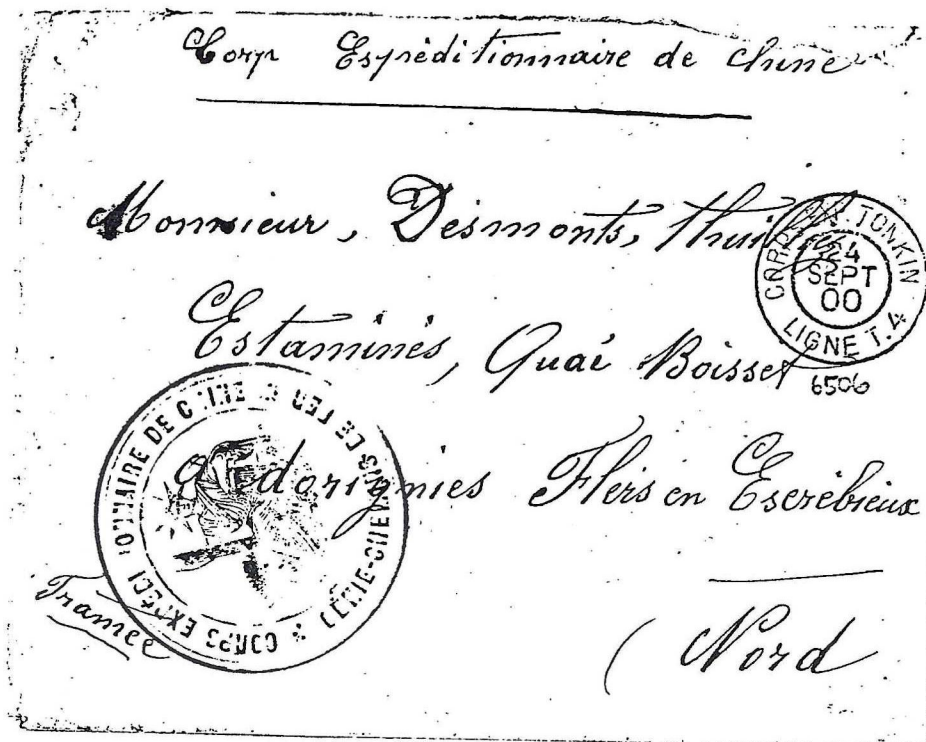
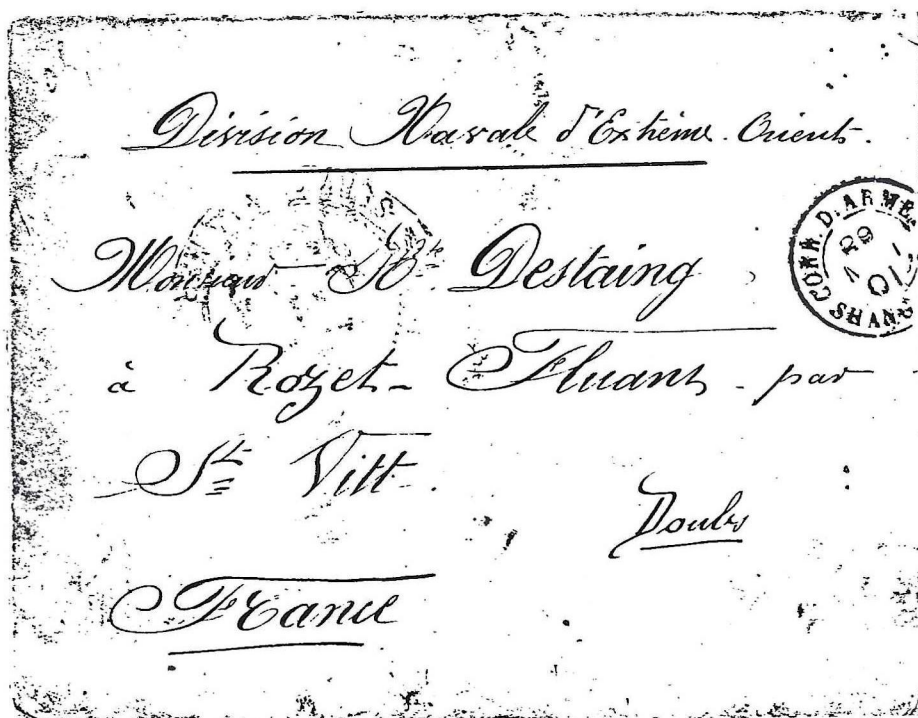
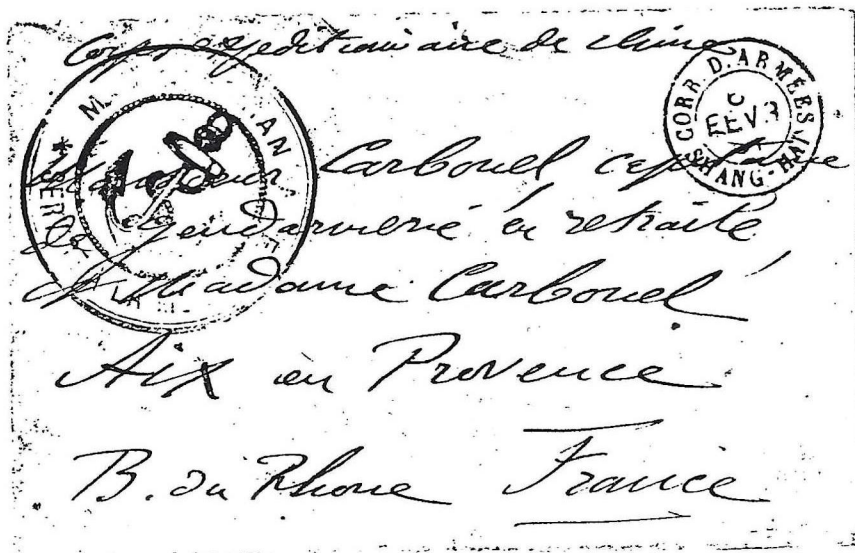


FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Corps Expeditionnaire de Chine
September 1900
October 1900



France, along with seven other Great Powers, responded to the Boxer uprising and siege of the legations in Peking by sending an expeditionary corps. The first French troops sent to North China were stationed in Indochina and arrived at Taku on 14 July 1900. As the French field post system was not established until October, mail sent in the interim period is considered as forerunners. It may be unpostmarked or bear transit markings.



Shanghai, geographically and politically far removed from the turmoil in North China, did not have a field post office. However, mail sent by French soldiers and sailors was postmarked with a "Military Correspondence" postmark to indicate acceptance of free (or after mid-1903 reduced rate) letters.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Naval Mail
1 October 1900
29 July 1901



Corps expeditionnaire de Chine
Croiseur "Friant"

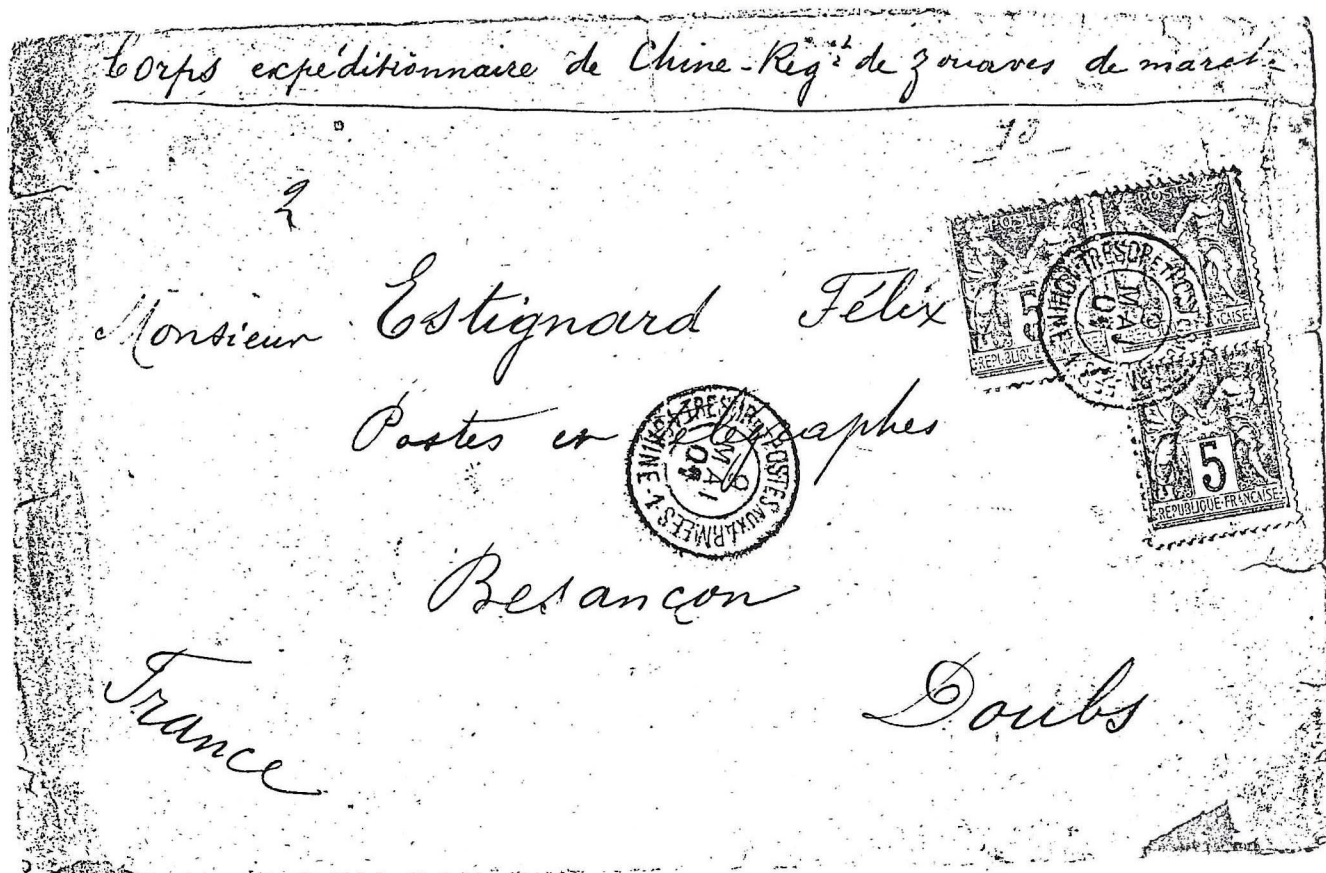


Madame Ravaut
Institutrice à Vendovie
par Champagne et Fontaines

France

Dordogne

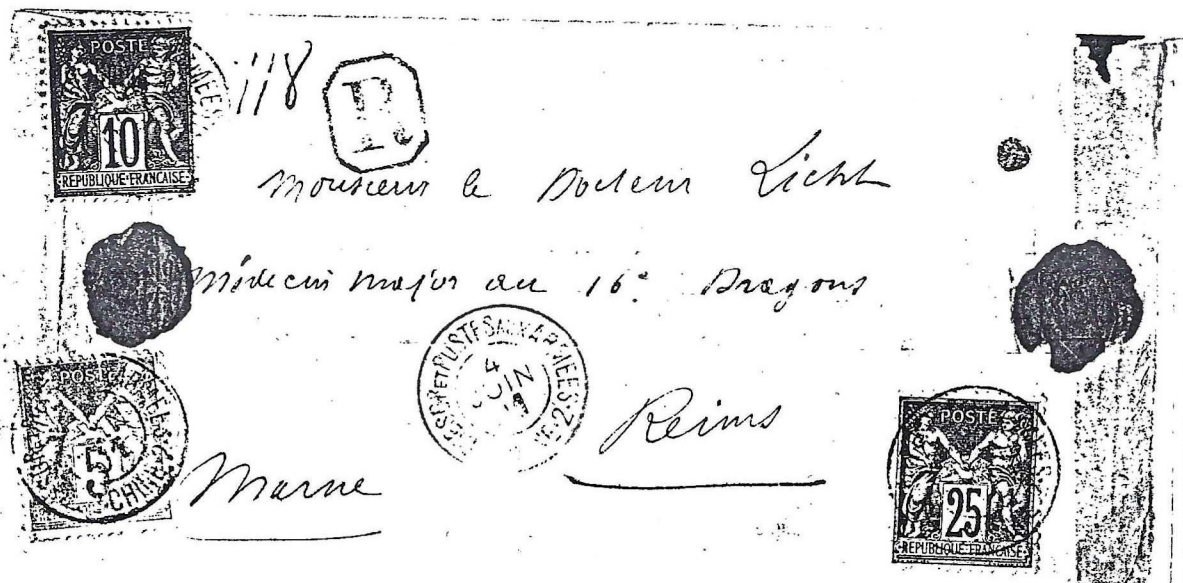
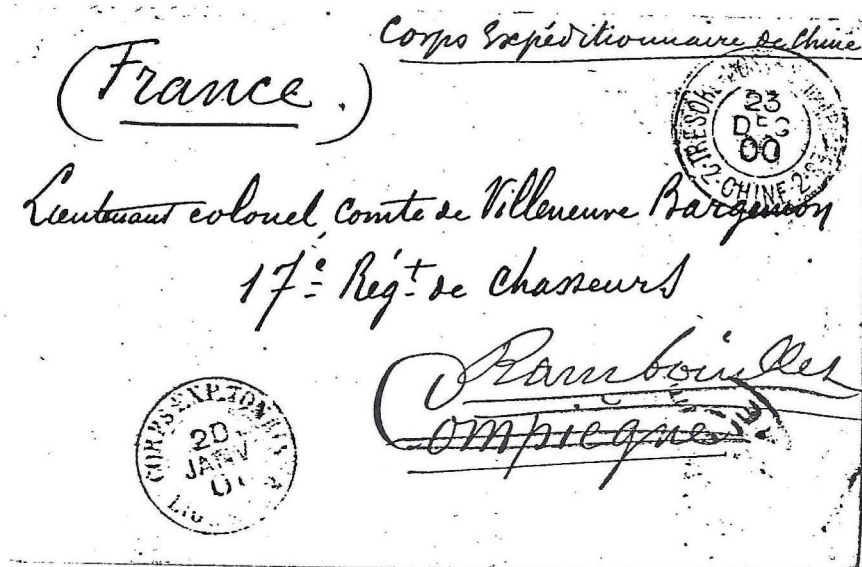
The military free frank (for postcards and letters up to 15 grams addressed to France or its colonies) was extended to the Corps Expeditionnaire de Chine on 24 July 1900. This concession also applied to sailors on naval vessels in Far East waters. Above items originated from the Cruiser *Friant* -- datelined Taku in the case of the postcard and Fusan, Korea on the flap of the cover.



Field post office #1 operated in Peking from November 1900 to May 1902. The military free frank (for postcards and letters up to 15 grams addressed to France or its colonies) was extended to the Corps Expeditionnaire de Chine on 24 July 1900. However, registered letters required payment of postage at 15 c. plus 25 c. registration fee. Soldier's letters weighing over 15 grams were required to be franked with 15 c. in stamps.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

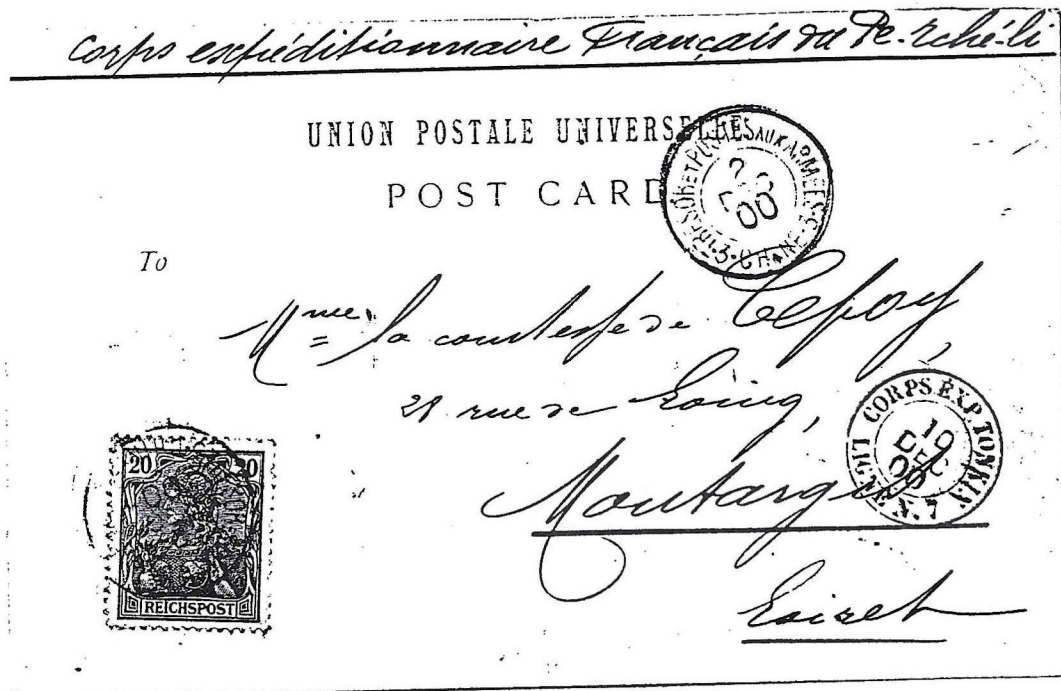
Tresor et Postes 2
23 December 1900
4 June 1901



Field post office #2 operated in Paotingfu from October 1900 to 1901. Significant Boxer activity continued around Paotingfu longer than in other parts of North China, resulting in expeditions by a Franco-Italian force in October 1900 and a Franco-Chinese force in May 1901.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

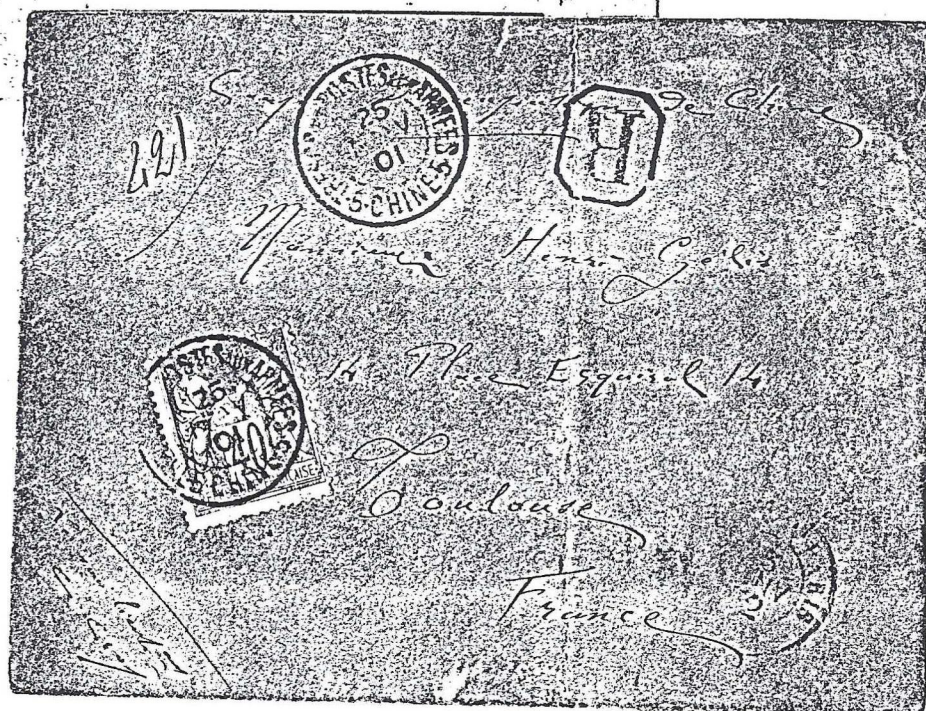
Tresor et Postes 3
2 December 1900
26 November 1901



Field post office #3 operated at Yangtsun briefly from October to December 1900. Subsequently, its postmark was used, without the date in the center, as an administrative mark in the military section of the French post office in Shanghai.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Tresor et Postes 5
11 February 1901
25 November 1901

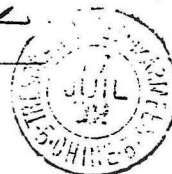


Field post office #5 operated at Tientsin from October 1900 May 1902. Cover addressed to Tokyo was not entitled to free franking for international transmission, but postage due was not charged by the Japanese postal authorities.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Tresor et Postes 5
17 July 1902
30 May 1904

Corps d'occupation en Chine



Monsieur Delorme
tailleur militaire
164, rue St-Honore

Paris
France

Reinforced

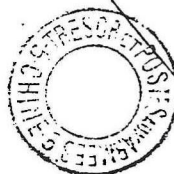
Voe S. 2110



Monsieur Henri

192 bis, Boulevard Malesherbes,

Paris - XVII^e



CORRES^{ces} D'ARMÉES

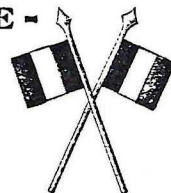
French troops remaining in China after the peace protocol of 7 September 1901 became the "Corps d'Occupation de Chine." They continued to enjoy the free frank of the Corps Expeditionnaire until 1 July 1903, at which time domestic French rates applied. The official closing date for T&P 5 was 16 May 1902 but, as shown above, the post office continued to use the field post marking after that date. Lower cover shows the postmark, without date, used as a hitherto unrecorded administrative marking.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Tresor et Postes 5
5 January 1901
December 1900

Chine - ARMÉE INTERNATIONALE -

Corps Français



• Rég't d'

Cie Bie ou Esc

Monsieur Allion
18 Grande Route



Mer

CORPS EXPÉDITIONNAIRE DU PETCHILI

(Handwritten signature/initials)

(Diagonal stamp: Le Colonel Commandant)

Monsieur le Colonel Commandant
le 11^e Régiment d'Infanterie de Marine
Saigon

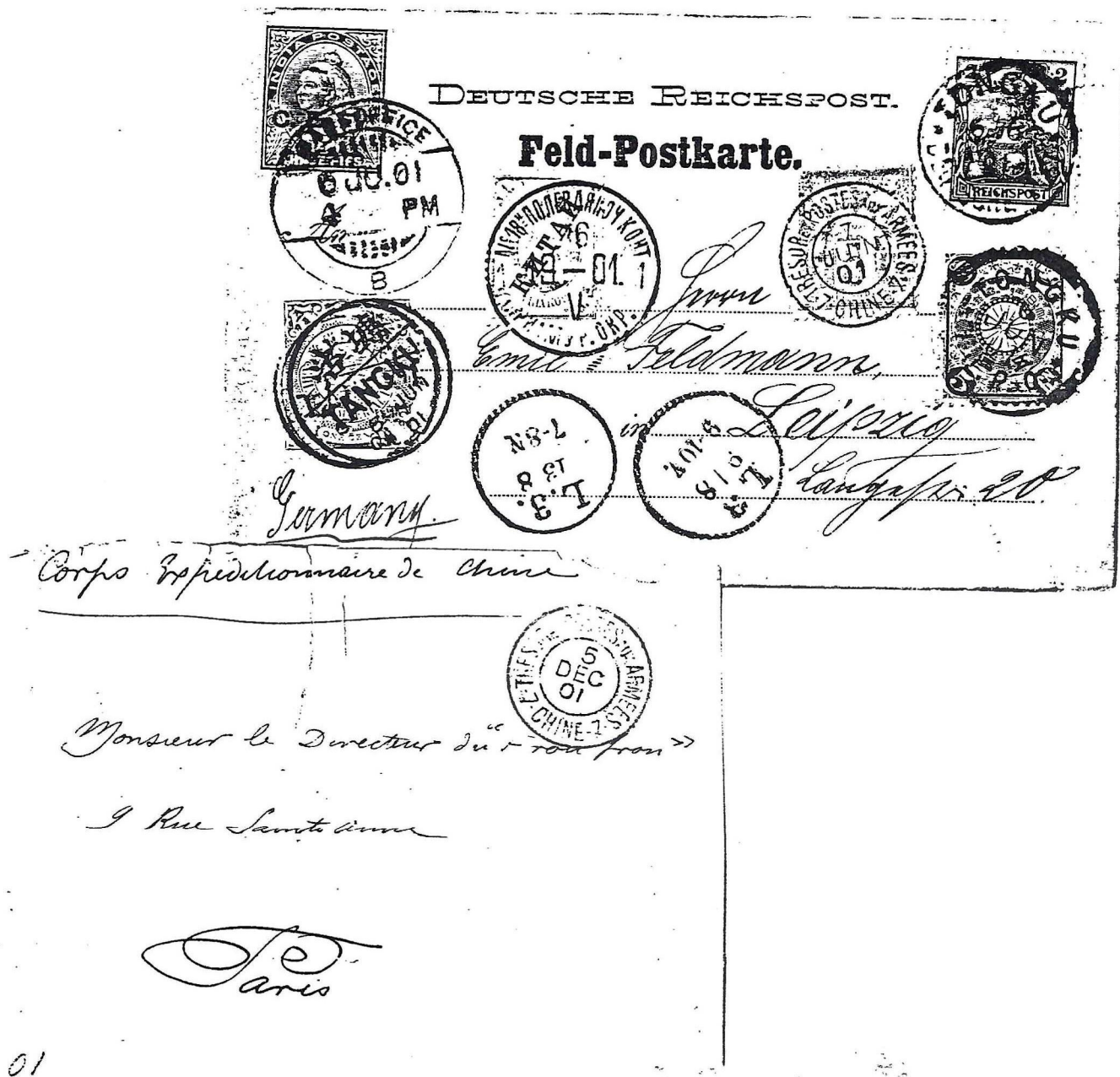
Patriotic or printed stationery from the French forces in China is not often encountered. The inscription "Corps Expeditionnaire du Petchili" refers to North Chihli Province, including the area around Tientsin and Peking where the Boxer forces provided the greatest threat.

Corps Expéditionnaire de CHINE



FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Tresor et Postes 7
7 June 1901
5 December 1901



Field post office #7 operated at Tongku only from April to December 1901. Note souvenir card on which sender placed stamps of the different national contingents and had them cancelled at the respective post offices before mailing.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Pekin
2 January 1901

Tien-tsin
30 August 1904
21 November 1904



Starting in July 1903, when domestic rates applied to military mail, French stamps with "F.M." (Military Franchise) overprints and French China stamps were valid for postage. The marking "Voie Sibirie" (Siberian Route) directed that due to shipping schedules the letter should be sent via the Trans-Siberian Railway rather than by sea via the Suez Canal.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Tien-tsin
7 March 1903
8 May 1903
12 June 1903

France

Corps d'occupation de

T

Monsieur

Decharanne 94^e de Ligne

France

Union Postale Universelle.

CARTE POSTALE

Ch

Monsieur le Colonel Largemoin

Union Postale Universelle.

CARTE POSTALE

書端術美報郵外

Monsieur Albany Joseph

19 Route de Contance

à Larcq-Moulin

à Larcq-Moulin

Tientsin was the base for the French Occupation Corps in China. As a result, much of the military mail went through the French civil post office there -- free of postage until mid-1903.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Shanghai
14 September 1906

Pekin
14 January 1910



Post-Karte
Levelező-Lap — Post card — Briefkaart
Brefkort — Carte postale
Cartolina postale — Tarjeta postal
Dopisnice — Karta Korespondencyjna
Correspondenzkarte — Dopisnica
Weltpostverein
Union postale universelle — Unione postale universale
ОТКРЫТОЕ ПИСЬМО.

via Africa
Madaones M. Orall
28 Avenue Perini
France
Assin
Guine

O. Ludwig, Peking

Although most of the troops were based in Tientsin, "Military Correspondence" postmarks were used at the French post offices in Shanghai (1906 to 1922) and Peking (1905 to 1915) on military mail sent at the concessionary rate.

FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Tien-tsin
27 April 1907
31 October 1908
27 November 1908



In 1907, the use of French currency was converted over to Indochinese (100 cents = 1 piaster). Thus, the stamps for the French post offices in China were overprinted in the new denominations.

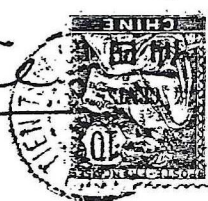
FRENCH FORCES ABROAD
China

Tien-tsin
20 June 1908
3 August 1912

CORPS D'OCCUPATION FRANÇAIS
DE CHINE

Poste de Tongkou

Via Sibirie



Monsieur Auguste Savandier

S: Section des C^{es} & O.^{es} d'Administration

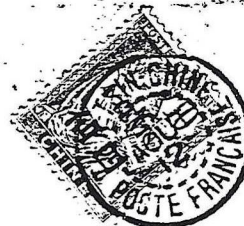
Orléans



France

Corps d'Occupation
de CHINE

POSTE DE SHANG-HAI-KWAN



Monsieur & Madame Célestin Legrand

Cité F. D. n^o 54

Bransvaal

Dombach sur Meurthe

(Meurthe & Moselle)
France

Via Sibirie

Mail from the outlying stations was processed through Tientsin. Above examples of imprinted envelopes and unit cachets indicate origination at Tongku and Shanhaikwan, respectively.