

YANGTZE PATROL

Luzon was a sister ship of the *Guam* and joined the patrol to replace the aging *Elcano*. At the outbreak of the war, it escaped to the Philippines but was captured at Corregidor in May 1942.

U.S.S. Luzon
17 September 1931

Ichang
6 June 1935

Penalty for Private
use to avoid payment of
postage \$300.00

The Bureau of Medicine and Surgery,

NAVY DEPARTMENT
U. S. S. LUZON
Yangtze Patrol
Asiatic Station
Via Seattle, Wash.
Official Business.

NAVY DEPARTMENT
Commander Yangtze Patrol
U. S. Asiatic Fleet
U. S. S. LUZON, (Flagship) PR 7, Sunk.
c/o Postmaster, Seattle, Washington
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR
AVOID PAYM

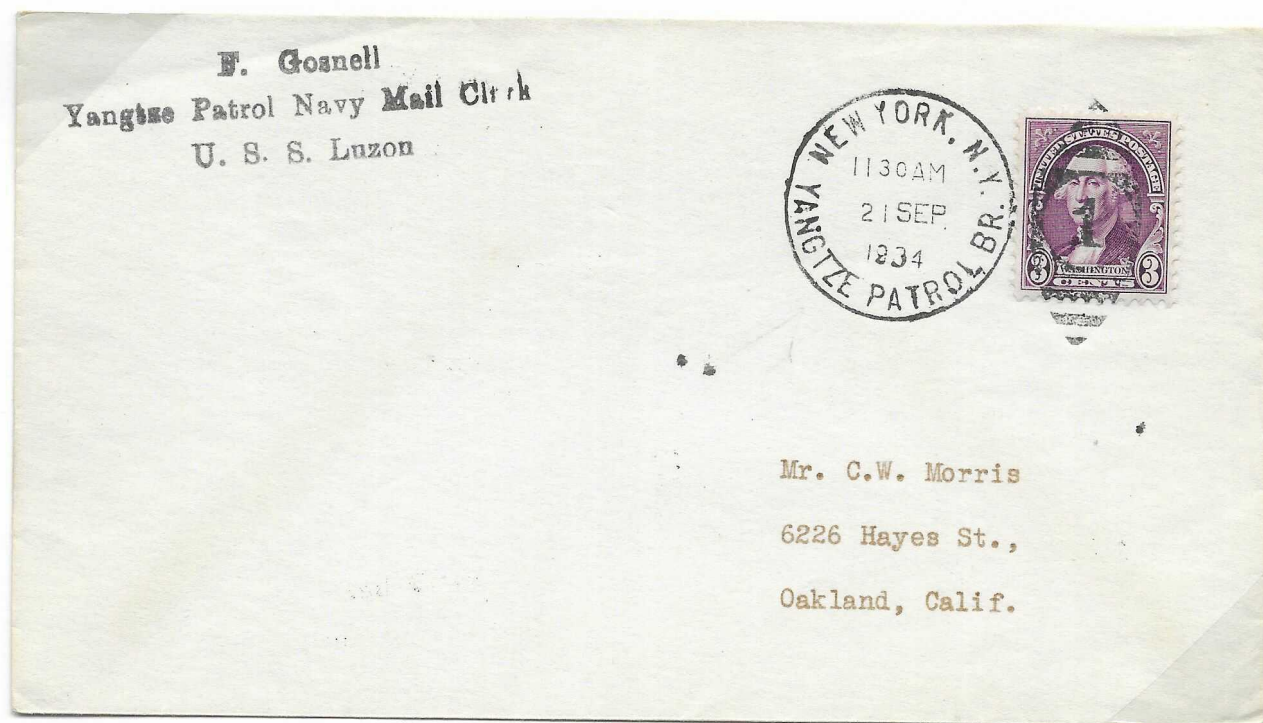


Commanding Officer,
U.S.S. PALOS
Chungking,
China.

空 航
PAR AVION

YANGTZE PATROL
Special Postmarks

U.S.S. Luzon
21 September 1934
4 October 1937



As the flagship of the Patrol, *Luzon* was provided with a special steel postmark inscribed "New York, N.Y./Yangtze Patrol Br." which is recorded as used from July 1934 to May 1937. A second type of rubber cds with similar wording was used in 1936 and 1937.

YANGTZE PATROL
Sent via U.S. Marines P.O.

U.S.S. Luzon
8 February 1936
30 December 1938

NAVY DEPARTMENT
U.S.S. LUZON
YANGTZE PATROL
ASIATIC STATION
VIA SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

C. A. Andrew,
U.S.S. Luzon,
Yangtze River Patrol,
Asiatic Fleet,
San Francisco, Calif.



COMMANDER IN CHIEF,
U.S. ASIATIC FLEET.

CHINA



Mr. Harry McCarthy,
3730 81st St.,
Jackson Heights, L.I., N.Y.

A second rubber cds had "U.S.S." at the top and "Luzon" at the bottom. Example shown used on official cover from Luzon to the Commander of U.S.S. Augusta in Shanghai. Other cover mailed through the 4th Marine Regiment P.O.

YANGTZE PATROL
Registered Mail

U.S.S. Monocacy
28 May 1932
20 April 1934

Registered cover sent from Monocacy to San Francisco. The part of the corner card that read "Official Business" was scratched out. Thus, the sender had to pay 19 cents postage (double weight x 2 cents, plus the 15 cent registry fee.



The small cover is overfranked by a penny, presumably because the sender did not have a 5 cent stamp to pay the international rate to Scotland.

YANGTZE PATROL
Sent via Navy Purchasing Office P.O.

U.S.S. Monocacy
21 January 1933
27 April 1933

*Raymond C. Morley
U.S.S. Monocacy
Ichang, China*



Robert R. Moore,
American Legation,
Peiping, China.

*Please send via pouch
to Marine Detachment
Peiping, China*

U.S.S. MONOCACY
YANGTZE PATROL FORCE



*Army and Navy Register
511 - 11th St
Washington
D.C. USA*

Although *Monocacy* had an on-board post office, mail could be sent through the Chinese postal system or other U.S. facilities in the area. Upper cover cancelled by the *Monocacy* cds with "Ichang/China" in the killer bars and sent by pouch to Peiping. Lower example sent through the p.o. of the U.S. Navy Purchasing Office in Shanghai.

YANGTZE PATROL

U.S.S. Guam
14 April 1933
16 May 1940

NAVY DEPARTMENT
U. S. S. GUAM
Asiatic Station
Via Seattle, Washington
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

B. Woodward Lanphear
A. C. M. Lion Hill
Wuhu, China

Bureau of Engineering,

Penalty For Private Use To Avoid
Payment of Postage
U.S.S. GUAM
APR 14 1933
P.M.



Mr and Mrs James McCoy
359 N. Euclid Ave
Upland
California

Guam was one of five gunboats built in Shanghai and added to the Patrol in 1928. This new class was named for islands in the U.S. possessions. The ship was renamed U.S.S. Wake in July 1941 and was captured by the Japanese at Shanghai on 8 December 1941.

U.S.S. Guam
March 1934

NAVY DEPARTMENT
U. S. S. GUAM
Asiatic Station
Via Seattle, Washington
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

867
VIA-AIR MAIL
Regist

GAUDE, PRICE, LTD.
5 PEKING ROAD,
SHANGHAI, CHINA.

A circular seal with a black border. Inside, there are Chinese characters in a stylized font. Below the characters, the text "FANS (CHUNGKING)" is printed in a bold, sans-serif font. The seal is placed on a piece of aged, yellowed paper.

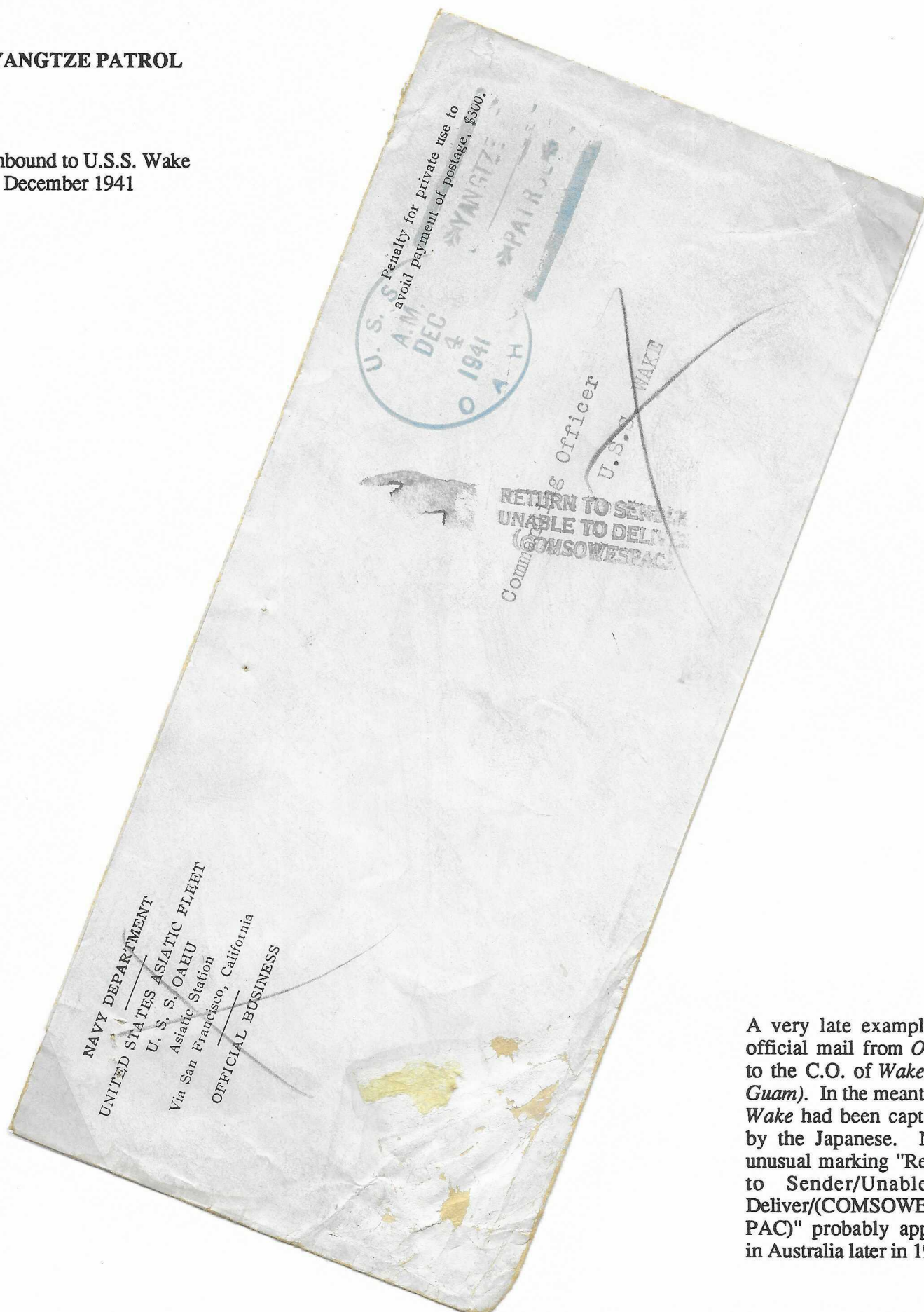
A circular black ink postmark from Chungking, China, dated 1945. The text 'CHUNGKING' is at the bottom, and '1945' is on the right. A red rectangular stamp is overlaid, reading 'RECEIVED' and 'POST OFFICE' with a date '1945' and a time '10:10'. The background of the stamp features a map of China.

A photograph of a 1912 Chinese postage stamp featuring a portrait of a man, likely a member of the Qing dynasty. The stamp is purple and includes the text '大清郵政' (Great Qing Post) and '10分' (10 cents). It is surrounded by several circular postmarks, including one from '巴' (Ba) and another from 'WU-KING'. The stamp is cancelled with a large 'X' mark. The background is a light-colored, textured surface.

Cover sent by registered airmail through the Chinese post office in Chungking to Shanghai, where it was backstamped for receipt on 25 March 1934.

YANGTZE PATROL

Inbound to U.S.S. Wake
4 December 1941



A very late example of official mail from *Oahu* to the C.O. of *Wake* (ex *Guam*). In the meantime, *Wake* had been captured by the Japanese. Note unusual marking "Return to Sender/Unable to Deliver/(COMSOWEST-PAC)" probably applied in Australia later in 1942.

SOUTH CHINA PATROL

U.S.S. Mindanao
8 September 1931
16 January 1934



Bureau of Supplies and Accounts
Navy Department
Washington, D.C.



Kenneth A Brock
13578 Washburn Ave
Detroit, Mich.

NAVY DEPARTMENT.
UNITED STATES ASIATIC FLEET.
SOUTH CHINA PATROL.
U.S.S. MINDANAO, FLAGSHIP.
C/O POSTMASTER, SEATTLE, WN.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Mindanao was a sister ship of *Guam*, *Luzon*, etc., but it was assigned to patrol the Pearl River between Canton and Hong Kong. Thus, it was designated as the flagship of the South China Patrol. It, too, escaped to the Philippines at the outbreak of war and was sunk by the Japanese near Corregidor in May 1942.

SOUTH CHINA PATROL

U.S.S. Mindanao
5 January 1938
22 February 1939

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
U. S. \$ PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300

CANTON

JAN
5

1938

P.M.

MINDANAO

CHINA

BUREAU NAVIGATION

NAVY DEPARTMENT

NAVY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES ASIATIC FLEET

SOUTH CHINA PATROL

U. S. S. MINDANAO, FLAGSHIP

c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Ship's Service Officer
NAVY DEPARTMENT

UNITED STATES ASIATIC FLEET

SOUTH CHINA PATROL

U. S. S. MINDANAO, FLAGSHIP

c/o POSTMASTER, SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Par Avion

By Air Mail

FORM 2878

TRANS-PACIFIC



Julius Rothschild & Company,

52 Main Street,

San Francisco, Calif.

U.S.A.

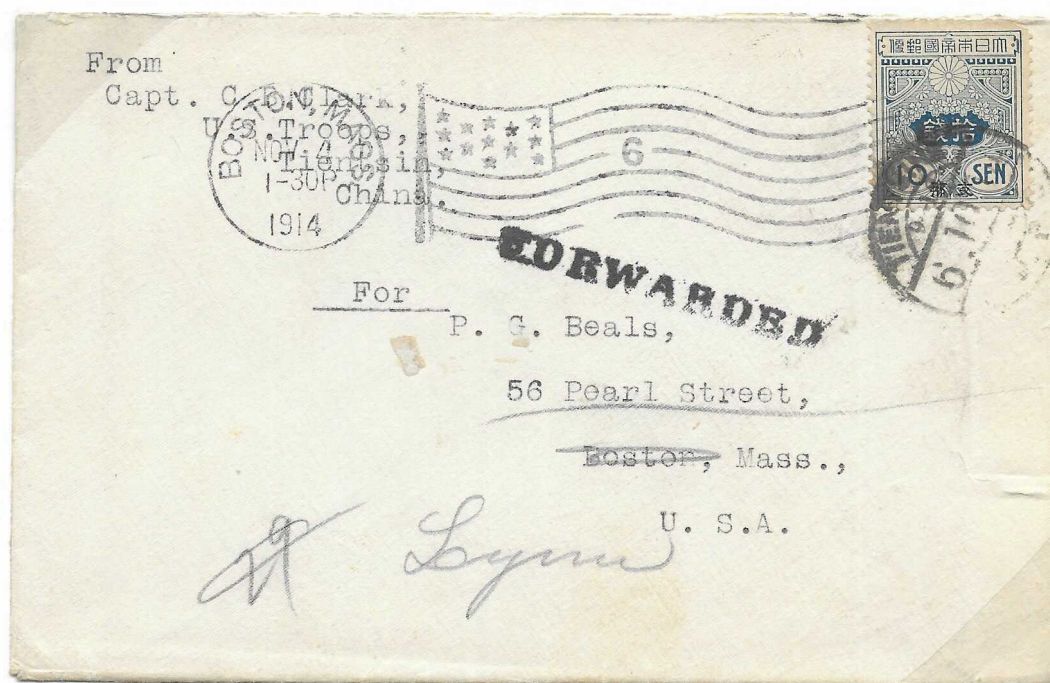
Covers with *Mindanao* corner cards: the first sent as official mail from Canton to the Navy Department, Washington, D.C. The second example is personal mail sent from Hong Kong by airmail with HK\$2.70 paid in postage.

U. S. ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN

Another condition of the Peace Protocol signed by China following the Boxer Uprising was that the intervening powers had the right to garrison lines of communication between Peking and the coast. There was great unrest in China during the revolution led by Dr. Sun Yat-sen, which resulted in the overthrow of the Manchu dynasty. Consequently, the 15th Infantry was sent to China in December 1911 for garrison duty in Tientsin, which was on the line of communication from the Yellow Sea, where they remained until withdrawn in late 1938.

Outbound Mail via the Japanese P.O.

Tientsin
6 October 1914



The United States never opened a post office to handle the mail of the U.S. Army garrison in Tientsin. Thus, it was necessary for the troops to use either the Chinese postal service or those of the post offices abroad operated by various of the Great Powers. Generally, the Japanese service was preferred because it was very reliable and offered a wider choice of eastbound Trans-Pacific steamship sailings.

ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN
Outbound Mail via Japanese P.O.

Tientsin
11 October 1915

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300



274978
274978
H. J. Colman
509 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington - D.C.
U. S. A.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Lieut. Bartlett
15th Inf. Tientsin China

OFFICIAL BUSINESS



REGISTERED

Earliest recorded registered mail from the Army 15th Infantry located in Tientsin. Backstamped with transit marking of San Francisco of 8 November and receiving mark of Washington dated 13 November.

ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN
Inbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

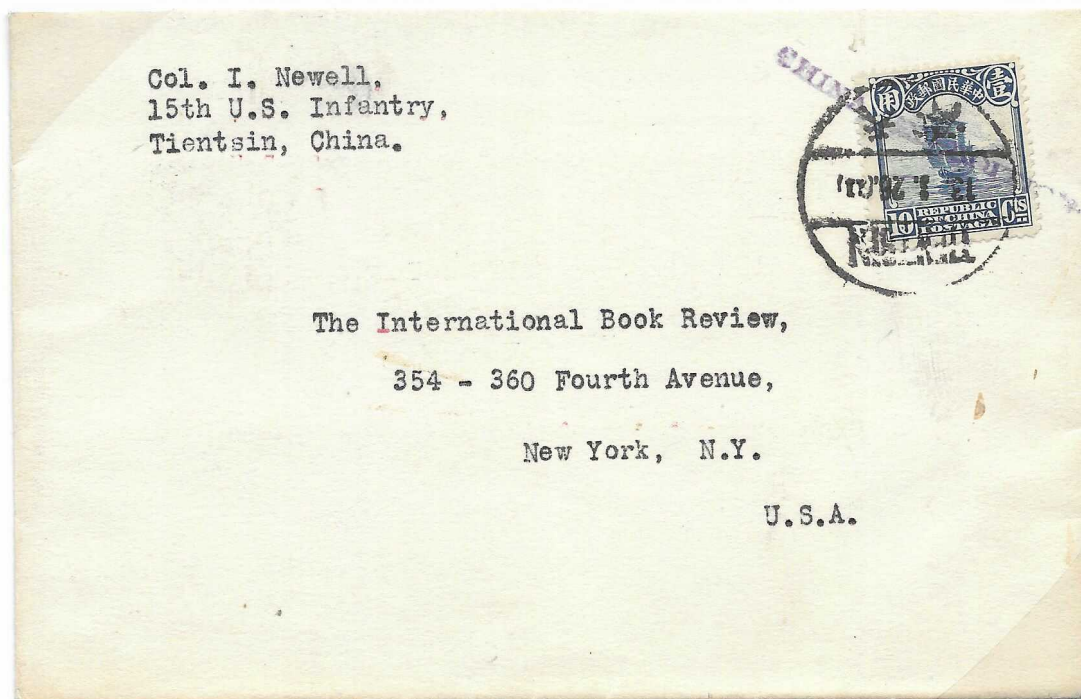
Tientsin
13 July 1913



Unusual cover sent (by a stamp dealer) to China via the U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai (with transit marking of 4 July) to Foochow. It was then endorsed "try Tientsin." The addressee was unknown there, where a previously unrecorded marking "Not with U.S. troops in China" was applied before returning to sender.

ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN
Outbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Tientsin
18 February 1924
13 March 1926



At the end of 1922 the foreign post offices abroad in China were closed down, thus forcing the troops to use the Chinese service. At the same time, problems arose with the theft of stamps from letters, either before they were delivered to the post offices or after. Thus, a new practice came into being -- that of defacing the stamps so that they would not have any resale value. Examples shown show typical straight-line markings used for this purpose, worded "Hdqs. China Expedition" and "China Expedition."

ARMY TROOPS - TIENTSIN
Outbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Tientsin
22 June 1925
12 August 1927

J. J. Eggleston
c/o Hq. U.S. Forces in China,
Tientsin, China.

AMERICAN FORCES



Miss M. K. Schultz,
Salem,
New Hampshire,
U. S. A.



Mr H. Smucker
1719 N. Marshall St.
Philadelphia, Pa

At least two other defacing devices were used to prevent theft. The examples shown here are worded "American Forces in China" and "Headquarters, American Forces in China/Tientsin, China."

ARMY TROOPS - TIENSIN
Inbound Mail via Chinese P.O.

Tientsin
19 April 1932



Extraordinary usage of a letter from an officer in the French Armée du Levant, mailed from FPO 616 in Syria to the American Barracks in Tientsin. No postage was paid or assessed as postage due, but the cover arrived in China a month and a half later.