In 1895 special franchise military postal stationery was created for use by the French troops engaged in the Madagascar campaigns. A small quantity of this stationery was overprinted ANNAM - TONKIN for use by the troops in Indochina - quite possibly forces that had been moved from Madagascar to Indochina. Shown is a rare and properly used example of the send portion of the send-reply combination which bears the cachet of a military unit in Trouane and entered the civilian mails at Trouane on May 26, 1896 traveling via Saigon (backstamp) and French Packet Line N to Lyon where it arrived in late June. Note the reply portion has been also overprinted.
Military Franchise letters from the small villages of Quinehonne and Hue with all appropriate markings validating this service. The letter from Quinehonne transited via French Packet Line T from Australia, which also stopped at Saigon. The letter from Hue transited via the more typical Line N.
Military origin letters traveling via the small village office at Thuan-an. The first at the 15c local rate, not military concession rate, posted to the small village at Hoang Tu Bi in Tonkin with a military designation and unit cachet confirming military origin.

The second, a military franchise letter, shows the cachet of an artillery unit and an expeditionary forces handstamp. From the military office it was placed on the local postal wagon where it received the BM (Boîte Mobile) handstamp enroute to Thuan-an.
Military Franchise Letter
Franchise Militaire Letter

Tourane
Banghoi