

## Corr. des armées

The framed "Corr. des armées" was applied to mail in transit to signify a free military letter. In this case, the printed stationery identifies the sender as the Second Officer of the Tonkin Expeditionary Corps.

*Corr.  
des armées*

POSTMARK TYPE: 247  
PERIOD OF USE: 1883-90



### POSTAL MARKINGS

2° MARSEILLE 2° (12) 15 NOV. 85  
framed "Corr. des armées"

CORR. D. ARMEES  
MARSEILLE

This circular postmark was applied on arriving mail from non-postal ships (chartered steamers, or transport vessels from the French Navy) arriving at Marseille from the Far East.



POSTMARK TYPE: 248  
PERIOD OF USE: 1887-1903

Le Sous-Commissaire  
DÉLÉGUÉ DE LA MARINE  
A BORD DU CACHAR

Deputy Commissioner  
NAVY REPRESENTATIVE  
ON BOARD THE CACHAR



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES MARSEILLE 5 JUN 87

REVERSE

MÉDITERRANÉE A PARIS 5 JUN 87  
CHALON S/SOANE SAONE ET LOIRE 5 JUN 87

COR. D. ARMEES  
INDO-CHINE

In November 1862, the government ordered that postal agents abroad French ships were to use special postmarks for soldiers' mail. Military letters required the same postage as letters mailed in metropolitan France.

The S.S. *Impératrice* departed Saigon on 30 December 1863.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.848  
PERIOD OF USE: 1863-66



POSTAL MARKINGS

COR. D. ARMEES INDO-CHINE 31 DEC. 63

lozenge with anchor

framed PD

"8" handstamp due marking

REVERSE

AUCE (31) 8 JANV 64

COR. D. ARMEES  
INDO-CHINE

The COR. D. ARMEES INDO-CHINE postmark confirmed for postal workers in France that a mailing was entitled to the reduced postage granted to soldiers. In this case, the postage is missing from the envelope. Normally struck with black ink, this example was applied with blue ink.

On her return trip, the S.S. *Donnai* departed from Hong Kong on 26 March and reached Saigon on 31 March 1865.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.848  
PERIOD OF USE: 1863-66



POSTAL MARKINGS

COR. D. ARMEES INDO-CHINE 25 MARS 65 (blue)  
framed PD (red)

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N P. FR. N° 1

Army mail ("Correspondances d'Armées") postmarks were introduced in 1866-67 to certify reduced rates or free mail for military personnel. For this style postmark with code numbers 1, 2 and 3, the abbreviation "P" stood for "paquebot."



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.946/1  
PERIOD OF USE: 1866-80



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N P. FR. N° 1 20 FEVR. 78

REVERSE

MARSEILLE A LYON SPECIAL  
PARIS 11 13 MARS 78

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N P. FR. N° 2

Of the three postmarks that shared this format, the CORR.D. ARM LIG. N P. FR. N° 2 postmark remained in service the longest by a considerable margin. Postmark numbers 1 and 3 were retired around 1880 while the number 2 postmark disappeared in 1898.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.946/2  
PERIOD OF USE: 1866-98



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N P. FR. N° 2 21 AVRIL 85  
REVERSE  
PARIS (60) 25 MAI 85

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N P. FR. N° 2

This example of the Number 2 military postmark was from 1898, the last year of its use. The S.S. *Yara* departed Saigon on 16 February 1898 and arrived at Marseilles on 12 March 1898.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.946/2  
PERIOD OF USE: 1866-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N P. FR. N° 2 15 FEVR 98

REVERSE

MARSEILLE 1e B. Du RHONE 12 MARS 98  
MONTPELLIER HERAULT 10 MARS 98

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N P. FR. N° 3

The largest number used with this postmark type was 3. This example is from the first voyage that used the postmark to service military mail. The *Dupleix* (making an exceptional voyage as part of Line N) departed Suez on 27 February and reached Saigon on 30 April 1867. This letter, addressed to Paris, was mailed aboard the *Dupleix* by a soldier during the course of the voyage.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.946/3  
PERIOD OF USE: 1867-80



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N P. FR. N° 3 4 AVRIL 67  
30 (postage due handstamp)

REVERSE

LYON A MARSEILLE A 2 MAI 67 (sic)  
PARIS (60) 4 MAI 67



COR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 4

Complementing the three postmarks put into service in 1866-67, numbered 1 through 3, was a similar postmark with the number "4." It differed from the others in that it shunned the simple abbreviation "P." for the somewhat longer "PAQ." Additionally, the three-letter abbreviation "COR." was used in lieu of "CORR." Here the postage due marking was struck through because military mail was free.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.947  
PERIOD OF USE: 1867-98



POSTAL MARKINGS  
COR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 4 9 FEVR 86  
REVERSE  
MONTPELLIER HERAULT MARS 86

COR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 4

Complementing the unique spelling that makes the number 4 postmark unique, in this example the month was inverted when the removable date plug was reinserted into the cancelling device.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.947  
PERIOD OF USE: 1867-98



POSTAL MARKINGS  
COR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 4 29 NOV. 96  
REVERSE  
VANNES MORBIHAN 24 DEC 96

CORR. D. ARM. LIGNE N  
PAQ. FR. N° 5

A number "5" postmark was put into service in 1870. It differed from its predecessors in that the wording on the outside ring spelled out "LIGNE N" at the top as opposed to the abbreviation "LIG. N" at the base.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.948  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARM. LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 5 13 JANV. 85

COR. D . ARMEES LIGNE N  
PAQ. FR. N° 5

In general, deployed members of the military paid postal rates identical to those in effect within France. Here the sender affixed a French 15-centime Peace and Commerce stamp to his letter posted aboard the *Iraquddy*. Departing Saigon on 12 March, she returned to Marseilles on the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 1887.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.948  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

COR. D . ARMEES LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 5 8 MARS 87

REVERSE

LIMOURS-EN-HURBPOIX 6 AVRIL 87  
LIMOURS-EN-HURBPOIX 7 AVRIL 87

COR. D. ARMEES LIGNE N  
PAQ. FR. N° 5  
Letter

2 Mars 1887.

"Curenn". Hong-Kong.

Cher mademoiselle.

Nous avons retrouvé le Curenn ici  
il y a huit jours. Mon ami Ley et  
le nouvel amiral eussent pris  
possession de son nouveau Com<sup>te</sup>.

et nous couchons depuis cette époque  
à bord. Mais les changements et les  
nettoyages sont loin d'être terminés.

On sent le peintre et on est assailli

par les mouches. Mon premier soin

est de prendre un gros rhume en  
Honneur de votre oncle moi J. Aug. Delchod

CORR. DES ARMEES  
L. N. N° 5

This postmarking device replaced the number 5 device that had been lost when the *Anadyr* was rammed and sunk in July 1889. In service for a decade, this format was not used for any other Line N postmarks.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.953  
PERIOD OF USE: 1889-1898



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 22 AOUT 96  
CORR. D. ARMEES L. N. N° 5 23 AOUT 96

REVERSE

MIRANDE GERS 15 SEPT 96

CORR. DES ARMEES  
L. N. N° 5

Mailed aboard the S.S. *Yarra*, the 15-centime French stamp was canceled with the civilian maritime postmark. In addition, since the letter was sent by a member of the military, the CORR. D. ARMÉES postmark verified that the mailing qualified for the reduced postage rate.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.953  
PERIOD OF USE: 1889-98



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.924/5  
PERIOD OF USE: 1888-1910



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES L. N. N° 5 17 JUIL 95  
LIGNE N. PAQ. FR. N° 5 17 JUIL. 95

REVERSE

PARIS 22 R. TAITBOUT 25 AOUT 95  
CHARTRES EURE ET LOIR 25 AOUT 95

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 6

Cancellers with numbers 6 through 10 employed a small 20-millimeter diameter circular date stamp format. This style postmark was first put into use in 1870 and the last device was not taken out of service until 1898. In this case, the number "6" postmark was applied on 10 June 1889, the day the S.S. *Natal* departed Saigon starting her return trip to Marseilles.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.949/6  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 6 10 JUIN 89  
REVERSE  
PARIS (DISTRIB<sup>on</sup>) 8 JUIL 89



CORR. D. ARMEES  
PAQ. FR. N° 7

The circular "CORR. D. ARM" device was lost when the S.S. *Meikong* sank in the Gulf of Aden on 18 June 1877. The octagonal number "7" postmark was put into service as a replacement. It was the only postmark of the period with an octagonal outer border.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.950  
PERIOD OF USE: 1877-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPÉDITIONNAIRE TONKIN 10 DEC. 83  
CORR. D. ARMEES PAQ. FR. N° 7 18 DEC. 83

REVERSE

MARSEILLE A LYON SPECIAL 20 JANV. 84

CORR. D. ARMEES  
PAQ. FR. N° 7

After the loss of the circular "CORR. D. ARM" device when the S.S. *Meikong* ran aground and was lost in the Gulf of Aden, the octagonal number "7" postmark was issued as a replacement. In this case, a civilian letter by all appearances was postmarked aboard ship with the military canceller. The S.S. *Pei-Ho* departed Saigon on 16 March and arrived at Marseille on 13 April 1883.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.950  
PERIOD OF USE: 1877-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES PAQ. FR. N° 7 17 MAS 83  
MODANE A PARIS 14 AVRIL 83 (red)

REVERSE

VIZILLE (27) 15 AVRIL (83)

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 8

In the middle of 1884, the terminus of the N Line shifted from Shanghai to Hong Kong. This letter was postmarked aboard the S.S. *Djemnah* on her first return trip from Hong Kong arriving at Marseilles on 5 November 1884. Within a year the N Line routing reverted to Shanghai.

Curiously, the mailing exhibits no signs of qualifying as free military mail.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.949/8  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N°8 24 OCT.84  
REVERSE  
CHOLET MAINE ET LOIRE 7 NOV 84

CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 8  
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 8

Covers were supposed to be given only a single maritime date stamp. This example was struck with both the military and civilian maritime date stamps, a very unusual occurrence.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.949/8  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.921/8  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-96



POSTAL MARKINGS

TUYEN-QUANG TONKIN 22 OCT 96  
CORPS EXPÉDITIONNAIRE TONKIN  
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 8 1 NOV 96  
CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 8 1 NOV 96

REVERSE

HANOI TONKIN 24 OCT 96  
LYON RHONE 25 NOV 96

COR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 9

In 1881, a number "9" postmark was introduced. The asterisks separating the top and bottom portions of the wording results in a unique format.

Here the postmark was applied to an Expeditionary Corps letter with red ink aboard the S.S. *Oxus*, which arrived at Marseille on 23 November 1884.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.951  
PERIOD OF USE: 1881-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

COR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 9 11 NOV. 84 (red)

REVERSE

PARIS 2 (DISTRIBON) 24 NOV 84

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 10

The highest number put on N Line datestamps was "10". The number 10 datestamp was employed during the period 1870-1898.

This cover was posted aboard the S.S. Sydney which departed Yokohama, Japan on 28 December 1895. The inner ring of the postmark had become so worn as to no longer be visible.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.949/10  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 10 28 DEC 95

REVERSE

MARSEILLE DEPART 5 FEVR 96  
DRAGUIGNAN VAR 6 FEVR 96

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 10

Posted aboard the S.S. *Oxus* coming from Hong Kong, this letter was addressed to Albert Louis Marie René Pougin de la Maisonneuve. He was a captain in the French Navy and held the position of Commander of the Naval Division of Cochinchina in 1889. He continued to rise through the ranks becoming Commander-in-Chief of the Atlantic Ocean Naval Division in 1895.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.949/10  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 10 20 JUIN 89

CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 10  
MARSEILLE A REUNION 1° L. U. N° 1

Upon leaving Saigon aboard the S.S. *Sydney* on 4 October 1896, this letter received the military maritime postmark reserved for soldier's mail. Addressed to Madagascar, the mailing was later struck with a "MARSEILLE A LA REUNION" maritime postmark after it was transferred to the S.S. *Djemnah* outbound from Marseilles.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.949/10  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTMARK TYPE: 2.321/1  
PERIOD OF USE: 1896-1912



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 25 SEPT 96  
CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 10 4 OCT. 96  
MARSEILLE A REUNION 1° L. U. N° 1 11 OCT 96



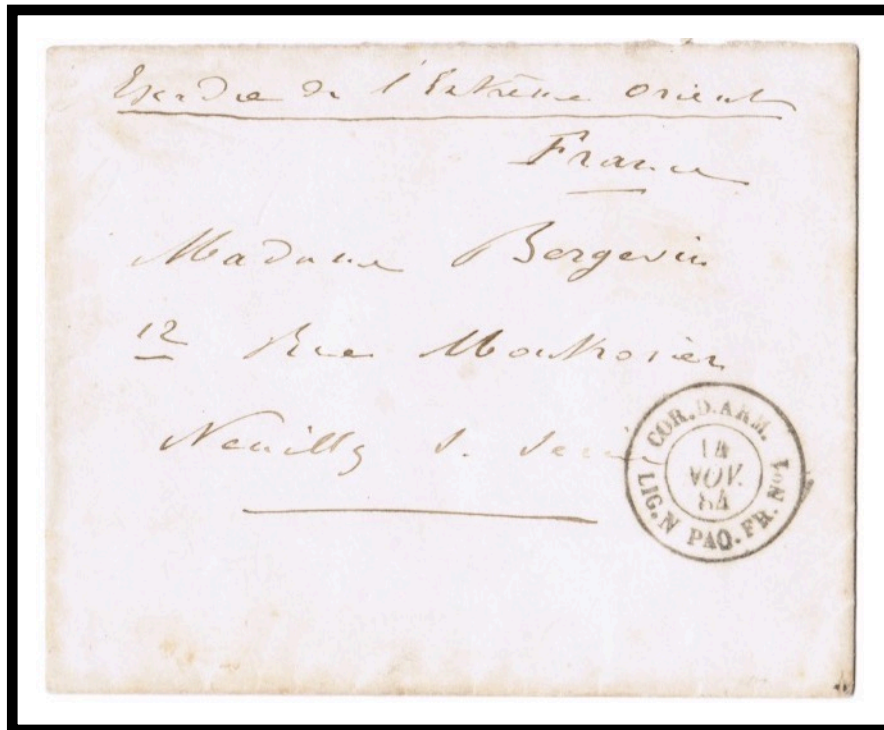
COR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 1

In 1881, the two postmarks with numbers "1" and "3" were replaced with larger diameter (23 millimeter) postmarks. The postmarks were employed on Annam-Tonkin Expeditionary Corps mail between 1883 and 1885.

At the top of the cover, the sender wrote his military endorsement as "Escade de l'Extrême Orient" (Far East Squadron.)



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.952/1  
PERIOD OF USE: 1881-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

COR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 1 14 NOV. 84

REVERSE

NEUILLY S SEINE SEINE 21 DEC 84

COR. D. ARM  
LIG. N PAQ. FR N° 1

Use of the Number 1 postmark continued for almost two decades. In this example, a reduced rate military letter went aboard the S.S. *Calédonian*, which departed Saigon on 30 July and arrived at Marseilles on 26 August 1893.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.952/1  
PERIOD OF USE: 1881-98



POSTAL MARKINGS  
COR. D. ARM LIG. N PAQ. FR No 1 30 JUIL 93  
REVERSE  
QUIMPER FINISTERE 28 AOUT 93

COR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 3

The only other number used with this style postmark was the number "3." Here the "COR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR." postmark was struck in blue on this cover to France. This letter was carried on the S.S. *Amazone* which departed Saigon on 26 October and arrived at Marseille on 24 November 1883. These postmarks were used on franchise mail between 1883 and 1885.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.952/3  
PERIOD OF USE: 1881-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

COR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 3 23 OCT. 83 (blue)

REVERSE

PARIS A BREST 0 25 NOV. 83  
PLOUESCAT FINISTERE NOV 83

CORR. D. ARM.  
LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 3

The COMMANDANT DE LA MARINE SAIGON cachet on this cover indicates that the mailing originated from the occupied area of Indochina outside of the combat zone. The required postage for military mail from this region was 15 centimes. Since the letter had no postage, it was cited for postage due in the amount of 30 centimes, a penalty of twice the required postage.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.952/3  
PERIOD OF USE: 1881-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

COR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 3 4 NOV. 88  
"T" in triangle with handwritten amount due in blue crayon  
French stamp with triangle cancellation

CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 1  
Usage from Boxer Rebellion Troops

This hand painted stationery was mailed by a soldier participating in the Boxer Rebellion (manuscript "Corps Expeditionnaire de Chine"). The letter was mailed while the sender was in transit and hence received the "CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N." postmark.

The number "1" canceller was aboard the S.S. *Annam* which departed Yokohama, Japan on 10 July and arrived at Marseille on 26 August 1901.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/1  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N.1 21 JUIL 01

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 2

The S.S. *Ville de la Ciotat* departed Saigon on 20 December 1901 with the number 2 postmark devices. This ship did not return to the Far East again until she made four voyages in 1907-10.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/2  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N.2 20 DEC 01

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 2

Apparently, the postal agent on board the S.S. *Salazie* missed the fact that this picture postcard was franked with a stamp from Hong Kong. By applying the military postmark, he treated the card like a piece of correspondence from a soldier on campaign in Annam-Tonkin.

In this case, the date plug was inverted in the postmarking device.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/2  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N.2 6 FEVR 03

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 3

The S.S. *Salazie*, carrying the number 3 postmark, made a stop at Nagasaki, Japan on 17 September 1900. There it received the first mail from the China Expeditionary Corps, which had been taken to Japan by the auxiliary paquebot S.S. *Tanais*.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/3  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N.3 18 SEPT 00  
CLAMARI SEINE 13 OCT 00



CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N.3  
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N° 3

Occasionally, the postal agent would forget to insert the date plug in the military postmark. In cases where the date information is lacking, identification of the particular ship is made more difficult.

In this case, the dated civilian postmark was also struck on the cover, a highly unusual occurrence. Military postmarks were reserved exclusively for military letters and civilian postmarks were reserved exclusively for civilian letters.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/3  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.921/3  
PERIOD OF USE: 1867-96



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDITRE TONKIN  
SONTAY TONKIN 25 AVRIL 93  
LIGNE N PAQ. FR. N°3 6 MAI 93  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 3

REVERSE

HANOI TONKIN 26 AVRIL 93  
HAI-PHONG TONKIN 27 AVRIL 93  
TOULOUSE A PAU A 2 JUIN 93

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 4

The military maritime postmarks were employed as transit markings as well as postmarks of origin. Mailed from Quang-Yen Tonkin, this franchise letter was given the "CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N.4" postmark on its way to Bordeaux. The marking was applied aboard the S.S. Yarra, which left Saigon on 20 December 1899 and arrived at Marseille on 14 January 1900.

The circular cachet at the lower left is that of the Chief Medical Officer at the Quang-Yen Hospital.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/4  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIRE TONKIN  
QUANGYEN TONKIN  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 4 21 DEC 99

REVERSE

BORDEAUX GIRONDE 16 JANV 00

CORPS EXP TONKIN  
LIGNE N.5

The number "5" postmark was in service for a much shorter period than other similar postmarks. The canceling device was lost in the wreck of the S.S. *Anadyr* in July 1889. On this voyage, the number 5 canceller was aboard the *Anadyr*, which had departed Saigon on 1 June.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/5  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-89



POSTAL MARKINGS

SON-TAY TONKIN 14 MAI (85)

T in triangle crossed out with orange crayon

CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N.6 2 JUIN 85 (blue)

REVERSE

LUNEVILLE MTHE ET MSLLE 5 JUIL. 85

NANCY MEURTHE-ET-MOSELLE 5 JUIL. 85

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 6

Posted from a member of the Annam-Tonkin Expeditionary Corps, this letter received a military, a civilian and a maritime postmark. The maritime postmark was applied aboard the S.S. *Natal* which departed Saigon on 18 December 1892 and arrived at Marseille on 12 January 1893.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/6  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

TONKIN CORPS EXPEDIT<sup>RE</sup>  
DAP-CAU TONKIN 8 DEC. 92  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 6 17 DEC. 92

REVERSE

HAI-PHONG TONKIN 9 DEC. 92  
CETTE A BORDEAUX B 12 JANV 93  
CHAMPAGNE-MOUTON CHARENTE ( ) JANV 93

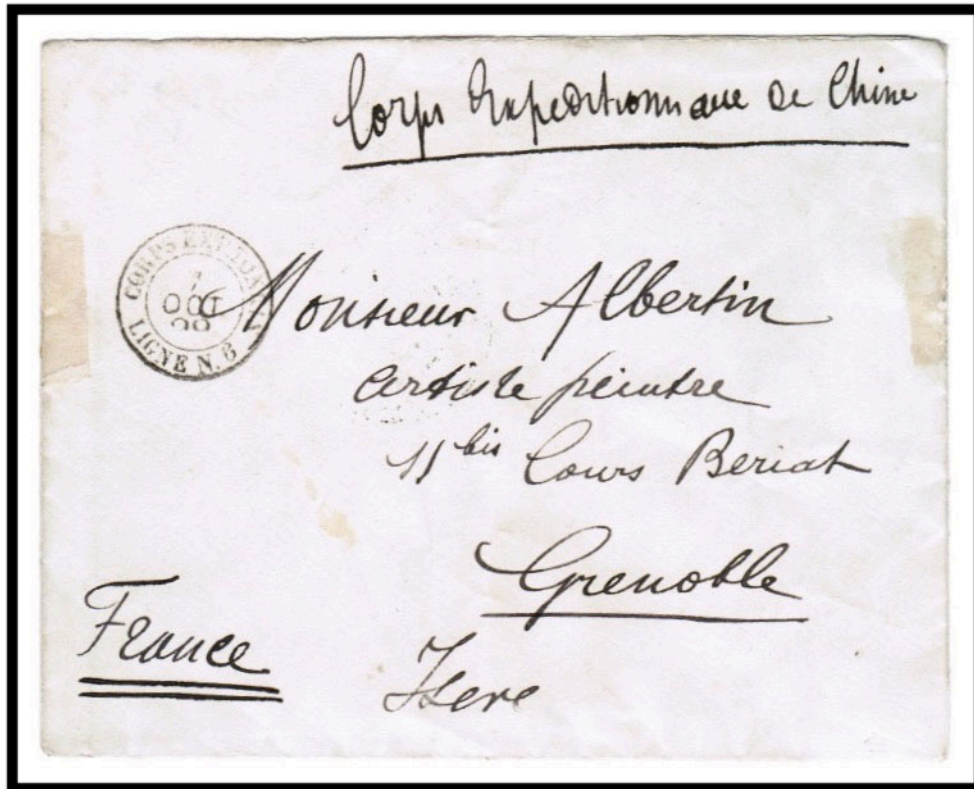
CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 6  
Usage from Boxer Rebellion Troops

French troops fighting in the Boxer Rebellion (1900-1903) in China also had a free franchise privilege. The "CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N." postmark was used in the same manner for letters mailed by these soldiers.

At the turn of the century, plug daters for "00" were not immediately available. Resourceful postal clerks filed the bottom portions off the "99" plugs to produce digits for the new year.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/6  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 6 7 OCT 00  
REVERSE  
GRENOBLE ISERE 6 NOV 00

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 7

This example of number 7 for the "CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N" postmark was applied as a transit marking on a letter handled aboard the S.S. *Saghalien*, which departed Saigon on 26 February and arrived at Marseille on 23 March 1893. The anchor cachet indicates that the sender was a sailor or a marine.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/7  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 7 5 MARS 93  
REVERSE  
PARIS DEPART 27 MARS 93

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 7

Varieties of the "CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N." postmark occasionally occurred. In this case, the plug date was inverted and the transit maritime marking was applied with red ink.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/7  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE  
PHU LANGTHUONG TONKIN 9 NOV. 88  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 7 2 DEC 88 (red)

REVERSE

HAIPHONG TONKIN 11 NOV 88  
LA TOUR DU PIN ISERE 29 DEC 88

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 8

The number 8 postmark was applied aboard the S.S. *Caledonien* when she departed Saigon on 23 November 1898. In this case, the clerk on board struck the postmark with brown ink.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/8  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE 15 NOV. 98  
HANOI TONKIN 16 NOV 98  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N 8 23 NOV 98 (brown)

REVERSE

TOULON-S-MER VAR 14 DEC 98



CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N 9

A soldier mailed his letter aboard the S.S. *Laos* during its return trip to Marseille. The cover lacked any of the required validation markings but did carry the handwritten notation "Corps expeditionnaire d'Extreme Orient." The postal agent accepted the unfranked letter for processing. Likely at Djibouti, the letter was transferred to the S.S. *Oxus* on the V Line for onward transportation to Marseille.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/9  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N 9 9 SEPT.00

REVERSE

LA REUNION A MARSEILLE LV. N° 4 13 SEPT 00  
DOUARNENEZ FINISTERE 26 SEPT 00

CORPS EXP TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 9

During the Boxer Rebellion, the number 9 canceller was struck on a 1901 mailing from a sailor serving in the China Expeditionary Corps.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/9  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 9 4 FEVR 01  
REVERSE  
NIMES GARD 10 MARS 01

CORPS EXP. TONKIN  
LIGNE N. 10

The highest number used in the N Line Expeditionary Corps postmarks was "10." It was only used irregularly. In this case, the number 10 postmark was struck on the S.S. Sydney when it sailed from Saigon on 7 February 1897.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/10  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-97



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPEDIT<sup>RE</sup> TONKIN  
SONTAY TONKIN 29 JANV. 97  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 10 7 FEVR 97

REVERSE

HANOI TONKIN 30 JANV 97  
LYON RHONE 28 FEVR 97

CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 10  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 10

The fact that two separate postmarks were on board for two separate classes of military mail was bound to lead to mix-ups. Here both postmarks were applied to a letter to France from a sailor in the China Sea.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.954/10  
PERIOD OF USE: 1885-97



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.949/10  
PERIOD OF USE: 1870-98



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARM. LIG. N PAQ. FR. N° 10 19 MARS 85  
CORPS EXP. TONKIN LIGNE N. 10 19 MARS 85

REVERSE

PARIS A LIMOGES A 26 AVRIL 85  
PARIS A AGEN 27 AVRIL 85  
VIGNOLS CORRÈZE 27 AVRIL 85

CORPS EXPED DU TONKIN  
L. N. N° 5

On 11 July 1889, the S.S. *Anadyr* sank after colliding with the S.S. *Oxus*. The lost canceller was replaced with a new device that remained in service until 1904. The format was unique among maritime postmarks.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.955  
PERIOD OF USE: 1890-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS

TONKIN CORPS EXPEDITRE 5 FEVR 92  
HA-NOI TONKIN 6 FEVR 92  
CORPS EXPED DU TONKIN L. N. N° 5 13 FEVR 92

CORPS EXPED DU TONKIN  
L. N. N° 5

The central date plug of the postmarking device was removable and reconfigurable. Each day a postal clerk would reset the plug to express the correct date. In this example, the month "DEC" was mistakenly inverted at the center of the number 5 postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.955  
PERIOD OF USE: 1890-1904



POSTAL MARKINGS  
CORPS EXPEDIT<sup>RE</sup>  
NAM-DINH TONKIN 19 DEC. 96  
CORPS EXPED DU TONKIN L.N. N° 5 27 DE 96  
REVERSE  
HANOI A HAIPHONG TONKIN 24 DEC 96

CORPS EXPRE DU TONKIN  
PORT SAID

The post office at Port Said, Egypt employed a special canceller for processing franchise mail from troops in transit. The canceling device was only regularly used from 1900 until the end of the franchise in 1904.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.956  
PERIOD OF USE: 1900-04



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXPRE DU TONKIN PORT-SAID 17 SEPT 00

REVERSE

VALENCE 3 DROME 22 SEPT 00

COR. D. ARM.  
LIG. S PAQ. FR. N°1

The S Line was an annex line that served Yokohama, Japan and Hong Kong.

The postal agent aboard the S.S. *Volga* inadvertently kept the "COR. D. ARM. LIG. S PAQ. FR N° 1" canceller when he arrived Hong Kong. He subsequently ended up on the S.S. *Djemnal* and used this device on an N Line ship at Saigon. These circumstances gave rise to the unique occurrence where an S Line postmark was used on mail originating from the military in Indochina.

Typically, as with this example, the postmark was struck with blue ink.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.975  
PERIOD OF USE: 4 APRIL 1880



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES SAIGON 4 AVRIL 80  
COR. D. ARM. LIG. S PAQ. FR. N°1 4 AVRIL 80 (blue)

REVERSE

MARSEILLE A BORDEAUX 2° 23 MAI 80  
BLERE INDRE-ET-LOIRE 3 MAI 80  
BLERE INDRE-ET-LOIRE 4 MAI 80



COR. D. ARM.  
LIG. S PAQ. FR. N°1

Originally mailed at Hanoi's army post office on 22 March 1880, this letter was transferred to Saigon where it awaited the departure of the S.S. *Djemnal* on 4 April.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.975  
PERIOD OF USE: 4 APRIL 1880



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES HA-NOI 22 MARS 80  
COR. D. ARM. LIG. S PAQ. FR. N°1 4 AVRIL 80 (blue)

REVERSE

TONQUIN HAI-PHONG 24 MARS 80  
SAIGON COCHINCHINE 2 AVRIL 80  
MARSEILL A LYON SPECIAL 2 MAI 80

COR. D. ARM.  
LIG. S PAQ. FR. N°1

Because this letter was mailed so early in the month, it was transported via coastal steamer to Hong Kong rather than Saigon. After departing Shanghai on 25 March, the *Djemnah* made a stop at Hong Kong on 31 March. The military letter was taken on board and very likely became the first letter postmarked with the erroneous device on that date. No other examples have been reported that deviate from the 4 April 1880 postmark.



POSTMARK TYPE: 1.975  
PERIOD OF USE: 11 MARCH – 4 APRIL 1880



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORR. D. ARMEES HA-NOI 3 MARS 80  
COR. D. ARM. LIG. S PAQ. FR. N°1 31 MARS 80

REVERSE

TONQUIN HAI-PHONG 7 MARS 80  
ORANGE VAUCLUSE 2 MAI 80

# VAPEUR CAO BANG

The *Caobang* was a private ship chartered by the Army for transporting soldiers to the Far East. Here the cachet of the commander on board was applied to a franchise postcard mailed to France. Although the complete date of the receipt marking is unclear, the usage is correct because the free franchise was in effect during all of 1903.



POSTAL MARKINGS  
MARCOU SARTHE 1(?) 03