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

1946

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

* Imprimerie d'Extreme-Orient
* ∗ Viet Nam An Thu Cuc.
  (Bank of Hanoi)
1941-44
Vichy French Indochina

- Printed with good quality stamp press
- IDEO marking indicates printing in Hanoi
- Stamps honor those helpful to French Indochina
- Printing plant controlled by the Japanese

1945
Democratic Republic Of Vietnam

- Overprinted with good quality stamp press.
- IDEO marking indicates printing in Hanoi
- Indicates Japanese surrender of printing plant to Vietminh

Overprinting the face or body is intended to show disrespect.

1953 Farouk of Egypt

Imprimerie d'Extreme-Orient
Admiral Charner
Admiral Pierre de La Grandiere
Admiral Courbet
Admiral Regault de Genouilly
Lt. Francois Garnier
Doudart de Lagree

Gov.Gen. Joost Vollenhoven
Gov.Gen. Pierre Pasquier
Gov.Gen. J.M.A deLanesan

King Sihanouk
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
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
The Democratic Republic of Vietnam

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
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.
Japanese Forces Destined for Southern Operations
(French Indochina, Hainan Island, South China, Formosa, Anam, Cohima, Palau, and Bonin Islands)
6 September 1941

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 Formose Infantry Regiment
2nd Formose 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

2nd Artillery Regiment (18-75mm guns & 9 150mm how)
2nd Engineer Regiment
2nd Signal Unit
2nd Transport Regiment

5th Japanese Mixed Infantry Brigade
organization unknown

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
18th Transport Regiment

21st Division
62nd Infantry Regiment
82nd Infantry Regiment
83rd Infantry Regiment
21st Division Tankette Company
51st Mountain Artillery Regiment (36-75mm mountain guns)
21st Engineer Regiment
21st Signal Unit
21st Transport Regiment

2nd Air Group:
4 Fighter Regiments
3 Light Bomber Regiments
3 Heavy Bomber Regiments
1 Reconnaissance Regiment

4th Air Group:
2 Fighter Regiments
3 Light Bomber Regiments
2 Heavy Bomber Regiments

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 East Detachment: Maj. Gen. Tomitaro Norii
55th Infantry Group Headquarters
44th Infantry Regiment
1 Battalion, 55th Mountain Artillery Regiment
1 Company, 15th Engineer Regiment

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