

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume IX Nos: 1/3

Whole Series Nos: 97/99

March/September 1976

FUTURE MEETING

1976

4th December Election of new officers,
President and Chairman.
Studies to be arranged.

1977

2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October
and December.

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EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

OFFICERS

1976

President	Lt. Col. J. R. Danson, M.C., T.D., (Deceased June 1976) F.R.P.S.L.
Chairman	...	...	Major E.L.G. MacArthur, M.C., C de G.
Keeper of the Philatelic Record	...	...	D. Grover, (Deceased February 1976)
Secretary/Treasurer	...	...	D. H. Clarke
Editor of the Quarterly Circular	...	...	R.A.G. Potter
Deputy Chairman	...	...	S. Horesh (Elected 7th February)
Chairman of the Expert Committee	Major E.L.G. MacArthur, M.C., C de G. (Elected 7th August)

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CHAIRMAN'S PAGE

My sincere apologies for the delay in publication of the Quarterly Circulars, and my appreciation for the understanding and sympathy with which you have viewed our predicaments. I tried to explain some of them to you in my letter of May.

I am very happy to report that Ron Potter is now almost back in full harness, and has produced this multiple Quarterly Circular to prove it.

I have written elsewhere in this issue about my visits abroad, except for a wonderful long week-end in Madrid with Cor Hooghuis. He very generously donated some forgeries to our Reference Collection.

Tony Schmidt has taken over the study of the cancellations and as soon as Seymour Blomfield makes contact with him we should begin to have some further reports on the study.

Due to the death of our President, Lt. Col. J. R. Danson, there will be an election for a new President at our December meeting; and, as I advised last May, there will also be an election for a new Chairman.

This will be the last of my personal chairman's page to you, and I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the kindness you have shown me. I need no convincing of the strength of the Circle, for despite some setbacks we have not been more than temporarily inconvenienced. I have had the privilege of meeting many of you, of corresponding with others, and having telephone conversations with still more. I will still be actively engaged in Circle business, for apart from my role as Chairman of the Expert Committee, I will now be able to continue with my studies.

In conclusion I can only say how proud I am to be of your number and part of the Egypt Study Circle.

---oOo---

REPORTS OF THE MEETINGS OF THE EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

held at 'The Peacock' Maiden Lane, London WC2

162nd Meeting, on the 7th February 1976.

The Chairman presided, and present were D. Clarke, C. de Friez, D. Grover, S. Horesh and A. Schmidt. Apologies were received from those unable to attend.

'Mac' MacArthur led the discussion on the Third Issue, 1872 - 1879. He displayed blocks and multiples of all values and supplemented the display with photographs of pieces not in his collection. His plating of the 20 paras, 1st printing, was shown as complete reconstituted sheets, mint and used. Of special interest was the evidence showing the substituted stereo. Mac also showed his incomplete study of the plating of the 1 piastre, with strong evidence of there being two typograph formes and one lithograph stone. The lithographic transfers were taken from only one of the formes and appeared to have been laid down in the same plating position as with the forme. The display went on to show all values in colour shades, perforation varieties, tete-beche, printing and accidental flaws. Mention was made of the scarcity of some of the values and Mac said that, in his opinion, the 1 piastre mint lithograph was the rarest, and most probably the rarest stamp of Egypt, not taking into account the varieties produced by human error; this being followed closely by the 20 paras 'B' stone lithograph with 'P' complete; and then by the stamps from the substituted stereo position of the 20 paras. The scarcity factor was magnified when consideration was given to condition, perforations and watermarks. Mac in conclusion stated that one of his ambitions was to identify the stamp of the 1879 5 paras and 10 paras provisionals which was tete-beche on the ordinary sheet but which received the overprint inverted, thereby having the overprint the right way up.

Circle business was then discussed, and S. Horesh was unanimously elected Deputy Chairman.

163rd Meeting, on the 3rd April 1976.

The Chairman presided and present were P. Andrews, J. Benians, D. Clarke, C. de Friez, K. Harris, J. Hobbs, A. Schmidt, J. Sears and P. Woodland. Apologies were received from those unable to attend.

The Chairman informed the meeting of the death of David Grover, Keeper of the Philatelic Record, at the end of February. Members were very sad to hear of this, particularly as David had proved to be a popular and enthusiastic member. The Chairman had already sent a letter of condolence to his widow on behalf of the Circle.

Fortunately the Record was distributed elsewhere and David had held only the Circle Library: this was being delivered to Denis Clarke by David's brother.

It was agreed that the office of Keeper of the Philatelic Record should be held in abeyance, and John Grimmer had kindly agreed to take over the study of indexing the Quarterly Circular and L'Orient Philatelique.

The Quarterly Circular would be delayed due to Ron having to take things easy by doctor's orders. It was agreed that the Chairman should send out a newsletter to all members advising them of the position.

The Chairman stated that he would be vacating the office of Chairman at the end of the year, and nominations for Chairman should be received by the Secretary by the end of October. Voting would take place by members present at the December meeting. It was agreed that this should be a three-yearly event, in line with modern practice.

John Hobbs led the discussion on the Postal Service of the British Armed Forces in Egypt, 1932 to 1940. John stated that the meeting was opportune as he had been able to bring to the meeting the collection he had entered for 'Interphil' at Philadelphia in June. Members were then shown what can only be described as the most complete and remarkable study it had been their privilege to see. John, the master of his subject, took us through the essays, proofs, adhesives and postal history in a manner that fascinated us all and certainly added to our knowledge. The Chairman thanked John for the excellence of his display and members joined in wishing the collection, and John, every success at 'Interphil'.

In conclusion, Mac stated that he was going to South Africa in May and would be staying a few days in Cape Town as the guest of the Jeidel's. Immediately on his return to England he would be leaving for a lightning visit to Philadelphia for 'Interphil', where he hoped to meet many of our members at a meeting organised by Peter Smith.

164th Meeting, on the 5th June 1976.

The Chairman presided and present were P. Andrews, J. Benians, D. Clarke, M. Dorman and J. Sears.

The meeting was an informal one and members produced items from their collections for viewing. The session was a most interesting one in that a variety of subjects were discussed and all present participated.

The Chairman reported on his trips to South Africa and Philadelphia. In South Africa he had viewed Rudi Jeidel's collection and had been very impressed by its excellence and depth. Rudi had entered his Egypt collection for 'Hafnia' at Copenhagen in August, and after the gold he had won for it in Paris Mac felt sure it would do as well in Copenhagen. Two days after returning to the United Kingdom Mac was on his way to Philadelphia for a lightning 48 hour visit. He met Ernie Kehr for a few minutes on his arrival, and was taken under the wing of Abdullah Mishrick who took care of all his wants during his stay. Mac

was very enthusiastic about the four Egypt collections on show. Antonini's most sophisticated collection, Abdallah's rarities, Peter Smith's comprehensive and educational and John Hobbs' British Forces which was actually shown in the British Section, and was not on view for the first 48 hours. The high light of the visit was a meeting of Egypt collectors, arranged by Peter Smith, and Mac had had the enjoyment of meeting with Peter Smith, Larry Vincent, M. and Madame Kuyas, Bill Scheetz, Peter Feltus, Nancy and Bill Schaefer, Abdullah Mishrick, Charlie Hass and Vahan Andonian, together with some ten other friends interested in Egypt.

165th Meeting, on the 7th August 1976.

The Chairman gave a special welcome to Rudi and Hilda Jeidel from South Africa. Also present were Peter Andrews, Denis Clarke, Bert Conway, John Grimmer, Stanley Horesh and Philip Woodland.

The speaker was Major E.C.W. Stagg, whose display and talk were in two sections. The first section dealt with Egypt issues used in the Sudan, pages being shown of usage in Suakim/Sawakin, Hartum/Khartoum and Barbar/Berber.

The principal display was of the 1897 overprint, on Egypt De la Rue issue, of 'SOUDAN' in French and Arabic. Blocks of all values of the definitives were shown, these displaying the six different type-settings, and singles and blocks exhibited the varieties. Material of later printings was shown, indicating that the six types were subsequently haphazardly reassembled.

The speaker gave as his opinion that this issue genuinely used was scarce, and estimated that 98% of 'used' specimens had been forged. Major Stagg reported a study in progress with others and they had so far found 75 different forgeries. A number of forgeries were distinguishable by their being printed on chalk-surfaced paper which reacted to the silver test; such paper had not been used by 1897. Others could be distinguished by wrong dimensions overall, or wrong distances between French and Arabic lines of overprint.

The display was concluded with Postal Stationery items with the overprint. This had also been typeset six times, but separately from the typesetting for the adhesives. Of special interest were the later value-changes on overprinted postal stationery, including the well-printed '2 milliemes' and the rough hand-applied 'four milliemes'. The former was in a font unknown to Major Stagg elsewhere. It was noted that Postal Stationery overprinted items were in use much later than the overprinted adhesives.

Two interesting forgeries on cover were commented on: the first was a stampless cover endorsed in manuscript 'No Stamps available'; the other was an apparent use of a whole and a bisect of the 2 milliemes adhesive. The latter was confirmed a forgery by the Chairman who had produced the Circle forgery reference material.

Major Stagg's display and talk were followed by the customary enquiry around the table for questions and comments. A number of interesting points emerged and were dealt with ably by the speaker.

The meeting responded to a warm vote of thanks proposed by the Chairman.

After the interval the Chairman turned to domestic matters. He announced with sorrow the death of the President, Lt.Col. J.R. Danson, and a silence in his memory was observed. The Chairman had been in touch with the solicitors handling the estate, and had been put in touch with the Charity beneficiaries.

The successes of Circle members at Interphil were reported, and Xerox copies of the entry submitted by Prof. P.A.S. Smith were circulated and admired.

The meeting unanimously agreed that 'Mac' MacArthur should be Chairman of the Expert Committee and should be able to enlist the aid of any member of the Circle to assist in this important work.

Finally, the Chairman read the list of Study subjects, with the names of those in charge. There were a few gaps to be dealt with, also a reminder by Ken Pierce of U.S.A. of his willingness to head a study of France used in Egypt.

166th Meeting, on the 2nd October 1976.

The Chairman presided and present were P. Andrews, D. Clarke, C. de Friez, S. Horesh, T. Schmidt and J. Sears.

The Chairman reported that the production and distribution of the Quarterly Circular had been delayed because of Ron Potter's illness, happily he had now recovered and it was proposed that a double issue be available possibly later this month, followed by another double issue in December which will bring matters up to date for 1976.

After discussion by the members present it was decided that from the first meeting in 1977, and thereafter, meetings would be held on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October and December, instead of the 1st Saturday.

The Chairman then asked for suggestions for the 1977 programme, and the following subjects were agreed:

Postal Stationery
The First Issue
Civil Censor Marks - 1914-1918 and 1939-45.
Hotel Postmarks.

The meetings in April and August would be split - half the time being devoted to subjects to be arranged and half to a sale and exchange section. The latter is a new departure (at least in recent years) and was welcomed by all present.

Concluded on page 7

Lieutenant-Colonel J. R. Danson, M.C., T.D., B.A.

(ESC No. 32)

John Raymond Danson was born on 2nd August 1893 at Birkenhead and died on 18th June 1976. He had been a collector and philatelist for over seventy years, having first become interested from the collections of other members of his family. He was a bachelor.

He was educated at Sedberg and Trinity College, Oxford, and entered his father's business, F.C. Danson and Company, average adjusters of Liverpool, London and Glasgow. A keen territorial soldier he served in the 1914-18 war with the Cheshire Regiment in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine and from these theatres the covers of some of his letters home are in the collections of his friends. He later served on the Western Front. In 1939-40 he commanded the 4th Battalion of his Regiment in France, retiring after Dunkirk after 26 years of service. He was the holder of the Military Cross and Territorial Decoration.

He spent 30 years as a partner in his company before resigning in 1953, and he was High Sheriff of Westmoreland in 1961.

Danson was able to cultivate his unerring taste for the finer things of life; he had a fine cellar, a small but carefully chosen collection of pictures and one of the finest libraries in private hands. This library will now leave his beautiful home in Westmoreland for Trinity College, Oxford, which made him an honorary fellow in 1969.

Collectors were privileged to share much of Danson's knowledge and acquire some of his quite outstanding material when his decision to reduce his collecting interests resulted in a series of sales in 1971, as a result of which he divested himself of all his philatelic interests except for his Egypt, Sudan and Cape of Good Hope. His collections were then praised not only for their size and scope but because they contained so many of the rare and unique items that had graced the collections of his distinguished predecessors. To these rarities, the new owner brought his own collecting personality, built on the researches of previous owners and provided for those who succeeded him not only first class material, but material most carefully investigated and researched. Looked at from to-days viewpoint he was a pioneer in the collecting of proofs and errors and especially of stamps on cover and most of his African studies contained an interesting section of letters from the early colonial campaigns.

His circle of philatelic friends and acquaintances was not large and opportunities to inspect his material on public exhibition were few; he was, however, meticulous in sharing his knowledge with those whose interests coincided with his own. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and a founder member of the Society of Postal Historians to which he displayed. His scholarly approach to the leadership of the Egypt Study Circle in succession to Dr. Wm. Byam

enabled many collectors to steer their endeavours along paths made plainer by his vast experience.

Although the number of collectors who had the privilege of working with him at study meetings is now comparatively few, his influence and his writings will live on and those who knew him well consider themselves eminently fortunate to have come within his orbit.

He was at all times kindly and hospitable to those who sought to benefit from his wise counsels and although he was comparatively inactive in recent years he will be deeply missed by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

John Firebrace (ESC No. 71)

John Firebrace's appreciation of Lt. Col. J.R. Danson was first published by Messrs. Robson Lowe Limited, to whom acknowledgement is here given.

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Report of the
166th Meeting of the Circle - continued.

The Chairman reported that Ernie Kehr was resigning from all the philatelic societies of which he was a member, including the Egypt Study Circle. In view of the work he had done in the field of Egypt Philately the Chairman proposed that Ernie be elected a Life Member of the Circle and this was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman reminded members that following the death of Colonel Danson the office of President of the Circle was vacant and this would be further discussed at the December meeting by which time he hoped nominations would be received. Mac also reminded members that he would be resigning at Chairman at the end of this year, and this was another office which would have to be filled by nominations and voting at the December meeting.

The Secretary was asked to enquire whether 'The Peacock' would be available for meetings in 1977 as there had been some doubt about this.

Stan Horesh then showed an extremely interesting selection of covers dispatched from French Post Offices in Egypt, and Denis Clarke showed some early Registered covers including some sent through Rural Post Offices.

The meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.

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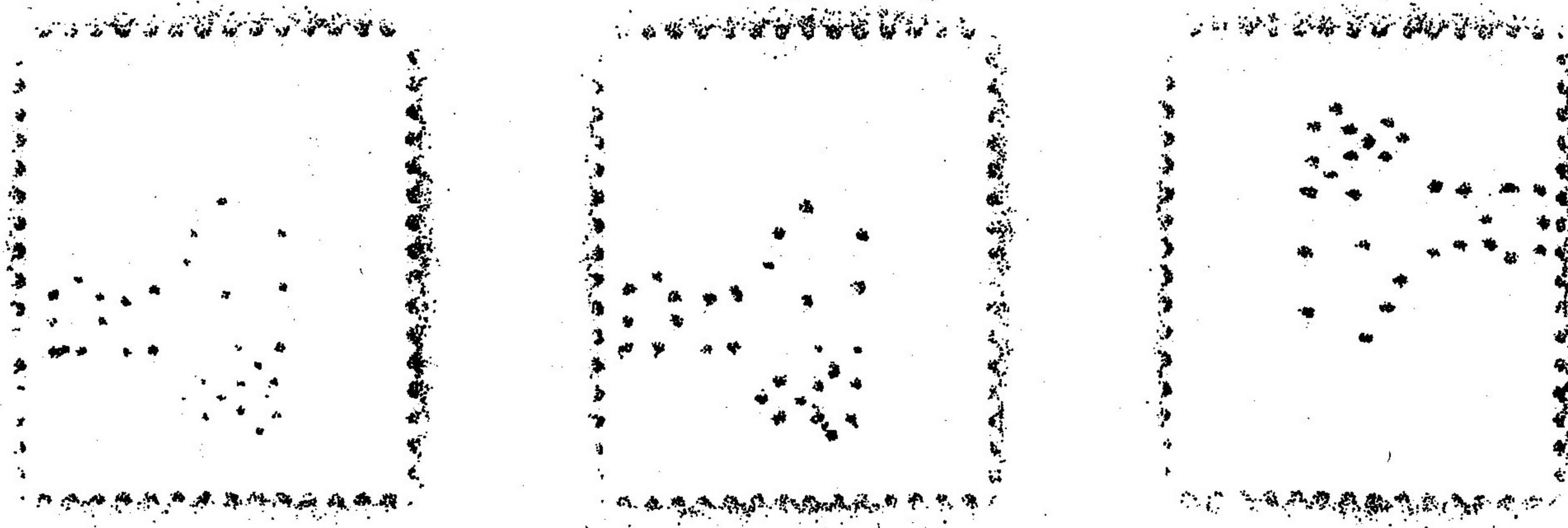
NOTES FROM MEMBERS

Egyptian Perfins:

Further to Dr. A. Winter's (ESC No. 149) study on the perfins in The Quarterly Circular Volume VIII, pages 5-8, I must add a recent find in an approval selection.

Using Dr. Winter's numbering, I now have R.3 (Keinhart and Co.) on the 4 milliemmes green 1937 definitive issue (Ze No. 130). This is very interesting in that the 'R' has one perforation pin hole missing. The 'C' has three pin holes missing. All the pin holes that should form the 'O' are missing, except one; and the single pin hole under the 'O' is also missing. It would appear that after the 3 milliemmes (Ze 129) stamps had been punched the pins started to break up?

In Dr. Winter's illustration of 'R.3' there is one pin hole missing on the 'C', which he does not mention in his description.



R. E. Harris (ESC No. 192)

Quarterly Circular back numbers:

The following Quarterly Circulars are in the Circle's stock, held by the Editor, and available to members only at 50p each (plus postage and packing charges):

Whole Nos: 40 42 44 59/60 and all thereon to date
(No. 96 - December 1975).

Others may come to hand from time to time, and it has been proposed that Zerox copies may be taken if demand warrants of at least some of the earlier numbers which have always been in short supply.

L'Orient Philatelique: Similarly the Editor holds a very few numbers which are spares, and will supply at 50p each as available, on behalf of the Circle.

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QC - Volume IX September 1976.

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new members, since the publication of our last number:

204	Gordon Bruce	...	...	182 Crocus Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.
205	Joseph A. Szemiti	...	...	141 Meersbrook Park Road, Sheffield 8, England.
206	John Steele, Jnr.	...	...	206 Northwood Circle, Durham - NC 27701, U.S.A.
207	Lt. Cdr. S.J. Barrow	...	...	69 Heathwood Road, Cardiff, Glamorganshire.
208	R. A. Simcox	...	...	Little Broadhurst, 122 Lye Green, Chesham, Buckinghamshire.
209	Derek Glynn	...	...	57 Hampton Road, North Shields, Tyne and Wear.
210	Martin Lynes	...	...	Acorns, Innhams Wood, Crowborough, Sussex.
211	Mark Dorman	...	...	35 Smith Street, London, SW3 4EP.

The following changes of address are noted:

180	S.A. Goudsmit	...	...	C/o Physics Department - University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89507, U.S.A.
169	I. Holly	...	...	Reverted to: 14 Rue de Reims, Paris - 13, France.
105	Lord Justice Lars Alund			Tingsratten, P.O. Box 121, Varberg 1, Sweden.
98	Leslie Bowyer	...	...	7 Manor Court, Manor Park, Knutsford, Cheshire.
130	Keith Pogson	...	...	3 Springhead Road, Park Lane, Rothwell, Leeds LS26 OEX
117	Angus Parker	...	...	55 New Bond Street, London, W1Y 9DG.

We are pleased to note and welcome re-joining member:

124	Alwynne Letts	Brineton Pines, Blymhill, Near Shifnall, Shropshire.
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THE PROJECTED SUAKIN - BERBER RAILWAY

in the Egyptian Campaign of 1885.

by

John Firebrace (ESC No. 71)

At the beginning of February 1885 the British Government received the news of the fall of Khartoum on 26th January to the forces of the Mahdi and of the death of Major-General C. G. Gordon, Governor General of the Sudan.

The Government then made up its mind to send a second expedition to Suakin, the first having been in 1884, and informed Lieutenant-General Sir Gerald Graham, V.C., that he had been selected to command it, as he had done the previous year.

Graham's instructions were that he would take command on arrival in Suakin and would organise a Field Force and to make such transport arrangements as were possible to enable it to secure the most pressing object of the campaign, the destruction of the power of Osman Digna the Mahdi's principal commander. The area that he was to pacify and then occupy included Suakin, Sinket and Tokar: Osman Digna's hold over the peoples of this area was both slight and impermanent.

It was proposed to build a military railway from Suakin to Berber and Graham's opinion was asked as to whether the railway should be constructed by military labour or by civilian contract. Graham preferred military labour. Consideration was given to the use of the Indian Public Works department, but the contract was awarded to a civilian contractor, and on the 17th February 1885 Her Majesty's Government made a contract with Messrs. Lucas and Aird of Kettering to construct a railway of 4 ft. 8½ inches gauge from Suakin to Berber.

The contractor's agreed that the control of the work and the direction of the line should be under military authority, they being only responsible for labour, materials and construction. The Government reserved to itself the power to stop the construction of any section. Graham was told that he would have to rely on the railway for the means of transporting his supplies and it would, therefore, be of the first importance that every possible facility should be given to Lucas and Aird.

The contractors were to receive a commission of 2% upon all expenditure subject to a limit of £20,000 and were to receive a further £20,000 on the satisfactory completion of the line to Berber. They were to collect the necessary plant and material in England and to ship from London and Hull. Each ship was to contain everything needed for the construction of five miles of railway. This plan was adopted so that if any ship was lost or delayed the contractors would know that a further

consignment of five miles of line should be sent in replacement. Unfortunately the ships were not correctly loaded.

Graham reached Suakin on 12th March and the construction of the railway was begun the following day. He had also to construct an 18 inch narrow gauge railway for use in and around Suakin. First, however, he had to clear up the military situation and he decided to begin by dispersing the enemy's detachment at Hashin, six miles to the west, since it threatened the right flank of any column moving south-west towards Tamai. This was accomplished on 20th March.

Two days later Graham instructed Major-General Sir John McNeill, V.C. Commanding 2nd Brigade, to advance towards Tamai, 16 miles from Suakin. McNeill was to construct two zaribas en route and leave them garrisoned but progress not being as swift over difficult country as had been anticipated he built one zariba at Tofrik, after having marched six miles. While it was being built, however, the enemy attacked and fighting with extraordinary courage at first caused much confusion as many troops and transport animals were outside the intended confines. The situation was saved chiefly by the Marines and the Berkshires. The Battle of Tofrik (or McNeill's zariba) lasted twenty minutes with British casualties amounting to 100 killed and 140 wounded against losses of approximately 1000 by the enemy.

Graham rode out to Tofrik on 23rd March and it took until the end of the month to rebuild the zariba satisfactorily, but on a smaller scale, and to clear the battlefield. On 2nd April Graham marched with a strong force to Tamai, which had been Osman Digna's headquarters. The village was deserted, the wells were almost dry, and Osman Digna had gone.

The railway had been started from Quarantine Island in Suakin Harbour, which was connected to the mainland by a causeway and by 22nd March $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles had been completed. Work was then stopped until Tamai had been cleared. When work was resumed, 10th (Railway) Company R.E., commanded by Major W. H. Rathbone and including Captains H.G. Kunhardt, G.H. Sim and W.A.E. St. Clair, began surveying and staking out the direction of the railway to Handub (10 miles) following the old caravan route which ran through country held in part by friendly or at least uncommitted tribes. The R.E. assisted by the Indian Labour Corps also cleared a strip 100 yards wide through the bush, along the proposed route of the railway.

The construction work was mostly carried out by Egyptian Government Labour under their own officers. The only work executed by Lucas and Aird personnel was the running of trains and the fishing and spiking of rails for which navvies were sent from England. They, however, had no experience of the Army or of the East, wore bowler hats instead of pith helmets, drank the beer provided for them and in many cases soon died.

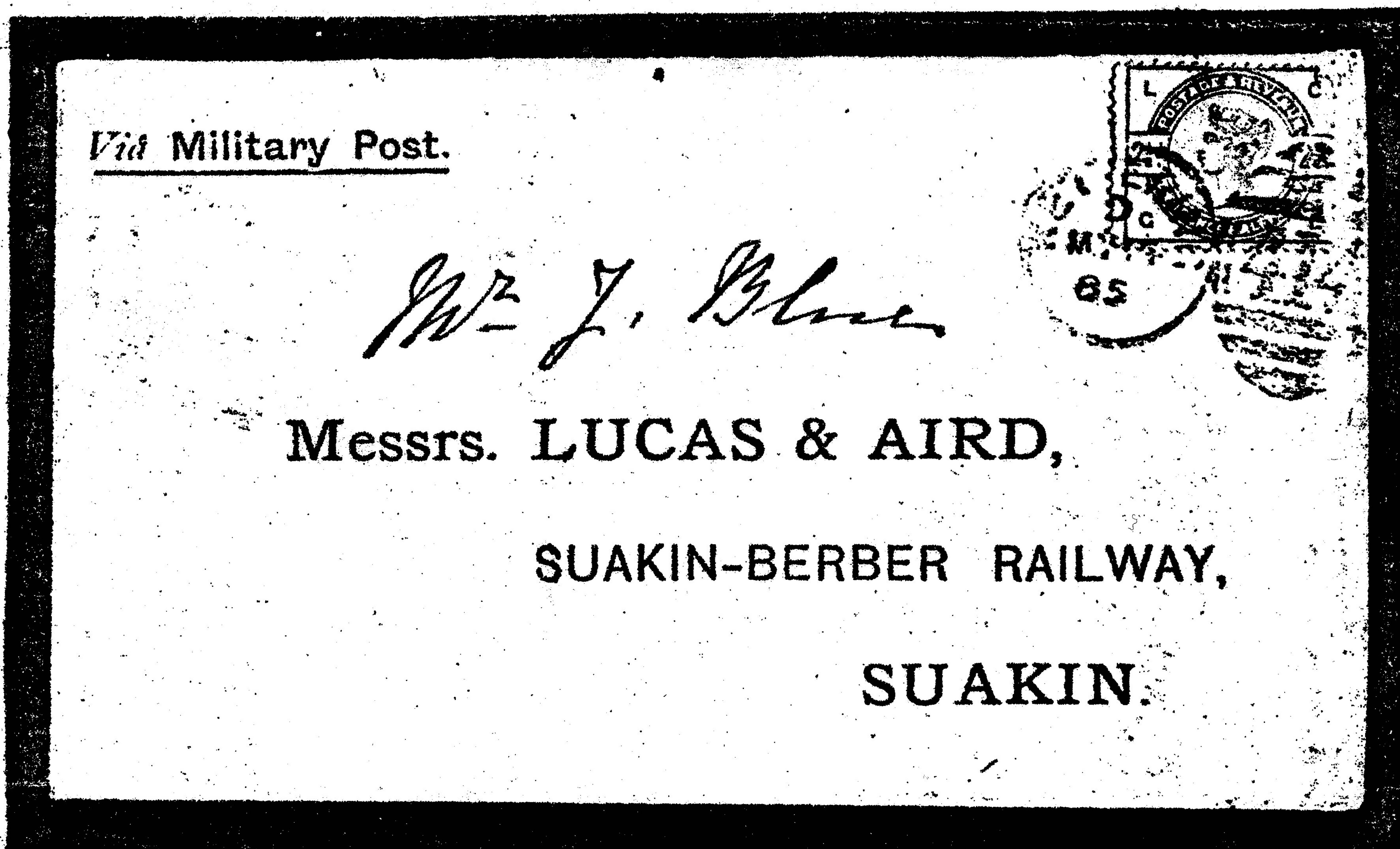
The laying out of the line from Handub, where water was first reached, was done by Officers and men of the R.E. and the land was

cleared and levelled by Madras Sappers and Miners and Indian Labour Corps personnel working with R.E. Officers. The supply of material and the administration was in the hands of Lucas and Aird but there was no regular supply of materials and trains were rarely loaded with proper quantities of both sleepers and rails as required. Rails, bolts and nuts were found to be of many different patterns. By 30th April sixteen miles of railway had been completed in 23 working days and although construction was easy as there were no bridges and only gentle gradients, progress was slow owing to confusion at Suakin.

On 16th April Graham had occupied Otao, 8 miles west of Handub, railhead then being 9 miles behind him, and three days later he was at Tambuk five miles further on and then 10 miles from railhead.

Although an armoured train was prepared by 10th (Railway) Company R.E. and patrolled the line at night the enemy contrived to do some damage by setting fire to the sleepers and cutting down the telegraph line. The railway line reached Otao on 30th April.

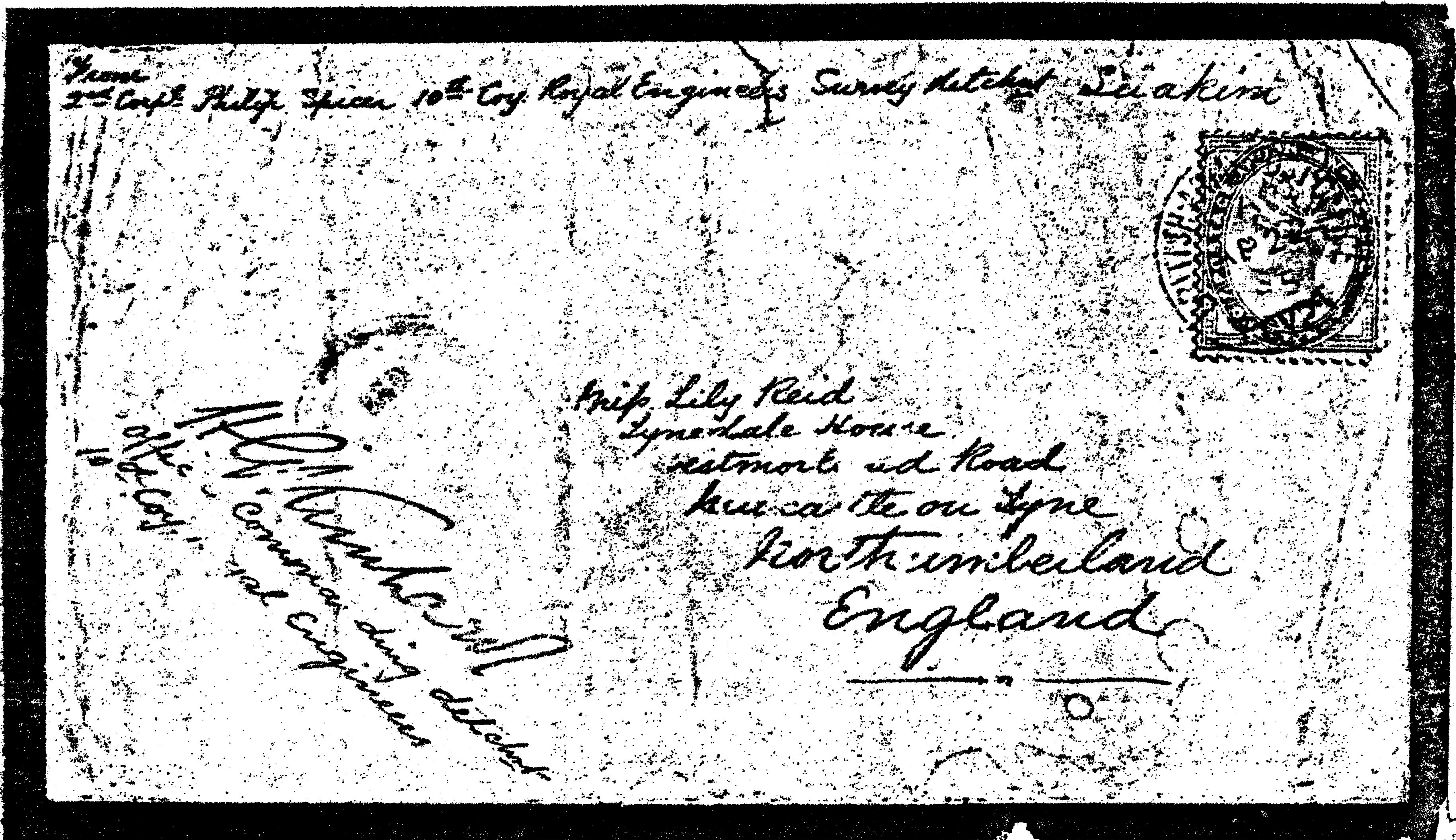
Lord Wolseley arrived at Suakin on 2nd May and told Graham that the Sudan was to be abandoned and his force broken up. Only a small number of troops was to remain at Suakin and there were to be no outlying garrisons.



This letter was written from Lucas and Aird's offices in Kettering MY 14 85 to one of their officials in a printed "via Military Post" envelope.

The project of a Suakin-Berber Railway was cancelled and the line was to be dismantled as the troops retired. It was never used to supply the troops and it had never worked to a time-table. The ships carrying the rest of the material returned to England.

The cost of less than twenty miles of track had been £865,000. The cost of the whole expedition was over £3 million with virtually nothing to show for it.



A AP 22 85

BRITISH ARMY POST OFFICE EGYPT

1d. Soldier's Letter to England

Newcastle-on-Tyne 6 May 1885 14 days in transit

2nd Corporal Philip Spicer

10th Company Royal Engineers Survey Department Suakin

Authorised by Captain H. G. Kunhardt

Officer Commanding detachment 10th Company R.E.

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HELIOPOLIS - 6th to 13th February 1910

The first Air Meeting to be held in Egypt (or Africa for that matter) was held at Heliopolis Aerodrome between the 6th and 13th February 1910. A Post Office was opened specially on the site and souvenir post-cards, official and otherwise, were sold to mark the occasion. A photograph of an early aeroplane was superimposed on various pictorial views of Egypt and the cards bore low denomination stamps of the 1902 issue which were postmarked with special Heliopolis Aerodrome cancellations.

It is considered unlikely that these postcards were actually flown as Air-Mail and they should, therefore, be considered only as souvenirs of an historical event in aviation.

Monsieur Jean Boulad d'Humieres, a life member of the circle, has been investigating the forged date stamp which has cropped up from time to time. The results of his study appear below, and we are grateful to him for adding to our records in this way.

John Sears (ESC No.188)
Holder of the Air-Mail section of
the record.

Forged Datestamps on Post-cards purporting to come from the Heliopolis Air Meeting of 1910.

by Jean Boulad d'Humieres
(ESC No.16)

During a visit to London in 1966 my friend, the late John H.E. Gilbert (ESC No. 50), specialist in the Air-Mails of Egypt, showed me a forged circular date stamp (Figure 1) of the special post office opened on the occasion of the Heliopolis Air Meeting in February 1910. He had discovered it a few months prior to my visit.

The principal characteristics in comparison with the authentic date stamp (Figure II) are as follows:-

- i) The 'A' in 'AERODROME' is shorter, and wider at the base than on the genuine cds.
- ii) The Arabic letters are different in many ways -
 - a) on the top line the formation of all the letters are different to those on the genuine cds.
 - b) in the bottom line, the Arabic 'TAH' above 'OD' is bigger and rounder than on the genuine cds., where the letters are rather flat and longer.
- iii) The date of the forgery is always (on those seen so far) of



Best regards

Mumce

Helipolis le 11.9.10

Mons

Rolph Nadler

Sheperds Hotel

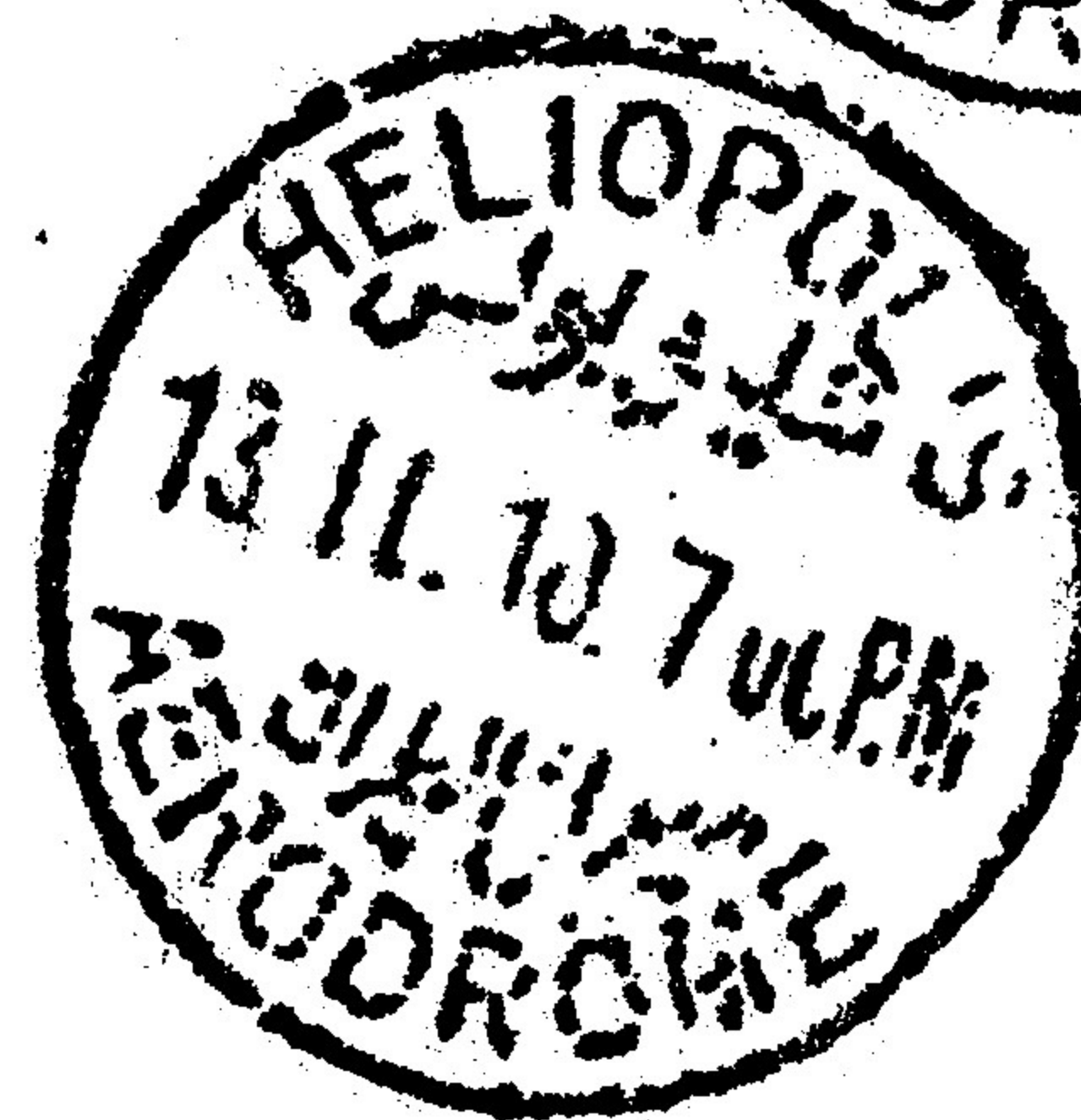
Caire

Figure: I the forged c.d.s.

Union Postale Universelle

Post Card. - Carte Postale. - Postkarte. - Briefkaart.
Cartolina Postale. - Tarjeta Postal.
ОТКРЫТЦЕ ПИСЬМО

Figure: II



17 ÉGYPTE. - Débordement du Nil
vers les Pyramides de Gizeh. - LL

Figure: II - the genuine c.d.s.

the first day of the meeting - 6th February 1910 - which, being very rare, is the most sought after by specialists.

- iv) The forged cds is normally of various colours - greenish-grey, blur-grey, greyish-black; whereas the genuine is black.

In April 1972 Professor Peter A. S. Smith (ESC No. 74) of the U.S.A. advised me of the Air Mail Collectors Auction in Capetown. Lot 4015 being a card addressed to '...GNES' with the first day cds., his bid was unsuccessful. Early in October 1975 a philatelist from Lisbon came to me and proudly showed that card which he had bought at that auction* After scrutinising it I had to tell him that it was a forgery of the same type as shown me by John Gilbert. Furthermore, the stamp had been removed leaving only part of the date stamp, but near the address there is another very clear date stamp in a violet colour.

Two days previously a philatelist from Lausanne, a specialist in Air Mail, showed me another postcard (Figure III) with an address in Leamington Spa, England, stamped with the same date stamp. It was sold by auction on the 28th September 1975 in Zurich by the Swiss Society. The actual owner obtained it after a hard fight bidding against another collector. He paid a high price for it and was proud to be the possessor.

Once again it was my misfortune to disappoint him by telling him the truth. It was the third forgery. The date stamp is blue-grey.

Furthermore, the card was franked with a 10 para of 1884 which became obsolete ~~on the~~ 30 Jan 1888 (by which time the para value had been replaced by milliemes), instead of by a 2 millieme green issued on the 1st January 1888 identical in colour and design. It could have been accepted at the beginning of 1888 that there was a mistake during the transitional period, but to happen 20 years later inexcusable. So we come across a dreadful mistake by the forger.

And, yet again, the cost of posting a postcard to England was 4 milliemes - unless this was another mistake!

This card was returned to the organiser of the auction and I learnt recently that the price was re-imbursed to the purchaser. Better still, the person who put up the card for sale was convinced by the explanation of the forgery, and offered it to the philatelist from Lausanne as a reference. This is a nice gesture which ought to be noted well.

My article in the Swiss Philatelic News No. 11 of November 1975 was read by a collector from Capetown, who had some postcards franked with that particular date stamp. He examined them and found one (Figure IV) with the forged cds. He sent it to me but could not remember where he bought it. The date stamp was of a greyish-black colour.

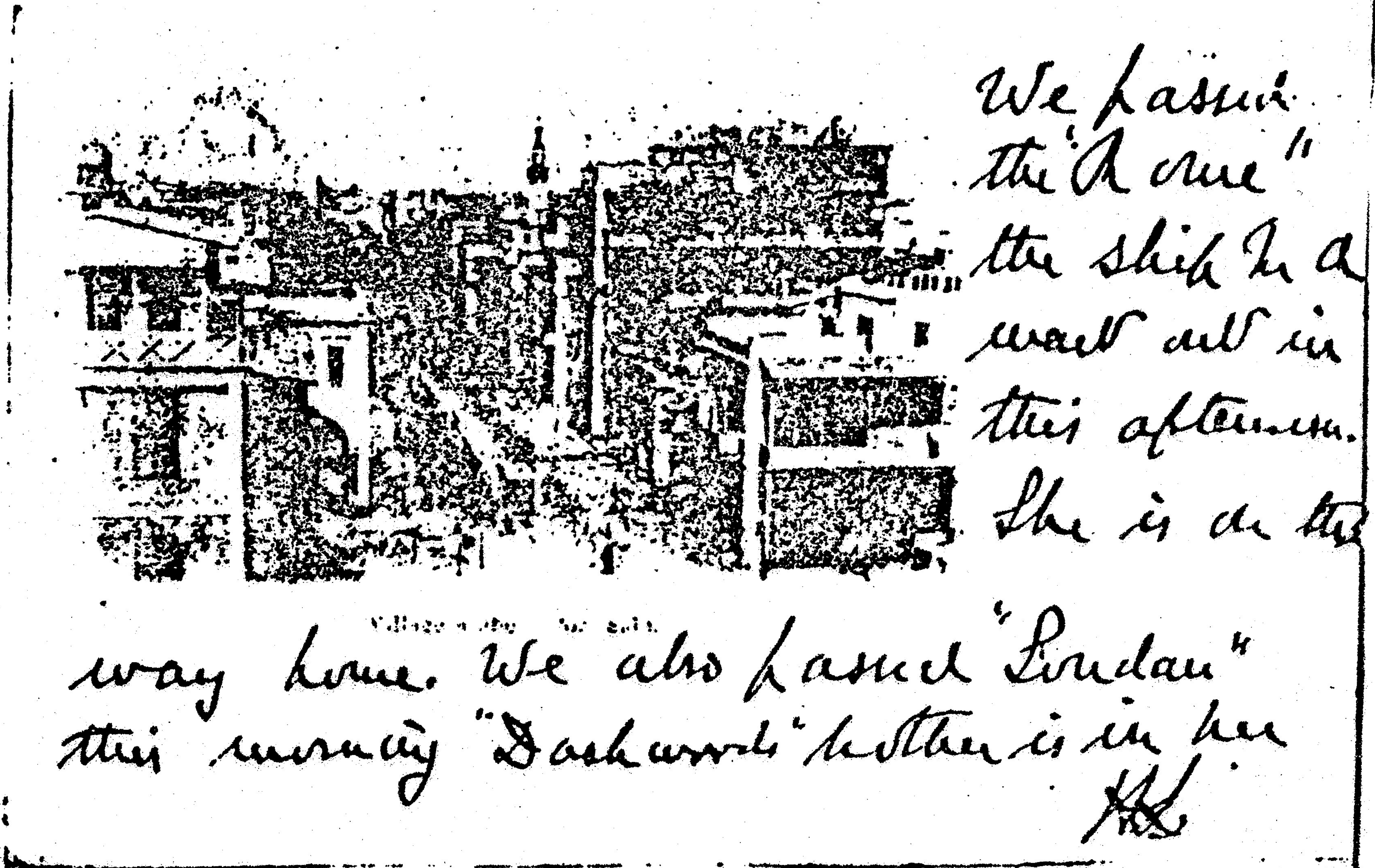
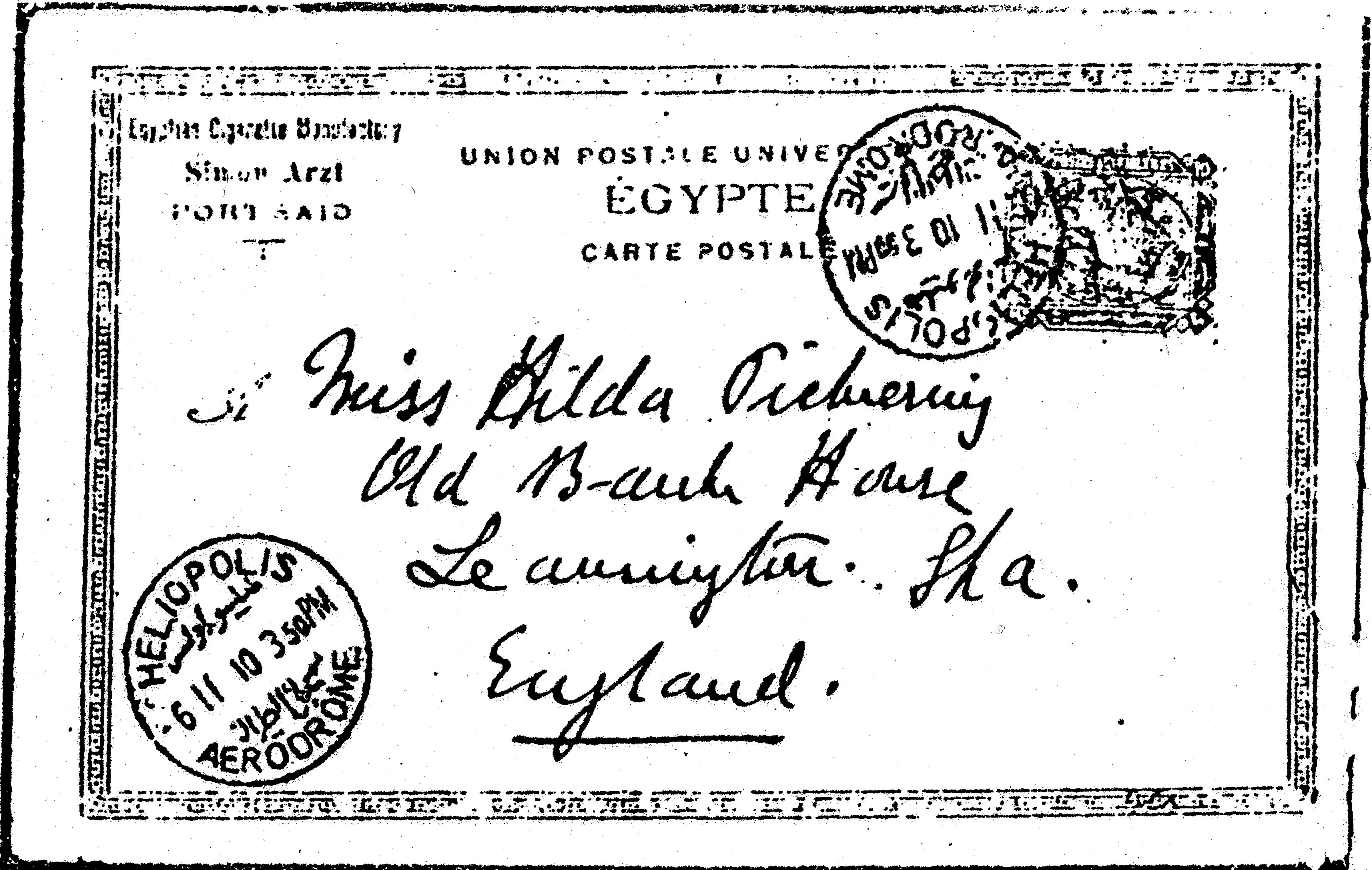


Figure: III

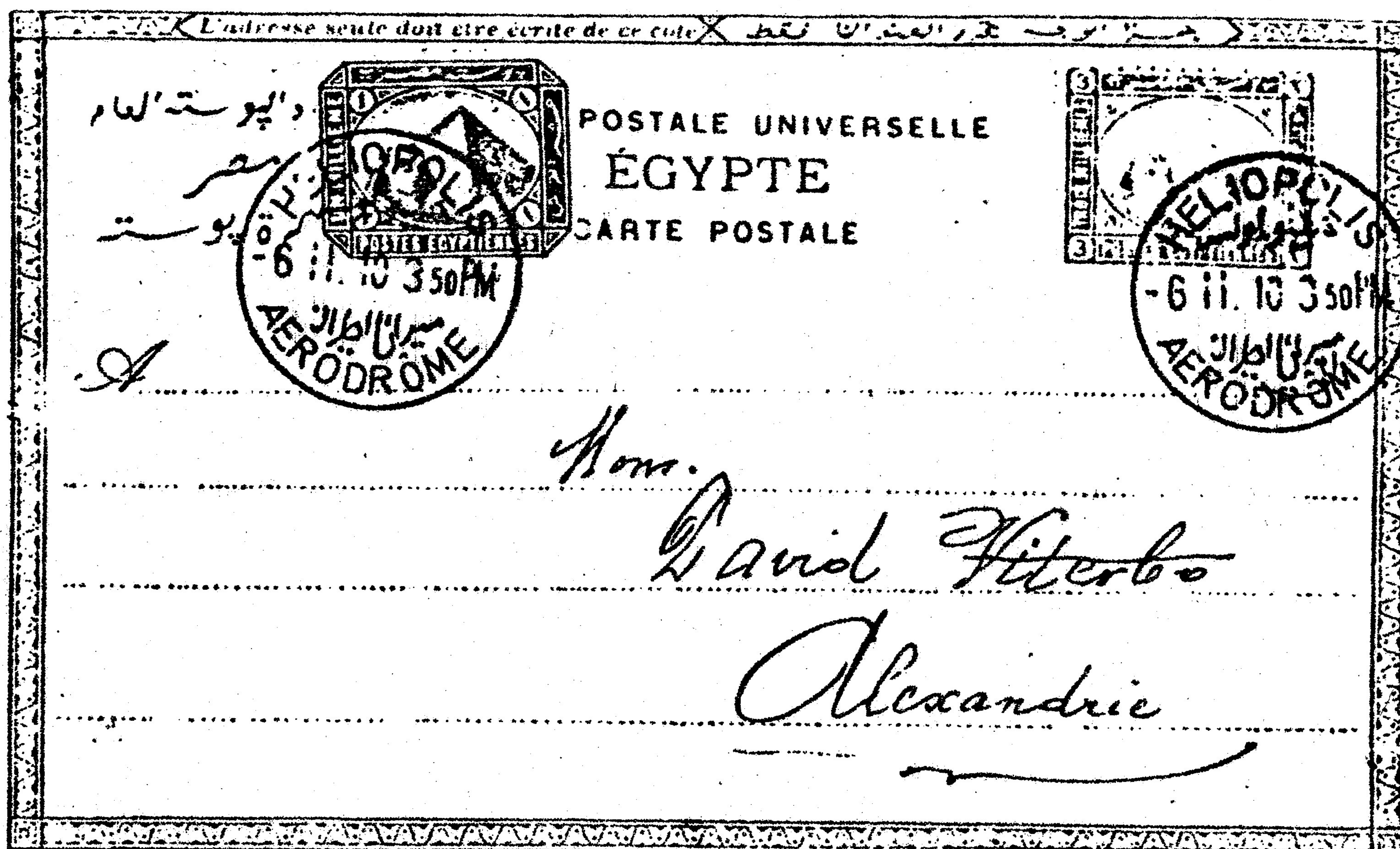
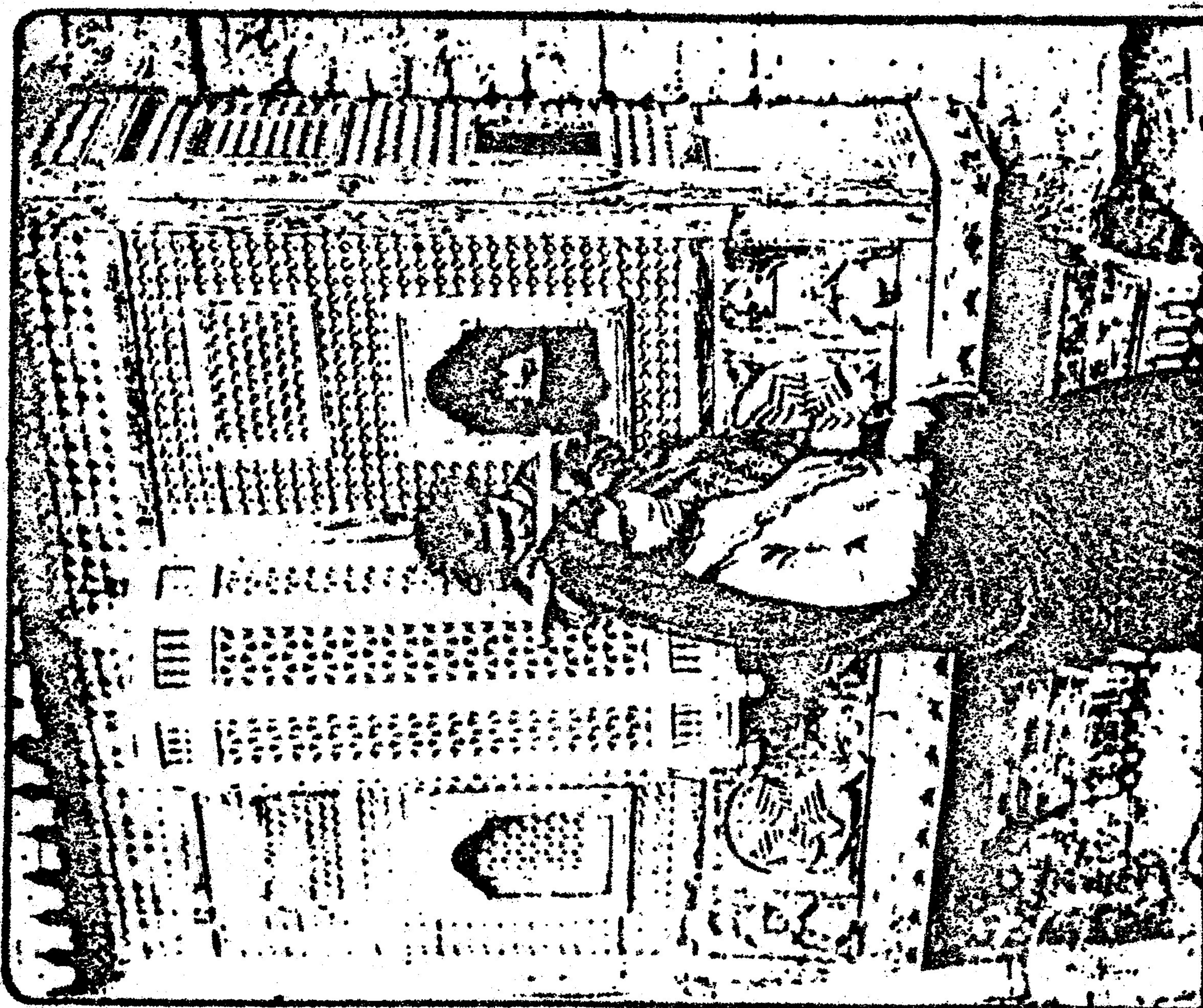


Figure: IV



These four cards have this in common, none of the pictures had anything in common with the Heliopolis Meeting: while there were quite a variety of picture cards which were used by collectors of souvenirs.

The first one is the excursion to the Sphinx by some members of the French Company of Egypt of 1798, it is in colour. The second one also in colour is the pilgrimage to Abuseria near Cairo. The third one in black and white, produced by 'Egyptian Cigarette Manufacturer Simon Artt, Port Said' showing part of an 'Arab village of Port Said'. The fourth, also in black and white, shows some 'Arab women'.

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There are probably quite a few more around, in collections of Egypt Air Mail - when will they come out in the open?

Further point observed: the first, second and fourth postcards appear to have been written by the same person with a very fine nib. In the first the name of 'Shepherd's' hotel is mis pelt. The third card, written in English, has \$ for signature, identical to the second one.

None of the cards has the date stamp in transit from the Central Post Office in Cairo and least of all the date stamp on arrival at destination town which was the usual procedure at that time.

Fortunately the forgers seem to have ignored many important points which make the forged cancellations easily recognisable. One must however admit that the cds is very well executed and that it could fool many a specialised amateur collector. Let us hope that these few hints will prevent other collectors from buying similar items to these four postcards about which I have written.

---oOo---

MEMBERSHIP Continued from page 9.

The following resignations are noted:

134 C. A. Gilders
156 W. O'Reilly
173 A. C. Crew
174 D. R. Beak
186 J. E. Manchip White

Regarding the list of members published as a Supplement to this number would members please note changed address of:

210 M. Lynes Acorns
 Innhams Wood
 CROWBOROUGH
 Sussex.

---oOo---

THE 1953 BAR OVERPRINTS ON AIRMAIL STAMPS

by

W. C. Andrews (ESC No. 132)

My opinions on the method of printing and the number of plate settings used in producing the 1953 bar overprints on air-mail stamps were published in the Quarterly Circular, Volume VIII No. 3 at page 28, and No. 9 at page 117. Those articles, with the Official Journal Notice reported in the Quarterly Circular Volume VIII No. 12 at page 163, represent the result of my researches into the production of the bar overprints on the normal airmail stamps.

Having examined many thousands of stamps, in sheets, blocks and individually, it appears to me to be appropriate now to set out my conclusions on the large number of variations from normal which occur on these stamps.

Before doing so, I must give a word of warning - Beware of Forgeries. When inspecting these stamps always bear in mind that untold numbers of forgeries exist, all of which have been produced for the sole purpose of selling at inflated prices to collectors. There is no other reason for their existence.

Forgeries:

Although some bars are very pale and others quite heavily printed, most of the genuine bars are matt grey-black in colour and in no case does the ink penetrate the paper. If the bars are an intense black, usually glossy, and/or they are not of the correct dimensions and/or the ink penetrates the stamp they are most probably forgeries. Any bars not applied by the letter press method are not genuine.

Take great care to ensure that the overprints are genuine before accepting any stamp with three bars only where the presence of bars increases the catalogue value of that stamp to any marked degree. For example compare 10 milliemes violet (Ze 69 - SG 460) with 10 milliemes violet (Ze 41 - SG 327), 200 milliemes grey (Ze 75 - SG 466) with 200 milliemes grey (Ze 47 - SG 333), 20 milliemes blue (Ze 82 - SG 486) with 20 milliemes blue (Ze 56 - SG 398), and 40 milliemes carmine (Ze - 84 - SG 488) with 40 milliemes carmine (Ze 58 - SG 400). In these and in other cases which can be checked in the catalogue, the catalogue value is increased considerably by the addition of the bars. These stamps with genuine bars are comparatively rare and unless the bars can be identified without doubt as being genuine, they should be regarded with the gravest suspicion.

I have seen many examples of these, and other stamps: usually singles, both used and unused, with forged bars - some quite crude, many with bars of the wrong size, many with glossy black ink, a few

where the ink has penetrated the stamp and a very small number which are very similar to the genuine overprints. A large number of the 'used' stamps have very neat philatelic counter cancellations (see illustration of this cancellation in "L'Orient Philatelique" No. 92, October 1955 page 265). This cannot, however, always be taken as a certain sign of forged bars as I have seen many genuine stamps with this cancellation - some have even been through the post.

Of course, bars which have any of the recognisable flaws already illustrated are genuine.

Unofficial Bars:

A notice in the Official Journal of 30th April 1953 decreed that the unmodified stamps would not be valid for postal purposes from 23rd June of that year and it has been reported that arrangements were made whereby complete sheets of stamps held by private persons and other bodies could be exchanged at Post Offices for modified stamps.

As can well be imagined, there were still large numbers of stamps in private hands which were not in complete sheets. A considerable number of these were used quite genuinely with unofficial bars drawn on them by pen or pencil, or by other printing methods. These were acceptable to the postal authorities and, providing they are on and tied to genuine commercially used covers, generally not those covers cancelled to order by philatelic counters and not sent through the mail, they may be regarded as a genuine use of unofficial bars. Any unused stamps and used stamps off cover with unofficial bars should not be considered for obvious reasons.

Modified and unmodified stamps on the same cover:

The official notice published on 30th April 1953 stated that unmodified stamps would not be valid for postal purposes from 23rd June 1953. From this it would appear that any unmodified stamps used on covers posted on or after that date would be declared invalid and the recipient would be taxed for double the unpaid postage. This regulation appears to have been largely ignored by the postal authorities as I have seen a number of covers posted after that date bearing unmodified stamps in combination with modified or Republican issues but have yet to see one cover where the unmodified stamps were invalidated.

I should be grateful if somebody could produce one!

Inverted Overprints:

During the process of overprinting it was almost inevitable that some sheets would be inserted in the printing press the wrong way round so that the bars were inverted.

Normally when this happened with panes of airmail stamps the bars were printed on the face of the stamps on the opposite side from the portrait and in all cases I have seen the sheets were fed into the press

for a second time, correctly, so that the bars were reprinted in the appropriate position. This has the effect of producing two sets of three bars on each stamp, one inverted on the left and one upright in the normal position. In genuine cases it should be possible to plate both bars as they should both be impressed by the same plate.

In addition to this double print I have in my collection, and have seen in other collections, stamps with one set of bars only inverted in the correct position on the portrait. These inverted bars which I have been able to identify are both mint and used, on and off cover, and are all from plate setting 'B' state '4', and plate setting 'C' state '3'. A notable item that I have seen belongs to Peter Andrews and is a corner block of 4 of the 50 milliemmes blue, stamps nos. 41, 42, 45 and 46 with portrait cancelled by inverted bars nos. 4, 5, 9 and 10 from plate setting 'C' state '3'.

The inverted overprints from plate setting 'B' state '4' have been noted only on 100 milliemmes olive (Ze 74 - SG 465) and from plate setting 'C' state '3' only on 50 milliemmes blue (Ze 73 - SG 464). No inverted bars from other settings or states have yet been seen, except some double overprints referred to later.

This is a peculiar phenomenon because in order to have inverted the pane of stamps in the press and to have positioned the bars correctly on the portrait it would appear to have been necessary to have adjusted the feed of the inverted sheets or to have adjusted the position of the plate in relation to the stamps otherwise the bars would have been printed in the wrong position on the stamps.

Why should this occur on only two values and each of these from different plate settings and only one late state of each? Again, why should it only happen on some panes of each of these values? - I have stamps on the same values and the same states of the plate settings with the bars upright.

It might be that some panes were without some of the margins and the feed of the stamps into the press had to be changed to position the bars correctly. This, I think, is unlikely because it is too much of a coincidence that only two values received this treatment. Could it be that the positioning of the plates was altered without authority in order to manufacture a few panes with inverted bars?

I can think of no other logical reason. If any member has positive information or further thoughts on this matter I shall be pleased to enter into correspondence on this subject.

Double Overprints:

From my experience and researches it would appear that there are very many more forged double overprints than there are genuine ones.

This subject was briefly touched upon under 'inverted overprints' but, in addition to sheets which were inverted in the printing press it

was again almost inevitable that many sheets would be positioned wrongly so that the portrait was not obliterated properly. It would appear that in these cases it was normal practice to put the sheets through the press a second time so that a double overprint occurred, one out of position and one in the correct position. Again it has been reported that some of these double overprints were sold quite normally over post office counters.

However, when a sheet was put through the press twice, the two sets of bars should conform in all respects with all that has been said hitherto about genuine bars and, of course, on the same stamps they should be identical, or at very least from the same plate setting and the same state. Many of these double bar overprints have been manufactured clandestinely and can be recognised as such by careful examination. Obviously it was realised that double overprints would command a higher price from collectors than normal overprints and in consequence the supply has been made to fit the demand.

In addition to the foregoing I have also acquired some genuine double overprints where both sets of bars are inverted - one overprint covering the portrait and a second one elsewhere on the stamp - the positioning of the second overprint varies on different stamps and appears on a variety of values. To place the sheet properly to receive an inverted overprint on the portrait must have necessitated a repositioning of the sheet from normal, and similar remarks apply to those already made under 'inverted overprints'.

To sum up, in genuine cases the two sets of bars should be identical or at least from the same plate, and should be of the correct measurements, of recognisable type and, where the bars overlap, the correct one should be on top of the misplaced one. This last point can frequently be determined by the squeezing of the ink at the edges of the type - a common characteristic of letterpress or typography.

Very, very many ordinary stamps have been converted to double overprints at a later stage by the addition of an extra set of forged bars, but these can usually be recognised by differences in the bars from the genuine ones and the texture of the ink used. There are also in existence many double barred stamps which are completely false - although the double bars are identical they are both manufactured and can readily be seen to be spurious.

There is, of course, no reason why the printers should not have produced double overprints on purpose when the sheets were being overprinted originally. One cannot tell whether this has happened but at least have the merit of having been produced from the proper plates at the time of printing and are indistinguishable from those which were produced by genuine errors in printing.

Be as careful with double overprints as with those rarer normal overprinted stamps - the majority have been produced just for you!

Specimen overprints:

There are in existence a number of stamps on which the portrait is obliterated with a cross and with the word 'specimen' printed on the left hand side of the stamp.

The results of extensive enquiries about these stamps have proved completely negative. It would appear that their existence is unknown to members of the Philatelic Society of Egypt, whilst Peter Smith is of the opinion that they are forgeries emanating from the United States of America.

All those which I have seen are on the 2 and 5 milliemes values (Ze 36, 38 - SG 322, 324) and on no other values. The earliest reference to them which I can find is in P.A. Wilde - Spring Private Treaty List No. 22, 1963 - where, at item 294, one was offered for sale.

If they are forgeries then it is remarkable that only two values were produced. Other bar forgeries comprise complete sets of all values of all stamps current at the time, both for single and double overprints. It may be that one of the printing firms experimented with this type of obliteration and found it was unsatisfactory because of the difficulty of centering the cross exactly on the portrait.

I have reached no definite conclusion on the status of these stamps and would be pleased to receive other opinions or information with regard to their production.

Commercial mail:

Genuinely used commercial mail is often very useful in proving the existence and use of various stamps. I have some 80 complete covers and cards, most of them quite common but which include:-

- 5 covers with double barred stamps of various denominations.
- 2 covers with modified and unmodified stamps used after
23rd June 1953 and not invalidated
- 2 covers with unofficially barred stamps
- 2 covers with 50 milliemes stamps with inverted bars.

Acknowledgements:

During the course of my researches I have received invaluable assistance from many people. I should like to thank the following members of the Egypt Study Circle who allowed me access to their collections, answered many queries, gave unstintingly of their specialised knowledge, and in many cases, produced stamps for my personal collection: Peter Andrews, Peter Feltus, Rudi Jeidel, 'Mac' MacArthur, the late Charles Minett, Ron Potter, Pip Whetter and Dr. Antoine Winter. Finally I would like to acknowledge the many hours I spent in the company of George Archer, Master Printer, who explained in great detail the methods of printing and stamp production.

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- | | | |
|--------|--------------|----------|
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| 84 | October 1953 | 213 |
| 85 | January 1954 | 286 |
| 86 | April 1954 | 331 |
| 88 | October 1954 | 463 |
| 89 | January 1955 | 4 |

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ITALIAN INTERNEE MAIL FROM EGYPT IN W.W.II

by

F.W. Benians (ESC No. 123)

From the onset of the war, the Egyptian Government co-operated with the British as was required by the terms of the 1936 Treaty. They broke off diplomatic relations with Germany and declared martial law; but at the same time remained neutral. On 10th July 1940 Mussolini formally declared war. Certain members of the Italian community considered to be potential fifth columnists were speedily rounded up and interned in the Fayed-Geneifa area on the north and western shores of the Great Bitter Lake in the Canal Zone.

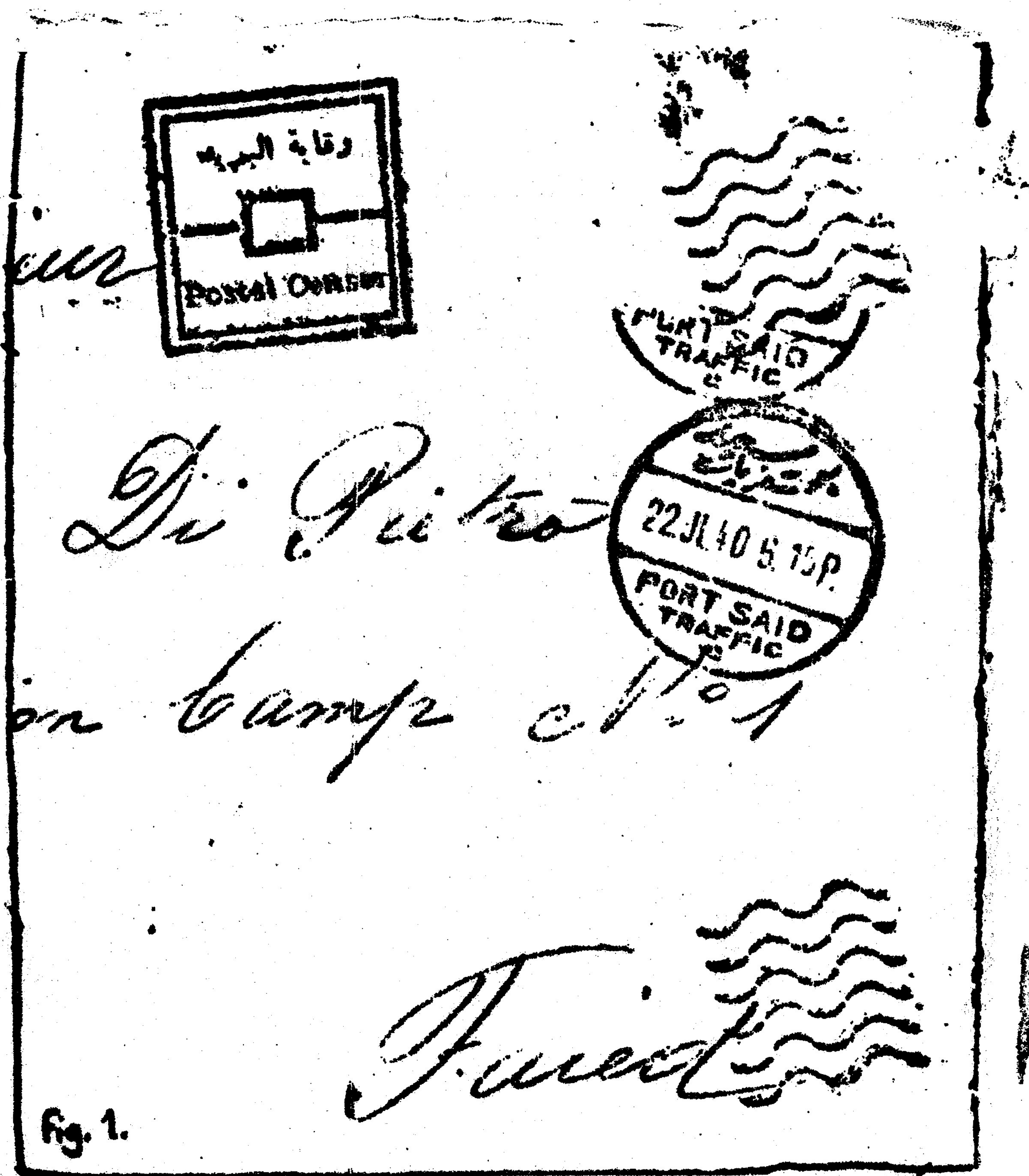
The Civil Censorship office had been established in Cairo and all mails entering and leaving the country passed through it; although the internal mails of Egypt and the Sudan were free from censorship. The mail of the Italian Internees was, however, censored - and subject to the normal postage rates.

Gabriel Boulad, in his article 'La Censure Postale en Egypte pendant la Guerre de 1939-45' published in 'L'Orient Philatelique' October 1946, wrote that a special censor mark had been used on Italian internee mail during the period immediately following the outbreak of hostilities with the Italians. This was a dumb mark taking the form of six wavy lines, usually struck in green.

The earliest dated cover so far recorded bearing this mark has an interesting story. It was addressed to an internee from his wife. The postage stamp had been removed in an attempt to detect hidden messages or codes (real cloak and dagger stuff!) and this mark had been struck in green, in its place. It is interesting to note, too, that it was addressed to 'Concentration Camp No. 1'. The Port Said datestamp of 22 JL 40 and the Fayid arrival mark of the next day - 23 JL 40 - indicate that it had been very promptly dealt with by the Censor. (Illustration 1 overleaf).

A cover sent eight days later from the same correspondent was this time addressed to 'Italian Internment Camp'. The correct internal letter rate of 6 milliemes had been paid and the stamps left intact. The dumb censor mark had been struck in purple.

An example of outgoing mail from an internee addressed to a relative then in Alexandria, shows this dumb mark struck in black. This was a late and unusual use. On the reverse the c.d.s. of Sidi Gaber dates it as 27 OC 40.



An early example of a cover from the Italian Internee Camp, Geneifa, has the arrival mark of Port Said dated 20 July 1940 - twenty days after the commencement of hostilities with the Italians. Two censor marks of differing colours have been applied and again this was unusual in the normal Civil Censorship procedure. The customary colour was purple, as in the first mark. The second, in green, suggests that this letter had been scrutinised by a more senior official or for a specific purpose. No postage had been paid, nor is there any evidence of the payment of postage due.

The censor marking is also in green on a cover from the Italian Internment Camp No. 20, and it is also unstamped. This time the postage due of 12 milliemes has been cancelled with the Alexandria datestamp of Christmas Day 1940. The addressee Gabriel Boulad, was an Advocate of the Court. He was also an outstanding philatelist and postal historian and much of his work remains the standard source of information.

Boxed Camp Cachet 'INTERNEE/CAMP/FAYED' in Seriffed Capitals (Figure 2).

This cachet was struck on mail from the camps during the latter half of 1941, and on which no postage appears to have been charged. The earliest recorded date - 9th May 1941 - was struck in a bright purple on an item from Camp No. 14.

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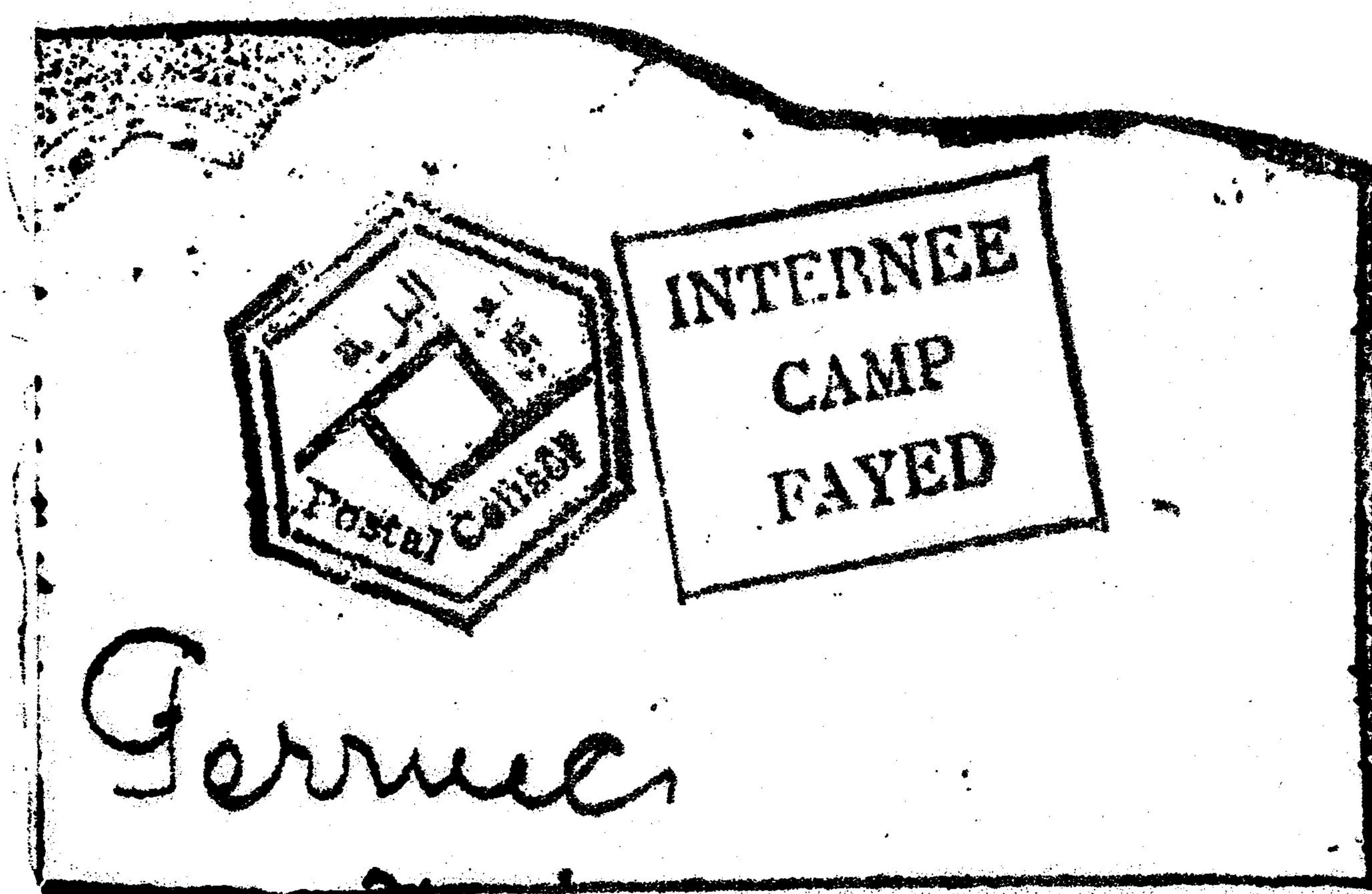


Fig. 2.

A letter from Camp No. 19 addressed to Port Said passed through Cairo on 1st August 1941. It had been opened and re-sealed, tied with the personal numbered Censorship Dept. No. 40. This type of stamp was in use throughout the whole period of censorship.

The boxed cachet appears again on a cover dated 21.AU.41, this time from Camp No. 13. Written in Italian it does not seem to have been opened for censorship but has passed through the 'M' Censorship Dept. machine. The 'M' is thought to have stood for 'MISRE - EGYPT'. Postage due of 12 milliemes has been raised at Alexandria.

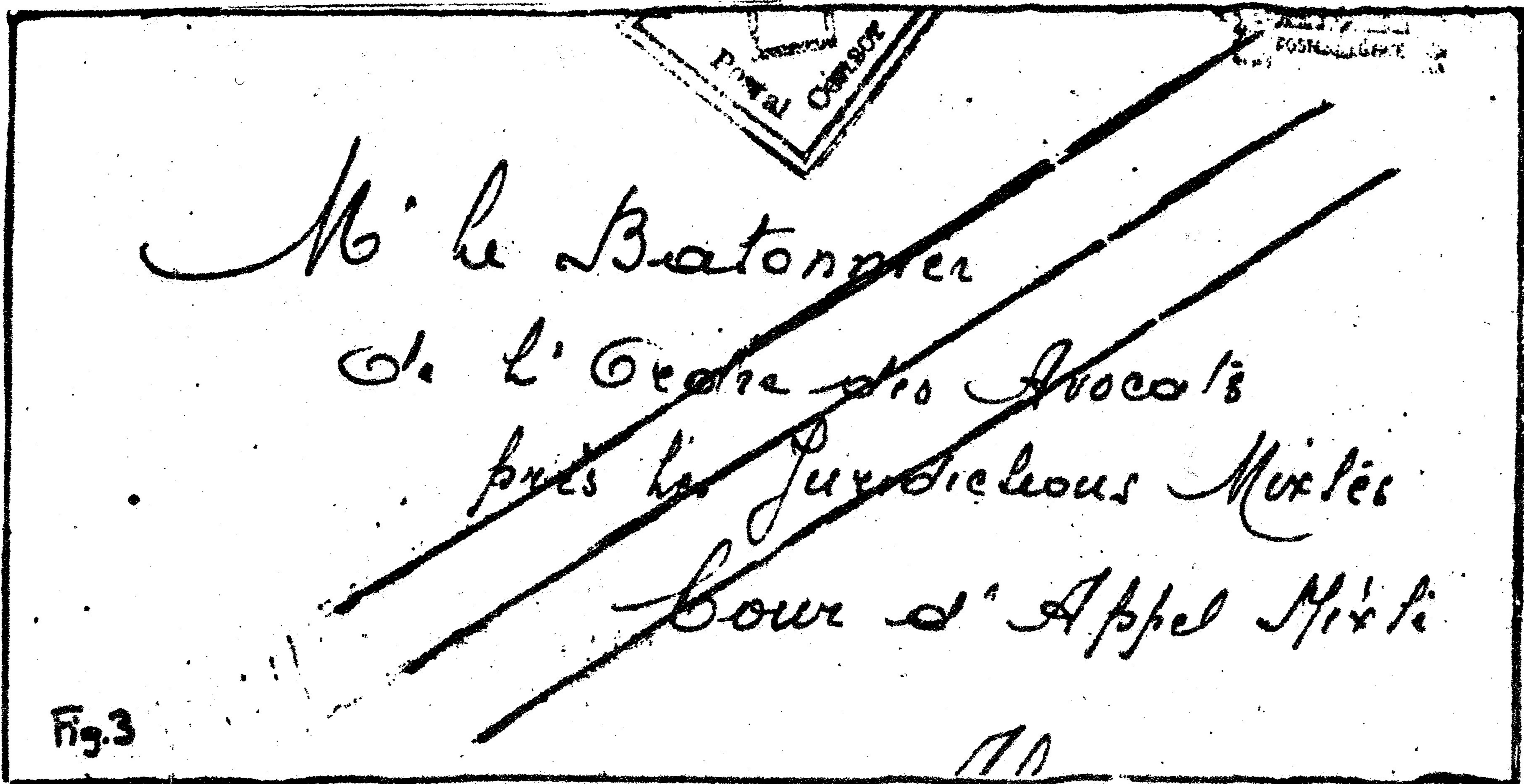
The cachet appearing on a cover dated 3.SE.41 from Camp No. 19 is quite dull in colour, and later dates have been reported in blue.

Other mail from these camps during this period without the cachet show that postage had been prepaid, or that the appropriate postage due had been charged.

Ecoles Royal Italienne, Cairo (Figure 3)

Mail to and from those Italians interned in this camp bears three distinctive parallel lines across the face of the envelope. An example from the camp has been struck with a manufactured stamp made in at least two parts. Dated 24.OC.41 it was addressed to an Advocate at the Court of Appeal, Alexandria. The normal letter rate had been paid and a 'Rhetta' killer cancellation applied to the stamp.

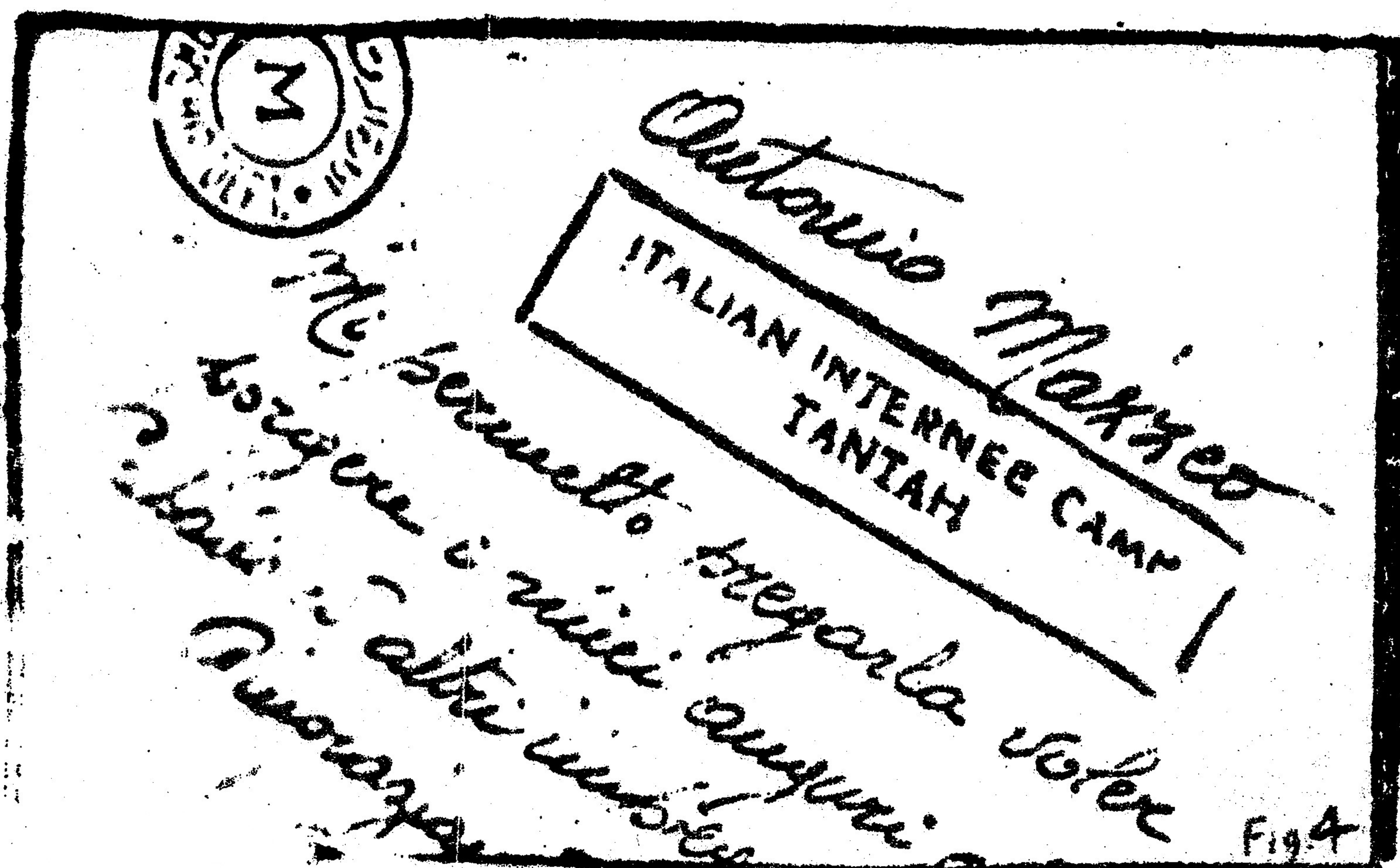
The internees appear to have been from the professional classes and mail entering the camp bears these three diagonal lines in manuscript.



A cover dated 21.DE.41 has been given the full censorship treatment. On the reverse is a serial number 4865. These numbers varied from day to day and appear to have been batch control numbers. They were usually applied to incoming mail from abroad.

A censored item of 8.NO.40 is interesting, being a business letter re-addressed from Port Said to 'Cairo Camp'. It indicates that a detention centre had been established in Cairo at this time. An ex-internee has confirmed that the camp was adjacent to that of the Germans, and it was here that internees were brought when their cases were being investigated by the authorities.

Italian Internment Camp, Tantah (Figure 4)



This camp was established in the mid-Delta region and was near to the Italian P.O.W. camp in that area. A censored post-card from the camp dated 9.JA.42 bears the camp cachet 'ITALIAN INTERNEE CAMP/TANTAH'. It is boxed with seriffed letters. There is a second cachet with an equivalent in Arabic.

Italian Internee Camp, Ramses City, Embabeh (Figure 5)

This camp was established in North Cairo, and on correspondence dated early 1944 an oval camp cachet was used - 'ITALIAN INTERNEE CAMP/RAMSES/CITY/EMBABEH'. The internal letter rate had at this time been increased to 10 milliemes.

On only one occasion has special camp stationery been known to have been used. A specially printed post-card showing a chicken breaking out of an egg, with a picture of tents and barbed wire behind, was inscribed: 'BUONA PASQUA - GENIFA 1941'.

Examples of this mail suggest that a strict censorship was maintained throughout, and where dates can be confirmed there is reason to believe that it was passed through the Department with the minimum of delay. With the exception of the dumb censor mark in use at the start, the various censor markings were those in current use. It has not been established that any special mark was wholly employed in this duty.

Generally the full postage rates have been paid or postage due raised, although a certain proportion of the mail was 'Free'. All outgoing mail had the internee's name and camp written on the flap of the envelope and is identified by this means. There are instances of the three diagonal lines appearing on mail to the Fayed camps, but this does not appear to be customary. Any censored item of an internal nature is worthy of inspection, as are those struck with colours other than purple.

Since preparing this article the writer included his material in a display given before a local society. Among those present was one of the ex-internees, and although understandably reticent regarding his experience in the camps, did confirm that what he saw and heard was correct.

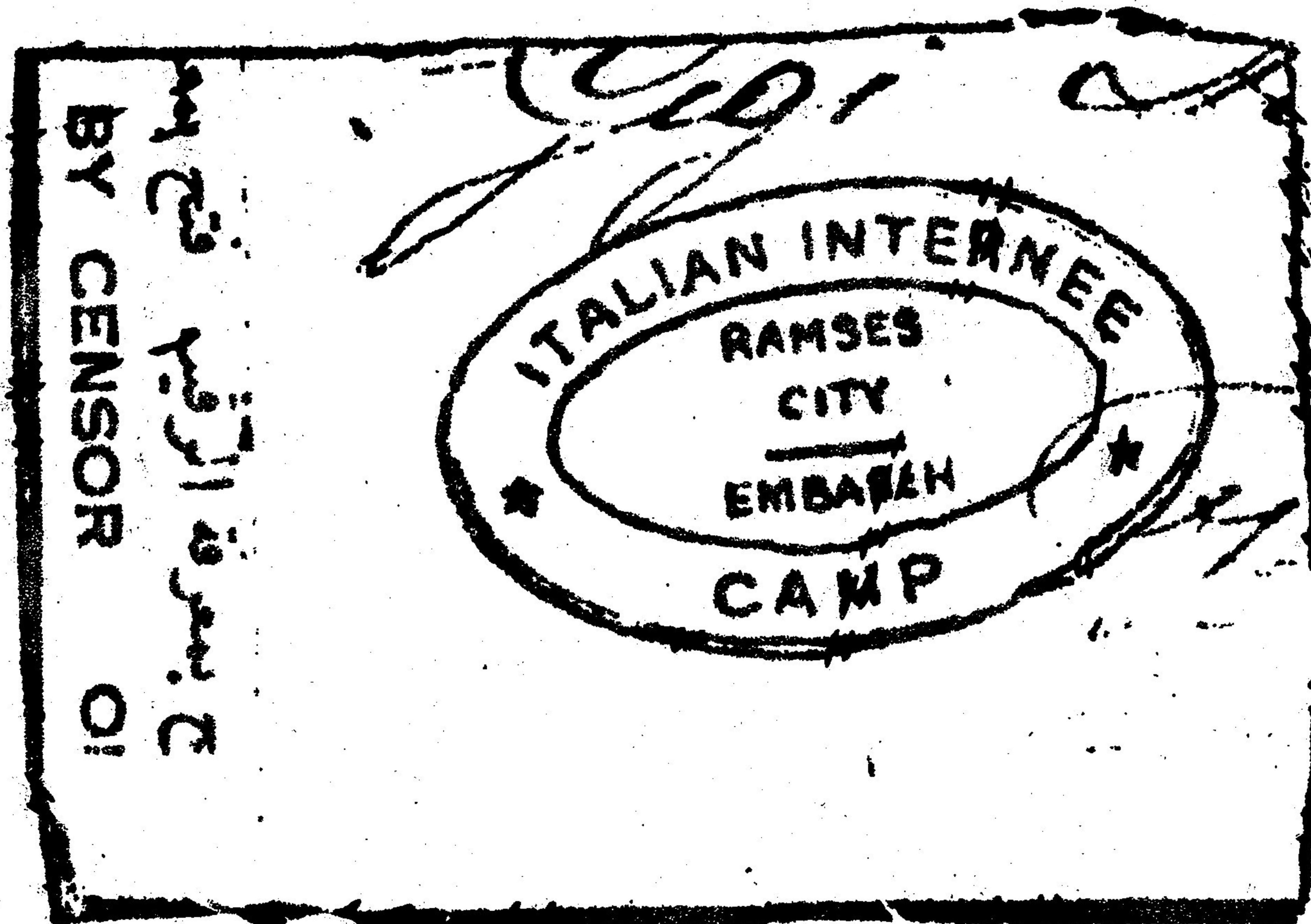


fig 5

CHECK LIST

	<u>Earliest</u>	<u>Latest</u>	<u>Boxed Cachet</u>	
			<u>Earliest</u>	<u>Latest</u>
<u>FAYED</u> - Camp No: 1	23. 7.40	30. 7.40		
6	20. 3.4?			
9	11. 8.40	? . 8.41	? . 8.41	
10	3. 9.41			
11	No date.			
13	21. 8.41	12. 3.43	21. 8.41	
14	29. 4.41	8.11.41	9. 8.41	
19	20. 3.41	3.12.42	22. 7.41	26.12.41
20	25.12.41			
 <u>CAIRO CAMP</u>	 8.11.40	 21.12.42		
 <u>TANTAH</u>	 6. 1.42			
 <u>EMBABEH</u> Camp No: 3	 4.10.44			
4	24. 2.44	7. 6.44		
 <u>Dumb Censor</u>				
(6 wavy lines)	23. 7.40	27.10.40		
 <u>Three Parallel Lines</u>	 6. 7.41	 21.12.42		

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