

COMMERCIAL MAIL

1942 - 1945

OVERSEAS COMMERCIAL COVER



15 May 1944 – Cover from Afran Stamp Company in Manila to A Yada Stamp Company in Yokkaihi City, Japan. 2c and 5c stamps making up total of 7c paying First Class foreign postal rate (postmarked on the first day this new rate commenced). Stamps tied with Manila No. 1 Duplex cancel. Rectangular purple Foreign Mail handstamp (Garrett Type IE1), which was applied on all foreign mail to Japan. **First Day usage with new 7c Foreign Mail Rate.**

The 7c Foreign Mail rate became effective from 15 May 1944 until the end of the Japanese Occupation. Prior to this, rates for Foreign Mail were the same as those prevailing for Domestic Mail from the inauguration of Foreign Mail Services on 5 October 1942 until 14 May 1944.

The Foreign Mail handstamp was used in Manila and Davao and employed exclusively for foreign mail matters addressed to Japan and designated occupied territories within the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere. Two lines of Japanese characters, translated as “Philippine Military Police Corps / Censored”. Foreign mail matters were required to display this mark for the duration of the Occupation, unlike domestic censor marks which were discontinued after 30 June 1943.

It is assumed a postal clerk in Yokkaichi Post Office translated the address in Japanese manuscript for local delivery: Mie Prefecture, Yokkaichi City, Sinden Machi, Mr. Akio Yada (the representative of the Yada Stamp Company).