

VIETNAM'S COMMUNIST INSURGENT MILITARY MAIL 1959 – 1975

The Communist **People's Army of Vietnam** (P.A.V.N.), also later known as the **Viet Cong** (V.C.), those guerilla forces indigenous to South Vietnam, and the **North Vietnamese Army** (N.V.A.) operated a functioning postal system that enabled soldiers to send and receive mail at the unit level during combat operations.

This exhibit illustrates the story of the military mail of the V.C. and the N.V.A. units operating in the South and/or corresponding internally in the North from **1959** when the Viet Cong in Quang Ngai province South of Da Nang first initiated armed uprisings against the Saigon government until the fall of Saigon on **April 30, 1975**.



Little of this 20th Century material survived the war period, making them extremely difficult to obtain. These examples came from mail captured during combat operations or found in storage tunnels after the war, archives, and correspondence with civilian recipients. The exhibit starts with an overview of the development of military postal operations. It concludes with a secret postal instruction document that details the routes and handling of mail late in the war and a last day usage at the Saigon post office. The exhibit presents Vietnam's Communist Military Mail usages in twelve sections to illustrate the evolution of their operations: (Red borders denote particular significance.)

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| I. Early Mail 1959-1960s | VII. Redirected, Forwarded, & Censored |
| II. Military Issue Adhesives | VIII. POW and Command Usages |
| III. Propaganda | IX. Urgent/Expedite Markings |
| IV. Patriotics | X. Communist Allies' Involvement |
| V. Adversity Usages | XI. Secret Markings; Command Center |
| VI. Captured Mail & Security Usages | XII. American Withdrawal; Capture of Saigon |

Overview of Military Postal Operations



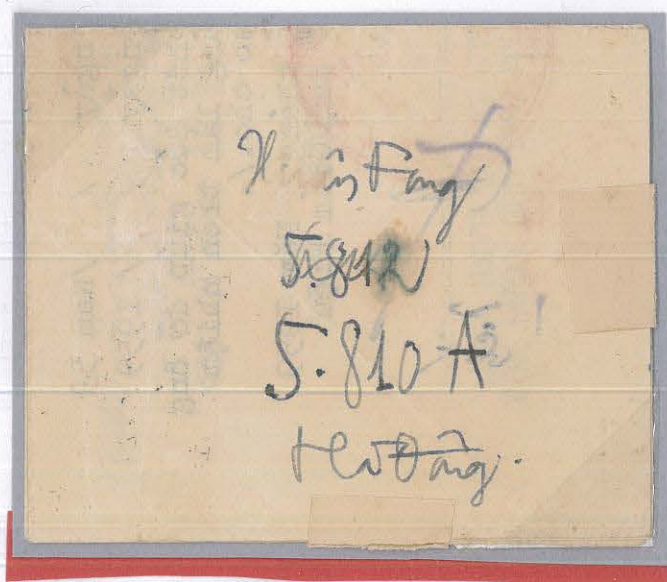
Hanoi fancy cancel February 3, 1965
1965 Issue: 35th Anniversary of Vietnamese Workers Party

- **Field post offices** were organized by sections and staffed by dedicated full-time personnel with district officers reporting to province officer. Staffing included political officers as censors, liaison agents between districts, 10-15 section route couriers, **Giao Liens**, per district, and security guards.
- District sections, receiving mail from route section **couriers**, sorted, forwarded and delivered mail to military units at regional levels, among them **Cau Sau**, a folk hero like Uncle Remis.
- Stringent **security** requirements directed military units to destroy all mail received, after it was read.
- Stamps were often removed from captured mail by N.V.A. or V.C. **censors** and regularly by U.S. G-2 intelligence officials to find hidden messages underneath stamps.
- Urgent, Top Secret, Expedite, or Rush **markings** received **priority handling** at Section Command Centers.
- N.V.A. and V.C. routed mails from the South to North through Quang Ngai and then to the central **Command Center** in Cambodia, **COSVN**, which was the Committee for South Vietnam, and finally north via the **Ho Chi Minh Trail**. South bound mail followed this path also.
- Postal addresses to **Hop Tho** numbers refer to individuals.
- Postal addresses to **Hom Thu** numbers refer to units and were changed frequently for security purposes.
- Senders' and recipients' names appear on most covers with a **letterbox** designation.
- **Military Frank** issued adhesives were printed from 1958 to 1975. They were without denomination, to be distributed two stamps per soldier per month for personal mail back home. Almost all military mail to or from home took 2 to 3 months for delivery.
- Constant movement of N.V.A. and V.C. units made receiving and sending mails difficult because their Southern positions were not fixed until 1973 after the U.S. forces withdrew.



I. Early Mail 1959 – 1960's

1959 P.A.V.N. / V.C. Correspondence



BO CÔNG NGHIỆP
TRƯỜNG KỸ THUẬT
TRUNG CẤP II

VIỆT NAM DÂN CHỦ CÔNG HOÀ
ĐOÀN LẬP TỰ DO HẠNH PHÚC
=====

Số: ³⁷⁹379/VPKT

GIẤY GIỚI THIỆU
=====

Trường Kỹ Thuật Trung Cấp II Bộ Công Nghiệp
Xin giới thiệu: *Nguyễn Phan Nhân*
Chức vụ: *Chủ tịch của trường (quản nhân công)*
Đến:
Lý do:

Giấy này có giá trị từ ngày / / Nam 59
đến ngày / / 1959

Yêu cầu quý cơ quan hết sức giúp đỡ ông
được mọi sự dễ dàng làm tròn nhiệm
vụ công tác do Trường giao cho. /.

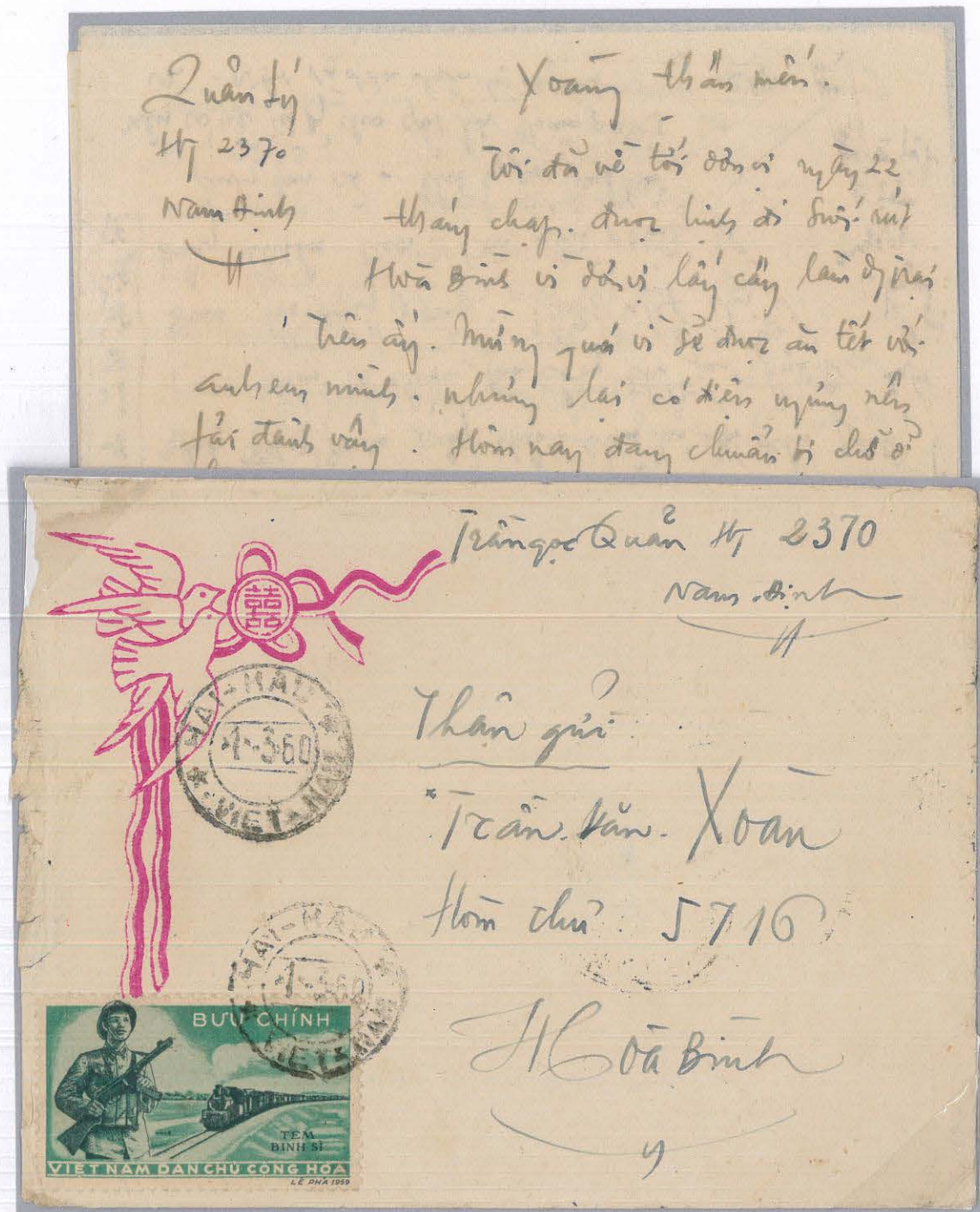
Chữ ký người
cầm giấy

Ngày tháng Năm 1959
T. Ban Giám Hiệu

[Red circular stamp and handwritten signatures are visible at the bottom of the form.]

The Communist tribal leaders and loyalists in South Vietnam, initiated armed uprisings against their government in Saigon in 1959. This folded form used as an envelope, addressed to Hom Thu #5.810A unit, operating near the Quang Ngai Province south of DaNang where fighting broke out, bears the handstamp of a Ward Leader. The trade school form offers their reference for the soldier, Nguyen Phan Nhan. One of seven recorded 1959 usages.

1960 Usage of Military Frank Adhesive N.V.A. In Country



Military Frank 1959 Issue: Soldier and Train
N.V.A. soldiers were issued two stamps each month for postage.
Usage: Hai-Maut to Hoa Binh March 4, 1960.

Military to military usage in the North with four digit Hop Tho No. 2370 which designates an individual and Hom Thu No. 5716 which designates a military unit. Letter discusses family matters, separation, and updates on status/whereabouts.

N.V.A. Incoming Mails



Usage: North to South, containing a map of Northern I Corps. Circa 1967-1968, with routing north through Cambodia, having originated there. Military to military usage without content of letter to tell the purpose of the map enclosure. Addressed to Hom Thu #92176 L-T through Cau Sau transfer station.

Very Early V.C. Mail with "G.M." Designation

Nguyễn V. Minh
HT 737
G. M. Trần quốc Tuấn
KG
Nguyễn Lê
7 phu long
X phu đung
A Đức pho T. Quang di

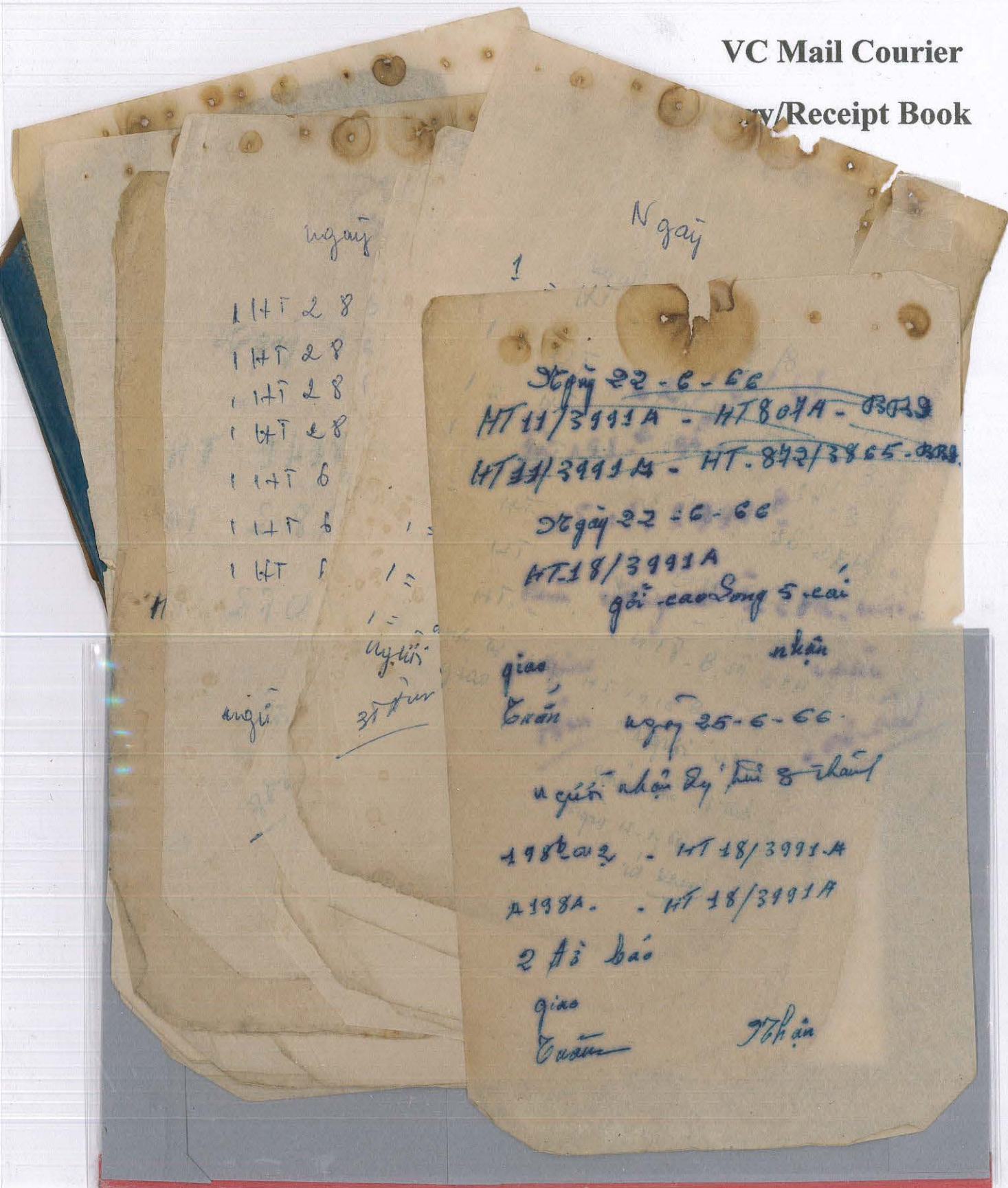
HT 759 GM, TAT.
Ngôi
ca lam di
lo Khanh Pien
Truong Kim V.

Chú Trường
Gửi cháu
Dương Kim Trung
20.814 - GM.
An. bình.

Enemy forces mail captured prior to 1965 is extremely rare due to the fact that South Vietnamese military forces saw little need to retain captured mail for its possible intelligence value. Surviving examples of mail taken prior to the widening of the war usually are marked with initials "G.M." presumed to be a unit designation. All three examples were used within the South and probably contained political content rather than military or personal. Circa 1964.

VC Mail Courier

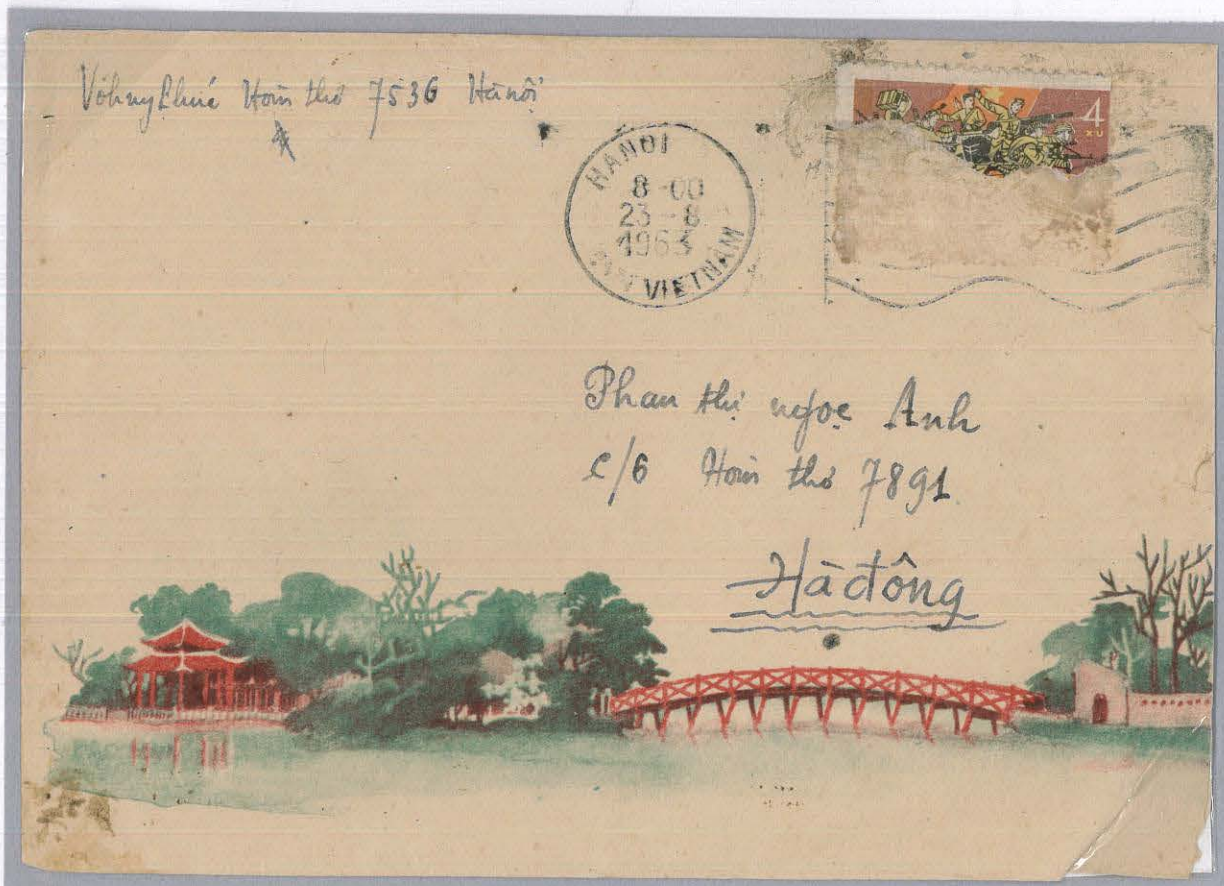
Receipt Book



From a VC Postal Unit at Binh Duong, Tay Ninh Province, and Doi Giao Lien, a liaison unit. Each page of the booklet records the date, mail box code, and signature of recipient or sender: 245 letters recorded in this book, between June 1 and September 15, 1966. Only known copy.

Early N.V.A. Mail

1964 Issue:
Irrigation for
Agriculture
Usage:
From Hanoi to
Hom Thu unit



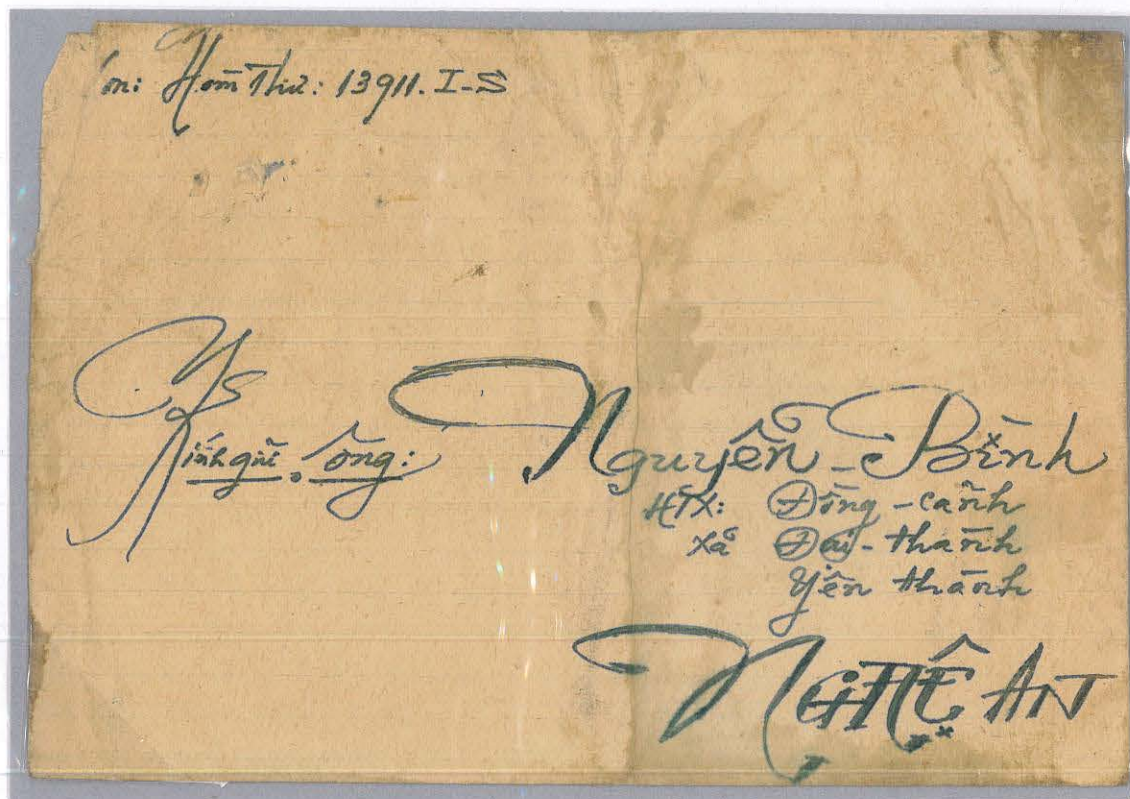
1961 Issue:
Resistance Fighters in
15th Anniversary of
National Resistance
issue
Hanoi machine cancel
August 23, 1963 to a
deployed N.V.A. unit



Ha Dong receiving
cancel on reverse

Stamp peeled off when captured, looking for messages under the adhesive.

Northbound Mail via the Ho Chi Minh Trail

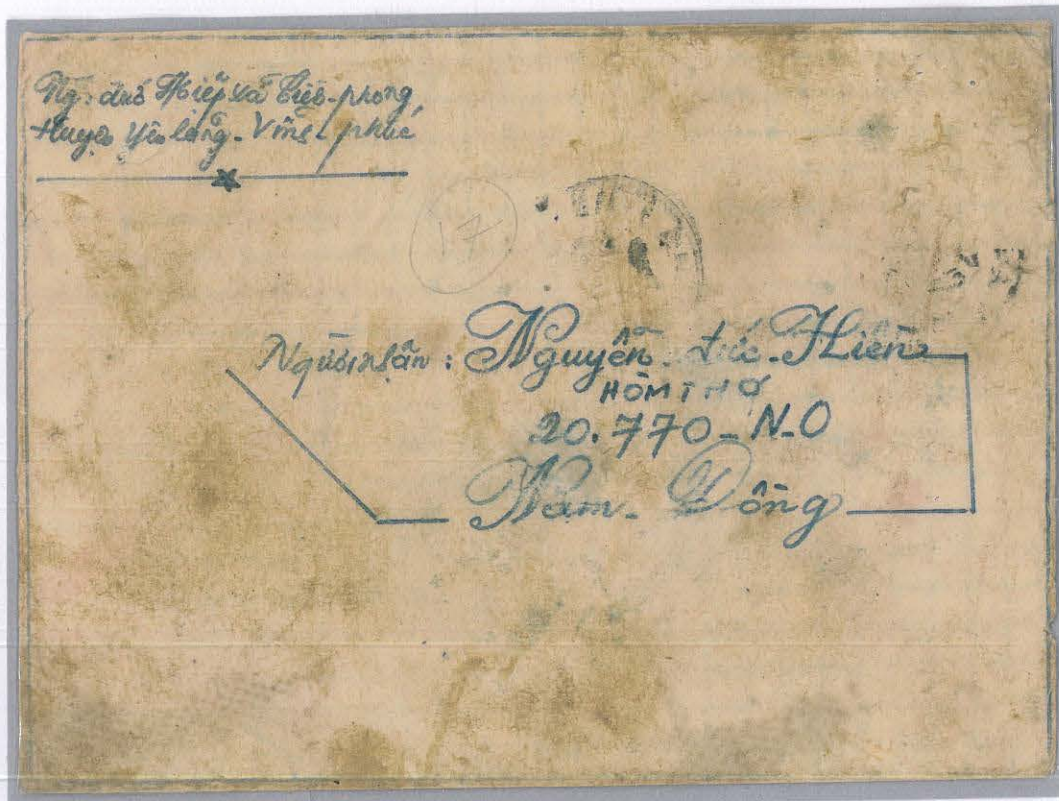


Cover damaged and stained, captured en route to Nghe Anh, Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Sent from HT No. 13911 IS, location unknown.

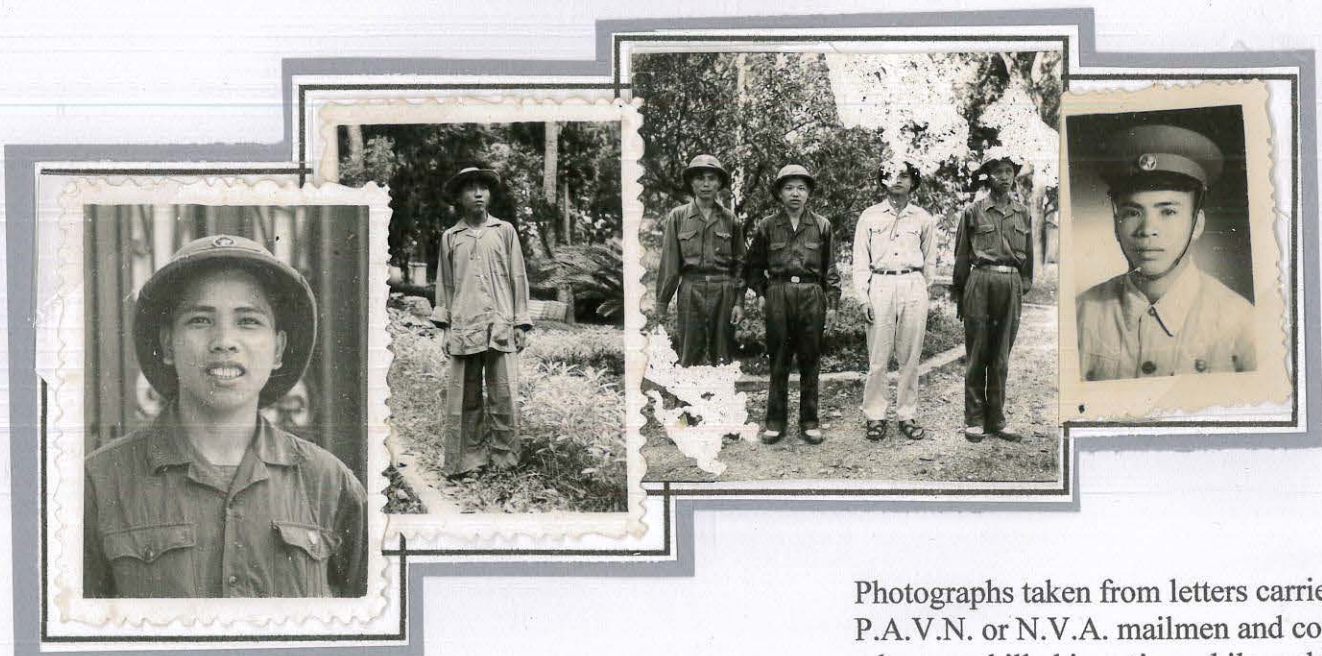
Few surviving V.C. or N.V.A. letters or mail to North Vietnam from those units fighting in the South exist. These reasons account for this scarcity:

- 1) Writing home officially discouraged to prevent demoralizing news from reaching those who lived in the North.
- 2) Illiteracy reduced the population of writers.
- 3) N.V.A. / V.C. instruction that all mail be destroyed after reading, for security.
- 4) Captured mail also destroyed after inspection.
- 5) Extremely high mortality rate among couriers and liaison personnel.
- 6) Noticeably fewer live letter writers as the war progressed, as an estimated 1,200,000 casualties were suffered by the Viet Cong and N.V.A.
- 7) Hostile climate of high moisture.

Southbound N.V.A. Mail

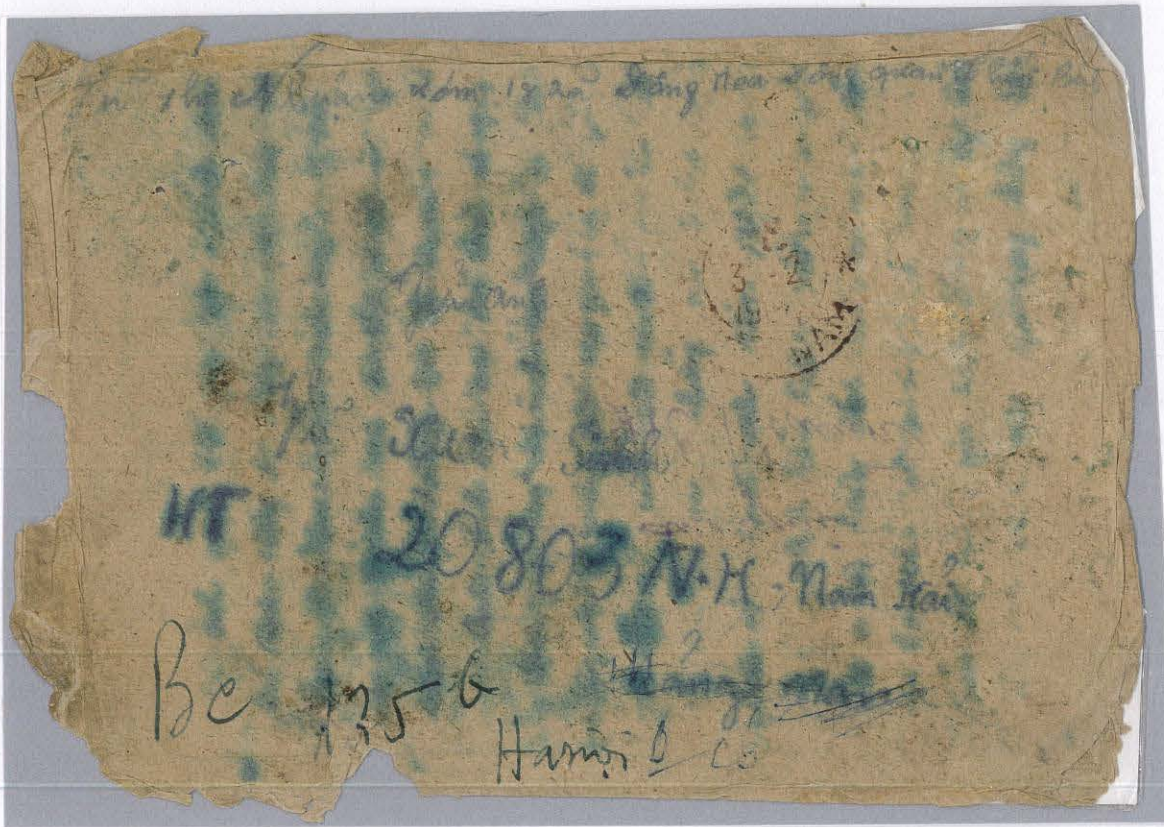


Known examples of North to South captured N.V.A. mail from the 1960-1963 period are few in number. The N.V.A. battlefield mail system was still unsophisticated and with the American build-up of forces, later many more couriers were targeted and mail intercepted. This example has inscription on backflap "South to North" although Nam Dong is located near Dalat in the South. Stamp removed after capture; cancellation applied in the North.



Photographs taken from letters carried by P.A.V.N. or N.V.A. mailmen and couriers who were killed in action while making mail transfers. All are taken from covers displayed in this exhibit.

Mail Damaged in Transit

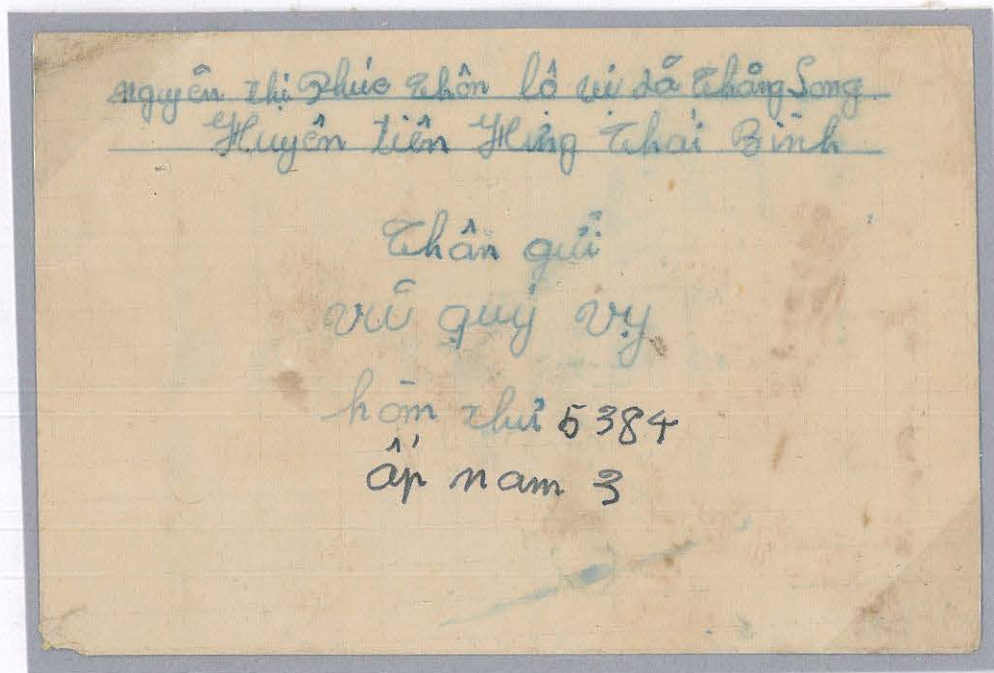


Letter damaged by water immersion prior to being taken from body of communications courier. Photograph below shows courier this letter was taken from. Additional mail and other documents are seen floating on water. Location: Bo Woods, Northwest of Saigon.

The common way mails were damaged in transit down the Ho Chi Minh Trail or within Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam was from combat initiated by allied forces. Such mail was often missed and suffered further environmental and immersion damages until it was recovered. The provenance of this cover can be traced to the military intelligence officer who took the photograph. Circa 1966.

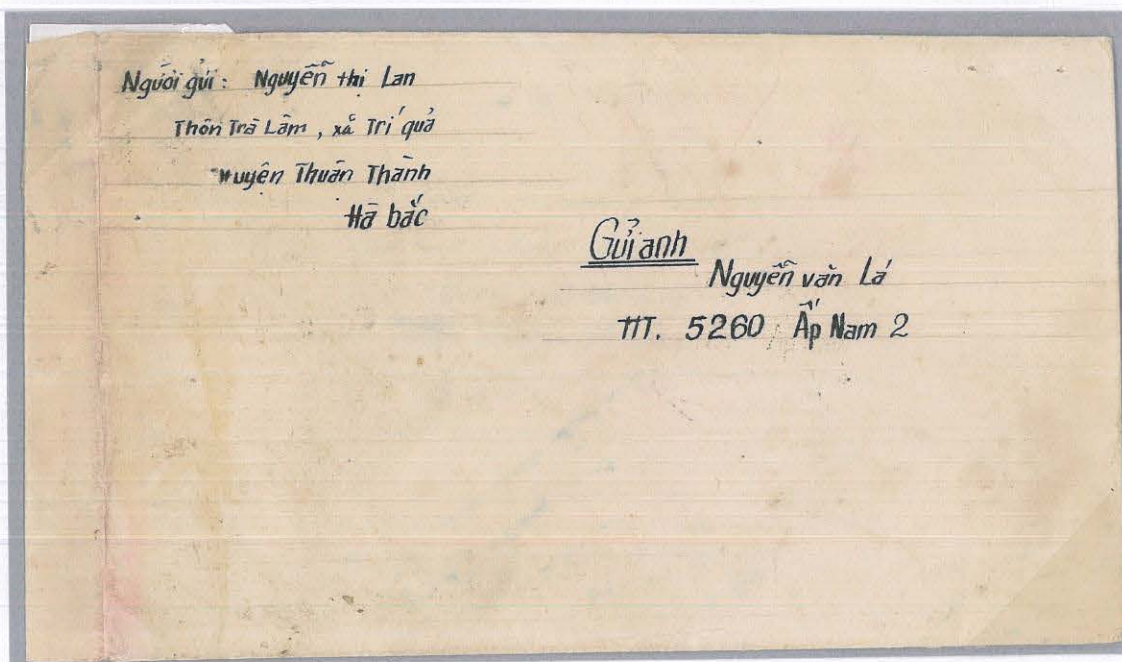


Letterbox Locator/Transfer Offices



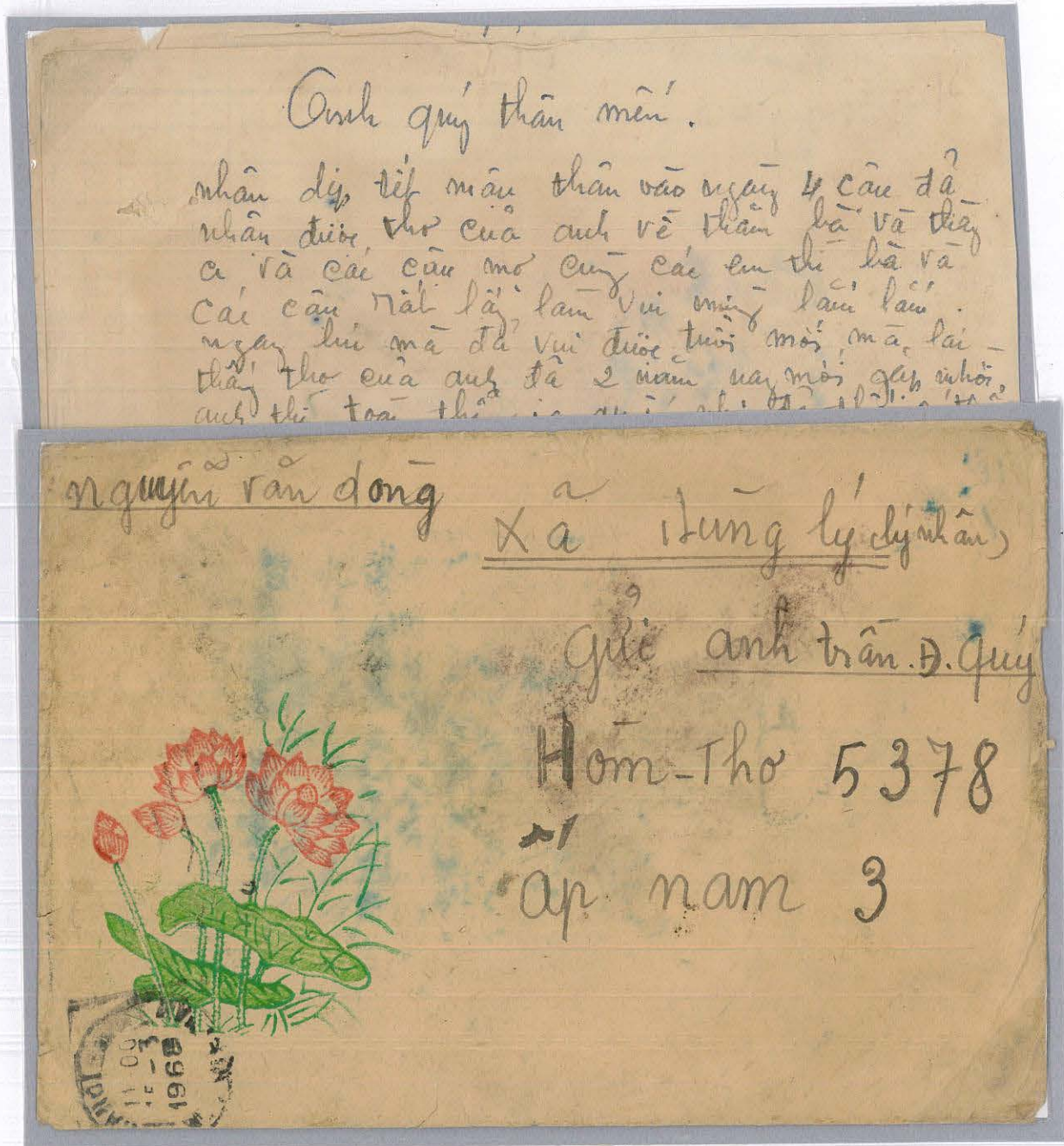
Partially addressed from Thai Binh, Democratic Republic of Vietnam and then addressed and relayed to intended recipient in the Mekong Delta.

As the locations of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army Units were fluid and mobile, many letter writers had no idea of the unit number, or geographic locations of the intended recipient. In this case, the Hom Thu No. was left blank to be filled in by transfer clerks in Cambodia, Laos, and South Vietnam. Note different color of inks. Bundles of such letters were assembled in the North and transported down the "Trail" in plastic wrapped "Ambulance" packets.



Sender Nguyen Thi Lam at Ha Bac, North Vietnam writing Nguyen Van La at Ap Nam 2 (II Corps) Letter captured in 1967 in military operations against U.S. Army Forces.

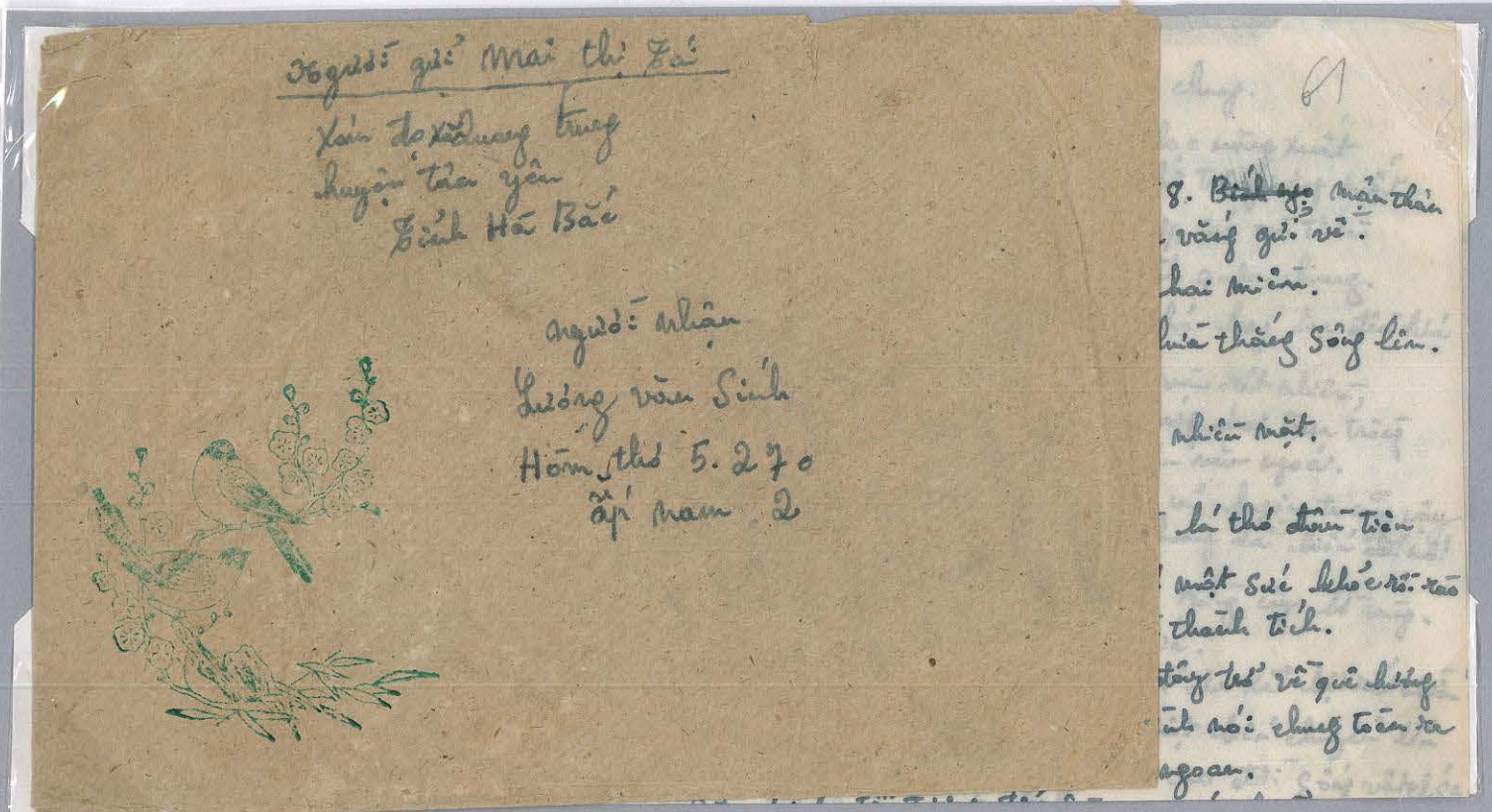
North to South Usage On Decorated Envelope



Sent by wounded North Vietnamese soldier to brother in the South without military frank stamp. Hanoi, North Vietnam machine cancel dated March 15, 1968.

The Lotus plant, especially the flower, has long been a sacred symbol in all of Southeast Asia. In 1966, battalions began to use a successful envelopment tactic known as the "enfolding Lotus." Much refined and tested, the tactic eventually became known as the "exploding Lotus." Thus, the appearance of the Lotus as a cachet on large numbers of patriotic covers sent by wounded soldiers held a special significance. An uncle in the North is writing a nephew in the South, and conveying greetings.

N.V.A. North to South Usage On Decorated Stationary



March 11, 1968 to
HT 5270 Ap Nam 2.

Writer discusses
achieving village
quotas on rice
production.

Feb. 2, 1968
to Cau Sau
Transfer Station
Hanoi
Machine cancel
Stamp removed



Both covers entered the mail system from units deployed in the D.M.Z. either the 308th or 324th Division. The bottom item: stamp removed by the 3rd Marine Division Intelligence in I Corps at Dong Ha. Cau Sau address disguised soldier recipient's location.

Lê Thị Bảo - ngày 30-2-68

Mến gửi anh Thanh Giang
anh giảng yên mind
hôm nay em tranh thủ liền thư cho anh -ona em kể
to biết lại chuyện quê hương cho anh nghe
+ đang hỏi anh ở nhà có mới bằng giờ thì có khác so với những
gì đã từng thấy. Khó để viết lộn, nhưng em cố gắng nhanh nhất để trả lời
đáp lại anh.

Hà Nội ngày 30 tháng 2 năm 1968

HT 16.077IR

Thân gửi Nguyễn Xuân Dóm
HT 92175 LT Cầm Sơn

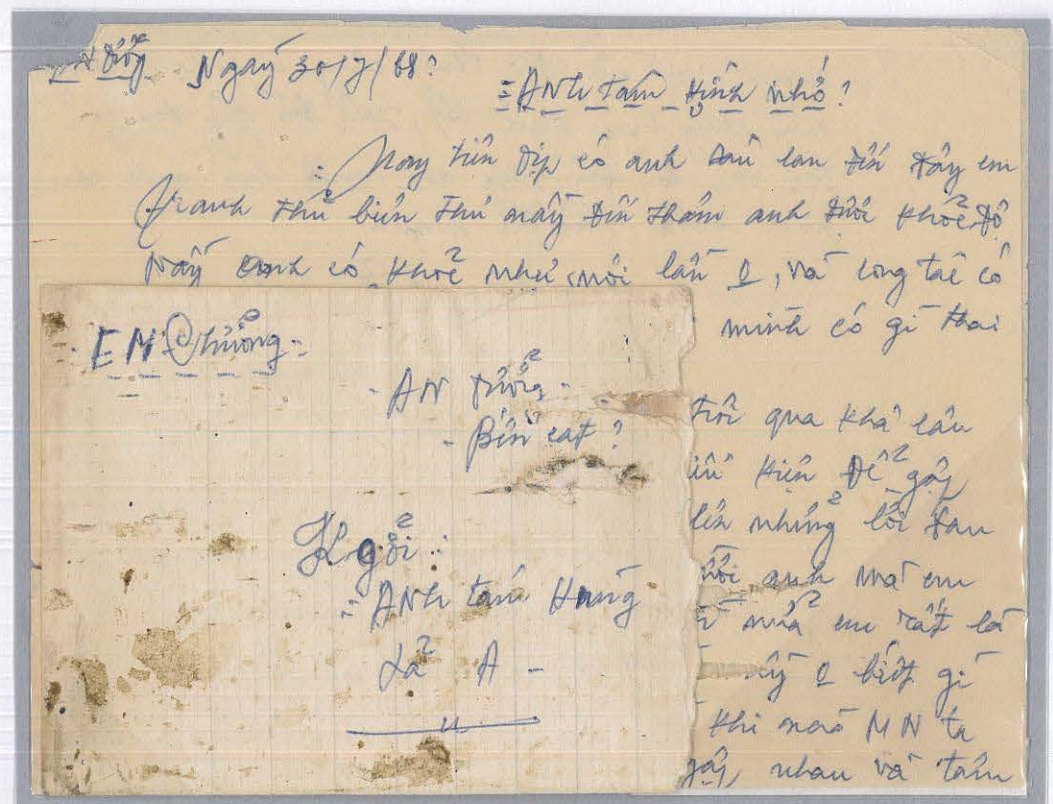
Soldiers' letters captured during the war showed them to be very similar to their American or South Vietnamese counterparts in one very important way – all wanted mail from home. The soldier's wife laments that he has not received a letter in over two years. She discusses hardships at home, home village demolished by B-52 raid, "Black Crows." It reads, "They killed a lot of people."

Contaminated Mails



Contaminated blood stained Viet Cong military cover taken from courier evading pursuit by 9th Infantry Division during Tet attacks, near Ho Bo Woods.

Viet Cong guerrilla cover and letter contaminated with blood of dead owner, captured prior to mailing at Lai Khe for delivery by courier to Ben Cat, five miles north. Letter written Feb. 30, 1968 {sic} notes the writer's recent feeling that he "will not be alive much longer." He is recuperating in a clinic with an eye injury.



Human blood shed by mail and communications couriers was one of the most common battlefield contaminants. Occasionally mail salvaged from a dead courier by another courier was then taken from the second courier's body. The guerilla penchant for carrying away their casualties was more battlefield expedience and security protection than humanitarianism.

Typical V.C. Usages

Các Anh Linh nhỏ cu
 Tay em tam thư này gửi đi
 mạnh vì chiếc cái anh eff tốt đi đáp rui
 Các anh mìn: Không có gì
 cảm giữa rừng sông và trong giếng
 cảm này Không biết nói sau mà ch
 Các anh à, do dân mà anh
 biết? chái do bọn khảimân nó vào an
 đi nó đánh lại ta, thì em không bao
 oanh tuy mà dôm dân, thì em ra chi
 lại cái anh, gặp cái anh cũng như
 anh cha nhà một nốt đó phan
 Đồ này sức khỏe của các
 Không còn eff như thế nào, báo cho em
 em báo phan cái em cho các anh rồ

Em Hồng E 4

Linh Gửi
 Anh Hai E 11
 Kèm 1 số Leo dân sông
 14, 8, 68

Usage: Viet Cong folded
 letter August 19, 1968
 Comrade to comrade
 "Thanks to the enemy
 (Americans) we know
 each other."

Usage: South to North Viet Cong
 military to either a civilian or political
 officer. Made from a ledger form. Six
 characteristics:

- Less than 3 inches on any side
- No postal markings
- Few if any origin markings
- Made from ruled notebook paper
- Recipient's location omitted
- No censor marks

Con Phan Công Thành
 HT 105 tương lai
 (Bình Sơn)
 Gửi
 Ông Phan Dũng
 Phòng Bảo - Hoa Tche Hoa
 Vang - Quang Đà

N.V.A. Usage From North to South Vietnam

Hanoi ngày 15 - 3 - 68
 An mạnh Bỉnh thân yêu
 người gửi - an Văn Dương - xóm 6. yên Mỹ -
 Huyện Thanh Trì - Hà Nội

Chân gửi
 An mạnh Bỉnh
 Hom thư - 5201
 Ấp Nam Hải
 Quãng Nam

Chúng em ở đây cũng rất cô đơn
 khi em bạn thân
 bị giết vào chiến
 tranh giết kẻ
 ác mầu đang
 leo thang ra
 rồi mới thành
 bình yên cả
 họ lao lung cang
 sản xuất được
 ăn không Mỹ dân
 ở nhất nước
 gia đình và
 ở nhân trước là
 ở 3 hàng thư con

Hanoi, March 15, 1968 with original enclosure to Hom Thu No. 5201 deployed in South.
 Letter discusses U.S. bombing the North, strengthening the people's cause to kill U.S. imperialists.

Em. Thu Hồng
 hđ 556 - Nguyệt Tâm

Ngày 15/7/68

Kính gửi anh!!!

12

Em. Tâm Thị Thu Hồng
 hđ 556 - Nguyệt Tâm

Kính gửi.

Anh Tâm Vĩnh Giem
 hđ 4-503 - Ấp Nam 3

Ngày Hai Tang làm gì đây
 ông tài lang Hai ng li đứng
 giữ xem thủ của đứa em
 fông xa gửi đến thăm Hai
 trăm sáu trăm Hai đơ
 thời không công tài có
 ng, chái công tác vật và
 là em không gặp nhau từ
 lúc bấy giờ cảm biết buồn
 với anh. là thời gian dài
 tháng dài dài. em nhớ nhiều
 em buồn như em người
 của em người anh đang
 của đứa em.
 em Tang lo lắng và nhiều
 ở nhiều tình. thật nhớ

April 15, 1968 to Hom Thu No. 503 with original enclosure sister to deployed brother discussing wounded uncle,
 love for country, and reunification. Kinh Gỏi" is Please forward. On a reused envelope.

Northbound In-Country Mails

22

Anh yêu quý nhất Đ.
 Em vừa nhận được thư của Anh em
 rất mừng anh ạ. Anh đi trên thao trường
 em đang học tập. tự nhiên có thư của anh
 đưa tới em rất mừng và các đồng chí
 đang đến vị của em cũng phân hỏi anh ạ
 đến vị em cũng gửi lời hỏi thăm Anh và
 thăm tất cả các đồng chí. trong đại đội.
 Khỏe?

lo Bắc nam
 khi anh đi

Nguyễn Việt Anh
 Hom Thu 5301

Gửi: Anh
 Nguyễn Thị Lan
 Thiết trường
 Nghĩa Trung
 Việt Yên
 Hà Bắc.

March 15, 1968
 Intercepted in DMZ
 by 3rd Marine Division

Most northbound mail was handed off to couriers until reaching Quang Tri province. There, all mails were directed west bound and entered Laos south of the D.M.Z. near Lang Vei for their journey on the Ho Chi Minh trail north bound. N.V.A. soldier Nguyen Viet Gnh, Hom Thu No. 5301, is discussing family matters, status and daily responsibilities.

II. Military Issued Adhesives

South Bound N.V.A. Mail



1968 Issue: Cuban and Armed Revolutionary Brotherhood
With detailed squad, platoon, and company's return address.



1968 Issue: 150th birthday of Karl Marx. Tinh Hoa, postmark.

N.V.A. Usage in the North of Military Frank Adhesive

Military Frank
1961 Issue:
Mounted Frontier Guard

Hai-Phong to Hanoi
October 31, 1961
From Hom Thu
Military Unit
No. 4566 MP



Military Frank
1961 Issue:
Mounted Frontier Guard

Hanoi
Machine Cancel
December 1962
to Hom Thu
Military Unit
No. 5676



Early N.V.A. Military Stamp with Registered Adhesive



1958 Issue: Vo Thi Sau, 17 Year old Heroine, in 13th Anniversary of Southern Resistance Movement issue
Military Frank 1960 Issue: Invalids Riding Water Wheel, Rice fields
Hanoi Handstamp with manuscript March 3, 1962

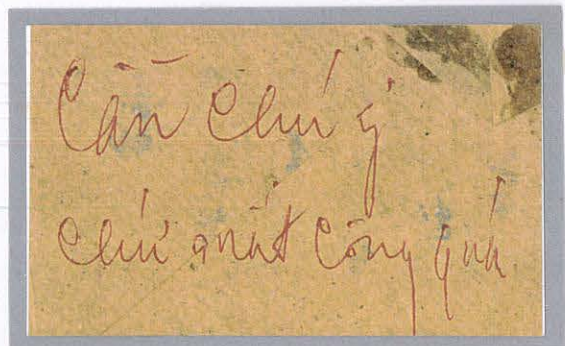
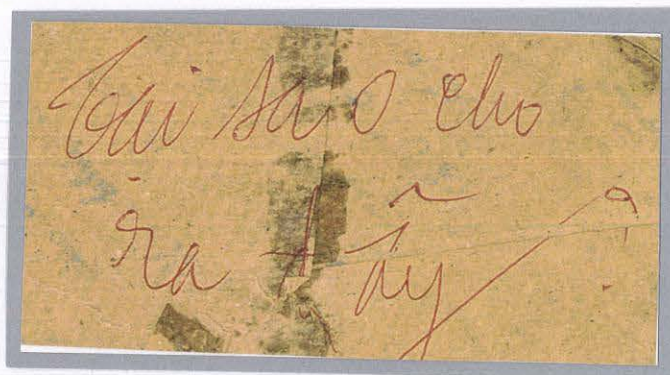
Four Military Frank stamps were issued and in use before 1960. Few early Military Frank stamps used on cover are recorded. Registry services with free Military Frank stamps required additional postage, removed by sensor. This 1958 stamp replaces the removed stamp.

N.V.A. Military Frank Adhesive



Military Frank 1966 Issue: Obstacle Crossing soldier (Green) Used on decorated cover from Nam Ha
Through Cau Sau Transfer/sorting station
Seldom seen manuscript Cau Sau return markings in red on reverse

Undeliverable due to recipient being killed, therefore, cover returned to battalion headquarters for forwarding, as indicated on the reverse and then captured. Pre-used stamp, allowed for postage by the Government,



N.V.A. Military Handstamp People's Army Of Vietnam



1962 Issue:
Education:
Classroom,
Teacher and
Students in
First Five
Year Plan
series
Cancelled
1963

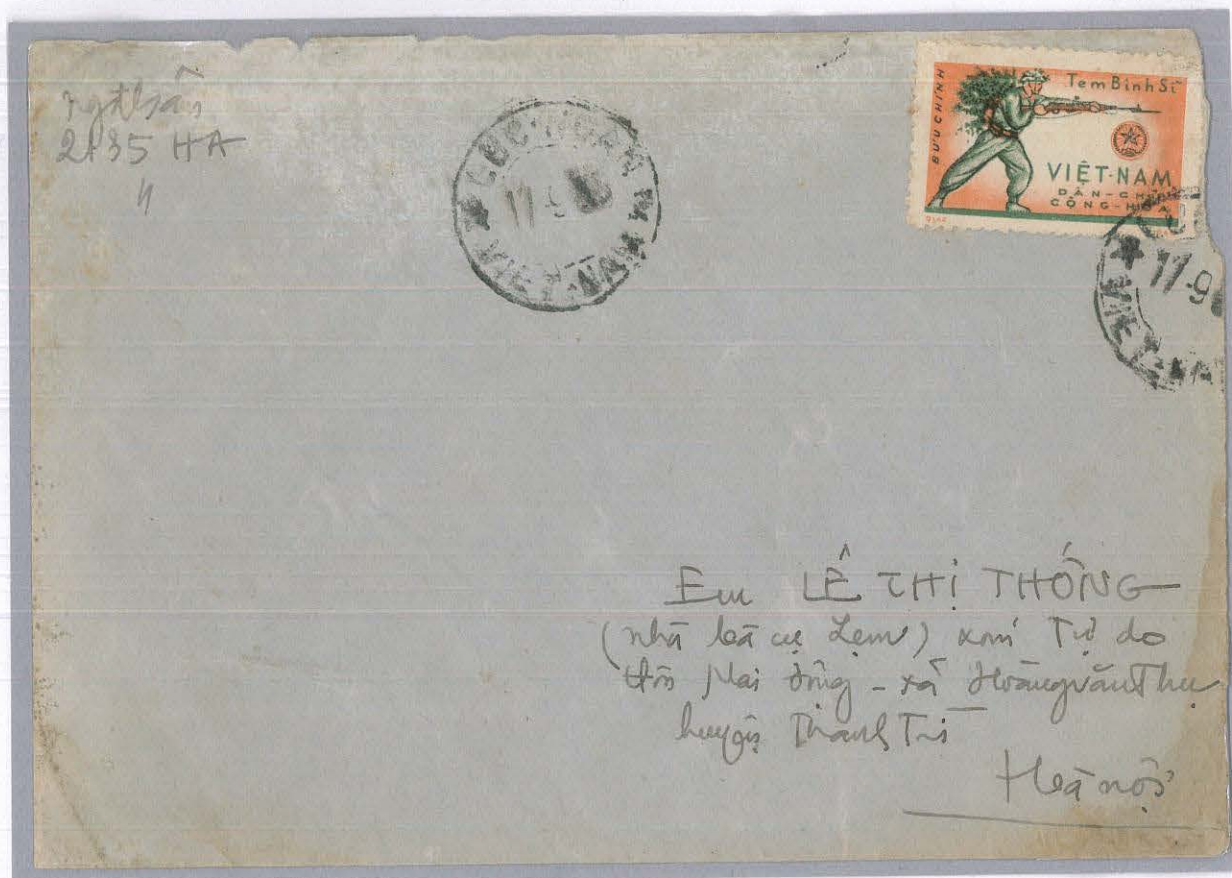
Very seldom seen red P.A.V.N. handstamp Quan Buu from Tram K 35 command center, unknown location, to C-111 military zone in Ha Bac, North Vietnam.

Military Frank Adhesives

Military Frank
1965 Issue: Obstacle
Crossing Soldier (Green)
Usage: Military
to Military, to Hanoi
Ha Bac June 1969



Seldom seen manuscript identification of a N.V.A. Division, the 330th at Luc Nam in return address.



Military Frank
1964 Issue: Soldier
and Military
Emblem
Usage: Military to
Civilian in Hanoi
Luc Nam cancel
November 9, 1965

Decorated Stationery

Ms. *Trần Xuân Ngọc* 501012JE41



1972 Issue: Workers in 3rd Vietnamese Trade Union series
Usage: to the "Political Educational Committees" at Bac Kan
Tram Guven handstamp
May 29, 1973

Nhận thư:
Nông Thị Ảnh
Lối 1 H Trường sư phạm cấp I



Nguyễn Văn Hùng
680.218.1401



1972 Issue: Workers
Hanoi machine cancel
May 11, 1974
Hom Tho No.
to a Hom Thu No.

Lối
Hà Giang thành
683.800



Em: *Vân*. HT. 203514JE42 (14)

15
x 4
60

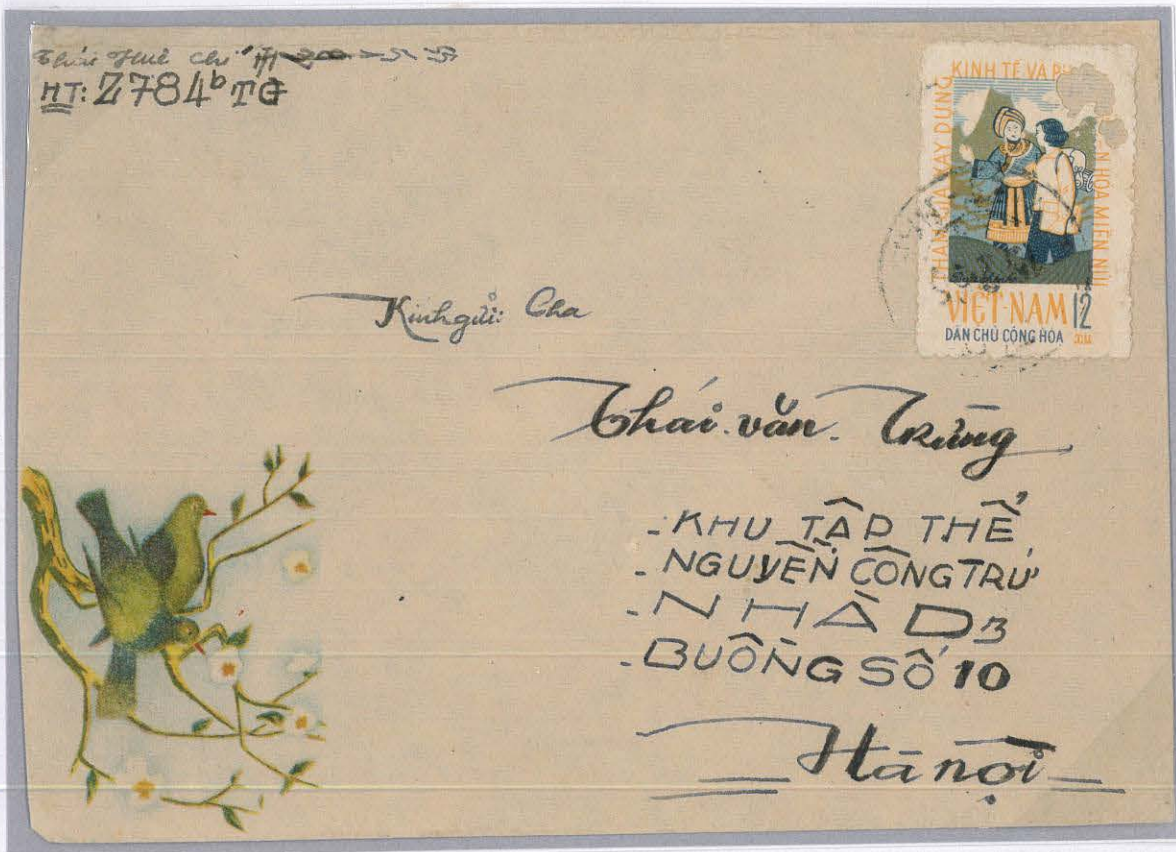


Gửi Anh:
Nguyễn Văn Hùng
Yổ 1 - Đới 1
Lê Hồng Phong
Hà Nội



Military Frank
1971 Issue:
Nguyen Viet Xuan
January 10, 1974
from military training
installation in Hanoi
to Hanoi with enclosure

N.V.A. Usage On Decorated Stationary



1964 Issue: Modern
Everyday Costume in
Women's National
Costumes series
Usage: Intra-Country



Military Frank
1968 Issue: Soldiers in
Attack
Usage: North to South
Tu Liem handstamp
March 18, 1970
to HT No. 63305 KP
likely the 330th Division,
operating in II Corps.

Military Frank Issue Decorated Cover Usage in North Vietnam



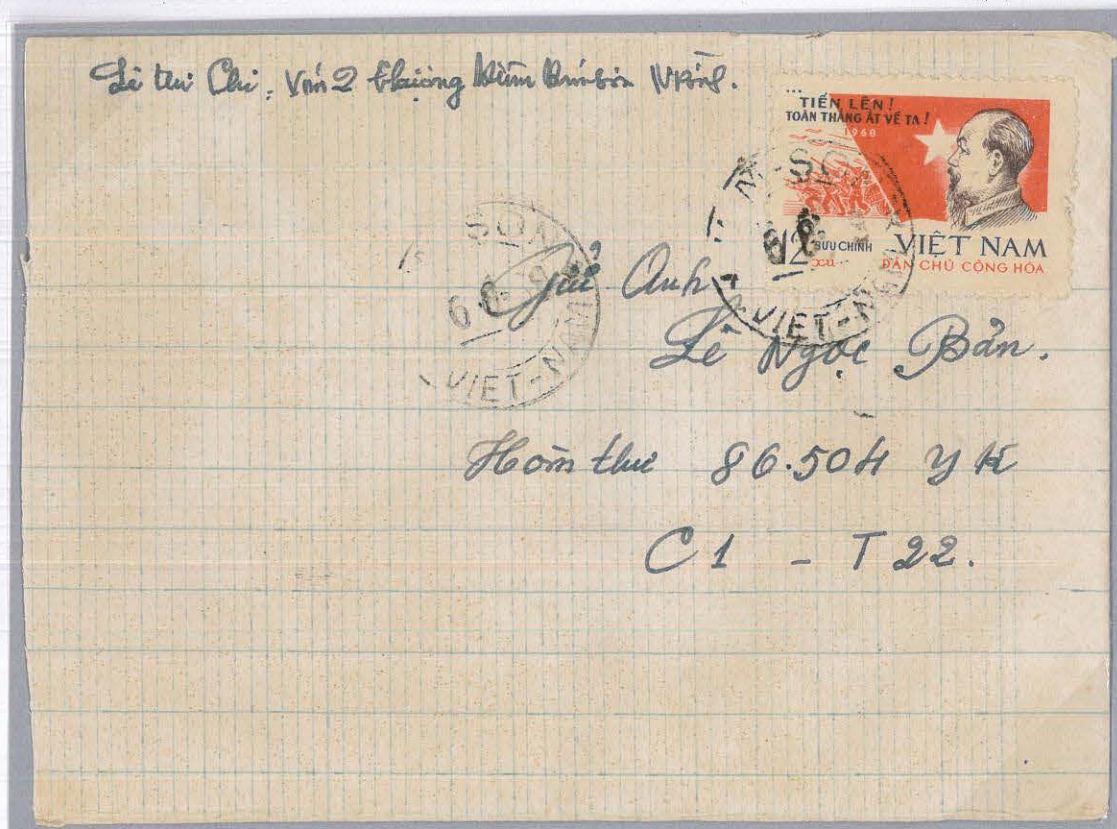
Military Frank 1968 Issue: Soldiers in Attack

From Hòm Thư No. 53561 TQ to civilian at Thanh Hoa, North Vietnam, on Industrial machinery cache.

North Vietnam Usage Southbound



1968 Issue: Ho Chi Minh New Year Message "Ninh Binh," to a military unit deployed in South Vietnam.



Postmarked Lam Song near Laotian border to a deployed unit in South Vietnam.

General Issues on Decorated Stationary



1961 Issue: Ancient Towers
Hanoi handstamp
Originating there but most
likely hand carried into
city by carrier



1964 Issue:
Pistol Shooting of
Military Game Series
From Hom Thu
No. 2135 HA

Luc Ngan cancellation January 1, 1965 to a Hanoi government office

N.V.A. Military Frank Adhesives

Military Frank
1964 Issue:
Soldier and Military
Emblem
Handstamp Thanh Moa
on April 30, 1965



Sent on April 27, 1965 by HT No. 2881 TG to a civilian from a military unit that had not yet been deployed.



Military Frank
1967 Issue:
Military Badge
and "Star" People's
Army Decoration
Handstamped
January 3, 1969

Two Military Frank adhesives were given to each N.V.A. soldier each month to be used on mails to send home. Printed in Hanoi without values, most known used examples were within the North from units not yet deployed.

N.V.A. Five Digit Military Letter Box Addresses



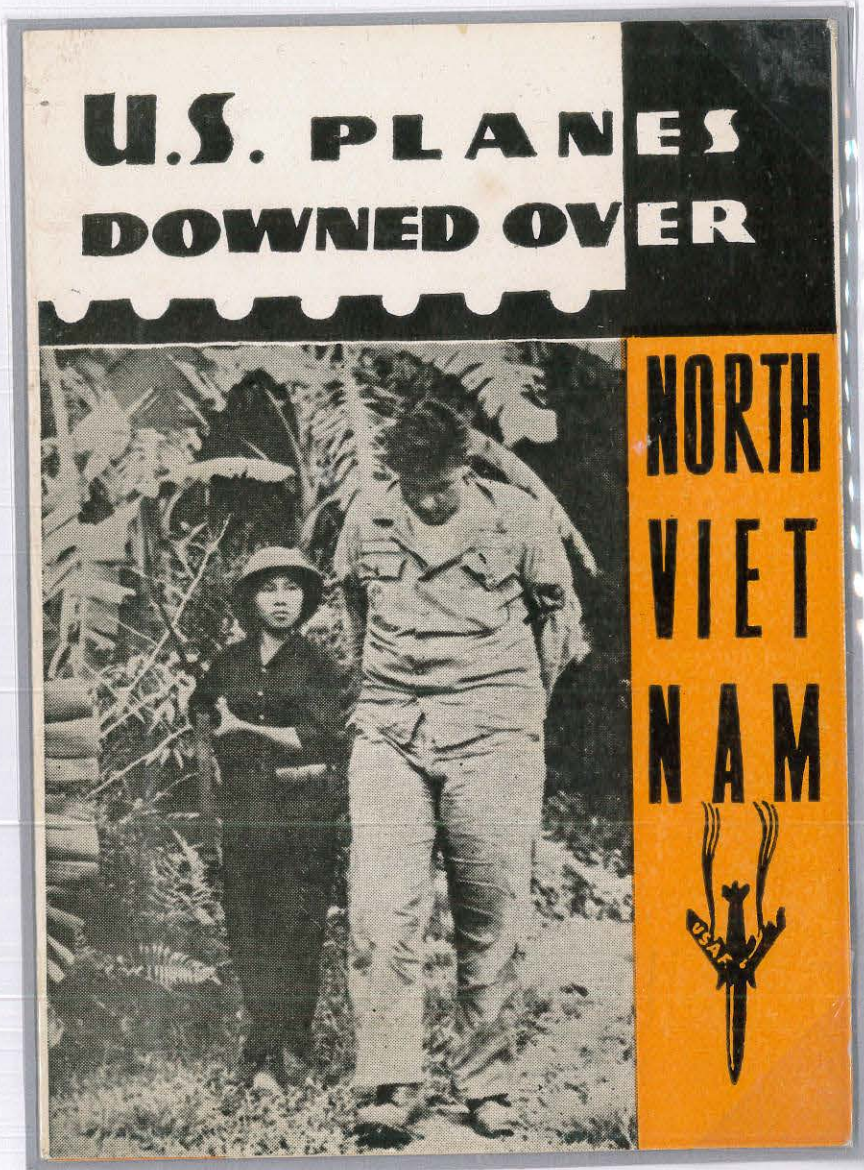
1966 Issue: Archery in National Athletic Games series; August 20, 1966 military cancel; between units of the N.V.A.

As the war progressed, increased numbers of N.V.A. units deployed in the South stretched the military postal service. Increased security and delivery problems led to a five digit letterbox codes and then to an alpha/numeric system of codes. This cover travelled between two nearly consecutive numbered letterboxes assigned to units within a single command, probably within a battalion sized unit.

III. Propaganda

Downed Aircraft Booklet

Booklet, printed in Hanoi in 1973 by the Xunhasaba Printing Company, contained a complete set of the nineteen adhesives, given as a gift to visitors and diplomats to strengthen North Vietnam's bargaining position and objective of reunification during the peace process. These celebrations of numbers of planes downed began with 500 in 1965 and ended with the last plane, number 4181, in 1973.



Inside:
All nine issues
of U.S. Planes
Downed Over
North Vietnam



Propaganda Post Card



1964 Issue: 10th Anniversary of Victory at Dien Bien Phu

Hand painted card usage from Hanoi May 7, 1964



Propaganda Post Cards



Both 1964 Issue: 10th Anniversary of Victory at Dien Bien Phu series

Both examples postmarked Hanoi May 7, 1964

National Liberation Front Issues



Issue: 1965 N.L.F., 1st Death Anniversary of Nguyen Van Troi: Exploding Aircraft.
 Usage: North to South as a patriotic propaganda label only, as these N.L.F. issues were ruled invalid for postal use by the International Postal Union.

Travelled on the Ho Chi Minh trail in Cambodia through the "Cau Sau" transfer station on the trail, this adhesive image celebrates the successful guerilla attack on the Bien Hoa airbase. Backside of the cover bears blood stains from the mail courier killed in ambush.

National Liberation Front Issues

1967 N.L.F. Issue
Struck twice by magenta
double bar canceller,
On folded form, (below)
Hom Tho No. 5221
Added by transfer agent

Bưu thi cử

Xí nghiệp _____

BIÊN LAI Số _____ Ngày ____ / ____ / 19__

Nhận của ông. (bà) : _____

Số tiền : _____

Về khoản : _____

Trưởng phòng Tài vụ kế toán

THỦ QUỲ :

Ủi anh
Bưu xuân Buê
HOM THO : 5221 qđ NAM L



Bồ Lôn
HT. 13566.05

Xí nghiệp _____

BIÊN

Nhận của ông. (bà) : _____

Số tiền : _____

Về khoản : _____

THỦ QUỲ :

Kính gửi ông :
Về L.
Cháu : Sung Thiên Thuận
Cháu : Phú Ngân
Cháu : Chiếu Thuận



Issue: 1967 N.L.F., Mass Demonstration with Communist Slogans. Two circular magenta military security markings. Usage: Regional, sent by Viet Cong nurse to family in Thua Thien, South Vietnam, 1968.

Issues by the National Liberation Front had no postal validity since the Universal Postal Union and its member countries correctly reasoned that the Viet Cong/N.L.F. did not have a viable and functioning postal system. Approximately ten covers are recorded with N.L.F. adhesives.

IV. Patriotics

Hanoi Usage to France on Khe Sanh Envelope

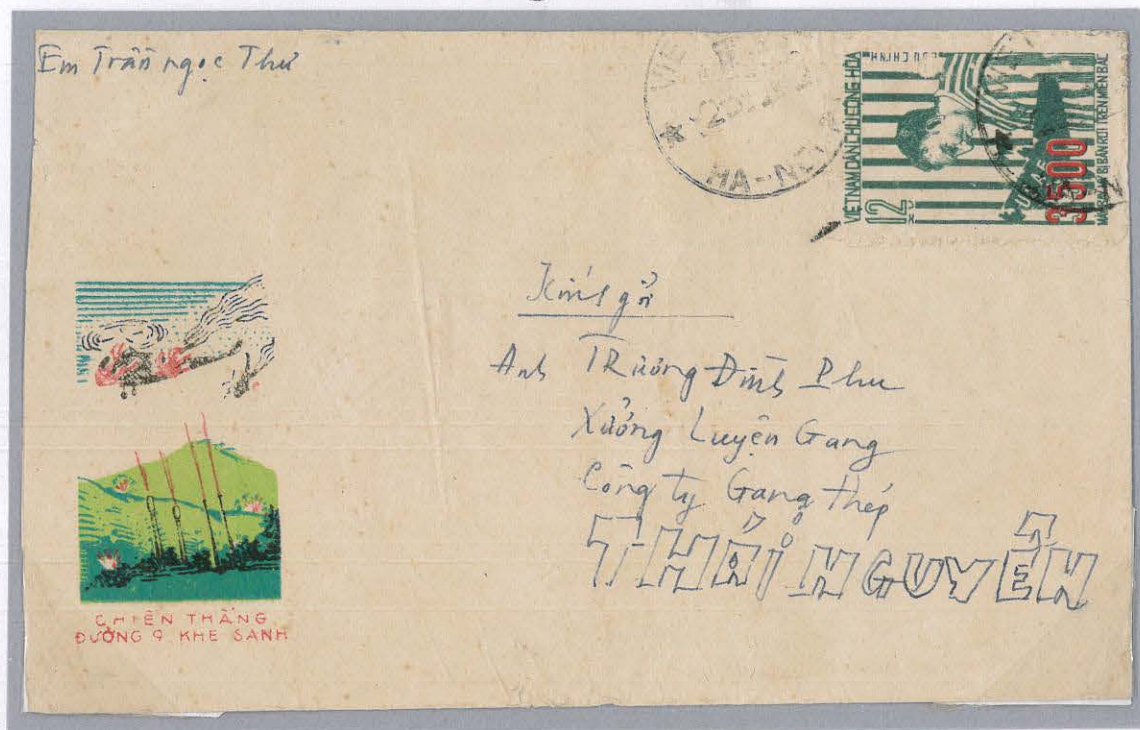


1967 Issue: Light from Aurora Battleship in 50th Anniversary of the Russian October Revolution series, multiple rate franking to France, handstamped Hanoi August 17, 1973



Facsimile of the complete covered sketch showing the historic 1968 engagement at Khe Sanh

Patriotic Usage in North Vietnam



1972 Issue: 3,500th Plane Shot Down, with Hanoi handstamped postmark.



Military Frank 1969 Issue: Soldier and Guerilla Woman; Hanoi machine cancel to Hom Thu No. 91364 CS

The left mint example captured personally by the exhibitor (3rd Marine Division,) in 1967, while stationed at Con Thien in the D.M.Z.

Patriotic Usage

801 JB 02.

Ngày 02/02/72.

Cô Kim Bích!

Lên phép gọi theo lá thư trước, cô thư
cảm nhĩ!

Bồi hồi tay lại chuyển tay
Một lá thư xa, chữ đi năm nót
Thư vào tên tên
Đang mùa ngọt sớt
Vàng già cam vàng

Kim Phú: Ht: 270. 792 JB02.



CHIẾN THẮNG
ĐƯỜNG 9, KHE SANH

Chữ thư Kim Bích

Hôm thư: 202.652

JA 01.

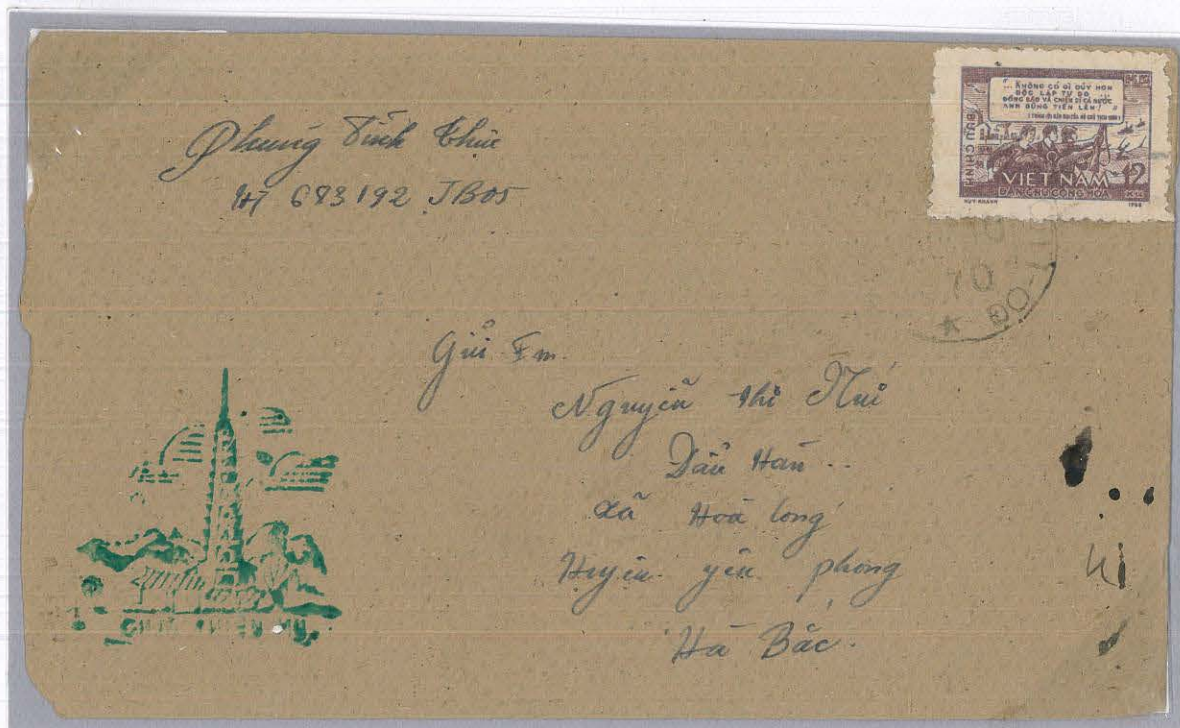
February 2, 1972

Usage between two military units on Khe Sanh patriotic cover in I Corps. Writer Hom Tho No. 270 792 JB02 discusses family matters and status of things back home with recipient Hom Tho No. 262 652 JA01, Both N.V.A. units operational near the D.M.Z.

Patriotic Usage



1968 Issue: Ho Chi Minh Appeal; Hanoi handstamp, November 3, 1970



1971 Issue: Flight of Luna 17; Lang Bo handstamp. March 26, 1972

Patriotic Usage



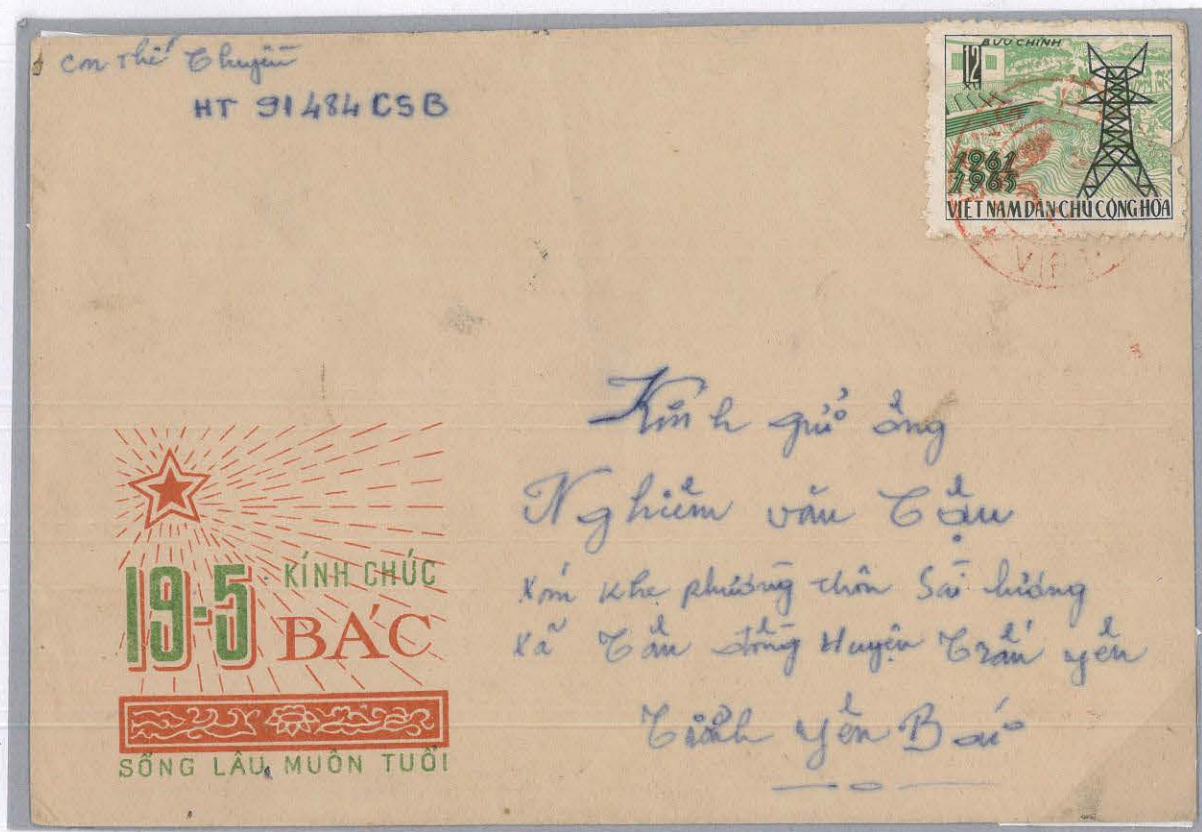
N.V.A. North to South
Hom Thu No. 92178 LT
through the Cau Sau
Transfer Station



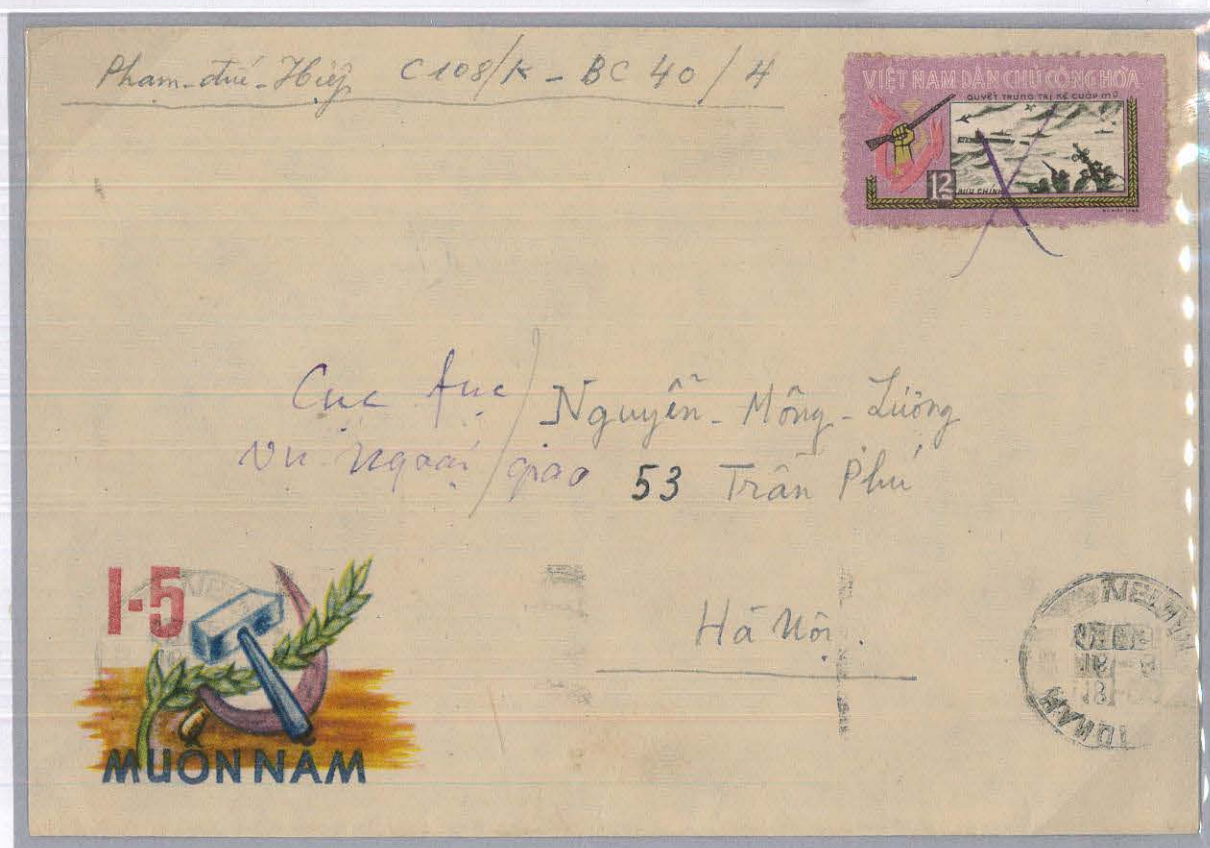
Military Frank 1965 Issue: Obstacle Crossing Soldier (Red)

From military address HT No. 9512 HK, possibly the military training center at Yen Bai; dated 3/09/66, addressed to "Commander Training School III" Bien Hoa, Nam Ha, North Viet Nam.

Patriotic Usage



1965 Issue:
Electricity and Irrigation
Usage: Military to Civilian
Dong Hy red cancel



1965 Issue:
Sea Battle in 2nd Trade
Union Conference series
Usage: Military to
Civilian
Pen cancel
Unknown Location

Dated March 18, 1965

Note purple "53" marking for destination; Hanoi machine cancellation on reverse.

Hue War Memorial Patriotic Usage



Usage: North to South post-Tet via Cau Sau receiving center.
Letter sent to a military unit address Hom Thu No. 92 159 LT

Patriotic Usage



Captured military patriotic cover From I Corps sent between two military individuals, 1972. Stamp partially removed for security inspection. Cachet notes death of the Communist North Vietnamese leader Ho Chi Minh. Below are examples of the damaged adhesive used on this cover.



1965 Issue:
75th Anniversary of
the Birth of Ho Chi
Minh

Patriotic Usage

Em: Tô Thị Thuộc
Thôn Trung An
Xã Lý Học
Hải Phòng



17-10-67

15-9-67

Quý anh

Lê-qui-Tu

HT 54.225-JC/P

Sent from Hai Phong
Transfer manuscript
September 15, 1967
and October 17, 1967

Tô Thị Thuộc

Mai như này!

Mai như này 11-67

Tên kết cho tôi gửi lời chào và chúc tốt gia đình.
Chắc hẳn giờ đây Mai rất ngạc nhiên như thế của Đảng.
Thầy em cho bố đã như vậy. Trước khi báo từ em
đến Mai biết: Đảng và qua được một lần tăng dân số.

April 11, 1967

Viet Cong comrade writing
wife of a soldier about
husband's bravery, killing 14
enemies, receiving medal of
gallantry, and becoming a
party member.

quân nhà:

Nguyễn Thị Mai

TPJ cấp I Xã Hải Phòng - Hải Phòng

Hồng Yển



DON NUNG CU BAC THI DUA
SAN XUAT GIOI CHIEN DAU GIOI

Patriotic Usage on European Mails



1970 Issue: 40th Anniversary of Workers Party with Hanoi handstamp, June 17, 1970 to Poland



1965 Issue: Spraying the Rice Fields (Agriculture) in the series "Completing the First Five Year Plan"
 Military usage HT X NN to the Soviet Union July 30, 1967 with receiving handstamp.

Patriotic Usage



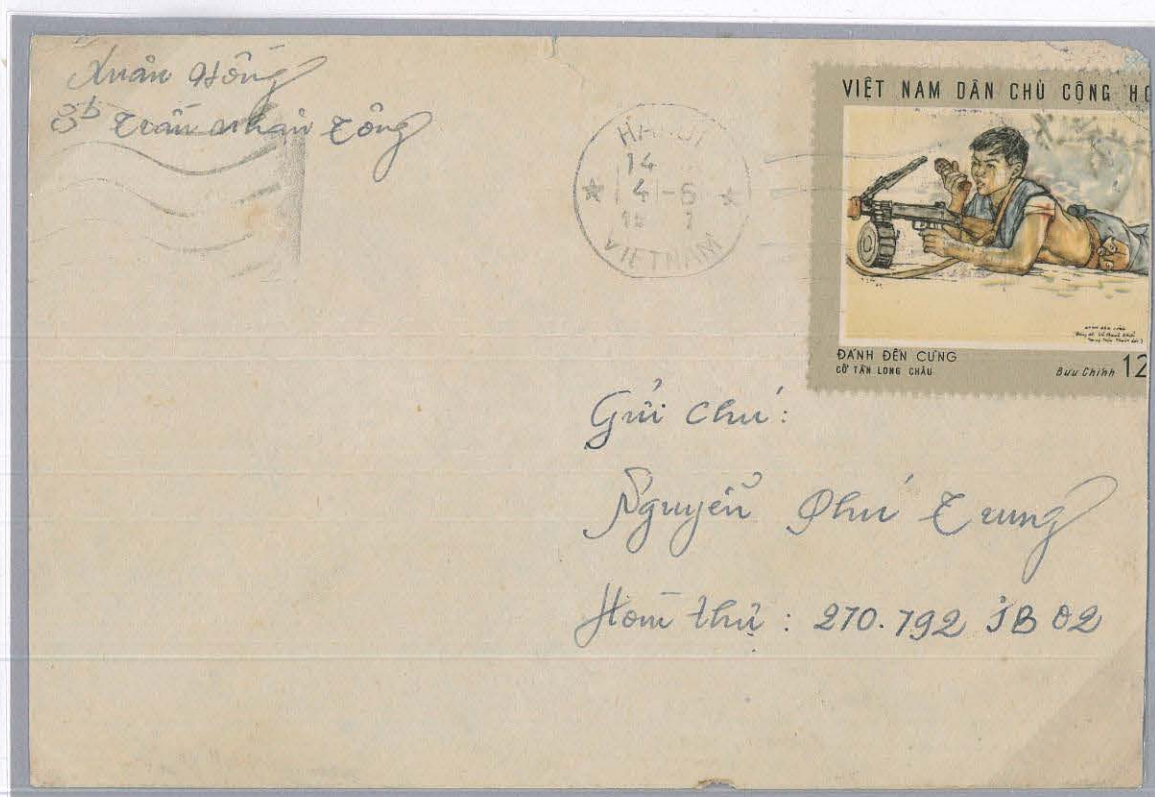
1965 Issue: Iron Worker to Hom Thu No. BC-40/H manuscript



1965 Issue 20th
Anniversary of the
August Revolution

Hanoi, August 13, 1969
Usage: Southbound

Patriotic Adhesives



1969 Issue: Patriotic Paintings "Land and People"
Usage: Hanoi, Vietnam, June 4, 1971 machine cancel.



Other issues in the 1969
Patriotic Paintings series

N.V.A. Naval Usage to Europe



1967 Issue: 2,000th Aircraft Shot Down over North Vietnam

Hanoi machine cancel September 16, 1968; Usage: to Budapest, Hungary. HQ or Hai-Quan in sender's address designates Naval Command Operations in Hanoi.

V. Adversity Usages

Political Governmental Mail Carried by Military Postal Operatives Adversity Usage

F. 9229.

Số: -/TT-74

Thư gửi:

(Về việc Hoa kiều từ C)

Chưa lâu ngày có lo
về miền Nam ngày càng đông
Đã về mọi mặt, lao động hiền
của địa phương, một số
trưởng giảng dạy.

Từ ngày di chuyển
thể hiện được "một hiền
mọi chủ trương và mọi qui định
đoạn kết tương hỗ lẫn nhau.
Xã hội như văn hoá giải quyết
Nhưng việc làm hiền.
Đã định được sống và góp phần vào
vững mạnh.

Tuy nhiên, bên cạnh những tình
còn một số ít Hoa kiều chưa chấp

Truyện Mai F 9229

Thư gửi

Đ/c Ba Cay

H.T: N. 3423 B 10

VĂN LA CHUYỀN CH

(Trích ý kiến)

Bà đưa cháu đến Trường học
Con cô theo bố rập rờn ngày nay
Bà đưa cháu đến miền
Diệt thù chớp chớp sáng chói
Trần Đăng Khoa nói với các chú bộ đội:
Chú ơi! Các má trong
Bao ngày gian khổ, bao năm
Ngày đêm chặn bước qui
Vẫn mong các chú từng giờ

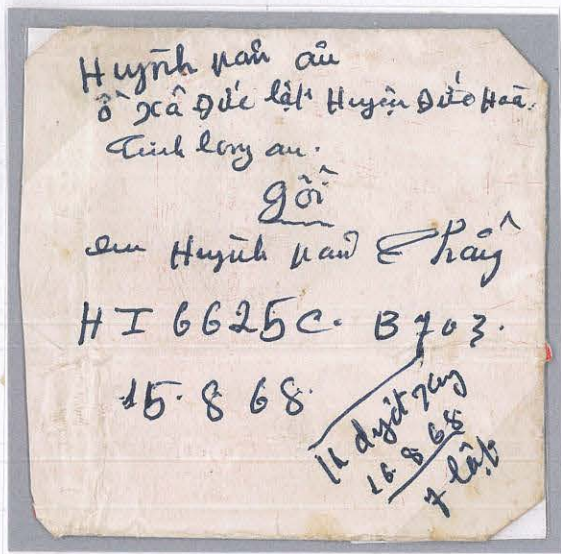
Cô bé tám tuổi Vũ Thúy Hằng nghĩ về nhi
miền Nam:

Con tàu lán bánh em
Trên mình nặng trĩu, ngày đã
Bảng qua thành thị thôn
Chú ơi, chú lại đi về

THỜI SỰ HÀNG TUẦN

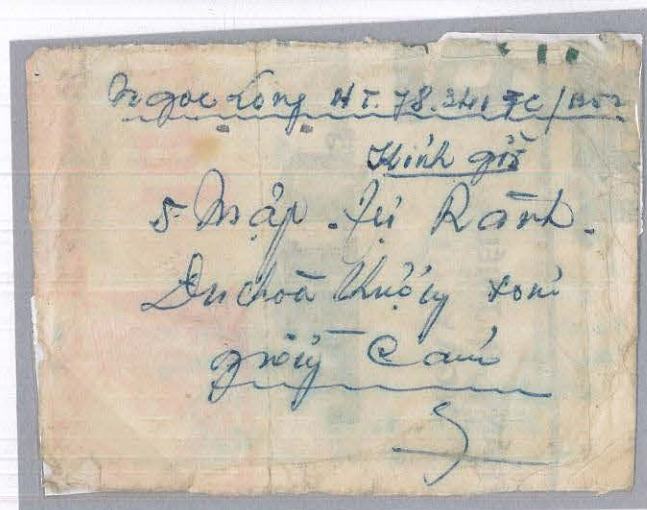
1968 correspondence from cadre F 9229 in Cambodia to Comrade Ba Cay at H.T.N. 3423 B10.
The enclosed letter, above, from a V.C. commander, assesses the plight of the Vietnamese who
were beginning to swarm across the border because of persecution in Cambodia.

Viet Cong Adversity Covers



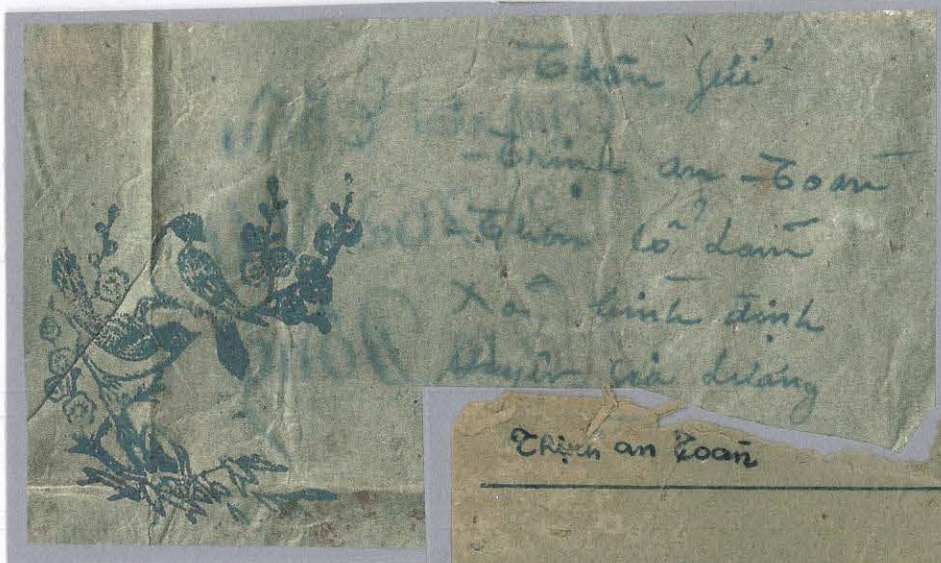
Constructed from Cambodian cigarette package. Captured while en route through Tay Ninh to Long An Province, the package still bears a Cambodian tax stamp.

With extremely limited resources, V.C. combat mail required ingenious solutions for handling and delivery of combat mail. The adhesive used to make envelopes and as gum for labels was produced by chewing rice with liberal amounts of saliva. Any and all types of paper were used and reused to produce envelopes.

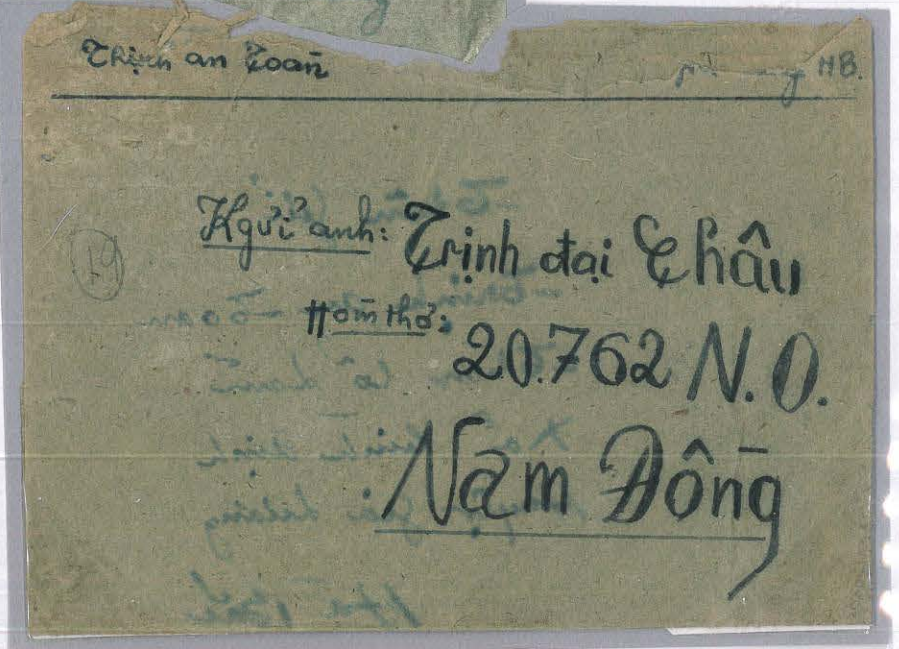


Made from 0.1 Kg. opium shipping tag

N.V.A. Main Force Mail

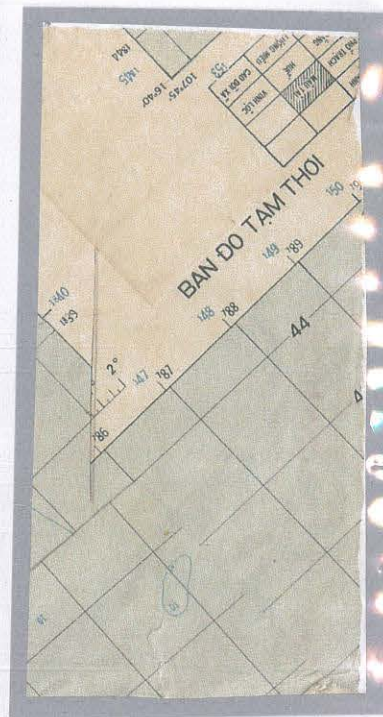
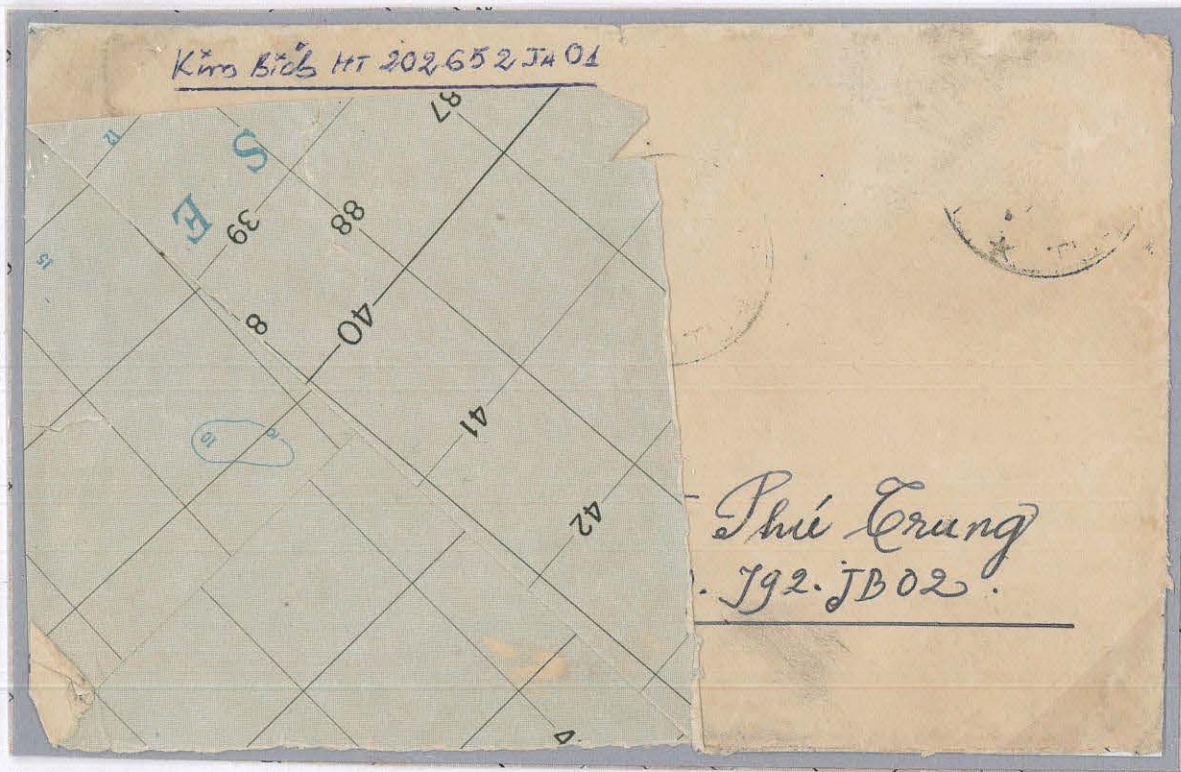


First usage as civilian mail in North Vietnam to Hanoi with stamp removed. Turned and reused to a soldier deployed in South Vietnam at Nam Dong near Dalat. Circa 1964.



Usage: North to South
States on the reverse: "Be
more careful, if it can be lost"
and "Thank you"
Signed by political censor

In-Country Usage Before Deployment in South



Made from a China Sea map, stamp removed for security inspection.
From Ba Vi, a military post



1965 Issue:
35th Anniversary
of Soviet Peasant
Uprising

Cancelled Bach Mai Tu Liem, December 1, 1965; to a soldier identified in the 165th Regiment that was reforming in the North after having sustained losses

Usage in North Vietnam Early Turned Cover



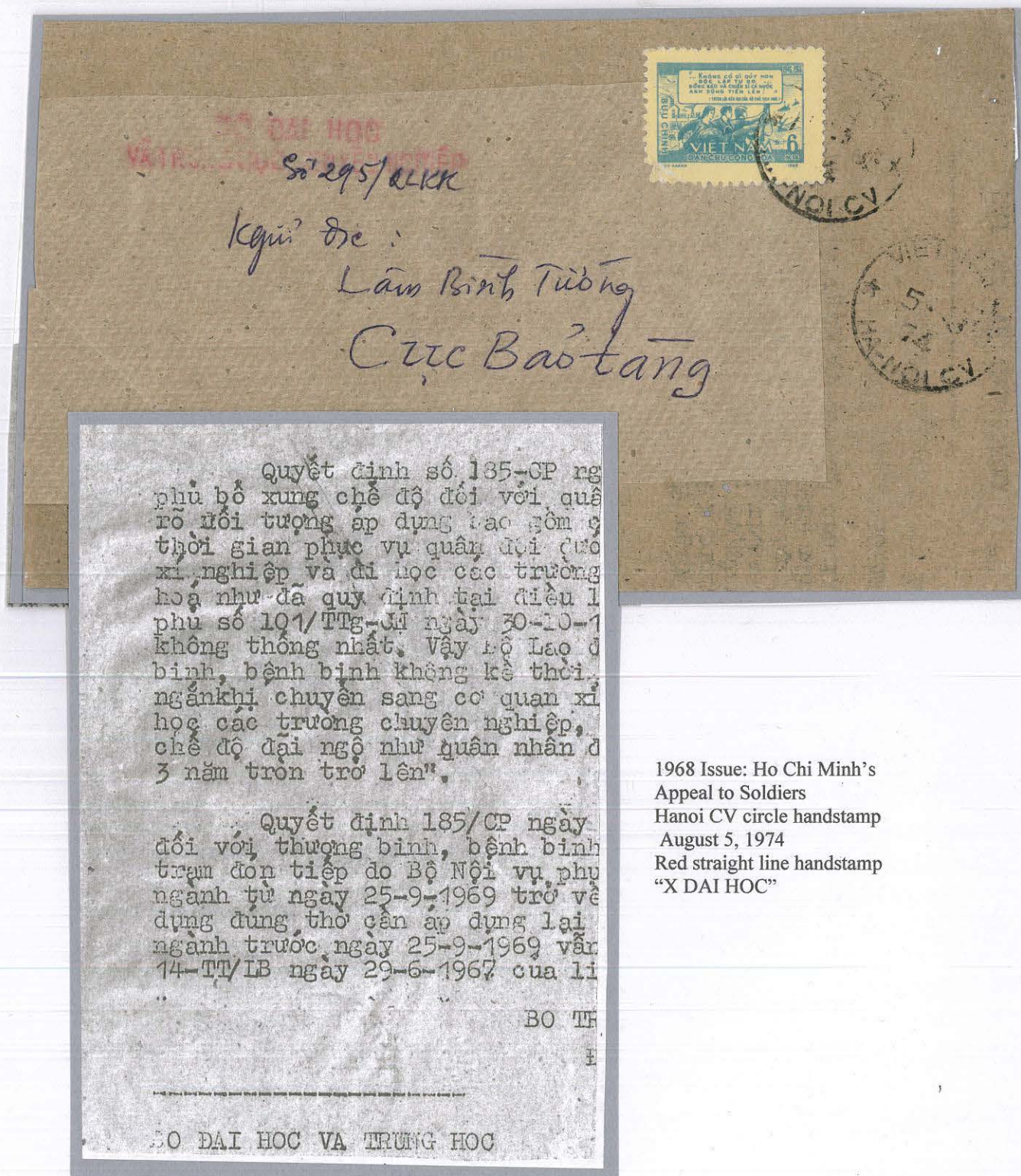
First usage:
1965 Issue:
5th Anniversary
of N.L.F.
Hom Thu No.
obliterated



May 19, 1965 Issue: 10th Anniversary of African Asia Conference
Red Cancel: Phu Dinh, August 21, 1965

Original usage from Hanoi to Hom Thu No. 2777 TM and not forwarded further. Why the postage was paid and applied and then redirected and returned is one of the many mysteries surrounding these unusual military mail usages. Second usage redirected and forwarded with slightly changed Hom Thu No. 2777 XM.

N.V.A. Adversity Usage




1968 Issue: Ho Chi Minh's
Appeal to Soldiers
Hanoi CV circle handstamp
August 5, 1974
Red straight line handstamp
"X DAI HOC"

Address label on a wrapper made from a military political directive tract (facsimile shown). Sent from an unknown N.V.A. unit in Hanoi to the Director of the Bao Tang Museum, which at the time had been taken over by the North Vietnamese Army for an operations and coordinating center, off limits to American aircraft attack.

N.V.A. North to South Usage On Adversity Cover

BAN HÀNH CHÍNH		VIỆT NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA		Năm
:		Độc lập — Tự do — Hạnh phúc		Số
n:		BẢN CHÍNH		
Tỉnh Hà - bắc		GIẤY KHAI SINH		
Họ, tên			Nam hay nữ	
Ngày, tháng, năm sinh				
Nơi sinh				
Phản khai về cha mẹ				
Họ, tên				
tuổi				
Dân tộc				
Quốc tịch				
Nghề nghiệp				
chỗ ở				
Họ, tên, tuổi, chỗ ở, cấp, số và ngày cấp giấy chứng minh (nếu có) của đứng khai				

Nguyễn Hồng Sơn 117A trường trung học
 / Khoa Hà - Bắc
 29



Gửi gởi: anh: Thân học bạn
 Trạm thư: 5202 ấp ~~nam~~
 nam 2

From Ha Bac, Democratic Republic of Vietnam envelope made from an unused central government birth certificate form. The certificate carries many political and independence slogans. Stamp was partially removed by South Vietnamese military intelligence censors post-capture.

Adjacent is a copy of the damaged stamp used on the cover.



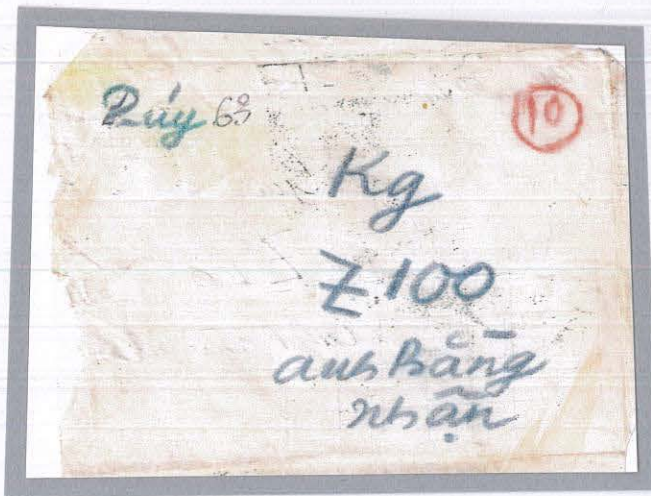
1968 Issue:
 3000th Plane
 Shot Down over
 North Vietnam
 Green: Dog-fight
 Involving Russian MIG
 Magenta: Anti-aircraft Missile

Viet Cong Adversity Covers

04908 USS GENESEE		
SERIAL	STOCK NO.	A
1H	5977-382-9187	
1H	5977-387-08	
375 1H	5977-402-62	
1H	5977-422-43	
1H	5977-564-67	
378 1H	5977-669-921	
379 1H	5990-502-1714	
380 1H	5990-643-3252	



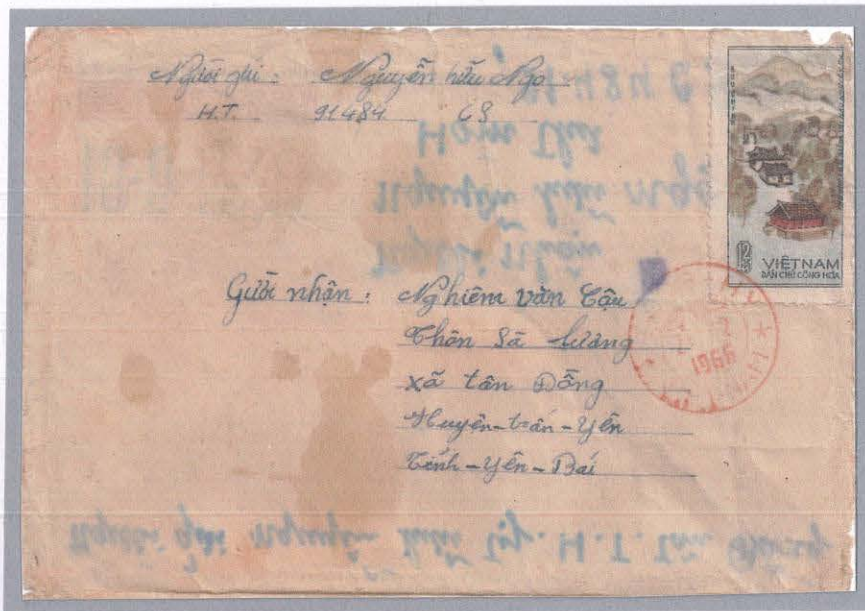
Made from a computerized parts list from the U.S.S. *Genesee* AOG-8, a gasoline tanker of the *Patapsco* class. Commissioned in 1944, the *Genesee* may have inadvertently provided the enemy with writing material when it dumped or off-loaded trash during one of its many trips up or down the Saigon River to the Nha Be petroleum tank farm.



Turned Cover

Illustrated operational/liberated zone markings. Crayons were often used due to their high moisture resistance. This seldom seen marking applied at a rest recovery station represented by numerical markings, "Z" in Cambodia.

Early Turned Cover Patriotic Usage



1965 Issue:
Birth Bi-Centenary
of Nguyen Du Post
Cancelled Dong Hy
December 22, 1966
From HT No. 91484 CS

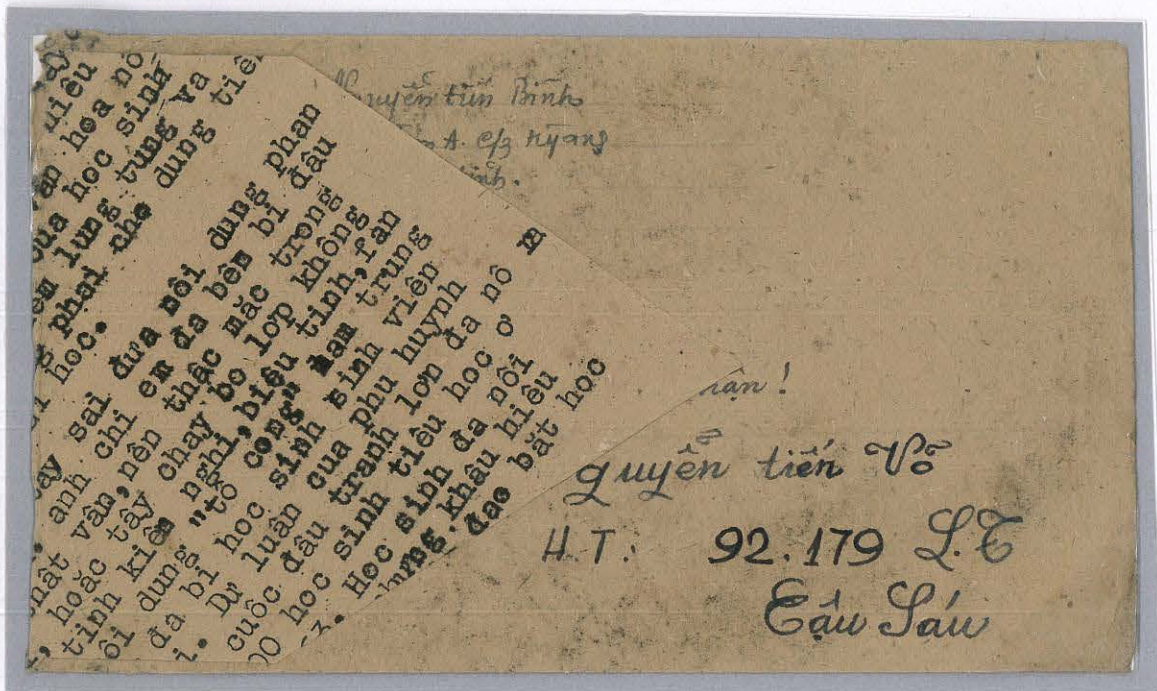
Second Usage: Military to civilian in the North



1965 Issue:
20th Anniversary of
August Revolution
Revolution; to Hom Thu.
No. 91484 CS,
not yet deployed

First Usage: Military to military
Cancelled November 25, 1966

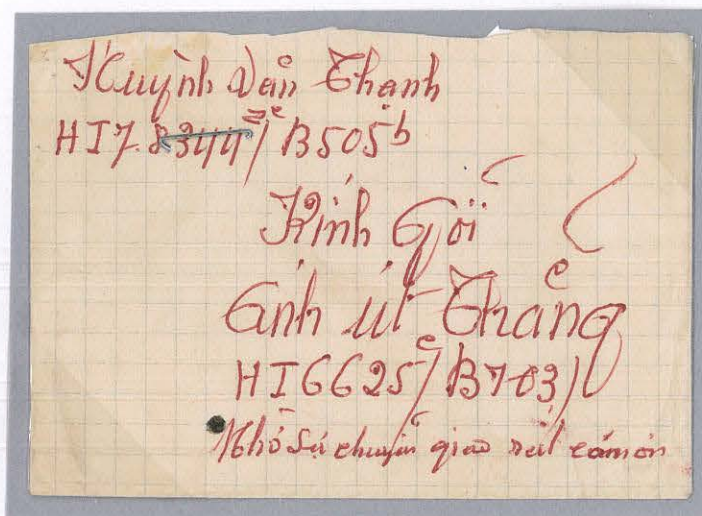
On N.V.A. Adversity Cover North to South Usage



Carried from Ha Tinh, Democratic Republic of Vietnam to the Cau Sau communications transfer station in the Mekong Delta via the Ho Chi Minh Trail.

Popular materials used for making wartime envelopes were any of the thousands of political flyers, handouts, pamphlets, and tracts. In the rigid Communist society of North Vietnam, the only paper more abundant than government forms was political paper. This particular cover was made from a political broadside that detailed the 1964 Students' Uprising against the Diem government in the South.

Typical Viet Cong Military Mail



Viet Cong field letter sent from B505 battalion to B703battaliion with "Kính Gửi"Please Forward and bottom inscription "Important pass it on, thank you." On reverse manuscript August 11, 1968
Note staple from field content evaluation form



Reused envelope captured off fishing junk in the South China Sea at Tam Quan, to Hom Thu No. 54225 XP. Made from war memorial patriotic, water damaged

Viet Cong Adversity Usage

Kính gửi anh Hai 2.

Lưu giữ hình ảnh chống công chống lái của bộ
đội giải phóng quân trong rừng ở khu 5. Hình ảnh
chống gồm đàn lợn đẻ, đồng bộ
ảnh bằng rừng hoa và cho bộ
vây ở núi anh viết còn lại
đang chờ tin giải phóng.

- con số hình ảnh của anh	244
- số tiền dùng	1.900
- mua 1 con heo	542
- số tiền còn lại	15 con
- gà	6 con
- vịt	6 con
- sữa	14 hộp
- hộp gà	10 hộp
- hộp vịt	3 kg
- kho	20 bao
- thuốc n	3 hai
- bài	5 hai
- bi	4 hộp
- cháo	1 gói
- cơm khô	1 nửa kg
- lương gạo	1 rinh
- măng chua	6 hai
- cá muối	35 lít
- gạo	1 xai
- sữa	1 xai
- đường cát	1 nửa kg
- măng khô	1 nửa kg
- gạo	2 kg
- muối màu	1 thùng
- đồng báo gọi cho bộ đội chiến sĩ	22 lá
- văn thơ	

ngày 2/4-64
T M - T.K.
chủ 3
6 Tuổi

1700214375

Kính:

Anh 4 Công + 3 Đip.

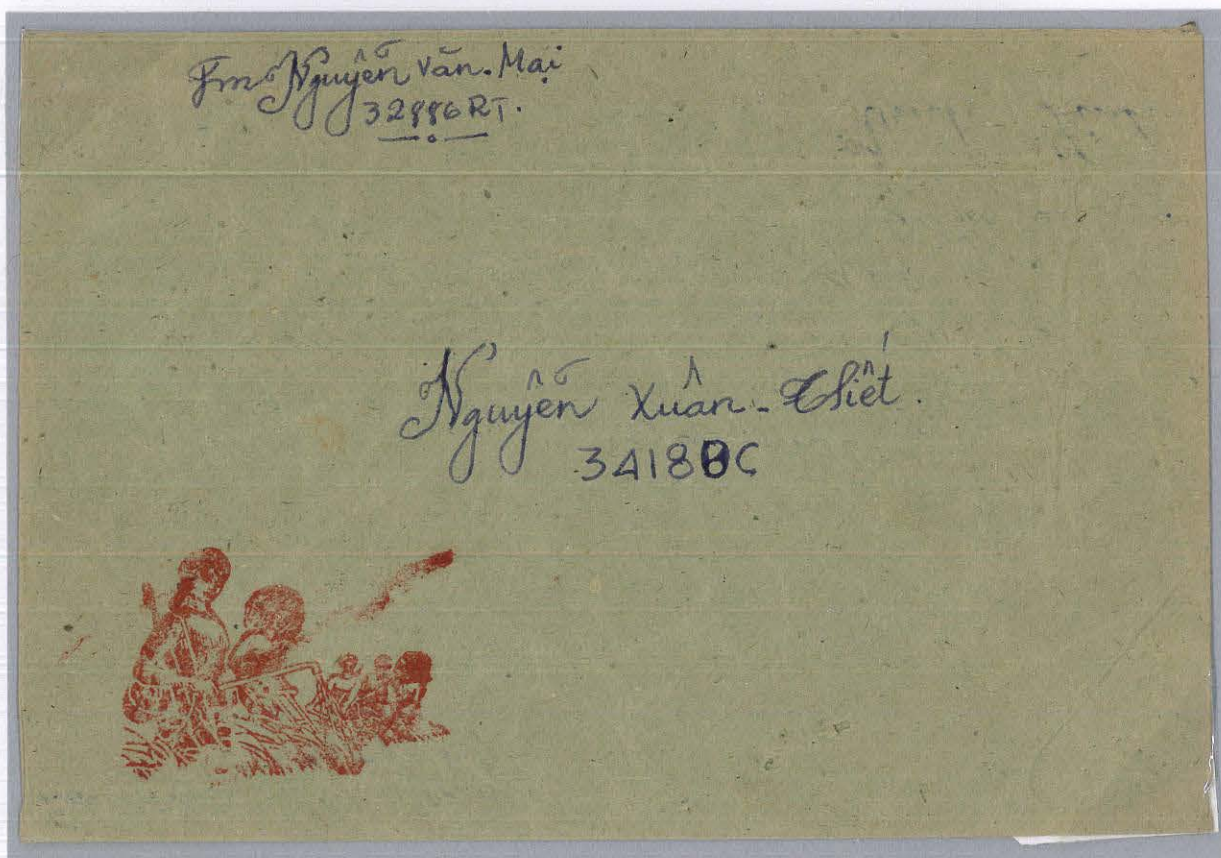
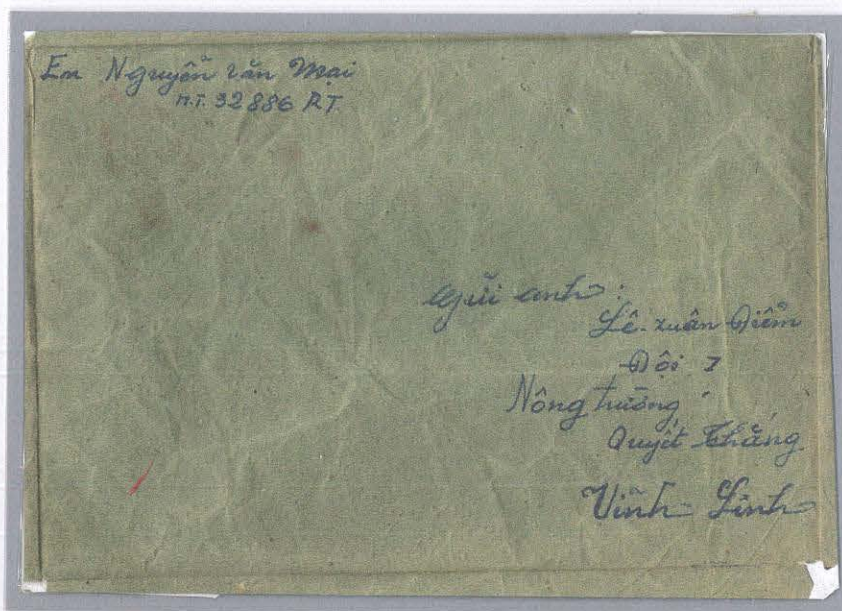
Ban - An - Ninh - T.4

- x -

Intra-country usage
April 2, 1964
On printed form
Manuscript "Hoa Toc"
is Urgent delivery

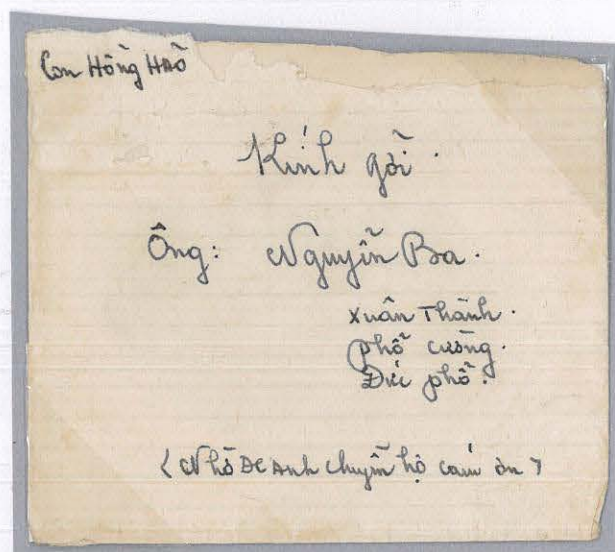
To command center between two V.C. administrative staffs. Contents describe money and provisions Zone 5 donated to the Liberation Army: "15 chickens, 6 cans of milk, 20 packs of cigarettes, 22 letters to soldiers," etc. "Three dead soldiers, six injuries from last fight. We withdrew after 2 days of fighting."

N.V.A. Turned Cover



First usage to Vinh Linh; reused to HT No. 3418BC marked "Chet" (dead),
to recipient in the 324th Division circa 1968 and then captured at Khe Sanh,

V.C. Routing Instructions and Forwarding on Turned Cover



Captured, turned cover bearing forwarding instructions Manuscript August 2, 1968 censor location given in lower left hand corner



First usage from Thanh Mi with "Kinh Goi" Kindly forward and "Chuyen Giao" Pass it along

Viet Cong mail destined for guerrillas who frequently moved from one sector or another or between provinces was often marked "Chuyen Giao" or Pass it along/Pass it on. Such mail tended to circulate for long periods to catch up with the intended recipient. As was with N.V.A. mail, common postal instructions were to destroy the letter within a specified time if the recipient was not located quickly.

From Hong Hao
"Kinh Goi" Kindly Forward
to the leader
of the unit at Duc Pho
Circle 1969



Operating without handstamps or other postal devices required Viet Cong and N.V.A. couriers to rely on written instructions. As a security measure, Viet Cong would often have one of the other two members of their three man "cell" write and address letters in his name to prevent local militia from identifying his handwriting style if the mails were captured.

V.C. Hospital Office Adversity Usage

powered by an engine copied from the French Le Rhone rotary. Roland Garros gave the aviation service the fixed-gun fighter.

The day after his first success against the Albatros, Garros was returning from a visit to another escadrille when he met an L.V.G., also a two-seater, and shot it down near Dunkirk. Once more a German aircrew was deceived by the Morane's nose-on approach. Two days later he spotted one of the newer Aviatiks, armed with a Parabellum mounted in the observer's rear seat, that was flying toward the French lines. The German pilot hurriedly dropped his bombs to gain maneuverability, and the observer's first burst caught the Morane's wing root and punctured the reserve fuel tank. Trailing a cloud of gasoline vapor, Garros disregarded the possibility of fire in the air and closed in. The German observer died with five bullets in his chest; the next five of the same clip tore through the pilot's head, slammed through the instrument panel and entered the fuel line. The Aviatik went down and

P.B.B.V.

Tỉnh: Biên Hòa

P.B.V.
T.N.

no with any of this. He had never heard of a front-fighter, or conceived such an idea he was too busy trying to send to the German government a sports-type monoplane that was

Kính gửi anh q Sài và Ethien

anh xuất cấp cho các đơn vị
phải chứa lại để trữ trước sau
cho được 700 lít - số này không
có lính tài bột mới được cấp
xây anh xuất cấp cho các
đơn vị như sau:

B2 =	100 lít gạo	- 50 ^k bột + bắp	- 10 ^k muối
B6 =	50 lít gạo	- 50	- 20
B8 =	50	- 150	- 10
B11 =	30 lít gạo	120	- 10
		370	50A

Anh, xem đây các đơn vị này đến
chiến theo đây mà cấp -

anh cấp cho B8 và B11 mỗi
B = 10 ki^{lô} đường cát

2 anh thợ cho bột t^h gạo
vô máy hôm qua - và nhai
b^ở mưa vô cho mình 50 hộp
lúa xuất hiện không

thợ g^{ie} ở Xuân B^ở đến về
cho tôi. Trân mến

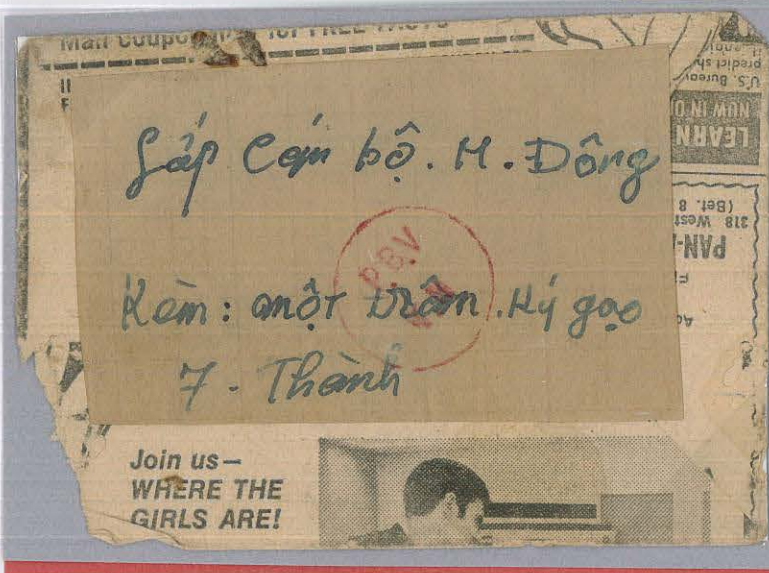
29/8

Ch

Ca

The Red circle PBV. T.N. handstamp means Phong Benh Vien Tay Ninh or hospital office. It was used in the massive underground tunnel complex at Chu Chi, Tay Ninh province. This letter requisitions food and is written to the Viet Cong military operations command P.B.B.V. at Tinh Bien Hoa. Letter was written December 8, 1972. Made from an American newspaper.

V.C. Hospital Office Adversity Usage



Lô Lãng
Kerob

Thăm hỏi anh q Sài -
lq K 76

+ Sắp bước vào sơ khởi hoạt động tháng 1/72
đi nghỉ anh chị và cho lát cắt
khẩu:

- Bột mì: 100 kg -
- Nếp 50 lít -
+ Hàng khẩu, chúng tôi sẽ có tọa
dau.

Đi nghỉ anh, nếu có bột, nếp báo
hình cho chị tôi hay để đến nhận.

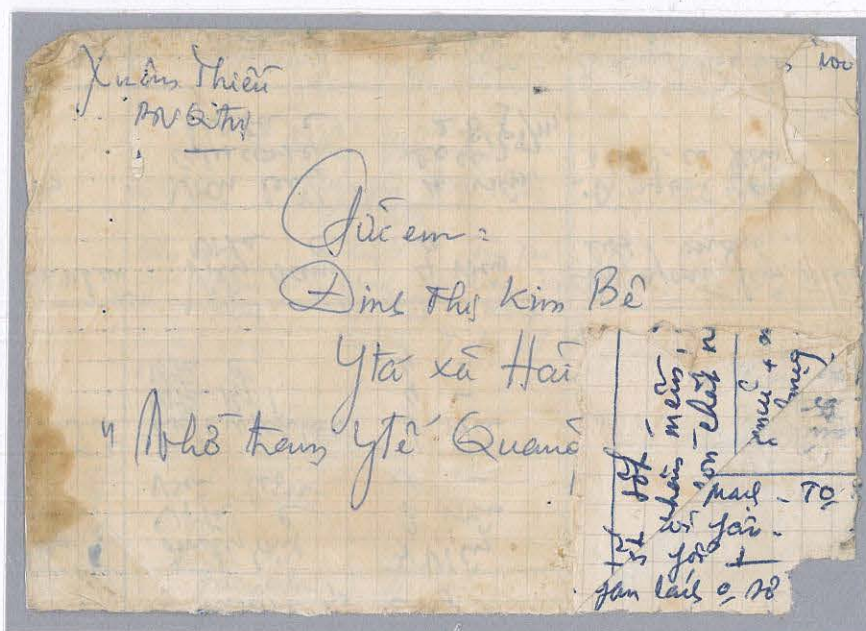
Mong anh sớm dẫn gồng đồ, để
TP sau bắt đầu công tác sơ khởi tôi
đi tốt (có vật chất cho tôi) -

Ngày 12/1/72

Đang
Lô Lãng

The Red circle PBV. T.N. handstamp means Phong Benh Vien Tay Ninh or hospital office. It was used in the massive underground tunnel complex at Chu Chi, Tay Ninh province. Letter was written January 12, 1972. Made from an American newspaper.

Female Viet Cong Adversity Cover



Letter from sister to sister serving as a nurse with guerrilla forces assigned to the "Health Protection Unit," – Quang Tri.

Captured N.V.A. and V.C. mail, even when sent from civilians, often provided intelligence data that when collected and correlated with other information, collaborated findings and conclusions about war efforts. The above adversity cover sent from one V.C. woman to her sister fighting in the South was made from a listing or inventory of medical supplies used by V.C. medical cadre at Hai Le village to treat villagers as well as V.C. and N.V.A. wounded. Such information could be extrapolated into figures that helped to correlate casualty rates as well as the amounts of supplies needed to treat those casualties. This item was taken from the body of a military mail courier headed for the Laotian border during the Tet attacks of January and February of 1968. The following four adhesives portray the role of women as combatants.



1970 Issue: Armed
Woman Feeding Pigs



1963 Issue: For
National Defense

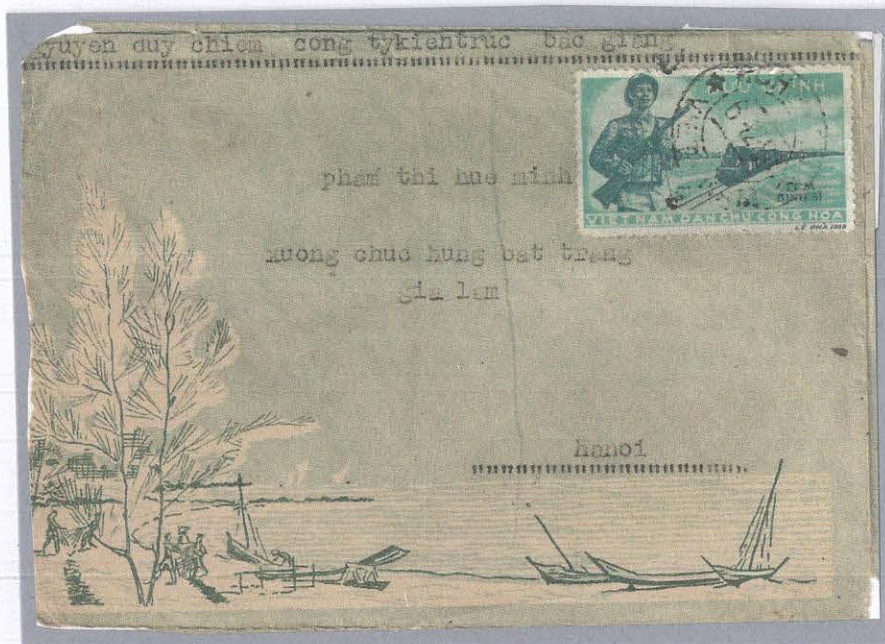


1971 Issue: Reissue of 1966
Victories of N.F.L. in Dry Season



1961 Issue: Vietnam's Reunification Campaign

Military Frank Adhesives On Turned Cover



First Use
Military Frank
1959 Issue: Soldier
And Train

First usage from Bac Giang to Gia Lau, the main air force base and training facility outside Hanoi.

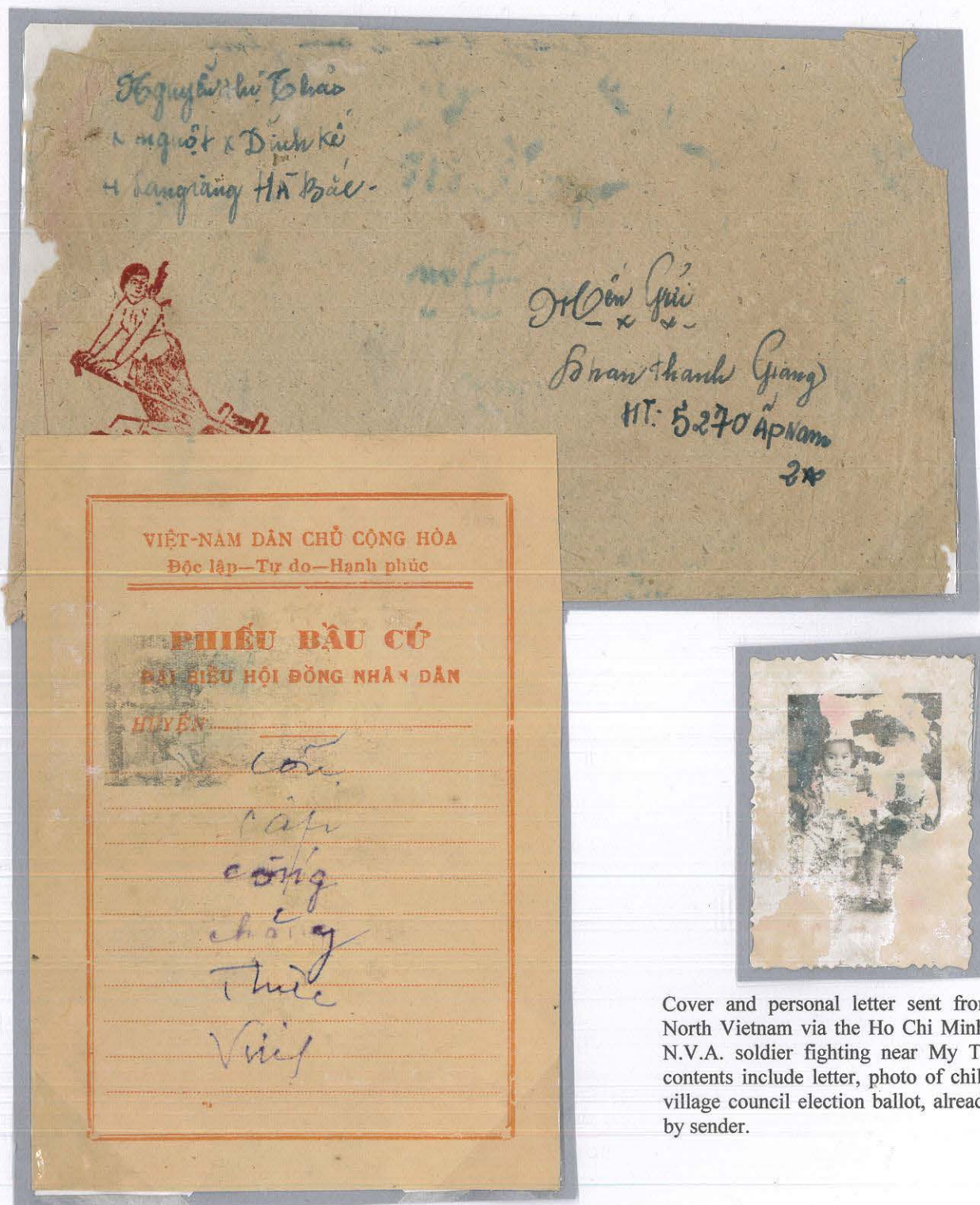


Second Use
Military Frank
1962 Issue: Armed
Forces on a Boat
Military Service

Second usage to Hom Thu No. 9626 HK, a deployed Infantry Unit

VI. Captured Mail & Security Usages

Captured Mail – Contents



Cover and personal letter sent from Ha Bac, North Vietnam via the Ho Chi Minh trail to an N.V.A. soldier fighting near My Tho. Cover contents include letter, photo of children, and a village council election ballot, already filled out by sender.

All wars exact a high personal cost from those who fight as well as from those who are counted as its victims. Often, those who are called upon to fight are as much victims as is anyone else. The above item contains a letter imploring an N.V.A. soldier to return home safely to his children, one of whom he had never seen. Sadly, he would never be granted the privilege of seeing either them or his wife for he did not survive the firefight he was caught in during the Tet Offensive of February and March, 1968.

Field Content Evaluation Form On N.V.A. Southbound Mail

9

Chiến phong 17-12-1967.

Anh Hiền kính yêu!

Đã lâu lắm không bắt được thư của anh. Hôm nay em đọc lại dòng chữ giản giờ của anh gửi đài Truyền lời Miền Nam anh hùng! Anh ở cả gia đình ta đều mong hàng ngày đi được thư.

Ng. công Anis T6 H Khu 7+8 Bạch hũ
tiền thưởng yên lòng
kính chúc

thước gập
Thầy em be
Me và các
nguồn anh

gửi em

Nguyễn Công Anis

HT 20780.
NO

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION NUMBER 45

SOURCE: NVA soldiers 3 March

CONTENT (THEME): They give their news, they are making big progress in their combat mission. According to a referendum it's thanks to the Revolution that the people didn't leave their province, they rebuild the roads destroyed by the enemy (GVN and allied forces).

AUDIENCE: NVA soldiers, friends and relations.
LOCATION: BR 766 924

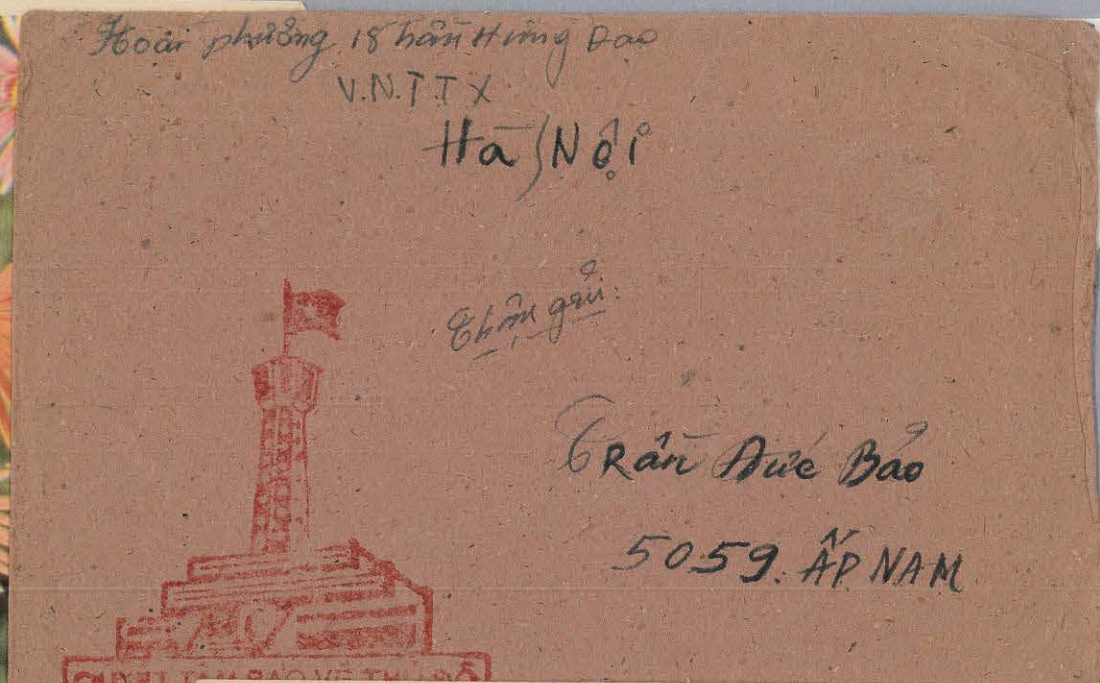
MEDIA: hand written letters

REMARKS: given by MSF, Co 2001,
73 d US Abr Bde

Usage: North to South
December 17, 1967

Captured enemy mails received a preliminary field analysis for content and intelligence value. Due to the tremendous amount of letters and documents that were captured, little time or manpower was available for analysis of the postal/communications value a captured cover might have. Time in transit from North to South via the Ho Chi Minh trail was considered important as it pointed to typical time material and men took to travel the trail. Young brother writes older brother, "How evil Americans are. We will survive. Thanks for your efforts."

Field Content Evaluation Form On N.V.A. Southbound Mail



Hồi phượng
Hà - Nội

Đức Bảo mến. 2/68
1/3

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION NUMBER 12

SOURCE: NVA soldier's friend and uncle.

CONTENT (THEME): Express their seperation, and their function.

AUDIENCE: NVA soldier

LOCATION: 5059 Ấp Nam

MEDIA: Handwritten personal

REMARKS: Patriotic



Ed hân phượng thân gửi một vui mừng
gửi tới bác tiên phượng có nhiều niềm vui
nhân lòng anh đang đi.
Bác thân mến. Bác còn nhớ
hay đã quên một lời anh? có lẽ quên
thì nhớ? anh vui với anh dân chiến
thắng đôi anh quên hết anh bác em
đi. Kia. Hôm nay anh về phụng và bắt
anh trả phụng. Có lại gửi bác thân
bác. Vì anh biết tin về bác buồn từ
khi bác đi công tác xa. Nên anh em
tranh thủ hai anh thân. Có lẽ tốt

Patriotic cover with letter, photograph, and post card as enclosures. Sender's address is given as V.N.T.T.X., Hanoi (Vietnamese Textile Corporation.) Letter dated March 2, 1968

The content of intercepted or captured soldier's letters often told intelligence personnel about the morale of the sender and the conditions which he or she was living. In this case the writers are upbeat for the recipient's peace of mind, although constant reference is made to the very heavy toll, both mental and physical, endured in the face of the B-52 raids on Hanoi. Note: G-1 intelligence preliminary evaluation report slip. Two letters in same envelope were written to high school friend and uncle serving in same unit.

Field Content Evaluation Form On N.V.A. Southbound Mail

Handwritten notes on the left:
 1. *Handwritten:* Hanoi - Thanh - Binh
 2. *Handwritten:* Nguyen - D. Nguyen
 3. *Handwritten:* Hai Minh
 4. *Handwritten:* Hai Hau

Handwritten text on the envelope:
 Hai Minh 11-3-68.
 Anh hung kinh minh:
 Tu ngay anh xa quí đi nháp ngai nay trai
 người xa quí đi
 đi nháp ngai
 ai mui gây lủ
 của em còn ở
 lời của anh
 toàn thể anh
 Nguyễn - Duy - Hưng nay hoàn hảo
 5059 ấp Nam
 T 5059 ấp nam
 T 5059 ấp nam
 T 5059 ấp nam

Postage stamp:
 VIET NAM
 ĐAN CHU CÔNG HOA
 12

PRELIMINARY EVALUATION NUMBER 13

SOURCE: NVA soldier's brother.

CONTENT (THEME): Express the regard, wish, encourage them not to worry about the family and they desire to receive letter.

AUDIENCE: NVA soldier

LOCATION: HT 5059 Ấp Nam

MEDIA: Handwritten personal letter.

REMARKS: KILLED IN LZ 12 1968

From Hanoi to northern I Corps, March 11, 1968 with field notes and preliminary intelligence evaluation concerning letter from an N.V.A. regular to his brother killed in an attack during a helicopter landing near Phouc Vinh, Republic of Vietnam during Tet 1968.

As soon as was practical, the captured mail, when taken from prisoners of war or removed from the bodies of Viet Cong or N.V.A. was given a rudimentary analysis, then sent on to Military Intelligence specialists, both American and South Vietnamese for further study. Soon thereafter, the covers were destroyed as it was felt that they were of little value. Later on, the letters and other documents contained within the covers were also destroyed. Few of these seldom seen evaluation forms have survived. This letter written in parts by five family members to a father discussing family affairs.

N.V.A. Military Security Handstamps

Military Frank
1971 Issue: Nguyen
Viet Xuan, Officer
Anti-aircraft Gun



Seldom seen red double circle military handstamp reads “Nhan Dan Quan Su 70” which translates roughly as: “People’s (Army) Platoon 70.” The cover also bears blind obliterator handstamps as well as a June 25, 1974 Tan Yen receiving mark. Secrecy concerns were the top communications priority.



Military Frank
1966 Issue:
Soldier and
Guerilla Woman

Tied by “blind” wartime security cancel, August 7, 1967, sent from Interior Security Ministry military letterbox at unknown location to Yen Gon Village (Xã) Lục Nam Province, Hà Bắc. The interior Security Ministry controlled troops responsible for defense within North Vietnam.

Blind Security Cancel



1972 Issue: 3rd Vietnamese Trade Union, Workers

Usage: Hom Tho to Hom Thu

Probable origin Choung My near Laos, backstamped September 5, 1973.



1972 Issue: 3rd Vietnamese Trade Union, Workers

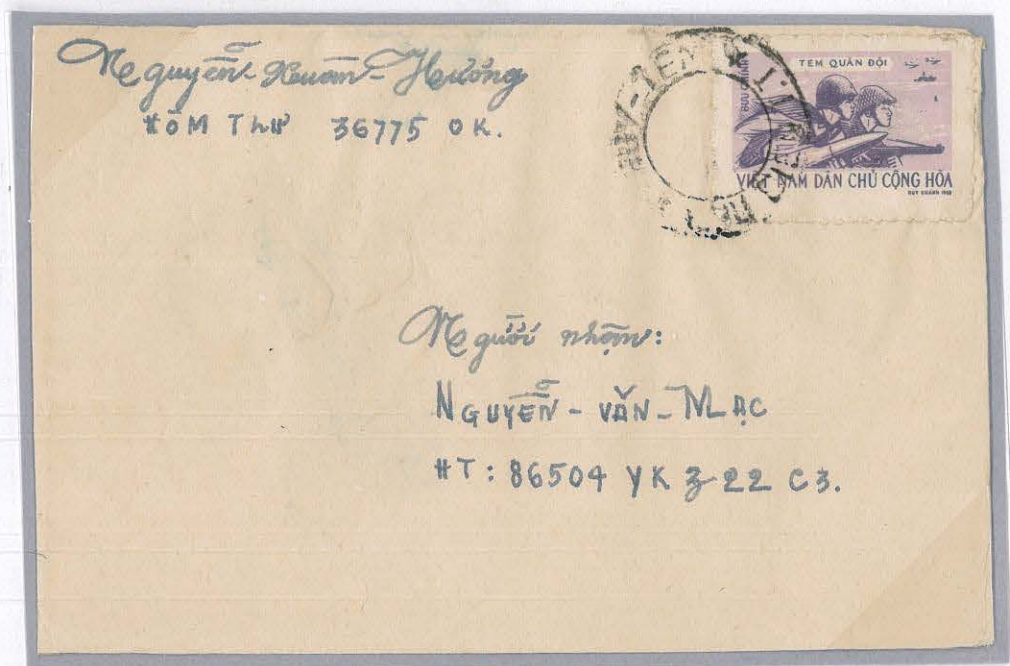
Handstamped April 1973 on reverse

Usage: South to North

HT No. NGI 915 P12 to Cho Ton near Bau Thoi

Blind Security Cancels

1969 Issue: Soldiers in Action
On reverse: Receiving handstamp
Hanoi September 2, 1969



1965 Issue: Electricity and Irrigation
Receiving manuscript September 2, 1969 on reverse

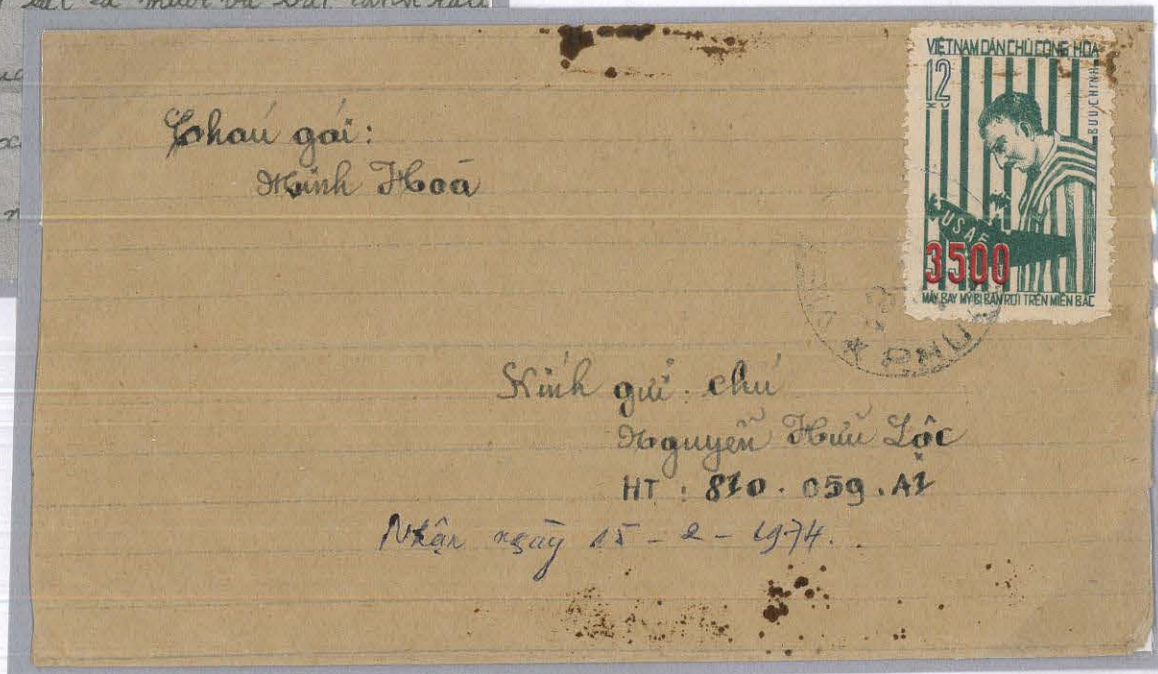
Both examples feature military security cancel without reference to city, village, or date. Top example mailed to Hanoi; bottom item addressed to Ha Bac.

Blind Security Cancel

gần
văn viết

nh
Em hãy kể lại việc dọn cơm của Em:

2b Hằng ngày nhà Em thường dọn cơm trên p
bước tiến Em lau phần cho sạch sẽ xong r
đặt mâm cơm ngay ngắn trên phần Em quét
cơm canh nguội rồi em gọi bố mẹ anh chị em
quây quần xung quanh mâm cơm có thức ăn đơn
nhà em thường bắt cả muỗi và bắt canh rau
nấu với canh cua
nói vui và ăn x
sạch sẽ mát n

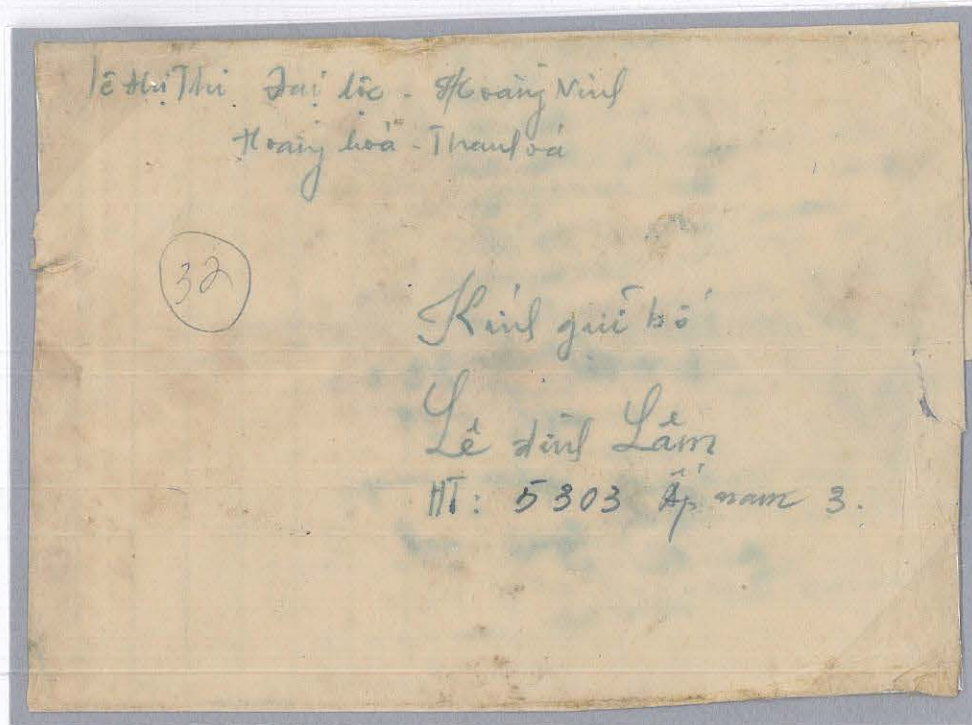


1972 Issue: 3,500th U.S. Airplane Shot Down.

Manuscript receiving mark: February 15, 1974; folded letter from Than Hoa, North Vietnam
To unknown military location in the South. Tied by North Vietnam blind war-time handstamp.

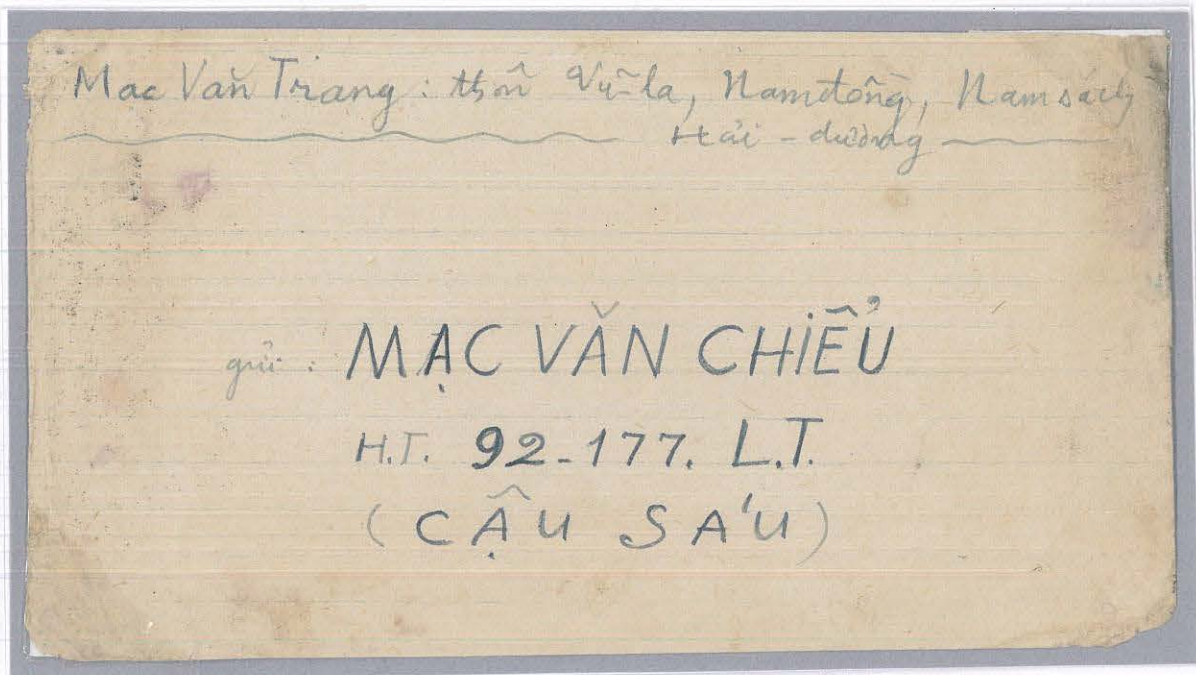
More examples of N.V.A. soldiers' mail exist after 1972 because more couriers survived after the U.S. departed in late 1972. Examples almost always bear postage stamps, since the 1964 decree allowing soldiers fighting in the South to post mail without postal charges was rescinded in 1972. Blind Security cancels do not show the town.

Southbound N.V.A. Mail



To N.V.A. officer or non-commissioned officer serving with a V.C. unit in the Mekong Delta.

Hom Thu No. 5303 (different ink) filled in by military postal clerk somewhere on the Ho Chi Minh trail.



Originating in North Vietnam to V.C. HT Letterbox "Cau Sau" military transfer office.

The names "Mac Van Chieu" and "Mac Van Trang" are what were called a "V.C. name." They provide disguise or code name to hide the identity of the soldiers, usually officers.

Revenue Documentary Usage

VIỆT - NAM

BIƯU - ĐIỆN VIỆT - NAM

N. 21
TỔNG CỤC BƯU ĐIỆN
VÀ TRUYỀN THANH

THƯ CHUYỂN TIỀN

MIỀN BẮC ĐÃ RƠI CHIẾC MÁY BAY MỸ THỨ 1000

1.000

VIỆT NAM DÂN CHỦ CỘNG HÒA

Người gửi: Ông. Bà Lê Văn Hải

ở (1): Ty giáo dục Bắc Hải

Số tiền gửi (bằng số): 26 đ 40 ✓

Người nhận: Ông. Bà Nguyễn Thị Dương

ở (1): 21/12/4 Khu vực Khố

(1) Huyện, thị trấn hay thị xã.

Viết xong, đính hồ dán kín lại

Phần dành riêng để viết thư

Chị Dương.

Tôi vẫn tiếp tục gửi SAT cho cháu

Định tháng 6/66.

Địa chỉ hiện nay có thay đổi từ

cũ gửi theo như trong thư. chị

có gửi chị và báo sau.

Chúc chị khỏe mạnh.

Cộng tác TT.

8/6/66

Viết xong, đính hồ dán kín lại

1966 Issue: 1,000th U.S. Planes
Shot Down, tied by red Dong Hi
6/9/66 red double circle
handstamp to Viet Bac
Only recorded documentary
example

The U.S. Planes Shot Down series of war issues are among the best known stamps issued by North Vietnam. This is one of the few known uses of any North Vietnamese postage stamps as a revenue documentary stamp. The document above is an application/receipt for a postal money order, which until this time, were unknown with documentary stamps affixed as payment for documentary fees, or more likely as a war tax. Note that the backside of the application requires the remitter to provide an explanation as to the use for the money.

Wartime Security Marking

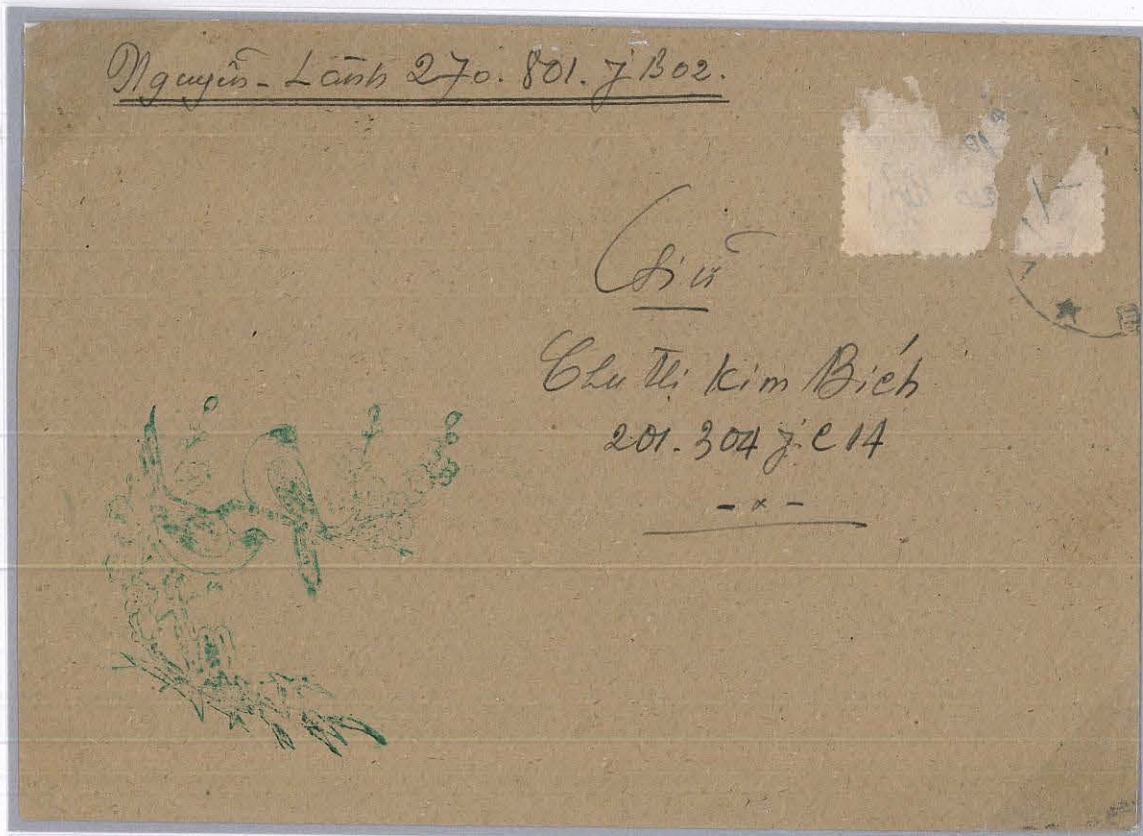
BC 37 Military Cancel



Security cancel on March 12, 1968. Stamp removed by South Vietnam military censors.

N.V.A. security measures were used to minimize intelligence extractable from captured mail. This double ring date stamp bears "B.C. 37 MA" rather than originating post office's name. Mostly found on military mail. In this case, the sender's address is clearly shown in the return address, so the security cancel was not needed. Boxed "3131" may be a forwarding mark or transfer instruction. "Kính, Gui Anh" means Urgent, Forward

Messages Hidden Under Stamps



From Hom Tho No. 270.801 jBO2 to military unit at Hom Thu No. 201.304 jC14; postage stamp removed; backstamped Phuc Tho August 26, 1972; recipient's letter "C" indicates a company sized unit; sender's letter "B" in address indicates a battalion.

Captured military covers held in collections are easily recognized because the stamp, or part of the stamp has been peeled away. This was done for two reasons: 1. The government wanted the stamps destroyed due to their high visual propaganda value. 2. Many stamps had messages or code written on the backside of stamp. Covert communications are partly visible on the back of this postage stamp.

Viet Cong Lock Box Mail Drops



1966 UNESCO Issue Viet Cong drop letter sent to box holder at Can Tho,
October, 1967, Saigon surveillance cancellation

One guerrilla method used to communicate among Viet Cong at different locations was via "secure" Post Office Lock Boxes. They were thought to be secure because only the boxholder possessed a key, but that was a false assumption which caused many Viet Cong agents and leaders to be arrested. Finding lock box mail on Viet Cong and N.V.A. couriers allowed military intelligence and postal authorities to observe, backtrack the path the letter took, and ultimately, arrest those who utilized the post office box.

Surveillance Marks on Viet Cong Mail

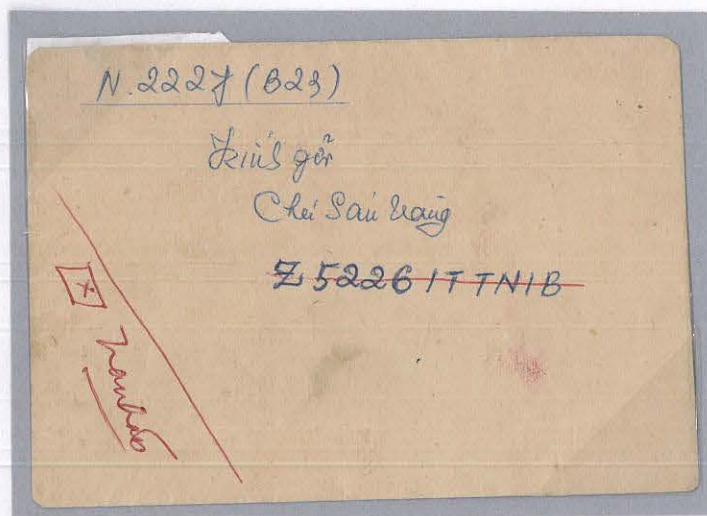


1961 Issue: Tien Mu Tower, Hue, in the Ancient Towers – Temples
Saigon special handstamp cancellation September 1, 1966
Viet Cong cover sent to Lock Box #39 at Can – Tho.

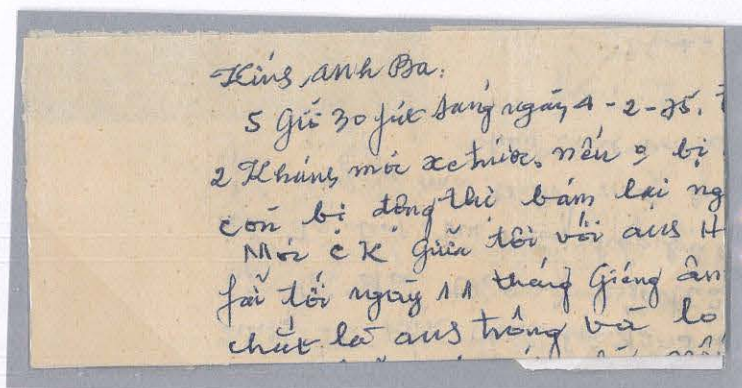
To identify suspected mail and those who sent, received, and handled it, South Vietnamese military and postal authorities used special date stamps or extra marks on the canceling device as seen above at the 10 o'clock position. Note the Hue theme of the stamp, as the theme representing a Communist objective. Such subliminal messages were typical, as was the use of a false northern name.

VII. Redirected, Forwarded, & Censored

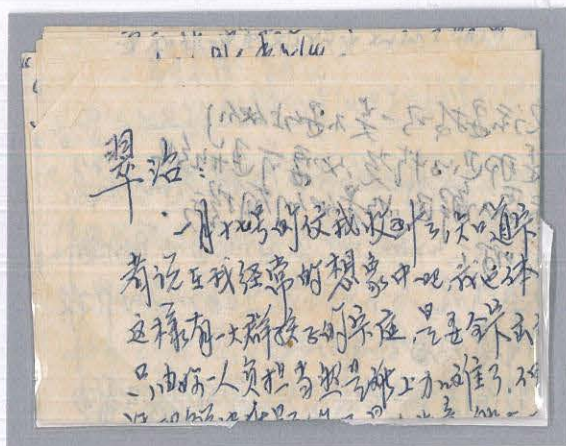
'X' Redirect and Forward



'Kính Gửi' Forward please
To Chu Sau Vang
at letterbox #Z 5226
'X' Redirected by Thanh
Red Boxed Manuscript



February 4, 1975 Letter: Tiu Tung writes that he is leaving on a mission. If he returns safely his letter will contain the code phrase "My father has been cured of his disease, no longer a need to worry." From the enclosure, this was probably an assassination or kidnap mission.

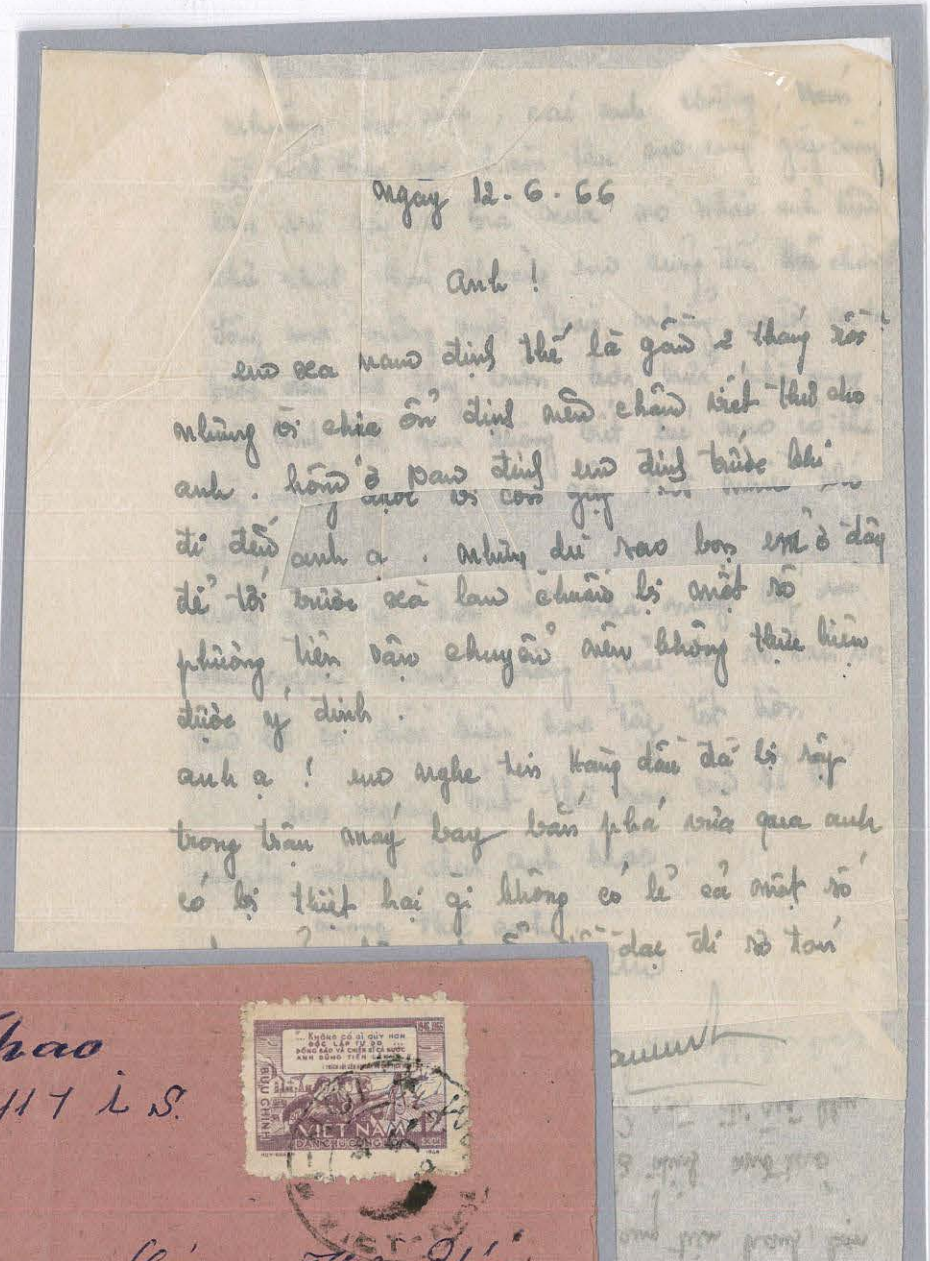


'Kính Gửi' Forward
To Anh G Vang, HT No. F 9229
'X' Redirected by Thanh
Red Boxed Manuscript

V.C. were constantly on the move. As units were depleted, the V.C. quickly redeployed its forces, thus mail delivery often lagged far behind its intended recipient. The most frequently used forwarding mark was the seldom seen 'X' within a diamond, followed by the name of the forwarder. Covers were usually placed within another cover going to the recipient's new letterbox address.

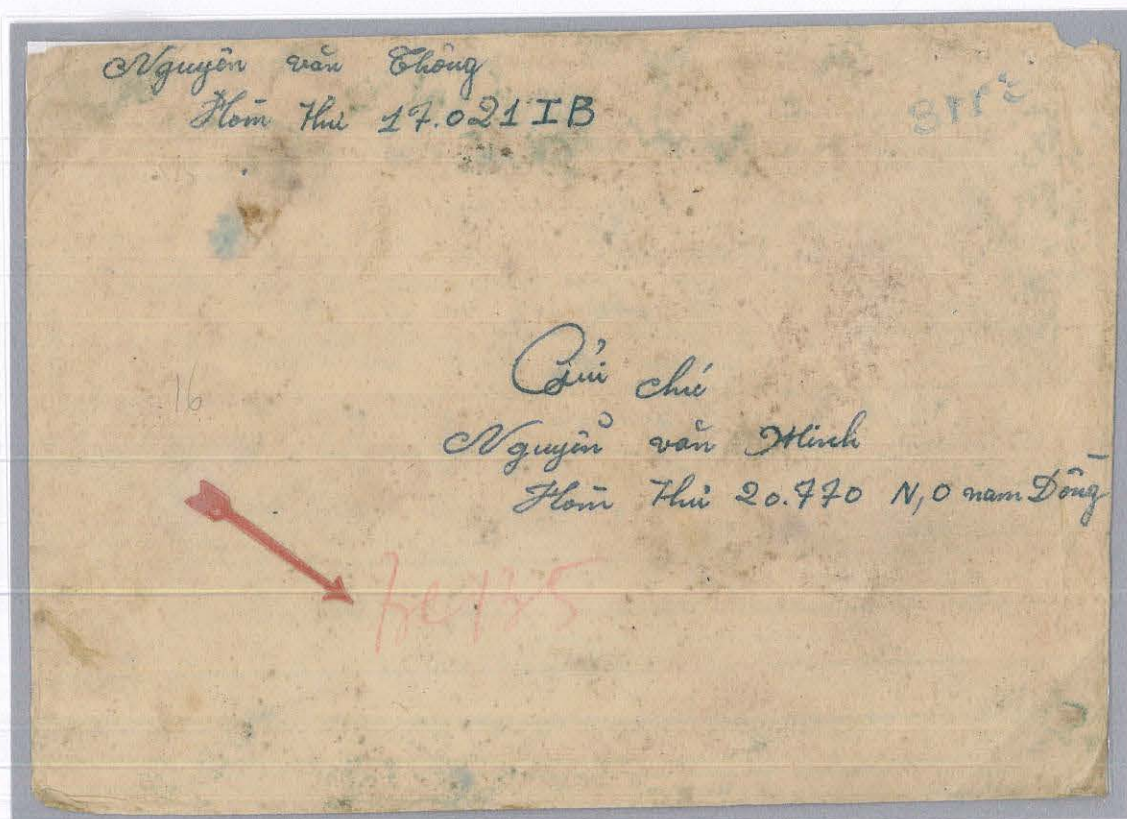
N.V.A. Censored Mail

1965 Issue:
20th Anniversary
of August Revolution



Unknown postal markings from small town in North Vietnam June 12, 1966. Heavily censored letter has scissor cuts throughout. HT address written in different hands by N.V.A. censor. Red cancel, probably receiving mark.

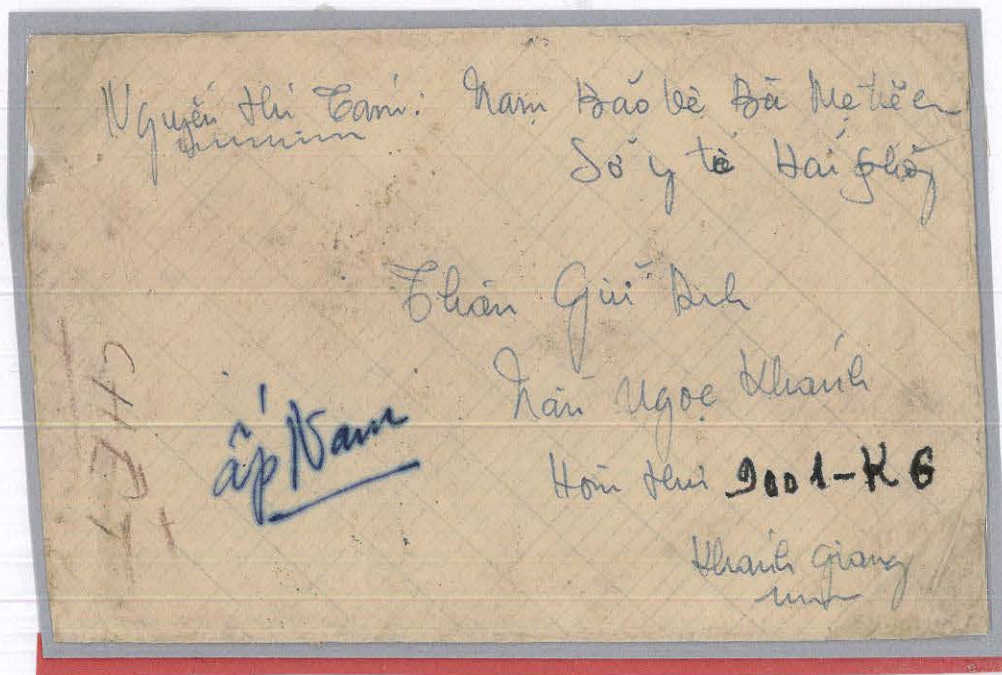
Forwarded Mail
Manuscript Red BC 135 Military Station



Military letter from North Vietnamese Army Hom Thu to North Vietnamese Hom Thu located at Nam Dong, South Vietnam then forwarded to Viet Cong Hom Thu BC No. 135 in red pencil.

Limited resources of Viet Cong and the N.V.A. forces dictated that civilian to soldier mails be forwarded on a different basis than was military mail. Civilian mail could be forwarded twice if the ultimate location of the addressee was known. Military mail was forwarded until the destination was reached unless the cover had a time-sensitive code number on the front. Once the time limit for delivery was exceeded, the letter was destroyed.

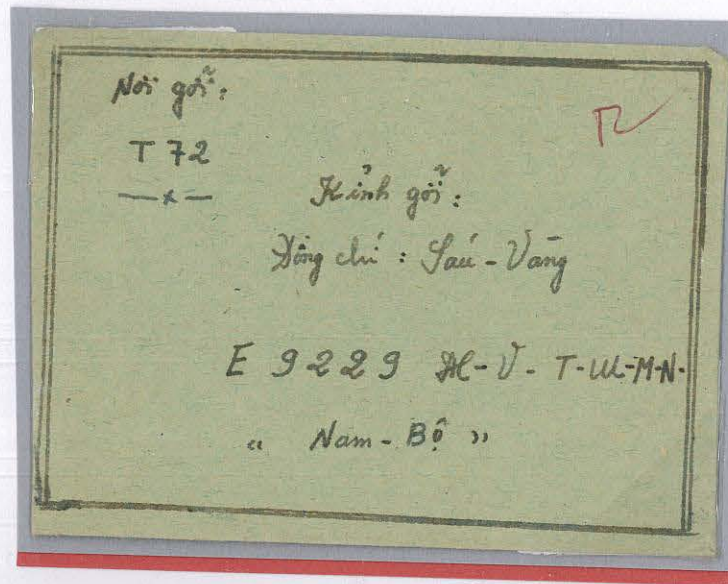
Undeliverable/Forwarded Mails CHET "Killed in Action"



Mailed from Hai Phong to N.V.A. soldier in the South without Hom Thu No. Transfer agent supplied 9001 KG, another forwarded to Ap Nam. Undeliverable after forwarding due to "chet" (death) of intended recipient, marked by third person.

Undelivered mail intended for deceased recipients raised political considerations, which required that such mail be destroyed rather than returned to sender. As seen above, the Viet Cong military Hom Thu No.9001 KG had been filled in upon the letter's arrival in the combat zone. If returned to sender, secret Hom Thu numbers and locations would no longer be secure. This cover was taken from a Viet Cong base in Tay Ninh before it was scheduled to be burned.

'R' (Roi) Censored Marking



Anh Ba Đoàn, anh Sáu Vàng kính mến;
Gửi hết kính thư thăm sức khỏe hai anh và cái T
trong đơn vị ta mạnh và công tác tốt! Vừa rồi có gặp cậu Đinh
và nhận được thư của mấy anh, em cảm thấy vô cùng phấn khởi.
Đinh có vào thăm chúng em và em cũng có kể lại những việc
cần thiết để báo cáo lại với các anh. Bây giờ đã lên đường
về hơn 2 tháng rồi, đã bình an về đến nơi chưa?
Đơn vị mình lúc này làm ăn thế nào? Cái T đều
bình an và mạnh khỏe cả là phải! Vừa rồi được nghe tin
Sư Miền Nam. chúng em hết sức phấn khởi, và cũng như các
T mình nhiều lắm. nhất là các T còn trong ngục tù của
 địch. thế nào có ai về tiếp nữa không? Có dịp tin cho
em mừng! chị em của mình có gì thay đổi không?
chắc tiền bạc nhiều là phải. nhớ gửi lời thăm hỏi các anh chị
mình. nhất là các T của trung lao tù hồ về. Theo em
thấy còn chiến đấu thì còn tù đây. Mấy anh nên tập hợp lại

Extremely late 'R' usage, March 5, 1975. From an N.V.A. Unit (T72) to Comrade Lau Vang. Letter discusses activity, successes, and failures of the Unit with casualties, objectives and money details.

'R' (Roi) Censored, 'X' Approval & 'GAP' Expedite

Lê Văn Sen.
Xã Tân Phú
Huyện Đức Hòa, Song an.
Kính gửi
Nguyễn Văn Ngay
Huyện Tân Uyên, xã Tân Phước
Tây, ấp Bàn Cờ

2/1/68
1/1/68
1/1/68

'R' Manuscript Already Censored on reverse, August 10, 1968
'Kính Gởi' Please Forward
Staple from capturing U.S. Intelligence group.

'X' Circled Blue Manuscript
Approval of personal enclosure,
Signed by Censor across bottom
'Kính Gởi' Secure Forward

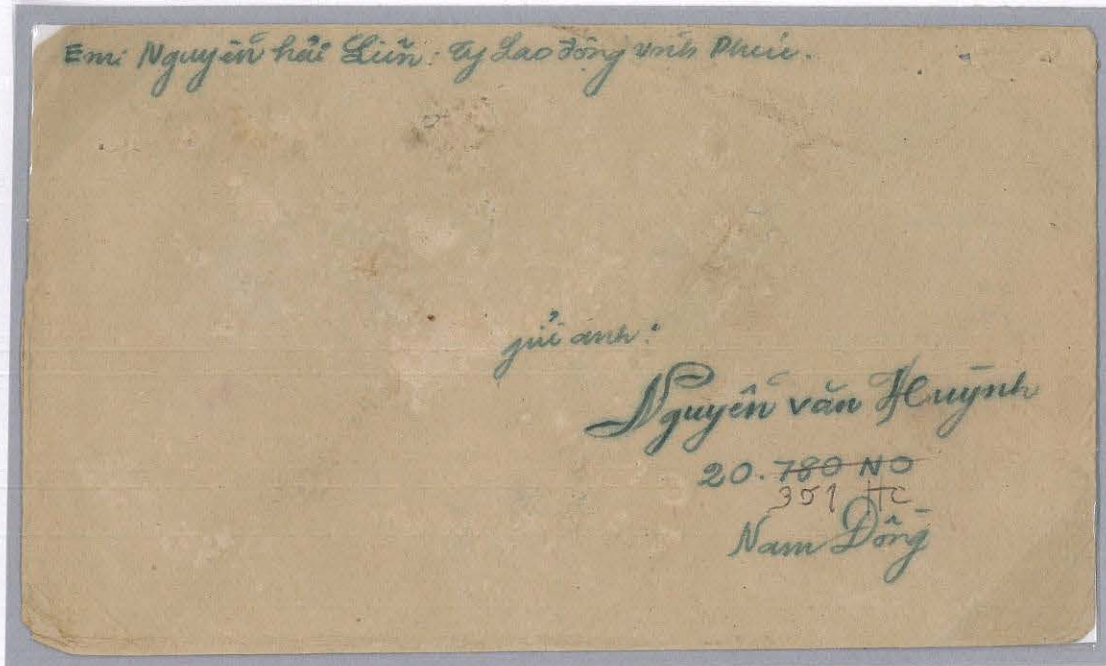
Phải Dương
730^N/3865A.
Kính gửi: B.
Thị trấn - An. B.
HT: 21/3991A / B5.
GAP

người gửi: Kim Hoa
H.T. 41.335.
Kính gửi.
(X) Mẹ Nguyễn Thị Kiên
Tỉnh trưởng, Hải Lữ
Hải Lăng
Huyện Quảng Nam chuyên

'GAP' Expedite Blue Manuscript
'Kính Gởi' Please forward

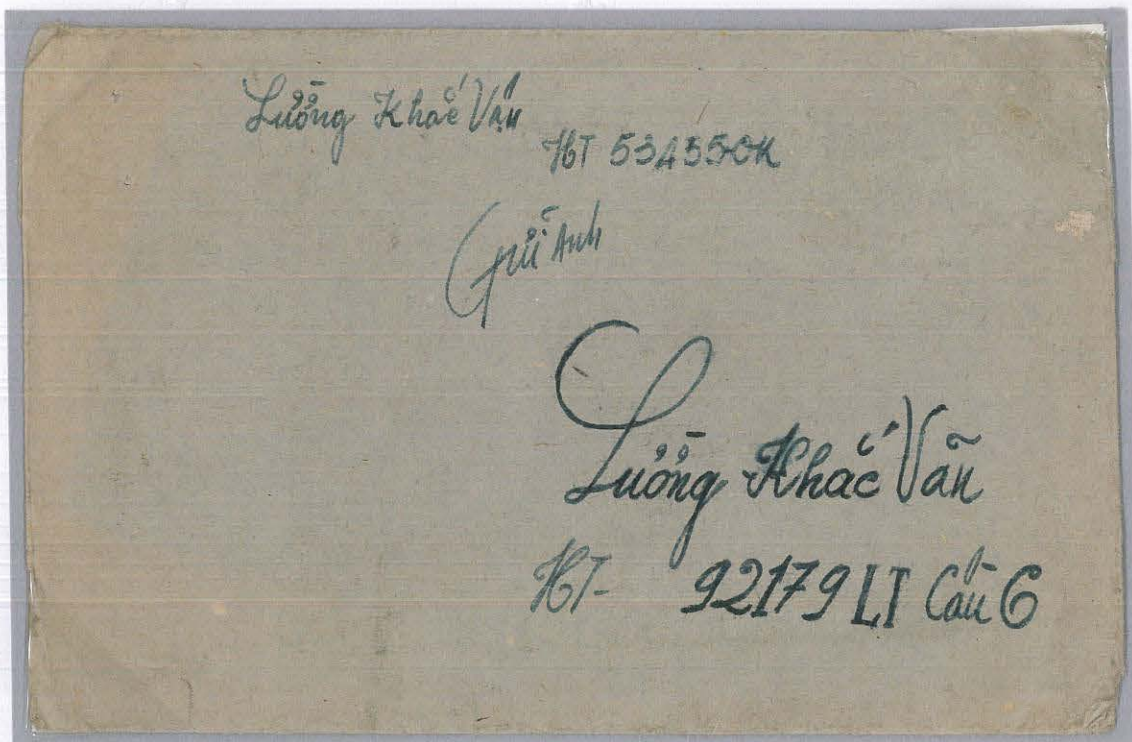
Note blood stains on cover.

Usage Transfer and Forwarding



Usage: Intra-country Civilian to Military

To Hom Thu No. 20 780NO and readdressed by field transfer agent to Hom Thu No. 20 351 HC at Nam Dong, North Vietnam. Note staple holes in corners from field evaluation form.



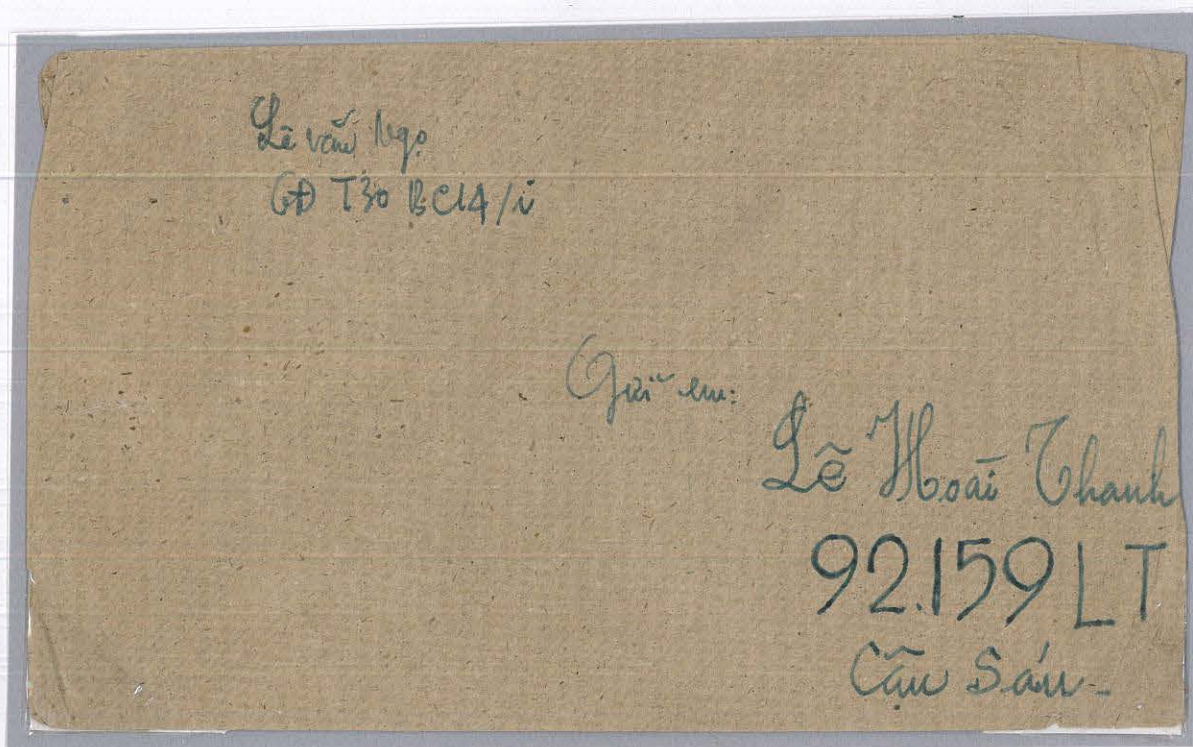
Usage: Military to Military

Note "Gui Anh" Forward and "Cau G" for the transfer station Cau Sau; staple holes in corner.

Regional Field Postal Locating/Transferring Stations

"Sao Be" Sorting/Transfer Station

Viet Cong field cover addressed to "Tinh" (leader) at Long An, a major staging area for attacks on Saigon. Only known "Sao Be" sorting/transfer station included in address. Sao Be is a Vietnamese folklore figure who fooled his enemies.



"Cau Sau"
Sorting
Station

Since many N.V.A. soldiers fighting in South Vietnam were gone for the duration of the war, and since their location and Hom Thu numbers were often changed, relatives had no way of knowing their current address or location. To remedy this, letters were sent without Hom Thu No. or Hom Tho No. Military mail transfer/forwarding personnel, after censoring the unsealed letter, would add the addressee's Hom Tho address.

"Cau Sau" (Uncle Sau) may refer to a Vietnamese folk hero like Uncle Remis or may be a play on words for "Uncle Sam." This clandestine N.V.A. military mail transfer and sorting office served to locate the individual or unit.

North Vietnam Senders Return Addresses

II Corps - TAKEN FROM BODY AUG 19 1968

- Mến thư -

Trong năm 67 vừa qua, quê nhà của em chết rất
lắm đàn gà tây hầu chân của bà giết nhất là
đi. quai Mỹ, nơi tiếng sẽ giết nó chỉ không mang đến và
tên của em và Hiền, không biết luôn là ngày hôm
Chị không biết em và Hiền thì nào? mãi cho
đến nay, chỉ nhận được tên của em gửi về cho

Đường 10 (trên)

Xóm 5

Xã Mỹ Mỹ

Thị trấn Thanh Trì

Hà Nội

Quý anh

Nguyễn Văn Chè

Hòm thư 5360-AP

NAM 3



Complete return addresses with the family's name and address of the sender are only found on mail sent from Communist North Vietnam to N.V.A. soldiers fighting in the South. Mail originating in the South intended for in-country distribution or sent to the North would never include a return address. This example captured August 19, 1968 with stamp removed by intelligence officer. Family letter between two close army friends. "I hope to tell you more in person. We were marching at 2:00 AM when I got injured. How nasty are the Americans, and the atrocities they commit among our villagers."

V.C. Written Endorsements and Inscriptions

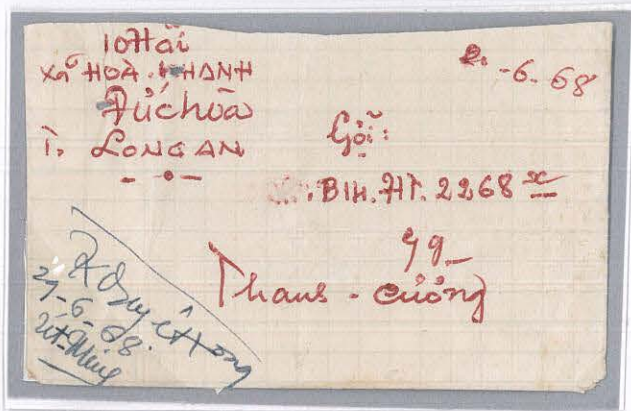


On reverse, "Nothing is more valuable than freedom," and "With determination and love of country we will triumph over the American enemy."

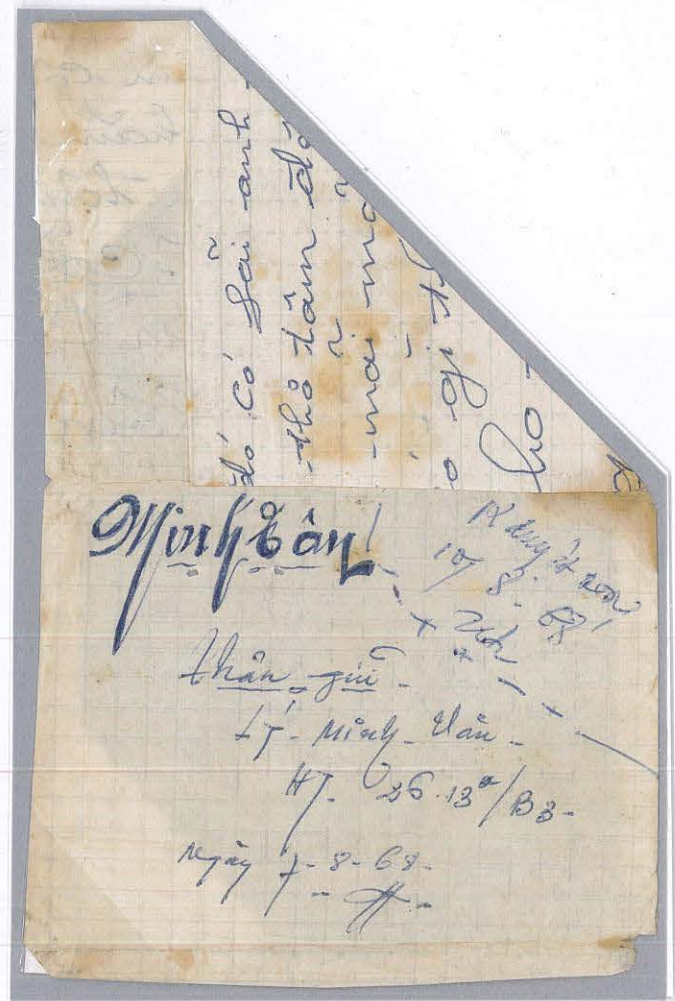


Hom Thu address No. 5303 at Ap Nam 3 postal mailing center. Stamp removed, unknown cancellation. On reverse, "Carry this through river forest, if he is lost do not read this."

Viet Cong Internal Censored Mails



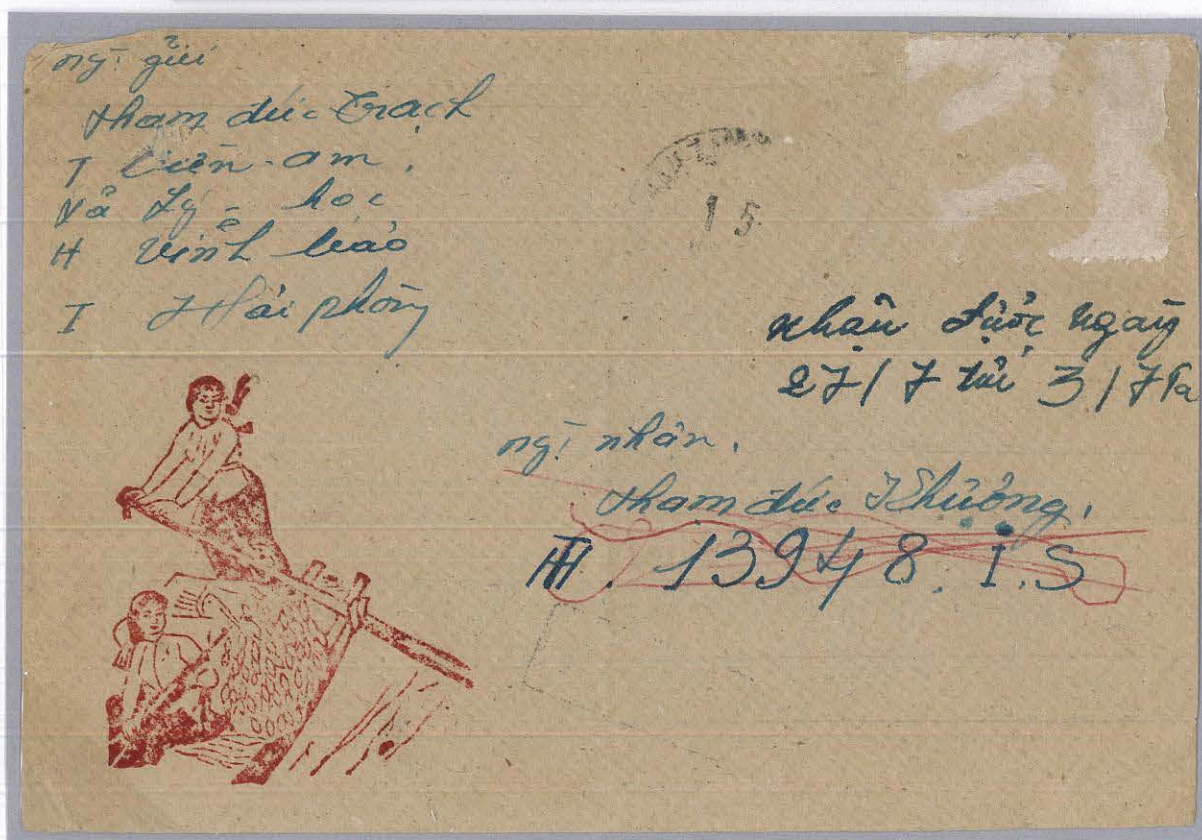
V.C. censor manuscript marking in blue ink June 29, 1968 on turned cover sent June 20, 1968 form Long An to HT No.2268 X



Folded letter sent to HT No.2618 somewhere northwest of Saigon (B3) V.C. censor manuscript marking in corner on August 10, 1968, mailed August 1, 1968

The North Vietnamese Army and the Viet Cong military/political command structures required nearly all mail, military or civilian, to undergo examination and censorship. V.C. censored mails often have the notation "censored" or "examined" on a corner of the cover. Included was the date and initials of the examiner. Officers, communications personnel and political cadre had the responsibility to censor military mails. Note manuscript sensor markings in blue ink and staple holes from evaluation form attachment.

Letters Returned As Undeliverable



Civilian patriotic envelope sent from Hai Phong to central South Vietnam without the Hom Thu No. Transfer agent supplied 13948 IS, later crossed out in red ink. Forwarded to 317 location, then re-sent to military letterbox 225 by manuscript backstamp in Hai Phong twice. All three attempts failed

Only two examples have been recorded of mails that were undeliverable in South Vietnam attempted return to the North. As indicated by manuscript backstamps on this item, these failed attempts were redirected north to military/political offices for examination and destruction. Stamp removed for inspection. Forwarded mails were usually discarded.

Civilian Usage of Military Courier

Cái em ở tỉnh đang để chúng nó kho
 Anh em mang em về đi quân yếm em
 với Ba đứa tam tam lại qua mà ở không
 em đi làm ở em ! ở chỗ này là ở việc
 em em đi kho tam và do anh em em
 và việc này anh biết làm thì nhất
 Anh em ở nhà ở ? hay là em em em
 đây em ở đây vì em em em em em em
 Phở em gửi thêm hết ba em

Đc. Hoàn 5g

Hôm và anh em em

Nguyễn Thị Phi



Phan Nhân

Biên tập ở tại TNN

58 Quán Sứ

Hanoi

To Hanoi
January 27, 1973

R 27-1.1973

Addressed to Phan Nhan, a high ranking Communist Officer not in the Military, from his wife Thi Phi, writing from a hiding place outside the city with their two children. Sent by military courier, the letter claims the family is hiding nightly to avoid bombing raids. 90 days later the U.S. pulled out of Vietnam.

Returned Mail

Người gửi: Đỗ Xuân Cầm HTX Hồng lương tiền yên
Xã Thanh Lôi Huyện Yên Bái N-B

Người nhận:

con Đỗ Văn Cầm

Hòm thư - 92.178 LT

Cầu - Pầu

Thư vào tại sao
Cho ra đây

Bản sau
cần chú ý

Folded letter missent from Nam Binh, North Vietnam, February 1968, through Cau Sau transfer station

Admonishment in red ink manuscript warning: "You must be more careful the next time" applied by officers at unit receiving the missent covers. Returned to sender.

VIII. POW and Command Usages

Prisoner of War Mail

Người gửi :
 Expéditeur :
 Tên, Họ _____ Nguyễn Văn Lanh _____
 Nom prenom _____
 Ngày và nơi sinh _____ 16 08 1946 _____
 Date et lieu de naissance _____
 Số Từ _____ 14867 MN _____
 No Matricule _____
 Trại giam _____ Trại binh Công Sản Suối Mầu Biên Hòa _____
 Désignation du camp _____
 Quốc Gia _____ Việt Nam _____
 Pays _____

THƯ
 TÙ BINH
 Correspondance
 des Prisonniers
 de Guerre

Miễn Phí
 Franc de Port

Ông, (Bà) _____ Nguyễn Văn Tỷ _____
 Monsieur (Madame) _____
 Số, Đường _____ 19 Phan Bội Châu _____
 Rue et No _____
 Nơi nhận _____ Long Xuyên _____
 Lieu de destination _____
 Tỉnh _____ An Giang _____
 Province _____
 Quốc Gia _____ Việt Nam _____
 Pays _____

QUÂN-BUU
 14-10
 1969

QUÂN-BUU
 14-10
 1969

QUÂN-BUU
 14-10
 1969

VIỆT NAM CÔNG-HÒA

Geneva Convention prisoner of war letter sheet from Viet Cong prisoner held at Bien Hoa, Vietnam prison camp. Sent October 14, 1969 via South Vietnamese military postal system with superfluous use of the A.R.V.N. military frank stamp "Quan Buu"

V.C. guerrillas as well as N.V.A. soldiers captured and imprisoned by Allied forces were accorded the privilege of sending mail home via "free" letter sheets as guaranteed under the 1954 Geneva Conventions of War. Few V.C. did so since sending such a message home would identify family and relations and might lead the South Vietnamese military intelligence to other V.C. personnel. Preprinted form in Vietnamese and French. Nguyen Van Lanh, born August 16, 1946, to family in Long Xuyen in On Giang Province.

Viet Cong Prisoner of War

Tokio Quốc! Ngày 1 tháng 6 - 71 - 72.

Thưa Kính mến của con
 nay con được dịp viết thư về thăm má và cầu chúc
 má được vạn sự an lành má ở tù ngày con xa gia đình
 và xa má cho đến nay có hơn hai năm mà con g chưa gặp
 má lần nào cho nên con nhớ má lắm nhưng con g biết làm
 gì để về thăm má ở nơi quê nhà được bình an cho

HO' U BINH

BU. TIME

MIEN PH

NGƯỜI GỎI

HO VA TEN. Lê Văn Dĩnh

NGAY VÀ NƠI SẴN. 1939.

DANH SỐ. 9564. $\text{Phong} = \text{Phong}$ AC.

TRAI GIAM TU BINH CSVN PHU QUOC

KHU TÂN SINH HOẠT II

KBC 5.887

QUỐC GIA VIỆT NAM CỘNG HÒA

Gửi đến Bà. Trần Thị Anh

NƠI NHẬN. *Sp. An Hoa. Số 2/2. K1.*

SỎ ĐƯỜNG. chỗ - In Hoa

AP. *Đ. Đ. Hòa*

XÃ. Im Phước

QUAN. Hué Giang

TỈNH. Kiên Hòa

QUỐC GIA VIỆT NAM CỘNG HÒA

June 11, 1971

Prisoner Le Vay Duong, born 1939, incarcerated at Phe Quoc Prison Camp for hardened prisoners south of Saigon near Kien Hoa province. Handstamped from A.R.V.N. A.P.O. No. KBC 3887, Kbu Buc Chin. Letter on reverse mentions rallying to support A.R.V.N. government (under duress?) "Please send soap, razors, etc." "Tho Tu Binh" on preprinted form means Prisoner of War Correspondence.

Viet Cong Prisoners of War

THƯ TÙ BINH

Correspondance des Prisonniers de guerre

BƯU THIẾP
Carte Postale

Người gửi :
Expéditeur

Họ và Tên Lê Văn Duồng
Nom et Prenoms

Ngày và nơi sinh 1932
Date et lieu de naissance

Số tù 9564 Phần khu A 8
No du prisonnier

Trại giam Tu Binh CSVN Phú An
Designation du camp

Quốc Gia Việt Nam Cộng Hòa
Pays d'expédition

Miễn phí
Franc de port

Gửi đến (Ông, Bà) Trần Thị Ánh
A (Monsieur, Madame)

NƠI NHẬN Lô nhà 2/2 khu (1)
Lieu de destination

Đường Xã An Phước
Rue
Tỉnh Quận Trục Giang
Province

Quốc Gia Việt Nam Cộng Hòa
Pays

Preprinted postal cards dating back to French colonialization. Both cancelled from KBC 3887 A.R.V.N. prison located at Phu Quoc Island military prison, which operated from 1/65 to 11/73 near Saigon. Prison had harsh conditions for hard core enemy prisoners, including 'tiger cages.'

No postage required. Message on the reverse.

Top: V.C. Prisoner
Le Van Duong,
born in 1932,
writing to his family
at QuanTruc Giang,
Kien Hoa Province.

Sent in 1972

THƯ TÙ BINH

Correspondance des Prisonniers de guerre

BƯU THIẾP
Carte Postale

Người gửi :
Expéditeur

Họ và Tên Trần Văn Lue
Nom et Prenoms

Ngày và nơi sinh 15-02
Date et lieu de naissance

Số tù 11730 phần khu B
No du prisonnier

Trại giam 7BCS Trại Phú An
Designation du camp

Quốc Gia Việt Nam Cộng Hòa
Pays d'expédition

Miễn phí
Franc de port

Gửi đến (Ông, Bà) Trần Văn Lue
A (Monsieur, Madame)

NƠI NHẬN 15/7 Ấp Tân
Lieu de destination

Đường Xã Tân Thành
Rue
Tỉnh Quận Trục Giang
Province

Quốc Gia Việt Nam Cộng Hòa
Pays

Bottom: V.C. Prisoner
Tran Van Lue,
Born 2/18/1929,
writing to
Quan Truc Giang,
Kien Hoa Province.

Sent April 12, 1968

Command Center Usage, from Laos to Hanoi



Military Frank 1971 Issue: Nguyen Viet Xuan, Officer, Anti-Aircraft Gun
Hanoi handstamp, November 5, 1973

Originating in Laos, made from map with coordinates 5238 (note red box at coordinate 52 detailing location of the unit,) backstamped Phu Tho November 9, 1973 and into mail system in Hanoi November 11, 1973. Stamp torn off for security inspection. Adjacent copy of the damaged stamp.

V.C. Adversity Cover Carrying Combat Orders
Command Center Usage

Lgõ: Chín Bón:

Nhận được thủ chủ, Chấn xin báo chủ hõ.
Hul 7 Tân hiện tũ năm Viên, Theo nhữp Mĩl
bản là ngày 12/1 Hul 7 Tân hõ viên. Khi ul
Đoã hõ viên Chấn sẽ tũ ul gũg hũg đũ hũg
thũ gũg hũg viên.

Chấn Kĩt Chũ Chũ hũg mũl đũc.

Chấn

K. TRUNG

Thũ ngũ 15/1/75.

N. 245 f/110

kg:

#. 9229

ả nước đang phần
của Đảng, chung
tập thể và tiết

đồng bào, phát
ti Xuân trên tinh
bị sang năm mới
của dân tộc.

dại đánh dấu 85
m ngày thành lập
p Mặt trận dân
cách mạng miền

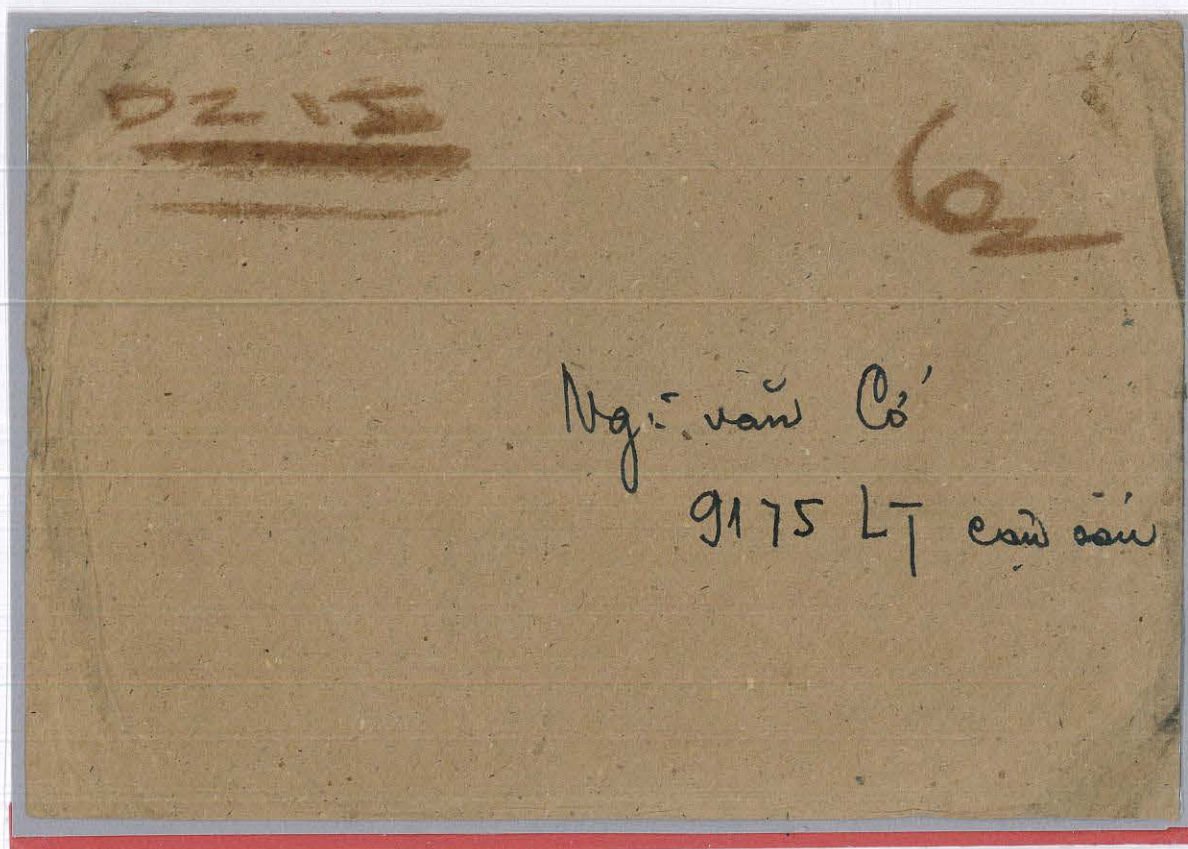
ua thực tiến
vũ đang bị chúng ta sẽ có
vũ đáp ứng yêu cầu của tỉnh
riển thắng lợi của cách mạng
vì độc lập tự do của Tổ
g toàn Đảng bộ hãy anh dũng

ti Tết đoàn kết, chiến đấu,
thắng lợi mới.

Xuân Ất Mão

Đảng ủy DCD.R

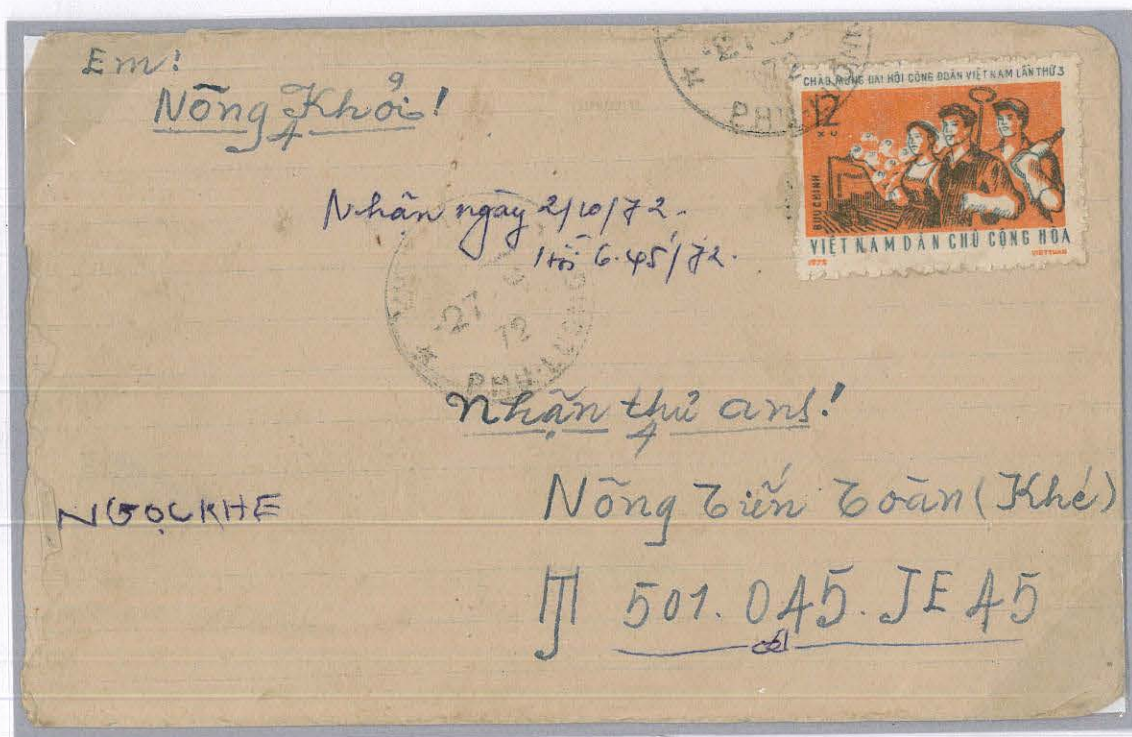
C.O.S.V.N.'s Central Mailing Facility in Cambodia



Military usage into South Vietnam from Cambodia where the C.O.S.V.N. command center operated.
Addressed to Hom Tho No. 9175 LT at the transfer station "Cau Sau". Circa 1965 – 1966

These crayon markings are used for a unit number and as routing instructions.
This example in crayon is from Rest and Recovery Station No. 6. Only recorded example.

Cambodian Routing Instructions



1972 Issue: 3rd Vietnamese Trade Union Conference

This cover represents seldom seen usage due to the nature of the war when it was mailed. Mailed from Phu Loung, North Vietnam on February 10, 1972 (by the recipient's notation) it did not enter the mails until February 27, 1972 (Phu Loung datestamps.) The recipient notes the date of arrival June 15, 1972 which shows a four month transit time from North to South, a relatively short transit period. Thus, it is believed to have been routed through neutral Cambodia with a Hom Thu No. address of N.V.A. unit in the far South. The initials NGOCKHE are a mystery but from the same pen that noted February 10, 1972.

COSVN Headquarters In Cambodia

From Hanoi to
Dug Nho 123
code name for recipient;
circa 1972

Cháu on. Máu lơn ve lơn thườn 2 quố tưng
vít + anu cẩu đũa, hay, hay cẩu đũa
ô. Máu an tước - Máu đĩ vớng
Phan Tĩn Máu Máu, + quố
Lớn Máu Máu

Phi 3 Ngõ Thờ Nhiệm
Hà Nội

Dug Nho số 123
Chau Reachia Phnompenh
Cambodge



Phan Nien

Thư 25: Phi Dư 2

Tổ Nối

(nhà cụ Hào²)

C40

Addressed to C40, the command center COSVN, dated September 18, 1972. Carried by courier.
Folded letter outlines need for medical and other supplies.

COSVN Headquarters Report

HV
#24
SỐ : 04/CT/73
ĐK : 18/11/73
ĐK : H T
CY X : 25/11/73
ĐB n : 27/11/73

Yêu cầu không sao chép, không phổ biến rộng.
Giải quyết xong, hoàn lại Q/c UC HT 5160.

-oOo-

SỐ 72 PH

TUYET-MAT

Thường vụ KEN gọi các Khu.

CHỈ THỊ CHÍNH HUẤN SỐ 04/CT/73.

X Y Y

Anh 3 Đĩa 30/11
2055
x9055

Hải - th - Di - r - H - n - i

Kinh gọi :
Anh Hoàng Bình
x. 9055

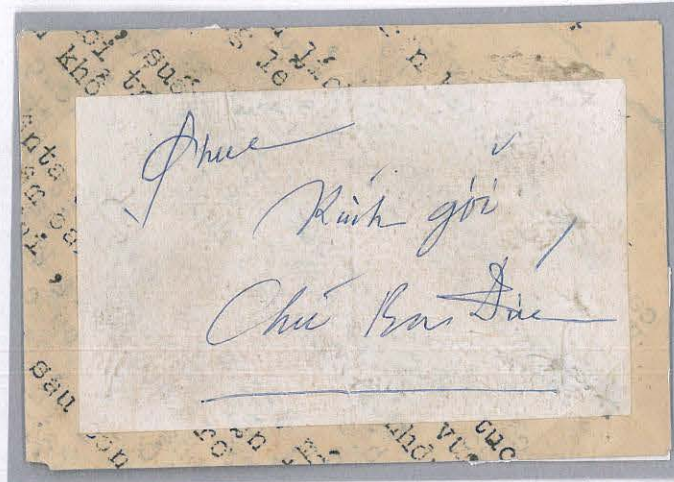


金沙江

Decorated Envelope, to Unit x. 9055, with fewer secret or security markings because the transportation routing was then controlled by the Viet Cong.
Typed report, November, 1973, with boxed type written "Tuyet Mat" meaning Top Secret, lists the order of battle for all subordinate VC commanders engaged near the Cambodian border.
Manuscript "Kinh Goi," means "Communist Brother."

Viet Cong Hospital Command Release Form

Intra-Viet Cong usage
February 1974
Address label on cover
made from a printed form
'Kinh Goi' (please forward)



DANH DỤC TIẾP ĐẠC CHỈ LỆNH

Bệnh viện

GIẤY XUẤT VIỆN

—000—

Họ và tên: *Le Hoàng Long* Tuổi: *26*

Đơn vị: *K4*

Chức vụ:

Ngày đi: *16h 22 - 4 - 74*

Ngày đi ra: *7h 14 - 12 - 74*

Căn bệnh: *Đo xương gót chân phải*

Đã điều trị: *Kháng sinh - Nâng đỡ cơ thể*

Tình trạng sức khỏe: *Vết thương khô lành. Sức khỏe khá*

kiến của chuyên môn:

Tiếp tục công tác.

Ngày: *13 tháng 12 năm 1974*

I. Bác sĩ điều trị

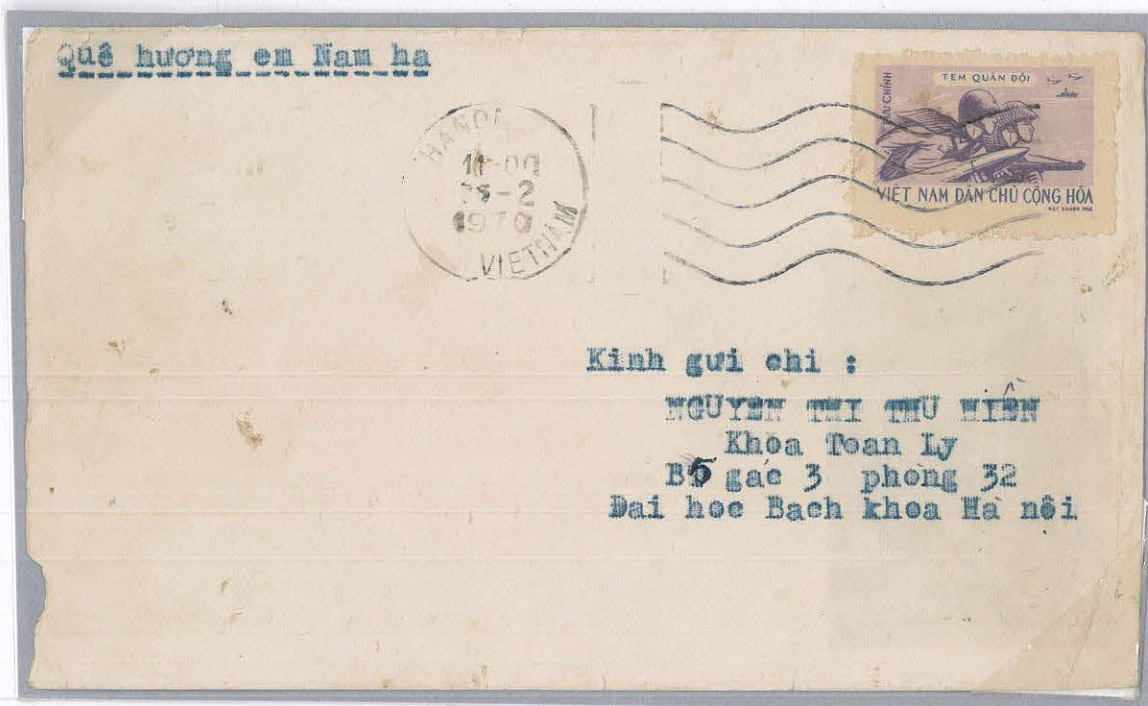
Ban lãnh đạo Bệnh viện

Châu
Bs Châu

Phưởng

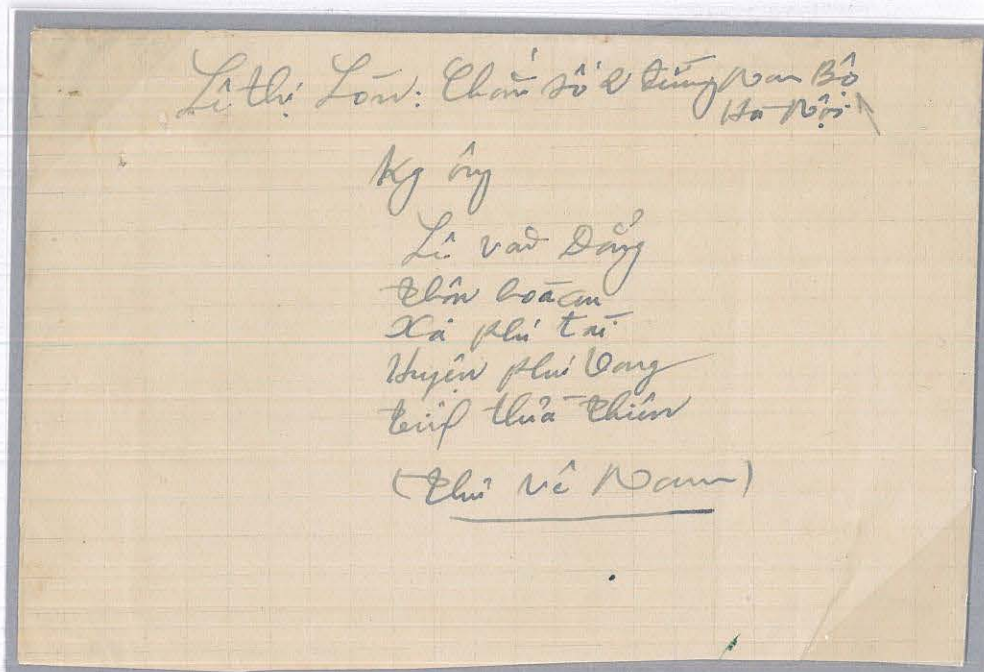
Seldom seen preprinted discharge form from the surgeon in a jungle hospital to the command center of unit K4 near Saigon., discharging Le Hoang Long, age 26 to return back to active duty after 8 months recovering from injury. Addressed to Chu Ban Duc, Commander in the Cholon area.

High Command Official/Political Mails



Military Frank 1968 Issue: soldiers in Attack
Hanoi Machine cancel, February 26, 1970

Official military command usage to an N.V.A. unit deployed in North Vietnam.



Official mail destined for political operatives and agents of the Communist North Vietnamese fighting in the South were transported, handled, and delivered by the military mail system. The above item shows all the earmarks of a letter sent by a politician or government official. The return address bears the approved name given to South Vietnam for geopolitical reasons- Nam Bo. If the letter had been mailed by V.C./N.L.F. official, the designation would have been "Mien-Nam" or "South-Land."

Lê Hoàng Bk.c 509
quên quên
 Bài Hoàng. c 524^a
 bài học y tá - Q.T 100
 ngày 1/10/61 Q.T 100

Manuscript 'QT 10C' added by forwarding agent
Staple holes from missing Field Evaluation form

Chân Mến.
 Anh đang làm gì đây.
 Anh đang làm việc đây.
 Đi công việc này chán lại
 Xem thời ngày em giờ thân anh.
 Đêm nay trăng sáng sao mờ
 ánh đèn sáng bóng em lại vui
 Lối chân qua biển chúc anh
 Đây sức khỏe sau chúc anh
 Đây chữ, bình, an đến một chiến
 Người tháng với quân lính ra trước em chào.

Writer suggests "...you have to sacrifice yourself for your country." Letter forwarded within C.O.S.V.N. June 8, 1968

Em: Phan-Đôn
QT 10

Kính-giới.
Chi:
Trường thi Hai
TcĐ₂

From 'QT 10', local in-country
V.C. letter captured January 1966
near Ap Bau Bang, by U.S. 1st Infantry Div.

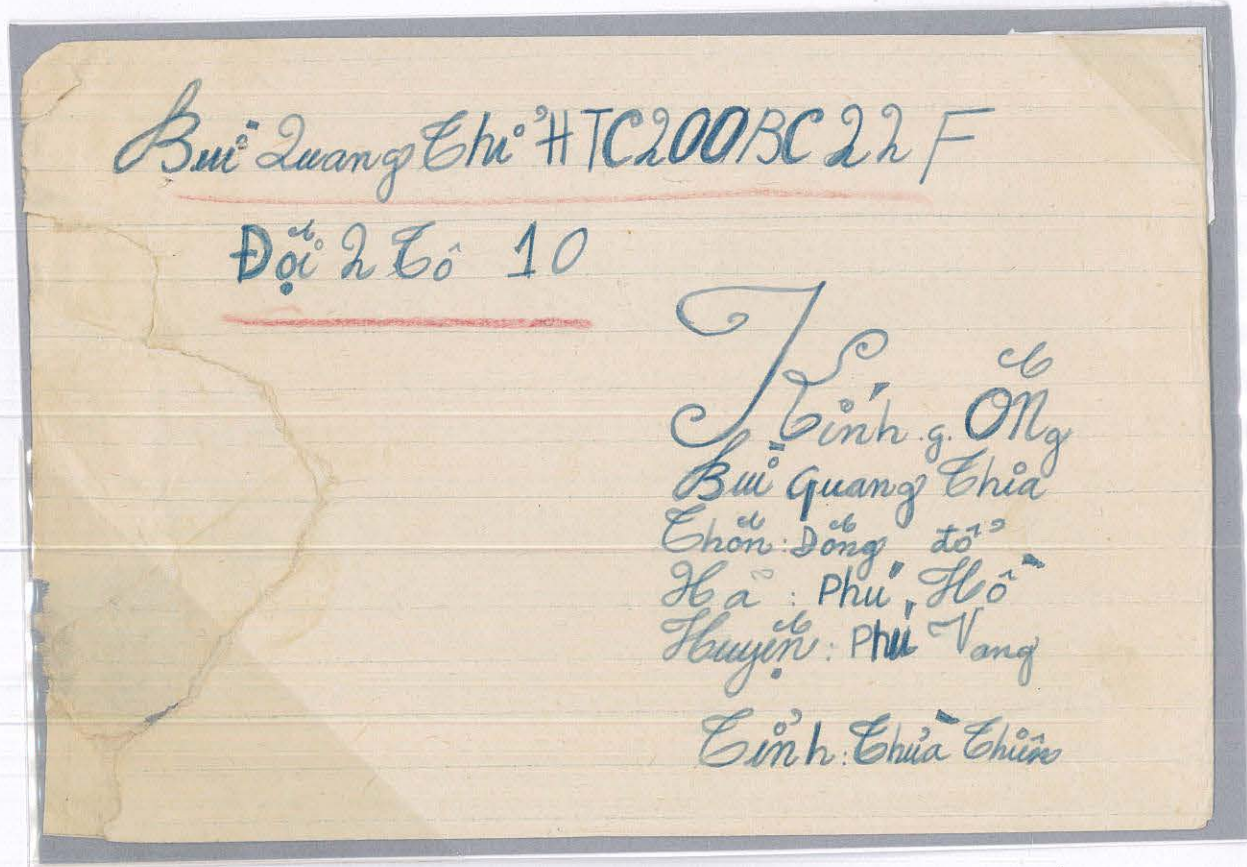
Xuân Trú - Q.T. 10.
Thăm gửi.
Lem. Minh. Chanh -
Hồng. phi -
Đức. Xuân Trú. J.J.
Quang Trú.

From 'QT 10' local in-country
Quang Tri address confirms V.C.
presence in I Corps, south of D.M.Z.

Circa 1967 - 1968

The high number of captured V.C. covers bearing the notation 'QT 10' suggests that covers and letters bearing that notation originated from, or were being sent to, the long hunted and sought after N.L.F. headquarters. C.O.S.V.N., the Central Office for South Vietnam was thought to be just over the Cambodian border from Tay Ninh, Republic of Vietnam. The Cambodian invasion of 1970 proved that C.O.S.V.N. did not operate from a fixed "hard" headquarters site as envisioned but moved around. 'QT10' at least designates the largest N.L.F. or V.C. postal facility in the war zone.

Official V. C. Mail



'Kinh' Urgent

V.C. military letter sent to Thua Thien, the Province of Hue City, from a leader of Team 10 of an impressment/conscription squad to the political head or leader (Tinh) within the province just prior to the fall of Hue City during the Tet offensive of 1968.

Political and official V.C. mail, recognized by the salutation "Tinh" meaning head or leader of a particular political organization, often received expedited service and delivery. Absent from this cover are any of the auxiliary markings featured in this exhibit.

Regional Field Postal Locating/Transferring Stations

"Cau Sau"

Usage: Civilian to
N.V.A. Soldier in the
South

Đặng Thị - Hào
Lạc Sơn - Hồ - Lũng



Kính gửi anh:
Đặng Thị - Hào
HT 92.155 LT
Cầu Sau

"Cau Sau"

Folder letter from Ha
Tinh, North Vietnam,
routed south to the
locating server where
the Hom Thu No. was
added with "Cau Sau"
Censor's manuscript
Thang-1-1968 in the
corner.

Người gửi:
Gửi
tháng 1-1968.

Đạm Văn Tạo - Tung Sơn Tung lộc - Lan lộc
Hà Tĩnh

Gửi Em:

Đạm Văn Tạo
Hom Thu:

92.164 L.T.

Cầu Sau

N.V.A. Command Administration Supply Requisitions with Military Handstamp

PHIẾU XUẤT HÀNG KHỐI SỐ. 10
Cấp cho đơn vị: V. K
Đo đồng chí: Sác nhận.

1 hộp sữa gỗ
2 lon hộp gà
10 cục 3 lê

Ngày 9 tháng 9 năm 1972:
Người cấp: Sác người nhận: Hiên

Front

Reverse

K. gởi C. B Chức v
d/C. Hiên
ch

Thủ trưởng
C. H. C. 9/9/1972
Sác

TRUNG TÂM GIAI-PHONG MIỀN NAM
QUÂN
BOV P HOA MON
TỈNH GIA-BIN

h tí

Tiến. Hai

September 1972

PHIẾU XUẤT HÀNG KHỐI SỐ. 19
Cấp cho đơn vị: C. K. 19
Đo đồng chí: Sác nhận. Hùng

4 gói trà Bý Cầm
2 hộp thuốc riê

Ngày 6 tháng 6 năm 1972:
Người cấp: Sác người nhận: Hùng

Front

K. gởi, d/C. Hùng
C. K. 19

Thủ trưởng
P. H. C.
Sác

TRUNG TÂM GIAI-PHONG MIỀN NAM
QUÂN
BOV P HOA MON
TỈNH GIA-BIN

Ngày 6 tháng 6. 72

Reverse

ch

Tiến Hai

June 1972

Large double circle red handstamp "Lien Quan Govap Hoc Mon"
Manuscript dates June 6 and September 9, 1972

Both examples to Tien Hai address of Commanding Officer on carbon copy form.
From the same special task unit at an undisclosed location.

Military Handstamp, Ward Leader Command Center Usage

Ủy Ban an ninh dân
Cấp này
đặt
ở gần đây

Đến đây là 10 quân

Chàng anh hùng của. gần quyết gặp
SĐ. Công an. SĐ tại mặt. theo
giáo án của anh. Họ đã có
Hợp an ninh. và C/quiên.
Đây là một máy. và họ đã
về nay. Văn phòng. U.B. để lấy
ta tại Anh giáo an của anh.
Vật này là anh giáo an tại.
Đây là một H. đ. 99. 2/1
về gặp. và tại về H. đ.
mang cho anh. H. đ. và anh
anh H. đ. làm xong. để
H. đ. chỉ uy. và C/quiên.
y gọi về H. đ. để
Anh gặp. H. đ. và anh
Lập lập các H. đ. anh
thi H. đ. công tác. theo C/quiên
Anh uy Ban
về H. đ. anh H. đ. anh
về Văn phòng U.B. anh H. đ. anh
anh.

21/1/69

10/1/69

Đến đây

24/1/69

Đến

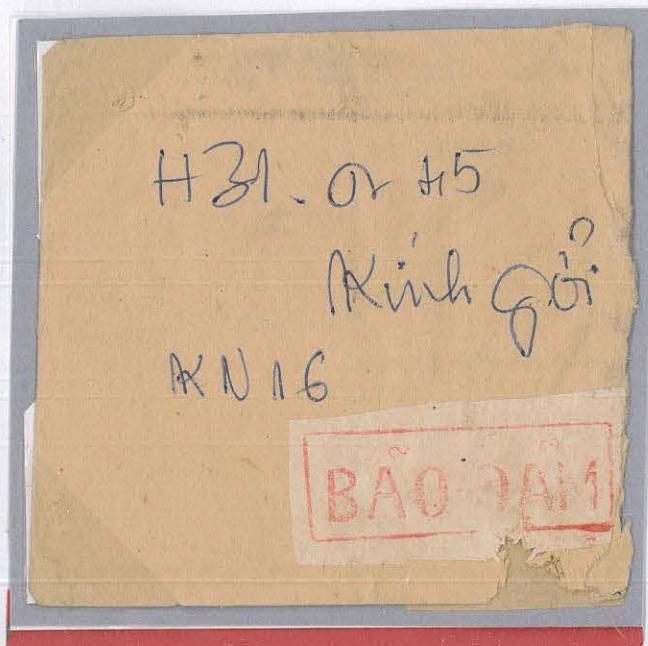
H. đ. anh

Military Handstamp
"Uy Bam Xa Ngu Hiep"
applied by Ward
Leader/Writer

January 21, 1969 usage from local V.C. leader to comrade with handstamped lettersheet. From Official Command Staff asking addressee to return to resolve issues and finish the project they started.

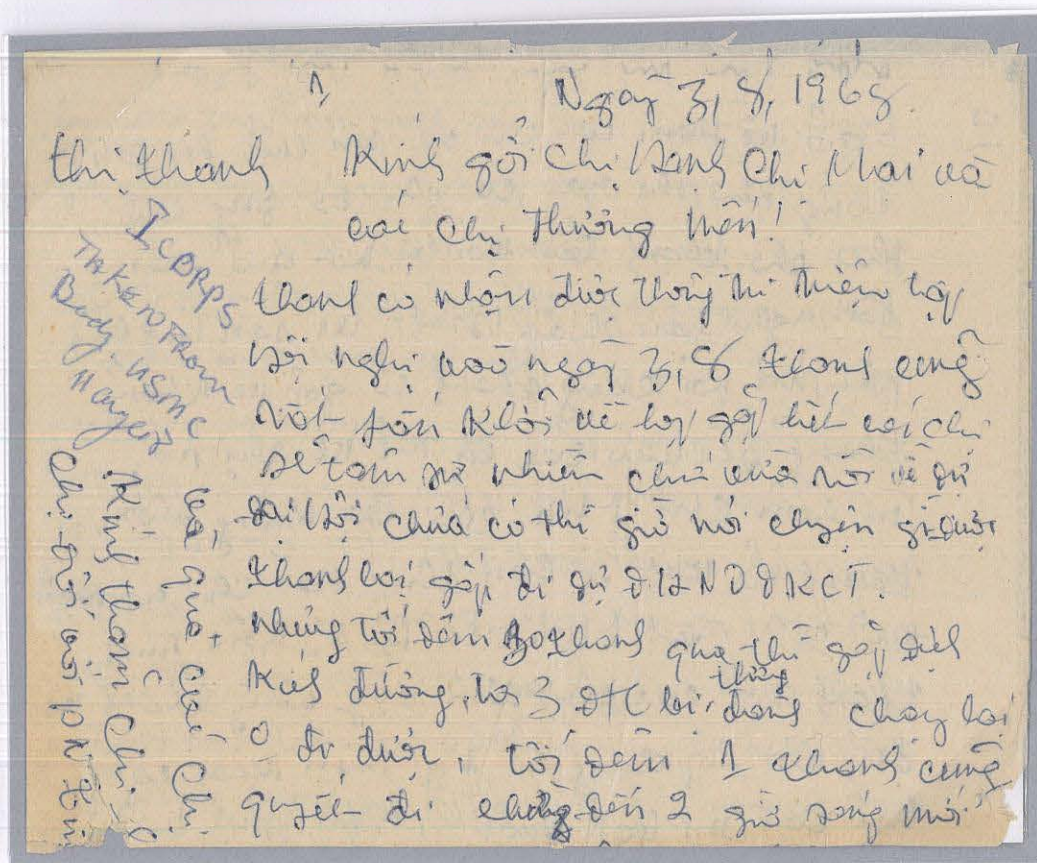
IX. Urgent/Expedite Markings

Bao Dam' Adhesive, Registered Letter



The 'Bao Dam' adhesive

'Bao Dam' translates "secured/registered."
 "Kính Gởi" translates 'please send'.
 Cover was captured on day of mailing,
 August 31, 1968



Two known recorded examples. The labels were locally printed and used by V.C./N.L.F. guerrillas on registered letters. Hand written English note on lettersheet: "I Corps taken from body U.S.M.C. Hayes." Female writer discusses being ambushed by Americans: three wounded, they escaped but one died.

Urgent/Expedite Markings

Types of Secret 'K' Markings

1960 - April 1975

Type	Color	Size (mm)	Usage	NVA / VC	'K' Letter Description
I	Red	12x14	Handstamped	VC	Boxed
II	Blue	10x11	Manuscript	VC	Boxed
III	Blue	17x9	Manuscript	NVA	Partial Boxed
IV	Blue	10	Manuscript	VC	Circled
V	Red	7	Manuscript	VC	Circled
VI	Red	16	Handstamped	VC	Circled
VII	Red	14	Handstamped	VC	Circled
VIII	Red	21	Handstamped	VC	Circled
IX	Red	14	Handstamped	VC	Circled
X	Blue	15	Handstamped	VC	Circled
XI	Blue	11	Handstamped	VC	Circled
XII	Red	19x20	Manuscript	VC	Twice Boxed
XIII	Red	19x20	Adhesive	VC	Circled

The 'K' Adhesive Label



Type XIII

Both the sending unit HT 121 VC Officer and the receiving Unit HT C2/3111 were operating in the Southern area. Corner staple on the folded form envelope held U.S. Intelligence summary of the contents, dated July 30, 1968, but now both separated from this cover.

One of four recorded usages.

Urgent/Expedite 'K' Adhesive Labels

ng ta vẫn bảo tu rất cũ lãn.
 trong góp. từ người của
 phong Miền Nam.
 mai ngày 19-5 (A1)
 hân 2 ta làm cho gia đình
 cả mình bị chết hết hàng
 ng sót hết, trong gia đình
 liền có con chung Em Đông
 tiểu Nam cũng chết luôn
 chết 7 người chỉ còn sống
 Kiên, bị học mả còn sống,
 anh anh Ba phần trước gia đình
 này,
 tình hình cho chi biết,
 làm ăn mãi nay rất chật
 này 2 bà Mẹ bị buôn gạo với
 được, còn hôm tháng 4 (A1) đến
 sông Miền Nam bị Hoi An bị



Type XIII

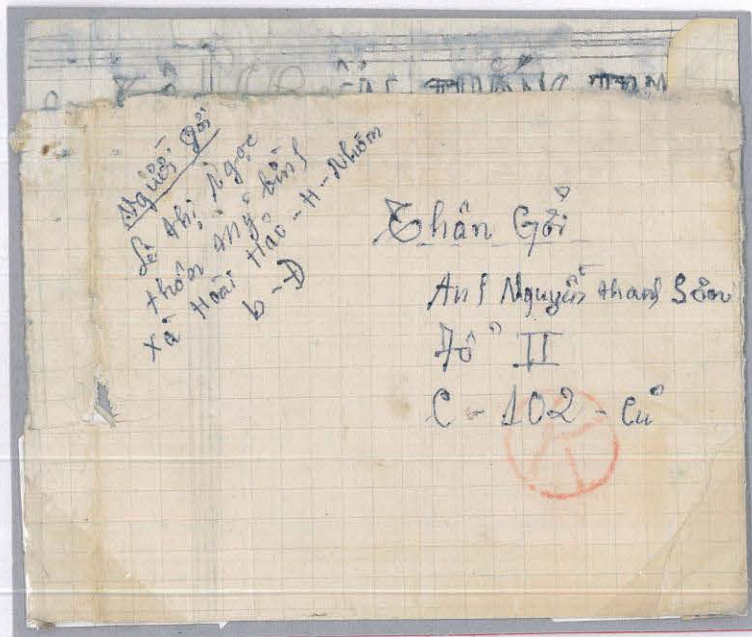
Interrupted mails cover with preprinted 'K' label
from Hoi An to Son Hai, Quang Nam Province.

Thanh Tung
 H.T. 180 Anh Dung
 GỎI EM
 Lê Thị Trúc
 B8. H.T. 109 Tương

ngày 30-7-68 thân gửi các Em thương yêu:
 nay Anh Tâm viết vài lời gửi đến thăm các em
 các em ơi: Trong một thời gian lâu dài xa cách
 với những hình bóng của các em. Trăm một lần tưởng
 nhớ đến các em.

These two examples of an adhesive 'K' usage are Type XIII and the second and third recorded examples of a printed 'K' label. Taken in a firefight August of 1968, both covers were captured less than two days and ten miles from where mailed. The top letter writer, a female Viet Cong, describes how she is the only survivor of the twelve in her "travelling group." Both covers are pierced adjacent to the K label by an M-16 bullet. Bottom letter discusses war-ravaged homeland, devastation, and hardships at home.

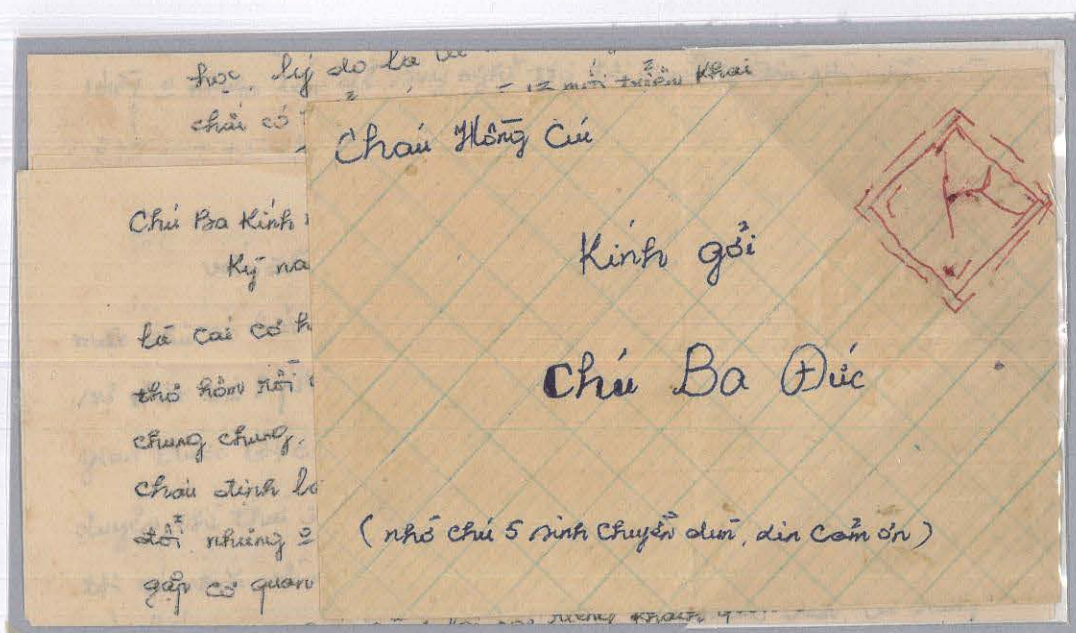
Handstamp and Manuscript 'K' Earliest and Latest Recorded Usages



Type I

Earliest known use of a 'K' marking on cover (1964). Sent north from a platoon sized unit near An Binh, Mekong Delta to Military Region II headquarters.

1964 to 1979, with increased sophistication of mail operations, official or valuable mail was identified and secured by both V.C. and N.V.A. forces with a 'K' marking (Kin or Kinh, meaning urgent or expedite).



Type XII

From Hong Cuc
To: Mr. Ba Duc
A political officer
July 9, 1974
"Please pass it along
to an exact address"

Urgent/Expedite 'K' Manuscript Markings Command Center Usage



Type V Manuscript circled blue 'K' marking and **Type VI** Manuscript circled red 'K' marking
Sent cross-border to Cambodia; manuscript notation "to leader at headquarters"

Only known examples of the Type V and VI manuscript markings. Addressed to the National Liberation Front Headquarters in Cambodia, known as C.O.S.V.N. (Central Office for South Vietnam), this cover may have been sent in response to the Type X cover on the next page. The courier was killed and this cover was captured.

Urgent/Expedite 'K' Manuscript Marking
V.C. Command Center Document and Currency Package

Số : 06/CT-73

(Số: 68^B/CV-73)

III HI THI

KHẨN TRƯỞNG TẬP TRUNG CHI ĐẠO ĐỘT ĐẦU TRANH CHỐNG
ĐOI, CỨU ĐOI VÀ CHỐNG GIÚP LỪA ĐANG LẠN RỘNG
TRONG ĐỒNG ĐẠO QUÂN CHUNG Ở ĐÔ THỊ VÀ NÔNG THÔN

2

có công văn 68/CT-73 TV.L71, tình hình
s quân chúng

từ 1.966,
lên hàng
t cướp lúa

khốn đói.
vào con
hành thị và
càng thiếu

Phiếu nhận
Đã nhận đủ số
tiền 50.000 (Năm mươi
ngàn đồng) (Nhà nước)
Ngày 6 tháng 6 năm 1973
Người nhận: Nguyễn Văn
Nên

Type IV Manuscript Circled 'K' in Blue Crayon

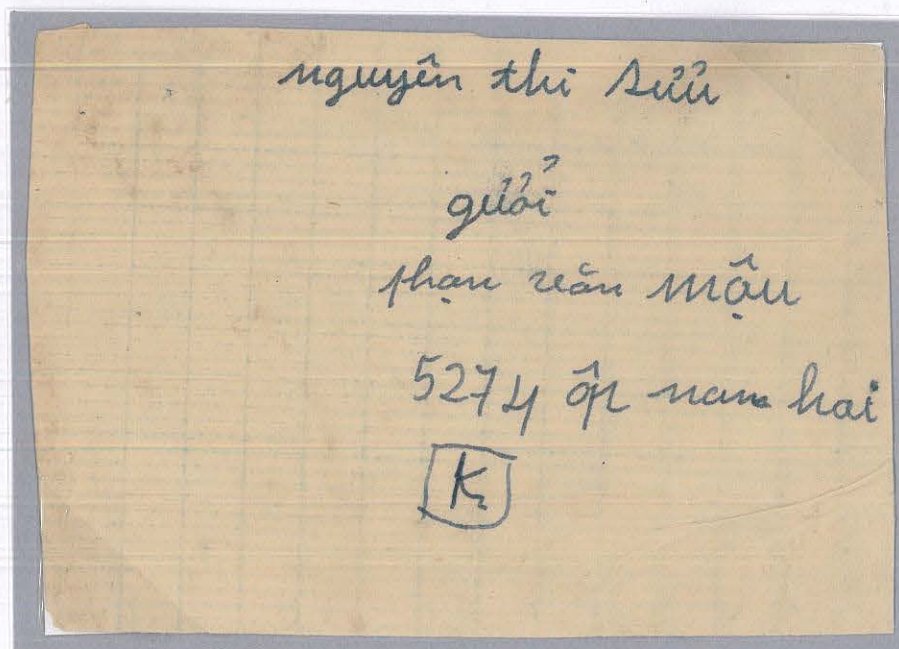
Document contains instructions for families that were plagued in V.C. controlled areas; it also demands new troops conscripted from local villages under control of L71

Currency packets carried by V.C. mail carriers often contained documents and medicines as well as money. No other wrappers from packages that contained documents or currency have been recorded. The label reads: "This envelope contains 50,000 Southern dong, dated June 10, 1973."

Urgent/Expedite 'K' Manuscript and Handstamp

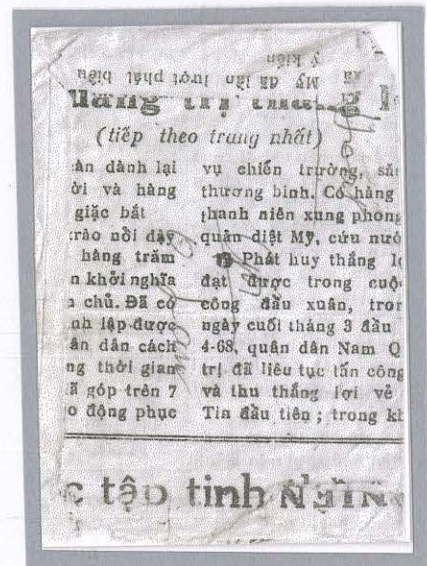
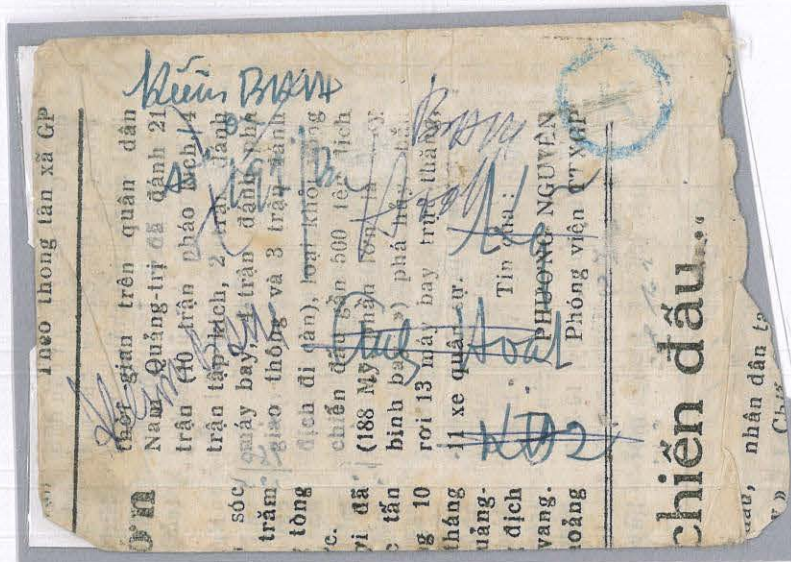


Type II boxed 'K' red handstamp on V.C. cover to Hung Chong, 1966



Type III Boxed 'K' manuscript marking in blue ink
On V.C. military letter to a political leader at Ap Nam Hai, near Saigon

Urgent/Expedite 'K' Handstamp



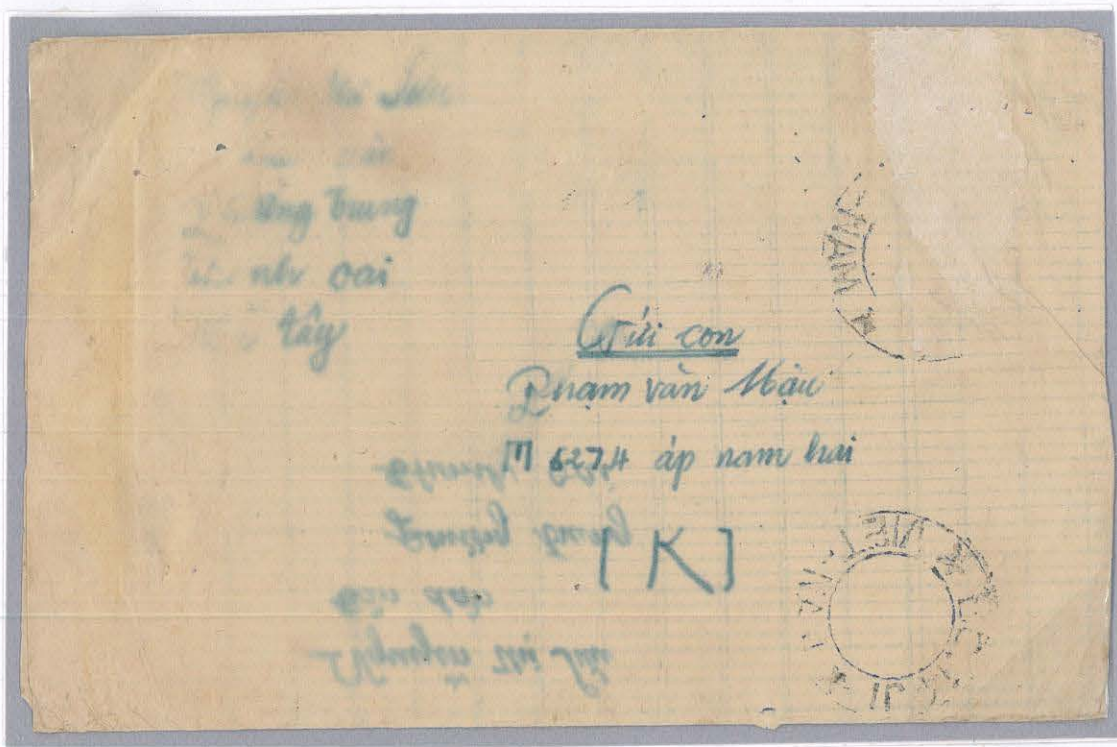
Type XI Circled small 'K' in blue
Pen markings by censor or forwarding agent
On adversity cover containing U.S. dollars.

Cover made from propaganda handbill alleging U.S. atrocities at Long Tan, South Vietnam. The only K' handstamp known in blue ink.



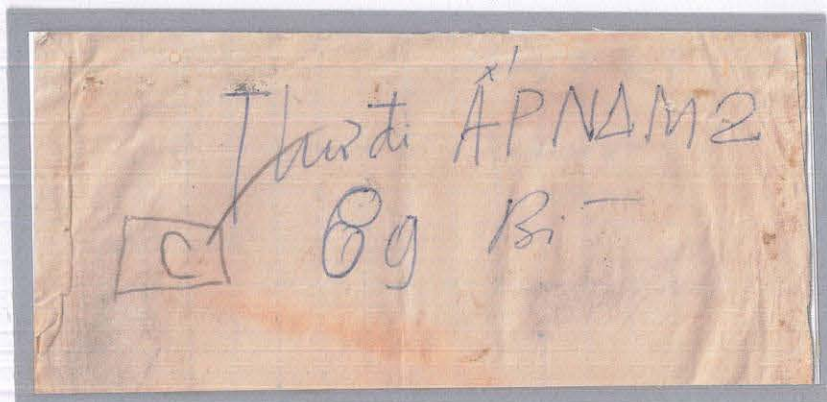
V.C. mail courier from whom Type XI cover was taken, Ho Bo Woods, NNW of Saigon, 1966.
Note canvas mail pouch, mail visible in right compartment.

Urgent/Expedite 'K' Manuscript Markings



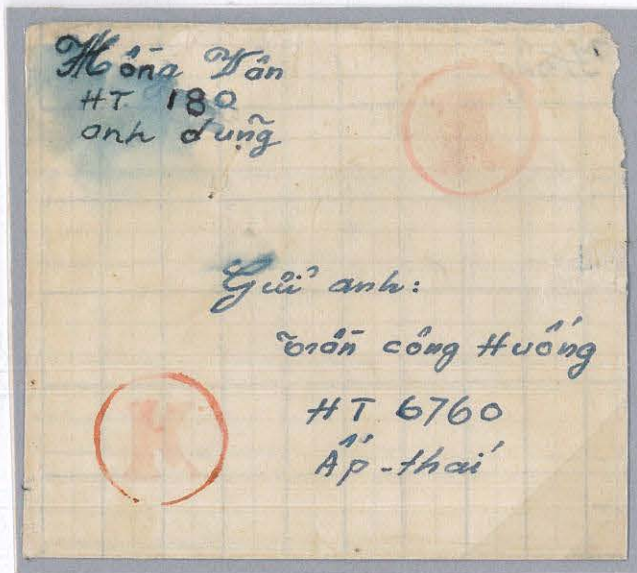
Type III to Ap Nam Hai; North Vietnam official military adhesive removed by South; Vietnamese military intelligence officials.

Usage: North to South. Sent from Son Tay, a blind or mute double circle cancel was applied where the cover entered the mails headed down the Ho Chi Minh Trail, at the Mu Gia Pass post office. In the address, this cover bears the symbol "M", commonly found along the Ho Chi Minh Trail meaning that a letter box or "postal" station was located nearby.



Backside of **Type III** cover showing forwarding/return notation "Not at Ap Nam 2;" boxed "C" notation indicated recipient was presumed dead (chet)

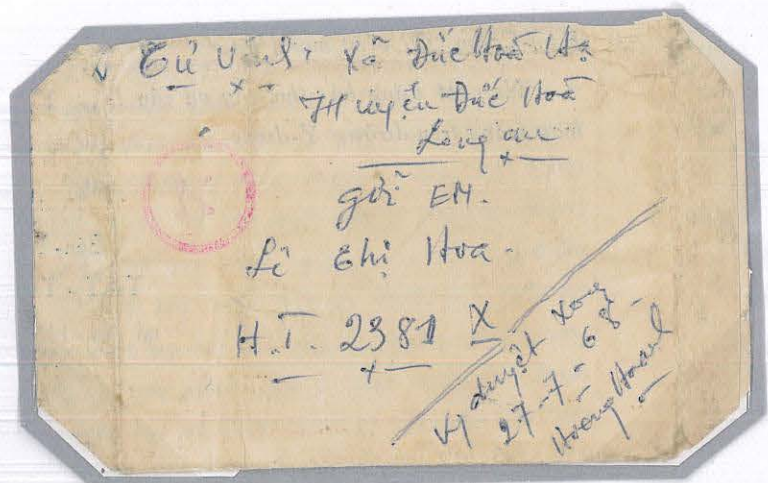
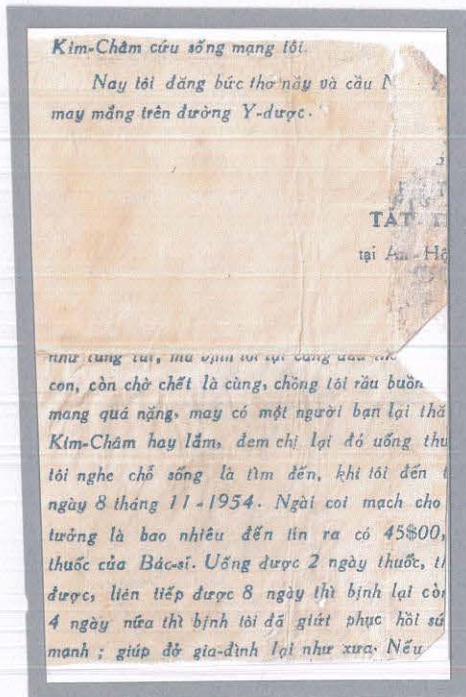
Urgent/Expedite 'K' Handstamps



Type VII
Large 'K' in small circle Red

Applied at the point of origin; second handstamp applied at mail relay point

The only known examples of a Type VII marking are on a single cover. The cover was sent from local force V.C. at Anh Dũng to main force V.C. unit near Ap Thai. This example was taken from a V.C. sampan intercepted near Lao Nai Island on the Bassac Flueve (River), 1966. Note water damage.

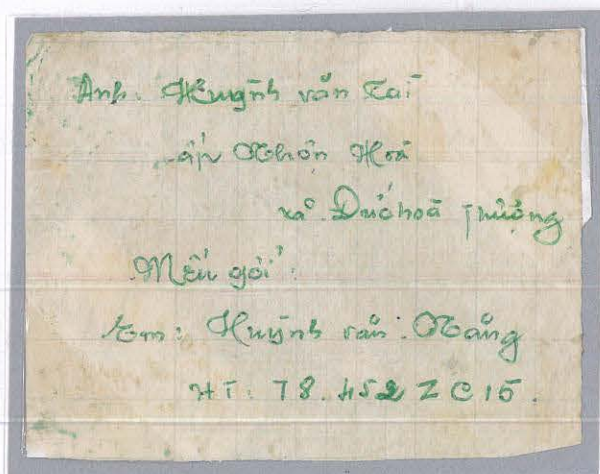


Type VIII
Small 'K' in small circle Magenta

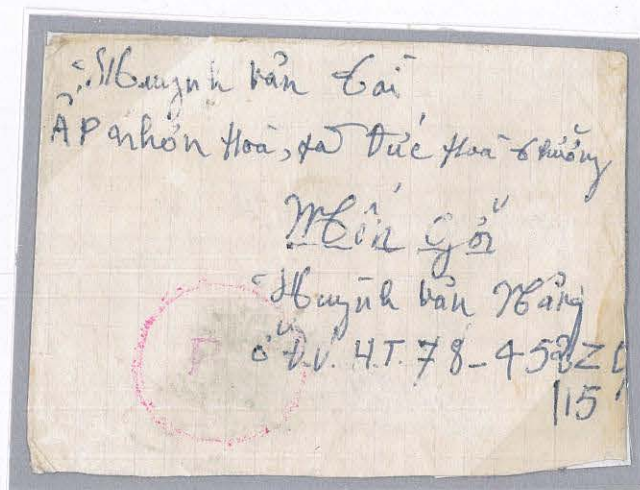
On adversity cover of political flyer Censored (lower right corner) by political official, July 27, 1968
Note staple holes from evaluation form

From Duc Hoa village, Long An Province, R.V.N. to a letter box number as an address, indicating origin and delivery within a local V.C. command or district.

Urgent/Expedite 'K' Handstamp

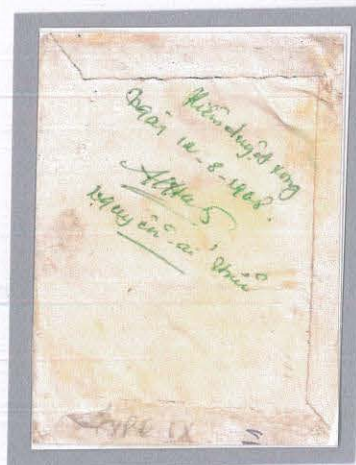


Mail label applied over original address
 Censoring officer re-wrote the address
 Second usage



Type IX

Magenta 'K' in large circle handstamp
 From Ap Nhon Hoa hamlet, Duc Hoa
 To unknown location in III Corps
 First usage



On reverse
 Green ink censor/receiver marking
 August 12, 1968

Writing materials became more difficult to obtain as the war heated up and pressure increased for the V.C. To help alleviate these shortages, V.C. writers resorted to using slips of paper pasted onto already used and re-used covers like this.

Manuscript 'Bao Dam', Registered Letter

3 ^{viết regist-đơn}
 2 về điều kiện kết quả vì cuối hội
 nghị lần này cũng dự quá có chi!
 Sẽ về dự có chi! Mai chi Ba cũng
 hội nữa có lần nào cũng dự hàng lần
 này. Thanh túi quá, nhưng cũng rất
 phấn khởi đã có chi! ^{đi} Gặp nhiều ở miền
 Chi Mai hai cái kết quả gặp hội
 ở Ulen có thêm khai nghị. Gặp đi
 hội chi Mai chi Ba giúp đỡ nhiều
 vì nghị thuật công tác khác hẳn
 miền quê, khác hẳn cũ liên lạc tới
 ghi ~~đi~~ 2 cuối hội nghị cũng về về đi
 đi công tác ở các địa phương

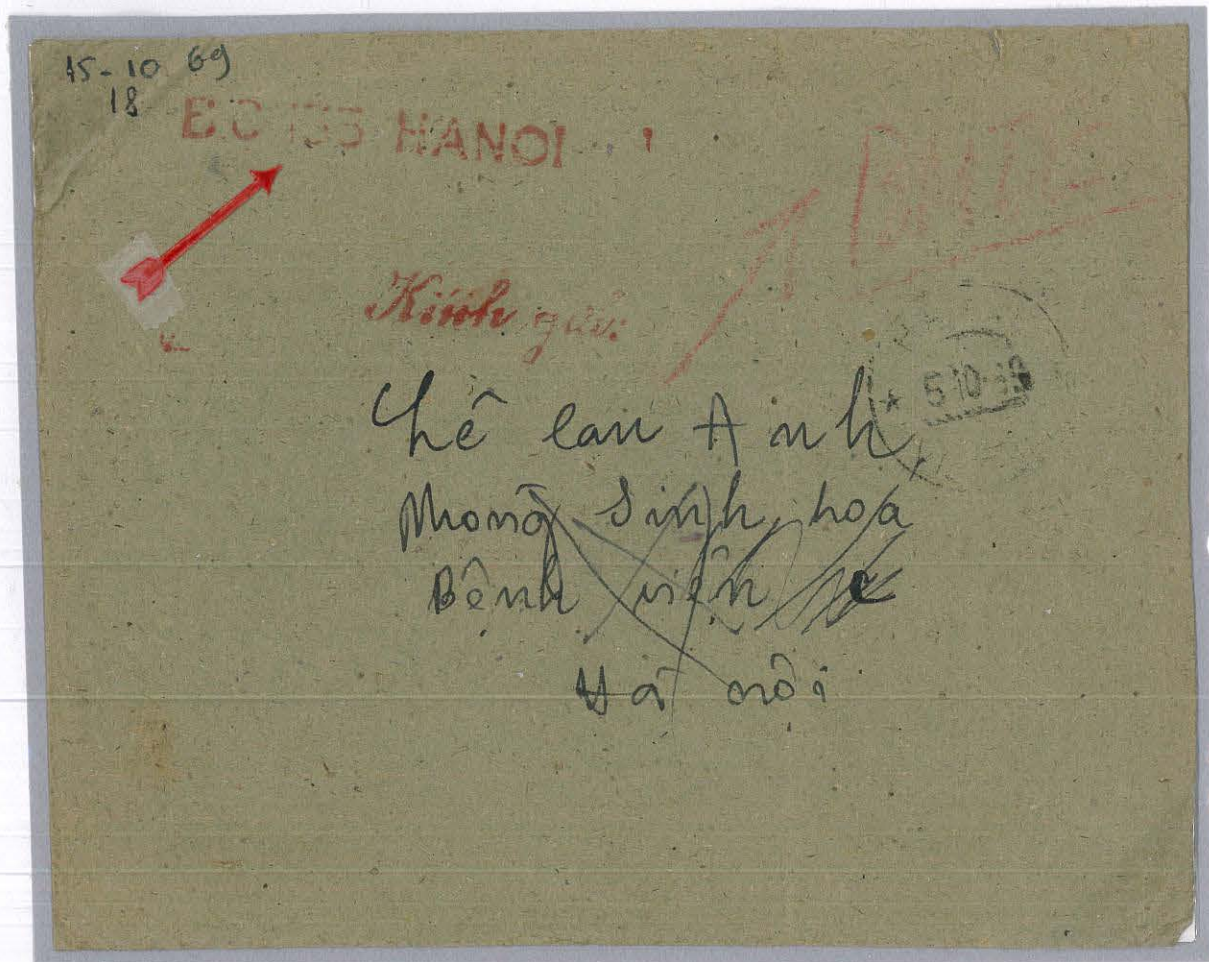
6/1/67
 Kien dt. Lai
 QT. 10.
 Bao Dam

theo thông tin xã GP
 Kien dt. Lai
 QT. 10.
 Bao Dam
 chiến đấu..
 nhân dân b
 7/2/67

Manuscript 'Bao Dam' on the cover face of the original envelope (right)
 with circular blue 'K' marking Type X Circa 1967

Only recorded example of a 'Bao Dam' marking over a Type X 'K' handstamp. Writer discusses conferences and political meetings attended.

BC 135 Hanoi Secret Handstamp 'Kinh Gui' Handstamp



'BC 135 Hanoi' handstamp, red
'Kinh Gui' (Urgent, Hand Over) handstamp, red
Hanoi double circle handstamp, October 5, 1969

Seldom seen red 'BC 135 Hanoi' handstamp and red 'Kinh Gui' handstamp on military mail from undisclosed location in the North to political officer Le Lan Anh at Hanoi training base. Pen markings with forwarding information and red crayon arrow possibly returning to "18 MTE"

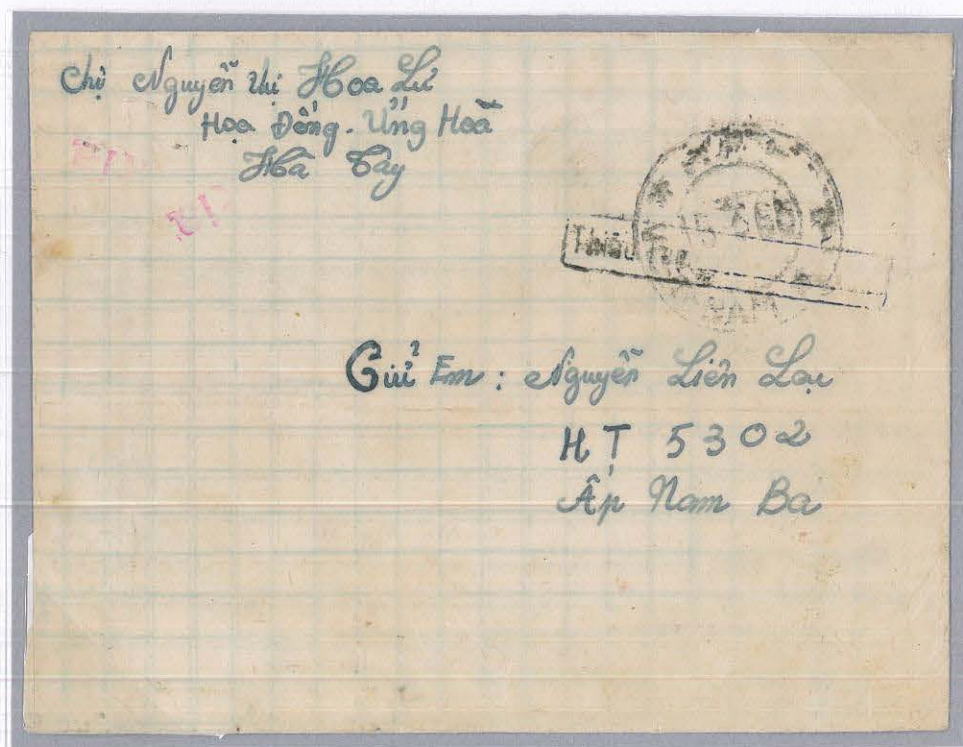
Military Telegraph Usage Carrying Combat Orders



Seldom seen official N.V.A. "Dien Bao" Telegraph Company handstamp.
Red military handstamp indicates it was handled by Unit 81.

To a soldier, probably an officer, at HT No. 63305 KP letter box

‘Kia’ Cross Border Handstamp Postage Due Handstamp

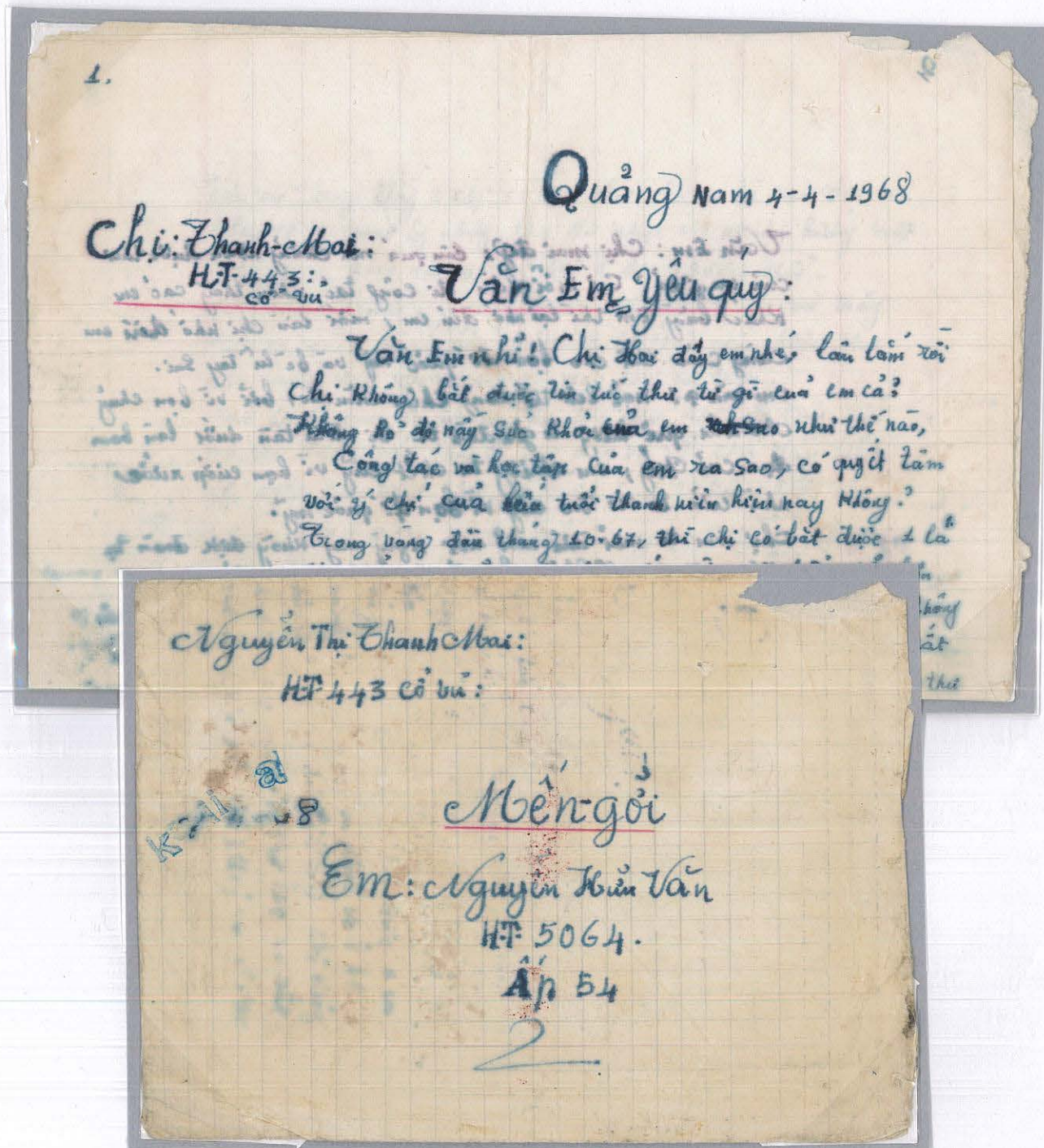


Type II Magenta “Kia” handstamp (under the return address)

From Ha Bac, North Vietnam to Ap (hamlet) Nam Ba, Mekong Delta. Blind North Vietnam Ha Bac security postmark March 15, 1966. Rectangular postage due handstamp applied prior to entering Ho Chi Minh Trail mail stream.

This example represents civilian usage where postage is required, with a possible second reason for the ‘Kia’ marking. It may be the result of the letter following its intended recipient across the border into enemy sanctuaries located in either Laos or Cambodia. The courier was intercepted and killed two kilometers east of the border by helicopter gunships of the 1st Air Cavalry Division.

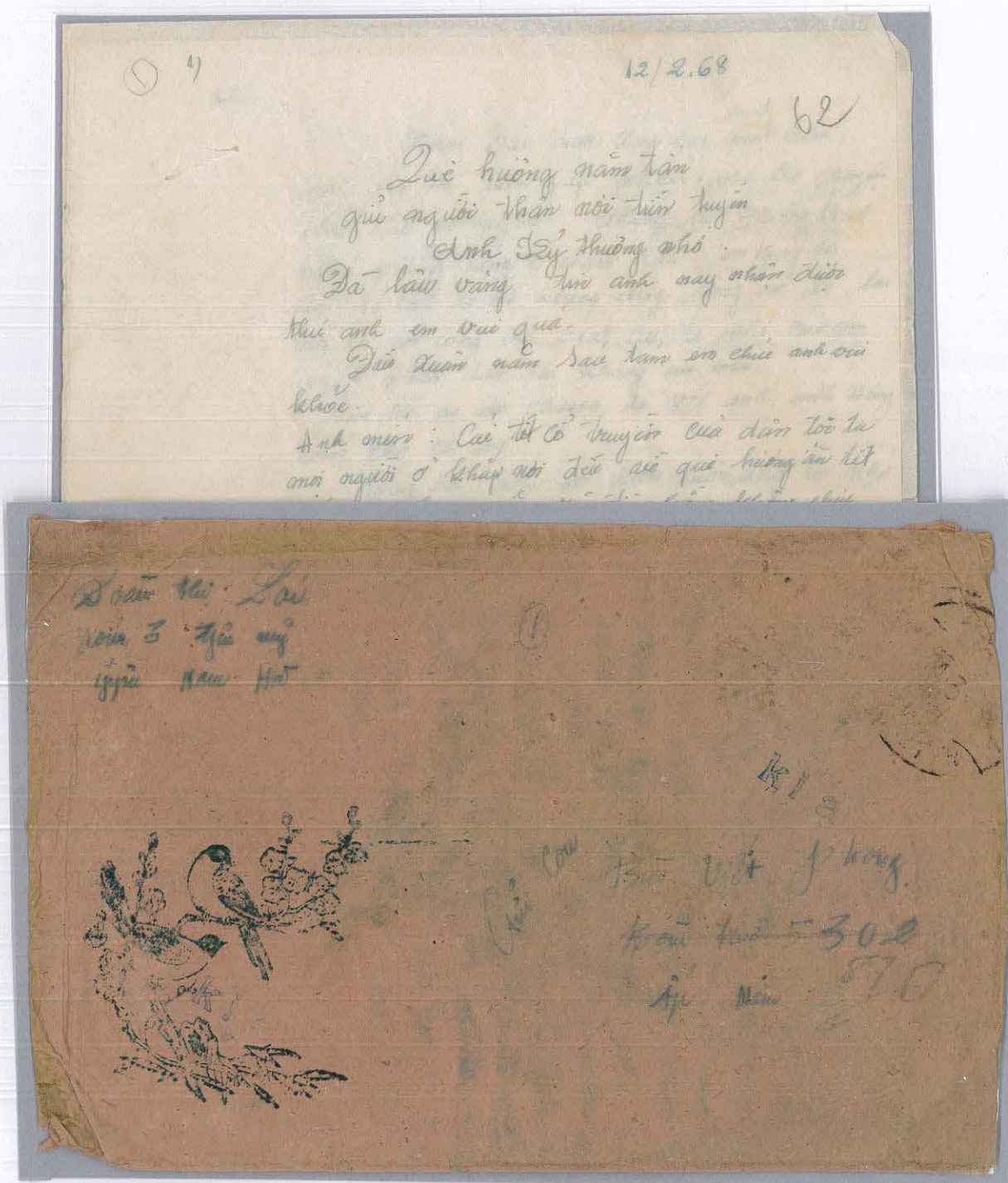
'Kia' Cross Border Manuscript Marking



Type I Manuscript (Fancy drawn) blue 'Kia' Marking
Usage: Military to military, April 4, 1968

'Kia' which is a Vietnamese acronym for "over the (Cambodian or Laotian) border" was applied at transfer stations with the intention of routing mail around battles or contested areas via Cambodia or Laos. "Men Goi" in address means please send to brother. It reads "...have not heard from you since October 1967. We are proud of you serving Ho Chi Minh. I have written many letters. Have you received them?" Writer fearful of losing brother in war and angry at "American puppets."

'Kia' Cross Border Handstamp

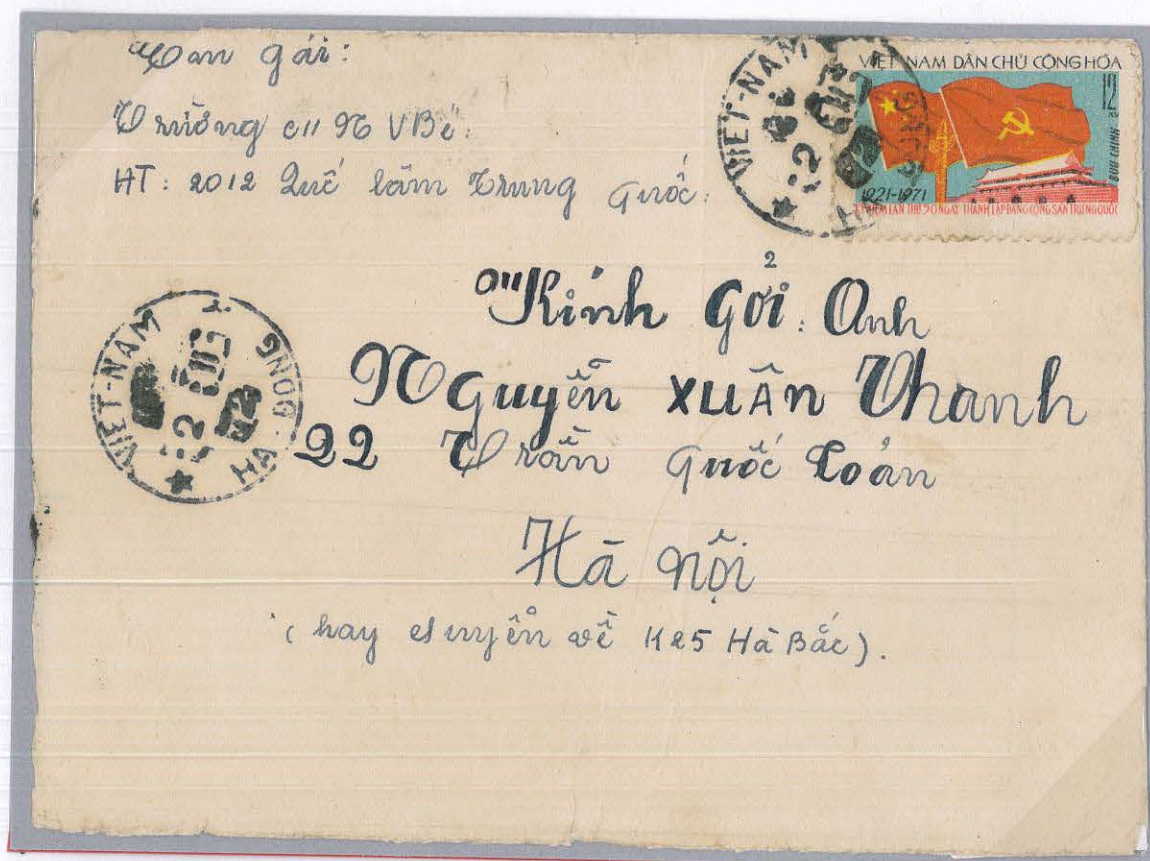


Type III Blue "Kia" above the address

'Kia' indicates across border of Laos or Cambodia. Address pen marked with forwarding information. This example north to south usage has stamp removed by Intelligence Office post capture. A mother writing to a son discusses family affairs and the Tet celebration. Dated February 12, 1968

X. Communist Allies' Involvement

Originating in China



1971 Issue:
50th Anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party

N.V.A. Regiment Training Unit in the border state of China, HT No. 2012. The word “Trung” designates the location. “Kinh Goi” Kindly forward. Hand carried by military courier, where prepayment stamp was cancelled in Ha Dong November 2, 1972, to Hanoi.

Ethnic Chinese with V.C. in Cambodia

爸爸、妈妈：

你们好，多少年来我们都在想念着你们，多少年来我们一直都断绝了给你们的休息，这真是想像不到的事。但今天我们一时又能接上了，爸爸、妈妈和弟妹们，想必你们一定等得很焦急也一定很高兴吧。小弟弟妹妹们在伟大祖国的哺育下，相信一定很进步了。燕妹、妹夫等可好，今年有多少个孩子了。

残酷的战争，使我们隔离，使我们断绝休息。甚至有人家破人亡。万恶的美帝国主义，由它一手发动起来的这场残暴的侵略战争，十多年来，在越南南方犯下了多少罪行，杀尽了多少平民，更蛮不讲理地把它的阴谋诡计。

人民面前宣告失败了，出所有的喽啰、强盗军

不甘心失败，妄图长期侵略政策，所以，於1979

卢惠祥父亲 啓

下横街14号

广州市 仁济路

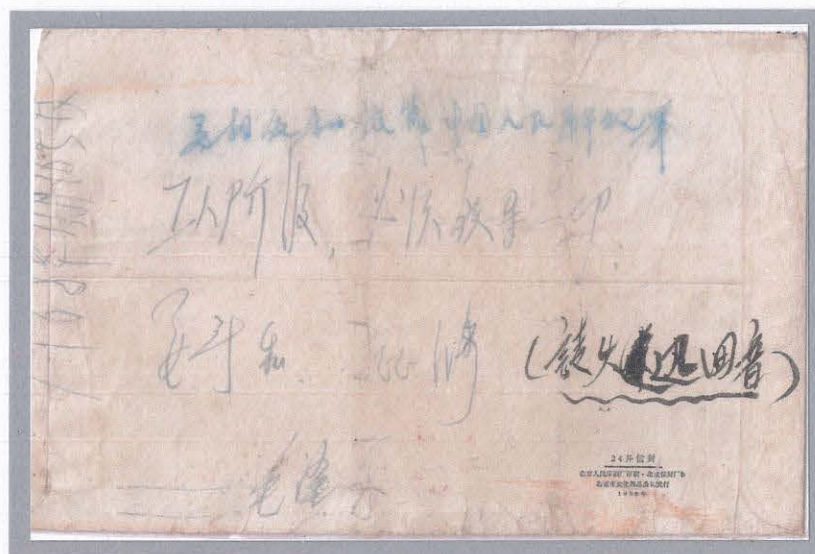
中国广东省

云英

Blue Handstamp reads:
'Confidential Do Not Open'

Letter dated 12/29/74 from female nurse, Wan Ying, trying to contact her father through the Hao Van Committee. Addressed to "Father Lo Wai Cheung of China at Yan Chi Road #14 by Father Duc." She states that she is constantly moving after her release by South Vietnamese authorities and "Cambodia is controlled by others but we will get it back. Victory is coming."

China's People Army Usage in War Zone



Seldom seen
Chinese Military
"Post Free"
handstamp

Sent from the Laotian border, where there was a regimental staging area for Chinese troops. Addressed to Unit No. 8702, a Chinese advisor to an Army Unit in Vietnam. Chinese characters Yun Nan or Yue Nan both mean "Vietnam," proving a Chinese military presence and military unit in Vietnam. "China's People's Army is always an army of victory – Mao's words" hand written across the top of reverse, then receiver's hand written note on reverse dated August 1968. Chairman Mao's instruction to troops on patriotic design, copyrighted 1966, adds inspiration. Translation: "Politics is the key that makes all things work."

'GAP' Urgent Manuscript Chinese V.C. Usage

林永青兄：媽接到兄的信，知悉兄平安，甚是歡喜，農曆正月初七日收到兄的信，正月十七日付去壹萬元，與二子郵包，內有西藥、食物，不知兄豈有收到，媽擔憂至七月才知兄的消息，母親打算新春正月初二日與兄會面，兄有可能嗎？兄的名字現改為林永青，七八年來未見過兄字姓林，媽甚是歡喜，兄字為青字，使媽懷疑，你的兄嫂名字，兄付信寫明告知，兄要手賤，待媽親自帶給兄。

Tousing

解放報

西堤人民羣衆要求救餓、言論自由民
、反拉兵勒索、爭取切身利益鬥爭

（本報綜合報導）儘管阮文紹政權——僅計年底兩個月，「人民救餓陣綫」接到國內各界同胞寄來救餓物資，價值達一百多萬元，使救餓工作，在「喜慶」的氣氛中，在這一期間，「人民救餓陣綫」克服困難，繼續深入推廣：

自一九七四年十一月以來，西堤各階層人民要求和平、民主自由、改善民生、實現民族和睦、實施巴黎協定、要求阮文紹辭職、要求救餓、言論自由、反剝削、箝制、反貪污、反拉兵、勒索、爭取切身利益的鬥爭風潮，正在全面深入發展。

在這期間，儘管阮文紹政權使用各種野蠻、高壓手段對付鬥爭風潮，儘管某些團體中右派勢力起了分化，出現個別右派份子要唱反調，要拉倒車



反美倒紹的鬥

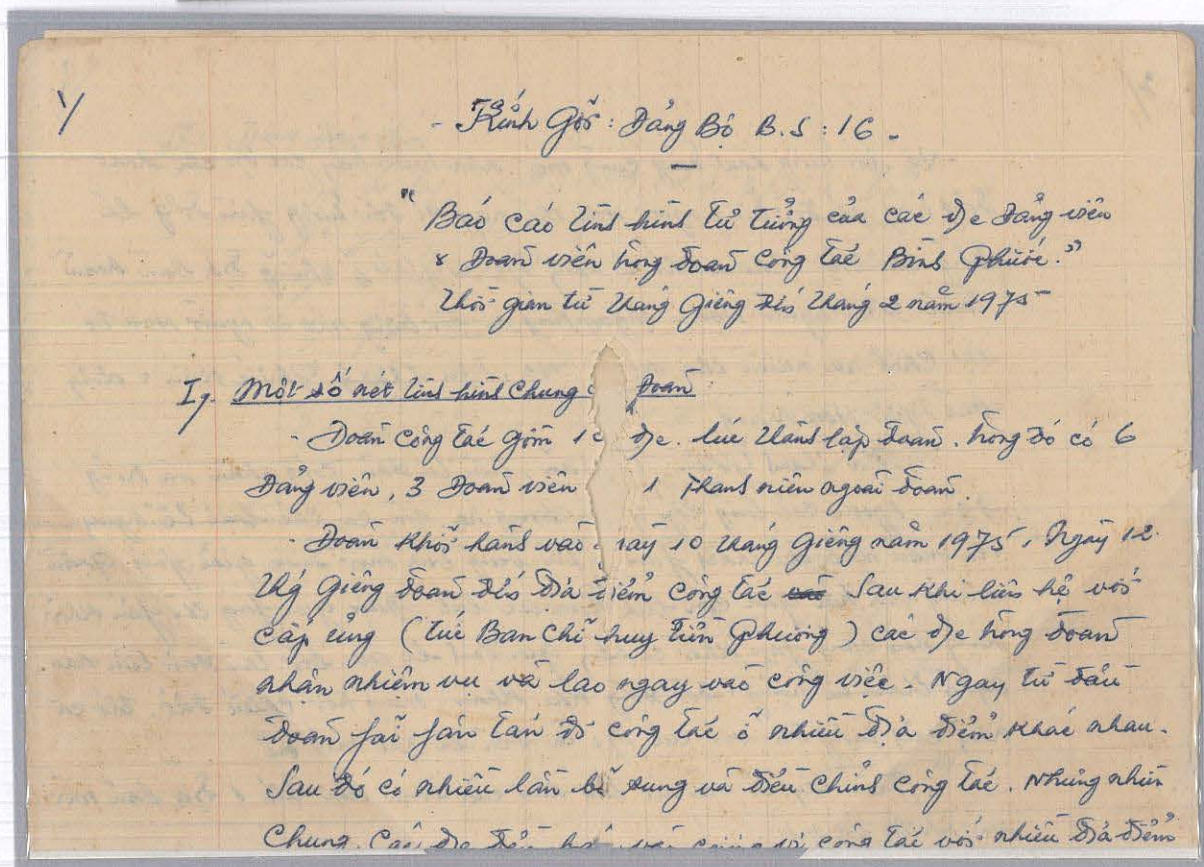
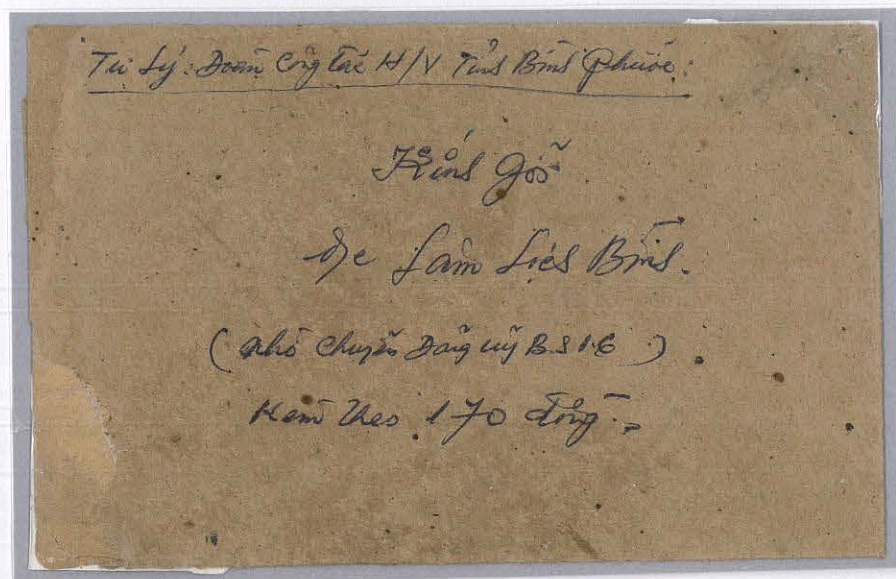
中，「起」、「必然，不足為奇判定風潮之高低問題的所在計和指導鬥爭風萬變，十分複雜件出現，也有新重）困難產生。靈活運用各種鬥根據實際情況，符合羣衆要求的確地估計敵我具創造性地安排新那麼，我們就會

'GAP' Urgent Red Manuscript
'Kinh Goi' Please Forward
Address label on Printed Form
February 4, 1975



Chinese People's Mail Committee of the National Liberation Front, to a political affairs committee member. The V. C. command was strong in political strategy, attracting all ethnic groups, especially fluent Chinese.

Chinese Committee Military
V.C. Money Transfer Envelope



V.C. money transfer envelope with hand written 170 Dong (Vietnamese money).

Kinh Goi" Kindly forward. Sent to B. S. 16 operating in the Binh Phouc area. Enclosure documents how funds are to be spent. Return address indicates cover mailed from HV, Hoa Van, a Chinese N.F.L. Committee Member.

Russian Military Advisors Mail

Здравствуйте мои дорогие!
Вчера получил от вас конверт
и записку. Большое вам спа-
сибо за вашу заботу. Также по-
лучил от мамы



праздником

4/8 68
получили
14/8 68



Куда г. Москва А-252
ул. Горько Денка
дом 4 кор 58 кв. 122
Кому Каминцкой З.И.

Адрес отправителя Товарищ пошта
35145-К
Каминцкому гайдару
Александрову

October 8, 1968

The military cancel translates "Field Post Office."

Little is known about how Soviet military advisors' mail was handled and processed during the Vietnam War. Since none of the few known covers bear Vietnamese military postal markings, it is believed that Soviet forces mail was pouched and handled outside the Vietnamese system. Such mail can only be identified by Soviet military censor marks and written content of the letters. An informal census revealed that six such covers currently exist. This cover was sent from Hanoi to Moscow and discusses personal issues, eg., receiving envelopes and socks. "The weather is wet, hot during daytime and cool evenings."

Russian Military Advisors Mail

Здравствуйте дорогие мои Зина.
и приветам к вам Косба.
Весьма вам пишу, и как всегда
вы очень рад. Большое спасибо
за письма и конвертов которые я
получил. Ну у меня всё хорошо, чув
здоров.

February 10, 1969

Судьба у меня получилась не легкая.

Оде

Во

сре

Куда: Москва А-252

ул. Третья-Д-ская
д. 4 кв 122.

Кому: Каммунист. З.

" — " "
" — " "



н/н. 43443 "М"
Марин. К.М.



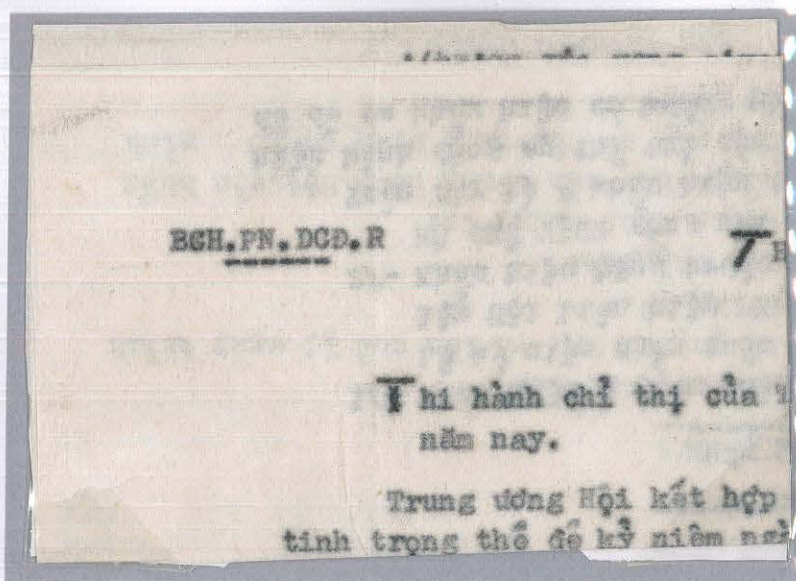
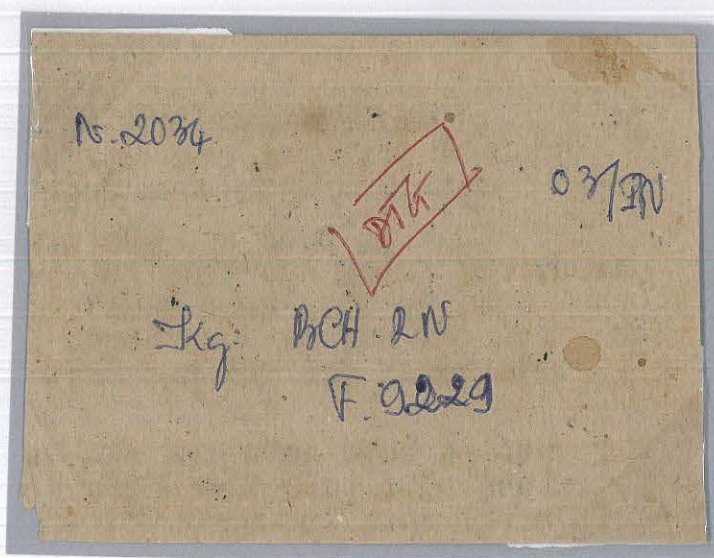
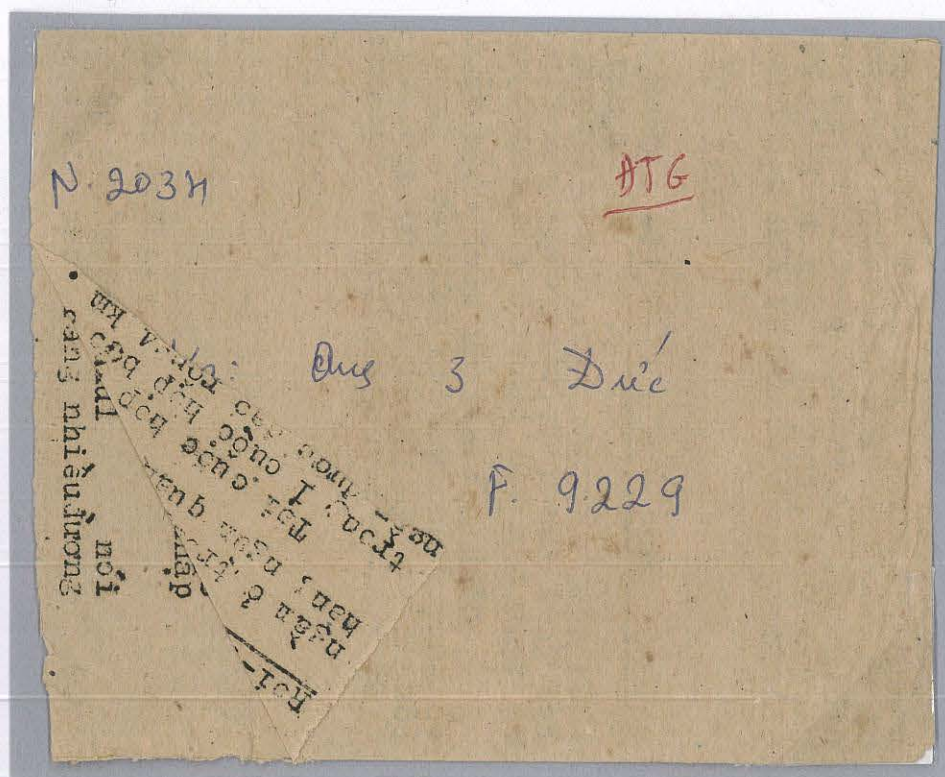
Backstamped
"urgent service free"

Soviet Military usage from Hanoi to Moscow via East Germany. It was there that the backstamp was applied. Writer states "...everything is going very well. I am alive and healthy. Do not understand weather here! Rain all day and hot. Evenings very cold. I sent you a photograph in a separate envelope. Please send post cards."

**XI. Secret Markings;
Command Center**

**'DTG' "Dien Tin Gap"
'DTK' "Dien Tin Khan" Manuscript
Late War Usage**

'DTG' Manuscript
Red Pen Underlined
Printed Flier Envelope
To F9229 Command Center



'DTK' Red Pen Boxed Manuscript on Printed Flier (same) Envelope; To F 9229 Command Center

Both 'DTG' and 'DTK' mean Urgent, Immediate Delivery, usually sent from and to high ranking officials related to the C.O.S.N.V. (Central Office for South Viet Nam), the guerilla/military command and control complex located just inside Cambodia, west of Tay Nihn. This carbon copy letter from N 2034 directs commanding leaders of N.V.A. Unit BS 87 to attend the Party meeting with local committee leadership on March 8, 1975.

Viet Cong Political Usage of Military/Postal System and 'DTG.GGK' Manuscript

F:8039
BS.28

Chào Mừng

Kính gửi : Đại diện Ban Hoa Tân R.

Nhân dịp kỷ niệm năm thứ 14 ngày thành lập Mặt trận
Dân tộc Giải phóng miền Nam Việt nam (20-12-60—20-12-74
) cơ quan chúng tôi có tổ chức một buổi liên hoan thân mật
xin kính mời đồng chí đến chung vui với chúng tôi .

Chúng tôi mong đón đồng chí vào 10 giờ sáng ngày 20
tháng 12 năm 1974 tại cơ quan F.8039 — BS.28 .

Ngày 14 tháng 12 năm 1974
TM. Cơ quan BS.28

F.8039

DTG.GGK

Tạ Gia

*Yêu cầu
Điền trước ngày
10/12/74*

Kính gửi

F.9229.

*Chữ ký' thư trưởng
F8039
7/12/74*

7/12/74

**'DTG.GGK' Red Boxed
Manuscript Urgent Mail Send
Immediately
'Kinh Goi' Manuscript
Please Forward**

December 16, 1974 message of the Provisional Revolutionary Government extending an invitation to attend a celebration for the anniversary (12/20/60 to 12/20/74) of the National Liberation Front, to be held at the location of F 8039 – BS. 28. The V.C. military mail system had a dual mission; the first was to carry military mail as quickly and securely as possible, the second to carry and distribute political and governmental mail. This type of mail is more difficult to find than military mail, as 99% was destroyed immediately after reading.

'DTG' "Dien Tin Gap" Handstamp - Urgent Mail
'GGK' "Gui Gap Khan" Handstamp - Urgent/Send Forward

N. 5146



Kính gửi: F. 9229
 Anh Ba Đức

'DTG' Type I
 Double Thin Parallelogram
 With Dash-D, Red Ink

'GGK' Type I
 Heavy Parallelogram, Red Ink

'Kinh Goi' Urgent/Forward

N. 514

19/1
 BS-16

HOẢ TỐC

F. 9229

Thường vụ KBN gửi các Khu ủy, Tỉnh ủy
 Đồng gửi Quân ủy Miền và các Ban Ngành

THÔNG TRI SỐ 03/TT.75

VỀ TỔ CHỨC NGÀY TẾT NGUYÊN ĐÁN NĂM NAY
 (ẤT MÃO 1975)

1- Tết Nguyên đán năm nay đến với chúng ta giữa lúc cuộc đấu tranh của quân và dân ta ở miền Nam và trong cả nước thu được nhiều thắng lợi to lớn và đang bước vào năm mới với những thắng lợi còn to lớn và đon dập hơn, hứa hẹn một triển vọng tốt đẹp trong sự nghiệp đánh bại chính sách xâm lược thực dân mới của đế quốc Mỹ, hoàn thành nhiệm vụ

Seldom seen combination of these two handstamps, reserved for the most sensitive important mail.

V.C. usage from N 5146 to F 9229, Anh Ba Duc the high level political leader in Saigon in charge of the Cholon area's Chinese Mail Committee operations from 1973 to 1975. The mimeographed 4 page enclosure of January 1, 1975, summarizes the military, civil and political plans and operations.

Combination Auxiliary Handstamps Late Command Center Usage



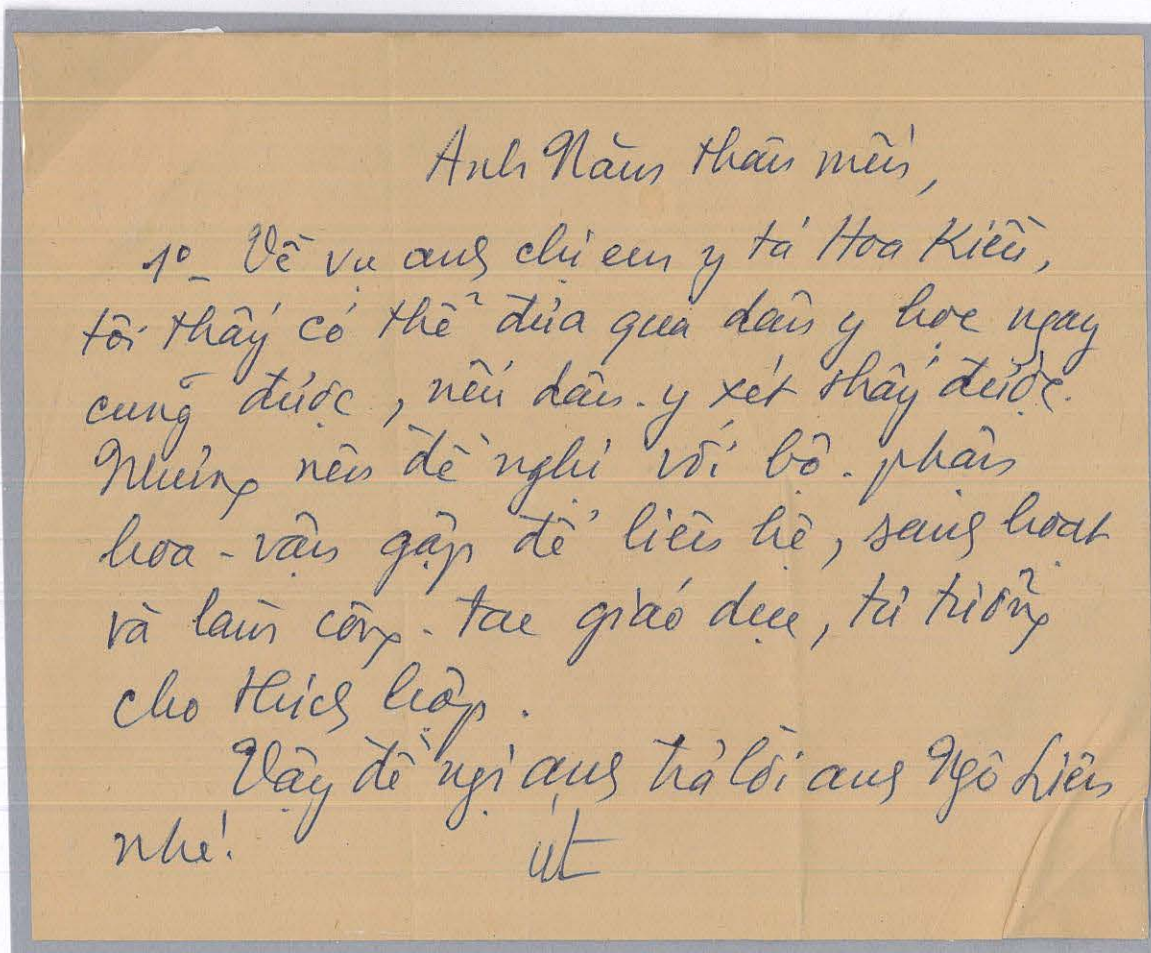
'DTG' Type II
Heavy Rectangle
With Dash-D, Red Ink

'Kinh Goi' Urgent/Forward
Black Straight Line, Slanted

'Yeu Cau Den' Return By
Date Blanks, Red Slanted

'N_1077' Unit Identity
Small Black Straight Line

'So 1___' Command Identity
Small Black Straight line,
Underlined



'Bao Mat' Sealed Secret
Backstamp
Red Double Circle

Very late V.C. usage from NF 1077 to F 9229, a V.C. Command Center in the South, bearing many auxiliary handstamps, some mail handling instructions and some unit designations. Note the Return By Date handstamp with April 3, 1975. Enclosure discusses a solution to Chinese people's urgent problems. "Resolve now!"

'GGK' Urgent Handing Over Manuscript Command Center Usage

HỎA TỐC
TUYỆT MẬT

TH

Thường vụ KBN gọi các Khu ủy
đồng gọi Quận ủy và các Ban Ngành
(Kể cả Trị Thiên và T5 để trao đổi)

CHỈ THỊ SỐ 04/CT.74

PHÁT ĐỘNG HÀNG TRIỆU QUẦN CHÚNG ĐỨNG LÊN ĐÁNH BẠI CHÍNH
SÁCH BÌNH ĐỊNH LẤN CHIẾM, ĐÁNH BẠI CHÍNH SÁCH PHÁT- XÍT
HIẾU CHIẾN PHÁ HOẠI HIỆP ĐỊNH, ĐÁNH BẠI CHỦ NGHĨA THỰC
DÂN MỚI, ĐÁNH ĐỔ TẬP ĐOÀN TAY SAI ĐẾ QUỐC MỸ, THỰC HIỆN
MỘT MIỀN NAM HÒA BÌNH ĐỘC LẬP DÂN CHỦ PHỒN VINH HÒA HỢP
DÂN TỘC TIẾN TỚI HÒA BÌNH THỐNG NHẤT TỔ QUỐC

11451

(R)

GGK

Kinh Gai

F.9229

'GGK' Urgent Hand Over
Red Marker Large Boxed
Manuscript

'R' Censored Already
Red Pen Circled
Manuscript

'Kinh Goi' Please forward

Since secrecy and security were normal mail handling practices, only the highest priority mail would receive the "Tuyet Mat" typed heading on the enclosure. In this case the enclosed document, circa 1974 or 1975, gives instructions for an all-out mobilization of forces due to the increased number of attacks from A.R.V.N. Sent to F 9229, V.C. Command Center in the South.

'DTG' "Dien Tin Gap" Manuscript – Urgent Immediate Delivery

#5226/B

Bảng Báo cáo tổng kê Q.H.V
Thu và chi trong năm 1973

Số hiệu chi	ngày tháng năm	Kuôn cho	Trợ cấp
001	4-1-1973	Giảng Hà	Trợ cấp khu
002	5-1-73	Hải Bình	Trợ cấp hồi cứu
003	5-1-73	Huỳnh Sơn	Trợ cấp sinh
004	15-1-73	Vĩnh Kiệt	Mua thuốc
005	15-2-73	Chú Ba	Đúng chi
006	18-2-73	Hiền Trưng	Đúng chi
007	9-5-73	Bu Trưng	Hoàn lại
008	15-5-73	Vĩnh Kiệt	Mua thuốc
009	25-5-73	Hải Ngọc	Trợ cấp khu
010	28-5-73	Sâm Chử	Tra tiền
011	30-5-73	Chai cho Dương	Trợ cấp khu
012	18-6-73	Năm Mỹ	Mua 8 gói
013	11-7-73	Quảng Bưởi	Mua thuốc
014	7-8-73	Đào Hành	Mua 1 kg
015	13-8-73	Vĩnh Kiệt	Mua thuốc

N: 3253

SC: 34/TB

M

Kg:

F9229

'DGT' "Urgent" Red Underlined Manuscript

V.C. hand drawn accounting record, dated December 30, 1973, of tax collector, Vinh Kiet, showing details of each date paid, person aid, and village location from the South-West Frontier near and across the Cambodian border. The envelope is made from a Provisional Revolutionary Government form. Sender's secret code is N3253. The receiver's code number F9229 is a V.C. Command Center.

Từ Thượng

GGK

DTG

Kính gửi: Anh Ba Đức

F. 9229

Yêu cầu đến trong ngày

11-4-75

Ước


2 Thoi

'DTG' and 'GGK' "Urgent" Red Boxed Manuscript markings

Very late usage, April 11, 1975
to Anh Ba Duc at F9229 Command Center.

'DTK' "Dien Tin Khan" Very Urgent Manuscript

Kính gửi: Chi ủy, Chi bộ F. 9.229.
 Chúng tôi: Quách Hữu Nghi, sinh năm
 1940, đảng viên được kết nạp ngày 13/5/1971,
 chính thức ngày 13/5/1972. Và Quách Yến
 Bội (Thanh Hoa) sinh năm 1941, đảng viên
 được kết nạp ngày 8/7/1973.
 Chúng tôi đã sống chung trong đơn vị hơn
 một năm. Qua sinh hoạt trực tiếp và gián
 tiếp tìm hiểu nhau, thấy về lý tưởng là thống
 nhất cùng như tư tưởng, quan điểm, lập trường
 đã khẳng định là quyết đấu chiến đấu cho lý

Kính gửi 
 Ban chủ ủy và chi bộ
 F: 9.229 (#: 5.226/B)

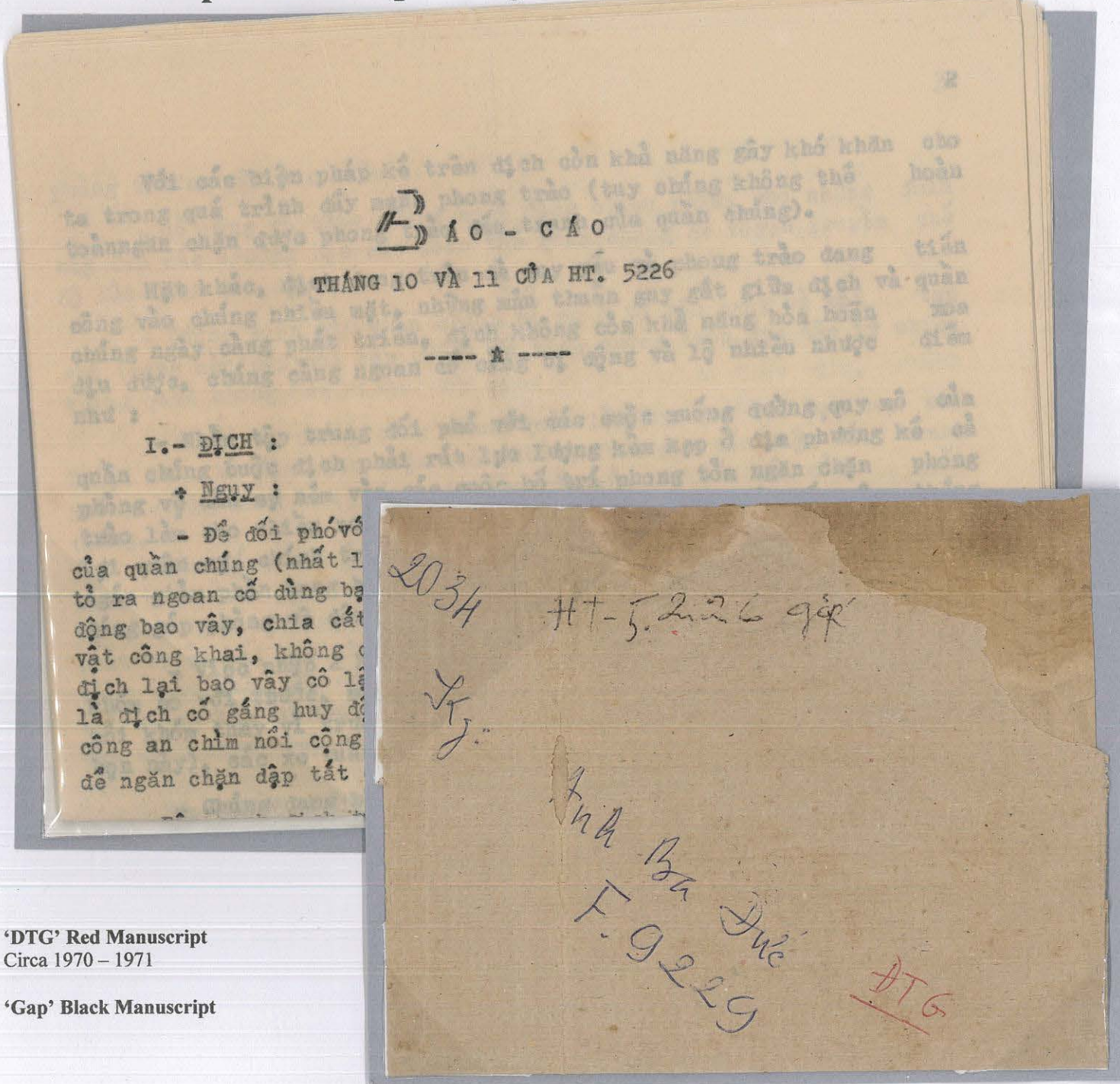
'DTK' Very Urgent Top Secret
 Manuscript in Red Thin Decorated
 Diamond; seldom seen marking

'Kinh Goi' Please forward

July 8, 1973

Unusual request to superiors by two V.C. Soldiers, Quang Huu Nghi born in 1940 who has been a Party
 Member since 1971 and Quach Than Hoa who has been a Party Member since 1972, are asking permission
 to marry. To F 9229 Military Branch, Party Chapter Chi Bo, at HT 5226.

'DTG' "Dien Tin Gap" Manuscript – Urgent Mail
'Gap' Manuscript – Urgent; Command Center Usage



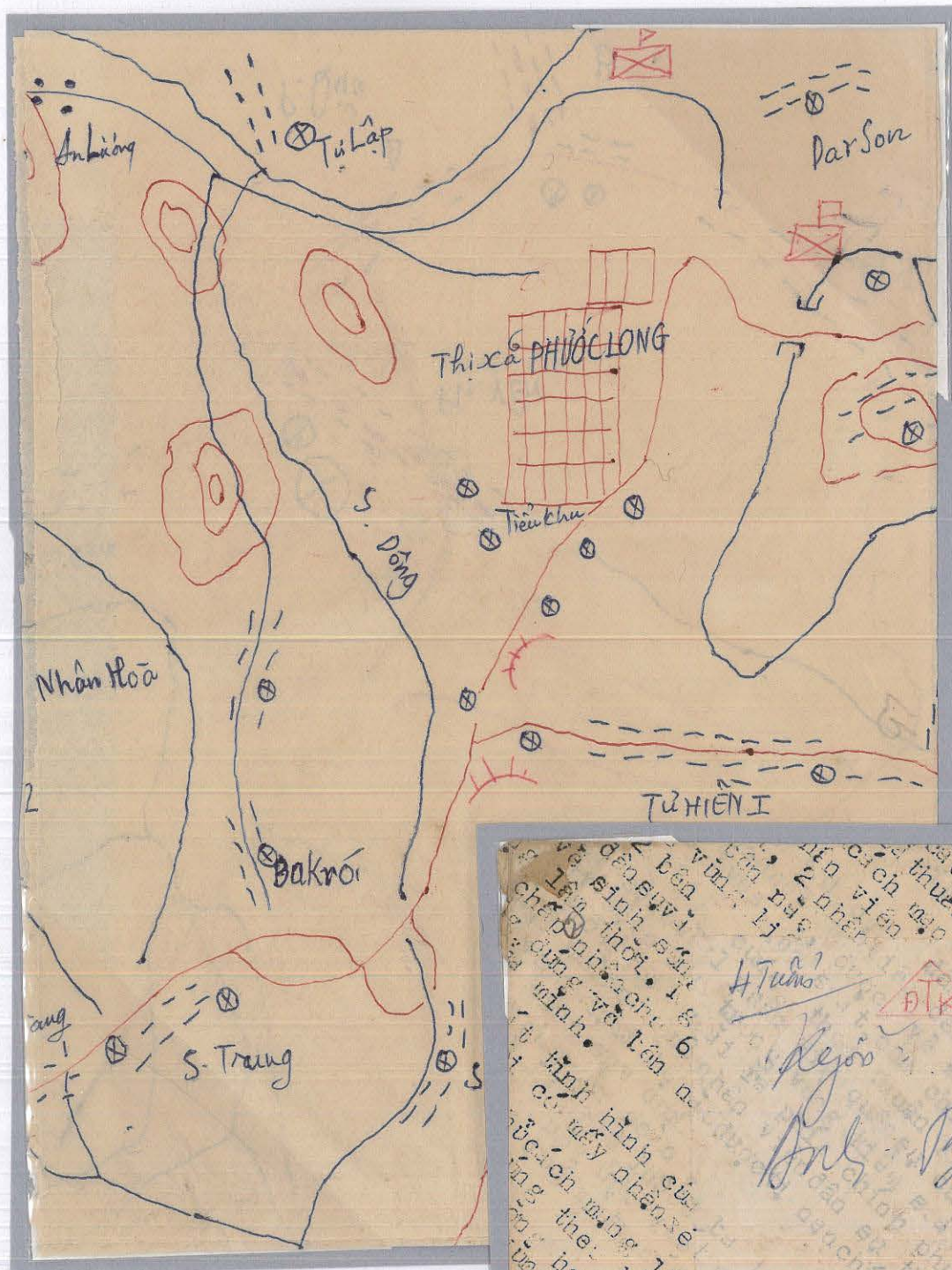
'DTG' Red Manuscript
 Circa 1970 – 1971

'Gap' Black Manuscript

N.V.A. correspondence from HT No. 5226 to F. 9229, a V.C. Command Center in the South. Eleven page typed report in sections discusses 1. the enemy, their strengths/losses, detailed strategy, and repression by the Pres. Thiue Regime U.S.A. puppets, 2. Chinese population's support of N.F.L., 3. mobilization of 300 more guerillas for the next large scale battle (date or place not given), 4. P.A.V.N./N.V.A. fighters in the region, 5. Pacification measures in the controlled areas of H.T. No. 5226. 6. Propaganda efforts, 7. How to quickly build up forces in controlled areas 8. List of commanders endorsing this report and plan of action.

VC adversity cover to H.T. 9229, a designated code for 'Committee Operations' in that secured VC held area. The carbon copied typed report contains operational instructions to local VC units operating nearby. '**BGY**', an extremely scarce marking, designates specific routing instructions to the 'Gio linh' responsible for an expedited, confidential delivery. Kinh Goi, abbreviated K g, means Communist Brother, forward.

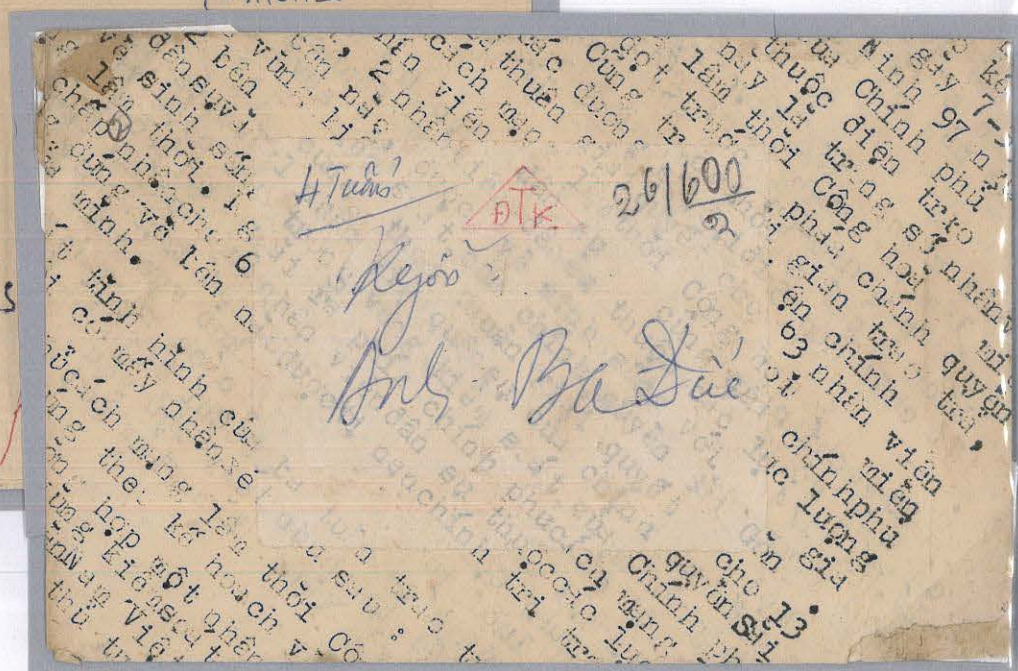
Combat Map, First Half 'DTK' "Dien Tin Khan" Manuscript



Phuoc Long Combat Map
First Half
Mailed Separately

'DTK' Very Urgent Top Secret
Red Thin Triangle Manuscript

Address Label on
Printed form Envelope



The enclosed hand drawn map was split in half and mailed in two different envelopes as an additional postal security measure. The map above details the topography, the geography, the major features and encampments of the town of Phuoc Long. The battle, in January 1974, was a decisive defeat for A.R.V.N.

Combat Map, Second Half

Phuoc Long Combat Map Second Half

Mailed seperately

'Kinh Goi' Please Forward

Address Label on
Printed Form Envelope

'DTK' omitted



*Thư gửi
Đồng chí Ba Đức
(Hàng xóm ở Nam)*

Division level V.C. map
plotting A.R.V.N. positions
and attack routes at Phuoc Long.

'GAP' Expedite Manuscript

Kính gửi Anh 6 Vàng,

Hôm trước Long và Nai về chúng tôi
tự chuyển lên 1 số sách ở MB gửi về và
kính theo bản thủ mục.

Vì tài liệu sách báo ở đây này
hiếm, sách Hoa văn hoàn toàn có, và
chúng tôi có muốn lên 1 số sách báo
phục vụ cho khách (ta số ít biết chữ)
tôi có bản thủ mục gửi kèm. Đang
cải thiện anh trước những vì đường
chuyển lên xuống cũng khó khăn. Kính
anh vui lòng thông cảm cho.

Riêng số sách có ghi tên anh
tôi tự mua lên cả, chỉ còn 2 quyển
新华辞典 và 新华字典 thì Sanh và
Hải Kim anh cho mượn 1 thời gian. Dù
ở đây 1 cuốn từ điển nào cả, Riêng
新华字典 anh có thể cho dưới này từ
đây anh em chúng tôi học tập.

Còn 1 số sách tạm thời...

loại sách
tôi rất
cần



'GAP' Urgent Boxed Red Manuscript
'BGY' Boxed Black Manuscript, April 11
Address label on Printed Form
March 7, 1975

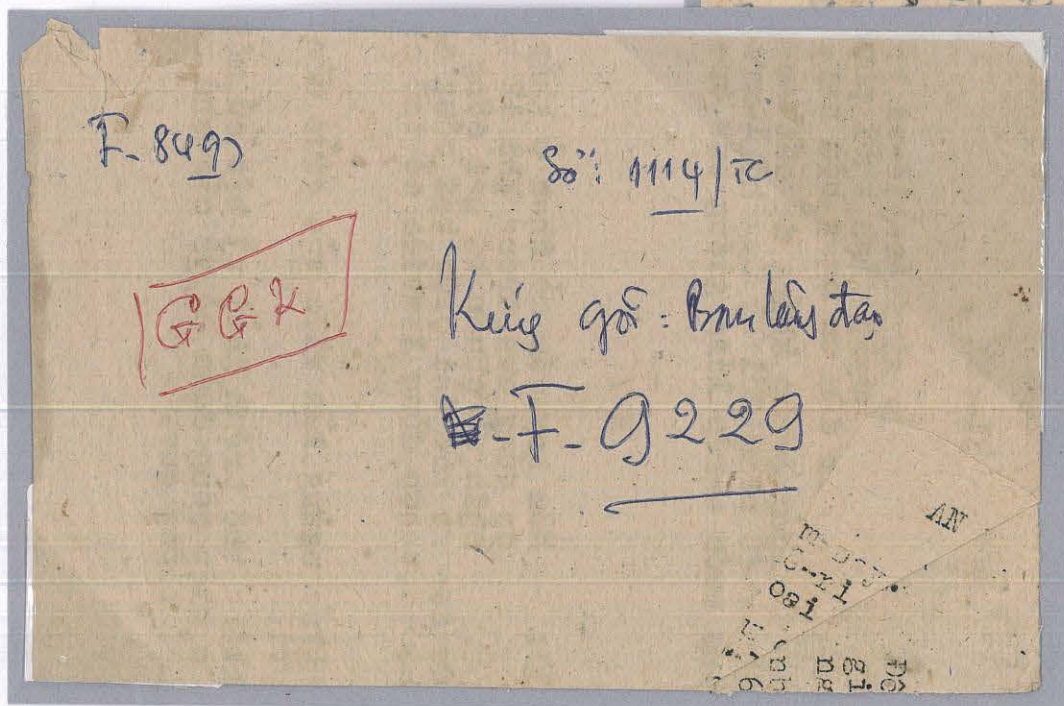
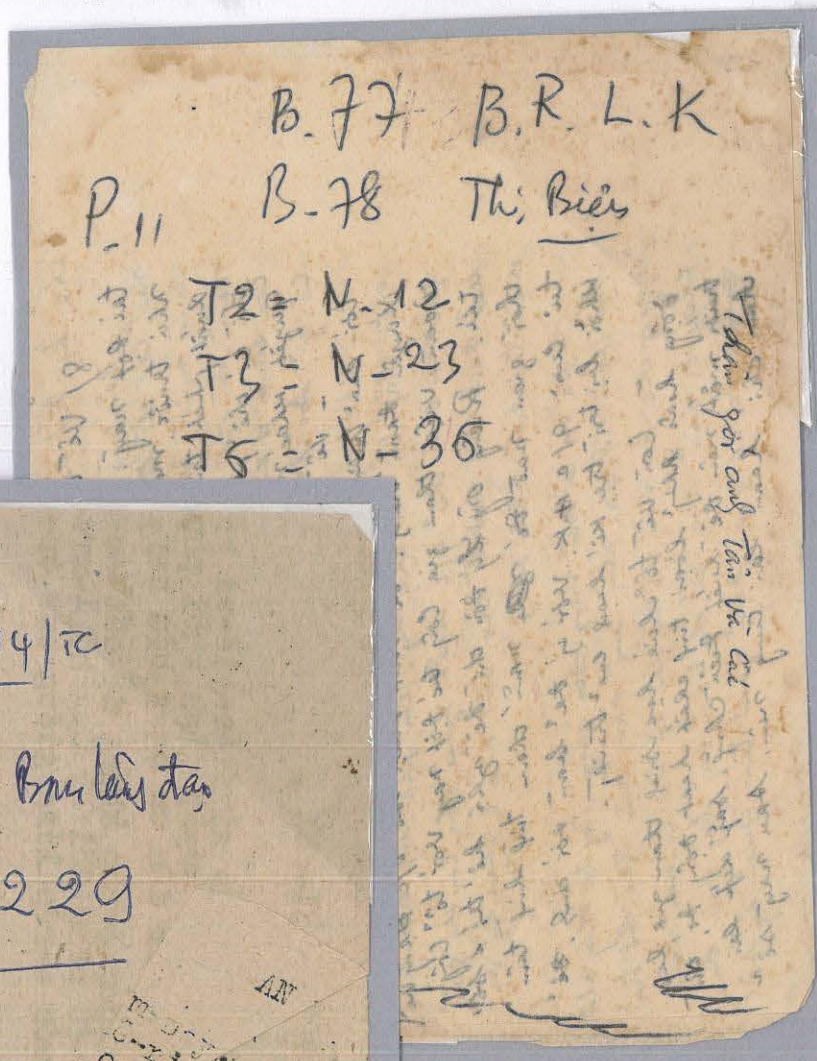
To village identified as B5, from soldier Sau Vang assumed to be a very high ranking Viet Cong officer, about addressee's relative who died weeks earlier. Enclosed pictures of the funeral.

'GGK' "Urgent/Secret" Manuscript and F9229 Command Center

'GGK' "Urgent/Secret"
Red Boxed Manuscript

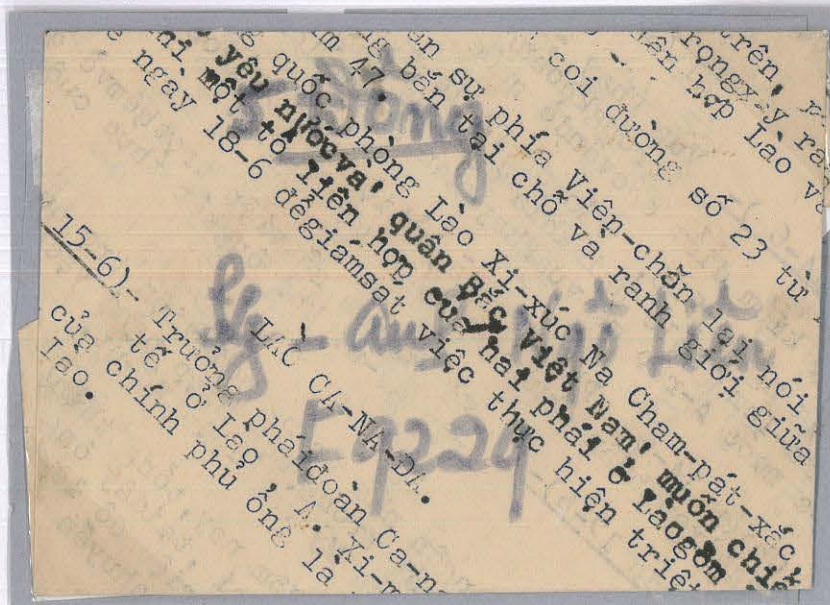
'Kinh Goi' "Please Forward"

From F8497 to F9229 Command
Center. Contents lists Commanders'
Security codes like T2=N12, etc.
Very rare information.



Letter discusses combining "upcoming operations into a single operation." No location is given for the forthcoming actions due to begin May 5, 1974. Recipient asked to reply to "Mr. #4 Ly" with the consensus of the Committee. Envelope made from a printed form.

No Hop Tho or Hom Thu
identification number used.
Used very late in the war in
1975 to a unit at F9229, a
Command Center, on a
printed legal form.



XII. American Withdrawal; Capture of Saigon

Lessened Security

1973 Issue:
Armed Youth Marching
in The Premilitary Youth
Movement series
Thanh Hoa cancel
June 24, 1974



Sent May 29, 1974 to My Duc, per manuscript notation on reverse. Return address includes Hom Thu No. and Thanh Mai, located in a province in the South, showing less concern about revealing the location.



Military Frank 1973 Issue:
Advancing Soldier
with Bayonette,
Son Tay handstamp
August 27, 1974

Entering mails at Son Tay for local delivery.

Postal Office Headquarters Document

"Sending and Receiving of Mails"

457
HSE
4/4
VF.L71
02/TB-75
MAT
THÔNG BÁO
3 Lầu
Về việc giao nhận thư từ

② Kể từ ngày 6/4/75, việc giao nhận thư từ giữa các HT nằm trong khu vực này, xin theo đúng qui định sau đây :

- 1) Hàng ngày tất cả các HT đều phải đến giao nhận thư từ tại tổng trực nơi trạm đồng chỉ 3 Do thuộc HT 433. Nơi nào không biết tổng trực nơi trên thì nhờ HT 432 hướng dẫn. Riêng các HT ở gần nhau có thể phối hợp, luân phiên đi giao nhận thư từ cho đỡ tốn người.
- 2) Giờ giao trực tạm thời được qui định vào đúng 12 giờ trưa mỗi ngày. Sau này, tùy tình hình nước lên, nước ròng, HT 433 sẽ có sự thay đổi cho phù hợp.
- 3) Các HT ở xa, sẽ giao nhận thư từ ở trạm giao bưu gần nhất mà Ban giao bưu có thông báo sau.

Ngày 4 tháng 4 năm 1975
VF.L71

This top-secret "MAT" document (1975) titled "Announcement VF, LH No. 021.TB.75" specifies how mail couriers "Giao Liens" should function and how letters were to be addressed, handled, and sent. It illustrates the sophistication of mail operations. It states "...the delivery and reception of all letterbox must follow these rules exactly:

1. All mailmen and couriers must come to the general mail station located at Mr. Do HT 433. Anyone who has difficulty finding this location should ask cadre at HT 432 for a guide. Units and HT locations that are near HT 433 can take turns by coming to the station, saving personnel.
2. The best time for arrival is 12:00 p.m. everyday. HT 433 will set suitable alternative mail pick up times according to the high and low tides for that day.
3. HT located a great distance from the general mail station, can contact and work with the postal station nearest to the central station. A list of locations will be made out later. Mr. #3 Do is at location of Hamlet Kinh 2B Long Dinh. Address to Mr. Do, Section A (Station A) HT 433. 4/04/75"

Top Secret MAT Document Command Center Usage

VF.L71
Số: 01/TR-75
HAX

Thông báo

Văn phòng L.71 xin thông báo hôn thư và mật danh mới của các Ban ngành và các quận để dùng trong thay cho hôn thư và mật danh cũ.

bắt đầu áp dụng từ ngày 6/4/75.

chỉ dùng trong công văn, giấy tờ nội bộ, không và trong nói năng thông thường.

hiện dùng thông báo này và yêu cầu chỉ xoa

Giao bưu	HT 433	
Bản y	HT 434	
A.7 Thái	HT 435	
Quận 1	HT 436	
Quận 2	HT 437	
Q. 3	HT 438	
Q. 4	HT 439	
Q. 5	HT 440	
Q. 6	HT 441	
Q. 7	HT 442	
Q. 8	HT 443	
Q. 9	HT 444	
Q. 10	HT 445	
Q. 11	HT 446	
Thị trấn Tây	HT 447	
Bình Hòa	HT 448	
Nhân công	HT 449	
Tân sơn Phú	HT 450	
Phủ nhận	HT 451	

Lýnhàn
HT J.160/B2
Kính Gai.
Anh Sáu Vàng.
F 9229.
F 9229

HT J.160/B2 to Command Center F9229
Kính Gai: 'Dear Brother' familiar greeting
Carbon copied typed document, April 4, 1975

Top Secret document lists new NVA Hom Thu numbers for units to use in the final push to liberate Saigon, sent to commands and commanders of the units involved. "Liason Office #71 announces the new mail box and letter secret codes to be used only on official mail and letters beginning on April 6, 1975. Attention: these addresses and codes are to be used only on official mail and documents and internal papers of the Liberation Army and the Revolutionary Government and may not be used on personal mail or spoken of during conversations. It is hoped that all will follow this announcement exactly. When new codes are recorded, these documents must be destroyed. April 4, 1975."

'Tram' Mail Station Handstamps



Military Frank 1973 Issue: Advancing Soldier with Bayonette
'Tram' 700A handstamp; Buu Dien machine cancel, November 8, 1974

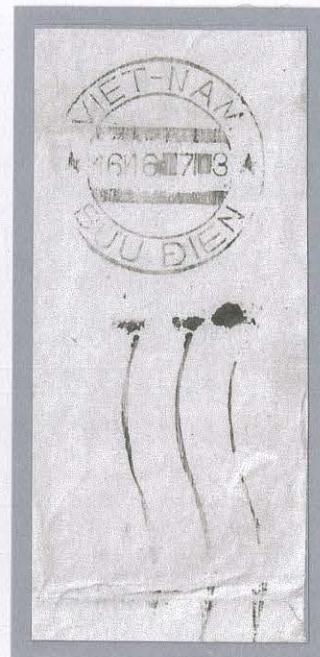
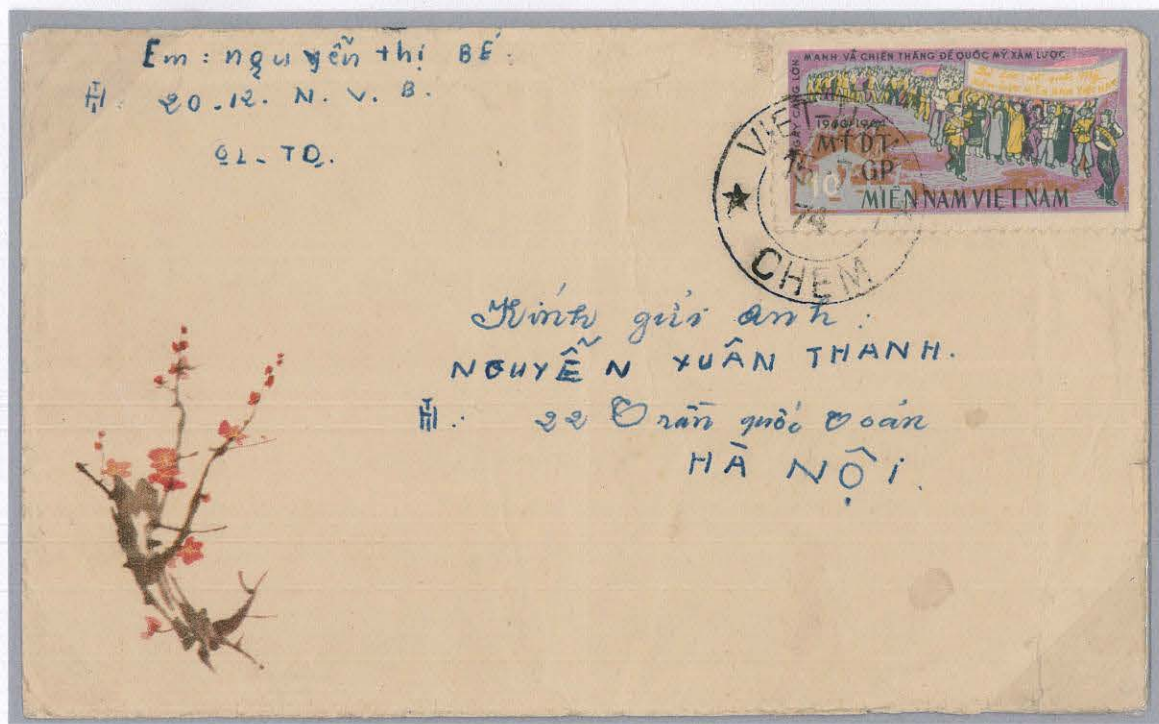
Only recorded example of red double circle transit or carrier handstamp 'Tram' 700A (Postal Field Station). Only recorded example of originating double circle black machine cancel "Buu Dien" (Registered letter) cancels the stamp and provides a back stamp dated November 16, 1974. Registry treatment during forwarding from the ranking officer's HT No. location to civilian destination in Hanoi accounts for the two dates.



Military Frank
1971 Issue:
Nguyen Van Be
'Tram' K 35 handstamp
Manuscript inspection
September 6, 1971

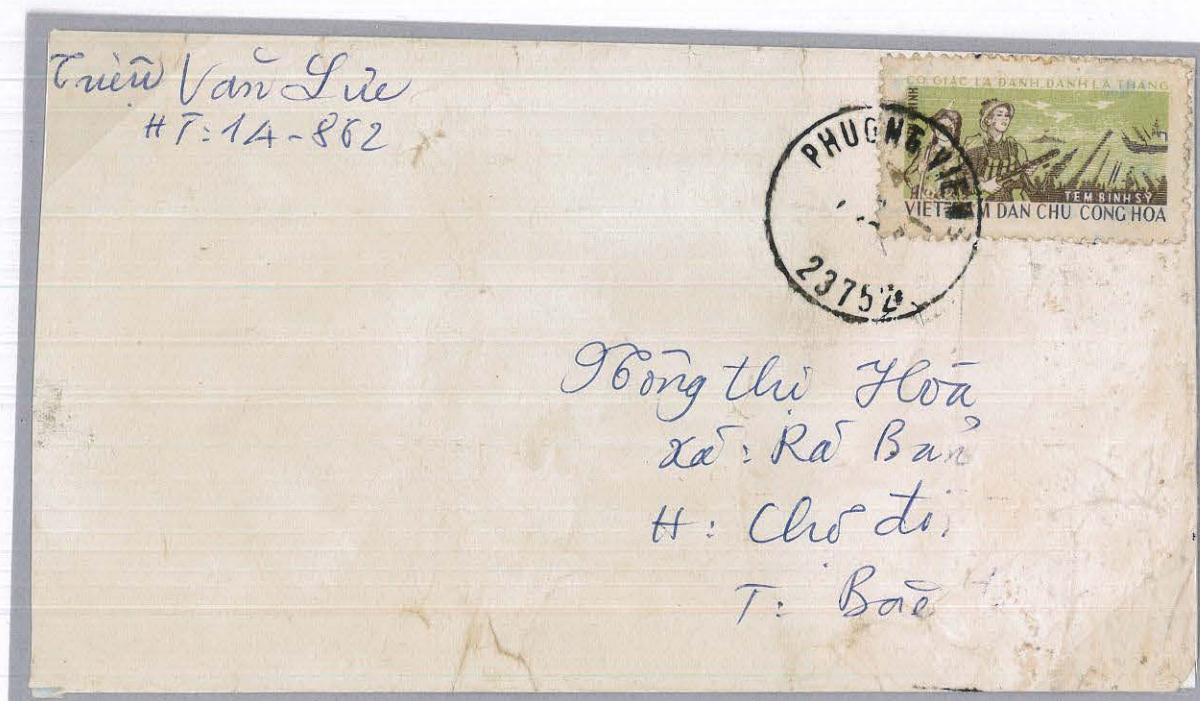
Only recorded example of red double circle 'Tram' K 35 handstamp reads "Nhan Dan Quan Doi" People's Army, "Quan Buu" Military Mail, "Tram" Postal Field Station. From Hom Thu No. to civilian destination in Ha Tay.

Chem VC Mail Usage & Cambodian Occupation Usage



1973 Issue: Armed Youth Marching in Premilitary Youth Movement series
 'Chem' (Special handling) Handstamp July 15, 1974
 'Buu Dien' (Governmental free frank) Machine cancel on reverse

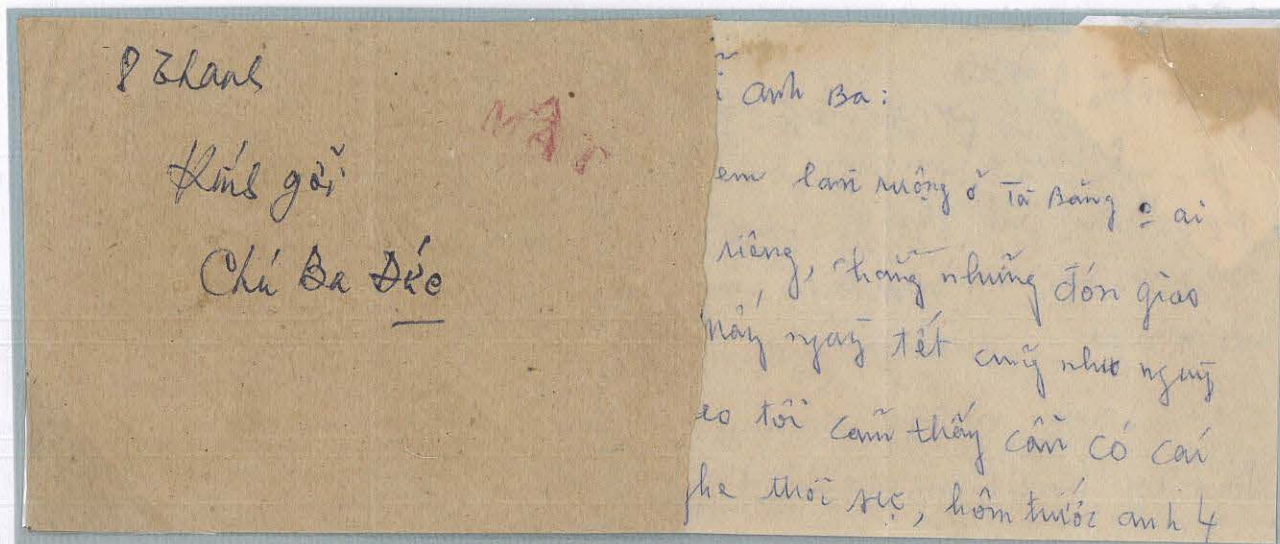
Northern usage of 'Chem' marking and 'Buu Dien' backstamp from undisclosed military base in the North to a political officer in Hanoi.



Military Frank 1969 Issue: Solider and Guerilla Woman
 Phuong Vien "Blind" Security Handstamp Post code 23752

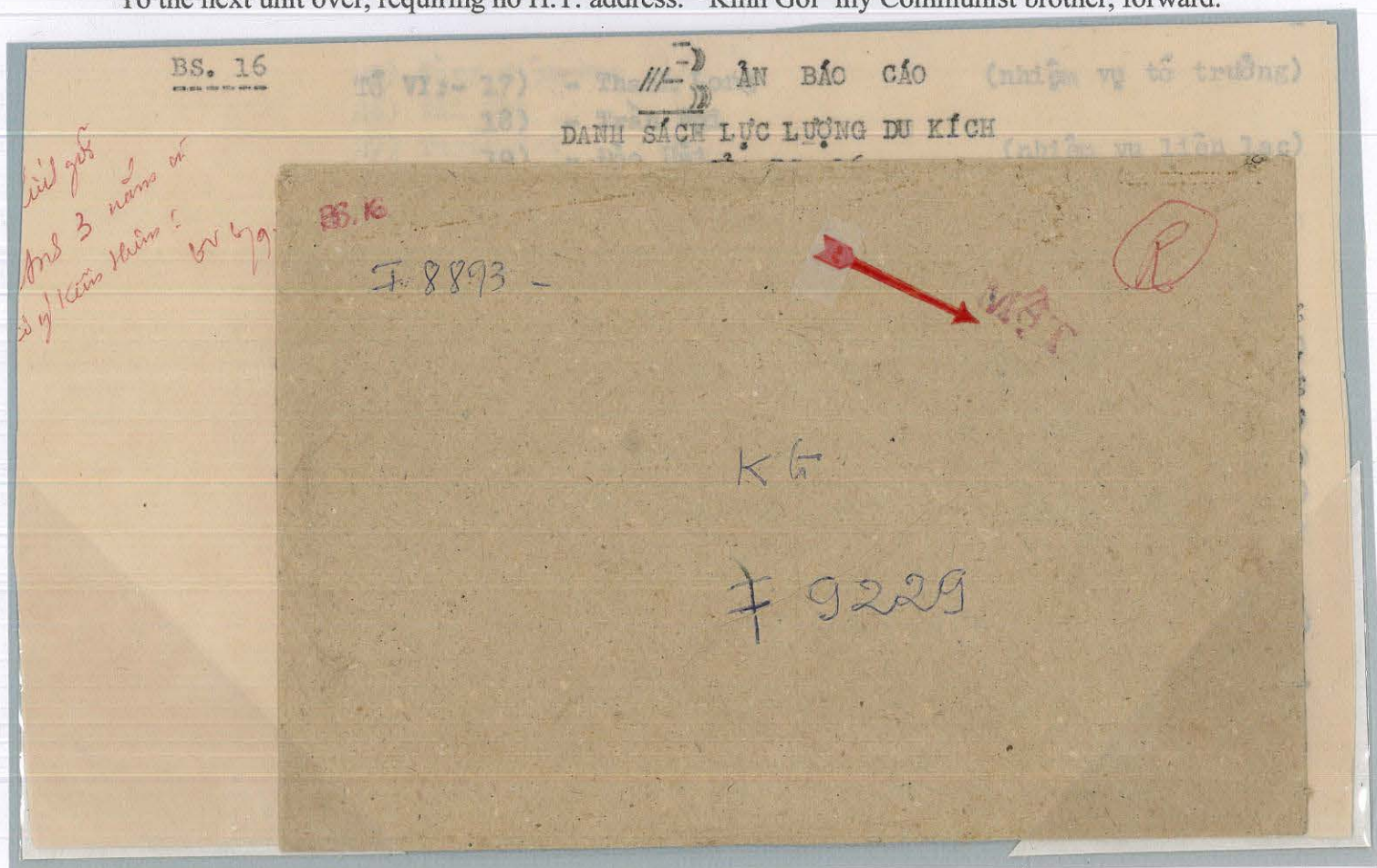
Backstamp clearly dates the cover to 1974. Sent from Military Region VII which runs from the border of Cambodia to the East China Sea. Addressed to an undisclosed location.

'MAT' Top Secret Handstamps 'R' Examined Manuscript



'MAT' Red Handstamp, Top Secret, circa 1973-1974

To the next unit over, requiring no H.T. address. 'Kính Gởi' my Communist brother, forward.



'MAT' Red Handstamp applied by Postal Agent and 'R' Red Manuscript added by Censor; July, 29 1974

Adversity cover sent from guerrilla group I 8893 to F 9229, a V.C. Command Center. 4 pages detail a roster of troop levels by individual, and thus top secret. 'Kính Gởi' abbreviated as "KG".

V.C. Command Center Briefing Update

nhân ngày 20-1
(sưu tập 3 bài) 75
góp

Ngũy:

CÁI ĐỒNG VAI CHỨNG.
đi đến với bố ráp tại các nhà này ra. Mũi cũng có lại tờ chú "V D B", chắt chắt ta
lại các đờn xung với V D B. Một đã rồi long từ...
- một dầy dầy là "tháo lỏng" cấp...
đã bị chứng "neo" từ 2, 3 năm nay, ở ngoài mặt...
Trên cùng đang sue với và chỉ hoạt động trên...
phần nhấm es hủ này, đôi lần tra của một N t...
...nhấn vào nút

Giờ em về
 lại bếp
 tăng gia
 thực hành
 mới đây

ANH

Wam
soi
suc
bae
niem
ta
lap

chúng tôi cho
sau các ông,
ông, tăng thêm
hải đất và
tâm là tâm

vào 0 giờ 15' nói
rất rõ ràng và
thể' như cho
b. hoàn toàn

Adversity usage of a political musical sheet, addressed to Ngo Lien at Tuc Ba Duc village, a high ranking V.C. officer responsible for the Chinese People's Resistance Committee. Detailed five page letter provides intelligence on enemy troop strength, tactics, strategy, current war and political situation, will of the people, control of unions, money available, government strength among the people by District and plans to end the war.

Command Center Directive with Propaganda Instructions

*F.9229 (Hoz van)
Cần phải a biên soạn
vấn bản cho anh chị em
tây bộ phận, kể cả các
đồng nghiệp (trên đời lý tại Tân Mỹ)*

THÔNG BÁO

F.9021

nh
Bi
ủy
kh

tr
Bi
nh
bi
lâu

tro

có
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dài

địa phương song do các cấp và chính quyền

Kính gửi : Anh 3 Đức

F.9229

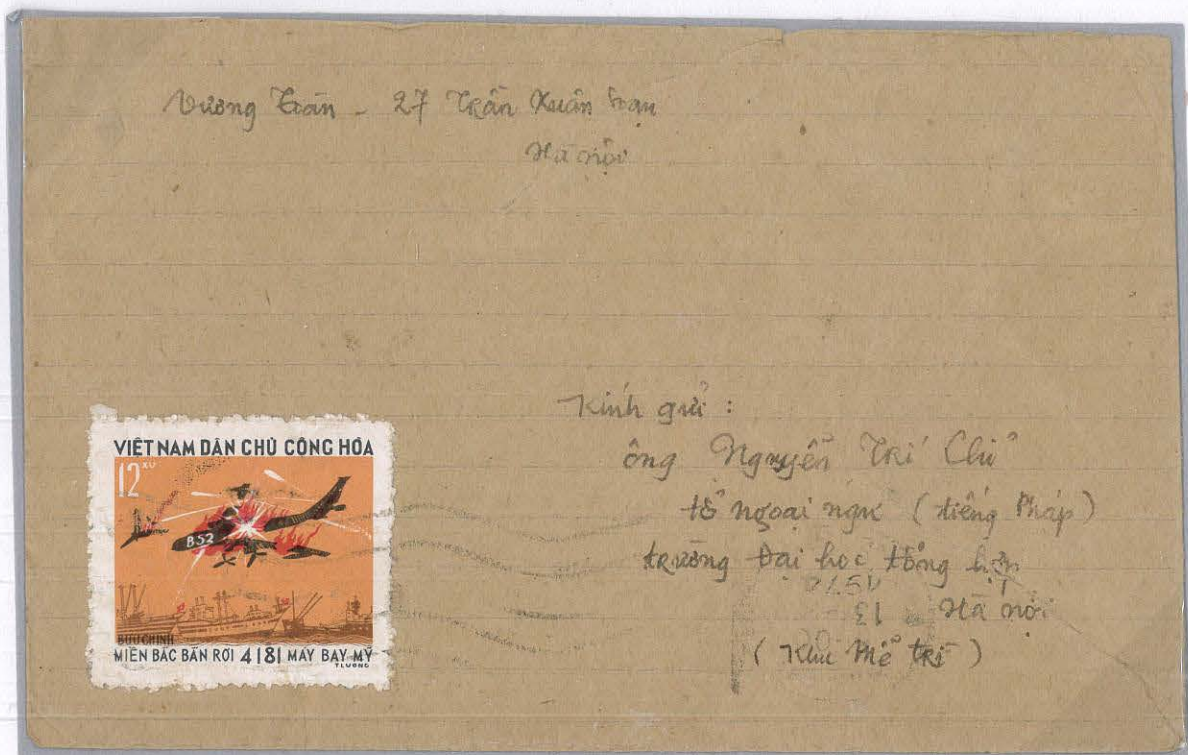
Thim Ba Hùng gô

From HT unit F 9021 to cadre in liberated VC controlled area F9229
Kính Gôi: 'Dear brother' type of salutation

Typed instructions issued May 3, 1974, an official party document #06/CT.74. The directive exhorts increased efforts in convincing the people that new life under the PRG is better, especially after the Paris Peace Accords, as they rebuild the liberated area of Binh Phouc. The document also notes the amount of negativity among cadre and party members.

Last Downed Aircraft Issue

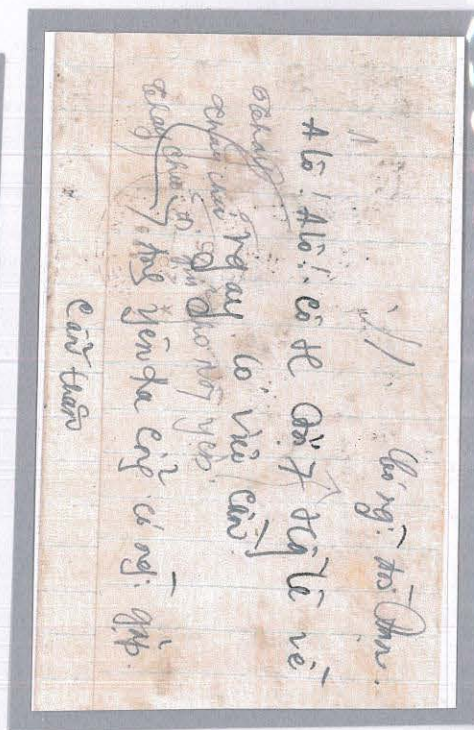
1973 Issue: B-52 Shot
Down over Port of
Hai Phong in 4181st
Plane Downed Over
North Vietnam series
Hanoi machine Cancel
February 2, 1974



Final U.S. troops were withdrawn on March 29, 1973. These stamps are in the last series of U.S. aircraft shot down issues.

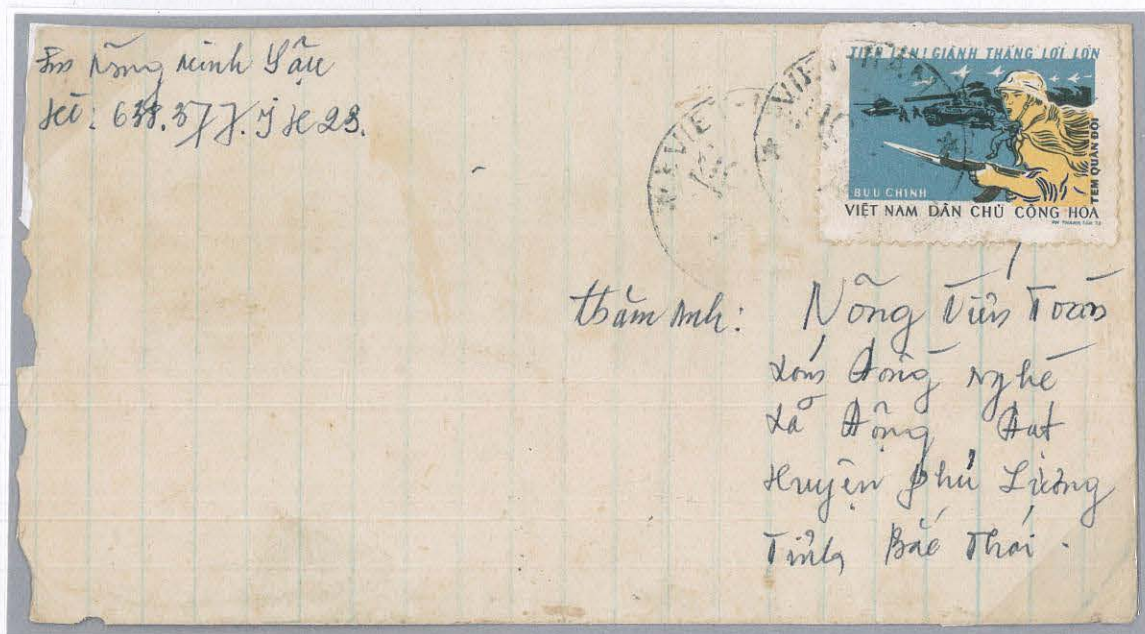


1973 Issue: Anti-Aircraft Guns in 4181st Plane Downed series
Bac Thai, North Vietnam cancel, February 25, 1975



Military usage in country to Phu Luong - Bac Chai with manuscript routing instructions both on the front and the reverse.

Very Late 1975 Usages

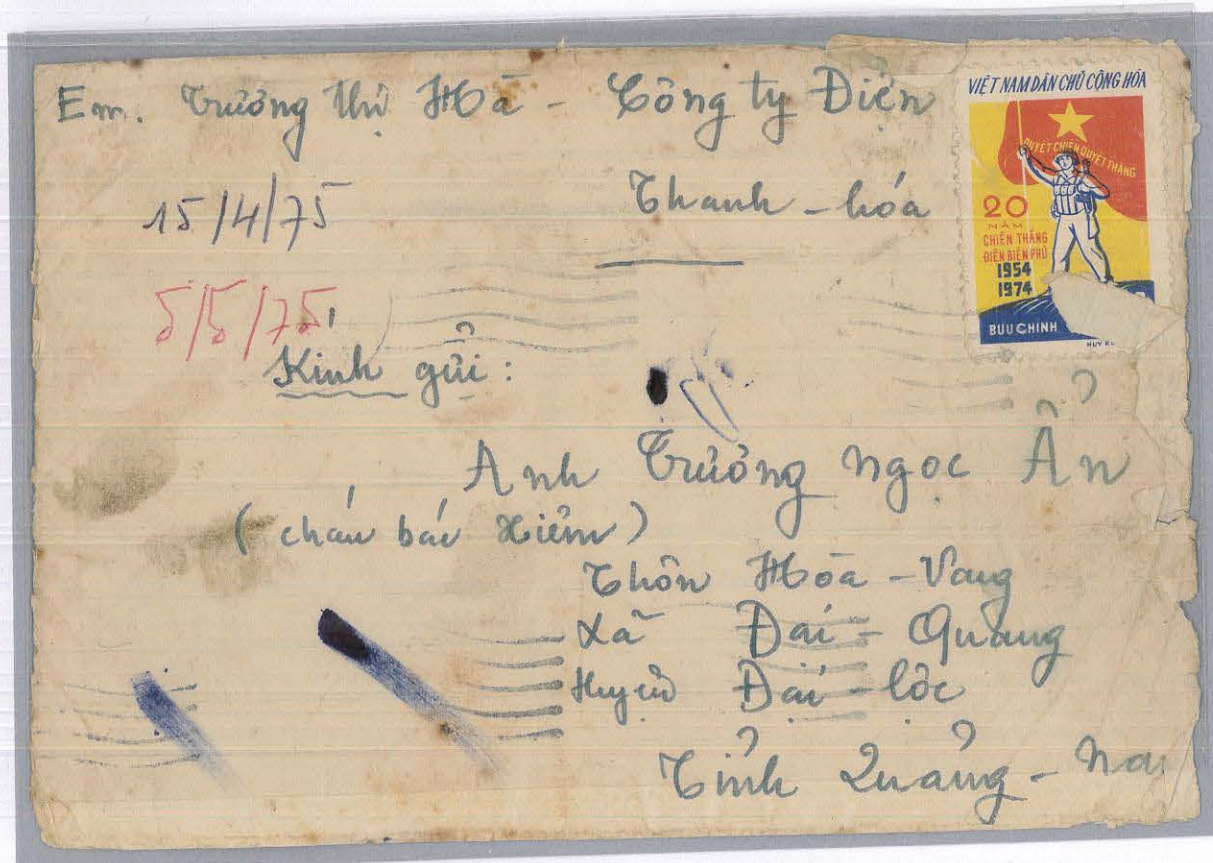


Military Frank
1973 Issue: Advancing
Soldier with Bayonette
April 10, 1970 Handstamp



April 17, 1975

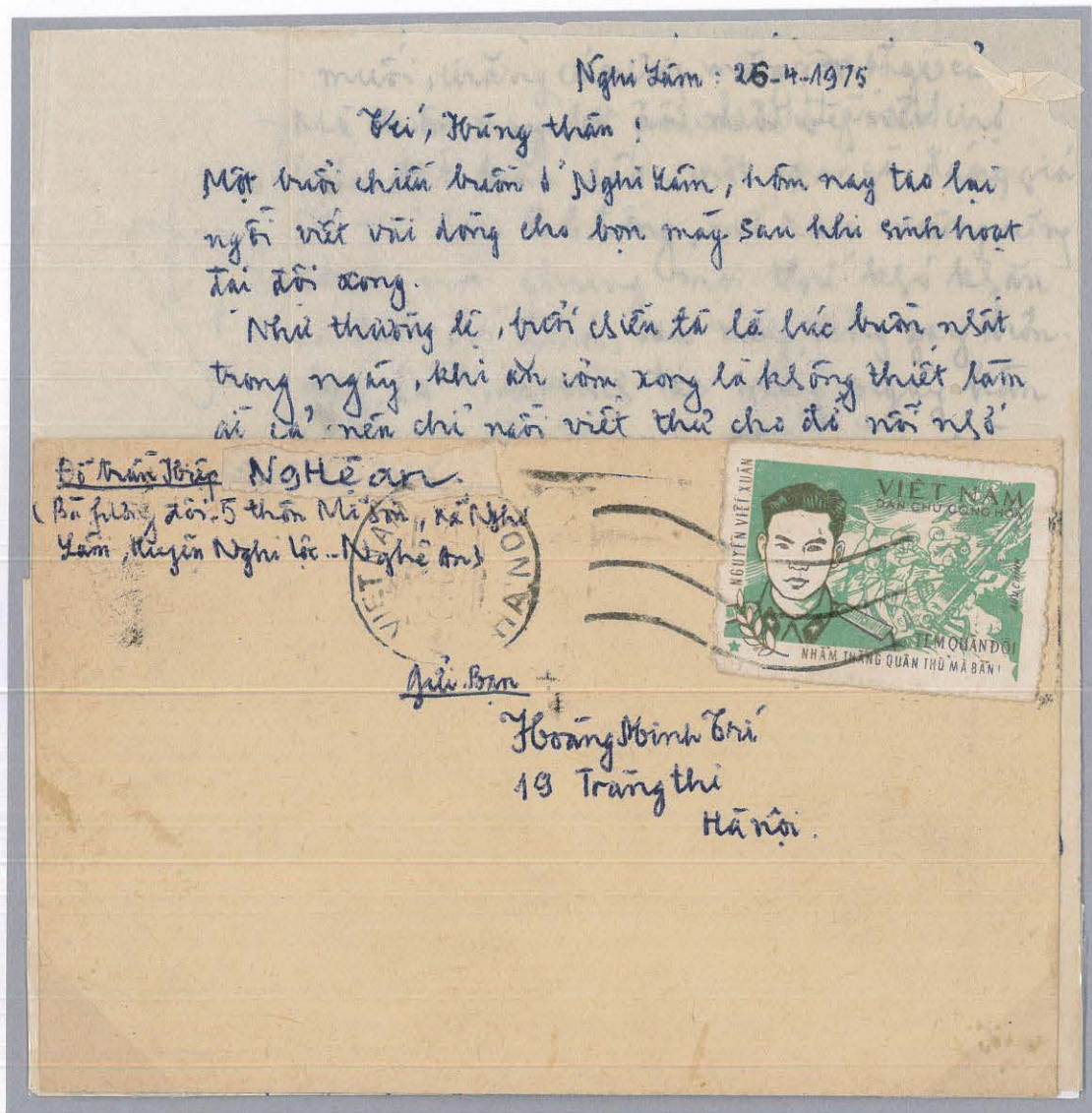
Written from HT No. 638.372.jH23 to N.V.A. family member at Bac Thai, North Vietnam. One of the latest recorded usages on N.V.A. mails prior to the fall of the Republic on April 30, 1975, confirmed with receiving handstamp on reverse, April 17, 1975.



1974 Issue: 20th
Anniversary of
Victory Dien Bien Phu
Broken ex-U.S. cancel
'Kinh Goi' manuscript

Written and inspected April 15, 1975 from the North to Quang Nam in the South. It was inspected again on May 5, 1975, when the country had been "reunited." Note the broken American machine cancel markings, the machine probably captured in Da Nang. First letter from younger sister to her much older brother still in the South, whom she has never met. She introduces herself as having two young children ages 3 and 5, but her husband died in the war.

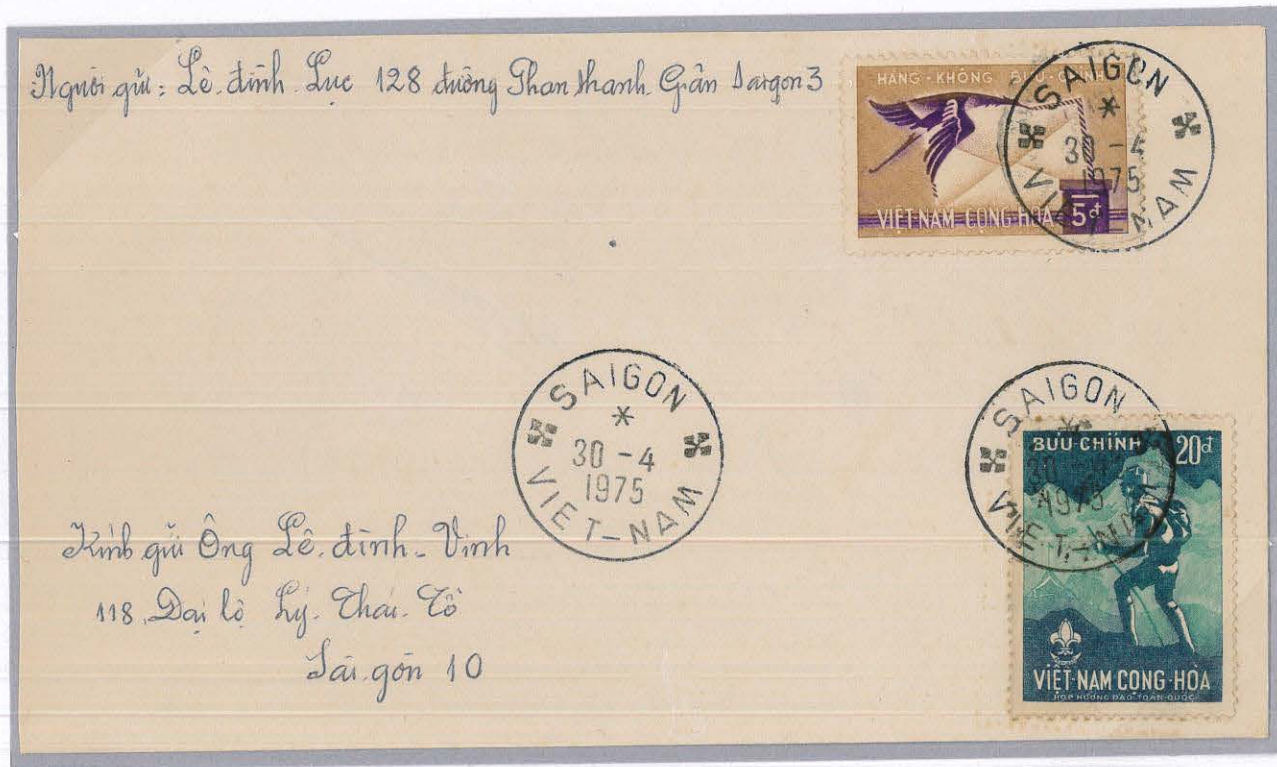
Very Late April 1975 Usage Four Days Before the Fall of Saigon



Military Frank 1971 Issue: Nguyen Viet Zuan, Officer, Anti-aircraft Gun
Hanoi 1975 Machine Cancel

Originating in Nghe An Province, letter dated April 26, 1975, four days before the fall of Saigon. Hand carried into Hanoi, and there, machine cancelled. Soldier discusses camp life in the North: "It is another sad evening while I sit in Nghi Lam camp writing these lines to you after much activity in the company today. As usual evening is the worst time of the day there is, after having dinner I don't want to do anything around here. I just keep writing to reduce homesickness and the thoughts of my missing friends here."

The End: The War is Over



April 30, 1975 Last Day's usage of South Vietnam issued stamps

Whether any mail was postmarked and delivered on the final chaotic day of the collapsing Republic, no one knows! One witness reported that one could walk into any post office and take whatever was desired. Postal employees loyal to the southern government had fled the day before.