

Events Leading up to the French Indochina War
as Illustrated by the
Production and Materials Used in Stamp Printing
1944 - 49



THE FRENCH INDOCHINA WAR
Nov. 20, 1946 – July 5, 1954



Stamp Printing In Vietnam Between 1945-1949 Illustrates The Following:

- Famine of North Vietnam motivated support for Vietminh
- Japanese surrendered to the Vietminh not to “Allies”
- Agreement signed by the French and Vietminh
- Agreement first violated by the French
- Violation of the agreement on November 20, 1946
started the French Indochina War

1945

Democratic Republic Of Vietnam



- Japanese surrender to Vietminh – “Asia for Asians”
- IDEO marking indicates printing in Hanoi
- Good quality stamp press with quality paper and ink



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1946



- Agreement signed by the French recognizes DRV
- VANTC marking indicates printing in Hanoi
- Good quality stamp press with quality paper and ink



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* Imprimerie d'Extreme-Orient
* * Viet Nam An Thu Cuc.
(Bank of Hanoi)

1945 Democratic Republic of Vietnam Overprint Stamps

French Navy Officers



Admiral
Charner



Admiral Pierre de
La Grandiere



Admiral
Courbet



Admiral Regault
de Genouilly



Lt. Francois
Garnier



Doudart de
Lagree

Governor Generals



Gov.Gen.Joost
Vollenhoven



Gov.Gen.
Pierre Pasquier



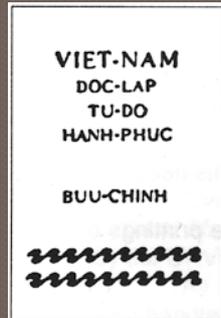
Gov.Gen
.J.M.A deLanesan

Cambodian King



King Sihanouk





DRV Overprint Slogan
“Independence. Freedom Happiness”

Paul Doumer French Indochina 10th Governor-General 1897-1902

- Constructed Trans-Indochinese railway
- Built the port of Haiphong
- Developed an opium monopoly that continued until 1945
- Constructed a modern efficient opium refinery in Saigon
- Purchased China's cheap opium to sell to poor Vietnamese workers
- Returned to France, became President of the French Republic



DRV Overprint Slogan
“Famine Relief”

The Indochina Famine of 1944 - 45

Jean Decoux, Governor-General June 1940 – March 1945

- French-Japanese government planted industrial crops (jute, oil seeds, and opium) instead of rice.
- Floods prevented rice shipments to north Indochina
- French Indochina government did nothing to help.
- The death toll exceeded 600,000 Vietnamese civilians
- After Japanese surrender the Vietminh launched a nationwide planting program of food crops
- The Vietminh credited for ending famine by Mar.1946

1946

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam



The Agreement of March 6, 1946:

- The Agreement signed by France and Vietnam
- DRV recognized as a “Free State, having its own Government and Parliament”
- Allowed the French to replace the Chinese army for 5 year transition period.
- Received criticism from both the French and Vietminh

Nov. 20, 1946 – Agreement violated by France

- The French “Teach the Vietnamese a hard lesson.” over Haiphong customs collection argument.
- French bombardment of Haiphong kills 6,000 Vietnamese civilians.
- Vietminh government and army move to jungle.



Dec. 19, 1946 – Agreement violated by Vietminh

- Vietminh attack Hanoi at night killing 35 French civilians
- Power plant and stamp printing plant destroyed

1948

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam



- Printed with stamp presses on poor quality paper somewhere in the jungle.
- Democratic Republic of Vietnam print stamps to show it is the only legitimate government of Vietnam.
- Democratic Republic of Vietnam continues to fight the French **without** support from Russia or China.
- These are the only Vietnam stamps printed from 1947 - 1949

Motivation of the North Vietnamese to Support the Vietminh

1944



Famine

1945



Japanese Surrender

1946



Agreement Signed

1948



DRV in Jungle

- Famine of North Vietnam motivated support for Vietminh
- Japanese surrendered to the Vietminh not to “Allies”
- Agreement signed by the French and Vietminh
- Agreement first violated by the French
- French Indochina War started on November 20, 1946

THE END
of
Presentation

(Almost)

1951



Hoa Chi Minh Goal
All of Vietnam Map

1954

The Three Amigos



Malenkov, Hoa Chi Minh, Mao
Friendship

1954

Victory at Dien Bien Phu



- 1950 - Russia and China provide weapons to North Vietnam
- 1954 – Domino theory experts attempt to prove their theory.



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COMMAND & GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE

Japanese Forces Destined for Southern Operations
(French Indo-China, Hainan Island, South China, Formosa, Amami Oshima, Palau, and Bonin Islands
6 September 1941

2nd Artillery Regiment (18-75mm guns & 9 150mm how)
2nd Engineer Regiment
2nd Signal Unit
2nd Transport Regiment
56th Mixed Infantry Brigade
organization unknown

Other:
21st Independent Air Unit
21st Independent Mixed Brigade
4th Independent Mixed Brigade
2nd Independent Engineer Company
3rd Rail Transport Department
2nd Field Military Police Headquarters
South Seas Detachment: Maj. Gen. Tomitaro Horii
55th Infantry Group Headquarters
44th Infantry Regiment
1 Battalion, 55th Mountain Artillery Regiment
1 Company, 15th Engineer Regiment

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SOUTHERN ARMY

Southern Army Commander-in-Chief: General Count Juichi Terauchi

14th Army

16th Division

9th Infantry Regiment
20th Infantry Regiment
33rd Infantry Regiment
16th Reconnaissance Regiment
22nd Artillery Regiment (12-75mm guns & 24 105mm how)
16th Engineer Regiment
16th Signal Unit
16th Transport Regiment

48th Division

1st Formosa Infantry Regiment
2nd Formosa Infantry Regiment
47th Infantry Regiment
48th Reconnaissance Regiment
48th Artillery Regiment (36-75mm mountain guns)
48th Engineer Regiment
48th Signal Unit
48th Transport Regiment

65th Brigade

141st Infantry Regiment
65th Brigade Engineer Unit
65th Brigade Signal Unit

15th Army:

33rd Division

213th Infantry Regiment
214th Infantry Regiment
215th Infantry Regiment
33rd Mountain Artillery Regiment (36-75mm mountain guns)
33rd Engineer Regiment
33rd Signal Unit
33rd Transport Regiment

55th Division

55th Infantry Group
112th Infantry Regiment
143rd Infantry Regiment
144th Infantry Regiment
55th Cavalry Regiment
55th Mountain Artillery Regiment (36-75mm mountain guns)
55th Engineer Regiment
55th Signal Unit
55th Transport Regiment

16th Army

2nd Division

4th Infantry Regiment
16th Infantry Regiment
29th Infantry Regiment
2nd Reconnaissance Regiment

25th Army:

Imperial Guard Division

1st Guard Infantry Regiment
2nd Guard Infantry Regiment
6th Guard Infantry Regiment
Guard Cavalry Regiment
1st Guard Artillery Regiment (36-75mm guns)
1st Guard Engineer Regiment
1st Guard Signal Unit
1st Guard Transport Regiment

5th Division

11th Infantry Regiment
21st Infantry Regiment
42nd Infantry Regiment
5th Reconnaissance Regiment
5th Artillery Regiment (24-75mm guns & 12-105mm how)
5th Engineer Regiment
5th Signal Unit
5th Transport Regiment

18th Division

55th Infantry Regiment
56th Infantry Regiment
114th Infantry Regiment
18th Mountain Artillery Regiment (36-75mm mountain guns)
12th Engineer Regiment
18th Signal Unit
12th Transport Regiment

21st Division

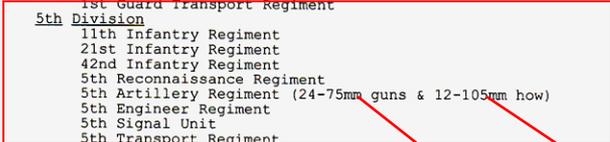
62nd Infantry Regiment
82nd Infantry Regiment
93rd Infantry Regiment
21st Division Tankette Company
51st Mountain Artillery Regiment (36-75mm mountain guns)
21st Engineer Regiment
21st Signal Unit
21st Transport Regiment

3rd Air Group:

4 Fighter Regiments
3 Light Bomber Regiments
3 Heavy Bomber Regiments
1 Reconnaissance Regiment

5th Air Group:

2 Fighter Regiments
3 Light Bomber Regiments
2 Heavy Bomber Regiments



Japanese 5th Division

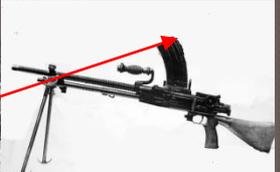
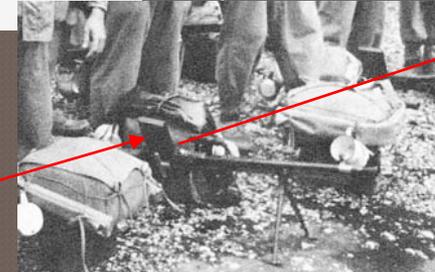


75 mm



105 mm

1954 Vietminh troops reoccupation of Hanoi



Russian