

## Algeria (1954-1961)

At start of Algerian rebellion ("officially" 1 November 1954"), Algeria was in 10th Military Region of Gen. Cherrière and defended by 117,000 troops of XIX Corps. By late 1956, it has risen to c.400,000; Gen. Frandon commanded Region, Gen. Lorillot the armed forces, Gen. Massu held police powers. In spite of this strength, the F.L.N. controlled much of the countryside.



ABOVE: Tebessa, Constantine Secap machine cancel, 28 Sept. 1954 franchise-stamp letter from sergeant in 10th Bn. of dismounted chasseurs, to France

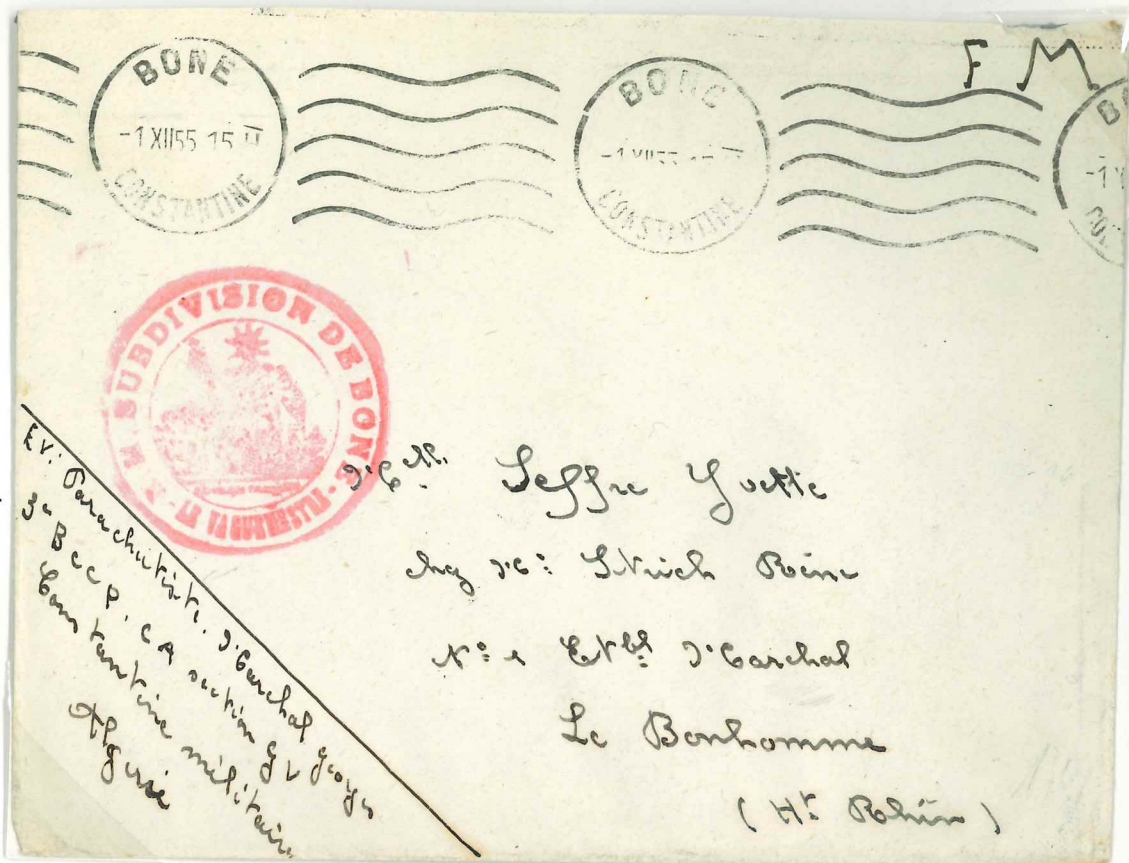
BELOW: Oran, 13 Dec. 1954 R.B.V. machine slogan cancel on franchise stamp; blue straightline of vaguemestre, La Sénia air base, Oran

Both covers showing normal, peacetime daters

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POSTE AUX ARMÉES /  
A.F.N., 26 April 1958  
Secap machine cancel,  
to Lyon

red paymaster cachet  
of 12th Dragoon Regt.

N.D.F. [upper left] =  
Necessité De Fermer  
= need to seal



Standard date stamps, beginning 1 January 1956, were Poste aux Armées ones, either mute or with a generic AFN (Afrique Française du Nord), with or without periods. Variations are shown on following pages.

As per Indo-China, other than ordinary 1x franchise letters, to France or the Colonies, required extra postage.



ABOVE: franchise letter + 30F for 5-10 gm airmail to USA ; red administrative cachet of *vaguemestre*, 10th Military Region; mute POSTE AUX ARMÉES \*, 17 July 1956

BELOW: registry label of sector 87.828 + POSTE AUX ARMÉES / AFN, 18 Feb. 1957; 75F = correct postage for registered 5-10 gm airmail letter to USA



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Algeria (1954-1961)

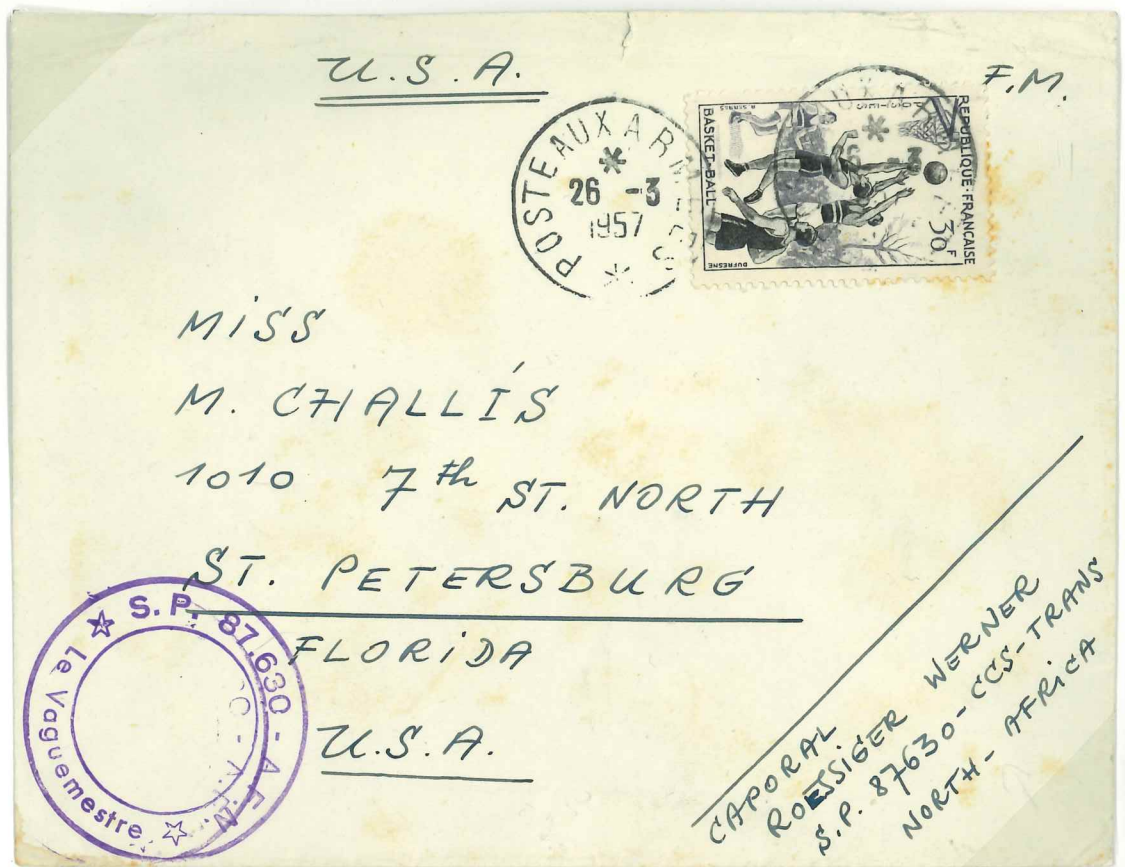
Foreign Legion mail  
sent under military  
franchise + affixed 30F  
stamp for 5-10 gm  
airmail to USA

purple administrative  
cachet of the  
vaguemestre,  
postal sector 87 630

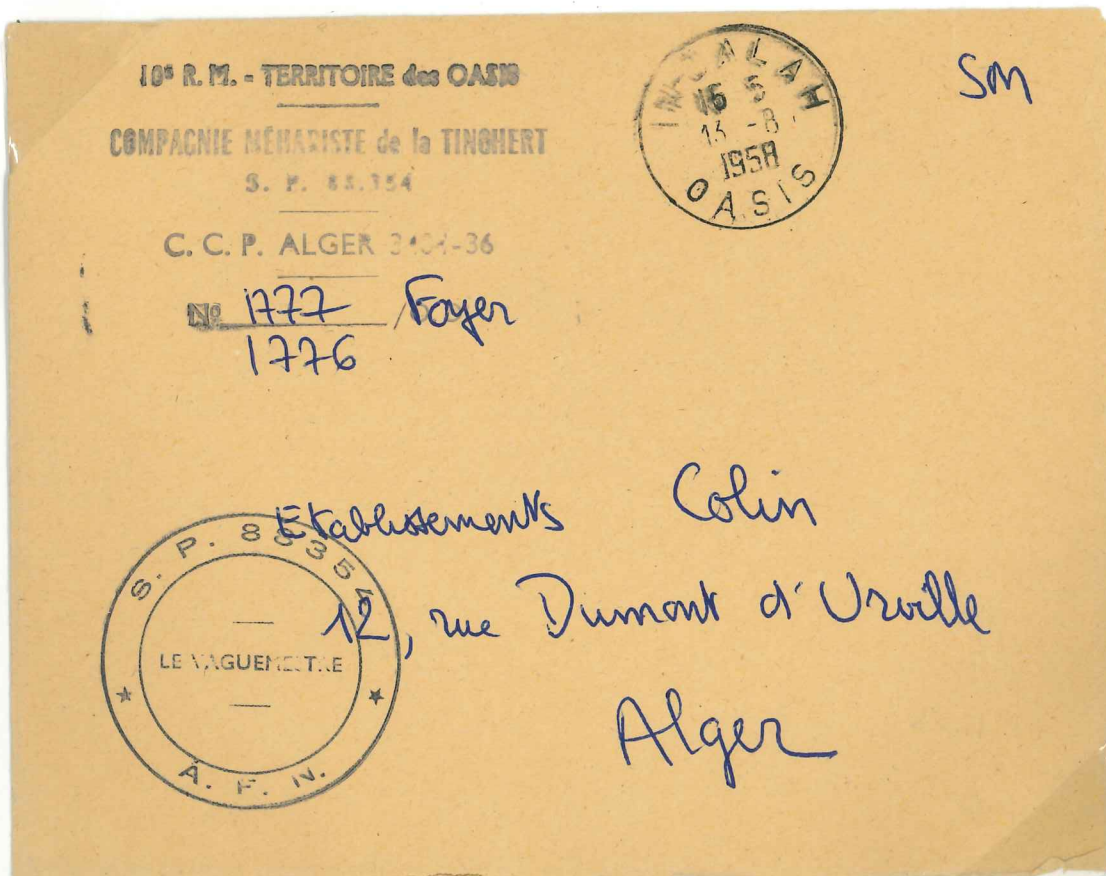
mute P aux A \*,  
26 March 1957

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Small detachments generally maintained the peace, mainly in new (1956)  
Departments of the Saharan interior.



In-Salah, Oasis (Dept.),  
13 Aug. 1958,  
to Algiers

from 10th Military  
Region - Oasis Terr.,  
Meharist Company  
of the Tinchert

franchise cachet of  
vaguemestre,  
postal sector 88354



**Algeria (1954-1961)**

Sections Administratives Spécialisées (S.A.S.) created by Decree of 8 September 1956, for military assistance (administration, protection, education, postal service, medical aid) to inland Algeria civilians, mainly in the new Departments created in 1956.



1. P. aux A. / A.F.N., 12 Dec. 1957 Klussendorf machine cancel + purple indications of Ait-Aicha S.A.S., Grande kabylie Dept.
2. dashed-line hexagonal date stamp of Boudjima-SAS / Tizi-Ouzou Dept., 12 Aug. 1957, to Oran; [opened 1 June 1957]
3. Dashed-line hexagonal date stamp of Amenas S.A.S. / Oasis Dept., 23 March 1961, to Algiers; [opened 1 June 1957]



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S.A.Ss were also formed in mixed communes associated with larger towns. By 1958, it was necessary to safeguard dispatches and require sealing the mail.



Cherchell, Alger, 28 Aug.? 1958 Secap machine cancel, to Alger;  
ultramarine administrative cachet of Bouyamine S.A.S., Constantine Dept.

18-7



Algeria (1954-1961)

Sections Administratives Urbaines (S.A.U.) served similar functions to those of the S.A.Ss, albeit with far less success, being in the thick of F.L.N. (and other) uprisings. Like the mixed communes (as per previous page), they used civil date stamps.

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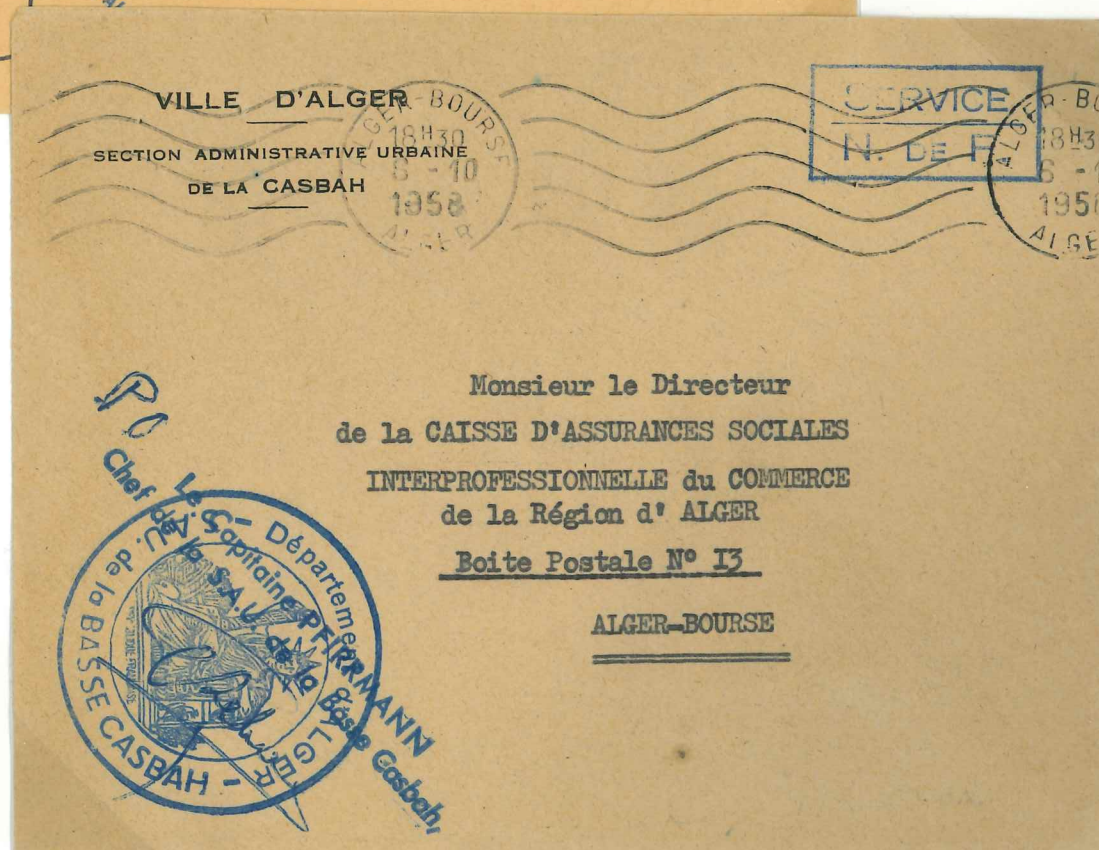
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Alger main P.O.,  
24 March 1958  
Secap machine  
cancel to Alger,  
from S.A.U. of the  
Upper Casbah,

endorsed by the  
officer in charge  
of native affairs,  
with his cachet

received the 25th



Alger Bourse,  
6 Oct. 1958 Secap  
"endless" machine  
cancel

from same captain,  
now in charge of the  
S.A.U. for the Lower  
Casbah

both letters heeded  
to be sent closed



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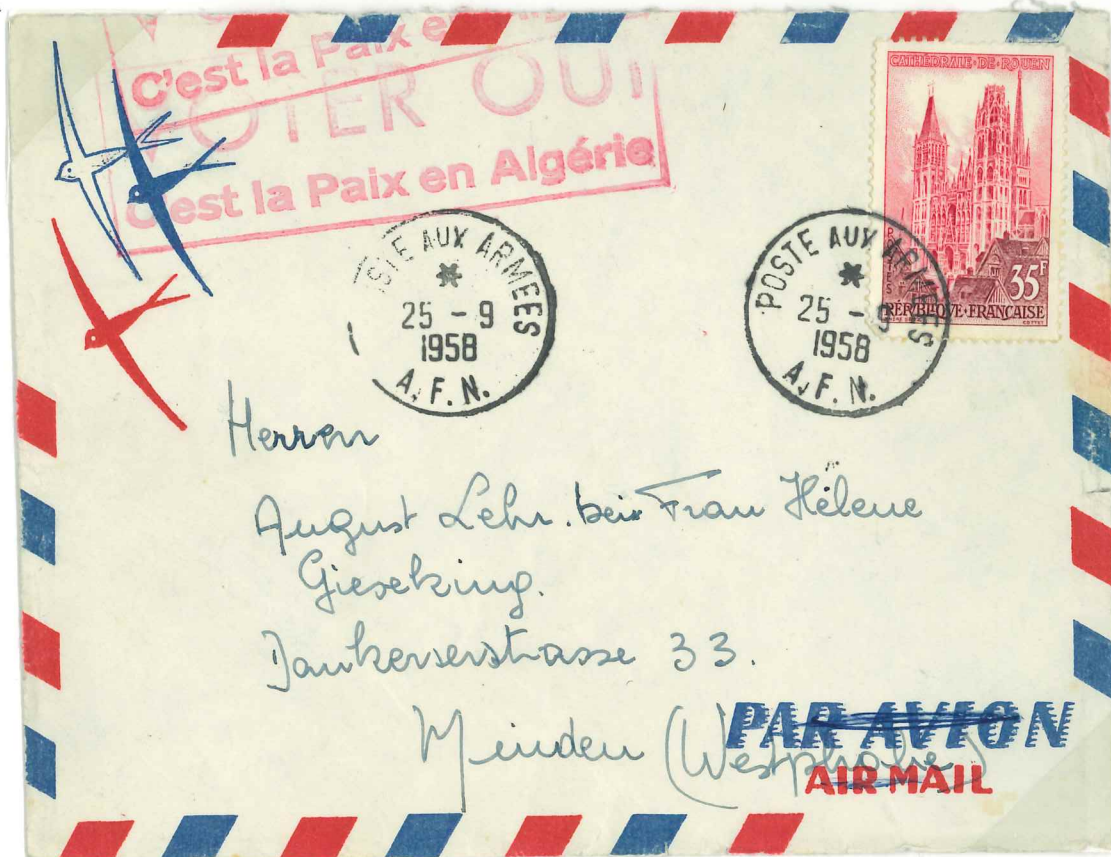
from S.A.U. of Hussein Dey, Alger, 12 March 1958 Secap machine cancel, to Alger,  
red administrative cachet of the S.A.U.

Algeria (1954-1961)

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As the military situation deteriorated, Gens. Salan, Allard, Massu and Jouhaud (the overall commander and his principal deputies) asked Gen. Ely, Chief of the General Staff, not to abandon the Europeans and pro-French Moslems. This was followed 13 May 1958 by a coup led by junior officers. The new de Gaulle government countered by replacing most of the generals. Young officers, led by Massu, campaigned to win the Moslems to the French cause. By a 28 September 1958 referendum, a majority of Algerians voted to retain ties with France.



Foreign Legion mail to West Germany

POSTE AUX ARMÉES / A.F.N., 215 Sept. 1958 on 35F 1x airmail letter

boxed red slogan: VOTE YES / it's for peace in Algeria  
[in support of the 28 September referendum]



The 1958 referendum ran counter to de Gaulle's plan which, by a 16 September 1959 decision was self-determination for Algeria. The army was ordered to cease fighting on 10 December 1960. This led immediately to more uprisings in the cities. Paratroopers, attempting to maintain order, were removed from Algiers on 12 December. An 8 January 1961 referendum greatly favored independence. One last coup was attempted 22 April 1961 by several parachute regiments and some line regiments under Gen. Challe, a bitter anti-Gaullist; other generals in Europe and elsewhere (Salan, Zeller, Jouhaud) were also implicated. However the draftees stayed loyal to Paris, and the coup failed by late April. The 130-year French presence had ended.



oval administrative cachet of the *vaguemestre*, postal sector 87.474  
[helicopter-borne Division]

Klussendorf machine cancel POSTE AUX ARMÉES / A.F.N., 21 Jan. 1959  
to postal sector 69.056 (French occupation of Germany);  
23 January arrival date stamp

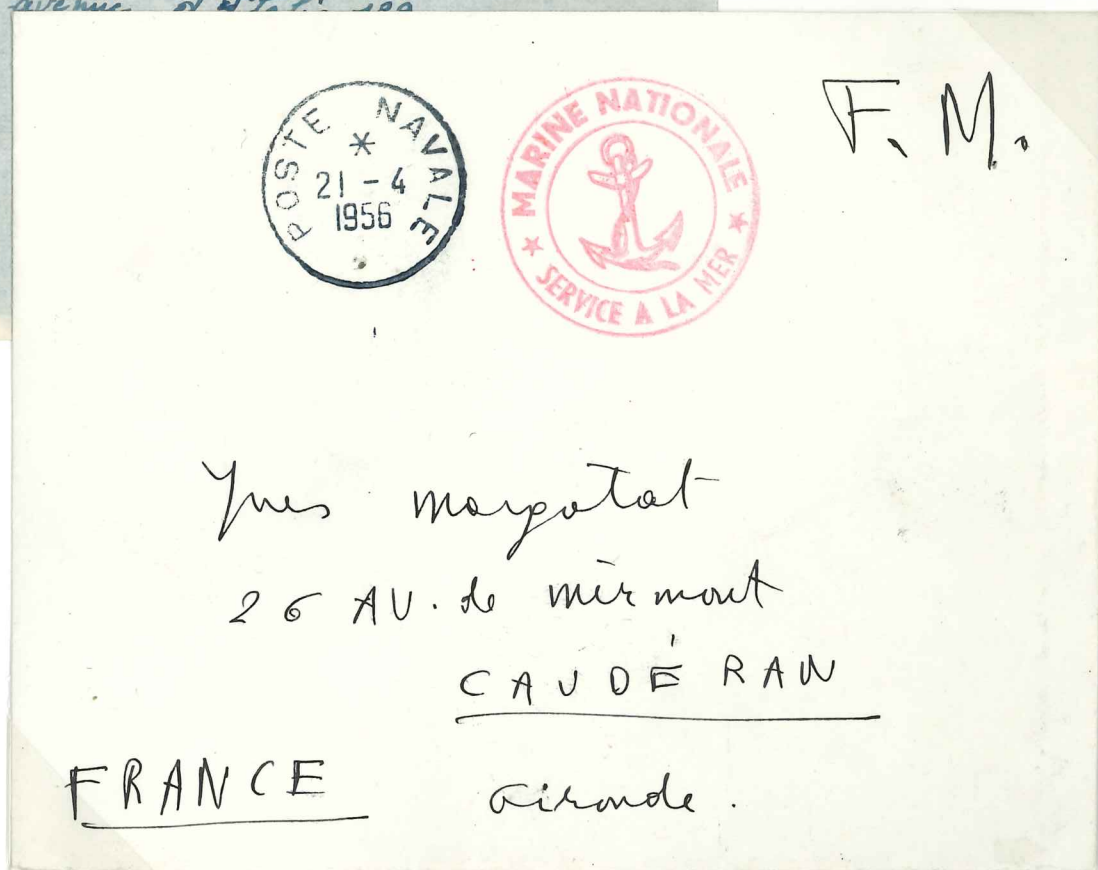
French Naval Forces in Algeria

Naval postal agencies opened 1954-56 to serve small independent units in Algeria; closed by mid-June 1962.



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ABOVE: POSTE NAVALE / anchor [narrow letters]. 12 Jan. 1957, from military-postal agency at Mers-el-Kébir, via Oran-Naval;  
large violet administrative anchor cachet: Marine Nationale \* Service à la Mer

BELOW: POSTE NAVALE [wide, WW2-style letters], 21 April 1956, from "Poste Navale AFN" [ms., on back]; smaller red administrative cachet



*Fa primis*



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Roger BOUILLE

CHARLY-sur-MARNE (Aisne)

*Fa primis*

B.A.N. LARTIGUE  
AGENCE POSTALE



Roger BOUILLE  
CHARLY-sur-MARNE (Aisne)

dashed hexagonal date stamps of Cap Matifou, Alger (22 Aug. 1961) and Lartigue naval air station, Oran (24 Feb. 1960); latter cover shows the locally made boxed B.A.N. LARTIGUE / AGENCE POSTALE franchise marking of that agency. Correct 10F printed-matter usage, albeit on philatelic mail.

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French Naval Forces in Morocco

Postal agencies opened at French aeronautical bases (B.A.N.s), bypassing the independent but inefficient Moroccan postal service.



dashed hexagonal date stamp of Khouribga B, Maroc, 29 Jan. 1960

red naval anchor administrative cachet of the *vaguemestre*  
at B.A.N. Khouribga-B

Khouriba-B agency in operation at Khouribga naval air-training unit, 1 Feb. 1953-  
28 Sept. 1961.





Monsieur le Directeur de l'école ABC

OFFICIEL  
BAN-AGADIR

N° 2565  
DATE 15-12-58  
djc



Monsieur le Secrétaire d'ETAT  
aux Forces Armées (MARINE).  
P.M.2. Notes.  
2, <sup>re</sup>ue Royale. PARIS VIII<sup>e</sup>  
Seine FRANCE.

ABOVE: dashed-line hexagonal Casablanca-B, Maroc agency, 3 April 1956;  
red naval-anchor administrative cachet

BELOW: circular POSTE NAVALE / BUREAU N° 71, 15 Dec. 1958, on official mail from  
Agadir B.A.N. [naval air station]

Casablanca-B open 10 Dec. 1953-28 Sept. 1961; Bureau N° 71 at Agadir open 1  
April 1957-30 April 1961.

Algeria (post-1961)

Token French forces remain, particularly in the Sahara, to train a new Algerian military and to protect naval installations. As previously, BPM numbers used only on official and registered mail, and occasionally as receiving marks.

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registered overdue bill for military-insurance premium, Paris, 8 Oct. 1962  
to SP 86.991 at Ujdi  
forwarded to Oran (P au A 53), 9 October  
unclaimed there, and boxed Return to Sender  
Paris, 7 November arrival backstamp

Seldom seen example of a BPM number from Algeria

IX-12



Algeria (post-1961)

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Post-Independence, French experimental space rocket base at Colomb-Béchar;  
used 3 stars at base of date stamp.



POSTE AUX ARMÉES \* \* \*, 6 Feb. 1963

registered, with **return receipt requested** [boxed AR],  
from postal sector 86 869; endorsed by commander of sector 87 507

1 x letter = .25  
registry fee = .70  
AR fee = .50  
postage, 1 Feb. 1962 Tariff = 1.45

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**Suez (1956) -- "Operation Mousquetaire"**

Cyprus served as the Franco-British base for operations along the Suez Canal, The French, serving a secondary role to the British, were commanded by Vice Admiral Barjot. Actual fighting only 3 October - 7 November 1956, during which time the Egyptians were rendered largely incapacitated. International condemnation ensued, and the Allies evacuated Egypt by 22 December 1956.

The aircraft tender *Marcel le Bihan* took part in the operation, serving in the Port Said sector until returning to Toulon on 29 December 1956 [Dr. Jacques Mériaux, pers. comm., July 1977].



envelope from the *Marcel le Bihan*, then at Cyprus, to the Navy Dept. at Paris

POSTE NAVALE, 27 Oct. 1956 date stamp

purple administrative cachet Marine Nationale \* Service à la Mer \*

purple 2-line franchise cachet: Tender d'Aviation / "MARCEL LE BIHAN"

[This cover is illustrated on p. 136 of Dmitry Kandaouroff's "Collecting Postal History"; Larousse, New York, 1974]



Suez (1956)

9  
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POSTE AUX ARMÉES / A.F.N., 6 May 1957  
[use of mute dater from Algeria for security reasons]

registered letter from Postal Sector 91 100, to France;  
9 May 1957 arrival back stamp

from Military-Postal Bureau 153 at Akrotiri, Cyprus, the last bureau to close  
following hostilities. Bureau 153 served the military's air-transport units.

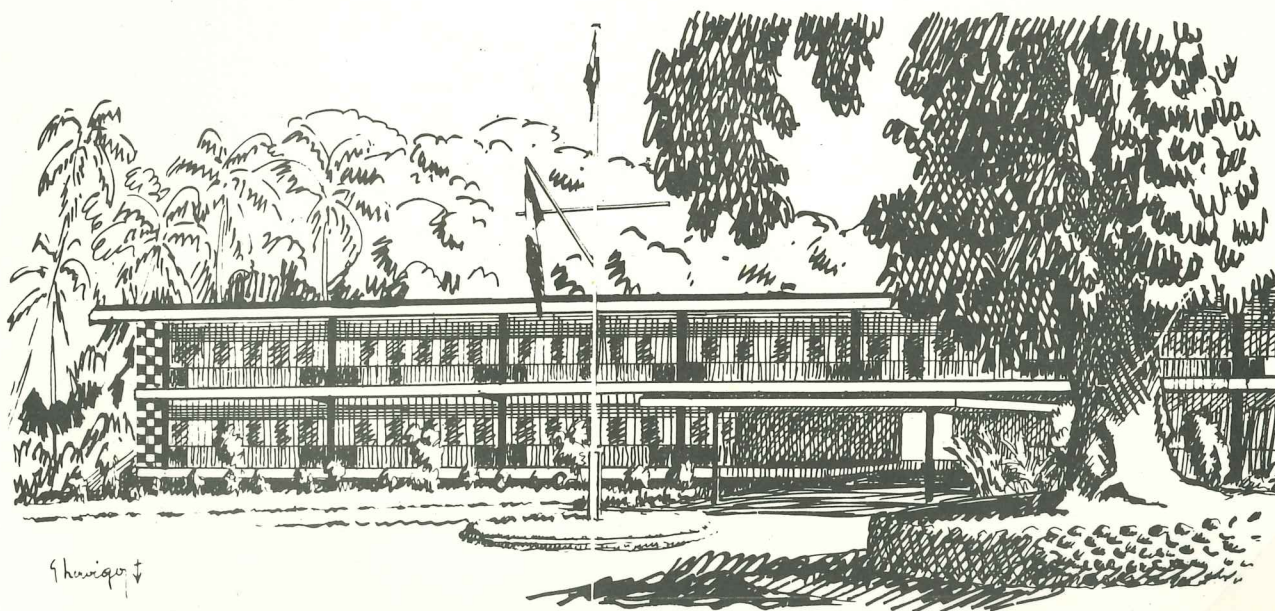
9  
26

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## Atomic Testing in the Pacific (1963-1996)

Testing of nuclear weapons was carried out intermittently in the Tuamotu Archipelago, from HQ at sea or at Papeete, Tahiti.

CENTRE D'EXPERIMENTATIONS  
DU PACIFIQUE  
CAMPAGNE 1971  
" Premier Jour "



souvenir cachet of the first day, POSTE AUX ARMÉES \*\*, 5 May 1971  
of 1971 atomic-testing activities at Papeete HQ

this illustrated machine cancel was used only in 1971



Atomic tests (1963-1996)

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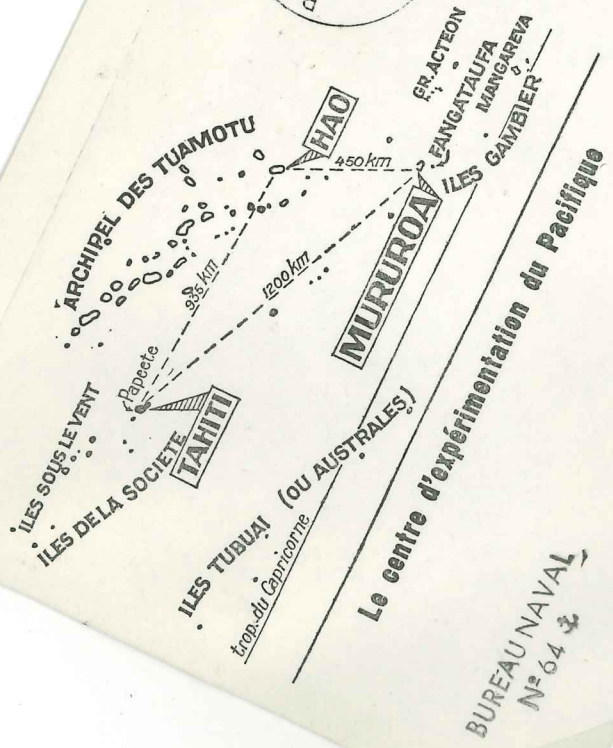
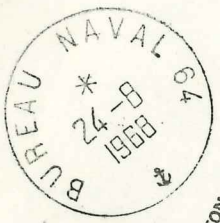
shipboard postal agency N° 64  
of support squadron

operational from 1966

FIDELITE  
DES MARINS  
À LA POLYNÉSIE  
1768 Bougainville 1968 Groupe Alfa



Monsieur René Goin  
10 Route de Bon Secours  
0891 VET  
(Ardenne)  
FRANCE



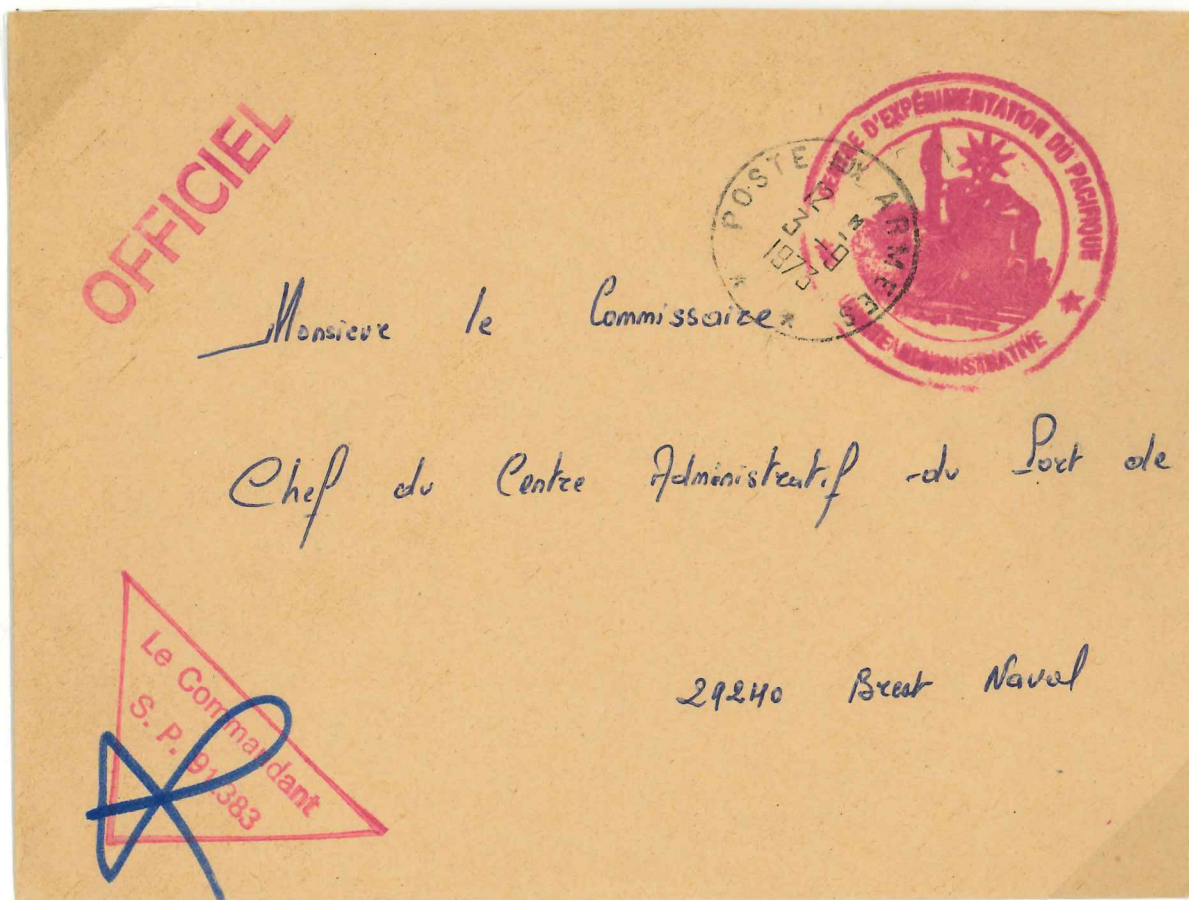
slogan machine cancel  
(used only during 1968), and  
hand cancel of  
BUREAU NAVAL 64,  
24 Aug. 1968

administrative straightline of  
Bureau Naval /N° 64 near  
lower left corner;  
cachet shows extent of test  
area

carrier Clemenceau was HQ  
vessel for 1968 tests

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POSTE AUX ARMÉES \* \*, 3 Sept. 1973, official mail from Postal Sector 91 383  
to Brest Naval

magenta administrative cachet of the Pacific Experimentation Center

the two stars at bottom of date stamps serve to distinguish these exercises  
from other "generic" military-postal date stamps



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### Peacekeeping in Chad (1969-1980)

French troops sent at various times to maintain governments in power against rebels of various persuasions. Total strength early 1980 was c.1200 men.

Mail generally sent home at French domestic rates, via Bureau Postal Militaire (BPM) 617.



POSTE AUX ARMÉES \*, 10 Oct. 1975; slogan advises that sector numbers are sufficient for mailer's address; geographic indications are forbidden

locally-made straightline BPM. 617 - N'DJAMENA on Chad stamps

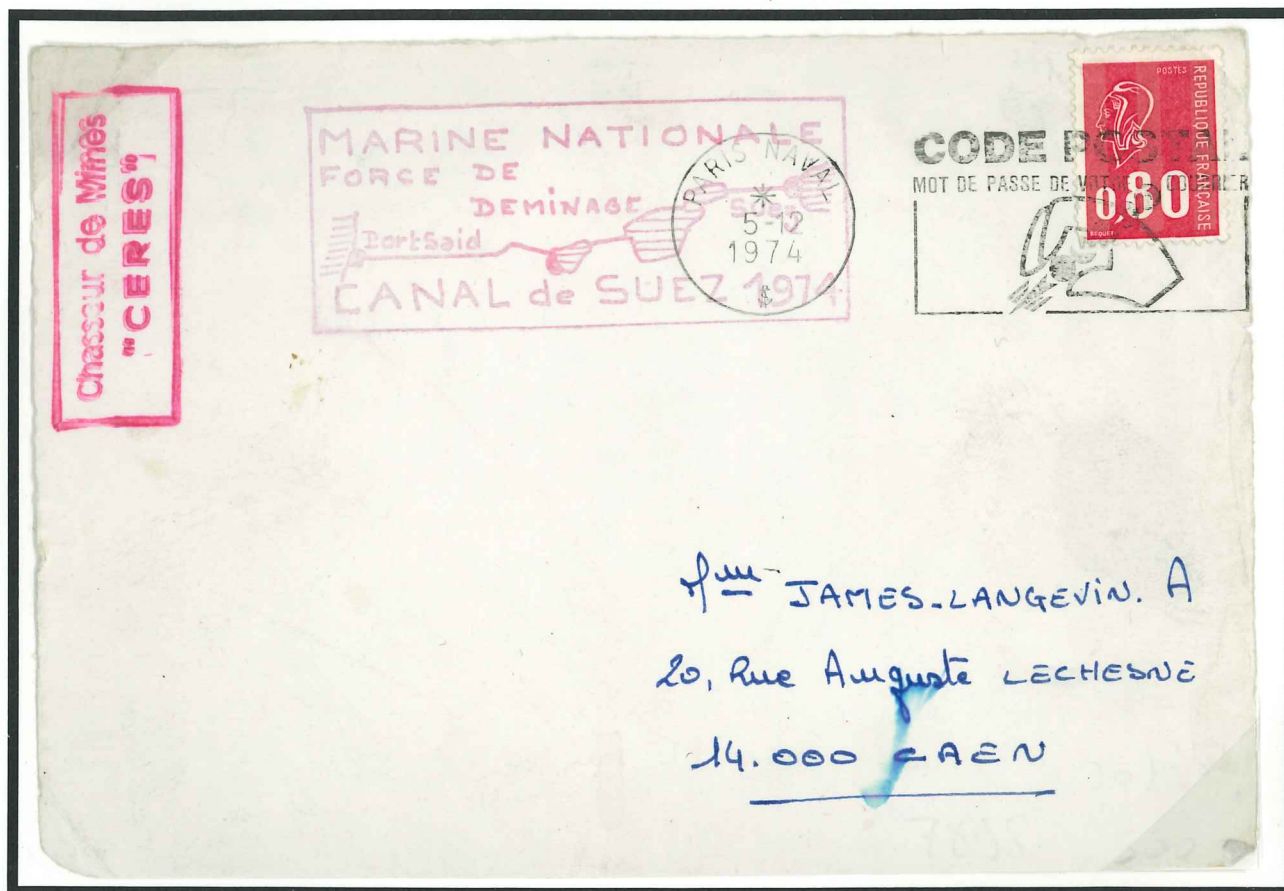
from N'Djamena (ex-Ft. Lamy), Chad's capital, from officer candidate at S.P. 85 140  
[data on flap]

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## Mine sweeping of Suez Canal (1974-1975)

France, partly responsible for mining the Suez Canal, during the 1967 Six Day War, was called upon by Egypt to remove the obstacles to shipping. This was accomplished during latter half of 1975 and first half of 1976 by *Mission DÉCAN*.



magenta slogan cachet of the mission and red boxed ship marking  
of minesweeper "CERES"

entered mailstream at Paris Naval, 5 Dec. 1974



# French Contingent with UN Peacekeeping Force in South Lebanon (UNIFIL) (1978-1979)

Under overall command of Maj. Gen. Erskine (Ghana) and Gen. de Brigade Jean Cuq, French force under Col. Jean Salvan, that eventually reached 1,300 men, began to arrive in South Lebanon in March 1978. After numerous incidents involving fatalities, French line troops withdrawn March-April 1979.

French military mail handled by BPM 125, opened 20 April 1978, which used a mute P aux A date stamp. The various units served by 25,000-series postal sectors. Ordinary and airmail letters to France, to 20 gm, had the full military franchise.

Logistics units remaining after French withdrawal regrouped into 420th Logistics Support Detachment under direct UN (not French) command, via BPM 125. Withdrawn 1982.



ABOVE: generic UN aerogramme to USA, 28 Dec. 1978. from SP 25.005  
overpaid 0,30, presumably for lack of available correct postage (though cover  
is philatelic in nature)  
202 in circle = postal inspector's check for correct postage at BPM 125

BELOW: POSTE AUX ARMÉES \*, 4 Sept. 1981 slogan machine cancel showing UN logo,  
parachutist badge, and reference to St. Michael (patron saint of parachutists); operated  
via BPM 125 at Naquora. Cancel used only 17 August-23 Sept. 1981.

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UNITED NATIONS  
NATIONS UNIES  
INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON  
FORCE INTERIMAIRE AU LIBAN  
PAR AVION

To: U.S.A  
THEO-VANDAM  
PO Box 26 BREWSTER  
NY 10509  
U.S.A



302

UNIFIL letterhead envelope  
to USA,  
POSTE AUX ARMÉES \*,  
8 Dec. 1978,  
from SP 25.505

2F30 = airmail letter <5 gm  
to USA

302 in circle, as per previous  
page

BPM 125 was later reassigned to  
peacekeeping forces in  
Lebanon and  
Israel in 1993



## Peacekeeping in the Central African Republic (1979-\_\_)

French paratroops sent to Bangui ("Operation Barracuda") to bolster government against former "Emperor" Bokassa; served by military-postal bureau 630 which, later (1993) was assigned to peacekeeping in Rwanda.



POSTES ET TÉLÉCOMMUNICATIONS



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MONSIEUR COLLIN MICHEL  
MEMBRE DE LA COMMISSION DES

FETES 12, Rue Couvret, 12  
F. 0800 CHARLEVILLE-MÉZIERES

No 716 FI - C

POSTE AUX ARMÉES 630  
96-223

No 716 FI - C



No 716

BPM 630

08 CHARLEVILLE-MÉZIERES

08 CHARLEVILLE-MÉZIERES

three different 1982 franchise markings, from POSTE AUX ARMÉES 630  
on official postal-service envelopes

Central African Republic (1979-\_\_)

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mute POSTE-AUX-ARMÉES \*, 5 Jan. 1988

registered letter with return-receipt stub [AR] from SP [postal sector] 684 450(= Bangui)

Toulon Naval 7 January arrival backstamp

at about this time, more than 1000 French troops had arrived to maintain order  
in this former French colony



## South Lebanon, revisited (FINUL)

Learning from experiences in Indo-China and Algeria, the French military adopted the use of rapid reaction forces in Lebanon and other campaigns covered here. Such forces consisted mainly of paratroops, light armored vehicles, and helicopters.

We cover here only the 1993-94 period of minimal French presence, whose UN mission was mainly to reestablish and secure the legitimate government of Lebanon and prevent incursions into Israel.

From 1990-on the Poste aux Armées postal markings were replaced by BPMs (Bureau Postal Militaires). BPM 125 (series 25 000 postal sectors) was the sole French FINUL BPM.

Apparently the free franchise was in force only at UN FINUL headquarters.



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BPM 125, at Naquora , Lebanon (3 km from border with Israel); 11 Nov. 1993 [airmail to England], and 10 Dec. 1994 [after UN mandate was again renewed]

Lebanon

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UNITED NATIONS  
INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

NATIONS UNIES  
FORCE INTERIMAIRES AU LIBAN



Monsieur Nicolas Desrousseaux  
Ecole St Joseph d'Allep

PAR AVION  
BY AIR MAIL



UNITED NATIONS  
INTERIM FORCE IN LEBANON

NATIONS UNIES  
FORCE INTERIMAIRES AU LIBAN



Che Col Desrousseaux

28 Rue Deligny

93500 PANTIN.

official UNIFIL postal stationery, both with Interim Force in Lebanon date stamps; 13 Jan. 1993 [airmail] and 27 Feb. 1993, both to Desrousseaux family members; latter cover bears cachet of French Catholic chaplain [with postal sector 25 010 on flap]



Lebanon

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Name LEMEKI SENIKAU  
Student No. 64117717 Exam No. 44012  
Address CHARLIE COY FFI/BAT/UNI  
City BOX 511 State NAHARIYA ZIP 22100 ISRAEL.  
**EXAM EXPRESS CARDS ONLY**

35E

**National  
Education  
Corporation**  
Independent Study Division  
925 OAK STREET  
SCRANTON PA 18515-0006



BPM 125, 13 May 1994,  
from soldier in Fiji battalion  
stationed in Nahariya, Israel

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## Peacekeeping in Chad (1983-1984)

Moslem dissidents bolstered by Libya hold north; Christian régime in south, aided by French military mission and c.3000 French paratroopers from August 1983. Units included elements of 11th Parachute Div. And of 9th Marine Infantry Div., under Gen. Poli. After a standoff, French leave November 1984.

As previously, mute date stamps in use, though postal-sector numbers appear on registered and official mail. Airmail sent at French domestic rate.



POSTE AUX ARMÉES \*, 9 Sept. 1983 mute Secap machine cancel

Endorsed on back from postal sector 95 301, of French HQ at N'Djamena, Chad



## The Gulf War (1990-1991) -- "Desert Shield" / "Desert Storm"

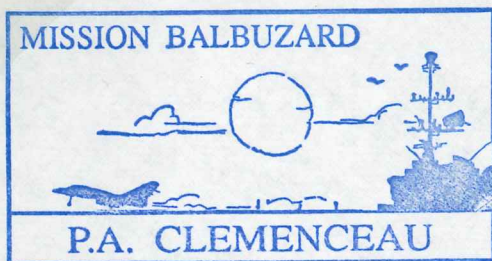
Iraq invades Kuwait 2 August 1990. US and UN organize punitive army. French participation at first mainly naval. Carrier *clemenceau*, guided-missile cruiser *Colbert*, and smaller vessels (Operation "Salamandre" as of 13 August. Later blockade of Iraq (Operations "Artimon" and "Balbuzard". Free franchise accorded 24 January 1991.

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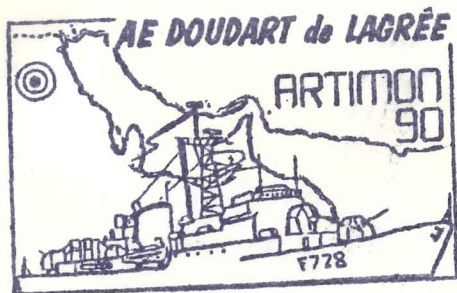
R.E. Wallace  
312 E.  
Weatherford St.  
Porta Texas  
76102  
U.S.A.  
D.S.



Madame S. TRAULET  
L'avenue des Aulnaies  
80420 GATACHES

Carrier *Clemenceau* slogan machine cancels of 26 Dec. 1990 ("Salamandre") and 3 March 1993 ("Balbuzard")  
note that first says Mediterranean Squadron, whereas second says Naval Action Force

Gulf War (1990-1991)



destroyer Doudart  
de Lagrée and  
"Artimon" cachets,  
mailed from Paris  
Naval,  
22 March 1991

R.E. Wallace  
312 E.



oiler Marne,  
with Bureau  
Postal  
Naval 64  
aboard,  
12 Jan. 1991

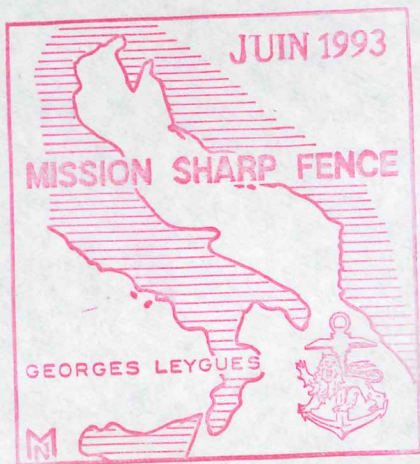


R.E. Wallace  
312 E.  
Weatherford st



Worth  
76102  
U.S.A.

Corvette  
georges Leygues,  
with  
"Balbuzard"  
cachet,  
mailed from  
Toulon Naval,  
16 July 1993



MISSION  
BALBUZARD

Genevieve DUVAUCHELIE  
M allée de l'orangeie  
95230 Boisy/montmorency

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## Gulf War (1990-1991)

Land and air forces, first as ephemeral operations, eventually as Operation *Daguet*, mainly as extreme left wing of UN command. *Daguet* eventually consisted of c.14,700 personnel. "Desert Shield" becomes "Desert Storm" in mid-January. Total Allied victory after recapture of Kuwait City, 28 February 1991, but occupation forces remain through much of the year--and beyond.

Free franchise for 1x (<10 gm) letters and also parcels <7 kg from 24 January 1991. Mail from France to the troops handled by Paris Tri Armées.

The Poste aux Armées nomenclature was changed to Bureau Postal Militaire (BPM) in 1990. Postal-sector numbers are in the 85 000 series.



1. BPM 640, at King Khaled's Camp, 1 Oct. 1990-24 June 1991; SECAP machine cancel, 10 Jan. 1991
2. id., with *Daguet* cachet, 3 May 1991
3. BPM 640A, at Riyadh, 1 Oct. 1990-28 Jan. 1991 when it became BPM 644

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BA. AL ANSA

BASE DE HUFUF



FM

LE VAGUEMES  
Même ESCADRE AERIE  
SR 85776

BASE AL ANSA  
11- ESCADRE AERIE



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MR. M. ESTEVE

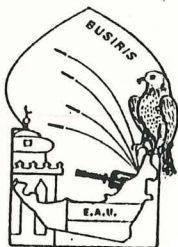
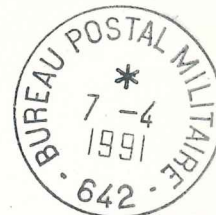
FM

du 1002

2.10

1000

IT du VAR



FRENCH ARMED FORCES  
IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
القوات المسلحة الفرنسية  
في الامارات العربية المتحدة

Archet J. CUILLEMIN  
Resid. St JOSEPH. AB  
06700 ST LAURENT du VAR

1. BPM 641, at Al Ahsa air base, 1 Oct. 1990-2 May 1991; 20 March 1991; *Daguet* cachet
2. id., from 11th Fighter Squadron; 30 April 1991 and [covered] *Daguet* cachet
3. BPM 642, at Abu Dhabi, 20 Oct 1990-20 April 1991; 7 April 1991 and illustrated cachets



FRANCHISE  
MILITAIRE



9/43

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Courrier des marins  
Seamen's Mail

de DE PARIS TRI  
ARMEES

C 28

pour

DÉPÊCHE N°  
29

BPM 645  
ARMÉE FRANCAISE EN  
ARABIE SAUDITE

DATE D'EXPÉDITION  
4 AVR. 1991

via RIYADH

paquet n° AF 154

Port de Débarquement

G. 9/82

AU VERSO GRIFF DU GAL LE P



ON VIA AIR MAIL

MADAME CHERQUI PASCALE -

86 RUE DE L'OURCQ -

75019 PARIS -

1. BPM 644 (ex-640A), at Riyadh. 1 March-2 June 1991; 16 April 1991
2. Mail sack tag from Riyadh, but marked as BPM 645, via Paris Tri Armées, 4 April 1991
3. BPM 645 at Yambu nr. Dahrn (Saudi Arabia). 1 March-2 June 1991



1. BPM 647, at Kuwait City, 25? Feb.-19 May 1991; 2 May 1991
2. BPM 648, at Incirlik air base, Turkey, open 26 April 1991 in the US airbase nr. Adana; mission to keep Iraqi planes south of 36th Parallel and to protect Iraqi Kurds; 13 June 1991
3. id. Return to Sender from *vaguemestre* (mail clerk), 27 June 1991; "*Libage*" was one of several missions, this one with mainly health-units personnel aiding the Kurds





1. BPM 649, at advance logistic base/paratroop station at Silopi (Turkey), 6 May-30 Sept. 1991, with cachet of "Provide Comfort II"/Operation "Aconit", 14 Aug. 1991
2. Id., 13 June 1991; different cachet + notation NATO base at Silopi sand Operation "Libage"
3. BPM 650, serving isolated detachments at Sirsenk (Turkey), 29 May-19 July 1991; 5 July 91

OPERATION DAGUET  
RÉGIMENT D'HELICOPTERES,  
DE COMBAT  
SP 85761  
00866 ARMEES



Operation "DAGUET"  
- Vaguemestre  
- SP: 85 761



AGPM  
rue Nicolas Appert



9/46

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URGENT

NE PAS  
AFFRANCHIR



correspondance réponse

Validité  
permanente

A UTILISER  
seulement en France  
métropolitaine et  
dans les départements  
d'outre-mer pour les envois  
ne dépassant pas 20 g.

**AGPM**

**VEPEX 5000**

**AUTORISATION N° 36  
83099 TOULON CEDEX**



All three marked Postpaid [ \*P.P.\* / Paris Tri Armées ] upon arrival:

1. from the Regt of combat helicopters, SP 85761 [= the 5th such Regt.], 24 Feb. 1991--  
day of Allied land offensive
2. 11 March 1991, apparently because both date stamps at the BPM were inoperative
3. 13 March 1991, on official urgent envelope that did not require postage



## Somalia (1990-1994) (ONUSOM)

French part (Operation "Oryx") consisted of c.1150 men in two motorized battalions plus support, mainly Legionnaires with helicopters, who served humanitarian needs of civilian population. Two supporting frigates offshore.

All mail transited Djibouti; postal sectors in 85 900 series. Franchise accorded only to official UN mail. UN mission dissolved by 31 March 1995.

9/47

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à Monsieur le Commissaire Colonel DESROUSSEAUX

Operation ORYX  
Base Logistique AEROPORTUAIRE  
en SOMALIE  
SP . 85917 - 00866 ARMÉES

T



Lt Colonel BOUDET  
Commandant la B.L.A.P.

Monsieur THIERY J. Luc

SP 69394 - 00553 ARMÉES

ABOVE: BPM 610, at Djibouti from 1 May 1990, for general support in northeast Africa; 14 March 1991, from Postal Sector (from flap) 85 926; 2F50 French domestic 1x letter

BELOW: BPM 610, Postal Sector 85 917, 12 May 1993; sent as official mail from portside logistic air base of Oryx and endorsed by base commander, but nevertheless taxed as insufficiently franked



1. BPM 613, at Xuudur (Hoddur), later at Baidoa, 4 Jan.-15 Dec, 1993; 2F50 French domestic letter postage
2. BPM 613, 15 Feb. 1993
3. BPM 613, Postal Sector 85 932, 29 June 1993 ; official-appearing mail from Oryx's logistic company, but franked



9/49

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## Central African Republic (1990-1999)

BP 630, at Bangui, was main staging point for several humanitarian missions in this part of Africa, beginning in 1990. While African troops took over the mission in August 1994, the last of c.1400 French left by 1999.

Postal Sector in 85400 series. No free military franchise.



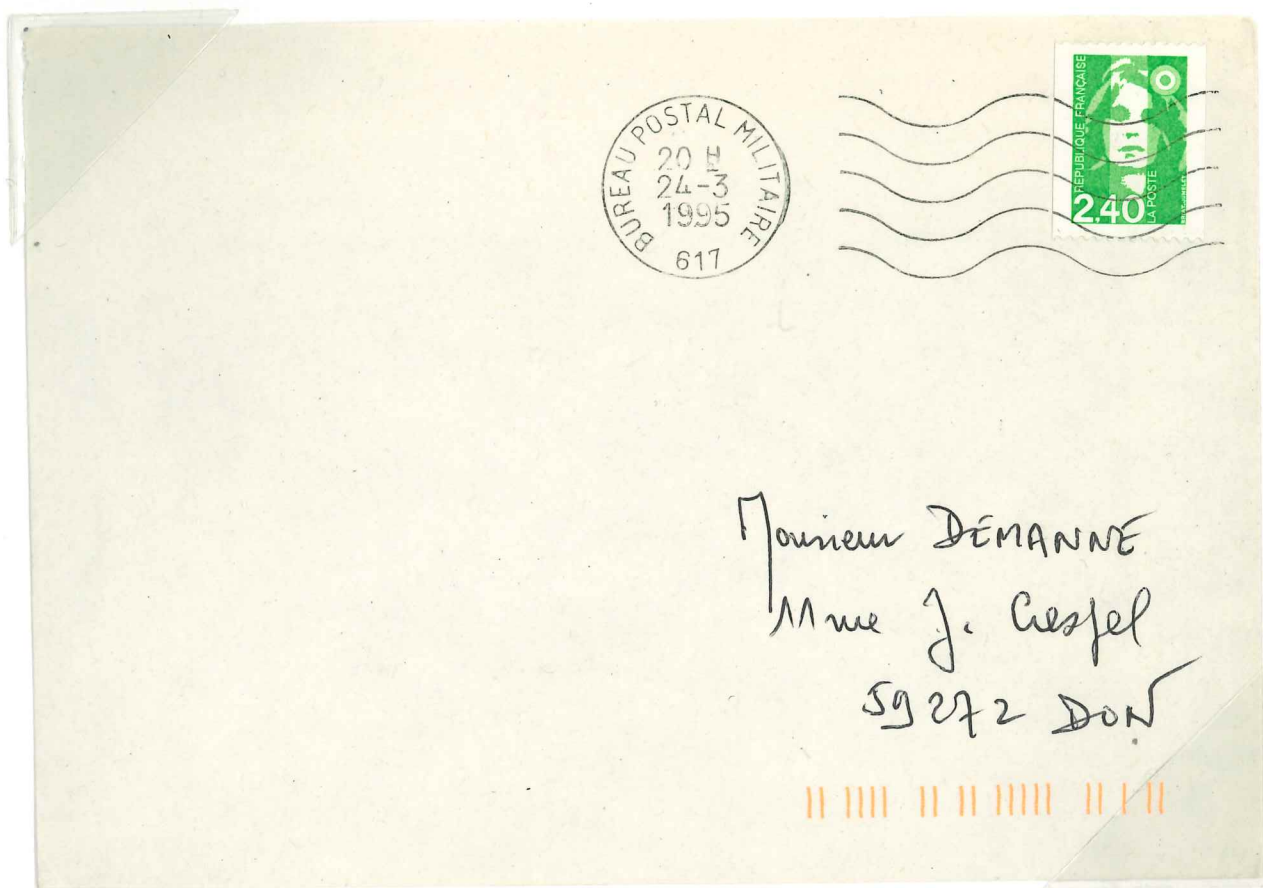
BPM 630 SECAP machine cancel, 15 Dec. 1993  
from military assistance mission at capital of Kigali  
red permanent-value stamp = French 1x letter rate  
BPM 630 in sporadic use 1 May 1990-21 Feb. 1999

9/50

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## Chad

BPM 617, Postal Sector 85 300 series, at D'Jaména, has been the center for several military/humanitarian missions. Opened 4 May 1990, it handles all military mail out of Chad.



BPM 617 SECAP machine cancel, 24 March 1995

2F40 French domestic 1x printed-matter rate

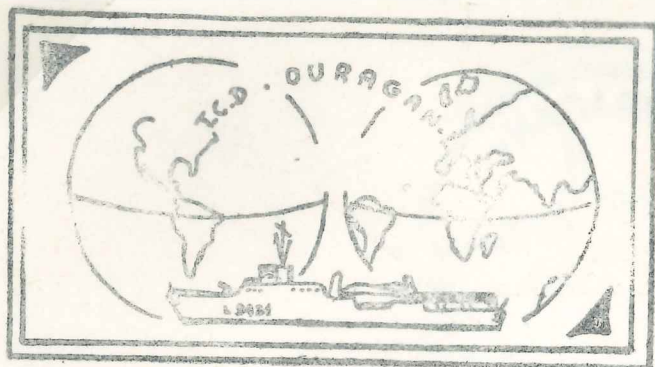


9/51

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# Gabon (1990- \_\_)

French troops sent May 1990 to protect Westerners. Remain to maintain peace among warring local factions. Still c.630 military personnel, consisting of infantry and military police, present late in 2000.



BPM 635  
at Libreville,  
Postal Sector  
85 700, opened  
11 June 1990;

26 June 1990

cachet of the  
*Ouragan*,  
patrolling  
offshore

OPERATION REQUIN  
GABON Juin 1990

Adjt/Chef Jean GUILLEMIN  
Resid. St. Joseph - B.3  
06700 ST. LAURENT DU VAR

24 July 1991

cachets of the  
military po-  
lice  
presence at  
Libreville

Postal Sector  
85 707



Adjt/Chef Jean GUILLEMIN  
Résid. ST. Joseph B-3  
06700 ST. LAURENT DU VAR



BPM 635, 16 Nov. 1991  
+ cachets of the *Ouragan*



1 May 1992 cachets honoring the 6th Infantry Bn. In Gabon

All four covers franked with French 1x printed-matter rate stamps



## Ex-Yugoslavia (1991-\_\_) (UNPROFOR / FORPRONU)

Partitioned ex-Yugoslavia became Europe's major 1990s war. Moslems vs. Christians; Serbia vs. the others--Croatia, Slovenia, eventually also Kosovo portion of Bosnia. The UN again intervened, France being among the participants. Missions were to force the Serbian army back to its borders, protect airports, remove mines, and provide humanitarian aid to refugees.

Mail to and from France was centralized in Zagreb, Croatia. Free franchise <10 gm from 24 June 1992. Postal-sector numbers in 71 000 series.



9/53  
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Engrist  
r. 7  
mai 15  
ON-



Mme & Mr BELEC Claude  
8, Rue Raphaël  
29200 BREST

ABOVE: UN Protection Force, 5 Apr. 1993, + red cachet of French Helicopter Squadron, attached to UNPROFOR HQ in Bosnia

BELOW: Paris Naval 11 Dec, 1991, + red cachet of French Humanitarian Mission aboard the Rance, charged with relieving Dubrovnik and evacuating Croat refugees

Ex-Yugoslavia (1991-\_\_)

official UNPROFOR stationery,  
2 Dec. 1992 and 14 June 1993

latter with cachets of French  
units in Bosnia-  
Herzegovina

9/54

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UNITED NATIONS  
NATIONS UNIES  
UNPROFOR



S. ROUSSEAU X  
"Armée"



UNITED NATIONS  
NATIONS UNIES  
UNPROFOR



Madame Monique ENZIRAT  
L'ONYX - R.A.  
9 Allée du 8 Mai 45  
F-83000 - TOULON







M<sup>me</sup> CHERAUI PASCALE -  
86 RUE DE L'OURCA -  
75019 PARIS -

BRIGADE PREVOTALE DE ZAGREB

9/55

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Gendarme DUBUS  
Gendarme Fauque  
BP 66  
34702 Lodève

ABOVE: BPM 651, at Pleso airport nr. Zagreb, 8 April 1992-18 June 1996; 6 Nov. 1992, + cachet of landing-ship transport *Foudre*, which also brought French infantry to Yugoslavia

BELOW: BPM 651, 21 Aug. 1995, + red cachets of military police unit at Zagreb

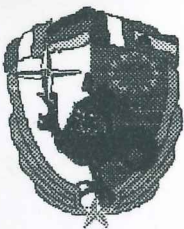
Zagreb was GHQ of French general staff, as well as main French postal facility. More than 7,200 French military personnel present in ex-Yugoslavia by December 1996





9/57

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FD



leowey  
des cotes  
sout-laffitte



Madame DUBUS  
Caseme Fouque  
BP66

1. BPM 653, at Belgrade, 18 May- 7 Dec. 1992 ,serving staff units
2. BPM 653, at Ploce, 26 Dec. 1996-on; emblem of an air unit; FD = *Fausse Direction* (wrong address)
3. BPM 653, 12 Feb. 1998 (still at Ploce)



1792-1992



9/58

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J. Paul Lewney  
63, rue des côtes



J. Paul Lewney  
63, rue des côtes  
78600 Plaisir, la Platte

BPM 654, at Gracac, Croatia, 8 April 1992-7 Sept. 1993;  
serving alpine troops and a marine infantry battalion

BPM 655, at Sarajevo, Bosnia, 10 July 1992-30 March 1997;  
serving two battalions guarding the airport



9/59

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DETALAT - SPLIT  
SP 71074  
00883 ARMEES  
Code 0638



M. LE CAPITAINE RENE GOIN  
COMMANDANT LE DETACHEMENT  
DE RESERVE DE GIVET

76 ROUTE DE BON SECOURS  
08600 GIVET (FRANCE)



1. BPM 656, at Velika-Kladusa, Bosnia, 19 Oct, 1992-20 Oct. 1994; 21 Feb. 1994
- 2 DETALAT-SPLIT, Postal Sector 71 074; UN Protection Force, 20 April 1993
3. BPM 657, at Split, Croatia; 3 Dec. 1992-29 Feb. 1996; helicopter base + support , 10 Feb. 1996

Ex-Yugoslavia (1991-\_\_)

Beginning in December 1995, UNPROFOR troops in ex-Yugoslavia were transferred to NATO's IFOR (Implementation FORce).

EC MONITOR MISSION  
PAYMASTER  
RC ZENICA



M<sup>me</sup> Michelle GOIN

76, Route de Bon Secours



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Madame DUBUS  
Catherine Fauque  
BP66

34702 LODEVE  
FRANCE

BPM 658, at Karanj, Croatia, opened 1 June 1993; 12 June 1995 + cachets of French part of international monitoring missions in ex-Yugoslavia and Macedonia, charged with maintaining order in conjunction with local police  
BPM 658, now at Radjovac, Bosnia from 29 Feb. 1996; 19 Feb. 1998; cachets of helicopter equipped military police detachment at Sarajevo



**Ex-Yugoslavia (1991-\_\_)**

Entering the 21st Century, success has been achieved in pacifying Croatia and Slovenia, but ethnic problems persist in Kosovo, and neighboring Macedonia and even locally in Albania, resulting in the retention of French and other forces in the Balkans.

9/61

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MANNE

el

DOM

Monsieur DEMANNE



Monsieur DEMANNE

11 rue de la République

1. BPM 662, at Kumanovo, Macedonia, 15 Dec. 1998-15 Oct. 2000; 14 May 1999, serving a rear-echelon base nr. Skopje's airport
2. BPM 663, at Mitrovica, Kosovo from 20 June 1999; 4 Oct. 1999; international intervention force in Kosovo, to separate Serb and Moslem partisans
3. BPM 664, at Elbasan, Albania, 22 May-9 Aug. 1999; humanitarian aid to refugees in Kosovo and Albania

9/62

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Mme. F. CIABAUDE  
221 Rue A. Camus  
55 40000 A 21 2 1

REGIMENT DE COMMANDEMENT  
ET DE SOUTIEN  
DE LA DMNSE  
SP 71020  
00873 ARMEES



BUS

FIVE

Monsieur Demanne

1. BPM 659, at Vrapcici, Bosnia, 21 June 1995-24 Feb. 1996; 24 Oct. 1995 + cachet of unit commander, 5th Co., 2nd Regt. of Foreign Legion Parachutists; part of French Rapid Reaction Force
2. BPM 660, at Mostar, Bosnia since 5 March 1996; Postal Sector 71 020 of HQ of Regt. of Rapid Reaction Force, Lt.-Gen. Bernard Janvier commanding, 6 Oct. 1997
3. BPM 661, at Durrës, Albania, 21 April-31 July 1997; 6 June 1995; Operation ALBA, protecting airstrips and ports in Albania, by c.1000 men, mainly from 2nd Marine Infantry Regt.



## Rwanda (1994)

Based in Goma, Zaire, Operation "Turquoise" protected minority Tutsis from Hutus, and other refugees as well. BPM 614 (Postal Sector 85,950 series) operated only 1 July -20 Sept. 1994. The c.600 men consisted of elements from Gen. LaFourcade's 11th Parachute Division and of Legionnaires. UN African troops took over from 22 August 1994.

The free franchise was reserved only for French troops. BPM 614 coordinated with larger 630 at Bangui in the Central African Republic.

LITIN JASILUM  
CHIEF DE SECTION  
GÉNIE LÉGIONNAIRE  
SP 21360-00100



Mlle Pascale Goin

76, Route de Bon Secours

F

Capitaine BOUCHEZ Daniel  
Commandant la 3<sup>e</sup> Compagnie de la  
13<sup>e</sup> Demi-Brigade de Légion Etrangère



9/63

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Gendarme DUBUS

Caserne Fouque

BP 66

34702 Lodève Cedex

ABOVE: BPM 614, 6 Aug. 1994 + cachet of Operation "Turquoise"

BELOW: BPM 614, 31 July 1994 + cachets of captain commanding 3rd Company of Foreign Legion's 3rd Demi-Brigade; sent at 2F40 French printed-matter rate

## East Timor (1999-2000) (SANTAL)

500 French troops, under Australian Gen. Cosgrove's command, sent to protect local population, which favored independence, from pro-Indonesian militia. An uneasy peace was restored after a few weeks.

Mail was handled by BPM 705 out of Darwin, Australia (Postal Sector 91 800); no free military franchise.



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INTERNATIONAL FORCE EAST TIMOR

Poste de Commandement  
InterArmées de Théâtre  
Opération Santal  
Secteur Postal 91 800/A  
00250 ARMÉES



Monsieur Jean **GUILLEMIN**  
Résidence Saint JOSEPH  
Bât B3  
F-06700 SAINT LAURENT du VAR  
FRANCE

ABOVE: BPM 705, 26 Nov. 1999, on stationery of International Force in East Timor (INTERFET), from Operation SANTAL command post; overpaid 6F in permanent-value postage

BELOW: BPM 705, 10 Nov. 1999, French 1x letter rate; cachet of "commando" operations at Dili, East Timor