

NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE PHILATELIC RECORD

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In the December 1973 'Quarterly Circular' (pp. 36-37) appeared a report of the Circle's visit to the Oriental Philatelic Association London on the 11th December. The importance of John Firebrace's material, "The British in Egypt and the Sudan - 1882-1885", shown on that occasion, and for much of which he subsequently gained a silver-gilt award at this year's 'Stampex', justifies the following detailed listing. (See also 'Quarterly Circular' Volume VII Number 12, December 1972, page 209).

1882 Arabi Revolt

1. Original letter on red-crested War Office paper from Sir Garnet Wolseley to his mother. This prophetic letter from the General-Commanding-in-Chief commences: "Alexandria, 19th August 1882. My Darling Mother, I leave this (here?) in H.M.S. Salamis at noon to-day for the purpose of landing at Aboukir Bay - you will see a village marked Tel el Kebir about 28 or 30 miles west of Ismailia. It is there that I hope to measure swords with Mr. Arabi. ...."  
(H.M.S. Salamis was the General's dispatch vessel with the British Fleet, and the decisive battle took place at Tel el Kebir on the 13th September).
2. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery postcard with manuscript date 21st Aug. 1882 cancelled on arrival with obsolescent "10" in diamond obliterator of the London Inland office. (Illustrated).
3. Cover franked with two Queen Victoria 1d. lilacs and a  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green (Officer's rate  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) with the cds 'ISMAILIAH/24 AO 82 TI' just tying the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamp - to Newport, Mon.. Each of the adhesives was cancelled on arrival in England by the obsolescent "28" in diamond obliterator of the London Inland office. The cover is backstamped 'FORT SAID' (25th) and 'Newport' (31st August). (See Illustration).



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- 4. Unfranked cover inscribed "Active Service in Egypt/No Stamps available" and with the cds of 'ISMAILIAH/ 27 AO 82 TI' to England. On arrival it received a handstruck '2½' postage due mark. (i.e. it was charged at the single rate). (See illustration).
- 5. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery postcard cancelled with the double-stamp "ALEXANDRIE/ TI / AOU.28/ 82" and "A" in Bars, from an officer in the Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders, to Scotland.
- 6. A similar card cancelled with the cds of "SUEZ/DEPART/13 SE 82 TI from an officer to England.
- 7. Cds of the "BRITISH ARMY POST OFFICE / EGYPT" dated "B/SP 2/82 on an unfranked cover endorsed 'No Stamps Available', to Scotland. This bears an unframed 'T' applied in Egypt but a single rate handstamp '2½' postage due mark applied in England. (As illustration 4). (See also illustration 7).



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- 8. A similar cds dated "B/SP 2/82 on an unfranked soldier's cover to Sussex, with the unframed "T" applied in Egypt, but a single-rate handstamp "1d" applied in England. (See illustrations).
- 9. A similar cds dated "B/SP 5/82" cancelling a Queen Victoria 2½d. blue (Plate 22) on cover to England. (Illustration).
- 10. A similar cds dated "SP 8/82" (no code letter) cancelling a 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card to London. The writer refers to the wounding of a Lieutenant Holland, XIX Hussars, whilst on reconnaissance. Although this officer is not listed officially as having taken part in the Campaign there is a report of this incident in 'Casell's History of the War in the Soudan' (Chapter XIV). Apparently Lieutenant Holland had been attached to the XIX Hussars from the XV Hussars who were not in Egypt.
- 11. A similar cds dated "A/SP 15/82 cancelling a Queen Victoria 1d. lilac on a soldier's cover to London.
- 12. A similar cds dated "SP29/82" cancelling a 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card to London.
- 13. A similar cds dated "OC 1/82" on an unfranked cover endorsed "Wxpeditionary Force Egypt no stamps" to London. This received a

single-rate "2½" postage due mark on arrival in England.  
(As illustration 4).

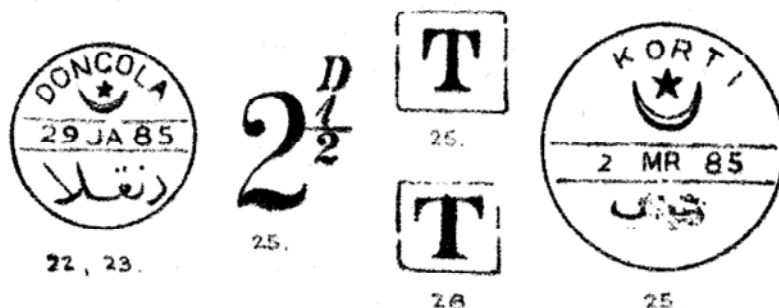
14. A similar cds dated "OC 4/82" on an unfranked soldier's cover to London, with a manuscript 'I' added in England.
15. Indian adhesives on two covers of 9th and 21st September 1882 bearing the "FIELD FORCE POST OFFICE/EGYPT" datestamps Nos. 1 and 2. (These were described in 'Quarterly Circular' Volume VIII Number 2 page 23 under serials 1 and 6 and illustrated on page 24).
16. Cover franked with Queen Victoria 2½d. blue (Plate 22) cancelled by an unframed 9 x 9 retta and with, alongside, the cds of "ALEXANDRIE/DEPART/17 OC 82 TII", to England. Impressed on the flap is "H.M.S. Thalia".
17. Soldier's cover bearing a Queen Victoria 1d. lilac cancelled on arrival by the "PLYMOUTH SHIP LETTER" cds dated "NO 22/82. From a Sergeant in the Royal Marine Light Infantry, to Chatham.
18. Original letter from Sir Garnet Wolseley at Cairo dated 6th October 1882 to the Queen's Private Secretary, Horace Seymour, in which the General refers to his proposed title.
19. Original letter from Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour aboard H.M.S. Helicon (his despatch vessel with the Fleet) at Alexandria dated 31st October 1882 to Major-General Sir Archibald Alison who by this time had assumed command of the Army of Occupation following the departure of Wolseley for England.

#### 1883-1885 THE SUDAN.

20. Original letter from the ill-fated Hicks Pasha whilst he was at Khartoum, dated 28th July 1883 it is addressed to the Editor of the 'Graphic'. This item was accompanied by photographs of Hicks and his staff.
21. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card cancelled with the cds of "KHARTOUM/19 FE 84 TI" from General Gordon addressed to Jerusalem. In addition there were two Gordon letters each bearing his personal arabic seal.

#### 1885. The Nile Expedition.

22. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card with the cds of "DONGOLA/29 JA 85" addressed to Edinburgh. (Illustration).
23. Unfranked officer's cover with cds of "DONGOLA/26 MR 85" to Wales. This received the single-rate "2½" postage due mark in England. (Illustration as 4).
24. Original letter from General Wolseley at Camp Korti dated 5th February 1885, to his Nanny on learning of Gordon's death.



25. Unfranked cover inscribed "On active service no stamps" with cds of "KORTI/Star & Crescent/2 MR 85" to Wales. This received a framed "T" mark and subsequently the single-rate "2½d" postage due handstamp on arrival. (Illustration).

1884-1886. The Eastern SUDAN.

26. Cover (with O.H.M.S. deleted) franked with a pair of 20 paras surcharged 5 piastres (1884) - i.e. the 2½d. rate - cancelled with the cds of "SOUAKIN/13 MR 84 TI" from the 8th Earl of Airlie to London. This was written on the day of the battle of Tamai. (Illustration).
27. 20 paras (1879) postal stationery post-card cancelled with the cds of "SOUAKIN/31 JL 84 TI" from an officer seconded to the Egyptian Army, to London.
28. Cds of the "BRITISH ARMY POST OFFICE/EGYPT" dated "C/AP 6/85" on an unfranked cover endorsed "No stamps Active Service Suakin Field Force", to Cairo. This received a framed "T" mark and later a 1 piastre postage due adhesive affixed at Cairo. (Illustration).



29. A similar cds dated "A/AP 29/85" cancelling a Queen Victoria 1d. lilac on a soldier's cover to Chatham.
30. A similar cds dated "A/MY 6 85" cancelling a Queen Victoria 2½d. lilac (1883 issue) on an officers cover to Dunoon.
31. Indian 1 anna postal stationery envelope with additional 2 annas adhesive cancelled "B" in 8 bars, to India. This was back-stamped at Suakin with the cds of "FIELD P.O /27 APR 85".

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32. Indian 9 pies 'Soldier's and Sailor's' postal stationery envelope cancelled with the cds of "FIELD P.O /18 (16?) NOV 85" to India. (Illustration).
33. Incoming cover from Bradford (19 Apr. 1886) addressed to "The Principal Medical Officer, The Camp, Suakin" and backstamped with the cds of "FIELD P.O/4 MAY 86".
34. A number of Military Telegraph stamps cancelled QI (Quarantine Island) NO 3 85 and SK (Suakin) NO 16 85.

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