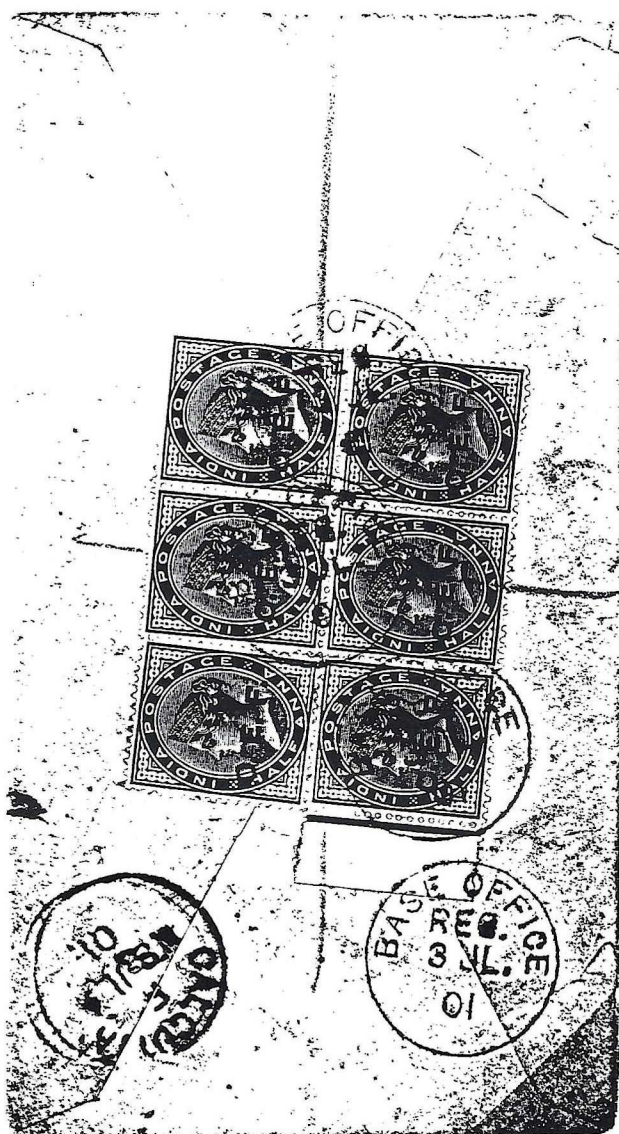
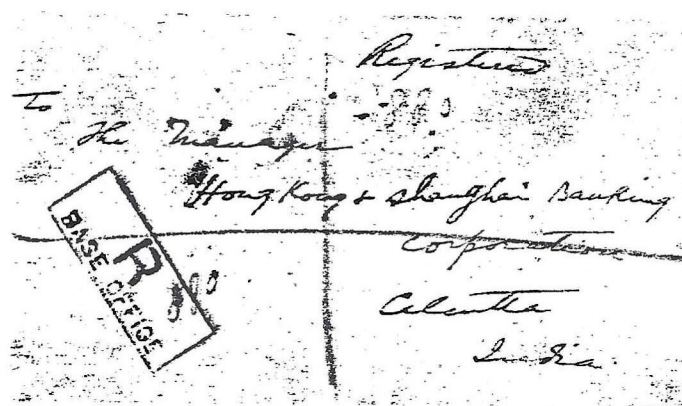


British Field Post

Base Office A (Hong Kong)
3 July 1901



Block of 5 and single. Multiples of the C.E.F. stamps larger than a pair are very seldom found on cover.

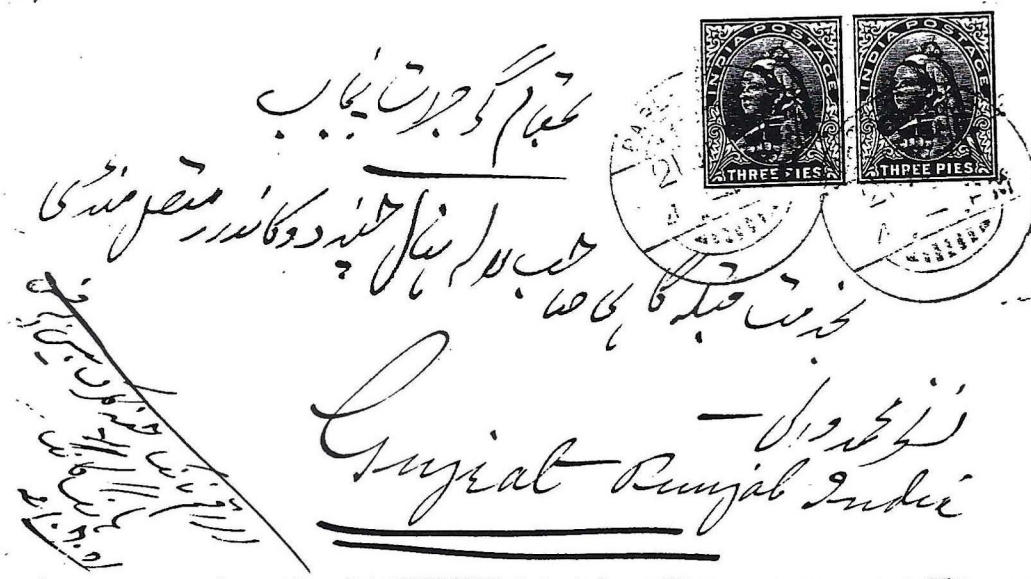


All Base Office A markings are simply designated "Base Office" (without the letter "A"). The circular date-stamp incorporating "REG" and the boxed R handstamp both are recorded used from 20 August 1900 until after the Boxer period.

In 1901 the prohibition against Base Office A doing postal business in Hong Kong was lifted, but the date of that change has not been established.

British Field Post

Base Office A (Hong Kong)
21 July 1901



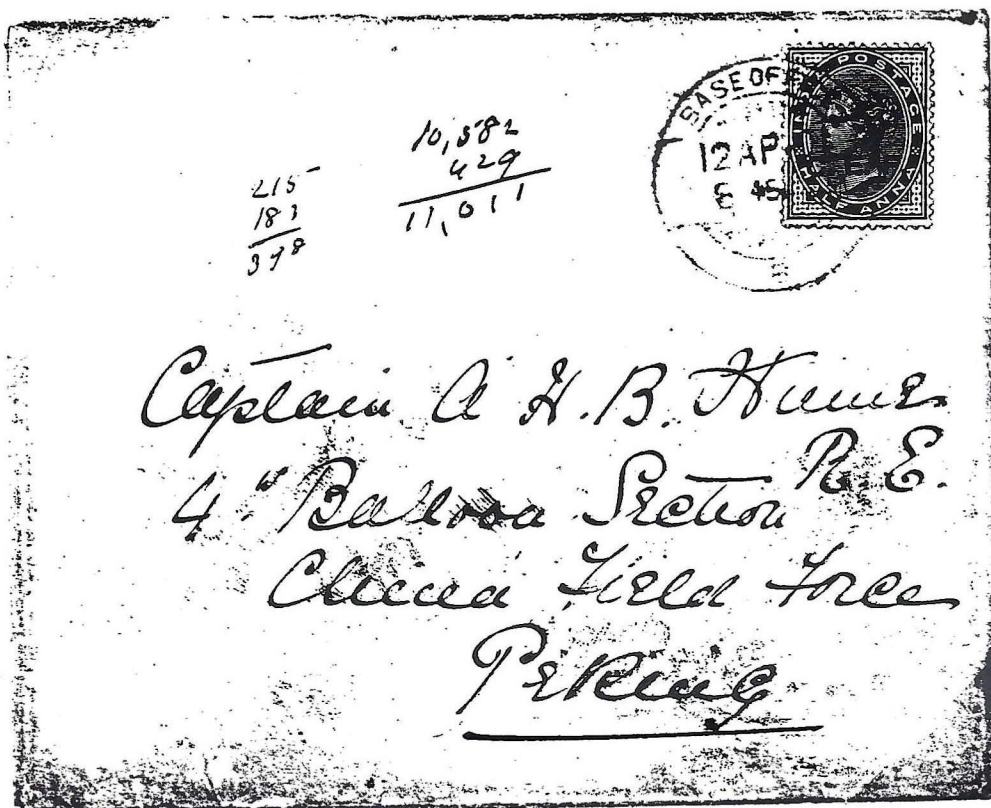
Base Office A is reported to have used 4 types of circular datestamps during the Boxer period. The bridge-type postmark is first recorded on 13 August 1900.

While 28,700 of the 30,000 members of the C.E.F. were Indian native troops, they produced only a small fraction of the surviving covers sent during the Boxer uprising period.

British Field Post

Base Office B (Tientsin)
12 April 1901

The 4th Balloon Section arrived in China in November 1900, and was used mainly for survey work.

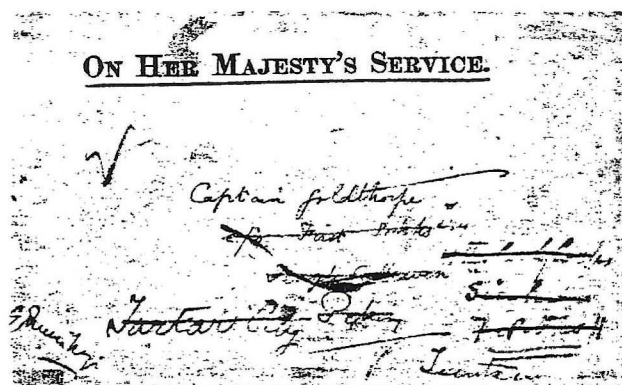
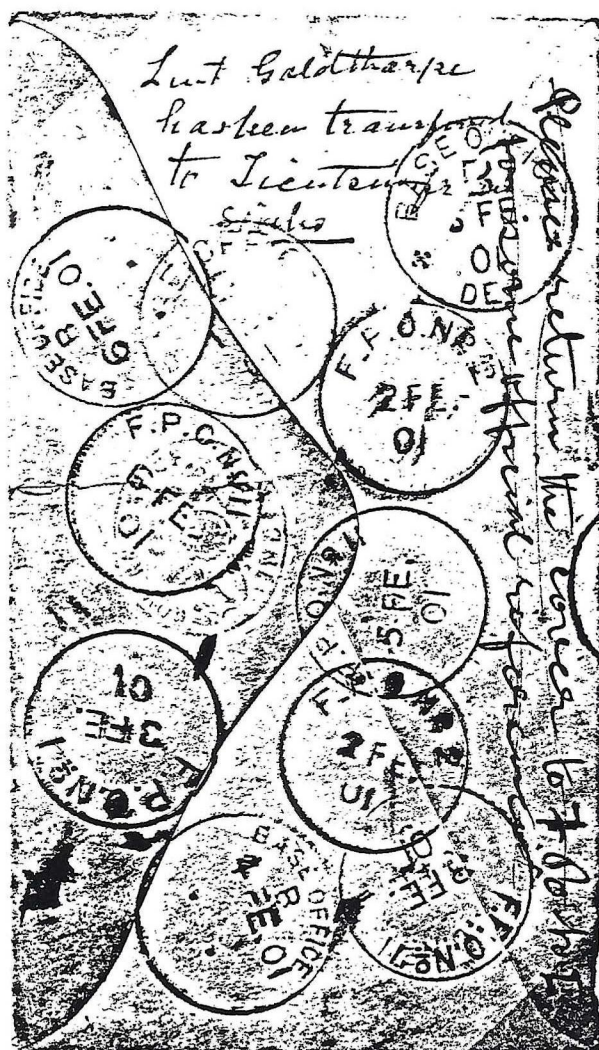


Due to the large number of troops in North China and the frequency of their movements, confusion was caused by the delay in getting current location information to the Base Office in Hong Kong. Base Office B opened in Tientsin on 1 November 1900. On 2 May 1901 it moved to Tongku and remained there (except for about 2 months most winters, when Taku harbor froze over and it moved to Chinwangtao) until it returned to Tientsin in early 1908. Base Office B closed on 1 November 1923.

British Field Post

Base Office B (Tientsin)
6 February 1901

The "DEP" (for Deposit) datestamp is one of the scarcest Base Office B markings.



Cover originating Tientsin (per contents), carried out of the mails to Peking where addressee was not located. As the FPOs took great pains to keep track of personnel, the cover was handed in to FPO 2 (serving HQ, 1st Inf. Bde., of which the 1st Sikhs were a part), whence it was sent to FPOs 1 and 7, both in Peking. It was then redirected to Tientsin (Base Office B, 4 February) which sent it to Sinho (FPO 11). It was finally sent back to Tientsin (Base Office B and Base Office B DEP postmarks, 6 February) for delivery.

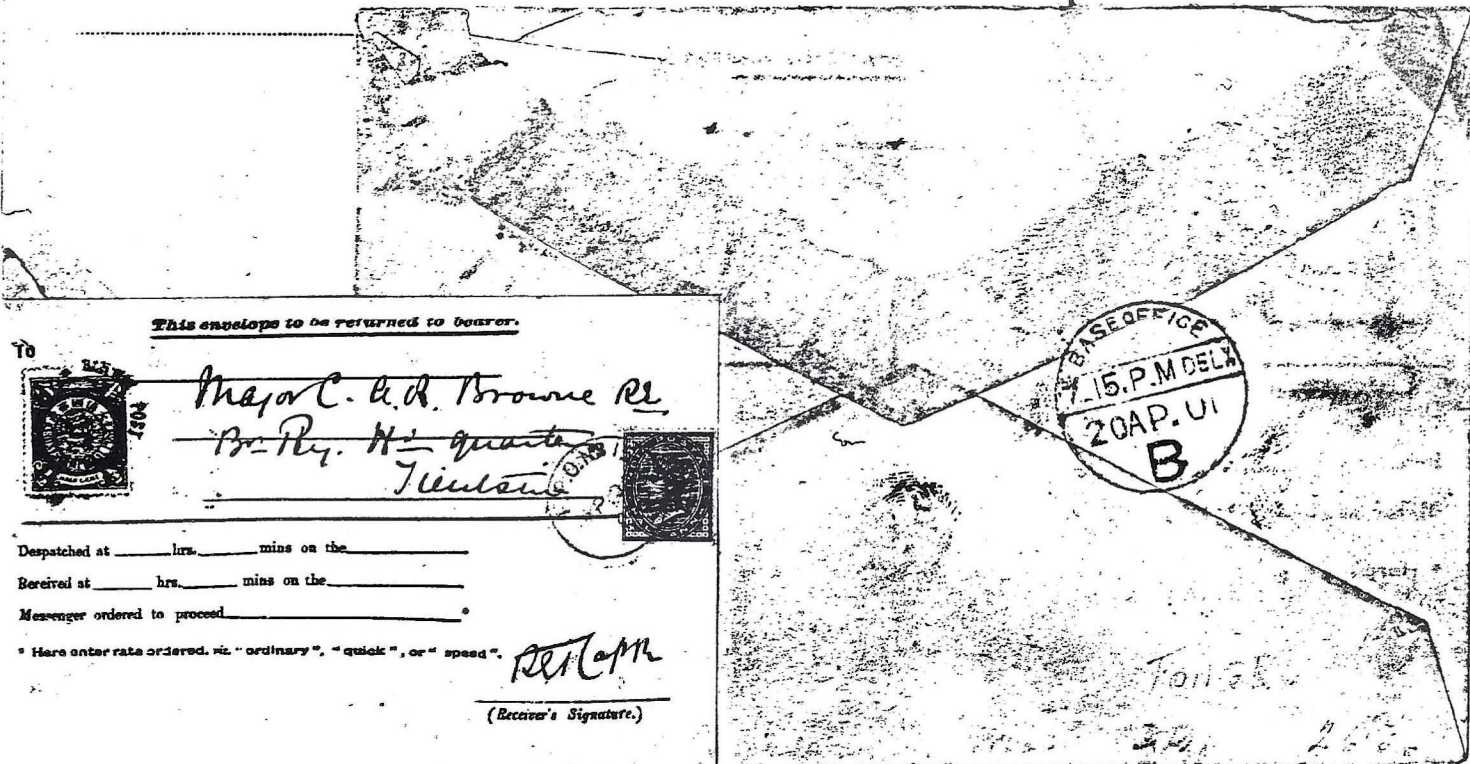
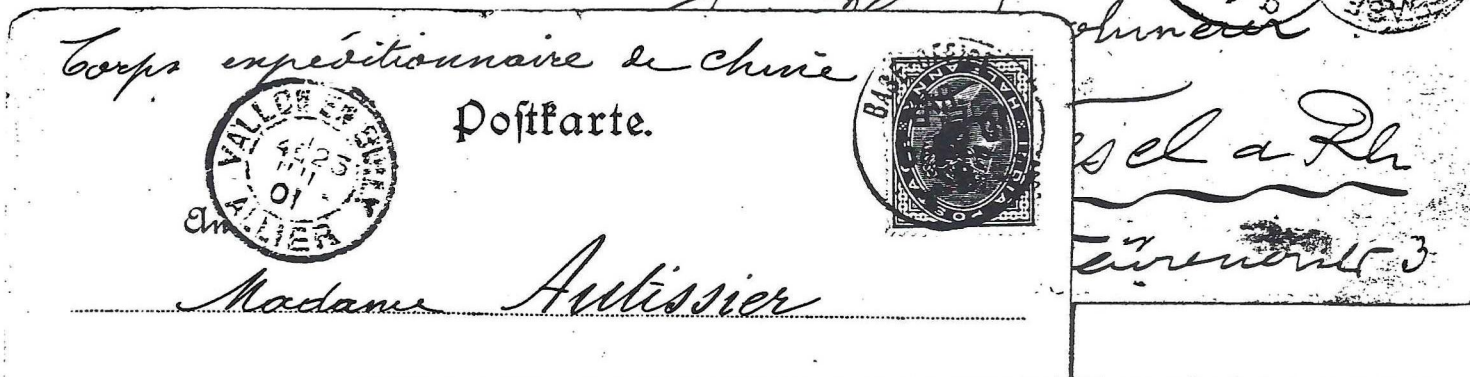
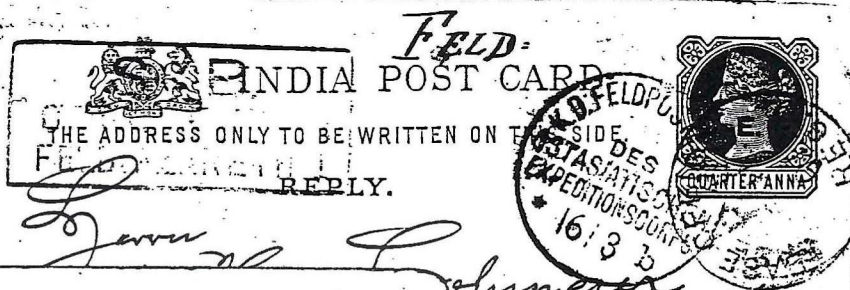
British Field Post

Base Office B (Tientsin)

16 March 1901

6 April 1901

20 April 1901



Base Office B was supplied with a full range of special-purpose datestamps commonly available in Indian post offices. Use here of the "PAR" (for Parcels, appropriately struck in purple ink) and of the "REG" (Registered) datestamps is by favor of the postal clerk. The "DELY" datestamp is properly used on cover for local delivery. All 3 datestamps are seldom encountered, even on philatelic mail.

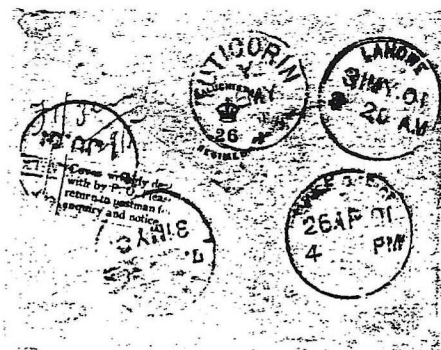
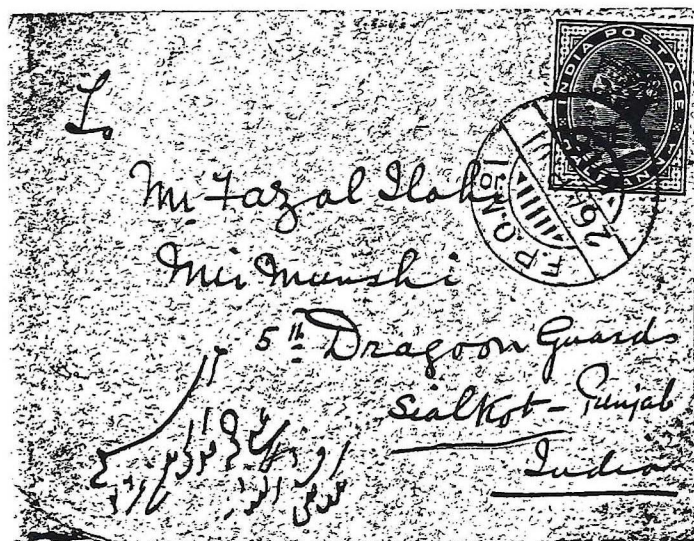
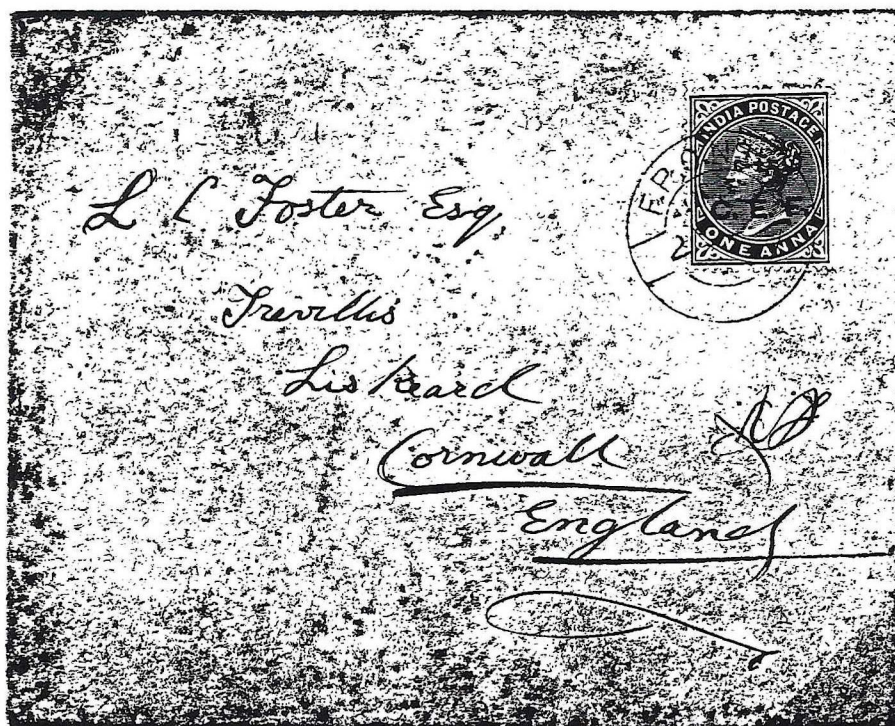
British Field Post

26th Baluchistan Infantry

FPO 1 (Peking - Legation Gate)

2 September 1900

26 April 1901

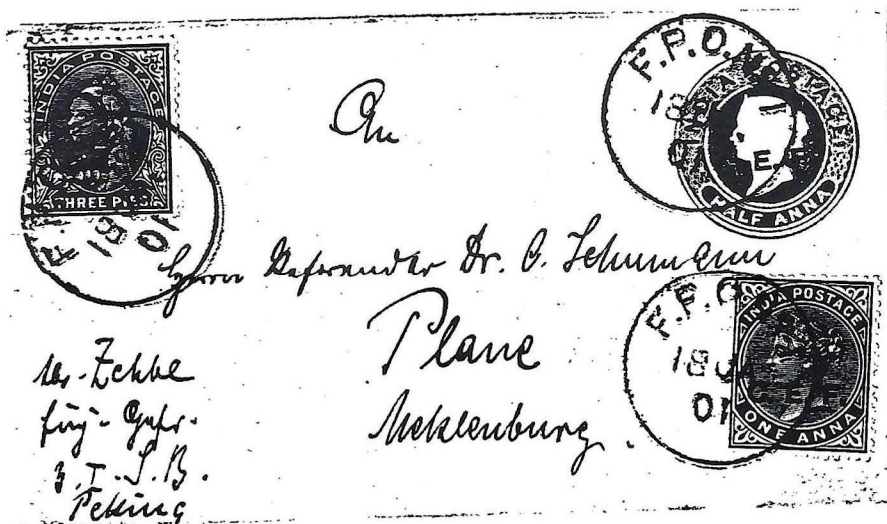
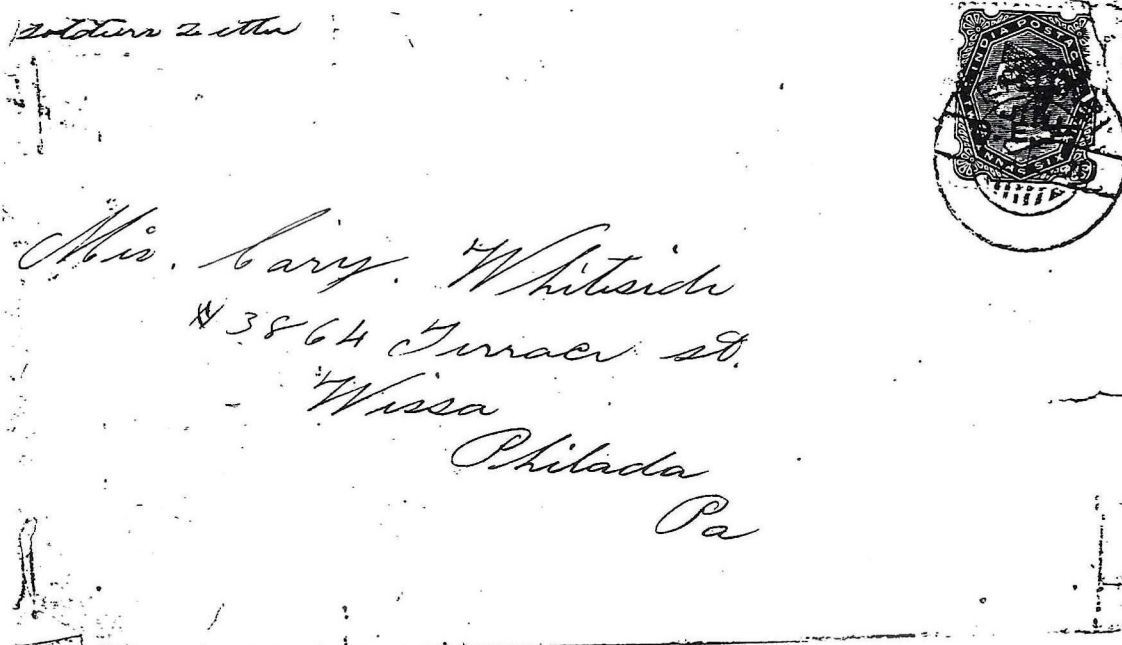


FPO 1 served Army Headquarters. It operated in Peking from 1 September 1900 until late 1923.

The 26th Baluchistan Regiment was one several units from the Princely States which arrived after the occupation of Peking. These units served to maintain order in Peking and along the lines of communication, and in persuading the Chinese to fully accept the peace conditions of the Allies.

British Field Post

FPO 1 (Peking - Legation Gate)
9 September 1900
18 January 1901

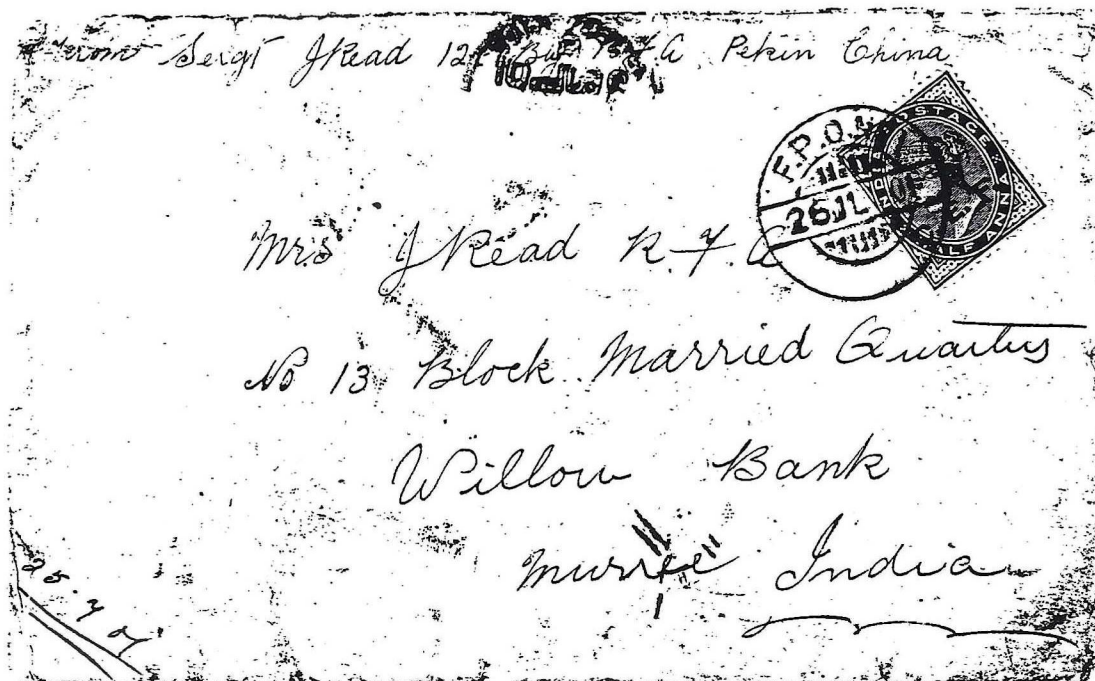


During the Boxer period FPO 1 used only the two types of datestamps shown above. FPOs were not provided with the special function datestamps (PAR, REG, etc.) used in the Base Post Offices.

The letter rate to "foreign" countries (i.e., excluding India, China, and those parts of the British Empire which had adopted Imperial Penny Postage) was $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas per half ounce. The under-franked cover to Germany probably was favor cancelled and sent as an enclosure, as it has no receiving mark. Such philatelic souvenirs were popular with all Allied troops, especially the Germans. British FPO mail to the United States is decidedly uncommon.

British Field Post
12th Field Battery, R.F.A.

FPO 1 (Peking - Tartar City)
26 July 1901



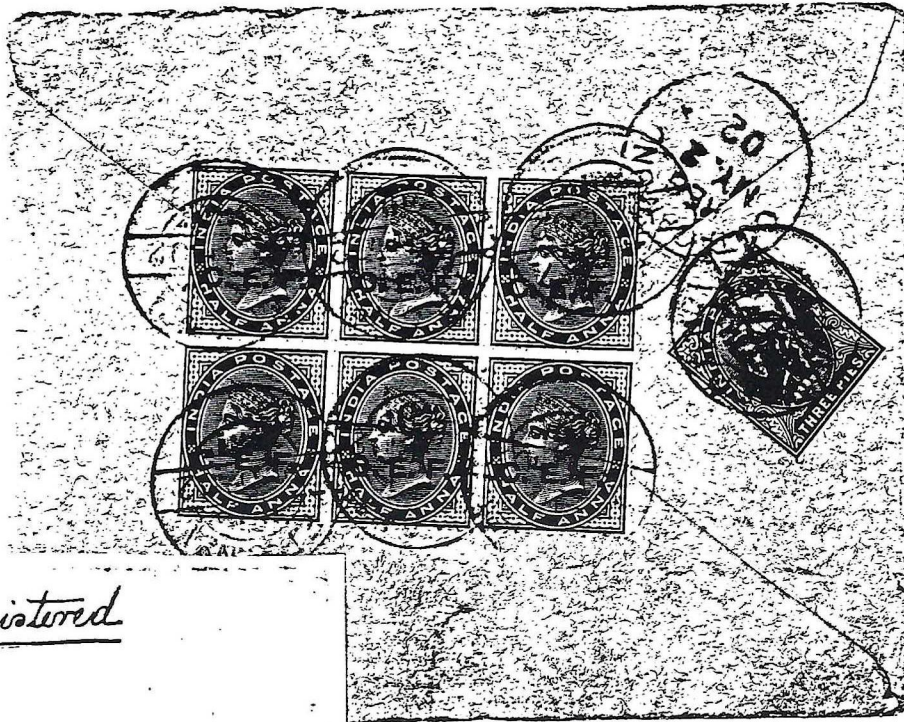
In late July 1901, the Chinese Minister Li Hung-chang became uncooperative with the Allied Ministers, and the British Minister asked that the Summer Palace be occupied for a short time as a show of force. This operation was carried out by the 12th Battery, R.F.A. and two companies of the 7th Bengal Infantry. During their occupation of the Summer Palace, these units used FPO 1.

From 15 July - 15 September 1901, Virk places FPO 1 in the Tartar City rather than at Legation Gate.

24

British Field Post

FPO 1 (Peking)
5 April 1902
22 November 1905



Registered

To:-

G. Ramsey Short Esq.

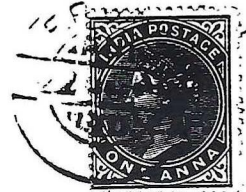
Norfolk Cottage

R. 29 P. 29

S. India

BRITISH LEGATION GUARD

— Weltpostverein
Union postale universelle
Post card.



MISS M. Boulton

29 Glenavon Road

England

Romford Road
Stratford
Essex

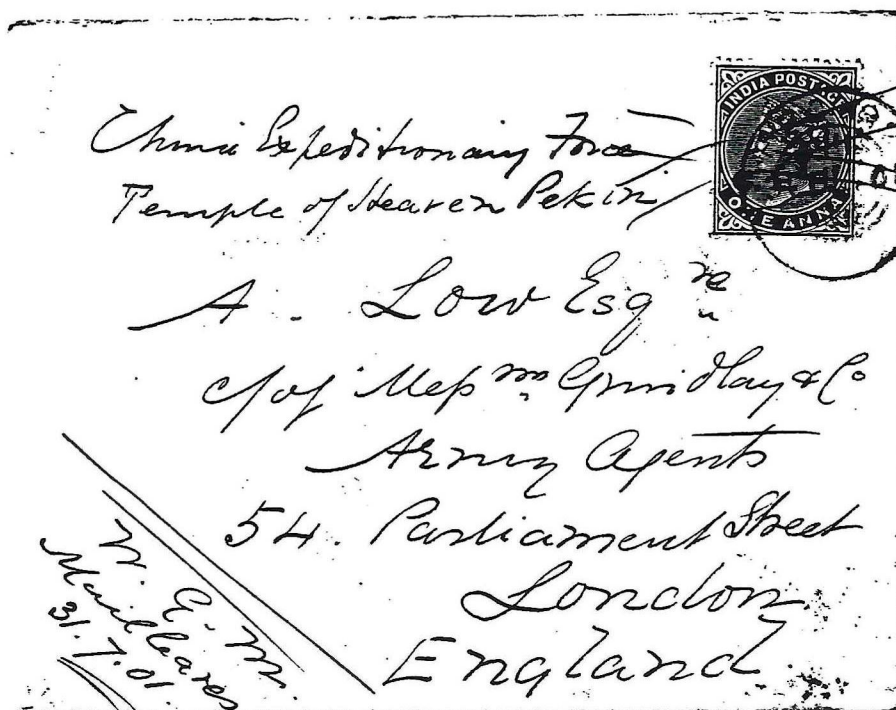
C. H. 440.
Copyright.

The maintenance of military guards at their legations in Peking was one of the rights awarded to the foreign powers in the Boxer protocols. FPO 1 remained in Peking until 1 November 1923, to service the postal needs of the British legation guards.

The F.P.O. N° 1 registry handstamp was probably sent out during the Boxer Uprising. However, this is the earliest recorded usage, and nearly 5 years before the previously recorded (Virk, et al.) early date.

British Field Post

FPO 2 (Peking - Temple of Heaven)
30 July 1901



FPO 2 served the Headquarters of the 1st Infantry Brigade. It operated from 1 September 1900 through 15 September 1901, using two types of datestamp.

British Field Post

FPO 2 (Peking - Temple of Heaven)
27 August 1901

The F.P.O. N^o 2 boxed registration handstamp is previously unrecorded.

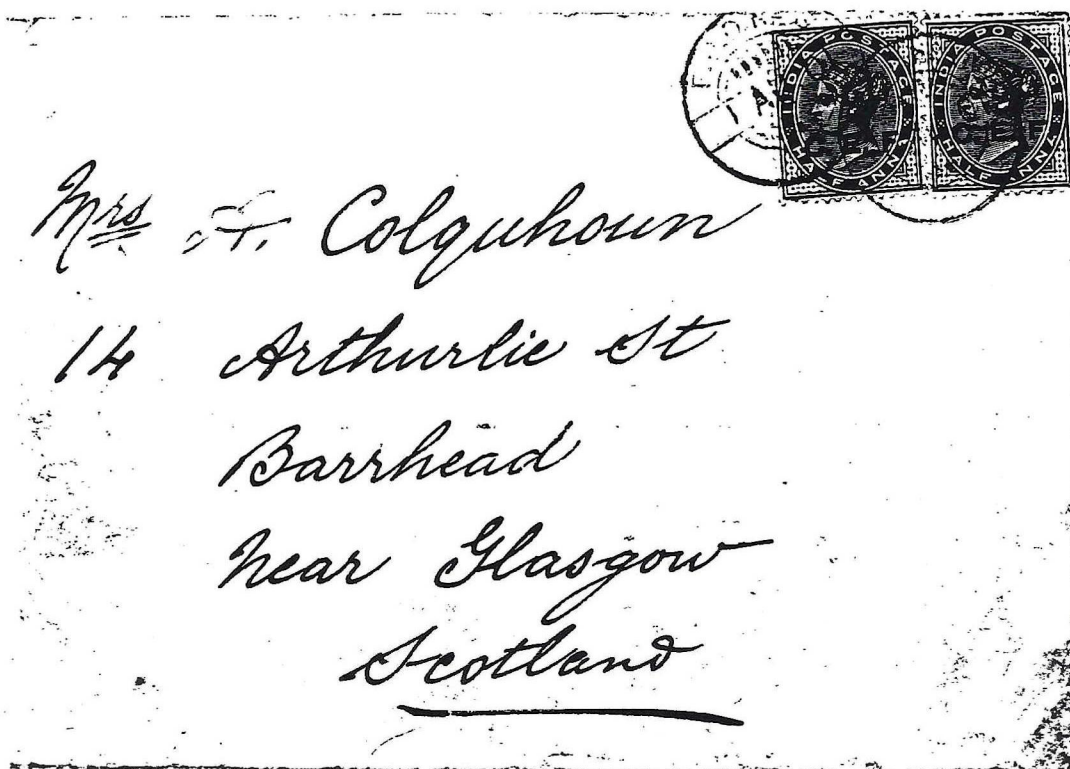


Only 20,909 of the Victoria 2½ annas stamps were sold, and they are not common on cover. The more usual usage for this value was to pay the international letter rate. Registered post-cards were rated as letters, so the 2½ anna charge is correct.

Postcard shows postal authorities of the various Powers in front of the German Post Office in Tientsin.

British Field Post

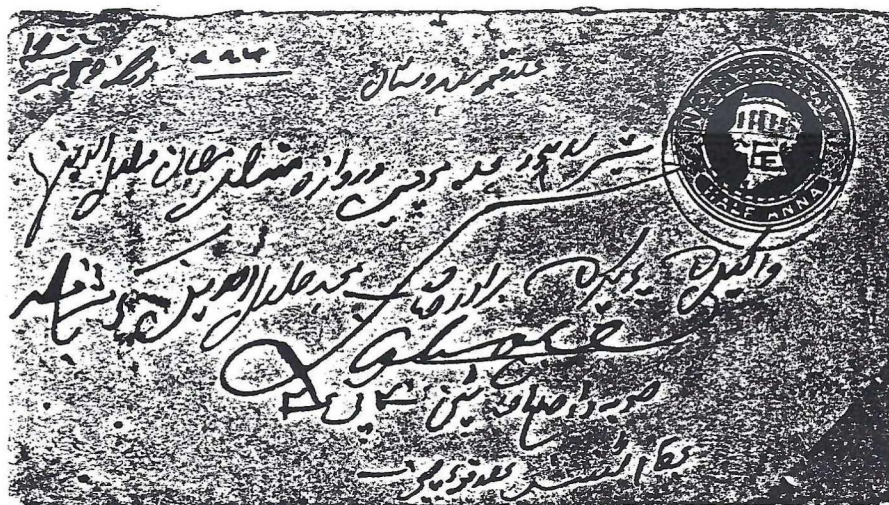
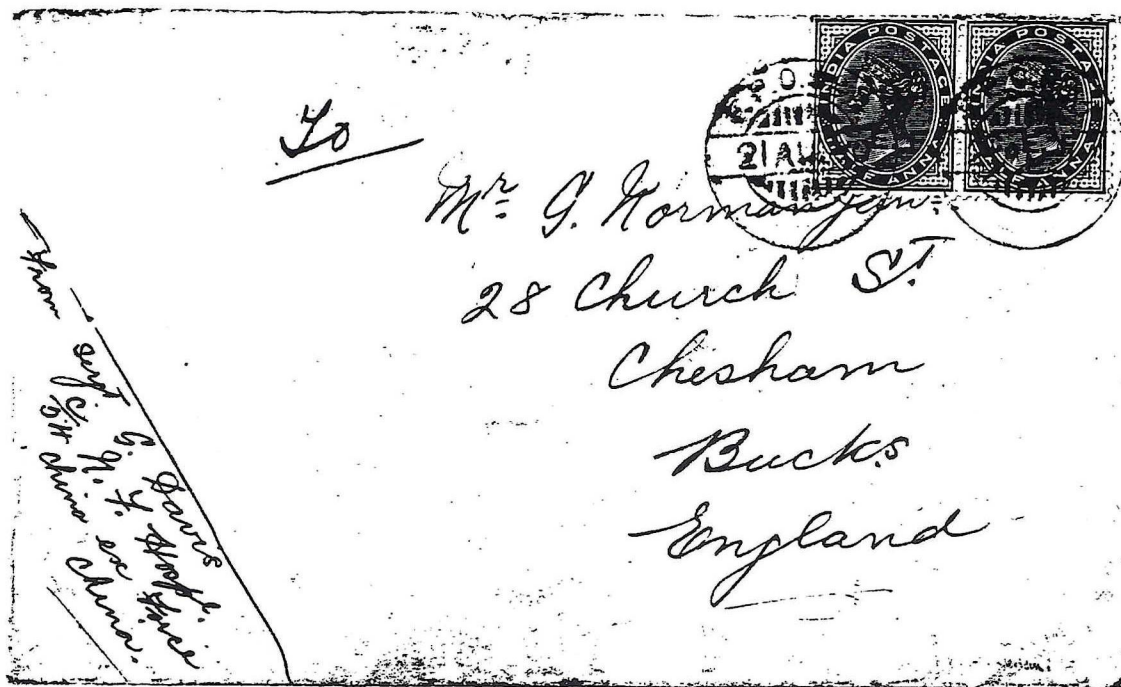
FPO 3 (Tongshan)
1 August 1901



FPO 3 is officially reported to have opened on 30 August 1900 (Virk), though Proud reports usages as early as 23 August. It continued in operation at Tungchow, northeast of Peking on the rail line to Chinwangtao, until 1 August 1901, when it moved to Tongshan.

British Field Post
54th Native Field Hospital

FPO 4 (Tientsin)
21 August 1900
30 September 1900



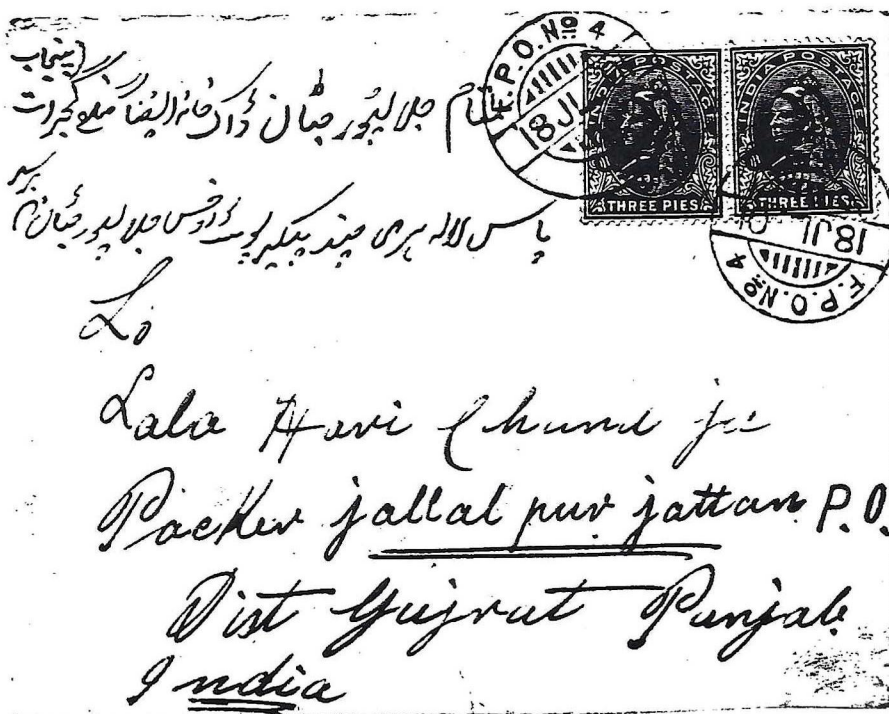
FPO 4 opened in Tientsin on 31 July 1900 and remained there until 30 October 1900 when it moved to Tongku. While in Tientsin, it carried out the sorting functions of an advance base office as well as serving as the local post office for the large numbers of British troops in the city.

British Field Post

FPO 4 (Tientsin)

18 July 1901

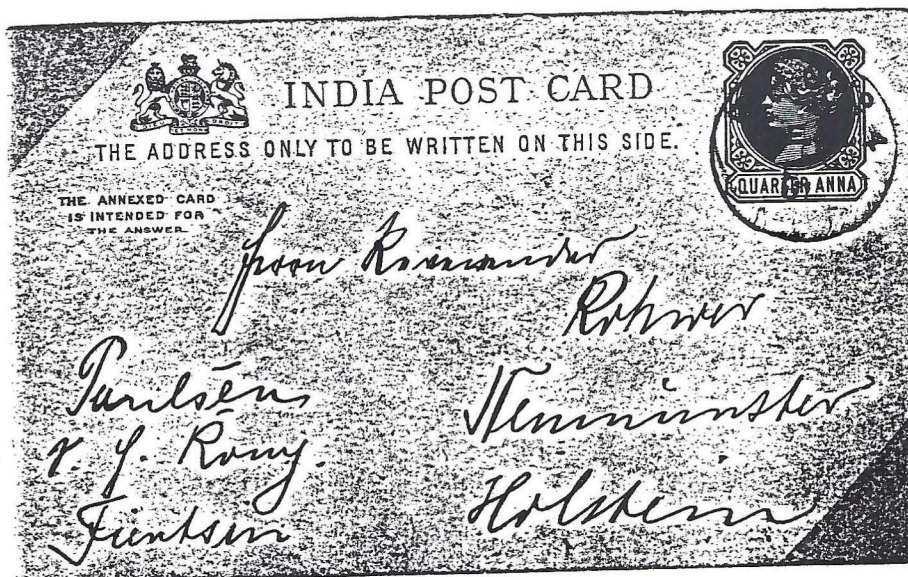
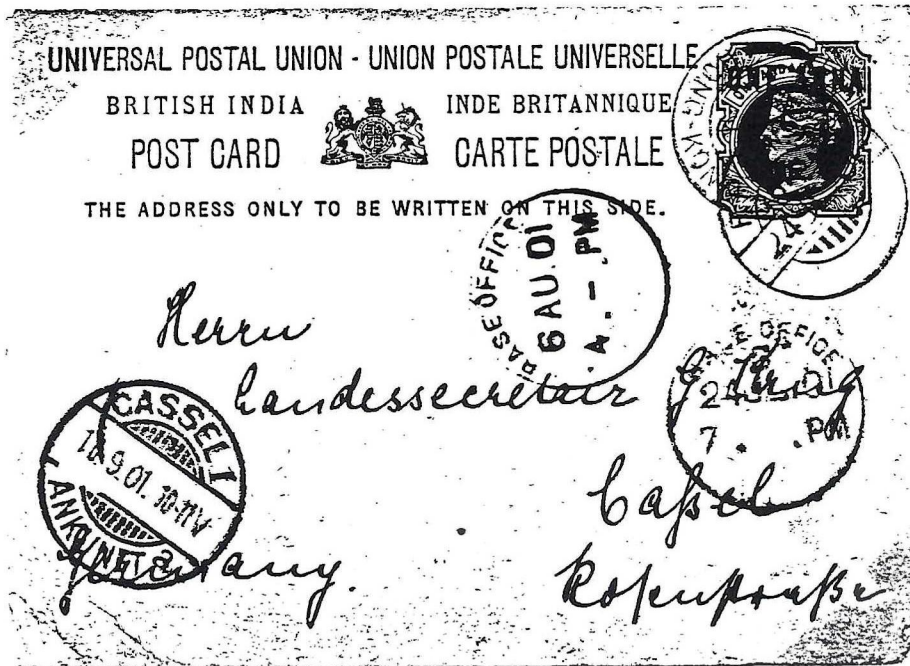
3 August 1901



After briefly operating in Tientsin, FPO 4 opened in Tongku on 13 November 1900 and remained there until 30 April 1901. It returned to Tientsin on 2 May 1901 and continued in operation there until early 1908. FPO 4 used the two types of circular datestamp shown above throughout its operations in China.

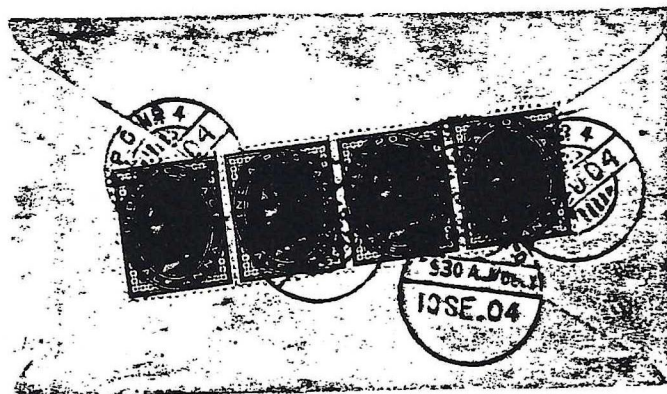
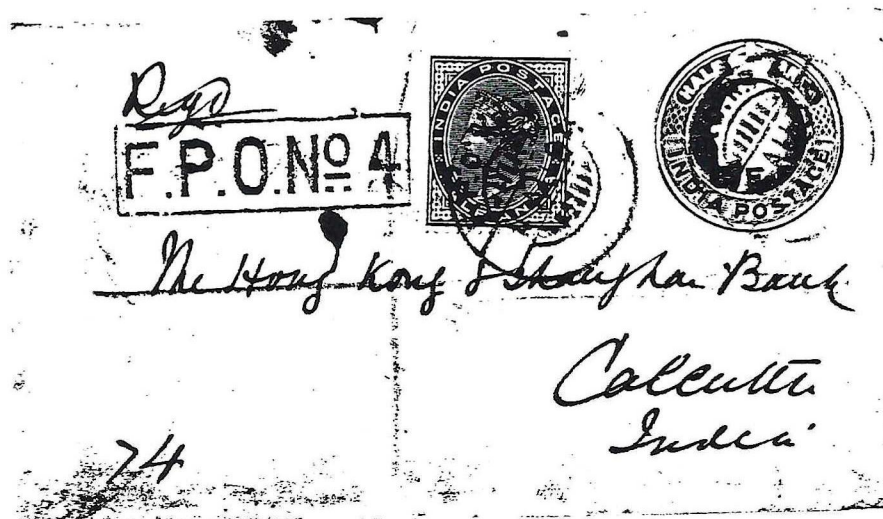
British Field Post

FPO 4 (Tientsin)
24 July 1901
9 October 1901



Postal usage vs. favor cancellation. The top card is properly rated and bears the normal transit marks for international mail from North China via British FPO: Base Office B, Base Office [A] and the Hong Kong civil post office. The bottom card, under-franked and with no transit or receiving marks, was clearly favor cancelled and not mailed unless as an enclosure.

Registered Mail



In addition to the legation guards in Peking, small numbers of British troops were left scattered along the rail lines and ports of North China from the end of the Boxer Uprising until 1923, with garrisons being maintained beyond that point in Tientsin (until 1940) and Shanghai (until 1941). They continued to be served by several of the Indian FPOs which had operated in the Boxer period, until 1923. FPO 4, having returned to Tientsin from duty at Tongku on 1 May 1901 continued to function there until about March 1908.

Cover franked 1 anna for postage on $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ tolas (.4 to 1 oz.) plus 2 annas for registration. The boxed registry handstamp is recorded used from 21 May 1901 to 5 November 1906.