

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT

1932-1936 The Postal Concession

SYNOPSIS

Purpose of Exhibit: The purpose of this five-frame display is to present an in-depth coverage of the eleven stamps used during the 1932-1936 postal concession with proofs, essays, and multiples. Major and minor varieties are described and the use and misuse of the stamps are shown through commercial, semi-philatelic, and philatelic covers.

Background: In 1931 the postal rate for sealed letters from Egypt to Great Britain was increased by fifty percent from ten to fifteen millimes. This rate hike met with strong objections from the British military. In 1932 a special arrangement was made between the Ministry of Communications and the British Army and Air Force whereby the Egyptian postal department would continue to handle the mail upon being guaranteed £10,000 the first year and £6,000 in subsequent years. It granted military personnel the privilege of sending letters through the Egyptian postal system at the old rate of one piastre per 20 grams. In addition, unsealed Christmas and New Year cards could be sent for three millimes. This concession, effective 1 November 1932, applied only to regular letters from Egypt to the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State. Airmail, registered mail, and parcels had to be posted at Egyptian postal facilities and postage paid with Egyptian stamps. As no provision was made for postal cards, the rate remained at ten millimes.

Certain conditions applied to the use of special stamps sold to the military personnel. They had to be affixed to the back of envelopes and the letters posted in a British military post office, regimental or unit post box. The stamps were cancelled with a rhomboid or "retta" obliterator. A red double-circle EGYPT/POSTAGE PREPAID handstamp called a crown cancel or a numeral frank was applied in the upper right corner of each cover. A number in the center identified the military post office of origin. Covers were date-stamped on the front with the military post office c.d.s. After processing the mail was handed over to the Egyptian post office for forwarding in the normal manner. In the case of some of the smaller units the datestamp applied was the local Egyptian civil postmark. Covers bearing these stamps but posted in Egyptian civilian mailboxes were treated as unpaid and postage due was collected from the recipient. The stamps were sold in the Navy, Army, Air Force Institute (NAAFI) canteens only to military personnel and not to civilians. These were replaced in March 1936 by the ARMY POST issue of the Egyptian Postal Administration.

Egyptian postal authorities required the crown cancel handstamp. The designator numbers assigned by the Egyptian Ministry of Communications to the various British military post offices were 1 to 25 and allocated among the various military and air force bases. After the last valid date of use (15 March 1936) of the special concession stamps, the numeral franks and the retta obliterations were withdrawn and returned to the Egyptian Ministry of Communications in Cairo. The exception was Crown Cancel #7 that was reported lost on 6 March 1933.

It should be noted that when these adhesives were first issued they were called seals due to the wording on the first two issues and the Christmas issues. Successive one-piastre issues had the wording *Letter Stamp*. For years philatelists used seals, stamps and labels interchangeably in exhibits and articles. Stanley Gibbons did not catalogue them until 1957. Nowadays philatelists believe the proper terminology is "stamps" when referring to these issues. Smith and Chaloub use the word stamps as they did proper postal service (although with restrictions) by the prepayment of postage for letters sent through the postal systems of three nations (Egypt, Great Britain and the Irish Free State).

Not all of the Crown Cancels were in use at the same time as some were held in reserve in case of loss or wear and tear. In addition, not all of the military post offices were issued with named military post office (MPO) datestamps. The MPOs at Cairo and Moascar received datestamps from 1 November 1932, the first day of the postal concession period. The Alexandria MPO had a barrel-type datestamp since at least 1897 and also received the standard type MPO c.d.s. in November 1935. MPOs at Abu Qir, Abu Sueir and Port Said received datestamps on 1 March 1936 when the Army Post stamps were issued; the civil post offices processed the military mail. Mail from Ras-el-Tin and Mustapha Barracks (#15, 16, 17 and 18) also went through the Egyptian post office.

What is Presented: Items of interest are highlighted with a 6 point maroon frame. **Frame 1:** Imperforate proofs and two covers from the very scarce Military Post Office #7 at Moascar. **Frame 2:** An essay of the accepted and rejected stamp design for the 1932 XMAS SEAL (one of four recorded) and an imperforate trial color proof block of four of the 1933 XMAS SEAL issue. **Frame 3:** A Harrison specimen for the 5th issue (one of four known) and two uncut sheets of 39 stamps (one stamp is missing from each sheet) of the 5th and 7th issues. **Frame 4:** Cover posted to an unauthorized destination, an unusual use on a post

card, a complete booklet of five panes of the 2nd printing of the 8th issue, and an unauthorized bisect on cover. **Frame 5:** Jubilee issue first and second day covers and a recently discovered misplaced perforation variety on the 1935 XMAS SEAL.

NB – Frame 3, pages 2 and 12 – There is one stamp missing from the upper left corner of each of the sheets. The stamps were NOT removed by the exhibitor but by a previous unknown owner.

EXHIBIT PLAN: This exhibit is arranged in chronological order of stamp issuance.

Frame 1:	First issue	Postal Seal
Frame 2:	Second issue	Christmas Seal
	Third Issue	Letter Seal
	Fourth Issue	Christmas Seal
Frame 3	Fifth Issue	Letter Stamp (carmine)
	Sixth Issue	Christmas Seal
	Seventh Issue	Letter Stamp (green)
Frame 4	Eighth Issue	Letter Stamp (carmine) 1 st and 2 nd printings
Frame 5	Ninth Issue	Jubilee Commemorative
	Tenth Issue	Christmas Seal 1 st and 2 nd printings
	Eleventh Issue	Provisional Christmas Overprint
	Epilogue	The end of the seals and stamps

Knowledge of Subject: The exhibitor has been accumulating and researching this material for more than 30 years before forming an exhibit which was shown nationally for the first time in January 2010. At the request of the author the exhibitor contributed to, reviewed, edited and commented on three drafts of a book on the Postal Concession period (see Davis below).

Selected References and bibliography - (suggestions for jury members are in bold face):

- Chaloub, Joseph, *The Nile Post Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps*, Joseph Chaloub, Westmount, Quebec, Canada, 2003.
- **Davis, John. *Egypt: From the Postal Concession Until Suez 1932 to 1956, Part 1 Until 1st May 1941*, John Davis, Upton Snodsbury, England, 2014.**
- Egypt Study Circle web site, <http://www.egyptstudycircle.org.uk/> Various articles and exhibit displays.
- Feltus, Peter, *British Forces in Egypt. The 1932 1 Piastre Red & Blue Postal Seal Imperforates*, The Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, December 2000.
- **Hobbs, John E. O., *British Forces in Egypt Postal Service 1932-1940, Second Edition*, John E. O. Hobbs, Worthing, England, 1984.**
- Minett, Charles and Firebrace, John, *The Postal Concession Period for British and British Empire Forces in Egypt 1932 – 1941*, The Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, Vol. V., Nos 5 & 6, 1960, pages 61 - 71.
- Minett, Charles and Firebrace, John, *Circular Datestamps of the Civil Post Offices During the Postal Concession Period (pre-censorship), 1932-1939.*, The Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, Vol. VI., Nos 1, February 1963, pages 1-12.
- Minett, Charles and Firebrace, John, *Circular Datestamps of the Military Post Offices During the Postal Concession Period (pre-censorship), 1932-1939.*, The Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, Vol. V., Nos 7 & 8, 1960, pages 81 – 90.
- Proud, Edward B., ed. *History of the British Army Postal Service, Vol. 1, 1882-1902*. Proud-Bailey Co. Ltd., Heathfield, East Sussex, United Kingdom, 1981 (?).
- **Smith, Peter A. S., *Egypt, Stamps and Postal History, A Philatelic Treatise*, James Bendon, Limassol, Cyprus, 1999.**
- Turton, G. D., *British Forces Concession Seals*, The Quarterly Circular of the Egypt Study Circle, June, 1970

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

Date of Issue: November 1, 1932
Designer: Lt. Col. C. Fraser and Ivor Roberts
Printer: Typographed by Hanbury, Tomsett & Co., London
Value: 1 Piastre
Perforation: 11
Notes: 500,000 printed in sheets of 80. Each sheet was broken into four panes of twenty stamps and sold in booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps. Because of numerous flaws or "flyspecks" the stamps can be plated within a pane and larger multiples and full panes can be allocated on the full sheet of 80, i.e. pane 1, 2, 3 or 4.



Imperforate Frame Only
Positions 13 14, 17 and 18



Marginal Imperforated pair, positions 17 and 18



Position 20, Pane 4

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL



Plate flaws found on a pane of the Postal Seal stamps allowing plating of the stamps (from Hobbs).

Hooked 'I' Variety

A projection from the lower right of the serif of the first "I" in "BRITISH" is the only major constant variety found on the postal seals. It is in position 19 of all four panes.



Positions 15, 16, 19, 20 — Pane 3

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL



Pane of 20 stamps — Pane 3

Below:: Front and back covers and interleaving from a booklet of five panes



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

M.P.O. CAIRO 8 MA 33
(type 1)

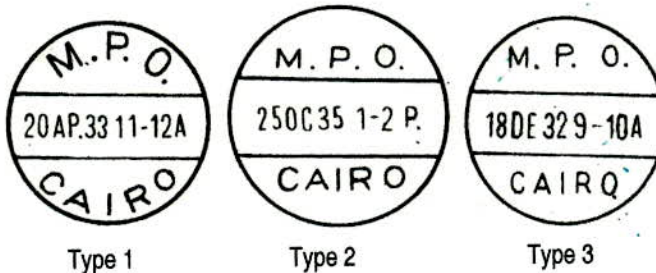
CROWN CANCEL 4

Envelope front showing the incorrect use of the postal seal placed on the front of the cover and not on the reverse. Three variations of the CAIRO military post office date stamp were used during this period. Type 1 on this cover has the curved M.P.O. and CAIRO.



THREE TYPES OF M.P.O. CAIRO DATE STAMPS USED DURING 1932 – 1935
(measurements in millimeters)

Type	Layout	Diameter	Date Bars	M.P.O.	Earliest Recorded	Latest Recorded
1	Curved/Curved	26.5	8	14	1 NO 32	9 JL 40
2	Straight/Straight	28.5	10	17	26 SE 35	6 FE 37
3	Straight/Straight	26.5	8	16	1 NO 32	26 SE 39



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

M.P.O. CAIRO 1 NO 32

(type 2)

CROWN CANCEL 19

Postal seal used on the first day of issue. It is also the first day for the Crown Cancel and the circular date stamp. The stamp is properly affixed to the back of the envelope and cancelled with a black retta. The Military Post Office in Cairo served the Royal Air Force units at Heliopolis and Helouan and the army stationed in and around Cairo.



F/Lt. R. R. Greenlaw, M.B.E.,
Caledonian Club,
St. James' Square,
London.
England



M.P.O. CAIRO 9 NO 32
(type 1)

CROWN CANCEL 5

This cover has a pair of the 1 piastre postal seals paying for a double-weight letter. Note that the numeral frank is in black ink which was used for short time in late 1932. The stamps are positions 3 ("S" in *SERVITOR* joined to frame) and position 7 (dot on the left side of the 1st inner triangle from lower right corner).



The Managing Director,

Pearl Assurance Company, Ltd.,

High Holborn,

LONDON, W.C. 1,

ENGLAND.

20m 7 31 Form (691)



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

MAMURA 17 NO 32

CROWN CANCEL 13

Crown cancel #13 was assigned to the Royal Air Force base at Aboukir. The seal was cancelled and the crown cancel applied to the cover before being turned over to the Mamura post office where it was postmarked and then forwarded to the General Post Office in Alexandria for dispatch. On and after December 1, 1932, army mail could also be sent to the Aboukir civil post office for processing prior to Alexandria.

There was no concession rate for postcards so the postage for them from Egypt to Great Britain was one piaster. The postcard below shows an unusual use of the postal seal on a postcard



. The stamp is position 4 on the pane showing two dots under the S of SERVITOR.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

ISMAILIA CAMP 15 JL 33

CROWN CANCEL 3

Here is an improperly franked letter to Cairo. Postal seals were to be used only on correspondence between the British troops in Egypt and the British Isles including the Irish Free State. Egyptian postage was required for letters within Egypt and to other destinations and for air mail, registration, and other services. The obliterated postage due **T** marking indicates the Egyptian post office at Ismailia Camp first considered the letter to be unfranked but the decision was later reversed and the **T** crossed out. Apparently the British postal clerk applied the retta and POSTAGE PAID numeral frank without noticing that the cover was addressed to Cairo. Ismailia Camp served the Royal Air Force



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

M.P.O. CAIRO 10 AP 33

CROWN CANCEL 4

(type 1)

Stamp is position 1 on the pane showing a dot on the line of the third right triangle from the bottom left.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

ABU QIR 27 MA 33

CROWN CANCEL 13

In addition to the Mamura post office, letters from the Royal Air Force station at Aboukir were also sent through the Abu Qir civil post office beginning December 1, 1932,. This cover bears the **ALEXANDRIA-ABU QIR & V.V. 27 MA 33** travelling post office datestamp (the Western Desert Line) and **ALEXANDRIA B 27 MA 33** c.d.s.



Position 3 S in *SERVITOR* joined to frame.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

Crown Cancel # 7 and the named military post office datestamp were used at Moascar from November 1, 1932 until they were reported lost on 6 March 1933, making each of them among the scarcer of the numeral franks and MPO postmarks. Covers are recorded with dates of 8 November through 6 March, 1933. Note that the date stamp (type 1) has a wider than normal spacing between the "P" and O."

M.P.O. MOASCAR 6 DE 32

CROWN CANCEL 7



M.P.O. MOASCAR 27 DE 32

CROWN CANCEL 7

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

M.P.O. CAIRO 27 JU 33
(type 1)

CROWN CANCEL 4



Position 11 – Dot to right of second outer triangle above lower right corner.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

M.P.O. MOASCAR 5 AP 33

CROWN CANCEL 8

Crown Cancel # 8 was allotted to Moascar from 1 November 1932 but wasn't placed in service until numeral frank 7 was lost on 6 March 1933. It was later transferred to Cairo in June 1935. The datestamp (type 2) has regular spacing between the "P" and "O." ***The cover below is the earliest recorded with the datestamp and Crown Cancel 8.*** The envelope flap bears the crest of the Royal Scots Fusiliers. The stamp is position 4, two dots under the "S" in SERVITOR.



M. P. O.
type 1

M. P. O.
type 2



Reverse side of cover

First Issue — POSTAL SEAL

ABU SUWËR 30 JA 33

CROWN CANCEL 12

Letters posted at the No. 4 Flying Training School, Royal Air Force station at Abu Suwër (also spelled Abu Sueir) were franked with Crown Cancel No. 12 and the postal seals or stamps cancelled with the retta cancel. They then were processed through the local Egyptian post office where the postmark was applied and then sent on to either Alexandria or Port Said where they received the respective post office's backstamp. This cover has the roller machine datestamp of **PORT SAID 31 JAN 33**. The stamp is position 4, two dots under "S" of SERVITOR.



Second Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

Essay of the Accepted and Rejected Design



Essay of the accepted design arranged tête-bêche with rejected design was prepared in imperforated blocks of four. Only four such miniature sheets exist.¹ The upper left and lower right stamps are the unadopted design.

The unaccepted design shows a clear sky, a complete inner frame, circular shading on the turban, black spots by camel's legs, and heavy and large lettering, among other things.

The regular Egyptian postage rate for unsealed Christmas and New Year envelopes was 4 milliemes but the concession rate was three milliemes. The XMAS SEAL was to be affixed to the back of the envelope but could not be used to seal the flap. If the flap was sealed then the one piastre rate applied.

¹ Joseph H. Chalhoub, *THE NILE POST, Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps*, Joseph Chalhoub, Westmount, Quebec, 2003.

Second Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

Date of Issue: November 26, 1932 (withdrawn from sale, December 31, 1932)
Designer: Sergeant W. F. Laït, Royal Army Service Corps
Printer: Lithographed by Walker & Co., The Amalgamated Press, Cairo
Value: 3 Milliemmes
Perforation: 11 ½
Notes: Estimated 42,000 printed in sheets of 20; issued and/or sold, 41,857.
Printed on grey and azure-grey paper, they were bound in booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps. Hobbs points out the numerous flaws on the stamps enabling their plating.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Second Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL



Positions 2 and 7.



Positions 1, 2, 6, and 7.

Positions 5 & 10,
Azure Paper



Postally used copy struck with the retta cancel in black. Position 12, flaw in *TI* of *BRITISH*.

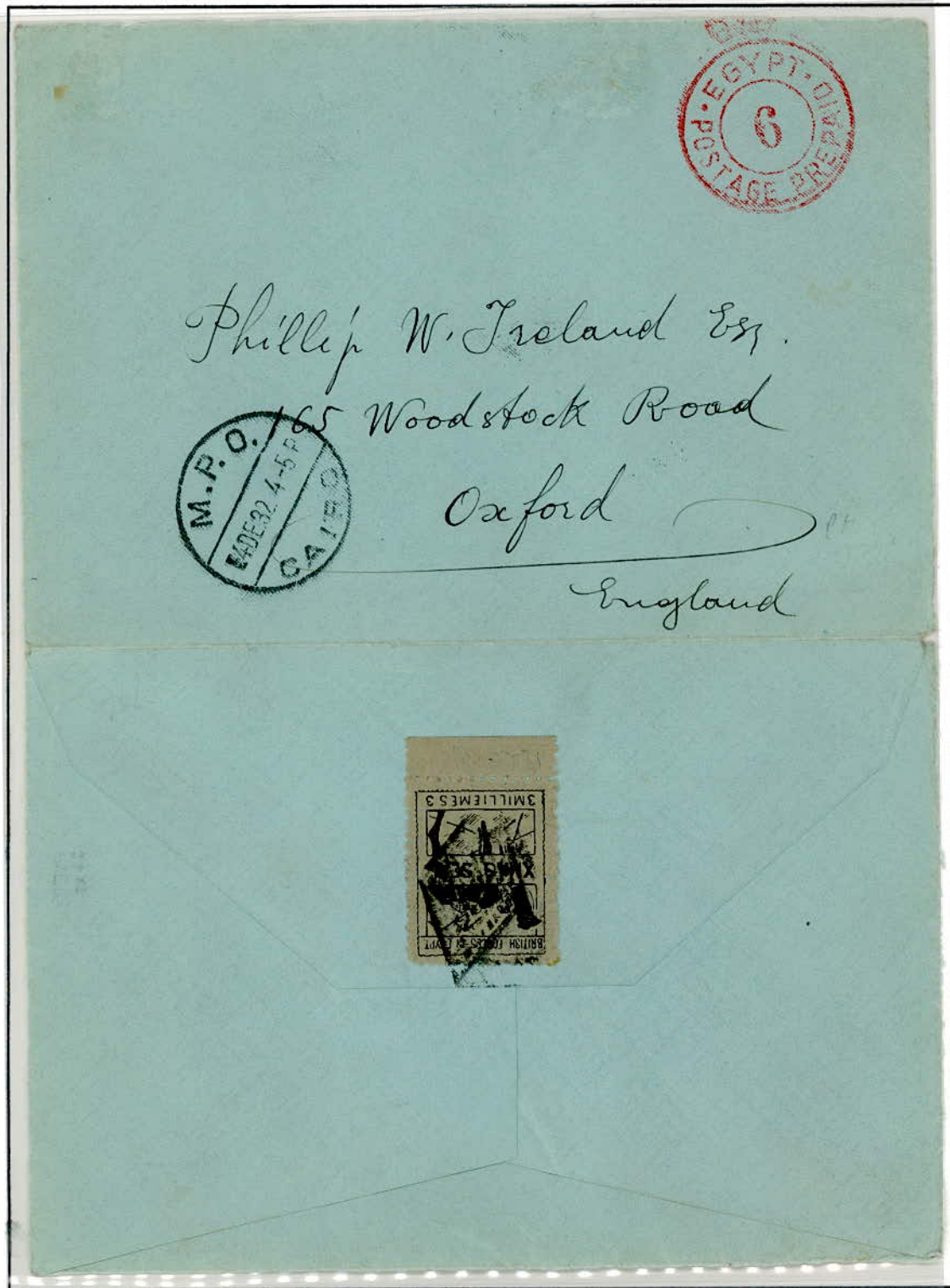


A piece from a cover with the Christmas stamp from the bottom row of the pane tied by a black retta cancel and struck with the M.P.O. CAIRO c.d.s. (type 1) of 9 DE 32.

Second Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

M.P.O. CAIRO 4 DE 32
(type 1)

CROWN CANCEL 6



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Second Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

M.P.O. CAIRO 8 DE 32

(type 1)

CROWN CANCEL 6

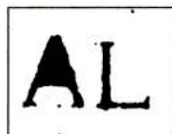
Stamp is printed on azure paper



Third Issue —LETTER SEAL

Date of Issue: August 25, 1933¹
 Designer: Lt. Col. C. Fraser and Ivor Roberts
 Printer: Typographed by Hanbury, Tomsett & Co., London
 Value: 1 Piastre
 Perforation: 11
 Notes: 516,000 printed in sheets of 20 (4 across and 5 down) with margins on all four sides.² They were bound in booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps. The constant and semi-constant flaws are the same as on the frame of the prior Postal Seal

Block of ten (positions 3-4, 7-8, 11-12, 15-16 and 19-20) with three prominent listed varieties and one unlisted variety. It is either pane 1 or 2.



Stamp number 4 of each pane has a constant variety showing the upper portion of the "A" in "SEAL" filled in.



Stamp number 11 has a constant variety showing a blob of ink on the top left of the crossbar of the second "I" of BRITISH.



Stamp number 15 of each pane has a constant variety showing a diagonal line across the upper portion of the letter "E" of "SEAL".



The broken lower right border on position 20 is a semi-constant variety found on panes 1, 2, and 4.

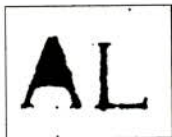


¹ . G. D. Thurton in *The Quarterly Circular*, June 1970, p. 32, gives the date of issue of August 25, 1933, whereas the major catalogues all list the issue date as August 1933, with no specific day given.

² See Peter A. S. Smith, *Egypt: Stamps & Postal History*, James Bendon, Limassol, chapter XXXVI, p. 711. G. D. Thurton says they were printed in sheets of 80 but that the plates differed from those used for the Postal Seal by the insertion of a gutter between panes 1 and 2, 2 and 3, and 3 and 4

Third Issue —LETTER SEAL

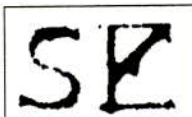
Used pane of 20 missing the left margin and with the three listed varieties. This is pane #1.



Stamp number 4 has a constant variety showing the upper portion of the "A" in "SEAL" filled in.



Stamp number 11 has a constant variety showing a blob of ink on the top left crossbar of the second "I" of "BRITISH."



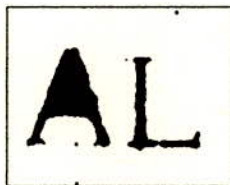
Stamp number 15 of each pane has a constant variety showing a diagonal line across the upper portion of the letter "E" of "SEAL".

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Third Issue —LETTER SEAL

Filled "A" Variety

Stamp number 4 of each pane has a constant variety showing the upper portion of the "A" in "SEAL" filled in.



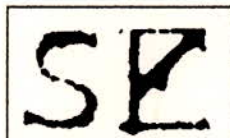
Positions 3, 4, 7 and 8.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Third Issue —LETTER SEAL

Diagonal Slash Across E Variety

Stamp number 15 of each pane has a constant variety showing a diagonal line across the upper portion of the letter "E" of "SEAL".



Positions 15, 16, 19 and 20.
Pane 1, 2, or 3.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

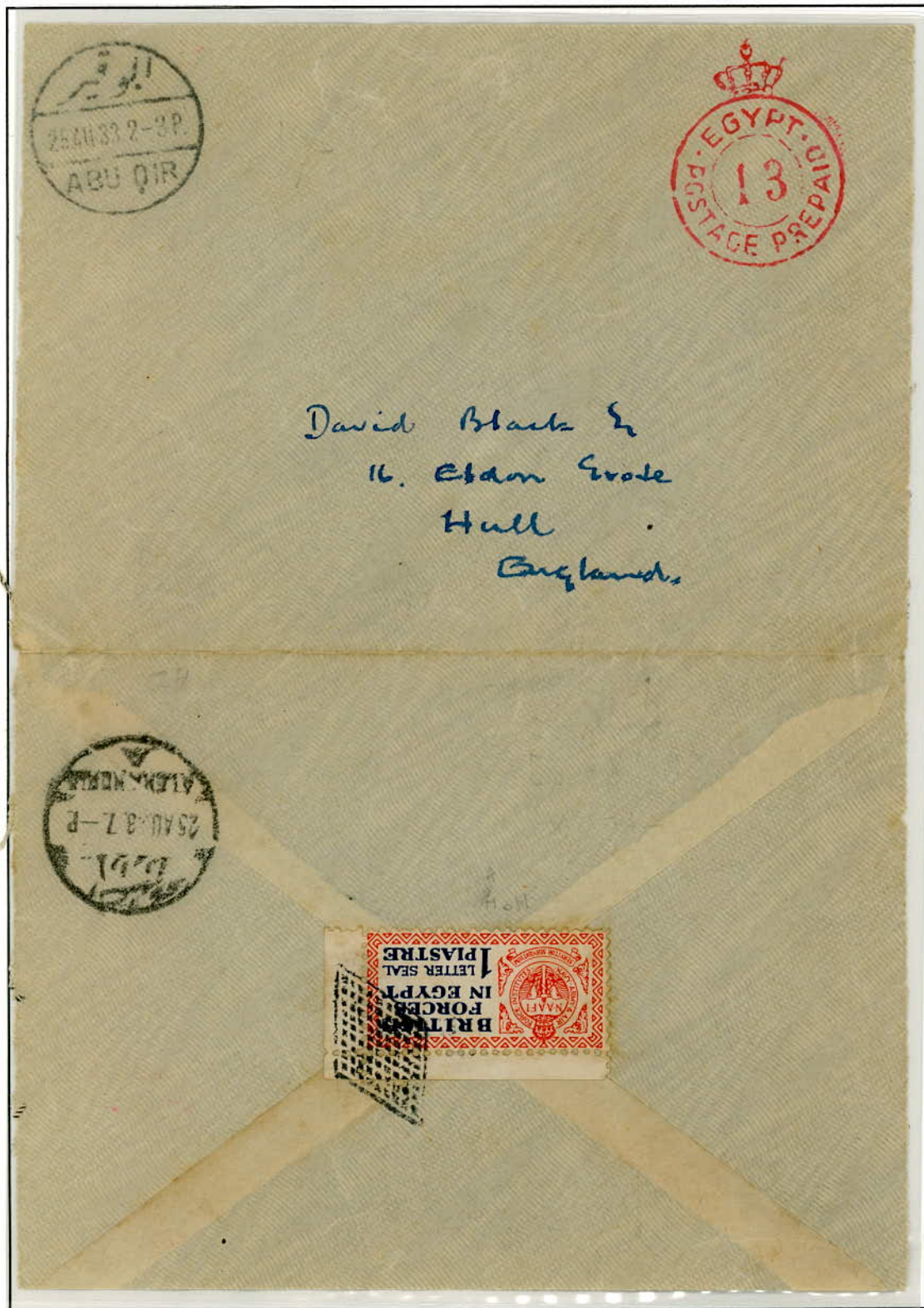
Third Issue —LETTER SEAL

Filled "A" Variety
Position 4

ABU QIR 25 AU 33

CROWN CANCEL 13

First day of use for the Letter Seal from the Royal Air Force base at Aboukir. After processing at the base the cover was sent to the local civil post office and then on to Alexandria for transmittal to England.



AL

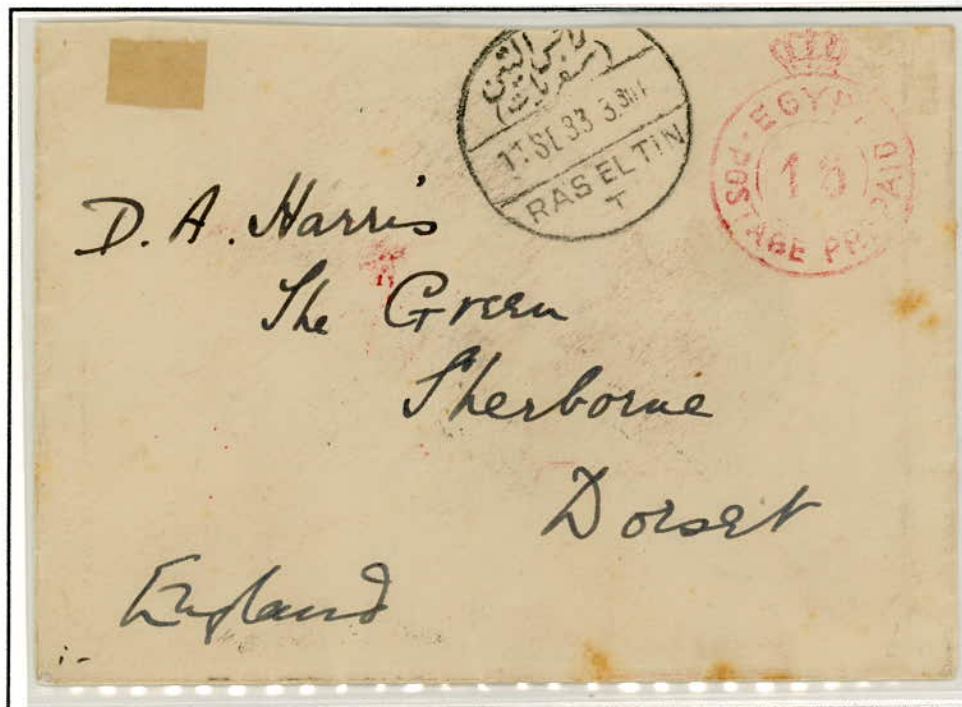
BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Third Issue — LETTER SEAL

RAS-EL-TIN T 11 SE 33

CROWN CANCEL 16

Numeral Frank #16 was assigned to the Military Hospital at Ras-el-Tin on 1 November 1932. The seals were cancelled and the envelopes franked at the hospital before being turned over to the Ras-el-Tin civilian post office where they were postmarked and forwarded to the General Post Office in Alexandria for dispatch. This cover is postmarked at Ras-el-Tin and the reverse has two more Ras-el-Tin postmarks and the **B ALEXANDRIA 11 SE 33** datestamp.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 - 36

Third Issue —LETTER SEAL

M.P.O. CAIRO ?? AP 34
(type 1)

CROWN CALCEL 6

Broken "T" Variety

Broken left bar in the "T" of PIASTRE, position 3, not a constant variety.

PIASTRE



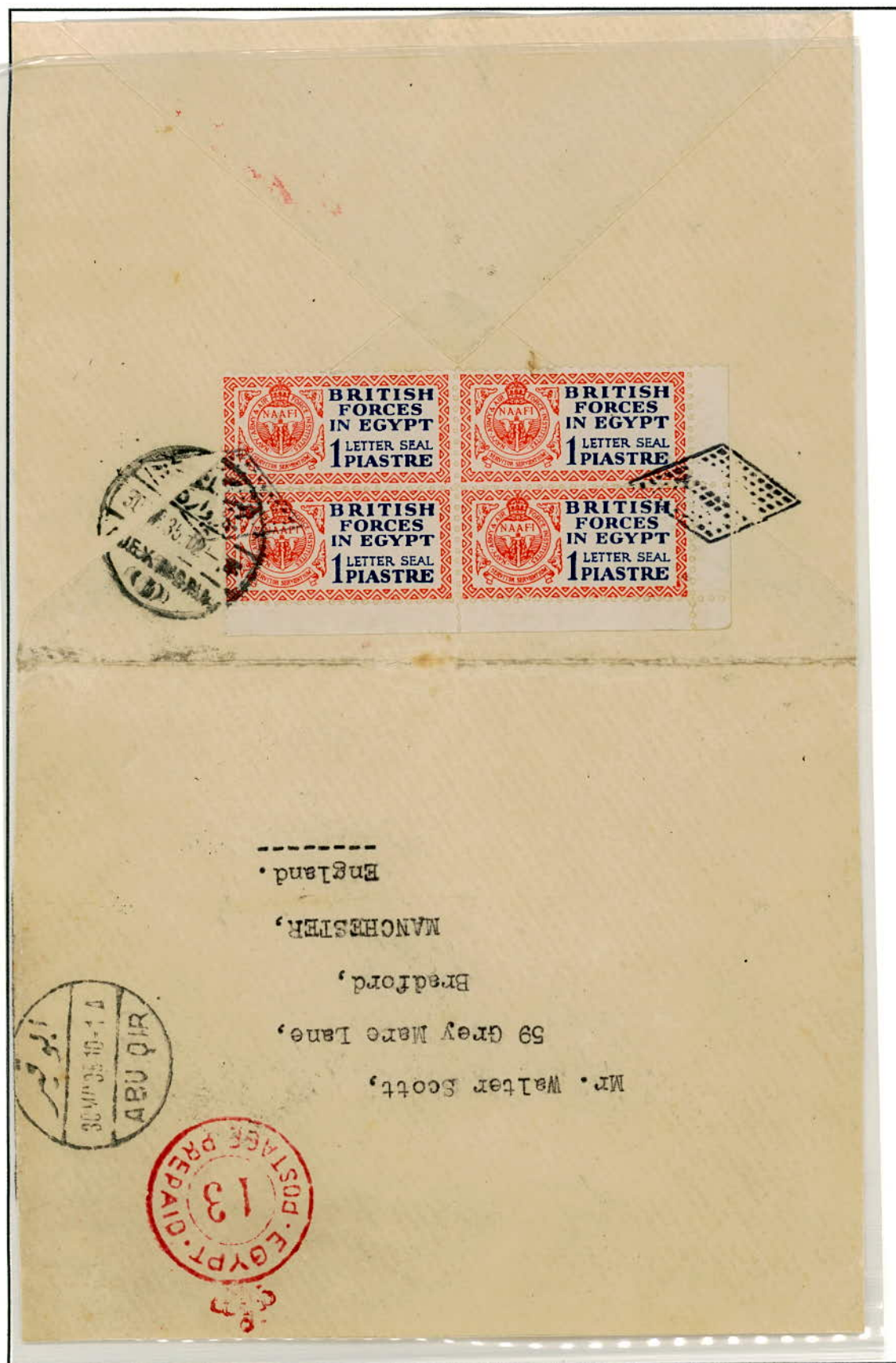
Numeral frank 6 on large piece of cover from the military post office at Cairo, ? AP 34.

Third Issue — Letter Seal

Diagonal Slash Across "E" Variety

Top left stamp (position 15) has the "E" variety. The cover was posted at the Royal Air Force base at Aboukir and the seals cancelled with the retta and the envelope franked before handing over to the civil post office. It was sent to Alexandria for dispatch and bears the straight-line c.d.s. of **ABU QIR 30 MR 35** and the transit backstamp of **ALEXANDRIA (G) 30 MR 35**.

SE



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Fourth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

Date of Issue: November 13, 1933 (withdrawn from sale, December 31, 1933)
 Designer: Sergeant W. F. Lait, Royal Army Service Corps
 Printer: Lithographed by Walker & Co., The Amalgamated Press, Cairo
 Value: 3 Milliemmes
 Perforation: 11 ½
 Notes: 54,000 printed in sheets of 20; issued and/or sold, 53,736. They were issued in booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps.



Imperforate Trial Color Proof



Non-constant variety in position 7 - blob on left 3



Note the oblique misplaced perforation



Misperforated
 Position 10
 Break on left
 side of frame line,
 lower panel near top.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Fourth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

M.P.O. MOASCAR 14 DE 33
(type 2)

CROWN CANCEL 3



This retta cancellation is mauve.



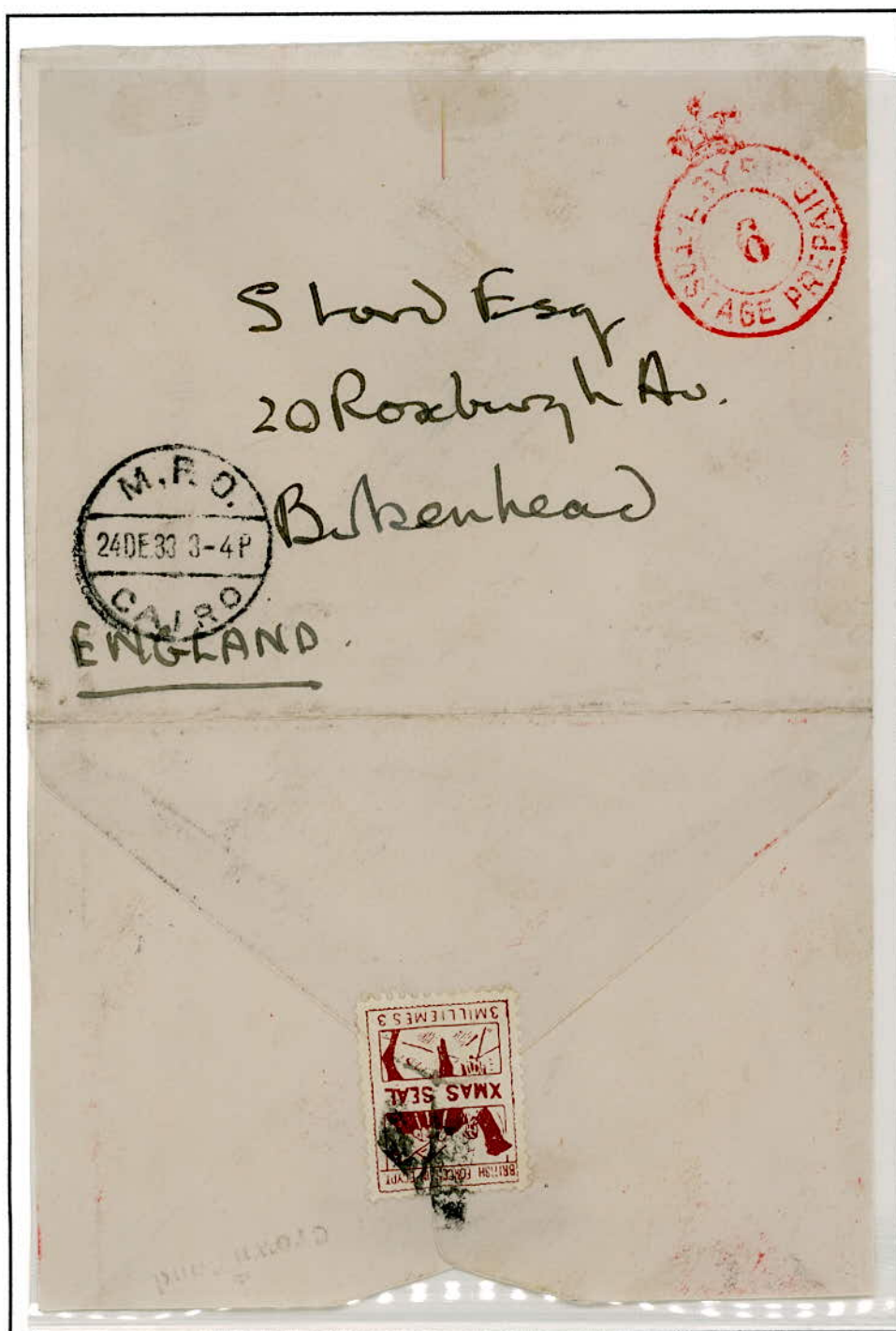
BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 - 35

Fourth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

M.P.O. CAIRO 24 DE 33
(type 1)

CROWN CANCEL 6

This is a last minute posting of a Christmas card.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Fifth Issue — LETTER STAMP

Date of Issue: June 1, 1934
Designer: Miss Waugh of Cairo
Printer: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd., London
Value: 1 Piastre
Perforation: 14 ½ x 14
Notes: 250,000 printed in sheets of 40 consisting of two frames or panes of 20 each, each pane having different characteristics. They were made into booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps. Perforations were made by a comb machine. Also, especially noticeable in multiples is the "blind" perforation at the top corner of the stamps. Plating characteristics have been described in Hobbs though some flaws are more noticeable than others.



This HARRISON'S SPECIMEN was discovered in 1999. According to The Nile Post Catalogue only four such examples exist.¹



Frame A

Position 7 – Dot to left of center of "E" in Egypt

Position 8 – Dot high of "L" in Letter



Frame B

Positions 5 – Dots top right of "R" and "E" in top piastre

Position 6 – Dot left of "F" in Forces

Position 9 – Dot below line enclosing top Piastre

Position 10 – Dot in "P" of top Piastre

¹ Chaloub, Joseph H., *The Nile Post Handbook and Catalogue of Egyptian Stamps*, Joseph Chaloub, Westmount, Quebec, Canada, 2003, pages 132 and 636.

Fifth Issue — LETTER STAMP

Hobbs has designated the top five rows as Pane B and the bottom five rows as Pane A. One would think that the order should be the reverse. Uncut sheets are extremely scarce.

Arrow points to unjoined "P".



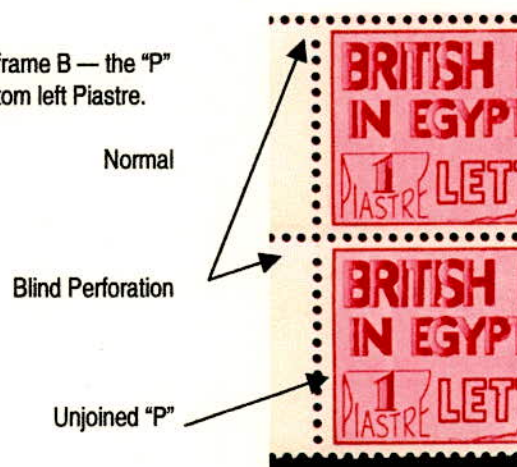
BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 - 36

Fifth Issue — LETTER STAMP



Booklet Pane of 20 Frame B

There is a constant flaw in position 17 of frame B — the "P" does not join the top frame line of the bottom left Piastre.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Fifth Issue — LETTER STAMP



Booklet Pane of 19 Frame A

Stamp 17 — P in PIASTRE joins frame.
Blind perforation on top left vertical side of stamp.



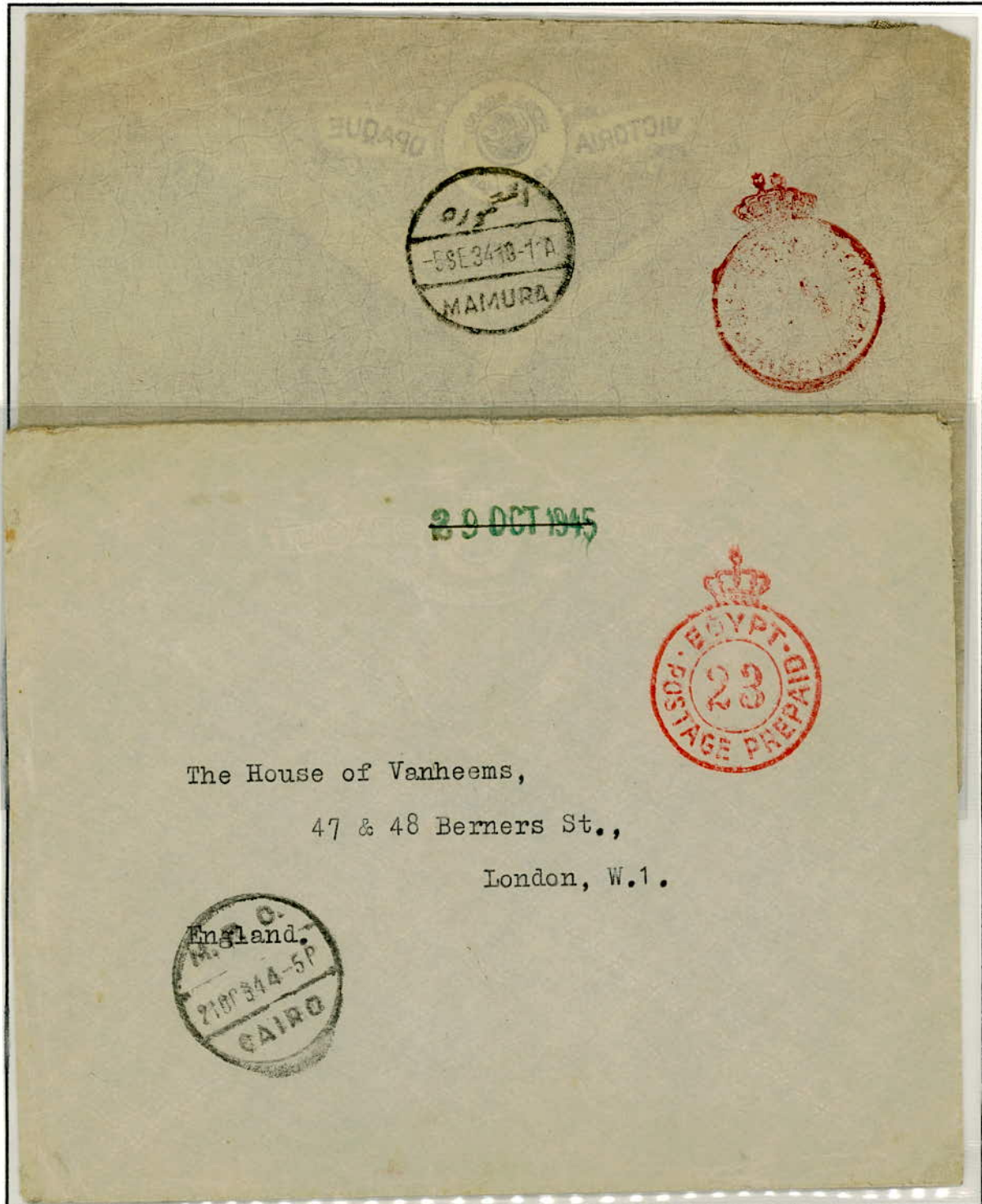
BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Fifth Issue — LETTER STAMP

MAMURA 5 SE 34

CROWN CANCEL 14

Numeral Frank #14 was assigned to the Royal Air Force base at Aboukir. The seals were cancelled and the crown cancel applied to the envelope before being turned over to the Mamura post office where they were postmarked and then forwarded to the General Post Office in Alexandria for dispatch. On and after December 1, 1932, the mail was sent also to the Abu Qir civil post office for processing prior to dispatch to Alexandria.



CAIRO 21 OC 34
(type 3)

CROWN CANCEL 23

Fifth Issue — LETTER STAMP

ISMAILIA CAMP

11 NO 34

This cover was improperly posted in a civilian letterbox. The stamp was not cancelled but voided with a pencil line, the boxed 'T' marking applied, and 4d postage due collected in England. It is backstamped with the **B PORT SAID TRAFFIC 11 NO 34** transit mark.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Sixth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

Date of Issue: November 17, 1934 (withdrawn from sale, December 31, 1934)
 Designer: Sergeant W. F. Lait, Royal Army Service Corps
 Printer: Lithographed by Walker & Co., The Amalgamated Press, Cairo
 Value: 3 Millimes
 Perforation: 11½
 Notes: 63,000 printed in sheets of 20; issued and/or sold, 62,865. They were bound in booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps.



Position 4



Position 11



Position 12



Stamps 7, 8, and 9 have prominent flaws (uncolored circle with a colored center) on the camel's neck. This variety has only been found on this issue of the Christmas Seals.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Sixth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

Left: Positions 11 and 16
11 – Large dot in the left side
frame line of lower panel



Postally used struck with the black retta cancel. Used pairs are scarce,
and probably paid the postage on greeting cards weighing more than 50 grams.

Position 14 – shading lines under
Pyramids are faint



Position 19 – lump on top of camel's
Head and break in frame line of
Lower panel

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Sixth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

MUSTAPHA BARRACKS 11 DE 34

CROWN CANCEL 17

Letters were franked and the seals cancelled at Mustapha Barracks before being handed over to the Alexandria post office where the mail was postmarked and processed.



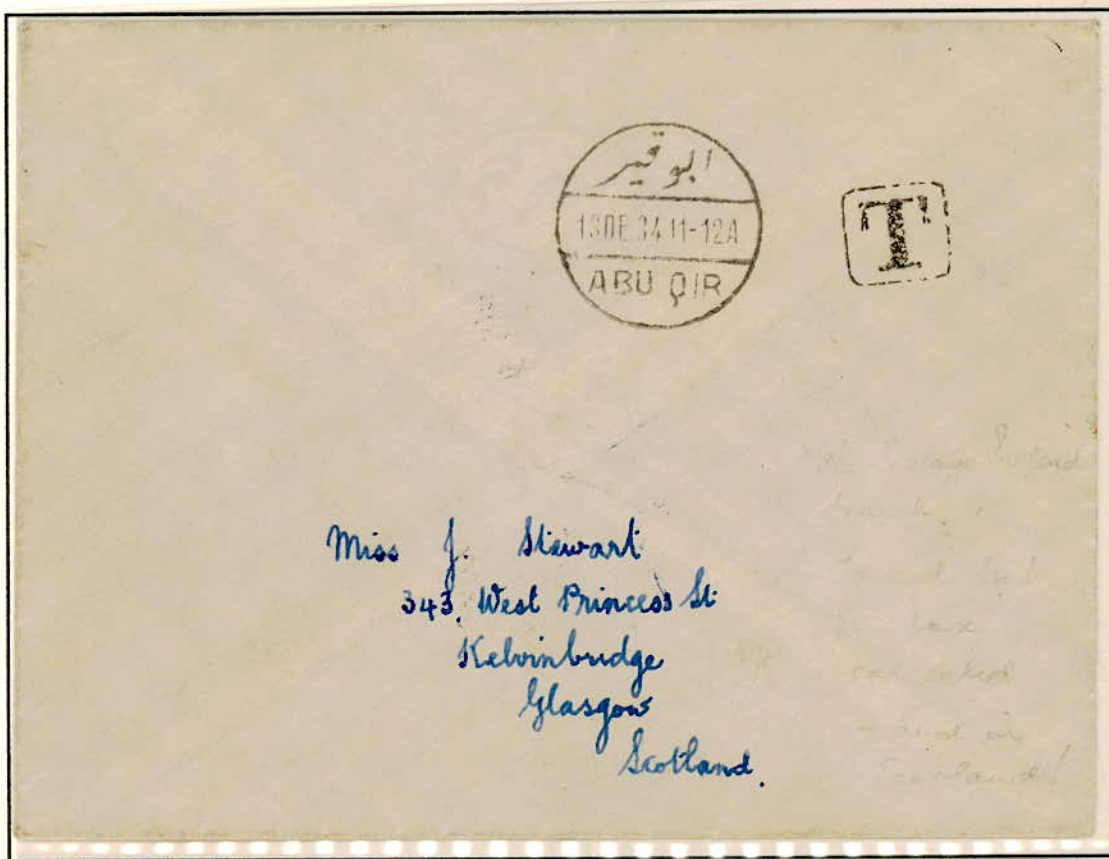
Position 2 — break on left side of lower frame and dot to right of bottom line above Arab's head.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Sixth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL

ABU QIR 13 DE 34

No CROWN CANCEL



This cover was improperly posted in a civilian mailbox and thus did not receive the Crown Cancel (#13 or 14) to signify that appropriate postage had been paid. The boxed T marking was applied but upon arrival in Scotland the cover was accepted as valid and no charge collected. It is backstamped with the traveling post office datestamp **13 DE 34 ALEXANDRIA-ABU QIR & V.V.**



Reverse of cover (reduced)

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Seventh Issue — LETTER STAMP

Date of Issue: December 5, 1934
 Designer: Miss Waugh of Cairo
 Printer: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd., London
 Value: 1 Piastre
 Perforation: 14 ½ x 14
 Notes: 250,000 printed in sheets of 40, two panes of 20 each. Pane B is comprised of the top five rows and pane A the bottom five rows. They were sold in booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps. The plates used were the same as for the fifth issue of June 1. Also, especially noticeable in multiples is the "blind" perforation at the top corner of the stamps.

Frame A



Stamp 15 – Dot left of first "E" in LETTER.

Stamp 16 – Dot near curved portion of frame, bottom PIASTRE..

Stamp 19 – Dot in bottom "P" of EGYPT.

Stamp 20 – Dot below left corner of "B" in BRITISH.

Frame B



Stamp 1 – Dot over "S" in top right PIASTRE.

Stamp 2 – Dot below right bottom corner of "H" in BRITISH.

Stamp 5 – Dots top right of "R" and "E" in top PIASTRE.

Stamp 6 – Dot left of "F" in FORCES.



Stamp 5 – Dots top right of "R" and "E" in top PIASTRE

Stamp 6 – Dot left of "F" in FORCES

Stamp 9 – Dot below line enclosing top PIASTRE

Stamp 10 – Dot in "P" of top PIASTRE



Stamp 15 – Dot left of "P" in bottom PIASTRE.

Stamp 16 – Dot below "P" of top PIASTRE.

Stamp 19 – Dot in bottom "P" of EGYPT.

Stamp 20 – Dot below left corner of "B" in BRITISH

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT 1932 - 36

Seventh Issue — LETTER STAMP

Hobbs has designated the top five rows as Pane B and the bottom five rows as Pane A. One would think that the order should be the reverse. Uncut sheets are extremely scarce.

Arrow points to unjoined "P".



14 1/2 x 14



Booklet Pane of 20 — Frame B

Some of the flaws enabling the plating of the stamps are.

Stamp 1 – Dot over “S” in top right PIASTRE.

Stamp 4 – Dot under middle arm of “E” in top right PIASTRE.

Stamp 17 – Top frame line of the bottom left 1 of PIASTRE does not join the “P.” Dot in first “T” of LETTER.

Stamp 20 – Dot in lower portion of leg of “R” in BRITISH..

Blind Perforation

Stamp 17 – Unjoined “P”



Blind Perforation

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Seventh Issue — LETTER STAMP



Ex: Hobbs

Booklet Pane of 20 — Frame A

The inscription on the left margin of the pane states:

*"Certified that this book was the first one issued of the Green labels. H. F. Ware Capt
5.12.1934 oic Issues"*

Each frame has different minor characteristics enabling the plating of the stamps.

Stamp 1 – Dot left of "F" of FORCES

Stamp 4 – Dot below "R" and left of "P" in PIASTRE

Stamp 17 – P in PIASTRE joined to frame. Dot below bottom right corner of "1" in top PIASTRE.

Stamp 20 – Dot below left corner of "B" in British.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 3

Seventh Issue — LETTER STAMP

Postally Used Copies Showing a Variety of Cancellations



Properly struck with black retta cancel



Frame B

Stamp 5 – Dots top right of “R” and “E” in top PIASTRE.
Stamp 9 – Dot below line enclosing top PIASTRE.

Stamp 6 – Dot left of “F” in FORCES.
Stamp 10 – Dot in “P” of top PIASTRE.



Cancelled with the red retta



Cancelled by a circular date stamp



Struck with black retta and the red Crown Cancel from cover front (#22 is M.P.O. Cairo).

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Seventh Issue — LETTER STAMP

M.P.O. CAIRO 5 DE 34
(type 2)

CROWN CANCEL 19

First Day of Issue Cover.

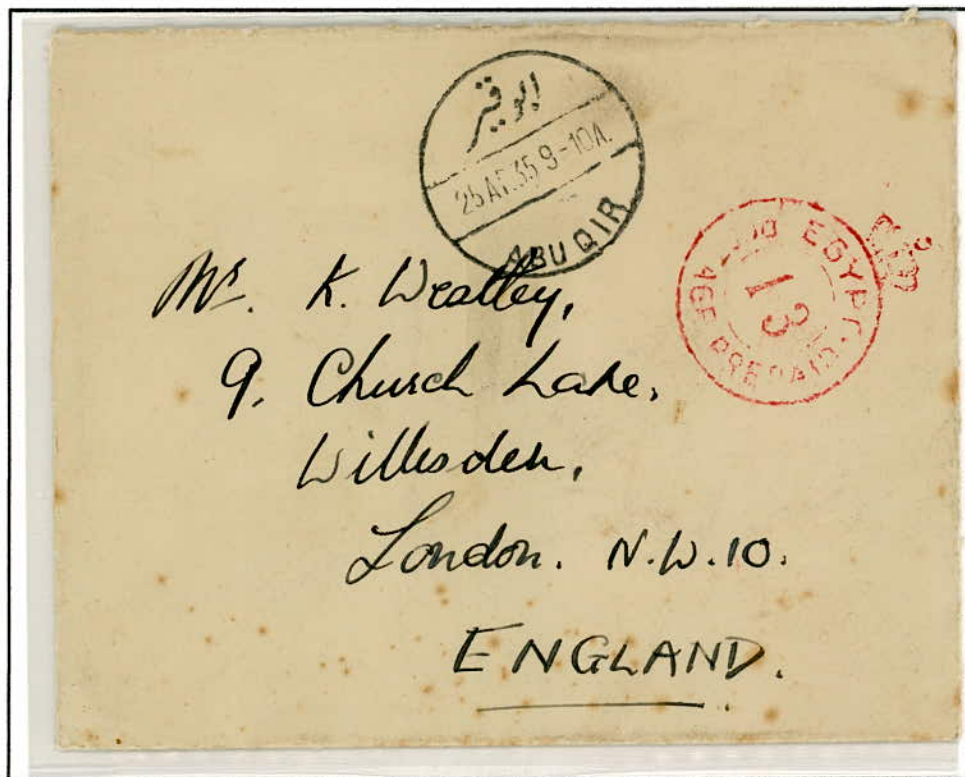


Seventh Issue — LETTER STAMP

ABU QIR 25 AP 35

CROWN CANCEL 13

Crown Cancels 13 and 14 were assigned to the Royal Air Force Depot at Aboukir. This curved ABU QIR civil datestamp on 1932 – 1936 postal concession covers is scarcer than the straight-line datestamp. In addition, research to date suggests that it was used only in conjunction with Crown Cancel 13. This cover is backstamped with two different ALEXANDRIA datestamps including the ALEXANDRIA-ABU QIR & V.V. 25 AP 35 traveling post office circular date stamp.



Reduced view of the reverse of the cover

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Seventh Issue — LETTER STAMP

M.P.O. CAIRO 5 DE 35
(unrecorded)

CROWN CANCEL 13

This cover is unusual in that there is no record of Crown Cancel 13 ever having been assigned to the Cairo Military Post Office. It was initially allocated to the R.A.F at Aboukir and transferred to M.P.O. Alexandria on 1 November 1935. In addition, this M.P.O. CAIRO datestamp is unrecorded in the literature. The measurements do not match any of the five recorded datestamps used in the 1932 to 1939 period. Most noticeable is the large (16½mm x 4½mm) CAIRO. Also, the date bars are 7mm apart.



Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
First Printing

Date of Issue: April 24, 1935
 Designer: Miss Waugh of Cairo
 Printer: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd., London
 Value: 1 Piastre
 Perforation: 13¼ x 14¼ by the first comb. A blind perforation is found at the lower left corner of each stamp. This is more evident in multiples than in singles copies.
 Notes: 405,000 printed in sheets of 40, divided into two panes of 20 each and sold in booklets of five panes. 404,900 were issued and 100 copies destroyed. Of the amount issued, 10,000 were used for the December 16, 1935 provisional issue surcharged XMAS 1935 - 3 MILLIEMES. New plates were used for these stamps as shown by the minor plating flaws, which are less noticeable than the previous issues



Frame A — Booklet A2065
Block of 9 and strip of 4

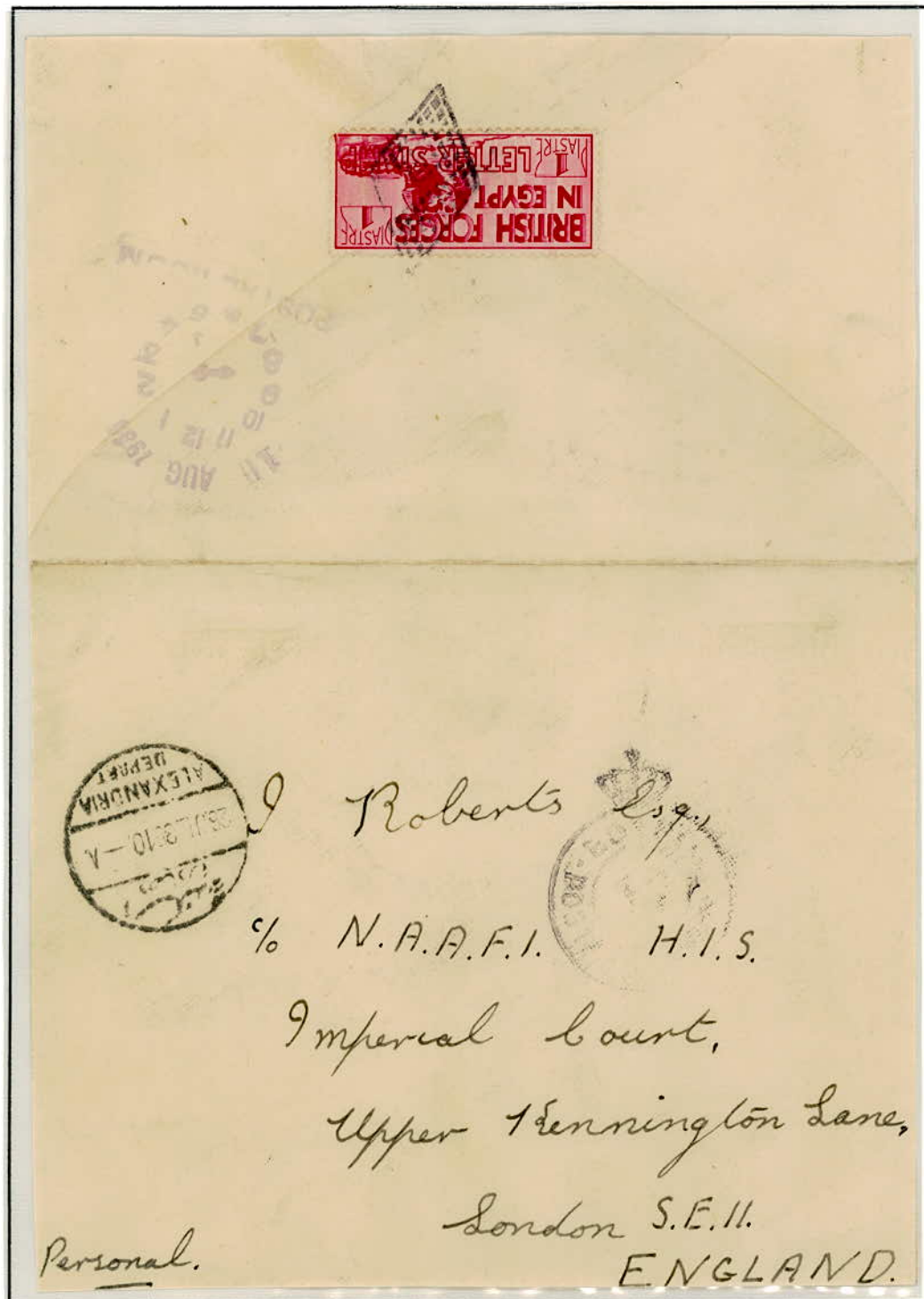
BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

**Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
First Printing**

MUSTAPHA BARRACKS 26 JL 35

CROWN CANCEL 17

Letters were franked and the seals cancelled at Mustapha Barracks before being handed over to the Alexandria post office where the civil postmark was applied. The receiving mark on the reverse shows that NAAFI (Navy, Army, & Air Force Institutes) received the envelope on 1 August 1935.



Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
First Printing

MILITARY POST OFFICE ALEXANDRIA 27 XI 35

CROWN CANCEL 6

The military post office at Alexandria re-opened on 1 November 1935, and received numeral franks from several other facilities including #6 from Cairo. Letters were processed at the M.P.O. and then dispatched to the Egyptian General Post Office for transmittal to their destinations. The M.P.O. used two different datestamps including the barrel type found on this cover and the conventional M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA on the lower cover.



M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA 6 DE 35

CROWN CANCEL 6

Letter sent to unauthorized destination and should have been charged postage due.

**Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
Second Printing**

Date of Issue: December 21, 1935
 Designer: Miss Waugh of Cairo
 Printer: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd., London
 Value: 1 Piastre
 Perforation: 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 14 $\frac{1}{4}$ by the second comb. There is a second hole where previously the blind perforation or wide tooth appeared, i.e. at the bottom of the stamp. It is at the top of the stamp on those sheets that were inserted upside down in the perforating machine.
 Notes: 500,000 printed in sheets of 40, two panes of 20 each. 214,000 were sold and the remainder destroyed. They were bound five panes to a booklet. In addition to the absence of the blind perforation, the color of the stamps is somewhat paler than those of the first printing. Apparently new plates were used, as the flaws are different than those of the first printing. They are also difficult to recognize.

Extra perforation hole is at the top of the stamps



Position 17, Frame A
Dot right of "T" of EGYPT

Position 14, Frame B
Dot under first "E" in LETTER



Frame A, Positions 1,2,5 and 6
 Position 1 — Dot in first "T" in LETTER Position 2 — Dot in "I" in IN
 Position 5 — Dot between "R" and "E" in top right PIASTRE
 Position 6 — Dot between legs of "A" in top right PIASTRE
 Extra hole at the top of the stamp.

Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
Second Printing



Frame A is comprised of the bottom five rows of stamps.
The extra hole is at the top of the stamps indicating that the sheet was inserted upside down in the perforation machine.

Left marginal strip of four - positions 1, 5, 9, 13
Right strip of four - positions 2, 6, 10 and 14



Plate Flaws found on Frame A from Hobbs

Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
Second Printing — Frame A
Booklet A 2281



Complete Booklet of 5 Panes of Frame A

Extra perforation pin added to the comb.
Normal perforation with the extra hole
at the bottom of the stamp.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP

Second Printing — Frame A

Extra hole at top of stamp.



Booklet Cover with Interleaving

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

**Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
Second Printing**

M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA 30 DE 35

CROWN CANCEL 6

Crown Cancel 6 was used at Cairo until it was transferred to the military post office in Alexandria on November 1, 1935. The use of the one piastre stamp on a post card is somewhat unusual. The concession rate only applied to letters and so post cards to the United Kingdom required one piastre Egyptian stamp. However, such postings were allowed to slip by.



M.P.O. CAIRO 15 MR 37
(type 2)

CROWN CANCEL 19

Last day cover but with an error in the date showing "37" and not "36".

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 35

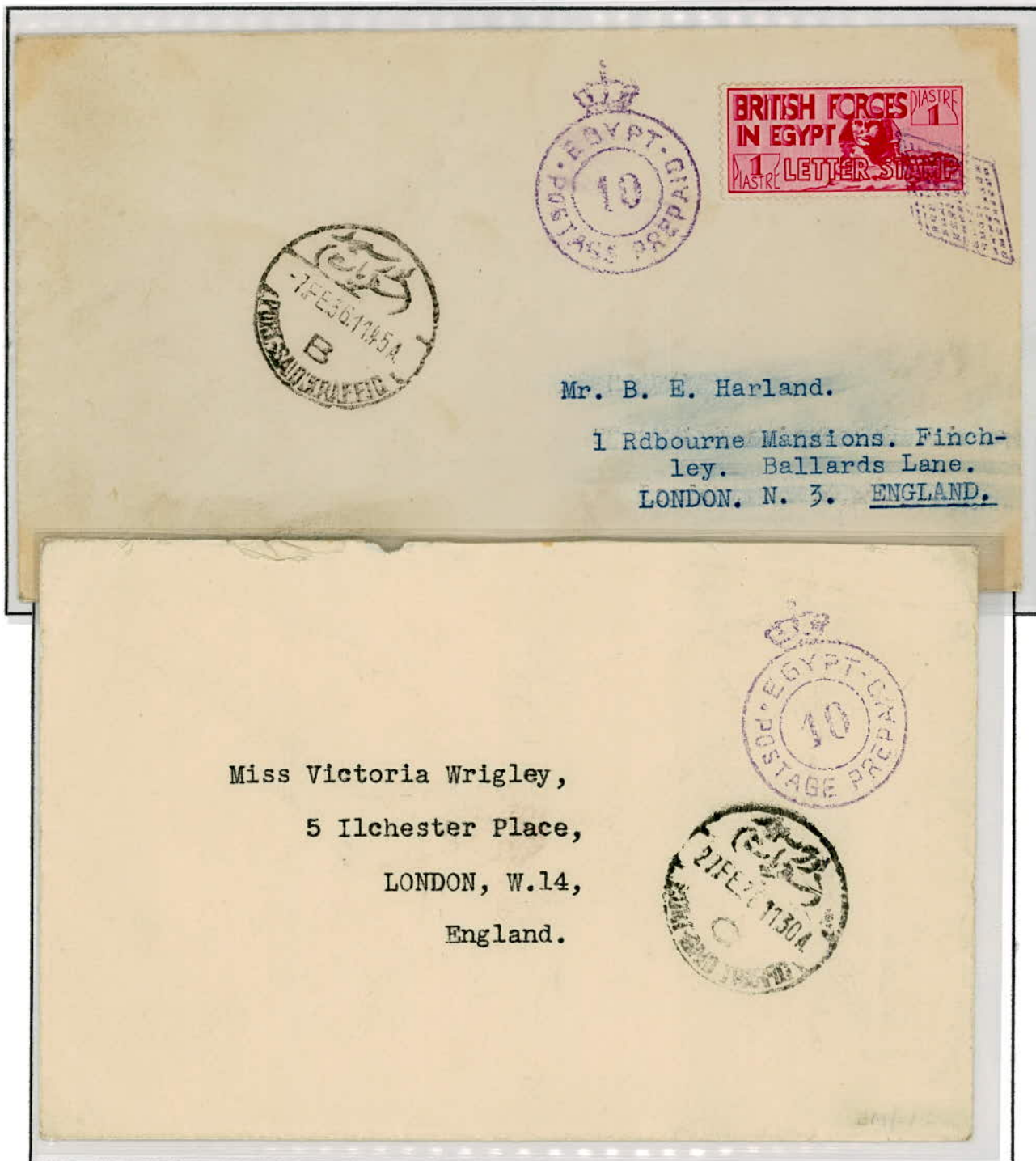
**Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
Second Printing**

Improper Placement of Stamp

PORT SAID TRAFFIC B to ENGLAND 7 FE 36

CROWN CANCEL 10

Covers with Crown Cancel 10 are very scarce, few are recorded, and all but one are civil postmarked in January and February 1936. This cover is improperly franked on the front with the one piastre stamp but tied with a violet retta.



PORT SAID TRAFFIC C to ENGLAND 27 FE 36

CROWN CANCEL 10

This cover shows the use of a civilian cancel three days before the official opening of the Military Post Office on March 1, 1936.

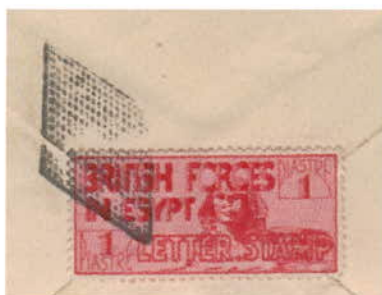
BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

**Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP
Second Printing**

M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA 29 FE 36

CROWN CANCEL 3

This cover is postmarked on leap year day. It is the "official" last day for the crown cancel and the letter stamp as the Army Post stamps appeared on March 1st. However, the letter stamps remained valid through 15 March 1936.



Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP

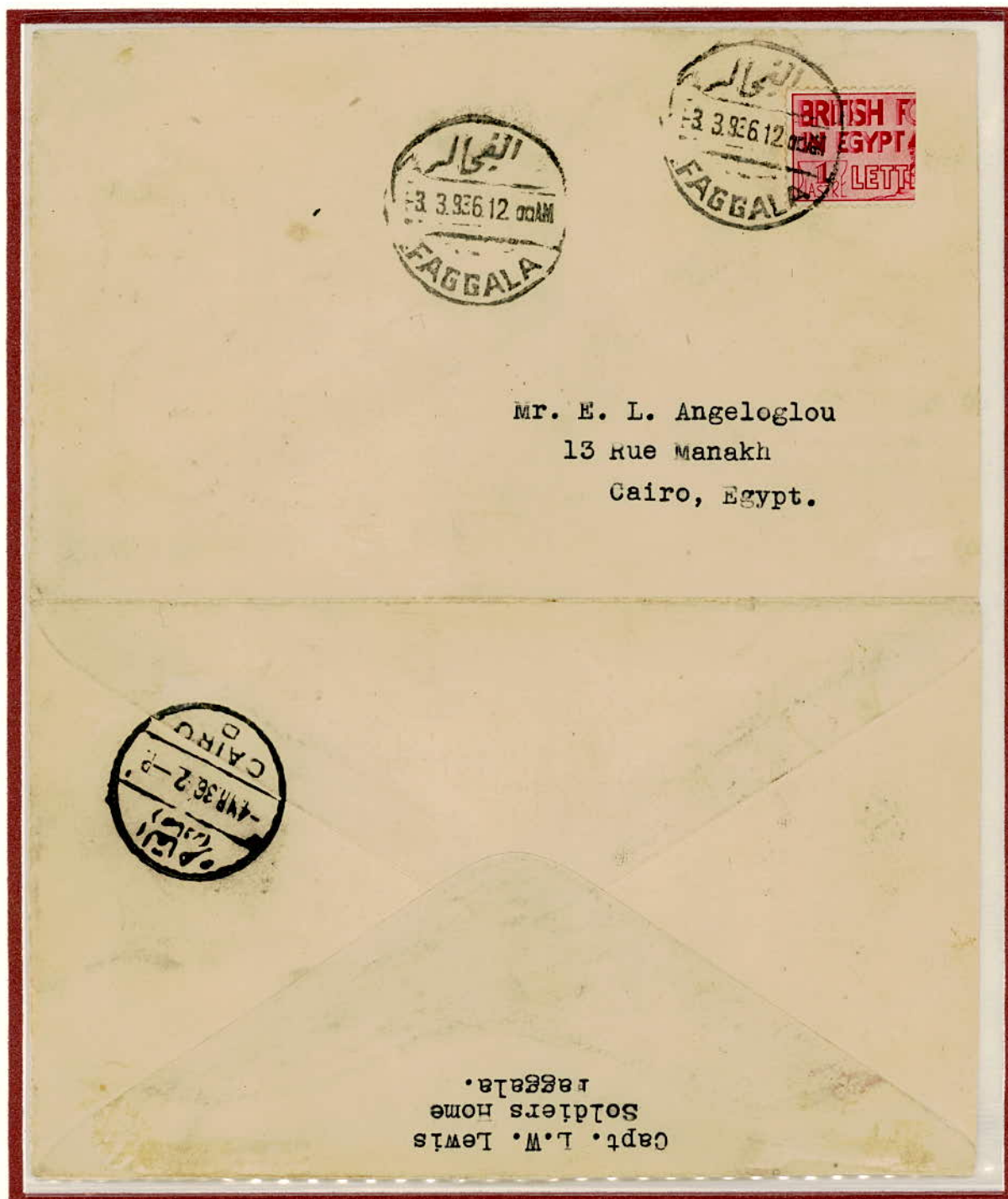
Second Printing

Invalid Local Use of Stamp

FAGGALA to CAIRO

3 3 936

This philatelic cover is improperly franked with a bisect of the 1 piastre stamp to pay the internal letter rate of five milliemes. It is backstamped the next day with a Cairo civil date stamp. It should have been charged postage due as these stamps were only legal for use by the British military to addresses in the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State.



This is one of four bisect covers recorded. Two are known with vertical bisects (the above and one illustrated in Hobbs) and two with diagonal bisects. Postmarked FAGGALA on 3 March 1936, they were sent from the Soldiers Home or the Sailors Home to Cairo and Alexandria.

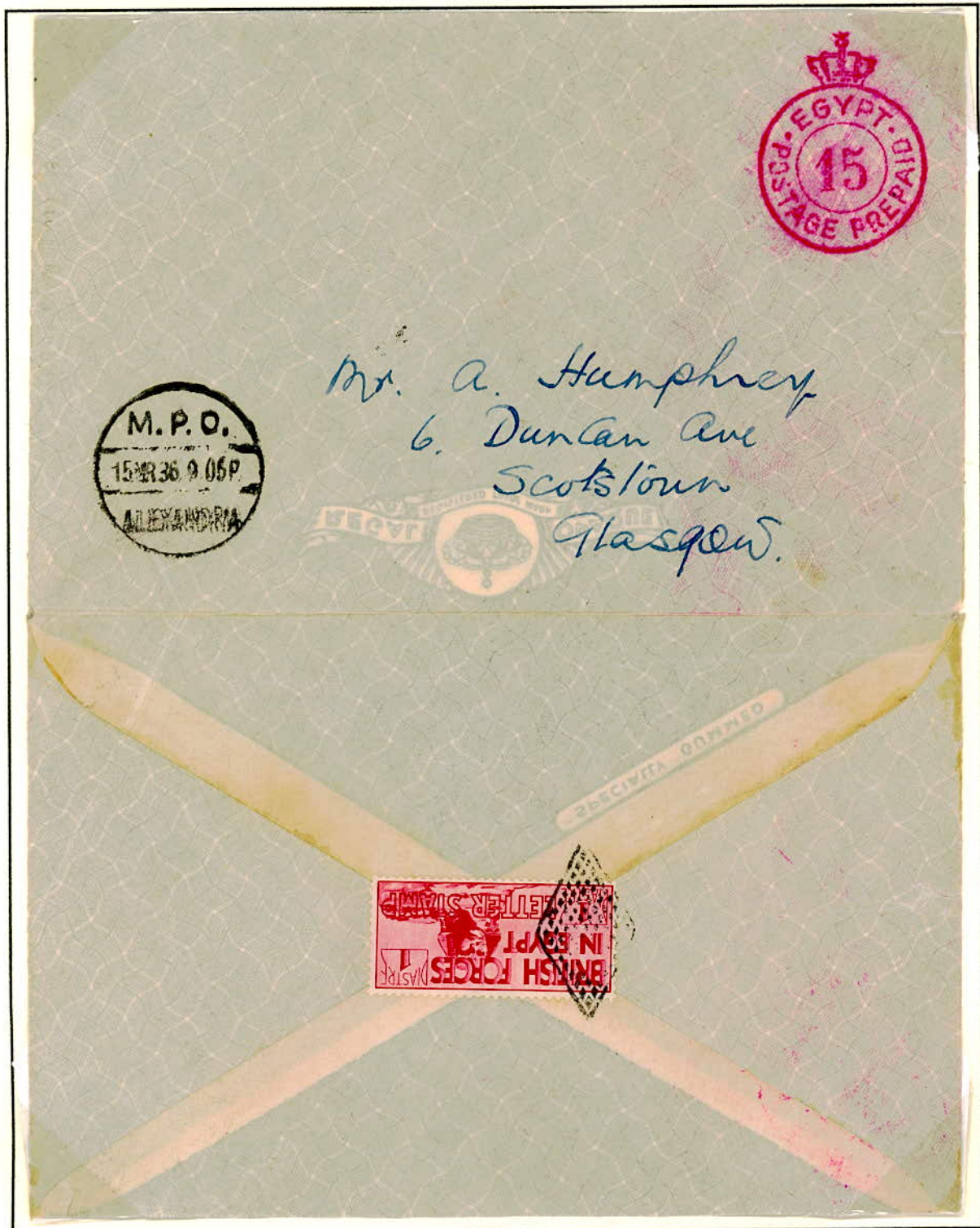
BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Eighth Issue — LETTER STAMP

M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA 15 MR 36

CROWN CANCEL 15

Crown Cancel #15 was issued to the Military Hospital at Ras-el-Tin at the beginning of the postal concession period but was never placed in service. It was transferred to Alexandria on 1 November 1935, when the Military Post Office was re-established. It is believed that the Crown Cancel was held in reserve thus accounting for the absence of non-philatelic covers for the four and one-half months prior to 15 March 1936. This MPO c.d.s. is slightly different from the one used on the philatelic last day covers; The time is expressed in hours and minutes (9 05P) rather than just the hour (7. —P.).



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Ninth Issue — LETTER STAMP — JUBILEE COMMEMORATION

Date of Issue: May 6, 1935
Designer: Miss Waugh of Cairo
Printer: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd., London
Value: 1 Piastre
Perforation: 14 by the first comb. A blind or omitted perforation hole is found at the lower left corner of each stamp. This is more evident in multiples than in singles copies.
Notes: 27,000 printed in sheets of 40, two panes of 20 each using the same plates as the fifth and seventh issues. Sales were supposedly limited to ten stamps per customer but several panes of 20 have been recorded. Hobbs states the overprint was done ten stamps at a time, columns 1 and 2 and then 3 and 4 on each pane of 20.



Frame A Position 19
Dot in front of "B" of BRITISH



Frame A Position 20
Dot above "R" of FORCES



Frame B Position 1 – Dot above "T" of BRITISH
Position 2 – Dot above bottom stroke of "R" in lower PIASTRE
Position 5 – Dot on top of "R" in upper PIASTRE
Position 6 – Dot to right of up stroke of "N" in IN



Frame B Position 13
Dot under "Y" of EGYPT

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Ninth Issue — LETTER STAMP — JUBILEE COMMEMORATION

Postally Used Copies
Frame B



Black Retta Cancel
Position 8 — Dot above "E" of FORCES



Red Retta Cancel
Position 8 — Dot above "E" of FORCES



Crown Cancel
Position 4 — Dot under middle arm of "E" in top right PIASTRE

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Ninth Issue — JUBILEE SEAL

ABU QIR 6 MA 35

CROWN CANCEL 13 and 14

First day covers of the George V Jubilee Issue with the two Crown Cancels (13 and 14) used at the Royal Air Force at Aboukir. As this was a service holiday, military letterboxes were only cleared once, in the morning and the mail processed in the afternoon. Covers with the Jubilee stamp posted later that day were not picked up and processed until the next day, 7 May. In addition, many service personnel were not aware of the issuance of this stamp until after its appearance. These factors make for a relative scarcity of Jubilee first day covers. The stamp on the Crown Cancel 13 cover is position 11 from Frame B, dot between "E" and "S" of FORCES. The Crown Cancel 14 cover has position 8, frame B, dot above "E" of FORCES.

Mrs R.H. Mitchell,
Higheroft,
Wood Road,
Hindhead,
Surrey,
England.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Ninth Issue — LETTER STAMP — JUBILEE COMMEMORATION

Short or Broken "U" Variety

JUB

A major variety in the overprint is broken right side at the top of the letter "U" in JUBILEE. It is found on positions 6 and 8 of frame A and often on the same positions in Frame B..

Frame B Position 8 — Dot above "E" of FORCES



M.P.O. CAIRO 7 MA 35
(type 1)

CROWN CANCEL 23



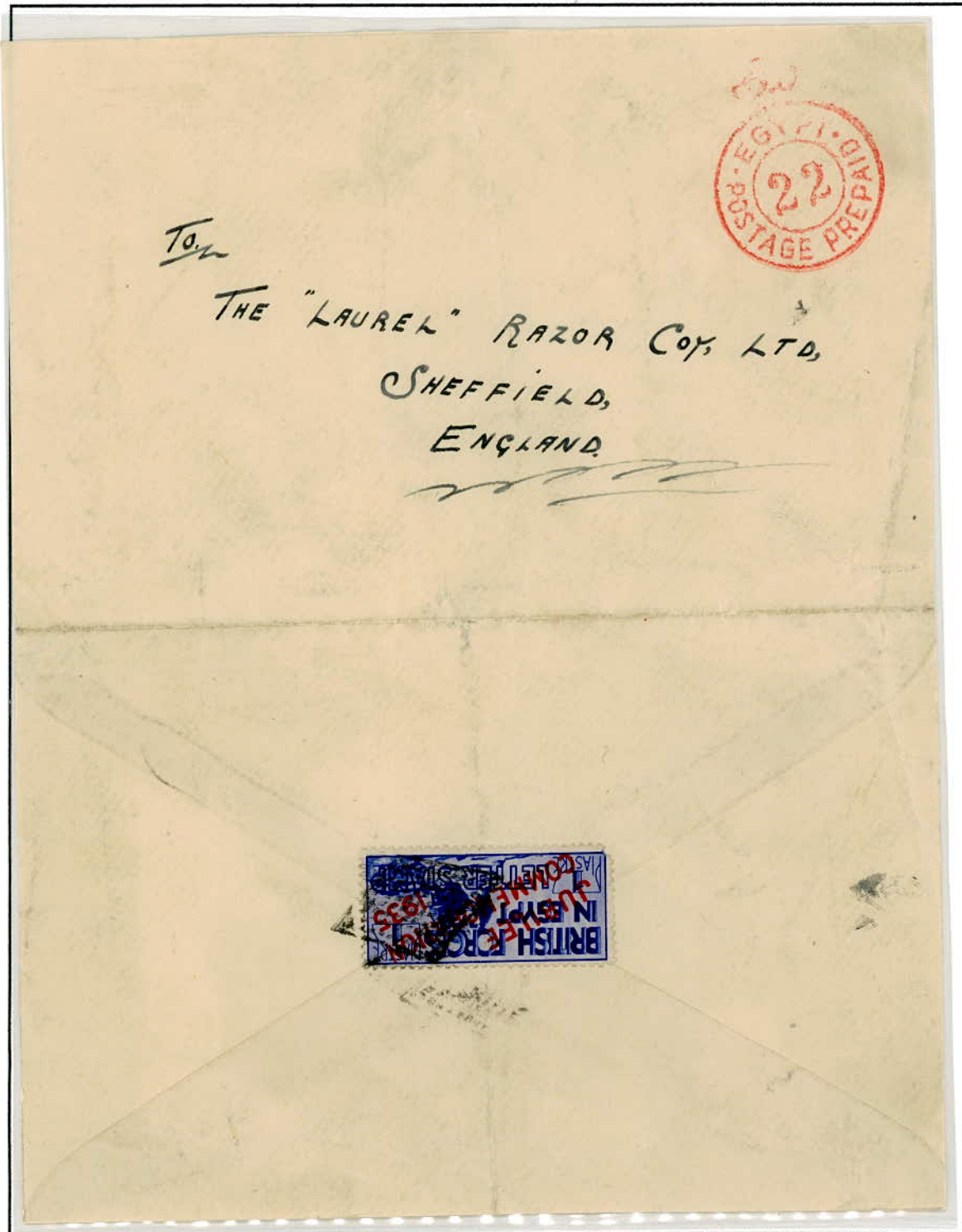
Cover to England franked on the reverse with the JUBILEE variety broken "U", Frame B Position 8 — Dot above "E" of FORCES. The obverse side shows Crown Circle # 23 and **M.P.O. CAIRO 7 MA 35**, the second day of issue. A review of the literature and auction catalogues suggests that second day covers are scarcer than first day covers. The Numeral Frank was transferred to Moascar in June.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 - 36

Ninth Issue — LETTER STAMP — JUBILEE COMMEMORATION

M.P.O. datestamp is missing

CROWN CANCEL 22



This cover was most likely posted at M.P.O. CAIRO although M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA is a possibility as the numeral frank 22 was used at Alexandria on and after 1 November 1935.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Tenth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL First Printing

Date of Issue: November 23, 1935
 Designer: Sergeant W. F. Lait, Royal Army Service Corps
 Printer: Lithographed by Walker & Co., The Amalgamated Press, Cairo
 Value: 3 Millimes
 Perforation: 11 ½
 Notes: 101,100 stamps printed in sheets of 20 and sold in booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps. The first printing was a red-orange shade.



Position 13

Positions 14, 15

Position 5



Positions 1, 2, 6, 7

Positions 9, 10, 14, 15

Positions 4, 5, 9, 10

Positions 2, 10, 18, 19, 20 have a break in the left side frame line of the lower panel near the top.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

**Tenth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL
First Printing**

Unlisted Variety

Misplaced perforations at the top below **BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT**

Position 3



Scan of the reverse showing
misplaced perforations.



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 – 36

Tenth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL First Printing

MILITARY POST OFFICE ALEXANDRIA 9 DE 35

CROWN CANCEL 14

The Military Post Office at Alexandria was re-established on 1 November 1935, due to an increase in British military and naval forces in the area at the time of the Italo-Ethiopian War. At times when the mail load was heavy such as at Christmas, letters were bagged at the R.A.F Station at Abu Qir and sent directly to the Military Post Office, Alexandria, for processing, instead of being passed through the civil post offices at Abu-Qir and Mamura.



M.P.O. CAIRO ? DE 35
(type 1)

CROWN CANCEL 19



Tenth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL
Second Printing

Date of Issue: December 19, 1935
Designer: Sergeant W. F. Lait, Royal Army Service Corps
Printer: Lithographed by The Amalgamated Press, Cairo
Value: 3 Milliemes
Perforation: 11 ½
Notes: A second printing was required due to the increased number of troops in Egypt at that time. 21,500 stamps printed in sheets of 20 and sold from booklets consisting of five panes or 100 stamps. 12,075 stamps were sold and 9,425 copies were destroyed. The second printing was a lighter shade of pale orange.



Position 1 and 11



Positions 9, 10, 14 and 15

Tenth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL
Second Printing

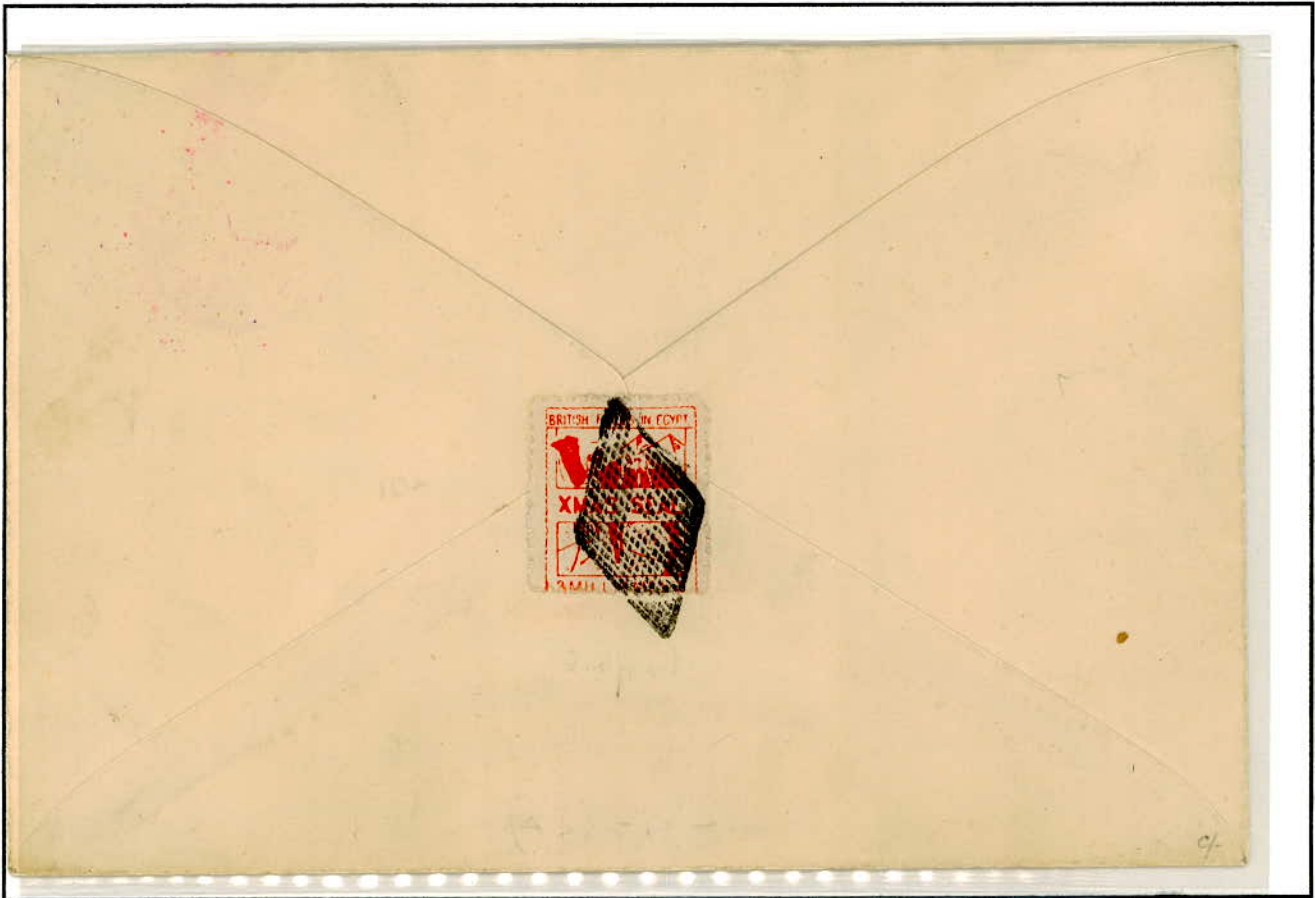


BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

**Tenth Issue — CHRISTMAS SEAL
Second Printing**

M.P.O. CAIRO 23 DE 35
(type 2)

CROWN CANCEL 19



Front of cover

Eleventh Issue — LETTER STAMP PROVISIONAL CHRISTMAS OVERPRINT

Date of Issue: December 16, 1935 (withdrawn from sale 31 December 1935)
 Designer: Miss Waugh of Cairo
 Printer: Photogravure by Harrison & Sons Ltd., London
 Value: 3 Milliemes
 Perforation: 13¼ x 14¼ by the first comb. A blind perforation is found at the lower left corner of each stamp. This is more evident in multiples than in singles copies.

Notes: 10,000 stamps of the first printing of the Eighth Issue were overprinted of which 9,920 were sold and 80 destroyed. The stamps were placed on sale at Mersa Matruh, Headquarters of the R.A.F. in Cairo, and the Citadel in Cairo.



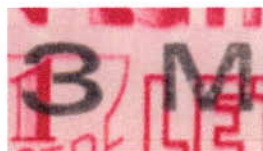
Frame A Position 9
 Dot at bottom frame line between "R" and "E" of PIASTRE



Frame A Position 1
 Dot in top left corner
 Position 2
 Dot in first "T" in LETTER
 Position 5
 Break in top frame line above "C" in FORCES
 Position 6
 Dot in left hand stroke of "H" in BRITISH

The overprinting was done in two operations with ten stamps overprinted at a time — columns 1 and 2 and then 3 and 4. There are two noticeable overprint varieties found on each pane. The first letter "M" in Milliemes in positions 13 and 15 has less intense inking giving rise to irregular blotches (at times even a break) in the right leg. This is a minor flaw and is sometimes undetectable. Similarly the "3" in 1935 in positions 18 and 20 appear clipped.

Damaged "M"
 Frame A Position 13



Frame A
 Position 14 — Dot under "G" in EGYPT
 Position 18 — Clipped "3"



BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Eleventh Issue — LETTER STAMP PROVISIONAL CHRISTMAS OVERPRINT

Frame A



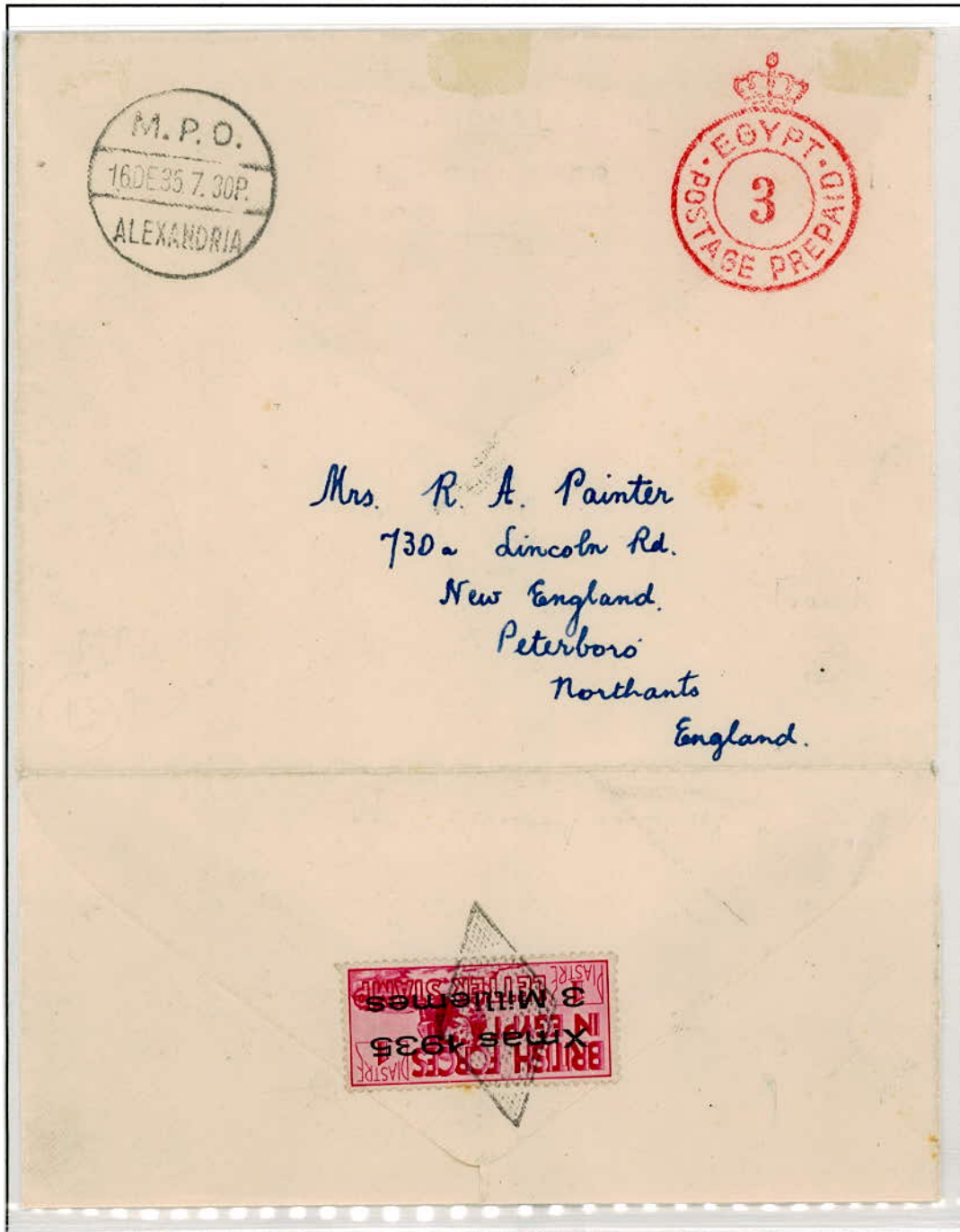
Booklet Cover

Eleventh Issue — LETTER STAMP PROVISIONAL CHRISTMAS OVERPRINT

M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA 16 DE 35

CROWN CANCEL 3

First Day Cover



This cover originated at Mersa Matruh, which received a small supply of these stamps as Alexandria was not on the distribution. This military sub-office opened in November 1935 during a buildup of British forces but it was not issued a M.P.O. datestamp, a retta obliterator or a Crown Cancel numeral frank. Mail was taken to the Alexandria military post office for processing where the retta was applied along with the M.P.O. datestamp and the numeral frank.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1932 — 36

Eleventh Issue — LETTER STAMP PROVISIONAL CHRISTMAS OVERPRINT

M.P.O. CAIRO 20 DE 35
(type 1)

CROWN CANCEL 19

Philatelic use of a block of four as the concession postage for unsealed Christmas cards was 3 milliemes for up to 50 grams.

