



1506



ARMÉE D'ORIENT/G^{DE} IMP^{LE}, 30 Oct. 1855, + its AOGI killer
 backstamps: the rare ARMÉE D'ORIENT/GARDE IMPÉRIALE/TRÉSOR ET POSTES
 administrative cachet; transit and arrival datestamps of 11 and 12 November

(ex-"Mont-blanc")

changement de corps ne peut s'opérer
 sans l'assentiment du chef de corps par un
 officier. Cependant la ville de
 Sébastopol est de 24 heures. Les
 soldats manquent de pain. Les bayonnettes
 sont enroulées sur les fusils. On
 se bat jour et nuit. Les Russes ont
 fait une attaque de nuit. Ils ont
 été repoussés. On a tué beaucoup de
 Russes. On a aussi tué beaucoup de
 Français. On a fait beaucoup de prisonniers.
 On a aussi fait beaucoup de blessés.
 On a aussi fait beaucoup de morts.
 On a aussi fait beaucoup de prisonniers.
 On a aussi fait beaucoup de blessés.
 On a aussi fait beaucoup de morts.

devant Sébastopol le 6 Juin 1855. 2^e Bataillon 1^{re} Compagnie

datelin

Monsieur
 Envoyé enseigne de vaisseau à bord
 de la Croiscale
 Rade de Tarna
 Turquie d'Europe

tax

backstamps: ARMÉE D

1855 arrival

Preparations for the September landings in Crimea:

Armée d'Orient.

Au Quartier général, à Therapia le 2 août 1854

Cabinet

du Maréchal

Commandant en Chef.

Excellence

Commandant en Chef
de l'Armée d'Orient.

A son Excellence le Seraskier

le Maréchal Commandant en Chef
l'Armée d'Orient

St-Arnaud

skier

hitherto unrecorded, possibly unique red 2-line cursive (franchise) marking

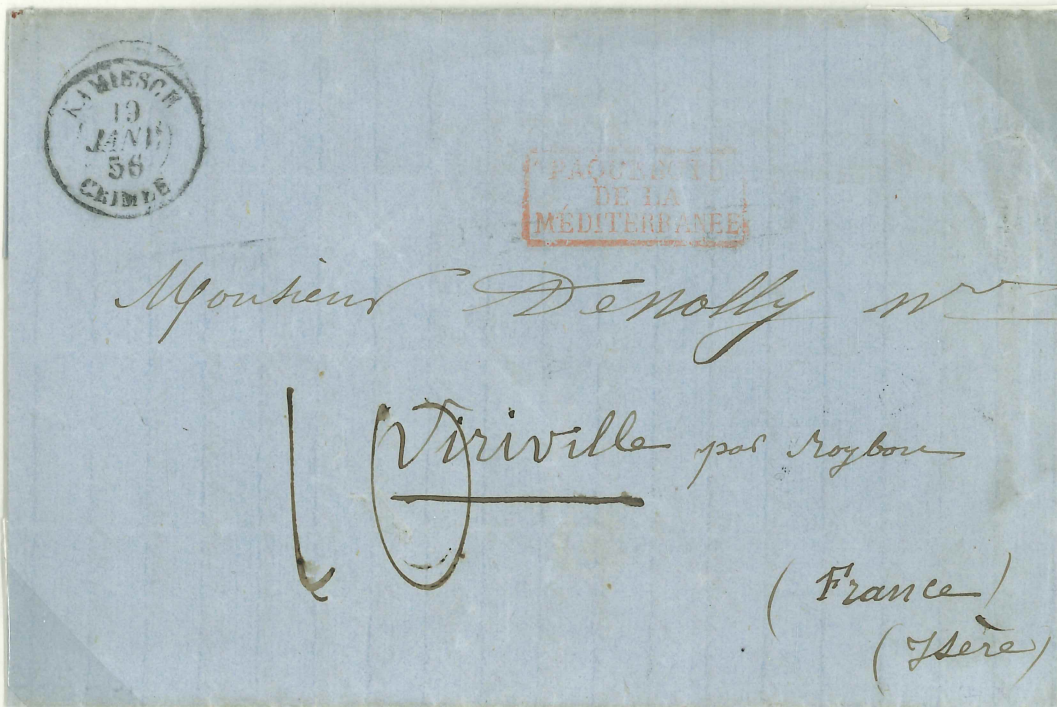
Commandant en Chef / de l'Armée d'Orient

[personal marking of army's first C-in-C, Marshal de Saint-Arnaud, soon to be replaced for illness and inactivity]
on envelope sent by courier to high Turkish official, from GHQ at Therapia (Greece), 2 August 1854,
requesting siege engines from the Grand Vizier;
written and signed by Marshal de Saint-Arnaud



the rare dotted outer circle KAMIESCH/ARMÉE D'ORIENT
military date stamp, 24 March 1855, to Corsica;
double-line 30c due
backstamps: Armée d'Orient, 26 March transit; 3 April arrival

(ex-"Oscar" coll.)



KAMIESCH/CRIMÉE, 19 Jan. 1856 civil bureau date stamp
red boxed PAQUEBOTS/DE LA/MÉDITERRANÉE
10 (décimes) tax
backstamps: 29 January transit and 31 January Roybon (Isère) arrival

(ex-"Oscar" coll.)

War with Russia (1854-56)

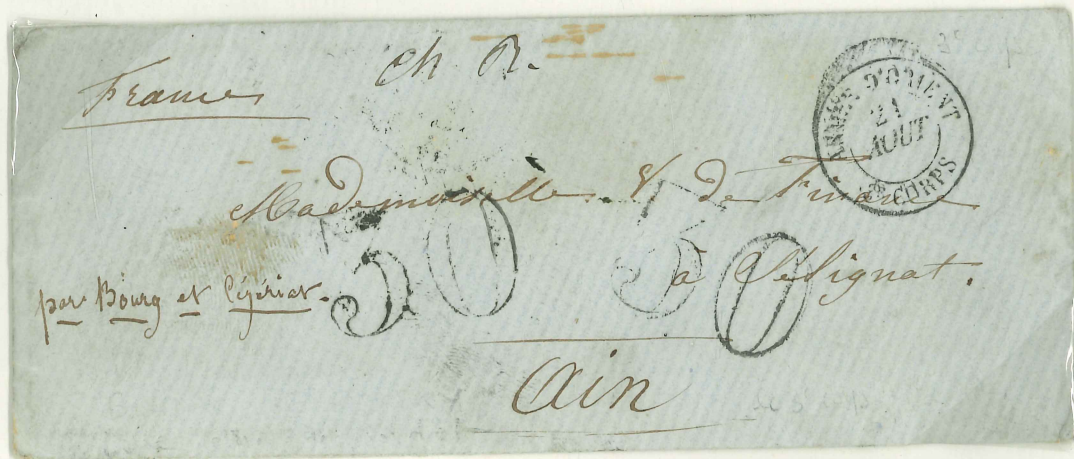
Crimea

French postal service of the *Armée d'Orient* consisted of many bureaus that served general headquarters, 3 corps, 16 divisional and sedentary entities, the Imperial Guard Brigade, and other units.

From April to 30 June 1854, officers paid the 25c 1x domestic rate, lower grades paid 20c; from 1 July 1854, all ranks paid the new 20c 1x domestic-letter rate. Unpaid letters taxed 25c until 30 June, and at 1.5x penalty rate (= 30c) from 1 July-on.



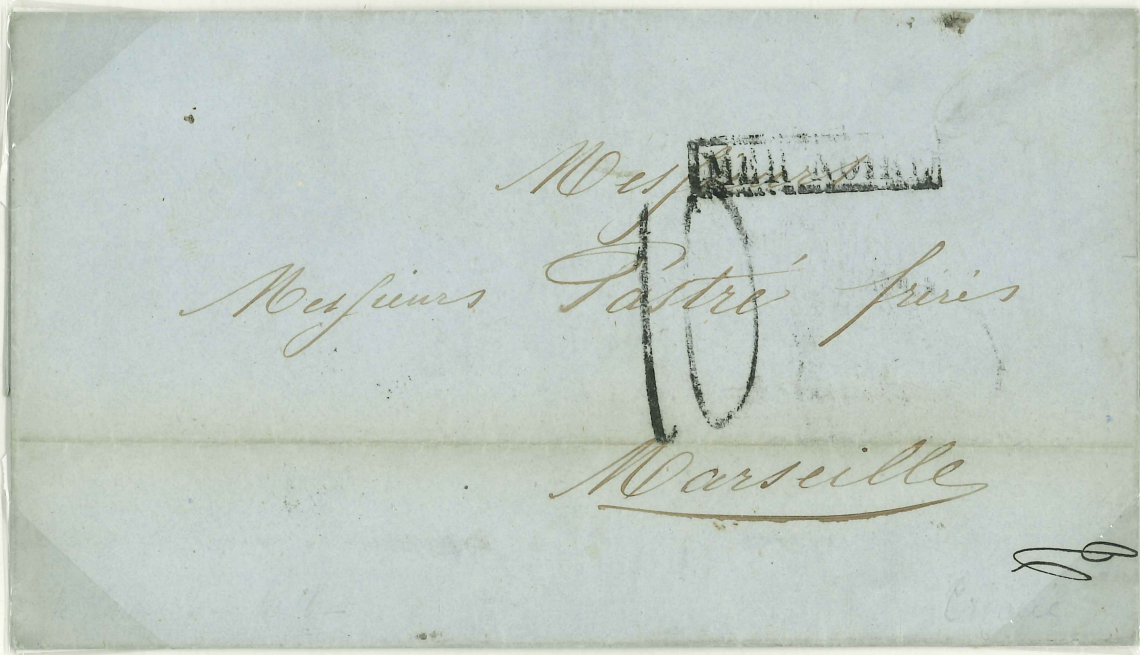
ARMÉE D'ORIENT/1^{ER} CORPS, 29 Dec. 1855, + AO1C killer
of 1st Corps
backstamps: Paris-Brest, 8 Jan. 1856 night train; Rennes, 9
January arrival



ARMÉE D'ORIENT/3^E CORPS, 21 Aug. [1855]
from bivouac at Petrowski, 10 leagues from Kamiesch; written after battle of
La Tchernaya
overweight 5-page letter, taxed 30c+30c
transit backstamps of 1-4 September, and 4 Sept. 1855 arrival

Military-civilian bureau at Kamiesch, Crimea

Bureau opened to public in 1855. Civilian mail received circular date stamp; military mail a black, framed MER NOIRE [Black Sea] marking upon offloading at Constantinople from Black Sea vessels without French postal agents aboard.



datelined Kamiesch, 1 Jan. 1855 [sic]
black boxed MER NOIRE transit marking
backstamps: Constantinople, 8 Jan. 1856 transit; 2 Marseille 2, 12 Jan. 1856 arrival

Although this is military mail, the 10 [décimes = 1 franc] due marking was the tax charged on 1x civilian letters, probably in the absence of *Armée d'Orient* date stamps.

Mail from France to military personnel in Crimea:



Meursault, Côte-d'Or, 13 March 1855; prepaid at 1x concessionary rate to military personnel, to French naval gunnery officer at naval camp of Armée d'Orient, off Sebastopol

backstamps: night train to Lyon, 14 March; Marseille, 15 March transit;
ARMÉE D'ORIENT/QUART^R G^{AL} [headquarters bureau], 25 March 1855 arrival



Paris, 9 Aug. 1855, to member of Imperial Guard's 1st Regt. "in the Orient"
Paris Route 18 (to Marseille) date stamp
20c 1x concessionary rate.
ARMÉE D'ORIENT/G^{DE} IMP^{LE}, 23 Aug. 1855 arrival backstamp



ARMÉE D'ORIENT/B^{AU} B, 30 May 1854; double-line 25 tax
 long letter home of 28 May, from camp at Boulakir
 backstamps; *Marseille, 7 June transit; Lyon, 8 June 1854 arrival*
 seldom-seen 25c [non-penalty rate] unpaid letter (duration less than 3 months)



ARMÉE D'ORIENT/B^{AU} C^{AL}, 8 Oct. 1855,
 to Maine-et-Loire Dept.
 AOBC killer of Central Bureau, at
 Constantinople

325f

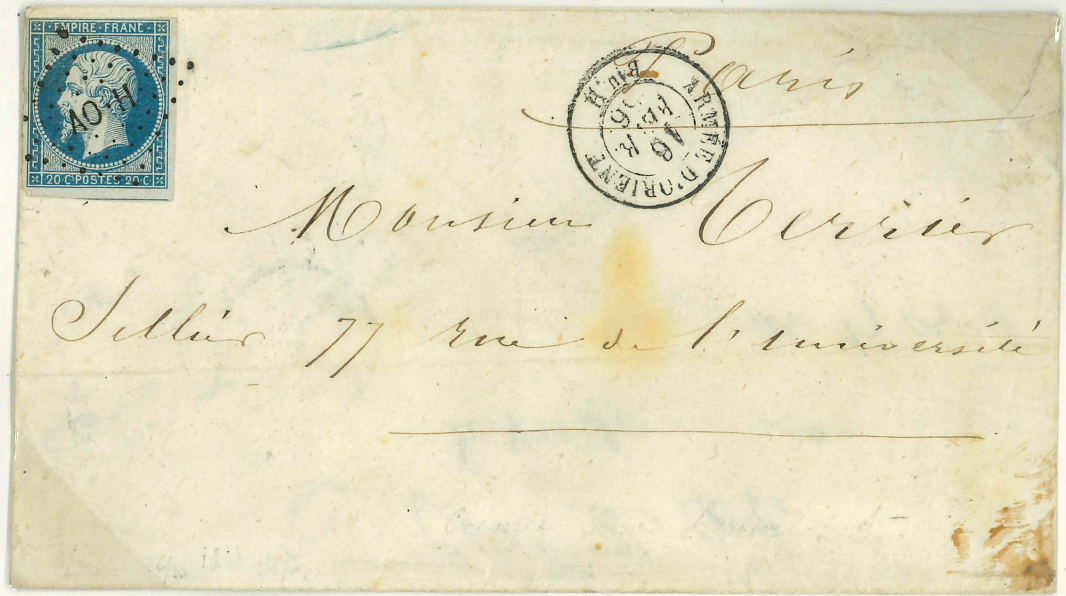


ARMÉE D'ORIENT/B^{AU} SED^{RE}. b25e
 5 Sept. 1855
 + AOBS killer of sedentary (fixed-site)
 bureau at Gallipoli
 backstamps: *17 September Lyon transit*
and 18 Sept. 1855 arrival

2506 X2



ARMÉE D'ORIENT/B^{AU} F,
 1 May 1855, +
 AO-F killers on 20c stamps;
 40c 2x letter;
 16 May transit and 18 May
 Le Puy-en-Velay arrival
 backstamps
 (ex-P. Foster)



ARMÉE D'ORIENT/B^{AU} H,
 16 Feb. 1856, +
 AO-H killer of Bureau H
 Paris, 1 March arrival
 backstamp



ARMÉE D'ORIENT/B^{AU} C, 17 Nov. 1855
 double outer circle date stamp used only by
 Bureau **G**
 unpaid letter, taxed 30c
 29 November transit, and 30 November
 Mirepoix arrival backstamp