

SAUDI ARABIA

FRENCH MILITARY MISSION 1916-1920

1916, very early cover from the Commander of "MISSION B" with provisional cachet "PARC D'ARTILLERIE/DIVISION" with "DIVISION" deleted and "Mission B" added in red ink, adjacent "ARMY POST OFFICE SZ 15 6 NO 16" and on reverse transit mark of Port Said; the only recorded example of this provisional cachet



French Military Mission: 1916, the earliest recorded correspondence from one of the few soldiers who went to Jeddah in October 1916. The 6 covers include the 3 earliest known from this Mission with different "MISSION B"-cachets in blue, applied in transit in Suez, followed by 2 covers with the earliest recorded strikes of the rare "MISSION MILITAIRE FRANCAISE AU HEDJAZ/Le Chef de Mission" and a registered cover sent via the Hejaz Post, franked with First issue 1 pia. in pair (only ca. 10 registered covers known of this issue). The covers dating sequence documents, that all were sent from Hejaz, thus providing evidence of the beginnings of the postal service of this mission. Also 3 covers with cachets from the "MISSION B" troops still waiting in Suez. Unique assembly of historical and military significance



THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION IN HEJAZ 1916 (2)

ONE OF THE
EARLIEST RECORDED COVERS



Madame Rachel Hubert

chez Mme Thiberset

39, Rue Laponneraye



France



Tours

Indre et Loire

The first recorded usage of the cachet of the Suez Base Commander for the Hejaz Mission - the "Mission B". And the only recorded usage of this cachet on mail originating in Hejaz.

French Ship Mail "LA REUNION A MARSEILLES 12.11.16". Arrival "23.11.16".

Most troops designated for this mission remained in Egypt, as the Ruler of Hejaz was reluctant to admit more foreign troops.

THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION IN HEJAZ 1916 (3)



*Madame Rachel Hubert
chez Mme Thibout*



39 Rue Lapronneraye



France

Tours

Indre et Loire

The earliest recorded example of this cachet and the only one known on mail from a soldier in Hejaz.

British APO SZ 24 (Suez) 28. NOV with Egypt 10M.
French P.O. Port Said 29. NOV., Arrived 8. DEC.

THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION "B" (HEJAZ) 1916 (7)

The Mission B (= Hejaz Mission) cachet was also used by the commander of the troops in Suez waiting to go to Hejaz on his personal correspondence. Mail from other French troops there carried different cachets without 'Mission B'.

Envoyé Capitaine Bouctou
 comm. la Base française
 de Suez.



Monsieur le Capitaine H. Salmon
 I Carrefour Monticueil



à Versailles
 (Seine et Oise)

Envoyé au
 comm. la Base française
 de Suez.



Mademoiselle Aline P...
 I Carrefour Monticueil

France
 Versailles
 Seine et Oise

THE FRENCH MILITARY MISSION "B" (HEJAZ) 1917 (8)



CONTROLE POSTAL MILITAIRE

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Algerie

Monsieur Albert Clement



grand café d'Alger

Café Tautouville



Alger

Alger

Mission B cachet

'LE VAGUEMESTRE' as on cover No. 3 but in violet
on censored cover to Algeria
from the Mail officer of the troops waiting in
Suez to be sent to Hejaz

British APO Suez No. 24
Port Said, French P.O.
Algiers arrival

3. JAN. 1917
4. JAN.
19. JAN.