

German Civil Post Offices: Peking
18 December 1907
26 January 1909

[illegible]

On 30 June 1906 the East Asia Occupation Brigade was disbanded. From then until China declared war on Germany on 14 August 1917, German military forces in North China (Kiautschou excepted) consisted of small detachments of men at Tientsin and Peking. Throughout this period, these troops used the German civil post offices in Peking and Tientsin, paying domestic German rates until the military free frank was re-introduced in 1914.

German Forces
East Asia Occupation Bde., Magazine
East Asia Occupation Bde., HQ, Shanghai

Civil Post Office, Shanghai
14 May 1902
9 November 1902



Militaria
Hon. Y. Kaiserlichen Kommandos
des 21. Infanterie Regiments

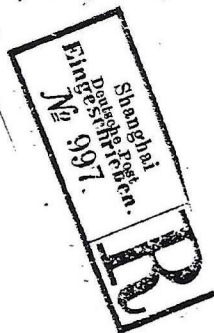


Einschreiben!



Un

Die Registratur der Brigade



Tientsin

Wg 4824
Militaria

1161

While the East Asia Occupation Brigade was created by events in North China, and was for the most part stationed there, its lines of communications and supply ran through Shanghai, in South China.

Official military mail continued to be carried free of charges for both postage and registration.

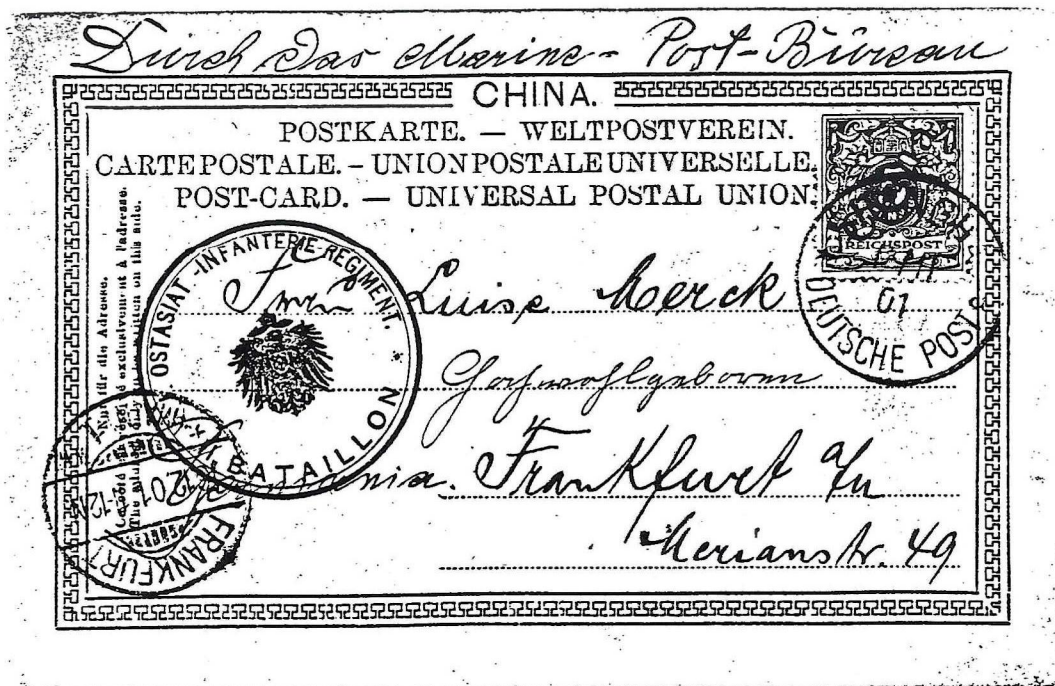
Civil Post Office: Shanghai
31 August 1901
11 November 1901

*No. Musik-Verleihen
J. Hump. J. O. L. R.
Postkarte. Shanghai*

*Fraulein
Leni Hoehler
Bockum b. Hehlst
Glindeholzstr. 40.*

*DEUTSCHE POSTA
31/8
07*

*U I
SPEZIAL
A8-Z 1006-
D GRL*



The German Post Office at Shanghai accepted the military free frank through 31 August 1901 when it was replaced by military concessionary rates equal to German domestic postage rates.

German Forces
East Asia Occupation Bde., 1st Infantry Regiment

German Civil Post Office
Shanghai 30 July 1902



German garrison troops were withdrawn piecemeal between 1902 and mid-1906. Elements of the 2nd Battalion, 1st East Asia Infantry Regiment, initially stationed on the Peking-Tientsin railway line, were withdrawn to Shanghai in the Spring of 1902. They were given a farewell party, complete with commemorative postcard and private Nebenstempel (sidemark) of the "Deutsches Lager Shanghai."

Shanghai-Tientsin Seapost
19 August 1901
13 April 1906

Deutsche Reichspost
Geld-Postkarte

An
Herrn

Franzosenstrasse 11, Hofmühlengarten

Wiesbaden.

Papier-Fabrik Ring 96.

China

REICHSPOST
REICHSPOST
REICHSPOST

DEUTSCHE POST
DEUTSCHE POST
DEUTSCHE POST

1066
Jahr und Postnummer

only Kingl. Korte M. G. A. S. R. a G. S. P. Weber
 Postkarte — Carte postale — Z-Z auf Briefumschlag.
 Weltpostverein — Union postale universelle
 Dopisnice — Correspondenzkarte — Levelező-Lap
 Karta korespondencyjna — Korespondenčni listek
 Briefkaart — Cartolina postale — Post card — Briefkort
 ОТКРЫТОЕ-ПИСЬМО

Postamt Gmfr. Kirchels
16 G. L. A. S. G.
L. A. S. G.



Military mail sent via the German seapost, Shanghai-Tientsin line.

German Forces

East Asia Occupation Bde, 3rd Inf. Rgt.

East Asia Occupation Bde, 1st Inf. Rgt.

Civil Post Office: Lang-fang



The handstamp on the bottom card was an official marking used from July 1901 until 1906, and is quite scarce. The oval handstamp on the top card is of private manufacture and is much more common.

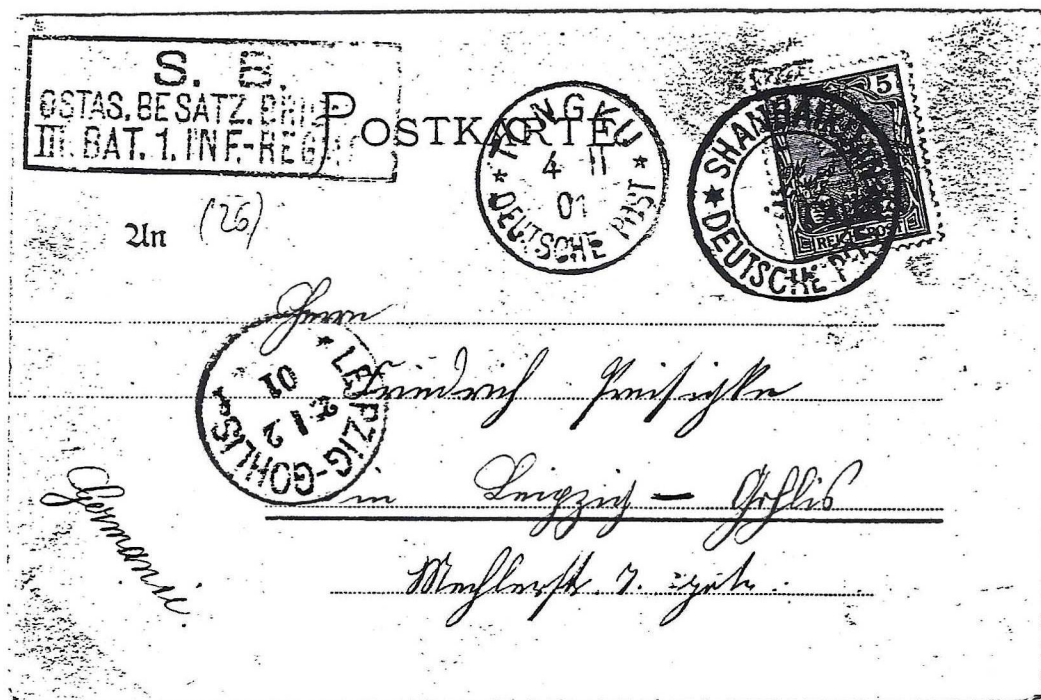
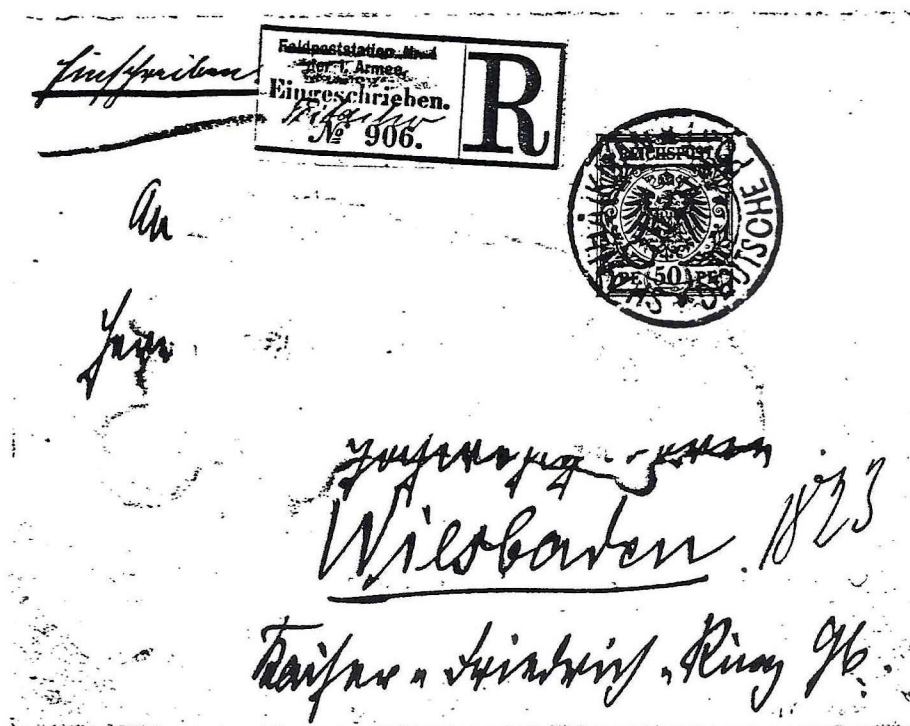
German Field Post

1st East Asia Inf. Regt.

Civil Post Office: Shanhaikwan

September 1901

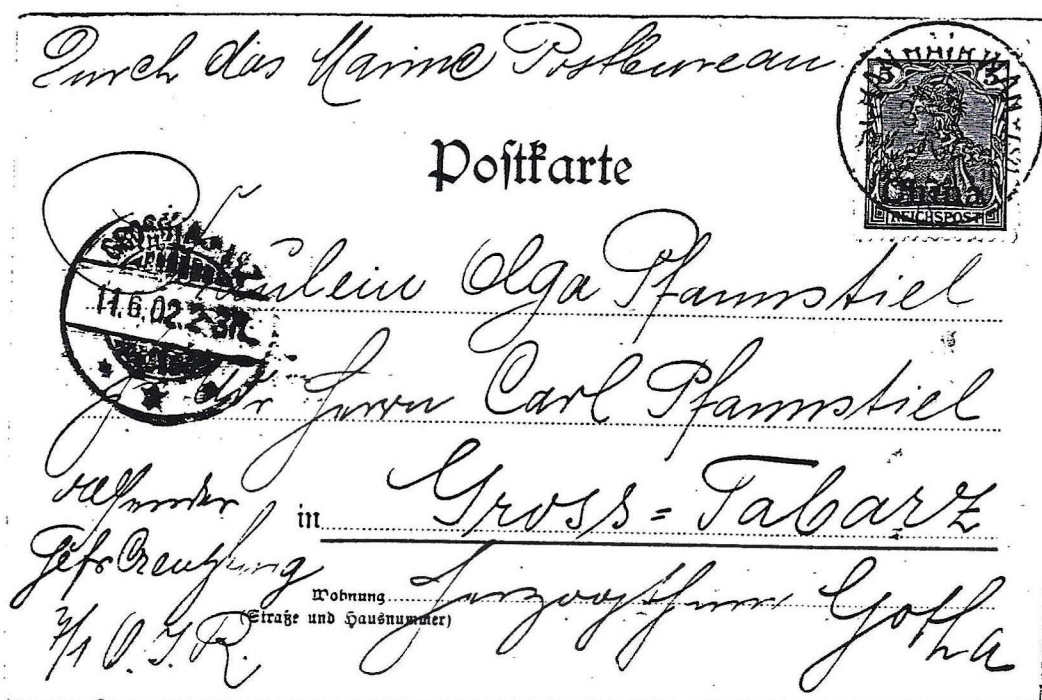
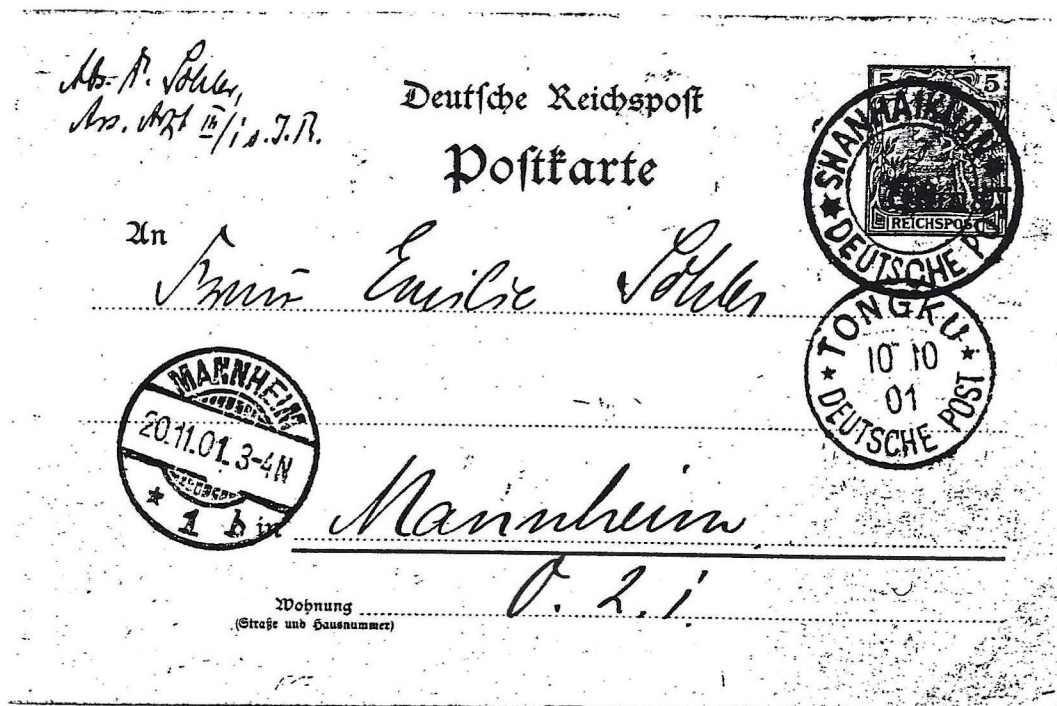
4 November 1901



Immediately following the closure of FPS № 8 at Shanhaikwan on 31 August 1901 a German civil post office opened, using the field post office's auxiliary handstamp as its cancel. It operated until 30 November 1901 when it closed for the winter after the harbor iced over. It resumed operation on 1 March 1902 (with a different cancel) and continued in operation until 31 October 1902.

German Forces
Surgeon, 3rd East Asia Inf. Rgt.
3rd East Asia Inf. Rgt.

Civil Post Office: Shanhaikuan
9 October 1901
3 May 1902



A double-circle postal administrative handstamp is known on mail postmarked FPS N° 8 from 26 November 1900 until the replacement of the field post station with a civilian postal agency on 31 August 1901. This marking continued to be used as the postmark of the civilian postal agency until 20 November 1901. In 1902 a German Post Office, with standard postmark, operated at Shanhaikuan from 1 March until 31 October.

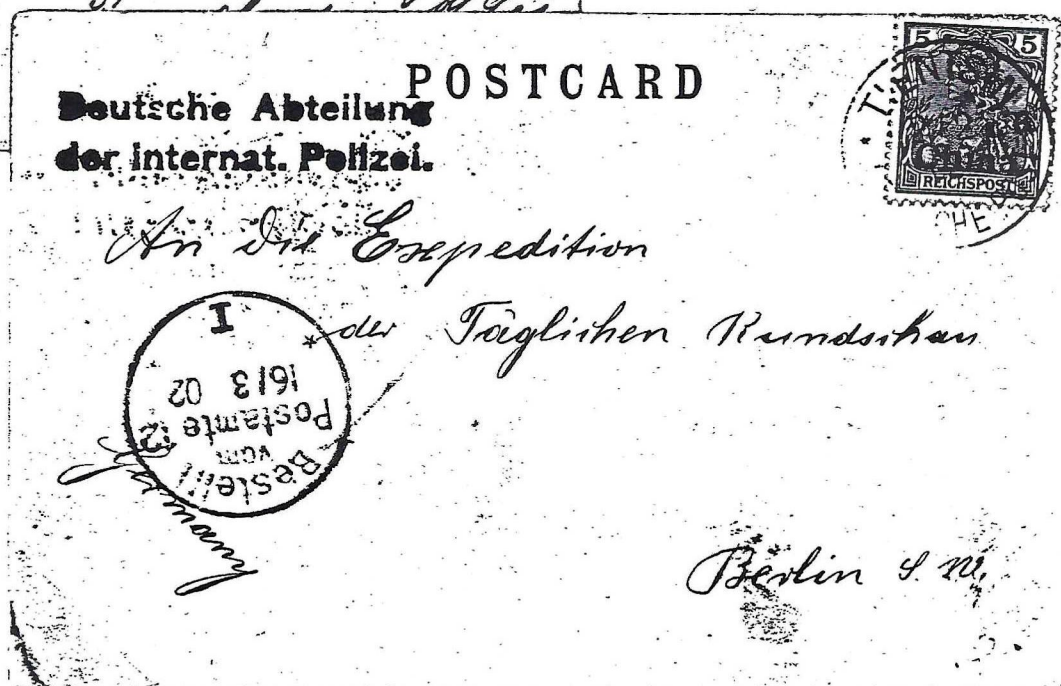
German Forces
East Asia Occupation Bde., 2nd Infantry Regiment
German Section of the International Police

German Civil Post Office Tientsin
15 June 1902
2 February 1902



Envelope provided by the
"Reading Room for German
Soldiers."

Return address further
indicates that sender
was in the 3rd East Asia
Infantry Regiment.



The German Field Post system in North China was disbanded on 31 August 1901, and the East Asia Expeditionary Corps troops were largely withdrawn between June and September of that year. The remaining troops, reconstituted the East Asia Occupation Brigade, stayed in North China until 30 June 1906. The heaviest concentration of these troops was in Tientsin, where a substantial foreign enclave was maintained.

Not only did these troops lose their field post system, they also lost their free frank (this having been accorded only to "mobile troops of the army and navy dispatched to East Asia," it was still in effect for troops in transit, but not for the garrison troops). Postage was required to be paid as if the item had been mailed in Germany.

German Forces
3rd East Asia Inf. Rgt.
HQ, East Asian Occupation Brigade

Civil Post Office: Tientsin
7 November 1901
20 November 1901



The largest concentration of the German forces in North China after the Boxer Uprising were located in the German concession at Tientsin. The postmark above was used from 15 October 1899 until 16 March 1917. In September 1902 a second hammer with the code "b" was introduced. These are among the most common of the German China postmarks.

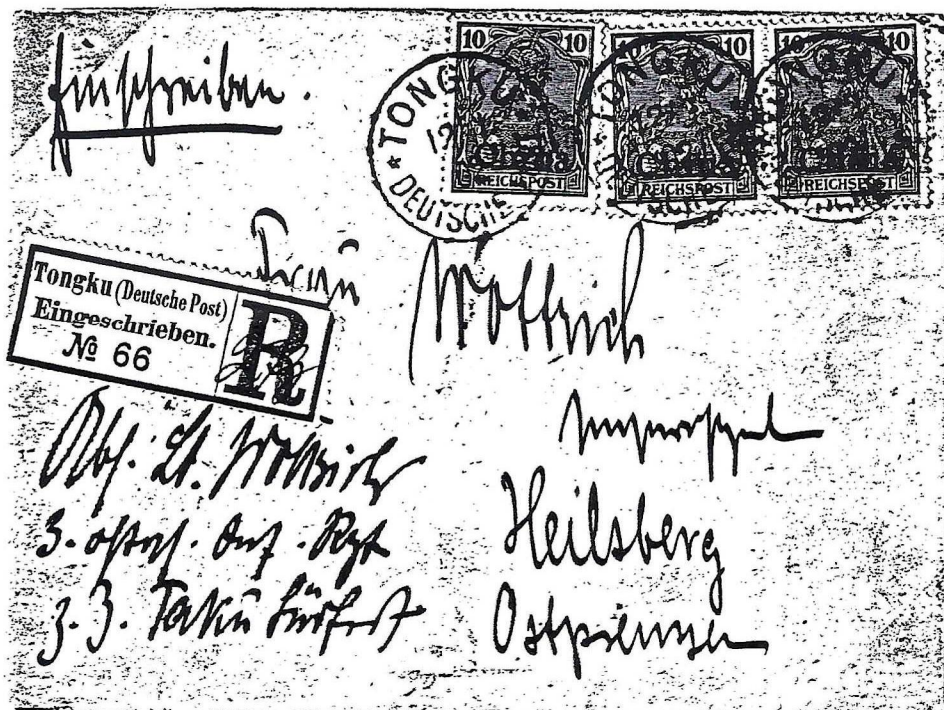
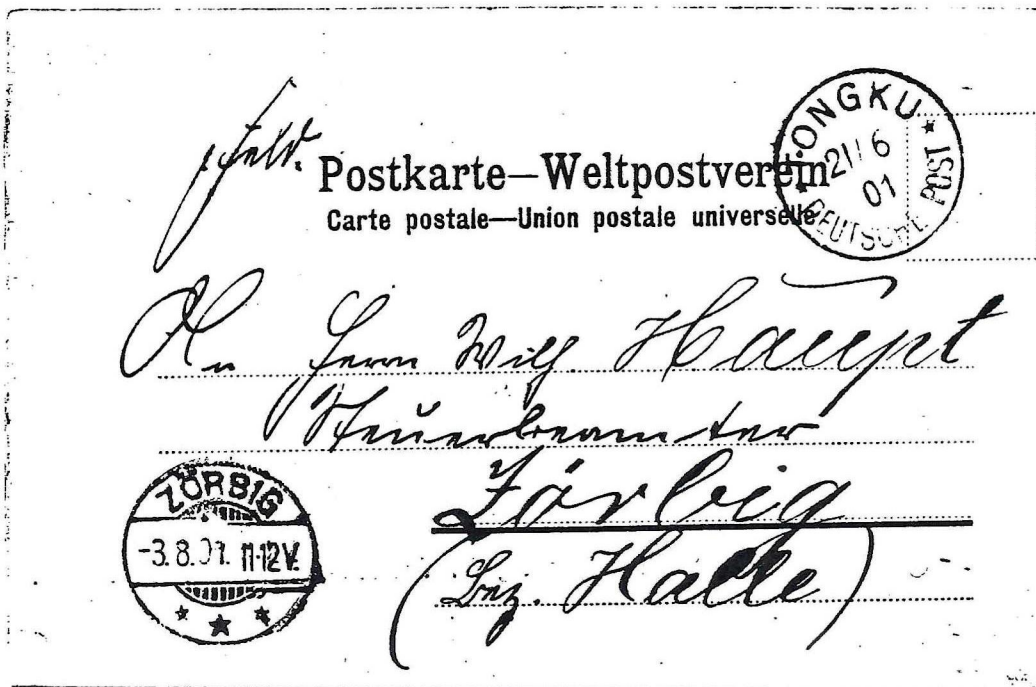
German Field Post

3rd East Asia Inf. Regt. at Taku South Fort

Civil Post Office: Tongku

21 June 1901

12 January 1902

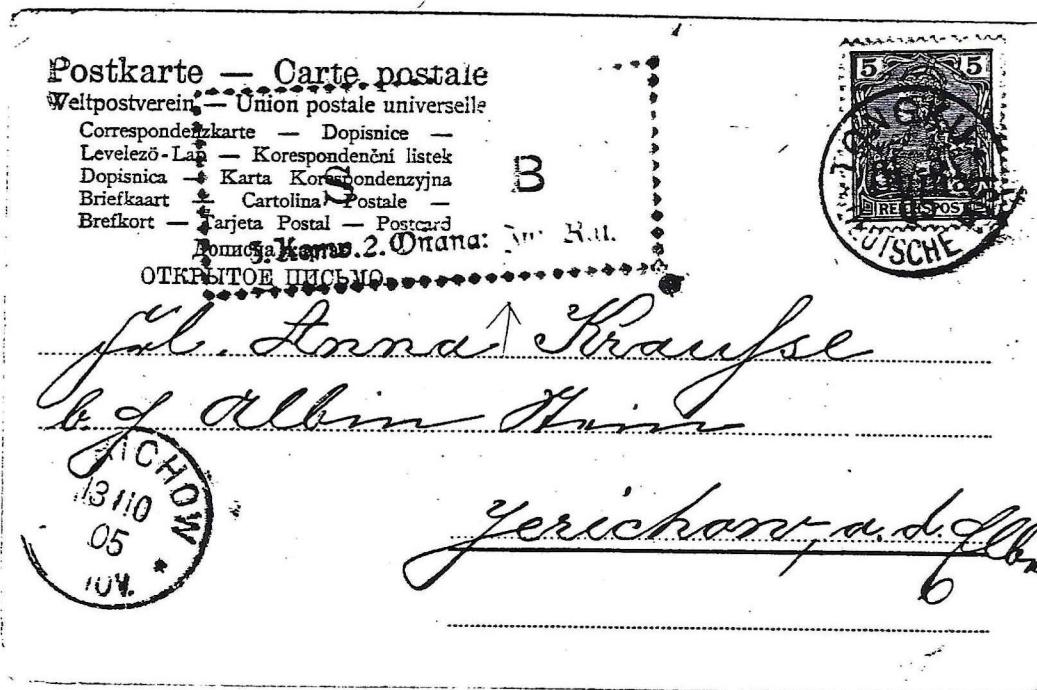
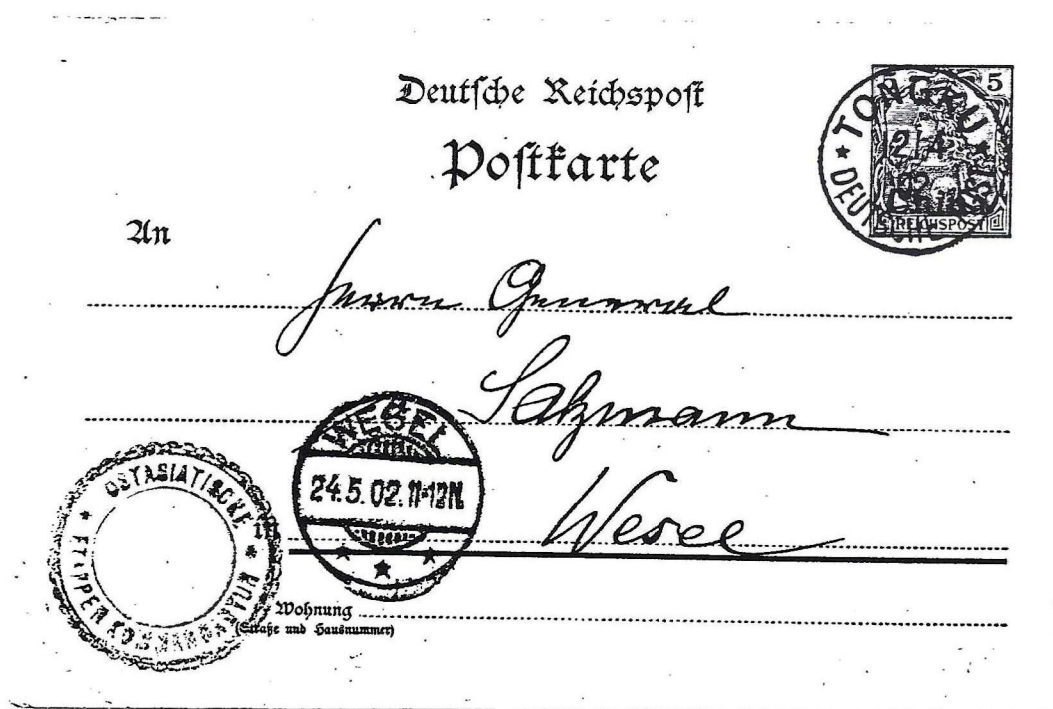


A German civil post office operated at Tongku from 1 September 1900 through 30 April 1906. Only one cancellation was used throughout this period.

Until it was eliminated on 31 August 1901, the military free frank was recognized in the civilian as well as the military post offices. After that date German domestic rates applied on mail to Germany.

German Forces
East Asian Communications Command
2nd East Asian Infantry Regiment

Civil Post Office: Tongku
12 April 1902
31 August 1905



Following the closure of FPS № 4 at Tongku on 30 August 1901 a German Civil Post Office was opened on 1 November 1900. It closed on 30 April 1906.

German Forces
Garrison Admin. Comm., Yangtsun

Civil Post Office: Yangtsun
19 October 1904



A civilian postal agency opened at Yangtsun on 17 July 1901, 10 weeks after the closure of FPS № 3, and operated until 30 April 1906. It had no postal markings of its own, but official manuscript markings are known on both stamps and on Tientsin registry labels. Both are scarce.

German Forces

East Asia Occupation Bde, 3rd Inf. Rgt.

East Asia Occupation Bde, 2nd Inf. Rgt.

East Asia Occupation Bde, 2nd Inf. Rgt.

Non-Post Offices

Singanfu March 1902

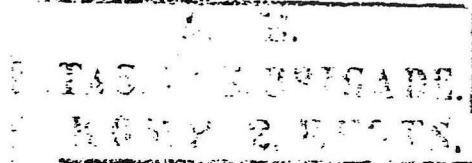
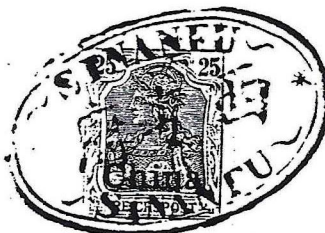
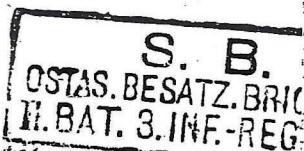
Sinanfu 20 May 1904

Sinanfu 23 December 1903

Carte postale. — Postkarte. — Cartolina postale.

Postcard. — Levelező-Lap. Dopisnice. — Briefkaart.

Union postale universelle — Weltpostverein — Unione postale universale



Wiesbaden.

Prinzipal: Co.

Not all unusual looking handstamps on German military mail from China are German postal agency markings, even when they cancel stamps. The postcard (datelined over a year after the handstamp date) never went through the mail. As to the covers, note that while the sender "cancelled" a stamp on each, he left sufficient postage uncanceled for them to be accepted by the Tientsin post office. From 16 March 1904 there was a German post office at Tsinanfu, but it did not use the above handstamps.

German Forces

Civil Post Office: Tientsin
23 February 1916
20 January 1916

SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE.

Famille

Einschreiben

Ismeretlen.
Inconnu.



J. L. P. P. P.

SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE.

TIENTSIN
EINGESCHRIEBEN
NO. 543

S. P. P. P.

Famle

Einschreiben

Emrich Kochhut



TIENTSIN
EINGESCHRIEBEN
NO. 7876

retour Tienstein
Begesch

Saukdu str No 252

Oesterreich-Ungarn

1854

German civil and military personnel in the international settlements throughout China continued to operate as freely as before after the fall of Kiautschou, throughout most of the period until China declared war on Germany on 14 August 1917. Tientsin, as the German enclave most conveniently located for communicating with German (and Austrian) POWs from Kiautschou, and with those from the European war imprisoned in Siberia, was the location of several prisoner aid groups. The 2 datestamps shown above, introduced in 1899 and 1902, respectively, were used simultaneously until 16 March 1917, the date when all remaining German post offices in China closed.

OPENED BY

Kiautschou

"Prinz Karneval" Post Office, Tsingtau
21 February 1903



No such post office is recorded by Friedemann or the study group for German colonial postmarks, and the handstamp's placement away from the stamp further suggests the unofficial character of this "post office." However it got into the mail, there is no question that the card was carried to Germany.