

SOUTH SEA ISLANDS

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE, MARIANAS AND MARSHALL ISLANDS.

During the 16th to 18th centuries the Caroline's, Marianas and Marshall islands, Micronesia, were little known, the Spanish had since 1667 colonised the Marianas Islands, and it was not until the dispute between Spain and Germany in 1885 over the Caroline Islands, with both countries having developed economic interests in these regions, that this dispute went to arbitration judged by Pope Leo XII who ruled in favour of Spain but gave Germany free trading rights, but the Spanish did not occupy any of the Caroline Islands formally until 1886. Then as a consequence of the 1898 Spanish-American War, Spain sold the Caroline and Marianas Islands to Germany under the terms of the German-Spanish Treaty of 1899 and by this time Germany had colonised the Marshall Islands. A few items of mail are shown from the German Colony period from the Micronesian Islands as forerunners.

Japanese merchants had been present in the Caroline, Marianas and Marshall Islands since the early 20th Century, trading peacefully until the commencement of World War 1, Japan entered into the war late in 1914 but on the side of the allies, firstly attacking the German enclave in Shantung, China, capturing and taking many German prisoners of war who were housed in P.O.W. camps in both China and Japan. The Japanese then sent an expeditionary force to the German held Caroline, Marianas and Marshall Islands, but the depleted and outgunned German garrisons were soon taken by the Japanese forces. Initially the USA and Britain had reservations about Japanese expansion in the Pacific but after diplomatic manoeuvring the League of Nations gave Japan a mandate to administer the islands under the Leagues regulations. From the end of 1914 until late 1915 the islands mail was all handled by Japanese Navy ships, it was not until mid-October 1915 that the first land based Japanese post offices opened at Saipan in the Marianas, at Jaluit in the Marshall Islands and at Ponape, Truk, Yap, Palau, Angaur and Kusaie these initial eight cancels showed the post office name in Katakana characters in the upper section of the hand-stamp, in the centre year – month – day in numerals and in the lower section 'kanji kansen yubin sho' meaning Naval Ship Post Office.

The above mentioned cancel was used until 1917 when it was modified so that in the new cancel the lower arc read 'kaigun gun'yo yubin sho' meaning Navy Post Office with this cancel type being used at the eight post offices listed above until 1922.

In 1922 the cancel was again changed and additional post offices opened, the cancel now reads in the lower section 'yubin kyoku' meaning Post Office. The new post offices that were opened are from the locations of Tinian in 1929, Rota in 1933, Fais in 1939, Malakal in 1942, and Saipan Airfield in 1942, the post office at closed just prior to this new cancel being introduced but re-opened in 1939, this cancel was in use until the period 1944 to 1945 when the various territories became occupied by the Allies in World War II.

From 1939 until 1944 to 1945 Mobile Post Offices were introduced these also having a different cancel, these mobile post office were located at Saipan, Palau, Ponape, Tinian, Truk and Guam which was renamed as Omiya and later as Saipan Mobile 1. The cancel itself differed from the 1922 – 1945 cancel in that the upper comb area was replaced by the term 'ido bunshitsu' meaning Mobile Branch.

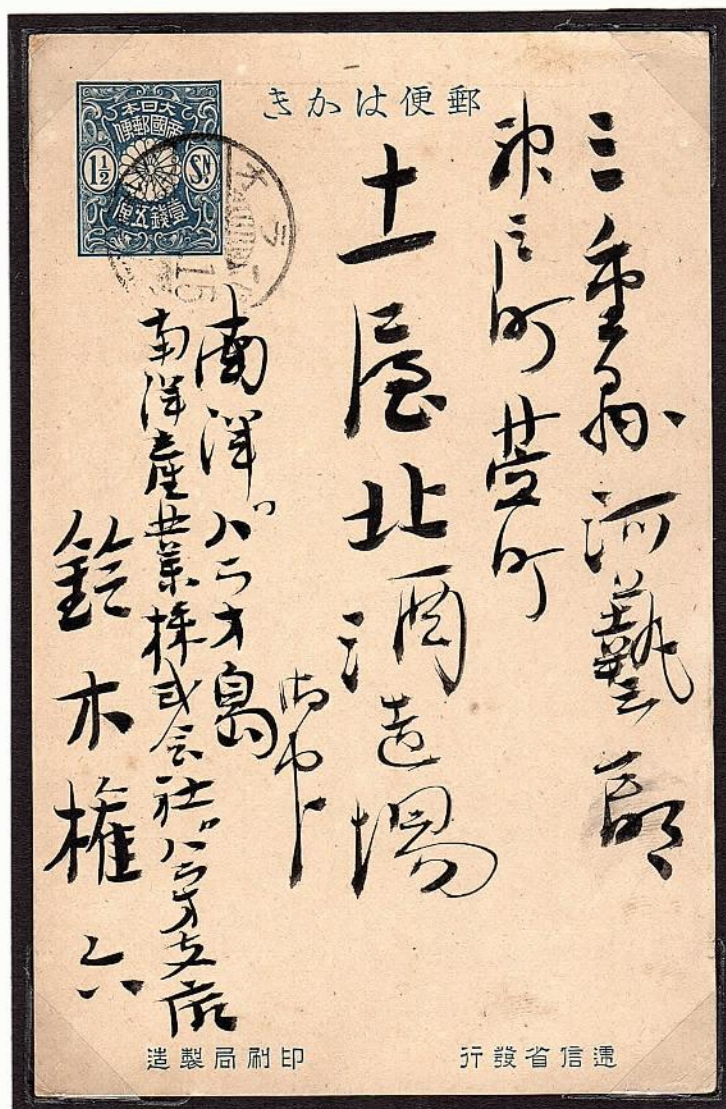
In addition to the all Japanese cancels two forms of foreign mail cancels were employed, the first of these appeared in 1926 at Palau (cancel reading PARAO in the upper segment), then at Jaluit in 1927 (cancel reading YARUTO in the upper section), and finally Saipan reading SAIPAN, in these new hand-stamps the centre reads as day – month – year and in the lower segment I.J.P.O. NANYO (Imperial Japanese Post Office) and the meaning of 'Nanyo' is South Seas.

The final form of foreign mail cancel was introduced in 1940 for Palau reading PARAO, Jaluit reading YARUTO and SAIPAN this is different from the cancel described above (1926 to 1945) in that the bottom section reads as NIPPON (Japan), this final cancel type is extremely rare.

During World War II military mail exists from many of the Pacific Islands both with Navy and Army codes, some typical examples of the Navy codes are; U14 Saipan – Pontamcho, U17 Saipan – Laolao, U21 Tinian, U30 Palau, U50 which is Truk, U54 Dublon Island, U57 Moen Island, U70 Ponape, U88 Maloelap Tarawa, U102 Guam later Omiya Island, U115 Roi-Namur. Army codes also exist in these South Sea Island locations such as KAEDE 4257 Celebes, TERU 5223 Palau, KASHIWA 4675 Truk, to give but a few examples. Mail is shown in this exhibit from many of these locations in the Caroline, Marianas and Marshall Islands.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

This is a very scarce example of mail from Palau, Caroline Islands in 1916. Japanese troops occupied Palau on the 8th October 1914 and for the following year numbered post offices aboard ships provided the only postal service in the Caroline Islands. Land post offices on Jaluit Atoll opened on the 15th October 1915 using the initial cancel reading in the upper segment 'Palau', in the centre segment the Taisho' year, month, day', in the lower segment 'Naval Ship Post Office', although designated as a 'Ship' post office it was in reality a 'Land' post office being administered by the Navy but accepting both military and civilian mail. This cancellation was in use from 15th October 1915 until the 31st January 1917 some 14 months.

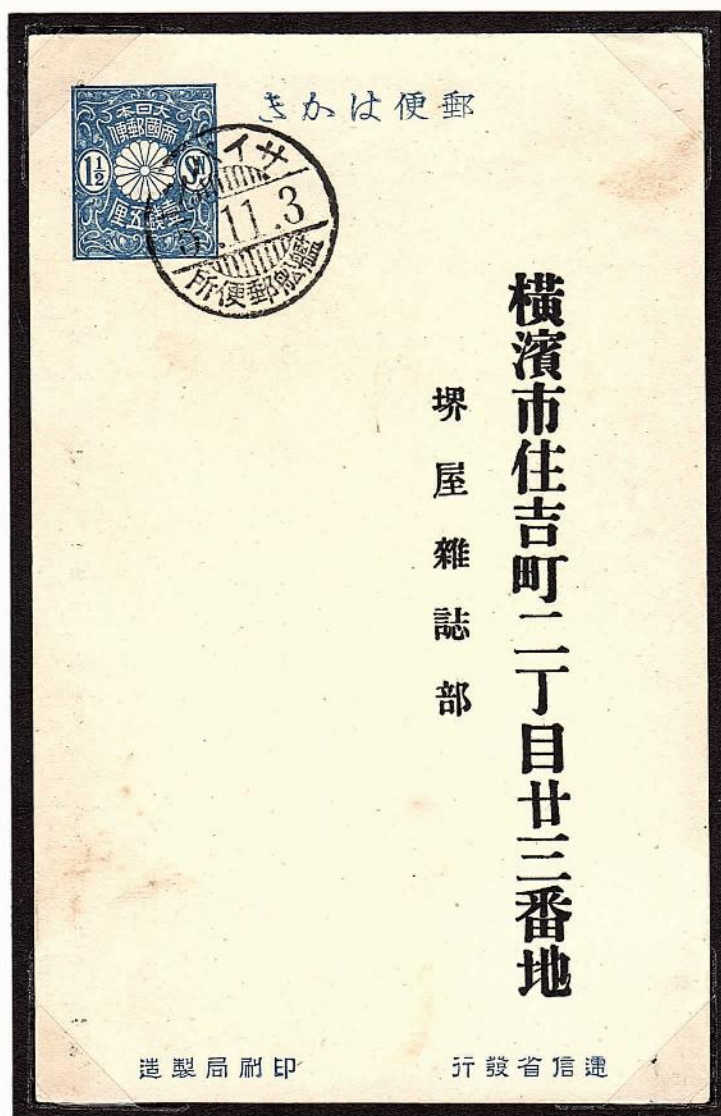


Palau,
15th August 1916,
Naval Ship Post Office.

1916 Postal Stationery card, from SUZUKI Kenroku, South Seas Industries, Palau Branch, Caroline Islands.
Cancel reading 'Palau, 5. 8. 15, Naval Ship Post Office', (15th August 1916).
Sent to Tsuchiya Kita Sake Brewery, Suga-machi, Niinohe-cho, Kawage-gun, Mie-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

This is very scarce example of mail from Saipan, Marianas Islands in 1916. Japanese troops occupied Saipan on the 14th October 1914 and for the following year numbered post offices aboard ships provided the only postal service in the Marianas Islands. Land post offices on Saipan opened on the 15th October 1915 employing a cancel reading in the upper segment 'Saipan', in the centre segment the Taisho' year, month, day', in the lower segment 'Naval Ship Post Office', although indicating this was a 'Ship' post office it was in reality a 'Land' post office administered by the Navy but accepting both military and civilian mail. This cancellation was in use from 15th October 1915 until 31st January 1917 some 14 months.



Saipan,
3rd November 1916,
Naval Ship Post Office.

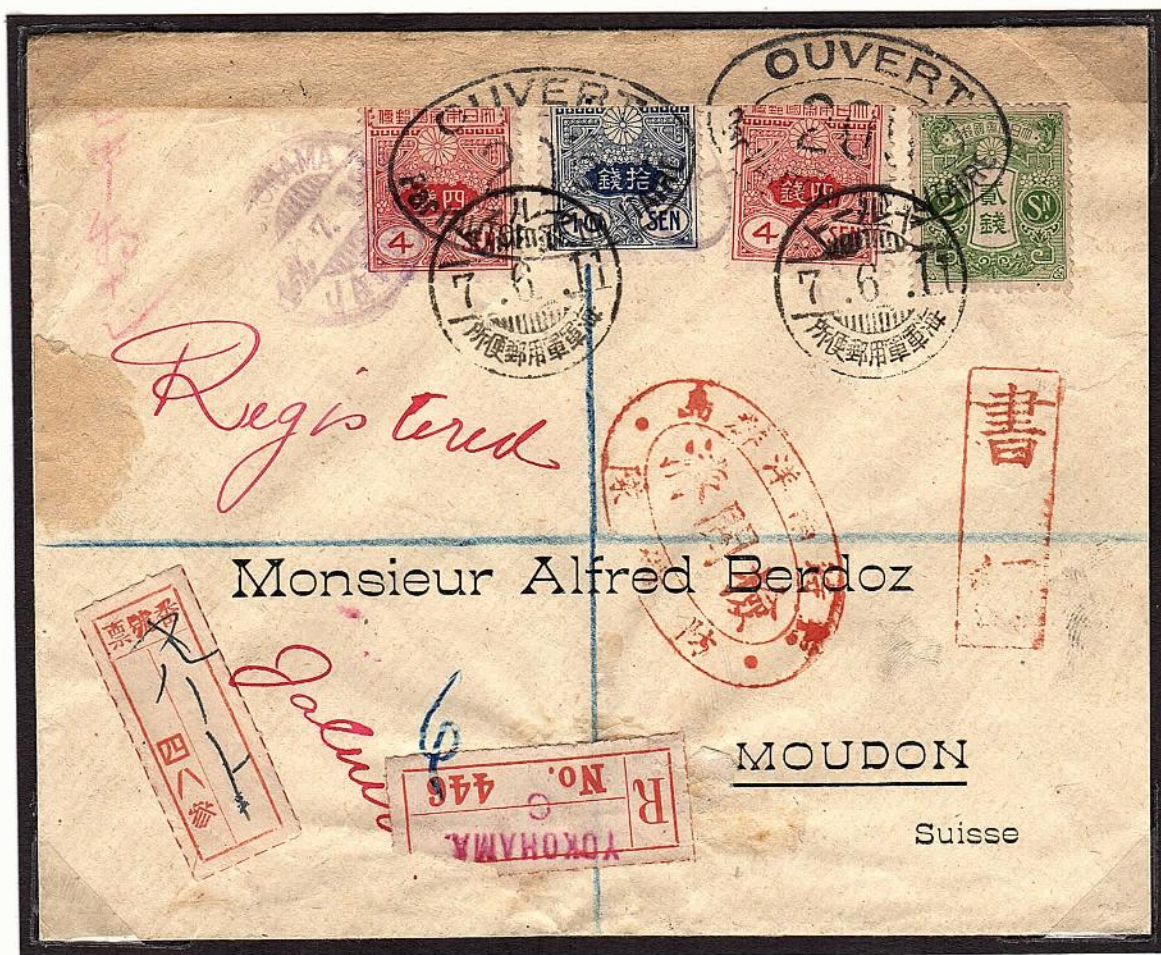
1916 Postal Stationery card, from a member of the Japanese Army just posted to the South Sea.
Cancel on 1½ sen imprinted stamp reading 'Saipan, 5. 11. 3', (3rd November 1916).
Postcard was prepared prior to leaving Japan thanking all of his relatives who were at his port of departure.
Sent to SAKAIYA, Sumiyoshi-cho 2-chome, 23 banchi, Yokohama-shi, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

This is a rare example of mail from Jaluit, Marshall Islands in 1918. Japanese troops occupied Jaluit on the 29th September 1914 and for the following year numbered post offices aboard ships provided the only postal service in the Marshall Islands. Land post offices on Jaluit Atoll opened on the 15th October 1915 using the initial cancel until January 1917 then a second cancel was employing this cancel reading in the upper segment 'Jaluit', in the centre segment the Taisho' year, month, day', in the lower segment 'Naval Post Office', this Land post office was administered by the Navy but accepting both military and civilian mail. This, the second cancellation was in use from 1st February 1917 until 31st March 1922.



Jaluit,
11th June 1918,
Navy Post Office.



1918 Cover, Registered from Jaluit Atoll, Marshall Islands.

Cancel reading 'Jaluit, 7. 6. 11, Navy Post Office', (11th June 1918) Registered label Jaluit, No. 483'. Boxed red hand-stamp 'Registered'. Oval red hand-stamp 'South Sea Islands Defence Force - Censored'.

Transit cancel 'Yokohama, 31. 7. 18' (31st July 1918), International Registered 'Yokohams C No. 446'.

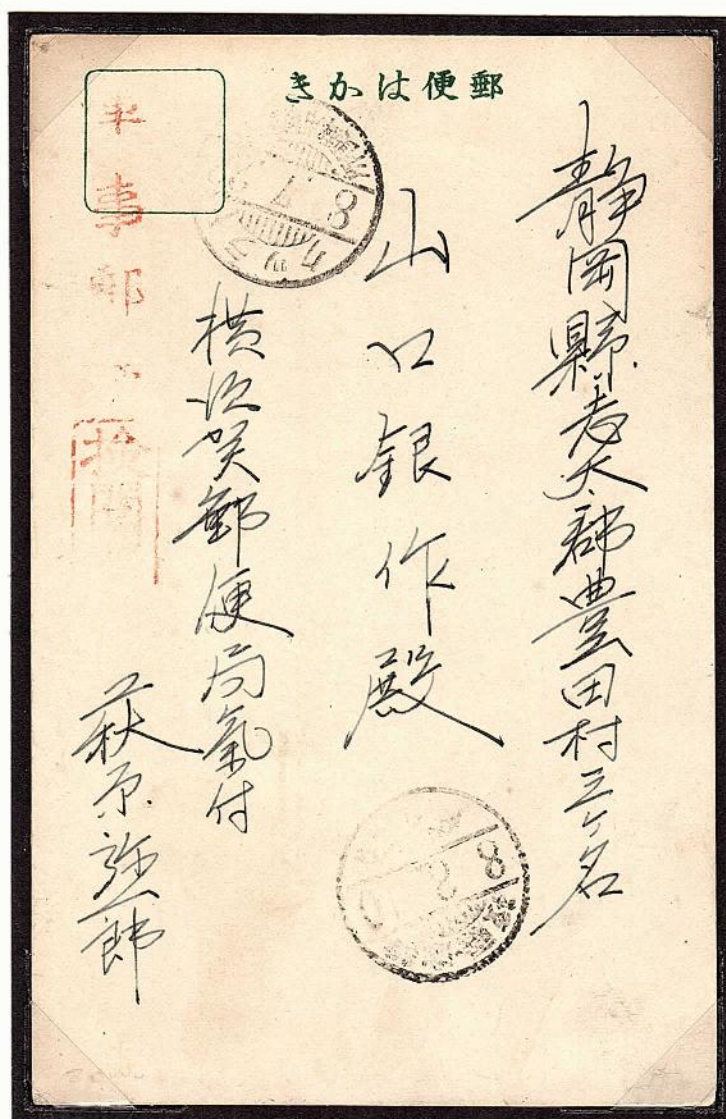
Transit at Lyon, France, and oval hand-stamp 'Opened under Military Authority 205' (205 Lyon).

Resealing label reads 'Controle Postal Militaire'

Sent to Alfred BERDOZ, Moudon, Switzerland. Receiving cancel 'Moudon, 7. 1X.18' (7th September 1918).

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

This is scarce example of mail from Truk, Caroline Islands in 1919. Japanese troops occupied Truk on the 12th October 1914 and for the following year numbered post offices aboard ships provided the only postal service in the Caroline Islands. Land post offices on Truk opened on the 15th October 1915 using the initial cancel until January 1917 then a second cancel was employing this cancel reading in the upper segment 'Truk', in the centre segment the Taisho' year, month, day', in the lower segment 'Naval Post Office', this Land post office was administered by the Navy but accepting both military and civilian mail. This, the second cancellation was in use from 1st February 1917 until 31st March 1922.

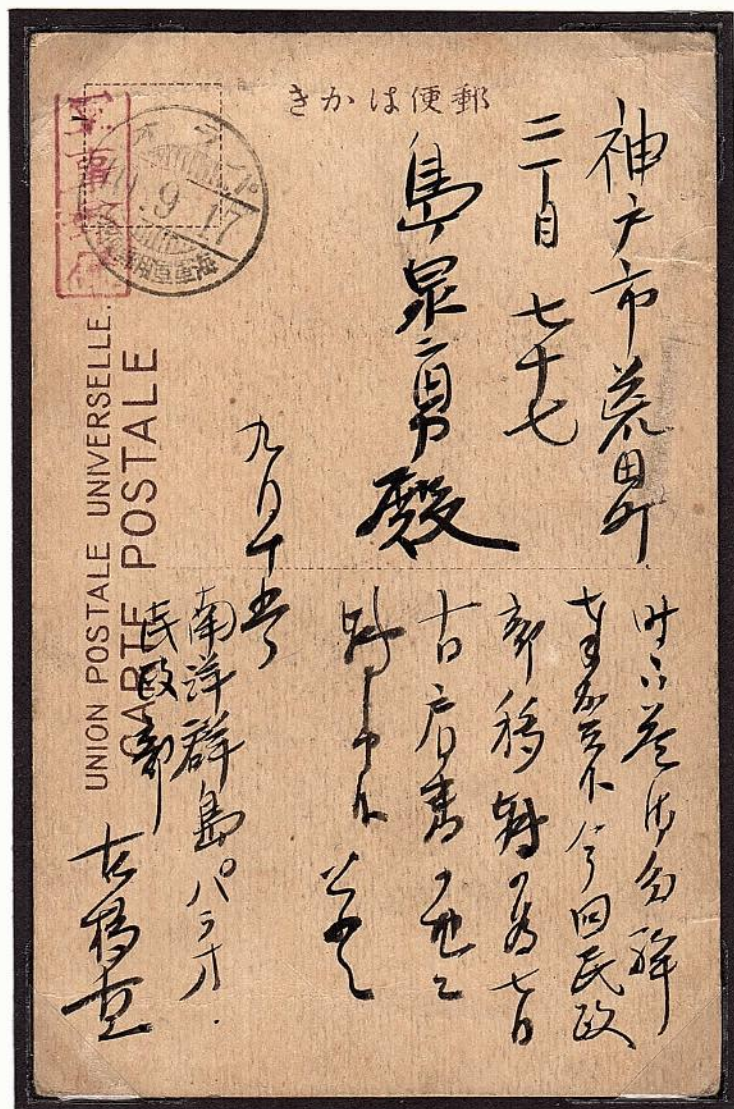


Truk,
22nd July 1919,
Navy Post Office.

1919 Postcard, from HAGIWARA Yaichiro, South Sea Island Forces, Truk, Caroline Islands.
Cancel reading 'Truk, 8. 7. 22, Navy Post Office', (22nd July 1919).
Hand-stamped 'Military Mail' and 'Censored'.
Sent to YAMAGUCHI Ginsaku, Sangana, Toyota-mura, Shida-gun, Shizuoka -ken, Japan.
Receiving cancel of 'Shida, Toyota, 8. 8. 10' (10th August 1919).

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

This is scarce example of mail from PALAU, Caroline Islands in 1921. Japanese troops occupied Palau on the 8th October 1914 and for the following year numbered post offices aboard ships provided the only postal service in the Caroline Islands. Land post offices on Palau opened on the 15th October 1915 using the initial cancel until January 1917 then a second cancel was employing this cancel reading in the upper segment 'Palau', in the centre segment the Taisho' year, month, day', in the lower segment 'Naval Post Office', this Land post office was administered by the Navy but accepting both military and civilian mail. This, the second cancellation was in use from 1st February 1917 until 31st March 1922.



Palau,
17th September 1921,
Navy Post Office.

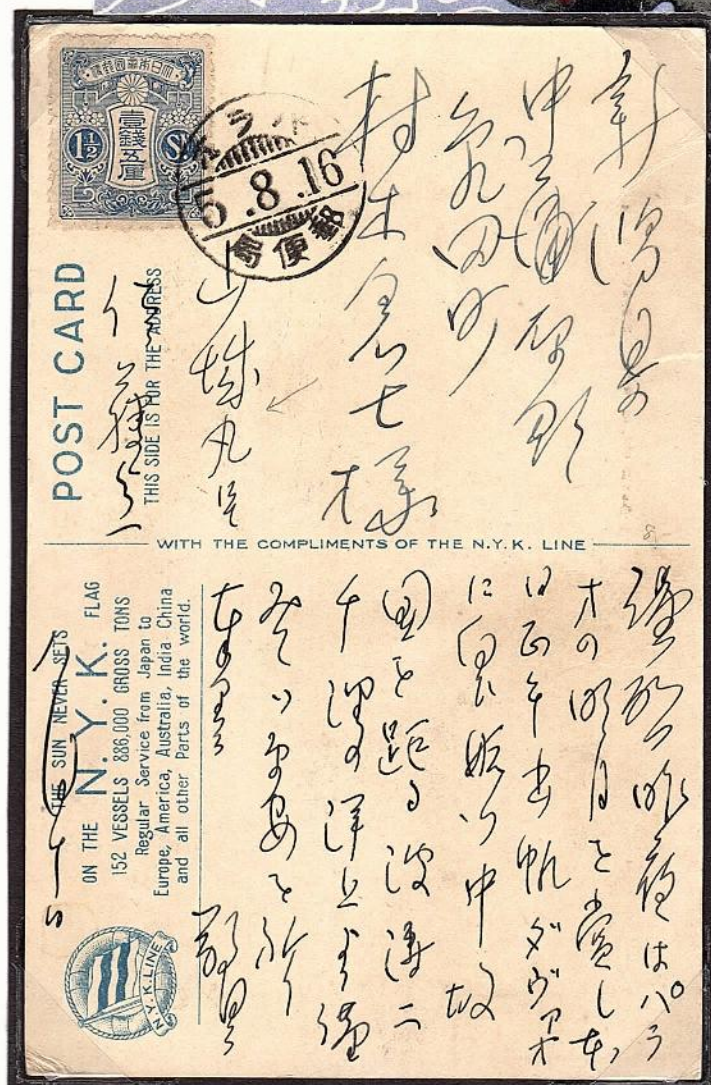
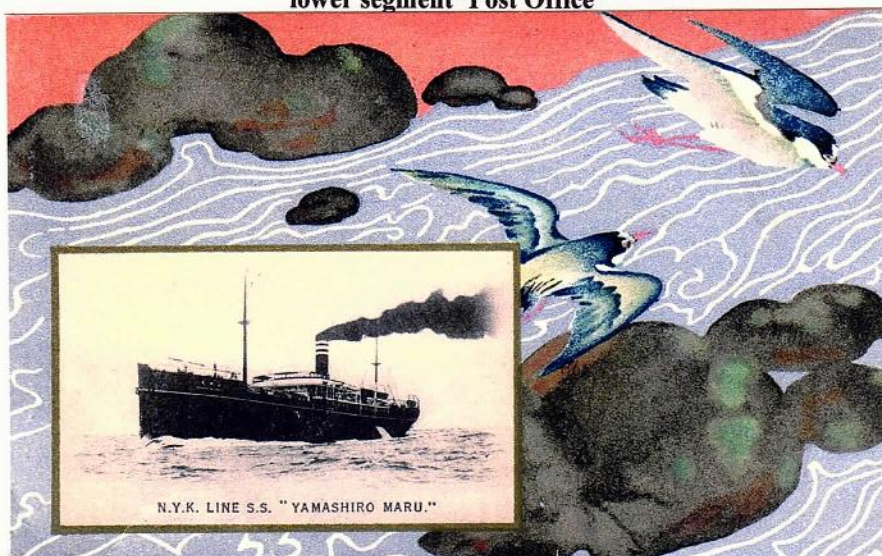
1921 Postcard, from SHIMAIZUMI, Palau Civil Administration Department, Caroline Islands.
Cancel reading 'Palau, 10. 9. 17, Navy Post Office', (17th September 1921).
Card dated 15th September and hand-stamped 'Military Mail' .
Sent to SHIMAIZUMI Isamu, Arata-machi 2-chome No. 77, Kobe-shi, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

This is a scarce example of the Japan domestic 1½ sen rate for postcards on mail sent from Palau, Caroline Islands.

This mail was posted ashore whilst the Japanese passenger ship 'Yamashiro-maru' was anchored at Palau.

The cancellation on this cover came into usage on the 1st April 1922 and remained in usage until the closing of post offices during the 1944 – 1945 period. The cancel reads in the upper segment 'Palau', in the centre segment the Showa' year, month, day', in the lower segment 'Post Office'



Palau,
16th August 1930,
Post Office.

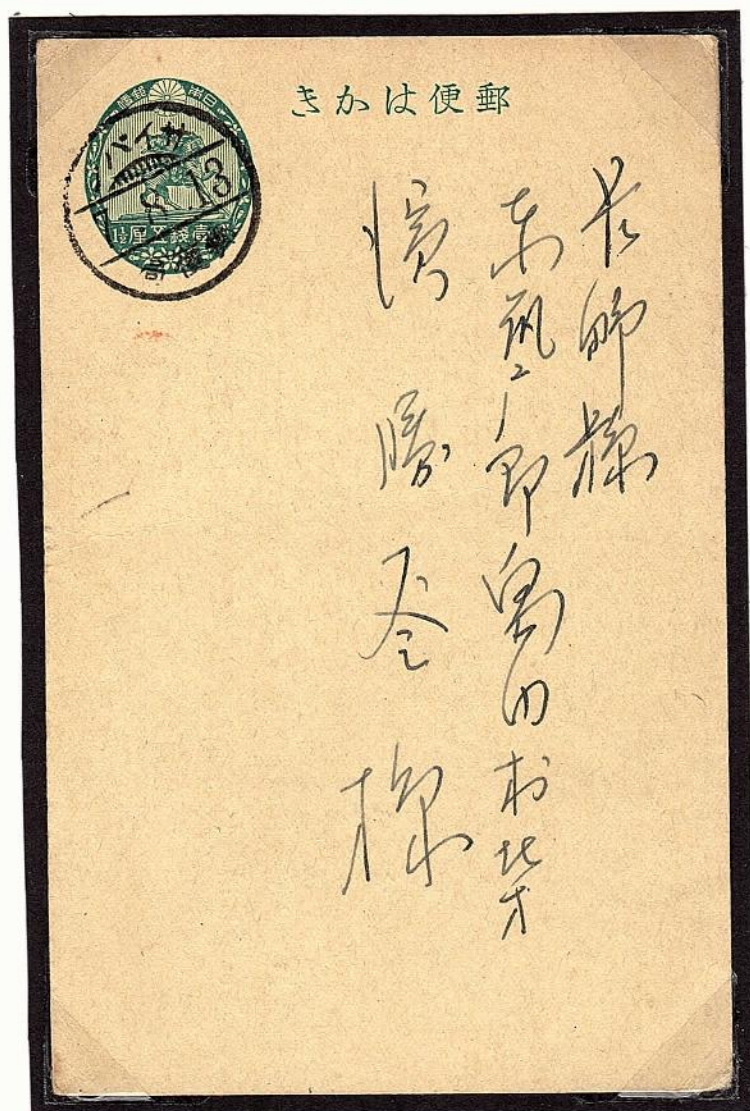
1930 Postcard, from ITO Yoichi, On Board 'SS Yamashiro-maru' at Palau, South Seas.

Cancel reading 'Palau, 5. 8. 16, Post Office', (16th August 1930).

Sent to MURAMOTO Genshichi, Kameda-cho, Naka Kanbara-gun, Niigata-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

An example of from Saipan in the Mariana Islands illustrating the third type of cancel employed at Saipan Post Office, this cancel reads in upper segment Saipan, in centre Showa year, month, day, and in lower segment Post Office, this cancel was in use from Taisho 11 to Showa 20 (April 1922 – June 1944).



Saipan,
13th August 1932,
Post Office.

1932 Postal Stationery card, from AOYANAGI Ryu, Saipan Hospital, South Seas Agency, Marianas Islands. Imprinted stationery stamp at postcard rate 1½ sen, cancelled 'Saipan, 7. 8. 13, Post Office', (13th Aug 1932). Sent to KITAKATA, Shimada-mura, Higashi Chikuma-gun, Nagano-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

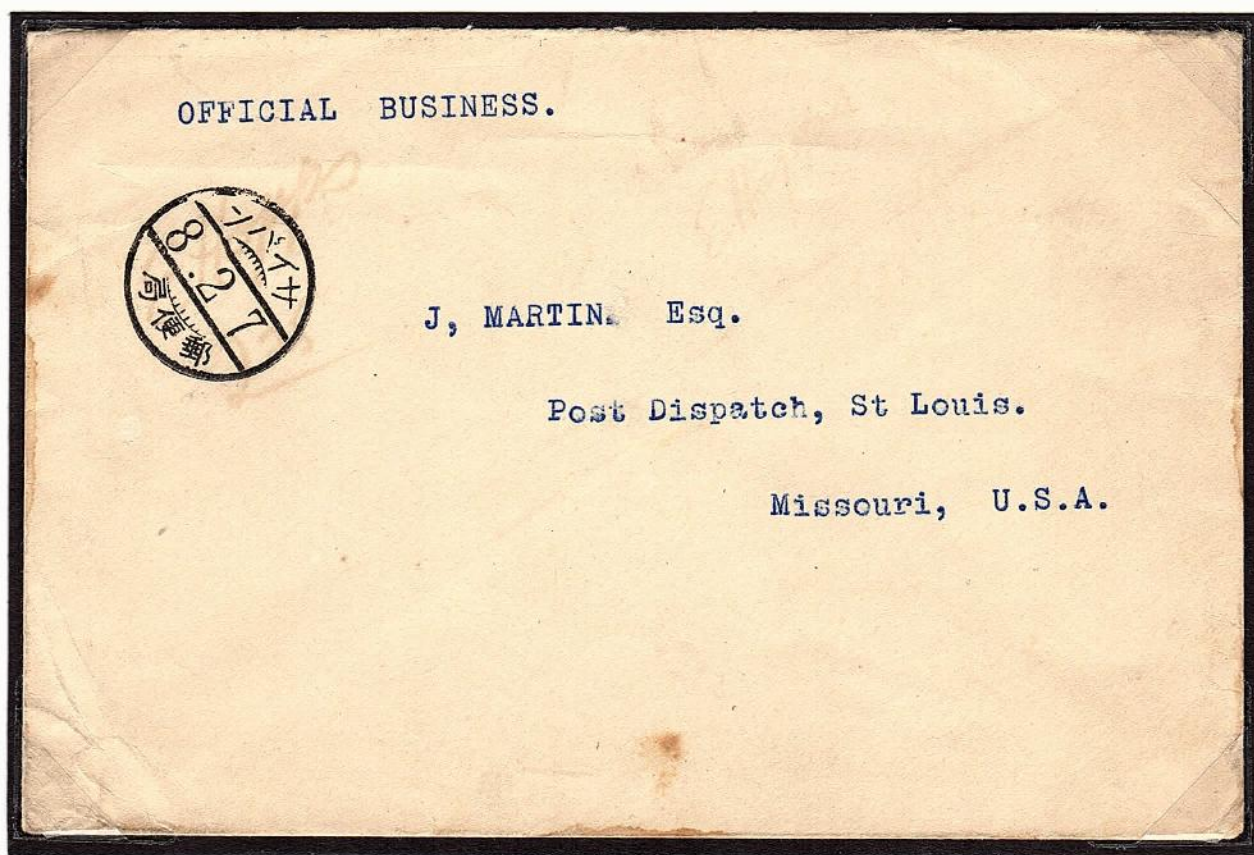
This is an unusual and scarce example of the 'Official Business' without charge on mail sent from Saipan, Marianas Islands.

No records indicate that such a system of sending official mail to overseas destinations from the South Sea Islands existed.

The cancellation on this cover came into usage on the 1st April 1922 and remained in usage until the closing of post offices during the 1944 - 1945 period. The cancel reads in the upper segment 'Palau', in the centre segment the Showa' year, month, day', in the lower segment 'Post Office'



Saipan,
7th February 1933,
Post Office.



1933 Cover, from South Seas at Saipan, Marianas Islands.

Sent on 'Official Bussiness' with cancel reading 'Saipan, 8. 2. 7, Post Office', (7th February 1933).

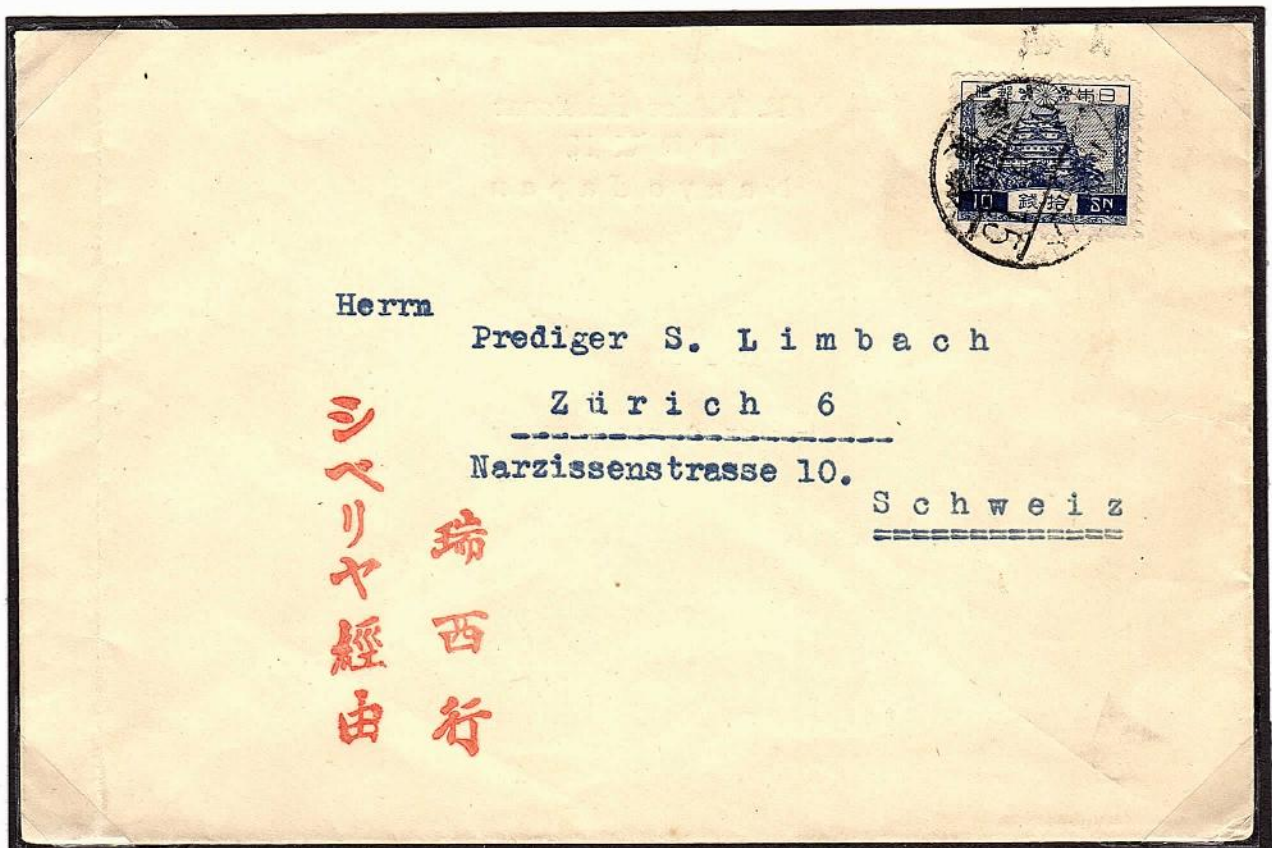
Sent to J. MARTIN Esq., Post Dispatch, St. Louis, Missouri, U. S. A.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS

This scarce example of overseas surface mail from Truk, Caroline Islands, to Switzerland via Siberia, at the 10 sen rate to Europe.
This normal Post Office cancel was first introduced on the 1st April 1922



Truk,
15th September 1933,
Post Office.



19 33 Cover, from R. Mader, Missionary, Truk, Nan'yo, Caroline Islands.
Franked with 10 sen (rate to Europe) cancel reading 'Truk, 8. 9. 15, Post Office', (15 September 1933).
Hand-stamped 'To Switzerland' and 'Via Siberia'.
Sent to Mr. Prediger S. Limbach, Narzissenstrasse 10, Zurich 6, Switzerland.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

Japanese military parcel receipts just prior to Japan entering WW II, sent between Japanese occupied territories, these parcel receipts for books are from a school teacher in a South Seas Agency school located in Saipan, Mariana Islands, sent to her younger brother a member of the Japanese Army in North China. The receipts are hand-stamped 'Military Mail' in large kanji characters. The maximum weight allowed for parcels under South Seas regulations was 6.8kg.

特殊郵便物受領證

引受番號 282

重量 0.65 斤 郵便料 49 錢

（差出人の居所及び名称）
中村 素一 郎
（差出人の居所及び名称）
中村 さく

（価格書記金額） （摘要）

（代金引換金額）

此の受領證は損害賠償の請求を爲すとき其の他種々の場合に必要でありますから大切に御保存下さい

14 年 11 月 4 日引受
サンプン 郵便局

軍事郵便

特殊(通常)郵便物受領證 2

總箇數

引受番號	重量 郵便料	受取人氏名	摘要
47	3.7	中村 素一 郎 (北支)	
48	3.1	中村 さく (北支)	

（差出人の居所及び名称）
中村 素一 郎
（差出人の居所及び名称）
中村 さく

此の受領證は郵便物取戻又は損害賠償の請求をなすとき必要でありますから大切に御保存下さい

14 年 1 月 18 日引受

郵便局
(郵便取扱所)

郵第二十號乙
(一年保存)
東京都市局長協會印行

1939 Parcel Receipt, from NAKAMURA Saku, Saipan Girls High School, South Sea Agency, Saipan, South Seas. Hand-stamped 'Military Mail'.

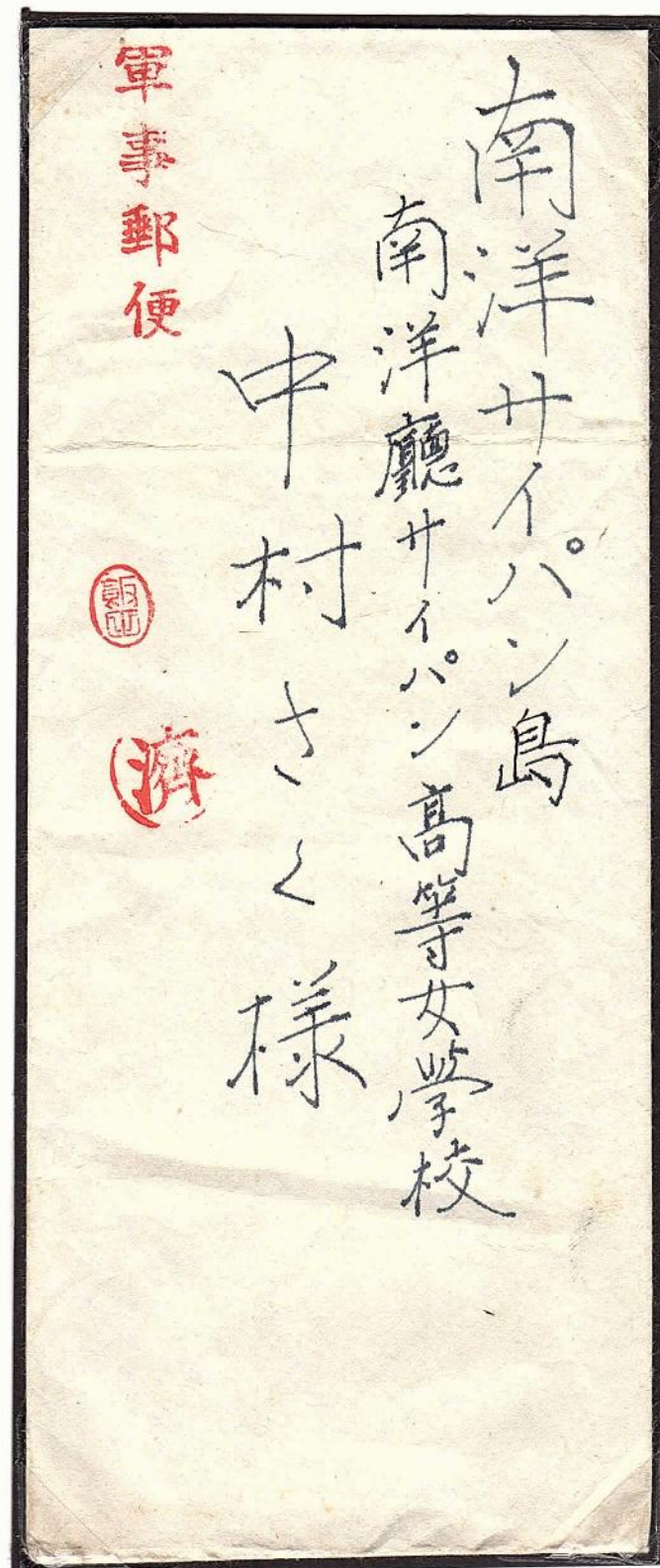
Receipt No. 282, for books of weight 0.65Kg., postage 49 sen. Dated 14. 11. 4, (4th November 1939). Sent to her younger brother NAKAMURA Kiichiro, Maeda Section, Taroda Unit, Field Office No. 84, North China Expeditionary Force.

1940 Parcel Receipt, from NAKAMURA Saku, Saipan Girls High School, South Sea Agency, Saipan, South Seas. Hand-stamped 'Military Mail'.

Receipt for 2 books, Item 47 3.7Kg., 48 3.1Kg., postage 130 sen. Dated 15. 1 18, (18th January 1940). Sent to her younger brother NAKAMURA Kiichiro, Maeda Section, Taroda Unit, Field Office No. 84, North China Expeditionary Force.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

Japanese military mail of WW II between Japanese occupied territories, this mail is from a member of the Japanese Army in North China to his elder sister a school teacher in a South Seas Agency school located in Saipan, Mariana Islands.



WW II cover, from NAKAMURA Kiichiro, Taro Section, Harada (Kuma) Unit, Headquarters, North China Expeditionary Force.

Hand-stamped 'Military Mail', 'Censored' 'IIDA'.

Sent to a relative NAKAMURA Saku, Saipan Girls High School, South Seas Agency, Saipan, South Seas

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

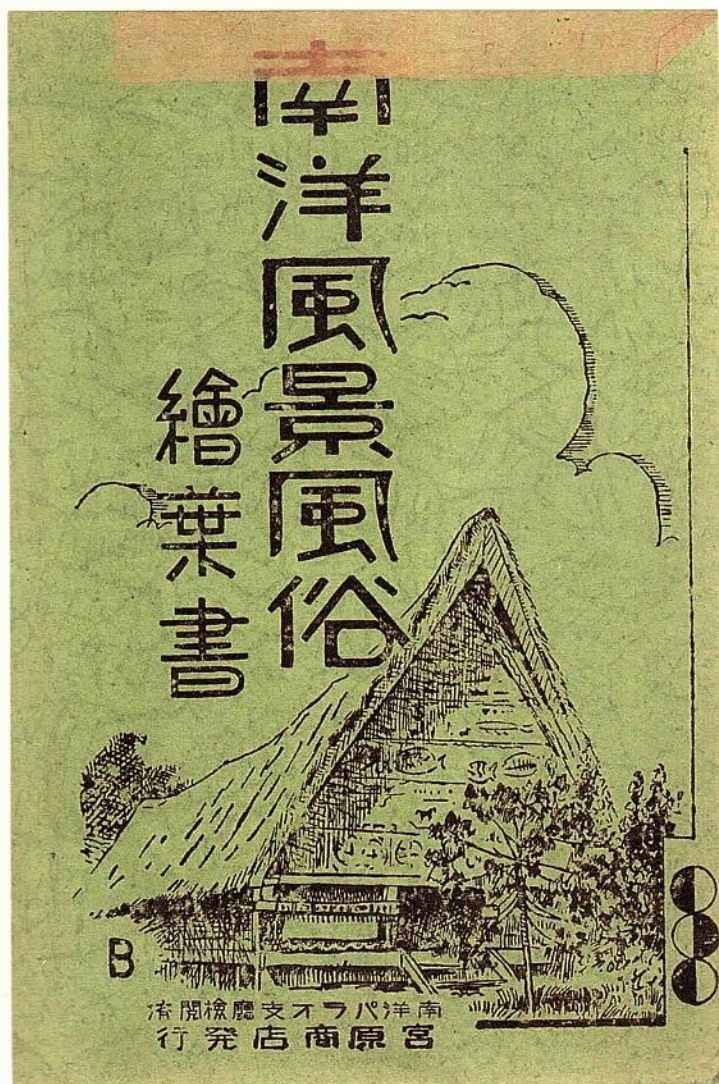
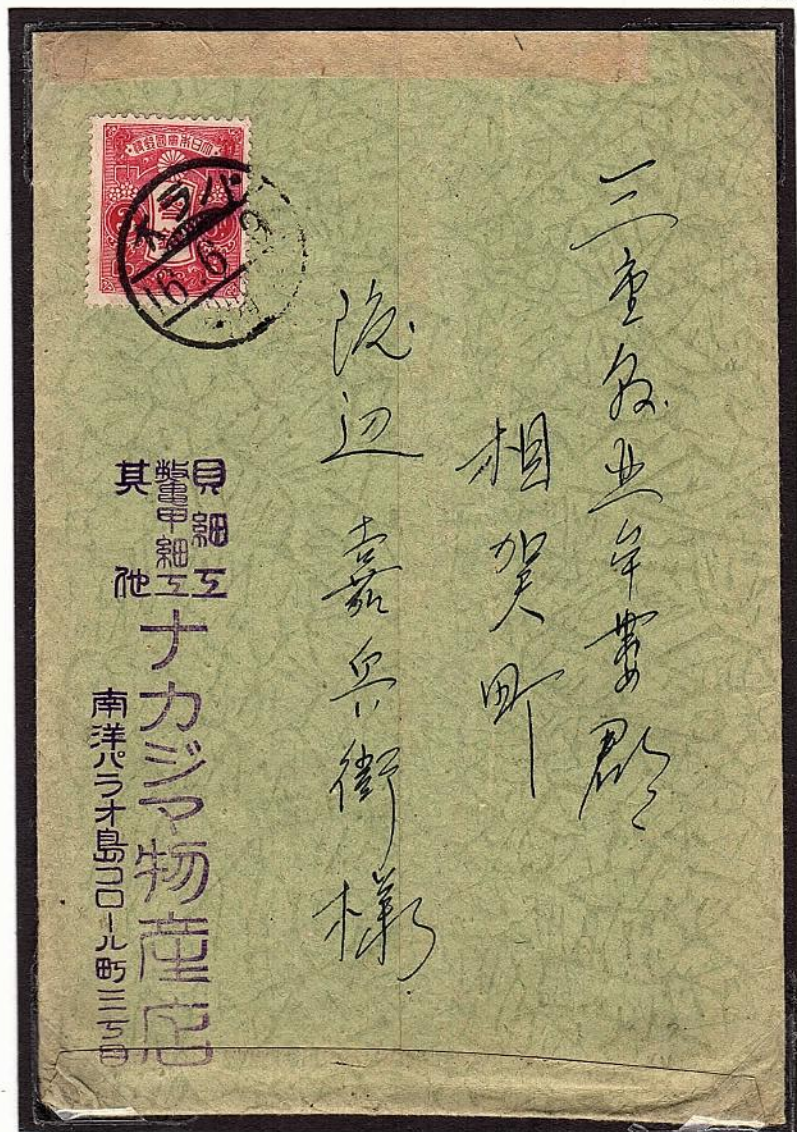
This is a rare example of censored fourth class mail at the 3 sen rate from Palau, Caroline Islands, very few examples of 4th class mail exist.

On 1st February 1941 a new Censorship Law was established prohibiting 'The making of drawings or models, taking photographs or pictures, in the South Sea Islands without permission of the relative authorities, thus and illustrated postcard or cover must be Agency Censored.

The cancellation on this cover came into usage on the 1st April 1922 and remained in usage until the closing of post offices during the 1944 – 1945 period. The cancel reads in the upper segment 'Palau', in the centre segment the Showa' year, month, day', in the lower segment 'Post Office'



Palau,
9th June 1941,
Post Office.



1941 Cover, from NAKAJIMA's Products Shop, Koror-cho 3-chome, Palau, South Seas.

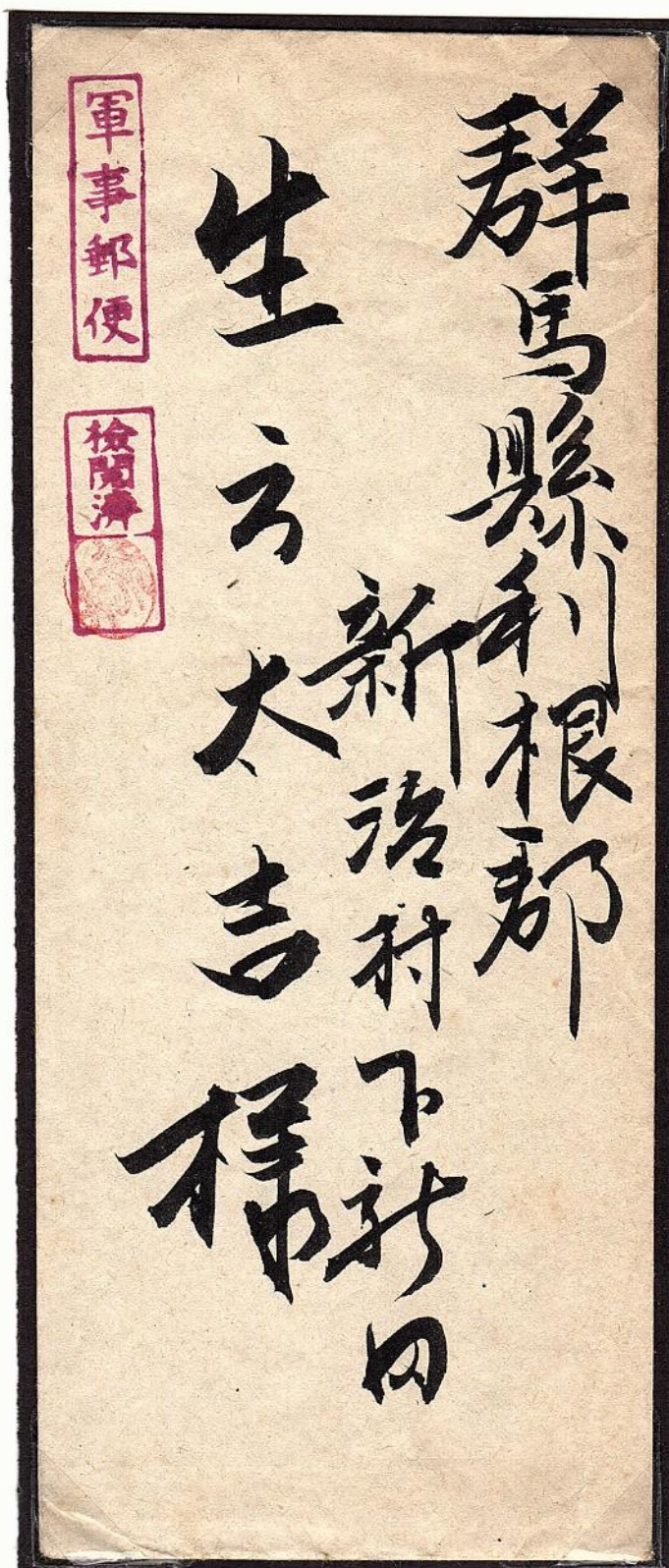
Cancel reading 'Palau, 16. 6. 9, Post Office', (9th June 1941).

Sent to WATANABE Kahei, Aiga-cho, Kita Muro-gun, Mie-ken, Japan.

Rear of cover reads 'Postcards – Scenes and Customs of the South Seas, Censored by Palau Sub-Agency, South Seas, Published by Miyahara'.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

Japanese military ship mail from the 'Choun-maru' a gunboat / escort-ship stationed at Truk, Caroline Islands.



1942 Cover, from YAMAGUCHI Shinkichi, Gunboat 'Choun-maru', c/o Yokosuka Post Office. The 'Choun-maru' was stationed in Truk, Caroline Islands, at the date of this letter in May 1942.

Hand-stamped 'Military Mail' and 'Censored'.

Sent to UBUKATA Taikichi, Shimmo Nitta, Niiharu-mura, Tone-gun, Gumma-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

Receipts for Telegraphic Transfers of Money from Saipan to Japan from members of the Japanese military stationed in Saipan. The cancellations on these receipts is unusual in respect to the bottom segment which reads 'NAN HE' were 'Nan' is a short form of Nanyo (South Seas) whilst 'He' in hiragana represents an identifying code for Saipan Post Office.

Other South Sea Post Offices had such identifying codes similar to Saipan 'HE' these are 'TO' for Truk, 'RU' was Yap, 'WA' was Angaur and 'CHI' Ponape, etc.

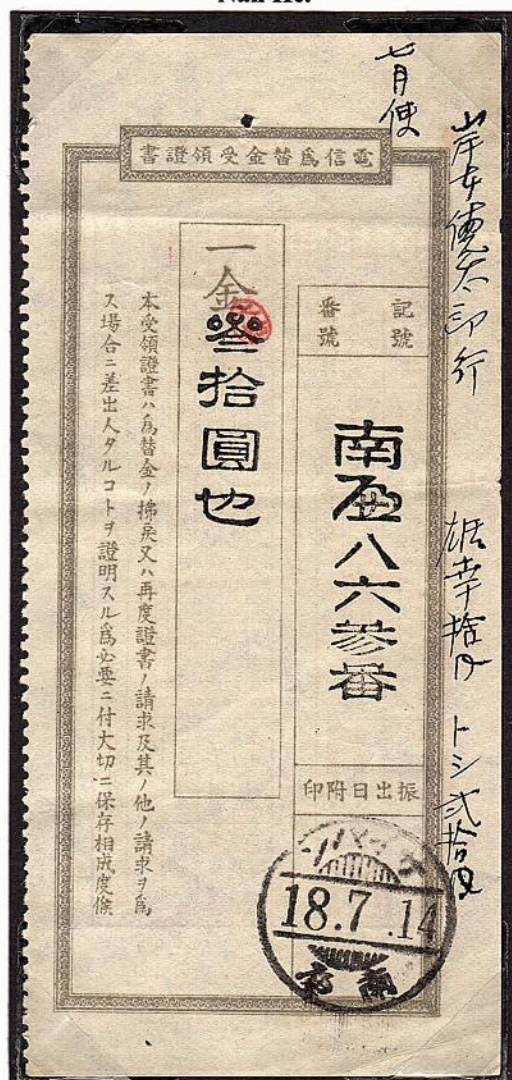
The Telegraphic Money Transfer Receipt of the 5th May was issued just prior to the U.S.A. bombing on the 13th June and actual invasion of Saipan on the 15th June 1944, in which the entire Japanese garrison on Saipan (approximately 30,000) were killed.



Saipan,
14th July 1943,
Nan He.



Saipan,
5th May 1944,
Nan He.



1943 Telegraphic Money Transfer Receipt, from KISHIMOTO Toshi, in the sum of 30 Yen.
Sent from Saipan with cancel reading 'Saipan, 18. 7. 14, Nan He', (14th July 1943).
Receipt Number NAN HE 863.

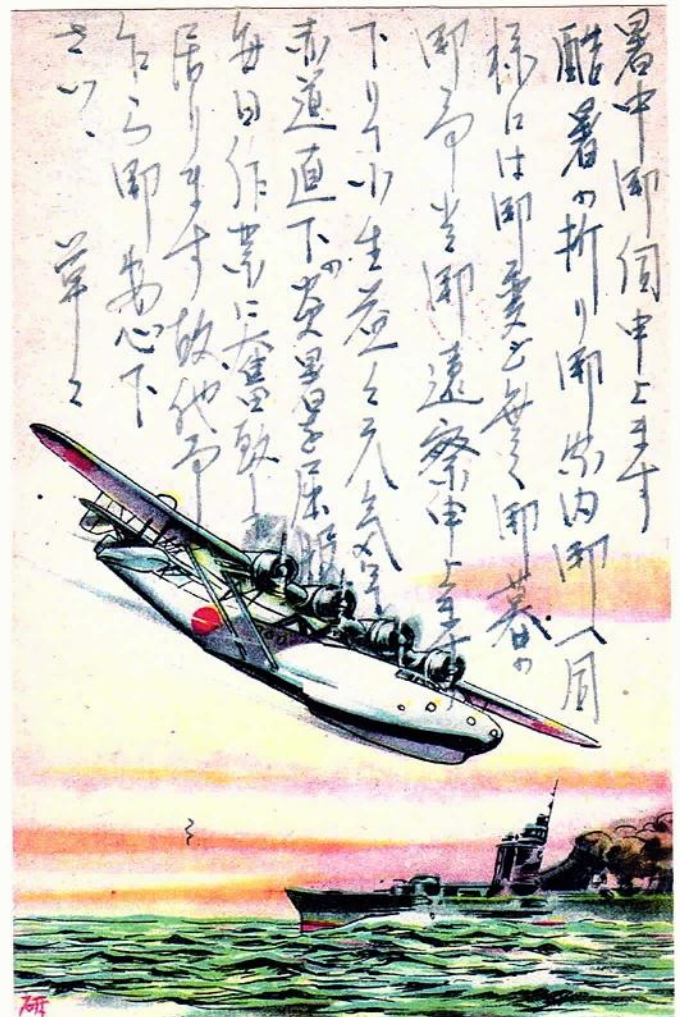
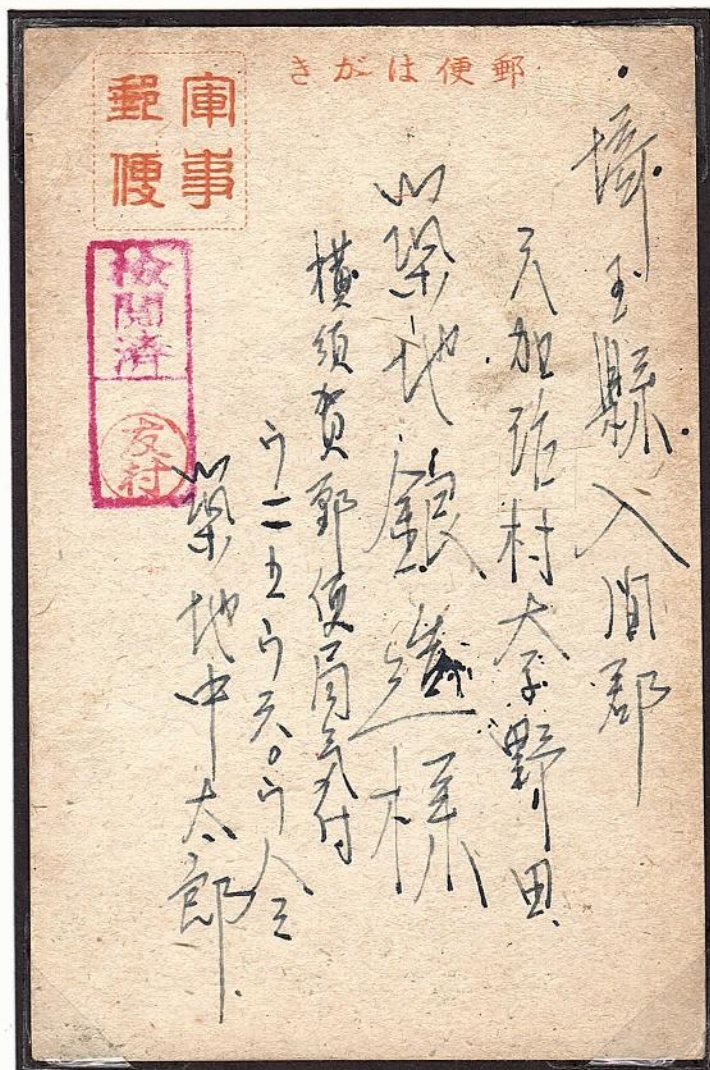
Sent to a relative KISHIMOTO Tokutaro, for Yuko ¥10, Toshi ¥20, Japan.



1944 Telegraphic Money Transfer Reciept, from KISHIMOTO Toshi, in the sum of 100 Yen.
Sent from Saipan with cancel reading 'Saipan, 19. 5. 5, Nan He', (5th May 1944).
Receipt Number NAN HE 816. Sent to a relative KISHIMOTO Tokutaro, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

A rare item of Japanese WWII mail from Roi-Namur Island, Marshall Islands, Roi-Namur part of Kwajalein Atoll, and had a garrison strength of some 3,500 Japanese in 1944 under the Command of Admiral YAMADA who in these islands had the main air-power of the Marshall Islands with 110 planes as an attacking force. On the 29th January U.S. carrier-planes attacked destroying 92 of these Japanese planes along with hangers and fuel dumps, on the 1st February US Marines landed on the islands of Roi-Namur and by the 3rd February 1944 the islands were secured with 3,449 of the Japanese garrison dead.



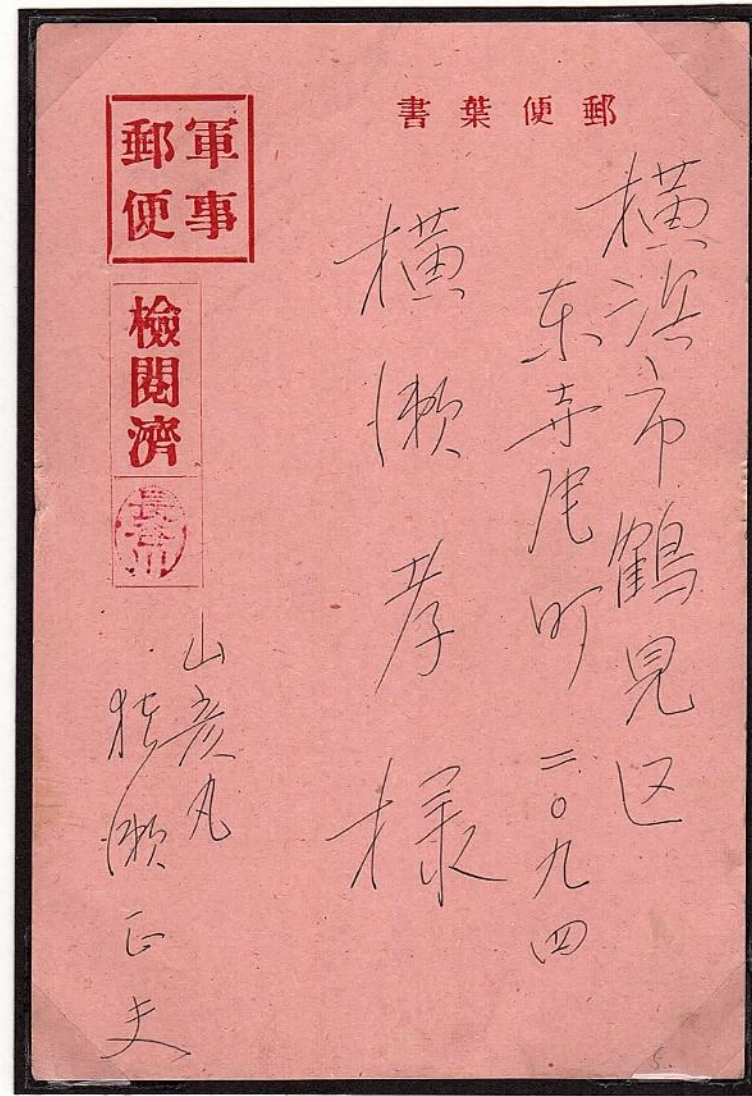
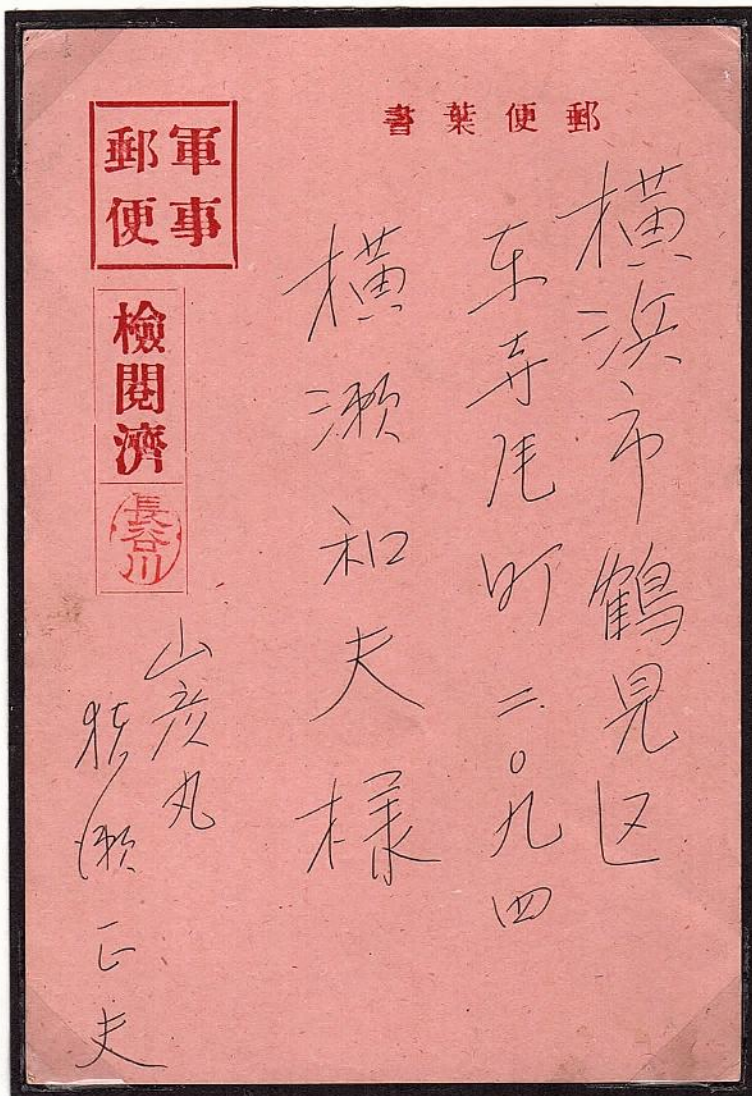
WWII Military Illustrated card, from TSUKIJI Chutaro, U83 4th Construction Unit, U60 8th Air Wing, U115 Roi-Namur, Marshall Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Card with printed 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored' by TOMOMURA.

Sent to a relative TSUKIJI Ginzo, Oh-aza Noda, Moto Kaji-mura, Iruma-gun, Saitama-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

A scarce example of WWII Japanese military ship mail from the 'Yamabiko-maru' a repair ship of some 6,795 tons, stationed in 1942 at Makassar, with the Japanese 3rd Fleet then on 25th December 1943 at Saipan, Mariana Islands.



1943 Postcard from YOKOSE Masao, Repair Ship 'Yamabiko-maru' c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

From a member of the ship and posted at Saipan, Mariana Islands in December 1943.

Postcard printed 'Military Mail' and 'Censored' Censors hand-stamp HASEGAWA.

Sent to a Relative YOKOSE Kazuo, Higashi Terao-cho 2094, Tsurumi-ku, Yokohama-shi, Japan.

1944 Postcard, from YOKOSE Masao, Repair ship 'Yamabiko-maru', c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

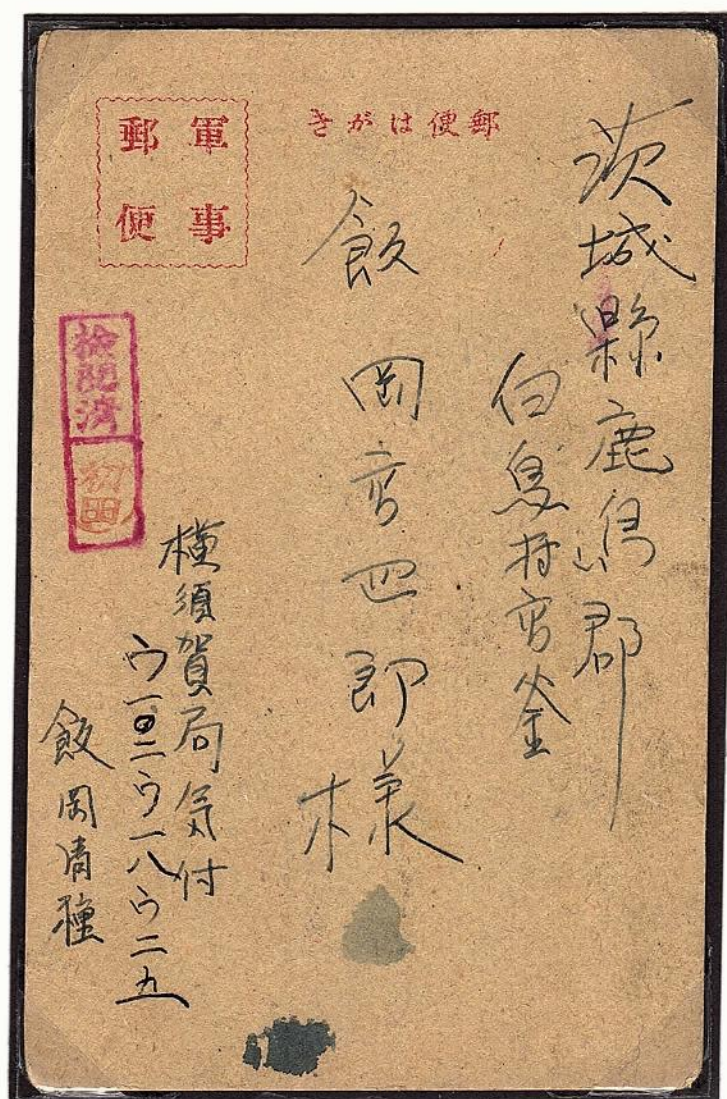
The 'Yamabiko-maru' was stationed in Saipan, Mariana Islands, date of this card in January 1944.

Printed 'Military Mail' and 'Censored' by HASEGAWA'.

Sent to a relative YOKOSE Takashi, Higashi Terao-cho 2094, Tsurumi-ku, Yokohama-shi, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

A very scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Guam, Mariana Islands, Guam is the most southerly island in the Marianas group. Japanese forces attacked the island on 8th December and the island was ceded to the Japanese on the 10th December 1941. The Japanese immediately renamed the island of Guam to Omiya Jima. The island was occupied by some 14,000 army and navy personnel under control of the Japanese Navy until the U.S.A. landings of the 21st July 1944 and the eventual ending of the 'Battle of Guam' on the 10th August 1944, as in many of the battles the Japanese refused to surrender and almost all were killed by the end of the war



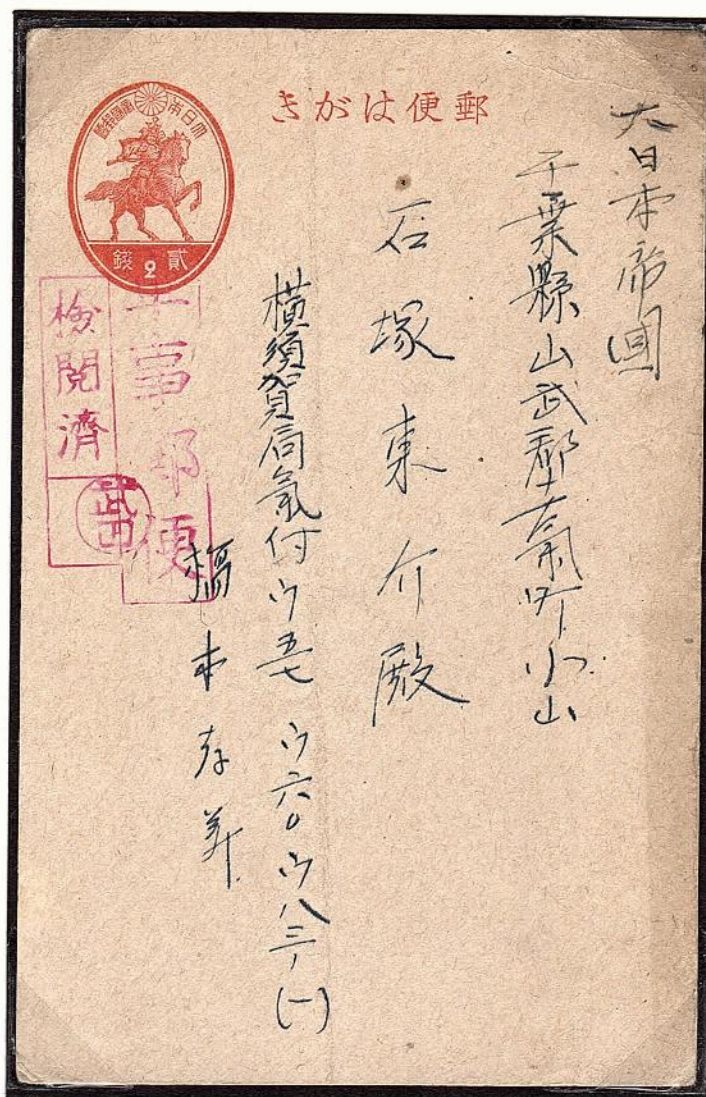
WWII Military Mail card, from IIOKA Kiyotane, U25 5th Outstation Unit, U18 5th Communications Unit, U102 Omiya Island, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Navy military mail card imprinted 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored' by HATSUDA. Sent to a relative IIOKA Takashiro, Takakama, Shiratori-mura, Kashima-gun, Ibaraki-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A very scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Haru-shima, Truk, Caroline Islands, Haru-shima is known as Moen Island. Moen Island in Truk Lagoon Truk Lagoon, was part of the anchorage for the combined fleet in the South Seas and housed the main sea-plane base.

The islands of Truk Lagoon were captured by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air-force in 'Operation Hailstone' on the 17th and 18th February 1944 with the Japanese suffering great loss of life, ships, planes and defence equipment. This mail illustrates the rare usage of a Japanese postal stationery card from the field of war in the South Pacific.

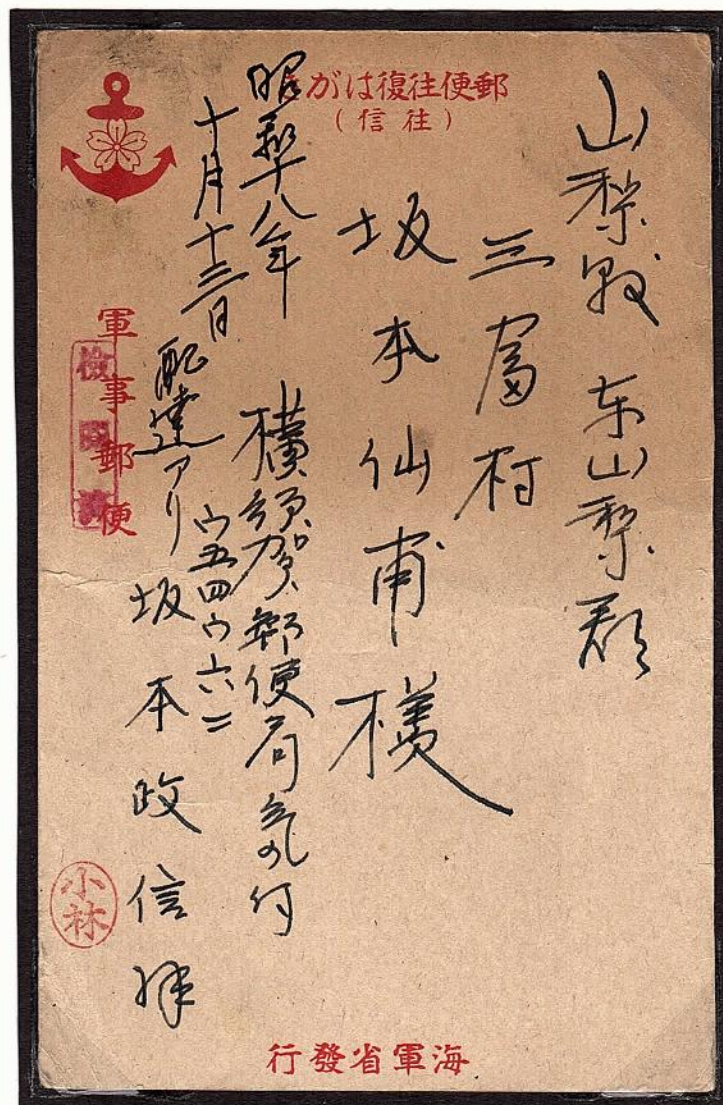


WWII Postal Stationery card, from FUKUMOTO Tomomi, U83-1-3 Personnel, U60 4th Construction Unit, U57 Haru-shima (Moen Island), Truk, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.
Postcard hand-stamped 'Military Mail' and 'Censored' by TAKEDA.
Sent to ISHIZUKA Tokai, Koyama, Toke-cho, Sanbu-gun, Chiba-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A very scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Natsu-shima, Truk, Caroline Islands, Natsu-shima is known as Dublon Island. Dublon Island one of the five Islands of Truk Lagoon, Truk Lagoon stationed some 41,000 Japanese Army and Navy personnel, was part of the anchorage for the combined fleet in the South Seas.

The islands of Truk Lagoon were captured by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air-force in 'Operation Hailstone' on the 7th and 18th February 1944 with the Japanese suffering great loss of life, ships, planes and defence equipment.



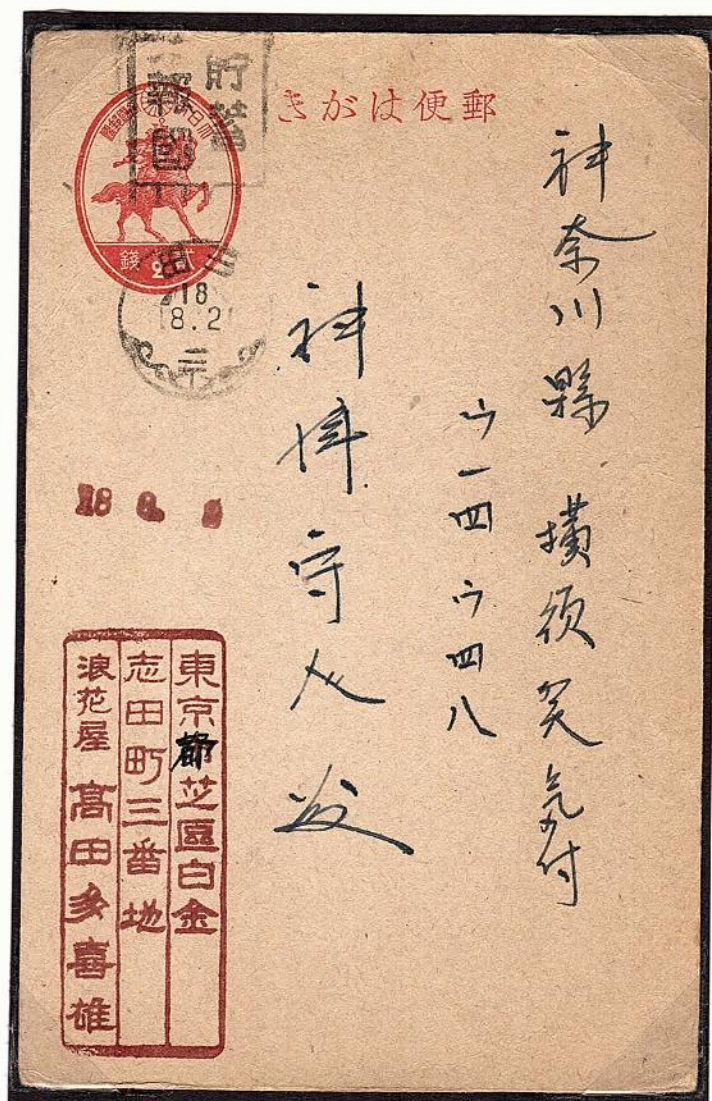
WWII Navy Military Mail card, from SAKAMOTO Masanobu, U62 4th Military Supplies Unit, U54 Natsu-shima (Dublon Island), Truk, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Navy military mail air card imprinted 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored' by KOBAYASHI. Sent to a relative SAKAMOTO Senpo, Mitomi-mura, Higashi Yamanashi-gun, Yamanashi-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail to Saipan, Mariana Islands, Saipan had a garrison strength of some 30,000 Japanese Army with the 43rd Division under the command of Lieutenant General SAITO and a civilian population of 25,000 Japanese.

Saipan was attacked and invaded by the U.S.A. troop initial bombardment from the sea started on the 13th June 1944, landings commenced on the morning of 15th June then land fighting continued until the 7th July when the remainder of the Japanese force made its final charge in which another 4,300 Japanese losing their lives. By the end of the fighting almost all of the 30,000 Japanese garrison were dead as were a large percentage of the Japanese civilian population on Saipan.



1943 Postal Stationery card, to KOUZU Morito, U48 5th Base Unit, U14, Pontamcho, Saipan, Mariana Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

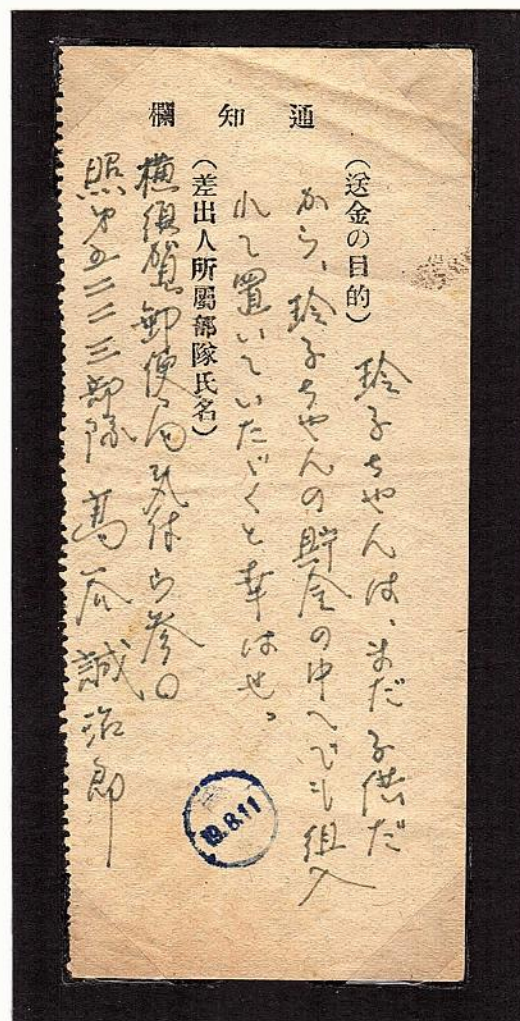
Postal stationery card with imprinted 2sen cancelled 'Mita, 18. 8. 2', (2nd August 1943).

Red boxed hand-stamp gives Tokyo return address as below.

From TAKEDA Takio, Shida-cho 3-banchi, Shirokane, Shiba-ku, Tokyo-to, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Palau Islands, Caroline Islands, Palau had a garrison strength of some 13,500 Japanese in 1944 under the command of Colonel NAKAGAWA, with the Army Commander General INOUE. The Island of Peleliu in the Palau Island group provided for one of the bloodiest battles of the whole campaign of the Pacific, U.S Marines landed on Peleliu on the 15th September 1944 and it was not until the 27th November 1944, some 73 days, that the island was considered secure with incredible losses and casualties on both sides. Reported losses 13,768 Japanese killed and 9,800 U.S. casualties.



Military cash transfer counterfoil from soldier with Japanese 14th Division in Palau, sent just prior to the U.S. invasion of the Palau Islands group.

The message reads 'Little Reiko is still a child and so I would like this money to be added to her savings'.

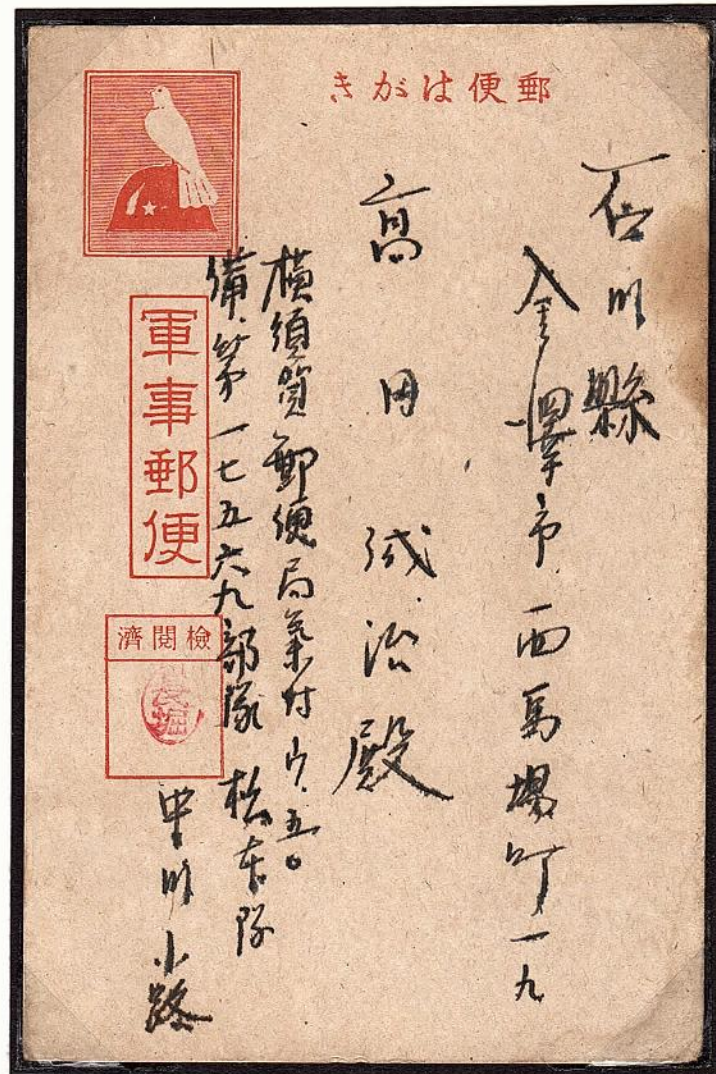
1944 Military Cash Transfer Counterfoil, from TAKAYA Seijiro, Teru 5223 Unit, 14th Division – Base Hospital, U30 Palau, Caroline Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Sent to a relative TAKAYA Toyoko, Kami Omachi, Gonohe-cho, Sannohe-gun, Aomori-ken, Japan.

On receipt, circular date hand-stamp applied '19. 8. 11.' (11th August 1944).

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

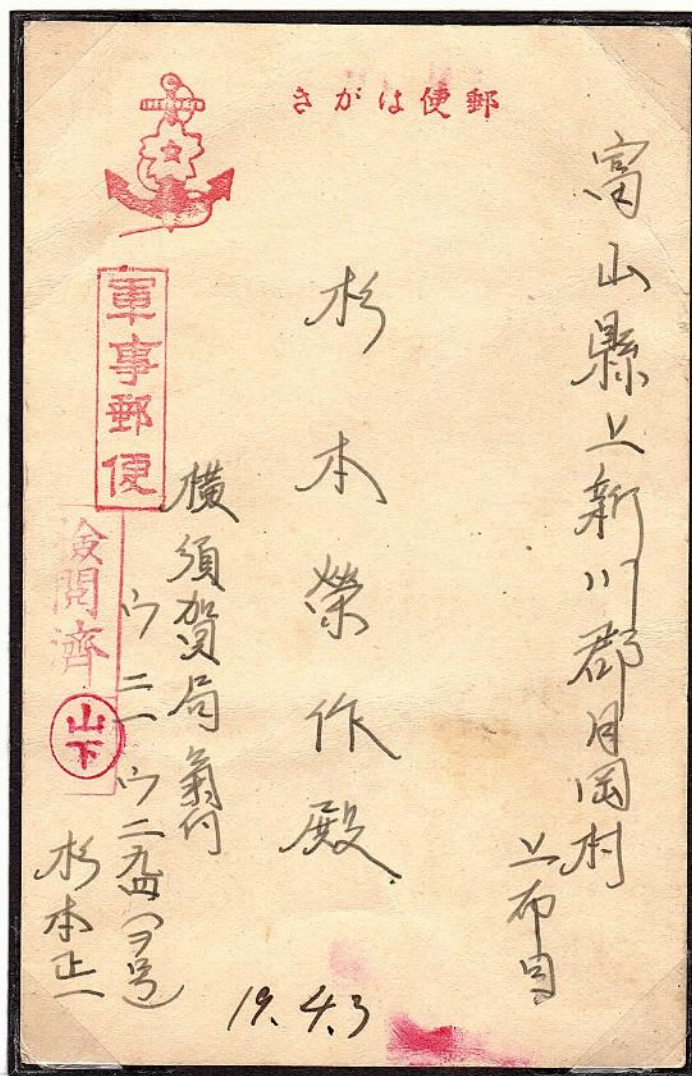
A scarce item of Japanese Army WWII mail from Truk, Caroline Islands, with Truk Lagoon being the central anchorage for the Imperial combined fleet in the South Seas. Truk Islands Lagoon had a very large garrison of Japanese troops, some 27,856 from the Japanese Navy initially commanded by Vice-Admiral KOBAYASHI and later by Vice-Admiral HARA, the Japanese Army garrison was 16,737 men under Major General ISHUIN. The islands of Truk Lagoon were captured by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air-force in 'Operation Hailstone' on the 17th and 18th February 1944 with the Japanese suffering great loss of life, and with 60 Japanese ships, 275 planes and defence equipment being destroyed.



WWII Army Military Mail card, from NAKAGAWA Shoji, Matsumoto Section, Sonaeru 17569 Unit, 340th Independent Infantry Battalion, 31st Army Command, U50 Truk, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.
Postcard with printed boxes reading 'Military Mail' and 'Censored' by NAGAHORI.
Sent to TAKADA Seiji, Nishi Baba-cho 19, Kanazawa-shi, Ishikawa-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Tinian Islands, Mariana Islands, Tinian had a garrison strength of some 8,350 Japanese in 1944 under the Commander Colonel OGATA were the 50th Infantry Regiment, the 56th Naval Guard Force, 18th Infantry Tank Company. The U.S Marines attacked and landed on the 24th July 1944, after great resistance Tinian Island was captured by 31st July 1944. Japanese forces again had heavy losses of 8,010 dead, 313 taken as prisoners of war, whilst several hundred escaped into the jungle and held out for many months.



1944 Military Naval card, from SUGIMOTO Seiichi, U294 761st Air Wing, U21 Tinian, Mariana Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

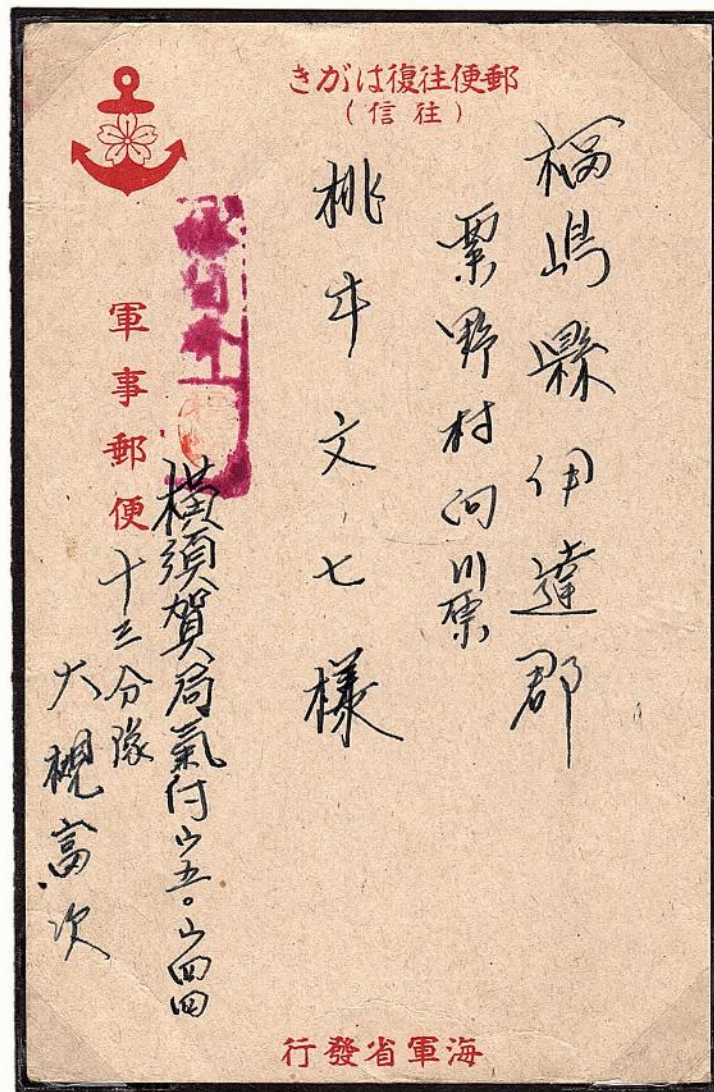
Card with printed 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored' by YAMASHITA.

Sent to a relative SUGIMOTO Eisaku, Fushime, Tsukioka-mura, Kami Niikawa-gun, Toyama-ken, Japan.

The card is dated 19. 2. 20 (20th February 1944) and received 19. 4. 3 (3rd April 1944).

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Truk, Caroline Islands, Japan's main base in the South Pacific. Naval air-mail Military postcard from a member of the 41st Guard Unit, this card sends condolences to a relative informing them that a member of their family had been killed in military action.

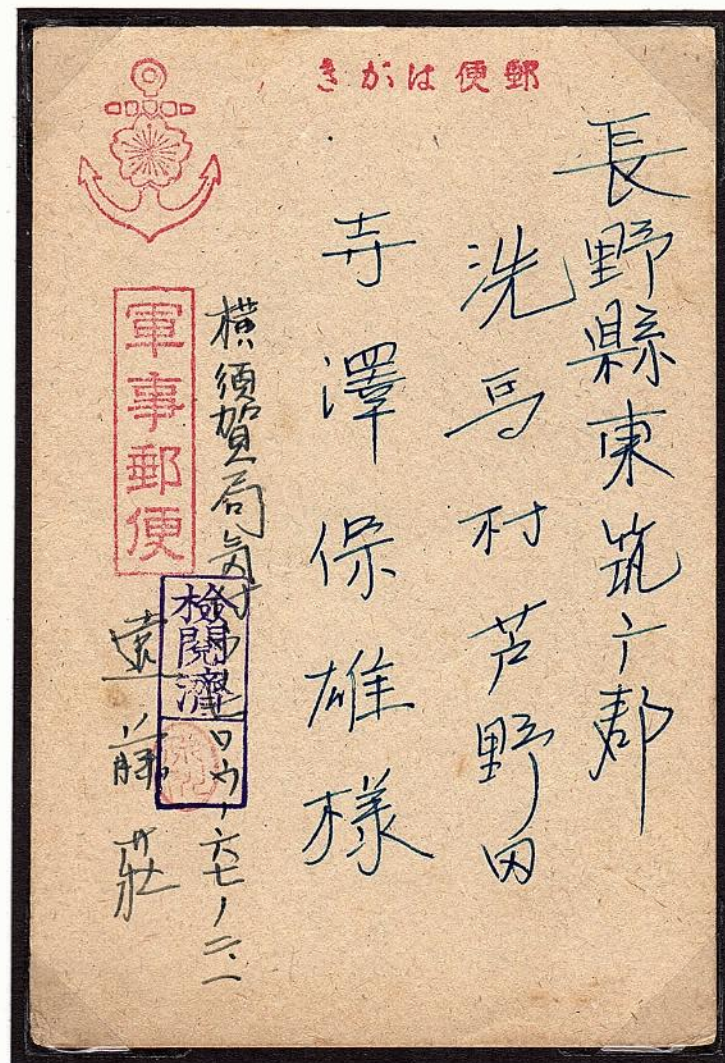


WWII Naval Military Mail card, from OTSUKI Tomitsugu, 13th Section, U50 Truk Island, U44 41st Guard Unit, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Air-mail Navy military mail card imprinted 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored'. Sent to MOMOI Bunshichi, Mukaikawara, Kurino-mura, Date-gun, Fukushima-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS

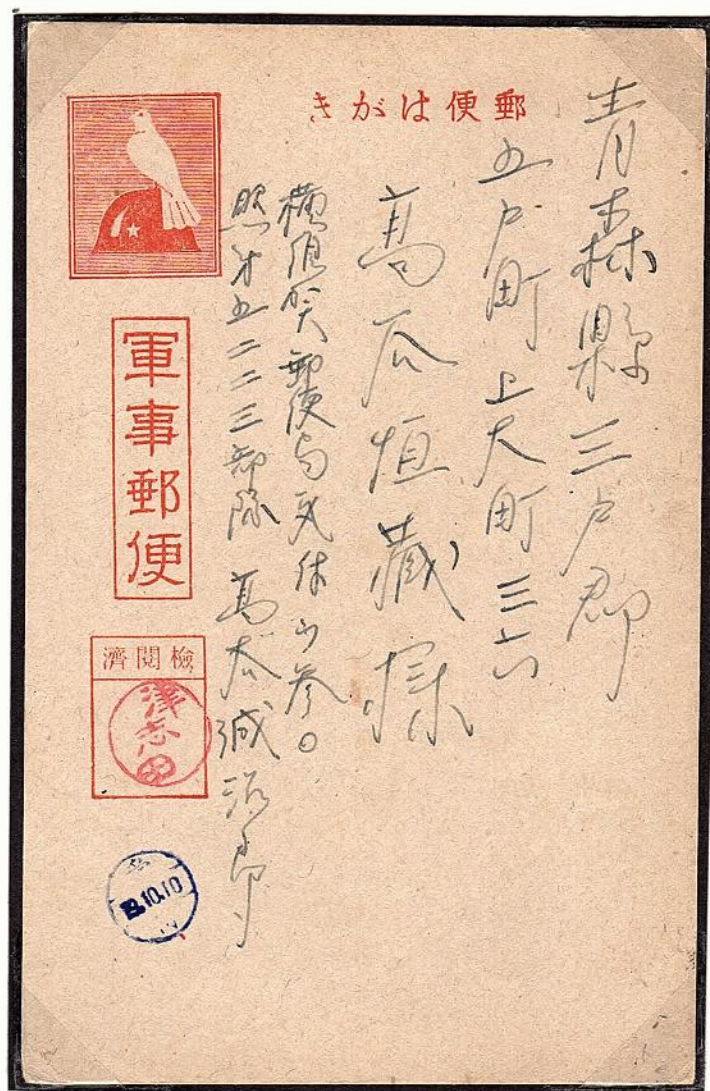
Japanese Military Navy mail from a member of the Japanese 4th Fleet stationed at Ponape, Caroline Islands during the Japanese occupation of the island in WW II being with the section of the No. 42 Naval Guard Unit.



WW II Naval Postal Stationery card, from 'Endoso', U-67 / 21 42nd Guards Unit,
U-70 Ponape, Caroline Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.
Sent to TERASAWA Nobuo, Ashinoda, Seba-mura, Higashi Chikuma-gun, Nagano-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Palau Islands, Caroline Islands, Palau had a garrison strength of some 13,500 Japanese in 1944 under the command of Colonel NAKAGAWA, with the Army Commander General INOUE. The Island of Peleliu in the Palau Island group provided for one of the bloodiest battles of the whole campaign of the Pacific, U.S Marines landed on Peleliu on the 15th September 1944 and it was not until the 27th November 1944, some 73 days, that the island was considered secure with incredible losses and casualties on both sides. Reported losses 13,768 Japanese killed and 9,800 U.S. casualties.



The 14th Division was assigned to Palau with almost the complete Division being killed in the US invasion of the Palau Island group. This postcard, written in September 1944, would have been amongst the last mail to reach Japan from Palau.

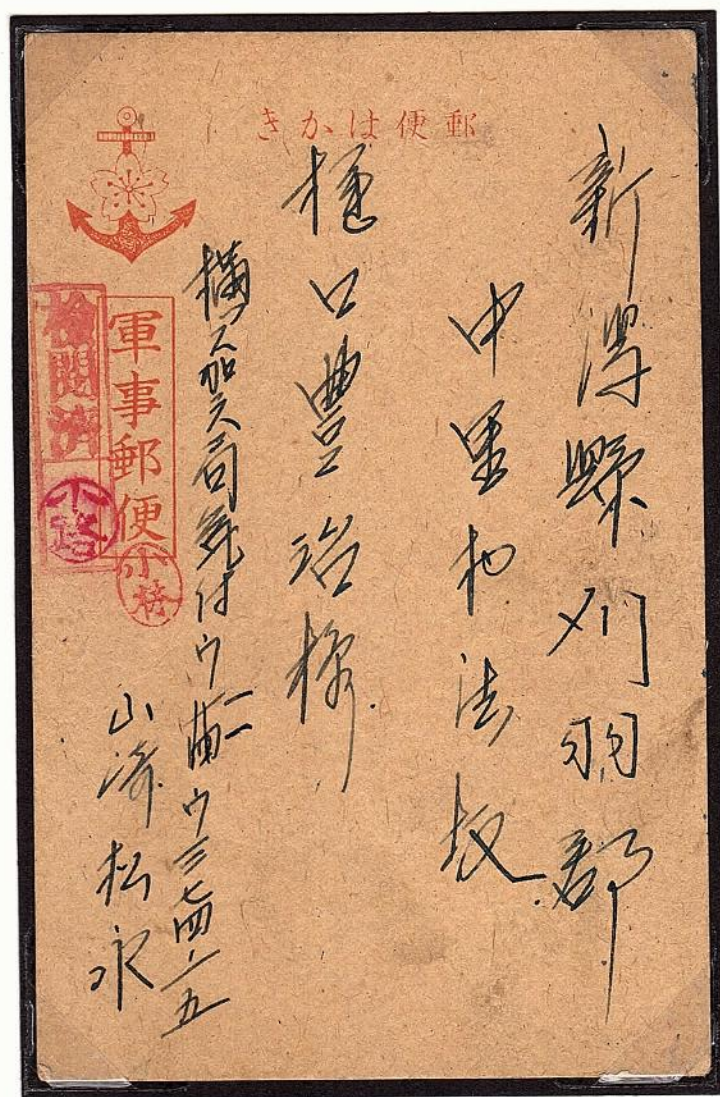
1944 Military Mail card, from TAKAYA Seijiro, Teru 5223 Unit, 14th Division – Base Hospital, U30 Palau, Caroline Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Military card printed 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored – Army Medical Lieutenant' by TSUSHIDA.

Sent to a relative TAKAYA Toyoko, Kami Omachi, Gonohe-cho, Sannohe-gun, Aomori-ken, Japan. On receipt, circular date hand-stamp applied '19. 10. 10.' (10th October 1944).

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANAS ISLANDS

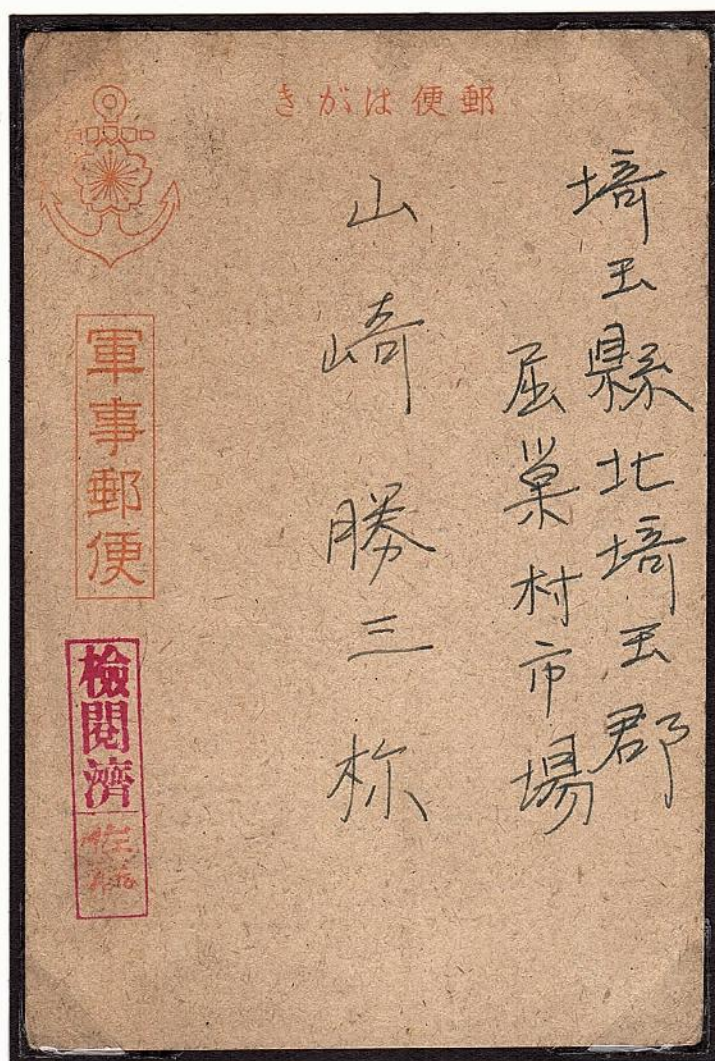
Japanese Military Navy mail from a member of the Japanese 4th Fleet stationed at Pontamcho, Saipan, Mariana Islands, during the Japanese occupation of the island in WW II, being with a section of the No. 55 Naval Guard Unit.



WW II Naval Postal Stationery card, from YAMAZAKI Shoei, U-374 55th Guards Unit, U-14 Pontamcho, U-11 Saipan, Mariana Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.
Sent to HIGUCHI Toyoji, Kiyosaka, Nakazato-mura, Kariwa-gun, Niigata-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

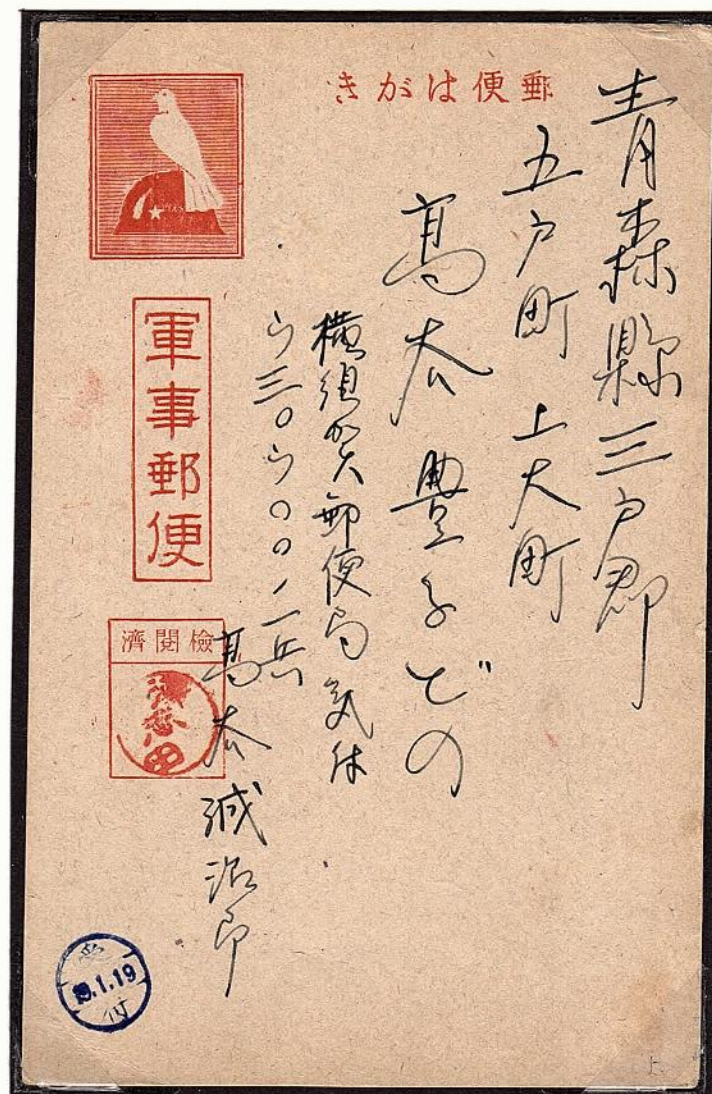
A scarce example of WWII Japanese military ship mail on Navy postcard from the 'Choan-maru No. 2' a gunboat of some 2,612 tons, stationed in 1942 at Truk in the Caroline Islands with the Japanese 4th Base Force.



1942 Postcard, from WAKABAYASHI Sadao, Gunboat 'No. 2 Choan-maru', c/o Yokosuka Post Office. The 'No 2 Choan-maru' was stationed in Truk, Caroline Islands, card sends New Year greetings for 1943. Printed 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored' by SATO on Navy Military postcard. Sent to YAMAZAKI Shozo, Ichiba, Kusu-mura, Kita Saitama-gun, Saitama-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Palau Islands, Caroline Islands, Palau had a garrison strength of 13,500 Japanese in 1944 under the command of Colonel NAKAGAWA, with the Army Commander General INOUE. The Island of Peleliu in the Palau Island group provided for one of the bloodiest battles of the whole campaign of the Pacific, U.S Marines landed on Peleliu on the 15th September 1944 and it was not until the 27th November 1944, some 73 days, that the island was considered secure with incredible losses and casualties on both sides. Reported losses 13,768 Japanese killed and 9,800 U.S. casualties.



1944 Military Mail card, from TAKAYA Seijiro Senior Private, U00-1 Navy Forces Post Office, U30 Palau, Caroline Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

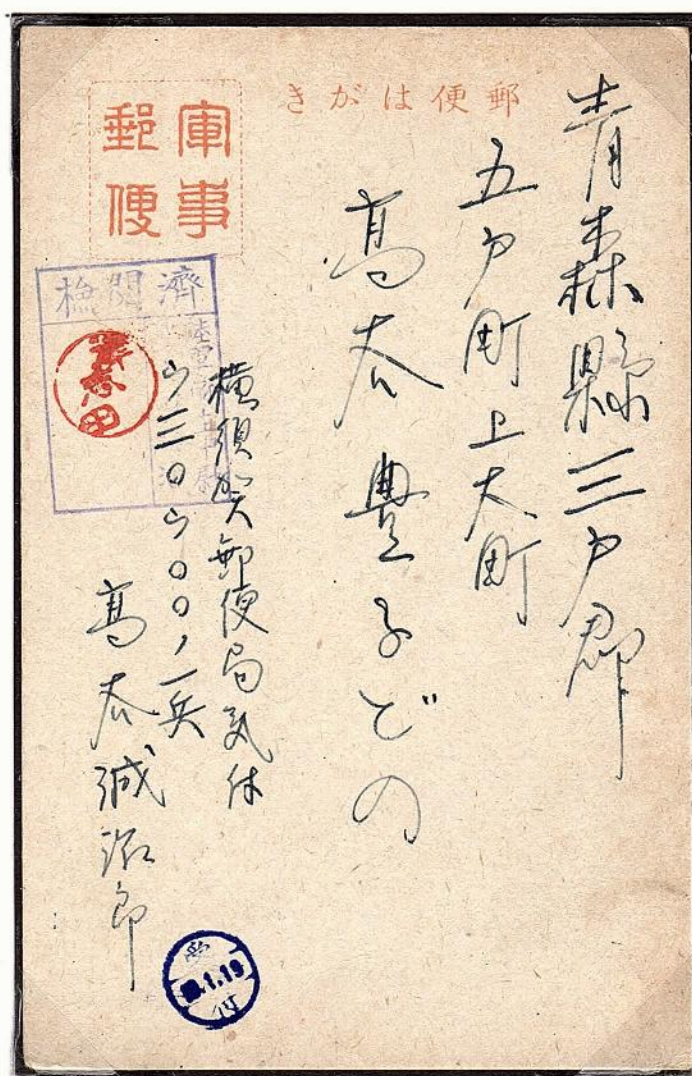
Military card with printed 'Military Mail' and 'Censored' by TSUSHIDA.

Sent to a relative TAKAYA Toyoko, Kami Omachi, Gonohe-cho, Sannohe-gun, Aomori-ken, Japan.

On receipt, circular date hand-stamp applied '19. 1. 19.' (19th January 1944).

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Palau Islands, Caroline Islands, Palau had a garrison strength of 13,500 Japanese in 1944 under the command of Colonel NAKAGAWA, with the Army Commander General INOUE. The Island of Peleliu in the Palau Island group provided for one of the bloodiest battles of the whole campaign of the Pacific, U.S Marines landed on Peleliu on the 15th September 1944 and it was not until the 27th November 1944, some 73 days, that the island was considered secure with incredible losses and casualties on both sides. Reported losses 13,768 Japanese killed and 9,800 U.S. casualties.



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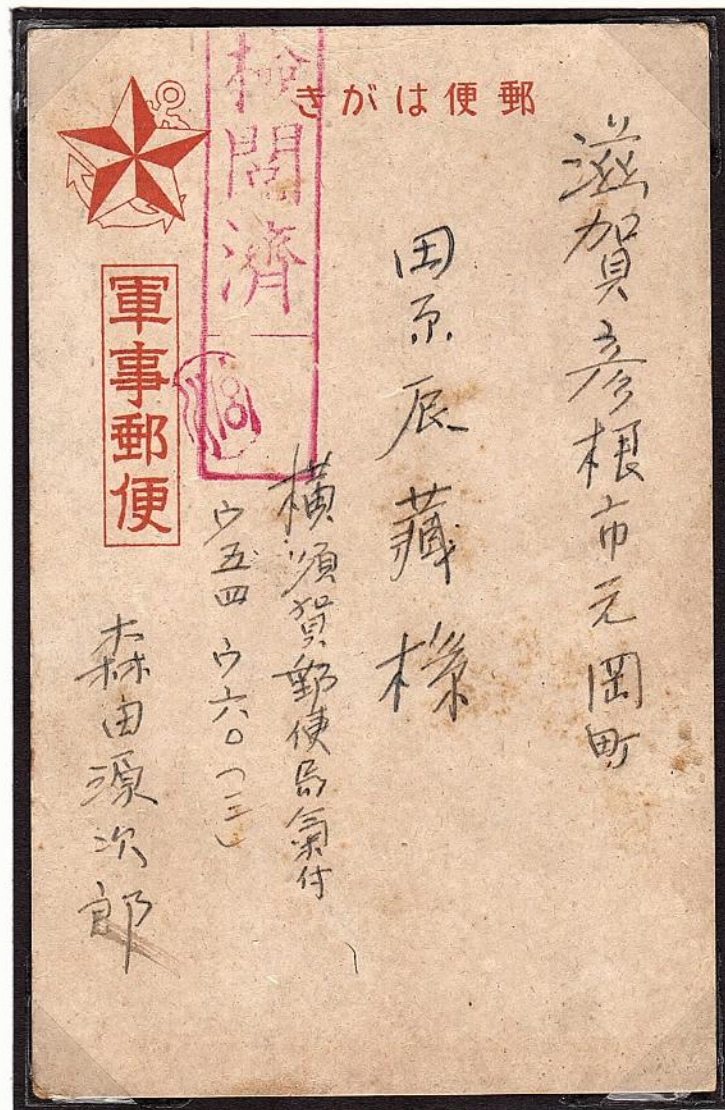
Military card printed 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored – Army Medical Lieutenant' by TSUSHIDA.

Sent to a relative TAKAYA Toyoko, Kami Omachi, Gonohe-cho, Sannohe-gun, Aomori-ken, Japan.
On receipt, circular date hand-stamp applied '19. 1. 19.' (19th January 1944).

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A very scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Natsu-shima, Truk, Caroline Islands, Natsu-shima is known as Dublon Island. Dublon Island one of the five Islands of Truk Lagoon, Truk Lagoon stationed some 41,000 Japanese Army and Navy personnel, was part of the anchorage for the combined fleet in the South Seas.

The islands of Truk Lagoon were captured by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air-force in 'Operation Hailstone' on the 7th and 18th February 1944 with the Japanese suffering great loss of life, ships, planes and defence equipment.

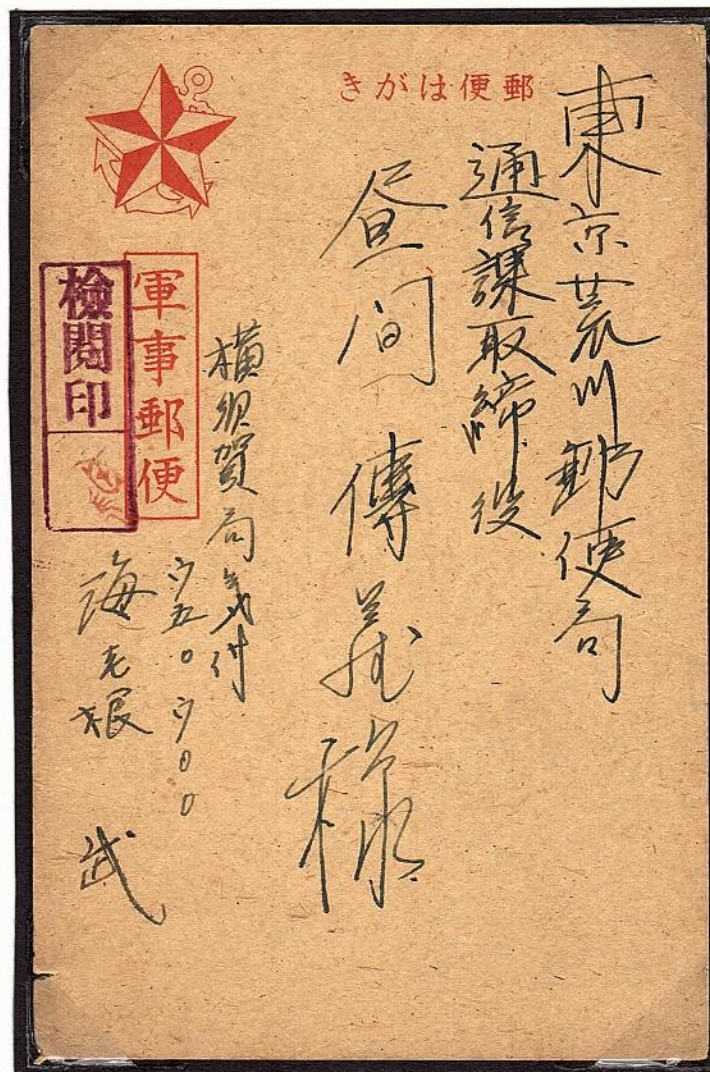


WWII Army/Navy Military Mail card, from MORITA Genjiro, U60-3 4th Construction Unit, U54 Natsu-shima (Dublon Island), Truk, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Navy/Army military mail card imprinted 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored' by MIYAKAWA. Sent to TAHARA Ryozo, Moto-oka-cho, Hikone-shi, Shiga-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Truk, Caroline Islands, with Truk Lagoon being the central anchorage for the Imperial combined fleet in the South Seas. Truk Islands Lagoon had a very large garrison of Japanese troops, some 27,856 from the Japanese Navy initially commanded by Vice-Admiral KOBAYASHI and later by Vice-Admiral HARA, the Japanese Army garrison was 16,737 men under Major General ISHUI. The islands of Truk Lagoon were captured by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air-force in 'Operation Hailstone' on the 17th and 18th February 1944 with the Japanese suffering great loss of life, and with 60 Japanese ships, 275 planes and defence equipment being destroyed.



Mail between Truk Field Post Office and Tokyo Communications Centre.

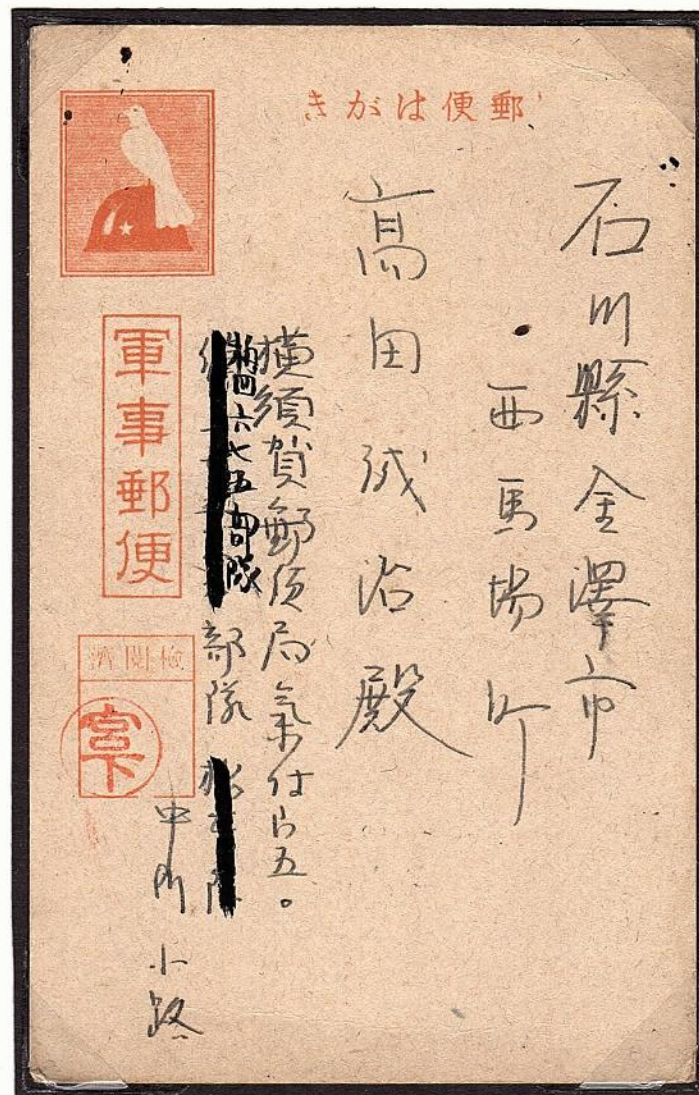
WWII Army/Navy Military Mail card, from EBINE Takeshi, U00 Navy Forces Post Office, U50 Truk, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Postcard with printed 'Military Mail' and hand-stamp 'Censored'.

Sent to HIRUMA Hiroyoshi, Director, Communications Section, Arakawa Post Office, Tokyo, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINE ISLANDS.

A scarce item of Japanese WWII mail from Truk, Caroline Islands, with Truk Lagoon being the central anchorage for the Imperial combined fleet in the South Seas. Truk Islands Lagoon had a very large garrison of Japanese troops, some 27,856 from the Japanese Navy initially commanded by Vice-Admiral KOBAYASHI and later by Vice-Admiral HARA, the Japanese Army garrison was 16,737 men under Major General ISHUI. The islands of Truk Lagoon were captured by the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air-force in 'Operation Hailstone' on the 17th and 18th February 1944 with the Japanese suffering great loss of life, and with 60 Japanese ships, 275 planes and defence equipment being destroyed.



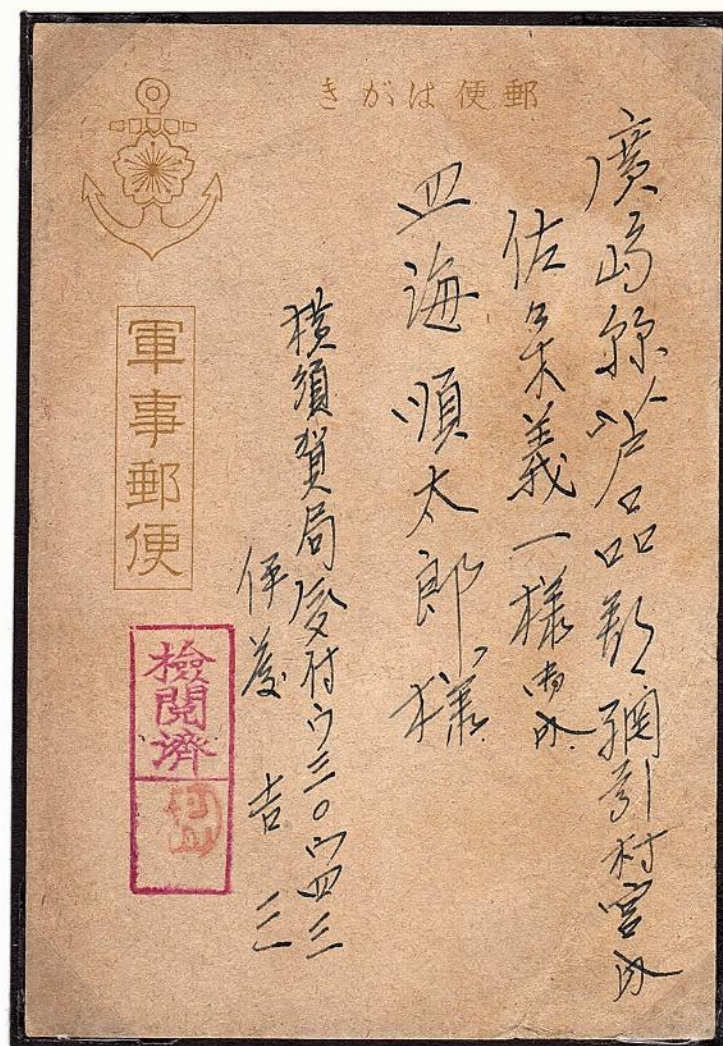
This Unit number KASHIWA 4675 was only in use for a very short period.

WWII Army Military Mail card, from NAKAGAWA Shoji, Kashiwa 4675 Unit, Paymasters Section,
52nd Division, U50 Truk, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.

Postcard with boxed printed 'Military Mail' and 'Censored' by MIYASHITA.
Sent to TAKEDA Seiji, Nishi Baba-cho-19, Kanazawa-shi, Ishikawa-ken, Japan.

JAPANESE OCCUPATION OF THE CAROLINES ISLANDS.

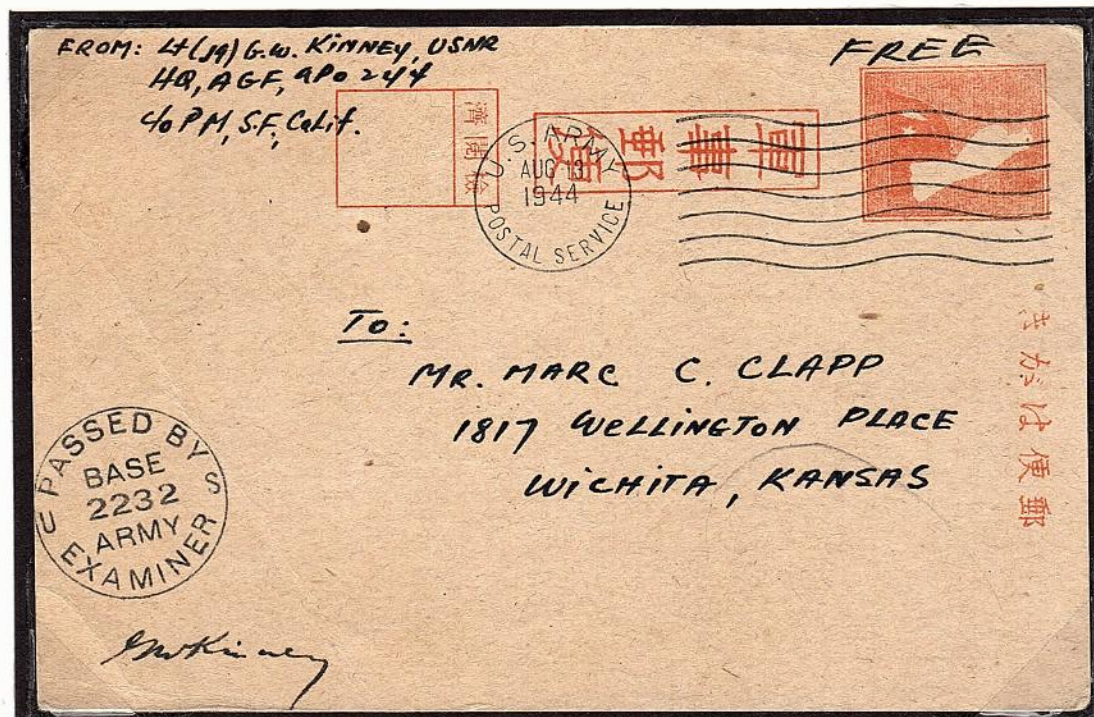
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WWII Navy Military Mail card, from ITO Kichizo, U43 3rd Defence Corps, U30 Palau, Caroline Islands, c/o Yokosuka Post Office.
Military card with printed 'Military Mail' and hand-stamped 'Censored' by MATSUYAMA.
Sent to SASAKI Yoshikazu, Miyauchi, Abiki-mura, Ashina-gun, Hiroshima-ken, Japan.

U.S.A. OCCUPATION OF THE MARIANA ISLANDS.

A scarce item of USA WWII mail from Saipan Island, Mariana Islands, Saipan was attacked by the U.S. forces on the 13th June 1944, with the first landings being made on the 15th June, but after fierce fighting the island was eventually secured on the 9th July 1944. This battle was the most costly to US forces in the Pacific War with 2,949 killed and 10,464 wounded out of the 71,000 U.S. troops who landed on Saipan.



1944 Japanese Military postcard, from Lt. G. W. Kinney, Saipan Island, Mariana Islands.
Cancel of 'U.S. Army Postal Services AUG 13 1944', also 'Passed by US Examiner 2232 Base Army'.
Sent to Marc C. Clapp, 1817 Wellington Place, Wichita, Kansas, U.S.A.