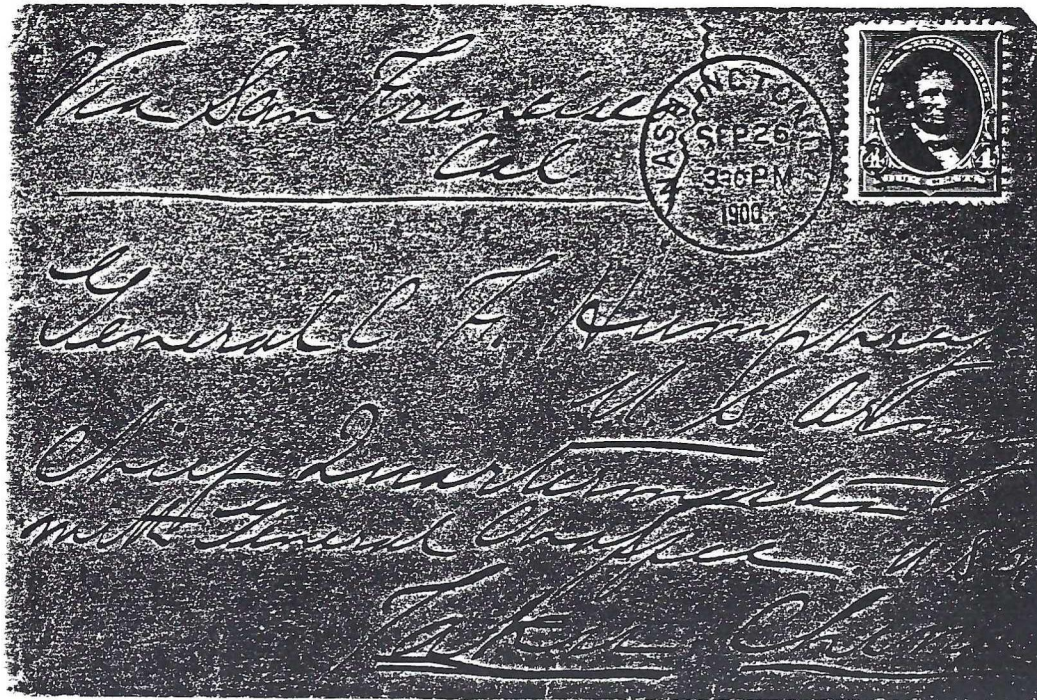


American Field Post

Incoming Mail
7 November 1900
18 February 1901



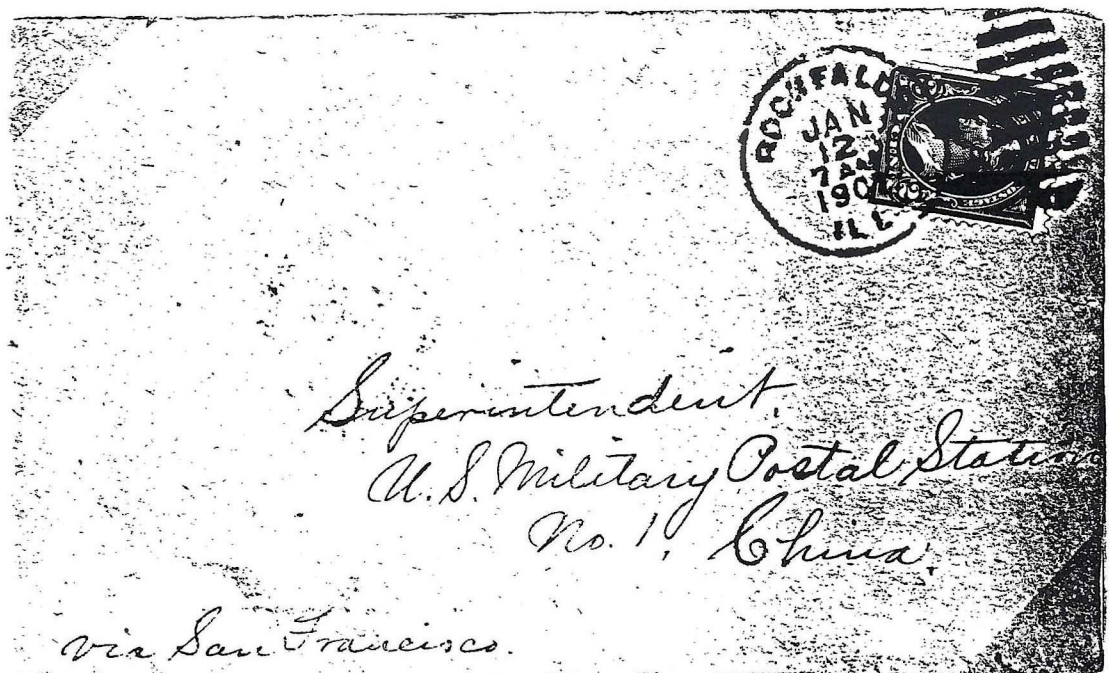
Backstamped
in Tientsin.



Backstamped
in Tientsin,



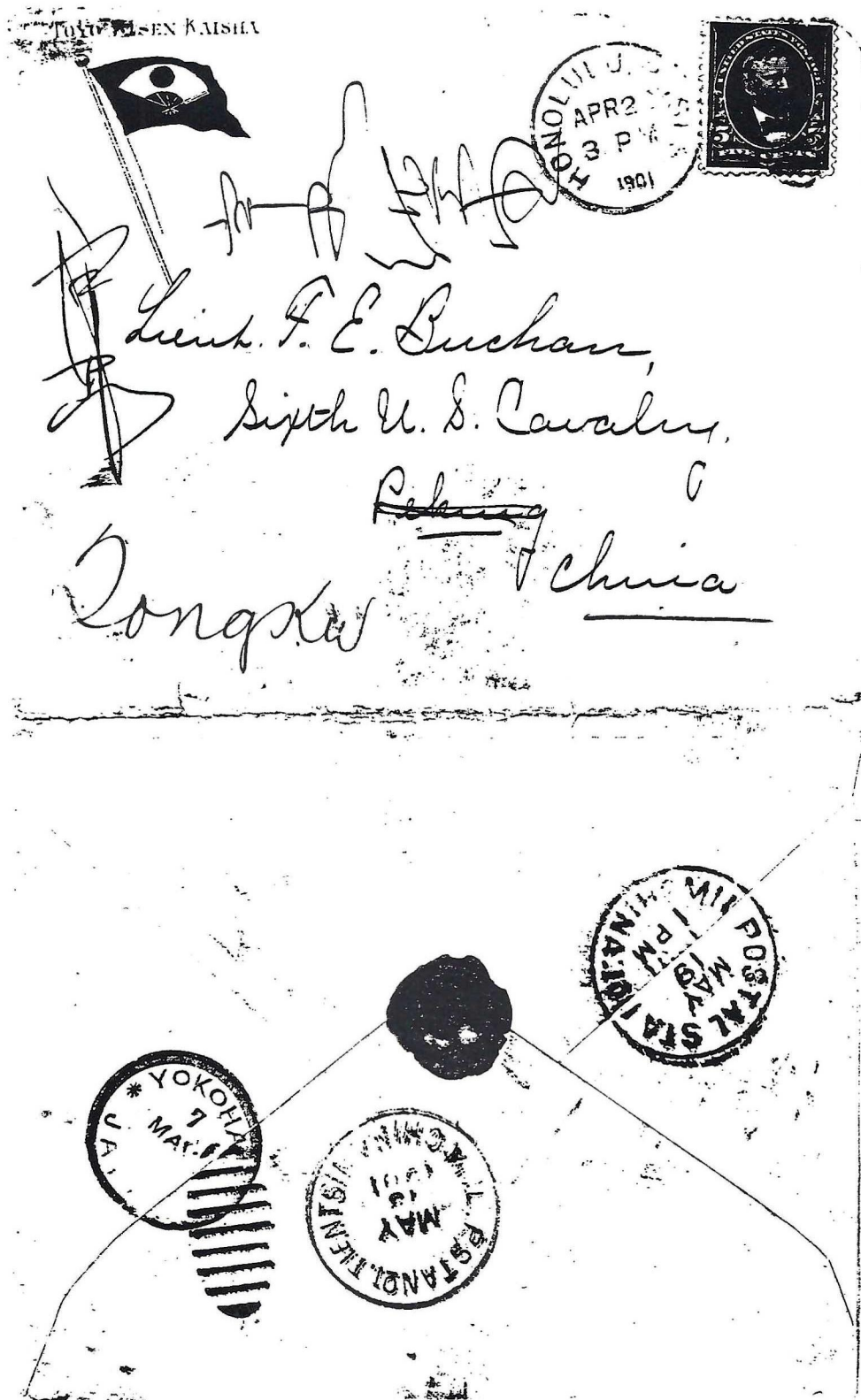
and Peking.



As for the other contingents, incoming mail to US forces during the Boxer Uprising is considerably scarcer than outgoing mail. Incoming mail was consistently backstamped on arrival in Tientsin.

American Field Post

Incoming Mail
18 May 1901

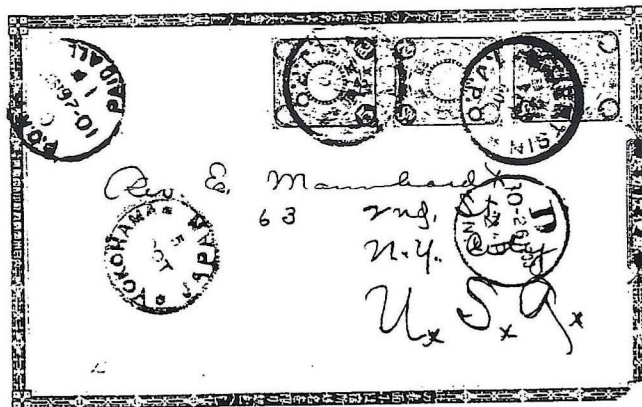


Mail to soldiers from the U.S. and its possessions, as well as from soldiers to these locations, was entitled to domestic rates (2¢ per ½-ounce for letters, 1¢ for postcards). The corner card plus payment of the international letter rate suggest that this cover originated from on board a Japanese ship. Back-stamped twice in Tientsin, on arrival (duplex postmark) and in transit from Peking to Tongku.

American Field Post
U.S. General Hospital, Tientsin

Opening of MPS N^o 1, Tientsin
19 September 1900

U.S. Gen. Hosp. - Tientsin - Sep 19-1900 -
Have been here over a month. Paymaster came
this week - now we can buy stamps again.
I carried 20 of ten days. Have a double work also.
Pathological & lab work. Just what I wanted.
Have been very well satisfied so far. 6 Con had a
fight next day after we arrived. We got 2 wounded
boxers here. One seemed and liked it here so well
he had to be kicked out. No fighting now. Some
expedition & marches. Cosmopolitan features
is immense. Nearly a dozen flags. All kinds
mail here up to Manila. I don't know what
what I would rather stay here - though
winter are very cold. Stems Father escaped
from Kalgan to Siberia - many Chinese people
killed. I have had no mail since leaving S.F.
except 2 notes from fellow surgeons here in China.
No wonder I want mail. Regards to everyone.
U.S. Post Office opened here yesterday as per
Post Sign. U.S.A. Albert Moore

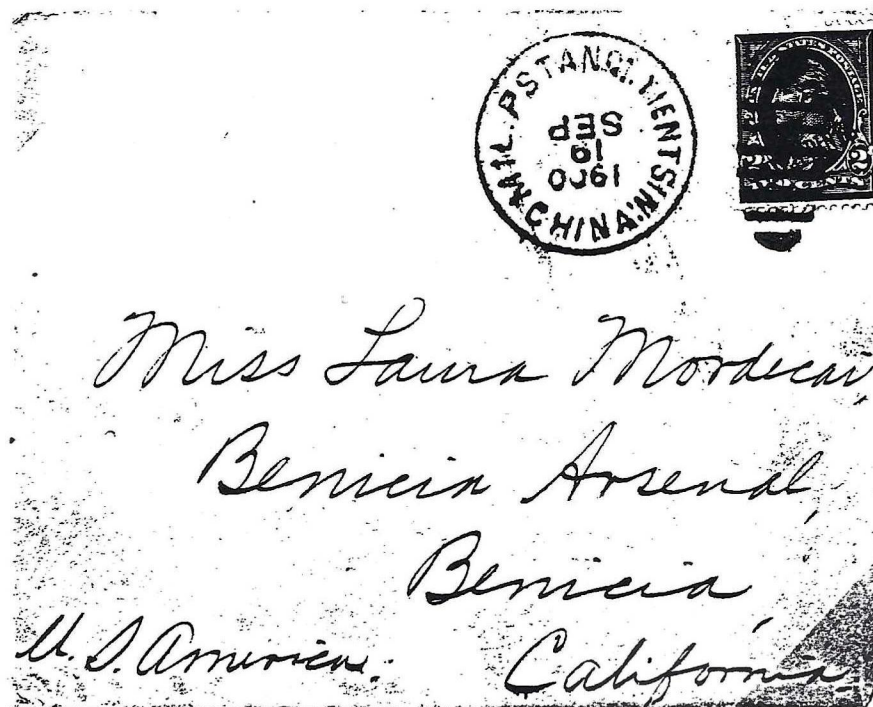


Though over-franked and mailed through the Japanese post office for philatelic purposes, the card confirms opening of the US Military Postal Station in Tientsin on 18 September 1900, as reported in the official record, and notes that no mail has come from San Francisco since the writer arrived in Tientsin over a month earlier.

American Field Post
9th Infantry

MPS N^o 1, Tientsin
19 September 1900

Earliest recorded example of mail from the Military Postal Station, China



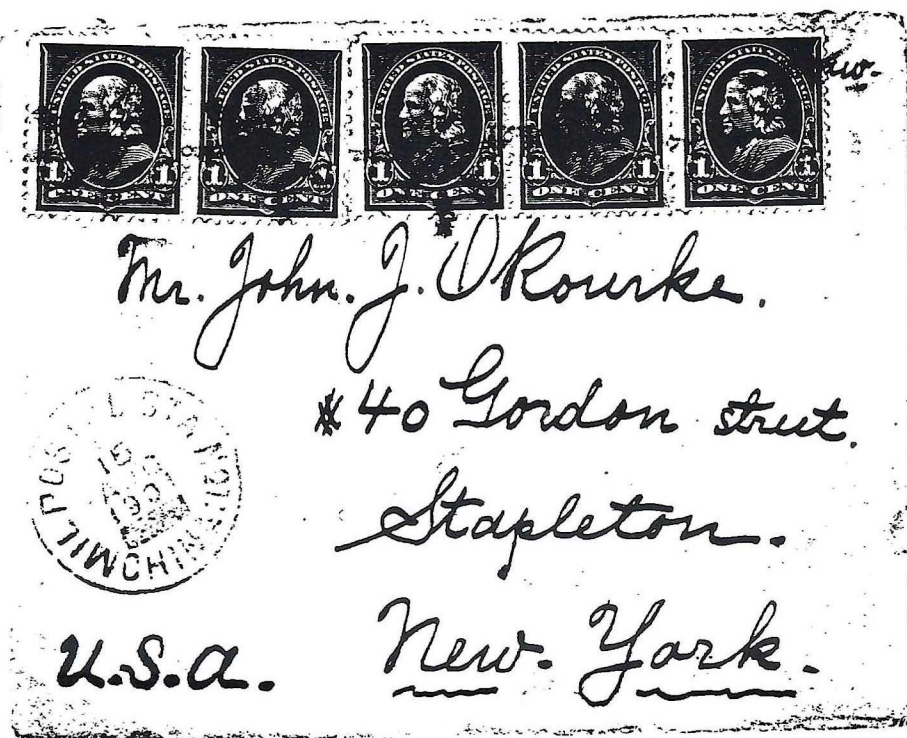
The first US Military Postal Station in China was established in Tientsin on 18 September 1900. It continued to operate at least through 15 August 1901, and was formally closed on 31 August 1901. "Philippines" stamps and stationery, brought by troops transferred from those islands, were accepted at face value.

Q9

American Field Post

MPS N^o 1, Tientsin
15 August 1901

Latest recorded US Military Postal Station mail from the Boxer Uprising



Tientsin transit postmark. Stamps cancelled with killer not seen on any other piece of US MPS mail from the Boxer Uprising. Franking suggests civilian sender, who is otherwise unidentified.

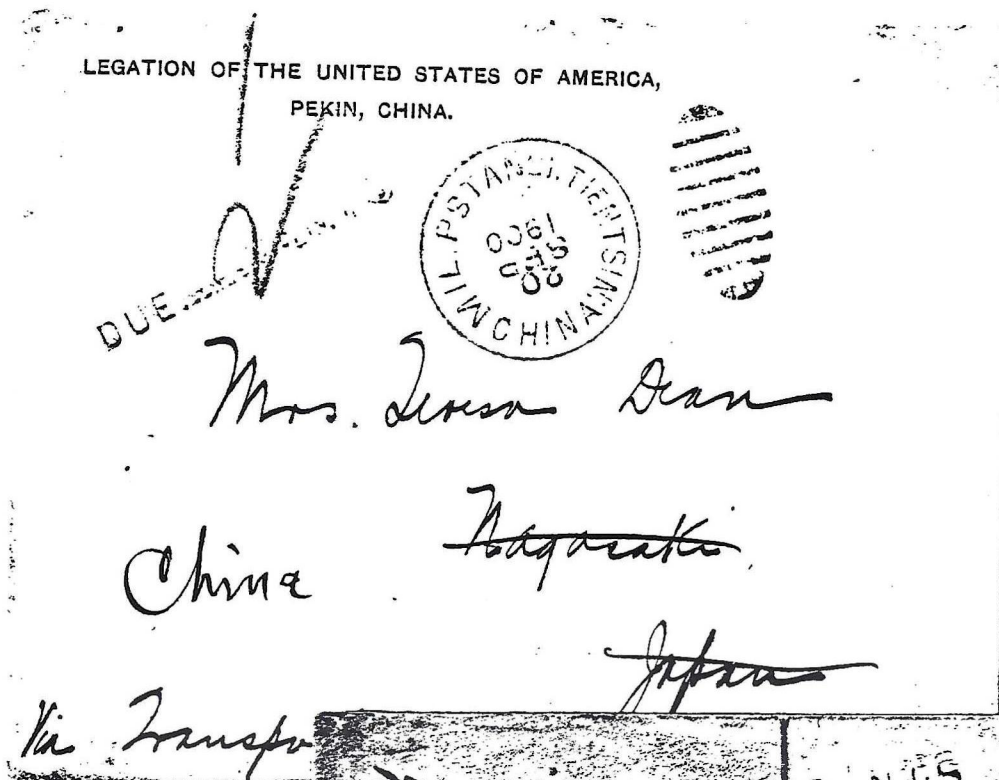
Except for one company of the 9th Infantry, all troops from the China Relief Expedition were withdrawn to the Philippines by May 1901. The annual report of the Postmaster General states that the US Military Postal Stations in China "conducted business until about the 15th of May [1901] and were formally discontinued August 31st [1901]." The last recorded mail from Peking is dated 20 May 1901, and from Taku 26 April 1901. Continued activity in the Tientsin station beyond the time reported by the Postmaster General is shown by the above cover, and by a registered cover dated 2 July 1901.

American Field Post

9th Infantry

MPS № 1, Tientsin
20 September 1900
20 September 1900

Only recorded examples of the "DUE ____ CENTS" handstamp



Cover was re-processed through Tientsin on 4 October (backstamp). Only at that point would the 2c due have made sense, as the proper rate for delivery to a civilian in Japan was 5c.

Fully paid at UPU international letter rate, but stamps not recognized by US post office.



Due to destruction of the Peking-Tientsin railway by the Boxers and Chinese troops, transit time for these covers from Peking to Tientsin would have been 2 to 3 days, so dispatch of the above covers in Peking pre-dates the establishment of the US postal service at Tientsin.

American Field Post
4th Infantry
6th Cavalry

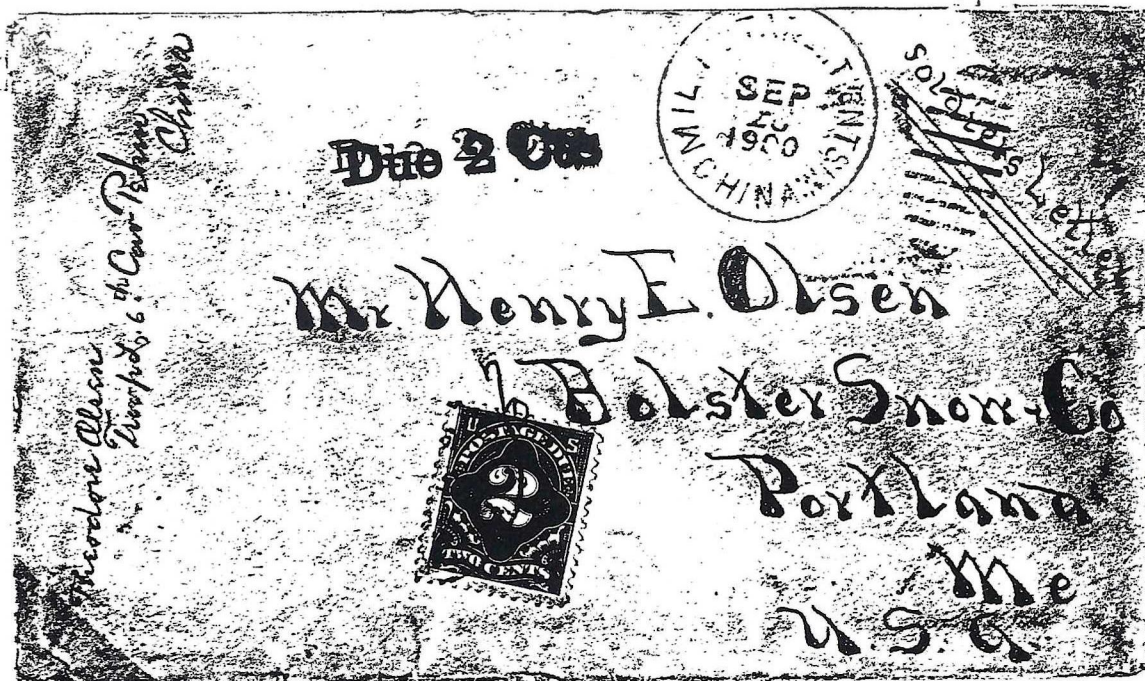
MPS No 1, Tientsin
2 September 1900
2 September 1900

Soldier's Mail
F. J. Palmer,
Capt. 9th Inf.



PHILIPPINES.

Mrs F. L. Palmer
1709 North Caroline St.,
Baltimore
Md.,
U.S.A.



In its early days, the Tientsin station did not require that soldier's mail be franked with U.S. postage so long as it bore the sender's name and unit.

Peking return address on bottom cover suggests that the Military Postal Station in Peking was not opened at the same time as the station in Tientsin.

American Field Post

MPS № 1, Tientsin
7 November 1900

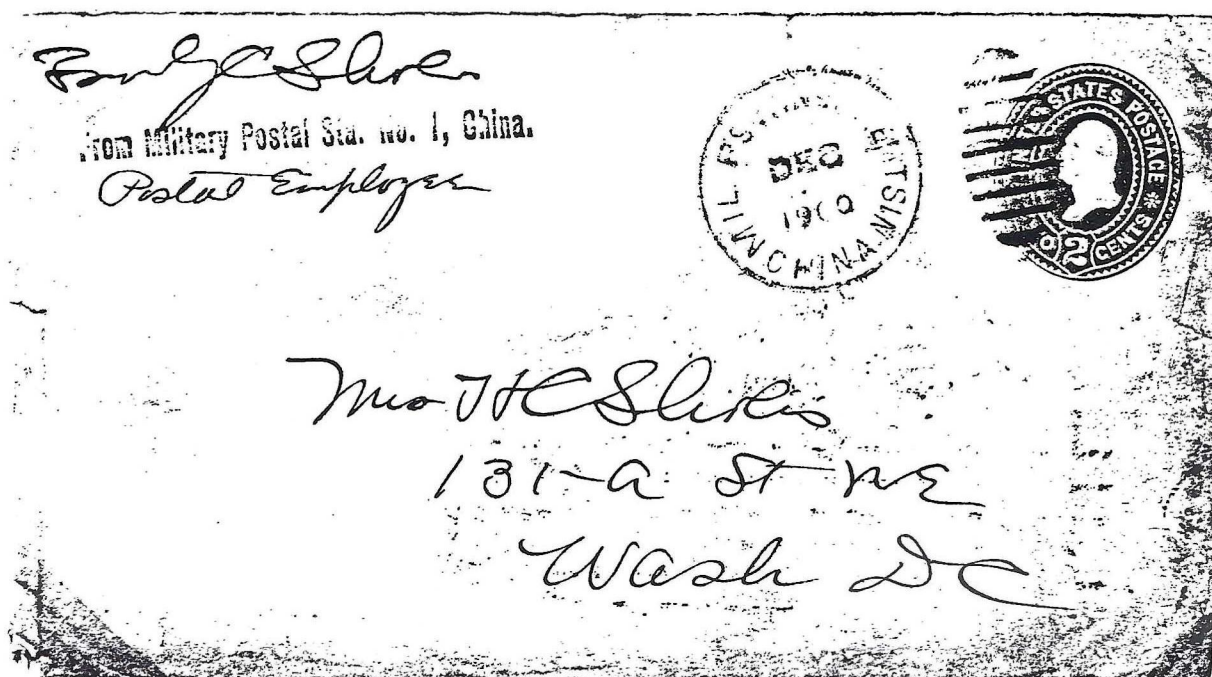
Civilians were allowed to use the US
Military Postal Stations in China.



However, letters not endorsed with a
military return address had to be paid
at the international rate of 5¢ rather
than at the domestic rate, even when
addressed to the United States.

American Field Post

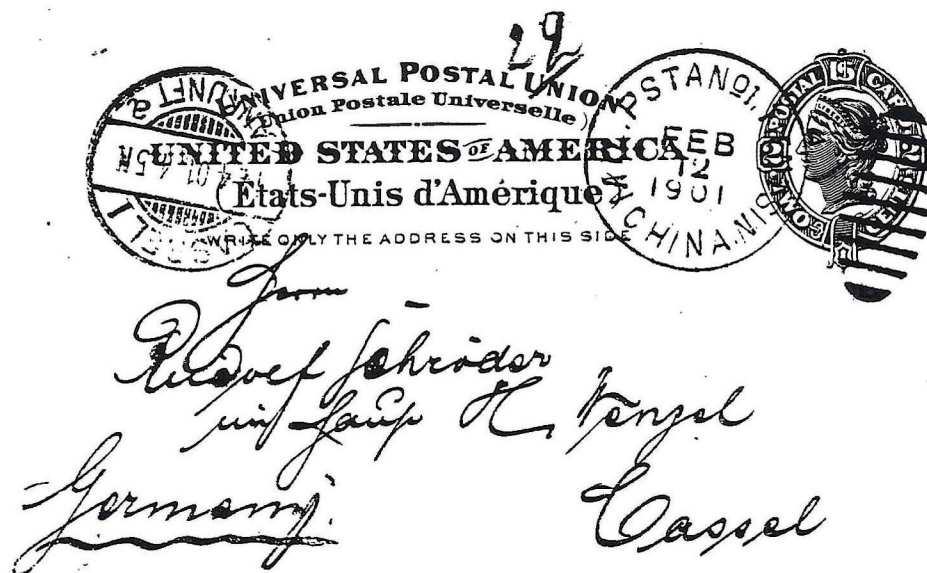
MPS No 1, Tientsin
December 1900



Military Postal Station No. 1, China was staffed by civilian employees of the post office department, not by soldiers. These civilians gave themselves the right to mail letters home at domestic rates.

American Field Post

MPS N^o 1, Tientsin
12 February 1901
8 May 1901



From W. C. Horton,
U. S. Mil. Service,
China.

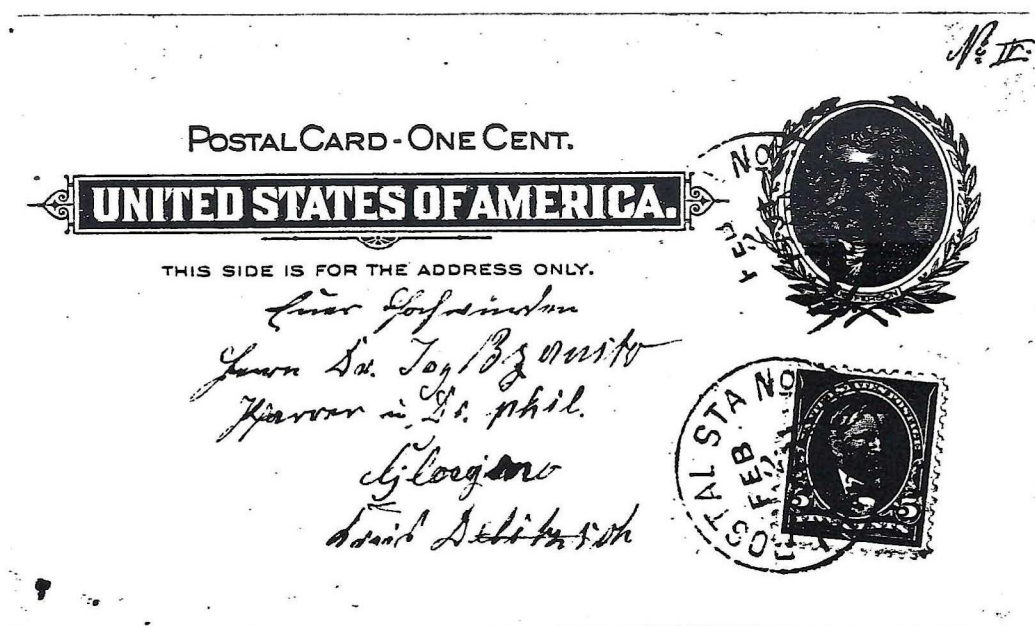
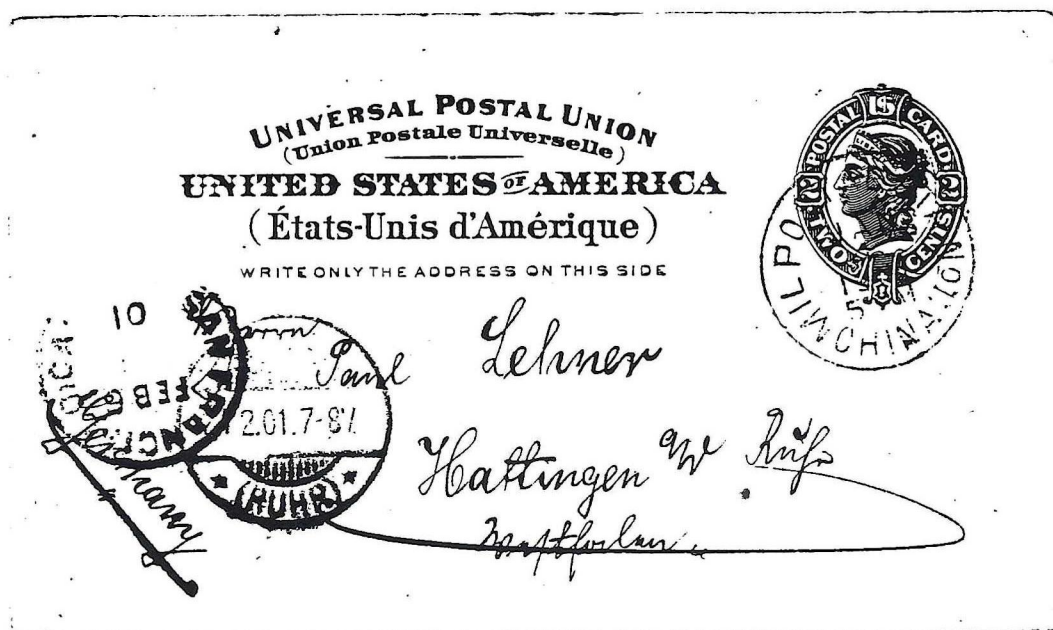
NEW YORK LIFE INS. COMPANY,
ATLANTA,
GEORGIA.

The duplex postmark is the only device recorded for regular first class letter mail sent from this office, recorded used 20 September 1900 - 18 May 1901. The dent above "A" of the lower example does not appear in the next earlier example of this postmark (6 May 1901, shown below).

Correctly rated at 2c for international postcards and domestic soldier's letter.

American Field Post

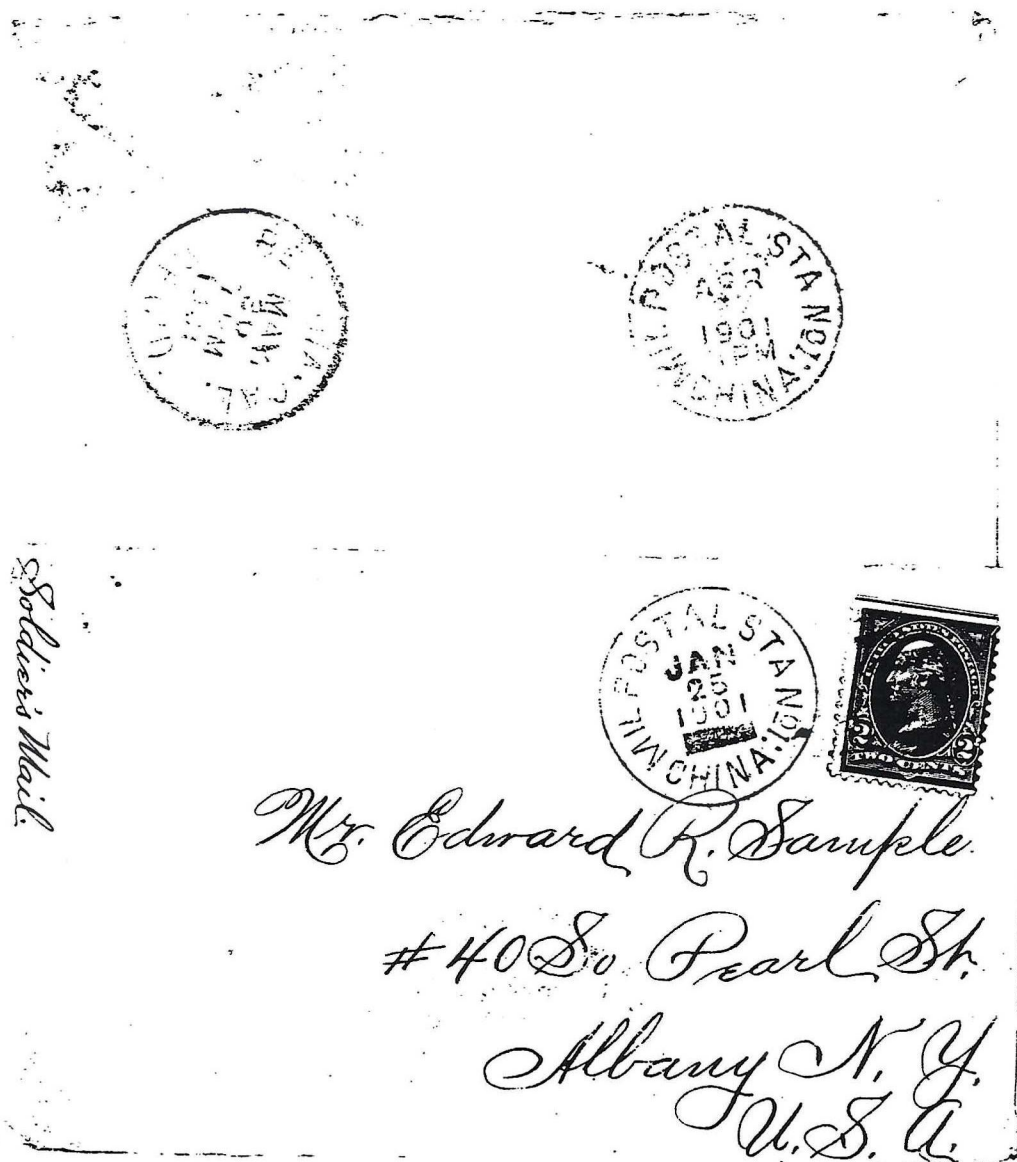
MPS N° 1, Tientsin
4 January 1901
2 February 1901



Only observed examples of the Tientsin circular date stamp without killer used as cancel. Other examples may be recorded but their existence cannot be determined based on existing literature due to the failure to distinguish this device from the Peking duplex cancel with similar dial. Bottom card is over-franked by 4c.

American Field Post

MPS No 1, Tientsin
27 April 1901



Tientsin
transit
datestamp

Peking
duplex
cancel

Circular date stamp without killer, used as transit marking on regular mail. The dial is very similar to that of the Peking duplex shown on the bottom cover (Baker type C1). The Tientsin postmark can be distinguished from part strikes of the Peking duplex as follows: Tientsin postmark has a smaller dial (28¼ vs. 29mm); the "I" in CHINA points to the left side of the "A" (rather than to the "L") of "POSTAL"; the numeral "1" has more pronounced serifs; and there is a time (vs. a bar) below the year.

Failure of the existing literature to distinguish these two devices makes definition of the use periods tenuous. The earliest date observed by the exhibitor for the transit postmark is 4 October 1900. The latest is 15 August 1901.

American Field Post

MPS N^o 1, Tientsin
9 January 1901

Registered Mail

Only recorded example of Tientsin "R.....No....." handstamp

From W.C.Horton,
U.S.MilP.Sta.No1,
China.



16392

16392

R.....No. 64

New York Life Ins.Co.

4th Floor Austell Building,

Atlanta, Georgia.

Return Receipt Demanded.

The straight-line "CHINA" obliterator was the Tientsin station's answer to the Post Office policy that postage on registered mail not be cancelled with the circular datestamp. It is recorded used between 6 December 1900 and 12 February 1901.

The double-circle REGISTERED datestamp is recorded from 26 December 1900 - 2 July 1901. It is found on registered mail from Tientsin and as a backstamp on registered mail which transited Tientsin.

Registered mail from Tientsin in December 1900 bears the CHINA obliterator plus Tientsin duplex cancel either alone (5 December) or in conjunction with the double-circle REGISTERED datestamp (26 December).

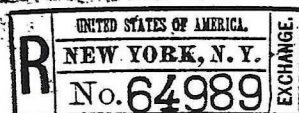
American Field Post

MPS N^o 1, Tientsin
6 May 1901

Registered Mail

From Geo. C. Sholes, Supt.
Military Post. Sta. No. 1,
China.

B-----946
No.



Gebrüder Senf,
Leipzig,
Germany.

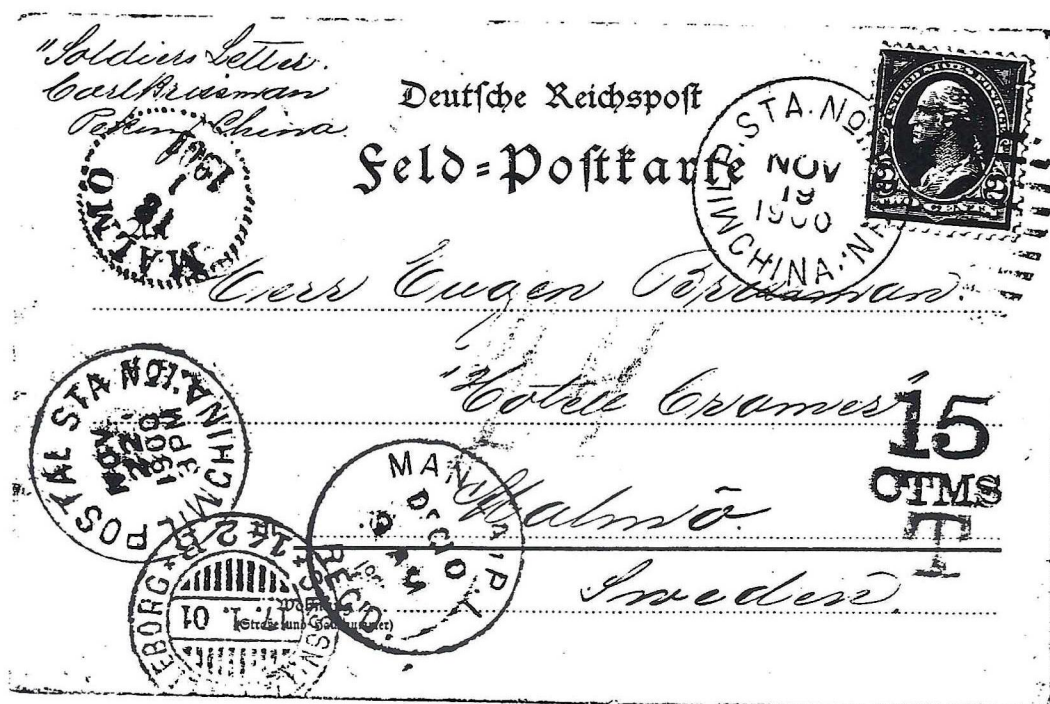


Of 17 recorded registered covers from the US China Relief Expedition, 4 are to foreign destinations.

Improper use of datestamp to cancel postage on registered mail, which usage suggests "CHINA" handstamp had been phased out by this time. It is likely that registry numbers 1 - 999 were used and recycled. Absence of such recycling would produce an average of only about 8 registered covers per day at Tientsin between 9 January and 6 May 1901, which is improbably low in view of the observed volume of registered covers at Peking.

American Field Post
Chief Surgeon's Office

MPS № 1, Peking
19 November 1900



The first Peking duplex, with "PEKIN" at right, is recorded from 30 September to 28 November 1900.

Non-philatelic use to Sweden is exceptional. Postage due charge, assessed in Manila, is based on sender having placed his return address on the face of the card in violation of UPU regulations, resulting in it being rated as letter mail.

American Field Post

9th Infantry Band

MPS № 1, Peking
18 November 1900
3 January 1901
27 April 1901



Mail from the Military Postal Station in Peking is recorded from 30 September 1900 through 20 May 1901. Three different types of duplex postmark were used on first class mail.

As with all the Allied field post offices, the Peking station had a relaxed attitude about canceling foreign stamps, so long as US postage was paid, and it served foreign and US civilians and servicemen.

76