Petain

Henri Philippe Omer Petain became a national hero when he commanded the French forces at Verdun that halted the German advance. In 1918, he was promoted to the position of Marshal. After the French defeat during World War II, Petain took over the French government at the age of 84. The Vichy regime followed a policy of collaboration with the Nazis. After the war, Pertain was tried for treason and sentenced to death in 1945. His sentence was commuted to life in prison and he died there in 1951.

In Indochina, a series of six stamps issued over 1942-44 commemorated Marshal Petain.
A postal card showing the same portrait of Pétain appeals to the public's patriotism with the message "One leader - Pétain."

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 23-7 42
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 23-7 42
Pétain
Color Shades
Pétain Perforation Shifts
Pétain
Perforation Shifts
Ptain
Varieties of 1 cent

IMPERFORATE

PERF. 12 x 11 1/2

PERF. 11 1/2 x 12

PERFORATED 12 CLEAN

PERFORATED 12 ROUGH

PERFORATED 14
Petain
Varieties of 1 cent

DOUBLE PERFORATION OF TOP ROW

PERFORATED 12 COLOR SHADES

PERFORATED 14 COLOR SHADES
two line insignia on cap
Petain
Varieties of 1 cent

"medal" on chest

eroded "1"

no shirt left of tie
Petain
Varieties of 3 cents

PERFORATED 12 x 14 CLEAN

PERFORATED 12 x 14 ROUGH

PERFORATED 14

PERF. 12 x 14

PERF. 14

PERFORATED 12 x 14 COLOR SHADES

PERFORATED 12 COLOR SHADES
Pétain
Varieties of 3 cents

IMPRESSION CLARITY

PIN PERFORATED 12

PERFORATED 14
Petain
Varieties of 3 cents

"medal" on chest

no insignia lines on cap
Petain
Perforation Varieties of 6 cents

PERFORATED 12 CLEAN

PERFORATED 12 ROUGH

PERFORATED 14

PIN PERFORATED 12

IMPERFORATE

CUT-OUT FROM ENVELOPE
Pétain
Color Shades and Perforation Varieties of 6 cents
Pétain
Varieties of 6 cents

OFFSET TRANSFER

TWO LINE INSIGNIA ON CAP

BLURRED IMAGE
Pétain
Varieties of 40 cents blue

10 CENTS (GREEN)  40 CENTS (GREEN)  40 CENTS (BLUE)

IMPERFORATE

LIGHT SHADE  DARK SHADE
Petain
Paper Folds on 40 cents blue
Petain
Varieties of 40 cents slate blue

WEAK IMPRESSION

BOLD IMPRESSION

YELLOW PAPER

BROKEN “4”
Pétain
Forgery of 6-cent Value

During World War II, a postal employee sold forged copies of several Pétain values. The perpetrator of the fraud was Nguyen Dang Minh, a former printer who managed the Hanoi-E auxiliary post office. On 11 April 1944, the Séreté du Tonkin (state police) arrested Minh, the printer and seven accomplices. The police destroyed the printing plates for the three denominations: 6 cents, 10 cents and 40 cents. Five hundred examples of the 6-cent value fabricated and first sold in November 1943.

Forged stamps can be distinguished from genuine stamps by the lettering and ornamentation. The three forgeries share some common characteristics.
Pétain
Forgery of 10-cent Value

As postage rates rose higher value forgeries were of more utility especially for packages and heavier mailings. By virtue of its gray-green color, the forged 10-cent value is somewhat easier to recognize when compared to the green original.
Pétain
Forgery of 40-cent Value

The fate of the forger, Nguyen Dang Minh, was lost to history, but it is known that he was dying of tuberculosis in a Hanoi prison in December 1944.

Approximately 1,000 examples of the two high values were printed and sold. It is estimated that about 25 examples survived until today.
Pétain
Use of 10 cents and 40 cents slate blue Forgeries

After the forger was apprehended, enterprising philatelists waited a few months and then sent letters to themselves or trusted friends with the few stamps that they had managed to obtain. The July 1944 example shown here is no doubt one of those mailings. The sender did take a chance because he had franked the letter with two examples of each of the high values thereby overpaying the local letter rate by a factor of ten. For the face value, the sender could have sent the cover by registered mail, but surely he did not want to risk confiscation by handing it over to a clerk who might have noticed the notorious stamps!
Pétain
Use of 40 cent slate blue Forgery

Although 40 cents would have paid for registered mail, the sender elected to send his letter by regular mail to avoid handing it over to a postal clerk. If the clerk had taken note of the forged stamp, he would have confiscated the letter.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 25-7 44
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 25-7 44
Petain
Postmarks on 1 cent

BEN-THUY

MYTHO

BIENHOA

CHO-RA

HA-GIANG

HANOI R.P.

HANOI ENTREPOT P.T.T.

HOA-BINH

NINH-BINH

PHU-THO

SAIGON-CENTRAL

TANCHAU

TAYNINH
Pétain
Postmarks on 1 cent

VIENTIANE

HUE

NINH-BINH

QUIN-HON A HANOI
Pétain
Postmarks on 1 cent

HANOI R.P.
Pétain
Postmarks on 3 cents

HANOI A

VIENTIANE

NAM-DINH

BACNINH
HANOI ENTREPOT
SEPT PAGODES
HANOI A
Petain
Postmarks on 3 cents

HUE

MYTHO

HAIPHONG
BAITHUONG
PHONTIOU
KON-TUM
Pétain
Postmarks on 3 cents

HANOI R.P.
Pétain
Postmarks on 6 cents

ANNAM

BACH-MA
BEN-THUY
BINH-DINH
CUA-LO

DONG-HA
DONG-HOI
FAI-FO

HUE
NHATRANG
PHANTIET
QUINHONE

TOURANE
TUYHOA
THU-XA
VINH
Pétain
Postmarks on 6 cents

ANNAK

BANGHOI

THANH-HOA

DALAT

QUINHONE
Pétain
Postmarks on 6 cents

CAMBODIA

KOKI

PNOMPENH

SLOGANS
Ptain
Postmarks on 6 cents

COCHINCHINA

BACLIEU

BARIA

BIAENHOA

CAMAU

CANTHO

CAP ST. JACQUES

CHAUDOC

CHOLON

CHOLON-BINHTAY
Pétain
Postmarks on 6 cents

COCHINCHINA

CHOMOI-LONGXUYEN  LONGTHANH  PHONGTHANH

GIADINH    HATIEN    LAITHIEU

PHUOCHAI    RACHGIA    SAIGON MESSAGERIES MMES
Petain
Postmarks on 6 cents

COCHINCHINA

SAIGON-PRINCIPAL  SAIGON A  TANAN

TANCHAU  THUDAUMOT  TRANGBANG  TRAON

TRAVINH  VINHLONG  XUANLOC
Ptain
Postmarks on 6 cents

LAOS

BONENG
LUANG-PRA-BANG
PHONTIOU

SARAVANE

SAVANNAKHET
TCHEPONE
VIENTIANE
XIENG-KHOUANG
Pétain
Postmarks on 6 cents

TONKIN

BAC-KAN
Camppha-Port
Cao-Bang

Cho-Bo
Dong-Trieu
Doson
Hanoi R.P.

Ha-Dong
Hanoi B15
Ha-Giang
Petain
Postmarks on 6 cents

TONKIN

HANOI ENTREPOIT P.T.T  HAI-DUONG  HAI-PHONG.

HUNG-YEN  LAO-KAY  NAM-DINH  PAKHA

PHAN-ME  PHAT DIEM  PHONG-THO  PHU-DA-PHUC
Petain
Postmarks on 6 cents

TONKIN

PHU-DOAN  PHU-LANG-THUONG  PHULY

PHU-THO  QUANG-YEN  SEPT PAGODES  SON-LA

TAM-DAO  TUYEN-QUANG  VINH-YEN  YEN-BAI
Petain
Postmarks on 6 cents

TONKIN

HANOI R.P.

CAO-BANG
Petain
Postmarks on 6 cents

RAILROAD

DALAT-TOURCHAM

HANOI A HAIPHONG

QUINHON A HANOI

RETURN TO SENDER

RURAL
Pétain
Postmarks on 10 cents

BONENG

HONGÄY

CUA-LO

DAP-CAU

GOCONG

THAI-NgUYEN

HAIPHONG
Petain
Postmarks on 10 cents

HATIEN

LOCNINH

LONGTHANH

PAKSANE

SAIGON PRINCIPAL

SNOUL

TANAN

THANH-HOA

VIENTIANE
Petain
Postmarks on 40 cents blue
Petain
Postmarks on 40 cents slate blue

CAO-BANG

DAP-CAU

DONGHOI

DONG-TRIEU

GODAUHA

HANOI R.P.

HANOI-D

KONTUM

LANG-SON

MYTHO
Pétain
Postmarks on 40 cents slate blue

NAM-DINH
PHAT-DIEM

SAIGON A
THAKEK
TOURANE

TRAVINH
VANGDANH
VIET-TRI
Petain
Postmarks

RURAL POST OFFICES
A 10-cent Pétain commemorative with a “BIC” Perfin franks a bank windowed envelope from World War II. A handstamp applied in red claimed that bank correspondence was exempt from censorship.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 22-5 44
bank censor exemption handstamp
REVERSE
NAM-DINH TONKIN 24-5 44
Three Petain values were favor cancelled at the Saigon Fair on the last day of use of the special postmark.
Petain Usage

A collection of five different Petain commemoratives was favor-canceled on stationery of the “Ecole d’Enfants de Troupe” at Dalat in August 1943. Each stamp was affixed with a paper hinge and tied with a Dalat postmark. The motivation for creating this souvenir is unclear.

POSTAL MARKINGS
DALAT ANNAM 17-8 43 (blue)
Pétain
Use of 1 cent

A soldier in the Far East Expeditionary Corps created a souvenir by having a 1-cent Pétain commemorative favor cancelled on an old postcard at Gia-Lam in 1951.

POSTAL MARKINGS
GIA-LAM TONKIN 10-6 1951
REVERSE
GIA-LAM TONKIN 10-6 1951
During World War II, for the period of 1 December 1943 through 15 October 1944, the internal letter rate was 10 cents. Here the sender assembled a collection of smaller values to make up the required postage. Among these was a pair of 1-cent Petain stamps. By itself, the 1-cent value satisfied no real postal purpose.
Petain
Use of 1 cent

With another 15 cents worth of postage on the reverse, the low value Petain stamp paid local mail service from Tam-Bao, Tonkin to Sam-Son, Annam. Note that the sender had struck out "PAR AVION" in the corner imprint to be sure the letter was not charged postage due.

POSTAL MARKINGS
TAM-DAO TONKIN 29-10 41
REVERSE
TAM-DAO TONKIN 29-10 41
HANOI TONKIN R.P. TONKIN 30-10 41
SAM-SON ANNAM 1-11 41
Petain  
First Day of Issue  
Second Printing of 1 cent  

The first day of issue for the second printing (perforated 12) of the 1 cent stamp was 16 November 1943.
Pétain
Use of 6 cents

The 6-cent internal letter rate came into effect on 16 June 1939 and remained in effect until 30 November 1943. Here a 6-cent Pétain commemorative paid for a March 1943 mailing from Hanoi to Saigon.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R.P TONKIN 25-3-43
Petain
Use of 6 cents

The local letter rate remained at 6 cents until the end of 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS
RACHGIA COCHINCHINE 5-9 43
REVERSE
SAIGON•PRINCIPAL 10 SEPT 43
Pétain
Use of 6 cents

The 6 cent Pétain stamp franked a small envelope mailed in 1943 from Hanoi to the Director of Chinese Customs at Macheung and was directed via a post office box in Fort Bayard in Kouang Cho Wan.

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R. P. TONKIN 4-2-43
In 1943, the 6-cent Petain commemorative paid the postage for a local postcard mailed from Tourane to Saigon.
Petain
Use of 6 cents

The internal postcard rate was 6 cents from 1938 through 1944. Here a 6-cent Petain commemorative stamp paid the postage for a mailing from Saigon to Hanoi. The year was likely 1943 based on the fact that “Saigon-Central” postmarks transitioned to “Saigon-Principal” postmarks in 1943.
Pétain
Use of 6 cents

With a large number of stamps on the reverse, the postage was overpaid on this registered internal letter. The letter was handstamped with a “Franked by Sender” marking.

![Image of postal markings and letter]

**POSTAL MARKINGS**

HAIPHONG TONKIN 14-8 42
registration label
Franked by Sender handstamp

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 16-8 42
NHATRANG-CITADELLE ANNAM 19-8 42
Pétain
Use of 6 cents

In 1944, an internal, registered letter was franked with six copies of the 6-cent Pétain commemorative stamp. Postage was calculated as follows:

- Internal letter rate: 10 cents
- Registration fee: 30 cents
- Total: 40 cents

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 4-1 44
registration label and "G7" postal window handstamp

REVERSE
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 5-1 44
Petain
First Day of Issue
Third Printing of 6 cents

The 6 cent value was so widely used that a third printing was placed in service on 1 November 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 1-11 43
REVERSE
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 1-11 43
Faked covers with genuine stamps were made in the 1960s for sale to stamp collectors.
Pétain
Use of 10 cents

The internal letter rate rose from 6 cents to 10 cents on 1 December 1943. The rate was in effect for less than a year.
Pétain
First Day of Issue
Use of 10 cents

The 10-cent value was issued on 1 December 1943, the day that the letter rate was increased.

POSTAL MARKINGS
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 1-12 43
REVERSE
PHNOMPENH CAMBODGE 1-12 43
Posted on 1 December 1943 by a stamp dealer, this mailing represents a first day of use. The letter is addressed in Chinese to: Mr. Zhang Jun-Zhi, Chong Cheng School, Chaudoc.
Pétain
Use of 40 cents blue

A single 40-cent blue Pétain stamp paid the local registered letter rate in 1944. Postage was calculated as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>internal letter rate (0-10 grams)</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>$30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>$40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 12-5 44
registration label
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 13-5 44
Pétain
Use of 40 cents blue

In 1946, a 40-cent stamp franked a local letter to the Governor’s Chief of Staff at Saigon.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON•PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 7-1 46
flight cachet
REVERSE
SAIGON•PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 8-1 46
The 40-cent value satisfied the needs of local registered letters. Postage was computed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>local letter rate</td>
<td>10 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>registration fee</td>
<td>30 cents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total</td>
<td>40 cents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

POSTAL MARKINGS
CANTHO COCHINCHINE 8-6 44
registration label
REVERSE
SAIGON•PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 9-6 44
Pétain
Use of 40 cents slate blue

On 1 April 1942, the foreign letter rate rose 25 cents per 20 grams to 40 cents per 20 grams. To prevent the outflow of valuables through the mails, the Customs Department would inspect registered letters. Those found without contraband were resealed and marked “VISE PAR LA DOUANE,” meaning “examined by Customs.”

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18-3 43
“Examined by Customs” with manuscript date
BANGKOK G.P.O. 23 3 43
REVERSE
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 18-3 43
registration label
Petain Envelope

The only postal stationery item prepared using a design from the Vichy period was the 6 cent Petain envelope. Like the Vichy period stamps, the Petain envelopes were printed in Hanoi.
Petain Envelope

Colors of the ink for the indicium varied. For this example, the indicium is vermilion while the normal stamp is carmine.
Petain Envelope
Usage

Effective 1 December 1943, the internal letter rate increased from 6 cents to 10 cents. A 4-cent Indochinese Culture stamp was added to a 6-cent Petain envelope for a mailing from Than-Nguyen to Saigon at the end of 1943.

POSTAL MARKINGS
THAN-NgUYEN TONKIN 29-12 43
REVERSE
HANOi BIS TONKIN 29-12 43
HANOI R.P. TONKIN 3012 43
SAIGON-PRINCIPAL COCHINCHINE 4 JANV 44
Petain Envelope
Usage

The sender affixed 9 cents additional postage to the 6-cent Petain envelope for an internal mailing from Quang-Yen, Tonkin to Sam-Son Annam in 1944. In October 1944, the internal letter rate rose to 15 cents. This mailing escaped being cited for postage due.
Petain Envelope
Usage

A variety of commemorative stamps complemented the 6 cent value of the Petain envelope. Sent to an inspector with Chinese Customs by registered mail in 1944, the letter did not escape censorship.

POSTAL MARKINGS
SAM-SON ANNAM 5-1 44
registration label
REVERSE
HANOI R.P. BLS TONKIN 7-1 44
CHUNGKING 27.2.44
Five hundred Petain envelopes were printed for returning 1943 election ballots for the Saigon Sports Club (Cercle Sportif Saigonnais). A space at the lower left allowed for the identification of the voter. In addition, a space for the voter’s signature was provided.
Petain Envelope
Usage

With a Viet Minh stamp depicting Ho Chi Minh attached, this envelope was handstamped with several circular markings that promoted the Viet Minh cause for independence.