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Russian Post Offices in the Chinese Empire (Part IV)

The Dr. Raymond Casey Grand Prix Collection

December 2, 2014

Geneva - Feldman Galleries

The Great Manoeuvres of 1898	20000
The Boxer Rebellion	20001-20016
Russian Occupation of Manchuria	20017-20050
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Russo-Japanese War (I)	20051-20168
Journey of the Baltic Fleet	20169-20177
Russo-Japanese War (II)	20178-20334
Prisoner of War Mail	20335-20344
Peace Treaty, Military Evacuation of Manchuria, Demobilisation	20345-20388

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Russian Post Offices in the Chinese Empire (Part IV)

The Dr. Raymond Casey Grand Prix Collection

December 2, 2014

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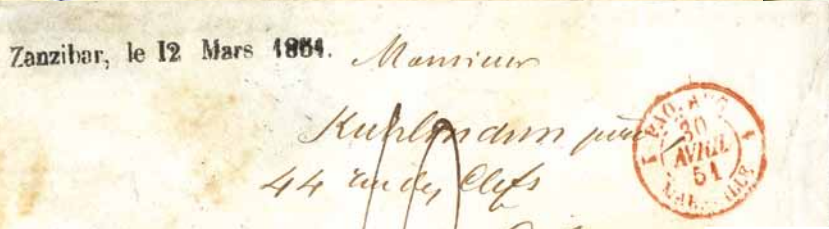


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- > Russian Post in the Chinese Empire: Russia's War in China - Part 4 of the Dr. Raymond Casey Collection
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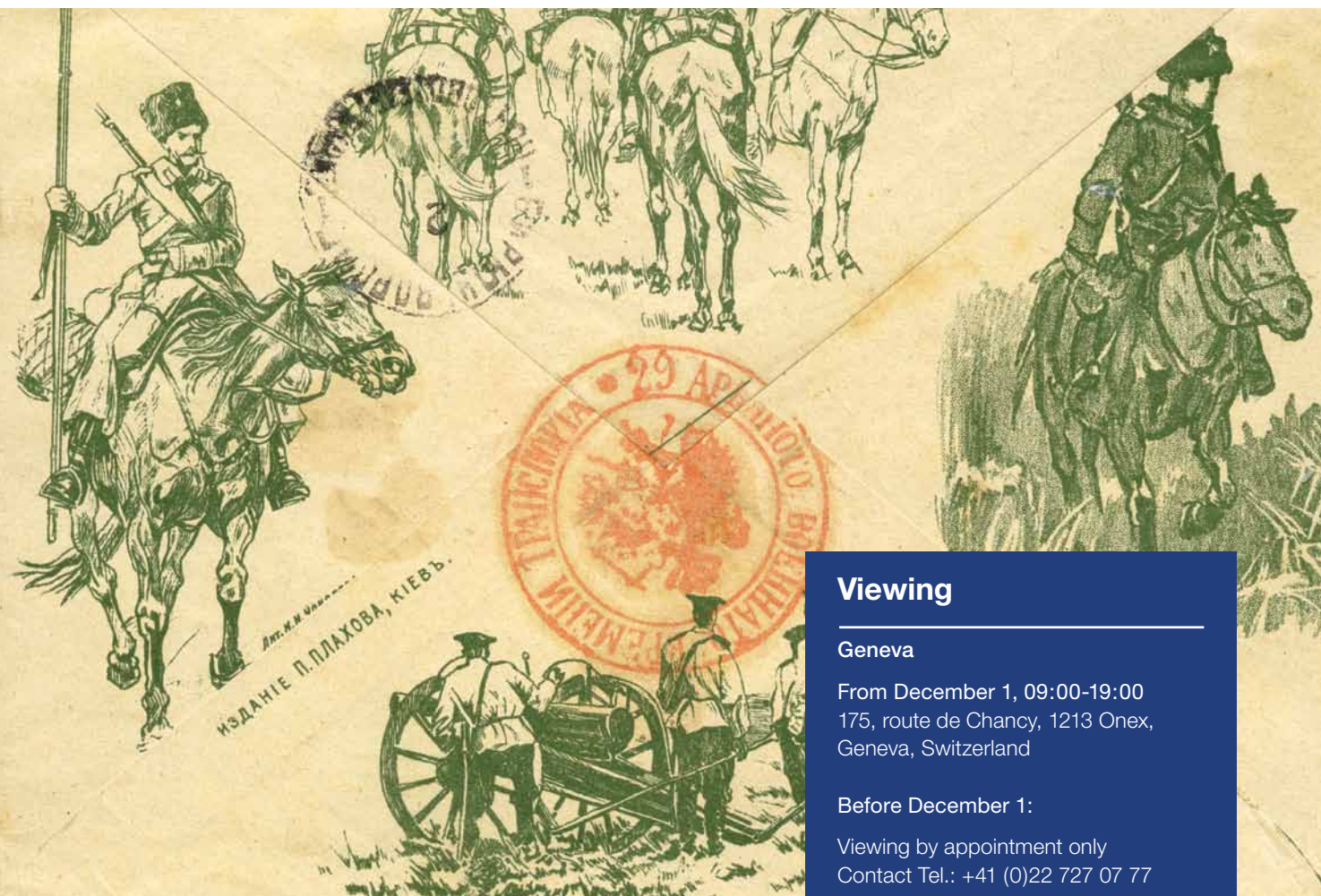


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November & December, 2014



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Introduction



Marcus Orsi
Chief Philatelist

Dear collector and client,

After the amazing results of the first three sales in April 2012, December 2012, and December 2013 with record prices being achieved throughout the auctions, we are delighted to present the much awaited Part IV.

The highlights of the aforementioned auctions include the famous ULYASUTAI registered cover, which fetched €408'000, the earliest known cover from Peking at €204'000, the KOBDO cover at €384'000 and finally the KULDJA cover at €600'000.

The collection formed by Dr. Raymond Casey is probably the most comprehensive and extensive ever formed. Beginning over 60 years ago with an attentive focus on specialisation and “rarity hunting”, Dr. Casey in his 97th year is as astute and detailed as someone in his most active years.

Given his scientific background, Dr. Casey is naturally drawn to the study and research of his subjects. He has accordingly made extensive, continual and invaluable contributions to the British Society of Russian Philately and many other study groups and publications related to both Russian Post Offices in the Chinese Empire and Russian Maritime Mail.

Even though Dr. Casey has written and published extensive information on the subject, there is still much unpublished, some of which is included in the catalogue descriptions. More information can be obtained from our presentations of the collection within the four volumes in our “Great Philatelic Collections” series.

A delightful part of the work in compiling and producing this catalogue has been to hear many of Dr. Casey’s fascinating stories of how, when and where he acquired some of these treasured items. His dealings with such legendary figures as Paul Morgoulis, Robson Lowe and even Agathon Fabergé could provide the material for an exciting novel full of philatelic drama.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Daniel Mirecki for his compilation of the lotting and descriptions, plus editing the accompanying “Great Philatelic Collections” book.

The offer of the items in this collection represent a milestone in the philately of Russia’s War in China. We hope all of you will enjoy participating and of course wish you success in acquiring some of these philatelic jewels of the Russian Post Offices in the Chinese Empire to grace your collection, “ex Casey.”

Geneva, September 2014

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Biography

Dr. Casey's interest in Russian philately and postal history is a legacy from his travels in the former Soviet Union and the East as a scientist in British Government service. He was born in 1917 at Folkestone, on the southeast corner of England. His mother was widowed by the war when Raymond was one year old. Brought up in the years of Depression between the wars, he left school at the age of 14 to work in a local shop, continuing his education at night school and by correspondence.

His future as a collector and scientist had been foreshadowed at the age of four by his attraction to the fossils and minerals he found in the cliffs and seashore near his home. While still a shop assistant, his geological discoveries and articles in the scientific press drew the attention of leading professionals of the day and he was honoured by election as a Fellow of the Geological Society.

Despite possessing no formal qualifications, he was chosen in 1939 for a post with the British Geological Survey, becoming the personal assistant to the distinguished palaeontologist Dr. C.J. (later Sir James) Stubblefield. During World War II he served in the Royal Air Force, picking up the threads of his civilian career in 1945. In the 1950s he was given leave from the Geological Survey to write a five-volume Ph.D. thesis at the University of Reading, funded partly by a scholarship and by his employment there as Demonstrator in Geology.

His continued researches into Mesozoic biostratigraphy earned him the degree of Doctor of Science in 1963. Awarded a Special Merit promotion to Senior Principal Scientific Officer the following year, he concentrated his work on the borders of the North Sea, coinciding with search for oil and gas in that region. Dr. Casey's recognition of hitherto unsuspected geological links between England's eastern counties and Russia led to a long period of fruitful collaboration with Soviet scientists and visits to many parts of the Soviet Union – the Baltic States, Volga Basin, Crimea, Georgia, Azerbaijan, the northern Urals, Siberia and Central Asia.

In 1970 he was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society, one of the world's oldest and most prestigious scientific academies. His temporary attachment to the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO) as a specialist geologist, took him to Turkey, Pakistan, Iran and Afghanistan. He also acted as Chairman of an international working party on the Jurassic-Cretaceous boundary. A few years later, a car crash left him incapacitated for nearly a year, and injuries sustained by his wife Nora in the same accident led to her untimely death at the end of 1974. He declined further promotion to a desk job as his heart was in fieldwork and research. Long after his official retirement in



1979 he maintained connections with Russian colleagues until re-assertion of old injuries prevented active fieldwork.

Dr. Casey's early visits to the Soviet Union (under the auspices of the Anglo-Soviet Cultural Agreement and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR) were organised by the late Academician D.V. Nalivkin, then the doyen of philately in Russia. He introduced Dr. Casey to the hobby and opened the door to philatelic institutions across the USSR.

Dr. Casey's first exhibit, on the Russian Revolution, enabled his local philatelic society (Orpington) to win the annual trophy of the Kent Federation (Grant Cup) in 1965. He became a regular exhibitor at the national level, earning numerous gold medals and major awards for displays of Russian rural mail, ship mail, military mail, Russo-Japanese War, etc. At the international level, between 1984 and 1997 he earned eight Large Gold medals and a Grand Prix d'Honneur (Polska '93), mainly for the Russian Post in the Far East. He has shown in Courts of Honour in Paris (1989), Helsinki (1995) and Moscow (1997).

Dr. Casey's collecting and original research in Russian libraries and archives have made significant advances in knowledge of Imperial Russian postal history. Discoveries include the Vladivostok-Kolyma ship postal service in the Arctic, the Russian Volunteer Fleet emergency canceller of 1897, the Mukden (Manchuria) provisional canceller (1900) and the canceller of the Peking Field Telegraph Branch (1904). He established the existence of a Russian post office at Kazvin, Persia, and showed that Russian postal facilities were available in Tabriz, Persia, in 1867, ten years earlier than previously known. The accepted order of appearance of the cancellers used in the Russian P.O.s in China was revised, and the so-called "Peking Type 1" was shown to be bogus.

His work at the State Central Archive of the Far East (then at Tomsk, Siberia) led to a fundamental revision of ideas on the opening of the Russian post in the old Chinese Empire and on the functioning of the quasi-official "Merchants' Post." He has appeared on Russian television in connection with philately and postal history, and his biography was published in "Filateliya" (Oct. 1992) on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Dr. Casey is a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, past-President and Honorary member of the British Society of Russian Philately, Honorary member of the Rossica Society of Russian Philately (USA), and member of the TPO and Seapost Society and the Scandinavia Philatelic Society. He is a former Editor of the British Journal of Russian Philately. His current interests centre on the Russian Post in the old Chinese Empire and on Imperial Russian ship mail.

The Russian Post in the Chinese Empire

RUSSIA'S WAR IN CHINA

This part of the collection illustrates the postal history of the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905), the events leading up to the campaign and the winding down of the military presence after the Peace Treaty of September 1905, all from the Russian perspective.

The Russo-Japanese War was the first major conflict of the 20th century and the last such event to be fought without the use of the aeroplane. It marked the end of Imperial Russia's dream of expansion in the Far East and the emergence of Japan as a global power. There is a voluminous literature dealing with this period. A short account commemorating the centenary of the war was published in 2005 by the present author under the title "The Russo-Japanese War Remembered", a modified version of which runs as follows:

As summer drew to a close one hundred years ago, the eyes of the world were on the city of Portsmouth on the east coast of America, where a political drama was being enacted. Since February 1904 Russia and Japan had been locked in a grim and bloody conflict in China's eastern provinces (Manchuria) and the seas around. Already, Russia had sustained nearly 321,000 casualties from death or wounds, with a further 68,000 held in POW camps in Japan. The Japanese had lost about 168,000, including 646 captured; as a proportion of available manpower, their losses were much greater than Russia's.

Now it was August 1905 and gunsmoke still hung over the battlefield. On the initiative of President Theodore Roosevelt of the USA, the warring parties were called to a parley to end the bloodshed. "Let us have peace" was the popular cry.

The Russo-Japanese War had its roots in an earlier

confrontation –the Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95– which had erupted over rival interests in Korea. It was a walk-over for Japan, who claimed the Lyaotung Peninsula, with the naval base of Port Arthur, and other Chinese territory as spoils of victory. This did not suit Russia, France and Germany –the so-called "Dreibund"– who had their own agendas. Posing as friends of China, they bullied Japan into accepting a large cash indemnity instead of territory (Treaty of Shimonoseki). China was bankrupt. Russia stepped in and offered a substantial advance through the medium of the Russo-Chinese Bank, set up for that purpose in Paris with French money and Russian directors. France had gained territorial, railway and customs concessions at the time of flotation of the Indemnity Loan. Now it was Russia's turn to put the squeeze on China. In a backroom deal with the Chinese Viceroy Li Hung-chang in Moscow in 1896, Russia was given far reaching privileges including the right to build and control the Chinese Eastern Railway across Manchuria. Two years later Russia secured a lease of the southern part of the Lyaotung Peninsula with the important stronghold of Port Arthur. The need to protect the railway from the Boxers and other lawless elements gave Russia the opportunity to tighten her grip on Manchuria, which in turn opened the door to an economic and military penetration of Korea. Tokyo reacted with anger and dismay. They had been cheated at Shimonoseki. Without firing a shot, Russia had taken over

what Japan regarded as hers by right of conquest and had been persuaded to relinquish. Worse still, her interests in Korea –her own backyard– were threatened by the advancing Russian tide. Russia's promise to withdraw her occupying forces from Manchurian

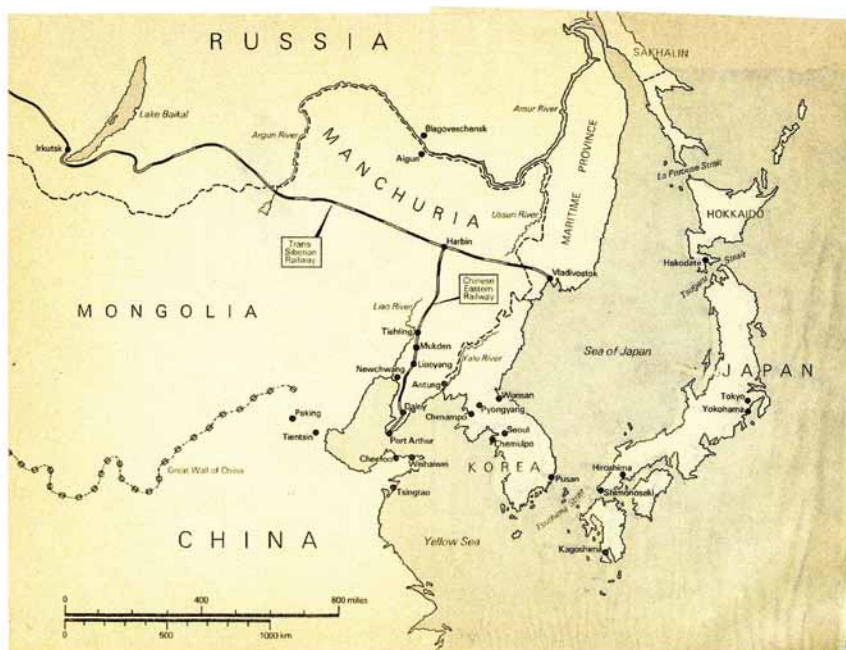


Figure 1. Sketch-map of Far East showing regional setting of the conflict area during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905) and principal localities mentioned in the text (Acknowledgement to D. and P. Warner, "The Tide at Sunrise", 1974. Copyright holder undetermined).

territory outside the Lyaotung Leasehold did not materialise. In the meantime, Britain had entered into an accord with Japan over Korea, acknowledging that Japanese interests in that part of Asia were paramount. In vain Japan tried to reach a similar understanding with St. Petersburg, being prepared to concede Manchuria as a sphere of Russian influence in return for a Russian “hands off” policy towards Korea. Russia dragged out the negotiations unreasonably. When patience had run out the Japanese struck.

Russia entered the war with unbounded confidence and contempt for the Japanese “Little monkeys”, said the Tsar. The world saw it as a David and Goliath encounter with the smart money on Goliath as the victor. Russia and the world had underestimated the strength and resolve of the Japanese armed forces. Moreover, the Land of the Rising Sun had a psychological advantage: motivation. Every Japanese schoolchild had learned the story of Shimonoseki and the need for Japan to settle its account with Russia. The Great Manoeuvres of 1898, conducted around St. Petersburg, had tested the Russian army’s ability to meet the gathering storm. Nevertheless, except for the officer Class, the average Russian serviceman, though not lacking in fighting spirit, was illiterate and had little or no idea of what the war was about.

The Japanese seized the initiative and maintained it throughout the campaign. They surprised the Russian fleet at anchor at Port Arthur in February 1904, forced the Russian lines on the Yalu river, separating Manchuria and Korea, in April, took Dalny in May and invested Port Arthur in August. They captured Lyaoyang in September and Mukden in March 1905. In the following July the

Japanese commenced their invasion of Sakhalin Island. By that time Port Arthur had fallen and riots had broken out in St. Petersburg.

The Russian people had pinned their hopes of victory on General Alexei Kuropatkin, a former War Minister and popular among the troops. Although appointed Commander of the Manchurian armies, in the early days of the war he was outranked by Admiral Alexeiev, Viceroy in the Far East, who would countermand Kuropatkin’s orders if he thought it necessary –a clear case where two heads were not better than one. This intolerable situation lasted until October 1904, when Admiral Alexeiev was compelled to resign from military affairs, leaving Kuropatkin a free hand. Unfortunately, many of his staff and field officers were incompetent. Attempts to relieve Port Arthur by land had failed and counter-attacks to stem the Japanese advance had little success. General Kuropatkin was forced to adopt a mainly defensive strategy. Stunned disbelief gripped the Russian nation as Kuropatkin continued to retreat. The fall of Mukden (10 March 1905) was the last straw. Kuropatkin had lost one-third of his armies in the battle –20,000 killed or missing, 20,000 captured, nearly 50,000 wounded. A few days later the Tsar ordered Kuropatkin to hand over command to Lt. General N. Linievich; at his own request, he was permitted to soldier on in a subordinate capacity. For his military failure and subsequent demotion Kuropatkin was undeservedly lampooned by the people.

At sea Russia had fared no better, outgunned and outmanoeuvred by a superior navy. For much of the time her warships had been bottled up in Port Arthur and Vladivostok, and when they ventured out they found that courage was no match for accurate gunnery. If the Battle of the Yellow Sea (August 1904) had cost Russia dearly in ships and men, the destruction of her Second and Third Pacific Squadrons in the Straits of Tsushima (May 1905) was an unparalleled catastrophe and ended all hopes of breaking Japan’s supremacy at sea.

As the Japanese forces moved from success to success, red lights winked on the dashboard in Washington. The thought of a rampant Japan controlling the sea-lanes of the Pacific, pressing on north through Harbin to Vladivostok and south through Korea to the Philippines, which the United States had taken into possession, must have given sleepless nights in the White House. It was in America’s interests to stop the war before the total collapse of Russia’s forces let loose the “Yellow Peril”. President Roosevelt sent his daughter Alice on a secret mission to Tokyo to sound out the Japanese leadership. In a series of diplomatic exchanges between Japan, Russia and the USA, the scene was set for a peace conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Behind the scenes, the



Figure 2. General Alexei Nikolaievich Kuropatkin. Commander-in-Chief of Russia’s Manchurian armies. Former Minister of War, he embodied the confidence of the Russian people in victory. In the early days of the war he suffered from interference from the Viceroy in the Far East. He lacked the boldness of his Japanese adversaries and was let down by his subordinates. He was relieved of his command in March 1905 after the disastrous defeat at Mukden. Having served in the army in the Great War, he died in 1923 after working as a village clerk and school teacher under the Soviets. The coloured card shows the General be-medalled and surrounded by laurel and oak leaves, set against a battlefield scene.



Figure 3. *The fallen idol. No longer a national hero, removed from leadership of the Russian armies in Manchuria, General Kuropatkin was cruelly caricatured in comic postcards. Here he is depicted as a decrepit figure, bag packed and homeward bound.*

United States had already reached an understanding with Japan (Taft-Katsura Agreement) that recognised Japanese suzerainty of Korea in exchange for assurances that Japan harboured no designs on the Philippines.

Russian leadership at the conference was given to Serge Witte, former Minister of Finance and mastermind of the Trans-Siberian railway, out of favour with the Tsar but the best man for the job. Foreign Minister Baron Komura was chosen to head the Japanese delegation. Formal negotiations began at Portsmouth on 8 August. The peace plan presented to the delegates by Komura was widesweeping. It demanded Russia's withdrawal from Manchuria, the transfer to Japan of the Lyaotung Leasehold with Port Arthur and the railway connecting it to Harbin, the limitation of Russian naval strength in the Far East, surrender of Russian warships captured by Japan or interned in foreign ports and cession of the island of Sakhalin. In addition, Japan wanted a substantial indemnity to reimburse her for the cost of the war. The Russian delegation was prepared to meet much of

Komura's demands but the conference was deadlocked over the surrender of Sakhalin and the payment of a vast indemnity. By 28 August collapse of the conference and a return to hostilities appeared inevitable. Late that day, as the Russians prepared to pack their bags, Komura received instructions from Tokyo to abandon the claim for indemnity. A compromise was reached whereby Japan took over the Lyaotung Leasehold and the southern half of the Port Arthur-Harbin railway and the southern half of Sakhalin Island. Each side agreed to evacuate its forces from Manchuria (except for the Lyaotung Leasehold) and to retain only small contingents to police the railways. The Treaty of Portsmouth was signed by both delegations on 5 September 1905.

An armistice in the field was fixed for 16 September. Duplicate copies of the Treaty were signed by the Tsar and the Emperor on 14 October 1905, thus officially terminating the Russo-Japanese War. Russia had been defeated but had kept her dignity. The terms of the Treaty were not so well received by the Japanese public, which had expected acquisition of the whole of Sakhalin Island and an indemnity big enough to cover the entire cost of the war. It was Shimonoseki all over again. Japan had been robbed once more and fury was turned on Komura, other government ministers and, especially, the Americans. President Theodore Roosevelt was unabashed when collecting his Nobel Peace Prize.

The Treaty of Portsmouth was a defining moment in history. It marked the emergence of Japan as a global power and the end of Russia's dream of dominion in the Far East. Winding down of the Russian military machine was a lengthy process, though started immediately. Total evacuation of the troops did not take place until April 1907.

By that time most of the field post and telegraph offices opened during the Manchurian occupation and war had closed down. The Head FPO at Harbin, however, continued to use its military cancellers and labels until at least 1908 and the oval datestamps of the Harbin-Port Arthur line, out of date when they were introduced late in 1904, continued with their misleading inscription until the first part of 1906. Port Arthur had been cut off from rail communication as early as May 1904. An accumulation of mail piled up in the Port Arthur post office was seized by the Japanese after the stronghold had capitulated on 2 January 1905. It was recovered after the war by the Russian Imperial Mission to Japan and taken to Khabarovsk for dispatch to the addressees in the late summer of 1906, two years after the Original posting.

A strong feature of the collection is the section covers the ill-fated journey of the Russian Baltic Fleet (renamed the 2nd Pacific Squadron), especially the “Dogger Bank Incident” that brought Britain to the brink of war against Russia. Because of the importance of this section, the author’s article “Voyage to Oblivion” published in 2005 is used as a basis for the following:

When reflecting on the Russo-Japanese War it is well to recall an episode that did much to hasten the end of hostilities –the voyage of the Russian Baltic Fleet which sailed halfway round the world to be annihilated in the Straits of Tsushima, between Korea and Japan, in the greatest naval disaster of modern times. Months before this epic voyage had reached its climax, the Fleet had run into trouble in the North Sea. Many people today would be surprised to learn that an encounter with these warships off the Dogger Bank in 1904 had brought Britain to the brink of war on the side of Japan. This was one of many trials and tribulations that beset the Baltic Fleet in its long and arduous adventure, dubbed “The Journey of the Damned” by Warner & Warner (1974). Detailed accounts have been provided by these and other authors (see bibliography). The present outline aims to give new life to the story using postal and other ephemera of the day, naturally, with a Russian slant.

The War at Sea

Command of the sea was essential for a successful Japanese invasion of Russian-occupied Manchuria. After she had severed diplomatic relations with St. Petersburg and two days before her formal declaration of war, Japan struck at the Russian Pacific Squadron riding peacefully at anchor in the roadstead outside Port Arthur. Shortly before midnight on 8 February 1904, three flotillas of destroyers under orders from the Japanese Admiral Togo (figure 4), let loose their torpedoes among the sitting ducks. Three of Russia’s biggest ships were put out of action, the battleships “Retvizan” and “Tsarevich” and the cruiser “Pallada”. On 7 February the Japanese had seized a Russian merchantman, the “Rossiya”, in the Korean port of Fusan and almost simultaneously with the attack on Port Arthur had started landing troops at Chemulpo, both actions in violation of Korean neutrality. Three Russian warships, unprepared for battle, were caught at Chemulpo and after putting up a brave fight against impossible odds, were destroyed in the harbour by their own crews –the cruiser “Varyag”, the gunboat “Koreets” (figure 5) and the transport “Sungari”.

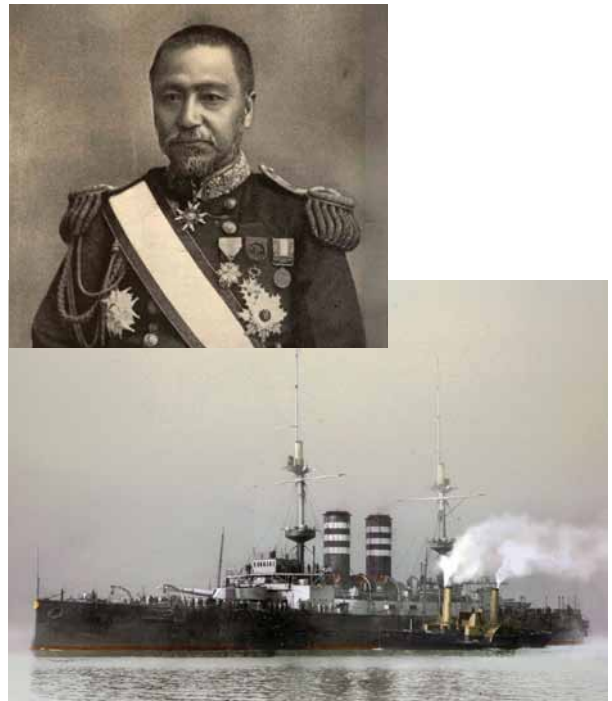


Figure 4. Vice-Admiral Haihachiro Togo and his ship “Mikasa”, Japanese hero, victor at the Battle of Tsushima. Single-minded and ruthless with little respect for international law, he was the scourge of the Russian navy. As a cadet he had studied in Britain at Greenwich Naval College.

The prophetic significance of Japanese contempt for international rules of warfare was to emerge in the distant future at a place called Pearl Harbour.

While engineers were busy pumping out, repairing and refloating the warships wrecked in Port Arthur harbour by the Japanese pre-emptive strike, Togo, intent on immobilising the Pacific Squadron, waited out to sea, his big ships safely beyond the range of the shore batteries, his torpedo-boats slipping in and out laying mines at the approaches to the port. A suicide squad sent in to seal off the harbour with blockships was only partially successful,



Figure 5. Old Russian gunboat “Koreete”, blown up in Chemulpo harbour by her own crew after an engagement with Japanese warships on 9 February 1904. Credited with firing the first shot in the Russo-Japanese War, though the captain maintained he did not open fire until he saw oncoming enemy torpedoes.

leaving a wide channel through which Port Arthur could still receive supplies by sea.

Loud cheers rang through the Pacific Squadron when the news broke that the Admiralty was sending the renowned Vice-Admiral S. O. Makarov, the “Little Grandfather of the Fleet”, to take over command. He arrived on 7 March and almost immediately went on the offensive, dispatching destroyer flotillas to hunt for Japanese minelayers. When enemy ship appeared off Port Arthur and began bombarding the port on 22 March, Makarov himself took to sea in the cruiser “Askold” with other ships of the squadron, surprising the Japanese with his new aggressive tactics. The inspiration that Admiral Makarov had brought to Port Arthur was short-lived. Lured beyond the protection of the forts by a Japanese decoy of small vessels, the Pacific Squadron had embarked with the Admiral flying his flag in the battleship “Petropavlovsk”.



Figure 6. Memorial card for Vice-Admiral S. O. Makarov, much loved inspirational leader, killed in action off Port Arthur 31 March/13 April 1904. His loss was regarded as a national disaster.

When the mist lifted and Togo's force of six battleships and six cruisers came into sight, Makarov's squadron raced back to port in some disarray. The “Petropavlovsk” struck a mine and went down in flames, taking with her the Admiral and 635 officers and men (31 March/13 April 1904). Makarov's death cast gloom over the whole of Russia (figure 6), the Tsar wrote of “the unspeakably mournful news”. Without the leadership of Makarov, the depleted and demoralised Pacific Squadron was reluctant to leave the shelter of Port Arthur and the protective guns of the fortress.

If the Port Arthur squadron was over-cautious, the second of Russia's great naval bases in the Far East, Vladivostok, showed more fight. As soon as the winter ice had melted from the harbour, Rear-Admiral von Yessen ventured out with a flotilla of fast cruisers – “Rurik”, “Rossiya”, “Gromoboi” and “Bogatyr” – searching for Japanese transports and merchantmen. Oddly enough, the very day von Yessen had put to sea, Togo had ordered Vice-Admiral Kamimura, commander of the Japanese Second

Fleet, to close off Vladivostok with mines. In the fog-bound icy waters of the Sea of Japan the two fleets passed without sighting each other.

On the morning of 26 April the Russian flotilla spotted a Japanese transport, the “Kinshu Maru”, with troops of the 37th Infantry Regiment aboard. The ship refused to surrender and was sunk by torpedoes. As the ship went down officers committed suicide in their cabins and soldiers bayoneted each other on the decks rather than face the disgrace of capture. A few sailors and labourers were plucked from the water by the “Rossiya”, but not a single soldier. The sinking of the unarmed “Kinshu Maru” brought widespread condemnation from the world's press, but Japan had set the precedent herself and the Vladivostok Squadron continued to take its toll of enemy transports and supply ships without a twinge of conscience.

The sinking of the “Kinshu Maro” is commemorated in the Russian postcard shown in the collection. Another card, from a survivor of the incident is also shown, together with a picture card depicting other Japanese inmates of the same POW camp near St. Petersburg.

Back at Port Arthur, Admiral Togo's repeated attempts to paralyse the Pacific Squadron by blocking its exit from the harbour again fell short of expectations. Nevertheless, his optimistic report to Tokyo signalled the go-ahead for the army's sea-borne invasion of the Lyaotung Peninsula. By the end of May Japanese troops had taken the port of Dalny and cut the railway link between Port Arthur and Harbin (figure 7).



Figure 7. Japanese invasion of the Lyaotung Peninsula. Artist's impression of Japanese forces attacking the last Russian train to leave Port Arthur before they severed the line (May 1904).

Direct command of the Pacific Squadron had reverted to Admiral Alexeiev, Viceroy in the Far East, but when the situation in Port Arthur became too hot for comfort he departed on 5 May to the safety of Mukden. Rear-Admiral V. K. Vitgeft (figure 8), who had taken over, was not a man of action and had to be prodded by Tsar Nicholas himself to make offensive sorties against the Japanese, now establishing their beachheads along the coast. Togo's efforts to prevent the Russian ships coming out had unexpected consequences when two of his first-class battleships ran into mines outside the harbour and sank.

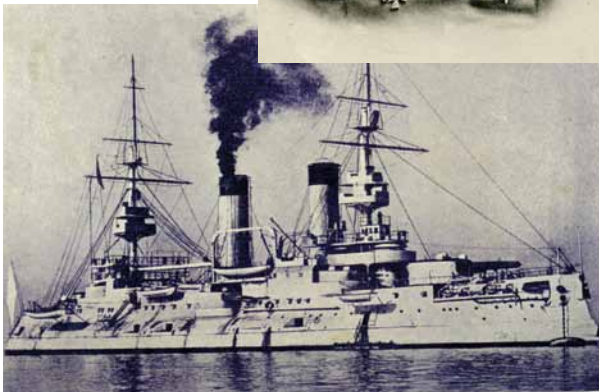


Figure 8. Rear-Admiral V. K. Vitgeft and his flagship "Tsarevich". Timid commander of the Pacific Squadron at Port Arthur 6 May-10 August 1904. Blown to bits in the Battle of the Yellow Sea. The crippled "Tsarevich" reached the German-leased port of Kiaochou, where she and the surviving crew were disarmed and interned.

These were the 15,000-ton "Hatsuse" and the 13,000-ton "Yashima", both carrying twelve-inch guns. The extent of the losses was concealed from the Japanese public and the incident almost cost Togo his command. On 23 June Vitgeft led his squadron out, planning to join up with the Vladivostok Squadron while it was still possible to escape. The line was headed by the "Tsarevich", flying the Admiral's flag, followed by five other battleships, cruisers and destroyers to a total of 18 ships. Twenty-three miles out to sea, Vitgeft was shocked to see Togo's waiting armada of 53 vessels and led his squadron back to Port Arthur with all speed, Japanese destroyers and torpedo-boats in pursuit. With the Japanese Third Army ever tightening its stranglehold on Port Arthur, ships in the



Figure 9. The battleship RETVIZAN sunk in Port Arthur harbour on 6 December 1904 by Japanese land-based howitzers. Her guns were removed for defence of the fortress.

harbour were in danger of destruction from land-based artillery. Flight to Vladivostok was now imperative. On 10 August Admiral Vitgeft in the "Tsarevich" steamed out to sea with his squadron. In the resulting Battle of the Yellow Sea the Russians fought nobly, inflicting heavy casualties on the Japanese, but were forced to abandon their objective of reaching Vladivostok. Admiral Togo, on the "Mikasa", had a narrow shave, a shell splinter drawing blood. The Russian commander fared worse. A hail of twelve-inch shells riddled the "Tsarevich", bringing down her foremast and conning tower. Every man on the bridge and conning tower was killed or injured. Admiral Vitgeft was literally blown to pieces, only part of one leg was found. Admiral Togo, anxious to keep his powder dry for the oncoming confrontation with the Baltic Fleet, did not go in for the kill. Apart from the scuttled "Novik", not a Russian ship was sunk or captured, though many were put out of action for the duration of the war by seeking refuge in neutral ports. The crippled "Tsarevich" limped in to the German port of Kiaochou, where she was interned with three Russian destroyers.

The cruiser "Askold" and the destroyer "Grosvoivi" reached Shanghai, hauling down their flags and disarming on 1 September. Another cruiser, "Diana" put into Saigon for repairs on 25 August but was eventually obliged by the French authorities to disarm and submit to internment on 10 September.

The cruiser "Novik", the swiftest ship in the Russian fleet, after coaling Kiaochou, broke through the Japanese blockade of the Straits of Tsushima and headed north. Fast Japanese cruisers gave chase and cornered her at Korsakovsk, Sakhalin Island.

After putting up a plucky fight at close quarters, the crew of the "Novik" beached the ship in shallow water, where she was finished off by enemy gunfire on 31 August 1904.

About three weeks earlier the battered remnants of the Pacific Squadron had returned to Port Arthur, now exposed to bombardment from land and sea.

News of the failure of the Pacific Squadron to beat the Japanese blockade and the dispersal of the Russian ships did not reach Vladivostok until late the following day. A detachment of cruisers under Rear-Admiral von Yessen steamed south on 13 August to assist the beleaguered squadron in Port Arthur – “Rossiya” (flagship), “Gromoboi” and “Rurik”. This move had been anticipated by the Japanese command and Admiral Kamimura was lying in ambush off the coast of Korea. On the morning of 14 August the two sides made visual contact off Ulsan, northeast of Fusan. Immediately the Russian ships took evasive action in face of the larger Japanese force. At this critical moment “Rurik’s” steering gear broke down and she was turning helplessly in circles. The Japanese cruisers closed in, concentrating their fire on the stricken vessel. “Rossiya” and “Gromoboi” turned back to draw fire from the “Rurik” to no avail. The “Rurik” went down with her two remaining guns still firing. One hundred and seventy officers and men were killed and the Japanese



Figure 10. Lt.-General Baron Anatole Mikhailovich Stoessel, one-time governor and commander of the Port Arthur fortress. Refused to hand over his command to Lt.-General Smirnov, who had been sent to replace him. Responsible for the surrender of Port Arthur to the Japanese General Baron Nogi, for which action he was court-martialled after the war and sentenced to be shot. He escaped the firing squad but served a long term in prison. General Nogi, of the old Samurai school, was so appalled at the great loss of life, including his own son's, in the long battle for Port Arthur and his failure to force a speedier conclusion that he later committed suicide in the traditional Japanese manner.

picked up 625 others. In the exchange of broadsides the “Rossiya” sustained eleven holes below the waterline, she was on fire and many of her guns silenced. “Gromoboi” had received six shells below the waterline and both ships had taken heavy casualties. By some miracle they stayed afloat long enough to reach their home port of Vladivostok two days later. Repairs to the “Rossiya” and “Gromoboi” were completed early in October, but the good fortune which had favoured them at the Battle of Ulsan now deserted them. On her trials, the “Gromoboi” ran into a rock at great speed and was taken back into dock again. Made ready for the sea once more, she ventured out from port in February 1905 only to be trapped in the dense minefield Admiral Kamimura had laid at the entrance to Peter the Great Bay at Vladivostok. Port Arthur had capitulated the month before.

With the depleted Vladivostok Squadron now safely bottled up and once-proud warships of the Pacific Squadron reduced to sunken hulks in Port Arthur harbour, Togo felt he could concentrate his attention on preparations for the forthcoming encounter with Russia's Baltic Fleet. Destruction of the Pacific Squadron had cost Japan more than 64,000 killed and wounded. Many more lives were to be lost on both sides before the war at sea was ended.

The Baltic Fleet makes ready

Just before his death in April 1904 Admiral Makarov had mooted the question of reinforcing the Pacific Squadron with ships of the Baltic Fleet, half a world away at the opposite end of the Empire (figure 11). The idea was taken up at a meeting of Tsar Nicholas and the Higher Naval Board at Tsarskoe Selo in the middle of June. It was decided to send the Baltic Fleet, under Rear- (later Vice-) Admiral Zinovi Petrovich Rozhdestvenski (figure 12), to assist the Far East squadrons in their endeavour to break Japan's supremacy at sea. Rozhdestvenski's task was not an easy one. He worked round the clock, fitting up ships of all types, some so old they had served in the Russo-Turkish War of 1877. Food for the fleet's twelve thousand seamen had to be provided, along with clothing suitable for both arctic and tropical climes. Tons of shells, torpedoes and mines needed to be loaded, along with live cattle and, of course, crates of vodka and champagne for the officers. The ships were manned by motley crews; some individuals had never been to sea before, others were political trouble-makers, nearly all were reluctant to face the dangers of the long voyage ahead. There was a shortage of qualified artificers and engineer

officers and large numbers had to be conscripted from private shipping companies. But Rozhdestvenski's biggest headache was obtaining fuel for his fifty ships on their 18,000 miles odyssey. There were no Russian bases along the way; international law forbade neutral ports to service the ships and coal had been declared contraband.

Nevertheless, France agreed to let the fleet take on sufficient coal at her colonial ports to get it to the next stop. Kaiser Wilhelm arranged for a fleet of sixty German colliers to enable Rozhdestvenski's ships to refill their bunkers at sea beyond the three-mile limit of territorial waters.

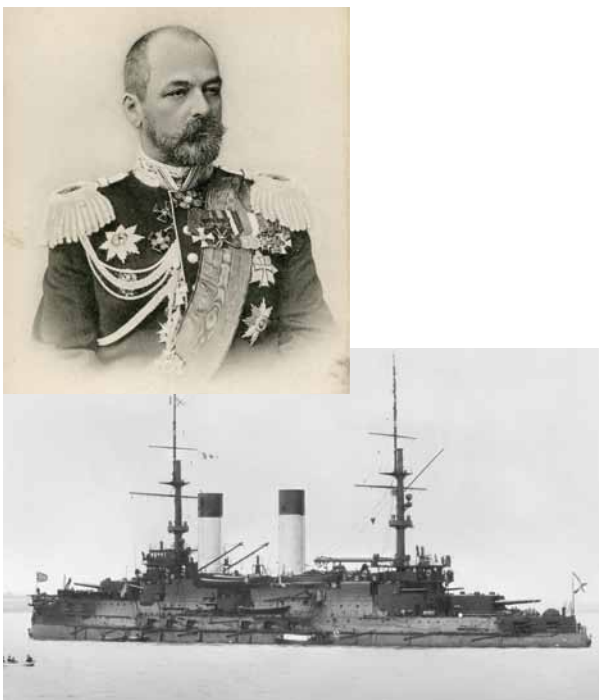


Figure 12. Vice-Admiral Z.P. Rozhdestvenski and his flagship "Kniaz Suvarov". A courageous, if irascible, Commander-in-Chief. Given the unenviable task of knocking into shape a second rate fleet and inexperienced sailors and leading them on a marathon journey to the Far East. Severely wounded in the Battle of Tsushima, he was rescued from his sinking ship but captured by the Japanese. Exonerated from blame for surrender of his fleet. One-time Naval Attaché to the Russian Embassy in London.

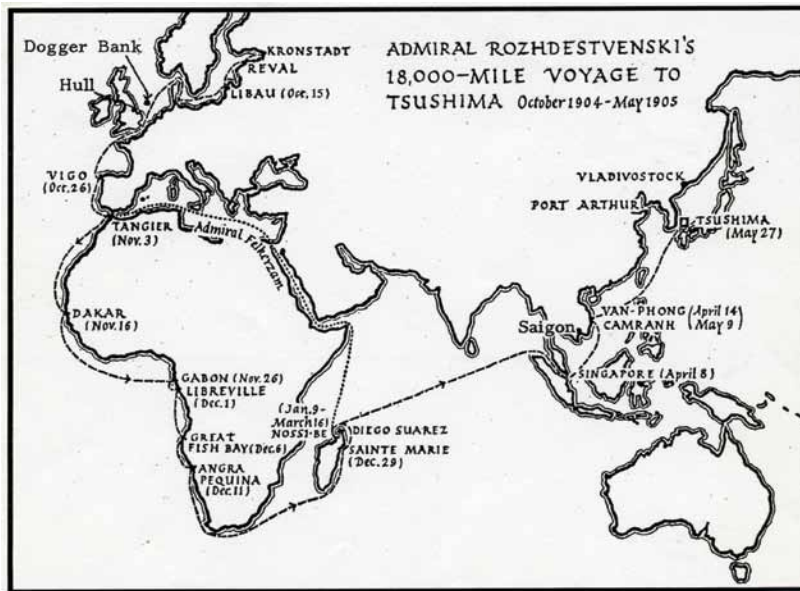


Figure 11. Map showing the routes taken by the two divisions of the Russian Baltic Fleet/2nd Pacific Squadron.

The Baltic Fleet, now renamed the Second Pacific Squadron, consisted of seven battleships – "Kniaz Suvarov", "Imperator Alexander III", "Borodino" and "Orel", modern sister ships carrying four twelve-inch guns, and the older "Oslyaba", "Navarin" and "Sissoi Veliki".

The eight cruisers included the

veterans "Dmitri Donskoi" and "Svetlana" and the relatively modern "Admiral Nakhimov", "Oleg", "Zhemchug", "Avrora" and "Izumrud" along with the "Almaz", originally the private yacht of Admiral Alexeiev. In addition there were auxiliary cruisers drawn from merchant ships of the Russian Volunteer Fleet – "Kherson", "Peterburg" and "Smolensk" – and nine torpedo-boat destroyers. A flotilla of supporting craft included tugs and transports, mainly supplied by the RVF, the refrigerated food ship "Esperance", an icebreaker and the repair ship "Kamchatka", which was to prove to be a rogue element in the fleet.

Rozhdestvenski was dismayed at the poor performance of his ships during gunnery and other training exercises and exasperated by the accidents and mechanical breakdowns that plagued the fleet before it had even started on its nerve-testing journey. When all appeared to be seaworthy, he was given a send-off at Kronshadt, the big naval base protecting St. Petersburg, on 14 August, flying his flag on the "Kniaz Suvarov". He was yet to spend several weeks in Revel and Libau before the official departure ceremony, attended by Tsar Nicholas and family.

The Dogger Bank Incident

With bands playing and crowds cheering, the nascent Second Pacific Squadron steamed out of Libau on 15 October 1904, its crews jittery and apprehensive from rumours of Japanese torpedo-boats in the area. Moving at the pace of the slowest vessel, it threaded its way

through the narrow waters of the Danish Straits into the Kattegat and Skagerrak and steamed westward through thick fog to the open sea. When the fog had cleared, on the night of 21/22 October, the squadron found itself among a group of trawlers fishing off the Dogger Bank, a vast area of underwater sand dunes in the middle of the North Sea. It was the "Gamecock Fleet" (so called because of the emblem of a red gamecock displayed on the black funnels) out of Hull, on the estuary of the River Humber. Suddenly the repair ship "Kamchatka" reported to the flagship that she was being chased by torpedo-boats. A frantic exchange of messages between the two ships elicited the information that the "Kamchatka" was being approached from all directions by about eight torpedo-boats, though no torpedoes had yet been



Figure 13. The Dogger Bank incident or North Sea outrage, when the Russian Baltic Fleet en route to the Far East attacked the "Gamecock Fleet" of fishing trawlers from Hull on the night of 22/23 October 1904. The artist depicts the sinking of the trawler "Crane", with a rowing-boat from her sister ship "Gull" standing by to pick up survivors. (Courtesy Orion Publishing Group, London)

discharged. Pandemonium broke out on the Russian warships. A cry of "torpedo-boats!" brought the flagship to action stations; men ran for lifebelts and gunners fired blindly into the darkness. The searchlights picked out a small steamer with a single funnel (figure 13). The battleships "Alexander" and "Suvarov" poured a hail of shellfire on the tiny craft, until it sank. It was the trawler "Crane", The skipper, George Henry Smith, and the third hand, William Leggett, were both decapitated; most other members of the crew were wounded, including the skipper's son William. Only the cook escaped injury, together with his little brother, also sons of the skipper. The survivors of the "Crane" were picked up by a sister trawler, the "Gull", herself damaged by shell fire. Other warships fired on other trawlers.

Though peppered with shot, the "Snipe", "Majestic", "Mine" and "Moulmein" managed to stay afloat. Many others had cut their nets and ran. The "Orel" alone had fired 17 six-inch shells and five hundred of smaller calibre.

Five of her shells had hit the cruiser "Avrora", taking off the hand of the ship's chaplain and causing severe damage to the ship itself. "Dmitri Donskoi" was another victim of "friendly fire". "Kamchatka", the repair ship that had started all the trouble, boasted of the 300 shells she had let loose among the "enemy". After about 20 minutes a ceasefire was called and, without a backwards glance, the Russian squadron steamed on southwest towards the Straits of Dover and the English Channel.

With flags at half-mast, the "Gamecock Fleet" made its way back to Hull, carrying its dead and wounded. Crowds made for the dockside to see the battered trawlers and to hear the story first-hand from the crews. The funeral for the two dead trawlermen took place in Hull on 27 October. An eye-witness commented "It was a grand and sad sight never to be forgotten, twenty-five coaches besides the Mayor's and Town Clerk's Carriages, Buffalo Band, Salvation Army Band, Jack Tars, fishermen... all following. It took 25 minutes to pass our house. Mounted police led the procession and a company of police on foot closed it. The line of the route was filled by thousands".

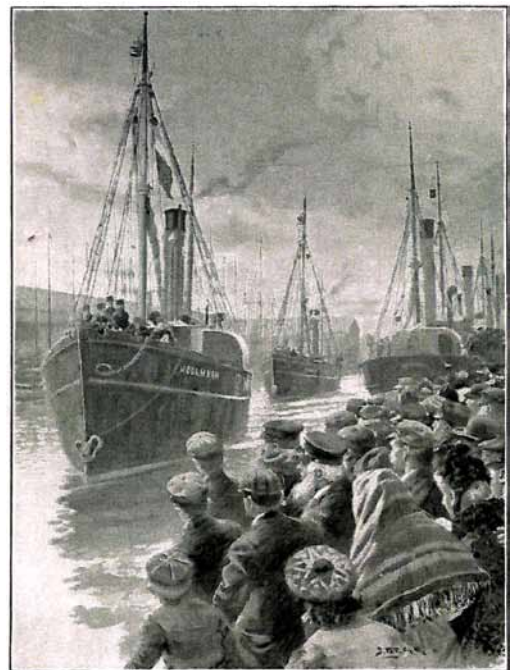


Figure 14. The damaged trawlers of the "Gamecock Fleet" return to Hull carrying the dead and wounded, 23 October 1904. (Courtesy Orion Publishing Group, London)

King Edward himself sent a letter of sympathy to the city authorities and enclosed 200 guineas (£210) for distribution among the victims and their families. Queen Alexandra followed with a personal gift of £100 (a sum then worth more than two years' wages for the average trawlerman).

Anger swept the country. The British press denounced the Russians. "The Times" thought it "... almost inconceivable that any men calling themselves seamen, however frightened they might be, could spend twenty minutes bombarding a fleet of fishing boats without discovering the nature of their target. It is still harder to suppose that officers wearing the uniform of any civilized power could suspect they had been butchering poor fishermen with the guns of a great fleet and then steam away without endeavouring to rescue the victims of their unpardonable mistake". Abroad, the naval correspondent of the "Berliner Tageblatt" hinted that the officers commanding the Russian ships must have been mentally unbalanced and questioned whether a squadron led as this squadron was led should be allowed to sail the seas. Britain was still smarting from the sinking of one of its merchantmen, the "Knight Commander", in the Sea of Japan by the Vladivostok Squadron and the illegal seizure of another, the "Malacca", in the Red Sea by a Russian auxiliary cruiser. Now the gloves were off. A flurry of diplomatic activity ensued.

In letters to his uncle, King Edward, Tsar Nicholas was sympathetic and conciliatory, but in private he spoke of the "mangy English" and their threat of superior sea-power. His fears were well founded. Britain was now on the brink of war. The Home Fleet was ordered from Scottish waters to take up position at Portland, in the English Channel. Gibraltar was put on a war footing and the Channel Fleet lying there was cleared for action.

The Mediterranean Fleet, in the Adriatic on a friendly visit to Italy, got up steam and redeployed at Malta and other strategic points. Each of these fleets was capable of blowing Admiral Rozhdestvenski and his squadron out of the water. Their combined weight of 28 battleships, 22 cruisers and scores of smaller craft, all in fighting trim, gave the Russians food for thought. Though still insisting that her ships had come under attack in the North Sea, Russia agreed to an international commission to inquire into the matter. Admiral Rozhdestvenski and his officers drank to the downfall and damnation of the British Navy.

The North Sea Inquiry Commission was set up in Paris under the presidency of the French Admiral Fournier



Figure 15. North Sea Enquiry Commission, Paris, January 1905. Trawler company owners at the back, with managers, captains and fishermen on the steps below.

and with Commissioners from Britain, Russia, Austria and the United States in attendance, together with Legal Assessors for each of the contending sides. The sessions lasted from December 1904 to February 1905, during which officers from the Russian ships involved, the trawlermen and other witnesses and interested parties were rigorously cross-examined (figure 15). Russia's case was that her ships had defended themselves from hostile action and that the damage and casualties caused to the English trawlers in the course of this defence was unintentional and deeply regretted. Reparation would be made willingly. The conclusions of the Commission were promulgated on 26 February 1905. All the Commissioners except the Russian were of the opinion that there were no torpedo-boats on the spot and that the fire opened by Admiral Rozhdestvenski was not justifiable. In view of mitigating circumstances, however, the Admiral was merely admonished for not stopping to rescue the fishermen and for failing to report the incident to neighbouring maritime powers. Russia agreed to pay £65,000 in compensation to the families of the dead and injured and to supply new trawlers to replace those lost or damaged. War had been averted and British honour satisfied, though many thought Rozhdestvenski and his officers had got off too lightly. In Hull a monument was erected in 1905 in memory of the victims of the Dogger Bank outrage.

The Long Haul

The Russian squadron ploughed its way through the English Channel unaware of the strength of feeling it had stirred up over the Dogger Bank affair. Arriving at Vigo on 26 October, Rozhdestvenski was disinclined to talk about it to reporters. The Russian government issued a

statement repeating the torpedo-boat myth and it was understood that a portion of the squadron would remain in Vigo pending the setting up of the Inquiry Commission in Paris. In the event, after taking on coal in breach of Spanish neutrality, Rozhdestvenski and his ships slipped away to Tangier, leaving only four witnesses to answer to the Commission, none of them senior officers. On the way to the Moroccan port, the Russian squadron was given an unwanted escort by the Royal Navy.

One of the auxiliary vessels to join the squadron at Tangier was the British-built "Orel" (not to be confused with the battleship of the same name), the first clipper type passenger ship of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, now having been fitted out as a hospital ship at Toulon.

Painted white with a big red cross on her funnels, she carried a complement of naval surgeons and 100 Sisters of Mercy (nurses). Her first patient was the unfortunate chaplain of the "Aврora", who had lost a hand from "friendly fire" in the Dogger Bank incident. The wound had turned septic and he died of blood poisoning. The squadron's first fatality was self-inflicted.

At Tangier it was decided to split the squadron into two. One division, under Rear-Admiral Felkersham (figure 16), was to proceed through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal. The main body, under Rear-Admiral Enquist (figure



Figure 16. The ragtag and bobtail of Russia's Second Pacific Squadron (raised from the Baltic Fleet) enters the Suez Canal en route to the Far East to be destroyed at the Battle of Tsushima. Rear-Admiral Baron Dmitri von Felkersham commanded the "Suez" division of the Squadron. He died from natural causes two days before the Battle of Tsushima.

17), was to take the longer route round the Cape. Both divisions were to join up off the northern tip of Madagascar.



Figure 17. Rear-Admiral Oscar Adolovich Enquist, Commander of the main body of the Second Pacific Squadron, under the Commander-in-Chief Vice-Admiral Rozhdestvenski. Admiral Enquist was distinguished by having the longest, bushiest and whitest beard in the navy. He escaped to Manila with some of his ships after the battle of Tsushima.

The Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Rozhdestvenski, gave no reasons for this move, though it was assumed that Felkersham's ships were too decrepit to risk the long haul round Africa.

Admiral Felkersham took off at 9 pm on the night of 3 November with the "Sissoi Veliki" (flagship), "Navarin", "Svetlana", "Zhemchug", "Almaz" and various auxiliary ships. Next day the main division moved out. Almost immediately the battleships "Orel" and "Suvarov" broke down and another ship fouled an underwater cable, cutting off Tangier's telegraphic links with the outside world for several days. At Dakar, German colliers were waiting with 30,000 tons of coal to be taken on board ships already overloaded. Everything depended on coal. When the bunkers were full, it was stowed in every possible corner and piled loose on deck until vessels were in danger of capsizing. Working with shovels in the oppressive heat, men collapsed and one young officer died of sunstroke. On the way to Gabon the squadron got lost and overshot its destination by 30 miles, being obliged to cross the equator twice as it retraced its steps. Mechanical breakdowns, sickness, bad weather and sagging morale bedevilled Rozhdestvenski's ships as they made their way down the west coast of Africa. "Kamchatka" again signalled the appearance of enemy torpedo-boats in repetition of her disastrous blunder in the North Sea, but this time hastily corrected her error.

Arriving at the French penal colony of Sainte Marie, east of Madagascar, at the end of December, Rozhdestvenski heard that Felkersham was already at Nossi-Bé, on the other side of the island, though his ships would not be ready to move for another two weeks. Worse news was to follow. As the ships were leaving Sainte Marie they received the news all had been dreading –Port Arthur had fallen and the First Pacific Squadron ceased to exist. Hopes of reversing the fortunes of war by a naval tour de force, never high, now evaporated. An even deeper gloom descended on an already depressed squadron. The last straw for Admiral Rozhdestvenski was the information that a Third Pacific Squadron under Rear-Admiral Nikolai Nebogatov (figure 18) was in preparation and that he was to await its arrival in eight or ten weeks' time. The new squadron was made up of ships rejected by Rozhdesrvenski as unseaworthy for the long voyage, many fit only for the breaker's yard, and he saw them as a hindrance rather than a help in the task ahead. He sent a message to St. Petersburg asking to be relieved of his command. From the comfort of his palace, the Tsar ordered him to carry on and gain mastery of the sea, after which he was to press on to the relief of Vladivostok. Presumably God would see off the Japanese.

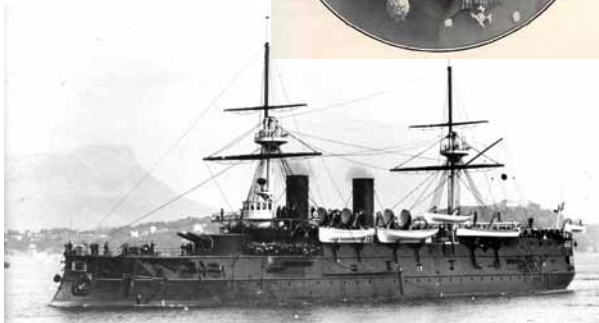


Figure 18. Rear-Admiral Nikolai Nebogatov and his flagship "Imperator Nikolai I", Commander of the Third Pacific Squadron, a floating scrap heap sent as backup to the Second Pacific Squadron. At the Battle of Tsushima, Nebogato took over command of the remnants of the Russian fleet from the unconscious Rozhdestvenski. For surrendering the fleet to the Japanese he was court-martialled after the war and sentenced to death, the sentence commuted to a long term in prison.

The combined squadron anchored off the big island of Nossi-Bé. The town was aptly named Helville. As the weeks went by, men and ships slipped into a state

of decay. Men contracted malaria, dysentery, typhoid; others scratched themselves raw from a tropical eczema; suicides were not uncommon. Birds and animals brought on board as pets turned the warships into floating menageries, with monkeys swinging from the rigging, exotic birds perched everywhere and small crocodiles crawling about the officers' wardroom. There was slime and filth everywhere and the ships stank. Training exercises at sea had proved a dismal failure.

Several of the ships that were constantly breaking down were sent back to Russia, including the "Malay", loaded with men whose health and sanity had cracked, and the cold-storage vessel "Esperance" with its clapped-out refrigeration plant, requiring more than 700 tons of rotting meat to be jettisoned. Food had now become a big problem. Some of the hungry sailors mutinied; others turned to drink. Throughout the voyage Rozhdestvenski had maintained strict discipline. He had shot men for insubordination. He had shot men for talking to reporters. Now he found it impossible to execute men expected to follow him to the death in battle. Mechanical and structural defects manifested themselves daily. The "Kamchatka" was found to be sinking, with men up to their chests in water in the engine room. Underwater repairs were made hazardous by the swarms of sharks attracted by the squadron's jetsam. Most of the "Kamchatka's" stokers were civilians and their threats of strike action were countered by threats of casting them adrift in an open boat to find their own way back to Russia.

The Admiral himself had fallen ill and retired to his sickbed for days. When he emerged he was haggard and was seen to drag his left leg. It was whispered among his staff that he had suffered a minor stroke.

Rozhdestvenski decided not to wait for the Third Pacific Squadron, making its way to the Far East through the Mediterranean and the Suez Canal, but to press on while his ships were still capable of sailing. On 17 March 1905 he pulled out of Nossi-Bé with his barnacle-encrusted ships, the flagship's band playing the Marseillaise in response to the bon voyage messages from the French. Nearly 5,000 miles of open sea lay between him and the next landfall on the other side of the Indian Ocean. Every few days the squadron stopped to take on coal from the German colliers, officers and men labouring from sunrise to sunset in the blistering heat and dust-laden air to fill every corner of the ships with the vital cargo. The squadron passed through the Straits of Malacca and to Singapore, where, in passing, the Admiral received from the Russian Consul on 8 April official papers instructing

him to proceed to Camranh Bay in French Indo-China and wait there for Nebogatov and the Third Squadron. Reaching Camranh Bay a few days later, Rozhdestvenski was met by Rear-Admiral de Jonquières, second-in-command of the French Far East Squadron, and politely informed that under international law the Russian ships could remain in the Bay for no longer than 24 hours. Rozhdestvenski's response was to withdraw his fleet out of sight of the French commander, returning again on the following day. He kept up this subterfuge for many days.

While in Camranh Bay, Rozhdestvenski sent the hospital ship "Orel" to Saigon to contact the Russian Consul there. A memento of the "Orel's" visit is shown in the collection. On the night of 26 May the ship was captured by a Japanese cruiser, along with a sister hospital ship, the "Kostroma", from Nebogatov's squadron. The "Orel's" mission was regarded as intelligence gathering, a hostile act that had breached her conditions of immunity. Seizure of the "Kostroma", which had taken no part in the Saigon mission, was later declared illegal and she was released. The "Orel" was retained as a good prize and renamed the "Kusuho Maru".

France's lax attitude towards neutrality was strongly resented by Japan and threatened to draw other nations into the conflict. Although paying lip service to the strict terms required by international law, French officials on the spot had frequently turned a blind eye to the many infringements of the code by the Russian fleet. If Japan chose to treat French violation of her neutrality as an act of war and called upon Britain to live up to the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, France and Britain would find themselves on opposite sides and the precious entente cordiale lost in a clash of arms. In the event, Japan decided not to stir up the hornets' nest.

The Third Pacific Squadron had left Libau on 15 February 1905, Admiral Nebogatov flying his flag in the old battleship "Imperator Nicholai I" and accompanied by the coastal defence ironclads "Admiral Ushakov", "Admiral Seniavine" and "General Admiral Apraksin" and the cruiser "Vladimir Monomach", laid down in 1881. The squadron's efficiency was in question from the start, both on account of the poor state of the ships and the rank insubordination of the crews. It reached Port Said on 24 March and arrived at the vicinity of Camranh Bay on 9 May, to be met by Admiral Rozhdestvenski. Though outwardly cordial, the relationship between the two Admirals in the privacy of Rozhdestvenski's cabin was cool. Nebogatov complained afterwards that no plan of action was discussed and that one of the few orders he received from his Commander-

in-Chief was to repaint the funnels of his ships. On 25 May Admiral Felkersham, who had been very ill from the start of the voyage, died suddenly. He was put in a coffin and his death kept secret, even from Nebogatov, his pennant continuing to fly from the flagship. By now suicides had become a daily occurrence and mutiny was in the air because of the bad food. "The journey of the damned" was not yet over.

Japan's Day

Writing home to St. Petersburg from his prison camp in Japan in the middle of April, a Russian Naval Warrant Officer commented: "We are impatiently awaiting the sea battle because we think it will bring us close to a conclusion". His sentiment was echoed all over a world that had been watching with fascination as the voyage of the Russian armada moved towards its climax. On paper the two sides were evenly matched; in the calibre of their big guns the Russians had the edge. In all other respects there was no comparison. Overloaded with coal, the Russian ships moved sluggishly; the inexperienced crews had been at sea for seven months and were physically and mentally drained by their ordeal. By contrast, having disposed of the Port Arthur squadron and rendered impotent the few warships left at Vladivostok, Japan now had many months in which to overhaul her ships and recuperate her men and to sharpen their nautical skills. The big problem for the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, Admiral Togo, was to ascertain which route the Russian ships would take to reach Vladivostok. There were three possibilities: the direct route through the Straits of Tsushima, between Korea and Japan; a longer way round the east coast of Japan and through the Tsuruga Straits separating Japan's two main islands, or the even longer route through La Perouse Strait between Japan and Sakhalin Island. Rozhdestvenski gave the game away by dismissing supply ships and colliers to Shanghai. When this information reached Togo, he knew that the Straits of Tsushima had been chosen. For the longer routes Rozhdestvenski would have needed the colliers.

On the morning of 27 May, as the Russians were sighted entering the Straits, Togo, in his flagship "Mikasa", steamed out from his Korean base with three other battleships and two armoured cruisers, making up the First Division. Ships of the Second and Fourth Divisions followed to complete a formidable fighting force. As Rozhdestvenski's fleet came into range, by a series of bold

manoeuvres Togo gained a position of advantage, though for a time exposing himself to enemy fire. The tactics and seamanship of the Japanese commander drew admiration from the British naval observer with Togo's fleet, the monocled captain (later Admiral) W. C. Pakenham.

Most of the Japanese fire was directed at the "Suvarov" and the "Oslyabya", the latter still flying the pennant of the dead Admiral Felkersham. Soon both battleships were on fire; the "Oslyabya", with a huge hole in her side, went down first. Four destroyers came in and picked up about a third of her crew from the water. Astern of the "Suvarov", "Alexander III" and "Borodino" were enveloped in smoke and flame. "Alexander III" sank about 7 pm; of her 900 officer and men, about sixty survived. As the day ended, the "Borodino" went down with only one survivor. During the night "Navarin" was hit by three torpedoes. Everybody was ordered to jump overboard, but only three men were saved. The old "Dmitri Donskoi", fighting to the end, with six holes in her side, was scuttled on the shore. And so it went on. There were many individual acts of bravery, some unexpected. The little "Kamchatka", which should never have been put to sea, with all her senior officers killed, refused to surrender and went down with colours flying. The battleship "Orel", which had more than her fair share of land-lubbers and misfits, put up a particularly courageous fight before she was captured on the morning of 28 May.

In the meantime, Rozhdestvenski's flagship "Kniaz Suvarov" continued to draw gunfire from a dozen Japanese ships. She was ablaze from end to end, one of her masts gone and the decks piled with debris and dead. Rozhdestvenski, already wounded and in great pain, received a shell splinter to his head and another to his leg. The torpedo-boat "Buini" came alongside to take off the Admiral, who was now slipping in and out of consciousness. From there he was transferred to the destroyer "Bedovi", which ran up both the Admiral's pennant and the Red Cross flag. Rozhdestvenski was unconscious when the "Bedovi" was stopped by a Japanese destroyer. The captain of the enemy destroyer was astonished to find that he had captured the Commander-in-Chief of the Russian fleet. The "Bedovi" was escorted undertow to the Japanese naval base of Sasebo and the Russian Admiral put into hospital. Amid the smoke and confusion it was impossible to tell which Japanese ship had sent the "Suvarov" to the bottom.

During the night of 27/28 May Admiral Enquist, now flying his flag on the "Oleg", together with "Avrora" and "Zhemcbug", made several unsuccessful attempts to break through to the north. To elude the enemy ships he

made for the southern exit from the Tsushima Straits. He reached Manila at the beginning of June, where the ships were interned by the American authorities.

By 11:15 am on the morning of 28 May, Japanese battleships, cruisers and destroyers had formed a great circle around the remaining Russian ships, now commanded by Admiral Nebogatov in the "Imperator Nicholai I". The carnage had been terrible. Men were literally blown to pieces by the Japanese broadsides and the decks of the Russian ships were slippery with blood and bits of human flesh. There were horrifying stories of wounded men being thrown overboard or shot to silence their cries. Nebogatov found a large white tablecloth and had it hoisted as a signal of surrender. Togo ignored it and continued to pound the "Nicholai I" until her engines stopped. Only then would the Japanese Commander receive Nebogatov aboard and accept the surrender of the Russian fleet.

The Battle of Tsushima was over and the post-mortem begun. Aside from superior seamanship and higher morale, the speed of the Japanese ships and the accuracy of their gunnery had played a decisive role. At the beginning of the battle it was reckoned that for every hit scored by the Russian guns the Japanese replied with three. Later, the ratio went up to four to one. Although the unequal contest had dragged on for two days, Togo believed that it was won in the first half-hour. Japan had prepared for it for ten years. Of the twelve Russian battleships, eight were sunk and four captured. Of the cruisers, four were sunk, one scuttled and three interned at Manila. Only the "Almaz" escaped. Under cover of darkness she had run undetected along the Korean coast to Vladivostok, followed by two destroyers. Of the remaining destroyers, four were sunk, one captured, and one interned in Shanghai. Russian casualties were 4,830 killed or drowned, just under 7,000 taken prisoner and 1,862 interned in neutral countries. Of the four Russian Admirals, the Commander-in-Chief and his Second-in-Command were taken prisoner, one died before the battle and the other fled to the safety of a neutral port. The Japanese lost three torpedo-boats. Their losses in men amounted to 110 killed and 590 wounded, prisoners none.

The remnants of Russia's First Pacific Squadron lay sunk in the mud at the bottom of Port Arthur harbour. Now, after months of preparation and many more months at sea, her Second and Third Pacific Squadrons had been wiped out in a matter of hours. No nation had suffered a calamity at sea of this magnitude for centuries. When

the news reached Russia the population was in a state of shock, which rapidly changed to anger against the government and the Naval Higher Command. The fall-out from Tsushima was dramatic. The Grand Duke Alexis, for twenty-four years the Commander-in-Chief of the Imperial Russian Navy, asked to be relieved of his post. Several other resignations from the navy's top brass followed. Preparations for a Fourth Pacific Squadron were abandoned and the German seamen recruited to man the ships were paid off and sent home. Russia was facing the prospect of losing the war. Time to find scapegoats.

Admiral Rozhdestvenski had returned from Japan an emaciated and white-haired old man. He and his chief of staff, Clapier de Colongue, and Nebogatov were tried by court-martial in St. Petersburg in the winter of 1906, along with senior officers from the army. Rozhdestvenski had insisted on being tried with his fellow officers, whom he stoutly defended. He was acquitted on account of being unconscious at the time of surrender. Nebogatov and Clapier de Colongue were sentenced to death, the sentences later reduced to long terms of imprisonment.

For more than seven months Admiral Rozhdestvenski had borne an intolerable burden of responsibility and had fought valiantly, making the best use he could of second-rate ships and poorly trained men. Nevertheless, he was made a figure of fun by a section of the fickle Russian public. Admiral Togo received the Grand Cordon of the Chrysanthemum, the highest order in Japan. Only one man had ever received it before. He became the "war god" of the Japanese navy and the hero of a grateful nation.

(R. Casey, British Journal of Russian Philately 93/94, *The Russo-Japanese War remembered*, 2005, with selected bibliography).



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The illustrations forming the main body of this catalogue are divided into sections arranged chronologically, as follows:

- *The Great Manoeuvres of 1898*
- *Boxer Rebellion and Sino-Russian Conflict*
- *Russian Occupation of Manchuria*
- *Russo-Japanese War (with individual grouping for the voyage of the Russian Baltic fleet/2nd & 3rd Pacific Squadrons and Prisoner-of-War mail)*
- *Peace Treaty, Military Evacuation of Manchuria and Demobilisation.*

Знаменитъ

2.

Ея Императорскому Высочайшему

Самодержавному Главному

Генералу

Пекинъ.

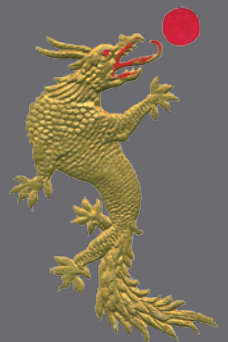
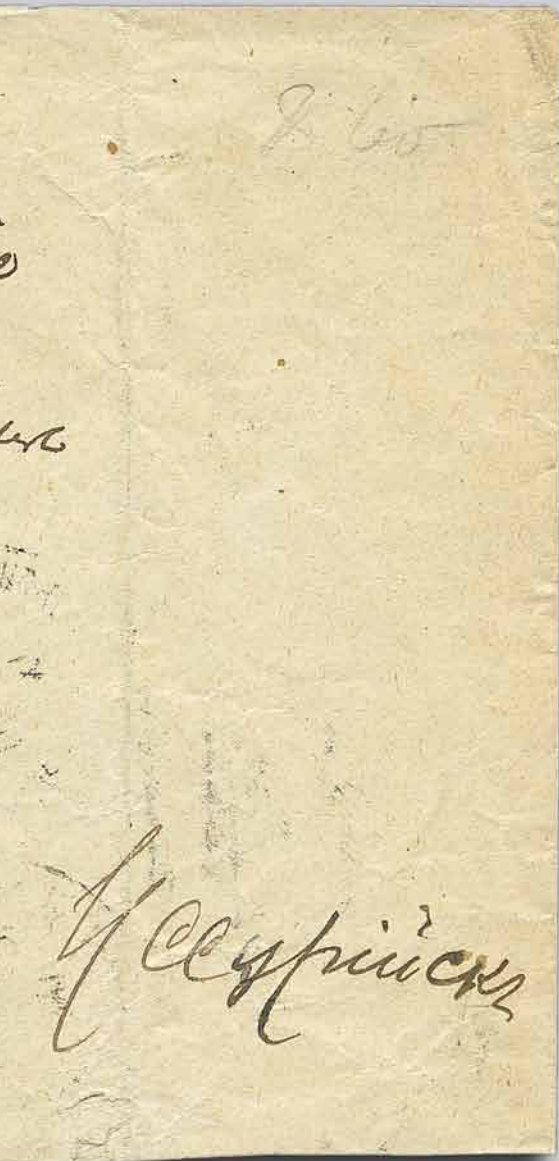
140



Тихомирцевъ



The Great Manoeuvres of 1898 and the Boxer Rebellion





Russian Post Offices in the Chinese Empire (Part IV)

Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 10:00

The Great Manoeuvres of 1898



20000



1898 7k Postal stationery envelope to Netherlands uprated with a vertical strip of 1k tied by large oval datestamps in blue reading: FIELD POST/ON MANOEUVRES 7 VIII 1898, the figure '7' inserted by hand, strike at left with PODGORNNOE PULKOVO inserted by hand, a village near St. Petersburg Observatory and used by Office No. 2 of the Southern (Defensive) Corps of the Manoeuvres.

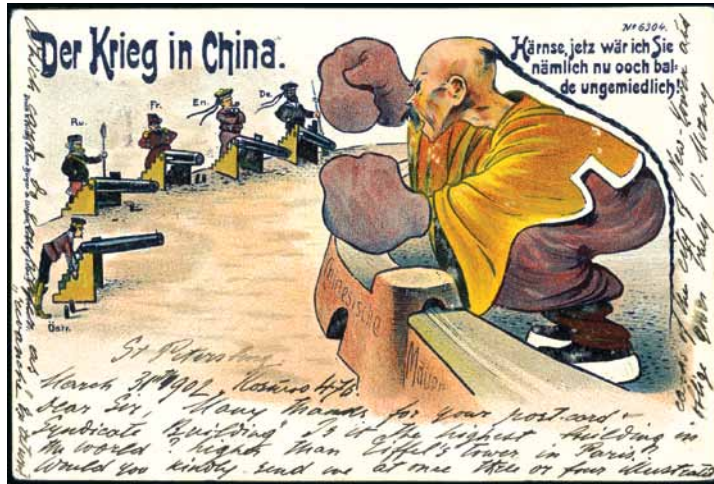
1'000

The Great Manoeuvres of 1898 were a prelude to Russia's military involvement in eastern China (Manchuria) and the ensuing confrontation with Japan.

Illustrated "The Post-Rider" No. 51 (2002), p.12.



The Boxer Rebellion



20001 ☒

German cartoon card of Boxer Rebellion, postally used from St Petersburg to New York 18 III 1902.

60

The Society of Righteous Harmonious Fists (I Ho Ch'uan), or boxers as they were called by westerners, was dedicated to the extermination of "foreign devils" in China. Their uprisings in 1899 developed into a wave of violence against foreigners that swept through China, spread into Manchuria, and had repercussions across the Amur River in Russia. The boxers besieged the European Legations in Peking (1900) and began destroying the half-finished Chinese Eastern Railway. Expeditionary Forces were despatched by the leading Powers and the rebellion was liquidated by the Protocol of Peking (1901). This allowed the powers to retain garrisons in the region for several years.



20002 ☒

1901 Registered cover from Peking to Hong Kong readdressed to Manila franked on reverse two 'Kitai' 10k tied by Emergency Cancellation boxed Peking with manuscript date, transit Russian P.O.'s of Tien-Tsin in red, Chefoo and Shanghai plus British P.O. in Hong Kong and violet Manila arrival, primitive Peking white registration label on obverse, very fine and attractive

1'000





20003 

1900 10k Postal Stationery to Germany used in combination with short set of 'Kitai' overprints addressed to Germany by member of International Occupation Force tied by PEKING EMERGENCY CANCELLER (2nd type) used during Boxer period, day and month inserted by hand.

400

Transit Russian P.O.s PORT ARTHUR, CHEFOO and SHANGHAI, Chinese P.O.s of Chefoo and Shanghai, and British Hong-Kong.



20004 

1900 7k Letter-card uprated 3k and 7k 'Kitai' issue to pay registered rate from PEKING to France, cancelled with improvised date-stamp with date completed by hand 7 XI 1900. Primitive white registration label. Transit marks at PORT ARTHUR, Russian and Chinese P.O.s CHEFOO, and SHANGHAI, HONGKONG and French transit marks.

1'000

The Russian P.O. in Peking lost its circular date-stamp during the siege of the Legations in 1900 and Emergency Cancellers were improvised locally in two types (Peking Types 5 and 9 of Tchlinghirian and Stephen).

Latest known use of Peking Emergency Cancellor Type 9 and only known showing loss of frame.

Illustrated and described "British Journal of Russian Philately", No. 32 (1963)

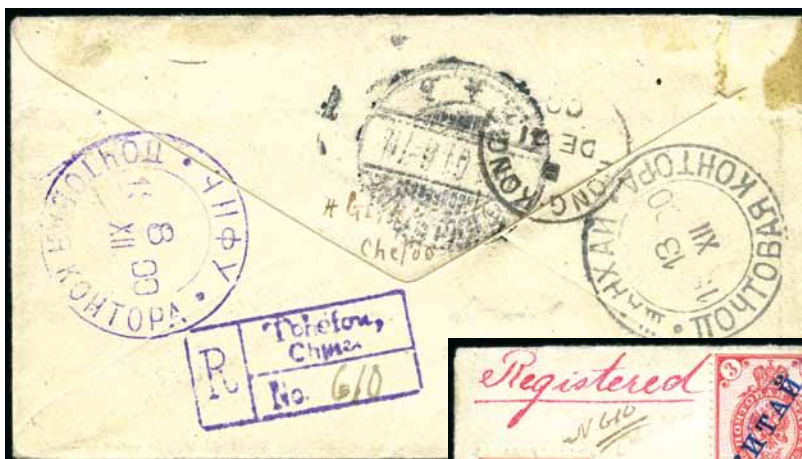




20005 ☒

1900 Russia 4k postal stationery card uprated with the 6 lower values of the 'Kitai' issue cancelled by red TIENTSIN Type 4X cds (25 X), this cancel was characterised by progressive deterioration in the year numerals in the date-stamp

200



20006 ☒

1900 Indian 1/2a Stationery envelope overprinted C.E.F. (CHINA EXPEDITIONARY FORCE) used from military BASE OFFICE B (Tientsin) to CHEFOO, China. Re-addressed and registered to Germany from Russian P.O. Chefoo. Franked 20k Russian 'Kitai' issue, cancelled Chefoo Type 2 cancel (New Style), Chefoo Type 1 cancel (Old Style) on reverse, Russian Po.O. Shanghai and British Hong-Kong transit backstamps

500

La monnaie utilisée pour cette vente est l'Euro
 The currency for this auction is the Euro
 Die Währung für diese Versteigerung ist Euro





20007



1900 Registered wrapper from Finland to PEKING via St Petersburg and Vladivostok, showing two types of PEKING EMERGENCY CANCELLER improvised during siege of the Legations. Held at Vladivostok until siege lifted; first type (Type9) struck in violet on arrival of first incoming Russian mail 18 VIII, second type (Type 5) struck in black on return to sender 11 XII 1900.

800

Illustrated "London Philatelist" No. 1151-52 (1988), p.190.

Auction Bids

The auction bidding steps are as follows:

€ 50 - 100	€ 5	€ 500 - 1000	€ 50	€ 5000 - 10000	€ 500
€ 100 - 200	€ 10	€ 1000 - 2000	€ 100	€ 10000 - 20000	€ 1000
€ 200 - 500	€ 20	€ 2000 - 5000	€ 200	€ 20000 - 50000	€ 2000
				€ 50000 - 100000	€ 5000

Bids between these steps will be adjusted accordingly to the next higher bid step. The bidder is bound by his/her offer until a higher bid has been validly accepted.





20008 

1900 August 28th Double-rate registered cover from Peking to Nikolsk-Ussuriysk (Siberia) franked vertical strip of three 7k overprinted 'KITAI' tied by 2 strikes of the PEKING Emergency Cancellation with a further strike alongside, this with a manuscript date (old style dating), this canceller (Type 9) is usually found as an arrival mark or on stampless army mail, provisional registration label alongside, cover creases not affecting adhesives, a major rarity and one of the highlights of the Wiesenthal Collection

40'000



20009



1900 7k Russian letter-card uprated 'Kitai' 1k + 2k to make foreign rate to Germany, tied by EMERGENCY CANCELLER (Type 5) used at the Russian P.O. at Peking after loss of regular canceller during the siege of the legations, date completed by hand to read PEKING/25 XII 1900 in New Style, transit cancels of Russian P.O. in Port Arthur, Chefoo, Shanghai, Hongkong and Breslau arrival, fine

1'000



20010



1901 Imperial Chinese Railway card sent by member of German contingent of Boxer Occupation Forces to Germany with message-heading translating 'Shanhaikwang 16 February...Russian Fieldpost', franked 7k tied violet No 3 Field Post Office/1/Priamur District 6 II 1901, transit cds's of Russia P.O.'s Port Arthur, Chefoo & Shanghai and Chinese P.O.'s in Chefoo and Shanghai, put on French ship (ligne N No 4) for Europe, this card confirms the location of Russian F.P.O. No 3 at Shanhaikwang, Manchuria.

600

In addition India QC 3p block of 4 overprinted C.E.F. (Chinese Expeditionary Force) supplied to British Contingent with same cancel in violet, dated 31.II 1901

Payment by Credit Card



Please contact us in advance if you wish to make payment by means of any of the following Credit Cards: **VISA, MasterCard, Eurocard** and **American Express**





20011 

1901 Viewcard written from 'Taku Fort, China, Pechili Province' to village of Ordynskoe, Tomsk Guberniya, Siberia, franked 4k cancelled No. 18 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 21 V 1901, transit Port Arthur.

1'000

The Taku Forts, controlling the Gulf of Pe-chi-li, were captured by the Allied Forces on 17 June 1900 in the most decisive engagement of the Boxer campaign, a Russian Field P.O. was opened there in October 1900.

A rarity as this is the only known commercial entire from the Russian Field P.O. in China proper, establishing the location of F.P.O. No. 18 at Taku



20012 

1901 Decorative Chinese native cover from Tientsin to Germany by a member of the Railway reconstruction Company of the Boxer Occupation troops, franked 3k 'Kitai' issue cancelled Tientsin Type 4x 1 Jun 1901 cds, Limbach arrival cds, opened out for display

500



20013

1903 Russia 3k postal stationery card uprated 1k written from KASHGAR (Sin-Kiang) China 5 III 03 to British Military Contingent in Tien-Tsin. Since there was no P.O in Kashgar it was taken by courier through the Naryn Pass of the Pamir Mountains to the Russian border town of OSH for re-entry into China via the Transcaspien and Trans-Siberian rail systems, received British F.P.O. No. 4 (Tien-Tsin) 12 May 03 via German PO in Tien-Tsin, boxed receipt mark Intelligence Branch / 12 May 1903 / China Force alongside.

1'000

Although the Boxer Rebellion was liquidated by the Protocol of Peking, September 1901, the leading powers remained in occupation of Tien-Tsin until 1903.



20014

1902 Chinese picture-postcard datelined "SHAN-HAI-KWAN/21-11-02" sent by Lieutenant with German Boxed contingent to fellow officer in Germany, franked Russian 2k pair tied by SHANHAIKWAN/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 10 XI 1902 cds.

600

Although the Boxer Rebellion was liquidated by the Protocol of Peking in September 1901 the leading powers occupied the area of conflict until 1903.

Please Ensure your Bids Arrive in Time!

In the case of equal bids, the first bid received will take precedence.





20015 ☒

1903 Pair of registered covers to Peterhead Scotland posted by a member of the 30th Punjab Regiment of British Boxer Contingent at Russian FIELD POST-TELEGRAPHIC OFFICE SHANHAIKWANG on border of Manchuria and China proper, both by way of Chinese eastern Railway Line 262 (HARBIN-MANCHULI)

2'000



20016 ☒

1903 Peking viewcard to Paris franked 'Kitai' 1 k pair and 2k tied by Russian P.O. PEKING 17 IX 1903 cds's. Alongside large double-circle cds in red in French: BRIGADE d'OCCUPATION EN CHINE/PLACE...PEKING/LE COMMANDANT 27 IX..(14 IX Old Style) Transit Chinese Eastern Railway POSTAL WAGON No.262 (HARBIN-MANCHULI) / 3 / 21 IX 1903. Paris arrival 21 10 03.

200

After the Peking Protocol (September 1901) had liquidated the Boxer Rebellion, some of the western powers retained small contingents to ensure its terms were kept.



Via Siberia



Miss Constance



Church St
Leighton Buzzard

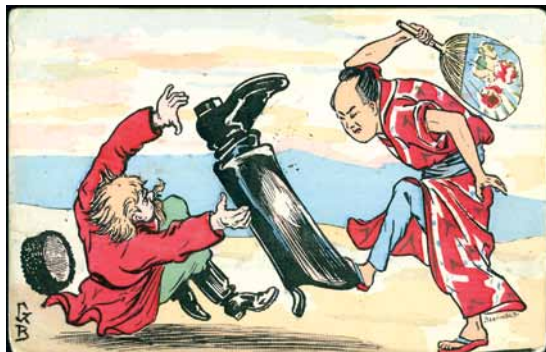
England. Bedford

Russian Occupation of Manchuria





Russian Occupation of Manchuria

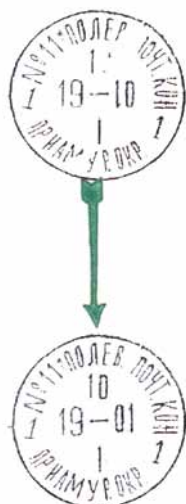


20017 ☒

A pair of contemporary cards produced in Paris caricaturing Japan's reaction to the Russian incursion into Manchuria, seen as a Russian boot, and the threat to Japanese interests in neighbouring Korea, represented by a postage stamp.

50

It was these events that precipitated the Russo-Japanese war of 1904-05.



20018 ▲ ☒

1901 Russia 4k + 4k Reply-paid card sent by Senior Medical Officer with 3rd EAST SIBERIAN REGIMENT to Leipzig, dateline "Mugden (sic) 22 January 1901", cancelled by No. 11 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT cds in bright red (2 strikes), last 2 digits of year inverted, earliest known use of standard cancellers issued to Russian F.P.O.'s in Manchuria. Also included Russia 7k tied on piece of sealing envelope flap tied by circular FIELD POST TELEGRAPH OFFICE/MUKDEN(SKAYA)/No. 11 with space for completion of date by hand, struck in bright red. Only known example of provisional canceller brought into use when Russian offices opened in Mukden in November 1900.

1'000

These two items show that contrary to what has been published, Mukden was provided with a canceller from the start of the Russian Occupation and that that of the Unified Post and Telegraphs services was the first to appear, not the last.

Additional images of items from larger lots may be available at www.davidfeldman.com

Lots marked "www" are illustrated **only on our website**





20019 ☒

1901-03 Two German 5 pfg 'China' cards cancelled in violet and black respectively at Russia No. 3 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT, the first to a German officer at Tsingtau 4 II1901, sent through Russian P.O.'s at Port Arthur and Chefoo, other to Germany date-line SHANHAIKWAN, used in combination with Russia 4k carried on Chinese Eastern POSTAL WAGON no. 266 (HARBIN-MANCHULI).

600

This FPO was located at Shanhaikwan, which held a strong German contingent during the Boxer disturbances

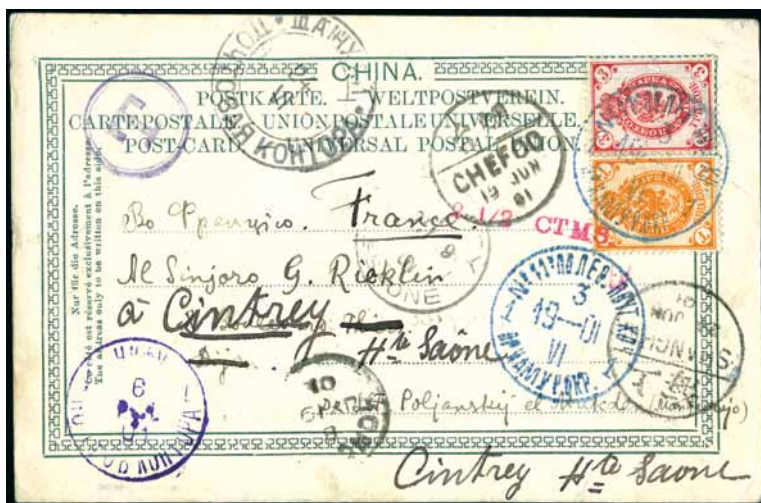


20020 ☒

1901-03 Postal stationery cards embossed with Chinese Dragons and Russian Imperial Arms, symbolising postal liaison between the two powers, one used from Port Arthur to Germany franked Russia 5k on reverse cancelled Type 2c dated 29 5 01, the other mailed from Yinkow (NEWCHANG) 5 12 03 at the Chinese P.O. and franked with 4c CIP and two Russia 2k, latter cancelled YINKOU/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH, PRIAMUR DISTRICT.

800

The Yinkow card is illustrated in "Russia Used Abroad", Pt. 5 (1959), p. 459. fig. 653.



20021



1901 Tientsin viewcard used from Mukden franked Russia 1k + 3k cancelled No 11 FIELD POST OFFICE +/- PRIAMUR DISTRICT 3 VI 1901 cds in blue, transit Russian P.O. in Chefoo where encircled 'T' applied, both in violet, onto Shanghai, Hong Kong and to France where redirected internally.

600

The card was treated as underpaid because at this date cards with messages were charged letter rate. This rule was commonly ignored.

Another example of No. 11 FPO (Mukden) has been reported (Casey, 2004, BJRP no. 91, p.49) in red.



20022



1901 Chinese postal stationery card uprated CIP 1c + 2c + 4c tied by YINGKOW/1 FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 10 VII 1901 ds, sent to Finland by German national and handed to Russian military office, transit Harbin (unrecorded type), St Petersburg and Helsinki arrival, Russian YINGKOW doplatit oval applied alongside of a previously unrecorded type.

1'000





20023



1901 Incoming registered cover from the Russian monastic community at MOUNT ATHOS (Greece, near Salonica, and site of a Russian P.O. in the Turkish Empire) franked Russian Levant 10k pair tied by R.O.P.I.T. Athos cds, sent to Harbin, Manchuria (two strikes of cancel 11 and 24 June), redirected to NINGUTA and showing the only known strike of the datestamp reading "NINGUTA/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT" dated 14 and 15 August, one showing error '1900' for '1901', note on front stating the addressee, a member of the 18th East (Siberian) Rifle Regiment at Ninguta had been discharged and the letter returned to Mount Athos, transit Odessa cds's in both directions, remarkable cover

1'000



20024



1901 Registered decorative card to Madgeburg, Germany franked Russia 4k + 10k tied by No. 17 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 13 XII 1901, matching registration label alongside, transit marks of Harbin (Type 1) and Moscow.

1'000

Earliest known cancellation of No. 17 Field Post Office (Dalny) and first registered item to be recorded.





20025



1902 Decorative card registered to Finland with dateline "SIN-MIN-TIN" South Manchuria 30 1 1902 franked 1k (2), 2 other stamps removed, cancelled No. 22/1/FIELD POST OFFICE 4 II 1902 cds's in blue, registration label with same inscription as canceller alongside, transit marks of Moscow/Nikolaevsk Railway Station and St Petersburg.

800

A temporary Field Post Office was opened in Sin-Min-Tin , SW of Mukden, from August 1901 to September 1902, hitherto doubtfully designated No. 22. This card is the first recorded item of mail from Sim-Min-Tin and confirms the allocation of No. 22 to this office.



20026



1889-92 Pair of 14k cancelled TALIENWAN/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 5 III 1902 cds, only known example of this cancellation, introduced late in 1901 when the Russians had transferred the name TALIENWAN (Russian Talienvan) from Dalny to the village of LYU-SHU-TUN, 11km the north-east, on the opposite side of Taliens Bay.

500



20027



1902 Baikal viewcard to St Petersburg franked 3k cancelled No. 7 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 3 IV 1902.

500

No.7 FPO was located at the time at MUDANGTSIANG, near KIRIN, capital of the Manchurian province of that name.





20028 ☒

1902 Picture-postcard to Tyumen Siberia franked 4k tied by KVANCHANDZY FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 14 IV 1902, transit POSTAL WAGON no.82 (Chelybinsk-Vyatka) 2 V 1902, received TYUMEN next day.

600

“KVANCHANDZY” was early Russian name for important station on Line 265/266 of Chinese Eastern Railway south of Harbin, later called Kwangchentze, better known as Changchun. A Field Post Office and Field Telegraph Branch were opened there in November 1900. This card shows the earliest recorded date for the FTB.



20029 ☒

1902 Japanese card addressed from Tiehling, Manchuria, to Moscow franked Russia 1k + 2k tied by No. 10 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 11 6 1902, transit mark applied the same day: TELIN/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH/PRIAMUR DISTRICT. Only known entire bearing this cancellation confirming the location of No. 10 FPO in Tiehling.

700

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20030 ☒

1902 Registered red-band cover addressed in Chinese and Russian to Colonel Madritov at Port Arthur franked 4k + 10k tied by MUKDEN/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 25 IX 1902 with Mukden registration label alongside, all on reverse, Port Arthur arrival on obverse.

1'000

Lt.Col.A.S. Madritov, a member of the Russian general staff, was involved in the Yalu River Timber Concession, one of the causes of the Russo-Japanese war. Gen. Kuropatkin ordered him to sever his links with the timber company or resign his commission. Madritov mapped the area of Manchuria along the Korean border and in May 1904 led a raid across the Yalu to attack the Japanese in Korea. As a detachment commander, he later played an active part in the battles of Lioyang, Sha-Ho and Mukden



20031 ☒ ☒

1902 Registered postcard to Germany franked 4k + 10k tied by No. 17 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 26 X 1902 with DALNII registration label, Port Arthur and Moscow transit marks and Dresden arrival all alongside.

800

In addition 1k block of 4 with the same cancel dated 8 XI 1902.

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20032 

1903 Registered cover to Germany from Tientsin, China, initially franked Chinese 'dragon' stamps, re-registered at Russian P.O. YINGKOW where 2 blocks of 4 5k 'Kitai' applied front and back, front block tied by No.13 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 20 II 1903 cds, reverse block uncanceled but tied by wax seal, Yingkow registration label and Tientsin registration handstamp also on reverse along with BRANCH POSTAL WAGON No. 3 (4) 12 III 1903 and manuscript "Received from P.W. 30 with split envelope, repaired and sealed. examining clerk Laizhovski", envelope slightly reduced at top left. Full of character.

1'000



20033 

1903 Long registered cover from U.S. Consulate in DALNY to San Francisco franked on reverse 7k strip of 3 tied by DALNY FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 1 cds's, transferred next day to No. 17 FIELD POST OFFICE (DALNY); thence by three Trans-Siberian Railway Postal wagons (Lines 260, 242, 198), received Moscow 12 V 03, DEUTSCHE-AMERIKA SEEPOST HAMBURG-NEW YORK 28 6 03, San Francisco 11 June 1903.

1'200

The long route across Siberia , Europe and the Atlantic, rather than the normal Pacific Ocean routing by way of Japan, may reflect the mounting tension between Russia and Japan prior to he Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05.

Cover described "Rossica Journal" No. 68 (1965), pp.20-24, as first recorded example of the Dalny Field Telegraph canceller.



20034 ☒

1903 Registered opened-out red-band cover to Novorossiisk, Russia, franked on reverse two 7k tied by HAILAR/2/FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE TRANSBAIKAL PROVINCE 24 III 1903 cds's. Placed 3 days on Chinese Eastern Railway POSTAL WAGON no. 262 (HARBIN-MANCHULI), thence by Trans-Siberian POSTAL WAGONS No. 260 (MANCHULI-CHITA), No.242 (CHITA-IRKUTSK) and No. 198 (IRKUTSK-KRASNOYARSK).

1'000

Although Hailar is situated in western Manchuria its Field Post Office was evidently run from the adjoining Siberian province of Transbaikal.



20035 ☒

1903 Registered cover from the Austro-Hungarian Legation in PEKING to Copenhagen, franked initially with China Imperial Post 30c tied by oval bilingual Peking ds, sent via Chinese P.O.'s in TIENTSIN and NEWCHANG (YINGKOW) to Russian P.O., re-registered and re-franked with Russian 'Kitai' 5k (6) tied by No. 13 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 16 V 03, on reverse registration label: YINGOU FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE, cover signed Mikulski.

800

The sedentary Russian F.P.O.'s in Manchuria were at this time open for civilian mail.





20036



1903 Quadruple-rate cover to England endorsed "via Siberia" in English and Russian (blue handstamp) with additional blue directional mark in Russian "Germany", franked initially 4 China 10c "dragon" stamps, tied by bilingual Chinese TIENTSIN 31 May 1903 and sealed on reverse with 3 wax seals of Tientsin bank, passed to Chinese P.O. NEWCHANG next day (backstamp), thence to Russian Field Post Office at YINGKOW (=NEWCHANG) where vertical strip of 4 10k 'Kitai' stamps applied and tied by No.13 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 20 V 1903 (Old Style = 2 June 1903 New Style), Surbiton arrival backstamp.

800



20037



1903 Cover to France endorsed in Russian "Via Siberia/France" franked 10k 'Kitai' tied by SHANHAIKWAN/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT cds, backstamped transit mark of Trans-Siberian T.P.O. POSTAL WAGON No. 260 (MANCHULI-CHITA) and Toulon arrival.

800

'Kitai' stamps were intended for use in China proper and were not sold in the Manchurian offices, though accepted for postage when offered.



20038



1903 Postcard addressed from TIENTSIN 10 July 1903 to England franked 4c Chinese 'Dragon' stamp cancelled next day by local bilingual cds, received Chinese P.O. NEWCHANG 15 July 03 and passed to Russian P.O. where two Russian 2k 'Kitai' stamps applied and tied by No. 13 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 3 VII 1903, Russian words for "Via Siberia" and "England" struck in blue, redirected on arrival

600



20039



1903 Chinese 1c postal stationery card uprated China 'Dragons' 1c + 2c + 10c tied by Chinese bilingual Tientsin cds's sent registered to Austria and endorsed 'via Siberia', received at YINGKOW(NEWCHANG) and passed to the Russian Field Post Telegraph Office where it was re-registered and franked Russia 'Kitai' 2k pair and 10k tied by 'No. 13 FIELD POST OFFICE PRIAMUR DISTRICT', Yingkow registration label and boxed registration cachet alongside, Innsbruck arrival

800





20040 

1903 Chinese 1c postal stationery card uprated Chinese 'Dragon' 1c + 5c tied by tombstone chop, message (in French) "to be sent by the post-boy from An-yin", oval bilingual transit of PAOTING datestamp alongside, arrived at Chinese P.O. NEWCHANG (YINGKOW) 11 AUG 1903, passed to Russian P.O. for transmission to Belgium, franked 'Kitai' two 2k tied by YINGKOW/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH/PRIAMUR DISTRICT/30 July 1903.

1'000

Since China was not a member of the UPU its stamps were not valid for usage to foreign destinations hence the card being handed over to the Russian F.P.O. at Yingkow which handled civilian mail.

The apparent discrepancy in dates on postmarks is due to the fact that China had adopted the western Gregorian calendar, while Russia continued to use the old style Julian calendar, 13 days in arrear.



20041 

1903 Two Picture postcards, one addressed to a German warship at Chefoo, China, franked 1k 'Kitai' pair, the other to Germany franked 2k 'Kitai', both cancelled No. 17 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT showing damaged canceller characteristic of late usage, latter with Chinese Eastern Railway POSTAL WAGON No. 262 (6).

900

'Kitai' stamps were not sold in the Manchurian offices but were accepted when supplied by the customer.



20042 ☒

1903 Registered cover to Rome franked China 10c + 20c (faulty) tied by TIENTSIN cds forwarded to the Russian P.O. where vertical strip of 3 Russian 'Kitai' applied and tied by YINGKOW/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 30 IX 1903 cds's, transit marks of NEWCHANG 13 10 03 and Chinese Eastern Railway POSTAL WAGON No. 261 (4) 2 X 1903, Rome arrival, Yinkow registration label and Tientsin registration cachets in association

750



20043 ☒

1903 Triple-weight cover to France franked 5k (2) + 7k (3) from No.17 FIELD POST OFFICE (DALNY) 10 X 1903, intended for registration but domestic rate only applied (31k) instead of foreign rate (40k), oval tax mark applied reading : TO PAY/No. 17th FIELD POST OFFICE REGION ATTACHED TO THE AMUR, later the manuscript 'registered' and tax mark were crossed out and letter was sent by ordinary mail, on reverse wax nobility seal, Chinese Eastern Railway POSTAL WAGON No. 262 (7) (HARBIN-MANCHULI) 13 X 1903 and Paris arrival.

900





20044



1903 Cover from bank in NEWCHANG to France franked two blocks of 10 2k tied by No. 13 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 11 X 1903 cds's, on reverse transit POSTAL WAGON No. 265 (2) cds, Lyon arrival, some creasing, spectacular franking

900



20045



1903 Cover to Germany franked 'Kitai' 2k strip of 4 + single tied by DALNYI/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 11 XI 1903 cds's with arrival backstamp.

850



20046



1903 Viewcard from IRKUTSK (Siberia) to Monsieur Guerin at CHEFOO, China. Russian postal clerk misread French and misdirected item to GIRIN (Russian spelling of KIRIN, Manchuria), the card thus receiving the rare arrival mark GIRIN/2/ARMY CORPS POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE 30 XI 1903 circular datestamp, readdressed to Chefoo in cyrillic arriving 4 Jan 1904.

750

The viewcard depicts the main street of Kirin.



20047



1903 Registered cover to St Petersburg franked on reverse 1k, 2k (4) and 5k to make up the 14k rate tied by HARBIN Type 2F of former civilian P.O. converted to a Field Post Office, dated 23 XII 1903, St Petersburg arrival 7 I 1904 alongside, registration label HARBIN/FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE applied on obverse, showing dual status of office, serving both military and civilian needs, patch of paper adhesion caused by glue on front

700





20048 ☒

1903 Registered cover addressed in Czech and Russian "To Austria and Bohemia town Litomysl" now in Czech Republic, sent by bandmaster of 1st CHITA REGIMENT OF TRANSBAIKAL MILITARY COSSACKS from FEN-HWANG-CHEN, South Manchuria, franked on reverse 10k vertical pair tied by poor strikes of Russian P.O. with better strikes on front reading: FYNHUANCHEN/1/FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH BRANCH 15 X (year omitted). 'Z' registration label with abbreviated inscription agreeing with cancellation. Transit marks of Trans-Siberian TPO's: POSTAL WAGON No. 260 (3) (MANCHULI-CHITA) 24 X 1903; PW No. 242 (CHITA-IRKUTSK) 25 X 1903; PW No. 198 (IRKUTSK-KRASNOYARSK) 27 X .received Moscow 6 XI. Litomysl arrival 22 Nov 03.

750

Only known item of mail from the Russian P.O. in Fen-Hwang-Chen.

20049 ☒

www 1903 Viewcard depicting German troops at Tsingtau dated 22 8 03 (New Style) sent to Germany franked 4k, cancelled SHANHAIKWANG/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 12 (VIII) 1903 (=25 8 03 New Style). Guben arrival 23 9 03.

50



20050 ☒

1904 Decorative card with embossed Eagle and Dragon to Moscow franked 1k + 2k cancelled LYAOYANG FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH/PRIAMUR DISTRICT with No. 16 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT cds alongside, further strike added on 4 1 1904 when handed over to Chinese Eastern Railway Postal Wagon No. 266 for conveyance to Harbin, received Moscow 19 1 1904.

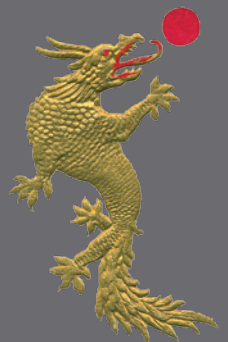
900

Only known item of mail from Lyaoyang Field Telegraph office and from No. 16 Field Post Office, now established as located at Lyaoyang.

Dear Mr. Flood. I have sent your photos off today 14th Jan. P
whether you receive them alright
they are 15 in number.
H. H. Flood.



The Russo- Japanese War





Russo-Japanese War (I)



20051



www

1904 The Russian Perspective: Group of five postcards incl. Russian comic card used postally from Yuzovka to London 14 VI 1904. Egged on by Britain a belligerent Japan threatens a nonchalant Russia, while Uncle Sam looks on. Further satirical pc produced by the Russian Fellowship in Moscow showing invading Japanese forces in the pay of Uncle Sam, card with light staining. Also ppc of Admiral Alexeieff postally used in England, ppc of the Russian Second Pacific Squadron in the Suez Canal and a ppc of Rear-Admiral Baron Dmitri von Felkerzam (commander of the "Suez" division)

260



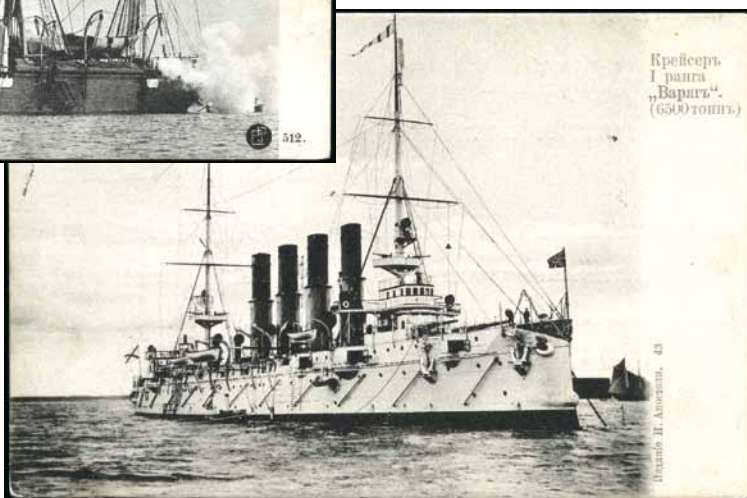
20052



www

1904 Group of 3 satirical postcards. The Russo-Japanese War was fought against the Japanese in China's eastern provinces (Manchuria) The Russian population was ignorant about their largest neighbour, the Chinese being depicted as pantomime figures of villainy or comedy. Two cards depict this, the 3rd was printed in the Netherlands depicting an imaginary orchestra of wind instruments from the forces of General Baron Oku, Commander in Chief of the Japanese Second Army, a general perception that Japan's military ambitions were hot air.

150



20053

1904 Russian Navy: Two picture postcards, one of Cruiser VARYAG used from St Petersburg to Belgium franked 2k used in June 1904 and the other of Gunboat KOREETS addressed to France but without stamps or postal markings.

300

Both ships were destroyed by superior Japanese forces at Chemulpo, Korea, in the first naval engagement of the war (8-9 February 1904).



20054

1904 Postcard from New York written by an American supporter of General Kuropatkin, Commander-in-Chief of the Russian armies in Manchuria on Christmas eve sending him seasonal greetings and urging him to “Keep up the good work” and commenting on “the snuff powder you are going to make out of the Japs”. arrival mark: HEADQUARTERS/ FIELD POST OFFICE ‘d’ 24 1 05, then based at Mukden.

150

The message reflects the opinion widely held in the West that the defeat of Japan was a foregone conclusion. Ironically, while this card was in transit the Russians suffered a crushing blow in the capitulation of the strategic naval stronghold of Port Arthur. This was a turning point in the war, which ended victoriously for Japan.

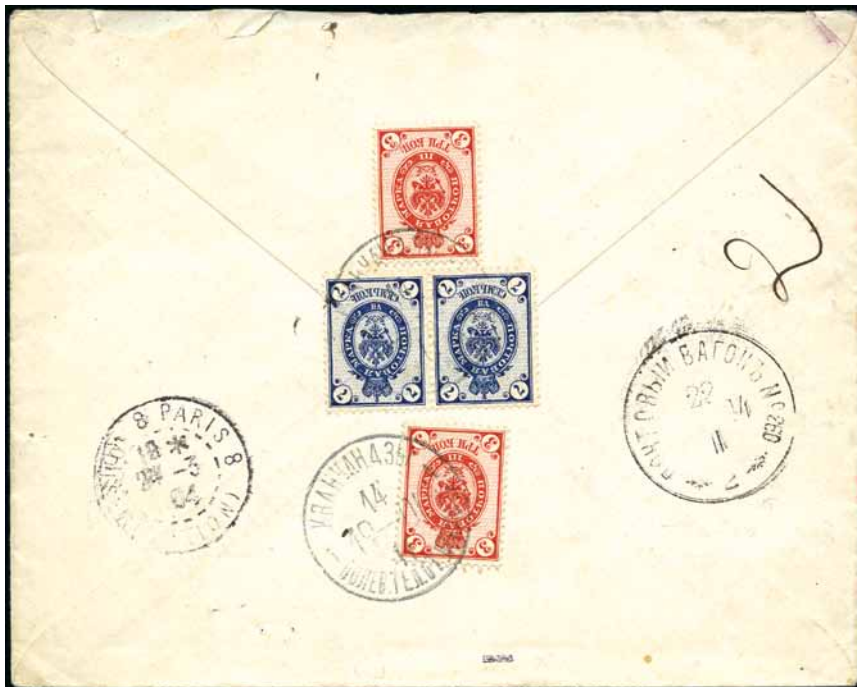


20055 Δ

1904 Three receipts for telegrams to MUKDEN, Manchuria, from PEKING FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH with cancellations in green.

200

The existence of the Peking FTB is mentioned in the Russian official history of the Russo-Japanese War, although its cancellations had not been recorded hitherto.

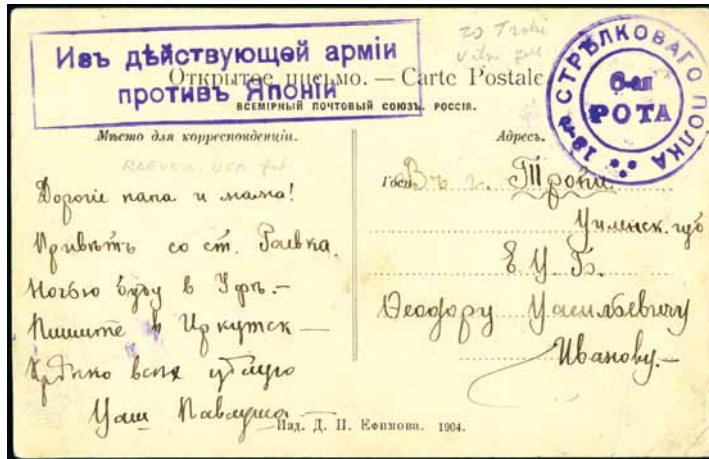


20056 ☒

1904 Registered cover from KWANGCHENTZE, Manchuria to France franked 7k pair and two 3k on reverse tied KVANCHANDZY/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 14 II 1901 (error for 1904), matching registration label on obverse, transferred 22 II 04 to POSTAL WAGON No. 260 (2) (MANCHULI-CHITA) for conveyance by Trans-Siberian Railway, Paris arrival backstamp (24.3.04)

1'000





20057

1904 Postcard sent from a recruit stationed at Raevka, Ufa Guberniya sending greetings to his parents at Troki, Vilna Guberniya handstamped free-frank violet circular cachet: 6th Company of the 18th Rifle regiment, further handstamped alongside violet boxed cachet: FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY/AGAINST JAPAN, no postal markings.

100

Also postcard entitled 'Our first submarine'. At the outbreak of the war Russia had no submarines or personnel with experience of them. A small vessel named Forel (depicted on the card), said to be of German design, was sent from Europe overland by rail to Vladivostok in October 1904. Submarine construction commenced and more boats were delivered in sections for reassembly at Vladivostok during the following winter. Attempts to form an effective Russian submarine flotilla were unsuccessful.



20058

1904 Registered cover to Rome via Italian Embassy in St Petersburg, redirected to ship "Bon" franked 14k on reverse cancelled in blue No. 16 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT. Blue circular cachet with Imperial Eagle translating: CHANCELLERY OF FIELD HEADQUARTERS OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMY. Registration label reads: LYAOYAN'/FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE. Light central vertical fold.

500

This cover confirms the location of No. 16 FPO at Lyaoyang.



20059

1904 Embossed decorative card featuring Chinese dragon and Imperial Russian Eagle, produced by a firm in Port Arthur, addressed 4 October 1904 (New Style) to Agram, Austria (=Zagreb, capital of Croatia) franked 4k cancelled MUKDEN 'b' same day (=21 9 04 Old Style). red circular cachet DISTRICT GHQ OF THE MILITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARMY IN MANCHURIA. Zagreb arrival 2 Nov 04. Also viewcard showing General Sobolev inspecting the advanced position at the front near the village of Sakhe-pu (south of Mukden), posted at Tomsk, Siberia 4 5 06.

300

General Sobolev had command of the 6th Siberian Corps. After the Russian defeat at the Battle of Liaoyang (Aug/Sept 1904) this Corps formed the advanced portion of the new Second Army, which was to mount a counter-offensive.



20060

1904 Embossed decorative card featuring Chinese dragon and Imperial Russian Eagle, produced by firm in Port Arthur, addressed 4th October 1904 (New Style) to Agram.

300

Austria cancelled Mukden 'b' same day. red circular cachet alongside: DISTRICT GHQ OF THE MILITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARMY IN MANCHURIA. Zagreb arrival 2 Nov 04.





20061 ☒

1904 Viewcard of Omsk endorsed "From the Active Army" and addressed to Saratov, by medical officer evidently on duty with military train, dated "24/IX 904/5 o'clock in the evening/Station Tatarskaya/Great Siberian Railway", postmarked same day STATION TATARSKAYA/SIBERIAN RAILWAY 24 IX 1904. Violet free-frank circular cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: SENIOR DOCTOR DIVISIONAL TRANSPORT 61st INFANTRY DIVISION. Saratov arrival 30 9 04.

200

The St. Tatarskaya cds is an unrecorded type with fleurons at sides instead of numeral '1'.



20062 ☒

1904 Viewcard of Trans-Baikal Railway to Saratov, dateline "22/IX Station Vargashi", postmarked next day STATION VARGASHI/SIBERIAN RAILWAY 23 IX 1904. Violet circular free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 61st INFANTRY DIVISION. Saratov arrival 27 9 04.

150

Cards with free-frank cachets already applied were issued to officers travelling on the Trans-Siberian Railway.





20063 

1904 4k Stationery card to Berlin written 8 III 1904 by officer on cruiser "ASKOLD" at PORT ARTHUR, cancelled 2 days later, Moscow transit.

500

The day this card was written enemy ships appeared off Port Arthur and began bombarding the port the next morning. In response the "Askold" (with Admiral Makarov on board) and other ships of the squadron put to sea, returning the same afternoon. The "Askold" (with Admiral Reitzenstein on board) was badly damaged in the Battle of the Yellow Sea. She escaped to the neutral port of Shanghai, where she was disarmed and the crew interned on 25 August 1904

Also included are 2 postcards: Memorial card for Vice-Admiral S.O.Makarov, the 'Little Grandfather of the Fleet' + Japanese artist's impression of Makarov's death



20064 

1904 Cover to St Petersburg franked on reverse 5k (4) + 1k to pay double-weight registered rate tied by HEADQUARTERS/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 26 3 04, Mukden registration label on obverse, cover endorsed "From (Colonel) A. Miller Mukden Field Headquarters of the Viceroy)"

600

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20065 

1904 Cover to the Swiss Consulate in St Petersburg with datestamp and circular free-frank cachet, both stuck in blue-green : LYAOYANG/HEADQUARTERS FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 10 4 04 and OFFICE OF FIELD GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMY. The Russian GHQ moved from Lyaoyang in August 1904 when it fell to Japan.

400



20066 

1904 Registered cover from crew-member of battleship "RETVIZAN" franked pair of 7k tied by PORT ARTHUR 21 IV 1904 cds, received Rostov-on-Don 13 V 1904 representing one of the last letters dispatched from Port Arthur while in Russian hands, the mail trains were halted by Japanese landings north of the port the following day (5 V 1904) and the line was severed a few days later.

500

The 'Retvizan', though severely damaged, survived the Battle of the Yellow Sea (August 1904) but was sunk in the harbour at Port Arthur by Japanese land batteries on 6 Dec. Servicemen's ordinary mail to Russia bearing a unit cachet was sent post-free.

Registered and insured mail and mail to foreign countries was charged the standard rates.



20067 

1904 Two registered covers from HARBIN, Manchuria to NIZHNE-NOVGOROD (one redirected to Kazan) dated 14 4 04 and 22 6 04 respectively, both franked 21k in Arms issue, cancelled HARBIN Type 7D, reading: HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'G', different Registration labels reading respectively: HARBIN FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE and HARBIN HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE.

1'000





20068 

1904 3k Stationery card to Maiorengof written from LIEN-SHAN-KUAN by an officer serving with the 1st ARGUN COSSACK REGIMENT, endorsed FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY, cancelled in blue No. 18 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 28 IV 04, fair strike only

300



20069 

1904 Triple-rate registered cover to Swiss Consulate in St Petersburg franked on reverse 3k, 5k + 20k Arms (28k = 3 X 7 + 7k registration), cancelled LYAOYANG/HEADQUARTERS FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 29 4 04, circular cachet in blue-green alongside: OFFICE OF FIELD GENERAL HEADQUARTERS OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMY around Imperial Eagle, violet arrival backstamp.

1'000

Russian GHQ was situated at Liaoyang until August 1904 when it fell to the Japanese.



20070

1904 Postcard from an autograph collector in England addressed to "Cavalry Captain Count Stenbrook, Aide-de-Camp to General Kuropatkin, Russian Forces, Mukden, Manchuria", readdressed in Russian to Lyaoyang, returned autographed, franked 7k cancelled in blue LYAOYANG FIELD POST OFFICE, 'b' 5 5 04, circular violet cachet with Imperial Eagle inscribed: OFFICE OF GENERAL FIELD H:Q: MANCHURIAN ARMY.

400



20071

1904 Registered cover to St Petersburg franked on reverse 7k pair cancelled HEADQUARTERS/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 5 5 04, registration label alongside FIELD POST OFFICE ATTACHED TO HEADQUARTERS, endorsed "From Colonel Miller Mukden Field Headquarters of the Viceroy".

600

This cover establishes Mukden as the location of Headquarters Field Post Office and Headquarters Field Telegraph Branch, where the Russian Viceroy in the Far East, Admiral Alexeiev had set up his HQ in a disused train.

La monnaie utilisée pour cette vente est l'Euro
 The currency for this auction is the Euro
 Die Währung für diese Versteigerung ist Euro





20072 

1904 Peking viewcard endorsed "From the Active Army" and written from HAI-CHENG to Finland with Abo arrival mark, violet circular free-frank cachet: 5th COMPANY No. 1/POST OFFICE 'g' 14 5 04 (date inverted).

200

About 65km south of Lyaoyang, HAI-CHENG was the railway town where Lt. Gen. Baron Stackleburg, Commander of the 1st Siberian Army Corps had set up his HQ in a train. It was abandoned by the Russians in July, and in August became the HQ of the Japanese Field Marshall Oyama Iwao.



20073 

1904 Cover to Nizhni-Novgorod franked on reverse 7k tied by POSTAL WAGON No. 262 of Chinese Eastern Railway (HARBIN-MANCHULI), handstamped alongside ADMINISTRATION OF HEAD REPRESENTATIVE OF RED CROSS WITH THE ARMY IN THE FIELD red cachet. Cover roughly opened at right.

300

Additional images of items from larger lots may be available at www.davidfeldman.com



20074

1904 Registered cover to France franked two 10k tied by HEADQUARTERS/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 'a' 19 5 04 with registration label alongside: FIELD POST OFFICE ATTACHED TO HEADQUARERS, handstruck encircled 'R' denoting registered mail to foreign country, on reverse circular violet cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: FIELD STAFF (HQ) OF THE VICEROY IN THE FAR EAST and alongside large boxed cachet in violet: PERMITTED/COLONEL...with number and signature of Col. Pestich, Chief Censor at Viceroy's Headquarters, then located at Mukden, blue crayon '2' indicating contents of 2 sheets, arrival backstamp, one 10k with slight tonespot

600



20075

1904 Dispatch card for parcel valued at 5 roubles sent to Minsk Guberniya, charges paid 20k vertical strip of 4 and single 10k, 1889-92 issue, tied by LYAOYANG FIELD POST OFFICE 'd' 20 5 04 cds's, received DOKSHINY 16 VI 1904, receipt signed by postmaster on behalf of illiterate addressee.

750

Lyaoyang fell to the Japanese on 23 Aug/5 Sept 1904 after a 12-day battle.





20076 

1904 Chinese red-band cover to England from an English war Correspondent with the Russian Army in Manchuria franked on reverse two 3k and one 14k to pay the registered rate tied by HEADQUARTERS FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 22 5 04, rectangular censorship cachet: PERMITTED/COLONEL...with number and signature and official seal of FIELD STAFF OF VICEROY IN THE FAR EAST both in violet alongside, registration label on obverse: FIELD POST OFFICE ATTACHED TO HEADQUARTERS.

900

Censorship of despatches from foreign war correspondents was under the orders of the Viceroy.

In May 1904 Russian G.H.Q. was situated at Lyaoyang. The Viceroy's Field H.Q. was then at Mukden.



20077 

1904 Red-band cover to St Petersburg Guberniya endorsed "From the Theatre of Military Activity" sent by a senior Doctor with 5th Medical Transport, Harbin, black free-frank cachet reading 5th MILITARY-MEDICAL TRANSPORT, HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE (HARBIN) 'b' 30 5 04 cds alongside and SIVERSKAYA 12 6 04 arrival backstamp.

300

Additional postcard included depicting the Head FPO of the Manchurian Armies at Harbin.

Payment by Credit Card



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20078

1904 Chinese 1c postal stationery card uprated with Russian 3k cancelled LYAOYANG FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 28 6 04 (fig. '6' inverted), written from Mukden to St Petersburg with arrival cds 19 7 04.

500

Lyaoyang was captured by the Japanese 23 August/5 September 1904 and the Russian P.O. transferred to Mukden.



20079

1904 Decorative card "From the Manchurian Army" to Dvinsk, written from bivouac at village of MAKHUNDZTSIDZY, near KAIPING, on Line 265/266, 11 June 1904, posted on POSTAL WAGON No. 266 (train '2') next day. Wax seal of 8th COMPANY 1st EAST SIBERIAN RIFLE REGIMENT applied top right hand corner on reverse.

400

The 1st E. Siberian Rifle Regiment was part of a force which attempted to relieve beleaguered Port Arthur by engaging the Japanese at Telisze, on Line 265/266. Defeated, the Russians fell back on Kaiping on 17 June. They remained there until driven out on 9 July 1904, the southern Terminus of Line 265/266 then moving northwards from Kaiping to Tashihchiao.

This usage of a wax seal is unusual and probably means that the unit handstamp had been lost during the campaign.





20080 

1904 Viewcard of Port Arthur franked 1k and 3k tied by LYAOYANG FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 3 6 04 cds with violet cachet: OFFICE OF GENERAL FIELD HEADQUARTERS OF MANCHURIAN ARMY alongside, fine.

400



20081 

1904 Postcard with military motif depicting GENERAL A.N.KUROPATKIN, Command-in-Chief of the Russian Armies in Manchuria, postally used from Odessa 19 VI 04 to Trieste, Austria.

100



20082 

1904 3k Postal stationery card uprated 1k to make up foreign rate to Germany, dateline "SHANHAIKWAN 5 7 04", cancelled two days later at YINGKOW No 13 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 24 VI 1904, dispatch mark of YINGKOW FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH added the next day, Munster arrival 2 8 04.

400

Yingkow, the port for Newchang, on the Gulf of Lyaotung, was captured by the Japanese on 25 July and Newchang became the base for their Second Army



20083



1904 Red-band cover to Samara, redirected to St Petersburg, handstamped violet free-frank cachet of mobile medical unit under royal auspices, abbreviated description translating in full: FLYING DETACHMENT OF STATE EMPRESS MARIE FEODOROVNA, postmarked DA(LNY) KWANTUNG (OBLAST)/1/ RAILWAY POSTAL BRANCH 28 VI 1904.

500

Dalny was evacuated in May 1904 ahead of the Japanese advance. Its railway office is known to have continued operating with its old canceller at the new location of KUNGCHULING, N. of Tiehling, on Line 265/266 of the Chinese Eastern Railway.



20084



1904 Postcard of Irkutsk (Siberia) endorsed "From the Active Army", addressed to Estonia with violet cds: STATION POLOVINA/SIBERIAN RAILWAY 30 6 04, violet 4-line free-frank handstamp: 1st COMPANY OF SIXTIETH BRANCH OF MILITARY TELEGRAPH 15th SAPPER BATTALION and Reval arrival alongside

60





20085 ☒

1904 Insured money-letter for 10 roubles to Moscow franked on reverse 2k and 20k tied by LYAOYANG FIELD POST OFFICE 'd' 1 7 04 cds, wax seals alongside inscribed: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE LYAOYANG FIELD POST OFFICE 'a', no registration label but manuscript "N86" in upper left corner on front, endorsed on front "FROM PAYMASTER, FIELD EXCHEQUER 1st SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS".

900

Lyaoyang fell to the Japanese the following month in August.



20086 ☒

1904 7k Letter-card uprated 4k tied by DALNY KWANTUNG REGION/1/RAILWAY POSTAL BRANCH 13 VII cds used to send eye-witness account of Battle of Ta-shih-chiao to France, re-addressed to Moscow, by doctor on hospital train evacuating wounded, written on eve of Russian retreat (11724 July). Blue circular cachet of MILITARY-MEDICAL TRAIN OF EMPRESS ALEKSANDRA FEODOROVNA and magenta cachet of DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS OF MILITARY DISTRICT CONTROL OF MANCHURIAN ARMY, latter applied at Harbin.

600

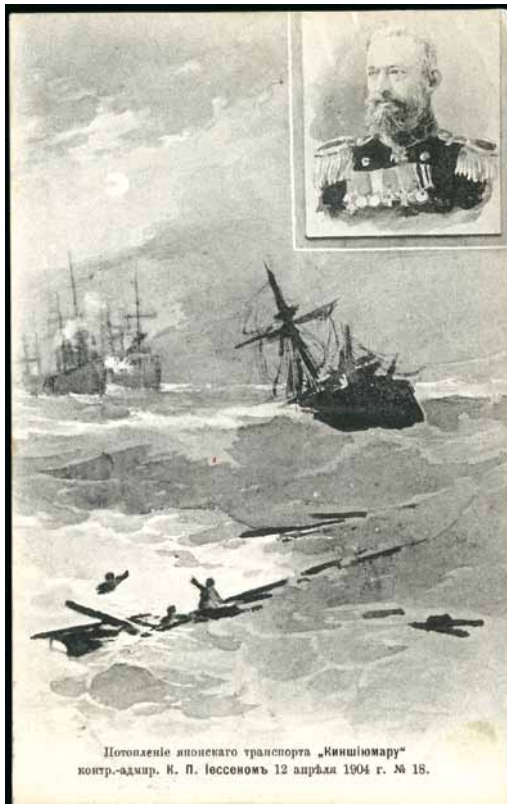
Dalny had been abandoned by the Russians 13/26 May. The railway station post office was relocated behind the Russian lines, still using the old canceller, at KUNGCHULING, a station of the CER between Tiehling and Kwangchentze. (See R.Casey: BJRP 91 (2004), p. 46)



20087

1904 Red-band cover endorsed "From the Active Army" addressed to Warsaw Guberniya, redirected within Poland, violet free-frank cachet reading: 1st ARGUN REGIMENT OF TRANSBAIKAL MILITARY COSSACKS, posted from FIELD POST OFFICE /5/10th ARMY CORPS 14 VII, various arrival backstamps

300



20088

Artist's impression of sinking of Japanese Military transport ship KINSHU MARU in Sea of Japan, April 1904, by Russian cruisers of the Vladivostok Squadron under command of Rear-Admiral K.P. Yessen (inset top right). Card sent from St Petersburg to Germany. The 'KINSHU MARU' had refused to surrender and was sunk by torpedoes. As the ship went down officers committed suicide in their cabins and soldiers bayoneted each other rather than face the disgrace of capture. Only a few Japanese sailors and labourers were rescued from the water. The sinking of this unarmed vessel brought condemnation from the world's press.

50

Illustrated and described Casey, BJRP 92/93 (2005), p.64.





20089



20090



20091

- 20089

✉

1904 Cover from Vladivostok to London 17 7 04 placed on POSTAL WAGON No. 264 of CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY. Violet cachet of DIVISIONAL H.Q. of MILITARY AREA OF MANCHURIAN ARMY and pink resealing slip of CENSORSHIP COMMISSARIAT of the same authority.

200
- 20090

✉

1904 Viewcard of Harbin Wharf to Finland with violet circular free-frank cachet of COMMANDER/MACHINE-GUN COMPANY/5th EAST SIBERIAN DIVISION, postmarked DALNY KWANTUNG OBLAST/RAILWAY POSTAL BRANCH 25 VI 1904, Helsinki arrival alongside. The writer of the card was travelling south, probably to join his unit, which was in action at the battle of Hsi-mu-cheng a few weeks later.

Dalny had been evacuated by the Russians in May 1904 and its railway post office relocated at KUNGCHULING on the CER north of Tiehling.

300
- 20091

✉

1904 Cover to PLATFORM CHUKHLINKA, Moscow-Nizhnegorod Railway, free-frank intaglio cachet in black of EAST SIBERIAN military unit and postmarked No. 7 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 19 VII 1904.

At this time No. 7 FPO was located at KHOIYAN, Kirin province.

200





20092



20093



20094

- 20092

✉

1904 Viewcard to Finland inscribed "From the Active Army" franked 1k and 2 k both tied by DALNY KWANTUNG PROVINCE/1/RAILWAY POSTAL BRANCH 27 VII 1904 with Helsinki arrival 31 VIII and "Gundjulin" dateline.

The Russian army abandoned Dalny during the night of 26 May 1904. The Dalny Railway Station PP.O. staff escaped with their stock and equipment and set up business far behind the line using the old canceller. This card establishes relocation of Dalny Railway Station P.O. at KUNCHULING (Russian: GunZhulin, Gunchzhulin) about 400 miles NE of its home base (Casey, BJR 91, 2004, pp. 46-47).

300
- 20093

✉

1904 3k Postal stationery card to Germany uprated 1k cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE/ 5/10th ARMY CORPS 29 VII 1905 written by a German observer with the Russian Armies in Manchuria to a fellow officer from a village 30km from LYAOYANG, violet circular intaglio cachet of GHQ 17th ARMY CORPS, Cassel arrival.

Written shortly before Battle of Lyaoyang in which the 10th and 17th Army Corps were heavily involved. GHQ of the Russian armies was situated at Lyaoyang railway station, depicted on the front of the card.

300
- 20094

✉

1904 Stampless cover to Riga posted on POSTAL WAGON No. 264 of Chinese Eastern Railway (VLADIVOSTOK-HARBIN) 1 VIII 1904, with oval violet and straight-line black free-frank cachets: LIFLAND FIELD HOSPITAL RED CROSS SOCIETY, fine

200





20095 

1904 Red-band cover to sender's relative in Poland endorsed on reverse "Sent from Manchuria via Harbin/Headquarters of 3rd Brigade of Border Guards/St. Handaohketze. Armourer Veneslav Shvedkovskii". Posted on Chinese Eastern Railway TPO POSTAL WAGON No. 264 (3) 8 VIII 1904. Free-frank cachet in blue-grey: 3rd BRIGADE TRANSAMUR REGION SECTION OF CORPS OF BORDER GUARDS, Lodz arrival.

400



20096 

1904 Registered cover from CHEFOO, China, to Her Imperial Majesty, Empress Marie Feodorovna, sent by Dr Balashev, Head of the Russian Red Cross in the Far East and Surgeon-General of the Russian Army, franked 20k and 1k 'Kitai' tied CHEFOO Type 2 8 Aug. 1904 ds's, printed heading and sealing wafer on reverse reading: REPRESENTATIVE OF STATE EMPRESS MARIE FEODOROVNA FOR RED CROSS IN THE FAR EAST, St Petersburg Chancellery arrival backstamp.

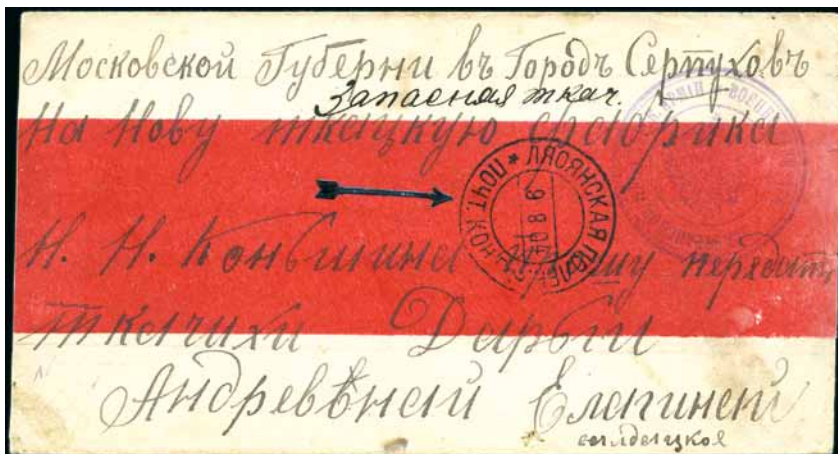
600

With Port Arthur under siege, Russian Red Cross Headquarters was moved across the Strait of Pohai to Chefoo.

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20097

1904 Chinese red-band cover to textile factory at SERPUKHOV cancelled LYAOYANG FIELD POST OFFICE 'g' 9 8 04, circular violet free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: MILITARY-MEDICAL SEMI-TRANSPORT OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMY. Cover dispatched on the eve of the Battle of Lyaoyang in which the Russians lost 3,611 killed and 14,301 wounded.

300

Included postcard depicting evacuation of wounded from the Russian forward position at the village of An-shan-chan, SW of Lyaoyang. The main medical evacuation centre was at Lyaoyang railway station.



20098

1904 Registered cover to U.S. Consul in CHEFOO, China, sent through Imperial Chinese post by British military observer, R.B.Denny, franked on reverse 5c 'dragon' (another stamp removed), tied by incomplete SHEN-YANG (MUKDEN) cds with POSTAL COUNTER (MUKDEN) alongside, dated 17 7 04 (lunar calendar = Gregorian 11 8 04). Black circular cachet with Cyrillic inscription around Imperial Russian Eagle: MILITARY COMMISSAR ATTACHED TO THE MUKDEN TZIAN-TZYUN (GOVERNOR GENERAL) alongside with further large boxed violet cachet in Cyrillic: PERMITTED/COLONEL... with signature of Colonel Pesteech (General Staff of Russian Viceroy of Far East) and number.

400

Censorship of war despatches was at this time under the control of the Viceroy. Note that the letter was submitted for censorship before stamps and cancellations were applied.





20099




20100




20101

20099  1904 Picture postcard from MANCHULI RAILWAY STATION 13 VIII 04 to St Petersburg with Red Cross free-frank cachet translating: HEAD REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY IN CHITA. **400**

Included is a postcard depicting Red Cross supplies awaiting despatch to the Far East (Manchuria). A large Red Cross depot was maintained at Chita, on the Trans-Siberian railway.

20100  1904 Letter-card to KALUGA datelined "Човчинтсы 12 Август" endorsed "From the Manchurian Army", posted next day at FIELD POST OFFICE OF 17th ARMY CORPS, straight-line violet handstamp alongside: FIELD POST OFFICE OF 17th ARMY CORPS. Backstamped KALUGA arrival 3 IX 1904 and two strikes in violet of circular cachet: STAFF (HQ) 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION. **200**

20101  1904 Postcard from SYZRAN RAILWAY STATION to St. Petersburg 1 IX 1904 with violet free-frank cachet FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY/EAST SIBERIAN FIELD AERONAUTICAL BATTALION. **500**

This unit was responsible for operating captive balloons for observing enemy artillery positions and troop movements. Included is a postcard depicting a similar unit on exercise.



20102



1904 Postcard to Belgium depicting soldiers of the Eastern Siberian Rifle Regiment en route to the Far East (Manchuria) franked 4k tied by POSTAL WAGON No. 74 (KHARKOV-VOROZHBA) 5 IX 04

50



20103



1904 Cover to Switzerland franked 3k + 7k tied by blue Field Post cancellation dated 5 9 04 and cachet of mobile Red Cross unit reading : COURLAND FLYING SQUAD, violet official seal alongside: DISTRICT GENERAL H.Q. OF MILITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARMY IN MANCHURIA, opened by military censor and resealed with pink slip (unfolded) bearing initials of the same beginning with CENSORSHIP COMMISSARIAT.

400





20104 ☒

1904 Red-band cover to France franked 10k tied by MUKDEN 'b' 6 9 04 cds, alongside violet circular cachet: MILITARY-MEDICAL TRAIN OF STATE EMPRESS ALEKSANDRA, FEODOROVNA additional cachet in magenta: DISTRICT GHQ OF THE MILITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE ARMY IN MANCHURIA, opened and resealed both ends with pink paper tape bearing initials of CENSORSHIP COMMISSARIAT of the same military administration

400



20105 ☒

1904 Cover from Russian-Chinese Bank to St Petersburg with arrival (11.9.06 - 2 years after posting) franked 7k tied PORT ARTHUR Type 2 G, dated 7 9 04 on reverse, alongside printed label applied: "This letter was among correspondence captured by the Japanese at the time of the surrender of Port Arthur and returned through the Russian Imperial Mission to Japan to Khabarovsk post-telegraph office, from where it was despatched to the addressee".

1'000

Port-Arthur was besieged by the Japanese 7 8 04 and capitulated 2.1.05.



20106 ☒

1904 Picture postcard of Chita to Orenburg (arrival cds of 22 9 04) datelined "1904 10 S (Sept.)", postmarked next day CHITA/1/RAILWAY POSTAL BRANCH 11 IX 1904, alongside violet circular free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: 288th INFANTRY (KULIKOV) REGIMENT.

200

Postcards with free-frank cachets already applied were issued to officers travelling on the Trans-Siberian Railway for their private correspondence.



20107 ☒

1904 Chinese native pictorial cover to ZVOLEN, Radom Guberniya, cancelled SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS FIELD POST OFFICE No. 4 'b' 13 9 04, Radom transit and Zvolen arrival backstamps for 7 10 04., circular violet free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL OF 2nd SIBERIAN INFANTRY DIVISION.

600

This hospital must have received many of the 14,301 Russian wounded from the Battle of Lyaoyang, concluded shortly before this item was sent.





20108 

1904 Registered cover to London from Russo-Chinese Bank in Kirin, southern Manchuria, franked 7k (4), 3 affected by vertical crease and one by overlapping, tied by GIRIN/3/ ARMY CORPS POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE, Kirin registration cachet alongside.

1'000

Based on a station of the Chinese owned telegraph line Shanhaikwan-Aigun, this office was opened when the Russians occupied the town in 1900 and dealt with both military and civilian mail.



20109 

1904 Cover addressed to a farmstead in Estland Guberniya near STATION IEBBE on the Baltic Railway with violet circular free-frank cachet : 15th COMPANY/146th INFANTRY (TSARITSYN) REGIMENT, postmarked FIELD POST OFFICE/1/1st ARMY CORPS 15 IX 1904, Iebbe arrival backstamp 8 X 1904.

150

In the ensuing Battle of the Sha-Ho the Tsaritsyn Infantry Regiment formed part of the 37th Infantry Division under Lt.-Gen. Chekmarev.



20110 

1904 Cover to Frederikshamn (Hamina in Swedish), Finland with free-frank negative cachet in blue: DIVISIONAL BAGGAGE 37th DIVISIONAL TRANSPORT, posted at FIELD POST OFFICE/3/1st ARMY CORPS 19 IX 1904, trilingual (Finnish/Swedish/Russian) arrival mark dated 25 X 1904 (12 X 1904 Old Style).

200



20111 

1904 Stampless stationery card to RIGA endorsed "From the Active Army", message in German, datelined "Tschan-syn-tung d. 19/IX/1904", cancelled next day at FIELD POST OFFICE/1/5th SIBERIAN CORPS 20 9 04, alongside intaglio seal-type cachet of the Field Post Office used as free-frank

300





20112 

1904 Picture postcard of boat-wharf at Port Arthur to Poland endorsed "From the Active Army". Free-frank military cachet and cds in greenish-black, the latter reading: LYAOYANG FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 19 9 (04), Chenstohova 3 X 1904 arrival cds.

500

Russian General Headquarters was situated at Lyaoyang until 23 Aug/5 Sep 1904, when the city fell to the Japanese. Posted nearly a month after the event, this card shows that the staff of the Lyaoyang P.O. were continuing to use the old canceller at a new location, probably Mukden, 40 miles to the north, whence GHQ had evacuated.



20113 

1904 Red-band cover to Guberniya Estland posted from FIELD POST OFFICE /4/1st ARMY CORPS 20 IX 1904 with free-frank cachet on reverse: 15th COMPANY/146th (TSARITSYN) INFANTRY REGIMENT, lebbe arrival backstamp, cover opened-out for display.

200





20114 

1904 Stampless soldier's letter to KHARKOV posted from FIELD POST OFFICE 5th SIBERIAN CORPS 23 9 04 and bearing violet cachet of HOSPITAL 31st INFANTRY DIVISION.

160

In addition Community of St. Eugene charity card depicting wounded arriving at Field Hospital franked 4k tied St. Petersburg 15 IX 1904 cds.



20115 

1904 Port Arthur viewcard to Lifland Guberniya endorsed "From the Active Army" with red circular free-frank cachet of COURLAND FLYING DETACHMENT, a highly mobile Red Cross unit, posted at STAFF (GENERAL HQ) OF 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS/POST OFFICE 'v' 25 9 04, Yuriev arrival backstamp.

400

The 3rd Siberian Army Corps was part of the Russian Eastern Force under General Stackelberg and at this time was engaged in the battle of Sha Ho, between Lyaoyang and Mukden.





20116 

1904 Cover with contents written from a Zemstvo Field Hospital set up at STATION KAIYUAN, N. of Mukden, on Line 265/266 of Chinese Eastern Railway, to Rostov-on-Don, free-frank Red Cross cachet and violet inscription on reverse, reading HEAD OF BASE MEDICAL DETACHMENT MOSCOW ZEMSTVO, postmarked DALNY KWANTUNG OBLAST/1/RAILWAY POSTAL BRANCH 24 IX 1904. Cover roughly opened at right just infringing on red cachet.

800

Dalny was evacuated by the Russians in May 1904 ahead of the Japanese advance, but continued to function behind the lines at KUNGCHULING, on Line 265/266, 400 miles NE of its home base. (see Casey, BJRP 91, 2004, p.46)



20117 

1904 Red-band cover to Riga (arrival backstamp 19 10 04) endorsed "From the Active Army", violet circular free-frank cachet on front and back: 1st ARGUN REGIMENT OF TRANSBAIKAL MILITARY COSSACKS, cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE/1/5th SIBERIAN CORPS 25 9 04.

300





20118

1904 Cover from Russo-Chinese Bank in Port Arthur to Azov-Don Commercial Bank in St. Petersburg, cancelled at PORT ARTHUR P.O. with Type 7G cds dated 30 IX 1904 but onward transmission impossible while communications cut off by Japanese siege. Seized by Japanese when Port Arthur surrendered in January 1905 and returned to Russia in 1906. Delivered 11 IX 1906, almost two years after date of posting.

1'000

Delay explained on attached yellow label.

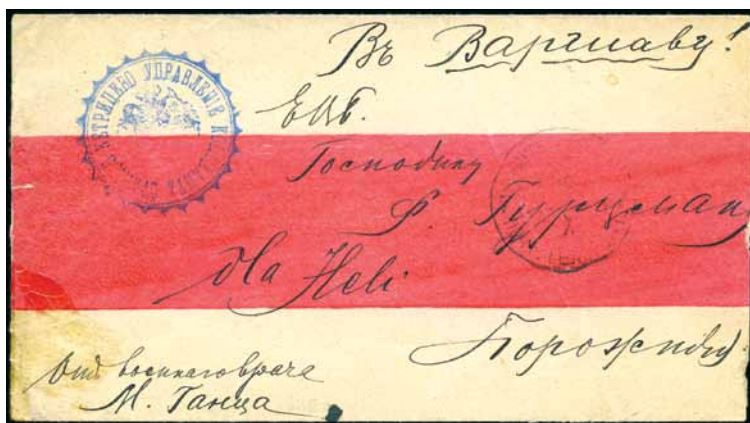


20119

1904 4k Stationery card and uprated 3k card both to Cassel in Germany written in German from "DAZSIAPU" (TATSIAPU), 15km south of MUKDEN, cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE/4/1st ARMY CORPS 11 and 29 X 1904, both with circular violet cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 1st ARMY CORPS.

400






20120




20121

20120  1904 Red-band cover sent by military medical officer to Warsaw, circular cog-shaped cachet in blue reading: OFFICE OF COMMANDANT OF STATION KETRITSEVO, faint KHABAROVSK 12 X 1904 cds alongside, Warsaw 6 Nov (1904) arrival backstamp. **200**

Ketritsevo was also known as Nikolsk-Ussuriiskii, situated in Primorsk Province, well outside the theatre of active military operations.

20121  1904 Viewcard of Lake Baikal showing Circum-Baikal Railway along foot of cliff, addressed to Romny, readdressed to St Petersburg, arriving 13 X 1904, with circular intaglio free-frank cachet in black, reading around Imperial Eagle: 5th SOTYNA OF 19th REGIMENT OF DON COSSACKS. A sotyna was a unit of 100 cossacks. **200**



20122  1904 Russian 3k stationery card uprated 1k for foreign rate + China 1 cent for internal postage. Written by an American observer with the Russian Army on train "Between Harbin and Mukden" 11 October having left Vladivostok 8 days earlier to his wife in the USA. Chinese stamp cancelled native Mukden Fengtien Province with date in lunar calendar equivalent to 15 Oct in Western style; native Chinese transit Newchang 18 Oct; thence Chinese P.O. Shanghai (bilingual) 25 Oct; passed to Russian P.O. Shanghai where Russian stamps cancelled Type 3 15 10 04 (error for 25 10 04); thence to Japanese P.O. same day. Chinese tax mark (T) applied and later erased. Received San Francisco 15 Nov 1904. **600**

By using the Chinese P.O. at Mukden instead of the Russian the sender evaded Russian censorship.



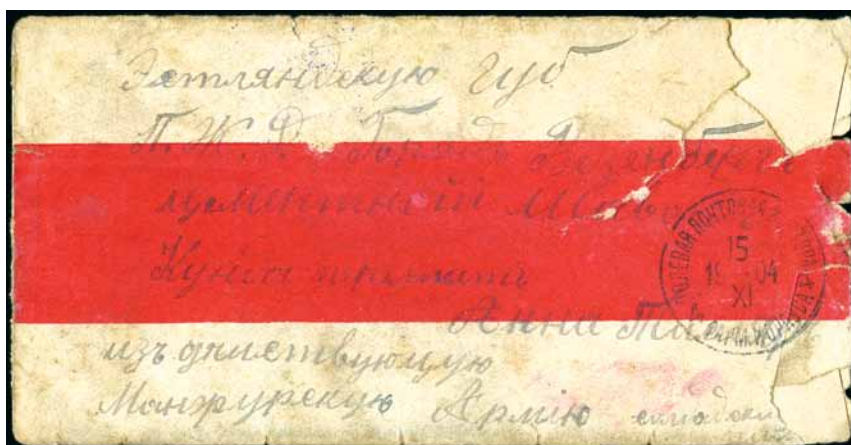


20123

1904 Letter sent to Riga from SIN-KHUAN-DY written on captured Japanese stationery, endorsed FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY and posted at Mukden, Manchuria, 17 10 04. Free-frank seal of GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 5th SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS.

200

Recorded "British Journal of Russian Philately" No.37 (1965), p.25.



20124

1904 Two red-band covers addressed to a cement works in Estland Guberniya, both postmarked FIELD POST OFFICE/4/1st ARMY CORPS dated 22 X 1904 and 15 XI 1904 respectively. First with free-frank circular cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: 145th INFANTRY (NOVOCHERKASSK) REGIMENT OF HIS MAJESTY Second endorsed "From the Active Manchurian Army" and with circular intaglio free-frank cachet in black reading: 4th COMPANY OF 145th INFANTRY (NOVOCHERKASSK) REGIMENT. Vezenberg arrival 17 XI 1904 and 12 XII 1904 respectively.

360





20125

1904 Stationery card with violet oval Red Cross cachet WAREHOUSE OF HER MAJESTY STATE EMPRESS ALEKSANDRA FEODOROVNA, written in French to Venice by a serving nurse or doctor from a village south of the Dalin Pass near River Tai-Tzu, franked 4k, tied by GENERAL HQ 3rd SIBERIAN CORPS POST OFFICE 'v' 22 10 04. Violet cachet 2nd NERCHINSK TRANSBAIKAL COSSACK REGIMENT.

400

The Dalin Pass was captured during the Japanese advance in July 1904. A Russian counter-attack (Battle of Sha-Ho) in October failed to secure the mountain passes and the right bank of the Tai-Tzu. During this campaign the 3rd Siberian Corps was part of the Eastern Force under Lt.-General Baron Stekelberg.



20126

1904 Insured money-letter for 30 roubles sent by officer with 12th SIBERIAN (BARNAUL) INFANTRY REGIMENT to Germany franked on reverse 4k, 10k and 20k (tone spot). Wax seals and cancellations read: SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS FIELD POST OFFICE No. 4, the latter applied 22 10 04 with another strike the next day; passed to MUKDEN P.O. 24 10 04 and received at HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE (HARBIN) 29 (10) 04. Violet circular cachet of DISTRICT HQ OF ADMINISTRATION OF MILITARY DISTRICT OF THE ARMY IN MANCHURIA, applied as a censor mark before the seals were affixed, suggests that this Siberian Army Corps F.P.O. was situated in Mukden.

1'000

Only one other example of the double-circle Mukden canceller with serial 'a' has been recorded. The Head F.P.O. canceller of small (25mm) format has not been reported previously.





20127

1904 Picture postcard endorsed "From the Active Army" posted on Chinese Eastern Railway Line 266 (4) (PORT ARTHUR - HARBIN) 26 X 1904 (O.S.). Red Cross paper seal affixed in top right corner as free-frank, reading: FIELD HOSPITAL OF THE FINNISH SOCIETY FOR CARE OF SICK AND WOUNDED SOLDIERS. Received Pernio, Finland 18 XI 04 (N.S.).

500



20128

1904 Stampless card and cover to the same address in Kiev, one posted at Mukden 3 II 04, the other with circular datestamp: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE "v" 27 10 04 Both with circular free-frank seal in blue-green or in violet: 3rd SIBERIAN MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY PARK

500







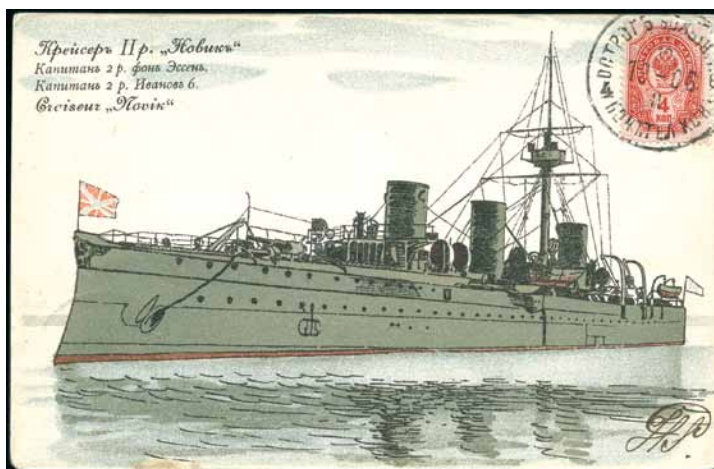
20129




20130

- 20129**  1904 Stationery card to Ekaterinoslav with violet circular free-frank cachet: GENERAL FIELD HOSPITAL No. 103. Message indicates it was sent from Mukden by SENIOR INTERN 68th FIELD HOSPITAL, MANCHURIAN ARMY, 15th DIVISION, 8th CORPS. Cancelled MUKDEN 28 12 04. Ekaterinoslav arrival 15 1 05. **200**

- 20130**  1904 Red-band cover to Odessa endorsed "From the Active Army", free-frank cachet in violet reading around Imperial eagle: DIVISIONAL COMMISSARIAT 14th INFANTRY DIVISION, posted at FIELD POST OFFICE/1/8th ARMY CORPS. 30 XII 1904. Odessa arrival backstamp 27 1 05. **300**



- 20131**  1906 Red Cross charity card depicting the cruiser NOVIK used from Ostrig, Russia to France franked 4k cancelled 12 II 06. The "Novik" had many encounters with the enemy and was the only ship in the Port Arthur squadron to break the Japanese blockade during the Battle of the Yellow Sea. Chased as far north as Korsakovsk, Sakhalin Island, where, after a robust exchange of gunfire at close quarters with Japanese cruisers, she was beached by her crew and finished off by enemy shells (31 August 1904). Her crew took to the boats and reached the mainland. They then walked hundreds of miles through wild country for 45 days to report for duty at Vladivostok. **200**

Illustrated "British Journal of Russian Philately" 92/93 (2005), p.69.



20132



20133

20132 www 1904-08 Selection comprising 1904 Viewcard to Novoselitsy, Bessarabia Guberniya, with free-frank cachet: 2nd COMPANY 3rd RIFLE REGIMENT, dateline 10 November, cancelled alongside STATION STUDENETS, SYZRAN-VYAZMA RAILWAY 11 XI 1904. In addition two Red Cross charity cards to benefit the Community of St Eugene, each with circular free-frank cachet reading: SQUADRON OF RIFLE REGIMENT 15th CAVALRY DIVISION. Unaddressed. Postcards with free-frank cachets already applied were given to officers going on leave or detached duty to provide post-free facilities.

Also 8 items with cancellations of the various FPO's and their locations including multiples and on piece.

20133 1904 Cover to Warsaw endorsed "From the Active Army", free-frank cachet in violet in top right corner around Imperial Eagle translating: 146th INFANTRY (TSARITSYN) REGIMENT with Company cachet in blue bottom left corner. Posted at FIELD POST OFFICE/3/1st ARMY CORP. 19 IX 1904. Warsaw arrival 18 X 04. Some creasing to the cover.



20134 1904 Lake Baikal viewcard addressed to Samara (arrival 3 II 04) written on the train at STATION KURGAN, Trans-Siberian Railway 31 X 1904 and cancelled next day at STATION LEBYAZHYA, SIBERIAN RAILWAY 1 II 04. Circular free-frank cachet in violet reads: MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL No. 267/FOR PACKETS.

Writer gives address as Harbin Active Army - No.267 Mobile Field Hospital. A similar field hospital attached to the 2nd Army is shown in a millet field on a military charity card.





20135



20136

- 20135**

✉

1904 Cover to St Petersburg (arrival backstamp 24 XI 1904) endorsed "Military" and postmarked: FIELD POST OFFICE 6th SIBERIAN CORPS 'b' 3 II 04, circular violet free-frank cachet alongside: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 6th SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS, envelope marginally reduced at right

100
- 20136**

✉

1904 Viewcard of section of the Trans-Siberian track posted 5 XI 04 from OB Railway Station Moscow, free-frank cachet on obverse of COMMANDANT OF OB STATION

100

To keep the armies in the Far East supplied with troops and material, Russia relied on the Trans-Siberian Railway and its extension from the Manchurian frontier, a line of communication almost 5,500 miles in length. The principal railway stations were placed under military control.



- 20137**

✉

1904 7k Stationery envelope uprated with Arms stamps to value of 89k to pay fee for insured sending of 300 roubles from TIEHLIN, Manchuria, to YUKHNOV, Russia, stamps cancelled: TELIN/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 5 XI 1904, boxed cachet alongside with '329' inserted by hand and label: RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 10. Part wax seals on reverse. Cover marginally reduced at top.

1'000

This cover confirms the location of No. 10 Field Post Office at Tiehling. The office was closed when the Japanese entered Tiehling in March 1905.



20138

1904 Letter-card to Leipzig posted at mobile F.P.O. franked 10k tied by FIELD ARMY CORPUS No.1 POST OFFICE (G) 6 11 04 cds.

600

Nobility crest in blue inscribed: GIFT OF ROYAL HIGHNESS GRAND DUKE MIKHAIL ALEKSANDROVICH



20139

1904 Red Cross charity card featuring railway map of Siberia and Manchuria, endorsed "From the Mobilised Section" and written from STATION PETROVSKII ZAVOD, Siberia (inserted on map by sender) to Dvinsk. Violet free-frank cachet: 1st BATTERY 41st ARTILLERY BRIGADE

100

Auction Bids

The auction bidding steps are as follows:

€ 50 - 100	€ 5	€ 500 - 1000	€ 50	€ 5000 - 10000	€ 500
€ 100 - 200	€ 10	€ 1000 - 2000	€ 100	€ 10000 - 20000	€ 1000
€ 200 - 500	€ 20	€ 2000 - 5000	€ 200	€ 20000 - 50000	€ 2000
				€ 50000 - 100000	€ 5000

Bids between these steps will be adjusted accordingly to the next higher bid step. The bidder is bound by his/her offer until a higher bid has been validly accepted.





20140



Chinese red-band cover to St Petersburg endorsed FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY, posted on Chinese Eastern Railway POSTAL WAGON No.262 (HARBIN-MANCHULI) (train '3') 7 (XI) 1904. Red Cross free-frank cachet on reverse: FLOATING HOSPITAL OF THE MARBLE PALACE

500

Part of the Chinese Eastern Railway flotilla of ships and barges was handed over to the Red Cross to operate as hospitals on the River Sungari. Many of these were equipped and maintained under the patronage of royalty or the nobility. The Marble Palace in St Petersburg is now a branch of the Lenin Museum.



20141



1904 Official insured money-letter for 162 roubles to Moscow, franked on reverse 3k, 10k and 35k, tied by FIELD POST OFFICE 6th SIBERIAN CORPS 'v' 11 11 04.

700

Similar postmark, serial 'a' applied next day, central wax seal alongside reads: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE FIELD POST OFFICE 6th SIBERIA; CORPS 'a', corner seals read: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 6th SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS around Imperial Eagle



20142



20143



20144

- 20142

1904 Cover to Riga endorsed "From the Active Army" postmarked FIELD POST OFFICE/ 1/5th SIBERIAN CORPS 13 11 04, alongside violet circular free-frank cachet : HEAD ADMINISTRATION OF ARTILLERY 5th SIBERIAN CORPS.

www Also piece from back of money-letter franked 4k and 35k Arms issue 1902-05 showing wax seals and cancellation SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS No. 4 'a' 13 11 04 with Chita (Siberia) arrival 24 XI 1904. Also 1902-05 1 rouble with same cancel 20 3 05.

200
- 20143

1904 Cover to Moscow from Mukden 13 11 04 with violet free-frank cachet of EAST SIBERIAN PONTOON BATTALION despatched shortly after the battle of Sha-Ho (5-18 October), during which this unit, based in Mukden, was part of a flanking detachment under Lt.-General Dembovski and was engaged in bridge-buiding over the Hun-ho.

150
- 20144

1904 Stampless cover to France from Harbin with HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 16 11 04 cds (29 11 04 New Style), on reverse circular violet cachet: STAFF (HQ) KWANTUNG DISTRICT. Taxed on arrival with French postage dues 10c pair + 30c applied. Evidently from a member of a military unit evacuated from the Kwantung Peninsula after it was overrun by the Japanese.

200

Military cachets served as free-franks only on ordinary mail to Russia and Russian post offices abroad.





20145



1904 Cover to Riga endorsed "From the Active Army", violet circular cachet STAFF (HQ) OF 5th SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS, posted at FIELD POST OFFICE/1/5th SIBERIAN CORPS 18 11 04, Riga arrival backstamp, envelope with a few light creases.

100



20146



1904 Stampless letter-card to STATION SKHODNYA, Nikolaevsk Railway, dateline 1 September/MUKDEN, nobility logo inscribed in blue GIFT OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS GRAND DUKE MIKHAIL ALEKSANDROVICH. In addition 3k stationery card to Kaluga (received 18 XI 04) with black circular cachet GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION. Both posted at FIELD POST OFFICE/3/17th ARMY CORPS 2/9 and 9/10 04 respectively.

900

These items establish location of 17th Army Corps and HQ 3rd Infantry Division at Mukden during autumn 1904.





20147

1904 Stampless stationery card with photograph of Mukden affixed to reverse, addressed to Dvinsk, Vitebsk Guberniya, message in German written "248 versts south of Fusan" and postmarked 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 19 11 04, alongside circular free-frank cachet in blue: FIELD HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMY. Writer gives his address as "Field Highway Management, Mukden".

200

At this time No. 12 FPO was situated at FUSAN.



20148

1904 Insured money-letter for 100 roubles sent by Post-Telegraph clerk attached to FIELD POST OFFICE 5th SIBERIAN CORPS, stationed at village of NING-KUAN-TUN, addressed to Zvenigorod, near Moscow, charges of 39k paid by pair 2k and two pairs and single 7k, some pen-cancelled, others tied by FIELD POST OFFICE 5th SIBERIAN CORPS 20 11 04, ms annotation '815' top left. Central wax seal reads around Imperial Eagle and posthorns: FIELD POST OFFICE 5th SIBERIAN CORPS/INSURED COR-RESPONDENCE 'b'.

800

Ning-kuan-tun, on a tributary of the Sha-ho, 30km south of Mukden, was one of the villages used by the Russian 2nd Manchurian Army as winter quarters after the Japanese advance had been halted at the battle of the Sha-ho (5 - 17 October 1904).

Please Ensure your Bids Arrive in Time!

In the case of equal bids, the first bid received will take precedence.





20149



1904 Picture postcard "From the Active Army", message in Polish written from GAOLINGTZE to Telshi (Baltic region), with free-frank cachet of 1st BATTERY 2nd ARTILLERY BRIGADE, blue cancel alongside: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS/POST OFFICE 22 11 04.

150

This card suggests that the temporary location of this mobile Field Post Office was at Gaolingtze (Russian spelling Gaolintszy), a station of the Chinese Eastern Railway (Line 263/264) about 150 miles east of Harbin.



20150



1904 Insured money letter for 2 roubles 20 kopecks sent from MUKDEN FIELD POST OFFICE to Moscow postmarked MUKDEN Subtype 3A 23 11 04 in blue with rectangular framed cachet in violet reading RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 11 with item number 4770 and "Mukden" inserted by hand. On reverse two wax seals with Imperial Eagle and post-telegraph insignia reading: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE/No. 11 FIELD/POST OFFICE 1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT.

800

Absence of stamps implies official mail. No previous records of wax seals, cachet or blue colour of postmark.





20151

20152

- 20151**
✉
1904 Chinese red-band cover to Taganrog, Sea of Azov, cancelled MUKDEN Type 3B 30 11 04. Violet free-frank military cachet of EAST SIBERIAN MINING COMPANY.
200

Despatched after the battle of Sha-ho, during which the Russians suffered the heaviest reverse of the campaign and were obliged to fall back on Mukden.

- 20152**
✉
1904 Picture postcard of Harbin church to Zhitomir dated 30 XI 1904 and postmarked the same day: HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' (Harbin), overlapped by violet intaglio circular free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: 6th HARBIN GENERAL HOSPITAL, Zhitomir arrival cds.
200

Additional postcard depicting part of Harbin hospital suburb during the war.



- 20153**
✉
1904 Registered native cover to Kaluga franked on reverse 14k tied by FIELD POST OFFICE/3/No. 27 2 XII 1904 cds. Handstruck seal of GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION alongside, Manuscript annotation on front "FROM THE MANCHURIAN ARMY. FROM STAFF-CAPTAIN BOGANOLOV". No registration label but manuscript "321" top left corner
300





20154 

1904 Insured money-letter for 1400 roubles from HARBIN to YUKHNOV franked on reverse 1r pair, 3k pair and single 70k tied by HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'd' 5 12 04 cds. Central wax seal: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'd' and corner seals: No. 1 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT.

800

This cover establishes that No. 1 Field Post Office and Head Field Post Office, situated in Harbin, were one and the same.



20155 

1904 Cover endorsed "From the Active Army" and posted to Kiev from MUKDEN, where blue datestamp applied: HEADQUARTERS/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 6 12 04. Violet free-frank cachet struck twice alongside: 1st BATTALION 57th INFANTRY (MODLIN) REGIMENT.

300

The cachet indicates a Polish regiment serving with the Russian Army, Modlin being the Polish name for the town north of Warsaw called Novo-Georgievsk by the Russians.



20156

1904 Picture postcard used by civilian to send New Year greetings to Galati, Roumania, franked 7 1/2 cents in Chinese Dragon issue, cancelled at Russian P.O. MUKDEN 8 12 04. Transit Odessa 2 2 05 (Old Style) and Galati 17 2 05 (New Style = 4 2 05 Old Style). Endorsed in Russian (after stamps affixed): VIA MUKDEN CENSOR. Violet circular handstamp: GENERAL HQ 6th SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS, evidently used as a censor cachet.

500

China was not admitted to the Universal Postal Union until 1920 and before that date its stamps had no validity outside national boundaries. Their acceptance by Russian and Roumanian clerks was irregular.



20157

1904 Registered red-band cover to Moscow franked on reverse pair of 7k tied by No. 10 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 10 XII 1904. registration label on obverse reads: FIELD No. 10 POST OFFICE and manuscript "413/TELIN" confirming the location of this office at TIEHLING (Russian TELIN). Circular cachet in magenta on reverse: 4th TRANSAMUR RAILWAY BATTALION.

700

The Transamur Railway Brigade was formed in March 1903 to run the Chinese Eastern Railway and comprised 4 battalions and 7776 men.





НЕ ПОПЛЕЖИТЬ ОПЛАТЪ.



20158 

1904 Krasnoyarsk viewcard written 11 XII 1904 from Krasnoyarsk, Siberia to St Petersburg, postmarked next day on TRANS-Siberian TPO POSTAL WAGON No. 188. Blue circular free-frank cachet alongside reading: 98th (YURIEV) INFANTRY REGIMENT. Also straight-line handstamp in same blue ink at top left translating: NOT LIABLE FOR PAYMENT. St Petersburg arrival 26 12 1904.

300

There is no previous record of the post-free handstamp.



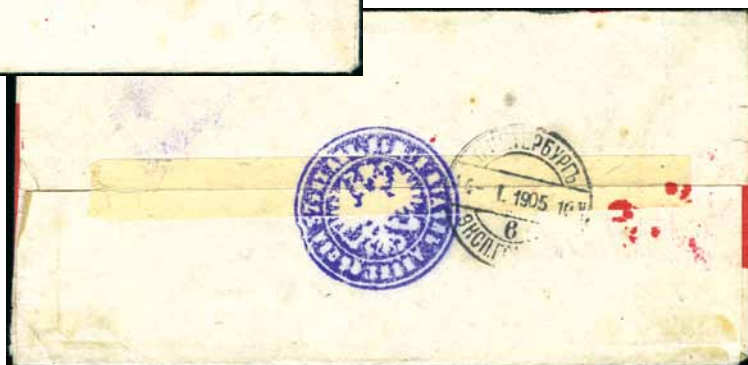
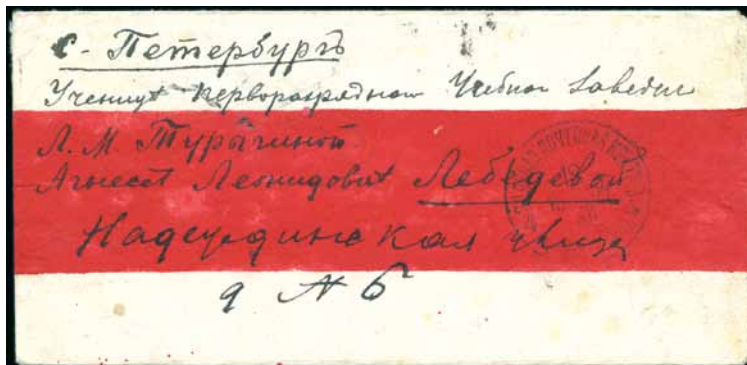
20159 

1904 Registered red-band cover from TIEHLING to Warsaw franked 1902 14k tied by TELIN/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT 12 1904 XII cds, registration label alongside inscribed No. 10 FIELD POST OFFICE, Warsaw arrival backstamp 7 1 05. Unrecorded canceller type characterised by having date in three lines.

900

Recorded "Russia used Abroad" pt. 6 (1960), p.576 as establishing location of No. 10 F.P.O. at Tieling. Illustrated "British Journal of Philately" No. 46 (1971), fig. 12. Cancellation incorrectly ascribed to Tieling Type 1.





20160

1904 Red-band cover to St Petersburg despatched from mobile FIELD POST OFFICE/ 4/1st ARMY CORPS 12 XII 1904. On reverse violet free-frank cachet: 37th INFANTRY DIVISION. GENERAL SECTION OF DIVISIONAL BAGGAGE TRAIN. St Petersburg arrival backstamp 14 1 05.

300



20161

1904 Registered native cover to Kaluga franked on reverse 3k block of 5 tied by FIELD POST OFFICE/1/No. 27 14 XII 1904 cds's. Handstruck seal of GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION alongside, endorsed FROM 3rd MANCHURIAN ARMY. No registration label, but manuscript "N. 18" top left. Some water staining on the obverse. Also included fragment with similar cancellation, serial '3' dated 23 XII 1904.

400





20162 ☒

1904 Chinese red-band cover to Warsaw endorsed "From the Active Manchurian Army" with circular datestamp: 3 FIELD CONTROL STATION/TELEGRAPH 14 12 04. On reverse free-frank intaglio cachet of FIELD POST OFFICE No. 22 and Warsaw arrival 12 1 05. The military cachet ties this cover to Tiehling, where F.P.O. No. 22 is believed to have moved in October 1904, and suggests that the Field Telegraph Control Station there was numbered '3'.

600

First item of mail identified from a Russian Field Telegraph Control Station.

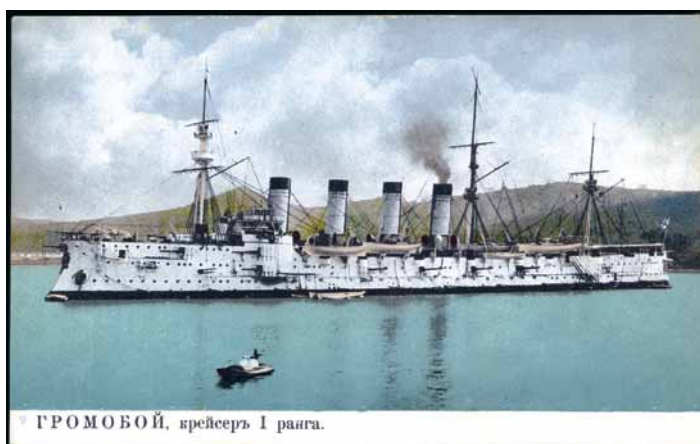


20163 ☒

1904 Decorative Chinese cover to Vitebsk from doctor with the army on active service, posted at MUKDEN 15 12 04. On obverse black circular free-frank cachet: FIELD MILITARY-MEDICAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMIES, faint Vitebsk 11 1 05 arrival alongside. Cover with one nibbled corner.

200





ГРОМОВОЙ, крейсеръ 1 ранга.

20164 

1904 Serviceman's cover from VLADIVOSTOK 15 12 04, received St Petersburg 5 1 05. Red free-frank cachet on reverse reading below Imperial Eagle: CRUISER FIRST CLASS/ "GROMOBOI"/VLADIVOSTOK.

600

The cruiser "Gromoboi", depicted in a separate postcard, operated from Vladivostok as a marauder, intercepting and sinking enemy transports in the Sea of Japan. She survived the Battle of Ulsan (August 1904) with heavy losses and two months later was put in dock again by running on a rock. Finally she struck a mine while attempting to run the Japanese blockade of Vladivostok (February 1905).

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20165 

1904 Registered cover to London from War Correspondent, Julian Price, of "Illustrated London News", franked 20k pair and strip of 3, cancelled MUKDEN Type 2, reading MUKDEN/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 17 12 1904. Black script cachet: SEAL OF CENSORSHIP DIVISION GENERAL H.Q. MANCHURIA. Cover opened out for display.

700

Recorded "British Journal of Russian Philately" No. 29 (1961), p.15.



20166 

1904 Money-letter sent to St Petersburg from ST. HANDAOKHETZE, CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY. Postmarks and centre seal on reverse read: FIELD POST OFFICE No. 28. Labels and corner seals read: RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 28. This establishes the location of F.P.O. No. 28 and shows that ordinary F.P.O.s and Reserve F.P.O.s were interchangeable.

800

Described Adler B.J.R.P. No. 19 (1955) p.593.





20167 ☒

1904 Stampless cover to the Red Cross Community of St Eugene, St Petersburg, with notation in English "Via Chifoo" and in abbreviated Russian "From the fortress of Port Arthur". On reverse red circular cachet reading: KWANTUNG MARIINSKI COMMUNITY OF SISTERS OF THE RED CROSS. Received CHEFOO 21 December (Old style = 3 January 1905 New Style). Cover faults.

300

The post office at Port Arthur had ceased to function since early May, 1904. This item was evidently carried on one of the hospital ships permitted to pass through the Japanese naval blockade of the port and to cross the Strait of Pohai to the Chinese mainland at Chefoo. Port Arthur surrendered on 2 January 1905, the same day or the day after this item was dispatched. Fifteen thousand sick or wounded were found in the hospitals when the Japanese entered the port.



20168 ☒

1904 Old formular card used to send New Year greetings to Finland datelined 22 XII, 04/village Houdi (presumably HOU-TAI, north of Mukden), postmarked two days later HEADQUARTERS/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 'a', circular violet free-frank cachet alongside: OMSK SIBERIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT. Borgo arrival 31 1 05 (=18 1 05 Old Style). Headquarters Field Telegraph Branch was then located at Mukden.

200

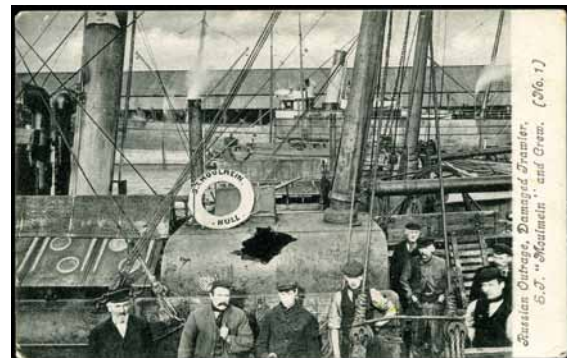




Journey of the Baltic Fleet

On the night of 21/22 October 1904 the Russian Baltic Fleet, while in the North Sea on its way to the Far East, ran into a group of trawlers from Hull fishing off the Dogger Bank and poured hundreds of shells into them believing them to be enemy torpedo boats. The Russian fleet then steamed on its way regardless of the casualties and damage it had inflicted. This outrage brought Britain to the brink of war with Russia. Crowds demonstrated in London and the British Royal Navy made ready to intercept and engage the Russian fleet. War was averted when, after an International North Sea Inquiry Commission, the Russians agreed to compensate the families of the dead and wounded and to replace the trawlers lost or damaged in the incident.

In May 1905 this ill-fated Russian fleet, renamed The 2nd Pacific Squadron was annihilated in the Battle of Tsushima (Sea of Japan) in the greatest naval disaster of modern times.



20169 

1904 Five postcards concerning the Hull outrage. Firstly an artist's impression of the Russian outrage on Hull fishing fleet, October 1904, on postcard sent from Ardrossan to Saltcoats (Scotland).

150

The other postcards depict the funeral procession for the trawlermen killed in the incident and the Inquiry Commission in Paris January 1905 showing the British Delegation, trawler company owners and senior management at the back, with managers, captains and fishermen on the steps below. A rare card but heavily creased.

And finally two postcards showing the damaged trawlers themselves

Payment by Credit Card



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20170

www DOGGER BANK INCIDENT: Balance of collection comprising 34 postcards (many postally used) written up on album pages with original letters, documents and copy of relevant article. Postcards include real photo types of funeral.

1'300

On the night of 21/22 October 1904 fishing trawlers from the English port of Hull were attacked in the North sea by the Russian Baltic Fleet (renamed the 2nd Pacific squadron) on its way to the Far East. This outrage met with international condemnation and brought Britain to the brink of war with Russia.



20171



20172

20171

1904 Original hand-illustrated postcard by political cartoonist Prichard sent from Chester 4 Nov 1904 to relative in Nuneaton.

200

The cartoon shows British ministers in despair as the Russian Baltic fleet sails off regardless of the mayhem they have caused by firing on the Hull trawler fleet in the Dogger Bank incident. Russia is symbolized by the bear.

20172

1904 Original hand-illustrated postcard by political cartoonist Prichard sent internally in England on 28 Oct 1904.

200

This was sent a week after the Dogger Bank incident and the Russians did indeed have to pay compensation after the North Sea Inquiry Commission in Paris.





20174



20173

20173

1904 Picture postcard of natives of Sainte-Marie, Madagascar, addressed to St Petersburg by crew-member of Russian Baltic Fleet under Admiral Roshventdeski, en route to the Far East, dateline "Madagascar 28 Dek". received Naval HQ in St Petersburg and put into the post 13 2 1905 and delivered the next day.

300

The main flotilla of the 2nd Pacific Squadron arrived at Sainte-Marie late in December 1904. During their visit ships deemed unfit to continue the long haul to the Far East were sent back to Russia along with the sick personnel, mail etc.

20174

1905 Postcard sent home to Moscow 3 II 05 (Old Style) from Helville, Nossi-Be, off NW coast of Madagascar, by crew-member of the repair ship "KAMCHATKA", part of the main Baltic Fleet (renamed the 2nd Pacific Squadron) en route to the Far East.

500

It was the "Kamchatka" that triggered the DOGGER BANK outrage in October 1904 by mistaking a flotilla of Hull fishing trawlers for enemy torpedo boats, The Russian attack on the trawlers brought Britain to the brink of war.

The Russian Fleet was annihilated by the Japanese at the Battle of Tsushima. The "Kamchatka" refused to surrender and went down with colours flying on 27 May 1905.

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20175 

1905 Saigon viewcard posted by Sister of Mercy on shore leave from Russian Hospital Ship "OREL", anchored in Camranh Bay, franked pair French Indochina 5c, cancelled Mythoi (near Saigon), dated in ms 9 April 1905 (=22 April New Style); transit Phanrang 24 April, Nhatrang 26 April,; received St Petersburg 22 V 1905 (O.S.)

800

Message states: "The French authorities do not allow the squadron to stay in their bay.... today at 12 o'clock the squadron goes somewhere, we don't know where..."

The "Orel" was a vessel of the Russian Volunteer Fleet, converted to a hospital ship and attached to the 2nd Pacific Squadron, en route from Europe to engage the Japanese. When the squadron reached Camranh Bay she was detached to contact the Russian Consul in Saigon. The fact that the "Orel" had been sent to collect intelligence at Saigon was regarded by the Japanese as a hostile act and when captured by a Japanese cruiser on the eve of the Battle of Tsushima (27-28 May 1905) was considered a legitimate prize.



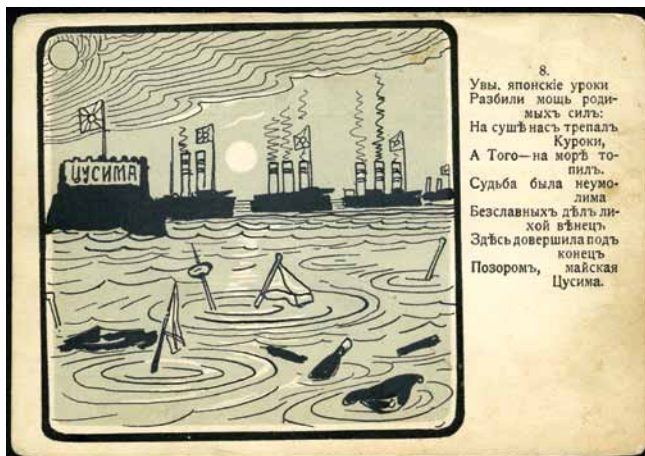
20176 

1905 Picture postcard sent to St Petersburg from Vladivostok 5 7 05 with blue circular intaglio free-frank cachet reading: CRUISER 2nd CLASS ALMAZ/PACKET. St Petersburg arrival 25 VII 05.

300

Formerly the Viceroy Alexeiev's private yacht, the "Almaz" was part of the ill-fated 2nd Pacific Squadron that sailed half-way round the world - from the Baltic to the sea of Japan - to be annihilated on the Battle of Tsushima (May 1905). The "Almaz" escaped to Vladivostok on 29 June 1905, a few days before this card was written, the only vessel of the Squadron larger than a destroyer to reach that port. Separate card included depicting the ship.





20177 ☒

1905 Two postcards with contemporary cartoons expressing the Russian public's dismay and its contempt for the Higher Command. The annihilation of the 2nd Pacific Squadron at the battle of Tsushima ranks as the greatest naval disaster of modern times.

50

Russo-Japanese War (II)



20178 ☒

1905 Viewcard with cavalry motif produced in Kiev, sent to St Petersburg from HARBIN RAILWAY STATION, evidently by a German serving with the Russian Army. Violet free-frank cachet: TREASURY 17th EAST SIBERIAN RESERVE BATTALION

240





20179



www

1905 Two viewcards to Tsarskoe Selo and St Petersburg used from KETRITSEVO and HARBIN RAILWAY STATIONS respectively, showing two types of circular cachet: 2nd SIBERIAN MILITARY HOSPITAL TRAIN OF THE GRAND DUCHESS MARIA PAVLOVNA.

300



20180

20181

20180



1905 Card to Viipuri endorsed MILITARY and posted on Chinese Eastern Railway Line 264 (VLADIVOSTOK-HARBIN) with free-frank seal of Imperial Russian Navy inscribed ICEBREAKER STEAMSHIP NADEZHNI.

150

The 'Nadezhni' was an auxiliary vessel of the Ladvostok Squadron, built in 1896 at Copenhagen (1525 tons) and was armed with two machine-guns.

20181



1904-05 Two cards to St Petersburg, one used from VERKHE-UDINSK, Siberia, with red free-frank cachet: PERM HOSPITAL RUSSIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY. The other used from ST. TATARSKAYA, SIBERIAN RAILWAY, with violet free-frank cachet: No. 88 MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL


140

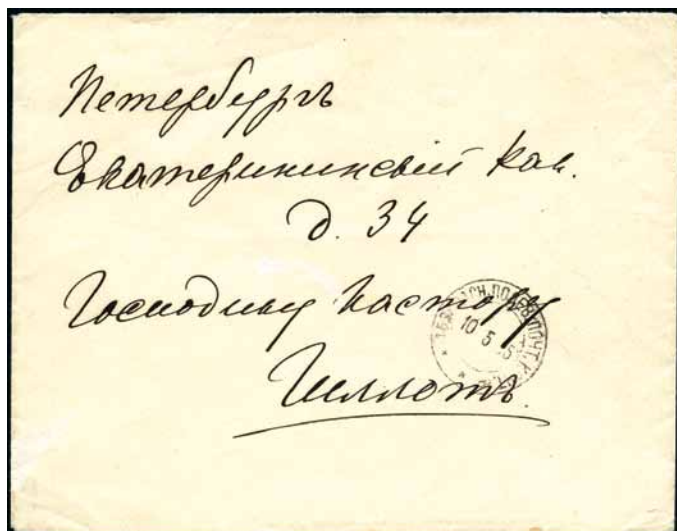
www


Also included a postcard produced in England and postally used in 1909 from the Russian Harbin-Kwangchentze TPO (Manchuria) to Belgium entitled 'Marauding Chunchuses'. These were basically mounted Chinese bandits that infested Manchuria. They formed good auxiliary troops for the Japanese, looting and burning Russian supplies and ammunition dumps in numerous hit-and-run raids behind the lines.






20182  www 1904-05 Group of 6 letter-cards, 2 postcards and a cover addressed to Paris from nurse or doctor working on Hospital Train of Empress Aleksandria Feodorovna carrying wounded soldiers from the battlefield. Hospital and military cachets, TPO and cancellations of Irkutsk, Mukden, Harbin Head FPO etc. Messages (in French with English translation provided) give harrowing accounts of suffering and death of the wounded, death of colleagues from infection and speak of a cowardly and brutish commanding officer. An intriguing historical record. **1'200**



20183  1905 Stampless cover to St Petersburg postmarked 15th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'V' 105 05. **200**

At this time No. 15 RFPO is believed to have been located at STATION BUKHAI on Line 265/266 of The Chinese Eastern Railway, south of Harbin.

20184  1905 Cover headed in Russian "Especially (urgent) from the Mobilised Section of 2nd Rifle Regiment" addressed to Poland with blue-green cds FIELD POST OFFICE No. 31 1 1 19 (05) with Arabic '1' for month inverted. Green free-frank cachet on reverse: Company/2nd Rifle Regiment. Plotsk 26 1 1905 arrival backstamp. **100**

From 1-9 January 1905 FPO No. 31 was located at SANGTIEKHE, Manchuria.





20185 ☒

1905 4k Stationery card sent 25 6 05 (New Style) by German observer with the Russian Army to Silesia, Germany cancelled HEADQUARTERS FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 12 6 05. Transit mark HEAD CENTRAL FIELD POST OFFICE 'g' and Script cachet STAMP OF CENSORSHIP SECTION OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S GHQ alongside.

200

At this time Russian GHQ was situated at KUNGCHULING, a station of the Chinese Eastern Railway on Line 265/266, south of Kwangchentze. The dispatch marks and censor cachet were previously used in Mukden, from which the GHQ retreated in March 1905.



20186 ☒

1905 Registered red-band cover to Estonia, readdressed to Nebbe, posted from RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 26, franked on reverse pair of 'Kitai' 7k, cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE No. 26/6/8 VI 05. Dispatch mark F.P.O. no. 26/4 the following day.

500

Although ordinary Russian stamps were issued to the F.P.O.s in Manchuria, 'Kitai' overprinted stamps were accepted for postage.



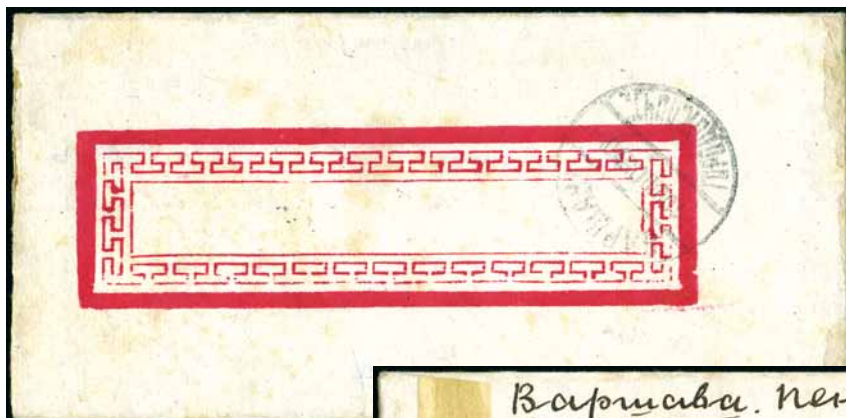


20187 

1905 Cover and card, both stampless, sent to St Petersburg and postmarked 30th RESERVE FIELD POST 'b' dated 9 6 05; 'v' dated 17 5 05, latter to a warehouse of Empress Maria Feodorovna's charity at the Anichkov Palace. St Petersburg arrival 7 VI 05.

300

At this time No. 30 Reserve FPO was located at STATION TAOLAICHAO of Line 265/266 of the CER, S. of Harbin.



20188 

1905 Decorative Chinese envelope and matching notepaper used for letter to Warsaw, dateline "STATION KWANGCHENTZE 18/VIII", endorsed "Army in the Field". Circular violet free-frank cachet SENIOR DOCTOR 8th SAPPER BATTALION, postmarked 4th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 17 7 05 (?error 17 for 18).

300

This cover confirms that this mobile FPO had moved to Kwangchentze, an important station of the CER between Mukden and Harbin.



20189

1905 Viewcard to Austria bearing Red Cross cachet of RUSSO-DUTCH MEDICAL DETACHMENT, postmarked TALADZHAO 'b' 18 9 05. Received HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE (HARBIN) 24 9 05, where violet circular cachet applied, reading: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AT REAR OF MANCHURIAN ARMY CENSOR.

200

This cancellation of TAOLAICHAO (Russian TALADZHAO), though of civilian type, is known only on stampless military mail.



20190

1905 Pictorial envelope and notepaper of military motif used by soldier to send letter to a relative in Fellin (Estonia), message in Estonian, postmarked NOVO-ALEKSANDRIA LYUBLIN G. 5 1 1905. 7k postage was required as sender was not serving on the front. Notepaper depicts stages in military training from arrival of raw recruit to 4th year graduate ready for posting to the reserve (note kettle and samovar as part of his baggage).

900

Printed name and address of the unit: HAMLET NOVO-ALEKSANDRIA LYUBLIN GUB. 72nd INFANTRY (TULA) REGIMENT with space for insertion of Company number (14).

Situated in Poland, far from the theatre of hostilities, the printed stationery suggests that it was a sedentary training unit.





20191 ☒

1905 Red-band cover with contents written in Esperanto written from MUKDEN, Manchuria, 21 1 05 (New Style) to England franked pairs of Russian Arms issue 2k and 3k tied by MUKDEN Type 3B dated 9 1 05 (Old Style = 21 1 05 New Style in blue). Encircled script cachet in black translates: SEAL OF CENSORSHIP BRANCH GENERAL HEADQUARTERS. Yeovil arrival backstamp.

400

After the fall of Lyaoyang to the Japanese in September 1904, Russian G.H.Q. moved to Mukden, until this too was taken by the Japanese in March 1905.

Russian Mukden cancellations are generally only seen in black and on stampless military mail.



20192 ☒

1905 Stampless native cover to Warsaw posted at FIELD POST OFFICE/HEADQUARTERS 3rd MANCHURIAN ARMY 12 1 05, endorsed FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY/STATION YAOMYNG and bearing blue circular cachet of FIELD PAYMASTER 2nd IRREGULAR SHARPSHOOTER CORPS.

300

This cover establishes the location of the 3rd Manchurian Army HQ in January 1905 at Yaomyng, a station of the Chinese Eastern Railway about 100 miles south of Harbin.





20193



1905 Red-band cover to Tiflis (now Tbilisi, capital of Georgian Republic) from "Colonel Chernik/3rd Manchurian Active Army". Violet circular cachet of OFFICE OF ADJUTANT-GENERAL HQ 3rd MANCHURIAN ARMY, postmarked FIELD POST OFFICE/1/No. 27 12 1 1905.

300

At this date FPO No. 27 was based at SUCHIATUNG, a station of the Chinese Eastern Railway immediately South of Mukden.



20194



1905 Registered cover to Carpentras, France, franked on reverse 10k pair tied by HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'g' 13 1 05 cds applied at HARBIN with dispatch marks of same office serials 'b' and 'v' added the next day. 'Z' registration label on obverse and encircled 'R' for registered mail outside Russia. Opened by censor and resealed with pink paper tape bearing abbreviated inscription: CENSORSHIP COMMISSION DISTRICT HQ OF MILITARY DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION OF MANCHURIAN ARMIES. Cover with vertical crease.

400

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20195 

1905 Insured money-letter for 2 roubles to ZVENIGOROD, charged 59k in Arms stamps, cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE/5th SIBERIAN CORPS (1) 15 1 05. Centre wax seal with inscription around Imperial Eagle: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE/FIELD POST OFFICE/5th SIBERIAN CORPS. A. Corner wax seals with inscription around posthorns with "thunderbolts": FIELD POST OFFICE/5th SIBERIAN CORPS. Some creasing and toning.

600



20196 

1905 Cover sent to Venice by doctor or nurse attached to Hospital Train, redirected to Paris, blue circular cachet on reverse with abbreviated inscription reading in full: MILITARY-MEDICAL TRAIN OF STATE EMPRESS ALEKSANDRA FEODOROVNA. Franked 3k and 7k Arms issue cancelled on Chinese Eastern Railway TPO HARBIN -265 -PORT ARTHUR (b) 21 1 05. Transferred to route '266' travelling back towards HARBIN, where passed to HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 2 2 05 (backstamp) for examination by Military Censor. Pink resealing tape with Cyrillic initials of CENSORSHIP COMMISSARIAT OF AREA CHQ OF MILITARY DISTRICT OF THE ARMY IN MANCHURIA. Received Venice 12 3 05 and Paris 15 3 05 (=28 2 05 and 2 3 05 Old Style). Slightly soiled and with vertical crease.

1'000





20197

1905 Viewcard sent by doctor or staff of Chief of Medical Section of Third Manchurian Army to colleague in Weisser Hirsch, Germany, franked 5k War Orphans stamp tied by FIELD POST OFFICE No. 22 (4) 23 1 1905. Script cachet SEAL OF CENSORSHIP BRANCH OF GHQ MANCHURIA.

400

The War Orphans stamps, issued late in 1904, were very rarely used outside Russia itself. The censorship cachet suggests that this Field Post Office was located at the time in the Mukden area. In February it moved to Kungchuling.



20198

1905 Registered cover from Adjutant-General with military unit at MUKDEN to St Petersburg franked on reverse 7k pair tied by 1st RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 24 1 05 cds, military cachet in black and St Petersburg arrival 24 11 05 in magenta alongside. No label but abbreviation 'MUK' for MUKDEN below number as part of hand-written registration cachet. Cover slightly reduced at left.

400





20199 ☒

1905 Card to a girls' school in St Petersburg giving thanks for gifts, sent by cavalymen serving with the 2nd SQUADRON OF 52nd DRAGOON (NEZHIN) REGIMENT, violet circular free-frank cachet of sender's unit in top right corner with FIELD POST OFFICE/ 2/17th ARMY CORPS 27 1 05 cds and St Petersburg 8 2 05 arrival alongside.

150

As part of the 17th Army Corps, the Nezhin Dragoons were in action under Lt.-General Volkhov during the Battle of Sha-Ho (Oct. 1904).



20200 ☒

1905 3k Stationery card uprated 1k to pay foreign rate to Germany cancelled with oval Chinese Eastern Railway PORT ARTHUR -266-HARBIN 'a' 7 10 05 datestamp, sent by German national engaged in evacuating sick and wounded from former Manchurian war zone. Circular magenta cachet reading around Imperial Eagle alongside: 2nd SIBERIAN HOSPITAL TRAIN OF GRAND DUCHESS MARIA PAVLONA Cancellor used only in 1905, Port Arthur and southern half of Line 265/266, subsequently handed over to Japanese.

500



20201



1905 Pictorial letter-sheet sent by soldier in 13th COMPANY, 245th INFANTRY (SOLIGALICH) REGIMENT, withdrawn from active service and based at Dvinsk, Vitebsk Guberniya, dateline 7 November 1905 (error 'IX' for 'XI' in Roman numeral). Part of archive addressed to Vezenberg.

50

Letter-sheet produced by specialist military depot in Vilna and depicts stages of training from raw recruit to fully trained reservist.



20202



1905 Registered cover from St Petersburg to Red Cross Representative in HARBIN, Manchuria. Returned to St Petersburg, label indicating addressee not traced, Harbin despatch mark translating: HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE OF THE REAR OF THE ARMY IN MANCHURIA 'a' 12 11 05.

500





20203



1905 Cover used to despatch 5 roubles to St Petersburg from CORPS FIELD POST OFFICE No. 1 28 1 05 located at Mukden, Manchuria, franked on reverse 10k, matching registration label on obverse, 2 large wax seals on reverse: CORPS FIELD POST OFFICE No. 1/INSURED CORRESPONDENCE,

400



20204



1905 Decorative Chinese cover to Moscow with circular violet free-frank cachet of 3rd DIVISION 35th ARTILLERY BRIGADE (faint strike) plus circular datestamp of FIELD POST OFFICE/1/No. 27 29 1 1905.

400

F.P.O. No. 27 was attached to 3rd Manchurian Army and opened September 1904 at SUYANTUN (SUCHIATUNG), a station of the Chinese Eastern Railway immediately south of Mukden. After the Battle of Mukden (23 Feb - 10 March 1905) the Russian armies retreated to the north and F.P.O. No. 27 moved to Koukiatien (Gouotszydyan).





20205



1905 Registered cover from Staff-Captain L.K.Blofield, Adjutant to GHQ of 3rd Siberian Army Corps, to his wife in Finland franked two 7k 1902-05 issue cancelled in blue: STAFF (GHQ) 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'v' 29 1 05. No label but ms "No. 530" in top left corner. Intaglio seal-type cachet in blue reading around Imperial Eagle: STAFF 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS. Dispatch cds of same office (serial 'b') next day ('30' inverted). trilingual (Swedish-Finnish-Russian) cds of receipt at Kristinestad 12 III 05 (N.S. =28 2 05 O.S.) (backstamps)

500



20206



1905 Registered cover to Moscow franked on reverse 7k pair tied HARBIN ARMY CORPS SUBURB 'a' 26 9 05 cds in black, violet circular intaglio seal of MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL No. 16 alongside, no registration label but "N 443" and "No. 25" in manuscript.

600

Cancellation previously reported in blue on stampless military cover.





20207



1905 Card from a Polish soldier serving with the Russian Army in Manchuria writing home to Sosnovitsy from HARBIN RAILWAY STATION 1 II 05 cds (Type 1 canceller). Alongside violet free-frank cachet: 5th COMPANY/1st TRANSAMUR RAILWAY BATTALION. The message, in Polish, states that the sender is now working on the railway as a locksmith.

150



20208



1905 Hand-painted Chinese 1c stationery card uprated 1k, 3k and 10k to pay registered rate to Hungary, cancelled 1st RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 3 2 05 (Old Style), encircled 'R' alongside denoting registration. No label but manuscript 'No. 619'. Script cachet: SEAL OF CENSORSHIP DIVISION GENERAL HEADQUARTERS MANCHURIA. Message in German, dateline MUKDEN 16 2 05 (New Style).

400

This card establishes that 1st Reserve Field Post Office operated at this time from Mukden.





20209 

1905 Stampless red-band cover to St Petersburg cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE HEADQUARTERS/1/2nd MANCHURIAN ARMY 4 II 1905, circular violet cachet on reverse repeats inscription of cancellation.

300

The 2nd Manchurian Army was created in September 1904 after the fall of Lyaoyang. Its HQ Field Post Office was opened in December 1904 and was closed in February 1906. It was mobile and in February 1905 was situated in the SW environs of Mukden.



20210 

1905 Registered cover to Moscow franked on reverse 4k and 5k (2) cancelled 1st RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 4 2 05, circular violet cachet CORPS PAYMASTER 17th ARMY CORPS and Moscow arrival 28 2 05 alongside. No registration label or cachet but numbered '11' in top left corner.

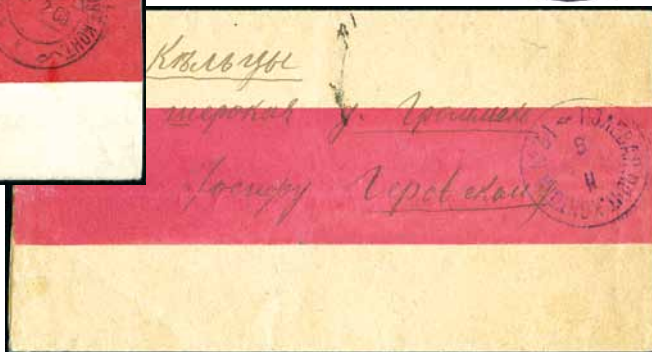
300

This FPO was situated at Mukden at this time (see Casey, BJRP 91, p.55).






20211



20212


- 20211**  1905 Stampless red-band cover endorsed "From the Active Army" postmarked 5th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 5 2 05, Samara arrival backstamp. **100**

This FPO served the detachment under General Rennenkampf (7th Siberian Army Corps) and was based at MOCHIATIEN.

- 20212**  1905 Red-band cover to Poland with free-frank cachet on reverse: 1st COMPANY 5th RIFLE REGIMENT, posted at FIELD POST OFFICE No. 31 9 II 1905, Kieltsy arrival 6 III 05. **200**

FPO NO. 31 served the 1st Composite Rifle Corps and in February 1905 was situated SIAOLIPUSA.



- 20213**  1905 Pictorial Chinese native cover to Libava posted at Russian civilian P.O. Mukden, Manchuria 21 1 05. Circular violet free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: LAZARET OF THE 99th INFANTRY (IVANGOROD) REGIMENT. **600**

A lazaret was a hospital for infectious diseases. More than a quarter of the sick Russian soldiers moved beyond Mukden for treatment suffered from venereal diseases.





20214



1905 Cover from Staff-Captain L.K.Blofield, Adjutant to GHQ 3rd Siberian Army Corps to his wife in Finland postmarked in blue: STAFF (GHQ) 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'b' 10 2 05.

300

Trilingual (Swedish-Finnish-Russian) cds of receipt at Kristinestad 22 II 05 (= 9 III 05 Old Style) on reverse. Circular free-frank cachet in red reading around Imperial Eagle; STAFF OF 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS



20215



1905 3k Stationery card used by a private soldier in the 11th (PSKOV) REGIMENT, wounded in the leg on 1st February, to send thanks from hospital to "Dear Mother Tsarina" (Empress Marie Feodorovna) for her gift. Posted to St Petersburg on HARBIN-262-MANCHZHURIA T.P.O. (train 'g') 13 2 05. Red cachet: 2nd LAZARET OF THE COMMUNITY OF ST. GEORGE.

300





20216 

1903 3k Stationery card uprated 1k to pay overseas rate to War Ministry, Berlin, cancelled MUKDEN Type 3A 15 2 05. Alongside script cachet translating: SEAL OF CENSORSHIP BRANCH GENERAL HEADQUARTERS MANCHURIA.

400

First recorded example of genuine Mukden Type 3A cancellation with serial 'a' at side instead of asterisk.



20217 

1905 Cover to Moscow franked 7k tied by blue TIEHLING/1/FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 16 II 1905 cds, alongside violet circular cachet around Imperial Eagle: MANCHURIAN MILITARY TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY ATTACHED TO FIELD HEADQUARTERS OF HIS IMPERIAL MAJESTY'S VICEROY IN THE FAR EAST

200

This cachet shows that the Viceroy's Field HQ, previously in Mukden, had moved to Tieling ahead of the Russian military evacuation of Mukden (25 February/10 March 1905).



20218

1905 Red-band cover endorsed FROM 1st ACTIVE ARMY registered to Simbirsk franked 14k tied 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 16 2 05. No registration label, but manuscript "628/FUSHUN". Simbirsk 13 3 05 arrival backstamp along with intaglio cachet of 2nd COMPANY 7th (KRASNOYARSK) SIBERIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT.

600

This cover confirms the location of 12th Reserve F.P.O. at Fushun, on the Hun Ho, 40km ENE of Mukden. Three days after this cover was posted the office was evacuated in the face of the Japanese advance.



20219

1905 Stampless cover to Riga endorsed FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY with violet free-frank seal: 6th SOTNYA 1st ARGUN REGIMENT OF TRANSBAIKAL COSSACKS. FIELD POST OFFICE/2/5th SIBERIAN CORPS 17 2 05 cds alongside.

150


A Sotnya was a unit of 100 cossacks.






20221


20220

20220  1905 Harbin viewcard to Narva posted from HARBIN RAILWAY STATION 20 II 1905 (error 1901) with violet circular free-frank cachet: BAKERY OF HARBIN COMMISSARIAT, Narva 16 3 05 arrival cds alongside. Additional postcard depicting field kitchen and staff on way to Far Eastern front. **200**

20221  Chinese 1c stationery card uprated Russian 10k addressed to Paris by French national stationed at TIEHLING, Manchuria, cancelled in blue: No. 10 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/ PRIAMUR DISTRICT 23 II 1905. Black script cachet alongside: SEAL OF CENSORSHIP DIVISION GENERAL HEADQUARTERS MANCHURIA. **300**

Message indicates that writer was not troubled by the war. A week later Tiehling was put to the torch and abandoned by the Russians in the face of the Japanese advance.



20222  1905 Red-band cover to St Petersburg with violet free-frank cachet on reverse: 2nd COMPANY 18th DETACHMENT OF STATE MILITIA SIBERIAN MILITARY DISTRICT. Posted on Chinese Eastern Railway TPO HARBIN-262-MANCHULI 25 2 05 with another impression struck following day. Not received at St Petersburg until 14 III 05 owing to congestion on Trans-Siberian Railway. **100**



20223

1905 Pictorial envelope with military motif sent by soldier on Active Service to Serpukhov from HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE (HARBIN) 'b' 27 2 05. On reverse violet circular free-frank cachet: 12th EAST SIBERIAN RESERVE BATTALION and arrival cancel.

300



20224

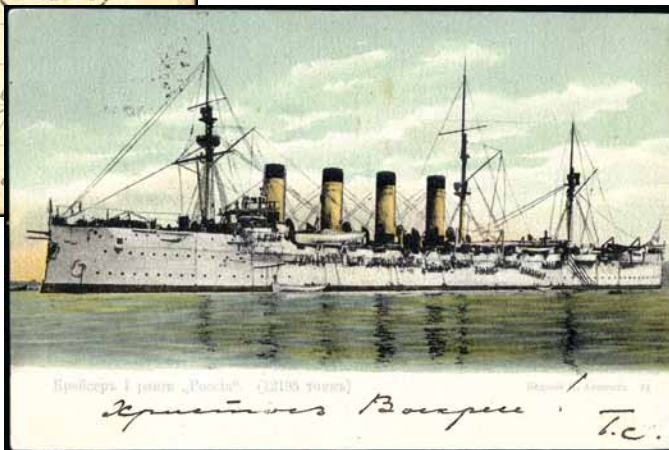
1905 Viewcard of Tsitsikar addressed from TIEHLING to Dmitrovsk (Orlov Guberniya) by officer of Russian rearguard 28 February 1905. No cancellation consistent with evacuation of Tieling post and telegraph office two days earlier ahead of the Japanese advance. Violet free-frank cachet: COMMANDANT OF MANCHULI RAILWAY STATION evidently pre-applied to sender's stationery. Dmitrovsk 30 III 05 arrival.

300

Recorded R. Casey "The Postrider" 52 (2003), p.10.

Additional postcard included depicting main entrance of Tieling.





20225 ☒

1905 Formula-card to Warsaw and picture postcard of cruiser "Rossiya" to Helsinki posted from VLADIVOSTOK 2 3 05 and 12 4 05 respectively, both with violet circular cachet reading below Imperial Eagle: CRUISER FIRST CLASS/ "ROSSIYA"

500

The cruiser "Rossiya" operated from Vladivostok as a marauder, attacking Japanese transports and merchantmen in the Sea of Japan. Badly damaged in the Battle of the Ulsan (14 August 1904), returned to Vladivostok for repairs and remained bottled up there by Japanese mines for the rest of the war.



20226 ☒

1905 Pictorial envelope and illustrated letter with military motifs used from STATION GUNZHULIN (=KUNGCHULING) 8 III 1905 to Biryuch, Russia, circular datestamp of TIEHLING (Russian TELIN) applied in blue same day; red circular free-frank cachet of 29th ARABA WARTIME TRANSPORT. Envelope with small faults.

600

Tiehling was put to the torch and abandoned by the Russians ahead of the Japanese advance and new defensive lines were put up at Kungchuling, 200km to the north. Written 5 days after the Japanese had entered Tiehling (3 3 05 OS = 16 3 5 NS), this letter shows that the Tiehling canceller continued in use at the new location.



20227 ☒

1905 Registered cover to France franked on reverse 20k tied HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'g' 6 3 05 cds applied at HARBIN with dispatch marks of same office serial 'v' 9 3 05 and serial 'b' 10 2 (error for '3') 05. 'Z' registration label alongside and encircled 'R' on front. Opened by censor and resealed with paper tape reading CENSORSHIP COMMISSION AT REAR HQ OF MANCHURIAN ARMIES.

500



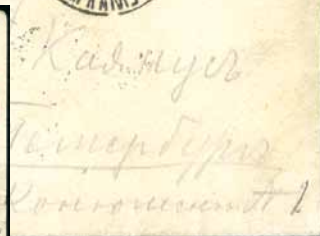
20228 ☒

1905 3k Stationery card written from "St. Gun'zhulin (=GUNCHULIN; KUNGCHULING), Chinese Eastern Railway" 10 March 1905. Cancelled blue-green TIEHLING FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH PRIAMUR DISTRICT cds.

200

Tiehling was put to the torch and abandoned by the Russians ahead of the Japanese advance. Their Commander in Chief, General Kuropatkin, departed by train with his staff to set up defensive lines at Kungchuling, 200km to the north. This card, written a week after the Japanese had entered Tiehling (16 3 05), indicates that the Field Post and Telegraph Office had also moved to St. Kungchuling, though continuing to use the Tiehling canceller.





20230

20229

20229 ☒

1905 Viewcard of Khabarovsk to Shkudy via Station Prekulín, L.G. (Libava-Gazenpot) Railway, Kovno Guberniya, posted from Khabarovsk 14 III 05 with red free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: KHABAROVSK No. 4 COVERED HOSPITAL, Shkudy 9 IV 05 arrival.

60

An example of a hospital functioning well outside the theatre of active military conflict.

20230 ☒

1905 Cover to St Petersburg with violet free-frank cachet of FIELD HEADQUARTERS OF 2nd MANCHURIAN ARMY. Cancelled No. 10 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 14 III 1905, St Petersburg 25 III 1905 arrival backstamp.

150

The 2nd Manchurian Army HQ and FPO No. 10 left Tieling on 26 February 1905 ahead of the Japanese advance and relocated at ST.KUNGCHULING of the Chinese Eastern Railway, depicted on postcard in the lot.

Recorded R.Casey, "The Postrider" 52 (2003), p.10.

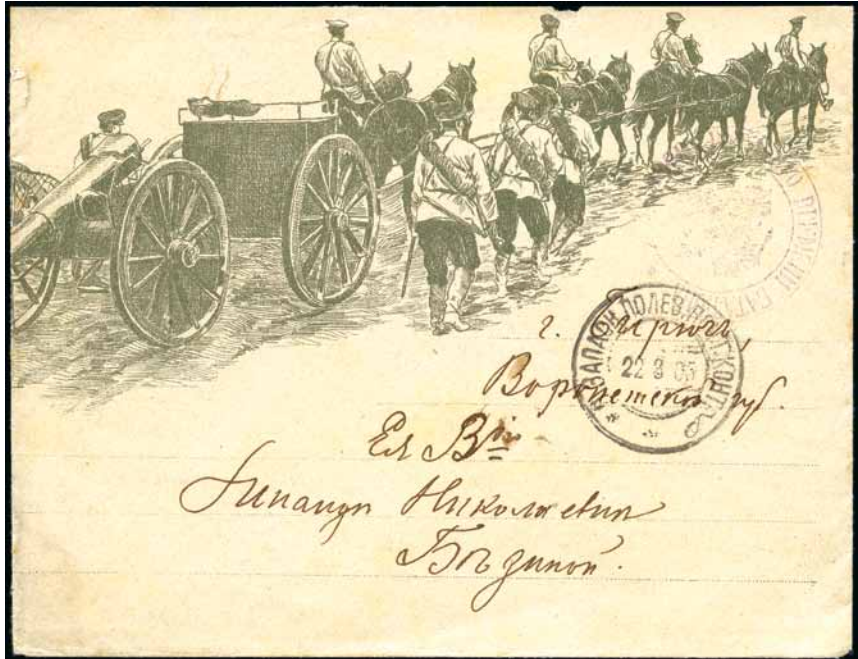


20231 ☒

1905 Postcard with manuscript endorsement FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY addressed to Kiev, posted at the FIELD POST OFFICE 10th ARMY CORPS (5) 21 3 05 and bearing orange-red cachet of the 6th SAPPER BATTALION, MILITARY TELEGRAPH REGIMENT. Note the use of "thunderbolts" in the military cachet.

100





20232

1905 Pictorial envelope and contents with military motif, written from village of ERTSENDYANTSZY, east of HARBIN 21 3 05 but posted next day to Biryuch, Russia, from 6th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b', then located at KIRIN, about 180km to the south. Faint violet free-frank cachet of WARTIME TRANSPORT BATTALION alongside.

500



20233

1905 Registered cover to Germany franked 1889-92 1k and 3k and 1902-05 2k and 14k for 20k registered rate tied by HEADQUARTERS FIELD POST OFFICE (a) 24 3 05 cds, encircled 'R' alongside with registration label translating: FIELD POST OFFICE ATTACHED TO HEADQUARTERS MANCHURIAN ARMY. Black script cachet on obverse: SEAL OF CENSORSHIP DIVISION GHQ MANCHURIA.

700

After the fall of Mukden (10 3 05) the Russian GHQ withdrew to KUOKIATJEN.





20234



1905 Registered cover from HARBIN RAILWAY STATION to Warsaw sent by doctor with the 7th RIFLE REGIMENT, endorsed FROM THE ARMY IN THE FIELD. Oval canceller Type 2b of HARBIN CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION 25 3 05 Green circular cachet of 1st BATTALION 7th RIFLE REGIMENT.

200



20235



1905 Siberian viewcard (source of River Angara) used by soldier at "village Takudyatszy 24 March" to write to his parents at Cossack village of Stanitsa Novopokrovskaya, postmarked next day: STAFF (GHQ) 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'v'

150

Violet circular free-frank cachet alongside: OFFICE OF COMMANDER OF ARTILLERY 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS. Card with some peripheral faults.



20236



www 1905 Siberian viewcard addressed to Chausy (arrival 24 IV 1905), Mogilev Guberniya, endorsed "From the Active Army", dateline "Gunchzhulin (=KUNGCHULING)/27 March 1905". Postmarked same day No. 10 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT.

100

No. 10 FPO was originally located at TIEHLING, whence it was evacuated along with Russian Army Headquarters a few days before the town fell to the Japanese (3/16 March 1905). The new location at KUNGCHULING a station of the Chinese Eastern Railway about 192 km (120 miles) NE of Tiehling, is depicted in an additional card to the lot. Both somewhat soiled.

Recorded R. Casey, The Postrider 52 (2003), p.10.



20237



1905 Pictorial envelope and contents with military motif, notepaper depicting Mobile Field Hospital. Posted from ERTSENDYANTSZY, a village 60 km E of HARBIN, Manchuria at 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 28 3 05. Sent by an officer serving with 1st Army, 5th BAGGAGE BATTALION to Biryuch, Russia.

900

On reverse red circular cachet: 29th ARABA WARTIME TRANSPORT. (An araba was a bullock or horse-drawn covered cart, as depicted on notepaper.)

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via our website, www.davidfeldman.com



20238



20239



20240

20238 ☒ 1905 Stampless cover from St Petersburg (3 III 1905) sent to Captain at Headquarters of 3rd Manchurian Army, re-addressed to HQ 2nd Manchurian Army, arrival cancels: FIELD POST OFFICE/4/HEADQUARTERS 3rd MANCHURIAN ARMY 28 III 1905 and FIELD POST OFFICE HEADQUARTERS/3/2nd MANCHURIAN ARMY 1 IV 1905. 200

Ordinary mail addressed to the armed forces on active service was forwarded without charge.

20239 ☒ 1905 Picture postcard of Lake Baikal to St Petersburg (19 IV 1905) endorsed "From the Active Army" and dated 30 3 05, postmarked same day HEADQUARTERS 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'v' with blue free-frank cachet alongside: 23rd EAST SIBERIAN RIFLE REGIMENT 150

20240 ☒ 1905 Japanese card to St Petersburg sent 31 March 1905 (=13 April New Style) by Russian Naval Warrant Officer held at POW camp at MATSUYAMA, Japan. Three-line SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE and oval Japanese censor chop, both in violet, alongside. St Petersburg arrival 13 V 1905 (=26 May N.S.) 300

Message includes: "We are impatiently waiting the sea battle because we think it will bring us close to a conclusion", referring to the impending Battle of Tsushima, in which the Russian Baltic Fleet was annihilated (27-28 May).



20241



1905 Registered cover to Germany franked 4k block of 4 plus single to make 20k rate, tied FIELD POST OFFICE/2/HQ 3rd MANCHURIAN ARMY 2 IV 1905, Cassel arrival 10 5 05 (27 6 05 O.S.), encircled 'R' for registration and handwritten 'N 627'. Passed to GHQ which applied its cds HEADQUARTERS/FIELD POST OFFICE 4 4 05 on reverse and censor handstamp on front, reading: STAMP OF THE CENSORSHIP SECTION OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF'S HEADQUARTERS

500

After the fall of Mukden to the Japanese, the GHQ of the Russian Manchurian Armies moved to KUOKIATIEN STATION, on Line 265-266 of the Chinese Eastern railway. HQ of the 3rd Army was then located one station to the south, at SZEPINGKIA.



20242



1905 Chinese red-band cover used by Army Captain to send letter to his wife in Ostrov (arrival backstamp 30 IV 05) Lomzha Guberniya, Russia. Circular red free-frank intaglio cachet, repeated on reverse: 7th BATTERY 6th ARTILLERY BRIGADE, cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE 6th SIBERIAN CORPS 'b' 2 4 05.

200



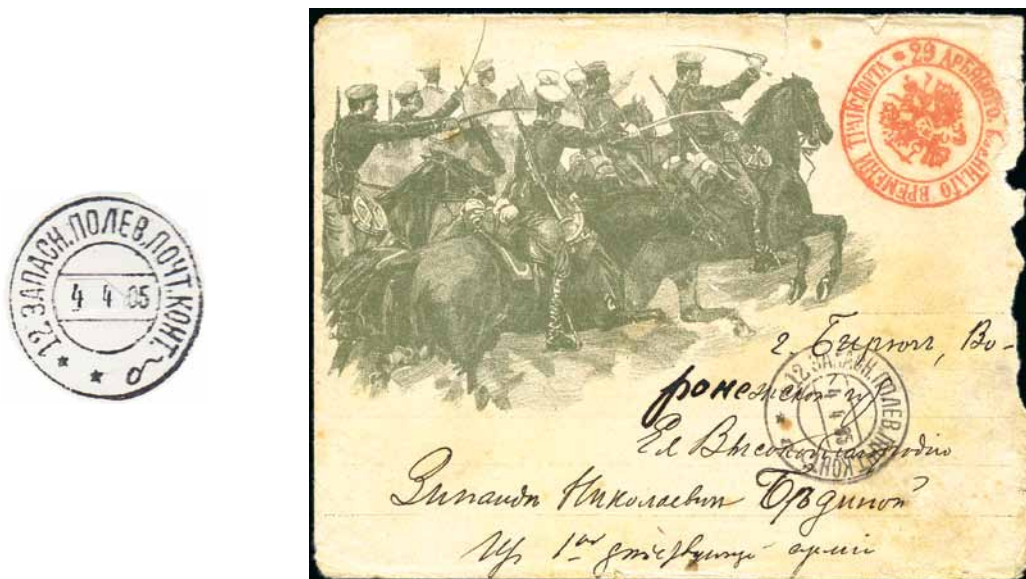


20243



1905 Registered cover to Finland franked on reverse 1902-05 7k pair cancelled in black STAFF (GHQ) 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'v' 2 4 05. No registration label but manuscript "No. 100" top left, red circular cachet on front and back reading around Imperial Eagle: STAFF OF 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS. Trilingual (Swedish-Finnish-Russian) cds of receipt at Kristinestad on reverse.

300



20244



1905 Illustrated envelope and notepaper with cavalry motifs written 3 4 1905 from village of ERTSANDYANTSZY, 60 km E of HARBIN and posted next day at 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b', red free-frank cachet: 29th ARABA WARTIME TRANSPORT. Envelope with ragged edges at right and lightly toned.

600





20245



1905 Picture postcard of Harbin Wharf to office of Syzran-Vyazma Railway at Kaluga. Black intaglio free-frank cachet and cds: HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 4 4 05, received KALUGA 21 4 05. Card lightly toned. Head Field Post Office was situated at HARBIN.

100

Delayed delivery due to heavy military traffic on the Chinese Eastern and Trans-Siberian Railways.



20246



1905 Pictorial envelope with cavalry motif and contents, the notepaper depicting an infantry patrol. Posted from ERTSENDYANTSZY', a village 60km E of HARBIN, Manchuria at 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 7 4 05. sent by medical officer serving with 1st ARMY, 29th TRANSPORT to Biryuch, Russia. Franked on reverse 14k pair to pay registered rate. Manuscript '225' (Registration labels not in use at this Field Post Office).

900





20247



20248



20249

- 20247

✉

1905 Picture postcard of decked-out battleship "Retsivan" used to send Easter greetings to Syzran (arrival 10 4 05), postmarked HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE (Harbin) (date illegible). Blue circular intaglio cachet of 8th BATTERY 10th ARTILLERY BRIGADE.

200
- 20248

✉

1905 7k Postal stationery envelope uprated 3k to pay overseas rate to Germany. Initially cancelled by hand, probably in the field, before sending to HARBIN, when opened and resealed with label reading: CENSORSHIP COMMISSARIAT H.Q. AT REAR OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMIES. Cancelled HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 10 4 05.

400
- 20249

✉

1905 Picture postcard of ships laid up for winter on River Shilka, Siberia, written from "ST. KOTYADYAN (=KUOKIATIEN) Chinese Railway 7am 9 April" to Volkovysk, Grodno Guberniya. Circular violet free-frank cachet ADMINISTRATION OF 16th FLYING PARK OF ARTILLERY BRIGADE, cancelled blue-green FIELD POST OFFICE No. 27 10 IV 1905, received Volkovysk 3 5 05.

300

This card establishes the location of FPO No. 27 at Kuokiatien (Russian Gotzyadyan) in April 1905.

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20250



20251

20250 ☒

1905 Picture postcard of the Manchurian town Tsitsikar to Chita (Siberia) franked 3k tied by TSITSIKAR FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE 'b' IN MANCHURIA 11 4 05, Chita arrival 16 IV 1905. Card somewhat aged. Absence of military cachet and use of postage stamp suggests that this post-telegraph office was open for civilian use.

400

20251 ☒

1905 Card to President of Russo-Dutch (Medical) detachment in St Petersburg written from TAOLAICHAO by Staff-Captain in charge of RAILWAY FIELD CORPS. Free-frank cachet in blue: BASE COMMANDANT/TAOLAICHZHAO and circular datestamp: 30th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 12 4 05.

300

This card fixes the location of Field Post Office No. 30 in April 1905 as Taolaichao, which had a station of the Chinese Eastern Railway (Line 265/266).



20252 ☒

1905 3k Stationery card, hand-painted on reverse sent to Bucharest by a Romanian officer attached to the Russian Army at HARBIN, Manchuria additionally franked with Chinese and Russian stamps, including a set of 1905 War Charity unusually used from Russian P.O.s in Manchuria, cancelled 12 4 05 at HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'b'. Circular violet cachet alongside: CENSOR/HEADQUARTERS REAR OF MANCHURIAN ARMY.

500





20253

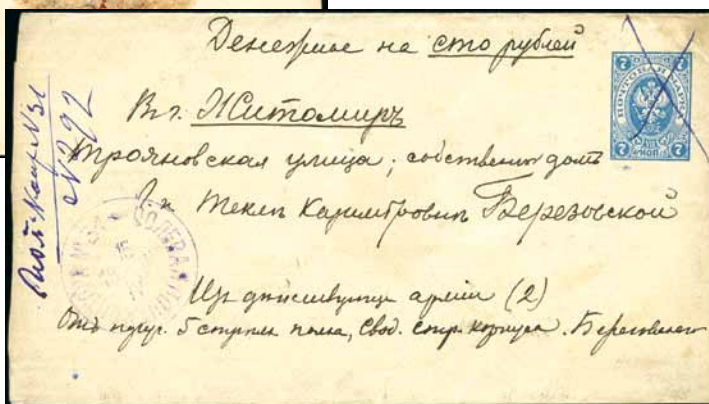
20255

20253



1905 Stampless cover to Ostrov from a Captain with the 6th Artillery Brigade. Red circular free-frank cachet reads: 7th BATTERY 6th ARTILLERY BRIGADE, cds alongside reads: FIELD POST OFFICE 6th SIBERIA CORPS 13 4 05. Ostrov arrival backstamp 6 5 05. Cover reduced at left.

150



20254



1905 7k Stationery envelope used to transmit 100 roubles to Zhitomir, endorsed FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY (2), sent by an officer with the 5th RIFLE REGIMENT, PROVISIONAL RIFLE CORPS 15 IV 05. Uprated on reverse 32k made up of vertical strip of 4 7k plus 1k and 3k tied by FIELD POST OFFICE No. 31 cds's, registration mark in manuscript only.

500

20255



1905 Urals viewcard used by doctor or nurse on hospital train to send Easter greetings to Moscow "from far-away Siberia, STATION TAIGA". Received at Moscow branch of Kursk-Nizhnegorod Railway and passed to Moscow City Post for delivery 16 4 05. Circular and oval free-frank cachets in blue: 35th SIBERIAN MILITARY-MEDICAL TRAIN

150





20256



1905 Card addressed to Charity of Empress Maria Feodorovna at the Anichov Palace, St Petersburg from soldier based at STATION KUNGCHULING (Russian Gunchzhulin) (on Line 265/266 of Chinese Eastern Railway) 18 April 1905, postmarked same day 6th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'g'.

300

This card confirms the location of No. 6 RFPO at Kungchuling at this time.



20257



1905 Registered cover to TSAR NICHOLAS II ("His Imperial Majesty Sovereign Emperor Nikolai Aleksandrovich") at St Petersburg franked 14k on reverse tied by HEADQUARTERS FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 20 4 05, then located at KUNGCHULING. Registration label on obverse translates: FIELD POST OFFICE ATTACHED TO HEADQUARTERS OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMIES. St Petersburg magenta arrival backstamp, passed same day to ST PETERSBURG CHANCELLERY OF THE POSTAL DIRECTOR, a special office for handling mail of the Imperial Court.

1'000

Illustrated "Rossica" No. 113/114 (1990), p.45, fig. 18a.





20258



1905 Two picture postcards, first to Velikiya Luki with free-frank cachet in red COMMANDER OF TORPEDO BOAT "KETA", written from ST. ACHINSK, Siberia, and posted on POSTAL WAGON No. 188 (KRASNOYARSK-NOVONIKOLAEVSK) 1 V 1905. The second to St Petersburg with free-frank cachet in violet TORPEDO BOAT "SOM", posted at port of Vladivostok 29 5 05.

300



20259



1905 Cover from "His Imperial Majesty's Chancellery for Receiving Petitions" to a Russian peasant in Harbin, endorsed "with documents". Dispatched St Petersburg with official seals 1 V 1905 and received HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE (HARBIN) 'a' 21 5 05.

200

Enquiry label and endorsement of Post-telegraph Clerk show that addressee could not be located and item returned from HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 24 7 05, arrival 11 VIII, delay in transit due to military congestion on the line.



20261



20260

20260 ☒

1905 3k Stationery card from a wounded soldier in hospital in HARBIN writing to Empress Maria Feodorovna's charity in St Petersburg acknowledging gift of tobacco-pouch. He identifies himself as belonging to 3rd COMPANY 24th EAST SIBERIAN RIFLE REGIMENT. Card, issued free of charge cancelled in green: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS/POST OFFICE 15 05. This card enables the temporary location of this mobile Field Post Office to be fixed as Harbin.

200

20261 ☒

1905 Obsolete formular card with dateline "Position Syaokhetszy 27 VI 1905", addressed to Finland, postmarked one week later FIELD POST OFFICE SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS No. 4 'b' 4 5 05. Two different circular free-frank cachets in violet of 12th (BARNAUL) SIBERIAN INFANTRY REGIMENT.

150



20262 ☒

1905 Viewcard to St Petersburg posted from MANCHULI RAILWAY STATION 7 V 1905 with Red Cross free-frank cachet: REPRESENTATIVE OF UNITED ZEMSTVO ORGANISATION FOR RELIEF OF THE SICK AND WOUNDED

400

At the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War (1904), though outside the sphere permitted the zemstvos by law, fourteen zemstvos entered into a secret agreement to send field hospitals to the Far East. When the news reached the central government the Zemstvo Organisation was promptly declared illegal and other zemstvos were prohibited from joining it. The Ministry of the Interior who had banned the formation of the zemstvo field hospitals was murdered and as a concession to public opinion his successor gave the organisation official recognition and permitted other zemstvos to participate.





20265



1905 Insured money-letter for 15 roubles to St Petersburg franked on reverse with 14k and 35k tied FIELD POST OFFICE No. 30 11 V 1905 cds, wax seals alongside inscribed INSURED CORRESPONDENCE/FIELD POST OFFICE No. 30

400

Sender gives address as ST.TSITSIKAR, indicating that F.P.O. No. 30 had moved in May 1905 to the suburb (now the town of ANGANKI) that had grown up around the Station of the Chinese Eastern Railway, some 20 miles south of Tsitsikar proper.



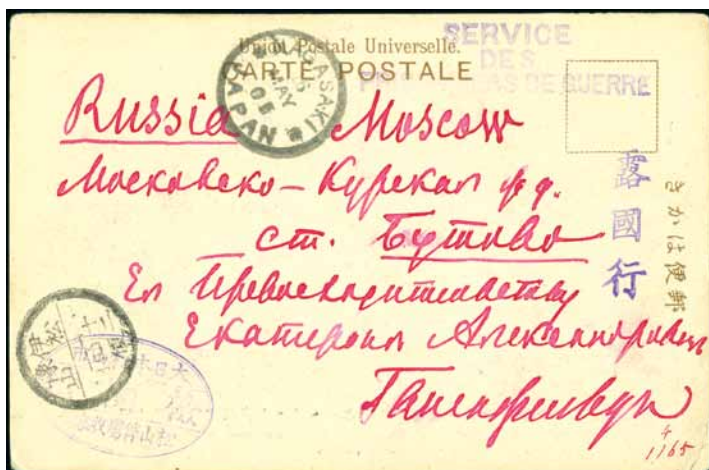
20266



1905 Insured money-letter for 100 roubles to YUKHNOV franked on reverse 4k and 35k Arms issue tied by abbreviated cancellation translating: HAILAR FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE 'a' 14 5 05. Straight-line violet handstamp HAILAR and manuscript 'N596' on front, on reverse large central wax seal inscribed INSURED CORRESPONDENCE/ HAILAR FIELD/POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE 'a' around Imperial Eagle. Corner seals with HAILAR and symbol.

600





20267



20268

- 20267**
✉

1905 Card depicting wounded Russian prisoners at Red Cross hospital, Matsuyama, Japan, sent by Russian P.O.W. to STATION BUTEVO, on the Moscow-Kursk Railway. Sent via Japanese port of Nagasaki 16 May 1905. Japanese censor cachet.

400
- 20268**
✉

1905 Viewcard of Kainsk Railway Station, Trans-Siberian Railway, addressed to Pyatigorsk (Caucasus), dateline "16/V", cancelled next day in green STATION KARGAT/ SIBERIAN RAILWAY 17 5 05, violet circular free-frank cachet of 209th INFANTRY (--ERVN. NIKOLAEVSK) REGIMENT. Pyatigorsk arrival 26 V 1905.

100



- 20269**
✉

1905 Cover of insured money letter for 75 roubles and accompanying message on illustrated notepaper with military motif sent by officer serving with 1st ARMY, 5th BAGGAGE BATTALION, written from village ERTSENDYANTSZY 8 V 1905 and posted same day to Biryuch, Russia from 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a', charges paid by two 14k and single 4k Arms issue, adhesives with some faults.

700

Wax seals of 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE on reverse and manuscript registration number in top left-hand corner.



20270 ☒

Stampless cover from Russian P.O.W. in Japan, sent via Kobe to a Colonel in the Russian Railway Gendarmerie at TOMSK, Siberia. Re-addressed to Omsk and received 21 V 1905 at OMSK RAILWAY STATION, on the Trans-Siberian Line. Violet 3-line SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE and vertical red-orange Japanese chop reading PRISONER OF WAR MAIL on front; violet oval Japanese cachet reading GREATER JAPAN.../ CENSORED/NAGOYA PRISONER OF WAR CAMP.

300



20272

20271

20271 ☒

1905 Formular card endorsed "From the Active Manchurian Army" written by a wounded soldier in hospital in HARBIN writing to charity of Empress Maria Feodorovna at Anichov Palace cancelled HARBIN HOSPITAL SUBURB 'v' 21 5 05 with violet free-frank cachet alongside: 8th HARBIN COVERED HOSPITAL. Included is a postcard depicting interior of Harbin military hospital.

300

20272 ☒

1905 Card addressed to charity of Empress Maria Feodorovna at the Anichkov Palace, St Petersburg from officer with the 2nd Company of 164th Reserve Infantry Regiment giving thanks for gift, dispatched from FIELD POST OFFICE/5/16th ARMY CORPS 22 V 1905, St Petersburg arrival 13 VI 1905.

200

At this time the 16th Army Corps is said to have been based at STATION MEISHATZE of the Chinese Eastern Railway (Line 265/266) S. of Harbin



20273 

1905 Formular card to Empress Maria Feodorovna's charity at the Anichkov Palace, St Petersburg from wounded NCO of 7th COMPANY 10th (ROSSIISK) RIFLE REGIMENT giving thanks for gift. Cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE/1/No. 27 22 V 1905 cds in blue.

300

At this time No. 27 FPO was located at KUOKIATIEN.

20274 

1905 Card sent by Cossack of 2nd SOTNIA 11th ORENBURG COSSACK REGIMENT to Empress Feodorovna at St Petersburg giving thanks for gift, cancelled HARBIN HOSPITAL SUBURB 'a' 25 5 05. Red free-frank cachet of 4th HARBIN COVERED HOSPITAL.

400

This Cossack unit took part in the defence of Mukden (March 1905), in which Russian losses were more than 40,000 killed and nearly 50,000 wounded. This wounded soldier says that he was evacuated by Empress Maria's Military Medical Train from Station Kungchuling, to which Russian GHQ moved after the fall of Mukden.

Additional viewcard included depicting transfer of wounded to a Harbin hospital.

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20275



1905 HISTORICAL LETTER addressed to "Manchuria. Gunzhulin (Kungchuling). To the General Staff of the Commander-in-Chief of all the Armed Forces. To the Senior Adjutant of the Intelligence Department, Lt.-Colonel of the General Staff Baron Viteken".

1'000

Sent by wounded officer recuperating in St Petersburg voicing his suspicions that the British Military Observer with the Russian forces in Manchuria, Colonel Waters, is spying for the Japanese and wants him placed under surveillance.

Following receipt of this letter, the accreditation of Col. Waters was withdrawn and on attempting to return to Manchuria from leave he was stopped at Irkutsk and made to turn back.

The envelope bears a St Petersburg cds of 24 4 05 and receipt cds of HEADQUARTERS/ FIELD POST OFFICE 'd' 29 5 05. Also red crayon "Handed to Lt.-Col....29 V". Sent post free as soldier's mail.

Walls court Walters, who became a Brigadier-General, was Military Attaché in St Petersburg 1893-1898, observer with the Russian Army in Manchuria 1904-05 and chief of the British Military Mission at Russian GHQ in 1916. His book "Secret and Confidential" (1926) describes the Irkutsk incident.





20276



1905 Two cards posted at HARBIN, one endorsed "From the Active Army" and addressed to Postal Station Astrabamovka in Alatyr District of Simbirsk Guberniya, no dispatch mark but 31 V arrival, other addressed to St Petersburg from HARBIN RAILWAY STATION 6 II 1905, arriving 25 II. Both with blue circular free-frank cachets of 1st PONTOON BATTALION - 2nd and 3rd COMPANIES respectively.

200



20277



1905 Pictorial envelope with military motif sent from Vladivostok to Moscow 26 05 with blue free-frank on reverse of No. 265 RESERVE FIELD HOSPITAL

400





20278

1905 Viewcard to Old Peterhof with free-frank cachet of OFFICE OF THE CAUCASIAN CAVALRY BRIGADE, written from village of PEN-DIONA 3 VI 05 and posted 8 days later at FIELD POST OFFICE No. 23 with date inserted by hand. Some staining.

200

The locations of the village and the Field Post Office are unknown.



20279

1905 Two postcards to Lodz, Petrok Guberniya (Poland), one with dateline "Kanovino/ 11 IX 1905" and blue circular free-frank cachet 64th SIBERIAN HOSPITAL TRAIN and posted from Nizhnii-Novgorod/Moscow-Nizhnii Railway Station 13 9 05. Other with dateline "Gunchzulin (Kungchuling) 21 VI 1905" (=8 6 05 Old Style); violet circular free-frank cachet of 4th BATTERY 75th ARTILLERY BRIGADE, postmarked HEAD CENTRAL FIELD POST OFFICE 'd' 8 6 05. Both with two-line handstamp DELIVER WITHOUT CHARGE, one in violet-grey, the other in red., Lodz arrival 16 9 and 30 6 respectively.

400

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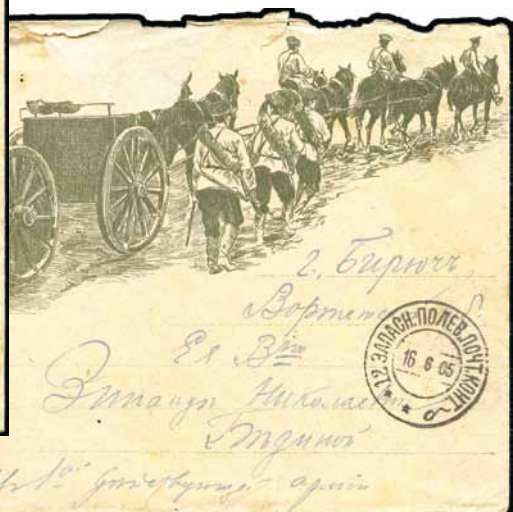
20280

20281

20280  1905 Viewcard addressed in Czech to Bohemia franked 1k and 3k cancelled at mobile F.P.O. FIELD CORPS No. 2 POST OFFICE 'a' 10 6 05. Violet cachet of 18th EAST SIBERIAN RIFLE REGIMENT. Sent by Regimental Bandmaster, a Bohemian. 300

It was not unusual for the Imperial Russian Army to enlist Bohemian musicians.

20281  1905 Cover to STATION Ikskyul (arrival 6 VII 05), Riga-Orlov Railway, endorsed "From the Active Army" and posted at Field Post Office/5/17th ARMY CORPS 11 6 05. Blue circular cachet reading 5th SOTNYA 1 ARGUN REGIMENT OF TRANSBAIKAL MILITARY COSSACKS 100



20282  1905 Pictorial military envelope endorsed "From the Active Army" and posted to Biryuch, Russia, from 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 16 6 05, then located at village ERTSANDYANTSZY, 60km E. of HARBIN. On reverse red circular free frank cachet: 27th ARABA WARTIME TRANSPORT. Small part of front of envelope missing. 500

An araba was a bullock or horse-drawn cart.





20283



1905 cover with contents from a soldier writing from No. 292 MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL (circular violet cachet on reverse) to his wife in Penza, Cover endorsed "From the Active Army" and posted at 5th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 17 6 05. Letter says that this month the writer had already sent his wife 2 money letters, 4 registered letters, 8 ordinary letters and 7 telegrams.

400

Dateline of this letter establishes that at this time No. 292 Mobile Field Hospital and 5th Reserve Field Post Office were located at MOPEISHAN, about 87 km SW of KIRIN, E. Manchuria.



20284



1905 Viewcard of Khabarovsk Railway Station sent to Odessa from CENTRAL FIELD TELEGRAPH BRANCH 17 6 05, arriving 3 7 05. Large red free-frank cachet on front and back: 1st GEORGIAN RED CROSS HOSPITAL NAMED AFTER EMPRESS MARIA.

200





20285 

1905 Pictorial envelope with Field Hospital motif produced in Kiev, sent as stampless soldiers' mail to St Petersburg. Abbreviated endorsement translates: FROM THE ACTIVE ARMY. 120th INFANTRY (SEPUKHOV) REGIMENT. Cancelled GENERAL HEADQUARTERS FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 19 6 05.

500

After the fall of Mukden, March 1905, the Russian G.H.Q. was transferred to KUOKIATIEN, a small station of the Chinese Eastern Railway south of Harbin in a section of the railway ceded to Japan after 1905.



20286 

1905 Pictorial cover produced in Kiev with artillery motif on front and mainly cavalry motif on reverse, endorsed "From the Active Army" and addressed to the village of Klemantov in volost of the same name in Mekhov District of Ketsi Guberniya (Poland) postmarked 6th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 19 6 05. Some toning.

500

At this date No. 6 FPO was located at Intsiaputsa.



20287

1905 Picture postcard endorsed "From the Active Army" addressed to Porkhov, Pskov Guberniya with dateline "Godzyadan (=GUOTSZYADYAN, Russian spelling of KUOKIATIEN) 14 VI 05", cancelled HEADQUARTERS FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 19 6 05. Violet free-frank cachet 1st EAST SIBERIAN SECTION OF TELEGRAPH COMPANY. Porkhov arrival 5 7 05.

200

After the fall of Mukden to the Japanese in March 1905, the General Headquarters of the Russian armies moved to the railway station at Kuokiatien, south of Kwangchentze, and on May 5th to the next station north, KUNGCHULING, where this item was posted.



20288

1905 Insured money letter for 1 rouble sent to Moscow by doctor at Red Cross hospital at STATION VEISHAKHE, Chinese Eastern Railway (Line 263/264). Since Veishakhe handled only ordinary mail, sent down line to STATION HANDAOKHETZE where 7k and 10k cancelled on reverse FIELD POST OFFICE No. 28 (1) 21 VI 1905 and wax seals applied, reading INSURED CORRESPONDENCE FIELD POST OFFICE (1) No. 28. Registration label reads: RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 28.

500

Cover shaved at left affecting reg. label and cachet.





20289 ☒

1905 Pictorial envelope with infantry motif, the reverse showing stages of training of recruits, sent by volunteer with 33rd EAST SIBERIAN RESERVE BATTALION to Kazan from coastal town of Nikolaevsk-on-Amur 23 6 05. Violet circular regimental free-frank cachets on reverse. Envelope with some peripheral faults. Garrisons were maintained on Russia's Pacific coast to meet the threat of a Japanese invasion.

400



20291



20290

20290 ☒

1905 Cover and contents written from St Petersburg 20 April 1905 to Management of Chinese Eastern Railway, Office of Engineering Services, franked on reverse 7k, receipt mark alongside HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE OF THE REAR OF THE ARMY OF MANCHURIA 24 6 05.

200

20291 ☒

1905 Registered cover to Finland franked on reverse 1902-05 14k tied by STAFF (GHQ) 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'v' 26 6 05 cds in blue, red circular cachet reading around Imperial Eagle STAFF 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS alongside. Both cachet and cds repeated on front and trilingual Kristinestad arrival backstamp.

400

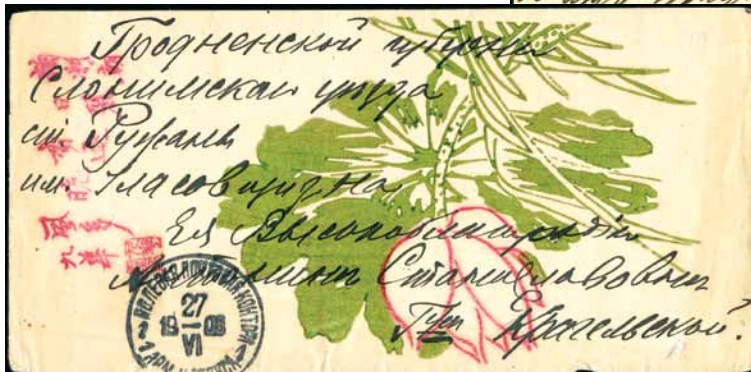




20292 ☒

1905 Registered cover to KALUGA endorsed "From the 3rd Manchurian Army", franked on reverse 1k, 3k (2) and 14k tied by FIELD POST OFFICE/4/17th ARMY CORPS 27 6 05. Registration label: CORPS FIELD POST OFFICE/ATTACHED TO 17th ARMY CORPS. On reverse circular violet cachet: STAFF (GHQ) 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION and KALUGA arrival 19 VII 05. Some light toning.

500



20294



20293

20293 ☒

1905 Picture postcard of General Kaulbars addressing the troops sent to Station Ligovo, Baltic Railway, dateline "27 June 1905/TAYANGOW". Circular violet free-frank cachet: CORPS ENGINEER 8th EAST SIBERIAN RIFLE CORPS. Postmarked same day 17th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'd', Ligovo arrival 18 7 05.

150

This card establishes the location of No. 17 RFPO at Tayangow at that time. General Baron A.V.Kaulbars was appointed Commander of the Third Manchurian Army but was transferred to command of the Second Army before the Battle of Mukden (March 1905).

20294 ☒

1905 Ornamental native envelope to St Ruzhan, Grodno, from mobile FIELD POST OFFICE 1st ARMY CORPS 27 VI 1905, on reverse free-frank cachet DIVISIONAL COMMISSAR 37th INFANTRY DIVISION.

300





20295 ☒

1905 Registered cover to Paris from No. 9 RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 4 7 05, franked on reverse vertical strip of three 7k with red circular cachet CHANCELLERY OF FIELD HQ 1st MANCHURIAN ARMY alongside, Registration label (stained) in Cyrillic and encircled 'R'.

500

Commander of 1st Manchurian Army at this time was General A.N.Kuropatkin, demoted from Commander-in-Chief after the fall of Mukden (March 1905). His HQ was at HSI-PING-KAI, north of Tieling.



20297

20296

20296 ☒

1905 Card to Empress Maria Feodorovna's charity at the Anichkov Palace, St Petersburg, from a private in the 10th COMPANY OF 212th (BAKHCHISERAI) REGIMENT giving thanks for gifts received while at Irkutsk Station. No military free-frank cachet but postmarked 5th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 6 7 05

200

This FPO was used by the Detachment under General Rennenkampf but its location in July 1905 is unknown.

20297 ☒

1905 Stampless card to a Lieutenant at HQ of 42nd Infantry Division, Kiev, bearing circular violet-black free-frank cachet of KAMCHATKA INFANTRY BATTALION. Written by a fellow officer 7 July 1905 on board military transport ship travelling along Amur River, having left Khabarovsk 2 days earlier. Put ashore at Nikolaevsk 13 VII, received Kiev 9 VIII.

200





20298



1905 Insured money letter for 75 roubles sent to Biryuch, Russia, by medical officer with 1st ARMY, using pictorial military envelope, franked on reverse 2k (2) and 14k (2) tied by 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 7 7 05 cds's. Alongside wax seals inscribed 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a'/INSURED CORRESPONDENCE. Cover roughly opened at top leading to small paper loss.

600



20299



1905 Chinese red-band cover endorsed "From the Active Army" addressed to Head Botanist, Imperial Botanical Gardens, St Petersburg, posted from HEADQUARTERS/ FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 8 7 05. Violet circular free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle and crossed cannon: 7th BATTERY 30th ARTILLERY BRIGADE, St Petersburg arrival backstamp.

300

At this date Russian Army HQ was situated at Kungchuling, on C.E.R. Line 265/266 south of Kwangchentze.





20300 

1905 Insured money-letter for 3 roubles to St Petersburg sent by officer serving with 3rd SIBERIAN INFANTRY (CHITA) REGIMENT, 1st MANCHURIAN ARMY, franked on reverse 3k and 14k tied by FIELD CORPS No. 2/POST OFFICE 'd' 10 7 05 cds. Large wax seals alongside inscribed: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE/FIELD CORPS No. 2 POST OFFICE 'v'.

400



20301 

1905 Picture postcard of warships at Vladivostok, posted from there on 13 7 05 to Rybinsk (arrival 3 Aug), Yaroslavl Guberniya, free frank Red Cross cachet: REPRESENTATIVE OF YAROSLAVL ZEMSTVO GIVING SUPPORT TO THE SICK AND WOUNDED IN THE FAR EAST. Involvement of the Zemstvos in medical and relief work during the war was at first covert and illegal, but weight of public opinion led to a change in the law and approval of their part in this work.

400

Payment by Credit Card



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20302

1905 Pictorial military envelope addressed to the FRENCH MILITARY AGENT in IRKUTSK, posted at HEAD CENTRAL FIELD POST OFFICE 15 7 05. Circular censor cachet reads: CENSORSHIP DIVISION, H.Q. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. Top left hand corner of envelope missing.

400

The Head Central F.P.O. was situated at Harbin, Manchuria.



20303

1905 Registered native cover to Austria, 30k rate paid by 3k and 7k both in strips of 3, posted at FIELD POST OFFICE 6th SIBERIAN CORPS 22 7 05. cachet of 5th BATTERY 18th ARTILLERY BRIGADE alongside. Encircled 'R' for registration and manuscript 'N 628'

400

La monnaie utilisée pour cette vente est l'Euro
 The currency for this auction is the Euro
 Die Währung für diese Versteigerung ist Euro





20304



20306



20305

20304 ☒

1905 Cover from NAVAL HEADQUARTERS, St Petersburg franked 1r cancelled 24 July 1905. Addressed in French to COMMANDER OF RUSSIAN CRUISER "DIANA" at Saigon, Cochinchine (now Vietnam). Backstamp arrival 7 Sep 1905.

200

The cruiser "Diana" was part of the Russian fleet bottled up at Port Arthur. In an attempt to break the siege, the fleet put to sea on 10 August 1904 to engage the Japanese. During the ensuing Battle of the Yellow Sea "Diana" was badly crippled and limped into Saigon on 25 August, where she was interned with her crew. The (then) Commander, Vladimir Semenov, escaped to Russia and joined the ill-fated Baltic fleet. He survived the sinking of the Russian flagship "Kniaz Suvarov" at the battle of Tsushima (27 May 1905).

20305 ☒

1905 Stampless cover from KHABAROVSK, E. Siberia, to Novgorod. On reverse free-frank violet cachet of KHABOROVSK LOCAL LAZARET (=Hospital for Infectious Diseases) and circular paper seal reading: STAFF (GENERAL HQ) OF MILITARY DISTRICT ATTACHED TO THE AMUR, Novgorod arrival 25 7 alongside.

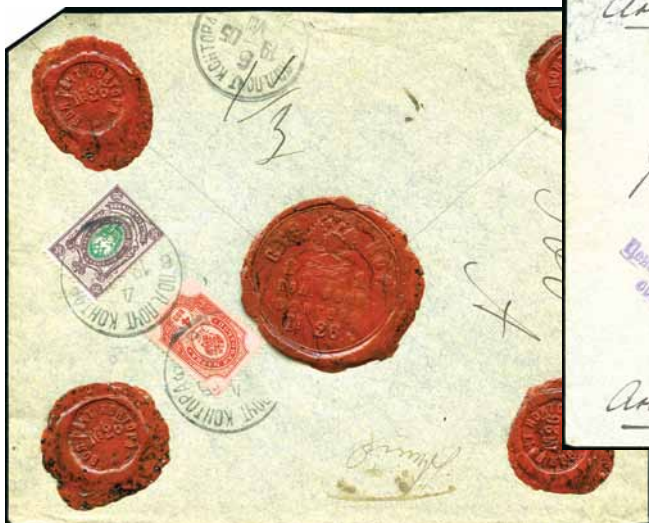
200

20306 ☒

1905 Postcard to SHANGHAI, China, from VLADIVOSTOK RAILWAY STATION 2 8 05, endorsed "VIA KYAKHTA" (on Siberian/Mongolian border). Received HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE (HARBIN) b, Manchuria 13 8 05 where circular cachet applied in violet: GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AT REAR OF MANCHURIAN ARMY/CENSOR. Received Russian P.O. SHANGHAI 17 9 05 (Old Style) and passed to SHANGHAI LOCAL POST for delivery same day (30 9 05 New Style).

200

The Japanese Blockade of Vladivostok prevented the normal sea route to Shanghai and necessitated the long overland route through Manchuria, Siberia and Mongolia.



20307



20308

20307  1905 Insured money-letter for 25 roubles to Moscow, franked on reverse 4k and 35k tied FIELD POST OFFICE No. 26 (6) 4 VIII 1905 cds's, central wax seal: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 26, manuscript annotation on front: STATION BUKHEDU, CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY/1ST COMPANY RIFLE BRIGADE. Top two envelope corners clipped. **300**

1905 Insured money-letter for 25 roubles to Moscow, franked on reverse 4k and 35k tied FIELD POST OFFICE No. 26 (6) 4 VIII 1905 cds's, central wax seal: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 26, manuscript annotation on front: STATION BUKHEDU, CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY/1ST COMPANY RIFLE BRIGADE. Top two envelope corners clipped.

This cover establishes the location of F.P.O. No. 26 at St. Bukhedu on Line 261/262 of the Chinese Eastern Railway.

20308  1905 Cover sent by the British Military Attache with the Russian Army in Manchuria, franked with 10k 'Kitai' overprint for use in China tied by HEAD CENTRAL FIELD POST OFFICE 5 8 05 cds, circular censor cachet alongside reads: CENSORSHIP DIVISION, H.Q. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. Linear handstruck mark reads: CENSORED UNDER WARTIME. CONDITIONS. Illustrated Casey, British Journal of Russian Philately No. 42 (1968), p. 21. **500**

1905 Cover sent by the British Military Attache with the Russian Army in Manchuria, franked with 10k 'Kitai' overprint for use in China tied by HEAD CENTRAL FIELD POST OFFICE 5 8 05 cds, circular censor cachet alongside reads: CENSORSHIP DIVISION, H.Q. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. Linear handstruck mark reads: CENSORED UNDER WARTIME. CONDITIONS. Illustrated Casey, British Journal of Russian Philately No. 42 (1968), p. 21.



20309



20310

20309  1905 Viewcard to Porkhov, cancelled RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 23 2nd ARMY 'b' 5 8 0. Violet free-frank cachet: 1st SECTION 1st SERVICE DIVISION OF TELEGRAPH COMPANY. Additional card, posted at HARBIN RAILWAY STATION as a souvenir of the war, depicts another section of the Telegraph Company at work. **150**

1905 Viewcard to Porkhov, cancelled RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 23 2nd ARMY 'b' 5 8 0. Violet free-frank cachet: 1st SECTION 1st SERVICE DIVISION OF TELEGRAPH COMPANY. Additional card, posted at HARBIN RAILWAY STATION as a souvenir of the war, depicts another section of the Telegraph Company at work.

20310  1905 Card depicting execution of bandit sent to New York from GUN-CHU-LIN (KUNG-CHULING) 20 Aug 1905 (New Style), pair of 2k cancelled: HEAD CENTRAL FIELD POST OFFICE 'd' 6 805. Violet circular cachet reads: CENSORSHIP DIVISION. H.Q. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. This card suggests that this F.P.O. was temporarily located at Kungchuling, about 40 miles south of Kwangchentze. **200**

1905 Card depicting execution of bandit sent to New York from GUN-CHU-LIN (KUNG-CHULING) 20 Aug 1905 (New Style), pair of 2k cancelled: HEAD CENTRAL FIELD POST OFFICE 'd' 6 805. Violet circular cachet reads: CENSORSHIP DIVISION. H.Q. COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF. This card suggests that this F.P.O. was temporarily located at Kungchuling, about 40 miles south of Kwangchentze.







20311



20312

20311  1905 Postal stationery card to Vienna with printed inscription FROM THE THEATRE OF MILITARY ACTIVITY - MANCHURIA, mailed from 7th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 11 8 05 by CAPTAIN KORIN, ARMY IN THE FIELD, COLONEL MADRITOV'S DETACHMENT, 6th TRANSBAIKAL CAVALRY BATTALION. Under-franked (3k instead of 4k required for overseas rate). Encircled 'T' tax marking and two 4h Austrian postage-due stamps applied on arrival. **300**

20312  1905 Cover to Helsinki, Finland, cancelled 33rd RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'v' 17 8 05, grey-violet circular free-frank cachet, repeated on reverse 4th BATTALION 41st EAST SIBERIAN RIFLE REGIMENT. **200**

This regiment belonged to the 2nd East Siberian Rifle Division as part of the Reserve of the Maritime Province defence which was based near Vladivostok for the duration of the war.



20313  1905 Double-rate registered cover to Finland franked on reverse 1902-05 7k and 14k, cancelled in black STAFF (GHQ) 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'd' 18 8 05. Despatch cds (serial 'e') applied on reverse next day along with red circular cachet STAFF 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS, transit St Petersburg 8 IX 05 and Kristinestad arrival 23 IX 05. **300**





20314 

1905 Pictorial envelope with military motif produced in Kiev, sent as stampless soldier's mail to Kiev. Violet cachet on reverse reads: PACKET/2nd BATTALION HORSE-MOUNTAIN ARTILLERY DIVISION, cancelled on front FIELD POST OFFICE 7th SIBERIAN CORPS. 'd' 19 8 05. Kiev arrival 16 9 05, four weeks after despatch. Some small peripheral faults to envelope.

300



20315 

1905 Coloured viewcard of Mukden registered to Kazan franked 1k strip of 3 (defective) and 7k (=3k postcard rate + 7k registration) cancelled HEAD CENTRAL FIELD POST OFFICE 'z' 22 8 05, no registration label, only manuscript '207'.

300

Head Central FPO was originally located at Mukden, having been converted from Reserve FPO No.11. Ahead of the Japanese advance, it was relocated in February 1905 to Kwangchentze and in May 1905 to KUNGCHULING.

Recorded "British Journal of Russian Philately" No. 49 (1973), p. 22

Also included picture postcard showing soldiers at Omsk, Siberia, embarking by train for the Far East, postally used from Omsk 21 8 05 to USA. Message says: "This is the way the Russian soldiers .are shipped to the front, packed like sardines in freight cars".



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20316 ☒

1905 Viewcard endorsed "From the Active Army" sent to Lugansk, Ekaterinoslav Guberniya (arrival 17 9) datelined "Gor. (Town) Kwangchentze 26 VIII 1905" cancelled No. 14 FIELD POST OFFICE/1/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 28 VIII 1905. Faint violet circular free-frank cachet of horse (or bullock) drawn ambulance 6th PACK-ANIMAL MILITARY-MEDICAL TRANSFER.

300

Described and FPO cancellation illustrated R.Casey BJRP 89 (2003), p.48.



20317 ☒ ☒

1905 Stampless card to Jacobshtadt, Courland, postmarked FIELD POST OFFICE & TELEGRAPH BRANCH HEADQUARTERS 1st ARMY 'v' 28 8 05. Similar cancellation serial 'b' dated 11 9 05 on 3k block of 4.

200



20318 ☒

1905 Viewcard of Lake Baikal to St Petersburg with violet circular free-frank cachet: 4th BATTALION 23rd ARTILLERY BRIGADE, postmarked 29th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 31 8 05, arrival 15 IX 1905.

150

No 29 RFPO was located at Manchuli Railway Station from June 1905 until March 1907.





20319 ☒

1905 Viewcard of market stalls at Harbin New Town endorsed "From the Active Army", addressed to a farmstead in Vikenshoi Volost, Lifland Guberniya, postmarked FIELD POST OFFICE/3/19th ARMY CORPS 4 IX 1905. Free-frank circular cachet in violet: 15th (VLADKAVKAZ) INFANTRY REGIMENT OF GENERAL ERMOLOV. Volmar arrival 27 9 05. Card somewhat soiled.

100



20320 ☒

1905 Viewcard of train crossing river bridge on Taiga-Tomsk branch line of Trans-Siberian Railway near Station Taiga, written from station to Riga 8 IX 05 and picked up next day by TPO KRASNOYARSK-188-OB violet oval datestamp, violet circular free-frank cachet of 5th COMPANY 2nd BATTALION/KASHIRA INFANTRY REGIMENT, Riga arrival 18 9 05.

80



20321 ☒

1905 Viewcard of Ufa endorsed "From the Active Army", written in pencil to Aleksandrovsk, Ekaterinoslav Guberniya, dateline 215 9 1905 KHERSU) (KHERSOU), blue abbreviated cds applied next day reading in full: FIELD POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH BRANCH HEADQUARTERS 1st ARMY 'b' 16 9 05, Aleksandrovsk 9 10 05 arrival.

80

Official records show that the 1st Manchurian Army HQ were based at Khersou from 24 May to 25 October 1905.





20322



20323

- 20322**

1905 7k Letter-card uprated 7k for registered rate to Grodno cancelled FIELD CORPS No.2/POST OFFICE 16 9 05. Registration label (lower portion missing) reads: FIELD POST OFFICE ATTACHED TO 2nd SIBERIAN CORPS. 7k is overlapping bottom right corner.

200
- 20323**

1905 Viewcard showing Chinese quarter in Vladivostok addressed to Moscow franked 3k tied Vladivostok 18 9 cds, alongside blue circular cachet: PHARMACY OF VLADIVOSTOK NAVAL HOSPITAL, Moscow arrival 5 10. The stamp was unnecessary, the cachet serving as a free-frank.

100



20324



20325

- 20324**

1905 Viewcard Blagoveshchensk to Finland with Finnish message, datelined "Post Saint Mary Magdalen. Aigun, Manchuria 19 Sept 1905". Violet circular free-frank cachets around Imperial Eagle POST SAINT MARY MAGDALEN and SUPERVISORY ADMINISTRATION OF POST SAINT MARY MAGDALEN. Transit following day in Blagoveshchensk, Helsinki arrival 2 XI 1905 (New Style).

The Chinese fortress and town of Aigun, on the River Amur was destroyed during the Sino-Russian conflict of 1900 by the Russians, who established a military base in the area and named it Post Saint Mary Magdalen. A FPO is said to have operated there from July 1901 to October 1903. No material known. The post was served by the Amur Steamship Company.

This card shows that Post Saint Mary Magdalen continued to be manned throughout the Russo-Japanese War, when its mail was evidently handled on the Russian side of the River Amur at Blagoveshchensk.

300
- 20325**

1905 Cover from German military agent to Germany franked 10k 'Kitai' stamp cancelled at HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE (HARBIN) 23 9 05. Opened and resealed by slip reading: CENSORSHIP COMMISSION GENERAL HEADQUARTERS AT THE REAR OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMIES, with circular datestamp bearing similar inscription, struck in violet.

150





20326



1905 3k Stationery card from an officer to his wife at Biryuch, Voronezh Guberniya 27 9 05. Cancelled same day 12th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a', arrival 29 Oct, delay due to congestion on railway.

400

At this time No. 12 FPO was situated at ERTSENDYANTSY, a station of the CER on line 263/264 east of Harbin.



20327

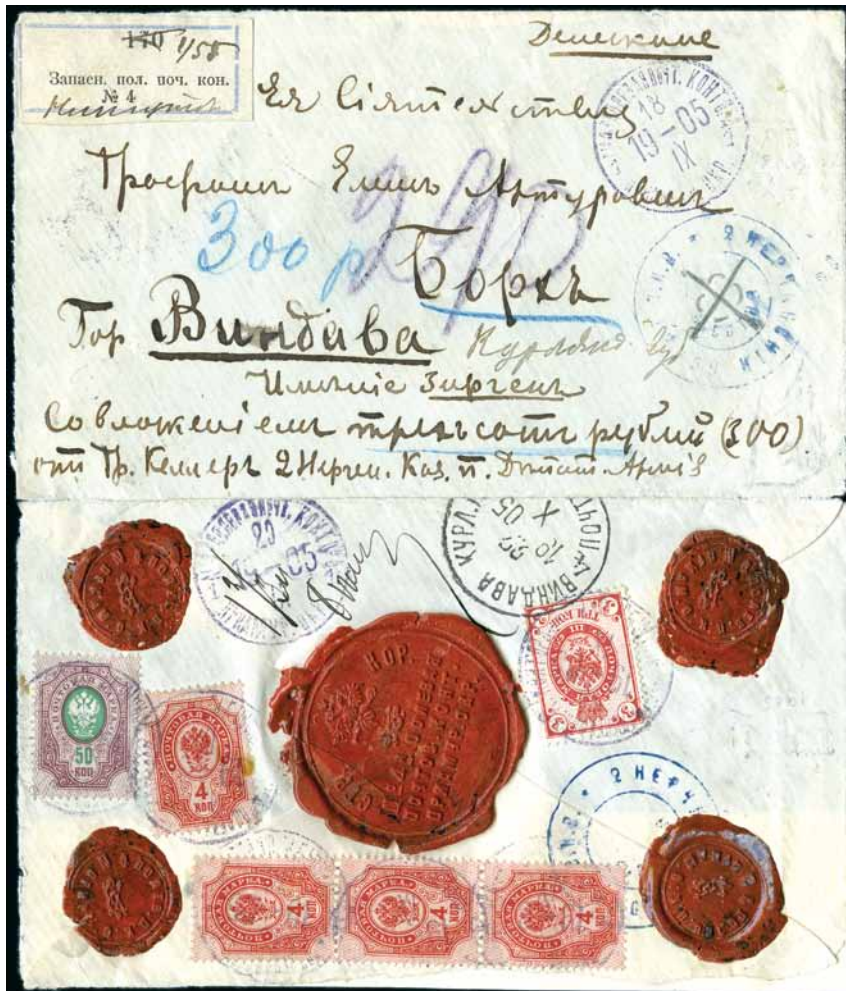


1905 Registered cover to Moscow franked on reverse 7k pair tied by HARBIN ARMY CORPS SUBURB 'b' 30 9 05 cds. Sender's address: 13th ARMY CORPS 1st INFANTRY DIVISION. 16th (incorporating 117th) MOBILE FIELD HOSPITAL. No registration label but manuscript "612" and "N 28".

400

Additional images of items from larger lots
may be available at www.davidfeldman.com

Lots marked "www" are illustrated **only on our website**



20328



1905 Insured cover used to send 300 roubles to Courland Province (Baltic States), franked on reverse 3k, 4k (strip of 3 + single) and 50k Arms issue, cancelled in violet No. 4 FIELD POST OFFICE/PRIAMUR DISTRICT 18 IX 1905. Wax seals alongside with the same inscription. Blue cachet of 2nd NERCHINSK COSSACK REGIMENT. Blue bordered registration label reads: RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 4 with NINGUTA added by hand. Vindava arrival backstamp 22 X 1905.

1'000

This cover established the location of No. 4 FPO at Ninguta, Manchuria. Illustrated K.Adler "British Journal of Russian Philately" 16 (1954), p. 471.





20329 ☒

1905 Card written by a wounded soldier of the 16th RIFLE REGIMENT in hospital at HARBIN sending thanks to the Empress Maria Feodorovna for gifts received from her charity at the Anichkov Palace, St Petersburg. Violet-grey free-frank cachet of HARBIN GENERAL HOSPITAL and datestamp reading: HARBIN HOSPITAL SUBURB 'b' 9 10 05. St Petersburg arrival 9 10 05. Additional viewcard included showing casualty being taken into a Harbin hospital.

300



20330 ☒

1905 Viewcard to Moscow with dateline "Manchuria. 9 o'clock Sin-Zhen-Pu. 21 October 905". Blue circular free frank cachet: STAFF (GHQ) 9th ARMY CORPS. Cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE/3/9th ARMY CORPS 21 X 1905.

200

By this time hostilities had ceased though the Peace treaty had yet to be finalised.



20331 ☒

1905 Stampless viewcard of Harbin addressed to Lodz, posted 27 XI 05 at FIELD POST OFFICE/HEADQUARTERS 3rd MANCHURIAN ARMY. Linear handstamp in red: TO BE WITHOUT CHARGING POSTAGE DUE, evidently applied at Lodz. This instructional marking was unnecessary as such soldier's mail was post-free.

200

Illustrated British Journal of Russian Philately No. 37 (1965), figs. 189-90.





20332



20333

- 20332**

✉

1905 Cover to RETHYMNO, Crete, with seal of the 58th PRAGA INFANTRY REGIMENT, franked 10k tied by FIELD POST OFFICE 8th ARMY CORPS 16 XII 05 cds.

This was a mobile F.P.O. following the military unit in its movements.

150
- 20333**

✉

www 1905 Two contemporary cards caricaturing General Kuropatkin, Russia's Commander-in-Chief, defeated, demoted and hiding behind his wife's skirt.

40



- 20334**

✉

1905 Cover sent to Prisoner-of-War Enquiry Bureau in St Petersburg for transmission to its Tokyo counterpart, enquiring about a sailor from the battleship "PERESVYET", posted at Romanovskaya, Kuban 10 7 05. Oval DOPLATIT (To pay)/Romanovskaya applied in error, such mail being post-free. Red Japanese chop (arrow) NARASHINO with barrack number '3957', added in red crayon.

300

The battleship "Peresvyet" carried the flag of Rear-Admiral Prince Ukhtomski. On 7 December 1904 she was scuttled by her crew in the harbour at Port Arthur after being severely damaged by Japanese land batteries during the siege of the port. The survivors were taken prisoner when Port Arthur capitulated on 2 January 1905.



Prisoner of War Mail

20335 

BRITISH PRISONER OF WAR MAIL: Letter and cover from a Briton, Captain George Anderson, held at Russian POW Camp MEDVED, near St Petersburg. Capt. Anderson commanded the Japanese ship "Sado-maru" and was one of four crew members captured when his ship was torpedoed in Japanese waters by the Russian Fleet 15 June 1904. The letter is written to I. H. Davidson, brother of the then Archbishop of Canterbury, requesting help from the Archbishop to obtain their release.

1'000

Cover addressed to Davidson Mains, near Edinburgh, postmarked St Petersburg 17 XI 1904. On front single line CORRESPONDANCE des PRISONNIERS de GUERRE and very faint EXAMINED BY CENSOR F.I.V.D.K.G. On reverse circular red cachet in French: BUREAU OF INFORMATION FOR PRISONERS OF WAR ST PETERSBURG and arrival Dec 3 1904.

The British prisoners, including Captain Anderson, were freed 5 August 1905.

Historical document described K.G.Clark "Kiku Shimbu" No. 139 (2006)



Просмотрѣно цензурой
Ф. И. В. Д. К. Г.

Examined by Censor,
F. I. V. D. K. G.

20336 

BRITISH PRISONER OF WAR MAIL: Embossed card of philatelic motif sent by Briton Captain George Anderson, held at Russian POW Camp MEDVED, near St Petersburg, to his son Walter, in Edinburgh from St Petersburg 4 VI 1905.

1'000

Single-line CORRESPONDANCE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE in blue and faint Russian EXAMINED BY CENSOR/F.I.V.D.G. in violet. Circular Red Cross cachet in French: BUREAU OF INFORMATION FOR PRISONERS OF WAR ST PETERSBURG.

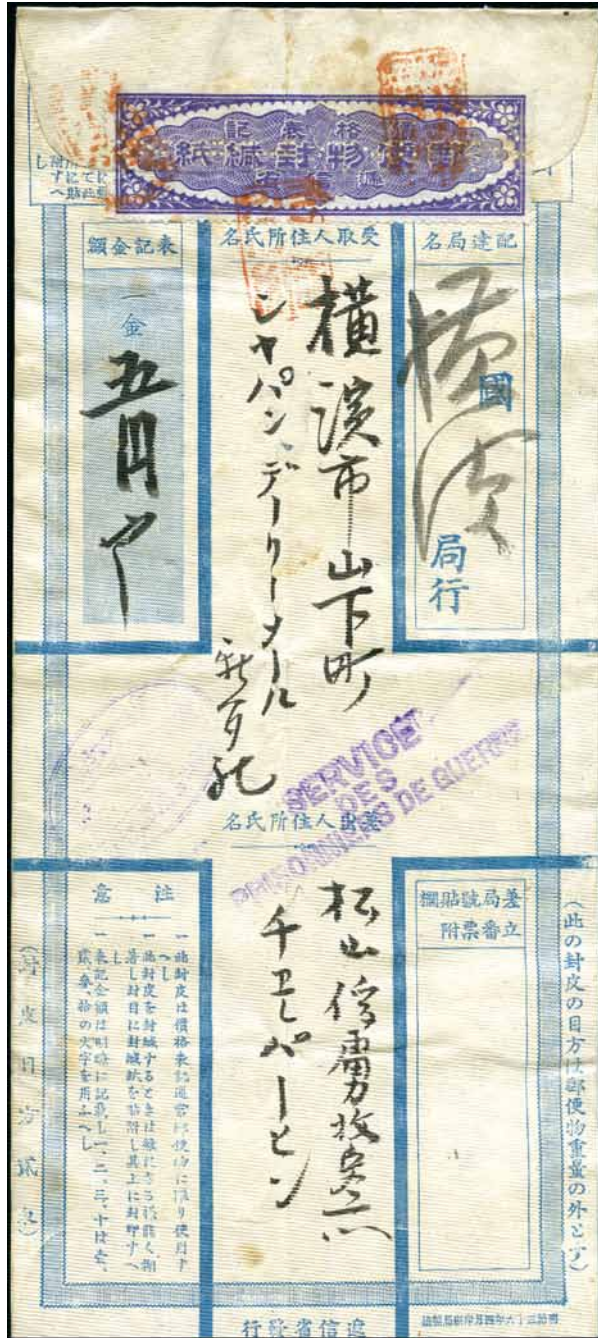
Included is a copy of a sketch by Frederic Villers of damaged "Sado-maru" being towed towards Japanese port of Moji.

Auction Bids

The auction bidding steps are as follows:

€ 50 - 100	€ 5	€ 500 - 1000	€ 50	€ 5000 - 10000	€ 500
€ 100 - 200	€ 10	€ 1000 - 2000	€ 100	€ 10000 - 20000	€ 1000
€ 200 - 500	€ 20	€ 2000 - 5000	€ 200	€ 20000 - 50000	€ 2000
				€ 50000 - 100000	€ 5000

Bids between these steps will be adjusted accordingly to the next higher bid step. The bidder is bound by his/her offer until a higher bid has been validly accepted.



20337 ☒

1904 Money-letter for 5 yen sent by Russian prisoner (Chelepakhin) held at MATSUYAMA P.O.W. CAMP to Japanese newspaper at Yokohama. Violet handstamps: oval Japanese Censor and French SERVICE/DES/PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE. On reverse: Native MATSUYAMA cds 37.11.29 and bilingual Yokohama receipt same day (=29 Nov 1904 in Western style).

500

Exceptional internal usage within Japan by Russian P.O.W.

Additional images of items from larger lots may be available at www.davidfeldman.com





S^{DE} DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE



20338 ☒

1905 Japanese card sent by a government clerk captured at PORT ARTHUR to inform the Head Artillery Administration in St Petersburg that he and his daughter are well. Dated "Port Arthur/22nd December 1904" (=4th January 1905 New Style), two days after Port Arthur had surrendered. Straight-line handstamp in French: SVE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE and square seal-type Japanese cachet translating: FORTRESS HEADQUARTERS PORT ARTHUR, both in orange-red. Japanese FPO strike with only date legible: 38 2 28 (=28 February 1905). vertical Japanese ms inscription in ink denoting POW mail.

300

Illustrated R.Casey, BJR 92/93 (2005), p.6, fig. 3C.

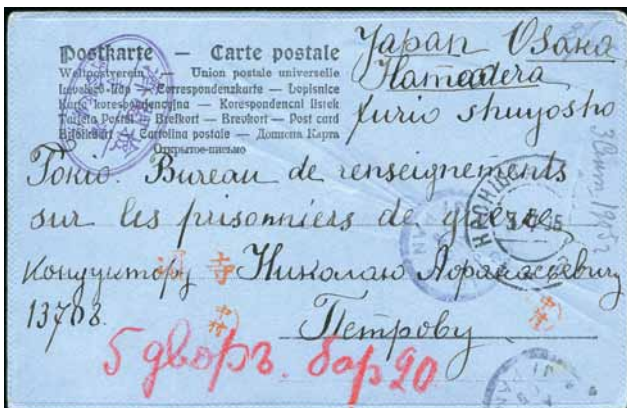


20339 ☒

1905 Japanese postcard used to send Easter greetings to Kovno (now Kaunas in Lithuania) by Russian prisoner, dateline "16/III 1905 Sidzuoka" (=Shizuoka). Native cancellation of SURUGA SHIZUOKA applied in black. Saw-tooth horizontal framed Japanese cachet POSTCARD FOR RUSSIAN PRISONERS and similar oval GREATER JAPAN/CENSORED/SHIZUOKA PRISONER-OF-WAR CAMP, 3 line SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE and vertical Japanese DATE OF DISPATCH MEIJI 38 3 31 (=31 March 1905), all in violet. Transit Tokio 1 April 05, Kovno arrival 23 IV 05 (=6 May 05 New Style).

300

Shizuoka was one of the smaller camps for Russian prisoners held in Japan during the Russo-Japanese War, holding a total of 319 men, including 14 colonels. It was open from 14 December 1904 until 18 January 1905.



20340



20341

- 20340**

✉

1905 Two postcards sent from Kronshstadt to Russian P.O.W. held in Osaka routed through P.O.W. agency in Tokio, both with Japanese violet censor chops. Abbreviated Russian in red crayon on one card translates: '5th Yard, Barrack 20' presumably applied at Osaka.

400
- 20341**

✉

1905 Japanese Forces postcard used by Russian prisoner on ship in Yellow Sea being transported to Japan, sending birthday greetings to Moscow. Three-line SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE and oval Japanese chop translating EXAMINED CENSOR P.O.W. CAMP NINOSHOMA. Nagasaki transit 15 Apr 1904, Moscow arrival 19 5 05 (1 6 05 NS)

600



- 20342**

✉

1905 Cover bearing seal of HYDROGRAPHICAL EXPEDITION TO THE EASTERN OCEAN and circular cachet of VLADIVOSTOCK CENSOR COMMISSION 4 7 05 to Russian naval prisoner at Osaka, Japan. Violet oval cachet and paper sealing tape of Japanese censor; circular Japanese chop in orange and large violet double-oval cachet in French of P.O.W. Enquiry Bureau at Tokio dated 29 Oct 1905. Manuscript "Inconnu" (unknown) in red.

400

Cover opened out for display. Some red ink smudging on reverse.





20343 

1905 Japanese postcard to Madison USA from Japanese survivor of the "KINSHU MARU", posted from St Petersburg 20 VIII 1905. Straight-line violet CORRESPONDANCE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE and Red Cross circular cachet in French: P.O.W. INFORMATION BUREAU IN ST PETERSBURG, overstruck with violet two-line Russian EXAMINED CENSOR/F.I.V.D.K.G. (meaning of abbreviations unknown).

600

The transport "KINSHU MARU", carrying troops of the Japanese 37th Infantry Regiment, was torpedoed by the Russians in the Sea of Japan on 26 Apr 1904. Some soldiers and labourers were picked up by the Russian cruiser "Rossiya", the soldiers choosing to go down with the ship rather than face the disgrace of capture.

Additional postcard included depicting a group of Japanese P.O.W.s held at the village of MEDVED, near St Petersburg and postally used from that city 27 12 06.



20344 

1905 Japanese postcard from Russian prisoner dated "7/VIII" from "town Hirosaki" to St Petersburg. Native cancellation of HIROSAKI with date equivalent to 20 August 1905. Boxed Japanese inscription reading PRISONER OF WAR MAIL at top with small circular and oval handstamps indicating censor and his personal cachet, all in orange-red, three-line SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE and oval-framed cachet in Japanese reading CENSORED HIROSAKI P.O.W. CAMP, both in violet. Hand-endorsed "To Russian capital St Petersburg". Tokio transit 31 August 05 and St Petersburg arrival 23 IX 1905 (=6 X 05 New Style). Plus picture postcard of General Kuroki interrogating Russian prisoners postally used in England.

500

Hirosaki, near the northern Japanese city of Aomori, was one of the smallest P.O.W. camps, holding only 61 men (54 soldiers and 7 sailors), mainly from the Sakhalin campaign. It was open for only about 5 months in 1905.



Peace Treaty, Military Evacuation of Manchuria, Demobilisation

Japan was ahead on points but had not delivered a knock-out. American interests required that the war ended before a rampant Japan took control of the Pacific. President Theodore Roosevelt had called a Peace Conference to take part in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA in August 1905. Victorious in the field the Japanese were out-manoeuvered at the negotiating table, thanks to the wily de Witte, Russia's former Minister of Finance. Under the Treaty of Portsmouth they obtained some territorial concessions but not the huge monetary indemnity they had demanded. The Japanese public felt they had been cheated by the Russians and the Americans and turned against their own representatives. The second card is a Special Commemorative card posted from Portsmouth on August 14th, 1905.

This Conference resulted in the Treaty of Portsmouth (5th September) whereby the belligerent parties agreed to evacuate Manchuria and return it to China. Japan was the victor and Russia ceded the Lyautung leasehold, the southern half of Sakhalin Island and the section of the Chinese Eastern Railway between Port Arthur and Kwangchentze. The third card depicts the leaders involved under the banner "The Portsmouth Drama", postally used from Jamaica Plain-Station to Riga.



20345



www 1905 PEACE CONFERENCE: Three cards of the conference. One postally used in September 05 and produced in USA of the Peace Commission.

300



20346



1905 Registered postcard from a Cossack officer with his photograph affixed to the obverse from MAI-MAI-KAI, Manchuria to a lady friend in Kramatorskaya, a few days after the Treaty of Portsmouth (5 Sept.1905) had ended the Russo-Japanese War. Contents include: "Greetings from far-away Manchuria. In two days we shall go to Bukhai, near Harbin, where we shall be dispersed...You cannot break a Cossack..." Franked pair of 5k Arms issue cancelled FIELD POST OFFICE GENERAL HEADQUARTERS 2nd MANCHURIAN ARMY (3) 13 IX 1905. Registration label reads: FIELD POST OFFICE ATTACHED TO GENERAL HEADQUARTERS COMMAND 2nd MANCHURIAN ARMY. This was a mobile F.P.O. following the unit in its travels.

400





20347



20349

20347 ☒

1905 Mukden viewcard to Gmunden (arrival 14 ++ 05 (N.S.), Austria datelined 24/IX (7 X) 05 franked two 2k cancelled in violet FIELD POST OFFICE/3/5th SIBERIAN CORPS 24 9 05. Message in German states writer attached to 244th Infantry Regiment of 5th Siberian Corps.

300



20348 ☒

1905 Stampless military cover to St Petersburg bearing free-frank Red Cross cachet of RUSSO-DUTCH MEDICAL DETACHMENT cancelled TALADZHAO 'b' 5 10 05. This cancellation is in a style issued by the Russian State Postal Administration but was probably used at a military establishment open to civilians and ceased to function after the Army had left in March 1906.

600

The railway station at Taolaichao had its own post office.

20349 ☒

1905 Cover to Poland with violet free-frank cachet of 42nd RIFLE REGIMENT on reverse, cancelled on front RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE No. 23 2nd MANCHURIAN ARMY. Radom arrival backstamp 9 11 05. Envelope slightly reduced at left.

300

The location of RFPO No. 23 at this time is not known.



20350



1905 Registered cover from a Chinese firm in NINGUTA to Moscow franked on reverse 7k pair tied NINGUTA Type 2 (Subtype with serial 'e') reading: 4th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE/e/ 12 10 05. Registration label on front reads: No. 4 RESERVE POST OFFICE. The registration label omits the word "Field" in accordance with the conversion of this office to civilian status after cessation of hostilities.

1'000



20351



1905 Viewcard to St Petersburg from hospital train travelling on the Trans-Siberian Railway, dateline "10/X 905" postmarked three days later with green cds: STATION MOSKALENKI/SIBERIAN RAILWAY 13 10 05. Violet circular free-frank cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: 32nd SIBERIAN MILITARY-MEDICAL TRAIN.

200

Although hostilities between Russia and Japan had ceased in September 1905, the Siberian Hospital Trains were kept busy for several months evacuating wounded soldiers from the Manchurian hospitals.





20352 

1905 Pictorial envelope with military motifs used from HARBIN RAILWAY STATION 20 X 05 to Moscow. On reverse oval violet cachet : 3rd COMPANY OF 2nd SOFIISK INFANTRY, manuscript endorsement "From the Army of the Rear" and Moscow arrival.

500



20353 

1905 Pictorial envelope with Cossack motif addressed to Pskov with free-frank cachet of RESERVE BATTALION of an EAST SIBERIAN REGIMENT in violet on reverse. Blue HARBIN ARMY CORPS SUBURB 'b' 24 10 05 cds on front, Pskov arrival backstamp 14 11.

1'000

Under the Treaty of Portsmouth (September 1905) both Russia and Japan agreed to evacuate their forces from Manchuria and to retain only small contingents to protect their railways.



20354

1905 Card from a Bohemian officer attached to the Russian army writing home with his photograph on the obverse, message in Czech, sent to Prague franked two 2k tied TSITSIKAR FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE/IN MANCHURIA 25 10 05 (=7 11 05 New Style), Prague arrival 30 11 05.

500

Ordinary mail to Russia and Russian post offices abroad was sent post-free for the serving military. Mail to foreign countries paid the normal rate.



20355

1905 Money letter for 60 roubles sent by Captain Blofield of the Viborg Regiment to his wife in Finland franked on reverse with 4k and pair of 14k cancelled STAFF (GHQ) 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'e' 7 11 05. no registration label but manuscript No. '192'. On reverse central wax seal: INSURED CORRESPONDENCE/STAFF 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE, abbreviated inscription on corner seals: 18th FIELD POST OFFICE PRIAMUR DISTRICT. St Petersburg arrival 25 1 06, Viborg transit 26 1 06 and Kristinestad 28 1 06 arrival.

800

The corner wax seals establish a connection between 18 FPO and GHQ 3rd Siberian Army Corps.





20356



1905 Double-rate registered cover to Finland franked 1902-5 issue 7k and 14k on reverse cancelled in black STAFF (GHQ) 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS POST OFFICE 'd' 9 11 05. No label but manuscript "N 388" in top left corner. On reverse red circular cachet STAFF 3rd SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS and Kristinestad arrival 28 1 06.

400



20358

20357

20357



1905 Viewcard of Baikal sent to Poland from 7th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'v' 10 11 05. Violet circular cachet reading around Imperial Eagle: SEAL OF 12TH RIFLE REGIMENT. Lodz arrival 22 1 06.

200

At this time No. 7 Reserve FPO was situated at KIRIN.

20358



1905 Lake Baikal viewcard endorsed "From the Active Army" and addressed to Warsaw (arrival 6 1 06), message in Polish with dateline 21 Nov 1905 (=8 Nov 05 Old Style). Blue cds reading: FIELD POST OFFICE & TELEGRAPH BRANCH HEADQUARTERS 1st ARMY 'v' 10 11 05. Circular free-frank cachet in red: EAST SIBERIAN MILITARY TELEGRAPH BATTALION.

200

Headquarters of the Russian 1st Manchurian Army was then located at SHWANGCHENPU, a station of the Chinese Eastern Railway about 50km south of Harbin on the 265/266 Line.





20359

1905 Registered cover to Kaluga endorsed "From the 3rd Manchurian Army", franked on reverse 14k, abbreviated cancellation reading in: FIELD POST OFFICE/3/HEADQUARTERS 3rd MANCHURIAN ARMY 20 XI 1905. A second strike added below next day. Not received in Kaluga until 18 1 1906. Registration label: 3rd Army/GENERAL HEADQUARTERS POST OFFICE, circular violet cachet on reverse: GHQ 3rd INFANTRY DIVISION.

600



20360

20361

20360

1905 Stampless card from private soldier giving thanks for gift from Empress Maria Feodorovna's charity, St Petersburg, dateline "St. Kuanchenze 20 XI 1905". Cancelled the next day FIELD POST OFFICE No. 31 21 XI 195.

300

This card establishes the location of FPO No. 31 at this time (Nov 1905) at STATION KWANGCHENTZE, there being no previous record of its location after April 1905. After the Treaty of Portsmouth (Sep 1905) St. Kwangchentze (Changchun) became the southern terminus of the Chinese Eastern Railway Line 265/266, the rest of the line being ceded to Japan.

20361

1905 Pre-addressed card used by wounded soldier to send thanks to Empress Maria Feodorovna for a gift from her charity run from the Anichkov Palace in St Petersburg, postmarked : FIELD POST OFFICE SIBERIAN ARMY CORPS No. 4 'e' 30 11 05. St Petersburg arrival 21 1 1906.

200

Writer identifies himself as belonging to 10th (Omsk) Siberian Infantry Regiment (17th Army Corps). The 1st Company of this regiment is depicted at Port Arthur in a separate viewcard.





20362



20363



20364

- 20362

✉

1905 Viewcard of Vladivostok to Porkhov, Pskov Guberniya, endorsed "From the Manchurian Army", written 7 XII 05 and posted next day at FIELD POST OFFICE HEADQUARTERS/2/2nd MANCHURIAN ARMY 8 XII 1905. Violet free-frank cachet: 1st SECTION/1st EAST SIBERIAN BRANCH OF TELEGRAPH COMPANY. Pskov 6 2 06 and Porkhov same day arrival cds's.

Lengthy time between dispatch and delivery possibly due to congestion of military traffic on Trans-Siberian Railway.

200
- 20363

✉

1906 Viewcard of Revel (top right corner missing) franked 3k tied Revel 5 2 06 addressed to STATION MANCHULI/CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY, arrival cds: 29th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' 21 2 06.

From June 1905 to March 1907 29th Field Post Office was based at Manchuli Station and during that period its postmarks were used there exclusively. When the military evacuation of Manchuria was completed the Station reverted to railway administration and used the normal oval "vokzal" canceller.

150
- 20364

✉

1906 Japanese postcard used by Russian soldiers to send message to friend at BOBRUISK FORTRESS, White Russia, franked 3k tied by FIELD POST OFFICE/4/4th ARMY CORPS 25 III 05.

The message speaks of an "indefinite stay in Harbin".

100



20365

20366

20365



1906 Registered postcard to Warsaw written in Polish from TAOLAICHAO, Manchuria, franked 3k and 7k cancelled FIELD CORPS No. 1/POST OFFICE 'v' 27 2 06. Registration label translates FIELD CORPS POST OFFICE WITH 1st SIBERIAN CORPS.

500

Although the Russo-Japanese War ended in September 1905, the Russian military postal organisation remained in use during the evacuation period.

20366



1906 Japanese card to Finland with message in Finnish dated 28 II 1906. Double-circle free-frank cachet in red reading: FIELD POST AND TELEGRAPH ADMINISTRATION AT THE REAR OF THE MANCHURIAN ARMIES, Kuopio arrival 5 IV 1906 (=23 III 1906 Old Style).

300

When the post-telegraph administrations of all three Manchurian armies were disbanded at the beginning of 1906 all their field post-telegraph networks came under the Rear Administration, based at HARBIN. This in turn was abolished in July 1906 after the majority of Russian troops had been evacuated from Manchuria.



20367



1906 Pictorial envelope with military motif addressed to St Petersburg; free-frank regimental cachet in violet on reverse and cds of dispatch on front struck in blue, reading: HARBIN ARMY CORPS SUBURB 'a' 2 3 06, St Petersburg arrival 20 III 06.

800





20368



1905-06 Two insured money-letters to Moscow, each franked 4k and 35k, handstruck registration cachet MANCHZHURIYA (MANCHULI). Central wax seal and cancellation: 29th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE, latter dated 7 II 05 and 15 3 06. Corner seals with inscription: ABAGAITUI FIELD POST-TELEGRAPH OFFICE/TRANSBAIKAL DISTRICT.

1'000

These corner seals suggest that RFPO 29 was formerly located at ABAGAITUI, where a Halt of the Chinese Eastern Railway was situated near Manchuli and the Siberian (Transbaikal) border.

No previous evidence of a Russian FPO at Abagaitui.



20369



1906 Money-letter to COMMANDER of 3rd FINLAND RIFLE REGIMENT, Abo, Finland, sent by REGIMENTAL PAYMASTER, 23rd EAST SIBERIAN RIFLE REGIMENT, franked 10k tied by FIELD POST & TELEGRAPH OFFICE OF HAILAR/a/ 18 4 06. HAILAR registration on obverse. On reverse regimental corner seals and central seal reading: FIELD POST & TELEGRAPH OFFICE OF HAILAR/a/INSURED CORRESPONDENCE.

1'000

Situated at the railway station in Hailar, western Manchuria, this office was converted to civilian status in 1906/07 when the Russian armies evacuated Manchuria.





20370



1906 Peking viewcard used to send Easter greetings to Penza, dated 18 III 1906 and postmarked three days later FIELD POST OFFICE/4/4th ARMY CORPS 21 III 1906. Violet intaglio circular free-frank cachet: 8th COMPANY/159th INFANTRY (GURIINSK) REGIMENT. Penza 9 4 05 arrival.

200



20371



1906 Pictorial military envelope and enclosed letter-sheet with Christmas and New Year motif, produced by special military depot in Vilna, the message written to KALUGA 27 12 06 by soldier awaiting demobilisation and postmarked two days later TOMASHOV (Petrok.). 7k stamp applied as soldier was not on active service.

300

The writer complains that he has been moved so many times recently that he does not know where he is.





20373

20372

- 20372**
✉

1906 Russian viewcard of Nagasaki used to send Easter greetings to Ryazan, Russia, endorsed "From the Manchurian Army" and posted from 6th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'v' 6 3 06, violet circular free-frank cachet 138th INFANTRY (BOLKHOV) REGIMENT. Ryazan arrival 24 III 06. Postcard with small missing corner.

200

At this time No. 6 Reserve FPO was based at STATION YAOMING on line 265/266 of the Chinese Eastern Railway, south of Harbin.

- 20373**
✉

1906 Cover to Berlin franked 10k with abbreviated cancellation translating in full: RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE AND TELEGRAPH BRANCH No. 14 18 4 06. Cover with small faults clear of adhesive and cancels.

200

This office was located at KWANGCHENTZE on C.E.R. Line 265/266.



- 20374**
✉

1906 Card to St Petersburg handstamped "Active Army", postmarked in blue 7th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 27 5 06, St Petersburg arrival 7 6 1906.

500

Writer gives address as The Armoury, GIRIN (=KIRIN), Manchuria, showing that No. 7 FPO was still based at Kirin long after hostilities had ceased.





20375 ☒

1906 Japanese viewcard registered to NEZHIN franked 3k and 7k Arms issue tied by FIELD POST OFFICE / 9th ARMY CORPS (2) 28 V 1906. Registration label: 3rd ARMY/ TELEGRAPH BRANCH No. 2 with inscription deleted.

400

The writer speaks of embarking for the mother country, from which it may be inferred that this F.P.O. was still located on Manchurian soil, though the registration labels it used were now out of date.



20376 ☒

1906 Registered cover from Russian-Chinese Bank, Harbin, to Moscow, franked on reverse 1k (3 pairs and a single) and 14k (1k over required 20k rate) tied by HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'g' 2 6 06 cds's. Registration label reads: HARBIN/HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE.

300

An example of civilian use of Harbin Head Field Post during evacuation period.



20377 ☒

1906-07 Two postcards, first from Ireland addressed to s.s. "Allerton" at Hamburg, redirected to Vladivostok, transiting HARBIN, Manchuria, where cds applied: FIELD HEAD POST OFFICE OF THE REAR OF THE ARMY OF MANCHURIA 'b' 27 06. Second to HARBIN franked 1k and 2k tied by Moscow cds, receipted on arrival FIELD HEAD POST OFFICE OF THE REAR OF THE ARMY OF MANCHURIA 'g' 19 2 07. Both cards lightly toned.

300



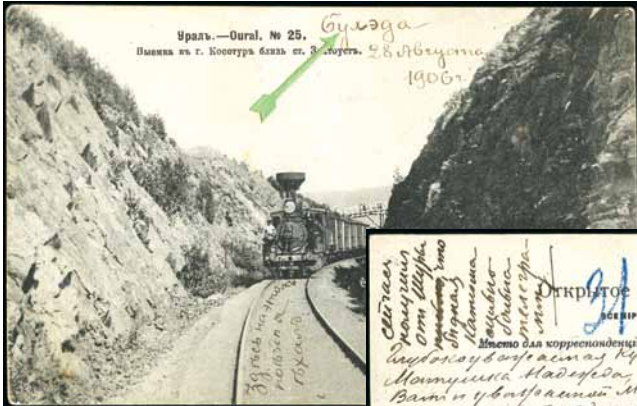
20378 ☒

1906 Registered cover addressed from STATION HANDAOKHETZE (Chinese Eastern Railway) to Bern, Switzerland, during the evacuation period, franked on reverse 1k, 5k and 14k Arms issue to make 20k registered rate, cancelled Type 2B reading: FIELD POST OFFICE No. 28 (2) 8 VII 1906. Type 2A canceller applied as a dispatch mark the following day. Registration label reads simply HANDAOKHETZE.

1'000

One of the two covers known from Handaokhetze, confirming the location of F.P.O. No. 28 at this station. The registration label and Type 2B cancellation (with figure '2' at sides) have not been recorded previously.



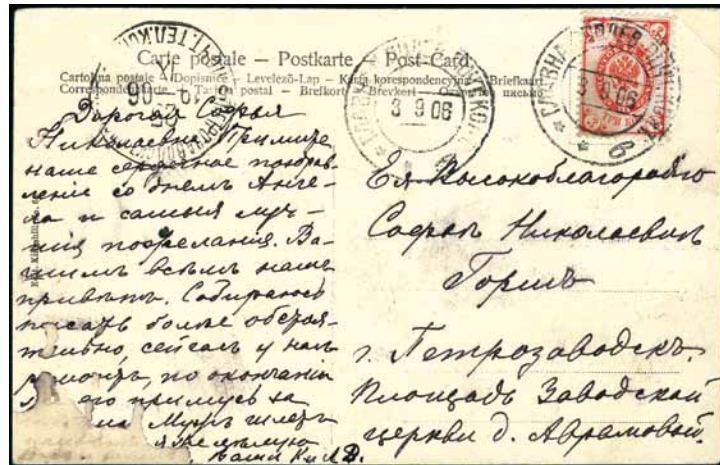


20379 ☒

400

1906: Two Russian postal clerks newly transferred to Manchuria send viewcards of the Trans-Siberian Railway to a nun in St Petersburg, showing the route they took. "The new address, where I have been transferred", writes one: BUKHEDU, CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY. POST OFFICE - CLERK V.F.K. One card franked 3k, the other stampless, both endorsed BUKHEDU with green cds FIELD POST OFFICE (4) No. 26, dated 19 VIII 06 and 28 VIII 06 respectively.

These cards pin-point the location of F.P.O. No. 26 at Bukhedu, a station of the C.E.R. east of Manchuli, North Manchuria, and confirm that after the Russo-Japanese War the Russians continued to staff and run the railway and its dependent postal system.



20380 ☒

150

1906 Viewcard to Petrozavodsk franked 1889-92 3k tied HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'v' 3 9 06 cds, arrival 25 9 06. Small part of the text lost bottom left.

This FPO was situated at HARBIN and served both military and civilian needs. Some of its cancellers remained in use until 1908..

Please Ensure your Bids Arrive in Time!

In the case of equal bids, the first bid received will take precedence.





20381



1906 UNRECORDED negative seal cancellation of HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' on Japanese postcard to Moscow received 28 12 06 and 1889-92 issue 4k block of 20 with cancellation of same office, serial 'o' dated 3 10 06.

300

From the end of the Russo-Japanese War (Sept 1905) until 1908 this F.P.O., based on HARBIN, was open to civilian business.



20382



1906 Japanese postal stationery addressed from HARBIN to St Petersburg, opened out to display ornamental interior, franked 7k tied by HEAD FIELD POST OFFICE 'b' 12 9 06 cds. Few minor paper losses to the panel.

1'000

During this period Field Post Offices were open for civilian mail.





20383



1907 Money-order card for 3 roubles sent 6 1 07 from Beisagola, Kovno Guberniya to soldier at Tsitsikar, Manchuria, serving with the 9th COMPANY OF 3rd BATTALION OF 16th EAST SIBERIAN RIFLE REGIMENT. Harbin transit 24 1 07, TSITSIKAR manuscript receipt on reverse.

200

Although the Russo-Japanese War ended in September 1905, evacuation of Russian combatant troops was not completed until April 1907, leaving only small contingents to guard the Chinese Eastern Railway.



ПОЛЕВАЯ ПОЧТОВАЯ КОНТОРА
ВЪ ЦИЦИКАРЬ ВОКЗАЛЬ

20384

1907 Receipt for transfer of 30 roubles by post to Slavansk on form issued by Russian Imperial Post-Telegraph Administration in Manchuria, signed by Post-Telegraph clerk. Circular datestamp FIELD POST OFFICE No. 30 2 II 1907 and two-line FIELD POST OFFICE AT TSITSIKAR RAILWAY STATION, both in green.

150

This item confirms the location of F.P.O. No. 30 at Tsitsikar Railway Station (now in the town of Angangki, 20 miles north of Tsitsikar proper) after it had moved from its former base in Taolaichao in 1905.





20385 ☒

1907 Manchurian viewcards to France and Germany, both franked 4k in 'Kitai' stamps and cancelled respectively with Old Style datestamps: 29th RESERVE FIELD POST OFFICE 'a' (9 2 07) and 'b' (9 3 07), the latter with New Style dateline "St. Mandzhuria 21/II/07".

400

This office was situated at Manchuli railway station and at this time was open to civilian usage. 'Kitai' stamps were not stocked in the Manchurian offices at this time but were accepted for postage when supplied by the customer.



20386 ☒

1907 Illustrated letter-sheet issued to battalions guarding the Russian-owned CHINESE EASTERN RAILWAY, showing arrival of recruit and his stages of training.

50

Under the terms of the Peace Treaty (September 1905) these were the only military units permitted to remain in Manchuria. They were nicknamed "Mathilda's Guards" after the wife of the Russian Minister of Finance who had masterminded the C.E.R.





20387



DEMOBILISATION: 1906 Pictorial envelope with military motifs addressed from Kovel to Port Kunda near Vezenberg, Estland Guberniya 12 1 1906, franked 7k on reverse, apparently overlooked and oval tax mark applied, reading: DOPLATIT (To pay) / Kovel with 14k (=2 X rate) inserted by hand. Vezenberg arrival backstamp 15 1 1906.

200

Part of correspondence to Port Kunda from army officer previously stationed in Manchuria.



20388



DEMOBILISATION: 1909 7k Stationery envelope uprated 14k to make registered rate, addressed to a soldier in the 242nd BELEBEY REGIMENT at HARBIN, Manchuria, from a peasant in the NIKOLSK district of Vologda Guberniya. Abbreviated cancellation (dated 12 1 09) and label read: SHONGSKO-NIKOLAEVSKOE, VOLOGDA/VOLOST (=village group) ADMINISTRATION. Received Harbin 29 1 09 where cachet applied on reverse stating that the item is being redirected to Orenburg, central Russia, where regiment has been posted pending demobilisation. Bottom left corner of envelope missing.

100

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€ 100 - 200	€ 10	€ 5'000 - 10'000	€ 500
€ 200 - 500	€ 20	€ 10'000 - 20'000	€ 1'000
€ 500 - 1'000	€ 50	€ 20'000 - 50'000	€ 2'000
€ 1'000 - 2'000	€ 100	€ 50'000 - 100'000	€ 5'000

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4.2 Expertise and counter-expertise: should the authenticity of a lot be questioned, the buyer is obliged to provide an expertise or counter-expertise from a prominent expert in the field, justifying the claim. If a stamp is found by a recognised expert, taking financial responsibility for errors, to have been forged, he may mark it accordingly. Consequently, the marking "FALSCH" (forged) is not considered an alteration. In the case of such reclamation, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to request, at its own discretion, one or more further expertise(s). All expertise and relative charges accrue to the vendor's account in the case of a justified claim, or to the buyer's account if the claim is not justified. In the case of a justified claim, the lot is taken back and the knock-down price plus the commission are refunded to the buyer. In the case of delayed payment due to expertise agreed by David Feldman S.A., interest is charged at 50% of the standard rate for all cleared lots. If David Feldman S.A. has not agreed, then full interest is due.

4.3 Exclusions: lots described as collections, accumulations, selections, groups and those containing duplicates cannot be the subject of any claim. Claims concerning lots described as a set or groups of sets containing more than one stamp, can only be considered under the terms of paragraph 4.1 above if they relate to less than one third of the total value of the lot. Lots which have been examined by the buyer or his agent, lots described as having defects or faults cannot be subjected to a claim regarding defects or faults. Illustrated lots cannot be subjected to a claim because of perforations, centering, margins or other factors shown in the illustrations.

4.4 Late Payment: if payment of the knock-down price plus commission due by the buyer is not made within 30 days of the date of the auction, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to cancel the sale and dispose of the lot(s) elsewhere and/or to make a recourse to any legal proceedings in order to obtain payment of the amounts due as well as for any incurred damages and losses and any legal expenses. A charge on overdue payment of at least 5% for the first month and 2% per month afterwards plus expenses incurred is chargeable on any outstanding amount after 30 days of the date of the auction. The buyer who is in default in any way whatsoever has no right of claim under any circumstances.

4.5 Exceptionally, the knock-down price will be reduced to the lowest winning bid where it is shown that the exact same buyer has inadvertently increased the price by using more than one medium of bidding on the same lot.

5. Applicable law and jurisdiction

Unless otherwise stated, all auctions as well as any rights and obligations arising from them shall be governed exclusively by Swiss law. Any legal action or proceeding with respect to the auctions shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Geneva, subject to appeal to the Swiss Federal Court in Lausanne. In every case, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. shall also be entitled, at its discretion, to sue any buyer in default at his place of residence; in such case, Swiss law shall remain applicable and in the case of issues regarding price value, the Euro is converted at its Swiss franc value at the time of the auction.

6. All Transactions:

These Conditions of Sale apply to all transactions of every kind including those outside the auctions, with David Feldman SA.

Symbols and abbreviations

Symboles et abréviations / Symbole und Abkürzungen

Symbols / Symboles / Symbole

*	mint with original gum neuf avec gomme / ungebraucht mit Falz
**	mint never hinged neuf avec gomme intacte / postfrisch
(*)	unused, ungummed or regummed / neuf sans gomme ou regommé / ungebraucht ohne Gummi oder nachgummiert
⊙	used oblitéré/ gebraucht
⊞	block of four or larger multiple / Viererblock
∩	tête-bêche pair paire tête-bêche / Kehdruckpaar
⊗	fiscal cancel oblitération fiscale / fiskalische Entwertung
△	piece or fragment of a cover or document fragment / Briefstück
✉	cover or postcard incl. postal stationery / lettre, carte postale ou entier / Brief, Postkarte oder Ganzsache
E	essay essai / Entwurf
P	proof (incl. die, plate or trial colour) épreuve / Probedruck
R	revenue or fiscal timbre fiscal / Gebührenmarken
S	specimen spécimen / Specimen
F	forgery faux / Fälschung

Condition of Covers / Etats des lettres et entiers / Erhaltung von Briefen

Extremely fine / Superbe / Prachterhaltung

Outstanding, the envelope with only slight wear, fresh stamp and cancel. / Qualité irréprochable, l'enveloppe ne présente que de très légères traces d'usure, le timbre est frais et l'oblitération est propre. / Herausragende Qualität, Brief mit minimalen Gebrauchsspuren (Archivqualität), frische Marken und sehr klarer Stempel.

Very fine / Très beau / Sehr schön

Choice condition, the envelope shows typical slight soiling or wear from usage. / Qualité premier choix, l'enveloppe peu néanmoins présenter quelques légères salissures et usures. / 1. Wahl, Brief zeigt nur typische leichte Gebrauchsspuren.

Fine to very fine / Beau à très beau / Schön bis sehr schön

Normal condition, the envelope shows a bit heavier wear or soiling. / Qualité standard, les traces d'usures sont un peu plus prononcées. / Gewöhnliche aber noch einwandfreie Erhaltung mit etwas stärkeren Gebrauchsspuren (leicht fleckig oder andere leichtere Abnütungen).

Fine / Beau / schön

Evident wear or other factors (see description and photo), still a presentable example. / Evidentes traces d'usures ainsi que d'autres facteurs (voir photo et description) mais exemplaire très présentable. / Offensichtliche Gebrauchsspuren oder andere Mängel (siehe Beschreibung und/oder photo bzw. scan) aber noch immer herzeigbare und sammelwürdige Qualität bzw. Erhaltung.

Please note: Light edge wear, top backflap faults, slight reductions at one side, and file folds are normal for 19th Century covers. Also normal are light cleaning or minor stains and small mends along the edges. They are to be expected and are not always described, and are not grounds for return, nor are factors visible in the illustrations. We will gladly provide full-size scans on request.

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Abbreviations / Abréviations / Abkürzungen

2-14	nos. 2 through 14 / n°2 au 14 / nr.2 bis 14
2/14	between nos. 2 and 14 (not cplt.) / entre le n°2 et 14 / aus nr. 2 bis 14
add'l	additional / supplémentaire / zusätzlich
approx.	approximate(ly) / environ / ungefähr
B	bottom / en bas / unten
BL	bottom left / en bas à gauche / unten links
BR	bottom right / en bas à droite / unten rechts
bs	backstamp(s) / cachet au dos / rücks. Stpl.
ca.	circa / environ / circa
cat.	catalogue / Katalog
cds	circular date stamp(s) / cachet à date / Datumstempel
cert.	certificate / certificat / Attest
cplt.	complete / complet / vollständig
diff	different / différent / verschieden
ds	date stamp(s) / cachet à date / Datumstempel
FDC	first day cover / lettre premier jour / Ersttagsbrief
FFC	first flight cover / lettre premier vol / Erstflugbrief
FL	folded letter / pli / Faltbrief
horiz.	horizontal / horizontale / waagrecht
hr	hinge remnant(s) / reste de charnière / Falzreste
hs	handstamp(s) / cachet / Handstempel
imperf	imperfurate / non-dentelé / ungezähnt
L	left / à gauche / links
lh	lightly hinged / légère charnière / leichte Falzreste
MC	Maltese Cross / Croix de Malte / Malteserkreuz

min. sheet	miniature sheet, souvenir sheet / bloc feuillet / Block
ms	manuscript / manuscrit / handschriftlich
nh	never hinged / sans charnière / postfrisch
no(s).	number(s) / numéro(s) / Nummer(n)
og	original gum / gomme originale / Originalgummi
ovpt	overprint / surcharge / Aufdruck
o/w	otherwise / autrement / ansonsten
pc	postcard / carte postale / Postkarte
perf	perforated / perforé(e) / gezähnt
pl.	plate / plaque / Platte
pos.	position / numéro dans la planche / Bogenposition
ps	postal stationery / entier / Ganzsache
ppc	picture postcard / carte postale / Ansichtskarte
R	right / à droite / rechts
reg'd	registered / recommandé / eingeschrieben
SFL	stampless folded letter (unused) / entier double / Ganzsachenbrief
s/I	straight line cancel / cachet linéaire / Langstempel
STC	stated to catalogue (by third party) / selon données vendeur / angebl. Katalogwert
T	top / en haut / oben
TL	top left / en haut à gauche / oben links
TR	top right / en haut à droite / oben rechts
unwmkd	unwatermarked / sans filigrane / ohne Wasserzeichen
var.	variety / variété / Abart
vert.	vertical / verticale / senkrecht
wmk	watermark(ed) / filigrane / Wasserzeichen
w/o	without / sans / ohne



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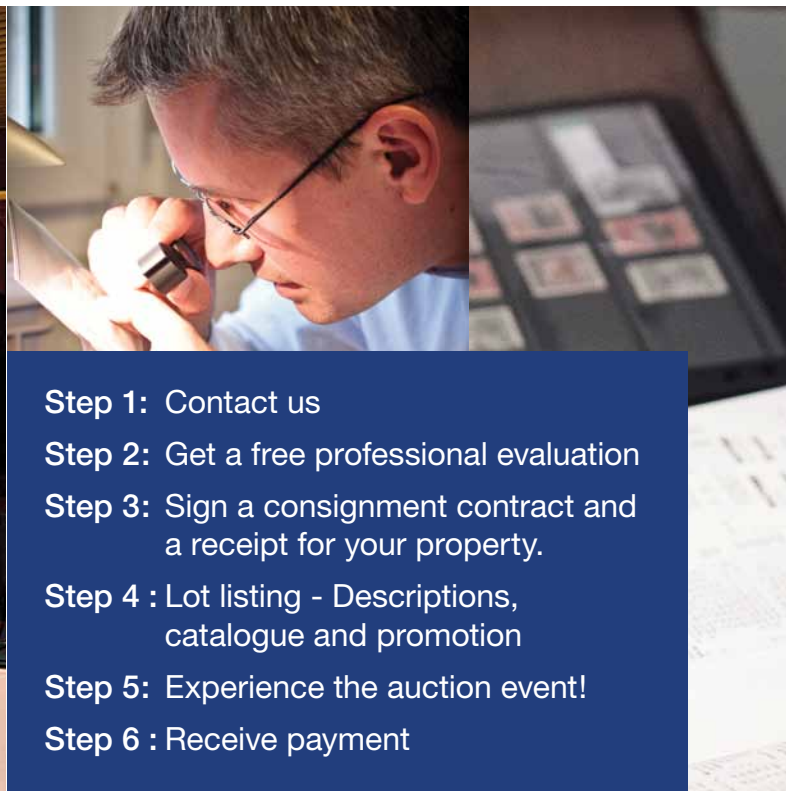
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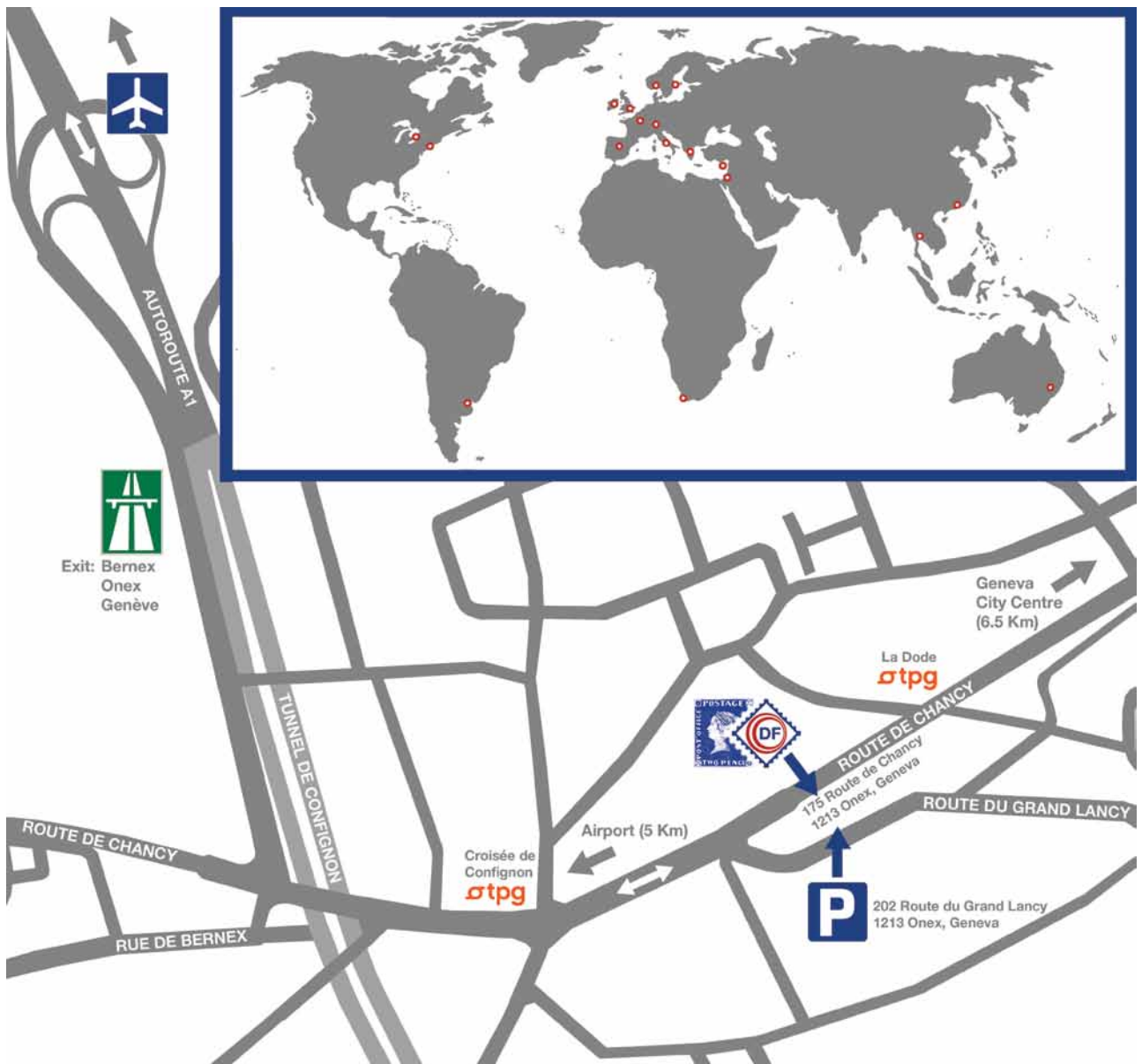
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