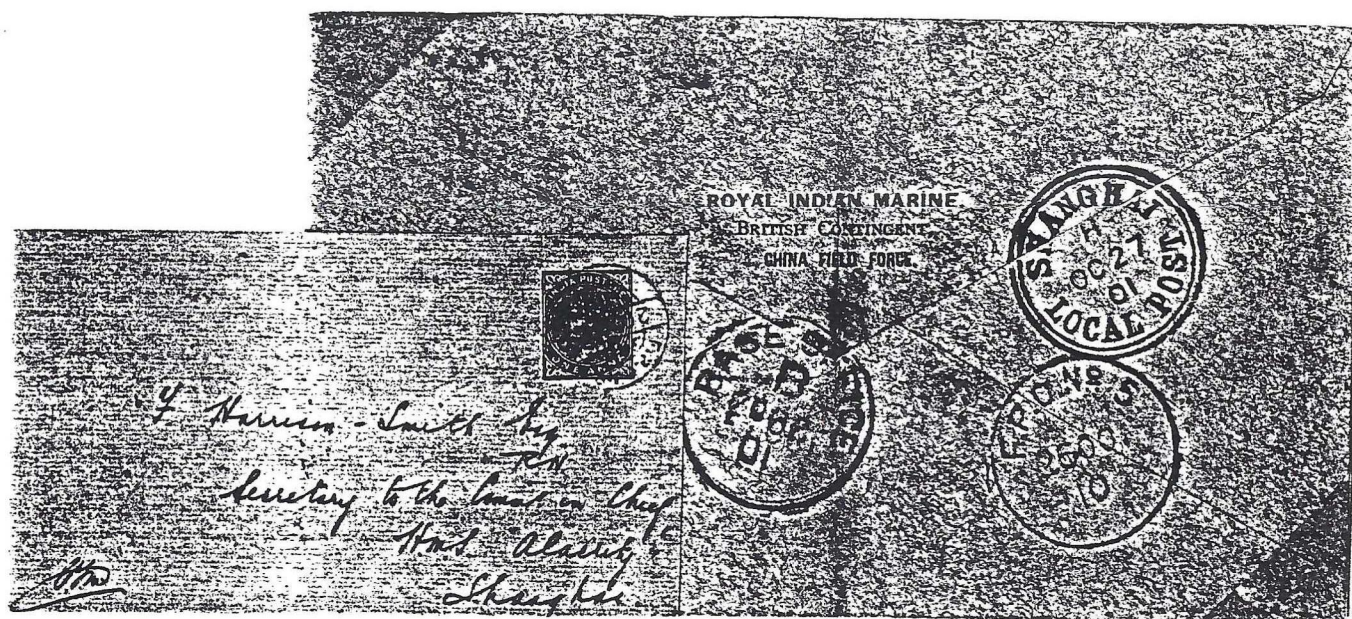


British Field Post

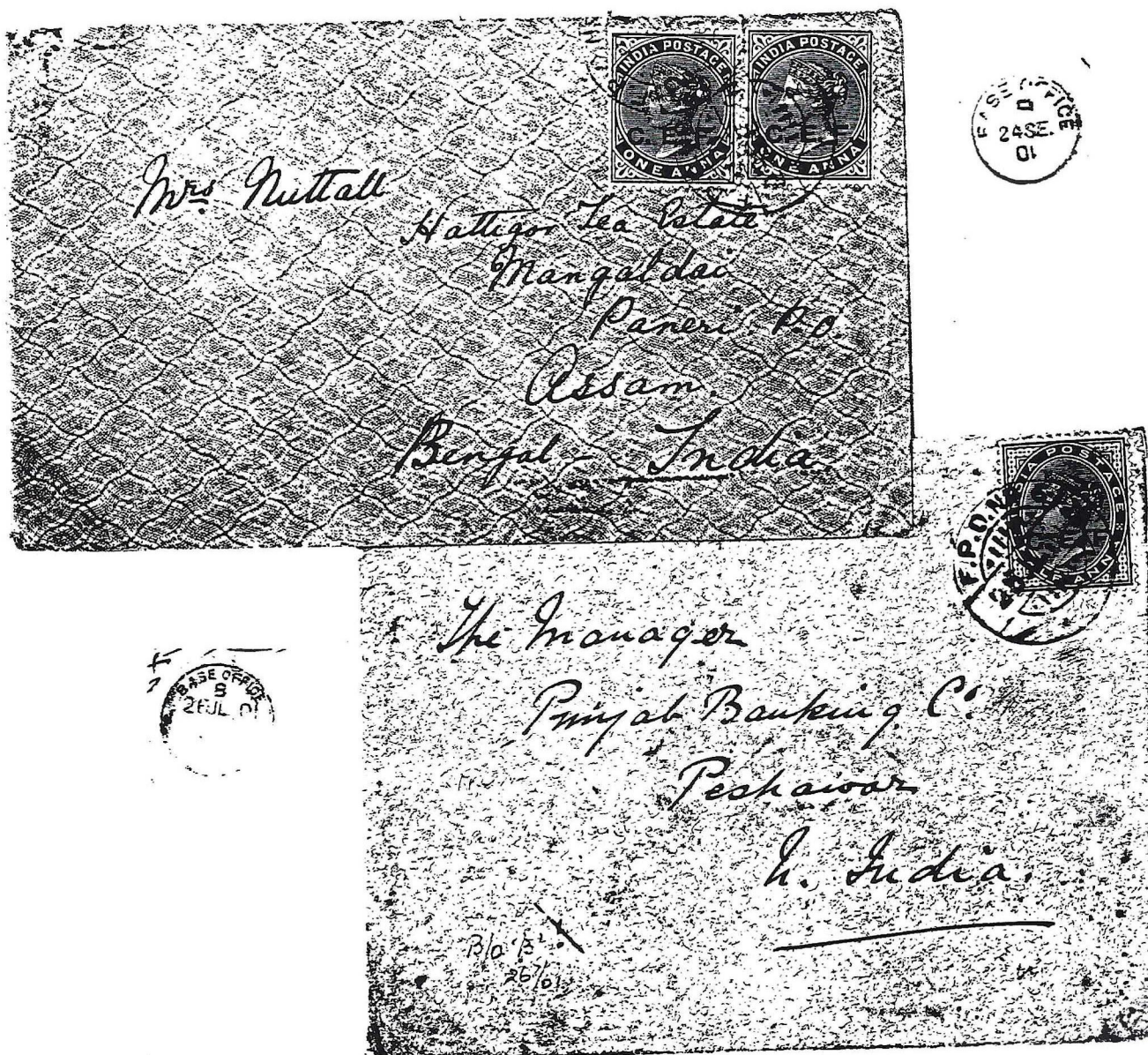
FPO 5 (Shanghai)
5 November 1900
25 October 1901



FPO 5 had only 2 types of datestamp, shown above. Note the transposition, "10" for "01" in the single-ring datestamp, recorded for FPO 8 but not for FPO 5.

British Field Post

FPO 6 (Shanhaikwan)
25 July 1901
23 September 1901



Serving units of the 2nd Infantry Brigade, FPO 6 was first established in Shanghai. It moved to Shanhaikwan on 13 July 1901 and remained there until 1 November 1923. This move coincided with the 2nd Brigade move North from Shanghai, and its transformation into the "North China Field Force," which took over garrison duties from the original C.E.F. on 21 July.

British Field Post
24th Punjab Infantry

FPO 7 (Peking - Tartar City)
11 March 1901

OHMS-overprinted ½ anna.

O. H. M. S. VISUAL SIGNALLING.

MESSAGE No. 198 Date _____

To The Post Master genl.
Punjab
Lahore

Hrs. _____ Min. _____

Despatched at _____
Received at _____

John Smith

Sig. of Addressee.

FPO 7 operated in support of units of the 1st Infantry Brigade in Peking from 23 October 1900 until at least 14 July 1901.

The 24th Punjab Infantry was the second Indian unit of the C.E.F. to arrive in North China. It participated in the capture of Peking and the relief of the Legations, following which it performed garrison duties in Peking.

1st Bn., 4th Gurkha Rifles

FPO 8 (Shanghai - Cavalry Camp)
11 April 1901
26 June 1901



Mr. A Howard
Poona

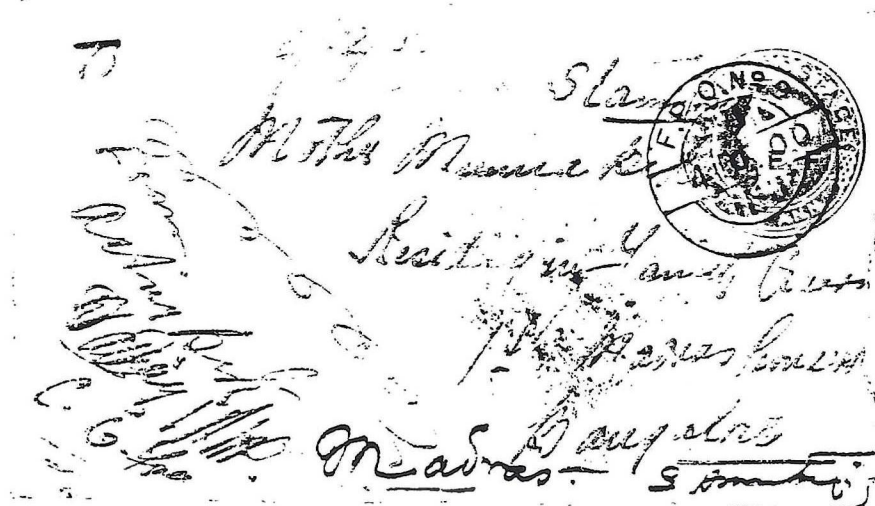


Opened to serve units of the 2nd Infantry Brigade on 25 September 1900, FPO 8 remained in operation until 27 June 1901 (though Proud reports FPO 8 postmarks before and after these dates). Two types of datestamps were used, the single circle type, recorded only from 28 January 1901, being scarcer than the bridge type.

Note the transposition, "10" for "01" in the datestamp on the Chinese postal card. The postcard rate to Great Britain is fully paid by the C.E.F. stamps, the Chinese postage not being recognized by the British FPO. Intra-C.E.F. mail was subject to Indian domestic rates; the ¼ anna card is correctly rated.

British Field Post
1st Madras Pioneers

FPO 9 (Yangtsun)
4 December 1900

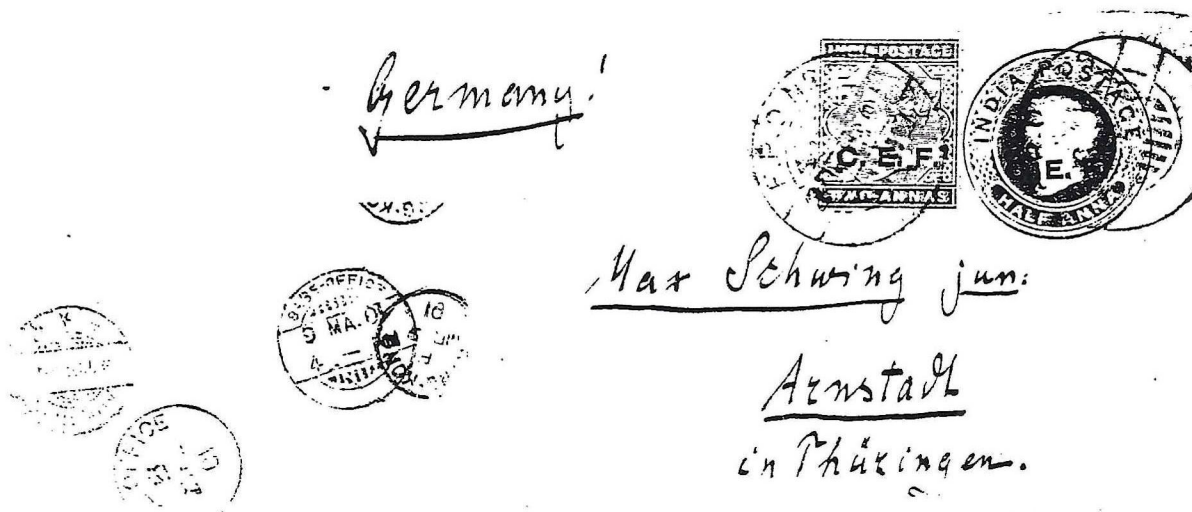


After brief service at Weihaiwei, FPO 9 opened at Yangtsun on 9 October 1900 and remained there until 1 August 1901. When this cover was mailed Yangtsun was the southern railhead on the Peking-Tientsin line. In June 1900 the Boxers had blown up the bridge across the Grand Canal and had torn up the track south of Yangtsun; rail service to the south was not restored until 22 December 1900. Consequently, this cover travelled from Yangtsun to Tientsin by mule.

The 1st Madras Pioneers were divisional troops which took part in operations against Paotingfu from mid-October through 6 November 1900. Subsequently they served as garrison troops at Yangtsun during the winter of 1900-1901, and were ordered returned to India in early May 1901.

British Field Post

FPO 9 (Yangtsun)
27 February 1901
2 March 1901



UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION - UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE
BRITISH INDIA INDE BRITANNIQUE
POST CARD CARTE POSTALE
THE ADDRESS ONLY TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE

from Julie Kaledon
Lustenburg.

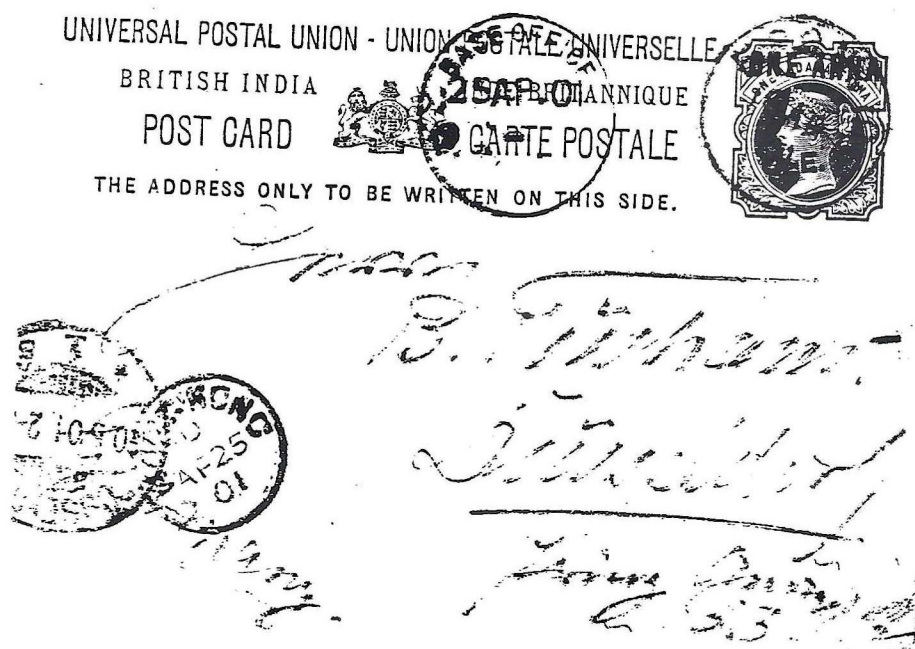
Like all the other British Field Post Offices (except number 12), FPO 9 was supplied with 2 types of datestamp which it used simultaneously.

Sales of the 2 annas C.E.F. stamp numbered 29,846, compared to 373,784 for the 1 anna (the most common value) and approximately 14,000 to 21,000 each of the 4 annas through 1 rupee. Infrequently encountered, the 2 annas stamp is usually found on the ½ anna entire making up the international letter rate.

British Field Post

FPO 10 (Hanku)
16 April 1901

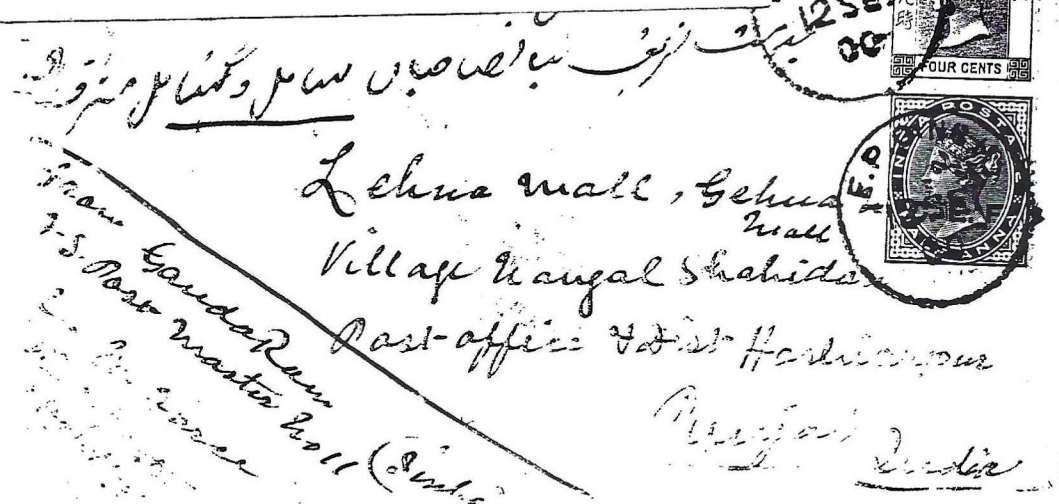
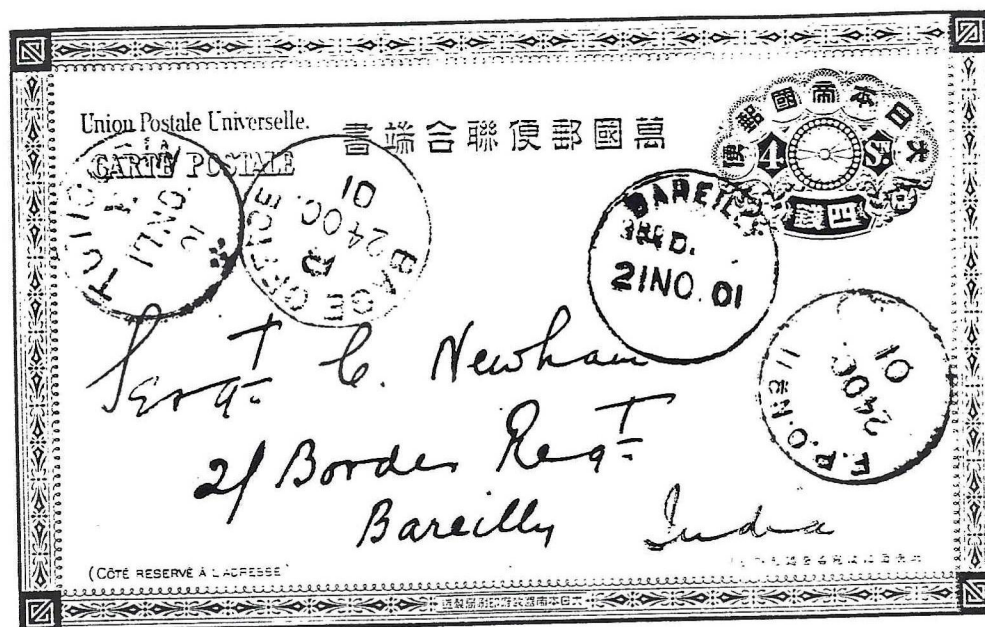
FPO 10 is the scarcest of the stationary British FPOs used in China.



After brief service at Tangshan, FPO 10 opened at Hanku in late January 1901 and remained there until 26 May 1901. It then operated at the Hwangtsun Hunting Park from 27 May - 4 August 1901. Its main task at Hanku, aside from serving the postal needs of the local garrison, was to move mails otherwise carried by rail between Tangku and Tangshan across the Peiho river, the bridge having been blown up by the Boxers.

British Field Post
FPO 11

FPO 11 (Sinho)
12 September 1900
24 October 1901



FPO 11 operated at Sinho from 30 July 1900 through 8 December 1901, when it moved to Tongku for the winter. Continued to operate at Sinho (winters in Tongku) until 16 March 1903.

Normal practice in the British FPOs appears to have been to accept the postage of Allied countries. Even so, presence of both the 4c and ½ annas stamps on the bottom cover is curious. That the contents were not thick or heavy is shown by physical evidence of the cover; it does not appear to have needed postage sufficient to pay for over 1 oz. This may be a case of institutional tit for tat. The Hong Kong Postmaster was in 1900 refusing to allow the sale of stamps by the C.E.F. Base Post Office in Hong Kong. Therefore, the postmaster at FPO 11 may have decided to insist on a franking that did not deprive the FPO of its normal revenue, especially in favor of Hong Kong.

British Field Post

FPO 12 (Peking)
15 June 1901



After operating briefly in Hoshiwu (28 August - 11 November; no examples recorded) FPO 12 opened at Matao, about 20 miles southeast of Peking, on 12 November 1900 and served there until about 20 May 1901. From 22 May to 14 July 1901 it operated at the Summer Palace in Peking. FPO 12 is the only British FPO to have used a datestamp with the FPO number at bottom.

Card mailed by a German civilian. The C.E.F. 1 anna would have overpaid the rate to Burma, then administered as part of India. Lack of Base Office transit postmarks indicates that the card was cancelled at FPO 12 and handed back, then placed in the mail at the German post office in Peking.

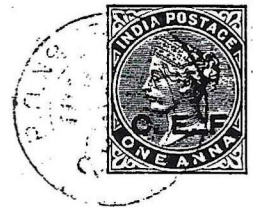
British Field Post
28th Madras Infantry

FPO 13 (Weihaiwei)
30 April 1901
20 May 1901



Miss Hope Young
25 Warrington Crescent
London

England *Please forward*



Mr Frank Penny
c/o H. S. King & Co.
4 Pall Mall

London

S. 45



England

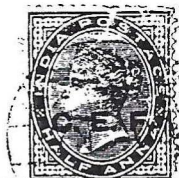
Established at Weihaiwei on 23 September 1900 to serve the 3rd Infantry Brigade, FPO 13 continued to operate there until at least 24 August 1901.

Both covers from (temporary) Lt. Col. W.A. Lowry, 28th Madras Infantry. This regiment was part of the 4th Infantry Brigade which was ordered to be broken up and returned to India on 11 April 1901. The first units of the regiment reached Weihaiwei on 25 April and the entire regiment remained there until late May, when transport to India could be arranged.

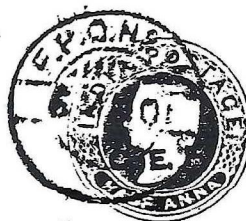
British Field Post

FPO 14 (Shanhaikwan)
17 November 1900
6 March 1901

Miss Fitzgibbon



Fern Villa, Dinapore, India



Colonel F. A. S. S. S. S.
Cp - Baluchistan
Indo-Baluchistan
Indo-Baluchistan

FPO 14 was attached to the 3rd Infantry Brigade. After brief service in Hong Kong and on the *SS Sumatra* in transit (no examples recorded), it opened at Shanhaikwan Beach on 5 October 1900. On 14 October it moved to Shanhaikwan Fort No. 4 where it continued to serve through 12 July 1901.

The use of a native envelope is unusual for British C.E.F. mail.

British Field Post

FPO 14 (Shanhaikwan)
22 June 1901

Strip of four 1 anna. Such multiples are scarce, as are registered covers.



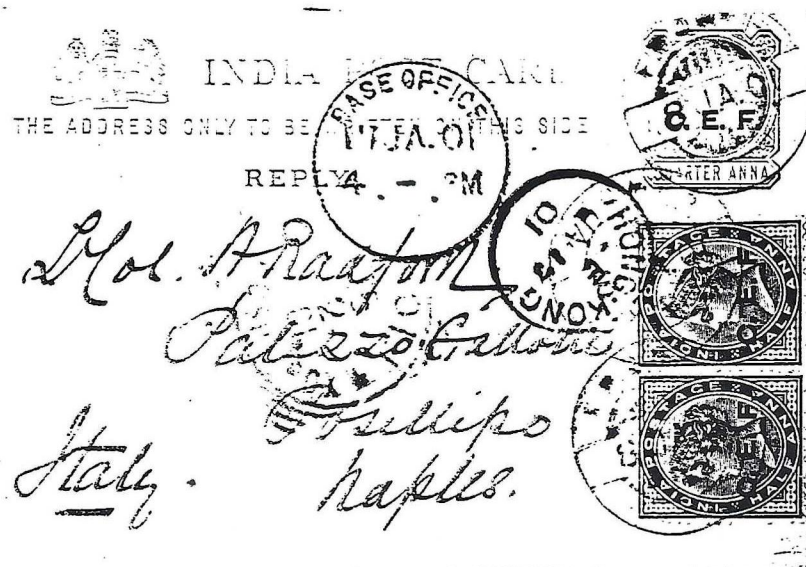
FPO 14 was attached to the 3rd Infantry Brigade. After brief service in Hong Kong and on the *SS Sumatra* in transit (no examples recorded), it opened at Shanhaikwan Beach on 5 October 1900. On 14 October it moved to Shanhaikwan Fort No. 4 where it continued to serve through 12 July 1901.

No registry handstamp is recorded for FPO 14. The usual two types of datestamp are recorded, and both are used here.

Registry fee was 2 annas. Stretch marks at edge of cover suggest that contents were heavy; $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas postage for letter weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ tolas (.4 to 1.2 oz.), and $\frac{1}{2}$ anna overpayment, seems probable.

British Field Post
4th Punjab Infantry

FPO 15 (Chinwangtao)
8 January 1901



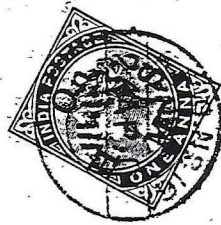
My dear Mr. T. M. Ching.
Many thanks 7. 1. 1901 -
for yours of 25. Dec. I had been
better acquainted of you. I have been
"frustrated" by the situation - I suppose you
know: very busy, very busy post
card - Rumor of Peace being concluded
but nothing known - I shall be fine
could I have been in England, I would have
been happy to see you - I am
Yours truly
M. J. Ching

Serving units of the 3rd Infantry Brigade, FPO 15 first opened at Shanhaikwan (4 - 14 October, no examples recorded) then at Chinwangtao. It operated from within the town from 15 October 1900 - 24 January 1901, and at the beach from 25 January - 5 March 1901. When Taku harbor at iced over on 16 December 1900, Chinwangtao became the steamer point for C.E.F. mails in and out of North China.

From Lt. Col. O.C. Radford, officer commanding the 4th Punjabis, which was part of the 3rd Brigade. Overpaid ¼ anna possibly because, as he notes in the text, the writer was "very busy."

British Field Post
34th Punjab Pioneer Infantry

FPO 16 (Chinwangtao)
24 April 1901



ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE ONLY.

To The Post-Master General
Punjab
Lahore

W. H. P. S.
Punjab

FPO 16 replaced FPO 15 in Chinwangtao village on 24 January 1901, when the latter FPO moved to the beach. It continued to operate there in support of 3rd Brigade units until 7 July 1901.

Note scarce OHMS-overprint usage.

British Field Post

Madras Sappers and Miners

FPO 17 (Weihaiwei)

22 March 1901

6 May 1901

British FPOs processed mail to Chinese addresses as well as to FPO addresses in China at Indian rates for domestic mail. Cover transferred to the Imperial Post Office at Weihaiwei for onward transmission.



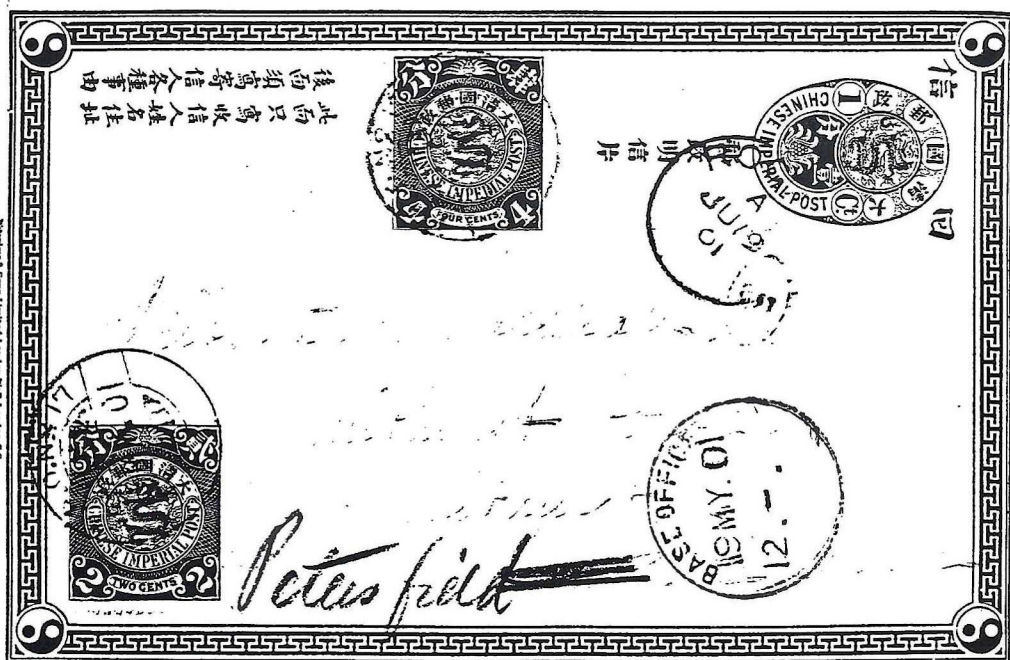
Local

To the Editor

Wei Hai Wei Gazette

of Messrs. Laver & Clerk.

Lin Hing Leo



Exceptional, and completely improper use of Chinese stamps to pay postage via the British FPO system. From Capt. H.J. Marshall, Madras Sappers and Miners, part of the 4th Infantry Brigade.

FPO 17 operated only at Matau, in the leased territory of Weihaiwei, from 11 October 1900 through 16 July 1901. It left China on 17 July 1901.

British Field Post

FPO 18 (Tientsin - Taku Gate)
3 December 1900

To

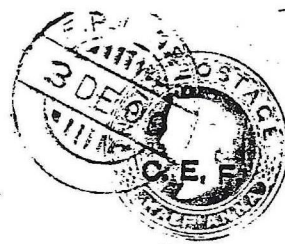
Lieut V. H. Roberts

I. M. S.

No 3 Native General Hospital

Lieutenant

Wei-hai-Wei



FPO 18 accompanied the 4th Infantry Brigade from India, and opened in Tientsin, attached to the HQ of the 4th Brigade, on 17 October 1900. It operated there until at least 18 August 1901.

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