

# EXPEDITIONARY FORCE - TIENSIN

Sent through the Chinese P.O.

Tientsin  
6 March 1928  
19 January 1929

The large cover was sent through the Chinese P.O. on the day after the U.S.P.O. in Tientsin ended operations. The Third Marines left China on 23 January 1929.

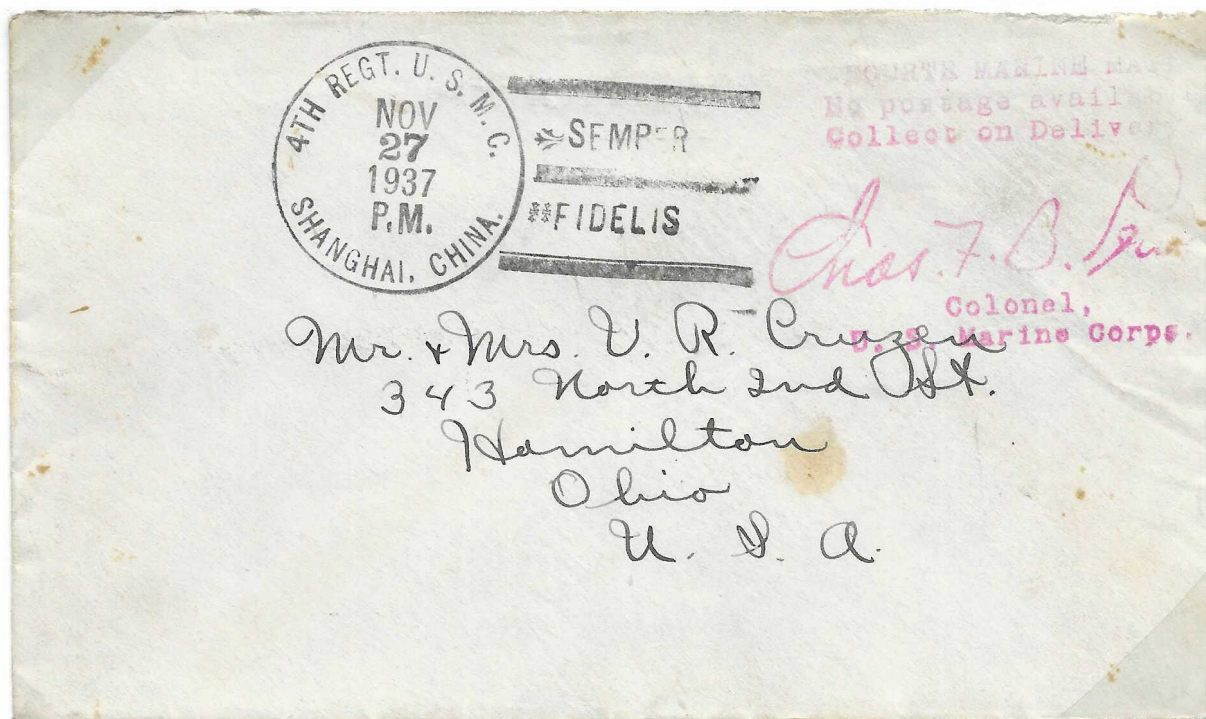


Return address on the small cover is very specific as "15th M.G. Co., 1st Battalion, 12th Regiment, Third Brigade of Marines, Tientsin, China, % Postmaster, Seattle, Wash." However, the sender was not named!



FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI  
No Postage Available

4th Regt. U.S.M.C.  
27 November 1937  
13 December 1937

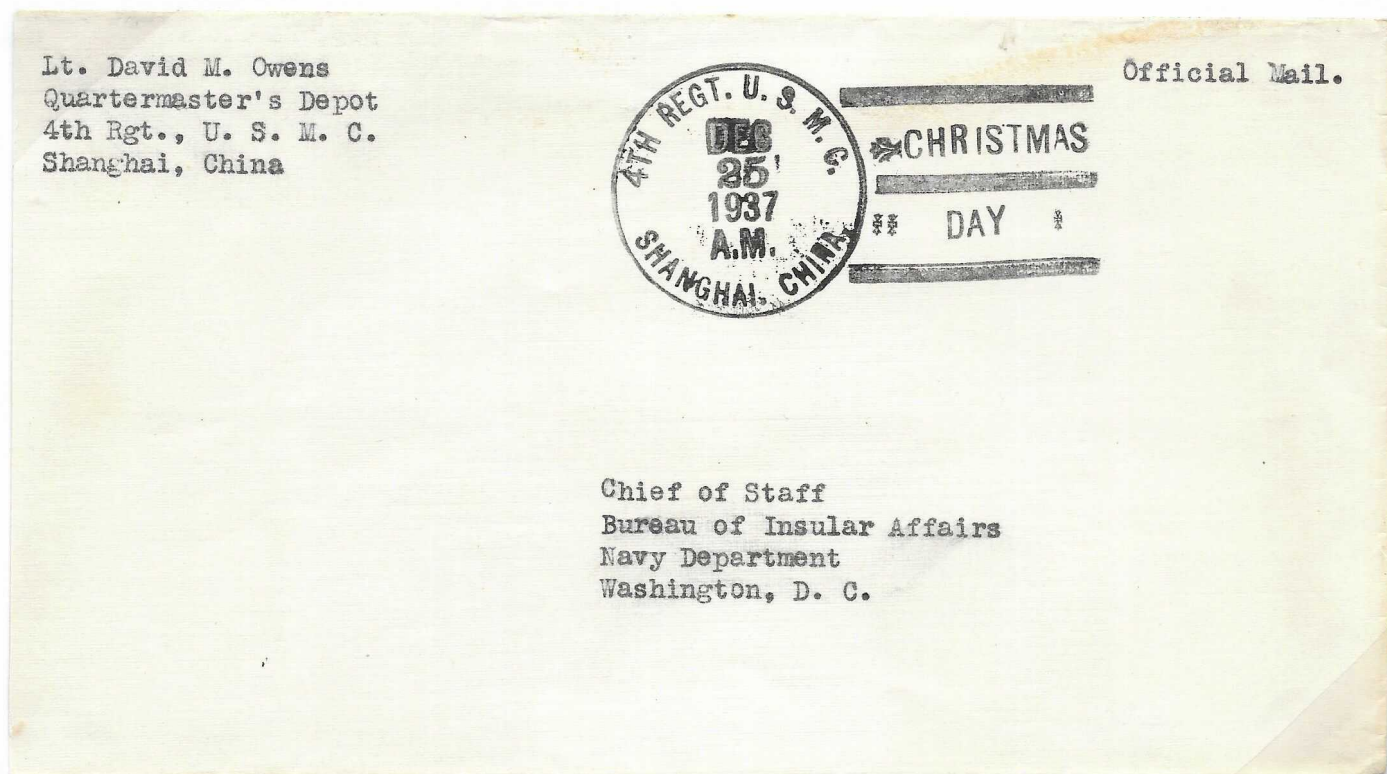
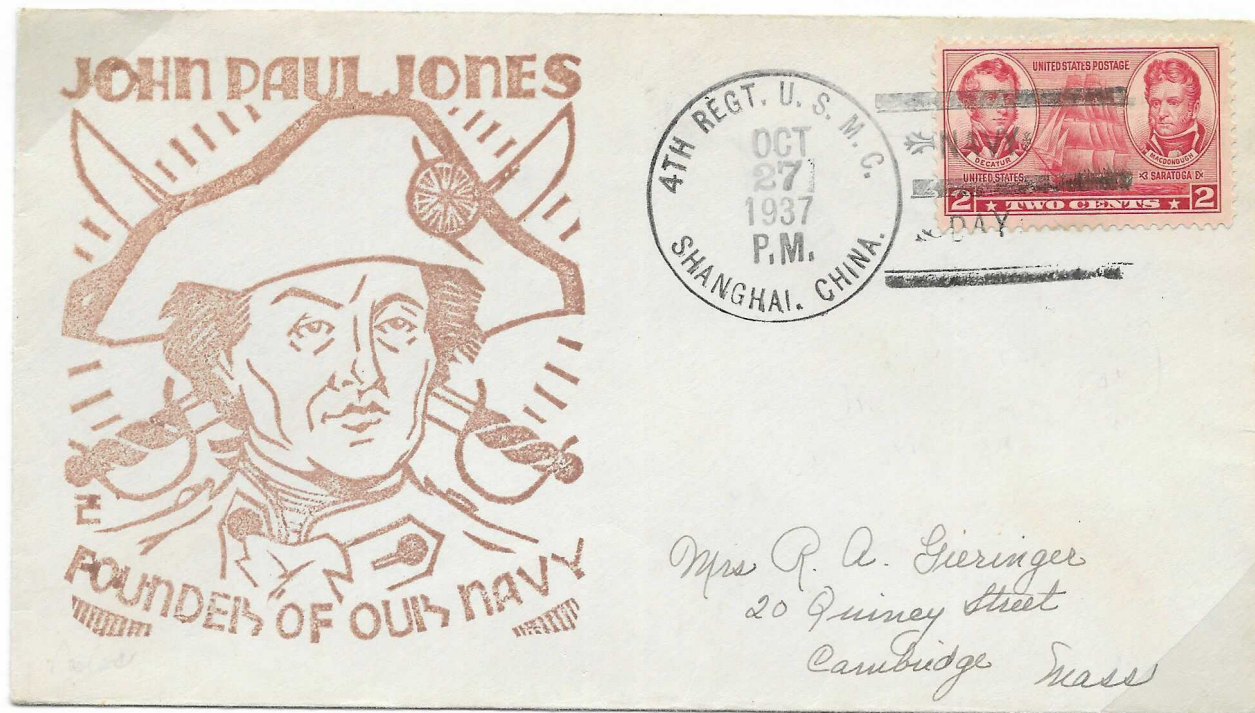


The second emergency period, when no stamps were available, was from November 1937 to February 1938. In this case, Col. Price's handstamp was applied in purple and mauve rather than black. Note that in some cases there is no evidence that the postage due was actually collected.



FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI

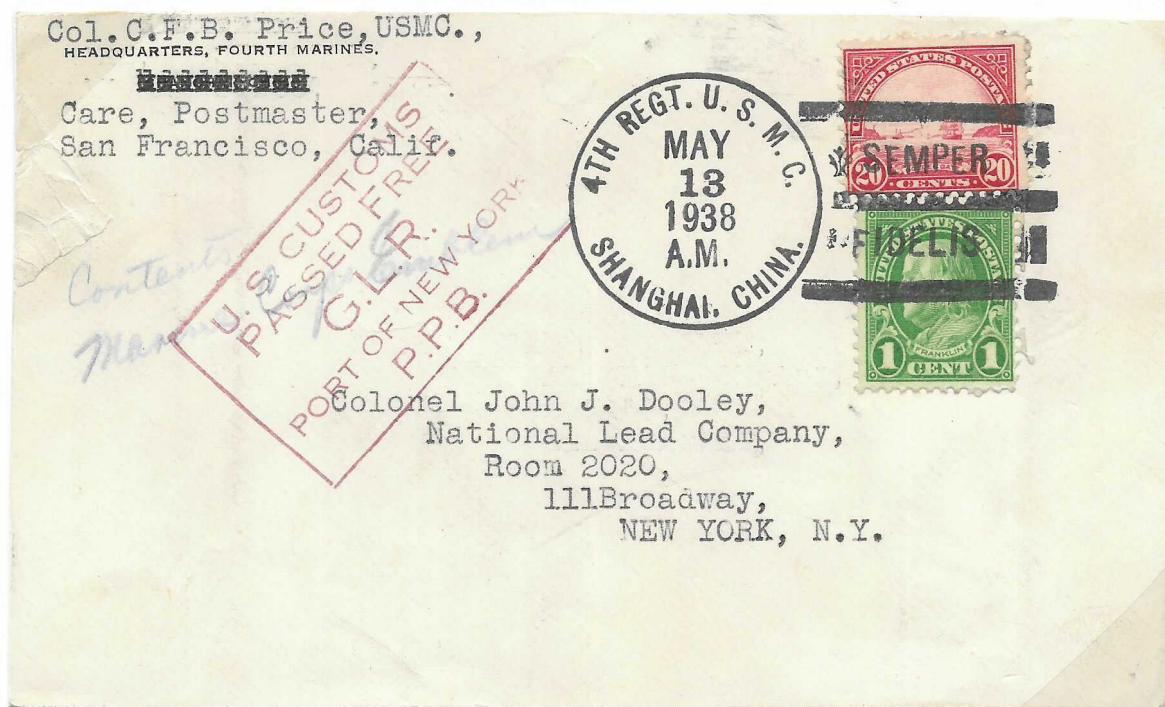
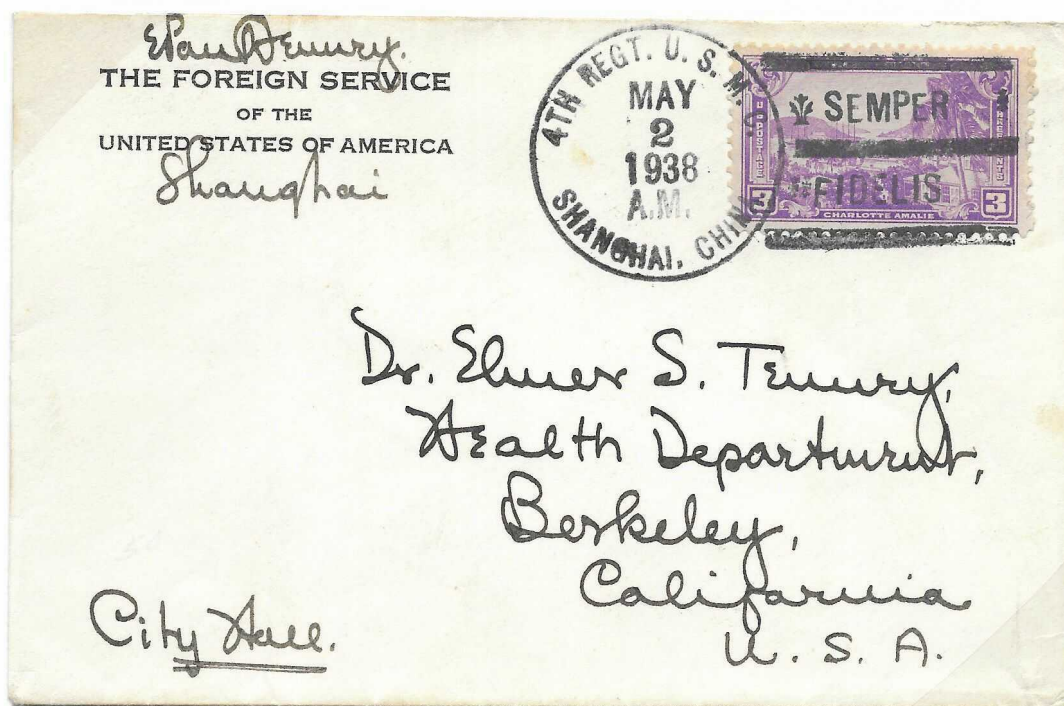
4th Regt. U.S.M.C.  
27 October 1937  
25 December 1937



A third type of Fourth Marines cancel was used between 1937 to 1940. It was similar to the second type, which was in service contemporaneously, but had a "t" added to "Regt." and a comma was added between "Shanghai" and "China." Killer bar slogans shown above for "Navy Day" and "Christmas Day."

FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI

4th Regt. U.S.M.C.  
2 May 1938  
13 May 1938

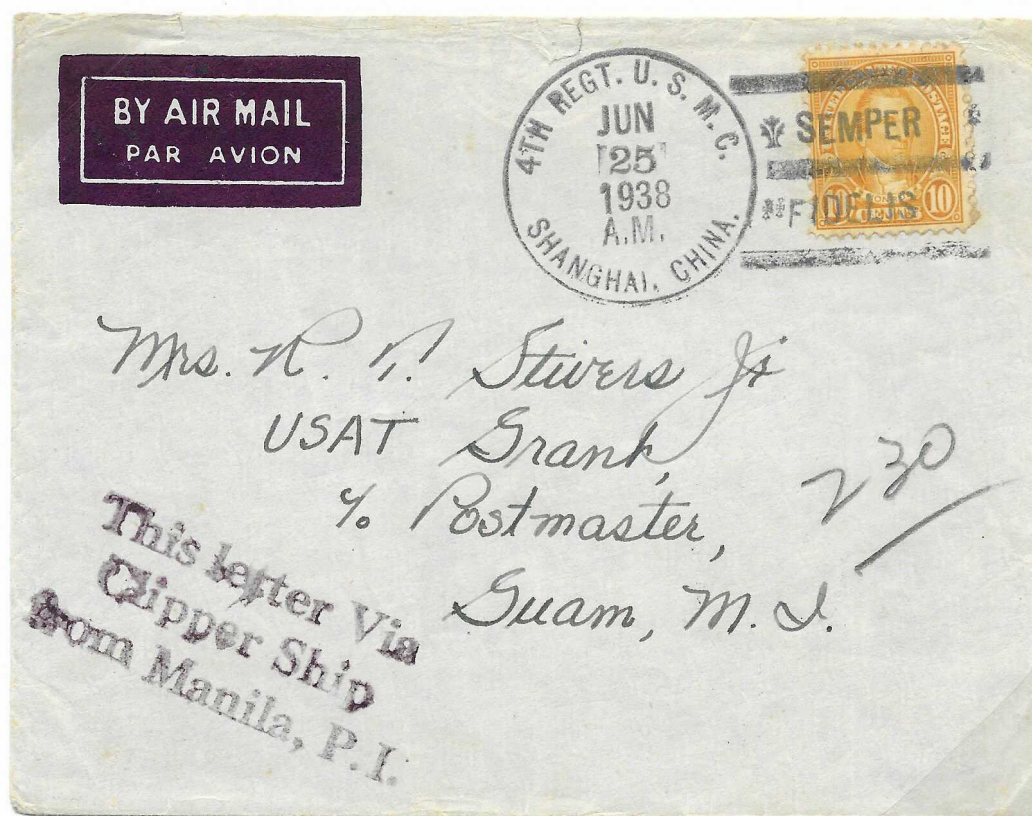
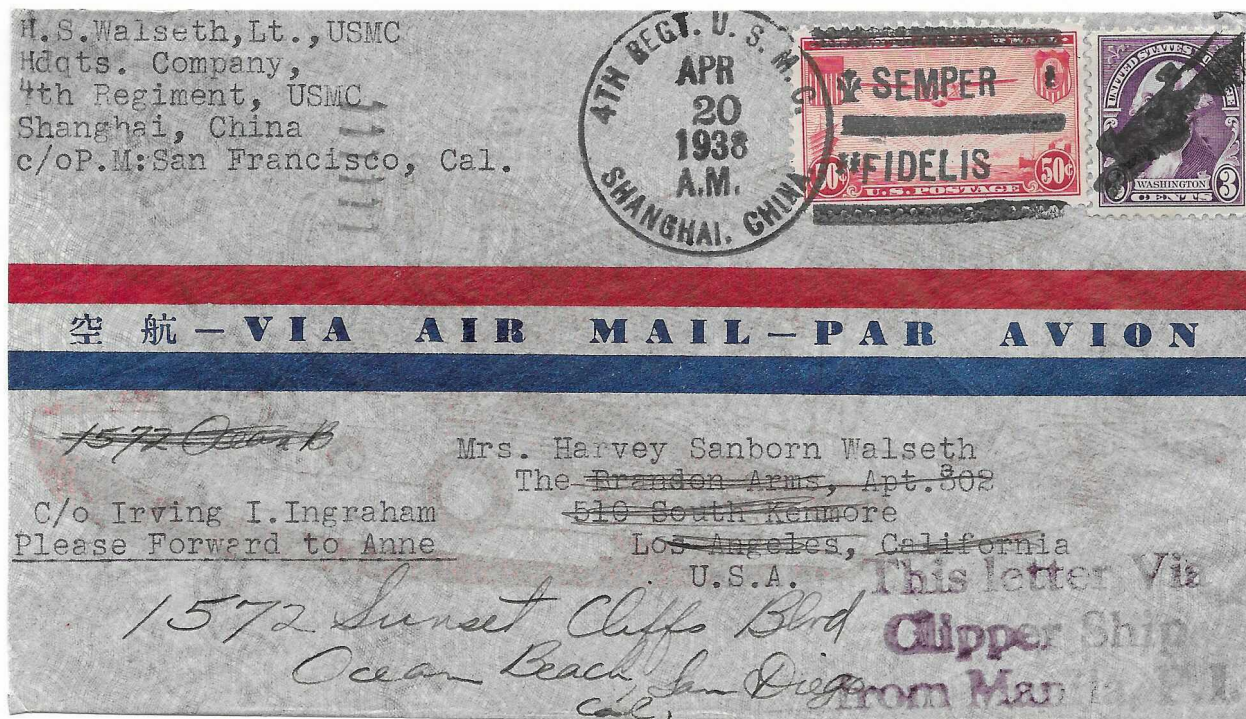


Additional examples of third cancel, with upper cover used from a member of the Foreign Service. Lower cover has very unusual franking of 21 cents to pay surface rate for sending a "Marine Corps Emblem" weighing between six and seven ounces.



FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI

4th Regt. U.S.M.C.  
20 April 1938  
25 June 1938



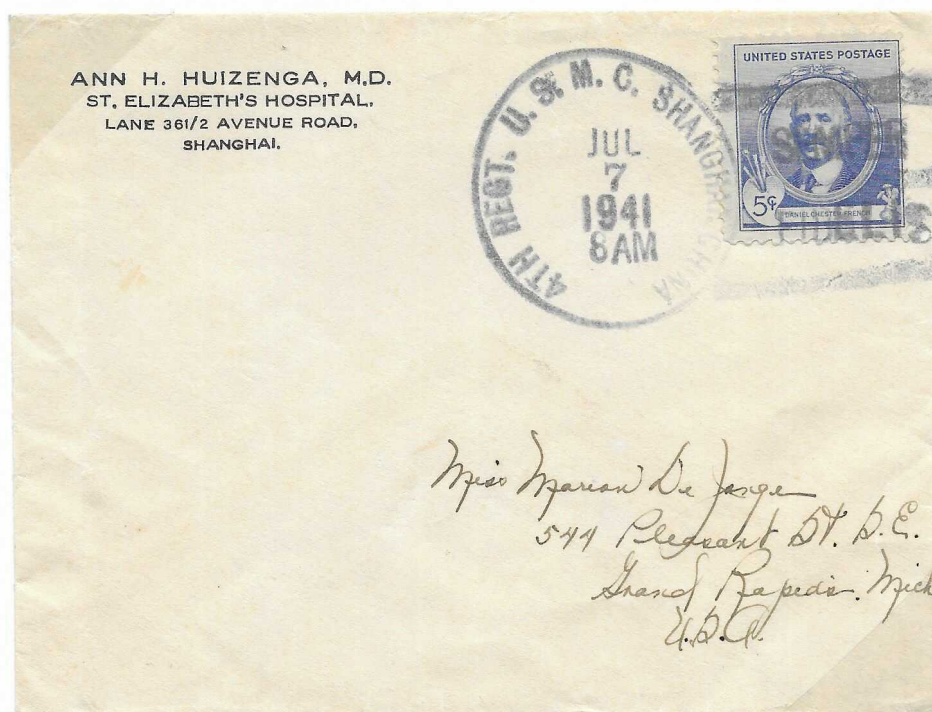
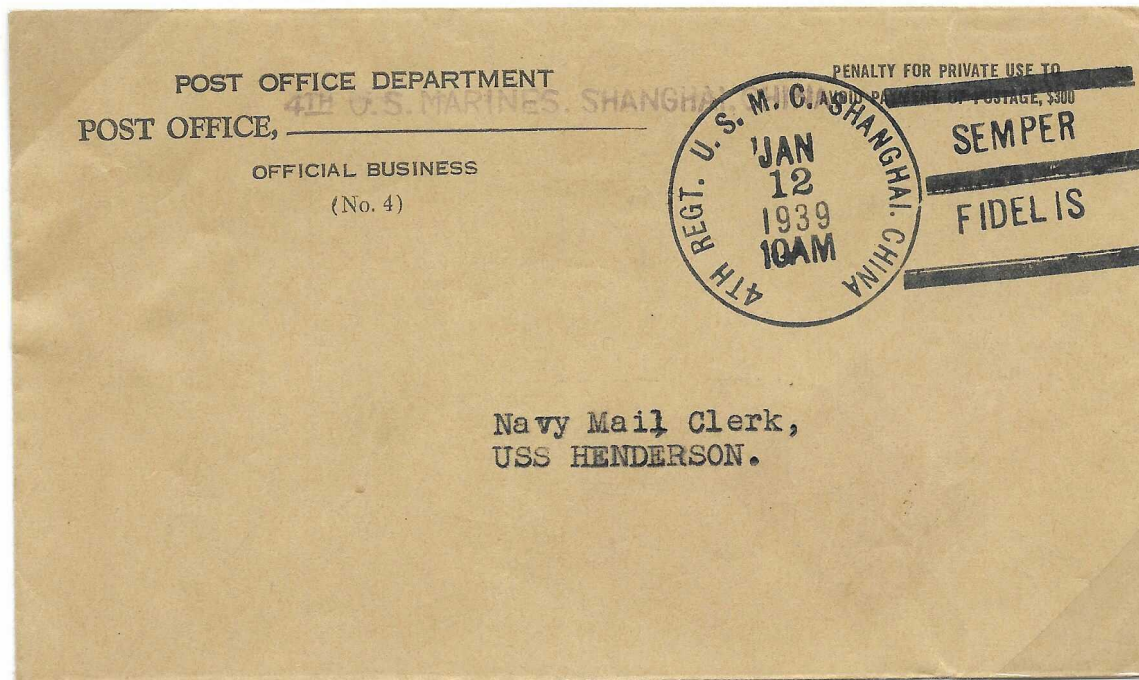
The Marines could also use the Trans-Pacific airmail service for an extra charge. Upper cover shows payment of 50 cents airmail postage for Pan-Am Clipper from Manila to California. Lower cover shows special rate of 10 cents to pay the single-leg Clipper postage from Manila to Guam -- a very unusual usage.



FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI

4th Regt. U.S.M.C.  
12 January 1939  
7 July 1941

Earliest and Latest Reported Examples of this Postmark



The fourth cancel used on first class mail sent by the Fourth Marines had the same inscription as the third, but it was worded continuously around the dial instead of having lettering at top and bottom.

FOURTH MARINES - SHANGHAI

4th Regt. U.S.M.C.  
17 April 1939



Letter sent by air from  
Manila to Guam at special  
single-leg rate of 10 cents.



FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI

4th Reg. U.S.M.C.  
1 May 1940  
16 June 1940  
19 December 1940

Earliest and Latest Reported Examples of this Postmark



A fifth cancel not often seen was used by the Fourth Marines only during 1940. It was another version with a combination of a steel cds and a set of elliptical killer bars.



FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI

U.S. Marines  
4 August 1941

Only Reported Example of this Postmark

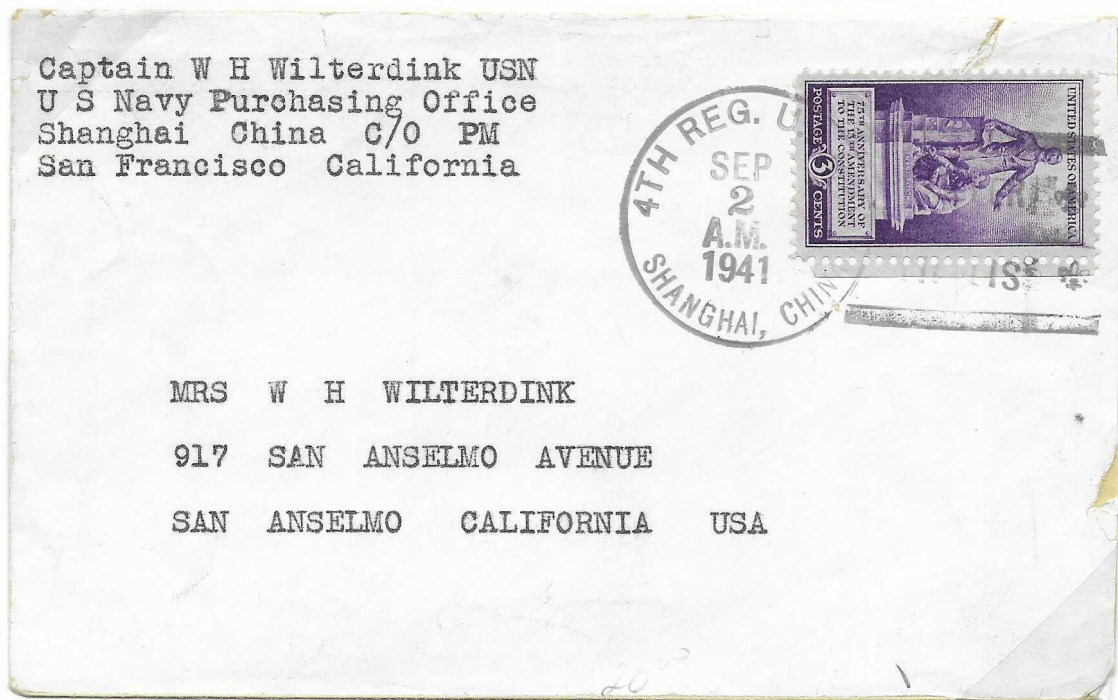


This cover from Capt. Newton of the Fourth Marines in Shanghai to his wife in Vermont is a most unusual example. It is self-censored and has a generic "U.S. Marines" cancel not reported in the literature.

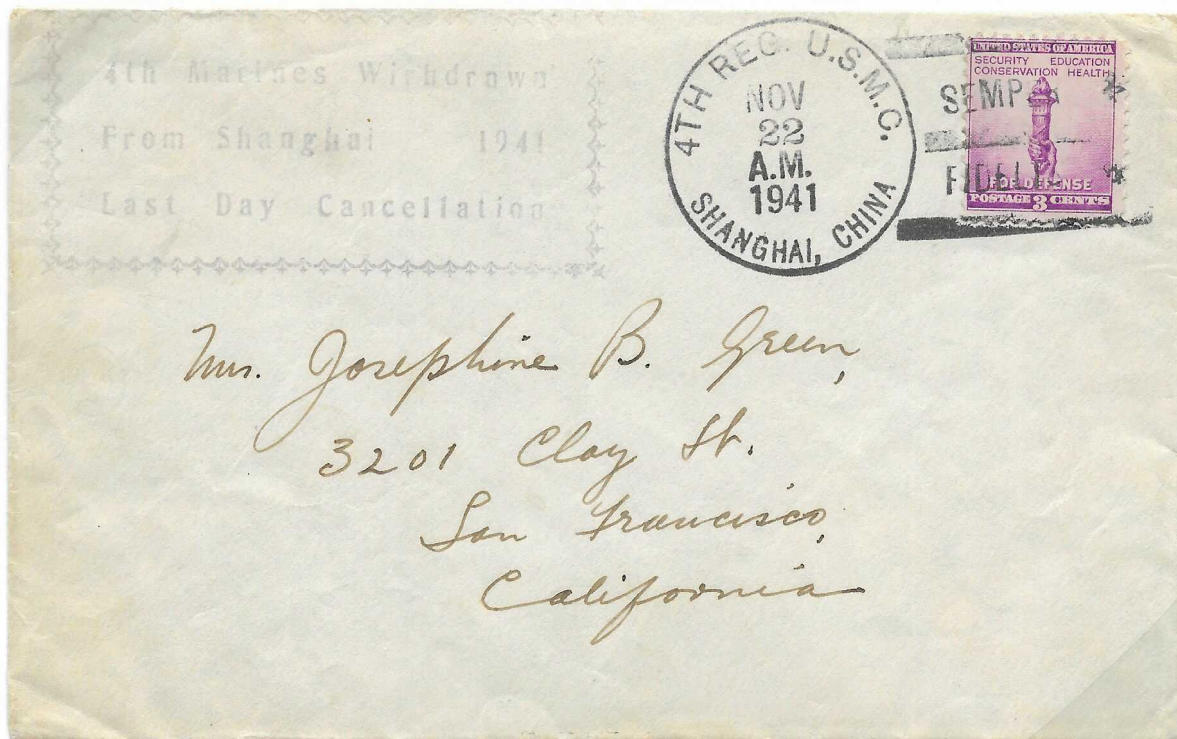


FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI

4th Reg. U.S. M.C.  
2 September 1941  
22 November 1941



Latest Recorded Example of this Postmark



The final postmark used on first class mail by the Fourth Marines was a reprise of the original rubber cds introduced in 1935. However, it can be distinguished by the comma inserted between "Shanghai" and "China." Only four covers are recorded on the final date. Most of the Regiment embarked on the S.S. *President Madison* for the Philippines on 27 November 1941, and the rest followed on the S.S. *President Harrison* the following day.



FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI  
Registered Mail

4th Reg. U.S.M.C.  
2 May 1936  
13 December 1937



Three different Fourth Marine double-circle registry cancels were used, but determining the dates of usage is hampered by the fact that fewer than ten examples have been recorded. The two shown here differ in that the "th" of "4th" is in lower case letters on the earlier cover (inbound from Bangkok, Thailand) and in upper case on the other (outbound to Philadelphia).



FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI  
Registered Mail

4th Reg. U.S.M.C.  
22 June 1937  
29 December 1937



The undersigned declares that the article described on the other side was duly delivered  
*Le soussigné déclare que l'envoi mentionné d'autre part a été dûment livré*

on \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_  
le \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_

DEC 29 1937

Postmark of the office of destination  
*Timbre du bureau destinataire*

of the addressee:  
*du destinataire:*

of the agent of the office of destination  
*de l'agent du bureau destinataire*

SIGNATURE <sup>1</sup>

H.M. WALTERS  
NAVY MAIL CLERK  
4TH U.S. MARINES. SHANGHAI. CHINA

<sup>1</sup> This receipt must be signed by the addressee, or, if the regulations of the country of destination so provide, by the agent of the office of destination, and returned by the first mail direct to the sender.  
*Cet avis doit être signé par le destinataire, ou, si les règlements du pays de destination le comportent, par l'agent du bureau destinataire et renvoyé par le premier courrier directement à l'expéditeur.*

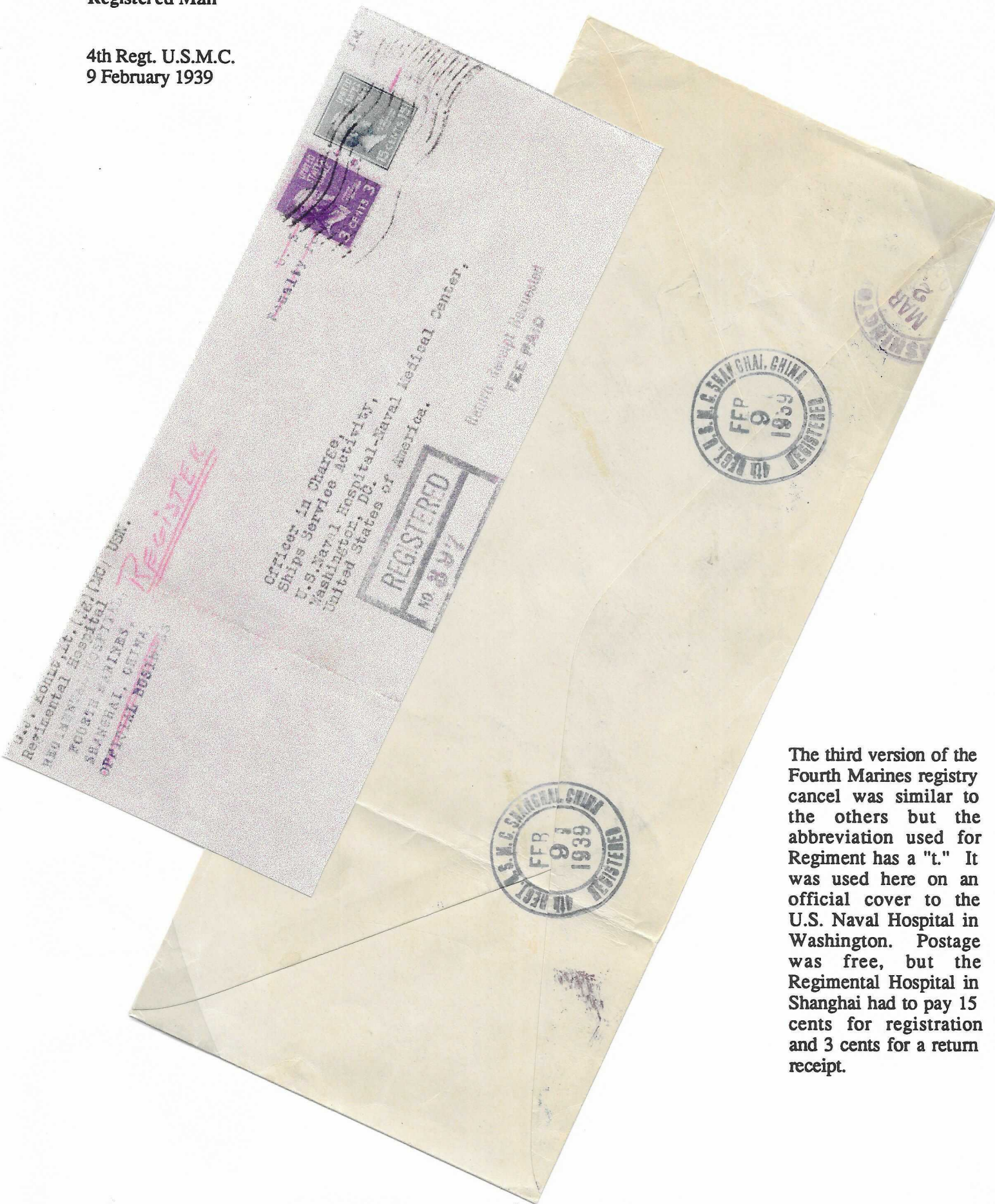
U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 5-11654

Upper registered cover from Great Britain has unusual marking of "Received in bad condition at 4th U.S. Marines, Shanghai, China" not reported in the literature. Lower example is a return receipt for a registered letter from Washington, D.C. to a Marine at Shanghai.



**FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI**  
**Registered Mail**

4th Regt. U.S.M.C.  
9 February 1939



The third version of the Fourth Marines registry cancel was similar to the others but the abbreviation used for Regiment has a "t." It was used here on an official cover to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Washington. Postage was free, but the Regimental Hospital in Shanghai had to pay 15 cents for registration and 3 cents for a return receipt.



**FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI**  
Parcel Post

4th Reg. U.S.M.C.  
1 July 1939  
13 August 1939



The parcel post killer and double circle cds from the Fourth Marines are seldom seen. Examples shown are on package fronts. The upper piece is franked at 15 cents postage for up to one pound plus 5 cents for insurance to a \$5.00 valuation. Lower piece pays the parcel post fee for one to two pounds.



**FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI**  
**Money Order**

4th Reg. U.S.M.C.  
 28 November 1940

**20788** OFFICE NUMBER  
**United States Postal Money Order**  
 IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED  
 NOV 28 1940  
 POSTMASTER AT  
 PAY AMOUNT STATED ABOVE TO ORDER OF PAYEE NAMED IN MIDDLE OF ORDER  
 NOT GOOD FOR MORE THAN LARGEST AMOUNT INDICATED ON RECEIPT  
 ANY ALTERATION OR ERASURE RENDERS THE ORDER VOID  
**Philadelphia**  
**ALBERT GOLDMAN**  
 RECEIVED PAYMENT:  
 POSTMASTER

**284** SERIAL NUMBER  
**20788** OFFICE NUMBER  
**New York, Fourth Regiment, U. S. Marine Corps, Shanghai, China, Branch, N. Y.**  
**Coupon for Paying Office**  
 HOLDER MUST NOT DETACH  
 PAY TO: WRITE WORDS FOR DOLLARS  
**Mr. Smuckler**  
**4th Marines Shanghai**  
**China**  
**C.O.D.**  
 PARCEL NUMBER

**284** SERIAL NUMBER  
**20788** OFFICE NUMBER  
**New York, Fourth Regiment, U. S. Marine Corps, Shanghai, China, Branch, N. Y.**  
**Coupon for Paying Office**  
 HOLDER MUST NOT DETACH  
 PAY TO: WRITE WORDS FOR DOLLARS  
**Mr. Smuckler**  
**4th Marines Shanghai**  
**China**  
**C.O.D.**  
 PARCEL NUMBER

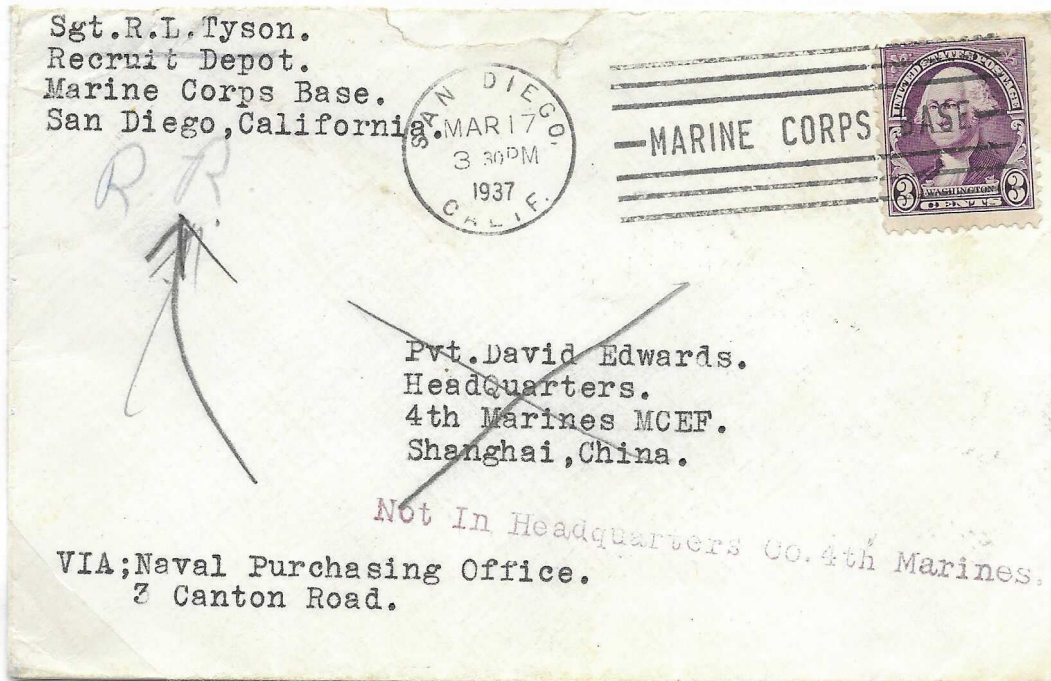
**RECEIPT**  
**284**  
 DOLLARS **1**  
 CENTS **1**  
**FOR REMITTER**  
 TO DETACH AND HOLD  
 MUST BE PRESENTED AT  
 OFFICE OF ISSUE WHEN IN-  
 QUiry IS MADE REGARDING  
 ORDER  
**NOV 28 1940**  
**SHANGHAI, CHINA**  
**ISSUING OFFICE**  
**STAMP HERE**

The M.O.B. version of the Fourth Marines cancel differed from the others in that it identified Shanghai as a branch of the New York post office. Example shown is obviously philatelic, but it is the only recorded money order from China. (It cost Mr. Smuckler a fee of 6 cents in addition to the 1 cent face value.)



**FOURTH MARINE REGIMENT - SHANGHAI**  
**Auxiliary Markings**

4th Reg. U.S.M.C.  
 12 April 1937  
 June 1938



Examples of two different special markings in inbound mail. The upper one may be a military mark rather than postal, but the "Received in bad condition at 4th Marines" is clearly an official post office marking. Note that 70 cents paid in postage on this cover was the correct rate for the full Trans-Pacific journey via Pan Am from San Francisco to Hong Kong.