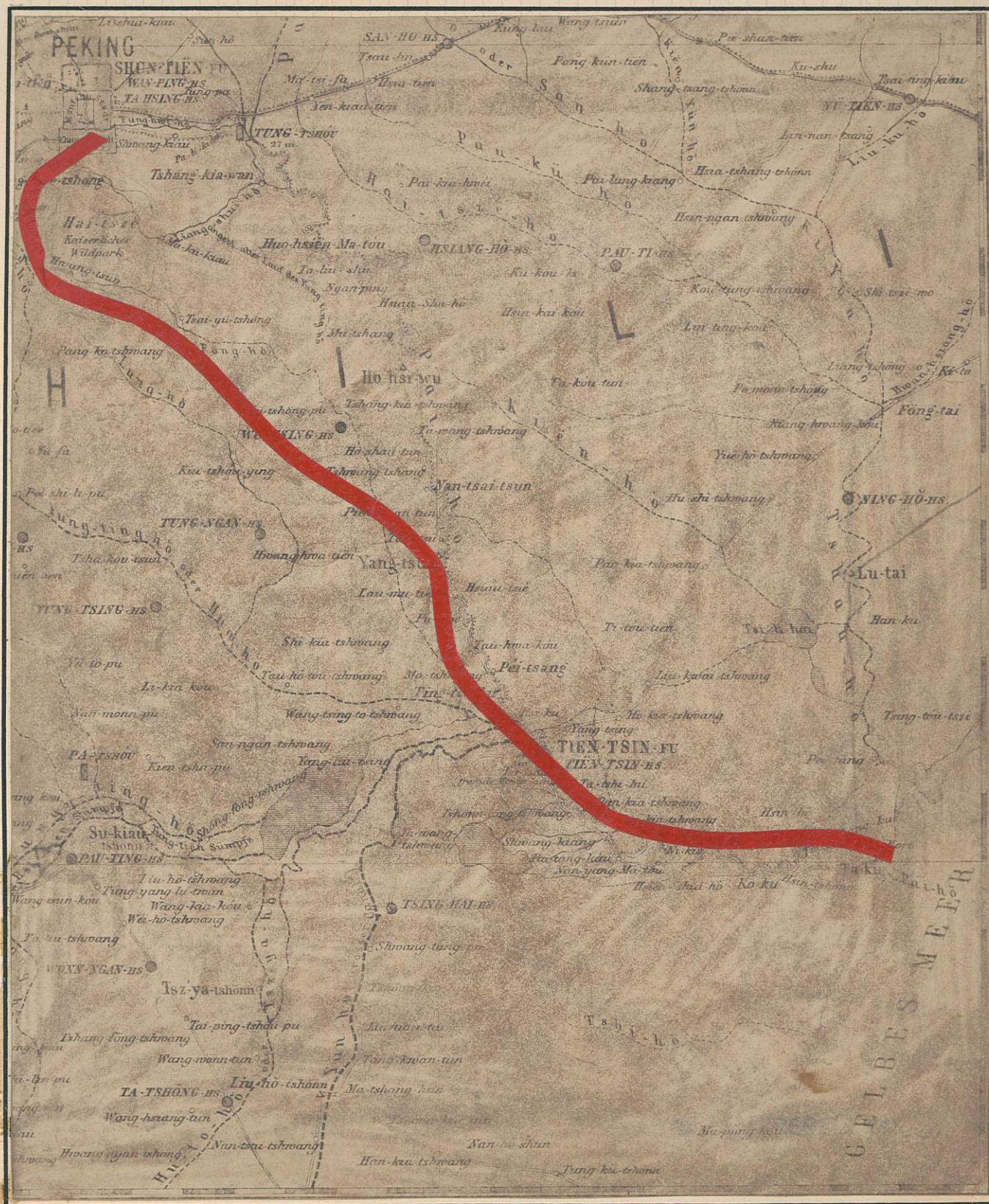


BOXER

REBELLION

GERMAN MAP OF CHINA SHOWING RELIEF ROUTES USED TO FREE ALLIED DELEGATIONS FROM PEKING DURING THE BOXER REBELLION



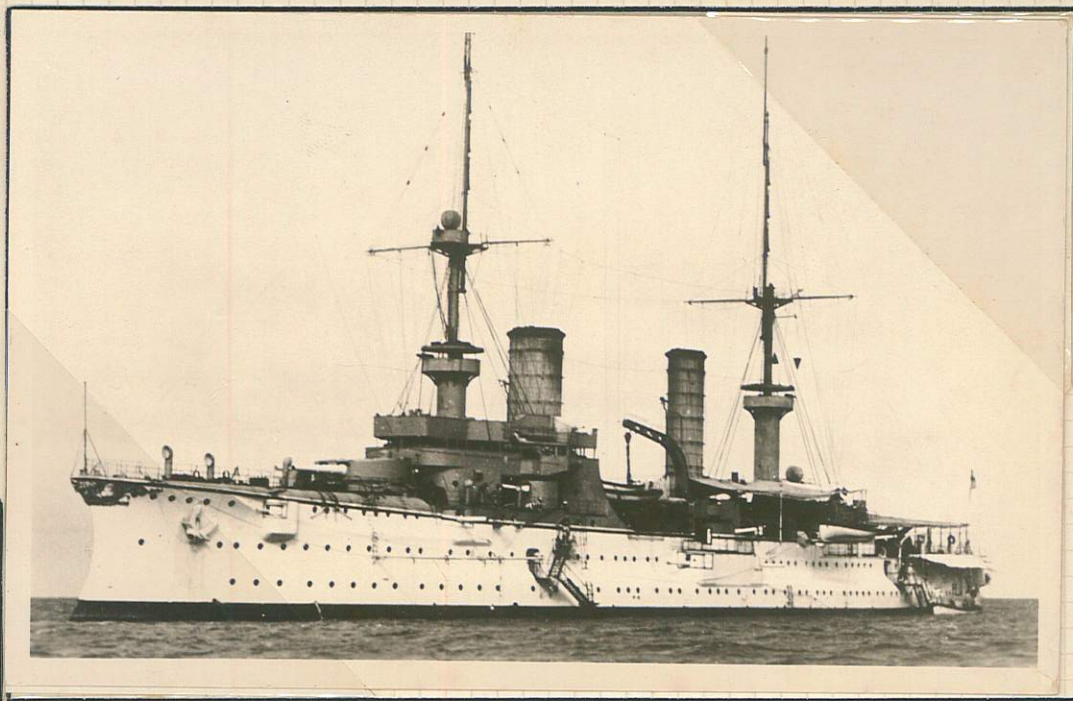
No. 1433-Q
Printed in U. S. A.

THE ELBE

GELBES MEER

BOXER

REBELLION

photo of the FURST BISMARCK

translation of German
message on reverse

Nagasaki Nov 6, 1900

Dear Hermann:

We are here already
one week; It is very
beautiful. The money
situation is moderate.
Every evening I spend
with Schmidt, and we
boil the grog eagerly.
How are you doing?

Best Greetings

Yours
Rudolf

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.

ELBE



free franked military
postcard sent from the
FUERST BISMARCK;
(Marine Schiffspost No. 43)
cancelled KAIS. DEUTSCHE
MARNE-SCHIFFSPOST No.
43 6/11 00 and addressed
to MR. PILOT-MATE
HERMAN SCHROEDER,
TSINGTAU, H.M.S.
KAISERIN AUGUSTA
sent during the Boxer
Rebellion from Nagasaki

BOXER

REBELLION

BOXER

REBELLION



Postcard from No. German Lloyd Steamer "Rhine" - Marine Schiffspost No. 50 addressed to Oppenheim. The "Rhine", built in 1899; 10,058 tons, was used as a transport during the Boxer Rebellion. She was assigned the M.S.P. No. 50 for her 1st trip out when she carried the Command of the Eastasian Expeditionary Forces, Staff of II Infantry Brigade, the 3rd Eastasian Infantry Regiment Hospital Corps, and Navy personnel.

In all 2122 persons, 87 wagons + 5 horses.

On her second trip she was assigned #26.

The message on the reverse side says "Greetings from the Far East!"




photograph of M.S.P. No. 50 "Rhine"

BOXER

REBELLION

letter #2

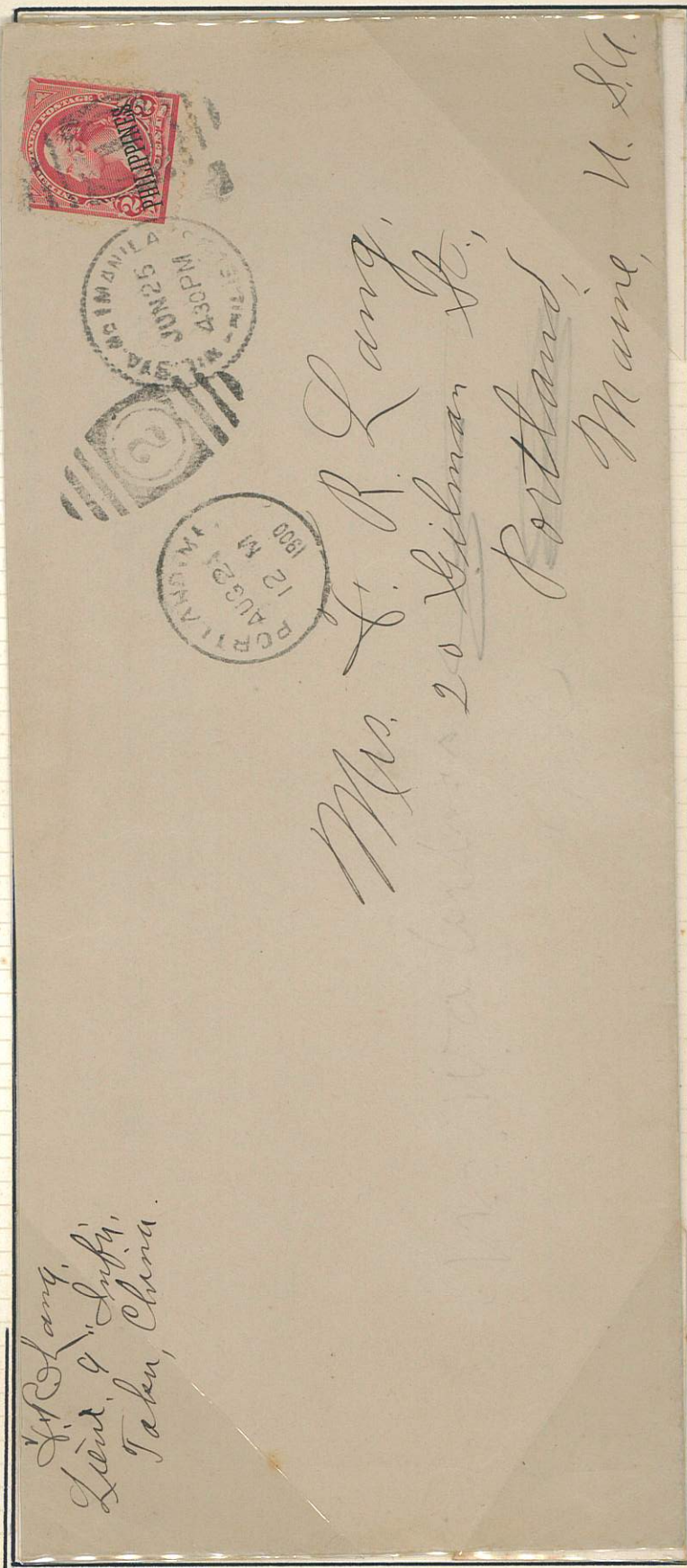
■ ■ ■ ■ BOXER ■ ■ ■ ■

This is the opening cover in the Lang correspondence concerning the Boxer Rebellion. The letter, mounted on the following page, was written at Malate Barracks. The cover has the address - F. R. LANG; LIEUT. 9th INFY.; TAKU, CHINA. Philippines #214 is tied by MIL. STA. No 1 MANILA JUN 25 4 30 PM. Also struck on face PORTLAND, ME. AUG 2 12 M 1900. Backstamp receiving mark shown below. 

backstamp



■ ■ ■ ■ REBELLION ■ ■ ■ ■



BOXER

REBELLION

Malate Barracks,

Manila, P. I.

June 25, 1900

My darling Girl:-

Heaps of work refitting Co. as we all want to look handsome with the troops of other nations. Not a minute to myself.

Am enclosing check for \$104.33,

Malate Barracks
Manila, P. I.
June 25, 1900

My darling Girl:

Heaps of work refitting Co. as we all want to look handsome with the troops of other nations. Not a minute to myself.

Am enclosing check for \$104.33 in case I don't have a chance to send more right away.

Will write at first opportunity and with love to all, remain

Your,

Frank

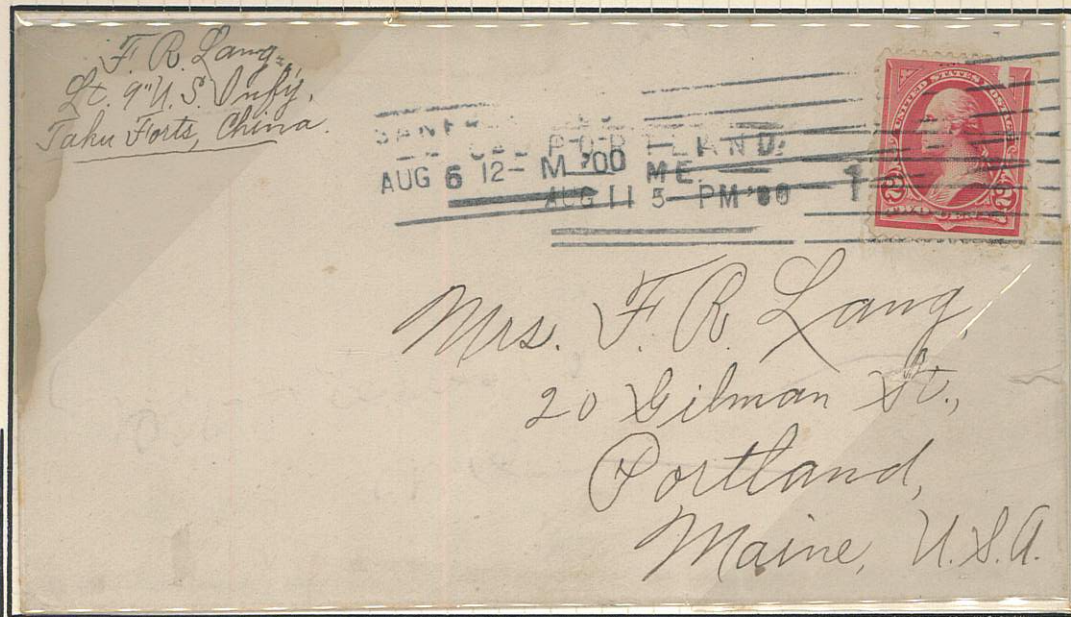
BOXER

REBELLION

letter
#3

BOXER

REBELLION



backstamps

↑
the second cover in the Lang correspondence with the return address: F. R. LANG; LT. 9th INFY.; TAKU FORTS, CHINA has a copy of U.S. #279B tied by PORTLAND ME. AUG 6 12-M '00 and AUG 11 5PM '00. The address on the letter on the following page shows it was written aboard ship: ON U.S.A.T. LOGAN; ATTACHED TO ALLIED SQUADRON; OFF TAKU FORTS, CHINA; JULY 7, 1900

Aparantly the letter was mailed without a stamp, and the stamp and cancellation applied upon arrival. It was readdressed to Waterboro, Me. as the backstamp shows although the pencil address on the face is erased.

BOXER

REBELLION

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.

THE ELBE

(4)

BOXER

REBELLION

*On U. S. A. T. Logan,
Attached to Allied Squadron,
Off Taku Forts, China.
July 7, 1900.*

*My Darling Girl: -
Leaving
Nagasaki at midnight
on the 3rd (when I wrote
you and Mother) we made
a fast run up here and
anchored among the ships
of the Allied Fleet at
5 o'clock this afternoon
under direction of the
German Admiral in
command. There are over*

On U.S.A.T. Logan at-
tached to Allied
Squadron off Taku
Forts, China
July 7, 1900

My Darling Girl:

Leaving Nagasaki at
midnight on the 3rd
(where I wrote you and
Mother). We made a
fast run up here and
anchored among the
ships of the Allied
Fleet at 5 o'clock
this afternoon under
direction of the Ger-
man Admiral in Command.
There are over fifty
war vessels and troop
ships laying here -
British, Russian, Ger-
man, French, Japanese,
and one Chinese Cruis-
er which is being held
here.

As far as we have
been able to discover
as yet there seems to
be no U.S. warships
here, although there
may be gunboats fur-
ther in.

On account of the
shallow water, big
ships have to lay nine
miles off shore and it
is going to be very
difficult to get the
men, horses and artil-
lery ashore.

BOXER

REBELLION

13
alt

No. 1433-Q
Printed in U. S. A.



5

BOXER

REBELLION

We know very little as to our next movements as yet, the General having gone to call on the Commanding Admiral to confer in regard to the situation, and until he returns we know nothing.

The regiment is all ready to disembark, although the "Port Albert" with our transportation and supplies has not arrived and may not get here for a day or two, being a slower boat.

Taku Forts were bombarded and taken some time ago, and the heavy fighting is in the vicinity of Tientsin, which is 67 miles from Taku in the direction of Peking (or Peking). The Allied Armies are encamped at Tientsin, and this is where we go immediately on landing. Peking is 43 miles from Tientsin, and we hope to be on hand at the capture of that city, but have no information as to developments as yet.

I enclose a poor map showing the route of the 9th Infantry from Manila here, and will send you a better one if I can procure it.

Will write more as soon as possible.

Lots of love,

Hastily,

Frank

(Address letters to Manila as usual unless you hear differently and they will be forwarded.)

Reported 15,000 Chinamen have been killed already.

BOXER

REBELLION

BOXER

The third cover in the Lang correspondence with the return address: LIEUT. F. R. LANG, 9" INFY., U.S.A.T. LOGAN was written a day later than the previous cover although originally it was dated a day earlier. Apparently both covers were carried together judging by the cancellation dates and probably stamped directly by the Logan with the stamps affixed on the receiving end. This cover bears a precancelled 2c due U.S. #J39 bearing out this contention.

It is cancelled SAN FRANCISCO CAL. AUG 6 1900 and PORTLAND ME. AUG 11 5 PM 1900 (this is the same date and hour as struck on cover #2)

The cover is readdressed to Waterboro, Me. but the only receiving mark is that of Portland illustrated below.

Interesting to point out about both covers #2 and #3 they apparently had the stamp applied in San Francisco as the earlier San Francisco postmark ties the stamp in both instances. Also they traveled together both to San Francisco and Portland as the date and time stamps show, but cover #2 is struck with a straight line cancel and #3 with a circular duplex.

backstamp



REBELLION



Letter
#5

BOXER

REBELLION

U. S. Army Transport "Logan"
July 8, 1900

My dear Rena:-

U. S. Army Transport "Logan"
July 8, 1900

My dear Rena:

Since sealing up my other letter to you, the General has returned from a conference with Admiral Kemp.

They are simply wild with joy at our arrival and our first battalion goes ashore tomorrow and we move to Tientsin with the utmost dispatch to reinforce the Allied Forces, which are hard pressed. It is the World against the Chinese Empire, as the Imperial Troops have joined the "Boxers", and up-to-date the Chinese have the best of it, in spite of their great losses. The European Armies can make no move forward, and have all they can do to defend themselves. Every effort will be made to move on Peking at the earliest date to try and rescue some of the white people there, though it is said all the Legations, Consuls, foreign residents and the 400 of our Marines sent there have been killed.

The Admiral says it will be a five year's war as there are millions of the Chinese crazy to fight and having no fear of death. Our losses are already over 26%.

The "Boxers" are so called because they believe that by going through exercises like boxing they cannot be killed, and when one is hit, he simply thinks it is because he hasn't exercised enough.

BOXER

REBELLION

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.



3

BOXER

REBELLION

The country is swarming with the crazy fanatics in immense hordes armed with everything, and now that the Chinese Imperial Army has joined them, there are 175,000 of Troops equipped as well as any in the World, added to their forces.

It is a horrible situation as all foreigners are killed with the greatest brutality, and every nation is pouring troops in as fast as possible to try and save some of the refuges.

If all our people in Pekin are murdered, the U. S. will surely want to do her share towards furnishing an army of annihilation to clean out China for good, even if it takes hundreds of thousands of men.

A railroad is in operation from Taku to Tientsin, run by American tars from the U. S. War Ships "Newark" and "New York", so that we are saved the march on this part of our journey. The above two ships, with the "Brooklyn" (on her way from Nagasaki) makes up our squadron here.

Good-bye for tonight,

Frank

BOXER

REBELLION

■ ■ ■ BOXER ■ ■ ■

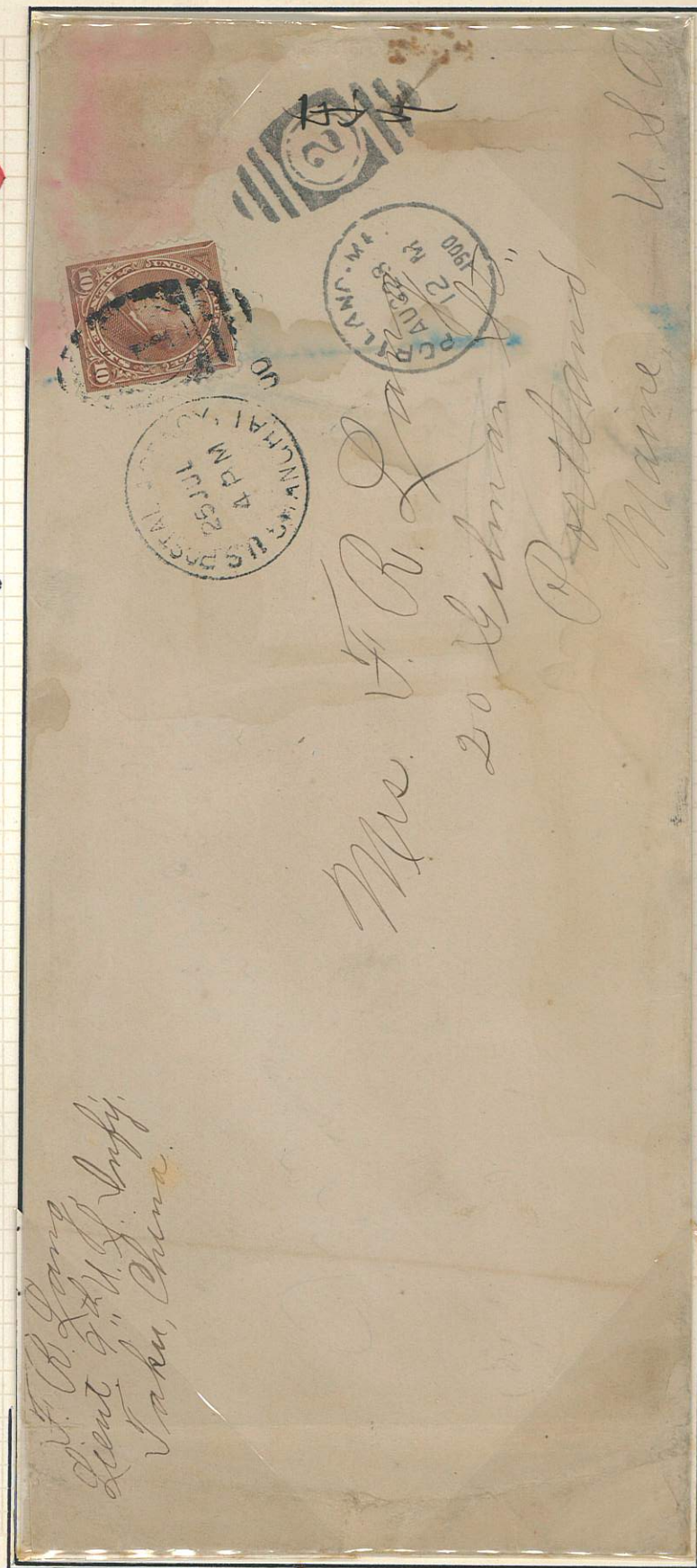
The fourth cover in the Lang correspondence with the return address: F.R. LANG, LIEUT. 9th U.S. INFY., TAKU, CHINA. It is franked with US #282C tied by U.S. POSTAL AGENCY SHANGHAI 25 JUL 4 PM 00 and 1 in the center of an oval killer. It also bears on the face the duplex cancel PORTLAND ME AUG 28 12M 1900 and 2 in a circle surrounded by an oval killer. The backstamps illustrated below show the letter's route; SAN FRANCISCO CAL AUG 18 1900 PAID ALL; PORTLAND ME. AUG 22 11 30 PM 1900 REC'D and NORTH WATERBORO AUG 23 3 PM 1900 ME.

The reason for the 10c franking is obscure as the letter was neither registered nor apparently overweight judging by the enclosed letter shown on the next page.



backstamps

■ ■ ■ REBELLION ■ ■ ■



letter
#6
in

BOXER

REBELLION

Taku Forts,
China
July 10, 1900

My Darling Rena:

Am writing you just a line more in case I don't have another chance.

Transportation and subsistence is a grave question, as the country is stripped bare and all nations are rushing troops in by the ship load, so we are having hard work to get our baggage to Tientsin.

The entire land is covered by the unburied dead and the rivers are full of bodies. You see dogs and crows eating dead Chinamen on every hand, and if it wasn't for these scavengers it would be impossible to live for the stench, and it is awful anyway.

We (the Allied Forces consisting of the troops of the U.S., Great Britain, Russia, Japan, Germany, France, Austria and Italy - about 40,000 in all) have lost 1,000 men up to date, and Seymour's column (as it is called) of which the Americans formed part had a loss of 35%.

The cruelties of the Russians cannot be exaggerated, - they kill everything living in sight, shooting and bay-

*My darling Rena -
I am writing
you just a line more in case
Taku Forts, China
July 10, 1900*

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.



BOXER

REBELLION

(11)

leth
76 a
on

■ ■ ■ BOXER ■ ■ ■

■ ■ ■ REBELLION ■ ■ ■

oneting men, women, and children indiscriminately, whether they are "Boxers" or friendly Chinese.

In spite of the great losses, the Chinese are having, there are always more pressing to the front to take their places, and when you think that we are fighting an Empire of over Four Hundred Million fanatics (400,000,000) with only about 40,000 you can see what we are up against. It will be September at least before we have troops enough here to commence the advance on Peking.

The City of Tientsin is divided into two distinct sections, the Chinese and the Foreign City. We hold the Foreign City only, while the Chinese from their walled City (the wall being 40 ft. high and 25 ft. thick) are constantly bombarding us. It is becoming unbearable, however, and an effort is to be made to take the Chinese City shortly. The British are rushing their Hydite guns up now, as the "Allied Forces" are awfully short of heavy artillery.

We had a battle yesterday at what is called the West Arsenal and completely cleaned it out, killing 400 Chinese with a loss to our side of 76. We also captured 11 big Krupp guns which were blown up before we retreated.

Am in good health, and although I haven't got quite used to neck butchery as we see here am feeling pretty well.

With lots and lots of love,

Frank

■ ■ ■ BOXER ■ ■ ■

■ ■ ■ REBELLION ■ ■ ■

BOXER

REBELLION



↑
The fifth cover in the Lang correspondence has the return address: F. R. LANG, LIEUT. 9th U.S. INFY., TAKU FORTS, CHINA. It is written on native paper with a stylized picture of cherry blossoms. Japan Offices in China #13 is tied by T(IEN)T(SIN) 19 JUL 00 I.J.P.O.

(Imperial Japanese Post Office). Also struck on the face is the cancellation

PORTLAND, ME. AUG 23 12 PM 1900. This was applied when the cover was forwarded to WATERBORO ME. Illustrated above are the backstamps showing the route traveled—#1 YOKOHAMA 27 JUL 00 JAPAN, #2 BOSTON, MASS. AUG 22 6 PM 1900, #3 PORTLAND, ME. AUG 23 11 30 PM 1900 REC'D #4 NORTH WATERBORO AUG 23 3 PM 1900 ME.



backstamps

BOXER

REBELLION

Letter
#8
OK

BOXER

REBELLION

Tientsin, China,
July 17, 1900.

My darling Girl, -

The Battle of
Tientsin has been fought and we
are in possession of the Chinese
Walled City after terrible losses

Tientsin, China
July 17, 1900

My darling Girl,

The Battle of Tientsin has been fought and we are in possession of the Chinese Walled City after terrible losses of both sides.

Of course you get the details from papers much better than I can write them under the adverse circumstances here, and I shall not attempt to describe events much.

I have seen more horrible things within the last few days than I ever dreamed of, and would give a good deal to be able to forget some of them.

The poor "ninth" lost over 10% of its number and other troops proportionately. Four hundred Russians were killed by one explosion white tier upon tier of Japs were piled up near the South-East Gate. The Allied Forces were sadly repulsed in the big fight of the 13th, but managed to withdraw after dark.

BOXER

REBELLION

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.



14

BOXER

REBELLION

The Chinese Imperial Troops evacuated the City before daylight on the 14th and the Japs blew up the S.E. Gate and went in early that morning.

The Japs were followed by the French, English and one Co. and Battalion Hdqs. of the 9th which I was with.

The Massacre inside the City was awful, men, women and children being shot, stabbed and brained indiscriminately. Even our own men went wild and there was wholesale slaughter, loot and all the horrors you ever read of which of which occurred in the dark ages. A dozen immense fires were started and blazed fiercely in various portions of the city. This consumed a great many of the dead and wounded Chinese, but there were thousands and thousands of bodies everywhere the next morning. All the wounded had to be killed, of course, and the dead just lay decaying in the streets and houses, as it was impossible to bury them. The stench is fearful, of course, but nothing can be done, but let the City burn and try to cleanse itself.

10,000 is a very low estimate of the number of Chinese dead in the Walled City alone.

For fear that the papers may scare you by saying I was wounded, I shall have to tell you that I got a bullet through the sleeve making a very slight wound in my left forearm, but that it is all healed up already and of no cause for worry.

During the big fight I was at the R.R. Station with English Marines, Welsh Fusileers, Sikhs, the Hong Kong Regt. of Royal Chinese and Tonkins, with Russians operating on our right and French to the left.

Men were simply mowed down, and I cannot even now figure out how I escaped as easily as I did.

More later.

Love,
from Frank

Our Regt. got a wrong position and was trapped, but the poor Col. paid for the mistake with his life.

BOXER

REBELLION

BOXER

REBELLION



translation of German message on reverse

On board the Phoenicia
13.8.00 middle of the
Mediterranean

On the way to Pante-
llaria going to Malta
on the coast of Africa
heartfelt greetings
from the regiment
going to China.
Edmund Reitzentor

← free franked military
postcard sent from the
troop transport
SS. PHOENICIA
cancelled KAIS. MARINE -
SCHIFFSPOST No. 53
15 8 00.



photo of Hamburg - America Lines S.S. PHOENICIA

BOXER

REBELLION

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.

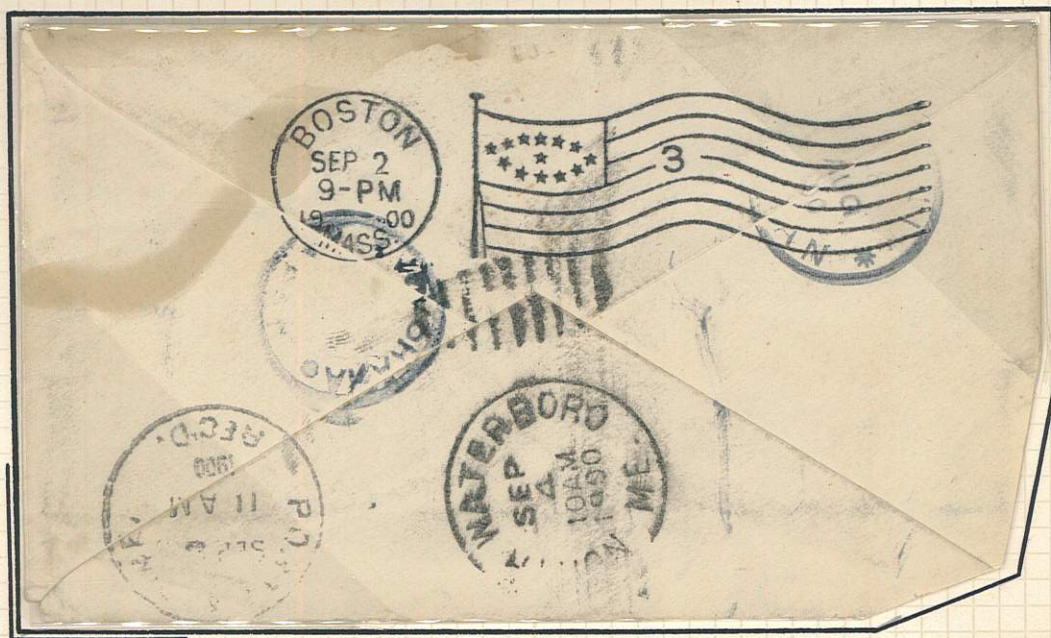
ELBE

copy
10

BOXER

REBELLION

corner card



The sixth cover in the Lang correspondence was mutilated and the stamp torn off. The corner card reproduced above: IMPERIAL CHINESE RAILWAYS. (S-8.) was probably paper captured by the Japanese who operated this railway. The return address: F. R. LANG, LT. 9th U.S. INFY., TIENTSIN, CHINA is repeated on the very interesting letter which follows. The only remaining face cancellation is PORTLAND ME SEP 4 8AM 1900 illustrated above.



backstamp

The cover back above has cancellations showing the route the cover took: YOKOHAMA 8 AUG 00 JAPAN; BOSTON SEP 2 9-PM 1900 MASS. and 13 star flag; PORTLAND ME SEP 3 11 AM 1900 REC'D.; (face side PORTLAND ME SEP 4 8AM 1900); NORTH WATERBORO SEP 4 10 AM 1900 ME.

BOXER

REBELLION

BOXER

REBELLION

Winton China,
July 31st 1900.

My Darling Rena. - Three transports arrived
in the offing at Taku on the 27th,
bringing some 2000 men, Capt. Palmer, two
Battalions of the 14th Infy and several
staff officers.

Among the letters was yours and
Moth's of June 20th, in which you

BOXER

REBELLION

letter
40

DD

BOXER

REBELLION

Tientsin, China
July 31st, 1900

My Darling Rena:

Three transports arrived in the offing at Taku on the 27th, bringing some mail, Capt. Palmer, two Battalions of the 14th Infy. and several staff officers. Among the letters was yours and Mother's of June 20th, in which you speak of just hearing that the 9th has been ordered to China.

As you say, I was very glad to be ordered here, but the horrors of this war are too great for any one to really enjoy. Our Regiment was pretty badly broken down in the Philippines, so that the diarrhea and dysentery caused by the bad water here, gives us a large sick report. We have about 300 sick and wounded men now, besides all that have been sent to Nagasaki and the Hospital Ships.

At the formation of the 3rd Battalion yesterday, we only had 141 men in the whole Battalion of four companies, while the 14th Inf., just arrived, is recruited up to 140 men to a Company.

Major General Chaffee takes Command of the American forces today, and the 6th Cav. is at Tong-ku waiting transportation up the Pei-ho River.

With the 9th and 14th Inf., the 6th Cav., Marines and Blue Jackets, we shall have about 3,000 men (Americans) for the advance towards Peking, which will start in a day or so. It is awfully serious proposition, however, for the Chinese have fortified camps all the way up, and it is reported that millions of "Boxers" and Chinese troops are swarming in front of us. The British and Japs will cooperate with us, but the French are no good, the Germans haven't enough troops, and the Russians refuse to move as yet. A Council-of-War is to be held today, however, to try and start a general forward movement of the "Allies". So far as we know, our people in Peking are still alive, or at least part of them, but no reliable information can be gotten.

Our Major Lee becomes Inspector General on Gen. Chaffee's staff, so that Capt. Fred Palmer has command of the 2nd Bat. under Capt. Anderson.

12,000 English troops which were on their way to help us out here have been diverted to Shanghai to surpress the trouble there.

One-fourth of all the people in the World are in China and if they should rise as a people, it is believed that they could overrun and destroy the entire civilized world. It is this which makes it so necessary that the Empire be subdued, before they realize their full power.

The Japs, which are the bravest, neatest, best equipped and finest little soldiers in the world, are the only ones doing any work now. Their outposts are pushed way out to the front, and they lose from 10 to 100 men daily in small fights. The Japanese are conceded to be the best troops here, while the French (strange to say) are the worst. The Russians are fierce fighters but rough and stupid in appearance. Twenty of them voluntarily gave their lives to protect the U.S. Marines who were crossing a bridge, every one of them killed.

The British have the Welch Fusiliers (white), four Indian and two Royal Chinese Regiments here, with the Bengal Cavalry and some Sikh Batteries of

BOXER

REBELLION

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.



18

BOXER

REBELLION



rare Boxer Rebellion cover from Tientsin to Tung Chow with Japanese Offices in China #7 tied by TIENTSIN 11 MAR 01 I. J. P. O. The cover is addressed to Captain Palmer; Commandant of American Forces. In Lt. Lang's correspondence "letter #6" Capt. Palmer is referred to as follows:

Tientsin, China
July 31st, 1900

My Darling Rena:

Three transports arrived in the 27th bringing some mail, Capt. Palmer, two Battalions of the 14th Infy. and several staff officers.....

BOXER

REBELLION

(F)

BOXER

REBELLION

translation of German message

Tongkin 12. 10. 00.
 Kopf zerplatzt mir in der Hitze !!
 Wegen der Ferkelzuchtungen, welche in einem
 sticht Hitze durch den Kopf, wenn
 tiefblau durch. frische Luft aber nicht
 frische zu sein, ist der Kopf schmerzhaft und
 in meinem furchtbaren Zustand befinde
 ich mich. und mich trifft bedauerlich
 bei in Wanusee!

Mit besten Grüßen
 Ernst Otto Weissenbart

Ernst Otto Weissenbart

Tongkin 12 Oct 1900

Dear Madam:
 The struggle in this
 unbearable land plus
 the heat makes me take
 to drint. I hope to
 see you soon in Wanusee!
 Best regards,
 Otto

Deutsche Reichspost
 Geld-Postkarte

An
 Frau Ellen von Siemens

Wannsee

Wannsee

Wohnung
 (Straße und Hausnummer)

in Berlin

WANNSEE 1 22:11 00 a
 9-10 V.

K.D. FELD-POSTSTATION
 13/10
 No 4.

← stampless German military postcard sent to Berlin during the Boxer Rebellion. The card is cancelled K. D. FELD-POSTSTATION No 4 13/10 (Oct 13, 1900) The card bears a receiving mark at lower left WANNSEE 1 22:11 00 a 9-10 V. (Nov 22, 1900). The trip took 40 days.

Field-Post Station No 4 was located at TANGKU from Sept 2, 1900 to April 30, 1901.

The message side is translated above.

BOXER

REBELLION

No. 710-21 Printed in U. S. A.



BOXER

REBELLION



↑
 unusual German Feldpostcard from TIENTSIN (DEC 6 00) to HOLSTEIN with:
 Japan Offices in China #1, German Offices in China #1, France #88, China #98,
 Russian Offices in China #1, U.S. #279 and India #M2 all cancelled and tied
 indicating their participation in the Boxer Rebellion.

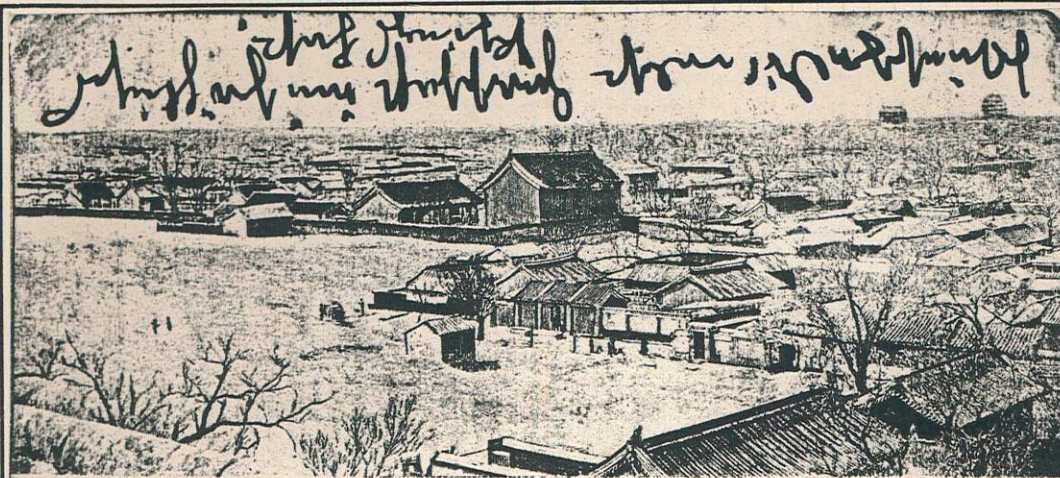
BOXER

REBELLION

Boxer
Rebellion
11

BOXER

REBELLION



Peking. Blick vom Observatorium aus. 4/11/01.

Handwritten German text:
Liebe Schwester
Ich danke dir sehr für
deine Briefe. Ich hoffe
du bist glücklich. Mit
Liebe
Hans

translation of German message

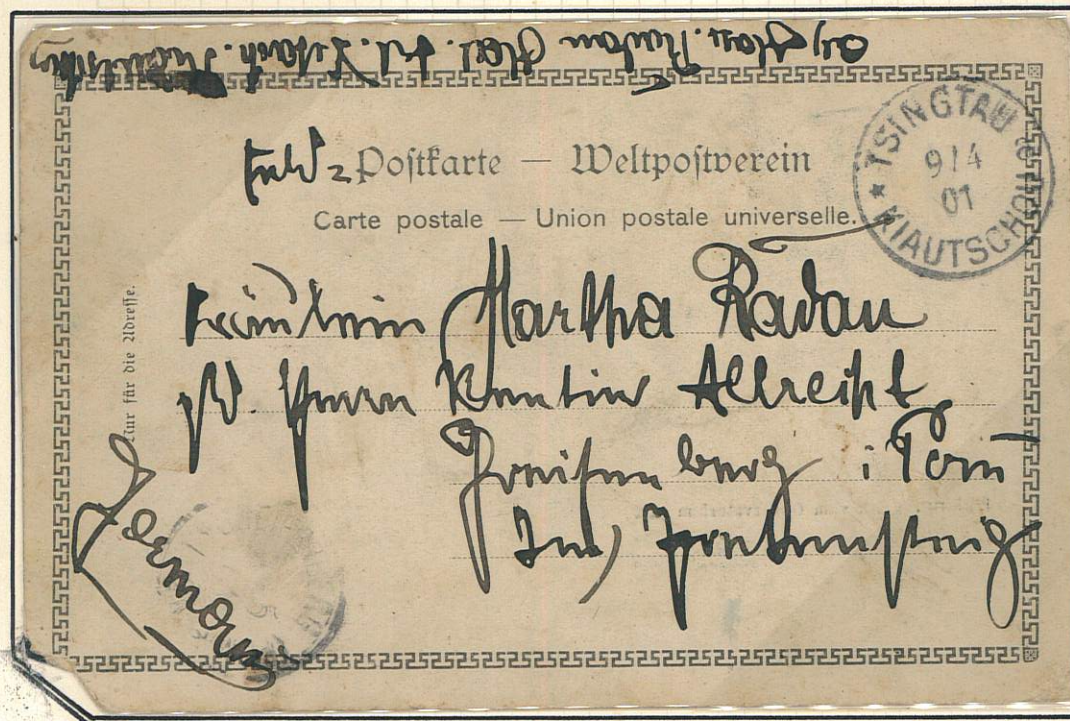
4 April 01

Dear sister:
I received your letter
and many thanks. I wish
you, for the coming
holidays, all that is good.
Hans

No. 710-21

Printed in U. S. A.

THE ELBE LINE



Universal Postal Union viewcard endorsed FELD to be used as a military free franked postcard during the Boxer Rebellion, cancelled TSINGTAU KIAUTSCHOU 9/4 01

BOXER

REBELLION

BOXER

REBELLION

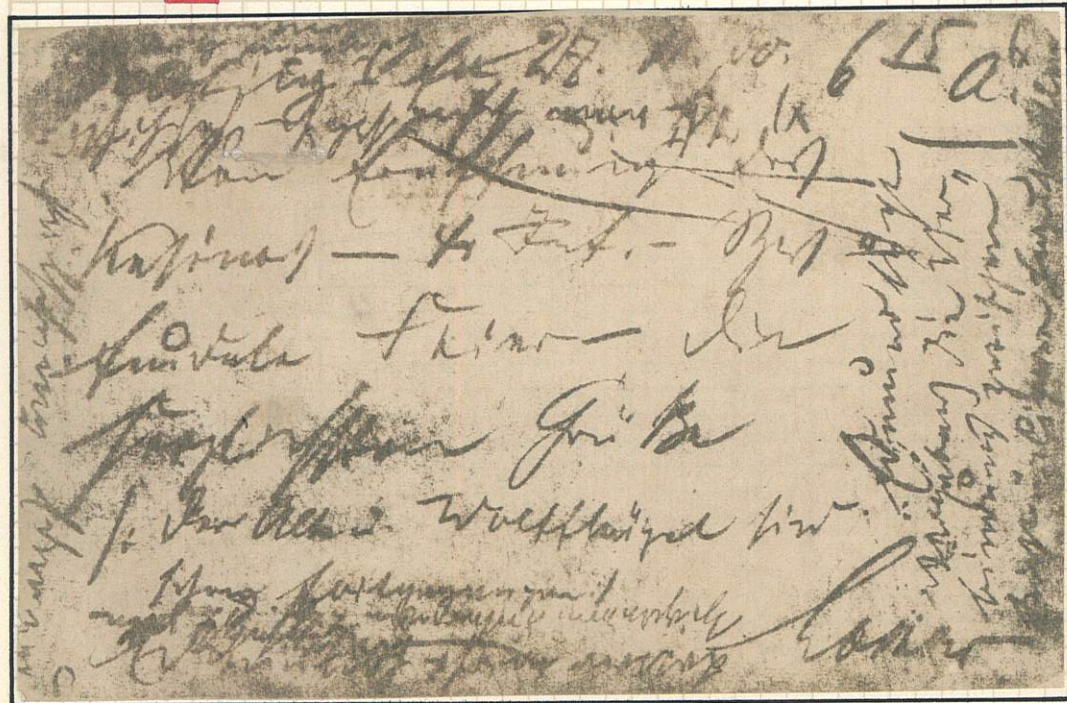


stampless German military postcard used during the Boxer Rebellion, addressed to TABLE SOCIETY, INFANTRY-BODYGUARD REGIMENT, IN MUNICH, TURKS BARRACKS. The card is cancelled K. D. FELDPASTSTATION N. 7. 28/11 (Nov 28, 1901). It is struck by military receiving marks MÜNCHEN 2. B.P.B. 20 JAN VOR 8-9 01 and MÜNCHEN 1 B.P. 20 JAN VOR 9-10 01. The trip took 62 days.

Feldpost N. 7 was located at PASTINGFU from Nov 2, 1900 to July 25, 1901.

The message side of the card is illustrated at left. The only readable portions say: 6:15 AM. The opening of a Casino! Merry Making. Heartfelt Greetings.

It would appear the writer was an overenthusiastic Merry Maker.

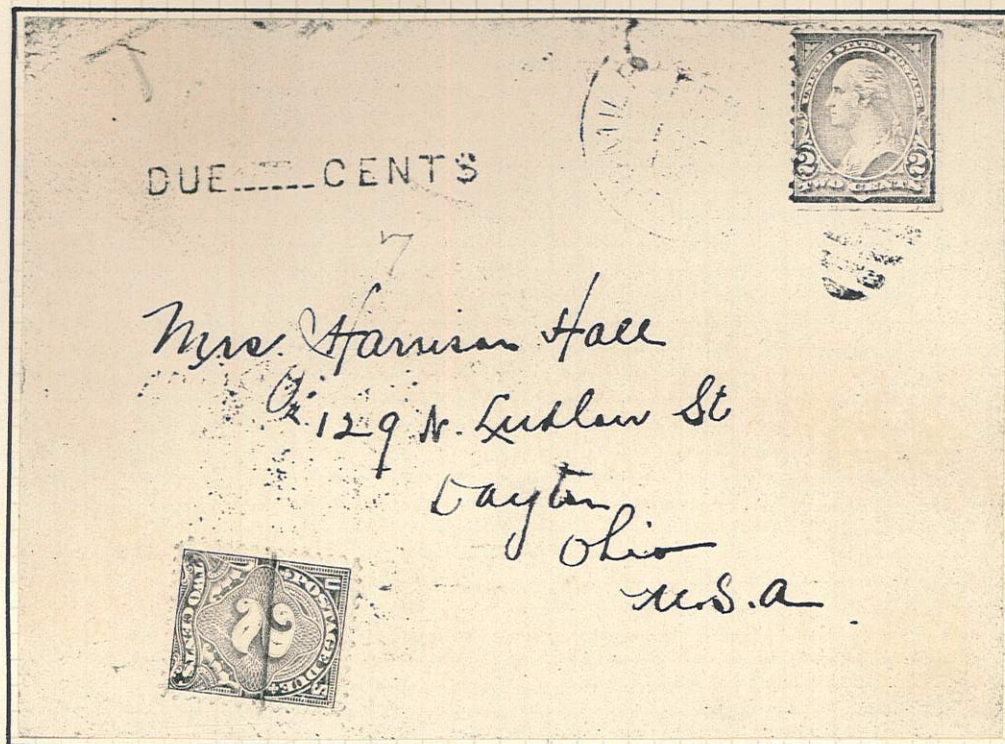


BOXER

REBELLION

BOXER

REBELLION



cover
face



U.S. #279B tied by
 killer and C.D.S. MIL.
 POSTAL STA. NO 1
 CHINA FEB 13 1901
 4 PM on cover to

Dayton, Ohio. The cover has
 the back flap tied by the
 same cancellation. The face
 of the cover shown above is
 marked in blue crayon "T"
 (taxa or due). It is also struck
 in black DUE ----- CENTS.
 A U.S. 2c precancelled
 postage due is affixed to
 the face. According to
 Gordon this cancellation is
 with dates from Oct 27,
 1900 to April 23, 1901

BOXER

REBELLION

Curtis
10

BOXER

REBELLION

Artillery.

Please thank mother for me for her letter and the clippings. I will write her first chance I get. It makes me smile to read that she expects we will make short work of the "Boxers" when it has developed into one of the most serious wars of modern times. The British officers who are here from South Africa say that at no time was there so severe a battle with the "Boers" or such fierce fighting as occurred here at Tientsin on July 13th and the thing is apparently just beginning, for we hear of Imperial Armies and hordes of "Boxers" moving down on us from all sides.

Personally, I am in good health and my arm is all well, but, of course, I cannot disguise the seriousness of the situation. While I hope to come out all right I should feel much easier if my life was insured in your and Violet's favor, and I blame myself greatly for not attending to it when I had an opportunity.

I had so little respect for the Filipino's fighting abilities that I considered the expense of insurance unnecessary, but the present proposition of fighting against unnumbered people who have no fear and are armed and thoroughly able to use the latest machines of war is entirely different. While a soldier's chance in the Philippines wasn't one in a thousand of being killed, here ordinarily it is one to two that he will be. Strange as it may seem the Chinamen are dead shots, and man to man (even numbers) I don't know but what they could whip our "rookies", and old men are few and far between in our ranks now.

As at present contemplated, the 2nd Bat. under Capt. Palmer remains here as a Depot Bat., while the 1st and 3rd, mounted detachment, machine guns, Engineers and Signal Corps goes with the other forces in the endeavor to reach Peking.

We all feel pretty discouraged at the outlook, although thanking God for the arrival of the 14th and 6th Cav., and I fear I have written you rather a gloomy letter. However, as Capt. Palmer says, "Cheer up! the worst is yet to come," and I hope my next letter will give you better news.

I haven't yet entirely despaired of getting home to my wife before I am too old to be any good, even if we do have to go and fight Turkey.

Love to all, from,

Frank

BOXER

REBELLION

No. 1433-Q
Printed in U. S. A.



19

BOXER

REBELLION



The seventh cover in the Lang correspondence was completely mutilated. The corner address still shows TIENTSIN, but the following letter mentions "the Chinese are but eight miles out." The next letter by a fellow officer tells of Lt. Lang's being shot from his saddle

This letter routed through Japan was cancelled YOKOHAMA 16 AUG 00 and MOJI? 10 AUG 00. It was received in PORTLAND and forwarded to NORTH WATERBORO ME SEP 4 00.

BOXER

REBELLION

7th letter

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.

THE ELBE

20

Letter
#12

7th
Letter

BOXER

REBELLION

Tientsin, China,
July 31st 1900

My dear Girl: -
I am sending
to-day to the Paymaster
General voucher for my
July pay (\$116.67), and
hope you will let me
know it is safely
received. Unfortunately the law
as passed granting 10% increase
doesn't apply to China, so we

BOXER

REBELLION

No. 1433-Q

Printed in U. S. A.



(21)

BOXER

REBELLION

Tientsin, China
July 31st, 1900

My dear Girl:

I am sending today to the Paymaster General voucher for my July pay (\$116.67) and hope you will let me know it is safely received. Unfortunately, the law as passed granting 10% increase doesn't apply to China, so we have to go back to our old pay. Trust, however, this may be rectified by the next session of Congress as, of course, the service is a great deal harder here than in our "Island possessions".

August 3rd, 1900

Haven't had a chance to send this as yet so will add a few words. With their customary enterprise the Japs have established a Post Office here and send mail over to Japan and from there to the States at regular intervals, which is a great convenience to us all.

The 6th Cav. is now all here, but haven't got their horses up. They remain here to guard property, while the 9th, 14th, 1st Regt. of Marines and 5th Art. (which has also got up) go forward with the column.

There are 8,000 Japs, 4,000 British and 2,000 Americans, or 14,000 in all, to go up against 30,000 Imperial Troops strongly entrenched, backed up by a few hundred thousand "Boxers".

All our baggage is stored today and we move tomorrow, so in a day or two, the papers will tell you whether we have been successful or not, as the Chinese are but eight miles out.

With all my love,

Frank

BOXER

REBELLION

letter
#13
no
envelope

BOXER

8th letter — no cover

REBELLION

Tientsin, China
August 9th, 1900

Mrs. F.R. Lang
20 Oilman Street
Portland, Maine

Dear Madame:

Your husband Lieut. Lang of 9th Inf. U.S.A. requests me to inform you that he is not dangerously wounded and that he will be sent to the States as soon as he can be moved. Only this morning I sent word in behalf of Dr. Schremer, the Surgeon of General Hospital, asking that a steam launch be sent at once from Tongku to carry your husband to the Hospital Ship "Relief". He was hit in the right shoulder, while riding at the head of his company, and the fall from his horse also badly bruised his left shoulder.

Hoping that you will soon have the pleasure of seeing him again.

I am respectfully yours,
Walter Marvine
Chaplain 9th INF USA

REBELLION

Tientsin, China, Aug 9th 1900.

Mrs. F. R. Lang
20 Oilman St., Portland, Maine.

Dear Madame

Your husband Lieut. Lang of 9th Inf. U.S.A. requests me to inform you that he is not dangerously wounded and that he will be sent to the States as soon as he can be moved. Only this morning I

No. 1433-Q
Printed in U. S. A.



23

BOXER

REBELLION

#14.

Start #14
get letter
no cover

~~Newton Oliver~~
Aug 11, 1900.

Mrs F. K. Lang
Portland, Me.

Dear Mrs Lang:

Your husband
said I might have the privilege of

BOXER

REBELLION

Mrs. F. R. Lang
Portland, Me.

Tientsin, China
Aug 11, 1900

Dear Mrs. Lang:

Your husband said I might have the privilege of writing you and telling you about his trip to Peking which was cut so short on the 6th. The regiment left Tientsin on the afternoon of the 4th about 3 o'clock and arrived at our bivouac on the Northern side of the native city "just as the sun went down." We marched into a field of young corn about two miles from the enemy's position at Pei-Toun. The companies started camp fires and we ate our suppers and thought of the wives and sweethearts far away. These thoughts rise up in one's throat, you know, the night before a battle. Lang and I have been in the same mess since we arrived at Tientsin. If you are unacquainted with army vernacular you will think I mean "married state" by the word "mess" but mess means a "society for the consumption of breakfast, supper and dinner." As I started to say we didn't mess together that evening but swallowed a cup of coffee and some hard tack where we could pick it up, rolled over in the mud to sleep till two o'clock the next morning when we arose without other toilet than the shower of rain which fell at midnight.

At three we "fell in" and by four were in column of fours on the road waiting for daylight which was the signal for the battle to open. Japanese were in front of us and though we could see nothing on account of the high corn except the shells they were throwing at a certain position, yet the terrific rifle fire which soon opened up told what was going on. Frank came around to me to get a tune we had been singing a night or two before about, "Here's to the dead already and here's to the next one that dies" or something like that. We both felt pretty bad I'm sure and when Mr. Welborn offered me a "nip" it hit the right spot. Well we only supported the Japs that morning and didn't have a bullet drop within a mile of us. The Japs carried the Chinese lines and then we joined in the chase till noon when we went into camp for the afternoon and night.

The next morning at 3 o'clock the army was again on the move and what a march it was - like crossing the desert. We must have marched fifteen miles in the broiling sun before we reached the environs of Yung-Tsun - a name that will be carved on your memory forever. How shall I describe the battle or even the part the 9th took in it. I know we had to cross great fields of corn - (or more properly millet) changing directions first to the right and then to the left till we didn't know where we were going - that every now and then a shell would whistle and strike - that we passed through a village and were crossing another field - I was looking to the right where your husband sat on a tall gray horse when of a sudden I saw his horse jump and he himself dive from the saddle head first to the ground at the same instant I knew he had been shot by a volley or a shell.

At the time I thought it was a volley from the front. I would gladly write you at length all the circumstances of the day but time does not permit at present and this letter will last until your husband can tell you the story with his own lips. I have an anxious wife in Manila so I can believe you would be glad to have some account of the matter at once. Pardon this disreputable paper which bears the stamp of the camp. With many good wishes and hopes that I may have the pleasure of meeting you and the heir apparent. I remain,

Your husbands friend
Eastbrook Gibson,
1st Lt. 9th Infy.

BOXER

REBELLION



photo of Hamburg - America Lines S.S. ARCADIA

translation of German
message on reverse



Sept 16, 1900
Aboard S.S. Arkadia
Sends best greetings
from the sea voyage
to China.
August

← Universal Postal Union
postcard endorsed
FELD to be used as a
military free franked
postcard during the Boxer
Rebellion as the troops
were transported to
China— cancelled KAIS.
DEUTSCHE MARINE
SCHIFFSPOST No. 68
17/9 00

BOXER

REBELLION

BOXER

REBELLION

USA Hospital Ship Relief
 Peo-Cho-Heo Bay off Taku China
 21st August 1900
 Mrs F. R. Lang,
 20 Gilman St.,
 Portland Maine

USA Hospital Ship Relief
 Peo-Cho-Heo Bay off Taku
 China

21 August 1900

Dear Mrs. Lang,
 I write to tell you
 that your husband Lieut.
 Lang is getting along
 well. His wound is fast
 healing and he has both
 sensation and motion in
 his right arm. I know
 how anxious you must
 feel but I shall send
 him home just as soon
 as he is able to stand
 the trip. Do not worry
 over him. I am a Portland
 boy myself born and
 educated there, and will
 do everything in my power
 for him. He will be with
 you by Christmas/

Sincerely yours,
 Harry Otis Perley
 Major-Surgeon U.S.A.
 Commanding Relief

A Soldier's Letter.
 To Perley
 Major Surgeon USA
 Mrs F. R. Lang
 20 Gilman Street
 Portland Maine
 Portland Co. W of America
 #16



No. 710-21
 Printed in U. S. A.



BOXER

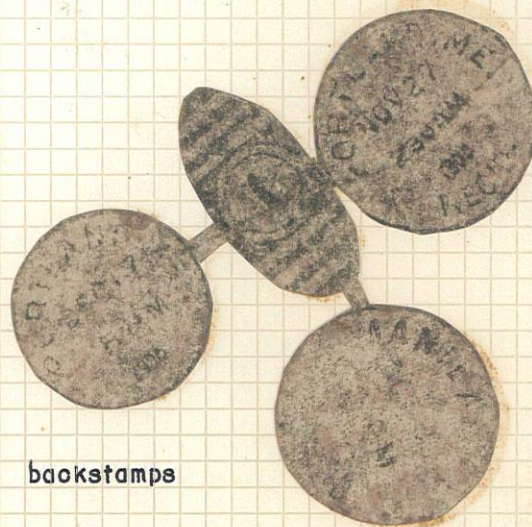
REBELLION



This, the ninth cover, from Elizabeth D. Gibson, wife of Lt. Gibson, is a report to Mrs. Lang after Lt. Lang was visited on the Hospital Ship "Relief".

It is cancelled MIL P. STA. NO 1 TIENTSIN CHINA 21 SEP 1900. According to Gordon Postal Offices opened in Tientsin Sep. 18th. The above cover is the earliest date I have seen.

UNCLAIMED is struck in black, but obviously it reached Mrs. Lang



backstamps

BOXER

REBELLION

#17

My dear Mrs. Lang:-
 I saw your hus-
 band on board the
 "Relief" last Friday, &
 so delighted to find
 how nicely he is doing.
 He has gone to Nagasaki
 on the hospital boat,

My Dear Mrs. Lang:-

I saw your husband on board the "Relief" last Friday. I was so delighted to find how nicely he is doing. He has gone to Nagasaki on the hospital boat, & will probably be put on the "Meade" sent to San Francisco, that is if he is strong enough & able to be put on a transport, where of course he couldn't get the attention & care he will get on the "Relief" where he has his own special nurse. I believe the Doctors expect to send him to the "Army & Navy Hospital" at the Hot Springs, Arkansas as soon as he will be able to travel on the train. The Doctor has of course written you all the conditions of your husband's case so I won't attempt to tell you. I had never met Mr. Lang but Mr. Gibson had written me so much about him, how fond he was of him & how he was very near Mr. Lang when he was wounded of his seeing him in Tientsin, how distressed he was over his having been wounded, so when

I reached Taku & learned Mr. Lang was in the harbor I went over as soon as I could see him.

Mrs. Liscum was with me, & learning that he was discouraged about himself she went right over with me to see him - Gen. Liscum had a very similar wound in Cuba, & he too had been terribly discouraged & thought he would lose the use of his arm, & it was paralyzed for about six months, but it gradually grew better & after a long treatment of massage his arm got well - it is a very long painful seige, & takes much patience & strength, but in the end will turn out all right. Dr. Purley was so encouraged over your husband's case, & says he will save his arm & will in time be able to use it, which I was so thankful to learn; as I had heard when he was first wounded his arm would probably always be paralyzed. We spent about fifteen or twenty minutes with Mr. Lang and found him walking about the room. He sat in a chair talking to us, & seemed to suffer a good deal - We went back to see him before leaving the ship, he was in bed then & seemed to be quite comfortable - Every one wanted him to go home on the transport "Summer", but I think he was very sensible not to have attempted going on her as he would have had to transfer at Nagasaki, & would not have had half the attention he is able to have on the "Relief" - of course he has to have a nurse with him constantly, as it being his right arm, he is

BOXER

REBELLION

perfectly helpless to do anything for himself- It is so very hard for you, Mrs. Lang, not being able to get a line from him, such an anxious time as you wish him there, but what a comfort your little baby must be to you.

I do hope Mr. Lang will be stronger when he reaches Nagasaki & will be able to go home on the next transport, but you mustn't be dreadfully disappointed if he doesn't return just yet, as it has only been about six weeks since he was wounded, & that is a very short time for such a wound to begin to show any improvement. Mrs. Liscum says her husband suffered for about six months, before his arm began to improve. She tried to impress that upon your husband, but six weeks seemed a very long time to him of such constant pain- & certainly it is- I don't see how our brave soldiers can stand such pain- I am hoping by the time this letter reaches you you will be with your husband & he will be greatly benefitted. I wanted to write you right away, but this is the first mail that has gone out since. I am going back to Nagasaki in about a week & if Mr. Lang should be still there I will write you how he is doing. I expect to return with Mrs. Liscum to the States about November first, & you can rest assured if your husband is in the same transport, on account of my husband's great friendship for Mr. Lang I will do anything in my power for his comfort. Hoping that you will receive nothing but encouraging news from your husband from now on, & that he can soon be with you.

Believe me

Cordially yours,

Elizabeth D. Gibson

Tientsin, China
September twentieth

BOXER

REBELLION

BOXER

This cover was addressed
by Lt. Lang from the
hospital in the Presidio and
cancelled PRESIDIO CAL.
STA. 1 DEC 5 3 30 P.M.

The penmanship shows the
severity of Lt. Lang's wounds.



backstamp

REBELLION

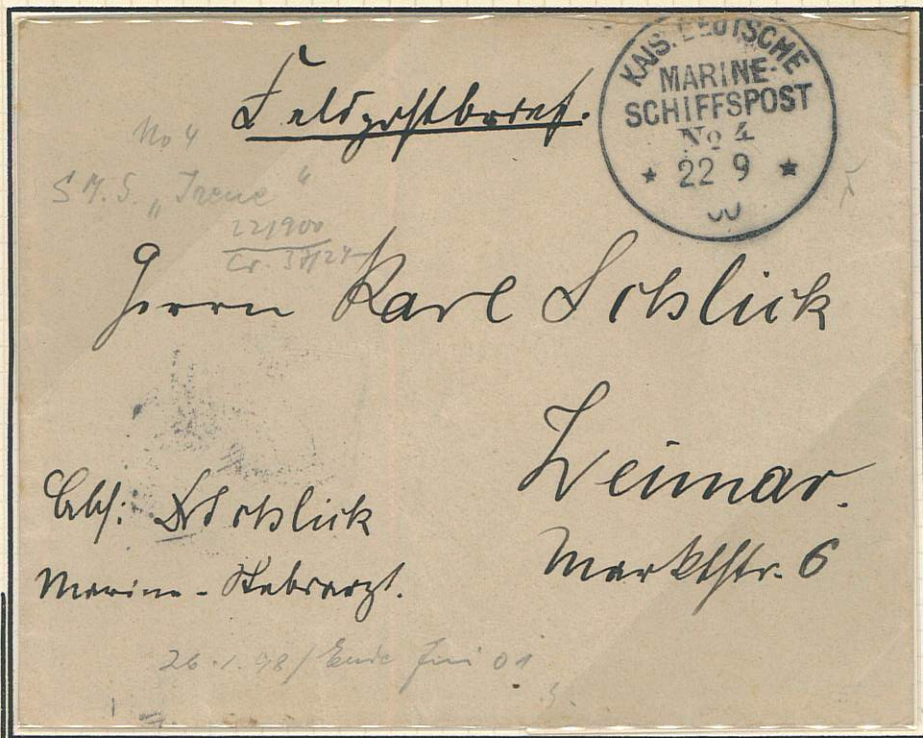
WAR DEPARTMENT
U. S. A. GENERAL HOSPITAL,
PRESIDIO OF SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Mr. J. R. Jones
20 Robinson St.
Post Office
Me.



BOXER

REBELLION

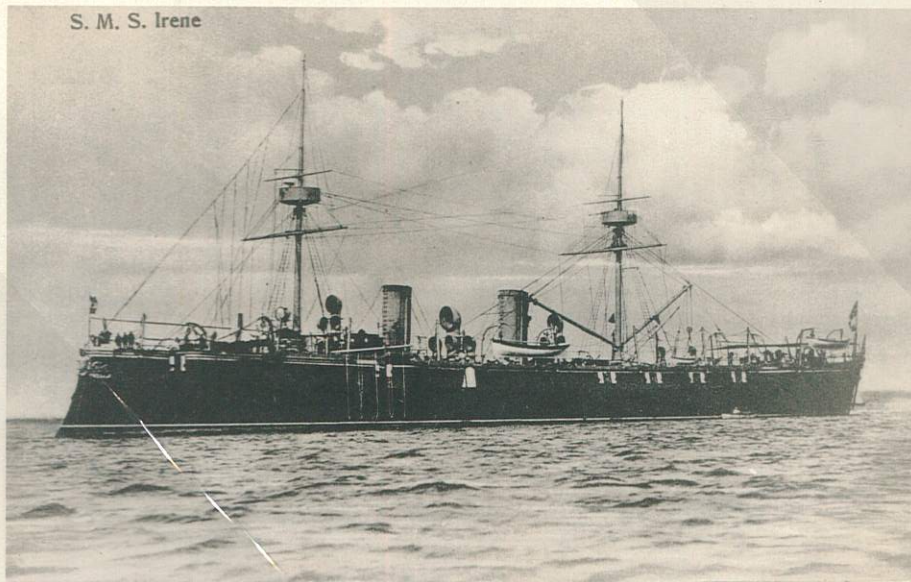


Stampless cover
from the cruiser
"S.M.S. Irene"

cancelled KAIS.

DEUTSCHE MARINE
SCHIFFSPOST No 4 22
9 00 (Oct 22nd)
addressed to Weimar.

The Irene was a 4,290 ton cruiser built in 1887 by Vulcan shipyard in Stettin. She had a crew of 365 and was the flagship of the East Asia cruiser division serving through the Boxer Rebellion.



BOXER

REBELLION