

## British Conquest 1882

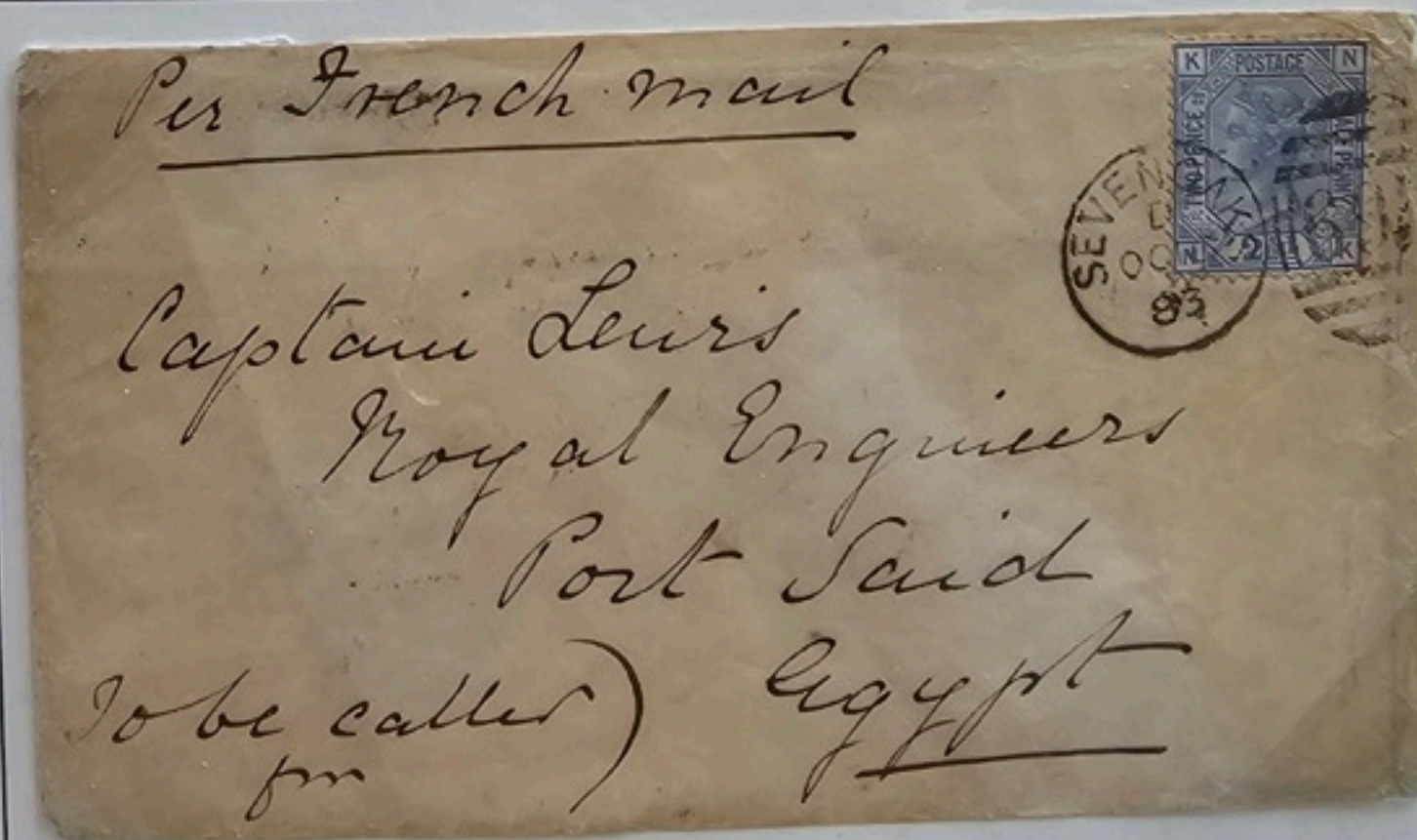
This display covers the century 1882 to 1982 and portrays the various armies that have fought on Egyptian soil in that time. Unfortunately for Egypt is strategically placed at the junction of Africa and Asia so since ancient times armies have march across it. With the coming of the modern era and the completion of the Suez canal its strategic importance only increased non more so then the colonial powers. Almost by mistake Britain found itself embroiled in a revolt against the Khedive and temporally occupied Egypt. This temporary occupation was to last seventy years in which it involved Egypt in the two world wars and several smaller ones. Nationalist pressure finally saw the British leave Egypt but even before then Egypt became involved in the Palestinian cause which results in several wars with Israel.

This display does not attempt to cover all postal aspects of these sad occurrences but to illustrate the various armies and nationalities involved by a few examples.



An Egyptian postal card franked by one of the British postmarks especially made for the 1882 campaign.

An incoming letter sent to a British soldier.



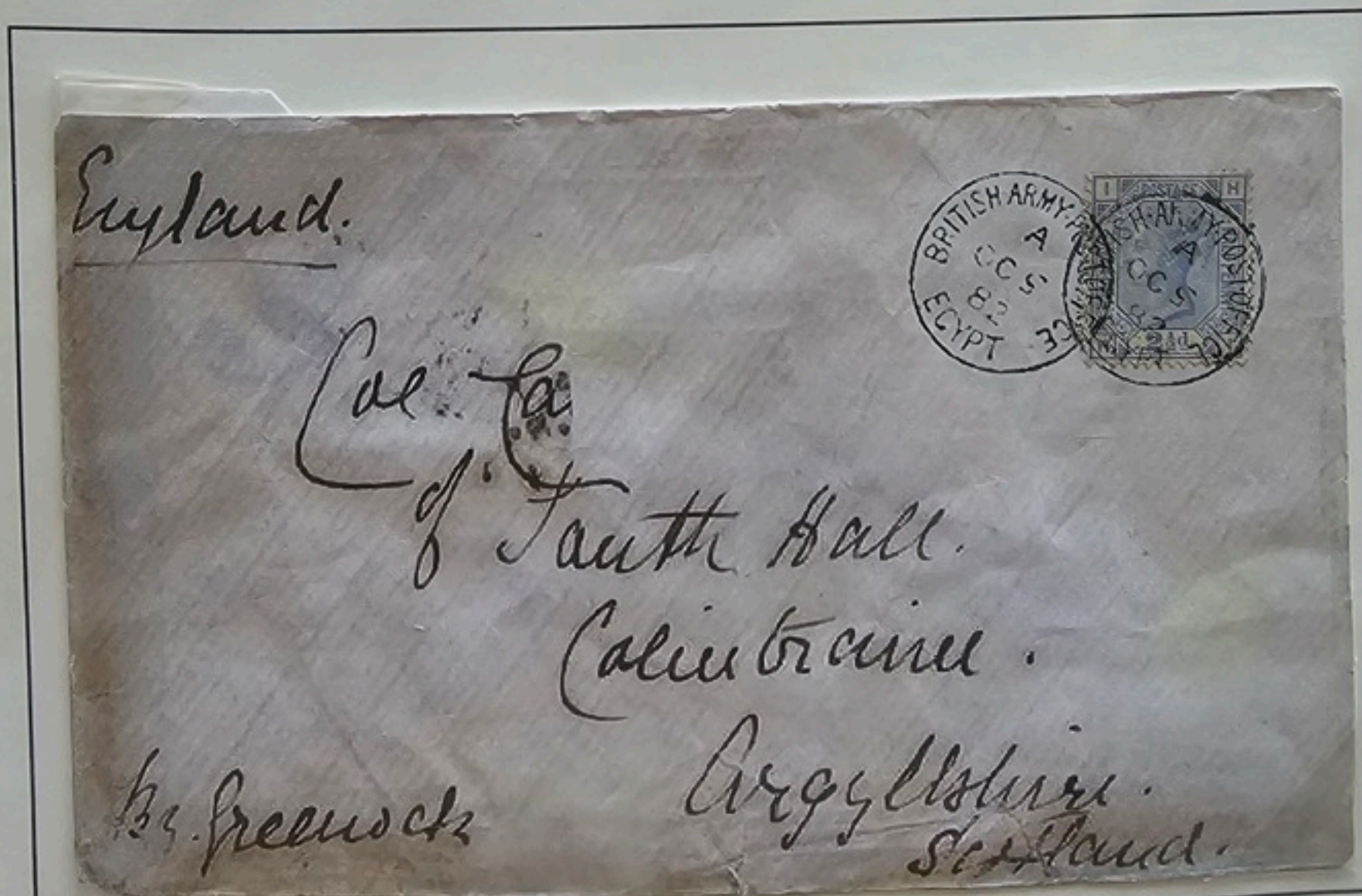


# British Conquest 1882

On the 11th August 1882 a postal notice was issued stating the postal charges for the British forces involved with the conquest of Egypt. Letters were 2½d per half ounce, postcards 1d with newspaper and books ½d per 2oz. The non officer ranks were given a concessional rate for letter not exceeding an half ounce of 1d. While letters franked at the 2½d are far from rare the 1d rate is rarely encountered



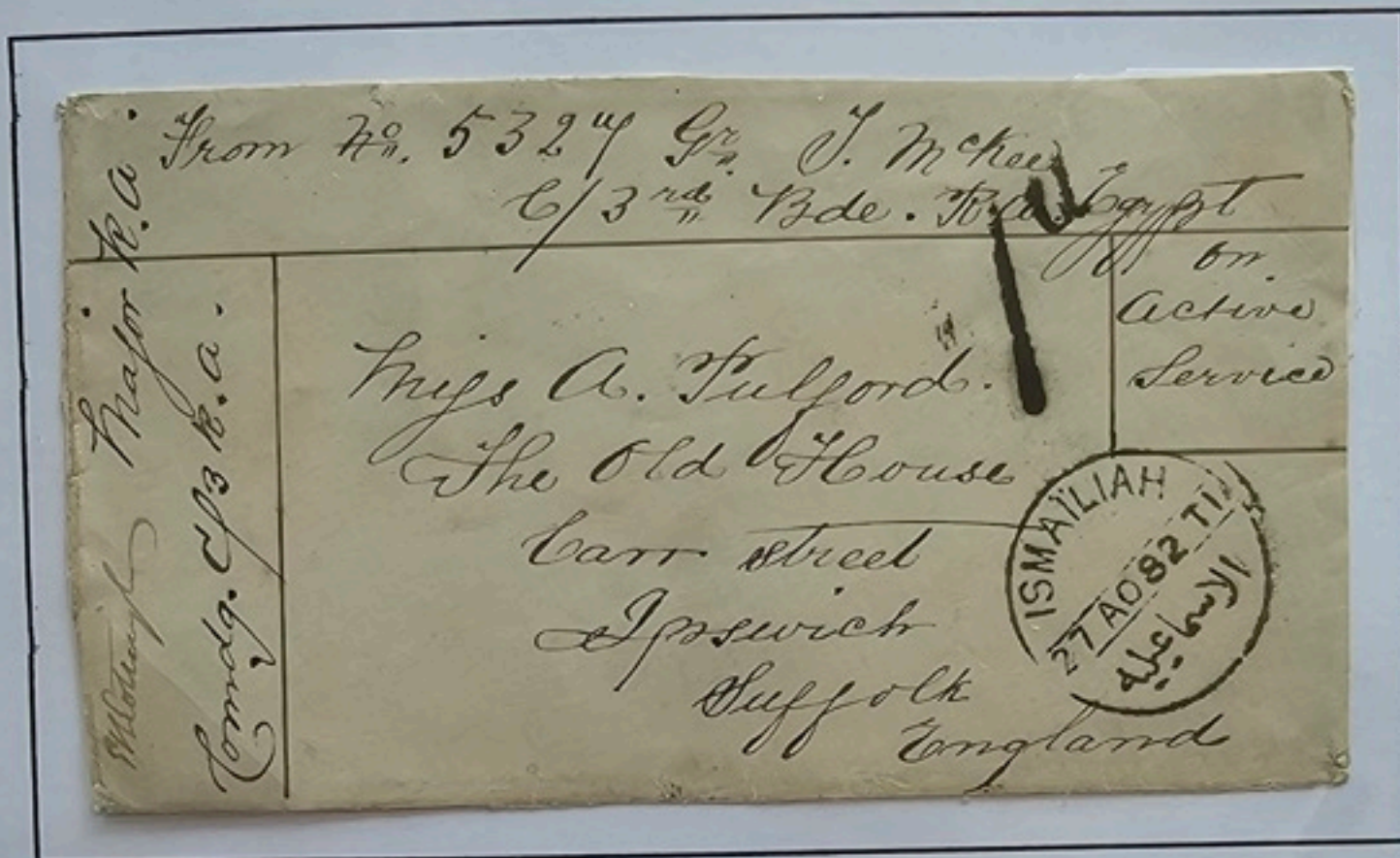
The cover above is franked at the 1d rate and apparently endorsed by an officer, as required by the regulations. However the endorsement says 'from' the lieutenant and the letter addressed to a Mrs Rowe, the same name as the officer. The good old practice of fiddlerling the system?





## British Conquest

For the Egyptian campaign the Army Post Office Corps was formed 1882. August 8, 1882 the new Corps under the command of Major Sturgeon (Army Postmaster) embarked aboard the Black Prince on its first overseas expedition, only 17 days after its formation, and landed at Alexandria on August 19. Mails from Britain were despatched 3 times a week via the overland route through France to Alexandria. The Army Post Offices offered a letter and parcel service and sold stamps and postal orders. Stationary Army Post Offices were established at Alexandria, Ramleh, Cairo, Port Said and Ismailia, while mobile Field Post Offices were attached to the divisional headquarters and moved when they moved. Since the Napoleonic wars the British soldier had a special concession postage rate when severing overseas of 1d while officers had to originally pay 6d. While the 1d rate had not altered the officer rate had been reduced to 2½d.



Cover sent without a stamp and being charged at 1d on receipt. To obtain the 1d concession the envelope had to be endorsed by an officer as bona fide soldiers mail.

Cover sent from India to Egypt 10.NO.98 arrived at Alexandria 22.XI.98.  
It has a 1a (one anna) stamp the equivalent of 1d





Port Said Staging Post



Two covers from Post-Said French Post Office one using the EXP<sup>re</sup> DU TOKIN as a postmark the other with a date stamp being used more as a cachet. Postage was free for the military but limited so possible the stamped cover was from a soldier you had exceed his allowance.

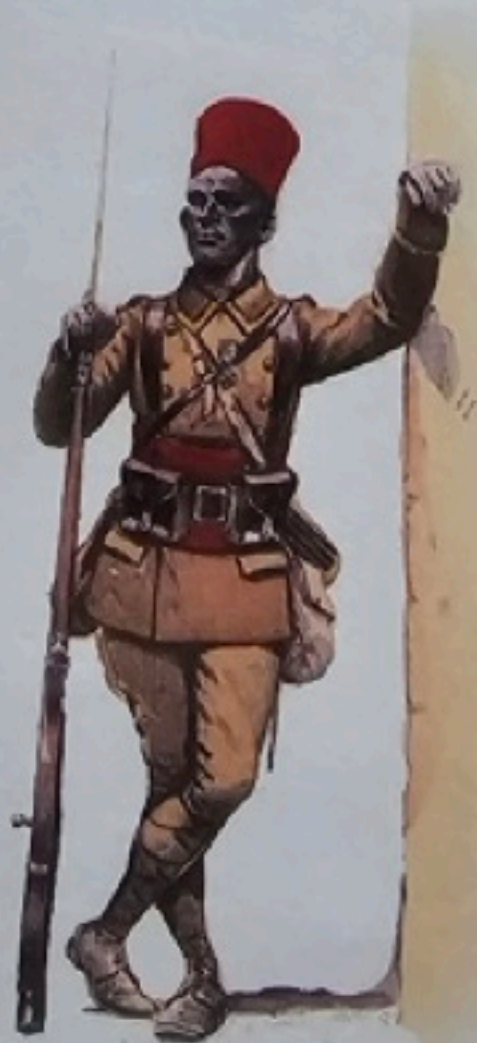




French Zouaves



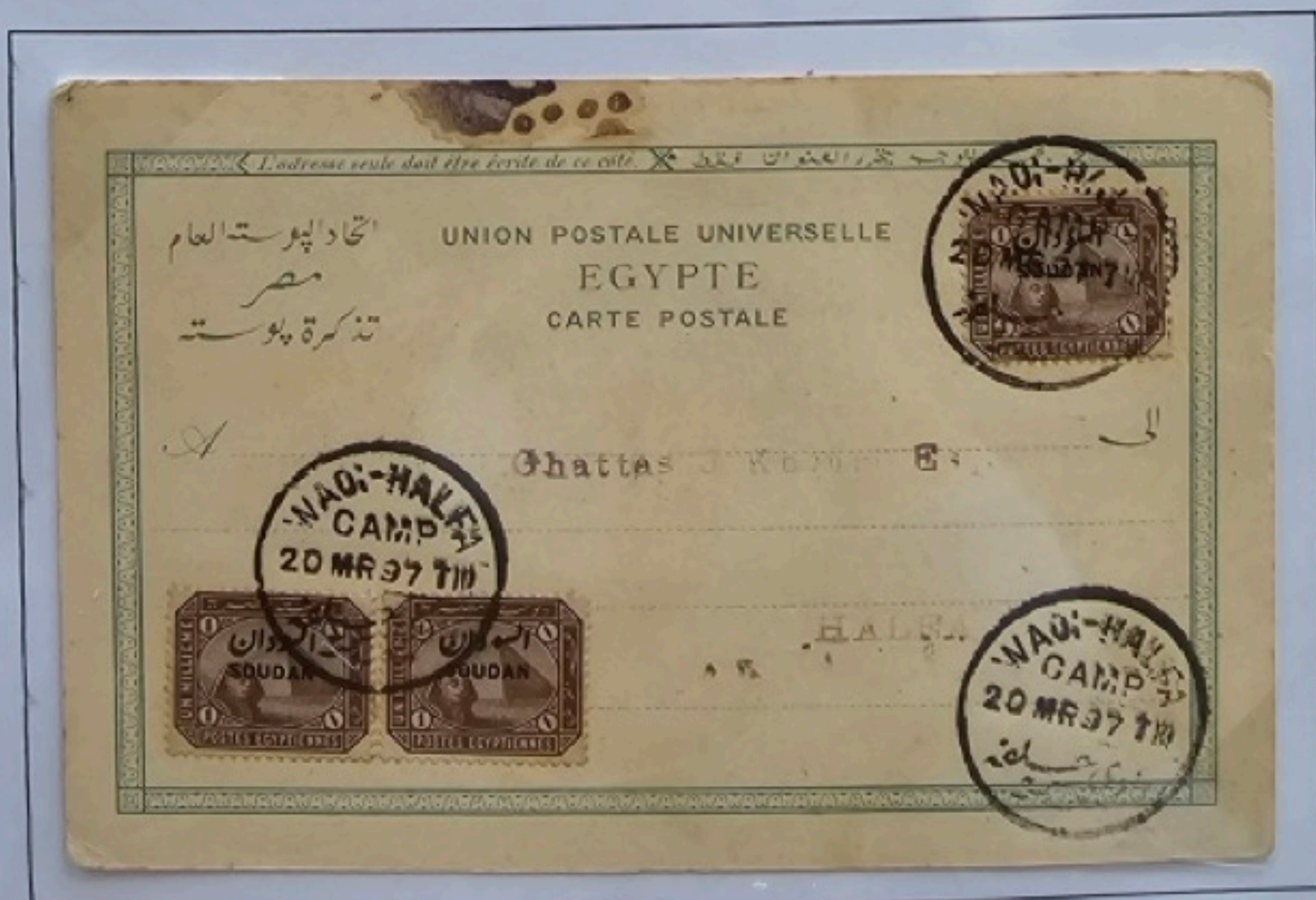
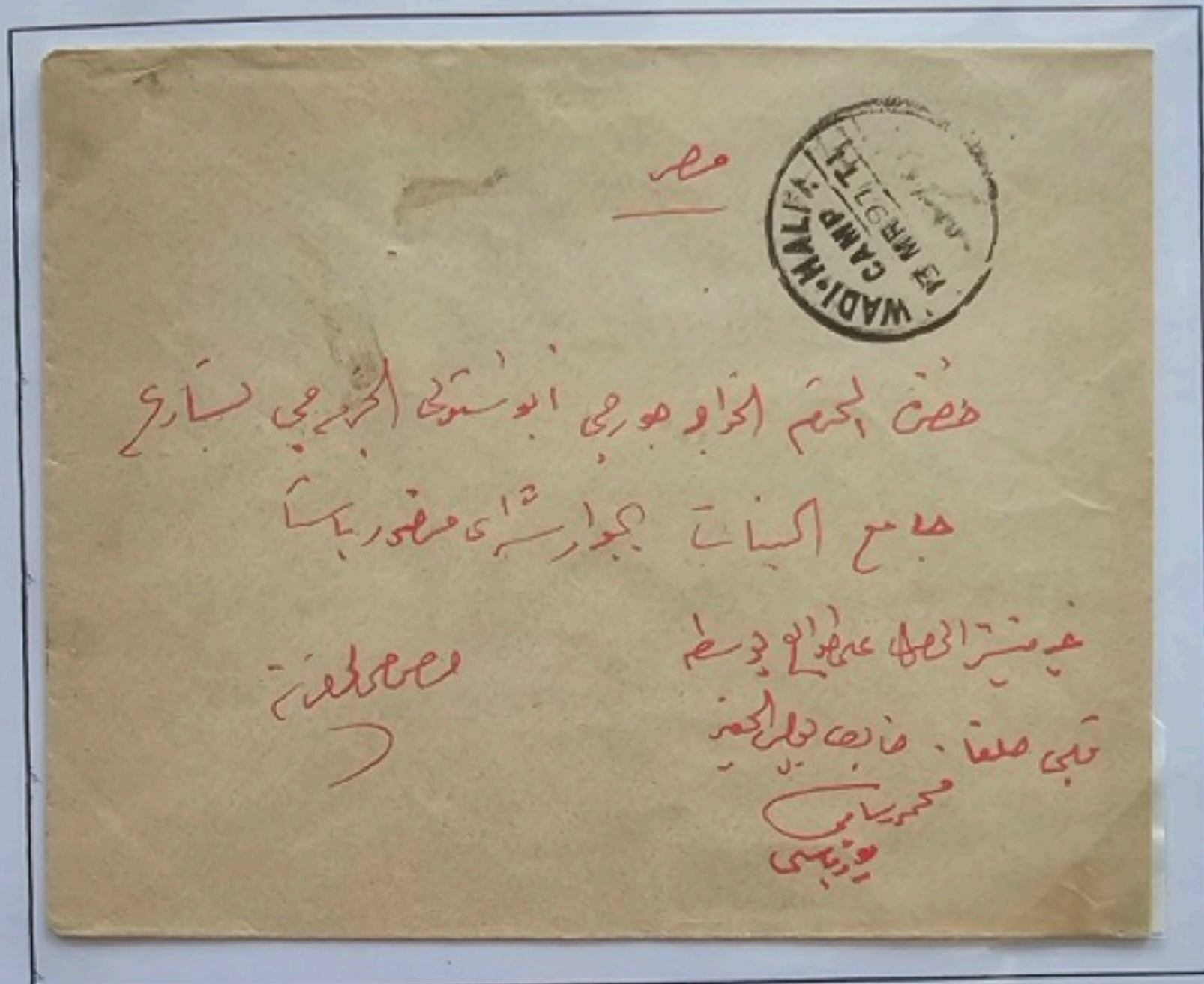
Cover with Forces with Port-Said Pre. Du Tonkin cancel dated 13 SEPT 00.  
Cachet Reg. de Zouaves.



The Zouaves of the French Army were first raised in Algeria in 1831 with one and later two battalions. Initially recruited solely from the Zouaoua (or Zwāwa), a tribe of Berbers located in the mountains of the Jurjura Range



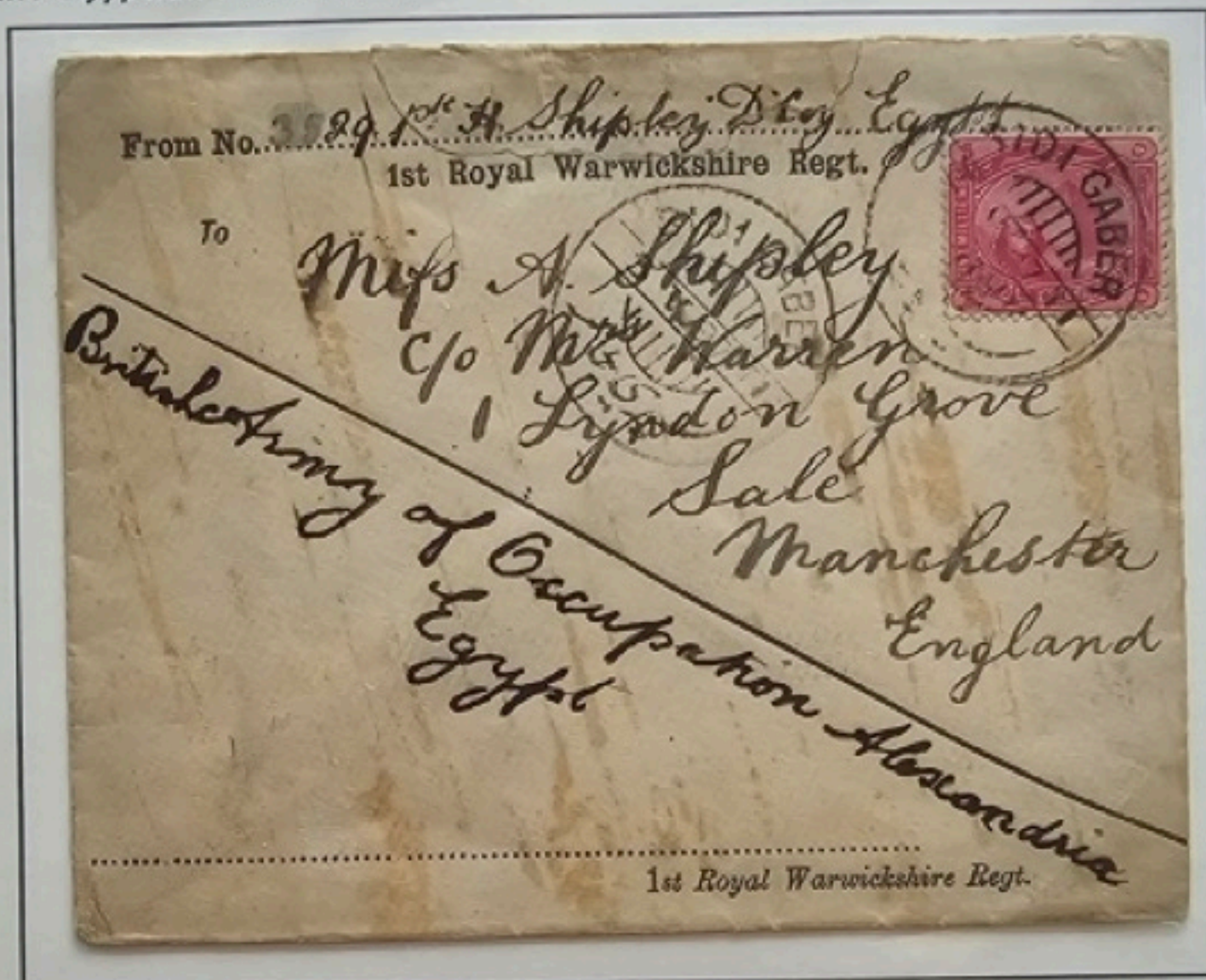
A cover and card from the rail head camp at Wadi Halfa.  
The card has the concession rate of 3millièmes while the cover for some reason  
the cover has gone free and is backstamped CAIRE A (arrival) 19.III.97





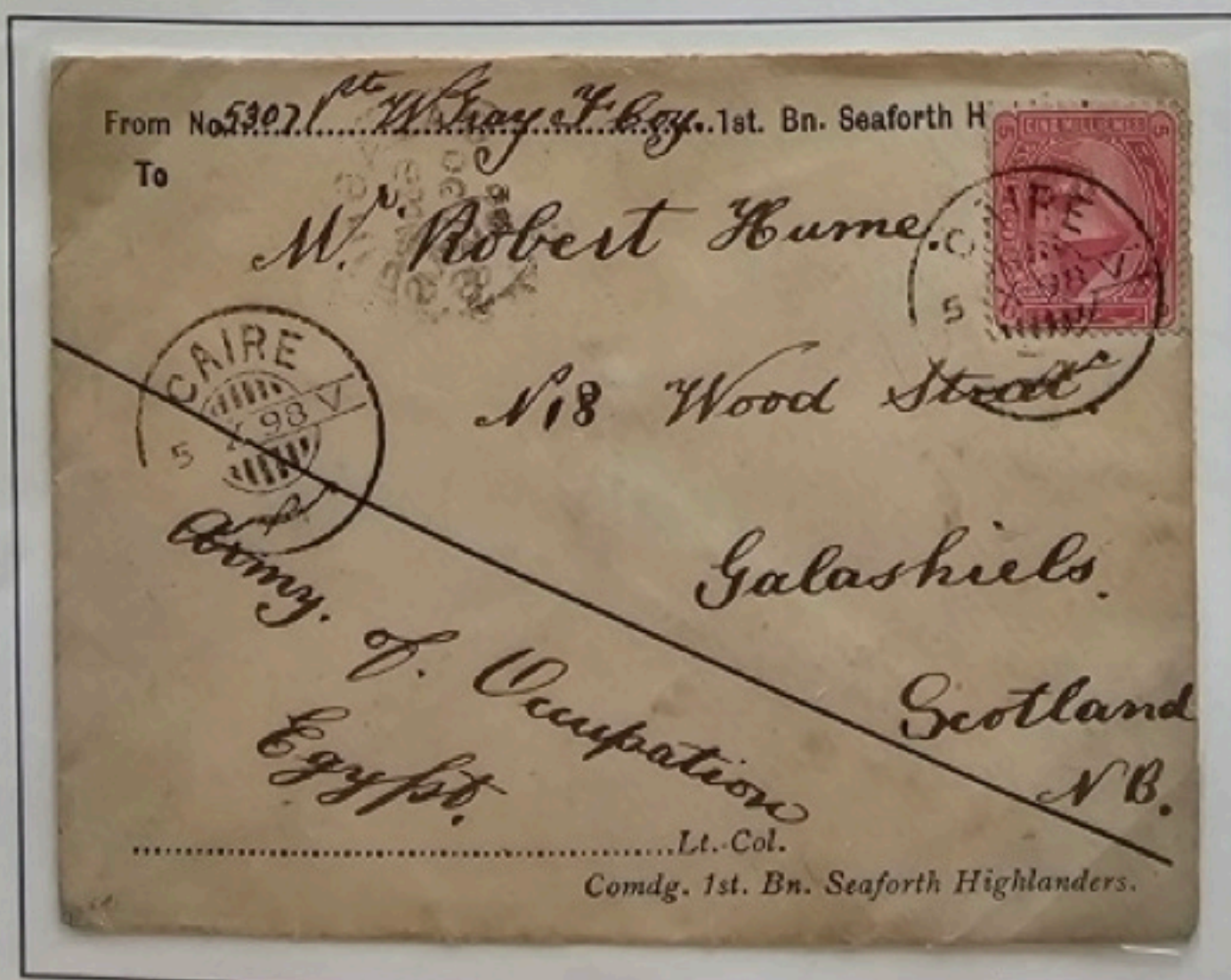
# Army of Occupation

The Army Post Office returned home soon after the British secured Egypt taking their handstamps with them. A new set was used in the reconquest of the Sudan in 1885. The small force left to garrison Egypt used the Egyptian Post office.



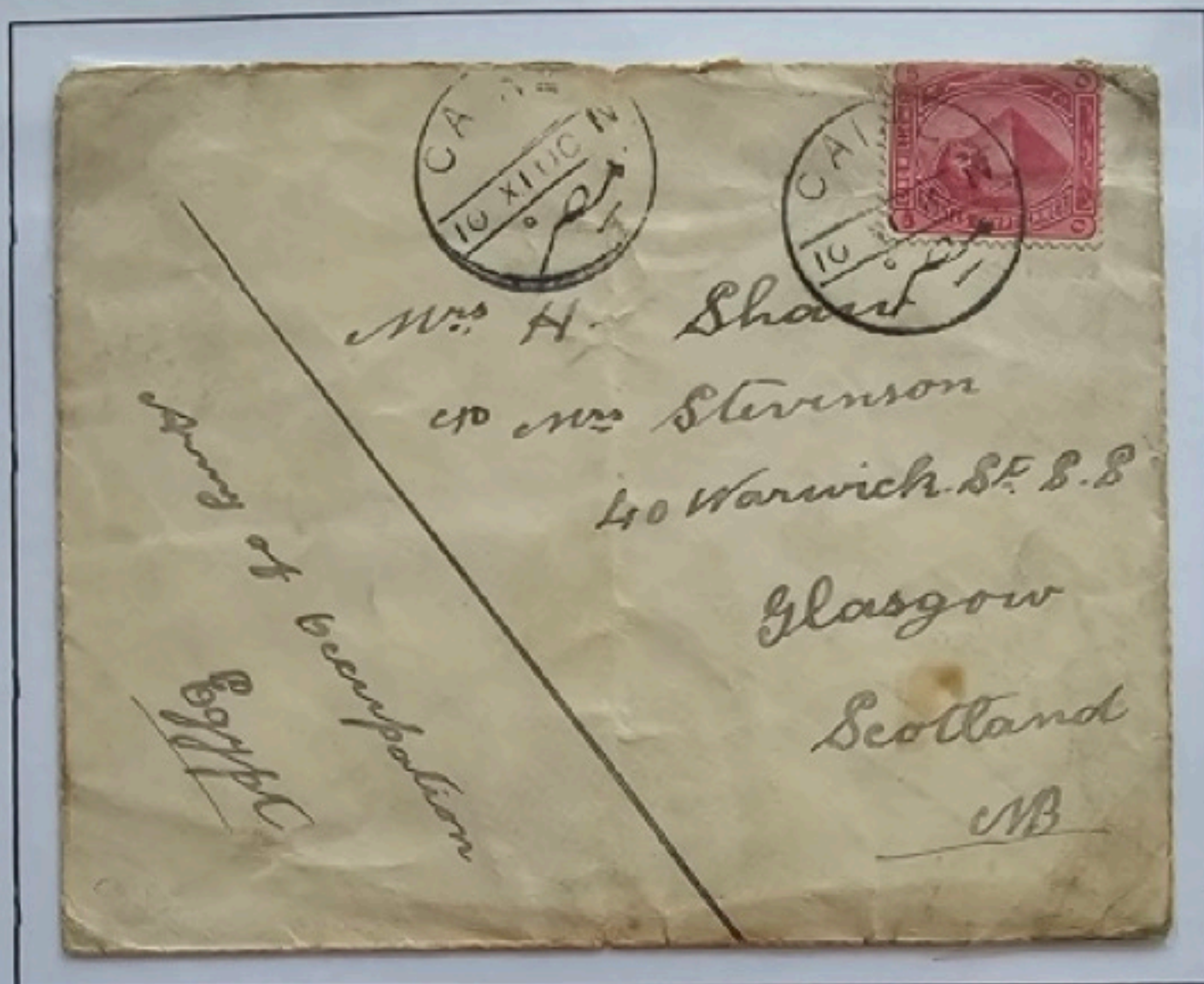
Top cover from a private of the 1st. Warwickshire Regiment franked 5millimes a concession rate.

Lower cover from a private of the 1st. Battalion of the Seaforth Highlanders. Both covers have the endorsement to qualify for the concession rate but neither have an officers signature required by regulations.



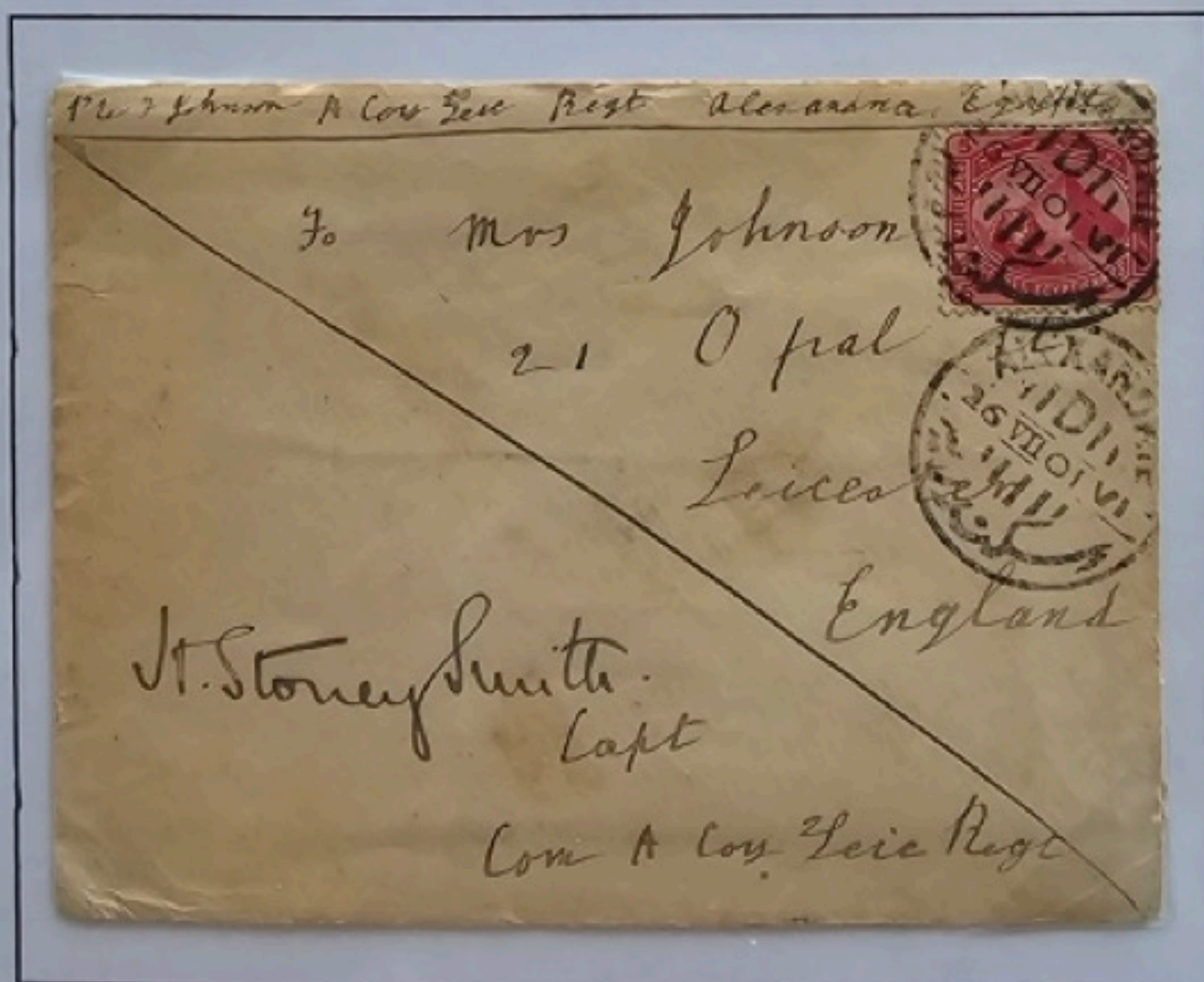


Army of Occupation



The cover above has on the back flap the crest of the 1st. Battalion Seaforth Highlanders

Below is countersigned by Lt. Stoney Smith who was later killed at Ypres on October 22, 1915 as Lt. Colonel DSO.





# Army of Occupation

By the turn of the century the Egyptian post office introduced handstamps with MILITARY POST OFFICE, often referred to as barrel cancels. They were used to handle mail at the British barracks to ensure a good service to the troops in post offices near the barracks and manned by Egyptian staff. Two places used are Cairo and Alexandria the card below, from England to Cairo via Alexandria, has both their respective cancels.



A picture post card from Aberdeen to a sergeant instructor at the Egyptian Army military College in Cairo, forwarded to him at the Windsor Hotel in Alexandria and then back to Cairo. It has the MILITARY POST OFFICE CAIRO 1 SE 03 III receiving c.d.s. Forwarded where the sergeant was on holiday, it is stamped with the CAIRE-ALEXANDRIA AMBULANT 2 IX 03 travelling post office date stamp and the ALEXANDRIA 2 IX 03 c.d.s. On the trip back to Cairo it received date stamp of CAIRE 3 IX 03 and ABBASSIA 3 IX 03.





Army of Occupation

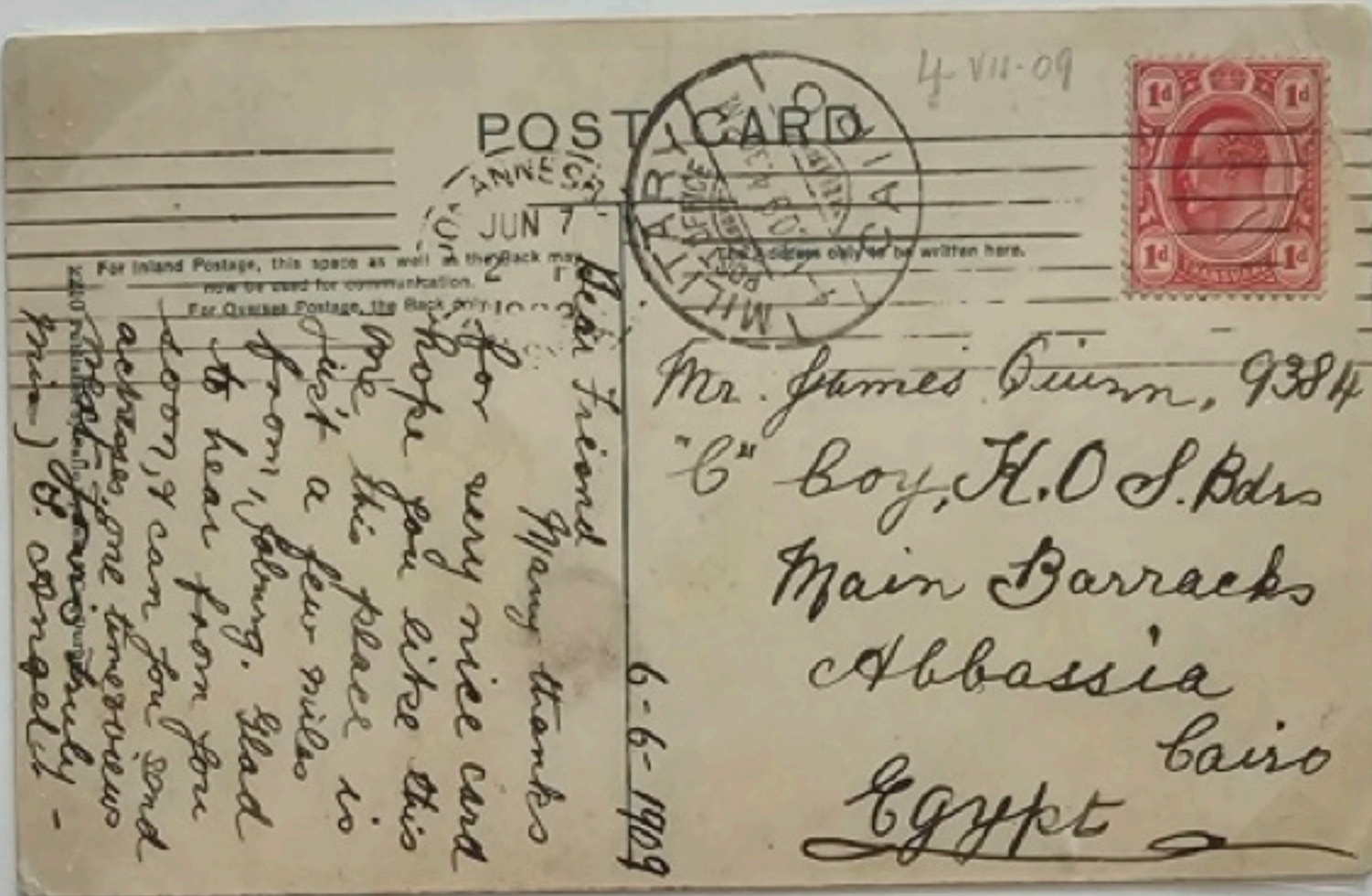


Two examples of the single line MILITARY POST OFFICE CAIRO barrel postmark from the USA and India.

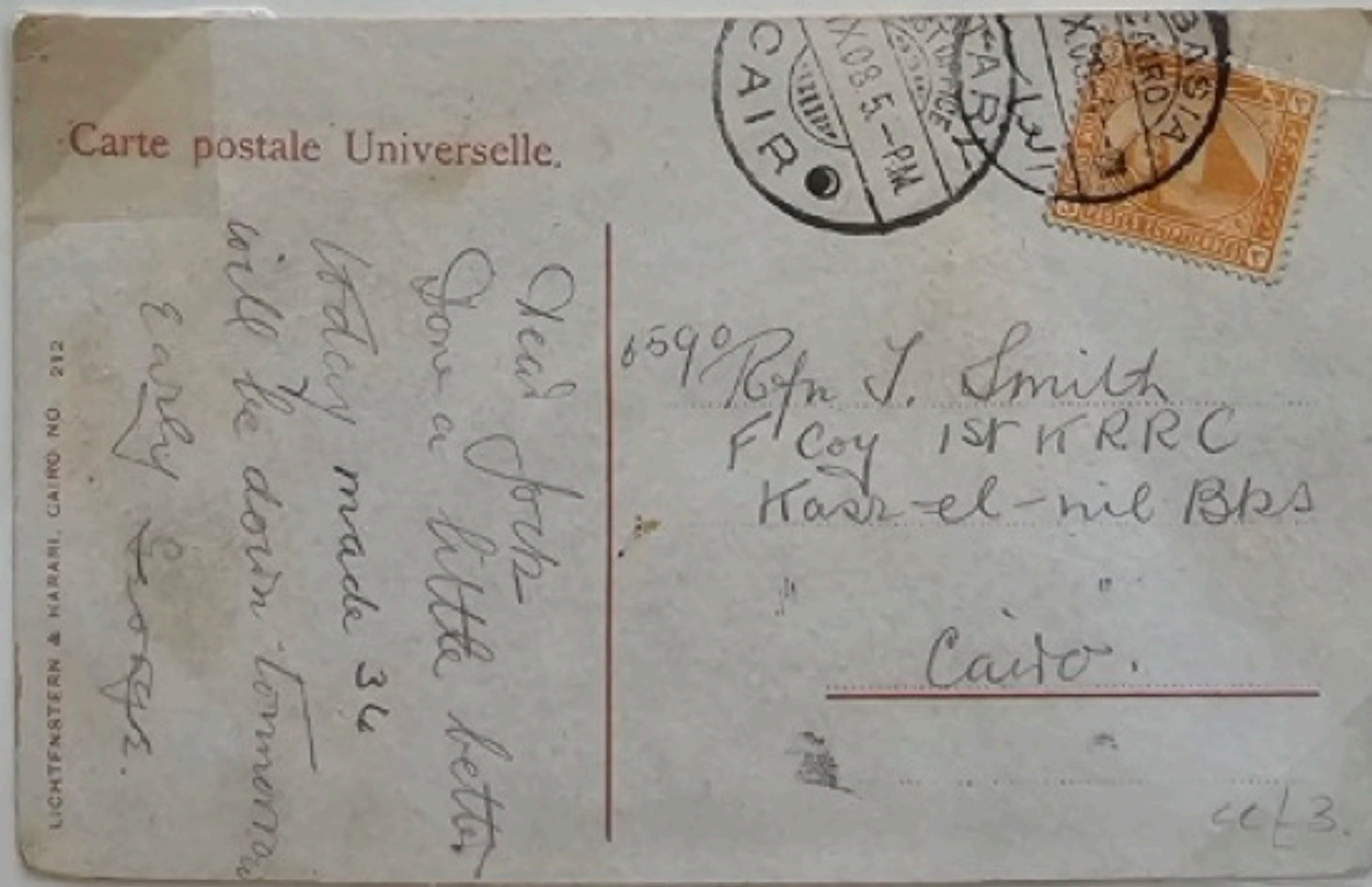




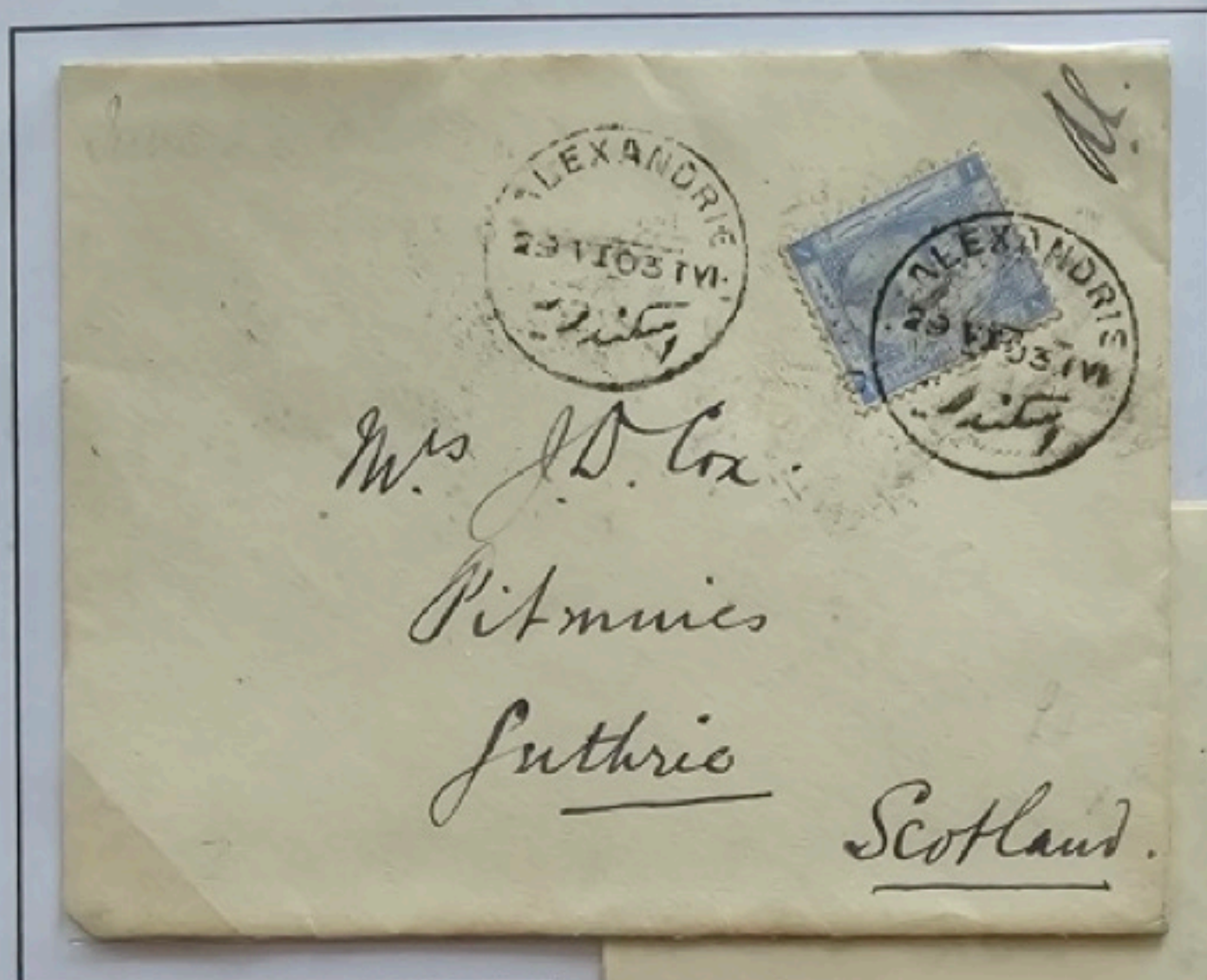
### Army of Occupation



Two picture post cards showing the two line type of MILITARY POST OFFICE CAIRO







H.M.S. PIONEER,  
MEDITERRANEAN.

28th June  
1903.

My Darling Mother  
It is an age  
since I last heard from

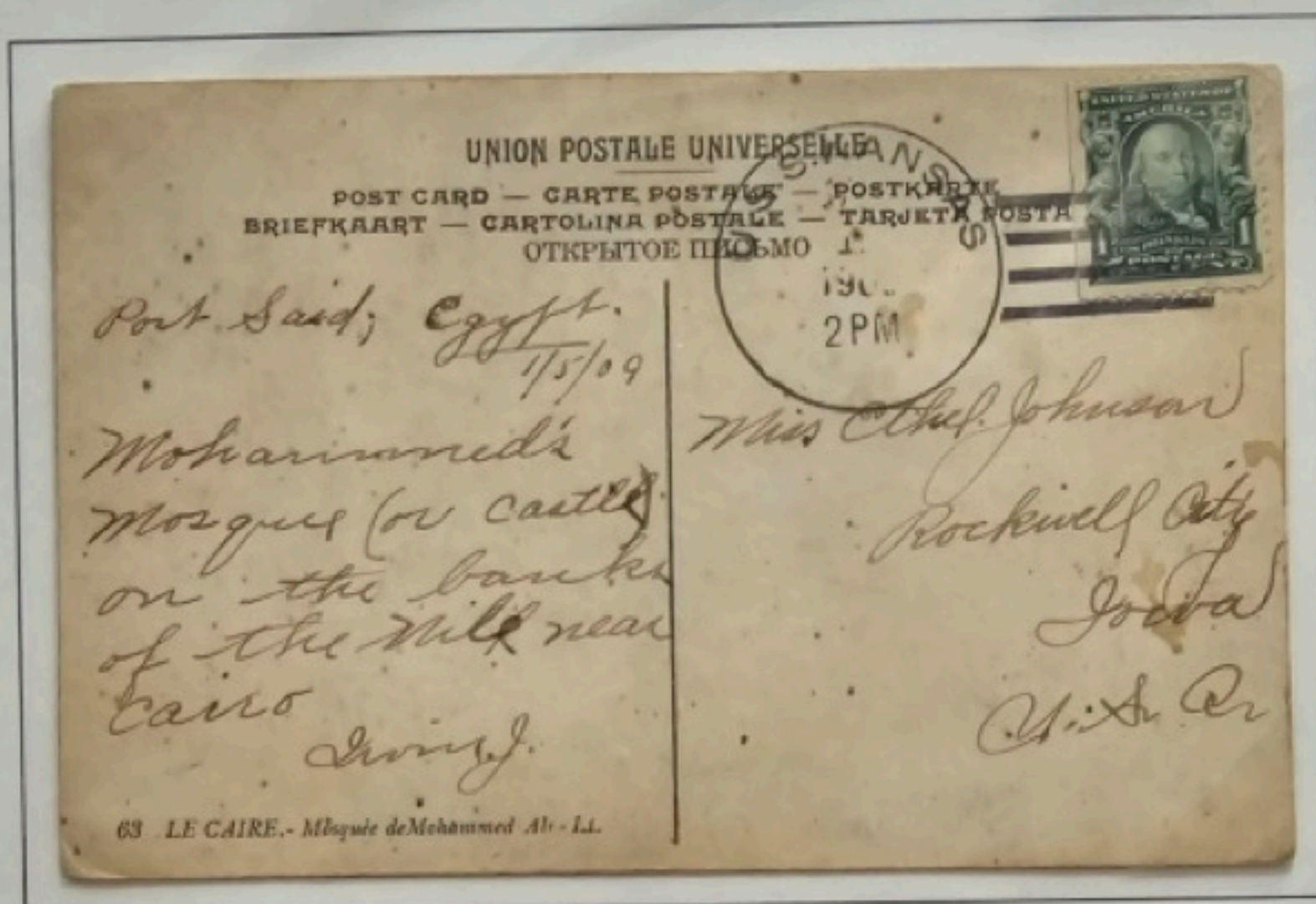


H.M.S. Pioneer was one of eleven Pelorus class cruisers completed for the Royal Navy between 1898 and 1901. She joined the Mediterranean fleet, based at Malta, November 15, 1900 until returning to Chatham on November 20, 1904. She was commanded by Commander George Hope. She was transferred to the Australian Navy in 1912, becoming H.M.A.S. Pioneer.

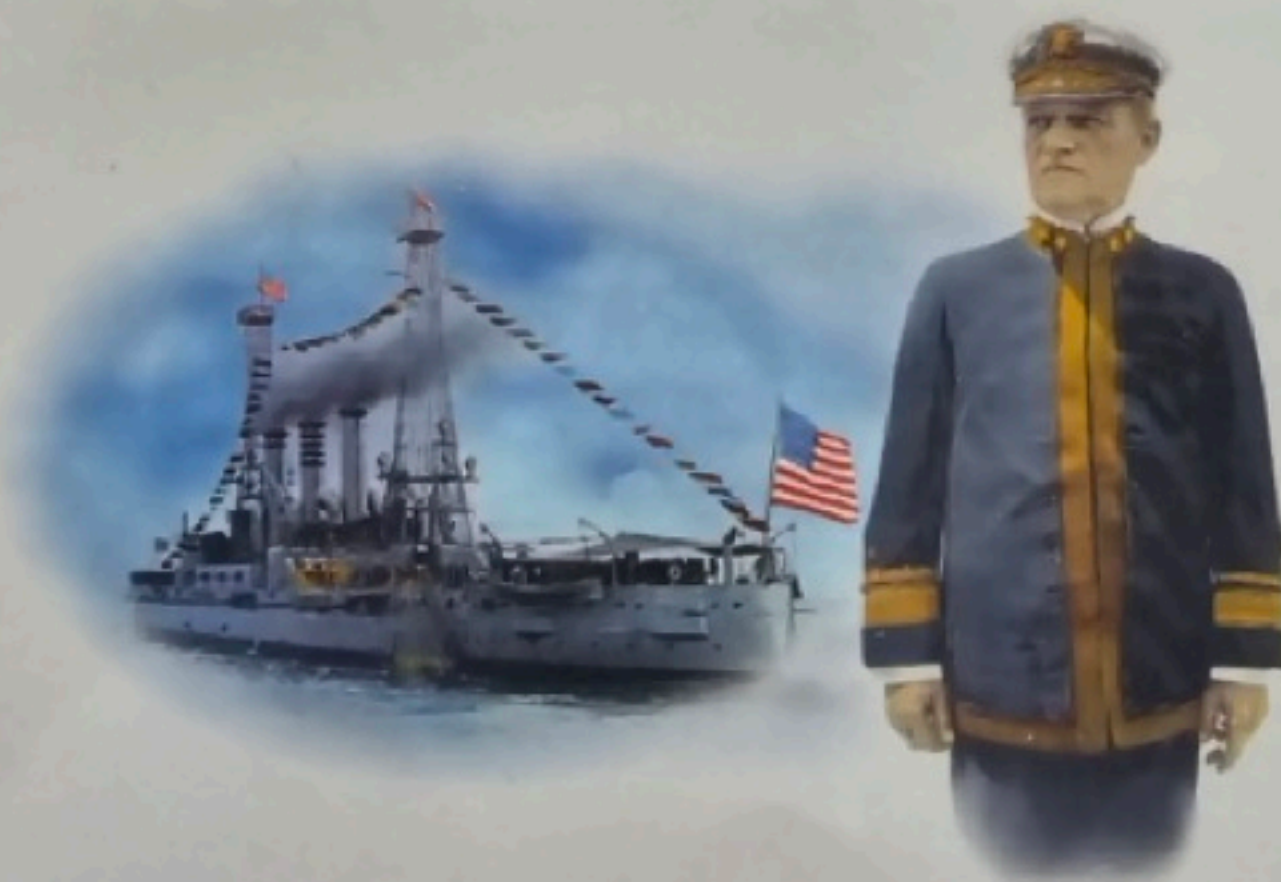




The Great White Fleet 1909



Under US Navy General Order No. 74 of 27 June 1908 navy Ship Post Offices were established with navy mail clerks. The ships of the Great White Fleet were the first to make use of these navel markings which are eagerly sort after by collectors. The postcard is dated 5 January 1909 one day after the recorded date of the departure of Kansas from Port Said. It is therefore likely the card was posted at Villefranche, France its next port of call. USS Kansas (BB-21) was a Connecticut-class battleship launched on 12 August 1905 and served until September 1921.



The American President Theodore Roosevelt wanted to showcase America's naval power and to this end, he ordered the American Fleet to undertake a lengthy cruise around the world. It was called the "Great White Fleet" because all the warships' hulls and superstructures were painted white except for the gilded scrollwork with a red, white, and blue banner on their bows.

The Great White Fleet sailed from Hampton Roads, Virginia on December 16, 1907 returning to Hampton Roads on February 22, 1909. It consisted of 16 battleships divided into four squadrons, along with various escorts under the command of Rear Admiral Charles S. Sperry.

The fleet reached Suez on 3 January 1909. The transit through the Canal would be the largest in history started on three successive days in groups of

four, five, and seven leaving the Canal closed to other traffic. A select group of sailors would be put ashore at Suez, without officers, many went to Cairo rejoining their ships at Port Said from which the fleet departed 4-6 January 1909.



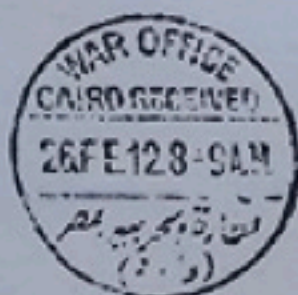
War Office



Cover backstamped  
with Cairo Received  
30.JA.22.

Addressed to his  
excellency Wissa  
Hussain El Rushdi  
Sudan section

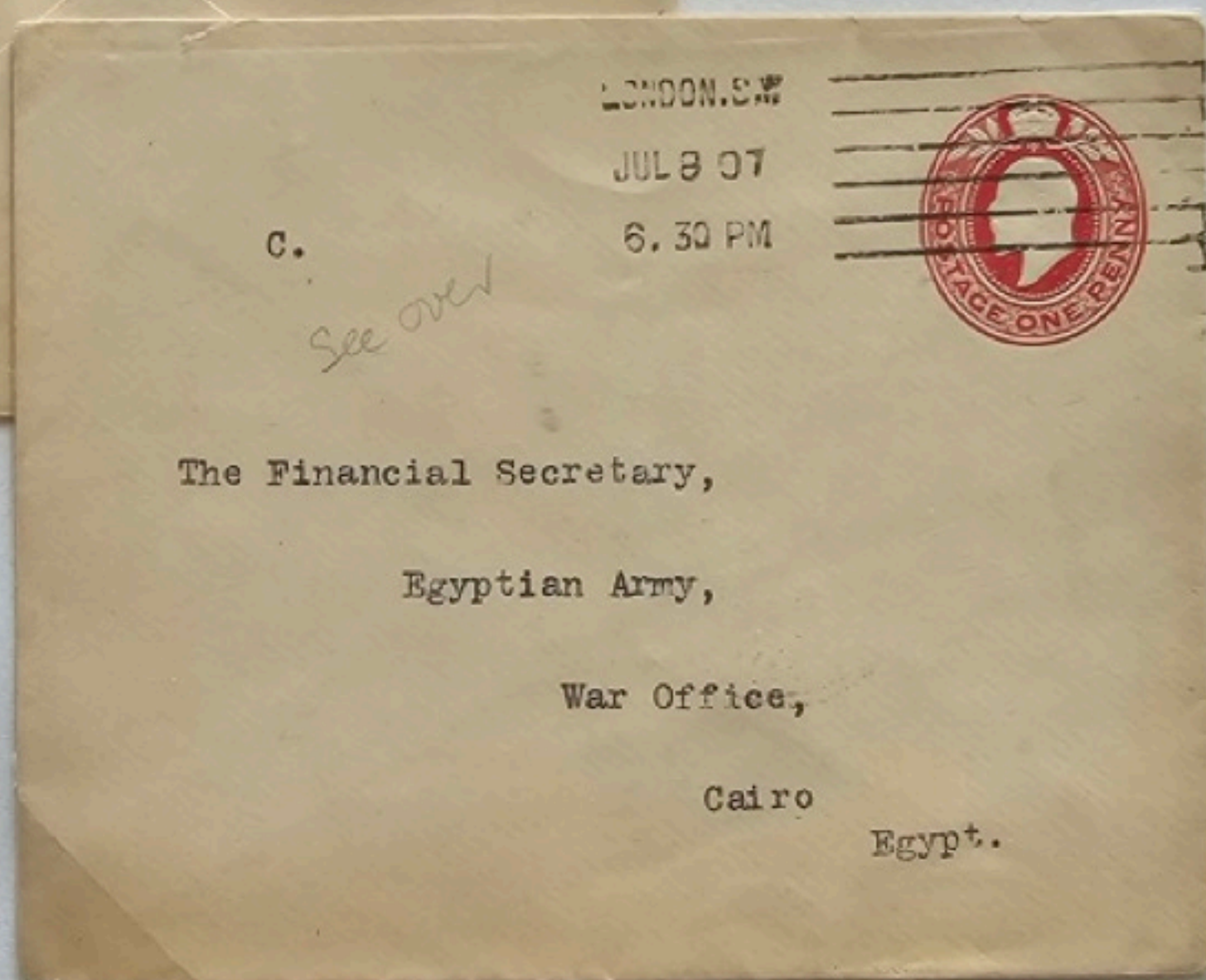
Some time around 1911/12 the War Office stamp became the 'War Office Received' then around 1922 became simply 'CAIRO W.O.' Illustrated are two such stamps with W.O. in two different sizes. The Arabic reads Cairo Cash Indicating the office handled money for the Army portably as an accounts office.



	POST ROOM WAR OFFICE	WAR OFFICE CAIRO RECEIVED	CAIRO W.O. (cash)
Earliest Date	15.JUL.07	26.FE.12	5.II.23 (Large WO)
Latest Date	31.JAN.11	13.AP.22	30.DE.24 (Small WO)



War Office



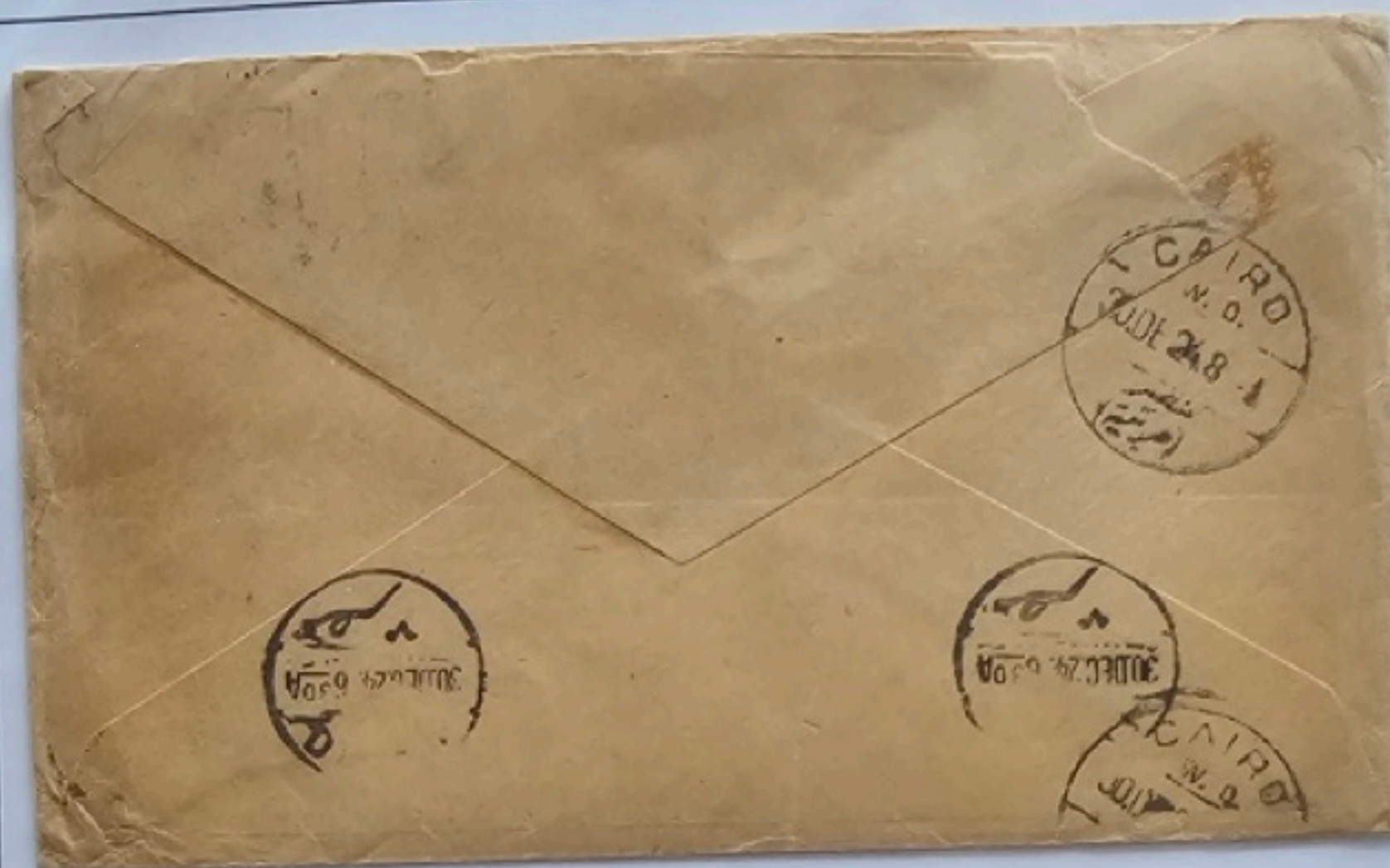
The small British force was ostensible there to train and stiffen the Egyptian army however in reality the British ran and controlled it. Two covers sent to the Egyptian Army War Office where they had a receiving mark applied.

POST ROOM  
RECEIVED  
15 JUL 07  
WAR OFFICE



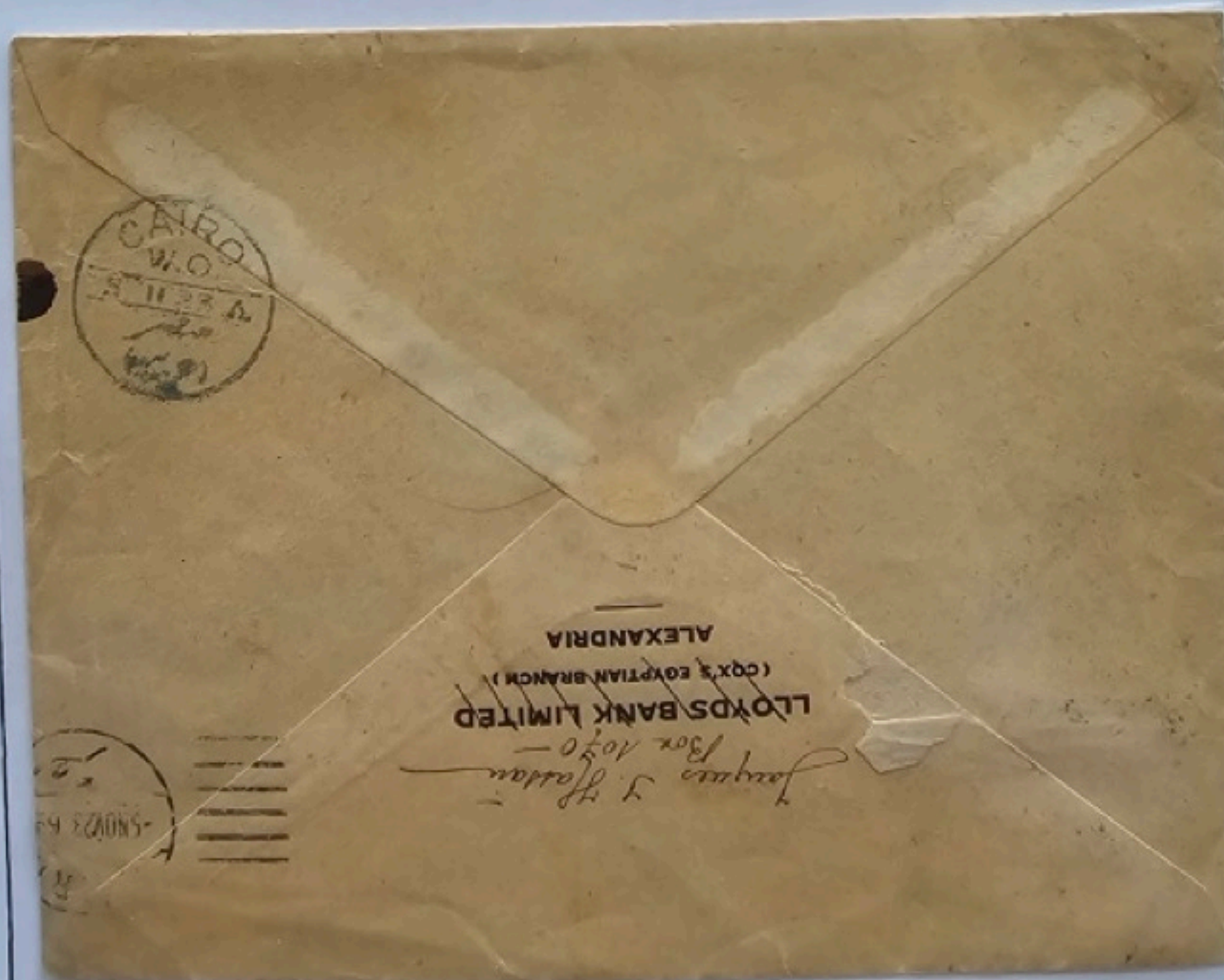
Egypt Military 1883-1983

# War Office



Above cover backstamped with small W.O. dated 30.DE.25. From the UK addressed to Mahmoud Abbassi Bey ,Ministry of War, Marine.

The lower cover backstamped with large W.O. dated 5.11.23 from Alexandria addressed to the same person but as Direceteur Ministere de la Guerre.





War Office

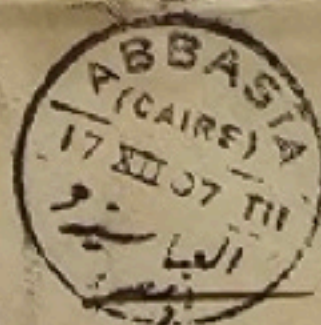
CAIRO DISTRICT OFFICE,  
EGYPTIAN ARMY.

ABBASSIA.

Cairo. 16.XII 1907

My dear Julius.

Thank you so much  
for writing to me, please  
allow me offer you my  
very best thanks for all  
the trouble & care taken  
on my behalf; best wishes  
from us both to Mrs. Julius  
& yourself. I have got O'way  
with the S. A. & he will draw



L. A. Teeling Esq  
32. Upper Mount St.  
Dublin  
Ireland

Cover cancelled Abbasia  
17 XII.07 bakstamped  
Cairo 17.XII.07. Abbasia  
was where the war office  
was situated and home of  
the major British barracks.







Egypt WWI

USS Des Moines



USS Des Moines (C-15/PG-29/CL-17) was one of six Denver-class protected cruisers. She was launched: 20 September 1902 being commissioned: 5 March 1904 and finally decommissioned: 9 April 1921.

Between 26 May 1915 and 25 April 1917, Des Moines protected American citizens and interests threatened in the Middle Eastern theatre of war, carrying missionaries and other refugees out of Turkey, Palestine and Syria, delivering relief funds and carrying United States officials. United States diplomats secured the safe passage of Jews and Armenians to Alexandria to save them from Ottoman persecution.





## Egypt Military 1883-1983

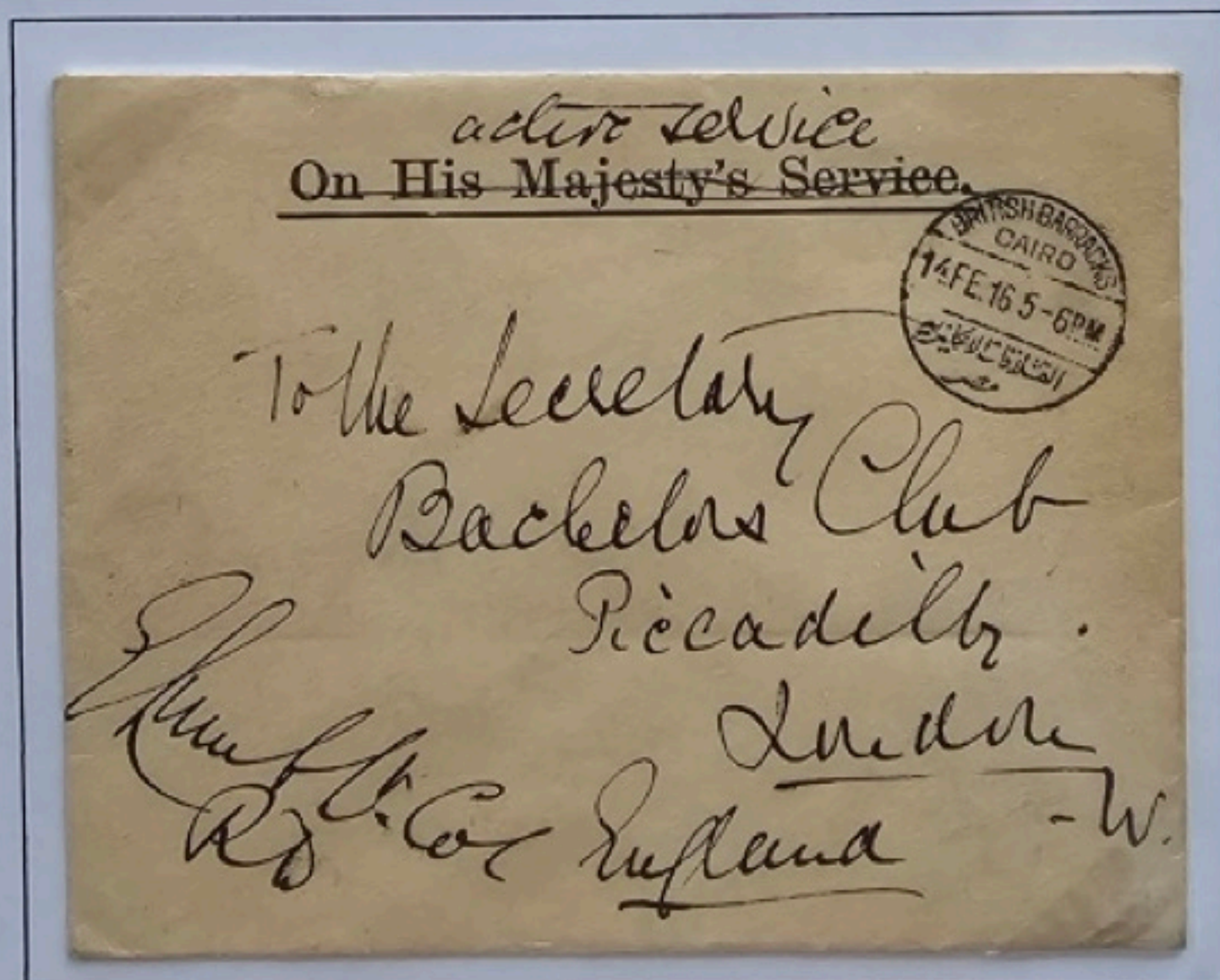
### Named Post Offices: British Barracks Cairo

The 'Military' post offices were staffed by Egyptian post office personnel but located in or near British military establishments in order to give a good postal service to the troops. The first was British Barracks Cairo with the earliest date noted as September 1912



Card above dated 1.OC.12. with a 4millièmes stamp being the standard postcard rate.

Letter dated 14.FE.16 with a smaller ring size but by then postage was free.

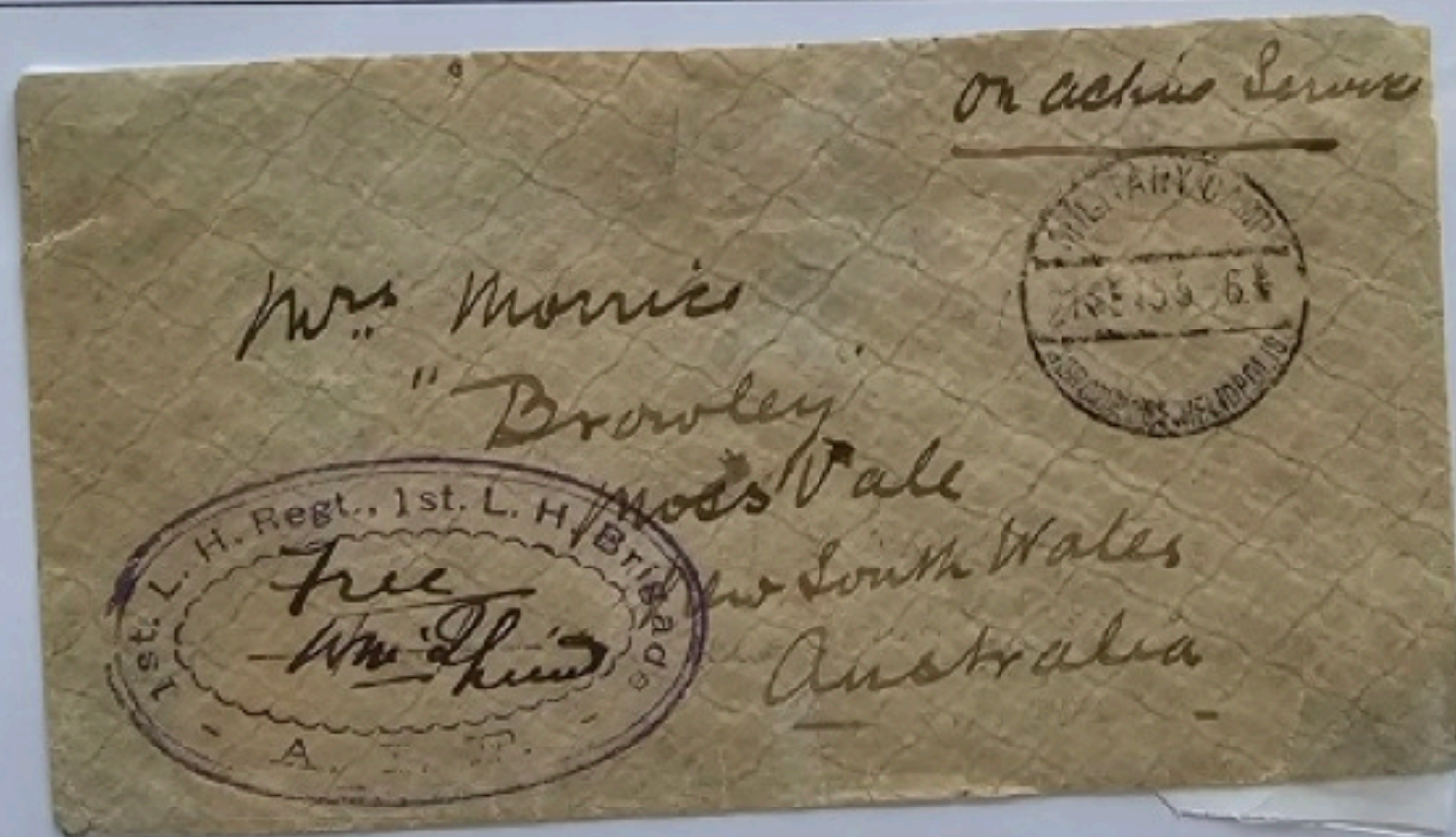
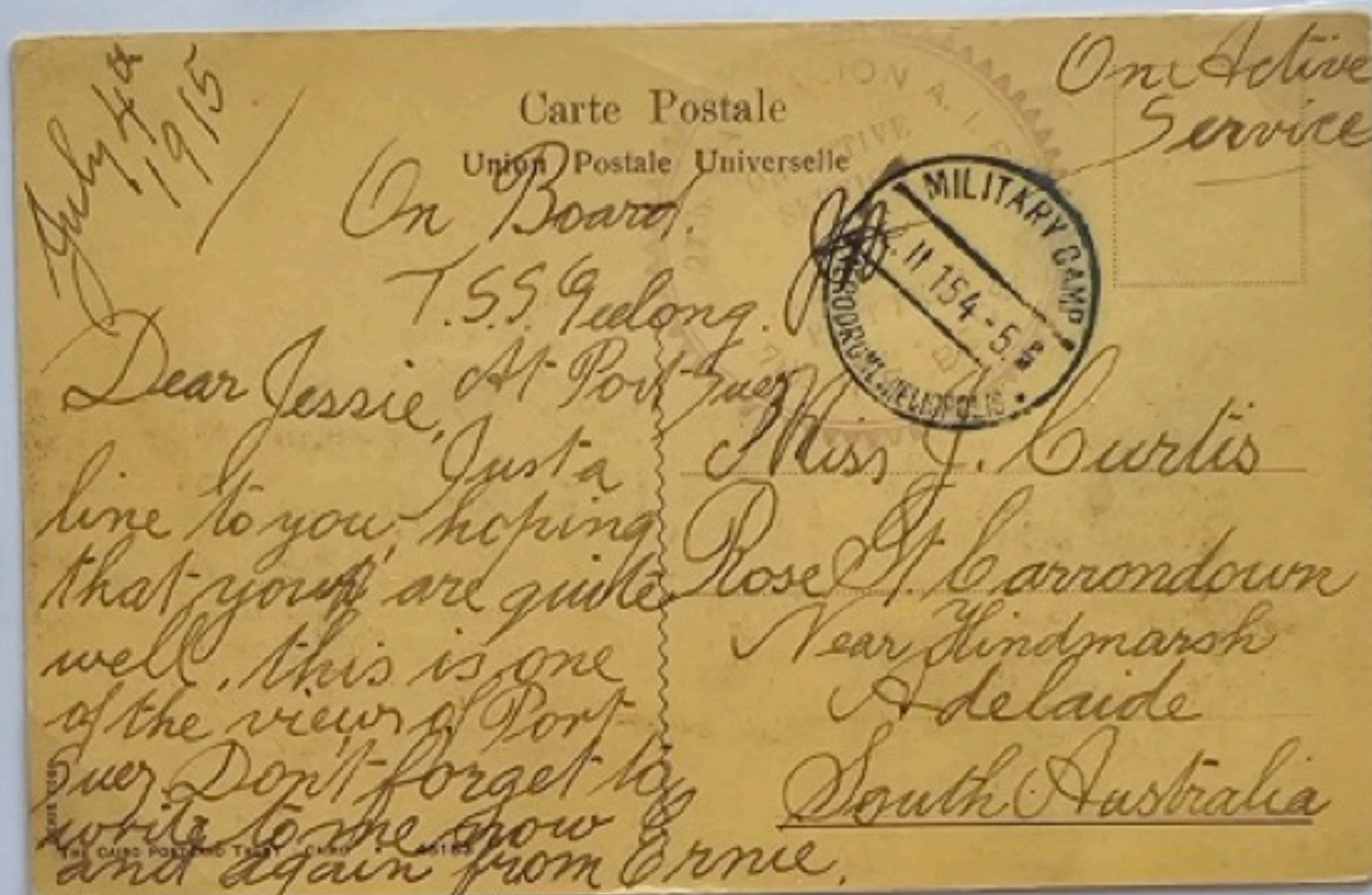




# Egypt Military 1883-1983

## Named Post Offices: Military Camp Aerodrome Heliopolis

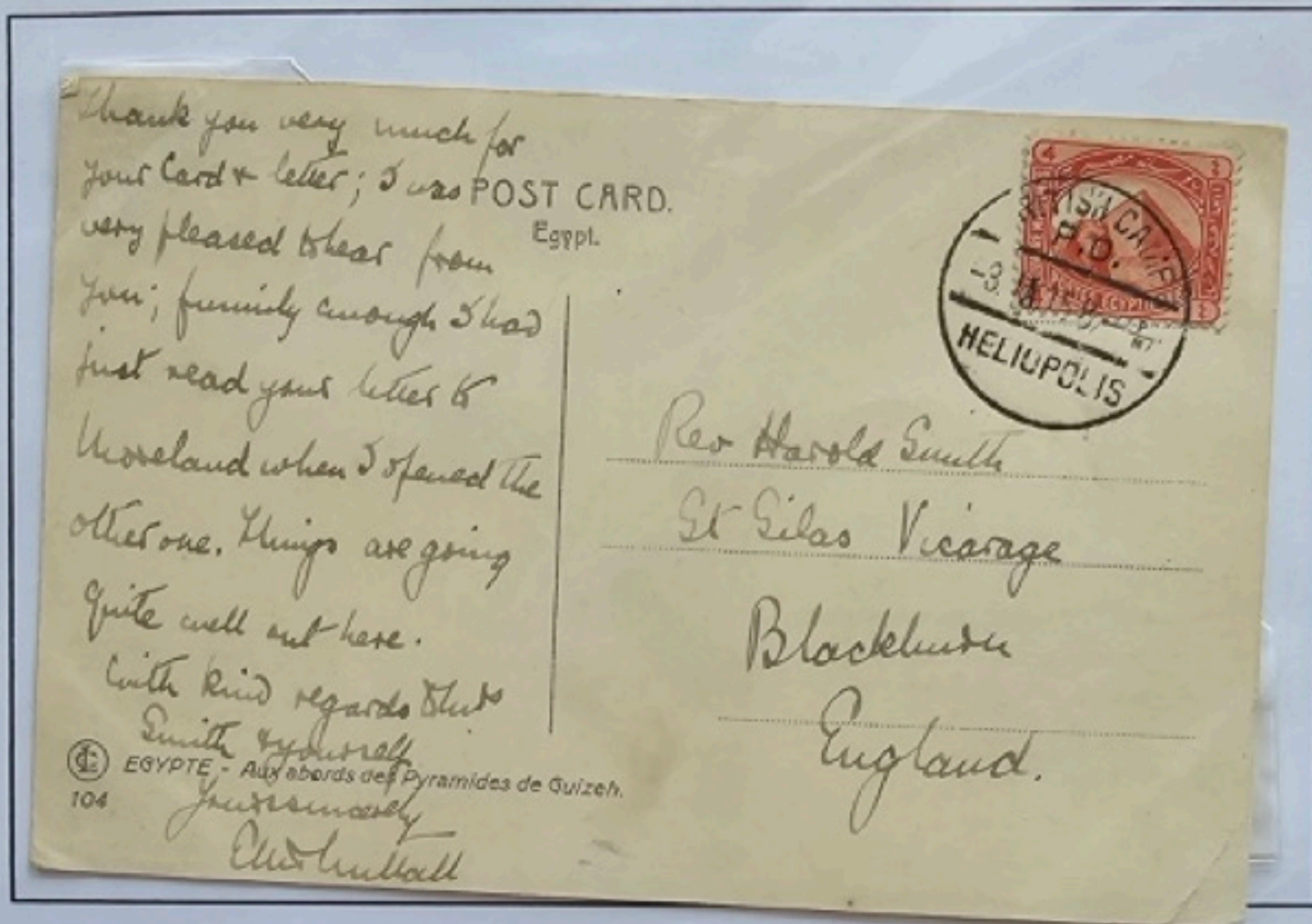
A cover and Card both cancelled with the Egyptian 'Military Camp Aerodrome Heliopolis'. This was a large tented camp north east of Cairo and was one on the main holding camps for the Australians before and after the Gallipoli campaign. The cover also shows the cachet for the 1st. Light Horse regiment and the card the large circular cachet of the 27th. Battalion of the 7th. A.I.F. Brigade.





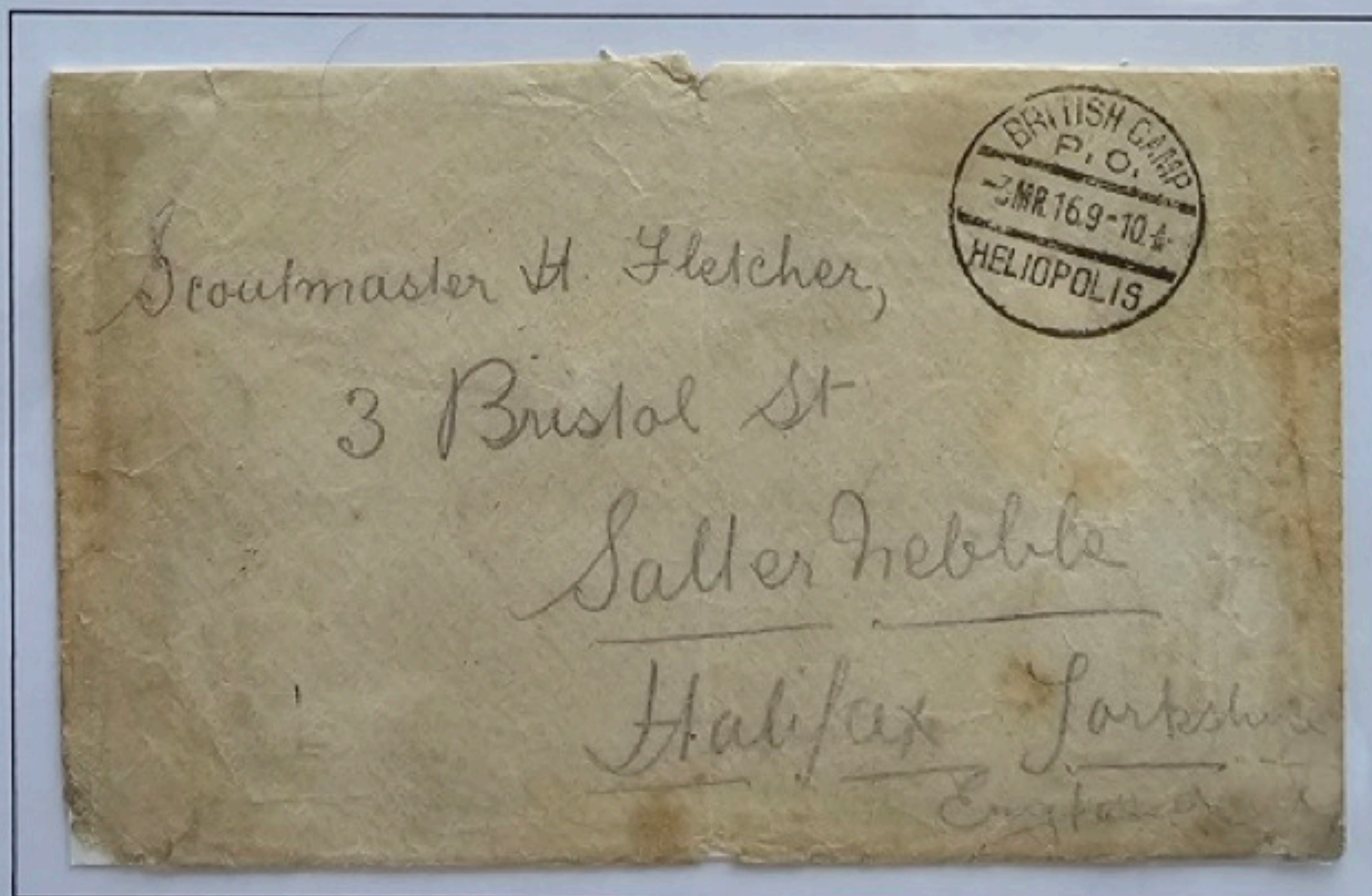
Named Post Offices: British Camp Heliopolis

Heliopolis was just north east of Cairo and was developed into a large encampment area for troops of all nations in Egypt during WWI



Card above dated 3.JA.15. with a 4millièmes stamp being the standard postcard rate.

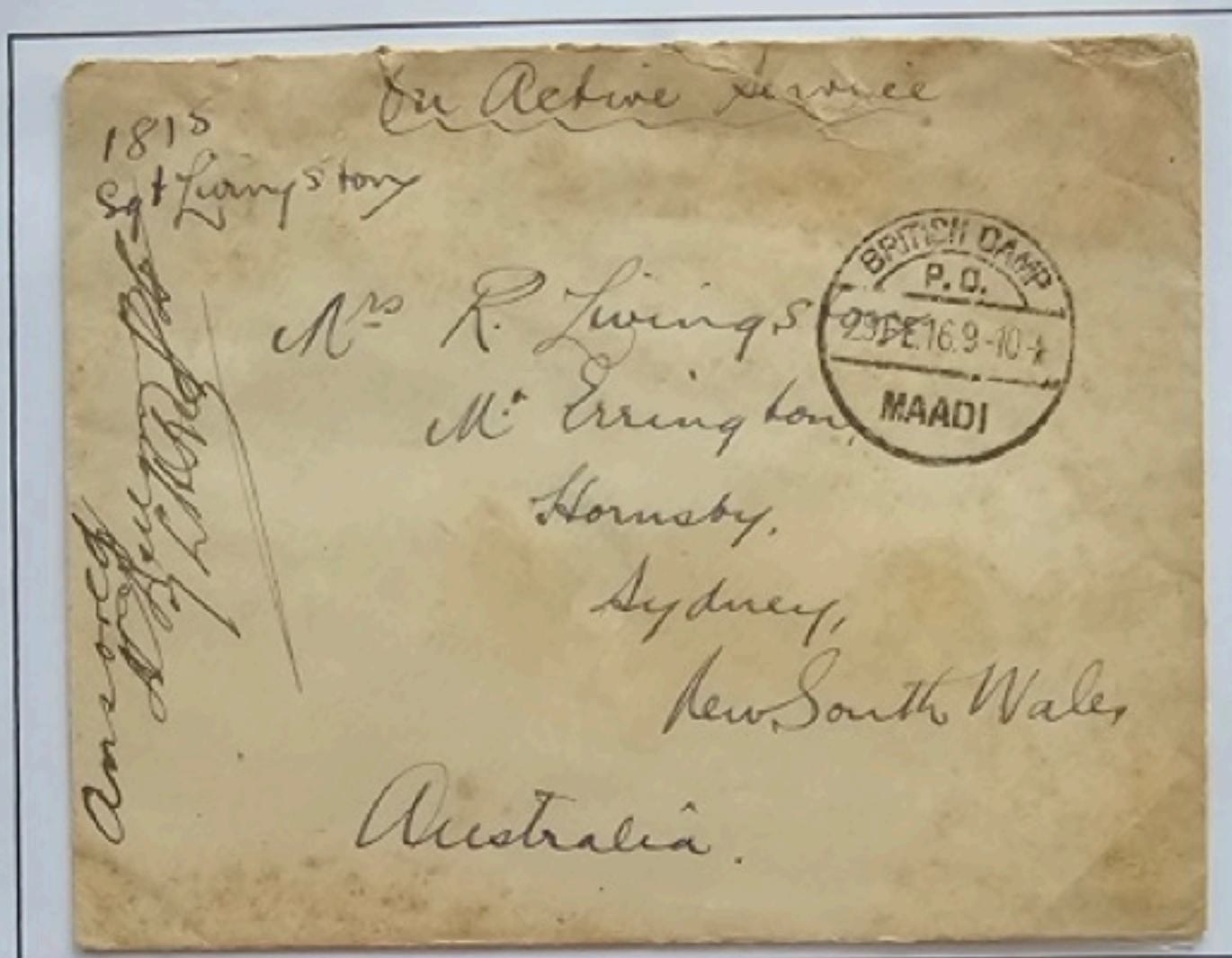
Letter dated 13.MA.16 went postage was free which had been granted to troops in Egypt





Named Post Offices: British Camp P.O. Maadi

Maadi was just south west of Cairo and became an important encampment area for troops of all nations in Egypt during WWI



Card above dated 29.FE.16. This postmark is recorded from 25.FE.15. to 28.MR.16  
Letter dated 13.MA.16 went postage was free which had been granted to troops in Egypt



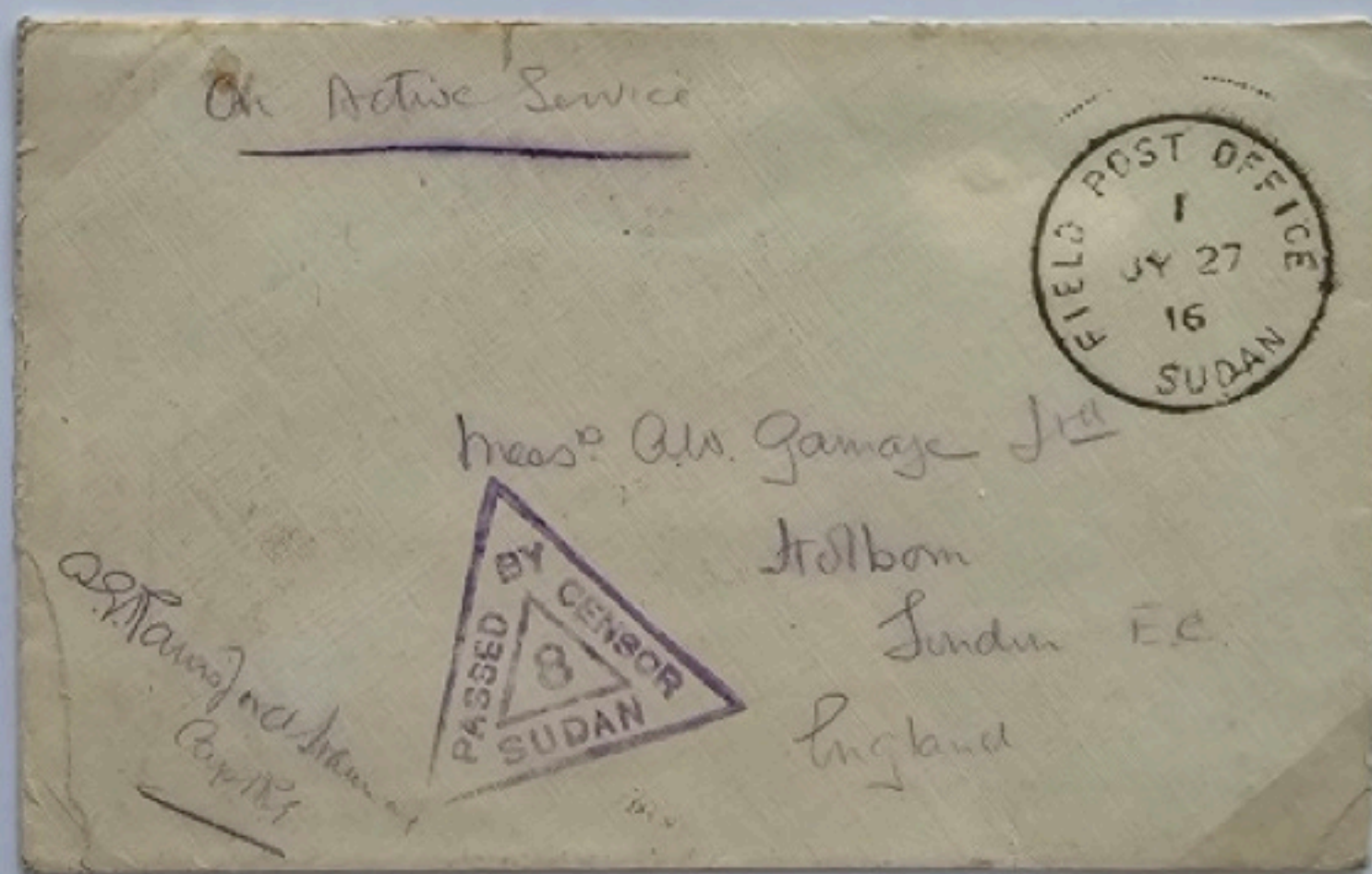


Egypt Military 1883-1983

## Darfur Field Force



In March 1916 the Darfur Field Force was sent from Egypt under Lt.Col. Kelly and consisted of five companies of Camel Corps, two of mounted infantry, six of black Sudanese infantry, two of Arab-Sudanese infantry, three of Egyptian infantry, plus six mountain guns, 14 machine guns (some with British crews), five transport companies with 1,200 camels, and medical and support units. The force was also accompanied by a flight of British aircraft.



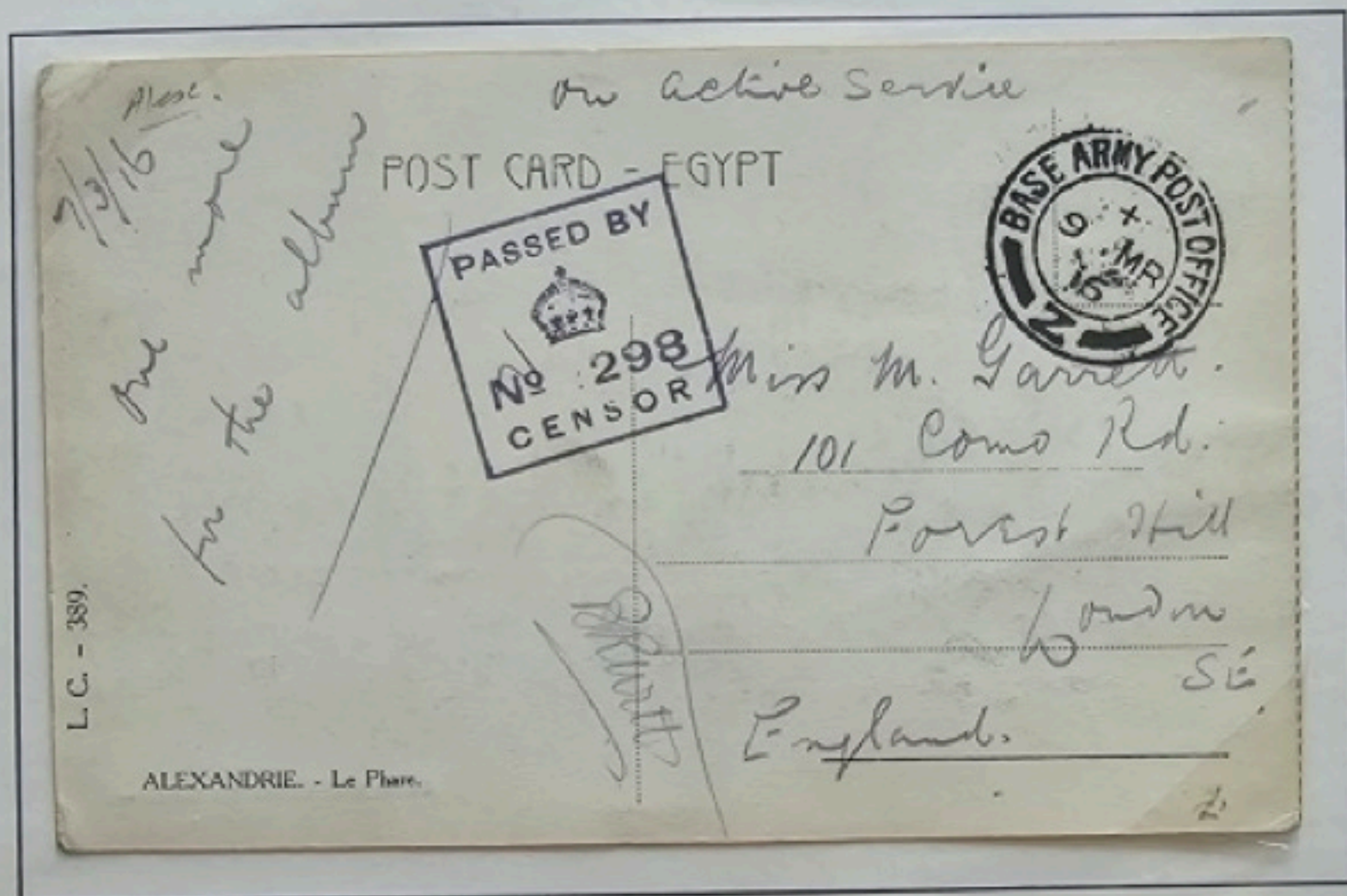
Two covers from the D.F.F with the FIELD POST OFFICE SUDAN  
Backstamped ARMY POSTS WFF SUDAN, NAHUD,  
and KHARTOUM-EL-OBIED T.P.O. No.2



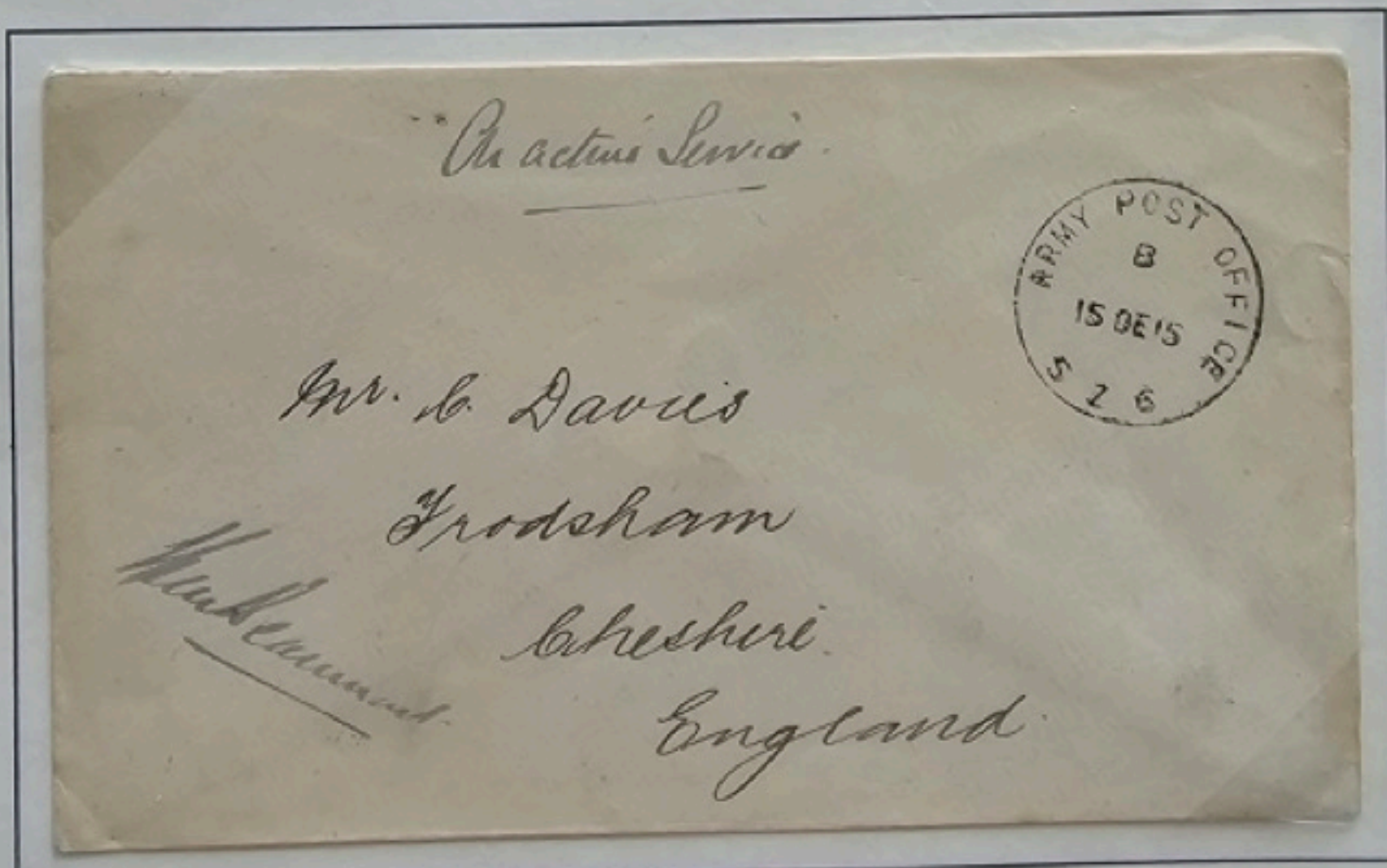


British Army Post Office SZ Series.

At the outbreak of war there was a permanent British garrison in Egypt, but being regular troops they were soon withdrawn for service in France. In early 1915 Egypt became the main base for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force, for the Dardanelles campaign. The new British Military markings had been introduced in Europe at the onset of war were now introduced in the Middle East with Alexandria being designated as zone Z.



SZ 6 was based at Mudros East until February 8, 1916.  
It moved to Egypt being reinstated March 1916 at El-Federn





JY 27 16

On Active Service

Passed by Censor & Sudan  
Captain A. G. Rainsford - Hannay

ARMY POSTS W. F. F. SUD

NAHUD 3 Aug: 1916.

KHARTOUM - EL OBEID

SHELLAL - HALFA. T.R.

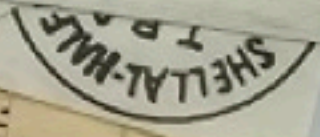
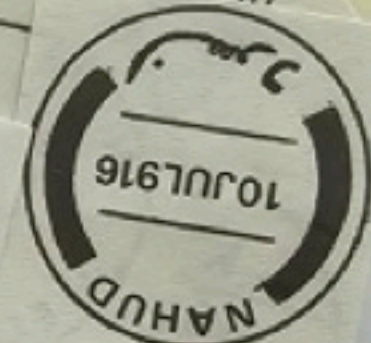
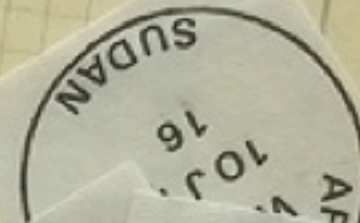
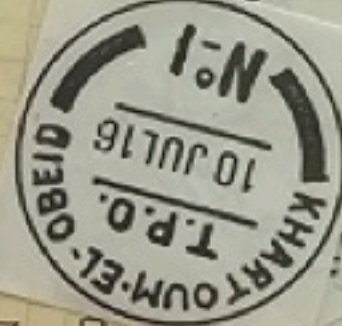
G. F. RAPKIN LTD

MADE IN ENGLAND

LOT. 1952

Postage Free to ENGLAND.

R.E. Crested envelope.





Egypt Military WWI

# British Army Post Office SZ Series.

SZ10 opened in Calro February 1916 becoming G.H.Q. lines of communications by June 1917.



Only a few Base Army Post Offices had dedicated registration labels. The SZ10 label is recorded being used between July 1918 and June 1919



The Canal Defences



F.P.O. CD3 was used by HQ No. 3 section of canal defences between July 1916 and September 1916. Most of these troops formed part of the desert column on December 12, 1916 with the cancel later being used the Sinai and Gaza area.

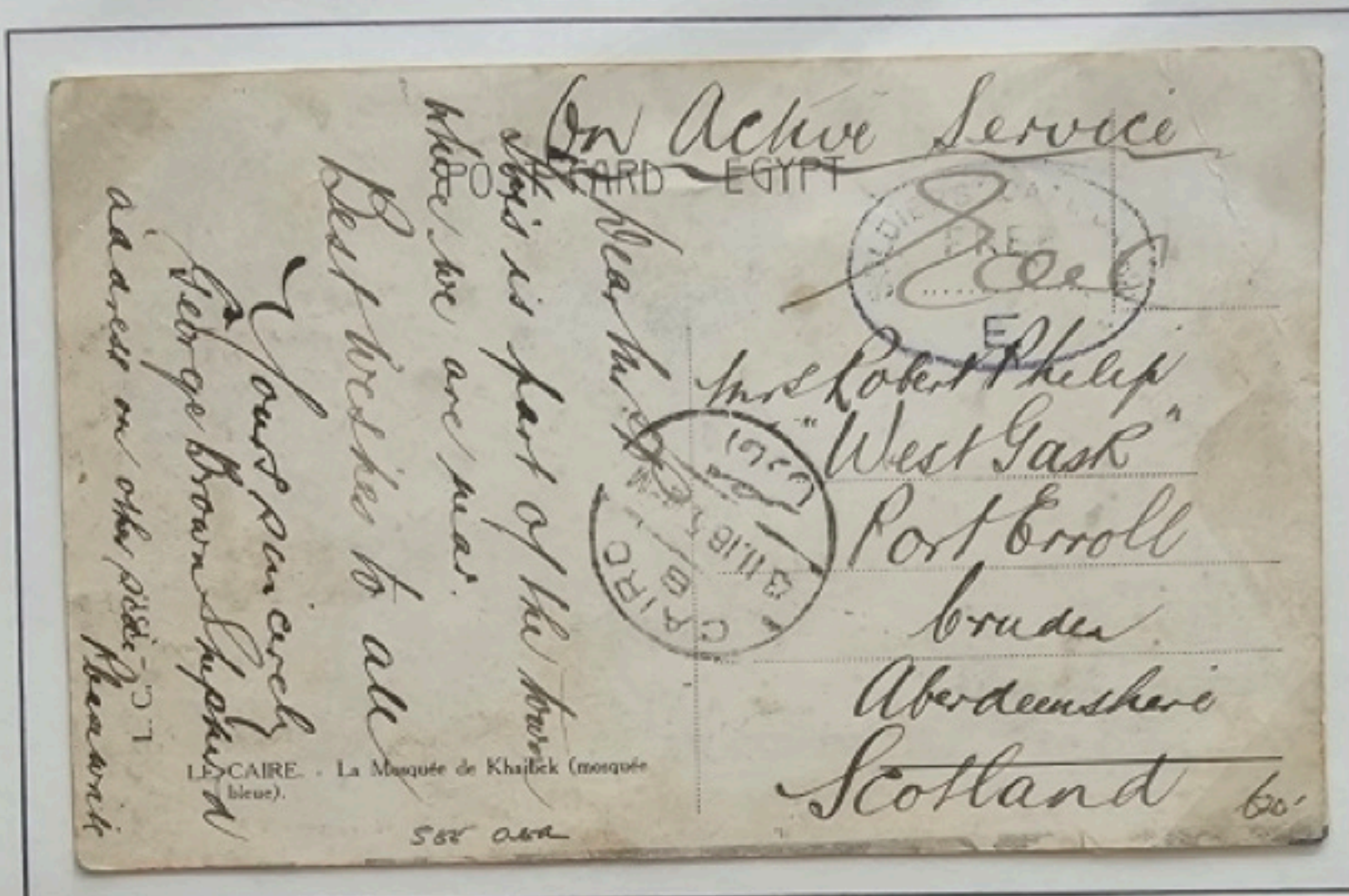
F.P.O. 92 was used by the 92nd brigade of the 31st Division. It was used in No. 3 section of the canal defences.





Postage Free Markings

It wasn't until May 24, 1915 that free mail to the Empire was agreed and implemented with the Egyptian post office if they handled it. Various cachets were used at points where the troops' mail was passed to the post office.



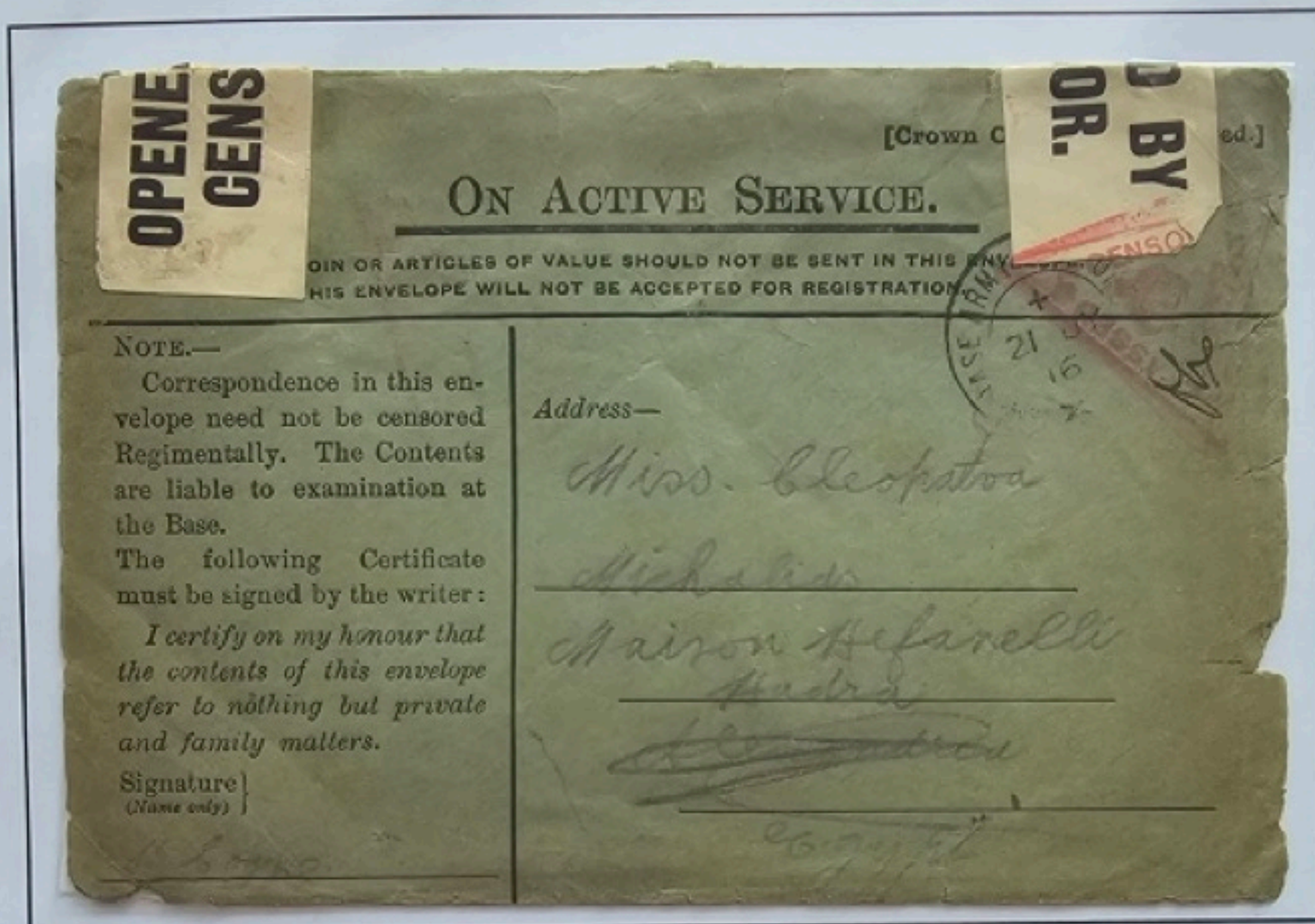
Above cover with the cachet of the Government Hospital, Kasr-el-Aini.

Below a card with the cachet of the SOLDIERS CAFÉ CAIRO.





Censor Label on Honour Letter



Honour Letter which depended on the honour of the sender not to indulge anything beyond family matters. This letter was opened at the Base P.O. and resealed with the censor label. The back has the base office Z and an almost unreadable barrel cancel of Alexandria.

OPENED BY  
CENSOR.





## Sinai Military WWI

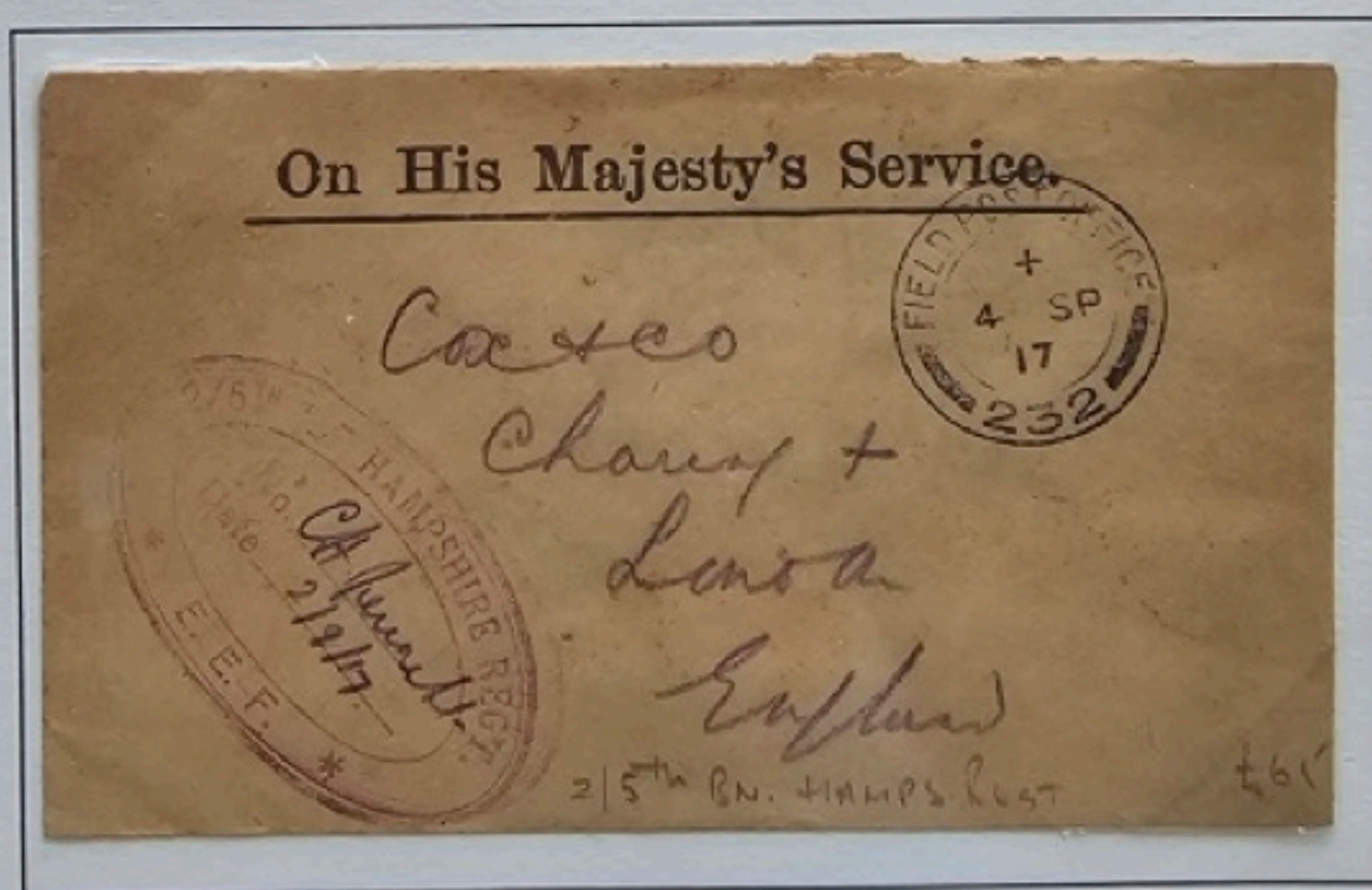
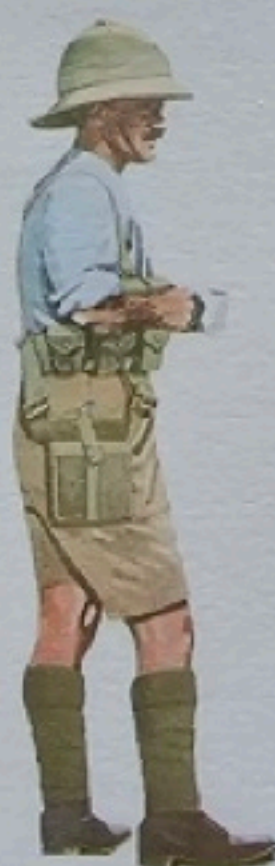
### Unit Field Post Offices.

FPOs were supplied at the brigade level here shown are D42 of the East Lancashire (42nd) Division HQ and FPO 232 of the 232 Brigade of the 75th Division. Both have unit cachet markings of the Brigade Office R.F.A. and of the 2/5th Hampshire Regiment respectively.



The East Lancs advanced across the Sinai from section 3 of the Suez canal defence reaching El-Arish 28.1.1917. It was recalled back to Egypt in mid February to be transferred to the western front.

The 75th. Division was formed in Egypt for the Palestine campaign. It comprised fresh troops from the Indian Army and territorial units from Hampshire, Dorset and Wiltshire. It first saw action at Gaza on November 6, 1917.

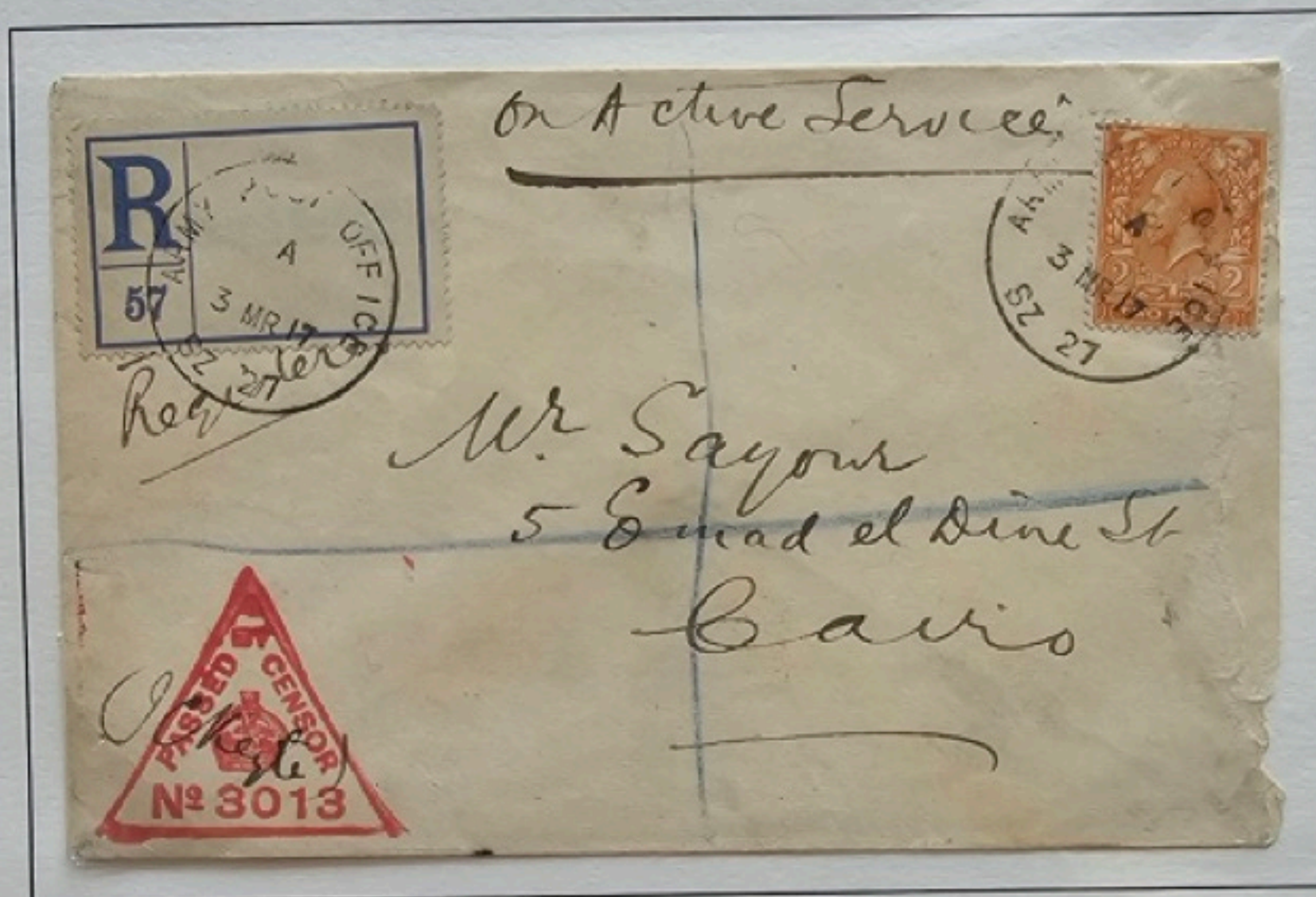




## Sinai Military WWI

### Stationery Post Offices.

Army Post Office SZ 27 was allocated to the E.E.F. in early 1917 and was in the lines of communications. Later it was used at Khan Yunis and from 6.11.1917 at Gaza immediately after it was taken by the British. The 2nd battle of Gaza took place on 17/19 April 1917 and was notable for the first use of tanks in desert warfare.



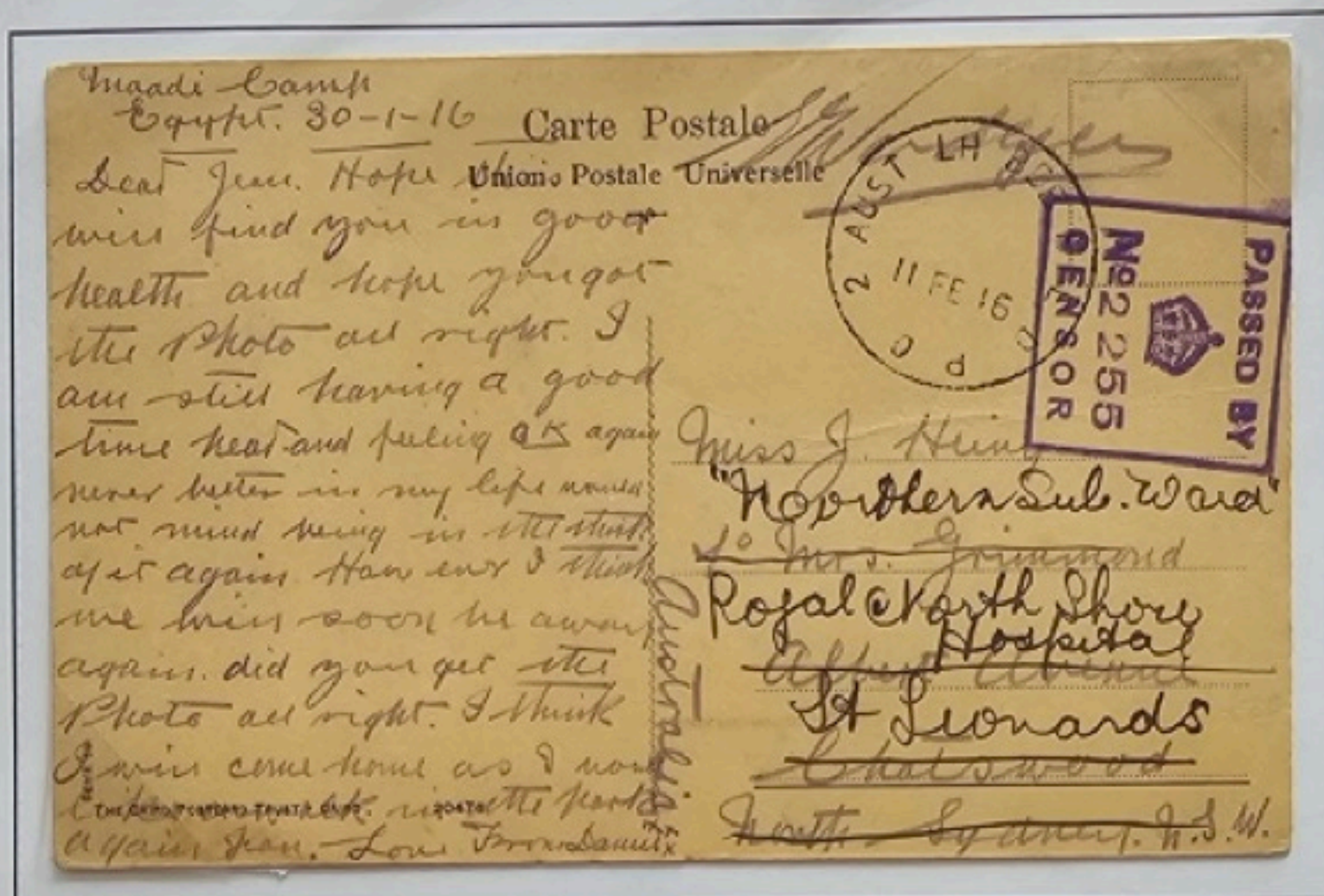
Registered letter with 2d adhesive paying the registration fee. Triangular censorship mark. Backstamped SZ.10 of Cairo. SZ.27 was used in north Sinai at the date shown the British were at Khan Yunis.





## Egypt Military WWI

### Light Horse Brigade



Egyptian postcard franked with FIELD P O 2 AUST LH xxx datestamp

With the return of the troops to Egypt following withdrawal from Gallipoli most of the Australian troops were sent to France. General Murray refused to send the light horse claiming: "I cannot spare a single man; these Anzac troops are the keystone of the defence of Egypt." They were to prove this between 1916 and 1918, when from the Suez Canal Zone to Damascus in Syria, they fought no less than 36 decisive battles. They were not cavalrymen in that they did not fight with lance or sword but mounted infantry dismounting and forming up as infantry while the horses were removed further back.

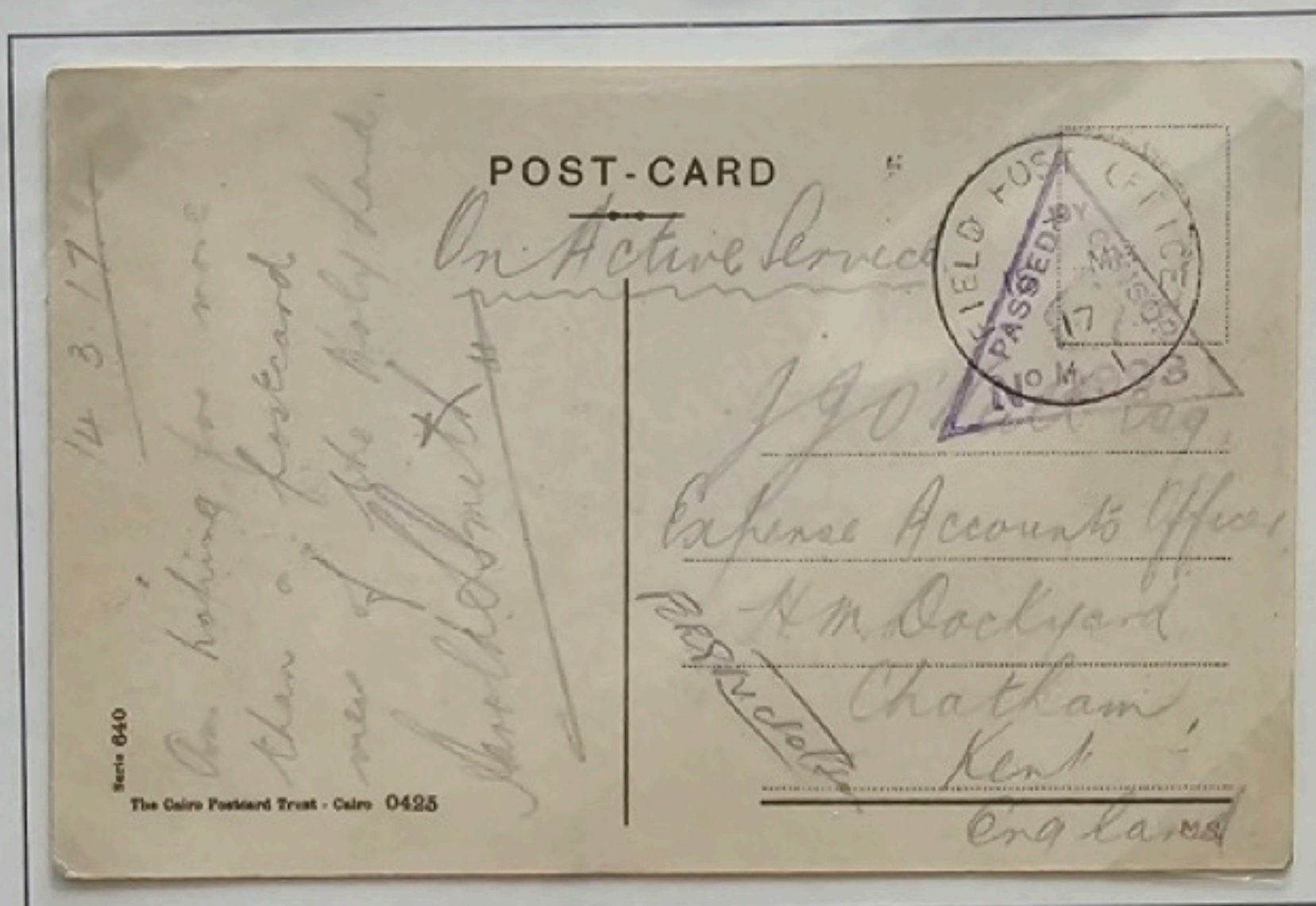
With the initiative gained at Romani on 4th August 1916 the E.E.F. advanced across the north of the Sinai Peninsula, taking Katia on 9th August, El Arish on 21st December, Magdhaba on 24th December, and Rafa in the New Year on 8th January 1917. By 10th January, all Egyptian territory was free of enemy forces.

It was at the battle of Beersheba that the famous charge of the 4th Australian Light Horse Brigade, occurred. With fixed bayonets and at full gallop and voice, they charged 7,000 yards down upon the enemy. Their long bayonets held as swords, so unnerved the astonished Turkish troops that the first wave was able to gallop over the trenches and on to take Beersheba itself.





## Imperial Camel Corps Brigade



Cover from the Imperial Camel Corps Brigade with FPO M 1 dated 15 MR 17. At this time the Brigade was in the Sinai desert just before the first battle of Gaza



The Imperial Camel Corps, was formed in January 1916, the idea was that four or five companies would form a battalion of approximately 830 men and 1,000 camels. The 1st, 3rd, and 4th Battalions were composed of ANZACS, the 2nd Battalion of British Yeomanry. Eventually, 18 companies would be raised: ten Australian, six British, and two New Zealand. Each battalion was commanded by a lieutenant-colonel, each company by a major or captain, and each of the four sections of a company by a lieutenant. Headquarters, medical, quartermaster, and veterinary staffs were attached to the battalion, with one Lewis gun section to a company. The Corps could move 40 miles per day and go for nearly five days. In December 1916 the name was changed to the Imperial Camel Brigade and after leaving the desert, exchanged its camels for horses, and was converted into the 5th Light Horse Brigade. The Brigade was then attached to the Australian Mounted Division; its six British camel companies being retained for lines of communications work and for support of the Hejaz Arabs.





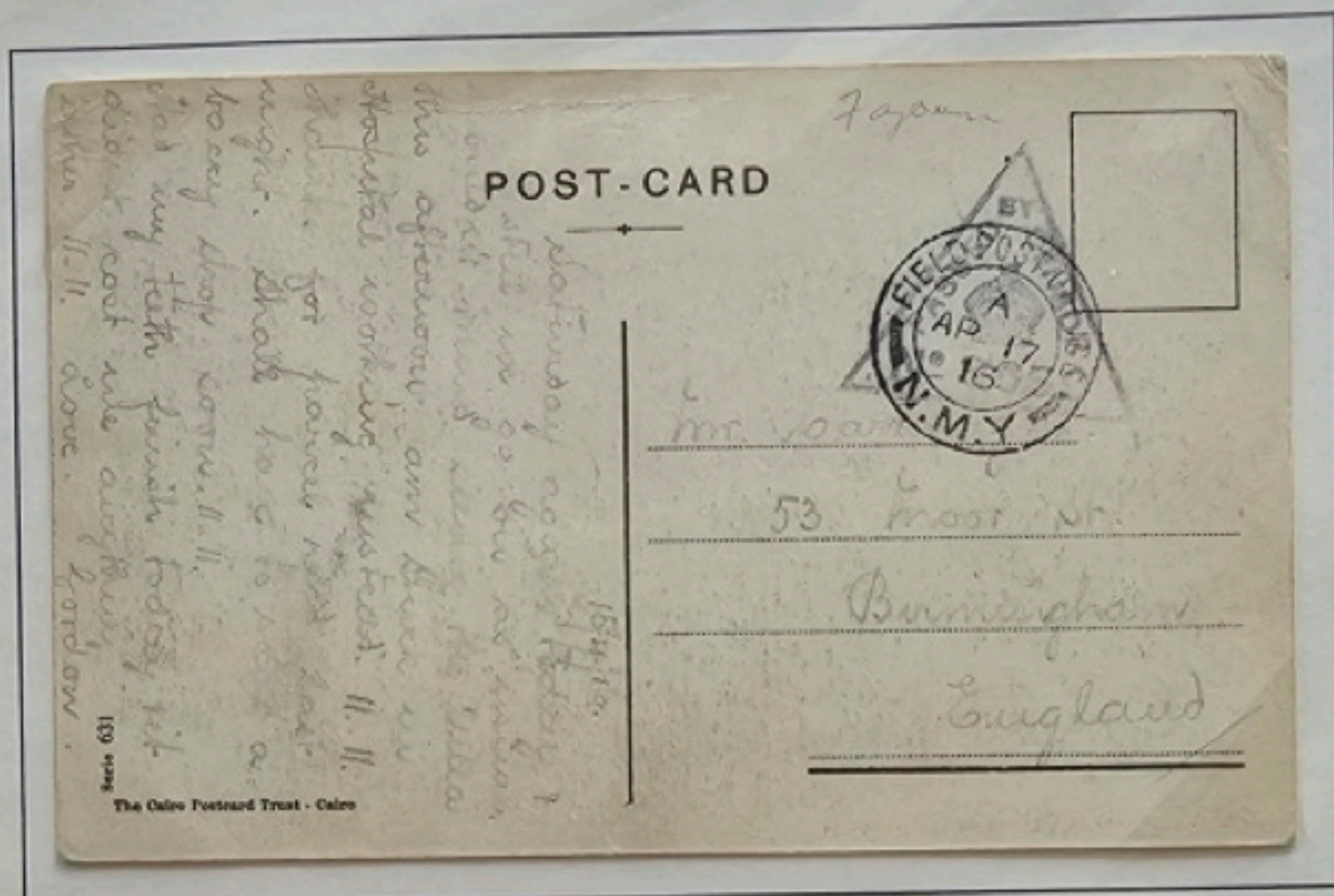
ARMY POST  
OFFICE SAM





# Egypt Military WWI

## The Cavalry Brigades



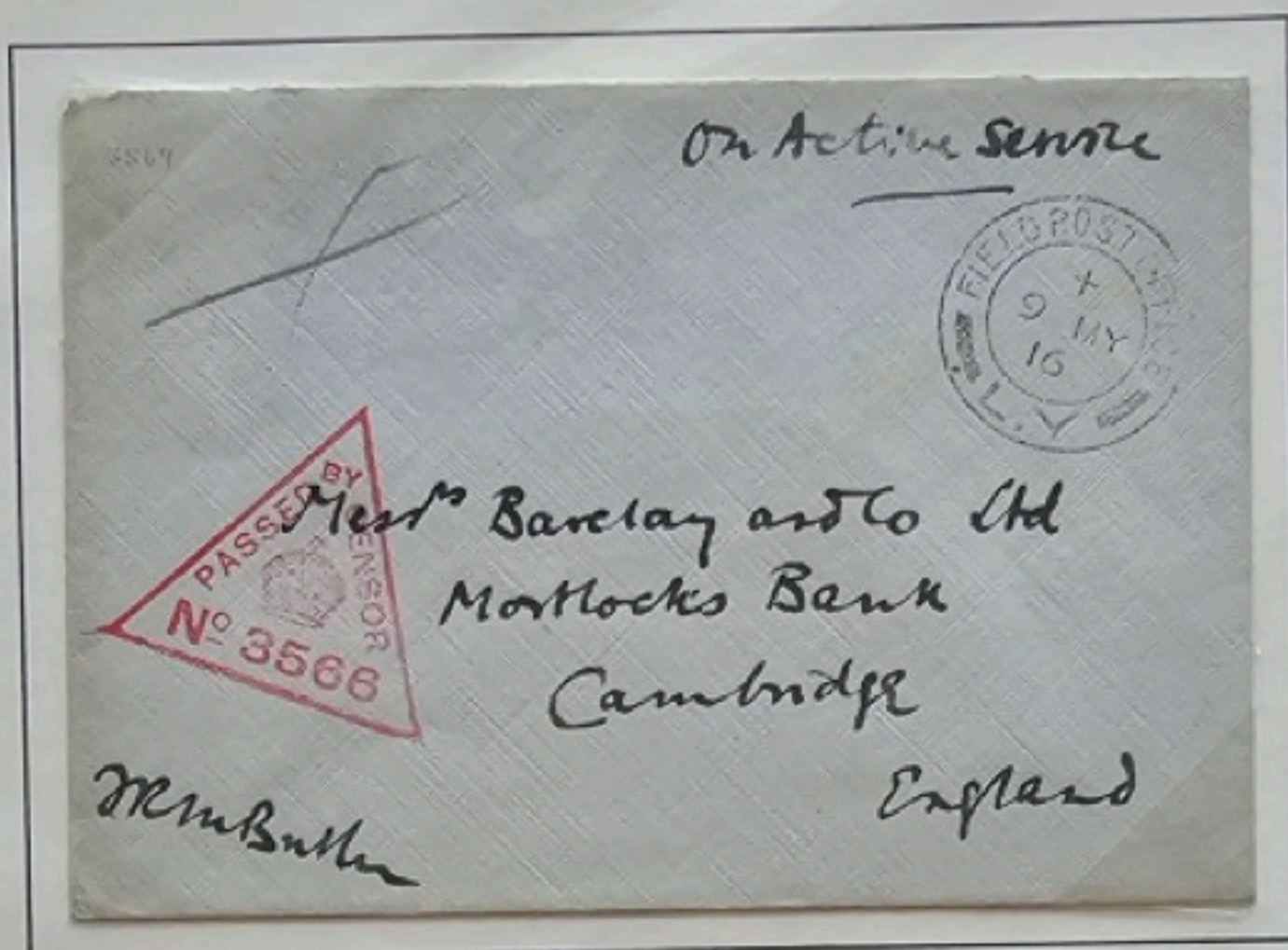
F.P.O. N.M.Y. of the 12th Cavalry, North Midland. Brigade. Arrived in Egypt and stationed at Cairo by March 1916. It became part of the WFF at the Faiyum oasis until January 1917. It was redesignated the 22nd Brigade 1916.

Some time around June the cancel was changed to FPO 22Y



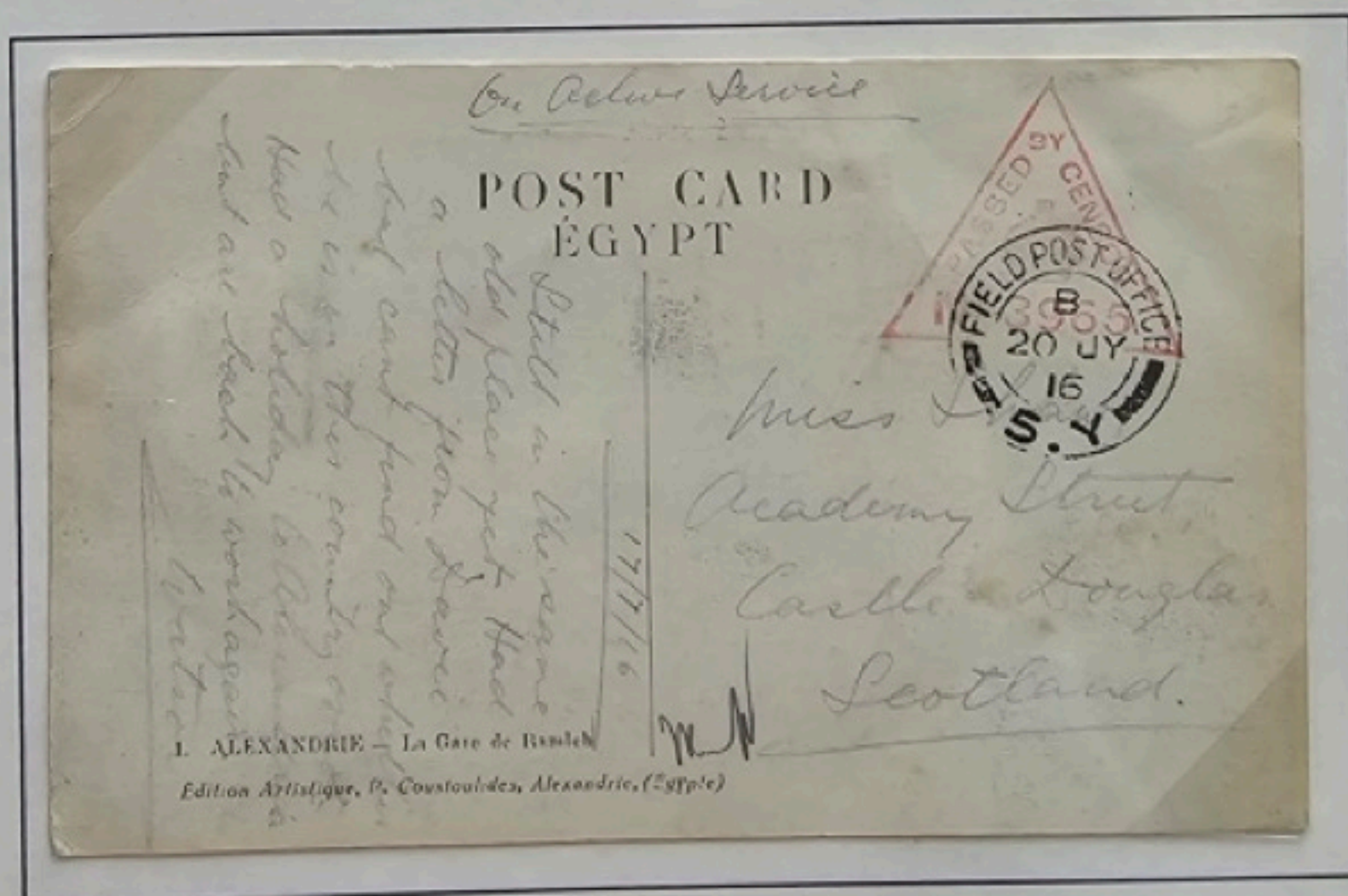


The Mounted Brigades



F.P.O. L.Y of the Lowland Mounted Brigade. Arrived in Egypt from the Dardanelles February 7. 1916 to become part of No. 3 section of the canal defences. The brigaded was disbanded and merged with the 1/1 Scottish Horse to form the 1st. Desert Brigade.

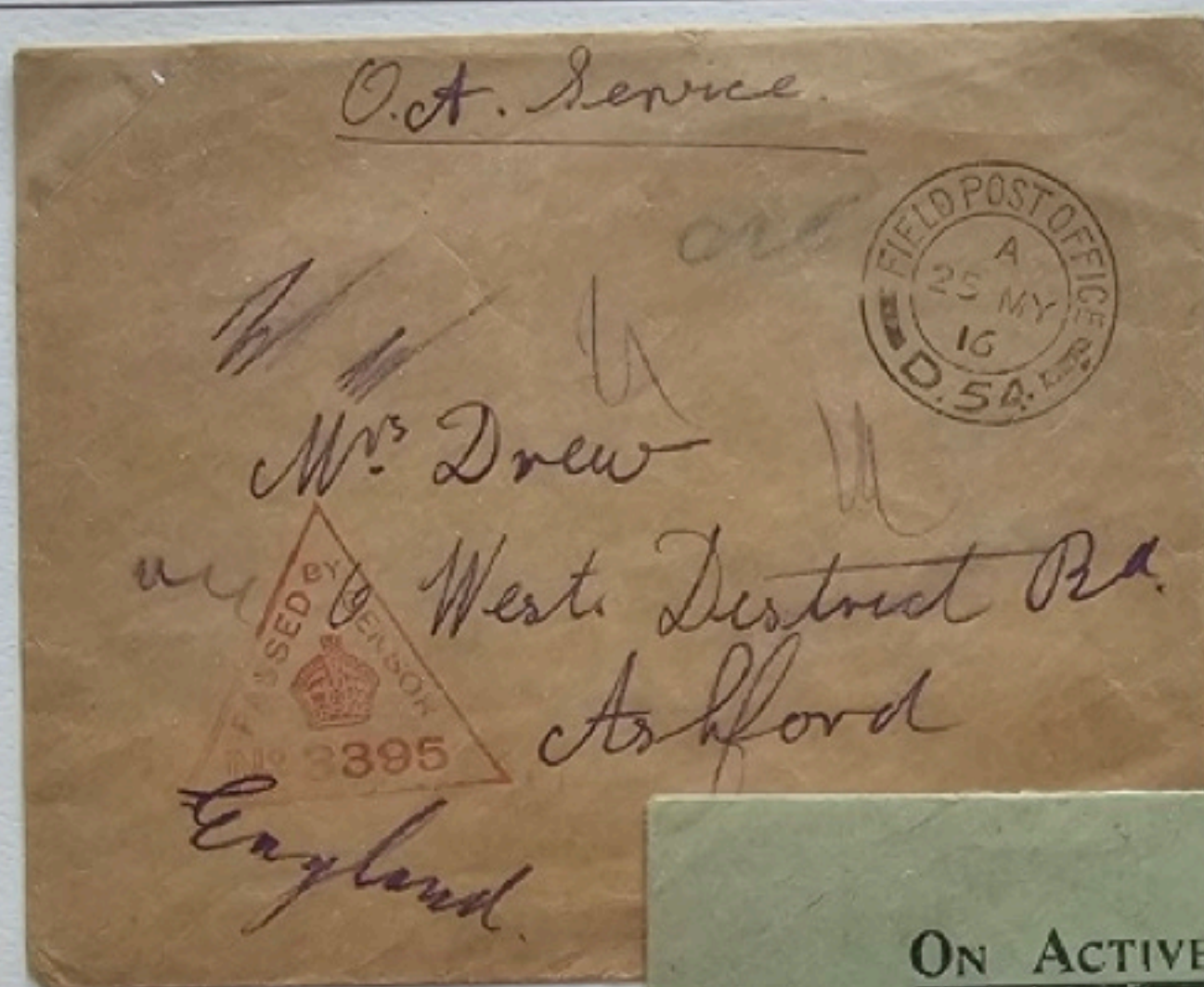
F.P.O. 5.Y of the 5th Mounted Brigade was made up of the reformed remains of the 1st. Mounted Brigade after the Dardanelles campaign. It served with the W.F.F. April to July 1916.





# Sinai Military WWI

## Divisional and Brigade F.P.O.s



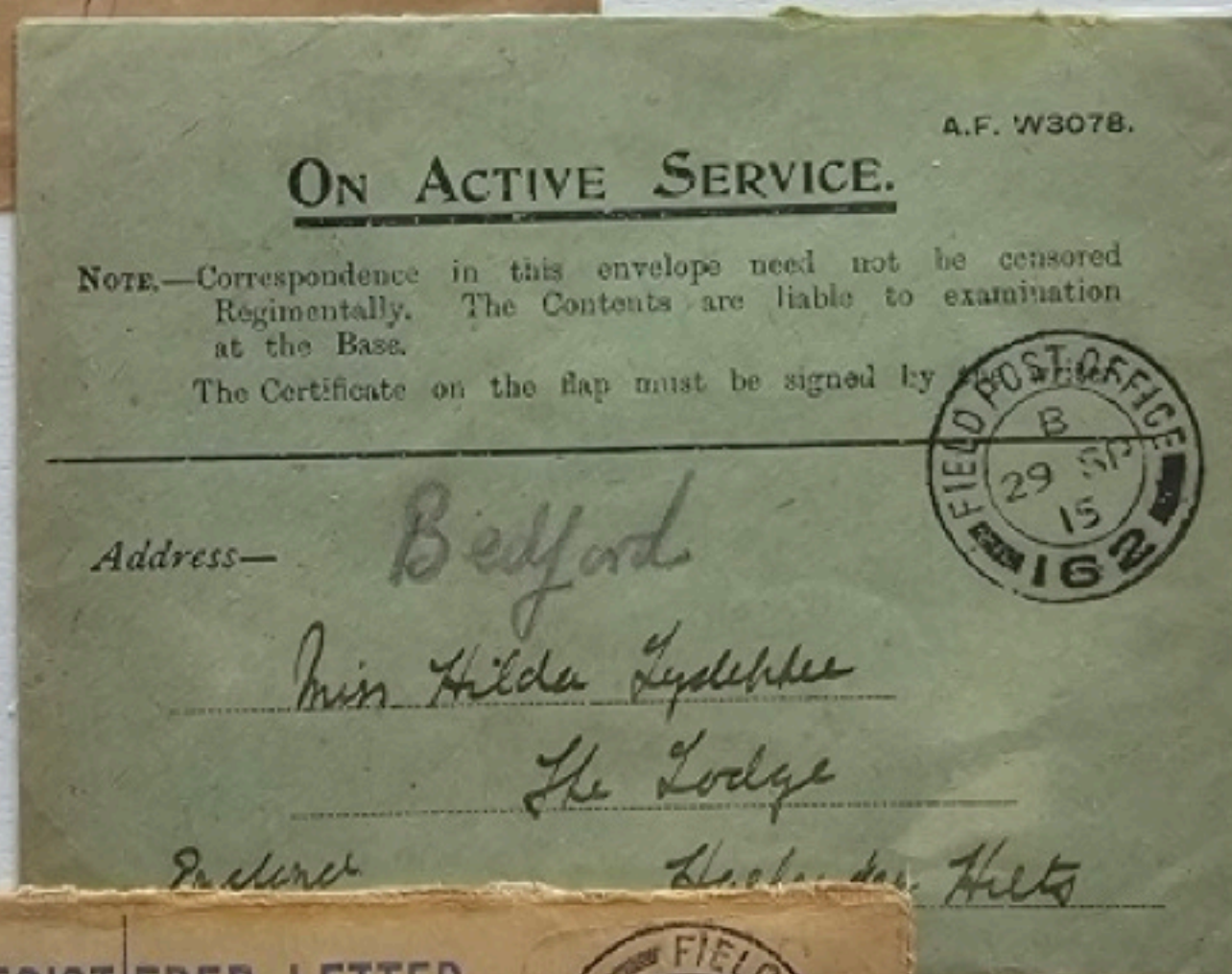
The Divisions were normally made up of three brigades. The HQ being issued with a FPO in the D series and the brigades with three sequentially numbered FPOs.

The 54th. East Anglican Division was mobilised August 4, 1915 for service in the Dardanelles campaign. It arrived later in Alexandria December 18m 1915.

It took part in the Palestine campaign ending up in Lebanon at the end of 1918.

The Essex brigade was issued with FPO 161. the East Midland brigade with FPO 162 and the Norfolk and Suffolk brigade with FPO 163.

Both FPOs were in the Gaza area April—November 1917.

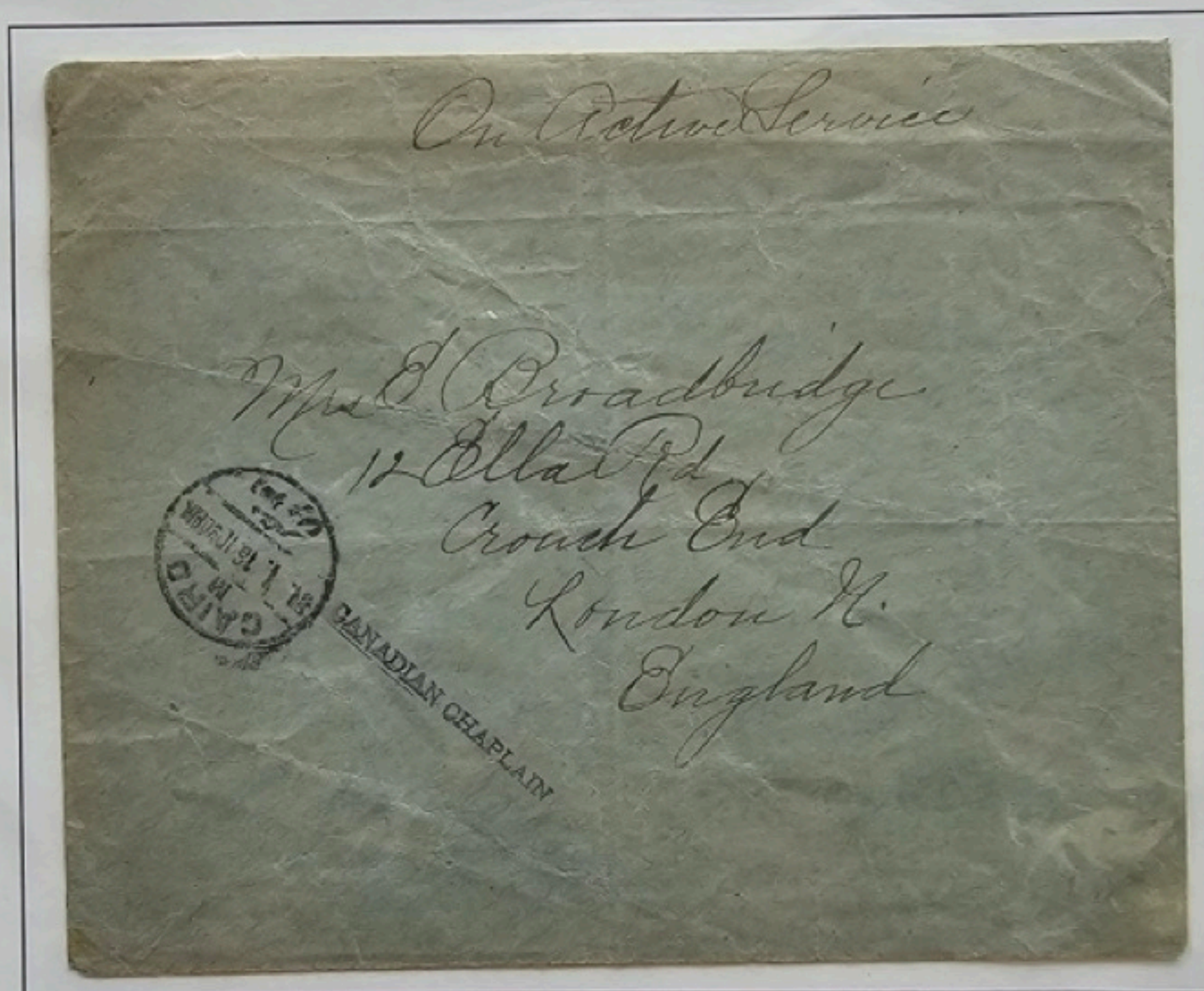




## Egypt Military WWI

### Canadian Chaplains

While Canadian troops served on the western front few were sent to the middle east in the form of military hospitals. Attached to these were Canadian Chaplains who used one of two cachet which served as a form of honour censorship.

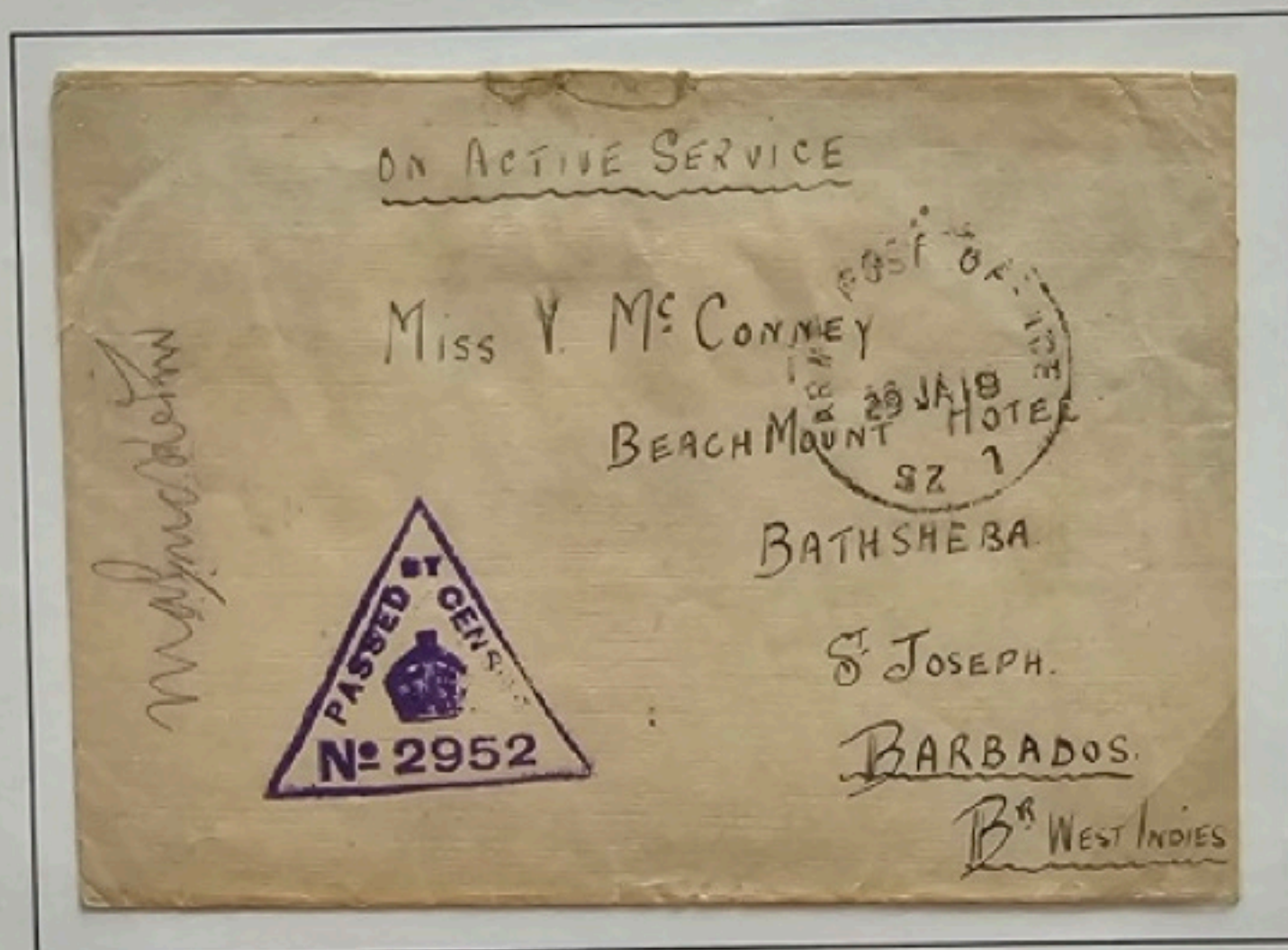




## Egypt Military WWI

### British West Indies

Six battalions of the British West Indies Regiment were to serve in the Middle East theatre the first arriving in Egypt February 4, 1916. They were mostly used in the pioneer/labour role and later as guard unit in the supply lines.



Cover addressed to the West Indies date stamped with SZ7 which was at Dier-el-Belah at the date shown which was the main base of the BWI contingent at that time.

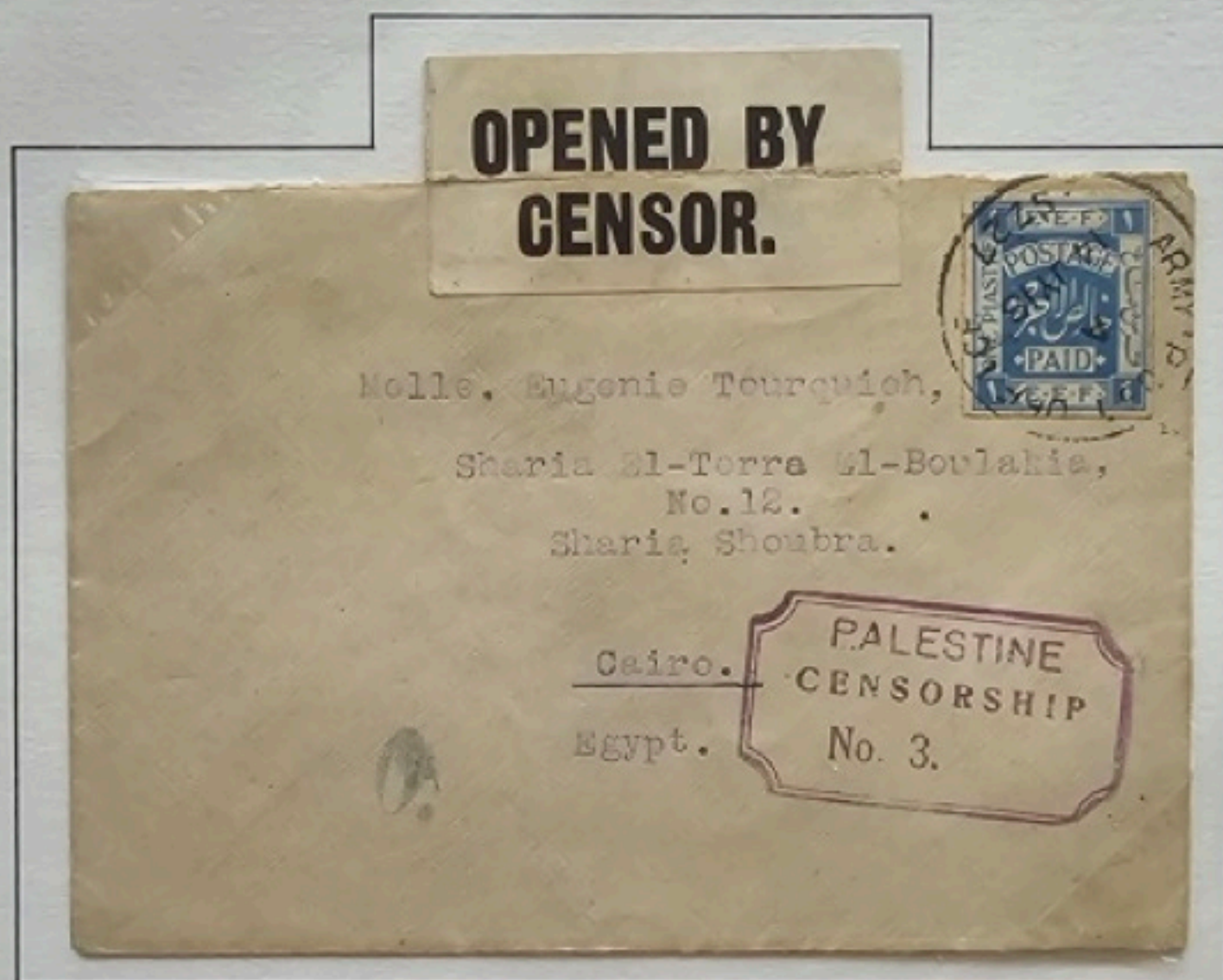




## Sinai Military WWI

### E.E.F. Stamps Cancelled at Military Post Offices

Cover with the 1 piastre postal rate to Egypt cancelled by APO SZ27, based at Gaza, 14 JY 18. The cover is backstamped APO SZ45, Jaffa, 16 JY 18 and Cairo Arrival 19.VII.18. It also shows the No. 3 Palestine censorship marking and a resealing label.



Soon after the conquest of Palestine the necessity of a postal system for the use civilian mail was considered. It was made the responsibility of the Director of Army Postal Services to put such arrangements in to effect and it was agreed it would provide postal order business as well as handling ordinary and registered mail. The Political Officer, having also been consulted, took the view that the use of British stamps overprinted was politically undesirable and the idea of a PAID handstamp also undesirable. It was proposed that that a one piastre small label or ticket marked 'E.E.F. Postage Paid' could be purchased over the counter and that the post office should affix it on the letter. The Director of Army Postal Services in Egypt proposed to his superior at the War Office in London that there should be a special issue of postage stamps this was rapidly put into effect with the first of these postage stamps appearing on 10 February 1918. Until this date, civilian letters addressed out of the country were transmitted postage free and internal letters were sent postage free until 16 February when the 5 mills. overprinted adhesive was issued.

The Political Officer's words that the staff of the Army Post Office should affix the 'labels' to the letters had a prophetic ring about them; when the stamps were issued to the first three army post offices to handle them, instructions were given that stamps could only be supplied for letters presented at the army post office. These provisions were made to safeguard initial supplies and to prevent quantities being bought for what might euphemistically be called 'non-postal purposes'.

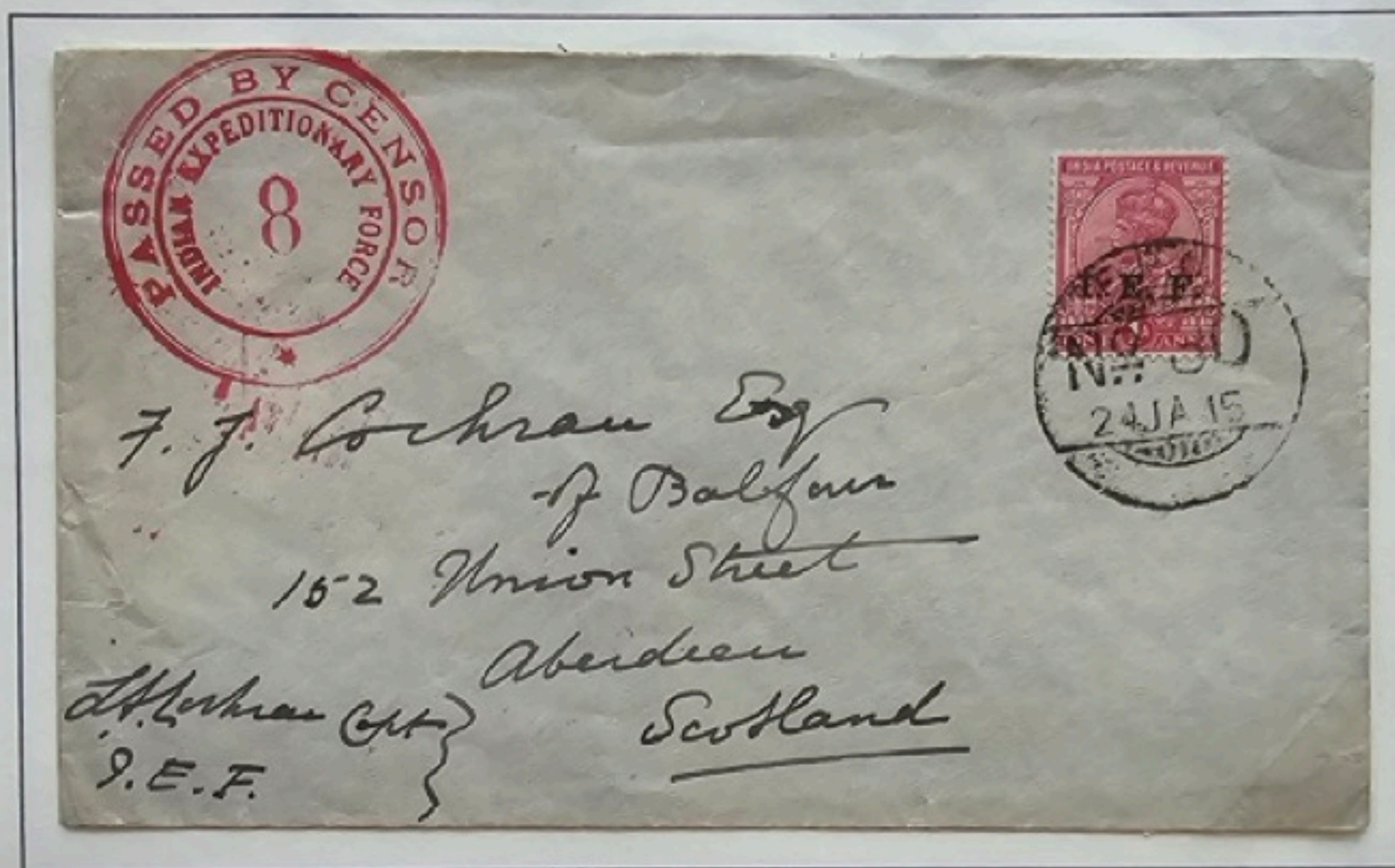
Civilian letters are known to have been accepted by eleven military post offices in Palestine. They were also accepted by the Assistant Administrator, O.E.T.A. Hebron and, during October and November 1918, by the civil post offices at Damascus and Aleppo, the adhesives being subsequently cancelled at an Army Post Office.



## Egypt Military WWI

### Indian Forces

When the war in Europe began the small, 5,000 men, garrison of regular units were soon sent to France. Amongst the troops sent to replace them India sent the Indian Expeditionary Force which after arrival formed the 10th and 11th Indian Divisions at the end of 1914. These were the only trained forces in Egypt and played the major part in defeating the Turkish attack on the canal.



Two covers using overprinted I.E.F. stamps one with the distinctive Indian F.P.O.

The lower cover has been cancelled with Chief Sorting Office based at Port Tewfik



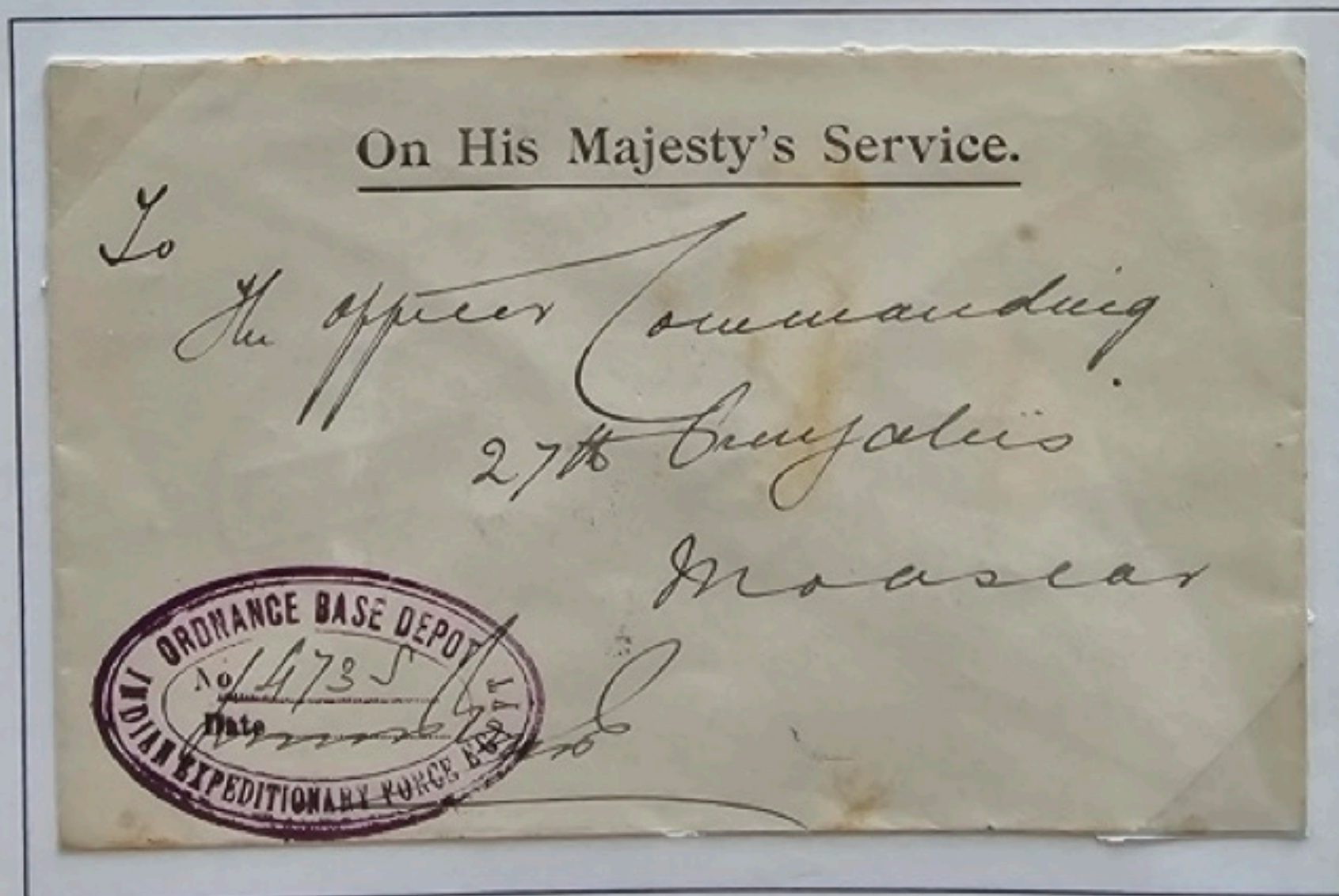


Indian Forces

Later Indian forces made up part of the British forces advance in to Palestine. Cover with F.P.O. 28 which was at El-Arish at the time of cancellation.



Official letter with cachet of the I.E.F. backstamped FPO 312. 313 and CS.Office IEF.





### Egypt New Zealand Forces WWI

On the outbreak of war New Zealand was quick to mobilise and the Expeditionary Force of volunteers formed for service in France. Initially they were to stop in Egypt for training before proceeding to the western front. By the time they reached the Suez Canal the possible Turkish attack resulted in the New Zealanders being disembarked for the defence of the canal. Later they were used for the Gallipoli campaign. Each troopship had a military post office a board which was supplied with a rectangular datestamp.



Postcard with the datestamp of troopship H.M.N.Z. Transport No.14.

The first contingent landed in Egypt December. 2 1914.  
Free postage was not granted until May 24. 1915 so until then the normal Egyptian postage was payable.

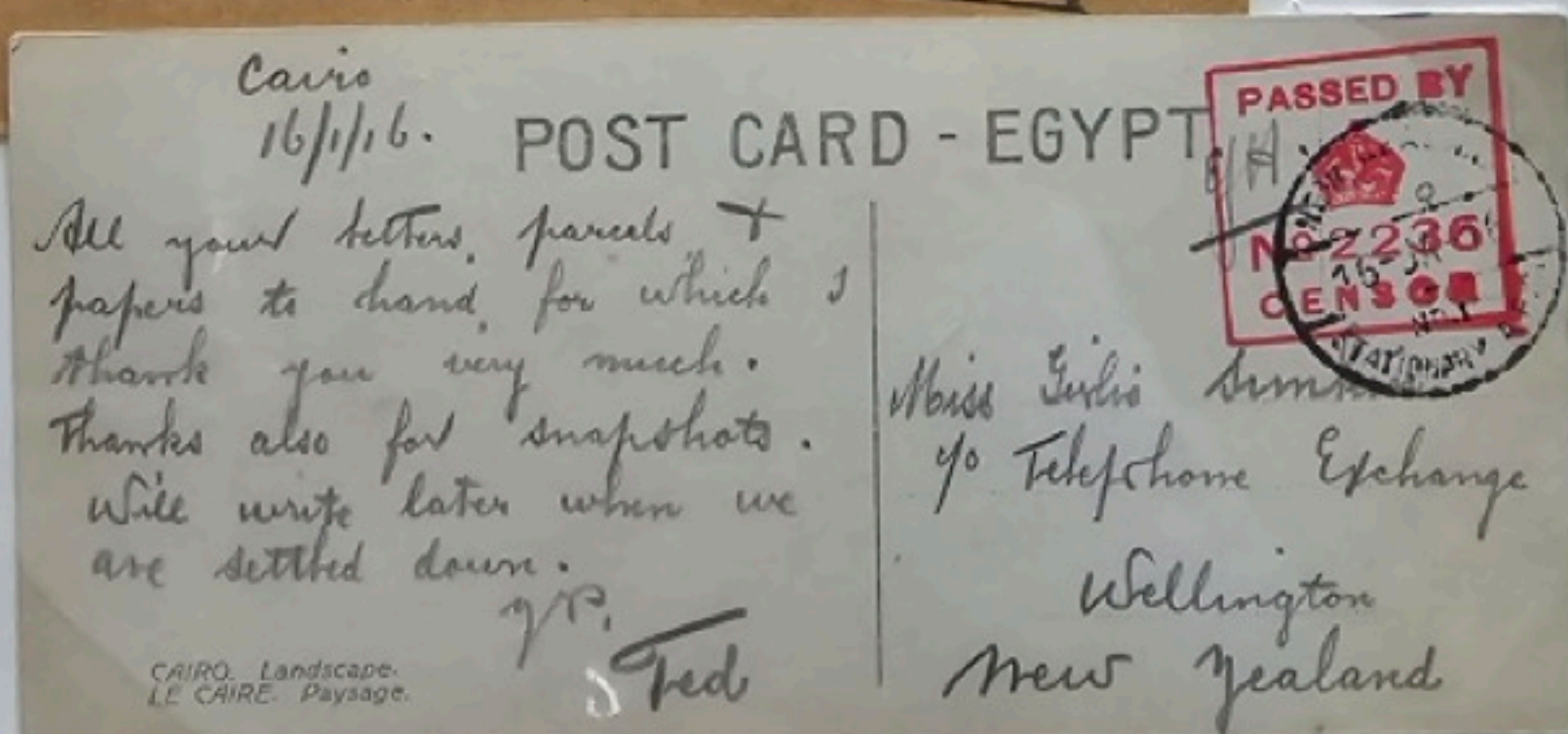
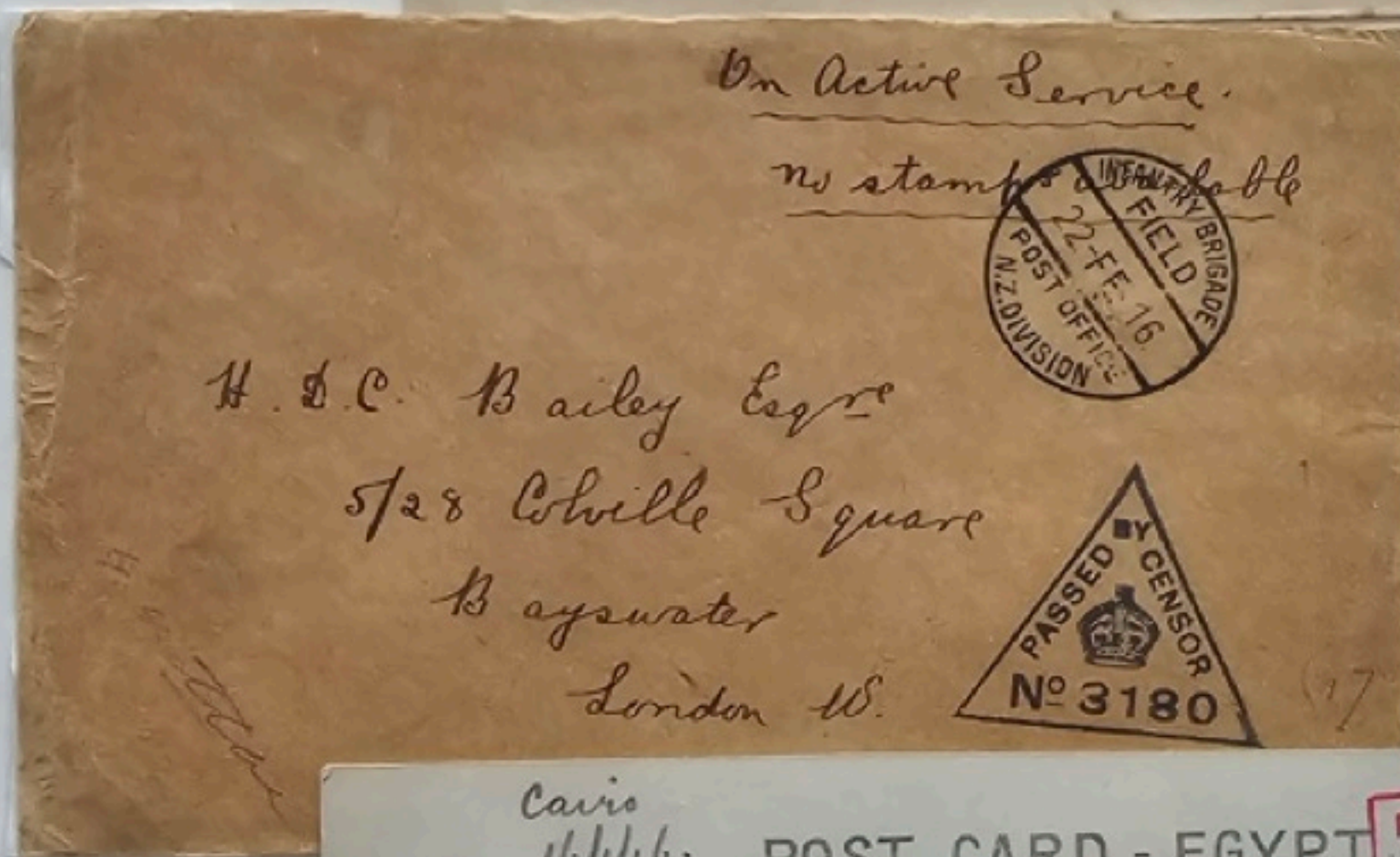
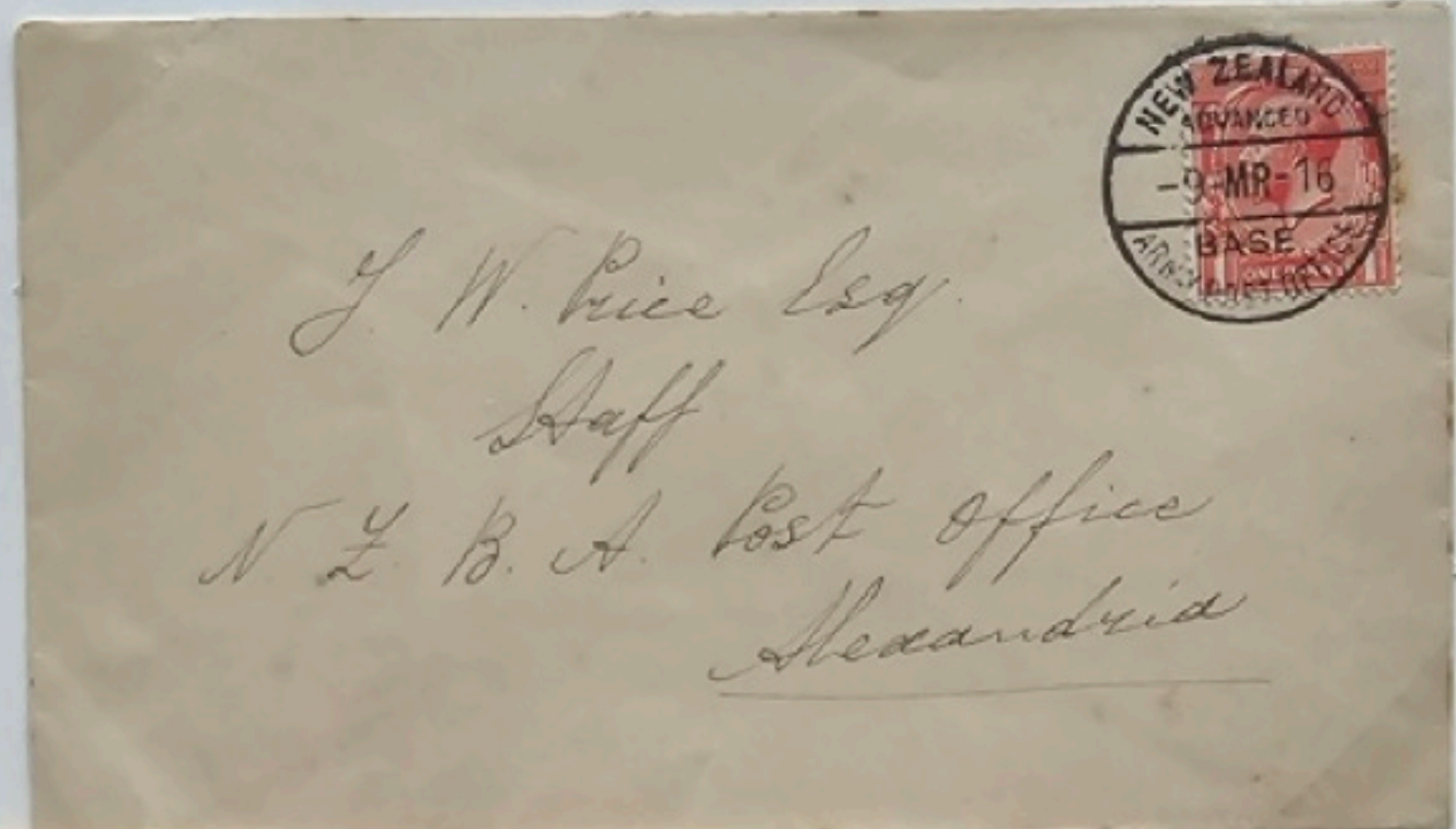




# Egypt Military WWI

## The New Zealand Expeditionary Force

On the outbreak of War New Zealand immediately responded with mobilisation to form the New Zealand Expeditionary Force. The first contingent sailed to Australia to join the Australians and arrived in Egypt December 3. 1914. Under Major-General Birdwood they were combined into the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps - ANZAC.

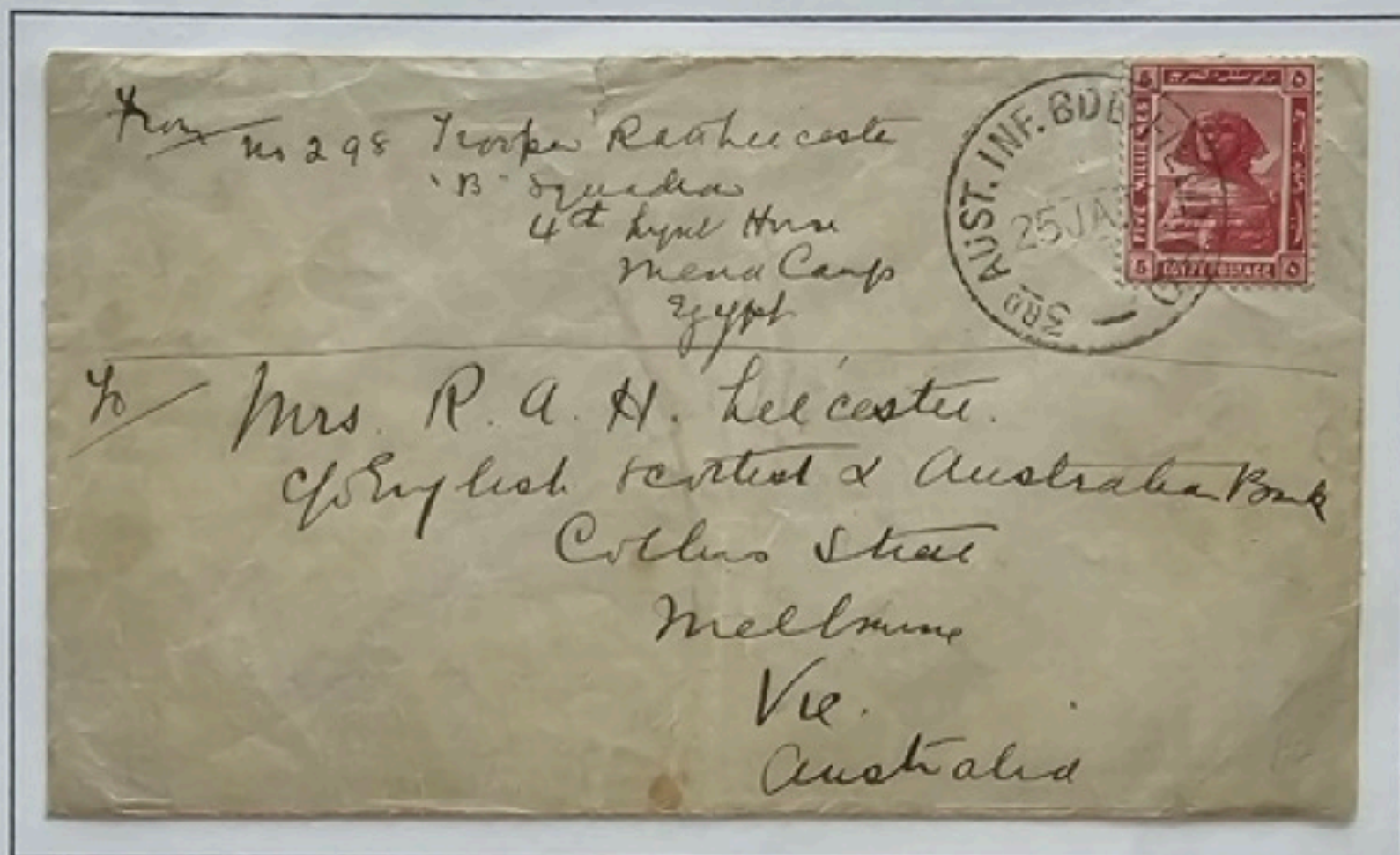




## Egypt Military WWI

### The Australian Imperial Forces

Initially postage had to be paid for and it was not until February 1915 that arrangements with the London Post Office was free mail granted "letters from troops on active service from all parts of the British Empire". However Australians could use the normal Egyptian post and in doing so avoid censorship.



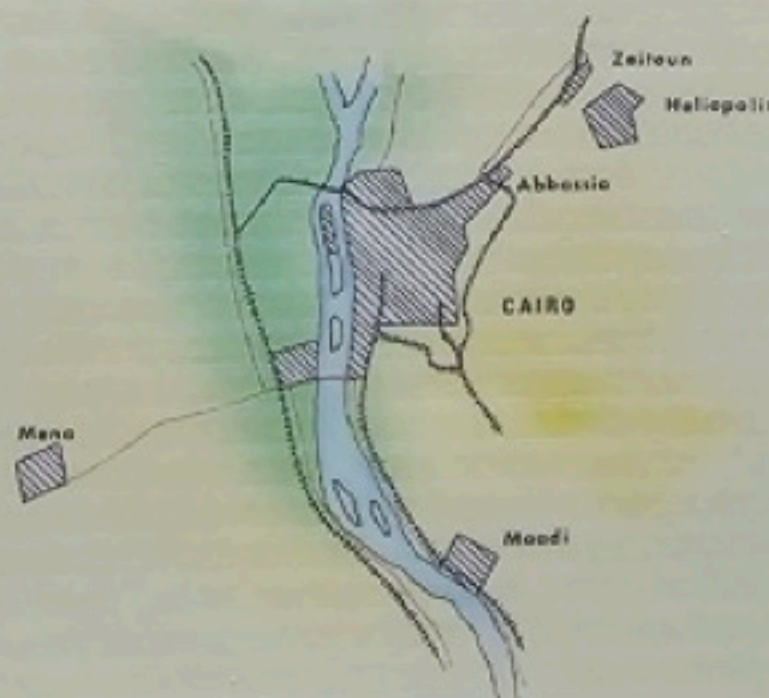
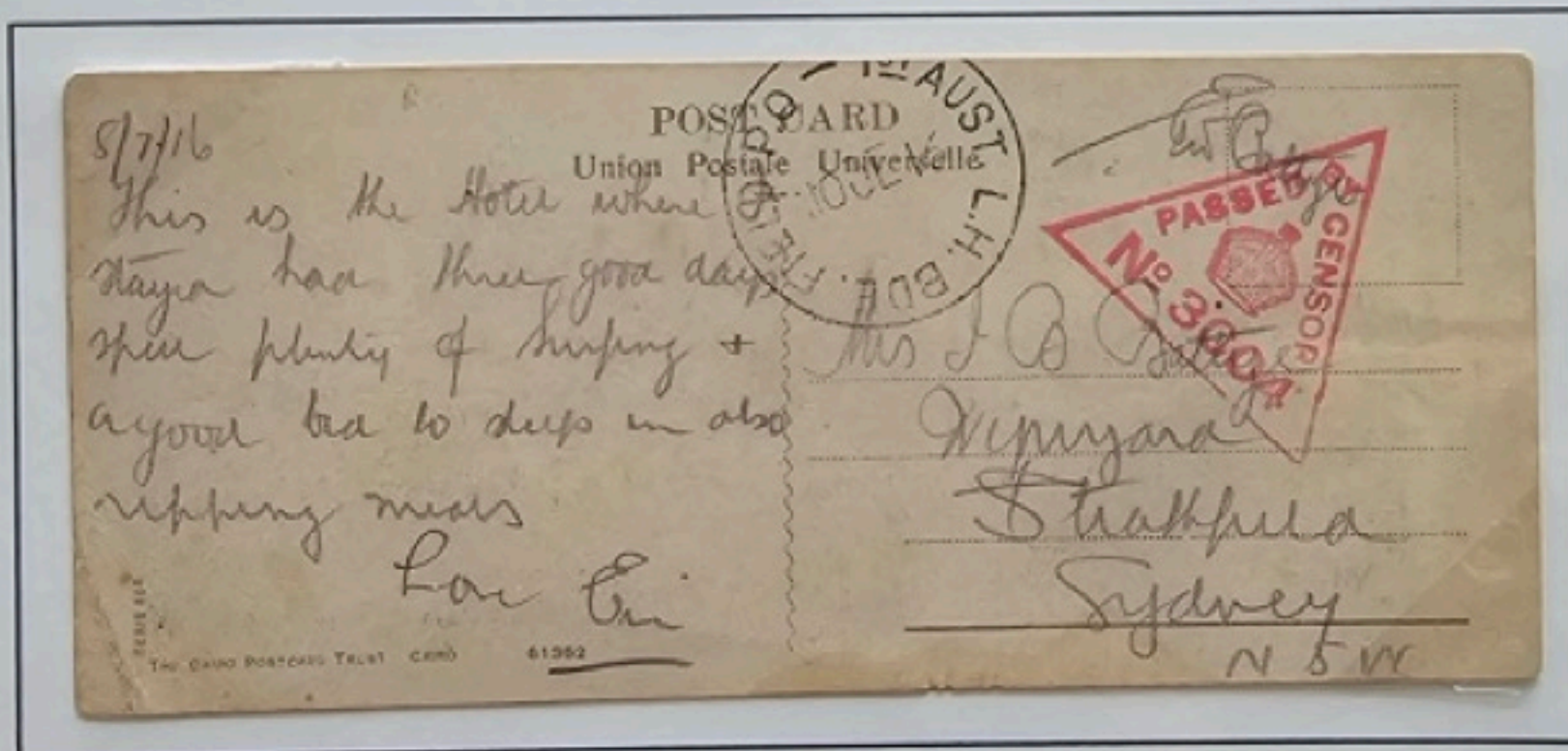
The upper cover predates the free postage and the date stamp of the 3rd. Aust. Inf. Brigade which was one of only five date stamps brought from Australia the rest being made in Egypt. The lower cover posted via the Egyptian mail which passed onto military mail where the cachet of the A.I.F. Inter base of Cairo was applied.





**Egypt Australian Forces WWI**

The Light Horse returned from Gallipoli in late 1915 to regroup at Maadi. By May they had moved out into the Sinai for its defence against Turkish incursion. Of the two datestamps used by the 1st Light Horse, the 'Details FPO' was only used at Maadi and operated from June 1915 until June 1918.





## Egypt Military WWI

### Australian Forces WWI

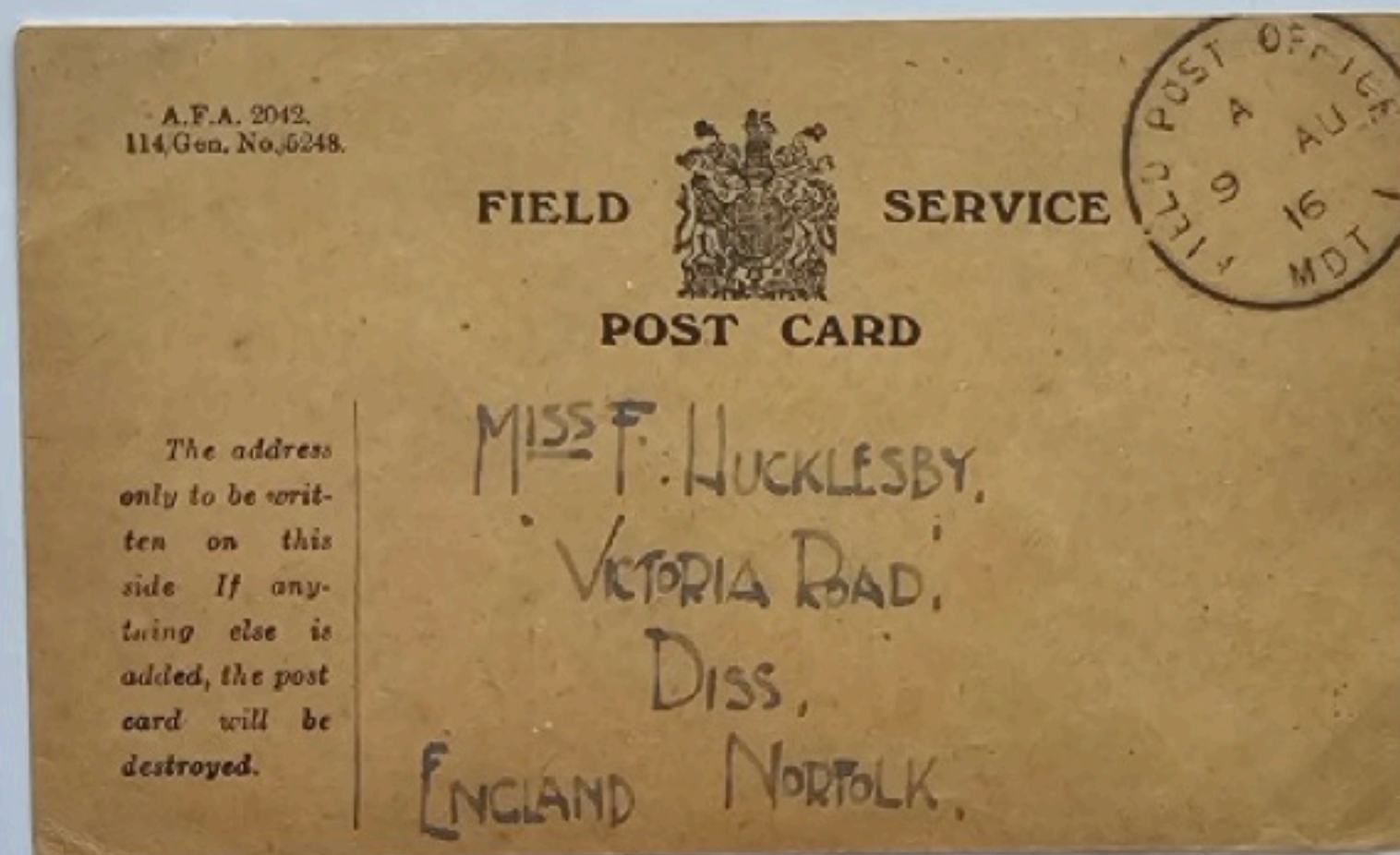
The 3rd. Light Horse arrived in Egypt on 15 March 1915 and then moved to Gallipoli where they fought as infantry. The postmark was used there from 20.5.15 to mid-December before returning to Egypt.





### ANZAC Mounted Division

The Light Horse division was formed from the Australian and New Zealand Mounted Division, also so know as the ANZAZ Mounted Division. It was created in January 1916 under the command of General Chauval and made up of the 1st. 2nd. And 3rd. Light Horse and N.Z. Mounted Rifle Brigades. the artillery units, with 18-pounders and the Divisional Ammunition Column were provided by the British Royal Horse Artillery from the Territorial Force. The division served in the Desert Column from the end of 1916 until mid-1917, when the column was expanded and renamed the Desert Mounted Corps. The division fought and won almost all the major battles across the Sinai Peninsula during 1916, and the following year it fought from Gaza to Jerusalem in Palestine.



Field Service Post Card cancelled with MDT 1 dated 9.AU.16



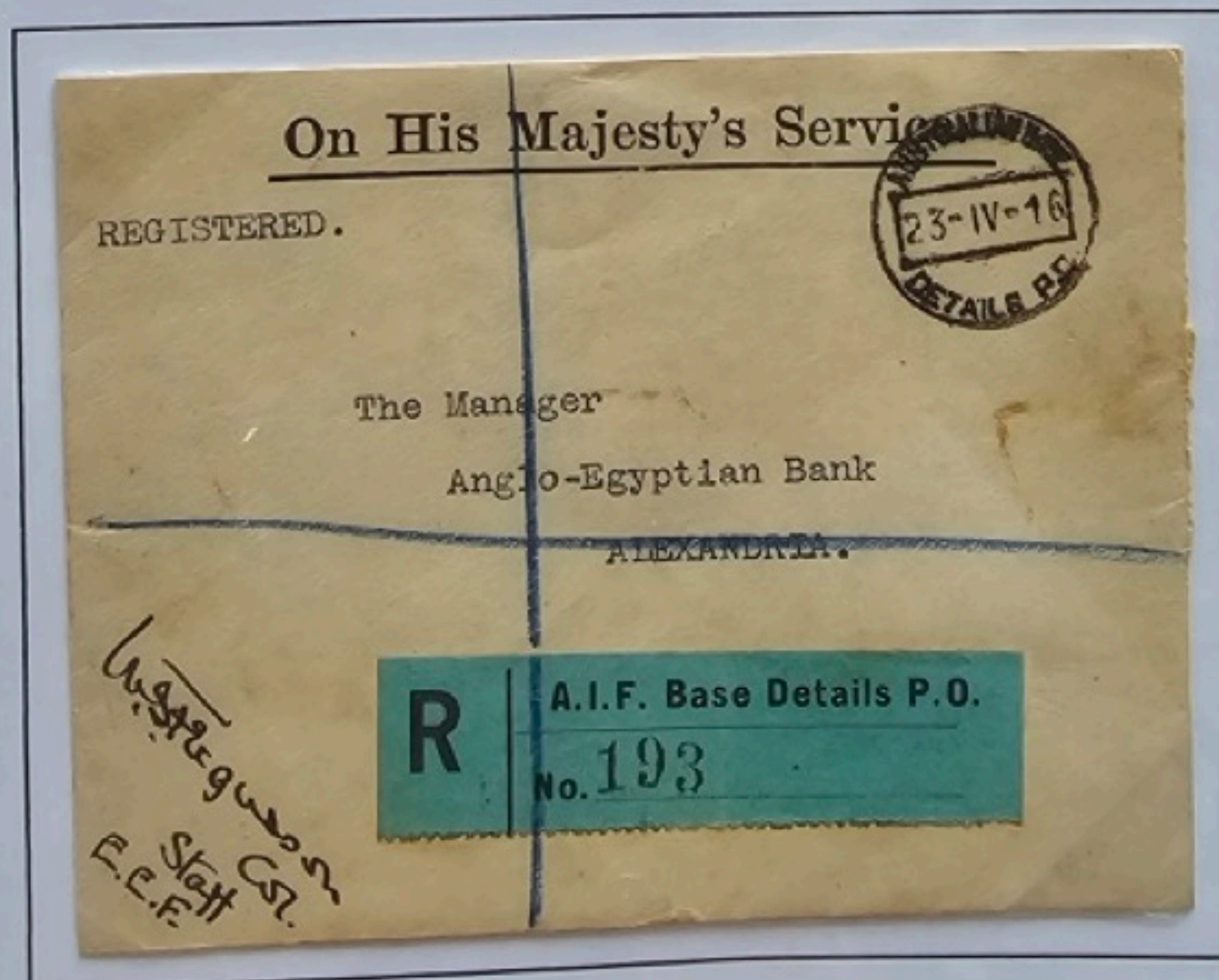


# Australian Registration Labels



Two examples of Australian registration labels. The top cover cancelled by M.D.1.dated MR.17.17 backstamped S.Z. 10 Army Post Office. One can only assume the 3d stamp is to pay for registration. MD1 was allocated to Head Quarters and ha been recorded used between 27.AP.16 to 3.AP.1917,

The lower cover cancelled with Australian Base Details P.O. 23.IV.16 backstamped 26.AP.16 R&D (registered and depart) and Alexandria D.L.Y. normally used for registered mail. The handstamp was situated in Zeitoun and its recorded use given as 2.MA.15 to 29.NO.16.





## Egypt Military WWI

### Détachment Français de Palestine et de Syrie

French concerns that "The establishment of a powerful Arabic State, under British influence, is going to cause us anything but troubles in the future" and that "French troops must participate in the occupation of all territories conquered in Palestine and Syria" lead to the formation of the D.F.P.S on January 28, 1917. Between spring 1917 and summer 1918, total strengths of the Detachment grew from 67 officers/2.886 troops to 182 officers/6.962 troops.



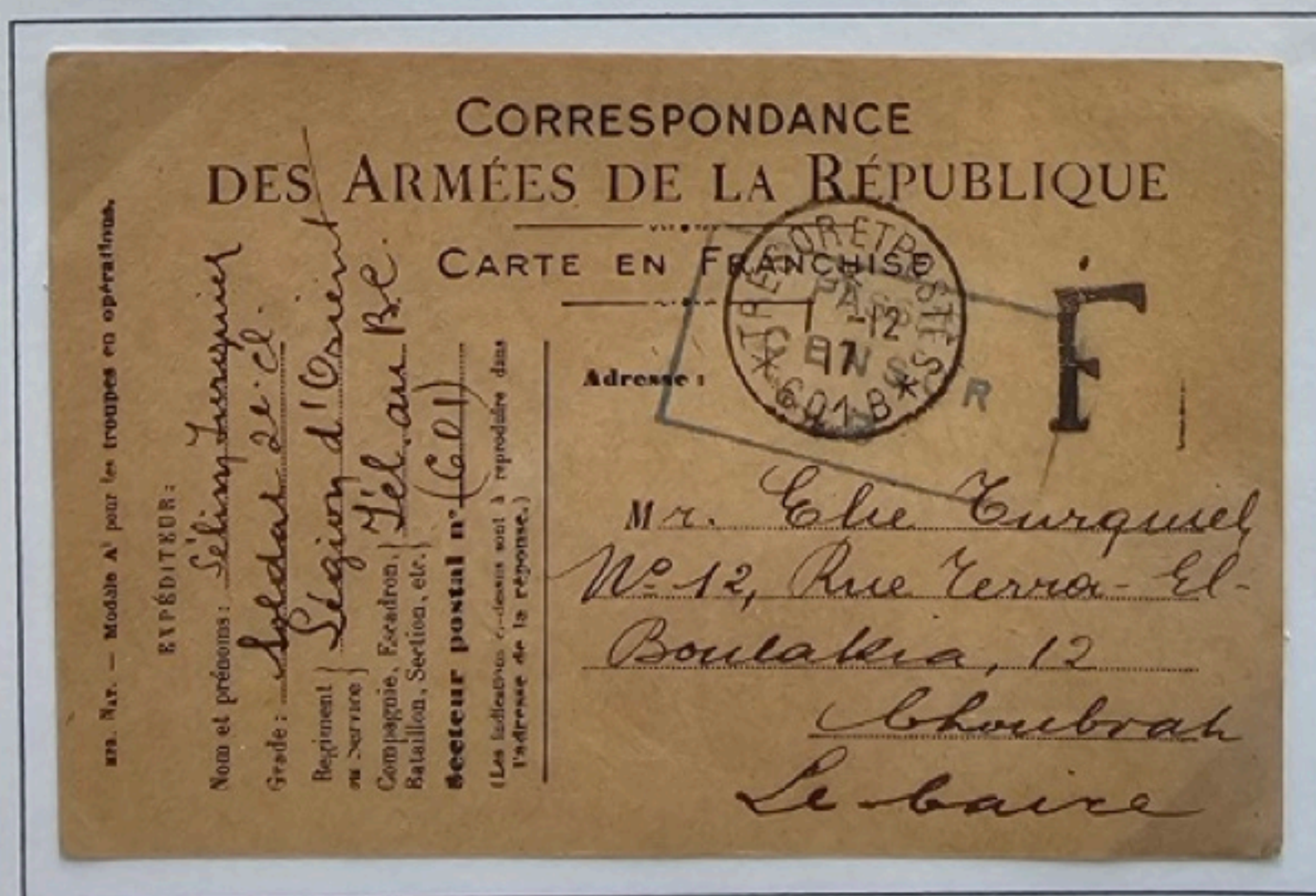
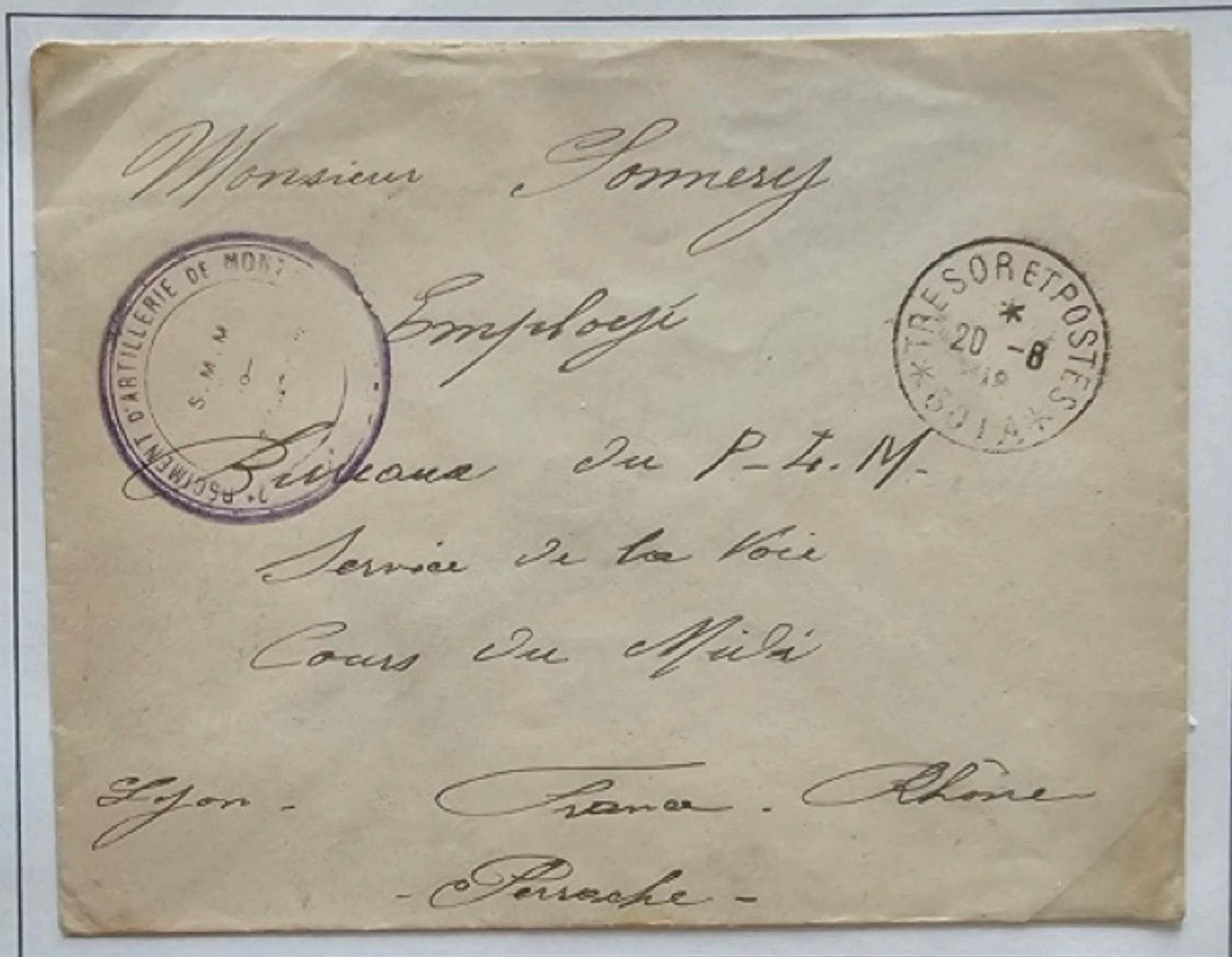
The French designated sector 601 to the detachment with the main postal sector at Port Said.



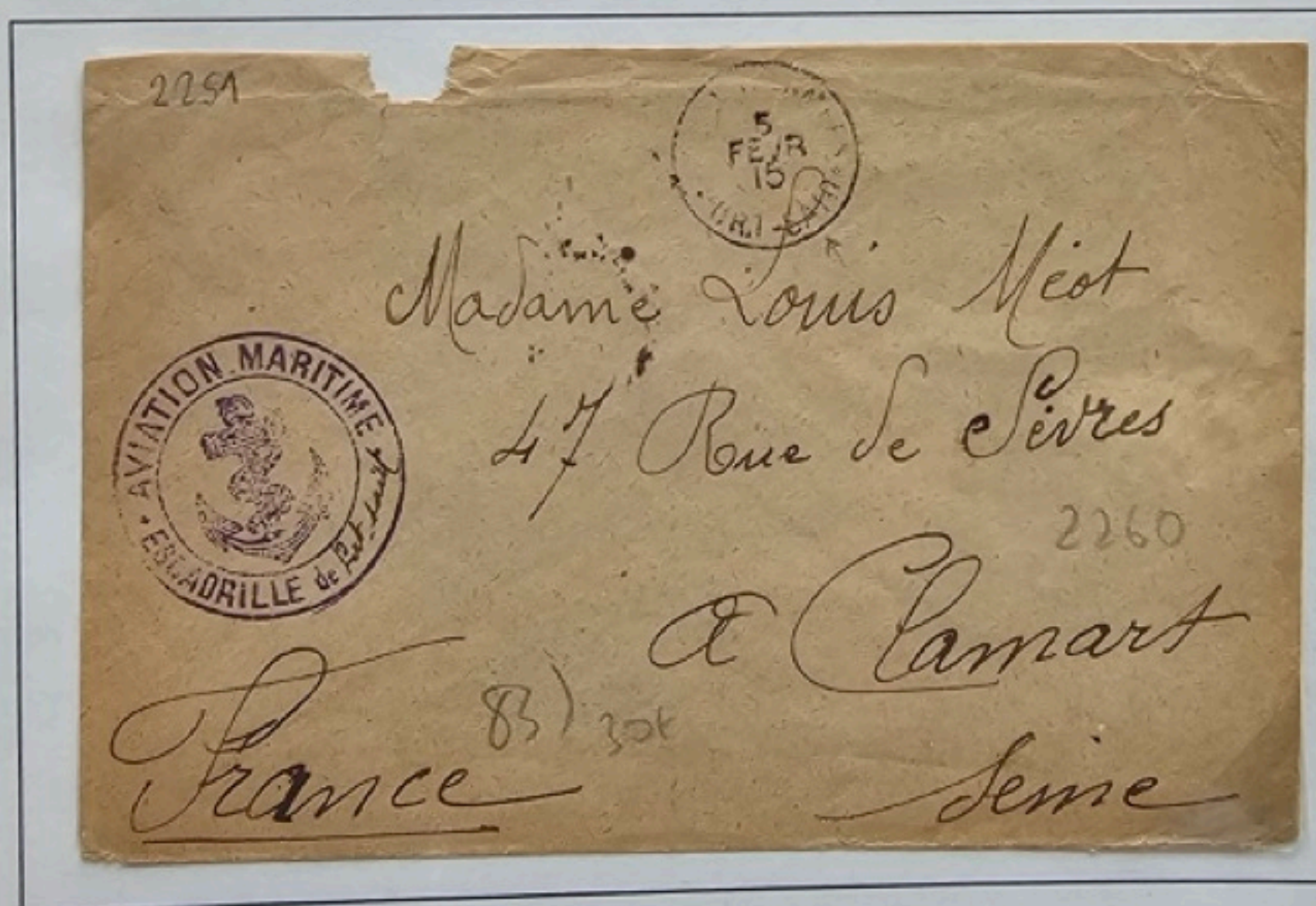


Détachment Francals de Palestine et de Syrie

Postal sector 601 had two daughter units 601A and 601B which were mobile units that went with the troops to Palestine. The first cover also has a cachet of the 2nd mountain artillery.







French Neuports based on the Suez Canal were the first aircraft to see action in the Turkish held Sinai, flying as far as Gaza and Beersheba.

Two covers with the cachet of the naval air unit based on the canal. One has the place name scratched out.



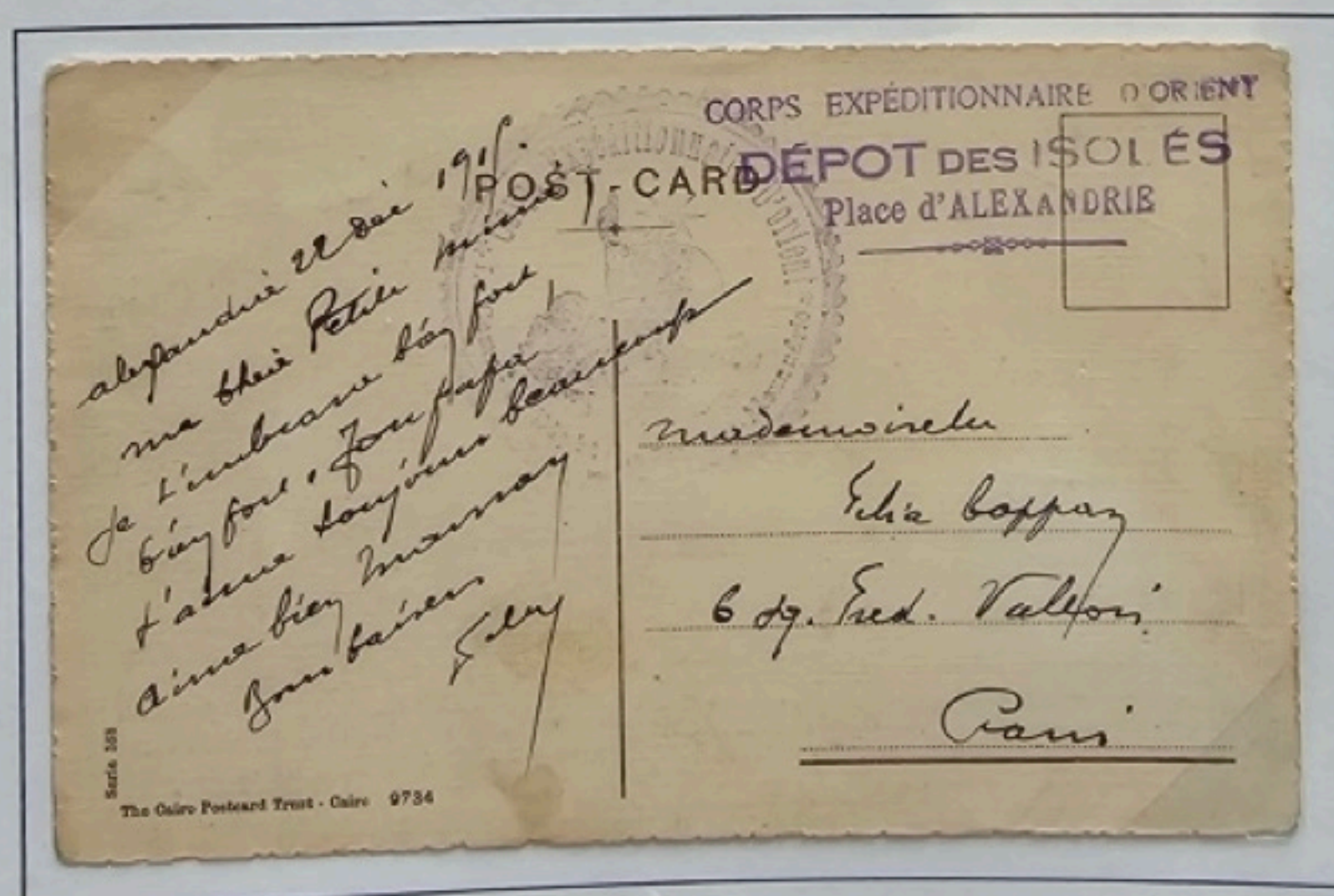


### Corps Expéditionnaire d'Orient

To assist in the Allied offensive to take the Dardanelles, the French despatched to the Middle East a newly created force, designated "Corps Expéditionnaire d'Orient" (C.E.O.). The 1st Division of the C.E.O. (20.000 men) was formed on 20 February 1915, and began gathering at Bizerte (Tunisia). The C.E.O. was stationed at Alexandria from 28 March until 16 April 1915, waiting to form up with the ANZAC and British troops on their way to the Dardanelles.



Two postcards with cachets of COE.





## Mission B, Base de Suez



On 5 June 1916 the Sherif of Mecca, Hussein Ibn Ali, proclaimed the independence of the Hejaz from Turkey. The subsequent story of Lawrence of Arabia and the Arab Revolt is a well documented chapter of the First World War.

With an eye to the future, the French Government wished to participate in that operation and sent to the Sherif a delegation of North-African Muslim officers, commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Edouard Brémont, which reached Jeddah on 20 September. Amongst them were Lt.Col. Cadi (Algerian artillery), Capts. Raho and Sa'ad (Algerian Spahis) and Lt. Lahlou (Moroccan Black Guard infantry).

To follow this up, a French military unit, designated Mission B (for Brémont ?), was assembled, ready to travel to the Hejaz in order to support the Arab revolt against the Turks.

A base for the Mission B was set up at Suez, and an initial team of 25 explosives experts, all from North Africa, arrived at Jeddah on 1<sup>st</sup> October. The rest of the troops, travelling on board the paquebot *Amazon*, disembarked at Suez on 21 October 1916. That location had the added advantage of an Egyptian mail-boat which sailed every 10 days between Suez and Jeddah. Part of the Mission B was a 100-bed field-hospital. Also included an artillery unit under Capt. Pisanl, which later joined Lawrence and the Arab Northern Army, fighting into Palestine and Syria.

In Mecca, however, after a long hesitation, Sherif Hussein decided he did not want more French troops inside Arabia. Of those already there, Capt. Depul served with the Emir Abdullah's Southern Army in the siege of Medina, and French officers were part of the main Arab training centre at Mecca.

Consequently the 40 officers and 1,000 soldiers of Mission B (mostly North African) remained stranded at Suez. There were not enough men in that contingent to justify a Postal Sector of their own, so initially their mail was carried by the British Army Post (A.P.O. SZ 15 and SZ 24) as far as the French P.O. at Port-Saïd which applied its date-stamp before onward despatch. Mail to them was addressed "Base Française de Suez" and was deposited by French ships at Alexandria, then forwarded to Suez by the Egyptian Post Office. They had postal franchise, but could not receive registered mail or money orders. Eventually there was also a problem with the soldiers' wages. These were payable each month and the troops wanted to be paid in French currency to avoid a 15% loss on exchange.





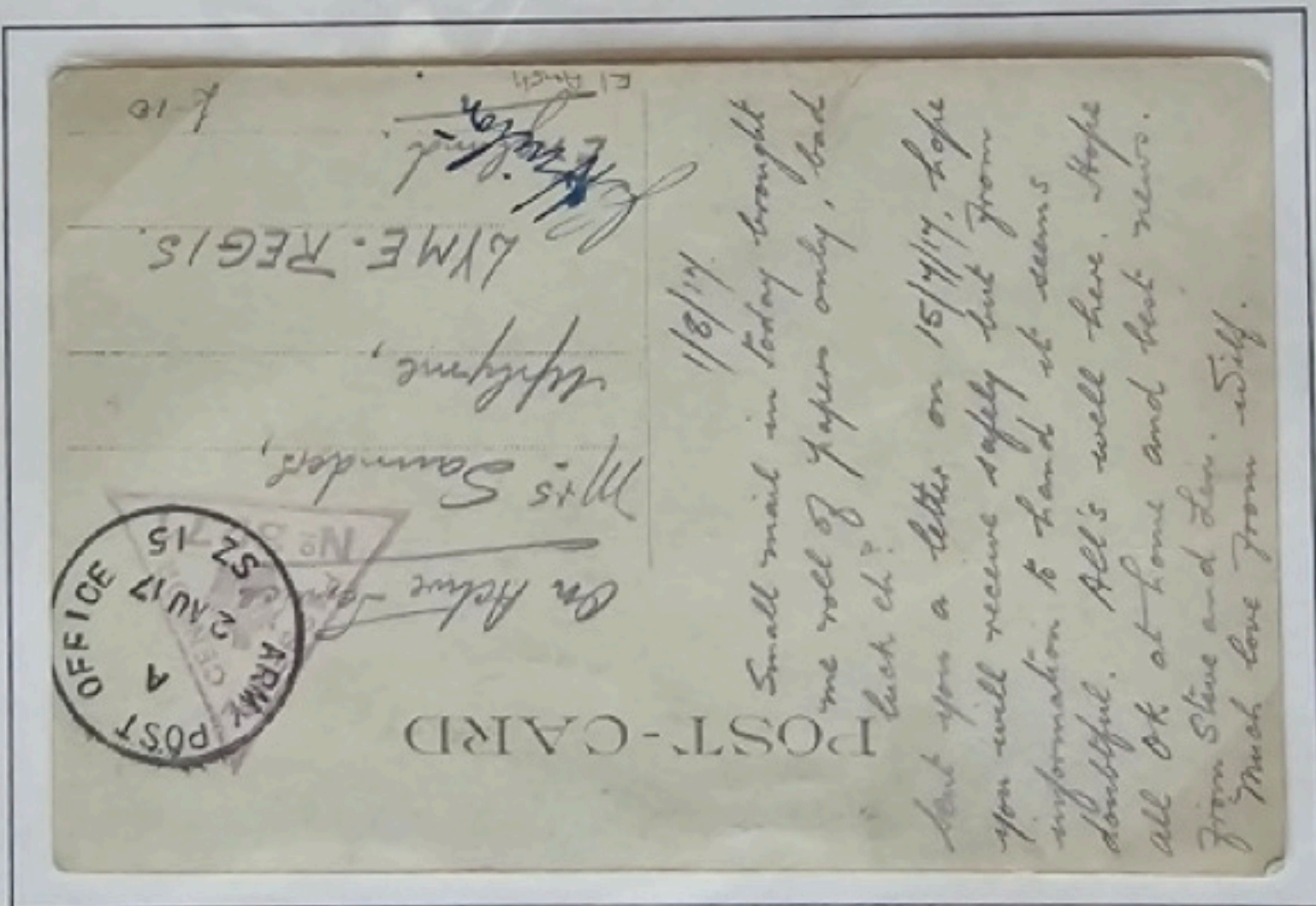
413 H. LITZMAN & CO. LTD. - CAIRO

[illegible][illegible]

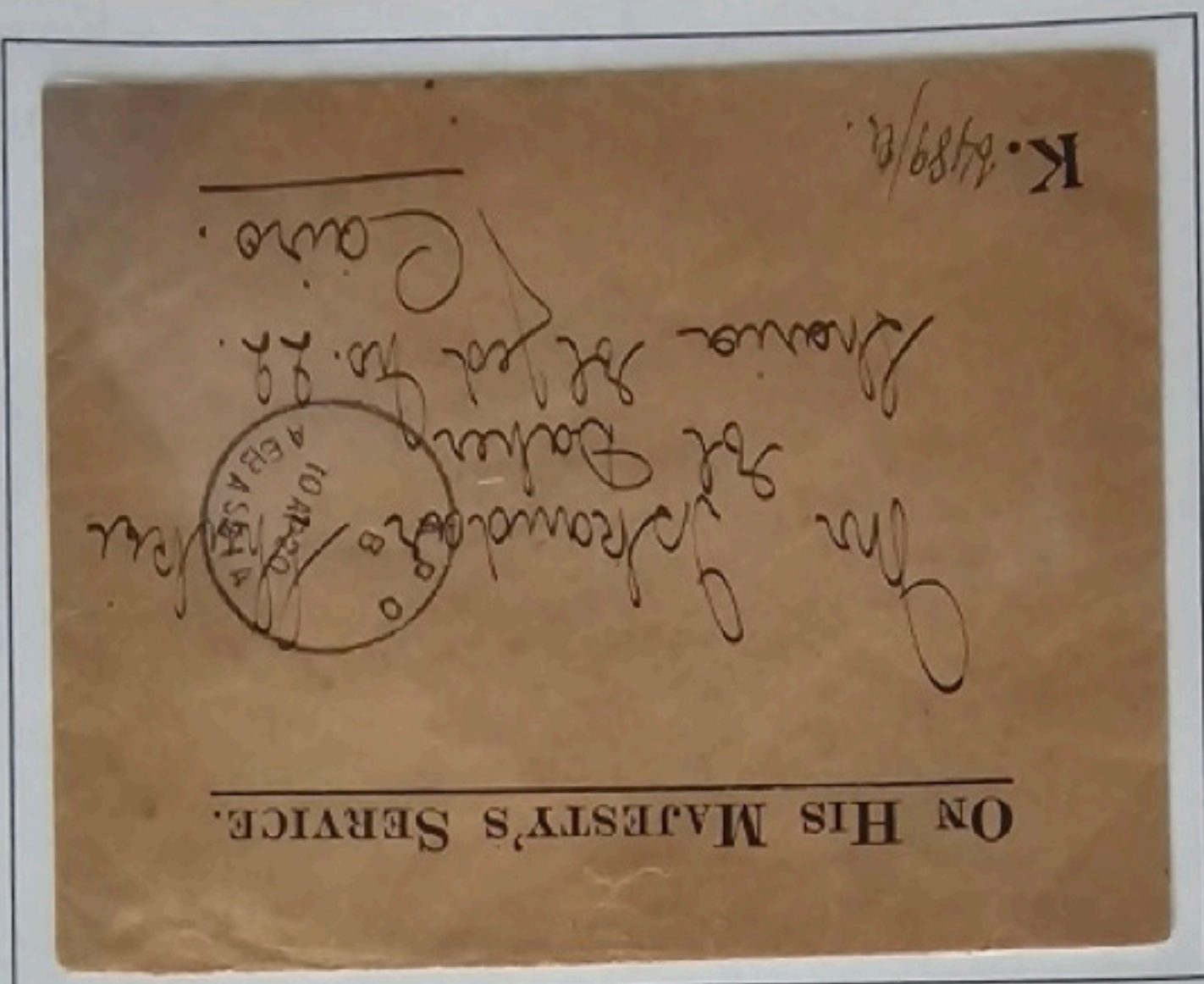


British Army Post Office SZ Series.

SZ 15 opened March 1916 in No. 3 Section Suez Canal Defences at Port Said. It moved to El Arish by November 1916 to serve the main Hospital there. It was later used in Palestine and then back to Abbassia to serve G.H.Q. lines of communications.



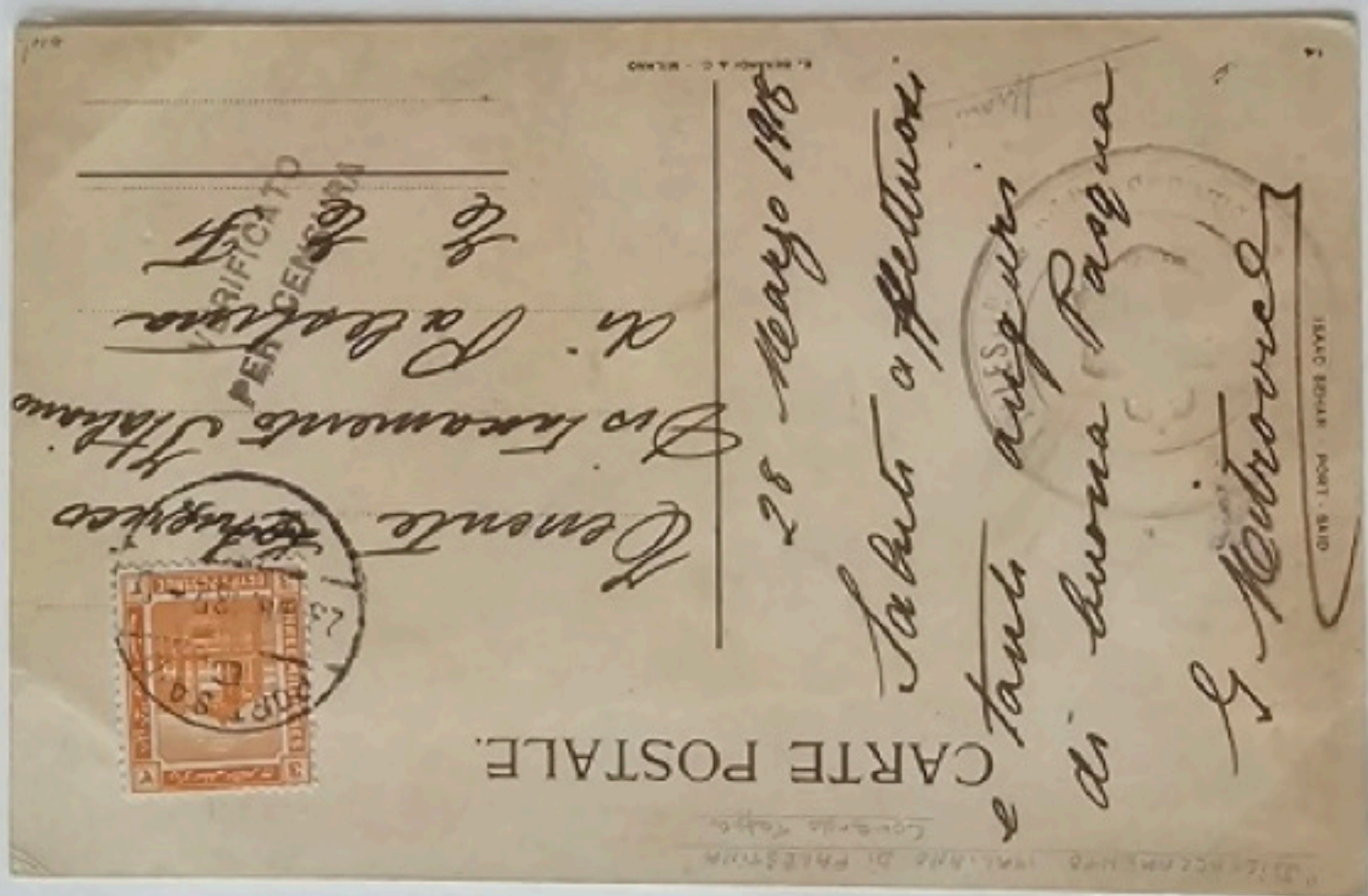
After the war and when most of the troops had left Egypt it transferred to the Force in Egypt and a little later served G.H.Q. and used by Cairo Brigade. In April 1920 it became Base Army Post Office Abbassia. The named post offices were all closed by the end of 1920.





Distaccamento Italiano di Palestina

The Italians also contributed a small contingent for the Palestine campaign the D.I.P. This was formed on May 1, 1917 from troops drawn from Libya. A permanent base was established at Port Said with troops be attached to the Composite Force which saw action from Gaza to Jerusalem.



Post card used from Port Said in Italian and a cachet of the D.I.P.



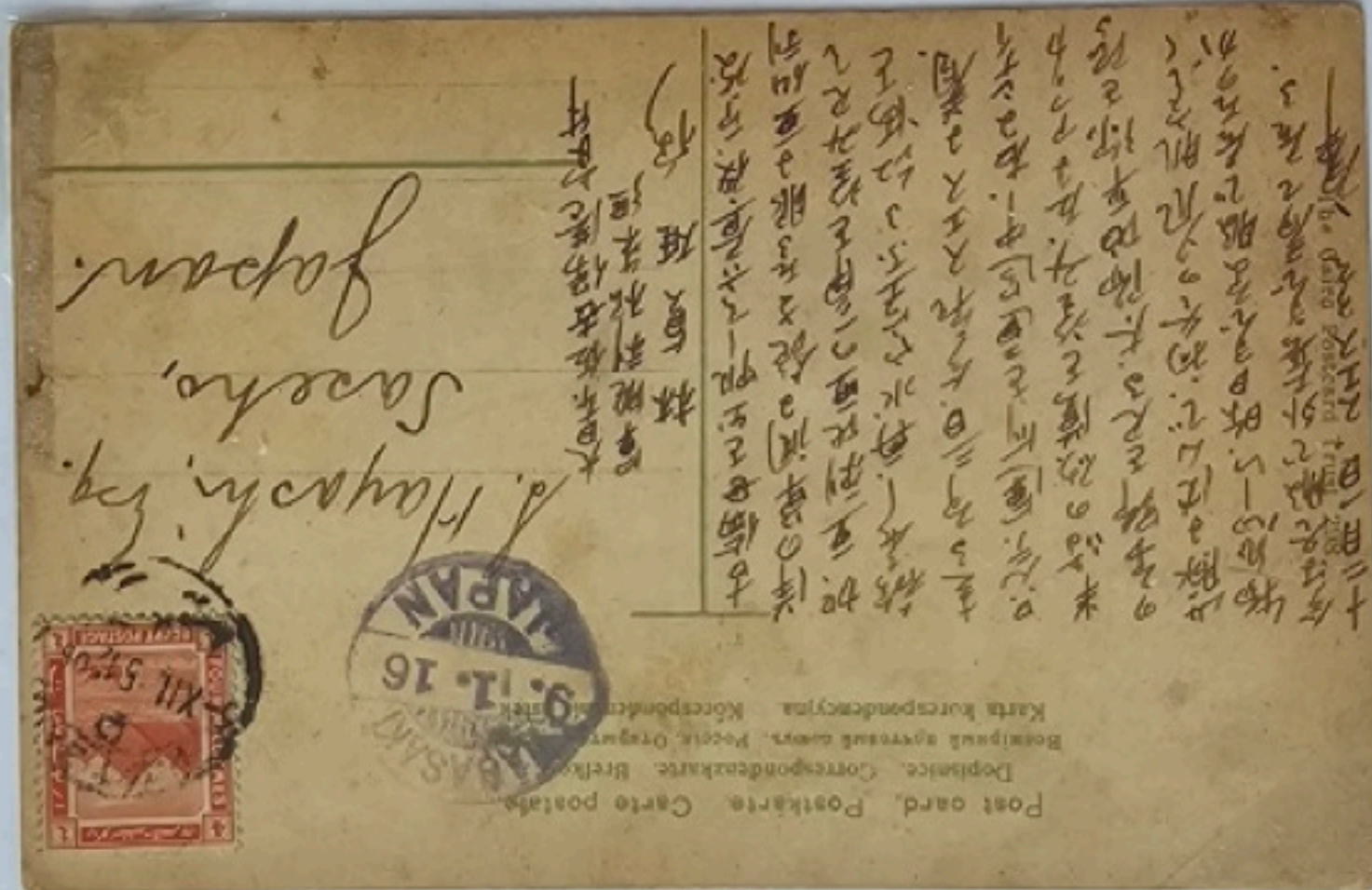
Italian military card from the Comandante I Carabinieri Reali. Cachet and censor marking



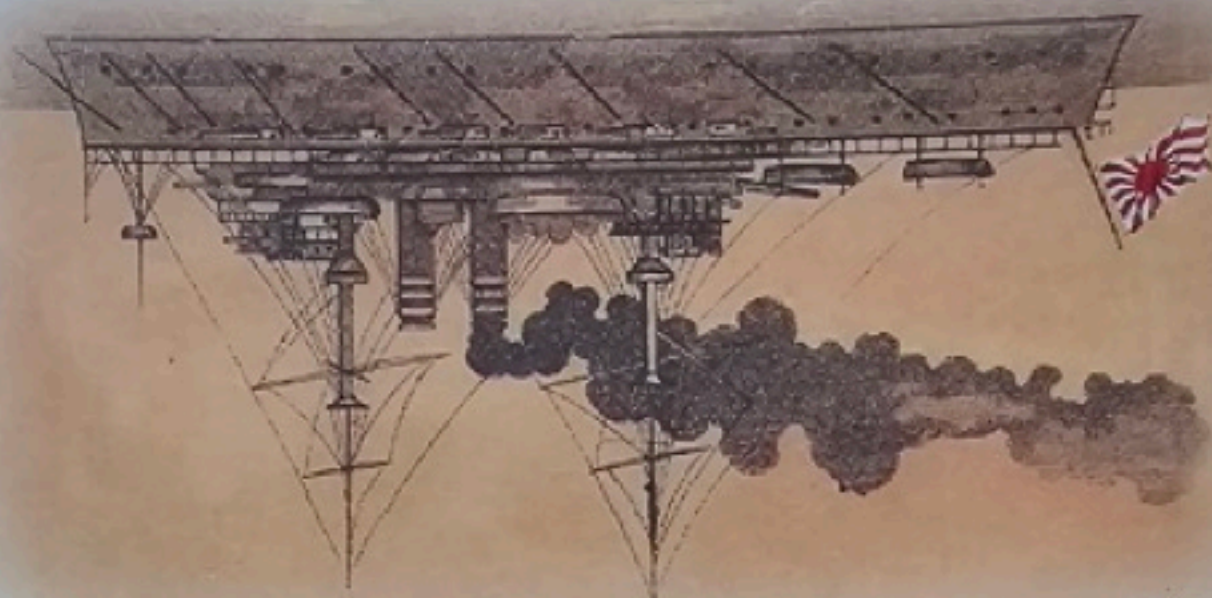


# The Japanese Navy in WWI

During the First World War Japanese war ships were sent to the Mediterranean on March 11, 1917 and arrived at Malta on April 13 where they were based. This was the Second Special Squadron under Admiral Sato Kozo aboard the cruiser Akashi and eight of the Navy's newest destroyers (Ume, Kusunoki, Kaede, Katsura, Kashiwa, Matsui, Sugl, and Sakaki). Later Akashi was replaced by Izumo, and four more destroyers were added (Kashi, Hinoki, Momo, and Yanagi). The Japanese Second Special Squadron headed back home in May, 1919. Thus Japanese sailors visited Alexandria and on occasions Post Said.

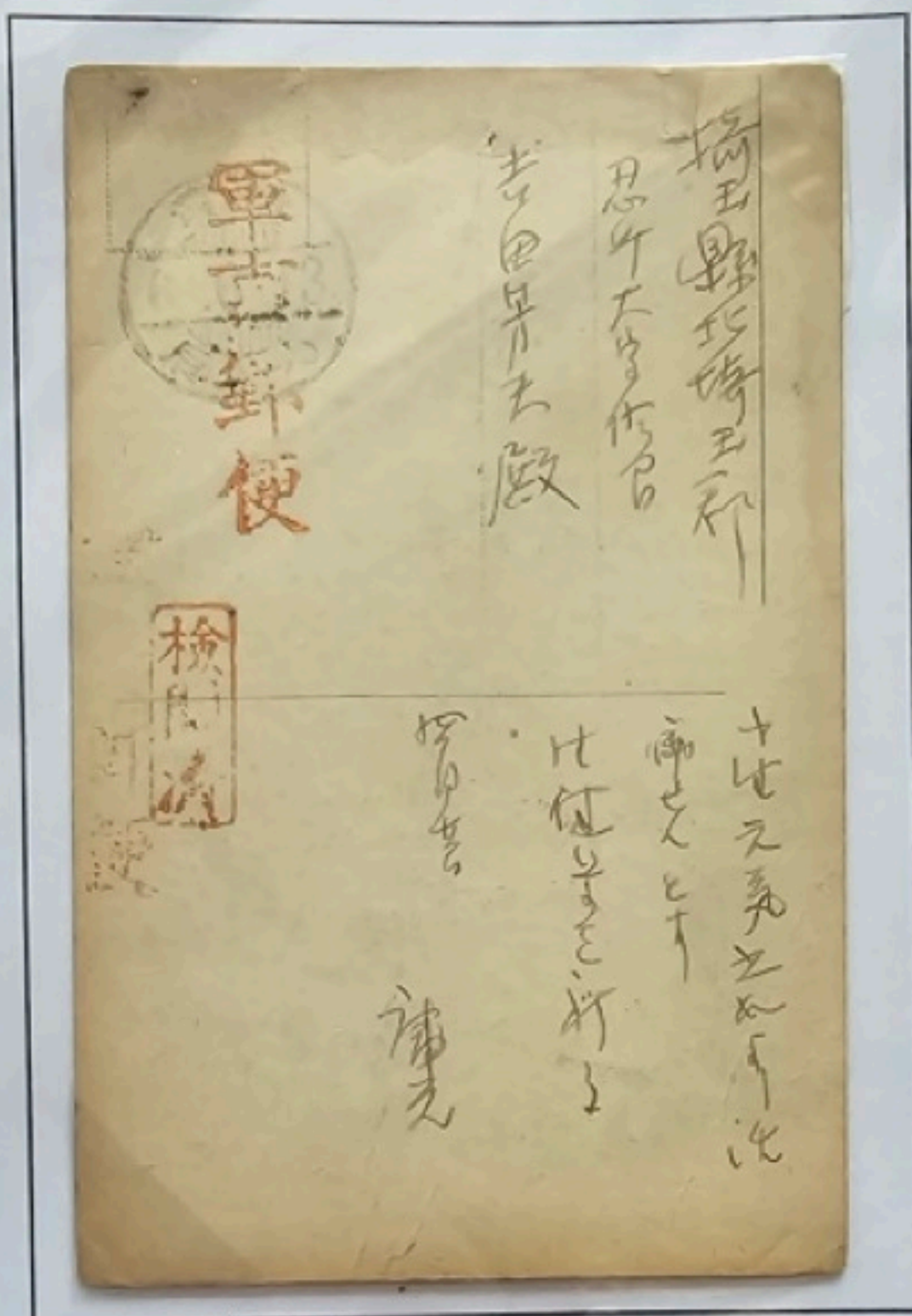


Postcard of the Suez canal from Naval Warship on Suez Canal dated 6-12-15 Port Said. Dated Nagasaki (9.1.16) in transit to Sasebo. Addressed to Sadao Hayashi. Crew of Warship Tone, c/o Sasebo Port, Dainippon.





The Japanese Navy In WWI

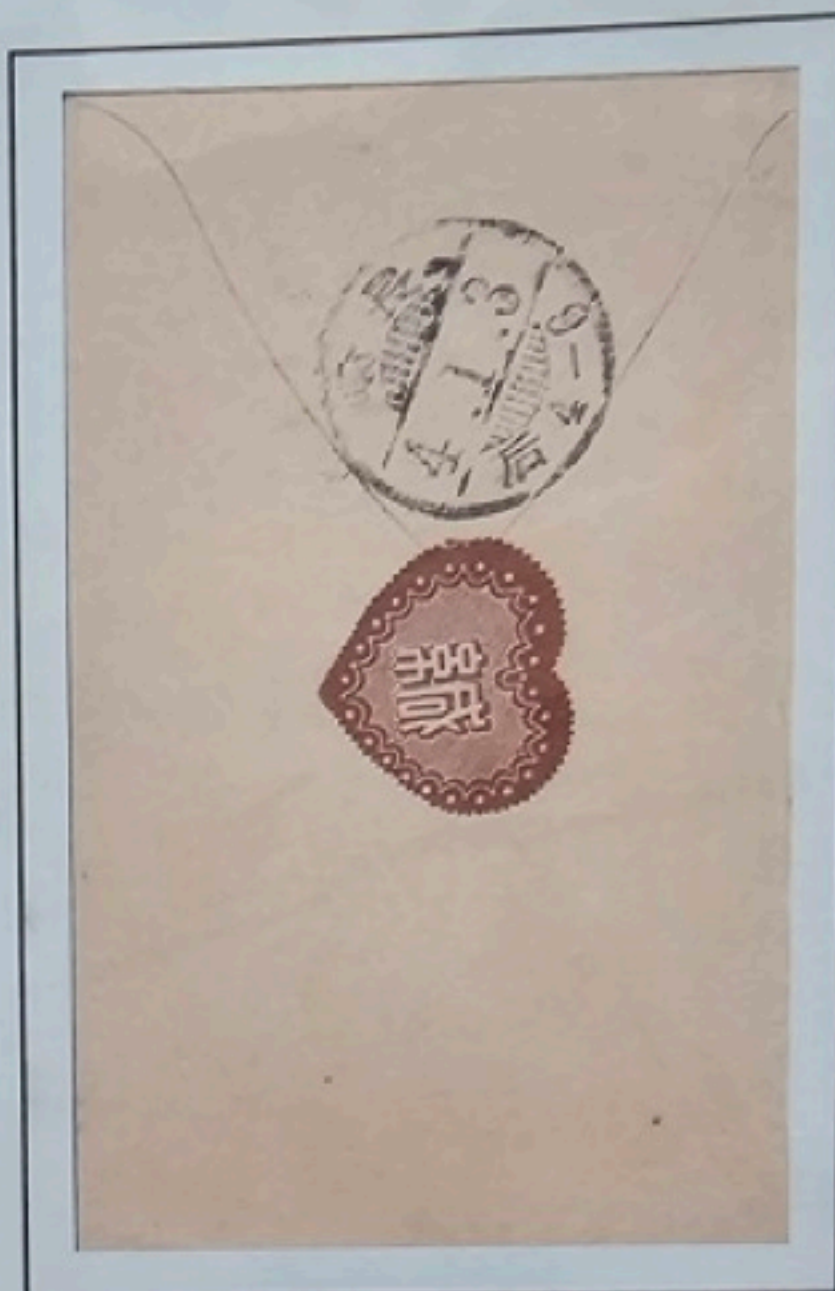
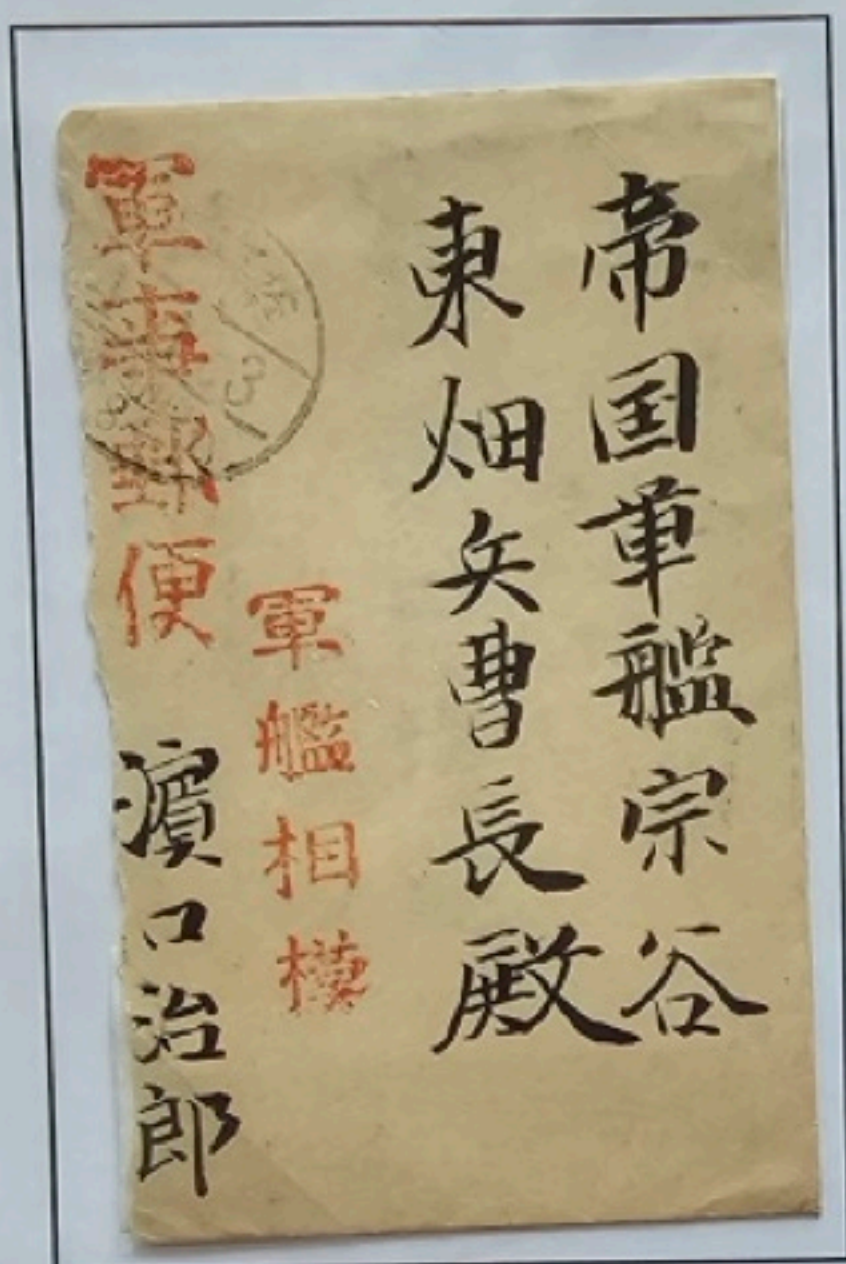


A postcard of Malta Grand Harbour the Japanese base from the Tsunemitsu Yoshida (庸光) Captain of Destroyer Sakaki during operations in Mediterranean. Postmark Yokohama, PM3-5.1.3 (.6.6.1917) in transit to Saitama-Prefecture. Addressed to Yoshio Yoshida, Sazo, Oshi-Village, Kitasaitama-Gun, Saitama-Prefecture. The card reads "I'm fine and I'm going to serve for operation from now. I wish you may be fine. 20<sup>th</sup> April. Tsunemitsu." 庸光 (Tsunemitsu). In red 'Gunji Yubin' (military mail) and boxed chop 'Ken-etsuzumi' (Censored)





# The Japanese Navy in WWI



Small name-card sized envelope Jiro Hamaguchi, Warship Sagami (相模) To Petty Officer Higashihata, HIJMS Warship Soya (宗谷). Postmarks Sasebo, AM8-10.3. (1.4.1915) and Nagasaki, PM4-6.3. (1.4.1915)

HIJMS Battleship Sagami(相模) was Russian Battleship Peresvet(Пересвет) a pre-dreadnought battleship. During the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05, she was scuttled by the Russians, then salvaged by the Japanese and placed into service with the name Sagami. The Japanese sold her to the Russians, their allies from the beginning of World War I. On route to the White Sea in early 1917, she sank off Port Said soon after traversing the Suez Canal and striking mines laid by a German submarine.



British leaders had nothing but praise for the Japanese Mediterranean squadron before it sailed for home. Winston Churchill voiced the general high opinion when he said he "did not think that the Japanese squadron had ever done a foolish thing." The governor of Malta, Lord Methuen, who reviewed Japanese warships there in March 1919, also lauded the Japanese navy for "its splendid work in European waters" and expressed the hope, "God grant our alliance, cemented in blood, may long endure". Japanese warships were under way 72 percent of the time the highest of any allied warships. The British record was 60 percent, the Greek and French only 45 percent. British officers credited the Japanese warships with excellent performance at least, they added, when all went according to plan.



# Forces of the Central Powers

The first German and Austro-Hungarian Military units of approximately 1200 men, arrived on the 1st April 1916 to strengthen the 3rd Turkish Infantry Division in Ramle, thus forming the 1st Expedition Corps. The German units played a considerable part in the defence of El Arish/Sinai. The postal needs of the German Army personnel, were catered for by the newly created German Military Mission, a Turkish Authority. The two cards shown with the 1 EXPEDITIONSKORPS date stamp the first endorsed Bir Mazar.

*Sanitätsvorfeldwache  
Zammir  
I Expeditionskorps.  
Feldlaz. 213, Pascha, I. Zug  
Brief: Marinepostamt Berlin  
62. Juli 13*

*Mutschelant*

**Feld-  
Postkarte**

*An*

*Familie H. Zammir*

*in*

*Berlin - Halensee*

*Pyramidenstrasse 4*

*BIR MAZAR*

**FELDLAZARETT**  
Brief-  
Stempel

**FELDPPOST**  
MIL. MISS.  
1. EXPEDITIONSKORPS

*Post nach: Wende*

**Seldpostkarte**

*An*

*Herrn*

*Gustav Heinbrück*

*Wierbaden*

*in*

*Lehrbachstr. 22*

*Wohnung*  
(Straße und Hausnummer)

*2466*

**FELDPPOST**  
MIL. MISS.  
1. EXPEDITIONSKORPS

**Abfender:**  
Dienstgrad  
Name

**Arbeitsort:**  
Arbeitsort  
Division  
Regt. Nr.

**Defondere Sormationen**  
(Gegen, Seite, etc.)  
Bei diesen ist die Adresse  
oder die Etappeninstitute  
anzugeben.

**Station**  
Abteilung  
Komp.  
Batterie  
Kohorten  
Kolonnen

**2466**



Army Group 'Jildirim'

The 'Asienkorps' comprising 'Paschal I and II and the Army Group 'F' (for 'Falke' or Turkish 'Jildirim') was formed in July 1917 and then sent to the Turkish theatre of war. A fresh effort was to be made to attack and re-conquer Baghdad, which had fallen to the British Army. A special Fieldpost was organised to accompany this Army Corps. At that time new datestamps of a 'mute' type, were introduced for security reasons. These had three stars in the lower part or two stars and a number. Mute markings were for ordinary letter mail; and those with the field post number for items subject to traceable confirmation of mailing, official registered mail and money orders.

However, because of the rapidly progressing military developments, most of the newly assembled troops ended up in Palestine instead of in Iraq, for the defence of the so-called Sinai front. They joined the 7th and 8th Turkish Armies in the battles against the British and Australian troops. Mail from inland positions was brought by couriers from the unit to the nearest German field post office in the best possible expedient manner, frequently only after a lengthy trip by car or railroad.

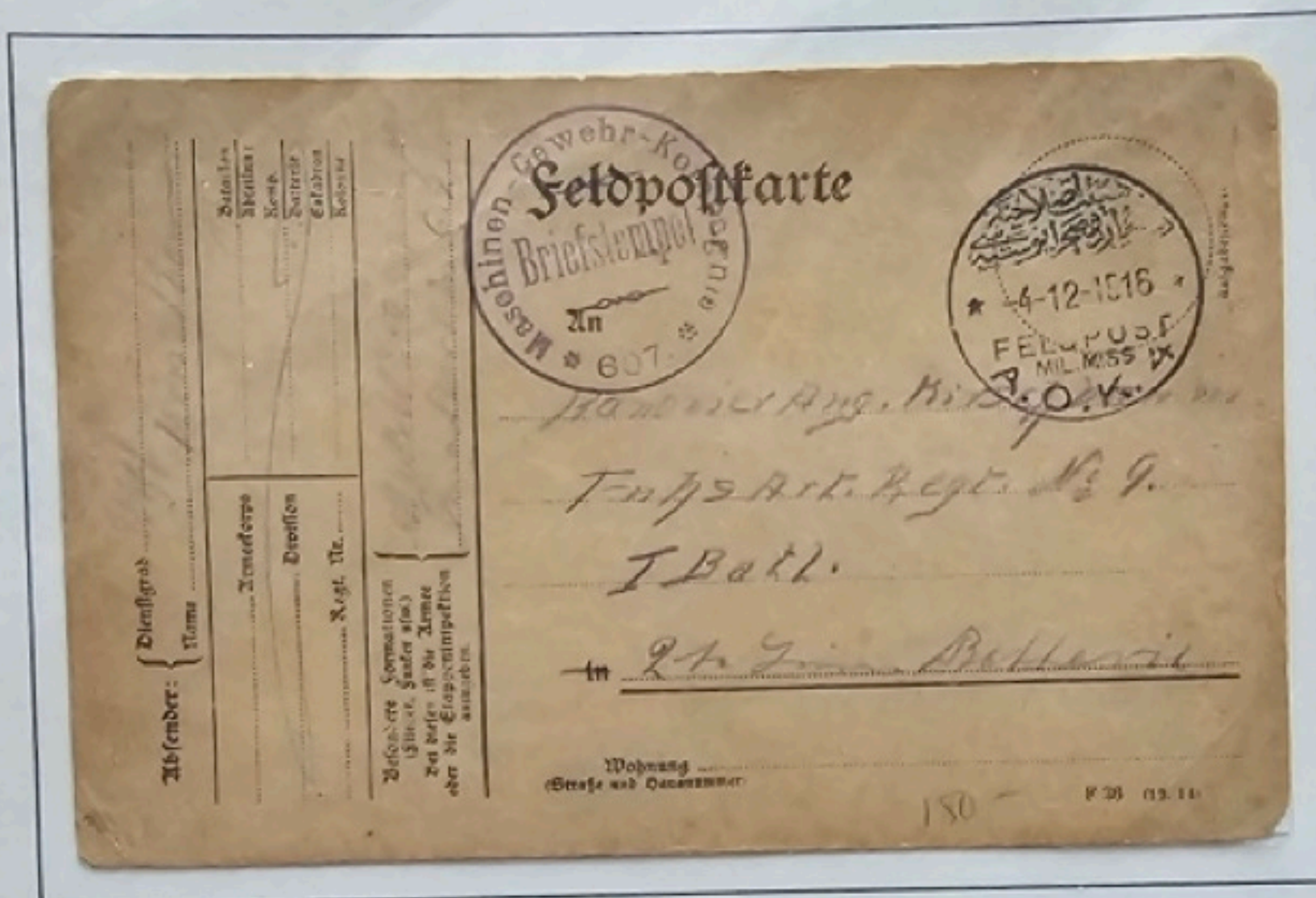


Mute postmark, FPO 663, based at Nazareth with Feldpost label. Two versions exist rouletted, as shown, and one perforated with a less ornamented surround.





Forces of the Central Powers



The card above date stamped with the German A.O.K.4 and cachet of 607 heavy machinegun company

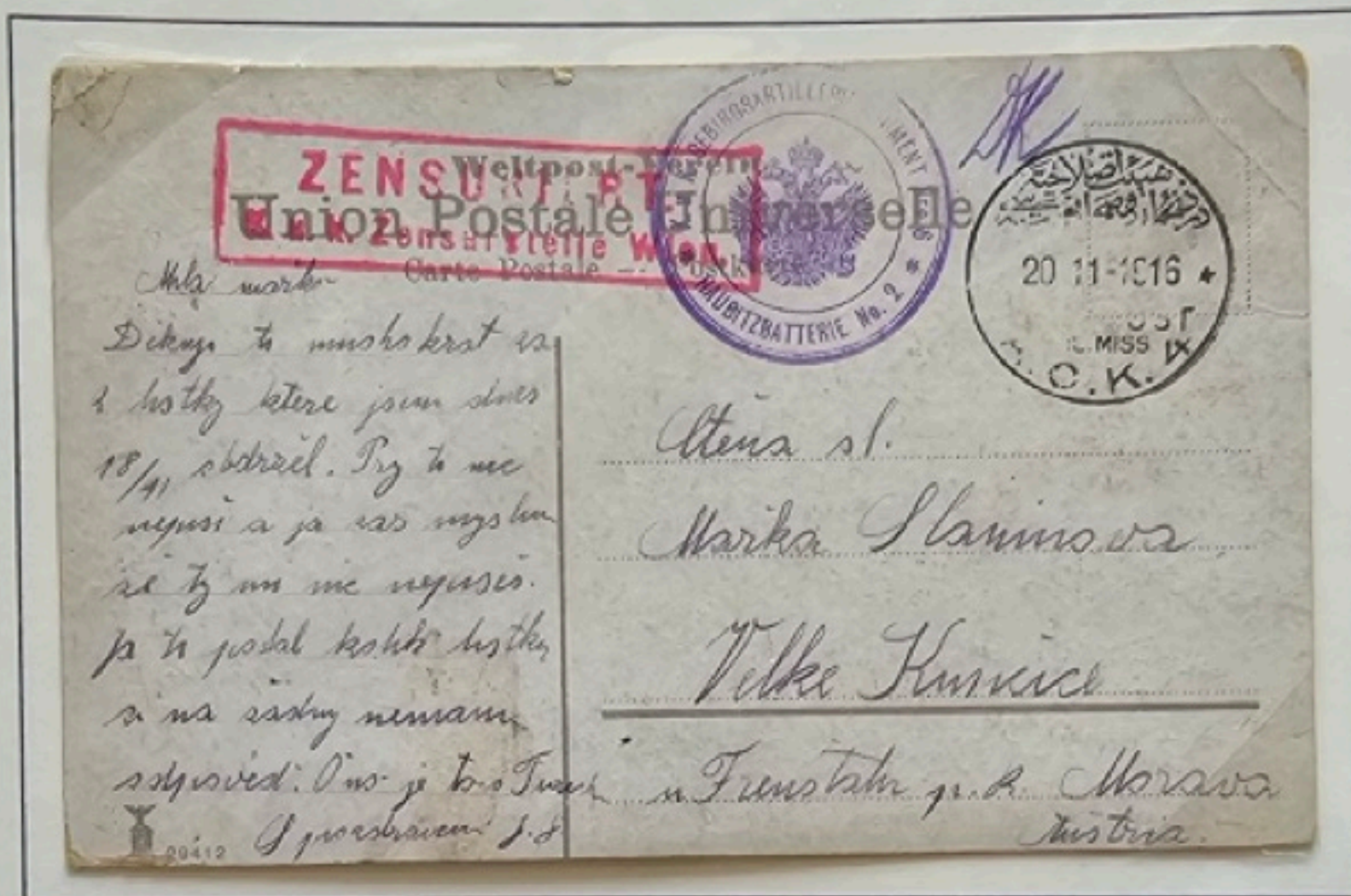
BIR-ES-SEBA replaced the First Military Mission when the Germany forces no longer occupied any of the Sinai. It has the same Field Hospital Brief Stempel 213 cachet.





# Forces of the Central Powers

The Austro-Hungarian forces numbered some 1,000 men which were sent to Palestine to bolster the Turkish Army with heavy machine gun companies and field artillery batteries.



The card above datestamped with the German A.O.K.4 and cachet of Haubitzbatterie No. 2

The card below datestamped with K.u.K. FELD POST AMT 451 and cachet of Haubitzbatterie No. 36

