

# 15c Military Concessionary Rate

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## From the Military

Required the date stamp *Correspondence d'Armées*, effective July 1888, on mail from soldiers and sailors stationed in the Colonies and Protectorates, or where serviced by the Offices Abroad. First accorded to troops in Tunisia (March 1881) and earlier, but without the special date stamp.

27 March 1883,  
**ESCAD. DE LA MEDIT./MARSEILLE**

+ boxed *Corr./des armées*.  
both applied on Marseille arrival

Lodève (Hérault) April arrival  
Backstamp

\*generally struck before circular date stamps were made for a particular expedition;  
expedition in or near  
Mediterranean unspecified  
{FCP N°276, April 2004, pp.44-46}



31 May 1885, **CORR. D'ARMÉES/LIG J PAQ.F.N°1** (datelined **Dakar** (Senegal) 4 days earlier).  
transit 10 June, arrival the 11th at Audierne (Finistère)  
sailed via Line J's "Equateur"; left Dakar 31 May, arrived Bordeaux 9 June



27 May 1883, red **CORR.D'ARM./LIG J PAQ.F N°6**

Salles vol. III, N° 1099\_ [unlisted in red]

datelined **Montevideo**; blue Paris 22 June and same day arrival

from Naval Division of Antilles and Brazil, Plata subdivision

sailed via Line J's "Gironde"; left Buenos-Aires 26 May, arrived Bordeaux 21 June



24 July 1893, octagonal **CORR.D'ARMÉES/PAQ. FR. N°7**

to Colonies and Marine Ministry, Paris

29 July Marseille Special RR and Paris arrival

apparently Line N from Indo-China, posted on the "Saghalien" at Suez or closer in,  
and arriving Marseille 29 July



Bord du Penout rade de Smyrne  
28 Avril 1893.

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Mon cher Oncle

C'est avec beaucoup de regrets  
que j'ai vu que vous ne répondiez pas  
à la lettre, que dans un moment  
d'épurement et de besoin j'ai eu  
la hardiesse de vous écrire. Car devant  
votre silence j'ai bien vu que  
j'avais eu tort. Et je vous remercie de  
tout mon cœur pour la leçon que  
vous m'avez donnée à ce propos. Et  
vous promets d'en profiter à l'avenir.  
Cependant cher Oncle, je ne  
suis pas d'ailleurs  
pardonnez-moi un mot  
de ma condition.

3 May 1895,

**CORR.D'ARMÉES \* SMYRNE FR \***  
to Sisteron (Basses-Alpes)

long, detailed letter mailed from  
the "Davout" in port of Smyrna

8 May arrival back stamp



Monsieur  
Latil Louis rue Mercure



Sisteron 6941

15)

(Basses Alpes)

(France)

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#### To the Military

Same privilege accorded to families writing to the military overseas.



31 Dec. 1878, St Laurent de Chamusset (Rhône)  
to 4th Marine Inf. Regt. At **Cayenne, Fr. Guiana**  
*illegible transit, no arrival backstamp*



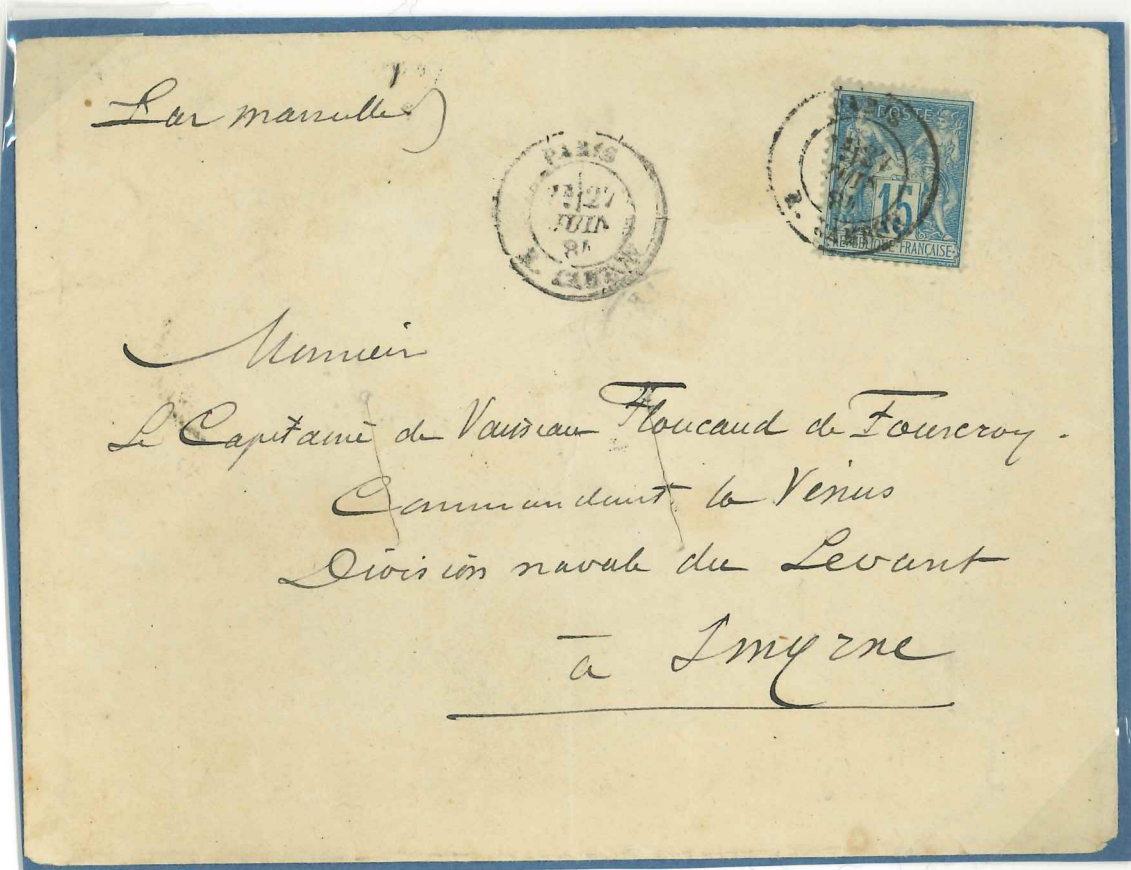
23 March 1885, Toulon-sur-Mer to sailor aboard the Tarn, at **Port-Saïd, Egypt**  
*Marseille 29 March transit, no arrival backstamp*



To the Military

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27 June 1884, Paris to Captain of the warship *Venus*,  
Naval Division of the Levant, at **Smyrna, Turkey**

desinfection slits

only legible backstamp: Lyon-Marseille/Sécial, 28 June

## Military Markings

Shipboard markings on military mail also served for verification of concessionary [at 1x domestic-letter rate] and other reduced rates for qualified military personnel.

Covers from the Bougarel correspondence follow. Frédéric Bougarel, second-in-command of naval vessel *Champlain*, to his wife at their estate near Toulon:

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*Lundi, 26 août, 1878; en rade de  
Tunis; à bord du Champlain*



datelined 26/27 Aug. 1878, on board the "*Champlain*" anchored in the Bay of [independent, pre-protectorate] Tunis, **Tunisia**

ESCAD[re].DE LA MÉDIT[erranée]., MARSEILLE, 31 Aug. 1878

(carried on French naval vessel of Mediterranean Squadron, and cancelled on arrival at Marseille)  
Marseille and Toulon, 31 August back stamps

*à bord du Champlain, en rade de Yokohama le  
Lundi 4 août 1879*



datelined 4 August 1879, on board the "*Champlain*" in Yokohama harbor, **Japan**

COR[respondances].D[ur]. ARM[ées]., LIG.S PAQ.FR.N°1, 9 Aug. 1879;

several French transit (25-26 September) and 27 September arrival backstamps

carried on Line S's "*Tanais*", which left Yokohama (9th) for Hong Kong (16th); offloaded there (or earlier, at Shanghai) onto Line N's "*Anadyr*", arriving Marseille 25 Sept. 1879





long letter datelined 16-21 July 1879 from aboard the "Champlain" in Yokohama harbor, **Japan**;  
2x concessionary letter at 30c

CORR.D.ARM., LIG.N P.FR.N°2, 22 July 1879

back stamps: Marseille and Toulon, 28 Aug. 1879

no Line N packet arrived at Marseille on 28 August. Writer states he expects letter to transit from Yokohama via San Francisco, then by train to New York and Transatlantic ship [presumably all ocean mail going via American packets]

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CORR.D.ARMÉES / SHANG-HAI

31 March [1894]

from gunboat "La Comète"

2x concessionary letter at 30c

back stamps: violet naval anchor cachet;  
Clermont-Ferrand 4 May 1894 arrival

possibly carried on Yokohama-Marseille  
Line N's "Caledonien"



red UNION/BORDEAUX [very scarce],  
16 Jan. 1882, to Var Dept.

Salles (vol. 1) says UNION indicated letter from  
abroad properly franked according to 1876 UPU  
regulations, on vessel lacking a postal agent

posted at 15c on vessel headed for France;  
but foreign postage was 25c; thus taxed at  
2x unpaid postage (25c-15c = 10c  
x2 = 20c = 2 décimes due)

17 and 18 January poorly legible transit and  
arrival backstamps

ESCADRE de la MÉDIT<sup>ÉE</sup> / MARSEILLE,  
4 April 1883

military concessionary 15c rate

posted from eastern Mediterranean port;  
canceled at Marseille  
and forwarded to Toulon  
(illegible Toulon dater)

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CORR. D'ARM  
\*PORT-SAID\*, 16 S

military concess.  
15c rate  
25 September Pari  
backstamp

