

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

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Officers

President	...	...	Lt. Col. J. R. Danson, M.C., T.D., "Dry Close", Grasmere, Westmoreland.
Chairman	...	...	J. H. E. Gilbert, "Morven", West Close, Middleton-on-Sea, Sussex.
Keeper of the Philatelic Record	...	...	Charles W. Minett, "Fairmead", 3, Bridgefield Road, Whitstable, Kent.
Secretary/Treasurer	...	...	Peter Andrews, 149, Pickhurst Lane, Hayes, Bromley, Kent.
Editor of the Quarterly Circular	...	...	R.A.G. Potter, 12, Middle Row, (High Street), Maidstone, Kent.

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REPORTS OF MEETINGS OF THE CIRCLE

125th Meeting held on 19th April 1969 at the Offices of the British Philatelic Association, London.

Mr. J.H.E. Gilbert presided, supported by Andrews, Brown, Horesh, MacArthur, Minett, Potter, Turton, Whetter.

The Chairman referred to the loss of our dear friend and Secretary, Dick Proctor - and a silence was maintained in his memory.

Hitherto the posts of Secretary and Treasurer had been combined but the Chairman saw advantage in dividing the responsibilities. Peter Andrews will be carrying on both jobs until a volunteer is forthcoming.

The Chairman mentioned that his article on the 1919 Pioneer Emergency Air Mail Service in Egypt was being published in the London Philatelist - the first part in the April issue and the concluding part in May.

Copies of the Quarterly Circular No. 72 were distributed and the Editor took the opportunity to ask for more material for publication. He hoped that other members would equal the enthusiasm of the Military Post contributors.

The Acting Secretary read correspondence received which included letters from Smith (U.S.A.) and Henderson (Manchester).

It was pointed out that the Circle was not a member of the British Philatelic Association and that as we were using the B.P.A. accommodation for our meetings we should perhaps consider joining. A formal proposal to this end was carried unanimously.

The Keeper of the Record circulated a copy of the 1913 O.H.H.S. inverted overprint, pointing out that this specimen was on un surfaced paper. The meeting supported the Expert Committee's view that the overprint was forged.

Ron Potter then opened the further discussion on the Official adhesives of Egypt by giving a brief resume of our deliberations at the previous meeting which had embraced the "No Value" and 1907 issues.

Copies of the November 1913 O.H.H.S. (no Arabic) with forged inverted commas were circulated for inspection. We were able to confirm that no variation between the genuine and forged overprints appears under a quartz lamp.

The 1915 issue was next reviewed and illustrated by a complete upper pane of the 1 millieme (Plate 2) and a lower pane of the 3 milliemes (Plate 1) from Ron's collection.



The point was made that there are no recorded forgeries of this issue.

Continuing with the October 1915 issue (with "Hamza") it was noted that there are possible forgeries of the overprint on used copies of the 2 and 5 milliemes!

Pip Whetter showed us two recent acquisitions - panes of 100 of the 1922 2mill. and 4 mill. with inverted O.H.E.M.S. overprints. At first sight the overprints appear to be genuine, if clandestine, and a fuller description will be given in a later number of the Quarterly Circular together with some notes on another recent acquisition, a sheet of 200 of the 4 milliemes inverted Crown overprint.

126th Meeting held on the 19th July at the office of the British Philatelic Association, London.

Items on the Agenda of this meeting included the Study of the Postal Concession stamps and seals, and also further discussion on the Circle's proposed book. Further reports will be published in due time.

127th Meeting held on the 25th October 1969 at the offices of the British Philatelic Association, London.

The Chairman (J.H.E. Gilbert) welcomed Mr. P. Vaughan from Sidcup who was present on invitation.

The Circle was informed, with much regret, of the death of Mr. Douglas Armstrong (E.S.C. No. 8) one of the earliest members of the Circle.

The Circle was also informed of the award of a silver-bronze medal at the Seymour Hall Exhibition to Mr. Benians - and of a Gold Award to Mr. Jeidel at the Johannesburg Exhibition. Both were heartily congratulated on their respective achievements.

Mr. Gilbert considered it a suitable time to mention "Philympia", the International Exhibition to be held at the Olympia London on the 18th to the 26th September 1970. It was felt we should take this opportunity of welcoming and entertaining our members from overseas, and also our Country members, who will doubtless be present in London on that occasion. The idea was warmly received by all and a sub-committee was formed (headed by Gilbert, assisted by Mac Arthur and Andrews) to investigate the possibility of hiring suitable premises where members could exhibit and, at the same time, entertain guests. It would help this committee if all members could advise the Secretary if, and when, they will be visiting the Exhibition.

Some considerable discussion took place regarding the perforations of the Third Issue, and particularly in respect of a

20 para 1st printing submitted by Peter Smith. Further report is being prepared and will be published in due course, as also will a report on varieties found on the Third Issue. MacArthur is working on these and will be grateful for any material, or the sight of same, which may assist him. (First printings only).

The French Consular Post Offices in Egypt were also on the Agenda for this meeting. We were most fortunate in having a great deal of material from our President's most valuable collection of mail of the French Offices in Egypt. Since Col. Danson unfortunately was unable to be present the Chairman passed round some selected sheets which gave an overall picture of the magnitude of the subject and to these he contributed a number from his own very large collection. We were most grateful for having had such an opportunity of seeing at first hand some of the rarities of these offices, and look forward to seeing further selections at our next meeting when it is hoped to study the various types of cancellations.

128th Meeting held on the 14th February 1970 at the offices of the British Philatelic Association, London.

Present: Our Chairman, and Andrews, Brown, Gilders, MacArthur, Minett, Potter, Whetter. Apologies were received from no less than nine members regrettably prevented from attending.

The Chairman read a letter from John Revell (E.S.C. No.78) who has been the United Kingdom Agent for the "Societe Philatelique d'Egypte" for the past fifteen years. He asked if any member would be willing to take over this duty and Pip Whetter kindly agreed to do so at the end of this year. The Chairman made a special appeal to all members to pay any outstanding debts owed so that Whetter could begin his duties as Agent with a clean sheet.

The Forces Postal History Society, which is World-wide, had written requesting the Circle to participate in an exchange of information so as to complement each other's studies. They sent sheets of censor markings of World War I and II, which were gratefully received. It was agreed that the Keeper of the Record should reciprocate with relevant material from our own records. Any members especially interested should contact Minett.

The Chairman drew members attention to the announcement in the "Philympia" official publication regarding the Circle, and all agreed that it was both well placed and well done. A notice had been received from the Chairman of the Philympia Committee regrettably announcing that the Authorities would not allow Philympia to open on Sundays. This was unfortunate, but luckily our own plans were resilient and we should not, therefore, be too inconvenienced. After some discussion it was agreed that the sub-committee previously formed should now recommend a programme for approval at the next meeting. The meeting and reception would take place at the Albion Hotel and



commence at 15.30 hours. It was unanimously agreed that our visitors should not have to contribute towards the costs of this meeting or the reception following same. The sub-committee were requested to present suggestions and estimates for final approval at our next meeting.

It was suggested that more meetings should be considered, and after general discussion it was agreed that the Circle should meet six times a year instead of quarterly. Four of these meetings should be as before and held at the premises of the Royal Philatelic Society, the other two to be devoted to the "book" and held at the premises of the British Philatelic Association. The great advantage of settling this question is that meetings for the year can be decided and should be of particular interest to our overseas members. The method of notifying members will not be altered and the Secretary will continue to advise members of each individual meeting.

Our Chairman has been honoured by the Royal Philatelic Society by being requested to give a display of his Egypt collection on Thursday the 28th May 1970 from 2.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m.. Mr. Gilbert extends a personal invitation to any member of the Circle wishing to attend.

The French Consular Post Offices in Egypt. Following on from our previous meeting and again with material belonging chiefly to our President and our Chairman we studied the opening and closing dates of the Offices and the general cancellations and circular datestamps in use. The following dates are taken from our records and should be regarded as provisional only.

Regarding the French type of cancellation consisting of numerals within a rhombus of dots, it was noted that Alexandria first used one with 3704 in small figures between 1857 and 1862 - strikes were not usually very clear and it was not possible on this occasion to decide whether more than one die had been used. This mark was followed by one with large numerals 5080 of which only one die has so far been recognised during the period of use from 1862 to 1876. Cairo used only the large numerals 5119 from 1858 to 1874, and three distinct dies have been noted during this period. Port Said used only the large numerals 5129 from 1867 to 1874 and again three sub-types have been recognised. Suez used only the large numerals 5105. The circular date stamps of Alexandria were next considered in some detail but time prohibited the production of a complete list and much work remains to be done on the subject.

The "Postmen" and "Facteurs" Postmarks. During the last hour our Chairman showed his collection of covers bearing the "Postmen" c.d.s.'s of Cairo and Alexandria and the "Facteurs" c.d.s.'s of Port Said. In a great many cases these marks occur on Express Mail as transit or arrival marks although a secondary usage is that of sometimes tying "Found Open and Officially Sealed" labels.

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IN MEMORIUM

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death of Ed. P. Pritlove, of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada (E.S.C. No. 139). Ed joined the Circle a little over two years ago, and although we had not had the pleasure of meeting him many of us had corresponded with him, and there is no doubt that he would have helped us with our various studies considerably. He was held in very high esteem among his many friends in Canadian philatelic circles, and will be sadly missed.

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Pritlove.

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News of Members

We congratulate Lars Alund (E.S.C. No. 105) whose display of the Third Issue won him a silver-bronze medal at the Swedish National Exhibition last year. He also received a Special Award (a silver tumbler) and the Felicitations of the Jury. His achievement was particularly noteworthy as he was taken ill before completing his exhibit.

It is of note that his display included a tete-beche vertical pair of the 1879 5 para/ $2\frac{1}{2}$  piastre with compound perforation. This pair being the one which had previously belonged in turn to Nubar Pasha - King Farouk - and Ceysens.

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We congratulate Lars Alund (E.S.C. No. 105) and Peter Smith (E.S.C. No. 74) on their being elected Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society.

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We congratulate Rudy Jeidel (E.S.C. No. 127) not only on his success in Exhibition mentioned elsewhere in this number, but also on his being appointed Chairman of the South Africa International Exhibition 1971.

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We congratulate Jim Benians (E.S.C. No. 123) on being awarded a Bronze-Silver medal at "Stampex 1970" for his exhibit of Egypt World War I Civil Censorship. Some of the censor marks shown are the only ones so far recorded by the Circle and were the only ones known at the time Gabriel Boulad (E.S.C. No. 66) wrote a short article about them in "L'Orient Philatelique" as long ago as January 1941.

Jim also won a Bronze-Silver Award at the British Philatelic Exhibition 1969.

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Notes from the Keeper of the Record.

Charles W. Minett.

(E.S.C. No. 77).

The Expert Committee

In Volume VI No. 12 of the Quarterly Circular a list of "patients" submitted and opinions given was published. Since then the following have been dealt with:-

E.S.C. No. 155 1947 10 milliemes Parliamentary Congress, mint, with "double impression". A faked "double impression" on a genuine basic stamp. The screen so clearly seen being an ordinary half-tone letterpress screen produced from a half-tone block.

It is of interest to note that from time to time copies turn up for the unwary, we have records of the following:-

- 1) An example was offered at a London auction on the 2nd February 1955 but was unsold.
- 2) On the 7th February 1969 a top marginal copy was offered at another London auction.
- 3) On the 15th July 1969 two further copies were offered but withdrawn after representations had been made by two of our members. They had been valued at £5 each.
- 4) In May 1969 a top right hand block of four with control A/47 was offered by a London dealer for £120. It was returned to him by one of our members who advised him of its status (or lack of it!).

E.S.C. No. 158 1929 5 milliemes Farouk's 9th Birthday Issue, mint, with centre in black. This was found to be from the special printing and undoubtedly S.G.178a. This "patient" had come from the U.S.A., and had been purchased along with the three higher values with the brown centres.

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We are very grateful to the following members who have most kindly presented various publications to the Circle Records.

John Gilbert (E.S.C. No.50). "The Cumulative Index to the London Philatelist" Volumes I to III - 1892 to 1944. Compiled by R. King Farlow.

John Heap (E.S.C. No.90). "The History of the R.A.F., Postal Services Overseas, 1942 to 1957", by John A. Smith.

John Revell (E.S.C. No.78).

- a) "With Kitchener to Khartoum" by G.W. Steevens. published by Wm. Blackwood and Sons. 1898.

Continued on Page 21



The Centenary of the Royal Philatelic Society London

by

J. H. E. Gilbert

(E.S.C. No.50)

April 10th 1969 was the date of the Centenary of the oldest Philatelic Society in the World and to commemorate this outstanding event an Exhibition was staged in London. The contributors were all members or fellows of the Society and their sheets constituted a small token display of stamps and postal markings which were in use in the World prior to 1869. The Exhibition was outstanding, so much so that we may never see its like again.

Her Majesty the Queen honoured the Exhibition with a visit in which she showed great interest in the exhibits, in the Library, and the Museum of the Society, of which she is Patron.

Egyptian Philately was well represented by displays by four collectors and the following items were enjoyed and appreciated. It will be understood that, owing to the small amount of room available, this could only be a token display, and what it lost in size it made up for in quality.

Madame Kuyas of Istanbul displayed stamps of the 1st Issue of Egypt, amongst which was a cover carried from Alexandria to Cairo with eight x 5 para adhesives of 1866 (two strips of four), a newspaper wrapper of "La Trombetta" which bore a 5 para dated 21st October 1866, a superb left-hand bottom corner block of six of the 10 para, and a mint pair of the same value imperforated between horizontally. The 20 para denomination was well represented by a brilliant block of four (the blue being exceptionally intense) and a pair imperforated. The largest known block of the 1 piastre was another outstanding piece (block of 53, perf. 13). A right-hand top corner block of six of the 2 piastres value, and also a block of four. Next was a front of a cover sent to Alexandria which carried a block of ten of the 5 piastres, plus singles of the 5 para, 20 paras, 1 piastre and 2 piastres: with the framed black cachet "ASSICURATE" (Insured).

Madame Kuyas is to be congratulated on her really remarkable display.

Lt. Col. J. R. Danson, in his token display, concentrated on the Italian and French Consular Offices in Egypt. A cover was displayed from the Italian Post Office in Egypt addressed to Livorno from Alexandria dated 19/6/1863 with a strip of four 15 cent adhesives and



with the "PIROSCAFI POSTALI ITALIANE" marking in blue. Another Italian cover dated 25th August 1863 bearing six 10 cents Sardinian stamps and also Posta Europea marking which carried the cover from Cairo to Alexandria - and it was then carried by British ship to Florence in Italy. Also a French combination cover with three 1 piastre of the 1st Issue of Egypt and three 40 cents French adhesives. A display of outstanding merit, superb material which pleased everybody who saw it.

Mr. J. P. Steindler of Illinois, U.S.A., had three Suez Canal covers on display. One dated 19th July 1868 sent from Kantara to Port Said bearing four 5 cents green Suez Canal stamps which had been cancelled. Another cover dated 28th July 1868 from Port Said to Kantara with a 20 cents Suez Canal stamp with French cancellation "5129" and the third cover from Port Said via Ismailia to Alexandria dated 20th July 1868 with the combination of 1 piastre Egypt 2nd Issue with 20 cents blue Suez Canal adhesive: the Suez Canal stamp cancelled by manuscript, the Egyptian stamp cancelled Ismailia c.d.s. 20th July 1868.

In addition there were shown two Russian adhesives of 1858 and 1866 cancelled "785" in a truncated rhombus of dots (Alexandria). What a feast for sore eyes - thank you Mr. Steindler.

Mr. J.H.E. Gilbert showed three covers which included an 1864 Cairo Crowned Circle in red, an 1859 Crowned Circle in black from Suez, and also an 1849 cover from Alexandria to Great Britain with the Egyptian Transit Company in black oval cachet.

In the permanent display in the Royal Philatelic Society's museum there are original black and white drawings of various watermarks. Amongst them are the single star and crescent (wide type) of Egypt and the triple star and crescent. "watermark bits" in woven wire cloth include single star and crescent, and the "Crown over Arabic F" as first used in the 1926 issue of the 12th Agricultural Exhibition.

Several members of the Egyptian Study Circle resident in the United Kingdom visited and enjoyed the Exhibition, and also two overseas members were especially welcome - Mr. Ernest Kehr from New York, and Mr. Lars Alund from Sweden.

1872. 20 paras. Varieties.

by

E. L. G. Mac Arthur.(E.S.C. No. 125)

In the Quarterly Circular Volume VI No. 12 of April 1969, under the heading "Variety Variation", I drew the attention of the Circle to quite an interesting find in respect of the 1872 20 paras and invited reader's comments.

I have now been sent a typograph (I187) with its matching lithograph by Professor P.A.S. Smith. I passed these items round to members present at the Circle meeting held on the 29th October 1969. Members were asked particularly to notice the disturbance of the design on the lithograph which was similar to that on L169 (Gilbert retouch) in the Tapling collection, and on my I4 (Thunderbolt variety) lithographs. It was also pointed out that these disturbances were in different areas on all three units.

Professor Smith has since acquired another matching lithograph of I187 but this time there is no disturbance of the design. I passed both these lithographs round to members present at the meeting held on the 14th February 1970.

Mr. J.H.E. Gilbert, Professor P.A.S. Smith, and I - after careful deliberation - are now convinced that this "stripping" was accidental and not deliberate as was first thought by Dr. Byam. In his example (L169) there was no typograph to compare the lithograph with; but now these other stamps have been discovered it can be seen that the "stripping" occurs in areas which obviously need no correction.

We believe that a reasonable and acceptable explanation for this disturbance of the design is:-

- a) When the "Transfer Paper" was being positioned on the "patching up" paper, pressure was put on the design accidentally and the design was broken. This could happen, for example, when pulling clear a crease, as I postulated in my previous article about the "Thunderbolt" lithographs.
- b) When the design had been newly transferred to the stone, and before the hardening process had begun, a careless hand was laid on the stone, injuring the design.

This disturbance, I feel, could have been made either by the fingertips or by the paste brush used to paste the transfer paper to the patching up paper.

In view of the above we have now agreed to adopt the term "Gilbert touch" to identify this flaw as we feel this term is more accurate, especially as Mr. Gilbert was the first to point it out.

We are now very interested to find out from which stone these "Gilbert touch" units came, and also to discover how many stones there were. We would be most grateful for information from anyone who has lithographs.

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NOTE: There is in the Gilbert collection a "Gilbert Touch" lithograph, Stone A.

He has also Stone D L67 without the "touch", and the typograph I117 from which the lithograph transfers were taken.

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BACK NUMBERS

The following numbers of the Quarterly Circular are required for members, some of which have been on the "Wants List" for a considerable time! Can any one help? (Originals, not copies please).

1 to 28 inclusive. 33. 35. 36. 37. 52. 58.

Also the following numbers of L'Orient Philatelique:-

1-38. 40-43. 45-52. 54-57. 62. 63. 65. 66. 68.  
69. 71. 75. 76. 78. 79. 82. 83. 84. 87. 90.  
91. 92. 95. 96. 98. 99. 112. 114. 115. 117. 120.

Many of the above "L'OP" are required for the Editor's Record set, which it was decided at a meeting of the Circle should be completed as and when possible.

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The Editor will always be pleased to hear of any spare copies available of either publication, and would mention that he holds a stock of many numbers of the Quarterly Circular should any members require same. The normal cost was agreed some time ago to be 7s.6d. per number payable to Circle funds.

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1872. 20 paras. Perf:  $12\frac{1}{2}$  x  $13\frac{1}{2}$  and  $13\frac{1}{2}$ .

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by

E. L. G. Mac Arthur.

(E.S.C. No. 125)

Messrs. J.H.E. Gilbert, I. Chaftar, P.A.S. Smith and E.L.G. MacArthur are engaged in a study plating the above value. Would members kindly check their collections and, in the first instance, report any pairs, strips or blocks, to E.L.G. Mac Arthur (34, West Park Avenue, Kew Gardens, Richmond, Surrey) who is correlating the information.

The study is proving a most interesting one. Nearly every unit seems to have a flaw or flaws, some most minute. These flaws are of considerable help in plating but some of the minor flaws are perplexing as they appear on some stamps and not on others which we know are from the same stereo.

The study of the 20 paras was pioneered by Dr. Byam, with the considerable help of some of our other members notably Messrs. J.H.E. Gilbert, I. Chaftar, and J.C. Besley. The original study recorded all the units with flaws, as they were discovered, and it is hoped to bring this record up to date as an adjunct to our study.

Dr. Byam's finding that the lithograph transfers were taken piece meal from the forme (he showed that the bottom pair of a litho block corresponded to the bottom pair of a typo block but that the two upper pairs were different) makes the use of lithograph blocks difficult, but these are so scarce that their use will be most improbable, except for initial intelligent guesswork. We also hope to be able to throw some light on the selection of the lithographs from the forme prepared for the typographs.

We have already had some success with our study and our thanks to Messrs. Robson Lowe and H.R. Harmer for providing us with some useful photographs. Our thanks also to Mr. Lower for a marginal block of four. We know that there are others around and any information will be most gratefully received.

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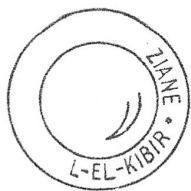




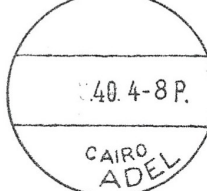





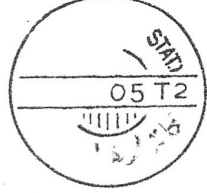


THE POSTAL MARKINGS OF EGYPT. by R. Seymour Blomfield (ESC 15).

ADENDA Sheet 5. This sheet shows 15 new postmark types, all of which are incomplete. Any help from readers in completing these will be greatly appreciated. The Type Nos. are tentative - subject to possible change before the sheet is finally released. My comments follow, using the number in upper left corner of the cuts for reference:

1. Cas-13.2 -- This is another "SPECIE" type (see Cas-13 & 13.5 on Cas-Sh.2). They were probably used in connection with shipments of coin.
2. RPS-13.2 -- This is similar to RPS-13 except the date is in English form rather than Arabic.
3. TPO-6.7 -- This is another TPO with a single town (see TPO-2.36, -2.55, 2.64, and 6.25). Maybe it was used on a river boat serving the Mansura Area.
4. GS-1.1 -- This is the same as GS-1, but with the star and crescent facing to the left. I have only seen it for (Te)l-el-Kibir.
5. PPO-5.03 -- This is an addition to the Continental Hotel types shown in the article by Jean Boulad d'Humieres in LOP 114.
6. PP-4.56 -- "D" probably stands for departure.
7. GS-22.5 -- It seems that "INI" could only be completed as "INITIAL", but I cannot figure the significance of this.
8. Arr- ? -- This no doubt reads "Hai-el-Arab, Port Said". There seems to be a trace of an "A" above the top horizontal bar, so I have tentatively classed it as an Arrival marking.
9. XII-1.6 -- Cairo, (Cit)adel. A branch P.O. type with both names curved.
10. ? ? -- My French dictionary gives the meaning of "Renseignement" as: Indication, hint, information, intelligence Plural: reference. This would likely fall into a new type group -- perhaps "reference Service". Has anyone any suggestions on this?
11. ? ? -- This is another puzzler. What does C.O.S. stand for? The "S" is quite clear on my example, but the first might be "G" and the second might be "C" or "G".
12. GS-23 -- This must read "Survey of Egypt".
- 13, 14 and 15 -- These just require completion. 15 shows an abbreviation for Station and has the Arabic for Station at the bottom. Alexandria would probably fit the blank space.

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<p>ADDENDA</p> <p>Add-Sh. 5</p>	<p>1.</p>  <p>Cas-13.2</p>	
<p>2.</p>  <p>RPS-13.2</p>	<p>3.</p>  <p>TPO-6.7</p>	<p>4.</p> <p>Star &amp; Crescent face left.</p>  <p>GS-1.1</p>
<p>5.</p>  <p>PP0-5.03</p>	<p>6.</p>  <p>PP-4.56</p>	<p>7.</p> <p>blue, violet</p>  <p>GS-22.5</p>
	<p>8.</p>  <p>Arr- ?</p>	<p>9.</p>  <p>XII- 1.6</p>
<p>10.</p>  <p>?</p>	<p>11.</p>  <p>?</p>	<p>12.</p>  <p>GS-23</p>
<p>13.</p> <p>with time instead of Train No.</p>  <p>TPO-7.01</p>	<p>14.</p>  <p>Sta-11.2</p>	<p>15.</p>  <p>Sta-14.05</p>



BRITISH INFANTRY BATTALIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST 1939 - 1941

by

John Firebrace

(E.S.C. No. 71.)

"Orders of Battle of the Second World War 1939-45" is the title of a work in two volumes which was prepared for the Historical Section of the Cabinet Office by Lieut.-Col. H. F. Joslen, late DCLI. Based on Official Documents, it was published by H.M. Stationery Office in 1960.

The notes which follow are brief records of twenty-nine British infantry battalions and their moves from country to country in the Middle East, from the outbreak of War until about the end of 1941.

The battalion records are gathered from more than one section of this work. Where particulars of a fighting formation have been extracted, it has generally been possible to give earliest and latest dates for which the battalion was under command of the formation concerned in a particular country. Where a single date has been shown, very often in connection with geographical area, that date has probably been taken from an Order of Battle referring to that particular date.

Where in the chronology of events two or three days appear to be missing between a battalion's service in different countries, this probably means that the battalion was in transit, very often by sea. It has sometimes not been possible to account for every day of a battalion's service whilst in the Middle East.

Countries mentioned in the analysis include Aden, British Somaliland, Crete, Cyprus, Egypt, Greece, Iraq, Libya, Malta, Palestine and Syria.

The information is tabulated in six columns. The first column names the country of service, followed by the earliest and latest known dates of service in that country. Column four is the formation or military area within which each battalion served in that country followed by the earliest and latest dates of service in that formation or area.

1st Battalion Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

Palestine	3. 9.39	8.9.40	14 Inf.Bde.	3. 9.39	16. 1.40
			16 Inf.Bde.	17. 1.40	8. 9.40
Egypt	9. 9.40	5. 1.41	16 Inf.bde.		
Libya	5. 1.41	13. 2.41	16 Inf.Bde.		
Egypt	13. 2.41	15. 5.41	16 Inf.Bde.		
Crete	19. 5.41	29. 5.41	14 Inf.bde.		
Egypt	30. 5.41	11. 6.41	16 Inf.Bde.		

1st Battalion Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Regiment.

Egypt	3. 9.39	26.11.39	18 Inf.Bde.		
Palestine	27.11.39	31. 1.41	14 Inf.Bde.	27.11.39	31. 1.40
			Jerusalem Area	30. 6.40	
			Force Troops	31. 1.41	
Egypt	1. 6.41	7. 7.41			
Syria	10. 7.41	10.10.41			
Libya	22.10.41	31.12.41			

1st Battalion The Black Watch.

Palestine	30. 9.39	31. 1.40	Jerusalem Area		
Egypt	4. 5.40	1. 7.40	23 Inf.Bde.		
Aden	3. 7.40	6. 8.40			
British Somaliland	7. 8.40				
Egypt	31.10.40	4.11.40	14 Inf.Bde.		
Crete	6.11.40	30. 5.41	14 Inf.Bde.		
Egypt	1. 6.41	7. 7.41	14 Inf.Bde.		
Syria	10. 7.41	10.10.41	14 Inf.Bde.		
Libya	22.10.41	31.12.41	14 Inf.Bde.		

1st Battalion The Buffs.

Egypt	30. 9.39	27.12.39	29 Inf.Bde.	30. 9.39	2.10.39
			22 Inf.Bde.	3.10.39	25.11.39
			18 Inf.Bde.	26.11.39	27.12.39
Palestine	28.12.39	30. 6.40	16 Inf.bde.	28.12.39	15. 1.40
			Force Troops	31. 1.40	
			Command Troops	30. 6.40	
Egypt	31. 1.41	21. 9.41	Canal Area	31. 1.41	
			22 Guards Bde.	7. 6.41	21. 9.41

1st Battalion Cheshire Regiment.

Sudan	30. 9.39				
Egypt	31. 1.40	31. 1.41	Canal Area	31. 1.40	
			Mersa Matruh	30. 6.40	31. 1.41
Malta	9. 6.41	22. 1.43		9. 6.41	
			233 Inf.Bde.	27. 7.41	22. 1.43

3rd Battalion Coldstream Guards.

Egypt	30. 9.39	30.11.41	Alexandria Area	30. 9.39	30. 6.40
			22 Inf.Bde.	25. 7.40	1. 9.40
			Mersa Matruh	31. 1.41	
			22 Guards Bde.	11. 2.41	30.11.41
Libya	30.11.41	20. 6.42	22 Guards Bde.		

1st Battalion Durham Light Infantry.

Egypt	31. 1.40	23. 5.41	23 Inf.Bde.	31. 1.40	21. 7.40
			22 Inf.Bde.	23. 7.40	1. 9.40
			Mersa Matruh	31. 1.41	
			22 Guards Bde.	28. 2.41	23. 5.41

1st Battalion Essex Regiment.

Egypt	3. 9.39	22. 1.40	23 Inf.Bde.		
Sudan	24. 1.40	22.12.40	Force Troops	24. 1.40	5. 8.40
			21 Inf.Bde.	6. 8.40	11.10.40
			29 Indian Inf.Bde.	12.10.40	22.12.40
Egypt	23.12.40	31. 7.40			
Palestine	31. 1.41		Force Troops		
Syria	1. 8.41	17. 9.41	5 Indian Inf.Bde.		
Libya	22.10.41	21.12.41	23 Inf.Bde.		
Egypt	22.12.41	27. 2.42			

1/5th Battalion Essex Regiment.

Egypt	13. 9.41	15.10.41	161 Inf.Bde.		
Iraq	17.12.41	1. 5.43	8 Indian Division		

2/5th Battalion Essex Regiment.

Egypt	28. 7.41	15.10.41	161 Inf.Bde.		
Iraq	24.12.41	9. 6.42	18 Indian Inf.Bde.		

1st Battalion Hampshire Regiment.

Egypt	30. 9.39		7 Inf. Division		
Palestine	31. 1.40		Lydda Area		
Egypt	2. 6.40	31. 1.41	23 Inf.Bde.	2. 6.40	14. 8.40
			Mersa Matruh	31. 1.41	
Malta	21. 2.41	30. 3.43	231 Inf.Bde.		

2nd Battalion Highland Light Infantry.

Palestine	8.39		7 Inf. Division		
Egypt	14.11.39	14. 8.40	18 Inf.Bde.	14.11.39	17. 3.40
			22 Inf.Bde.	18. 3.40	21. 7.40
			23 Inf.Bde.	22. 7.40	14. 8.40
Sudan	22.10.40	9. 7.41	10 Indian Inf.Bde.		
Egypt	10. 7.41	8.41	10 Indian Inf.Bde.		

cont.

2nd Battalion Highland Light Infantry (continued).

Iraq	31. 8.41	10.41	10 Indian Inf.Bde.
Egypt	16.10.41		
Cyprus	2.11.41	3.42	10 Indian Inf.Bde.

2nd Battalion King's Own Royal Regiment.

Palestine	30. 9.39	31. 5.40	Jerusalem Area	30. 9.39	31. 1.40
			14 Inf.Bde.	27. 3.40	31. 5.40
Egypt	1. 6.40	12. 6.41	14 Inf.Bde.	1. 6.40	25. 7.40
			Cairo Area	31. 1.41	
			16 Inf.Bde.	11. 6.41	12. 6.41
Syria	17. 6.41	19. 9.41			

1st Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Egypt	30. 9.39	13. 5.40	The Armoured Div.	30. 9.39	
			7 Support Group	22. 1.40	13. 5.42
Libya	13. 5.40	28. 2.41	7 Support Group		
Egypt	1. 3.41	25.11.41	7 Support Group		

9th Battalion King's Royal Rifle Corps.

Greece	22. 3.41	29. 4.41	1 Armoured Bde.
Egypt	1. 5.41	31. 5.42	1 Armoured Bde.

2nd Battalion Leicestershire Regiment.

Palestine	3. 9.39	8. 9.40	16 Inf.Bde.
Egypt	9. 9.40	5. 1.41	16 Inf.Bde.
Libya	5. 1.41	13. 2.41	16 Inf.Bde.
Egypt	13. 2.41	12. 5.41	16 Inf.Bde.
Crete	16. 5.41	26. 5.41	14 Inf.Bde.
Egypt	28. 5.41	12. 6.41	16 Inf.Bde.
Syria	17. 6.41	19. 9.41	16 Inf.Bde.
Libya	21. 9.41	20.12.41	16 Inf.Bde.
Egypt	20.12.41	4. 2.42	16 Inf.bde.

2nd Battalion Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders.

Egypt	3. 9.39	5. 1.41	11 Indian Inf.Bde.
Sudan	6. 1.41	19. 4.41	11 Indian Inf.Bde.
Egypt	20. 4.41		11 Indian Inf.Bde.

2nd Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment.

Palestine	3. 9.39	8. 9.40	14 Inf.Bde.	3. 9.39	24. 1.40
			16 Inf.Bde.	25. 1.40	8. 9.40
Egypt	9. 9.40	5. 1.41	16 Inf.Bde.		
Libya	5. 1.41	13. 2.41	16 Inf.Bde.		
Egypt	13. 2.41	12. 6.41	16 Inf.Bde.		
Syria	17. 6.41	19. 9.41	16 Inf.Bde.		

cont.



2nd Battalion Queen's Royal Regiment (continued).

Libya 21. 9.41 20.12.41 16 Inf.Bde.  
 Egypt 20.12.41 4. 2.42 16 Inf.Bde.

2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade.

Palestine 3. 9.39 6. 1.40 14 Inf.Bde. 3. 9.39 14.10.39  
 16 Inf.Bde. 15.10.39 6. 1.40  
 Egypt 7. 1.40 13. 5.40 23 Inf.Bde. 7. 1.40 18. 1.40  
 7 Support Group 22. 1.40 13. 5.40  
 Libya 13. 5.40 28. 2.41 7 Support Group  
 Egypt 1. 3.41 17.11.41 7 Support Group 1. 3.41 12. 4.41  
 7 Armoured Bde. 16. 4.41 30. 4.41  
 7 Support Group 3. 5.41 17.11.41  
 Libya 18.11.41 18.1. 42 7 Support Group

1st Battalion Royal Fusiliers.

Egypt 3.10.39 20.12.40 5 Indian Inf.Bde.  
 Sudan 21.12.40 12. 4.41 5 Indian Inf.Bde.  
 Egypt 13. 4.41 7. 6.41 5 Indian Inf.Bde.  
 Syria 8. 6.41 16. 6.41 5 Indian Inf.Bde.

1st Battalion Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

Egypt 30. 9.39 31. 1.41 7 Inf. Division 30. 9.39  
 6 Inf. Division 31. 1.40  
 Alexandria Area 30. 6.40  
 13 Corps 31. 1.41

1st Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment.

Egypt 3. 9.39 29.12.40 23 Inf.Bde. 3. 9.39 14. 8.40  
 7 Indian Inf.Bde. 22.11.40 29.12.40  
 Sudan 30.12.40 26. 4.41 7 Indian Inf.Bde.  
 Egypt 30. 4.41

2nd Battalion Scots Guards.

Egypt 30. 9.39 1.10.41 29 Inf.bde. 30. 9.39 2.10.39  
 22 Inf.Bde. 3.10.39 18. 3.40  
 18 Inf.Bde. 19. 3.40 18. 5.40  
 Cairo Area 30. 6.40 31. 1.41  
 22 Guards Bde. 28. 2.41 1.10.41

1st Battalion Sherwood Foresters.

Palestine 3. 9.39 31. 1.40 16 Inf.Bde. 3. 9.39 6. 1.40  
 Force Troops 31. 1.40  
 Cyprus 30. 6.40 31. 1.41 Force Troops

1st Battalion South Staffordshire Regiment.

Palestine	3. 9.39	31. 5.40	16 Inf.Bde.	3. 9.39	16.10.39
			Jerusalem Area	31. 1.40	
			14 Inf.Bde.	29. 3.40	31. 5.40
Egypt	1. 6.40	6. 8.40	14 Inf.Bde.	1. 6.40	20. 7.40
			22 Inf.Bde.	21. 7.40	1. 9.40
			Canal Area	31. 1.41	
			G.H.Q. Troops	6. 8.41	

1st Battalion Welch Regiment.

Palestine	3. 9.39	27.11.39	16 Inf.Bde.	3. 9.39	6.11.39
			14 Inf.Bde.	6.11.39	27.11.39
Egypt	28.11.39	31. 1.41	22 Inf.Bde.	28.11.39	23. 7.40
			L. of C.	31. 1.41	
Crete	18. 2.41	30. 5.41	14 Inf.Bde.		
Egypt	1. 6.41	6. 8.41	14 Inf.Bde.	1. 6.41	14. 6.41
			G.H.Q. Troops	6. 8.41	

2nd Battalion West Yorkshire Regiment.

Palestine	8.39	5.12.39	7 Inf. Division	8.39	
			Lydda Area	30. 9.39	
			16 Inf.Bde.	16.10.39	5.12.39
Sudan	1. 1.40			1. 1.40	30. 6.40
			21 Inf.Bde.	6. 8.40	11.10.40
			9 Indian Inf.Bde.	5.11.40	22. 6.41
Egypt	27. 6.41	27. 8.41	9 Indian Inf.Bde.		
Palestine	28. 8.41	7. 9.41	9 Indian Inf.Bde.		
Iraq	8. 9.41	13.10.41	9 Indian Inf.Bde.		
Palestine	14.10.41	10.41	9 Indian Inf.Bde.		
Cyprus	4.11.41		9 Indian Inf.Bde.		

1st Battalion Worcestershire Regiment.

Sudan	3. 9.39	17. 7.41		3. 9.39	30. 6.40
			21 Inf.Bde.	6. 8.40	11.10.40
			29 Indian Inf.Bde.	12.10.40	17. 7.41
Egypt	22. 7.41		29 Indian Inf.Bde.		

2nd Battalion York and Lancaster Regiment.

Sudan	30. 9.39				
Palestine	17. 1.40	31. 5.40	14 Inf.Bde.		
Egypt	1. 6.40	4.11.40	14 Inf.Bde.	1. 6.40	23. 7.40
			14 Inf.Bde.	31.10.40	4.11.40
Crete	6.11.40	30. 5.41	14 Inf.Bde.		
Egypt	1. 6.41	7. 7.41	14 Inf.Bde.		
Syria	10. 7.41	10.10.41	14 Inf.Bde.		
Libya	22.10.41	31.12.41	14 Inf.Bde.		



As far as the battalion extracts are concerned, I hope members will be able to fill in the missing dates, and achieve completeness up to the end of 1941. Also required is information reporting the arrival in the Middle East of these battalions before the outbreak of War and also any pre-war moves. Please invariably quote the authority: Title of Book, Author, page number, etc., of any information supplied.

The main purpose of these notes is, however, to try and establish the Unit Censor marks which these regiments used, and the civil or military post offices which from time to time the regiments used.

<u>Regiment</u>	<u>FPHS censor no.</u>	<u>Colour</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Civil/ Military P.O.</u>	<u>Location</u>
1 Hampshires	A.3	28	violet 2 Oct.39	El Daba Civil	El Daba, Egypt
1 K.R.R.C.	A.3	40	violet 25 Apr.40	MPO E.601	Egypt
3 Coldstream	A.3	12	magenta 28 Mar.41	Brit.FPO.201	Egypt

The above are three examples from my records and I would like to receive reports in similar form from members who own or have access to early World War II Middle East covers. If possible, please give in addition the rank and name of writer and censoring officer. Information from members reports will be collated and published but I would like to be excused individual acknowledgements.

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The above article by John Firebrace was first published in the journal of the Forces Postal History Society, and our thanks to them are here recorded, for permission to use the same. It is hoped that some of our members will be able to help in this research. (Editor)

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NOTES FROM THE KEEPER OF THE RECORD. Continued from Page 7.

- b) "The Suez Canal" by Hugh J. Schonfield.  
Penguin Special - circa 1938.
- c) "Rommel" by Desmond Young.  
Published by Collins - 1960.

Well done, and thanks again, John, John and John!

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Samuel Shepheard  
The Founder of Shepheard's Hotel, Cairo.

by

J. H. E. Gilbert.  
(E.S.C. No. 50).

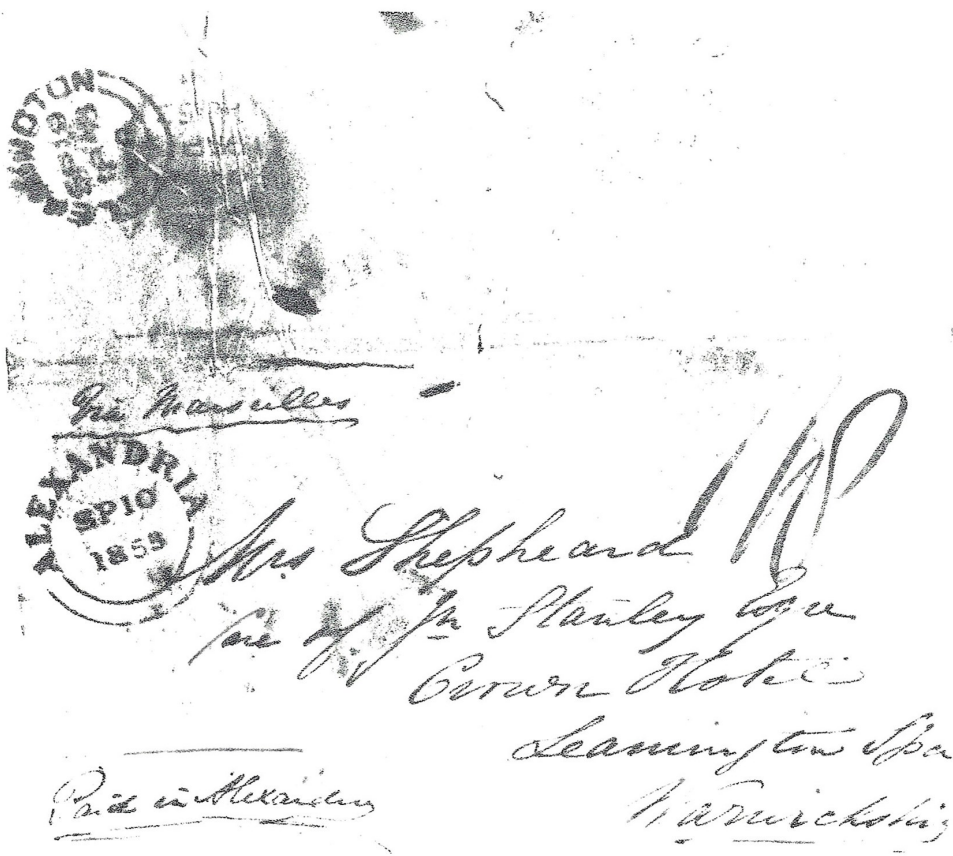
I have recently been privileged to read through correspondence, comprising 48 letters, which were written over a period of ten years from 1849 to 1859 by Samuel Shepheard from Cairo. These letters are full of interest because Shepheard's Hotel - it was then known as the British Hotel, Cairo - played a part of considerable importance in those days of the development of modern Egypt. During this period Waghorn's Overland Route was operating and the passengers being carried on that route were housed and fed there. In addition, British troops were passing through Egypt to the Crimea War and Shepheard helped with supplies of food and drink on various occasions having obtained an Official Contract in 1855 for victualling all troops en route.

In 1962 the late W. G. Stitt Dibden, the well known Postal Historian, wrote an excellent historical survey on "The Hotel Keeper Samuel Shepheard 1816-1866" which was published in the Postal History Society's Bulletin No. 118 March 1962. This is well worth reading, it is also well illustrated and paints a most interesting picture of Egypt and what it was like a 100 years ago. The story was based mainly on the contents of these 48 letters. My purpose is not to repeat this story, but to report more fully on some of the interesting postal markings applied on this correspondence in Egypt.

The letter from Cairo of outstanding philatelic importance is dated 9th September 1853. It was despatched from Alexandria on the 10th September 1853 "as the Alexandria steamer arrived first" - and the cover bears one of the rare British Crowned Circle franks of Alexandria in red.

Only four of these covers have so far been recorded so this cover as illustrated (1) makes No. 5.

It was sent to Leamington Spa, England, where it arrived on the 19th September 1853, the time taken in transit being nine days. The rate charged was 1/8 which was in red manuscript on the front of the cover.



1.

BRITISH CROWNED CIRCLE OF ALEXANDRIA IN RED

10. 9. 1853.

(Cover from the Samuel Shephard Correspondence)

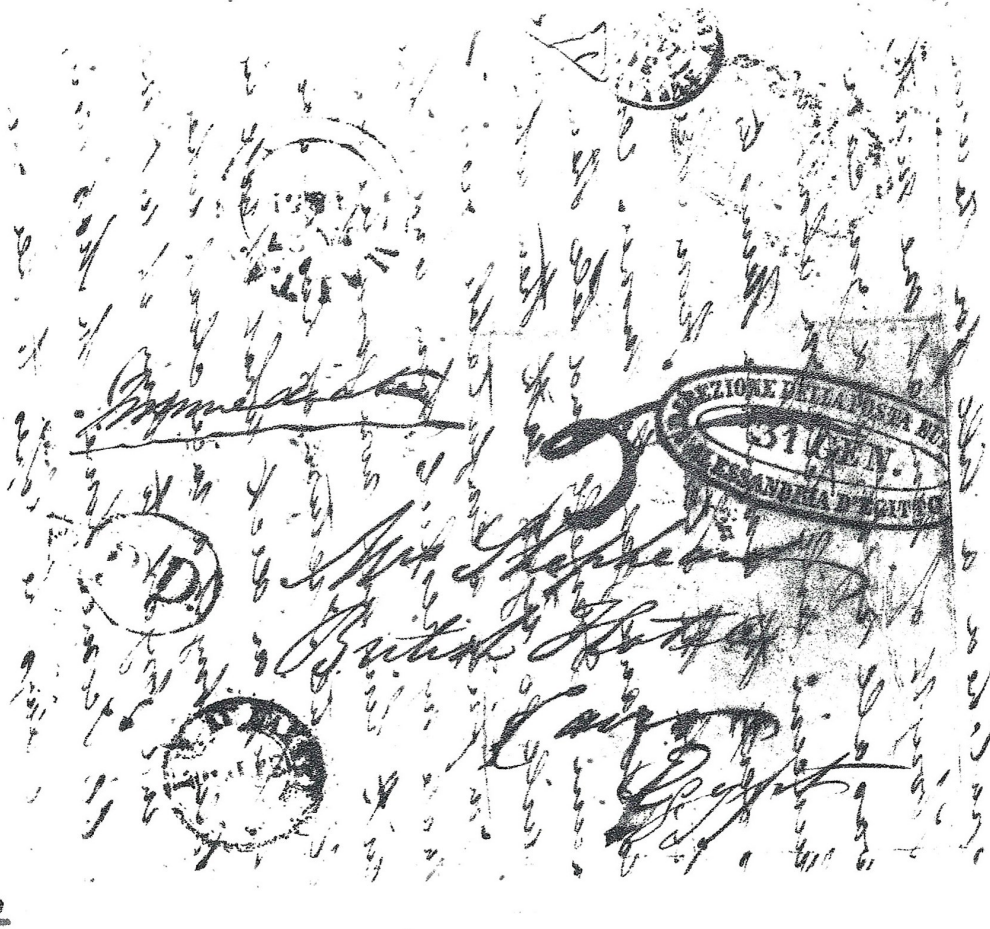
The "Paid at Alexandria" mark is towards the right of the cover, very indistinct on original photograph. (Editor).



There are two attractive Posta Europea covers in this correspondence, both in black - Type II.

One is dated the 31st January 1851 and was posted on board "S.S. Nile" whilst at Cairo and addressed to Cairo (illustrated "2"). The other cover is dated 7th May 1855 and was posted on board "S.S. Trent" in Alexandria Harbour for Cairo also. The Posta Europea service carried both letters between Alexandria and Cairo.

It will be appreciated that letters carried by this service, when brought into Egypt from Overseas, are considerably scarcer than those sent out from Egypt.

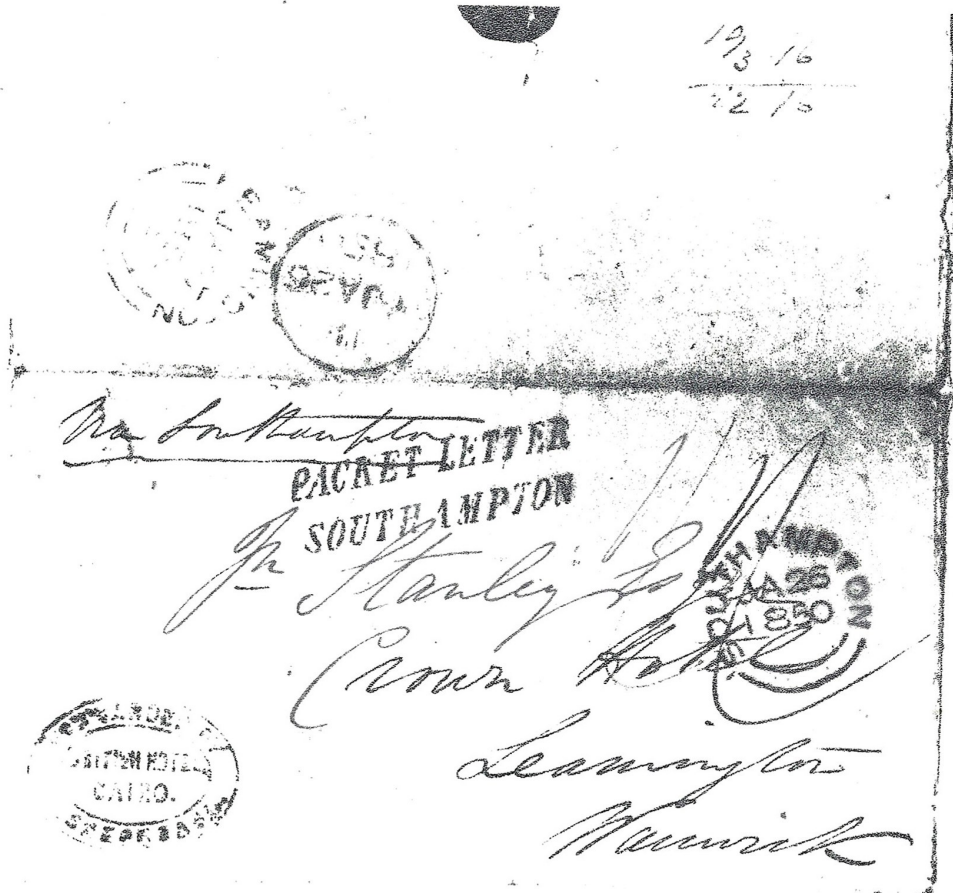


Cover from Malta to Cairo.

Posta Europea 31 Gen (1851) Alexandria to Cairo. Type II in black.

(From the Samuel Shephard Correspondence).

Three other letters have cancellations worthy of mention although they were not applied in Egypt. One cover bears the Malta Mobile Box marking dated December 10th 1859; while of the other two one carries the British cachet "PACKET LETTER SOUTHAMPTON" (illustrated "3"), and the other "PACKET-LETTER", both stamped on arrival in England.



CAIRO (6th January 1850) to ENGLAND. "PACKET LETTER SOUTHAMPTON".  
FORWARDED BY S. SHEPHEARD BRITISH HOTEL CAIRO.

(From the Samuel Shephard Correspondence).

Other letters carry the "MALTE - PURIFIE AU LAZARET" marking, showing that they were disinfected at Malta, but none of these letters appear to have disinfected cuts made through the paper.

The various postal rates used on most of this series of letters and applied in manuscript are as follows:-

Alexandria via Marseilles to England during	1849-1854	1/8d.
or Cairo	1855-1856	1/-d.
	1857-1859	9d.
via Southampton	1851-1855	1/6d.

The bulk of the mail falls into two groups, those that passed through the British Office and those that were posted in the French Office.

The British Office in Alexandria was opened in 1839 and closed in 1878. The Cairo Office was not opened until 23rd February 1859, so we have no examples of the latter as this correspondence ceased before that date.

The British Cancellation used was Type II-1 in black or blue and the dates for this cancellation used on the Shepheard correspondence are:-

Black September 22nd 1849 to February 18th 1854  
Blue November 5th 1854 to April 3rd 1858.

These cancellations, in both colours, are considerably later dates than previously recorded. (See Quarterly Circular Volume III No. 11 Page 148).

British Cancellation Type II-2 appears on one cover, in black, bearing the date 20th April 1858 which is a much earlier date than previously recorded. (See Quarterly Circular as above). (4)

The French Post Office was opened in Alexandria on the 6th May 1837 and the cancellations on all of the letters carried through the French Office were as follows:-

Type III Diameter 21.5mms. No accent. No brackets.  
In this series the earliest date is 20th September 1856.

The cachet used on some of this correspondence was worded "BRITISH HOTEL CAIRO FORWARDED BY S. SHEPHEARD" (see illustration "3") - surely the first Hotel marking of Egypt. The Hotel was, of course, later re-named "Shepheard's Hotel".





TYPE II-1



TYPE II-2



TYPE III



*Mr Masellis*

*Mr Stanley G  
Crown Hotel  
Leamington Spa  
Warwickshire*

I am indebted to the Rev. Canon A. L. Bird, for so kindly allowing me to inspect these letters on behalf of the Egypt Study Circle and I have found them most interesting reading. I have read through 48 letters all with various postal markings, and I understand that there are another 87 letters without postal markings which I have not seen, making 135 letters in all.

Canon Bird is the great grandson of Samuel Shepheard, so it is heartening to know that these historical family letters are being so carefully preserved for posterity to read and enjoy.

I now learn that there was a book published by Michael Joseph Ltd., London, in 1957 entitled "Samuel Shepheard of Cairo" and written by Michael Bird, which has the contents of these 135 letters as the background and is excellent as a reference work to any student of Egyptian History and Philately.

We can feel justly proud of Samuel Shepheard - an Englishman - who made his mark in Egypt as a pioneer over a century ago.

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NOTE: References to Types in the above article are as follows:-

II-1 and II-2 as given by the late C.D. Rawson  
(E.S.C. No. 54) in his Study of the Postal  
Markings of the Posts of Great Britain in  
Egypt. "Q.C." Vol. III No.11 March 1951.

III as given by the late E. F. Hurt  
(E.S.C. No. 9) in his Study of the Postal  
Markings of the French Post Offices in  
Egypt. "Q.C." Vol. I No. 2 May 1938.

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CORRIGENDA

Volume VI No. 12 April 1969 Page 157

54 (East Anglian) Division.

4th line: for "1915" read "1914".

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