

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE .

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR .

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

No. 12. Col. Richard Stead, "Springfield", Newton-by-Frodsham,
via Warrington.

22. F. S. Mumford, 81 Beech Road, Cale Green, Stockport, Cheshire.

NEW MEMBERS.

No. 102. Prodromos Melon, Mahmutpaşa Caddesi No. 230, Istanbul, Turkey.

103. Zwi Gans, Carmel Ave, 8a, Haifa, Israel.

104. Fred Coudsi, 1 Rue Albert Sorel, Paris XIV, France.

105. Justice Lars Alund, L.L.D., 15b Floragatan, Stockholm, Sweden.

106. Tevfik Kuyas, Cumhuriyet Caddesi No. 155/1, Harbiye, Istanbul,
Turkey.

107. Madam Tevfik Kuyas, Cumhuriyet Caddesi No. 155/1, Harbiye,
Istanbul, Turkey.

EGYPT, 1927-37. 500 mil. S.G. 204a.

Dr. Byam has heard from F. W. Pollack who wrote on March 16th, 1960 as follows :-

" You may be interested to hear that I received an unusual stamp for my next auction: a 500 m. Fouad stamp (S.G. 204a) with watermark inverted. The stamp has a very neat postmark of the Cairo Parcel Office, 23.11.1935. As far as I know, the stamp is unrecorded. Originally 200 copies must have existed and if many people will look for it another few copies may be unearthed.

Dr. Byam comments - "This is an interesting find by Pollack. Will you please ask members to search their collections for further copies - Note the C.D.S. of 23.11.1935.

S I C I L I A 59. - R E P O R T By Dr. W. B Y A M.

This International Exhibition, held at Palermo from October 16th. to 26th. 1959, celebrated the centenary of the first stamps of Sicily - the famous King Bomba series - and the 150th. anniversary of the birth of Tommaso Aloysio Juvara who designed them. The stamps were displayed in several pavillions at the Mediterranean Fair Grounds and many of the exhibits were of an extremely high standard, particularly those of Europe. Stamps of the British Empire were not well represented. What was disappointing was the poor attendance: at times only the jury were found looking at the displays.

Egypt was well represented, there being no less than six entries of the stamps of this country.

ZWI GANS, whose collection I first saw at Tel Aviv in 1957, had re-arranged his material and added much of great interest, both of the pre-adhesive period and of the first four issues of stamps.

A collection I had not seen previously, but of which I had heard great things from those who attended the exhibition at Hamburg earlier in the year, was that of MADAME NIHAL KUYAS of Istanbul. She and her husband are philatelists of whom much may be expected in the future. TEVFIK KUYAS gained a gold medal for his exhibit of Turkey. I gathered that husband and wife worked happily together and were equally keen on their stamps. The collection of Madame Kuyas was particularly strong in the section dealing with the British Consular Offices. Through the kindness of her husband I am able to add, as an appendix to this Report, important details of her G.B. items which should be helpful to the E.S.C. I believe this couple will apply for membership of the Circle and are likely to play an important part. The following outstanding pieces attracted my attention -

1. Cover bearing six copies of G.B. 2d blue, with lines, all plate 9, cancelled B01 - Type 1, addressed to Bombay.
2. Cover with three copies of G.B. 2d. blue, with lines, all plate 9, and cancelled as above to England.
3. Cover bearing four copies of 3d rose, to Bombay.
4. Cover with two copies of 3d. rose, plate 4, dated Dec. 66, from Alexandria to England. - stamps cancelled with the rare duplex marking (five bars above and below) - This letter had been sent by French mail and was hand-stamped Insufficiently Paid.
5. Cover from Egypt to Malta dated 27 October 1866, franked with one 3d. and two copies of 1d. making the usual 5d. rate.
6. Cover dated 2 Sept. '76 bearing oval registered marking of Alexandria struck in red, franked by one 4d. vermillion, plate 15 and a pair 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ mauve, plate 4. It would seem that this was a double letter carried for 5d. and that 4d. represented the charge for registration(?)

Details of G.B. stamps off cover and of additional covers appear in the Appendix.

7. Six telegrams to India carried by post from Suez onwards, all franked 1/-; this charge in one instance was represented by 9d. and a single 3d.
8. Cover dated 16th. March 1861 from the French P.O. at Alexandria, bearing eight copies 80c imperf, cancelled 3704, to Italy. I saw no sign of markings indicating Registration or Insurance.
9. Cover from the French P.O. at Suez bearing two 20c, cancelled 5105, to France.
10. Cover dated 6th August 1867 bearing Suez Canal 20c, pen cancelled, and 20c of France cancelled with the Suez Canal Co's grille of Ismailia.
11. Three covers from the French P.O. at Port Said.
12. Two covers from the French P.O. at Cairo - dated Dec. '73 and 5th Oct. 74.
13. Three covers from Beyrout with G.B. adhesives cancelled G06 - one with double rate postage in 1874 - the second franked 4d. + 80c (2) - the third dated 7 Oct. 75 franked 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + 80c - All three letters went to France.
14. Cover from Alexandria to Livorno, bearing Italian 60c, hand struck DA ALESSANDRIA D'EGITTO, a rare marking, apparently applied at Ancona.
15. Two covers from Beyrout with G.B. adhesives cancelled G06 to Italy, franked respectively 2d. and 4d. the latter apparently a double rate letter, dated 1873 and 1874.
16. Russian Levant stamps of 1866 on pieces of original covers - both cancelled 785, the marking of Alexandria.
17. A piece from the Austrian P.O. at Port Said bearing 5 and 10 soldi (coarse whiskers) .
18. Egypt 1866 - 5 para on portion of the newspaper La Trombetta cancelled with circular Type 1, dated Oct. 1866.
19. Egypt 1866 - 5 para - a mint block of four with marginal paper along the bottom.
20. Two covers from Cairo dated respectively 22nd and 23rd July 1867, franked by 1866 2 P.T. bisects; both undoubtedly genuine.
21. Cover franked by three copies of 1875 1 P.T. cancelled with the circular UFF NATANT ALES, dated 4 GEN 1877 - A particularly nice specimen.
22. Cover from Gedda to Suez dated 26 SETT 70 franked by Egypt 1867 - 2 and 5 P.T., What was the reason for a 7 P.T. rate is not obvious.
23. The only known cover bearing a copy of Egypt 1866, 10 P.T. - Additional stamps include a pair of Egypt 1866 1 P.T. and Italy 1863, 2 Lire.

There were other desirable items in this collection, which gained a silver-gilt medal, but which is obviously destined to receive a gold award before long.

I noted in this collection three covers from Egypt to Scotland at the 9d. rate. They were dated from 15 November 1860 to some date in February 1863.

JEAN BOULAD d'Humières displayed in three frames some interesting material, mostly covers and entires, but as I have noted these at other Exhibitions I do not propose to describe them again here.

RAOUL ZEHERI of Cairo also exhibited in three frames. His stamps were interesting but his pages struck me as overcrowded.

A collection by H. P. VAN LENTE of Amsterdam contained nothing requiring special mention. (3 frames)

My own collection appeared in 21 frames and consisted of the first three issues of Egypt and the provisionals of 1879. - two frames of the Italian P.O. in Alexandria - one frame of the other Foreign Consular Posts - and one frame of Egypt Used Abroad, comprising covers or entires from eleven different offices in Turkey. Items of note not previously exhibited were :-

1. Wrapper dated 1869 from Alexandria to Cairo, franked 13 P.T. - singles of 1 and 2 P.T. and a horizontal pair of 5 P.T., all of 1867. Apparently conveying documents in bulk as there are two small holes in the wrapper so placed as to suggest a string was passed through them - The piece bears no sign of registration or insurance so it must be assumed that the total weight of the sending was not less than 130 Grammes.
2. Cover, unsealed, franked with a single 1p paras on P.T. $2\frac{1}{2}$ perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ X $13\frac{1}{2}$ surcharge inverted, cancelled duplex marking of Alexandria 1 JA 79 - Local delivery.
3. Cover, Cairo to England 24 GEN 79 franked with two singles of the 5 paras provisionals of 1879 and one of the 10 paras - all perf. $12\frac{1}{2}$ - and a single 20 para of 1875 perf $13\frac{1}{4}$ X $12\frac{1}{8}$ - making the normal single letter rate of 1 P.T.
These overprinted provisional stamps were required for use from 1879 January 1st for three months and were issued only at Cairo and Alexandria.
4. Cover, Alexandria to Luxor, 17 GEN 67, franked 2 P.T. and 5 P.T. of 1866 and sent c/o H.B.M. Consul Luxor as no P.O. existed there until 1st Oct. 1873. Rates to Upper Egypt at that date (Jan. 1867) were based on weight and distance.
5. Cover, Cairo to Firenze via Marseilles, June 1863, franked with Posta Europea Frank of Cairo Type IV, in black, 4 June 63; and Sardinia 20 and 40 cent. Cancelled PIROSCAFI POSTALI INGLESII, in blue, struck on the cover as well as on the stamps. The Italian c.d.s. of Alexandria, in blue, is also struck on the front of the cover.

(I also exhibited a similar cover with the stamps obliterated by this same steamship marking, in black, and the P.E. Frank Type VI. of Cairo - This cover had been previously exhibited and described)

6. Entire, Alexandria to Paris, dated 8 GIU 65, carried by the Italian post, franked by Italian stamps of the 1863 December issue, 40 and two 10c, cancelled PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANI, in black. P.D. in black, appears on the front. As there is no sign of any tax charge for postage due, this letter is evidence that there must have been a postal convention between Italy and France in 1865, allowing Italian stamps to be used from Egypt for this service. Anyone possessing similar letters I hope will report them to me. They must be rare.

A P P E N D I X.

G.B. MATERIAL IN THE COLLECTION OF MADAME NIHAL KUYAS.

ALEXANDRIA CANCELLATIONS.

1 PENNY.

Type 1. Plate 74, 76, 80, 81, 85, 93, 98, 134, 147 (Strip of three)
- III. - 124 pair.
- IV. - 124.

2 PENCE.

Type 1. Plate 9, 4 singles, one strip of three.
Letter addressed to London franked with strip of three,
c.d.s. Alex. 19.8.1868.
Letter addressed to Bombay franked with strip of six,
c.d.s. Alex. 26.7.1862.
Letter addressed to London with strip of three.
c.d.s. 19.3.1866.
- 13. 2 singles
- 14. 1 single.
- 15. 1 single.
Type II. - 13. 1 single.

2 1/2 PENCE.

Wmk. Anchor.

Blued paper. Plate I. Single on fragment, c.d.s. 17.10.1875; Horizontal pair. All Type III.

White paper. Plate 1. Type IV. one ; Plate II. Four fragments, two with
c.d.s. 5. Dec. 75, 30. Nov. 75. Error
of lettering.

Plate 3, Type IV, one.

Wmk. Orb.

Plate 3. Type III. Pair, Letter to Edinburgh, c.d.s. 8. AU. 76.
- 4. - III. Three singles. Letter to Edinburgh, c.d.s. 29. Oc. 76.
- 5. - III. Four singles.
- 6. - III. Three singles, one is fragment with c.d.s. 15. Ju. 77.
- 7. - III. Three singles.
- 8. - III. One single.
- 9. - IV. Three singles.

3 PENCE.

Wmk. Emblems.

Plate 2. Type 1, Four singles, 3 wing margin copies, one pair, one
strip of four, fragment with 2 pence; Plate 9. Letter
to Bombay with strip of four c.d.s. 11 Dec. ...

3 PENCE. Wmk. Emblems. (Continued)

Plate 4. (Large letters in corners): Type I. Four singles.; Three wing margin copies, one pair; one strip of four, Letter to Malta with two examples of one Penny (5 Pence rate) c.d.s. 27 Oc.66. Letter to London with irregular and severed block of six, c.d.s. 12 Fe. 67;

Type II. (Duplex cancellation): Letter to London with pair c.d.s. 11 Sp.67; Letter to London with pair c.d.s. 30 DE.66 additional cachet Insufficiently Prepaid and Shilling M.S. marking.

Wmk. Spray of roses.

Plate 4. Type I. One single, one wing margin copy.
- II. One single with imprint.
- 5. - I. One single, one strip of three, one strip of four.
- II. One pair.
- 6. - I. One single.
- III. One single.
- 7. - II. One pair.
- 9. - III. Two singles; One fragment pair with pair of 1 Pence Plate 13 with c.d.s. 9 FE.73.
- 11. - IV. Two singles.
- 12. - IV. One single.
- 14. - III. One wing margin copy.
- 16. - III. One wing margin copy.

4 PENCE. Wmk. Garter.

Without letters. Type I. Two single copies. One pair.
With small letters in the corners.
Plate 3. Type I. One single. Letter to Bombay with strip of three with c.d.s. 11 JU 62.
- 4. - I. One wing margin copy.
With large letters in the corners.
Plate 7. Type I. One pair.
- 8. - I. Two singles.
- II. (Duplex) Letter to Malta with 1 penny, plate 85. c.d.s. 19 JU 67.
- 9. - I. One single, one wing margin copy.
- II. One single.
- 10. - II. One single.
- 11. - I. Three singles, One vertical pair, One strip of 3, One fragment with one penny Plate 119 and 122 mixed franking with France 40 centimes 1863-71 cancelled with c.d.s. in red and c.d.s. ALEXANDRIA 5 MR 70.
- 12. - I. Five singles, one strip of three.
- III. One single, 4 pair, one strip of three, one strip of four, Letter to Liverpool via Brindisi franked with strip of four c.d.s. 19 NO 72; Fragment with pair mixed franking with Egypt 1867, 1 Piaster cancelledV.R. Poste Egiziane PORTO-SAID.
- 13. - IV. Three singles, Two pairs, One pair on a fragment with c.d.s. 6 September 1873.
- III. One single.
- 14. - IV. Four singles, One fragment with two pairs and one single, Letter addressed to Malta franked with pair c.d.s. 20 Oc 73.

Uncoloured corners.

- Plate 15. Type IV. Vermillion. Two singles; Registered letter addressed to Loch-Earn Head, Scotland, franked with a pair of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. plate IV and a four penny vermilion, plate 15, on the side oval cachet in red; REGISTERED A 2 SP 76.
- 15. Sage green. one single.

SIXPENCE.

Wmk. EMBLEMS.

Without letters in the corners.

Type I. Three singles; Letter to Bombay franked with a pair and verso c.d.s.62; Letter to Scotland franked with single and one penny 1857 and 2d. plate 8 (9 pence rate) and in verso c.d.s. 15 NO 60; mourning letter to Edinburgh with single and 3d. 1862 (9 pence rate) and in verso c.d.s.63.

Small letters in the corners.

- Plate 3. Type I. Four singles, one pair, one strip of three.
- 4. - I. Three singles. Letter to London franked with single and in verso c.d.s. 5 MR 65.

Large letters in the corners.

- Plate 4. Type I. Four singles. Three pairs, one single on a fragment with c.d.s. 27 SP 68; Letter to London franked with pair, in verso c.d.s. 7 AU 65; Letter to London franked with pair and c.d.s. 26 FE 67.
- II. Letter to London franked with pair, cancelled with two stroke of duplicate 19 FE 67; Letter to London franked with pair, cancelled with two stroke of duplicate 6 JU 67.
- 6. - I. One single.
- II. Letter to London franked with single and cancelled with duplicate cachet 13 JY 67.

Wmk. Spray of roses.

- Plate 6. Type I. Five singles; Letter to London franked with single and c.d.s. 27 JA 68; Letter to London franked with pair (double rate) and c.d.s. 13 JU 68; Letter to Malta franked with single and c.d.s. 5 DE 68; Letter to London franked with pair and c.d.s. 9 DE 68; Letter to Liverpool franked with single and c.d.s. 16 JA 69.
- II. (Duplicate) Two singles; One pair; One block of four; One pair on a fragment 12 DE 67; Letter to London franked with wing margin copy cancelled with duplicate 11 JU 67; another letter to London as above but 4 DE 67; another letter as above but 23 MY 67; another letter as above but 5 JY 67 (Note please in Alexandria A July is shown JY and in Alexandria B is shown JU); Letter to London franked with two singles cancelled with two duplicate 29 NO 68.

- Plate 8. Type I. Six singles; two pairs; One vertical pair with vertical pair 2d. plate 13; Letter to London franked with two singles and c.d.s. 29 AU 69; Letter to Malta franked with wing margin copy c.d.s. 25 DE 69.
- II. (Duplicate) One single; one pair; Letter to Greenwich franked with single and cancelled with duplicate 19 AP 69; Letter to Liverpool franked with pair and single (triple rate) and cancelled with duplicate 29 MY 69; Letter addressed to London franked with pair and cancelled duplicate 21 AU 69. MIXED FRANKING. Front of letter Birkenhead franked with single and Egypt 1866, 1 piastre cancelled with c.d.s. Poste Vico-Reali Egiziane 1 NOV. 66 Zifta and MITG (Zifta-mit- Ghamr)
- 9. - I. Three singles.
- II. (Duplicate) Three singles; Two fragment singles with 2d. plate 13;
- III. Letter to Liverpool franked with pair and 4d. plate 12 with c.d.s. 4 NO 71.
- 6. - I. Fragment with 2d. plate 9 and 3d. plate 4(1865)
Fragment pair superimposed on pair and single 15 Kreuzer and 2 Kreuzer of Austria 1863-64 (9 $\frac{1}{2}$ Perf.)
- 11. - III. Deep chestnut. One single;
- IV. - - Three singles.
- I. Pale chestnut. Four singles.
- IV. - - One single.
- III. Pale buff. One single.
- 12. - IV. - - Two singles.
Grey. Five singles.

uncoloured corners.

- 13. - IV. One single.
- 14. - III. One single.
- 15. - IV. One single.
- III. One single.

NINE PENCE.

- 2. - I. Six singles; Letter to Edinburgh franked with single and on verso c.d.s. 4 FE 63.

TEN PENCE.

- I. Two singles.
- III. One single and one strip of three.
- II. (Duplicate) One single.

ONE SHILLING.

Wmk. Emblems.

- I. Two singles.

Small corner letters.

- I. Five singles; Letter to New-York franked with single and 6d. plate 3 with cachet INSUFFICIENTLY PREPAID and on the verso c.d.s. 24 FE 65.

Large corner letters.

- Plate 4. Type 1. Four singles, one fragment with 6d. plate 5; Front of letter with three pieces forming a vertical and horizontal pair and pair of 3d. plate 4 (1865) and c.d.s. 14 OC 66.
- 11. One single cancelled with c.d.s. 3 AP 1866 probably part of duplicate cachet.

Wmk. Spray of roses.

- Plate 4. Type 1. Three singles; One single on a fragment with c.d.s. 3 AU 66; Strip of four; Strip of four and pair and single on the fragment; Strip of three and single with 4d. plate 11 on the fragment; Single superimposed on a pair of 15 Kreuzer cancelled with oval Trieste.
- II. (Duplicate) pair, single on a fragment 18 DE 67; Vertical pair on a fragment 19 NO 67.
- 5. - III. One single, pair, single with 2d. plate 13 on the fragment.
- 7. - IV. One pair.

Uncoloured corners.

- 8. - IV. One single and one pair.
- 9. - III. One single.

TWO SHILLINGS.

- I. Two singles.
- II. One single cancelled with c.d.s. 19 AU 67 probably part of duplicate cachet.
- III. One single.
- IV. Three singles.

FIVE SHILLINGS.

Wmk. Maltese Cross

- 1. - I. One single.
- III. Three singles.
- IV. Two singles.
- 2. - III. One single.

Altogether 317 items containing 475 stamps.

SUEZ CANCELLATIONS.

1½ PENCE.

Plate 11.
- 14.

One single.
Vertical strip of three.

ONE PENNY 1857.

Two singles, Telegram to Bombay franked with strip of five and four and three and c.d.s. 11 SE 63.

ONE PENNY. 1864-79.

Plate 83, One single; Plate 90, pair; Plate 96, single; Plate 97, Single; Plate 108, single; Plate 122, Single; Plate 129, Single; Plate 138, Single; Plate 140, Strip of five with 6d., plate 9, on fragment; Plate 154, Single; Plate 158, Single; Plate 168, Single; Plate 170, Single; Plate 186, Single.

TWO PENCE.

Plate 9, Three singles; Plate 13, One single. Plate 14, Two singles.

2 $\frac{1}{2}$ PENCE.

Wmk. Anchor.

Blued paper.

Plate 1, Two singles.

White paper.

Plate 1, Three singles; Plate 2, Two singles;
Plate 3, Three singles.

Wmk. ORB.

Plate 3, Two singles; Plate 4, One single, one fragment with c.d.s. 14 OC 76. Plate 5, Two singles; Plate 6, Three singles; Plate 7, Two singles; Plate 8, Two singles; Plate 9, Three singles;

THREE PENCE.

Wmk. EMBLEMS.

Plate 2, Two singles; One pair; Telegram to Bombay with strip of four and c.d.s. 10 SP 68.

Large corner letters.

Plate 4, Three singles;

FOUR PENCE.

Wmk. Garter.

Without letters. One single.

Small corner letters. Plate 3, Two singles; Plate 4, Two singles; Telegram to Bombay with vertical strip of three and c.d.s. 5 DE 64.

Large corner letters. Plate 7, One single; Plate 8, Three singles; Plate 11, One single; Plate 1w, Five singles; Three pairs; Plate 13, Four singles; Two singles on fragment with c.d.s. 6 FE 74 and 25 JA 74; Three horizontal and one vertical pairs, three with c.d.s. 17 FE 74, 1 MR 74, 9 MY 74. Plate 14, One single.

White corners.

Plate 15, Sage green, Two singles.

SIX PENCE.

Wmk. Emblems.

Without letters: Two singles.

With small corner letters;

- Plate 3. Two singles; Telegram to Bombay franked with pair,
- 4. One single; Two pairs; Telegram to Bombay franked with pair with c.d.s. 12 DE 64.

Large corner letters.

- Plate 5. Two singles.
- 6. Two singles.

Wmk. Spray of Roses.

- Plate 6. Three singles.
- 8. Four singles; One pair.
- 9. Three singles; Fragment with 2d., plate 13, and c.d.s. 10 FE 71.
- 11. Chestnut. Two singles.
Buff. Three singles.
- 12. Buff. Two singles. Gris, Two singles.

White corners

- Plate 13. Two singles; Fragment with pair of 1d. plate 163 and c.d.s. 21 DE 74.
- 14. One vertical pair, One single only cancelled by c.d.s. 16 JU 76.
- 15. One single.

NINE PENCE.

- Plate 2. Five singles; Telegram to Bombay franked with single and 3d. 1862 and c.d.s. 26 AU 63.

TEN PENCE.

Four singles.

ONE SHILLING.

Without letters.

Wmk. Emblems.

Three singles; Letter to Bombay franked with single and c.d.s. 12 DE 62.

Small corner letters.

Three singles; Telegram to Bombay franked with single and c.d.s. 14 MY 63; Telegram as above but c.d.s. 28 OC 63; Telegram as above but c.d.s. 26 DE 63; Telegram as above but c.d.s. 12 JU 64.

Large corner letters.

Plate 4. Two singles.

Wmk. Spray of Roses.

Plate 4. Five singles.

- 6. One single.

- 7. One single.

White corners.

Plate 10. Two singles; Two singles only, cancelled by o.d.s. each
17 JA 75.

TWO SHILLINGS.

Four singles.

FIVE SHILLINGS.

Wmk. Maltese Cross.

One single.

All together 167 items containing 213 stamps.

AUSTRIAN P.O. AT PORT SAID.

P. Melon of Istanbul, E.S.C. No. 102, has submitted photographs of an entire recently acquired by him.

This entire bears one each of the 2 and 3 soldi Austrian adhesives of 1867 (coarse whiskers) cancelled with the rare Porto Said Egyptian circular marking, (Austrian P.O. Type II-6) the date on which is indistinct in the photograph. It also bears a 10 Lepta (Hermes) Greek stamp whilst, on the reverse, there is the circular Lloyd Agenzie 14/1 Smirne marking and a double circle Greek marking, also indistinct.

THE POSTAL CONCESSION PERIOD FOR BRITISH AND BRITISH EMPIRE FORCES IN EGYPT,
1932 - 1941.

On the following pages, 61 - 72, will be found a reprint, by permission, of an article which appeared in the May 1960 issue of the "Postscript", the official organ of the Postal History Society.

THE POSTAL CONCESSION PERIOD FOR BRITISH AND BRITISH EMPIRE
FORCES IN EGYPT 1932 - 1941

Charles Minett and John Firebrace.

We are speaking to you tonight on the Military Postal History of the Postal Concession period, which began on 1st November 1932 and lasted for the first twenty months of the Second World War, finally coming to an end in April 1941.

This is a joint effort by Charles Minett and myself. We are both members of the Egypt Study Circle, of which John Gilbert, our President tonight is Vice-Chairman. What you are going to see is not an exhibition, but a study and it is mounted and written up as such. You will notice that many of the covers are opened out so that the front and back can be seen at the same time. This may be frowned upon by some, and quite rightly so, but since for the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ years of the Concession, markings were applied invariably both to the front and back of the cover, and spasmodically so applied at other times, you will agree that it makes for easier study.

The main aspects of the Postal History side of the Concession period are the datestamps and other postal markings and the postage rates from time to time in force. We are not directly concerned with the adhesive labels themselves, whether they be called seals or stamps or whether they be applied to the front or back of the cover, provided of course, that they were correctly applied.

Half the sheets that we will show bear dates from 1932 up to the outbreak of war and the remaining half are during the period of Military Censorship which came into being in September 1939.

We come now to a description of the items representing the study as far as we have gone. SHEET ONE shows the 10 millieme ($2\frac{1}{2}$ d.) surface rate to England which was used by, and acceptable to, British troops up to 1931. Sometime during 1932 this rate was raised by the Egyptian Authorities by 50% to 15 milliemmes ($3\frac{3}{4}$ d.) SHEET TWO and this development was not appreciated at all by the British troops. You will notice that the c.d.s. on these two sheets is from the post office as ISMAILIA Camp.

As a result of representations made to the War Office, the Concession of the continuation of the one piastre or ten millieme rate was restored from 1st November 1932. The political state of Egypt at this time was that of an independent Kingdom but it harboured within its boundaries British Forces as Garrison Troops.

The Postal Concession was hedged about with a set of rules. At this moment we will concern ourselves with two only, namely, that Concession Rates were only available for Forces Letters to the British Isles and the Irish Free State and that special adhesive labels had to be used. There was no Concession Rate for Air Mail, Registered Mail or Parcels and troops wishing to use these methods paid the full Egyptian Civil rate. SHEET THREE shows an Air Mail letter to England, again from Ismailia Camp and

THE POSTAL CONCESSION IN EGYPT 1932-1941 (Contd.)

franked by adhesives to the correct air rate of 28 milliemes, the adhesives comprising both air mail and definitive values. The crest of the Royal Scots Fusiliers is imprinted on the envelope and we should like to say here that we regard the recognition of crested stationery as an integral part of this military postal study. More will be said of this anon.

SHEET 4 shows a registered letter to England and illustrates the non-availability of registration facilities as part of the Concession agreement. This cover was posted at ABBASSIA BARRACKS, CAIRO and the handstruck registration marking with manuscript number is of interest.

SHEET 5 shows a cover with non-Concession surface rate to GIBRALTAR. It was originally handed in to the M.P.O. at Moascar but this Post Office had only been established to handle Concession mail and so the clerk contented himself with date stamping the reverse and presumably forwarding the letter to the Post Office at Ismailia Camp, where the adhesives were cancelled and the letter dispatched for Gibraltar.

SHEET 6 shows a cover, also at the 15 millieme rate, addressed to Bermuda. This rate in the opinion of the Egyptian Post Office seems to have been inadequate as it incurred the handstruck T in square denoting tax to be collected. The cover was probably routed through England where it gained and lost an Inland Section mark and finally reached Bermuda where ld. was collected, equivalent to a 2 millieme Egyptian franking.

We now revert to Soldiers Letters to the British Isles which took advantage of the Postal Concession. A complicated rigmorole was employed. The soldier wrote his letter and stuck his adhesive label on the back, these labels having been locally designed and sold at no profit by the N.A.A.F.I. His letter was struck in the front under unit arrangements by a handstamp consisting of a crown surmounting two concentric circles containing the words "Egypt Postage Prepaid" with a number in the centre. The adhesive label on the back was obliterated with a rhomboid of dots known as a Retta cancellation and then the writer posted his letter in his unit mail box whence it was taken to the Military or Civil Post Office to receive on the front a circular date stamp of the place of origin.

These arrangements came into force on 1st November 1932, the surface rate to England being 10 milliemes. We define the postal history study of Soldiers Letters of this period as a study of

- (a) The Crowned Circle number, the unit to which it was allotted and the colour in which it was struck.
- (b) The military or civil c.d.s., the type - where there was more than one from the same place, and the colour in which it was struck.
- (c) The Military seal 10 millieme surface rate and 3 millieme unsealed Christmas card rate, and
- (d) The cancellation on the seal, the number of dots in the retta and the colour of the strike.

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SHEET 7 shows a Crowned Circle struck in red, SHEET 8 a black strike and SHEET 9 a violet strike.

SHEET 7 and SHEET 8 show also a military c.d.s. and SHEET 9 a civil c.d.s.

SHEETS 10 and 11 illustrate the four known retta cancellations in black and SHEET 12 shows a red cancellation. These three sheets show covers franked by 10 millieme seals.

SHEET 13 shows a 3 millieme unsealed Christmas card rate with the seal cancelled by a violet retta.

SHEETS 14 and 15 show the seal cancelled by the M.P.O. MOASCAR c.d.s. in place of the retta, first in black and then in violet.

Although the military seals have been written about extensively before the War and also on occasions since, we are aware that our knowledge of the postal history is not complete. The dates of allocation of the various crowned circle numbers are not definitely established neither are the periods of use of the various c.d.s. We think that the use of various coloured inks for the handstamps described may help us further in our studies.

One further aspect of this part of the Concession period may be of interest and that is the routing of letters after they received the c.d.s. of origin on the front of cover. During the three and a half years of the life of the seals there were more than half a dozen date stamp variations either in combinations or singly that a letter could attract after posting in the Alexandria area. We illustrate from Alexandria, three covers :-

SHEET 16 Mamura c.d.s. with Alexandria - Abu Qir t.p.o.
and Alexandria backstamp

" 17 Mamura c.d.s. with Alexandria - backstamp

" 18 Abu Qir c.d.s. with Alexandria/Abu Qir t.p.o.

Divers routes were also occurring from the Canal Zone and in SHEETS 19 and 20 we illustrate covers from from Abu Sueir, the one routed via Alexandria and the other via Port Said.

This concludes a brief sketch of the first part of the Concession period when the military seals were in use, stuck on the back of the envelopes. From 1st March 1932 the adhesives used were the Army Post stamps bearing the portrait of King Fuad and later, in and after 1939, the portrait of King Farouk. Two values were issued, the 10 millieme red and the 3 millieme green, the functional rates being the same as for the seals and the combined life of these Fuad and Farouk adhesives was about five years. We illustrate as SHEET 21, a copy of the instruction introducing these adhesives.

The next few sheets illustrate some of the c.d.s., first military and then civil and these together show the locations of the post offices

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wherein it was possible to post mail at Concession rates. First, on SHEET 22 you will find a map bearing place names arrowed in three colours, each colour illustrating a different status of post office, as follows :-

- Red British Military Post Offices
- Green Egyptian Civil Post Offices officially recognised to receive Concession Mail.
- Gold Egyptian Civil Post Offices not officially recognised but Concession covers are known from them.

The study of the Military and Civil Post Offices runs from the beginning of the Concession period on 1st November, 1932 into the early days of the war, and after the beginning of censorship, and during this period of eight years the status - and the colour code on the map of certain offices changed.

Datestamps bearing the words "Military Post Office, Alexandria" and "Military Post Office, Cairo" (wording in full) are known from 1895 to during World War One. After World War One "M.P.O. Cairo" (initials only) is known but none of these MPO datestamps is known cancelling adhesives until the Concession Period. Illustrations of the pre-Concession MPO datestamps are shown in SHEET 23. The four earlier types have come to be known as "Barrel" types and an ALEXANDRIA barrel was in use during the Concession period and is illustrated cancelling adhesives in black on SHEET 24 and in violet on a cover addressed to the 2nd Dorsets. SHEET 25. The more usual type was also used at ALEXANDRIA.

CAIRO did not use a "barrel" although it had done earlier but it did have five datestamps, all simple enough to distinguish easily and shown on SHEETS 26-27-28-29. One of the MPO Cairo datestamps is also known in violet.

SHEET 30 shows a cover from MPO MERSA MATRUH addressed to the RAF at ABOUKIR. It contained an ecclesiastical epistle and was sent Free OHMS and was handstamped "certified official". It bears the unit cachet of RAF MERSA MATRUH and was routed through MPO ALEXANDRIA and MPO ABU QIR. The MPO at MERSA MATRUH was opened at the time of tension in connection with the Italo Abyssinian War.

Illustrating Civil Post Office datestamps are covers from ALLAQI, SHEET 31 and FOKA, SHEET 32 of which only one and two examples respectively have been reported by us. Allaqi is on the Nile near the Sudan border and hundreds of miles from any other post office known to have handled Concession Mail. We show also three civil datestamps from ALEXANDRIA used after the Military Post Office had closed. These are from the post offices at SIDI BISHR, SIDI GABER and RAS EL TIN, SHEETS 33 and 34.

If you have got somewhat confused as to how the Postal Concession operated you are by no means alone as the next four covers show. SHEET 35 shows a cover in which the seal and the handstamps are all present and correct

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but the Egyptian Post Office has stamped a T in box to denote postage due to be collected and Miss Cox of Weymouth has paid 3d. to the British Post Office for her soldier's letter. SHEET 36 shows a cover bearing a military seal improperly posted in a Cairo Civil Post Office and not bearing a Crowned Circle handstamp. The Egyptians decided to tax it and the British Post Office cancelled the T and datestamped the seal, backstamping the cover to show that it had taken only six days in transit.

SHEET 37 is a private letter bearing the Royal Horse Artillery crest and addressed to the War Office in London, franked with a 10 millieme Army Post adhesive but posted, as the last cover, in a civil post office. This cover was properly taxed and the tax collected. The two covers on which tax was collected vary in the amount of tax and we disagree with the amounts on both occasions, deeming 2½d. to be the correct tax rate.

SHEET 38 also shows an Army Post adhesive, this time posted at a non-Concession post office, ISMAILIA CAMP, where the clerk very properly ignored the adhesive and struck a T with the tax rate beside it. Here, again, the T was obliterated in England and no tax was collected.

Covers bearing Regimental or other official cachets are met with and are of interest. We believe that they are sometimes used to substantiate the use of OHMS stationery. The study of OHMS mail is one which we cannot tackle tonight and it has already been tackled within the Egypt Study Circle by Charles Minett. The use of British OHMS stationery did not qualify for a free trip through the Egyptian Post Office for letters bound for England. We have already mentioned the RAF ABU QIR cachet SHEET 30 and we now show "THE REGIMENTAL PAY OFFICE, HELIOPOLIS" (SHEET 39) and a Naval Cover (SHEET 40).

A companion interest to regimental cachets on a personal rather than an official basis is the use of Regimental Crested stationery. This is very helpful in establishing the location of an individual or, by reference to Regimental histories, to the location of a unit. The study of crested stationery is blessed, as you all know, in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia Vol. II on page 131. We show two crests of the 14/20 Hussars and one each of the Royal Warwickshire Regt. (Lord Montgomery's Regiment) and the 8th Kings Royal Irish Hussars. (SHEETS 41 and 42).

We now come to the second part of our study and that is the study of the use of the Concession stamps during Military censorship. Censorship, of course, brings in a new dimension, the censor mark, and we choose to define military postal history in wartime as the study of all markings which are necessary to get the letters from the soldier to his addressee. This, of course, includes censor marks, whether applied at the unit, or at the base and it also includes censors' and examiners' adhesive labels.

War was declared against Germany on 3rd September 1939 and against Italy on 10th June 1940. It was the former declaration which affected the postal history of Soldiers Letters from Egypt by the introduction of censorship at least as early as 4th September, 1939, this latter date being known for Egyptian Civil censorship, to which some early military covers were prone.

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The original rules of the Concession began to be stretched, or at times ignored. The stretching began with the introduction of airmail sendings. No value higher than 10 milliemes existed and the first rate that we have recorded is a 60 millieme rate, the dates that we have seen being all October 1939. SHEET 43. You will notice that a named c.d.s., i.e. M.P.O. CAIRO is still used, even though the letter is passed through a Base Post Office with a security number of BPO E 602. Of this series of datestamps more will be said later. Note also that the military censor mark does not contain a crown, one of the only two types which had not this feature, and this out of deference to the King of Egypt.

SHEET 44 shows the 40 mills air rate which is first seen in the last two or three days of October 1939, dates following the 60 millieme dates. Still a named post office, MPO ABU SUEIR, struck in blue and used by the RAF, and the circular censor mark is the RAF type initially found in the Middle East. This letter passed also through ABU SUWER Civil Post Office and BPO E 602 as the previous cover.

The air mail rate of 40 mills is composed of 10 mills surface and 30 milliemes air for 10 grammes. Double air rate - 20 grammes - is therefore 70 milliemes and this is the rate shown on SHEET 45. One further point should be noted - that it appears to have become accepted practice that Concession rate could be obtained by the use of one Concession adhesive and the balance of the Concession rate could be made up of definitive or airmail adhesives. Indian forces were the first of the British Empire troops to appear in the Middle East - they were there before War broke out and Concession adhesives were straight away accepted on letters addressed to INDIA.

SHEET 46 shows a rate to INDIA of 50 milliemes for which we can offer no explanation and hope that one may be forthcoming here tonight. The cover is of interest for the clarity of its backstamps and for the named Calcutta arrival censor, almost obliterating the RAF departure censor.

SHEET 47 shows a further expansion of countries of destination at Concession rate. As for India, so for Palestine a reasonable argument could be put forward, as Palestine contained many troops training for the same task in which the troops in Egypt would shortly be engaged. The 10 millieme surface rate, backed by the manuscript endorsement "Certified Official" was addressed to the Command Paymaster in Jerusalem and bore the c.d.s., the named MPO Cairo, at the very late date of April 1940, eight months after the introduction of censorship.

We have seen that covers posted in Cairo Civil Post Office have not been permitted to travel at Concession rates, since an MPO functioned at Cairo continuously since the start of the Concession but we now show, after the declaration of war, a cover that was accepted perfectly happily by Cairo Civil Post Office. It reached England in fifteen days at surface rate. This cover, although a Privilege Envelope, was censored at the unit and also received the attractive and not common Chief Field Censor oval in green at the base, SHEET 48.

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It is obvious that the use of named datestamps could not go on indefinitely and steps were taken to replace them by introducing the security c.d.s., E 600 Series, which we have already shown as backstamps, to cancel adhesives. These were numbered from 601 to 615, but numbers 612 to 614 are not known. The prefix "E" is believed to stand for Egypt and the general type and layout of these datestamps is a direct follow-on of the named datestamps. The initials F.P.O., M.P.O. and B.P.O. were all issued but these initials had no bearing, in all cases, on the function of the datestamps. These datestamps came into use with the beginning of censorship and Dr. Gordon Ward did a lot of valuable pioneer work with them.

Under datestamp FPO E 605 we show another cover with a 60 millieme air mail rate, SHEET 49. With 10 milliemes being worth 2½d., this rate was equivalent to the 1/3d. rate which was currently in use in Palestine. Six stamps had to be used to pay this rate and so the manuscript endorsement "stamps on back" seems, under the circumstances, a reasonable one.

Our next item, SHEET 50, shows a 40 millieme air rate on a cover bearing the crest of the K.R.R.C. This was duly censored and gives us a possible clue to the identity of the unit using Passed by Unit Censor No. 40. The list of allotted censor numbers is still a military secret. The c.d.s. on this cover is MPO E 601, one of five types of this number, which was used in CAIRO.

We are showing very few Naval items but SHEET 51 contains two covers, both Passed by Naval Censor. The first is datestamped by MPO E 603, Suez and the second cancelled by the more usual - for franked naval letters - retta cancellation. The "Received from H.M. Ships" and dated London c.d.s. help to substantiate this use of the retta cancellation.

SHEET 52 shows a double weight OHMS letter to England with the handstruck mark AIR in place of the usual blue etiquette. We are hoping to learn the exact status of this mark.

We now come to two items emanating from Egypt but shown for a non-Egyptian reason. Whilst both letters were addressed to England they were delivered to India where they were both marked MAL DIRIGE. Mal Dirige by the Military !

Two covers addressed to PALESTINE, SHEET 55, are followed by one addressed to the RAF at HABBANIYA, IRAQ, which was not, of course, a Concession Country and the cover incurred a Postage due charge of 15 fils, SHEET 56. A 10 millieme Army Post adhesive also carried a Privilege Envelope to CHINA. This cover incurred a manuscript T in red crayon at one stage, and the chinese chop which the cover also bears is believed to be a censor mark. SHEET 57.

An attempt to get a 3 millieme Army Post unsealed cover to Switzerland for a 1939 Christmas Card was condoned by the Egyptian civil authorities who censored it, and the cover duly reached CHAMPERY. Unfortunately the card had to be forwarded to Geneva, where on the basis that this thing had gone far enough, the authorities taxed it, and correctly so, SHEET 58.

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One of the datestamps in the E 600 series was loaned to the Australian Forces and FPO E 605 became the datestamp of eighteen Australian Infantry Brigade. The cover which illustrates this usage, SHEET 59 is censored in manuscript and bears no handstruck censor mark.

During this period, and with these security datestamps, Mail at Non-Concession rates is also found. SHEET 60 shows the 20 millieme non-Concession surface rate to Palestine, (although we have already seen Concession mail at half this rate to Palestine) and SHEET 61 shows the 45 millieme NON-CONCESSION air rate to England. The 15 millieme surface rate to England follows, SHEET 62.

We are tonight confining our study to the Concession Period, which came to an end in April 1941, and we have shown how the E 600 security series followed the named datestamps. They were issued at a time when datestamps were in very short supply. We show examples of E 604 with Sudan stamps which took part in the Sudan-Eritrean campaign in February 1941, SHEET 63, and one with an Australian 9d. platypus which was in use in Palestine in March 1941. SHEET 64. These uses can be categorized as Egyptian datestamps used abroad, but they went further than Sudan and Palestine for one was taken to India and one to Australia, though not during the Concession period.

We now come to the introduction of British FPO datestamps of the standard World War II type and we show, SHEET 65, the 40 mills air rate to England on Privilege envelopes, censored in green and in red; next, we have the familiar Free On Active Service covers, SHEET 66 followed by two free covers inscribed "No stamps available". This endorsement was probably unnecessary, SHEET 67.

One of the scarcer postal arrangements of the war in the middle east is next shown. Arrangements were made for Christmas mail for 1940 to be flown home free. SHEET 68 shows two covers endorsed "On active Service, Christmas Air Mail", and the dates that we have recorded for this service are 6th, 7th and 9th December only.

From February 1941 onwards we find British stamps being used on letters home, although the Concession period still had three months to run. The 10d. rate was equivalent to the 40 millieme Concession rate. There was a dearth of G.B. 10d. stamps in the middle east at this time and all the 10d. G.B. rate covers that we have recorded during the Concession Period have been made up of lower values, SHEET 69.

We have already shown one cover to Iraq at Concession surface rates. We now show a further cover identically franked and this cover, SHEET 70, unlike its predecessor which was taxed, was found acceptable both to Egyptian and Iraqi authorities. The cover is interesting in that it shows the writer to belong to 267 Squadron RAF, by inscription, and this gives another known censor number. The "Examined by Base Censor" label, tied fore and aft by the Deputy Chief Field Censor circular handstamp is one of a series showing date and volume of printing.

The next sheet is shown for the South African bi-lingual censor mark, used with British FPO date stamp. South African F.P.O.'s are known from May

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1941, the month after the Concession period ended, SHEET 71. Besides the British F.P.O. datestamps there was at this period one Base Army Post Office in CAIRO and the datestamp which carries this wording is shown on SHEET 72. The date of this cover is 2nd May 1941 which is after the ending of the Concession Period. Army Post adhesives are still used but wrongly.

We now shift the emphasis more toward the stamp in mentioning, and showing, two covers featuring the three milliemes green, SHEET 73. This stamp was the only companion to the 10 milliemes red and was issued for the unsealed Christmas card surface rate. The stamp is regarded, properly used, as one of the rarest stamps of the period. The words "properly used" are in our opinion of the utmost importance. To the purist, unsealed covers to the British Isles only constitute proper usage for the British Isles were the only proper destination for Army Post stamps. The date of issue of 12th December 1939 made the 3 milliemes virtually too late for Christmas of that year and by the next year for Christmas, Free on Active Service covers to England were in common usage. We have seen, and will be seeing in more detail letters addressed to India, Australia and New Zealand and that the Army post stamps were acceptable by usage for letters addressed thither. Gordon Ward records two 3 millieme covers to Australia in Porter's collection that were posted in October 1940, which is earlier than we have recorded Free on Active Service covers to Australia. We do not know of more than a dozen or so covers bearing the small 3 mills green and show two of them, one making up the 40 mills Air Rate to Scotland in November 1940. Also by common usage, 40 mills Concession air rate was obtained, provided the cover contained one Army Post stamp. The three mills stamp helps to make up the correct rate on this cover but not necessarily in a Concession capacity. The other cover show four 3 millieme stamps overpaying a 10 millieme surface rate in February 1941.

The remaining covers to be seen are from Indian, Australian, and New Zealand Forces in Egypt, with the adhesives cancelled by military datestamps of their respective armies. We begin with Indian datestamps, as Indian Forces were actually in Egypt a few weeks before the outbreak of war. We cannot show an uncensored cover but they should exist. We have recorded an August 1939 date.

A remarkable feature of early Indian covers is the omission of the year in the date stamp. We cannot think of a reason for this for we fail to see that it can have any security value. We show Indian FPO 19 in November 1939. This datestamp was used by 11 Infantry Brigade of 4 Indian Division. This was the first brigade to reach Egypt. SHEET 74. Brian de Eurca has done a lot of work on the Indian Forces in the Middle East.

Our next cover sheet 75 is a Christmas Card envelope franked by a King Fuad Army Post adhesive then at the end of its life. You will notice that the same double rectangle censor mark is used by Indian Forces and the number here shown, No.36, is believed to be from 4 Indian Division Signals. The next two covers illustrate the 40 millieme Air rate to India, the rate being made up, in the first place, by Army Post and Egyptian Air Mail adhesives and, in the second place, by Army post and Egypt Investiture stamps. SHEET 76. Next an OHMS cover, Certified Official, and with a non-Concession

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rate which we have not plotted yet. This is the second date stamp seen without the year and it is Indian FPO 17.

An interesting cachet graces the cover on SHEET 77. It reads "DESPATCHED BY RAIL ROUTE TO AVOID DETENTION" and was placed on a 40 millieme air mail cover to India. The cover was datestamped Indian F.P.O.19, then used by 11 Infantry Brigade 4 Indian Division, and it is the latest cover recorded by us of this F.P.O. with Egyptian adhesives. Subsequent covers locate this F.P.O. in the Sudan but on the date of the datestamp the Brigade was in transit from Port Said to Port Sudan. Where was this cachet applied? A further mark on the cover reads KARACHI, CANCELLED, and the date. The handstamp is applied where the airmail etiquette would normally be found. Finally, of the Indian covers, we find on SHEET 79 examples of two kinds of Indian Base Post Office datestamp. The first reads IND, (short for Indian) BPO/date/EGYPT and the second reads Base Office 1.

The Australian Forces reached the Middle East in the early date of 1940 and were deployed principally in Palestine at first. Their story in the Middle East has been told by Harry Porter in Australia and the datestamps have been fully catalogued by Stevenson Stobbs in England. The Australians brought with them a most methodically thought out series of datestamps with named inscriptions round the top and code numbers around the foot. On the basis of letterings there were five datestamps per division, one for each brigade and two for Division, inscribed "DIV HQ" and "DIV Supply". The code letters at foot allowed for three sets (for three divisions) to be made up, and, besides, there were Army and Base datestamps. There were three Australian Divisions in the Middle East by May 1941 and part of each of them served in Egypt during the period with which we are dealing tonight. The three divisions were the 6th, 7th and 9th and the nine Brigades ran from 16th to 26th, missing out 22nd and 23rd.

We are confining our covers to 6 Australian Division which has mail first recorded from Egypt in September 1940. We deal with the Brigades first, and individually, and then show the Divisional datestamps. 16 Brigade used a datestamp worded "1st Bge HQ PO/M.1" and you will notice that the word "Brigade" is abbreviated to BGE. In other datestamps the more normal abbreviation BDE is used. SHEET 80 shows 40 mills air mail to Australia, again with the same military censor mark. Australian Forces took part in the capture of Bardia, 6th January 1941, Tobruk 22nd January, Derna 30th January and Benghazi 6th February. As soon as troops crossed the Egyptian frontier into Libya the Army Post stamps which they continued to use became "Egyptian stamps used abroad". Of equal interest is the change of postal rate, for somebody apparently realised that it was no longer good business to pay the 10 millieme part of the 40 millieme rate, as that was for surface mail from Egypt, and the Australian letters were going airmail from Libya. For a fortnight from the end of January the 30 milliemes rate is found and we show two covers from this short period on SHEETS 81 and 82. You will notice that both the envelopes are captured Italian stocks, the second being the crested stationery of the 61st SIRTE DIVISION. There was a further development in the postal rates, for on 8th February 1941 Australian Forces in Libya were ordered to use Australian adhesives and SHEET 83 shows an airmail cover to Australia, franked by a 9d. Platypus.

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Leaving 16 Brigade for 17 Brigade, and turning back to November - December 1940, we find that the datestamp used read "2nd Bde HQ PO/M2" SHEET 84. 19 Brigade, which was the third brigade of this Division, used a similar datestamp inscribed "3rd Bde" at the top and W.3 at foot, and so we pass straight on to the two Divisional datestamps. The Headquarters datestamp with D.M.1 at the foot on SHEET 85 shown used in Egypt in December 1940 and the Divisional Supply datestamp with S.P.1 at foot is shown used on 24th February 1941. Accordingly, this latter cover is franked by an Australian 9d. platypus, and is a captured Italian one again, inscribed in manuscript "From Benghazi - received 12 March 1941" SHEETS 85 and 86.

This is a brief and incomplete showing of Australian covers and we now conclude with a very few New Zealand covers. R.M.Startup in New Zealand has done a lot of research into the postal history of the New Zealand Forces in his book "The Mails went Through". New Zealand Forces reached Egypt in January 1940 and consisted of 2nd New Zealand Division and some Base troops, into which two main groups the New Zealand date stamps were divided. A great number of datestamps was used, many of them not introduced until after the end of the Concession period. Postal rates were the same as for the Indian and Australian Forces and we show the 40 milliemes Air Mail Concession rate, SHEET 87, with the FPO K.W.2 datestamp, which was in use by 19 New Zealand Bn. The covers shown dated July 1940 were written from the Western Desert. SHEET 88 shows a similar rated cover but bearing FUAD stamps. These appear to have been re-issued when a printing of the Farouk Army Post printing was exhausted and before another printing could be made. The familiar double rectangle censor mark is again found, this time struck in red and the number on this cover, 101, was allotted to HQ 2 New Zealand Division. The next two covers on SHEET 89 show the 70 mills rate for double rate air letters and both covers are rather florid examples of mixed frankings, even to the extent of finding a 20 milliemes express stamp on one of them. Finally, a cover at the 10 millieme surface rate from the New Zealand Army Base Post Office.

This concludes our display of some aspects of the Military Postal History during the Egyptian Postal Concession Period, 1932 to 1941, as used by Soldiers of Great Britain, of the Empire of India and of the Dominions of Australia and New Zealand.

(Paper accompanying Display, 11th November, 1959)

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