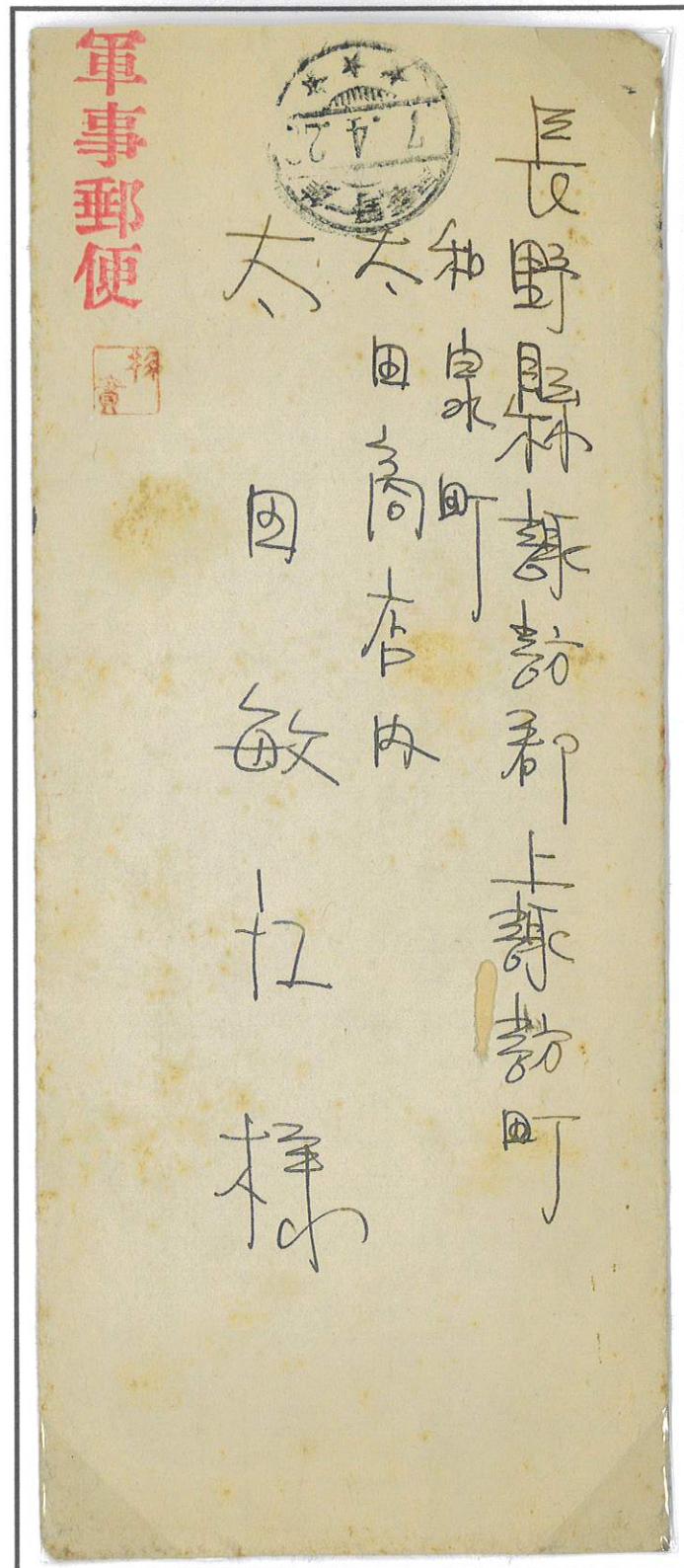


The Shanghai Incident 1932

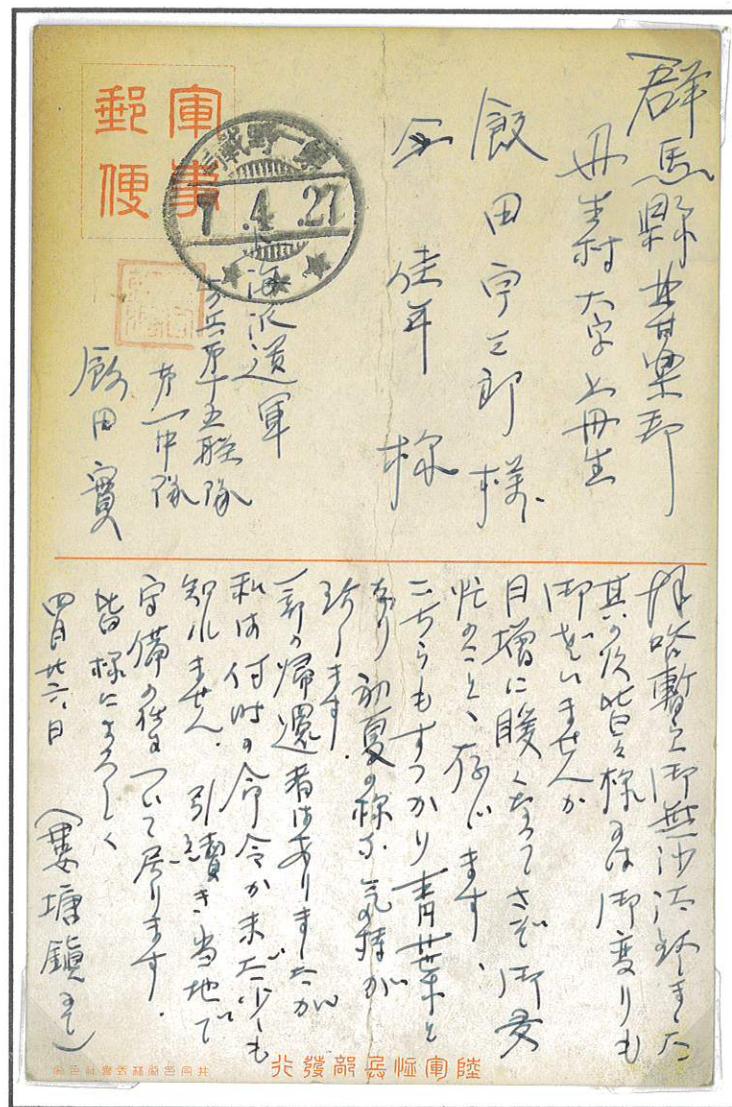
During the first "Shanghai Incident" which took place between February and May 1932, two Japanese Field Post Offices were opened by the Army. The 1st FPO opened in Shanghai itself on the 8th of March, and the 2nd FPO at Woosung a few days later. These were the only FPOs opened in this brief campaign, and they were both closed at the end of May 1932.

Cover and letter from Shanghai carrying cancel of 1st FPO dated 7.4.22 (22nd April 1932) from a soldier serving with the Japanese 14th Division.



The Shanghai Incident 1932

During the first "Shanghai Incident" which took place between February and May 1932, two Japanese Field Post Offices were opened by the Army. The 1st FPO opened in Shanghai itself on the 8th of March, and the 2nd FPO at Woosung a few days later. These were the only FPOs opened in this brief campaign, and they were both closed at the end of May 1932.

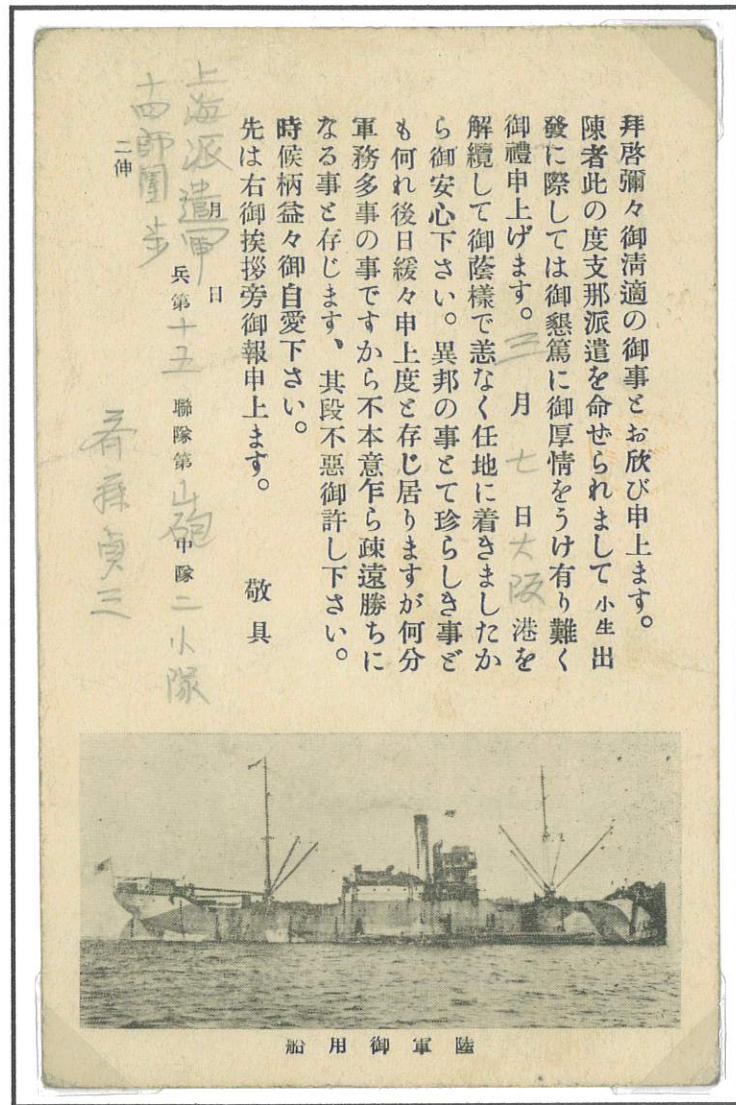


This pre-printed field postcard issued by the Japanese department of the Army was used by a Japanese soldier in Shanghai and bears the canceller of the 1st FPO dated 7.4.27 (27th April 1932). Sender's address given as: Shanghai Haken Gun, Hohei Dai Jugo Rentai (15th Infantry Regiment), and the message reads:

“Please forgive my long silence. I’m sure everyone at home is well. Becoming warm and you must be busy all day. Here we have green leaves and a feeling of early summer. There has been partial repatriation but I have no news of our return, so I still continue here in the defence garrison.”

The Shanghai Incident 1932

During the first "Shanghai Incident" which took place between February and May 1932, two Japanese Field Post Offices were opened by the Army. The 1st FPO opened in Shanghai itself on the 8th of March, and the 2nd FPO at Woosung a few days later. These were the only FPOs opened in this brief campaign, and they were both closed at the end of May 1932.

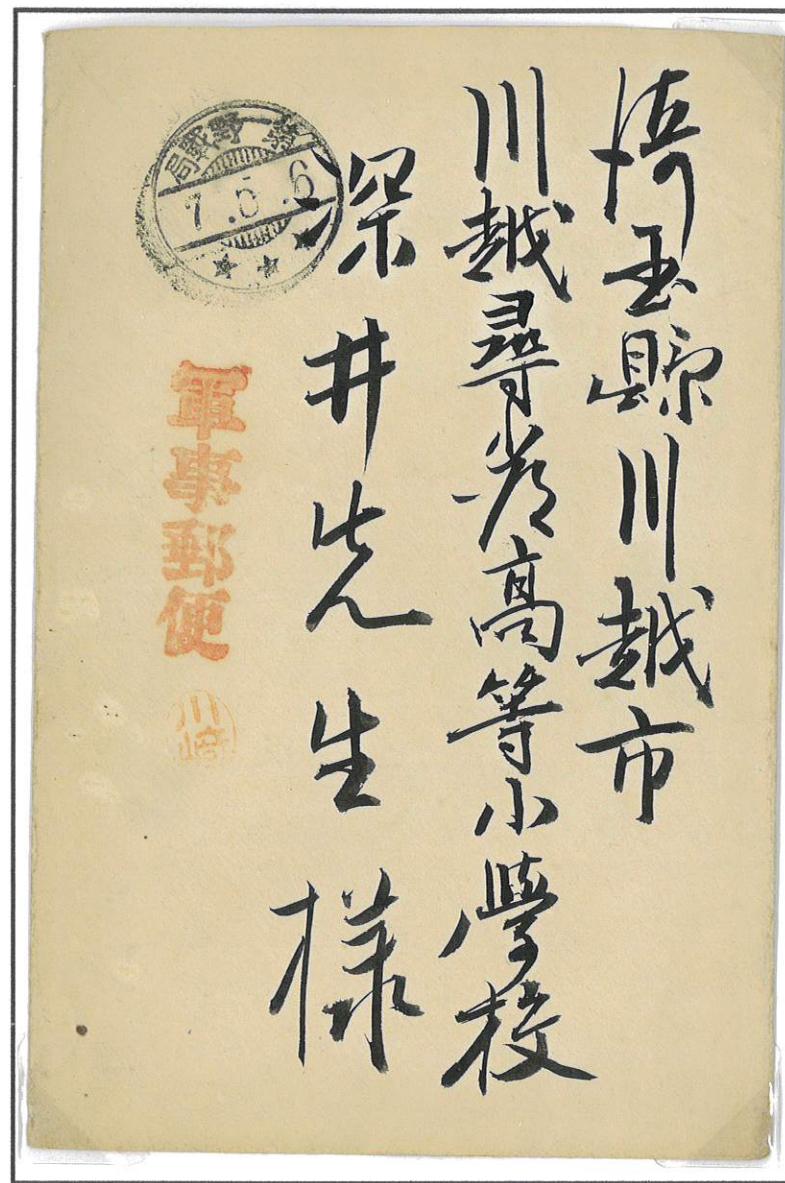


Pre-printed "Notice of arrival" card used from the 2nd FPO at Woosung. Dated 7.3.13 (13th March 1932). Message reads:

*Shanghai Haken Gun, 14th Division, 15th Infantry Regiment, Sanpo (Cannon) Chutai.
"I have been sent to China and appreciate the hospitality and courtesy shown to me on my departure. I left Osaka on 7th March. Since arriving in this foreign country, many miles away, there are many interesting things but because I am on military duty please excuse me for not being able to tell you about them. I cannot write often."*

The Shanghai Incident 1932

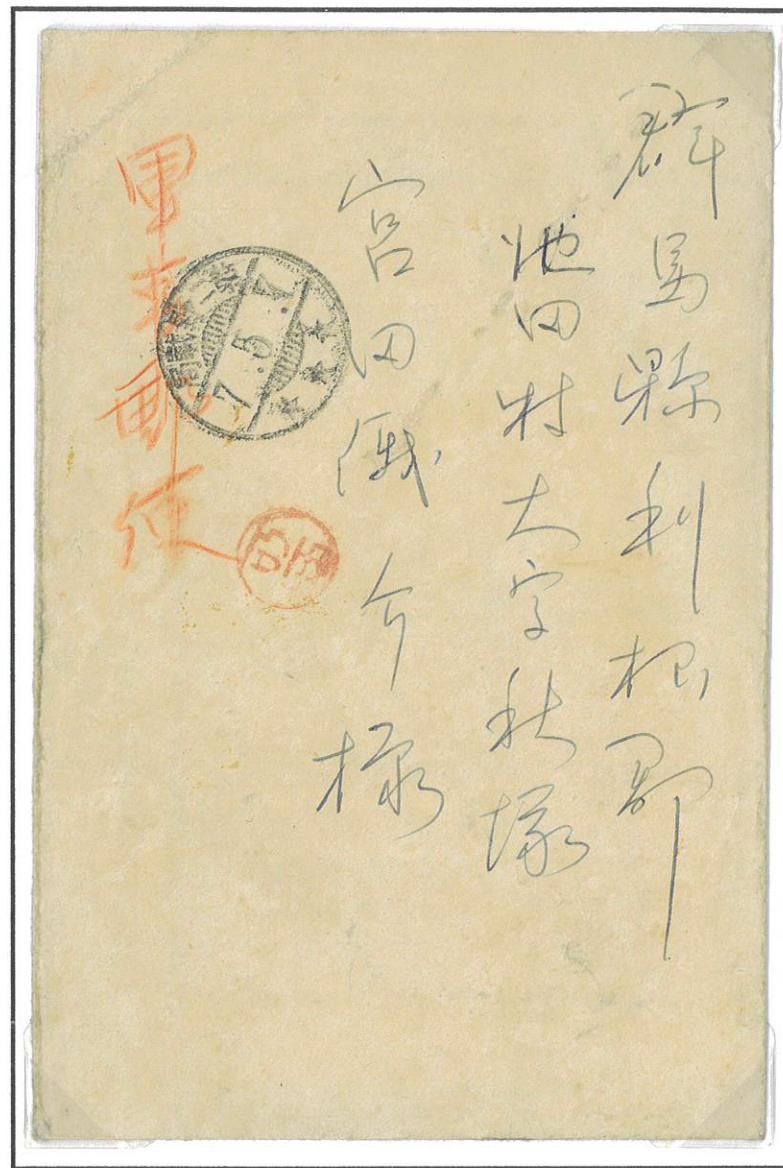
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Cover and letter from a Japanese soldier serving in Shanghai. Sender's address given as: Shanghai Haken Gun, Yasen Heiki Shokizaibu (Field arms/weapons department). Letter dated 28th April. Cancelled by 1st FPO dated 7.5.6 (6th May 1932). Message refers to the cease fire and the round table talks between Japan and China, but no immediate conclusion in sight due to Chinese attitude. Visits to former battleground shows the great sacrifices made by Japanese soldiers.

The Shanghai Incident 1932

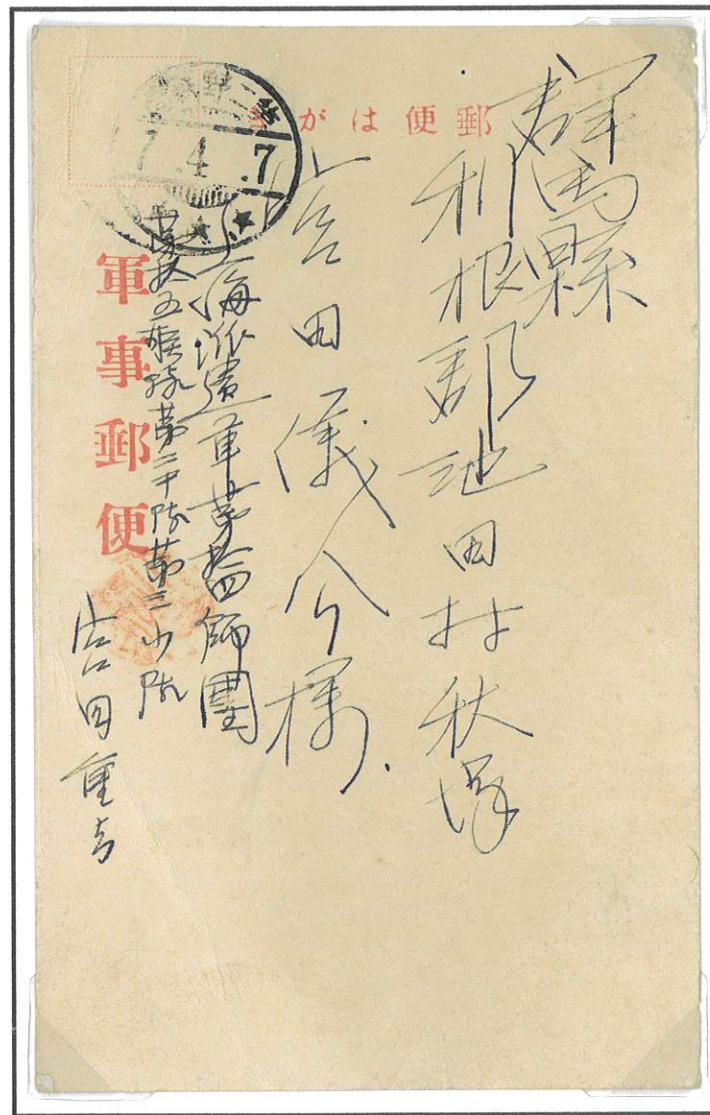
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Cover and letter from a Japanese soldier serving in Woosung. Cancelled by 2nd FPO dated 7.5.7 (7th May 1932).

The Shanghai Incident 1932

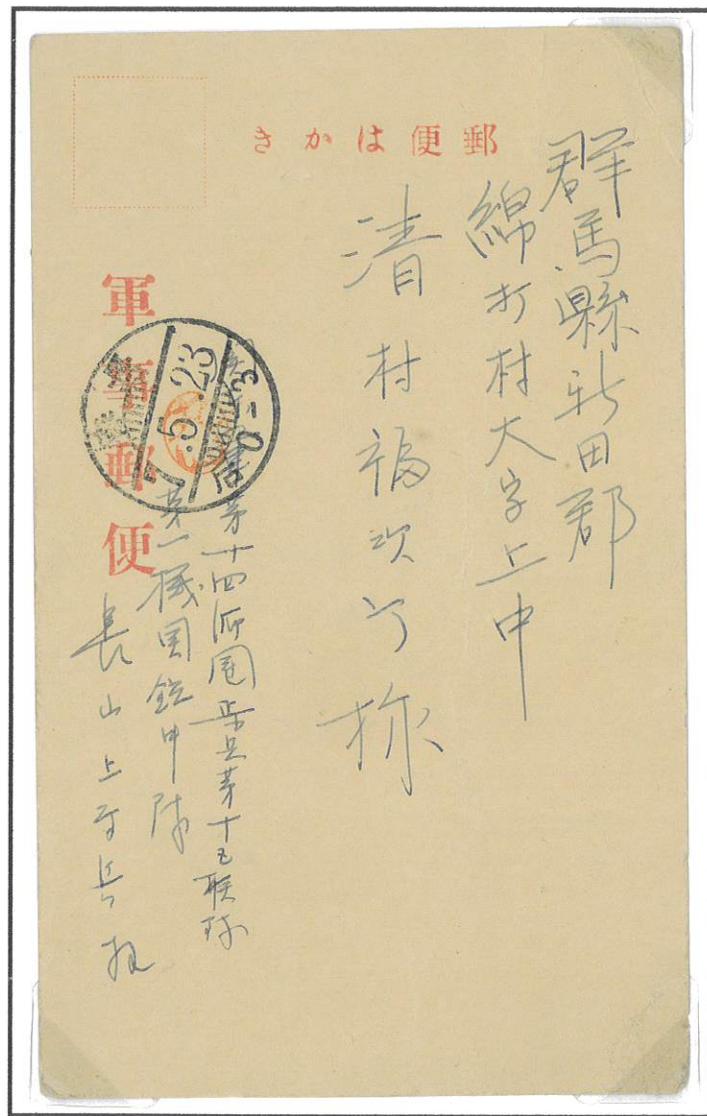
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Pre-printed "Gunji Yubin" field post card from a Japanese soldier serving in Woosung. Cancelled by 2nd FPO dated 7.4.7 (7th April 1932).

The Shanghai Incident 1932

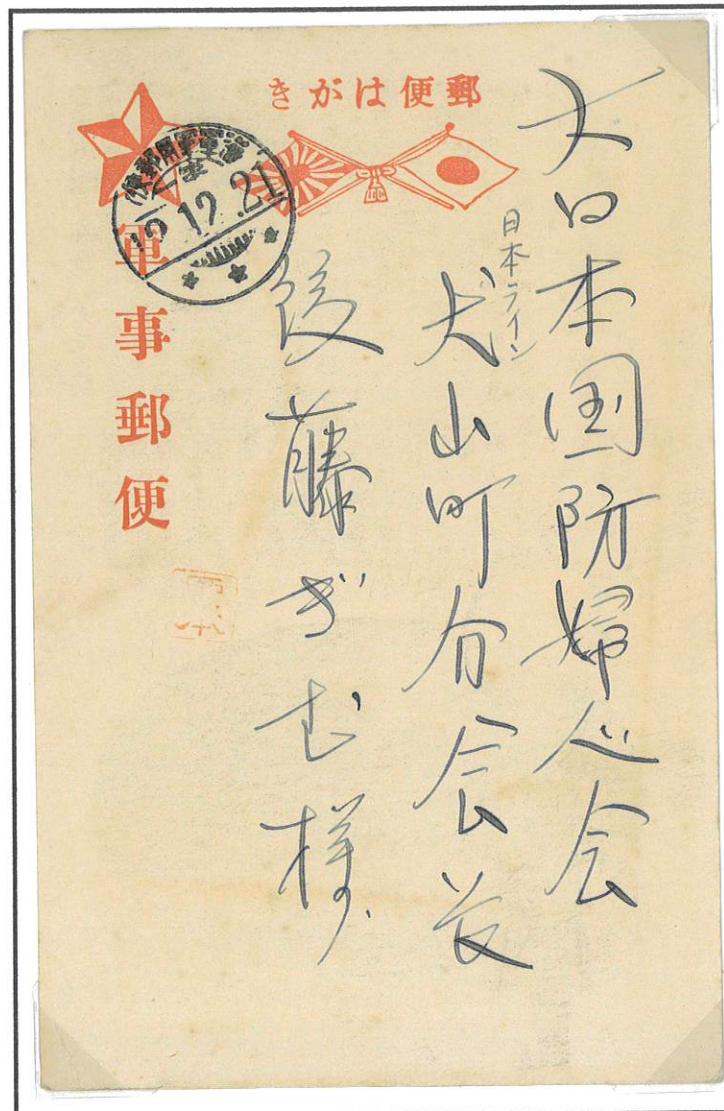
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Pre-printed "Gunji Yubin" field post card from a Japanese soldier serving in Harbin, Manchuria. Cancelled by civilian Choshun (Chang Chun) dated 7.5.23 (23rd May 1932) as Japanese forces withdrew from Shanghai. Sender's address given as: KantoGun, Dai 14 Shidan Hohei (14th Infantry Division) Dai 15 Rentai, Dai 1 Kikanju (Machine gun) Chutai. Message includes: "I have arrived in Harbin on the 17th after travelling from Shanghai."

The Second Shanghai Incident 1937

1st Naval Post Office at Shanghai 1937



Field post card with pre-printed "I am well" message. Cancel of the 1st Kaigun Gunyo Yubinsho established on board the warship Izumo moored at Shanghai, and handling mail from the 1937 Japanese forces. Cancel dated 12.12.21 (21st December 1937). Message reads:

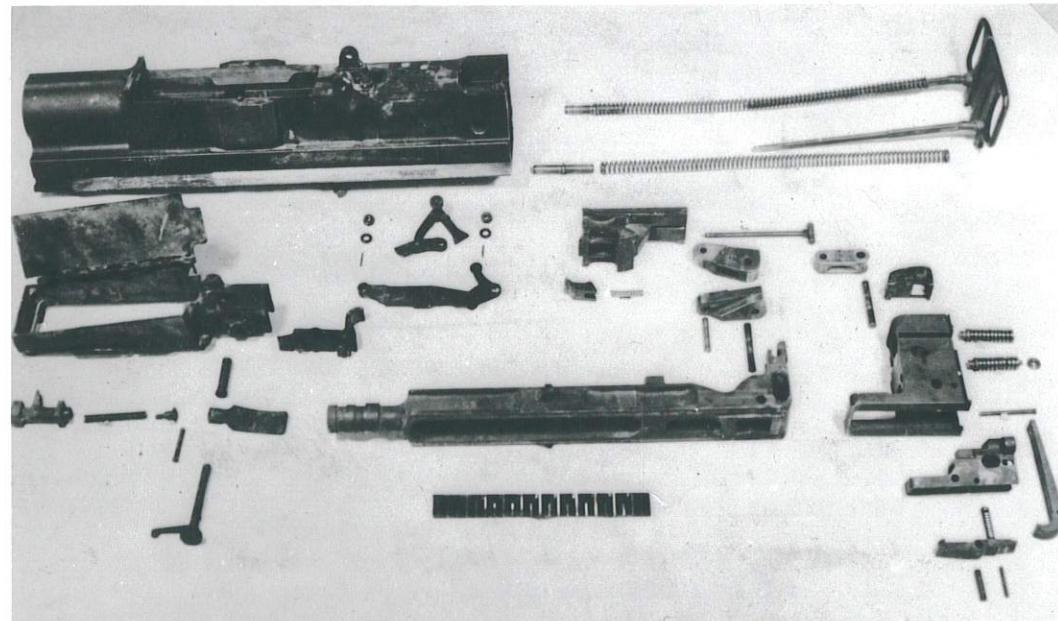
"I am grateful for all considerations given to me while I was departing for my duty. Proud to say I have arrived safely at my station and am healthy so please don't worry about me. I am thankful for your encouragement, and endless emotion comes from my heart. I sincerely pledge to do my best for my country to return your expectations. Please give me any advice to me in the future. I end by praying for your health and happiness from this remote place".

The Shanghai Incident 1932 and beyond

The Type 92 Artillery Gun

Introduced in 1932 and first used in attacks on Shanghai in January and February that year.

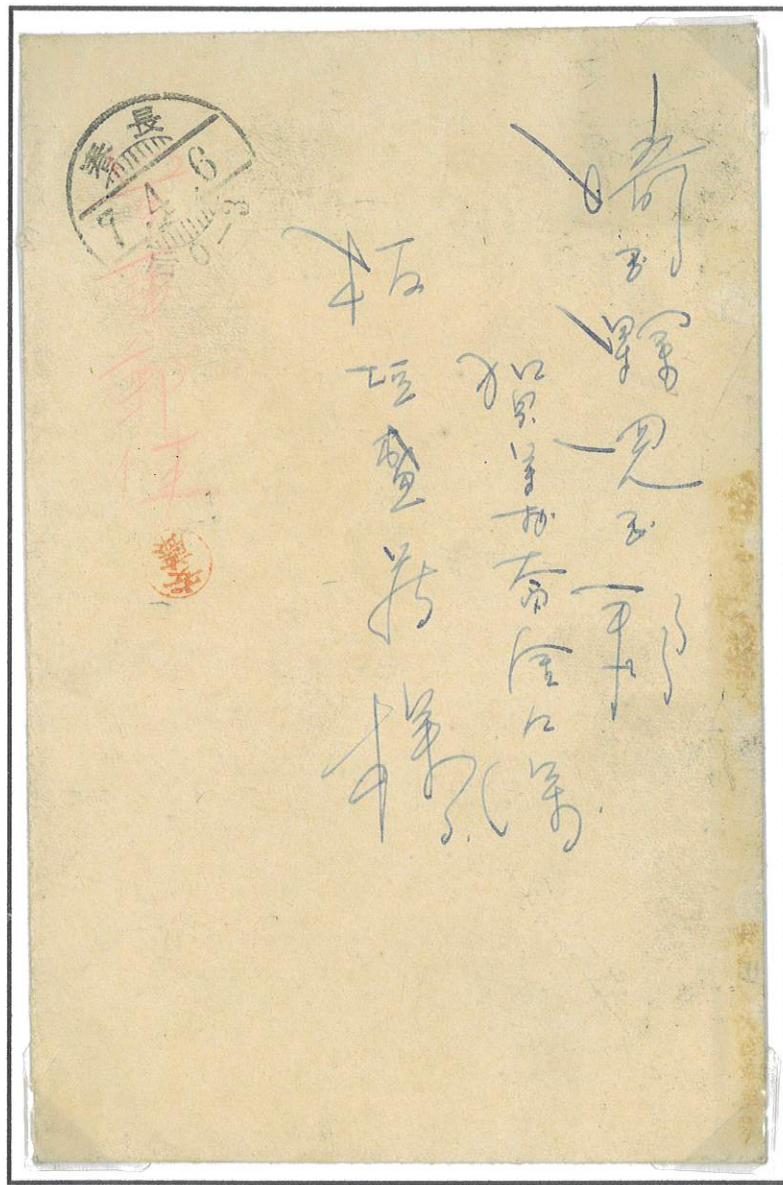
Two Type 92 guns were normally issued to each Infantry Battalion.



The Shanghai Incident 1932

The Type 92 Artillery Gun

During the first "Shanghai Incident" which took place between February and May 1932, two Japanese Field Post Offices were opened by the Army. The 1st FPO opened in Shanghai itself on the 8th of March, and the 2nd FPO at Woosung a few days later. These were the only FPOs opened in this brief campaign, and they were both closed at the end of May 1932. However, Japanese forces were also transferred to other parts of Manchuria for training on a new field gun, used for the first time at Shanghai.



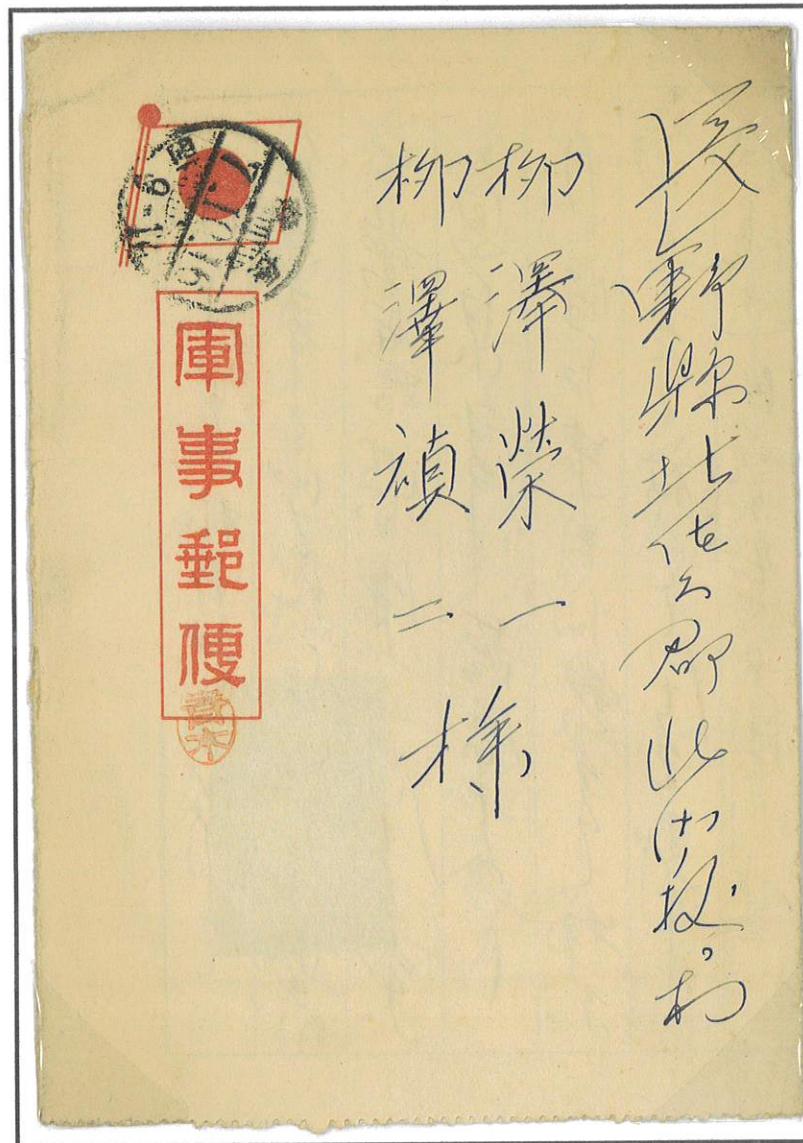
Stampless cover and letter from a Japanese soldier in Choshun (Chang Chun) in Manchuria. Cover cancelled by Choshun civilian c.d.s. dated 7.4.6 (6th April 1932). Message includes:

"Now it is the season of flowers and butterflies and it is getting warmer here. I suppose you have been very busy on the farm. I hope you are all well and I am in good health. I have been despatched to Choshun and am receiving training for the Artillery Gun.....after training I like to walk around the town...."

So much for censorship.

The Shanghai Incident 1932 and beyond

The Type 92 Artillery Gun



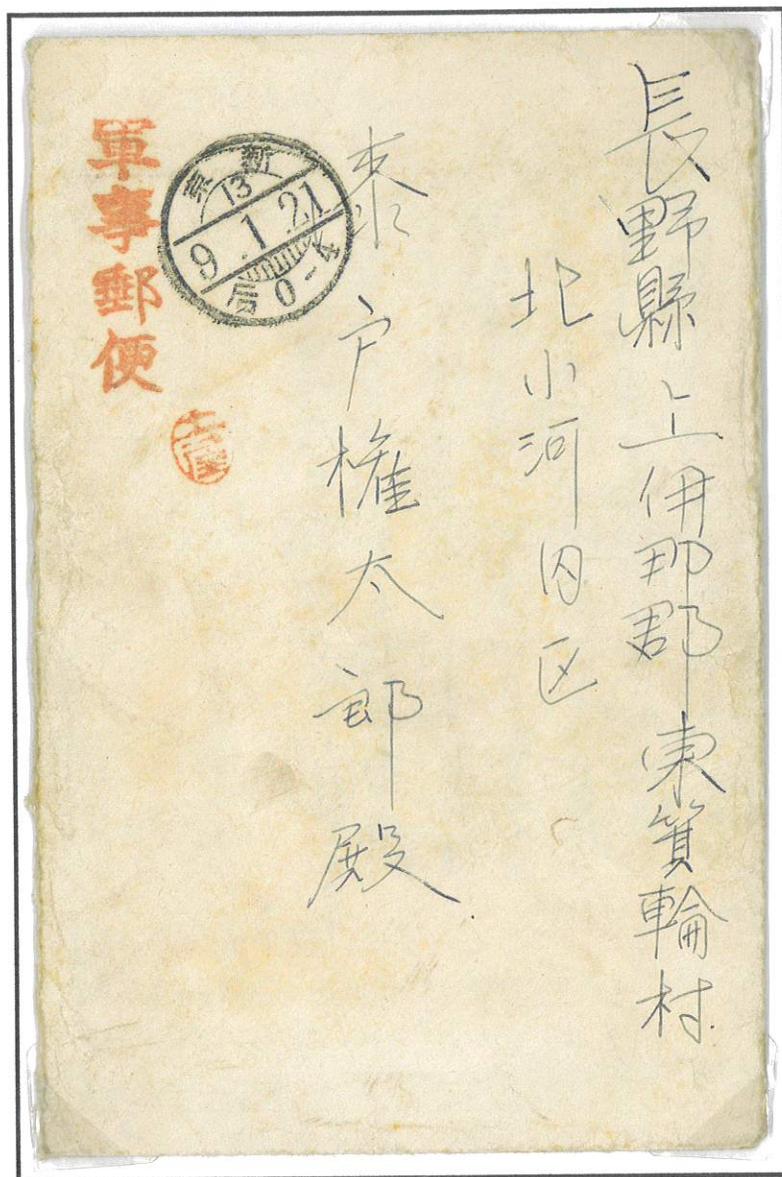
Stampless illustrated "Gunji Yubin" letter sheet used from Manchuria to Japan in 1932. Sender's address given as Manshukoku (Manchuria), Haken Gun (Expedition Army), 50th Regiment. Card carries the canceller of Choshun (Chang Chun) dated 7.10.16 (16th October 1932). When the puppet state of Manchukuo came into being on the 1st of November 1932, a few days after this cover was posted, the name Choshun was changed to Shinkyo (Hsin King) and the town became the capital city.

The 50th Regiment was stationed in Choshun on a semi-permanent footing and was involved in training with the lightweight Infantry Battalion Gun Type 92.

Inside illustrated with images of Japanese Generals and of Pu Yi, the "Last Emperor of China".

The Shanghai Incident 1932 and beyond

The Type 92 Artillery Gun



Stampless cover and letter from a Japanese soldier in Shinkyo (Hsin King) in Manchuria. Cover cancelled by Shinkyo 13 military c.d.s. dated 9.1.21 (21st January 1934). Sender's address given as: Manshu Haken Gun, Hohei Dai 50 Rentai, Hohei Hotai (Infantry Artillery). The letter is extremely detailed and describes the training being given on a "secret weapon" which was the Type 92 Battalion gun, introduced at Shanghai in the first "Incident" and used to great effect throughout WW2. Both Russian and American forces used captured Type 92 weapons against the Japanese in Manchuria and the Pacific.

Despite the cover carrying a censor "chop" there has been no attempt at censorship or text deletion. See separate message translation.

Type 92 Battalion Gun

Translation of a letter from a Japanese soldier serving in Manchuria (Manchukuo) in 1934.

Sender's address given as 50th Infantry Regiment, Infantry Artillery.

"Hokuman is now in the middle of the coldest winter. The snow is more than 50cm deep and the temperature has dropped to between 25 and 30 degrees Celsius below zero, but I am becoming accustomed to it.

Every day we have training with the Hohei-Ho (Infantry Gun) in the woods of the town park, and contrary to what I imagined before joining the Army, the Hohei-Ho is quite different and is treated as a secret weapon. The manual is not available to us and we are studying the Hohei-Ho using only a simple leaflet.

This type of gun was used for the first time when our Division was mobilised at Shanghai, and is not yet available to other Divisions. The gun weight is 56 Kan (185kg), using a shell weighing about 3.3kg, and mounted on a lightweight man pulled carriage. The construction is all metal, even the wheels, and often one soldier can handle the gun by himself.

We should be ready for action within two weeks, and we shall be using brain and engineering, which is difficult for an Infantry soldier, however it has been very interesting.

We have 34 horses, of which 9 are from Japan and the other 25 of local or Chinese origin. There was an emergency alert on the night of the 20th which said that around 200 bandits were attacking to the north west of Kohran. We were despatched in full kit, but after walking about 4km it became clear that it was a night drill, but we thought it was real.

By now we have had many New Year cards from home, and we have learned that you are depressed because it is much colder than usual. North Manchuria is not so chilly, and although New Years day passed without any celebration in the Army, we received our first gift packs from home on the 10th. These are very welcome to all soldiers.

In Kohran prices are very high, about double those in Japan.

We as junior soldiers expect to be mobilised and moved to Daikokuka on the Russian/Manchurian border next month to fight the bandits there. However, there is a rumour that there will be a change of Divisions in April/May, and we can return home to Japan.

I received your letter of the 16th from which I learned of the death of the wife of Fujii. I understand that you have arranged insurance for me, but if possible I would like you to arrange personal life insurance and increase the payments.

Finally, I enclose a photograph taken on the 1st of January in front of the barracks. As you can see, we are wearing winter clothes and I don't feel at all cold."

The Second Shanghai Incident 1937

1st Naval Post Office at Shanghai 1937

Type 92 Battalion Gun

Cover and letter sent from the Daiichi Kaigun
Gunnyo Yubinsho (1st Naval Post Office) on board
the warship Izumo moored at Shanghai.

Sender's address given as:

Sasebo Kyoku Kitsuke (c/o Sasebo Office),
Shanghai Yoko Chin (Shanghai Yokosuka
China), Dai Ichi Tokubetsu Rikusentai (Special
Naval Ground Force).

Message reads:

"Dear brother, I arrived at Sasebo on 29
November and left there on 1st December.
Following stopover in Taiwan I arrived at
Shanghai on the 7th. I am now about 2-Ri (8km)
from Shanghai. It is cooler than Yokosuka and
the morning frost makes everything white. We
can bathe once every three days.

I am one of six men who are responsible for a
field gun. Until now we have not once fired our
gun but are still kept busy for keeping a watch
on enemy movements.
Can you please send some cake or snack as there
is no commissary."

