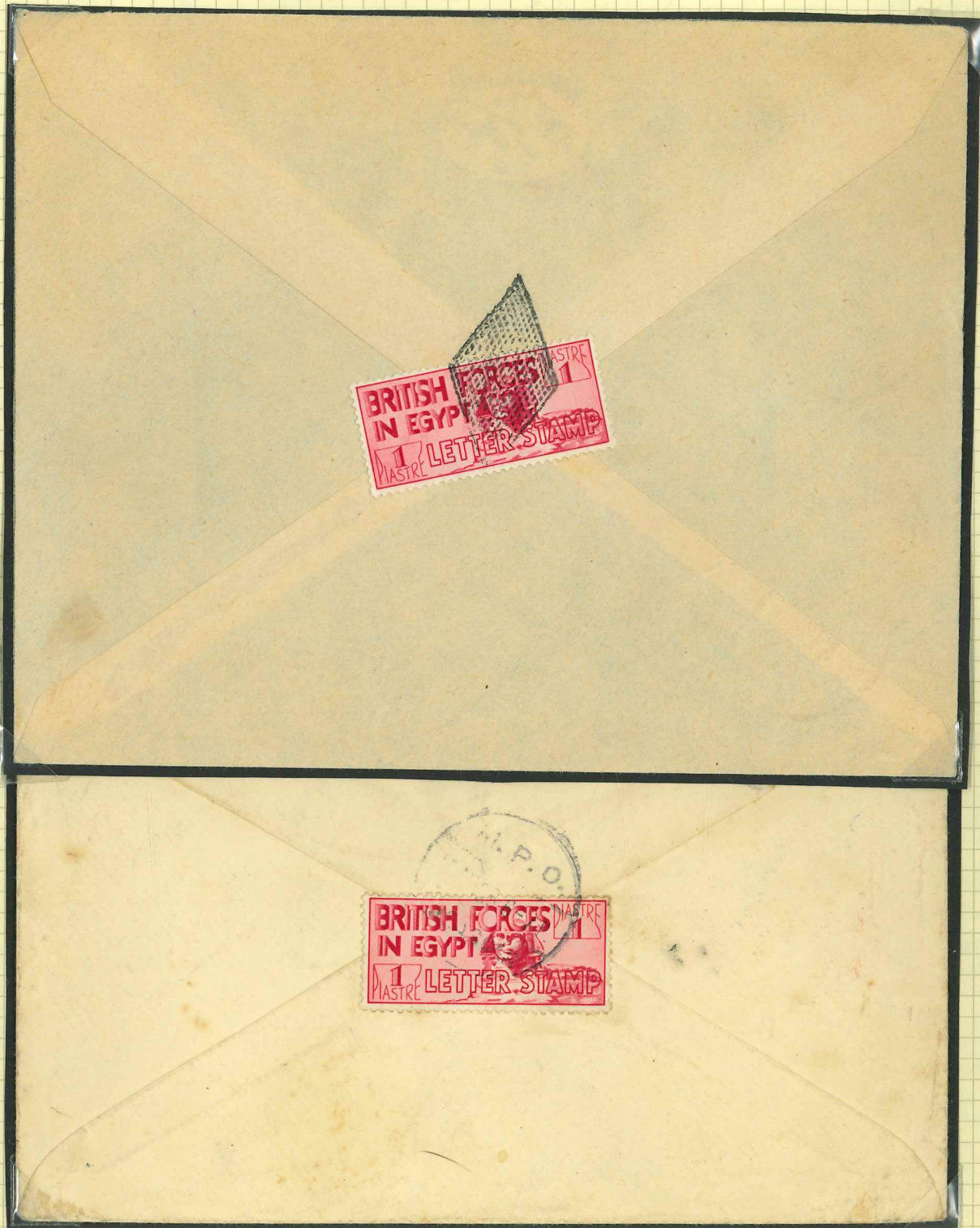


Third Letter Stamp

24th April 1935

The "1st Comb" Issue



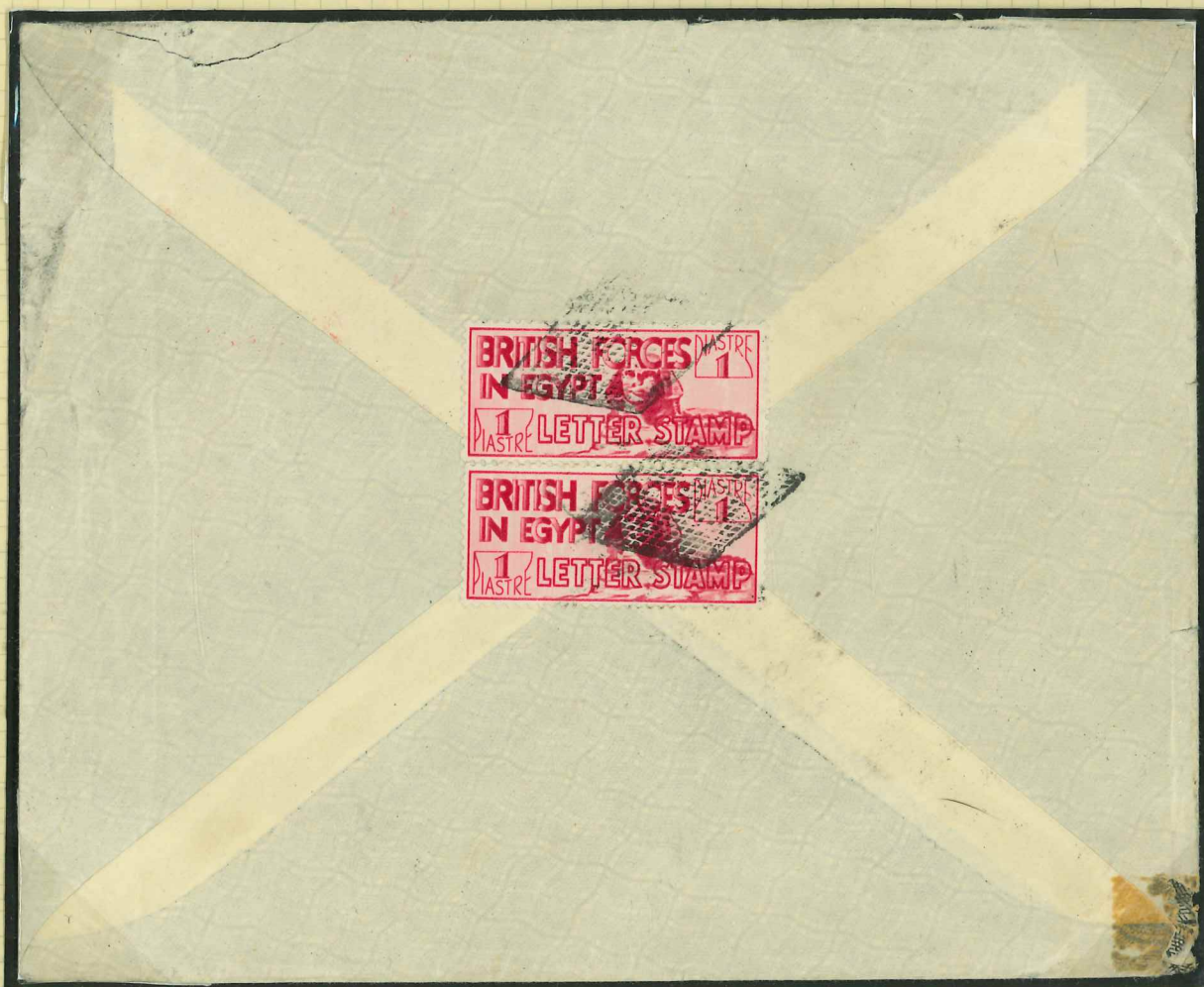
unlike the top cover, stamp correctly 'killed' by retta,
the bottom cover has stamp cancelled at M.P.O. Moascar.

Third Letter Stamp

24th April 1935

The "1st Comb" Issue

Pair of "1st Comb" Issue Letter stamps, positions 3 and 7 from Pane 'B', cancelled by 17x15 dot rettas in black; the stamps have characteristic large bottom perforations



Double rate letter dated 12th January 1936 to Sidcup with Numeral Frank 19 of Cairo and M.P.O. Cairo type 1.

Third Letter Stamp

24th April 1935

Perf. 14; 405,000 issued

Colour changed to carmine
Known as "1st Comb" issue



Cover posted at
R.A.F. Abu Soueir
with N. F. no 12
and Abu Souer
civilian c.d.s. to
London; retta
in red and Alex
roller transit.



Cover to
Pontefract
posted MP.
O. Cairo has
Numeral
Frank 19
dated
19 NO 35

This stamp is distinguishable by the large bottom perforation

*R.A.F. Depot (M.E.) Aboukir
Station Adjutant's cachet*



Cachet from reverse proving both military and philatelic sender.



First day cover of Ophthalmological Congress, Cairo 1937 sent from Station Adjutant's office; 40 mills concessionary airmail.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

MPO Abu Qir



A series of 21 such military post office cancellers was in use for at least part of the period of the Postal Concession.



This short-lived datestamp has been recorded in use only from March to December 1936

Two surface rate covers from R A F Abu Qir to England

'Named' Military Datestamps

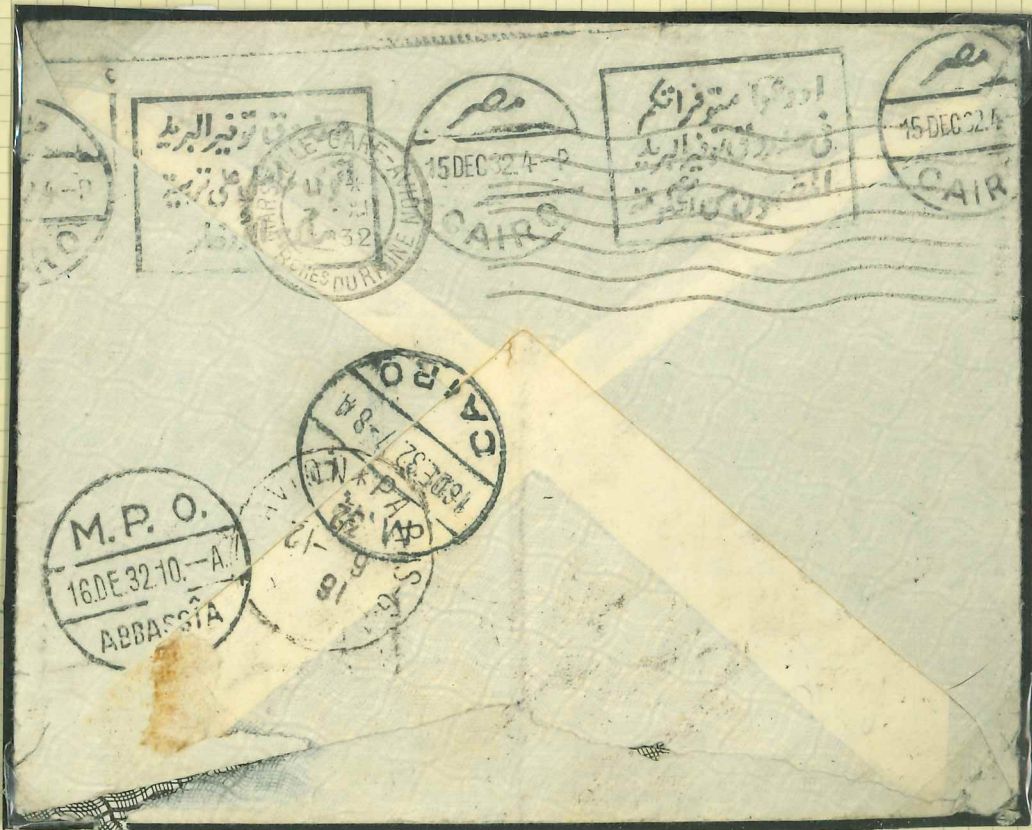
M.P.O Abbassia



Cover sent from Paris Gare Saint Lazare with 3fr 50 franking to Cairo in 1932. The receiver on the reverse is the earliest recorded of only 4 known - it is only used as a backstamp.

2.

3.



1 Paris Gare St. Lazare - Avion

2. Marseille - Gare Avion Bouches du Rhone.

3. Cairo slogan

4 Cairo

5. MPO Abbassia

5.

1.

4.

The Postal Concession

The "Named" Military Datestamps M.P.O. Abbassia



"Only one example of the M.P.O. Abbassia datestamp has been recorded and that an incomplete strike - Minett/Firebrace in Q.C. Vol. V 1960. This is that item, since when two more have been recorded, all struck on the reverse as receiver marks.



M.P.O. Abbassia as receiver

Postal seal cover to R.A.O.C. London from M.P.O. Cairo 14 AU 33, re-addressed R.A.O.C. Abbassia, Cairo and posted London SW on AUG 21, received transit M.P.O. Cairo dated 28 AU 33 and the next day the receiving mark on arrival at M.P.O. Abbassia.

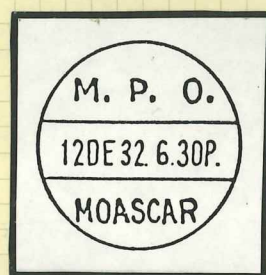
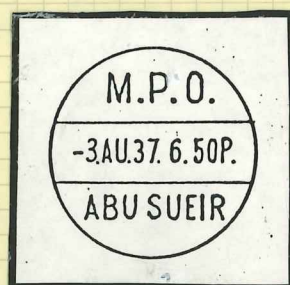
The Postal Concession

The "Named" Military Datestamps Western Desert area (iii)



For the use of the Army in the Western Desert and the Royal Navy at Mersa Matruh from 1st March to 30th October 1936 and in 1935 as a small naval station during the Abyssinian war.

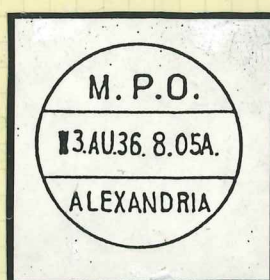
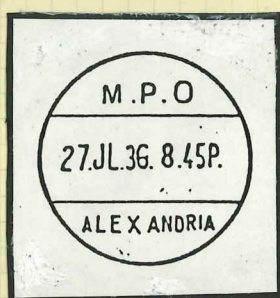
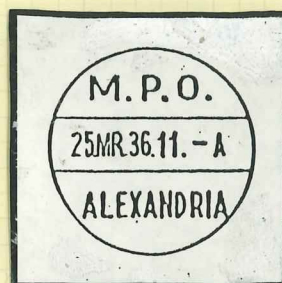
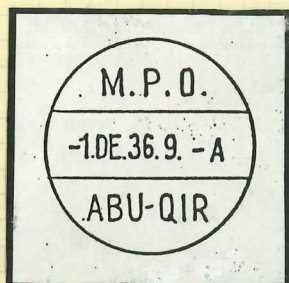
Suez Canal area (iv)



For use by the RAF at Abu Sueir, the RAF Ismailia and the Army at Moascar, and both the Army and Royal Navy at the Navy House at Port Said. The earlier Moascar datestamp may have been lost 'down a well' on 6th March 1933.

The Postal Concession

The "Named" Military Datestamps Alexandria area (i)



Cairo area (ii)



MPO Abbassia is known only as a receiver on the back of covers; GHQ is probably only "of proof status" (Firebrace).

*George VI Coronation
13 MA 37 Coronation Parade at Kasr el-Nil*



*Photographs taken by S. Sarkis, Garrison Photographer,
of saluting base for the Coronation Parade at Kasr
el-Nil Barracks, Cairo by XI Hussars (Glas. Regiment).*

Fuad Army Post Stamps

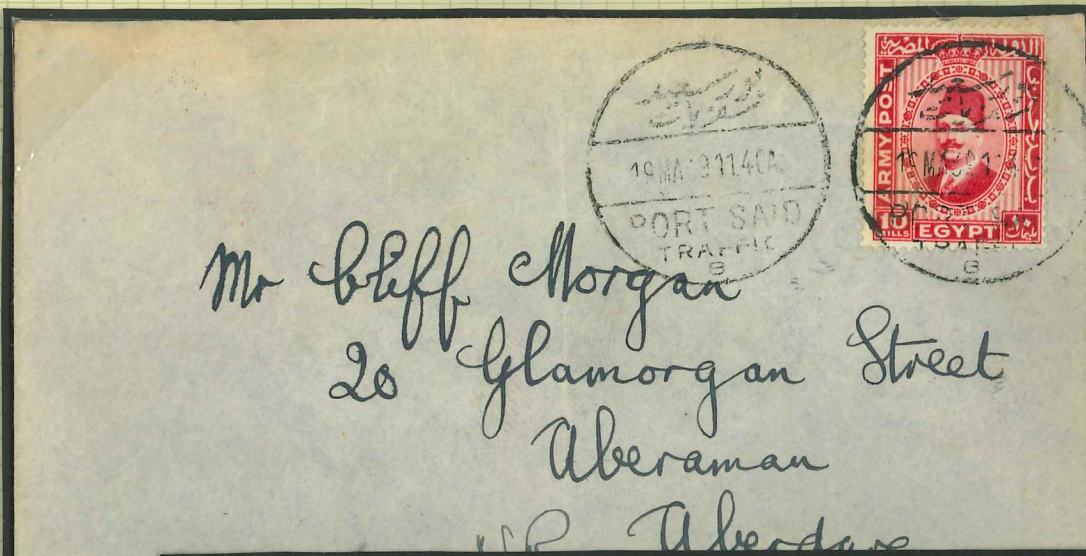
Civilian Cancellations



Cairo M



Port Said



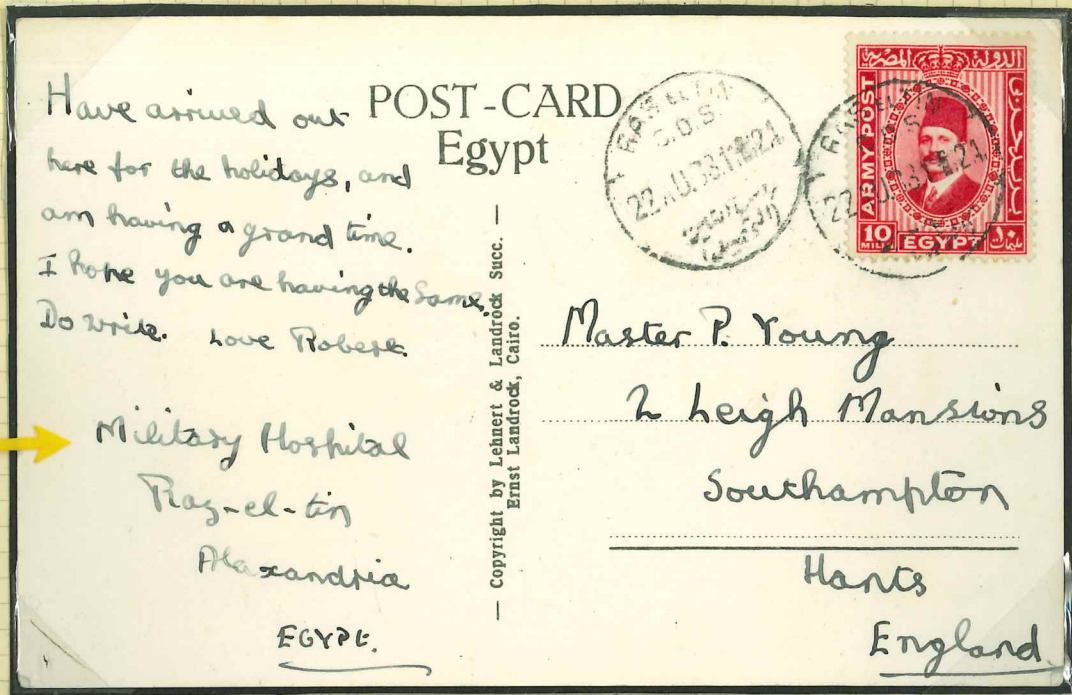
Port Said
Traffic to
Aberdare
surface in
May 1939



Handstamp
from back,
RAF Mersa
Matruh.

Surface rate cover dated 3 Oct 36 from the
civilian post office at Mersa Matruh, Western Desert.

*Fuad Army Post Stamps
Civilian date-stamps*



Top: Ras el-Tin c.o.s. on card to Southampton; bottom; Ras el-Tin T to Texas, despite destination, tax not collected.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

Civilian Cancellations



Sidi Bishr (Station)

14.38



Transit hand-stamp of Alexandria A (arrival) dated 1 MR 38 at 12.30 P. from reverse of the cover below - another civilian cancellation on military.



Surface rated 10 millièmes Fuad Army Post stamped cover cancelled 1 MR 38 8-9 A at Sidi Bishr (Station), a suburb of Alexandria correctly franked to Cork, Irish Free State.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

Civilian Cancellations

Arrival Sidi Gaber

Alexandria suburb, start of the Abu Qir-Rosetta railway line.



Monochrome postcard showing Stanley Bay Sea Shore at Alexandria (below) franked 10 millimas Fuad Army Post stamp cancelled civilian Arrival Sidi Gaber date-stamp.



Fuad Army Post Stamps

Civilian Cancellations



Ras el-Tin U-Dikheila

Civilian cancellations on Army Post stamps are listed by Hobbs from only three main towns, Alexandria, Cairo & Port Said; suburban offices (above) are also encountered.



Despite the airmail etiquette this is a surface rate cover posted at Ras el-Tin, the suburb of Alexandria where the royal Summer Palace was located. The reverse of the cover has Alexandria Arrival transit date stamp.

Kuad Army Post Stamps

Civilian Date-stamps



Cairo D
(Bilingual Arabic & English)
22 MAR 36 9-30 P

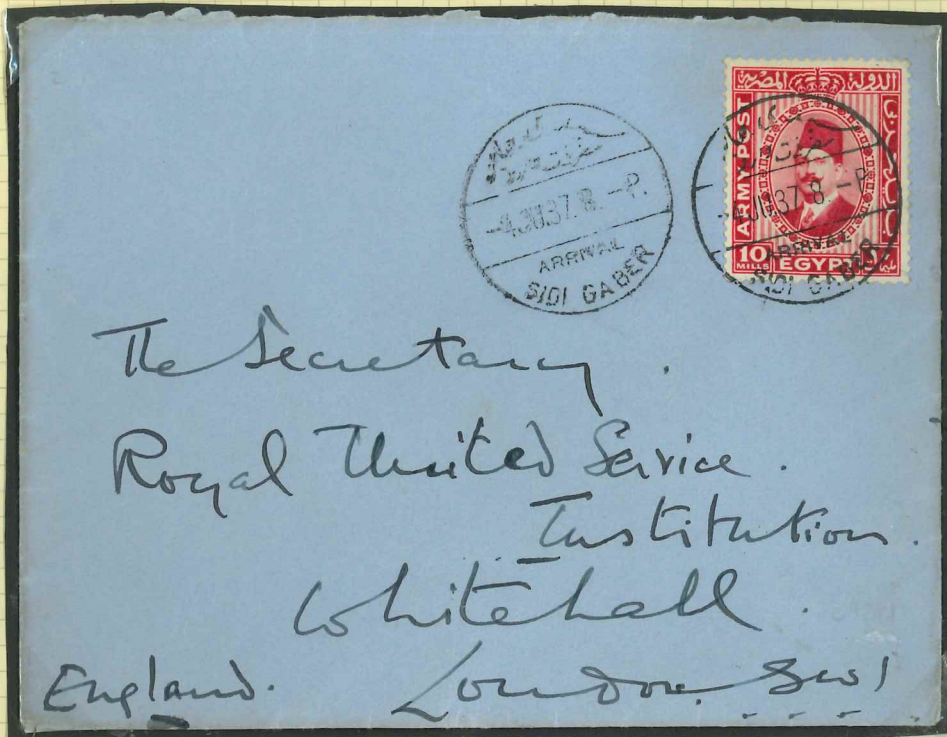


Cairo to Southampton - 7 days
Botley - Southampton 29 MAR 36

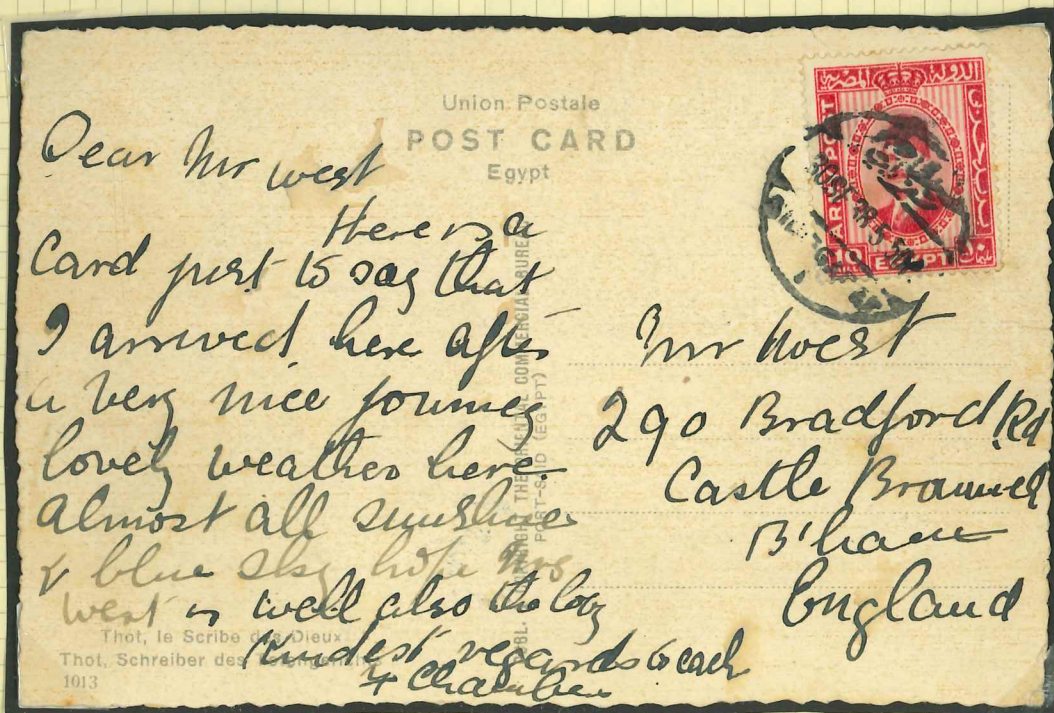
Surface rated 10 millièmes cover cancelled with civilian
Cairo D dated 22 MAR 36 9-30 P to Botley in Hampshire
re-addressed to Paignton with a Botley Southampton cds.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

Civilian Date-stamps
1. Sidi Gaber Arrival



2. Sidi Gaber T



Two of the four civilian date-stamps so far recorded
for Sidi Gaber; to London and Birmingham respectively.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

civilian date-stamps

The military post office at Abu Qir having closed on 24th January 1937, mail was taken to the civilian office by a RAF orderly, where the military stamp received a civilian cancellation. The Egyptian postal services were used in this way until 1st May 1940, some twenty months into World War II.



"R.A.F. Aboukir" Lodge, No 3739. G. S. E., R. A. O. B., Aboukir, Egypt.
May 1943

Royal Antediluvian Order of the Buffalo Lodge No 3739.

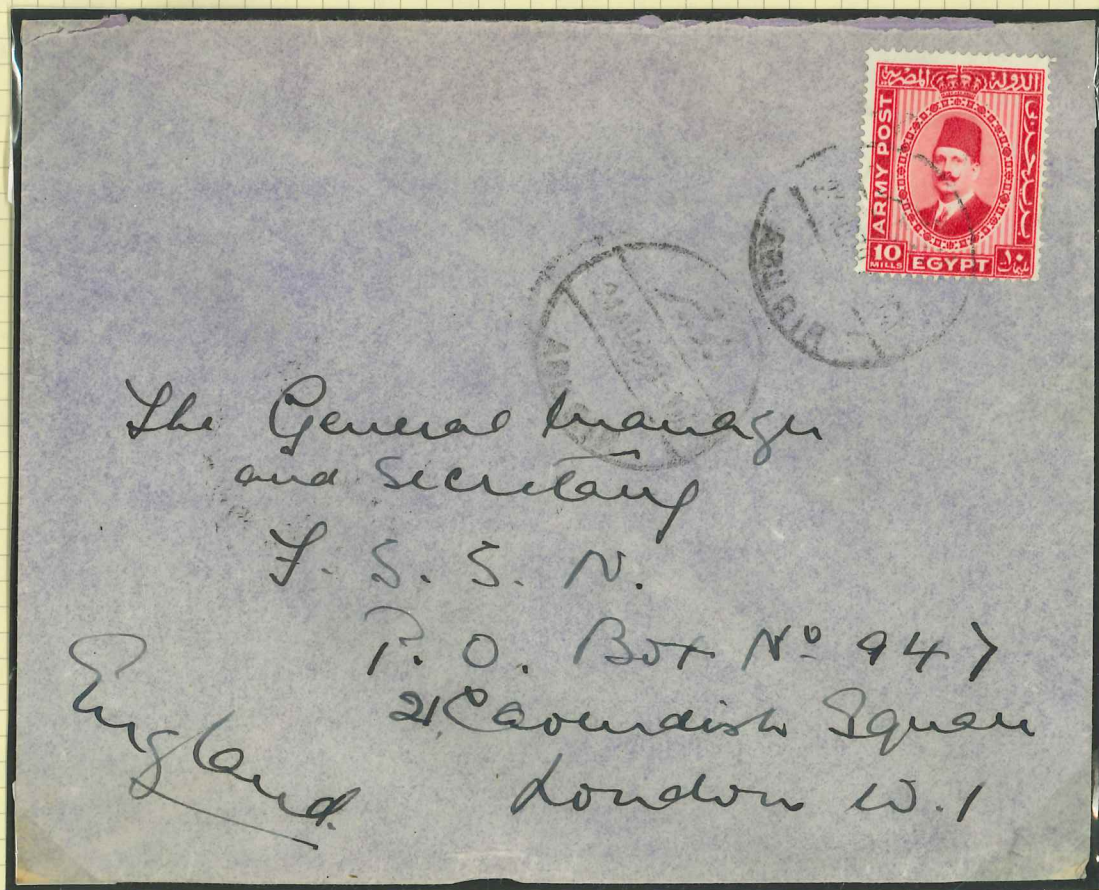
Fuad Army Post Stamps

civilian date-stamps
curved Abu Qir

The military post office at Abu Qir opened on the 1st March 1936 (when the Fuad 10 mill's Army Post stamps was issued) and it closed on 24th January 1937.



"..... all correspondence for the RAF at Abu Qir will be dealt with by the civil post office at that place.... An orderly from the R.A.F. at Abu Qir must collect and deliver from and to the civil post office at Abu Qir."



Surface 10 mill's rate coversent Abu Qir to London with civilian Abu Qir date-stamp 24 AUG 39 - this is one of two date-stamps of this area near Alexandria and is the much less common of the two civil types.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

Against regulations?

The circular date stamp of the Abu Sueir civil post office dated 22 MR 39 6.50P struck on the reverse of the cover below; this office incorrectly struck the boxed T on the front thus alerting the Inland Section in London to stamp the 3d tax duly collected at Chepstow by the three 1d dues attached. As the cover was correctly franked and posted, such tax should not have been charged unless of course the cover was overweight.



Letter correctly franked 10 mills Fuad Army Post stamp correctly posted in military box, evidenced by MPO Abu Sueir struck in blue. Despite this, a civilian office struck the boxed T resulting in incorrect collection of threepence tax at Chepstow.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

Against regulations?

Correctly posted in the military post box at M.P.O. Cairo, franked 10 millemas surface rate, this cover received the tax mark that alerted the postal clerk of the Inland Section to stamp 3d and affix 3d due cancelled at the destination at Manchester. Was the item overweight?



Insurance book cover to Manchester dated 11/11/39 correctly franked for surface mail unless it weighed over 20 grammes.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

Royal Navy Mail and a letter sent from a troopship



Above: cover from a ship of the Royal Navy franked 40 m for airmail with 81 dot tetta, Naval censors back and front.



Cover posted on board S.S. Rawalpindi with boxed cachet franked 10 m for surface mail cancelled at Malta with paquebot date stamp and Alexandria receiver on back.



Fuad Army Post Stamps

Faked cover

"Although the date of issue for this 3 mills Fouad Army Post stamp is given by various catalogues (Stanley Gibbons, Zehner etc.) as "9th November 1936", the Official Notice of 13th November 1936 clearly states that the stamp was placed on sale from the "1st December 1936". Charles Hase in Chalhou's "The Nile Post" on page 653.

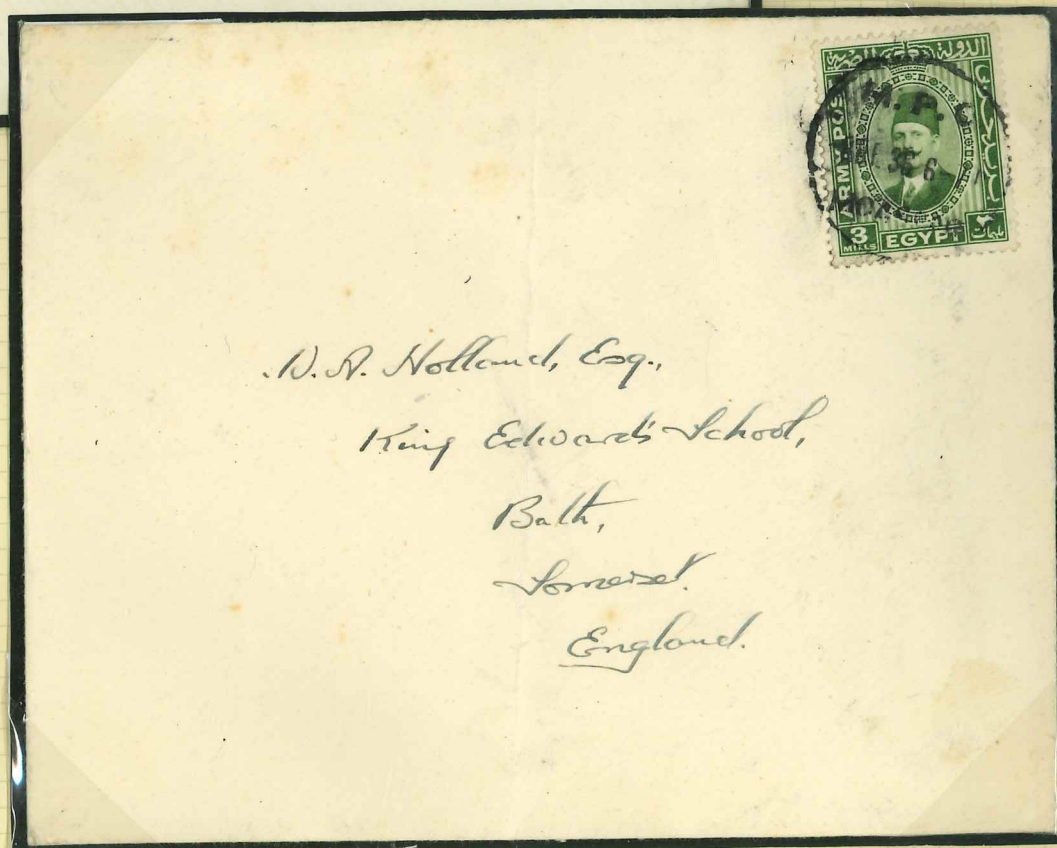


10 millimetre surface rate cover cancelled BPO E 602 dated ? NO 36 with used copy of 3 mills attached over the extra date stamp to create a 'first day cover' but of course the 3m. stamp was not yet issued.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

1st December 1936

Issued specifically to meet the Christmas mail in 1936
unsealed greeting card cover posted on the first day of issue.



Unsealed greeting card cover dated 5th December 1936
sent from MPO Moascar on the Suez Canal

Farouk Army Post Stamps



Although King Fouad died on 28th April 1936, it was not until 16th December 1939 that the large Army Post stamps were replaced by those of Farouk. Accordingly, by early December there was a shortage of the 3 millièmes value for Christmas.



Military unsealed cover to London from Cairo franked 4 millièmes civilian stamp cancelled 2 DE 39 by M.P.O. 601 type 1 at Cairo.



As Commonwealth troops arrived in Egypt, at the start of the war, the Australian, Indian and New Zealand forces used the new smaller Farouk Army Post stamps, though though the South African forces seemingly came too late.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

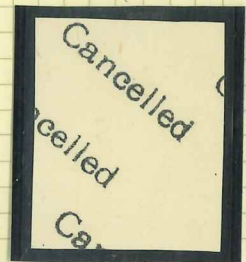
Printed in sheets of 100, watermarked multiple royal cypher, these were based on the 1927-37 definite issue of Egypt issued by the Egyptian Postal Administration. As a result, a sheet of stamps from each plate put to press was sent to the King who retained them. So, 'Royal' imperforates cancelled on reverse, as well as 'Royal' misperforates, exist for each of the values.



1927-37 issue



'Royal' imperforates



reverse



'Royal' misperforates



There is a distinct difference in shades of the 10 millièmes

Fuad Army Post Stamps

1st March 1936



B - short stroke in A/36

Issued stamp

B - long stroke in A/38



A - short stroke in A/38

A - long bottom line



B - long stroke in A/38

A - long stroke in A/36

B - lines equally long

The control blocks of Panes A and B according to Whetter research.

Fuad Army Post Stamps

1st December 1936

For use on unsealed envelopes for greetings cards from the 1st December and withdrawn on 15th February 1937, to be re-issued each winter during 1937, 1938, 1939, even 1940.



"There is a faint 'dribble' of colour from the left leg of 'A' (arrowed); overall length of A/36 is 9.5mm. (Whetter) in advising existence of two panes contra Hobbs' one frame.

Whetter's pane A.



Overall length of A/36 is 9.0mm; thus this is Whetter's pane B.

The Postal Concession

13th May 1937

Following the abdication of his older brother King Edward VIII, the Duke of York was crowned King George VI and reigned, together with his Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, until his death in 1952. He was succeeded by his older daughter Elizabeth who became Elizabeth II.

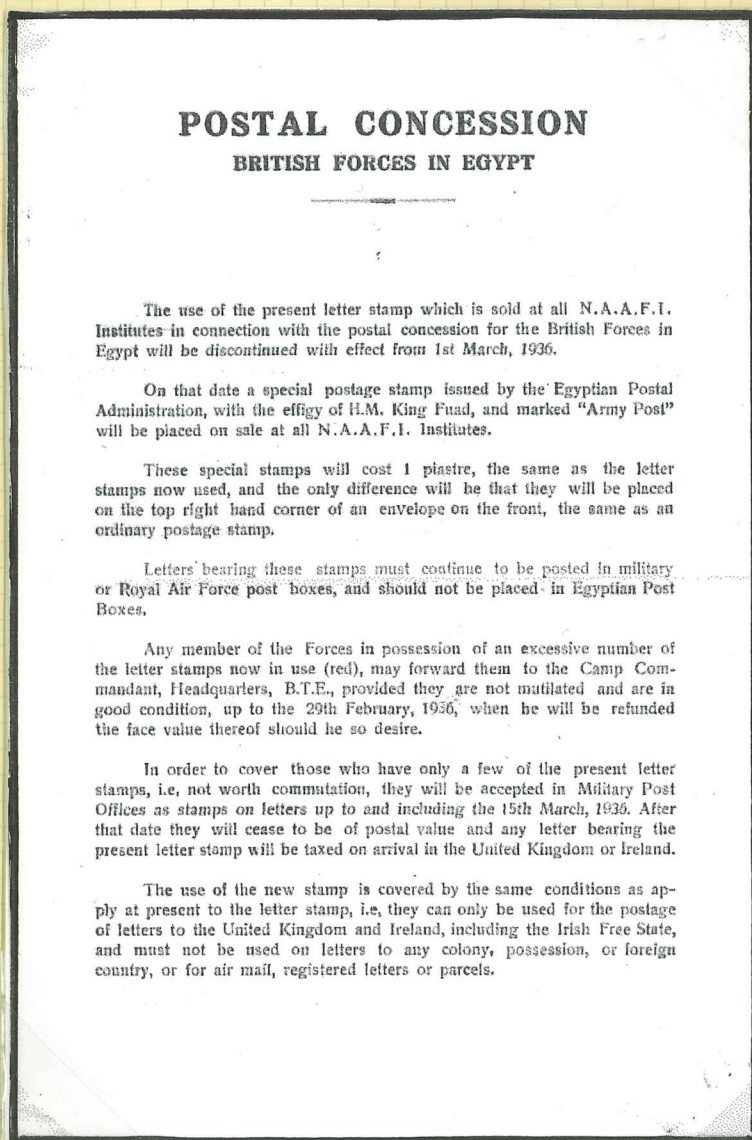


A 'first day' cover especially printed for the coronation and posted from MPO Cairo doubly franked with both 'old' and 'new' adhesives. On the reverse is a sender's handstamp which reads: 'If not delivered return to Gen. Staff H.Q., B.T.E. Cairo.'

THE ARMY POST STAMPS

Egypt, having raised its postage rates in 1932, agreed a scheme whereby troops could post letters home at the old rates. In March 1936 the scheme was amended - see poster below - and the Army Post stamps, bearing the portraits of Kings Fuad and his son Farouk, were printed and issued by Egypt for use of British troops. Unlike the NAAFI Seals these were affixed to fronts of covers.

Plan of the Exhibit



A study of the stamps and their uses by both the British and Commonwealth forces, and even their non-uses, is shown on frames:-

1. King Fuad stamps
2. King Farouk stamps
3. "Named Military data stamps"
4. E.600 Series of Military Post Offices
5. Field Post Offices
6. { use by forces from
7. { the Commonwealth

Sources utilized:-

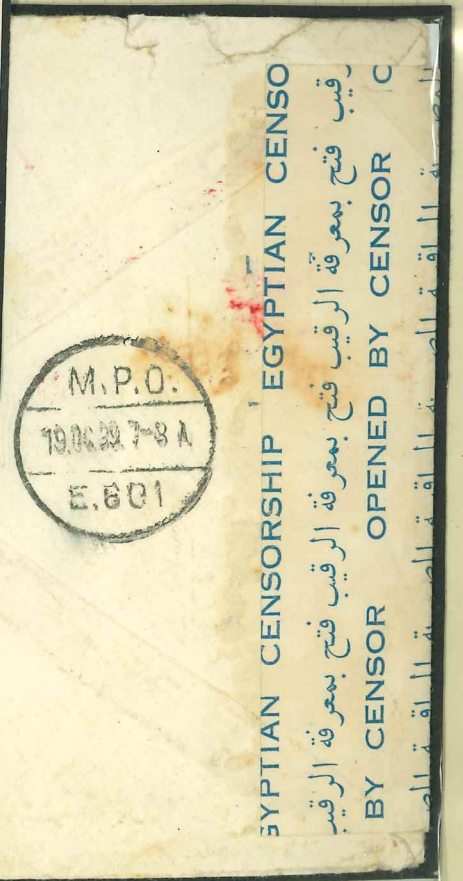
Apart from my personal research for a forthcoming book, articles in the Egypt Study Circle's Quarterly Circular (Q.C.) books used include the following: J.E.O. Hobbs, E.B. Proud, P.A.S. Smith and J.A. Chalhoub.

Copy (50%) of Official Notice for NAAFI Institutes that announced the changes.

The Postal Concession
 The E600 Series; Military Post Offices



M.P.O. E601 type 1; allocated to H.Q. B.T.E. Cairo



Scan (75%) of front, and reverse of a doubly censored cover from Roumania to H.Q. B.T.E. Cairo struck with MPOE601 as a receiving mark; dated 190C 39 this is very early usage.

The E600 Series

Base Post Office E602



31JA40 8-9A



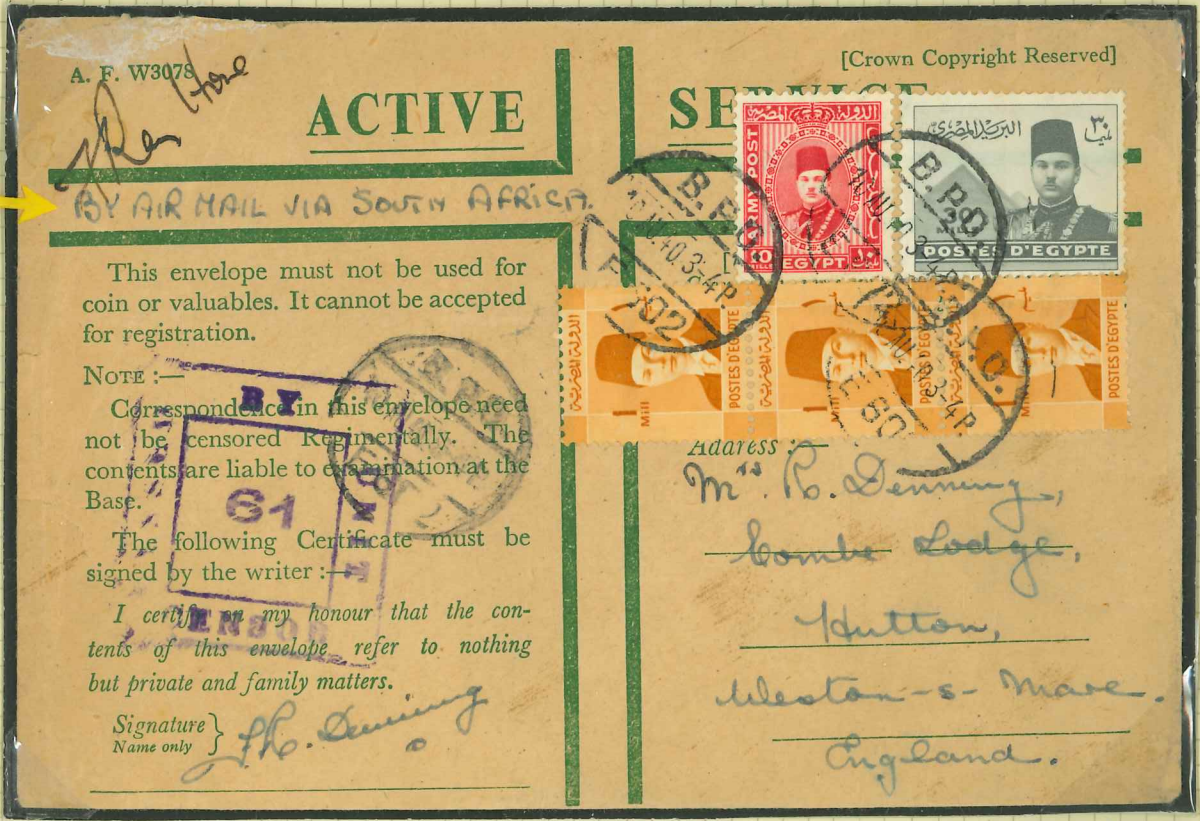
1 FE 40 8-9A



? JA40

Use of 'souvenir' stamps

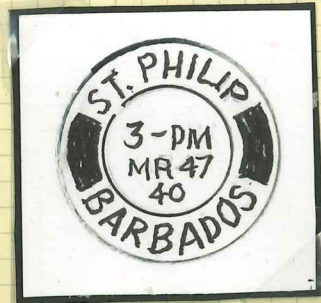
The three Farouk 1 mill definitives not required but probably acquired when buying the 30 mills for airmail.



On active service 'Honour' envelope endorsed 'By Air Mail via South Africa', indicating the 'Horseshoe Route' franked 43 mills including 3x 1 mill definitives used as souvenirs.

The E600 Series

Base Post Office E 602



Arrival postmark from reverse

Unapproved Destination

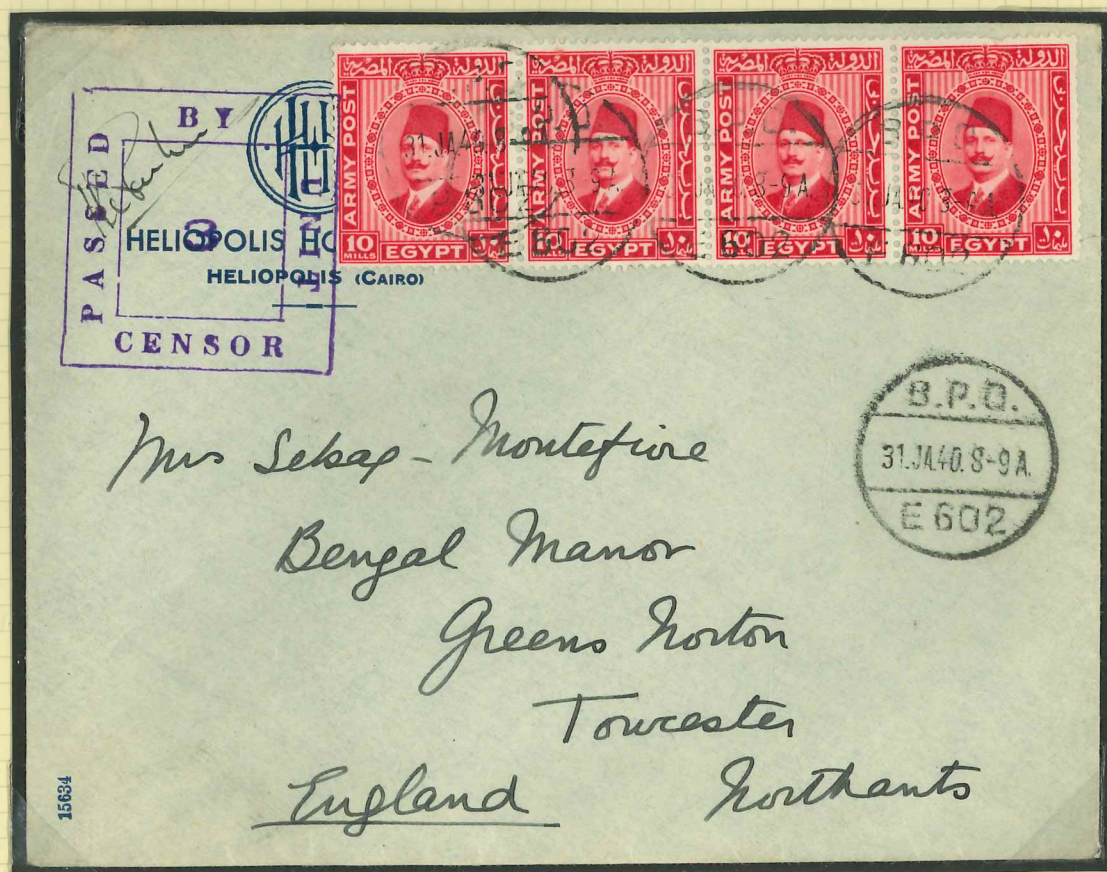


Four times censored surface rated cover addressed to an unapproved destination at St. Philip on Barbados; boxed censor 88, Chief Field Censor and Base Censor tape are all military, while M censorship stamp is civilian.

*The E600 Series
Base Post Office E 602*



22 DE 39 9-10A



*Postal stationery envelope of Heliopolis House Hotel
with boxed censor 3 franked 40 millièmes airmail rate
posted at the military base P.O. at Alexandria 31.JA.40.*

The E600 Series

Base Post Office E 602
Based at Alexandria; no stop after 'E'
Earliest 10 00 39; Latest 19 SE 40



22 DE 39 9-10A

Military Censorship
Passed by R.A.F. censor No. 7



Airmail cover franked 4 x 10 milliemes Fuad Army Post stamps cancelled BPO E602 5 NO 39 10-11A with early use of Crown R.A.F. Censor No. 7 addressed to Brentwood. But Turf Club cover posted Cairo MPOE. 601 4 NO on back.

The E.600 Series
Base Post Office E.602



Type one, with a dot after the 'E.'



Form AFA 2042 used Alexandria to England and dated 24 JU 40.



Unsealed greeting card cover with boxed censor 26 posted from Alexandria 6 DE 39 to the founder of Egypt Study Circle.

A.F.A. 2042.
114/Gen No./5248.

FIELD  SERVICE
POST CARD.

The address
only to be writ-
ten on this side.
If anything else
is added the
post card will
be destroyed.

500

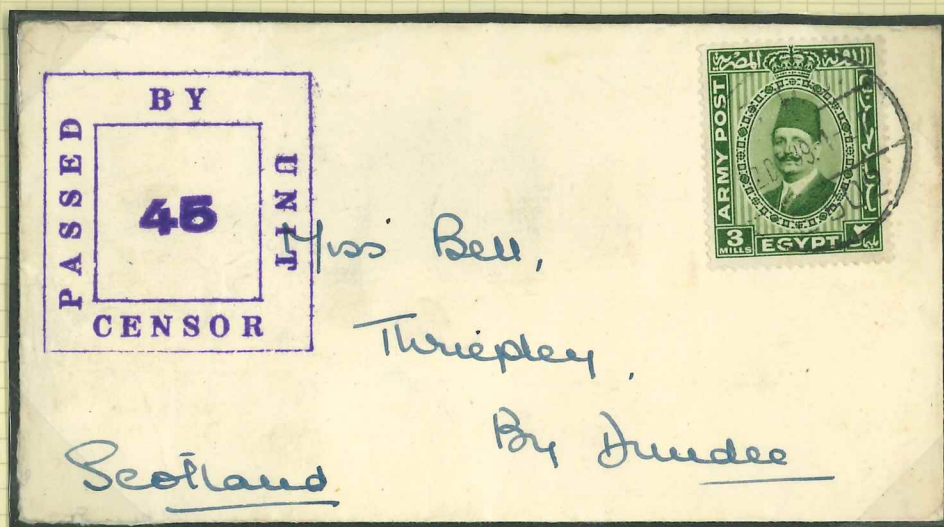
[Crown Copyright Reserved.]

The Postal Concession

The £600 Series



Base Post Office E602



Unsealed greeting card envelope franked 3 mills cancelled BPO E602 at Alexandria and dated 12th December 1939.

The £600 Series

This series of datestamps was issued to British troops in Egypt in early October 1939 following the outbreak of war. Locations were:

BPO E602	Alexandria	MPO E601	Cairo
MPO E602	Alexandria	MPO E603	Moascar
MPO E604	Port Said	FPO E605	Mesa Matruh
FPO E606	el-Daba	MPO E607	Sidi Graber
MPO E608	Abbassia	FPO E615	Sidi Hamish

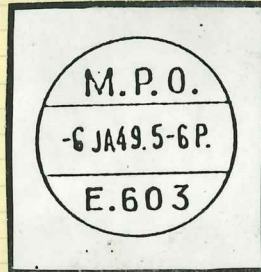
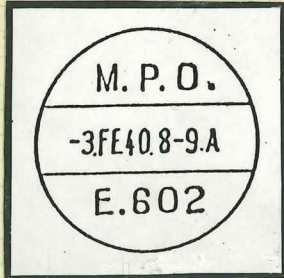
Datestamps E609 to E611 were initially held in reserve but later transferred to Indian and Australian forces with E601 to E604 whereas E612 to E614 were never in use.

The Postal Concession

The £600 Series Military Post Offices (iii)



The six types of £601 allocated to H.Q. B.T.H., Cairo



Alexandria

Moascar

Port Said



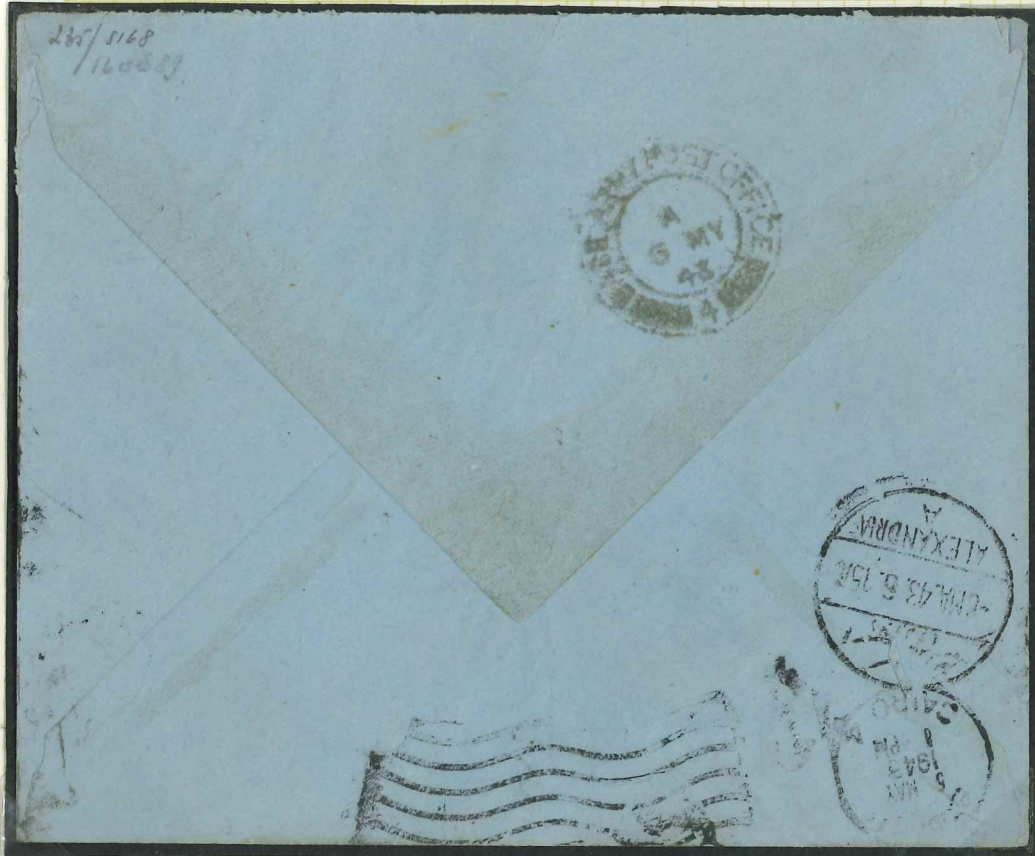
Alexandria Abbassia, Cairo

All the above military post offices were stationary.

Egypt Postage Prepaid

Base Army Post Office 4

From 3rd April 1941 this base office was located at Cairo; it was the transit office for much EPP mail and is usually found only on the reverse of covers.



Reverse of internal letter posted EPP 4, twice censored & with Cairo and Alexandria civilian transits, BAPO 4.

The Postal Concession

Base Army Post Office 4



BAPO 4 allocated to H.Q. British Troops in Egypt, Cairo.

Field Post Offices

The 34 Field Post Offices numbered 32 to 372 were all allocated to BAPO 4 whose own date stamp is shown above; earliest recorded is 17 MY 41 - below - latest is dated 27 JU 45.

General Headquarters, Cairo (B.T.E) received FPOs 169, 190

General Headquarters, Middle East - FPOs 181, 182, 184, 185

5 Line of Communication (Alexandria) FPOs 186, 187

Seemingly allocated to M.P.O. Abbassia FPO 188



Airmail cover franked block of 4 Farouk Army Post cancelled 17 MY 41, the earliest recorded, with boxed censor 176, censor signed and sent to Nottingham, England.

The Postal Concession

The E600 Series Base Post Office (i)

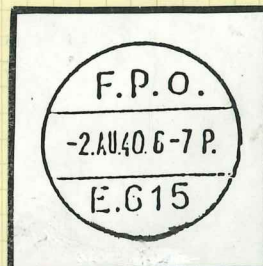
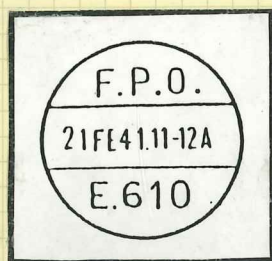


Allocated to Alexandria

Field Post Offices (ii)



Mersa Matruh el-Dabaia



Port Tewfik

Julis?

Sidi Hamish

F.P.O. E609 was never used in Egypt but Australian forces used it at Hill 69 in Palestine; E613 and E614 seem never to have been issued as none have ever been recorded. All the above base and field post offices were stationary.

The Postal Concession

"On Active Service" Christmas Air Mail



Two examples of this very short-lived arrangement; top ex-
F.P.O. 171, RAF Heliopolis, originated 7-DE-40 from a naval
vessel with tombstone censor all verso; bottom from F.P.O.
188 at Abbassia, Cairo. Smith statement only partially
correct as the service clearly applied to Christmas airmail.

The Postal Concession

Christmas mail 1940

With the too late availability of the new Farouk stamps for the 1939 Christmas mail, the Fuad stamps were once more issued for the 1940 Christmas mail as they had been for the three preceding years; latest recorded are those below.



latest recorded 3 NO 40
(now superseded)



The latest recorded use of the Fuad 3 mills on cover 22 OC 40 cancelled FPO 171 at RAF Heliopolis with Chief Field Censor cachet in purple (also known in green or blue), to Sheffield.

The Postal Concession

"On Active Service" Christmas Air Mail

Recorded 4 days only between 6th and 9th December 1940



G.P.S. Hill correspondence - he was Paymaster Lieutenant



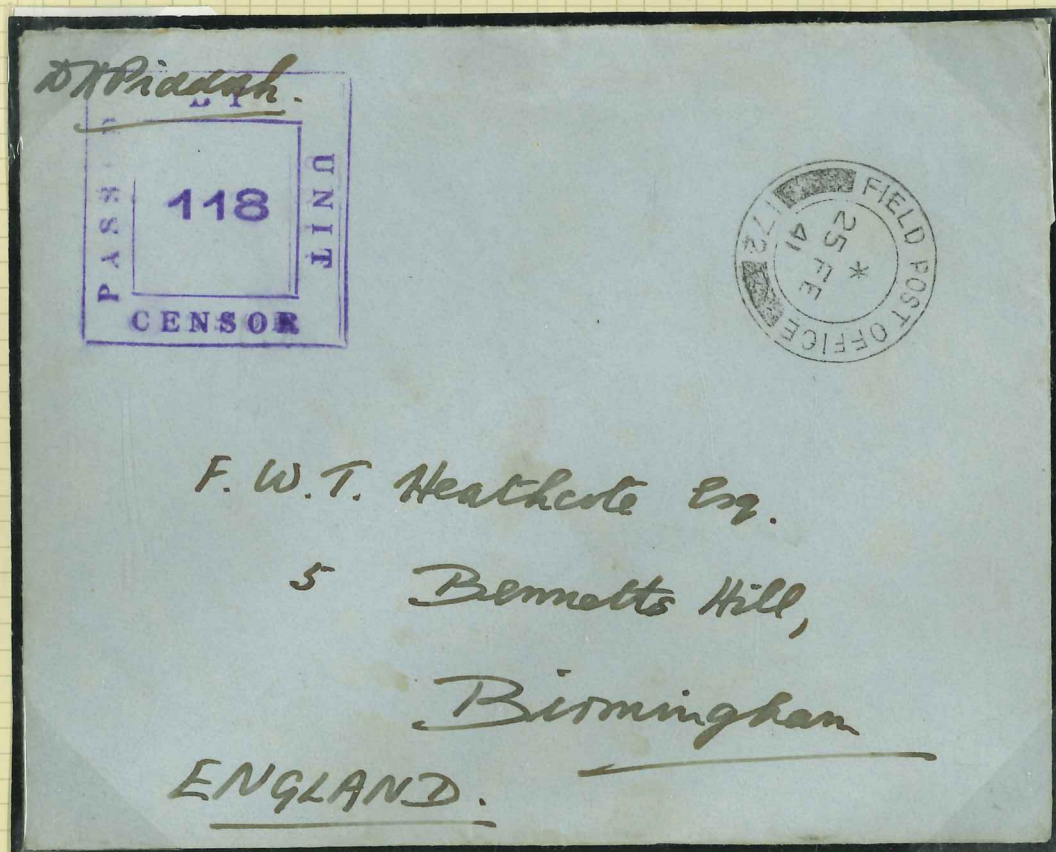
Free Christmas airmail to Plymouth

Airmail cover sent from a Royal Navy ship by G.P.S. Hill - see boxed Naval censor 257 - transferred to FPO 171 at RAF Heliopolis to catch the free Christmas Air Mail 1940.

The Postal Concession

End of the Concession?

Outside the dates, 6th to 9th December 1940, of the one-off Christmas Air-Mail, this cover was cancelled at F.P.O. 172 based at Alexandria. It is likely to have arrived there from the Western Desert where stamps were often unobtainable, or was posted on a troopship.



Censored (Proud type C, double boxed 118) cover posted unfranked to Birmingham; the F.P.O. 172 is Alexandria transit as posted either Western Desert or on a troopship.

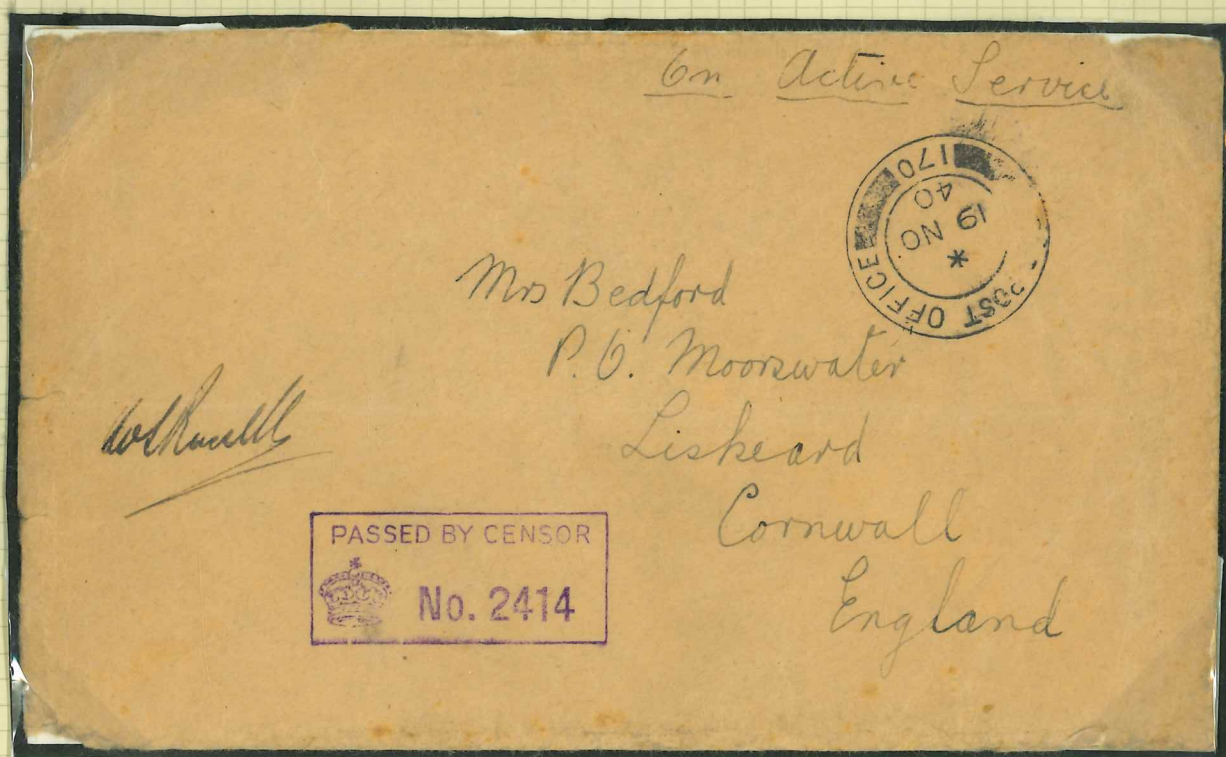
The Postal Concession

The End of the Concession, or not?

"Free franking for surface letters was introduced on November 1st 1940" P.A.S. Smith 'Egypt stamps and Postal History' p. 719.

"possibly early in December, the Postal Concession was cancelled, as all mail from the Forces was carried free." Hobbs p.75

Neither of the above gives a source but, seemingly, in late 1940 a temporary arrangement enabled troops to send Christmas mail free of postage, for a limited period only.



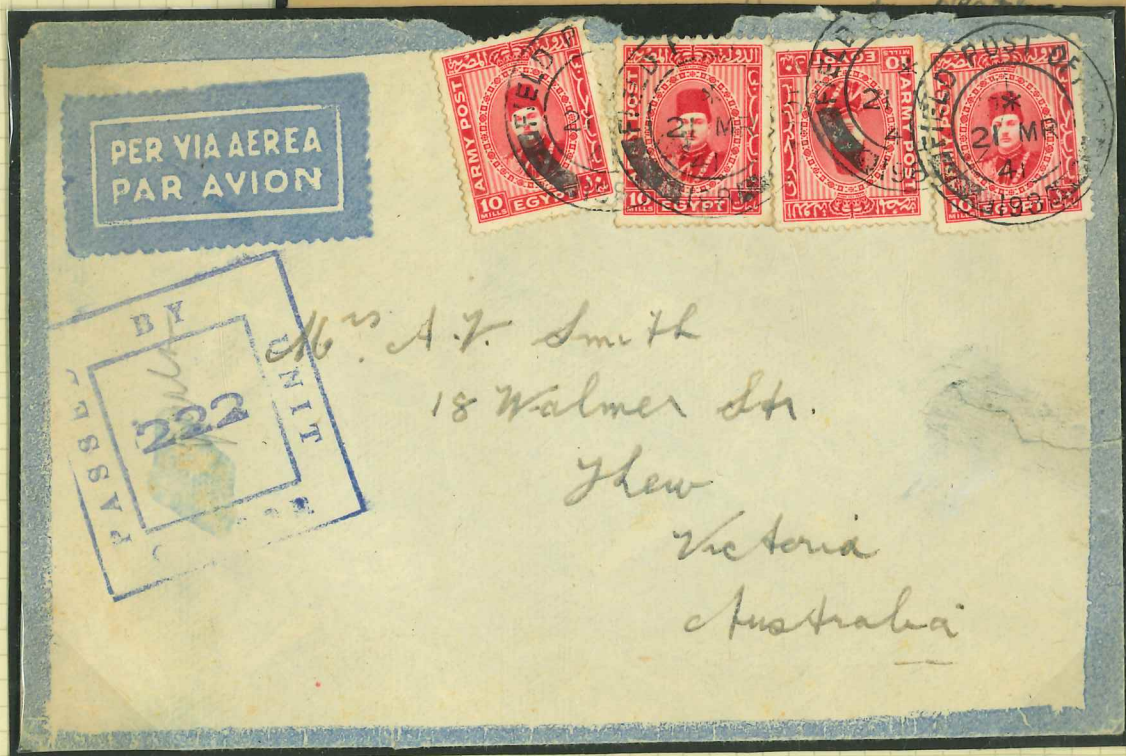
Letter without franking but marked 'On Active Service' posted at F.P.O. 170, RAF Station Heliopolis, to Liskeard in Cornwall on 19th November 1940 vindicating Peter Smith. The censor signed cover has Hobbs' army censor type A1 with the number 2414 neatly struck in purple, with royal crown.

The Postal Concession

Army Post stamps used in Greece

Top cover bears 40 mills airmail rate, but stamps not cancelled, but on reverse is O.H.M.S. label stating "From F/Lt. J. H. L. Newnham Medical Officer H. Q. RAF Greece", RAF Censor no. 114

Hobbs' censors:
R.A.F. type A (right) and Army type D (below)



Very few got seen

Captured Italian airmail envelope sent 21 MR 41 from FPO 193 then at Athens to Australia. The second convoy with Australian troops arrived at Piraeus the day before.

Farouk Army Post Stamps

Army Post stamps used internally in Egypt

Though posted correctly at F.P.O. 189, signed and censored by Army censor Hobbs type D numbered 169, and manuscript "On Active Service", this cover was still against regulations as it was addressed internally within Egypt to Port Said. F.P.O. 189 was 5 Line of Communication Postal Unit with Headquarters 7th Armoured Division until November '42.



Letter from Cairo, 7th Armoured Division H.Q. to Port Said

The postage rate for an internal civilian letter to 30 grams rose from 5 mills to 6 mills w. e. f. 11th July 1940 so it is the correct rate but here made up using two Farouk Army Post stamps against regulations; to date this seems unique usage.

Farouk Army Post Stamps

Airmail rate of 40 millimes (actually 41) made up using seven three millimes Farouk Army Post stamps dated 6 AP 41 from F.P.O. 190 at Cairo; unit censor 100 and Chief Field Censor.

unit censor



Chief Field
Censor

Re-directed air cover to Crieff, Perthshire in Scotland, then to Dunbar, East Lothian; took eighteen days transit.

PLATE 2



Farouk Army Post Stamps

Genuine usage

One of two covers sent on the same date to the same addressee from B.P.O. E.602 at Alexandria; they are the earliest recorded 'correct' usages of the 3 millimes stamp, although 'philatelic'.



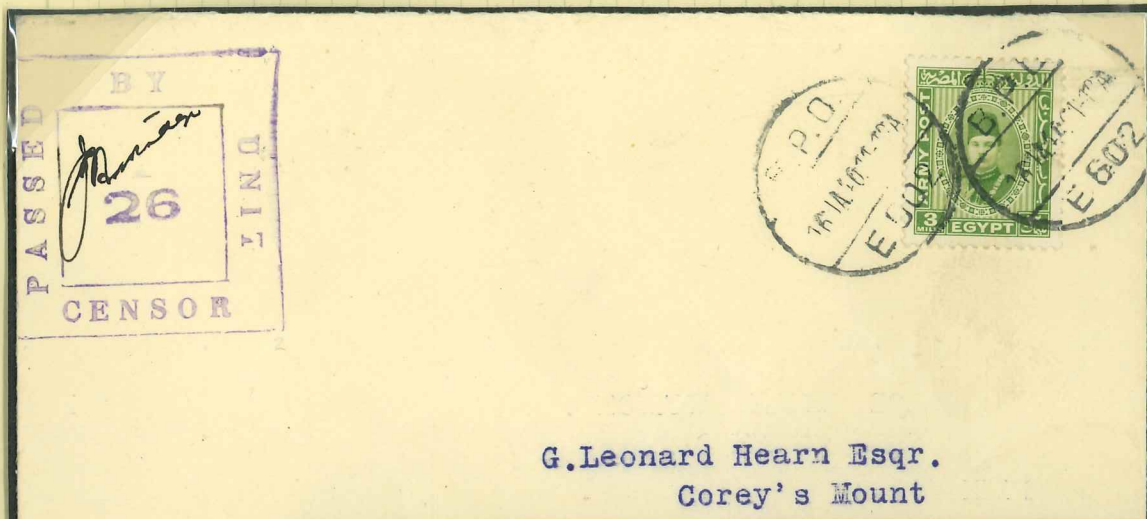
29 OC 40



20 NO 40



25 MR 41



G. Leonard Hearn Esqr.
Corey's Mount



*'Far
cancels?'*

Dated 23 OC 40, this is the earliest recorded cover in the 1940 pre-Christmas mail period, also the only known cover addressed to Northern Ireland.

Farouk Army Post Stamps

The 3 milliemes value was issued 16th December 1939, too late for its use on overseas Christmas mail; it was mostly held back until mid-October 1940 contrived and cancelled by favour.



Cancelled by favour
Alexandria R13

Internal letter rate w.e.f. 16 AU 40 on 1889 / millieme stationery!



Pretty but completely contrived; 3^d was actually the forces' rate to the homeland for Air Mail Letter cards in May 1941.

Farouk Army Post Stamps

16th December 1939



The three millimmes, constant varieties



position 47



position 65

Position 47 on each sheet of 100 has a 'blob' adjacent to the lower right-hand margin - see arrowed diagram. Position 65 has the left-side nostril re-drawn and spot.



positions 47 and 48



Marginal block four



positions 64 and 65

Farouk Army Post Stamps

Controls of the ten milliemes

A/39, the first control; surface rate to England 10 FE 40 posted M.P.O. E601 at Cairo with 'Passed by RAF Censor No.2



A/40 A/39, the second control; airmail rate from M.P.O. E.608 at Abbassia to England; in use for less than three months.

Farouk Army Post Stamps

16th December 1939

Controls of the ten milliemmes



Farouk Army Post Stamps

*16th December 1939
Photogravure Survey Department*

Perf. 13½

Watermark Egyptian crown and Arabic 'F'



the 'Royal' misplaced perforations

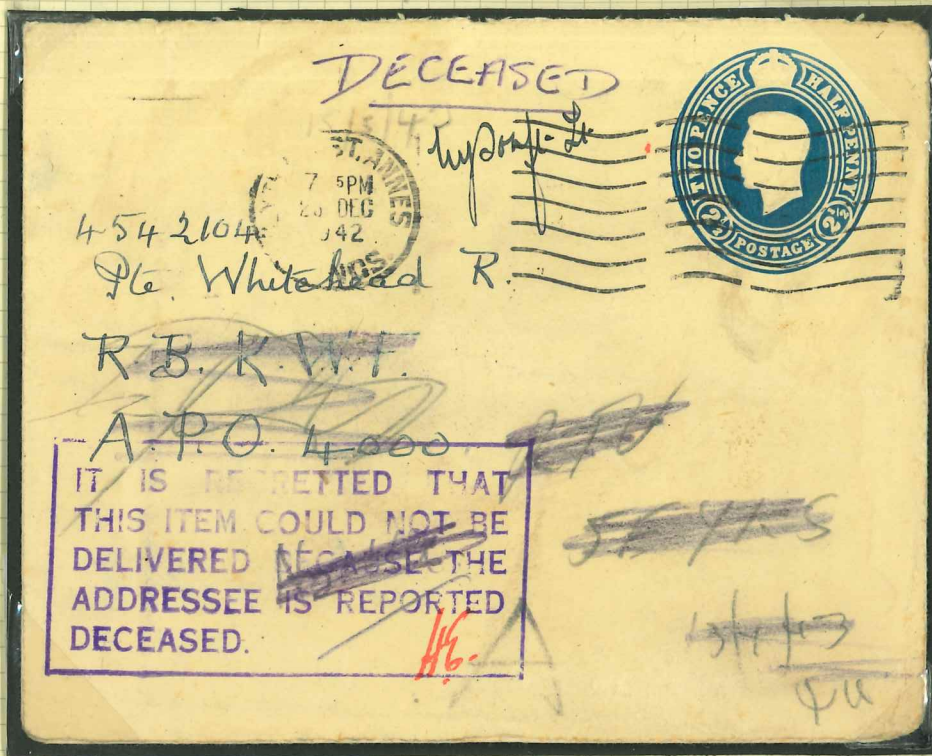


the 'Royal' imperforates

*Two imperforate sheets of 100 of the 3 mills value
and three sheets of the 10 mills were printed; all were
sent to the King to be sold following the Revolution, 1954.*

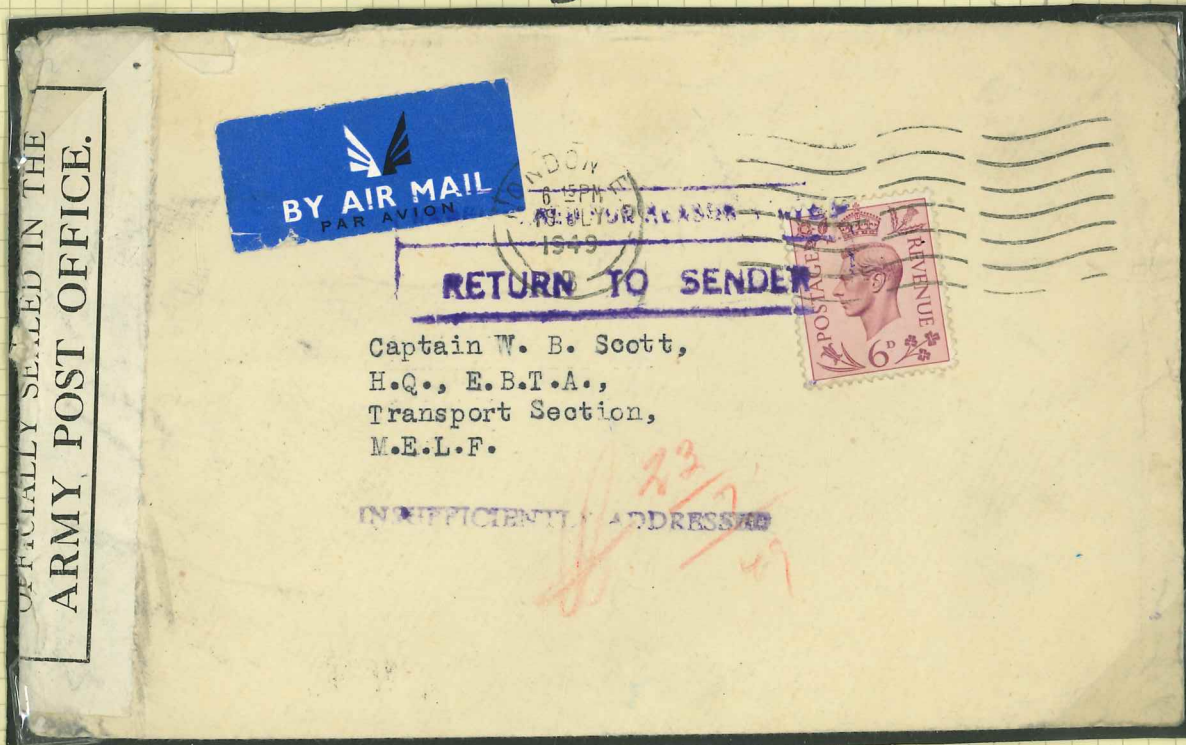
Returned Letters

Addressee reported deceased in 1942



Back-stamp from both covers - is handling by Army P.O.

Insufficiently Addressed in 1949.



Two returned letters, top in December 1942, bottom in 1949; reasons for return struck in purple eachote.

Returned Mail

23.1.41 to

25.9.41

Commercial letter sent to 1941 and returned to the months later due to in wartime. Boxed SERVICE RETURN TO SENDER cachet struck in purple, as is the civilian 66 postal censor cachet below it - typed as b.g.6 (Peter Andrews) in 2003 book.

Hungary early in sender's life
hostilities
'NO

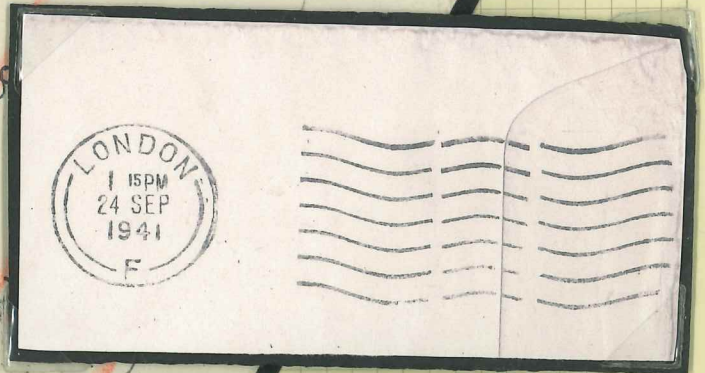


LONDON
23 I 41
F.C.3.

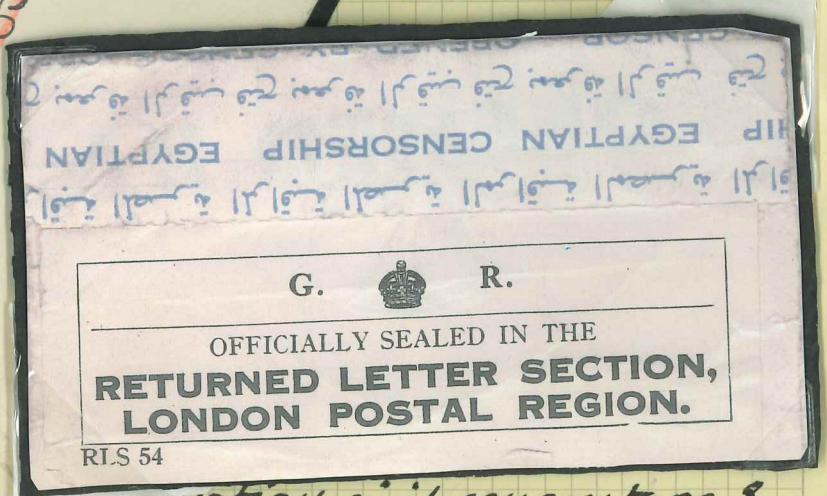
NO SERVICE
RETURN TO SENDER
Representations

POSTAL CENSOR

From
REVERSE



London F receiver



Egyptian civil censor tape & London Returned Letter RLS 54

Returned Letters



FPO
165
Nov
1941

AFO
Ramba
Benjamin
EPP30

'UNDELIVERED FOR REASON STATED / RETURN TO SENDER' and 'UNTRACEABLE 2nd ECHELON'; two boxed cachets in purple, and unboxed 'NOT AT ADDRESS STATED / PRESENT ADDRESS NOT KNOWN' on this pre-printed cover sent from Hayward's Heath to MEF, found open and returned to sender in 1941.

LIBYA: THE BATTLE FOR EGYPT

W.W. II

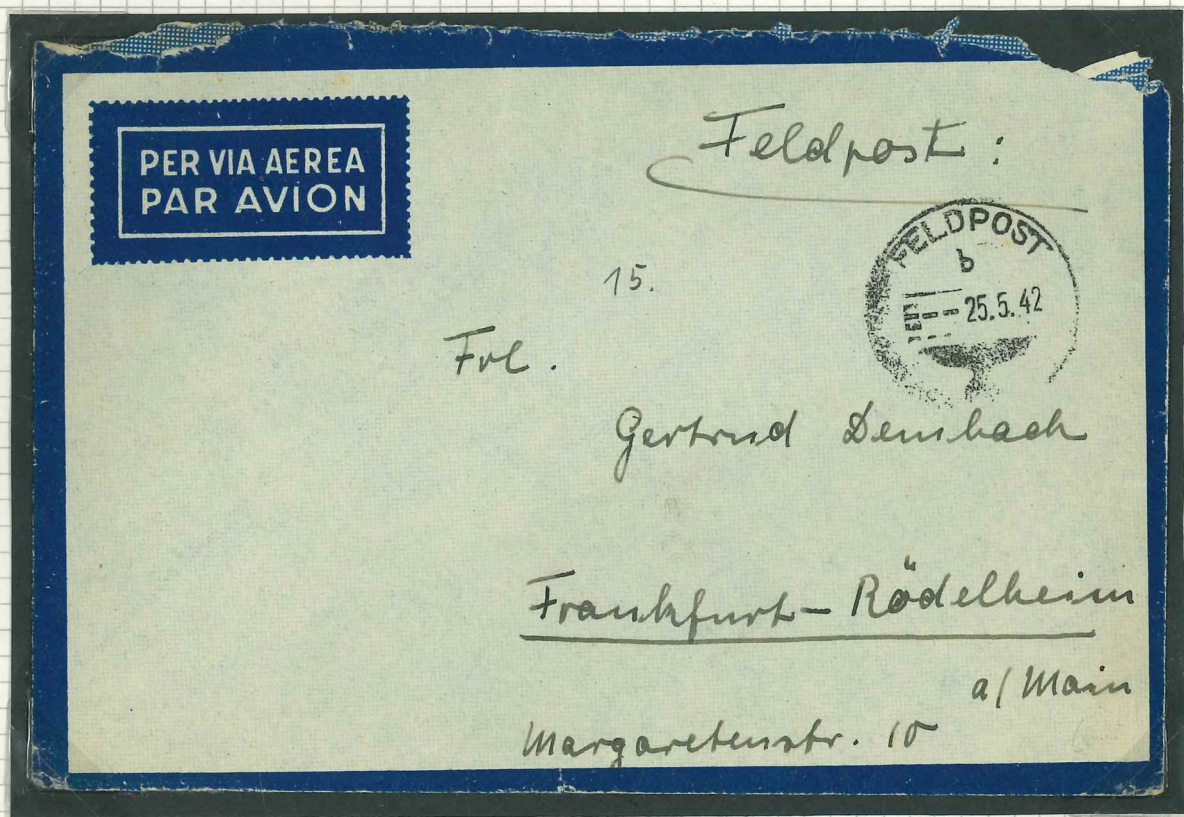
THE AFRIKA KORPS


FELDPOST

1942

b

25.5.



Italian Airmail  Abs. Gefr. Zöller. Feldpost Okk IT, serving at this date: 2nd Co. Panzer Jäger at Gazala.

The Battle of Gazala took place 2 days later - 27 May '42

GAZALA
LIBYA
TOBRUK.
KNIGHTSBRIDGE
EL
ADEMO
SIDI REZEGH

Italian Forces

The Italians were of course, with Germany, the Axis powers, they invaded Egypt from bases in Libya in September 1940

FRANCO 708 SEZ. 1500

CARTOLINA POSTALE PER LE FORZE ARMATE

ESENTE DA TASSA PER L'ITALIA E SUE COLONIE

Mittente

Cognome Caravagna

Nome Antonio

Grado Parabiviers

Reparto 708. sezione C.A.P.

POSTA MILITARE 267.C

Al Sig.
Caravagna Giuseppe
Via Roma
S. Maria di Licodia
(Catania).

Ricordate che oggi non ci sarebbe la marcia su Mosca, marcia che sarà infallibilmente vittoriosa, se venti anni prima non ci fosse stata la marcia su Roma, se primi tra i primi non avessimo alzato la bandiera dell'antibolscevismo.

MUSSOLINI

Ho visto ieri il P. U. Anzelli che ha speso a Potenza - ti allucino con tutti quanti -
Wommen

Grado, Cognome e Nome del mittente:
Maggiore Barone
Commissario - 3° Regg. Art. Lib.

Reparto DLIV Gruppo

POSTA MILITARE 133

CARTOLINA POSTALE PER LE FORZE ARMATE

ESENTE DA TASSA PER L'ITALIA E SUE COLONIE

POSTA MILITARE
SEZ. 1500
N. 133

Al Sig.
Giulio Privello
Via Meridionale
Potenza

Two military cards from Italian forces in Egypt 1940 and 1942.

Italian Forces

September 1940



Italian troops under Marshal Graziani advancing into Egypt.



Airmail cover from Roma Ostiense dated 29th May 1940 to Ismailia, halfway down the Suez Canal, censored in Italy.

Polish Forces

Incoming Mail

Addressed to a Polish soldier at the British Military Hospital.



1944 front franked 75 zloty for airmail from Warsaw to the British Military Hospital at Tel el-Kebir in Egypt.

Polish Forces

Poczta Polowa 103

Tenpence military airmail rate to U.S.A.

clearly, the regulations had been sufficiently relaxed by 1943 to include Polish Forces in the concessionary rates for British and Commonwealth forces; i.e. tenpence for the 'home' destinations by airmail - this was part of the talks from which the new arrangements were agreed with the Egyptian postal authorities to take effect from 1st May '41.

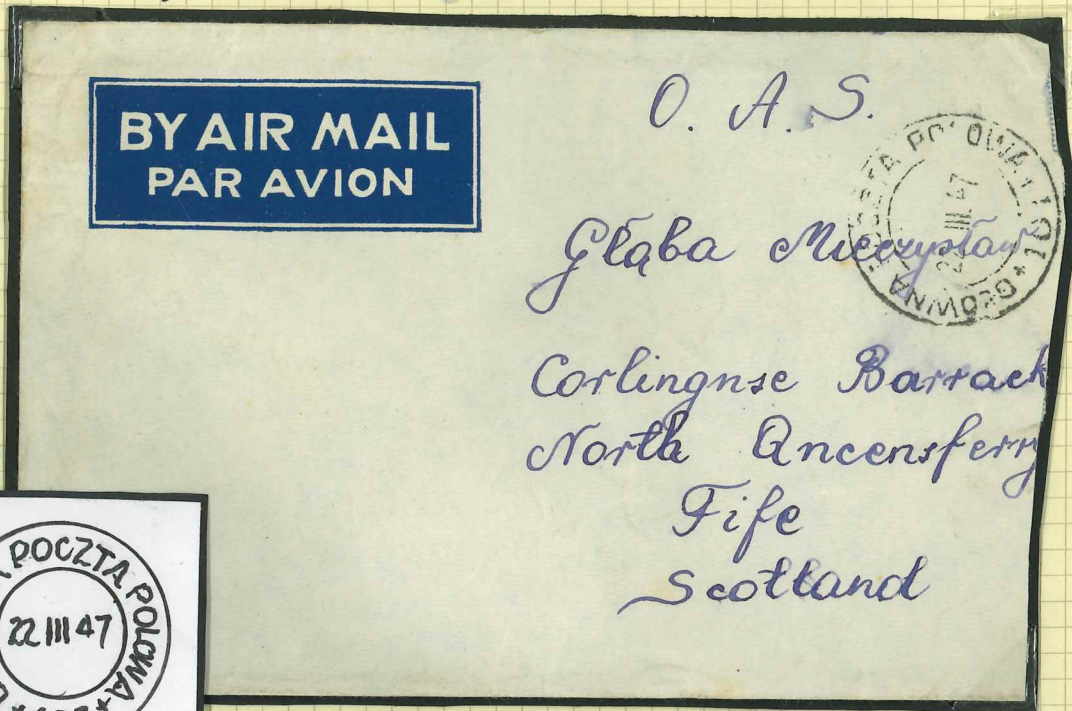


Tenpence airmail - trilingual cachet top left - rated cover to U.S.A. franked G.V. Great Britain cancelled POCZTA POLOWA 103 based at Cassassin, Egypt: the Polish Army Reserve Training Centre H.Q. On reverse B.A.P.O. 4 15 AU 45 transit and Polish Censor 1; Deputy Chief Field Censor (British) & Wagner Type 52/11 No. 53 in purple.

Polish Forces

Główna Poczta Polowa 101

The 3rd Carpathian Brigade, then based at Cassassin.



Two covers (bottom a scan) from Polish Forces; top, free surface cover to Scotland; bottom, registered airmail to United States, franked seven G.B. stamps from three different kings to make up six-pence military airmail rate on a pre-printed and patriotic envelope registered by Polish Forces in Egypt.

Greek Forces

Attached to British groups, the Greeks used British F.O.s.



1941. F.P.O. with its number obliterated, to Alexandria.



1944 F.P.O. 69 to Alexandria, Greek attached to the RAF.



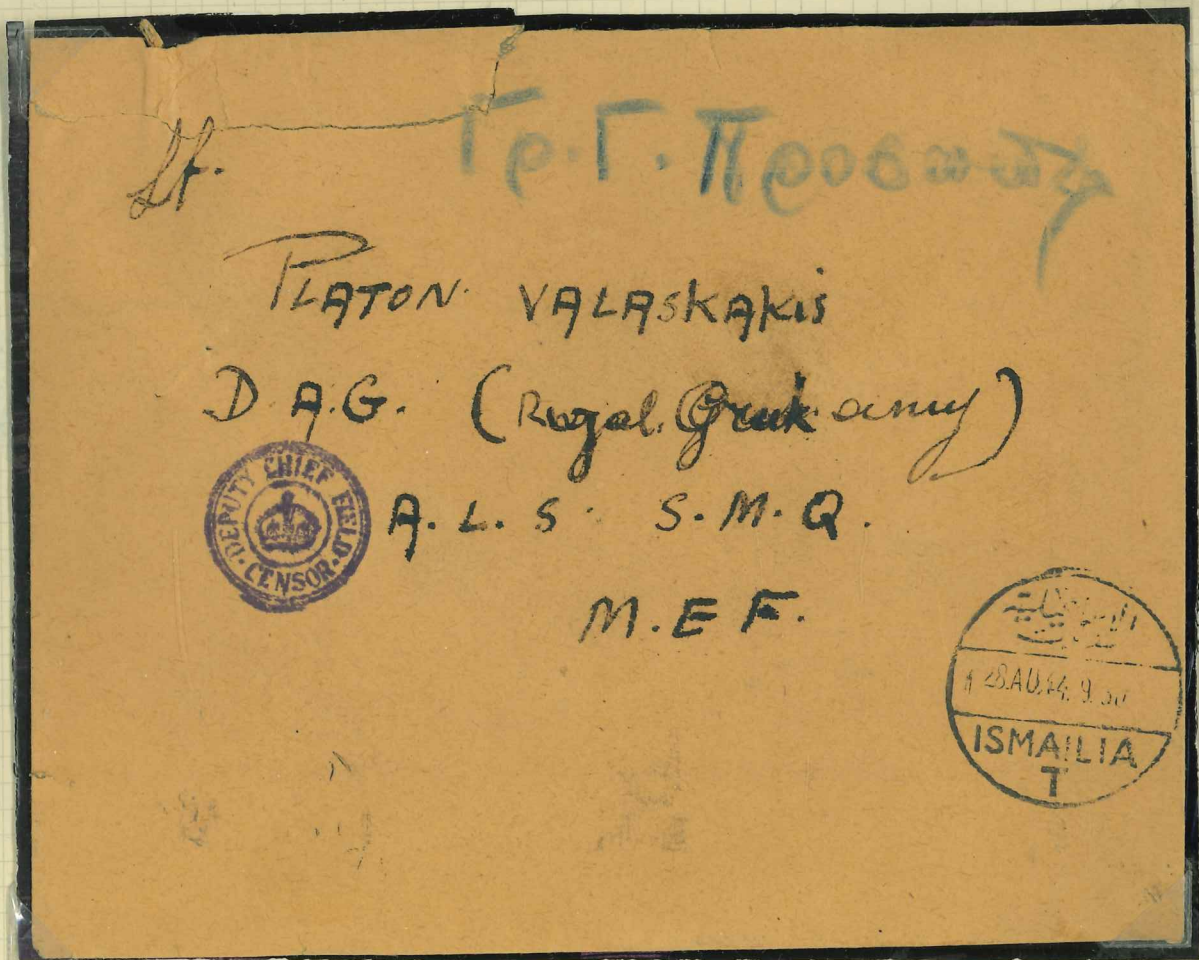
Greek Forces

16th May 1944



Two military censors and an Egyptian civil censor on 'On Active Service' letter written in Greek and endorsed 'Liquidation Officer,' with Benman's type VI roller date stamp with 'Missing Circle' variety,* sent by a Greek officer to Alexandria. *Known used 27 MR 44 to 6 JU 44.

Greek Forces



Back and front of an unfranked cover to a Greek officer within Egypt in 1944 with "It pays to lend" slogan and Base Army Post Office au verso; sent from Ismailia T with Deputy Field censor.

Greek Forces



DEPUTY CHIEF FIELD CENSOR

2nd Lieutenant
Platon Valaskakis
Liaison office
G.K.E.E.
(g.t.c.s) Royal Greek Army
M.E.F.

Two covers from December 1943 sent to a Greek officer at the headquarters of MEF based at Cairo. Both are censored Deputy Chief Field Censor.

Top: franked 10 mills Boy King posted at Cairo A, on reverse F.P.O. 171 and the 'Bonians' roller. Bottom: sent unfranked, posted Cairo C, both civilian, by Greek officer based

The "Named" Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Port Said



contrary to 'official' records where "the office closed on 24th January 1937", the cover below was clearly posted eleven days later on 4th February 1937 at 4.05 p.m.



Surface rated cover to Kensington, London posted 11 days after the 'official' closing date of this post office.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Port Said



M.P.O. Port Said opened at the Navy House on 1st March 1936 and was used by both naval and military personnel. Few covers have been recorded; office closed 24 January 1937, according to 'official' records, but seen next sheet.



Unsealed Christmas card envelope franked 3 milliwatts surface rate allowed within the Concession, to England, franked and posted on the first day of issue of the stamp.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Port Said



For some reason, not as yet established, very few covers have been recorded emanating from M.P.O. Port Said. It must therefore be assumed that this datestamp rate.

Surface rated ten millièmes cover from Port Said's military post office to Stratford on Avon posted 11 AP 36 at 8.05A.

The Postal Concession

The "Named" Military Datestamps



M.P.O. Moascar 2

dated
1 FE 35



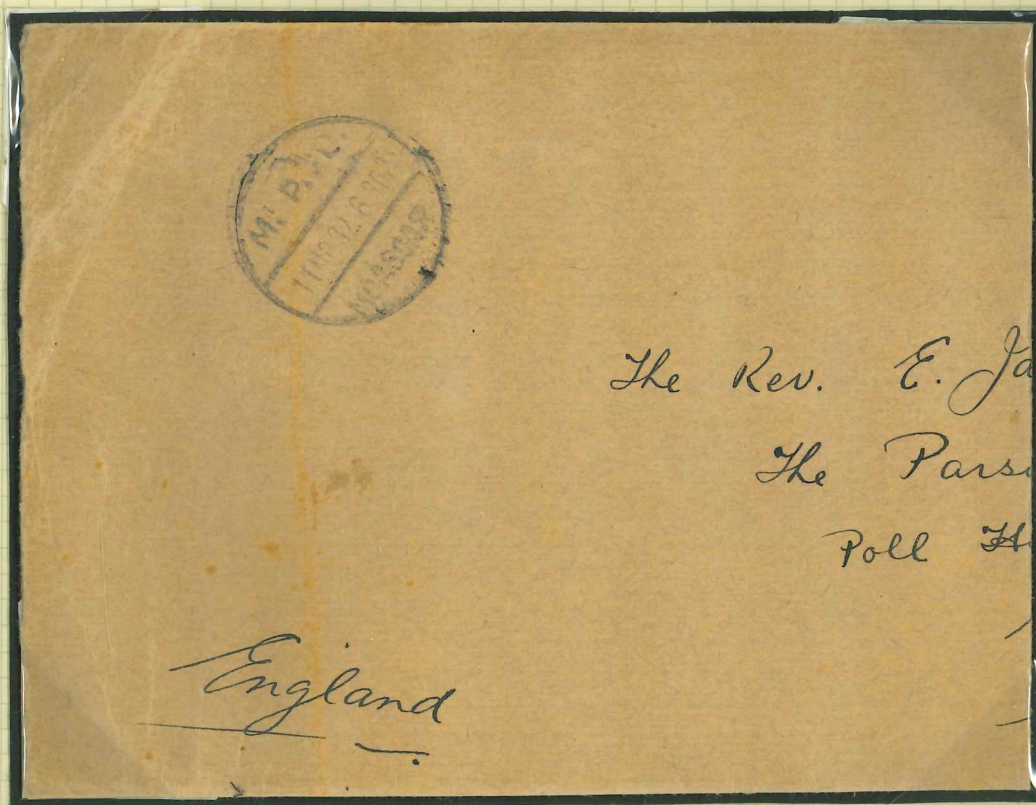
dated
7 MR 35

Two letter stamp covers to the U.K with type 2 datestamps of MPO Moascar; unusually the lower one has the stamp cancelled by the c.d.s. - it should have been the retta!

The Postal Concession
The "Named" Military Datestamps



M.P.O. Moascar 1

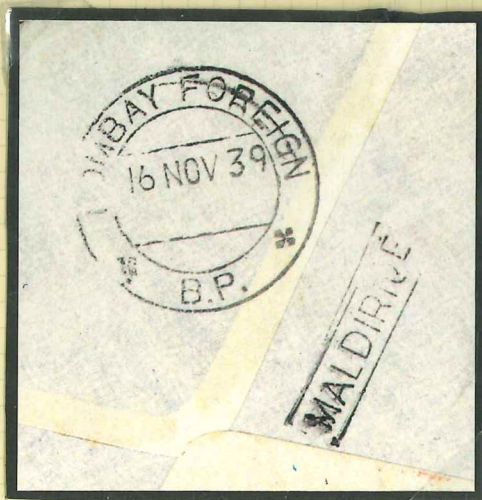
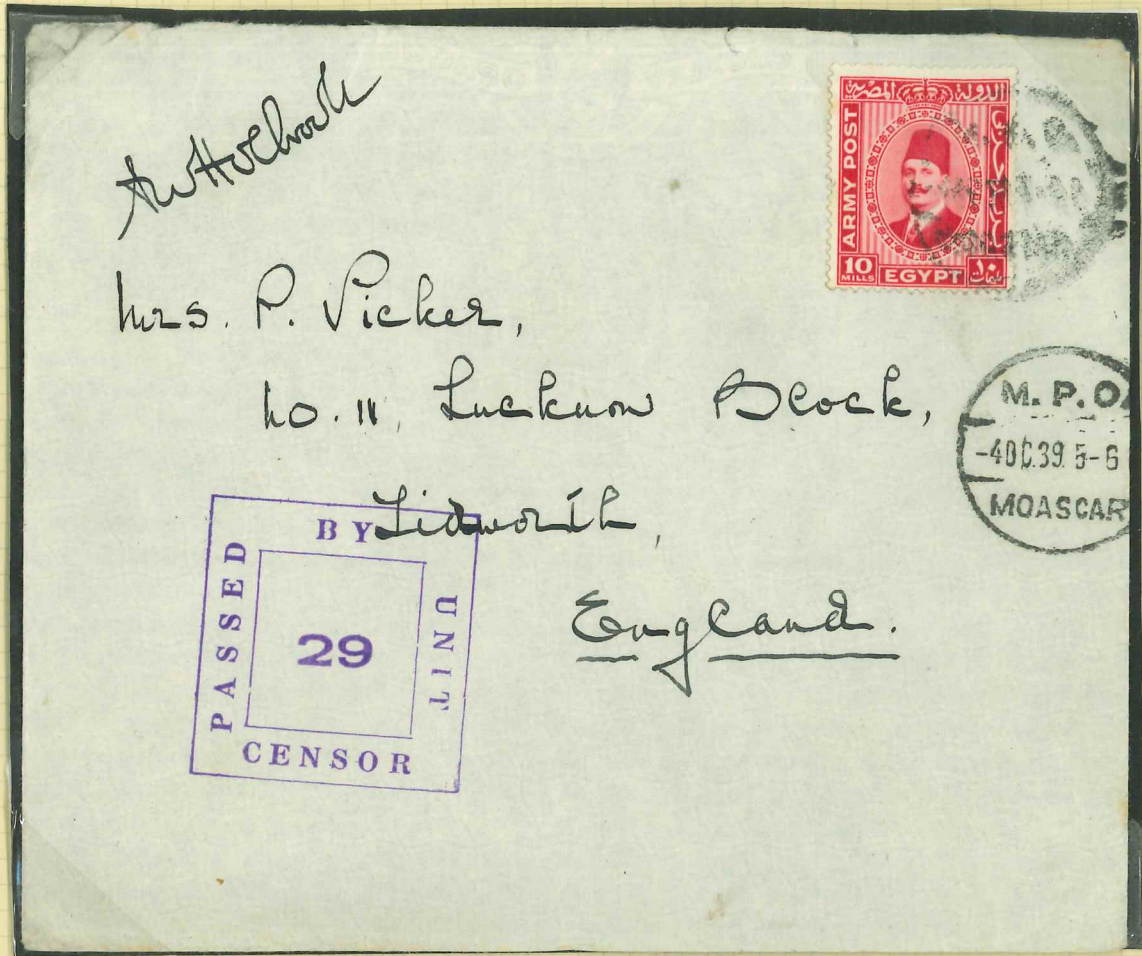


This type 1 datestamp differs from type 2; the letters M.P.O. are spread wider and the letters in Moascar are taller.

Letter franked on reverse 1 piastre postal seal cancelled by purple retta posted M.P.O. Moascar on 11th November 1932, the earliest recorded date for a short-lived mark.

The "Named" Military Poststamps

MPO Moascar



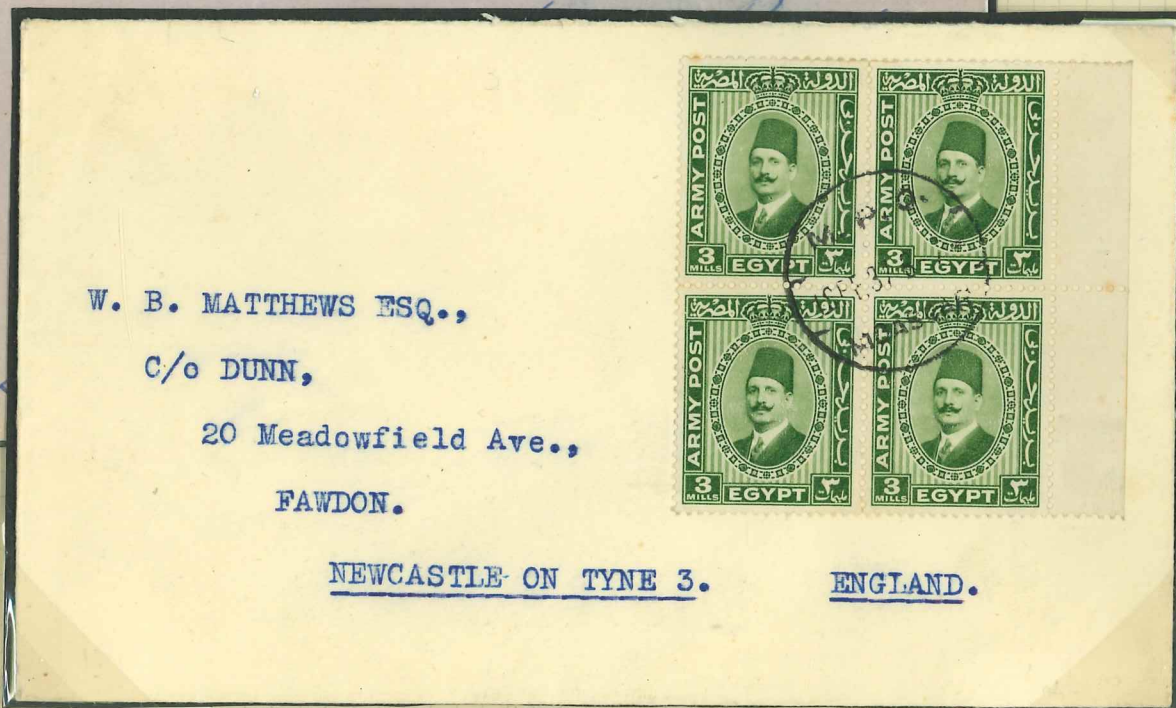
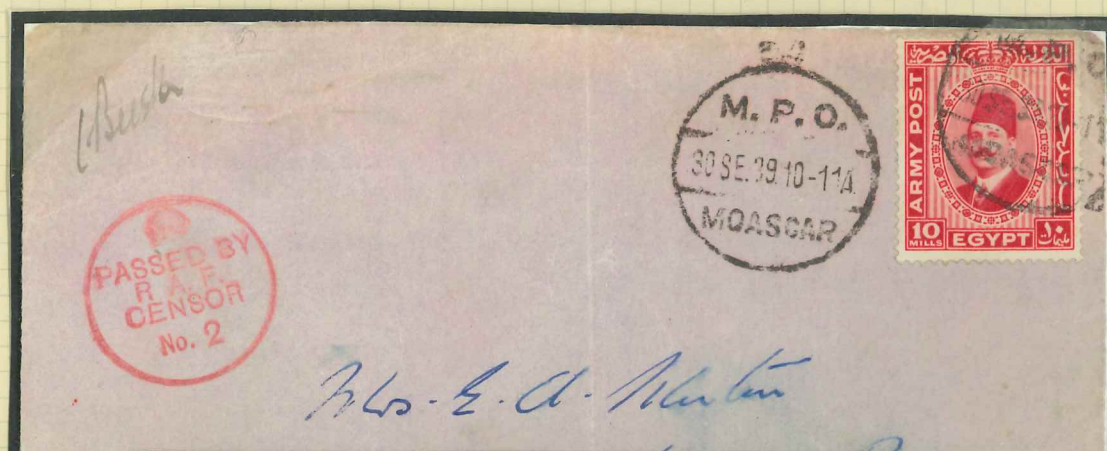
Bombay Foreign BP and Mal Dirive
from reverse

Surface rated cover to a block at Tidworth Barracks with boxed censor 29 from Moascar 4 0C 39; the clerk mis-read Lucknow Block for Lucknow in India, hence Mal Dirive.

The Postal Concession
The "Named" Military Datestamps



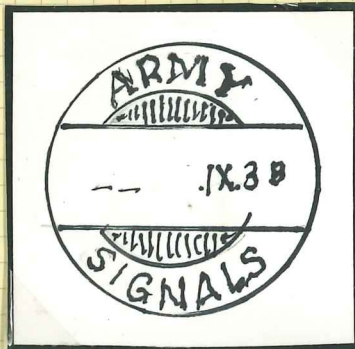
M. P. O. Moascar



A censored surface rate cover and a twelve millimetre 'rate' 'philatelic' cover with one of the two Moascar handstamps.

Named Military Datestamps

M.P.O. 1 Marsa Matruh



Army Signals date-stamp - usually reserved for the telegram?

Surface rated cover to Scotland dated 6 SE 39 from the south Mediterranean coast franked 10 millimes Fuad Army Post stamp cancelled by very short-lived MPO 1 Marsa Matruh.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

M. P. O. Mersa Matruh



10/1/36
No 847822. Gnr. B. Burke

herewith find King the
Stamp Dealer
Spewich
England

Two surface rate covers with the two different MPO datestamps
spelt Mersa Matruh; both covers date from May 1936.

Named Military Datestamps

M. P. O. EL DABA

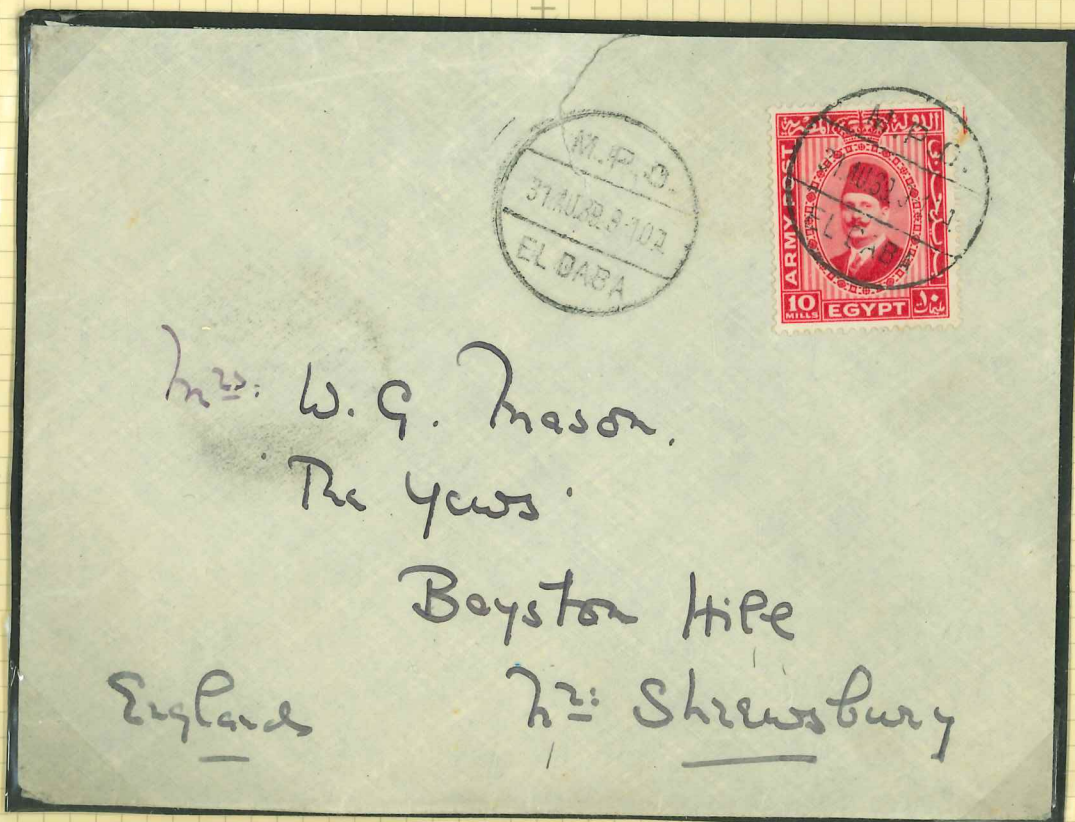


Crest from reverse



Alex transit, same day

One of only five recorded covers used from M. P. O. EL DABA, the one below is one of two posted on 31 AU 39; earliest is 26 AP 39, one is dated 6 JU 39, the fifth which is dated 6 OC 39, has the bottom segment blanked out but it is the civilian el-Dabaia alongside that confirms its origin.



Cover franked Fuad 10 millimes Army Post stamp from el-Daba, about 100 miles west of Alexandria, to Shrewsbury

1939 M.P.O. EL DABA

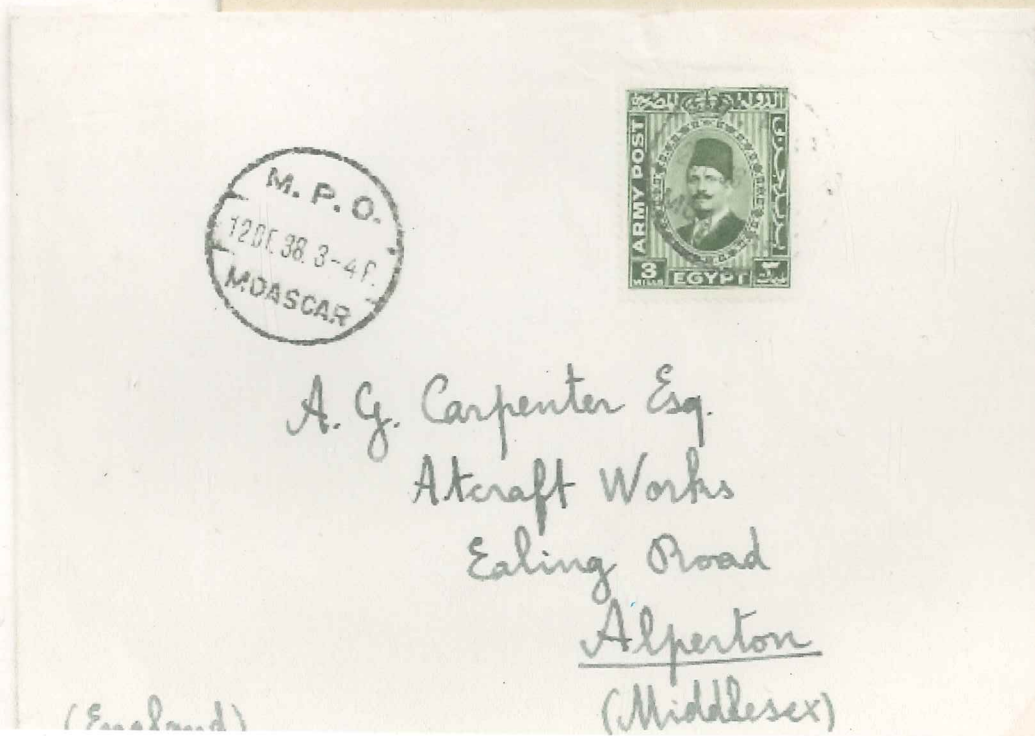
Very rare. 1-2 known.



3 days before
War started.

Mr. W. G. Mason,
The Yews
Boyston Hill
England Mr. Shrewsbury

1938 M.P.O. M



A. G. Carpenter Esq.
Aircraft Works
Ealing Road
Alperton
(Middlesex)

(England)

nd.

The Postal Concession

The "Named" Military Datestamps



M.P.O. Cairo type 4



*Unusual military postcard franked 10 millimes Fiat
posted at M.P.O. Cairo in February 1938 to England.*

EGYPT.

1936
26. NO
CAIRO
H

South Africa
Clarendon, Cape.

Mrs. Jean Morris
"Stela" Doris Road.

CAIRO
26.10.36 8.30P



with
Army Post" ad
10 mills. x ten
3 mills. x eight

Cancelled:
M.P.O.
G. H. Q.
-7AU36 1. -P.
CAIRO

26 NO. 36. 9.50A.
Although contriv
this is a very
scarce to rare
military c.d.



برید جوی
PAR AVION

EGYPT

BRITISH FORCES

CIRCULAR DATESTAMPS USED BY MILITARY POST OFFICES
DURING THE POSTAL CONCESSION PERIOD 1932-1939

W.O. = War Office



ج.ب.ب. = War?

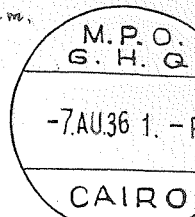


S.R. cds. 31 m.m.

Very rare.

Seen in red on a definite "philatelic" prepared a/c.

possibly not put into gen. use

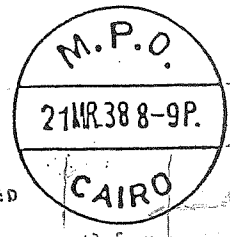


S.R. cds. 27 m.m.

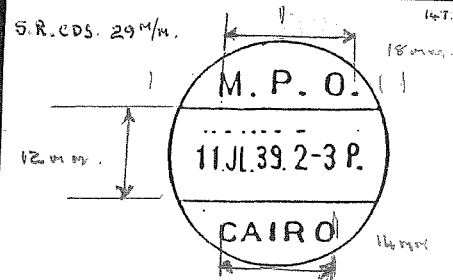
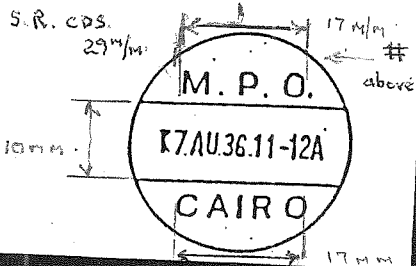
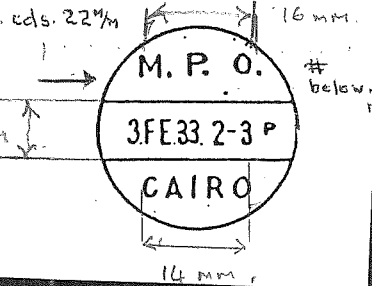


close to outer edge CURVED.

S.R. cds. 28 m.m.



CURVED



Two and possibly three of these types continued to be used after the introduction of censorship, the earliest censored military cover is dated 10th Oct. 1939.

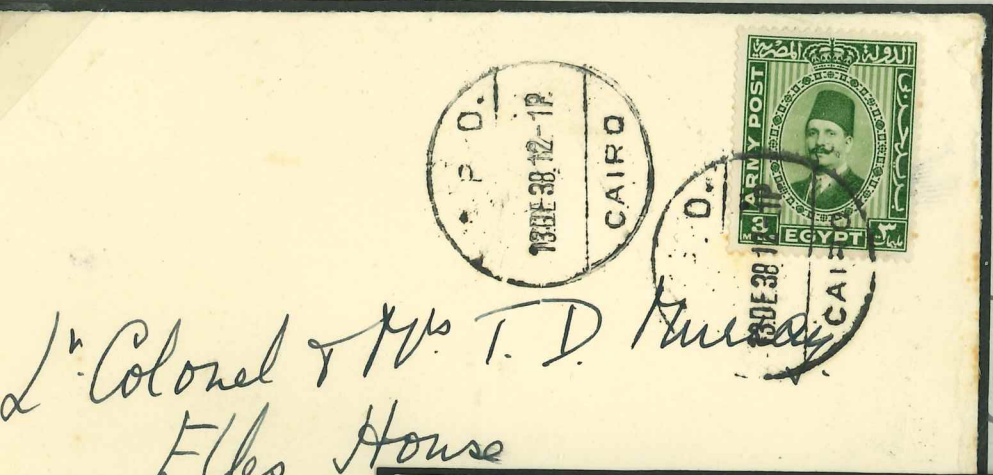
The "Named" Military Datestamps

MPO Cairo

As postcards cost the same to post as for letters, they are only seldom seen.



MPO Cairo type 5



chau

ven octo

Reaching
Yarn

Just a card. I expect you are busy in the garden just now. The flowers out here are lovely.
Love W.



Mr Stevens

5 Magdala Road
Hayling Island
Hants
England



— Publ. and Copyright by Leinert & Landrock, Cairo. —

Surface, postcard and greeting card rates all MPO Cairo type 5.

The 'Named' Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Cairo
Type 5



Surprisingly late use of named location even a month into war.



Airmail cover franked 6x10 millimes Fuad Army Post stamps cancelled MPO Cairo type 5 on 7 Oct 39, censored by R.A.F. Censor T with receiving cachet of Air Ministry 14 OCT, re-addressed and a second dated receiving cachet in red.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

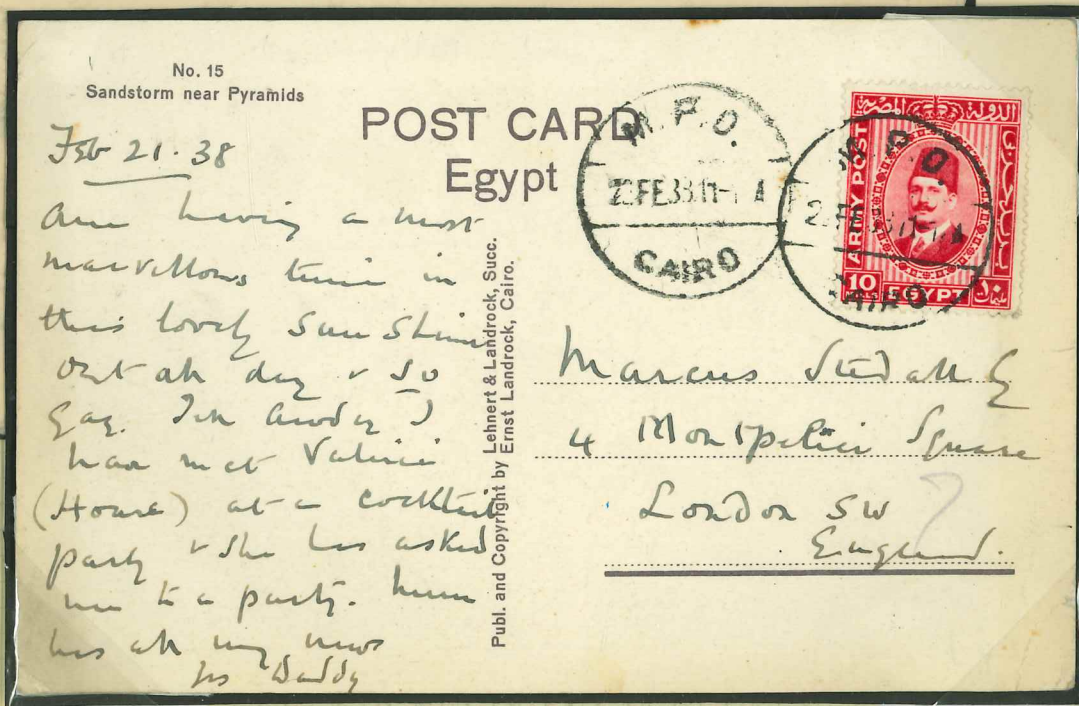


Type A on A/38 control

MPO Cairo



"if they are purchased in quantities of five the change difficulty does not arise". Hence use of blocks of four: (Official NAAF notice)



Two surface rate covers and a postcard to U.K. all with Type A.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Cairo

ERD

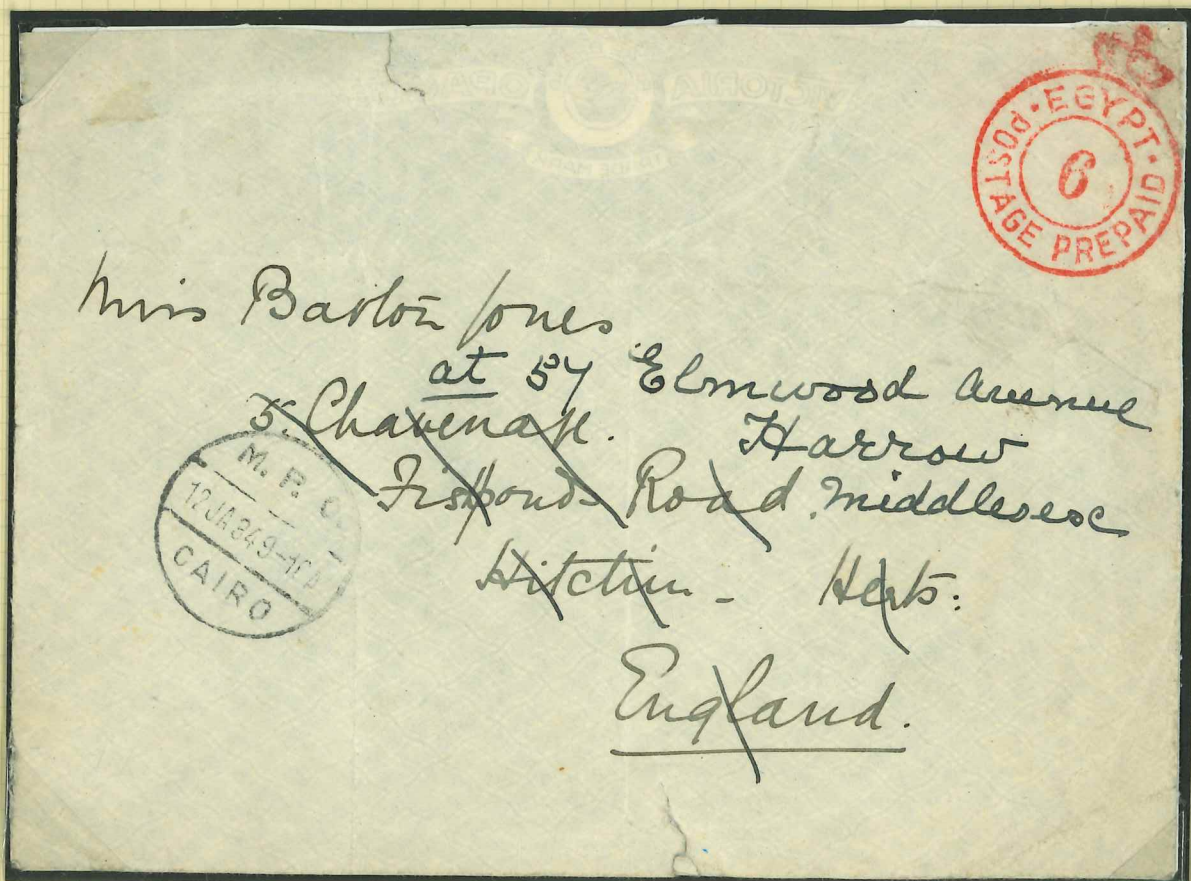
26 SE 34
(below)



LRD

6 FE 37

Type 3



Letter seal position 16 on a pane of 20 cancelled 10x9 dot netta and cds of Htelwin all on reverse of cover and dated 18 JA 34, so six days transit; later re-addressed to Harrow.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

MPO Cairo



Type 2; earliest recorded date is 26 SE 35, latest being 6 FE 37



Two first day covers Cairo to England; top is 3 millimetre greeting card rate, bottom is the surface rate, both type 2.

The Postal Concession
The 'Named' Military Datestamps



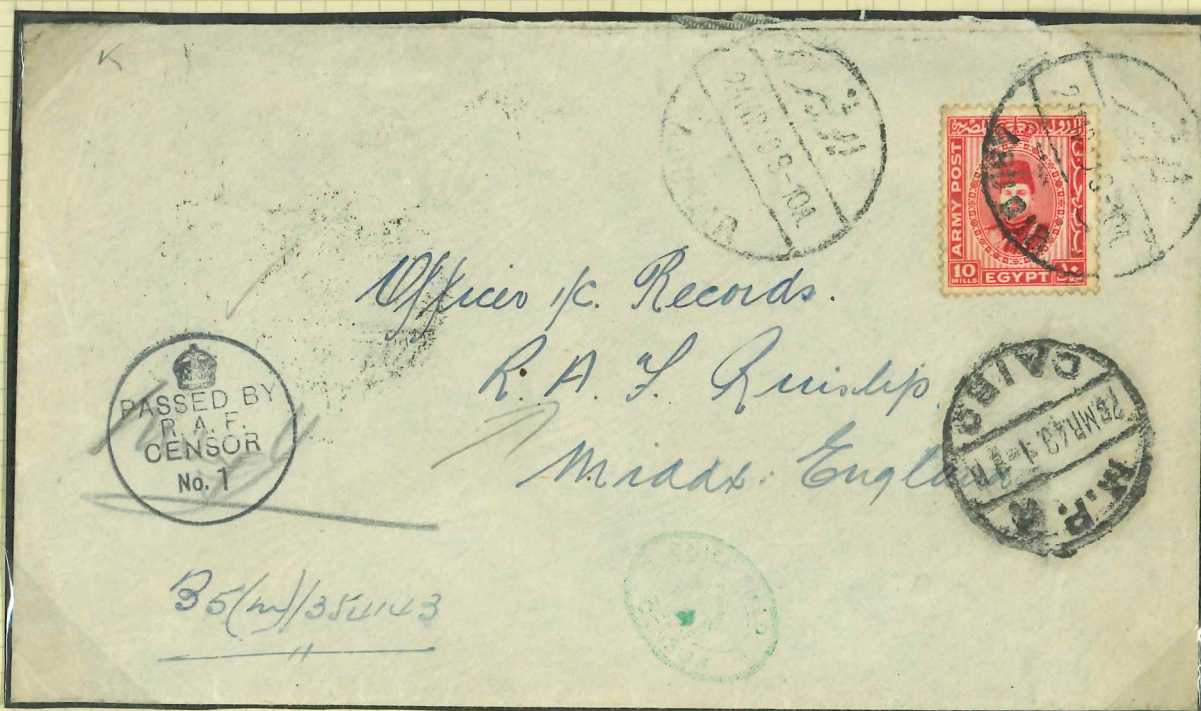
Earliest recorded:
1-11-32

Latest recorded:
11-4-40

M.P.O. Cairo type 1

On reverse:

Manuscript: Meteorological Office 103 Maintenance
Unit R.A.F. Egypt (located at Abu Qir)
Strikes: Alexandria-Cairo T.P.O. - 24 MR 40
Cairo A (transit) - same day
BPO E602 27 MR 40



Surface rate cover censored RAF Censor No 1 at Abu Qir and
Abu Qir civil post office, travelled by rail (TPO) to Cairo and
finally censored Chief Field Censor in green at HQ. B.T.E.
Cairo before MPO Cairo datestamp type 1 dated 28 MR 40.

The Postal Concession

The "Named" Military Datestamps



M.P.O. Cairo type 1



Surface rate cover with 7th Hussars logo on the back-flap to Portsmouth posted 6th March 1936 from M.P.O. Cairo; received type 1 cds, the earliest that pre-dates concession.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

Incoming airmail

M. P. O. Alexandria

Au verso:

11-MA36 7:45P

11-MA36 8:30P



Two datestamps from the reverse showing time of transit at Alexandria airport and receiver of M. P. O. Alexandria.



Incoming cover franked George V photogravure 3d cancelled at Duns, Berwickshire at 12-15 P.M. on 3 MA36 to a Naval lieutenant on H. M. S. Fury off Alexandria, Egypt.

The "Named" Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Alexandria



Two ten milliemas first day covers and a three milliemas card cover all to England showing three of the four datestamps of the "Named" military post office at Alexandria.

The Named Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Abu Sueir with incorrect date-slug 1957 for 1937

Both top
and bot-
tom have
1957 for
1937; the
error had
lasted at
least 3
days!



Miss, Erica Edwards
120, Bryn Road,
Swansea,
Glam-shire
South Wales
CH

GREAT BRITAIN



M.P.O. Abu
Sueir in
blue - got
boxed 'T'
in Egypt
and charge
of 4^d for
'overweight'
but in fact
for airmail.
The cachet
changes 'oi'
to grammes,
20 grammes
was surface,

boxed advice au verso concerning airmail
rates for letters to Egypt and other countries.

The Postal Concession

The "Named" Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Abu Qir



The Postal Concession

The "Named" Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Abu Sueir



Surface rate cover franked 10 millimes
Fuad Army Post to England, cancelled
in blue at R.A.F. Flying Training School
M.P.O. Abu Sueir. Why in an age of war-
time censorship was this cds allowed
to continue until 7 Oct 40 struck in blue?
black



Military Censorship

Hobbs' second edition illustrates ten censorship
cachets, three each for the Royal Air Force and
the Royal Navy and four for the Army. They are
rectangular (3), circular, hexagonal, square, oval,
triangular and one in the shape of a tombstone.

The 'Named Military Datestamps

M.P.O. Abu Sueir

10 AP 40 ? 05P

Surprisingly, the use of this date-stamp well into the war, continued to indicate the origin of the mail at M.P.O. Abu Sueir despite R.A.F. Censor No. 25 struck in red with M.P.O. Abu Sueir struck in blue. The civilian date-stamp of Abu Suwer and B.P.O. E.602 dated 13 AP 40 transits are on the reverse.



Very late use of MPO Abu Sueir

On active service 'honour' envelope franked 4 x 10 millèmes Farouk Army Post stamps cancelled MPO Abu Sueir sent to Westcliff-on-Sea in Essex.

The "Named" Military Datastamps

MPO Abu Sueir



13 DE 37



latest recorded
in black 21 N039

Two covers with MPO Abu Sueir in black; top is surface rate to England, bottom is airmail, "philatelic", and against Concession regulations as it is addressed to B.C. Canada.

The Postal Concession

Field Post Offices

F.P.O. 556

6 AU 43

Geneifa 1942

to

1946?

By the date of this letter, the Mediterranean Sea had been largely cleared of Italian/Axis aircraft thus enabling civilian passengers and mail to cross it.

A. F. W3078.

J. D. & Co., Apsley.

ACTIVE

SERVICE

[Up to three letters may be forwarded in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]

Aug 5th 1943.


Address:— @

Mrs J C Dunn

58 Horseley Heath

Tipton Staffs.

Signature }
Name only } J C Dunn.



Censored O.A.S. cover on pre-printed form A.F. W3076 & airmail letter franked 10^d George VI definitive to Tipton Staffs. sent probably from Geneifa, Egypt 6-AU-43

The Postal Concession

Field Post Offices

F.P.O. 501

22 SE 40

R.A.F. Ismailia



Civilian censored, but forces airmail cover franked fifty millimes from a Cpl. A.W. Luck at R.A.F. Ismailia to U.S.A. Stratford, Connecticut sent 22 SE 1940, Egypt stamps.

Field Post Offices

To and from F.P.O. 375 in 1949 and also to and from Florence



F.P.O. 375

This date stamp was located at G.H.Q. M.E.L.F. in 1949; top, a cover to Florence sent Lt. Col. Lewis to Candeli (on back) - 6 days.

Civil censors

Right is a real photo postcard of Chiesa S. Croce in Florence to Spr. Lewis in Italy at Port Tewfik.

The facade is modern but said to be very like the old one. The statue (of Dante) is just awful. You see the blank wall, opposite right? Behind it is a cornice cloister, like the Sta. Maria Novella; but to the right of that is another by Brunellesco (Renaissance), and obviously wish I had a photo of it for you. But I couldn't find a single one. Slender grey columns, light, simple arches, buff walls, and round grey bas-reliefs. So worn they are almost gone between the arches. Very green grass, full of ox-eye daisies, with a great well in the middle. Pale blue sky. And absolute quiet. Lovely.

Above the arches is one floor of rooms, with a brown roof. But you don't see the rooms, because half the floor is also a loggia, as in private houses.



21060218 Spr Lewis EG
53 Port Squadron
RE
Port Tewfik
M.E.L.F.



Egypt

The Postal Concession

Field Post Offices



F.P.O. 372 allocated to the 2nd Armoured Division P. U.

The date stamp was either captured or destroyed April 1941 in Libya; used in Egypt between 1 JA 41 and 12 MR 41 only.



Unusual cover, double the 40 m in the Western Desert moving westwards towards Libya.

Registered Posts

Neither outgoing nor incoming registered post could claim concessionary rates proved by an example of each (military)

ON ACTIVE SERVICE



W. Ward



Mrs. J.H. Ward,
Keelby,
Habrough.
Lincolnshire.



*Gift from a soldier
contents one pair silk stockings
sender
W. Ward
21000000
M.E.F.*

*Use of
the 2/6
brown
at FPO
293 at
13 Corps
H.Q.*



Major G.S.M. Burton,
15, Sh. Nabatat,
Kasr el Dubara,
Cairo.
Egypt.

REGISTERED.
Handled With Care



F.P.O. 293

The Postal Concession



F.P.O. 245

Allocated to
7 Armoured
Division
14 JU 40 to
8 JA 41

20 DE 40



Two 10 gramme airmail covers; top, censored RAF Hobbs type A No. 19 to Kiambu, Kenya (date stamp on verso 2 DE 40); bottom, 'Honour' form A.F. W3078 censored Army Hobbs type D No. 131 to Hereford, England.

The Postal Concession

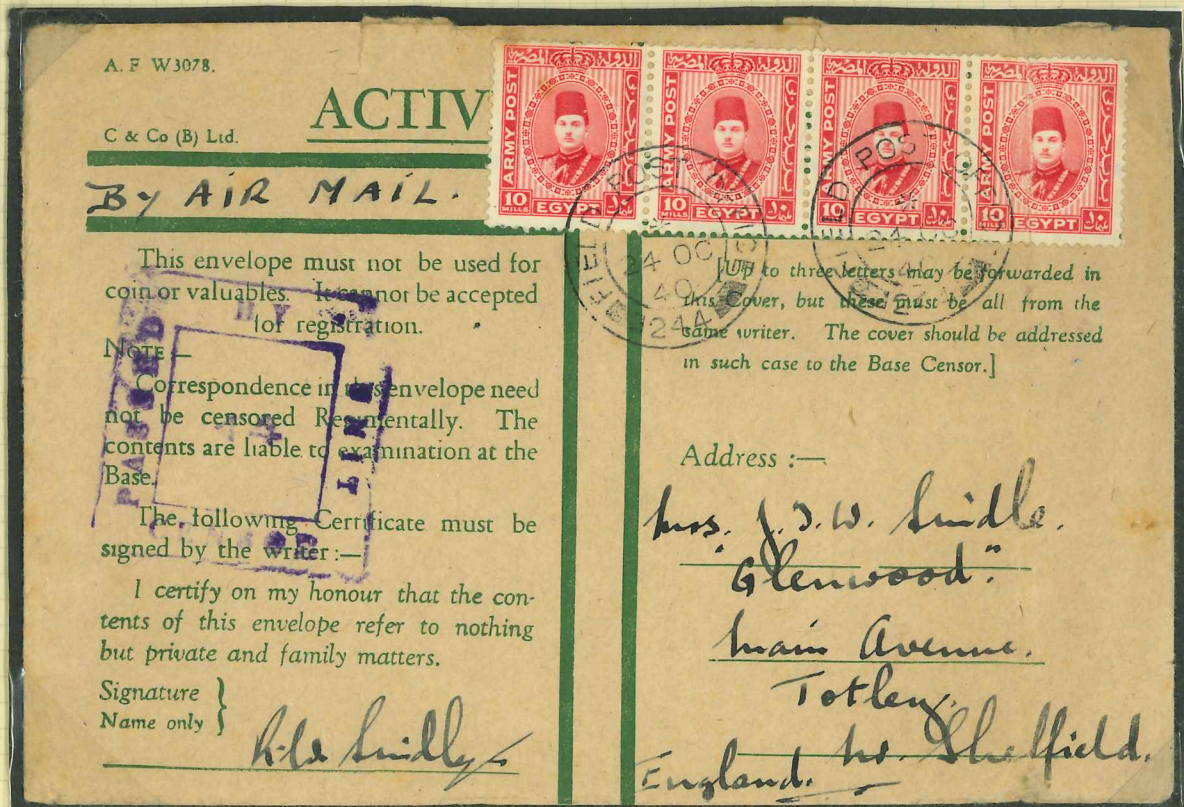
Field Post Offices

F.P.O. 244

Allocated to 7th Armoured Division
from 14 JU 40 to AP 41 (Proud)



This circular date-stamp moved from Egypt to Iraq with 151 Brigade 5th Division from November 1941 and into Libya from February to May 1942.



Airmail censored cover cancelled F.P.O. 244 dated 24 OC 40 to Sheffield on strip of four Farouk Army Post stamps.

The Postal Concession Field Post Offices



F.P.O. 243
dated to
26 NO 40
on airmail
cover to
Scotland

F.P.O. 243
dated to
24 NO 40
on airmail
to India

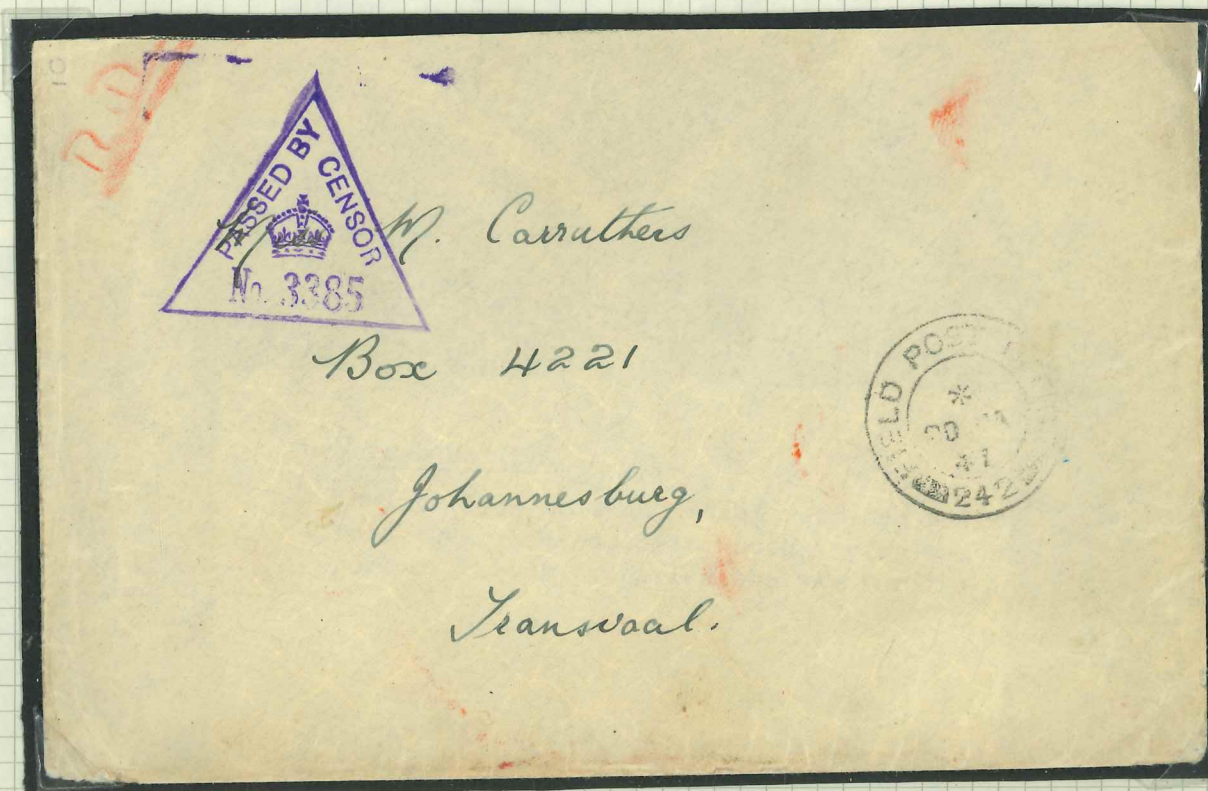


F.P.O. 243 was allocated to 7th Armoured Division from 14
JU 40 until 5 JA 41, possibly until as late as 31 JA 43.

The Postal Concession

Field Post Offices
F.P.O. 242 dated 20 MA 41

Proud indicates on page 34J that F.P.O. 242 was allocated to Abukir from 1.5.41 to 1.7.41 so it would seem to be short-lived.



Unfranked cover censored Benians' Army Censor A2 numbered 3385 but sent to Johannesburg by a member of South African Forces from Field Post Office 242.

The Postal Concession



F.P.O. 201

Allocated to
 3 Battalion
 Coldstream
 Guards most
 probably at
 Heliopolis.

Surface rate cover censored RAF Hobbs type C



Seventy mills, the airmail rate for 20 grammes, arrived 10 MAY 41
 (ms on reverse) taking 67 days due to loss of Mediterranean route.

The Postal Concession

Field Post Offices



Block 12 DE 40



AIR MAIL
PASSED BY CENSOR
No. 793
Mr E.B. TAPLEY
c/o J.S. MORRE Exp.
92 LONDON ROAD
SOUTHBOROUGH



BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
Mrs. TILLEY.
13 KENT ROAD,
GRAVESEND,
KENT,
ENGLAND.

NEWS

Two 40 millimetres airmail covers from 7th Armoured Division HQ franked strip with F.P.O. 189 dated 30 DE 40 and block F.P.O. 189 dated 25 MR 41 both to England; from 5 line of Communication P.U.

The Postal Concession
Field Post Offices
F.P.O. 197 dated 30 DE 42

Passed by Benians' Army Censor 2 number 1209.



Military airmail cover franked one shilling and four pence George VI from F.P.O. 197 to Rhos-on-Sea, Wales.

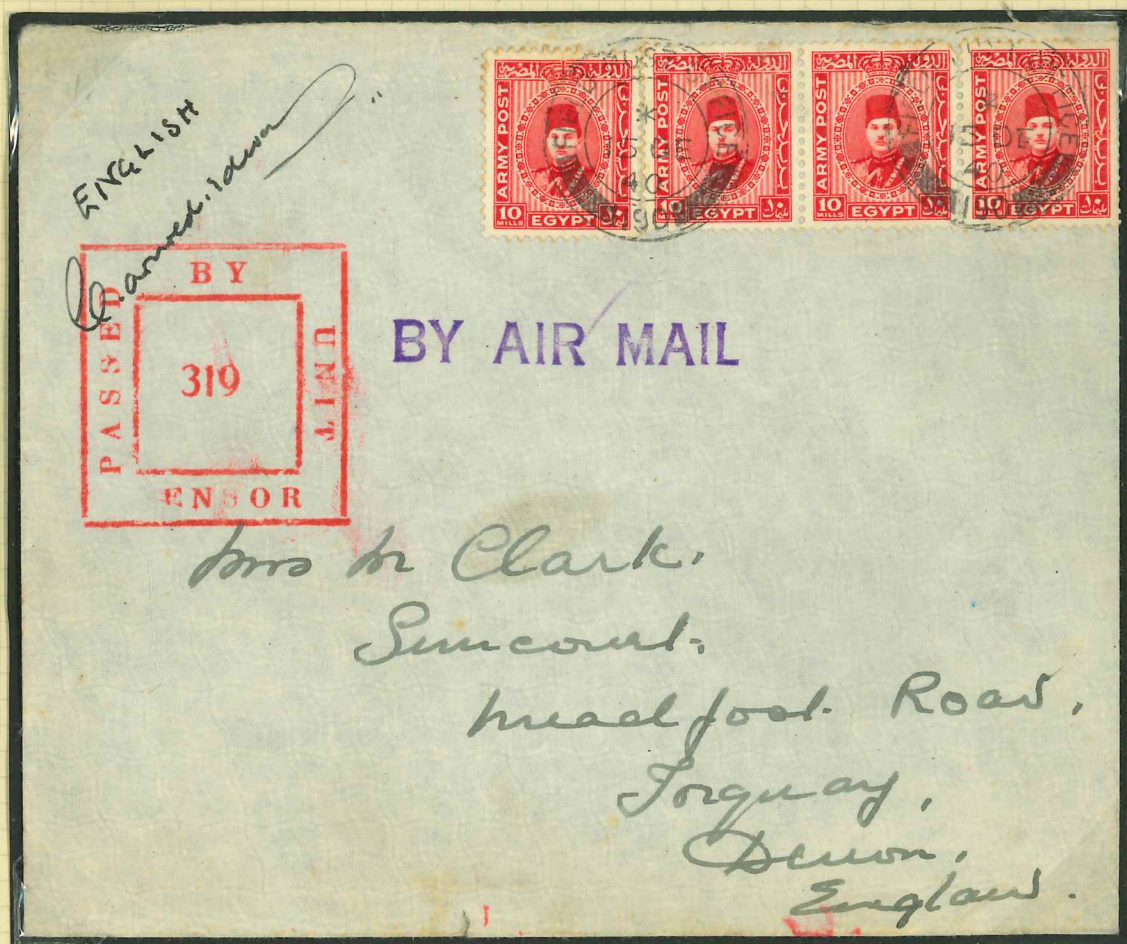
The Postal Concession

Field Post Offices



F.P.O. 190

This circular date-stamp was allocated to General Headquarters, Cairo.



Censored by Army boxed censor 319 in red, this airmail cover is franked strip of four Farouk Army Post stamps cancelled F.P.O. 190 15 DE 40 sent G. H. Q. Cairo to Torquay.

The Postal Concession
Field Post Offices



F.P.O. 188 allocated to Abbassia

A. F. W3078

ACTIVE SERVICE

[Crown Copyright Reserved]

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE :—
Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The contents are liable to examination at the

[Up to three letters may be inserted in this Cover, but these must be all from the same writer. The cover should be addressed in such case to the Base Censor.]

Address :—

DAVIDS
Street
Lands

ASSESSED BY GEZIRA SPORTING CLUB CAIRO
78
CENSOR

Next town

Mr. H.C. Down
c/o Miss Derry
MEADFIELD
BY Haselmere.
AIR MAIL Surrey. ~~England~~

23 00 40

4 30 NOV 1918

Very late
use of 3M
on 23 00 40

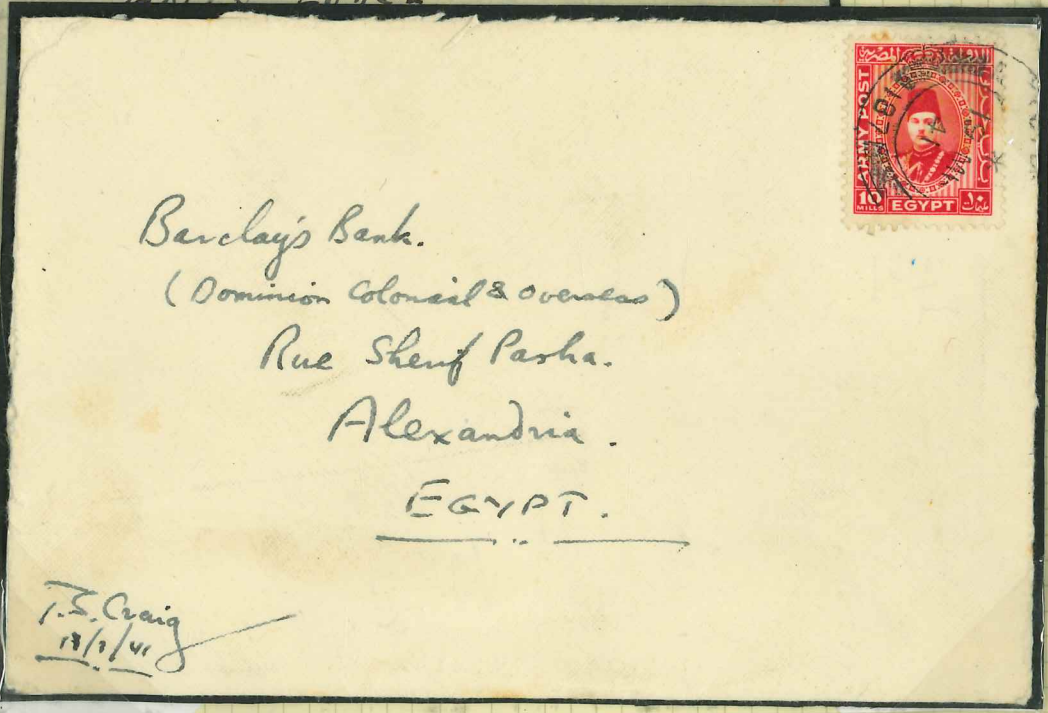


Surface and airmail rate covers and greetingcard rate stamp cancelled F.P.O. 188 located at Abbassia, Cairo in OC and NO 40

The Postal Concession
Field Post Offices



F.P.O.s 186 and 187 both allocated to Alexandria



Two covers from Alexandria; top ex- E602 now F.P.O. 186 to the UK; bottom from Mustapha Barracks. Wartime saw the rules relaxed to allow the Army Post stamp to pay the inland rate.

The Postal Concession
Field Post Offices

F.P.O.
171

F.P.O.
172

F.P.O.
173

A.F. W3078.
P.A. & Co. Ltd., London

ACTIVE **SERV**

BY AIR MAIL

This envelope must not be used for coin or valuables. It cannot be accepted for registration.

NOTE:—
Correspondence in this envelope need not be censored Regimentally. The

[Up to three in this Cover, but the same writer. The in such case to it



PASSED BY CENSOR
No. 466

BY
AIR
MAIL



Mrs J. R. Graham.

"Fair View"

King's Somborne

N1 Stockbridge

Hampshire

England

P.A. J. Graham

F. ESQ
"ORLAND"
RIGNEY HILL
URO.
WALL

PASSED BY CENSOR
32

BY
AIR
MAIL



Mrs J. R. Graham.

"Fair View"

King's Somborne.

N1 Stockbridge

Hampshire

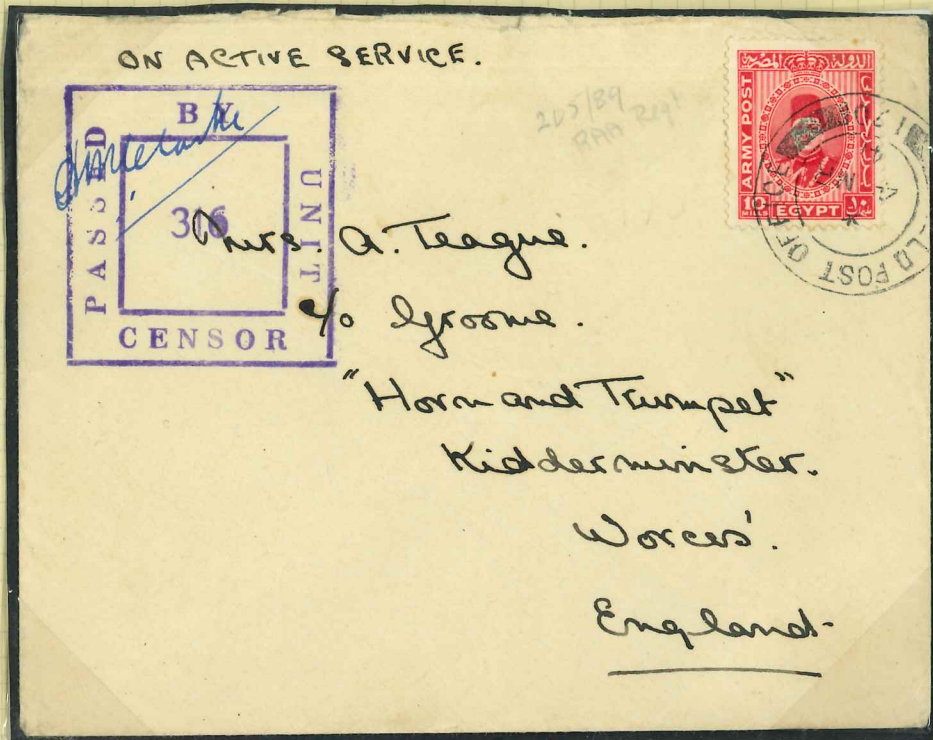
England

These three
F.P.O.s were
all allotted
to 5 Line of
Communication P.O.s

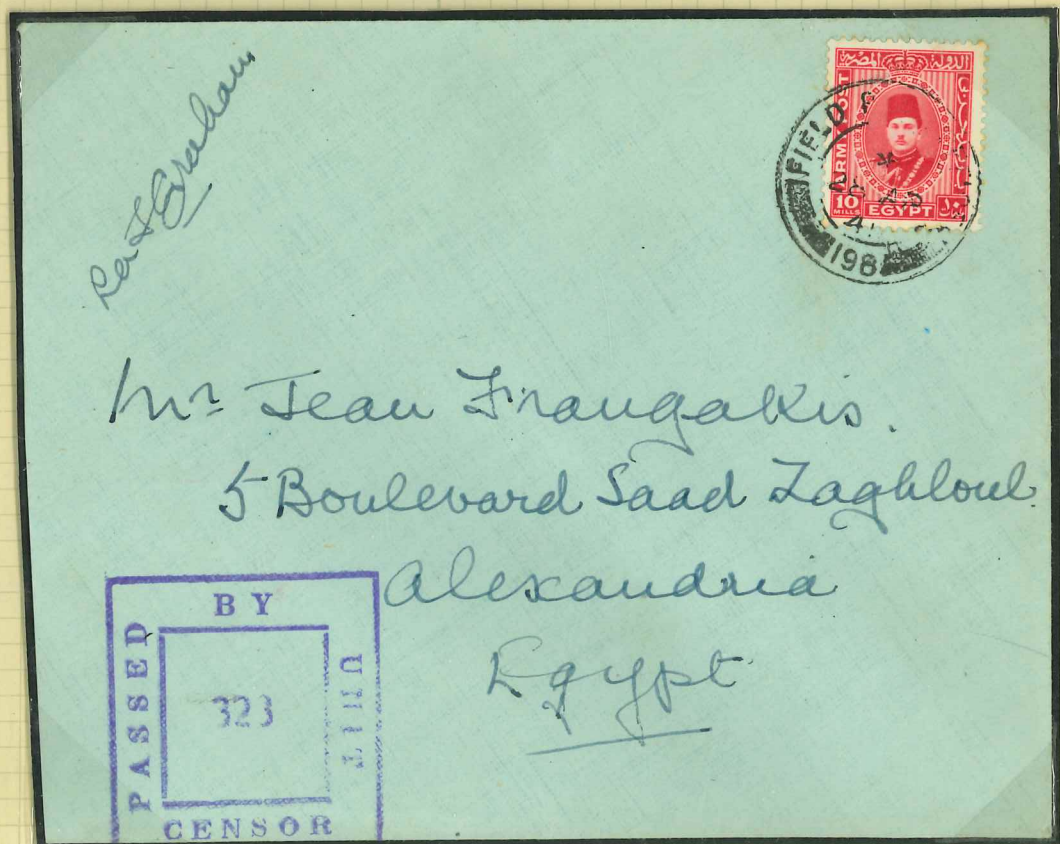
Three 40 mills airmail rate covers all franked blocks 4 Farouk.

Farouk Army Post Stamps

Surface rate to England and, below, used internally



FPO 170
at Mena
Camp at
Cairo.
4 MR 41
allotted
18 NO 40



FPO 198
on 5 line
of Comm.
Postal
Unit
28 AP 41
allotted
25 JA 41

Ten milliemes Farouk Army Post stamp used to more than defray the six milliemes internal postal rate to Alexandria.

The Postal Concession

Mail from a troopship



F.P.O. 170 allocated to Mena Camp, Cairo

Field Post Offices

These were adopted for considerations of security in war-time on 24th September 1940. Some succeeded the E600 series locations while other examples of Postal Units (P.U.s)

5th Line of Communication P.U.

FPOs 171, 172, 173

7th Armoured Division P.U.

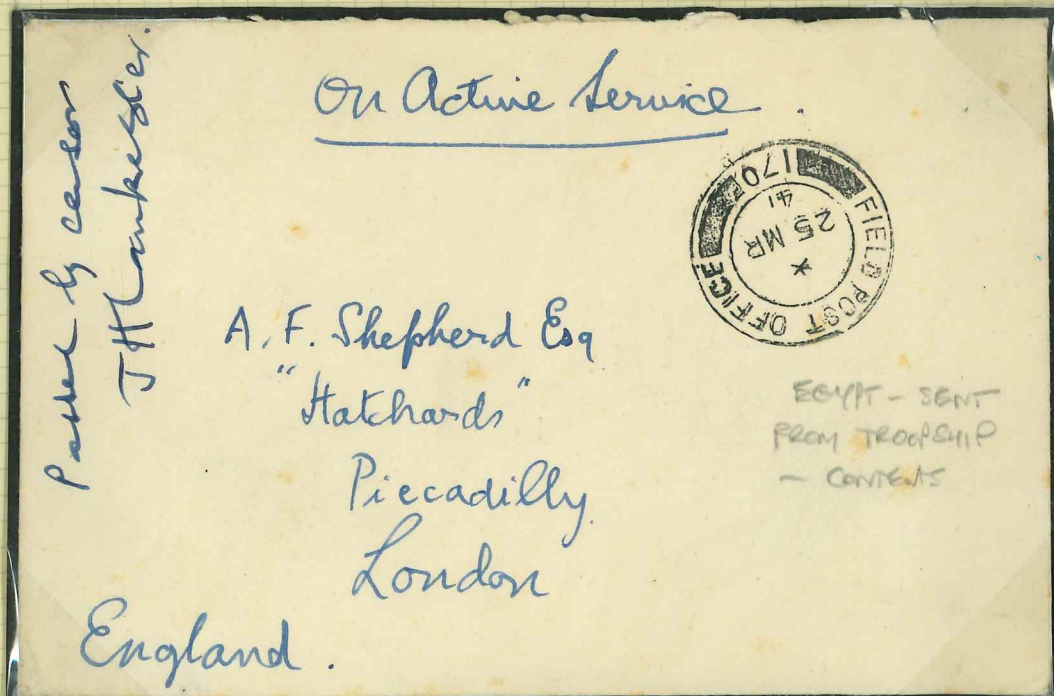
FPOs 178, 189, 242-6

15th Armoured Division P.U.

FPO 220

2nd Armoured Division P.U.

FPOs 368 to 372.



The letter contents indicate posted on a troopship and cancelled FPO 170 as a transit mark at Mena Camp, Cairo. Manuscript censor at left and OAS five days early.

The Postal Concession
Field Post Offices



FPO 169
airmail
rate to
the UK
40 mills

Mrs. Ivy Jones,
86 VICARAGE GARDENS,
ST BUDERIX



Mrs Ivy Jones,
86 VICARAGE GARDENS,
ST BUDERIX,
Nr. Plymouth,
Devonshire

FPO 169
overweight
air
rate 70
mills.

Two airmail covers dated February 1941 to Plymouth from FPO 169, Cairo; bottom is overweight doubling 30mills air surcharge.

The Postal Concession
Field Post Offices



FPOs 169 and 190 allocated to General H.Q. Cairo



Forty mills airmail rate to England 6FE41 and ten mills used locally to Alexandria dated 12 JA 41 both ex Cairo.

The Postal Concession

Field Post Offices

F.P.O. 164

Field Post Office 164 was located in Palestine from 25-9-40 until 18-4-41, transferring to the 'Middle East' between the late part of April 1941 until 7-9-41 according to Proud p. 324. By 27-7-42 the date-stamp was at Nicosia, Cyprus until 12-9-61. Thus, at least for a short period during the time in the 'Middle East', F.P.O. 164 was somewhere in Egypt.

short-lived period in Egypt?

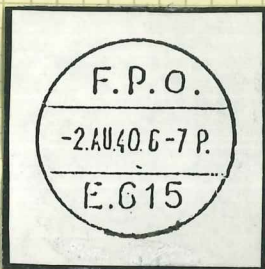


Airmail cover with boxed censor 484 to England, posted in Egypt? 27. AP. 41, the first day after transfer from Palestine.

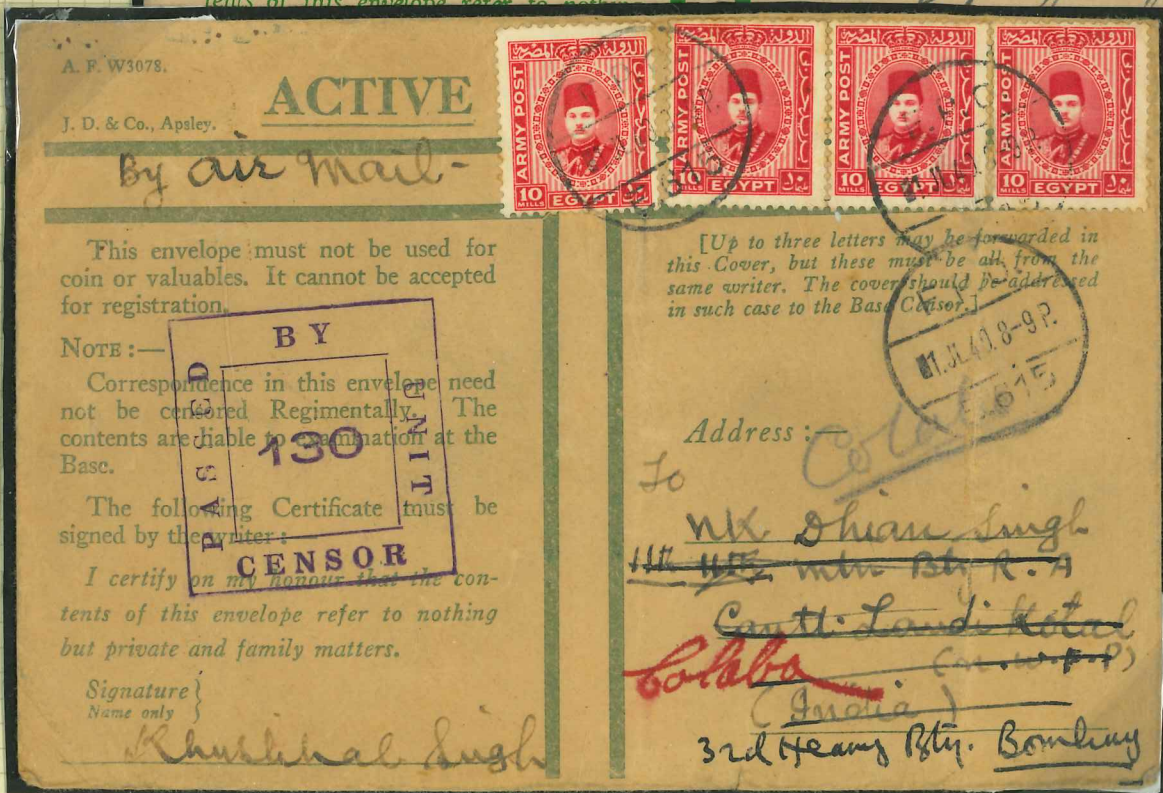
The £.600 Series

Field Post Offices

F.P.O.E. 615
was allotted
to Sidi Hamish
located in the
West'n Desert.



In use by British forces for
less than three months in 1940



Two airmail covers from F.P.O.E. 615 at Sidi Hamish posted in June and July 1940 to England and India respectively.

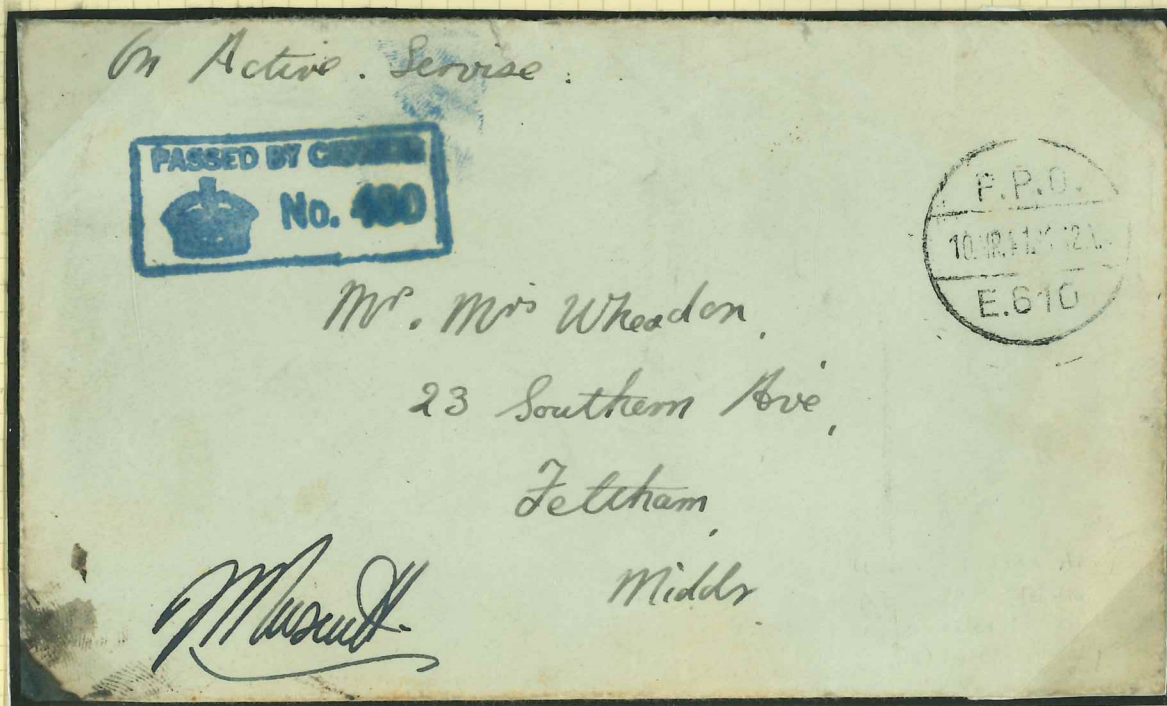
The Postal Concession
Indian Forces



FPO E610

The earliest
and latest
recorded are:
ERD SE 40
LRD JU 41

Hobbs states location as Port Tewfik but Proud mentions use at Ikingi Maryut near Alexandria as well as Port Tewfik



Two covers dated 10 MR 41 and 12 MR 41 from Indian F.P.O. E610 to England; both censored FPHS type F (ESC type A1) number 480, probably sent by British officers attached to Indian forces.

The E.600 Series

Military Post Offices

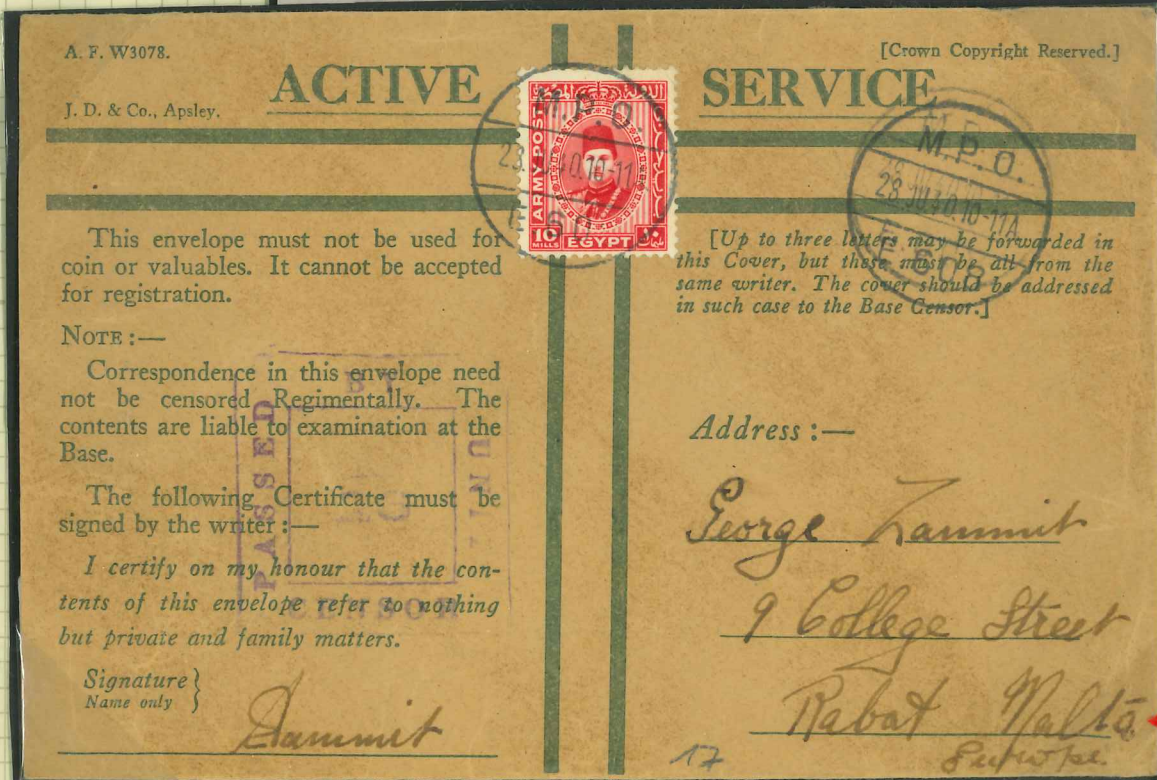
Earliest: 3 JU 40
 Latest: 23 SE 40
 in use for less
 than 3 months,
 transferred to
 the Australians



M.P.O. E. 608 was
 belatedly alloc-
 ated to Abbassia
 near Cairo July
 1940 - close to the
 H.Q.B.T.E. E. 601.



Below: -
 prohibited
 destination.

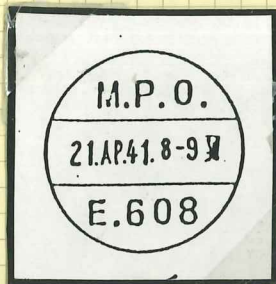


Two covers from M.P.O. E.608 at Abbassia; top airmail to UK, bottom is surface rate to Rabat, Malta with Notabile transit on reverse.

The E 600 Series

Military Post Offices

M.P.O. E.608



Original destination at Abbassia received 23 AU 40 10-11A

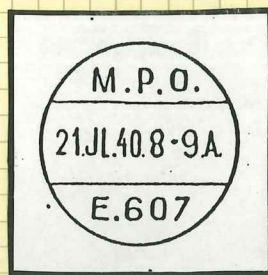


Cairo transit 17AU40 2-3P Jerusalem receiver after re-address F.P.O. 121 (on reverse)



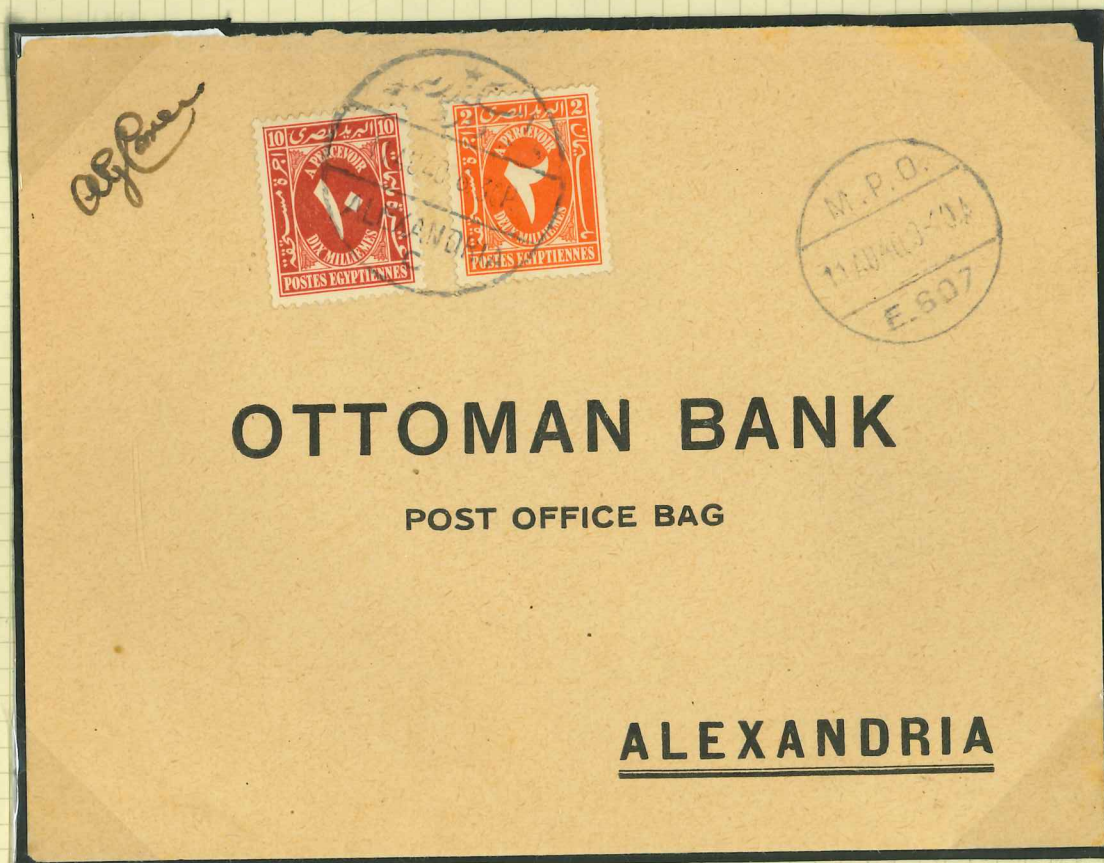
Surface rated 1/2 cover from Bournemouth and Poole 3 JUN 40 (date stamp and wavy lines), to Abbassia, Cairo 23 AU 40, re-addressed to Jerusalem, Palestine where F.P.O. 121 was applied at 11 Jaffa Road; again re-addressed in red crayon to Allenby, Tel Aviv.

*The Postal Concession
The E600 Series; Military Post Offices*



MPO E607

*This date stamp was allocated to Mustapha Barracks,
Sidi Gaber, Alexandria, Stationary Postal Unit 203
recorded in use from January 1940 to September 1940.*



*Contrary to regulations, this internal bank pre-printed
cover was posted unfranked thus attracting 12 millimes
postage dues to collect double the civil internal rate.*

The E.600 Series

Military Post Offices

MPO E.607
allotted to
Mustapha
at Sidi Gaber
Alexandria



Earliest: 18 DE 39
(bottom below).
Latest 23 SE 40
transferred to
the Australians



Mr. W. G. Smith,



Mr + Mrs. Jennings,
45. Sumatra Road,

West Hampstead,
London.

Mr. W.

England
CENSORED BY 84

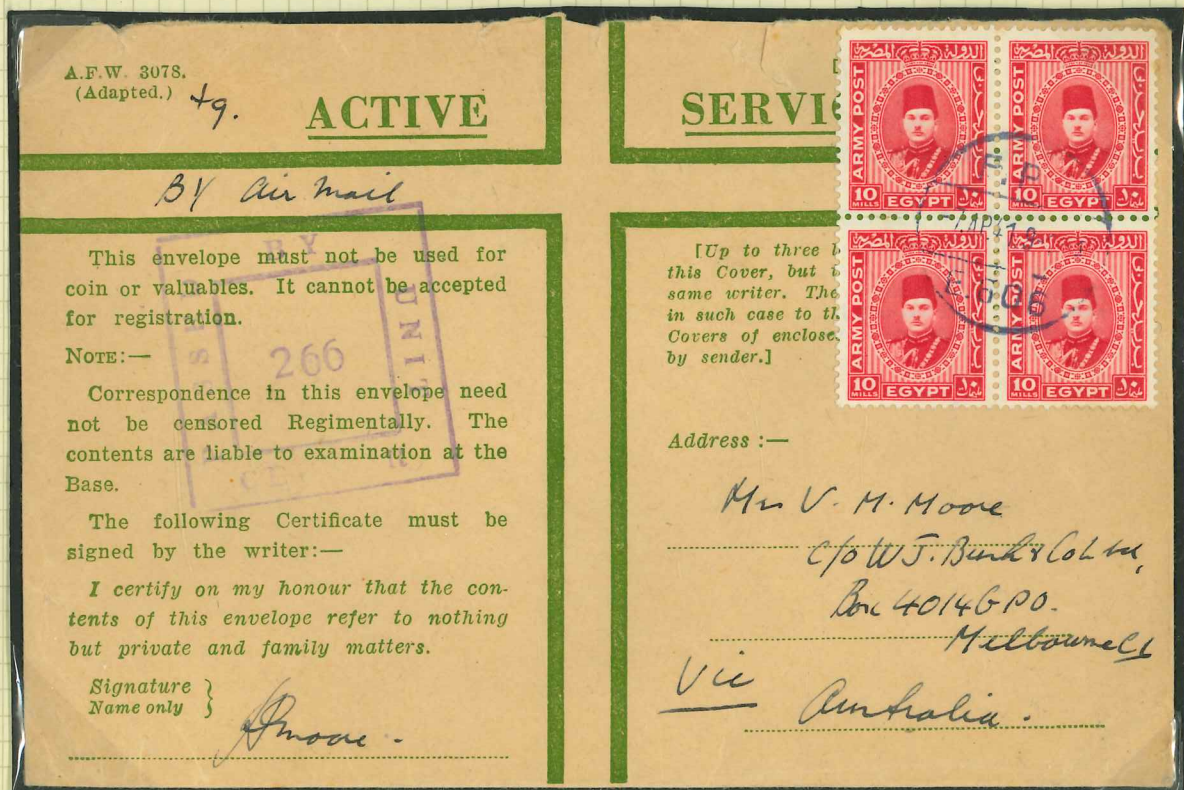
Two covers from MPO E.607 at Alexandria to England, the top surface rate, bottom airmail rate is the earliest recorded.

The Postal Concession

Australian Forces



Originally allocated to the British at el-Daba from the end of November 1939 FPO E606 is listed as 'on loan' to the Australians from May to November 1941; outside the dates, this cover proves earlier Australian use at 7 AP 41.

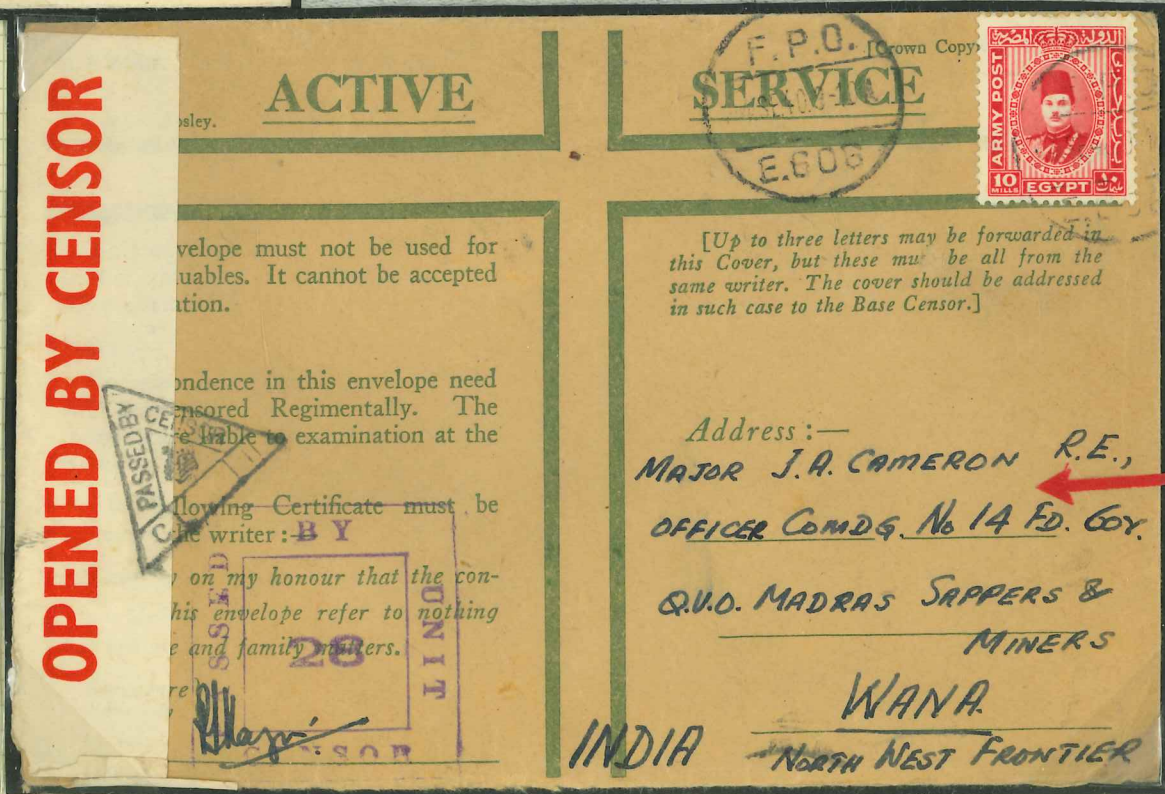


Block of dark shade Farouk Army Post stamps cancelled unusually in blue early in the Australian loan period on an 'honour' cover censored box 266 to Melbourne dated 7 AP 41.

The E.600 Series Field Post Offices



F.P.O. E.606
at el-Daba



Indian
CENSOR
DE 39

Three covers from M.P.O. E.606 at el-Daba showing both Army and R.A.F. censors; the top is earliest, bottom the latest recorded.

The E.600 Series

Military Post Offices

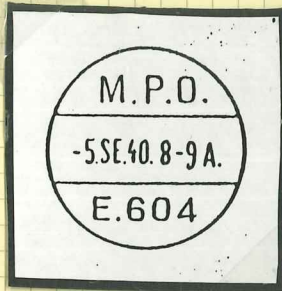


M.P.O. E605 allotted to Mersa Matruh; known dates of use are from 230C39 to 55E40. All stamps below are the lighter shade.



Two covers from E.605 at Mersa Matruh; top is the surface rate to England, bottom the airmail rate to Australia, addressed to Lady Gowrie at Government House, Canberra.

The E600 Series



M.P.O. E.604
 Based at Port Said
 from November 1939 to September
 1940 (later transferred to Indian
 Forces and used at Agordat, Eritrea).

Army
 censor
 25



Indian
 civil
 censor
 7

Airmail cover franked strip of 3 and a single Farouk Army Post stamp cancelled M.P.O. E 604 on 21 FE 40 then based Port Said from a corporal with the Durham Light Infantry to Calcutta.

Calcutta
 G.P.O. Desp.
 (Despatch)
 28 FEB 40

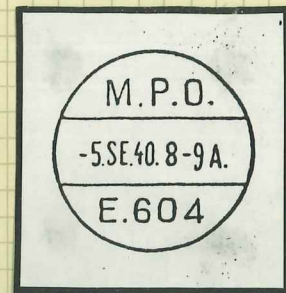
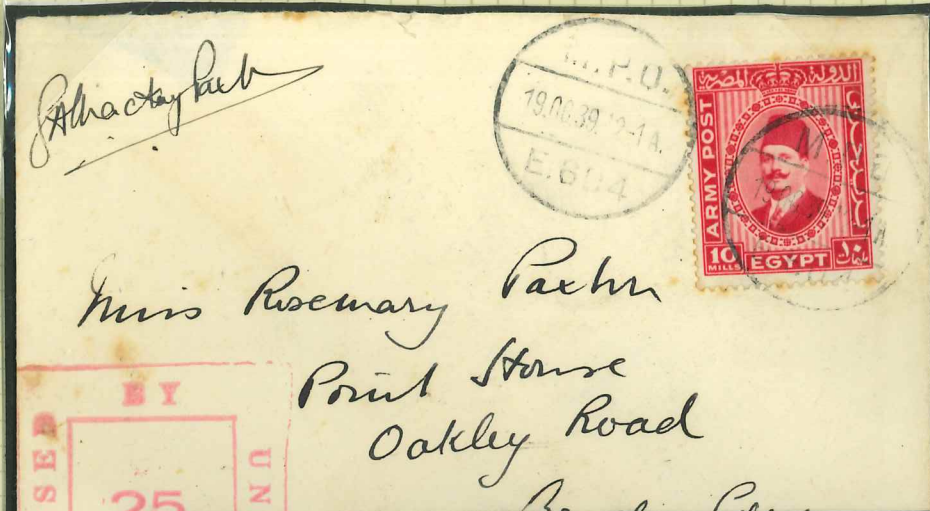
Sender
 m/s.



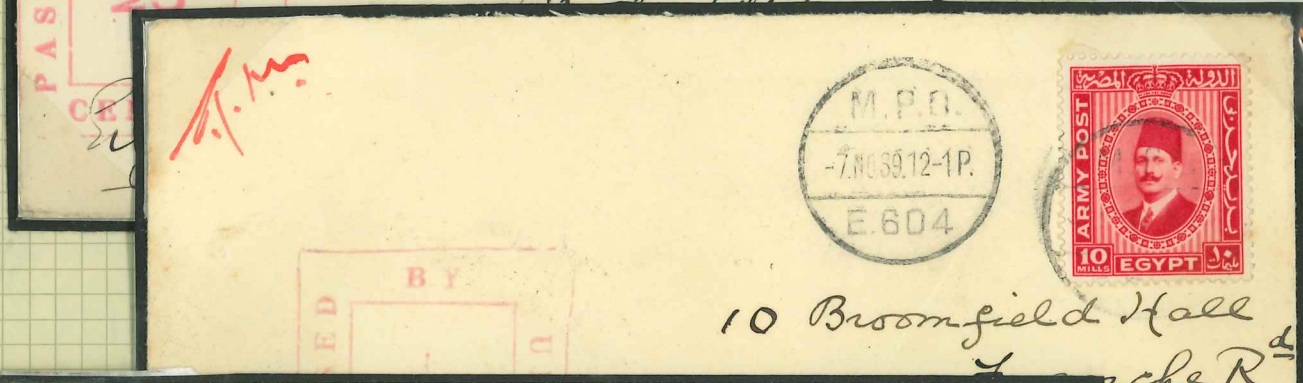
Alexandria
 Transit (on
 back of cover)

Calcutta
 SPO Deliv.
 on 29 FE 40.

The E. 600 Series
Military Post Offices



M.P.O.E. 604
allotted to
Port Said

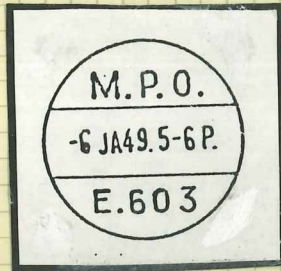


Three surface covers from M.P.O.E. 604 at Port Said to England; top and middle have boxed army censor in cerise, the bottom has 3 mills greetings card franking and boxed army censor in purple.

The E.600 Series

Military Post Offices

Military Post Office E.603 allotted to Moasear on the Suez Canal



Army censor

Yo

Mrs a Gough

England



Two covers to England from Moasear; airmail posted on a naval vessel - two censors on reverse, bottom is 3 mills greetings card.