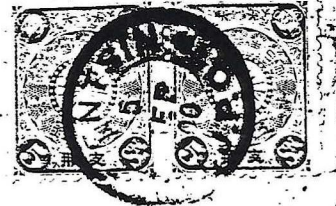


American Field Post
3rd Artillery
3rd Artillery

Forerunner
I.J.P.O. Tientsin, 5 September 1900
I.J.P.O. Tientsin, 15 September 1900



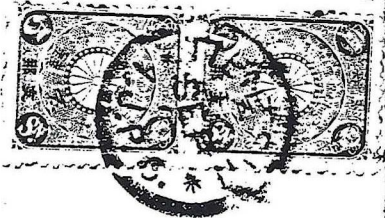
ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS,
3 WEST 29TH STREET, N. Y. CITY.
If not called for in Five Days,
return to



Miss Guter Hayskendale

*Miss E. E. Gibbs
Batty D. O'Leary
Miss Jane
China*

U.S.A.



5 (a)

Miss Guter Hayskendale

527. Natural Ave.

San Diego

San Diego Cal

U.S.A. California

The Y.M.C.A. got a nearly 2-week jump on the U.S. post office in China. Writer, who had earlier complained at a lack of paper, says he can write again since the YMCA gave him a sheet. Letter dated 14 September reports first mail delivery -- though by what means is not stated -- 4 days in advance of the establishment of the Military Postal Station in Tientsin.

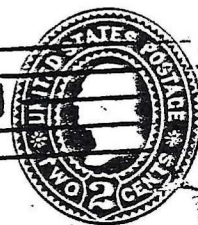
Correspondence documents the early departure of significant elements of the U.S. contingent, which accounts for the scarcity of material from US forces far beyond what would be expected based on the number of troops sent to China. Letter dated 3 September notes that "the fighting is most over with. The Ninth Infantry is coming back to the States. Part of them left today.." (The writer's unit was withdrawn (on a transport carrying "1,000 men or over") in mid-November 1900.)

Peking, China.
August 19, 1900.

My Dear Brother:

God has
brought me thro' three
sharp battles unharmed

SAN FRANCISCO,
CAL
SEP 22 6-AM '00



Rev. C. R. Daggett,
Green Corner,
Maine.

U.S. Army units of the China Relief Expedition first arrived at Taku on 6 July, 1900. Until the U.S. Military Postal Station was opened in Tientsin on 18 September, American soldiers' letters were sent via existing Allied post offices, or were sent out of the mails to San Francisco, with such postage as the writer could muster or unfranked if he had none.

Unfranked mail was routinely accepted in San Francisco without penalty under provisions for servicemen's letters enacted during the Spanish-American War. Nearly all of the Army troops came from the Philippines, some with U.S.-Philippines postage which was accepted in San Francisco at face value.

American Field Post
3rd Artillery
6th Cavalry

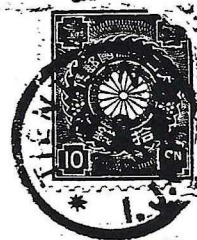
Forerunners
I.J.P.O. Tientsin, 27 August 1900
Nagasaki Paquebot, __ September 1900



ARMY AND NAVY DEPARTMENT
OF THE
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS,
3 WEST 23RD STREET, N. Y. CITY.
If not called for in Five Days,
return to

Sgt. J. C. Haffner Bally
3rd U.S. Artillery Tientsin
China.

Capt. George E. Briggs
Post Commissary Presidio
San Francisco Cal.



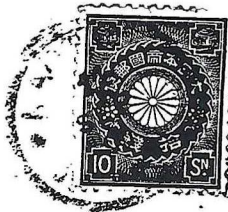
Yang Tsun, China.
SOLDIER'S LETTER,

A. Rhodes.

1st Lieutenant, 6th Cavalry

PAQUEBOT

PAQUEBOT



Captain A. R. Piper,

Sing-Sing,

New York,

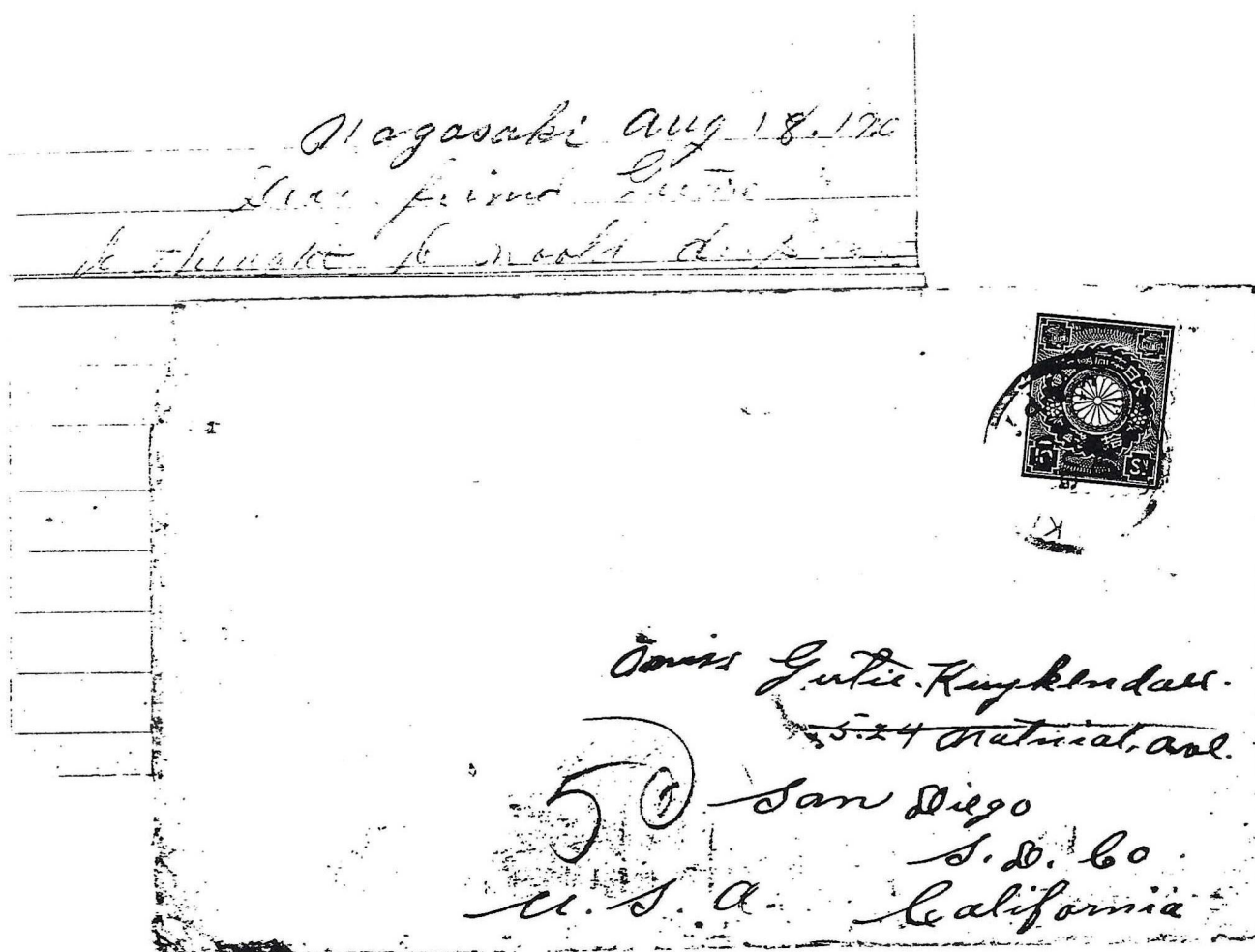
U. S. America.

Mail sent via the Japanese post office required full international postage. The Japanese post office which operated in Tientsin from well before until well after the Boxer Uprising appears to have been the office of choice for Allied troops.

The Japanese opened the first Allied post office in Yangtsun on 10 September 1900, after dispatch of the bottom cover. As the rear-area supply center for the China Relief Expedition was in Nagasaki it is likely that this cover was hand-carried aboard a ship sailing for Japan, and posted on board.

American Field Post
3rd Artillery

Troops in Transit
18 August 1900

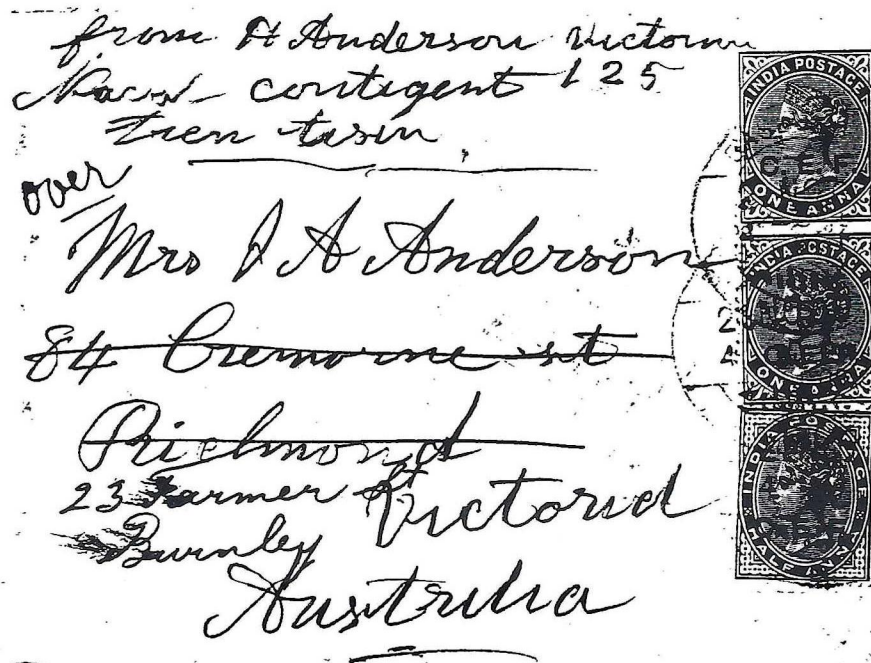


Writer reports this is the first stop for this unit after leaving San Francisco and that the letter he posted on the ship earlier in the day would be kept on board until the ship returned to San Francisco. Also, "when we get out in the field it will be impossible to get stamps and I will have to have an officer sign the letter and you will have to pay 2 cents."

Victorian
Naval Contingent

Base Office B (Tientsin)
21 November 1900

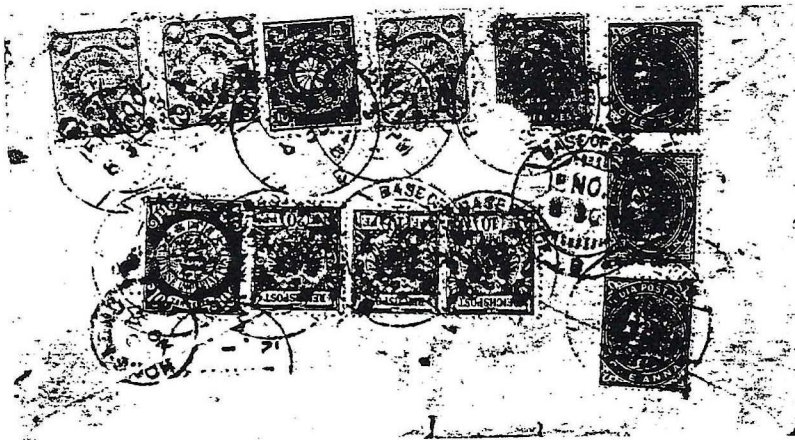
Analysis of covers from the Australian contingents suggests that the regular Indian international letter rate, $2\frac{1}{2}$ annas (or its equivalent), was the proper fee for single-weight unofficial letters to Australia.



Postage rates for mail from troops in the Australian contingents are not defined in the relevant literature (including Lee [draft], Lowe, Proud and Virk). The only observed exceptions to the $2\frac{1}{2}$ as. letter rate are a single 2 as. franking (which fits no known rate), intentionally-overpaid frankings, and covers to military addresses in Australia or struck with a unit handstamp of the NSW Naval Contingent.

Victorian
Naval Contingent

Base Office B (Tientsin)
15 November 1900



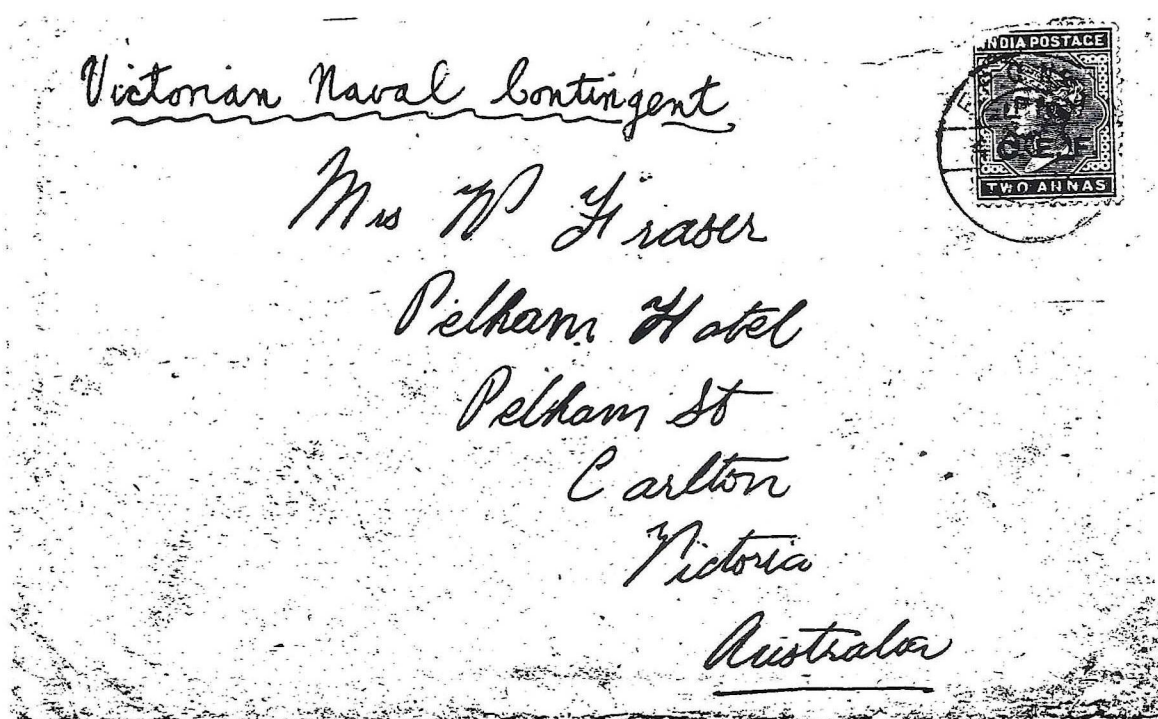
Philatelic souvenirs (not necessarily philatelic covers) were popular with troops of the various allied contingents. Of the 8 covers from the Victorian Naval Contingent, 4 bear non-Indian postage. In this case, the Indian postage (3 annas) more than paid the international letter rate.

Base Post Office B was established in Tientsin on 1 November 1900 and continued in operation there through 1 May 1901, when it moved to Tongku. Base Post Office B used 3 types of postmarks while the Victorian Naval Contingent was in Tientsin (including 1 used only on incoming mail).

Victorian
Naval Contingent

FPO 4 (Tientsin)
4 October 1900

Only 8 covers from the Victorian Naval Contingent are recorded.
Of these, 6 are from the Fraser correspondence.



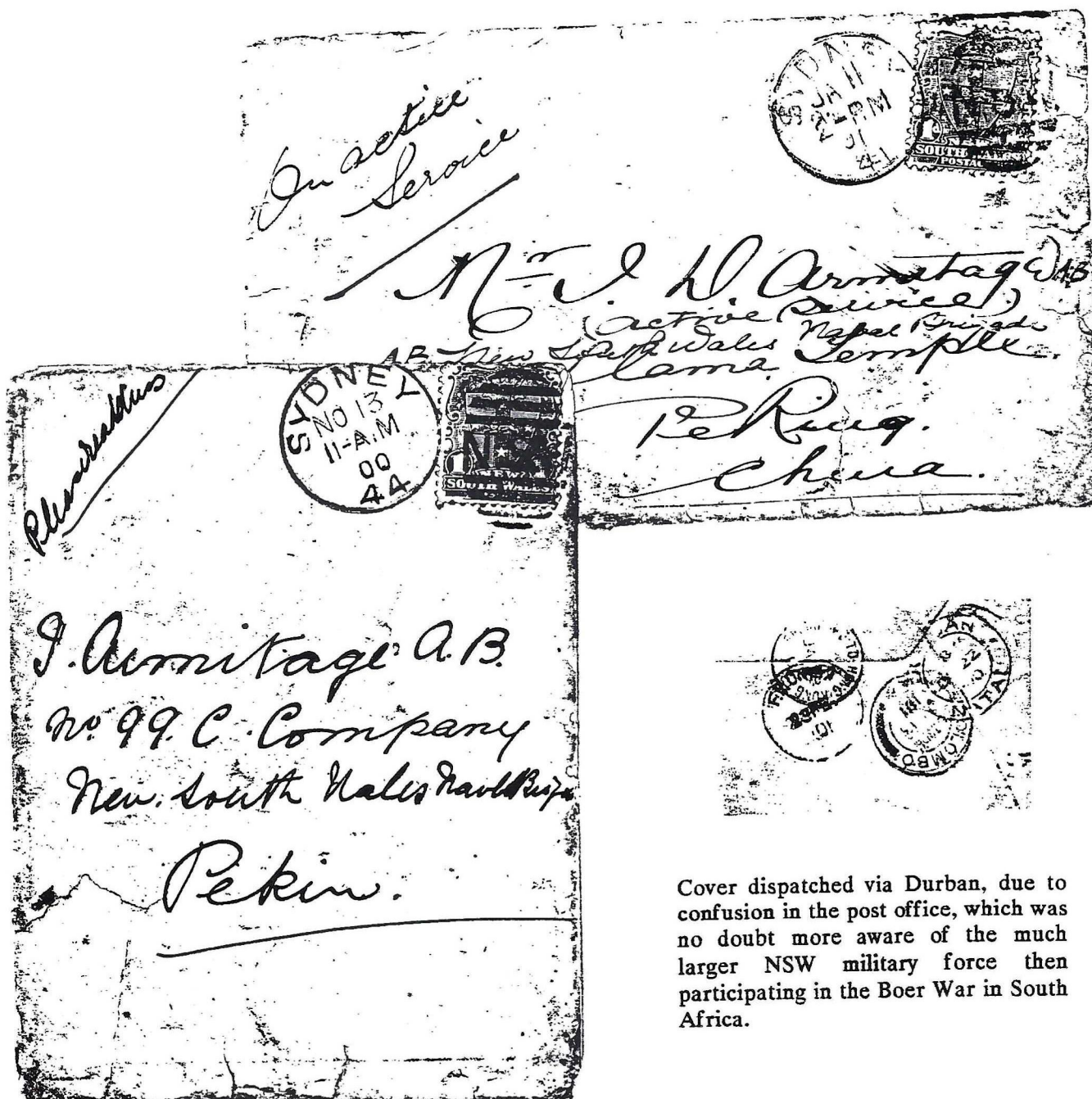
The Victorian Naval Contingent, 194 officers and men, arrived at Tientsin ca. 17 September 1900, and was stationed there until it left China on 29 March 1901. The Contingent joined a force which moved against the forts at Peitang from about 18 September to 22 September, and between 12 October and 7 November some of the Victorians were included in the large column which marched to Paotingfu.

The Australian contingents, like other British Imperial forces, were served by Indian Field and Base Post Offices. Indian FPOs 1 and 4 operated in Tientsin when this cover was mailed. While the number in the postmark here does not show, it can be identified to FPO 4 by the type used for "N^o", which differs from that in the FPO 1 postmark.

New South Wales
Naval Contingent

Incoming Mail
13 November 1900
11 January 1901

Only 1 incoming cover and 2 fronts are recorded, all to the same man.



Cover dispatched via Durban, due to confusion in the post office, which was no doubt more aware of the much larger NSW military force then participating in the Boer War in South Africa.

The Llama Temple garrison included 64 men from the NSW Naval Contingent.

New South Wales
Naval Contingent

FPO 7 (Peking - Tartar City)
23 February 1901



While the New South Wales Contingent was in Peking, mail travelled from Peking to Tientsin by mule and railway trains until 22 December, when an all-rail service was instituted. It then travelled to Taku by rail, where it was put on ships (most of which were administered by the Imperial Chinese Post Office) bound for Shanghai, and there it was transferred to other ships bound for Hong Kong.

This cover took 1 day to go from Peking to Tientsin, 13 days from Tientsin to Hong Kong, and 36 days from Hong Kong to Leichhardt. The range of transit times on NSW Contingent mail is: Peking to Tientsin, 0 to 3 days; Tientsin to Hong Kong, 11 to 15 days, and Hong Kong to Sydney 21 to 37 days.

New South Wales
Naval Contingent

FPO 7 (Peking - Tartar City)
19 February 1901

Correctly paid at 1 anna, with incorrect assessment of postage due (at double the deficiency), this is the only recorded cover from either Australian contingent to have been charged postage due.



Under NSW postal regulations, this cover was correctly paid at the reduced rate, as the addressee was a NSW Navy officer. Acceptance of this concessionary rate in October 1900 by FPO 4 is shown above. Lack of the Base Office (Hong Kong) and Hong Kong backstamps, plus the Ceylon routing, indicate that the cover was mis-routed as Indian mail and consequently not handled by the Hong Kong civil post office. The supposed deficiency was first rated in Ceylon (15 cts), and was repeated in NSW.

New South Wales
Naval Contingent

FPO 7 (Peking - Tartar City)
10 February 1901

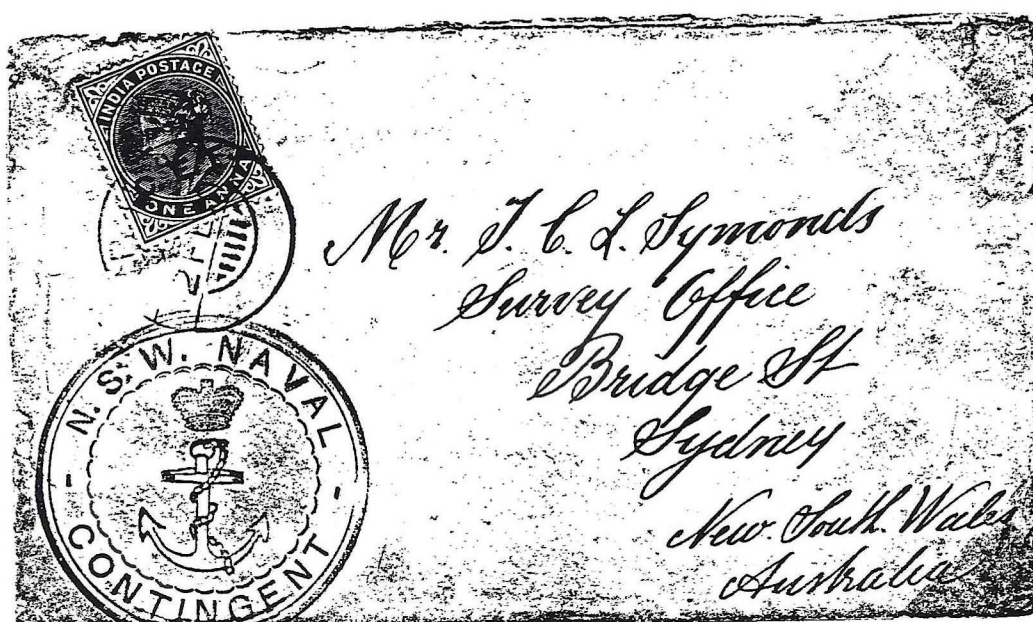
Use of the unit handstamp secured acceptance of a 1 anna reduced letter-rate franking, in a period when all other recorded covers to non-military addresses were charged at the 2½ as. rate.



There were 2 Connors in the NSW Naval Contingent -- an enlisted man and the second-in-command, Cmdr. E. R. Connor. Presence of the unit hand-stamp would suggest that this is from the officer. The address would suggest that the sender, whoever he was, was misusing the official mail reduced rate.

New South Wales
Naval Contingent

FPO 1 (Peking - Legation Gate)
2 February 1901

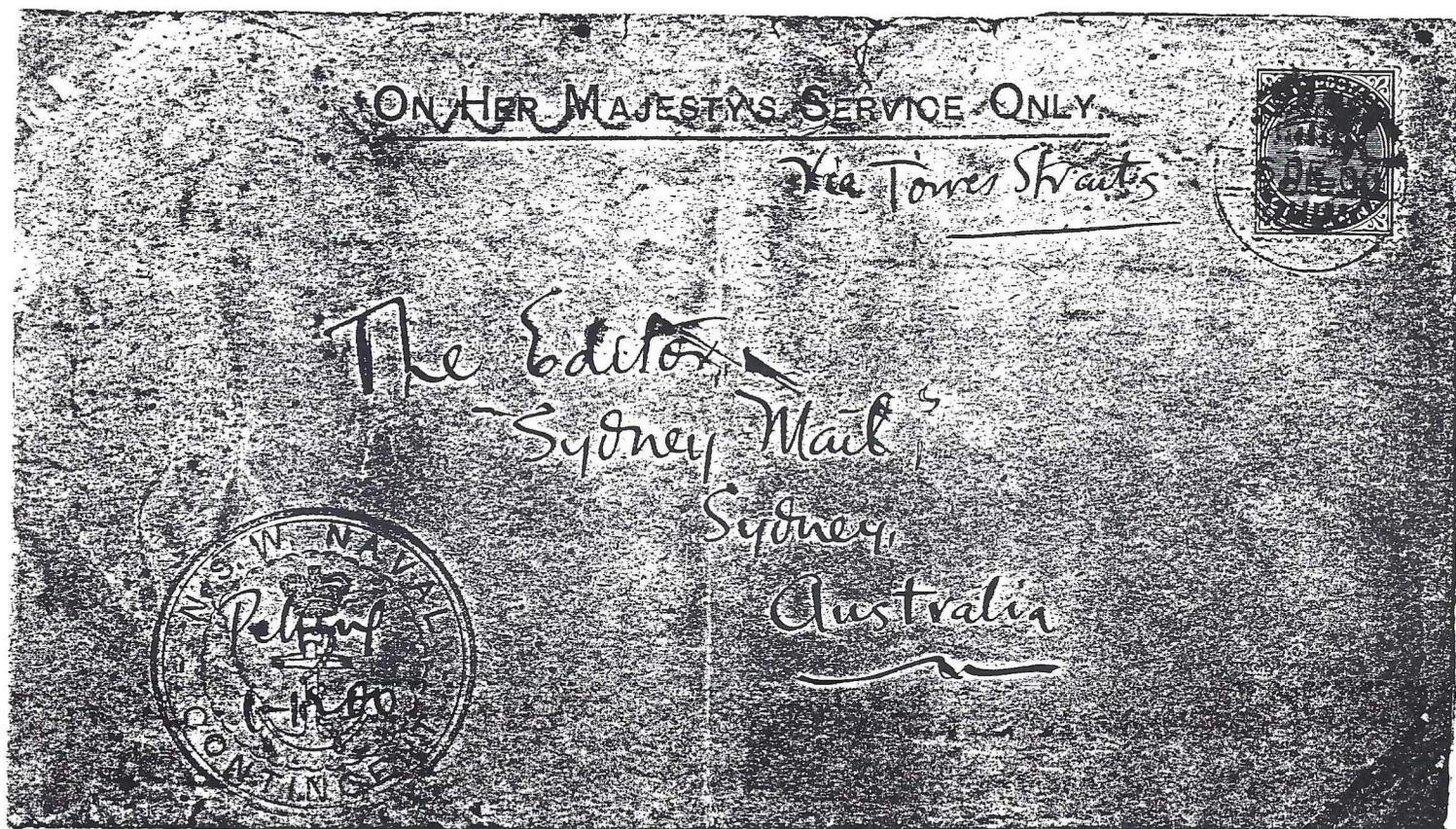


The postmark can definitely be identified as FPO 1 (rather than FPO 7) by spacing of the numeral relative to the top line of the date-line bridge. Significantly, this cover falls chronologically between the two examples of the handstamp seen on FPO 7 covers, suggesting either that the handstamp was taken from garrison to garrison within Peking, or that more than 1 such handstamp was made.

As with the other covers bearing a unit handstamp and 1 anna franking, this cover bears no return address. The address suggests some relationship to Cpl. T.C. Symonds, NSW Naval Contingent.

New South Wales
Naval Contingent

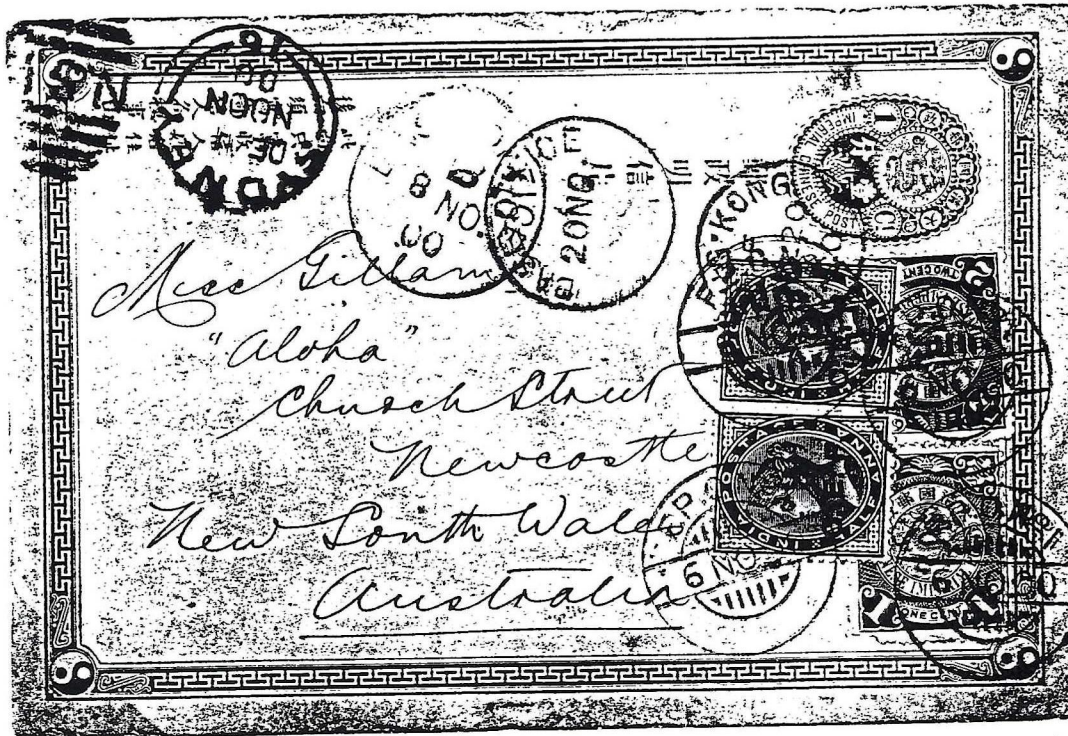
FPO 7 (Peking - Tartar City)
6 December 1900



FPO 7 opened 23 October 1900 and is recorded in operation through 24 June 1901. While generally the scarcest of the 3 FPOs (1, 4 and 7) used by members of the Australian contingents, on Australian contingent mails it is no scarcer than the others.

New South Wales
Naval Contingent

FPO 1 (Peking - Legation Gate)
6 November, 1900



Though cancelled by the Indian FPO, the Chinese postage did not pay for the transmission of this card either through the Indian FPO system within China or in the international mails. The charge was fully paid by the pair of $\frac{1}{2}$ anna CEF stamps.

Non-Indian mail posted in the various Indian FPOs in Peking and Tientsin was routed through Base Post Office B to the main Base Post Office in Hong Kong, where it was transferred to the Hong Kong civil post office for further transmission.

FPO 1 (Peking - Legation Gate)
6 November, 1900

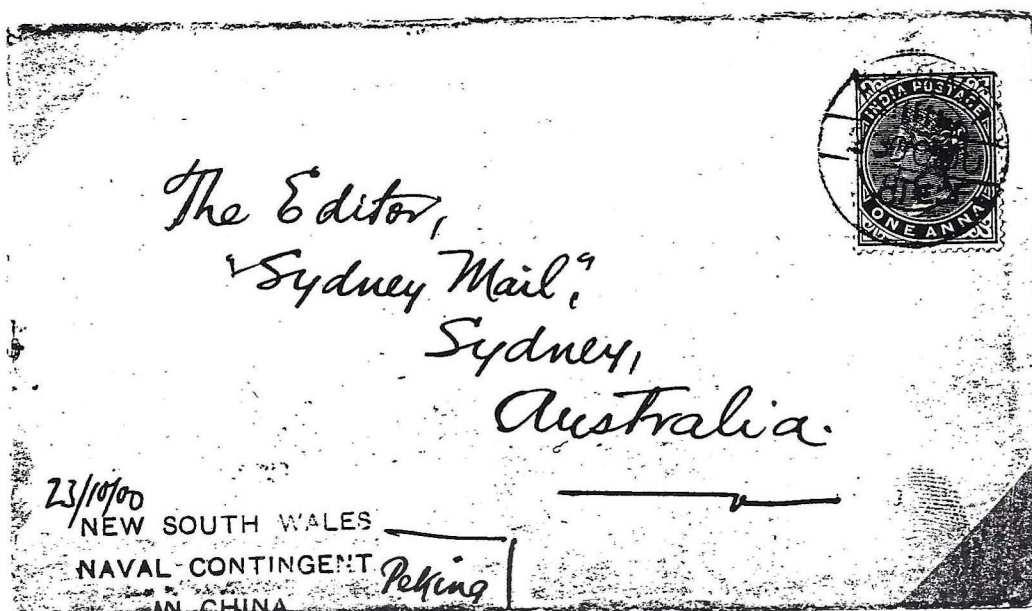
[illegible]

As on the card shown on the previous page, transit marks here include the earliest date recorded (Proud) for use of the single-ring Base Office B (Tientsin) datestamp. The regular Indian international postcard rate of 1 anna is paid here, the soldier's concessionary rate being ¼ anna.

New South Wales
Naval Contingent

FPO 1 (Peking - Legation Gate)
23 October 1900

The only recorded example of the 3-line unit handstamp.



FPO 1 operated in Peking from 1 September 1900 through 23 November 1923.

Sender unknown. While correspondents for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and the *Sydney Telegraph* are known to have accompanied the NSW Contingent, none is listed for the *Sydney Mail*. The presence of the unit handstamp suggests mail from an official source and would account for the reduced rate of 1 anna.