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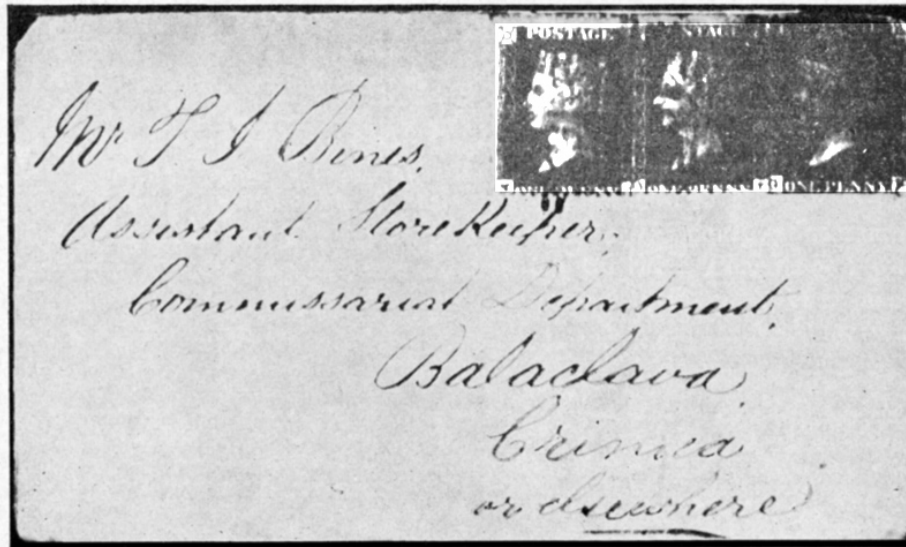
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*Postal History Place:*  
**From the Stamp Specialist Gray Book, 1943, Pt. 3**  
**A Sheaf of War Covers**  
**From the Collection of The Reverend William H. Tower**  
**Vice-President of the War Cover Club**

*As noted in part 1, from time to time the author refers to covers whose images were not included in the article. In addition, it was difficult to find similar images to those pictured or referred to in the text. JFD.*

We now turn back in time to the French, whose Revolutionary activities resulted shortly in her declaring war against Holland and England, and then entering upon other conflicts that did not end with the Revolution. This was in 1793 when England sent an army to fight on the Continent in defense of her Allies, the Dutch. The two covers that we have on this page came from Aylesbury, England, from his father and mother, to a Capt. Lee of the 16th Regiment Q. L. D., of His Britanic Majesty, fighting in Flanders alongside the Dutch. Following these are covers of the Crimean War of 1853-1856 in which the English, for the first time in two centuries, fought with the French as their allies in helping the Turks against the aggressions of Russia. Sebastopol and Balaclava are outstanding names from this conflict, and from both of these places we have covers. The first of these is from a French soldier in camp before Sebastopol who is writing to his cousin at home in France telling him about the frequent raids and severe bombardments by the enemy. On its upper right corner is the military postmark of the Army of the East, and on its reverse the receiving mark of Paris. Following this are two covers addressed to "Mr. T. I. Bines, Assistant Storekeeper, Commissariat Department, Balaclava, or elsewhere." It was at Balaclava that the famous "Charge of the Light Brigade" took place, a charge of which the French general said, "It is magnificent, but it is not war," and which has also been referred to as an "Example of Valorous Stupidity." At the same time that England was thus engaged against the Russians, she was having her troubles in India where there had already been several native mutinies. The Great Indian Mutiny, beginning in 1857, was brought on by what, to us, would seem a small matter, that of the new greased cartridges made necessary by the new type of rifle, but the use of which, to the native mind, involved their utter defilement. Even English specialists regard Indian Mutiny covers as very scarce and hard to get. The two shown on our page come from the two centers of Delhi and Lucknow. The first of them is from the Adjutant General of the Army in Camp before Delhi, and gives brief details of a successful minor engagement in which "guns" were captured and British loss small. The second one is marked in manuscript, "Urgent," "Public Service"; it is addressed to "Lt. Col. Macpherson, Quartermaster General of the Army, Lucknow," and is stamped, "AGRA 1 FEB 1859," (the year the



A cover of the Crimean War, 1854-1856, addressed to the "Assistant Storekeeper, Commissariat Department, Balaklava, Crimea, or elsewhere." It was at Balaklava that the charge of the "Light Brigade" took place of which it was said, "it is magnificent, but it is not war," and "An example of valorous stupidity."

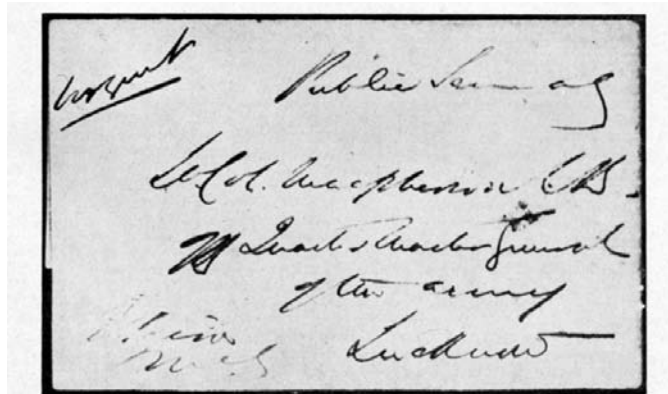


A remarkable turned cover, sent to a soldier on the frontline in the Crimean War, Gunner Thomas Smith in 1855. Having neither paper nor pencil to write back, he turned the envelope inside out and used gunpowder as a makeshift ink. The cover reached its destination and is now part of the British Library Philatelic Collections.

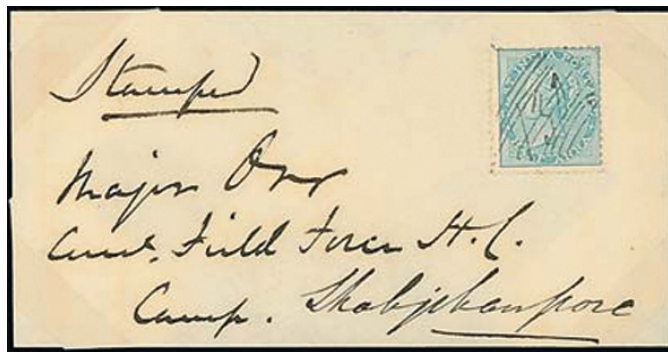
In the letter, he explains "...you must excuse all mistake and bad writing for this is not ink it is powder dissolved."







A military cover from the Indian Mutiny that is backstamped, "Agra 1 Feb. 1859." The Quartermaster-General is asked regarding the number of troops that were to be moved, presumably in view to proper provision being made for them. Even English specialists say that Indian Mutiny covers are very scarce, and would like to have this one.



A late May 1858 cover addressed to "Major Orr, Comr. Field Force, H.C. Camp, Shahjehanpore" and endorsed "Stamped" with a 1/2 anna blue stamp cancelled by a neat **manuscript** "130" barred numeral, but with no other postal marks. As this cover was sent within the war zone, this numeral belonged to Shanjapore and it is thought that the Post Office had just reopened after being looted by the Rebels, explaining the lack of handstruck marks.

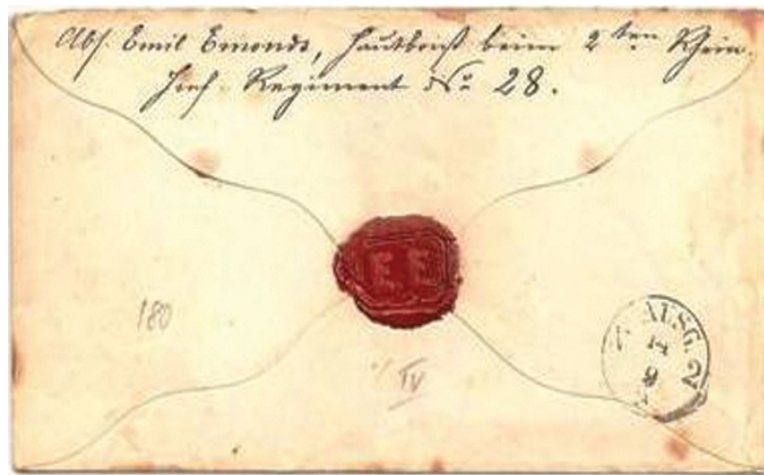


A mourning usage during the Mutiny, with an 1854 1/2a blue tied to a small mourning cover to Fort Trichinopoly, India, by indistinct postmark with "Trichinopoly/De 24, 1857" arrival backstamp,



The handstamp on this cover is that of the Field-Post of the German Army in the Austro-Prussian war which resulted in the formation of the North German Confederation. The letter is dated 1866.

Mutiny was finally put down). The letter makes inquiry about the number of certain troops that were to be moved, evidently that he, as Quartermaster, might make proper provision in regard to them. In here comes a scarce cover, from the Austro-Prussian War, that was written in 1866. It went postage free with the "Field-Post" mark of the war, whose outcome was the formation of the North German Confederation under Prussian control, and the incorporation of Hanover, Nassau, and Frankfurt in Prussia. This Confederation was later joined into the German Empire proper. Our next turn carries us ahead a few years to the "Franco-Prussian War" of 1870-1871 with a fine cover-front showing the handstamp in black of the "Prussian Army of Occupation," and a red receiving stamp of Boston with its "PAID ALL DIRECT"; below which is another cover, especially prepared for the "Royal Wurtemberg Field Division" and handstamped with the circular Fieldpost mark of the "VII Inf. Reg." This latter cover was sent to a German officer, Lieutenant Vorwalter, and was evidently carried free of postage, while the one above it had to be franked with postage stamps as it was going outside of German territory. Another is of more than usual interest being franked with one of the stamps issued for the German occupation of Alsace and Lorraine, which is cancelled by the German military cancel in blue reading, "K. Pr. Feldpost Relais No. 66, 1871," in an oblong frame. It was in the Franco-Prussian war that the Siege of Paris took place, so passing on we have covers of the Balloon Post of the besieged city, which by this means and by carrier pigeons maintained a degree of contact with the outside world. Many of these balloons were named, and one of our covers we know by the date to have been carried by the "General Bourbaki." In the case of pigeon-post mail the message was greatly reduced by Micro-photography and was sent in the form of a pellicle fastened to

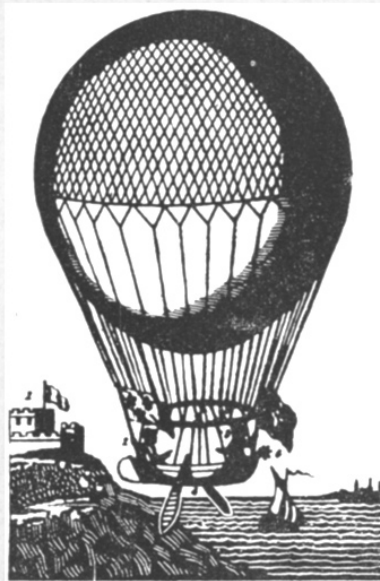


A cover to Aachen with September 11, 1866 double circle Feldpost handstamp and fancy Eagle regimental cachet, the back with the sender's information, including "Regimant No 28." and what looks to be a September 14 receiver backstamp.





Another type of the German Military Cancel, "K. PR. FELDPOST RELAIS No. 66, 1871." The adhesive stamp is one of those issued for Alsace and Lorraine under German occupation. Note: in lieu of the cover described in the text on page 39 and in this caption, we show here a similar cover with "K. PR. Feldpost Relais No. 43 16 2" handstamp.



A contemporary picture of one of the Balloons used during the siege of Paris in 1870 to forward mail to Frenchmen living beyond the investing armies.

Ballon Monte flown "Gazette des Absents," No. 32 of Jan. 26 1871, addressed to Limoges and bearing 20 centimes Siege issue with "17" in Star cancellation and with Rue du Pont Neuf datestamp of Jan. 27, arrival datestamp on reverse; this was the last Ballon Monte flight.



A piece of pellicule (mounted for display on a glass microscope slide) carried by pigeon into Paris



the leg or wing of the pigeon. Once at its destination this was enlarged and copied for delivery. Among communications sent to the outside world were copies of the "Gazette des Absents," a paper published in Paris for the benefit of those without. It was small in size and printed on light-weight paper to facilitate its carriage by balloon.

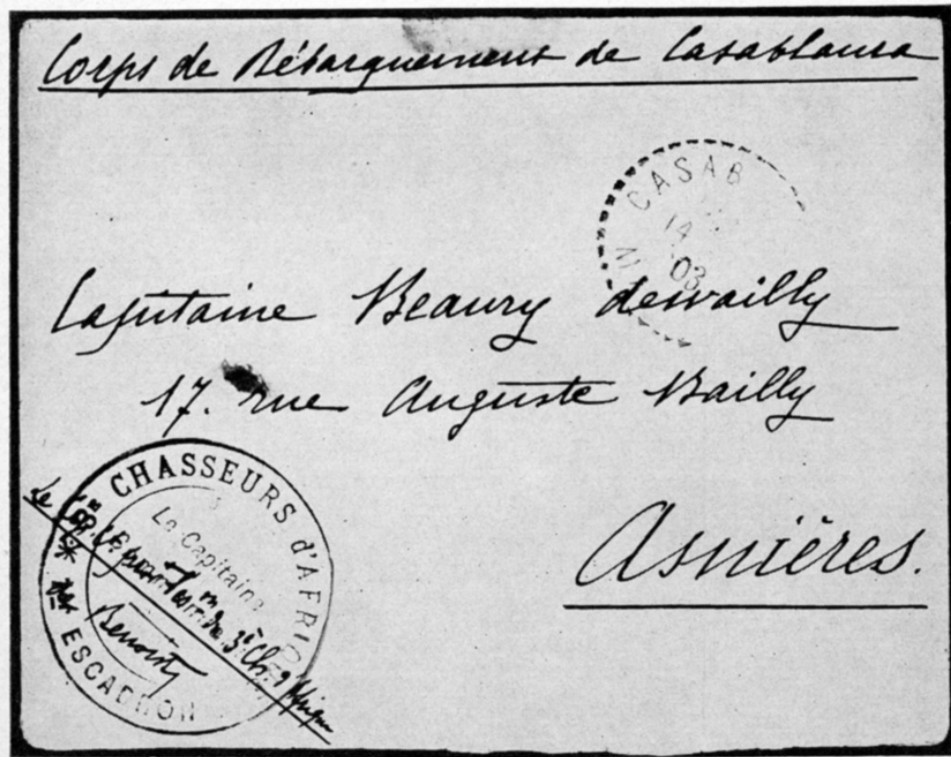
Probably due to her location and her ambitions, France frequently found herself in warlike trouble—or did she consider it pleasure?—so often, in fact, that we have grouped together a number of her military operations quite regardless of their relative dates. Here, for instance, are a couple of covers when, with Louis Napoleon—President of the Second Republic—she was busy in Italy in 1850 and 1851. Roman Catholic herself, she sent a military expedition to Italy to restore the Pope who had been exiled by Garibaldi and Mazzini. The special handstamp of that expedition appears on the first of the two



In 1850, the Pope at Rome was expelled by Garibaldi and Mazzini. The sympathies of the French people were strongly Roman Catholic, and Louis Napoleon sent a military expedition into Italy to restore the Pope. This cover shows the handstamp of that expedition with the date 1850.



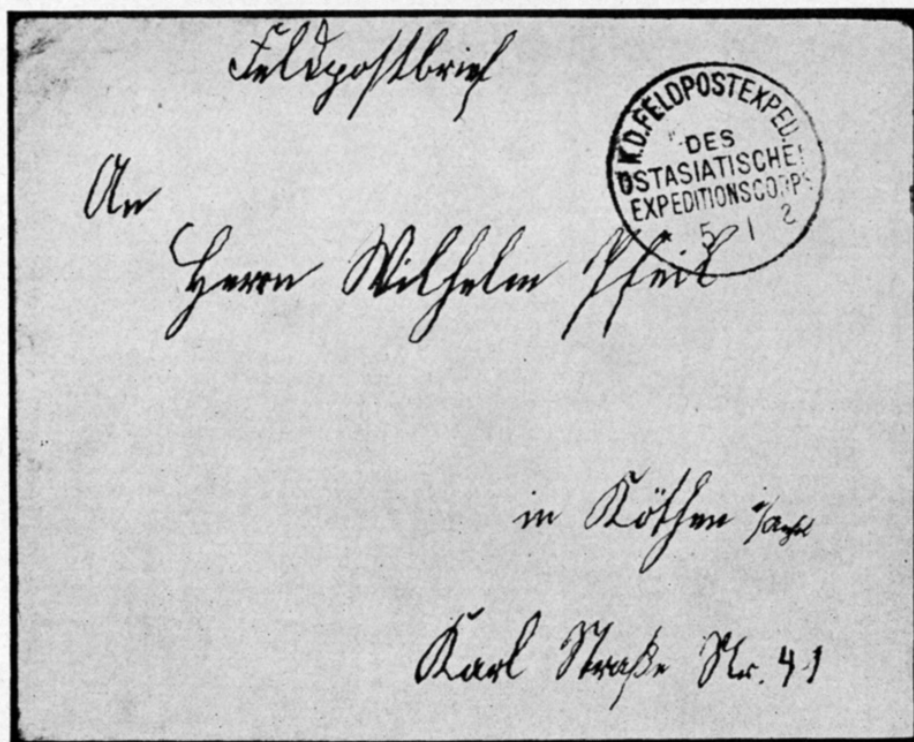
covers, while the other shows the French General Headquarters in Rome in 1851. In 1875 France sent her troops into Cochin-China, where she had taken over a protectorate, when the native Emperor who had promised obedience to both France and China was finding it difficult to ride two horses at once. This postmark is that of the French Army Corps in Saigon. The next step is into Indo-China, the cover showing the stamp of the French Annam and Tonkin Army Corps of 1899. France was doing her part in gobbling up Chinese territory and in bringing on the Boxer Rebellion, as is further evidenced by the next page with its cover of the French Expeditionary Force to the "Extreme East" in 1900. Even before this she had made her hand and influence felt in Northern Africa where, in the latter 1800's, she had occupied and controlled Algeria. A cover here shows that she stayed on there, for it has the 1904 postmark of "Beni-Abbes" in the Trans-Atlas interior of Algeria, and a purple handstamp of the Chief Captain of that District. At the same time, she was in the Soudan with her "Expeditionary Corps of the Soudan" and the "Troop of South West Africa," for another page shows two covers with these markings. One of the covers, going from Sokolo to Tunis, evidently had to go by way of Bordeaux and then back to its destination, for it has the Bordeaux postmark with the corresponding date. From Tunis it was not a far step to Morocco, and there in 1907, we see by the cover marking, France landed a force at Casablanca—its second city in size, where Roosevelt and Churchill have



Casablanca has become a familiar name as it was there that Churchill and Roosevelt held their historic meeting and conference. In 1907 France landed a Force there and occupied the city—the second city of Morocco in size—on account of the brutal murder of a number of French and Spanish laborers who had been engaged in harbor construction there.

since had their historic meeting—on account of the brutal murder of a number of French and Spanish laborers who were engaged there in harbor construction. And there for the time we will leave her.

While France was busy in eastern Asia and northern Africa, Germany was seeking to strengthen her hold in southern Africa, where an increasing number of German farmers had been settling and gradually making their way further north. This brought them into conflict with the natives, who naturally resented the loss of their grazing grounds. The Hottentots accordingly rose in revolt and were soon joined by the Hereros, an affiliated tribe. Our page shows a pictorial card from the German force in South-west Africa seeking to repel the Hehero Rebellion. The natives had started with the murder of a number of German farmers and their families, and General von Trotha at once issued a proclamation that every male Herero, whether with or without a rifle, would be shot. He was replaced in 1905, and his successor granted amnesty to the Hereros who had lost some thirty thousand men. It was not for another three years, however, that German authority was completely restored. The cover shown carries the circular postmark, "K. D. FELDPOSTSTATION No. 3." Previous to this, 1900 and 1901, Germany had shared with other powers in military operations in China to protect their interests and nationals during the Boxer Rebellion. We therefore turn back a page to see a German cover with postmark, "K. D. FELDPOSTEXPED DES OSTASIATISCHEN EXPEDITIONSCORPS." Its ad-

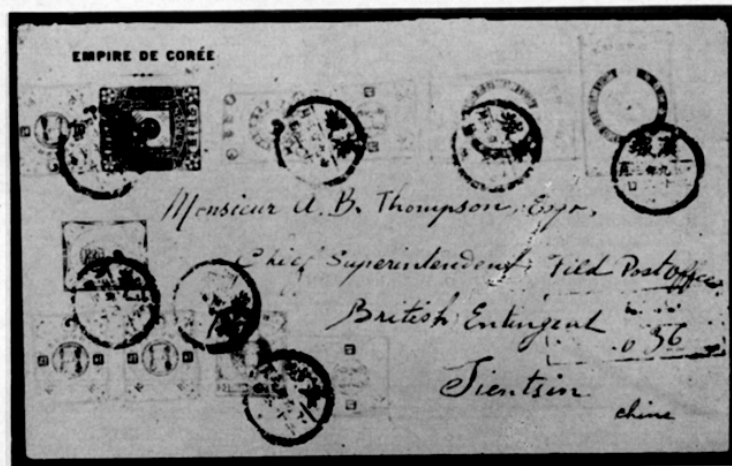


At the time of the Boxer Rebellion, Germany in common with other powers sent an armed force into China to protect its Nationals and its interests. This cover shows the German Field-Post mark of its Eastern Asia Expeditionary Corps, "5-1."



dress looks as though it had been written by one whose fingers were not accustomed to so small an implement as a pen! Another German-Boxer cover is on the page following. This one has the "GERMAN FELDPPOSTBRIEF," in manuscript, while it also bears a regular "TSINGTAU, KIAUTSCHOU" postmark. Like the other, it evidently went postage free, going from a German soldier to Germany, as it has no postage stamps. Following this is a cover from the "Australian Contingent," franked with a Hong Kong stamp cancelled with the Hong Kong postmark dated August 27, 1900. On its reverse it shows the Sydney, Australia, receiving stamp, and a large purple handstamp with a Crown and Anchor in the center and the words "N. S. W. NAVAL CONTINGENT."

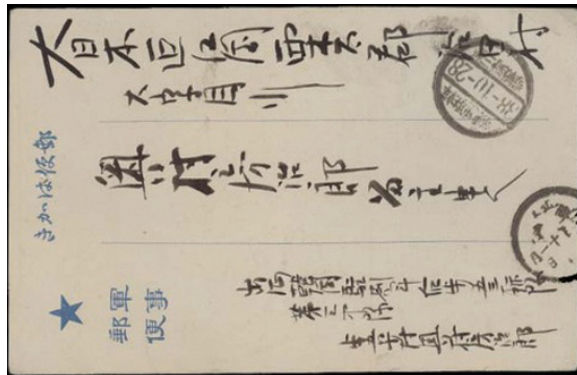
Right about here we find ourselves in a maze of wars, having followed France through five or six, and Germany into China and Africa, and we now come to the Russo-Japanese War with its surprising denouement of Japan's complete victory over Russia. They tell us that Russo-Japanese covers are very scarce, one writer even saying that there are not more than four such in collector's hands. I am satisfied, however, that this last is decidedly too strong a statement as I have two such covers and have no idea that I have cornered the market. The first of mine is a choice cover registered in Corea, which Japan was using as a midway base and jumping-off spot for her advance onto the continent of Asia. It has printed upon its upper left corner, "EMPIRE DE COREE," and is addressed to "Monsieur A. B. Thompson, Esq., Chief Superintendent Field Post Office, British Contingent, Tientsien, Chine." It is franked with nine Corean stamps of varying values, and on its reverse shows the backstamp of the British "F. P. O. No. 4, 10 April '05," as well as those of Shanghai and Tientsien, for Britain was a vitally interested onlooker and, at the close of the war, lent her offices in confirming Japan's sphere of influence in Corea. The other one of the two covers was sent from Philadelphia to Harbin, Manchuria, but was stopped on the way and returned stamped, "Communication Interrupted, Return to Sender." Its backstamp, "Kobe, Japan," shows that it had gotten that far on its way. Japan maintained an Army of Occupation in Corea



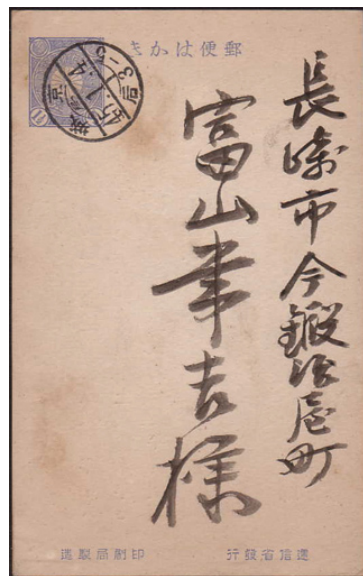
A fine example of a Russo-Japanese War cover. Japan used this midway country as a military base and jumping-off place. Britain was an interested onlooker, and at the close of the war lent her offices in confirming Japan's sphere of influence in Corea.



Picture post card showing Japanese soldiers in Korea.



Japan circa 1904-5. Russo-Japanese War illustrated military post card.

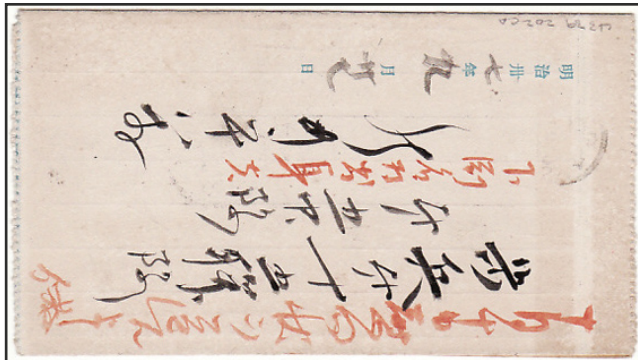
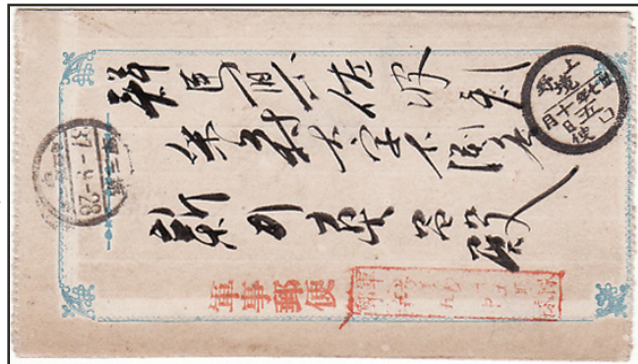
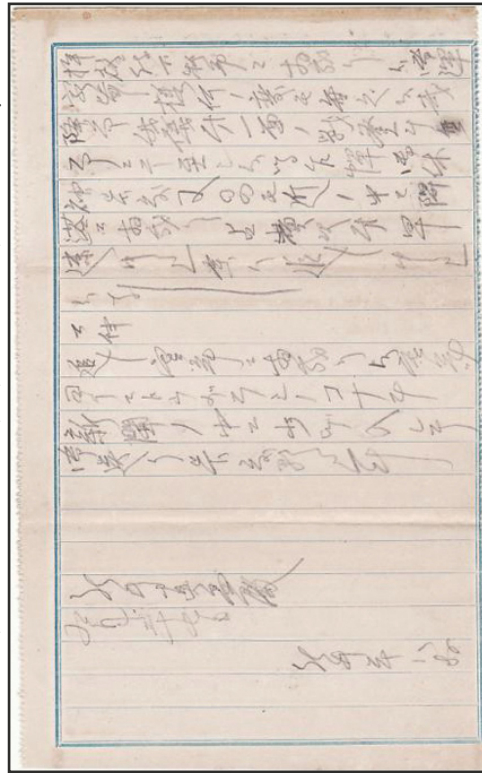


1912 Japan Occupation of Korea post card.

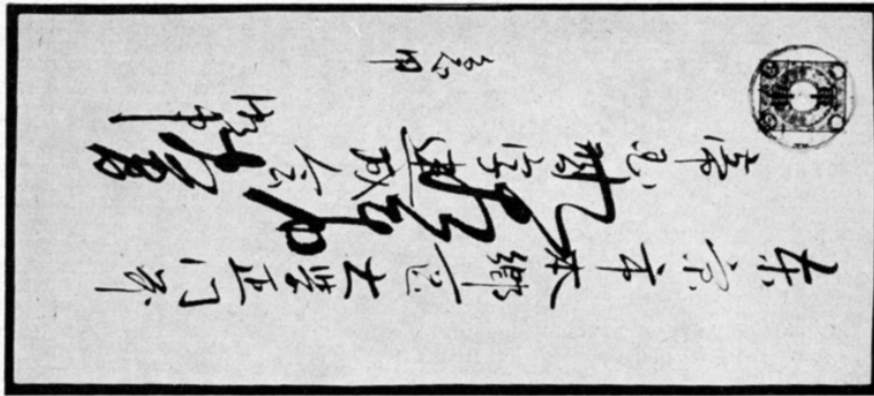
From <http://www.mikewhiteuk.com/>

A lettersheet to Gumma-ken, Japan from a Japanese 3rd Army soldier cancelled by a 3rd Army FPO No 2, Branch FPO 1 circular date stamp. The Japanese General Nogi Maresuke and the 3rd Army were assigned the taking of the Russian Naval Port of Port Arthur in China. Nogi began shelling on August 7, 1904 and then planned to assault 174 meter Hill defended by 5th and 13th East Siberian Regiments. This cost Nogi 16,000 + casualties and he settled for a siege being unable to penetrate the Russian defenses. 203 Meter Hill became the next focal point of Nogi and on 26th November he made a frontal assault and after 9 days of bitter fighting the Japanese finally overran the Russian positions.

This was critical as Nogi was now able to move his 11 inch guns to the hill and shell the Russian warships in the harbor. Russia surrendered Port Arthur on January 2, 1905 after costing the Japanese 57,780 killed, wounded or missing.







An odd looking cover from the Japanese Army of Occupation in Korea, around 1910-1912. The Japanese stamp is overprinted for military use. Then, as now, Japan was hungry for more territory and power.

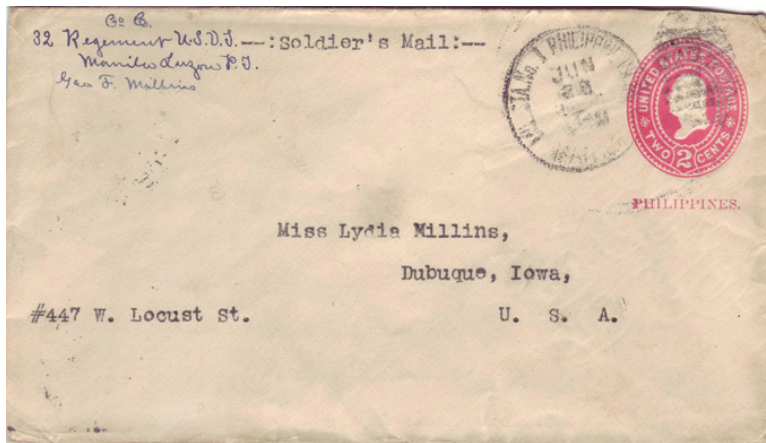
as late as 1910-1912, as is shown with its cover addressed in native characters in black and red, and with its Japanese stamp overprinted, "For Military Use."

This brings us to the point where it is necessary for us to turn back to our own United States where, in 1898, we opened war on Spain in behalf of oppressed Cuba, and where the sinking of our battleship—the *Maine*—in Havana harbour inflamed our whole country. Spanish War patriotics are relatively few but we show two of them used, the first with its front covered with the Stars and Stripes, the second, addressed to "Tower and Lyon" in New York city, displaying the Stars and Stripes and the Cuban flag with its blue and white stripes and its lone star on a red triangular field. Had the war continued longer there would have been many more of these for we have a number unused, among them the two showing the portraits, ornately framed, of Richard Pearson Hobson and Admiral Dewey, both of whom distinguished themselves in action. The very significant page that follows depicts the cordial and friendly feeling of Canada toward the United States in this conflict. The cover there was mailed in Montreal while the War was on, and bears a handsomely printed cachet showing the Colors and Shields of both countries, and the words "ANGLO SAXON ONE AIM ONE GOAL," with other significant details. This war naturally took the United States into the Philippines, and another page carries a soldier's letter endorsed by the "Post Chaplain, U. S. Army," and postmarked, "Manila, 1899," three weeks before the Islands were ceded to the United States. As we pass on we see covers from soldiers preserving order and guarding American citizens in neighboring countries. One of them, dated 1914, is postmarked, "Vera Cruz, U. S. Marines," and is addressed to "Captain Giles Bishop, Jr. 1st Brigade Marines, 5 Co. 1st Regt. Vera Cruz, Mexico"; it also happens to be one of those oddities—a stamped envelope made with its stamp on the inside—so that it is franked with a 2 cent U. S. adhesive. Others are postmarked respectively, "Marine Corps Ex. Forces, Nicaragua, 1928," and "5th. Reg. U. S. M. C. Managua, Nicaragua, 1931"; and still another shows the postmark, "Port-au-Prince, Haiti." In addition to these doings





As part of its operations in the Spanish War, the United States took the Philippines. This soldier's letter, from Manila, was mailed Feb. 13, 1899, and reached its destination in Mississippi three weeks before the Islands were ceded to the United States by Spain.



Another example of the Military Sta #1, Manila cancel on a 2¢ entire cancelled by a Jun 28, 1900 circular date stamp, sent to a relative in Iowa by a member of the 32nd Regiment.



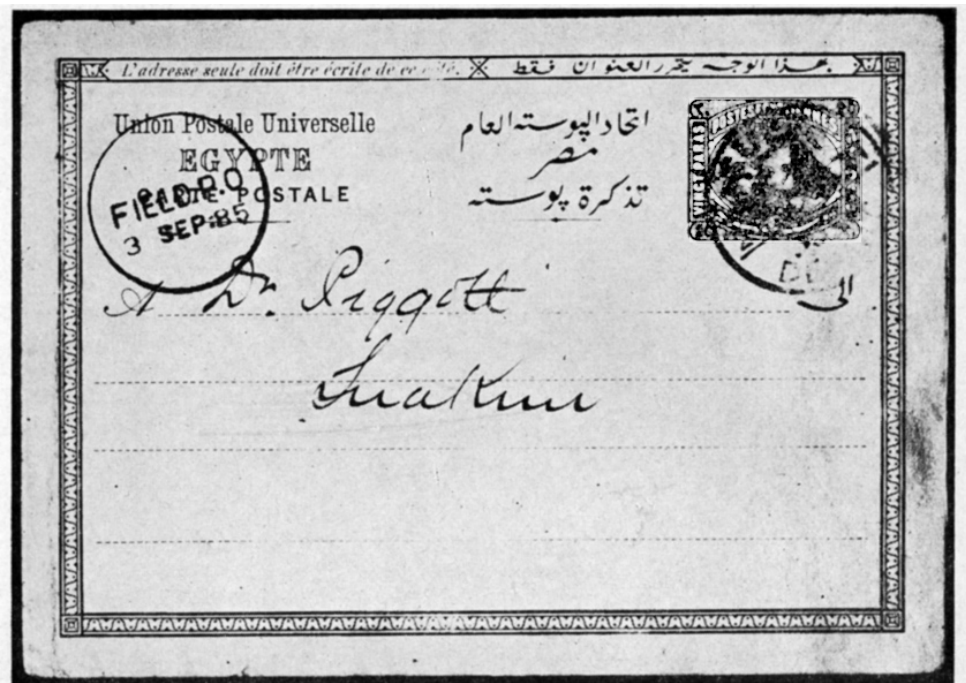
Above, a cover cancelled on the first day of business for the Military Post Office in the Philippines, on July 30, 1898 at Cavite, about 10 miles southwest of Manila. This first U.S. post office in the

Philippines was designated as the Philippine Station branch of San Francisco. Also shown is a cover used on the latest recorded date, January 18, 1899.

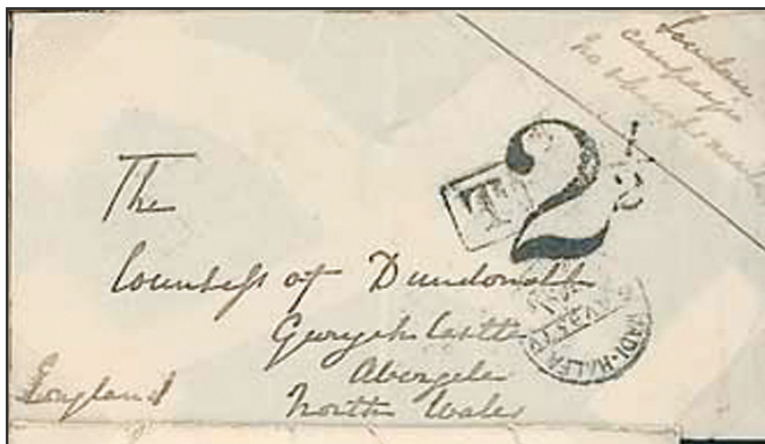
near home, the United States was keeping an eye on Europe where troubles were brewing and revolutions threatening. As we turn the pages we come to a cover addressed to "Midshipman John Abr'm. Jarvis, United States Ship Ontario, Port Mahon, Minorca," an island in the Mediterranean off the coast of Spain, where the ship was then lying. The letter from his father, then in Italy, says in part, "Do not be uneasy at any rumors you may hear in regard to Rome. There have been some attempts here to create disturbances, but the people are quiet and we feel ourselves more secure here than we should be were we travelling. The uncertain state of everything at present in Europe renders us very uncertain as to our movements."

Britain, with her widespread dominions and interests, was not infrequently finding herself with trouble on her hands which made necessary the use of her armed forces, now here, now there. In 1885 it was the revolt of the Mahdi in the Soudan, when Gordon was besieged in Khartoum, that wrote a tragic page in her history, a page that is not to England's credit. The first of the two covers shown is a card with the stamp of the Suakim Field Force that, sent too late—alas, had endeavored to relieve him. After a siege of ten months, the town was taken and Gordon killed two days before help arrived. As he himself said, he "had done his best," and his best—as another adds—was "far more than could have been expected." The second cover on the page is from the "Wadi Halfa Camp, 28 SE, '96," when the English "locked the barn door





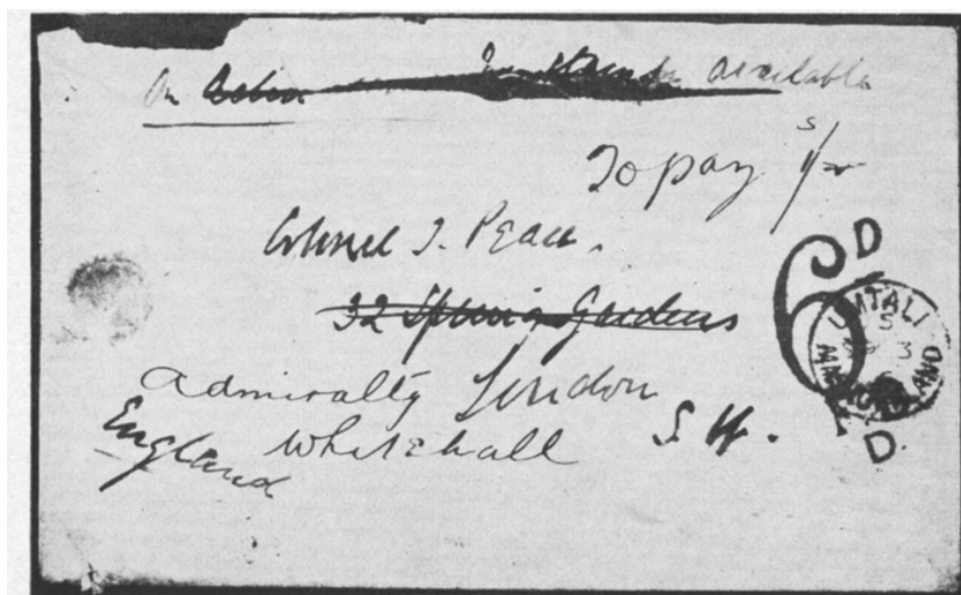
"Too slow, too late," tells the tragic story of the death of "Chinese Gordon" at Khartoum. The above card from Suez to Suakim shows the circular date stamp, "3 Sept 85," of the Field Post Office of the Suakim Field Force that, sent too late, alas, endeavored to reach and relieve him.



c. August 1, 1885 stampless envelope to Wales endorsed "Soudan Campaign, no stamps available", in the hand of Dundonald and addressed to his mother, having a mostly very fine small 6 Aug. "WADI-HALFA" c.d.s. and matching boxed "T" on the front, with a very fine London handstruck "2½" charge struck in transit. Dundonald was famous for reporting the death of Gordon, and for various successful actions against the dervishes.



after the horse had been stolen." This was a camp of the "Dongola Expeditionary Force" which retook Dongola that had been evacuated after the fall of Khartoum eleven years before. The cover was sent by "3954 Pte. S. Smith, 1 N Staff Regiment,"—"No Stamps Obtainable," and is addressed to "Mr. H. Hunston, Ecclesiastical Carver, Market Place, Tideswell, Derbyshire, England," where it was received on October 15. On the lower left hand corner it is approved by "Capt. Commd. 1 N, Staff B." England's next military adventure appears to have been in South Africa in the Matabele War, which was a part and parcel of the native uprising against the British, following upon the incorporation of the "British South Africa Company" to exploit the concession by the Matabele chief, Lobengula, for the digging for gold within his domain. There had been an uprising before, in 1893, and now this one in 1896. The natives held an impregnable position among the Matoppo Hills, and threatened the British with a long drawn out struggle. The individual tact and courage of Cecil Rhodes, with his policy of "Trust and be Trusted," brought about a meeting with the natives which resulted in a settlement satisfactory to both sides. The cover is addressed to "Colonel I. Pease, F. B." who was in the Admiralty at Whitehall. It is postmarked, "Umtala, Mashonaland," and is marked, "On Active Service, No Stamps Available," but the addressee evidently had to pay the "S 1/2," or "6d," postage fee. In South Africa, also, England had heavy stakes although it was threatened by the attitude and activities of the Boers. The South African or Boer War started with the invest-



In 1896, England sought to repel a Native Uprising in South Africa. Lobengula held an impregnable position, and a long drawn out war seemed inevitable. Due to the consummate tact of Cecil Rhodes, a meeting with the natives was brought about, and a satisfactory settlement was reached. The cover is postmarked, "Umtali, Mashonaland."

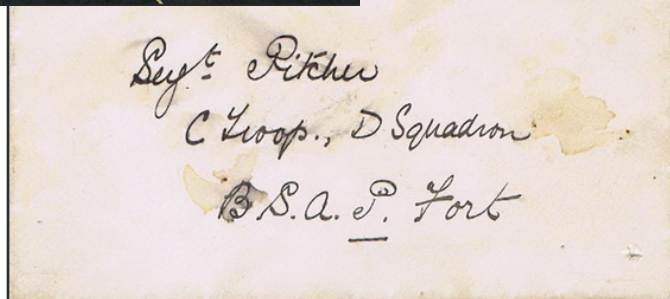
ment of Mafeking by the Boers, in 1899, and was ended by the "Peace of Vereeniging" signed at Pretoria, May 31, 1902. Our first cover of this war is addressed to "Corpl. Gilbert of the Protectorate Regiment," and is franked with the special blue stamp showing a portrait of General Baden Powell. It was mailed in Mafeking while the siege was on, and the stamp is cancelled with the Mafeking postmark of April, 1900. Following that is a cover sent, "c/o Capt. Molyneux, Staff Office, Volunteer Force, Ladysmith," and post-marked, "Ladysmith Siege Post Office, Feb. 28, 1900." The city had fared badly during the siege, not so much from shell-fire, which resulted in few casualties, as from sickness, so that the 22,000 population was almost at its last gasp when relief came. A third cover was "Passed By Press Censor" in Pretoria, in which city peace was ratified, as stated. The prisoners of war from Ladysmith were sent to Harrismith in Orange River Colony. One page shows two of their covers sent from Ladysmith, both "Passed By Censor." One of the censor marks is a double circle with "Prisoners of War, Ladysmith" between the circles, and "Passed Censor" within. The other is a double-line triangle with "Passed Censor Ladysmith" and "Burger Camp." The post-mark seen on the army letters for home is the standard type double circle with the reading, "Field Post-Office, British Army S. Africa."

1901 envelope addressed to Natal bearing Ceylon 2c strip of three tied by Diyatalawa Camp datestamp with oval "Diyawalawa Camp/Passed/Censor" cachet, routed via Colombo with Ladysmith receiver and oval "Staff Officer Prisoner of War/Ladysmith/15th Feb 1901" Camp cachet in violet



and oval "Staff Officer Prisoner of War/Ladysmith/15th Feb 1901" Camp cachet in violet

1900 locally addressed envelope bearing a Baden Powell small format 3d pale blue tied by a Mafeking AP 10 1900 datestamp.



To be Continued

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