

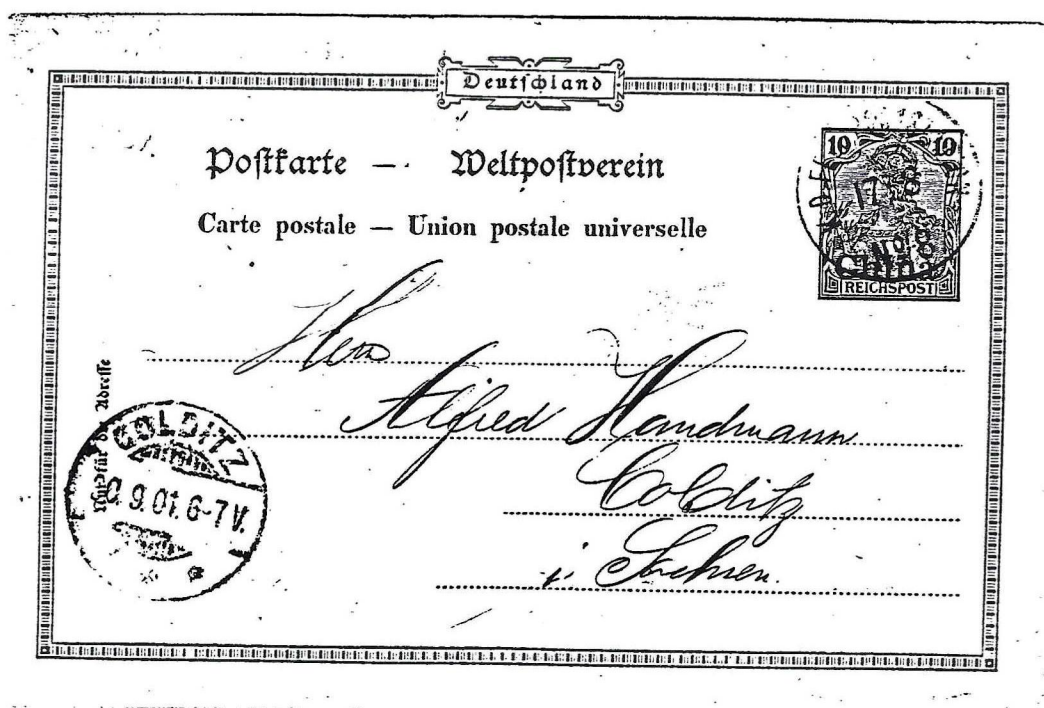
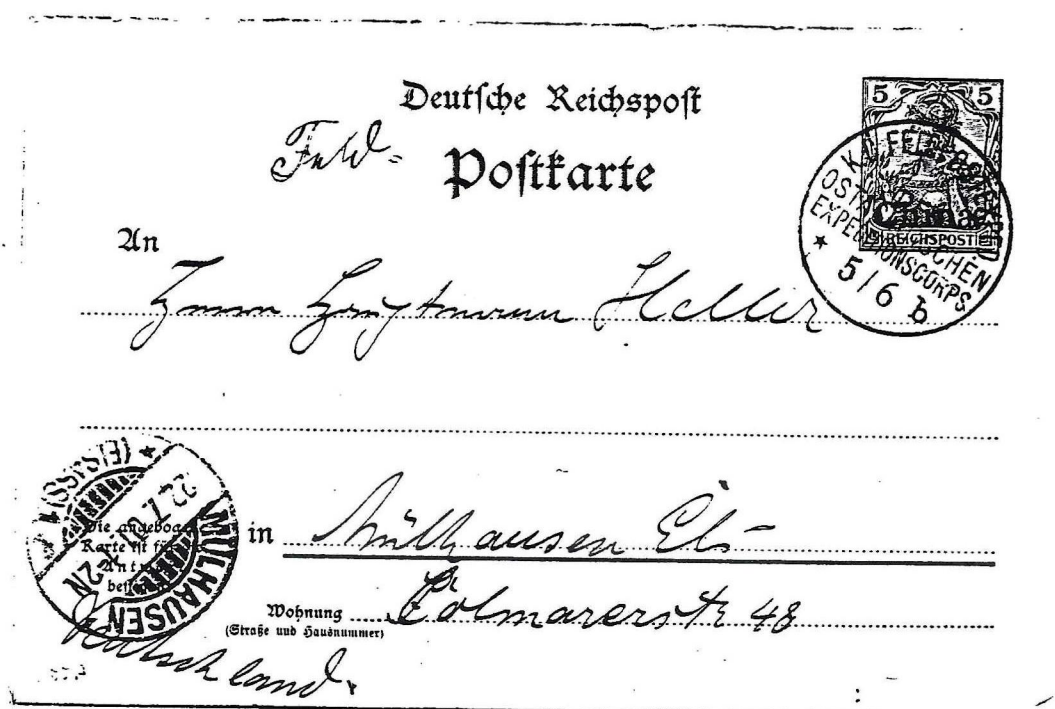


Regularly-issued 5pf (registered) and 10pf cards were provided through the post offices in China.

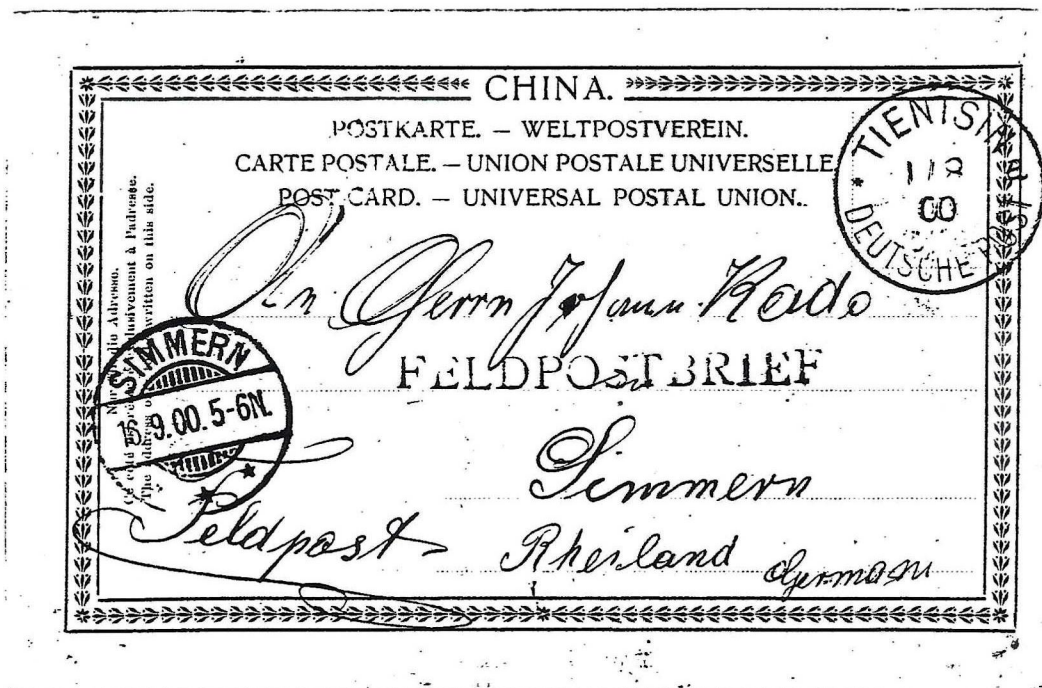


from
J. E. Eulich
227
Rachelberg
Frankfurt/Main
Feuerbachstr. 7

In January-February 1901, the German authorities issued a new series of stamps with "China" overprints for use in their post offices in China. These were theoretically available in the field post stations as well as the civil post offices, but examples with military postmarks are quite elusive.



The 1901 China overprint stamps were accompanied by 5pf and 10pf postal cards and 5pf and 10pf postal reply cards. Again, field post usages are most unusual.

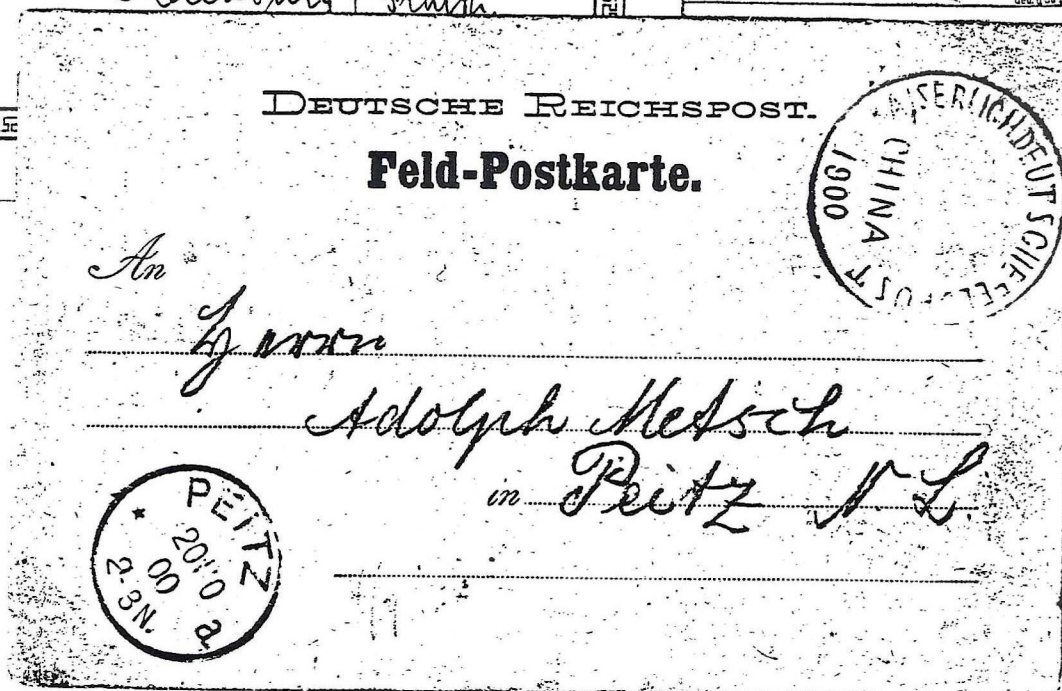
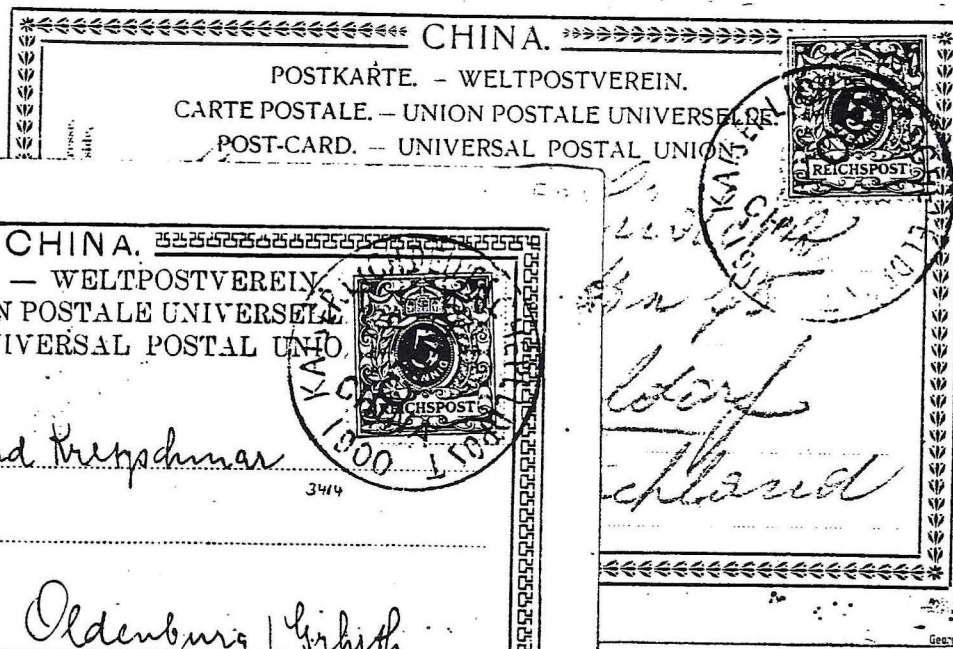


From 13 July 1900 Army and Navy personnel serving in connection with the Boxer Uprising were given a free franking privilege for postcards and letters (of up to 50 grams). Exercise of this privilege required the notation "Feldpost" or "S [oldaten] B [rief]."

German troops in China prior to the arrival of the East Asia Expeditionary Corps consisted of the 3rd Seebataillon, 1 battery of Marine Horse Artillery and a Kommando Detachment -- altogether just over 2,000 men, initially stationed at Kiautschou -- plus sailors of the East Asia Squadron. By the time this card was sent, German forces had joined in the defense of the legations (51 men), Seymour's abortive expedition (512 men), capture of the Taku forts, and the relief of Tientsin (3rd Seebataillon, 23-26 July).

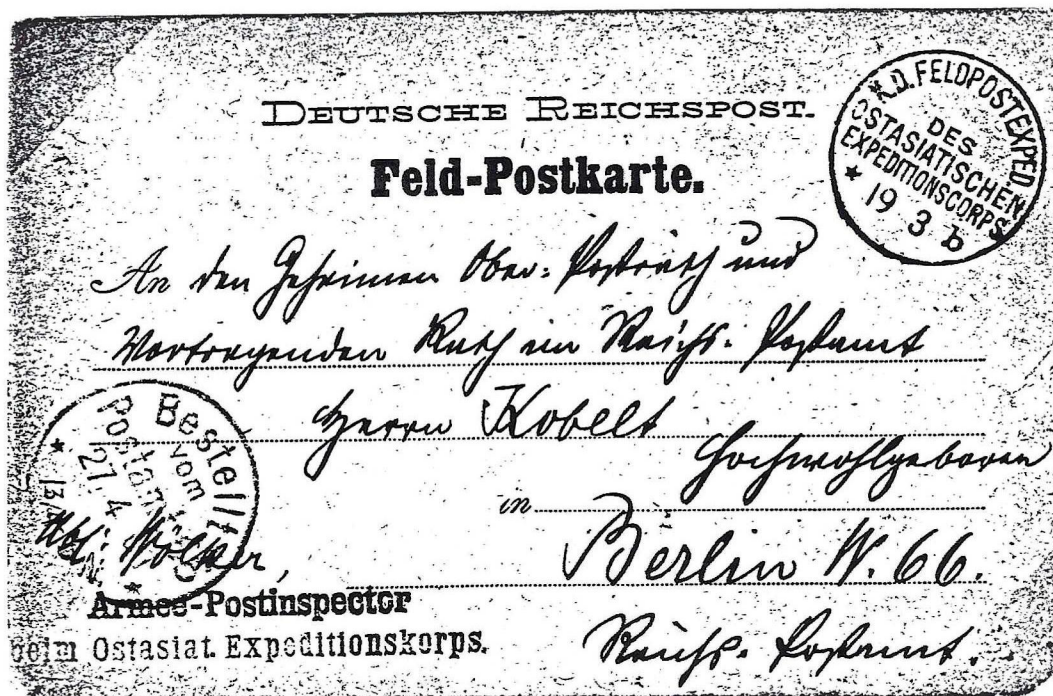
German Field Post

Forerunners
14 August 1900
19 August 1900
4 September 1900



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. It used, simultaneously, 3 different "Wagonwheel" postmarks as shown above (distinguished by minor variations in text spacing). Fieldpost usage is scarcer than civilian use.

Official Field Post Cards
6 March 1901
19 March 1901



The Imperial German Post Office also provided special postcards for use by troops in the field.

German Field Post

3rd East Asia Inf. Rgt.

Special Field Post Card

Germany - China 23 February 1901

SS Valdivia - Germany 21 September 1900

Deutsche Reichspost
Seldpostkarte
OSTAS. EXPED.
FELD-POSTEXPED.

DES
OSTASIATISCHEN
EXPEDITIONSKORPS
N 4 b

LEIPZIG
23.2.1901

An den *Infanterie*
Jessen Gustav Pilz, China
an Bord S. M. Schiff

6. Ostasiat. Infanterie Regt. | Estadron
| Batterie
4. | Kompagnie | Kolonne
K. D. Feldpoststation No 4

Deutsche Reichspost
Seldpostkarte

KAIS. DEUTSCHE
MARINE-
SCHIFFSPOST
No 71

an Bord S. M. Schiff *Offizier Herrmann*
Beienheim
U. P. (L. P.)

Ostasiat. Regt. | Estadron
| Batterie
| Kompagnie | Kolonne

7. III 1153
29.9.00

The Imperial German Post Office produced a special postcard for use to Army and Navy personnel in China. The unintended use, from troops writing home, is less common.

Arrival docketing by the Base Post Office in Tientsin, as shown on the top card, is unusual.

Germany - China 11 November 1900

Königreich Württemberg. Feldpostkarte		
An den		5542
an Bord S. M. Schiff		
..... Ostasiat.	Regt.	 Eskadron

6.	Königreich Bayern Feldpostkarte		
An den <i>Feldpoststation No. 6</i> <i>Friedemann</i> <i>Karl Fischer</i> <i>China</i>			
an Bord S. M. Schiff			
4. Ostasiat.	<i>Luft</i> Regt.	 Eskadron	
..... 2. Bataillon		 Batterie	
..... Kompagnie		 Kolonne	

The Kingdoms of Bavaria and Württemberg also issued special Field Post Cards for use to troops in China. These are much less common than the Imperial cards.

Feldpoststation No. 6 is by far the scarcest of the numbered German Field Post Offices in China during the Boxer Uprising. Friedemann places it at Fuping on 18 May 1901. The long span between the dates in Germany and China is unusual. It may be that, like the Württemberg card, the Bavarian card was issued pre-cancelled.

German Field Post

1 East Asia Inf. Rgt.

Berlin Navy Post Office

Germany - China 14 January 1901

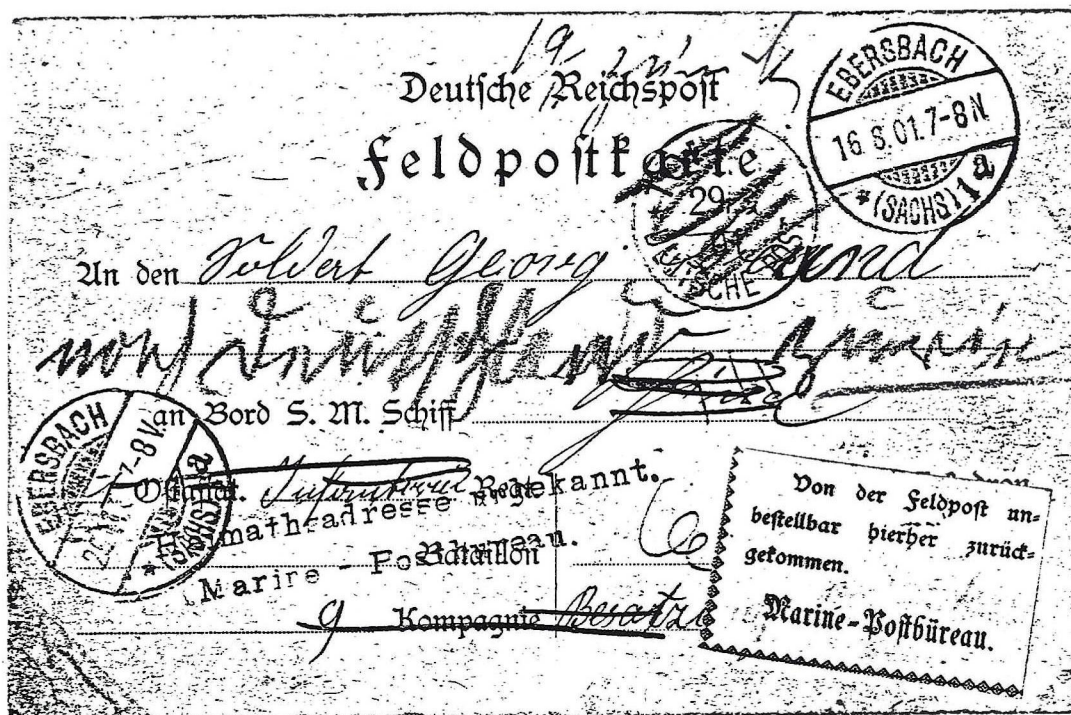
SS Sachsen - Germany 29 July 1901



After August 1900 mail to and from soldiers and sailors in, and in transit to/from, China tended to go directly from the post office of origin to the post office of destination. Occasionally, it would be forwarded through the Navy Post Office in Berlin.

Sachsen was not one of the ships leased for bringing the East Asia Expeditionary Corps home from China. Card depicts Genoa, suggesting that some troops were trans-shipped from that port.

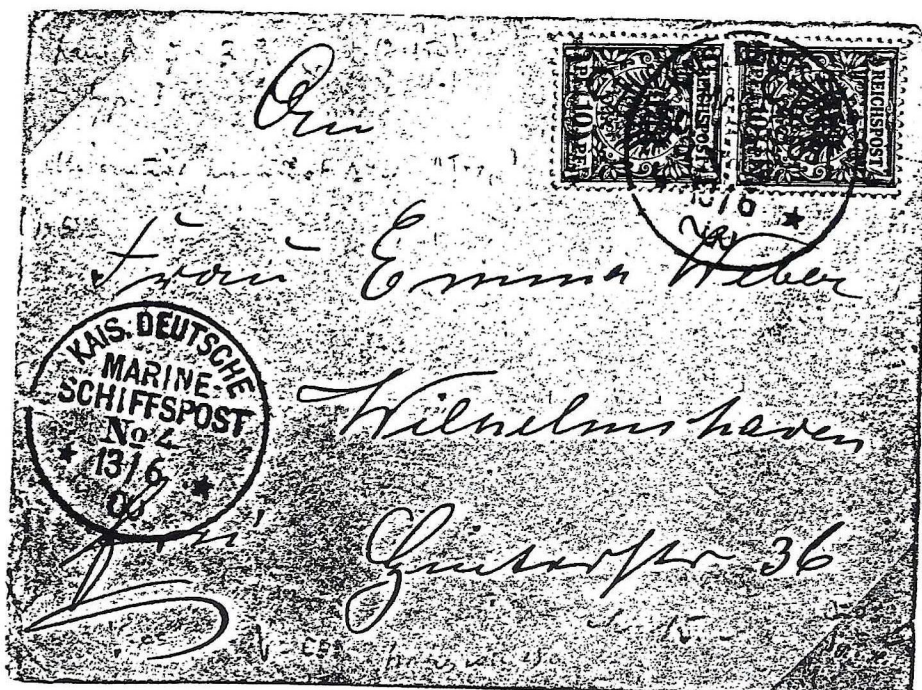
Return to Sender Label



Mail which could not be delivered to troops in China was returned to the Navy Post Office, Berlin for redirection. This card failed to catch up with the addressee after most of the East Asia Expeditionary Corps had been repatriated because, as noted in the handstamp, his address in Germany was unknown. Mail bearing labels (at least 2 types known) as above is uncommon.

German Field Post
SMS Irene
SMS Iltis

East Asia Squadron
13 June 1900
12 October 1900



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.

SMS Iltis took part in the capture of the Taku forts on 17 July 1900.

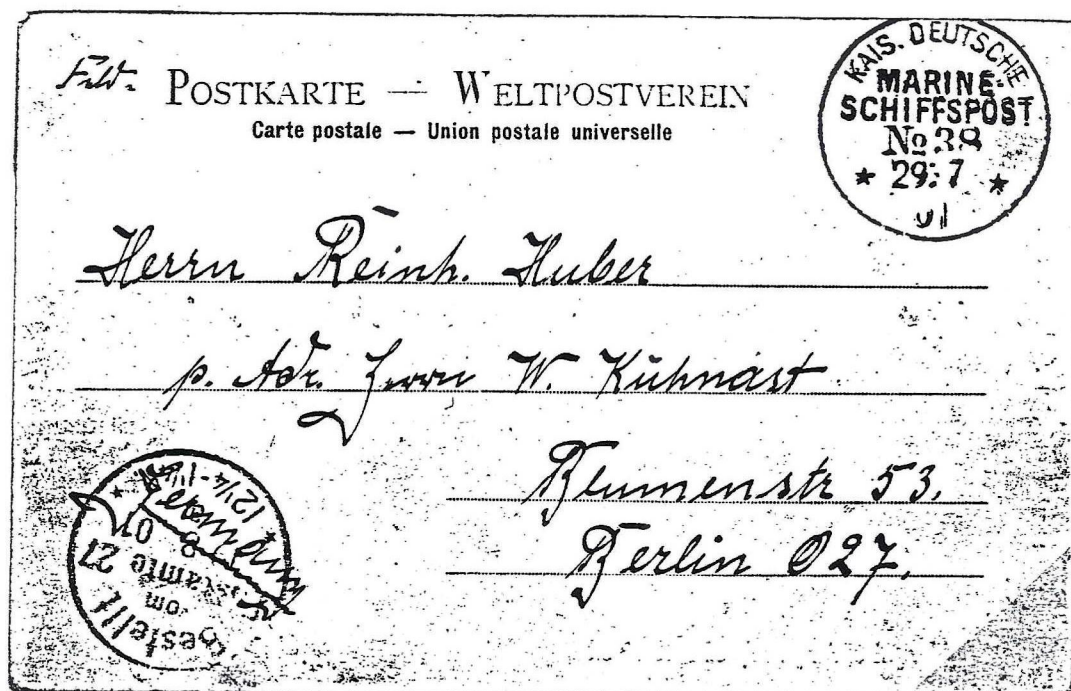


When the Boxers first attacked foreign property in Peking (9 June 1900), German Navy vessels in China were SMS Gefion, Hansa, Hertha, Iltis, Irene, Jaguar and Kaiserin Augusta. Each ship was equipped with a Navy post office, identifiable by the number in the datestamp.

German Field Post
SMS Gefion
SMS Hansa

East Asia Squadron
29 July 1901
16 September 1900

SMS Gefion
at Shanghai



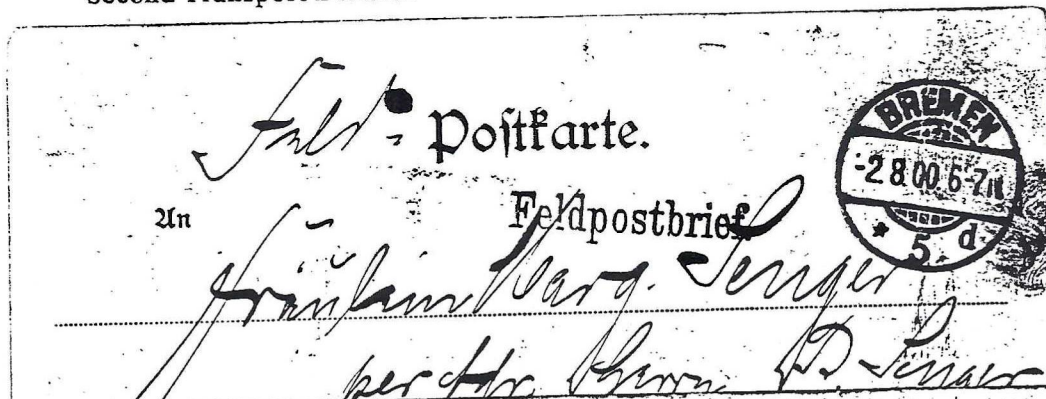
SMS Hansa
at Taku



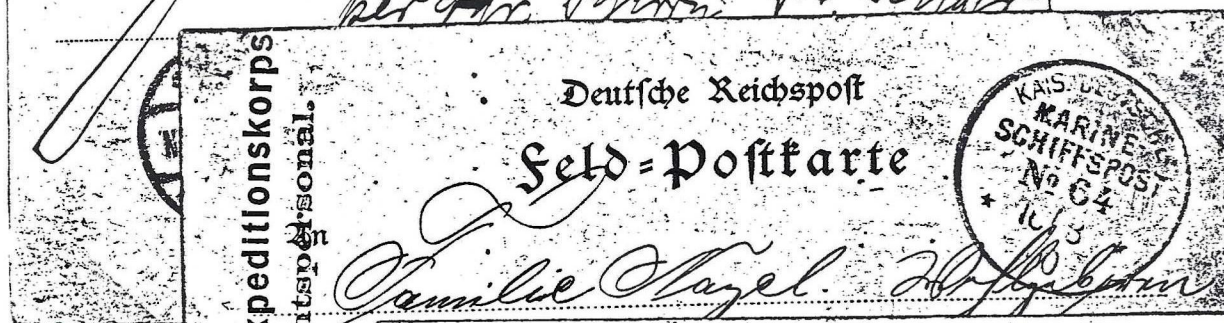
Troops in Germany available for immediate dispatch to China consisted of the 1st and 2nd Seebataillons. These, designated the "Marine Expeditionary Corps," embarked on *SS Wittekind* (MSP 71) and *SS Frankfurt* (MSP 26), 3 July 1900. They arrived at Taku on 15 August (the day after the legations were relieved) and on 5 September took up garrison duties in Peking. Shipboard mail from this Corps is typically franked with German stamps (the Egyptian stamp here is a souvenir), the ships having left Germany prior to announcement of the free frank.

German Field Post
East Asia Expeditionary Corps
First Transport Division
Second Transport Division

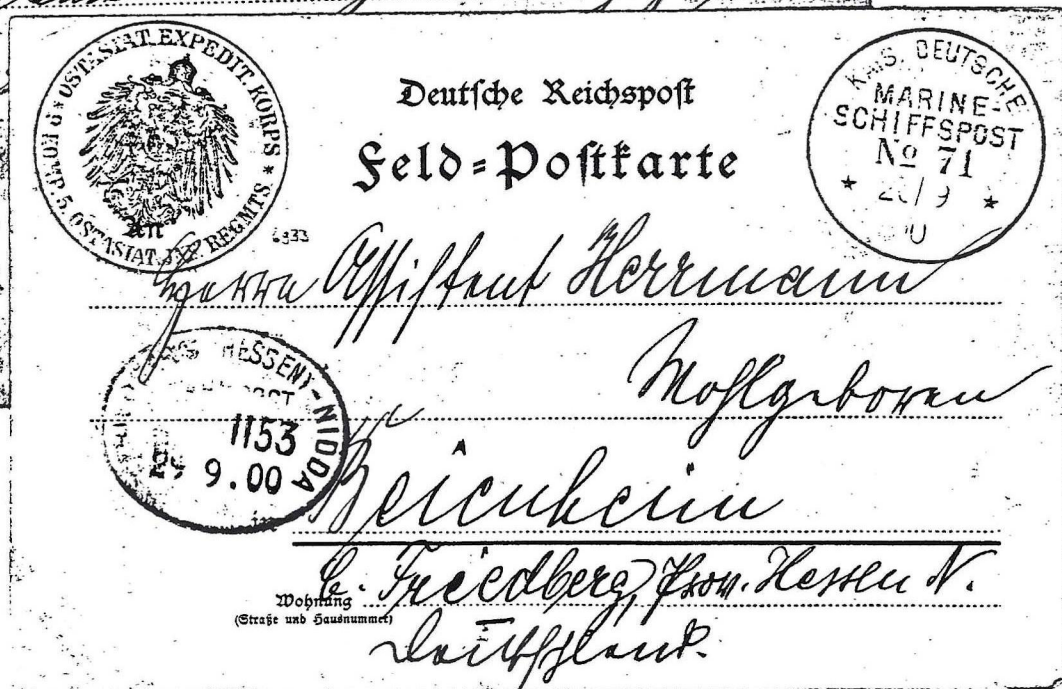
Troops in Transit
Bremen 2 August 1900
SS H.H. Meyer 16 August 1900
SS Valdavia 28 September 1900



"Feldpostbrief" handstamp was an official auxiliary postal marking.



Ostasiatisches Expeditionskorps
Train-Ansichtspersonal

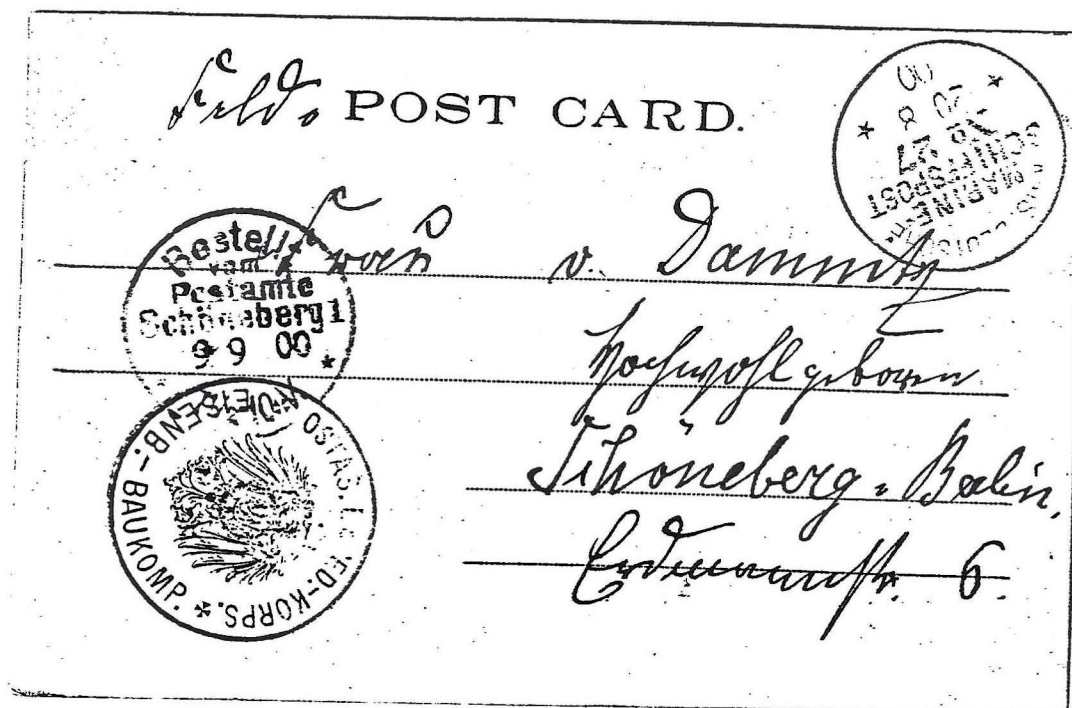
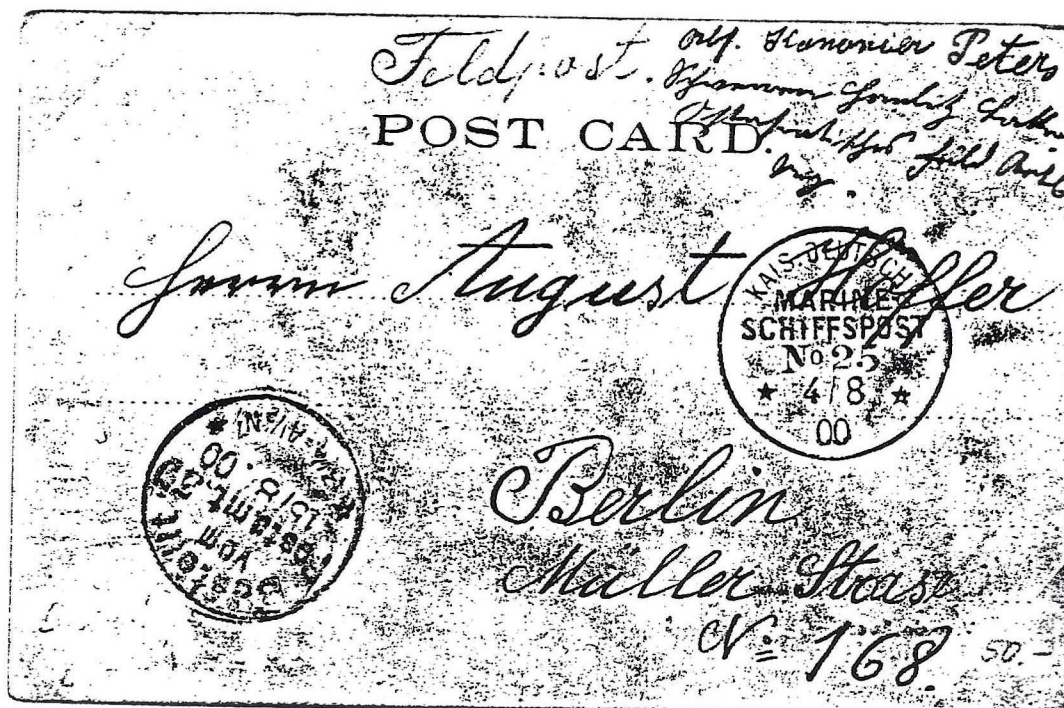


The command staff and first echelon of the East Asia Expeditionary Corps assembled in Bremen 27 July - 4 August 1900. The First Transport Detachment, 11,790 officers and men, embarked on 10 steamers and arrived at Taku between 6 - 25 September. The Second Transport Detachment, 7,874 officers and men,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

German Field Post

Railway Construction Co.

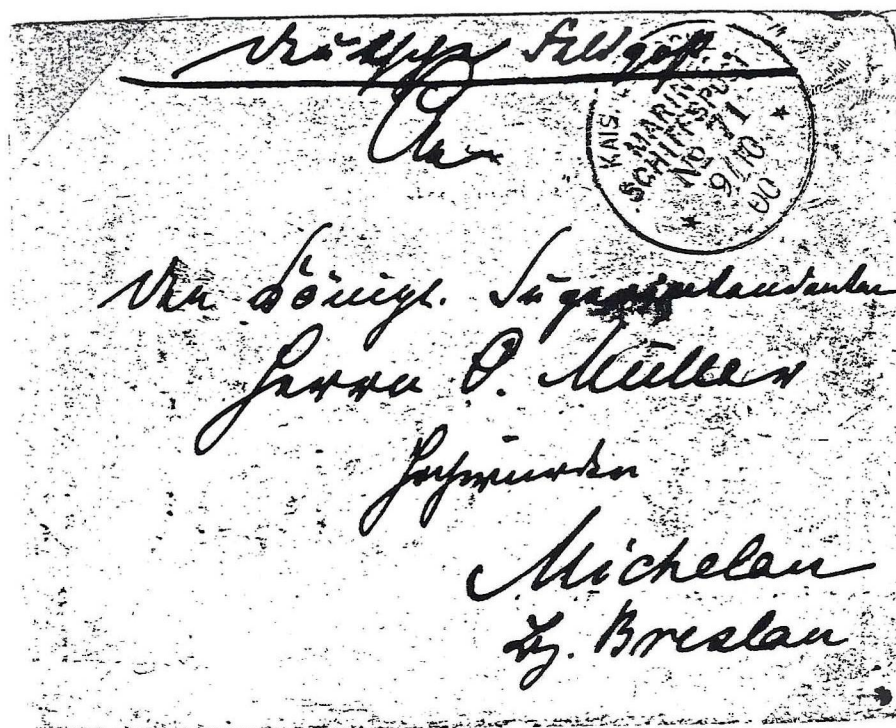
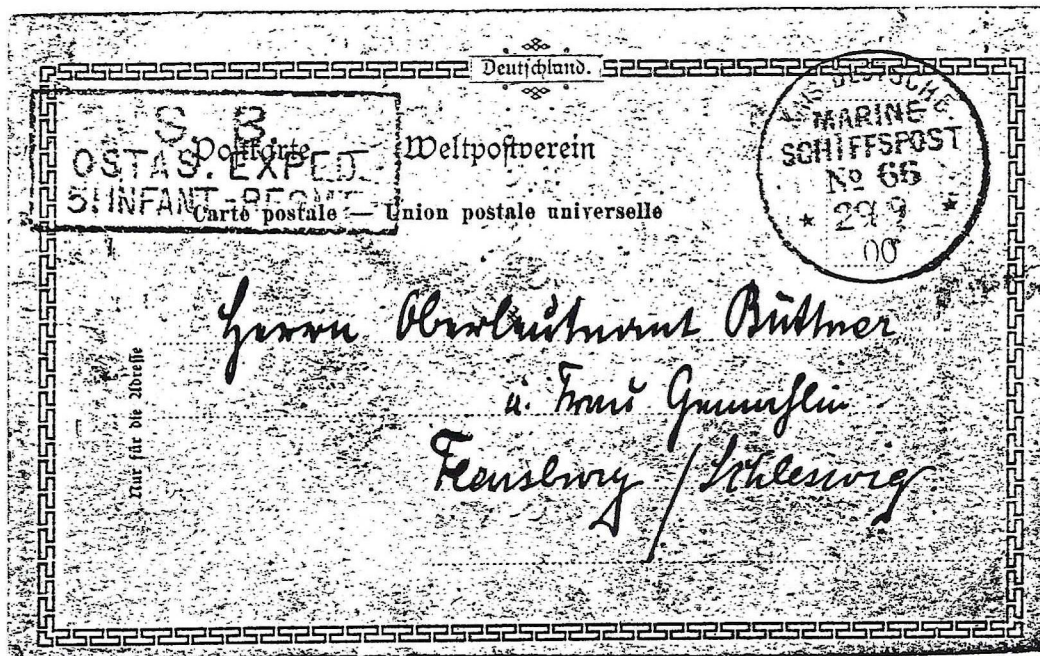
First Transport Detachment
SS Halle 4 August 1900
SS Dresden 20 August 1900



The First Transport Detachment, 11,790 officers and men, of the East Asia Expeditionary Corps left Bremen between 27 July - 4 August 1900 on the steamers SS Halle, Dresden, Batavia, Sardinia, Aachen, Strassburg, Rhein, Adria, Phönicia and H.H. Myer, and arrived at Taku between 6 - 25 September.

German Field Post
5th East Asia Inf. Rgt.

Second Transport Detachment
SS Palatia 29 September 1900
SS Valdavia 9 October 1900



The Second Transport Detachment, 7,874 officers and men, left Bremen between 31 August - 7 September on the steamers SS Andalusia, Palatia, Darmstadt, Arcadia, Roland, Hannover, Valdavia and Crefeld, and arrived at Taku between 12 - 31 October.