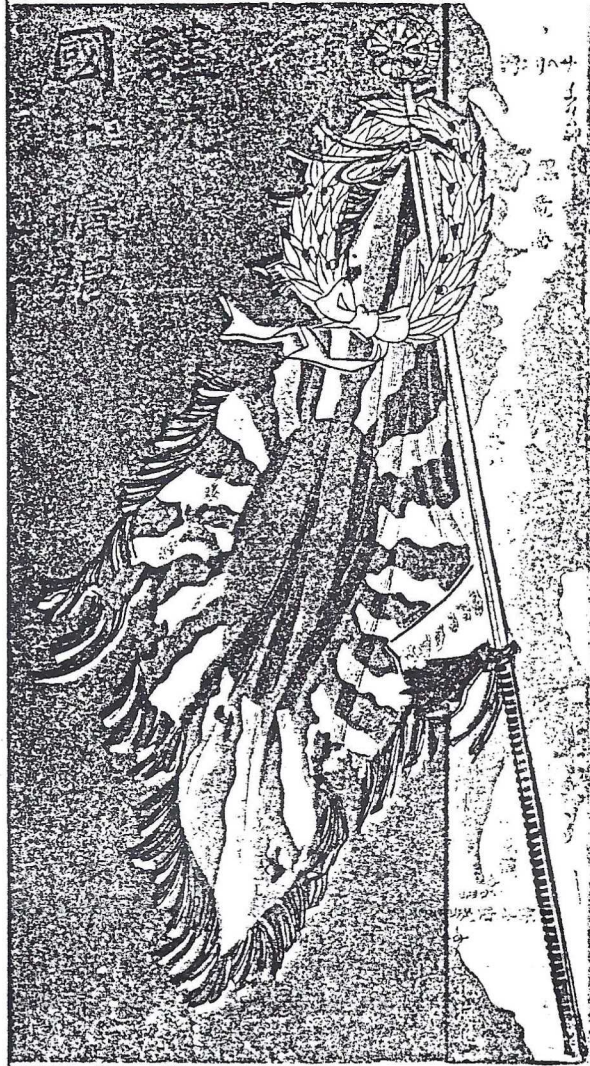


Special Gunji Yubin letter sheet sent by soldier in the 9th Division, 2nd Company, to Toyokawa, where it was received on 15 January. Message indicates that he left Hiroshima on 15 August 1904 on the S.S. *Hakata Maru*, landed at Taku on the 21st, and is now stationed about 7 miles from Port Arthur. Post card sent by member of the 11th Construction Corps, 3rd Division, and was received in Japan on 13 May.



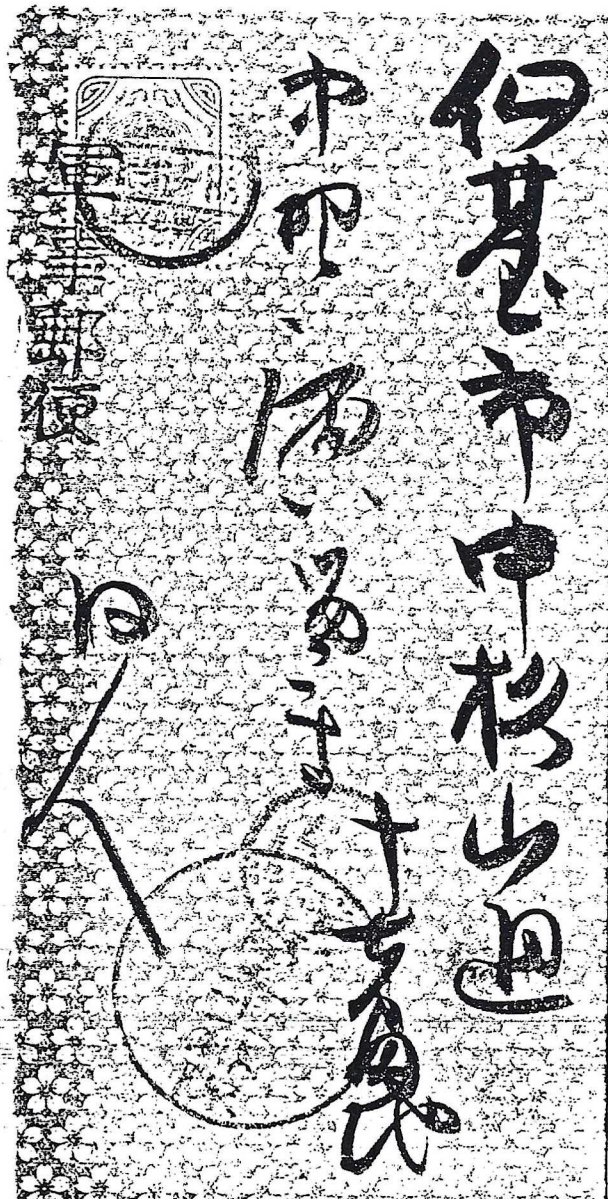
Special military patriotic envelope sent by member of Lyaotung Defense Corps, 60th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, 9th Company to Nagasaki. Fieldpost card sent from soldier in Lyaotung area to Dairen. Following the peace treaty, Japan took over formal possession of the Lyaotung leasehold formerly held by Russia.

大皇帝國山口縣吉敷郡
内村字長野
吉野宗藏 援
軍事郵便



In addition to the forces which were sent to Korea, Manchuria and the leased territory on the Lyaotung Peninsula, the Japanese invaded Sakhalin in order to retake the southern half of the island which had been seized by the Russians in 1875.

Cover sent by soldier of the Independent 13th Division at Korsakov and is an early use of FPO No.1; this office had opened on 8 July, just two weeks earlier.

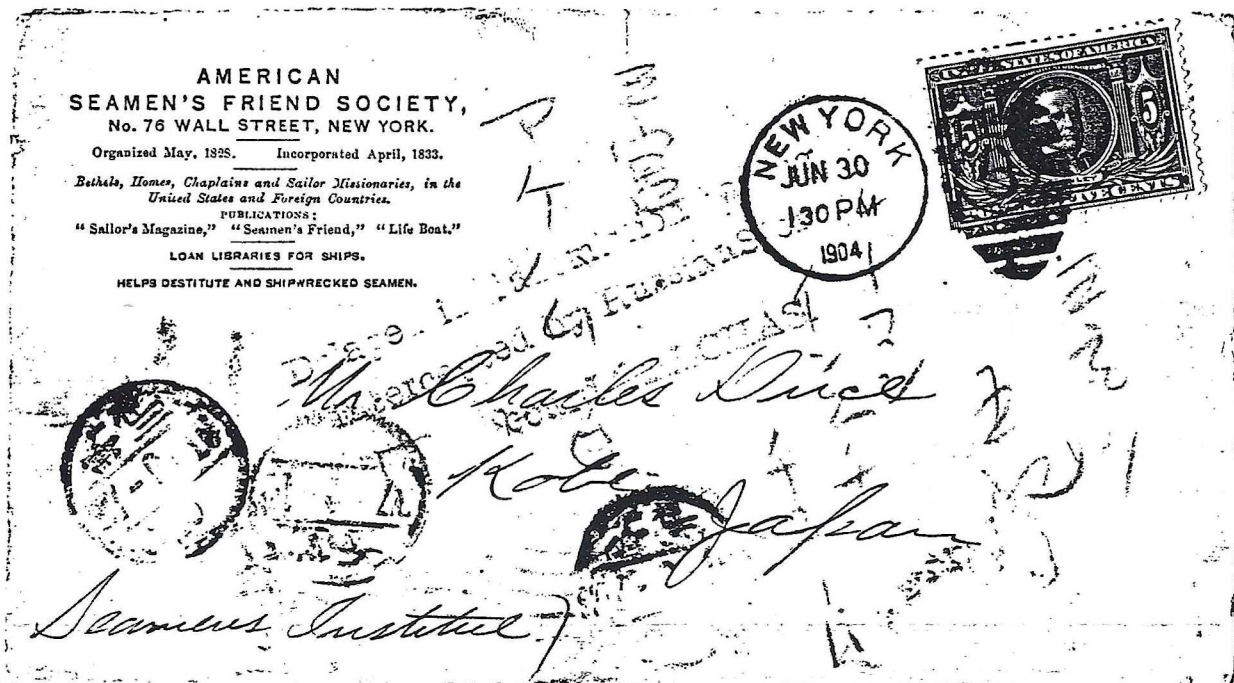


The Japanese occupied the entire southern half of Sakhalin, which they were able to retain (until 1945) under terms of the Treaty of Portsmouth.

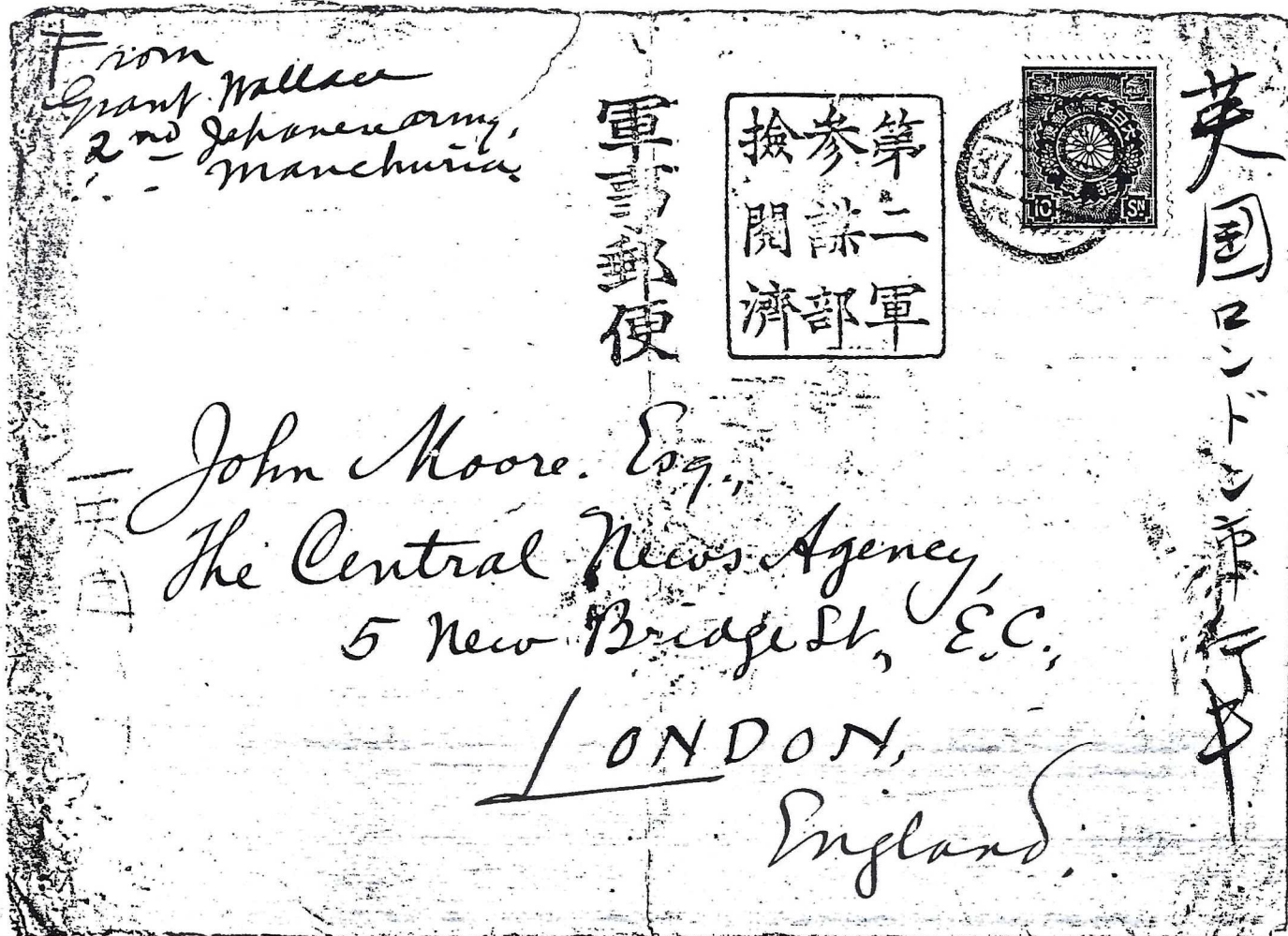
Cover to Sendei from a soldier in the 51st Infantry Regiment (red handstamp).

RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR
Mail Intercepted by the Russians

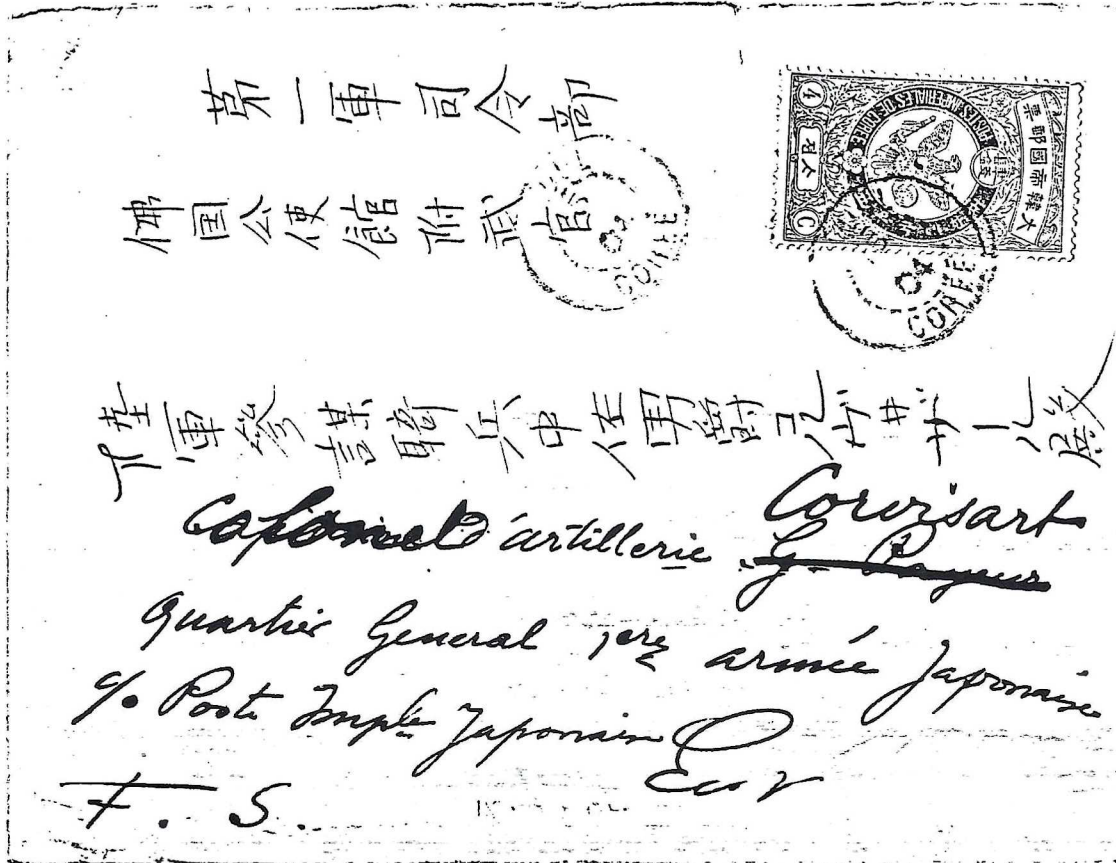
New York to Kobe
June to September 1904



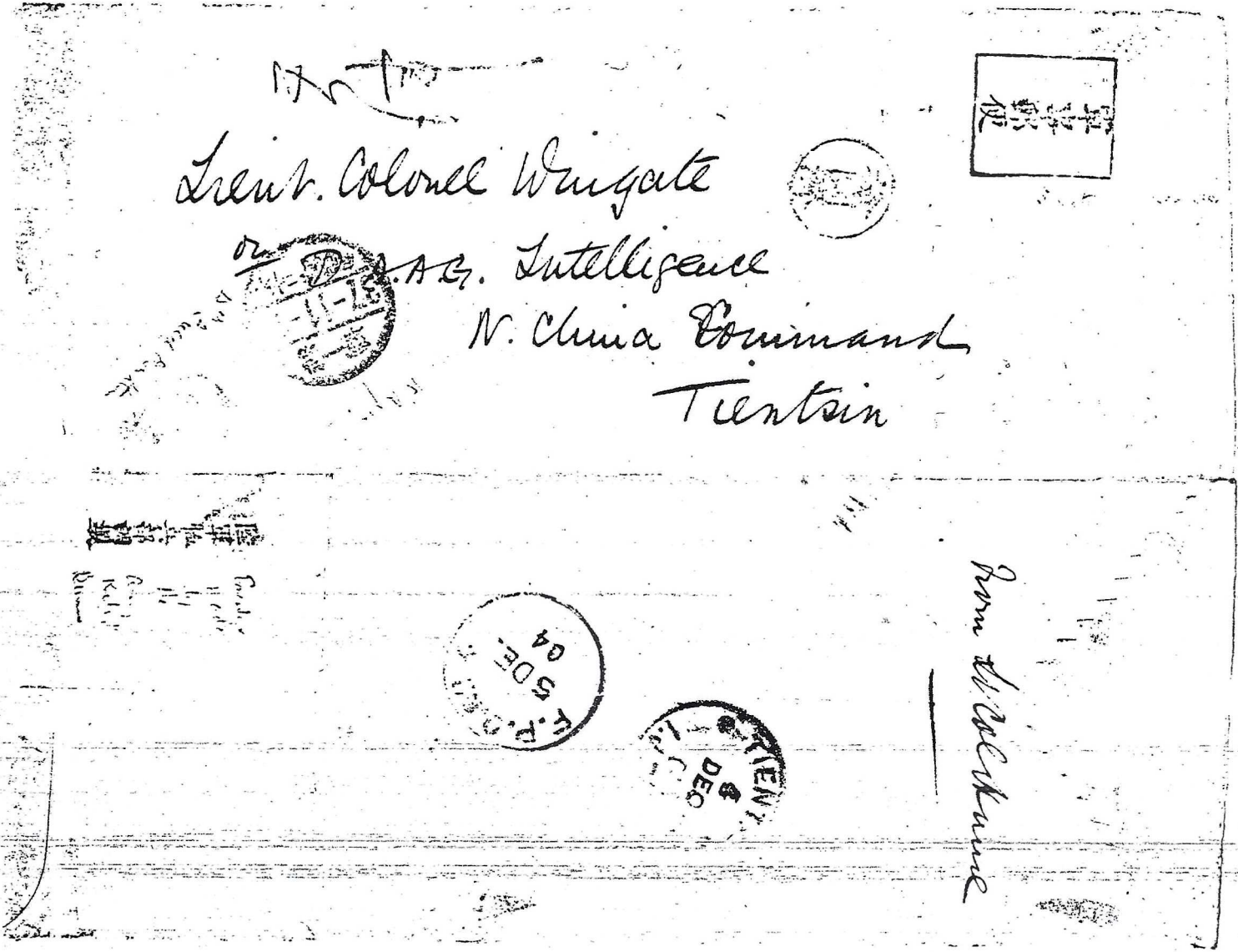
Cover from U.S.A. which transited Tacoma, Washington on 5 July but was seized during its Trans-Pacific journey in *S.S. Calchas*. Recaptured during the Russian retreat from southern Manchuria in August, when it received the three illegible Japanese postmarks and the red "Delayed" cachet. Backstamped for receipt at Kobe on 9 September. An extraordinary usage.



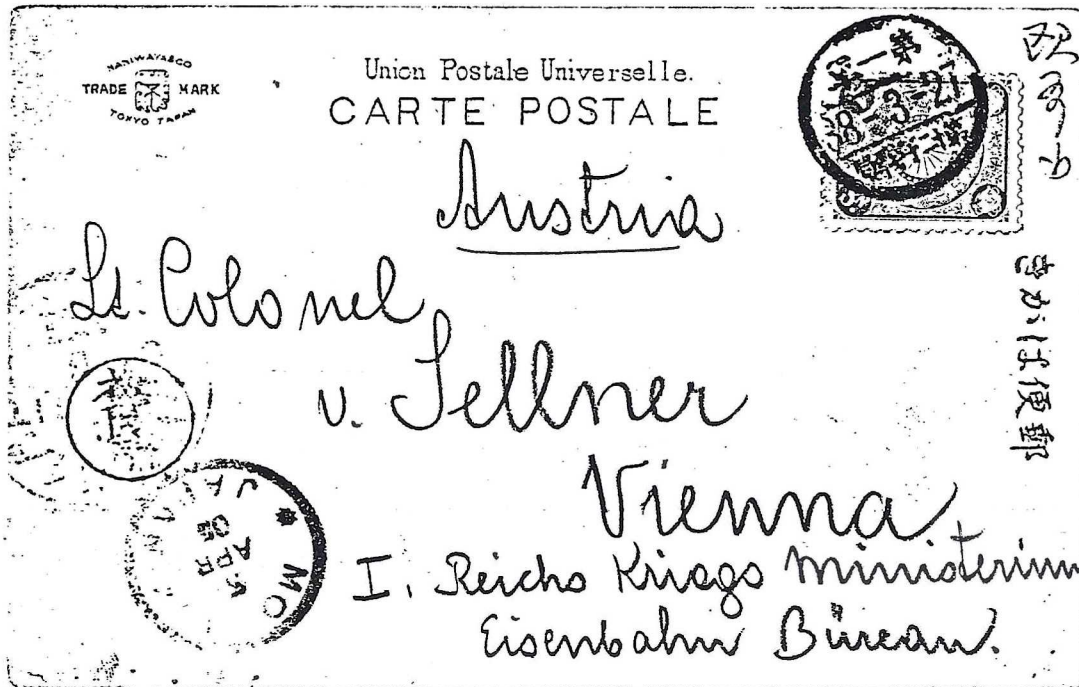
Unusual usage with manuscript return address on reverse of "U.S. San Francisco Bulletin Reporter/2nd Army Headquarters" in Japanese. Correspondent Wallace mailed this cover at the Second Army FPO. Unboxed red cachet indicates military mail, while the large boxed handstamp reads "2nd Army Headquarters Censored."



In the early Twentieth Century a number of armies permitted officers of friendly powers to travel with their forces as military observers. This was the case with the Japanese Army in 1904-05. Cover mailed with Korean postage from Seoul to Colonel Coroisart at the Japanese First Army headquarters, then at Chemulpo, Korea.



Cover from Lt. Col. C. V. Hume, Military Attache to the Japanese First Manchurian Army, to Lt. Col. Wingate or D(eputy) A(ssistant) A(djutant) G(eneral) Intelligence, North China Command in Tientsin. Boxed cachet reads "Military Post Service," and circular red marking indicates censorship. Postmark is that of the Japanese First Army, 15th Field Operation.



The battle of Mukden was one of the bloodiest of the war, with losses of nearly 100,000 men on the Russian side and up to 50,000 Japanese. It lasted from 21 February to 10 March 1905, when the Russians were able to escape a Japanese encirclement and retreat northward from the city.

Postcard from an Austrian officer attached to the Japanese Army. Message reads "Greetings from the battlefield of Mukden, 21 March 1905." Sent to a colleague at the Imperial War Ministry in Vienna..



Cover from Captain John J. Pershing (later Commander of the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I), U.S. Army observer with the Japanese First Manchurian Army. Initially addressed to his wife care of the American Legation in Tokyo, it was forwarded in care of the "Taft Party" in Manila, where Secretary of State (later President) William Howard Taft was on an inspection tour.

RUSSO-JAPANESE AFTERMATH
Korea
Japan

Seoul
1 July 1905

Yokohama
30 April 1906

Union Postale Universelle. 書端合聯便郵國萬
CARTE POSTALE



Légation de France

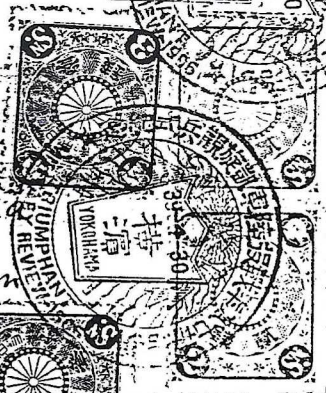
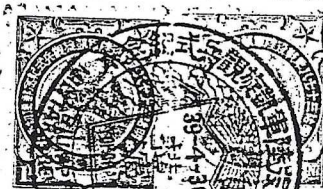
Seoul

CARTE POSTALE

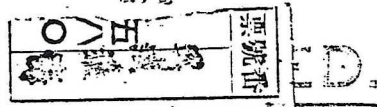
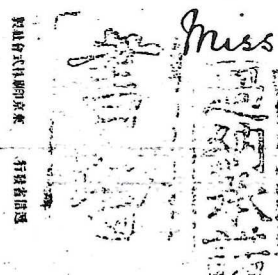
1112

*Miss Gregory
57 B Bluff*

*Yokohama
Japan*



きかけ便郵



Printed by the Tokyo Printing Co., Ltd.

Following the successful completion of the fighting, Japanese authorities took over the management of the Korean postal service. Korean stamps were withdrawn from sale on 30 June 1905 and Japanese postage introduced on the following day. A special stamp incorporating both Japanese and Korean symbols was issued on 1 July to commemorate the amalgamation of the two postal systems. In the following year, a set of two values was issued to commemorate the victory and placed on sale at the time of the Triumphal Military Review. Registered post card with special commemorative cancellation is very unusual.

RUSSO-JAPANESE AFTERMATH

Japan
Korea

Tokyo
Seoul
30 April 1906



Issued by the Department of Communications as a souvenir of the Army Review held in Tokio after the War.

明治三十七年八月廿五日
陸軍凱旋觀式紀念

中世に於ける凱旋式
The Triumphal Celebration in the Middle Ages.

郵
佛
蘭
西
領
事
館
啟
京
城
運
送
西
領
事
館

To
The Consul-General
of France,
Seoul,
Korea.



(On Post Office Business)

In addition to the victory stamps, a souvenir post card was issued by the Department of Communications in connection with the Triumphal Military Review. These were often cancelled with the commemorative postmark. Cover to the French Consulate in Korea was also cancelled with the version of the special postmark issued to the office in Seoul, a very unusual usage on official mail.