British Forces in Egypt

The Impact of Postal Operations of WWI and WWII.

Purpose of Exhibit: This five-frames postal history exhibit explores the British Forces' postal service and cancellation date-stamps used in Egypt during 1910-45, including its history and operation.

Background: Egypt has been part of numerous wars and military campaigns throughout its history. However, this narrative will focus solely on conflicts with philatelic implications to better understand the numerous military mail events that followed, and it would be beneficial to review their order. During World War, the British Forces in Egypt relied heavily on postal services to communicate with their families and loved ones back home.

The Postal History of British Forces in Egypt is a fascinating story of how communication was managed between soldiers, their families, and the government during some of the most turbulent times in modern history. This exhibit plan provides a comprehensive overview of the different aspects of postal operations in Egypt from the early 1900s to the end of World War II.

Exhibit Plan:

Chapter 1. The Early Years (1910-14)
1.1. British Presence in Egypt
1.2. Postal Marking War Room
1.3. Military Camps and Bases in Pre-war

Chapter 2. World War I (1914-19)
2.1. Military Postal Service in WWI
2.2. Army and Field Postmarks WWI
2.3. Alexandria HQ in Summer
2.4. POW Mail in WWI
2.5. Censorship and Sealing Labels WWI

Chapter 3. Interwar Period (1919-39)
3.1. British Military During Interwar Period
3.2. Military Camps and Bases in Interwar
3.3. M.P.O Cancelled Date-Stamps
3.4. Crown (Numeral Franks) Cancels

Chapter 4. World War II (1939-45)
4.1. Field Post Offices During WWII
4.3. Airgraph and Microfilm During WWII
4.4. POW and Internee Mail During WWII
4.5. Censorship and Sealing Labels WWII

Chapter 1, "The Early Years," focuses on the British presence in Egypt, the Postal Marking War Room, and military camps and bases in the pre-war period. This chapter provides a historical context for the rest of the exhibit and sets the stage for the changes that would come with the outbreak of World War I.

Chapter 2, "World War I," examines the Military Postal Service during the war, including Army and Field Postmarks, Alexandria HQ in the summer, POW mail, and censorship and sealing labels. This chapter provides a detailed look at the challenges of managing communication during a major conflict and how postal operations adapted to meet those challenges.

Chapter 3, "Interwar Period," covers the period between the wars, from 1919 to 1939. This chapter examines the British military during this period, military camps and bases, M.P.O. Cancelled Date-Stamps, and Crown (Numeral Franks) Cancels. This chapter highlights the changes that occurred in postal operations during the interwar period and how these changes set the stage for the challenges of World War II.

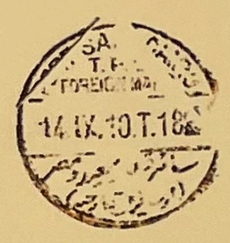
Chapter 4, "World War II," provides a detailed look at the Field Post Offices during the war, Airgraph and Microfilm, POW and Internee Mail, and censorship and sealing labels. This chapter examines how postal operations adapted to the challenges of World War II and the impact of new technologies on

What is Presented: Items of interest and rare are highlighted with ● red circle in red box.

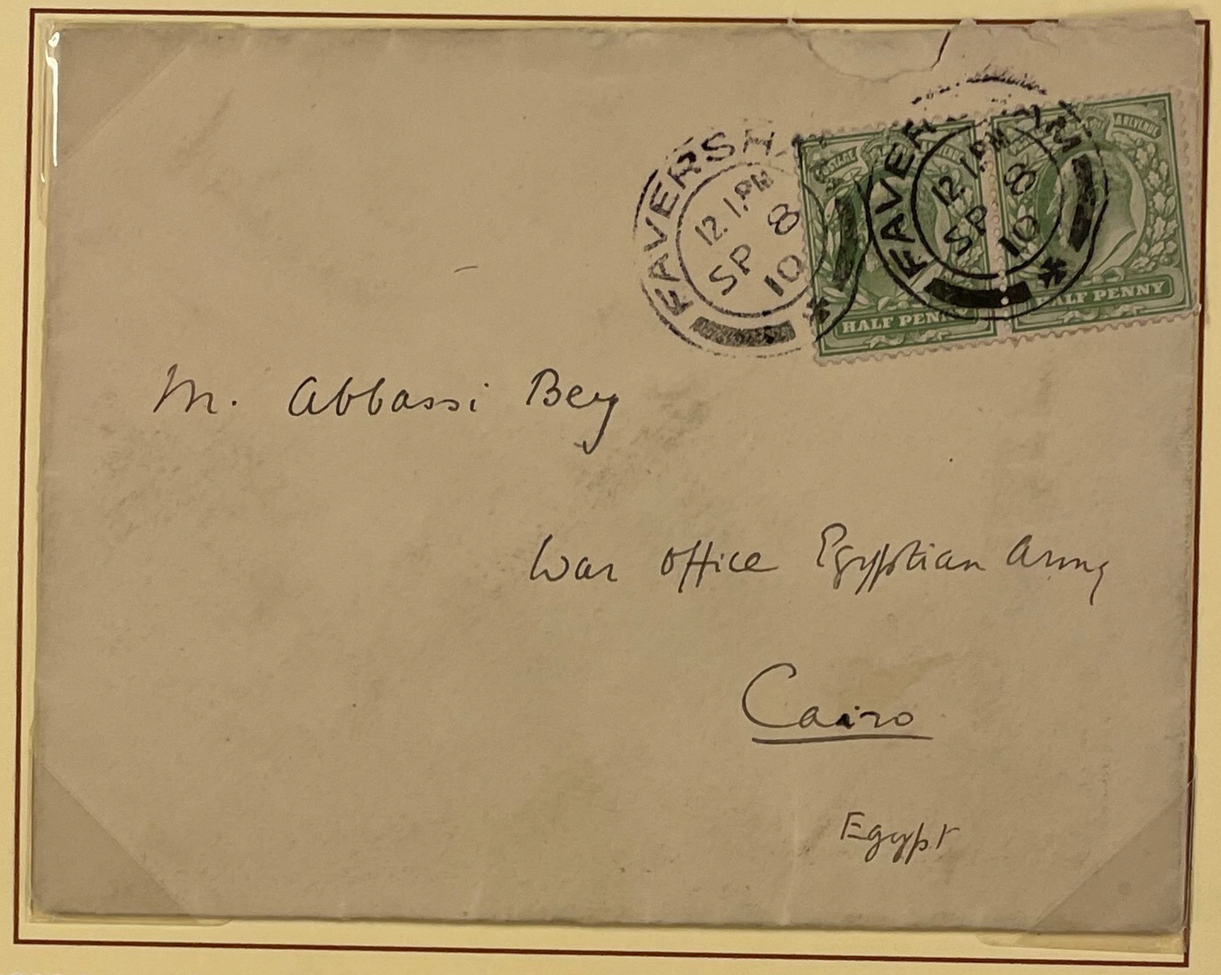
THE EARLY YEARS

BRITISH PRESENCE IN EGYPT

Due to its status as a British colony, Egypt became involved in the war and was used as a base for the British and their allies due to its strategic location and the presence of the Suez Canal. In order to fortify their position, England constructed defensive structures in the coastal cities and installed a large cannon in Alexandria, which caused great anxiety among the local population.



Reverse T.P.O Cancellation



8 Sep 1910 Incoming Mail From FAVERSH, UK, To War Office Egyptian Army, Cairo Egypt. On Reverse Canceled With T.P.O Cairo Port-Said Arrive on 14 Sep 1910.

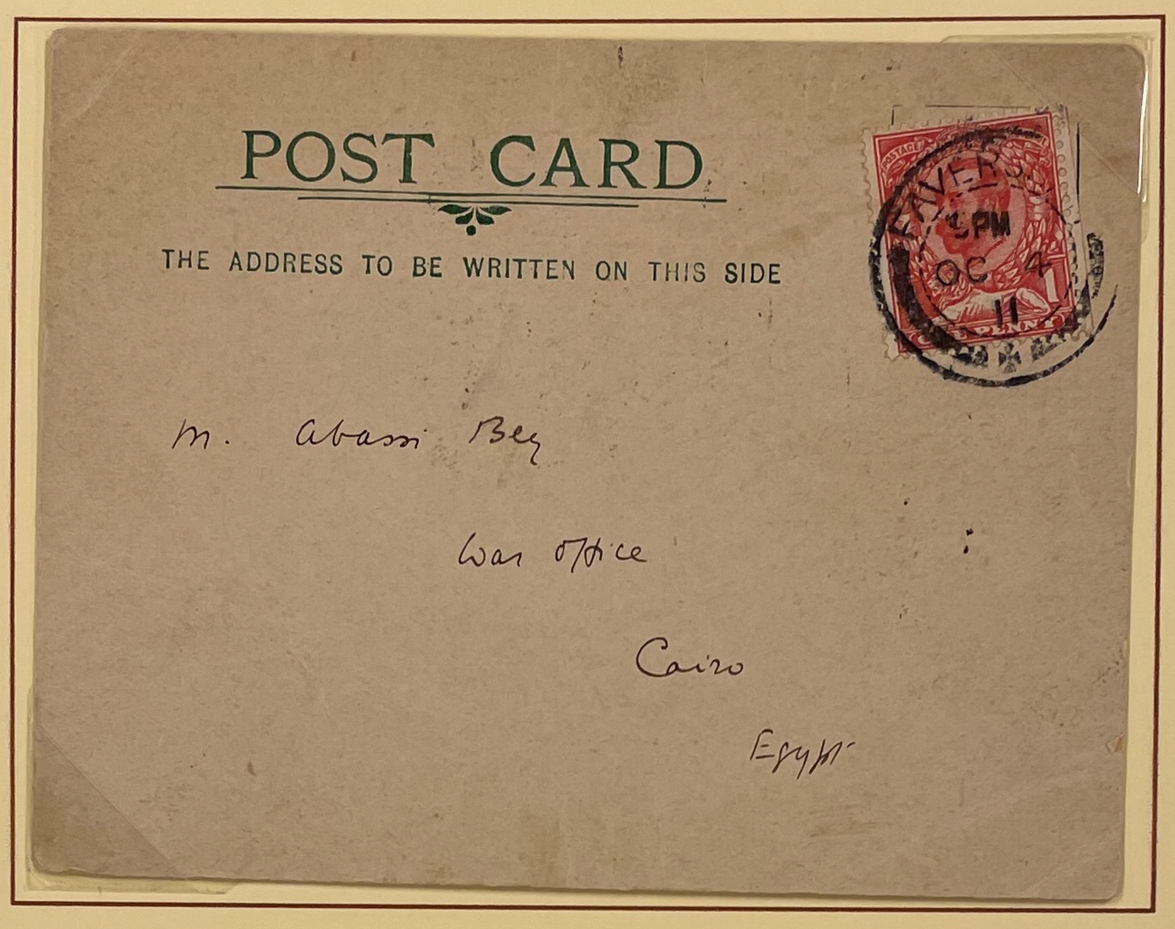


Un-used Postcard - British Forces in Cairo - Known as (War Room Office)

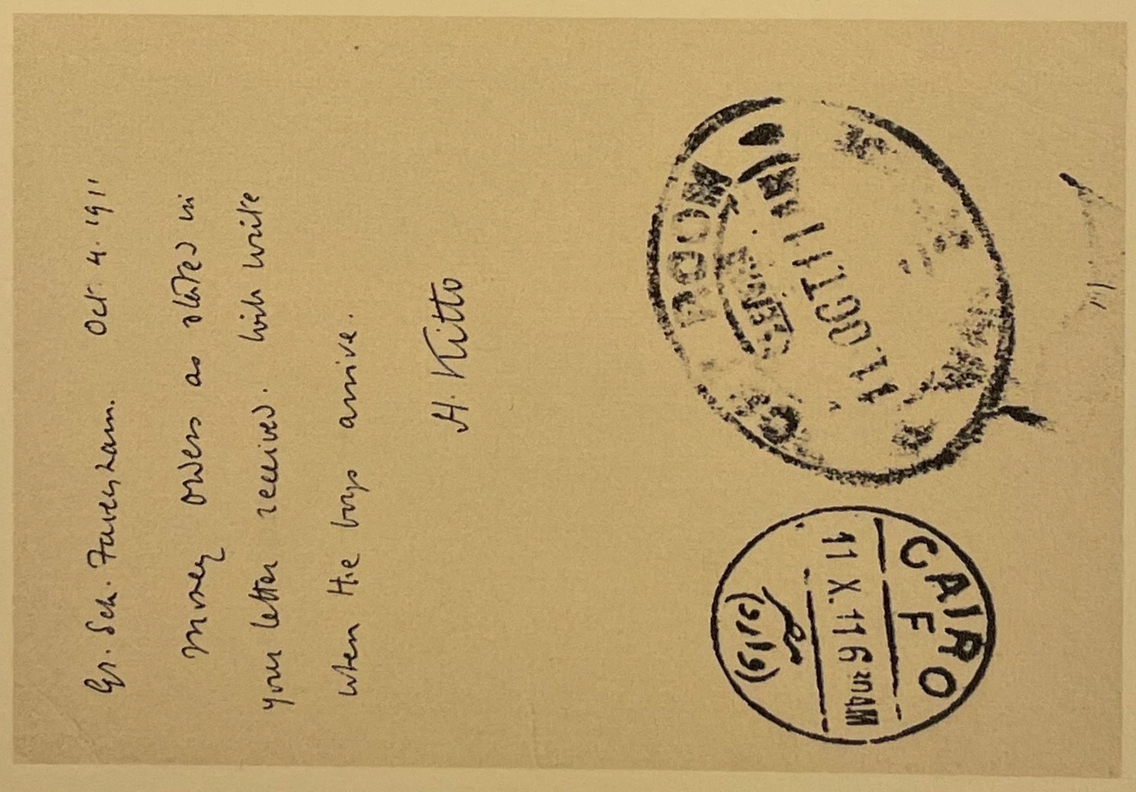
THE EARLY YEARS

POSTAL MARKING (WAR ROOM)

The British had two headquarters in Cairo: British Troops in Egypt (BTE), which was set up in the Semiramis Hotel on the Nile, and General Headquarters Middle East, which was given a large block of commandeered flats surrounded bv barbed wire in Garden Citv.



4 Oct 1911 Incoming Mail From FAVERSH, UK, To War Office, Cairo, Egypt.



***Reverse* of postcard Canceled: Cairo, Egypt. Arrive to War Office and Canceled by Postmark - CAIRO WAR POST ROOM, 11 Oct 1911.** The Statue of this Date-Stamp is unknown; Used as an Arrival Marking only.

THE EARLY YEARS

MILITARY CAMPS PRE-WAR

The Force in Egypt was a British Army formation established in August 1914 to administer garrisoning armed forces in Egypt at the beginning of the First World War. The force had the objective of protecting the Suez Canal and was originally commanded by Major General Julian Byng, but he was replaced by General J.



Postcard 16 Jul 1913 Incoming from Farnham, UK, to Cairo, Egypt via Shellal Halfa T.P.O 24 Jul 1913, then Alexandria 22 Jul 1913, arrive to Cairo 29 Jul 1913



Unused Postcard - The Suez Canal Administration Building (Or Navy House) Houses the Administration Offices of The Canal. Built By Khedive Ismail in 1869, This Palace Is Also Known As "The British Navy Base".

WORLD WAR I

MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE WWI

In all the war zones, the British military units were assisted by a remarkably effective procedure for managing correspondence, packages, and even telegram messages conveying appointments to leaders and officials.



13 Aug 1915 Cover from British Barracks (Type1), Cairo to England.

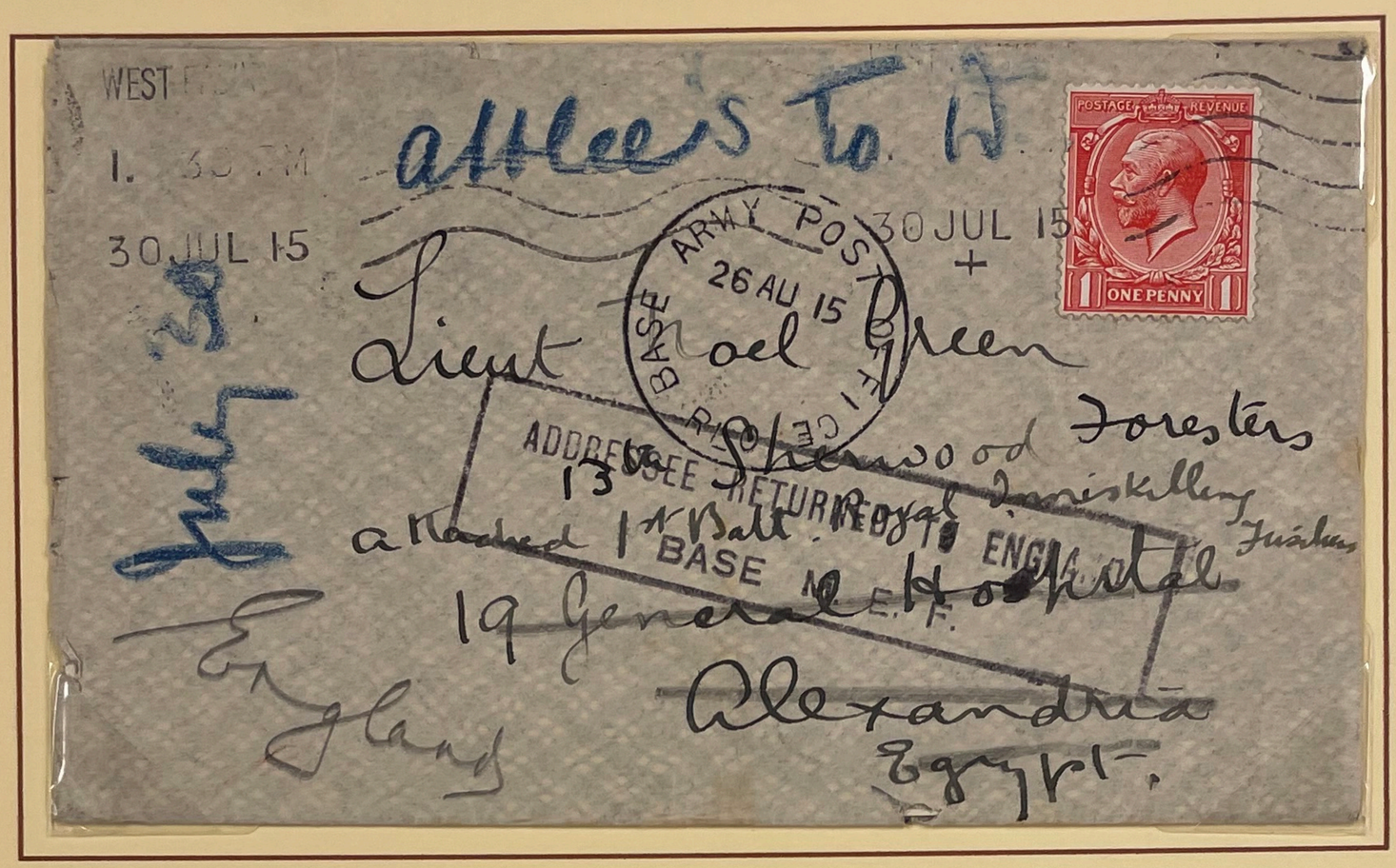


Unused Postcard - English Solders in Cairo, Egypt

WORLD WAR I

MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE WWI

Base Army Post Office - RLO (Return Letter Office)



26 Aug 1915 A Machine Cancelled Cover from West Ealing, dated 30 Jul 1915 to Lieutenant N. Green, 13th Battalion the Sherwood Foresters, attached 1st Battalion Inniskilling Fusiliers, 19 General Hospital, Alexandria. A boxed cachet statue: Address Returned to England Base M.E.F

This Base Office was opened on 12 Aug and closed 8 Sep 1915. It was used to sort mail for all troops on Gallipoli.

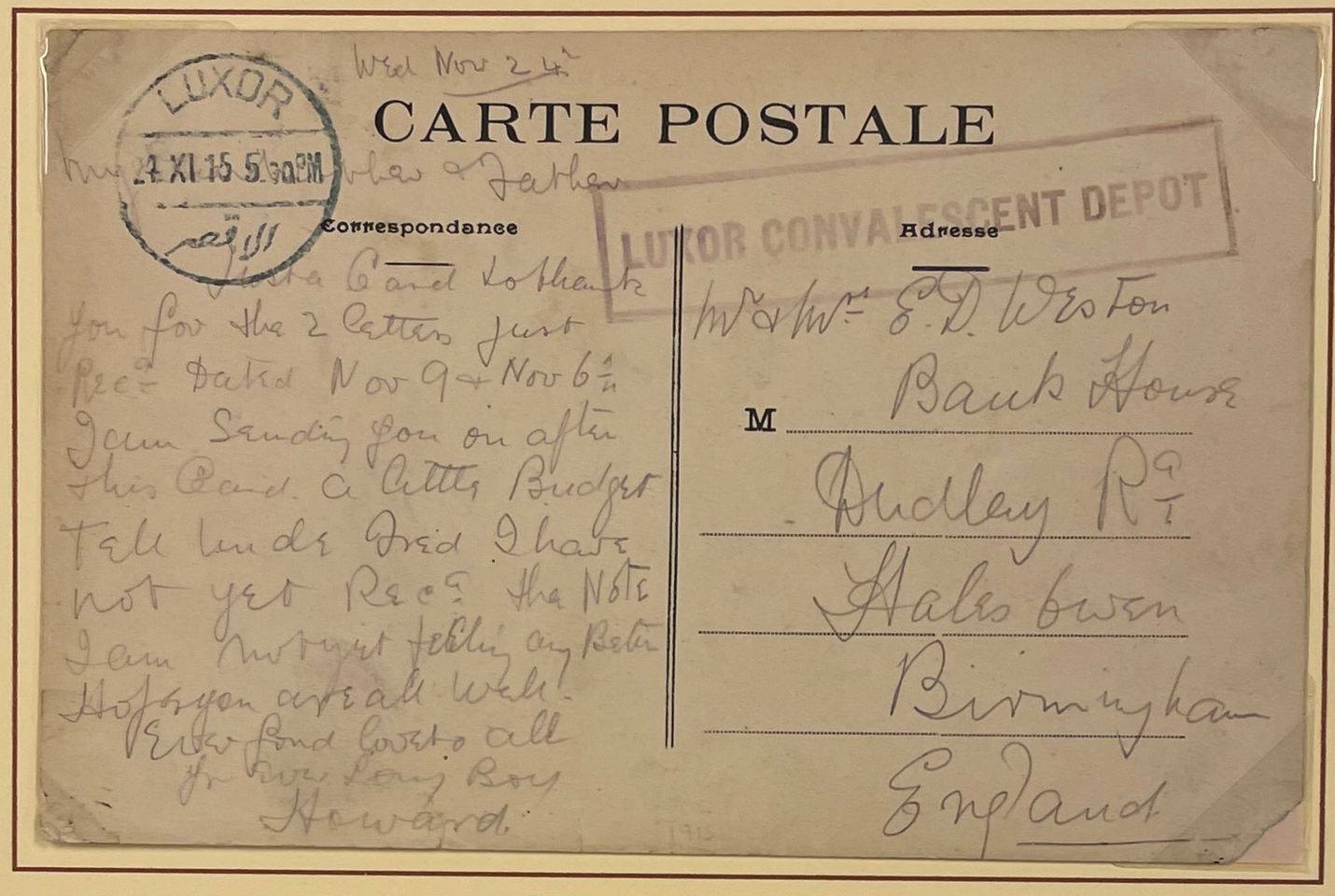
The Gallipoli peninsula, situated in Turkey, constitutes one of the sides of the Dardanelles Straits - a historical waterway that connects the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea. The peninsula spans about 45 miles in length and is only 10 miles wide at its maximum point, with Cape Helles located at the southernmost tip. The landscape is characterized by inhospitable, rocky terrain with little water and steep, gully-ridden hills. The hills are dotted with numerous peaks and valleys, with the most significant elevations being Achi Baba (709 feet) which affords a vantage point over Cape Helles, and Sari Bair (971 feet) from where ANZAC beach and the Asian side of the Straits are visible. While some small sandy beaches can be found on the southernmost (Aegean) tip and on the western side, there are no such beaches on the eastern (Straits) side. To the North-West, there is a flat area surrounding a Salt Lake. The peninsula has no towns, although holiday homes are being constructed around the coast. A few small settlements exist, with Krithia in the south and Bulair in the north being the most significant.



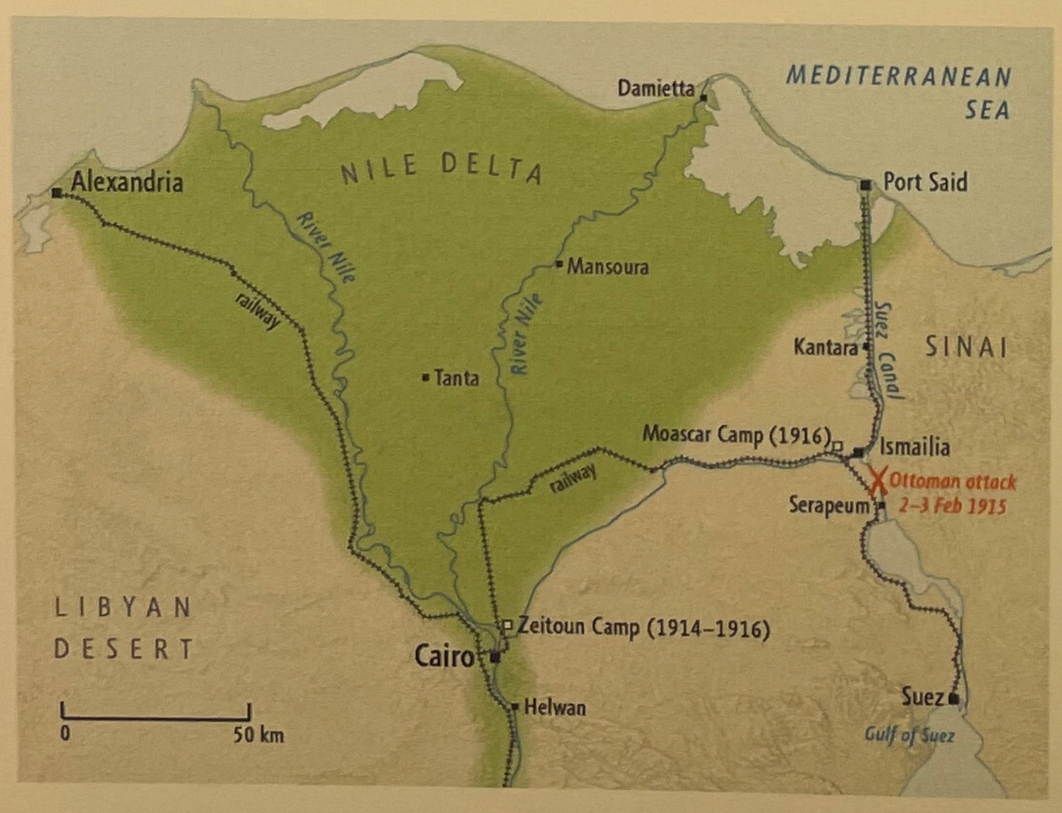
WORLD WAR I

MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE WWI

The build of Allied Forces in Egypt Began prior to the Dardanelles Campaign. British, Indian, South African and ANZAC Troops used Egypt as a staging in the operations.



24 Nov 1915 Postcard to Birmingham Carried Free Under Military Concession Cancelled By Violet 'LUXOR CONVALESCENT DEPOT' Cachet And Egyptian Luxor Date-Stamp



In December 1914, the convoy carrying the Main Body of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force (NZEF) steamed north through Egypt's Suez Canal into the Mediterranean Sea. Men and horses disembarked at Alexandria and travelled by train to Cairo. Based at nearby Zeitoun Camp, they trained in the surrounding desert for operations against the Ottoman Empire that were expected to be fought in similar terrain.

WORLD WAR I

MILITARY POSTAL SERVICE WWI

Throughout 1915 and 1916, the British were content to guard the Suez Canal. But defeat at Gallipoli dashed any hope of a quick victory over the Ottoman Empire. Defending the canal from possible Turkish attack also required manpower the Army could not sustain, especially with the ever-growing demand for troops on the Western Front. So, they Closed Ismailia on 13th December 1915.

~~31~~
27 ~~69~~
~~72~~

British Headquarters
Savoy Hotel,
C A I R O.
14 December. 1915.

237 1/2
f

~~76~~

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No 237 1/2 dated 13th instant, on the subject of Ismailia Locks, and to thank you for the action you have taken.

MINISTERE DES TRAVAUX PUBLICS
Nº D'ENR. 10264
15 DEC. 1915
BUREAU CENTRAL
DES ARCHIVES

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedeint Servant,

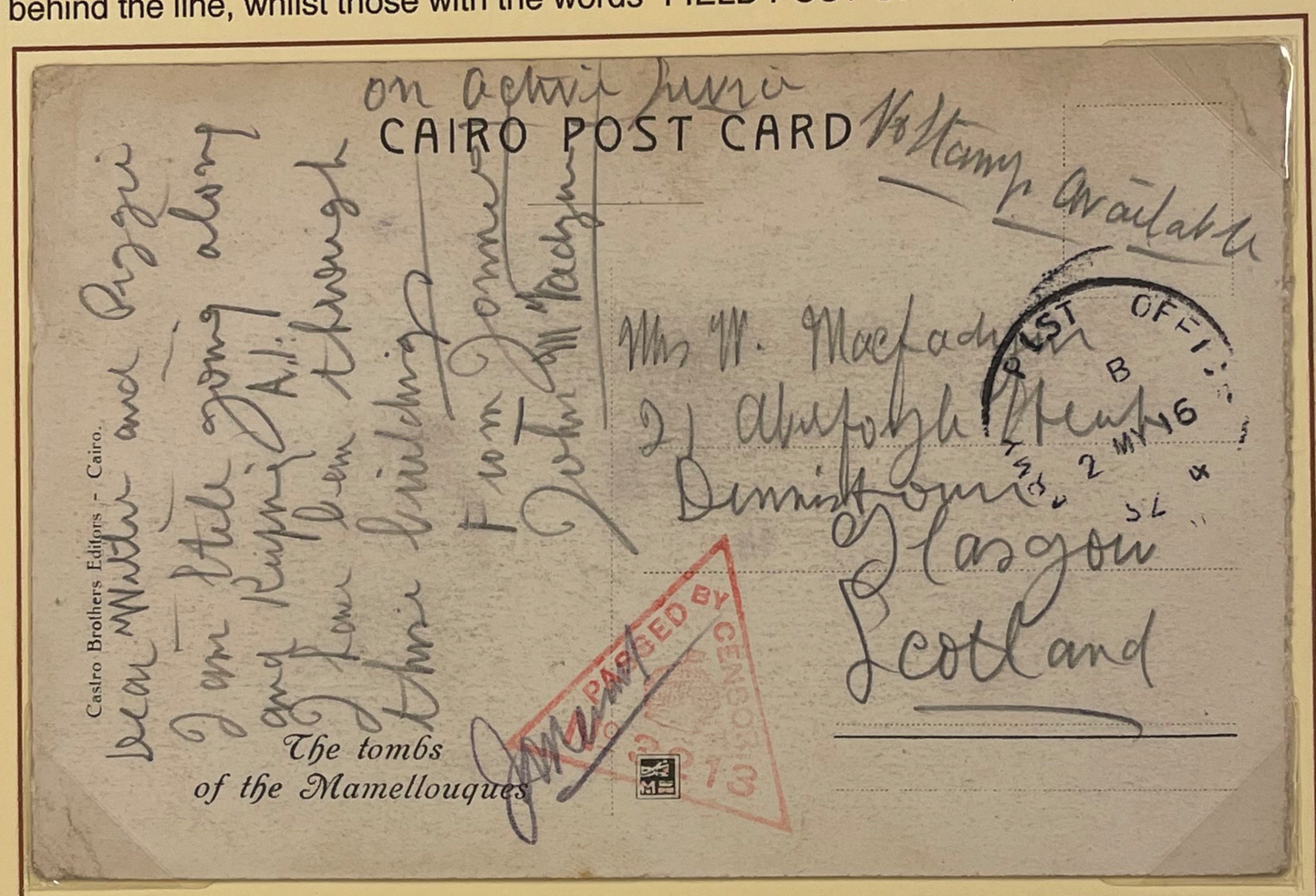
Colonel,
Chief Engineer in Egypt.

14 Dec 1915 Letter from British HQ, Savoy Hotel, Cairo mention Ismailia locks. on 13 Dec 1915

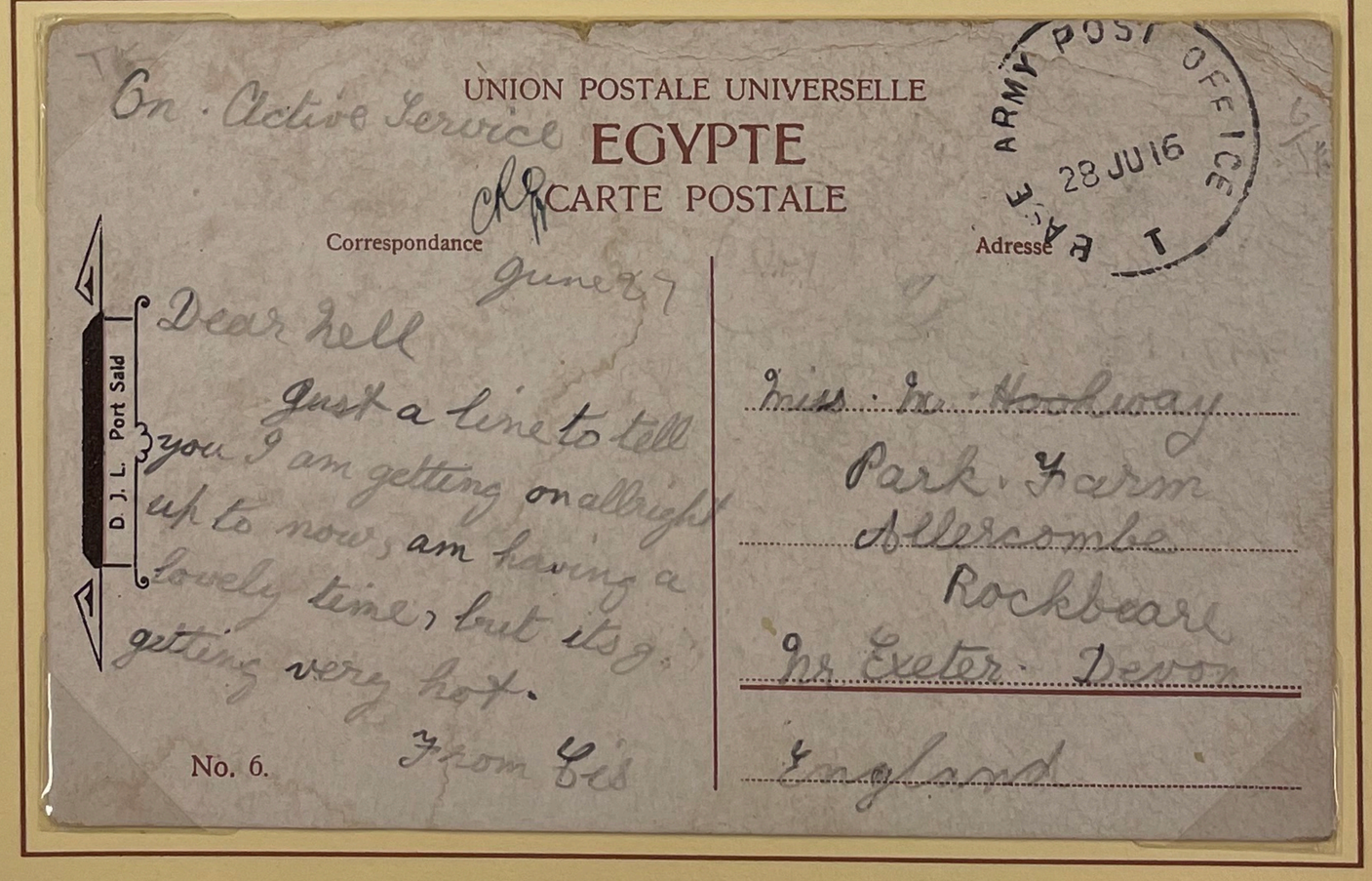
WORLD WAR I

ARMY & FIELD POSTMARKS

Army Postal Service got organized the initial postmarks with the words, “ARMY POST OFFICE”, were used, numbered 1 through to 100, numbers 1 to 18 were single ring date stamps and 19 – 100 had double rings. In 1915 the system changed and date stamps with the words “ARMY POST OFFICE”, were used at static post offices well behind the line, whilst those with the words “FIELD POST OFFICE”, were used by units in the field.



2 May 1916 Postcard, sent to England from Ismailia Camp, Egypt. Canceled by the British ARMY POST OFFICE SZ4 data-stamp applied at Ismailia.

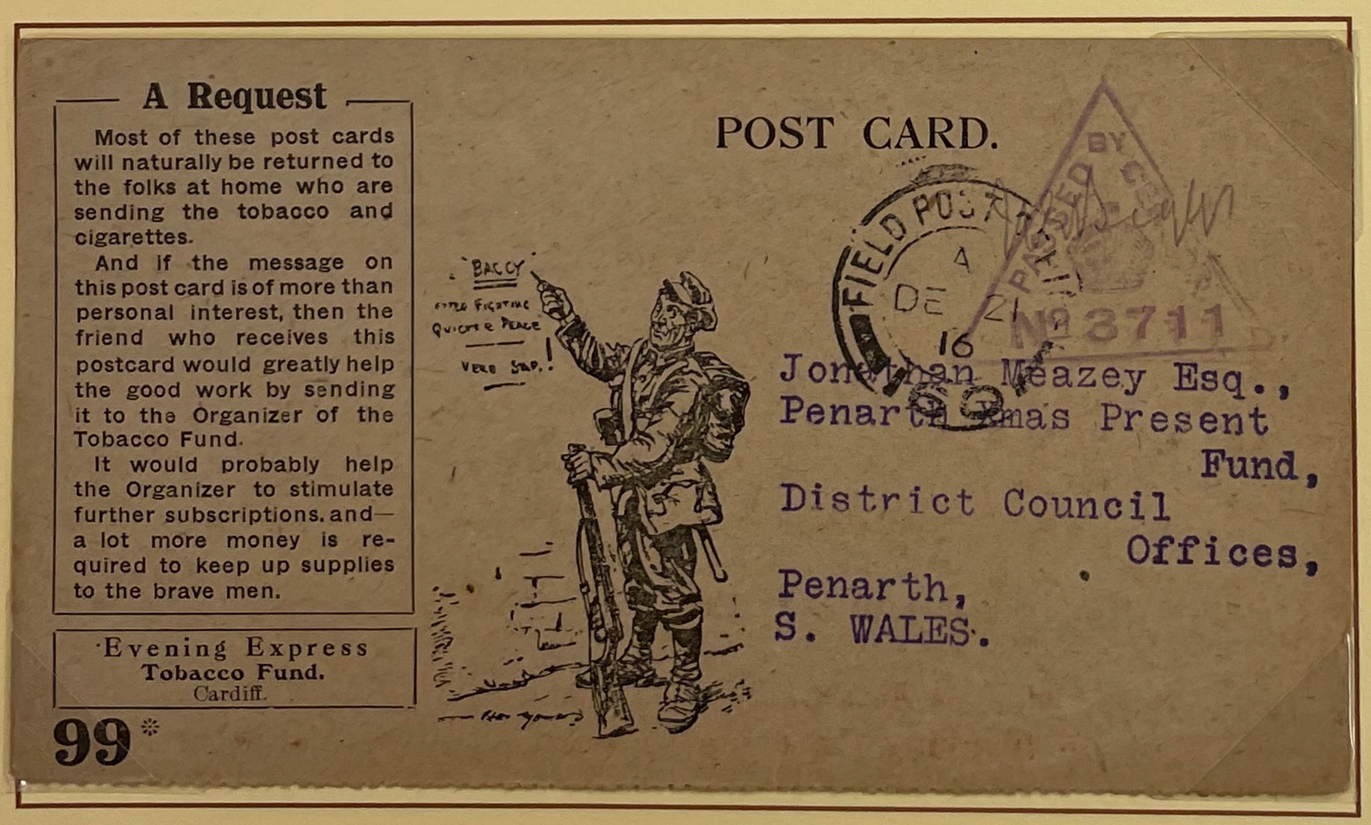


28 Jul 1916 Postcard, sent to England from Port-said, Egypt. Canceled by the British BASE ARMY POST OFFICE T data-stamp applied at Port-said.

S.Z. Stationary Post Offices in M.E. F. and E. E. F. from 1915-1920 administered by Base Army Post Office at Alexandria, numbered 1-62 (excluding #29). These stationary offices were established for specific purposes, unlike mobile offices, and were moved once the need was fulfilled.



28 Jul 1916 Postcard, sent to England from Alexandria, Egypt. Canceled by the British BASE ARMY POST OFFICE Z data-stamp applied at Alexandria.



Tobacco Postcards were sent with cigarette and tobacco parcels to troops at the front. The cards were returned to the sender as a receipt and a way for the recipient to express gratitude. Cigarettes were supplied by Martins Ltd. The cards have "A Request," Martins endorsement, and Security Warning features, which are abbreviated in the descriptions. The Security Warning cautions against mentioning the unit while thanking the donor.

21 Dec 1916 Postcard, sent to England from Egypt. Canceled by the British FIELD POST OFFICE 160 data-stamp applied at Dardanelles.

2nd DISMOUNTED BRIGADE FIELD POST OFFICE 2 D Y. On 21 Oct 1916, 10 Cameron Highlanders (Lovat's Scouts) landed in Salonika to join 27 Division. Fife and Forfar Yeomanry reorganized at Moascar.



18 Dec 1916 Registered Stationary Envelop, 2d. Black, Sent to England from Egypt. Canceled By the British FIELD POST OFFICE 2 D Y 18 Dec 1916 and ARMY POST OFFICE SZ4 Data-Stamp Same Date Applied at Ismailia.

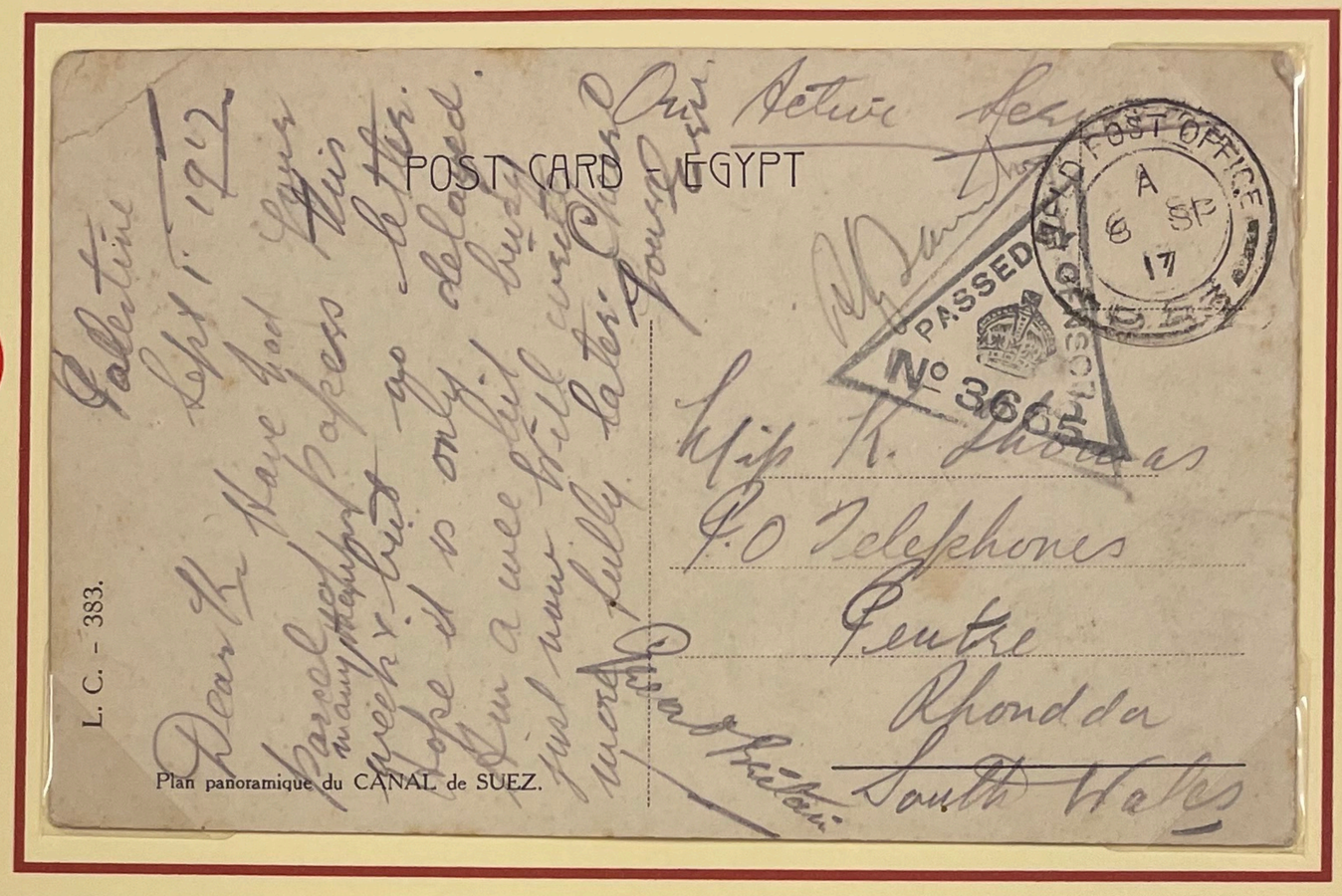
SZ 17 - Cancellation Date-stamp Operating in Egypt from 17 Nov 1917 Deir el Balah, attached to Palestine then operating in KANTARA from May 1917 to Feb 1918.



4 Sep 1916 Registered Stationary Envelop, 2d. Black, Sent to England from Kantara, Egypt. Canceled By the British ARMY POST OFFICE SZ17 and ARMY POST OFFICE SZ9 Data-Stamp Same Date Applied at Sinai, Egypt.

Reduced reverse of envelop with Cancelled ARMY POST OFFICE SZ 9

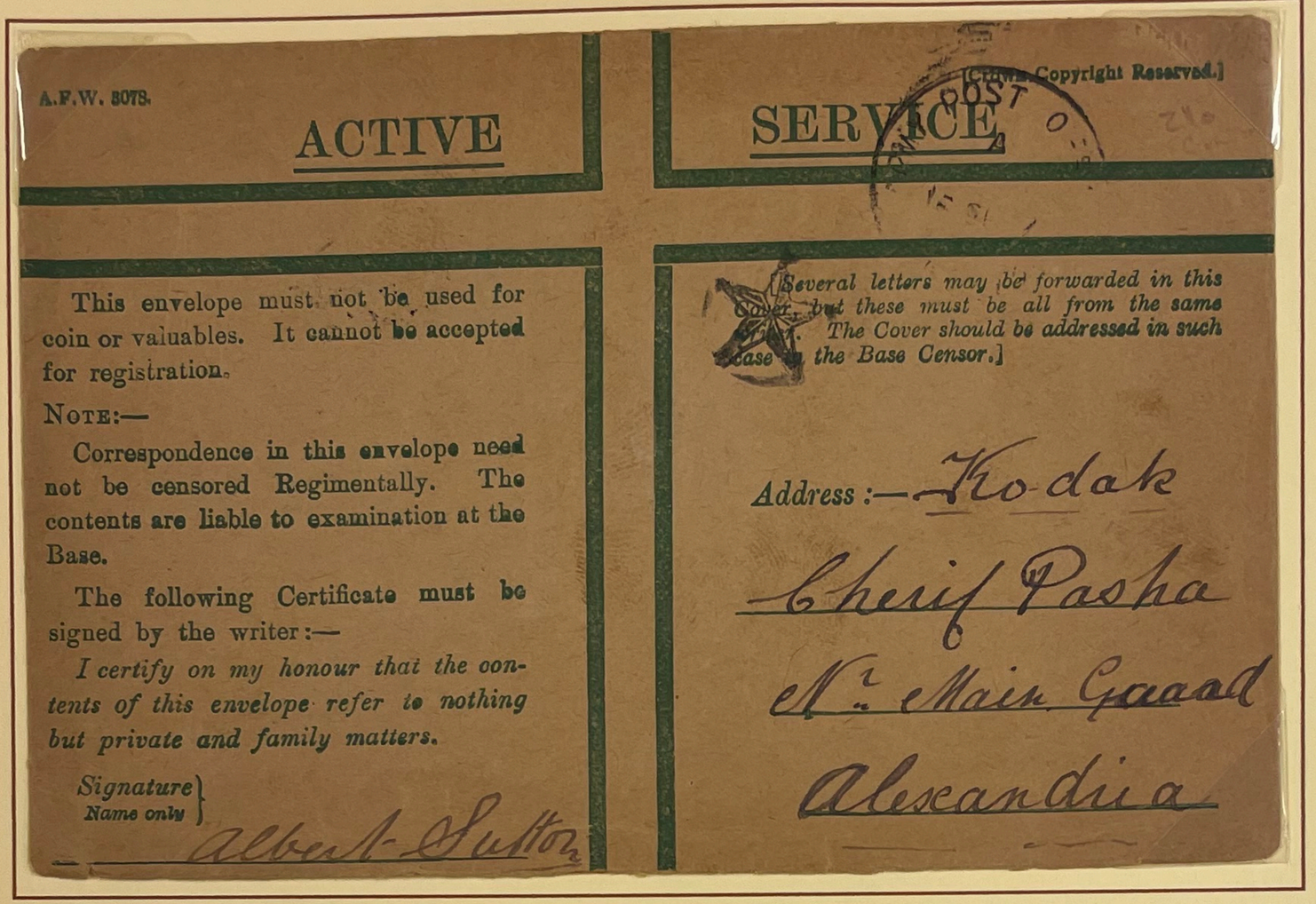
SZ 9 - Cancellation Date-stamp Operating in Egypt late 1915 (Kantara). Sinai Jul 1917. Near RAFAH from Oct 1917 to Feb 1918, attached to Palestine then operating in KANTARA from May 1917 to Feb 1918.



6 Sep 1917 Postcard, writing in Palestine sent from Egypt. Canceled By the British FIELD POST OFFICE CD3 - (Reputed Imperial Camel).

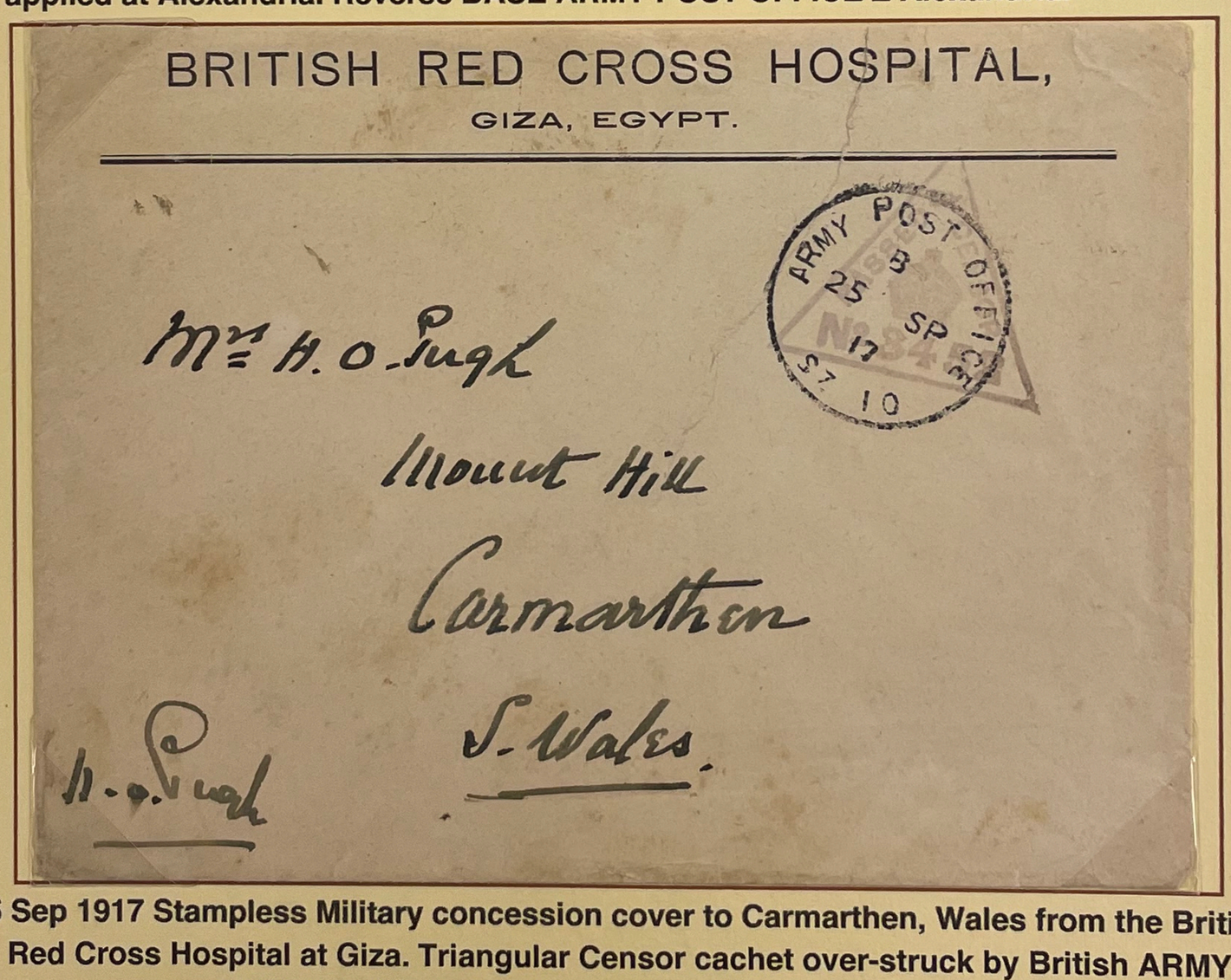


11 Sep 1917 Registered Stationary Envelop, 2d. Black, Sent to Cairo from Kantara, Egypt. Canceled By the British ARMY POST OFFICE SZ17. Reverse with Sidi Gaber 13 Sep and Cairo arrival date-stamp on 14 Sep 1917.



Dumb Mark (Star)
Found on letters, including forward letters, addressed to Alexandria from England or Palestine.

14 Sep 1917 Internal mail Canceled by the British ARMY POST OFFICE (A) date-stamp applied at Alexandria. Reverse BASE ARMY POST OFFICE Z Alexandria.



25 Sep 1917 Stampless Military concession cover to Carmarthen, Wales from the British Red Cross Hospital at Giza. Triangular Censor cachet over-struck by British ARMY POST OFFICE SZ 10 date-stamp of Base Office, Cairo.

ALEXANDRIA HQ IN SUMMER

THE RESIDENCY
RAMLEH
EGYPT.

HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR EGYPT.

May 29th 1918.

Dear Mr Branch

I have much pleasure in informing you that you have been appointed by His Majesty The King an Officer of the Order of the British Empire, in recognition of the valuable services you have rendered in Egypt during the War.

I heartily congratulate you on this mark of His Majesty's favour.

The names contained in the Honours List will appear in the appropriate issue of the "London Gazette" to take effect from June 3rd 1918.

Yours Sincerely

Reginald Wingate.

High Commissioner for Egypt.

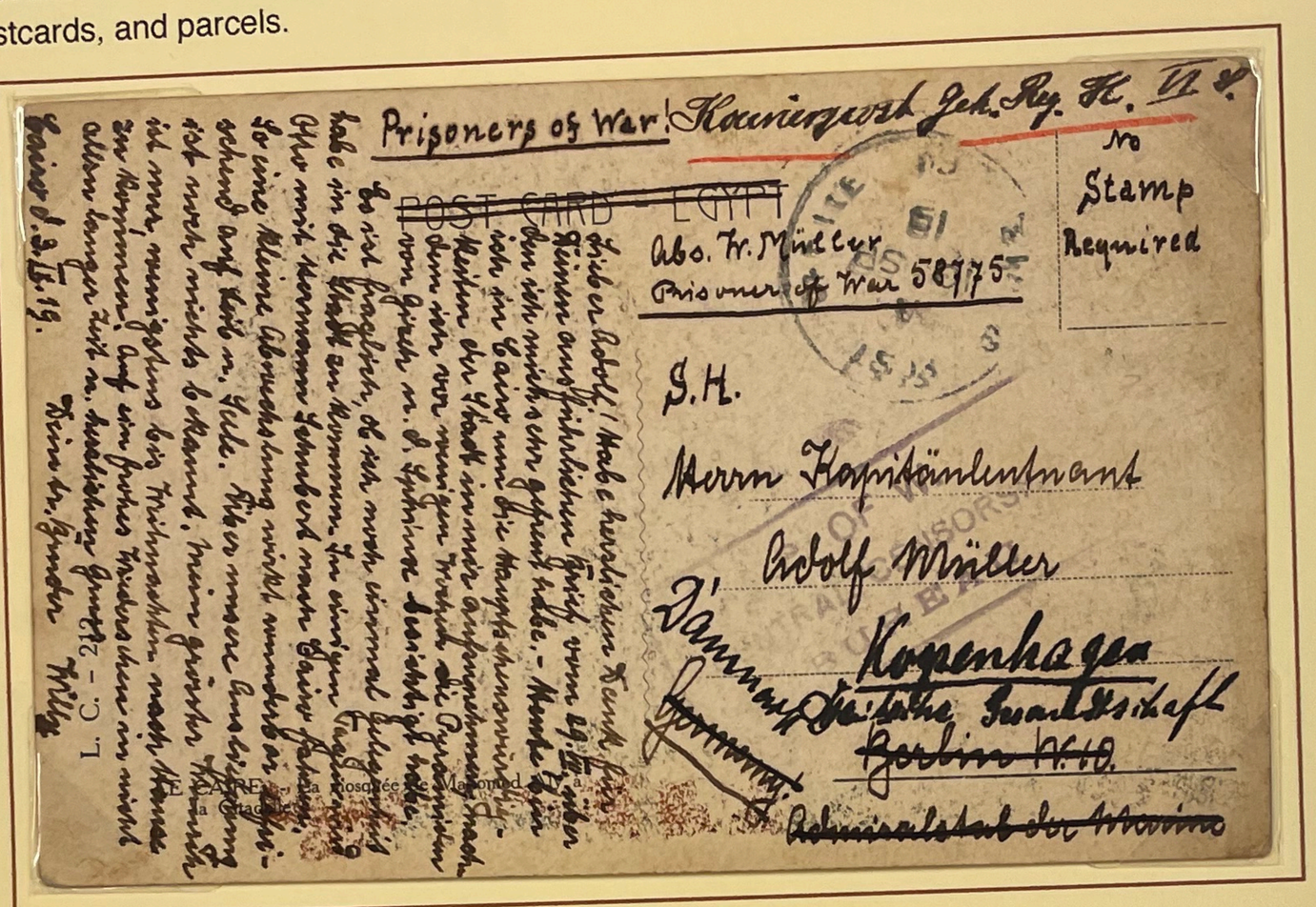
Albert E. Branch Esquire,
Ministry of the Interior,
CAIRO.

High Commissioner for Egypt and senior staff migrated to Alexandria for the May to October period when Cairo was unbearably hot.

Letter from HQ The Residency, Ramleh, Alexandria to Cairo on 29 May 1918.

PRISONERS OF WAR MAIL WWI

For most of the war prisoners of war were allowed to send two letters and four postcards every month at no cost. They were not allowed to send any parcels or packages, but they were allowed to receive an unlimited number of letters, postcards, and parcels.



10 Sep 1919, Prisoner of War Postcard written in Cairo with Field Post Office CDS to Berlin, redirected to Copenhagen.

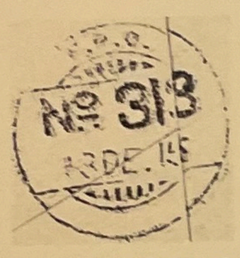


23 Sep 1919, Prisoner of War Postcard written in Tura (near Cairo) with Field Post Office CDS to GieBen, redirected to Copenhagen, censor marking and transit mark GieBen on 14 Oct 1919.

CENSORSHIP AND SEALING LABELS WWI

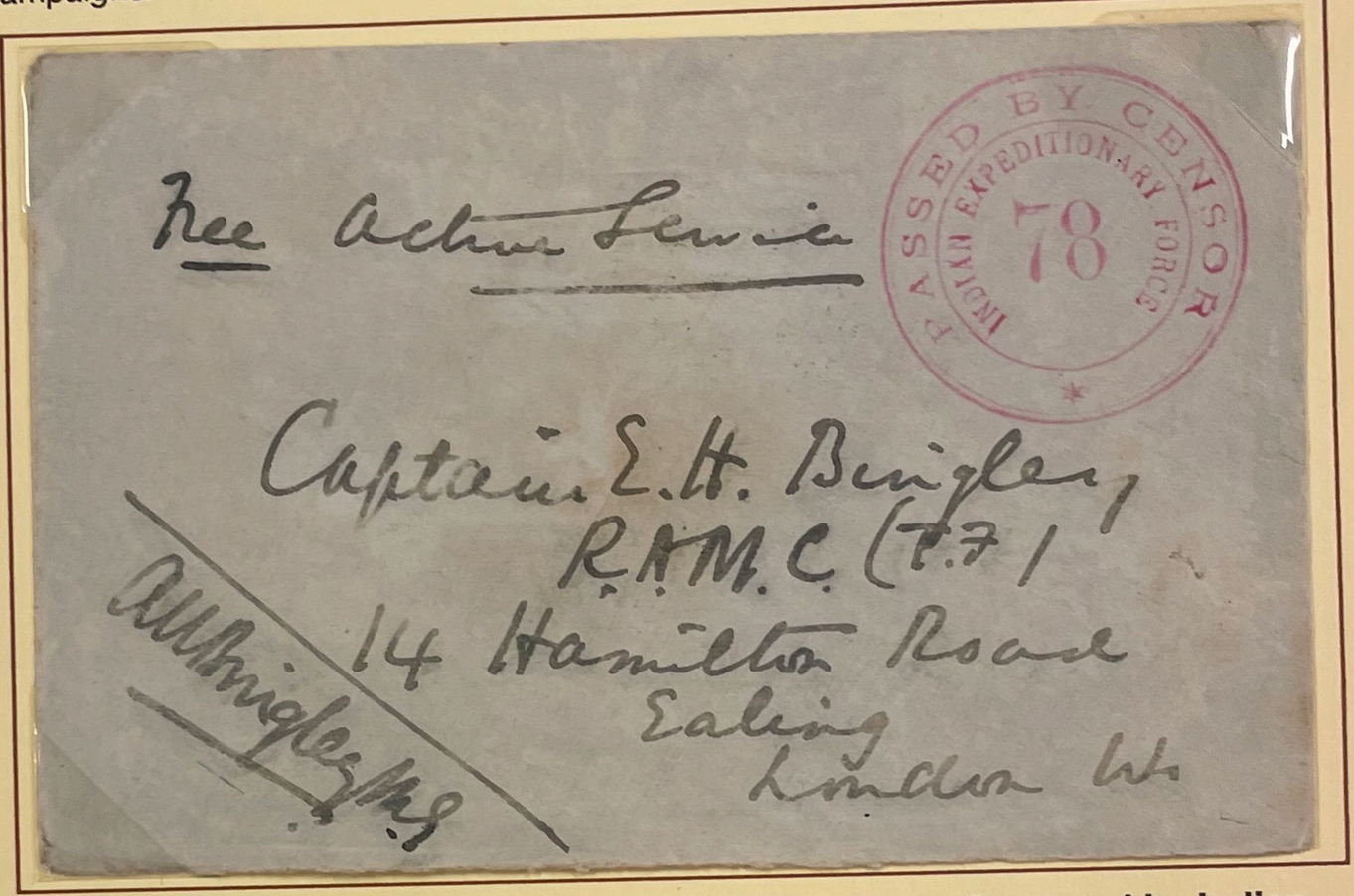
Postal censorship is the inspection or examination of mail, most often by governments. It can include opening, reading and total or selective obliteration of letters and their contents, as well as covers, postcards, parcels and other postal packets. Military mail is not always censored by opening or reading the mail, but this is much more likely during wartime and military campaigns.

Indian number censor handstamps **78** allocated with New Zealand unit in Egypt IFPO 30.

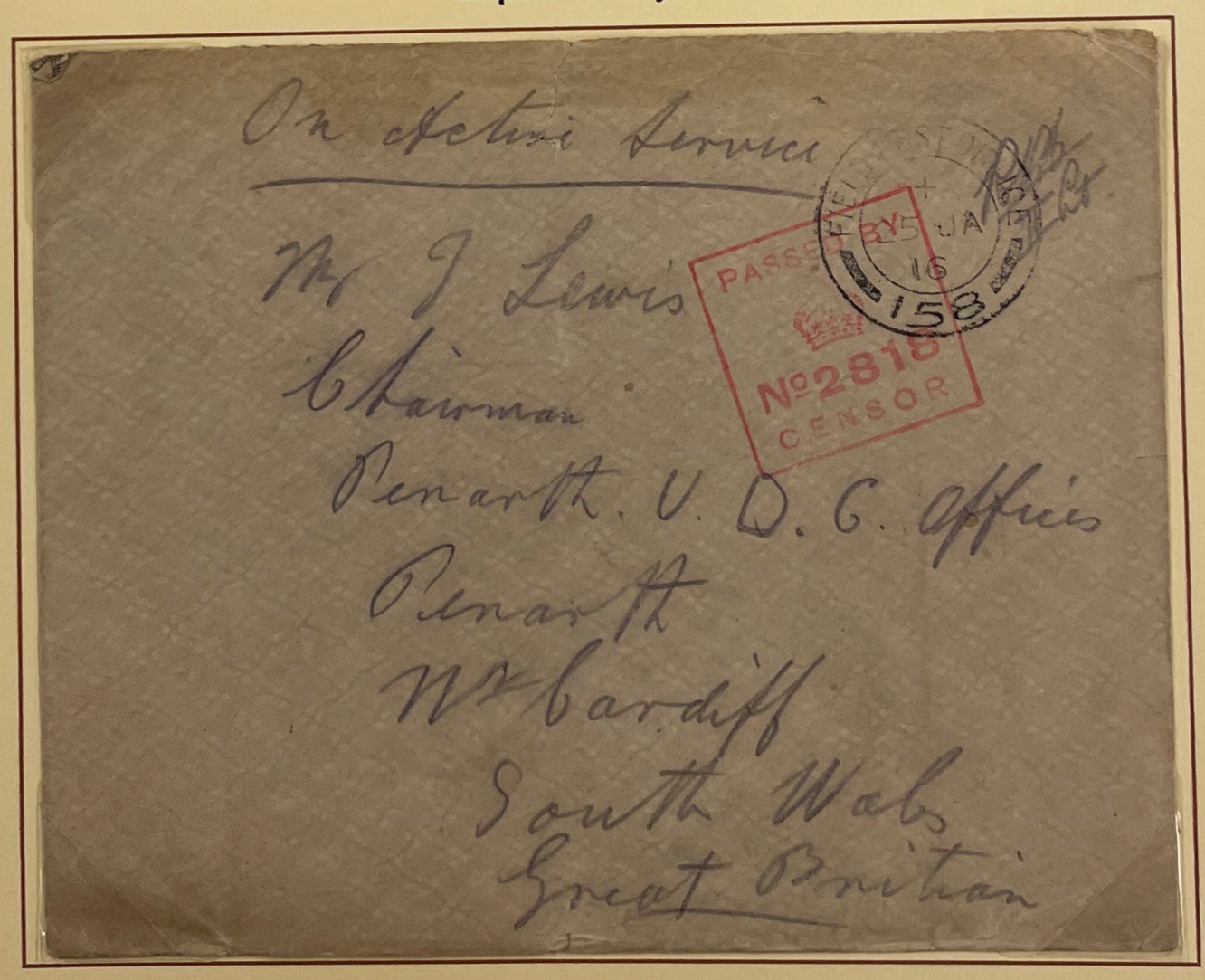


Reverse CDS No313

F.P.O 313 Landed in Egypt with Force 'F' and opened at Ismailia from 26 Nov 1914 to 8 Feb 1921.



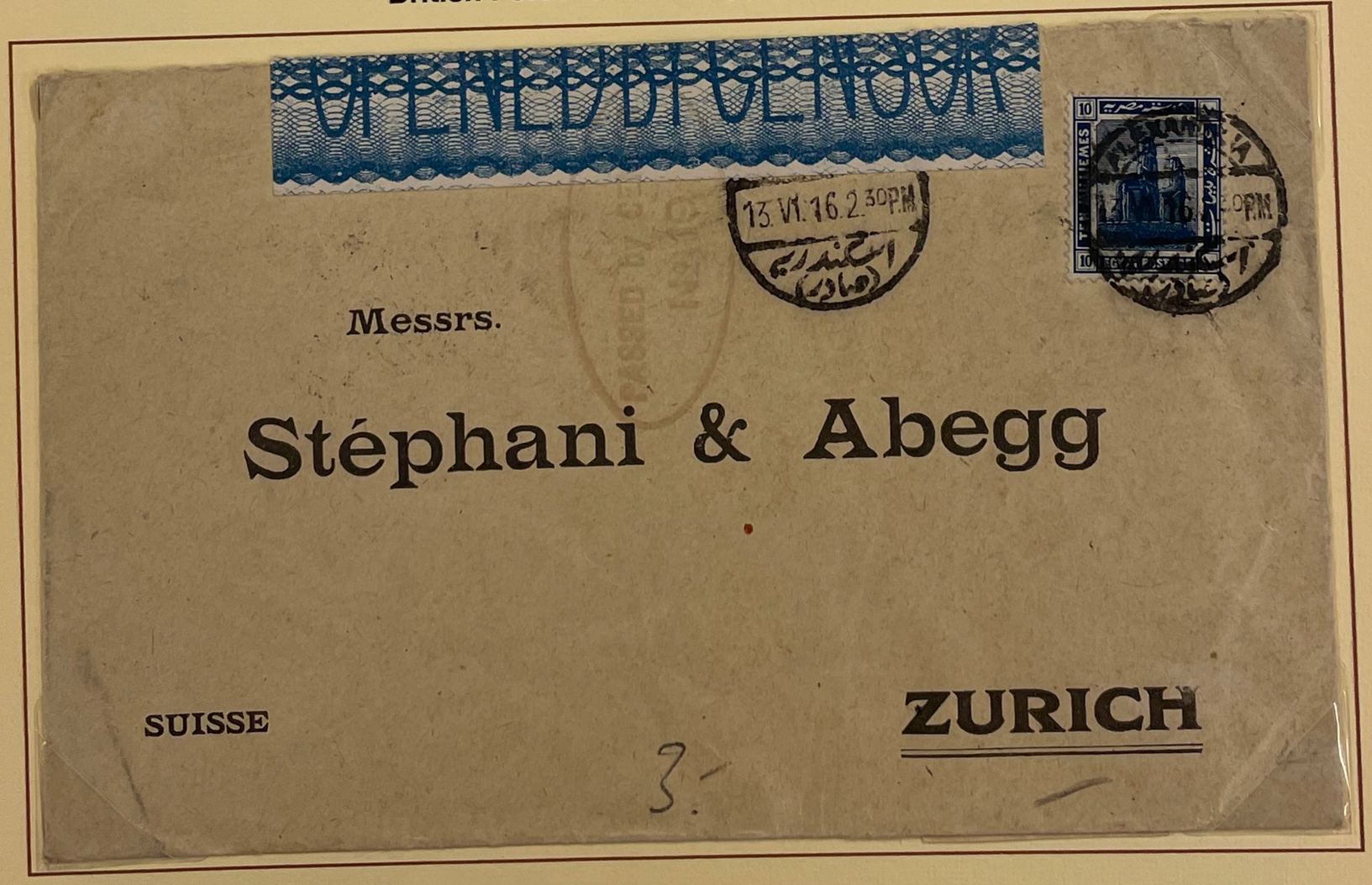
13 Dec 1915, cover sent to London from Ismailia, Egypt. Censored by Indian Expeditionary Force 78 via F.P.O No 313.



25 Jan 1916 Cover sent from Egypt to England Passed by British Censor2818



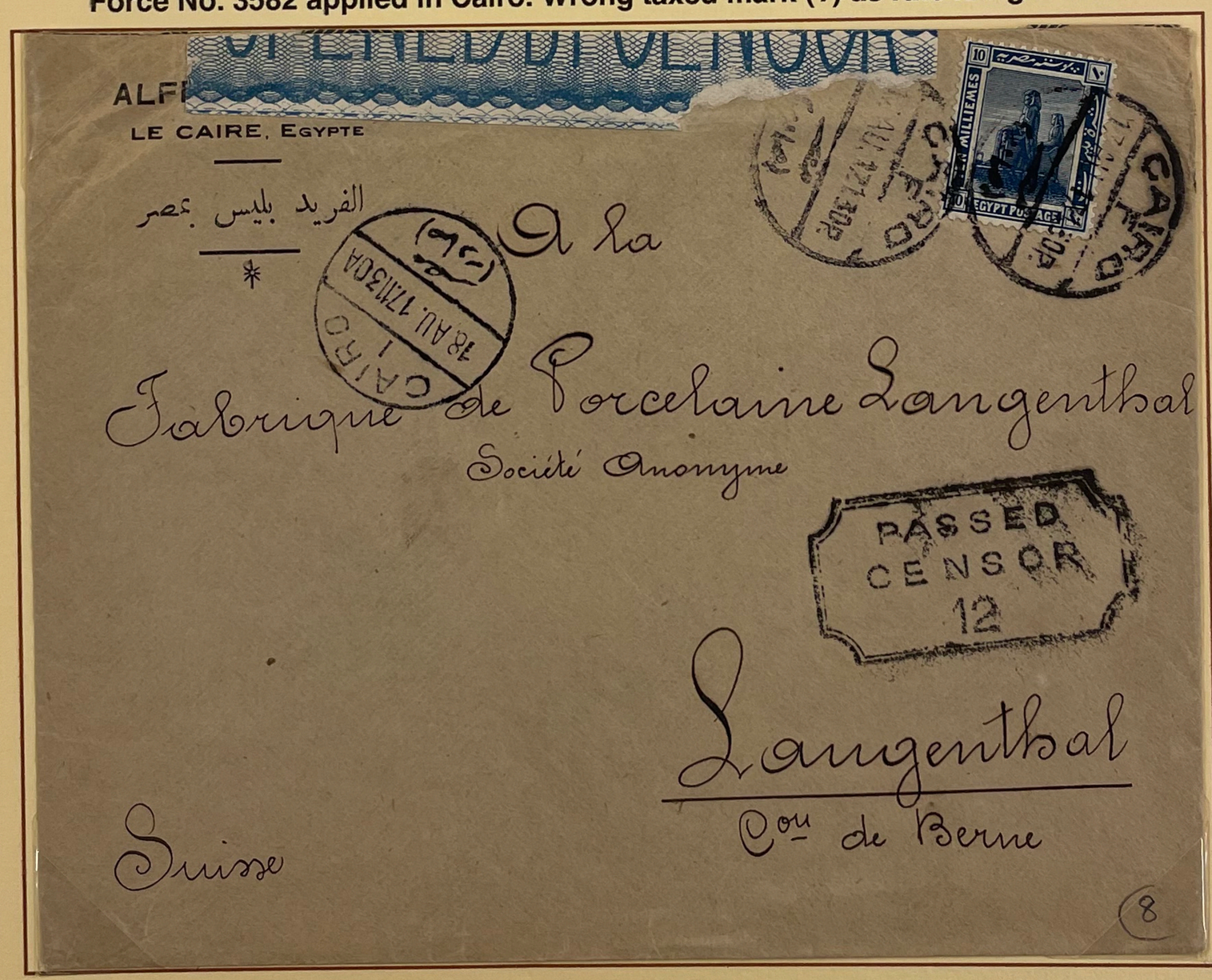
2 May 1916, cover sent to England from Cairo, Egypt. Censored by British Force No. 3784 applied in Cairo.



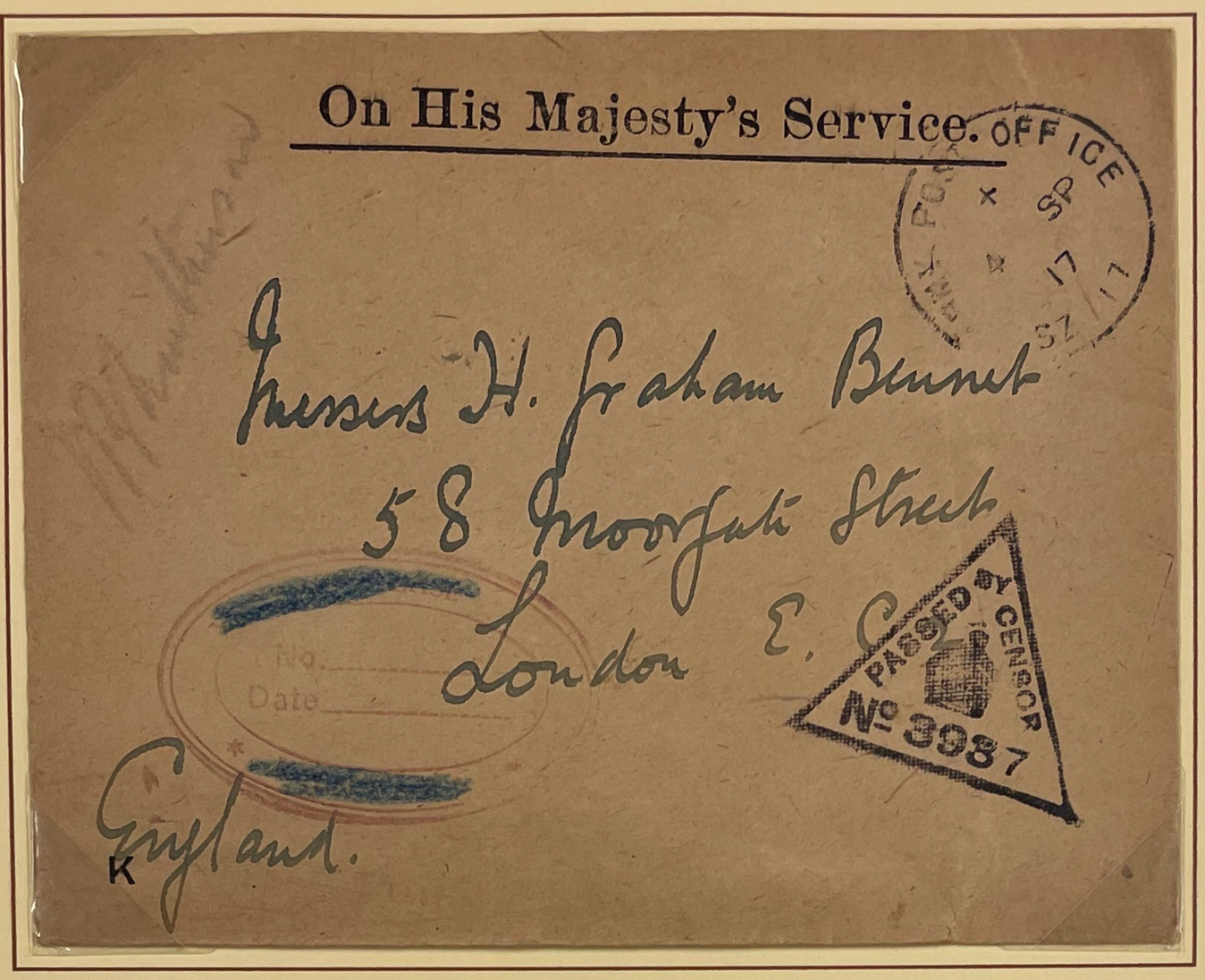
13 Jul 1916, cover sent to Zurich from Alexandria, Egypt. Censored by British Force No.19
Labeled by Egypt Civil Censorship Label. Reverse arrival CDS Zurich 23 Jul 1916.



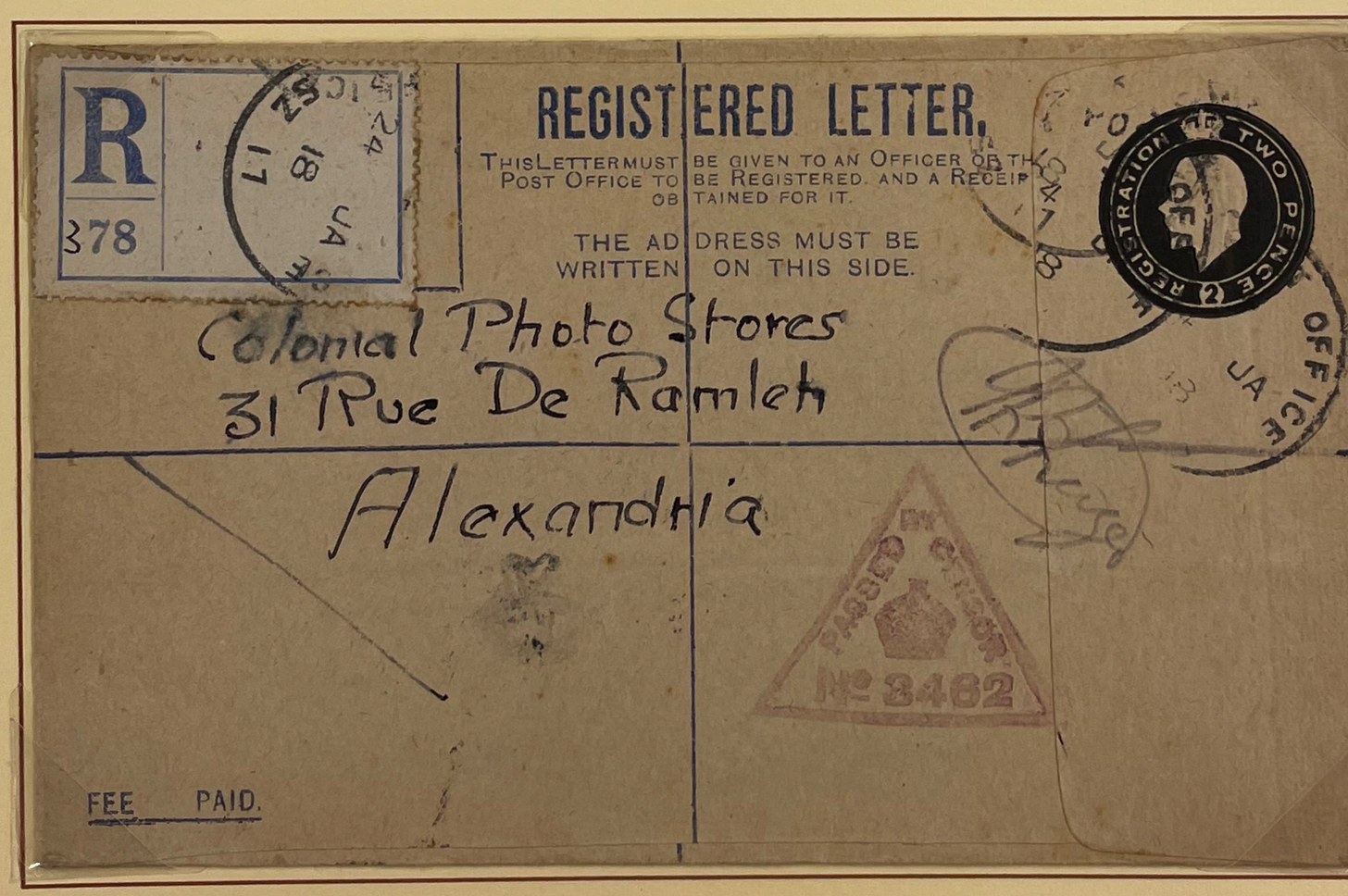
13 Sep 1916, postcard sent to England from Cairo, Egypt. Censored by British Force No. 3582 applied in Cairo. Wrong taxed mark (T) as rate is right 1mil.



18 Aug 1917, cover sent to Suisse from Cairo, Egypt. Censored by British Force No.12 Labeled by Egypt Civil Censorship Label. Reverse arrival CDS Langenthal 7 Sep 1917.



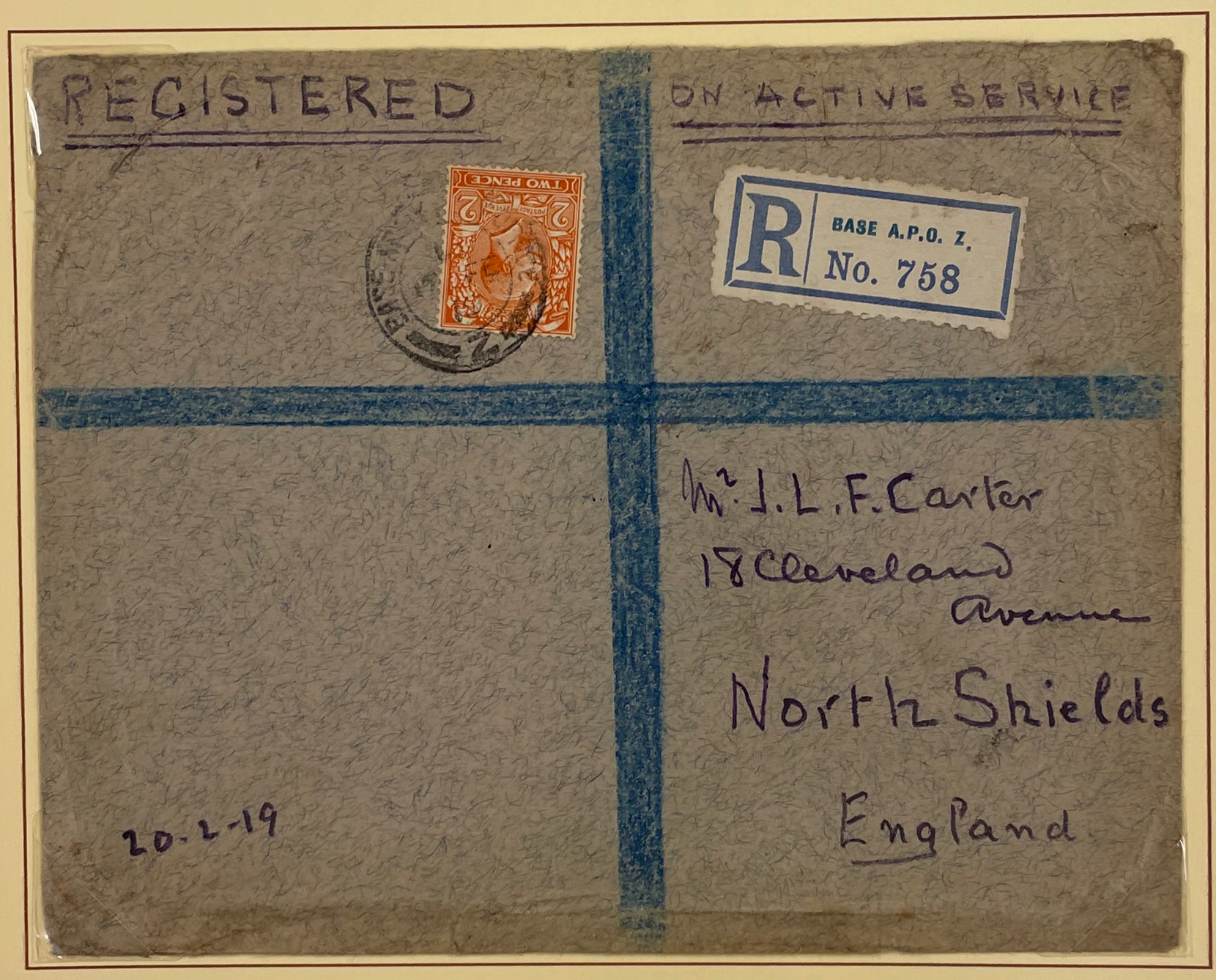
4 Sep 1917, Cover sent to England from Kantara, Egypt. Censored by British Force No. 3937 applied Kantara with CDS ARMY POST OFFICE SZ17.



24 Jan 1918, envelop sent to Alexandria from Ramleh, Egypt. Censored by British Force No.3462. CDS' ARMY POST OFFICE SZ17. Reverse CDS' Alexandria Military Post Office and Alexandria R - on 25 Jan 1918.

REGISTERED MAIL

After the tumultuous events of World War I, the Military Postal Concession was finally made free of charge, providing much-needed relief to troops who wished to stay in touch with their loved ones. However, to ensure the secure delivery of registered mail, **a prepayment rate of 2d** was still necessary, highlighting the importance of communication during a time of conflict and uncertainty.



12 Feb 1919, cover to North Shields from Alexandria with Great Britain 2d. bright orange Cancelled by BASE ARMY POST OFFICE Z date-stamp with registered label of BASE A.P.O. Z

UNSTAMPED MAIL



16 May? Postcard to England from Alexandria with Handwriting "On Active Service" and cachet "Received From H.M. SHIP - No Charge to be rasied"

20 May 1925 Front cover from "High Commissioner for Egypt" sent to Abasia from Cairo.

INTERWAR PERIOD

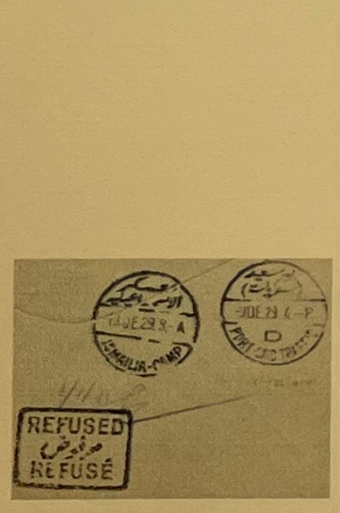
MILITARY CAMPS AND BASES

In 1930, there were three formations under command, namely the Cavalry Brigade, Canal Brigade and Cairo Brigade, each commanded by a Temporary Brigadier (Colonel). The main British bases were at Abbassia on the outskirts of Cairo, Kasr-el-Nil (in central Cairo), Moascar (Ismailia) and at Alexandria.

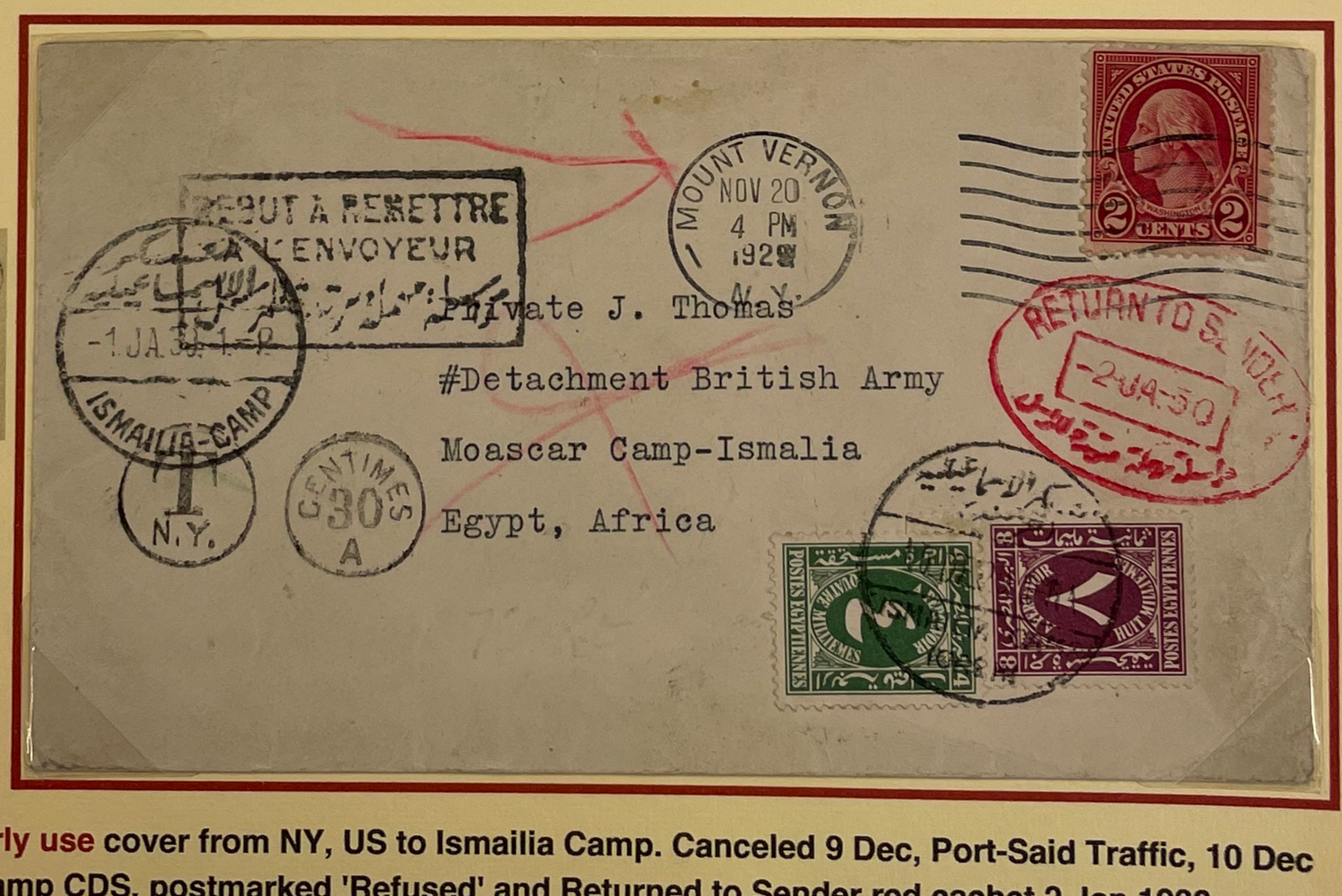


Early usage

9 Feb 1929, Cover sent to England from Abbassia with Egypt commemorative stamps 10ml. Canceled CDS BRITISH BARRACKS ABBASSIA



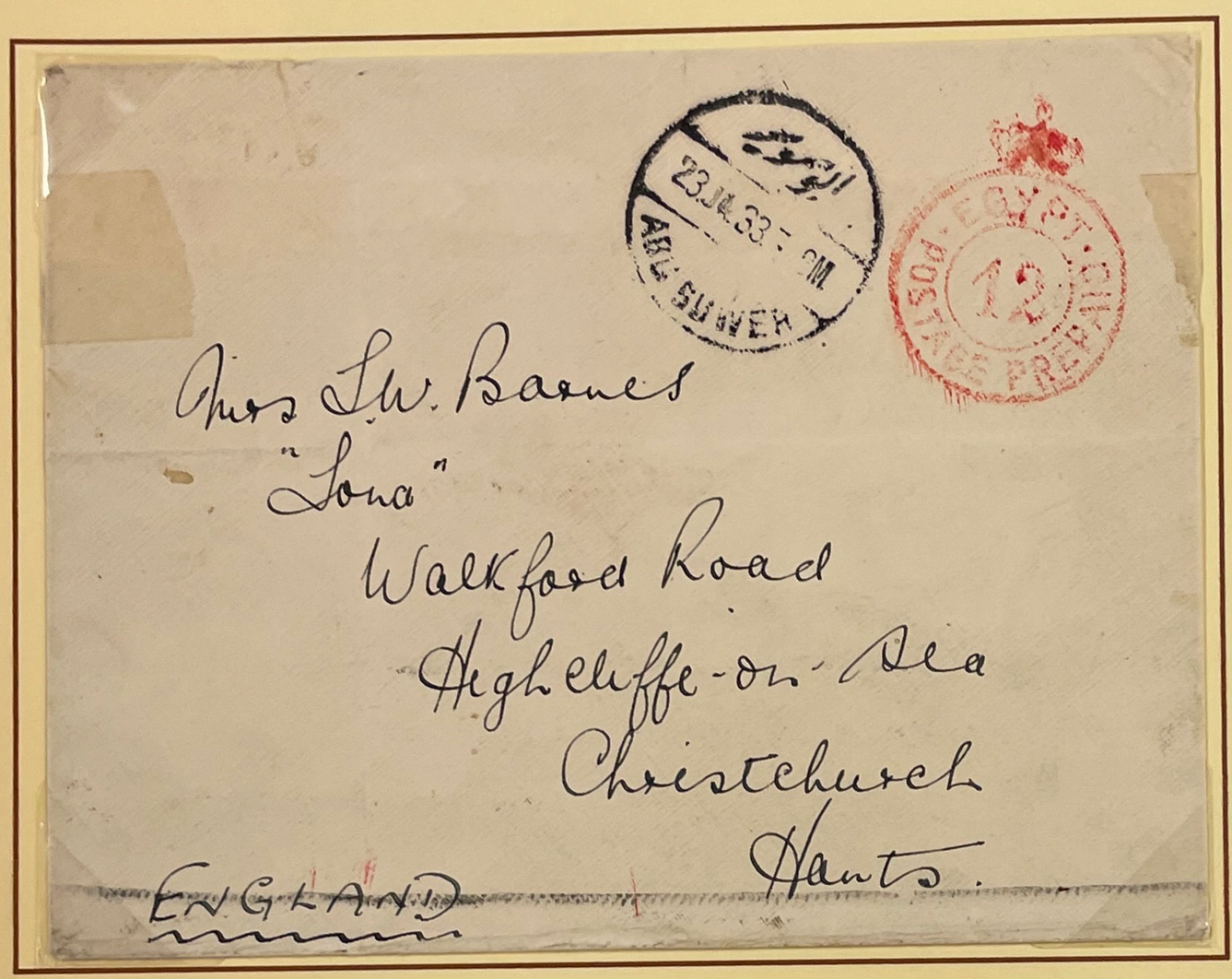
Reverse of cover reduced.



20 Nov 1929, Early use cover from NY, US to Ismailia Camp. Canceled 9 Dec, Port-Said Traffic, 10 Dec Ismailia-Camp CDS, postmarked 'Refused' and Returned to Sender red cachet 2 Jan 1930.

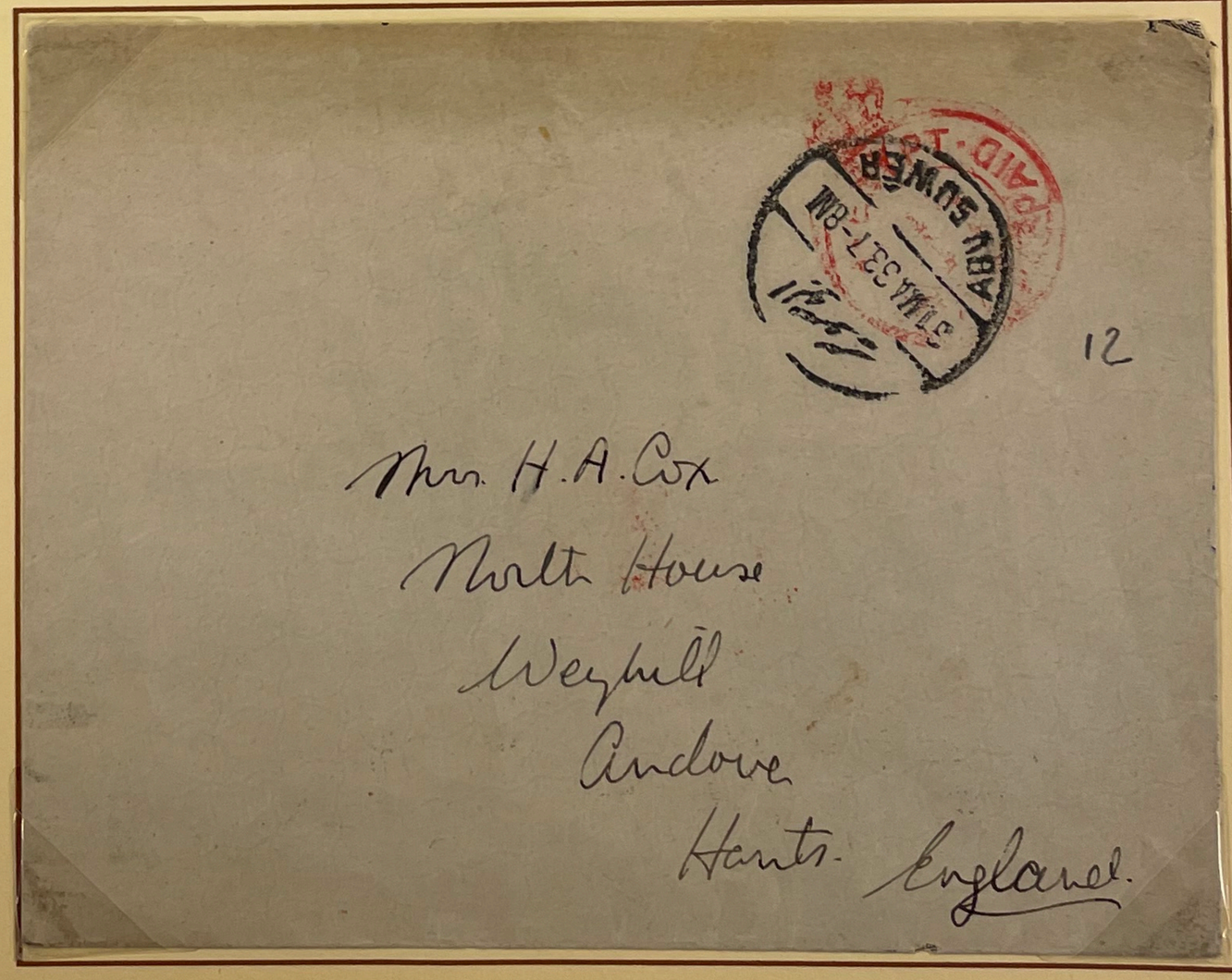
RAF ABU SUWER

No 4 Flying Training School was at Abu Sueir from 1921-39, then moved to RAF Habbaniya. RAF Habbaniya was used by No 102 Maintenance Unit, fighter squadrons, and bomber-equipped Nos 37 and 40 Squadrons. No 73 Operational Training Unit formed in Feb 1943, leaving in June.



23 Jan 1933, Cover sent to England from Abu Suwer, canceled CDS' Crown Postage Prepaid 12, Civilian ABU SUWER

Reverse: Machine cancelation Port-Said and 'Retta' in red.



31 Mar 1933, Cover sent to England from Abu Suwer, canceled CDS' Crown Postage Prepaid 11, Civilian ABU SUWER

Reverse: Machine cancelation Alexandria T.P.O and 'Retta' in Red.

ISMAILIA CAMP

Ismailia Camp was a British military base in Egypt during the 1930s, used for artillery training in a hot and dry environment. It had modern facilities and recreational activities for soldiers.



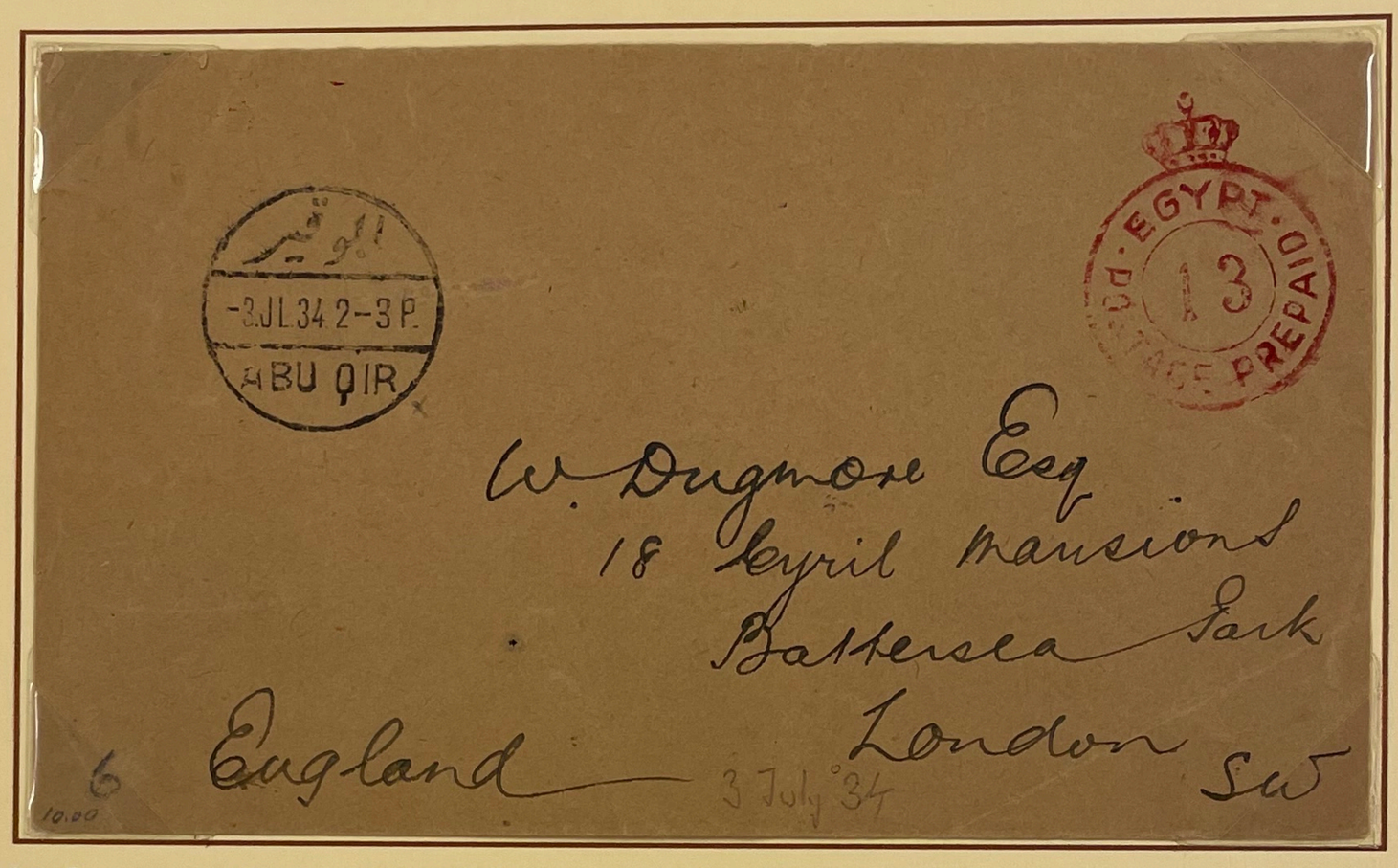
3 Jul 1934, Cover sent from Ismailia Camp to Abu Qir, Egypt. Canceled by Ismailia-Camp datestamp, T.P.O Port-Said - Alexandria 25 Sep, Sidi-Gaber Cash datestamp 25 Sep and T.P.O Alexandria - Abu Qir on same date.



Reverse of cover

ABU QIR

Abu Qir Camp was a British military base in Egypt during the 1930s, used for infantry training in a hot and dry environment. It had modern facilities and recreational activities for soldiers. Here are the various types of cancellation datestamps utilized by ABU QIR Camp.



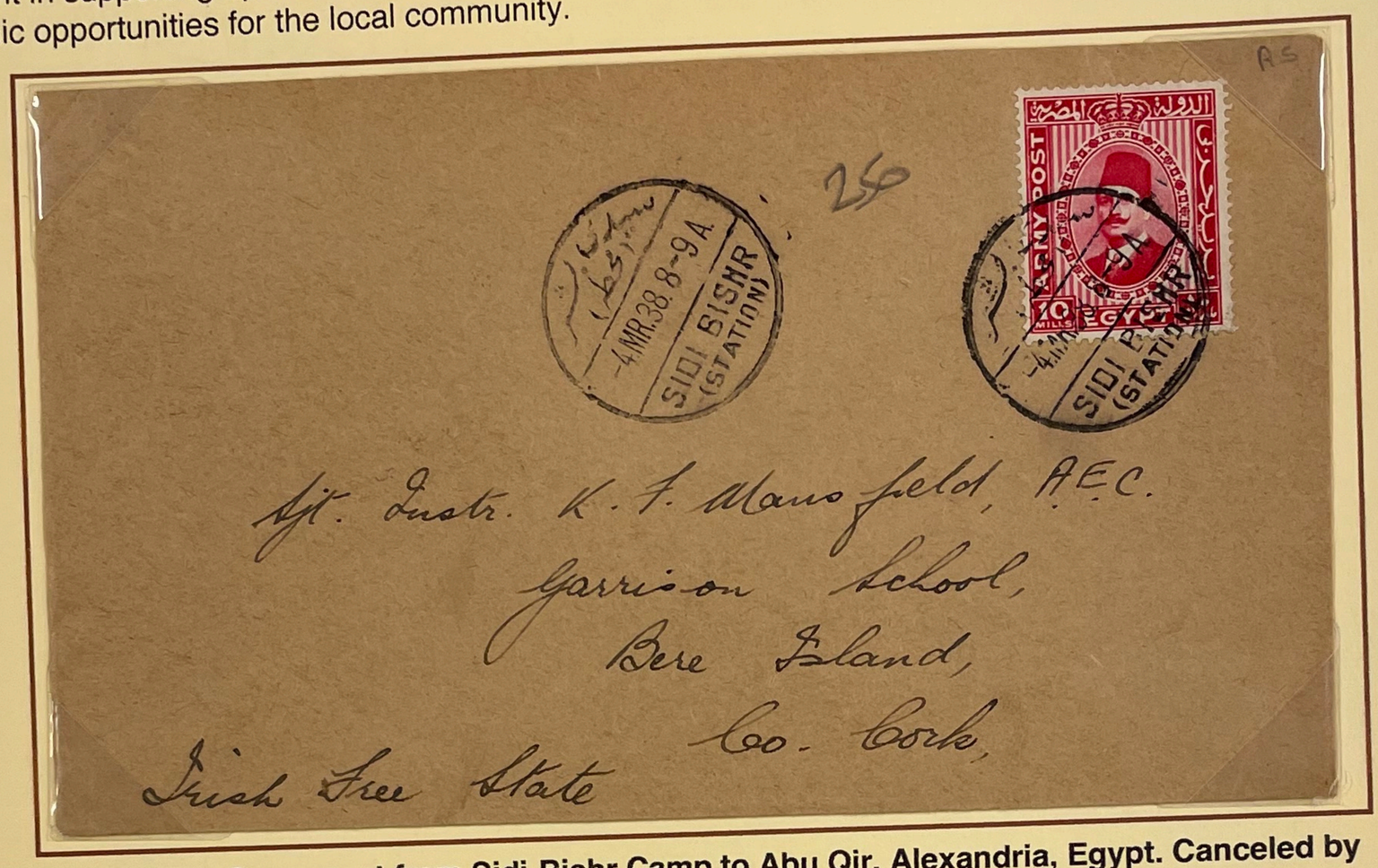
3 Jul 1934, Cover send From ABU QIR Camp to London, CDS' ABU QIR (type I) **Alexandria (B) 3 Jul 1934.**



6 May 1935 FDC bearing overprinted 1 pi. bright ultramarine. CDS' by 'Retta' in black with datestamps of ABU QIR (type II) **and Alexandria alongside, and 'Postage Prepaid 14'**

SIDI BISHR - Alexandria CAMP

Sidi Bishr, near Alexandria, served as a British military camp during both World Wars. It was strategically important in supporting operations in the Middle East and North Africa. The camp provided employment and economic opportunities for the local community.



4 Mar 1938, Cover sent from Sidi-Bishr Camp to Abu Qir, Alexandria, Egypt. Canceled by SIDI BISHR (STATION) datestamp, arrived at Alexandria same date.



1 Jul 1942, Cover sent from Alexandria Camp to Port-Said, Egypt. Canceled by ALEXANDRIA civilian Egyptian post office cancellation datestamp. Franked by 1½D and scare Egyptian Farouk 3Mills Military post stamp.

INTERWAR PERIOD

MILITARY CAMPS AND BASES

M.P.O. PORT-SAÏD

The M.P.O. Port Said was established on March 1, 1936, at the Navy House in Port Said harbor, to facilitate communication for both Army and Royal Navy personnel stationed in Egypt. However, covers from this M.P.O. are scarce, and the ones available are mostly from the first day of issue of the 3 millimes' Fouad Army Post stamp. However, a rare cover has been found that shows a unique usage for M.P.O. PORT-SAID as it marks the earliest unrecorded date of arrival within the Postal Concession period of 1932 to 1941. This cover is likely to be a one-of-a-kind item.



29 Oct 1936, Incoming cover from WESTOOD, ENGLAND to PORT-SAÏD, EGYPT
Cancelled by M.P.O. PORT-SAID datestamp arrive in 3 Nov 1936.

This cover provides a valuable insight into the challenges of managing communication during wartime. It highlights the importance of the M.P.O. Port Said in facilitating communication for Army and Royal Navy personnel stationed in Egypt during a critical period of history. It also illustrates the scarcity of covers from this M.P.O. and the importance of preserving and documenting them for future.

M.P.O. MOASCAR

MPO Moascar is a large military base in Ismailia, Egypt, serving as headquarters for the Second Field Army and home to military schools and training facilities.

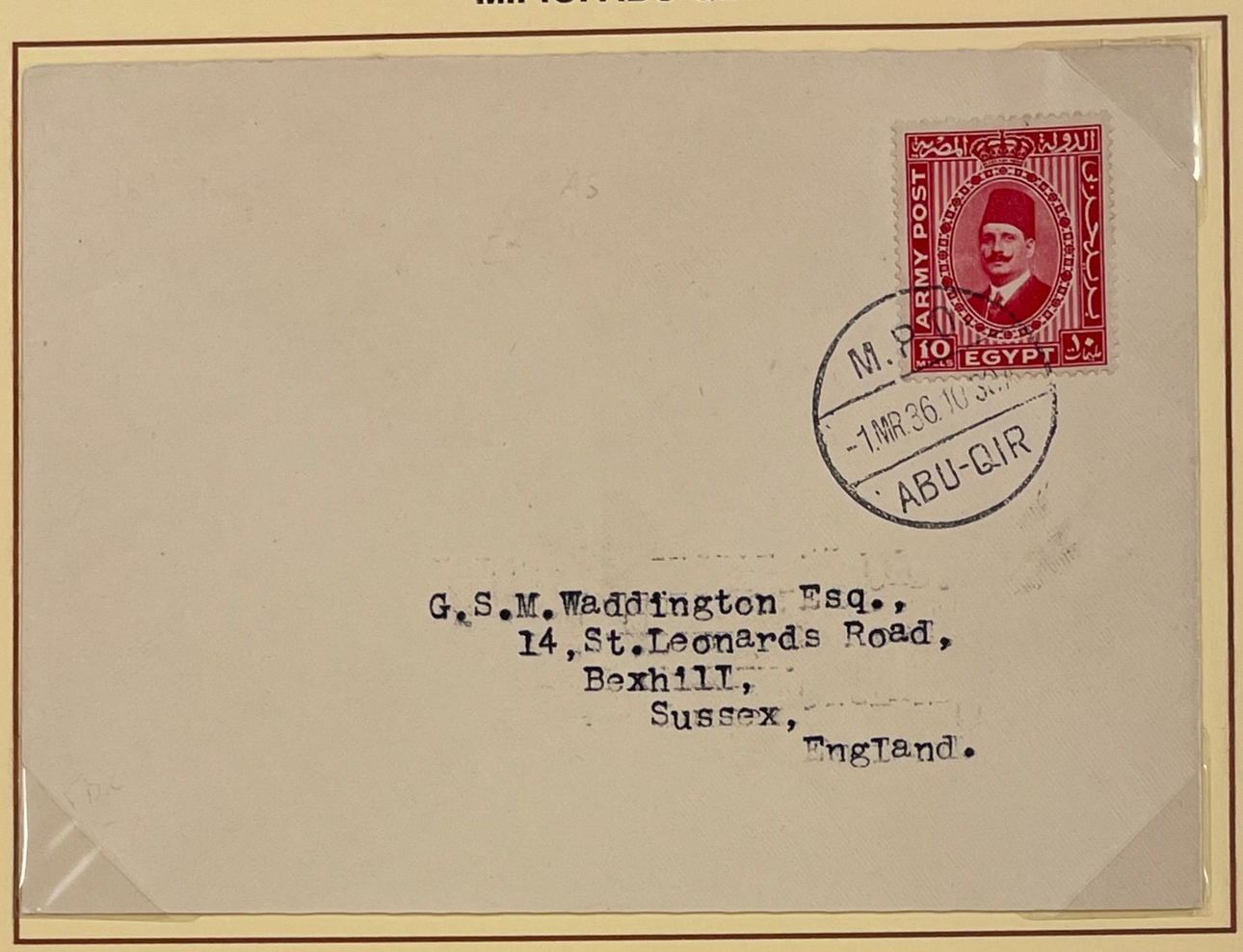
M.P.O. MOASCAR (Violet)

M.P.O. MOASCAR (Black)

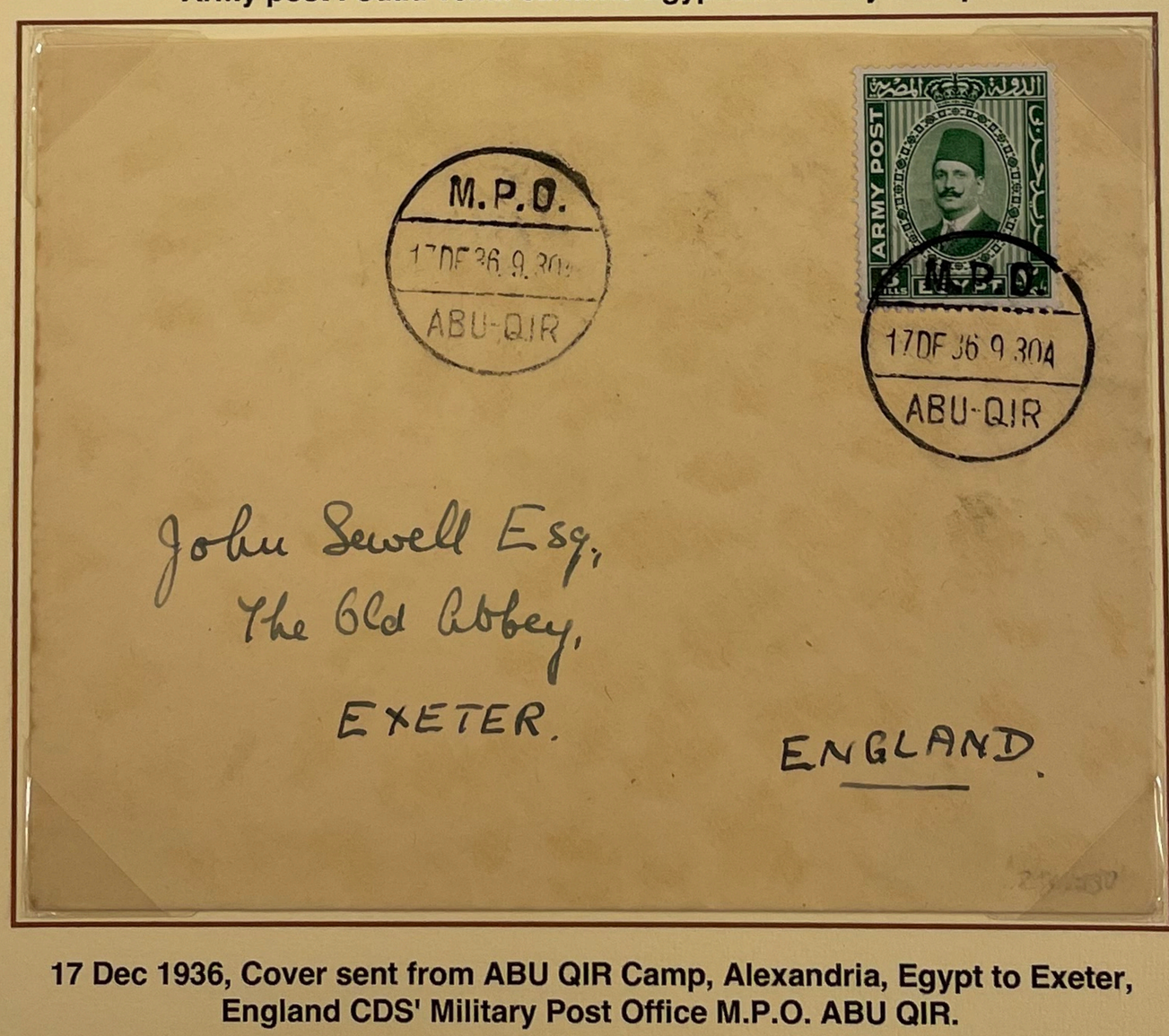


17 Mar 1938, Cover sent from Moascar, Egypt to Birmingham, England. CDS' M.P.O. MOASCAR, and ALEXANDRIA (1) 18 MAR 1938.

M.P.O. ABU QIR

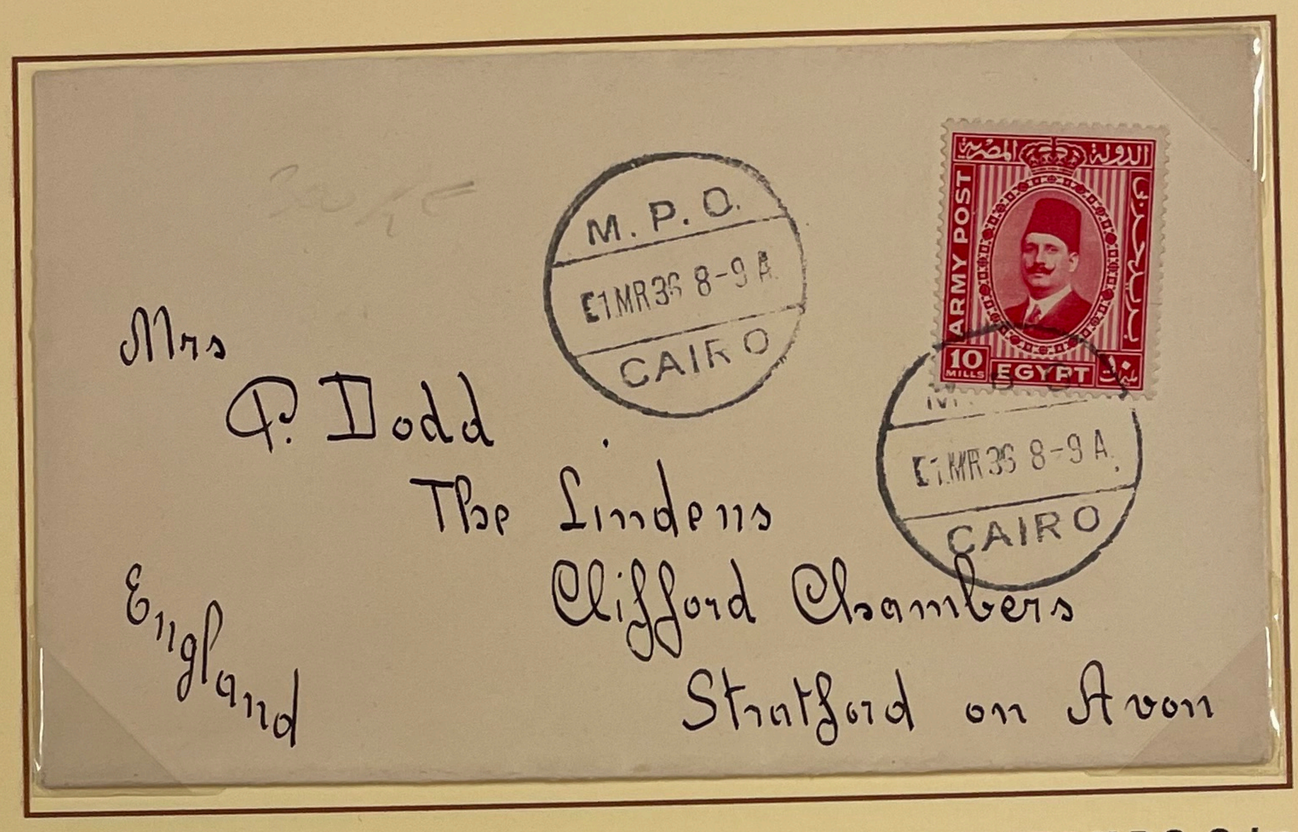


1 Mar 1936, Cover sent from ABU QIR Camp, Alexandria, Egypt to Sussex, England CDS' Military Post Office M.P.O. ABU QIR. Used on first day issue of Army post Fouad 10ml. carmine Egyptian Military stamp.

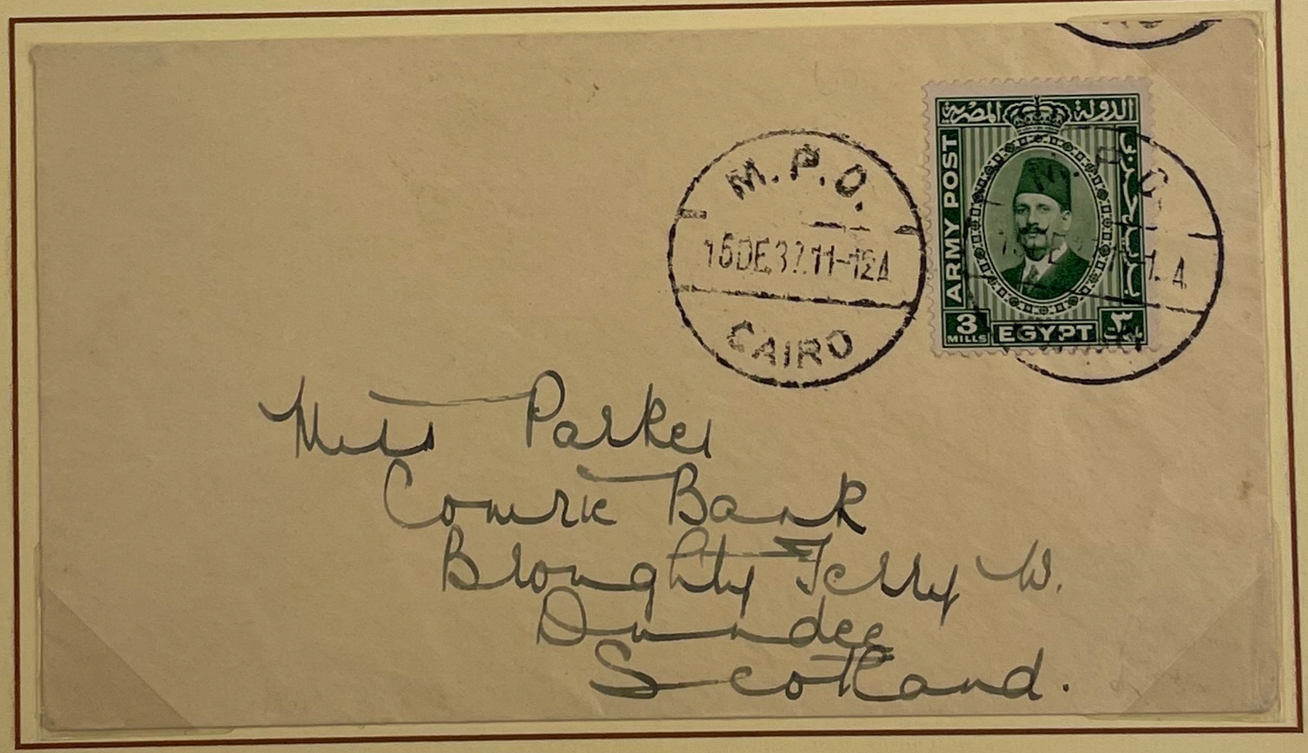


17 Dec 1936, Cover sent from ABU QIR Camp, Alexandria, Egypt to Exeter, England CDS' Military Post Office M.P.O. ABU QIR.

M.P.O. CAIRO (TYPE I,II)



1 Mar 1936, Cover sent from Cairo, Egypt to England CDS' (TYPE I) M.P.O. Cairo used on first day issue of Fouad 10ml. Egyptian Military stamp.



15 Dec 1936, Cover sent from Cairo, Egypt to Scotland CDS' (TYPE II) M.P.O.

M.P.O. CAIRO (TYPE III, IV)



22 Oct 1938, Cover sent from Cairo, Egypt to England CDS' (TYPE III) M.P.O.



22 Mar 1939, Cover sent from Cairo, Egypt to England CDS' (TYPE IV) M.P.O.

NUMERAL FRANK 1

The Crown Cancels or Numeral Franks were a form of marking used to show evidence of origin on the front of covers during the Postal Concession in Egypt in November 1932. They were a double ring with the Egyptian crown on top, supplied by the Egyptian Postal Administration.

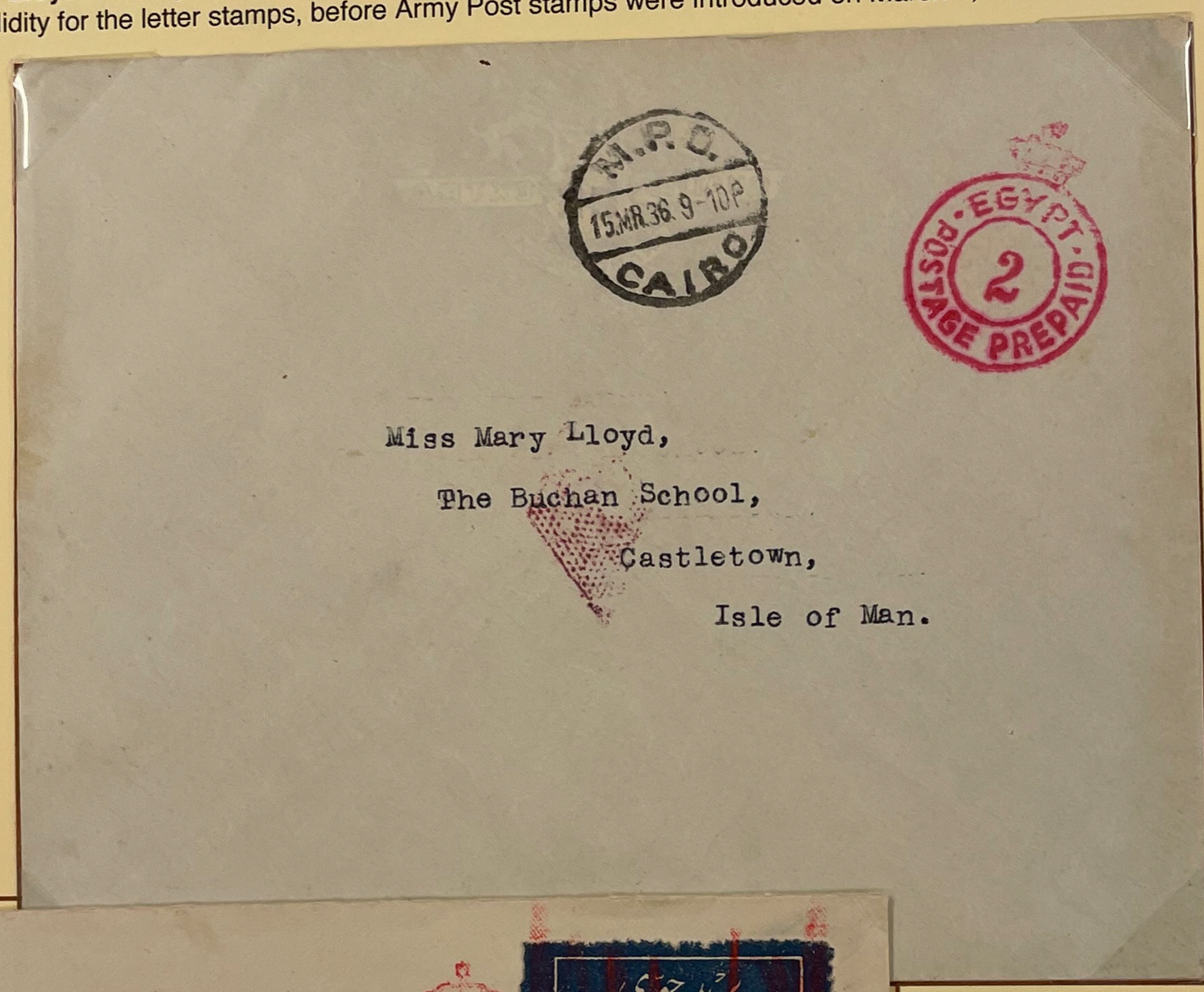


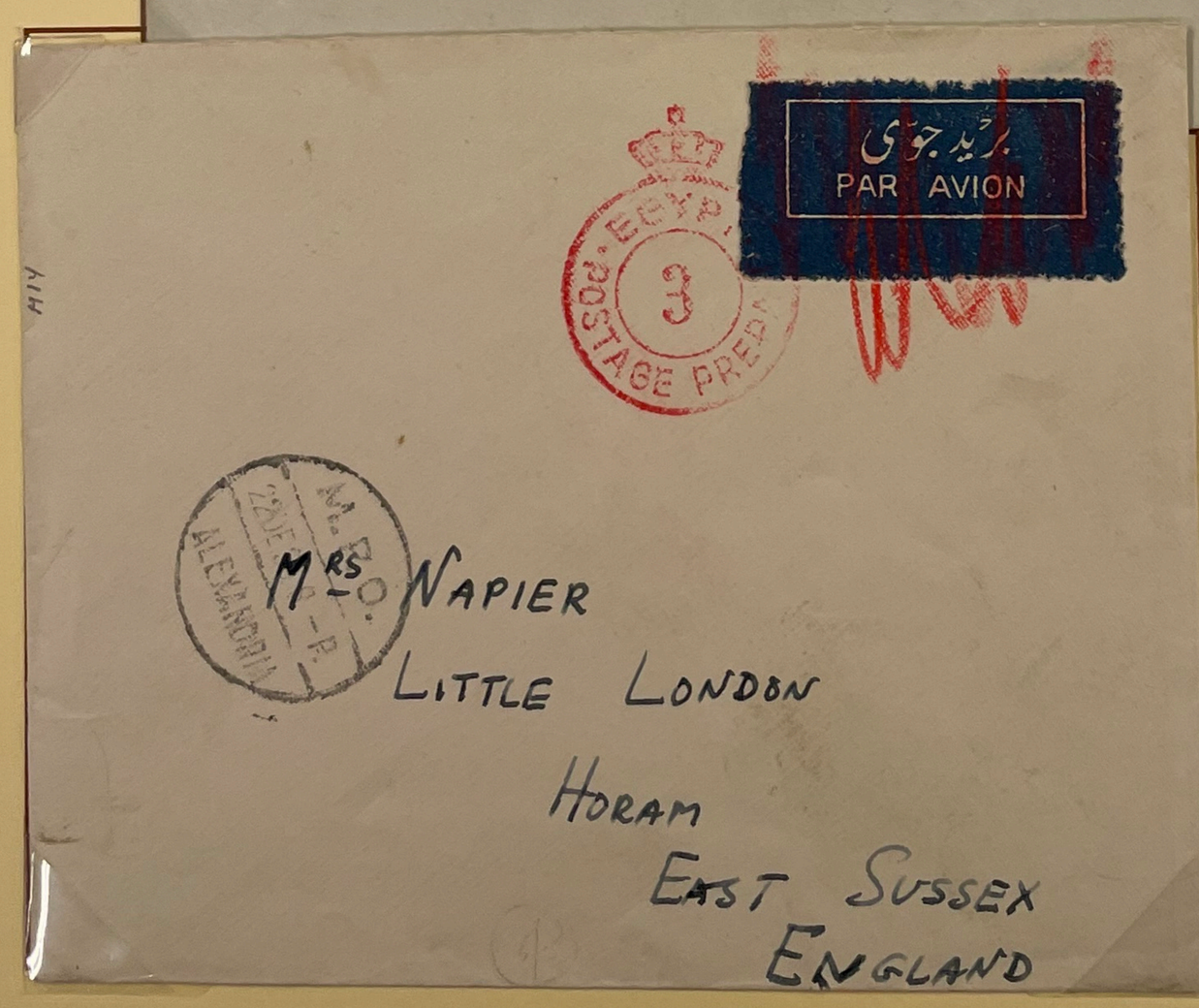
10 Mar 1935 Cover sent to England from Egypt CDS M.P.O. MOASCAR (Type II) **datestamp with Crown Cancel #1.**

Crown Cancel #1 was used in M.P.O. Moascar then transferred to M.P.O. Cairo sometime after 15 June 1935. However, **no Cairo dates are known for this Crown Cancel except for 15 March 1936.** *M.P.O. Cairo* CDS cover shows the last day of use of the Crown Cancels and the last day of validity for the letter stamps. Army Post stamps came into use on March 1, 1936. The stamp is cancelled with a mauve retta, not the normal black.

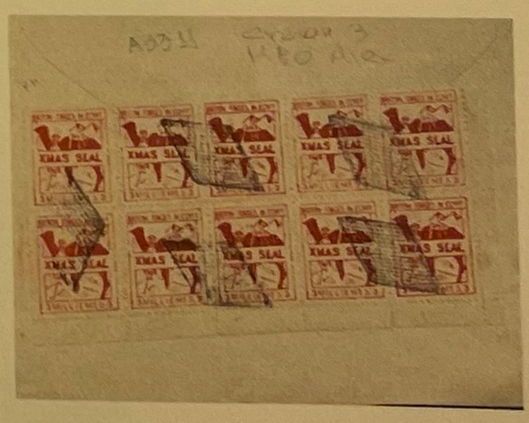
NUMERAL FRANK 2, 3

Crown Cancel #2 was assigned to the M.P.O. Cairo, Egypt, but was only used on **special presentation Mary Lloyd last day covers**. This cover denotes the last day of use of the Crown Cancels and the last day of validity for the letter stamps, before Army Post stamps were introduced on March 1, 1936.





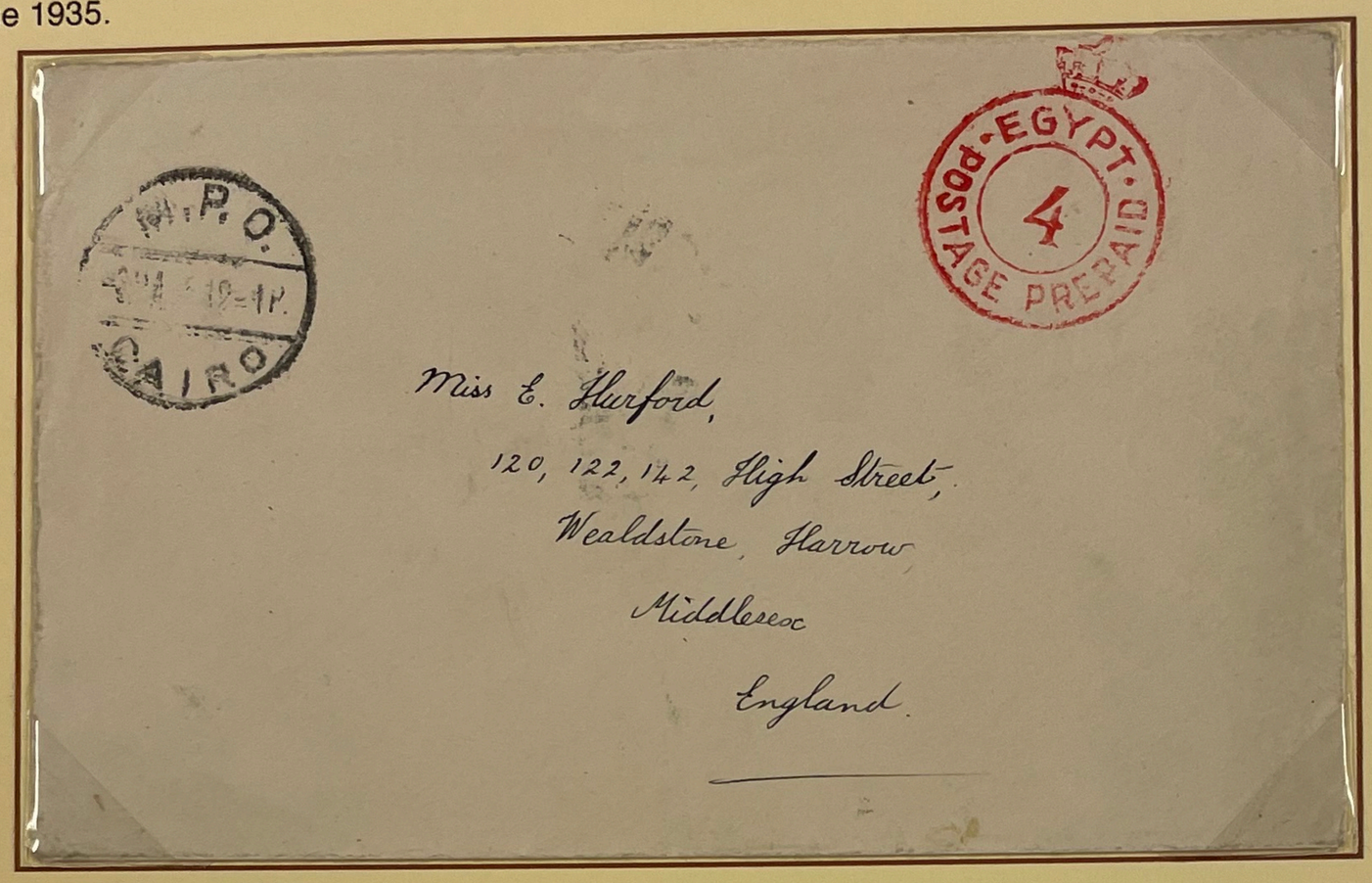
10 Mar 1935 Cover airmail sent to England from Alexandria Egypt CDS M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA datestamp with Crown Cancel #3.



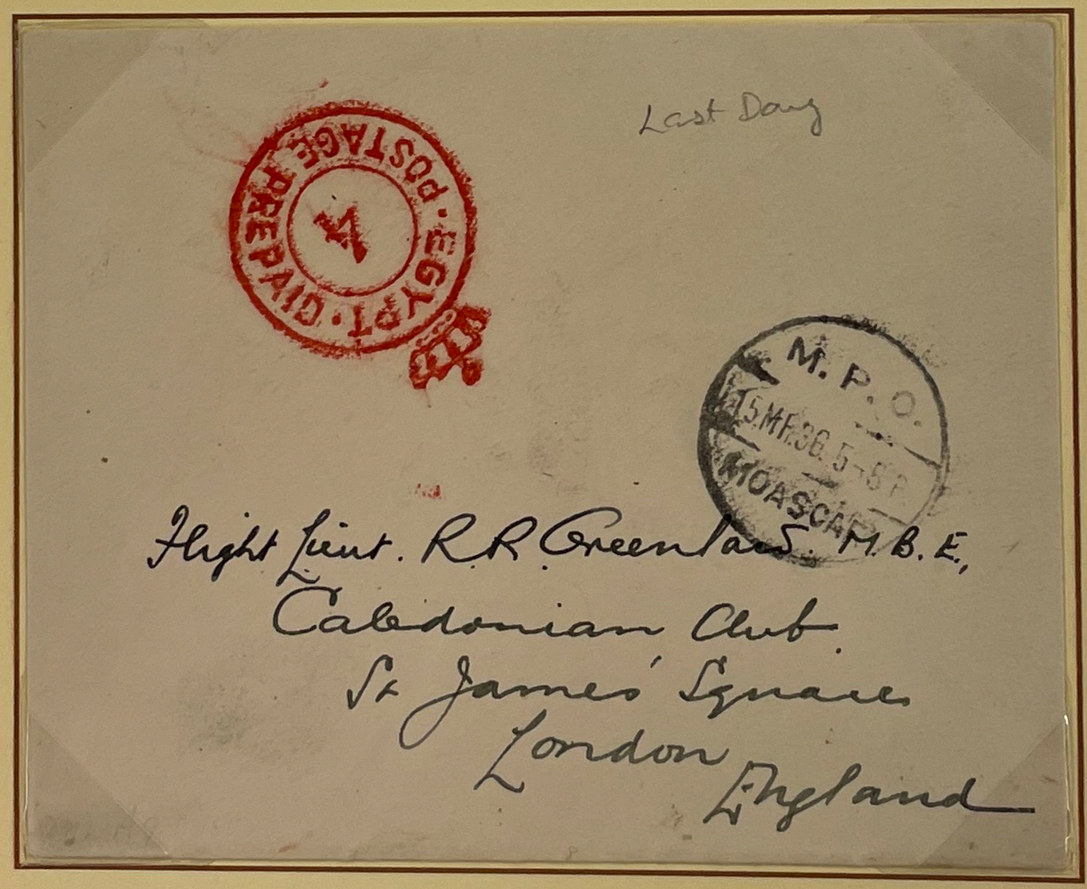
Reverse: cancelled by retta black. *Unusual rate.*

NUMERAL FRANK 4

Crown Cancel #4 was used at Cairo from beginning then transferred and used at Moascar Ismailia starting from June 1935.



18 Apr 1935 Cover sent to England from Cairo, Egypt Canceled by Crown #4 and M.P.O. Cairo datestamp.



15 Mar 1936 (Last Day Use) Crown Cancel #4 at MOASCAR, cover sent to London, England canceled by M.P.O. MOASCAR datestamp.

NUMERAL FRANK 5, 6

Crown Cancel #5, 6 was used at Cairo from beginning to the last day.



31 Jan 1933 Cover sent to London, England from Cairo, Egypt Canceled by Crown #5 and M.P.O. Cairo datestamp.



20 Dec 1933 Crown Cancel #6 at Cairo, cover sent to England canceled by M.P.O. Cairo datestamp.

NUMERAL FRANK 7

Crown Cancel Number #7, which was a form of marking used to show evidence of origin on the front of covers during the Postal Concession in Egypt, was lost down a well at **M.P.O. Moascar**, likely on March 6, 1933. It is unclear how the Crown Cancel ended up in the well, but this incident caused it to be missing from the presentation set that included the other 24 different Crown Cancels. As a result, Crown Cancel #7 is rare. Despite efforts to locate the missing Crown Cancel, it has not been found.



6 Dec 1932 Cover sent to England from Ismailia, Egypt Canceled by Crown #7 and M.P.O. MOASCAR (Type I) **datestamp.**



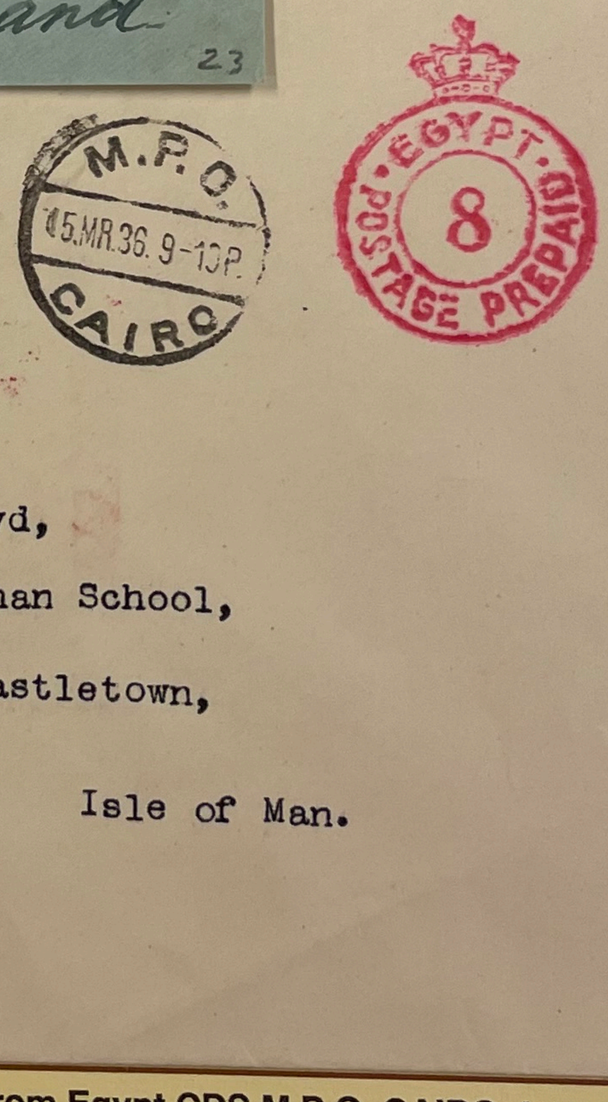
Reverse **of cover canceled by violet retta instead of black**

NUMERAL FRANK 8

Crown Cancels number #8 were initially intended for use at the Military Post Office in Moascar, but they were transferred to Cairo in June 1935. However, these Crown Cancels were held in reserve and are only known to have been used on philatelic last day covers.



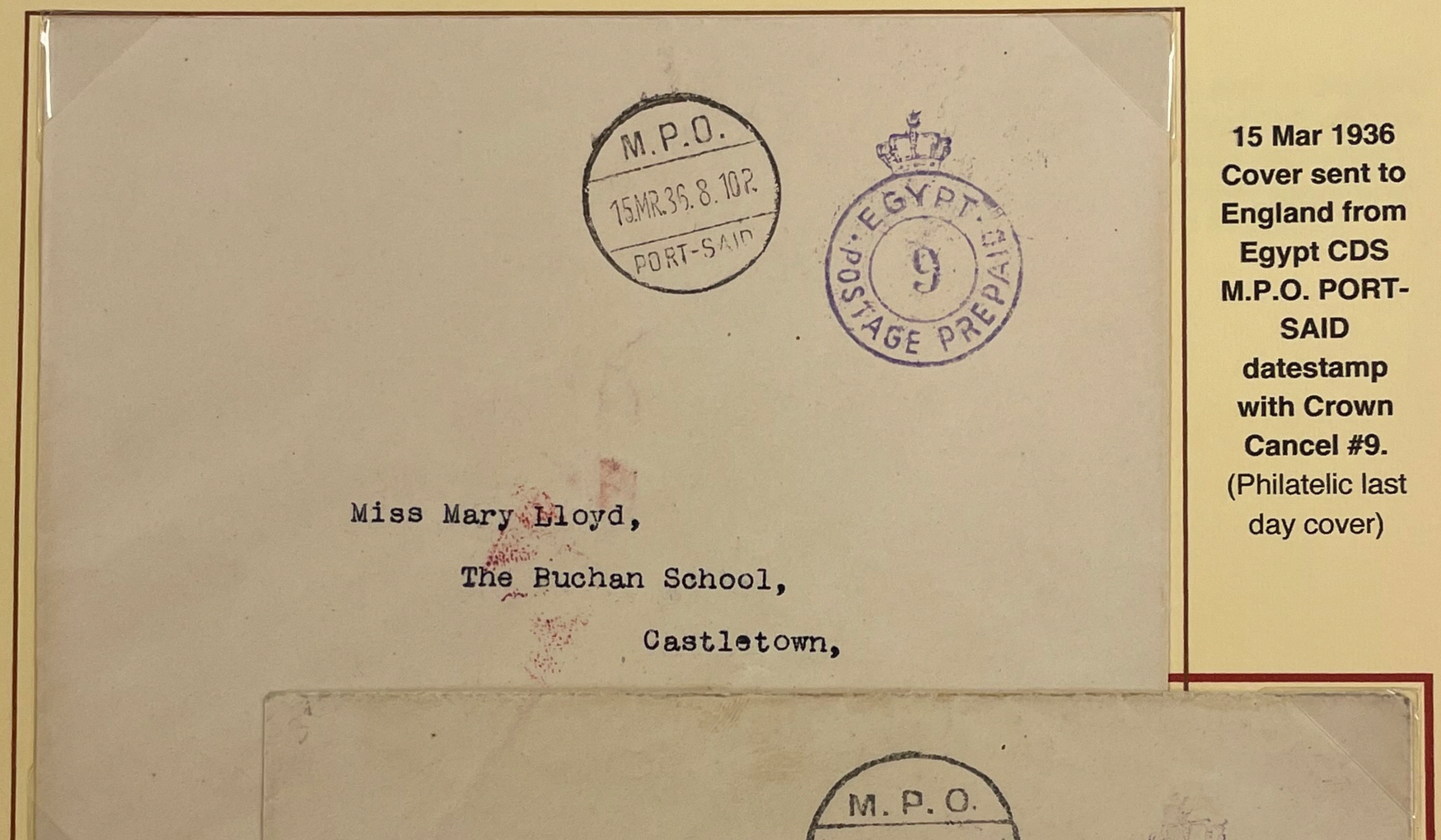
15 Jul 1934 Cover sent to England from Ismailia, Egypt CDS M.P.O. MOASCAR datestamp with Crown Cancel #8. Taxed at England tedded by WEYMOUTH, 3d. stamp to cover postage rate.



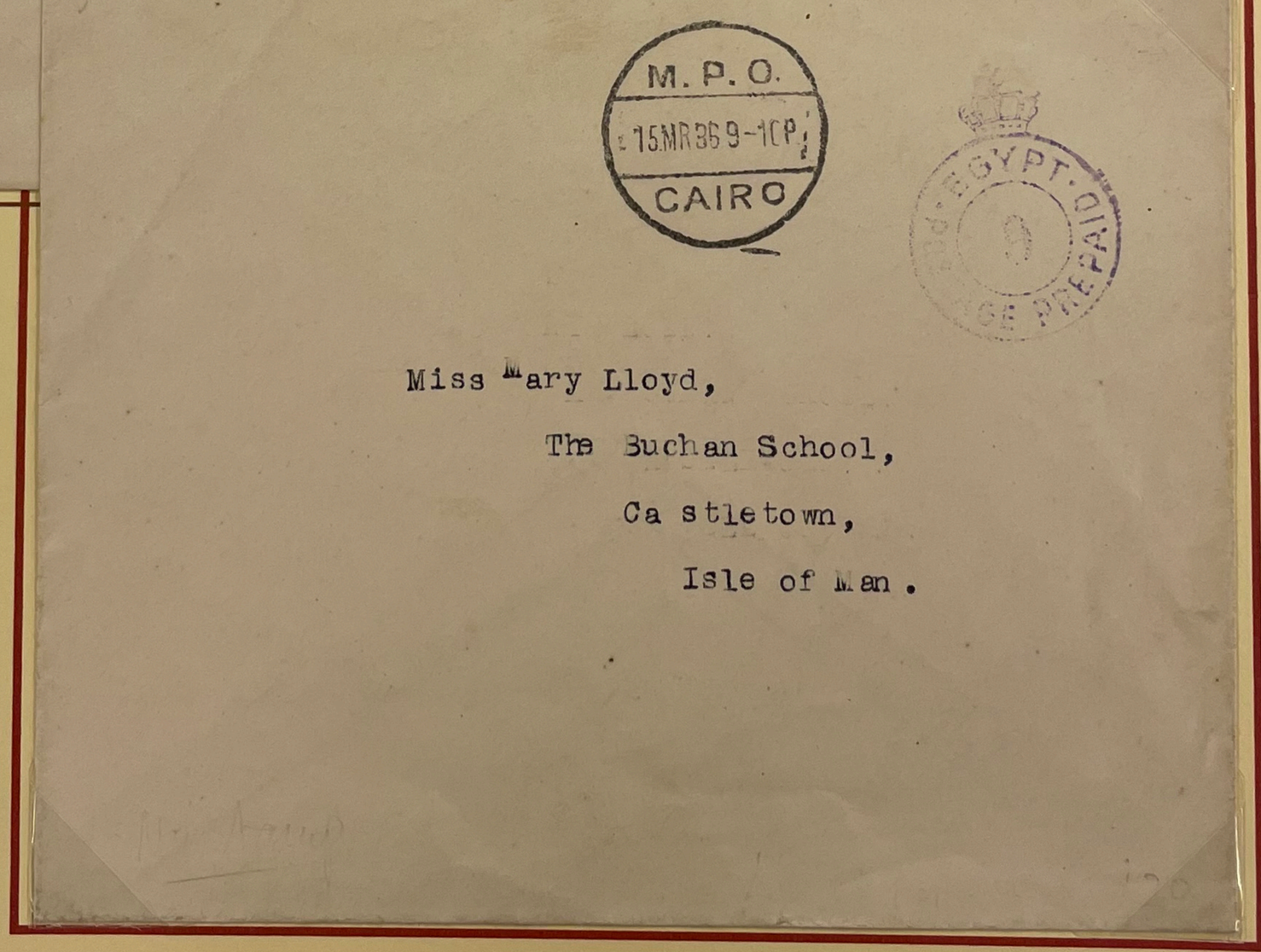
15 Mar 1936 Cover sent to England from Egypt CDS M.P.O. CAIRO datestamp with Crown Cancel #8. (Philatelic last day cover)

NUMERAL FRANK 9

Crown Cancel 9 was originally assigned to the Navy House in Port Said but was held in reserve, and there is no evidence that it was used on any covers other than the special presentation philatelic ones that were postmarked on March 15, 1936. The Military Post Office datestamp was introduced on March 1, 1936. The frank on this Crown Cancel is not the typical red color but rather violet, and the retta is red instead of black.



15 Mar 1936 Cover sent to England from Egypt CDS M.P.O. PORT-SAID datestamp with Crown Cancel #9. (Philatelic last day cover)



15 Mar 1936 Cover sent to England from Egypt CDS M.P.O. CAIRO datestamp with Crown Cancel #9. (Philatelic last day cover)

One of kind

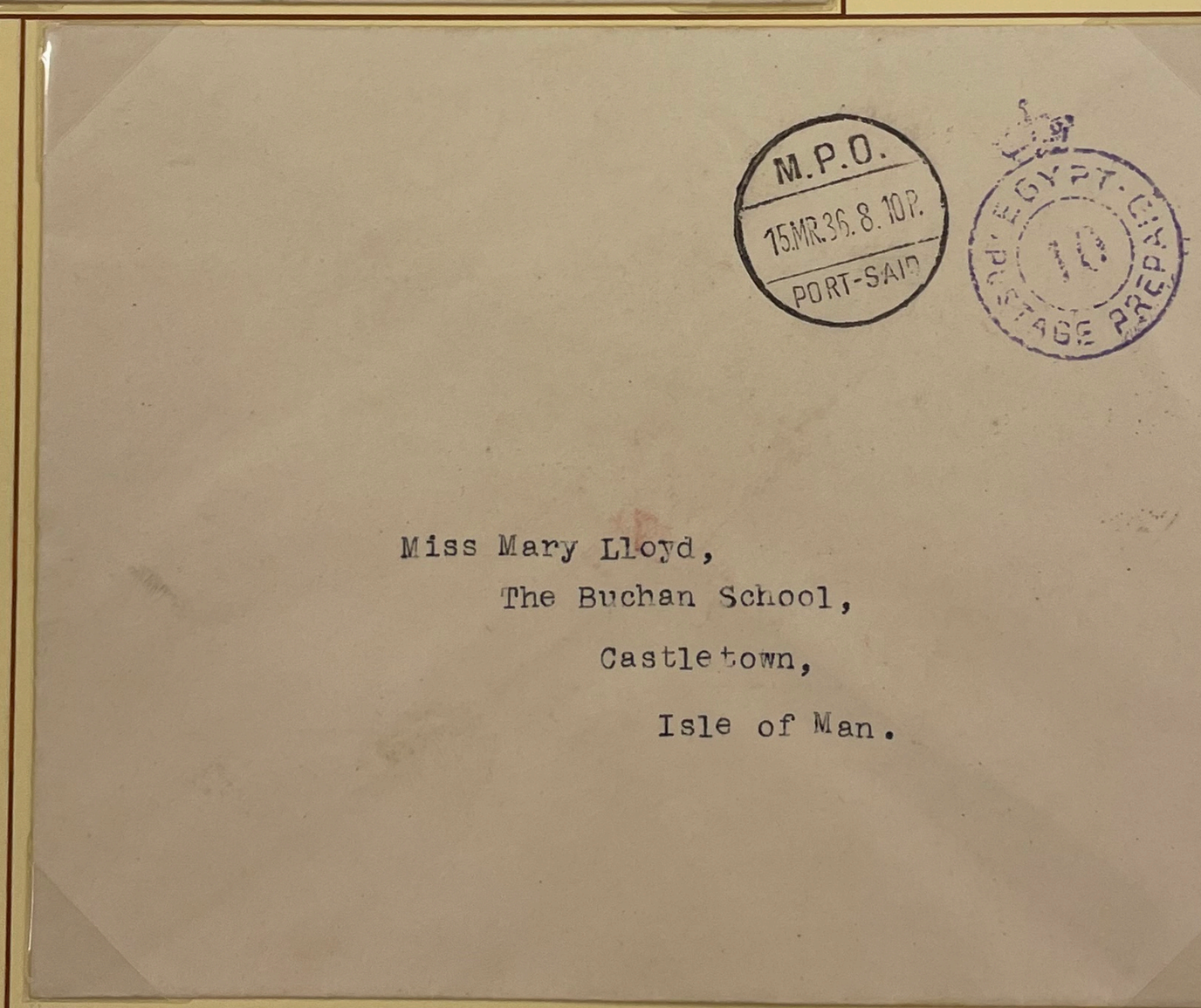
INTERWAR PERIOD

THE CROWN CANCELS

NUMERAL FRANK 10



18 Dec 1934 Cover sent to England from Port-Said, Egypt CDS civilian Port-Said datestamp with Crown Cancel #10. in red and the retta is red instead of black.



The M.P.O. PORT SAID CDS. was introduced on March 1, 1936, for use on the newly issued ARMY POST stamps at the Military Post Office in Port Said. However, the only covers that are known to bear this numeral frank and the Military M.P.O. CDS of Port Said are philatelic postmarked on March 15, 1936. The Crown Cancel on these covers is not the typical red color but rather violet, and the retta is red instead of black.