

TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Concession Rate of 15c

The province of Tonkin was ripe with French military activities during the period of the Group Type's use. However, lacking the long military history and postal development of Cochinchina, an elaborate group of military cancels was not developed. Mail was processed with regular postal datestamps as it entered the regular postal system as the examples from Sept Pagodes, Hanoi and Moncay illustrate.

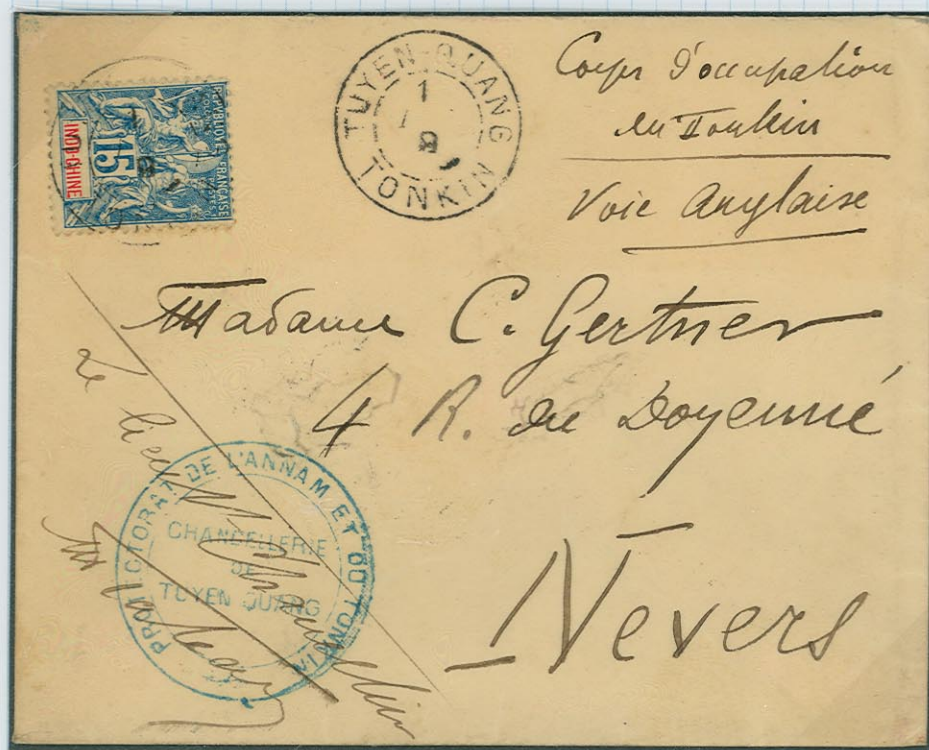


TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Concession Rate of 15c

Small Village Use

Tuyen Quang



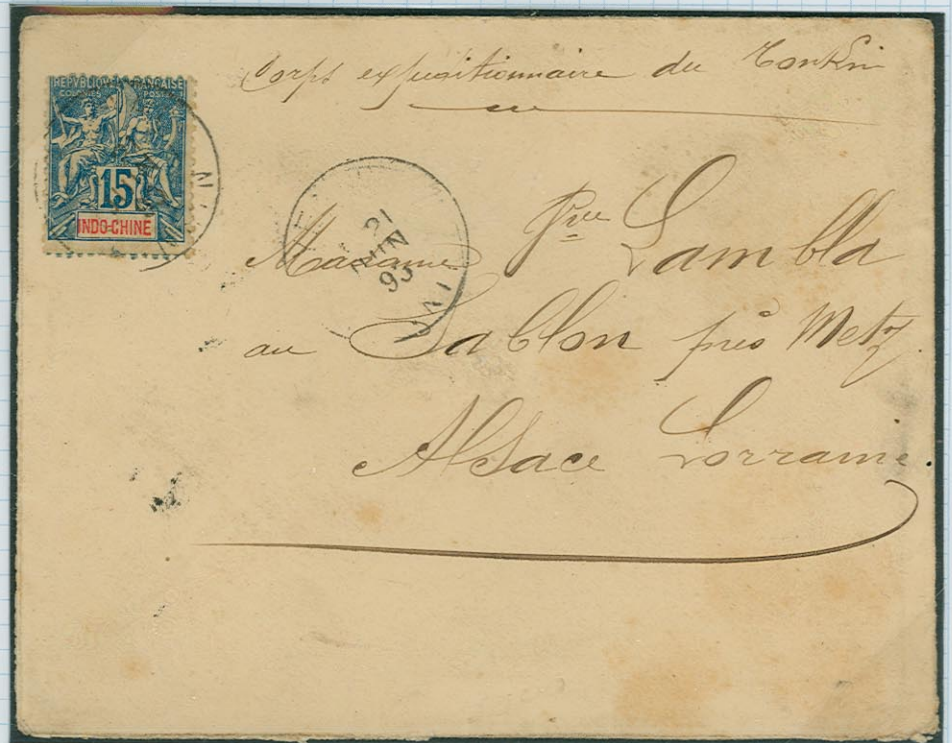
Military concession letters from units in the area of Tuyen Quang the provincial capitol and entering the posts at that office. The second letter was posted from a unit at the upper river Gam (...Haut Song Gam) in 1896.

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Military Concession Rate of 15c

Small Village Use

Yen Bai
Dong Dang



Unusual military correspondence letters – the first from Yen Bai in 1895 to the Alsace-Lorraine. Although belonging to Germany at this time, the 15c military rate was accepted as evidenced by the Metz arrival. The second letter was posted from Dong Dang near the Chinese border above Langson in 1899. Technically, the manuscript endorsement and signature were not required, as the French Community rate was 15c at this time, but letters originating in military offices still could show traditional processing.

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Military Franchise Letters

Reflecting the extensive French military activities in Tonkin at the time of the Group Type's use, a large array of military franchise letters exist. Indeed, their extent is such, that an entire exhibit could be devoted to their study. Selected examples are presented herein, with an emphasis on those entering the postal system at the small villages in the more remote areas of the province. These letters originated at military post offices, often identified by unit cachets, and entered the mails via the nearest civilian post offices. The locations of the military offices serve to document the activities of the various units engaged in the Indochinese campaigns.

Hanoi



Military franchise letters from Hanoi, the first from the military office of the Colonial government at Hanoi, and the second from a supply unit at Laokay in the north entering the regular posts at Hanoi.

TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Franchise Letters

Baxat
Bac-Ninh
Caobang

Interieur



Monsieur Miserey

caporal à la 13^e Compagnie
(du 4^e B^{re} Rég^{mt} Étranger)

Hôpital "Franco"



10 - Paris

groupes d'occupations du Tonkin

France

Administration



Paulois >>



Rue Drouot

Paris



Corps d'occupation du Tonkin



Madame la Présidente de
l'Union des Femmes de France

29 Chaussée d'Antin

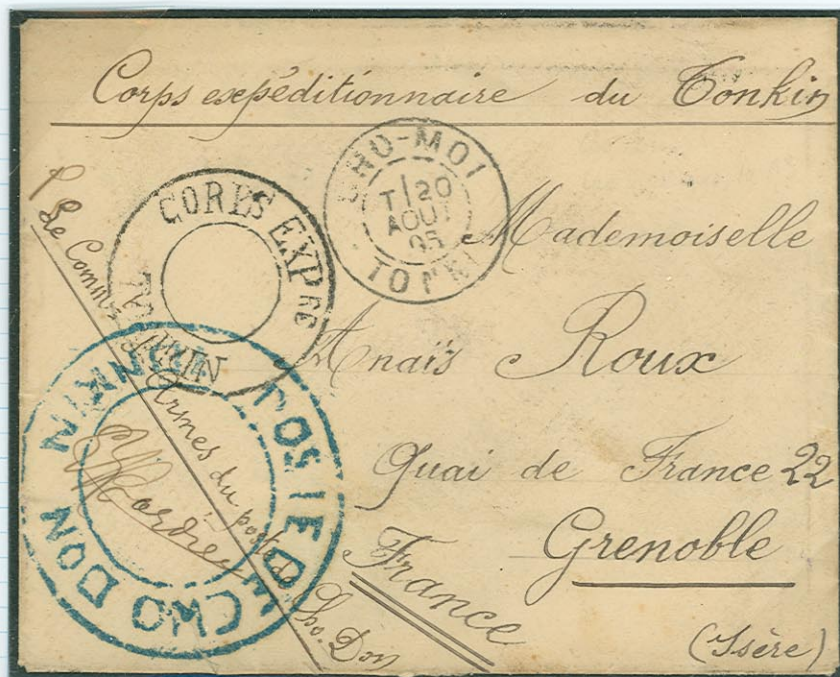


Paris

TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Franchise Letters

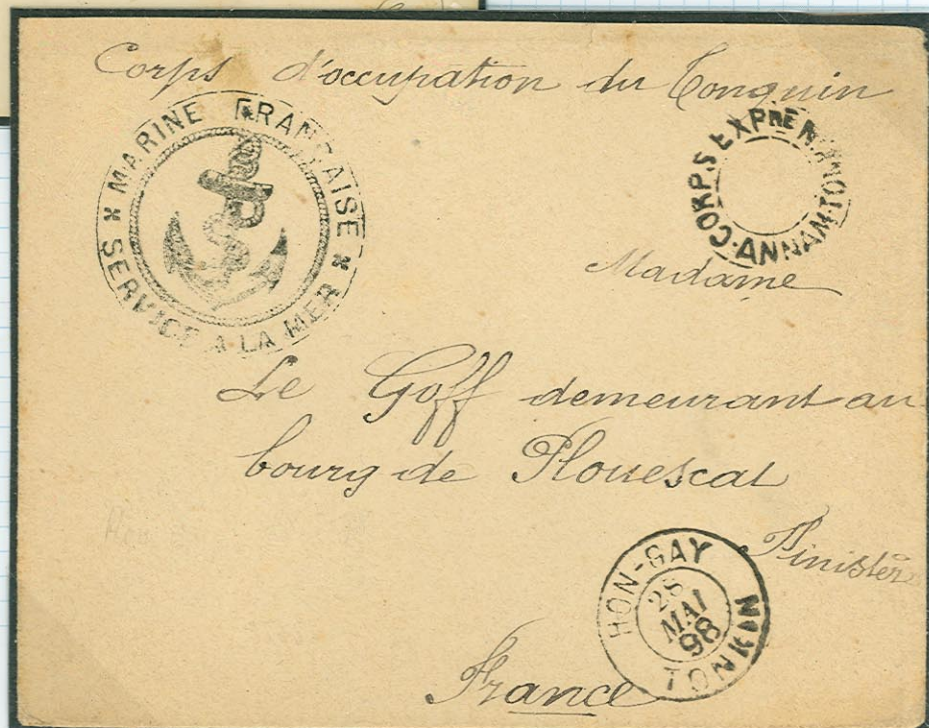
Chu-Moi
Dong-Dang
Dong-Khe



TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Franchise Letters

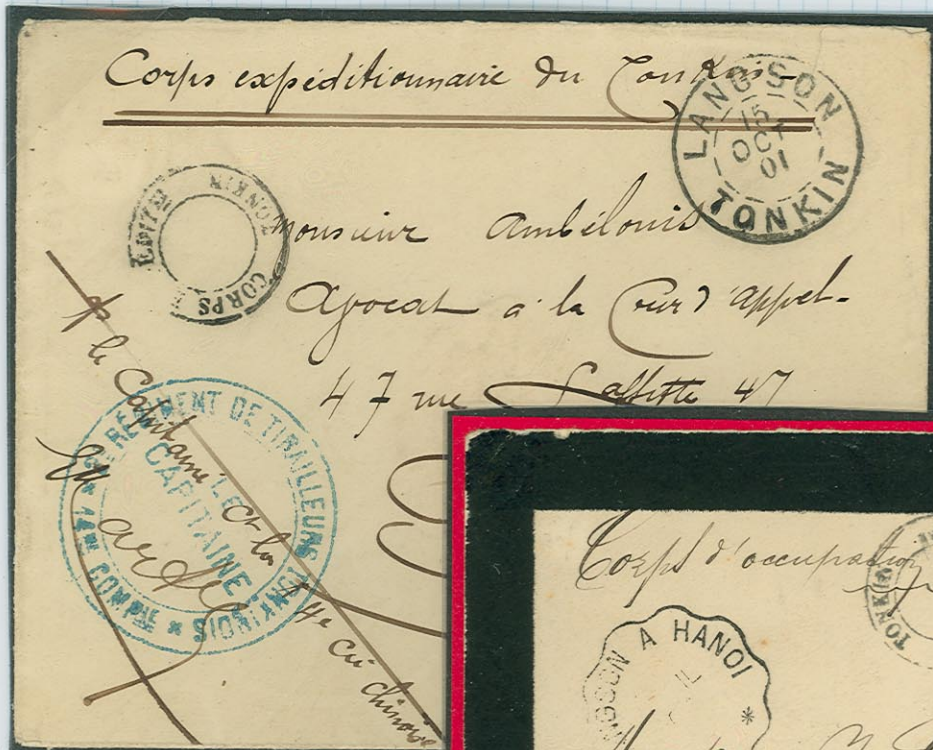
Ha-Giang
Dong-Trieu
Hon-Gay



TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Franchise Letters

Lam
Langson
Langson RR

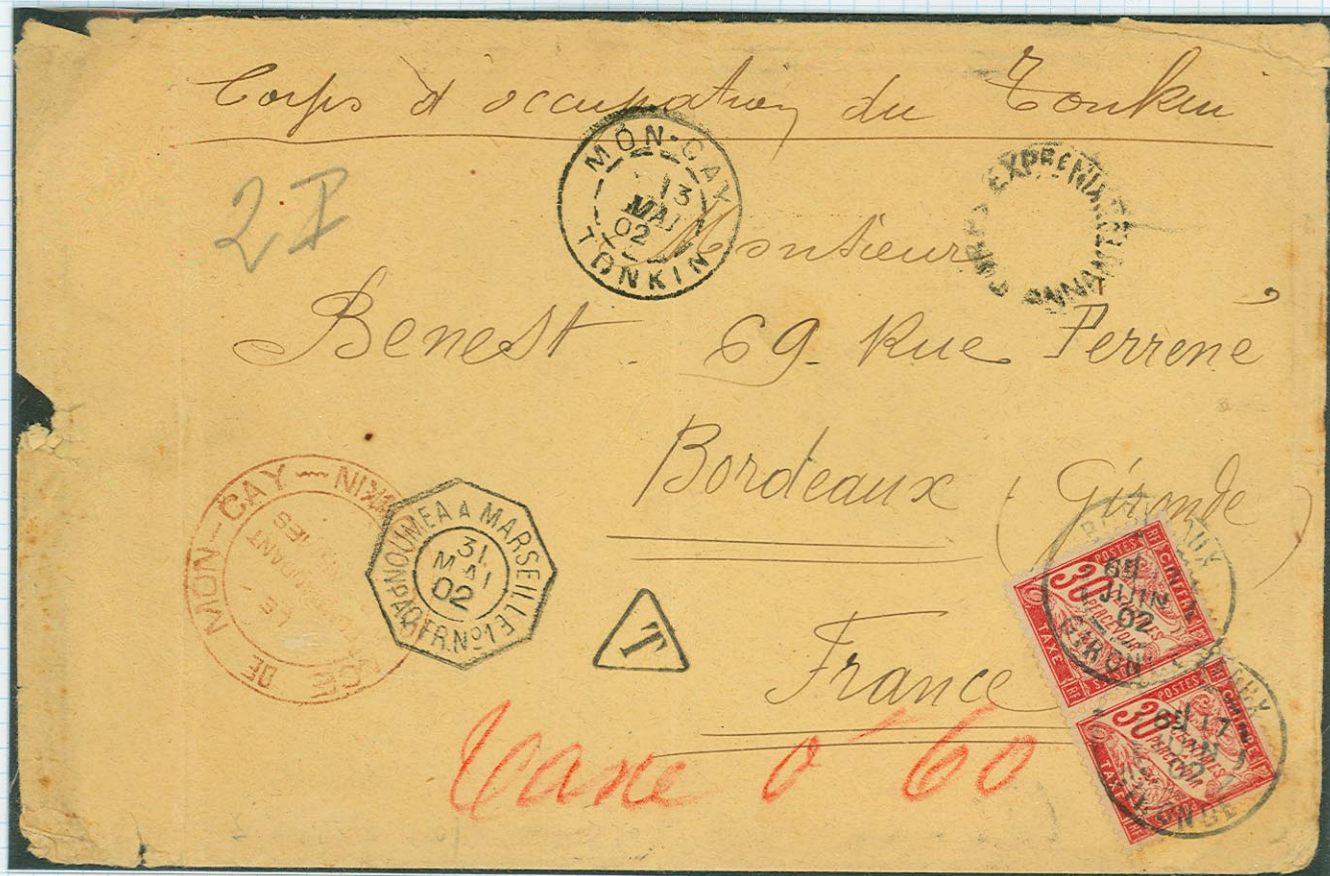


The latter letter was posted on the auxiliary rail line running between Langson and Hanoi.

TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Franchise Letters

Moncay



Standard franchise letter entering the civilian post at Moncay, and a second letter that was recognized as being at the second weight level as it entered the posts. Franchise was not valid for the second weight level, and the letter was treated as unpaid and marked with a T in triangle and a manuscript **taxe 0'60** for 60c, double the prevailing 30c rate, due on arrival. Note the rare NOUMEA A MARSEILLE packet transit.

TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Franchise Letters

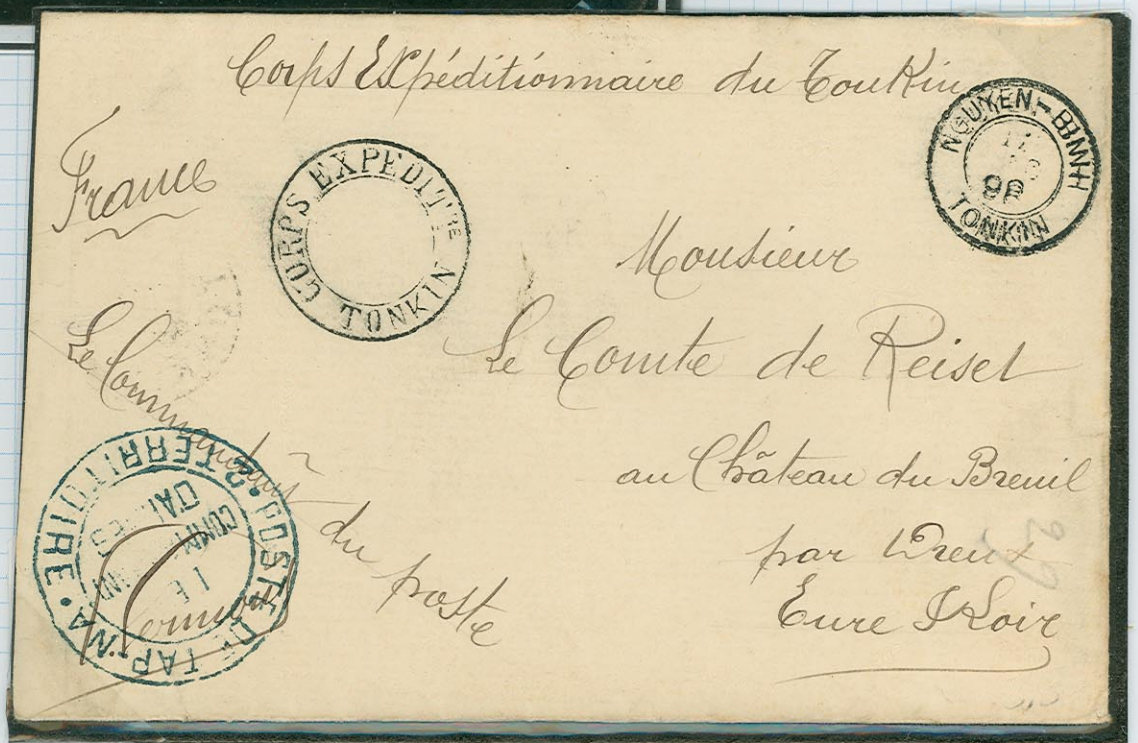
Nam-dinh
Nha-nam
Nacham



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Military Franchise Letters

Pho-binh-gia
Pho-lu
Nguyen-binh



TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Franchise Letters

Phu-lien

Phu-yen-binh

Phu-lang-thuong

Corps Expéditionnaire de l'Extrême
Orient

Monsieur Sorruier
21 rue Malak

Paris

en détach.



Monsieur Besson

Rue Maccenague

Muzillac

Gard

France

Groupe de l'Indo-Chine



Monsieur

Vilmorin - Andrieux

Quai de la Mégisserie

Paris

- France -

Le Commandant du Poste
Phu-Lien
Phu-Yen-Binh
Phu-Lang-Thong



TONKIN – Military Mail

Military Franchise Letters

Tien-yen
That-khé

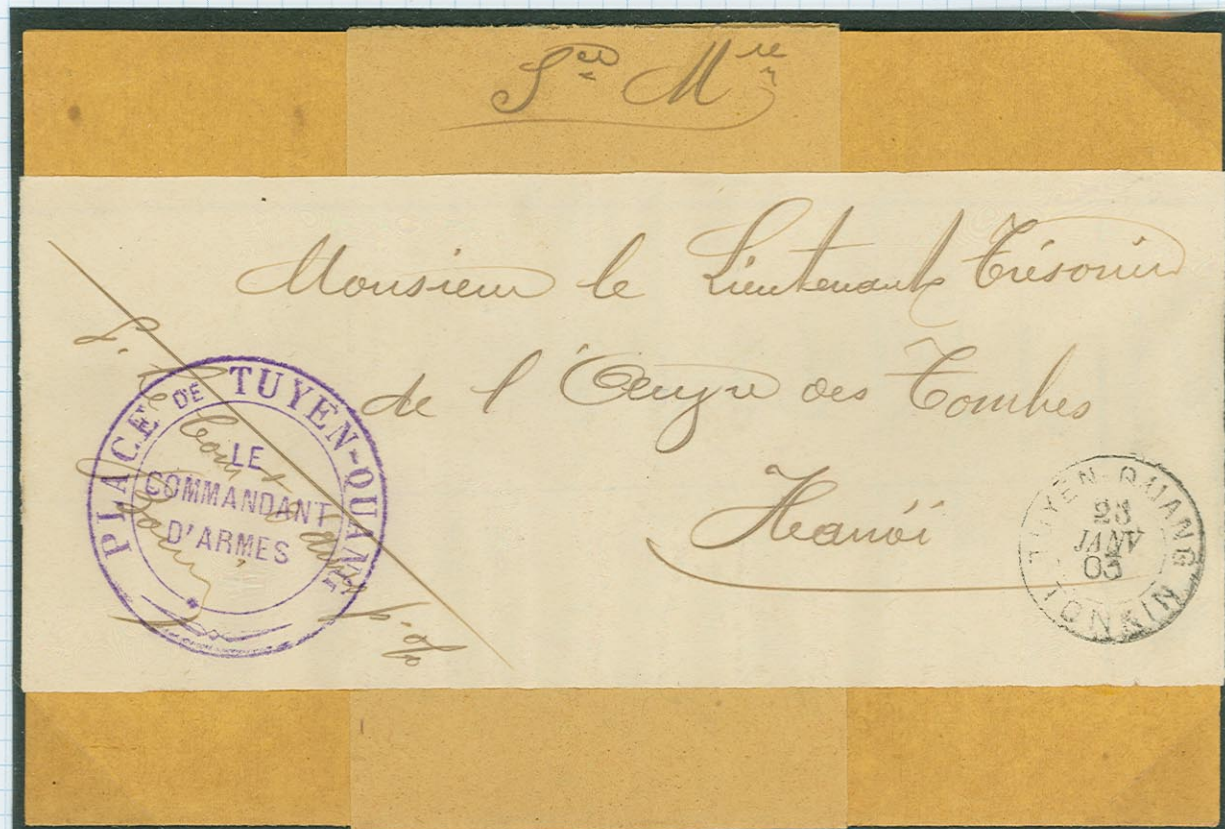


Two letters via Tien-yen showing different military offices of origin, and letter from That-khé incorrectly sent to Belgium. Franchise was not valid outside of the French Community, but this was irrelevant as this letter did not qualify for franchise as it lacks a unit military cachet and/or manuscript endorsement and signature. Thus, it was treated as an unpaid letter, and a T in triangle for due and a manuscript 5 for 5 decimes (double the 25c rate) due were applied. However, the addressee was unknown at the address indicated, and the letter was marked with a *Retour à l'auteur* handstamp and sent to the **REBUTS** office for return to That-Khé. A transit from Haiphong from February 9, 1895 confirms the return to Indochina.

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Military Franchise Letters

Viettri
Tuyen-Quang



Immediately above, a military franchise wrapper from a military unit at Tuyen Quang via the civilian office of Tuyen Quang to Hanoi where received on January 25th.

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Military Franchise Letters

French Packet Mail



Military franchise letters posted directly on the French Packets – typically from marine units. The first bears the datestamp: **CORPS EXPEDITIONNAIRE TONKIN LIGNE V 1**, Line V served the Reunion-Madagascar area. However, this is not unexpected, as troops were moved between conflicts in Madagascar and Indochina during the late 19th century. The latter bears a more typical Line N military datestamp.

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Franchise Militaire Stamps
F.M. Overprints



Use of F.M. overprints from the small villages of Hon-gay, Hai-giang and Caobang. The latter is an exceptional usage, as only one F.M. stamp was allowed per letter – if a letter exceeded 15g or if registration was desired, then the remainder of the postage had to be paid with regular stamps. Since the letter from Caobang reached the second weight level, the additional postage was prepaid with Group Type and Grasset Type issues.