

CORPS EXP^{RE} DE MADAGASCAR
L U N^o 3

France's U Line connected Marseilles with the island of Reunion. After conquering it , the French maintained a significant military presence in Madagascar. As fighting intensified in Tonkin, army units stationed in Madagascar were repositioned to Indochina. Here a letter endorsed "Corps expeditionnaire du Tonkin" was properly endorsed by an officer of the unit. Since the *Caobang*, a ship hired to transport troops, had no postmark associated with the conflict in Indochina, the letter received a Madagascar Expeditionary Corps military postmark, which verified the free mail franchise.



POSTMARK TYPE: 2.325/3
PERIOD OF USE:



POSTAL MARKINGS

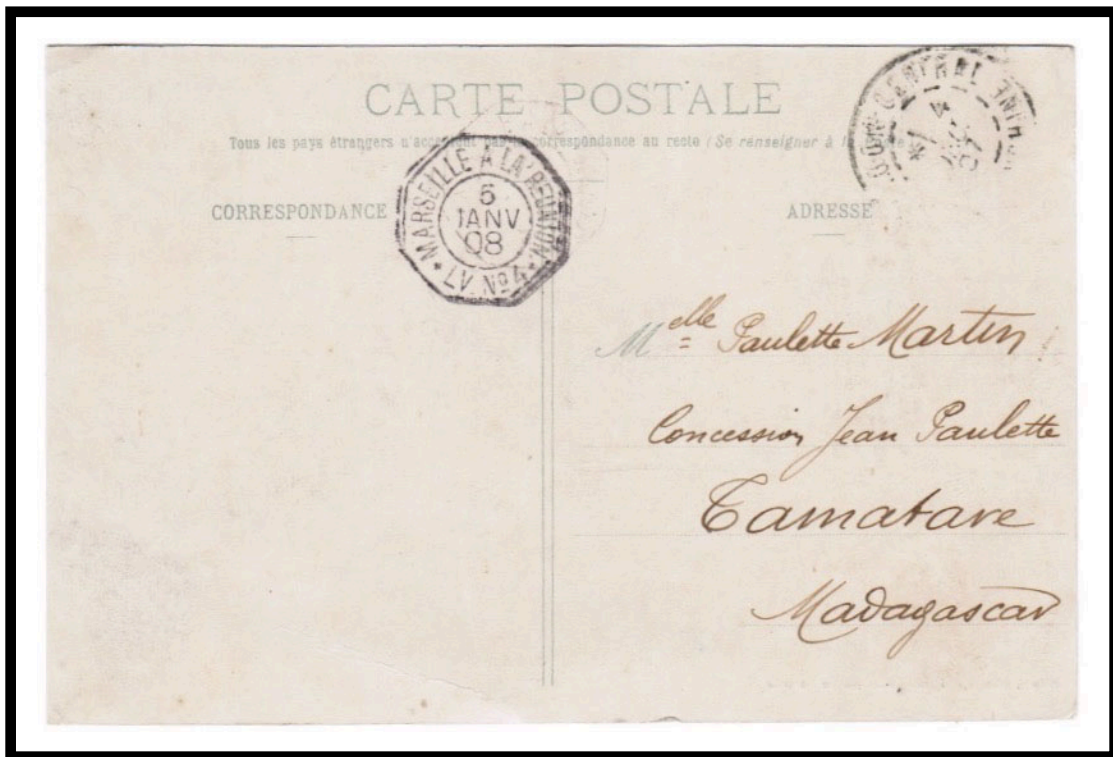
CORPS EXP^{RE} DE MADAGASCAR L U N^o 3 8 JUN 00
VAPEUR CHOLON COMMANDANT (purple)

MARSEILLE A LA REUNION
LV. N° 4

A postcard sent from Indochina to Madagascar in 1908 was likely offloaded at the southern end of the Red Sea at Djibouti or Aden. There, the mailing was transferred to the V Line, which served Madagascar and Reunion.



POSTMARK TYPE: 2.307/4
PERIOD OF USE: 1888-1912



POSTAL MARKINGS

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 4 DEC. 07
MARSEILLE A LA REUNION LV. N° 4 5 JANV 08

REVERSE

SAIGON-CENTRAL COCHINCHINE 4 DEC. 07

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN
LIGNE V.1.

In 1893, new V Line postmarks appeared for military mail offloaded at Suez, Djibouti or Aden and bound for France. Bearing the identification "CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE TONKIN LIGNE V," these postmarks were applied to franchise mail from 1893 through 1904, the end of the franchise. The V Line used four numbered devices: 1 through 4. The postal agent aboard the *Iraouaddy* applied the number "1" postmark to this soldier's letter before she arrived at Marseilles on 19 June 1895.



POSTMARK TYPE: 2.313/1
PERIOD OF USE: 1893-1901



POSTAL MARKINGS
CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN LIGNE V.1. 9 JUIN 95
REVERSE
VERNON EURE 21 JUIN 95

CORPS-EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN
LIGNE V.2

The number 2 V Line postmark differs from the number 1 postmark in small details such as a hyphen between "CORPS" and "EXPEDITIONNAIRE" and the absence of a period after the number "2."



POSTMARK TYPE: 2.313/2
PERIOD OF USE: 1893-1903



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS-EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN LIGNE V.2 7 MARS 02

REVERSE

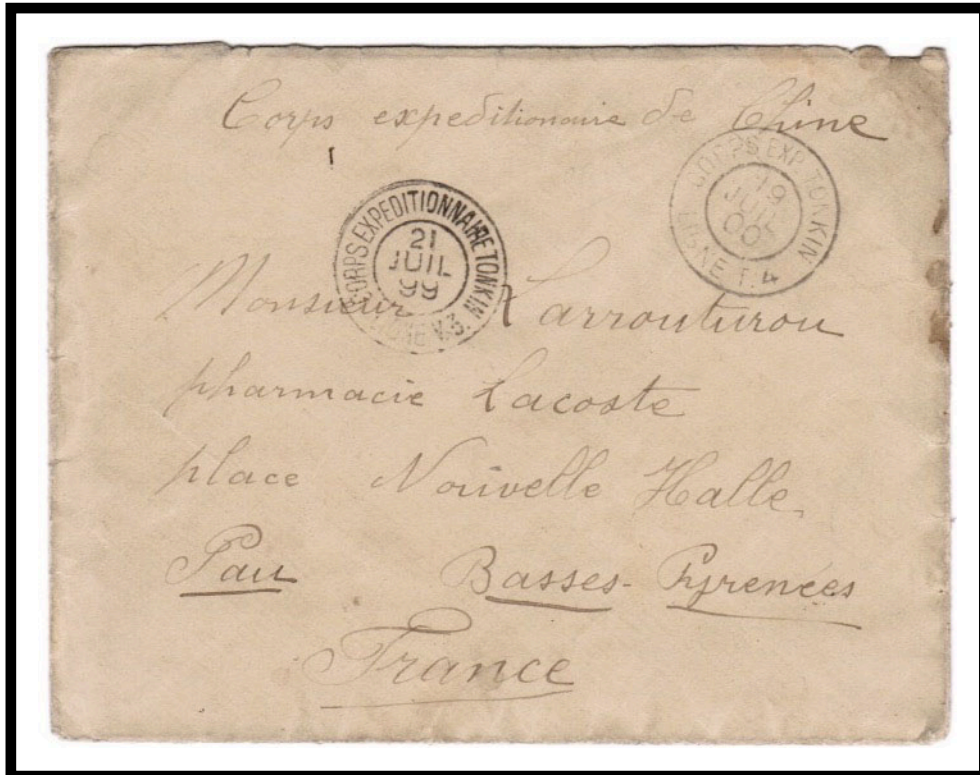
LE MANS SARTHE 29-3 02

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE TONKIN
LIGNE V.3.

In this case, the S.S. *Djemnah* did not have new date plugs for "00" and continued to use its "99" for the return voyage that departed Reunion on 2 July 1899. The number 3 postmark was the least commonly used as it was in service for only three years (1899-1902).



POSTMARK TYPE: 2.313/3
PERIOD OF USE: 1899-1902



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS EXP.TONKIN LIGNE T. 4 19 JUIL 00
CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE TONKIN LIGNE V.3. 21 JUIL 99

REVERSE

PAU BSES PYRENEES 29 JUIL 00

CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE TONKIN
LIGNE V.4

The largest number used for the V Line postmarks was "4." Two varieties exist. For the first number "4" postmark to appear, the spacing between the "C" of "CORPS" and the "L" of "LIGNE" was similar to that found on postmarks with the numbers "1" through "3."

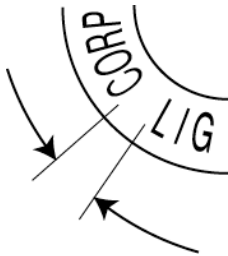


POSTMARK TYPE: 2.313/4
PERIOD OF USE: 1895-1903



CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN
LIGNE V.4

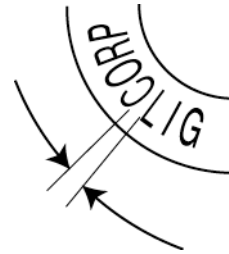
The type 2.314 number 4 V Line postmark exhibits a variety characterized by very close spacing between the words "CORPS" and "LIGNE". The variety is known from 1898 to 1904. Both versions were used in overlapping periods.



2.313/4



POSTMARK TYPE: 2.314
PERIOD OF USE: 1898-1904



2.414



POSTAL MARKINGS

CORPS-EXPEDITIONNAIRE-TONKIN LIGNE V.4 9 JANV 98

REVERSE

CHAGUY SAONE ET LOIRE 15 FEVR 98