

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION

Mil. Postal Sta. No.1
1 January 1901
7 March 1901



The second postmark provided for Peking was similar to that used in Tientsin, without the name of the city being indicated. However, the two devices can be distinguished because the Tientsin version always gave the time, while the Peking cancel had a slug (which shows up as a black rectangular blob) in the time slot. The dates of use of this marking cannot be ascertained because earlier compilers of this information did not distinguish between the two cancels.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION

Peking U.S. Mil. Postal Sta.
15 April 1901
27 April 1901



A third postmark provided for Peking restored the name of the city (spelled correctly), this time at the top of the dial. It was used briefly between 3 April and 20 May 1901. Both covers are correctly franked at 5 cents, the upper example because it does not bear a military return address and the latter to pay the UPU rate to Germany.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Registered Mail

Military Postal Sta. No. 1
5 November 1900
21 February 1901

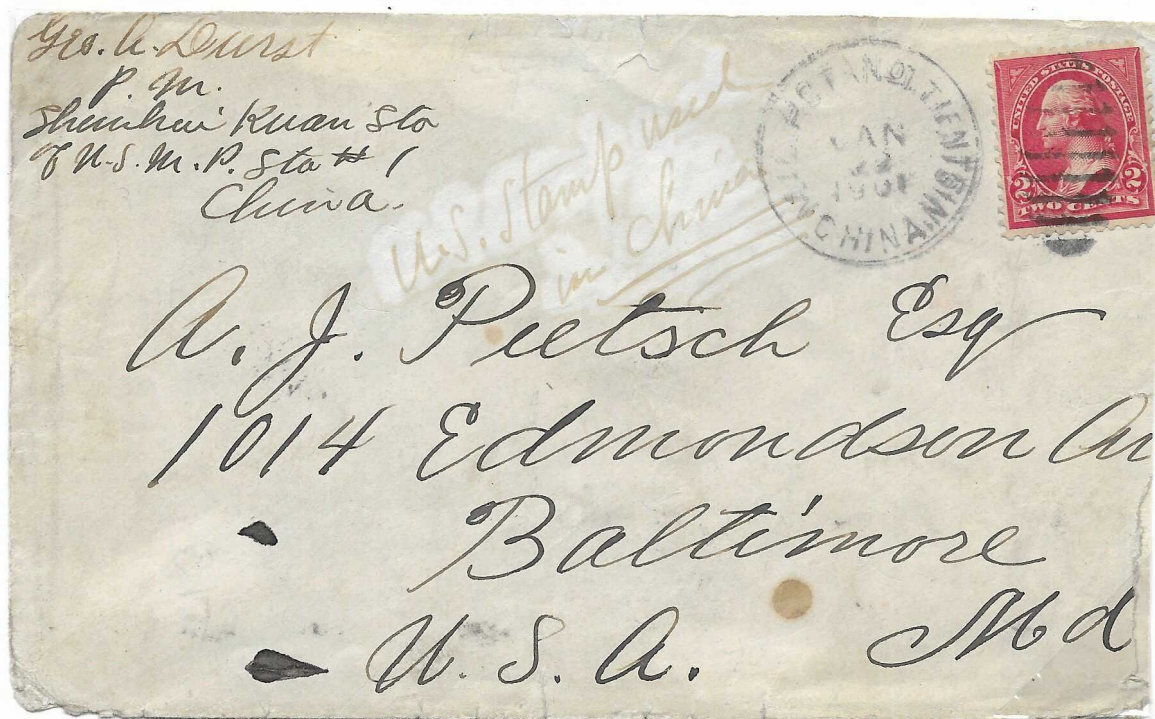


A double-ring cds but without specific indication of "Registered" was provided to the Peking postal station and used from 27 October 1900 to 19 April 1901. Examples shown are properly rated at 10 cents to the United States and 13 cents internationally (from a German marine of the I. See Battalion). Only five registered items are recorded with this marking, making it one of the scarcest cancels used in China.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION

Mil. Postal Sta. No.1 Tientsin
22 January 1901

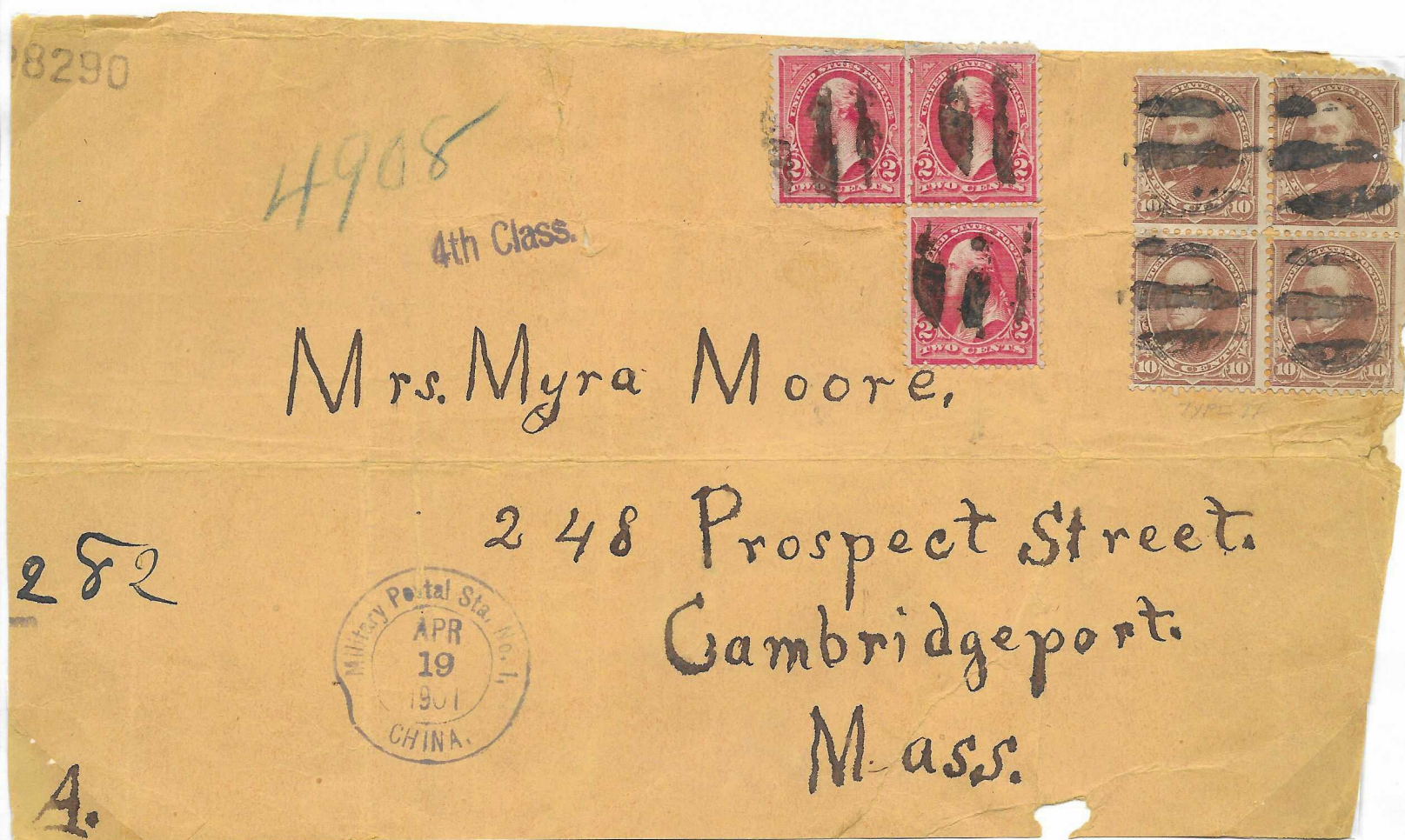
Only Recorded Cover Identified as Originating at Shanhaikuan Station



A small contingent of American troops was stationed at Shanhaikuan, on the border between Manchuria and China proper. This cover was sent by Geo. Durst, postmaster of the Shanhaikuan Station. The status of this entity is not given in the literature, but a postmark was never issued. Thus, the likelihood is that it was a mail collection station, from which accumulated letters were bagged and sent to Tientsin for processing.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Registered Parcel

Military Postal Sta. No. 1
19 April 1901



This example of the double-ring registration cds for Peking was used on a piece of a parcel wrapping, thus accounting for the "4th Class" marking. Survival of such wrappings is extremely limited, with only 3 large pieces and one fragment being recorded.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Registered Mail

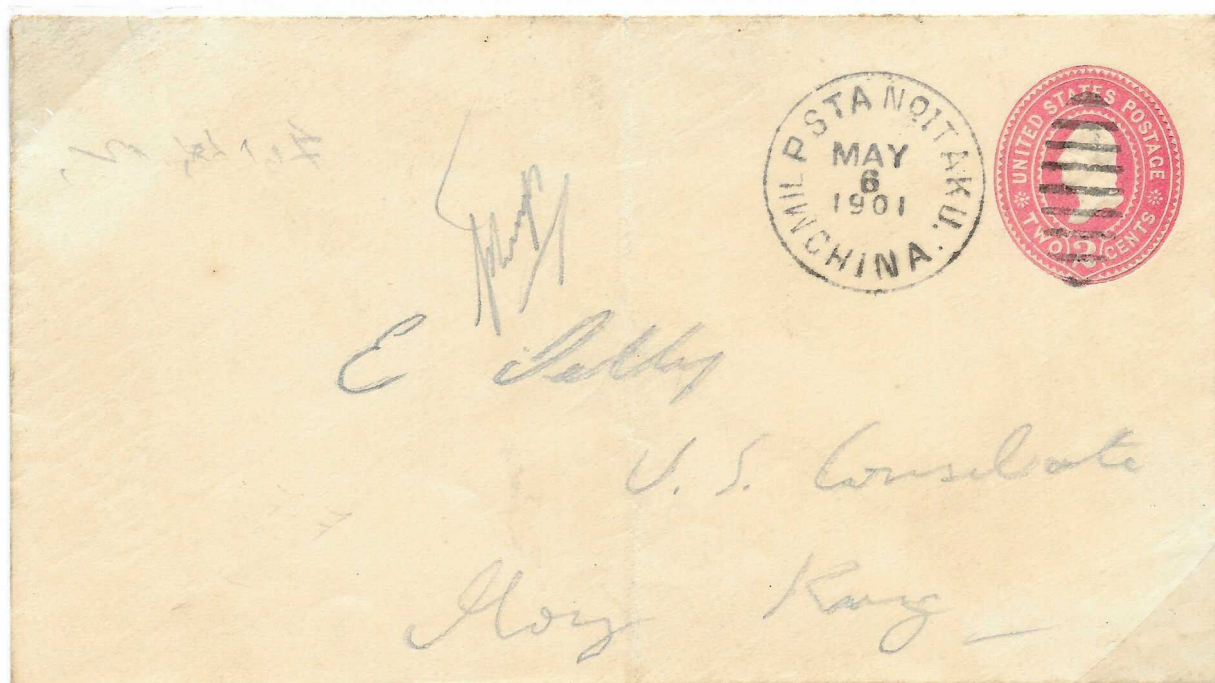
Military Postal Sta. No.1
28 January 1901



This portion of the envelope of a heavy registered letter has a manuscript correction in the date of the Peking cds as well as the "R___No.____" handstamp. A "Received" transit marking was applied in Tientsin.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION

Mil. P. Sta. No.1 Taku
17 November 1900
6 May 1901



The military station at Taku was provided with its own datestamp showing the name of the city. Recorded use is from 23 September 1900 to 13 May 1901. Unusual postal rating is shown, with the postcard being charged as a letter and assessed 20 gold centimes postage due (2 cents additional postage plus 2 cents penalty). The letter was charged only the 2 cent domestic rate although addressed to Hong Kong, a foreign destination.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Parcel Post

Mil. P. Sta. No.1 Taku
23 September 1900

Earliest Recorded Example of Taku Postmark



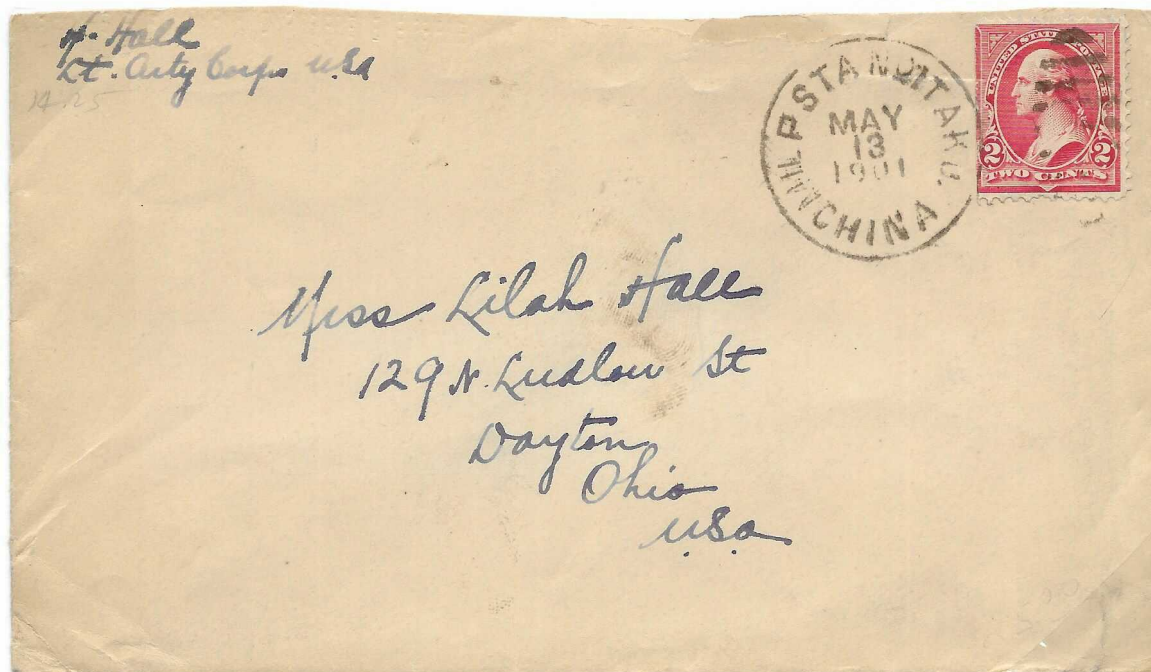
Several strikes of the Taku cds on a portion of the wrapping of a parcel sent to Texas. Note marking "4th Class" at upper left. Only example of this usage from Taku.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION

Mil. P. Sta. No.1 Taku
3 March 1901
13 May 1901



Latest Recorded Example of Taku Postmark



Upper example is unusual in that it shows the Taku cds used to cancel mail decoupled from the usual killer bars. (Postal card to Germany overpaid by 8 cents, presumably as a souvenir to show some American stamps.)

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Registered Mail

Mil. P. Sta. No.1 Taku
26 April 1901

Only Example of Registration from Taku



Taku did not have a registration marking but utilized a crude hand-carved "R" in circle as an obliterator for the postage on registered letters. This cover was from a civilian sender, thus required payment of the full international registration rate of 13 cents even though it was to a domestic address in the U.S. Backstamped "Received" as a transit marking in Tientsin.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Naval Mail

Chefoo I.J.P.O.
6 August 1900



Several ships of the U.S. Far Eastern Squadron stopped at Taku and disembarked as many sailors and Marines as could be spared to serve as reinforcements for the International Settlement at Tientsin. One of these vessels was *U.S.S. Brooklyn*, the flagship of the squadron. This cover was mailed through the Japanese post office in Chefoo and franked with a Japanese stamp overprinted for use in China. Apparently addressed to the wife of one of the ship's officers, it was backstamped for receipt in Nagasaki on 10 August.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Naval Mail

Mil. P. Sta. No.1 Taku
31 January 1901

Mil. Postal Sta. No.1
5 August 1901



The only U.S. warship to be stationed in the Gulf of Chihli during the Boxer Period was U.S.S. Monocacy. This gunboat arrived at Taku on 14 June 1900 and remained in the area until 10 September 1901. However, it did not participate in the major Allied naval action, the bombardment of the Taku forts and their capture (primarily by British and German marines), because the captain interpreted his orders as not to offend the Chinese government.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Marines Mail

Nagasaki, Japan
13 July 1900

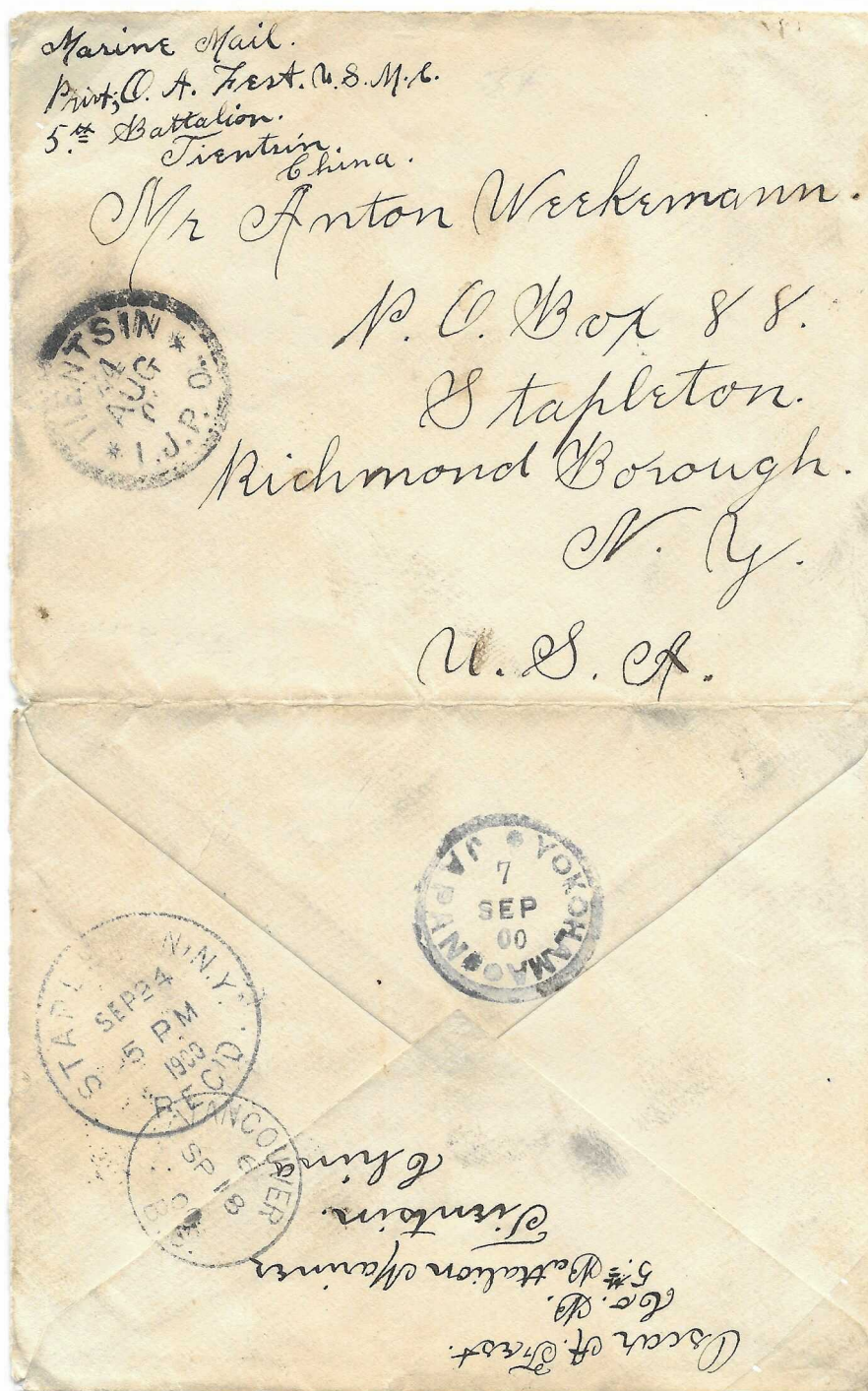
Chefoo
July 1900



Forerunner mail from U.S. Marines in China. Upper cover sent by pouch from a Marine Lieutenant on *U.S.S. Brooklyn*, which was visiting Taku, to Nagasaki, where Japanese postage was affixed and it was placed in the mails. Lower cover from a Marine Lieutenant in Tientsin, which was forwarded via Chefoo to the French Post Office Abroad in Shanghai. The Chinese stamp (pre-UPU membership) was not valid for international postage so a French China stamp was added. Backstamped for receipt at Military Station No.1 in Manila on 19 July 1900.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Marines Mail

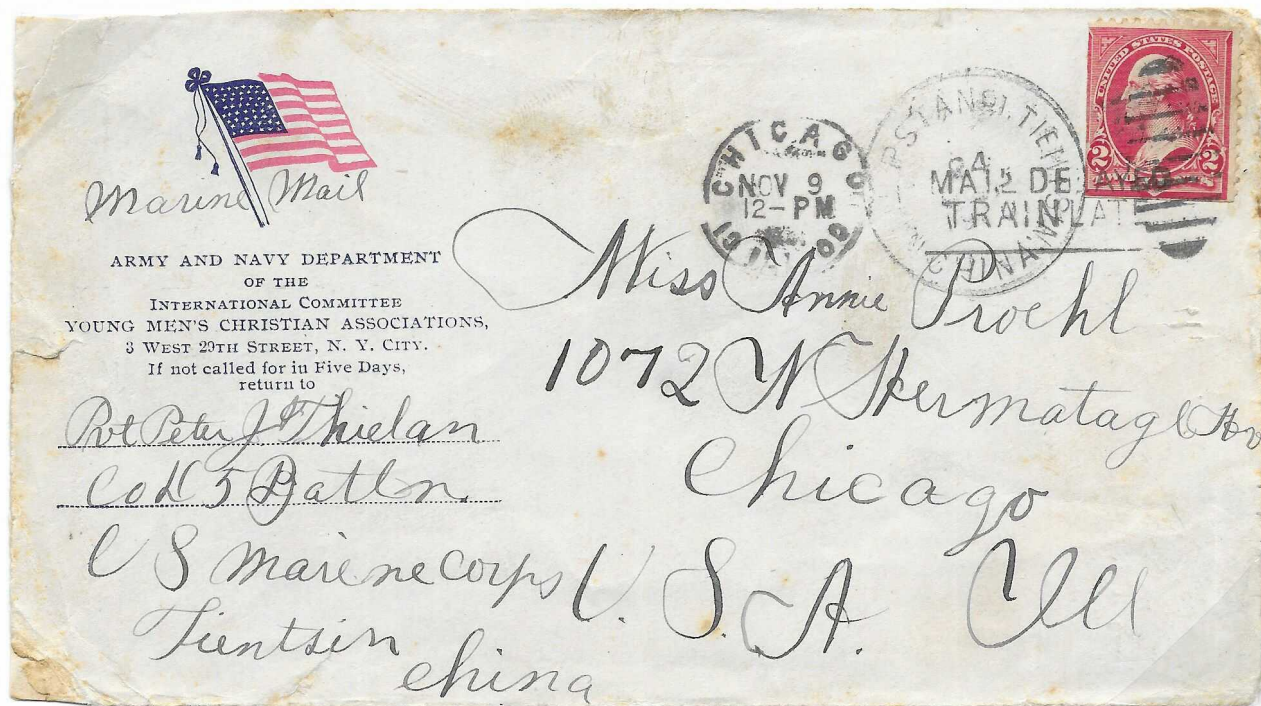
Tientsin I.J.P.O.
4 August 1900



Forerunner cover from a Marine private mailed through the Japanese Post Office Abroad in Tientsin. Transited Yokohama on 7 September and Vancouver on 18 September. Received at Stapleton, N.Y. on 24 September without any evidence of postage being paid or postage due collected. Presumably, there was a good deal of confusion about the status of military mail in the early phase of the Boxer period!

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Marines Mail

Mil. P. Sta. No. 1 Tientsin
23 September 1900
24 September 1900



Letters from Marines mailed after the opening of the U.S. Postal Station in Tientsin. As with the Army mail, letters could be franked at the domestic postage rate of 2 cents or sent with postage due for the recipient to pay. Marine mail is scarce, with fewer than 10 outbound USMC covers being recorded.

CHINA RELIEF EXPEDITION
Inbound Marines Mail

Tientsin
January 1901



Cover sent to one of the 780 Marines of the 1st Regiment which landed at Taku on 17 July 1900. As the Allied firepower had quickly routed the Boxers, most of the Marines were quickly ordered to withdraw and were sent to the Philippines on 8 and 10 October 1900. This cover, addressed to Private Linehan, arrived too late and was forwarded to Cavite and then to Isabela, P.I. It is one of only two recorded examples of inbound Marine mail.