

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES  
1907-1913

1913 ..

German Embassy Medical Doctor  
'Via Siberia' Correspondence  
Japan-Germany

'ENROUTE TO TAKE-UP  
POSITION' AT TOKYO  
MAIL

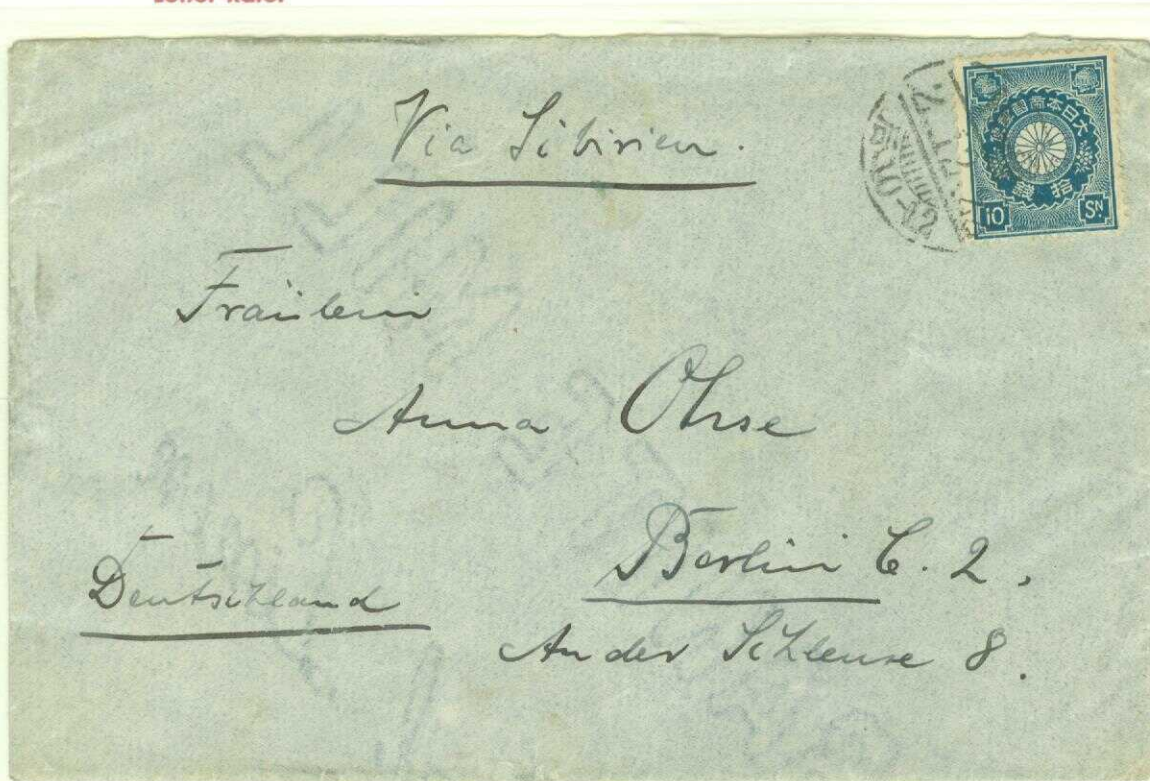
12 SEPTEMBER 1913  
(German Ship P.O. Mail)

Cover, sent by German  
Embassy "Dr. Ohse".  
postmarked  
on-board a  
"Norddeutscher  
Lloyd" vessel of their  
"Far-East Main Line",  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia",  
sent to Berlin, Germany,

Transit & Arrival Marks:  
"Kobe, Japan,  
12. September 1913"  
"(Berlin)  
26/27 September 1913"  
15-day transit time.

Route:  
Kobe-Tsuruga- (by sea)  
..Vladivostok (by rail) -  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin

20 Pfennig..  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams) UPU  
International  
Letter-Rate.



EMBASSY DOCTOR  
MAIL AFTER ARRIVAL  
IN TOKYO  
(Japan Post Office)

23 DECEMBER 1913

Cover, sent by German  
Embassy "Dr. Ohse" at  
Tokyo, Japan, to Berlin,  
Germany,  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia".

Route:  
Tokyo-Tsuruga (by sea) -  
Vladivostok (by rail) -  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin

10 Sen....  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams) UPU  
international  
Letter-Rate.

EXPANSION OF MAIL SERVICES  
1907-1913

Registered Mail  
Japan to Germany  
1913



2 DECEMBER  
1913

Registered cover,  
sent by German  
Embassy "Dr.  
Ohse",  
postmarked at  
Tokyo, Japan,  
with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia",  
to Berlin

Arrival Postmark:  
"Berlin C2,  
17 December  
1913"

15-day transit  
time.

Route..  
Tokyo-Tsuruga..  
(by sea) to  
Vladivostok  
(by rail) to Harbin-  
Irkutsk-Moscow-  
Berlin

50 Sen...  
30 Sen..  
Triple-weight  
UPU International  
Letter-Rate  
+ 20 Sen..  
Registration-fee

**V. WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS**  
**1914-1918**

1914 .. Pre-War Mail

UNTIL JULY 1914, MAIL ENDORSED 'Via Siberia' TRAVELLED THE HERETOFORE SOUTHERN 'TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK' ROUTE, since the northern 'All-Russian Territory' Route, i.e. Vladivostok-Amur River Line Route, would first be completed in 1916.

**TIENTSIN-ORIGIN**  
**MAIL TO**  
**SWITZERLAND**  
 (German Post Office)

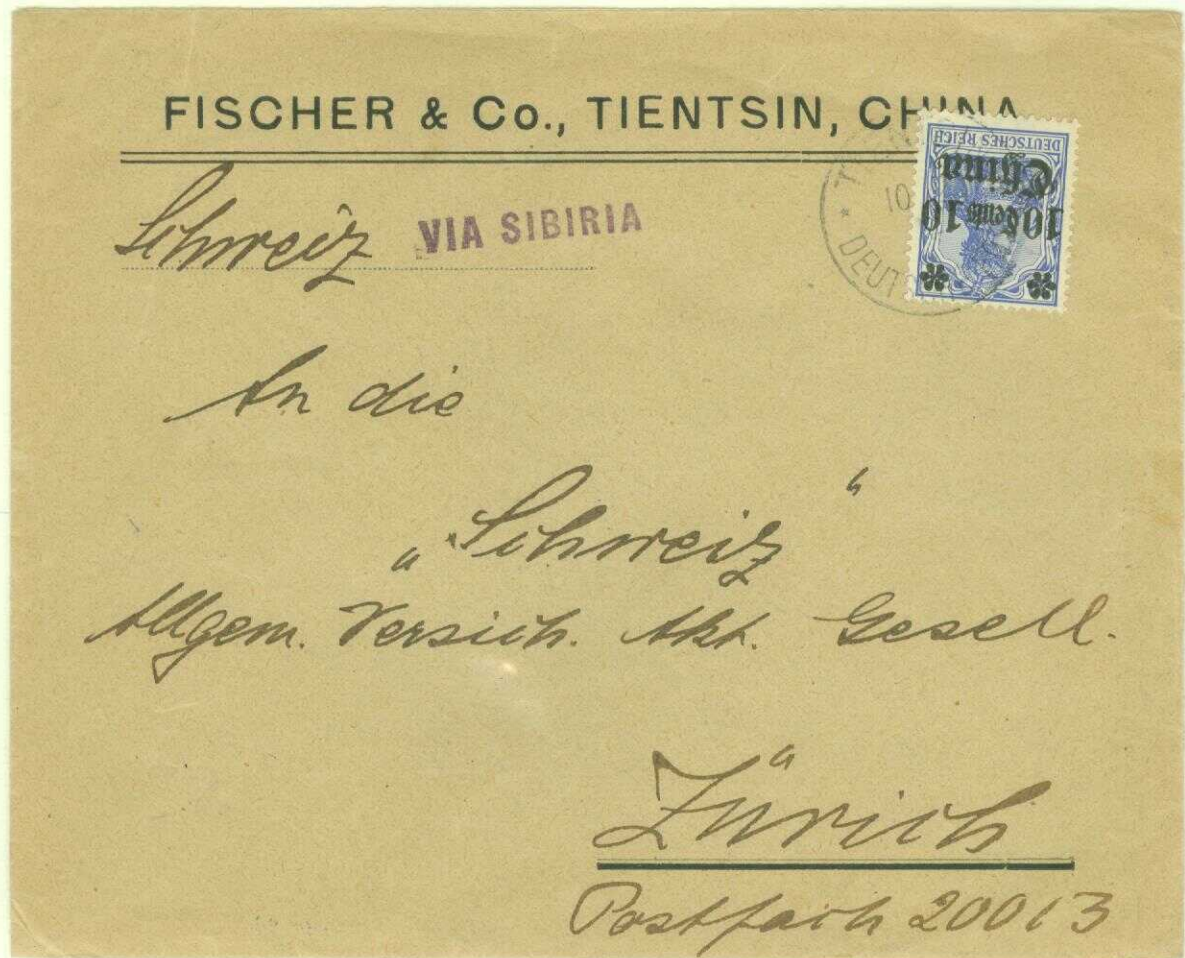
**10 FEBRUARY**  
**1914**

Commercial cover, postmarked at Tientsin, China, sent to Zürich, Switzerland, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Arrival Postmark: "Zürich, 23 February 1914"

13-Day Transit Time:  
 Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Basel-Zürich

10 Cents..  
 UPU Single-Weight (20 grams)  
 International Letter-Rate



**TSINGTAU, KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY**  
 (German Post Office)

**30 MARCH 1914**

Viewcard, sent by "Garrison Base Manager Brandt", postmarked at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Stassfurt, Germany.

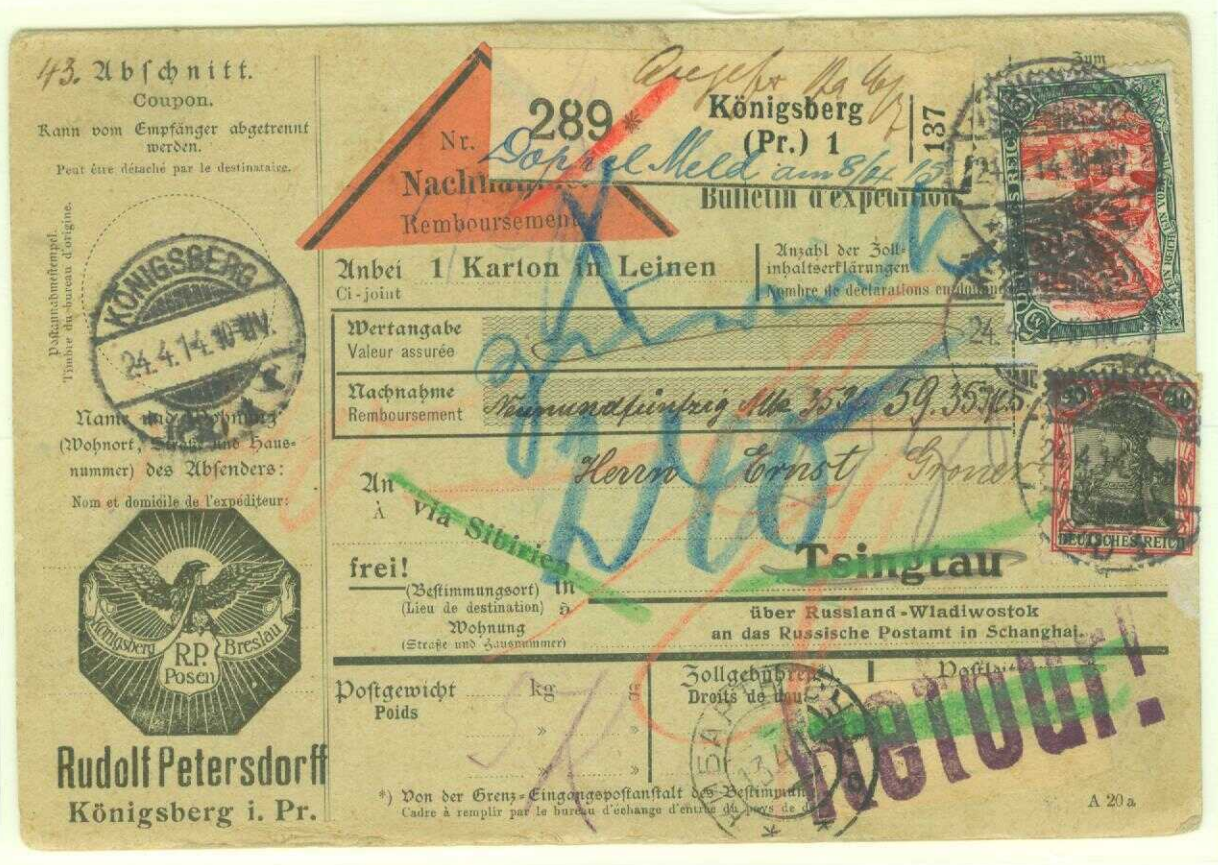
Route:  
 Tsingtau-Tsinanfu-Peking-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow-Berlin-Stassfurt

2 Cents...  
 Concession postcard-rate for mail sent to Germany.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS**  
**1914-1918**

**1914 .. Pre-War Mail**  
**Unclaimed Parcel Post with**  
**Post-War Return to Germany**

**COMMERCIAL GERMAN – KIAUTSCHOU C.O.D. PARCEL POST**  
**RETURNED 'VIA AMERICA' TO GERMANY IN 1920**



**24 APRIL 1914**

**5-Kilo C.O.D. Parcel Post, postmarked at Königsberg, Germany, with route endorsement "Via Sibirica" sent to Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China, endorsed "Double Fee on 8 April 1915", subsequently (1920) marked "Return", with Postage-Paid Return-Postmark at Königsberg on 28 July 1920.**

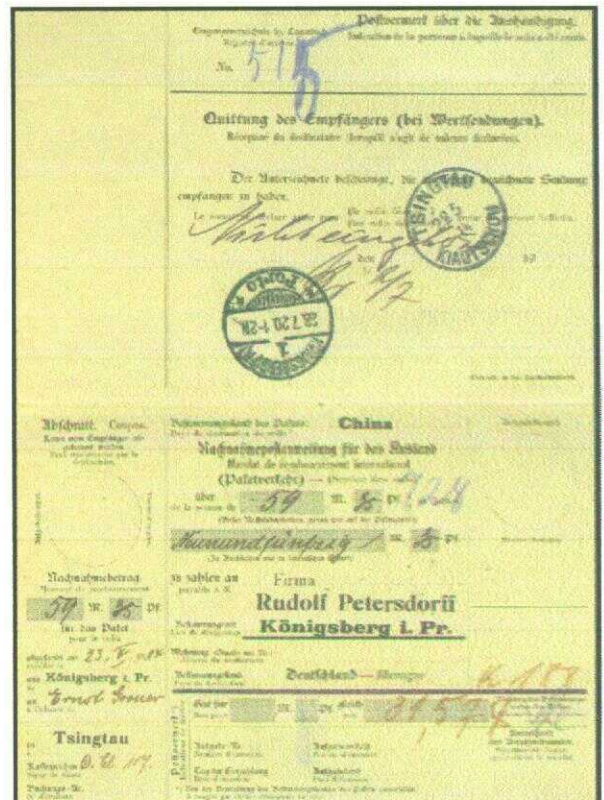
**Transit & Other Postmarks:**  
**"(Russian Post Office Railway Transfer Point),**  
**13 April 1914 (Julian Calendar) =**  
**26 April 1914"**

**"Tsingtau, Kiautschou,**  
**28 May 1914"**

**"Königsberg (Porto)**  
**28 July 1920"**

**Eastbound Route:**  
**Königsberg-Eydkuhnen-Moscow-Irkutsk-Manchouli-Harbin-**  
**Vladiwostok (by sea to)-Shanghai-Tsingtau**

**RM 5.40...**  
**RM 4.80 5-Kilo Parcel Post +**  
**0.60 C.O.D. Fee**  
**+**  
**RM 2.00 Return Fee.**



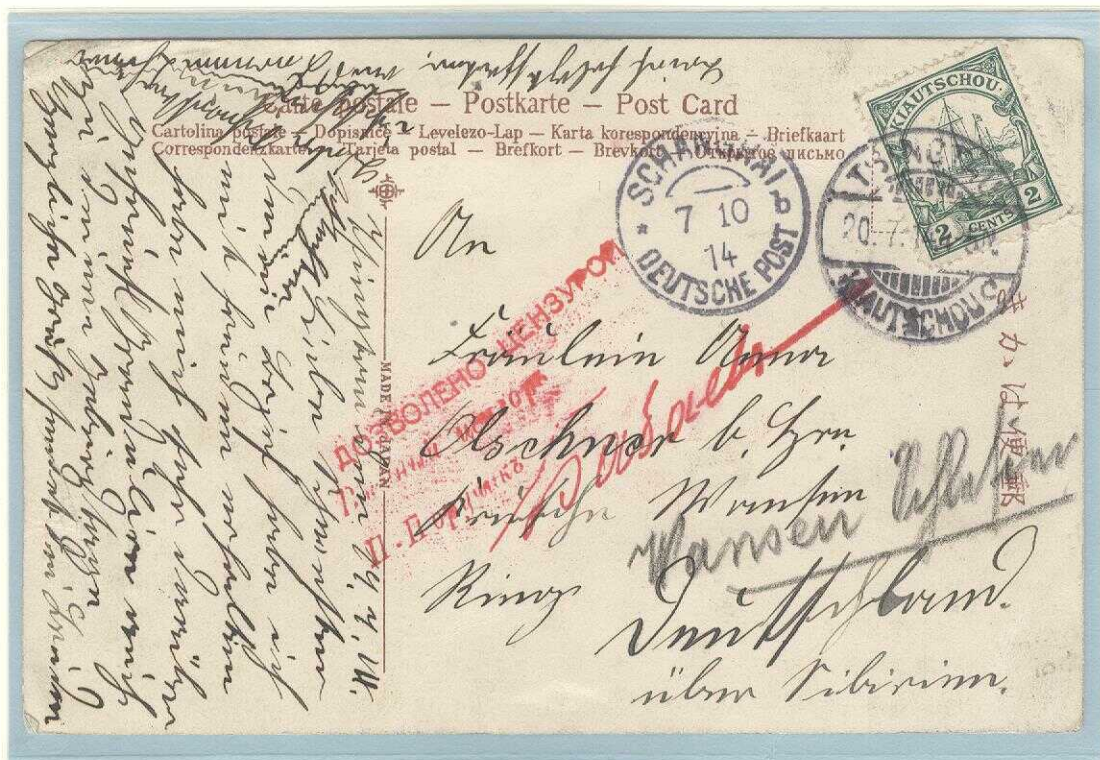
**Reverse**

**A STATE OF WAR TOOK EFFECT ON 1 AUGUST 1914 BETWEEN RUSSIA & GERMANY RESULTING IN CESSATION OF ALL MAIL MOVEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, including mail transit over the trans-Siberian rail network.**

**KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN MAIL POSTMARKED 15-21 JULY 1914, ABOARD MOSCOW-BOUND 'TRAIN IX' WAS INTERCEPTED ABOUT 1-2 AUGUST, CENSORED, AND RE-DIRECTED TO THE GERMAN POST OFFICE AT SHANGHAI WITH SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER TO THE AMERICAN POST OFFICE FOR FORWARDING TO GERMANY 'VIA THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA'.**

ДОЗВОЛЕНО ЦЕНЗУРОМ  
 Военный цензор  
 Н. Поруция.  
*Babajew*

**"Permitted by the Censor of the Military Censorship Office ... Signed: 1st Lieutenant Babajew"**



**TSINGTAU, KIAUTSCHOU,-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY**  
 (German Post Office)

**20 JULY 1914**

**View-card postmarked at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, with route endorsement "über Siberien" = "Via Siberia", sent to Brieg, Germany, intercepted on 1 August, held, censored and re-directed to Shanghai by the Russian authorities.**

**Shanghai Arrival:**  
**"7 October 1914"**

**Arrival in Germany:**  
**Approx. 8 December 1914**

**Route:**

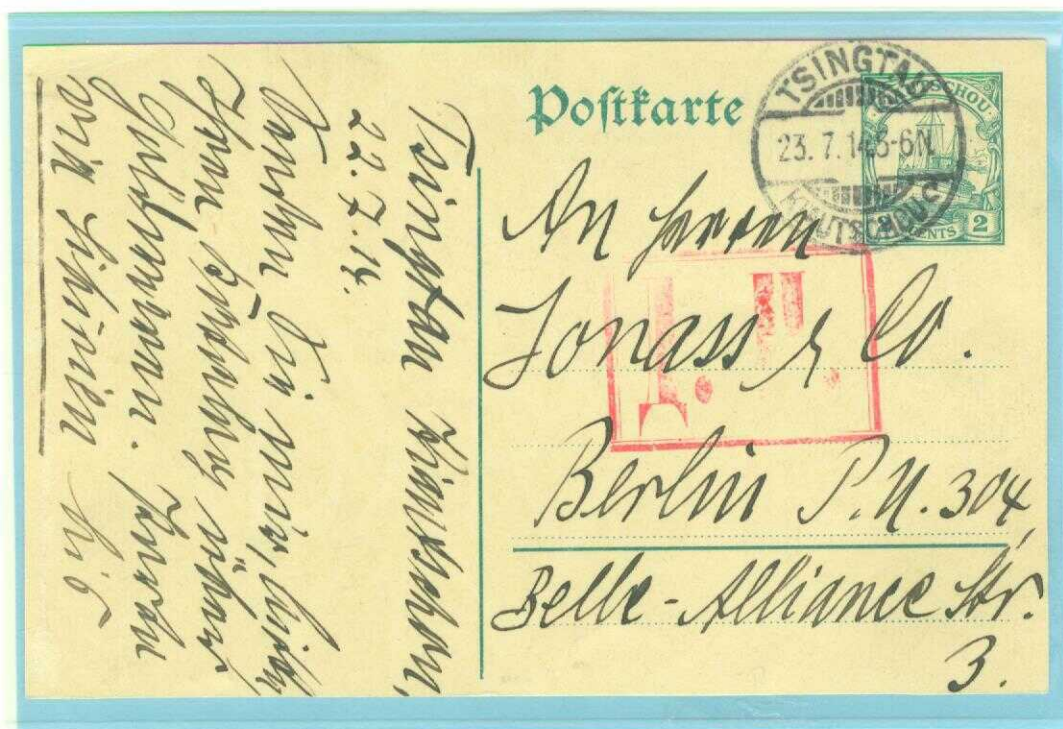
**Tsingtau-Tsinanfu-Peking-Tientsin-Changchun-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow....  
 Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Changchun-Tientsin-Peking-Pukow-Shanghai**

**2 Cents...  
 Postcard rate for mail sent to Germany.**

KIAUTSCHOU ORIGIN MAIL POSTMARKED 22- 23 JULY 1914,  
ABOARD MOSCOW-BOUND 'TRAIN XI' WAS INTERCEPTED ABOUT 2  
AUGUST, RE-ROUTED TO VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA, CENSORED, AND  
FORWARDED TO THE GERMAN POST OFFICE AT SHANGHAI WITH  
SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER TO THE AMERICAN POST OFFICE FOR  
FORWARDING TO GERMANY VIA THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.



"Permitted by the Censor"



KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN COMMERCIAL MAIL  
TO GERMANY

23 JULY 1914

Postal stationery card, postmarked at Kiautschou, China, endorsed  
*"Via Siberia"*,  
on route intercepted, censored at Vladivostok, Russia,  
forwarded to Shanghai, & transferred to the American Post Office for routing to  
Berlin, Germany, via the United States of America.

Route:

Kiautschou-Tsinanfu-Peking-Tinetsin-Changchun-Harbin ... intercepted

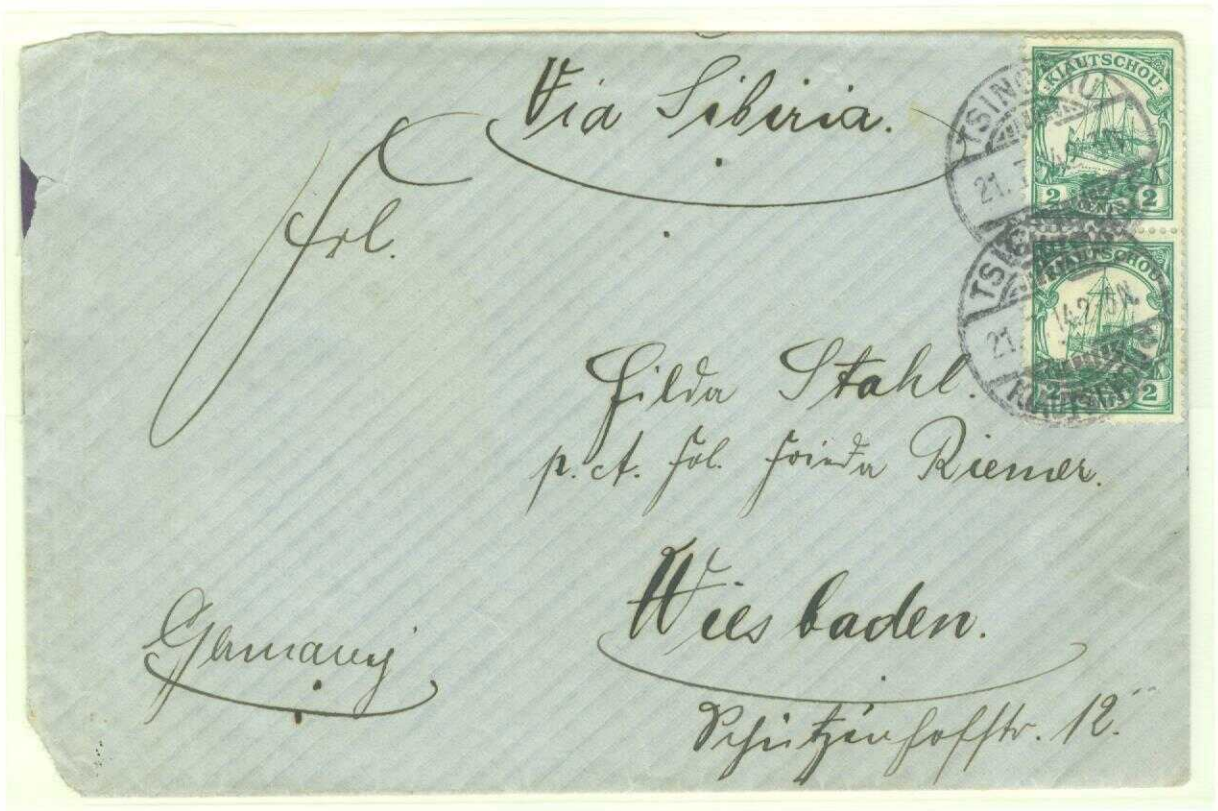
2 Cents...

Concession postal-card rate for mail sent to Germany.

**VERY LITTLE IN-TRANSIT MAIL ABOARD 'TRAIN IX',**  
(leaving Tsingtau, Kiautschou, on 21 July 1914,  
last train to Germany before outbreak of war)

**INTERCEPTED AT MOSCOW ON 31 JULY, WAS NOT CENSORED...**

re-directed to the German Post Office at Shanghai in October 1914  
(Kiautschou was occupied by Japanese Forces), routed to America through the  
American Post Office using the Pacific Mail Steamship Company ..  
Shanghai-San Francisco- (overland) New York,  
Hamburg-America Line to Germany.



**TSINGTAU KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY**  
(German Post Office)

21 JULY 1914

Cover, postmarked at Tsingtau, Kiautschou,  
route endorsement "*Via Siberia*", sent to  
Wiesbaden, Germany, with mail-sack intercepted on 1 August, held, un-censored,  
re-directed to Shanghai by the Russian authorities.

Arrival in Germany:

(Reverse)

Manuscript notation: "Received at the beginning of December"  
(est. 8 December 1914)

Route:

**Tsingtau-Tsinanfu-Peking-Tientsin-Changchun-Harbin-Irkutsk-Moscow.....then:  
Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Changchun-Tientsin-Peking-Pukow-Shanghai**

**4 Cents...**

**Concession-rate,**

**single-weight (20 grams) letter-mail sent to Germany.**

SOLDIER'S MAIL FROM KIAUTSCHOU WAS ONLY POSSIBLE  
DURING AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1914,  
PRIOR TO THE OCCUPATION BY JAPANESE FORCES,  
SENT TO SHANGHAI FOR FORWARDING TO GERMANY  
THROUGH THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.



Cert. Jäschke-Lantelme

**KIAUTSCHOU-ORIGIN FIELDPOST MAIL TO GERMANY**

**31 AUGUST 1914**

Free-frank fieldpost stationery card,  
postmarked at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, China,  
forwarded to Shanghai to the American Post Office  
for routing to Berlin, Germany,  
via the United States of America.

**Route:**

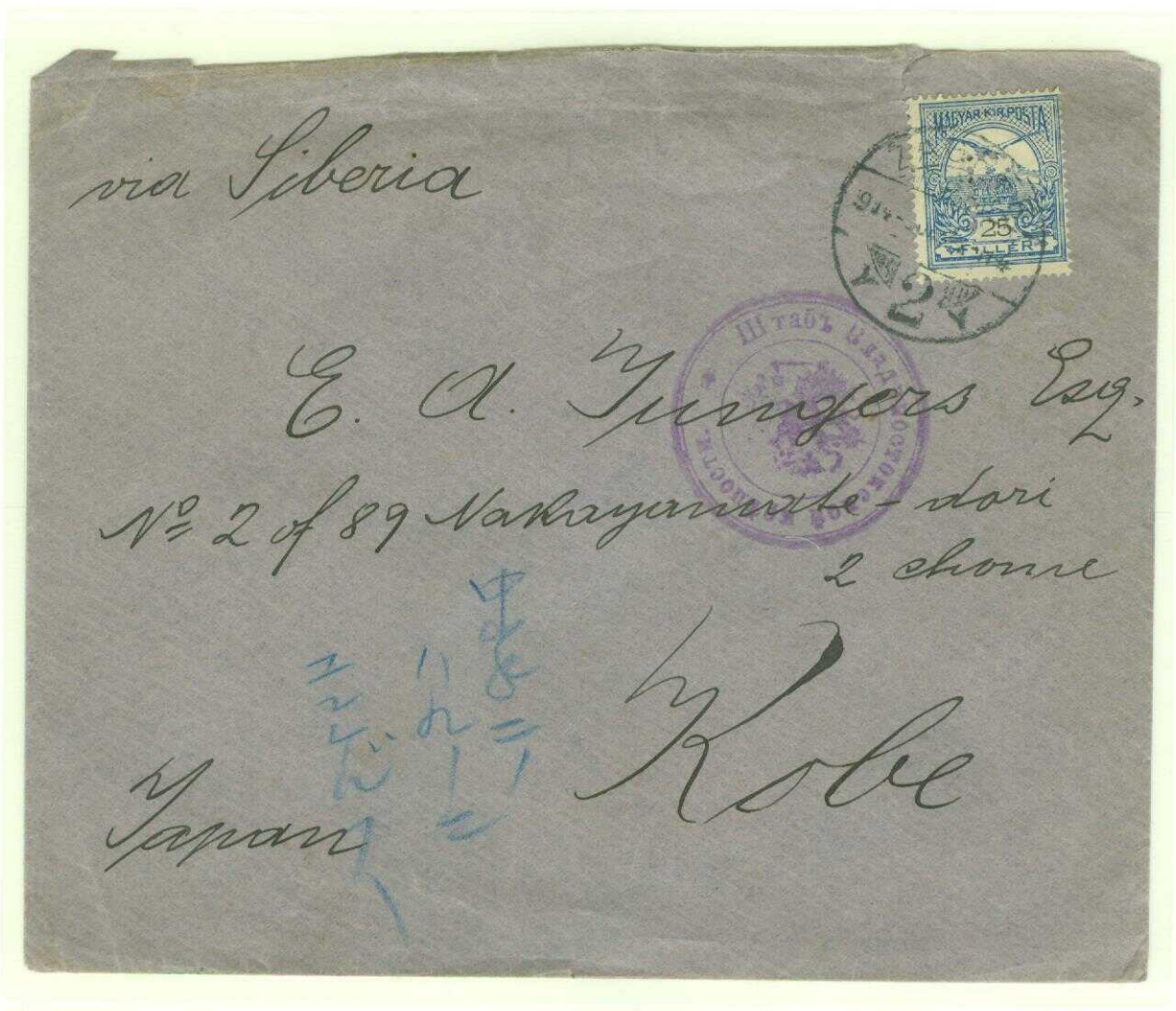
**Kiautschou-Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-Hamburg-Halle**



WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918

1914 .. Eastbound Mail  
Austro-Hungary to Japan  
In-Transit & Censored

In-transit mail sent from 'Zagreb' (Croatia/Austro-Hungary) in July  
with arrival at 'Vladivostok' after the outbreak of war between  
Austria-Hungary & Russia on 6 August 1914  
with Russian censorship and release for transit to Japan.



LATE PRE-WAR EUROPE-ORIGIN MAIL TO JAPAN  
(Hungarian Post Office)

(?) July 1914

Cover postmarked at Zagreb, Croatia, Austro-Hungary, with route endorsement  
"via Siberia",  
sent to Kobe, Japan, with interception on/about 6 August, held,  
censored (purple censor marking)  
and released for transit to Japan by the Russian authorities

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Kobe, 28 August..."

Route:  
Zagreb-Vienna-Berlin-Moscow-Irkutsk-Harbin-Vladivostok.. (by sea) .. Tsuruga-Kobe

25 Filler...  
UPU Single-weight (20 grams) International Letter-Rate.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918**

**1914 .. Shanghai to Germany  
by German-Flag Vessel**

With movement of mail over the trans-Siberian rail network  
no longer possible,  
**THE GERMAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION IN CHINA AT SHANGHAI ATTEMPTED  
TO MOVE ITS GERMANY-BOUND MAIL BY GERMAN-FLAG VESSELS**  
before sea routes were blocked by the British along with any high-sea  
inspections of any and all vessels.



Cert. Steuer

**1914 REGISTERED CHINA-ORIGIN GERMANY-BOUND MAIL**  
(German Post Office)

**27 AUGUST 1914**

Registered cover, postmarked at Shanghai, China, probably routed aboard  
a German-flag vessel around the Cape of Africa  
(Suez Canal closed to German-flag vessels). 57-day transit time.

Arrival in Germany:  
(Reverse)  
"Bad Münster, 23 October 1914"

**14 Cents...**  
**4 Cents.. Single-weight (20 grams) Concession letter-rate for German Post Office  
in China mail sent to Germany + 10 Cents... registration fee.**

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918**

**1914 .. Westbound Mail  
China to Scandinavia**

**MAIL FROM CHINA TO SCANDINAVIA WAS POSSIBLE DURING WORLD WAR I,  
SINCE THE DESTINATION COUNTRIES WERE NON-BELIGERENT, POLITICALLY NEUTRAL  
WITH THE BRANCH RAIL LINE TO ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA, BY SEA BEYOND.**

**MAIL TO SWEDEN**  
(Chinese Post Office)

**14 NOVEMBER 1914**

View-card,  
Russian-uncensored,  
postmarked at  
Ongcheng, China,  
with route endorsement  
"via Siberia"  
sent to Stockholm, Sweden.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
"Tsinan,  
18 November, 1914"  
"Manchouli,  
26 November 1914"  
"Stockholm,  
12 December 1914"

Route:  
Ongcheng-Tsinan-Peking-  
Mukden-Harbin-Manchouli-  
Irkutsk-Omsk-Jakatarinburg-  
Wjatka-St. Petersburg-  
(coastal steamer to) Sweden.



**MAIL TO DENMARK**  
(Chinese Post Office)

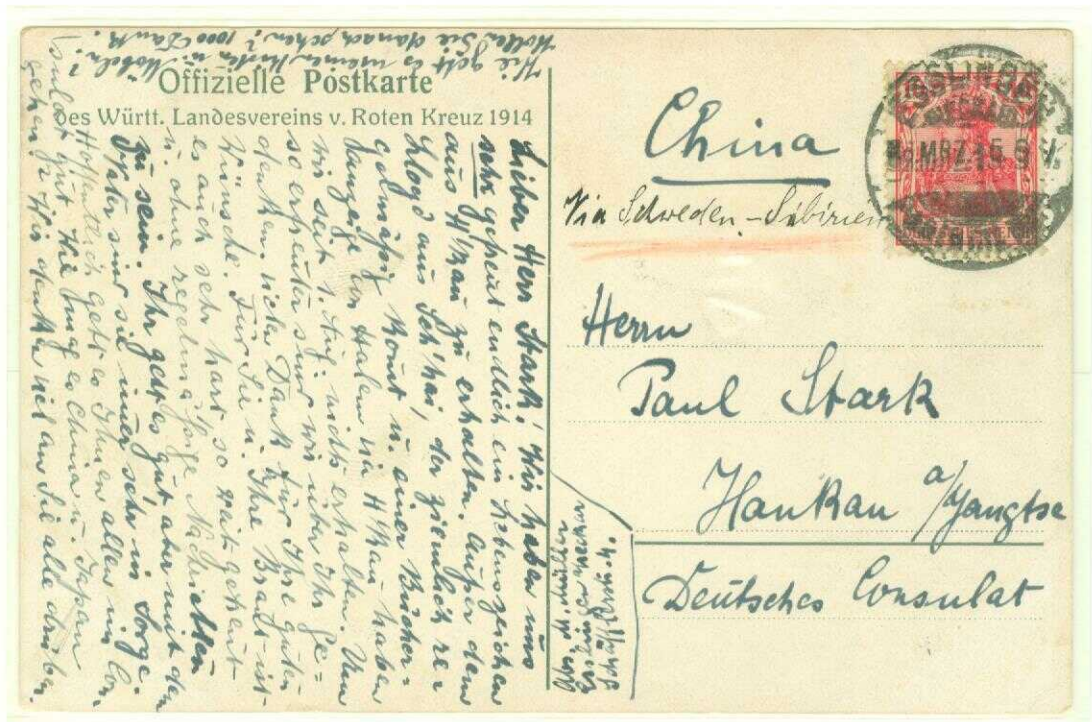
**7 DECEMBER 1914**

View-card,  
Russian censored,  
postmarked at  
Feng-hwang-cheng,  
China,  
with route endorsement  
"via Siberia" &  
(in red)  
"Denmark",  
to the Island of Fyn,  
Denmark.

Probable Route:  
Feng-hwang-cheng-  
Mukden-Harbin-  
Manchouli-Irkutsk-Omsk-  
Jakatarinburg-Wjatka-St.  
Petersburg-  
(coastal steamer to)  
Denmark.

**4 Cents..  
UPU International Postcard-Rate.**

**THE GERMAN POST OFFICE (REICHSPOST) ATTEMPTED TO FIND AND USE VARIOUS ROUTES TO MOVE ITS MAIL TO & FROM CHINA, ONE OF WHICH WAS TO UTILIZE HAVING MAIL INSERTED INTO MAIL BAGS OF A NEUTRAL COUNTRY, SWEDEN.**



**GERMAN-ORIGIN DIPLOMAT-WIFE'S MAIL TO CHINA VIA SWEDEN-SIBERIA**

**22 MARCH 1915**

**Patriotic view-card, postmarked at Esslingen, Württemberg, Germany, with route endorsement**

**"Via Sweden-Siberia"**

**sent to the German Consulate at Hankau, China.**

**Sender is "Marga Müller", wife of a German diplomat, who together with her husband spent years in China, asking.. "the status of her garden and furniture"!**

**Route:**

**Esslingen-Stuttgart-Berlin- by sea.. to Sweden & St. Petersburg.. by rail.. -Omsk-Irkutsk-Harbin-Changchun-Tientsin-Pukow-Hankow**

**10 Pfennig...**

**UPU International Postcard-Rate.**

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918

1915 .. Japan-Switzerland  
Commercial Mail

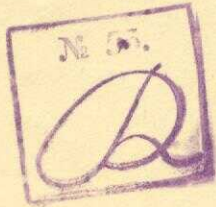
MAIL FROM JAPAN OR KOREA TO NEUTRAL SWITZERLAND WAS  
POSSIBLE 'VIA SIBERIA' BY WAY OF  
ST. PETERSBURG (RUSSIA) WITH SUBSEQUENT SHIP TRANSIT TO  
SWEDEN-DENMARK FOR FORWARDING BY RAIL TO SWITZERLAND.

J. M. SANDERS, Oura, Kataoka, No. 7, Nagasaki, Japan.



VIA SIBERIA

Messieurs Lunstein & Cie.  
50 Rue du Marché  
Berne.  
Suisse.



CENSORED COMMERCIAL MAIL TO SWITZERLAND  
(Japanese Post Office)

28 JUNE 1915

Commercial-letter, postmarked Nagasaki, Japan,  
with route endorsement "*Via Siberia*",  
Russian-censored (reverse & front markings) at Petrograd (St. Petersburg),  
sent to Bern, Switzerland.  
34-day transit time.

Arrival Marking:  
(Reverse)  
"Bern, 1 August 1915"

Probable War Route:  
Nagasaki -Tsuruga (Japan)-Vladivostok (Russia)...  
by rail to Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg...  
by sea Sweden -Denmark & rail to Berlin-Basel-Zurich-Bern

10 Sen... Japanese Postage  
UPU International Single-Weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate.

RUSSIAN INFLUENCE IN KOREA ENDED WITH THE 1905 TREATY OF  
PORTSMOUTH ENDING THE RUSSO-JAPANESE WAR AND RECOGNIZING  
KOREA AS A JAPANESE AREA OF INFLUENCE UNTIL EVENTUAL  
FORMAL ANNEXATION BY JAPAN IN 1910.



CATHOLIC-MISSION/KOREA-ORIGIN MAIL TO FRANCE  
(Japanese Post Office)

4 SEPTEMBER 1915

Missionary cover, postmarked Taikou, Korea,  
with route endorsement

*"Via Siberia"*

sent to Paris, France. 29-day transit time.

Transit Markings:

(Reverse)

"Yokohama, Japan, 5 September 1915"

"Paris, 3 October 1915"

Probable War Route:

Taikou-Fusan (Pusan, Korea)-Yokohama (Japan)-Vladivostok (Russia)-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg-  
(by sea) to Sweden & France- (by rail) to Paris

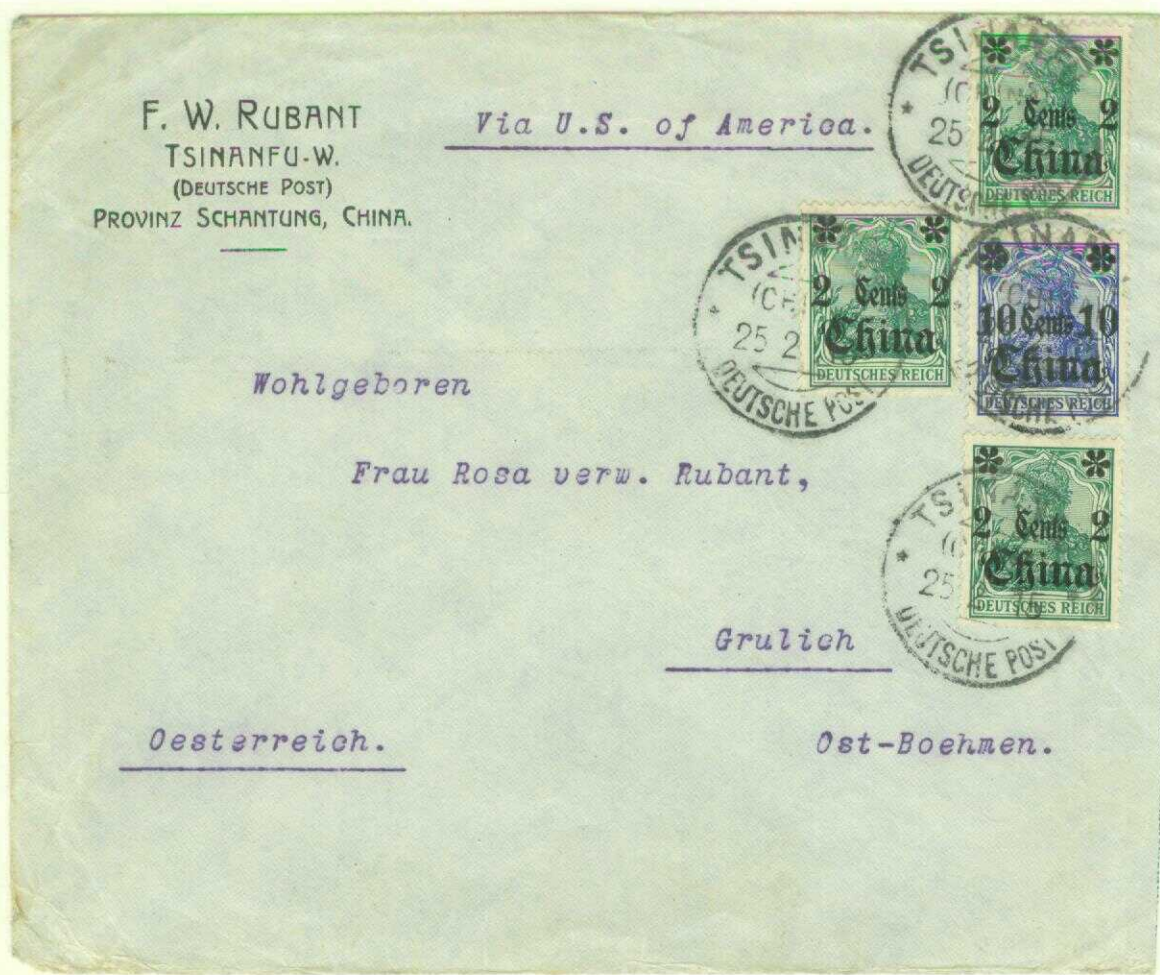
10 Sen... Japanese Postage  
UPU International Single-Weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS**  
**1914-1918**

**1915.. China-Germany Mail**  
**'via United States of America'**

Along with (August 1914) non-use of the Trans-Siberian Rail Network, by 1915 a British naval blockade also prevented mail from reaching Germany by direct sea routes, including use of neutral-flag vessels, which were often boarded by the British Navy removing German-bound mail.

**THE GERMAN POST OFFICE (Reichspost) USED THE ONLY REMAINING ALTERNATIVE BY SENDING MAIL 'Via America' THROUGH THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE.**



**CHINA-ORIGIN MAIL TO GERMANY**  
**VIA THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
(German Post Office)

**25 FEBRUARY 1915**

Cover, postmarked at Tsinanfu, China,  
with route endorsement  
**"Via U.S. of America"**  
to Grulich, East-Bohemia, Austria

Route:  
Tsinanfu-Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-Germany/Austria

**16 Cents...**  
**Double-weight (20-40 grams) letter concession-rate**  
**for mail to Germany or Austria.**

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918**

**1915 .. Occupied Kiautschou  
Civilian-Mail to Germany**

**BY NOVEMBER 1914, JAPANESE FORCES FULLY OCCUPIED GERMAN KIAUTSCHOU WITH POWs MOVED TO CAMPS IN JAPAN.**

**CIVILIAN MAIL TO GERMANY WAS TOLERATED WITH MAIL FORWARDED TO SHANGHAI FOR FORWARDING TO AMERICA & EUROPE CONTINUING UNTIL FEBRUARY 1917,**

**when American relations with Germany declined with the sinking of the SS Lusitania by a German submarine on 3 February 1917.**

**GERMAN CIVILIAN WARTIME MAIL THROUGH THE JAPANESE POST OFFICE**



**4 NOVEMBER 1915**  
(Japanese Post Office)

**Family Photo-card, postmarked & Japanese-censored at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, sent through the Japanese Post Office in China, 'Via America', to Koblenz, Germany.**

**Probable War Route:  
Kiautschou-Yokohama-San Francisco-New York-Hamburg-Koblenz**

**4 Japanese Sen..  
UPU International Postcard-Rate.**



**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918**

**1916.. China-Netherlands  
British-Censored Mail  
'via United States of America'**

**EUROPEAN-BOUND CENSORED COMMERCIAL MAIL THROUGH  
THE AMERICAN POST OFFICE**



**18 NOVEMBER (1916)**  
(American Post Office)

**British-censored commercial mail,  
postmarked at Shanghai, China, with route  
endorsement  
"via America" & "From New York per  
Holland-America Line"  
sent to (neutral) Amsterdam, Netherlands.  
54-day transit time.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Amsterdam, 11 January 1917"**

**Route:  
Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-  
by sea to Amsterdam.**

**5 US-Cents...  
Single-weight (20 grams) UPU International  
Letter-Rate.**



Reverse

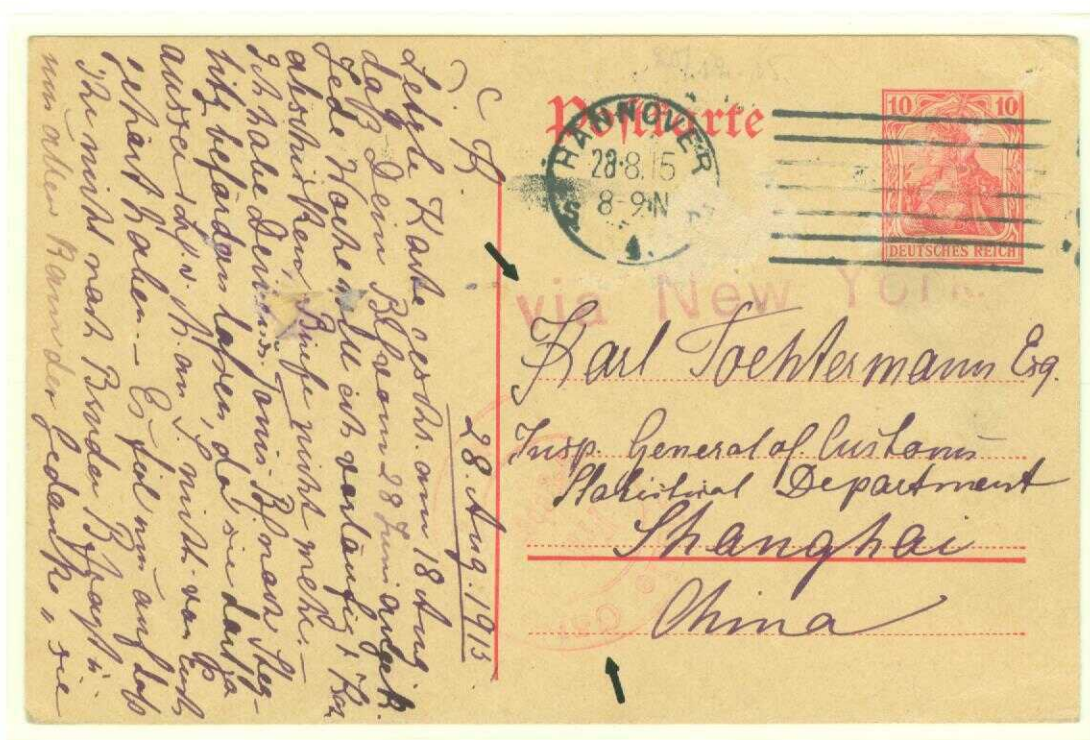
The United States of America remained a neutral country during World War I until March 1917 when relations between Germany & the United States were broken.

**CHINA-BOUND, OR ORIGIN MAIL, EXCHANGE BETWEEN THE GERMAN & AMERICAN POST OFFICES USING 'THE PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY' SERVICE BETWEEN SHANGHAI-SAN FRANCISCO-SHANGHAI CONTINUED UNTIL SUCH SERVICE ENDED IN SEPTEMBER 1915**

Mail Route:

Shanghai-San Francisco-New York-Germany, or  
Germany-New York-San Francisco-Shanghai

In January 1916, 91 sacks of mail 'Via America' arrived at Shanghai from Germany through the U.S. Naval Ship 'Galveston' from Manila, which supposedly was the last mail delivery 'via America' of German-origin mail.



CHINA-BOUND MAIL FROM GERMANY  
VIA THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

28 AUGUST 1915

Postal Stationery card, postmarked at Hanover, Germany,  
with route endorsement  
"Via New York" (red)  
to the "Inspector General of Customs Statistical Office"  
at Shanghai, China.  
German censorship marking in red.

10 Cents...  
UPU International Postcard-Rate.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918**

**1916.. Japan to Europe  
Via 'Northern Trans-Siberian Rail Route'  
Printed-Matter Mail**

Until July 1914, mail endorsed "Via Siberia" traveled the heretofore 'Southern Trans-Siberian Rail Network Route'.  
**BY 1916, THE 'NORTHERN ALL-RUSSIAN-TERRITORY TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE' WAS OPERATIONAL ENABLING MAIL TO MOVE FROM VLADIVOSTOK-CHARBAROWSK-MISSOWOJA-IRKUTSK to MOSCOW or ST. PETERSBURG**

**JAPAN-ORIGIN  
MAIL TO FRANCE**  
(Japan Post Office)

**18 FEBRUARY 1916**

Un-censored commercial postcard, postmarked at Tokyo, Japan, sent to Paris, France, with route endorsement "Via Siberia".

Probable Route: Tokyo-Tsuruga.. by sea to Vladivostok-Missowoja-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg.. by sea to France.



**JAPAN-ORIGIN MAIL  
TO SWITZERLAND**  
(Japan Post Office)

**29 OCTOBER 1916**  
(Japan Post Office)

Russian-censored view-card postmarked Hamamatsu, Japan, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" to Schlieren, Switzerland. 58-day transit time w/censorship.

Transit Mark:  
"Petrograd,  
7 November 1916"

Manuscript Mark:  
"26 December 1916"

Route:  
Hamamatsu-Tsuruga.. by sea to Vladivostok-Missowoja-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg.. by sea to France.. by rail to Switzerland



2 Sen..

UPU International Printed-Matter Postcard-Rate.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918**

**1916 .. China-Netherlands Mail  
'Via Siberia'  
Chinese Post Office**

**HOLLAND (NETHERLANDS) WAS A NEUTRAL COUNTRY DURING  
WORLD WAR I WITH RUSSIAN POSTAL AUTHORITIES PERMITTING  
FAR-EAST MAIL TO/FROM HOLLAND USING THE  
TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK.**



**RUSSIAN-CENSORED REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL  
FROM PEKING TO THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS  
(Chinese Post Office)**

**31 MARCH 1916**

**Censored & sealed registered  
commercial mail ("Mines of Lincheng"), postmarked  
at Peking, China, with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to the Hague, Netherlands.  
54-day transit time w/censorship.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Gravenhage, 24 May 1916"**

**Transit Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Manchouli, 2 April 1916"**

**Route:  
Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg..  
by sea to Holland**

**20 Cents...  
10 Cents.. UPU International Single-Weight (20 grams) Letter-Rate  
+ 10 Cents.. Registration fee**

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1917 - 1920

1916 .. China - Switzerland  
Commercial Mail.. French Censorship

REGISTERED FRENCH-CENSORED  
TRIPLE-WEIGHT  
COMMERCIAL MAIL  
CHINA TO SWITZERLAND

1 NOVEMBER 1916  
(French Post Office)

Registered commercial mail from the Shanghai-branch of "Jardine Matheson & Company", postmarked at Shanghai, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia", French military censorship upon arrival in France, sent to Lausanne, Switzerland.

41-day transit time.



Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Lausanne,  
12 December  
1916"

Probable Route:  
Shanghai-Pukow-  
Tientsin-Mukden-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Omsk-Moscow-  
St. Petersburg-  
(by sea) to  
France- (by train)  
to Lausanne.

32 Cents...  
10+6+6 Cents..  
Triple-weight  
(40-60 grams)  
letter-rate +  
10 Cents..  
Registration fee

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918

1916 .. China-U.S.A.  
'Via Siberia'  
At Sea Intercepted Mail

Although some "Via Siberia" endorsed-mail may have had to be routed by sea to reach its final destination, such mail could have been intercepted, confiscated or delayed by a German "raider ship" sailing the Baltic or North Atlantic.

ONE SUCH "RAIDER" SHIP WAS THE "MÖVE" WHICH STOPPED SHIPS AT SEA CONFISCATING FRENCH, BRITISH AND OTHER COMBATANT COUNTRY MAIL FROM THOSE SHIPS.



SHANGHAI BANK MAIL, BRITISH CENSORED,  
GERMAN-INTERCEPTED/DELAYED ON ROUTE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

29 JULY 1916

Commercial bank mail, postmarked at the  
French Post Office at Shanghai, with route endorsement  
"Par Transsiberien" sent to New York City.

Cachet Hand-Stamp:  
"Part of a Mail Captured by Germans and Delayed"

Probable Route:  
Shanghai-Tientsin-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg..  
by sea to the United States of America.

40 Centimes = 16 Cents  
16 Cents.. UPU International Double-Weight (40 grams) Letter-Rate

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918**

**1916 .. Kiautschou  
Prisoner-of-War Mail to Germany**

German capitulation of Kiautschou to Japanese Forces in October 1914, resulted in 4710 German Prisoners-of-War transferred to various camps located in Japan.

**SINCE THE 'VIA SIBERIA' ROUTE FOR P.O.W. MAIL TO GERMANY WAS NOT POSSIBLE, MAIL WAS ROUTED BY SEA TO/THROUGH THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO GERMANY**

**JAPANESE & AMERICAN CENSORED GERMAN PRISONER-OF-WAR MAIL  
JAPAN 'VIA AMERICA' TO GERMANY**



**8 DECEMBER 1916**

**Free-frank, 'Oita' Japanese Camp censored cover (Censor: Utsumi),  
postmarked at Kobe, Japan, via America, sent to Hamburg.**

**Route:**

**Oita P.O.W. Camp-Kobe-San Francisco-New York-Hamburg**

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918

1917.. China-Netherlands Mail  
'Via Siberia'  
Russian-Censored



RUSSIAN-CENSORED REGISTERED COMMERCIAL MAIL  
FROM SHANGHAI TO AMSTERDAM, NETHERLANDS  
(Russian Post Office)

24 NOVEMBER 1917

Censored & sealed registered  
commercial mail, postmarked  
at Shanghai, China, with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Amsterdam, Netherlands.  
79-day transit time w/censorship.

Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Amsterdam, 14 March 1918"

Route:  
Shanghai-Pukow-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-  
Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg..  
by sea to Holland



Reverse

35 Kopeck...  
20 Kopeck.. UPU International Double-Weight (40 grams)  
Letter-Rate  
+ 10 Kopeck.. Registration fee  
+ 5 Kopeck.. Convenience Over-Frinking



**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS**  
1914-1918

1917.. China to Scandinavia  
Russian-Censored Mail

**MAIL FOR NEUTRAL COUNTRIES OF EUROPE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE RUSSIAN POST OFFICE WITH SUCH MAIL FORWARDED TO ST. PETERSBURG (NOT MOSCOW) FOR SEA MOVEMENT TO DESTINATION.**

**PEKING-ORIGIN  
MAIL TO  
DENMARK**  
(Russian Post Office)

**21 DECEMBER 1916**  
(Julian Calendar)

Russian censored  
view-card,  
postmarked at  
Peking, with route  
endorsement  
**"Via Siberia"**  
sent to  
Copenhagen,  
Denmark.

Route:  
Peking-Mukden-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-  
St. Petersburg..  
(by sea) to Denmark.

**4 Kopeck..**  
**UPU International**  
**Postcard-Rate.**



**PEKING-ORIGIN MAIL TO SWEDEN**  
(Chinese Post Office)



**16 JANUARY 1917**

Russian-censored re-directed  
cover, postmarked at Peking  
with route endorsement  
**"Via Siberia"**  
sent to Norrköping, Sweden.  
65-day transit time  
w/censorship.

**Transit Mark:**  
(Reverse)  
**"Petrograd,**  
**23 February 1917"**

**Arrival Postmark:**  
(Reverse)  
**"22 March 1917"**

Route:  
Peking-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Omsk-St. Petersburg..  
(by sea) to Sweden.

**10 Cents.**  
**UPU International Single-Weight**  
**(20 grams) Letter-Rate.**

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS**  
1914-1918

1917.. China to Neutral Sweden  
Russian-Censored Mail

**CHINA-ORIGIN MAIL TO SWEDEN**  
(Chinese Post Office)

11 DECEMBER  
1917

Russian censored cover,  
postmarked at Puchowfu, China,  
with route endorsement  
"Via Siberia", sent  
to a newspaper  
editor in Eksjö,  
Sweden.

Transit Postmarks:  
(Reverse)  
"Peking,  
12 December  
1917"  
"St Petersburg,  
28 December  
1917"

Route:  
Peking-Mukden-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Omsk-St.  
Petersburg..  
(by sea)  
to Sweden.



11 APRIL 1917

Russian-censored cover, postmarked at Wangohow, China, with route endorsement "Via Siberia" sent to Lindholmen, Sweden.

Transit Postmarks:  
(Reverse)  
"Hankow,  
12 April 1917"  
"St. Petersburg,  
25 April 1917"

Route:  
Peking-Mukden-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-  
St. Petersburg..  
(by sea) to Sweden.

10 Cents..  
UPU International  
Single-Weight  
(20 grams)  
Letter-Rate.



RUSSIAN POST OFFICE FAR-EAST-ORIGIN-MAIL SENT TO WESTERN OR ASIAN-RUSSIA DESTINATIONS WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE MOVED BY WAY OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK WITHOUT REQUIREMENT OF ROUTE ENDORSEMENT



RUSSIAN-CENSORED MAIL  
FROM SHANGHAI TO ST. PETERSBURG  
(Russian Post Office)

12 MAY 1917

Censored (red marking) viewcard, postmarked at Shanghai, China, without route endorsement, sent to St. Petersburg, Russia.

Route:

Shanghai-Pukow-Tientsin-Mukden-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-St. Petersburg

3 Kopeck...  
Russian domestic postcard-rate.

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS**  
**1914-1918**

**1915-1917..German Prisoner-of-War Mail**  
**In-bound & Out-bound**

With the occupation of Kiautschou by the Japanese in 1914, and the war on the European Eastern Front, large numbers of German prisoners-of-war were taken by the Japanese and Russian Forces respectively.

**GERMAN PRISONERS-OF-WAR HELD BY THE JAPANESE WERE TRANSFERRED TO JAPAN, WHILE THE RUSSIANS HELD THEIRS IN SIBERIA.**

**GERMAN-ORIGIN MAIL SENT TO A P.O.W. IN JAPAN**

**30 JUNE 1915**

Japanese-censored free-frank patriotic postcard, postmarked at Altenburg, Germany, with route endorsement "Prisoner-of War Mail Via Siberia" sent to Fukuoka, Japan. 26-day transit time.

Transit Postmark: "Tsuruga, Japan, 23 July 1915"

Arrival Manuscript Marking: "26 July 1915"

Route:  
 Altenburg-Berlin-Copenhagen.. (by sea) to St. Petersburg- (by rail) to Omsk-Irkutsk-Harbin-Vladivostok- (by sea) to Tsuruga-Fukuoka



**GERMAN P.O.W. MAIL FROM SIBERIA TO ARGENTINA**

**21 JANUARY 1917**

Russian-censored free-frank German P.O.W. Card, postmarked at Chita, Siberia, Russia, with route endorsement "Russia-Siberia, Transbaikal Railway" sent to Buenos Aires, Argentina. 88-day transit time

Arrival Manuscript Marking: (Reverse) "19 April 1917"

Probable Route: Chita-Manchouli-Harbin-Vladivostok-( by sea) to USA-Argentina



OFFICIAL GERMAN & AUSTRIAN P.O.W. ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION MAIL  
TO THE RED CROSS STATION AT COPENHAGEN, DENMARK  
WITH FORWARDING TO VIENNA, AUSTRIA

SERVICE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE.



**Croix Rouge**

*Please forward to*

**Gemeinsames Zentralnachweisbureau  
Auskunftsstelle für Kriegsgefangene**

**Copenhagen**

Denmark.

**Wien**

I., Jasomirgottstrasse No. 6.

Via Sibirien.

22 MARCH 1916  
(Reverse)

Russian-censored  
P.O.W, related  
free-frank mail,  
postmarked at  
Tientsin, China,  
sent to the Red  
Cross Office at  
Copenhagen for  
forwarding to the  
"Central Bureau  
for P.O.W.  
Information" at  
Vienna, Austria,  
with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia".

Probable Route:  
Tientsin-Mukden-  
Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Omsk-St.  
Petersburg-  
(by sea) to  
Copenhagen-  
(by rail)  
to Berlin-Leipzig-  
Munich-Vienna.

WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918

1916.. German Prisoner-of-War  
Assistance Mail  
("Via America" Route)

The German Community's welfare & support organization at Tientsin communicated information concerning a prisoner's name, physical-condition and location to newspapers in Germany and Austro-Hungary.

**SUCH MAIL WAS ROUTED 'VIA AMERICA' AS LONG AS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA REMAINED NEUTRAL.**



PRISONER-OF-WAR INFORMATION FOR  
PUBLICATION IN GERMANY

(10) FEBRUARY 1916

Registered free-frank mail,  
postmarked at Tientsin, China,  
routed "Via America",  
to the "Wilhelmshavener Tageblatt"  
("Wilhelmshaven Newspaper"),  
with German-censorship at Emmerich.  
126+ day transit time.

Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
"Shanghai, US Postal Agency,  
16 February 1916"

"New York, Registry, 15 March 1916"

"New York, Foreign, 16 March 1916"

"Wilhelmshaven, 16 June 1916"



Reverse

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS**  
**1914-1918**

**1917.. German Prisoner-of-War Mail**  
**Money Transfer/Value Letter**

**In an effort of support for German & Austrian Prisoners-of-War in Siberia during World War I, GERMANS RESIDING IN NORTHERN CHINA ESTABLISHED AN ASSISTANCE ORGANIZATION (most probably under the auspices of the International Red Cross) AT TIENTSIN, CHINA, WHICH SENT MONEY FOR SUPPORT TO PRISONERS-OF-WAR IN SIBERIA.**



**MONEY TRANSFER LETTER TO A P.O.W. IN WESTERN RUSSIA**  
 (Russian Post Office)

**8 MARCH 1917**  
 (Julian Calendar)

Russian 500 Ruble money-transfer cover, postmarked at Tientsin, China, to a German or Austrian P.O.W. "Josef Hofer" interned at the Village of Talyshinskoe in Perm Province, via the Post Office in Talitskii Zavod. 16-day transit time

Transit Postmark:  
 (Reverse)

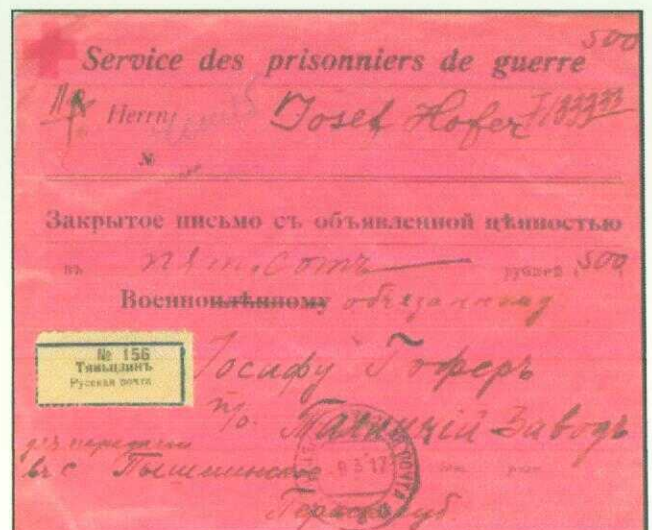
"Changchun, Japanese Post Office,  
 23 March 1917"

Arrival Postmark:  
 (Reverse)

"Talitskii Zavod, Perm Province,  
 24 March 1917"

Probable Route:

Tientsin-Changchun-Harbin-Irkutsk-Omsk-Perm



Front

60 Cents...  
 10 Cents .. Letter Rate +  
 10 Cents .. Registration fee +  
 40 Cents .. Insurance /10 Cents each 112.5 Rubles

**WORLD WAR I & ITS EFFECTS  
1914-1918**

**1917-1918.. Japan-Europe Mail  
'Via Siberia'  
Northern Rail Route**

Prior to 8 November 1917 and establishment of a 'Soviet Republic',  
**SWITZERLAND-BOUND MAIL WAS ROUTED THROUGH ST. PETERSBURG,**  
renamed 'Petrograd', for routing by sea to Western Europe.

Subsequent to an armistice between the Central Powers & Russia on  
5 December 1917, **MAIL TO GERMANY WAS BRIEFLY POSSIBLE IN 1918,** prior to interruption of  
rail connections through Siberia because of civil war,

**JAPAN-ORIGIN  
COMMERCIAL MAIL TO  
SWITZERLAND**

**15 FEBRUARY 1917**

Russian-censored & sealed  
commercial mail,  
postmarked  
at Kobe, Japan, with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Basle, Switzerland..  
65-day transit time  
w/censorship.

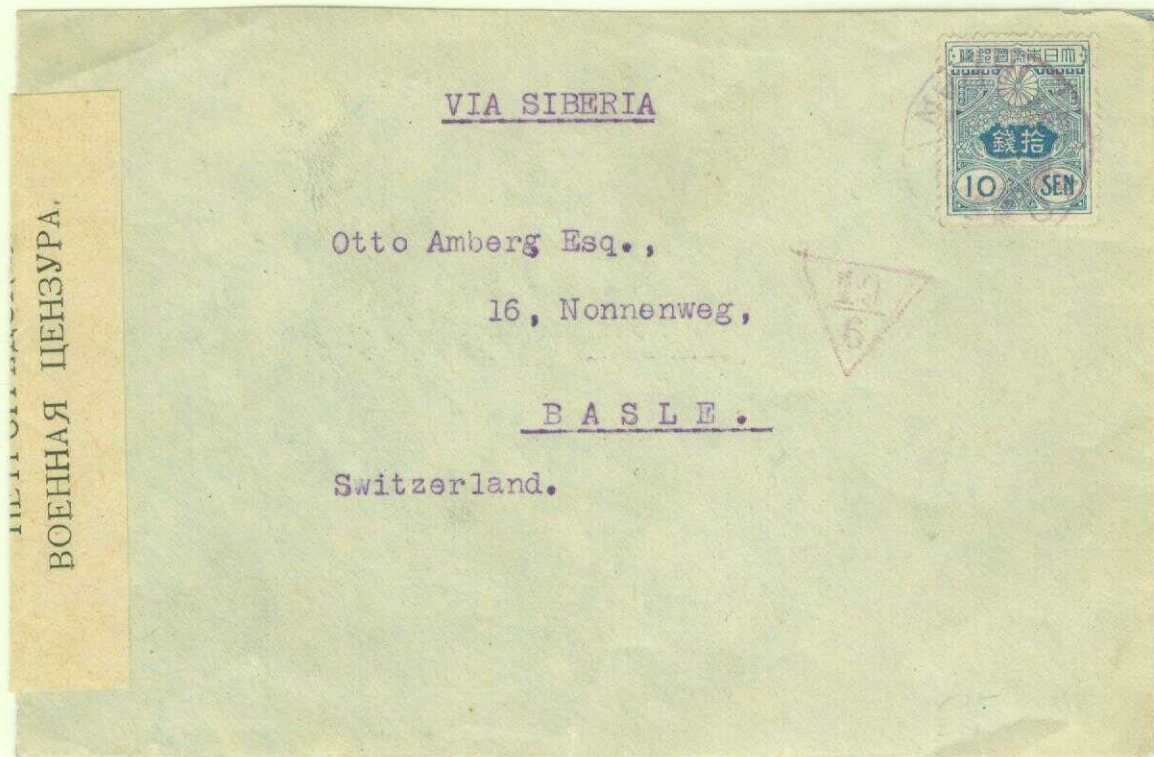
Transit & Arrival Postmarks:  
(Reverse)

"Petrograd, 4 March 1917"  
"Basel, 20 April 1917"

Route:

Kobe-Tsuruga-Vladivostok,  
Charbarowsk-Tschita-  
Irkutsk-Omsk-Wjatka-  
St Petersburg-(by sea) to  
Western Europe-Switzerland

10 Sen...  
UPU Single-Weight  
International Letter-Rate.



**JAPAN-ORIGIN  
COMMERCIAL MAIL  
TO GERMANY**

**9 JUNE 1918**

Postal stationery card,  
postmarked  
at Kyoto, Japan, with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia"  
sent to Barmen, Germany.

Route:

Kyoto-Tsuruga-Vladivostok,  
Charbarowsk-Tschita-  
Irkutsk-Omsk-Moscow-  
Berlin-Barmen

4 Sen...  
UPU International  
Postcard-Rate







RUSSIAN REVOLUTION & CIVIL WAR PERIOD  
1917 - 1920

1918 .. China-America  
Mail 'Via Vladivostok'

CHINA POST OFFICE  
REGISTERED MAIL..  
TIENTSIN TO  
INDIANAPOLIS

28 DECEMBER 1917

Commercial registered  
cover,  
Postmarked at Tientsin  
(County), American-  
censored, sent to  
Indianapolis, Indiana.



Transit Postmarks:  
(Reverse)

"Moukden,  
29 December 1917"  
"Moukden,  
3 January 1918"  
"Seattle,  
26 January 1918"  
"Indianapolis,  
31 January 1918"

35-day transit time.

Route:  
Tientsin-Mukden-  
Vladivostok-Seattle-  
Indianapolis

32 Cents:  
22 Cents..  
UPU International  
Third-level Letter-Rate +  
10 Cents..  
Registration fee

(5 August 1910 -  
1 January 1922)