

GERMAN INTERVENTION IN CHINA

SYNOPSIS

(March 2025)

TREATMENT & IMPORTANCE OF EXHIBIT

Commencing with early important postal history of German presence in China, the exhibit evolves into primarily all aspects of German military intervention during the Boxer Revolt War between 1900-1901 where strength, spirit & efforts of German Forces became an important factor in the Allied defeat of the Boxer Movement and their Chinese-Government supporters.

This postal history exhibit is divided into eight divisions, or chapters, and organized chronologically, as indicated on the title page outline, initially covering the origin of German presence in China, its subsequent military buildup, activity and related postmarks as a result of the Boxer Uprising, the subsequent occupation period, and concluding with the end of its presence there.

Not shown will be material of all the German Post Offices in China or, extensively, the German Post Office at Shanghai, Tientsin & in Kiautschou, which are separate multi-frame exhibits, albeit early postal agencies of the latter will be briefly shown for the period prior to 1900.

All important postmarks relating to the military intervention are shown.

Not shown in this exhibit will be:

- Not every “Shantung Railway” Line, coastal ship line or German Naval Ship Post Office postmarks & postal history during the period of 1900-1906, albeit a representation will be shown including major rarities;
- An out-bound package form-card from a military person, albeit an in-bound card is shown

Over 200 postal history examples are shown having many different rates, routes and special markings as well as a few stamp entities illustrating postmarks, many of which are scarcities. Where ‘Exp’, or ‘Cert’, is found, the expertizer’s name has also been indicated.

As far as the exhibitor has been able to determine, there now exists only one other similar exhibit on this subject and completeness which is known to be in Europe (T. Knell).

PHILATELIC & SUBJECT KNOWLEDGE & PERSONAL STUDY

The exhibitor has not patterned this exhibit on any other involving the subject or period, but, rather, has attempted to research the subject matter using the best available references in German or English so as to develop a cohesive “storyline” as he perceives it

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CONDITION & DIFFICULTY OF ACQUISITION

No less than 40% of this exhibit consists of very scarce, rare or unique examples... many of which are expertized and/or have certificates, which are found on the reverse page sides. Less than five examples are philatelically-inspired, since commercial usages have to-date not yet been found.

All material is the best found by the exhibitor in the last forty years and was acquired piecemeal.

PRESENTATION

Two postal history examples will generally be found on each page. In certain instances, only one example will be mounted because of its size, its particular importance or its scarcity.

The exhibit uses colored text as follows:

- Black:** General historical, geographical & postal information
- Light Blue:** Chapter-start-page heading & important annotative information.
Blue-matted examples indicate particular importance & scarcity.
- Maroon:** Postal rate information.

Thus, the viewer, or philatelic judge, can quickly survey the exhibit by following the colored text which is of most interest to him/her. Important annotative information, where indicated, is in blue text color, and could be 'passed' if not of interest, for example. General historical or geographical information will be 'boxed' and usually found at the top of the applicable pages.

Text (Century Gothic/Arial) font sizes are: heading/title (16), sub-heading (12) or boxed text (10), cover/postcard/document descriptive text (9 or 10).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

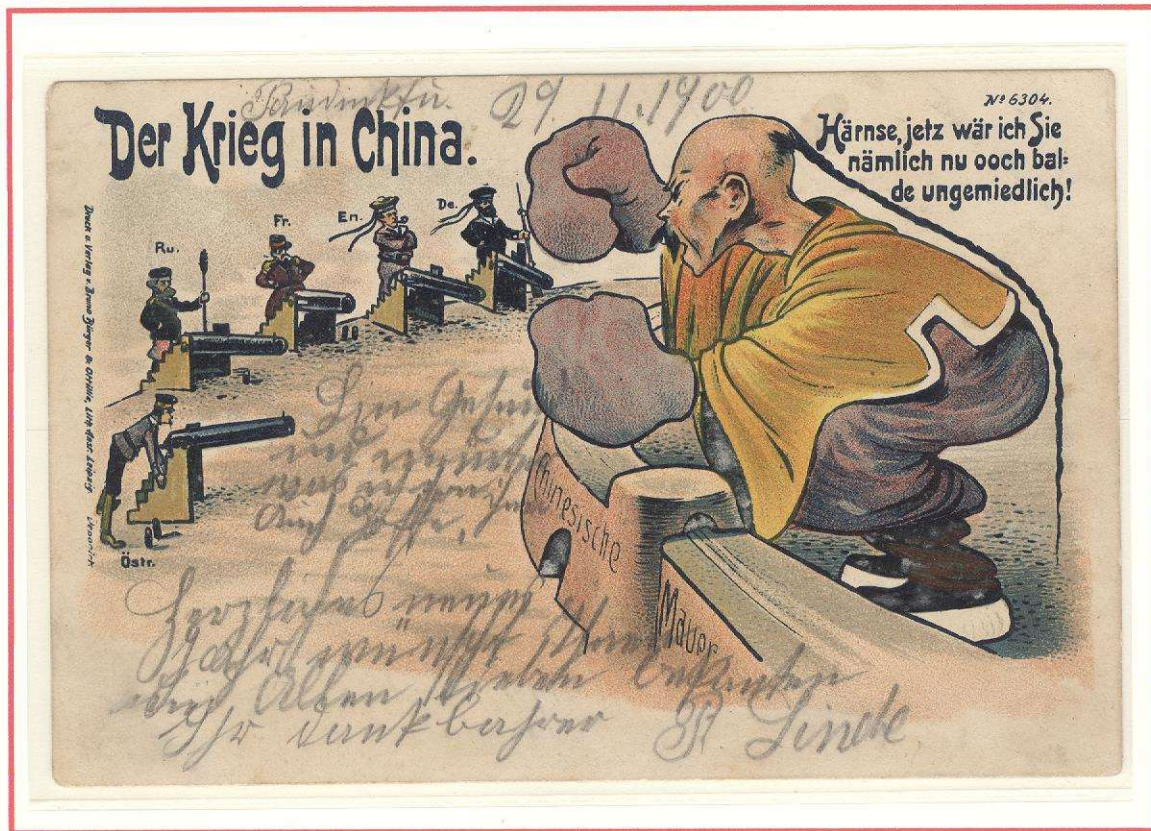
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- Steuer, *Handbuch & Katalog der deutschen Kolonial Vorläufer*, 3rd Edition, Schwaneberger Verlag, 2003.

GERMAN INTERVENTION IN CHINA



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

With the increasing influence of foreigners involved in commerce, transportation, and religious activities in particularly northeastern China during the latter half of the 19th Century, a xenophobic nationalistic secret society, which had heretofore existed in the 18th Century, again appeared. Its name, as defined by the British, was **"The Boxers"**.

Commencing in 1899, the Boxers actively and openly attempted to eliminate all foreign influences, including attacking and killing merchants, missionaries, Chinese Christians and foreign dignitaries. Those actions resulted in legations and offices at Peking and Tientsin being reinforced with marines, albeit to be besieged by the Boxers in June 1900, and the sending to China of naval and military units from a number of countries to quell the uprising as well as to destroy the Boxer Movement.

In that effort, the German Kaiser approved his Ministry of War's formation of a combined naval and military force, which ('The East Asiatic Expeditionary Corps') was the strongest entity of all the nations involved and exceeded 20,000 military and naval personnel under the command of Field Marshall Count von Waldersee.

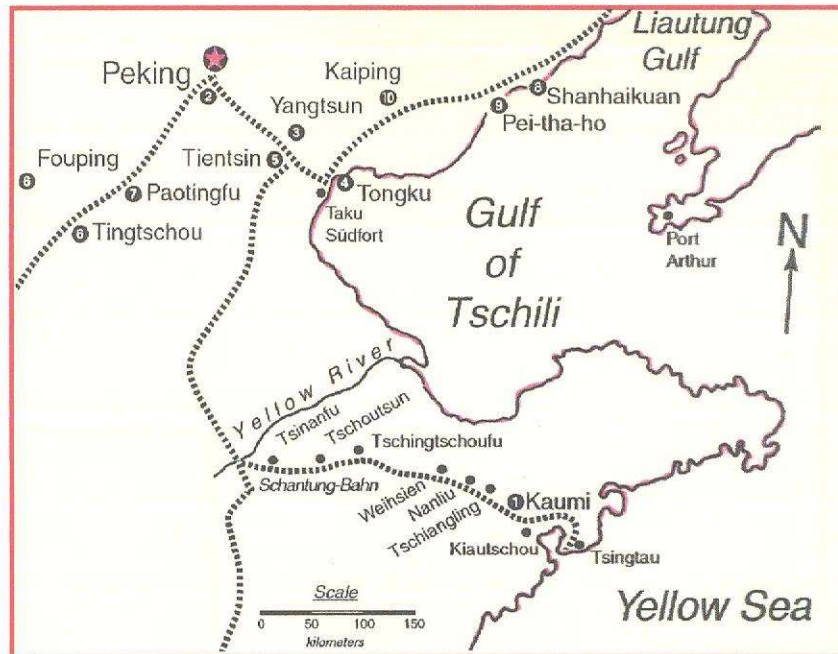
In less than one year, the Boxers and the supporting Chinese military forces were defeated and a peace treaty between China and the Allies was signed resulting in China to pay reparations and having to agree to permit foreign garrisons to remain in China.

Miller, Jerry H., "German Offices in China 1886-1917: Background & Evolution",
The China Clipper, March, 2012, Volume 76, Number 3, Whole Number 435,
Pages 90-96, 106-108.

GERMAN INTERVENTION IN CHINA

EXHIBIT

This postal history exhibit, organized chronologically, shows the origin of German presence in China, German military buildup and activity as a result of the Boxer Uprising, the subsequent occupation period, and concludes with the end of German military and postal presence in China in 1917.



TEXT COLOR-CODING

BLACK: General historical, geographical & postal rate/route/markings information

BLUE: Chapter-Start-Page Heading & Important annotative information

MAROON: Postal Rate Information

EXHIBIT OVERVIEW

- I. Historical Background
Title Page, Map & Exhibit Summary
- II. Pre-1900 German Presence in China
- III. 1900-1901 Marine Detachment Mail & Naval Post Office
- IV. 1900-1901 East Asiatic Expeditionary Corps
- V. 1900-1901 Provisional Government & Stamp Usages
- VI. 1901-1906 Occupation Period Mail
- VII. 1900-1914 German Naval Ships in Chinese Waters
- VIII. 1914-1917 End of German Presence in China