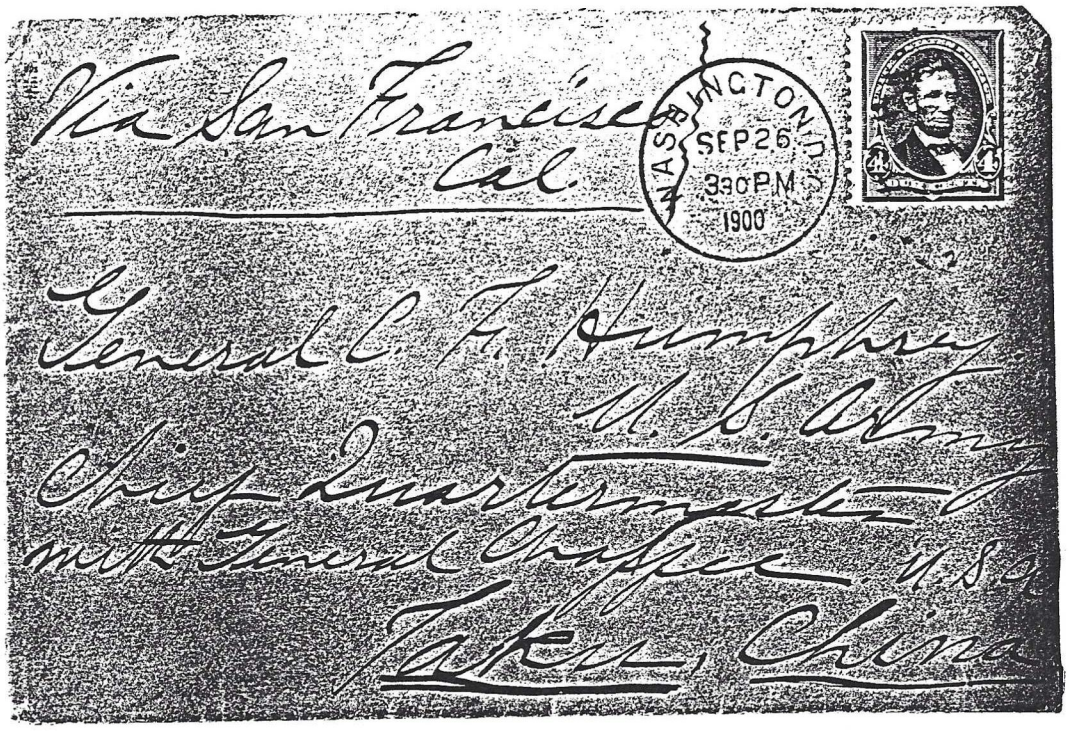




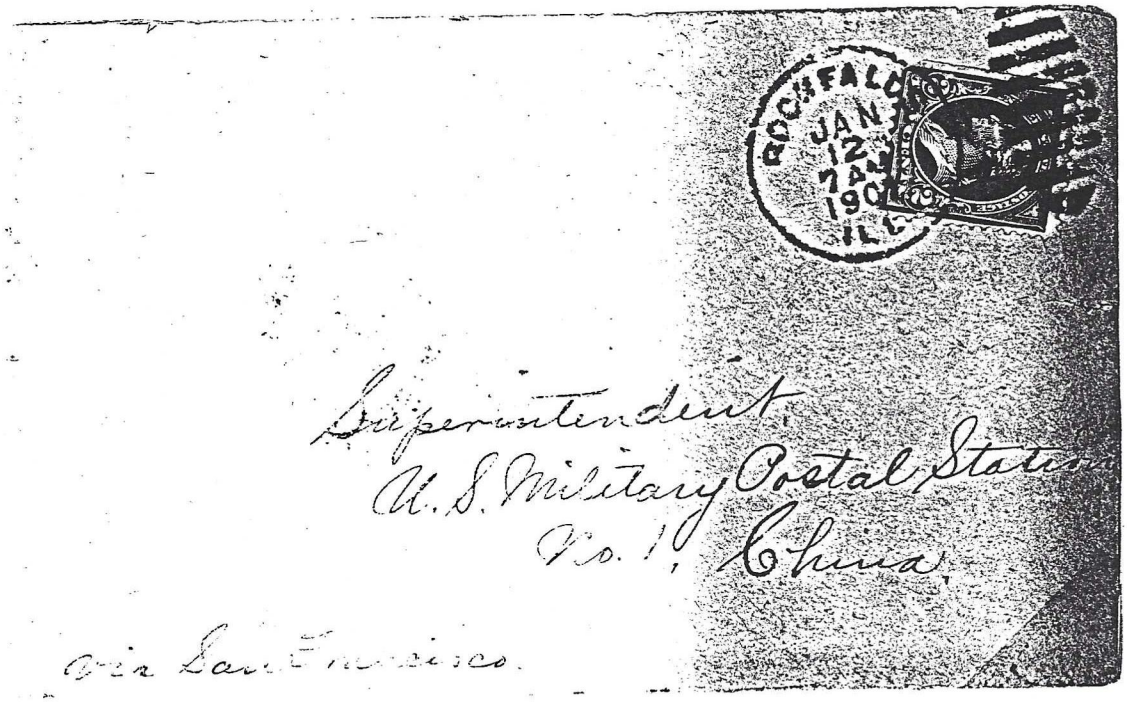
Backstamped
in Tientsin.



Backstamped
in Tientsin,



and Peking.



As with 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 Forces

Field Post
MPS Nº 1, Tientsin

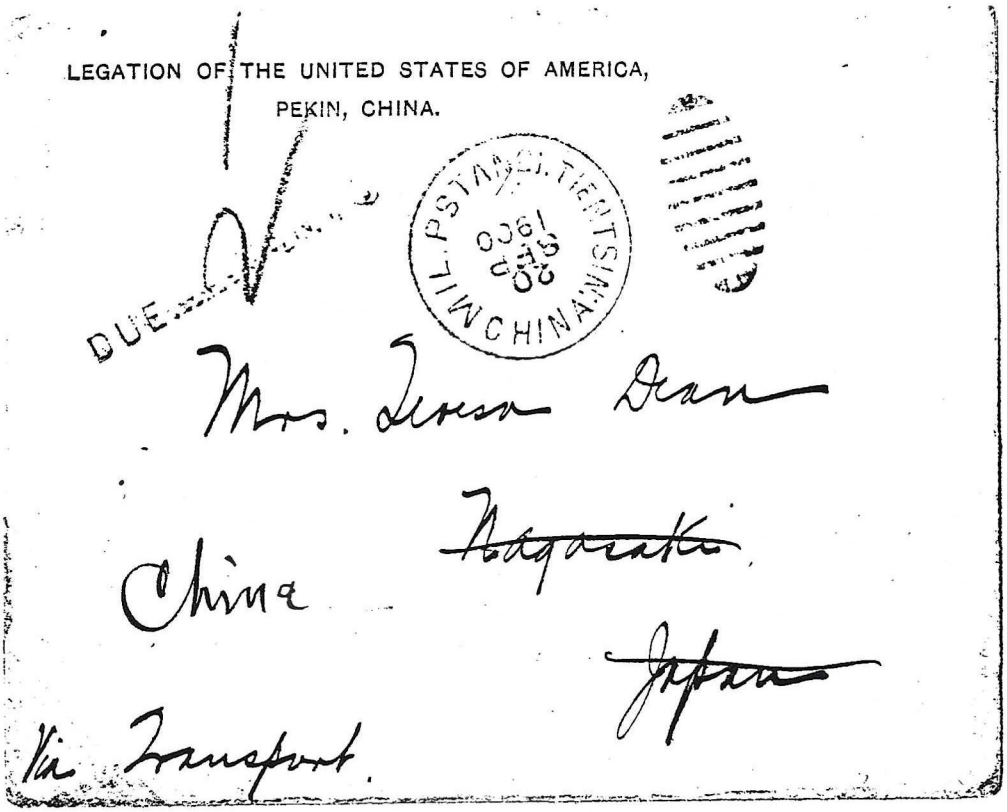
Earliest and latest recorded US Military Station mail from the Boxer Uprising.



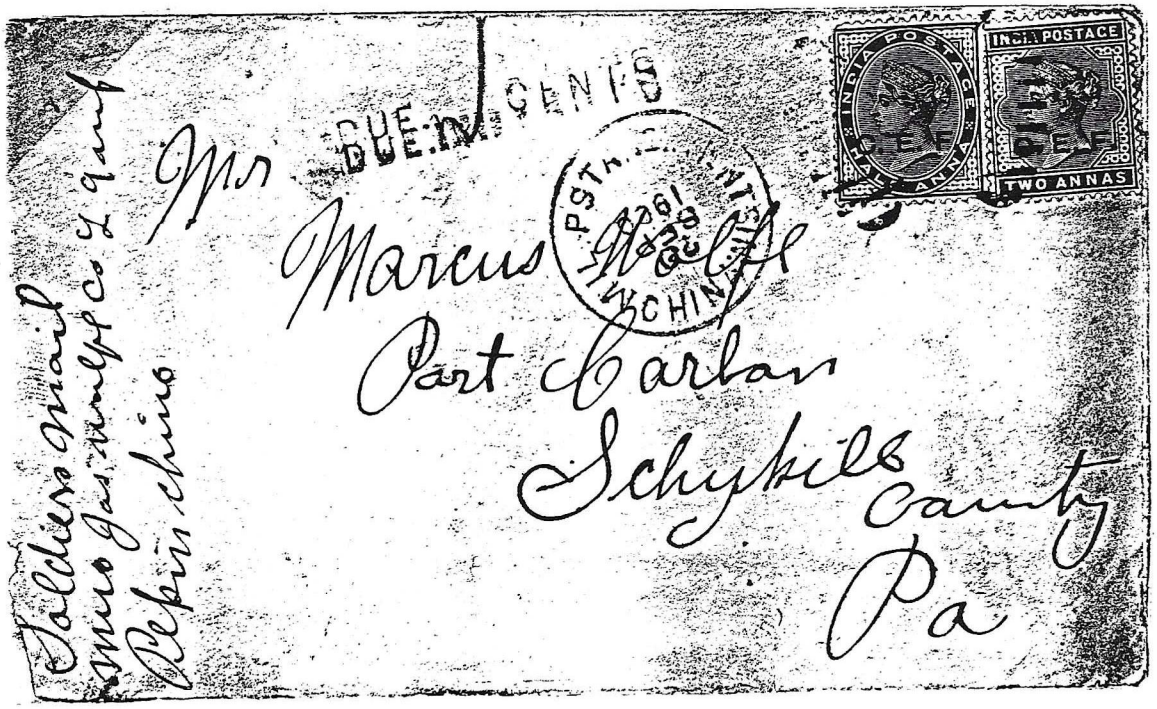
The first US Military Postal Station in China was established in Tientsin on 18 September 1900. It continued to operate at least through 15 August 1901, and was formally closed on 31 August 1901. All but 1 company of US troops left China by May 1901, so later mail is very scarce.

American Forces

Field Post
MPS Nº 1. Tientsin

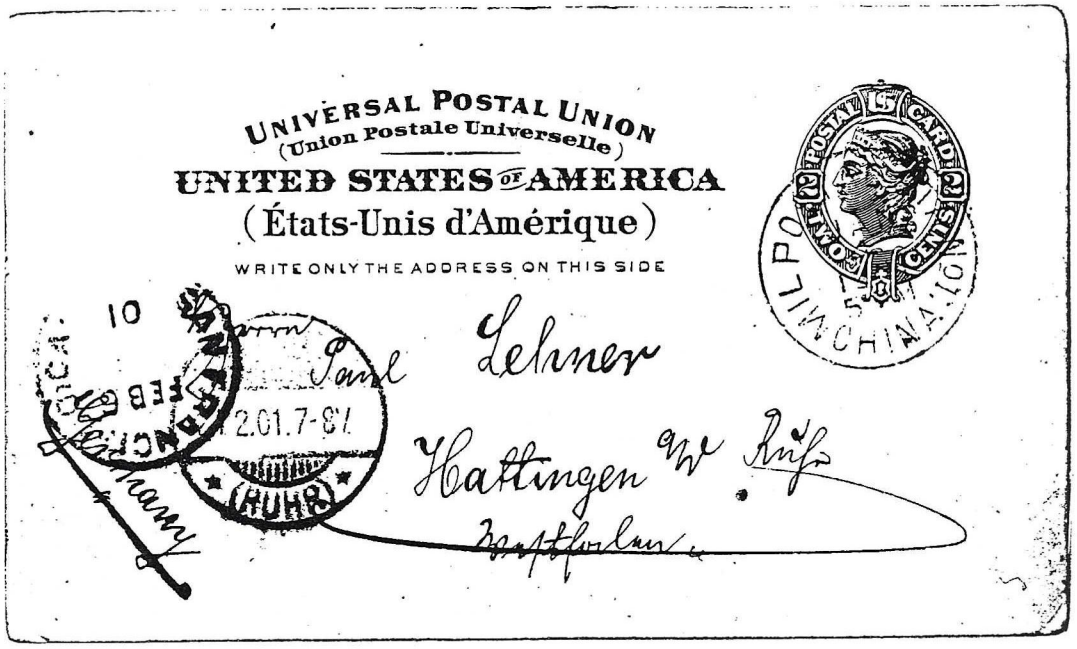


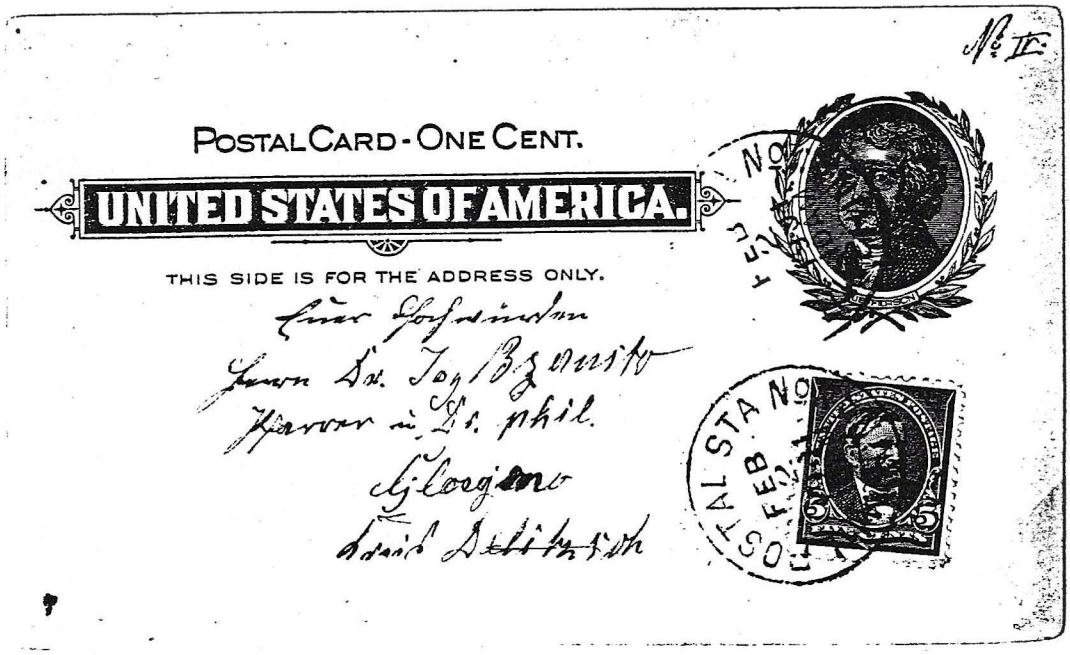
Cover initially sent without charge and re-processed at Tientsin on 4 Oct, when the DUE handstamp was added.



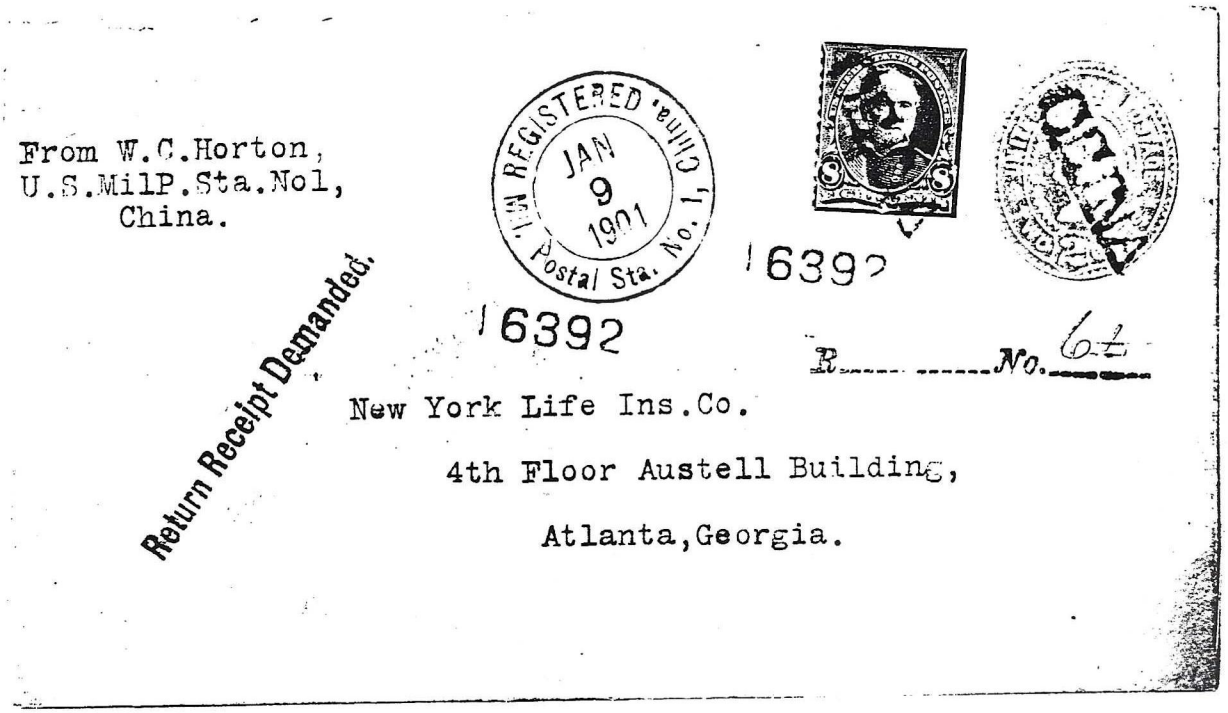
Fully paid at UPU international letter rate, but stamps not recognized by US post office.

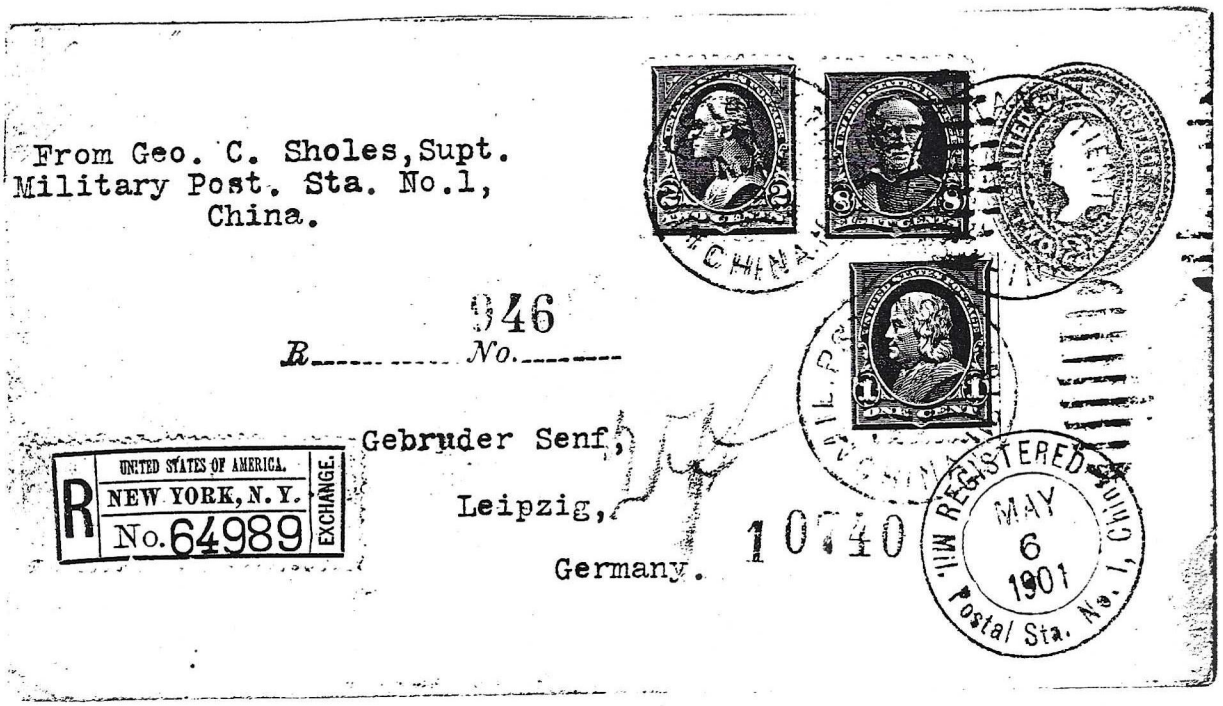
Only recorded examples of the "DUE ____ CENTS" handstamp. Covers dispatched from Peking prior to establishment of US post office there.





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





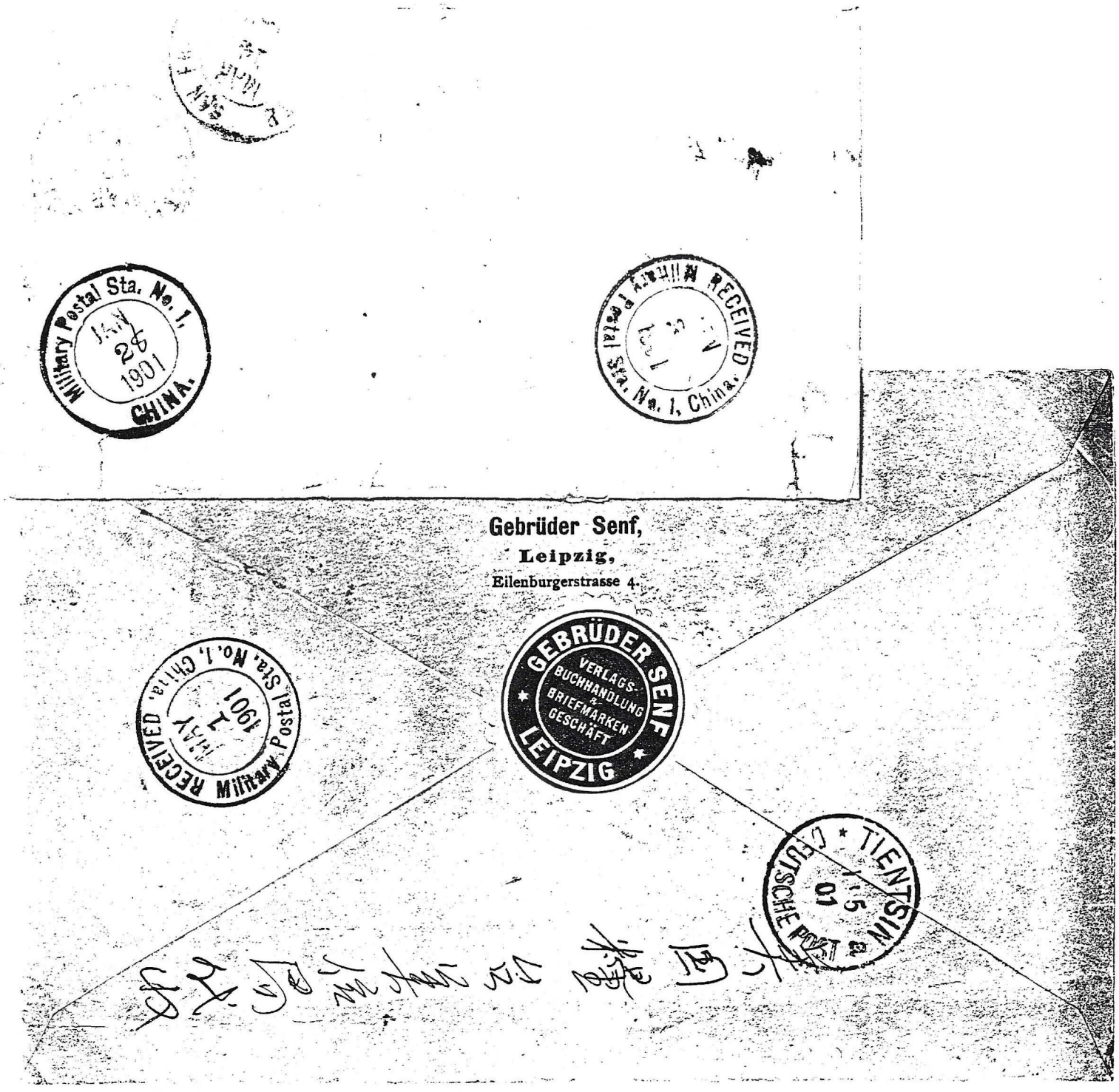
Double-circle REGISTERED datestamp recorded used 26 December 1900 - 2 July 1901, on registered mail from Tientsin and as a backstamp on registered mail which transited Tientsin.

"CHINA" obliterator recorded 6 December 1900 - 12 February 1901. Improper use of datestamp to cancel stamps on 6 May 1901 cover suggests that CHINA handstamp had been phased out before then.

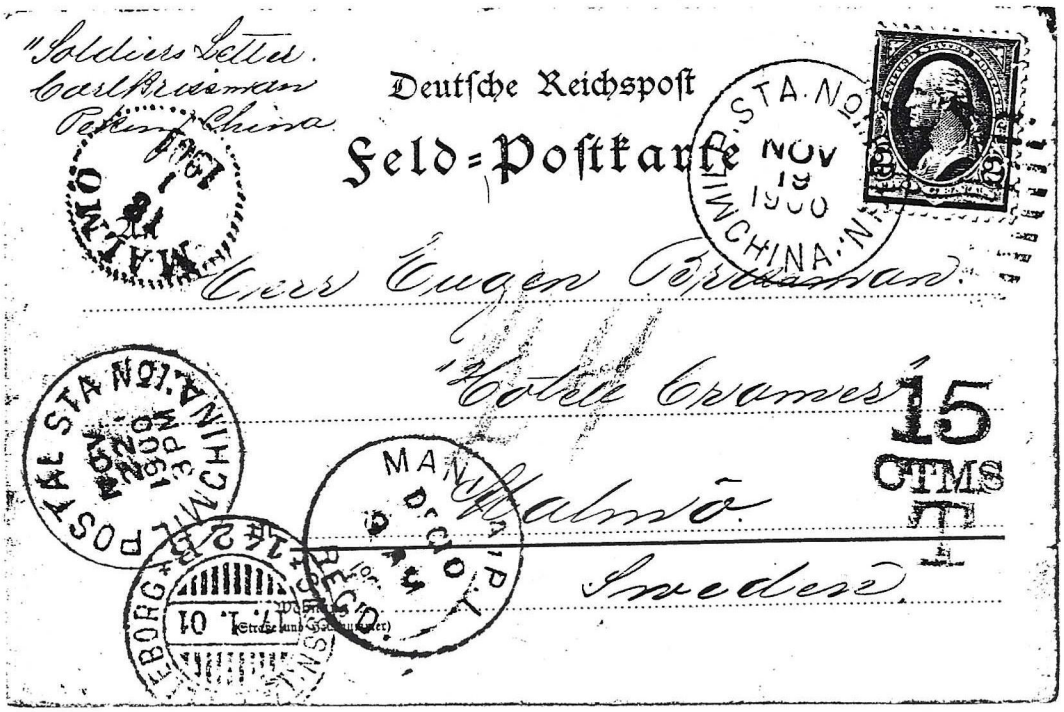
Only 2 examples recorded of the Tientsin "*R*_____*No.*_____" handstamp.

American Forces

Field Post
MPS № 1, Tientsin

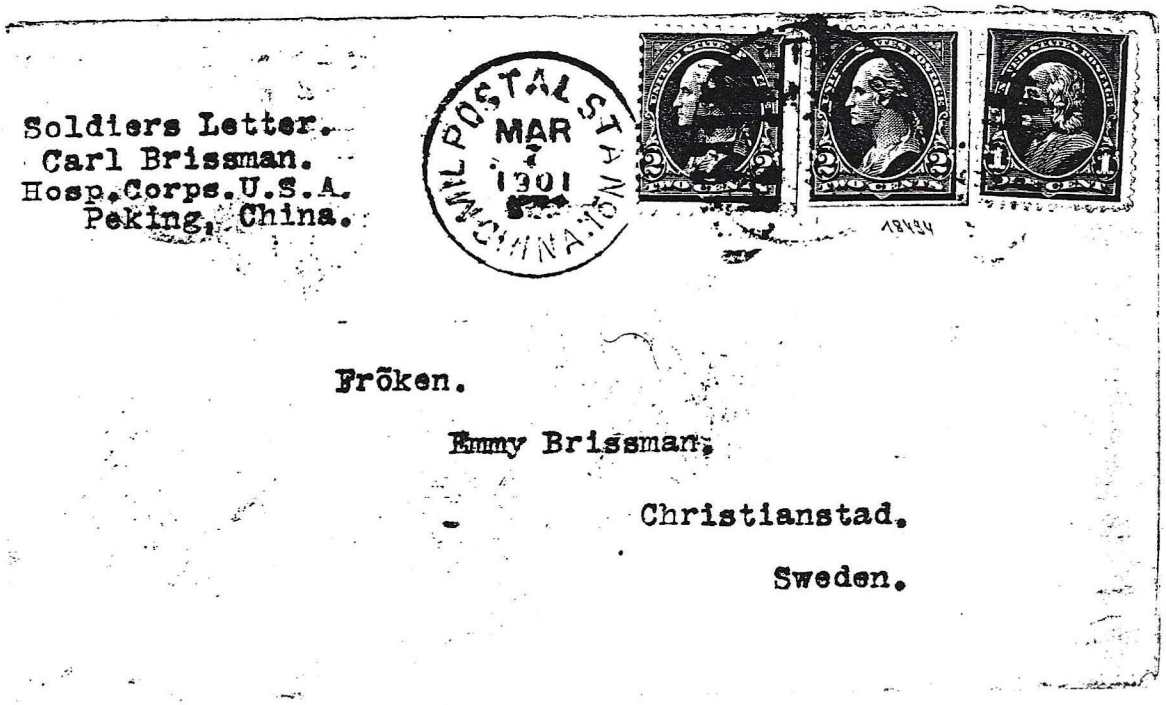


The RECEIVED double circle datestamp is recorded from 31 October 1900 through 1 May 1901. It is known used only as a backstamp on registered mail and is found on covers passing through, as well as to, Tientsin. Fewer than 5 examples are recorded.



First Peking duplex, "PEKIN" at right; recorded 30 September - 28 November 1900.

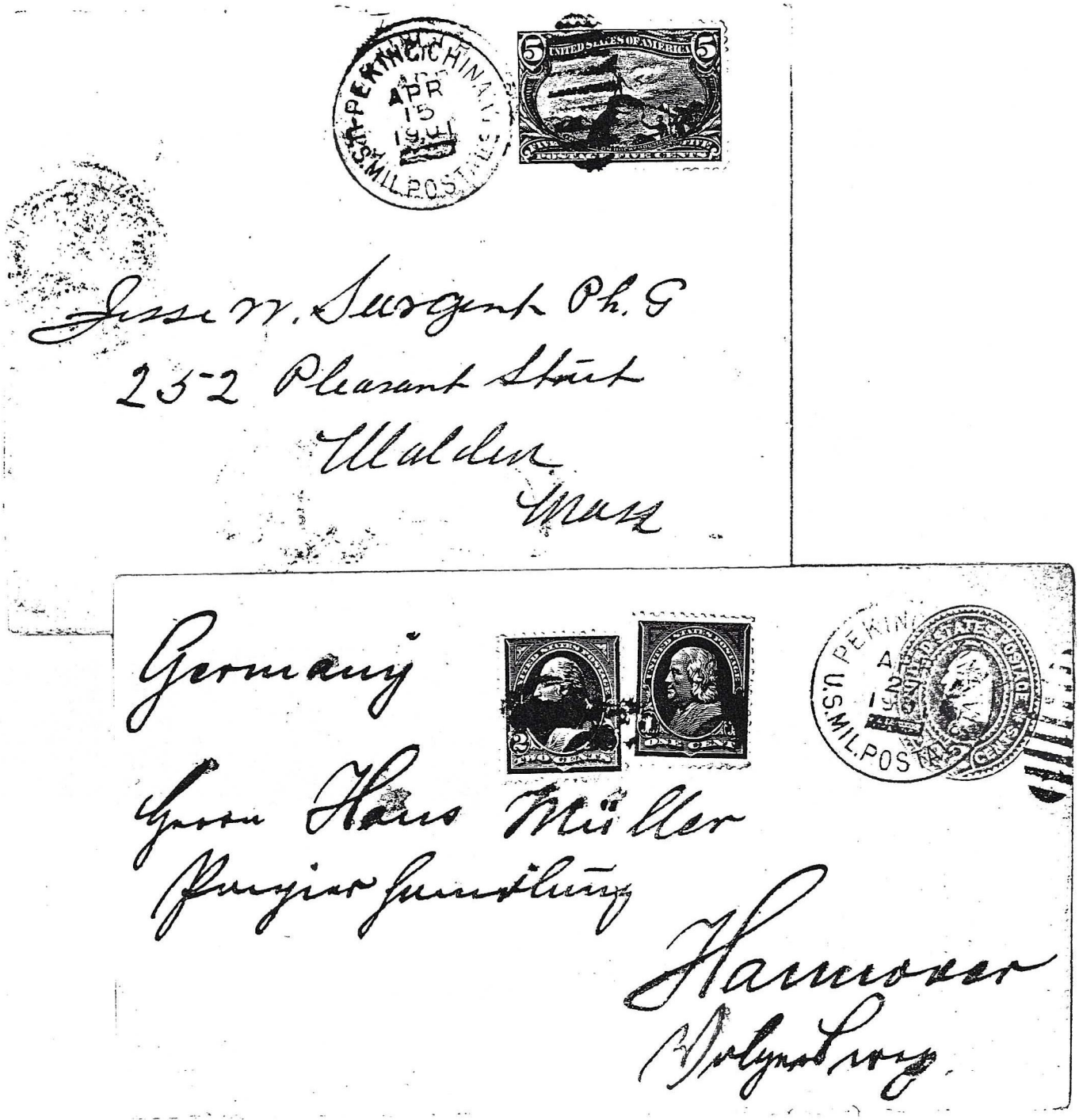
Postage due assessed in Manila, based on sender having placed return address on face of card in violation of UPU regulations, so that it was rated as letter mail.



Second Peking duplex, without town name, recorded used January - 30 May 1901.

American Forces

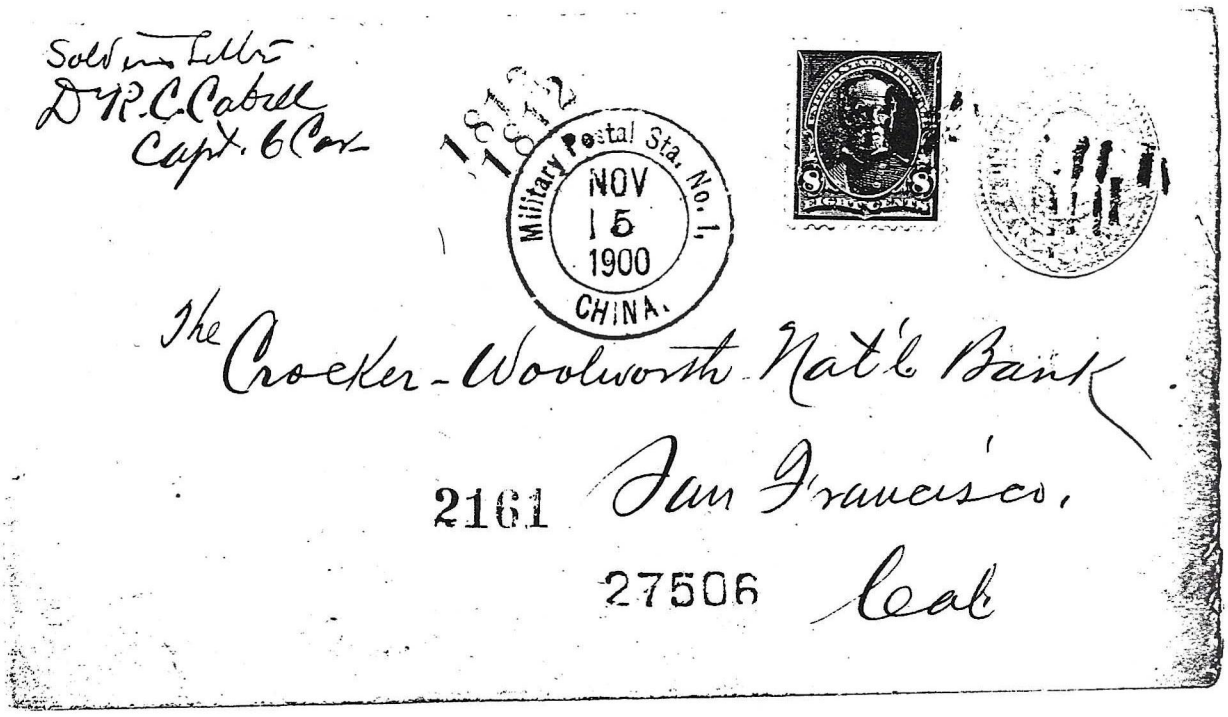
Field Post
MPS № 1, Peking



Third Peking duplex, "PEKING" at top, recorded used 3 April - 20 May 1901. US Military stations accepted mail from civilians (including postal workers) at UPU rates to US as well as to other countries.

48

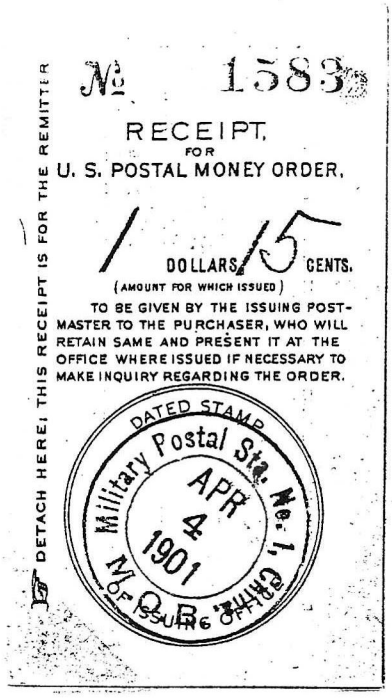
Field Post
MPS Nº 1, Peking

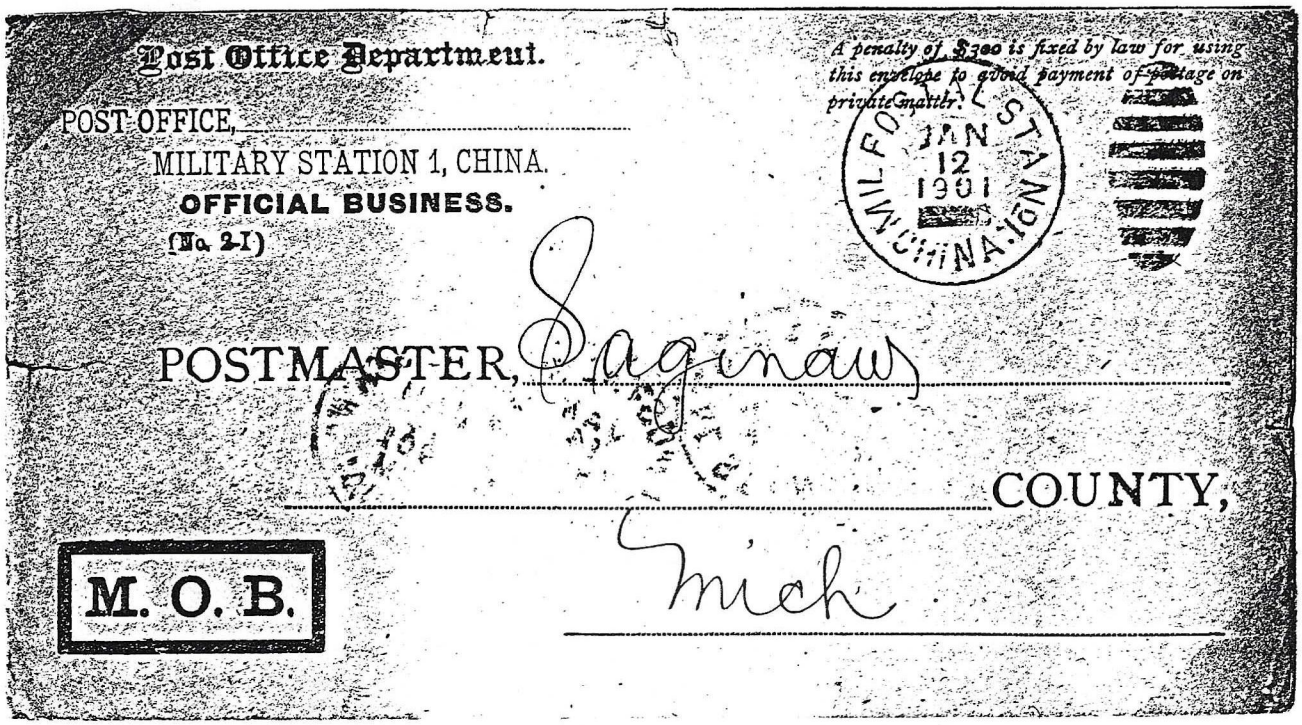




Double-circle datestamp, intended for use as dater on registered mail and parcel post, recorded used 27 October 1900 - 19 April 1901. The rings of this postmark became increasingly irregular with use.

A second straight-line "*R*_____*No.*_____" handstamp, identical to the one used at Tientsin, was used at Peking. Each station had a separate numbering system, and also used different colored ink pads. Date of first use of Peking handstamp unknown; most likely between 5 - 10 January 1901.

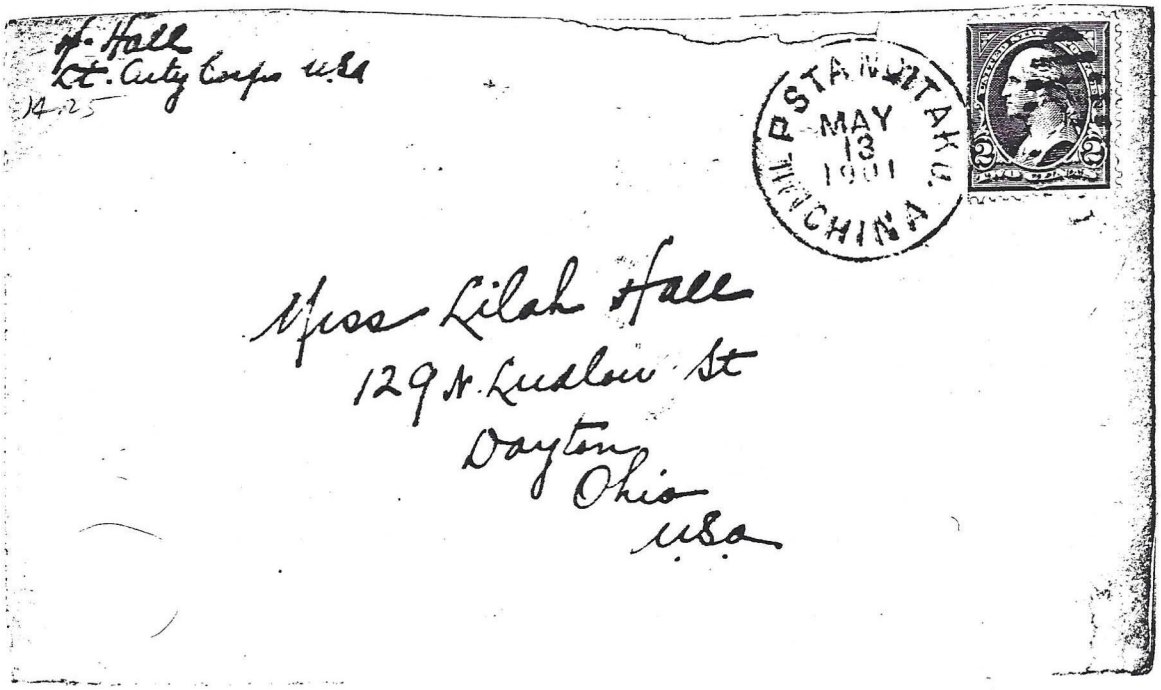




Only recorded example of the M.O.B. (Money Order Business) postmark. One of 2 recorded examples of the M.O.B. envelope. Absent other evidence, the M.O.B. datestamp is allocated to Peking in light of the Peking duplex on the M.O.B. cover.

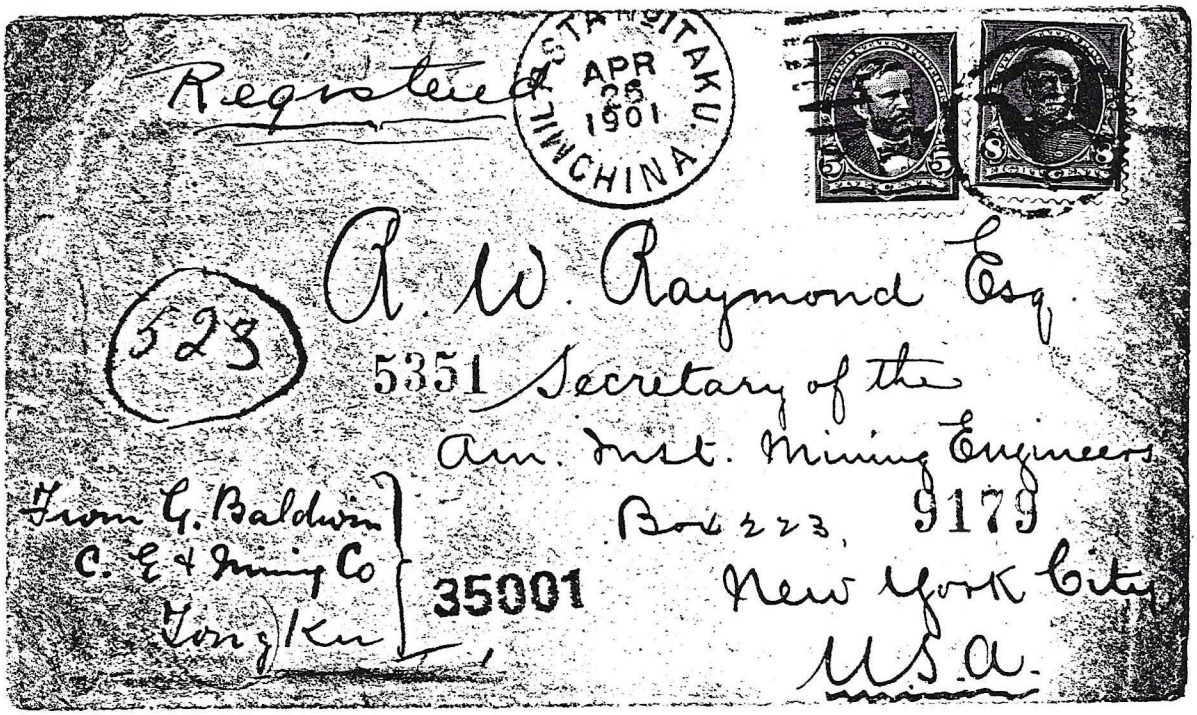
Field Post
MPS Nº 1, Taku





Earliest and latest recorded mail from US Military Station, Taku.





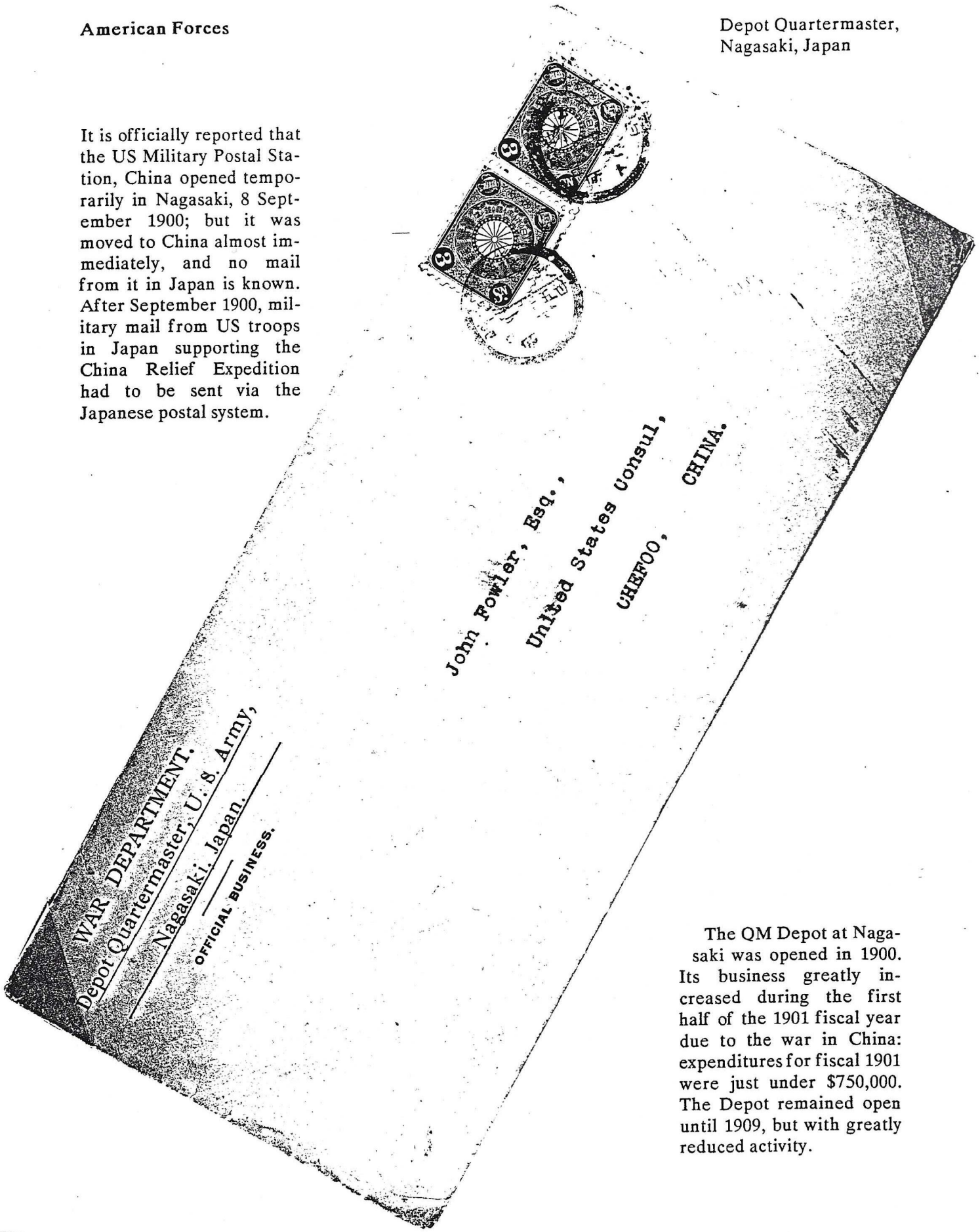
Taku used only one duple cancel, and it appears not to have had a double-circle datestamp for parcels or registered mail. Only recorded example of the crude hand-carved "R" in circle obliterator.

Only 23 registered items (including parcel wrappers) are recorded from the China Relief Expedition during the Boxer Uprising. Of these, 2 are from Taku.

American Forces

Depot Quartermaster,
Nagasaki, Japan

It is officially reported that the US Military Postal Station, China opened temporarily in Nagasaki, 8 September 1900; but it was moved to China almost immediately, and no mail from it in Japan is known. After September 1900, military mail from US troops in Japan supporting the China Relief Expedition had to be sent via the Japanese postal system.



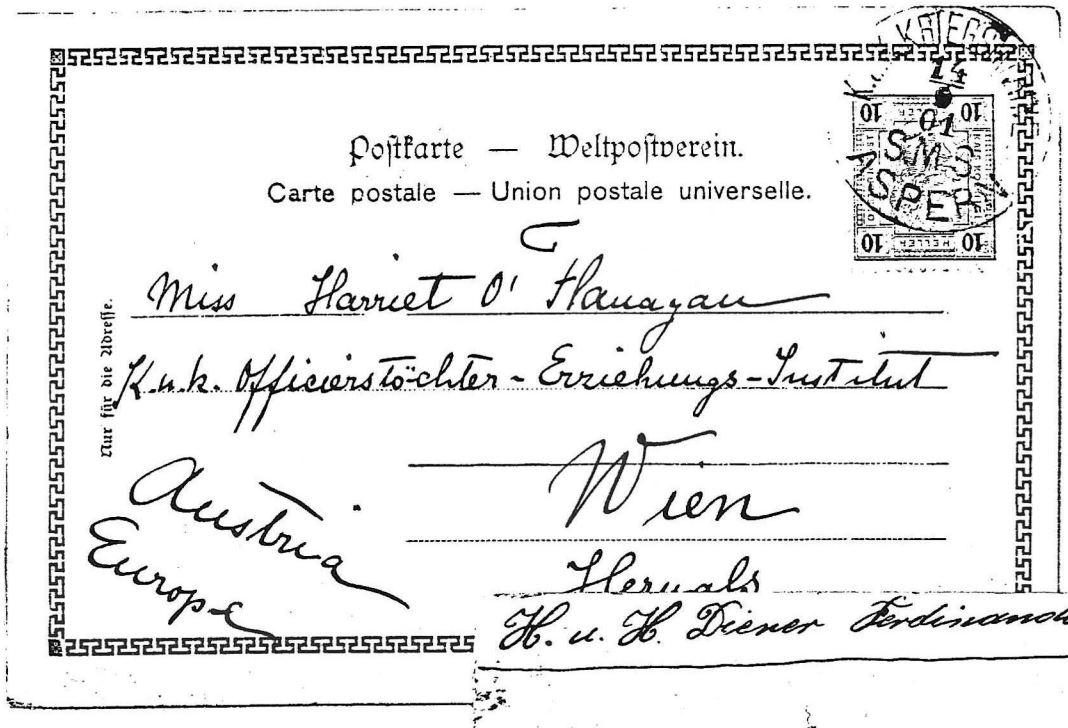
The QM Depot at Nagasaki was opened in 1900. Its business greatly increased during the first half of the 1901 fiscal year due to the war in China: expenditures for fiscal 1901 were just under $750,000. The Depot remained open until 1909, but with greatly reduced activity.



Sent from Chefoo to the *SMS K. u. K. Maria Theresia* in February 1901, and later used to obtain a souvenir of the Chinese post office



Conveyed through civil posts of Russia (Vladivostok, Port Arthur) and China (Chefoo, Peking)

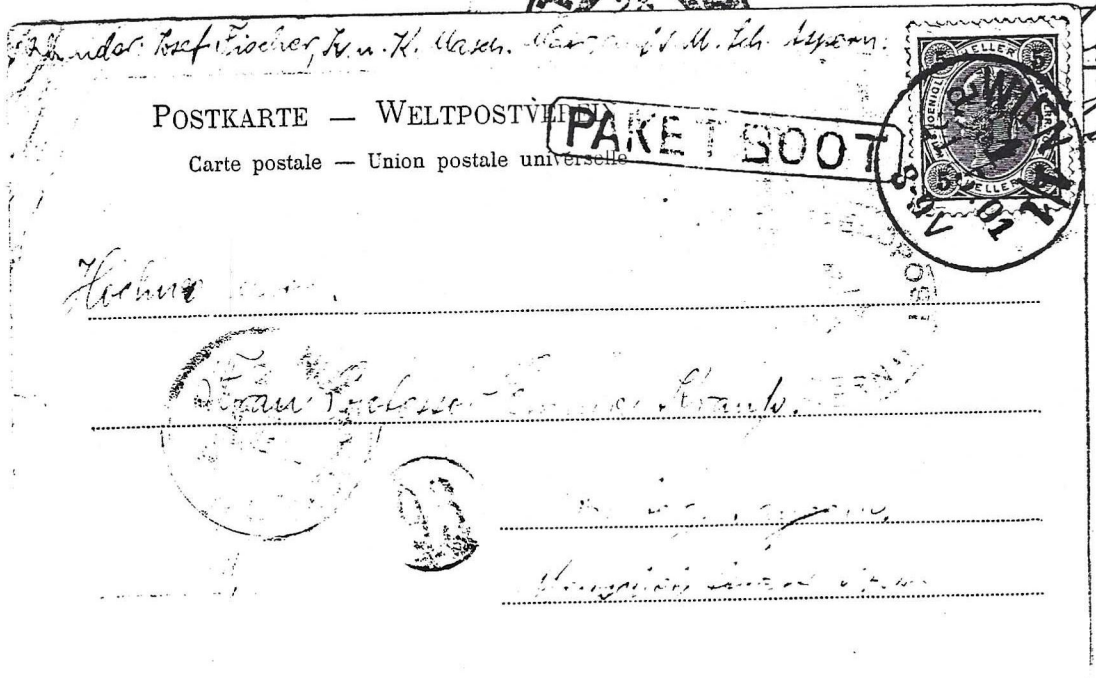


SMS Aspern

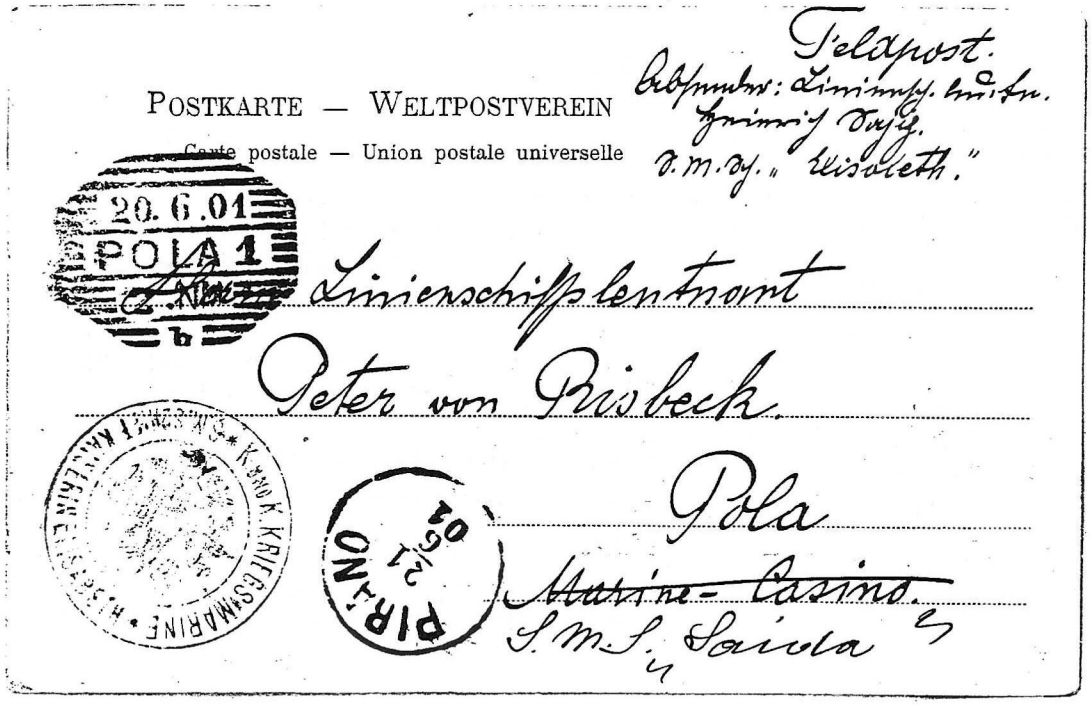
Like Germany Austro-Hungary had by 1900 equipped its Navy ships with post offices. Presence of postage stamp required use of ship post office dated postmark rather than ship "feldpost" handstamp.



Feldpost marking unrecorded in Clement. Datelined Taku. Fieldpost to the Austro-Hungarian Empire was free.

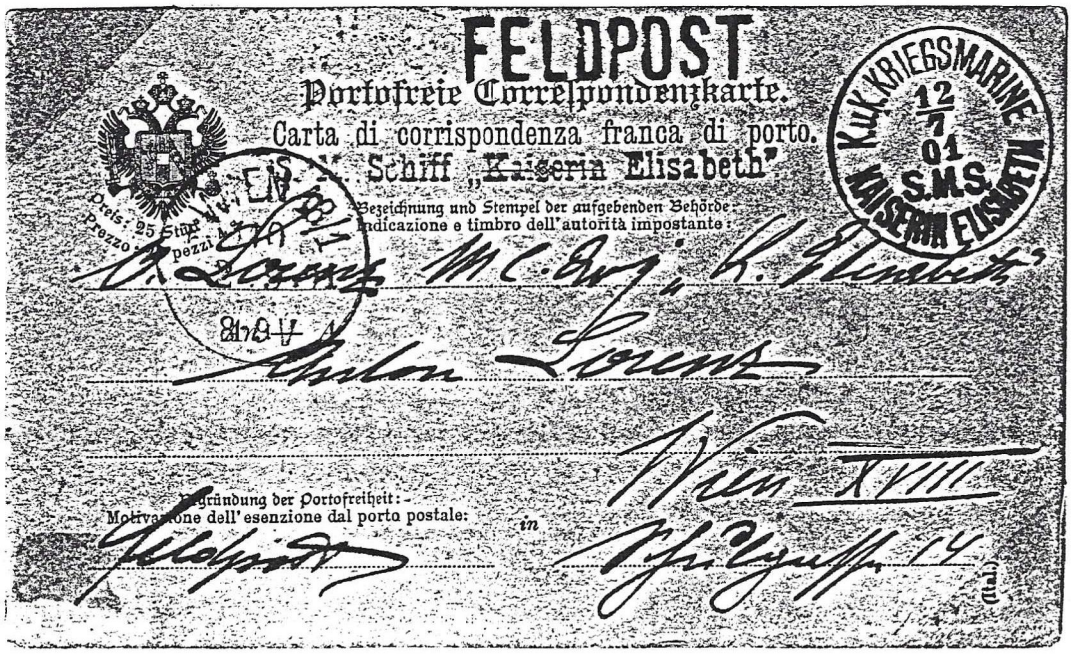


Postage required for mail destined outside the Empire. ("Paketboot" handstamp is unlisted in Hosking.)



SMS Kaiserin Elisabeth

Datelined Weihaiwei. The coat of arms handstamp is considerably scarcer than the postmark for this ship.



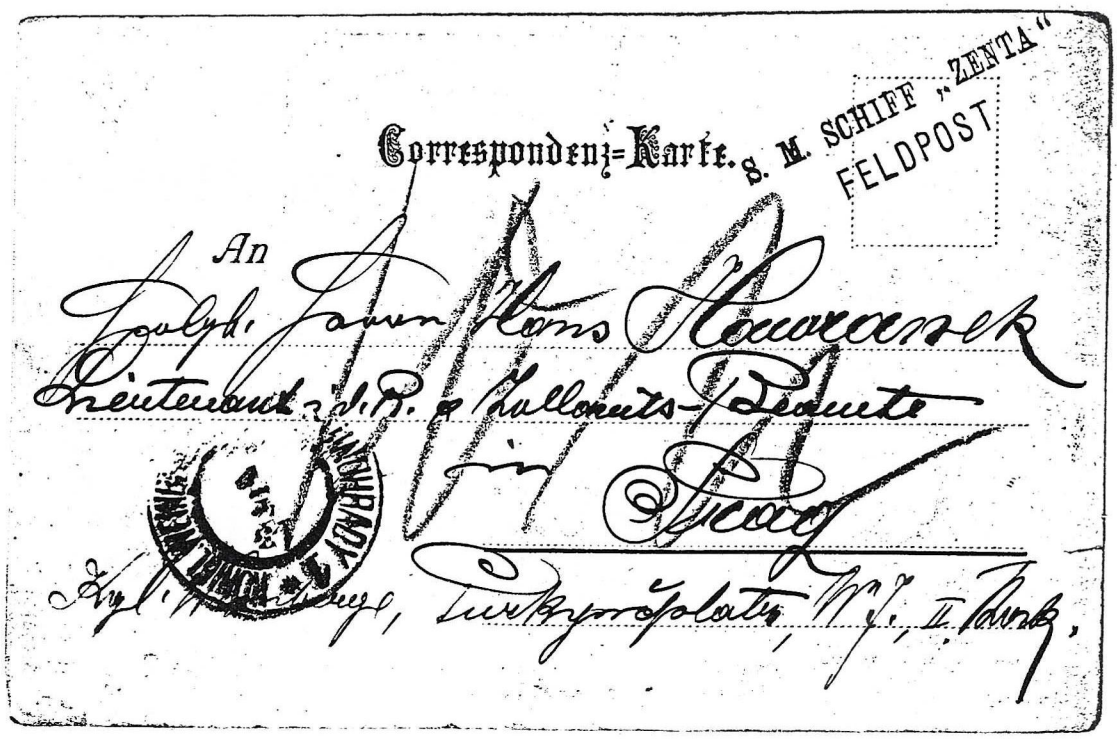
Straight-line handstamp unlisted in Clement. Use of printed postage-free card is most unusual.



SMS K. u. K. Maria Theresia

Marine Field Post





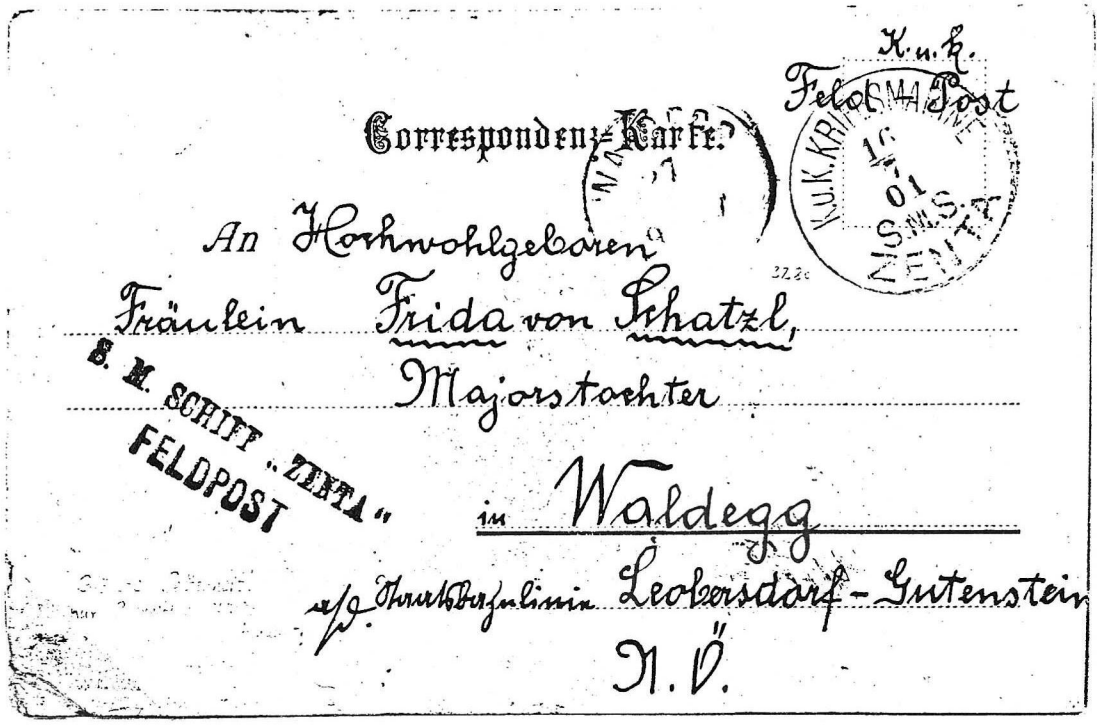
SMS Zenta

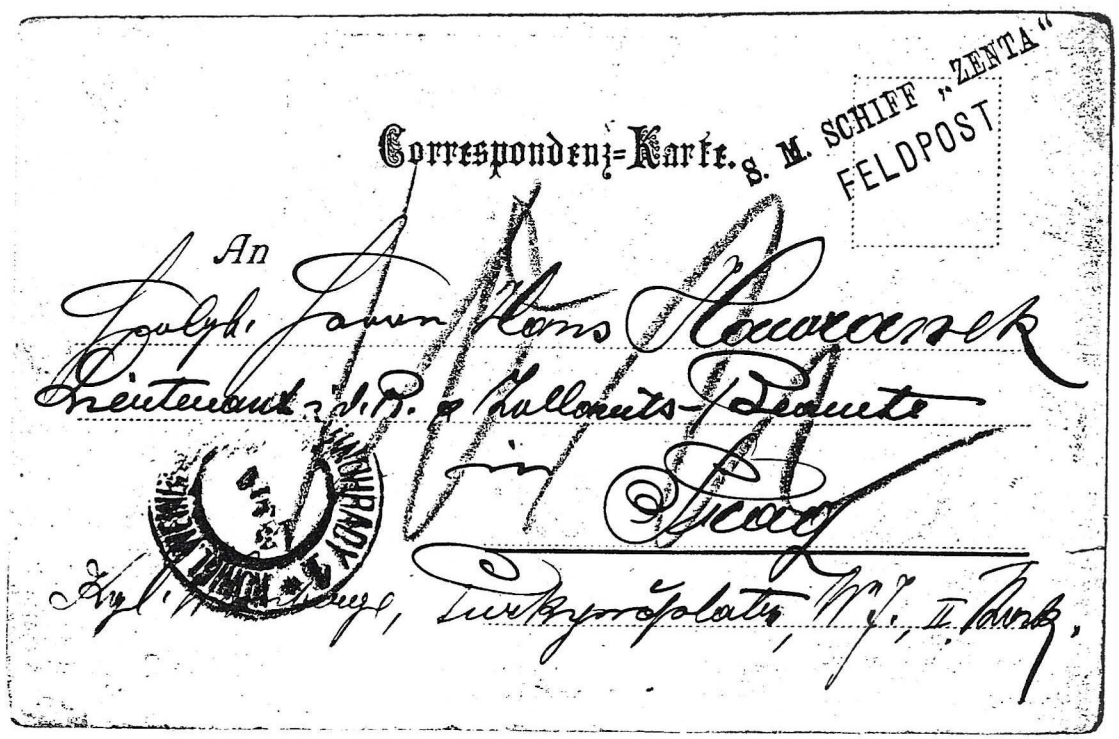
Zenta contributed 57 officers and men to the defense of the Peking legations, 4 of whom (including her Captain) were killed. Departure of *Zenta* and *Kaiserin Elizabeth* from North China on 1 October 1900 is generally regarded as the end of Austria Hungary's Boxer involvement.



SMS K. u. K. Maria Theresia

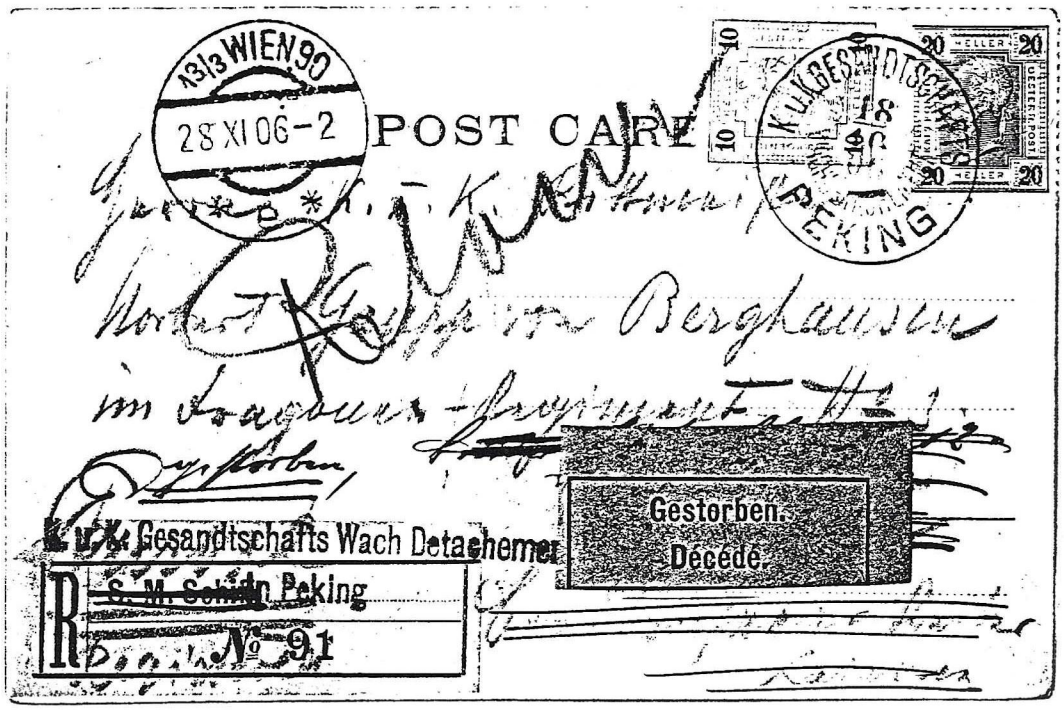
Marine Field Post



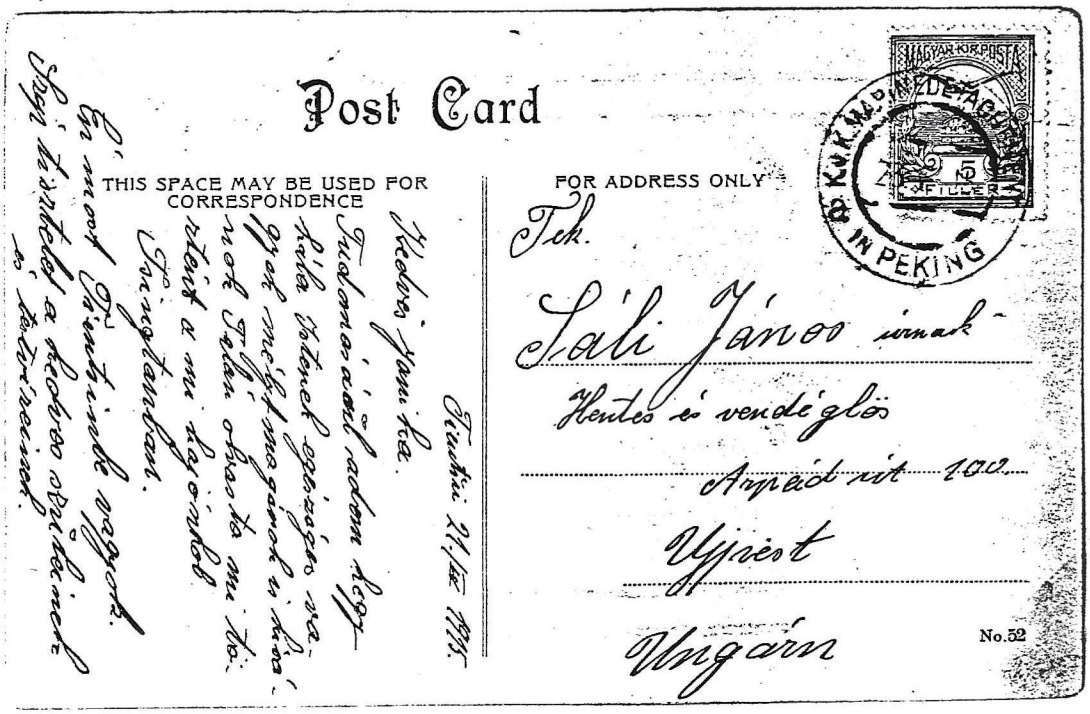


SMS Zenta

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First postmark, used 1903 -1907.



Third and last postmark, used 1913 - 1917; found in black and violet. Hungarian franking is very unusual.

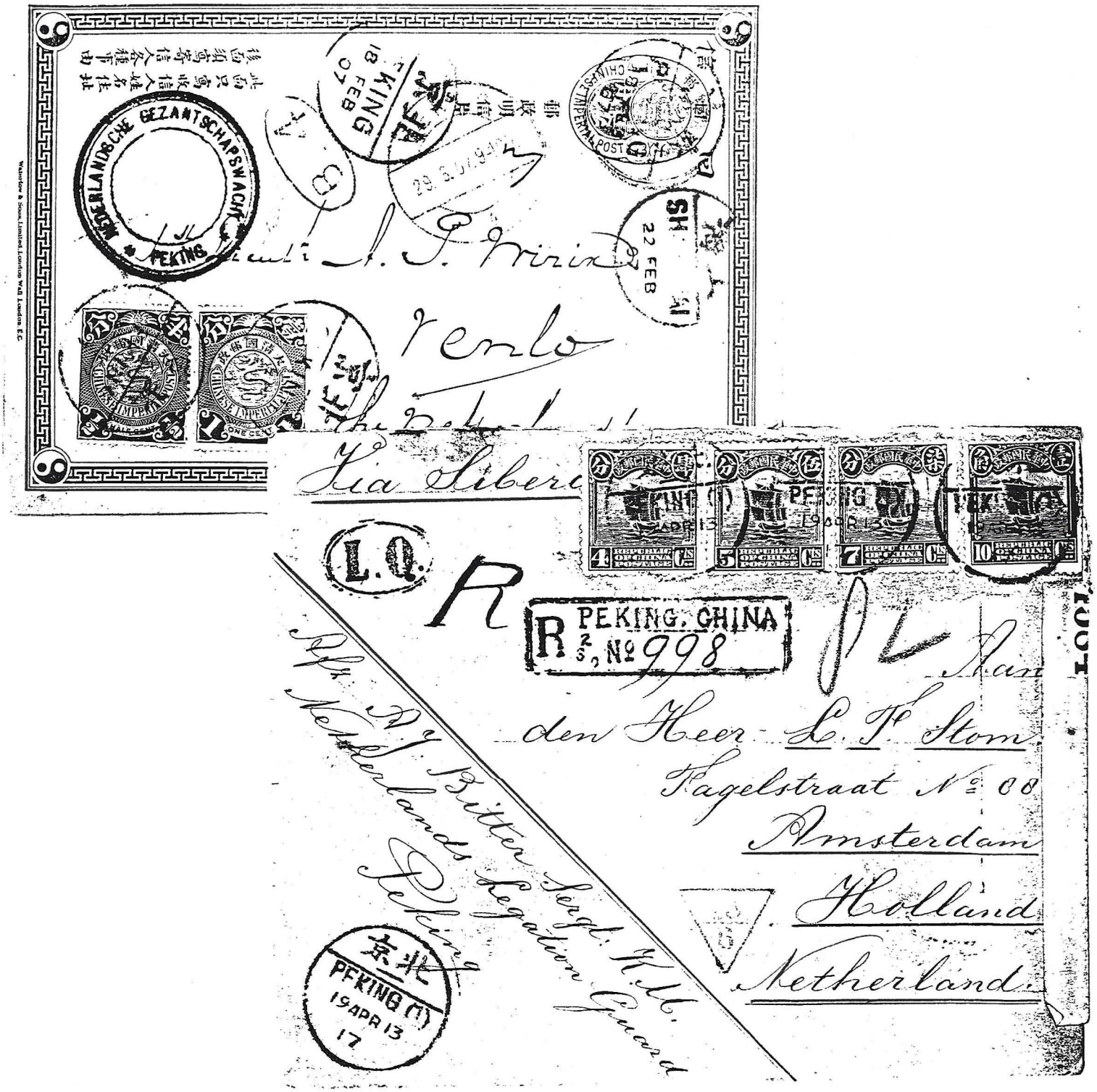
After the Boxer Uprising, China conceded the right to foreign powers to maintain military units to guard their legations in Peking and the international settlements in Tientsin. Approximately 200 Austro-Hungarian Marines were assigned to this guard duty, and in 1903 a military post office was established for their use in the Peking legation. Postage rates were those that applied to mail posted in the Austro-Hungarian Empire.



In 1907 a new datestamp replaced the "Wachdetachement" one, continuing in use until China declared war on the Austro-Hungarian Empire (14 August 1917). Recorded in black and blue. The handstamp used to modify registration labels was similarly changed.

Official Military mail was not required to be franked, either for postage or registration fees.

Dutch Legation Guards



The Netherlands had a legation in Peking in 1900, but no Dutch military personnel are reported to have served in the Allied forces which put down the Boxers. Following suppression of the Uprising, a Dutch legation guard unit was established. It had to use the Peking post office as the Dutch had not taken the opportunity provided by the Allied intervention to open their own post offices in China.

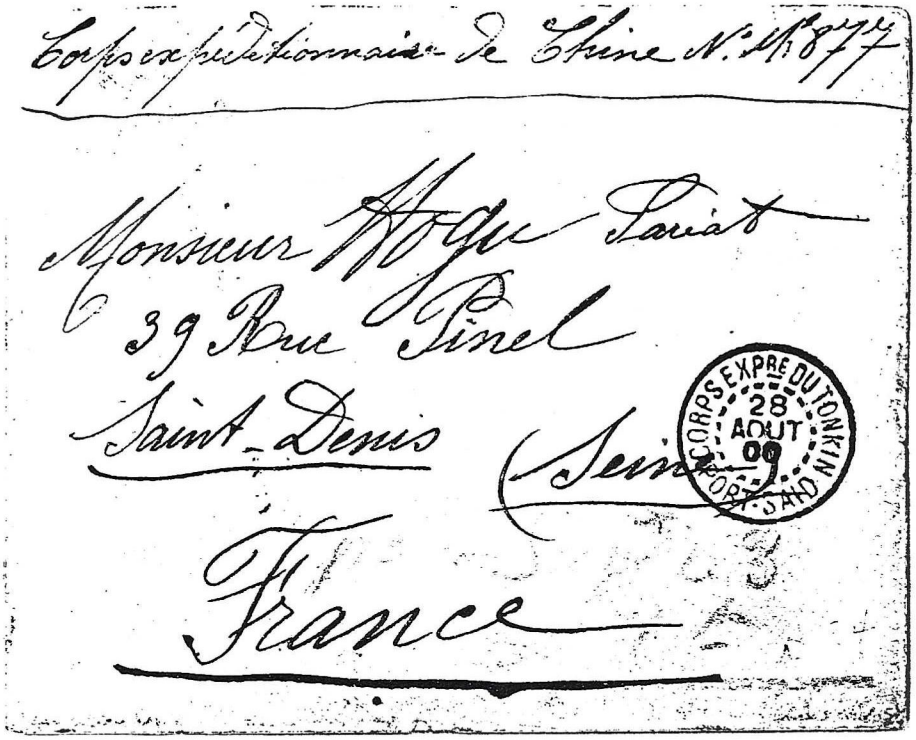
French Forces

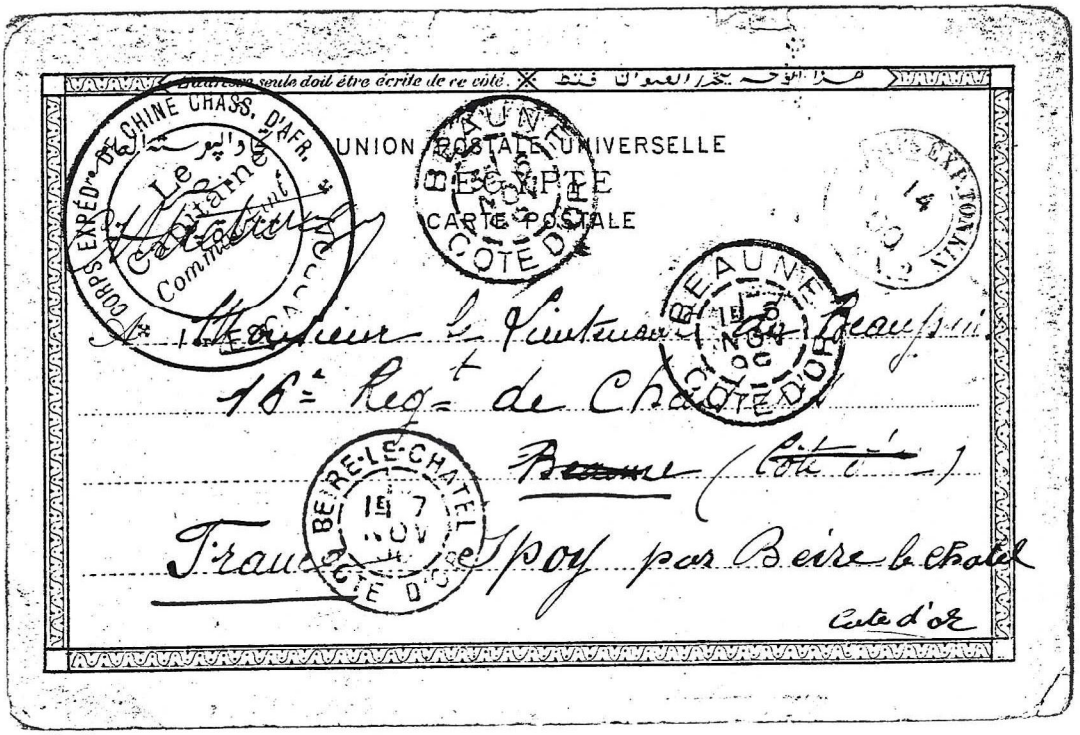
Naval Mail: Shanghai



French warships in the early 1900s lacked on-board post offices. Nor, at least in the early part of the Boxer Uprising, did they have unit handstamps. The typical French Navy cover of the day bears a Marine Francaise, Service a la Mer handstamp of standard design plus a shore- or ship-based French post mark indicating military origin, and has no return address.

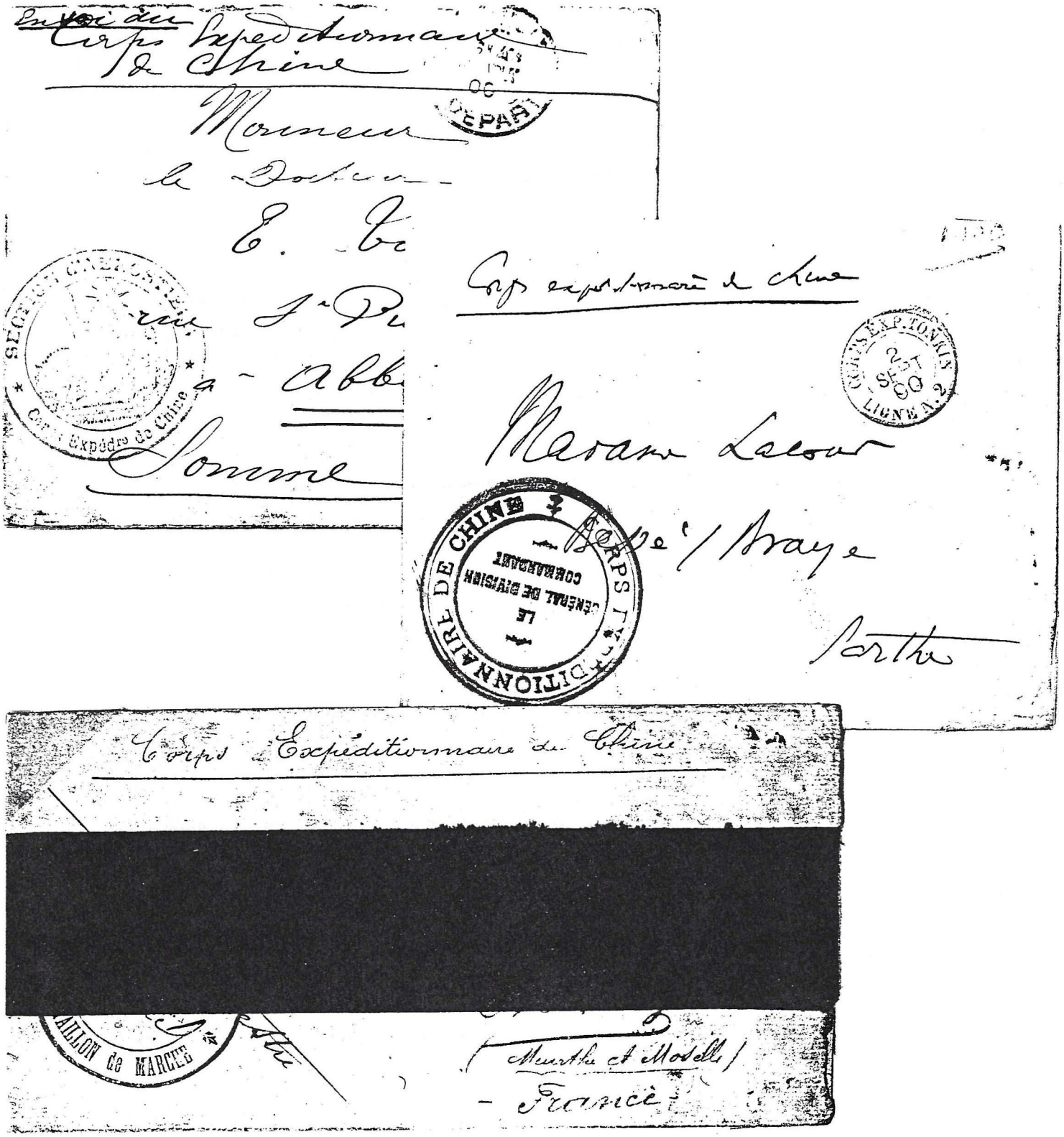
Posted via French shore-based postal agency, Port Said



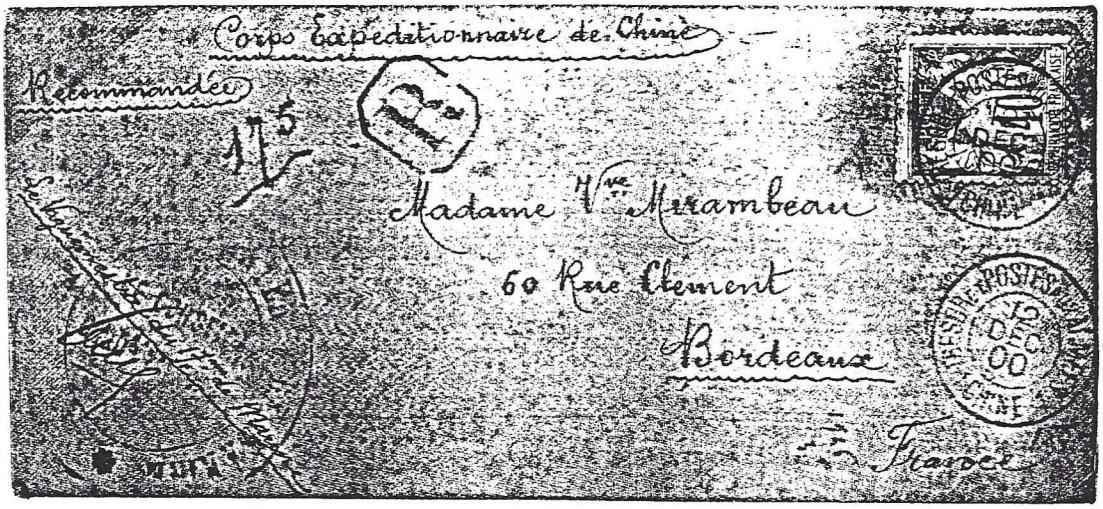


Datelined Singapore; postmarked on *SS Indus*

Ground troops also were sent from France and North Africa. Unfranked mail was normally postmarked, ashore or on ship, with a datestamp indicating military origin (and thus proper use of the military free frank). Special cancels already in use for troops in Tonkin were used on mail from the Corps Expeditionnaire de Chine in preference to making new ones.



The first French troops were sent to North China from Indochina, arriving at Taku on 14 July 1900. The French field post system was not established until October, and mail sent in the interim period is considered as forerunners. It may be unpostmarked or bear transit markings.



Tresor & Postes 1

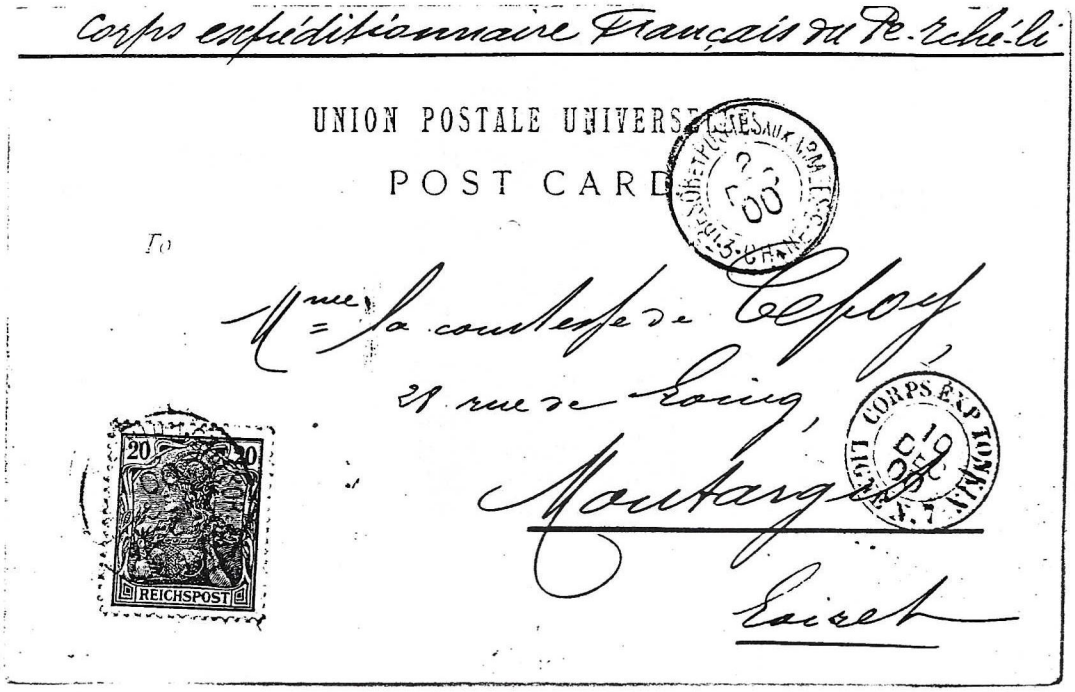
Operated in Peking, November 1900 - 16 May 1902.



Tresor & Postes 2

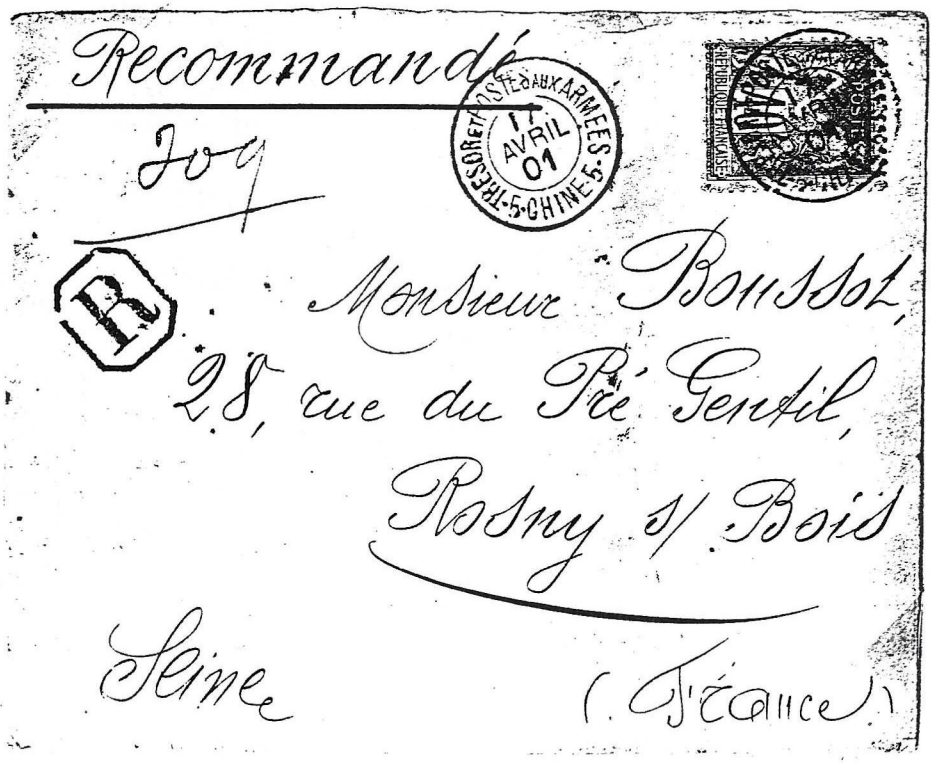
Operated at Paotingfu from October 1900 into 1901.

Postage (as well as registry fees) on registered soldier's letters was required to be paid at rates applicable for letters mailed in France. Franked 15 c. postage plus 25 c. for registration.



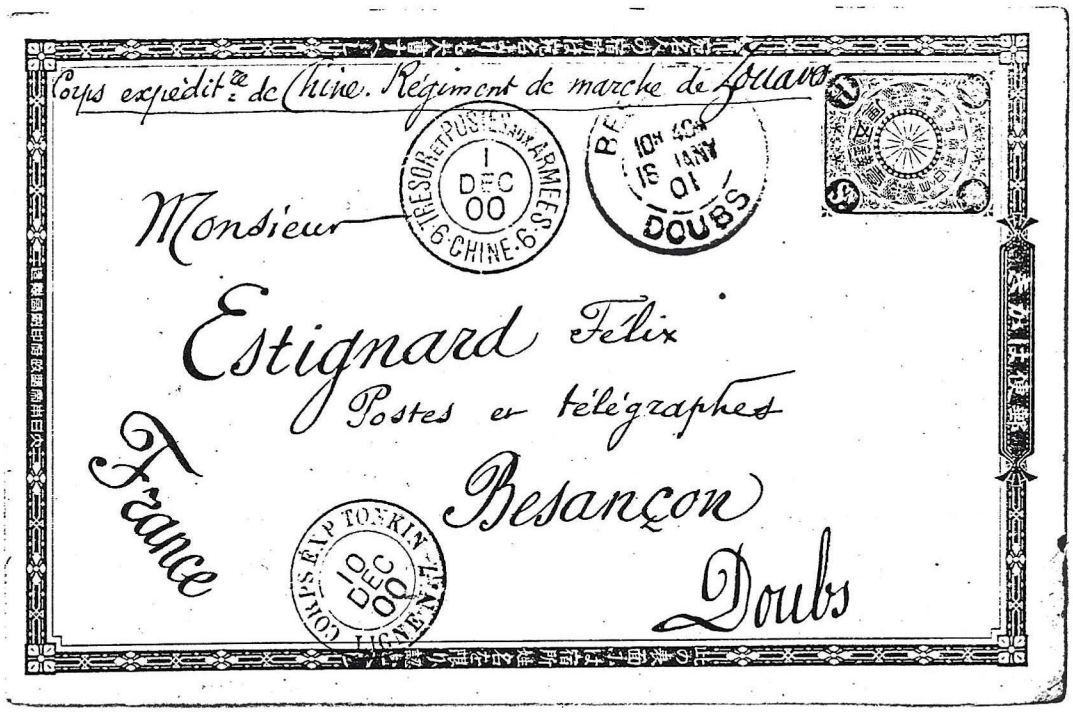
Tresor & Postes 3

Operated at Yangtsun October - December 1900. Postmark subsequently used, without date, as administrative mark in military section of Shanghai French post office.



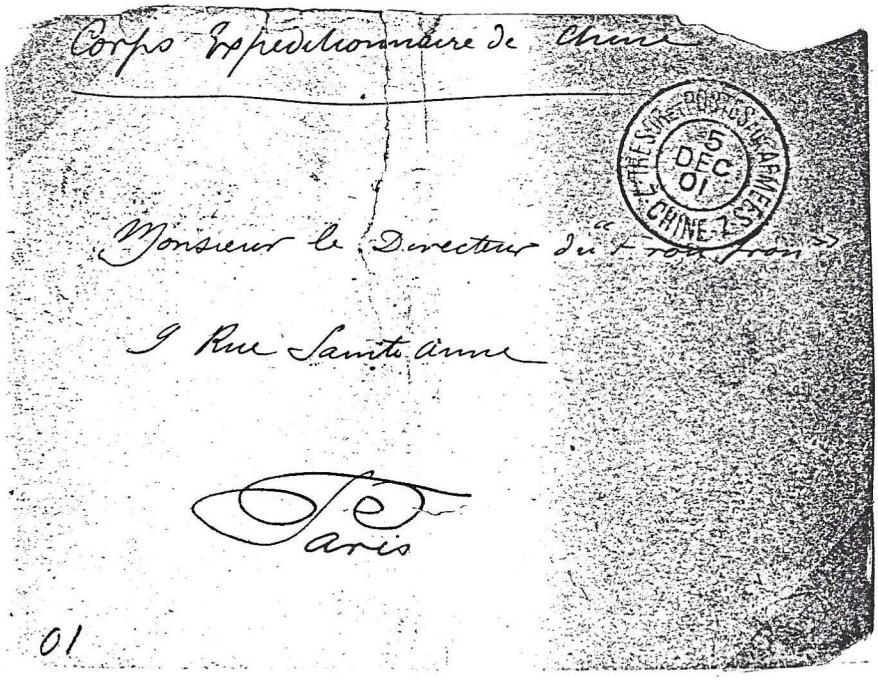
Tresor & Postes 5

Operated at Tientsin October 1900 - 16 May 1902. Postmark subsequently used, without date, as administrative mark in Tientsin French post office.



Tresor & Postes 6

Operated at Shanhai-kwan October 1900 - 15 July 1901.



Tresor & Postes 7

Operated at Tongku 4 April - December 1901.



At in May 1900 the only Italian forces in China were 4 ships of its East Asia Cruiser Squadron including *R. Nave Fieramosca.* These were joined during the suppression of the Uprising by additional warships including *R. Nave Puglia.* Each was equipped with an on-board post office.

While approximately 2,000 Italian army troops were sent to China, no shore-base Italian post offices were created for this force.



Official mail from cruiser *Stromboli*. Carried out of the mails, China to Colombo, then posted aboard French packet boat *Tonkin*. Paid at full international rate of 25 c. postage plus 25 c. registry fee. Reported to be the only example of French franking of Italian Navy mail in the Boxer period.

As official mail, this cover could have been sent through the ship's post office at no charge. The best explanation for why it was not was a need for haste and lack of an Italian vessel departing North China for Italy at the time it was sent.

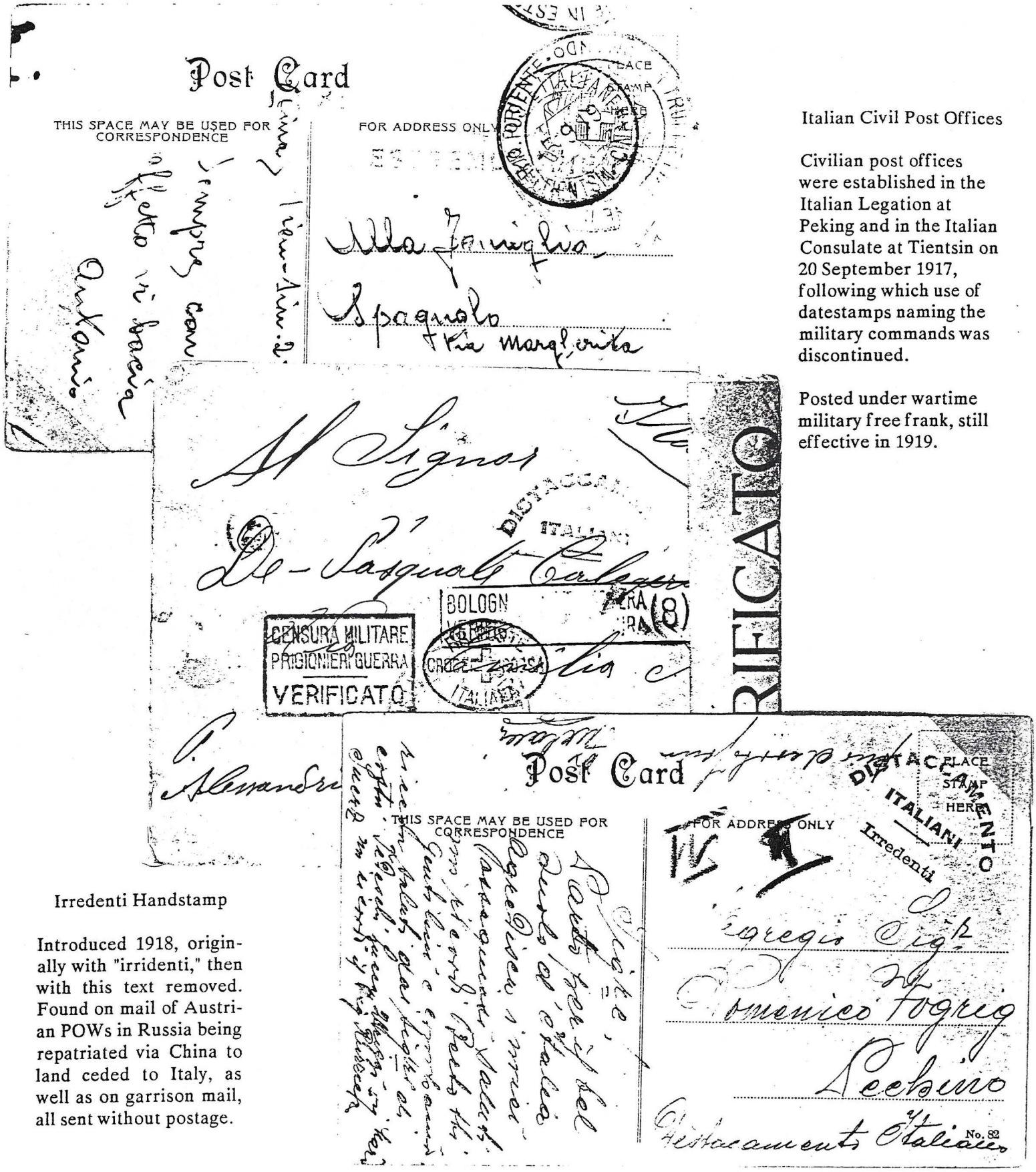


Field post offices were provided for Italian garrison and legation guard troops left in China under the Boxer peace protocols. Above postmark recorded used at Peking December 1902 - 1908. Registry label previously unrecorded.

Regular Italian postage was used until December 1917, when stamps overprinted for use in China became available. Soldiers' mail was charged the same rates as if mailed in Italy.



Three different "DISTACAMENTO Rª MARINA ITALIANA IN CINA" postmarks are recorded, used in 1904 - 1908, 1908 (three recorded) and in 1914-15, respectively. Due to lack of material sent in 1909 - 1913, it is not known which postmarks were used by the Marine Detachment in those years.



Italian Civil Post Offices

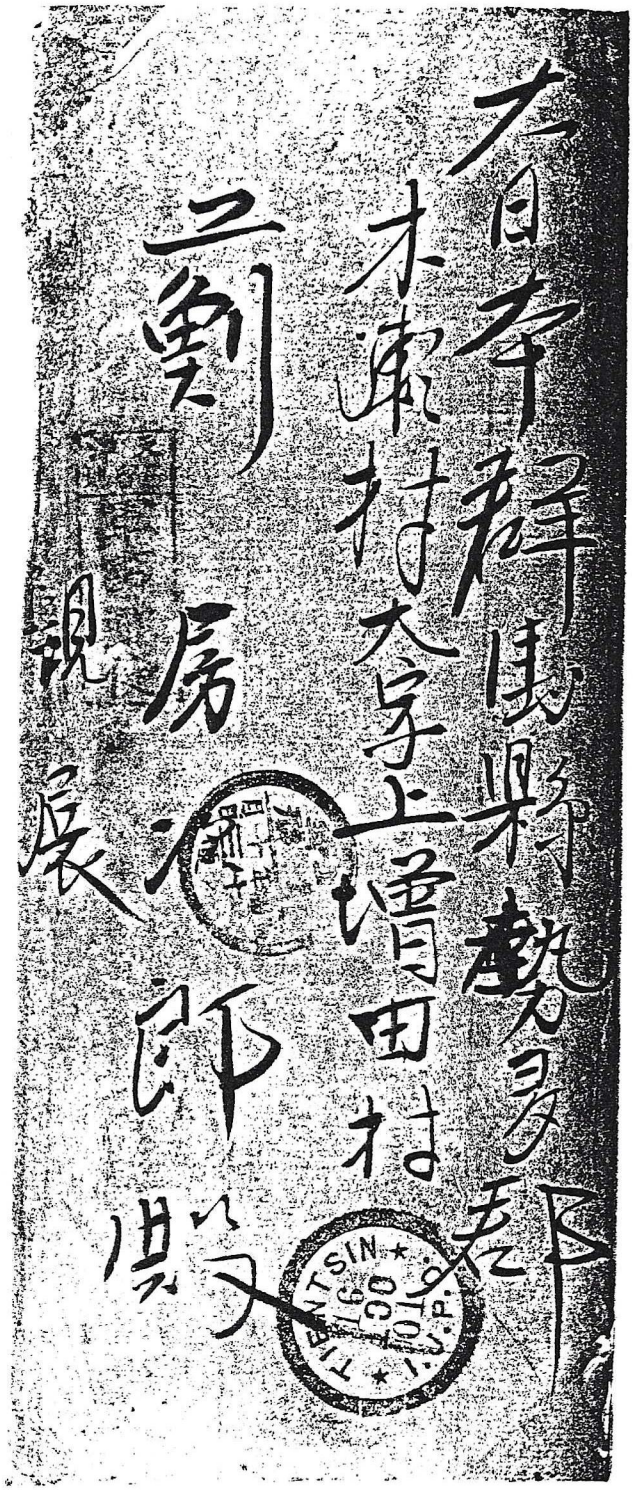
Civilian post offices were established in the Italian Legation at Peking and in the Italian Consulate at Tientsin on 20 September 1917, following which use of datestamps naming the military commands was discontinued.

Posted under wartime military free frank, still effective in 1919.

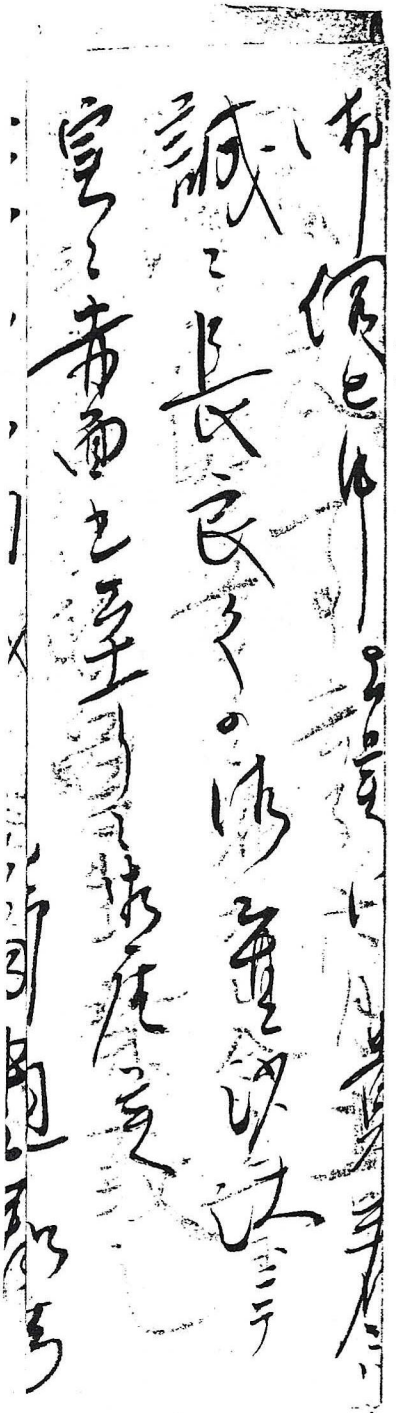
Irredenti Handstamp

Introduced 1918, originally with "irridenti," then with this text removed. Found on mail of Austrian POWs in Russia being repatriated via China to land ceded to Italy, as well as on garrison mail, all sent without postage.

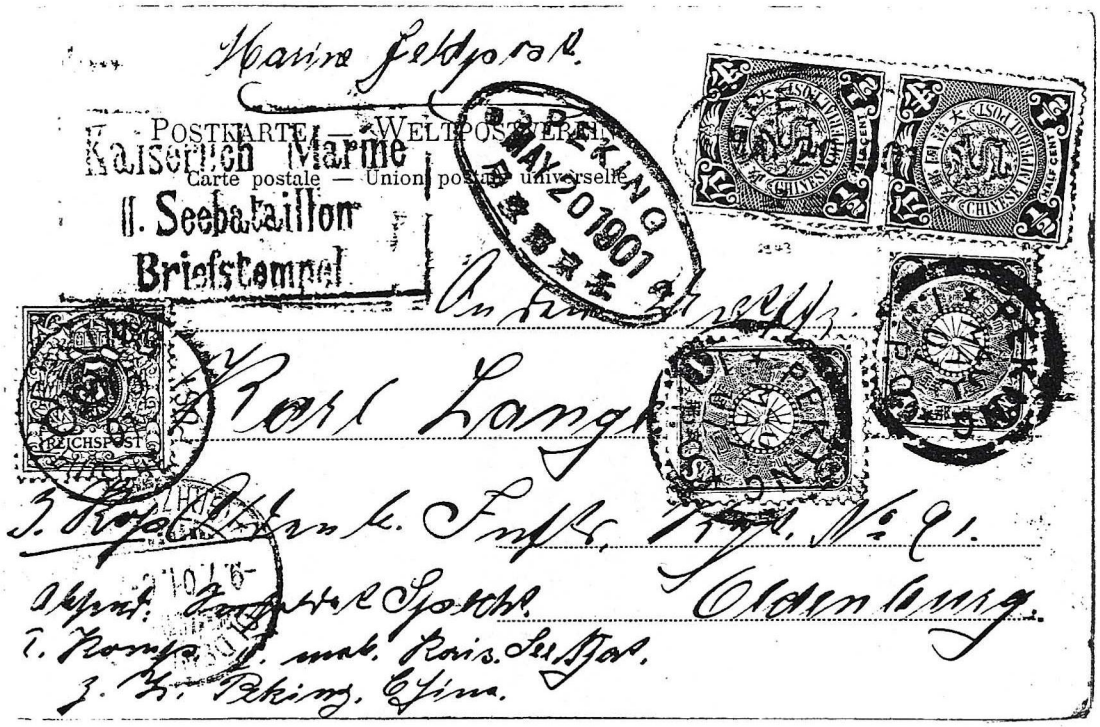
The Imperial Japanese Post Office at Tientsin, opened in 1895, was the only Japanese post office operating in North China prior to the Boxer Uprising. Instead of establishing a separate Field Post system, Japan created various sub-offices of the Tientsin office and later converted these to independent post offices. The vast majority of covers in collectors' hands sent from these post offices during the Boxer period are from non-Japanese.



Docketed *Gunji Yubin* (Military Mail).

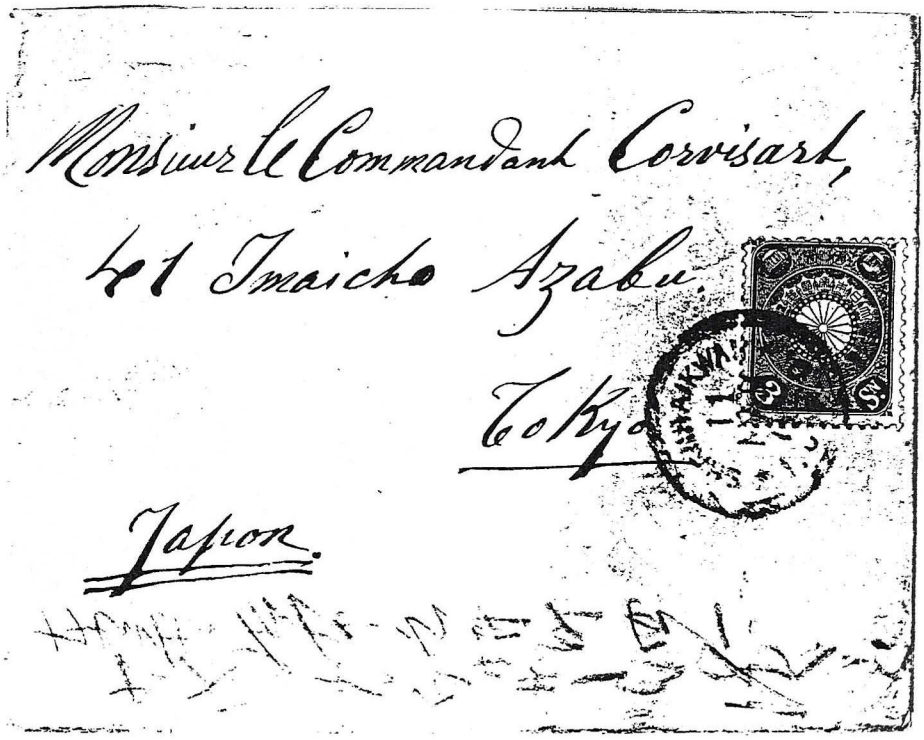


Japanese troops in China during the Boxer period were allowed free franking on regular letters to Japan. Japanese military mail from this campaign is virtually unknown in the West.



Peking

Operated as sub-office of I.J.P.O. Tientsin 27 August 1900 - 21 September 1900 (possibly as late as 19 March 1901). Thereafter operated as independent post office until closed on 31 December 1902.



Shanhaihwan

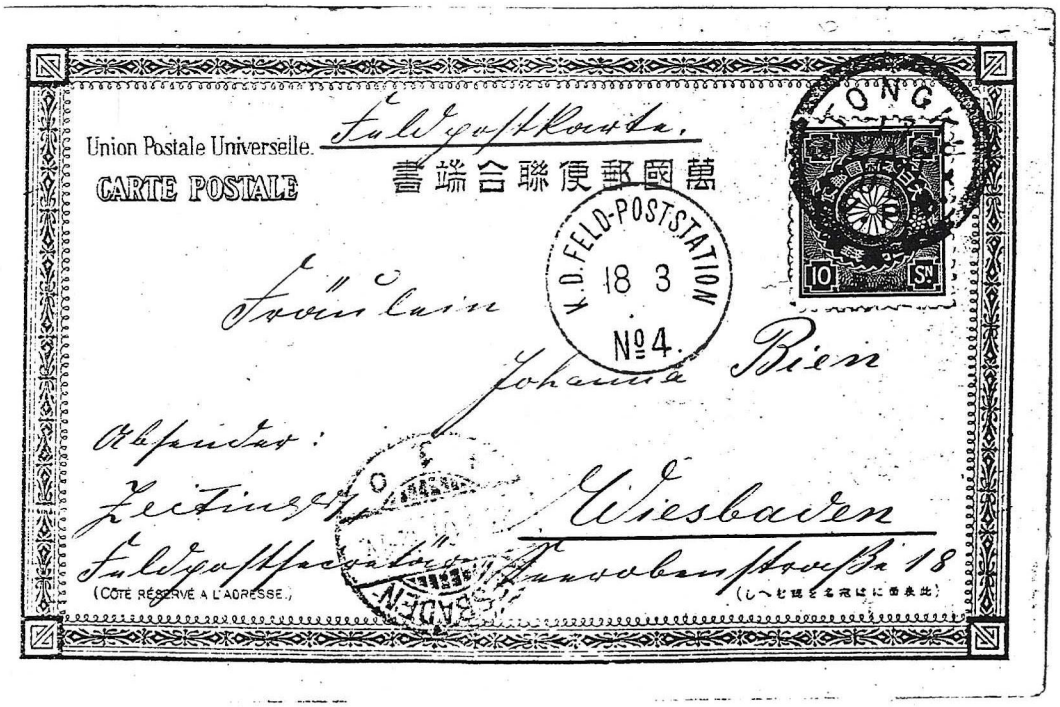
Operated as sub-office of Tientsin 21 December 1900 - 1909, and thereafter as independent post office until 31 December 1922.

Japanese Post Offices



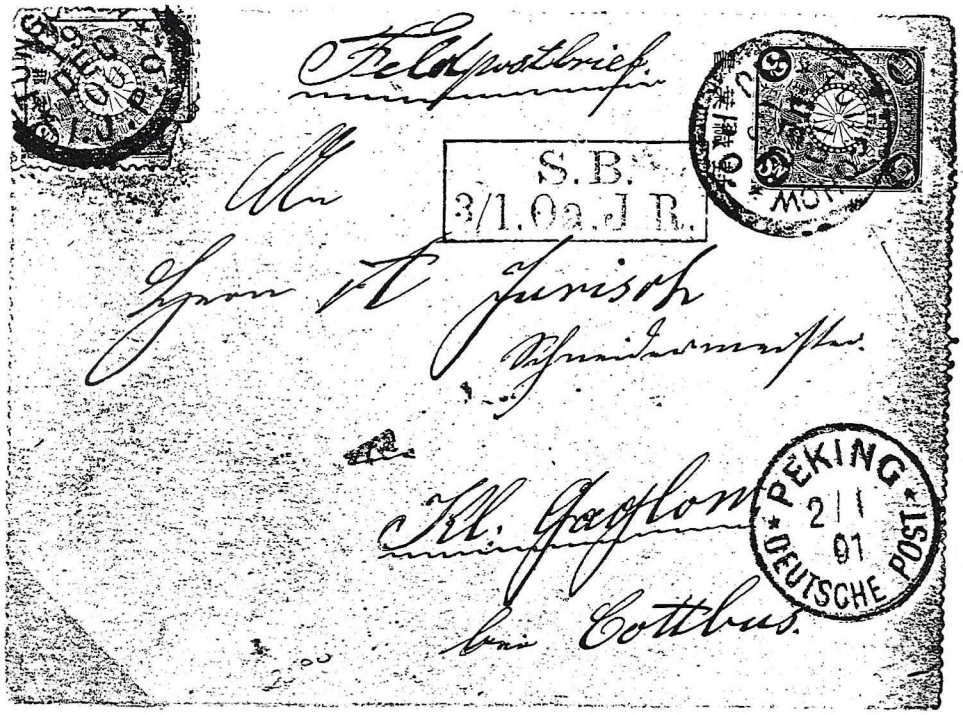
Taku

Operated as sub-office of Tientsin 5 July 1900 - 11 January 1901.



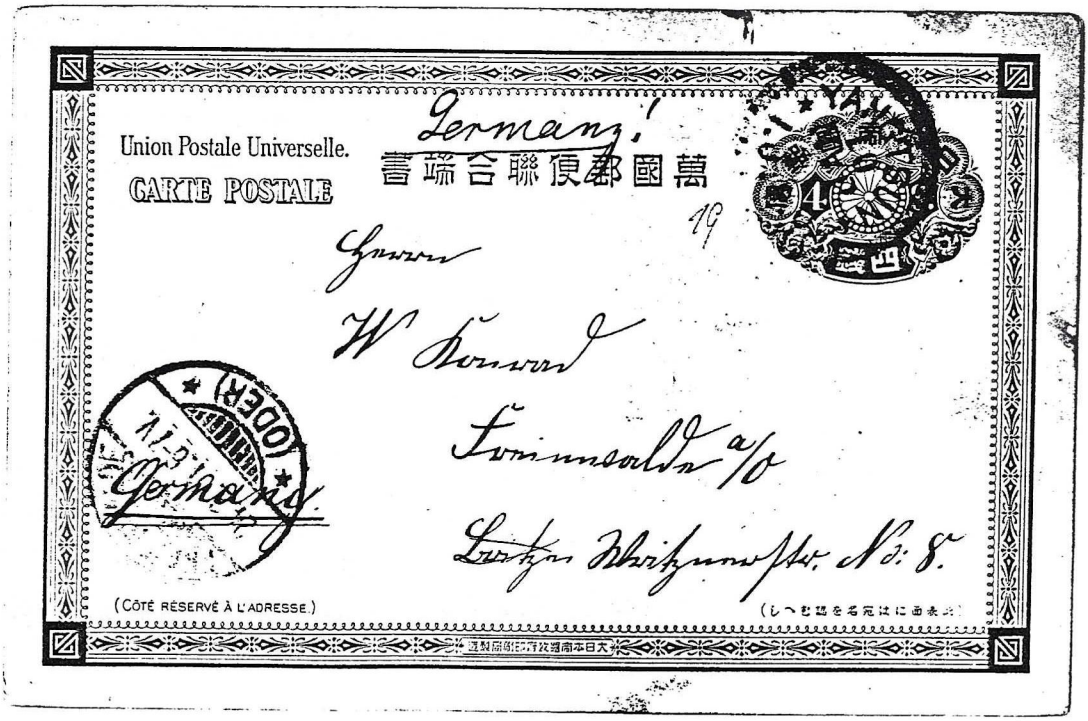
Tongku

Operated as sub-office of Tientsin 3 July 1900 - 11 January 1901, and thereafter as independent post office through 31 December 1922.



Tungchow

Operated as sub-office of Tientsin and/or Peking (authorities are in dispute on this point as well as on dates of operation: 22 or 15 September 1900 - 30 June or 7 September 1901).



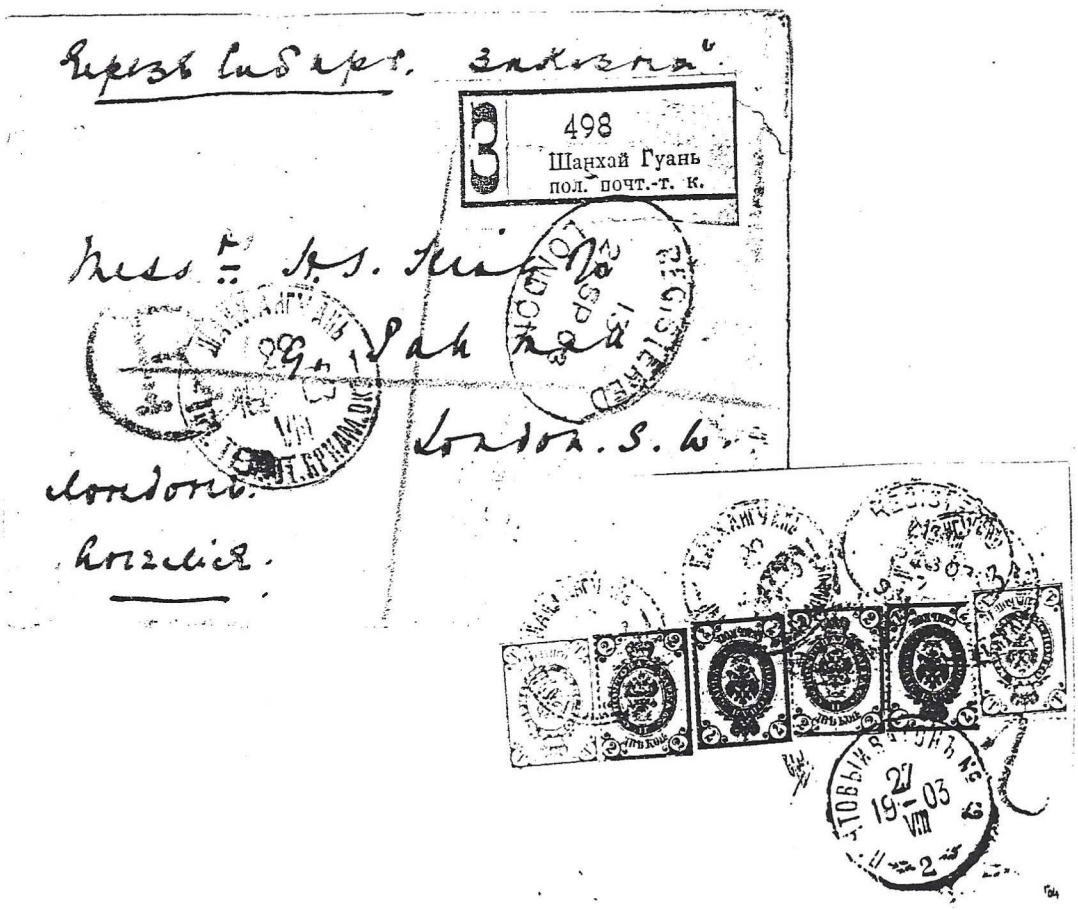
Yangtsun

Operated as sub-office of Tientsin 10 September 1900 - 17 July 1901.



Peking

A Russian field post office is reported to have opened in Peking in September 1900 to serve the 4300 Russian troops there, but no example of the postmark has been recorded. The Russian civil post office, opened 1870, resumed operations after relief of the legations (August 1900) with a temporary postmark which was replaced in early 1901.



Shanhaikwan

Occupied by Russian troops and field post office opened in 1900 (no postmarks recorded). Combined field post/telegraph office opened 1901 (postmark and registry label shown here). Converted to civilian status 8 October 1902, using existing military devices.



P. P. № 10

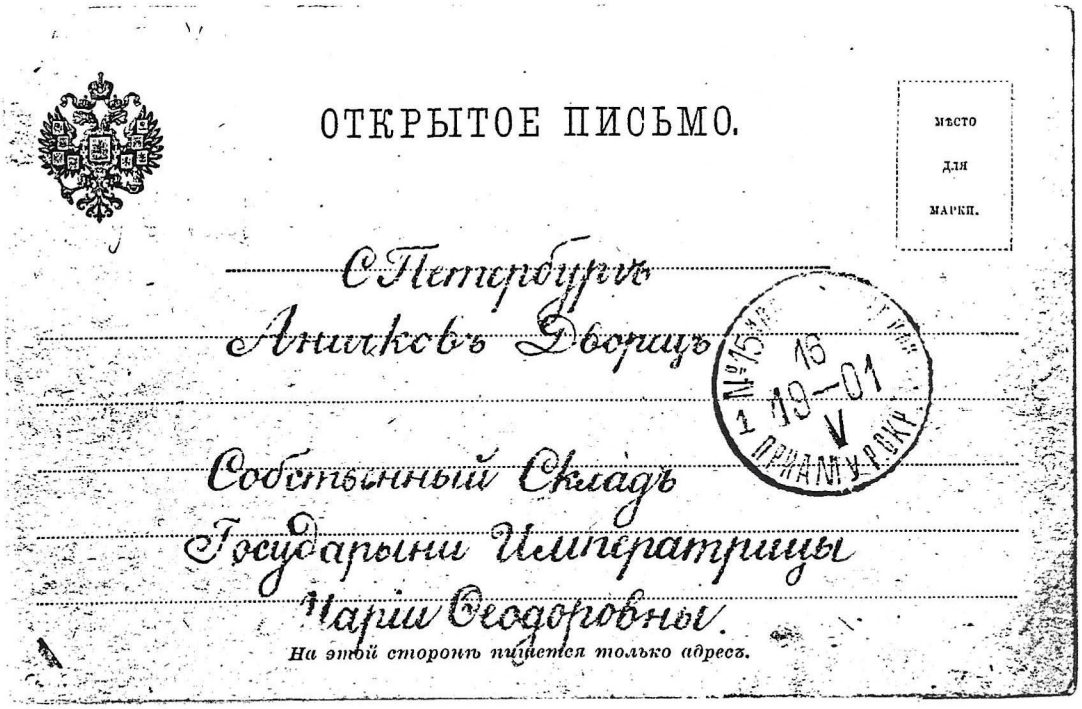
Opened as field post (Polevaya Pochtaya) office at Tiehlin in 1900, and later made into a combined field post & telegraph office (this cancel, used as receiving postmark). Placed under civilian control 14 January 1903. Ceased operations upon Japanese occupation (March 1905).

P. P. № 13

Opened as field post office at Newchwang (also known as Yinkow) in August 1900. Transferred to civilian control 14 January 1903 but continued to use field post office postmark.

Newchwang was an important transit point for Chinese mail. As China was not a UPU member at this time, additional franking was required on international mail.





P. P. № 15

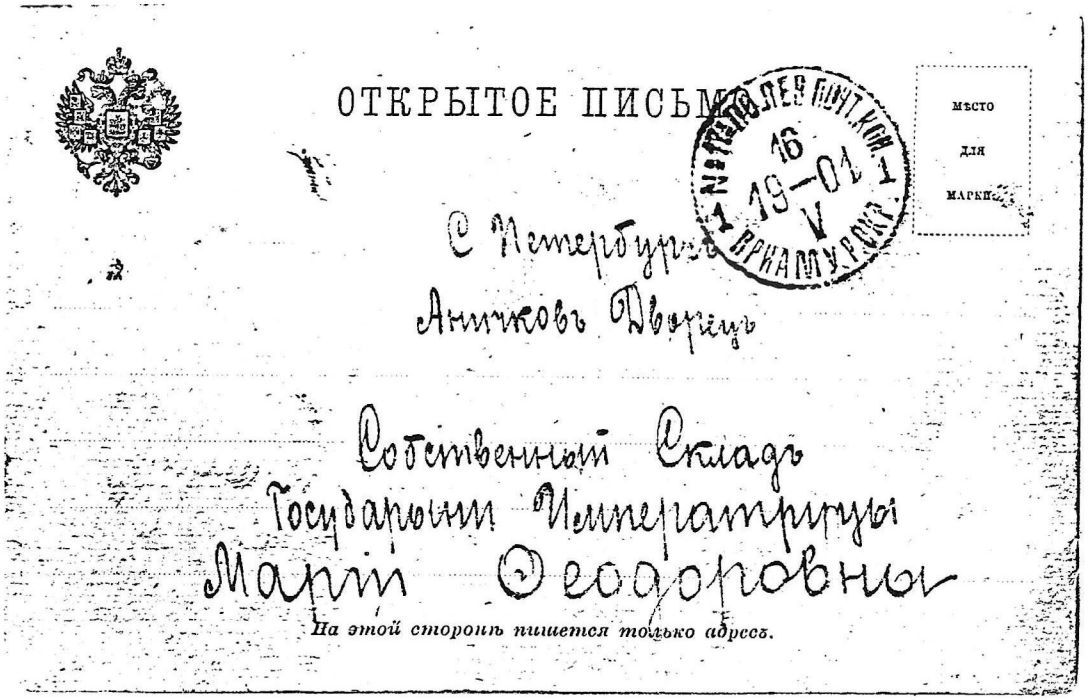
Opened at Taolaichao in 1900 (earliest known cancel December 1900). Made usual transitions to and from civilian control in 1903, and ceased operations in 1904.

Russian soldier's mail in the Boxer period, carried on military free frank.

P. P. № 16

Opened at Lyaoyang in July 1900. Transferred to civilian control 14 January 1903; field post cancel continued in use. Reverted to field post status October 1903 and closed 5 September 1904, when Japanese captured the town.





P. P. № 17

Dalny (later Dairen) was leased to Russia by China in 1898, and was the site of a Russian civil post office as early as 1899. Field Post Office 17 opened there in conjunction with the Boxer Uprising and operated until Japanese captured the town in May 1904.

Cancel reads № 17i POLEV[AYA] POCHT-[OVAYA] KON[TORA] PRIAMUR[SKII] OKR[UG] (17th Field Post Office, Priamur District).

P. P. № 18

Opened in October 1900. One example of non-philatelic mail from P.P. 18 is datelined "Taku Fort." However, Epstein & Mandrovskii indicate that this office was assigned only to Tongku.

