

Annam-Tonkin Expeditionary Corps

Beginning in the late 1870s, the French government stepped up efforts to solidify its stronghold on Indochina against stubborn resistance in the northern areas of Tonkin and Annam. Although the escalation of military activity was gradual, by the mid 1880s, a large-scale campaign was in progress. The military force was designated the Annam-Tonkin Expeditionary Force. Starting in August 1883, a free franchise was established for troops serving in this campaign. The franchise lasted until 31 October 1904 when the northern protectorates were fully under French control.

Besides their postal markings, franchise envelopes of the period are characterized by a manuscript identification "Corps Expeditionnaire du Tonkin" or the equivalent at the top with a signature of an officer or his designee, typically located at the lower left, certifying the validity of the free franchise.



Military Cachet



Military Postmark



Civilian Postmark



CORR. D. ARMEES HA-NOI

The CORR. D. ARMEES HA-NOI postmark had previously been used to validate the reduced franking available to the military throughout Indochina. Once the free franchise was granted to the Expeditionary Corps in 1883, the postmark was applied to stampless letters. Thus, it was one of the first markings put into service to certify the free franchise.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 1
PERIOD OF USE: August 1883-March 1885



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORR. D. ARMEES HA-NOI 20 MAI 84
REVERSE
LYON RHONE 18 JUIL 84

CORR. D. ARMEES HA-NOI

The type FM 1 CORR. D. ARMEES HA-NOI date stamp was octagonal like other military postmarks of the era. The central portion had a removable plug that military postal clerks could change to reflect the correct date.



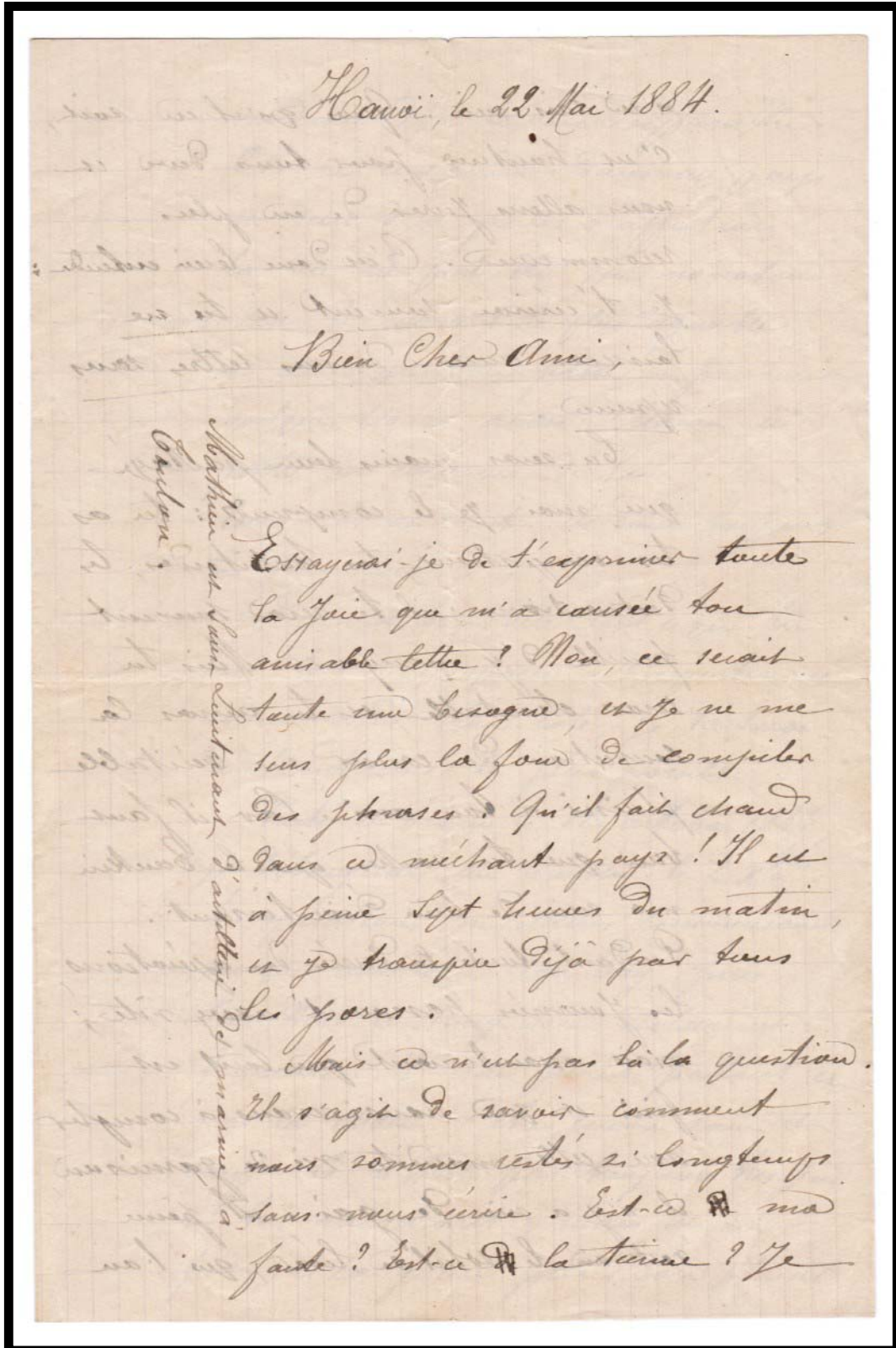
POSTMARK TYPE: FM 1
PERIOD OF USE: August 1883-March 1885



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORR.D. ARMEES HA-NOI 23 MAI 84
REVERSE
CARPENTRAS VAUCLUSE 18 JUIL. 84

CORR. D. ARMEES HA-NOI Military Letter

From the free franchise envelope posted on 23 May 1884, this soldier's letter describes conditions upon arrival in Indochina.



CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG
Asterisk Variety

Two types of octagonal postmarks were used by the military post office at Haiphong. The first variety of CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG postmark employed asterisks in the marginal inscription. The asterisk variety of the military postmark, FM 2, was used from 1892 until 1894.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 2
PERIOD OF USE: 1892-94



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG 25 NOV 92
REVERSE
PARIS DEPART 30 DEC 92
VALENTIN SEINE-ET-OISE 30 DEC 92

CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG
Asterisk Variety with Missing Year

The CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG postmark had a removable center plug that was used to change the date. On this cover, the postmark has a blank portion of the plug where the two digits for the year would normally have appeared.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 2
PERIOD OF USE: 1892-94



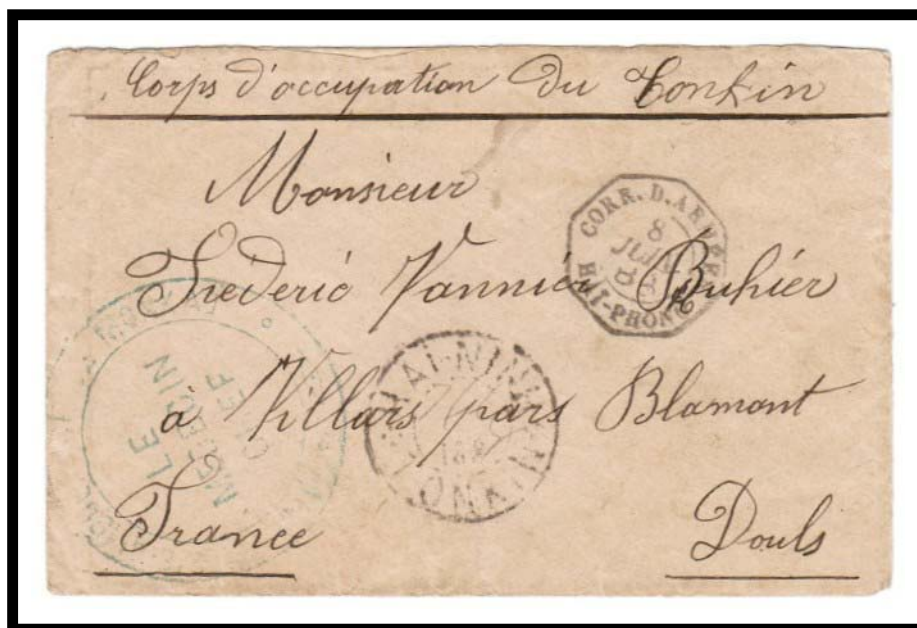
POSTAL MARKINGS
CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG 18 FEVR
REVERSE
PARIS DEPART 24 MARS 93
ROUEN SEINE MARITIME 25 MARS 93

CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG
Plain Variety

The second type of octagonal CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG postmark lacked asterisks separating the words in the marginal inscription. The type FM 3 military postmark was in use from August 1883, at the beginning of the franchise, through 1900.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 3
PERIOD OF USE: 1883-1900



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES HAI-PHONG 8 JUIN 88
HAI-NINH TONKIN 8 JUIN 1888

REVERSE

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 8 JUIN 88

CORR. D. ARMEES QUIN-HON

Quinhon's dated octagonal military postmark was used during the years 1884-87 on military franchise letters. This example is the earliest known use of the military postmark for Anna-Tonkin Expeditionary Corps mail. While other octagonal postmarks were carried over to serve the Expeditionary Corps, this was the only one from Annam used on soldiers' letters.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 4
PERIOD OF USE: 1884-87



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES QUIN-HON 25 DEC. 84

REVERSE

MARSEILLE A LYON SPECIAL 28 JANV. 85

GANNAT ALLIER 30 JANV. 85

CORR. D. ARMEES QUIN-HON
Military Letter

Qui. Yhôn le 21 Décembre 1882

Chers Parents

Je m'empresse de vous
écrire pour vous faire savoir de mes
nouvelles et en recevoir les vôtres. Quant
à moi je me porte très bien pour
le moment et je désire que la
présente vous troupe comme elle ne
quitte.

Chers Parents je vous souhaite
une bonne et heureuse année je vous
suis la souhaite de ma part à
Pierre, Charles, ma Sœur et mon petit
Nepveu ainsi qu'à tous mes parents
et amis, Quant à Qui-Yhôn
il n'y a rien de nouveau le temps
est toujours à la pluie et le froid
ne cesse pas, le Service n'est pas
dur, on est assez bien pour le moment

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON

At the beginning of the campaign, all military mail went through Saigon. No distinctive postmarking device existed for certifying the free franchise. The octagonal CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON postmark was in use for the reduced rate military letters from southern Indochina.

To prevent unfranked letters from being charged postage due, the military post office in Saigon resurrected the framed "P.P." device. It was applied in red ink and meant "postage paid" (port payée). This marking was in use for only a short period from September 1883 through March 1885. It disappeared when the Expeditionary Force's own postmarks became available.

On the reverse of this cover to Corsica is the "MARINE ET COLONIES-SERVICE A LA MER" anchor cachet indicating that it was mailed by a sailor from Admiral Courbet's flotilla soon after arrival in Indochina. As commander of the Expeditionary Force, Courbet ordered his ships to bombard enemy strongholds at the start of the campaign.



P.P.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 26 SEPT 83
P.P. in rectangle (red)

REVERSE

SIE MARIE ET SICHE CORSE 10 NOV 83

POSTMARK TYPE: FM 5
PERIOD OF USE: 11 August 1883
- 26 March 1884

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN
With Date

A second category of postmarks is the group that is circular in design with dates in the center. These devices had been sent from France. Two were mute with respect to location simply carrying the words "CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN" in two formats. The type FM 11 had "TONKIN" at the bottom. It was used only during the early period of the franchise from September 1883 through 1885.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 11
PERIOD OF USE: September 1883-1885



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN 22 MARS 84
REVERSE
MARSEILLE A LYON SPECIAL MAI 84

TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE
With Date

The second format reversed the locations of the marginal wording with "TONKIN" at the top of the circular date stamp. In contrast with the other version, type FM 12 was in service later and for a much longer period, from January 1885 through 1902.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 12
PERIOD OF USE: January 1885 -1902



POSTAL MARKINGS

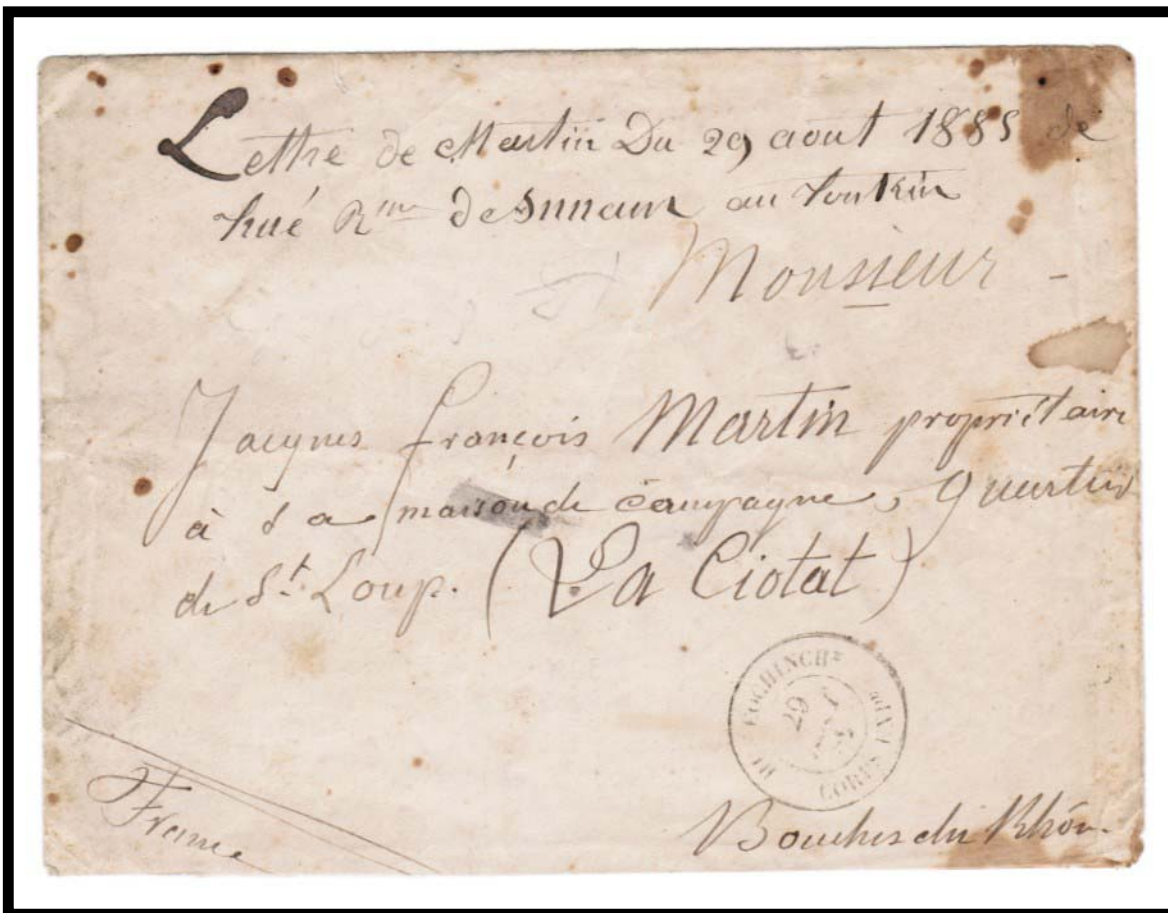
TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE 26 JANV 98
HANOI TONKIN 26 JANV 98

HUE COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ
With Date

The dated HUE COCHINCHÉ postmark was in service for only a short period during May 1884 – 1885. Eventually, the date plug was removed creating postmark FM 37.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 13
PERIOD OF USE: 1884-85



POSTAL MARKINGS

HUE COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ 29 AOUT 85

REVERSE

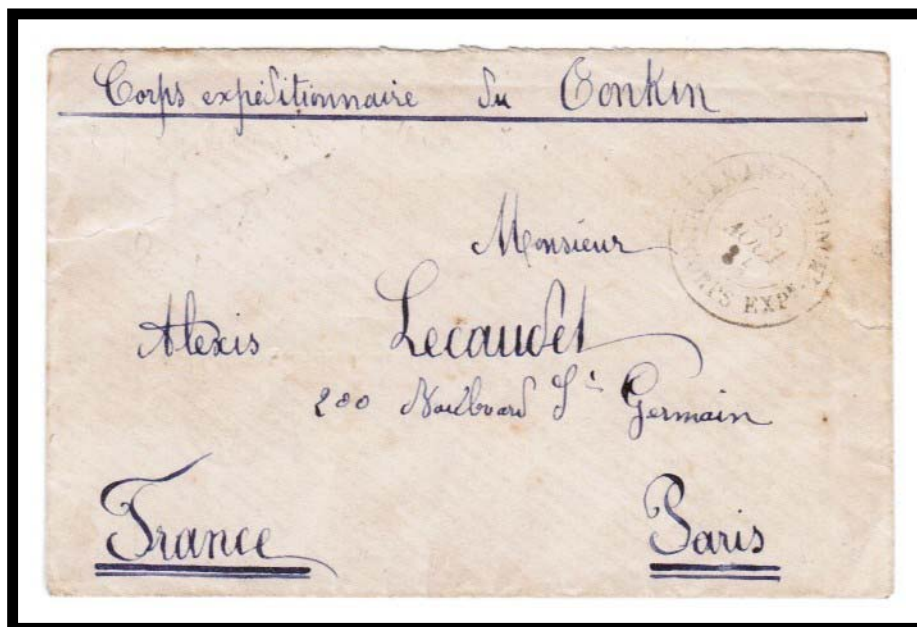
LA CIOTAT BES-DU-RHONE 10 OCT 85

THUAN-AN COCHINCH^E CORPS EXP^E
With Date

Sharing the same style postmark with Hue and Saigon, Thuan-An was the only other town to employ a circular cancellation with its own name identified. The FM 14 postmark was in service for only two and a half years, from 24 May 1884 until 27 October 1886. Because the military date stamp identified the location, a civil postmark was not applied along with the FM 14 postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 14
PERIOD OF USE: 1884-86



POSTAL MARKINGS

THUAN-AN COCHINCH^E CORPS EXP^E 28 AOUT 84

REVERSE

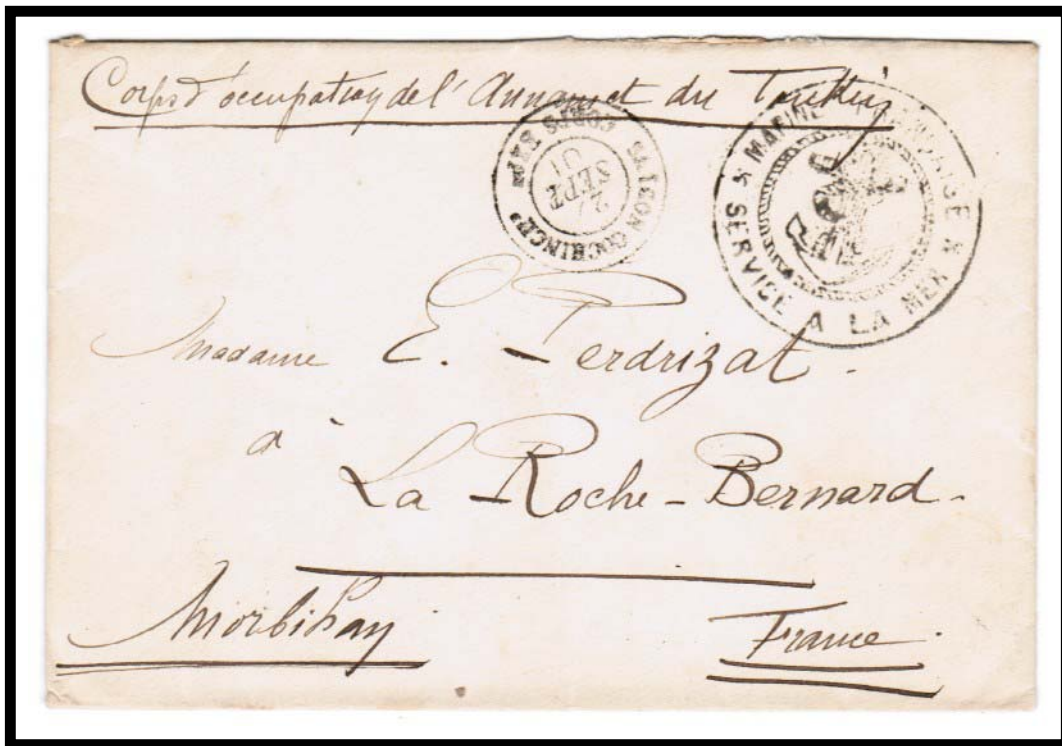
PARIS 8 (DISTRIB^{ON}) 8 OCT. 84

SAIGON COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ
With Date

Troops in passage retained the privilege of the free franchise. In Saigon, the military post office employed a special postmark for mail posted there by Expeditionary Force personnel in transit. This postmark, which replaced the framed "P.P." marking, was used from April 1884 through 1904.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 15
PERIOD OF USE: 11 April 1884-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ 27 SEPT 01
REVERSE
LA ROCHE-BERNARD MORBIHAN 01

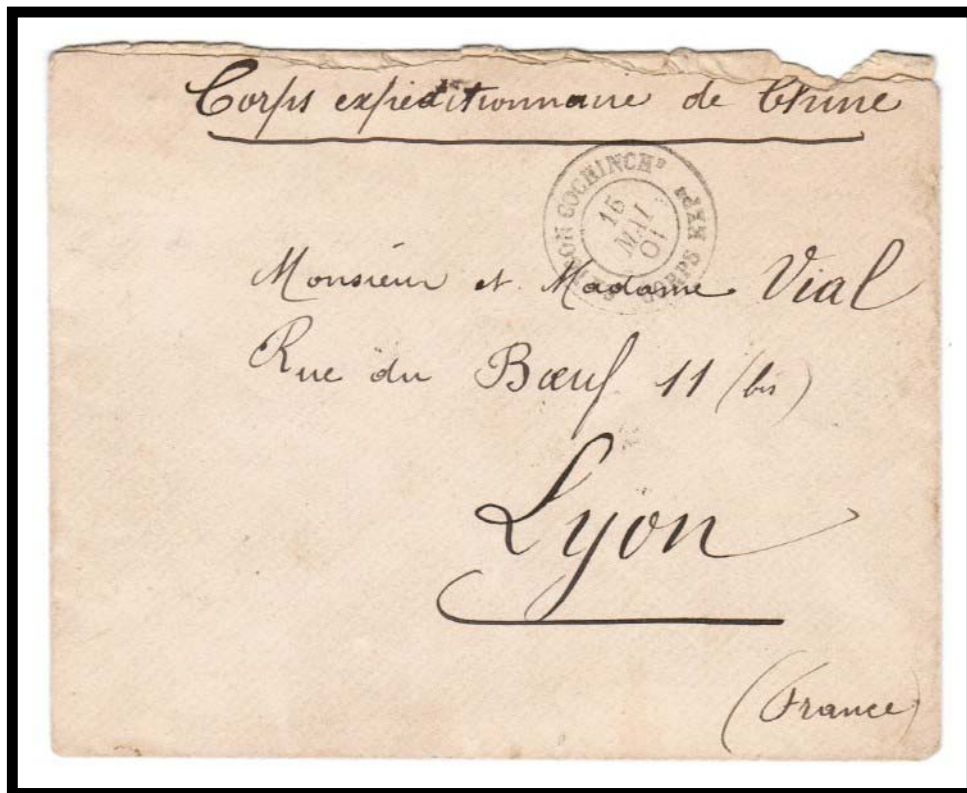
SAIGON COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ
With Date
Boxer Rebellion

French troops fighting in the Boxer Rebellion (1900-1903) would very likely pass through Saigon on their way to China. The SAIGON COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ postmark was also applied to the mail of these soldiers to validate their free franchise.

This envelope bears a manuscript "Corps expeditionnaire de Chine" indicating that the sender was a member of the forces sent to quell the uprising in China.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 15
PERIOD OF USE: 11 April 1884 - 1904



POSTAL MARKINGS
SAIGON COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ 15 MAI 01
REVERSE
LYON SEINE 13 JUIN 01

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE TONKIN
With Date

The latest usage of a dated postmark was from the army post office at Phu Lien, Tonkin during 1903-1904. Phu Lien had the only military post office in Annam or Tonkin that ever applied this style postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 21
PERIOD OF USE: 1903-04



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE TONKIN 14 AVRIL 04

PHU LIEN TONKIN 14 AVRIL 04

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 14 AVRIL 04

CORPS EXPÉDIRE DU TONKIN
With Date Plug

Type FM 22 postmarks were fashioned to be similar to the type D1 civil postmarks. By mistake they were sent with plug daters in 1900 during a period of administrative confusion. The FM 22 postmark remained in use for only two years and only at two locations Quinhone and Laokay.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 22
PERIOD OF USE: 1900-02



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPÉDIRE DU TONKIN 3 NOV 01
QUINHONE ANNAM 3 NOV 01

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 8 NOV 01
VERNON EURE 3-12 01

CORPS EXPÉDIRE DU TONKIN
With Date Plug

The type 22 dated CORPS EXPÉDIRE TONKIN postmark saw very restricted use before being removed from service. Only the army post offices at Quinehone, Annam and Laokay, Tonkin applied this postmark between 1900 and 1902.



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPÉDIRE TONKIN 18 OCT 01
QUINEHONNE ANNAM 18 OCT 01

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 22 OCT 01
NIMES GARD 19 NOV 01



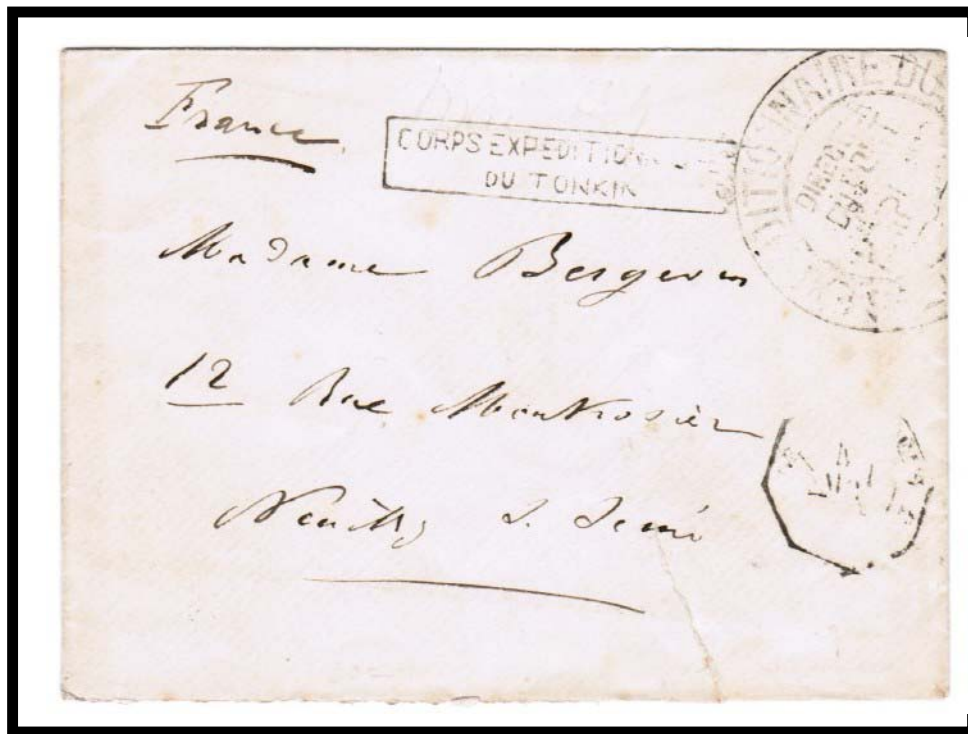
POSTMARK TYPE: FM 22
PERIOD OF USE: 1900-02

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE DU TONKIN
Single Line Rectangular Frame

Two variations of rectangular military postmarks were used for the Expeditionary Corps. The first consisted of the words "CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE DU TONKIN" enclosed by a rectangle consisting of a single line. These postmarks appeared just before the rules were distributed prescribing that undated military postmarks were to be struck on covers along with civil postmarks. The single line postmark was only used for a very limited time (April through December 1884) and only at Haiphong.

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE
DU TONKIN

POSTMARK TYPE: FM 31
PERIOD OF USE: April-December 1884



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE DU TONKIN in single line rectangle
CORR.D ARMEES HAI-PHONG 4 MAI 84

REVERSE

NEULLY s/ SEINE SEINE 84

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE DU TONKIN
Double Line Rectangular Frame

The type 32 double lined, rectangular CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE DU TONKIN postmark was used only at Nam-Dinh from 1885 through 1887. After the rectangular postmark was withdrawn by the military post office at Nam-Dinh, all military postmarks were circular for the remainder of the franchise.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 32
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-87



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE DU TONKIN in double line rectangle
NAM-DINH TONKIN 1 JUN 85

REVERSE

PARIS 7 (DISTRIB^{ON}) 22 JUIL 85

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN

Eventually, the plug daters were eliminated from the cancellers giving rise to the fifth category of military postmarks. The two undated CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} postmarks had the same two formats as the varieties with dates – "TONKIN" at the top and at the bottom. Type FM 35, with "TONKIN" at the bottom, was widely used by a great number of Army post offices from 1899 through 1904.

Curiously, one of the two civilian postmarks on this cover from Bac-Ninh, Tonkin also lacks any date information.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 35
PERIOD OF USE: 1899-1904

POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN
BAC-NINH TONKIN
BAC-NINH TONKIN 11 JANV 97

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 13 JANV 97
GRENOBLE ISERE 21 FEVR 97

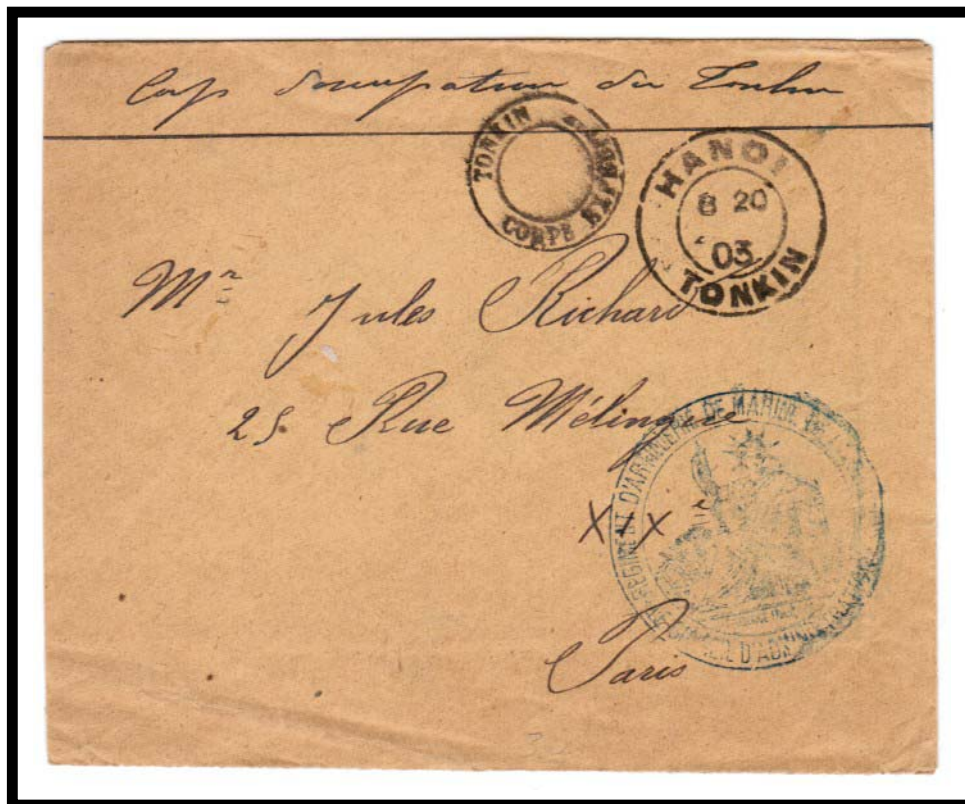
TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE

The second format, FM 36 with "TONKIN" at the top, was widely used at army post offices from 1887 through the end of the franchise in 1904.

Interestingly, the postmark from the civilian post office at Hanoi has the time of day "8 20" and the year "03", but is missing the day and month from the center of the date stamp.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 36
PERIOD OF USE: 1887-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS
TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE
HANOI TONKIN 03
REVERSE
PARIS DISTRIBUTION 23-5 03

HUE COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ

The HUE COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ postmark also had the date plug removed.
The undated variety, FM 37, saw service from 1888 through 1904.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 37
PERIOD OF USE: 1888-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

HUE COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ
ANNAM HUE 5 JANV 93

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 12 JANV 93
COR. D. ARM LIG.N PAQ. FR. N°3 15 JANV 93

HUE COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ

Normally, black ink was employed for applying military and civilian postmarks. Here the FM37 military postmark and the civilian postmark from Hue were both applied with blue ink.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 37
PERIOD OF USE: 1888 -1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

HUE COCHINCHÉ CORPS EXPÉ (blue)
ANNAM HUE 2 OCT. 02 (blue)

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 7 OCT 02
FERRIER AUX ETANGS ORNE 15 NOV 02

CORPS EXP^{RE} ANNAM-TONKIN

The sixth category of military postmarks referenced "Annam-Tonkin" and were fabricated locally. They appeared later in the conflict. The most common of these was the type FM 41 CORPS EXP^{RE} ANNAM-TONKIN postmark. It was used in many of the military post offices from 1887 through the end of the franchise period in 1904.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 41
PERIOD OF USE: 1887 -1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXP^{RE} ANNAM-TONKIN
NAM-DINH TONKIN 17 DEC 89

REVERSE

PARIS 71 24 JANV 90

CORPS EXPRE ANNAM-TONNIN
Spelling Error

Postmarks with the spelling error "TONNIN" instead of "TONKIN" saw use from only a few locations. When the error was discovered, the defective cancellers were recalled in 1888-1889.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 41a
PERIOD OF USE: 1888 -1899



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPRE ANNAM-TONNIN
HAI-NINH TONKIN 24/1 1889
MARSEILLE BCH-DU-RHONE 8 MARS 89

REVERSE

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 25 JANV 89
ALGER ALGERIA 10 MARS 89

CORPS EXPRE ANNAM-TONNIN
Spelling Error

The "TONNIN" postmark reappeared at Haiphong a decade later at the end of 1898. The type FM 41a postmark was withdrawn from service in early 1899 and no further occurrences of the misspelling error are recorded.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 41a
PERIOD OF USE: 1888-99



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPRE ANNAM-TONNIN
HAIPHONG TONKIN 13 DEC 98

REVERSE

PARTHENAY DEUX SEVRES 17 JANV 99

CORPS EXP^{RE} ANNAM-TONKIN
VINH

For a short time, Vinh, Annam had the unique decorated military postmark type FM 42. The postmark was locally made and only used at Vinh for two years. No other location had anything approaching the distinctiveness of Vinh's military postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 42
PERIOD OF USE: 1887-89



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXP^{RE} ANNAM-TONKIN
VINH ANNAM 26 NOV 88

REVERSE

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 4 DEC. 88
NANCY MEURTHE-ET-MOSELLE 11 JANV 89

CORPS EXP^{RE} ANNAM-TONKIN
VINH

Here the FM 42 military postmark as well as the postmark from the civilian Vinh post office were applied with blue ink. In contrast, the commander's cachet had been applied with red ink.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 42
PERIOD OF USE: 1887-89



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXP^{RE} ANNAM-TONKIN (blue)
VINH ANNAM 26 NOV 88 (blue)

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN

The CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN postmark is known in two sizes. The larger, type FM 45, is 28 millimeters in diameter and was used only at Laokay, Tonkin during the period 1896 through 1899.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 45
PERIOD OF USE: 1896-99



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN
LAOKAY TONKIN 28 AVRIL 98

REVERSE

HANOI TONKIN 6 MAI 98
HAIPHONG TONKIN 11 MAI 98
MARSEILLES BOUCHES DU RHONE 18 JUIN 98
SAIDA ORAN 22 JUIN 98

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN

The type FM 48 CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN postmark is similar to the type 49 postmark, except that with the former, the lettering is smaller. For the type 48 postmark, the circle diameters are 26.5 and 18 millimeters. Interestingly, all the markings on the front of this cover were applied with blue ink.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 48
PERIOD OF USE: 1893 -1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN (blue)
DONG-DANG TONKIN 16 SEPT 02 (blue)

REVERSE

LANG-SON TONKIN 16 SEPT 02
PERIGUEUY DORDOGNE 21-11 02

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN

The type FM 49 CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN postmark is known with two sizes of lettering. The type with large lettering was widely used from 1898 through 1904.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 49
PERIOD OF USE: 1896-99



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN
MUI-NGOC TONKIN 9 OCT 02

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 10 OCT 02
SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 14 OCT 02
GRENOBLE C ISERE 17 NOV 02
GRENOBLE ISERE 17-11 02
EMBRUN HAUTES ALPES 18 NOV 02

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN POSTMARK
Blue Ink

Occasionally, military postmarks were struck in colors other than black. Here the type FM 49 CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN postmark was applied in blue ink at Than-Poun, Tonkin. The civilian post office's postmark was also struck in blue.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 49
PERIOD OF USE: 1896-99



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIT^{RE} TONKIN (blue)
THAN-POUN TONKIN 24 JUIN 03 (blue)

REVERSE

MON-CAY TONKIN 25 JUIN 03
HAIPHONG TONKIN 27 JUIN 03

CORPS EXPÉDIRE TONKIN

The type FM 51 CORPS EXPÉDIRE TONKIN postmark with a solid inner circle was only used at Laokay, Tonkin from 1900 through 1904. With the following dimensions:

Outer circle diameter = 22 millimeters

Inner circle diameter = 12 millimeters,

it was smaller than many of the contemporary military postmarks



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 51

PERIOD OF USE: 1900-04



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPÉDIRE TONKIN
LAOKAY TONKIN 30 JUN 01

CORPS EXPED^{RE} TONKIN.

Only a single military postmark, type FM 52, used the specific abbreviation "EXPED^{RE}." For the FM 52 postmark, the outer circle was 28 millimeters in diameter and the inner circle was 18 millimeters in diameter. It was in service during the 1890s.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 52
PERIOD OF USE: 1890-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPED^{RE} TONKIN.

REVERSE

HANOI TONKIN 5 AOUT 97
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 5 AOUT 97
CREST DROME 14 SEPT 97

CORPS EXPED^{RE} TONKIN.

The type 52 CORPS EXPED^{RE} TONKIN postmark was used by a few army post offices from 1890 through 1898. The characteristic dimensions are:

Outer circle diameter = 28 millimeters
Inner circle diameter = 18 millimeters.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 52
PERIOD OF USE: 1890-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPED^{RE} TONKIN
TUYEN-QUANG TONKIN 6 AVRIL 95

REVERSE

HANOI TONKIN 9 AVRIL 95
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 11 AVRIL 95
GIVET ARDENNES 19 MAI 95

CORPS EXP^{RE} TONKIN

Two types of CORPS EXP^{RE} TONKIN postmarks exist. For type FM 53, the diameter of the inner circle is 16.5 millimeters. It was in service from 1893 through 1904.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 53
PERIOD OF USE: 1893-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXP^{RE} TONKIN
THATKHE TONKIN 4 NOV 1900
REVERSE
LANGSON TONKIN 5 NOV 1900
HAIPHONG TONKIN 6 NOV 1900

CORPS EXP^{RE} TONKIN

For the second variety of CORPS EXP^{RE} TONKIN postmark, type FM 53a, the diameter of the inner circle is 15.5 millimeters. Additionally, in contrast to the 16.5-millimeter type 53 version, the letters "RE" are underlined. This variety is known used during the period 1894 through 1902.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 53a
PERIOD OF USE: 1894-1902



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXP^{RE} TONKIN
DONG-DANG TONKIN 28 MAI 01

REVERSE

LANGSON TONKIN 29 MAI 01
EPINAL VOSGES 10 JUIL 01
ALLARMONT VOSGES 10 JUIL 01

CORPS EXPEDIRE TONKIN

The FM 62 postmarks mimicked the design of the type E2 civilian postmarks. Type FM 62 postmarks are characterized by the inner circle of the postmark, which is made up of 12 dashes. The outside diameter typically varies from 24.5 to 25 millimeters. The separation between the "S" of "CORPS" and the "E" of "EXPEDIRE" is typically 2-3 millimeters.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 62
PERIOD OF USE: 1899-1903



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIRE TONKIN
QUANG-YEN TONKIN 13 DEC 99

REVERSE

RUSSEY DOUBS 18 JANV 00

CORPS EXPEDIRE TONKIN

For the type FM 62 military postmarks, the separation between the "S" of "CORPS" and the "E" of "EXPEDIRE" is typically 2-3 millimeters. In this example the spacing is 3+ millimeters - almost the spacing of the type FM 61 postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 62
PERIOD OF USE: 1899-1903



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIRE TONKIN
BAO-LAC TONKIN 20 JUIN 1900

REVERSE

CAO-BANG TONKIN 23 JUIN 1900
LANG-SON TONKIN 26 JUIN 1900
HAIPHONG TONKIN 27 JUIN 1900

CORPS EXPEDIRE TONKIN

The larger diameter of the FM 66 postmark, 23 millimeters, distinguishes it from the smaller FM 67 postmark. The FM 66 postmark is recorded from several locations, but most notably from Quang-Yen.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 66
PERIOD OF USE: 1899-1904

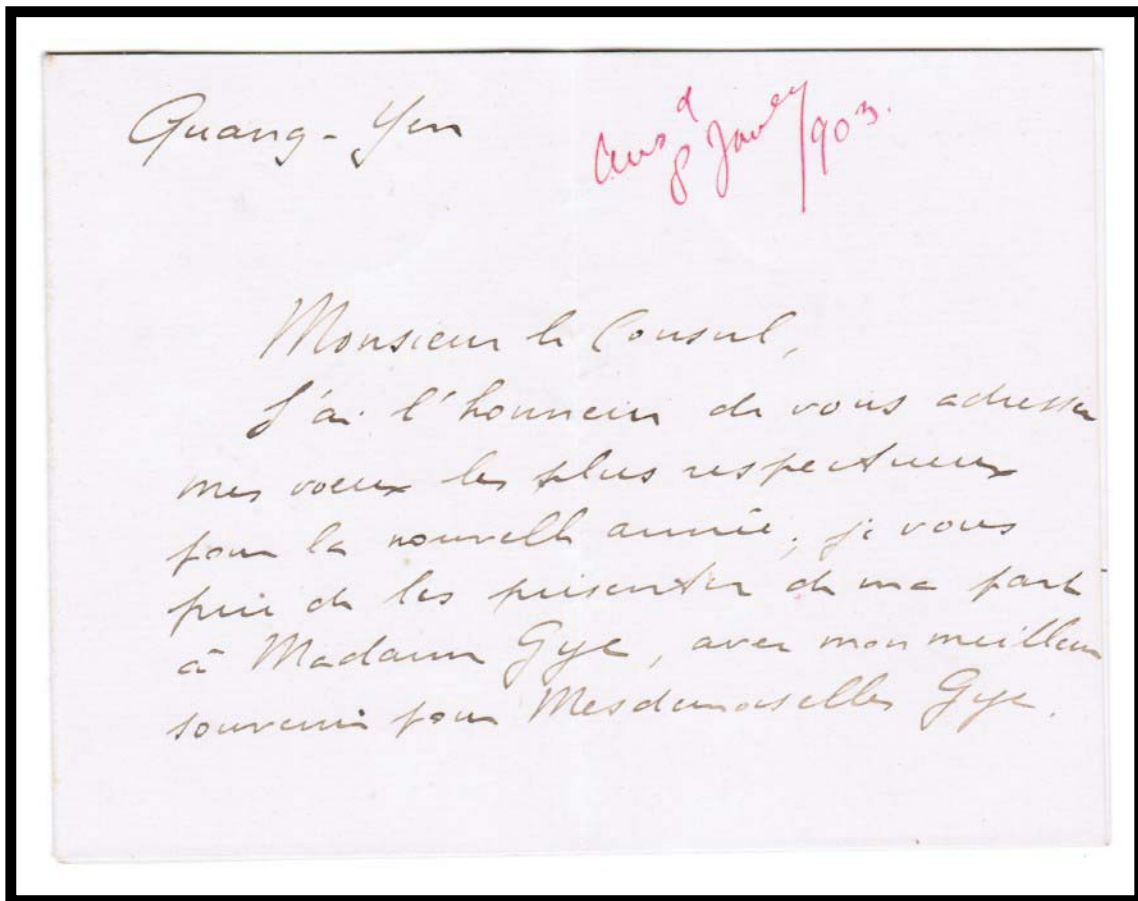


POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIRE TONKIN
QUANG-YEN TONKIN 22 NOV 02

CORPS EXPÉDITIONNAIRE TONKIN
Letter

The letter inside the envelope with the FM 66 and Quang-Yen postmarks was
dated from Quang-Yen at the top left.

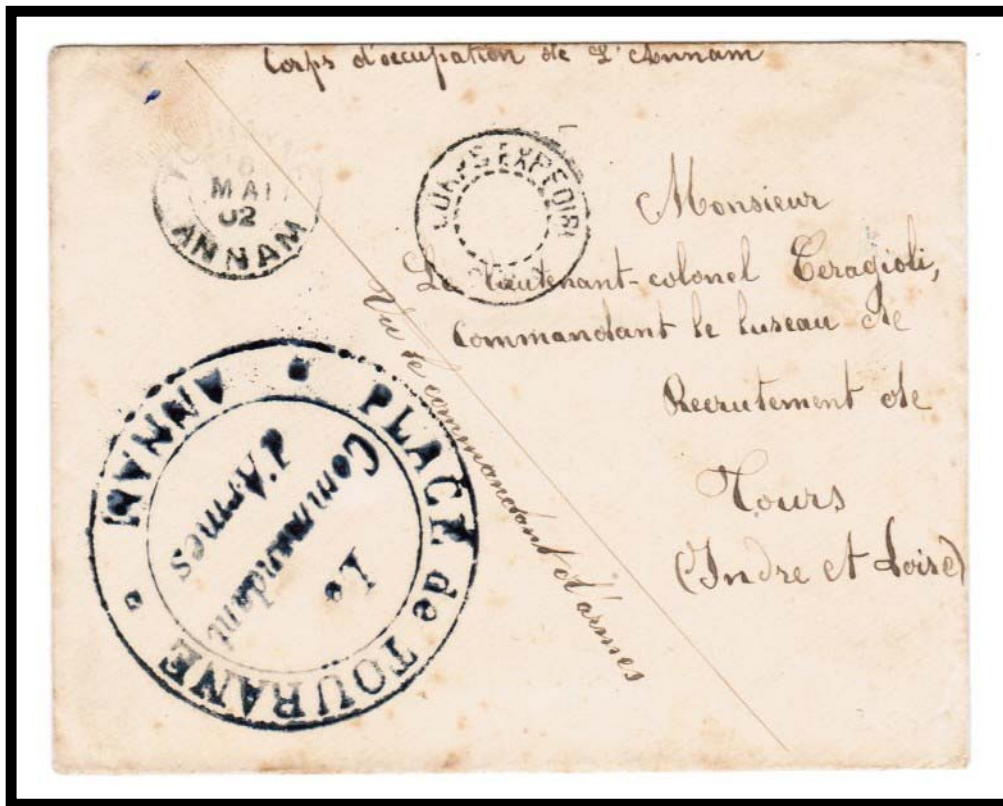


CORPS EXPÉDIT^{RE} TONKIN

The type FM 67 postmark is characterized by the 22.5-millimeter diameter of its outer circle. This CORPS EXPÉDIT^{RE} TONKIN postmark was used at a number of locations, but is most commonly found used from Tourane, Annam.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 67
PERIOD OF USE: 1899 -1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPÉDIT^{RE} TONKIN
TOURANE ANNAM 16 MAI 02

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 21 MAI 02
TOURS INDRE ET LOIRE 18-6 02

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE

The tenth category of postmarks encompasses those that carry no geographical reference. The type FM 75 CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE postmark, without the word "TONKIN", was used from 1893 through 1904.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 75
PERIOD OF USE: 1894-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE
THAN-MOI TONKIN 11 AVRIL 94
REVERSE
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 13 AVRIL 94

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE
Lettering Variety

Although military postmarks shared common formats, differences in manufacture as well as the ravages of wear led to notable differences especially in the lettering. This example of the type 75 CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE postmark exemplifies the variety to be found in lettering.



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE
YEN-BAI TONKIN 11 JANV 1901
REVERSE
HANOI TONKIN 14 JANV 01
PARIS DISTRIBUTION 25 FEVR 01

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE

The earliest known usage of the type FM 75 postmark had been 1894. This example from April 1893 shows that this military postmark was in use at least one year earlier.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 75
PERIOD OF USE: 1893-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

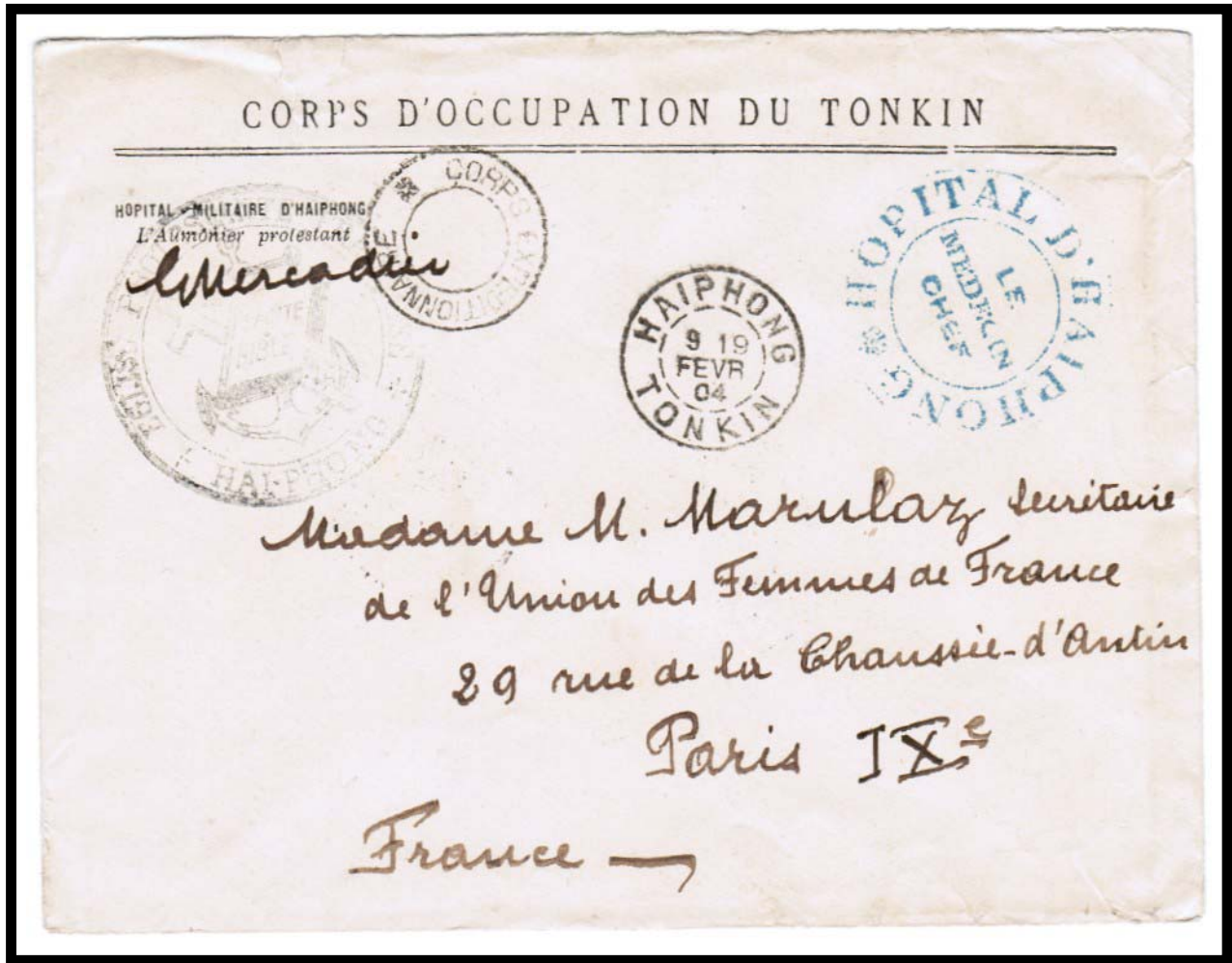
CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE
SEPT PAGODES TONKIN 15 AVRIL 93

REVERSE

HAI-DUONG TONKIN 16 AVRIL 93
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 16 AVRIL 93
ALAIS GARD 19 MAI 93
BRIOUDE HAUTE LOIRE 19 MAI 93

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE

During 1903-04, Haiphong was the only location that used the type FM 76 CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE postmark characterized by an ornament at its base. Here the postmark was one of several markings on a letter posted by the Protestant minister at the Haiphong military hospital.



POSTMARK TYPE: FM 76
PERIOD OF USE: 1903-04

POSTAL MARKINGS
HAIPHONG TONKIN 19 FEVR 04
CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE

REVERSE

PARIS 2 DISTRIBUTION 22-3 04