

Bolivia

Cobija

Simón Bolívar granted the port of Cobija to Bolivia from Chile in 1825, taking advantage of the unsurveyed border, and ignoring the royal decree of 1681 and "uti poossidetis" a principle in international law that territory and other property remains with its possessor at the end of a conflict, unless provided for by treaty. This gave Bolivia an outlet to the sea between Chile and Peru, which it retained until the War of the Pacific from 1878 to 1884 when Cobija passed back to Chile. It was never important as the port for Bolivia (Arica had better access to the Bolivian cities) and postal trade was very small. The British Postal Agency at Cobija was established in 1862 and operated until 1878. Cobija lost its importance and no longer exists. The current city of Cobija in Bolivia is a different place.

1863 Entire from London to Cobija



Cobija CDS1



Panama CDS1



1863 Entire from London to Cobija with LONDON PAID cds, VIA PANAMA. in single line text, Panama CDS1 for July 7<sup>th</sup> 1863, green single ring Cobija CDS1 receiver for July 25<sup>th</sup> 1863 and "2/-" in manuscript. **Route:** From Southampton to Colon (Colombia) by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP), across the Panama isthmus using the Trans-Oceanic Railway and from Panama to Cobija by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC)

## Bolivia

### Cobija

Simón Bolívar granted the port of Cobija to Bolivia from Chile in 1825, taking advantage of the unsurveyed border, and ignoring the royal decree of 1681 and "uti possidetis" a principle in international law that territory and other property remains with its possessor at the end of a conflict, unless provided for by treaty. This gave Bolivia an outlet to the sea between Chile and Peru, which it retained until the War of the Pacific from 1878 to 1884 when Cobija passed back to Chile.

Cobija was poorly built and never important as the port for Bolivia (Arica had better access to the Bolivian cities), and postal trade was very small. The British Postal Agency at Cobija was established in 1862 and operated until 1878, with British stamps being used from 1865. Cobija lost its importance and no longer exists. The current city of Cobija in Bolivia is a different place.

### 1871 Entire from London to Cobija



Cobija CDS1



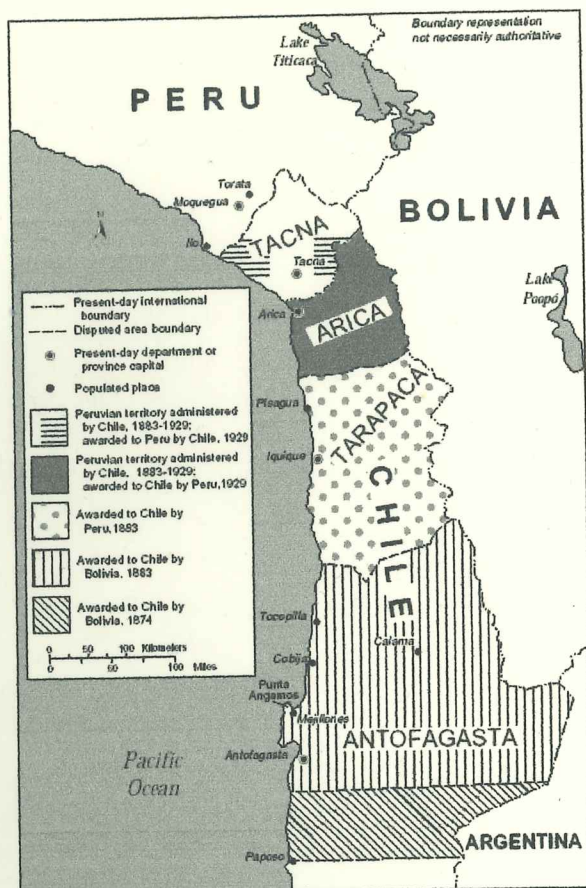
1871 EL from London to Cobija with LOMBARD ST PAID cds dated 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1871, "1/6" and "Via Panama" in manuscript and single ring Cobija receiver for Jan 9<sup>th</sup> 1872.

**Rate:** On the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1870 (GPO 40/69) the rate for mail to and from Ecuador, Bolivia, Chile and Peru via Panama was reduced from 2/- to 1/6.

**Route:** From Southampton to Colon (Colombia) by the Royal Mail Steam Packet Company (RSMP), across the Panama isthmus using the Trans-Oceanic Railway and from Panama to Cobija by the Pacific Steam Navigation Company (PSNC)

## Bolivia

### Antofagasta (La Chimba)



Antofagasta and its suburb La Chimba lie on the coast 50 miles south of Cobija. Covers are known dated 1875 to 1878 with Great Britain stamps and a variety of local cancellations. Although there was not a packet office there, some British Packets called at Antofagasta and carried the mail to their destinations, sometimes with an additional cancellation on the cover from the British Packet Agency at Cobija or Valparaiso.

Founded between 1866 and 1874 as a seaport for the recently discovered silver mines nearby, Antofagasta was part of the Litoral Province of Bolivia until February 14, 1879, when it was occupied by Chilean troops.

The War of the Pacific, sometimes called the Saltpetre War in reference to its original cause, was fought between Chile and the joint forces of Bolivia and Peru from 1879 to 1883. Chile gained substantial mineral-rich territory in the conflict, annexing both the Peruvian province of Tarapaca and the Bolivian province of Litoral, leaving Bolivia as a landlocked country. The Bolivian government has since made efforts to regain control of the city.



Antofagasta Franca



Part Antofagasta "Franca" i.e. paid cancel on 1876 1/- green plate 13 stamp of Great Britain. This cancel has only rarely been recorded on cover, dated May 1878.