

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945**

**1942.. Commercial Mail  
Occupied China - Denmark  
'Via Siberia..Turkey" Route**

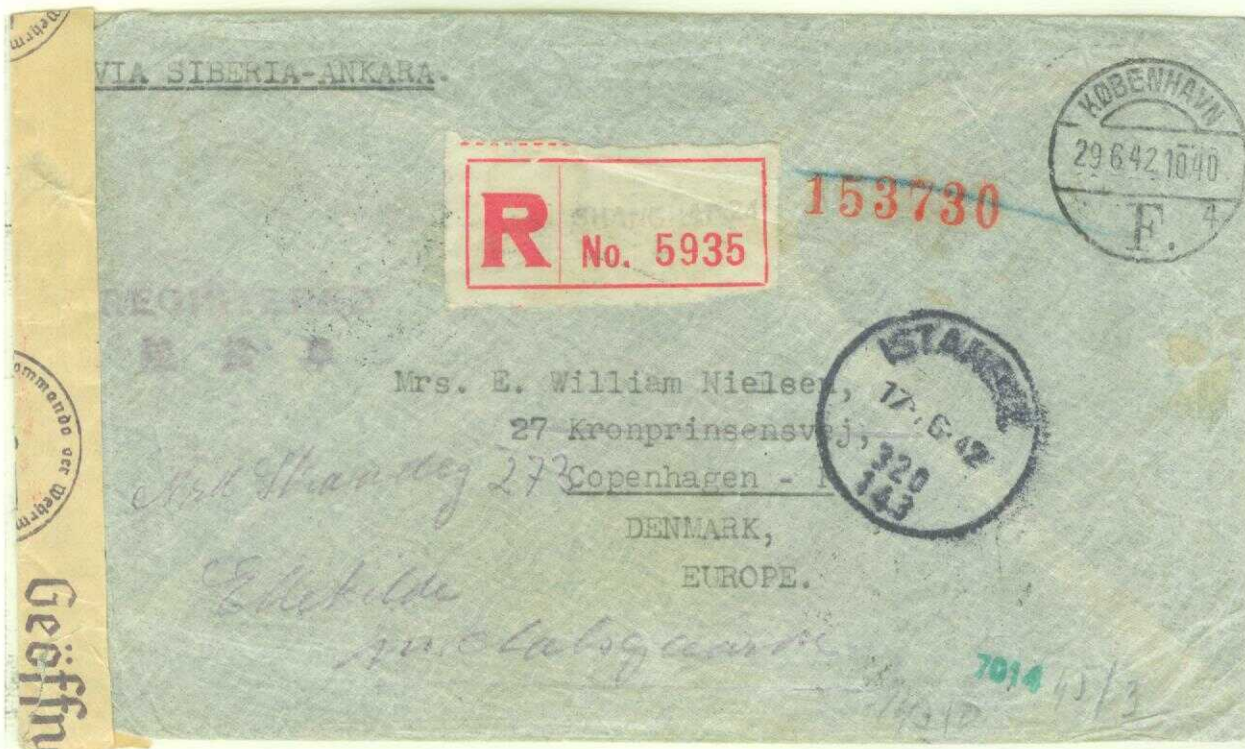
Shanghai-origin (Japanese-Occupied) mail intended for German-occupied Denmark in Western Europe was possible until outbreak of hostilities in the Balkans, using the route **SHANGHAI (by sea) - VLADIVOSTOK - TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL ROUTE TO SAMARA, CONNECTING THERE WITH OTHER RAIL LINES TO TIFLIS-ISTANBUL-BULGARIA-ROMANIA-AUSTRIA-GERMANY-DENMARK.**

**WAR-TIME MAIL  
THRU CHINESE  
POST OFFICE TO  
DENMARK**

**5 MAY 1942**

Registered cover,  
German censored,  
postmarked at  
Shanghai, China,  
with route  
endorsement  
"Via Siberia  
Ankara"  
sent to  
Copenhagen,  
Denmark.  
55-day transit time

Transit &  
Arrival Postmarks:  
(Front & Reverse)  
"Istanbul,  
29 June 1942"  
"Copenhagen,  
12 June 1942"



(Reverse)  
\$2.00 ...  
\$1.00.. Single-  
weight (20 grams)  
International letter  
+  
\$1.00.. Registry fee  
(1 November 1941-  
1 November 1942)

**COURIER MAIL  
SEPTEMBER/  
OCTOBER 1942**

Shanghai  
Danish-  
Consulate  
courier -carried  
& posted mail  
in Denmark.

Upon arrival in Denmark, cover was affixed with domestic Danish postage ("On Government Service" Perfin), postmarked "12 October 1942" at Copenhagen



**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945**

**1942.. Missionary Mail  
Manchukuo-Switzerland  
'Via Siberia .. Turkey' Route**

Mail intended for neutral Switzerland in Western Europe was possible throughout most of the war years using the **TRANS-SIBERIAN ROUTE TO SAMARA CONNECTING TO TIFLIS, TURKISH RAILWAY TO ISTANBUL, OTHER RAIL LINES TO DESTINATION**



**WAR-TIME REGISTERED MISSIONARY MAIL .. MANCHUKUO-SWITZERLAND**

**8 AUGUST 1942**

Registered missionary mail, postmarked at Harbin, Manchukuo,  
with route endorsement

*"Via Siberia-Istanbul, La Suisse-Schweiz-Switzerland"*

sent to Immensee, Switzerland.

53-day war-time transit time

**Transit Postmark:**  
(Front)  
"Istanbul,  
24 September 1942"

**Arrival Postmark:**  
(Reverse)  
"Immensee,  
"30 September 1942"

**Route:**  
Harbin-Irkutsk-Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Zürich

**36 Fen...**  
**24 Fen.. Double-rate (20-40 grams)**  
**International letter +**  
**12 Fen.. Registration fee**



**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945**

**1942-1943.. China-England  
'Via Siberia' .. Wartime Alternative Airmail**



**31 DECEMBER 1942**

Registered commercial cover,  
postmarked at Chungking, China,  
with route endorsement

*"By B.O.A.C. to Lagos, Nigeria, via Calcutta, Cairo  
and thence by P.A.A. to destination",*  
sent to London, England, censorship upon arrival  
at London. 109-day transit time.

**Arrival Postmark:**  
(Reverse)

**"London, 19 April 1943"**

**Air Route:**

(NAL) Chungking-Calcutta-(BOAC) Cairo-Lagos-(PAA)  
Bathurst-Natal-Belem-Port-of-Spain-San Juan-Miami-  
New York-Horta-Lisbon- (BOAC) London

**CNC \$73.20...**

**CNC \$ 1.50.. China/International Letter (30 grams)**  
(Postal clerk mistakenly omitted charge for 2<sup>nd</sup> weight level!) +  
**Registration Fee.. CNC \$1.50 +**  
**Air Surcharge Unified Rate (6x 5 grams) .. CNC 70.20**  
(Validity: 25 February 1942 - 29 May 1943)

**'CHUNGKING-LONDON' REGISTERED COMMERCIAL  
CENSORED MAIL**



Reverse

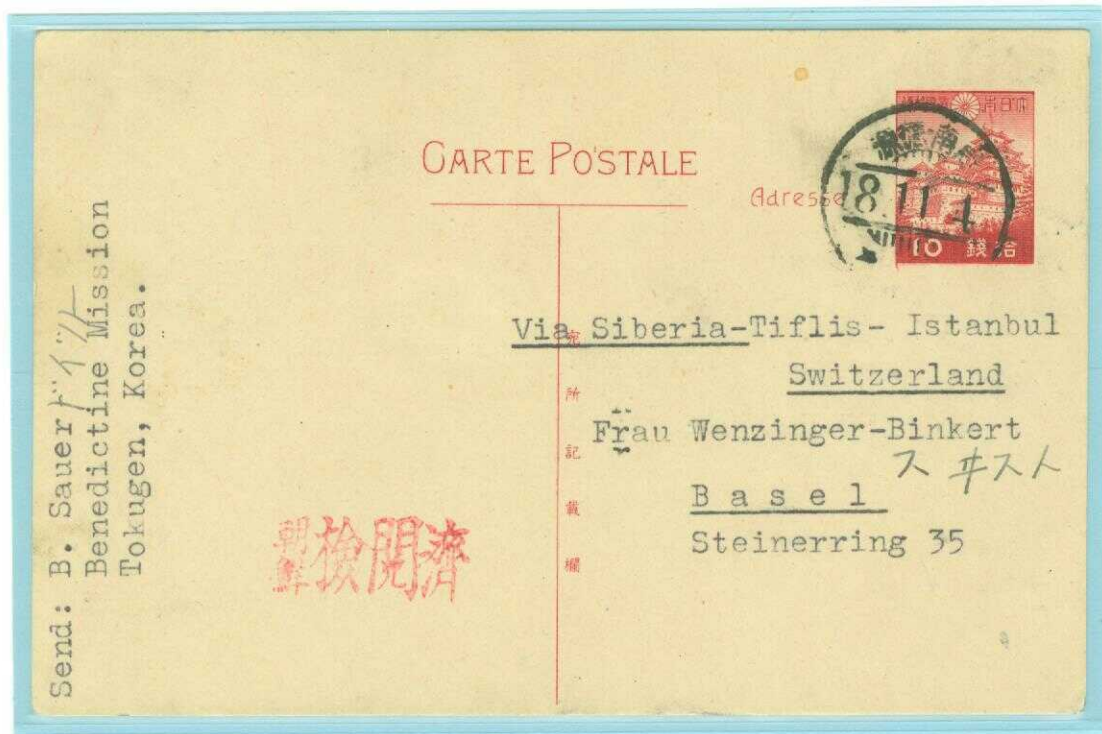


**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS**  
**1939-1945**

**1943.. Missionary Mail**  
**Korea-Switzerland**  
**'Via Siberia .. Turkey' Route**

Mail from Japanese-occupied Korea to non-belligerent countries of Europe remained possible over the Trans-Siberian Railway Network through Turkey as long as the Soviet Union and Japan were not at war.

**"BONIFAZIUS SAUER", A BENEDICTINE BISHOP, ARRIVED IN KOREA  
IN 1909 TO ESTABLISH A MISSION,  
DIED IN A NORTH KOREAN PRISON IN 1950.**



**WAR-TIME MISSIONARY MAIL .. KOREA-SWITZERLAND**

**4 NOVEMBER 1943**

Japanese postal stationery card,  
written by 'Bonifazius Sauer',  
postmarked at Tokungen, Korea,  
with route endorsement  
**"Via Siberia-Tiflis-Istanbul-Switzerland"**,  
sent to Basel (Basle), Switzerland.

**Route:**

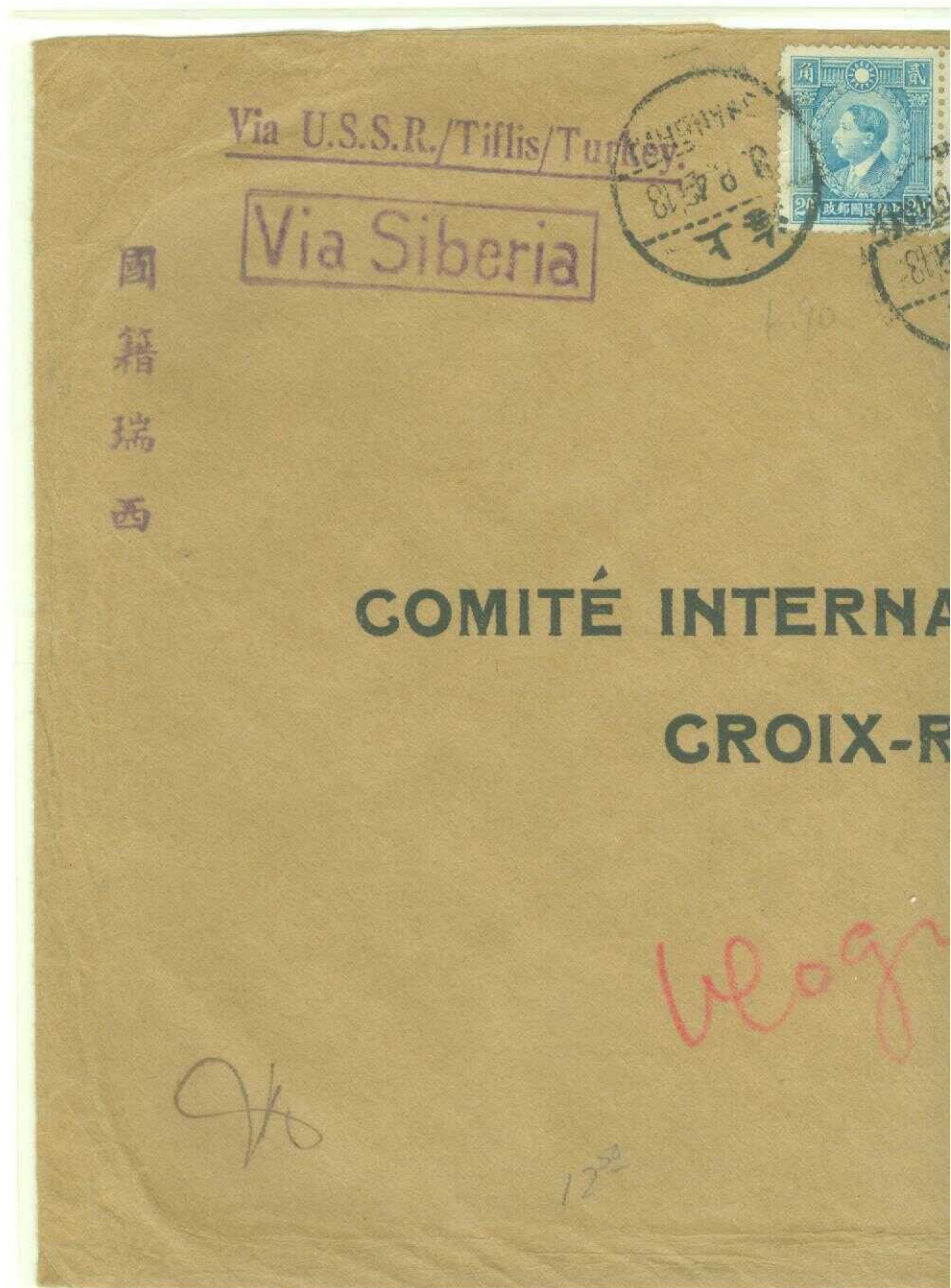
**Korea-Harbin-Irkutsk-Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Zürich-Basel**

**10 Sen...**  
**International postcard-rate**

**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945**

**THE INTERNATIONAL  
RED CROSS (IRC)  
FACILITATED THE EXCHANGE  
OF COMMUNICATIONS  
BETWEEN INTERNEES,  
PRISONERS-OF-WAR & OTHERS  
IN OCCUPIED OR HOSTILE  
NATIONS WITH OTHER  
COUNTRIES THROUGH IRC  
FIELD OFFICES VIA ITS  
HEADQUARTERS IN GENEVA,  
SWITZERLAND.**

**INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY  
RED CROSS AFFILIATES HAD  
SPECIFIC COMMUNICATION  
FORMS WHICH THE PARTIES  
INVOLVED COMPLETED AND  
EXCHANGED.**



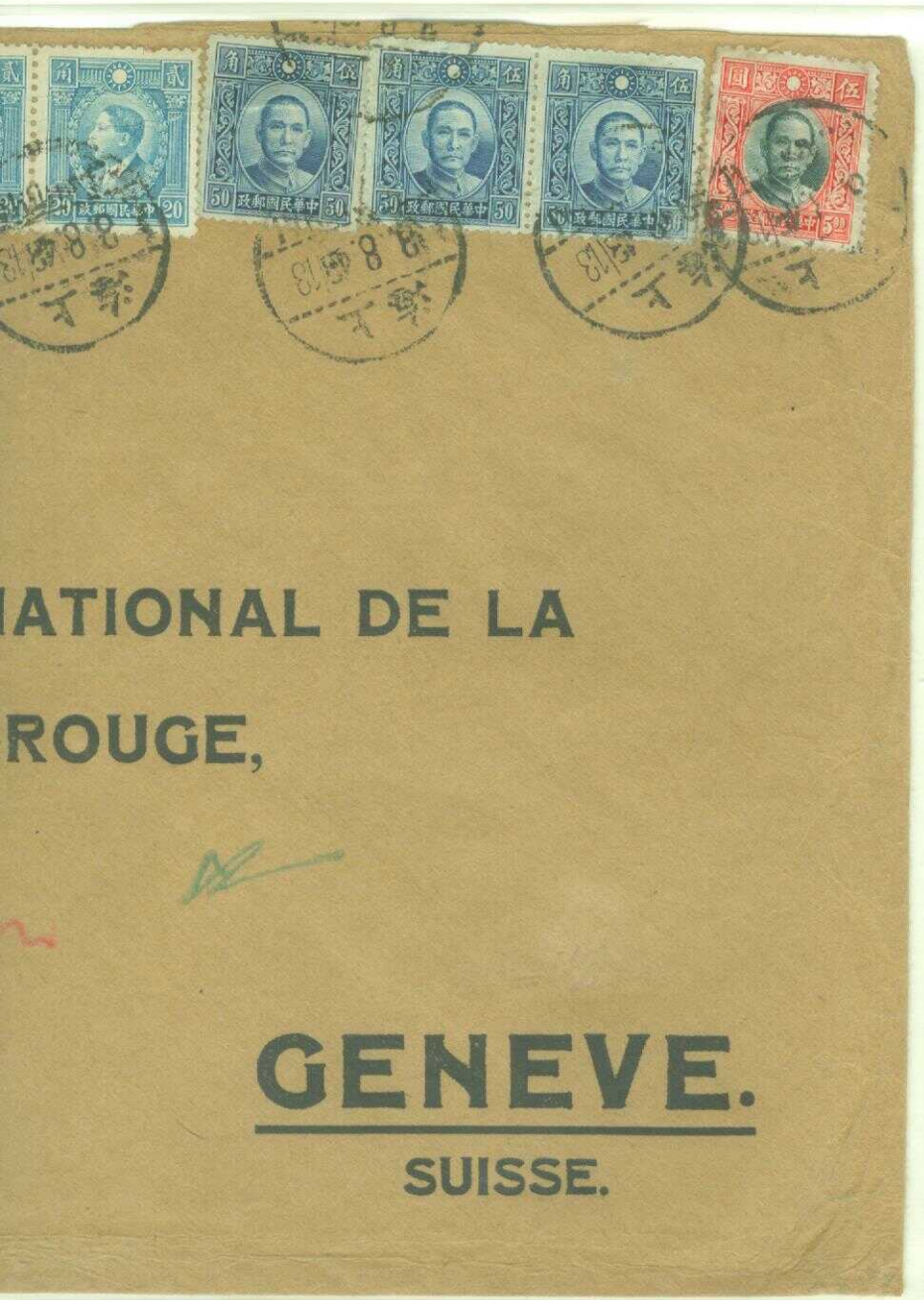
**INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MAIL FROM CHINA TO SWITZERLAND**

**3 AUGUST 1943**

**International Red Cross cover,  
postmarked at Japanese-occupied Shanghai, China,  
sent through the Chinese Post Office,  
with cachet route endorsement ..  
"Via U.S.S.R./Tiflis/Turkey .. Via Siberia",  
sent to IRC Headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland.**



1943.. Red Cross Mail  
Shanghai-Switzerland  
"Via U.S.S.R./Tiflis/Turkey" Route



COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA  
CROIX-ROUGE,  
97 YUEN MING YUEN ROAD,  
SHANGHAI.

Reverse

**Probable Route:**  
Shanghai- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Geneva

**CNC 6.90...**  
**CNC 2.00 + 1.20 + 1.20 .. Triple-weight (40-60 grams)**  
**international letter-rate +**  
**CNC 2.50 War Tax**  
**(Validity: 1 June 1943 – 1 May 1944)**



**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945**

**1943.. German Red Cross Mail  
Germany-China-Germany  
'Via Siberia .. Turkey' Route**



**Deutsches Rotes Kreuz**

Präsidium / Auslandsdienst  
Berlin SW 61, Blücherplatz 2

13. NOV. 1943 \*584537

**ANTRAG**

an die *Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genf*  
— Internationales Komitee vom Roten Kreuz —  
auf Nachrichtenvermittlung

**REQUÊTE**

de la *Croix-Rouge Allemande, Présidence, Service Etranger*  
à l'*Agence Centrale des Prisonniers de Guerre, Genève*  
— *Comité International de la Croix-Rouge* —  
concernant la correspondance

1. Absender .. *Henriette Müller, Burgsh. 35* .. ..  
*Expéditeur* .. *Waldshut, Baden* .. ..

bittet, an  
*prie de bien vouloir faire parvenir à*

Verwandtschaftsgrad: .. *Mutter* .. ..

2. Empfänger .. *Serdinand Müller, 157 Sekung Rd*  
*Destinataire* .. *SHANGHAI* .. ..

folgendes zu übermitteln / *ce qui suit*:

(Höchstzahl 25 Worte!)  
(25 mots au plus!)

*Brief September erhalten? - Seit jenem Mailbrief nichts.  
Schreibe auch Du regelmässig! Hier alles wohl. Eva erwartet  
November weiteres Kind. Herzlichst*

*Mutter Eva, Henry,  
Söhne*

(Datum / date) **30. Okt. 1943.**

(Unterschrift / Signature)

3. Empfänger antwortet umseitig  
*Destinataire répond au verso*



3799 JAN. 1944

**WARTIME  
GERMAN RED CROSS  
REPLY-FORM TO  
SHANGHAI & RETURN**

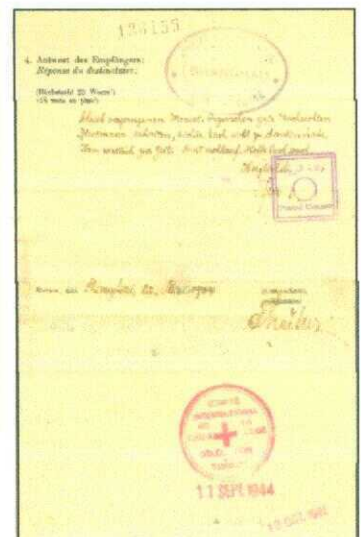
**30 OCTOBER 1943**

**Red Cross Form, sent  
from Waldshut, Germany,  
to Shanghai, China with  
reply.**

**Sequence of Events:**

- **Mail Date:**  
30 Oct. 1943
- **German Red Cross,**  
Berlin: 13 Nov. 1943
- **IRC Geneva:**  
19 Jan. 1944
- **Red Cross Shanghai:**  
no date indicated
- **Reply from Shanghai:**  
22 May 1944
- **Turkish Red Cross:**  
11 Sept. 1944
- **Censored in Turkey**
- **IRC Geneva:**  
12 Oct. 1945

**Probable Route:**  
Waldshut-Berlin-Geneva-  
Istanbul-Tiflis-Samara-  
Irkutsk-Tschita-  
Charborowsk-  
Vladivostok- (by sea) to  
Shanghai-return to  
Geneva using  
same route.



Reverse



WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945

件文語英八部内  
CONTENTS WRITTEN IN ENGLISH

スイス籍國  
SWISS NATIONALITY

**VIA SIBERIA**

轉亞利比西由

INTERNATIONAL  
RED CROSS (IRC)  
FIELD OFFICES WERE OFTEN IN  
REPRESENTED BY A SWISS  
CITIZEN IN A BUSINESS-OFFICE  
LOCATION IN THE  
APPLICABLE COUNTRY, AS  
WAS THE INSTANCE AT THE  
'IRC OFFICE' IN THE BRITISH  
CROWN COLONY OF HONG  
KONG, JAPANESE OCCUPIED  
BETWEEN  
25 DECEMBER 1941 -  
16 SEPTEMBER 1945

International Red Cross C

**GENEVA**

**SWITZERLAND**

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS MAIL FROM HONG KONG TO SWITZERLAND

19 FEBRUARY 1944

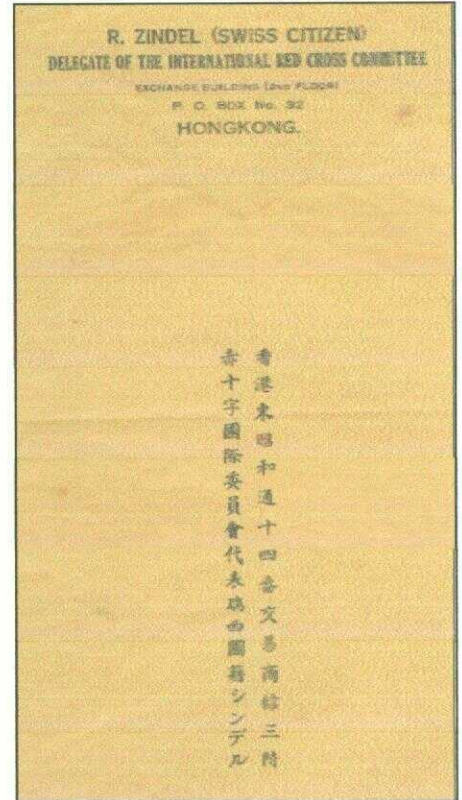
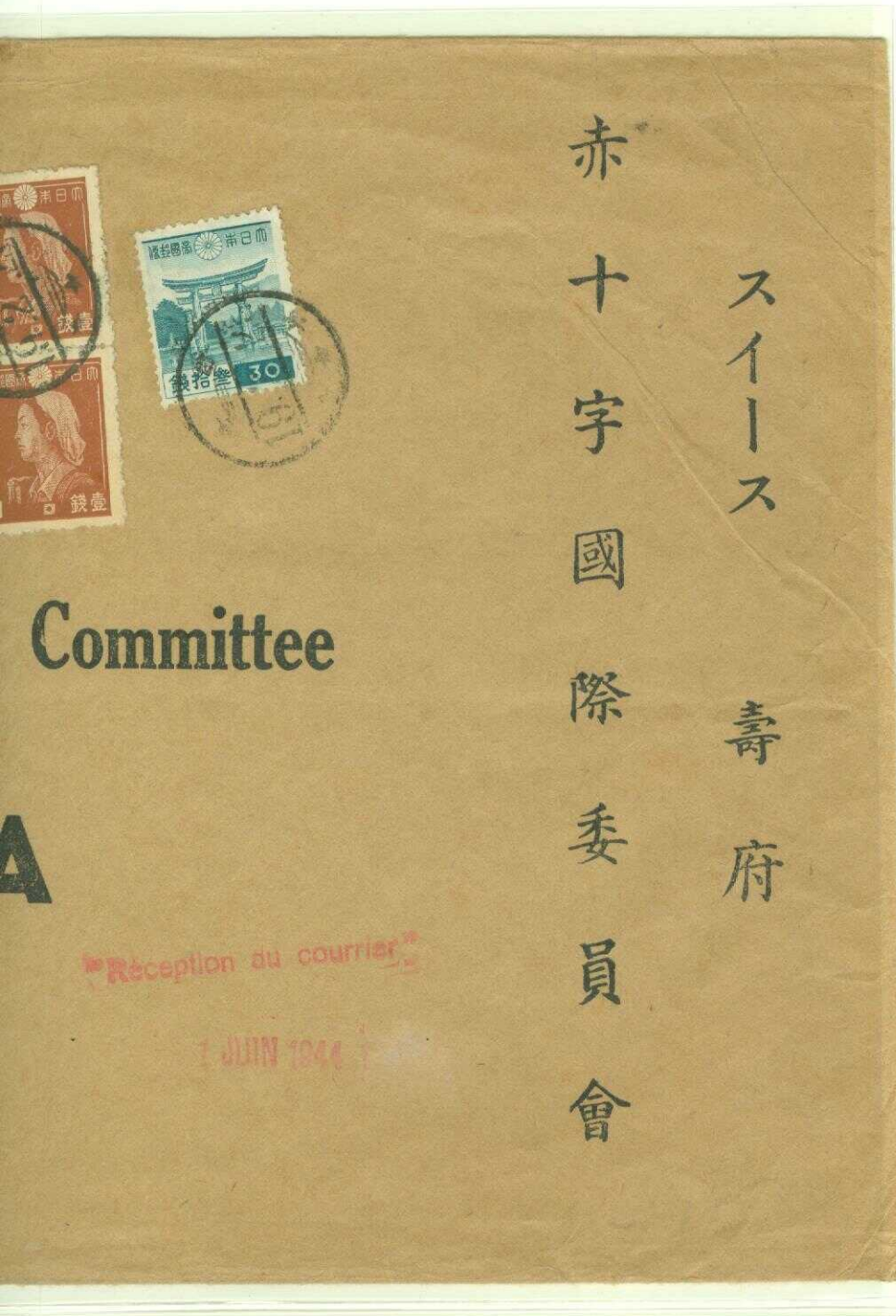
Red Cross cover,  
postmarked at Japanese-occupied Hong Kong,  
with cachet route endorsement ..  
*"Via Siberia"*,  
sent to the IRC Headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland.

Cachet Marking:  
(in red)

*"Courier received .. 1 June 1944"*



1944.. Red Cross Mail  
 Hong Kong-Switzerland  
 "Via U.S.S.R./Tiflis/Turkey" Route



Reverse

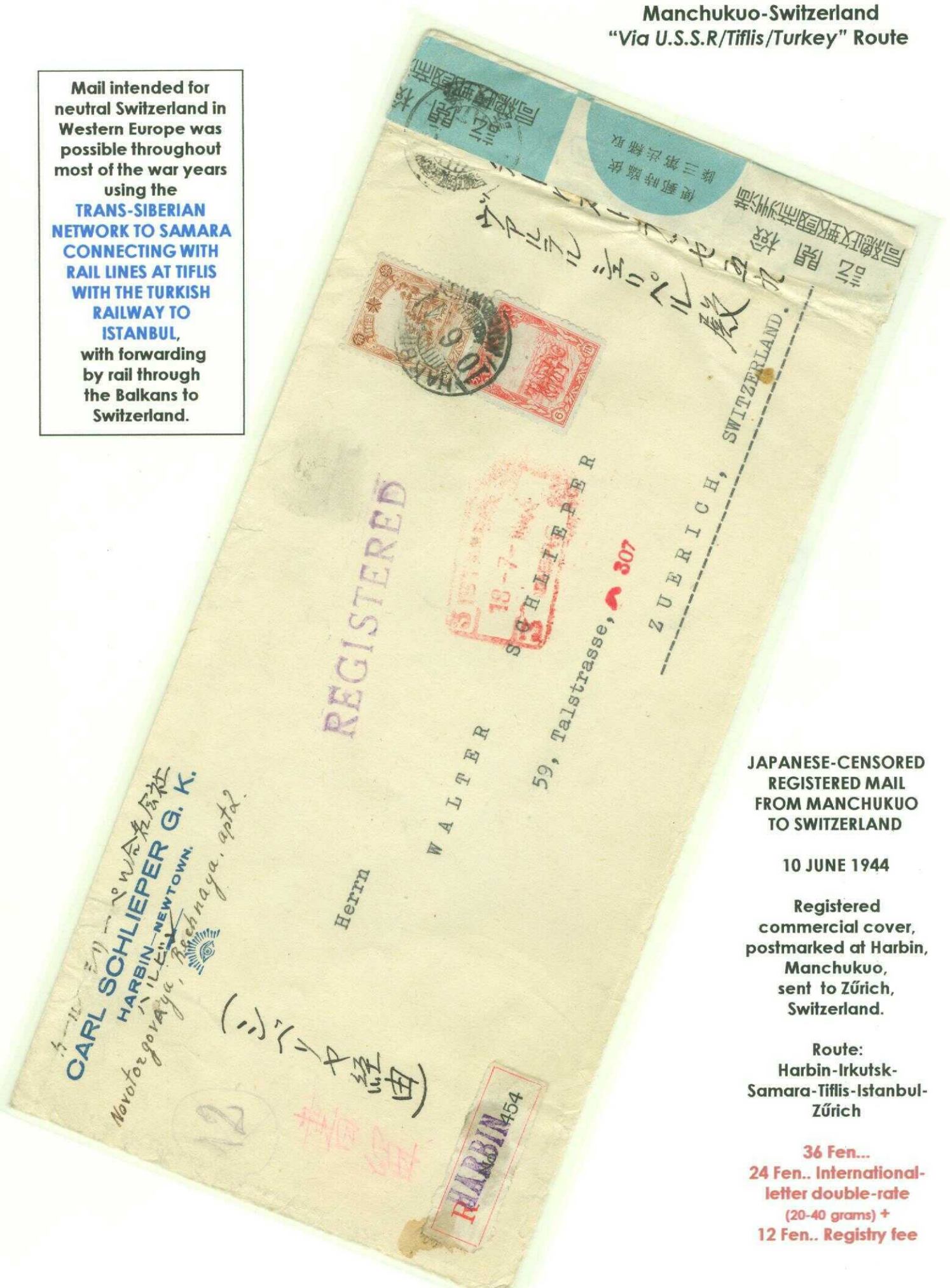
Probable Route:  
 Hong Kong- (by sea) to Vladivostok- (by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-  
 Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Geneva

32 Sen...  
 20+12 Sen .. Double-weight (20-40 grams)  
 international letter-rate



1944.. Commercial Mail  
 Manchukuo-Switzerland  
 "Via U.S.S.R./Tiflis/Turkey" Route

Mail intended for neutral Switzerland in Western Europe was possible throughout most of the war years using the **TRANS-SIBERIAN NETWORK TO SAMARA** CONNECTING WITH RAIL LINES AT TIFLIS WITH THE **TURKISH RAILWAY TO ISTANBUL**, with forwarding by rail through the Balkans to Switzerland.



JAPANESE-CENSORED REGISTERED MAIL FROM MANCHUKUO TO SWITZERLAND

10 JUNE 1944

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Harbin, Manchukuo, sent to Zürich, Switzerland.

Route:  
 Harbin-Irkutsk-Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Zürich

36 Fen...  
 24 Fen.. International-letter double-rate (20-40 grams) +  
 12 Fen.. Registry fee



**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945**

**1944.. Commercial Mail  
Japan-Switzerland  
'Via Siberia..Turkey' Route**



**WARTIME JAPANESE-CENSORED REGISTERED  
COMMERCIAL MAIL ... JAPAN TO SWITZERLAND**

**28 JUNE 1944**

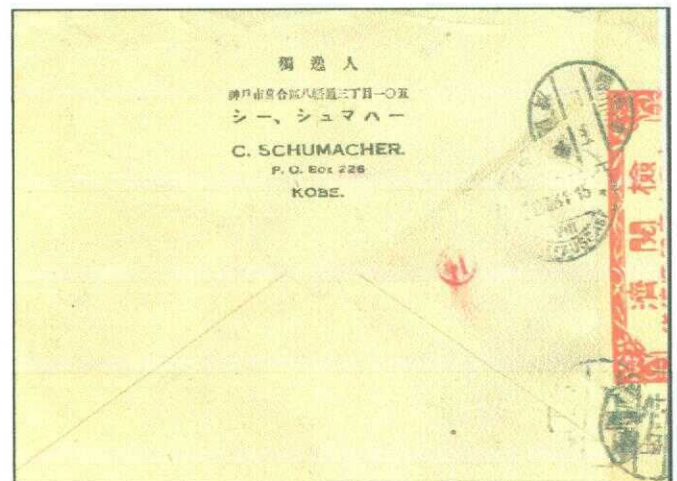
**Registered cover,  
postmarked at Kobe, Japan,  
sent to Zürich, Switzerland.  
57-day wartime transit time.**

**Arrival Postmark:  
(Reverse)  
"Zürich,  
24 August 1944"**

**Route:**

**Kobe- (by sea) to Valdivostok-(by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Zürich**

**62 Sen...  
Double-weight (20-40 grams)  
international letter-rate +  
Registration fee**



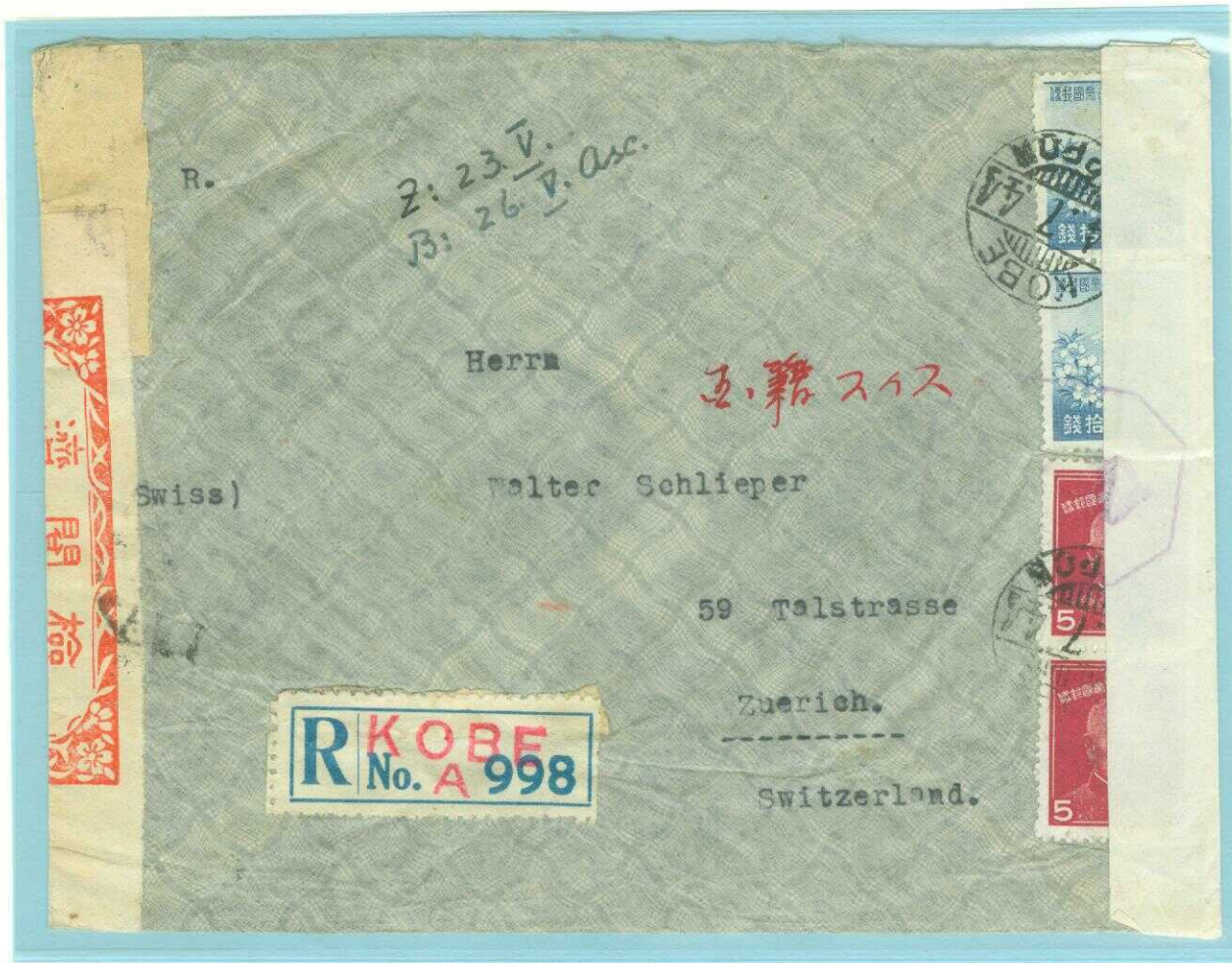
**Reverse**



**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945**

**1944-45.. Double-Censored Mail  
Japan-Switzerland  
'Via Siberia .. Turkey-Palestine' Route**

**As a result of the Soviet Military offensive in the Balkans in late 1944,  
HERETOFORE MAIL OVER THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK ROUTE CONNECTING WITH  
TURKEY TO 'DESTINATION SWITZERLAND' WAS NOW INTERRUPTED AND  
DIVERTED TO PALESTINE, SUBJECT TO BRITISH CENSORSHIP, FOR FORWARDING.**



**4 JULY 1944**

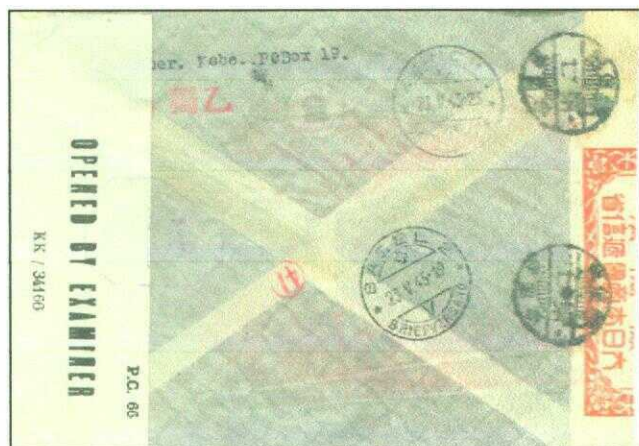
**WARTIME JAPANESE & BRITISH-CENSORED  
REGISTERED MAIL FROM JAPAN TO SWITZERLAND**

Registered mail, postmarked at Kobe, Japan, diverted to Palestine, with British censorship before being forwarded to Zürich, Switzerland, arriving there after V-E Day (May 8). 291-day wartime transit time.

**Arrival Postmark:**  
(Reverse)  
"Zürich,  
23 May 1945"

**Probable Route:**  
Kobe- (by sea) to Valdivostok-(by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-  
Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Palestine-(by sea) France-  
Basel-Zürich

**50 Sen...  
Single-weight (20 grams)  
international letter-rate + Registration fee**



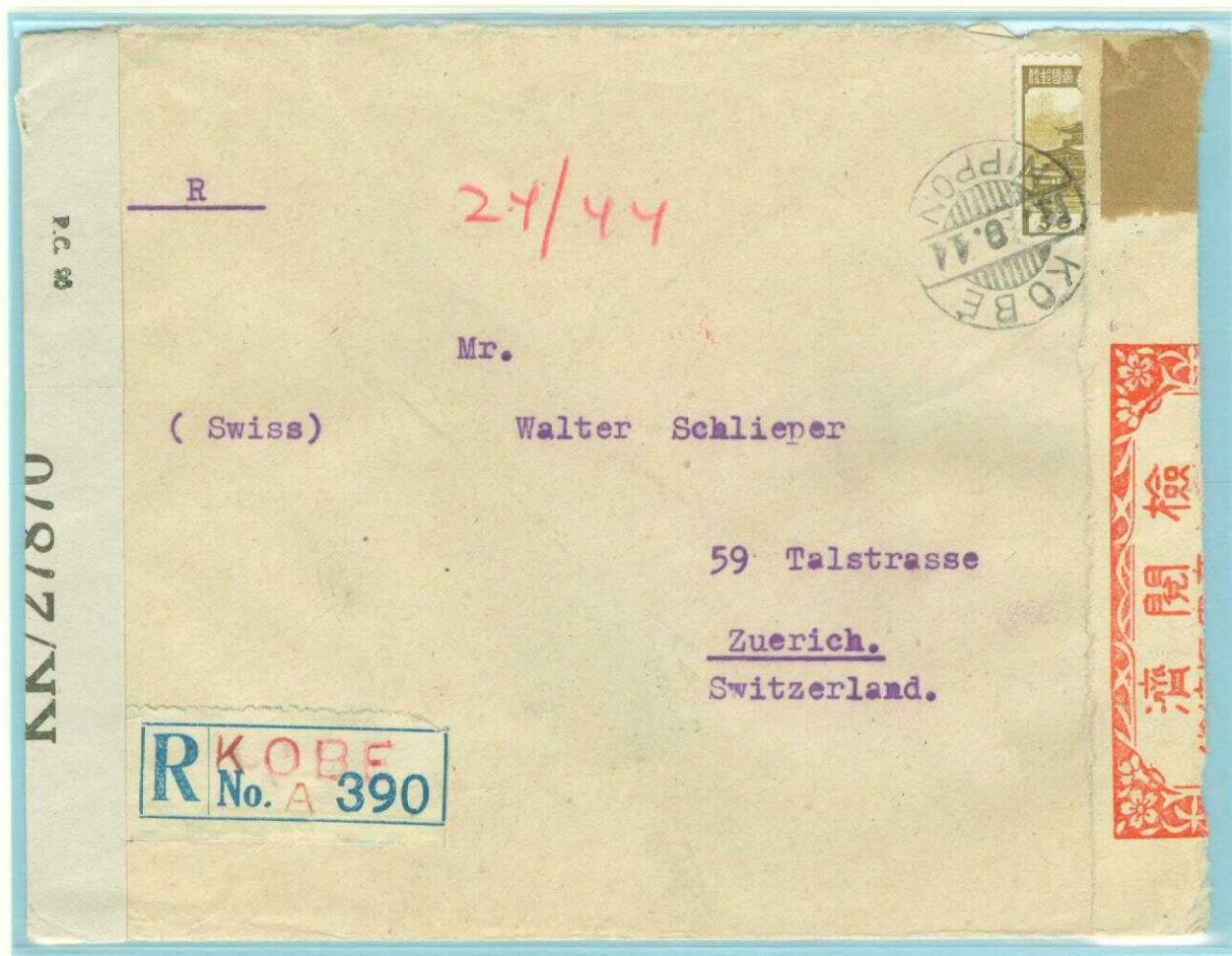
Reverse



**WORLD WAR II & ITS EFFECTS  
1939-1945**

**1944-46.. Postwar Delivered Mail  
Japan-Switzerland  
'Via Siberia .. Turkey-Palestine' Route**

As a result of the widespread military campaigns in Central, Southern & Eastern Europe in late 1944 until 'V-E Day (May 8, 1945),  
**MAIL TO SWITZERLAND WAS INTERRUPTED FOR CENSORSHIP AT PALESTINE OR UNTIL  
POSTAL FACILITIES & ROUTES WERE RE-ESTABLISHED PERMITTING  
FORWARDING OF MAIL TO DESTINATION.**



**7 SEPTEMBER 1944**

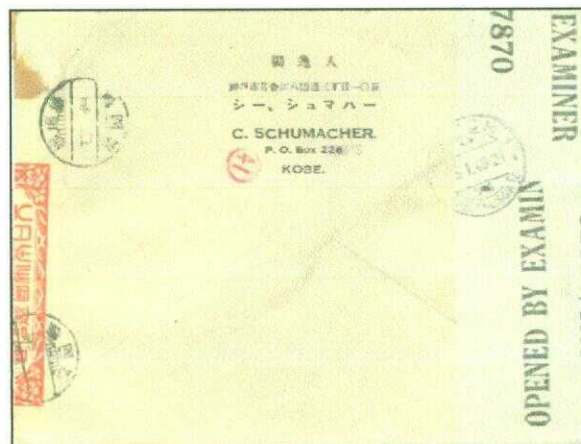
**WARTIME JAPANESE & BRITISH-CENSORED  
POSTWAR-DELIVERED REGISTERED MAIL  
FROM JAPAN TO SWITZERLAND**

Registered commercial cover, postmarked at Kobe, Japan, diverted to Palestine from Istanbul, where British censorship took place before being forwarded to Zúrich, Switzerland, first arriving there in 1946!  
16-month transit time!

**Arrival Postmark:**  
(Reverse)  
"Zúrich,  
5 January 1946"

**Probable Route:**  
Kobe- (by sea) to Vladivostok-(by rail) Harbin-Irkutsk-Samara-Tiflis-Istanbul-Palestine-(by sea) France-Basel-Zúrich

**50 Sen...  
Single-weight (20 grams) international letter-rate +  
Registration fee**



Reverse



## X. EPILOGUE

Japanese Forces in Manchuria surrendered on 22 August 1945, and the surrender of Japan on 2. September 1945 ended World War II.

THE END OF WORLD WAR II ENABLED THE TRANS-SIBERIAN RAIL NETWORK TO AGAIN BECOME OPERATIONAL, ALBEIT "VIA SIBERIA" AS A ROUTE ENDORSEMENT SAW ITS DEMISE.

COMMENCING IN THE POSTWAR PERIOD, MOST MAIL MOVEMENT EAST/WEST WAS HENCEFORTH BY AIR WHICH CONTINUES TO THIS DAY.

DRUCKSACHE \* PRINT

Mr. E.E. Saue  
Pasadena Junior Co.  
Pasadena,  
U.S.A.

TERRAMARE OFFICE, BERLIN

DRUCKSACHE \* PRINT

Mr. H.J. Waterman,

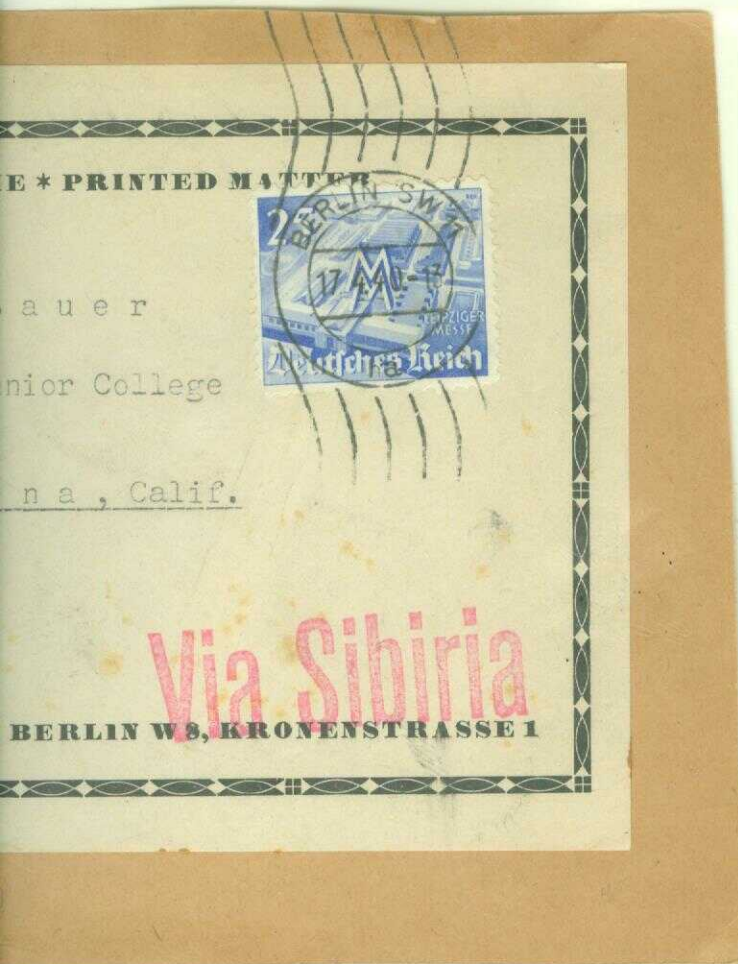
2421 Perrystreet, N.E.  
Washington, D.C.  
USA.

TERRAMARE OFFICE, BERLIN W

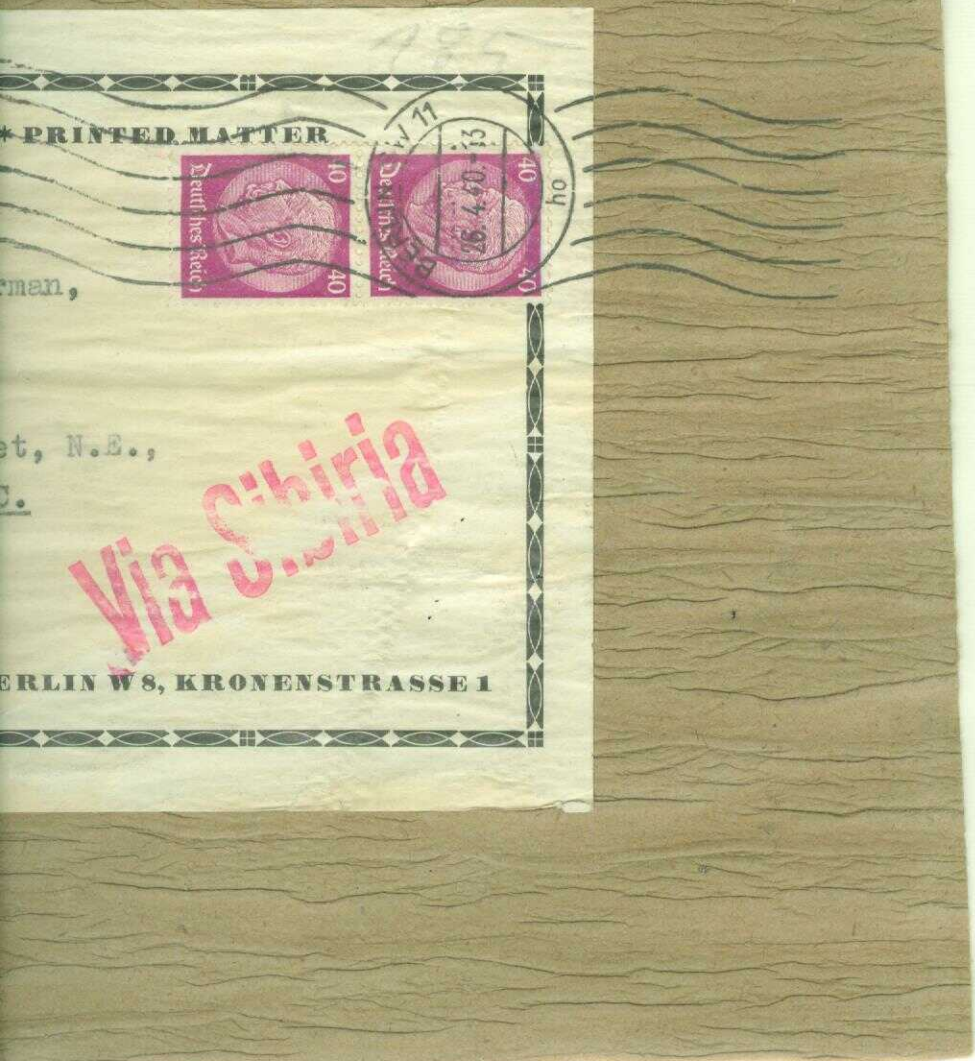
MAILED FILE  
and put in the  
original envelope



Demise of "Via Siberia" Mail  
Route Endorsement



Today's Trans-Siberian Rail Network, beginning in eastern Russia at the coastal port city of Vladivostok and ending in the west at Moscow, is highly electrified, handling primarily freight and container traffic to Europe from the Far East.



"Via Siberia"  
Route Endorsements on 1940  
Printed-Matter Mail from Germany  
sent to Eastern & Western  
United States of America.

No longer required after  
World War II.