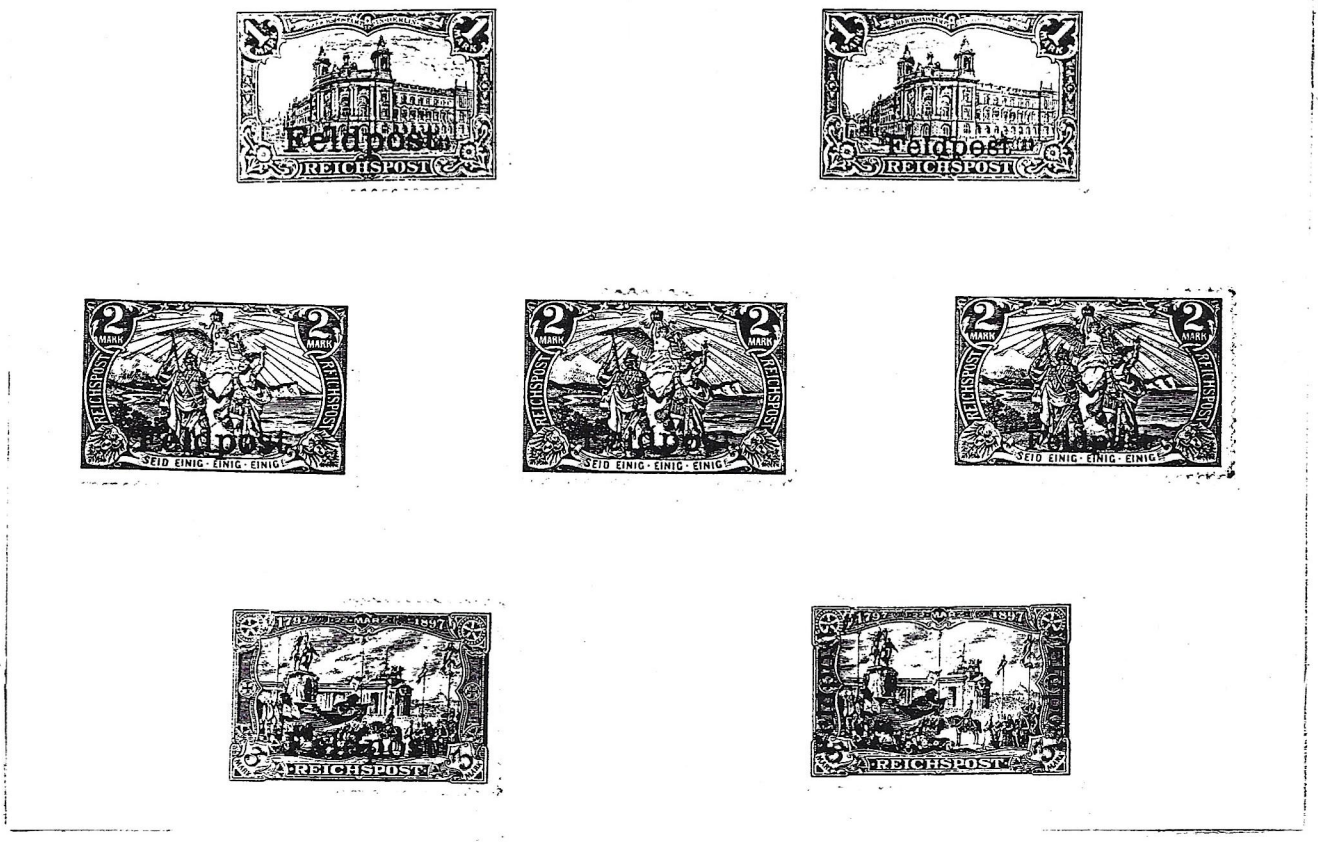
ALLIED POSTAL HISTORY OF THE BOXER UPRISING

In June 1900 the Chinese anti-foreign movement known as the Boxers attacked foreigners and Chinese Christians in North China. Foreign forces in the region were inadequate to reach Peking or to secure the region around it, so a major international military relief operation was organized.

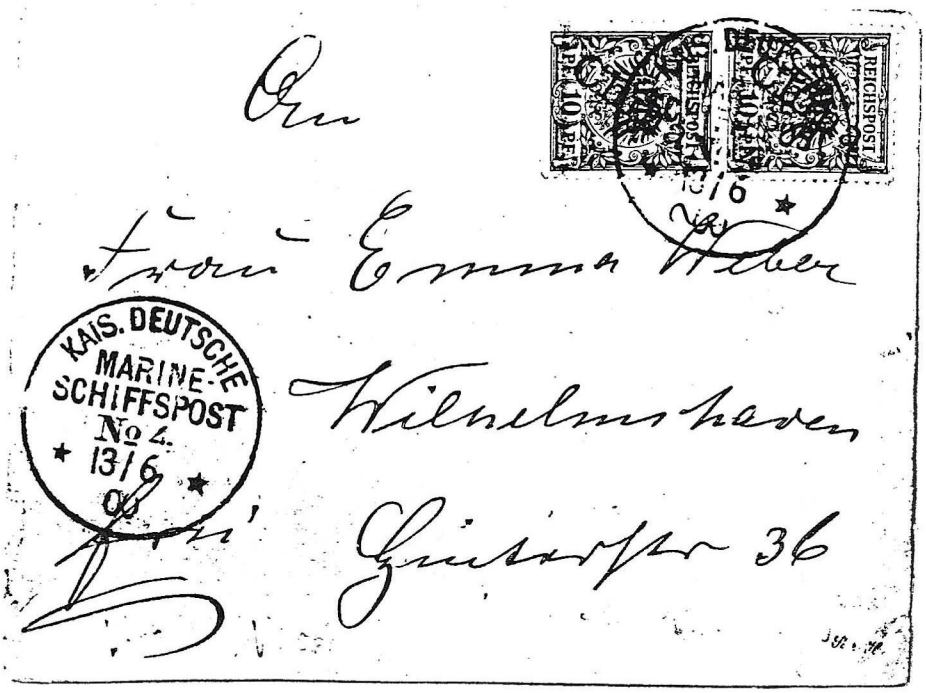


Prepared by the Imperial Printing Office, Berlin, in anticipation of a need for stamps which could be denied use in Germany in case of loss in China. Due to swift Allied successes, no such stamps were issued. Only 7 of these essays (all different) are in private hands.

The arrival of additional forces from Germany, the British Empire, the United States, Austria-Hungary, France, Italy, Japan and Russia allowed the Allied command to relieve the Peking legations, suppress the Boxers, extract reparations, and secure the rights of the Allied and other European powers to maintain small guard units in Peking and Tientsin.

Postal arrangements for foreign forces in China during the Boxer Uprising varied from time to time, and from contingent to contingent. Eventually, most countries established ship- and/or shore-based post offices for their troops in North China. Concessionary postal rates were the norm, though with variations from country to country. Troop withdrawals occurred at different times and rates for different national forces, so that the end of "the Boxer period" differs for the various contingents.

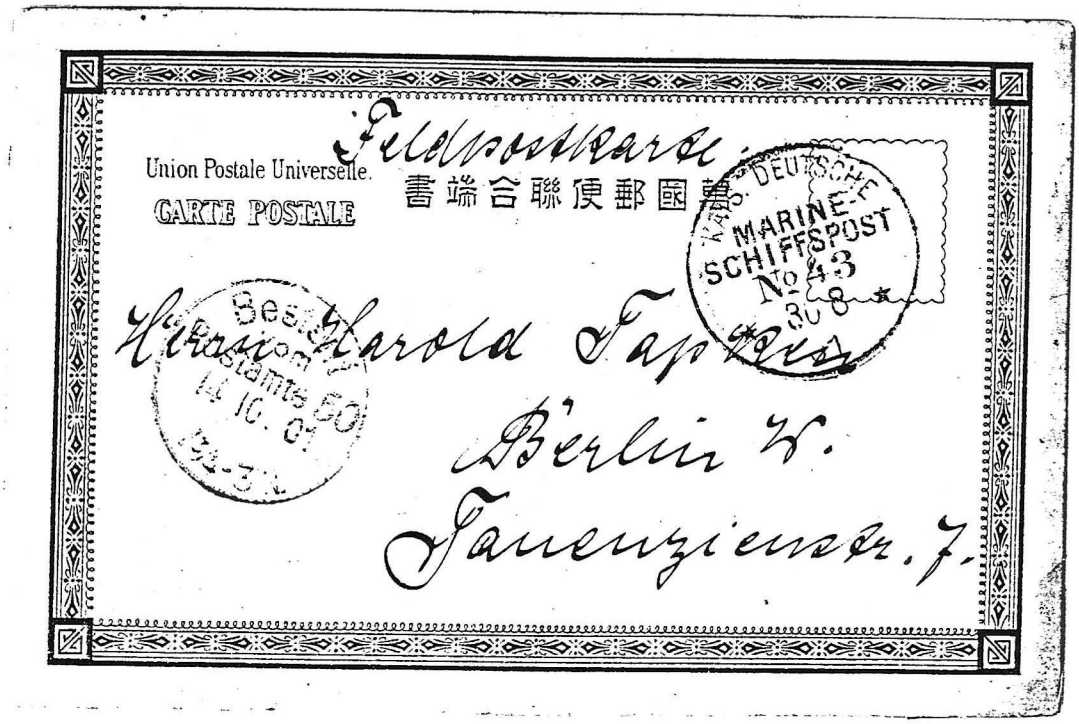
Availability of postal history material from the Allied forces is also quite uneven due to differences in the size of the contingents, national literacy rates, levels of collector interest in the material at the time and later developments in the respective home countries. Mail from some contingents (especially, the Russian, Japanese and Italian), exists today in extremely limited quantities.



East Asia Squadron

Tsingtau Provisional

SMS Irene, mailed prior to free frank. German warships carried stocks of the 5, 10 and 20pf Numeral and Eagle issue, but accepted other stamps obtained by crewmen from the Shanghai and Tsingtau German post offices.



Naval Reinforcements

SMS Fürst Bismarck at Chefoo.

When the Boxers first attacked foreign property in Peking (9 June 1900), German warships in China were *SMS Gefion, Hansa, Hertha, Iltis, Irene, Jaguar* and *Kaiserin Augusta.* From 22 August - 26 September 1900, 12 more German warships arrived in China to reinforce the East Asia Squadron. Each ship was equipped with a Navy post office, identifiable by the number in the datestamp.

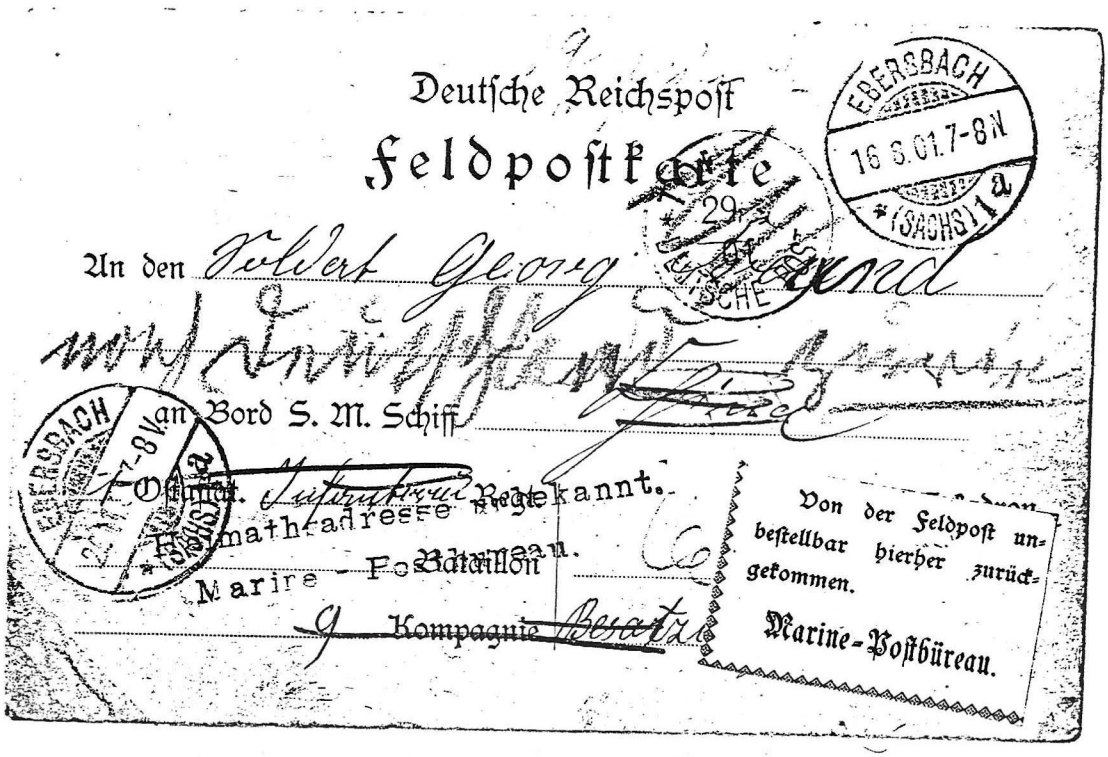
German Forces

East Asia Expeditionary Corps
First Transport Division
Second Transport Division



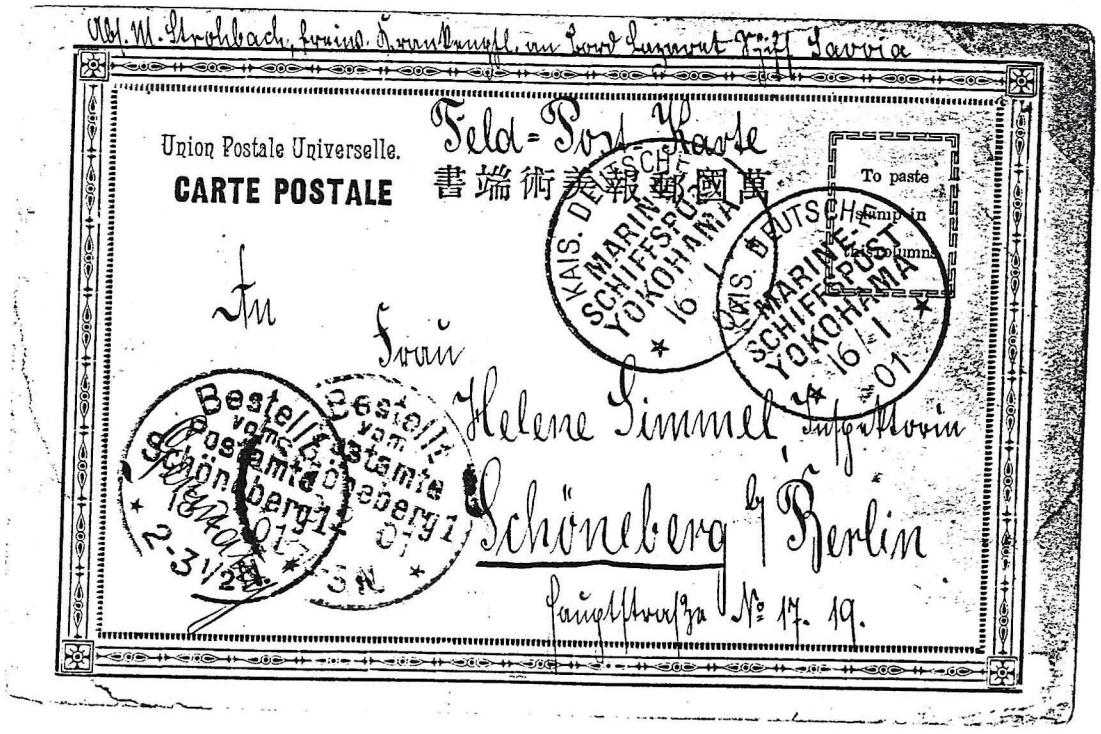
"Feldpostbrief" handstamp was an official auxiliary postal marking.

East Asia Expeditionary Corps command staff and first echelon assembled in Bremen 27 July - 4 August 1900. The First Transport Detachment, 11,790 officers and men carried on 10 steamers, arrived at Taku from 6 - 25 September. The Second Transport Detachment, 7,874 officers and men embarked on 8 steamers between 31 August - 7 September, arrived at Taku between 12 - 31 October. Troops enjoyed the free frank both in Bremen and in transit. The steamers, leased civilian vessels, were equipped with Navy ship post offices which can be identified by the MSP number in the datestamp.



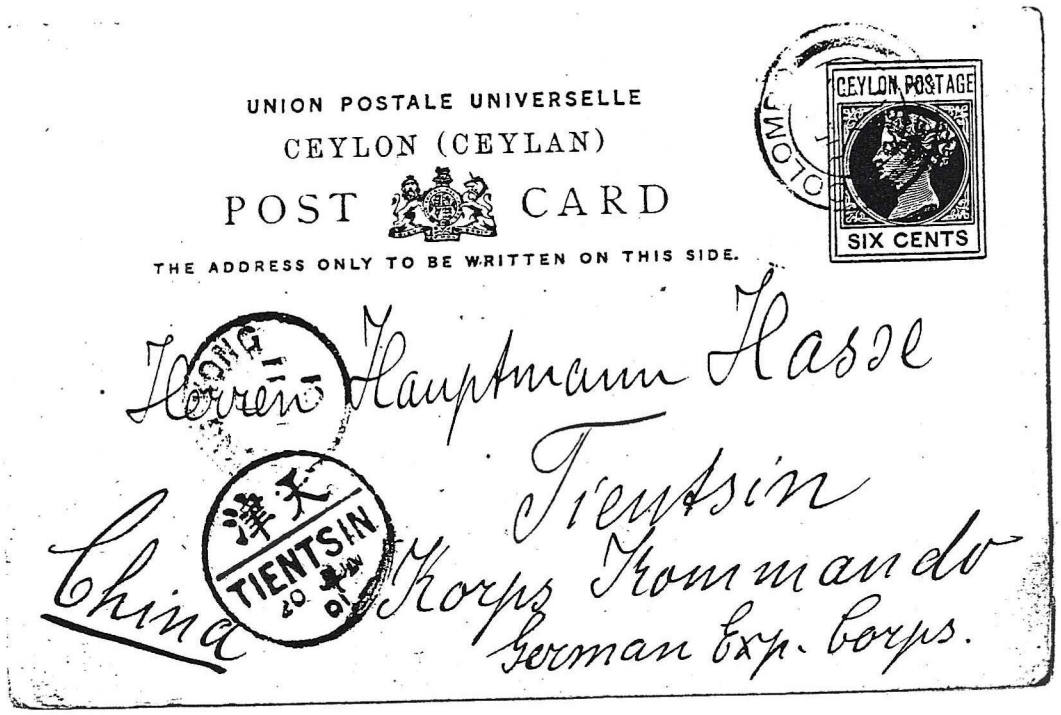
Berlin Navy Post Office

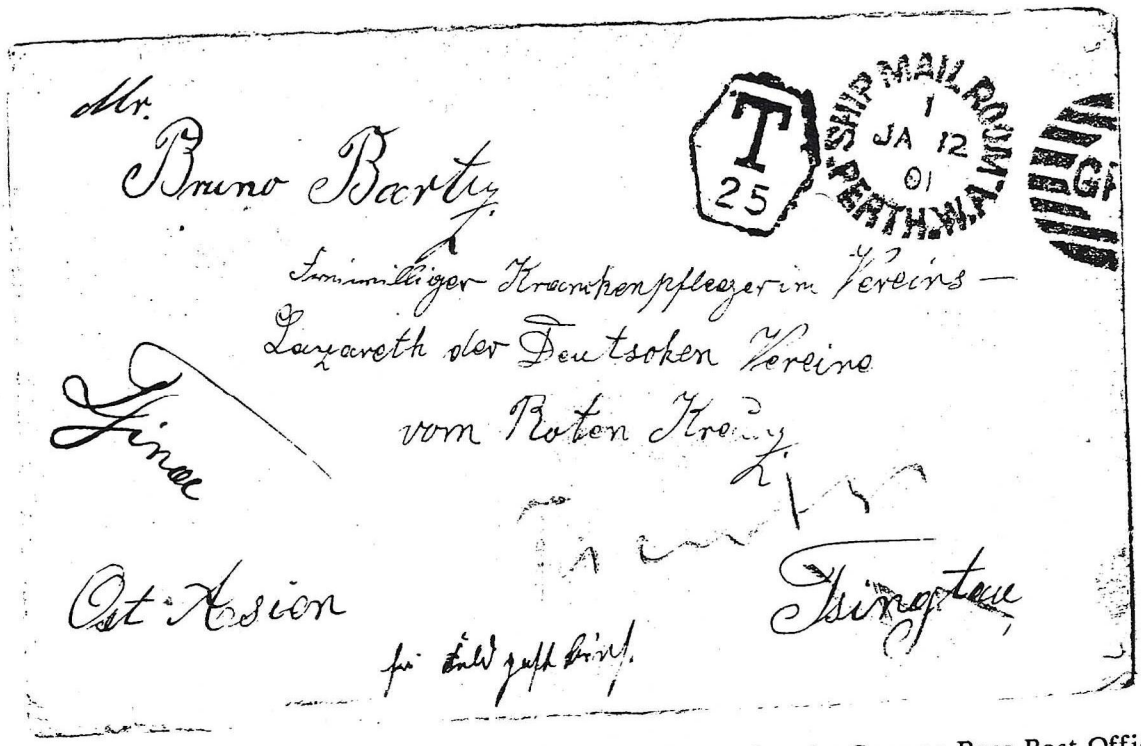
Mail which could not be delivered to troops in China was returned to the Navy Post Office, Berlin for redirection.



Naval Hospital Yokohama

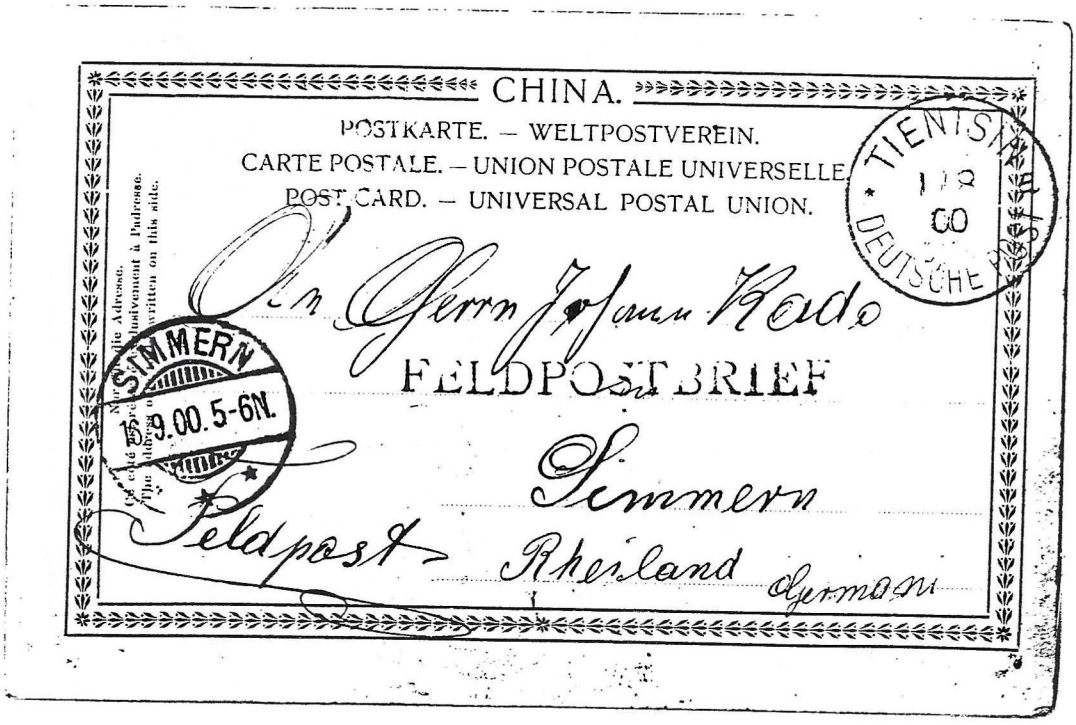
In 1878 the German Navy established a hospital in Yokohama. It was given a Navy Ship Post datestamp in 1897. The Boxer period free frank accompanied patients from China to Japan.

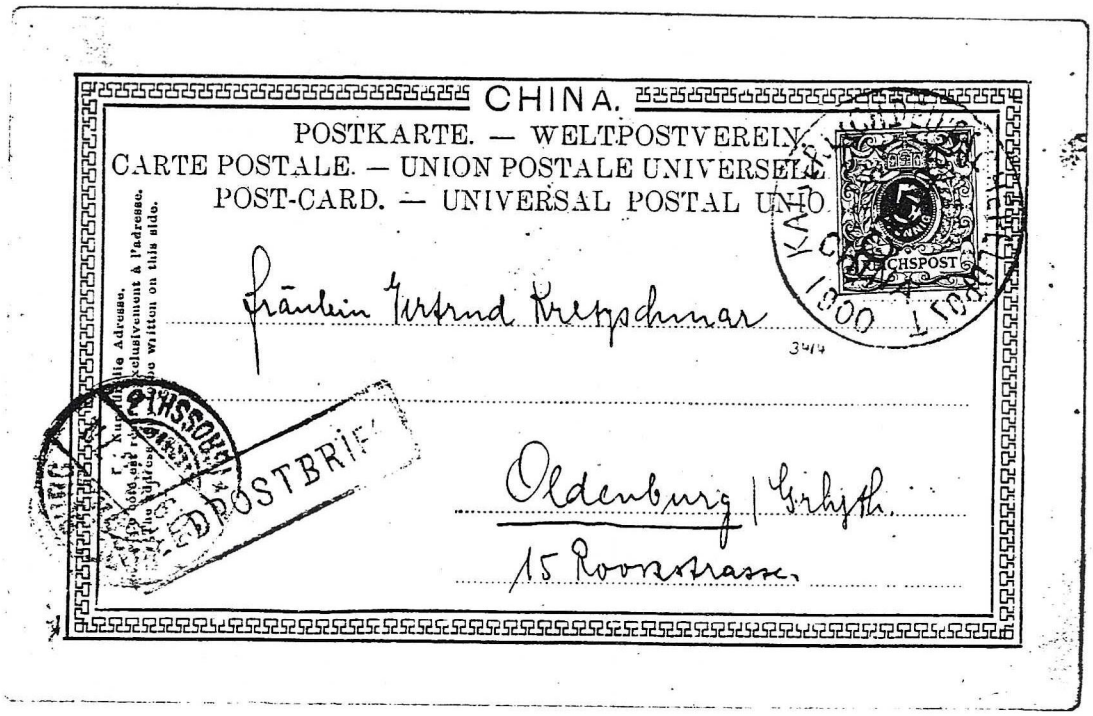




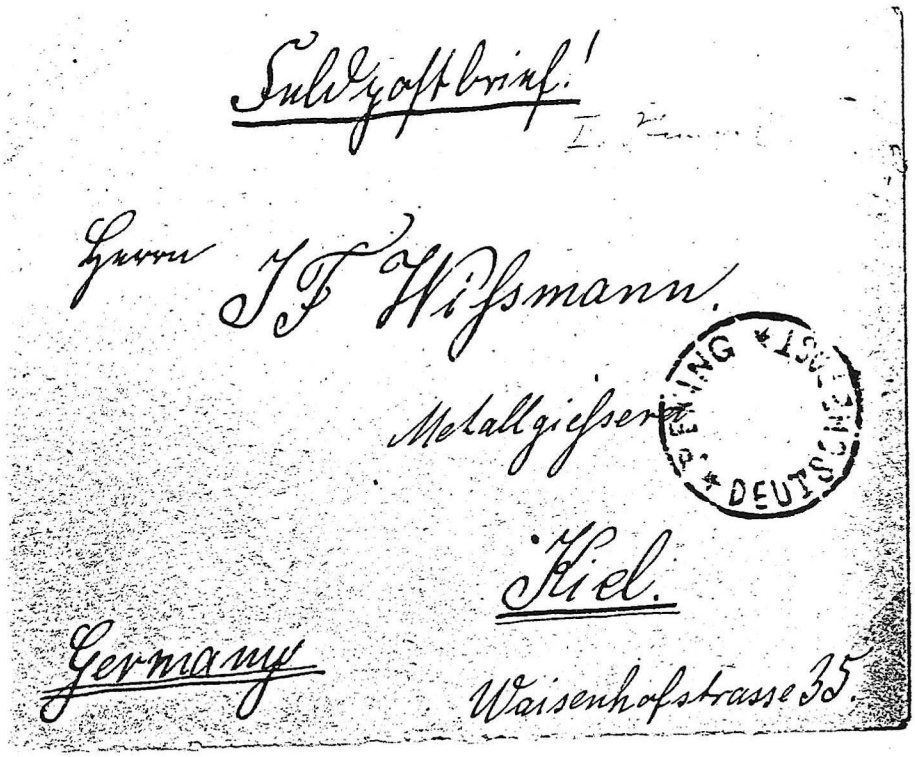
Mail to German forces which originated in Germany was directed to the German Base Post Office in Tientsin. Mail from non-German territories followed paths selected by the country of origin.

Bottom cover, to German Red Cross worker, was sent through British postal channels through Hong Kong to Shanghai, for onward dispatch by the Chinese. The Imperial Chinese Post Office, choosing to ignore its government's declaration of war against the Allies, provided consistently excellent service to Allied military personnel and civilians throughout North China.





Field Post Offices accompanying the East Asia Expeditionary Corps did not arrive in North China until 1 September 1900. From 9 August - 2 September 1900 a Field Post Office dispatched by the German Post Office in Shanghai operated in Tongku.

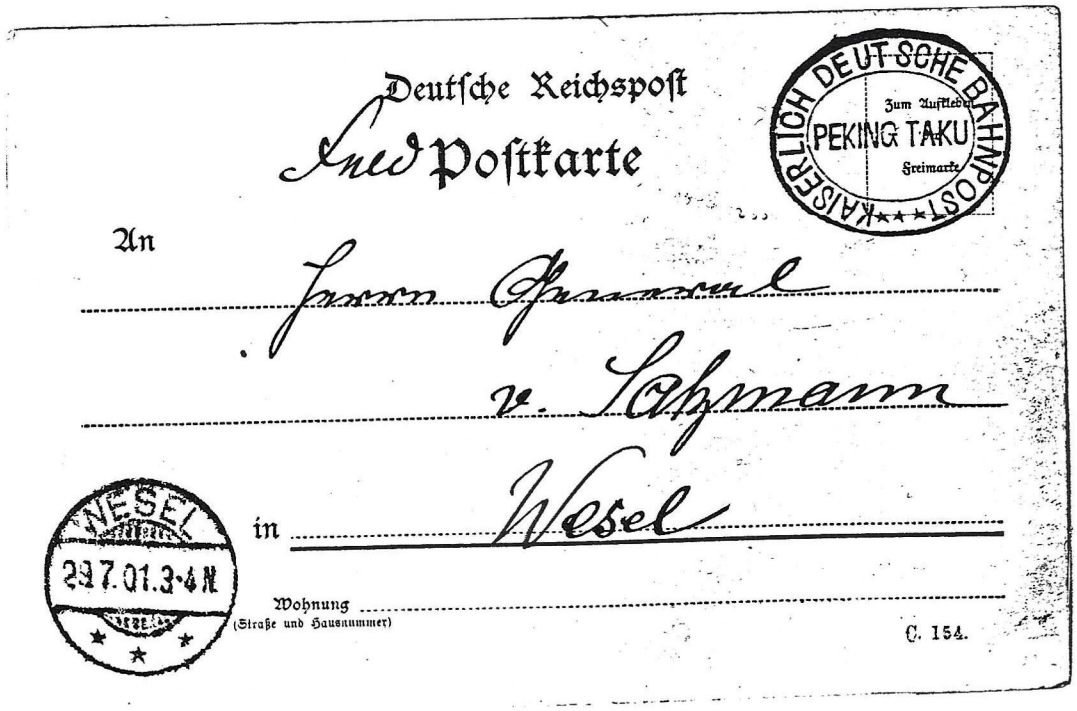


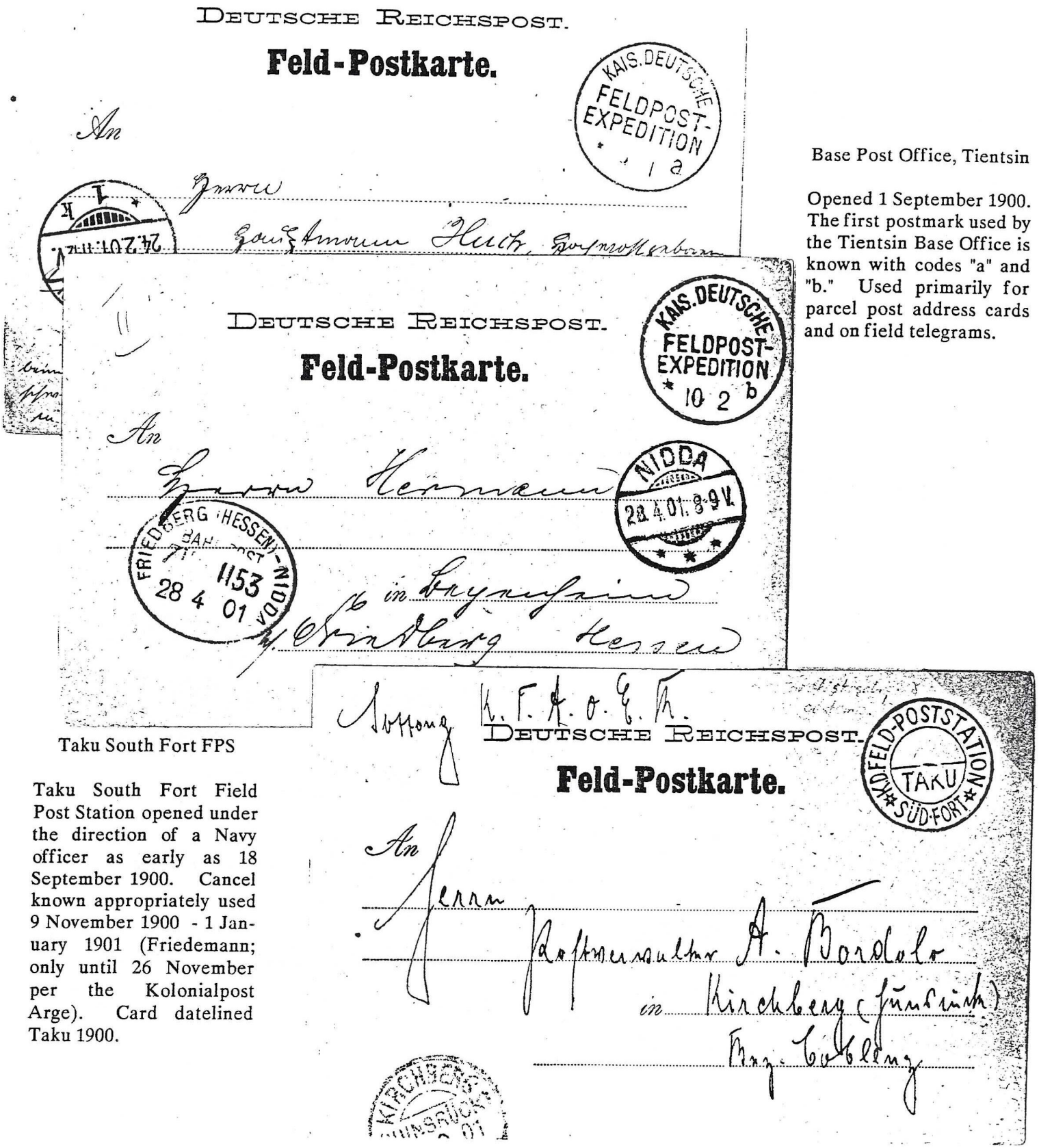
Peking Wood Postmark

A German civil post office opened in Peking on 11 September 1900, using 2 undated wood postmarks until about 14 November 1900. Card most likely mailed in early November.

Peking-Taku TPO

From 17 October 1900 to 25 March 1901 the German civil postal service operated a travelling post office between Peking and Taku. Favor cancels were supplied after the TPO service closed (as here, to the famous philatelist General von Salzmann).



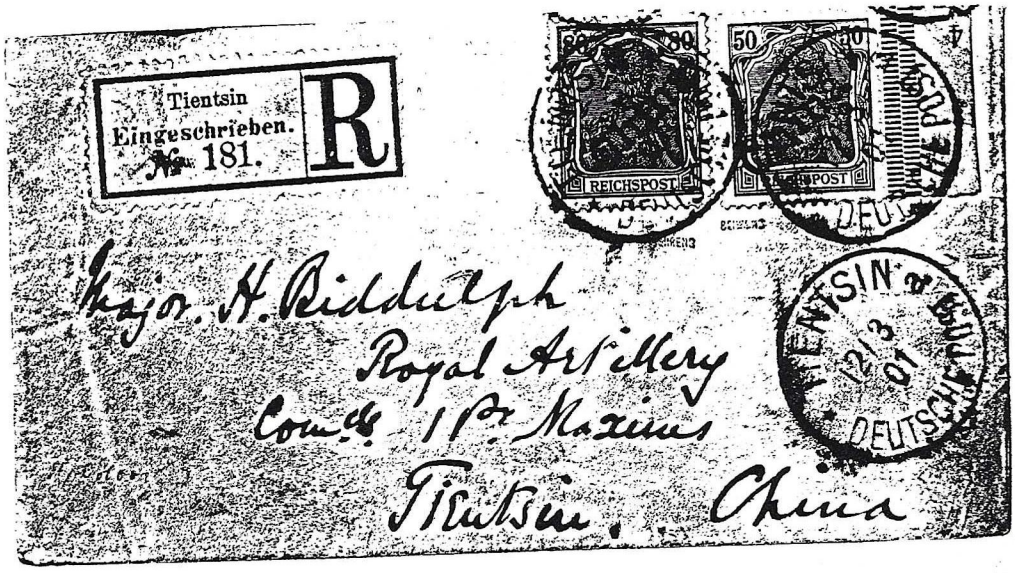


Base Post Office, Tientsin

Opened 1 September 1900. The first postmark used by the Tientsin Base Office is known with codes "a" and "b." Used primarily for parcel post address cards and on field telegrams.

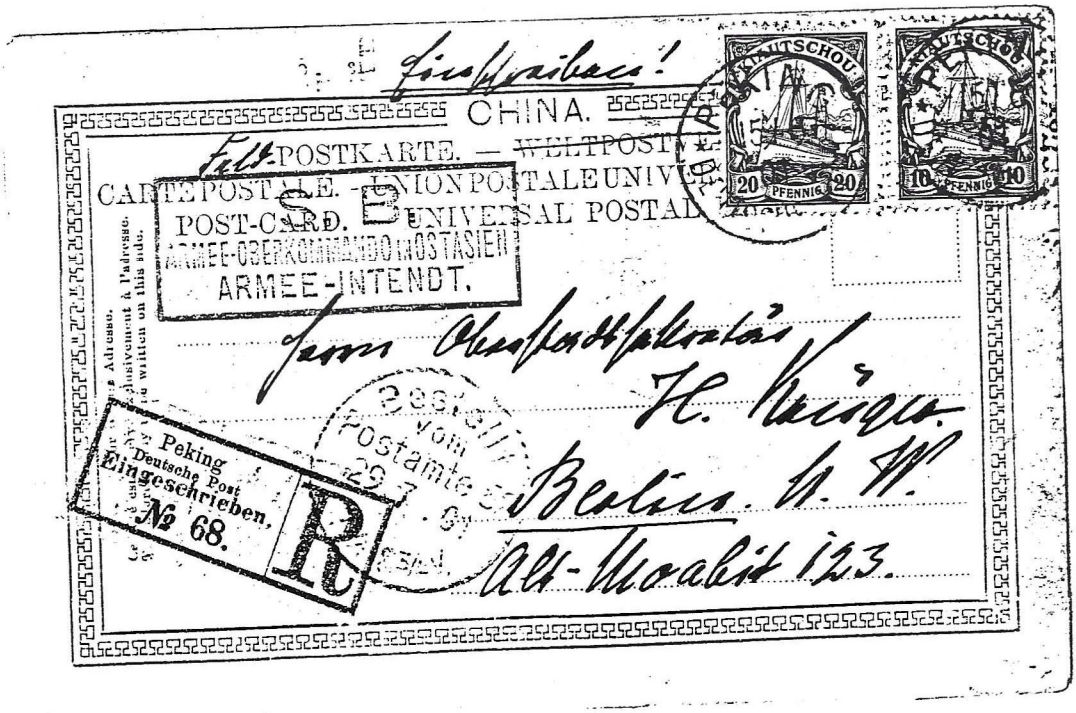
Taku South Fort FPS

Taku South Fort Field Post Station opened under the direction of a Navy officer as early as 18 September 1900. Cancel known appropriately used 9 November 1900 - 1 January 1901 (Friedemann; only until 26 November per the Kolonialpost Arge). Card datelined Taku 1900.



Tientsin Postmaster Provisionals

Quantities officially issued: 10pf, 4,000; 2 & 20pf, 2,000 each; 3pf, 1,000; 30, 50 and 80pf, 300 each. These figures were the initial overprinting and, possibly excepting the 50pf, additional stamps were overprinted. Valid for postage until 31 December 1902.



Kiautschou Yacht Issue

Kiautschou yacht stamps properly used in Peking from April - 31 December 1901. Stamps required for registered feldpost mail, and for regular postage on East Asia Occupation Corps soldier's mail after 31 August 1901. Postcard rated at 10pf postage plus 20pf registry fee.

Feldtelegramm

(Einschreiben!)

An

S. M. Schiff

Ostasiat. Feldart. Regt.

Bataillon

Kompagnie

Eskadron

Batterie

Kolonne

K.D. FELDPOSTEXPED. DES OSTASIATISCHEN EXPEDITIONSCORPS 25

Kaiserlich Deutsche Feldpostexpedition Eingeschrieben. № 606 R

Empfänger: Serie Telegraphen-Nr.:

Inhalt: Fröhliche Weihnachtsgrüsse. Ortlinger Suelbecker, Wilhelm, Friedrichshaller Bruchoefener, Lockemann, Sehlers Hollenstieder, Werkinds, Wehmeyers

Von Berlin abgegangen am

ersucht, das obige Telegramm dem Empfänger zuzustellen oder, falls dieser sich halten sollte, die Karte mit entsprechendem Vermerk weiterzusenden.

Baar bezahlt: 3 M.

Marken umseitig.

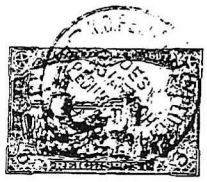
Feldtelegramm.

Serie	Telegraphen-Nummer	Nummer der Nachricht
L	0302	46

Absender: Dyck

Recht deutlich schreiben!

Königl. Lazarett. Feldscheer



Incoming field telegrams were required to be registered. No postage was applied in China, all fees having been paid by the sender. Outgoing field telegrams were required to be prepaid. The above receipt was issued to an enlisted man, as indicated by the 3 Mark rate; officers were charged 6 marks for the same service.



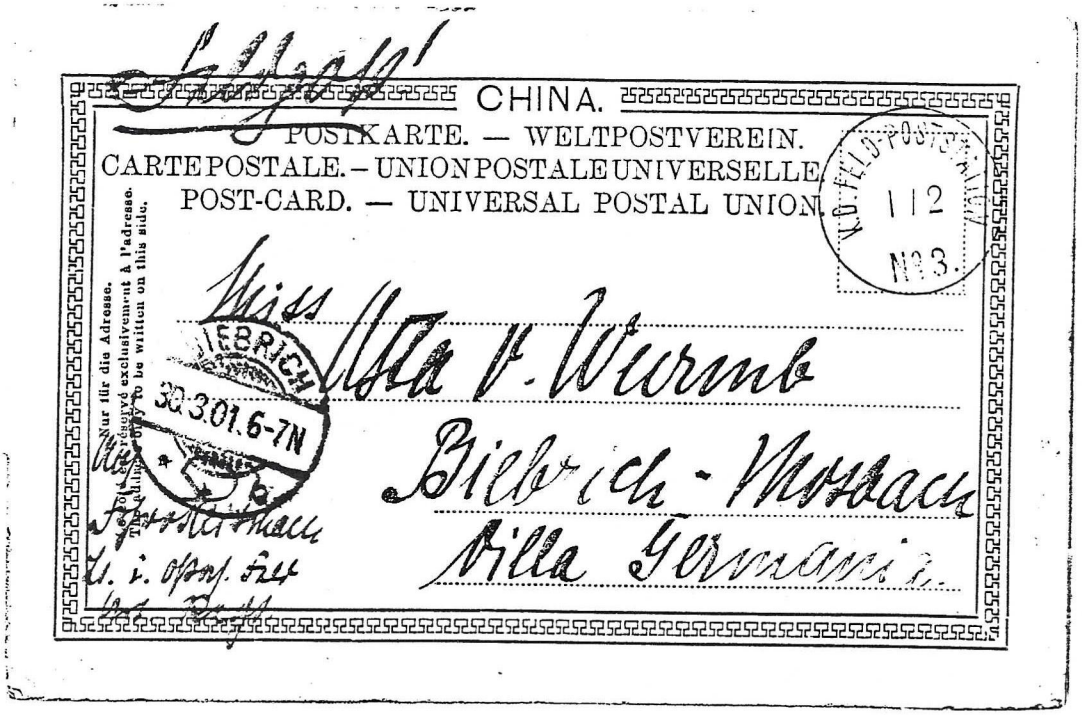
FPS № 1

Operated at Kaumi, in the Kiautschou neutral zone, from 24 November 1900 - 4 July 1901. Civil post office continued to use K.D. Feld-Post Station № 1 datestamp 5 July 1901 - 14 January 1902.



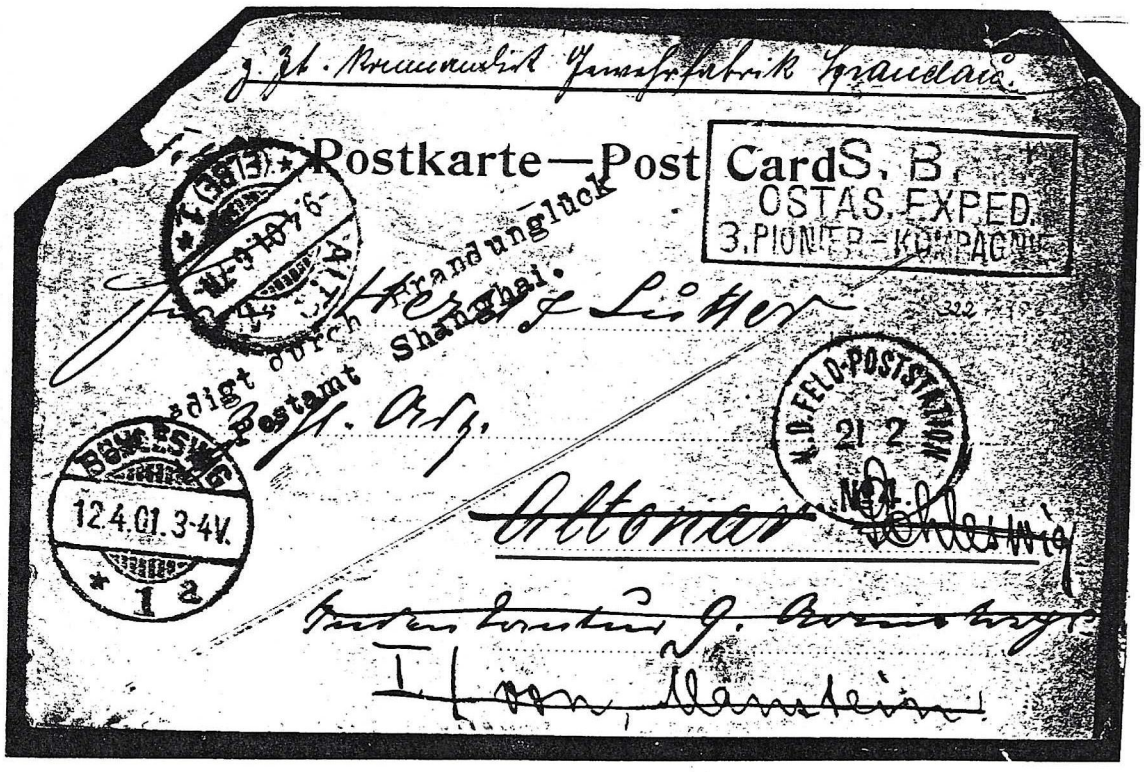
FPS № 2

Operated in Peking 11 September 1900 - 31 August 1901. German military post offices in China were equipped and authorized to process money orders up to 800 marks each. Money order receipt issued to Commander-in-Chief of Allied forces in North China from August 1900 - June 1901.



FPS № 3

Operated at Yangtsun (garrisoned by about 300 German troops) from 2 September 1900 until 30 April 1901.



FPS № 4

Longest-serving German Field Post Station in North China, operating at Tongku 2 September 1900 - 31 August 1901.

"Damaged by accidental fire in Shanghai Post Office," handstamp applied to mail damaged by fire started by exploding firecrackers in parcel on 28 February 1901. Most often found on fieldpost dated 18 - 24 February.



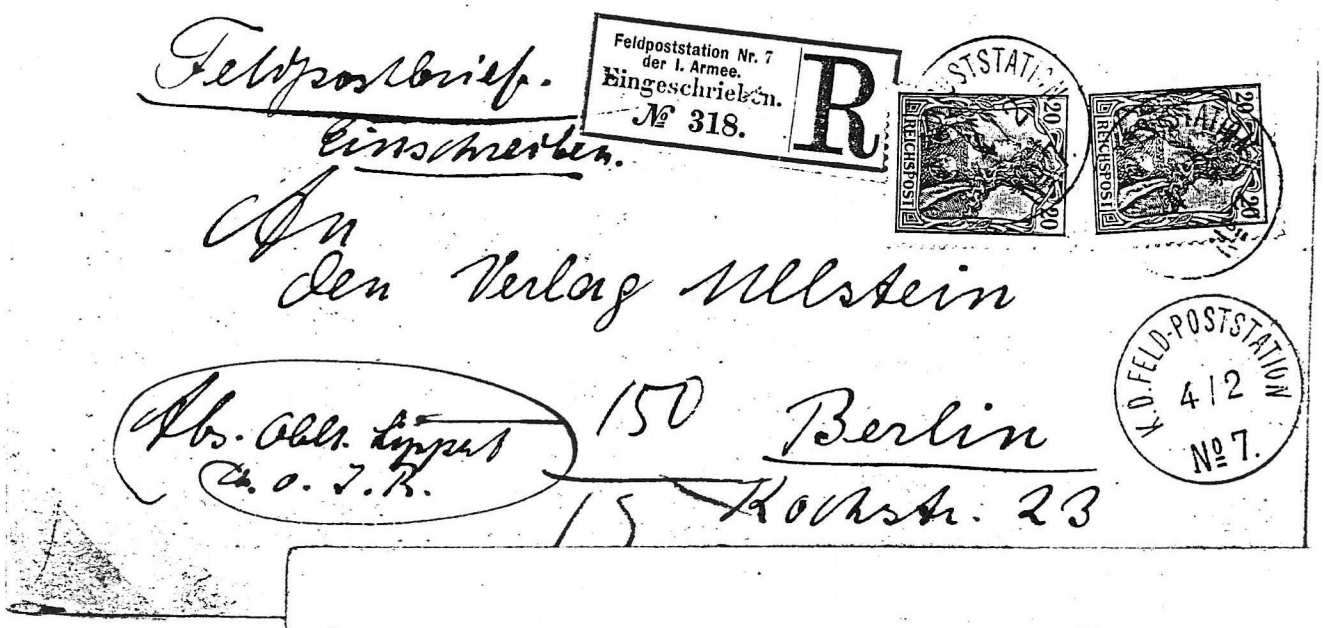
FPS № 5

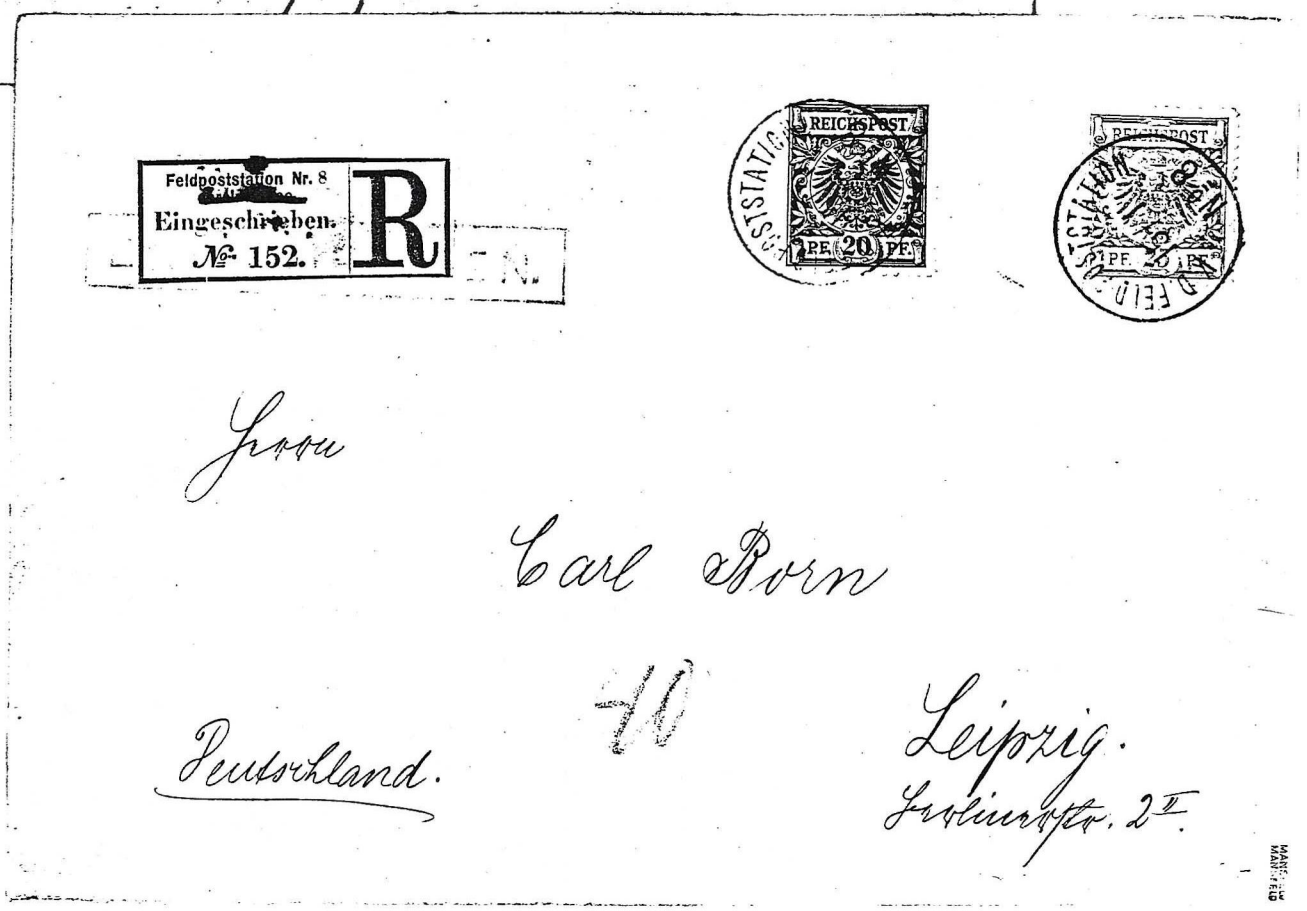
Operated in Tientsin 3 September - 7 November 1900. As the Base Post Office was also in Tientsin, this station's services were not much in demand, and its mail is relatively uncommon.

FPS № 6

Operated at Tingchou from 18 April to 4 May 1901. The literature differs regarding its disposition after that. Friedemann, apparently the best-documented, has it on the march from 5 to 15 May, and at Fuping from 16 May to 25 July 1900.

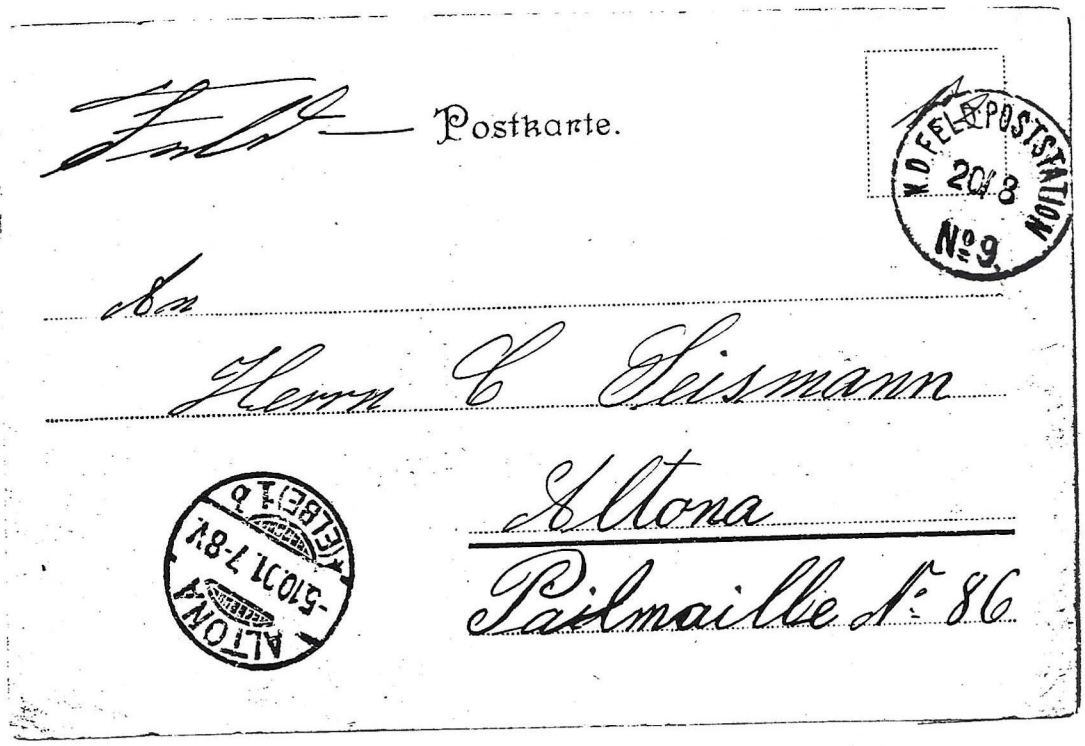






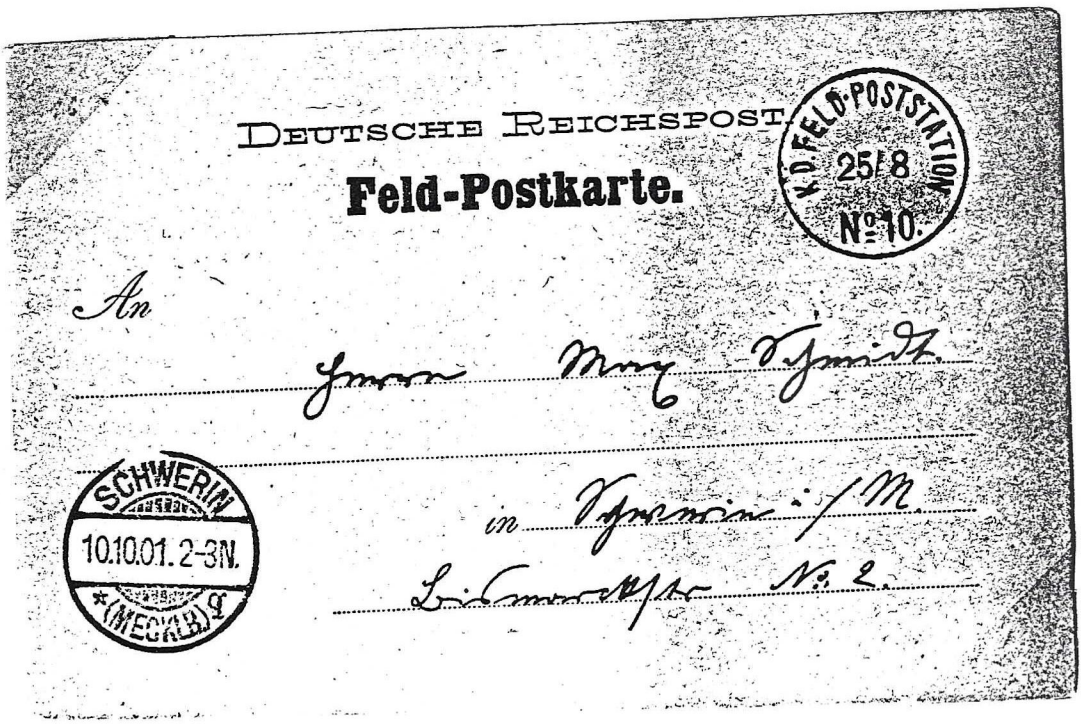
FPS № 7: Operated at Paotingfu 2 November 1900 - 25 July 1901.

FPS № 8: Opened in Shanhaikwan 26 November 1900 (in anticipation of the freezing of the Taku harbor) and continued in operation there until 31 August 1901.



FPS № 9

Operated at Peitaiho from 22 May 1901, after the decision to bring home the East Asia Expeditionary Corps had been made, until 31 August 1901.



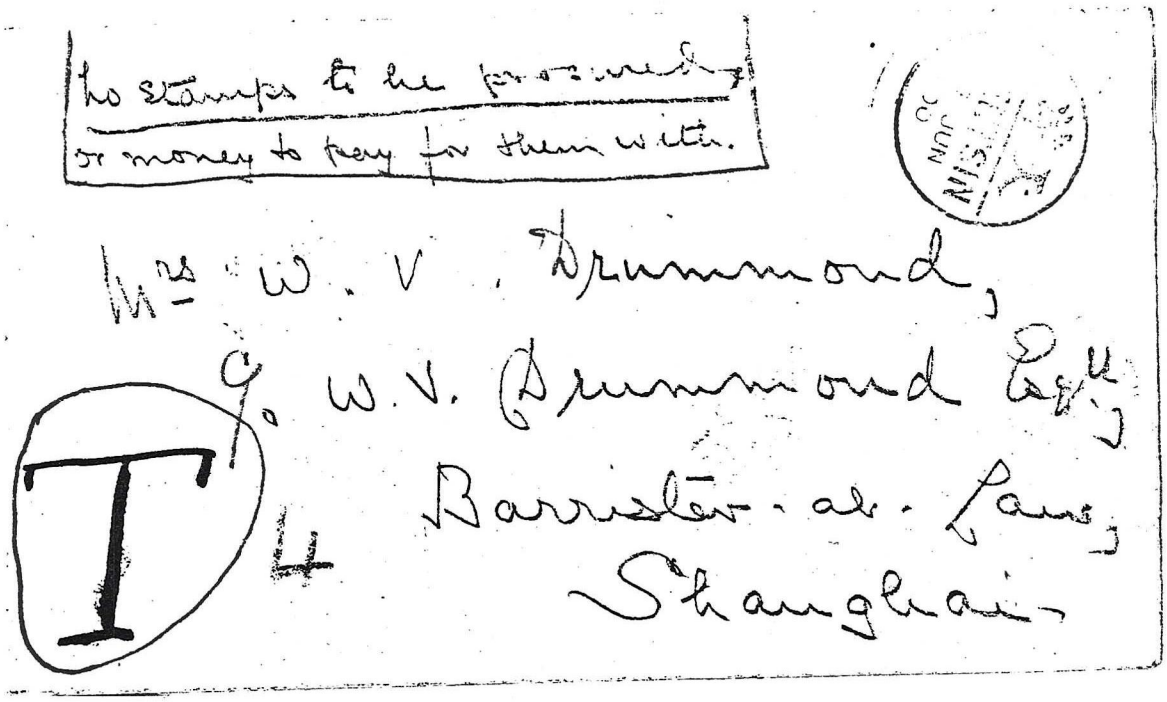
FPS № 10

Served at Kaiping 21 May - 31 August 1901. After FPS № 6, it is the scarcest of the numbered German military post offices in China during the Boxer Uprising.



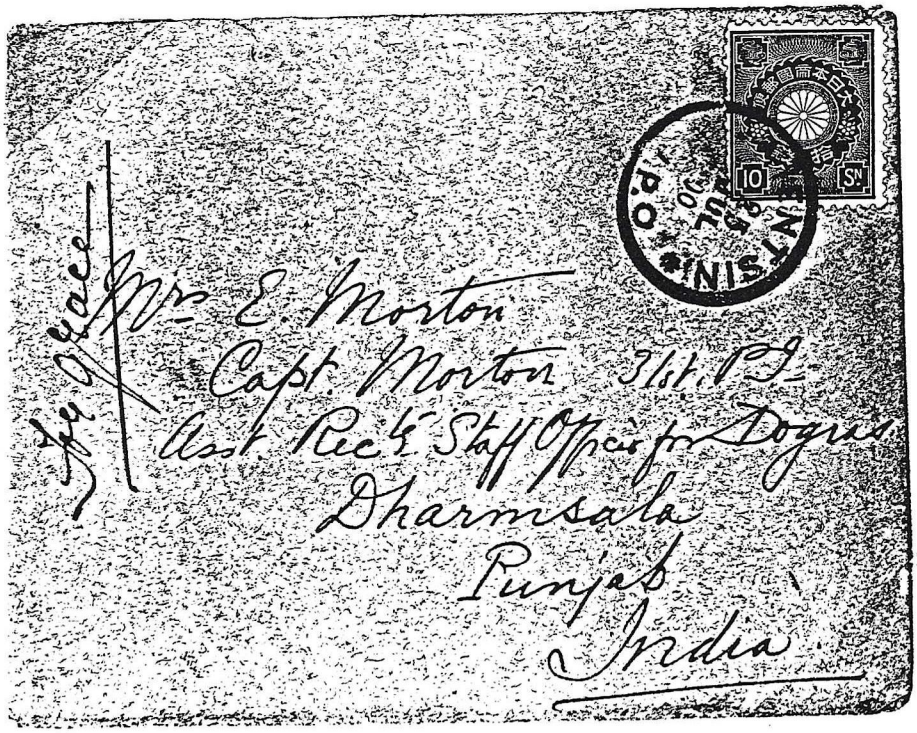
On 4 September 1901 *SS Crefeld* left Taku with troops of the East Asia Expeditionary Corps, delivering them to Bremerhaven on 29 October. It used an unofficial "postmark" from late August until late October. *SS Bahia* used a similar unofficial "postmark" on its voyage, from 9 September - 26 October 1901, even though she was equipped with a Navy post office (MSP 48).

SS Pisa's supply of 5pf stamps was exhausted on the outward voyage so that between July and September 1902 prepayment of postage on postcards was noted with a small manuscript "5" in the left bottom corner and the ship postmark struck at top left. Postage was applied on arrival at Tientsin or, as above, at the Navy Post Office in Berlin.



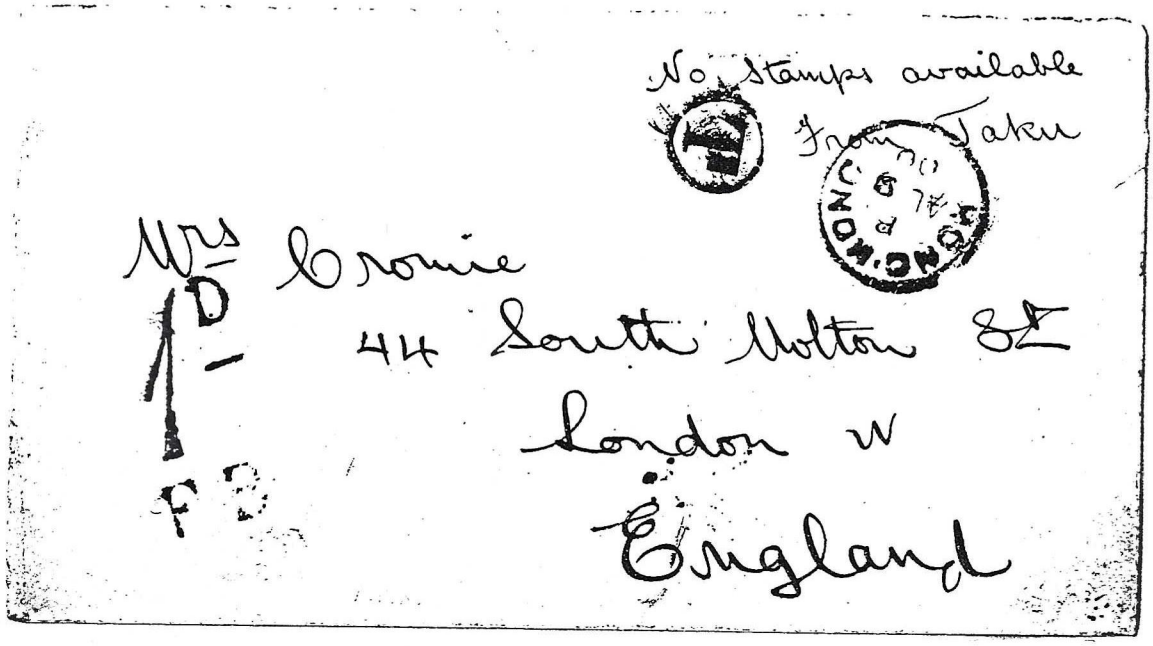
Chinese Post Office

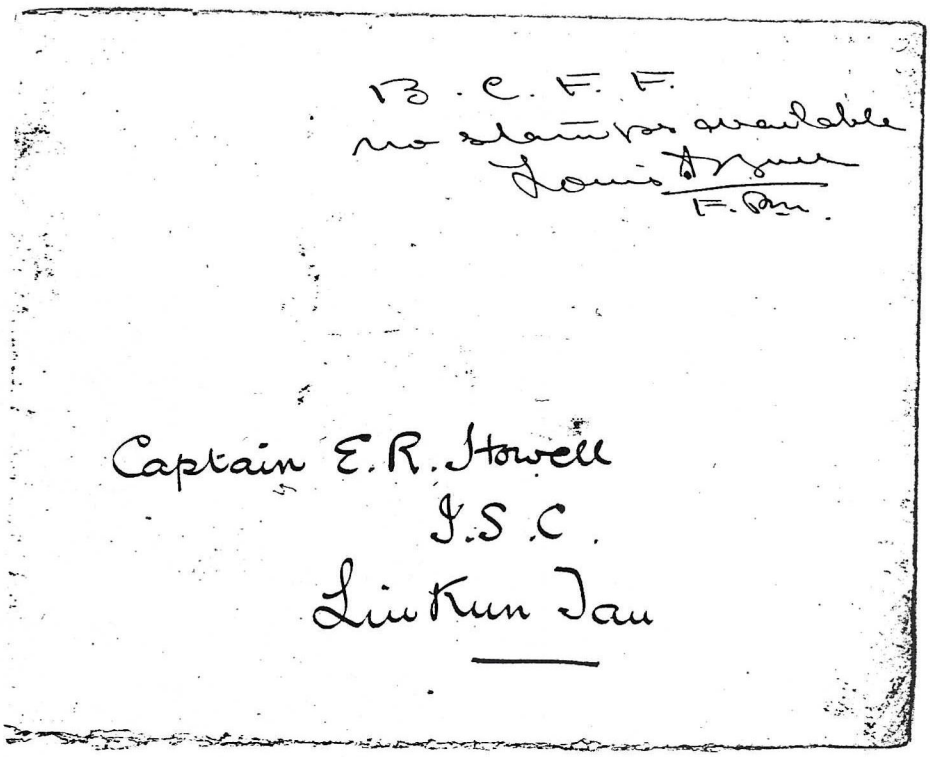
The International Settlement in Tientsin was attacked by Boxers on 17 June 1900 and relieved on 23 June. This cover posted 26 June 1900: a very early Boxer item.



Japanese Post Office

First troops from India arrived in Tientsin on 18 July 1900 but the first British FPO did not open until 27 July. Cover franked at UPU rate, equal to 2½ annas.

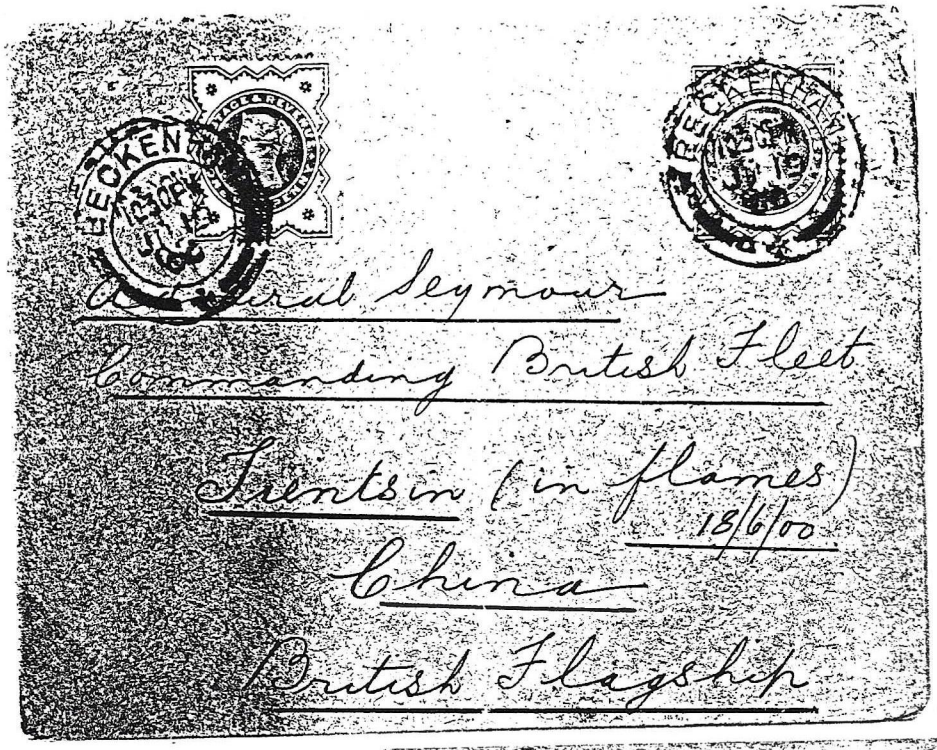




C.E.F. Order No. 942, 12 August 1900, directed that troops quartered at places where there were no FPOs, or in columns unaccompanied by FPOs, frank their mail "No Stamps Available," and that such letters be accepted by an FPO and sent free to the Base Post Office, "where they will be stamped and despatched to their destination, the cost being charged to the state." Top cover predates order and establishment of Base APO in Hong Kong, thus not stamped. Bottom cover Backstamped FPO 13, October 1900) should have been stamped.

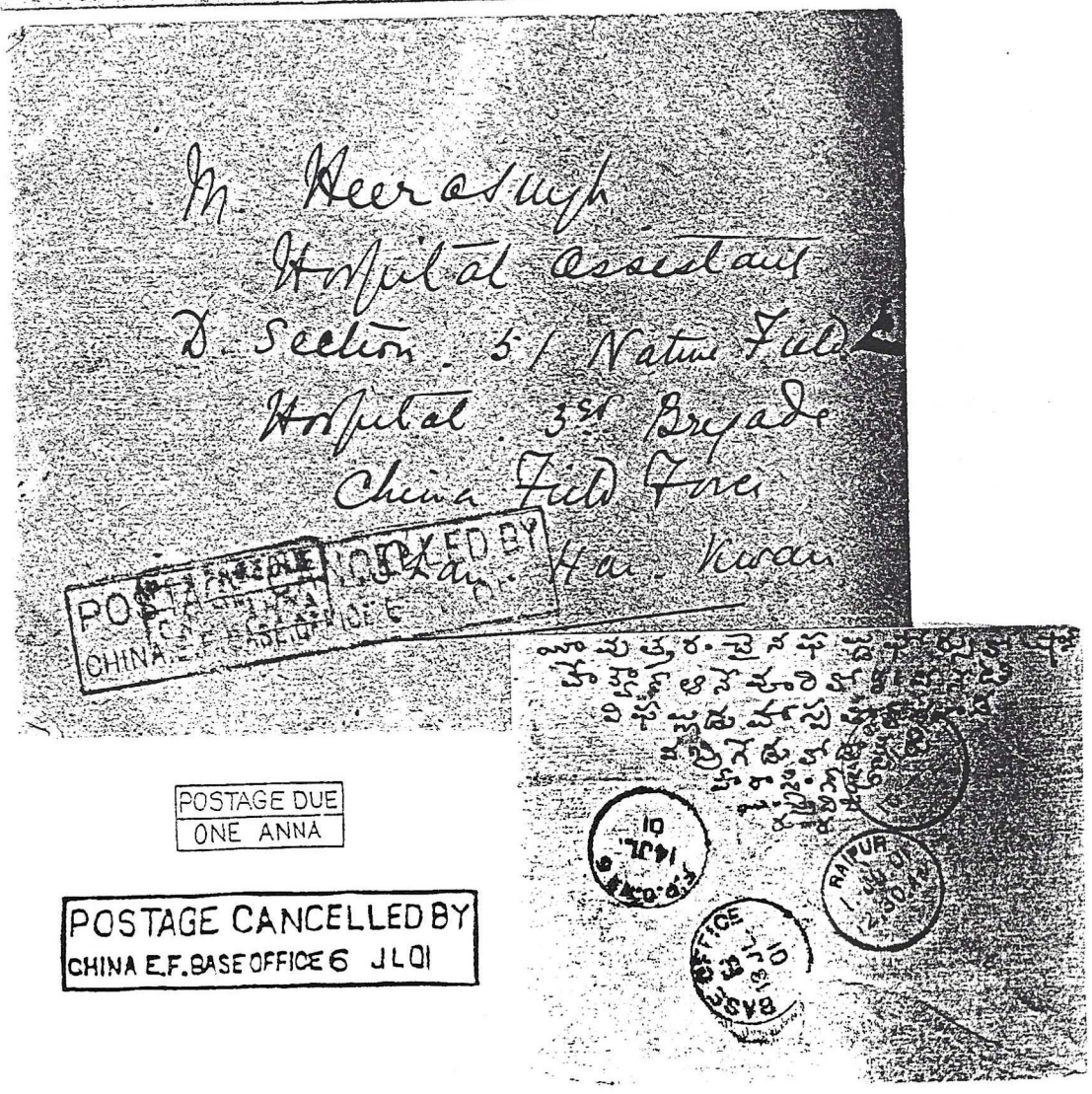
British Forces

Incoming Mail



Admiral Seymour

Franked at pre-Boxer concessionary rate for mail to British forces abroad. Average transit time between GB and North China during the Boxer period was 45 days. Admiral Seymour made a disastrous attempt to reach Peking in June, and was not in command of the later successful relief column.



Postage Due

The Indian Post Office directed on 29 June 1900 that all items mailed to the C.E.F. be prepaid. However, the CEF practice for underpaid and unpaid mail from England was for short-paid mail to be passed free to the addressee and the deficiency charged to the War Office. Here, non-payment of ½ anna postage resulted in double-deficiency due charge of 1 anna at Base APO A, which was "Cancelled" despite the Indian origin of the cover.

POSTAGE DUE
ONE ANNA

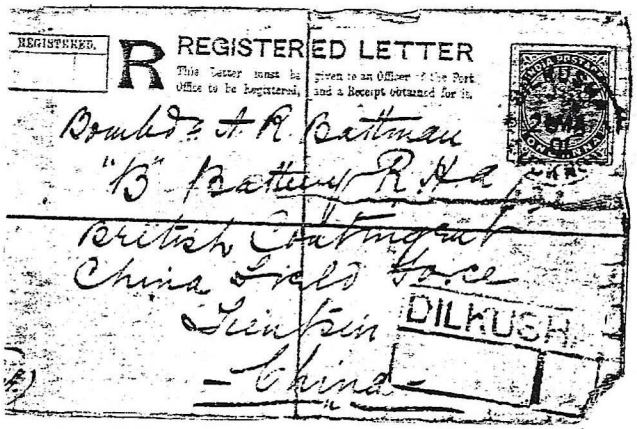
POSTAGE CANCELLED BY
CHINA E.F. BASE OFFICE 6 JL 01

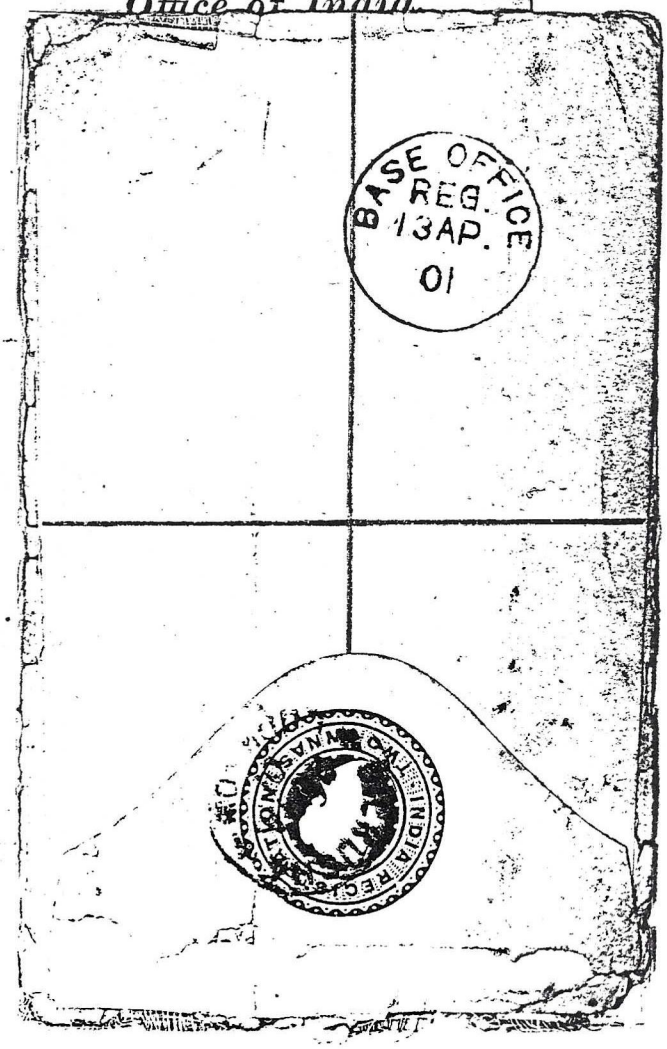
POSTAL NOTICE.

It is hereby notified that postal articles for the British Contingent, China Field Force, can now be registered at post offices in India. Such articles cannot, however, be insured or sent under the value-payable system.

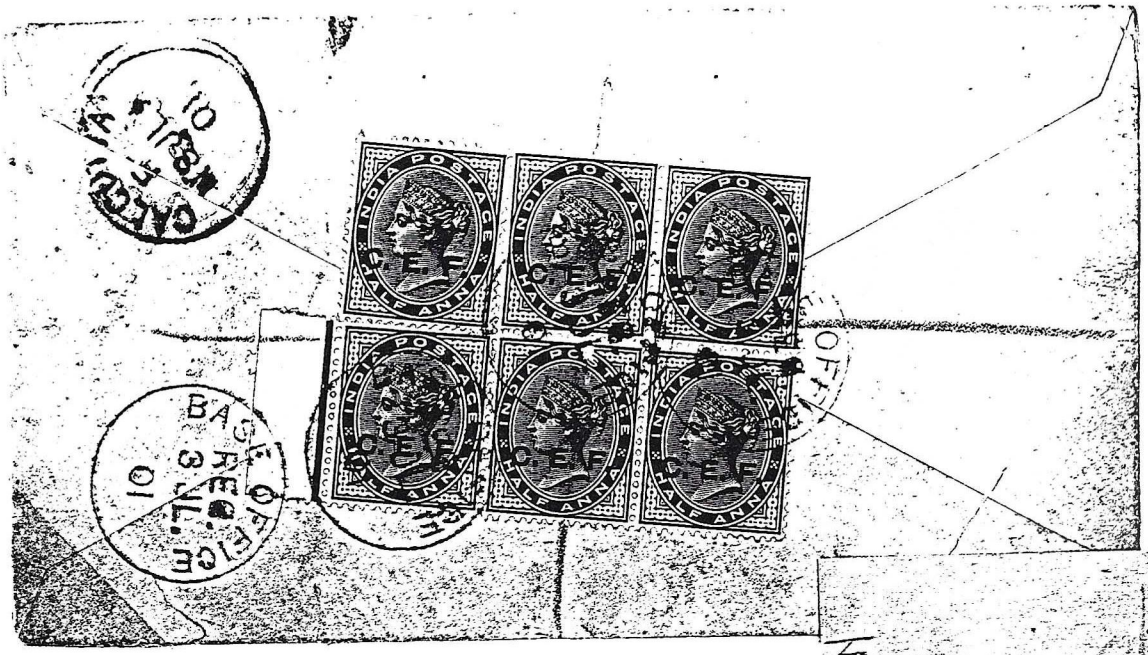
A. U. FANSHAWE,
Director-General of the Post Office of India.

CALCUTTA:
The 16th January 1901.



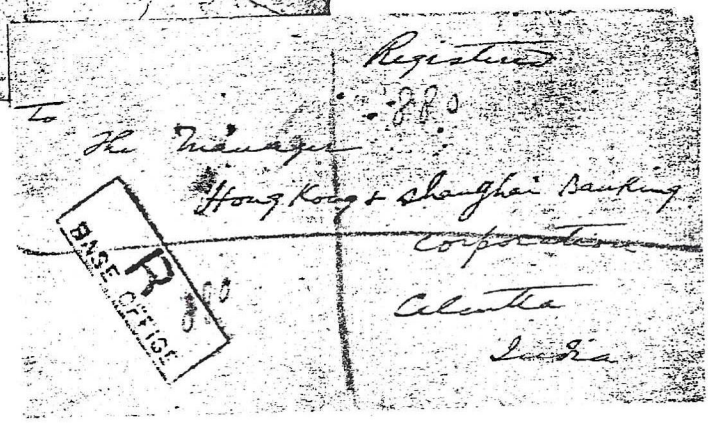


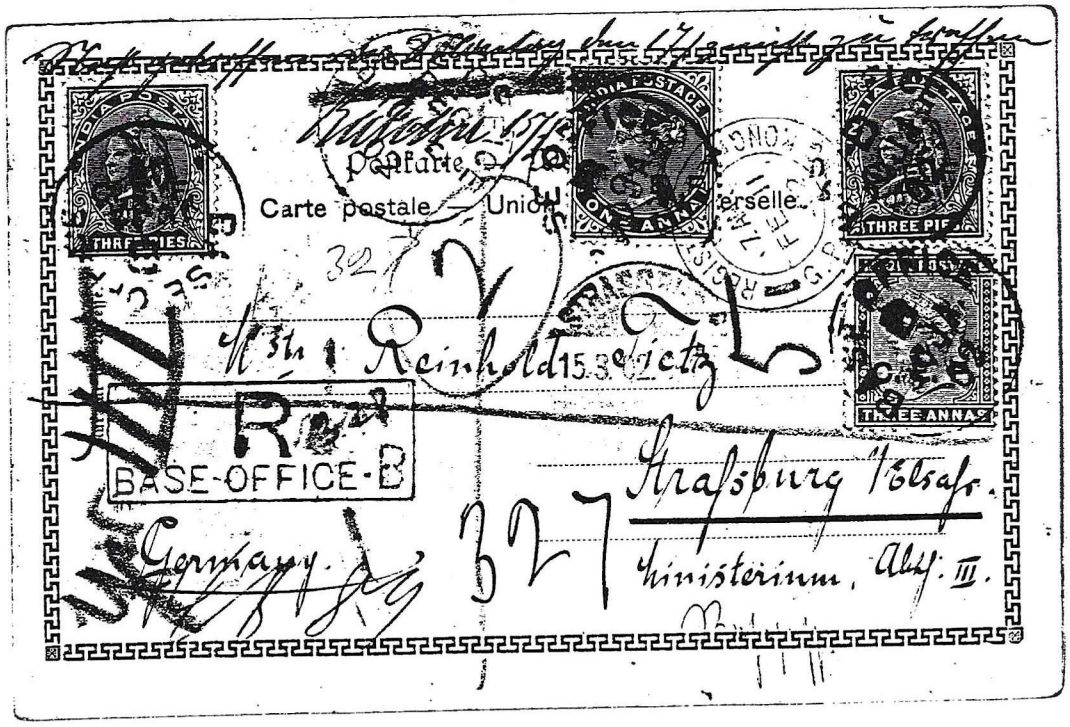
G. I. C. P. O.—No. 370 D. G. P. O.—15-1-1901.—25,500.



Base APO A

Opened at Hong Kong 10 August 1900, after discovery that original site at Weihaiwei was not on normal mail boat routes to North China. Closed 1 June 1903.



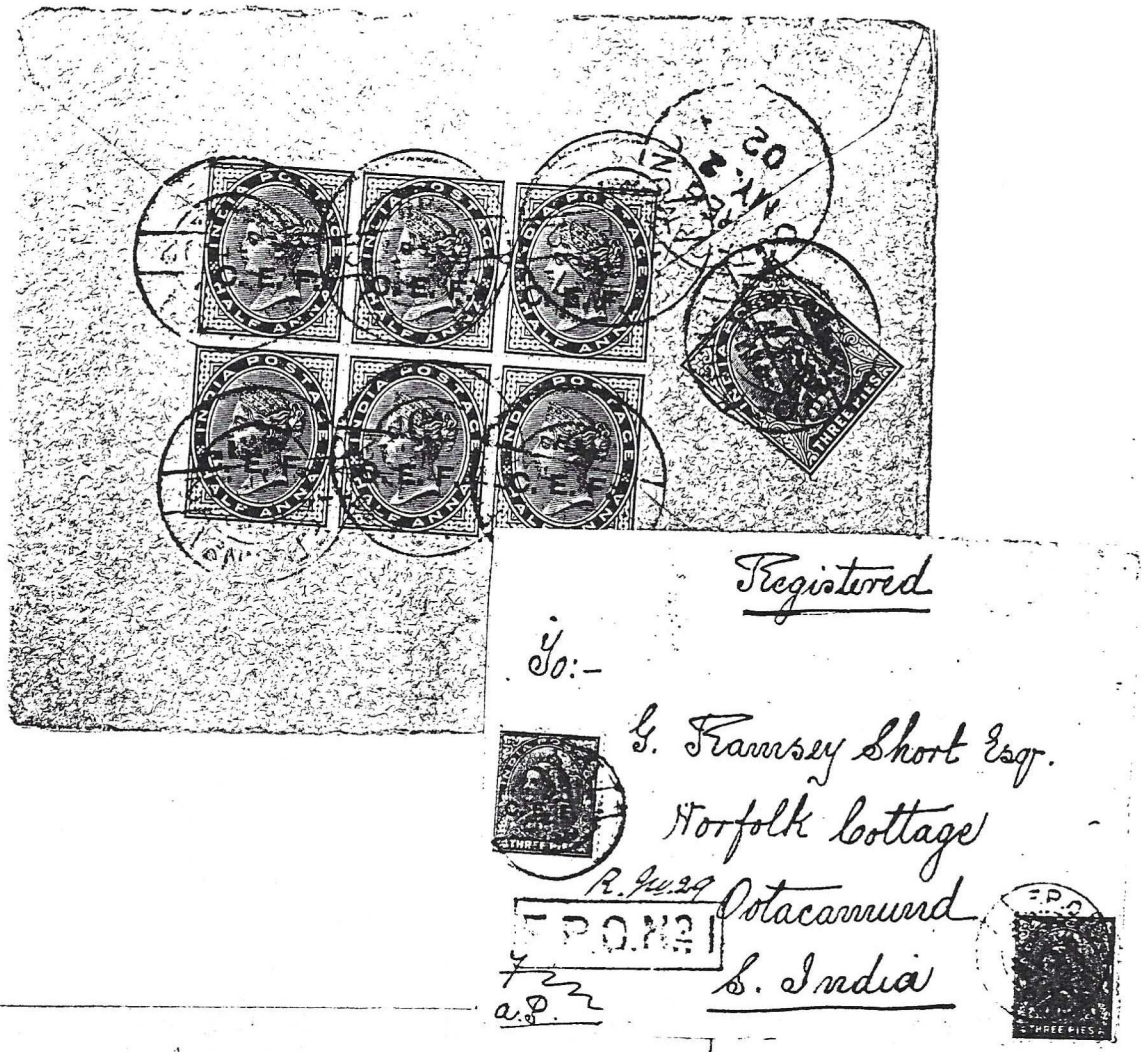


Base APO B

Needed due to large number of troops in North China and frequency of their movements, to avoid confusion in routing mail. Operated at Tientsin 1 November 1900 - 23 November 1923.

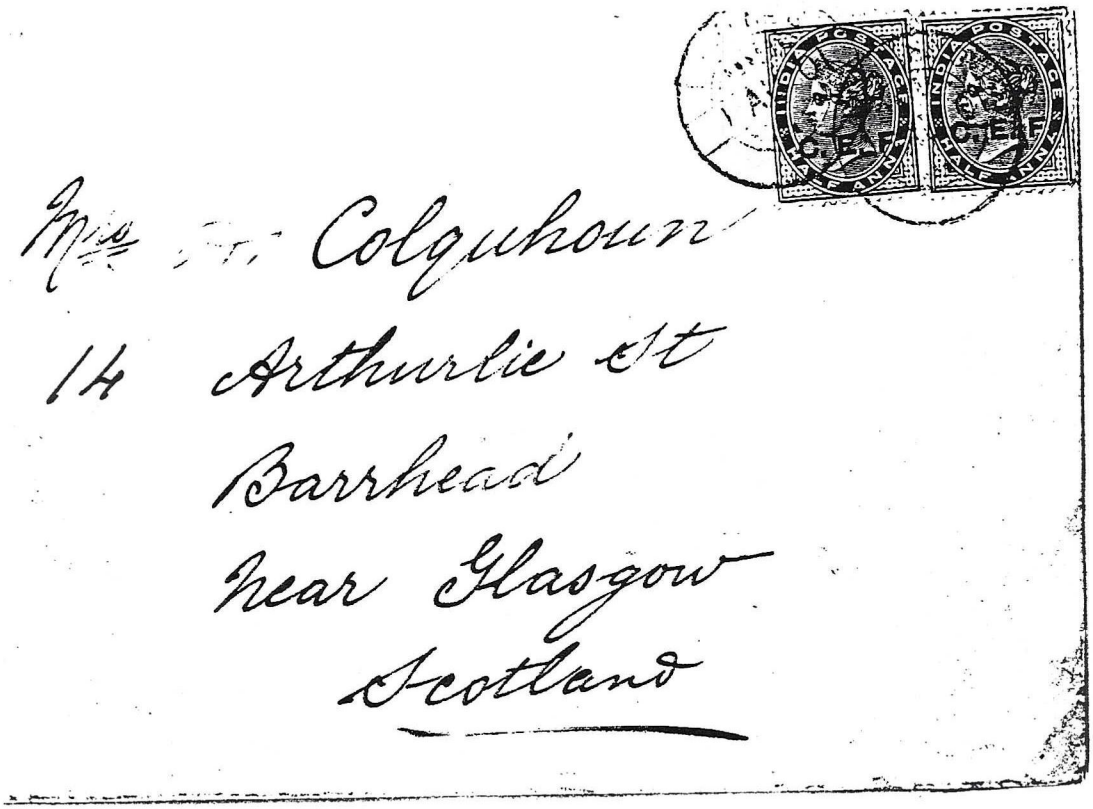
FPO 1

Operated in Peking (Legation Gate) 1 September 1900 until late 1923. F.P.O. Nº 1 registry handstamp probably sent out during the Uprising, but this is the earliest recorded usage.



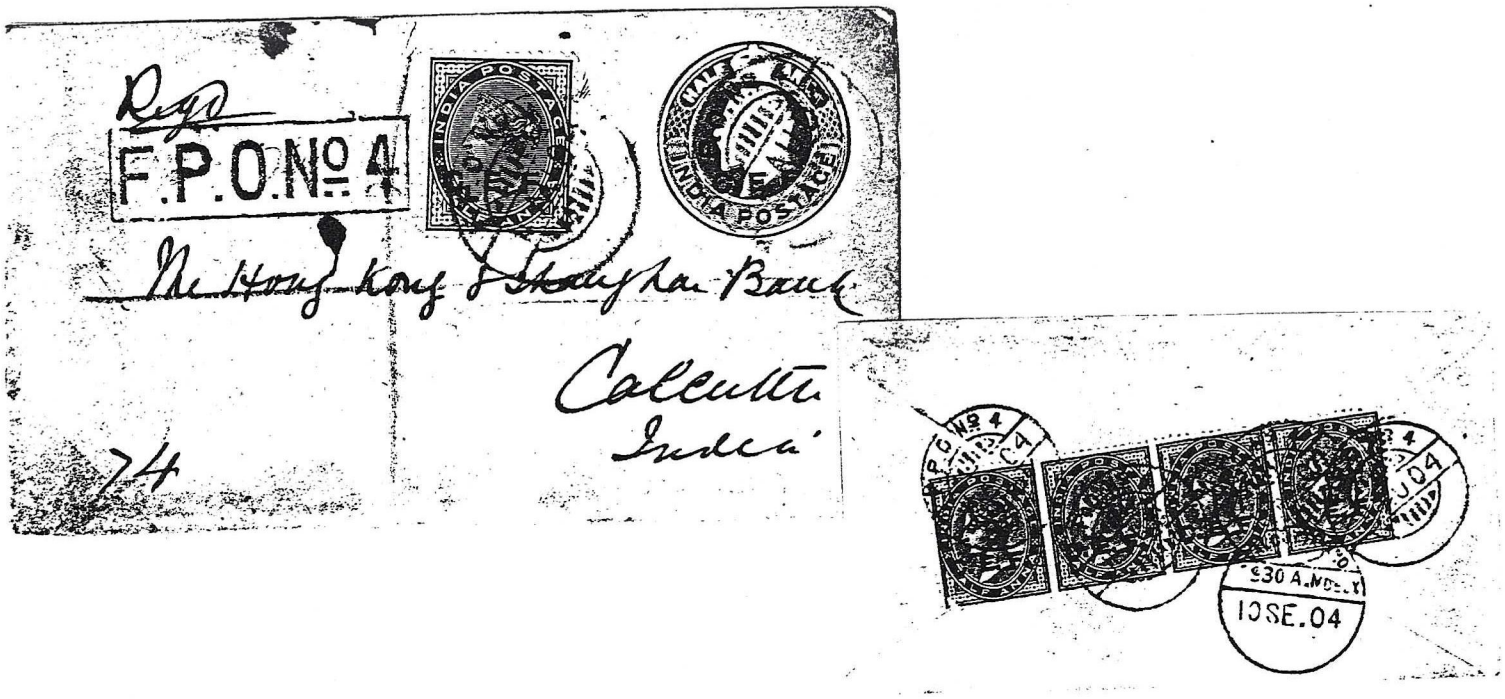
FPO 2

Served the headquarters of the 1st Infantry Bde. in Peking (Temple of Heaven). Operated 1 September 1900 - 15 September 1901. F.P.O. Nº 2 boxed registration handstamp previously unrecorded.



FPO 3

Officially reported to have opened on 30 August 1900, though usages reported as early as 23 August. Continued in operation at Tungchow, northeast of Peking on the rail line to Chinwangtao, to 1 August 1901, when moved to Tongshan.



FPO 4

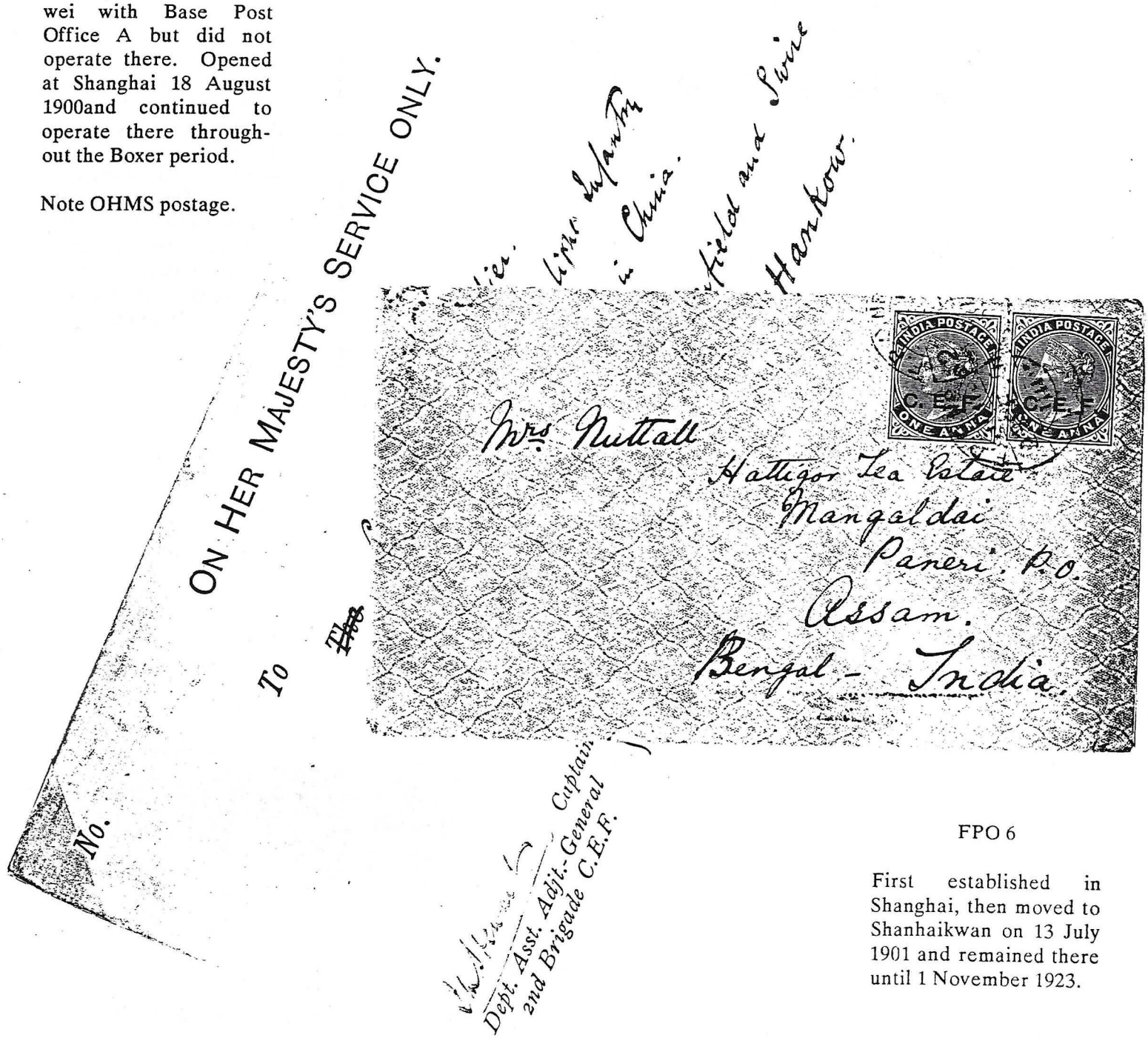
After briefly operating in Tientsin, opened in Tongku on 13 November 1900 and remained there until 30 April 1901. Returned to Tientsin 2 May 1901 and continued in operation there until early 1908.



FPO 5

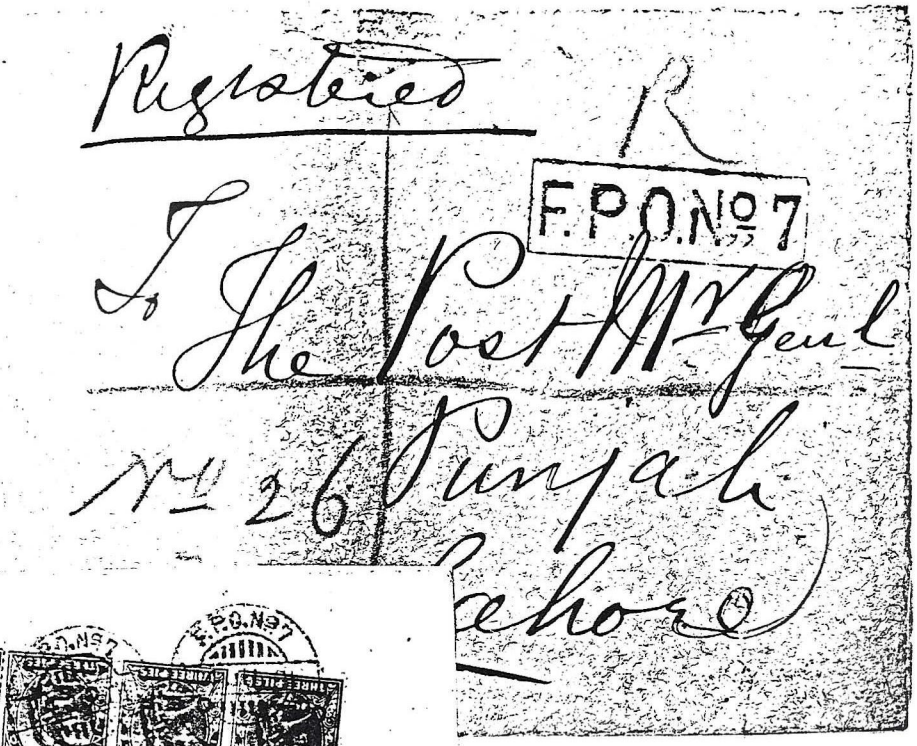
Initially sent to Weihai-wei with Base Post Office A but did not operate there. Opened at Shanghai 18 August 1900and continued to operate there throughout the Boxer period.

Note OHMS postage.



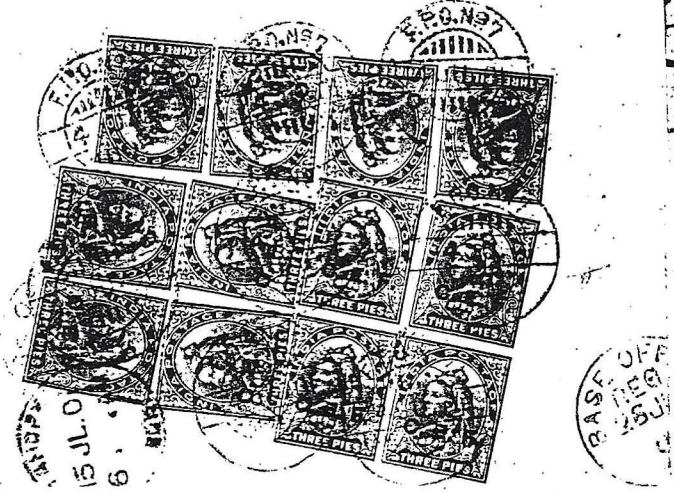
FPO 6

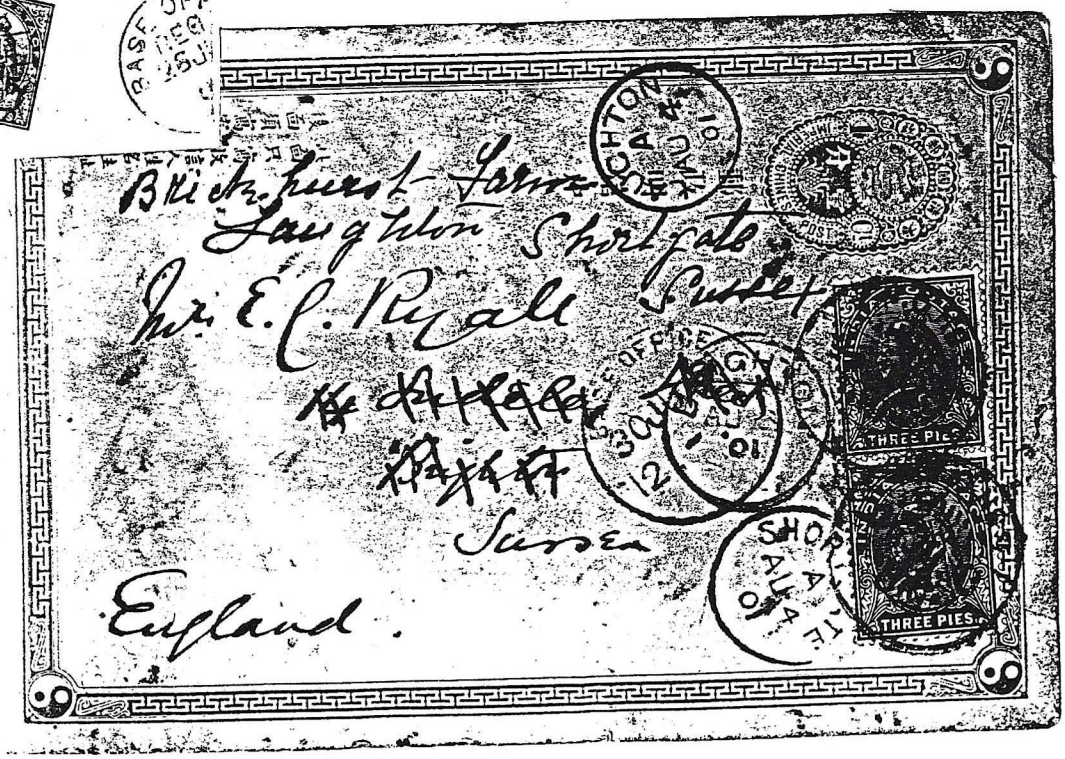
First established in Shanghai, then moved to Shanhaikwan on 13 July 1901 and remained there until 1 November 1923.



FPO 7

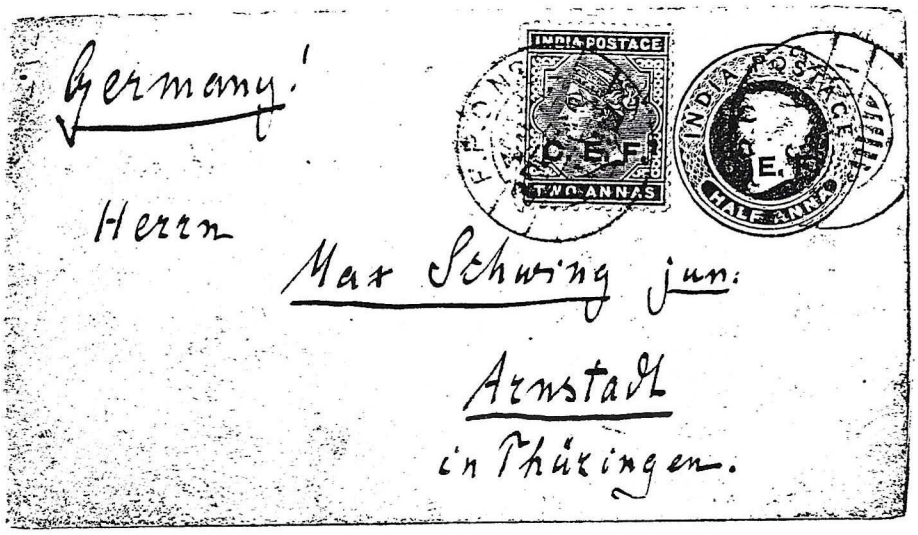
Operated in Peking (Tartar City) support of units of the 1st Infantry Bde., 23 October 1900 until at least 14 July 1901. There are at most 2 recorded examples of the FPO 7 boxed name stamp.





FPO 8

Operated at Shanghai in support of units of 2nd Infantry Bde., 25 September 1900 - 27 June 1901.



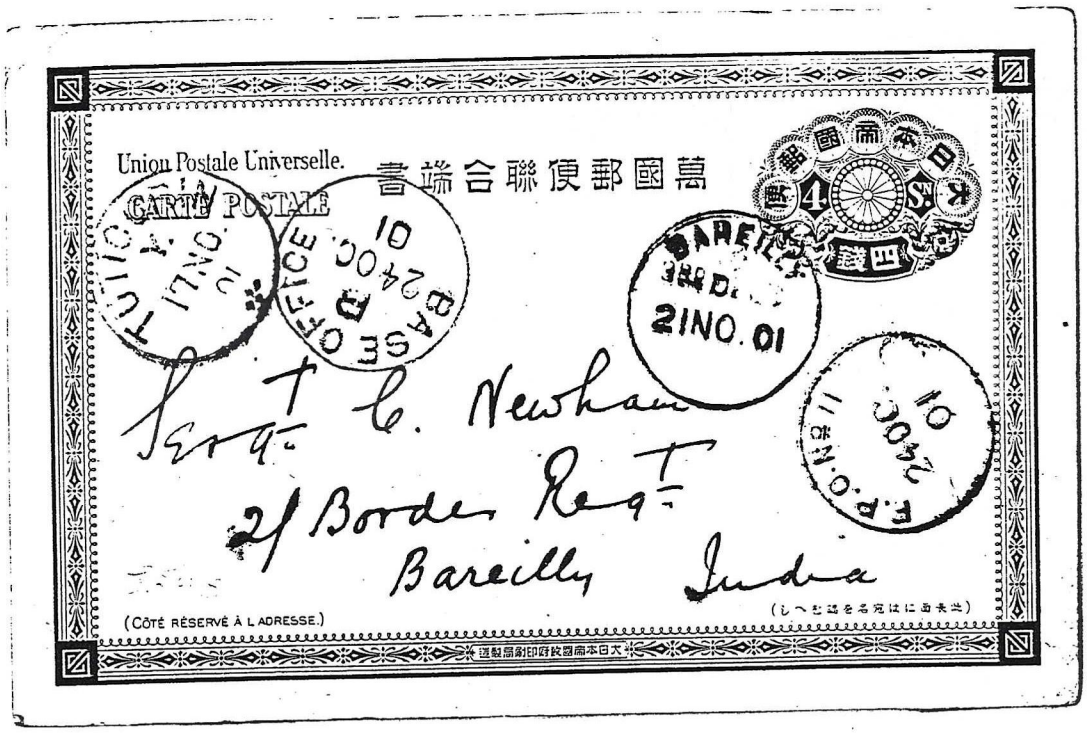
FPO 9

Operated first at Weihaiwei 4 August - 22 September 1900, then at Yangtsun 9 October 1900 - 1 August 1901.



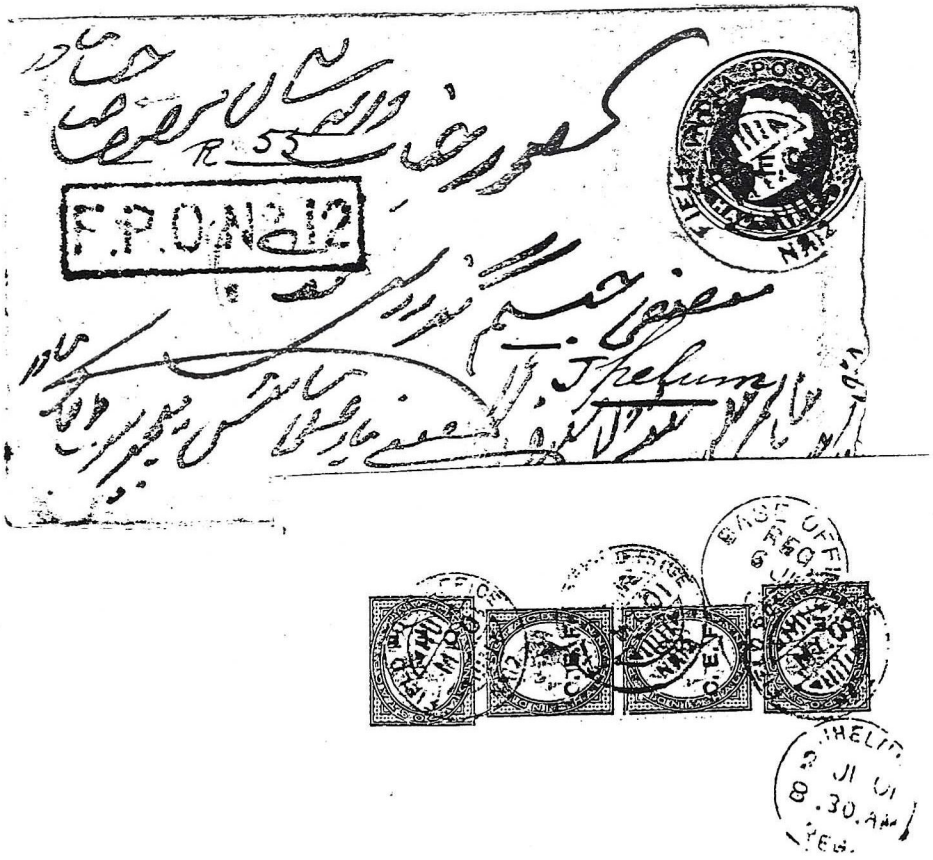
FPO 10

Operated at Tangshan 13 September until moved to Hanku in late January 1901. Again moved, to Hwangtsun Hunting Park 27 May 1901, and closed on 4 August 1901.



FPO 11

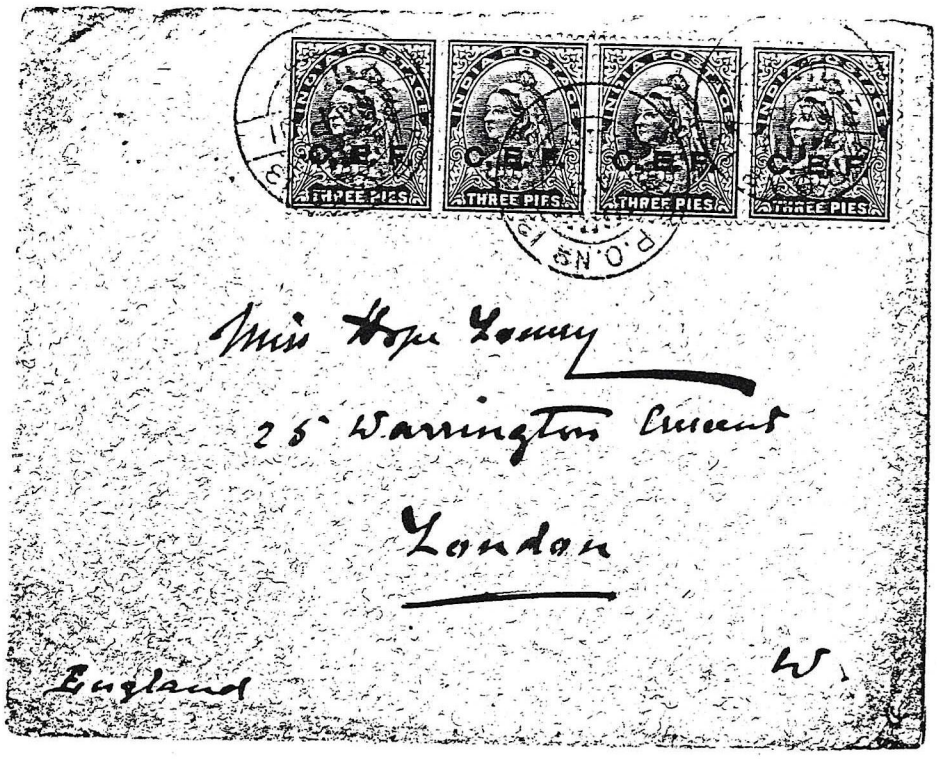
Operated at Sinho 30 July 1900 - 8 December 1901, when it moved to Tongku for the winter. Continued to operate at Sinho (winters in Tongku) until 16 March 1903.



FPO 12

Operated at Hoshiwu 28 August - 11 November (no examples recorded), then at Matao 12 November 1900 - ca. 20 May 1901. Operated at the Summer Palace in Peking 22 May - 14 July 1901.

Only recorded example of the FPO N^{o} 12 boxed handstamp.

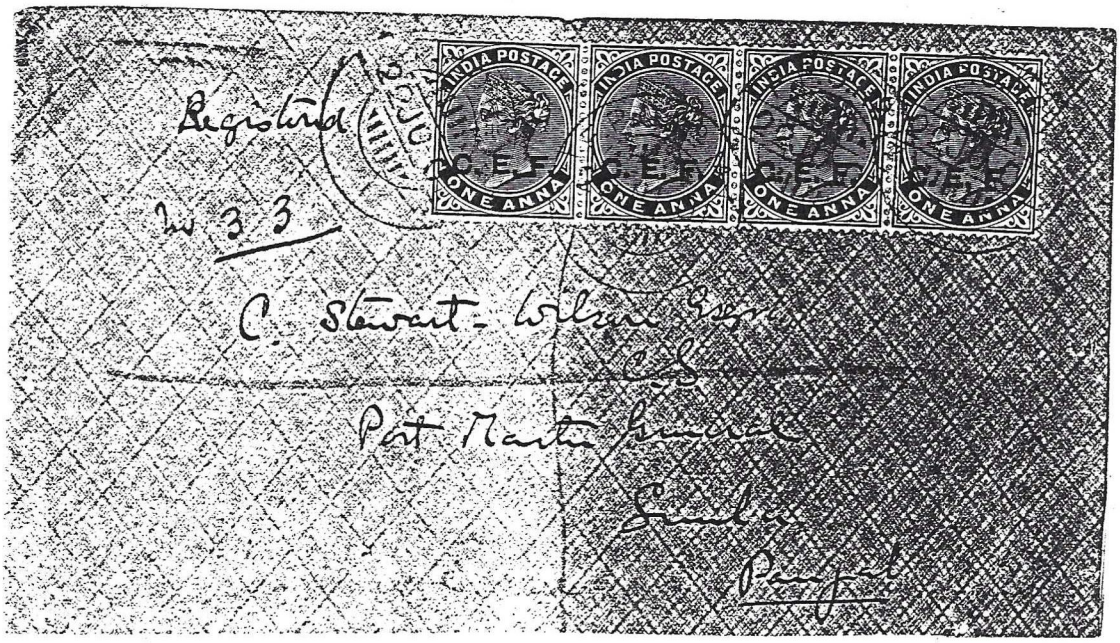


FPO 13

Operated at Weihaiwei 23 September 1900 until at least 24 August 1901 on support of 3rd Infantry Bde.

FPO 14

Attached to the 3rd Infantry Bde. After brief service in Hong Kong and aboard *SS Sumatra* (no examples recorded) operated at Shanhaikwan Beach 5 - 14 October 1900, then at Shanhaikwan Fort No. 4 until 12 July 1901.

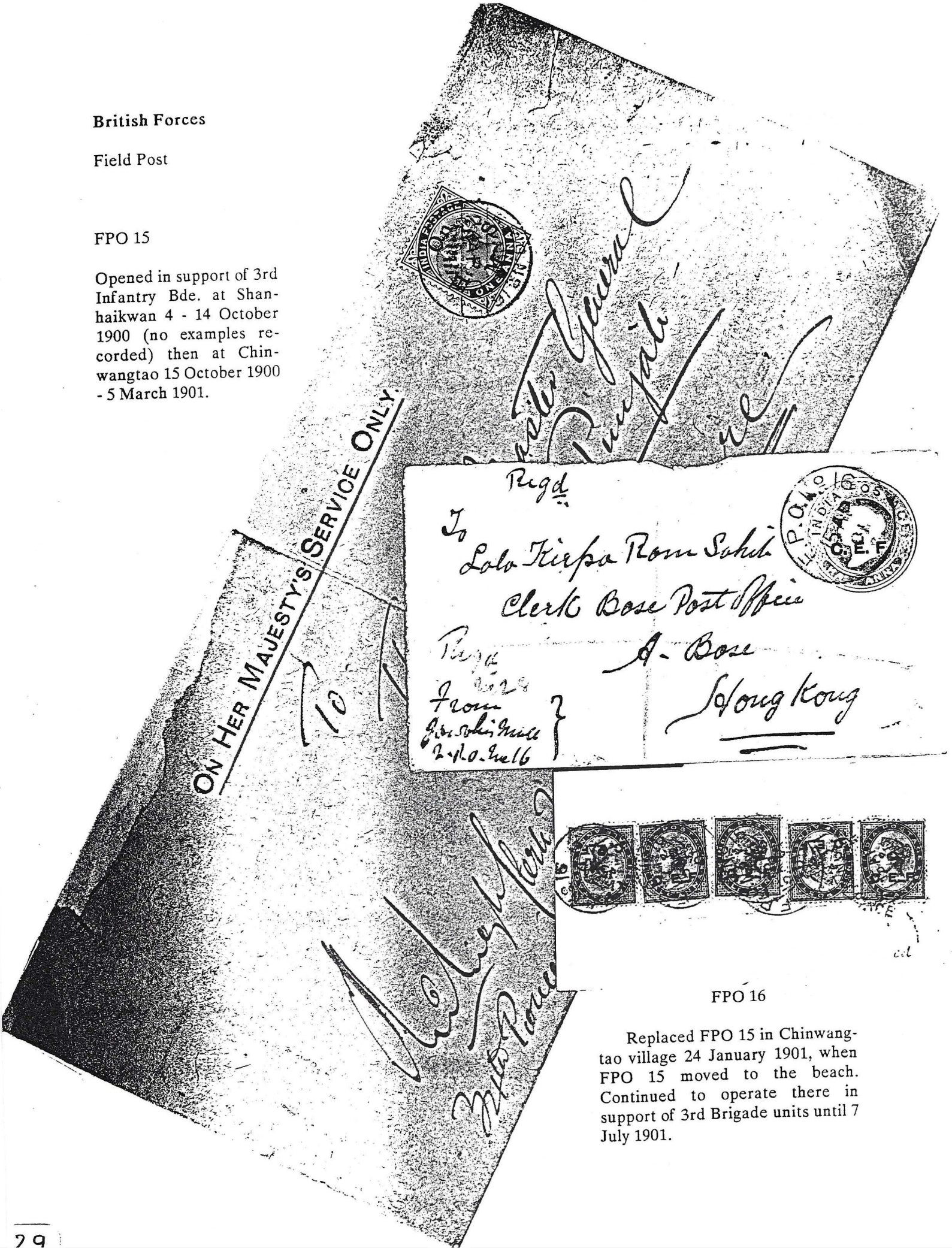


British Forces

Field Post

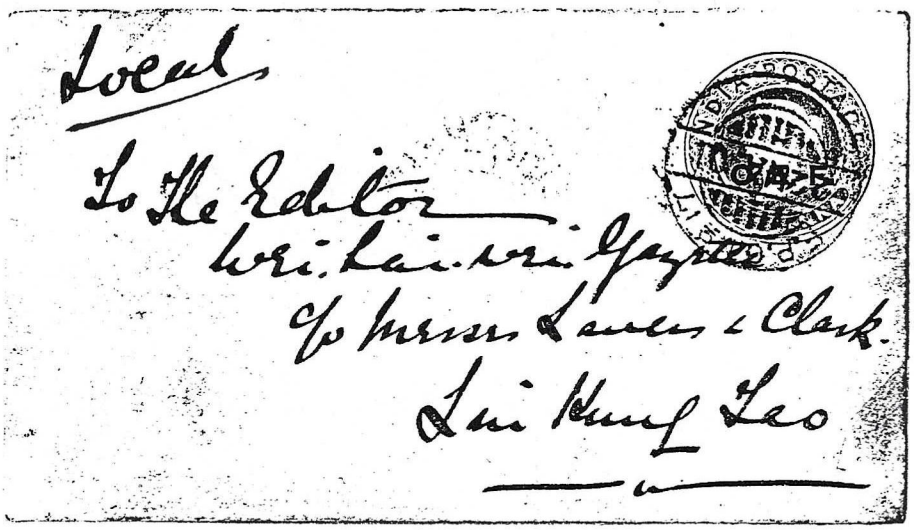
FPO 15

Opened in support of 3rd Infantry Bde. at Shanhaikwan 4 - 14 October 1900 (no examples recorded) then at Chinwangtao 15 October 1900 - 5 March 1901.



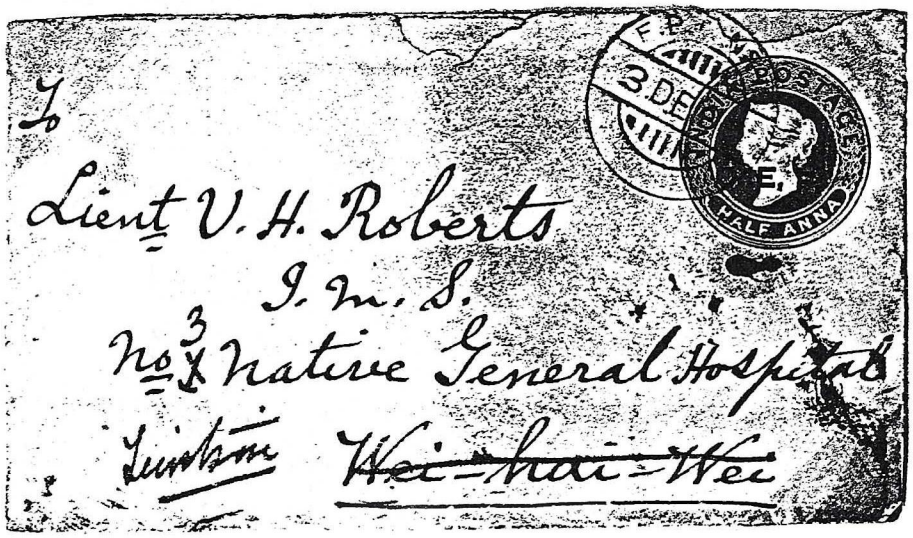
FPO 16

Replaced FPO 15 in Chinwangtao village 24 January 1901, when FPO 15 moved to the beach. Continued to operate there in support of 3rd Brigade units until 7 July 1901.



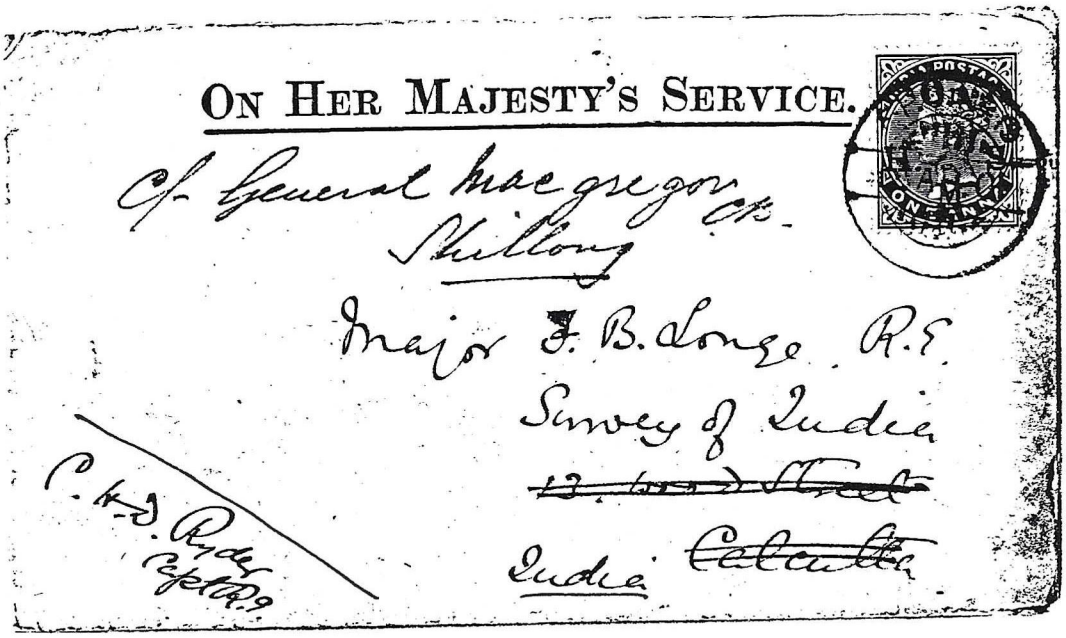
FPO 17

Operated at Matau, leased territory of Weihaiwei, 11 October 1900 - 16 July 1901.



FPO 18

Accompanied 4th Infantry Bde. from India and operated at Tientsin 17 October 1900 - (at least) 18 August 1901.

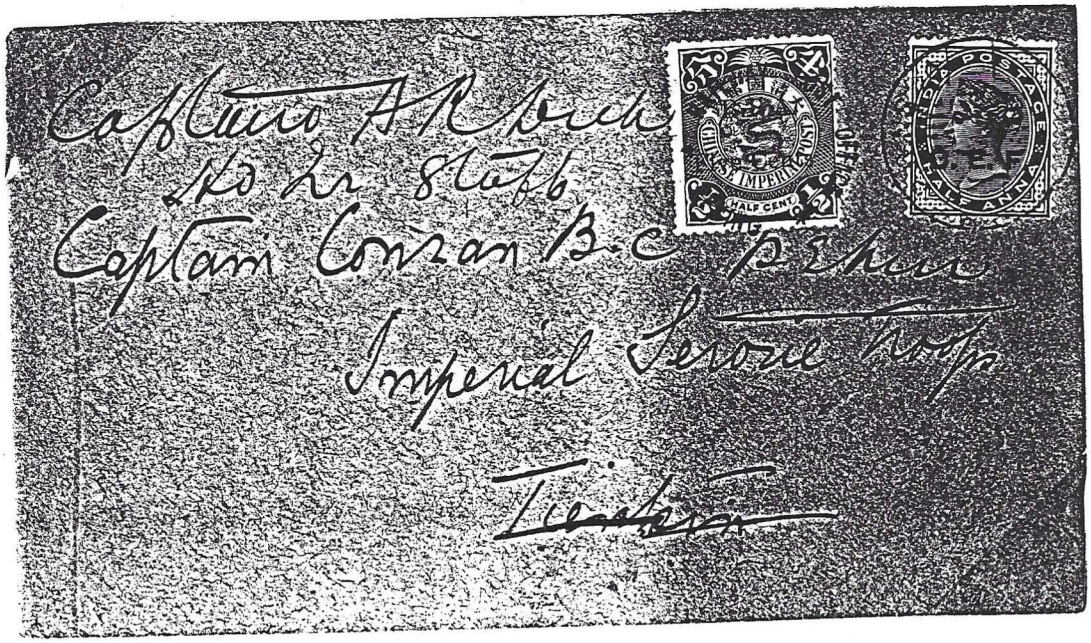


FPO 19

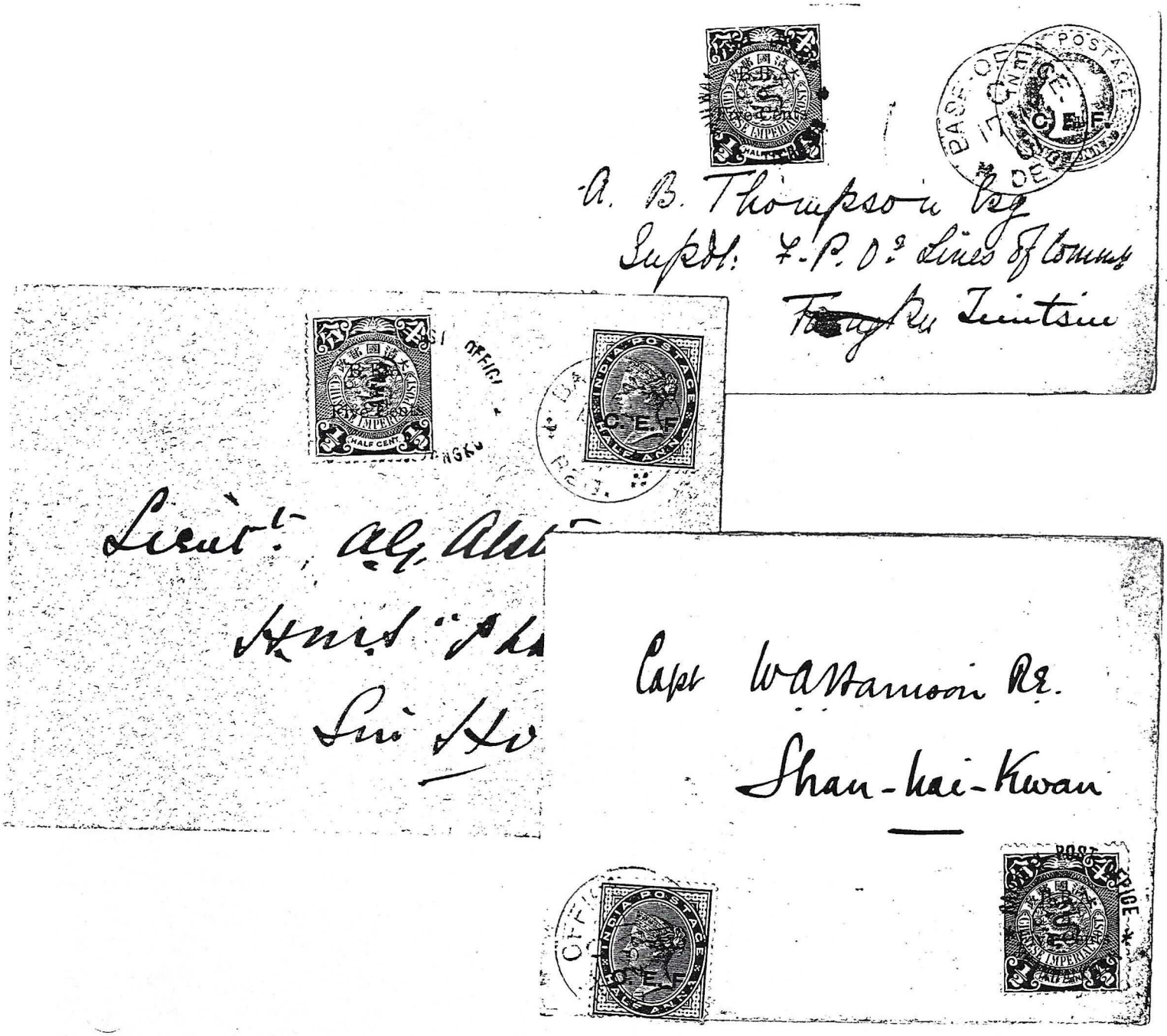
Operated with West Peiho Expedition 25 December 1900 - 5 January 1901 (no examples recorded), then at Tongshan ca. 15 February - 1 August 1901.

TPO: FPO 20

FPO 20 datestamps were allocated to railway mail cars operated by the British Army between Peking and Tangku, beginning 20 April 1901. Latest recorded FPO 20 postmark, 17 May 1901.



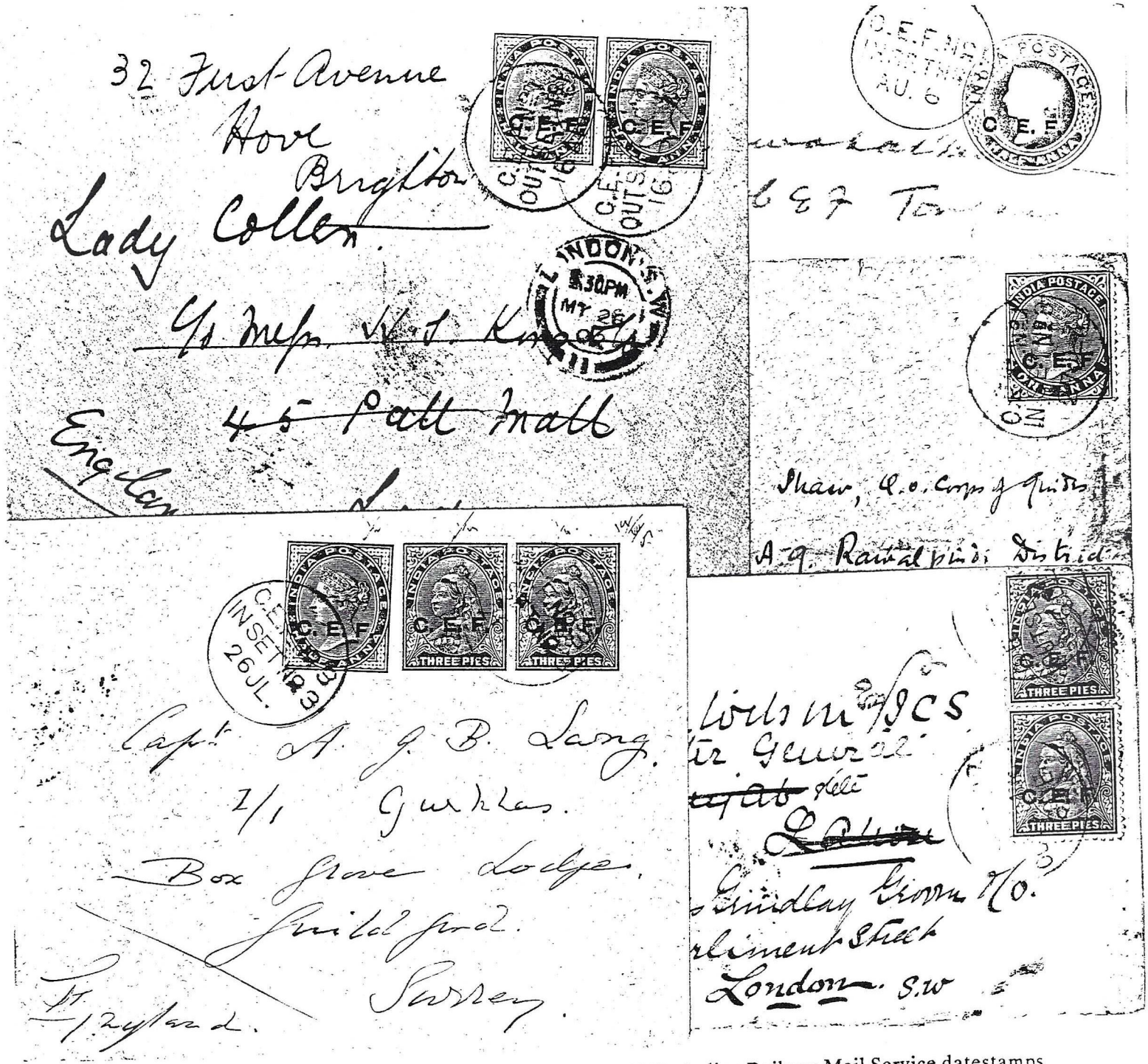
TPO: Base Office C



No Base Office C was opened, so 7 of its postmarks were allocated to the mail cars. Used by Shanhaikwan-Hanku Section 20 April - 11 May and by Tientsin-Shanhaikwan Section 12 - 31 May 1901.

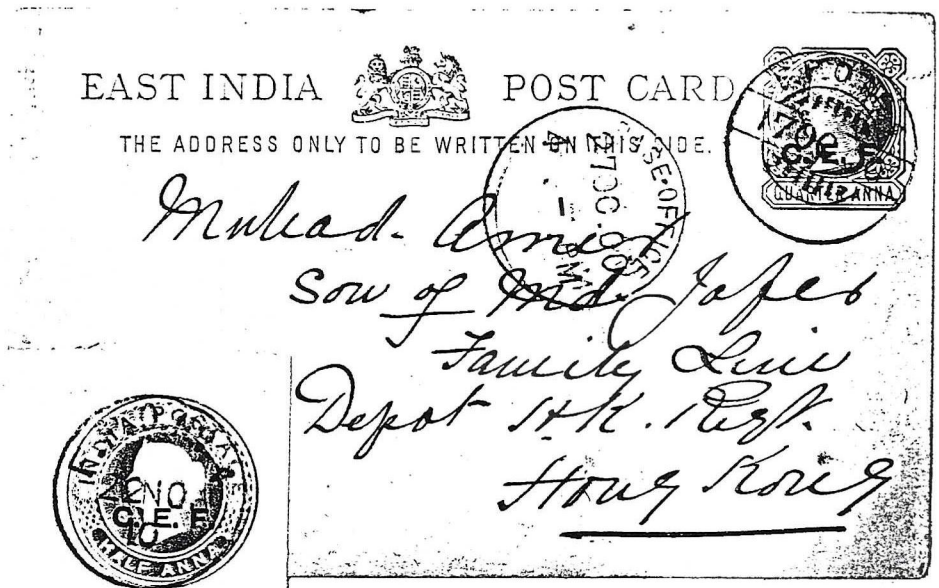
The B.R.A. 5¢ stamp was a philatelic speculation imposed on the C.E.F. postal section by certain members of the British Railway Administration. It was used (almost always philatelically) 20 April - 20 May 1901 to pay a late fee for regular letters posted from 60 to 10 minutes before train departure. Stamps were affixed by a "Railway postmaster" at each of 5 stations.

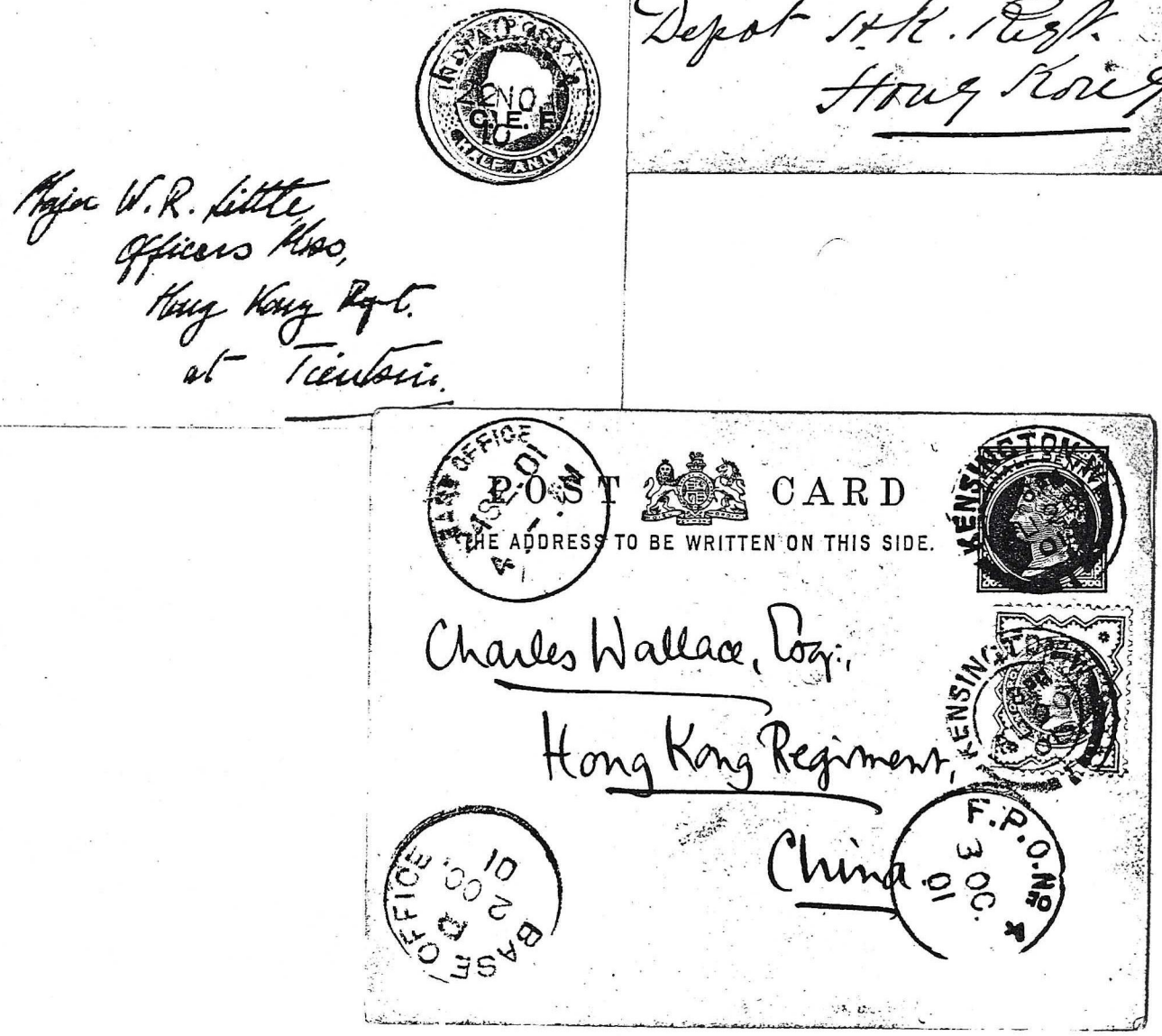
TPO: C.E.F. Nº__



C.E.F. travelling post offices operated until 31 October 1902. Indian Railway Mail Service datestamps for 3 sections, each with 3 sets, arrived in North China 27 May 1901, and certain of these datestamps for C.E.F. Nº 1 and C.E.F. Nº 3, were put into service by 1 June. C.E.F. Nº 2 postmarks were not used until 17 November 1901. About 30 covers with the RMS type postmarks are recorded.

British Forces
Hong Kong Regiment





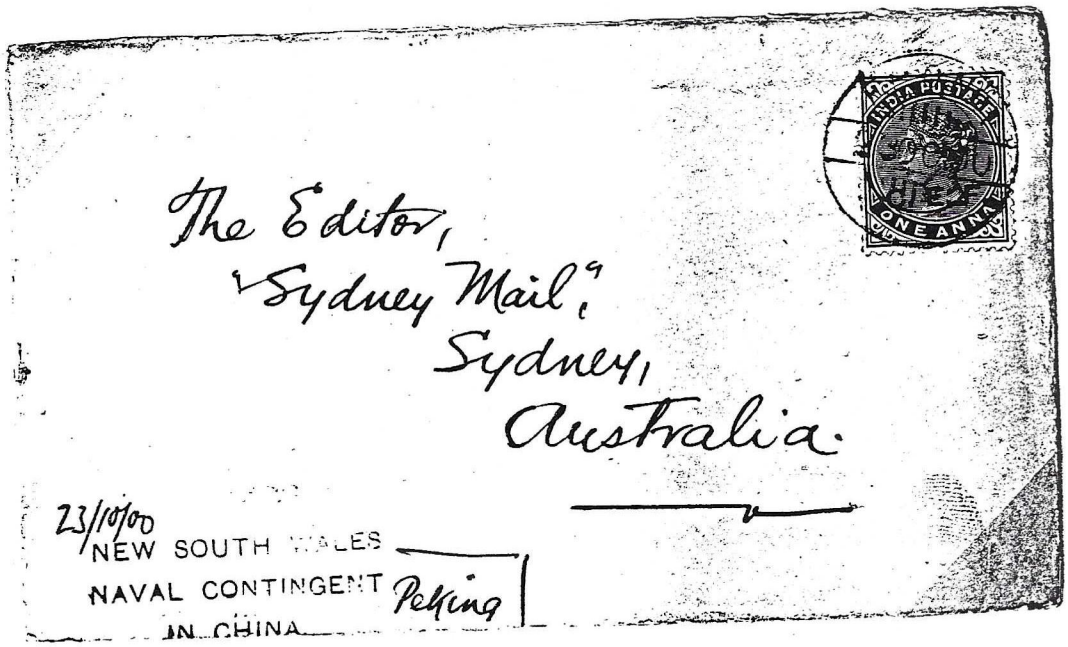
Hong Kong contributed a locally-raised artillery battery and an infantry regiment to the International Force. The Hong Kong Regiment is known to have been at Weihaiwei in late September 1900 and in Tientsin thereafter until December 1901. The Hong Kong troops used the British Indian Army Postal Service field post offices.

British Forces
New South Wales Naval Contingent



FPO 4 (Tientsin)

Earliest recorded mail from this contingent, and 1 of only 3 items posted from FPO 4.

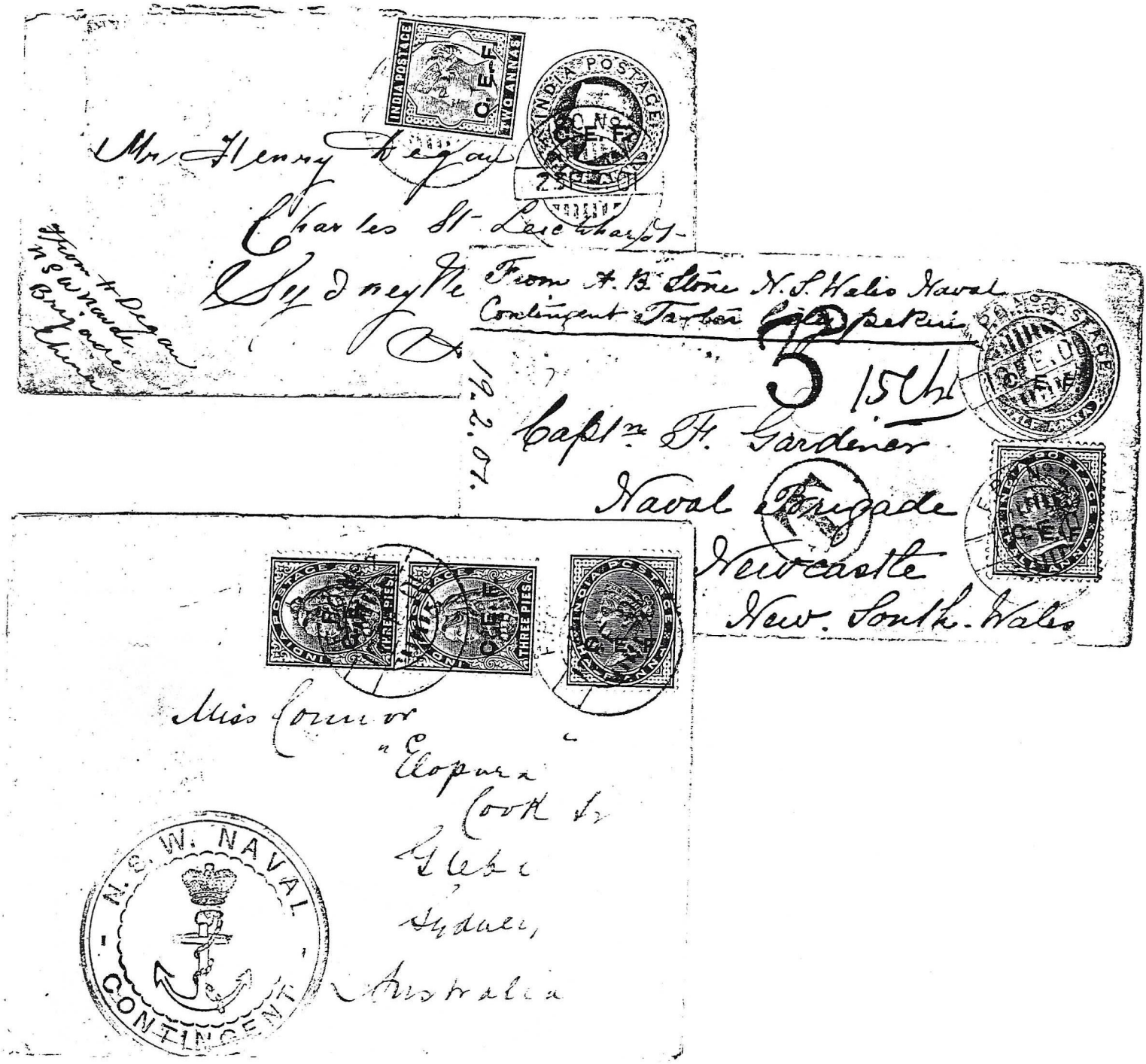


FPO 1 (Peking; Legation Gate)

Only recorded example of 3-line unit handstamp.

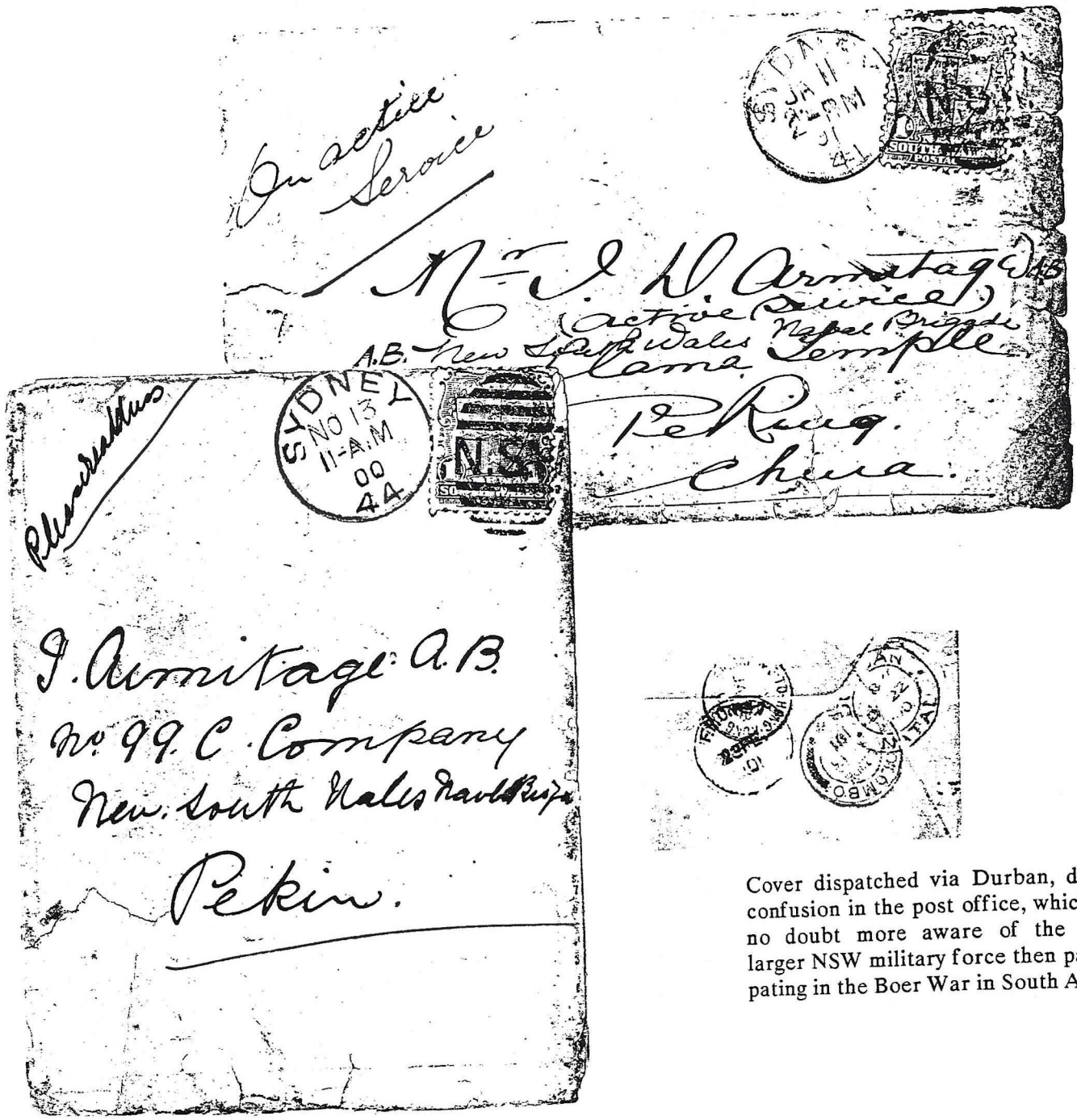
Unit consisting of 257 officers and men. Arrived Tientsin ca. 17 September 1900; left China 29 March 1901. 11 covers and cards recorded from this unit, 4 with circular unit handstamp shown on card above.

FPO 7 (Peking: Tartar City)



Soldier's mail to civilians in Australia required UPU postage (2½ annas for a single-weight letter, 1 anna for postcard). Official mail and soldier's letters to military addresses was sent at 1 anna. Bottom cover properly franked at 1 anna, incorrectly taxed ("T" and "15 cts") in Ceylon and error repeated at Newcastle ("3ᵈ").

British Forces
New South Wales Naval Contingent

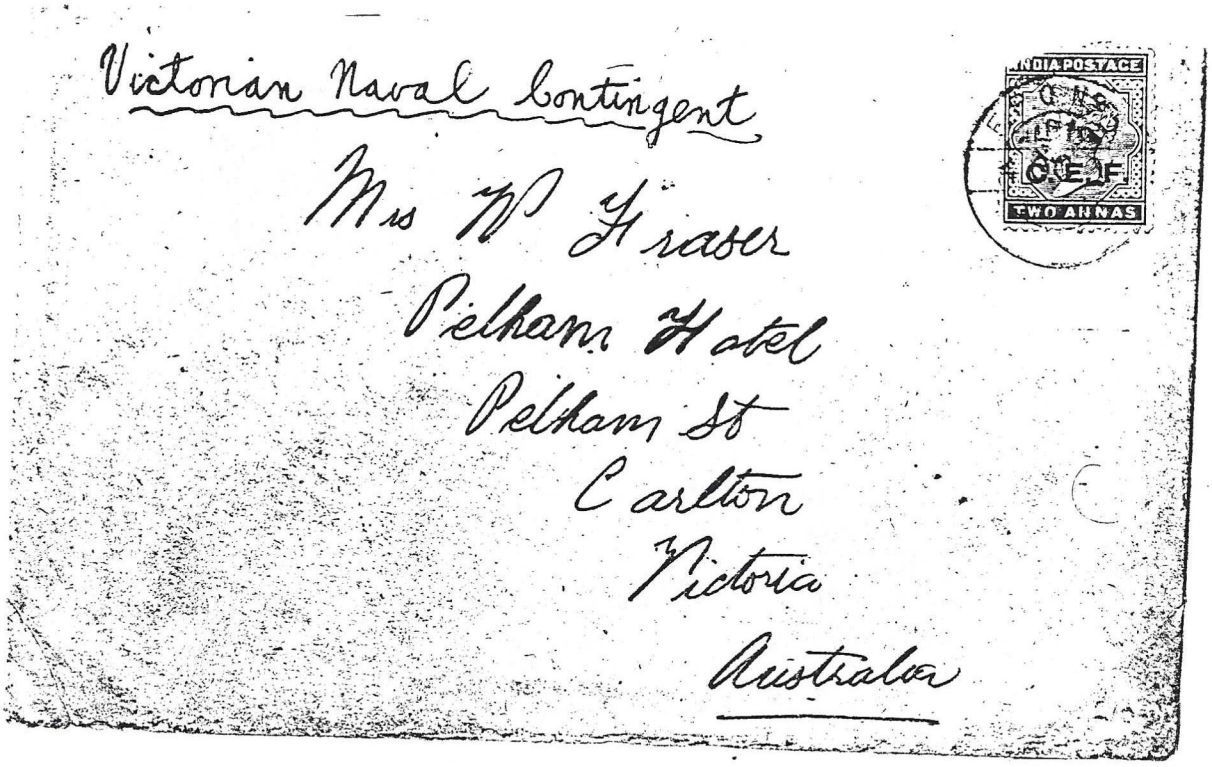


Cover dispatched via Durban, due to confusion in the post office, which was no doubt more aware of the much larger NSW military force then participating in the Boer War in South Africa.

Only one incoming cover and two fronts are recorded, all to the same man. Armitage was one of 64 men from the NSW Naval Contingent stationed at the Llama Temple.

British Forces
Victorian Naval Contingent

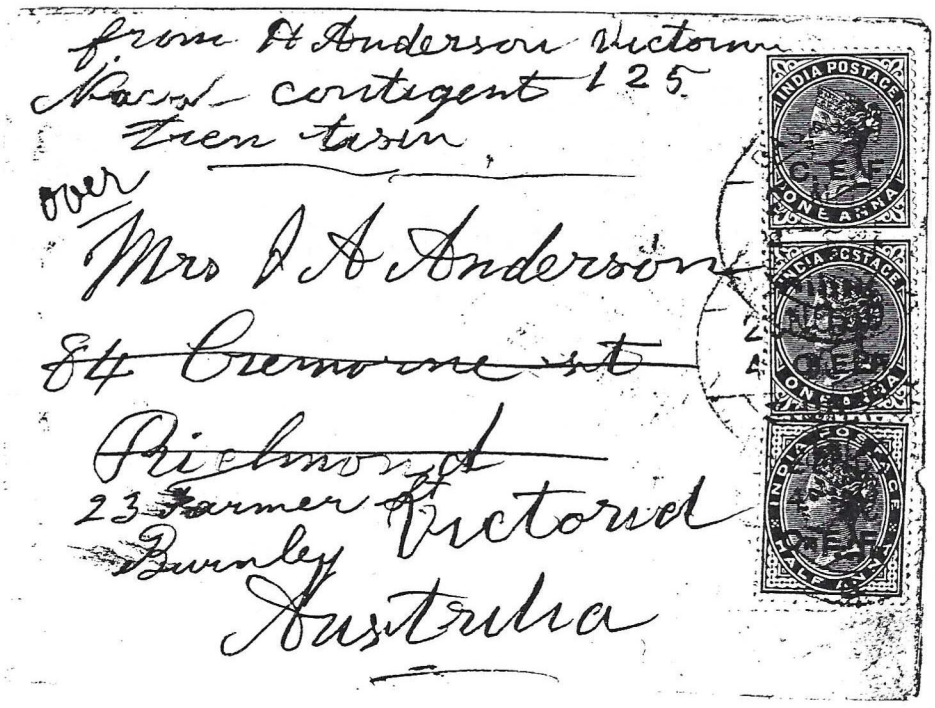
Field Post



FPO 4 (Tientsin)

Short-paid ½-anna.

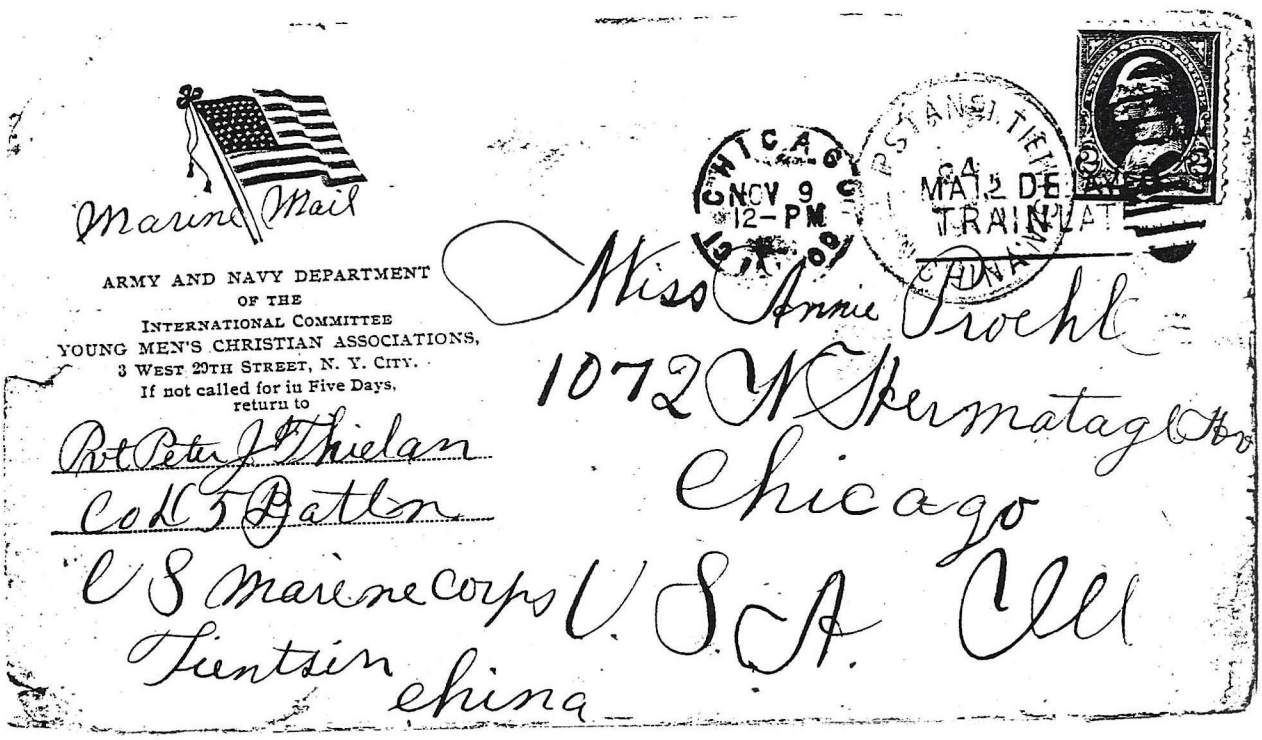
Base Office B (Tientsin)



Unit of 194 officers and men; arrived Tientsin ca. 17 September 1900, and left China on 29 March 1901. Except for inclusion of some troops in mobile columns (no mail recorded), this unit remained in Tientsin. Only 8 covers from the Victorian Naval Contingent are recorded (6 from the Fraser correspondence).

38

American Forces

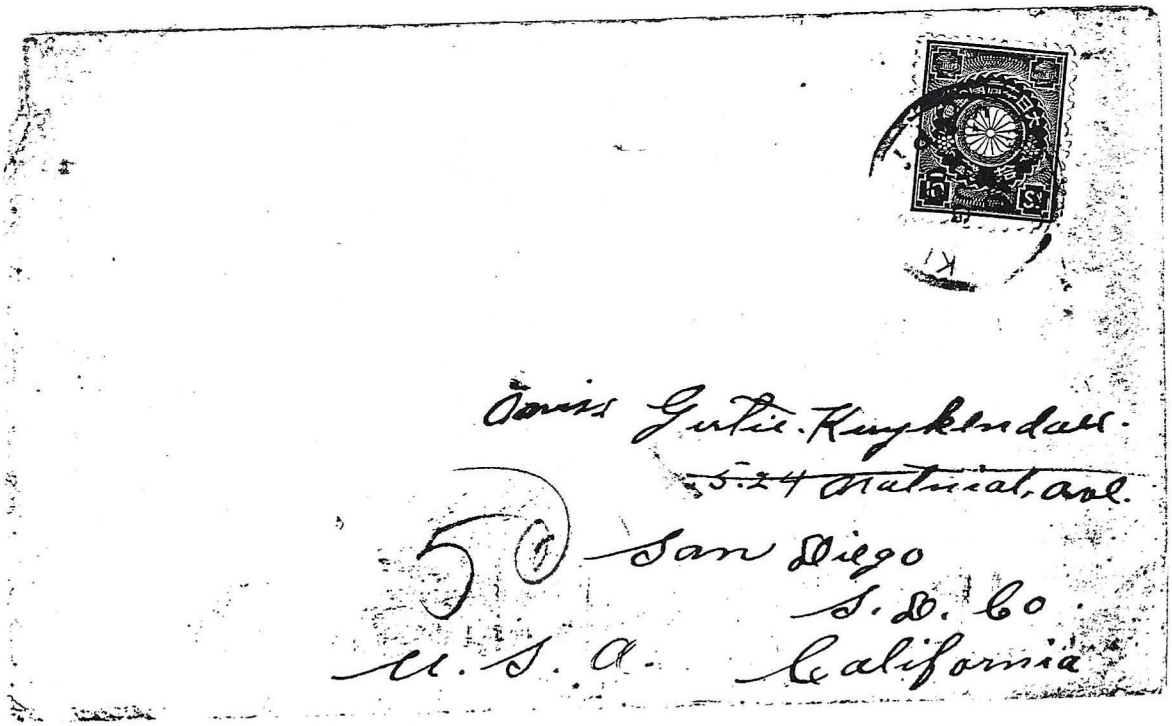


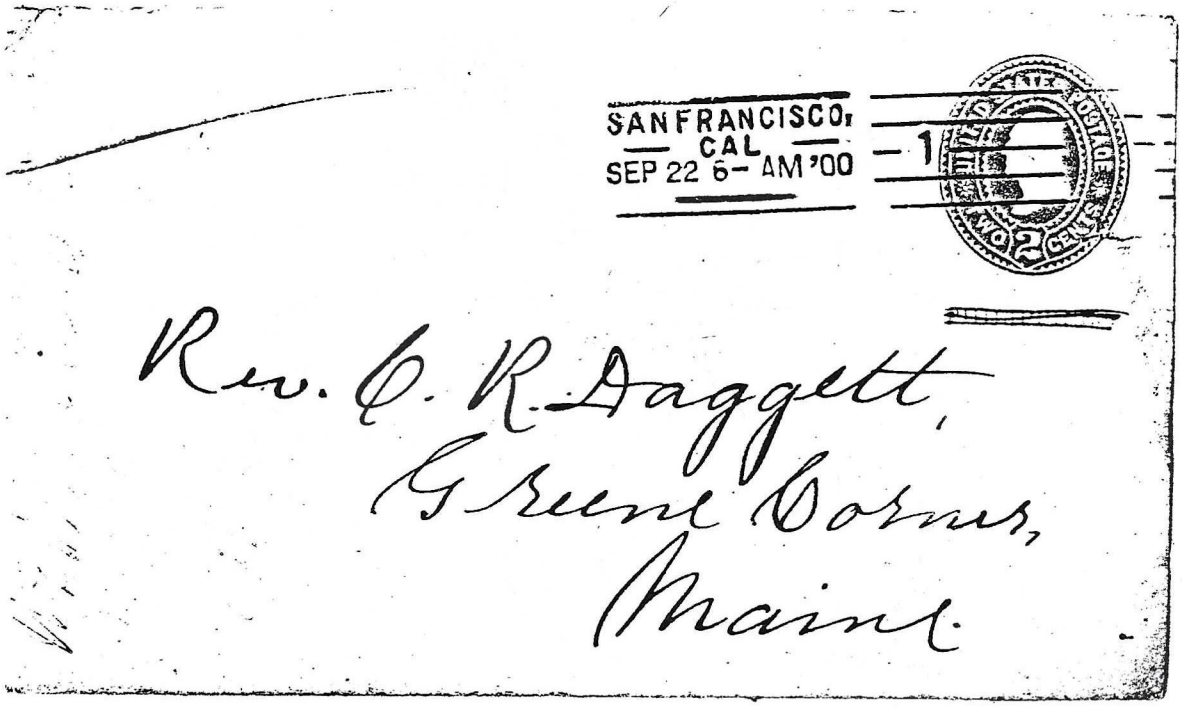
Marine Corps

Fewer than 1,000 US Marines were involved in the Boxer Uprising: 781 in the 1st Regiment, the rest from ships. There was no separate USMC postal system. Fewer than 10 USMC covers are recorded.

Troops in Transit

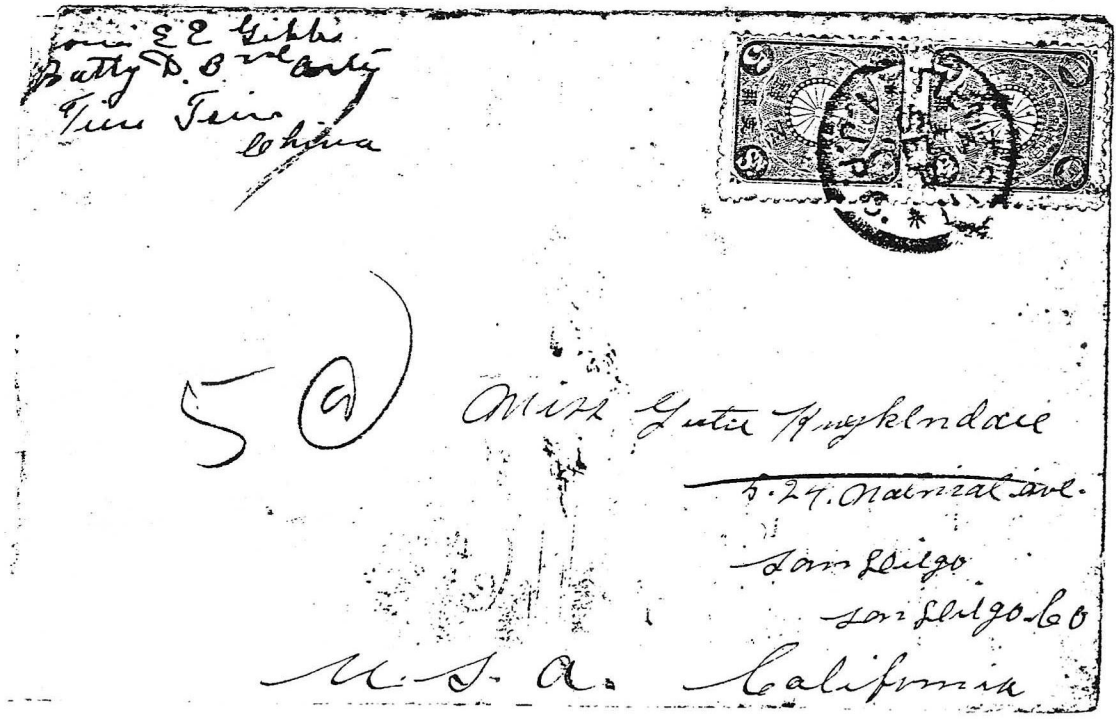
No ship-board post office. Writer states that the letter he posted on ship earlier in day would be kept on board until ship returned to San Francisco. Also, "when we get out in the field it will be impossible to get stamps and I will have to have an officer sign the letter and you will have to pay 2 cents."





U.S. Post Office,
San Francisco

U.S. Army units of the China Relief Expedition arrived at Taku 6 July, 1900. Until the U.S. Military Postal Station opened in Tientsin on 18 September, US 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.



I.J.P.O. Tientsin

Mail sent via Japanese post offices required full international postage. The Japanese post office in Tientsin appears to have been the office of choice for Allied troops prior to establishment of their field post offices.