

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE.

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

Vol. V. No. 4. November, 1958. (Whole Series, No. 52.)

CONTENTS.

Postage Due Charges. W. Byam.	Pages 37-38.
Third Issue.	- 39.
Notes on the Posts of the British Forces in Egypt, 1801-1956. Chas W. Minott.	- 39-48.
New Members	- 48.

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

Published by The Egypt Study Circle.

Chairman. Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., "Cedar Hill", Mount Durand, Guernsey, C.I.

Deputy Chairman - J. H. E. Gilbert, "Morven", West Close, Middleton-on-Sea,
Sussex.

Keeper of the Philatelic Record - A. S. Mackenzie-Low, "Brook House", Blackboys,
Sussex.

Deputy Keepers of the Philatelic Record -
Chas. W. Minett, "Fairmead", Bridgefield Road, Tankerton, Kent.
E. H. Proctor, 4 Eden Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Secretary-Treasurer & Editor of the Quarterly Circular,
F. S. Mumford, 174, Buxton Road, Stockport, Cheshire.

Vol. V. No. 4. Page 37.

November, 1958.

Whole Series, No. 52.

POSTAGE DUE CHARGES. by W. BYAM.

For some years I have been puzzled to understand the tax claimed on mail marked with the boxed

AFFRANCATURA
INSUFFICIENTE

This handstamp seems to have been applied only when adhesive stamps had been affixed to letters and the prepayment thus made had been insufficient. The Decree signed at Cairo by Hafiz Pasha on December 21st, 1865 laid down in Article 8 that the prepayment of ordinary letters was optional. Article 50 added "The postage for letters that are not prepaid will be indicated on the address side in large figures." The examples of such unfranked letters in my collection suggest that the recipient was charged twice the amount of postage payable had the letter been franked by the sender. Four of my letters bear the handstamp 80 (= paras) but I also have examples of the handstamped numeral 2 (two types) equivalent to 80 paras and $3\frac{1}{4}$ and 4.

The letter bearing the handstamped $3\frac{1}{4}$ is from Bairout to Port Said, dated 27th August 1874. It is, in addition, marked 15 in N.S. It carries the Austrian circular date stamps of both Bairout and Post Said (circle diameter 17 m.m.), also the Egyptian c.d.s. of Port Said 30 AGO 1874 T.l. It will be discussed later.

A study of the letters in my collection which are insufficiently franked by adhesives has led me to the following conclusion regarding the assessment of tax to be collected from the recipients. The appropriate postal charge for the letter in question, if fully franked by postage stamps at the point of despatch, was ascertained and doubled; the amount of postage represented by adhesives attached to the letter was deducted from this sum; the remainder represented the tax to be paid. It is obvious from the details I give in tabular form, derived from covers I possess, that the tax was not double the deficit of postage, calculated as the difference between the value of the stamps affixed by the sender and the full postal rate for prepaid ordinary mail.

TABLE: SUMMARY OF MATERIAL

SERIAL No.	DATE OF DESPATCH.	FROM	TO	POSTAL RATE IF PAID.	ADHESIVES APPLIED BY SENDER.
1.	25.3.66.	Cairo.	Alexandria.	2 P.T. Double letter.	1866 20 para (three)
2.	20.X.66.	Cairo.	Alexandria.	2 P.T. Double letter.	1866 20 p.(one) 1 P.T. (one)
3.	4.IX.69.	Alexandria.	Cairo.	2 P.T. Double letter.	1867 1 P.T. (one)
4.	6.VII.71.	Lagos.	Constantinople.	2 P.T. Double letter.	1867 1 P.T. (one)
5.	5.X.73	Cairo.	Alexandria.	1 P.T. Single letter.	1872 5 para (one)
6.	3.VIII.76.	Alexandria.	Cairo.	2 P.T. Double letter.	1875 1 P.T. (one)
7.	15.X.77.	Mansura.	Smirne.	1 P.T. 20 para. U.P.U. rate.	1875 10 para. (one) 1 P.T. (one)

All the above seven letters carry the hand-stamp

To return to a consideration of the letter bearing the handstamp 3 $\frac{1}{2}$, which carries no adhesives and is therefore not marked AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE. If 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.T. is double postage how can half that sum, 1 P.T. 30 para, be accounted for. The U.P.U. postal rates were not yet in force when this letter was posted in August 1874. 15(Soldi), the indicated Austrian charge, was for conveyance from Bairout to Port Said by the Austrian Lloyd. The 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ handstamped numerals are typically Egyptian in appearance and were presumably struck at Port Said when the Egyptian o.d.s. of that office was applied on August 30th 1874. The 15 soldi, indicated in M.S., claimed by the Austrian Post was equal, approximately to 1 P.T. 20 para or 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.T. This sum had to be collected by the Egyptian postal authorities from the recipient of the letter and paid to the Austrians. The difference between 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.T. and the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.T., the total Tax, was apparently collected by the Egyptian Post as its remuneration for, apparently, local delivery and services as Austrian Agent. This 2 P.T. was double the normal 1 P.T. rate, at that time in force, for the carriage of single letters between Egypt and Egyptian P.O.s in the Levant. This postal rate prevailed from the inception of these P.O.s until the U.P.U. came into operation in 1875.

IN THE WRITER'S COLLECTION.

STAMPED.	DEFICIT.	TAX DEMOTED BY NUMERALS.	EXPLANATION.
1 P.T. 20 p.	20 p.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Double normal rate, 4 P.T. Less 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.T. stamps. = 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ P.T. = Tax.
1 P.T. 20 p.	20 p.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	Ditto.
1 P.T.	1 P.T.	3	Double normal rate, 4 P.T. Less 1 P.T. stamp = 3 P.T. = Tax.
1 P.T.	1 P.T.	3	Ditto.
5 para.	35 para.	1 35	Double normal rate, 2 P.T. Less 5 para stamp = 1 P.T. 36 para = Tax.
1 P.T.	1 P.T.	3	Double normal rate, 4 P.T. Less 1 P.T. stamp = 3 P.T. = Tax.
1 P.T. 10 p.	10 p.	1 30	Double normal rate, 3 P.T. Less 1 P.T. 10 para stamps = 1 P.T. 30 para = Tax.

AFFRANCATURA INSUFFICIENTE.

The Egyptian P.O. at Bairout, opened 14th July 1870, was closed on 15th February 1872 and so was not available when the letter under consideration was carried.

What I have written is not offered as the "last word" on this subject but is put forward for comment, in the hope that it will stimulate interest and elicit further information. Details of similar material in the collections of members of the Circle will be welcomed by the Editor for publication in our "Q.C."

THIRD ISSUE.

We have heard from the Chairman that the heading at the top of the left-hand column on page 158 of the "Q.C.", October 1956, (Vol. IV, No. 12) should be amended to read as follows :-

1872. Formerly called "By V. Penasson".

Printed by lithography - 20 para and 1 piastra.

Printed by typography - 5, 10, 20 para ; 1, 2, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, and 5 piastre
in sheets of 200 (10 X 20)

Solid coloured rule along one margin of each sheet. On sheets of the 5 para, this rule lies along the top margin on some sheets but on the majority of sheets it is on the right-hand margin. On all other values the solid rule lies along the top margins of all sheets.

Right-hand column. Page 158.

Under 10 para.

Brown(shades) should read Mauve (shades)

NOTES ON THE POSTS OF THE BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT. (1801 to 1956)

by Chas W. Minett.

PREAMBLE.

On 30.3.57, there were discussed, at a Circle meeting, the bare outlines of the periods during which troops of the British Army (and later the Royal Air Force) were in occupation in Egypt from the year 1801 to the final evacuation in 1956. Campaigns were outside the scope of the meeting.

The knowledge of members who were at this meeting of some parts of this one hundred and fifty year period was, at best, meagre and, with the object of assembling together such knowledge as Circle members may have, the Chairman asked that this summary might be produced. It aims to demonstrate, in note and précis form, the actual dates and facts in such a way that all additional information and knowledge can easily be superimposed.

Historical dates have been drawn, for the most part, from authoritative sources and a bibliography will be included in the future. Dates of recorded examples, with owner's names bracketted, have been verified in most cases.

The 1801 CAMPAIGN. ("Q.C." Vol. IV., No. 12., p. 152. Rawson)

8.3.01. The first British Troops to set foot in Egypt landed at Aboukir Bay and opposed the French.

2.9.01. The British successfully concluded the campaign.

The YEARS FOLLOWING THE CAMPAIGN.

British Troops remained in Egypt until 1803.
At least six Regiments remained after 1801.

- 5.02. The Indian Army returned to India.
- .02. The King's (Liverpool) Regt. (8th Foot) left for Egypt.
- 3,03. British Troops evacuated Alexandria.
- 4,03. The Lincolnshire Regt. (10th Foot) left Egypt for Malta.

No locations of Barracks were known to the Circle meeting.
No items of mail were produced at the meeting.

THE 1807 CAMPAIGN.

- 17-3-07. The British Fleet with 5000 or 6000 troops (all ranks) arrived off Alexandria from Malta in the "Tigre".
- 20.3.07. Alexandria capitulated.
- 29,3,07. Gen. Wauchope set out, with 1400 men of the 31st Chasseurs Britannique, to occupy Rosetta and Rahmaniye.
- 31.3.07. Advance on Rosetta, Gen. Wauchope killed and troops beaten with 500 casualties.
- 3.4.07. Gen. Fraser sent out force under Brig. Stewart with 2500 men (Light Battallion, 1/35th, 1/28th, De Rolls & detachments of 20th Light Dragoons, R.A. and Seamen).
- 7.4.07. Rosetta reached, Stewart detached 300 men to El Hamet, (now El Hamed), some 4 miles south of Rosetta.
- 20?4.07. The 2nd. Battn. Seaforth Highlanders (78th Foot) fought at El Hamet.
- 21.4.07. El Hamet lost.
- 23.4.07. British embarked for Aboukir (from Edko) with only 1600 men.
- 14.9.07. Gen. Fraser evacuated Alexandria with all British Troops.

No locations of Barracks were known to the Circle meeting.
No items of mail were produced at the meeting.

THE 1882 CAMPAIGN. ("Q.C." Vol. III, No. 10. p127. Danson).

- 12.7.82. 15 Marines (?) landed at Alexandria from H.M.S. "Invincible" but returned to the ship very early on the 13th.
- 13.7.82. Marines and Bluejackets landed at Alexandria.
- 17.7.82. British Troops and Marines landed at Alexandria.
- 22.7.82. The Post Office Corps was formed in England by Royal Warrant.
- 21.8.82. The Post Office Corps Detachment landed at Alexandria.
- 23.8.82. The Indian Contingent arrived at Suez.
- 24.9.82. End of Egyptian revolt.
- 7.10.82. The Post Office Detachment left Egypt.

THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE CAMPAIGN.

Note : An Egyptian Army Camp had existed at Tel el Kebir for many years prior to 1882. In 1882 Egyptian Army Barracks existed at Abbassia (built by the Khedive Ismail between 1863 and 1879), the Citadel of Mehemet Ali, a Fort on Mokattam Heights, Kasr el Nil and Abdin (all in, or near Cairo). Barracks also existed at Mex (Old Fort), Ras el Tin (Fort and Lines), Adda (Fort), Pharos (Fort), and Ramleh (all in, or near Alexandria).

The majority of the British Troops remained in Cairo but others were at Alexandria, Port Said and Ismailia. In Cairo, British Troops (Cavalry and mounted Infantry) first occupied Abbassia Barracks and the Citadel on 14.9.82, mounted Infantry first occupied Kasr el Nil Barracks on 15.9.82. At Ismailia, the 1st. Battn. (63rd Foot) Manchester Regt. encamped before moving to Alexandria where they were housed in the Harem of Ras el Tin Palace. At Alexandria, the 1st Battn. Royal Sussex Regt. (107th Foot) were in the Antoniadis Gardens.

- 21.10.82. The major part of the British Forces left for U.K. About the same time the Indian Contingent left Egypt and the remaining Army of Occupation numbered 10,000.
- 31.10.83. The Army of Occupation now numbered 6,700 and was located at Cairo and Alexandria. About this time the Egyptian Army was being formed under seconded British Officers and a General. The Army of Occupation consisted of, at least, the following Regiments :-
Cairo Garrison. 7th (Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards.
19th (Prince of Wales' Own) Hussars.
1st. Battn. Royal Berkshire (Princess Charlotte of Wales') Regt (49th Foot).
3rd. Battn. King's Royal Rifle Corps (60th Foot).
1st Battn. The King's (Shropshire) Light Infantry, (53rd Foot)
1st Battn. Royal Sussex Regt. (35th Foot). Earlier at Ramleh.
2nd. Battn. Royal Sussex Regt. (107th Foot).

Note. It is probable that not more than two regiments could have occupied the Citadel at one time.

Alexandria Garrison. 1st Battn. Royal Sussex Regt. (35th Foot) . At Ramleh (this may mean the Antoniadis Gardens or possibly the Mustapha Barracks).

Elsewhere ? 1st Battn. Gordon Highlanders. (75th Foot).
Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders (79th Foot).
Further information, regarding the locations of Barracks, is sought.

The following items of mail are recorded,-

- 9.10.82. Single 1d red Q.V. (Plate 1) cancelled civil "CAIRE/ DÉPART" (Danson)
18.11.82. Single 2¹/₂d blue Q.V. (Plate 22) cancelled civil "CAIRE/ DÉPART" (Minett).

THE 1884-1885 CAMPAIGN.

- 16.2.1884. The British Force commenced moving for the Sudan.
8.1884. Increase of British Troops in Egypt from various sources.
5.7.1885. Evacuation of the Sudan.

THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE CAMPAIGN.

- 6.7.85. Within a few weeks of this date the greater part of the Suakin Expeditionary Force had left Egypt. About this time the Egyptian Frontier Force (consisting of British and Egyptian Troops) was formed with H.Q. at Assouan and advanced posts at Wadi Halfa, etc.
- .8.85. Army of Occupation numbered 14,000.
- 4.11.85. Army of Occupation reinforced by two battalions from U.K.
- .4.86. British Troops withdrawn to Assouan, but Egyptians were at Wadi Halfa. Army of Occupation numbered 18,000 early in 1886.
- .6.87. Army of Occupation gradually reduced to 3,500.
- 4.6.87. Last British Troops withdrawn from Assouan.
- 25.7.89. British Troops again at Assouan, but were moved back gradually to Cairo.
- .1.93. Army of Occupation numbered 3000 but later increased by two battalions.

The following items of mail are recorded :-

- 12.12.84. 1st issue p.c. addressed to "East Surrey Regt. Cairo" (Revell).
- 31.12.84. 1st issue p.c. addressed to "70th (2nd Bttn) East Surrey Regt. Cairo, (Revell).
- 2.11.92. to 27.12.92. Six covers from India addressed to "Devonshire Regt. (11th Foot), Alexandria. (Pevell).
- 8.4.93. Cover franked 5 mills to 1st S.Staffs Regt. (38th Foot), Ras el Tin Barracks. (Minett)

THE 1896-1898 CAMPAIGN.

- 21.3.96. 1st Bttn. North Staffs Regt. left Cairo for Assouan and Wadi Halfa.
- 26.9.96. 1st Bttn. North Staffs Regt. returned to Cairo.
- 2.1.98. 1st Bttn. Warwickshire Regt. from Alexandria, 1st Bttn. Lincolnshire Regt. and the Cameron Highlanders from Cairo were ordered up the Nile to Wadi Halfa before end of the month. The Seaforth Highlanders were ordered to Egypt from Malta and went to Assouan.
- 7.98. An additional Brigade went to strengthen the advance on Omdurman, some from Gibraltar and some from Malta.
- 9.98. Most of the British Troops, except some companies of the Northumberland Fusiliers, left for Cairo.

THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE CAMPAIGN. (Except the Sudan area).

The following items of mail are recorded :-

- 3.3.97. P.c. franked 3 mills cancelled by 1st type (or "barrel" type) of Alexandria M.P.O. (Peter Smith and Rawson). (Note. this is the first recorded use of this M.P.O.).
- 15.3.97. Block of four (reconstructed) 5 mills cancelled "CAMP ABOUKIR" civil (Minett). (Was this a military camp ?).
- 25.7.97. 3 mills p.c. from "CAIRE", civil, to North Staffs Regt.. Also date stamped 1st ("barrel") type of Cairo M.P.O. (Gilbert). (Note. this is the first recorded use of this M.P.O. mark)
- 27.9.97. Letter (from Wadi Halfa) to "Army Service Corps, Head Barracks, (Mustapha Pacha Barracks ?), Alexandria" with arrival mark of "barrel" type of Alexandria M.P.O. (G.Boulad).
- 21.6.99. Cover franked with 5 mills cancelled "CAIRE", civil, with crest of 1st Bttn. Seaforth Highlanders (72nd Foot) addressed to " R.M.L.I./H.M.S. "HAZARD", Suez" (Minett).

THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY (Up to World War I).

The following items of mail have been recorded :-

- 17.6.00. (B/S) 1 mill p.s. envelope from Alexandria, civil, to H.M.S. "Halcyon", Alexandria and backstamped "barrel" type M.P.O. Alexandria. (Revell).
- 19.12.00. (B/S) Cover franked with 1 P.T. adhesive date stamped "CAIRE", civil, with crest of 11th (Prince Albert's Own) Hussars. (Revell)
- 20.8.02. (B/S) "Barrel" type of M.P.O. Alexandria b/s on 1 mill p.s. envelope addressed to Ras-el-Tin Hospital and cancelled "SIDI GABER" (civil) (Gilbert).
- 04. "Barrel" type of M.P.O. Alexandria (G.Boulad).
- 5.9.07. O.H.M.S. envelope from "Army Service Corps/Egypt" d/s "CAIRO/O" civil, to Alexandria (Revell).
- (13.5.12. Note. R.F.C. formed in U.K.)
- 9.12. "BRITISH BARRACKS/CAIRO" on single 5 mills (Minett).

- 19.12.12. 3 m. P.S. envelope addressed to "Welch Regt., Abbassia, Cairo ? with arrival b/s of "Barrel" type M.P.O./CAIRO." (Firebrace).
 31.1.13. and 28.2.13. 1 mill p.s. envelope from Alexandria, civil, to Sister-in-charge, Military Hospital, Ras el Tin, b/s 1st ("Barrel") type of M.P.O. Alexandria (Revell).
 25.10.13. "BRITISH BARRACKS/CAIRO" on single 3 mills. (Revell).

The Pre-war garrison was known as the "Force in Egypt" (For constitution see Official History, Egypt and Palestine 1 p.11 footnote).

WORLD WAR I, 1914 - 1918.

- 4.8.14. Great Britain declared war on Germany.
 5.11.14. Great Britain declared war on Turkey.
 5.8.16. British occupation of Sinai proper begun.
 9.1.17. Battle of Rafah and end of enemy resistance in Sinai.
 1.4.18. R.F.C. and R.N.A.S. amalgamated as R.A.F.
 31.10.18. Armistice with Turkey.
 11.11.18. End of war.

The following postmarks are recorded because they give locations of Camps or Barracks, some of which may have existed prior to the outbreak of hostilities or after their cessation:-

	<u>Earliest.</u>	<u>Latest.</u>
MILITARY CAMP//AERODROME HELIOPOLIS. (opened 11.2.15)	16.MR.15.(Minett)	8 MA 15 (Gilbert) 4 AUG 15
BRITISH CAMP/P.O.//HELIOPOLIS. (opened 28.11.14)	7 AP.15 (Minett)	19 JA 16 (Minett)
BRITISH CAMP/P.O.//MAADI. (opened 9.3.15)	18 AP 15 (Gilbert)	9 AU 15 (exG.Ward)
BRITISH BARRACKS/CAIRO (civil P.O.)	13.NO 14 (Rawson)	4 MR 16 (Minett)
A.I.F. INTER BASE P.O.//CAIRO.	17.NO.15 (Minett)	31 MA 16 (Byam)
PYRAMIDS/CASH (civil P.O.)	30 OC (?) 15 (Minett)	
MILITARY/POST OFFICE//ALEXANDRIA ("Barrel" type) (Note. Several different date stamps have been issued since 1897)	21.5.15 (seen) 22 Dec 15 Gilbert	18.4.19. (Minett)
SOLDIERS & SAILORS/INSTITUTE//ALEXANDRIA	26 DE 17 (Minett)	
AUST. F.P.O. MEX//ALEXANDRIA	(seen by H. Porter)	

THE YEARS FOLLOWING WORLD WAR I.

Due to the internal unrest in Egypt after the war, British and Indian A.P.Os. and F.P.Os continued to function until 1920 at least.

No items of mail seem to have been recorded between 1920 and October 1921.

Serious unrest continued until the end of 1924.

At Alexandria an Indian F.P.O. functioned at Lazare Ho and British and Indian Troops are known to have been in camps or barracks at the Salt Pans, Inex, Gabbari Stores (R.A.O.C.), Kom el Dik, Mustapha Pacha Camp (including R.A.S.C.) and Sidi Bishr.

The 17th General Hospital (V.D.) was in tents at Hadra and the 21st General Hospital was at Ras el Tin .

- (a) Postmarks of Civil Post Offices which appear to have been for the specific use of the British Garrison Troops follow. Franking by ordinary Egyptian adhesives at ordinary Egyptian rates was necessary at first but from 1.11.32 until World War II the concessionary rates required special posting facilities and normally ordinary Egyptian adhesives were only used on parcel, Air and Registered Mail and all mail other than that to the U.K. and Northern Ireland

	<u>Earliest.</u>	<u>Latest.</u>
BRITISH BARRACKS/ABBASSIA.	8 OO 21 (Revell)	9 FE 29 (Seen)
BRITISH BARRACKS/ABBASSIA. (Handstruck Reg. mark)	4 FE 29. (Minett)	
ABBASSIA BARRACKS/CASH.	8 AU 29 (Minett)	
ABBASSIA BARRACKS.	16 AP 29 (Revell)	13 AP 40 (Revell)
ABERASSIA BARRACKS. (Handstruck Reg. Mark)	29 JL 37 (Firebrace)	5 MR 40 (Minett)
BRITISH BARRACKS/CAIRO.	1 AP 19 (Revell)	
CITADEL/CAIRO.	26VII 22 (Rawson)	VIII 28 (Minett)
CITADEL CA....	27 JL 36 (Revell)	
ISMAILIA CAMP.	9 JL 26 (Minett)	40 (Revell)
ISMAILIA CAMP/CASH.	22 JL 26 (Minett)	7 JU 30 (Revell)
ISMAILIA BARRACKS/(R.P.). (Registered parcels).	MA 32 (Revell)	21 MR 38 (Minett)

- (b) It is to be presumed that the R.A.F., at Aboukir and Abu Sueir, the R.N. at Navy House, Port Said, the Army and R.N., at Alexandria (and Suez ?) and other permanent camps and Barracks made use of the nearest or most convenient civil Post Offices (Franking and rates as (a) above). An O.H.M.S. cover exists franked with a cachet of the R.A.F. (Depot) M.E., addressed to Alexandria and datestamped with a civil Abuqir 25 SP 30 (Minett) but see para "e" following.
- (c) M.P.O., CAIRO (not the "barrel" type) is recorded used as an arrival mark on 8 MR 30 from India to " No 3 Coy, Egypt Signals, Abbassia, Cairo ". (Civil Cairo arrival mark of 7 MR 30) re-addressed to Helouan and Canal Brigade with Army Telegraph datestamp (Revell)

THE CONCESSIONARY RATE PERIOD. 1.11.32 until circa the end of April 1941.

- (a) Crowned Circles, Nos. 1 to 25, and N.A.A.F.I., Postal and Letter Seals, Letter Stamps and Xmas Seals were in use from 1.11.32 to 15.3.36. Placed on the reverse of the envelope the seals were cancelled by rettas or, in a few cases, circular date stamps. Normally a civil or M.P.O., c.d.s. was placed on the obverse together with the Crowned Circle.
- (b) Army Post Stamps issued by the Egyptian Government replaced (a) above on 1.3.36 and were in general use for ordinary surface mail to the U.K., and Northern Ireland until about the end of April 1941. (see W.W.II). They were cancelled by normal civil or M.P.O. c.d.s.'s until wartime security decreed otherwise.

(c) Civil date stamps properly used are as follows :-

ABU QIR (For R.A.F. Aboukir). In use from 1.12.32 onwards.

ABU SÚWER (For R.A.F. Abu Sueir). In use from 1.11.32 onwards.

ALEXANDRIA. (For Army at Mustapha Barracks). In use from 1.11.32 until 31.10.35. (For Army at Kom el Dik, Main Guard (Mustapha Barracks ?) and R.N.). In use from 25.1.37 onwards.

ALLAQLI. (For Army in Upper Egypt ?) Only recorded for 1938 (Firebrace)

FOKA. (For Army in Western Desert ?) Only recorded for 16.1.36 (Minett) and 29 AU 39 (Firebrace)

MAMURA. (For R.A.F., Aboukir). In use from 1.11.32 until 24.1.37. (But last recorded date is 29.3.34 (Firebrace)

PORT SAID. (For Army and Navy House). In use from 1.11.32 until 29.2.36 (or later ?). (Minett has three Army Post stamps dated OC 37, DE 38, and 14.5.39 and a pair dated 20.11.39. also two C.H.M.S. Navy letters to Navy House, Port Said with arrival marks of 27 MR 38 and 3 NO 38).

RAS EL TIN. (For Military Hospital). In use from 1.11.32 until 31.10.35 and again from 25.1.37 onwards.

SIDI BISHR (For Army ?). Only recorded between 23.2.38 (Rawson) and 28.4.39 (Minett).

SIDI GÁBER(For Mustapha Barracks). In use from 25.1.37 onwards.

(d) M.P.O. datestamps used, up to the beginning of censorship in W.W.II, are as follows :-

ABU QIR (For R.A.F. Aboukir). In use from 1.3.36 onwards. (Recorded used on 20.3.37 and 19.9.38 by Rawson).

ABU SUEIR (For R.A.F. Abu Sueir). In use from 1.3.36 onwards. (Recorded 27.9.37 by Rawson).

ALEXANDRIA(For all Army Units, R.A.F., Aboukir, and R.N. (?)). In use from 1.11.35 until 24.1.37. (Note, both the "barrel" type, first recorded used on 3.3.37 (see page 42), and the later, more normal, type were employed.

CAIRO. (For Army, Cairo and Cavalry Brigade Areas. For R.A.F., Helouan, Heliopolis and H.Q., M.E.). In use from 1.11.32 onwards.

EL DABA (For Army Western Desert ?) Recorded on 5.8.39 (Firebrace) and 31.8.39 (Revell).

MERSA MATRUH (For Army ? and R.N.). In use from 1.3.36 until 30.10.36 (Note This was used as a small R.N. Station during the Abyssinian Affair and operated sometime about September 1935 until about July 1936)

- MARSA MATROUH/1 (For Army ?). Recorded on 23.8.39 and 21.9.39 (both Revell)
- MARSA MATROUH/2 (For Army ?). Recorded on 2.10.38. (whose ?)
- MOASCAR (For Army, Moascar and R.A.F., Ismailia) In use from 1.11.32 onwards.
- PORT SAID. (For Army and Navy House). In use from 1.3.36 until ?
Recorded -.12.36. (Firebrace).
- ABBASSIA (For Cavalry Brigade Areas). Open from 1.11.32 until 1.2.35.
This M.P.O. is not known to have had a datestamp of it's own.
It appears to have functioned along with M.P.O. Cairo and may have used one or more of the four Cairo datestamps in current use at that time.

(c) O.H.M.S. mail procedure requires elucidation.

- 3.9.39 Great Britain declared war on Germany. (About this time Egypt broke off Diplomatic relations with Germany.)
- 10.6.40. Italy joined the Axis and declared war on Great Britain & France.
- 11.6.40. British Forces entered Cyrenaica.
- 17.6.40. France capitulated.
- 13.9.40. Italian Forces invaded Egypt.
- 9.12.40 British Forces re-entered Cyrenaica.
- 14.4.41. Axis back on Egyptian frontier.

The further progress of the war is skipped except for :-

- 11.11.42. Egypt finally cleared of Axis Forces.
- 24.2.45. Egypt declared war on Germany and Japan.
- 7.5.45. Germany surrendered.
- 2.9.45. Japan surrendered (Cease Fire on 15.8.45.)

After the outbreak of war, British Forces in Egypt continued to use Army Post Stamps at concessionary rates and normal Egyptian adhesives for other rates, but gradually regulations appear to have been relaxed and Army Post Stamps were used also by Australian, New Zealand and Indian Forces. Multiples of Army Post Stamps were used for Air Mail.

Censorship of Forces mail by British Military Authorities also came into force although mail continued to be cancelled by "named" civil and M.P.O. datestamps until after the time of the Italian intervention.

The following dates are recorded for mail :-

- Latest uncensored "named" M.P.O. datestamp 21.9.39. MARSA MATROUH/1.
(Revell)
- Earliest military censor mark 2.10.39. Army at El Dabaa (Revell)
- Earliest datestamp of the E.600 series. 12.10.39. B.P.O./E602 b/s
(Firebrace)
- Earliest F.P.O. datestamp issued (to G.H.Q., M.E.) 10.1.40 F.P.O./74
(Official records)
- Latest civil datestamp used with A.P. stamps. 8.5.40. Abu Suwer. (Gilbert)
- Earliest F.P.O. datestamp. 8.7.40 F.P.O./169 (Firebrace)
- Latest "named" M.P.O. datestamp. 26.7.40. Abu Sueir (Firebrace)
- Earliest "Egypt Postage Prepaid" datestamp. 2.11.40. E.P.P./40
(D.F. Harrison)
- Base Army Post Office datestamp issued. 10.12.40. B.A.P.O./4
(Official Records)
- Latest civil datestamp used on O.H.M.S. mail. 3.8.43. Cairo. (Gilbert)

The following named datestamps are recorded used after the outbreak of hostilities.

- (a) Civil (on Forces censored mail but excluding O.H.M.S. mail with official Latest Date. franks)
- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| MARSA MATRUH. | 12.10.39. | Army Censor 14. | (Minett) |
| ABU QIR. | . 3.40. | Pair of 10 m. Army Post | (Minett) |
| CAIRO. | 2.3.40. | R.A.F. Censor 24. | (Gilbert) |
| ABU SUWER. | 8.5.40. | R.A.F. Censor 25. | (Gilbert) |
| MAADI. | 13.5.40. | | (Rawson) |
| AMRIA MARIUT. | 3.1.41. * | | (Rawson) |
| ALEXANDRIA. | 20.4.42. * | Naval censor | (Gilbert) |
| PORT SAID. | 20.8.42. * | Naval Censor p.b. | (Gilbert) |
- (b) Civil on O.H.M.S., franked or censored mail.
- | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| HELIOPOLIS. | 8.8.40. | Section H.Q., R.A.F., Heliopolis. | (Gilbert) |
| CAIRO. | 3.8.43. | G.H.Q./M.E.F. | (Gilbert) |
- (c) M.P.Os.
- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|
| MOASCAR. | 3.10.39. | Army censor 16. | (Minett) |
| ABU QIR. | 6.?.40. | | (Rawson) |
| CAIRO. | 17.4.40. | | (Firebrace) |
| ABU SUEIR. | 26.7.40. * | | (Firebrace) |
- (d) SPECIAL M.P.O.
P.O./4 B.O.D. (at Abbassia) 19.2.45. backstamp. (Revell)
(Note, this may not be an official A.P.O. mark).

THE YEARS FOLLOWING W.W.II. (Including the Canal Zone period).

- - 46. British Troops evacuated the Citadel, Cairo.
- 30.3.47. British Troops evacuated Kasr el Nil Barracks, Cairo.
- 31.3.47. All British Forces concentrated in the Canal Zone, wth Army G.H.Q., M.E.L.F., at Fayid and Air H.Q., M.E.A.F., at Abu Sueir, Civil affairs Branch retained an Agency in Cairo. There remained also a F.P.O. Detachment.
- 16.10.51. Abrogation of the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty.
- 18.10.51. F.P.O., 169 A.P.O./S.299 Detachment, M.E.L.F.13 Ruston Buildings, Garden City, Cairo, closed (ref. Bagley)
- 19.10.54. Suez Agreement (allowing for withdrawal of British Forces within 20 months).
- 30.11.54. G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.'s last day at Fayid. Opened in Cyprus on 1.12.54. (A.O.C.in G/M.E.A.F, arrived in Cyprus on 3.12.54).
- 3.4.56. Last British Fighting Troops left Egypt.
- 14.4.56. Last Airfield in Egypt was evacuated by the R.A.F. (Abu Sueir).

Note. No. 20 Movements Unit at Port Said remained for a further few weeks.

13.6.56. Union Jack hauled down and last British Garrison Troops left Egypt.

Notes on the Canal Zone postal arrangements :-

No. 6. R.A.F. Postal H.Q. was located at R.A.F. Station Abu Sueir.

The latest date seen for an E.P.P. datestamp is 28. JL.51. on No. 107 (?) used as a transit mark. (Gilbert).

Civil postmarks do not seem to have been reverted to but A.P.Os and F.P.Os continued in use until the final evacuation of the Canal Zone.

B.A.P.O. 4. The official list stated that this ceased on the move to the Canal Zone in March 1947. However, it actually continued in use at Moascar.

B.A.P.O. 19. The official list stated that this was issued to Moascar in March 1947. However, no example of it's datestamp has been recorded.

F.P.Os. A rough check indicates that some 112 numbers were issued to B.A.P.Os 4 and 19. About 35 to B.A.P.O., 4 about 48 to B.A.P.O. 19 and some 50 to both at some time or another.

In addition, new single ring type datestamps were issued - No. 938 to M.E.L.F., and No. 941 to Egypt (recorded by Crouch and Hill).

Also in addition, Krag continuous machines were issued - No. 1 to Moascar and No. 2 to Fayid.

Also in addition, No. 4, B.O.D. at Abbasiya had its own P.O. datestamp for incoming mail.

OPERATIONS IN EGYPT, November/December, 1956.

5.11.56. Airborne British Troops landed at Gamil Airfield, Port Said.

22.12.56. Final day of evacuation of British Troops from Egypt.

IN CONCLUSION.

As stated at the beginning of these Notes, what has been written is not intended to be the last word in a very complex and little considered subject. It is hoped in due course to cover the ground in very much greater detail, in particular with regard to the Postal History aspect with studies of cancellations and postal rates. In the meantime, any member with an interest in this subject or with material of a military nature is asked to get in touch with the Author who is now one of the Assistant Keepers of the Philatelic Record. He is indebted to Lt. Colonel Danson, John Firebrace and Brigadier Rawson for constructive comments on the Notes.

NEW MEMBERS.

100. Richard A. Voogeli, 2900, Pierce Street, San Francisco 23, California.
U.S.A.

101. George L. Lee, Box 57. "Dunleith", Bernardsville, New Jersey, U.S.A.
