## EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

## THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume VIII No. 11

Whole Series No. 95

SEPTEMBER 1975

#### FUTURE MEETINGS

4th October ... 1953 Bar Overprints: The Definitives. W.C. Andrews.

6th December .... Members meeting.

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#### EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

#### THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR

Volume VIII No. 11

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Chairman

Whole Series No. 95

SEPTEMBER 1975

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# EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE

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## Volume VIII No. 11

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#### CHAIRMANS PAGE

I must apologise for the late production of the Quarterly Circular. The notes that I had sent to the Editor for the June number went asray and due to holidays and other commitments the fact was not discovered until very late. Ron, however, is now distributing two numbers together, (i.e. June and September 1975).

Early in April I visited Madrid for the International Exhibition. I met Abdallah Mishrick and Ernie Kehr and we were royally looked after by our member Cor. Hooghuis. I had a quick look at his collection, and what I saw decided my accepting an invitation to return later and look at it in more detail. Spain 1975 was a philatelic disappointment to me. Abdallah gained a vermeil award for the most marvellous showing of the Second Issue and which I know has never been seen before, and John Firebrace a Silver with mention for his wonderful Campaigns collection. Another Egypt collection also obtained a Silver, despite containing some obvious forgeries. Abdallah and I went to the prize-giving banquet where among many others we met, and just had time to congratulate, Tevfik and Madame Kuyus on their respective triumphs.

Serious collectors must be wondering what has happened to the Award system at these Internationals. The feeling is that to obtain a gold one need only put up some eye catching wall-paper. My own opinion is that the juries should contain at least one knowledgeable jury-man for each country being shown, and even more important that he/she should be on the panel deciding the country he knows; and not as happened in Madrid being allocated to another section. I refer to Ernie Kehr who has a great knowledge of Egypt not being on the Egypt panel, he of all people would know what an epicurian philetelic dish Abdallah Mishrick and John Firebrace had displayed.

In june Rudy Jeidel visited London. John Firebrace, Ken Brown and I met him and had a most interesting talk. I had planned to go to Paris for the International "Arphila '75" but was unable due to an Airways strike. John Firebrace, however, attended and has given a brief report which appears in this number Quarterly Circular.

I re-visited Madrid in July and stayed with Cor. Hooghuis for two marvellous days. He really has one of the very good collections of Egypt but unfortunately does not have the time to write up anything on it. J am not really surprised as he also has at least two other collections better than his Egypt.

We now have a new Secretary/Treasurer, Dennis Clarke. Ken Brown had very generously agreed to stay on until the Circle had recovered from the deaths of two of our most distinguised members. We all owe a great debt to Ken for the unselfish and dedicated manner in which he carried out his duties, and I for one much regret his having to relinquish this

office. Ken has now handed everything over to Denis, including the portion of the Circle Record that he was holding.

I am going to Cairo in October and hope to bring back a record of the material held in the Philatelic Museum there. I will also bring back copy photographs of anything I can find useful for our Chapters from the records of the Society there.

I have tentatively broached the subject of the appointment of a Deputy Chairman, and also of an Assistant Editor. In the circumstances this is becoming imperative, and I will pursue this at a future meeting. I will also be asking members to increase the annual subscription. This last does not need much explanation, as we are all aware of the increasing costs. Members may be assured, however, that I shall only ask for the bare minimum and after consultation with members at meeting.

One last word, if writing to the Editor, Secretary/Treasurer, Keeper of the Record or myself, and an answer is required it would be much appreciated if a stamped addressed envelope be included.

### MEMBERSHIP

As we go to press, we learn of the following additional new members, to whom we give a welcome:-

ESC No. 202 John F. Cousins

60 Clifford Avenue TAUNTON Somerset.

203 Paul J. Kornan

2 Collins Street MELBOURNE 3000 Australia.

QC VIII September 1975

REPORT of the 159th Meeting of the Egypt Study Circle, held at 'The Peacock' Maiden Lane, London W2, on the 2nd August 1975.

Our Chairman presided, and the following members were present:-

G.D. Turton, P. Andrews, G.P. Green, J.A. Grimmer, D.H. Clarke, C.E.H. Defriez, D. Grover, J. Sears.

The Chairman welcomed a new member, Mrs. O.M. Blick, and who was accompanied by her husband as a guest.

It was reported that all the membership records and cash had now been handed over to the new Secretary. The present level of the subscription was discussed briefly and it was decided to go further into this matter at the next meeting.

The main subject of the October meeting will be the 1953 Bar Overprints - the Definitive Issues, to be led by W.C. Andrews (ESC No. 132), whereas the December meeting will be left open for general discussion. Possible subjects were then requested for 1976.

The Secretary was requested to book (and pay for) the present meeting room for the next twelve months. The Keeper of the Record had nothing to report at this stage.

The Chairman told the meeting that pressure of work was leading him to the conclusion that a Deputy Chairman might have to be appointed and this matter will have to be discussed at the next meeting.

David Grover then led the meeting in a study of the Control Markings of the Second Farouk Issue 1944-1952.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to David for a most interesting and detailed talk and hoped that the subject matter would be discussed at a further meeting, when David had had time to correlate answers to certain questions raised at this exploratory display.

The meeting closed at 5.45 p.m..

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#### INFORMATION FROM MEMBERS

Kenneth Pierce (Duarte, California) - ESC. No. 167 - gives us some more information regarding dates of usage for the numeral cancellations of the <u>FRENCH POST OFFICE IN ALEXANDRIA</u>.

'The following are the currently recorded earliest and latest dates of usage.....:-

'3704' earliest March 7, 1857 Reported in 'Documents Philateliques - Paris' No. 3 January 1960 by Raymond Salles, owner unknown.

'3704' latest July 31, 1862 Collection Kenneth Pierce.

'5080' earliest September 1, 1862 "

'5080' latest March 14, 1876 Collection Jean Boulad d'Humieres.

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#### MEMBERSHIP

We welcome the following new member:-

ESC No. 201 Mrs. O. M. Blick 15 Queens Park South Drive

BOURNEMOUTH.

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The following resignations have been received:-

ESC No. 190 G. C. Tonna. 185 J. Forder.

100

The following changes of address are noted:-

ESC No. 162	Takehito Aizawa	1 - 5 - 14 Hanazono Chiba-City Chiba JAPAN.
169	I. Holly	14 Rue de Reims Paris 13, FRANCE.

#### "ARPHILA 75"

These few words record the visit of Rudi Jeidel to London on his way to Paris and the rather rushed and wet hours that Ken Brown and I enjoyed in his company, with our Chairman.

This was an enjoyable curtain raiser to the splendours of Paris and the gracious Palais de Glace which fought a losing battle with long hours of strong sunlight.

The renowned collections of Emile Antonini, Hudi Jeidel and Giorgio Khouzam received much attention from the many visitors and amongst these frames Rudi Jeidel, who was accompanied in Paris by his charming wife, and I had interesting discussions with Jean Boulad d'Humieres.

It was sad not to see the collection of Lars Alund which we had anticipated studying and not to have had the company of our Chairman on the first days; also a disappointment not to have met Emile Antonini and Dr. A. Winter who were believed to be attending later in the week.

Egypt was well represented by these three fine collections, which were backed up by two others of a more minor and specialist nature in other parts of this great International Exposition.

John Firebrace.

BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT POSTAL SERVICE 1932 - 1940

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John E. O. Hobbs (ESC No. 151) compiler of "Fostal Service of the British Forces in Egypt 1932-1940" (1970) has begun a series of articles, titled as above, in Postal History International (Proud-Bailcy and Co. Ltd..) The first instalment appeared in the March 1975 number.

Members are asked to let me know of any other articles on Egypt and the Sudan which they have seen published.

#### ROOK BEAIEM

Postage Stamps of the Great Bitter Lake Association by Captain Bryan Hill - 196 pages illustrated, produced by Picton Publishing, Chippenham, Wiltshire. Price £6.

This style  $9\frac{3}{4} \ge 7\frac{1}{4}$  with linen-paper-backed cover is evidently Picton's new format. We like it. No doubt many die hards will say it's the wrong shape. Nevertheless we would be pleased to have a shelf full of books as neatly and attractively produced as this andits predecessor ('The Whales Tale').

It seems that in June 1967, consequent upon the Egypt/ Israeli Six Day War, the Suez Canal was closed and fourteen ships of various nationalities were marconed in the Great Bitter Lake. As we understand it, they are still there excepting some that have been sunk or towed away for salvage.

In their enforced idleness, the men on board decided to design and produce for their amusement, 'stamps', which were placed on their mail for subsequent forwarding through a post office whose official stamps of course also had to be attached. They are a form of souvenir label and have nothing to do with philately as we understand it; they do not even appear to rank as 'local' issues. The author states that a cover bearing one of these labels sold in a Swedish auction for the equivalent of £80. We can only suppose that it was being offered on behalf of some particularly deserving charity.

This book provides a permanent record of an episode that was obviously important to the men who lived through it and they are fortunate in having it so painstakingly prepared by the author and so attractively printed by Picton.

The above review appeared in 'The Philatelist' August 1975, page 334, and is reproduced here by kind permission of the publishers of that magazine, Messrs. Robson Lowe Ltd. London SW1, and also of Peter Collins the writer of the review. We feel this should be recorded for posterity for the charming manner in which it places this book in proper perspective!

Editor.

EGYPTIAN POSTAL SPATIONERY

OVERPRINTED FOR USE IN THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUDAN

## 1897 - 1907

by Charles F. Hass ESC No. 81

As far as I am able to determine, there has never been published a study of the provisionally overprinted SOUDAN postal stationery of Egypt for use in the former country during and after its recapture by the Anglo-Egyptian Expeditionary Force. Much information has been published regarding the provisionally overprinted postage stamps of 1897, with respect to the basic six types of overprints employed to produce the issue, and the four different settings in which they have been found.

While the period of usage of the SOUDAN stamps was limited to a prescribed time, and they were replaced by specially printed pictorial issues (the regular issue replaced in 1898 by the famous 'camel postman' issue; the postage due stamps in 1901 by the 'gunboat Zafir' issue) this does not seem to be the case with the various issues of provisional postal stationery. They were employed over a much more lengthy period of time, andhave been seen postally used as late as 1916, long after regular Sudan 'camel postman' stationery had been issued.

Various catalogs devoted to postal stationery have included listings of the provisional SOUDAN stationery, the Higgins and Gage World Fostal Stationery Catalog being the latest among them. Higgins and Gage have listed all of the known basic issues, but they have not gone into any detail in their book, other than noting the date of issue for each respective piece. Gisburn and Thompson, in their Stamps and Posts of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan (1947) did list to some degree the types of overprint (corresponding to those of the six types found on the stamps themselves) that they had seen on the various items of stationery, but these listings were, in my opinion, incomplete and not wholly accurate.

Actually, the study of the overprints on the SOUDAN stationery has been a much neglected subject, probably due to the unpopularity of postal stationery as a collecting forte in the past. With the increase of interest in the postal stationery field over the past few years, it would seem that the moment has arrived for an accurate listing of the issues in question. To this end, with the kind co-operation of Frof. Peter 7.S. Smith, I have begun a detailed study of all of the provisional overprints on stationery. My purposes are two-fold: to analyse, photograph, and record each of the various types to be found, and to determine through the study of date-stamps on used pieces the actual dates of issue

and usage of each respective type. I am of the opinion that some of the types seen belong to printings of a later date than those corresponding to the original six types seen on the provisionally printed postage stamps. It would seem that, given the length of the period of usage of the postal stationery, additional printings must have been required during that time. A careful analysis of all available material, and the much needed co-operation of all our fellow philatelists, will most certainly provide us with the answers to our questions.

The following sheets contain all of the information that I have been able to glean from my examination of my own limited collection of the provisional SOUDAN stationery, as well as the examination of Dr. Smith's pieces. Each type of overprint has been exactly reproduced in its normal size and as a twice-size enlargement. I have given detailed descriptions of each type, comparing it to the other types to which it may seem to correspond. I might add that my findings are not merely based on linear measurements and comparison by observation; I have produced exact size negatives and positives of all of the various types, and I have arrived at my final observations through careful superimposition of one type upon another. There may be other types in existence, but they are not known to me. It is hoped that, if they do exist, this study will serve to turn them up.

Following the listings of the various overprint types, I have detailed the known emissions of Postal Cards, Envelopes, Official Postal Cards, Wrappers and Letter Sheets, using the current Higgins and Gage numbers and prefixes, as an aid to easy reference. I have followed each particular issue with an index of the respective types of overprints that I have seen overprinted on it. This is by no means meant to be a final listing, and your cooperation will be most welcome in confirming or adding to it. I have refrained from placing here dates of usage of the examples that I have seen, as much more material must be examined before an accurate record can be made. In some cases I do not have examples of a particular piece of stationery, so I do not know what type of overprint it may bear. It is hoped that this information will be available from some of you who read this preliminary report. Lastly, I have placed the date of issue (as previously recorded in Higgins and Gage and other reference works) following each respective piece. I am sure that we will be able to zero in on the dates that any additional printings were produced and issued, and hopefully we will be able to add these at a later date.

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I would ask that anyone having any examples of SOUDAN overprinted stationery record the Higgins and Gage number, the type of overprint, and the date of usage (if applicable), and send the list to me. Only through a general cooperation among philatelists in the Egypt-Sudan area can we arrive at concrete conclusions necessary for the production of an accurate reference work on the subject of the provisionally overprinted SOUDAN postal stationery.

The Provisional 'SOUDAN' Overprints - A description of the various types and how to indentify them.

Nomenclature of the Arabic letters, reading from right to left:

Lam Alif Nun Alif Sin Wow Dal 00 S L D N A A

The original SIX types used in the production of the Provisional Postage and Postage Due stamps (I thru VI), and the SEVEN ADDITIONAL types I have seen:

TYPE I



TYPE II

السودان

SOUDAN

TYPE III

TYPE IV

المودان

SOUDAN

الودان

SOUDAN

السودان SOUDAN

السودان

SOUDAN

لمودان

Arabic measures 10.1 mm. Alif and lam are even at top (they are uneven in all other types but Type C). Dot of nun centers exactly over 'SO' of SOUDAN. Note: This type of overprint has not yet been seen by me on any pie e of stationery, but may exist.

Arabic measures 10.4 mm. Wow and letters that precede it are dropped in relation to dal and letters that follow (they are relatively even in all other types). Dot of nun centers over right-hand adge of 'S' of SOUDAN.

All exemples of Type II seen on Note: stationery show an obvious nick in the upper part of the right hand stroke of the 'U' of SOUDLN, as illustrated, with the exception of that on the envelope Cat. No.B4 of which I have seen only unclear strike.

Arabic measures 10.2 mm. Alif is dropped below level of lam. Dot of nun centers over 'SO' of SOUDAN. Note: See also Type III-1

Arabic measures 10 mm. Sin is much shorter in length than on any other type, resulting in a larger space between alif and lam. Dot of nun is centered over 'SO' of SOUDAN. Note: See also Type IV-1

TYPE V

السودان السودان SOUDAN

TYPE VI السودان السودان SOUDAN SOUDAR

TYPE III-1



TYPE IV-1

المودان الودان SOUDAN SOUDAN

Arabic measures 10.2 mm., and is shifted to left in relation to French, causing the nun to extend further beyond the 'S' than in any other type. Dot of nun is often diminished in size, and is centered nearly over the center of 'S' of SOUDAN. First alif is dropped lower than in Type III, and is often a tit fatter. Inside of the rounded base of the nun is often flat in appearance.

Arabic measures 10.4 mm. Base of wow is broken or completely missing. Dot of nun centered over right hand edge of 'S' of SOUDAN.

Note: This type of overprint has not yet been seen by me on any piece of stationery, but may exist.

Exactly as Type III, but showing ragged and broken letters, except in the case of heavy inking. Dot of nun is indented at bottom. Sin is much wavier in appearance than on any other type.

Exactly as Type IV, but regged and uneven with distorted letters. (May be hand applied to piece).

CYPE A

السودان السودال SOUDAN SOUDAN

TYPE A-1

SOUDAN SOUDAN

Arabic measures 10.6 mm. Arabic and French are farther apart than in any of the original six types. Dot of nun centers over right hand edge of 'S' of SOUDAN.

As Type A, but letters are thinner and more uneven. 'A' of SOUDAN is short at top. Lower extension of wow is normally less substantial than in Type A, and is sharp and pointed. Whereas Type A is normally deeply impressed into the paper, Type A-1 shows less of an impression, and was probably printed on a different press.

TYPE A-2 As Type A, but again more thinly printed. Letters are sharp and unbroken, but left التودان hand upstroke of nun is flattened, perhaps السودان as a result of damage to the cliche. SOUDAN SOUDAN The widest overprint of all, the Arabic TYPE B measuring 11 mm. The dot of nun centers exactly over the 'S' of SOUDAN. The السودان neatest and most cleanly printed overprint السودان found on the postal stationery. SOUDAN SOUDAN TYPE C Arabic measures 10.7 mm. The left hand upstroke of nun is broken off and السو دان الودان missing. SOUDAN

As previously stated, there may be other types of overprint in existence on the various pieces of postal stationery. It is highly possible that Types 1 and VI were also used, and your cooperation may serve to unearth examples bearing these two unrecorded types.

SOUDAN

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QC VIII September 1975.

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PAELIMINARY LIST of Egyptian Postal Stationery Provisionally Overprinted 'SOUDAN' in French and Arabic. (Numbers and prefixes from Higgins and Gage)

POSTAL CARDS 3 milliemes maroon (1897) 1. Type II a b Type IV c Type A Type C d 5 milliemes carmine (1897) 2. Type II а 2 × ( 5 milliemes + 5 milliemes carmine (reply card) (1897) 3. a Type III-1 33 b Type IV-1 c Type A-1 4 milliemes on 5 milliemes carmine (1899) 4. a Type II b Type A • c Type C 5. 4 milliemes + 4 milliemes on 5mills. + 5 mills. (reply card) (1899)a Type A-1 b Type C 2 milliemes on 3 milliemes marcon (1907) 6. a Type A 7. 4 milliemes on 5 milliemes carmine (1907 ?) a Type II 

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Note: Gisburn and Thompson list also the 3 mills. + 3 mills. Egyptian reply card of 1894 with the Soudan overprint; Higgins and Gage do not list it, and I have not yet seen a copy. I would be most grateful for the opportunity to examine any examples that may be available.

ENVELOPES (B)

B1. 1 millieme brown (1897) a Type A-2 B2. 2 milliemes green (1897) a B3. 5 milliemes carmine (1897) a Type IV Type V b B4. 1 piastre blue (1897) a Type II b Type IV c Type A d Type B QC VIII September 1975.

OFFICIAL POSTAL CAMDS (D)

3 milliemes marcon, O.S.G.S. overprint 13 mm. long (1906) Dl. а

D2. 3 milliemes marcon, O.S.G.S. overprint 16 mm. long (1906) а

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS (E)

El. 1 millieme brown (1898)

Type C S

E2. 2 milliemes green (1898)

a Type A b Type A-1

LETTER SHEETS OR ENVELOPE LETTERS (G) Gl. 5 milliemes carmine (1897) Type II a Type IV b G2. l piastre grey-blue grey (1897) a Type IV b Type B G3. 1 piastre grey-blue grey (1897) Arabic inscription shortened. a Type IV

Please check any examples that you may have of this material in order to see if the types of overprint they bear jibe with the information in this list. Any additions will be greatly appreciated.

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#### EARLY LEPTERS AND CAROS FROM WORLD WAR I

by

#### John Firebrace (ESC No. 71)

Since 1882, there had been an Army of Occupation in Egypt and there was a small British Force in Egypt when World War I broke out in August 1914.

The regular troops there were in the main required for the Western Front and these troops had to be replaced by less experienced forces. Almost all troops from Austrelia, India and New Zealand, whether for the Middle East or Western Front passed through the Suez Canal.

Operational requirements in both France and Egypt determined when and how exchanges could be made and troops best deployed, including those from Britain for the defence of Egypt and for the Gallipoli and Macedonia Campaigns. Egypt had to face the Turkish attack on the Suez Canal in February 1915 with whatever forces were at the disposal of the General Officer Commanding British Troops in Egypt.

The British Field Post Office datestamps and the triangular censor marks were not brought into general use before April 1915 and thereafter were initially scarce in distribution. The subject of these notes is an indication of some of the types of soldier's covers and cards that can be found from late 1914 and in 1915 without the use of F.P.O. datestamps and handstruck censormarks. The list is indicative and by no means exhaustive and shows examples of nine types of covers or cards; there are doubtless many others to be found.

The types are listed in chronological order and each is prefaced by the date, by the civil circular date stamp of origin, with its diameter. Cairo has so far produced 10 different datestamps and Alexandria 9, while one or more examples are known from another 17 places.

Further examples in member's collections are required for recording, especially those giving identifiable particulars of individual soldiers and their units, either by means of photostat prints or in the form of the examples which follow.

Censor Label 2 XII 14 Cairo F 24.5 mm. 5 milliemes postage paid to England Military Police crest on envelope flap Resealed by label OPENED BY/CENSOR/225 57 x 93 mm.

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1.

2. 'On Active Service. No stamps available'. Manuscript endorsement.

16 III 15 Port Said D 24 mm. Postcard Postage Free to England Written by a soldier in the Australian Imperial Forces artillery

23 V 15 Port Said 27 mm. Postcard postage free to Scotland Written from S.S. Nizam, Transport A.5

26 V 15 Ibrahimia, Ramleh 26 mm. Letter postage free to Australia

3. Censored in Manuscript.

1 IV 15 Qabbari 25.5 mm. Letter postage free to England Endorsed in blue crayon 'Passed Censor G.H.H.'

4. Regimental identification.

21 VI 15 Cairo B 24 mm. Letter postage free 'On Active Service' to England

Ruled out as a 'Soldiers Letter' as from the campaigns in the nineties Signed 'I.G. Mart' (?) Lieut. O.C. No. 9 Coy. A.O.C. Cairo. 22 VI 15 Cairo K 24 mm. Letter postage free to England Endorsed 'W. R. Boddington' (?) 2nd Lt. 1st/2nd Co. of London Yeo.

5. Field Service Post Card.

4 VII 15 Alexandria D 27 mm. F.S.P.C. A.F.A. 2042 printed 5/15 by W. and Co.Ltd. postage free to England

16 IX 15 Alexandria Douarc 29.5 mm. F.S.P.C. A.F.A. 2042 printed 3/15 by S. & S. postage free Via Alexandria 1 16 SE 15 (to England

6. Privilege Envelope.

7 VIII 15 Bulkeley 25.5 mm. ON ACTIVE SERVICE A.F. W3078 Honour certificate on reverse Via Alexandria E<sup>\*</sup> 7.8.915 postage free to Australia

4 DE 15 Pyramids 26 mm. ON ACTIVE SERVICE A.F. W3078 Honour certificate at left Nottingham 17 DE 15 13 days in transit

7. Military Cachets.

11 X 15 Hilwan 25 mm. 'Australian and New Zealand Convalescent Hospital' cachet: oval 42 x 56 mm. struck in violet. Illustrated in "The Postage Stamps of New Zealand" Volume III page 354 Letter postage free 'On Active Service' to England

15 XII 15 Cairo 24.5 mm. 'Main Supply Depot. M.E.F.' cachet: rectangular 32 x 46 mm. with chamfered corners, struck in violet Letter postage free 'On His Majesty's Service' within Cairo

8. FREE Boxed Cachet.

21 IX 15 Maadi 25 mm. FREE in capitals within rectangular box 14 x 28 mm., struck in violet Letter postage free to England

9. Comforts Acknowledgement Card.

28 XII 15 Ceiro M 24 mm.

Post-card addressed: 'Comforts for Troops Fund' Nottingham reverse blank except for this heading Manuscript message includes 'I am very glad I got your present. I thank you all for it. (Signed) Private Jacques S.N.H.' The South Nottinghamshire Hussars were then at Mena Camp after having fought in Gallipoli

Card also bears 'Military Recreation, FREE, E. cachet, struck in red and signed 'J.L. Hay' on dotted line, illustrated in Quarterly Circular 86, June 1973, page 15.

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