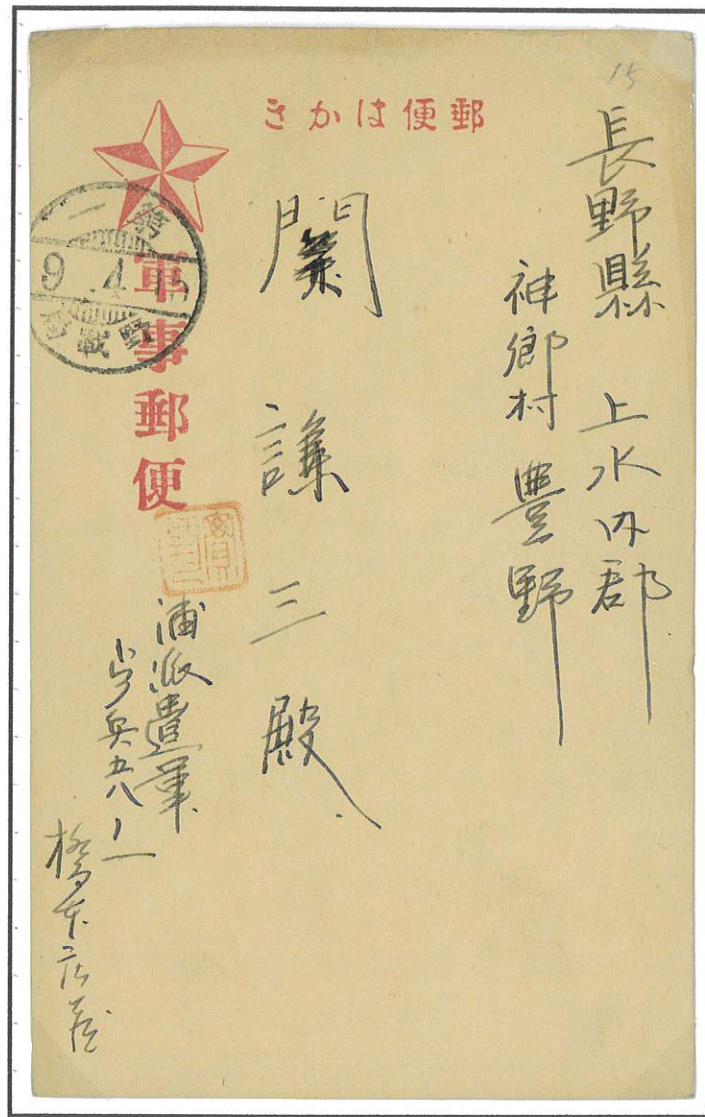


# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 1  
Vladivostok



Field Post Office 1 at Vladivostok. Card dates 9.4.15 (15<sup>th</sup> April 1920) from a soldier in the 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment to Japan. Message reads:

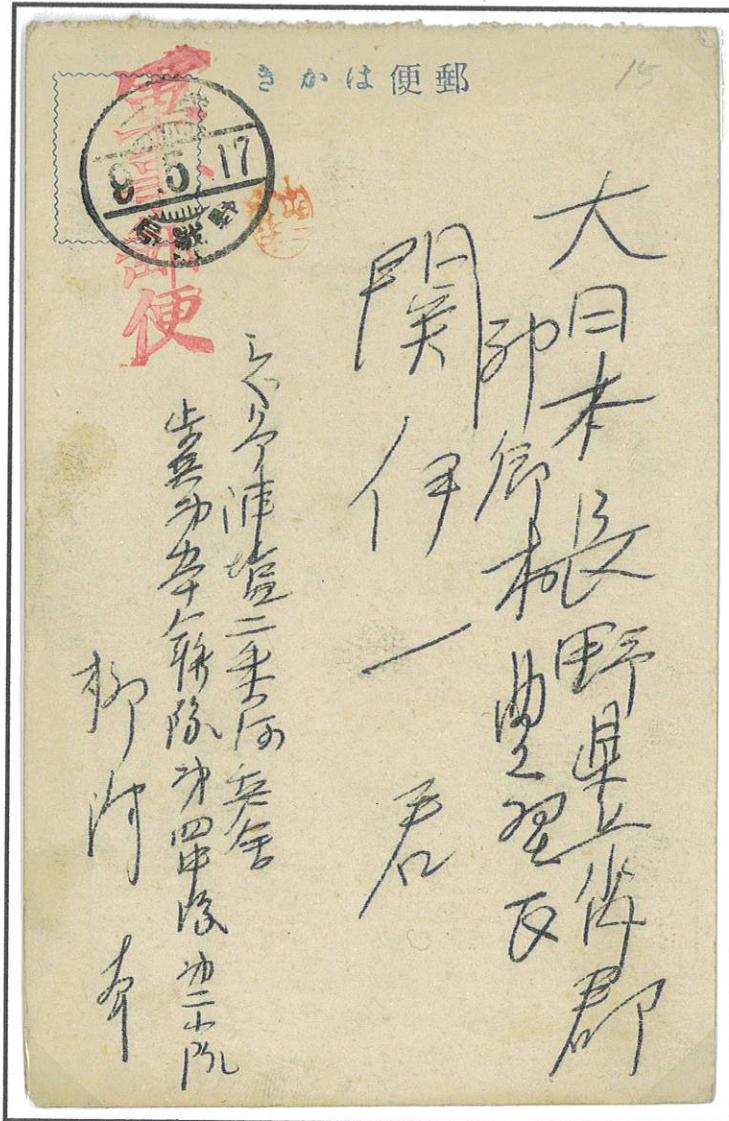
"On the 4<sup>th</sup>, from 11 pm we clashed with the Russian Army and our 1<sup>st</sup> Daitai took part under the command of our Chutaicho. We fought to a hill where an ammunition dump and fortress are located and after fierce battle we reached the hill and continued to advance. After dawn the fighting ended when we reached the front of the enemy shireibu (headquarters).

In our Chutai we had one killed and one wounded. The Chutai moved to attack a Russian island about 1 Ri (4km) from Vladivostok, and the Russians had 2 – 3000 soldiers at a junior officer academy. After receiving information from Vladivostok they surrendered to the Japanese Army and I am now serving here on this island."

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 1  
Vladivostok



Field Post Office 1 at Vladivostok. Card dated 9.5.17 (17<sup>th</sup> May 1920) from a soldier in the 58<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment to Japan. Message reads:

"On the 28<sup>th</sup> of April I left Takada and travelled on the Fokuriku Line to Hiroshima where we stayed for two nights. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May at 2pm we left Ujina and sailed through Setunaikai, arriving at Moji. (In the north of Kyushu) From there we passed through Genkai Sea arriving here at 9pm on the 7<sup>th</sup>. The sea was very rough and we suffered terrible sickness. After arriving at Vladivostok we marched about 12km to arrive at Nisaika and we have now settled in the barracks." Sender's address is given as Nisaika Heisha (2<sup>nd</sup> Barracks).

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

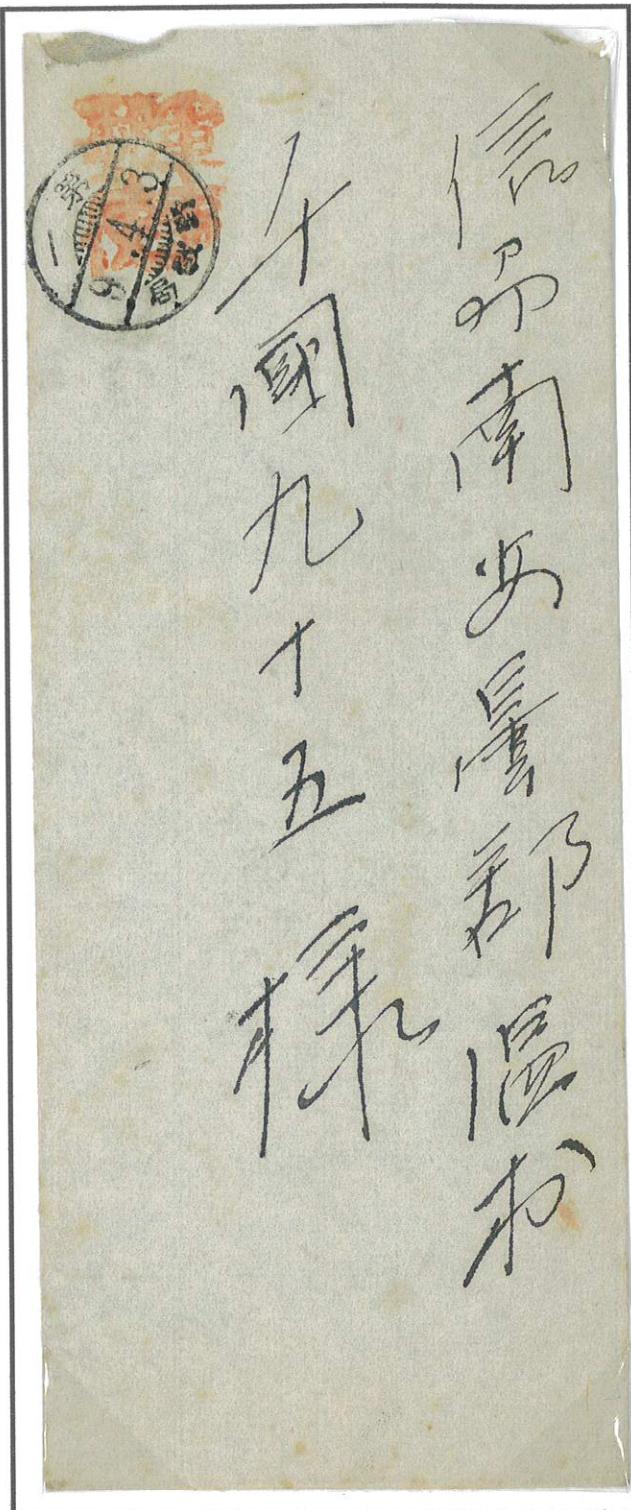
Field Post Office 1

Vladivostok

"Gunji Yubin" cover and letter from a soldier serving in Siberia to Japan. Canceller of FPO 1 located at Vladivostok. Sender's address given as "Vladivo Haken Gun Shireibu" (Vladivostok Expedition Army Headquarters). Despatch 9.4.3 (3 April 1920).

Message reads: "Thank you for the newspaper you sent to me. Over here in the last four or five days the Radical War Faction seems to be seeking a big battle. Our Army has prepared ready for action with loaded guns. Both sides are waiting for something to happen. This is very interesting so I am writing this to you. I am also preparing for action.

To my Uncle."

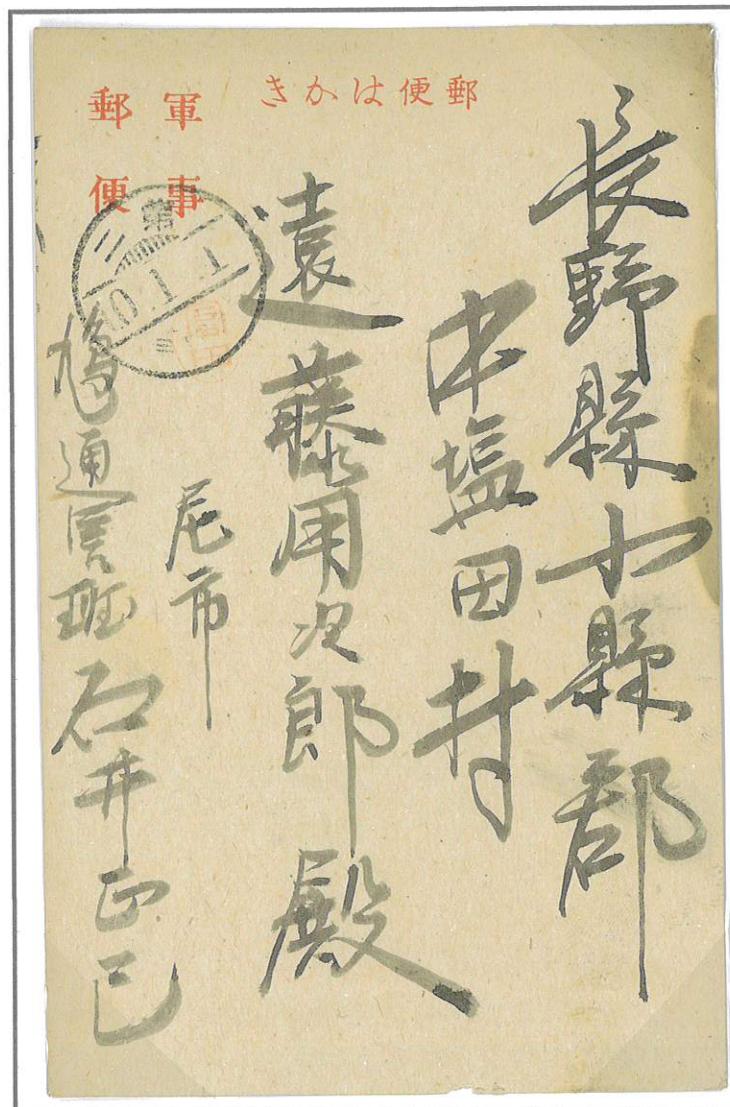


# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 2

Nikolsk



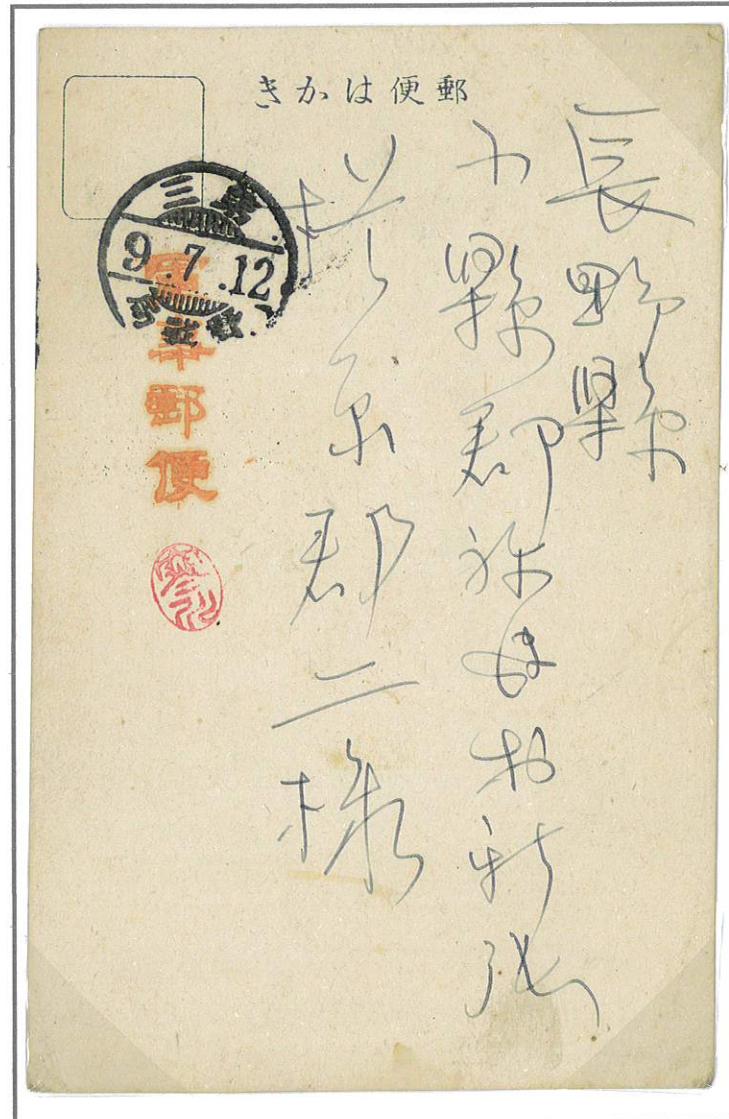
Stampless Field Post card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 2<sup>nd</sup> FPO dated 10.1.1 (1<sup>st</sup> January 1921) and, as may be expected from the date, is a New Year greeting. Sender's address given as Hato Tsushin (Carrier pigeon section) and location given as Amaichi. At this date the 2<sup>nd</sup> FPO was located at Nikolsk.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 3

Shkotovo



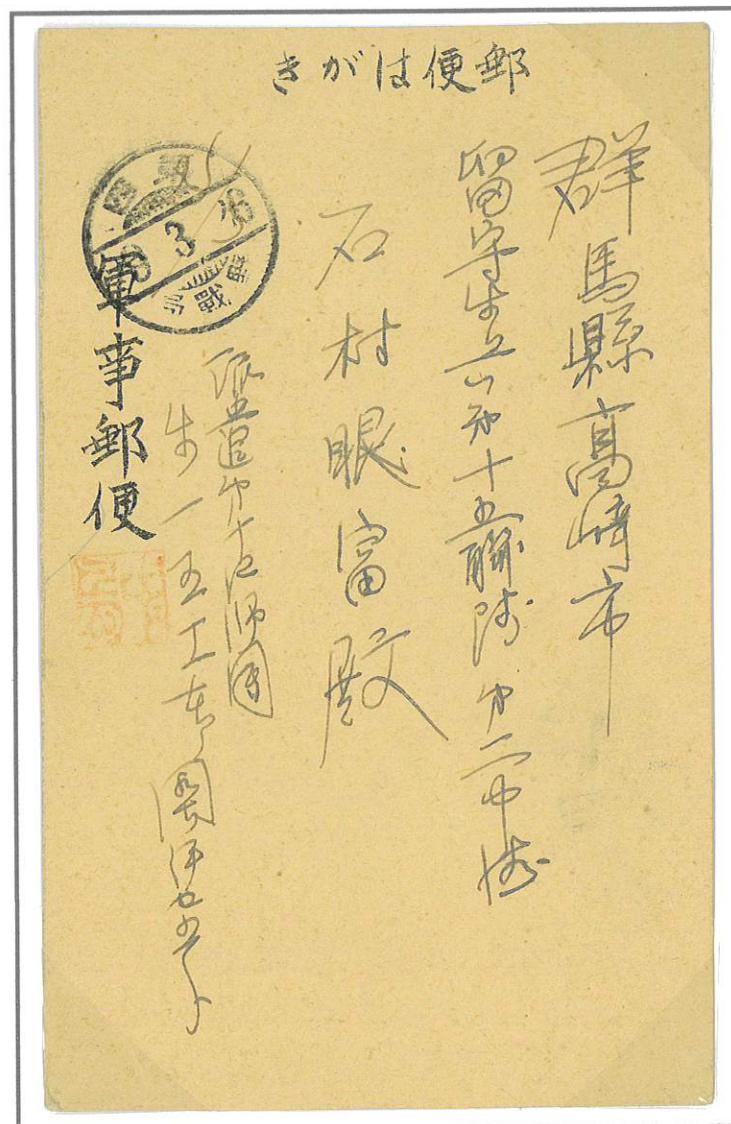
Hand stamped "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 3<sup>rd</sup> FPO dated 9.7.12 (12<sup>th</sup> July 1920). Location at Shkotovo north of Vladivostok, having opened there on 10 June 1920. Sender's address given as : Ryoyo (Russian territory), Siberia Enkaishu (location), Hohei (Infantry) Dai Ju Go Rentai (50<sup>th</sup> Regiment), Dai Roku Chutai (6<sup>th</sup> Company).

Suzuki Takao records that the 14<sup>th</sup> Division replaced the 12<sup>th</sup> Division in July 1919 but this card clearly predates this.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 4  
Khabarovsk

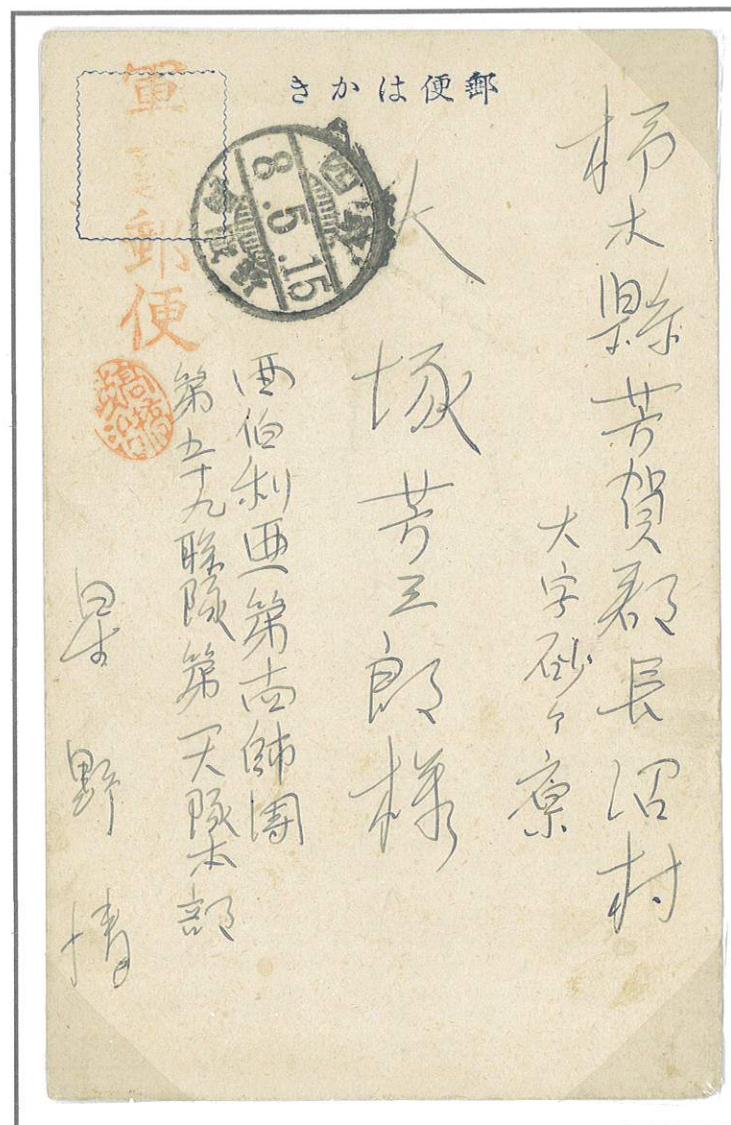


Pre-printed "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 4th FPO dated 9.3.26 (26<sup>th</sup> March 1920). Location at Khabarovsk on the rail line from Vladivostok. Sender serving with the 14<sup>th</sup> Division, 15<sup>th</sup> Regiment Infantry. Message reads: "On 16<sup>th</sup> March we withdrew from Zavitaya and on 20<sup>th</sup> March we arrived at ?? Since then we are living in Army barracks."

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 4  
Khabarovsk



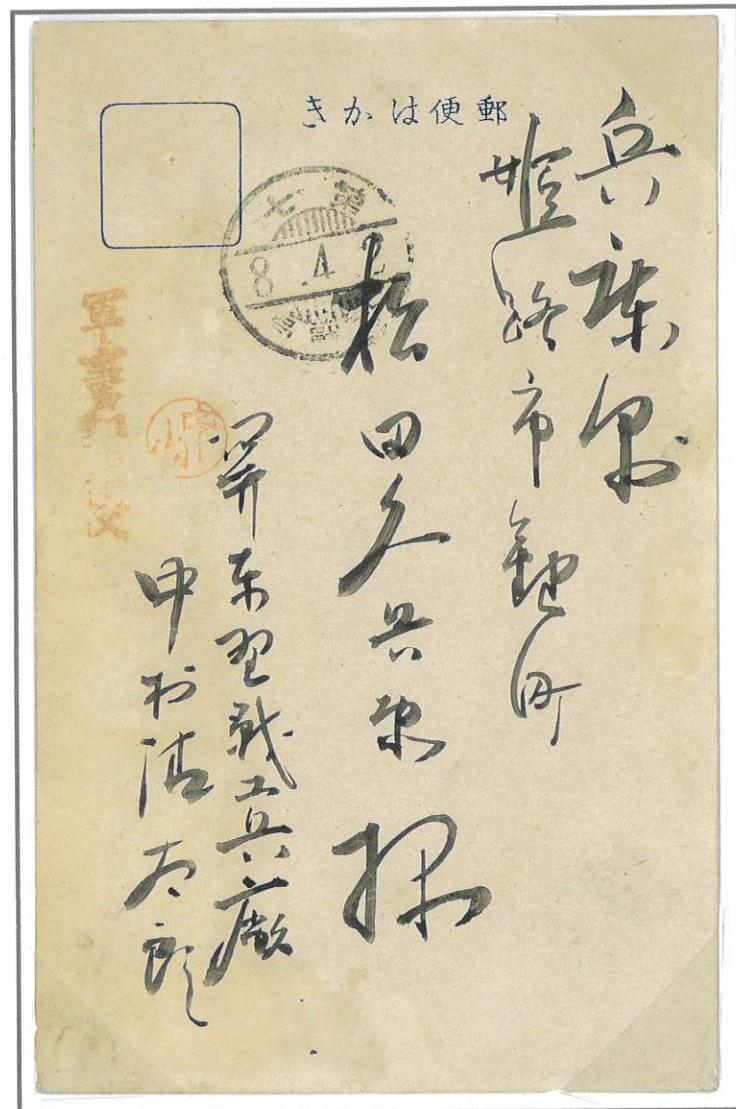
Hand stamped "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 4th FPO dated 8.5.15 (15<sup>th</sup> May 1919). Location at Khabarovsk on the rail line from Vladivostok. Sender serving with the 14<sup>th</sup> Division, 59<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion HQ. Suzuki Takao records that the 14<sup>th</sup> Division replaced the 12<sup>th</sup> Division in July 1919 but this card clearly predates this.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 7

Manchouli



Hand stamped "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 7th FPO dated 8.4.2 (2<sup>nd</sup> April 1919). Location at Manchouli on the border between Russia and Inner Mongolia. The FPO was originally established by the Kanto Gun (Kwantung Army) 7<sup>th</sup> Division which was sent to advance from the north to meet up with the 12<sup>th</sup> Division fighting from the south. Mail from the 7<sup>th</sup> FPO is uncommon.

Message reads that the sender is expecting to travel to Dairen (Note, not Vladivostok) to board a ship back to Japan. The 7<sup>th</sup> Division remained part of the Kanto Gun although assisting the Siberia Haken Gun.

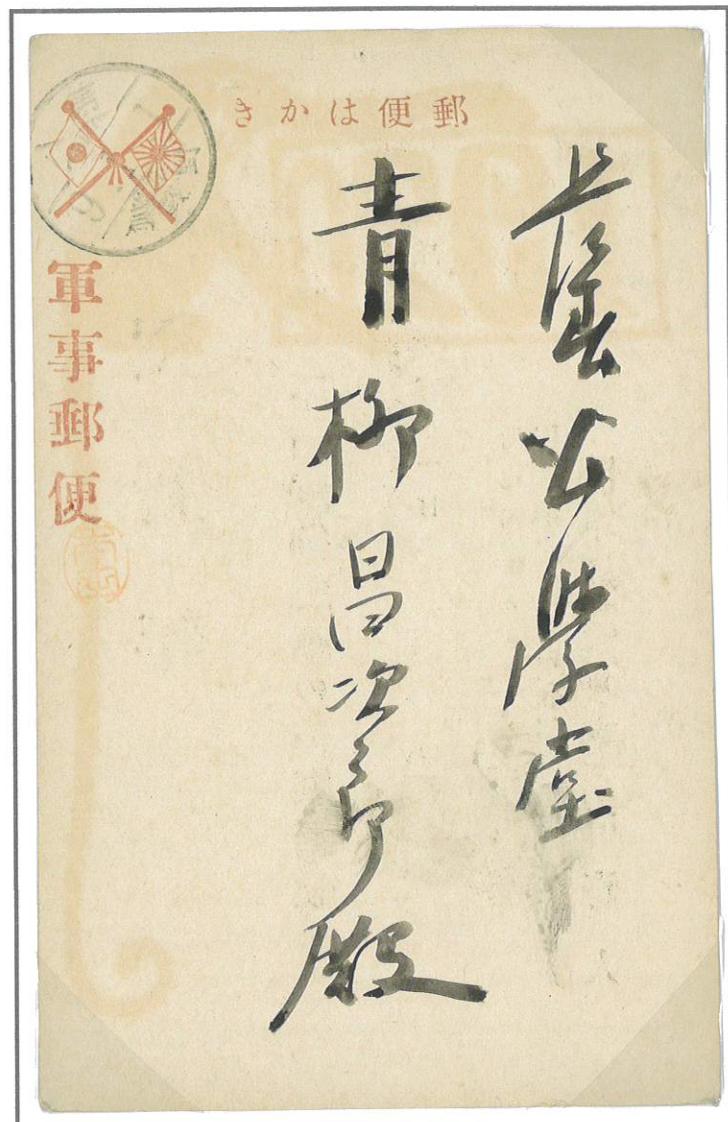
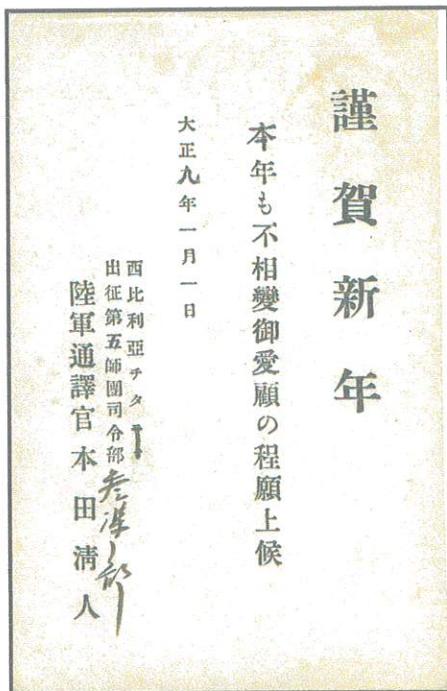
Illustrates the Japanese master plan to occupy a large part of the Chinese mainland and Korea. A prelude to the setting up of Manchukuo under Emperor Pu Yi.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 8

Chita



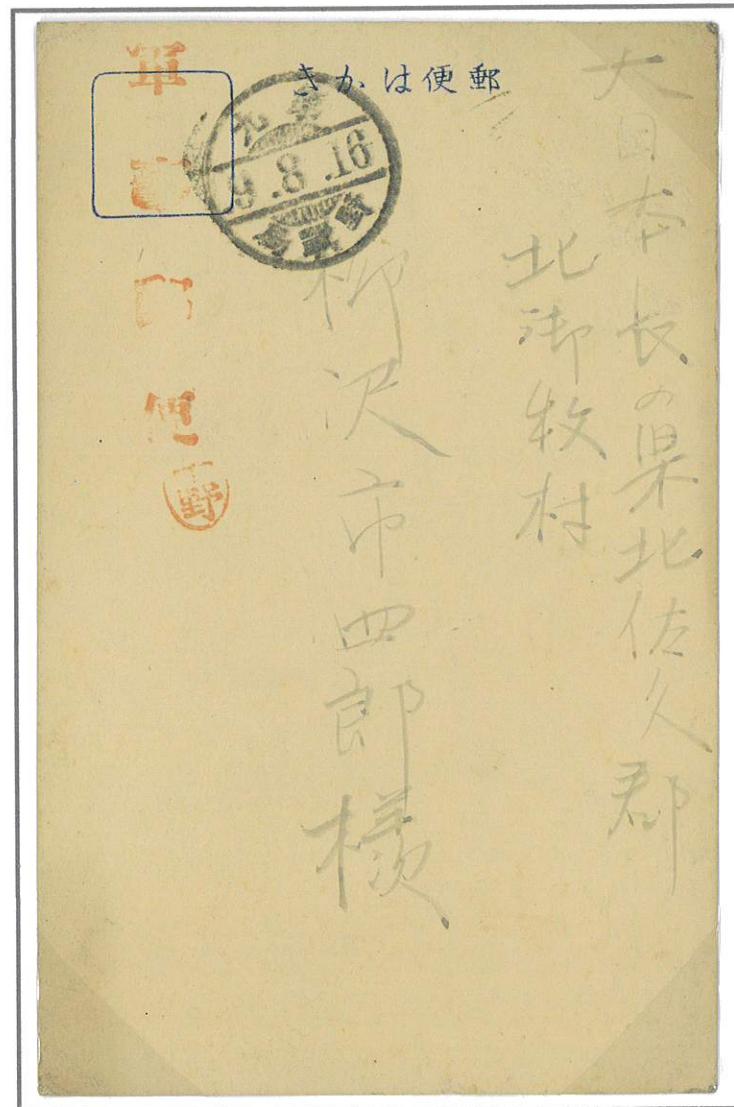
Pre-printed "Gunji Yubin" field post card sent from FPO 8 at Chita, to Japan. Card is a traditional New Year greeting, dated 9.1.1 (1<sup>st</sup> January 1920) and from a soldier serving in the 5<sup>th</sup> Division. Message is also pre-printed with gaps provided for written insertion of the military unit and the year.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 9

Vtoraya Rechka



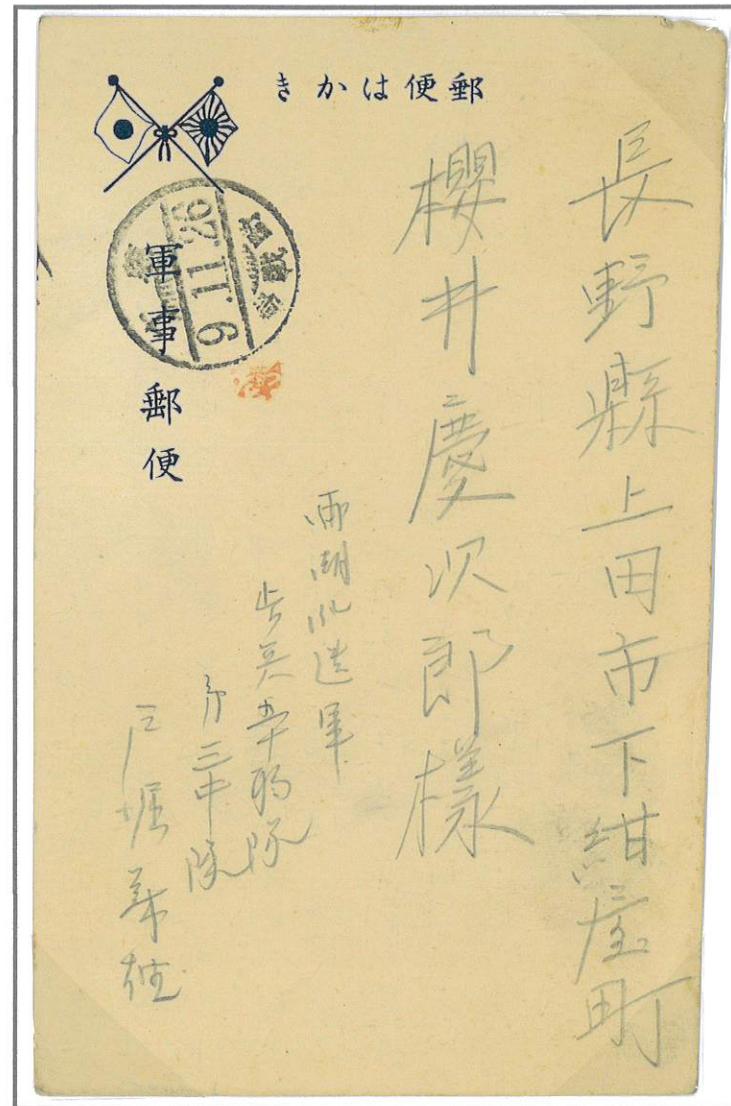
Hand stamped "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 9th FPO dated 9.8.16 (16<sup>th</sup> August 1920). Location at Vtoraya Rechka close to Vladivostok. FPO moved from the Lake Baikal region at Verkhneudinsk on 15 June, presumably preliminary to troop movements back to Japan, since the message on the card refers to "*having travelled by train I have arrived at Vladivostok*". No sender's address given.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 10

Spasskaya



Pre-printed "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 10th FPO dated 9.11.26. (26<sup>th</sup> November 1920). Location at Spasskaya on the rail line from Vladivostok to Khabarovsk. Sender's address given as Siberia Haken Gun (Expedition Army) Hohei (Infantry) Dai Go Ju Rentai (50<sup>th</sup> Regiment) Dai San Chutai (3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon).

Message reads:

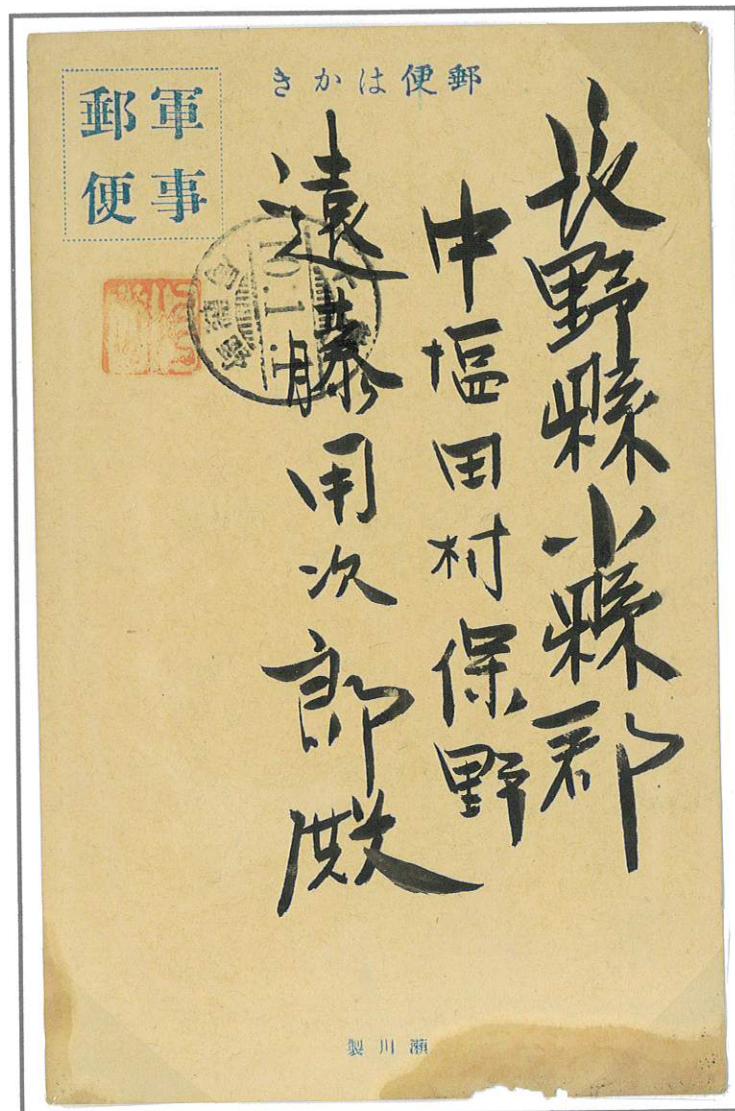
*"My Chutai is engaged in enemy territory, taking defensive positions. However, we are having a peaceful interlude so I am pleased about that. I suppose it is the season of the first snow at home. We had the first snow over here on the 6<sup>th</sup> of last month, and already we have temperatures of below -20 degrees on many occasions. The real winter when it comes is beyond my imagination."*

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 10

Spasskaya

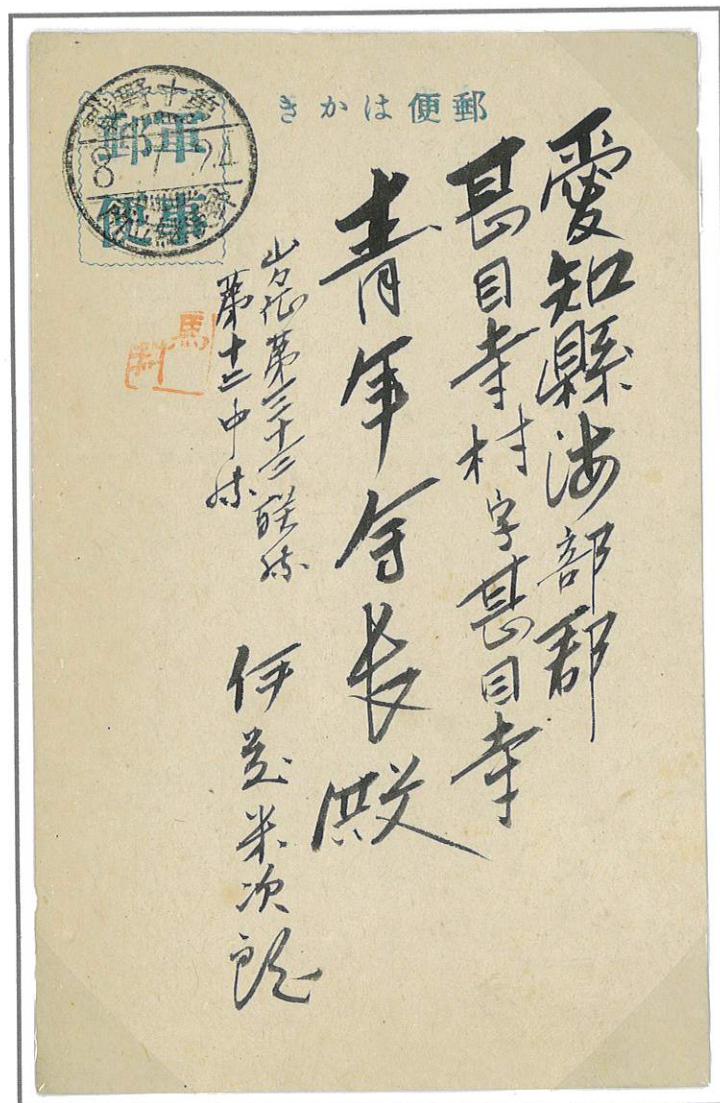


Pre-printed "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 10th FPO dated 10.1.1. (1<sup>st</sup> January 1921). Location at Spasskaya on the rail line from Vladivostok to Khabarovsk. Sender's address given as Siberia Haken Gun (Expedition Army) Dai Ju San Shidan (13<sup>th</sup> Division) Hohei (Infantry) Dai Go Ju Rentai (50<sup>th</sup> Regiment) Dai Go Chutai (5<sup>th</sup> Platoon).

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

10 Tsugitatesho  
Irkutsk

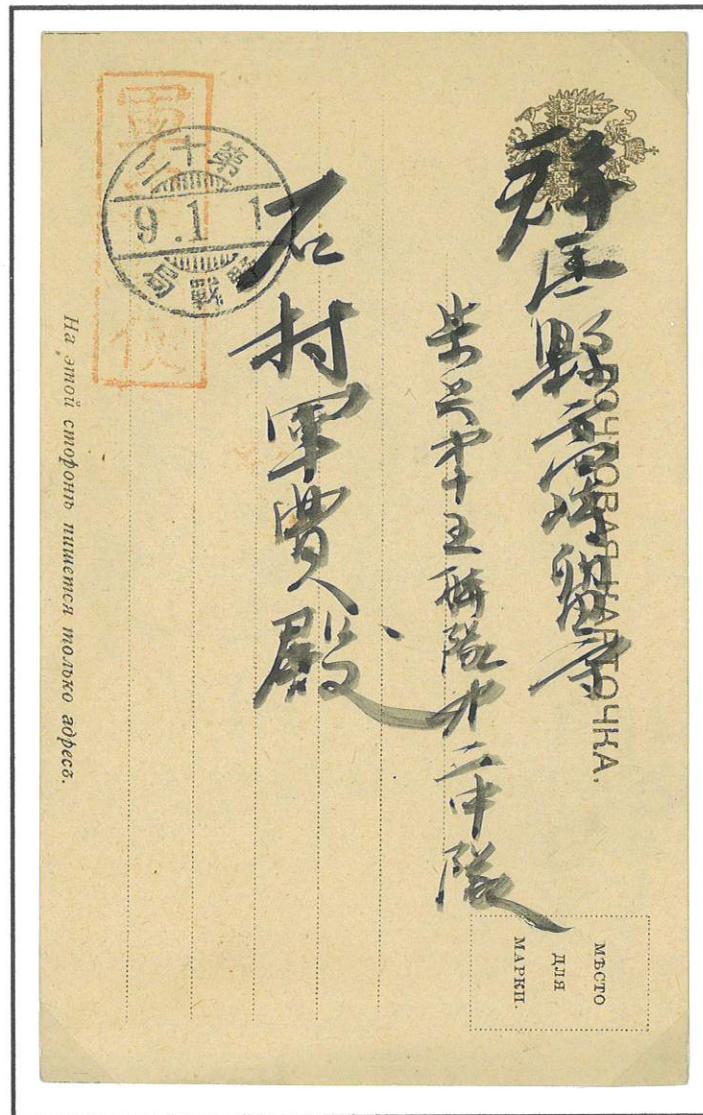


The Tsugitatesho were mail relay stations established on a temporary basis to collect soldiers' mail from a scattered location and forward it to a regular Field Post Office. Tsugi 10 was established at Irkutsk on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1919 and closed on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1920. These offices were staffed by a regular soldier and not by a postal officer.

Sender's address given as 12<sup>th</sup> Division, 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment.

The Siberian Intervention  
Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 12  
Blagoveschensk



Field Post Office 12 at Blagoveschensk. Card dated 9.1.1 (1<sup>st</sup> January 1920) carrying a traditional New Year Greeting to family in Japan.

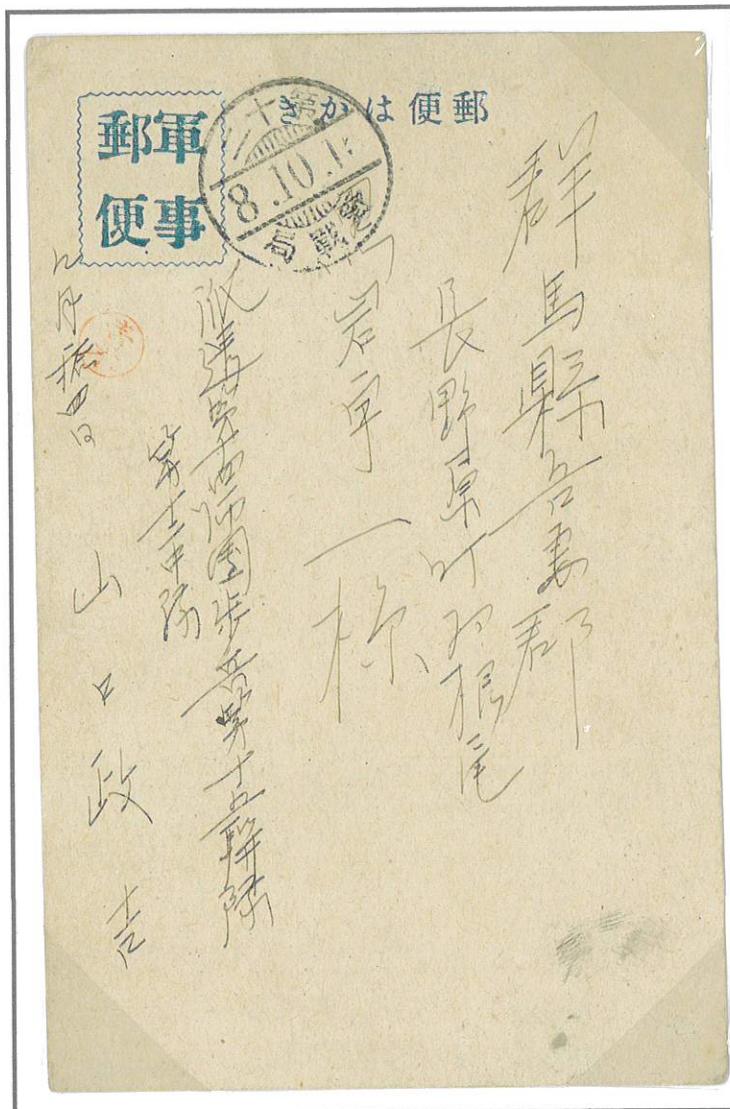
The card is a captured Russian postcard and has been handstamped "Gunji Yubin" (Military Mail) for use as a field post card.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 12

Blagoveschensk



Pre-printed "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 12th FPO dated 8.10.15. (15th October 1919). Sender's address give as Haken Dai Ju Yon Shidan (14<sup>th</sup> Division), Hohei (Infantry), Dai Ju Go Rentai (15<sup>th</sup> Regiment), Dai Ju Ni Chutai (12<sup>th</sup> Platoon). The 14<sup>th</sup> Division had been in Siberia since July 1919 when it replaced the 12<sup>th</sup> Division.

Message reads:

*"I have received your letter yesterday, the 13<sup>th</sup>. I'm pleased to learn a lot of news from home. I am sorry to hear that ??? has died after receiving medical care for so long. I understand how you and all the villagers are feeling.*

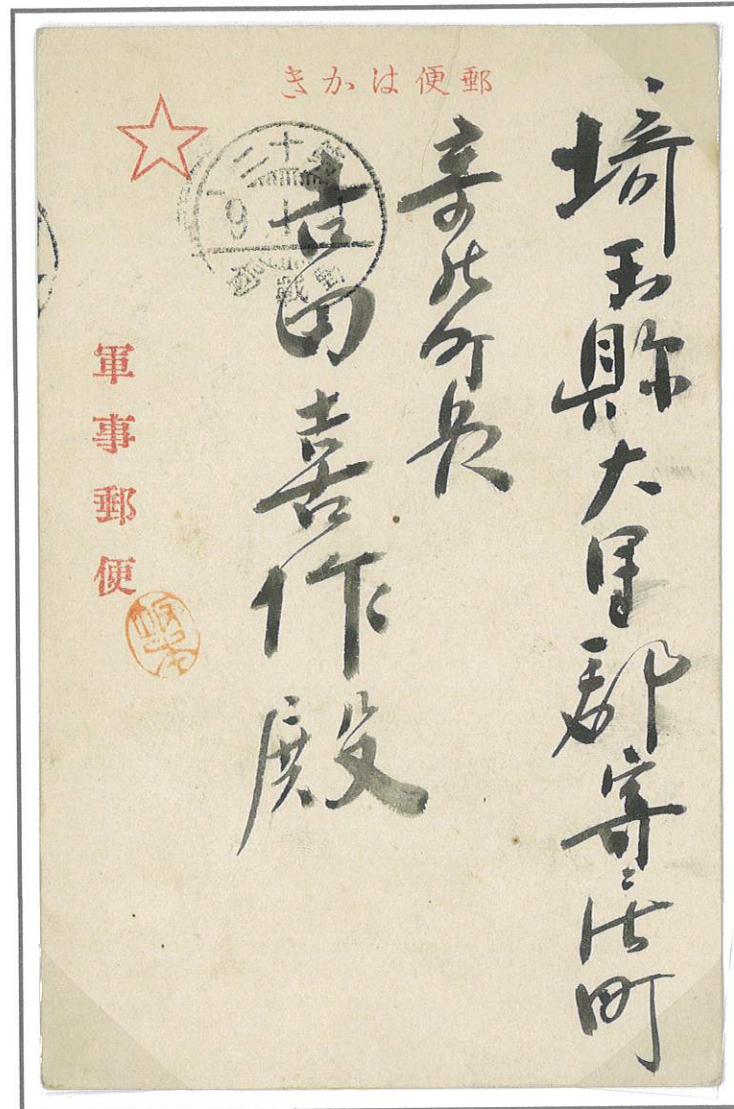
*My stay in this place has been extended by four months from the 13<sup>th</sup> of this month. At the moment I am in Blagonani, and we have very severe cold weather. I am looking forward to news of our repatriation after our fighting against Radical Forces. We are fighting almost every day, and pursuing the enemy is very dangerous. The other day one Hohei soldier of the 12<sup>th</sup> Chutai was killed by machine gun fire, and also 90 men including a Captain from the 66<sup>th</sup> Regiment were killed. So there is no time when we can forget about the enemy."*

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 12

Blagoveschensk

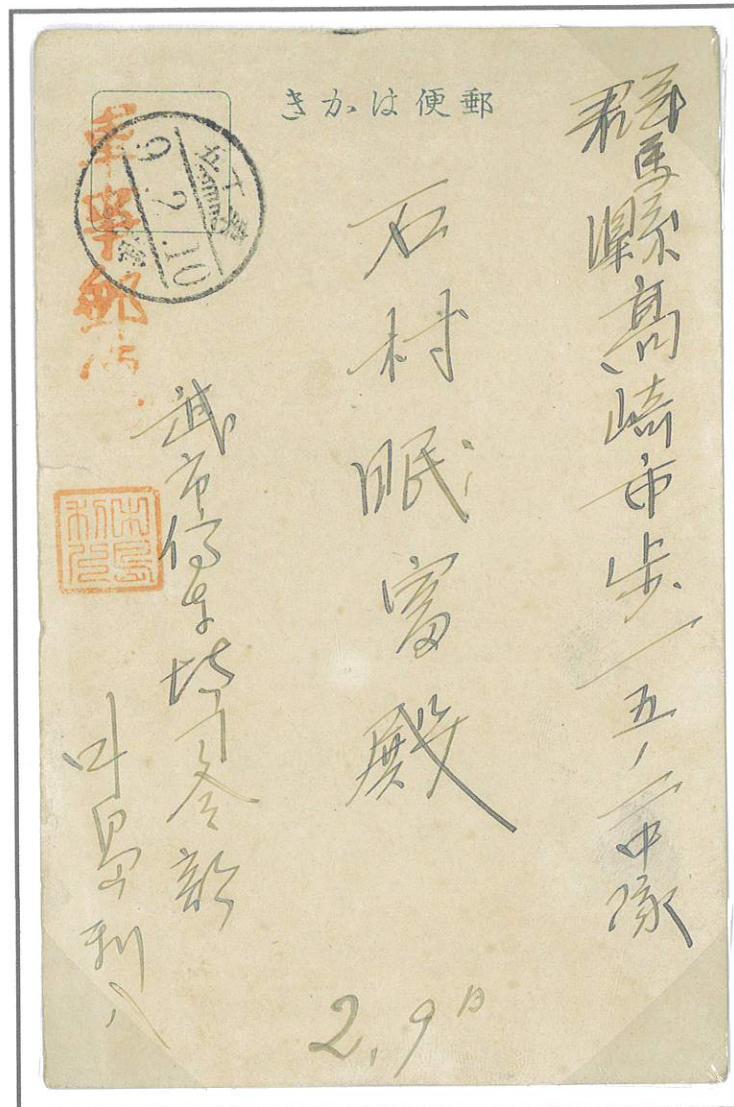


Pre-printed "Gunji Yubin" card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card shows canceller of the 12th FPO dated 9.1.1 (1<sup>st</sup> January 1920). Traditional Japanese New Year greeting.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 15  
Potchukarevo



Stampless "Gunji Yubin" Field Post card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card carries the canceller of the 15<sup>th</sup> FPO located at Potchukarevo. Dated 9.2.10. (10<sup>th</sup> February 1920). "Gunji Yubin" (military mail) hand stamped card, censored (red chop).

Sender's address given as Takechi Shigosho Shireibu (Takechi Signal Post HQ).

Message reads:

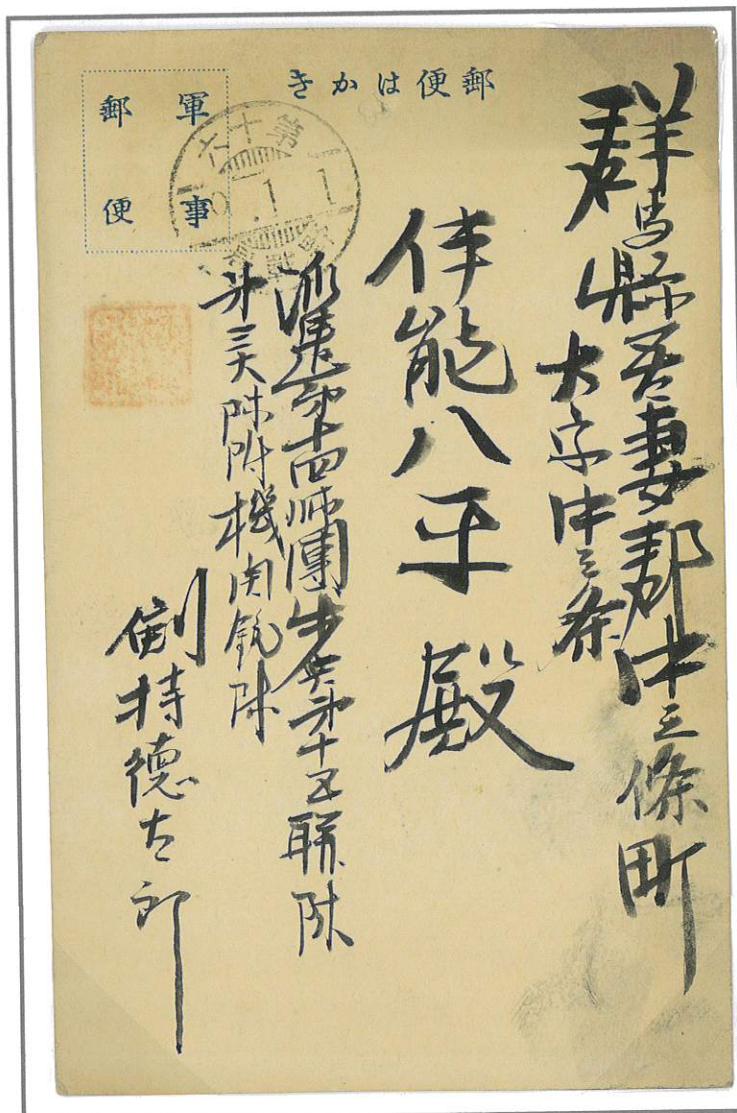
*"It has been quiet in Takechi recently since Japan declared neutrality. The new government has been established and within a matter of one night Red flags have been seen everywhere, and the enemy of yesterday is the friend of today. Things have been changing drastically even whilst I am writing this letter. We have heard rumours recently regarding negotiations between our Division and the local Army over the last three days, but there is no certainty that negotiations will be successful."*

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 16

Sanbunko



Stampless "Gunji Yubin" Field Post card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card carries the canceller of the 16<sup>th</sup> FPO located at Sanbunko, located on the rail line between Vladivostok and Khabarovsk. Dated 9.1.1. (1<sup>st</sup> January 1920). "Gunji Yubin" (military mail) pre-printed card, censored (red chop).

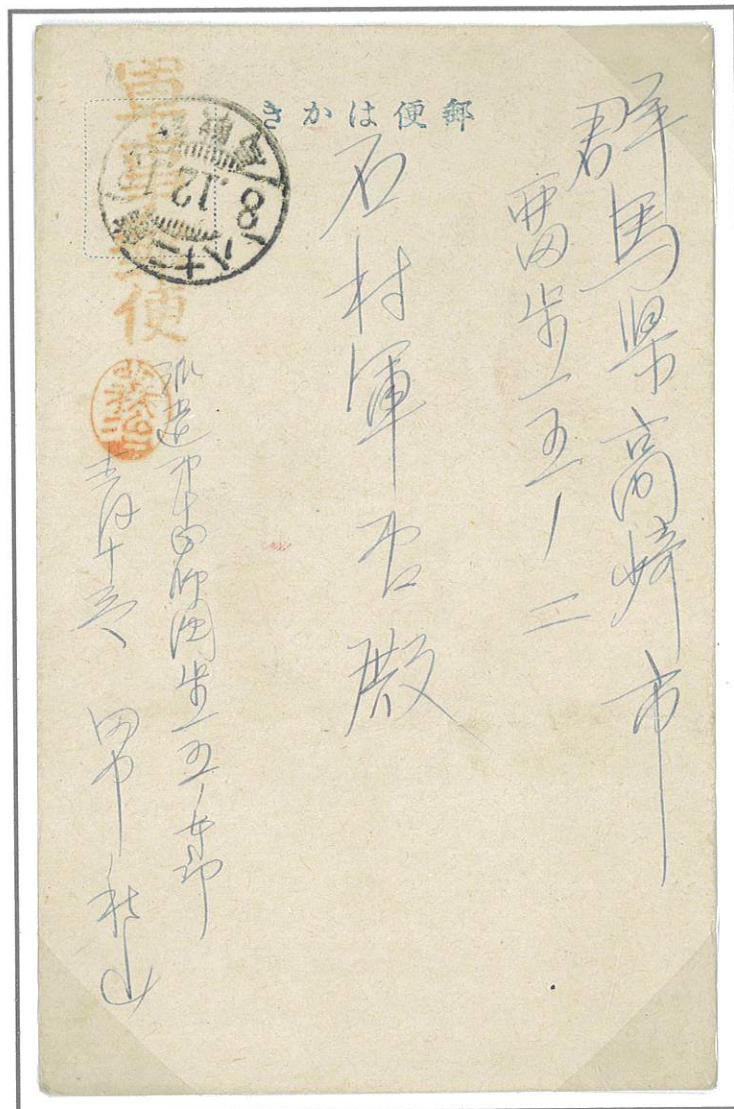
Soldier serving with the 14<sup>th</sup> Division, 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, attached to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion machine gun platoon.

# The Siberian Intervention

## Japanese Field Post Offices

Field Post Office 28

Zavitaya



Stampless Field Post card from Siberia to Japan during the Allied Intervention. Card is from Haken Dai Ju Yon Shidan (14<sup>th</sup> Division", Hohei Dai Ju Go Rentai (15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment), Honbu (HQ) and is unusually addressed to another soldier still in Japan. Sent to Ishimura Gunso (Sgt, Ishimura) at Takasaki barracks, the home of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

Card carries the canceller of the 28<sup>th</sup> FPO located at Zavitaya. Dated 8.12.13. (13<sup>th</sup> December 1919).

Message transcript shown separately and is an interesting reflection of the Japanese attitude at the time.

## The Siberian Intervention

### Japanese Field Post Offices

Transcript of letter from FPO 28 at Zavitaya to a sergeant Ishimura at Takasaki HQ.

*"Thank you very much for your letter of 14<sup>th</sup> of November which I received today. I am pleased to learn of your safe return home and your new appointment as an instructor for new recruits. I congratulate you for receiving the honour of KunHato (Military award 8<sup>th</sup> degree).*

*At the moment it is about 0 degrees centigrade here in Siberia and it's really cold. I am usually very healthy but because of the cold weather I have digestion problems which make me feel very down.*

*I am sure you will enjoy training the new 1<sup>st</sup> grade soldiers. This year large numbers of children are being recruited so I know you will have a lot of work to do. For the future of our Nation I want you to train these young soldiers to be strong.*

*If you consider the present temperature in Siberia, the winter in Takasaki will be only like Autumn. You are a lucky man to be there.*

*I must finish writing now."*

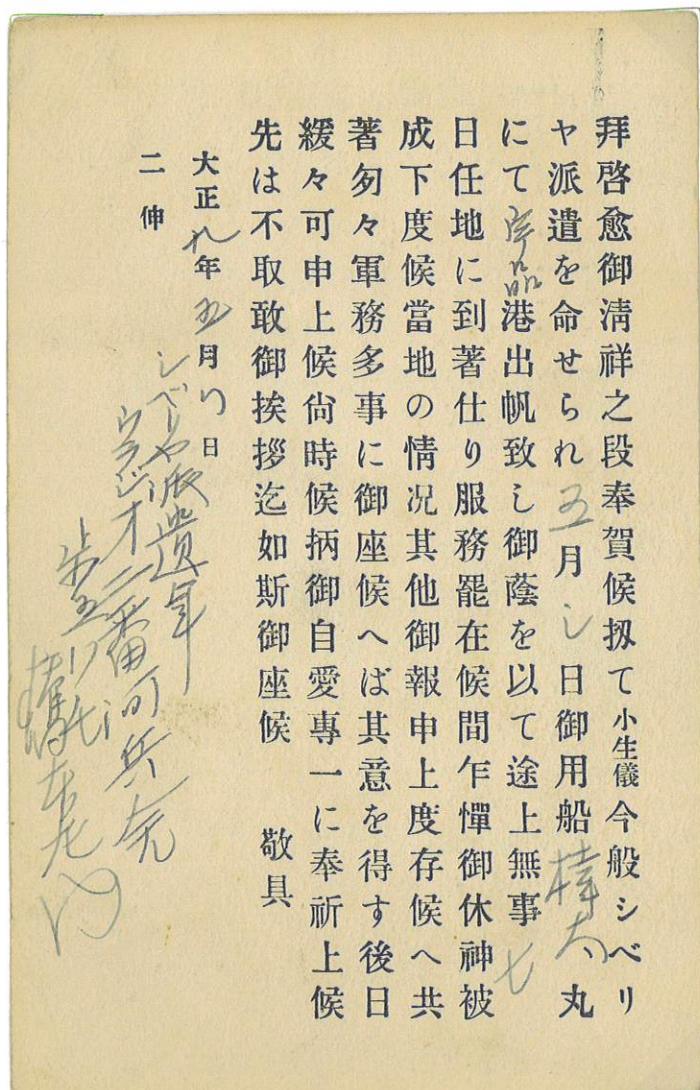
The reference to Takasaki is because that was the location of the HQ of the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment to where the sergeant had been posted.

SIBERIA EXPEDITION ARMY

A preprinted card issued to Japanese soldiers posted to the Siberia Force, and used from Vladivostok to Japan. Message reads:-

"At this time I have been ordered to be despatched to Siberia, and on the 6th of May (date is written in), I left Ujina on board the charter vessel "Karafuto Maru" (vessel name is written in). After a safe voyage I arrived at my posting on the 7th of May (date written in). I have begun serving my duty so please don't worry about me. I wish to inform you about my life here but my days have been very busy. I will keep you informed later. I wish you good health. Now I wish to end my greeting and information of my safe arrival."

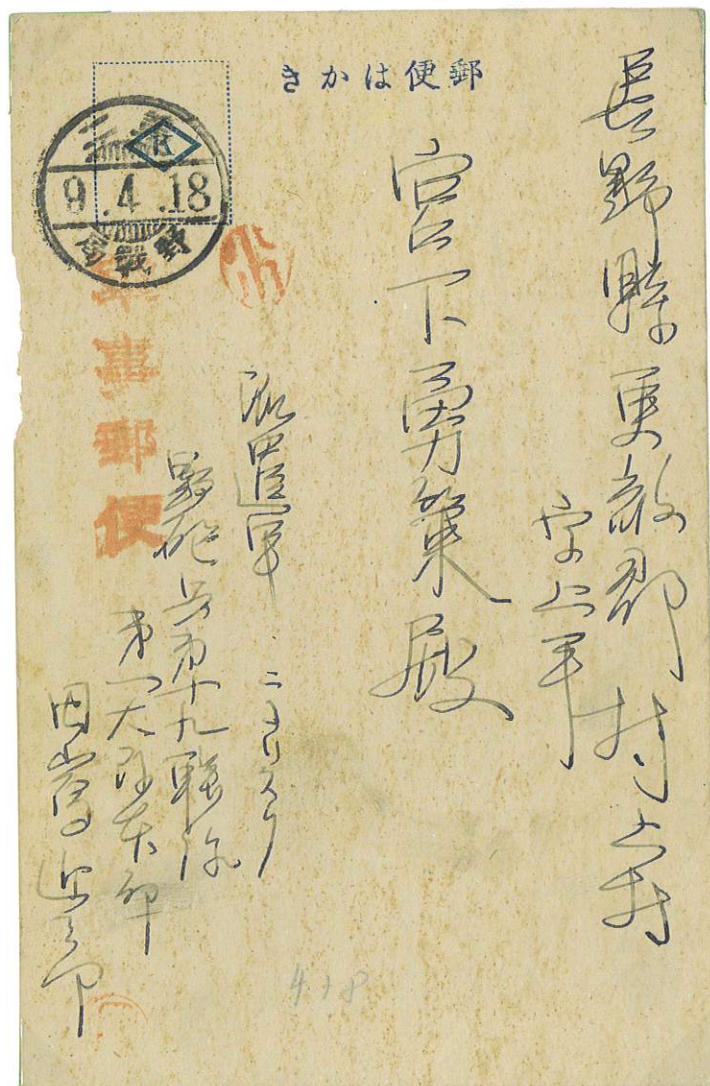
Sender's address is given as :- Siberia Haken Gun, Vladivostok, Nibangawa Heisha (Second River Barracks) Hohei (Infantry). Front of card carries the cancellation of the 1st FPO, located at Vladivostok and is dated 9.5.10 (10th May, 1920).



SIBERIAN EXPEDITION ARMY

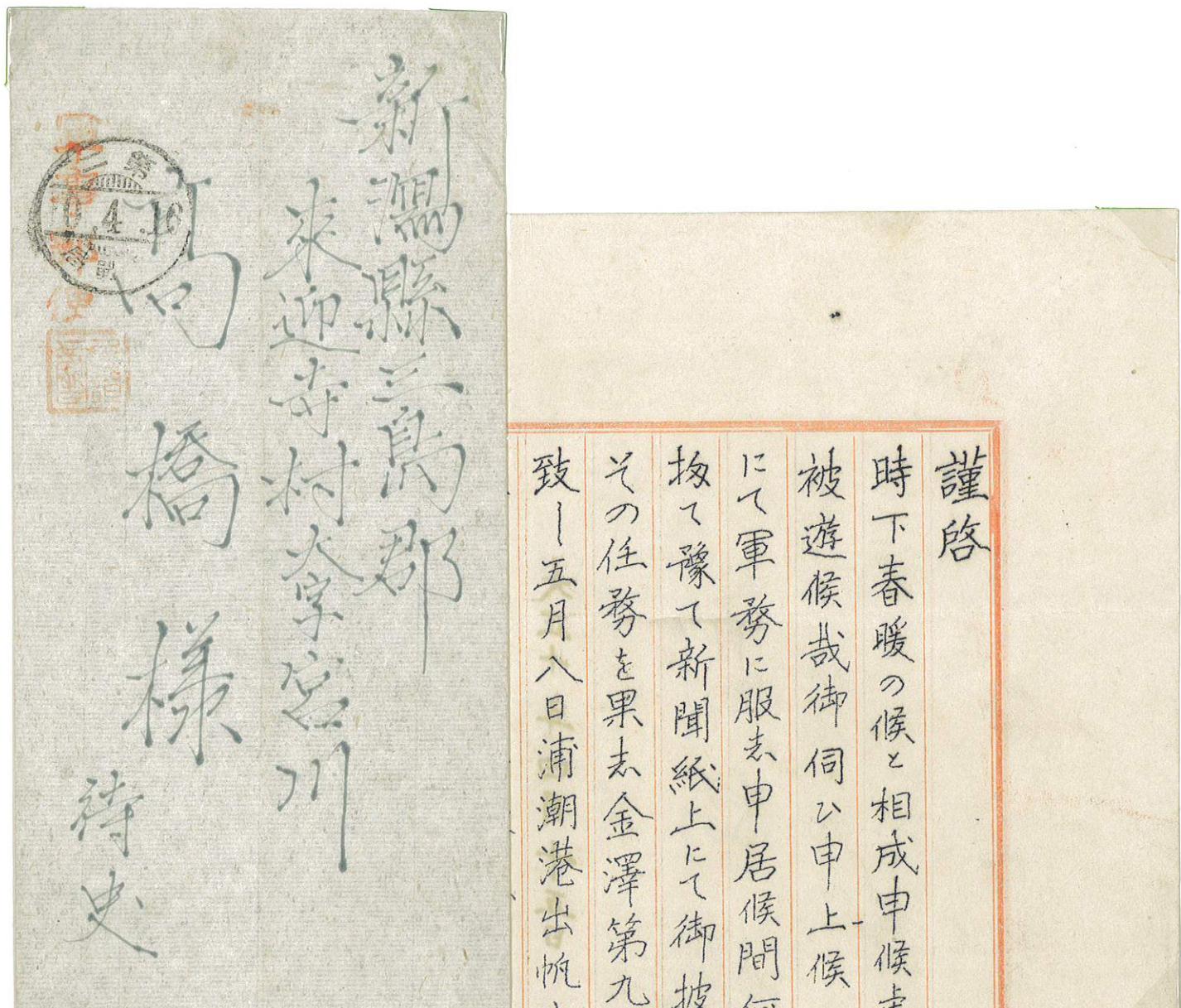
Stampless field post card showing superb strike of the 2nd FPO located at Nikolsk dated 9.4.18 (18th April 1920). Sender's address given as Haken Gun (expedition army), Yasen Hohei (Field Artillery), 19th Regt., 1st Battalion HQ. Message reads:-

"On the 5th I was commissioned to this position in Siberia, where we are fighting the revolutionary army. Here in Nikolsk, the fighting is tense. On the 5th at 3 am an emergency alert was given, we were in position at 4, and fighting began at 5. Around 8 am the shelling became heavy and the enemy were bombarding our lines. After exchanging artillery fire the enemy began retreating around noon, and by 3 pm they withdrew to the city suburbs. The enemy death toll was 300 with approximately 1000 injured. Our own losses were 43 dead and 50 wounded. We captured 2000 prisoners and they were disarmed at our headquarters. At the moment the rail line between Nikolsk and Vladivostok is entirely under our safe occupation and guarded by our Tetsudo Rentai (Railway Regt.)"



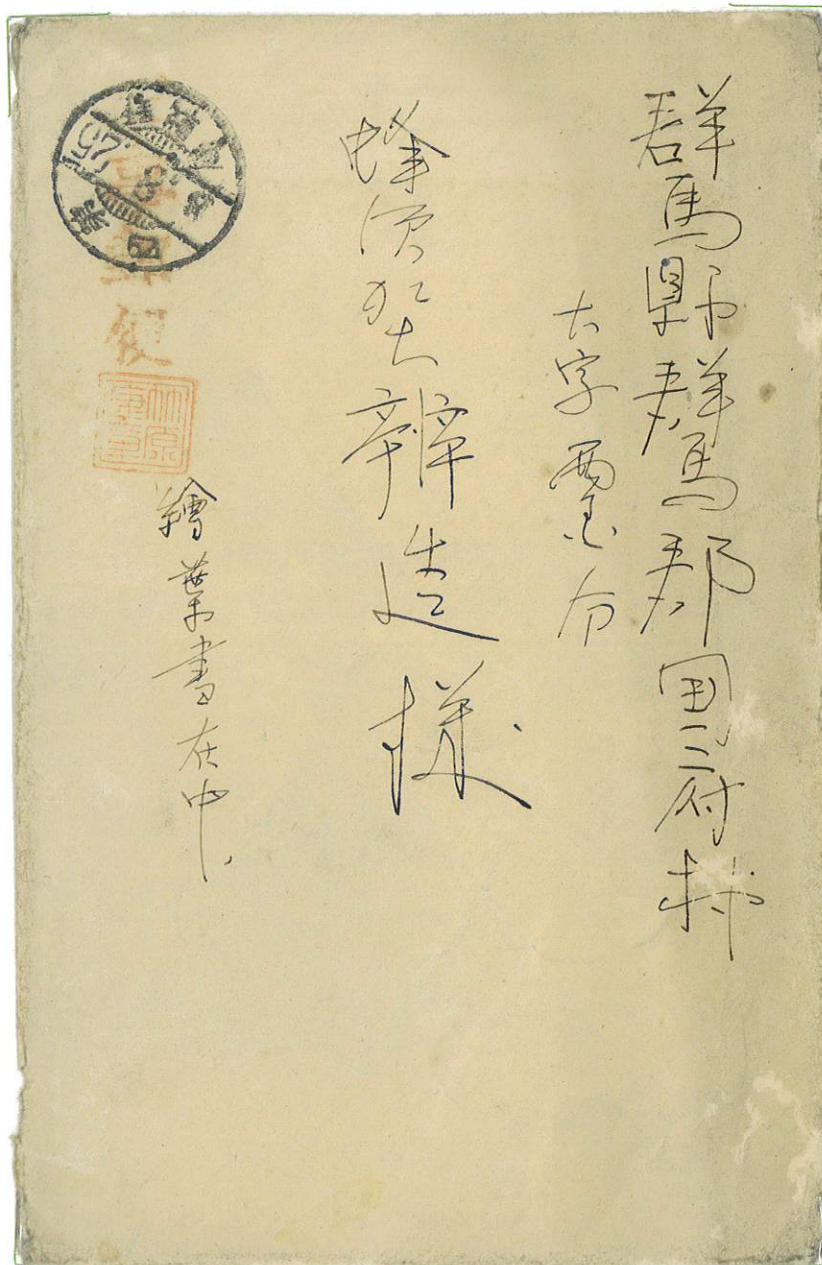
SIBERIAN EXPEDITION ARMY

Stampless "Gunji Yubin" cover and letter from a Japanese soldier serving in Siberia during the Allied intervention period. Cover carries the cancellation of the 2nd FPO dated 10.4.16 (16th April 1921). The 2nd FPO at this time was probably located at Nikolsk. Senser's address is given as Siberia Haken Gun, 30th Infantry Regt. 9th Company. The letter refers to the 13th Division going home soon, and being replaced by the 9th Div. from Kanagawa. Writer says that it is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years since he was conscripted, and that he has served 1 year and 9 months in Siberia. One odd feature is that the letter is has been silk screen duplicated, as though the writer sent the same letter to several people.



SIBERIAN EXPEDITION ARMY

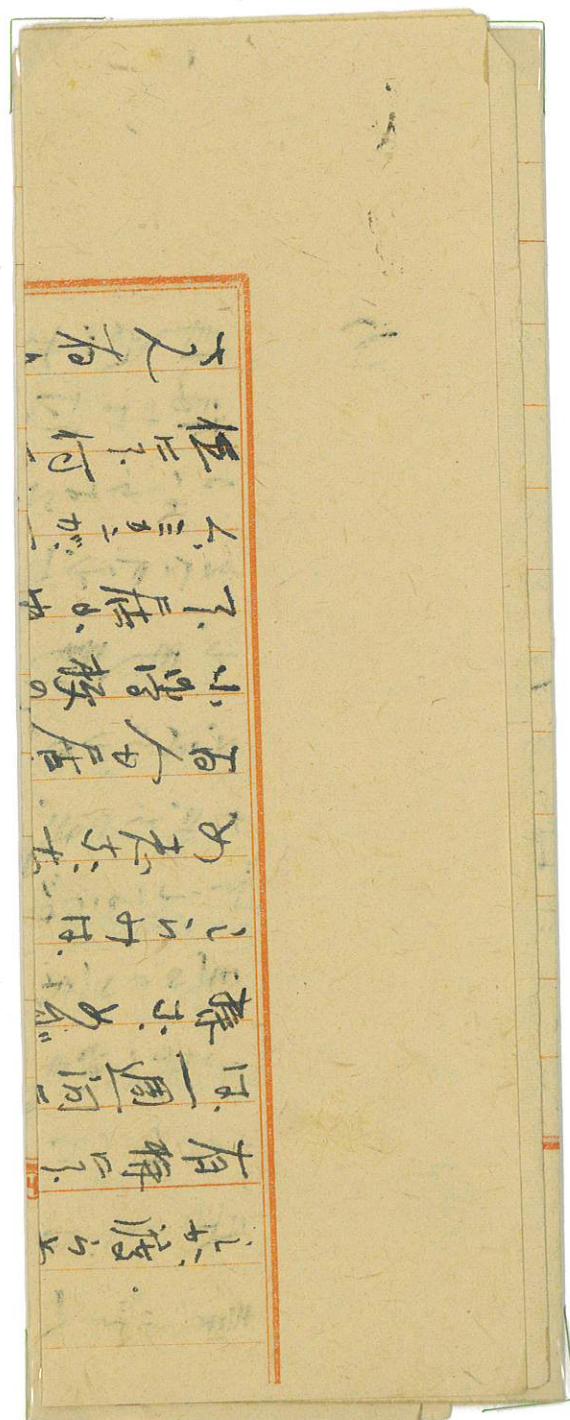
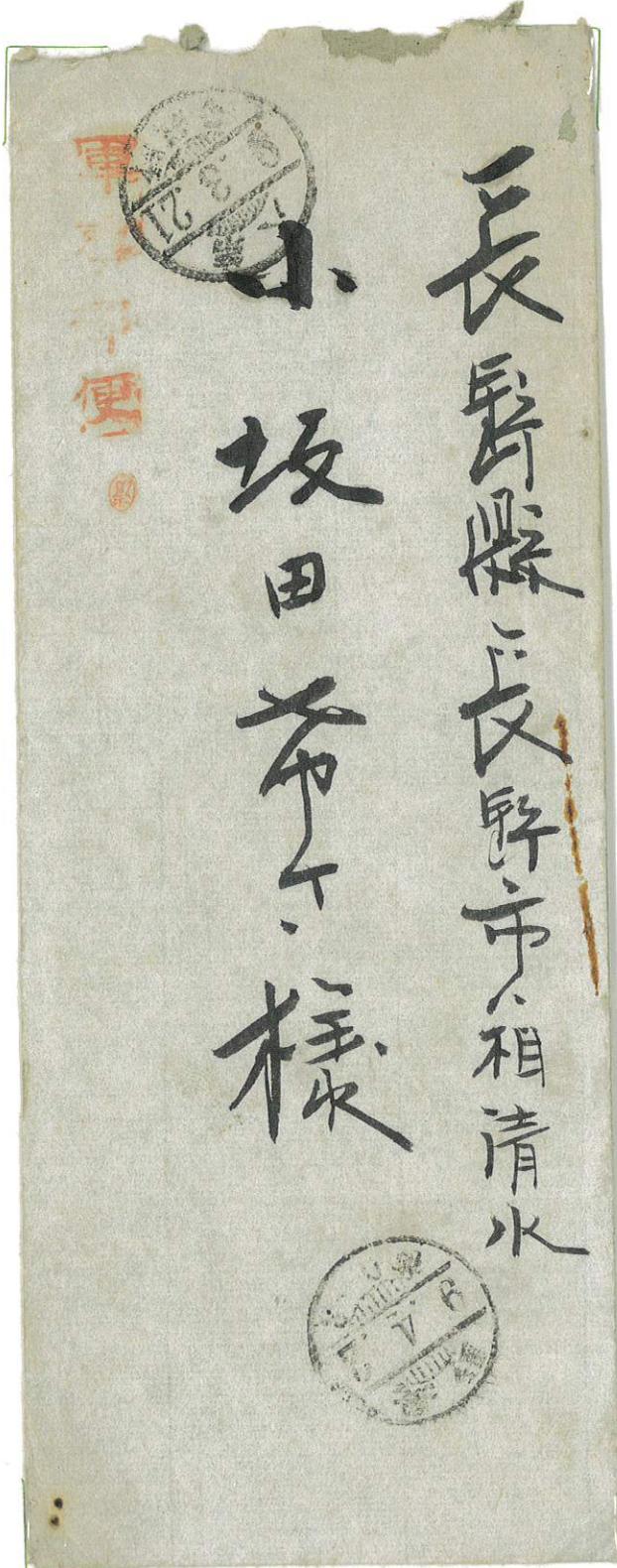
Stampless cover used from a soldier serving with the Japanese intervention forces in Siberia, to Japan. Cover carries handstruck 'Gunji Yubin' (military mail) cachet and the canceller of the 4th FPO, located at Khabarovsk. Canceller is dated 8.8.25 (25th August 1919), and sender's address is given as Shussei (on active service) Kihei (cavalry), 18th Rentai (Regt.)



SIBERIA EXPEDITION ARMY

Cover and letter from a Japanese soldier serving with the Japanese contingent in the Allied intervention forces in Siberia. Cover carries the canceller of the 8th FPO located in Chita, and is dated 9.3.21 (21st March 1920). There is an arrival mark of Nagano in Japan, dated 9.4.3 (3rd April 1920). Sender's address is given as:- Chosen Keiyu (via Korea), Siberia Haken Gun, 5th Div. Infantry, 58th Regt.

The letter is detailed and interesting. A separate translation is given.



Translation of letter sent from a soldier serving with the 5th Japanese Infantry Division at Chita in March 1920.

"I'm sorry for my long silence. How is your wife and family? I am working hard and in good health, so please don't worry about me. As you can imagine, I am very busy at the moment, and I never know what tomorrow may bring. I always want to write to you, and I am again sorry for my long silence.

Since we heard the first call of Spring here in Siberia it has been getting warmer day by day. It's as warm as Springtime in Japan. I suppose it's already the cherry blossom season but we cannot see any flowers in Siberia. Fortunately I have spent the winter without suffering from frost bite.

Although the Radical Faction is still around there is no risk to my life whilst the peace agreement is said to be near. According to rumour we may be able to return to Japan around August. In this town water is very valuable and Hatodaru (a small barrel) of water costs 1 yen 50 sen. This means that the daily allocation to each person is only Sango (about half a litre). We have to wash face, hands, everything and manage with Sabgo, and I find it extremely inconvenient. Because of the bad supply of water we can only use a bath once a week. What we are using here is a steam bath which is not seen in Japan, and it's very unusual. Because we cannot use a proper bath, we are very dirty and there are plenty of lice. Our superiors are asking us to try and eliminate lice.

Chita city has about 150,000 people, amongst which the Japanese civilians number about 500 which is quite a lot. Following an order from the 5th Division, our 58th Regiment, 5th Company is stationed in the primary school building and we pay 400 yen each month as rent. The cost of living is very high; one mandarin costs 50 sen, and Ichigo (one sixth litre) of Sake costs 50 sen. 10 tissue papers cost 20 sen. this is about five times more expensive than Japan and we often run out of money.

(here follows a difficult passage concerning mail taking more than one month to travel)

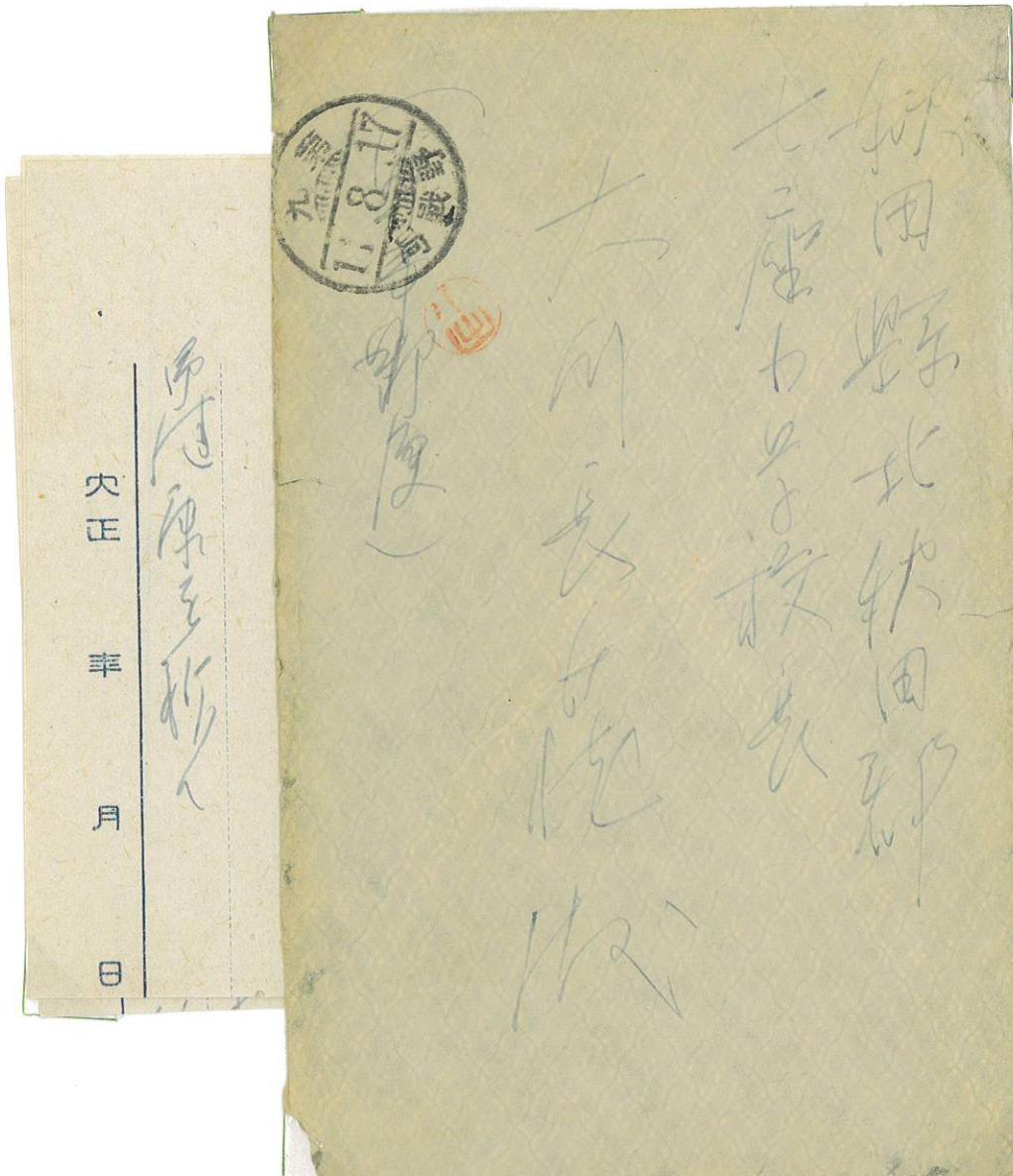
Signed. Kenmochi Gijuro.

SIBERIAN EXPEDITION ARMY

Stampless cover and letter from a Japanese soldier serving with the Forces in Siberia following the Allied intervention of 1919. The cancellation is that of the 9th FPO located at Nibangawa, and is dated 11.8.17 (17th August 1922). This is immediately prior to the final withdrawal of Japanese troops on the 26th of August, and the letter shows the confusion at this time:-

"...Siberia situation is becoming very chaotic and we don't know what will happen in the future. As we approach our withdrawal the Army is very confused, and we are upset after suffering such heavy losses."

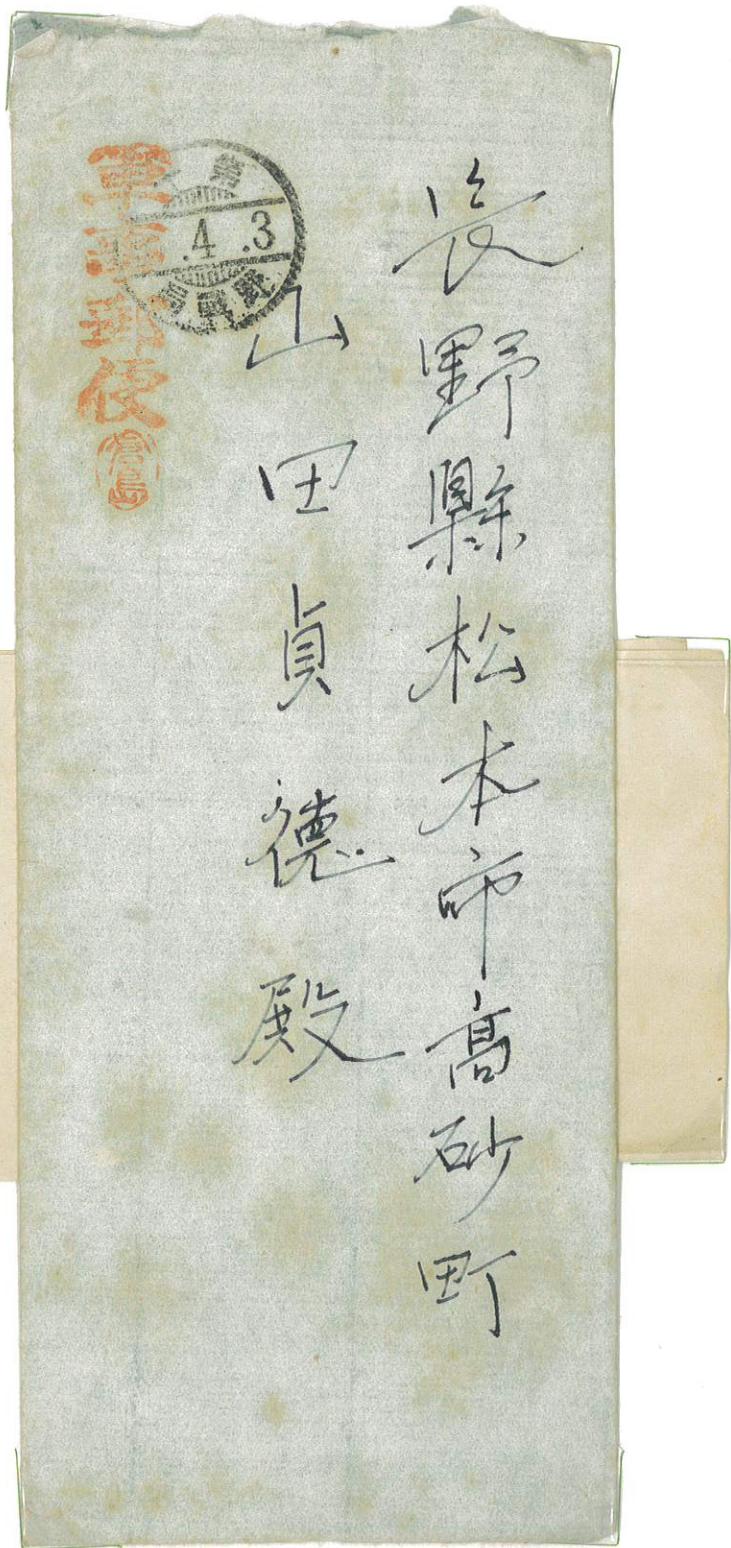
Sender's address is given as Siberia Haken, Hohei (Infantry), 17th Unit.



SIBERIAN EXPEDITION ARMY

Stampless cover and letter from a Japanese soldier serving in Siberia in 1921. Cover is cancelled by the 10th FPO c.d.s. dated 10.4.3 (3rd April 1921), the FPO being located at Spasskaya. Sender's address given as Siberia Haken, Spasskaya, Hohei (Infantry), 50th Regiment, 9th Company. Letter reads:-

"Our mission is safely over and as reported in the newspapers we are on the way to a triumphal return. Our 50th Regt. will spend 4 days at Spasskaya station and on the 18th at 3pm we will leave for Vladivostok. On the 25th at 10am we will leave Vladivostok on board Hozan Maru or Mazen Maru, heading for home. We expect to arrive at Tsuruga on the 28th of April and be back in Matsumoto by the 2nd of May. At this moment we are very busy in preparing for departure, and we are naturally in high spirits".



# The Siberian Intervention

## The Jinan Incident 1928

Field Post Office 1  
Jinan

On May 3 1928 a clash occurred between Chinese Nationalist troops and the Japanese Army at Jinan, Shantung Province. This became known as the "Jinan Incident" and resulted in bloodshed and atrocities on both sides. A cease fire was quickly agreed but Japanese troops remained in Shantung for a further ten months.

This card showing images in Jinan was sent from a soldier in the Japanese 14<sup>th</sup> Division back to Japan. Card carries the canceller of FPO 1 dated 7 June 1928.

