

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT
POSTAL SERVICE 1932--1943

2nd Edition



John E. O. Hobbs, F.R.P.S.L.

FOREWORD

It was in January 1970 that I published the first edition of this book and then I only showed the varieties on the Postal Seal and Letter Seal, together with one or two illustrations and twenty one hand-stamps.

Since then, I have plated all the issues and discovered eighty seven different handstamps and made a study of the Military censor markings.

During the 1970's I wrote articles for the Stamp Collecting Magazine; The Cinderella Philatelist; Middlesex Federation Bulletin; The Stamp Lover; for Compex in Chicago and finally in four issues of the Postal History International.

As the First Edition was sold out about ten years ago, I was approached by one or two friends with a view to issuing a reprint. After much thought, I decided to rewrite it, and include all the new findings I made, which I had produced in the various articles.

My collection of these N.A.A.F.I. seals and Army Post Stamps was commenced in the late 1960's and eventually filled twelve volumes and was recognised as the largest known collection. After gaining Vermeil medals at Stockholm in 1974 and Munich in 1979 I decided to dispose of it, and Robson Lowe Ltd. handled the sale for me.

Knowing that my collection must be in various parts of the world and with perhaps, new collectors I hope this Second Edition will be of help and give pleasure.

In the First Edition, I dedicated it to my Wife, Margaret, who at the time I called a "Philatelic Widow", and now fifteen years later this title still remains so I wish to dedicate this second Edition to her.

March 1984

J.E.O.H.

*Published by : John E.O. Hobbs, F.R.P.S.L.
"Sea Lodge", 183, Brighton Road, Worthing, Sussex.*

*Printed by : Kall Kwik Printing,
29, Warwick Street, Worthing, Sussex.*

POSTAL SEALS AND CHRISTMAS SEALS

There are many issues of Postal Seals and, in order to study their postal use, it is necessary to list them and explain how to distinguish between them. This involves plating studies and their various dates of issue. It is, of course, unlikely that there was much late use of seals but it is wise to check whether seals were ever used after the appearance of the next issue.

The issues are as follows :-

POSTAL AND LETTER SEALS

First Series	(S.G.A.1.; H1)	1st November 1932, Postal Seal
Second Series	(S.G.A.2.; H2)	August 1933, Letter Seal
Third Series	(S.G.A.7.; H3)	1st June 1934, Letter Stamp
Fourth Series	(S.G.A.8.; H4)	5th December 1934 as last but green.
Fifth Series	(S.G.A.9.; H5)	24th April 1935 carmine red
Sixth Series	(S.G.A.10.; H6)	6th May 1935 Silver Jubilee
Seventh Series	(S.G.A.9.; H7)	21st December 1935, 2nd Comb.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

First Issue	(S.G.A.3. ; H8)	26th November 1932
Second Issue	(S.G.A.4. ; H9)	13th November 1933
Third Issue	(S.G.A.5. ; H10)	17th November 1934
Fourth Issue	(S.G.A.6. ; H11)	23rd November 1935
Reprinted	(S.G.A.6a.; H11a)	19th December 1935
Provisional	(S.G.A.11.; H12)	16th December 1935

These illustrations show the main types of Seals and Stamps used during the period :



1st Issue Postal Seal



2nd Issue Letter Seal



3rd & 4th Issues Letter Stamp



5th Issue Letter Stamp



6th Issue Jubilee Seal



7th Issue Letter Stamp



1st 2nd 3rd & 4th Issues Xmas Seals



Provisional Issue



3m & 10m Large Army Stamps



3m & 10m Small Army Stamps

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT
POSTAL SERVICE 1932-1940

In 1932 Egypt increased her postal rates from 1 piastre (2½d.) to 1½ piastres. This caused great annoyance amongst the British Forces and representations were made to the War Office, with the result that the continuation of the 1 piastre rate for His Majesty's Forces was obtained.

It was not generally known what a bold plan this experiment was, and it was a tribute to the authorities concerned at the time, that this Concession was negotiated and proved to be a great benefit to the Forces then stationed in Egypt.

It was agreed to pay the Egyptian Government £10,000 in the first year and £6,000 in the second, to compensate for the loss of the postal revenue which this postal Concession entailed.

The scheme was introduced on November 1st 1932, and a copy of the Official Postal Concession, which explains the idea, is given on the next page.

The word "Seals" used in the official notice was an unfortunate one and a great deal of controversy was centred around the fact whether they were seals or postage stamps. They were sold over the counter at the N.A.A.F.I. Canteens to members of the Forces only and not to civilians at the ordinary Post Offices.

The Concession related only to letters sent to Great Britain and Ireland; stamps had to be affixed to the backs of the envelopes to indicate that the postage had been paid, and after these had been cancelled, they were handed over to the authorities for forwarding in the usual manner. Any letters bearing Forces stamps posted in civilian letter boxes were to be treated as unpaid, and taxed.

It was many years before these seals were given catalogue status, and today, no Egyptian collection is complete without them.



Postal Concession

"From the 1st November 1932, members of the Army and Royal Air Force in Egypt, and their families, may send ordinary letters to the British Isles, including the Irish Free State, at a reduced price.

The old and new prices are :-

1 - 20 grammes	15 mills.	10 mills.
21 - 40 grammes	28 mills.	20 mills.
41 - 60 grammes	41 mills.	30 mills.
61 - 80 grammes	54 mills.	40 mills.

Plus 13 mills. for each additional 20 grammes or part thereof

Plus 10 mills. for each additional 20 grammes or part thereof

The Special Seals (value 10 milliemes - 1 Piastre which will be used in lieu of the Egyptian Postal Stamps) may be bought from the N.A.A.F.I. Institutes and Canteens, and will be stuck on the back of the envelope.

The N.A.A.F.I. have been good enough to print the Seals free of cost and to sell them without profit.

They must be paid for in cash when purchased.

The letters must be posted in Regimental or Unit post boxes and not in Egyptian post boxes. Post boxes will also be placed at the following addresses :-

Military Post Office, Abbassia
Military Post Office, Cairo
Entrance Hall, H.Q. R.T.E.
Entrance Hall, H.Q. Middle East
N.A.A.F.I. Shop, Heliopolis

And in such places at out-stations as may be considered necessary to meet local requirements.

Letters will be despatched in the same way as they are at present and there will be no delay by using the new system.

Registered letters, letters for Air Mail, letters containing valuables and parcels must continue to be despatched through the Egyptian Post Offices with Egyptian postal stamps, also all letters and parcels for places other than the British Isles and Irish Free State.

The money paid for the Special Seals will be collected from the N.A.A.F.I. by the Command Paymaster for the purpose of realising the considerable sum of money which has to be paid to the Egyptian Government for the Concession. The Lieutenant General Commanding and the Air Vice Marshall have incurred a serious financial responsibility in the matter, and it is hoped, therefore, that all members of the Army and Royal Air Force in Egypt and their families, will use this new system of postage and so help establish it on a sound footing, and eliminate the risk of financial loss.

Should they not do so the scheme will have to be abandoned.

The Concession has been difficult to obtain, and it is a definite advantage to those concerned and there is every reason why it should receive the support of the Army and Royal Air Force Commands in Egypt.

It is difficult to foresee the financial result at present, but should there be any profit, consideration will be given to the best method of expending it for the benefit of those who are entitled to participate in the scheme".

.....

As a result of a conference held at Abbassia, Cairo, on the 23rd September 1932, it was decided that the seals on the backs of envelopes should be cancelled with a "Rhomboid" (or Retta) obliterator and the envelope franked in front with a "Postage Prepaid" frank known as a "Numeral Frank" or "Crown Cancel".

The "Retta" obliterators and the "Numeral Franks" were supplied by the Egyptian Postal Authorities, and were distributed to the various Military Post Offices and Units.

These "Franks" are possibly the most important and interesting part of the Concession as they signified that the correct postage had been paid and that the letter could be despatched to its destination.

When the numeral frank had not been applied to the envelope, the letter was subjected to postage due rate, which had to be paid by the recipients in Great Britain, in spite of the fact that the "Seals" at the correct rate were on the back of the envelope.

The frank consists of a double concentric circle, $27\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in circumference and the words "EGYPT POSTAGE PREPAID" are placed between the outer and inner circles and the whole surmounted by an Egyptian Crown. The centre of the frank contains a number, which varies from 1 to 25, according to the Postal Unit from which the letter was dispatched. The frank was applied after the letters had been posted in Army Post Offices.

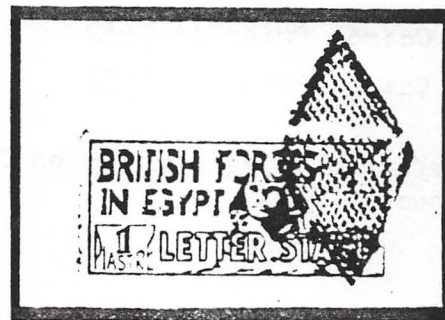
The front and back of the cover must be considered as a whole for if they are separated the historical interest is lost.

The numeral franks were allotted to various offices as listed on the next page, and it will be noted that most offices had two numeral franks in case of one being lost or broken.

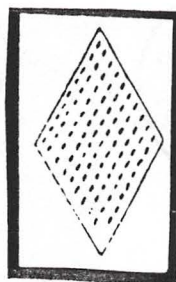
The Retta obliterator consisted of a diamond shaped stamp of 81 dots in a frame (9 by 9), which was usually impressed over the seal in black, red, blue or mauve. Other types of rettas were also known to have been used, all were framed and had either 17 by 15; 15 by 15 or 10 by 9 dots.



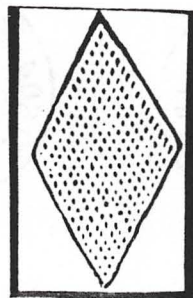
9 by 9



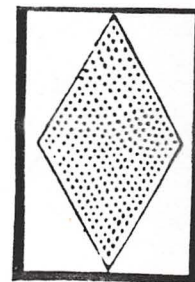
17 by 15



9 by 10



15 by 15



17 by 17

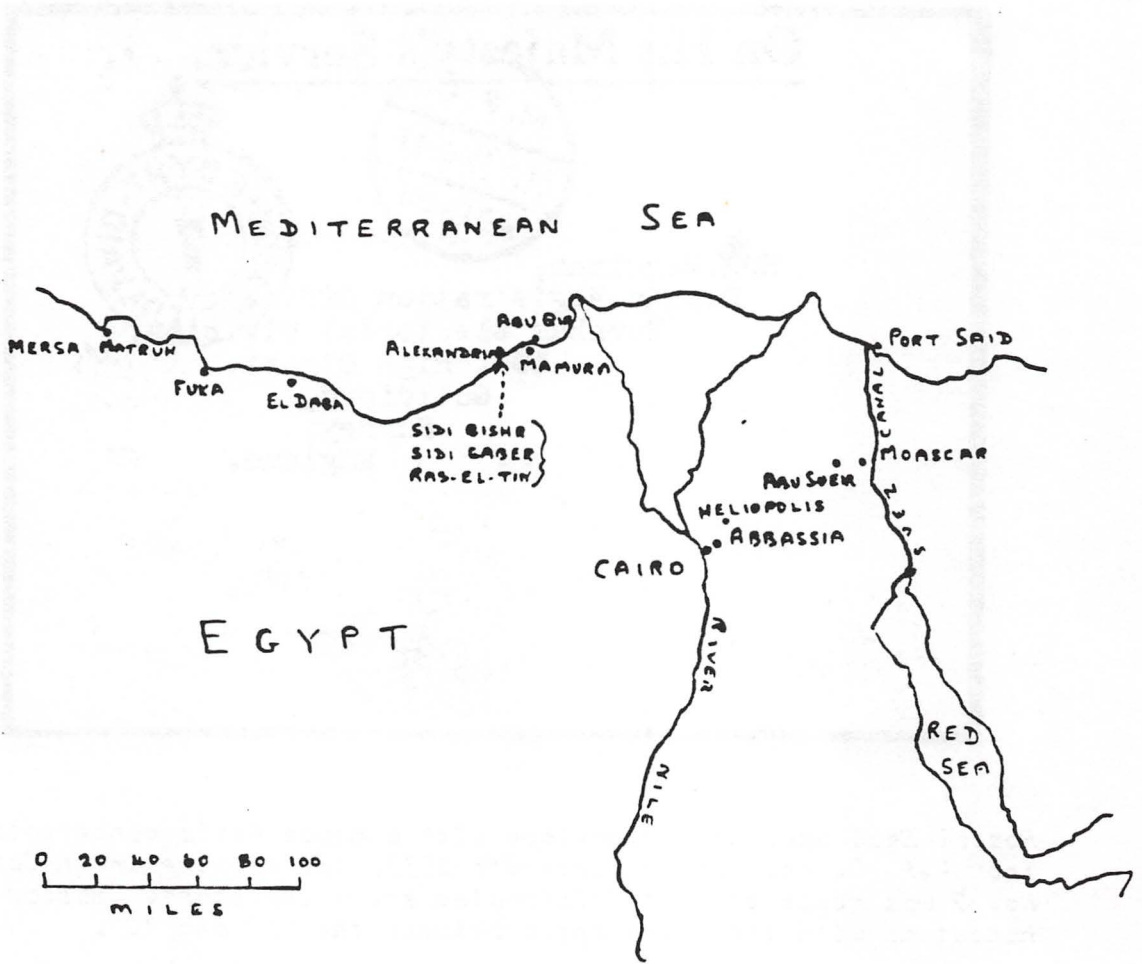
THE NUMERAL FRANKS

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. M.P.O. Moascar. 1 Nov. 1932 | To H.Q.B.T.E. Cairo 1935 |
| 2. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | |
| 3. M.P.O. Moascar. 1 Nov. 1932 | To Alexandria, 1 Nov. 1935 |
| 4. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | To Moascar, June 1935 |
| 5. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | |
| 6. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | To Alexandria, 1 Nov. 1935 |
| 7. M.P.O. Moascar. 1 Nov. 1932 | Lost 6 Mar. 1933 |
| 8. M.P.O. Moascar. 1 Nov. 1932 | To Cairo, June 1935 |
| 9. Navy House, Port Said. 1 Mar. 1936 | Closed 24 Jan. 1937 |
| 10. Navy House, Port Said. 1 Mar. 1936 | Closed 24 Jan. 1937 |
| 11. R.A.F. Station, Abu Sueir. 1 Mar. 1936 | |
| 12. R.A.F. Station, Abu Sueir. 1 Mar. 1936 | |
| 13. R.A.F. Station, Aboukir. 1 Mar. 1936 | Closed 24 Jan. 1937 |
| 14. R.A.F. Station, Aboukir. 1 Mar. 1936 | Closed 24 Jan. 1937 |
| 15. Military Hospital, Ras-el-Tin. 1 Nov. 1932 | To Alexandria, 1 Nov. 1935 |
| 16. Military Hospital, Ras-el-Tin. 1 Nov. 1932 | To Alexandria, 1 Nov. 1935 |
| 17. Mustapha Barracks, Sidr Gaber. 1 Nov. 1932 | To Alexandria, 1 Nov. 1935 |
| 18. Mustapha Barracks, Sidr Gaber. 1 Nov. 1932 | To Alexandria, 1 Nov. 1935 |
| 19. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | To Moascar, June 1935 |
| 20. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | |
| 21. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | |
| 22. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | To Alexandria, 1 Nov. 1935 |
| 23. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | To Moascar, June 1935 |
| 24. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | |
| 25. M.P.O. Cairo. Prior to 1932 | |

Those transferred to Alexandria on 1st November 1935 were closed down on 24th January 1937.

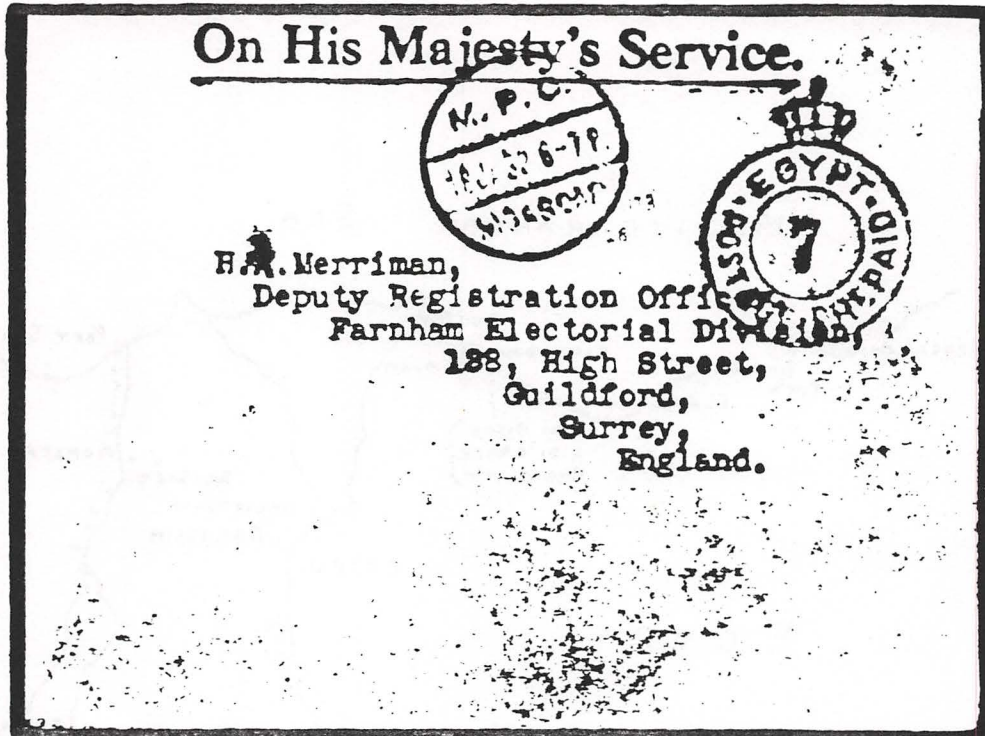


Map showing the locations of the Military Post Offices during the period 1932 to 1940.

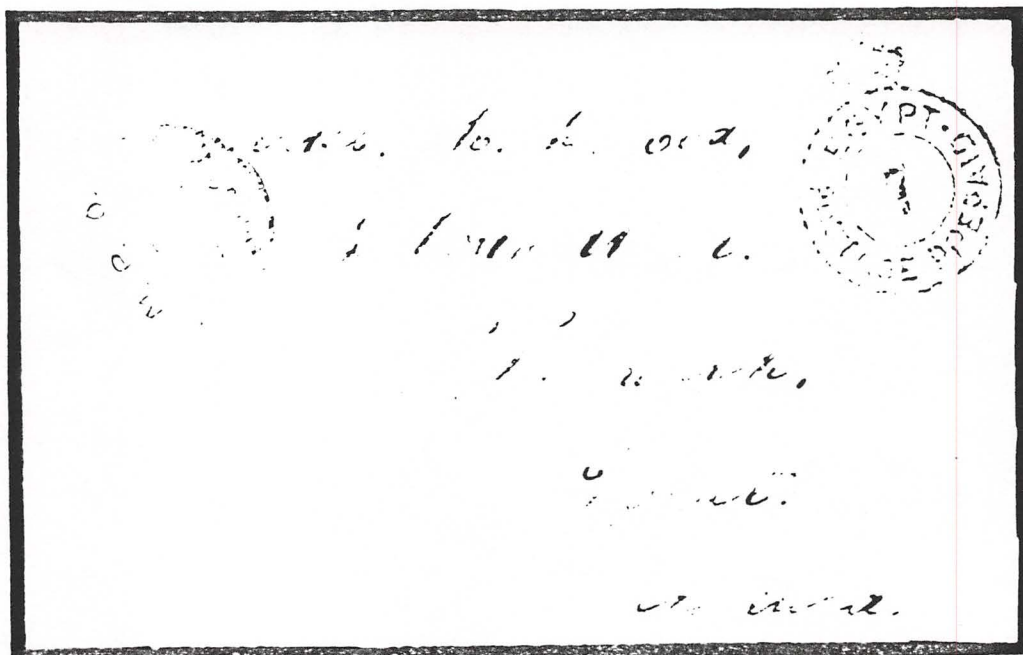


CROWN CANCEL No. 7

Postal Seal used on an O.H.M.S. envelope from M.P.O. Moascar on 18th January 1933 showing the scarce Crown Cancel No.7 which was reported lost down a well on March 6th 1933.



Postal Seal used on an envelope with a mauve Retta cancellation from M.P. C. Moascar on March 6th 1933, the day the Crown Cancel No. 7 was reported lost. This also shows the scarce Moascar handstamp with the extra space between the "P" and "O".



The following are extracts from a circular letter, dated 14th October 1932, issued by the Headquarters of the British Troops in Egypt :

"Posting arrangements, after posting by individuals will be as follows :

ARMY

- (a) Cairo and Cavalry Brigade Areas - Letters will be dealt with entirely by the Military Post Office, Cairo, and the Military Post Office, Abbassia*, i.e. seals cancelled, letters franked and made up in sealed bags for handing over to the Egyptian Postal Authorities.
- (b) Moascar - The Military Post Office will deal with letters in the same way as Cairo.
- (c) Alexandria - Letters will be franked, seals cancelled and delivered to the General Post Office in time for the proper despatch, under arrangements made by Headquarters, Alexandria Area.
- (d) Ras-el-Tin - Ditto, but will make own arrangements with Ras-el-Tin P.O.
- (e) Port Said - Ditto but will use Port Said P.O.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

- (f) Abu-Sueir - Ditto, but will use local Post Office.
- (g) Aboukir - Ditto, but will use Mamura Post Office.
- (h) Ismailia - Will conform with arrangements as for the Army at Moascar.
- (i) Helouan - Will send all their letters with necessary postal seals affixed to Heliopolis where they will conform with ordinary arrangements for Cairo.
- (j) Heliopolis - Will use the Military Post Office at Abbassia or the Military Post Office at the G.P.O. Cairo, as they think fit.
- (k) H.Q.M.E. - Will use the Military Post Office at the G.P.O. Cairo."

* Disbanded 1st February 1935, on re-organization.

Regarding the information in the circular issued by the Headquarters of the British Troops in Egypt, the following is a summary of their arrangements :

ARMY

- (a) CAIRO and ABBASSIA - Letters were dealt with entirely by the M.P.O. Abbassia, i.e. seals cancelled with the retta, and envelopes franked with the Crown Cancel franks, and postmarked. The letters were then handed over to the Egyptian Postal Authorities for despatch to the U.K. The M.P.O. at Abbassia was disbanded on the 1st February 1935, after that date, all letters from Abbassia were dealt with by the M.P.O. Cairo.
- (b) MOASCAR - Letters were dealt with by the M.P.O. at Moascar in the same way as at Cairo.
- (c) RAS-EL-TIN - (Military Hospital) - Until 1st November 1935, seals were cancelled and envelopes franked at the Hospital. Letters were then handed over to the Ras-el-Tin local post office, where they were postmarked and forwarded to the G.P.O. Alexandria for dispatch. Covers therefore, should invariably bear the Ras-el-Tin and Alexandria postmarks.
- (d) ALEXANDRIA (Mustapha Barracks) - Until 1st November 1935 seals were cancelled and envelopes franked at the Barracks. Letters were then handed over to the G.P.O. Alexandria for postmarking and dispatch from Mustapha passed through the Sidi Gaber post office.
- (e) PORT SAID - Seals were cancelled and envelopes franked at "Navy House" then handed over to the G.P.O. Port Said for postmarking and dispatch.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

- (f) ABU SUEIR - Seals were cancelled and envelopes franked under Unit arrangements. Letters handed over to the Local Post Office, where they were postmarked and forwarded either to Alexandria or Port Said for dispatch. Covers should therefore bear either Abu Sueir and Alexandria or Post Said postmarks.
- (g) ABOUKIR - Seals were cancelled and envelopes franked at the Camp, then handed over to the Mamura Post Office, where they were postmarked and forwarded to the G.P.O. Alexandria for dispatch. Arrangements were subsequently made to use Aboukir Post Office in addition to the one at Mamura (this with effect from 1st December 1932) so they should bear the Mamura and Alexandria or Aboukir and Alexandria postmarks.
- (h) ISMAILIA - As for the Army at Moascar.
- (i) HELOUAN - Entirely by the M.P.O. Cairo.
- (j) HELIOPOLIS - Entirely by the M.P.O. Cairo.
- (k) H.Q. M.E. - Entirely by the M.P.O. Cairo.

*MILITARY POST OFFICE datestamps used during the period on both the
Seals and Army Post Stamps :*

*ABBASSIA - Cavalry Brigade
ABU QIR - R.A.F. Aboukir
ABU SUEIR - R.A.F. Abu Sueir
ALEXANDRIA - Army; R.A.F. Aboukir and Royal Navy
CAIRO - Army; R.A.F. Helouan; R.A.F. Heliopolis and H.Q.M.E.
EL DABA - Army of the Western Desert
MERSA MATRUH - Army; Royal Navy and R.A.F.
MARSA MATRUH 1 - Army and Police Post
MARSA MATRUH 2 - Army and Police Post
MOASCAR - Army and R.A.F. Ismailia
PORT SAID - Army and Navy House*

*CIVIL date stamps to be found on the Seals and Army stamps during the
same period are given below :*

*ABBASSIA BARRACKS - Army
ABU QIR - R.A.F. Aboukir
ABU SUWER - R.A.F. Abu Sueir
ALEXANDRIA - Army at Mustapha Barracks and Royal Navy
FAGGALA - Navy House,
ISMAILIA CAMP - R.A.F. Ismailia
MAMURA - R.A.F. Aboukir
MARSA MATRUH - Army and Police Post
PORT SAID - Army and Navy House
RAS-EL-TIN - Military Hospital
SIDI BISHR - Army
SIDI GABER - Army at Mustapha Barracks*

MILITARY POST CANCELLATIONS

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <i>1. Abbassia</i> | <i>7. Cairo 28mm.</i> |
| <i>2. Abu-Qir</i> | <i>8. Cairo 26mm.</i> |
| <i>3. Abu Sueir</i> | <i>9. Cairo 'Large'</i> |
| <i>4. Alexandria</i> | <i>10. Moascar 'Space between P & O'</i> |
| <i>5. Alexandria 'Barrel'</i> | <i>11. Moascar</i> |
| <i>6. Cairo 'Curved'</i> | <i>12. Port Said</i> |

CIVIL CANCELLATIONS 1932 to 1936

There are a great number of Civil Cancellations to be found used between 1932 and 1936 and the ones that I am concerned with are tied to the front of envelopes together with the Crown Cancel franks, I have listed 24 of them, many of which I have on different envelopes with various Seals, but as a guide, I have only taken one of each at random.

No.	Post Office	Crown Cancel	Seal	Back stamp
13	Abbassia Barracks	nil	1st	nil
14	Abu Suwer	12	Xmas 1st	Alexandria Roller
15	Abu Qir	13	2nd	Alexandria B
16	Alexandria Depart	17	1st	nil
17	Alexandria R.2	13	4th	nil
18	Alexandria Dep.1	17	2nd	nil
19	Alexandria G	17	4th	nil
20	Alexandria 5	13	5th	nil
21	Alexandria-Abu Qir QVV	13	3rd	Alexandria A
22	Cairo T	nil P.D.3d	2nd	nil
23	Faggala	nil Bisect	7th	Cairo D
24	Heliopolis	nil P.D.4d	3rd	Cairo Roller
25	Ismailia	3	1st	nil
26	Ismailia Camp	3	1st	nil
27	Mamura	13	1st	nil
28	Marsa Matruh	nil	7th	Alexandria A
29	Port Said H	10	1st	nil
30	Port Said Traffic B	10	1st	nil
31	Port Said Traffic C	10	1st	nil
32	Port Said Traffic D	10	1st	nil
33	Port Said F	10	1st	nil
34	Ras-el-Tin (curved)	15	1st	Alexandria A
35	Ras-el-Tin (straight)	16	2nd	Alexandria 1
36	Sidi Gaber (T)	nil P.D.1d	Xmas 4th	Alexandria Roller

MILITARY POST CANCELLATIONS 1932 to 1936



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



12

CIVIL CANCELLATIONS 1932 to 1936



13



14



15



16

CIVIL CANCELLATIONS 1932 to 1936



17



18



19



20



21



22



23



24



25



26



27



28



29



30



31



32



33



34



35



36

FIRST SERIES : POSTAL SEAL

(S.G.A1; H.1)

This was the one piastre Postal Seal, which was issued on November 1st 1932. The design incorporated the N.A.A.F.I. Badge and Frame in vermilion with the wording "BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT - POSTAL SEAL 1 PIASTRE" in dark blue.

The first rough design was made by Lt. Colonel C. Fraser followed by a more precise design by the artist Ivor Roberts. The original pen and ink drawing had the N.A.A.F.I. badge cut out from note paper and stuck inside the ink frame, which was designed in red ink, the wording was done in blue ink. Messrs. Hanbury Tomsett & Co.Ltd., Willesden, London, produced a proof which was approved with a few minor alterations.

The number printed was 500,000, and this was accomplished by producing four plates of 20 seals making a total of 80 seals per sheet. The N.A.A.F.I. had these broken up into four frames of 20, and they were issued in booklets of 100; five pages of 20 (4 x 5). They were printed on unwatermarked paper, perforation 11. Each page had a margin on the left side used for binding the booklets, which were numbered on the plain outside cover.

As most characteristics are the same for each of the four plates, it is difficult to assume which is A, B, C or D. As a guide, the plate flaws on the 9th 12th 14th and 20th Seals help in plating the four frames.

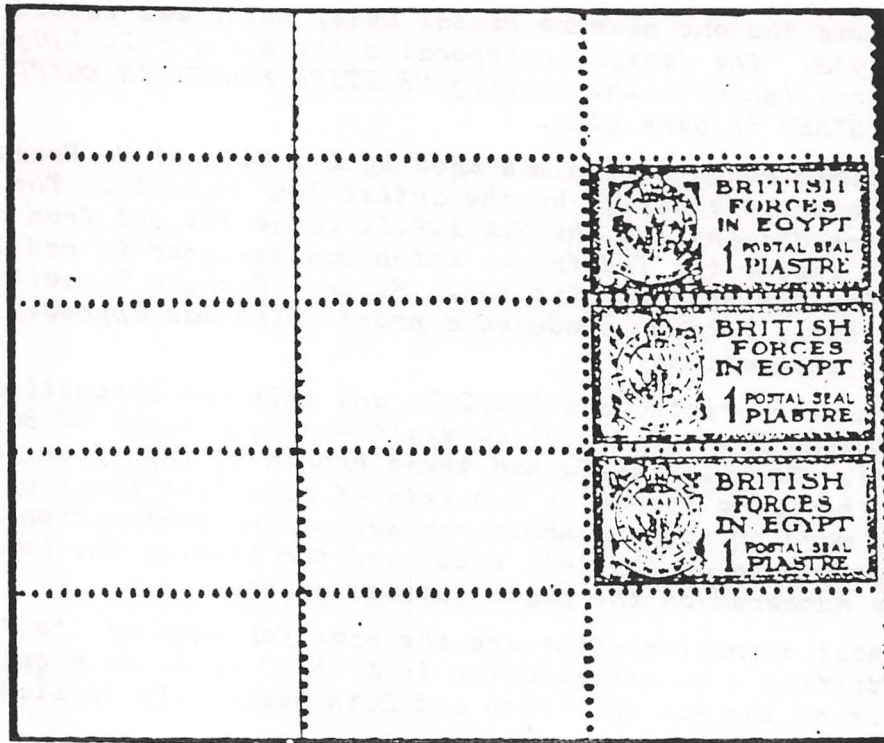
There are many interesting covers to be had, those posted out of course; that is to say those posted in non Military post boxes, these did not receive the Crown Cancel mark and were treated as unpaid upon arrival in the United Kingdom, and a postage due of 3d was collected. Covers with Seals affixed to the front are known, these of course contravened the Postal Concession instructions, but were not taxed upon arrival in the U.K.

At the start of the Postal Concession, a few post offices in the U.K. did not realise that the seals on the back of the envelope denoted that the postage had been paid and therefore charged the recipient 3d postage due. These are quite desirable items and make a very interesting study.

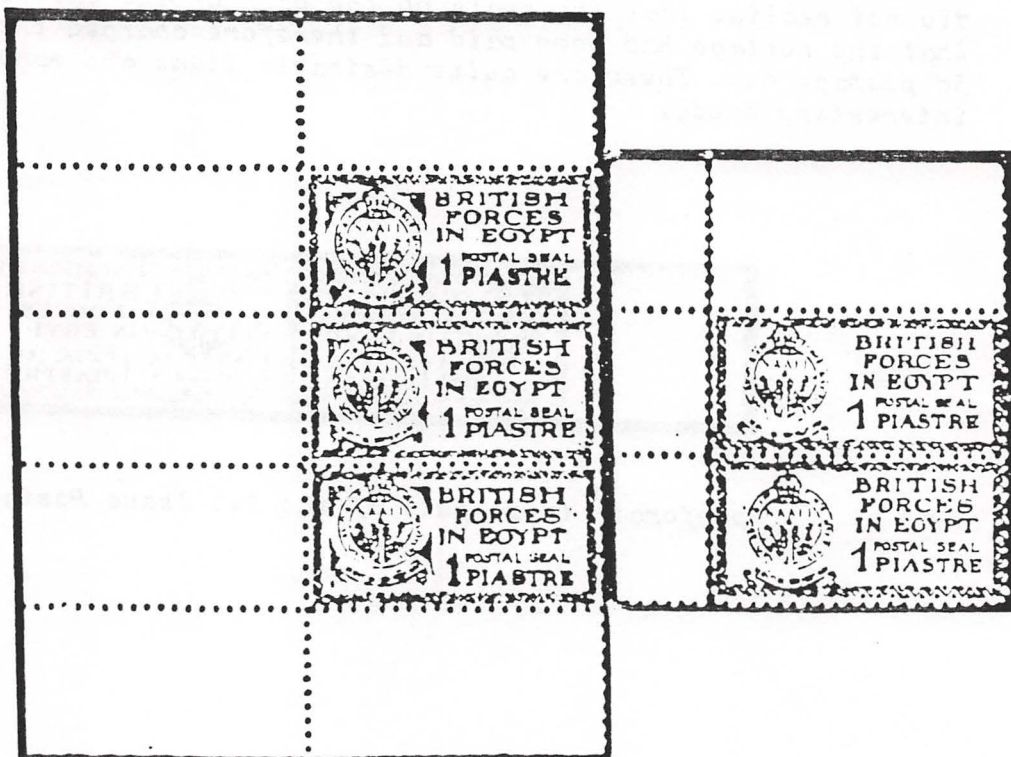


Imperforate trial pull of the 1st Issue Postal Seal

Original pen and ink drawing by the designer Lt. Col. Fraser.



Original pen and ink drawings by the artist Ivor Roberts.





The sketch shows the position of my proof block of 20 in a part pane of 40; the upper 10 belonging to Frame "B" and the bottom 10 belonging to Frame "A". The 12th Seal is the key to the solution, there being no dot to the right of the 2nd "T" of Institutes. Also the 20th Seal on both panes have a broken border on the right hand corner. The 20th Seal on Frame "D" is the only one without a broken border on the right hand corner.

"B" Frame	3	4	
	7	8	
	11	12	
	15	16	
	19	20	
"A" Frame	3	4	
	7	8	
	11	12	
	15	16	
	19	20	

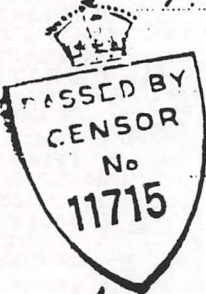


Two different types of stationery issued by the N.A.A.F.I. for use by the British Troops. It was this original badge that the idea of the "N.A.A.F.I. Letter Seal" originated.


 ON ACTIVE SERVICE
LETTER FORM

 STAMP
POST OFFICE

F.W. PANTER, ESQ.,
THE HALL,
SPROUGHTON, IPSWICH
SUFFOLK
ENGLAND.

 PASSED BY
CENSOR
No
11715

J. Wallace

 ON ACTIVE SERVICE
LETTER FORM

United Foreign Parcels Corp.
(Formerly British Overseas Parcels Corp.)
Post-Box 160.
NEW DELHI.

Littlewood

POSTAL & LETTER SEALS

Plate flaws shown on a pane of 20 of both issues.



C - Constant SC - Semi constant

- 1 C Dot on line 3rd Triangle right S.W. corner
- SC Base of the two outer top right Triangles missing
- 2 C 1st inner Triangle above S.E. corner joined to line
- 3 C "S" in Servitor joined to frame
- C Dot on left side of 2nd inner Triangle right of Crown
- 4 C Two dots under "S" of Servitor
- 5 C Dot over 2nd outer Triangle right of Crown
- 6 C Dot on inner side of square in S.E. corner
- 7 C Dot on left side of 1st inner Triangle from S.E. corner
- 8 C Square in S.E. corner joined to inner ornament
- 9 SC No dot after "Force"
- C Dot to right of 2nd top Triangle from N.W. corner
- C Dot under left corner of inner Triangle left of Crown
- 10 C Horn projecting from 4th outer Triangle from S.E. corner
- C Dot on left side of 2nd inner Triangle from S.E. corner
- 11 C Dot to right of 2nd outer Triangle above S.E. corner
- 12 SC Dot on inner side of outer circle of Badge opposite 2nd "T" in Institutes
- 13 C Diagonal line runs from right top corner of top left ornament of Badge to inner Triangle left of Crown
- C Splashes of colour from foot of "I" in N.A.A.F.I. also the inner sides of the two circles on 1st "I" in Institute
- C Dot top right of outer Triangle right of Crown
- 14 C Dot over "S" in Seal (1st Issue only)
- SC Right side of top ornament of Badge very feint and broken
- 15 C Dot to left of Triangle top of Crown
- SC Dot below left corner Triangle in S.E. corner
- 16 Normal
- 17 C Dot top left of "A" in Seal (1st Issue only)
- 18 C Projection near top right of lower right ornament of Badge
- 19 C Projection from lower right of serif of 1st "I" in British
- 20 SC Inner angle of ornament in bottom right corner broken
- SC Dot in 4th outer Triangle above S.E. corner

POSTAL SEALS

FRAME "A"



- Seal 9 No dot after "Force"
- 12 Dot to right of 2nd "T" of Institutes
- 14 Right side of top right ornament of Badge feint
- 20 Broken border right bottom corner

FRAME "B"



- Seal 9 No dot after "Force"
- 12 Normal
- 14 Right side of top right ornament of Badge feint
- 20 Broken border right bottom corner

POSTAL SEALS

FRAME "C"



- Seal 9 Has dot after "Force"
- 12 Normal
- 14 Normal
- 20 Broken border right bottom corner

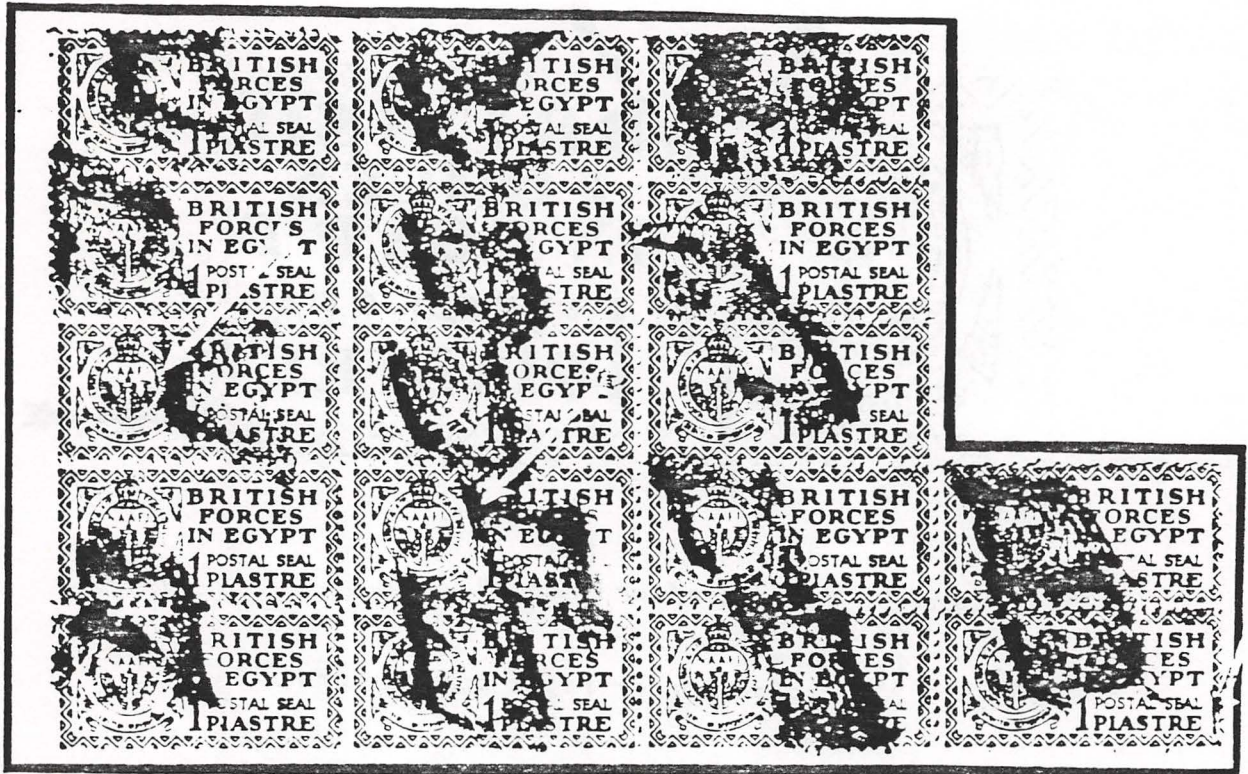
FRAME "D"



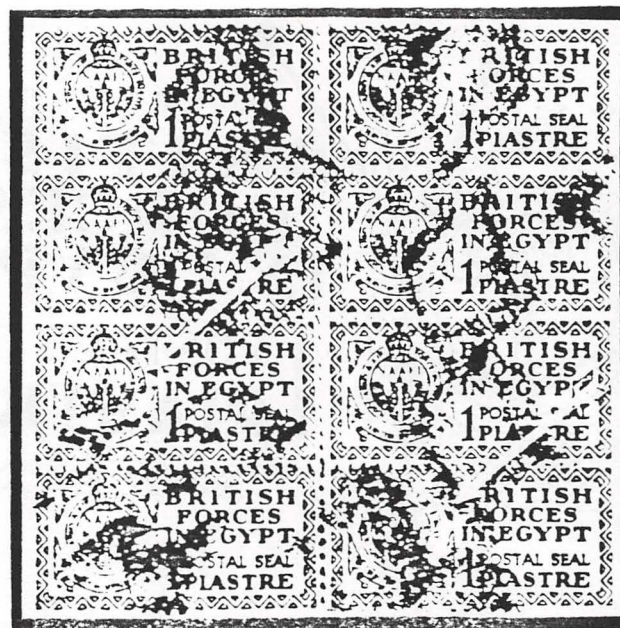
- Seal 9 Has dot after "Force"
- 12 Normal
- 14 Normal
- 20 Normal

POSTAL SEALS

Large multiples of the Postal Seal are known, they are usually found on large buff envelopes which have been used for sending Military documents to the United Kingdom.



FRAME "B"



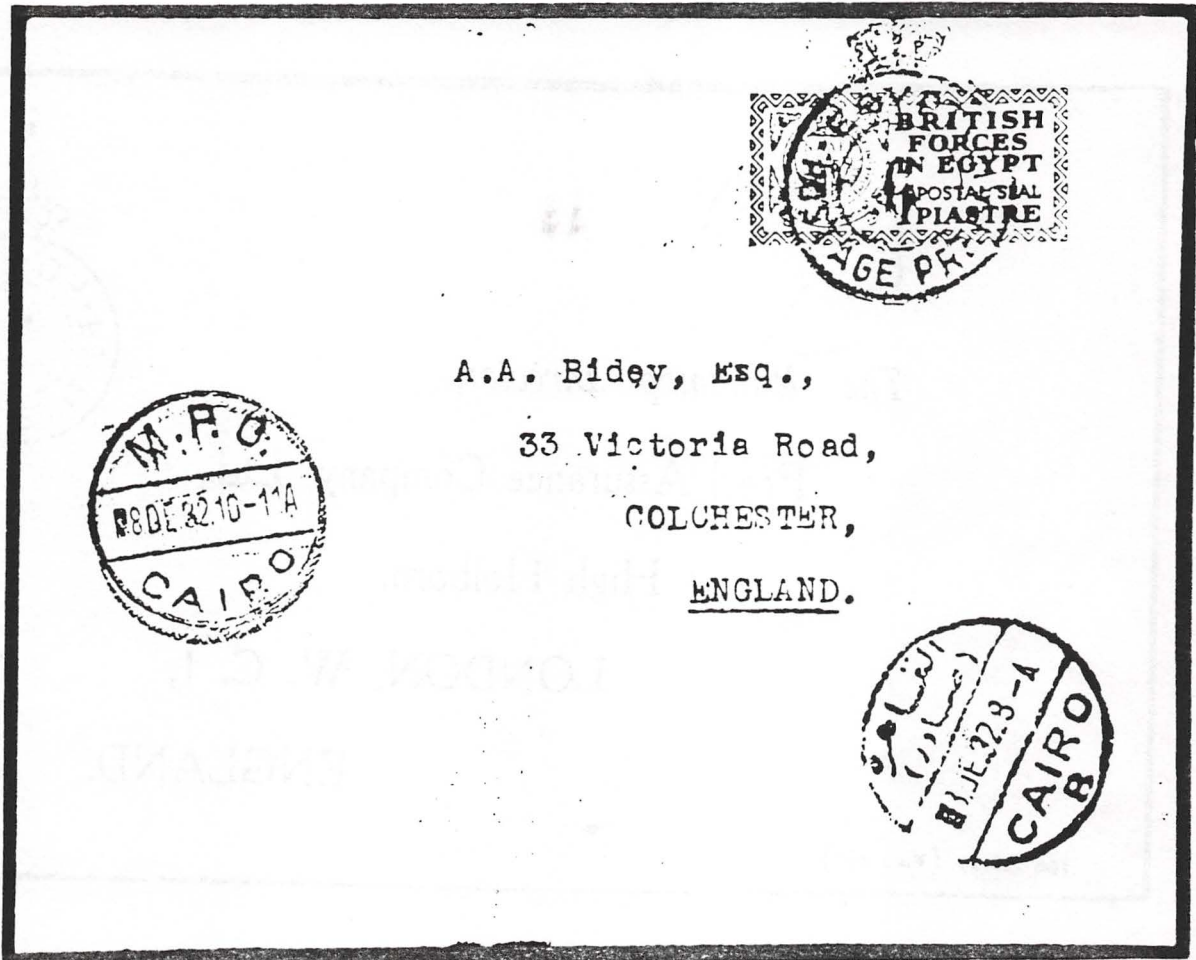
9

14

FRAME "A"

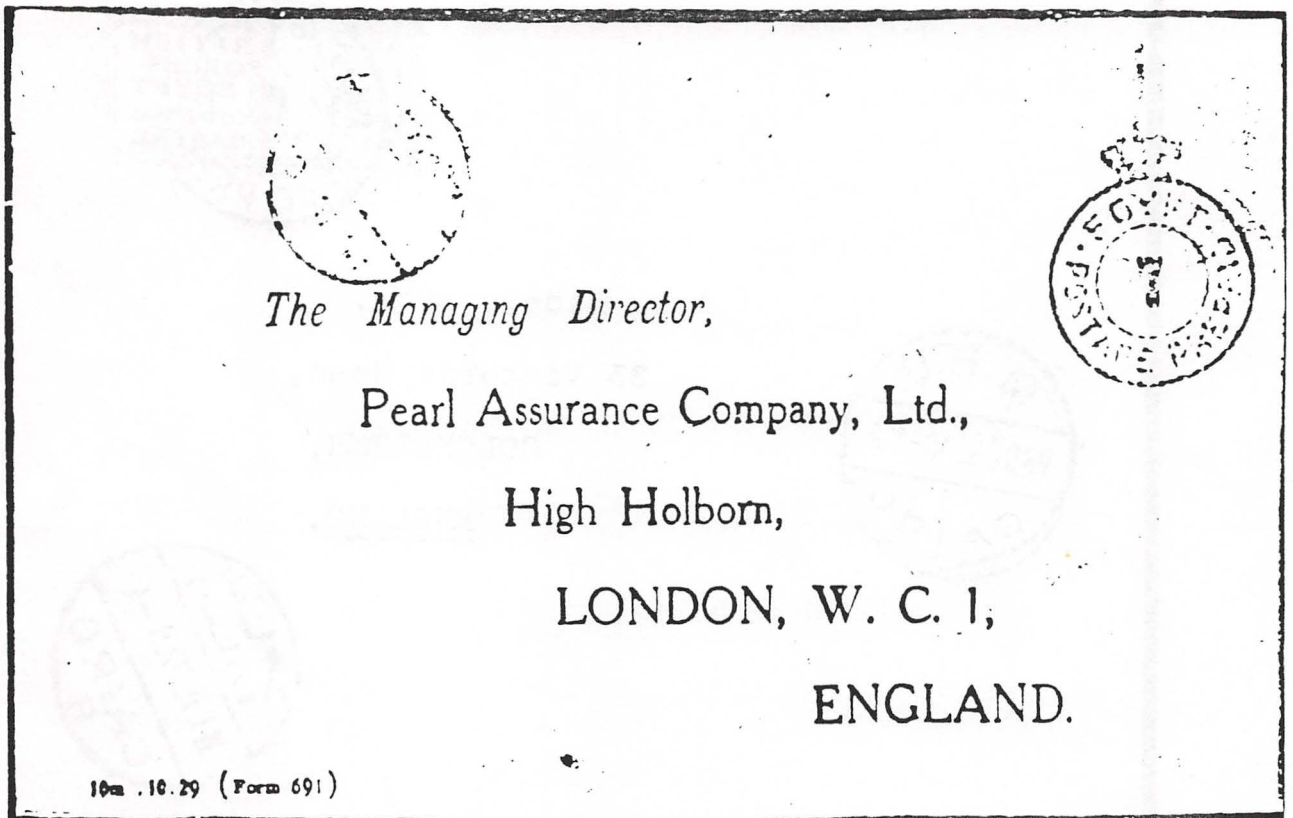
POSTAL SEAL

According to the regulations, the Postal Seals were supposed to be affixed to the back of the envelope where they were cancelled with the Retta obliterator. Occasionally they were affixed to the front in error as the one shown here from M.P.O. Cairo on December 8th 1932, cancelled with the Crown Cancel No.6 handstamp.



POSTAL SEAL

Unusual usage of the Postal Seal; due to the excess weight, three Postal Seals have been used. The covers also shows the rare Crown Cancel No. 7 handstamp together with the M.P. O. datestamp Type 10 used from Moascar on January 10th 1933.



SECOND SERIES : LETTER SEAL

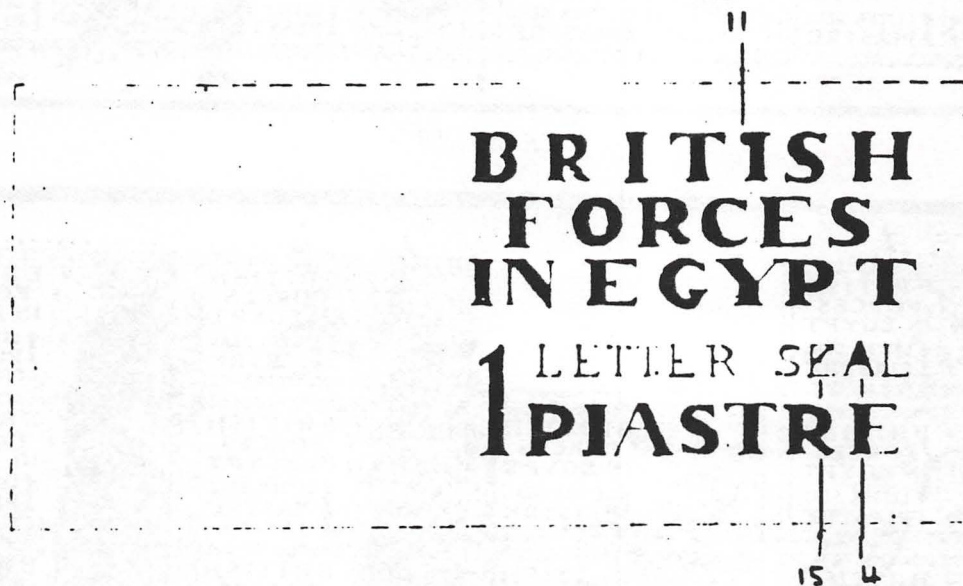
(S.G.A2; H.2)

This was issued in August 1933, when stocks of the First Series were finished. 516,000 were printed, again by Messrs. Hanbury Tomsett and Co. Ltd., and one important alteration was made in the lettering, with the wording "LETTER SEAL" which had been changed from Postal Seal as in the First Series.

The Seal was identical in design, colouring and method of printing but this time, each page of 20 had a marginal border all round.

Once again, it was unfortunate that these were called "Seals" as it put them in a class of non-philatelic material and they were not taken very seriously.

It was not until about 1957 that they were listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, and then it was at the back of the Egyptian listings in the Foreign Section. When I wrote the First Edition of this book, I sent a copy to Stanley Gibbons, and in February 1972, the Catalogue Editor wrote to me saying that in the next edition of the British Commonwealth Catalogue he would be re-inserting these seals from Part 3. At the same time, he asked me if I would lend him specimens of all the seals in order to make actual size illustrations.

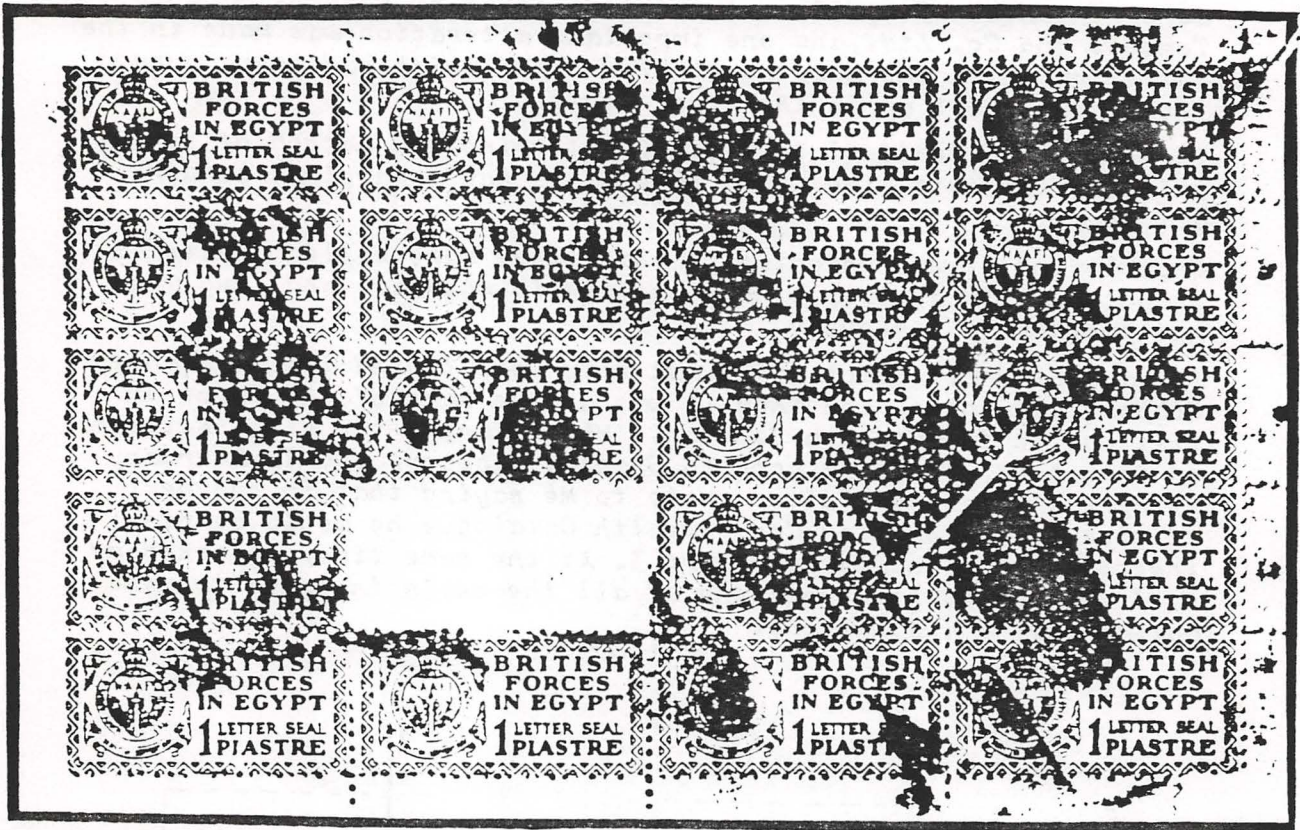


Sketch showing the three major varieties in the pane of 20 of this issue.

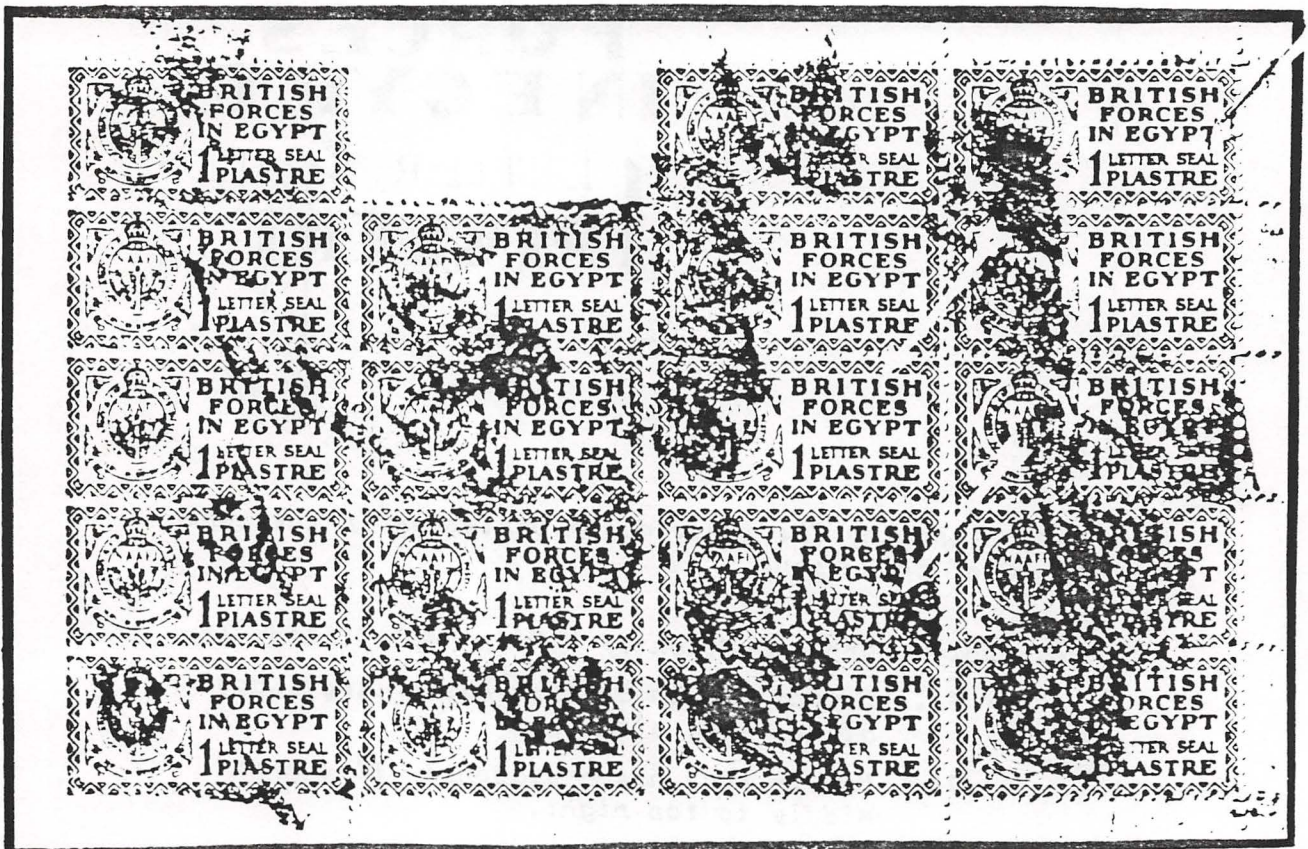
- Seal No.4. Upper portion of "A" in Seal filled in
11. Second "I" in British has a large dot at top left side.
 15. "E" in Seal has a diagonal line from middle to top right.

LETTER SEALS

Large multiples of the Letter Seal are also known, and like the Postal Seal, are usually found on large buff envelopes.



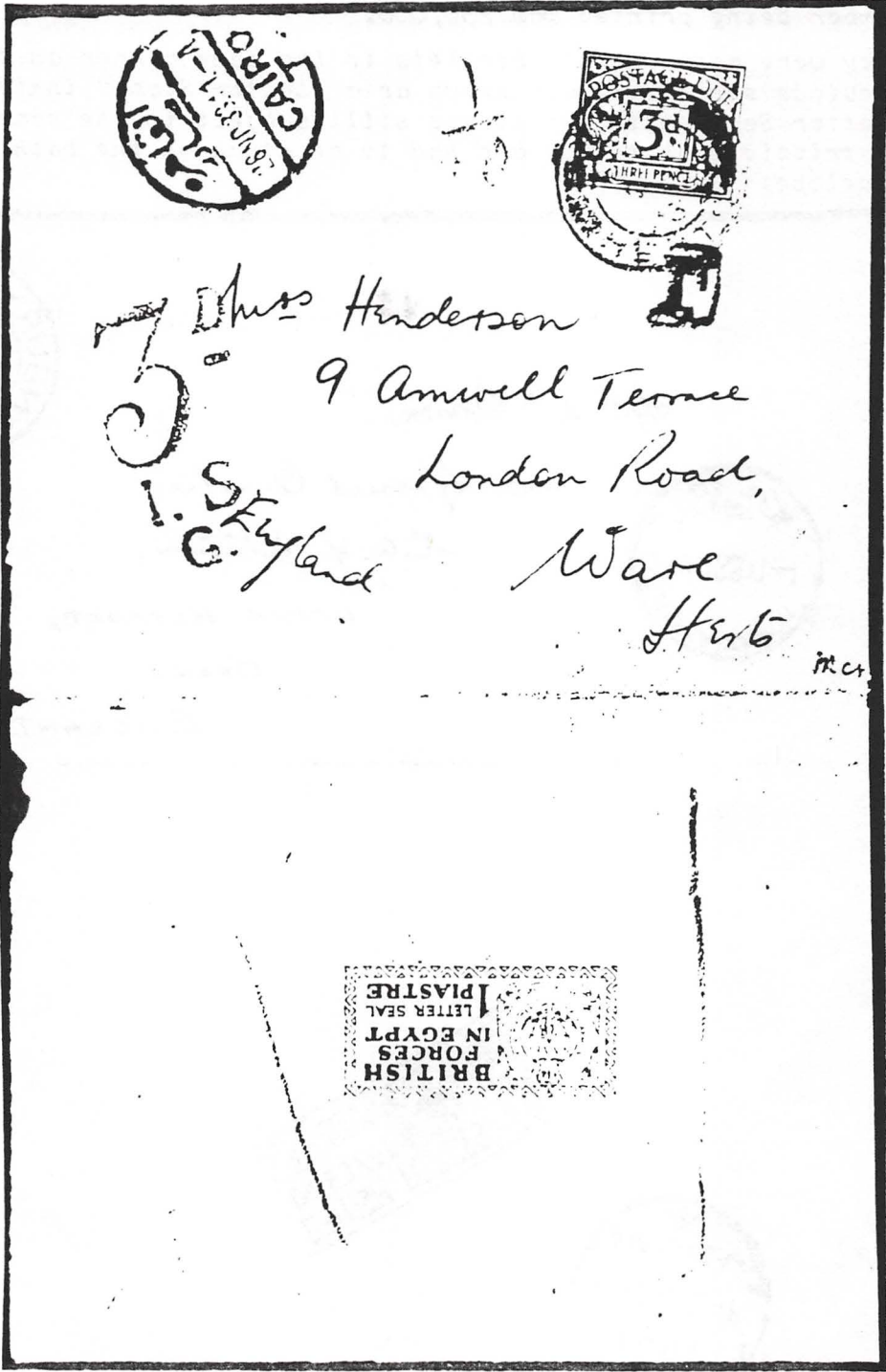
FRAME "B"



FRAME "A"

LETTER SEAL

Letter Seal on an envelope from Cairo on November 28th 1933 showing the Civil handstamp. 'As this letter was posted outside the Military Post Office the Letter Seal was not accepted and therefore it received a 3d surcharge.



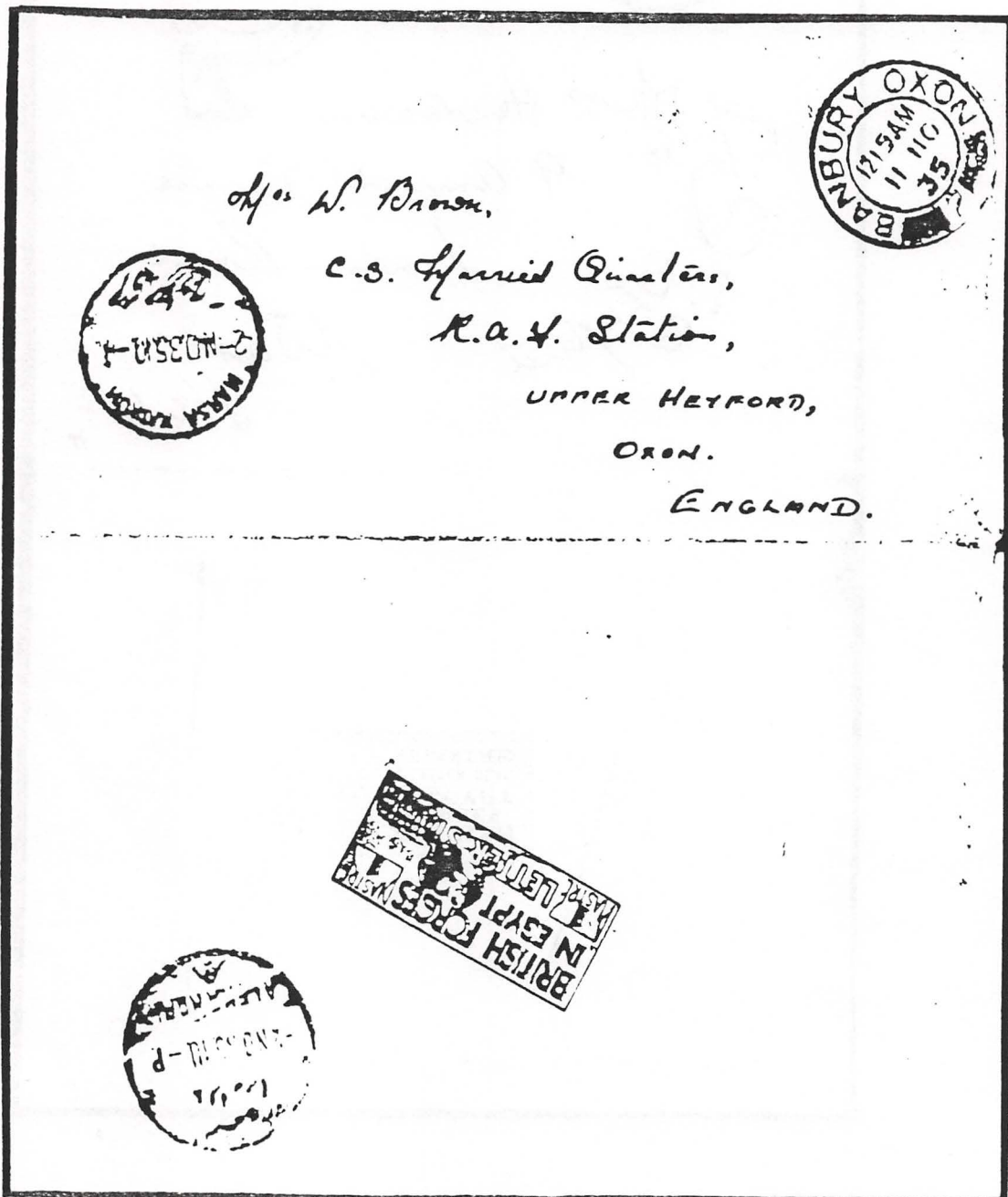
THIRD SERIES : LETTER STAMP

(S.G.A7; H.3)

This was issued on June 1st 1934, and represented an entirely new design. It was designed by Miss Waugh, who at that time was a resident in Cairo. It showed the Sphinx in the background, the lettering "1 PIASTRE" in the top right and left bottom corners. "BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT" in shaded letters with "LETTER STAMP" underneath in crimson outlined letters.

It was printed in photogravure by Messrs. Harrison and Sons Ltd., of London on un-watermarked paper, perforation $14\frac{1}{2}$ by 14. The number being printed was 250,000.

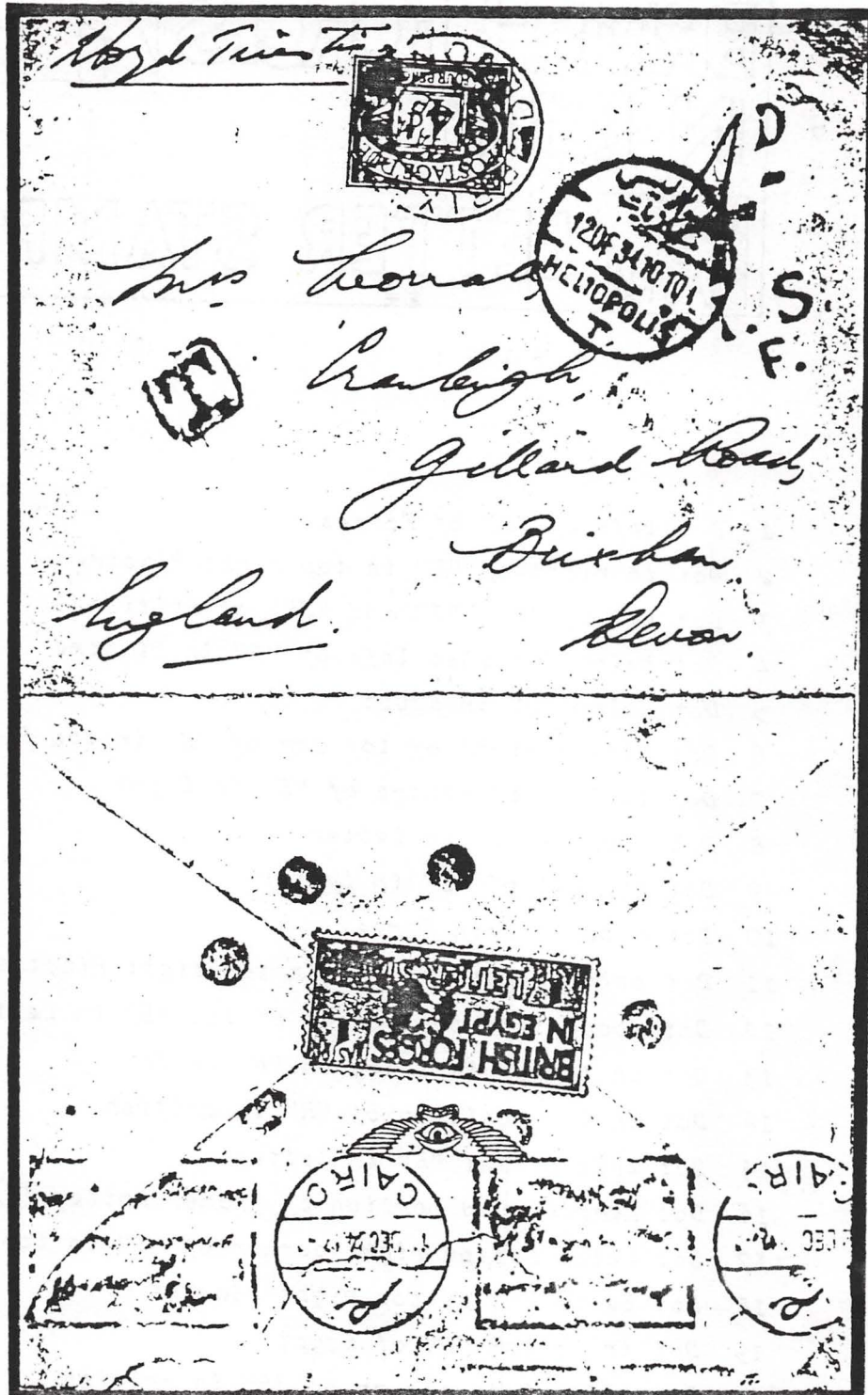
They were made up into booklets in the same manner as the two previous series. It was known as a "Letter Stamp" instead of a "Letter Seal" although it was still subject to the same restrictions as to use and had to be stuck on the back of the envelope.



Letter Stamp sent from Marsa Matruh on November 2nd 1935. Having been sent from a Civil Post Office, no Military markings are shown.

THIRD SERIES : LETTER STAMP

Letter Stamp used from the R.A.F. Officers Mess Heliopolis on December 12th 1934. As it was not posted through military channels, it was therefore treated as unpaid and postage of 4d was collected upon its arrival.



THIRD & FOURTH ISSUE

LETTER STAMP

Plating of Frame "B"



- 1 Dot over "S" in top right Piastre
- 2 Dot below right bottom corner of "H" in British
- 3 Dot above right top corner of "M" in stamp
- 4 Dot under middle arm of "E" in top right Piastre
- 5 Dots top right of "R" and "E" in top right Piastre
- 6 Dot left of "F" in Forces
- 7 Dot right of "E" in top right Piastre
- 8 Dot in "G" in Egypt
- 9 Dot below line enclosing top right Piastre
- 10 Dot in "P" in top Piastre
- 11 Dot below left corner of "I" in top right Piastre
- 12 Dot right of "I" in bottom left Piastre
- 13 Dot in 1st "T" of Letter
- 14 Dot between "A" of top Piastre
- 15 Dot left of "P" in bottom Piastre
- 16 Dot below "P" on top Piastre
- 17 Dot in first "T" of Letter
- 18 Dot at top of legs of "R" in British
- 19 Dot in top portion of 1st "L" in Letter
- 20 Dot in lower portion of leg of "R" in British

FOURTH SERIES : LETTER STAMP

(S.G.A8; H.4)

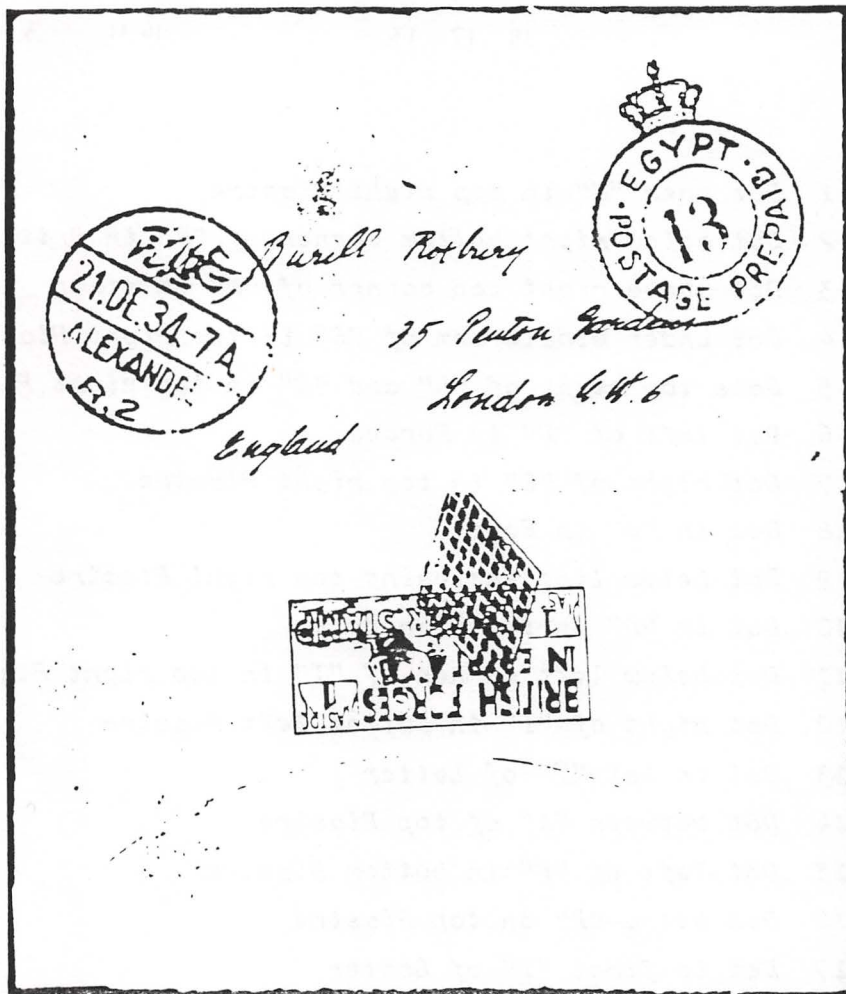
This was issued on December 5th 1934, and it had the same design and details as the Third Issue except that the colour was changed to green.

These were also printed by Messrs. Harrison and Sons Ltd., the number being 250,000.

Both the Third and Fourth Series have been plated and it has been found that both series were printed in sheets of 40, two frames of 20 and each frame having different characteristics. The constant variety on the 17th stamp on both "B" Frames makes identification easy. The "P" does not join the top frame line of the bottom left Piastre.



Unjoined "P" variety
on the 17th stamp
from Frame "B"



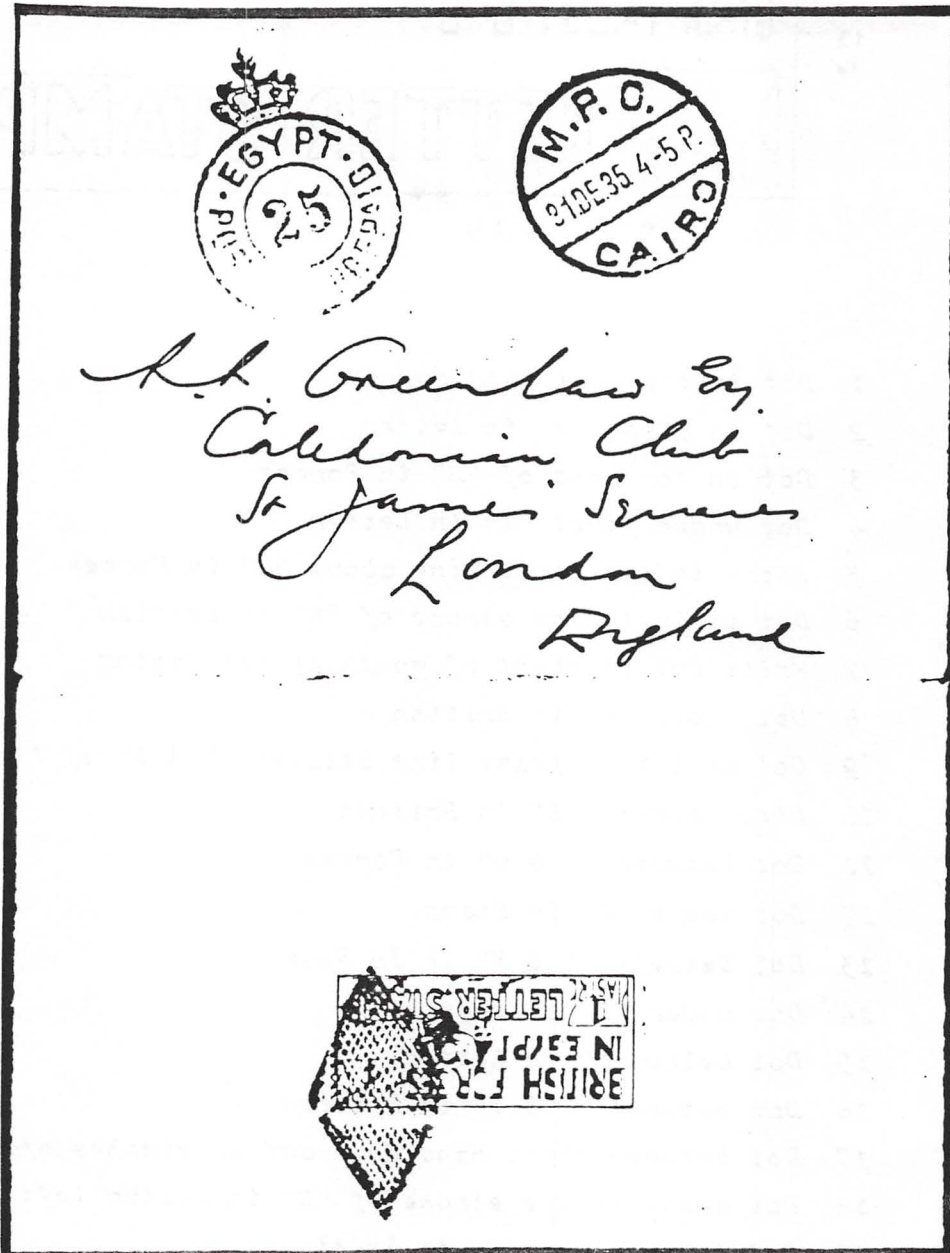
Letter Stamp sent from the R.A.F. Station at Aboukir and showing the Alexandria handstamp of December 21st 1934 together with the Crown Cancel No.13.

FIFTH SERIES : LETTER STAMP

(S.G.A9; H.5)

This was issued on April 24th 1935, and is known as the "1st Comb" issue; it was the same design as the last two series, but the colour was changed to carmine red. The main difference was that the perforation was now 14, with a perforation variety which has a blank space with no perforation at the bottom of each side of the stamp.

These were also printed by Messrs. Harrison and Sons Ltd., the number being 405,000, of which 404,900 were sold and 100 destroyed.



Letter Stamp used from M.P.O.Cairo on December 31st 1935 showing the Crown Cancel No.25.

FIFTH ISSUE

LETTER STAMP

Plating of Frame "A"



- 1 Dot in top left hand corner
- 2 Dot in first "T" in Letter
- 3 Dot in top bend of "S" in Forces
- 4 Dot under first "T" in Letter
- 5 Break in top frame line above "C" in Forces
- 6 Dot in left hand stroke of "H" in British
- 7 White dot to right of mouth of the Sphinx
- 8 Dot above "R" in British
- 9 Dot on bottom frame line between "R & E" of Piastre
- 10 Line beneath "B" in British
- 11 Dot between "F & O" in Forces
- 12 Dot above "A" in Stamp
- 13 Dot between "N & E" in In Egypt
- 14 Dot under "G" in Egypt
- 15 Dot below "E" in Letter
- 16 Dot between "T & I" in British
- 17 Dot between right hand down and up strokes of "N" in In
- 18 Dot above middle stroke of "E" in bottom left Piastre
- 19 Dot in front of "B" in British
- 20 Dot above "R" in Forces

FIFTH ISSUE

LETTER STAMP

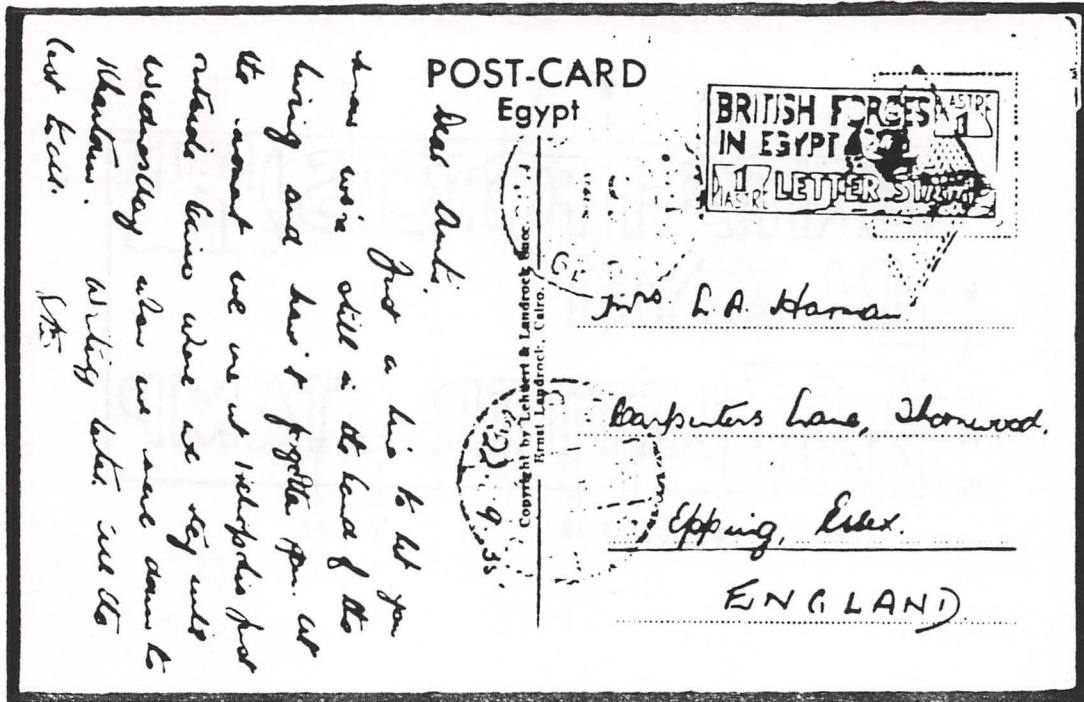
Plating of Frame "B"



- 1 Dot to left of "S" in top left Piastre
- 2 Dot to right of "A" in bottom left Piastre
- 3 Dot below "I & N" of In
- 4 Dot under middle arm of "E" in top right Piastre
- 5 Dot on top of "R" in top right Piastre
- 6 Dot to right of stroke on "N" in In
- 7 Dot below "S" of Stamp
- 8 Dot between "P & T" in Egypt
- 9 Dot below second "I" in British
- 10 Dot in "G" of Egypt
- 11 Dot between "E & S" in Forces
- 12 Dot between "T & T" in Letter
- 13 Dot in "T" of Stamp
- 14 Dot above "R" in bottom left Piastre
- 15 Dot to right of "I" in bottom left Piastre
- 16 Dot between up and down strokes of "N" in In
- 17 Dot in first "T" of Letter
- 18 Dot in "G" of Egypt
- 19 Dot in front of "P" in bottom left Piastre
- 20 Dot between "E & T" in Letter

FIFTH SERIES : LETTER STAMP

Postcard showing the unusual usage of the Letter Stamp from M.P.O. Cairo on September 24th 1935, together with the Egypt Postage Prepaid 19.



ARTIST DRAWING

Drawing in green ink, done by Miss Maugh in preparation for the Third Series which appeared on June 1st 1934.



FIFTH SERIES : LETTER STAMP

Large multiples of this Letter Stamp are known used on Official envelopes to the United Kingdom.



SIXTH SERIES : JUBILEE SEAL

(S.G.A10; H.6)

This was issued on May 6th 1935, and it is interesting to note that this was the only stamp issued in a foreign country to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of King George V.

It was the same design as the previous three issues with the exception that it was printed in blue and overprinted in red "JUBILEE COMMEMORATION 1935" diagonally across the stamp in three lines.

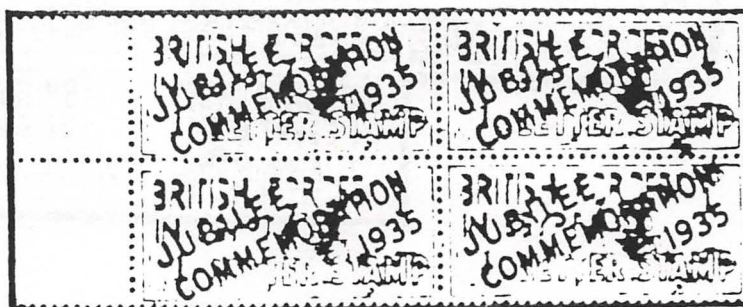
This was printed by Messrs. Harrisons and Sons Ltd., the number being 27,000 and the perforation was 14. There was a limited sale of 10 seals per person, so complete panes of 20 are comparatively rare.

When it was decided to issue this special seal, a colour trial was made in blue with no red overprint. As the plates of the 5th Issue of the Letter Stamp were in use at the time, the plates of the 3rd Issue were used for this purpose, therefore, the same plate flaws appear on the proofs as those on the 3rd and 4th Issues. It was through having two part sheets of these proofs that enabled me to find out their actual position on a pane of 40.

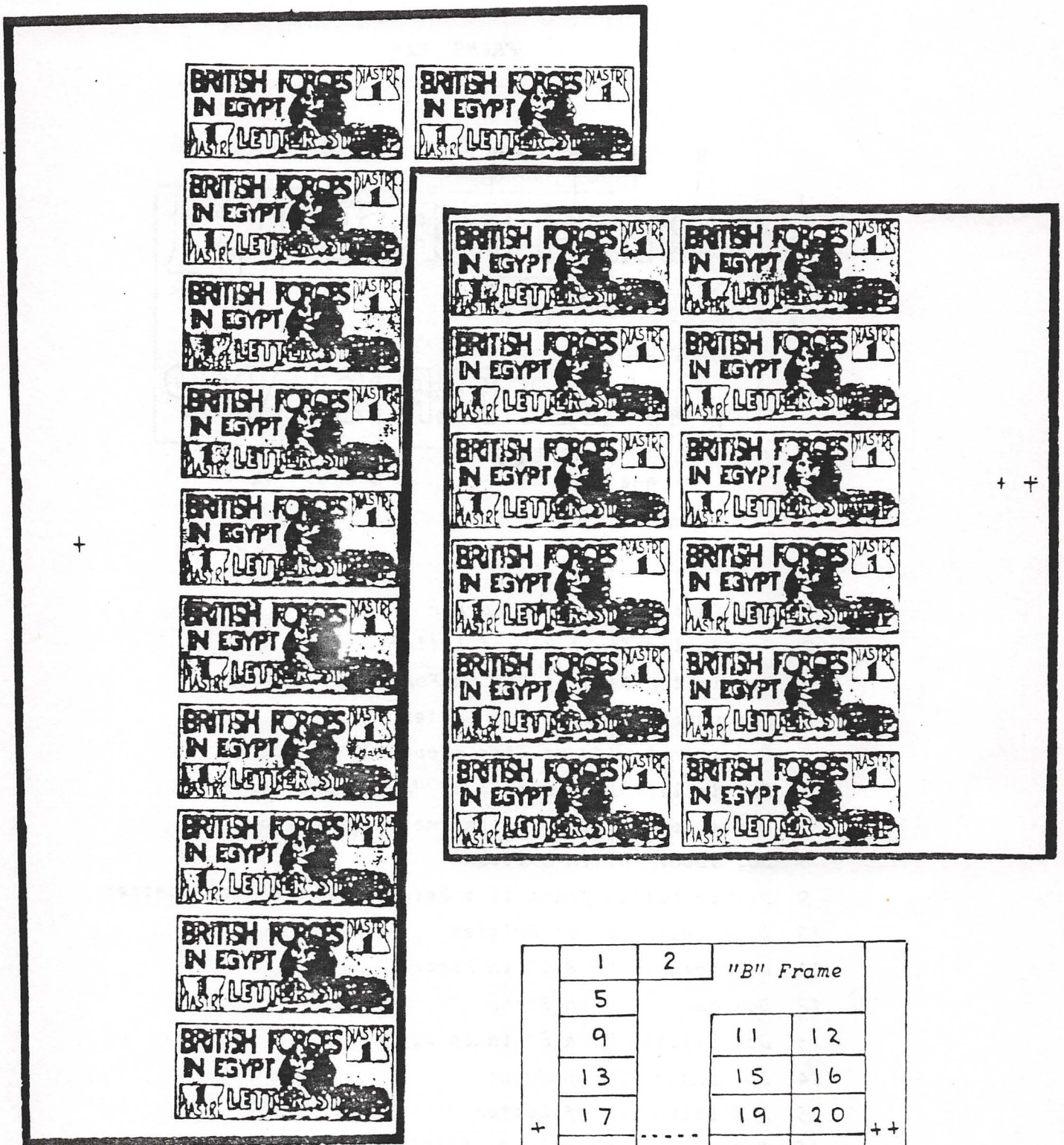
There is a major variety of the overprint, a short right leg to the letter "U" in JUBILEE, known as the "Short U" variety, which occurs on the 6th and 8th seals from Frame "A" and sometimes on the same two stamps from Frame "B", depending on which sheets were used for overprinting.

Another variety is a tiny up stroke in the "N" of COMMEMORATION, this is known as the "Narrow N" variety, and this occurs on the 14th and 16th stamps from Frame "B" and on the 9th and 11th stamps from Frame "A". The reason for the set pattern of these overprints is due to the fact that they were overprinted in two operations, ten at a time. I have often noticed in auction catalogues that seals have been on offer "with a slight pin hole". This slight pin hole, in the bottom left hand corner, appears on the 17th seal on each pane. I believe this must have occurred during the overprinting, in order to keep the sheets in place during this operation. As this was done twice, the overprint on the left hand 10 seals was sometimes at a slightly different angle to the right hand 10 seals.

First day covers of this issue are rare, as the 6th May was a service holiday in Egypt, and service post boxes were cleared only once (in the forenoon) at most stations on that day. Many letters bearing Jubilee Seals although posted on May 6th, were not postmarked until the 7th. In fact, many servicemen knew nothing of this issue until days after its appearance.



JUBILEE SEAL PROOFS : Showing 12 from Frame "B" and 9 from Frame "A"



	1	2	"B" Frame		
	5				
	9		11	12	
	13		15	16	
	17		19	20	
+	1	-----	3	4	++
	5		7	8	
	9		11	12	
	13				
	17		"A" Frame		

SIXTH ISSUE LETTER STAMP
Plating of the JUBILEE SEAL

FRAME "A"



- 1 Dot in top left hand corner
- 2 Dot in the first "T" of Letter
- 3 Dot in top bend of "S" in Forces
- 4 Dot under first "T" of Letter
- 5 Break in top frame line above "C" in Forces
- 6 Dot in left hand stroke of "H" in British
- 7 White dot to right of the mouth of the Sphinx
- 8 Dot above "R" in British
- 9 Dot on bottom frame line between "R & E" in Piastre
- 10 Line below "B" of British
- 11 Dot between "F & O" in Forces
- 12 Dot above "A" in Stamp
- 13 Dot between "N & E" in In Egypt
- 14 Dot under "G" of Egypt
- 15 Dot below "E" of Letter
- 16 Dot between "T & l" in British
- 17 Dot in between down and up strokes of "N" in In
- 18 Dot above middle stroke of "E" in bottom left Piastre
- 19 Dot in front of "B" of British
- 20 Dot above "R" of Forces

SIXTH ISSUE LETTER STAMP

Plating of the JUBILEE SEAL

FRAME "B"

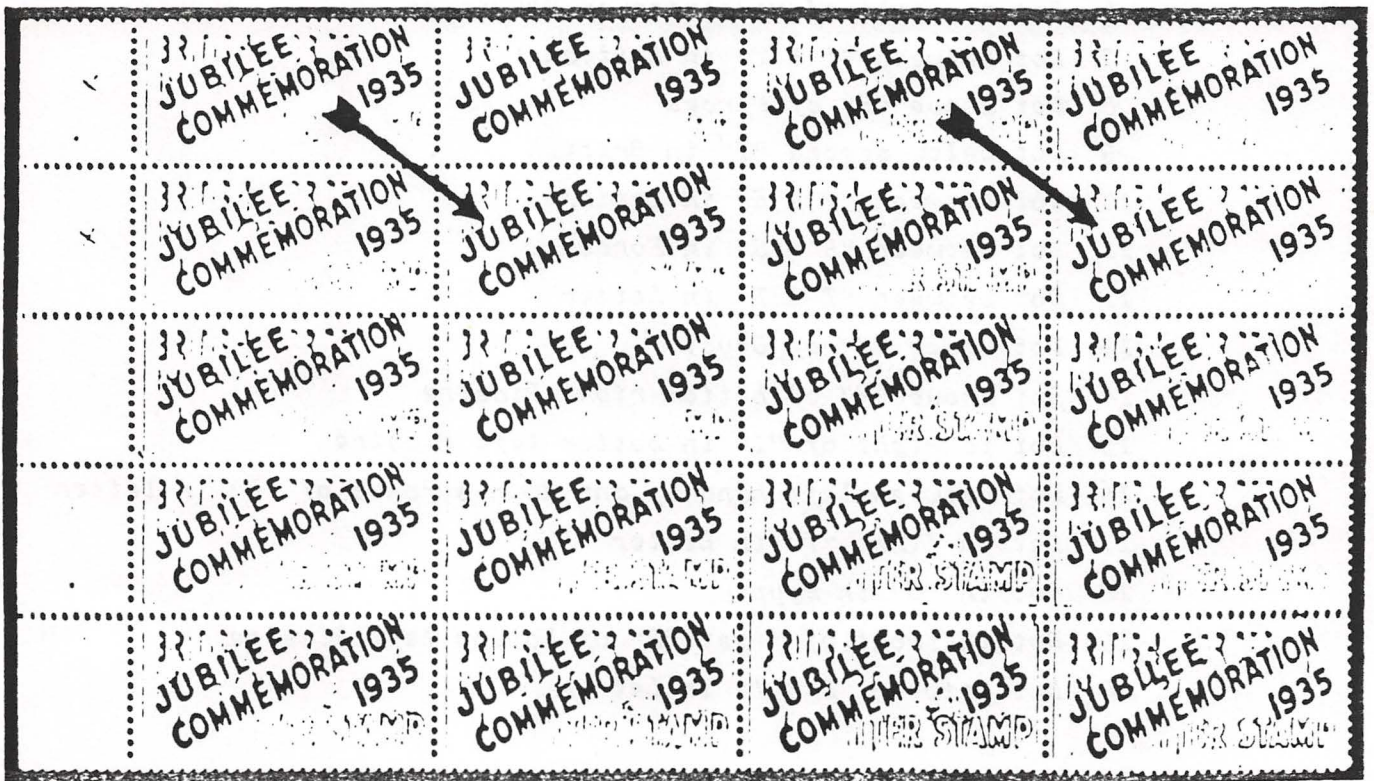


- 1 Dot above "I" of British
- 2 Dot above bottom stroke of "R" in bottom left Piastre
- 3 Dot above "T" of British
- 4 Dot under middle arm of "E" in top right Piastre
- 5 Dot on top of "R" in top right Piastre
- 6 Dot to right of up stroke of "N" in In
- 7 Dot between "I & T" in British
- 8 Dot above "E" of Forces
- 9 Dot below second "I" in British
- 10 Dot between "I & E" in Letter
- 11 Dot between "E & S" in Forces
- 12 Dot between "T & T" in Letter
- 13 Dot under "Y" of Egypt
- 14 Dot above "R" of bottom right Piastre
- 15 Dot to right of "I" in bottom left Piastre
- 16 Dot between left hand up and down strokes of "N" in letter
- 17 Dot in first "T" in Letter
- 18 Dot in "G" in Egypt
- 19 Dot in front of first "P" of bottom left Piastre
- 20 Dot between "E & T" in Letter

A pane of 20 of the Jubilee Commemoration Issue of 1935 "B" Frame.

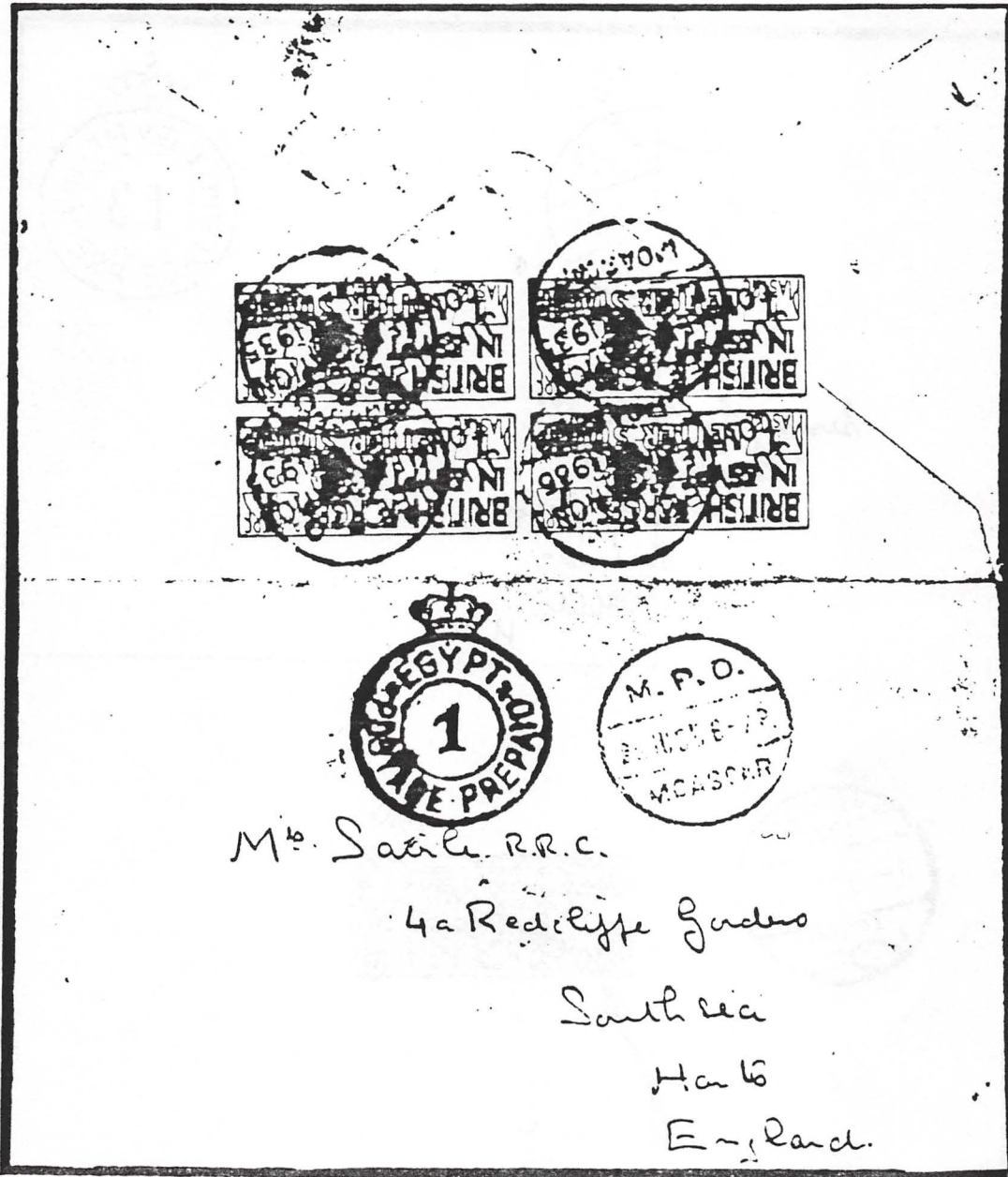


Sixth Issue : showing the position of the "Short U" varieties.



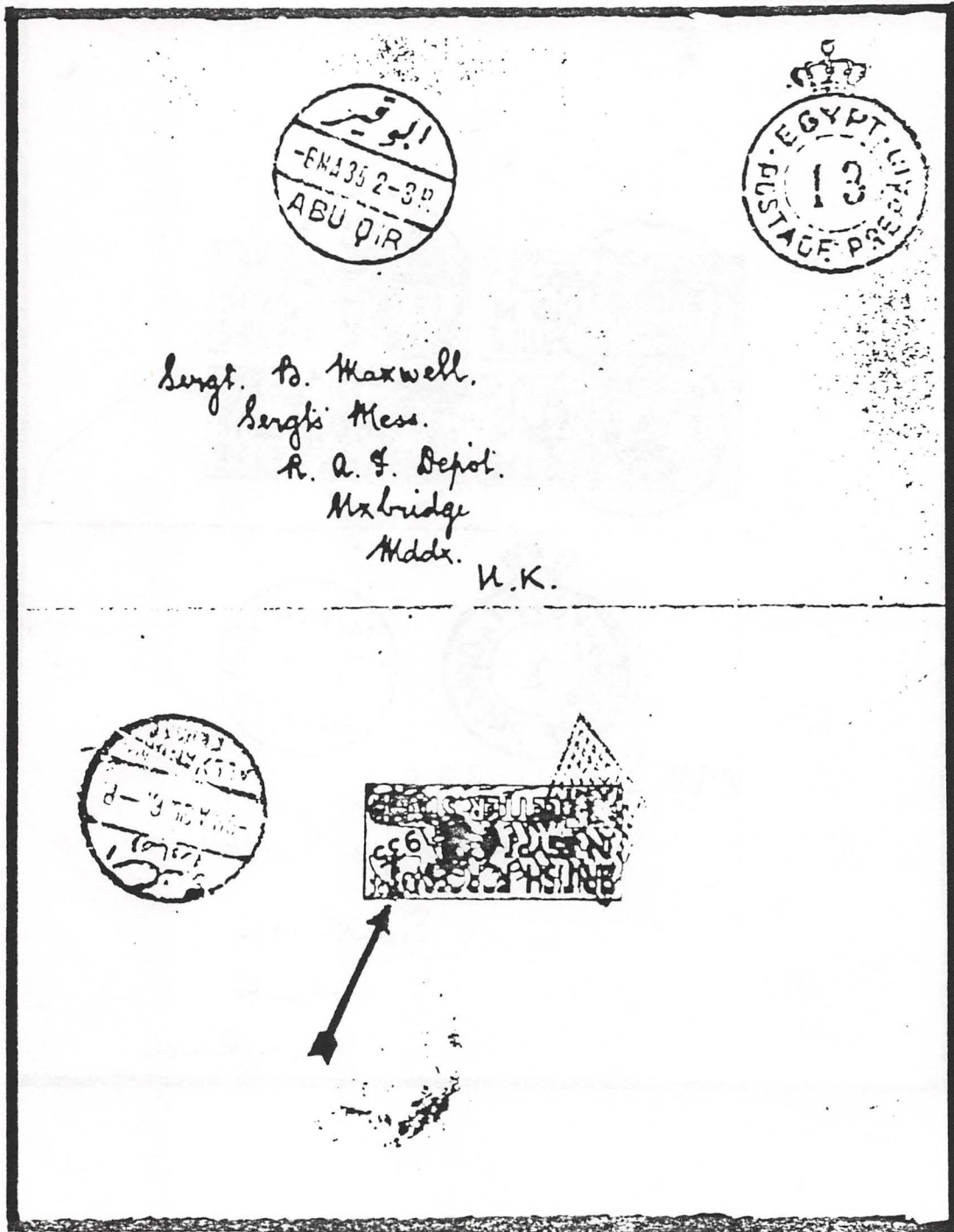
SIXTH SERIES : JUBILEE SEAL

Envelope sent from M.P.O. Moascar on June 5th 1955 showing the Egypt Postage Prepaid 1 handstamp and the only known block of four Jubilee Seals used on cover.



SIXTH SERIES : JUBILEE SEAL

One of the few known First Day of Issue covers, May 6th 1935, this one also having the "Narrow N" variety. It was sent from the R.A.F. Station at Abu Qir and shows the Egypt Postage Prepaid 13 handstamp.



SEVENTH ISSUE : LETTER STAMP

(S.G.A9; H.7)

This was issued on December 21st 1935, it was a further printing of the Third and Fifth Series in a new shade. The perforation had an extra tooth inserted in the comb, making 14 holes at the sides, including the corner ones, so that the lowest hole touches the top hole of the next row of perforations. This has the appearance of a line machine and is known as the "2nd Comb" issue.

I discovered a very interesting perforation variety due to the fact that some sheets must have been inserted in the perforating machine upside down, thus punching out an extra hole at the top instead of the bottom of the stamp. This can just about be discerned on individual stamps, but in blocks and sheets the variety is easily noticeable.

There were 500,000 printed of which 214,000 were sold and 285,000 destroyed.

It is very simple to tell the "A" frame from the "B" frame because of the constant flaw on the 17th stamp of Frame "B".

There were 50 Presentation sets produced with this seal when the Postal Concession ceased; there are 24 covers, numbered 1 to 6 and 8 to 25, number 7 having been lost down a well at Moascar in 1933. They are all addressed to Miss Mary Lloyd at the Buchan School, Isle of Man. The issue was made for distribution to His late Majesty King George V, King Fuad of Egypt, Postal Museums and all officials connected with the postal concession since its inauguration. Accompanying each set is a letter signed by the Camp Commandant of the Headquarters B.T.E. Lt. Col. (Quarter-Master) F.M.A. Morris, OBE. My complete set had the accompanying letter addressed to a Corporal, who must have been in charge of a Unit Post Office.

Copies of this stamp are known bi-sected and used on local mail from Faggala addressed to Kasr-el-Barracks, Cairo, where they have been back stamped, both were used in March 1936.

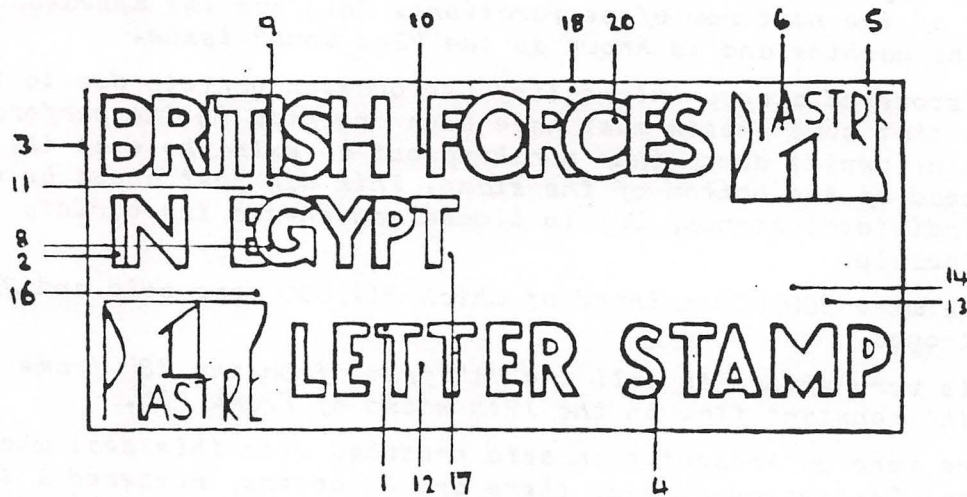


Flaws on the 17th stamp
from Frame "B"

SEVENTH ISSUE

LETTER STAMP

Plating of Frame "A"



- 1 Dot in first "T" in Letter
- 2 Dot in "I" in In
- 3 Dot outside frame by "B" of British
- 4 Dot in "S" in Stamp
- 5 Dot between "R & E" in top right Piastre
- 6 Dot between legs of "A" in top right Piastre
- 7 Normal
- 8 Dot in "G" of Egypt
- 9 Dot below second "I" in British
- 10 White dot left of "F" of Forces
- 11 Dot above "E" of Egypt
- 12 Dot between "T & T" in Letter
- 13 Dot above "M" of Stamp
- 14 Dot above "M" of Stamp
- 15 Normal
- 16 Dot above "E" in bottom left Piastre
- 17 Dot right of "T" of Egypt
- 18 Dot above "R" of Forces
- 19 Normal
- 20 Dot in "C" in Forces

SEVENTH ISSUE

LETTER STAMP

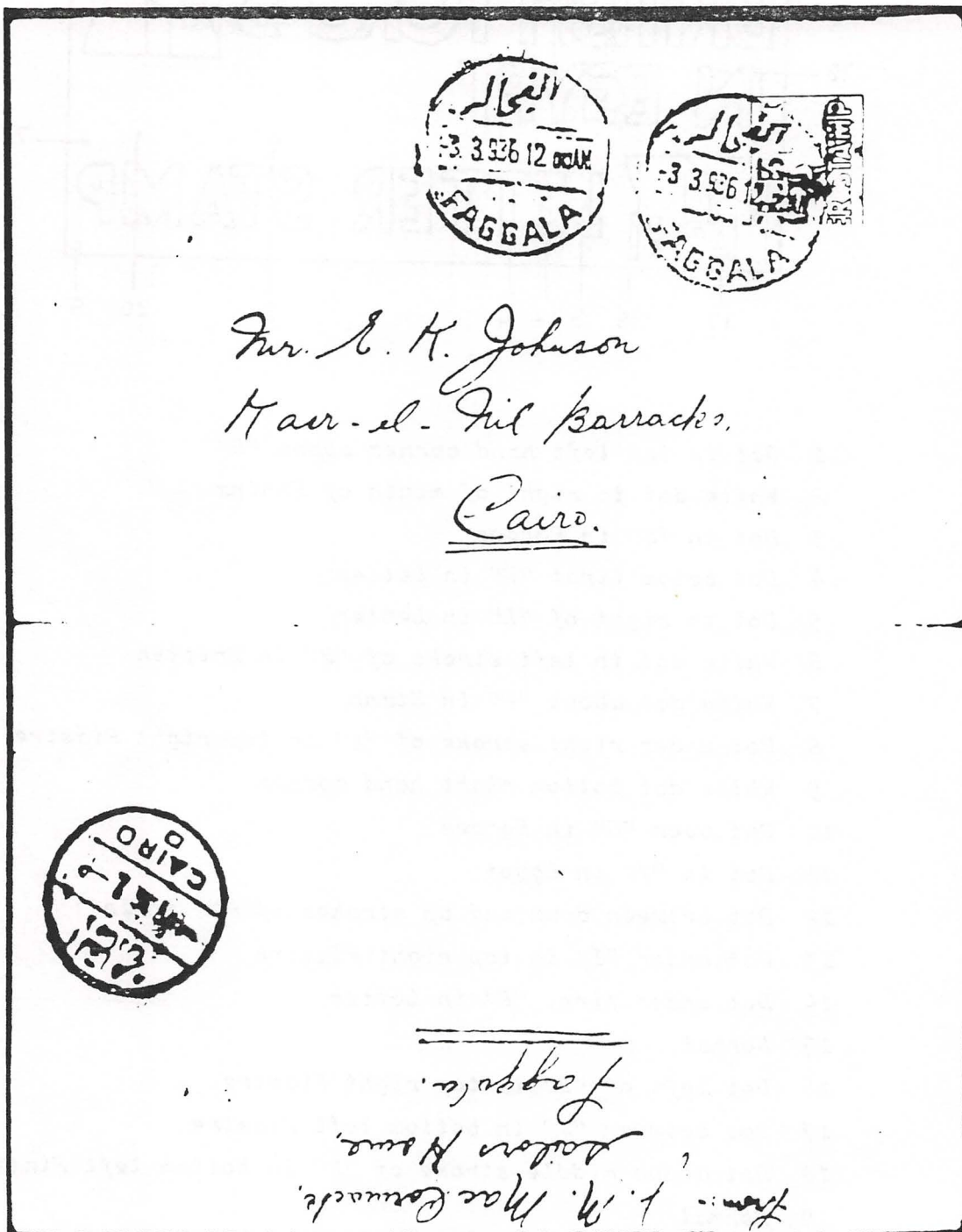
Plating of Frame "B"



- 1 Dot in top left hand corner above "B"
- 2 White dot to right of mouth of Sphinx
- 3 Dot in "S" in Forces
- 4 Dot below first "T" in Letter
- 5 Dot to right of "L" in Letter
- 6 White dot in left stroke of "H" in British
- 7 White dot above "P" in Stamp
- 8 Dot under right stroke of "A" in top right Piastre
- 9 White dot bottom right hand corner
- 10 Dot over "C" in Forces
- 11 Dot in "Y" in Egypt
- 12 Dot between down and up strokes of "N" in In
- 13 Dot under "I" in top right Piastre
- 14 Dot under first "E" in Letter
- 15 Normal
- 16 Dot left of "B" in top right Piastre
- 17 Dot between "A" in bottom left Piastre
- 18 Dot above middle stroke of "E" in bottom left Piastre
- 19 Normal
- 20 Dot above "M" in Stamp

SEVENTH ISSUE : LETTER STAMP

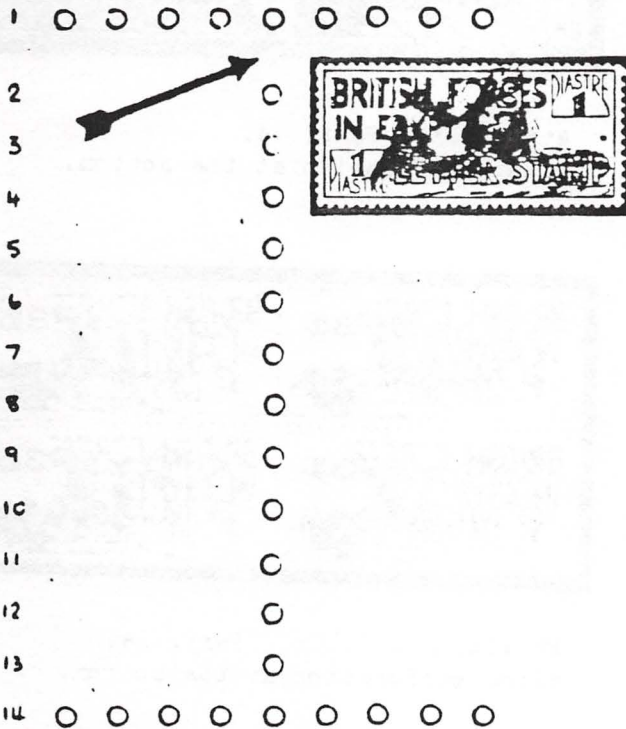
Letter Stamp bi-sected for local use and sent from the Sailors Home at Faggala on September 3rd 1936 and sent to Kasr-el-Mil Barracks in Cairo.



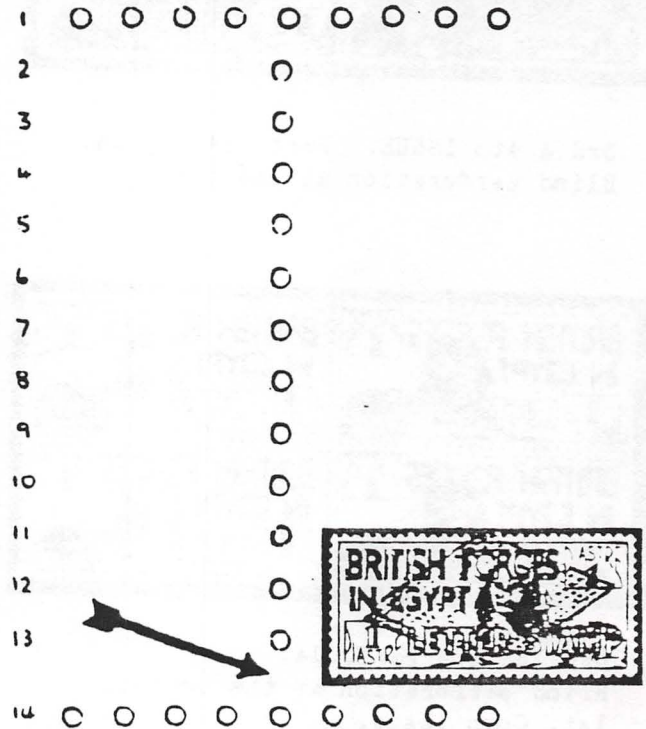
PERFORATION VARIETIES ON THE LETTER STAMP

The 3rd Issue and 4th Issue have a perforation of $14\frac{1}{2}$ by 14 with a blind perforation at the top. The 5th Issue and 6th Issue have a perforation of 14 with a blind perforation at the bottom. The 7th Issue has a perforation of 14 with either an extra perforation at the top or the bottom. The extra perforation at the top is quite scarce, as this is due to the sheet being inverted whilst perforated.

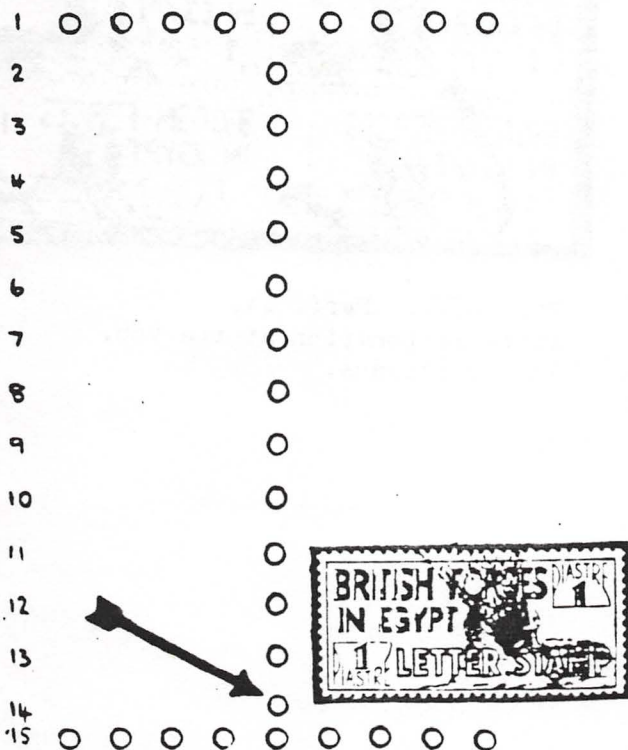
3rd Issue. Perf. $14\frac{1}{2}$ x 14.
Blind perforation at the top.



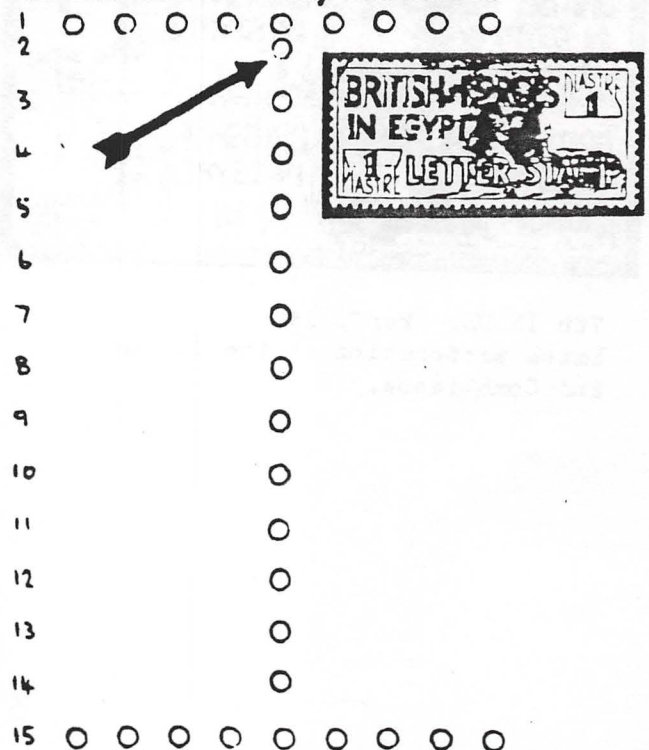
5th Issue. 1st Comb. Perf. 14.
Blind perforation at the bottom.



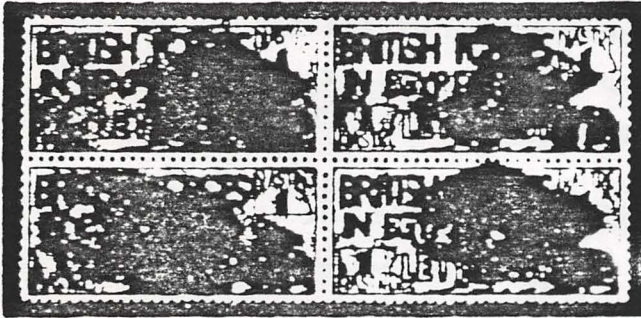
7th Issue. 2nd Comb. Perf. 14.
Extra perforation at the bottom.



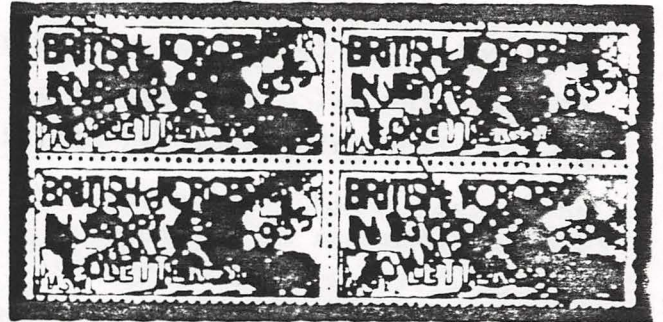
7th Issue. 2nd Comb. Perf. 14.
Extra perforation at the top due to the sheet being inverted.



PERFORATION VARIETIES ON THE LETTER STAMP



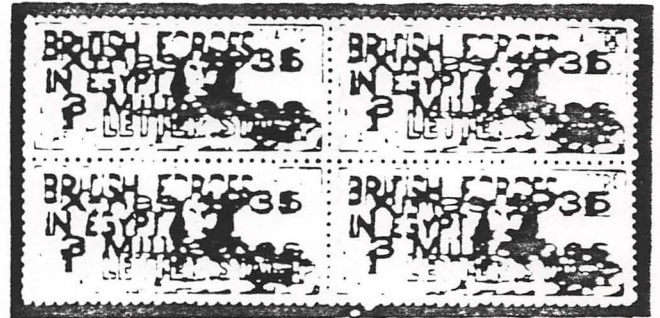
3rd & 4th ISSUE. Perf. 14½ by 14.
Blind perforation at the top.



6th ISSUE. Perf. 14.
Blind perforation at the bottom.



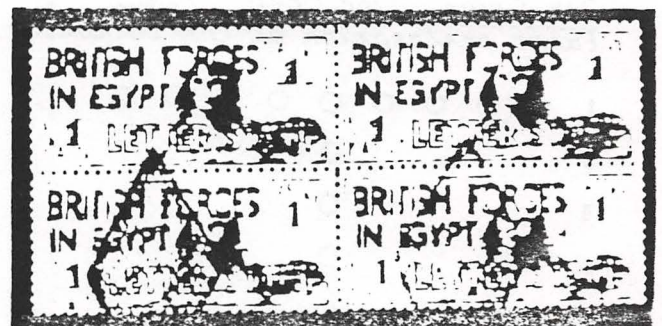
5th ISSUE. Perf. 14.
Blind perforation at the bottom.
1st. Comb issue.



PROVISIONAL ISSUE. Perf. 14.
Blind perforation at the bottom.



7th ISSUE. Perf. 14.
Extra perforation at the bottom.
2nd Comb issue.



7th ISSUE. Perf. 14.
extra perforation at the top.
2nd Comb issue.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

The Egyptian rate for postage for Christmas cards was 4 milliemes (about 1d) but the concession for the British Forces to send their greetings home at 3 milliemes was obtained, and on October 26th 1932, the following instructions were issued to all Units by Headquarters of the British Troops in Egypt :-

"Arrangements have been made whereby Christmas cards enclosed in envelopes of which the flaps are not stuck down will be carried to the British Isles and the Irish Free State for 3 milliemes.

Special Xmas Postal Seals are being issued at this value and will be on sale at all N.A.A.F.I. in sufficient time to meet requirements in December.

The concession will apply to New Year cards also.

The weight of an envelope containing a Christmas or New Year card may be up to 50 grammes.

Cards which are enclosed in envelopes which are stuck down must be paid for at the ordinary postal concession rate i. e. 1 piastre for each 20 grammes.

If postcards are used at any time the rate of postage will be 1 piastre.

In all cases the seal must be affixed to the back of the envelope on postcard."

On November 26th the following instructions were issued:-

"Xmas Seals will be on sale at all N.A.A.F.I. from today until 31st December, 1932.

These seals are valued at 3 milliemes each, and provided the envelopes containing the Xmas or New Year cards are not stuck down, the weight carried for that amount will be up to 50 grammes. (Note: The seal must not be used to attach the flap of the envelope).

The seals must be placed on the backs of the envelopes, and can only be used for letters containing Xmas or New Year cards despatched to the British Isles, including the I.F.S.

Owing to the difficulty of obtaining milliemes in this country, it will not always be possible to find proper change in coin. There are many ways in getting over little difficulties which may arise, and the following are indicated:-

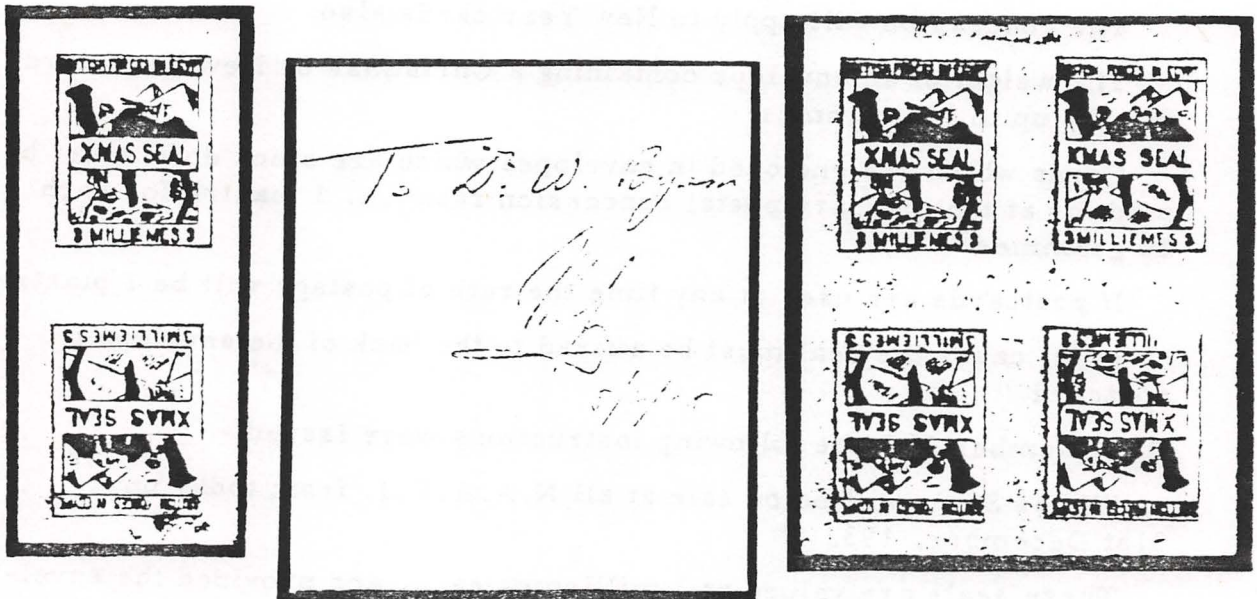
- (a) That the troops will endeavour to pay in milliemes whenever they have them.
- (b) By the N.A.A.F.I. giving change in milliemes whenever it is possible for them to do so.
- (c) Millieme Egyptian stamps which are used by the Egyptians in place of coins may similarly be used in the Institute.
- (d) By taking goods to the value of milliemes when it is not possible to provide change in any other way.
- (e) By purchasing 5 seals, which equals $1\frac{1}{2}$ piastre."

CHRISTMAS SEALS

On the date specified the Xmas seals duly appeared. The design, by a Sergeant W.F.Lait of the Royal Army Service Corps, depicts an Arab with a camel silhouetted against the Pyramids, and has "BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT" at the top, and "3 MILLIEMES" at the bottom and across the centre "XMAS SEAL".

The printing was carried out by Messrs. Walker & Co. Amalgamated Press, Cairo, and printed by lithography on unwatermarked paper with a rough perforation of 11 $\frac{1}{2}$. They were bound in booklets having 5 pages of 20 (5 by 4) with margins all around.

An imperforate *tete-beche* adopted design with an unadopted design are known to exist, printed on azure paper in black and azure grey paper in black. These are either found in pairs or in blocks of four.



The reverse of the *tete-beche* essays is signed by the designer Sergeant W.F.Lait in July 1945

The main differences are:

	Type 1.	Type 2.
Height	25.25 mm.	25.5 mm.
Width	20.75 mm.	20. mm.
Top inscription	No full stop	Full stop present
Sky	Clear	Slight clouding
Inner frame	Complete	Incomplete
Turban	Shading circular	Shaded heavy diagonal lines.
Ground	Shading blotchy on both sides of Camels back leg	Lined shading and none behind Camels back leg.
Lettering	Heavy and large.	Small and light.
Saddle Pack	Large and shaded.	Small with less shading.
Bedouin's Face	Dark.	Light.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

FIRST ISSUE (S.G.A3; H.8)

Was issued on November 26th 1932, black on azure paper, and the number printed was 41,857. This is also known on an azure grey paper. There is a double perforation variety known, 3mm. to the right of the first perforation on a pane of 20 as shown in the illustration.

SECOND ISSUE (S.G.A4; H.9)

Was issued on November 13th 1933, brown-lake on white paper, and the number printed was 53,786. This is known printed on toned paper. Misplaced perforations are also known on this issue.

THIRD ISSUE (S.G.A5; H.10)

Was issued on November 17th 1934, blue on white paper, and the number printed was 62,865. This is known printed on toned paper. The "Target Variety" is mostly found on this issue, these take the form of an uncoloured ring with a coloured centre on different parts of the camel. I had about half a dozen complete panes of this issue and I did not find the flaw constant. The reason for this could be due to grease on the plate during printing.

FOURTH ISSUE (S.G.A6; H.11)

Was issued on November 23rd 1935, orange-red on white paper, and the number printed was 101,100. This is known as the "1st Printing". It is also known printed on toned paper and in a red-orange shade. There is a "Target Variety" on Seal No.10 on every page from a book of 100 (5 pages in all). Out of 15 panes of 20, this is the only variety of this type that I have seen.

FOURTH ISSUE (S.G.A6a; H11a)

Owing to the bigger demand by the larger number of troops then in Egypt, a "2nd Printing" had to be made on December 19th 1935. This can be recognised by being a paler shade of red-orange and only 21,500 were printed, of which 12,075 were sold and 9,425 destroyed. As there was a slight delay in printing this 2nd Printing, and also because the last day for posting Xmas mail to the U.K. was the 18th December, a "Provisional" issue was made. This issue can easily be identified from the first printing as the paper is toned.

PROVISIONAL ISSUE (S.G.A11; H.12)

Was issued on December 16th 1935, and was done by using the rose carmine 1 piastre Letter Stamp (Fifth Issue) and overprinting and surcharging in black lettering "XMAS 1935 - 3 MILLIEMES" in two lines. There were 10,000 issued and 9,920 were sold and 80 were destroyed, which makes this Provisional the lowest number printed for any of the previous issues. They were put on sale at Headquarters, R.A.F. Cairo, Citadel, Cairo and Mersa Matruh. I have a block of four on a first day cover from Alexandria (Barrel cancellation) M.P.O.6 and it must be assumed that it was purchased in Cairo and flown to Alexandria to obtain a first day cancel.

This issue was occasioned by the sudden removal of troops to Mersa Matruh on the Western Desert to counteract the encroachment of the Italians from Tripoli in their Abyssinian campaign. The requirements of the troops at Mersa only account for a small portion of the issue, and many were sent to Cairo, before their use expired on December 31st 1935.

CHRISTMAS SEALS

PROVISIONAL ISSUE (continued)

There is a constant variety on this issue, a "Clipped 3" in the overprint "1935" on the 18th stamp. As the original 5th Issue were sold in booklets of 100, these were split up for overprinting and rebound again, that is why there are eight staple holes on the left hand margin. For a long time I believed that the overprinting was done in two operations, ten seals at a time being overprinted, and it was not until I found a pane of 20 with the first 10 seals overprinted at a completely different angle to the second 10, that I realised that my assumption was right. Since then, I have noticed other panes with slight differences between the first ten and the second ten. The pane illustrated in this book is a good example.

Proof sheet of 20 of the 3rd Issue blue on white paper



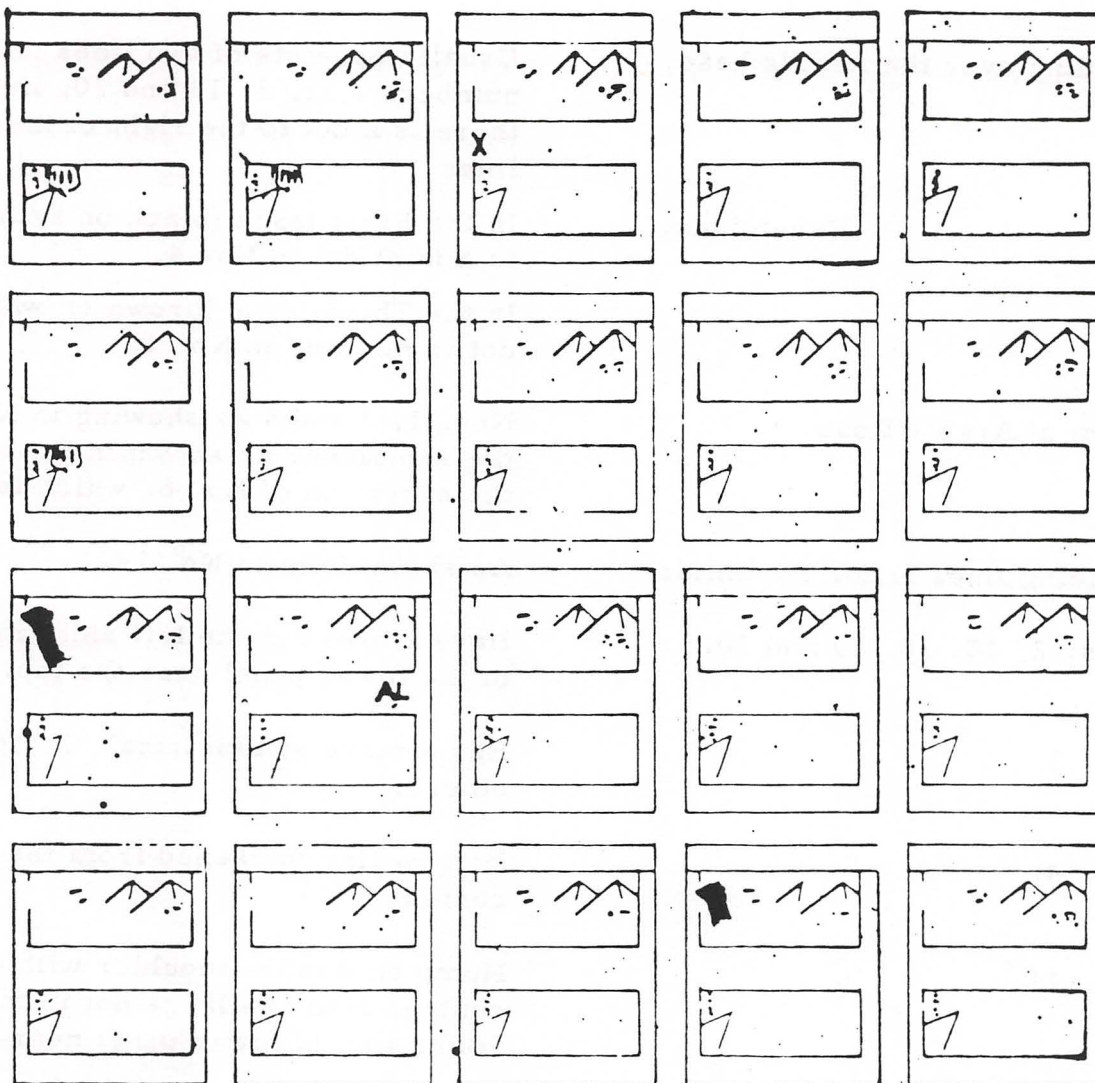
CHRISTMAS SEAL

VARIETIES FOUND ON THE XMAS SEALS

Shading over the Arab's head.	Usually consists of two lines only in numbers 1, 2, 3, 13 and 20, in addition there is a dot to the right of these two lines.
Exceptions.	In the First Issue (black on azure) there is a faint dot in No. 4. In the Third Issue (brown on white) the dot is missing in No. 1.
Hem of Arab's Robe.	Nos. 1, 3 and 4 as showing in No. 11, the remainder as shown in No. 2. with the exception of No. 6. which is as shown.
Shading lines under Pyramids.	As shown faint in No. 14.
Nos. 2, 10, 18, 19 and 20.	Have a break in the left side frame line of the lower panel near the top.
No. 3.	Has a more symmetrical "X" than the others.
No. 4.	Bottom line thickened from the right corner.
No. 11.	Hump on Arab's shoulder with dot in centre, also has large dot in the left side frame line of lower panel near the top.
No. 12.	Dot under right leg of "A" in "Seal".
No. 19.	Lump on top of camels head.
"Target variety".	This consists of a small white circle with a black dot in the centre. This appears on different parts of the camel but is not constant to any particular seal.

CHRISTMAS SEAL

VARIETIES FOUND ON THE XMAS SEALS

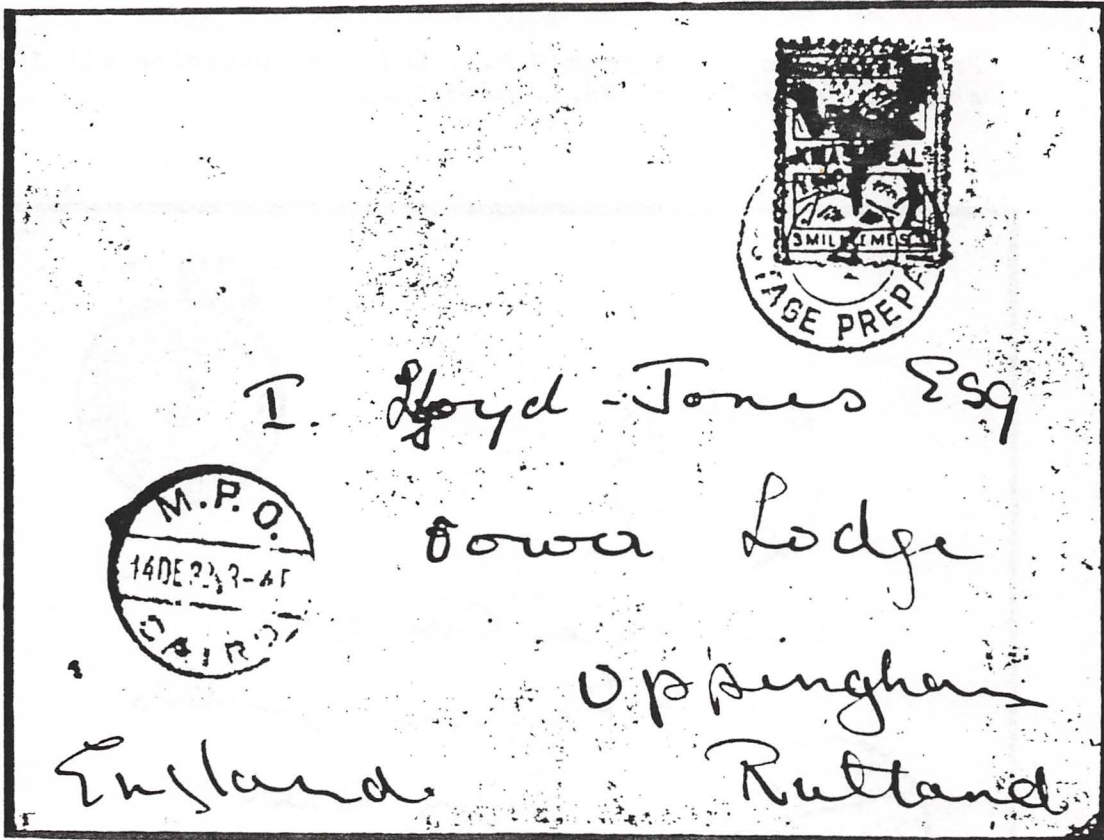


Sketch showing what the "Target Variety" looks like.



CHRISTMAS SEAL

1st Issue used on the front of an envelope from M.P.O. Cairo on December 14th 1932. It shows the Crown Cancel No.4.

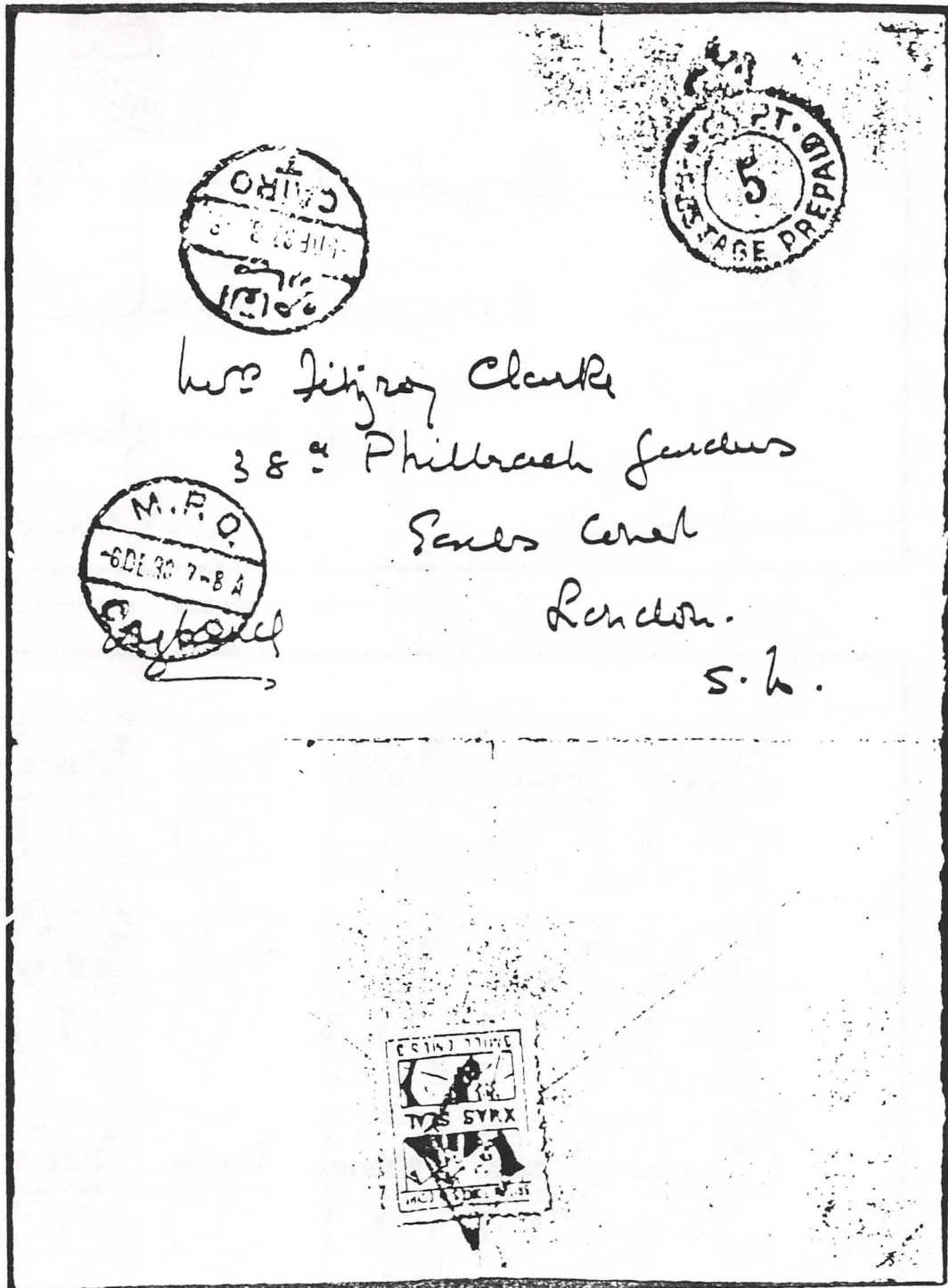


A pane of 20 of the 1st Issue with a double perforation down the first row of seals.



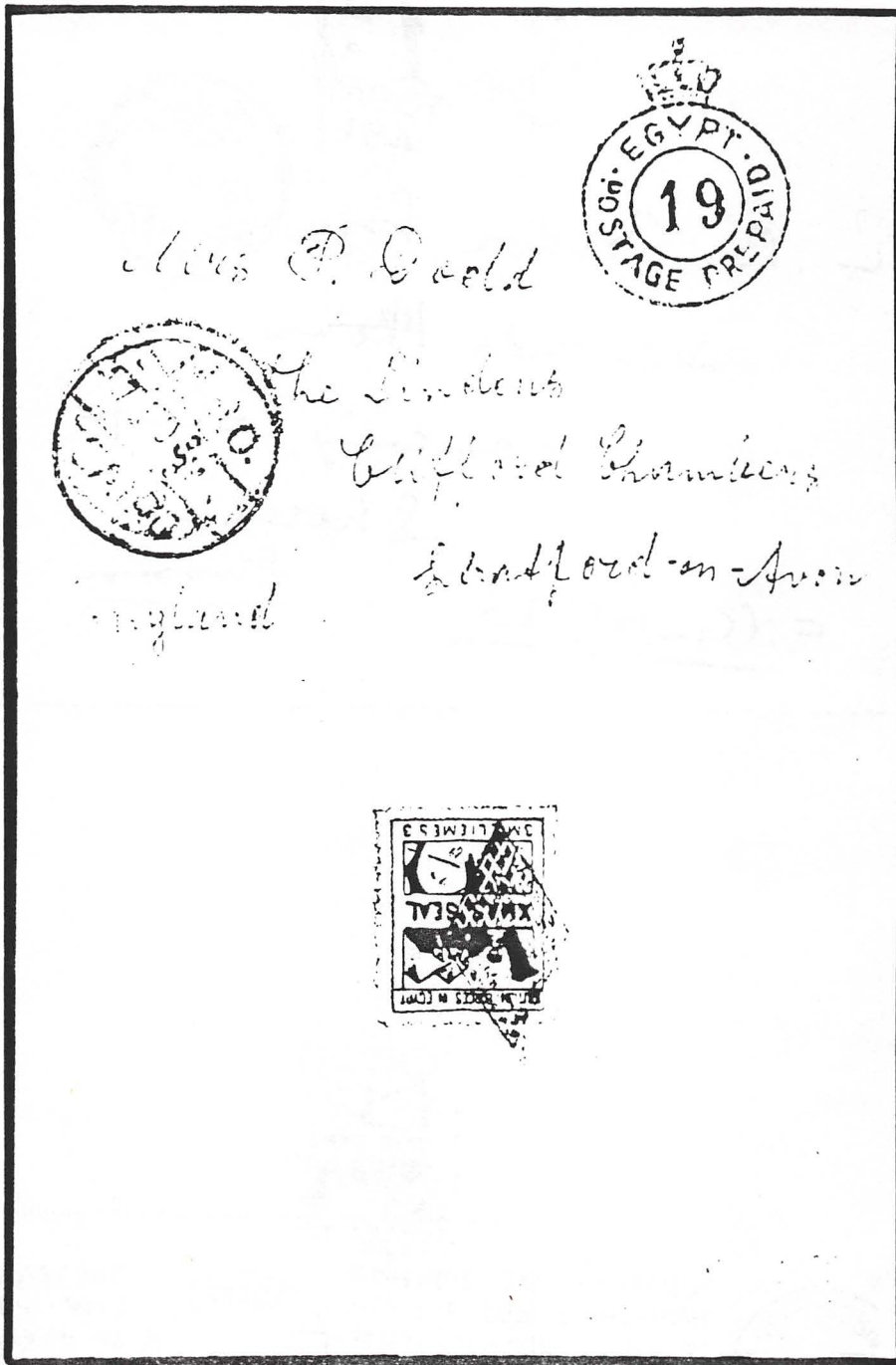
CHRISTMAS SEAL

2nd Issue Xmas Seal from M.P.O. Cairo on December 6th 1933
showing Crown Cancel No.5. handstamp.



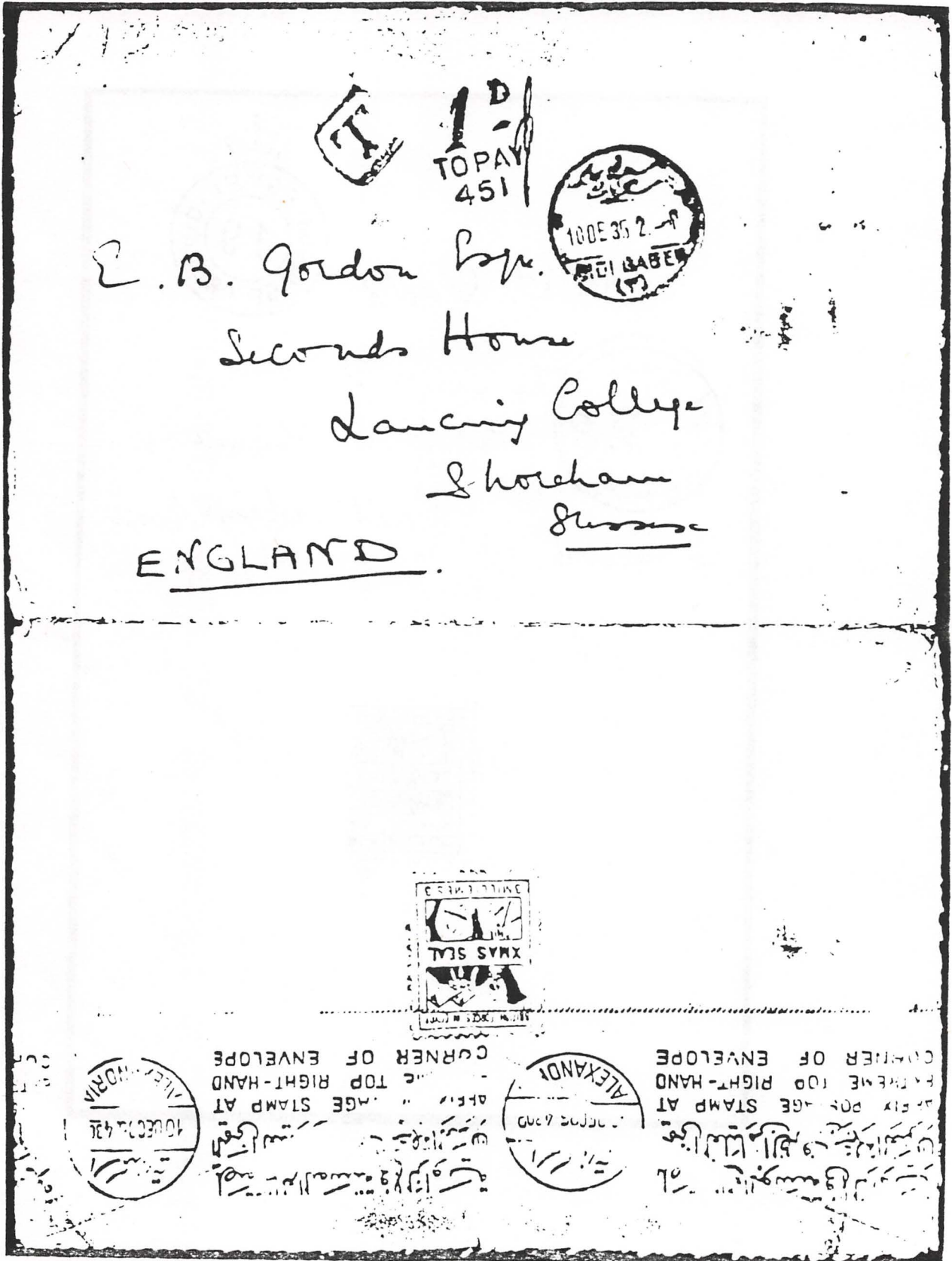
CHRISTMAS SEAL

3rd Issue Xmas Seal from M.P.O. Cairo on November 17th
1934 showing Crown Cancel No.19 handstamp.



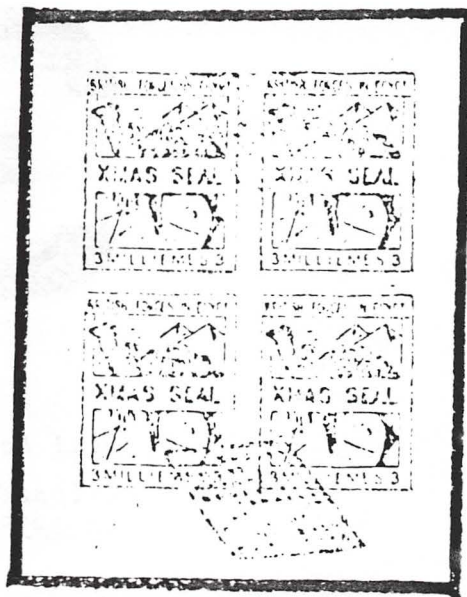
CHRISTMAS SEAL

4th Issue Xmas Seal posted in the Civil Post Office at Sidi Gaber on December 10th 1935 and therefore charged 1d TO PAY upon arrival in Shoreham.



CHRISTMAS SEAL

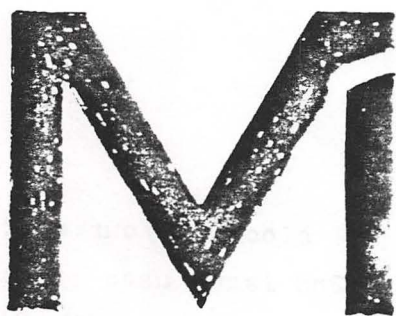
Booklet pane of 20 of the 4th Issue orange on white paper



A block of four of the
2nd Issue used from
Alexandria on the First
Day of Issue, December
17th 1935

PROVISIONAL ISSUE XMAS SEAL

Booklet pane of 20 of the Provisional Issue overprinted on the Fifth Series Letter Stamp.



Seal No.13

Break at the top of the right leg of the first "M" in Hillimes.



Seal No.18

Clipped "3" on 3 in 1935

CHRISTMAS SEAL

Provisional Issue block of four used from Alexandria on December 16th 1935 showing the Barrel Cancellation and Crown Cancel No.6.



Mr. L. Hamilton
31, Poynder's Rd.
Clapham Park
London, S.W.4.
England.



OPENING OF MILITARY POST OFFICE, ALEXANDRIA

Owing to the increased number of sailors, soldiers and airmen in the Alexandria area at the time of the Italian-Abyssinian Campaign, a Military Post Office was re-established in Alexandria on November 1st 1935 (until then M.P.O.'s were at Cairo and Moascar only).

Crown Cancel Nos. 3, 6 and 22 from H.P.O. Cairo, Nos. 15 and 16 from Ras-el-Tin and Nos. 17 and 18 from Mustapha Barracks were transferred to the M.P.O. Alexandria.

From this date, mail from Units in the area had to be taken to the M.P.O. for sorting and bagging. The mail bags were then sealed and handed over to the G.P.O. for despatch to the U.K.; but to lighten the work at the Alexandria M.P.O., Aboukir continued to cancel seals and frank letters after which the letters were taken to the M.P.O. for postmarking and despatch.

The arrangements between Aboukir Camp and the two local post offices (Aboukir and Mamura) remained in force, however, for when a mail, not sufficiently large to justify the expense of road transport to Alexandria, was collected in the camp, it was handed over to either of the two local offices for onward transmission with the civil mail by train. Such letters were either further postmarked at the G.P.O. Alexandria, and despatched to U.K., or handed over by the G.P.O. to the M.P.O. for inclusion in the latter's mail bags.

Letters posted at the Aboukir Camp after 1st November 1935, may, therefore be found postmarked as follows :-

- (a) Aboukir "Postage Prepaid" frank and Alexandria M.P.O. postmark.
- (b) Aboukir "Postage Prepaid" frank, Mamura and Alexandria Civil postmarks.
- (c) Aboukir "Postage Prepaid" frank, Aby Qir and Alexandria Civil postmarks.
- (d) Aboukir "Postage Prepaid" frank, Abu Qir Civil postmark and Alexandria M.P.O. postmark.

OPENING OF MILITARY POST OFFICE, MERSA MATRUH

A sub-military Post Office was opened in the camp at Mersa Matruh in November 1935, but until March 1st 1936 this sub-office possessed no "Retta" obliterator or "Crown Cancel" frank. Letters posted in the camp were simply collected by this sub-office and taken to the Alexandria M.P.O. for franking, postmarking etc. Prior to the opening of this sub-office, letters bearing seals are known to have passed through the Mersa Matruh civil post office. Such letters bear the "Mersa Matruh" civil postmark (and in some cases "Alexandria" (civil) in addition) but no "Retta" or "Crown Cancel" franks.

MILITARY POST OFFICES

M.P.O. ABBASSIA:

This was opened on November 1st 1932 and disbanded on February 1st 1935. As the M.P.O. Cairo was only two miles away it is thought that mail was date-stamped here owing to the fact that only one cover has been recorded from M.P.O. Abbassia.

M.P.O. ABU QIR: *Fig. 37*

This was for the use by the Royal Air Force Depot at Abu Qir and was opened on March 1st 1936 and closed on January 24th 1937, after which date letters were dealt with by the Abu Qir Civil post office.

M.P.O. ABU SUEIR: *Fig. 38*

This was situated at the Royal Air Force No. 4 Flying Training School and was opened on March 1st 1936 and closed on December 1st 1936. Some mail was routed through the Abu Sueir Civil post office.

M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA: *Figs. 39, 40, 41, 42*

This was re-opened on November 1st 1935 and it was here that the "barrel" datestamp was used, until its closure on January 24th 1937 when mail was then routed through the Egyptian Civil post office.

M.P.O. CAIRO: *Figs. 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49*

A Military Post Office was opened in Cairo in 1897 and during the First World War the Base Army Post Office was there, so when the Postal Concession commenced in 1932 this was the only M.P.O. already opened.

This Post Office served the Royal Air Force units at Helouan and Heliopolis, the Cavalry Brigade areas and Headquarters Middle East.

M.P.O. EL DABA: *Fig. 50*

The date of opening this Post Office is not known, as it was a small village about 100 miles from Alexandria and only one cover has been recorded.

M.P.O. MERSA MATRUH: *Figs. 51, 52, 53, 54*

This was opened on March 1st 1936 and closed on October 30th 1936. It was re-opened in 1938 and the spelling was changed to MARSА MATRUH.

M.P.O. MOASCAR: *Fig. 55*

This was opened on November 1st 1932 and was used by the Army in Moascar and the Royal Air Force in Ismailia. During 1939 letters have been known to have been routed through the Alexandria Civil post office.

M.P.O. PORT SAID: *Fig. 56*

This was opened on March 1st 1936 and was at Navy House until its closure on January 24th 1937. It was used by naval and military personnel and very few covers have been recorded.

ARMY POST STAMPS

During the five years of their existence they were used by many of the British Commonwealth Forces serving in Egypt which was not the original plan for them, as they were only intended for letters to the United Kingdom and Ireland, including the Irish Free State. The Second World War, of course, accounted for their use by the Allies and now these many covers and postmarks have become an important part of Military Postal History, and a few examples of the postmarks to be found on these stamps are illustrated.

On March 1st 1936, there was a big change in the regulations as set out in the new Postal Concession. This Official Notice was exhibited at all the N.A.A.F.I. Institutes in Egypt and read as follows :-

"The use of the present letter stamp which is sold at all N.A.A.F.I. Institutes in connection with the Postal Concession for the British Forces in Egypt will be discontinued with effect from March 1st 1936.

On that date a special postage stamp issued by the Egyptian Postal Administration with the effigy of H.M. King Faud and marked "Army Post" will be placed on sale at all N.A.A.F.I. Institutes.

These special stamps will cost 1 Piastre, the same as the letter stamp now used, and the only difference will be that they will be placed on the top right-hand corner of an envelope on the front, the same as an ordinary postage stamp.

Letters bearing these stamps must continue to be posted in Military or Royal Air Force post boxes, and should not be placed in Egyptian post boxes.

Any member of the Forces in possession of an excessive number of the letter stamps now in use (red) may forward them to the Camp Commandant, Headquarters, B.T.E. provided they are not mutilated and are in good condition, up to the 28th February 1936, when he will be refunded the face value thereof should he so desire.

In order to cover those who have only a few of the present letter stamps, i. e. not worth commutation, they will be accepted in Military Post Offices as stamps on letters up to and including the 15th March 1936. After that date they will cease to be of postal value and any letter bearing the present stamp will be taxed on arrival in the United Kingdom or Ireland.

The use of the new stamp is covered by the same conditions as apply at present to the letter stamp, i. e. they can only be used for the postage of letters to the United Kingdom and Ireland, including the Irish Free State and must not be used on letters to any colony, possession or foreign country, or for air mail, registered letters or parcels."

ARMY POST STAMPS

There were two issues of these stamps; the first one was known as the *LARGE ARMY STAMP* (S.G.A12;H.14 and S.G.13; H.15) the second one was the *SMALL ARMY STAMP* (S.G.14;H.16 and S.G.15; H.17).

THE LARGE ARMY STAMPS were issued on March 1st 1936 and bore the head of King Faud in an oval frame with the Army Post written in English on the left-hand side of the stamp, and in Arabic on the right-hand side, with the value also bilingual, in the lower corner. It was a 10 milliemes value and printed in carmine by the Survey Dept. in Cairo on watermarked paper (Royal Monogram) with a perforation of $13\frac{1}{2}$ by 14 with the control numbers A/36, A/38; A/38 A/39, A/38 A/39 B/39.

Under the following official notice dated the 13th November 1936, a special 3 milliemes value was introduced on the 1st December 1936. This stamp similar in all respects to the 10 milliemes value except in colour, which is green. There was only one printing of this issue, and that was of 500,000 with a control number A/36. There are two shades for every plate, pale carmine and deep carmine (H.15a) for the 10 mils. and green and dark green (H.14a) for the 3 mils.

"From the 1st December 1936 a special 3 milliemes Army Postal stamp will be on sale at all N.A.A.F.I. This stamp will remain on sale until 15th February 1937.

During the period mentioned the stamp may be used for the transit of Xmas and New Year cards on the understanding that the envelopes must be open, i. e. the flap tucked inside and not stuck down.

The letters must be posted in Military post boxes and not in Egyptian post boxes. If they are posted in any but Military Post boxes the stamp will be of no value.

The stamp is valued at 3 milliemes and therefore there may be slight difficulties with regard to change in Institutes, but if they are purchased in quantities of five the change difficulty does not arise.

These stamps may only be used for the transit of Xmas and New Year cards to the United Kingdom and Ireland, including the Irish Free State. They cannot be used for foreign countries or for the colonies or British possessions."

These were only on sale from December 1st 1936 until February 15th 1937, when they were withdrawn until December 1937. They were issued again for the festive period and were taken off sale during February 1938 and put aside until December 1938 when they appeared again until February 1939. Owing to the advent of War, they appeared in October 1939 and as the Small Army Stamps were issued too late for that year, the King Faud issues were on sale until February 1940. Although the King Farouk stamps were issued at the end of October 1940, some unit M.P.O.'s still sold the previous stamps and I have a cover dated November 3rd 1940 from the New Zealand F.P.O.1 sent to Fiji, which is probably the only recorded cover to that country.

Except for the fact that apparently one or two sheets of the 10 mils. were smeared when wet, no varieties have been recorded. With regards to the 3 mils. value, the only variety is a large white dot between the "P" and "O" of Post on the second stamp on the bottom row (H.14c) I have examined complete sheets of 100 of these stamps and can find nothing worth reporting. I have noticed that both these values have been printed on white and toned paper. The 10 mils. value is known with an inverted watermark (H.15b).

The M.P.O. at Mersa Matruh was closed on October 30th 1936, and in January 1937, those at Alexandria and Aboukir were closed in accordance with the following extracts from instructions issued on January 22nd 1937 :-

1. The Military Post Office at Alexandria will be closed after duty on Sunday, 24th January 1937.
2. The following arrangements will come into force with effect from Monday 25th January 1937:-
 - (a) Mustapha Barracks.

Sidi Gabr post office will deal with all transactions for Mustapha but it will be necessary for a postal N.C.O. from Mustapha to collect correspondence from that post office and deliver it to the various details in Mustapha Barracks, and to deliver to Sidi Gabr post office all out-going correspondence for despatch by post. He will also be responsible for the delivery of registered letters received by him from Sidi Gabr post office.
 - (b) Ras-el-Tin.

The civil post office at Ras-el-Tin will deal entirely with the Hospital and R.A.M.C. at Ras-el-Tin, except that they will not deliver to or collect from the Unit. This must be done by an orderly from Ras-el-Tin.
 - (c) Kom-el-Dik and Main Guard.

Kom-el-Dik is not far from the G.P.O. at Alexandria and an orderly from Kom-el-Dik will attend at the G.P.O. each day for the collection of incoming and handing over of outgoing correspondence. He will also whilst there look at any letters which the G.P.O. are unable to deal with by reason of insufficiency of address etc., and so obviate the retention of any military staff at the G.P.O.
 - (d) Aboukir.

All correspondence for the R.A.F. at Aboukir will be dealt with by the civil post office at that place.
For the present the civil post office at Mamoura will not be used for any correspondence in or out.
An orderly from the R.A.F. at Aboukir must collect and deliver from and to the civil post office at Aboukir, as in the other cases referred to above.
3. Cancellation of Army postage stamps on outgoing letters will be carried out by the four civilian post offices referred to in paragraph 2. Correspondence bearing Army postage stamps must continue to be posted in military post boxes and must be handed in to the civil post office by one of the orderlies referred to in paragraph 2. They will not be accepted as postage paid letters if posted in civil post boxes. "

Soon after the closing down of the Military Post Offices in Alexandria and Aboukir, several members of H.M. Forces in these areas complained that letters posted by them (in military post boxes) to relatives and friends in the U.K. were taxed 4d. on delivery.

Many recipients of such letters communicated with the Post Office concerned, but invariably received replies from the Divisional Controller's Office, London as follows :-

"Sir,

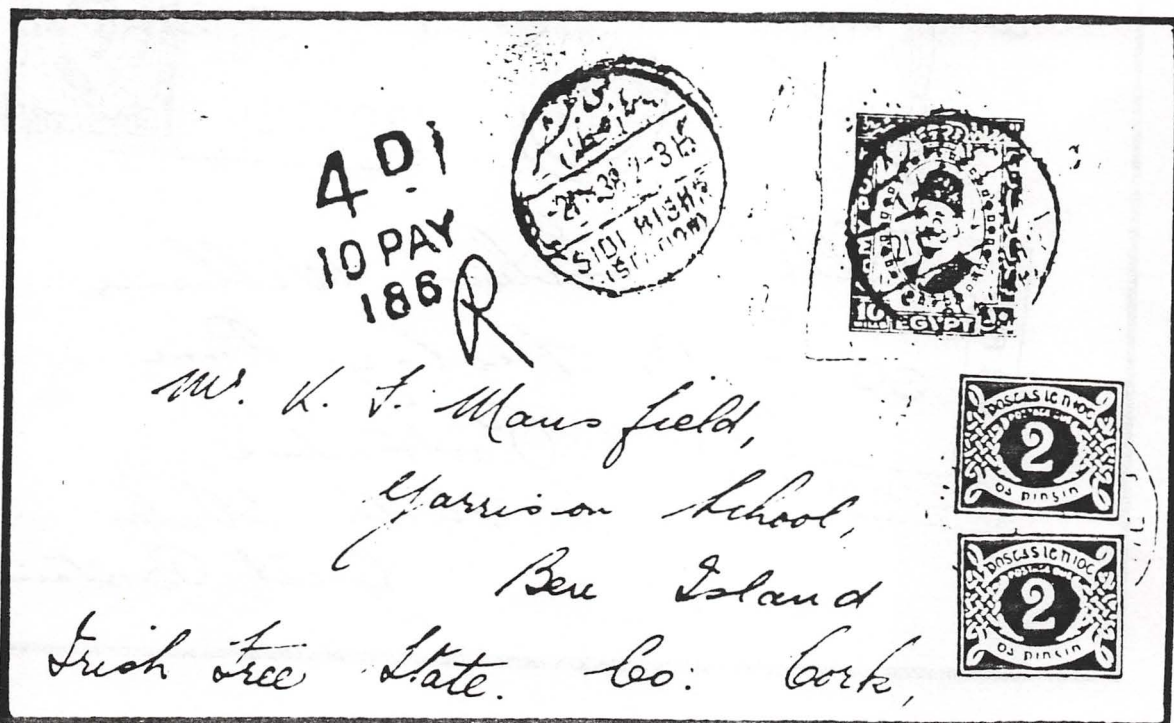
With reference to your enquiry of the at the post office, I should explain that letters posted by H.M. Forces in Egypt and bearing the special 10 mill. Army Post stamps, must be posted in Regimental post boxes, from which they are collected and dealt with by the British Military authorities.

The letter of which the cover is enclosed, was posted in a civil post box, as it did not bear an ordinary postage stamp issued by the Egyptian Postal Authorities, was taxed by the Egyptian Post Office as unpaid. It was accordingly properly charged 4d. representing double the deficient postage.

Yours faithfully,

..... Divisional Controller "

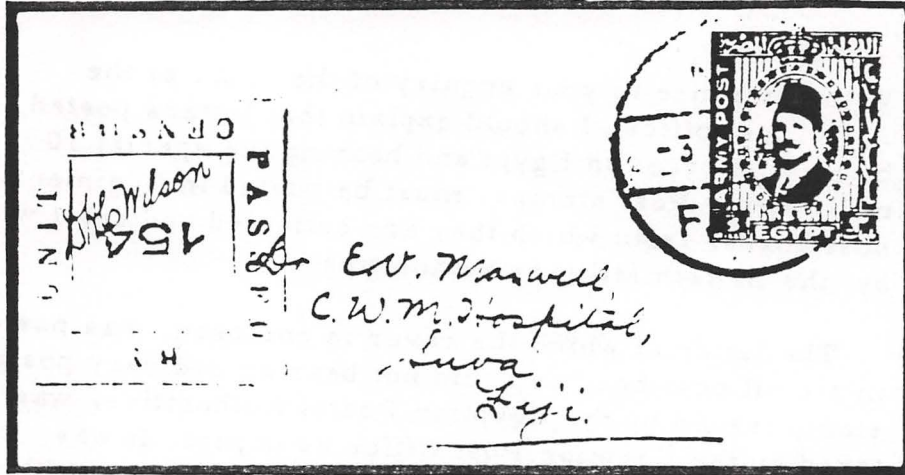
The complaints became so numerous that the matter was represented through British Military Headquarters in Egypt and the War Office in London, to the British G.P.O., who eventually replied to the effect that the irregular taxation of postal concession letters from Egypt had ceased and that amount which had been irregularly paid would now be refunded.



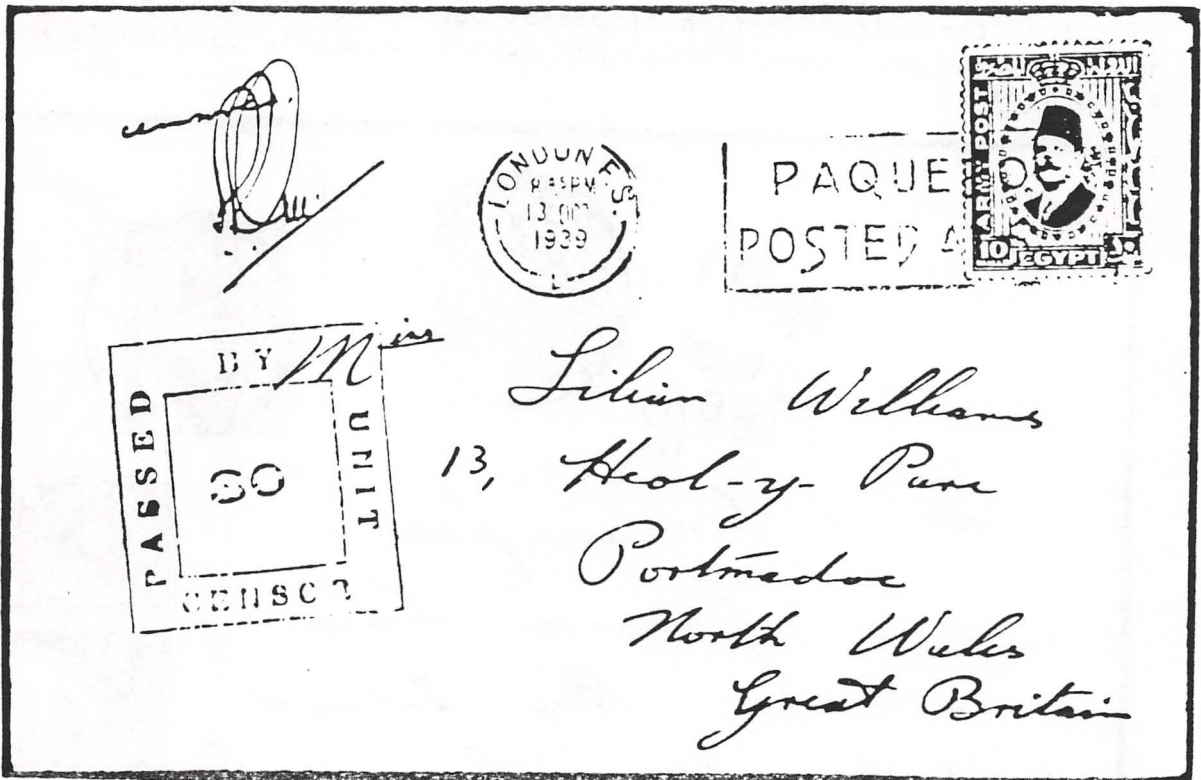
10 mills Army Post stamp posted at the Civil Post office in Sidi Bishr and showing the 4d TO PAY mark upon arrival in the Irish Free State on March 2nd 1938.

LARGE ARMY POST STAMP

3 mills Army Post stamp used by a member of the New Zealand forces using N.Z. F.P.O.1. on November 3rd 1940 to Fiji.

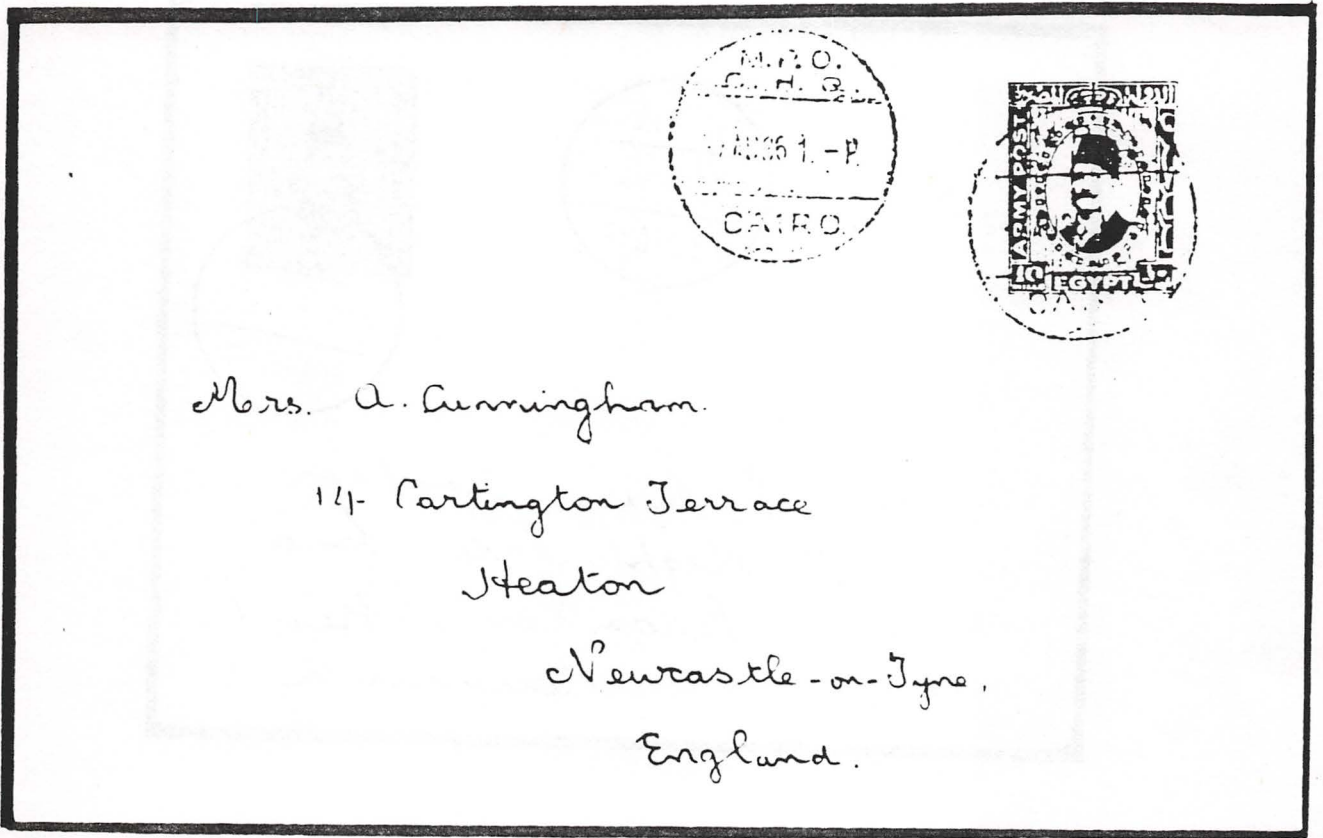


10 mills Army Post stamp cancelled with the unusual use of the PAQUEBOT POSTED AT SEA cachet on October 13th 1939.

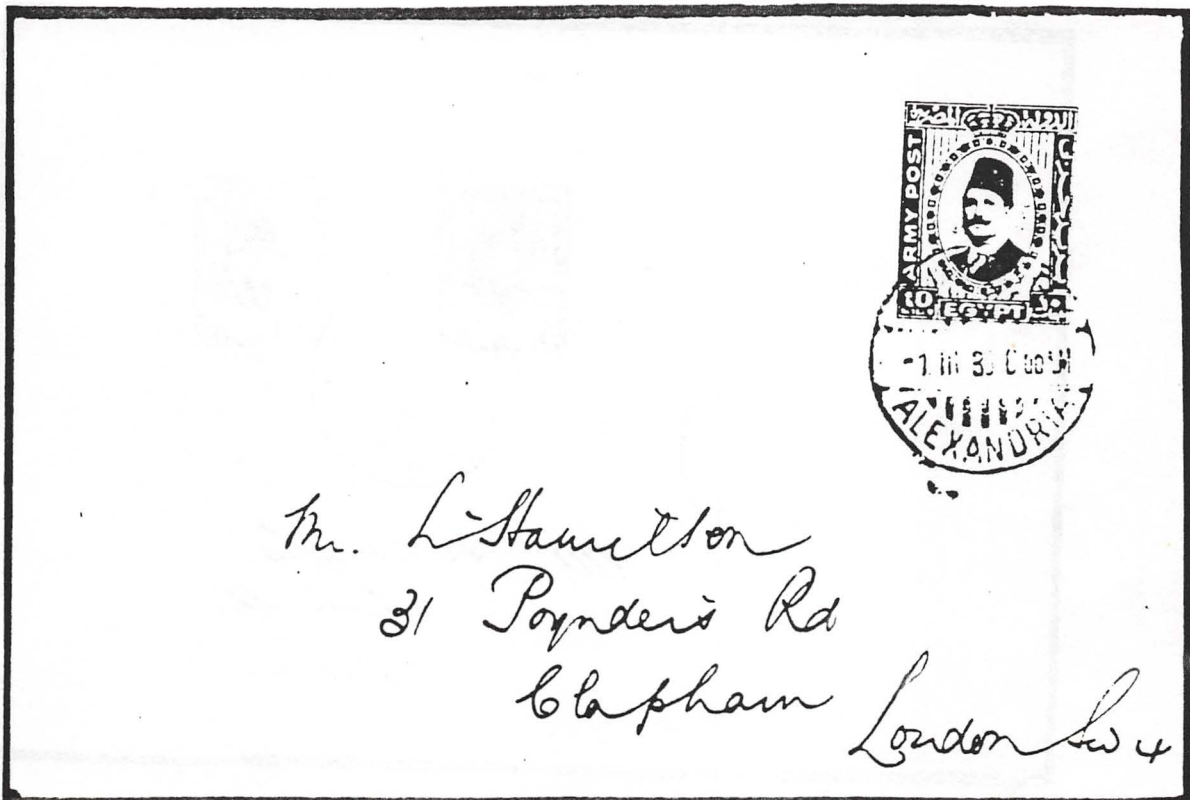


LARGE ARMY POST STAMP

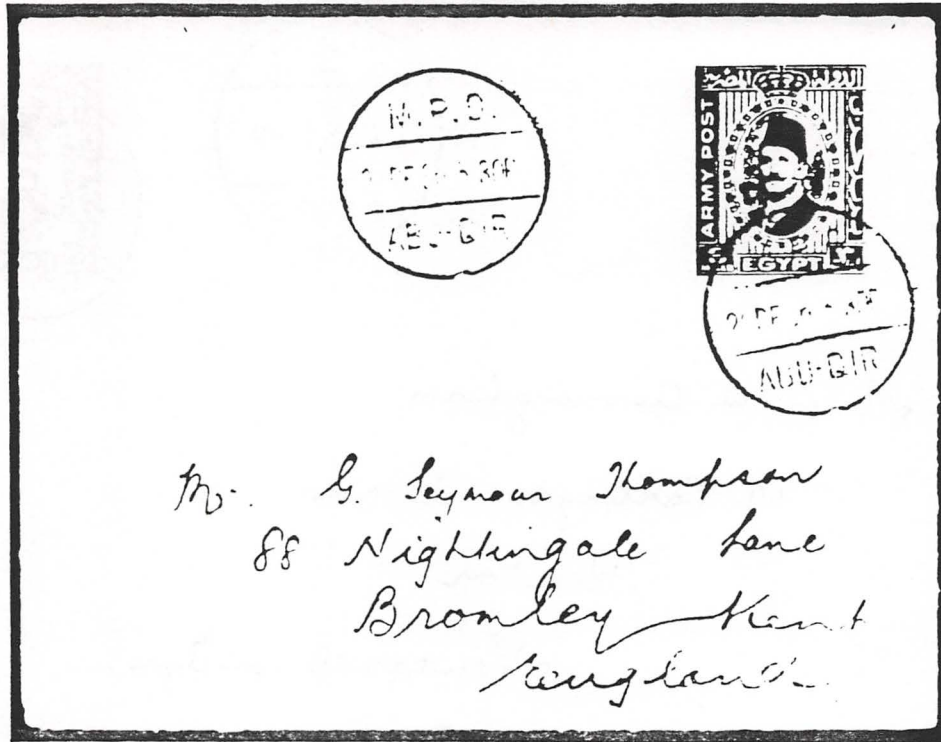
10 mills Army Post stamp showing the M.P.O. G.H.Q. handstamp used in red ink from Cairo on August 7th 1936.



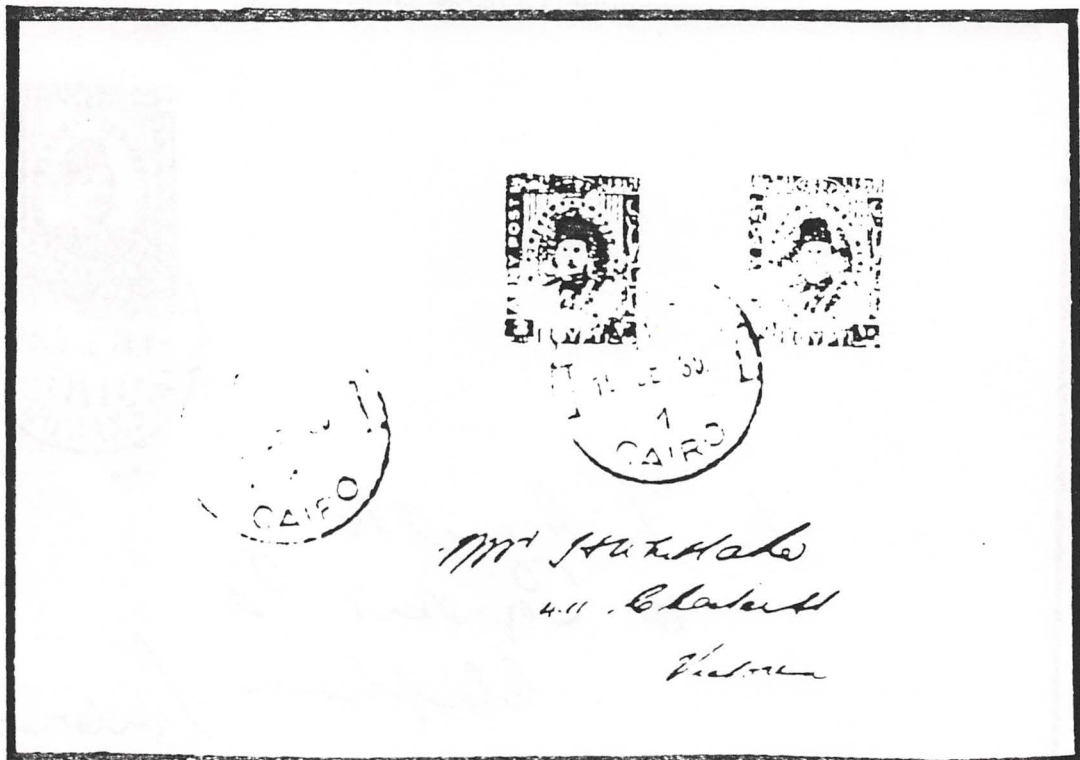
10 mills Army Seal from Alexandria on March 1st 1936 showing the "Barrel" handstamp.



3 Mils. Large Army stamp from M.P.O. Abu-Qir on December 20th 1936



First Day of Issue of the 3 mils. and 10 mils.
Small Army Post stamp from Cairo on December
16th 1936 to Victoria, Australia.



ARMY POST STAMPS

THE SMALL ARMY STAMPS were issued on December 16th 1939, and were a smaller edition of the previous issue, the only difference being that the head of King Farouk replaced that of King Fuad.

They were printed by the Survey Dept. in Cairo on watermarked paper, with a perforation of $13\frac{1}{2}$ and the values were also 10 milliemes for the ordinary rate and 3 milliemes for the Christmas card rate. The control numbers for these issues were A/39; A/39 A/40 for the 3 milliemes and A/39; A/39 A/40 and B/40 for the 10 milliemes. The first two printings of the 10 milliemes are known in a pale carmine and a deep carmine (H.17a). This value can also be found with an inverted watermark (H.17b).

As mentioned previously, the 3 mils. was issued too late for the troops to use on their 1939 Christmas mail overseas, so it was withheld until the middle of October 1940. By this time the troops were despatching their Christmas cards, possibly early in December, the Postal Concession was cancelled, as all mail from the Forces was carried free. Only those troops who were extra early in sending mail overseas had use for these stamps and my cover dated October 23rd 1940 is the earliest that I have seen, it is the only known one to Scotland and the second known from F.P.O.173 which was at the R.A.F. Station, Heliopolis. The one shown on the next page is quite interesting as the envelope flap is stuck down and the message written on the back. It was sent from one Army Chaplain to another at the D.A.D.O. & L.H.Q. Canal Base & L of C Area at the local postcard rate of 3 milliemes hence the very late usage of this stamp, 23rd December 1940.

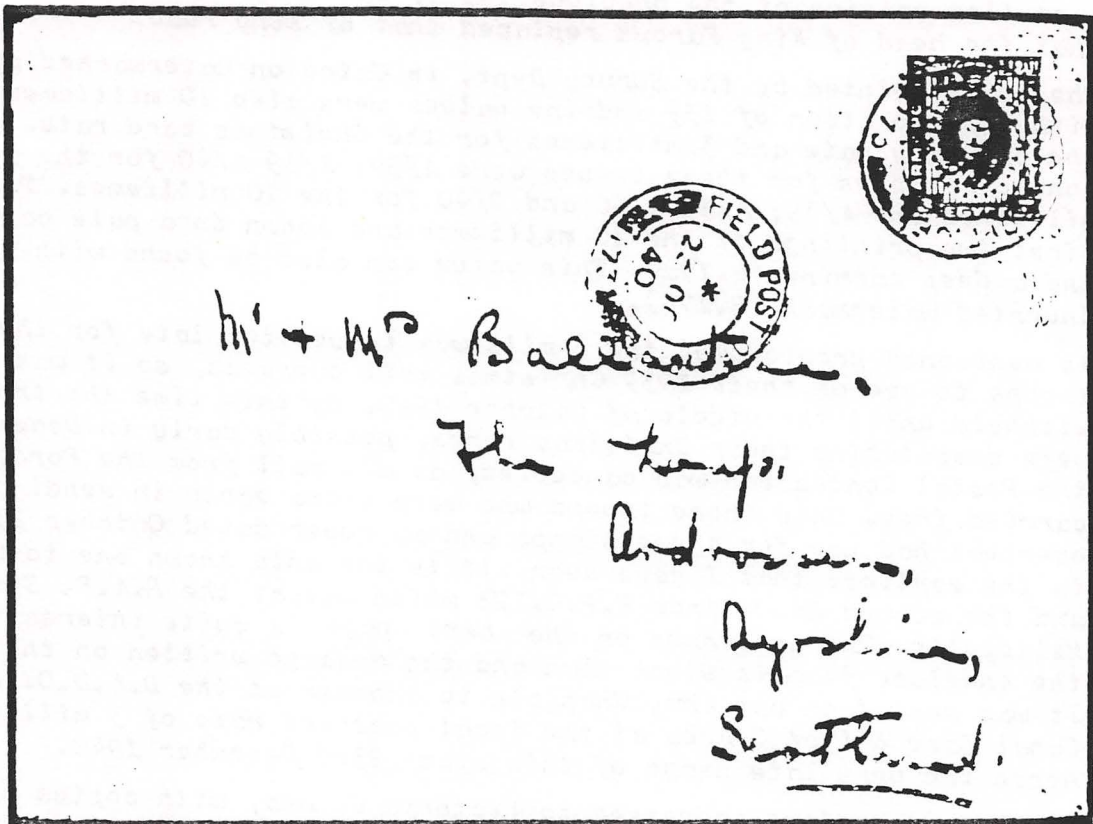
I have an envelope addressed to Victoria Canada, with copies of the 3 milliemes and 10 millieme posted from the Civil P.O. in Cairo on the first day of issue, 16th December 1939. This is viewed with suspicion, but never the less, is still a unique item.

These stamps are quite common mint, and low priced, used copies genuinely postmarked are a little more expensive. A large number cancelled to order are often offered, these have a Cairo (Civil) postmark and all dated October 1945 and are of course quite worthless. Covers used during the correct period, from the 23rd October to the end of November 1940 and for the purpose intended are amongst the rarities of Egypt. I doubt whether there are more than 12 recorded.

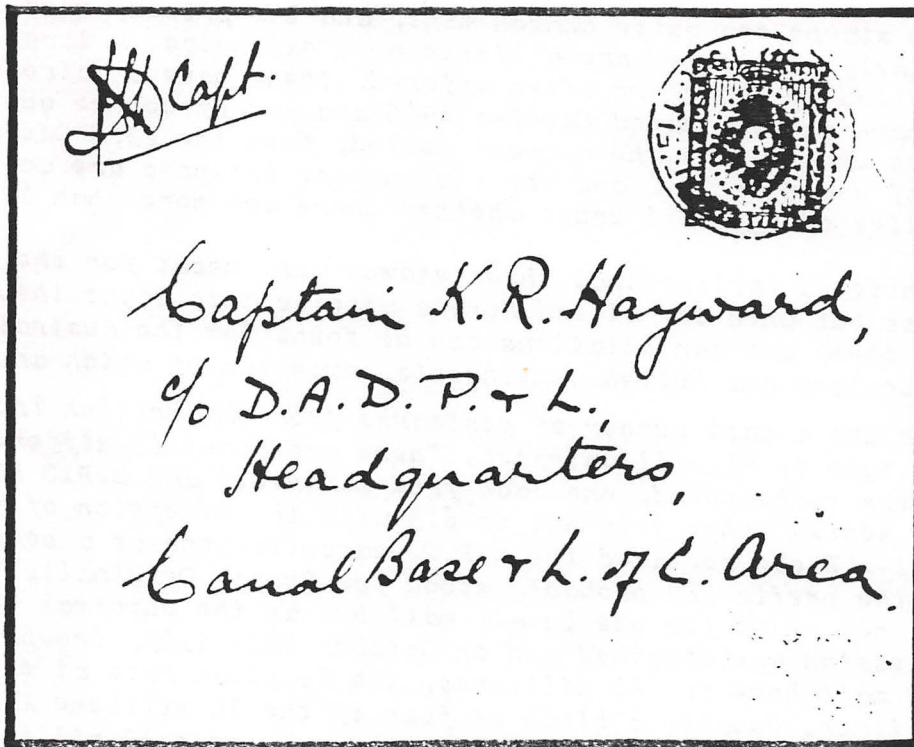
I mentioned earlier that these stamps were meant for the British Troops but when the Allied Forces were sent to Egypt they of course used them, and cancellations can be found from the Australians, Indian, New Zealand and Polish contingents, examples of which are shown.

There are a vast number of postmarks from the British Troops, one of each type is also illustrated. There are about 33 different F.P.O. numbers to be found, one each from B.A.P.O.4 and B.P.O E602. The M.P.O. E600 series range from 601 to 615 with the exception of numbers 612 to 614. These replaced the M.P.O. cancellations as a security measure, and the prefix "E" probably stood for Egypt. Originally these stamps were not meant for use by air mail but at the outbreak of war a concession was obtained and on October 28th 1939, troops were able to send mail home for 40 milliemes, the Egyptian rate at the time was 60 milliemes. Usually a block of four of the 10 millieme Army Stamp were used, sometimes a 10 millieme Army Stamp and a 30 millieme Egyptian definitive have been used, these are of course much harder to find.

SMALL ARMY POST STAMP



3 mills Army Post stamp sent from F.P.O. 173 at R.A.F. Station Ismailia on October 23rd 1940



3 mills Army Post stamp sent from F.P.O. 170 at R.A.F. Station Heliopolis on December 24rd 1940

The cancellations of the Commonwealth Forces make interesting study, there were a great many in use during their service in Egypt but as I am only interested in those cancelling Army Post stamps, I do not list anything in use after 1941.

I realize that there are many postmarks not shown amongst my illustrations, this is not because I am not aware of them but I have only ever collected those covers with the Army Post Stamps on them, and of course, those postmarks in use after the Concession ended are of no interest to me.

The Indian Forces were in Egypt just before the outbreak of the Second World War and there are 4 F.P.O. cancellations to be obtained during the period covered by this book.

FPO No.13. 7 Infantry Brigade	Meena Camp	October-November 1940
	Barrush	November-December 1940
FPO No.17. 4 Infantry Brigade	Meena Camp	July-August 1939
	Delta	October-December 1940
FPO No.19.11 Infantry Brigade	Canal Zone	August 1939
	Meena Camp	October 1939
	Western Desert	July-December 1940
FPO No.25. 9 Infantry Brigade	Meena Camp	October-May 1940
	El Daba	May-July 1940
	Delta	July-August 1940
	Bagqush	August-December 1940
	Delta	December-January 1941

The Australian Forces arrived in Egypt at the beginning of 1940 and used these stamps until February 8th 1941, when they had to use Australian stamps. Their own cancellations were very distinctive apart from the F.P.O. E609 which they borrowed from the British Army for use at Aust.F.P.O.42 and was taken back to Australia in 1942. The Australian Force Postal Unit borrowed the British F.P.O.22 Cancellor in November 1940 and returned it in October 1943.

I have shown cancellations of the 1st BGE and 2nd BDE but there are two inscribed 3rd BDE, one having P.3 and the other M.3 at the bottom.

The Australians had five date stamps per division, one for each brigade and two for Division with the wording "DIV H.Q." and "DIV SUPPLY".

There were three Divisions serving in Egypt, the 6th 7th and 9th with nine Brigades, 16th 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 24th, 25th and 26th. Taking the first Division, the 16th Brigade used the 1st BGE H.Q. P.O.M.1; the 17th Brigade used the 2nd BDE H.Q.P.O.M.2 and the 18th Brigade used the 3rd BDE H.Q.P.O. W.3.

The Postal rates for the Australian Forces was the same as for the British troops, letters going by surface mail was 10 mills. for 20 grammes and the airmail postage was 40 mills. for 10 grammes, 70 mills. for 20 grammes and 110 mills. for 30 grammes. The special Christmas card rate of 3 mills. was also in use, but covers with this stamp to Australia are very rare.

The New Zealand Forces reached Egypt in January 1940 and their date stamps were varied, a few of which are illustrated. Once again, only those used during the period I collect, have been shown. N.Z. F.P.O.1 and N.Z. Army Base Post Office are the two main ones. The others shown are the K.W.; K.W.1 and K.W.2 series.

To complete the different types of cancellations that can be found are those from the Polish Forces and they used the POCZTA POLOWA 111 cancellation, which is quite rare on the Army Post stamps.

Retta cancellations were used on Naval mail and I also have a cover dated September 13th 1939 with a "Paquebot Posted at Sea" handstamp which is the only one that I have seen.

The Egypt Postage Prepaid cancel is also found on these stamps, this handstamp was introduced when the Military Postal concession ended on April 30th 1941, thus bringing an end to the Army Post stamps.

Many Civil cancellations are also known and make an interesting study, a few of these are also shown amongst the 87 different cancellations that I have. With the cancellation of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty on October 16th 1951, it was stated that these stamps would no longer be used by the British Troops, so the remainders were burnt, 9,000,000 of the larger format and 600,000 of the smaller format, making a total face value of E£91,800. To say these stamps would not be needed by the British Forces seems strange, as their use ceased in April 1941 and none have been used during the 10 years prior to their destruction. The only conclusion I can arrive at, is the fact that their face value must have had some bearing on the Egyptian Accounting system and could not be written off until the Treaty ceased.

Below, I give a list of the many F.P.O. numbers to be found, but as I am only concerned with those cancelling Army Post stamps, I realise that this list is in no means complete :

F.P.O.		F.P.O.	
169	19th General Hospital	170	R.A.F. Heliopolis
171	R.A.F. Heliopolis	172	Alexandria
173	Ismailia	186	Mustapha Barracks
187	Alexandria	188	Abbassia
189		190	G.H.Q. Cairo
191	Mersa Matruh	198	Moascar
201	3rd Bn. Coldstream Guards	242	Moascar
244		245	Cairo
246	Moascar	368	2nd Armoured Division
372	2nd Armoured Division	445	Australian Force

The remaining were used during the period, but I have yet to obtain them on these stamps: 165, 166, 168, 174, 177, 196, 197, 199, 220, 221, 243, 308 and 371.

The E.600 Series are as follows :

M.P.O. E 601	Cairo	M.P.O. E 602	Alexandria
B.P.O. E 602	Alexandria	M.P.O. E 603	Suez
M.P.O. E 604	Port Said (1st Durham L.I.)		
F.P.O. E 605	Alexandria	F.P.O. E 606	Suez
M.P.O. E 607	Sidi Gaber	M.P.O. E 608	Suez Canal
M.P.O. E 610	Port Tewfik	F.P.O. E 615	Baqush

Not all the numbers were used but the remaining two are E 609 Hill 69 and E 611 Julius.

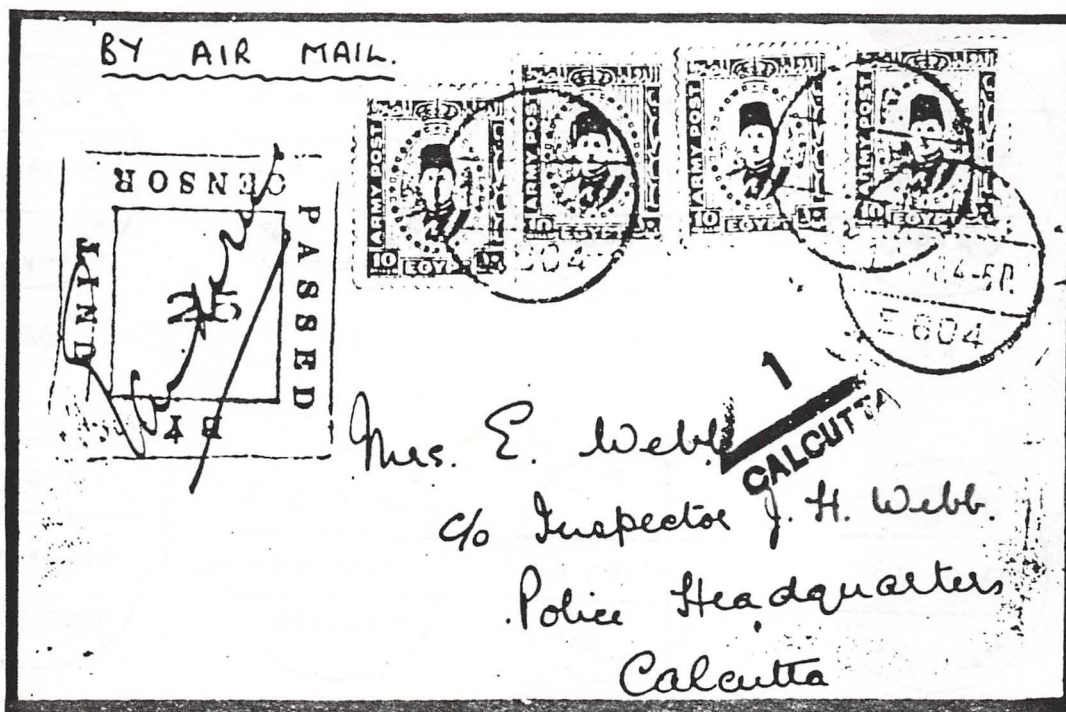
ARMY POST STAMPS

Cancellations used by the British and Commonwealth Forces during 1936 to 1941:

- 57 Field Post Office
- 58 Base Army Post Office, Cairo
- 59 E 600 Series
- 60 do.
- 61 do.
- 62 do.
- 63 do.
- 64 do.
- 65 Egypt Postage Prepaid
- 66 Poczta Polowa 111 - Polish Forces
- 67 Indian Forces - Base Post Office
- 68 Indian Forces
- 69 New Zealand Forces
- 70 do.
- 71 do.
- 72 do.
- 73 do. Base Post Office
- 74 Australian Forces 6th Aust.Div. 16th Bde.
- 75 do. do. 17th Bde.
- 76 do. do. 19th Bde.
- 77 do. Army Base P.O.Cairo.
- 78 do. 6th Aust.Div. Supply H.Q.
- 79 do. do. Div. H.Q.

Civil Cancellations to be found on the Army Post Stamps :

- 80 Abu Qir
- 81 Cairo 3
- 82 Port Said H
- 83 Sidi Bishr (Station)
- 84 Sidi Gaber (Traffic)
- 85 Sidi Gaber
- 86 Alexandria A
- 87 Alexandria 1



N.P.O. E.604 sent from PortSaid on March 3rd 1940

Cancellations to be found on the Army Post Stamps between 1936 and 1941



37



38



39



40



41



42



43



44



45



46



47



48



49



50



51



52



53



54



55



56

Cancellations used by the British & Commonwealth Forces during 1936 to 1941



57



58



59



60



61



62



63



64



65



66



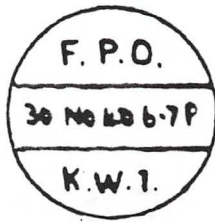
67



68



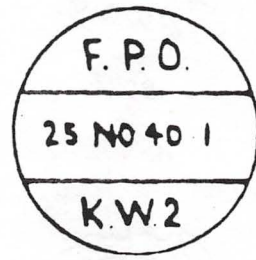
69



70



71



72

Cancellations used by the British & Commonwealth Forces during 1936 to 1941



73



74



75



76



77



78



79

Civil cancellations to be found on the Army Post Stamps



80



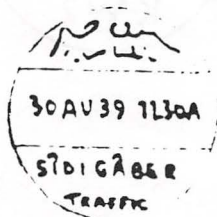
81



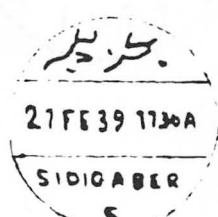
82



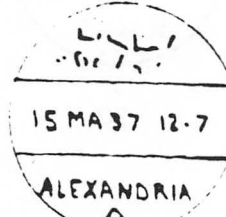
83



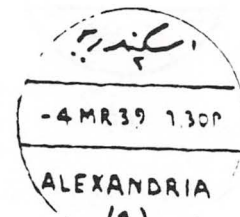
84



85



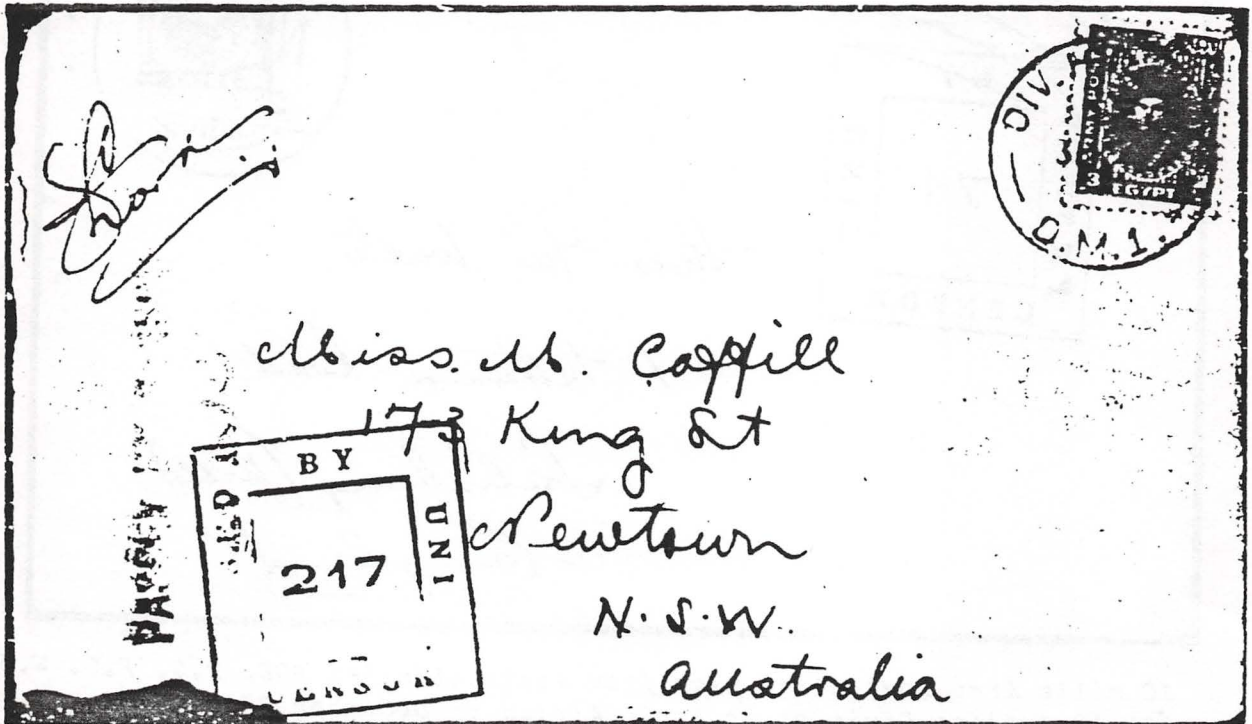
86



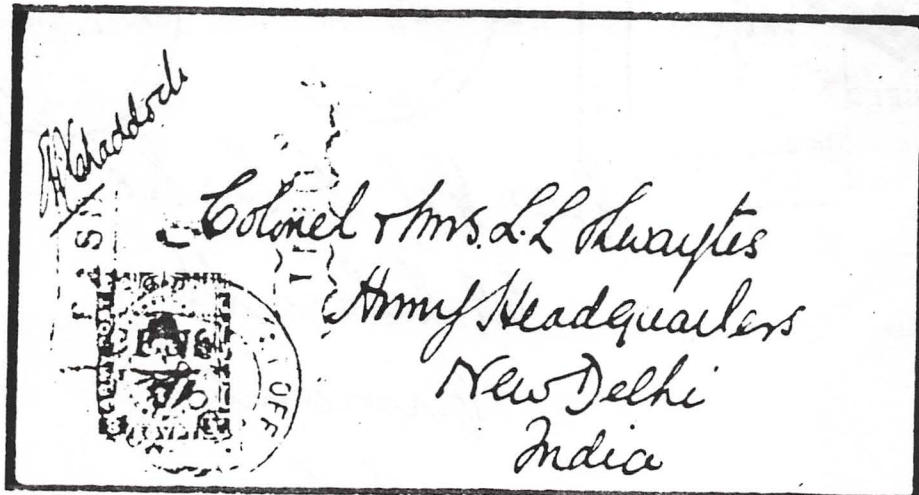
87

SMALL ARMY POST STAMP

Due to the scarceness of the 3 mills. Small Army Stamp I thought I would illustrate two more examples:



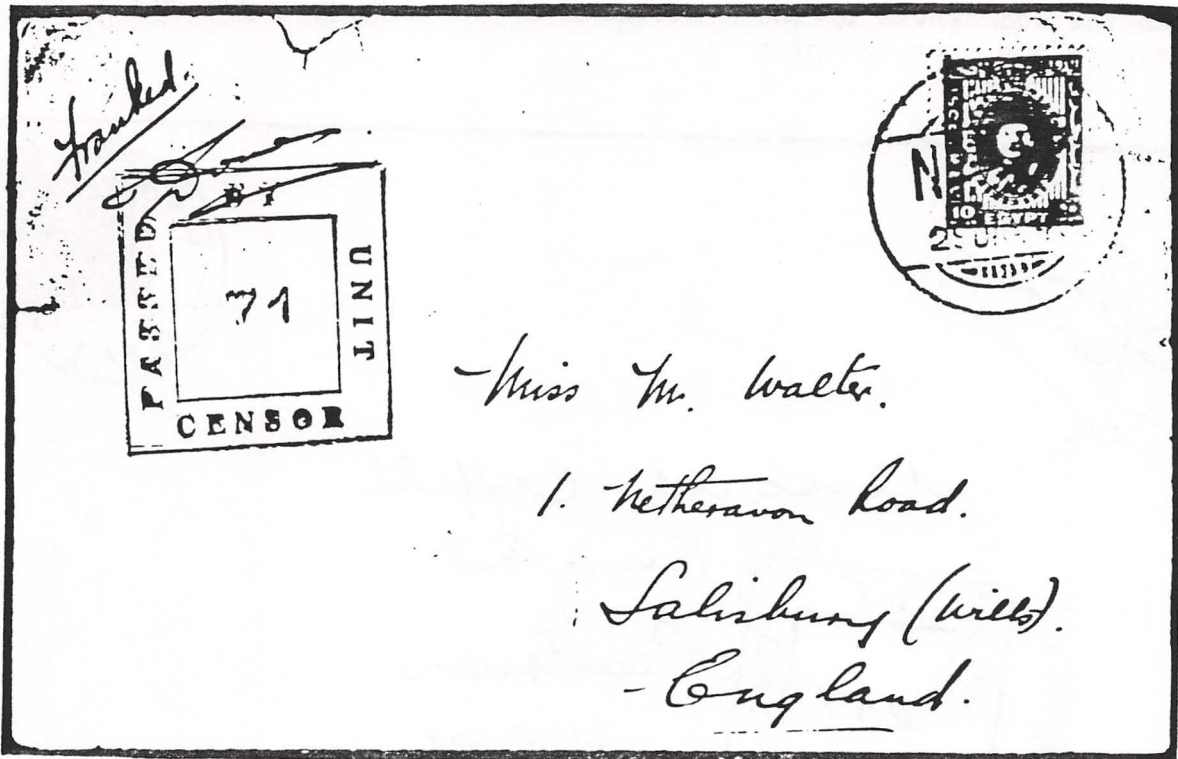
Sent from DIV. H.Q. P.O. D.M.1. on October 30th 1940 and sent to Australia.



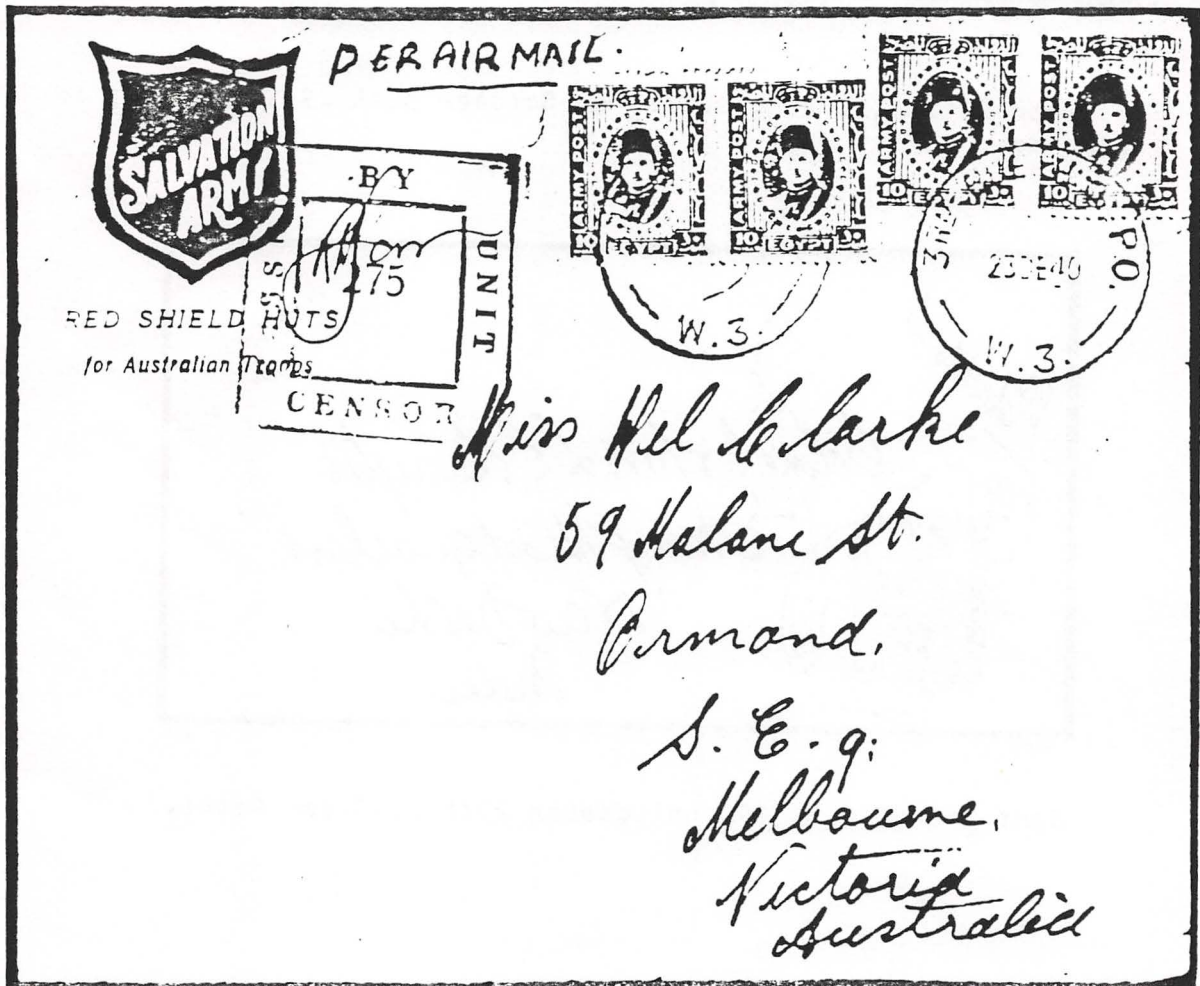
Sent from F.P.O. 190 on October 29th 1940 to Delhi.

SMALL ARMY POST STAMP

10 mills Army Post stamp used from Indian F.P.O. No.17 at Meena on January 29th 1940.



10 mills Army Post stamp used from Australian 3rd BDE. H.Q. P.O. W.3. 6th Australian Division in North Africa on December 23rd 1940.



SMALL ARMY POST STAMP

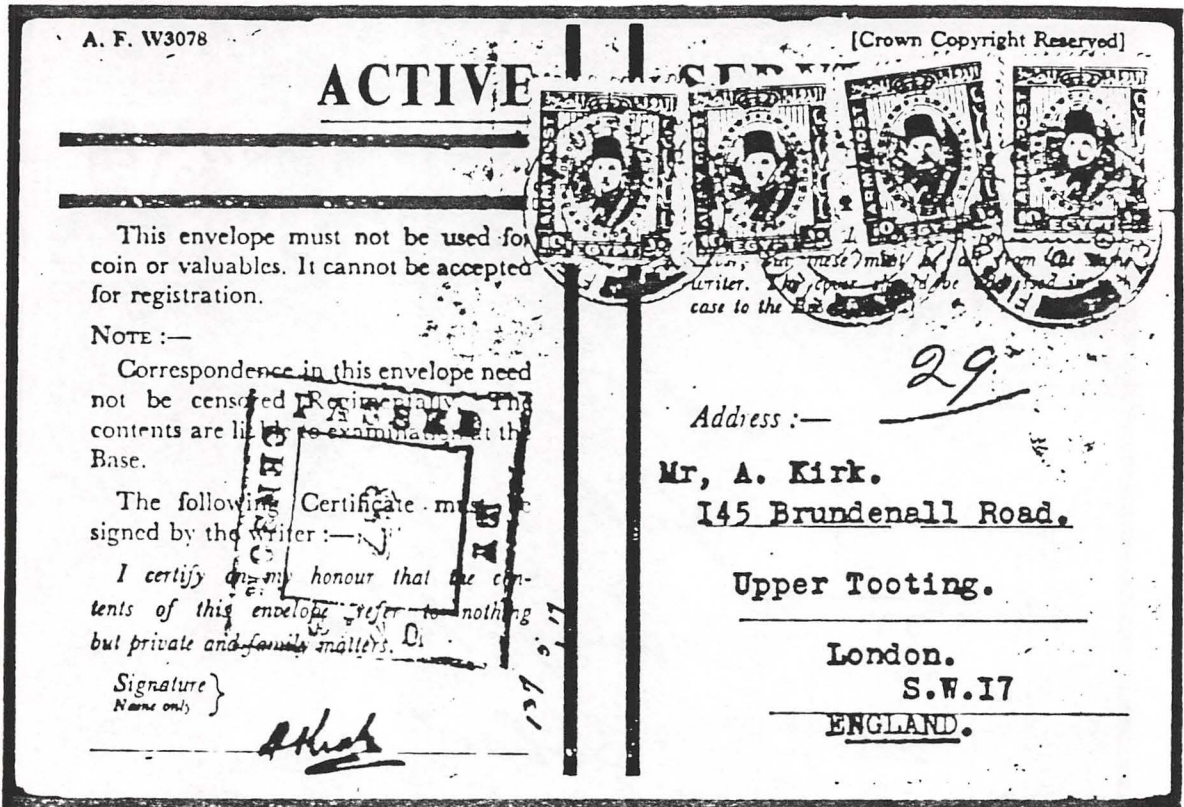
10 mills Small Army Post stamp used with a 30 mills definitive for the airmail rate to Tasmania. Used by a member of the New Zealand Forces and showing F.P.O. K.W.1 handstamp dated October 30th 1940.



10 mills Small Army Post stamp used by the Polish Forces using POCZTA POLOWA 111 handstamp dated April 11th 1941



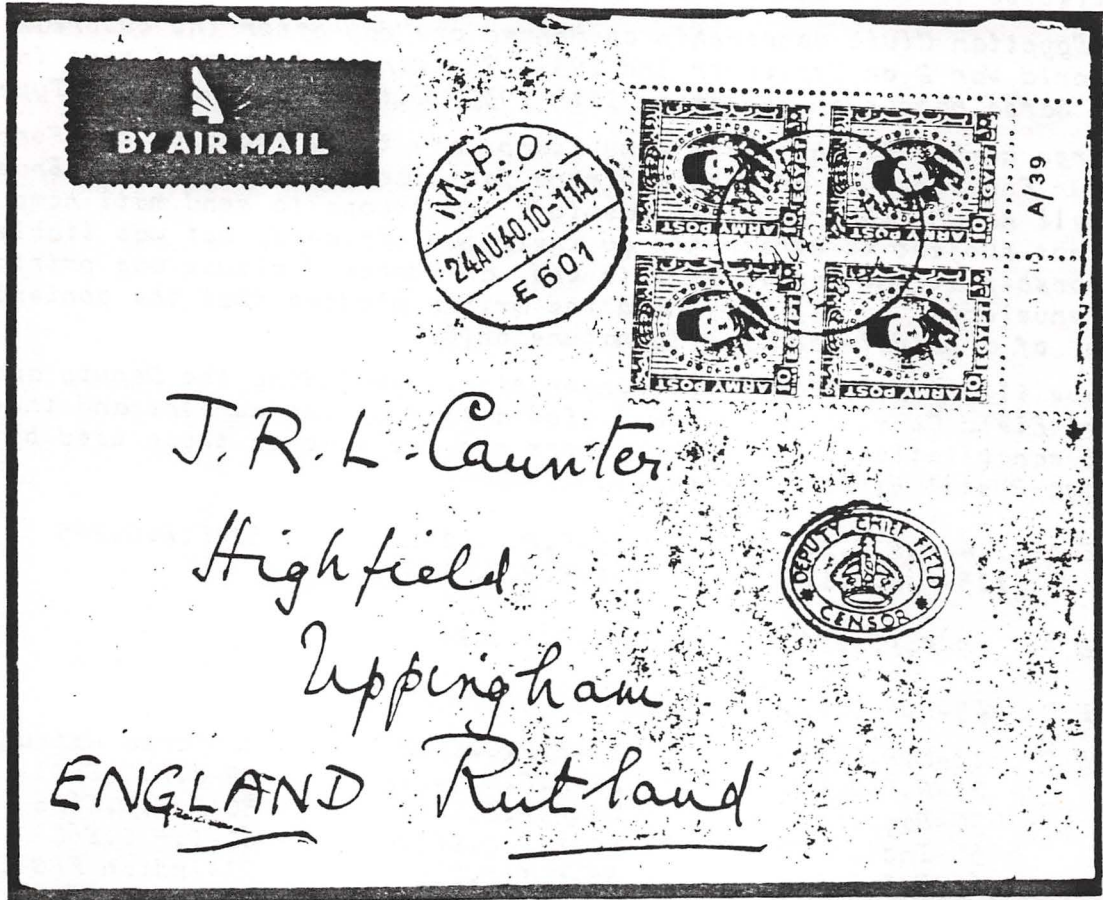
Four 10 mills. Small Army Post stamps on an "Active Service" envelope sent by a friend of mine, Don Kirk who was one of the "Rats of Tobruk". It shows the F.P.O.173 dated October 5th 1940 from Moascar.



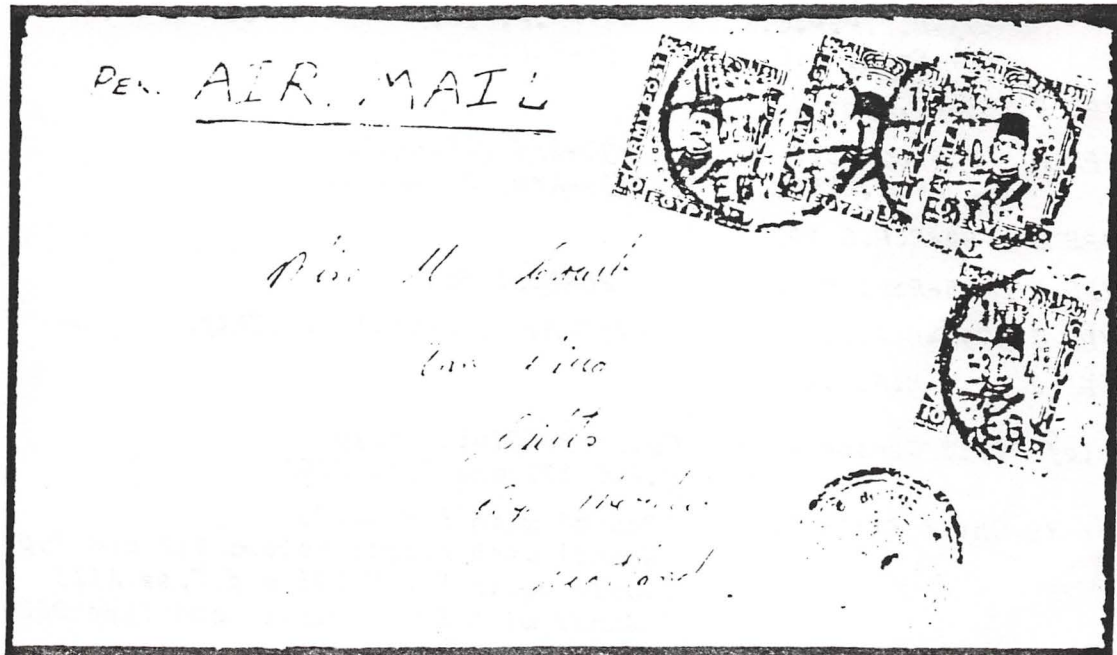
Strip of four 10 mills. Small Army Post stamps sent from Field Post Office No.190 dated April 6th 1941 from G.H.Q. Cairo.



Block of four 10 mils. Small Army Stamps showing Plate Nos. A/40 A/39 from M.P.O. E 601 on August 24th 1940. This is the only "Curved" N.P.O. I have seen and I give it No. 61a



Four 10 mils. Small Army Stamps from IND. B.P.O. EGYPT on December 3rd 1940



MILITARY CENSORSHIP

An interesting study are the different types of censorship marks applied to letters bearing the Army Post Stamps.

The Egyptian Civil censorship commenced one day after the outbreak of World War 2 on September 3rd 1939. The earliest cover I have is from Marsa Matruh on September 11th 1939, with unit Censor 21. Type D.

A large number of the Small Army Stamps are to be found on the Forces Honour Envelopes or as they are more familiarly called, "Green Envelopes". As well known, their purpose was to allow troops to send mail home which was not subject to censorship by their own officers, but was liable to censorship at the Base. To this end, an "Honour" clause was printed on the envelopes, by signing which the writer pledged that the contents were of a private and family nature only.

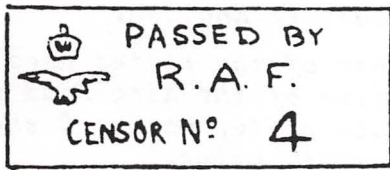
I have illustrated 10 of the censor stamps excluding the Deputy and Chief Field Censors and below I give a list of the numbers and their Unit cancellations. The type numbers are the same as those used by the Forces Postal History Society.

TYPE A	4-F.P.O.173 115-F.P.O.173	15-F.P.O. 190 121-F.P.O. 169	51-F.P.O.245
TYPE B	9-F.P.O.E605	18-F.P.O.E615	
TYPE C	48-F.P.O.172		
TYPE D	15-M.P.O.E601 25-M.P.O.E604 30-Paquebot 56-Indian FPO 17 66-F.P.O.445 75-Indian FPO 25 95-F.P.O.K.W.2 186-F.P.O.187 243-F.P.O.191 284-IND.BPC.EGYPT 373-N.Z.F.P.O.1 824-Egypt P.O.20	20-B.P.O.E602 28-F.P.O.K.W.1 47-M.P.O.E608 60-M.P.O.E601 66-F.P.O.244 84-M.P.O.E607 107-F.P.O.K.W.2 191-F.P.O.171 275-3rd BDE.HQ.W.3 291-F.P.O.188 423-F.P.O.189 58-F.P.O.246	21-Marsa Matruh 1 29-M.P.O.E603 50-F.P.O.E606 61-B.P.O.E602 71-Indian FPO 17 87-M.P.O.E603 154-N.Z.F.P.O.1 241-Poczta Polowa 111 284-F.P.O.198 352-F.P.O.170 482-F.P.O.170
TYPE E	3334-F.P.O.372		
TYPE F	80-1st BGE.HQ.M1 1448-F.P.O.E605	290-2nd BDE.HQ.M2 2139-Army P.O.A.M.1	
TYPE G	89-F.P.O.190		
TYPE H	35-Port Said	28-Port Said	
TYPE I	3796-M.P.O.E603	9257-Retta Cancel.H.M.Ships	
TYPE J	-M.P.O.E603		

Chief Field Censor - with Cairo 3 (Civil) only
with F.P.O.171 and Type D191

Deputy Chief Field Censor (Round) with F.P.O.173
(Round) with Poczta Polowa 111 and Type D241
(Oval) with F.P.O.173 and Type A115
(Round) with Egypt P.P.20 and Type D824

MILITARY CENSORSHIP



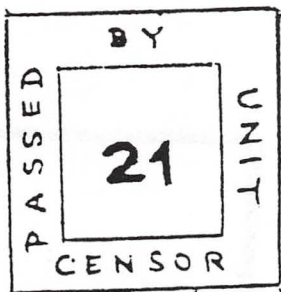
A (R.2.)



B (R.1.)



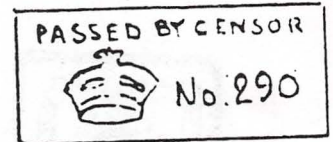
C (R.9.)



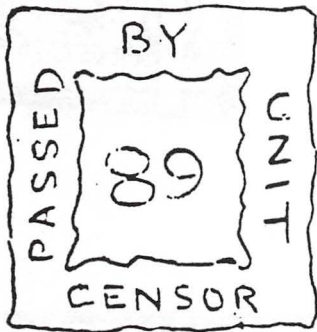
D (A.3.)



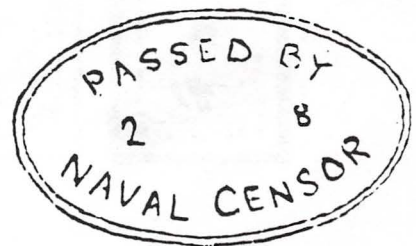
E (A.2.)



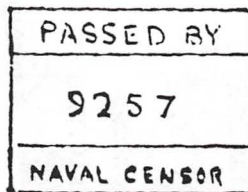
F (A.1.)



G



H



I



J

SPECIAL ROYAL PRINTINGS

In April 1926 the printing of Egyptian stamps was taken over by the Survey Department in Cairo when one complete imperforate sheet from each plate was sent to the Royal Collection.

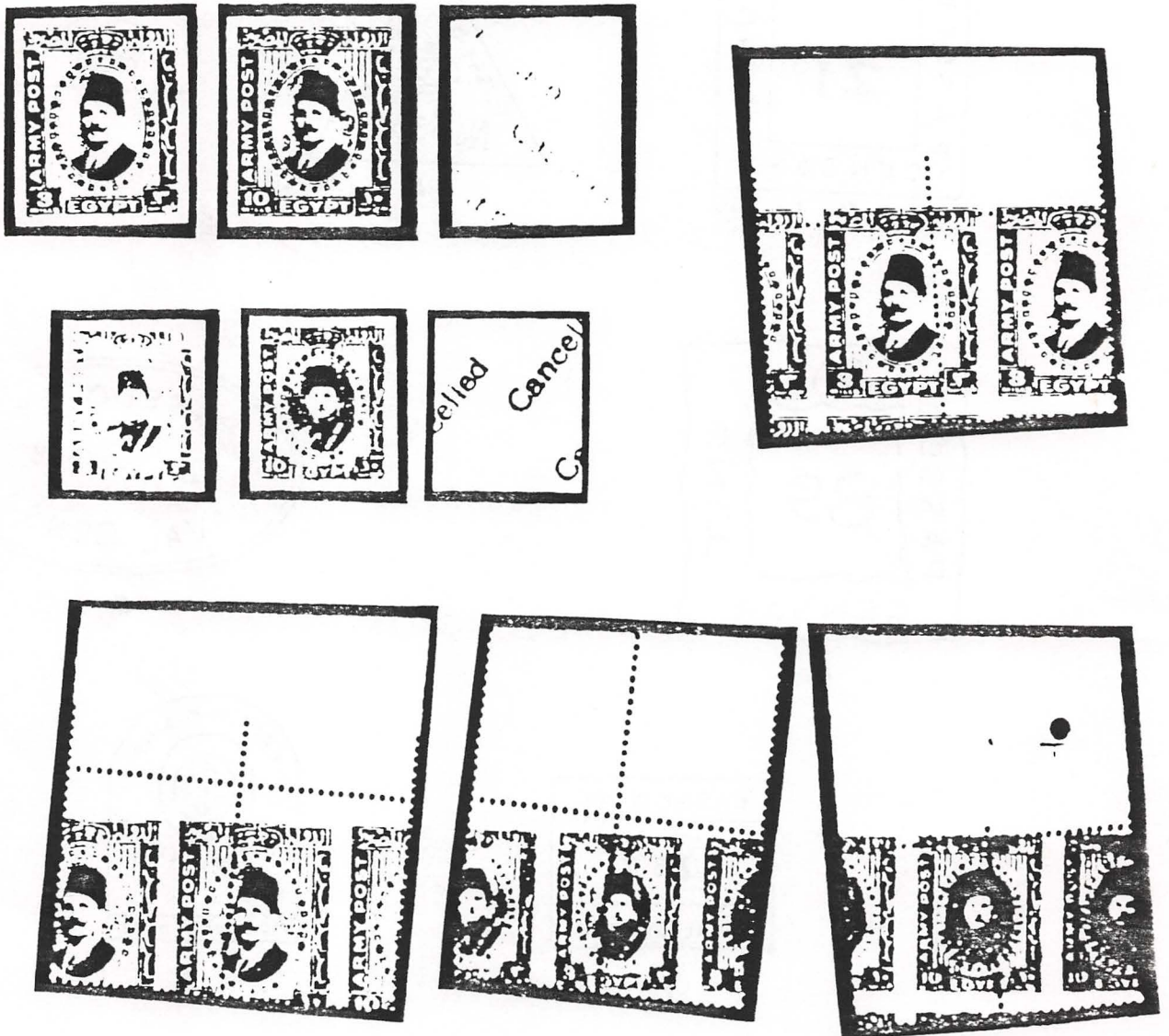
The paper was a thicker texture than the usual and on the reverse of each sheet was a diagonally printed "cancelled" in English.

The number of sheets corresponds to the number of the plates used for actually printing the stamps with the exception of the King Faud issues which were printed in two sheets of 50 of each plate, making 8 sheets of the 10 mils. value and 2 sheets of the 3 mils. value.

The King Farouk issue was printed in sheets of 100, 2 sheets of the 3 mils. and 3 sheets of the 10 mils.

There was a total printing of 15 sheets making an issue of 1,000 of these stamps.

Also produced for the Royal Collection was a complete sheet of each of the Army Stamps with freakish perforation, these were issued in the same quantities as were the Royal Imperforate stamps but this time the printing was on the usual watermarked paper.



Since the First Edition was published in 1970 the catalogue value of these Seals has increased out of all proportion and I will not attempt to re-value them.

I give below the original numbers that I allotted each issue and also a listing of some of the varieties to be found :

Cat. No.

H.1	Postal Seal	1st Issue	Blue/Red
H.2	Letter Seal	2nd Issue	Blue/Red
H.3	Letter Stamp	3rd Issue	Carmine
H.4	Letter Stamp	4th Issue	Green
H.5	Letter Stamp	5th Issue	Carmine
H.6	Letter Stamp	6th Issue	Blue
H.7	Letter Stamp	7th Issue	Carmine
7a			Rose/Carmine
7b			Inverted wmk.
H.8	Xmas Seal	1st Issue	Black/Azure
H.9	Xmas Seal	2nd Issue	Brown
H.10	Xmas Seal	3rd Issue	Blue
H.11	Xmas Seal	4th Issue	
		1st Printing	Orange/Red
H.11a			Red/Orange
H.12	Xmas Seal Provisional		Carmine
H.13	Xmas Seal	4th Issue	
		2nd Printing	Pale Red/Orange
H.14	Large Army Stamps	3m	Green
14a			Dark Green
14b			Imperf.
H.15	Large Army Stamps	10m	Pale Carmine
15a			Deep Carmine
15b			Inverted wmk.
15c			Imperf.
H.16	Small Army Stamps	3m	Green
16b			Imperf.
H.17	Small Army Stamps	10m	Pale Carmine
17a			Deep Carmine
17b			Inverted wmk.
17c			Imperf.

<i>Cat. No.</i>	<i>Description</i>
H.1	Hooked "I"
H.2	Filled in "A"
	Blob on "I"
	Line across "E"
H.6	Short "U"
	Narrow "N"
H.12	Clipped "3"
H.14c	Dot between "P" & "O"

Xmas Seal

No. 3	Has a more symmetrical "X" than the others.
No. 4	Bottom line thickened from the right corner.
No. 11	Hump on Arab's shoulder with dot in centre, also has large dot in the left side frame line of lower panel near the top.
No. 12	Dot under right leg of "A" in "Seal".
No. 19	Lump on top of camels head.
"Target variety"	This consists of a small white circle with a black dot in the centre. This appears on different parts of the camel but is not constant to any particular seal.