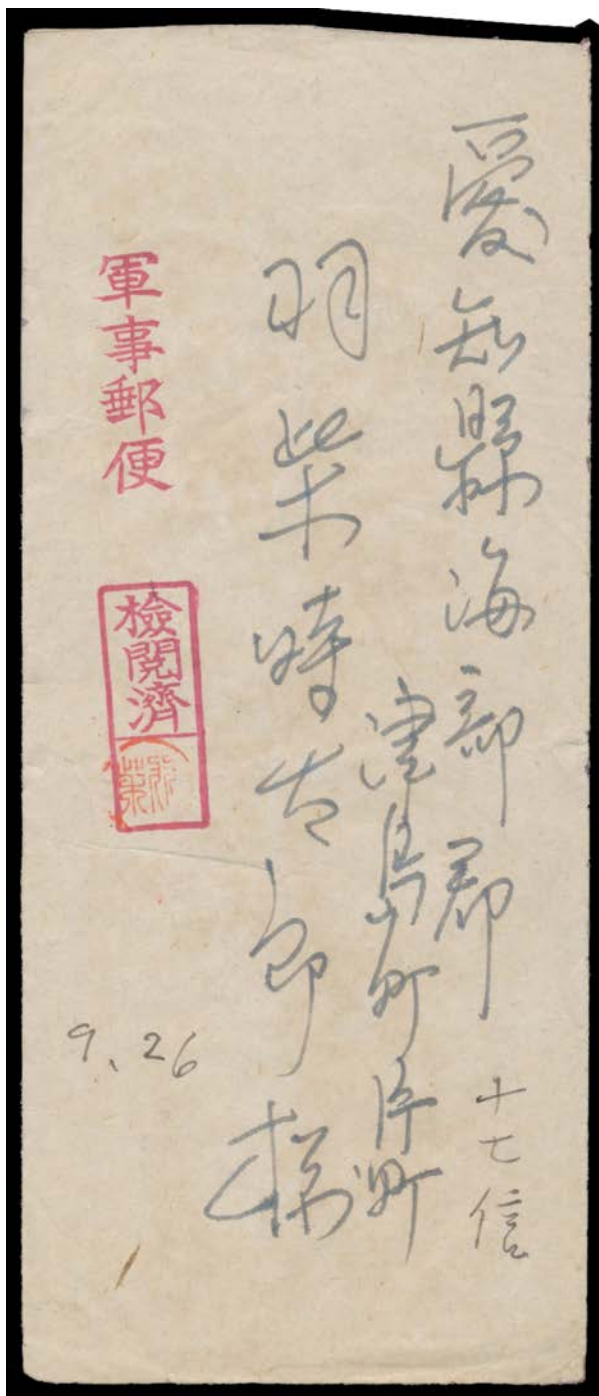


NAURU - Postal History**Lot 685**

685 CL B **1943** (Aug 19) stampless cover to Japan with two boxed chops in magenta & circular Censor's chop of *Hashiba* in red, peripheral blemishes. With the lengthy enclosed letter from *Tadao Hashiba* to a family member: Very few entire letters from the Japanese on Nauru have survived. *Ex John Darnell*: acquired at the *Prestige* auction of 17/2/2012 for \$2645.

The writer states (translated) "...My aim is to do all I can not to die in this insignificant place. Contagious disease, amoebic dysentery, is rife here and not a few have died from it....A deadly struggle is being waged day and night in the Solomons...though one is in no doubt that Japan will prevail...everyone without exception, officers and men, has had dengue fever this past month...I wonder what fate has in store for me...So far I've had only one letter." In addition to the ravages of tropical diseases, some 300 Japanese died of starvation & many others resorted to cannibalism. Nauru was surrendered to the Australians on 13.9.1945.

1,400^T