

CAROLINE ISLANDS

JAPANESE OCCUPATION

Under an agreement with Great Britain, Japan was assigned the task of capturing the German Pacific colonies north of the Equator. This included the Carolines, Marianas and Marshalls (except for Nauru). At the sale time, the Australians and New Zealanders attacked those to the south, i.e. Nauru, New Guinea and Samoa. As a result, Japanese naval forces landed at Ponape, the capital, met no resistance and took possession on 7 October 1914.



Ponape
7 October 1914
11 December 1915



Picture postcard (of a waterfall on Ponape) with a German adhesive is considered to be a souvenir of the first day of the Japanese occupation. Cover below has a Japanese adhesive with typewritten overprint of "I.J.O. Ponape" which was reportedly authorized by the Japanese naval commander on the island. However, their use was discontinued at the request of the Department of Communications when their existence became known in Tokyo. The postmark reads "Ponape/Imperial Naval Post Office."

CAROLINE ISLANDS
Japanese Occupation

Ponape
14 July 1916



Occasionally, philatelically-produced items involving the typewritten "I.J.O. Ponape" overprints and new value in sen on stamps and postal cards of the German Carolines are encountered. These were tolerated by the local authorities but were never approved by the Communications Ministry. Thus, they should be viewed essentially as souvenirs of the occupation.

CAROLINE ISLANDS
Japanese Occupation

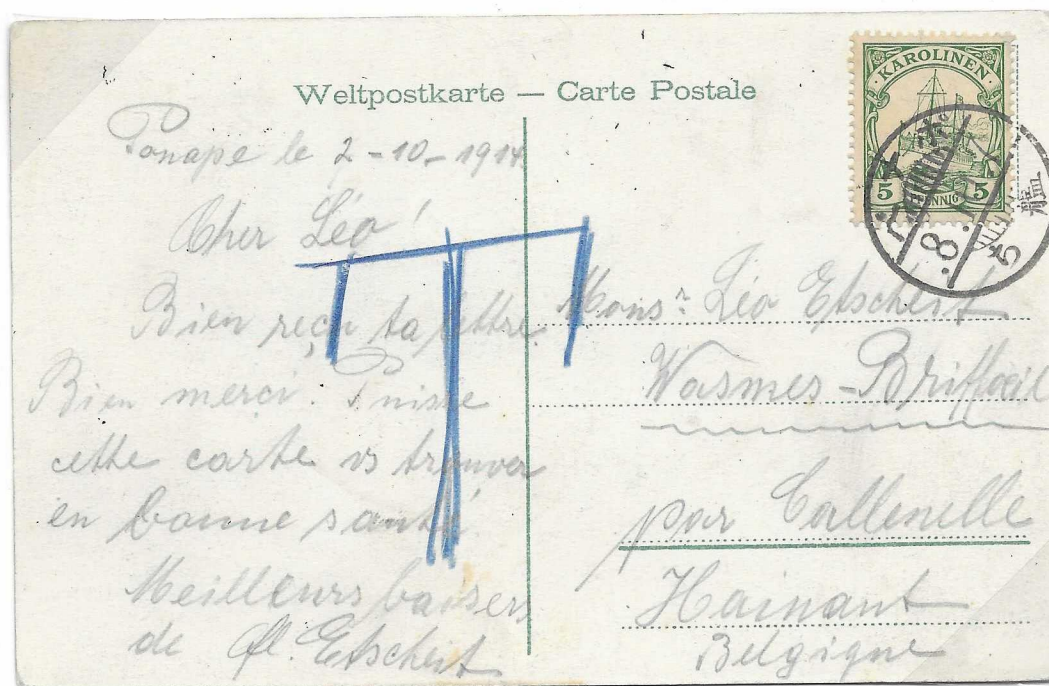
Ponape
16 October 1916
21 July 1917



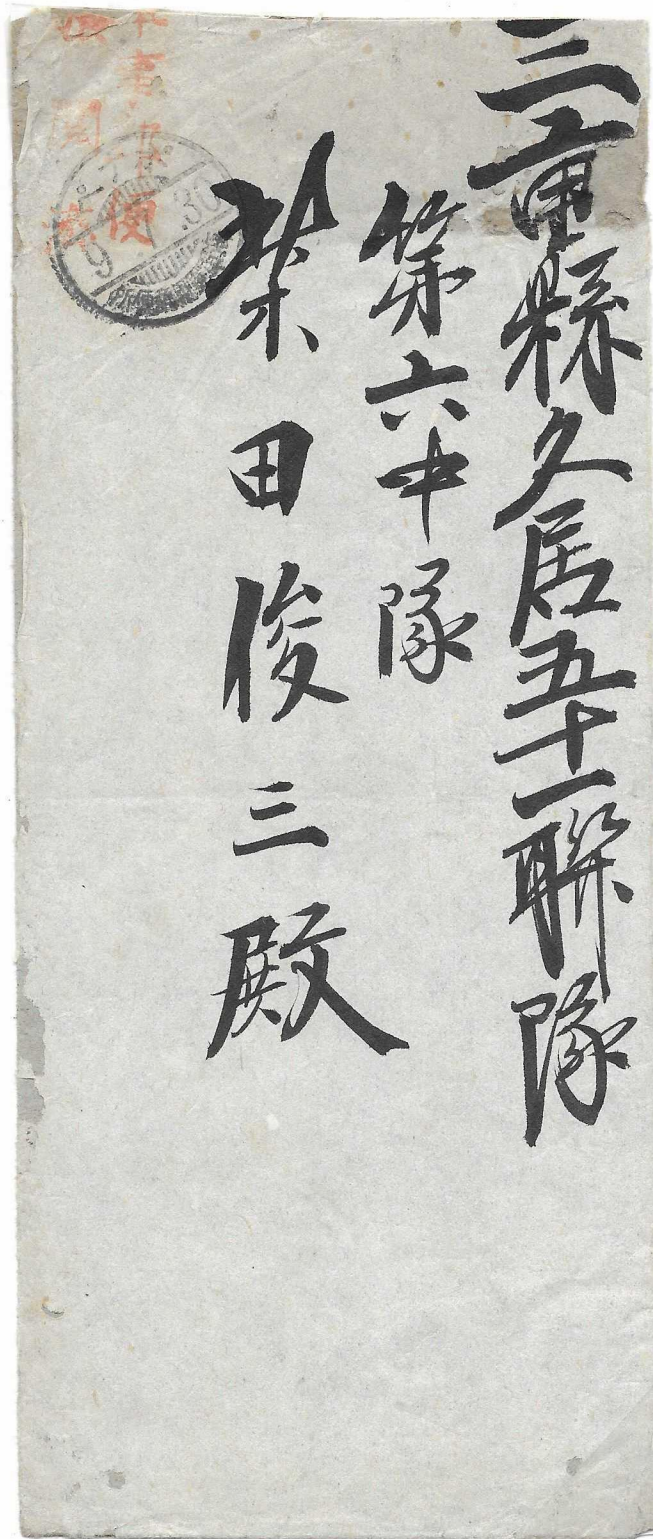
Non-philatelic mail does exist from the occupation period, but it is very elusive. Upper cover sent from a trader on Ponape to a German-named commercial firm in Yokohama. Lower example shows a postage-free registered cover to a German sailor from S.M.S. *Jaguar*, then a POW at Narashino Camp in Japan, an extremely unusual usage not seen previously by exhibitor.

CAROLINE ISLANDS
Japanese Occupation

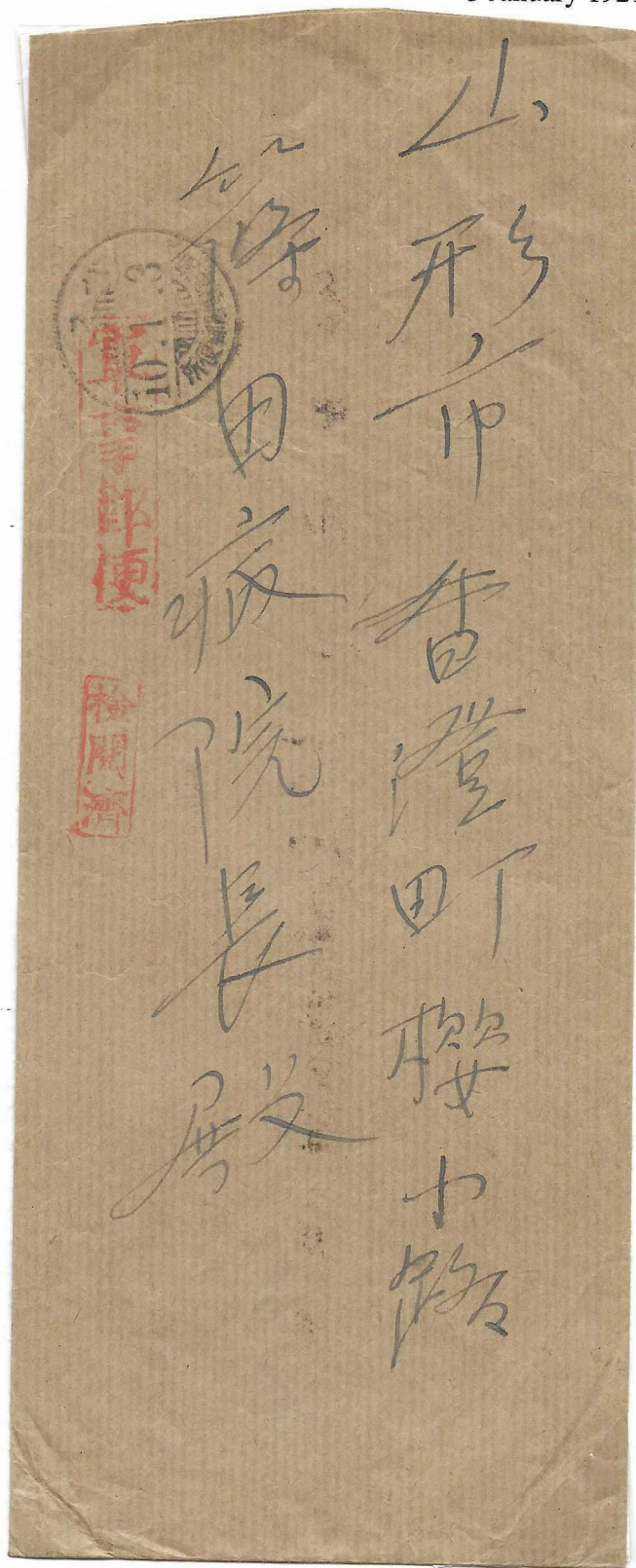
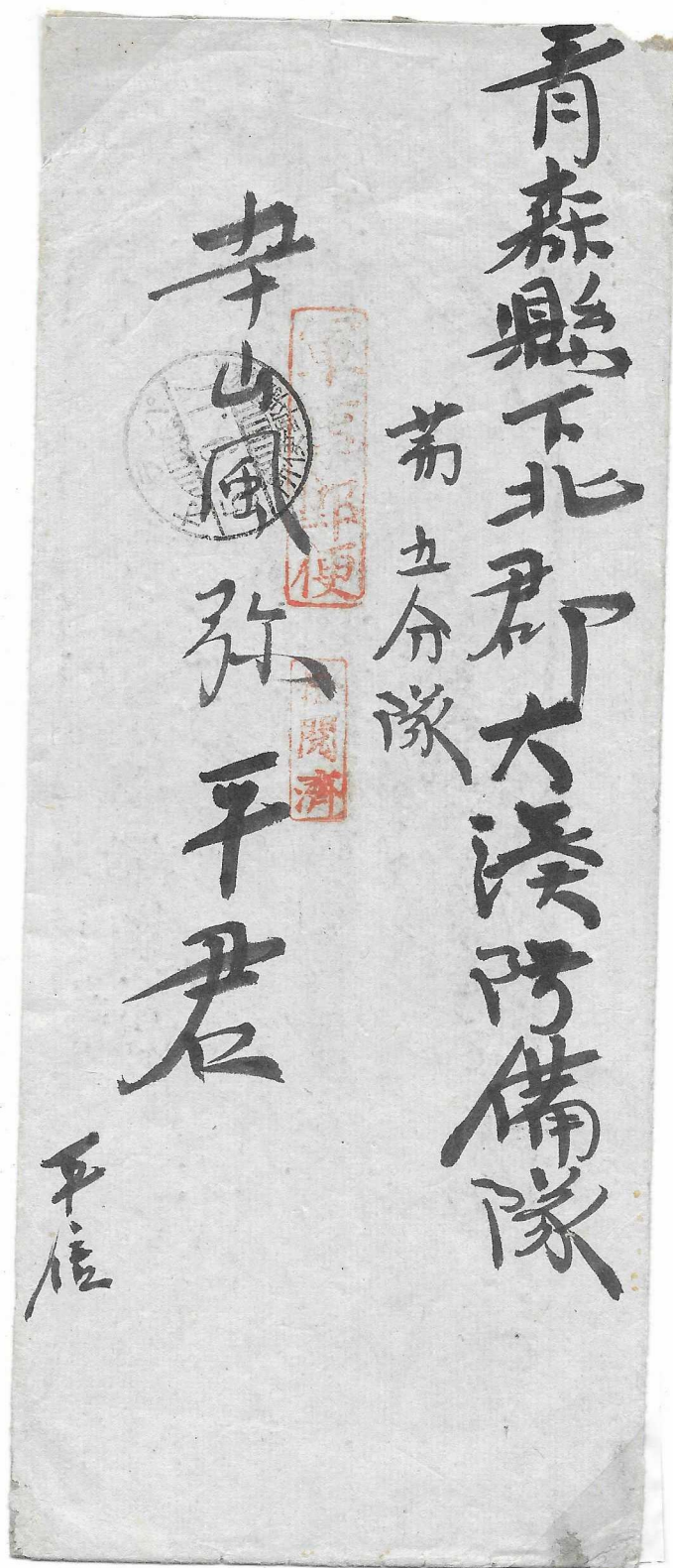
Ponape
7 October 1919



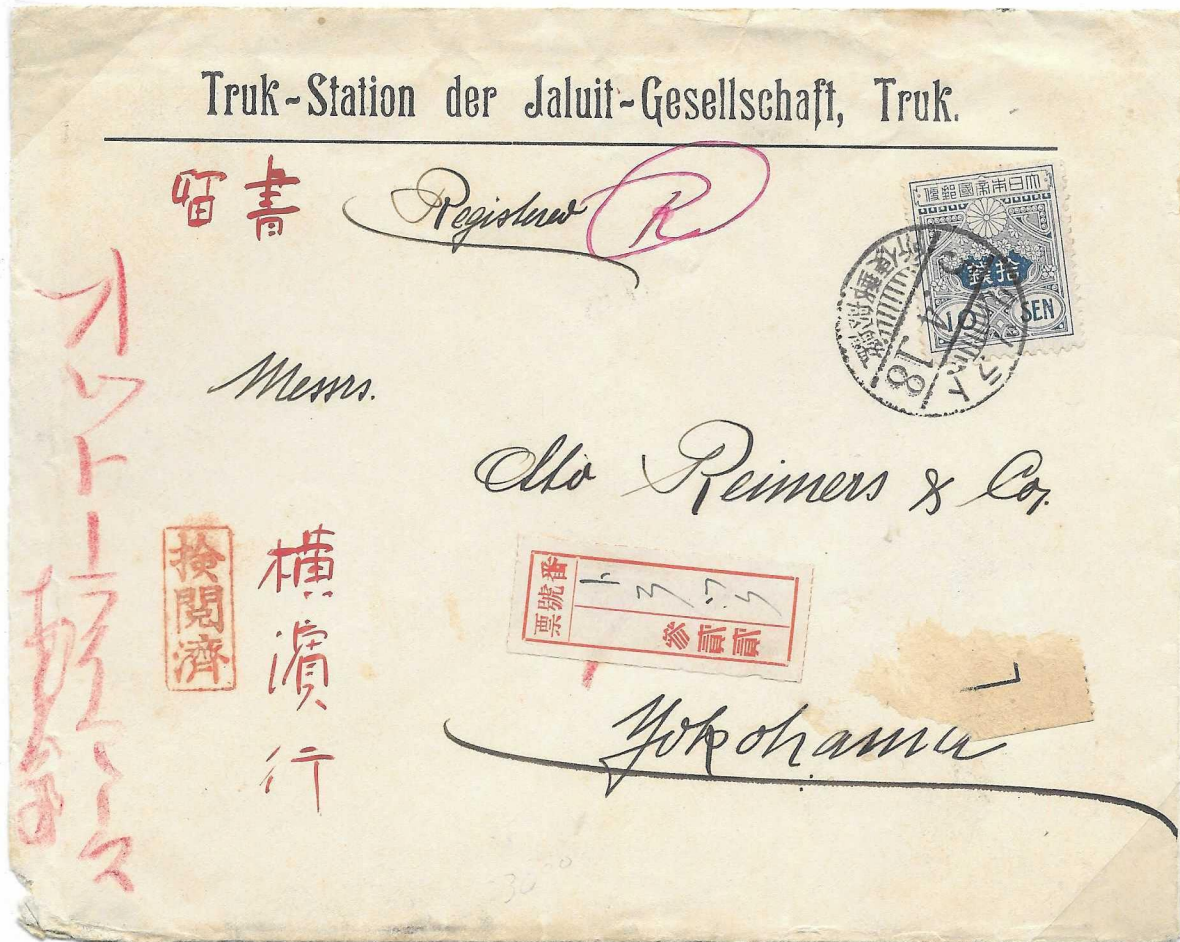
These postcards, depicting scenes on Ponape, were written in 1914 and were apparently in the Ponape post office awaiting a mail steamer at the time of the Japanese invasion. When mail service to Belgium was restored in 1919, they were postmarked with the Japanese cds for the 8th year, 10th month of the Taisho reign and forwarded. The German postage was accepted, but the upper card with only a 5 pf. stamp was underpaid and marked "T" for postage due. Received in Belgium a month later.



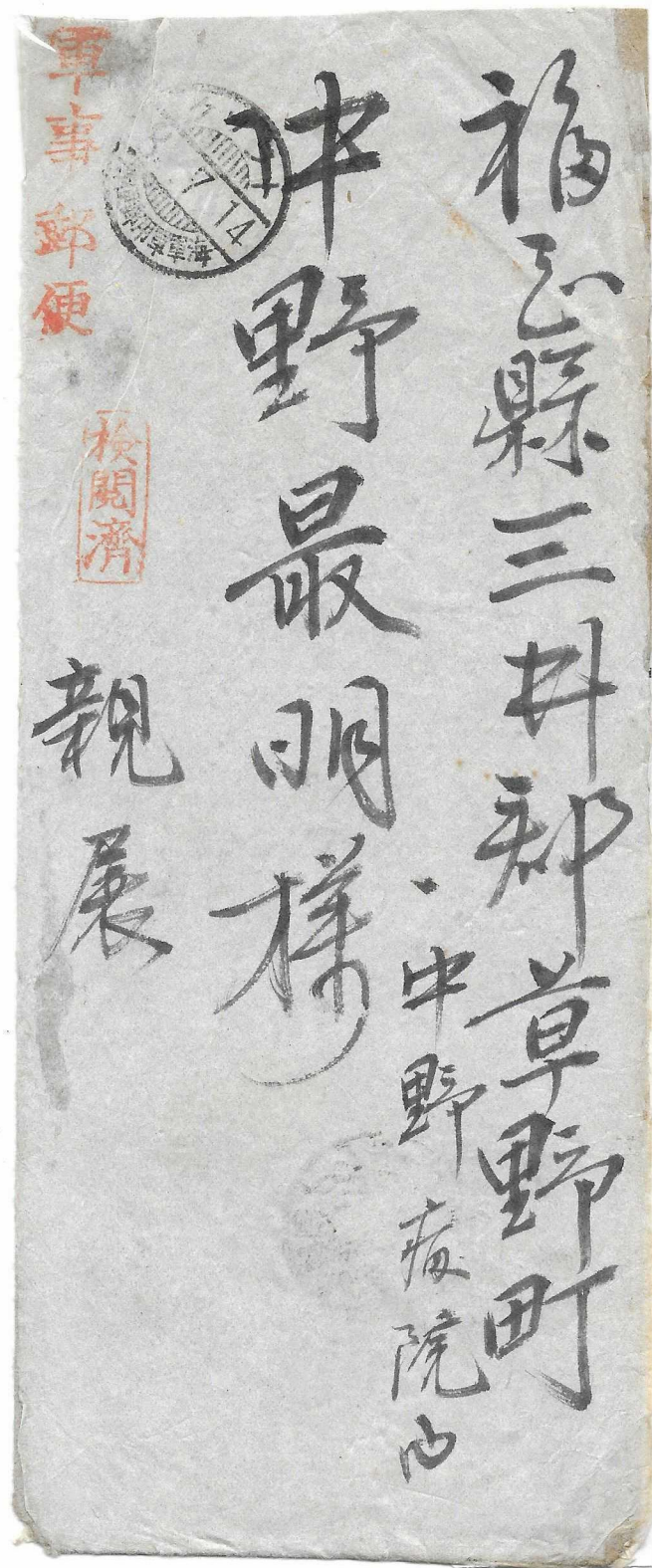
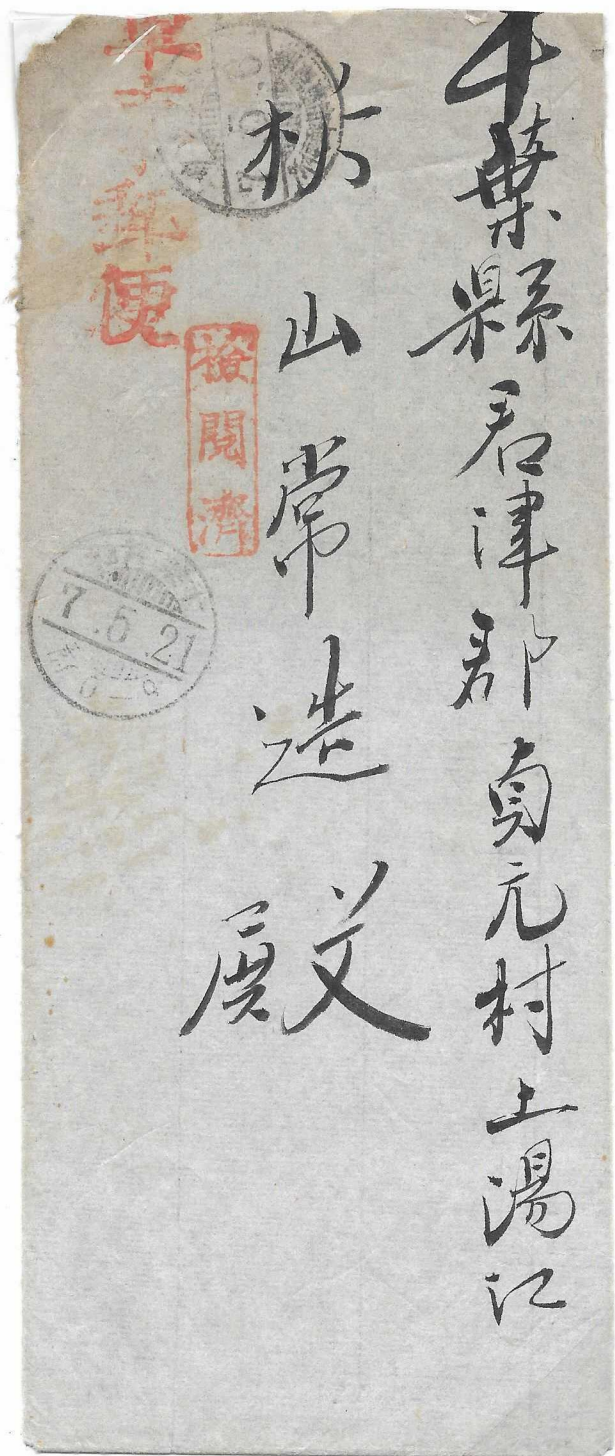
This censored fieldpost cover was postmarked at the "Ponape/Imperial Naval Post Office." It is an example of unusual inter-unit military mail from a member of the South Pacific Defense Corps, Ponape (per return address on reverse) to a soldier of the 51st Regiment, 6th Company in Mie, Japan.



The Carolines covered a vast area in the Central Pacific, and there were at least three islands of some importance besides Ponape. The above fieldpost covers were sent free of postage and bear the postmark inscribed "Palau/Imperial Naval Post Office."



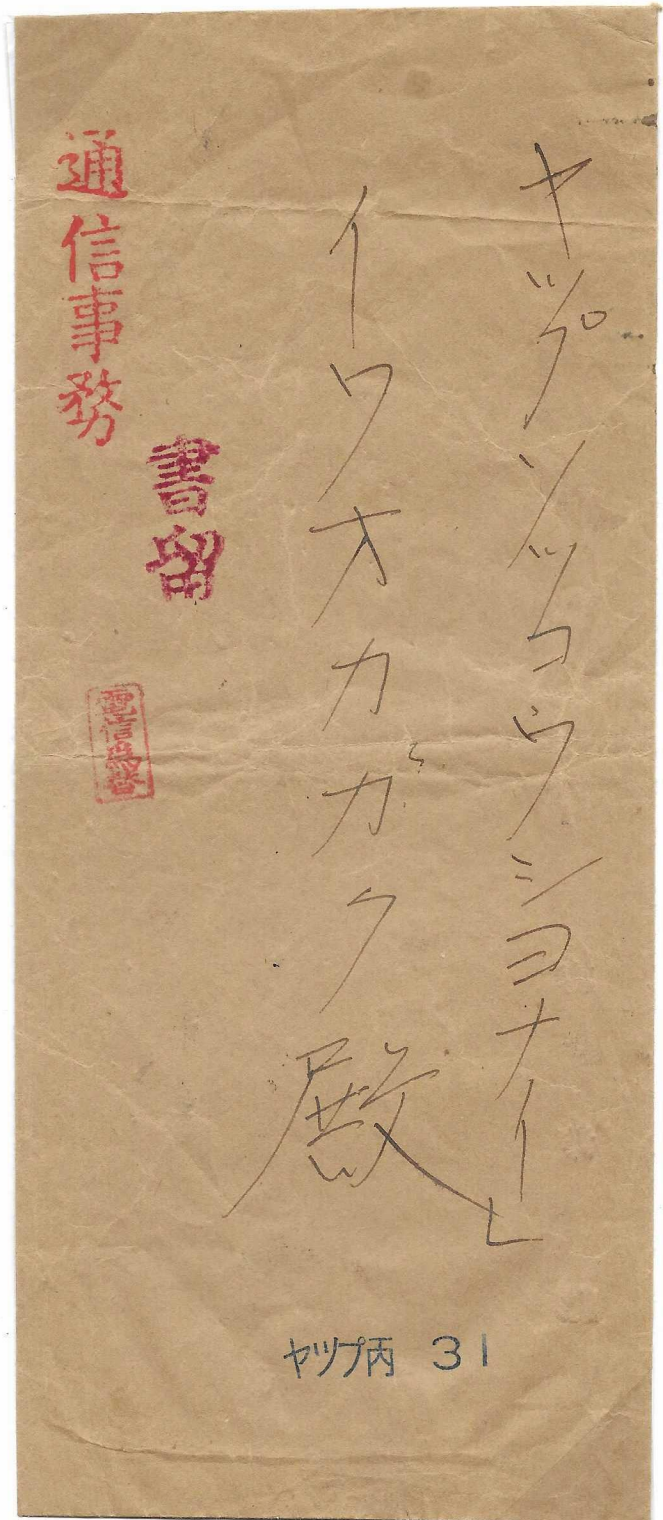
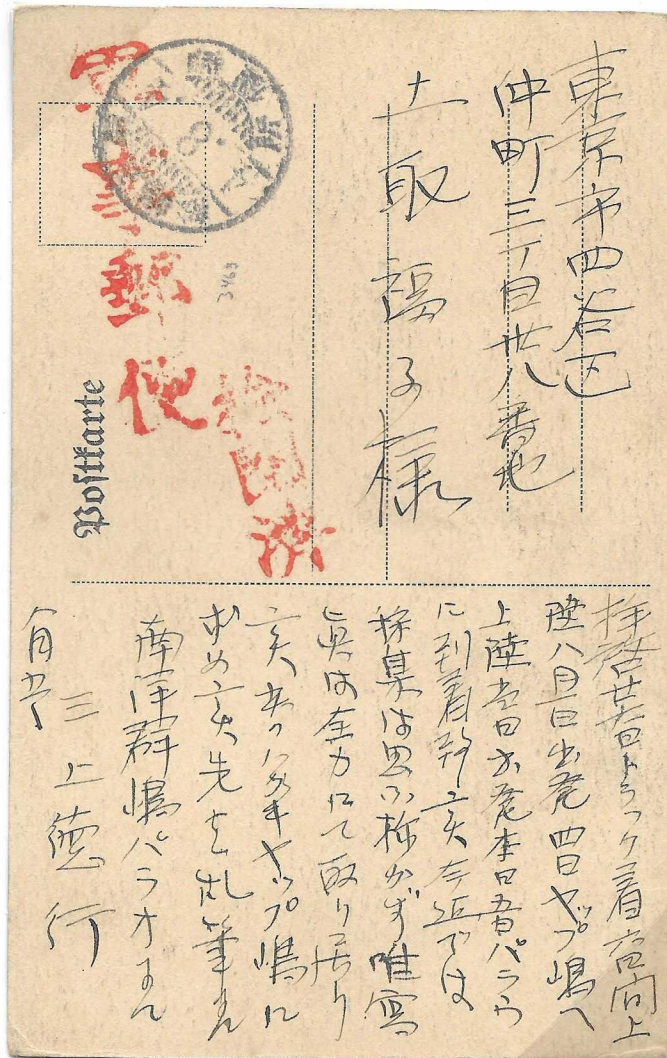
Example of commercial registered mail sent from the Truk Branch of the Jaluit Company to Yokohama. The postmark is inscribed "Truk/Imperial Naval Post Office."



Military covers with cachet of Gunji Yubin (to secure free franking) and censor markings in vermilion. Both postmarked "Truk/Imperial Naval Post Office." Cover on right has return address of "Ship Post Office Mogami, c/o Yokosuka."

CAROLINE ISLANDS
Japanese Occupation

Yap
4 August 1915
1918-1919



Postcard mailed from Naval Fieldpost #5 on *IJNS Kamakura Maru* at Yap. Cover is internal official registered mail from "South Sea Agency" to Yap Meteorological Station. Markings in red denote Communications Business, Registered and (in box) Telegraphic Money Order. Marking in blue at bottom in the registration number "Yap C-31." No postmarks, so cover cannot be dated specifically, but an extraordinary piece of postal history.

CAROLINE ISLANDS
Japanese Occupation

Yap
1 May 1916

WEST-KAROLINEN GESELLSCHAFT M.B.H. JAP.

Via Japan.

REGISTERED.

Fritz Werner Esqre,

c/o Imperial German Legation,

PEKING.

C h i n a.

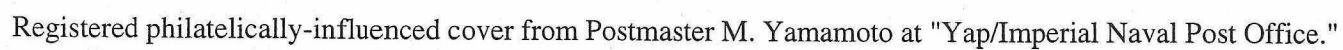
書留

支那北系
フリッツ・ワーナー



Unusual example of commercial registered cover to China. Postmark reads "Yap/Imperial Naval Post Office."

Yap
4 July 1919

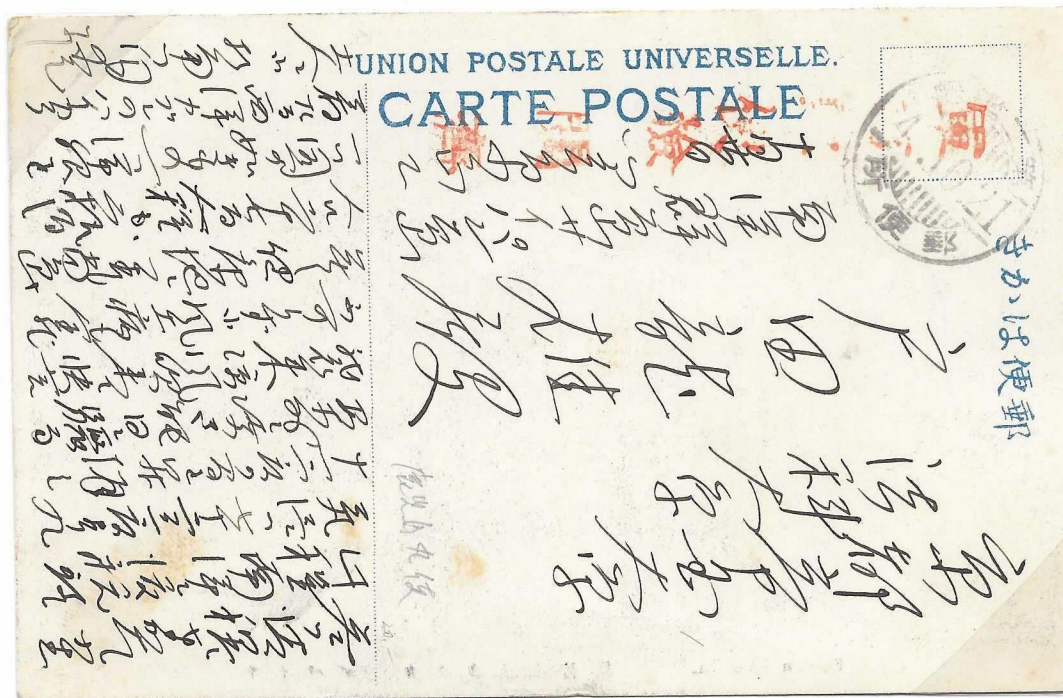


MARIANA ISLANDS

JAPANESE OCCUPATION

Under an agreement with Great Britain, Japan was assigned the task of capturing the German Pacific colonies north of the Equator. This included the Carolines, Marianas and Marshalls (except for Nauru). At the same time, the Australians and New Zealanders attacked those to the south, i.e. Nauru, New Guinea and Samoa. As a result, Japanese naval forces landed at Saipan, the capital, met no resistance and took possession on 14 October 1914.

Naval Ship Postal Agency 2
21 October 1915



There are very few (probably less than five) surviving examples of Marianas mail sent through the Japanese military postal system during the war. The above example is an unfranked postcard (depicting native Kanakas on Saipan) sent by a Japanese sailor at "Saipan Island, Southern Ocean Islands" to Kyoto. Ship postmark #2 was assigned to the *Kagoshima Maru* from 5 December 1914 until 22 December 1915. The red marking indicates censorship.

MARIANA ISLANDS
Japanese Occupation

Saipan
18 June 1919



Registered cover with postmark and registration label inscribed "Saipan/Imperial Naval Post Office." It was franked with 20 sen to pay for international registration to Switzerland. Backstamped in Basel on 25 August and forwarded to Zurich, where it was received the following day. Philatelically influenced but highly elusive.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

JAPANESE OCCUPATION

Under an agreement with Great Britain, Japan was assigned the task of capturing the German Pacific colonies north of the Equator. This included the Carolines, Marianas and Marshalls (except for Nauru). At the sale time, the Australians and New Zealanders attacked those to the south, i.e. Nauru, New Guinea and Samoa. As a result, Japanese naval forces landed at Jaluit, the capital, met no resistance and took possession on 29 September 1914.

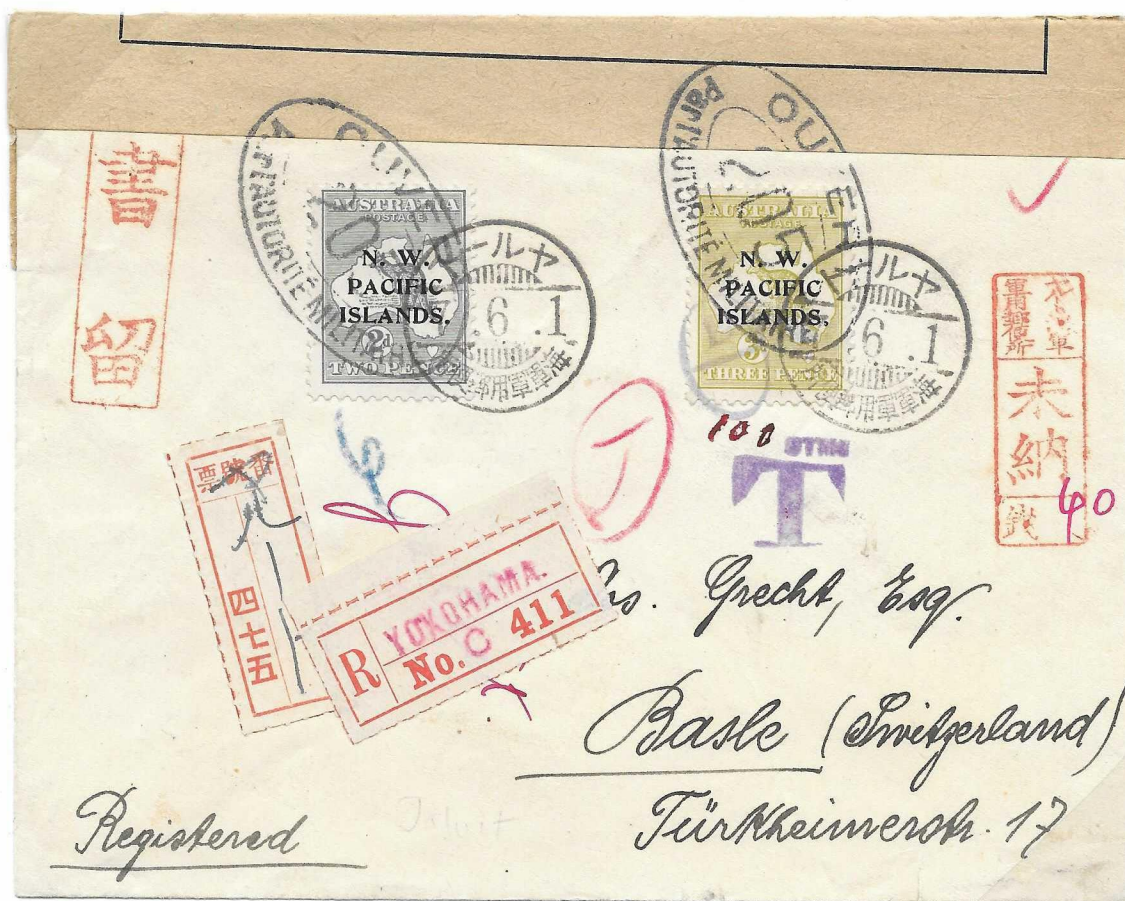
Jaluit
13 January 1917



There are few surviving examples of mail sent through the Japanese postal system during the balance of the war. The above cover represents a commercial cover from a German at the Jaluit Company to a firm with a German name in Yokohama franked at the 3 sen domestic letter rate. The postmark in Kanji reads "Jaluit/Imperial Naval Post Office."

MARSHALL ISLANDS
Japanese Occupation

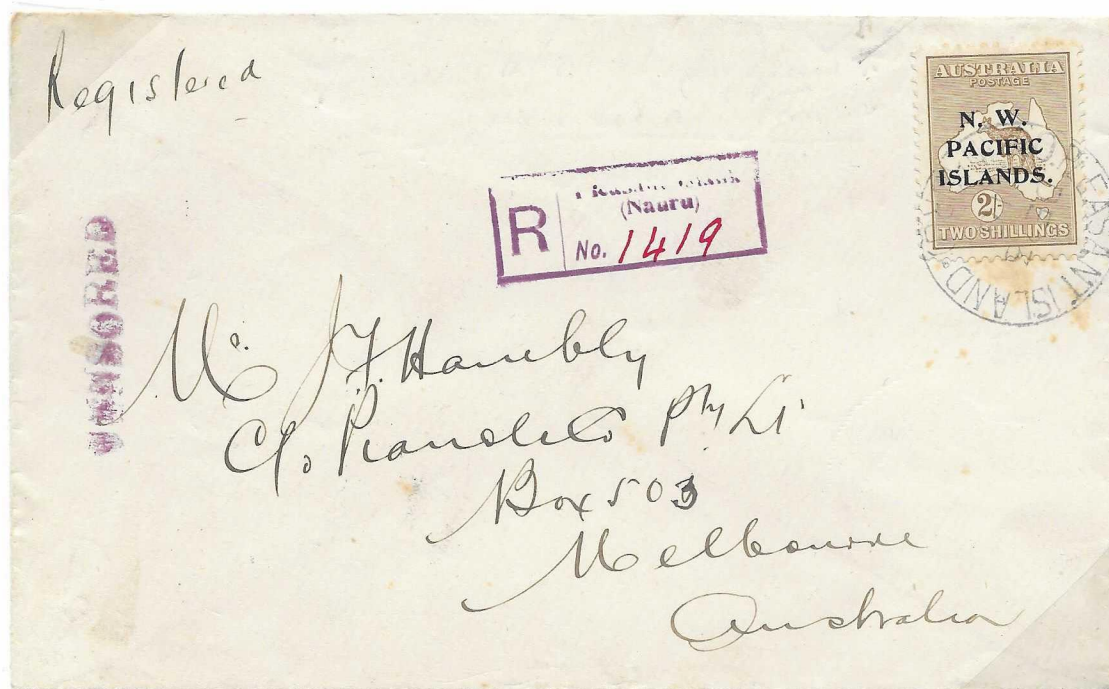
Jaluit
1 June 1918



Registered cover from Jaluit to Switzerland. It shows a most unusual use of Australian stamps overprinted "N.W. Pacific Islands" from a territory held by the Japanese. Even though philatelically inspired, no other such example is known to the exhibitor. The cover has a registry label and postmark reading "Jaluit/Imperial Naval Post Office." Backstamped for receipt in Basel on 7 September 1918.

MARSHALL ISLANDS
BRITISH OCCUPATION

Pleasant Island
5 December 1916



Under the agreement with the Japanese, the only island in the Marshalls assigned to the British as lying south of the Equator was Nauru (sometimes referred to as Pleasant Island). This island, although consisting of only 8 square miles, had valuable phosphate deposits. Upon the arrival of *HMAS Melbourne* on 1 November 1914, the Germans surrendered. Initially, the stamps used on Nauru during the occupation were Australian definitives overprinted "N.W. Pacific Islands."

ATTEST

FLORIAN EICHHORN

Verbandsprüfer

des Bundes der philatelistischen Prüfer e.V. im BDPH und APHV

D-65185 Wiesbaden, Adolfsallee 17

Nr.

641/97

Datum

4.10.1997

JAPAN, 1915, Besetzung der Carolinen, markenlose deutsche Beutekarte „Telegraphenamt der Deutsch-niederländischen Telegraphengesellschaft Insel Jap Deutsche West-Karolinen“, ist ein Original mit echten Abstempelungen, in sauberer Bedarfs-erhaltung, nicht repariert. Verwendet als Feldpost, gebührenfrei für Einsatztruppen im Inlandsverkehr gemäß Anordnung des Postministeriums Nr. 521 vom 27. August 1914.

Japanischer Tagesstempel 第五艦船 / 郵便所 „Nr. 5 Kriegsschiffpoststelle, Datum 4.8.4“ (4. August 1915), rote Stempel 軍事郵便 „Feldpost“ und 検閲済 „Zensur passiert“, datiert „Yap 4. August“, nach Tokyo-Yotsuya.

Nr. 5 war an Bord der „Kamakura Maru“, die als einer von drei Militärfrachtern die Postversorgung im Südseeokkupationsgebiet unterhielt, bis dort ab 10. Oktober 1915 stationäre Ämter eingerichtet wurden. Kartentext: „wir erreichten am 26. Truk, blieben 6 Tage an Land, Abfahrt 1. August, heute Ankunft Yap, am 5. fahren wir nach Palau weiter, Ankunft um den 16. herum“.

Es sind nur wenige Ganzstücke dieser mobilen Marineschiffspoststellen aus dem Südseeinsatz 1914-15 bekannt. Sie sind weitaus seltener, als Beispiele der stationären Inselstellen 1915-22. Die Seltenheit einer Verwendung mit einer Beutekarte ist zu betonen, da bisher nur derartige Karten bekanntgeworden sind. Postgeschichtliche Rarität von bedeutendem Rang.

Prüfgebiet: Japan (mit Ganzsachen), Korea

Die Prüfung erfolgte auf Grund der Prüfordnung des Bundes der Philatelistischen Prüfer e.V.