

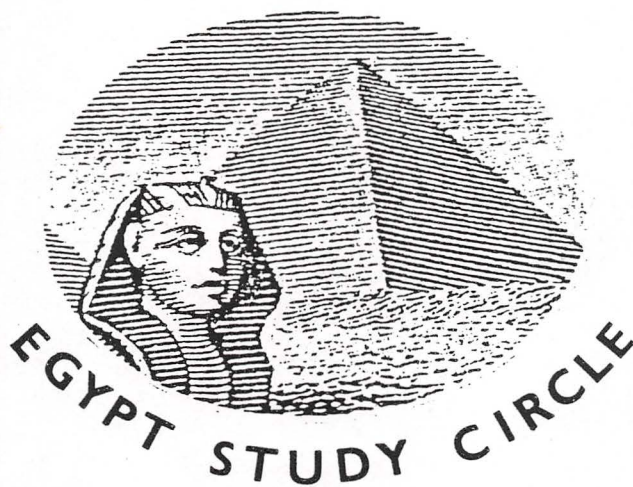
THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume XI

Number 6

JUNE 1982

Whole Series 122



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Next Meetings

To be held at "The Peacock"
Maiden Lane, London W.C.

1982

August 14

October 9/16

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE - THE QUARTERLY CIRCULARVolume XI Number 6 June 1982 Whole Series Number 122

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E S C A U C T I O N ! !

ESC Secretary Edmund Hall intends to run an Auction shortly. Material for sale should be sent to Mr Hall (address below), using Registered or Recorded services for valuable items. Vendors should include brief details of their lots, which should not be less than 50p in value. They should state what is their minimum selling price acceptable, which will be utilised as a starting price. The only costs to vendors will be return packing and postage on unsold lots.

A buyers' premium will be added to the sold material, payable by the buyers, to cover costs of the auction. The Auction list will be circulated in a future issue of the Q.C. to U.K. Members, and by Air Mail to Overseas Members. The usual auction conditions will apply.

Vendors are asked to forward their material to Mr Hall as early as possible, so that the first Auction List can go out with the September Q.C.

Egypt and related material is sure of a big demand !

E G Y P T S T U D Y C I R C L E

S E C R E T A R Y

Mr Edmund Hall
6 Bedford Avenue
Little Chalfont
Bucks

E D I T O R o f t h e Q . C .

Mr John A. Grimmer
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Herts

EN5 1LJ

CATALOGUE of EGYPTIAN REVENUE STAMPS

with Sudanese Revenues & Egyptian Cinderellas

by

PETER R. FELTUS

with a Historical Note by

JON MANCHIP WHITE



This Catalogue becomes available in July 1982. It is a high-quality hardbound book of 236 pages, four colorplates, hundreds of illustrations, and much more information than you anticipate. You are thus encouraged to order it immediately from the author (Peter R. Feltus, 5709 Keith Avenue, Oakland, California 94618) or from the publisher (below) or from Vera Trinder in London. The price is \$40 (plus \$2 for packing & shipping) or your equivalent. You will be pleased.



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1982

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History of British Army Postal Service 1882-1902 Volume I £ 13

do. 1928-1963 Volume III £ 14

- in each case plus £ 1.60 U.K. post, or £ 1.70 Overseas

Meeting held on 12 June 1982 at The Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret St., Birmingham.

Attendance: Mr J.Sears (Chairman) and Messrs W.C.Andrews, E.Blackburn, D.H.Clarke, D.J.Davis, C.E.H.Defriez, E.H.Fraser-Smith, J.A.Grimmer and R.Lockwood. The Chairman especially welcomed new member Ted Blackburn to his first meeting of the Circle. The Chairman regretted that two members who had intended to be present had suffered injuries in accidents which prevented them from travelling: these were Mr Edmund Hall and Mr F. Rowland Hill. The Meeting expressed sympathy and wished them both a speedy recovery.

The first half of the session was given over to short displays, principally featuring members who were not normally able to get to London.

Mr John Davis displayed adhesives of the French Post Office in Alexandria, and these included overprints. Numerous questions arose in discussion.

Mr Reg Lockwood displayed Postal History as relating to mail in transit through Egypt; this extended to Paquebots and Zeppelin mail.

Mr Ted Blackburn displayed general Postal History, and his display included some very good material.

Mr E.H.Fraser-Smith's display was of post-Monarchy adhesives, including whole panes, and he dealt with aids to plating, including by perforation, by spots and by pressure impressions or gripper-marks made by the perforator. The latter marks were noted as falling between 7th and 8th rows, on each side of the panes, away from the imperforate margins.

Mr Cyril Defriez mentioned the time in 1959 when stamp printing was being sought by the Postal Authority Press. They claimed competence by producing the 1959 1st Anniversary of U.A.R. design, but with wording as a "Printing Experiment". Mr Defriez showed several examples in different colours, with different gum, etc.

The second half of the session comprised a major display by Mr Dennis Clarke. It is hoped that an article for this Journal will be forthcoming in due time.

The Provincial Meeting was clearly adjudged a success by those attending and the Chairman confirmed the intention of holding a similar meeting in 1983.

It was relevant to consider the position of Mr Peter Andrews in the context of the provincial meeting, he having staged the first two such meetings in 1980 and 1981 very successfully. The Meeting received the news of his resignation from the Circle with regret, and it was felt that the real cause of his withdrawal from the Circle was unknown. Members hoped that he would re-join at some time in the future.

ESC MEETING HELD IN LONDON ON 12 FEBRUARY 1982

Mr J.S.Horesh writes :-

"Please allow me to correct an error in the report in Q.C. 121.

"I do not believe that types SP.O-4 and S.P.O-4.05 are the same. The larger measurements (between the upper and lower lettering) shown as being 13 and 12 m/m respectively are correct. However, I believe that the width of the bridge is the same in both types be it 8.5 or 8 m/m. The difference in this measurement is spurious."

Editor: this relates to PAQUEBOT markings, a display on which was given by Mr Horesh to the February Meeting. Elsewhere in this issue is a letter from Mr K.D.Knight, further to his article on Paquebot markings, which appears in Q.C. No. 117.

EXPERT COMMITTEE CERTIFICATES issued by Major E. L. G. MacArthur

Listing up to 16 November 1981: see The Q.C. Vol. XI, No. 4, page 87

<u>No.</u>	<u>Year of Issue and Description</u>	<u>Opinion</u>
468	1955 5 mill, vert strip of 5, SG 507 with partial ovp on 2 bottom stamps	Genuine, and due to poor 'make ready'
469	" 5 mill, mint SG 507 (var) with inverted overprint	Genuine
470	" 10m mint. block 2 x 3 SG 507, first stamp with part ovp.	Genuine and due to poor 'make ready'
471	1958 10m mint, vert strip of 10 SG 583; 2nd last stamp partial, last stamp double, overprint	Genuine
472	" Palestine mint SG 91 (var) double overprint	"
473	1869 Suez Canal Co 1c mint single SG1	"
474	" " " " 1c mint single SG1	"
475	" " " " 5c mint horizontal pair, SG2	"
476	" " " " 5c mint single, SG2	"
477	" " " " 20c mint single SG3	"
478	" " " " 40c mint single, SG4	"
479	" " " " 20c mint block of four, SG 3	"
480	" " " " 40c mint block of four, SG4	"
481	1868 Interpostal Seal (Kehr type IVa) used, of Kilometro 83, with cds of Kilometro 83	"
482	1867 Interpostal Seal (Kehr type III die b) used, of Ismailia with cds of Chantier VI	"
483	1867 5 para used SG11 with cds of Chantier VI	"
484	1866 5 para unused SG1, perf 12½	"
485	" 10 para unused SG2c, perf 12½ x 13	"
486	" 20 para used SG3 (var), imperf x 12½ x 12½ x 12½	"
487	" 20 para unused SG3, perf 12½	"
488	" 20 para unused SG3, perf 12½	"
489	" 1 pi used SG4c, perf 12½ x 13	"
490	" 1 pi used horizontal pair, SG4, perf 12½	"
491	" 10 pi unused single, SG7, perf 12½	"
492	1874 5 pi, mint single, SG41(I), perf 12½	"
493	" 5 pi, mint single, SG41(I), perf 12½	"
494	" 5 pi, used single, SG41(I), perf 12½	"
495	1879 20 para used, SG46, with pen cancel	Adventitious
496	1872 1 pi used, SG31, with Arabic manuscript in circle, by lead pencil	Fabrication
497	1866 5 pi unused, SG6 (var), perf 12½ x imperf	Genuine
498	1874 10 para mint, horizontal strip of 3, SG36a, perf 13½ x 12½, centre stamp tete-beche	"
499	1875 5 para, mint block 4 x 3, perf 13½ x 12½, SG 35, with vertical and horizontal tete-beche, and with normal vertical pairs	"
500	1866 10 pi, unused, SG7, perf 12½	"
501	1867 5 para mint single, SG12, perf 15 x 12½	"
502	(not used)	
503	1953 SG 439 (var) 2m mint block 3 x 2, top row with double obliterating bars	Genuine
504	1897 SUDAN SG D2, 4m x 1½ on piece, cds SHENDI 16-6-01	"
505	" " SG D4, 2pi x ½ on piece, cds WALFA CAMP 19-1-1902	"
506	1948 PALESTINE cover, cds GAZA, with 2m SG2 double ovp and 2m SG2 normal	Forgery
507	1958 PALESTINE SG 98a, 10m mint, overprint double	Genuine
508	" " SG 99b, 35m mint, overprint missing	"
509	1959 " SG 100 (var) 55m on 100m mint, double overprint	"
510	1946 AIR SG 314b mint, double overprint	"
511	1866 5 para unused SG1 (var), misplaced vertical perf, imperf at right and bottom	Forgery
512	1922 3m mint SG O.100	Genuine

(Further listing will appear in later Q.C.'s)

THE MILITARY USE of the CIVIL POST OFFICES in EGYPT, 1914 - 1916

by J. A. FIREBRACE (ESC 71) and F. W. BENIANS (ESC 123)

I N T R O D U C T I O N

In the Q.C. Nos 116, December 1980 and 117, March 1981, we discussed Civil Censorship in Egypt and in Nos 119, September 1981, 120, December 1981 and 121, March 1982, we reviewed the Named Military Post Offices. Both these studies included the early years of World War I.

We now present the military use of the Civil Post Offices and this study will go some way to showing not only the build up and distribution of troops after their arrival in Egypt, but will also introduce the ancillary items which the study of military postal history requires, namely manuscript endorsements; postal censorship and military handstamps; the various forms of military postal stationery and finally postal rates.

In order to get the period into military focus, it will be recalled that, at the outbreak of war, British Troops were styled the "Force in Egypt" and had been so styled since the end of the 1882 Campaign which resulted in the defeat of Colonel Arabi. Unofficially, this Force has also been known as the "Army of Occupation".

The Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was formed on 11 March 1915 with its role the capture of the Gallipoli peninsula and its final objective the capture of Constantinople. The Levant Base was established, mostly in and around Alexandria, to receive from Britain and elsewhere and to reassemble in battle order the men and stores for this campaign. The first landings were on 25 April. In November the scope of the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force was expanded to cover all forces in the eastern Mediterranean, including the British Salonika Army whose campaign had begun in October and was to last until the Armistice with Turkey on 31 October 1918. The Gallipoli Campaign was a gallant failure and ended in a final withdrawal on 9 January 1916.

The Force in Egypt and the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force were merged on 20 March 1916 and became the Egyptian Expeditionary Force. Our period of study will end at this date, except that it will also include postal, censorship and military markings of the two forces merged so that a complete record of their markings can in due course emerge. The Egyptian Expeditionary Force (E.E.F.) will be considered in its turn.

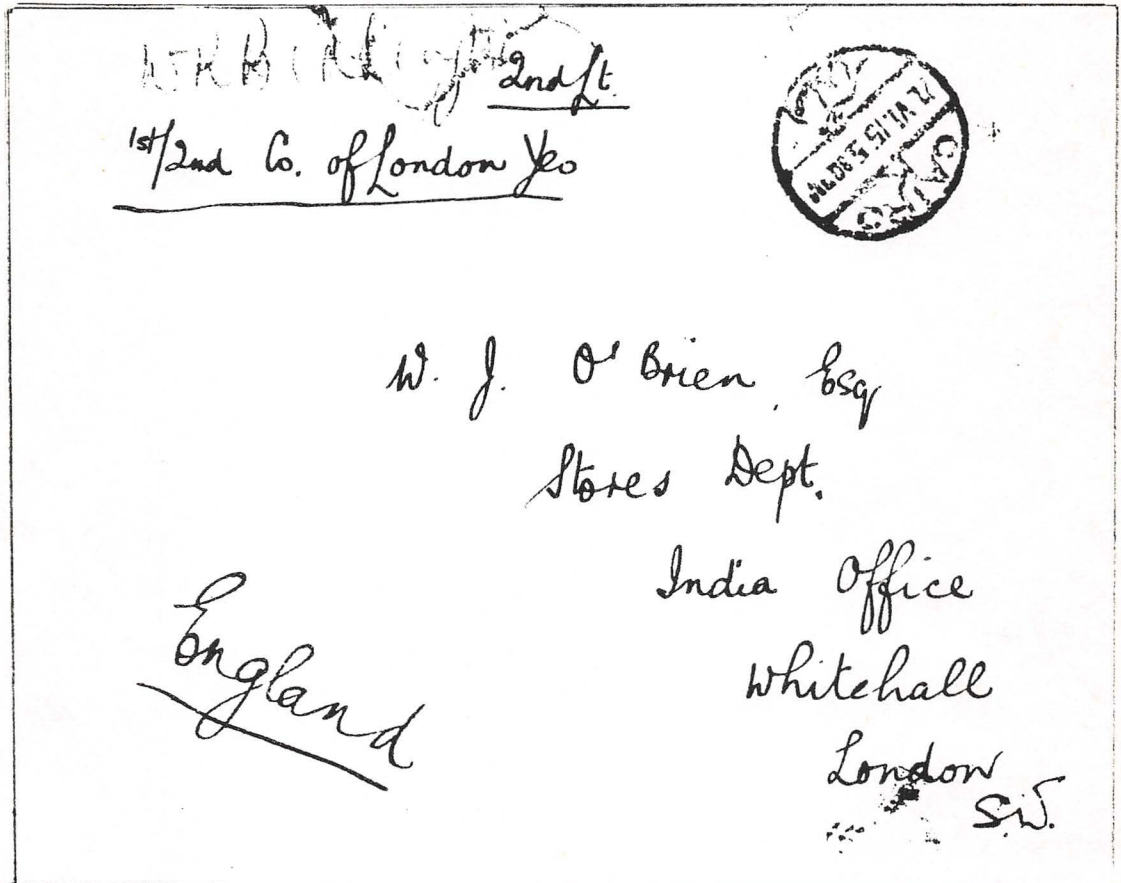
C I V I L P O S T O F F I C E S

Egyptian civil post offices were used by the British and British Empire Forces and to complete the setting of the scene we can record the months during which the various Army Post Offices began to function in Egypt :-

November 1914	-	Indian
December 1914	-	Australian and New Zealand
April 1915	-	British

The first issues of Field and Army Post Office datestamps were to formations and the first datestamps to be used were brought to Egypt by formations for their own use. Some formations and establishments were issued with datestamps later on in Egypt but some units and establishments used the Egyptian civil post office throughout their existence. The arrival of the Army Postal Services to satisfy the needs of fighting troops did not of itself therefore alter the position of static establishments, such as for instance hospitals, using the civil post office.

/ Continued . . .

EGYPT.CIVIL POST OFFICES.CAIRO K.2 COUNTY OF LONDON YEOMANRY.

21 VI 15 5 30 PM.

Postage Free to ENGLAND.

W. R. Beddington. 2 LF.

Illustrating 'MILITARY USE OF CIVIL POST OFFICES, 1914/16'

Section 1 - Manuscript Identifications

Our intention on this occasion is to construct a skeleton, on which all are invited to put flesh by reporting to us such military covers and cards as fall within the present scope. We are interested primarily in the use of the civil post offices rather than in a study of the civil datestamps; nevertheless the datestamps of the civil post office are of interest and, with dates of use, we have a base on which the military postal history can be well laid. Here we pick up and include the use of the named military datestamps.

Notes on certain of the civil post offices are therefore necessary to clear the way for a concise recording of the military aspects. We then list the civil post offices known to have been used to handle soldiers' letters with a short description of the earliest letter or card known to us from each office.

Datestamps are struck in black unless otherwise stated.

Alexandria	Code letters C, D, F, G, J, K, O, S, V Datestamps including the words Alexandria or Alexandrie follow Allexandria.
Cairo	Code letters B, C, E, F, G, I, K, M, O Datestamps including the word Cairo follow Cairo
Cairo, Military P.O.	British wording only
Heliopolis	Also known struck in blue
Ismailia	Also known struck in blue. Included is star and bridge datestamp
Luxor	Also known struck in blue
Maadi, British Camp	British wording only
Port Tawfiq	Included is star and bridge datestamp
Suez	Star and bridge datestamp

Earliest dates of military use.

Abbassia	5 OC 14	Westminster Dragoons, Abbassia Barracks, Cairo, mss
Alexandria	1 JA 15	East Lancashire Division cachet
Alexandria, Attarine	6 JU 15	15 General Hospital mss
Alexandria, Douane	9 JL 15	Field Service postcard to New Zealand
Alexandrie, Egypte	19 JA 16	On Active Service mss
Bacos	30 MY 15	On Active Service mss
Bani-Mazar	20 FE 16	Privilege envelope with triangular censor
Bulkeley	25 JL 15	Rectangular Censor
Cairo	16 OC 14	Westminster Dragoons mss
Cairo, British Barracks	16 OC 14	2 City of London Yeomanry, mss
Cairo, Dawawin	20 NO 15	Government Hospital, Kasr el Aini cachet on F.S.P.C.
Cairo, Gizira	9 FE 16	On Active Service mss with Passed by Censor handstamp
Cairo, Military P.O.	8 FE 16	Red Cross Hospital, Giza, cachet
Cairo, Qubba Bridge	10 OC 15	New Zealand General Hospital, Pont de Koubbeh, cachet
Cairo Station	1 FE 16	On Active Service mss
Dabaa	5 DE 15	2nd Composite Regiment, mss

Military Use of Civil P.O.'s, 1914/16 - Earliest dates, continued.

Giza	8 FE 16	P.H.D. Hospital, Giza, mss
Heliopolis	26 AP 15	Zeitoun Camp, mss, on postcard to Australia
Heliopolis, British Camp	23 AU 15	Free "On Active Service" to U.S.A., taxed in London, collected 4 cents
Heliopolis, Military Camp	29 MR 15	Australian and New Zealand Expeditionary Forces stationery
Hilwan	11 JU 15	Australian and New Zealand Convalescent Hospital cachet
Ibrahimia, Ramleh	7 AP 15	Rectangular censor
Ismailia	8 FE 15	Postage Free to Australia with Passed by Censor, Indian Expeditionary Force 94
Luxor	21 NO 15	On Active Service mss
Maadi	19 AU 15	Free handstamp, to England
Maadi, British Camp	8 FE 15	7th Regiment A.L.H., 2nd Brigade A.L.H., A.I.F. mss
Mex	3 AP 15	Passed, R.Stephen, Capt. R.A.M.C. mss
Muntazah	10 NO 15	Postage free to Australia
Port Said	9 FE 15	5 Lancs Battery, R.F.A. cachet
Port Taufiq	OC 14	D Company, 7th Hants mss
Pyramids	7 DE 14	4 mills p.c. to Australia
Pyramids, Cash	7 AP 15	Postage free to Australia
Qabbari	1 AP 15	Passed Censor G.H.H., mss in blue crayon
Qantara	30 NO 15	Soldier on Active Service, mss (initials)
Ras el Tin	2 AU 15	Indian Hospital Ship 'Glengorm' cachets
San Stefano	30 OC 15	A. Buckle, V.A.D. 17 General Hospital mss
Sidi Gaber	14 DE 14	5 Battn, Manchester Regt. dated cachet
Wardan	18 M 16	On Active Service YMCA red triangle stationery

Classification of recorded information

The build up of British Empire Forces in Egypt and the consequent study of their military postal history can be classified in six main sections, all the recordings being of covers or cards which were handled by the Egyptian civil post office.

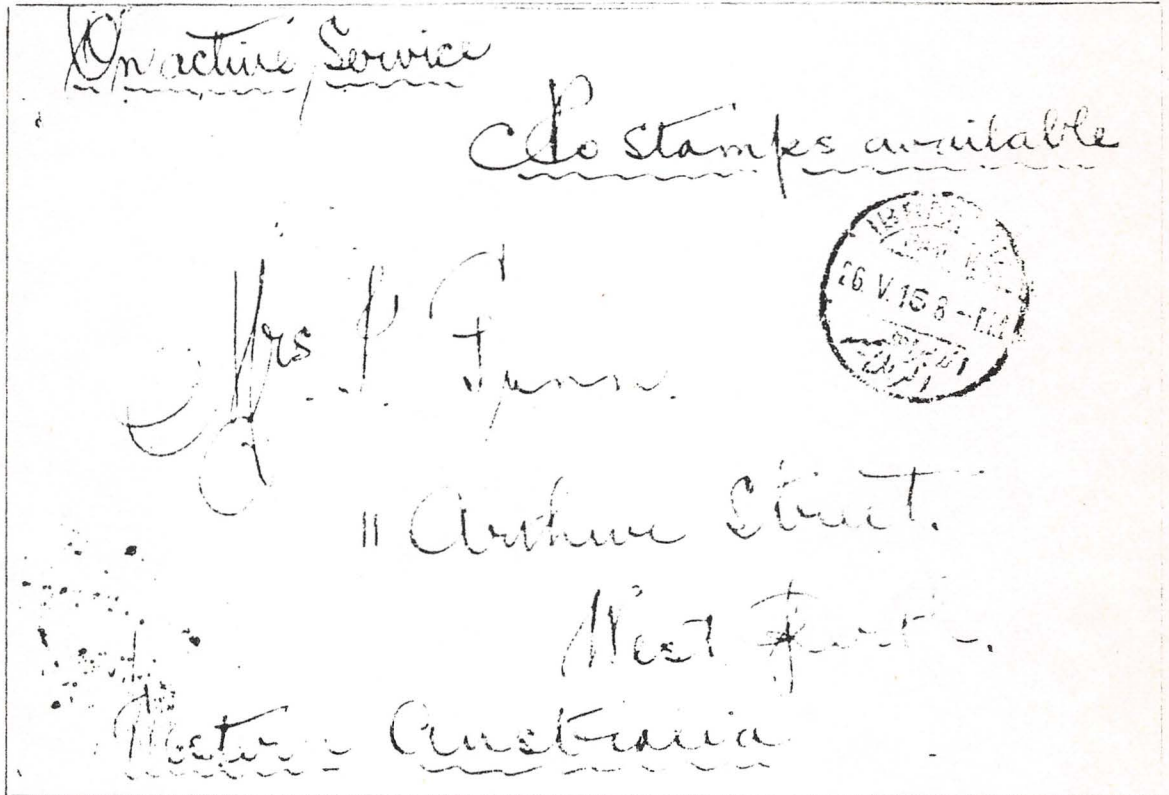
Recordings in most of these sections deal in some way with the identification and location of troops; two deal with manuscript markings, three consist of handstruck markings and the last is concerned with stationery. Some covers and cards reveal information properly recorded in more than one section.

We begin with manuscript identifications in which writers describe their units in such a way as would subsequently be disallowed by the censor and then we show the main forms of the "On Active Service" endorsement with and without an officer's signature.

In handstruck markings we begin with censor marks, which are followed by the Free handstamps and then by the largest section of all, the military cachets in their six main types.

The stationery section deals with regimental crested stationery and with unofficial and official printed stationery.

/ Continued . . .

EGYPT.CIVIL POST OFFICES.IBRAHIMIA, RAMLEH.On Active Service. No stamps available.

26 V 15 8 PM.

Postage Free to AUSTRALIA.

Alexandria E 26 5 9 15 9 30 PM.

Illustrating 'Military Use of Civil Post Offices, 1914/16'
 Section 2 - "On Active Service" Endorsements

Military Use of Civil P.O.'s, 1914/16 - Classification of Recorded Information
(continued)

- Section 1. Manuscript identifications
2. "On Active Service" endorsements, with three subsections.
 3. Censor Marks, numbered and un-numbered.
 4. FREE handstamps.
 5. Military cachets. Notes and detailed classification follow.
 6. Stationery, with four subsections.

Up to three examples of each type and sub-type are given, having been selected for early dates and general interest, in order to give as clear a picture as possible of how we wish to receive further examples for recording and subsequent publication. Military notes are given in suitable cases.

Sections 3 to 6 will be extended into full scale studies and will in due course be carried through as far as and beyond the end of hostilities.

SECTION 1 MANUSCRIPT IDENTIFICATIONS

Infantry

- OC 14 Port Tawfiq From "Private G.Bowring, 'D' Coy, 7 Hants, On Active Service" signed "Harold Marshall, Capt., Comdg. 'D' Coy, 7th Hants."
charged 1d. postage due on receipt in England
On 9 Oct: 7 Hampshire Regiment embarked at Southampton and on 11 Nov: reached India.
- 8 JU 15 Alexandria "3034 Clement Hamby 'C' Coy, 7 H.L.I., 157 Inf. Bde, 52 Lowland Division, Exped. Force"
postage free "On Active Service to England"
p.p.c. of R.M.S. Transylvania, which had carried 157 Infantry Brigade.
On 26 May, 7 Highland Light Infantry sailed from ~~Devonport~~ and on 5 June reached Alexandria.
- 9 SE 15 Cairo "3242 Sgt. Peel, 2/8 Middlesex Regt., Cairo, Egypt" signed over "Captain Comdg Mil. Police Eg." cachet
postage free to England
post card of Malta
On 2 Feb 2/8 The Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment) sailed from Southampton for Gibraltar and on 31 Aug: reached Alexandria.

Yeomanry

- 5 OC 14 Abbassia "Westminster Dragoons, Abbassia Barracks, Cairo"
4 mills post card to England
(Five more examples known up to Aug: 1915)
In Sep: 1914, 2 County of London Yeomanry (Westminster Dragoons) sailed for Egypt and on 19 Jan: 1915 joined Yeomanry Mounted Brigade. In Aug: 1915 they landed on Gallipoli, dismounted.

Military Use of Civil P.O.'s, 1914/16 - MS Identifications - Yeomanry

- 17 MY 15 Ismailia "B Sqn. 1/3 Cty Ldn Yeo, 4th Mounted Brigade, 2nd Mounted Division"
Free "On Active Service" to England.
In April 1915, 3 County of London Yeomanry (Sharpshooters) sailed for Egypt and in Aug: landed on Gallipoli, dismounted.
- 14 SE 15 Cairo "L. Egerton, Capt. Royal Bucks. Hussars"
Brit. Bks. postage free to England.
In April 1915, Buckinghamshire Yeomanry (Royal Bucks. Hussars) sailed for Egypt and in Aug: landed on Gallipoli dismounted with 2 South Midland Mounted Brigade.

Australian

- 5 DE 14 Ibrahimia "Australian Army Pay Corps, Cairo, Egypt"
Ramleh 5 mills p.c. to England
"We have landed at Alexandria and are en route for Cairo."
On this day the first Australian troops reached Cairo.
- 26 JA 15 Cairo "Corporal H.J.Briggs, Machine Gun Section, 3 Battalion,
Brit. Bks. A.I.F."
15 mills registered letter to England
On 3 Dec: 1914, 3 Infantry Battalion (New South Wales) 1 Infantry Brigade, landed in Egypt.
- 8 FE 15 Maadi "H.Q. Staff, 7th Regt. A.L.H., 2nd Bde, A.L.H., A.I.F."
Brit. Camp Postage free to Australia.
In Jan: 1915, 7 Regiment, Australian Light Horse (New South Wales) 2nd Brigade, A.L.H. landed in Egypt.

SECTION 2 "ON ACTIVE SERVICE" and/or OFFICER'S SIGNATURE"On Active Service" - without Officer's signature

- 22 MR 15 Alexandria "On Active Service. Soldier's Letter"
postage free to Egyptian Hospital, Cairo.
- 24 MY 15 Abbassia "On Active Service."
post card with T applied in Egypt and cancelled in London
- 26 MY 15 Ibrahimia "On Active Service. No stamps available."
Ramleh postage free to Western Australia

"On Active Service" - with Officer's signature

- 1 AP 15 Alexandria "On Active Service. H.W.Moffat, Capt:"
postage free to England
- 30 JU 15 Alexandria "On Active Service. A. Mitchell, Lt, R.A.M.C. T."
postage free to England
- 18 OC 15 Bulkeley "On Active Service. F.D.Watney, Colonel."

Without "On Active Service" - signed or censored by an Officer

- 1 AP 15 Qabbari "Passed Censor, G.H.H." in blue crayon
postage free to England
- 3 AP 15 Mex "Passed A.Stephen, Capt. R.A.M.C. on reverse
postage free to England
- 18 NO 15 Cairo "T. Rownstall, Lieut, A.S.C."
postage free to England

/ Continued . . .

Military Use of Civil P.O.'s, 1914/16 - Unnumbered Marks - British

- | | | | | | |
|----------|-----------------|----------|-------------|--------|---|
| 11 JA 16 | Maadi | framed | 20 x 45 | violet | PASSED / BY / CENSOR
Free "On Active Service" to
England
framed FREE signed by "J.G.Tate,
Lieut." |
| 9 FE 16 | Cairo
Gizira | circular | 33 diameter | red | PASSED / BY CENSOR
5 mills "On Active Service" to
Scotland
signed "J.A.Dick, Lt-Col." |

SECTION 4 FREE HANDSTAMPS

British

- | | | | | | |
|----------|-------|----------|---------|--------|--|
| 19 AU 15 | Maadi | framed | 14 x 28 | violet | postage free to England |
| 23 SE 15 | Cairo | unframed | 19 x 40 | red | Free "On Active Service" to
England
"Government Hospital, Kasr el
Aini, Cairo" cachet |

Australian

- | | | | | | |
|----------|------------------------|----------|-------|-------|--|
| 22 NO 15 | Heliopolis
Br. Camp | unframed | 4 x 8 | black | Free O.H.M.S. to Alexandria
"3rd Light Horse Brigade
Train" cachet |
|----------|------------------------|----------|-------|-------|--|

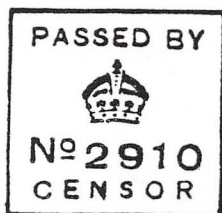
MARKINGS

ILLUSTRATED

Section 3A: Indian
seriffed (left)
and sans-serif



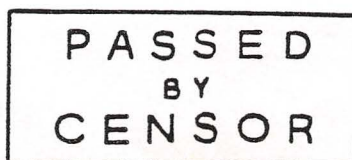
Section 3A:
British
square, hexagon
and triangle



3B: Indian



3B: British



Section 4

FREE

R A M S E S & S E R A P E U M

Two Biblical sites in the Suez Canal Zone brought to life by the Postes Egyptiennes in the last century.

by Jean BOULAD d'HUMIERES (ESC 16)

The land of Gessen, to the east of the Nile delta, had been inhabited and cultivated for a period of 400 years by the people of Israel when enslaved by the Pharaohs. The canal which connected the Nile with the Red Sea, and crossed this vast region, was the sole source of water for irrigation. It had been excavated 2,000 years before the birth of Christ, and bordered to the north against the Bitter Lakes which were themselves to the north of the Red Sea.

After the departure of the Hebrews, led by Moses, this land was abandoned and remained arid for more than 20 centuries.

As for the canal - of the Pharaohs - after different periods of neglect and putting back into order, it was finally closed down at the time of the conquest of Egypt by the Arabs, towards 775 A.D. The canal had lasted for more than 1,500 years.

It was not only because of the works of the Suez Canal - that is to say, the works commenced in 1860 - that the land of Gessen found again its former agricultural prosperity. A new canal of freshwater, known as the Ismailia Canal, was excavated there to bring water from the Nile to Ismailia, then to Suez, to service the various construction camps opened in the isthmus.

The long-abandoned sites and localities were revealed by the archaeologists after 3,000 years; many had been found but had received new names, generally Arabic. Two sites only, it appears, found prestigious names, truly Egyptian, and the names from another epoch: RAMSES and SERAPEUM.

RAMSES - or Pi-Ramses (the house of Ramses) is found a little to the west of Tel-Retabe, between Gassassin and Ismailia today. This was, we read from the Book of Exodus, a store-house of provisions, situated on the canal connecting the Nile with the Red Sea, which the Pharaoh (Ramses II, 1301 - 1235) had had built by the people of Israel towards 1,300 B.C. Traces had been discovered there of the huge construction works of this epoch and also a specimen of a statue of Ramses II.

"It was from Ramses, on the 11th of the month of Misan, the first month of spring that, under the leadership of Moses, the Hebrews left their homes and arrived that evening at Succoth; there were in the vicinity of 600,000 men, plus women and children, all told approximately two million people.

"Leaving Succoth, they next camped at Etham, then at Migdol at the extremity of the desert. On the fourth day of their march, 15th Misan, they crossed the ford at Migdol."

At this period of time, the 'Narrow Sea' or 'Sea of Reeds' was tidal up to Migdol on the environs of Lake Timsah. (Now the Red Sea, of course).

It was to stop the exodus of the Israelite population that the Pharaoh Thotmes II, his general Horemheb and six hundred chariots mounted by the elite guards, followed in pursuit of the Israelite peoples, and were drowned in the floods of the Red Sea after the Hebrews had crossed over with dry feet. Moses was then aged 80 years. It is agreed nowadays to fix the Exodus at about 1,220 B.C., that is to say in the reign of the Pharaoh Meremptah, the son and successor of Ramses II.

SERAPEUM - This was an important encampment for the work site of the Suez Canal, situated on a ridge above Lake Timsah, at a distance of 80 kilometres from Port Said. The preliminary excavations done in this region for the construction of the Canal had led to the discovery of the site of a temple which had been consecrated to a god who was born of a virgin, and was re-incarnated in a bull to redeem the sins of the human race.

Ramses and Serapeum - Continued

This was OSIRIS - APIS or SERA - APIS, which under Roman rule became SERAPEUM (about 30 B.C.).

Osiris was the god of Egypt; the Apis-bull was the living emblem of the god. It was this bull which, briefly, was worshipped by the Hebrews in the idol of the golden calf.

The excavations led to the discovery of vases, alabaster urns, statues, coins and various pottery objects representing the whole of the period commencing with the Roman conquest.

This locality was Migdol of the Bible.

* * *

These two names, which were both biblical and ancient Egyptian, RAMSES and SERAPEUM, were very probably thrown into relief by Ferdinand de Lesseps, who was a great reader of the Bible which was his 'bedside book' during the time that he was in the isthmus. Up until 1956, his Bible had been cared for piously, like a religious relic. This measured 26 by 18 cm, was very yellowed with age and was well-thumbed because of his custom of reading it and consulting very often. It was on view in his room at Ismailia.

Ferdinand de Lesseps was perfectly acquainted with the Bible; he cited its passages frequently in his meetings or in his articles on the land of Gessen which he had rendered fertile and rich, as it had previously been, thanks to the fresh water canal from Cairo to Ismailia.

* * *

After this brief archaeological and historical view, let us now come to the Postal History of Ramses and Serapeum.

RAMSES - There are two circulars from the Administration of the Postes Egyptiennes, Nos. 2848 and 2849 of 5th and 8th May 1874, which were sent to the Egyptian Postal Agencies in Turkey (Constantinople, Dardanelles, Gallipoli, Metelino, Rhodes, Smirne and Scio) and in the Red Sea (Gedda, Souakin and Massawa) which announced the opening of a post office at Ramses on the railway line running from Zagazig to Ismailia on 10th May 1874. This office was responsible for receiving and forwarding to Alexandria in the first place, and to Suez in the second place, all the mail passed to it from, or for, Turkey or the Red Sea.

It had the function of a central and distributing office. *(Note 1)

This railway station, on the subject of which nothing much is known, included however several expatriate Europeans who used to correspond with their home countries. In consequence nearly all the stamps which are singles or on piece, which have been struck with the datestamp of this office have been part of mixed Egyptian-French frankings.

Two datestamps, very slightly different, of 23 mm diameter, and of type V-1, have been reported :-

- 1) Year in 4 figures, used from - - GIU 1874 to 27 DIC 1875, in blue
- 2) Year in 2 figures, used from 17 MAG 75 to 4 MAG 78, in black

One entire letter only emanating from this office is known to date: dated 27 December 1875, it was in transit through the French Post Office in Alexandria on 28 December 1875. It is addressed to Embrun in the Hautes-Alpes, France. It is part of the collection of Mr E. Antonini of Geneva.

From the span of the dates indicated above, it is seen that this office did not last more than 3 years. On re-opening, its title became ABOU - SOUEIR (much later) at a date which has yet to be ascertained, but probably at the beginning of this century.

*NOTE 1: See L'Orient Philatelique of Cairo, Vol. IV, No. 53, January 1946, pages 423 and 424, 'Les Documents du Musee Postale due Caire' published by Mr Ibrahim Chaftar.

SERAPEUM Postal History - It was a notice by the Administration of the Postes Egyptiennes dated 12th August 1868, which appeared in the daily press, which announced the opening on Thursday 16th August 1868 of a post office on the railway line between Ismailia and Suez which was becoming completed and opened to traffic.

Twelve other post offices were opened on the same date between Zagazig and the Canal Zone, between Port Said and Suez.

The table below reproduces the different datestamps which were used in turn until 1873, the date of closing of the work-camp for the canal, and of the post office. The table is accompanied by an indication of the earliest and latest dates of use of each of them.

Notice finally, as supporting evidence, three mixed frankings on entire letters, i.e. combination covers, from Serapeum to France. Two of these form part of the collection of Mr E. Antonini of Geneva; the third is in the collection of the author of these lines.

They are rare !

Jean BOULAD d'HUMIÈRES, F.R.P.S.,L.
(ESC 16)

Membre Correspondant de l'Académie de
Philatelie à Paris.



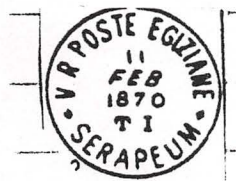
Type II - 2

27 mm, in black
known from 8 SETT 68 to - - APR 69



Type II - 4

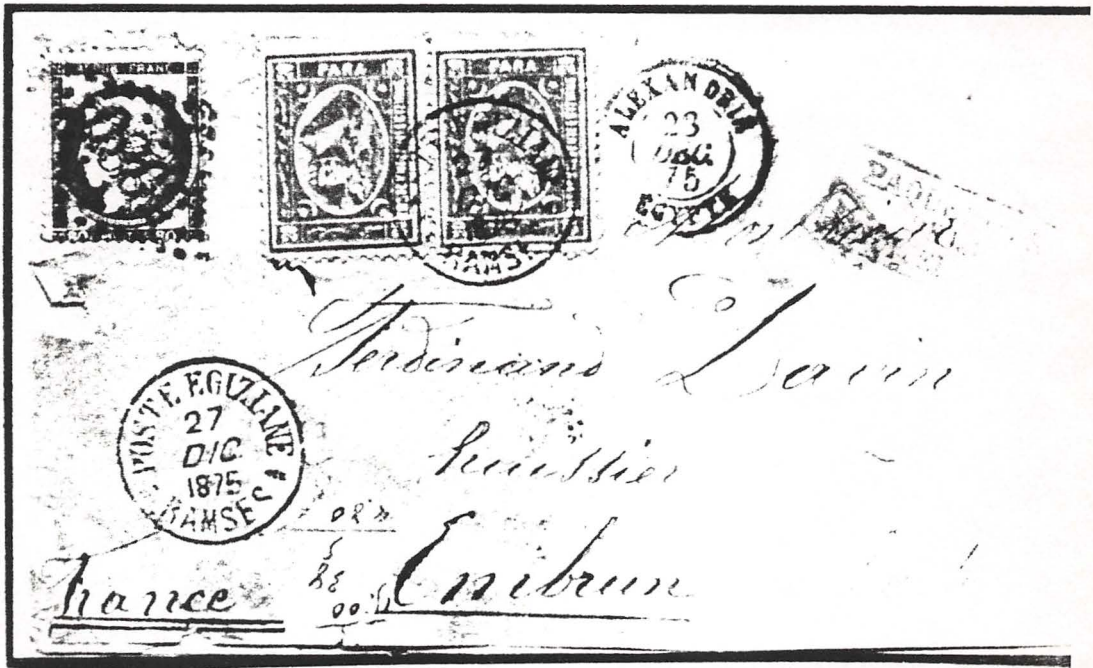
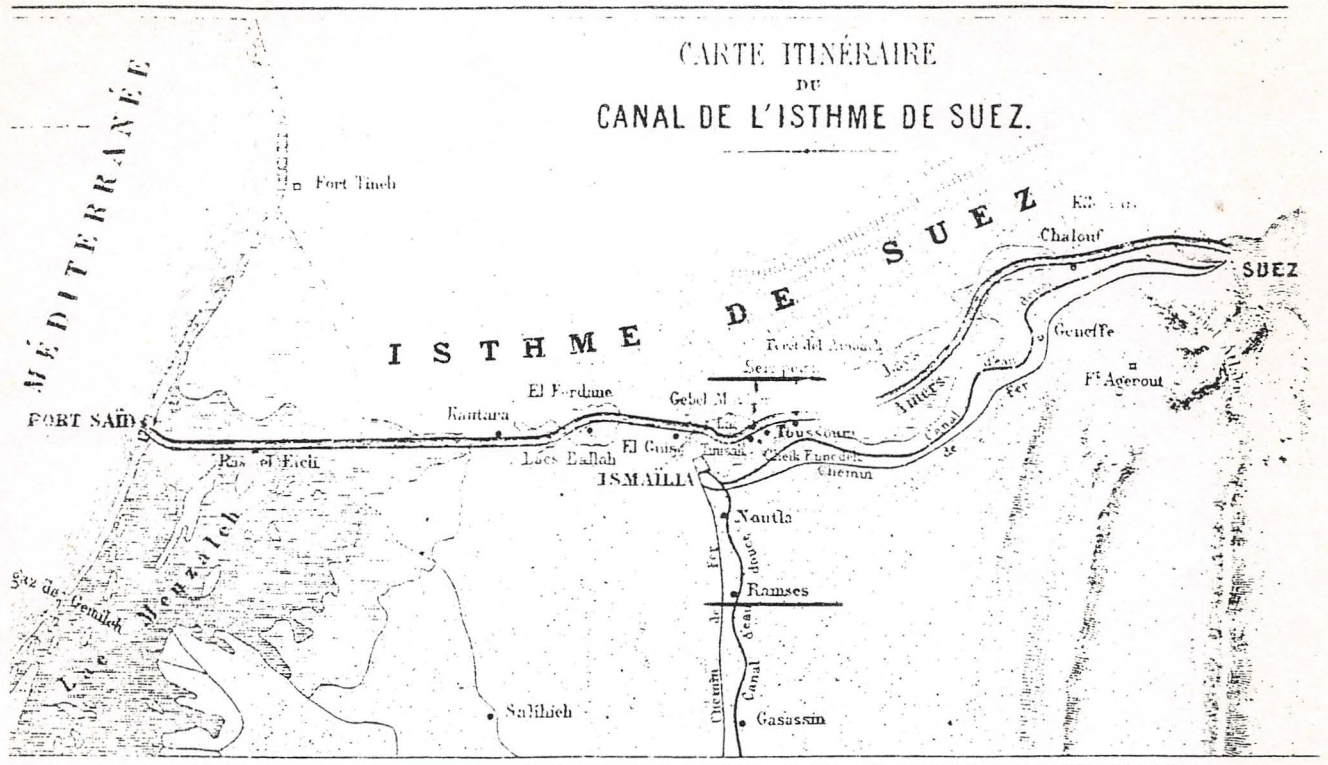
27 mm, in black
known from 7 AGOS 69 to 8 NOVE 69



Type III - 2.5

22 mm, in black
known from 23 GEN 1870 to 8 GEN 1871





**MARSEILLE E
(Cours du Chapitre)**

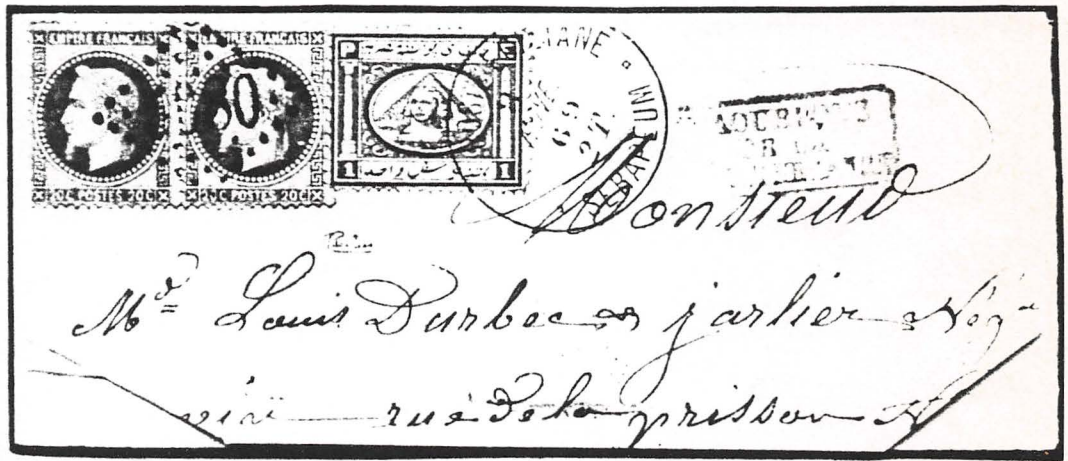


(b)

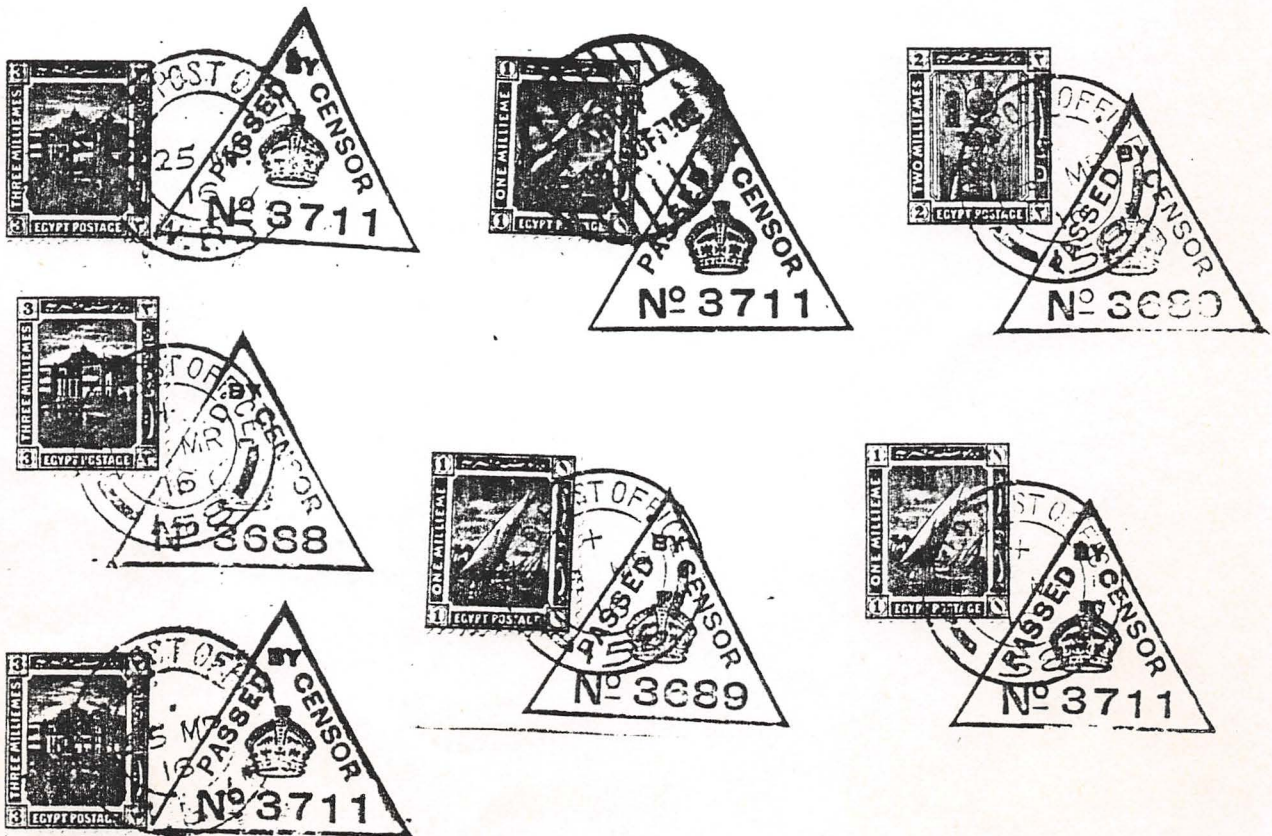
(d)

1	MARSEILLE-COURS du CHAPITRE	c. à d type	15 (b)	G.C 2240 E N	20.-
				(2 types)	
2	" " "	" "	17 (d)	G.C 2240 E N	3.-





W.W.1. CENSORED PIECES CANCELLED BY FAVOUR



P R O P R I E T A R Y P O S T O F F I C E S

A d d e n d u m N o . 5

Study entrusted to F. W. Benians, ESC 123

THE HOTELS IN WARTIME 1914-1919

The 1913 season had been a particularly good one for the hotels, specially those in the Upper Nile region, with German tourists outnumbering other nationalities. But war clouds gathering over central Europe were soon to break, and at least a decade was to pass before tourism would become a major industry in Egypt's economy again. Of the hotels, some were to close, while others adapting themselves to wartime conditions took on other roles.

By the late summer of 1914, it became noticeable that German employees were replaced, and one hotel at least advertised that it had no German staff. Hein, a German reserve officer and manager of Shepherds Hotel, was allowed to remain as an officer on parole, but he too disappeared from the scene.

Large contingents of troops began to arrive, many of the senior officers establishing their own headquarters in either the CONTINENTAL or SHEPHEARD'S Hotels. The Headquarters of the Australian and New Zealand Corps was established in SHEPHEARD'S Hotel.

An arrangement was made that officers staying at the CONTINENTAL and other Hotels of the Nungovich group were charged fifty piastres (about 10s. 6d. or fifty-two and a half p) inclusive. This saved the officers a lot of money and the hotels were always full. As they found the charges reasonable they spent lavishly on guests and champagne.

During November and December 1914 large contingents of Australians and New Zealanders began to arrive. Eighteen thousand men with their horses were encamped in the grounds of the MENA HOUSE HOTEL at the Pyramids. The officers for whom the Hotel did the catering had their mess in an annexe of the Hotel.

With these first arrivals there was no General Hospital and the MENA HOUSE HOTEL was taken over as a hospital for these men and was staffed by the medical officers from the various units.

The First and Second Australian General Hospitals, the First Australian Stationary Hospital and Casualty Clearing Station, together with stores equipment, and Red Cross goods arrived at Alexandria in the S.S. Kyrarra.

The First Australian General Hospital was placed in the HELIOPOLIS PALACE HOTEL, Heliopolis. The Second Australian General Hospital took over MENA HOUSE, releasing the regimental medical officers, and officers of the Field Ambulances, from the hospital work they were doing.

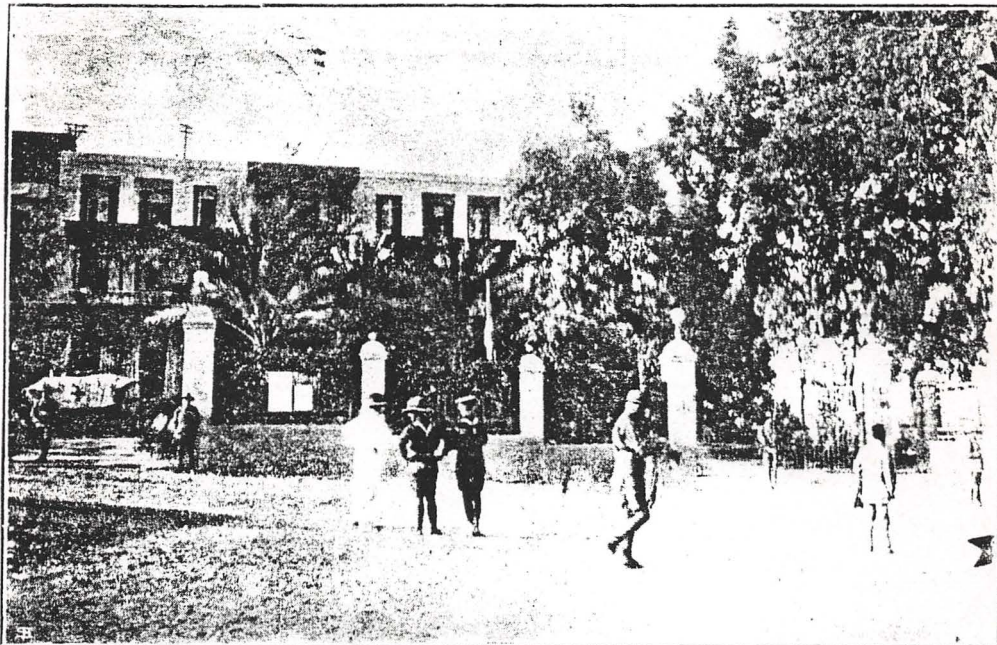
The First Casualty Clearing Station which had been temporarily lodged at HELIOPOLIS was sent to Port Said to form a small hospital there, in view of the imminent fighting on the Canal.

Towards the end of March 1915, Surgeon-General Ford, with Surgeon-General Barrett, chief of the Australian Medical Services, approached Auguste Wild Bey, the general manager of the Nungovich Group of Hotels, seeking the possibility for catering in one of their hospitals.

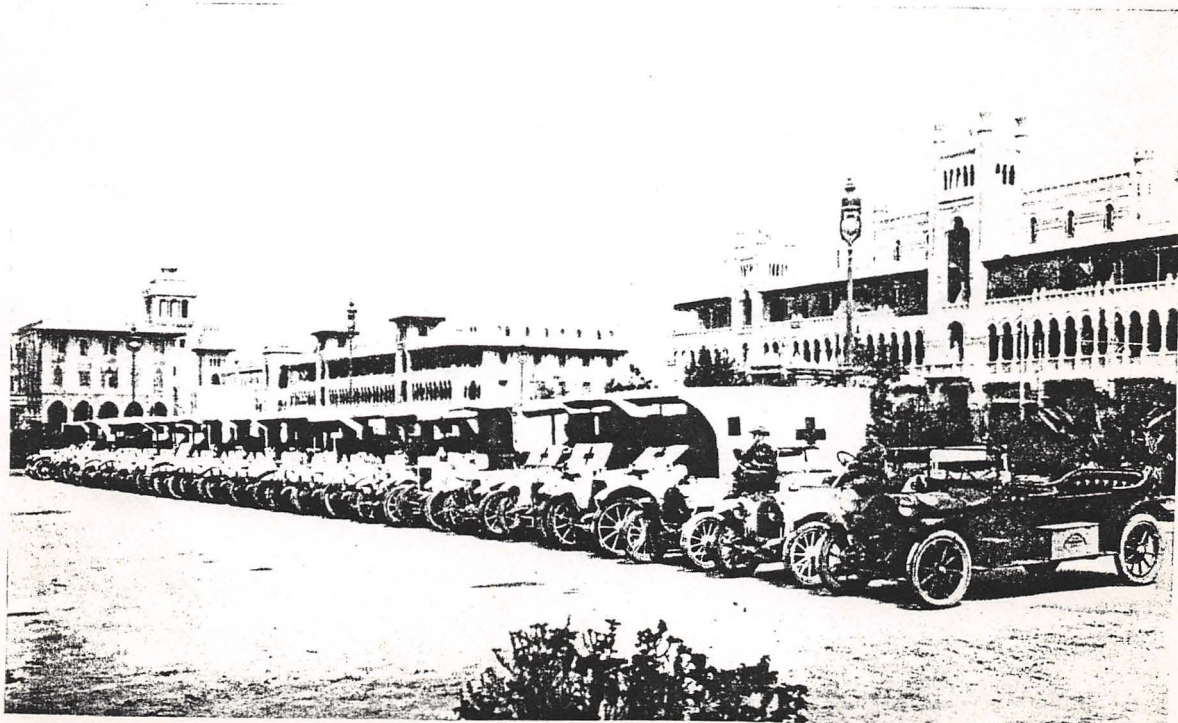
Wenger, the manager of the SAVOY, was appointed manager, and Burattini from MENA HOUSE as principal chef. The necessary kitchen ranges, sinks, crockery were bought, and all was ready when the first four hundred patients arrived. This group finished up with catering for thirteen hospitals - two British and eleven Australian. Two were in Alexandria and a large hotel accommodating four hundred nurses. A round sum of 2s. 6d. per patient-day had been agreed, and at least two hundred pounds profit from each of the hospitals was cleared each month - being a quite profitable arrangement.

/ Continued . . .

The Australian Hospital at MENA HOUSE HOTEL



Fleet of Ambulances at HELIOPOLIS



The Hotels in Wartime - 1914 - 1919 Continued

There is one amusing story - one of the chefs had served macaroni and, the Australians thinking it to be worms, rioted !

By May 1915 the ever-increasing number of casualties which were coming from Gallipoli put a great strain on the existing hospitals. These had to expand very rapidly, and to meet this need, along with other buildings, more hotels were brought into use.

At Helouan two hotels were taken over and converted to convalescent hospitals. These were the AL HAYAT HOTEL, capable of accommodating 1,000 patients, and the GRAND HOTEL, 500 patients.

No. 2 Australian General Hospital was transferred to the GHEZIRA PALACE HOTEL, retaining the MENA HOUSE as an overflow hospital.

The available ambulances became centrally controlled and were divided into two groups, some thirty being garaged at HELIOPOLIS and the remainder at GHEZIRA.

During this period too much praise cannot be given to the work of the Australian Red Cross which had made its headquarters in SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL. Storage space in Cairo was at a premium and space was found for their Central Stores in the basement of the HELIOPOLIS PALACE HOTEL.

During the winter of 1916 the Military Authorities opened a big Convalescent Depot at Luxor, taking over the hotels WINTER PALACE, LUXOR, KARNAK, SAVOY, GRAND and GRANDE PENSION DE FAMILLE, with a total accommodation approaching 2,000 patients. At Luxor the Red Cross organised trips for the men to visit the Temples at Karnak and Luxor as well as the Tombs of the Kings and Queens.

In the early days of the war the SAVOY HOTEL, Cairo, was taken over by the military authorities as their headquarters in Egypt. On the formation of the Egyptian Expeditionary Force it became the headquarters of the 2nd Echelon. On the release from the army at the end of the war the building was commercially developed and did not open its doors again as a hotel.

The SAN STEPHANO HOTEL at Alexandria was also taken over by the army and this coincides with the latest recorded dates of the 'Hotel' cancellations, and on release from the army at the end of the war the public post office in this hotel was not re-opened.

One of the constant difficulties met by the authorities was finding accommodation for the large batches of nurses who often arrived without notice. On one occasion twenty trained nurses and one hundred V.A.D. members arrived unexpectedly, and an 'enemy' hotel in Cairo had to be opened to house them.

The foregoing is a part of the history of the use to which the hotels were put during wartime and forms an integral part of their life. In this instance it is principally their role as hospitals, convalescent depots, provision of feeding arrangements where little or none existed. In this sense it forms part of the much wider study of the Military Hospitals generally.

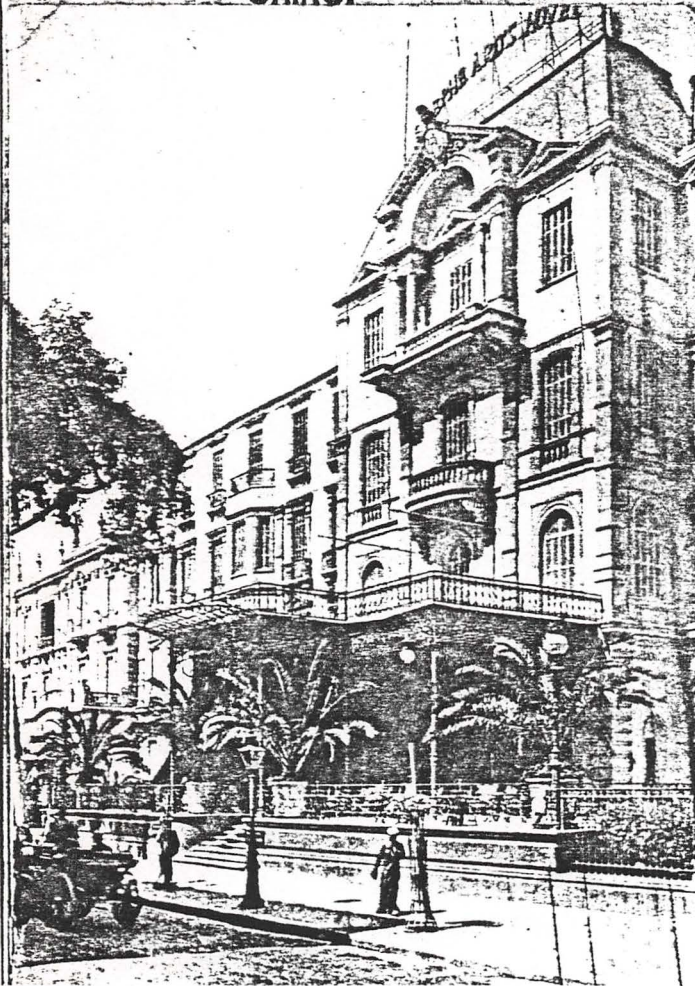
There is still much to learn and any information relating to correspondence, any cachets used and the post offices through which mail passed would be much appreciated. Not only of the period dealt with above, but other periods of conflict as well. Please write to me at the address below.

F. W. Benians, 27 The Lawns, PENN, High Wycombe HP10 8BH England

References : "Australian Army Medical Corps in Egypt", Barrett and Deane
 "With the R.A.M.C. in Egypt" Sergeant-Major, R.A.M.C.
 "The Official History of the B.R.C.S. and Order of
 St John in Egypt"
 "Mixed Grill in Cairo", Auguste Wild.



AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY
SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL
CAIRO.



Postal Stationery of the
Australian Branch, B.R.C.S.
located at SHEPHEARD'S HOTEL
Cairo

Advertising Card of WINDSOR
HOTEL, Alexandria
strongly featuring "No
German Staff" !

Telephone N°679

WINDSOR HOTEL

WINDSOR HOTEL ALEXANDRIA

Prop. A. v. MILLINGEN

ALEXANDRIA (Egypt)

Tel. Add. WINDSOR-ALEXANDRIA

HIGH CLASS HOTEL REGENTLY REFITTED —
— ELECTRIC LIGHT AMERICAN BAR ENGLISH BILLIARDS.
REDUCED RATES DURING THE WAR NO GERMAN STAFF.

THE ONLY ENGLISH HOTEL IN THE CITY

NEW ISSUES by C. E. H. Defriez March/May 1981

(all stamps are printed Rotogravure by Postal Printing House, A.R. Egypt, and with watermark Multiple Eagle unless noted otherwise)

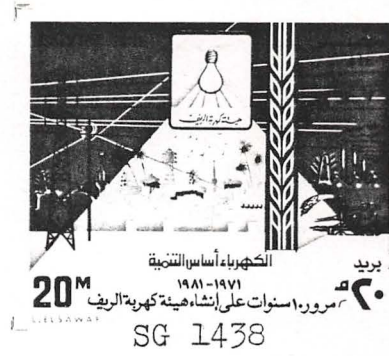
<u>Commemorative Stamps</u>	<u>SG 1437</u>	<u>SG 1438</u>
Occasion	14th Cairo International Fair	10th Anniversary of Rural Electrification
Date of issue	14th March 1981	18th March 1981
Designer	Nadia Abdel Fattah	Lotfy el Sawaf
Design	Symbols of Agriculture and Industry	Emblem of the Rural Electrification Authority and symbols
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 (10 x 5)	25 (5 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	51 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11 x 11½
Quantity printed	1,500,000	1,000,000
Supplementary	35 countries participated in the Fair which was held from March 14th to 28th 1981	The R.E.A. was set up to extend electrification to the villages of Egypt
	<u>SG 1439</u>	<u>SG 1440</u>
Occasion	Veterans' Day	International Dentistry Conference, Cairo
Date of issue	26th March 1981	14th April 1981
Designer	Lotfy el Sawaf	Edmondo Calivis
Design	Veterans' Association Emblem, Soldier & Olive Branch	Conference Emblem
Denomination	20 mills	20 mills
Sheet	50 (10 x 5)	50 (10 x 5)
Stamp dimensions	26 x 43 mm	26 x 43 mm
Perforation	11 x 11½	11 x 11½
Quantity printed	1,500,000	1,500,000
Supplementary	The Association looks after the interests of former members of the forces and war victims	The Faculty of Dentistry was opened in 1925 and the Society of Egyptian Dentists was established in 1938
	<u>SG 1441</u>	
Occasion	25th Anniversary of International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions	
Date of issue	1st May 1981	
Designer & Design	Abdel Kader el Houssiny;	I.C.A.T.U. Emblem
Denomination & Sheet	20 mills;	50 (10 x 5)
Stamp dimensions and perforation	26 x 43 mm;	11 x 11½
Quantity printed	1,000,000	
Supplementary	The Confederation was established on 24th March 1956	



SG 1437



SG 1437



SG 1438



SG 1438



SG 1439



SG 1439



SG 1440



SG 1440



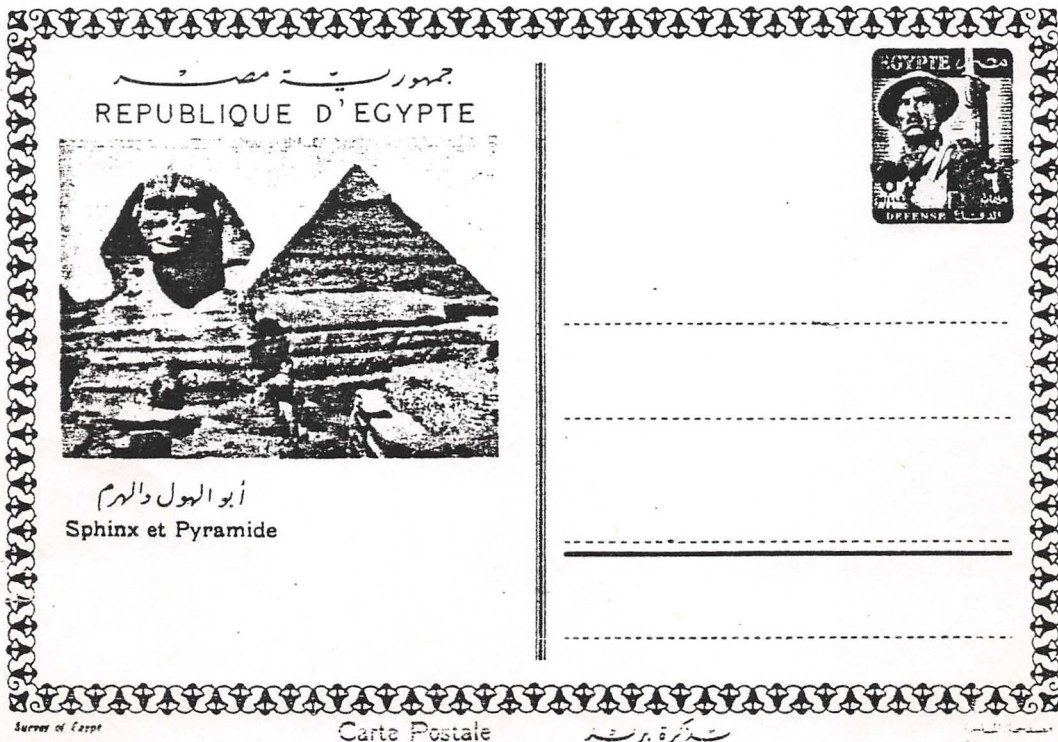
SG 1441



SG 1441

Stamp impression overprinted in Arabic October 1954

1954: Postal Stationery Post Card; 1 of series of 25



See L. Toutounji note on next page

1954 Postal Stationery Post Cards - An Overprinted Date, October 1954

Mr Lucien S. Toutounji (ESC 264) writes: "With reference to the article on postal cards on page 35 of Volume XI of the Q.C., Number 2 (June 1981) which was prepared by Mr F.W.Benians, I am enclosing photocopy of one of the cards referred to. It is in brown colour, overprinted in Arabic on the stamp "October 1954".

This card probably came from a Survey Department booklet and the date could be that of approval of the design."

(The illustration appears on the preceding page but, unfortunately, the overprint does not show clearly. May we have a tracing of it? - Editor).

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SCANNED July 09

SOME NOTES ON THE ROUMANIAN MARITIME SERVICES

by Lars Alund (ESC 105)

There is a wealth of information about the maritime services to and from Egypt concerning the British, French and Italian lines, also to some extent concerning the Austrian and Greek connections. Very little though is written about the ROUMANIAN MARITIME SERVICES as far as I have found. As a matter of fact I have only seen three short notes on this subject.

Thus Gabriel Boulad has illustrated in L'OP No. 78, page 347, two covers with the postmark BIR. AMB / MARITIN / (date) / ALESSANDRIA - / CONSTANTA. Both covers are obviously philatelic. In the Q.C. Vol. VI, page 129, Mr Stanley Horesh has reported the existence of the same postmark and on page 145 of the same volume are some other notes about the Roumanian service.

*** In order to inquire amongst other members of the ESC about further ***
 *** facts and more material I want to make the following summing up of ***
 *** what is known to me. ***

Evidently the "Royal Roumanian Steamship Line" operated already before the first World War. It is said to have worked under the auspices of the North German Lloyd Company ("Nord-Deutscher Lloyd") and sailed between Constanza and Alexandria, and vice-versa. I guess (but am not sure) that the service was interrupted during the War 1914 - 1918. It was evidently re-established after the war as the special postmarks are known from the 1920's and 1930's. I have not been able to check if this line still operates after World War II.

So far I have only seen two types of the mailships' postmarks. The earliest type, used before WW 1 consists of a double-circle c.d.s. (diameters 29 and 18.5 mms.), containing at the top ALEXANDRIA - CONSTANTA and at the bottom a star or, rather, a St. John's Cross (see figure 1). The later type, used between the two world wars, is of the type described by M. Boulad (see fig. 2). Furthermore there is a special ship's cachet, in my case from the s/s "Dacia", reading in the top of the circle "SERVICIUL MARITIN RUMAN" and in the bottom "VAPORUL / DACIA". In the centre there is the Roumanian coat of arms (see figure 3).

I cannot tell when these postmarks were first taken into use. My copy of type 1 has its date somewhat blurred, but I think it reads ". . . MAR 98". From the inscription one is inclined to believe that this postcard was carried from Alexandria to Constanta. Could there be a similar postmark with the reversed inscription, viz. CONSTANTA - ALEXANDRIA ?

Of type 2 I have three copies, dated between 1927 and 1932.

- (a) The earliest postmark appears on a cover from Roumania, franked with a blue 10 Lei stamp of the 1924/26 issue (King Ferdinand) and showing the date of 7. VI. 927. It is addressed to a company in Galata (Turkey) and is backstamped there on arrival on June 10, i.e. after a journey of three days.

/ Continued . . .

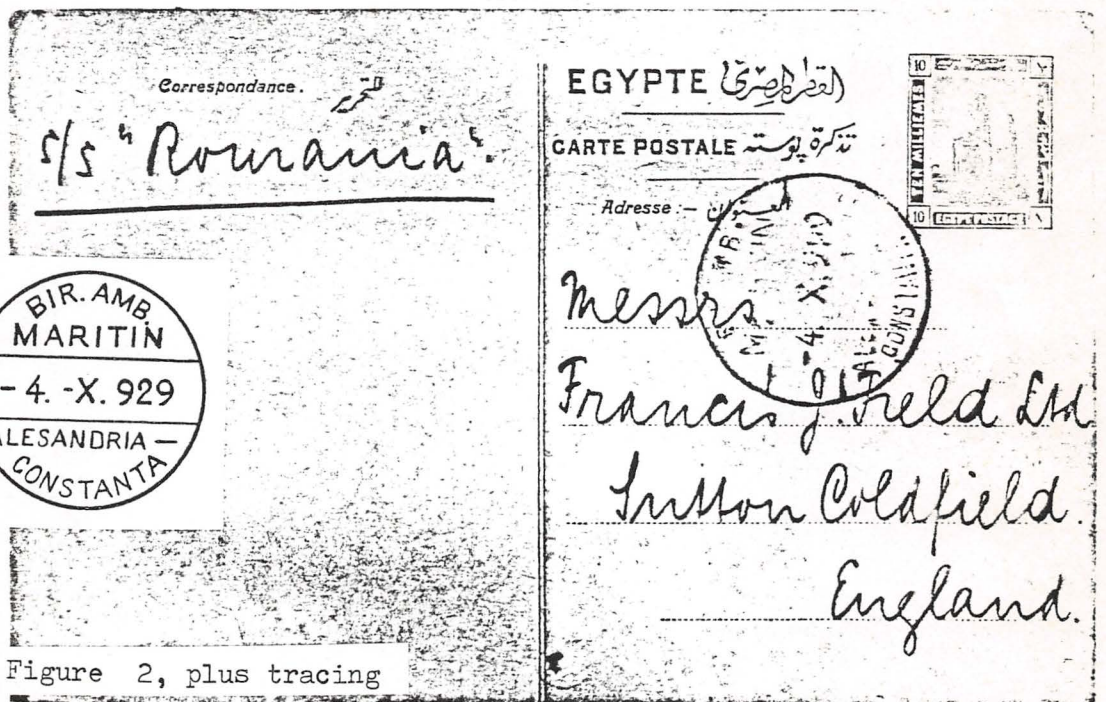
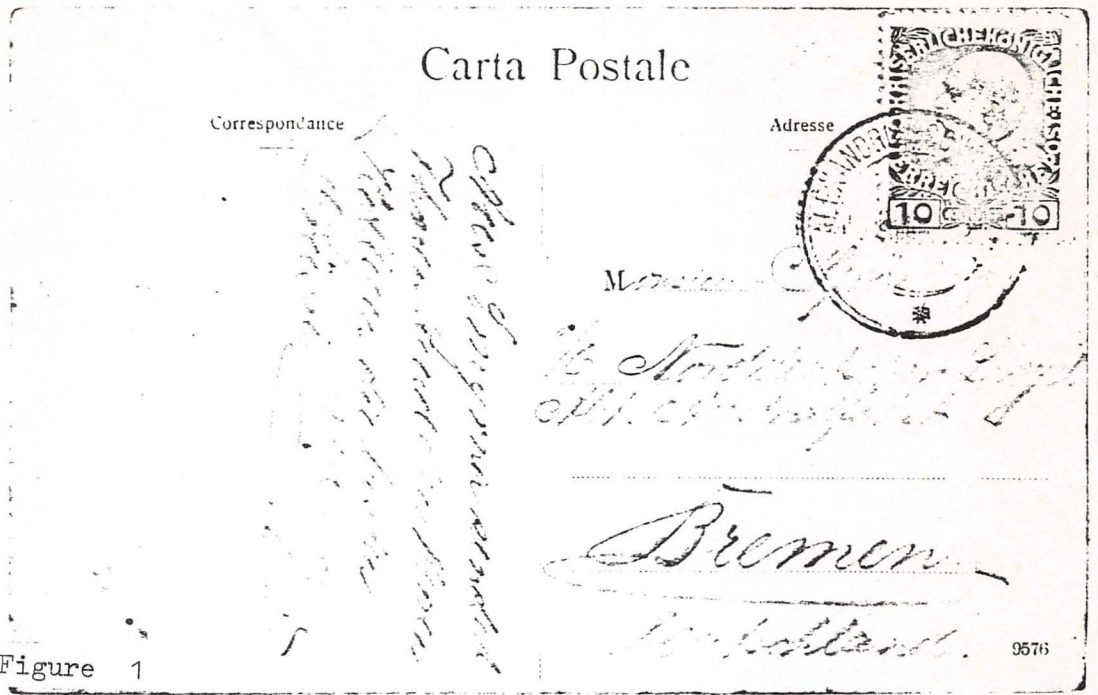


Figure 3

Roumanian Maritime Services (Lars Alund) - Continued

- (b) The next item is an Egyptian postal stationery card with the 10 mills, red, pictorial issue printed thereon. The short text is dated "Alex. 4/10/29" and the ship's postmark shows the same date. On the address-side is also written "S/s Roumania".
- (c) The latest postmark is applied on a cover from Roumania to a company in Istanbul. The maritime postmark shows the date of 1.VI.932 and it is backstamped in Galata on 4 June and in Istanbul on the following day, June 5. The stamps are of the 1930 issue, showing King Carol on the values of 4, 3, 2 and 1 Lei, i.e. altogether 10 Lei.

All three items show the inscription in the postmark as ALESANDRIA - CONSTANTA also the two items posted from Roumania southwards. Perhaps one might guess that there is no postmark with the reversed inscription, CONSTANTA - ALESANDRIA ?

It should be noted that the use of the Egyptian post-card (item b) is very late. The pictorial issue of 1914 became obsolete in 1922/23, when the Crown overprints were issued.

In the Q.C. Volume VI, page 145, can be seen the existence of two more strikes, one of 1908 and one of 1911. They are not illustrated, but I think they must be of type 1.

The covers, illustrated by M. Boulad in L'OP No. 78, page 347, both bear strikes of type 2. They are both dated 26 APR 939 and they are franked with stamps from France, Lebanon and Egypt (!). The French and Lebanese stamps are cancelled with the ship's postmark but the Egyptian stamps are just 'killed', on one cover with a "retta" and on the other with the framed 'O' invalidation mark.

I hope that these notes will inspire other members to further investigation.

(Please see preceding page for illustrations - Editor)

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R E P L I E S T O Q U E S T I O N S

Reply to Question Time 37 - CONSTANTINOPLE - GALATA (See Q.C. No. 4 of 1981, also No. 5 of 1982). Mr V. Denis Vandervelde writes :-

The reason that Lars Alund has not seen 'Constantinople - Galata' reversed is that it is not a T.P.O. of any kind, but the common mark of the main Post Office in the "Diplomats' suburb" of the capital of the Ottoman Empire. Its significance is topographical, rather than mobile, with the main city identified before the lesser place-name (compare Tel Aviv-Yafo in Israel; Bournemouth-Poole in G.B.).

But we can go further, given the illustration at Fig. 1 (on page 130, Q.C. XI No. 5, June 1982). This is not any old route, but a card addressed to one of the great turn-of-the-century postmark collectors. All postal historians should be aware of these recurring addresses, whose mail may well not have been routine and commercial. Apart from Knopf of Goldberg, they include Paul Kiderlen of Ulm, the Dahmanns (father and son), Lieutenant Maas and the Postmaster of Cetinje. (How many purely commercial covers to Cetinje have survived, I wonder?). A little later, names such as Francis Field (happily still with us), Hendrey, C.W. Ward, and a couple of philatelically-motivated sea captains crop up in a similar manner. Knowing Knopf's interests, my guess is that the card was sent under cover to a ship's captain, most likely on a Lloyd Austriaco steamer, who didn't "play ball" and simply put it into the Galata post office. Some of Knopf's efforts are of great value, in identifying rare postmarks seldom otherwise used, but this card tells us nothing important.

- - - - -

Reply to Question Time 38: " MARSEILLE / COURS DU CHAPITRE " mark - query submitted by Mr P.E.Whetter in The Q.C. Volume XI, No. 4.

Dr Antoine Winter writes : " The Circular date stamp MARSEILLE / COURS DU CHAPITRE does exist (DU and not AU*). (M.E. Antonini writes similarly).

It was one of the six Marseilles branch post offices. The date stamp was used approximately from 1860 to 1900. During the first period it was used in association with a retta mark comprising '2240' over 'E' in a dotted lozenge. The 'E' indicates that this branch is the 5th one.

These hand-stamps are known in different types. After 1876 the c.d.s. is found used alone as a stamp cancellation. None of them is rare. "

* AU in place of DU was an error in the original submission. Dr Winter has kindly supplied an illustration which is reproduced on page 156 - Editor.

Reply to Question Time 40: " POSTED ON THE HIGH SEAS " mark - query put by Lars Alund in the Q.C. Volume XI, no. 5.

Mr J.S.Horesh writes: " Sea Post Offices were set up from the early 1870's on board P & O ships travelling between Bombay and Aden. They were primarily sorting offices and the staff sorted mail between Bombay and Aden, thereby saving time on arrival. The mark on the cover is one of many similar types used by these Offices. A detailed and interesting account of these Sea Sorting Post Offices is given on page 550 of Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia, Volume III.

I regret I cannot help with the 'Posted on the High Seas' mark. "

Mr D. Vandervelde also writes similarly, but adds: " Readers are referred to the excellent work on the P & O Line and its postmarks by Reg Kirk, published last year and still available from philatelic booksellers. "

Reply to Question Time 41: " French Ship Cancels " - query put by Lars Alund in the Q.C. Volume XI, No. 5.

This question prompted good and comprehensive replies from these stalwarts : Mr E. Antonini (ESC 160), Mr J.S.Horesh (ESC 118), Mr V.D.Vandervelde and Dr Antoine Winter (ESC 149). The following is an amalgam of the individual responses.

The vessel 'PHASE' is confirmed, (not 'PHARE'). The mention of 'ASIE' might be a mistake. Thirty-eight paquebots sailed between France and Egypt. In the 15 years from 1851 to 1866, the Mediterranean French mail boats had a Post Agent aboard who cancelled mail. The mail was usually cancelled with an anchor in a retta, and there was struck on the covers a c.d.s. giving the name of the vessel. The 'INDUS' was constructed in Glasgow, of 1005 gross registered tons, powered by 300 H.P. engine. Its first voyage was on 6th June 1854.

Students of this material are strongly recommended to refer to Tome II of "La Poste Maritime Francaise" by the recently-deceased Raymond Salles. On page 201, under the heading "Services des Echelles de Syrie Ligne de Syrie - Onzieme Variante" will be found the particulars of the voyage on which the cover queried was actually carried. The timetable was: Outward: Marseilles 23 January; Smyrne 30 January; Alexandria 9 February; Return: Alexandria 15 February; Smyrne 26 February; Marseilles 5 March. A call at Beyrouth would have been made after Smyrne so the dates on the cover would appear to be in order.

The letter was thus posted abroad at Smyrna on 30 January and was cancelled on the following day, 31 January 1864; it arrived at Alexandria on 9 February. The franking is unusual, twice the normal rate. Incidentally the cover is signed 'JAMET' - a famous stamp dealer, recently deceased. An article by Dr Winter in "Egyptian Topics", Volume 7, No. 4 of July/August 1975 gives a complete list of ships sailing between France and Egypt.

CIRCULAR DATESTAMPS INCORPORATING THE WORD ' PAQUEBOT 'Introductory note by Editor :-

In the March 1981 issue of the Q.C. (No. 1 of Volume XI; Whole Series No. 117) Mr Kenneth D. Knight (ESC 150) contributed a good article on this aspect of 'Paquebot' markings. He prefaced this by pointing out that nothing on this subject had appeared in the Q.C. for the past ten years.

It happens that one of the official Studies of the ESC is 'Sea Post' and that Paquebot services and markings form part of this study. It also happens that the 'Sea Post' Study has adopted a numbering system for cancellers and other marks.

Unaware (in company with most other members of the Circle ?) of the facts above, Mr Knight thought it needful to formulate his own numbering scheme. This aspect of Mr Knight's article was criticised at a subsequent meeting of ESC and the Editor advised him of this. His reply follows.

Letter from Mr Kenneth D. Knight (ESC 150)

" The amended notations are as follows :-

My ref.	P-A1	is equivalent to	SP.0-4.1
" "	P-S1	" " "	SP.0-4.05
" "	P-S1a	" " "	SP.0-4
" "	P-T1	" " "	SP.0-4.2

" My ref. P-T2 (illustrated on page 24, Q.C. 117 - Editor) is not recorded on the sheet you sent, and if I'm following the logic of the compilation correctly, this will become SP.0-4.3.

" You are probably aware that (two members) intend drafting an article on paquebot mails. It would perhaps be as well to check that the various references used are not to be correlated as part of the new article, as it would be pointless to publish the same information twice in short succession. The article by M. Jean Boulad d'Humieres (see Bibliography given by Mr Knight with his article in Q.C. 117 - Editor), which I based my article upon, uses a different notation again.

" I received several letters from Circle members after the publication of my article on paquebot c.d.s. The dates of use in my table were in several instances extended. The details have been forwarded to those compiling the new article for incorporation in it. "

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WORLD WAR ONE CENSORED PIECES - CLANDESTINELY PRODUCED

Mr J.M.Murphy (ESC 240) draws attention to small pieces very neatly combining 1914 Egypt (or G.B.) adhesives with I.E.F. censor marks and military datestamps which have never passed through normal postal channels. A number are illustrated on a previous page and in some cases the adhesives OVERLIE the censor marks. Also suspect are those cancelled by the barred ARMY P.O. mark (Kennedy/Crabb type P1) which were used only for parcel post. FPO 158 belonged to 158 Brigade of 53rd Infantry Divn which arrived in Egypt from Suvla on 20 Dec 1915. FPO W.B.Y. was used by the Welsh Border Mounted Brigade, arrived 15 March 1916; served as 4th Dismounted Brigade in southern area of Western Frontier Force based on Beni Souef, cancels known from MR 16 to NO 16. Kennedy & Crabb write that 159 Brigade also served in Western Frontier Force at Beni Souef May/Aug 1916; is it possible that this reference should be to 158 Brigade, which would put both our military groups in the same place at the same time, with plenty of time in Beni Souef for fabricating the pieces? Other members having examples might care to compare dates, censor marks and units.

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