



HONG KONG STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED 1951



The Provost Marshal and German POWs – See page 24

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WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL JAPAN TO HONG KONG - FEBRUARY 1915 TO JANUARY 1916

Introduction

This display relates to original research on World War 1 German prisoner of war mail from internees in Japan to fellow internees in Hong Kong.

In August 1914, Japan declared war on Germany in compliance with the Anglo-Japanese Alliance and in response to the threat posed by German warships on commercial shipping. War was also declared between Germany & Britain in the same month, and all citizens of enemy countries were placed under parole.

On 7th August 1914, Major General Kelly, Commander of the Troops in South China, proclaimed Martial Law under the decree 'Routine Order No.2.' As a result, the Hong Kong Government placed all German nationals living in the Colony, some of whom were military reservists, in internment. Initially they were all housed in the Military barracks. Soon afterwards, with the barracks receiving more POWs, they were all sent to Stonecutters Island, before being transferred later to Hung Hom camp on the 12th September 1914.

Meanwhile, on 2nd September 1914 the Japanese began to bombard the leased German port of Tsingtao, (known today as Qingdao), in North East China. It was invaded by the Japanese on 31st October 1914, assisted by a force of largely British and Indian troops and ships. The German garrison, despite being heavily outnumbered, held out for over two months before finally surrendering on 7th November. There followed the internment of over 4,700 German POW's, in camps located throughout Japan.

According to official German records there were 76 severely wounded German naval marines amongst these POWs. They were initially held at the British Military Hospital at Tsingtau, Kiautschou, before being sent to Hong Kong at the request of the British military authorities. Upon arrival in Hong Kong in February 1915 they were interned in the hospital wing of a military barracks.

Scope of Exhibit

This exhibit shows correspondence sent from German prisoners in Japanese POW camps to fellow German prisoners in Hong Kong via the Provost Marshal's office. The mail is mainly to the severely wounded marines, however, a few items to interned reservists & civilians are also included.

The wounded POWs were only in Hong Kong for the period from 14th February 1915 to 16th January 1916, a mere 11 months duration. The occurrence of mail of this type has yielded few examples to date.

On the 16th January 1916, the 76 internees, together with other internees of the camp at Hung Hom were transferred to Australia on board the HMS ship 'Empress'.

Included in this display is mail to 26 differently named recipients out of the group of 76 German marines, representing the largest known/recorded group of such mail to date.

The frames show POW correspondence which was 'Free of Postage' from the following camps in Japan - MARUGAME, MATSUYAMA, OITA, OSAKA & NARASHINO, all going into Hong Kong.

Published work:

Pos Gregory - 'WW1 German Prisoner of War Inter-Camp Mail, Japan to Hong Kong'
Hong Kong Study Circle Journal No. 342 July 2007

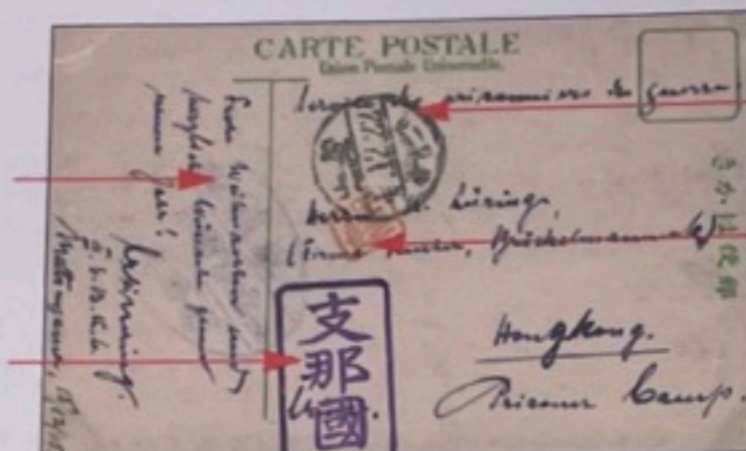
SILVER MEDAL
CROYDON 2007

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

MATSUYAMA CAMP
22.12.1915

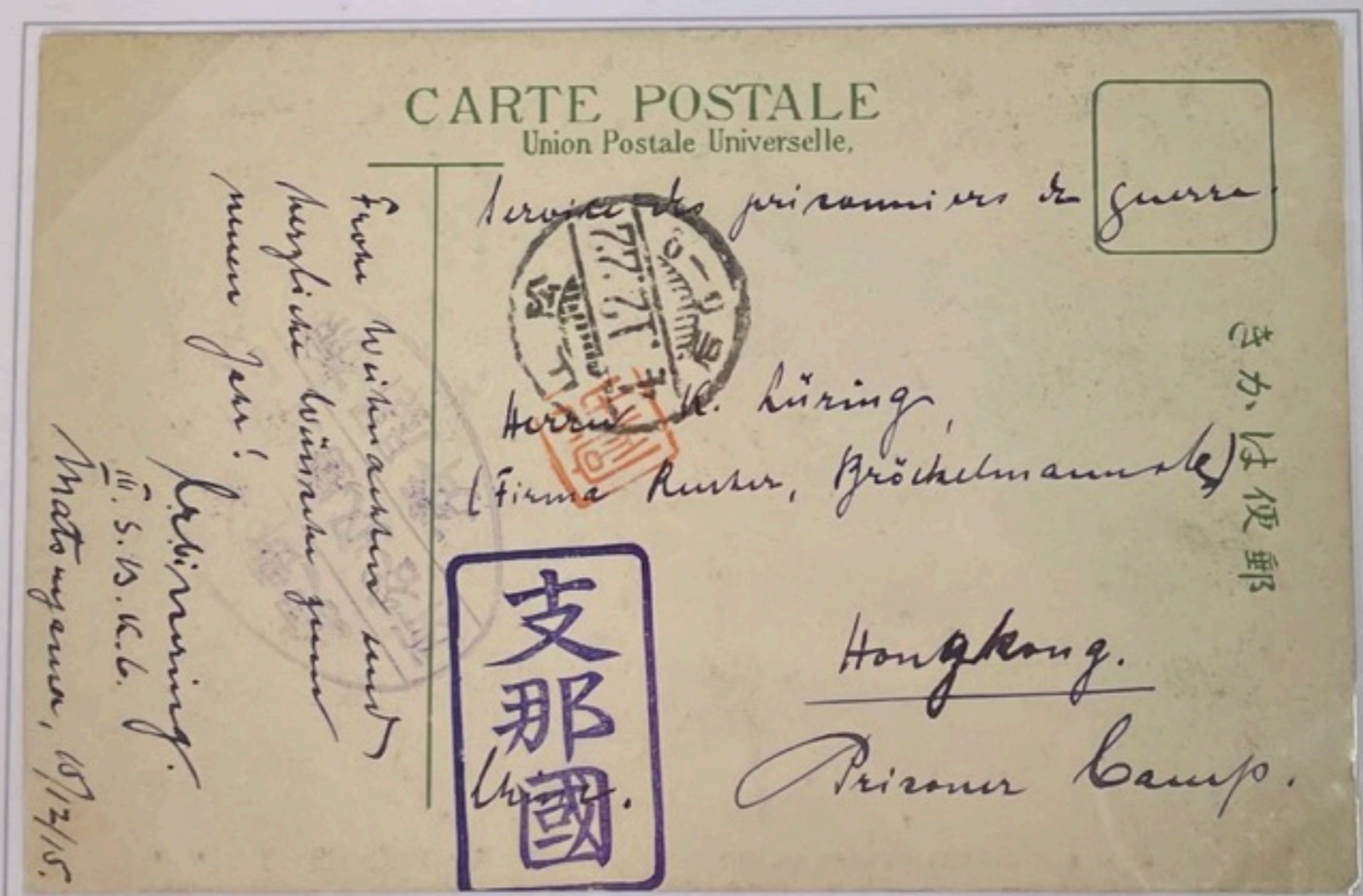
MATSUYAMA
camp cachet (Type2)

Handstamped **CHINA**
(Type 2)



Postmark of
'MATSUYAMA 22.12.4
(1915) 6 - 8 despatch'

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'MOTOMIYA'



Recipient: LURING K.

Civilian: Representative for **'Reuter Brockelmann & Co'**, located in Prince's Building, Charter Rd

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: VISSERING CARL - Prisoner of war No. 3151

Rank: Seesoldat in der 6. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

Before the Seige of Tsingtau, he was a representative for **'Reuter Brockelmann & Co'**.

Interned: Osaka - 11.1914

Transferred to Bando camp 09.04.1917 - repatriated & remained in Japan 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

MATSUYAMA CAMP

22. 12. 1915

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'MOTOMIYA'

MATSUYAMA
camp cachet



Postmark of
'MATSUYAMA 22.12.4
(1915) 1 - 2 despatch'

Handstamped **CHINA**
(Type 2)



Recipient: PRESCHER MAX ALEXANDER KARL - Prisoner of War No. 21

Status: Civilian/Reservist

Interned: Stonecutter's Island - 11.08.1914 - moved to Hunghom Hong Kong - 09.09.1914
Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: COSTENOBLE HERMAN - Prisoner of War No. 2821

Rank: Seesoldat in der 6. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

Before the Seige of Tsingtau, he was a reservist and a representative of **'Richter & Co. in Manila/Philippines'**.

Interned: Matsuyama - 11.1914

Transferred to Bando camp 09.04.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

MARUGAME CAMP
29.12.1915

Service for Prisoners
of War cachet (Type 1)

'P.O.W. mail' handstamp
or 'Furyo yuubin' (Type 1)

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'MOJI 30.12.1915
JAPAN'



Postmark of
'MARUGAME 29.12.4
(1915) 3 - 4 despatch'

MARUGAME
camp cachet (Type 1)

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'CHIKAWA'

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG



Recipient: GOTTSCHALK LUDWIG

Rank: Unteroffizier in der 6. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: POHLE WILHELM

Rank: Artilleristenmaat in der 2. Kompanie der Matrosenartillerie-Abteilung Kiautschou;

Interned: Marugame - 11.1914 - repatriated 12.1919

The postcard has been also been signed by no fewer than 20 fellow marines

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

MARUGAME CAMP
29.12.1915

SERVICE FOR
PRISONERS OF WAR
cachet (Type 1)

MARUGAME
camp cachet (Type 1)

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'CHIKAWA'



Postmark of
'MARUGAME 29.12.4
(1915) 3 - 4 despatch'

'P.O. W. mail' handstamp
or 'Furyo yuubin' (Type 1)

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'MOJI 30.12.1915
JAPAN'



Recipient: DRECHSLER THOMAS - Prisoner of War No. 327

Rank: Seesoldat in der 2. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: HABERECHE FRIEDRICH

Rank: Artilleristenmaat in der 2. Kompanie der Matrosenartillerie-Abteilung Kiautschou

Interned: Marugame - 11.1914 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

MATSUYAMA CAMP

17.12.1915

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'MOTOMIYA'

MATSUYAMA
camp cachet

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'MOJI 19.12.1915
JAPAN'



Handstamped CHINA
(Type 1)

Postmark of
'MATSUYAMA 17.12.4
(1915) 10 - 12 despatch'



Recipient: ZANZINGER FRIEDRICH - Prisoner of War No. 280

Rank: Gefreiter in der 5. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: BURZIG ALBERT - Prisoner of War No. 2787

Rank: Seesoldat in der 5. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

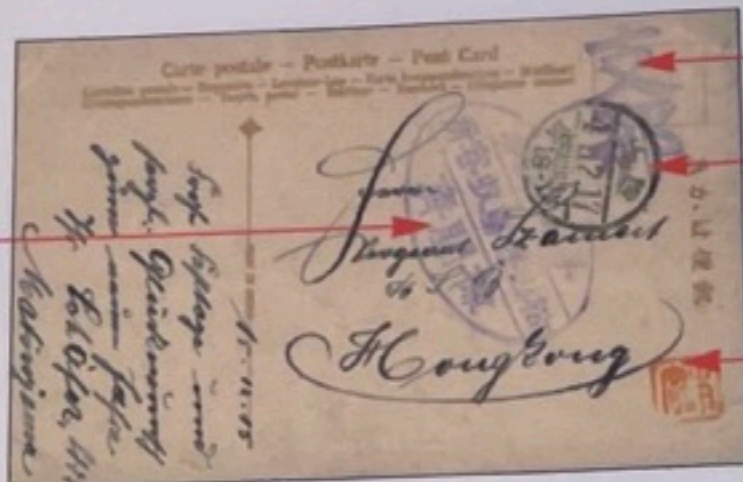
Interned: Matsuyama - 11.1914

Transferred to Bando camp 09.04.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

MATSUYAMA CAMP
17.12.1915

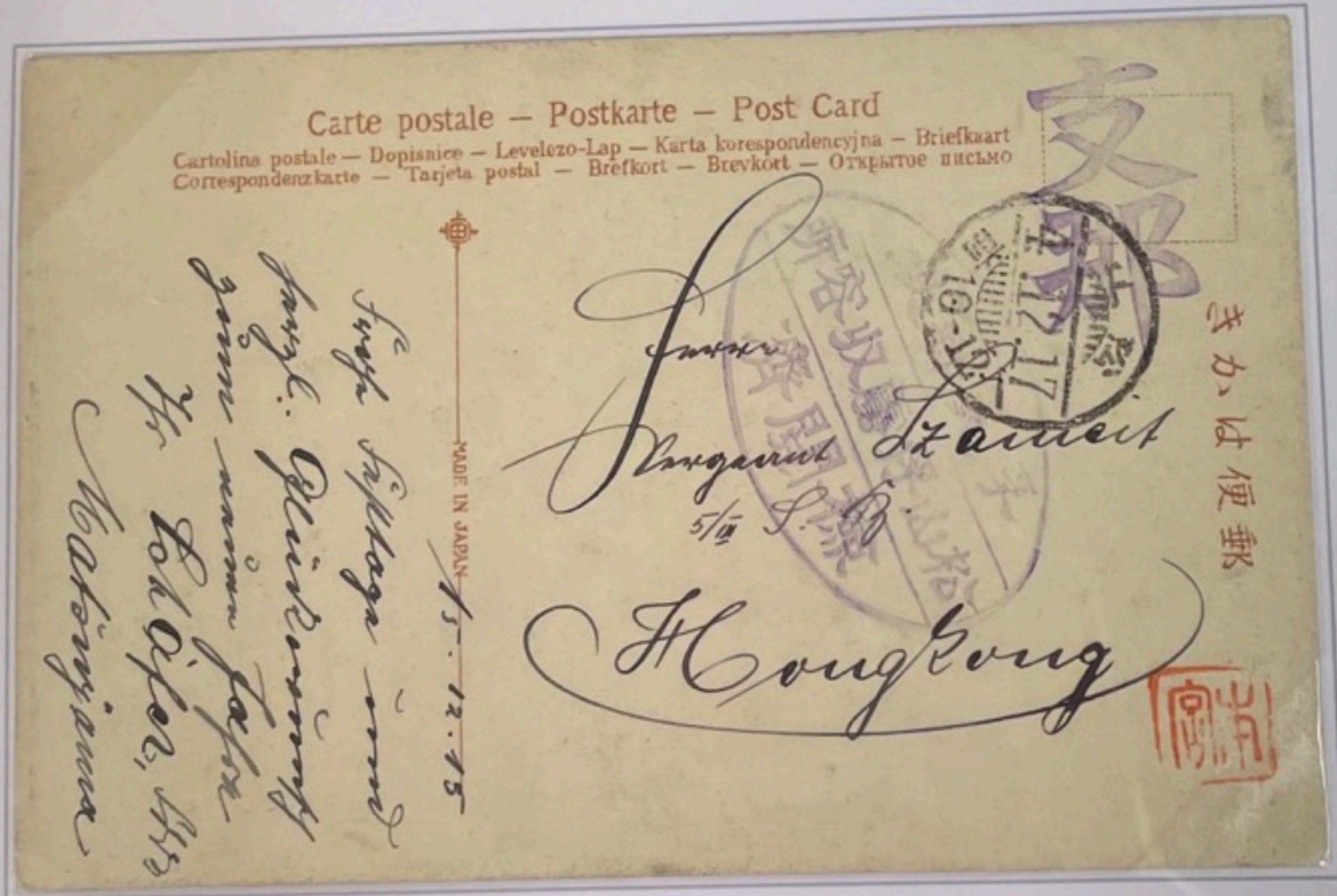
MATSUYAMA
camp cachet



Handstamped CHINA
(Type 1)

Postmark of
'MATSUYAMA 17.12.4'
(1915) 10 - 12 despatch'

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'MOTOMIYA'



Recipient: SZAMEIT HERMANN

Rank: Sergeant in der 5. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: SCHAFFER BENEDIKT - Prisoner of War No. 3088

Rank: Feldwebel in der 5. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

Interned: Matsuyama - 11.1914

Transferred to Bando camp 9.04.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

OITA CAMP
30.11.1915

OITA camp cachet
(Type2)

Postmark of
'OITA 30.11.4
(1915) 6 - 8 despatch'



Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'SAWADA'

Manuscript characters
CHINA



Recipient: FROHLICH ERNST - Prisoner of War No. 176
Status: Civilian/Reservist

Interned: Stonecutter's Island - 11.08.1914 - moved to Hunghom Hong Kong - 09.09.1914
Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: PERKUNDER FRITZ - Prisoner of War No. 4425
Rank: Gefreiter der Landwehr in der 3. Kompanie des OMD
Interned: Oita - 11.1914
Transferred to Narashino camp 25.08.1918 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

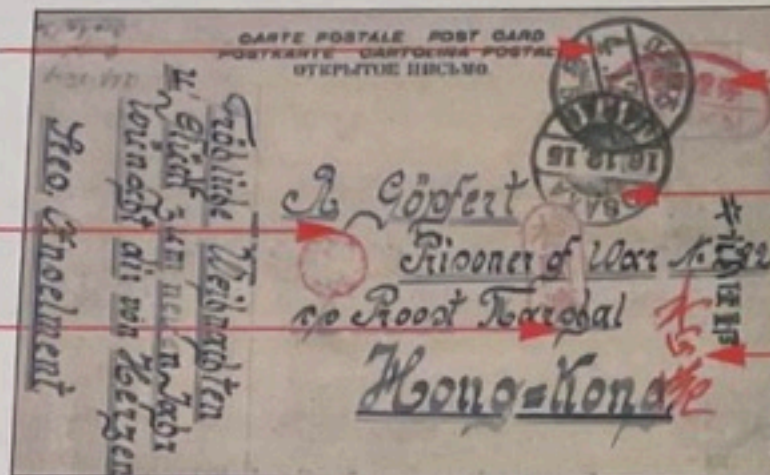
OSAKA CAMP

15. 12. 1915

Postmark of
'OSAKA - HORIE 15.12.4
(1915) 5 - 6 despatch'

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'UEDA KOTORA'

OSAKA camp censor's
chop mark or
'Kenetsuzumi' (Type2)



OSAKA camp cachet
(Type2)

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'OSAKA 16.12.1915
JAPAN'

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG



Recipient: GOPFERT RICHARD - Prisoner of War No. 282

Rank: Artilleristenmaat in der 4. Kompanie der Matrosenartillerie-Abteilung Kiautschou

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: ANSELMANT KARL - Prisoner of War No. 4467

Rank: Seesoldat in der 2. Kompanie des Ostasiatischen Marine-Detachements

Interned: Osaka - 11.1914

Transferred to Ninoshima camp 19.02.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

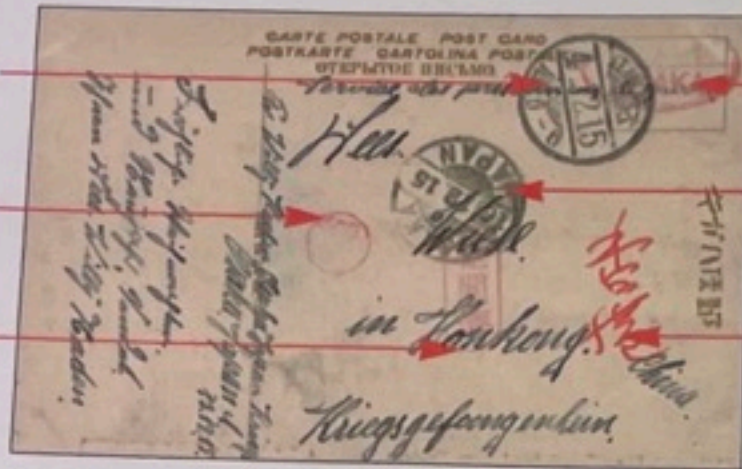
WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

OSAKA CAMP
15. 12. 1915

Postmark of
'OSAKA - HORIE 15.12.4
(1915) 5 - 6 despatch'

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'UEDA KOTORA'

OSAKA camp censor's
chop mark or
'Kenetsuzumi' (Type2)



OSAKA camp cachet
(Type2)

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'OSAKA 16.12.1915
JAPAN'

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG



Recipient: WIESE KURT

Rank: Seesoldat der Reserve in der 7. Kompanie des III. Seebataillons

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: KADEN WILLI OSWALD "WILLY" - Prisoner of War No. 4540

Rank: Seesoldat im Ostasiatischen Marine-Detachement

Interned: Osaka - 11.1914

Transferred to Ninoshima camp 19.02.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

OSAKA CAMP
15. 12. 1915

Postmark of
'OSAKA - HORIE 15.12.4
(1915) 3 - 4 despatch'

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'UEDA KOTORA'

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'OSAKA 16.12.1915
JAPAN'



OSAKA camp cachet
(Type2)

OSAKA camp censor's
chop mark or
'Kenetsuzumi' (Type2)

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG



Recipient: EBELT RUDOLF - Prisoner of War No. 272

Rank: Sergeant in der 1. Kompanie des Ostasiatischen Marine-Detachements

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: KADEN WILLI OSWALD "WILLY" - Prisoner of War No. 4540

Rank: Seesoldat im Ostasiatischen Marine-Detachment

Interned: Osaka - 11.1914

Transferred to Ninoshima camp 19.02.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

OSAKA CAMP
15. 12. 1915

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'OSAKA 16.12.1915
JAPAN'

Postmark of
'OSAKA - HORIE 15.12.4
(1915) 3 - 4 despatch'

OSAKA camp censor's
chop mark or
'Kenetsuzumi' (Type2)



OSAKA camp cachet
(Type2)

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'UEDA KOTORA'

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG



Recipient: LORENZEN OTTO - Prisoner of War No. 260

Rank: Gefreiter der Reserve in der 3. Kompanie des OMD

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: STRAUB EUGEN - Prisoner of War No. 4606

Rank: Zimmermannsgast auf Kreuzer "Gneisenau", 06.1914 ausgeschiff

Interned: Osaka - 11.1914

Transferred to Ninoshima camp 19.02.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

OSAKA CAMP
15. 12. 1915

Postmark of
'OSAKA - HORIE 15.12.4
(1915) 3 - 4 despatch'

OSAKA camp censor's
chop mark or
'Kenetsuzumi' (Type2)

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'UEDA KOTORA'



OSAKA camp cachet
(Type2)

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'OSAKA 16.12.1915
JAPAN'

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG



Recipient: **PETERSON JOHANNES**

Rank: Torpedomatrose auf Kreuzer "Gneisenau", 06.1914 in Tsingtau ausgeschifft; 08.1914 zur Verteidigung Tsingtaus

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: **STRAUB EUGEN - Prisoner of War No. 4606**

Rank: Zimmermannsgast auf Kreuzer "Gneisenau", 06.1914 ausgeschifft

Interned: Osaka - 11.1914

Transferred to Ninoshima camp 19.02.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

OSAKA CAMP
15. 12. 1915

Postmark of
'OSAKA - HORIE 15.12.4
(1915) 3 - 4 despatch'

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'UEDA KOTORA'

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'OSAKA 16.12.1915
JAPAN'



OSAKA camp cachet
(Type2)

OSAKA camp censor's
chop mark or
'Kenetsuzumi' (Type2)

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG



Recipient: SPIETH LUDWIG - Prisoner of War No. 200

Rank: Obermatrosenartillerist in der 2. Kompanie der Matrosenartillerie-Abteilung Kiautschou

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: STURM KARL - Prisoner of War No. 4595

Rank: Matrosenartillerist in der 4. Kompanie der Matrosenartillerie-Abteilung Kiautschou

Interned: Osaka - 11.1914

Transferred to Ninoshima camp 19.02.1917 - repatriated 12.1919

WW1 GERMAN PRISONER OF WAR INTER CAMP MAIL
JAPAN - HONG KONG

OSAKA CAMP
15. 12. 1915

OSAKA camp cachet
(Type2)

Foreign mail transit c.d.s.
'OSAKA 16.12.1915
JAPAN'

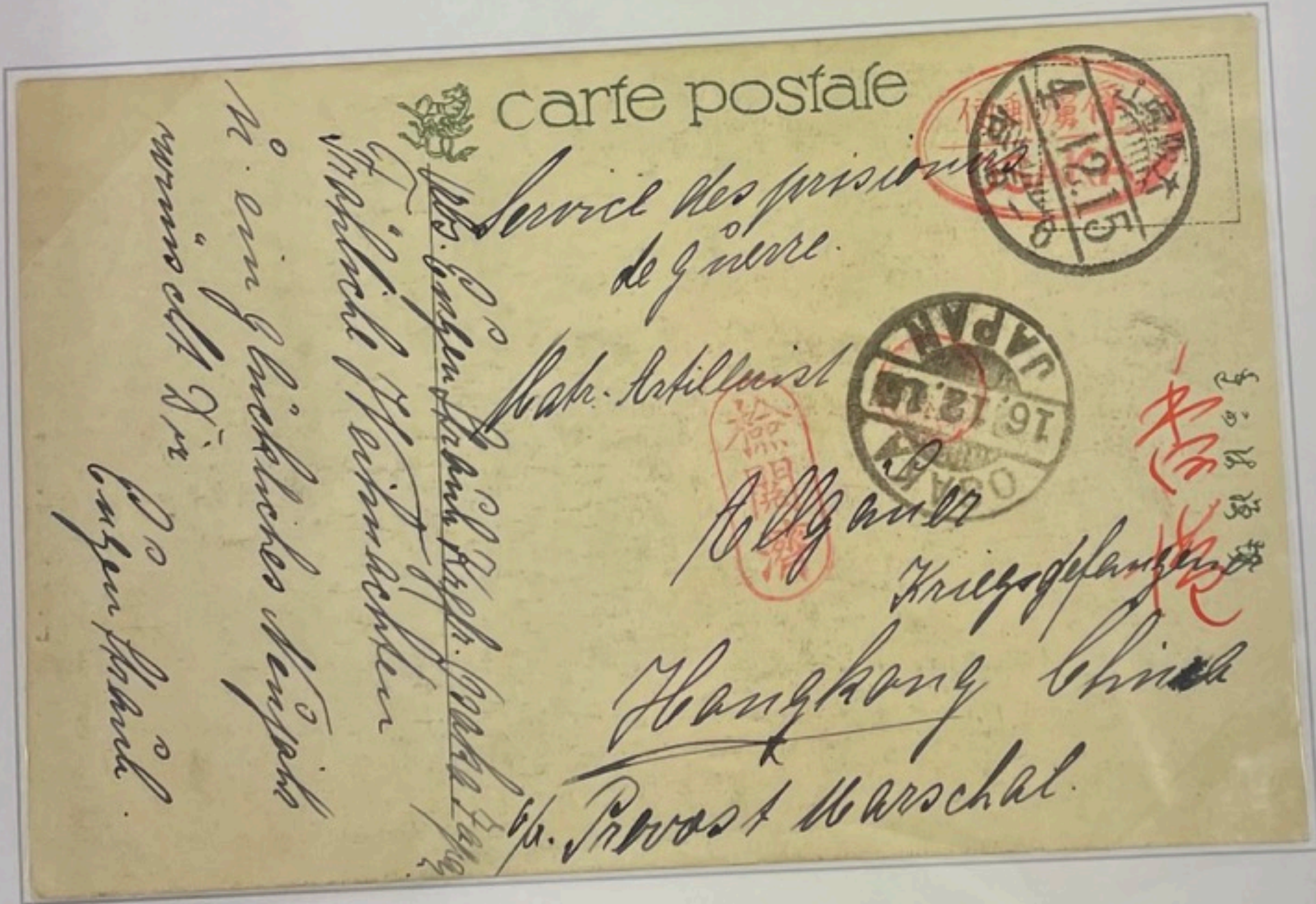
OSAKA camp censor's
chop mark or
'Kenetsuzumi' (Type2)



Postmark of
'OSAKA - HORIE 15.12.4
(1915) 3 - 4 despatch'

Censor's personal chop
mark belonging to
'UEDA KOTORA'

Manuscript characters
HONG KONG



Recipient: ALLGAYER KARL

Rank: Obermatrosenartillerist in der 3. Kompanie der Matrosenartillerie-Abteilung Kiautschou

Interned: Hunghom Hong Kong - 14.02.1915

Transferred to Liverpool camp (Australia) 17.1.1916 - repatriated 3.1919

Sender: STRAUB EUGEN - Prisoner of War No. 4606

Rank: Zimmermannsgast auf Kreuzer 'Gneisenau', 06.1914 ausgeschifft

Interned: Osaka - 11.1914

Transferred to Ninoshima camp 19.02.1917 - repatriated 12.1919