

EGYPT STUDY CIRCLE.

THE QUARTERLY CIRCULAR.

VOL. IV. No.4. ( Whole Series No. 40 ) July, 1953.

C O N T E N T S.

Dr. Gordon Ward, F.R.P.S.L.; R.D.P.....	Page 49.
Changes of Address and New Members.....	49.
71st meeting of the Circle.....	50.
The Express Services & Stamps. By Capt. Lionel Phillips....	50 - 52.
The Posts of Great Britain in Egypt, by Brigadier C. D. Rawson, O.B.E.; D.S.O..	53 - 56.
Postal Markings Assorted. By Gordon Ward, M.D.....	57 - 60.
A Problem by Gordon Ward, M.D. ....	60.

T H E Q U A R T E R L Y C I R C U L A R .

Published by The Egypt Study Circle.

Chairman - Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E., c/o Lloyds Bank, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, C.I.

Deputy Chairman - J. H. E. Gilbert, 28, Stone Park Avenue, Beckenham, Kent.

Keeper of the Philatelic Record - A. S. Mackenzie-Low, "Dorset House",  
Hastings Road, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex.

Secretary-Treasurer & Editor of "The Quarterly Circular" -  
F. S. Mumford, 174, Buxton Road, Stockport, Cheshire.

---

Vol. IV. No. 4. Page 49. July, 1953. Whole Series, No. 40.

---

Dr. GORDON WARD, F.R.P.S.L.; R.D.P..

It is with very real pleasure that we offer our warmest congratulations to Dr. Gordon Ward upon his election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists this year. His interest in modern issues, in particular, is well known to all members of the Circle as, indeed, it is wherever there is an interest in philately and it is, therefore, most pleasing that his work, extending over so many years, has now been recognised by this high award.

This election brings the total number of Circle members, past and present, who have received this high honour to seven - Dr. W. Byam, O.B.E.; Ibrahim Chaftar; H. R. Holmes; A. S. Mackenzie-Low; P. L. Pemberton; J. K. Sidebottom; and Dr. Gordon Ward.

---

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

- 12. Col. Richard Stead, Old Meadows, Albert Drive, Degawby, N.Wales.
- 54. Brigadier C. D. Rawson, C.B.E.; D.S.O., Bentley Wood Cottage,  
West Winterslow, Nr. Salisbury, Wilts.
- 80. D. H. Humphriss, Datcha, Hookwood, Nr. Horley, Surrey.
- 81. Captain Lionel Phillips, 63, Ellesmere Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

NEW MEMBERS.

- 82. Socrate Th. Saoulli, P.O.B. 70, Nicosia, Cyprus.
  - 83. G. T. Hochstein, 230 Collins Street, (Room 206) Melbourne, C.I., Australia.
-

THE POSTS OF GREAT BRITAIN IN EGYPT.

by Brig. C.D.Rawson, C.B.E.; D.S.O.

A series of covers and fronts from the stock of Messrs. P.L.Pemberton have recently come into the possession of several members of the Circle.

I present a tabulated statement showing details of these from August 1873 to which others dated prior to these have been added, and it is interesting to follow the sequence through the years 1869 to 1878.

There are one or two curious anomalies difficult to explain which occurred at the time of the change in postal rates under the Universal Postal Union in July 1875 and any suggestions as to the reason for these would be welcome.

The letters in every case but one emanated from the Branch Office of the Bank of Egypt in Alexandria and were sent to the Head Office of that Bank in London. It will be seen that shortly after the inauguration of the U.P.U. in August 1875 the postal clerk correctly applied a 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d stamp to the letter, but on the next three posts of which we have letters, he made it 6d. Then two months afterwards he went back to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d but added a 30c French stamp. It would be interesting to know how much he put on for other posts during these two months. It can be assumed that the postal clerk was a reliable official. After this variant, he continued quite correctly with 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d stamps until 7 November 1876 when he put on 5d (probably a double letter), but why did he put on 8<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d on 25 March 1877? Was there some misunderstanding at the time of the inauguration of the U.P.U., or was there some local amendment to the U.P.U. regulations during the months October 1875 to January 1876? Alternatively was it only because the Bank had run out of British stamps? So far as is known in the Circle this is the only cover known of combined British and French postage emanating from Egypt. There are several covers known from British possessions franked by British stamps, which passed through the French P.O. in Alexandria and on which French stamps were added for accountancy purposes.

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
	Date of posting.	INSTRUCTIONS. Route.	Ship.	Rate of postage.	Adhesive stamps applied.	Plate No.	Code letter.	Type of Obliterator.	Date of Arrival.	Time in transit.	Cachets applied.	Remarks.		
1.	29.6.1869.	Marseilles.	By French steamer.	6d	-	8	Nil	1	7	7	-	To Liverpool.		
2.	23.4.1870	Marseilles	Postali Inglesi	6d	-	8	Nil	1	?	?	-	-		
3	17.12.1870	Brindisi	-	1/-	1/- green	4	Nil	1	26	12	Brindisi route in Autumn 1870.	Reason for extra 2d not known		
4	14.1.1871	Brindisi	-	1/2	6d. 2d blue	9/13	Nil	1	23	9	At end of Jan. 71 rates via both Marseilles & Brindisi fixed at 8d per 1/4 oz.			
5	25.2.1871	Brindisi	-	8d	4d	12	Nil	1	4	7				
6	13.5.1871	Brindisi	-	8d	4d	12	Nil	3	20	7		To Liverpool.		
7	8.12.1871	Brindisi	-	6d	-	9	Nil	3	18	7	Insufficiently prepaid			
8	18.2.1872	?	-	8d	4d	12	Nil	3	26	8	More to pay			
9	15.10.1872	?	-	8d	4d	12	A	3	?	?				
10	1.7.1873	Brindisi	-	8d	4d	12	Nil	4	9	8	Posted after closing.	All covers from here onwards emanate from the same source.		
11	31.8.1873	Brindisi	-	8d	4d	13	A	4	?	?		Viz. The Bank of Egypt and are addressed to The Court of Directors, Bank of Egypt, London. with the exception of No. 36.		
12	11.1.1874	Brindisi	-	8d	4d	13	Nil	3	19	8				
13	18.8.1874	Long sea	-	8d	4d	13	A	4	31	13				
14	7.2.1875	Long sea	-	8d	4d	13	B	3	?	?				
15	23.2.1875	Marseilles	By French steamer	8d	4d	14	A	4	2	7				

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
16	16.3.1875	Marseilles	-	8d	-	4d	-	14	A	4	?	?		
17	20.4.1875	Marseilles	-	8d	-	4d	-	14	A	3	27	7 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
18	23.5.1875	Long sea	-	8d	-	4d	-	14	A	3	?	?		
19	15.7.1875	Long sea	-	8d	-	4d	-	14	A	3	26	7 <sup>11</sup> / <sub>5</sub>	Posted after closing	
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION JULY 1875.														
20	10.8.1875	Marseilles	By French packet	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	14/1	A	4	18	7 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
21	15.8.1875	Long sea	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	1	B	3	?	?		
22	12.10.1875		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	6d	-	-	14	A	3	19	10 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
23	17.10.1875		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	1	B	3	25	7 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
24	26.10.1875	Marseilles	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	6d	-	-	14	A	3	2	11 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
25	2.11.1875	Marseilles	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	6d	-	-	14	A	4	11	7 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
26	16.11.1875	Marseilles	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	6d	-	-	14	A	3	24	7 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
27	21.1.1876	Marseilles	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	30	0	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	2	A	3	?	?		French 30c stamp applied
28	30.1.1876		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	1	Nil	3	?	?		
29	20.2.1876		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	3	Nil	3	?	?		
30	19.3.1876		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	2	Nil	3	25	7 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
31	23.4.1876		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	2	Nil	3	29	7 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
32	7.5.1876		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	2	Nil	3	13	7 <sup>6</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
33	17.7.1876		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	3	Nil	3	24	7 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
34	15.10.1876		-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	4	A	3	23	7 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		
35	7.11.1876	Marseilles	By French packet	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	-	-	2 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> d	5	Nil	3	11	7 <sup>8</sup> / <sub>5</sub>		5d applied.

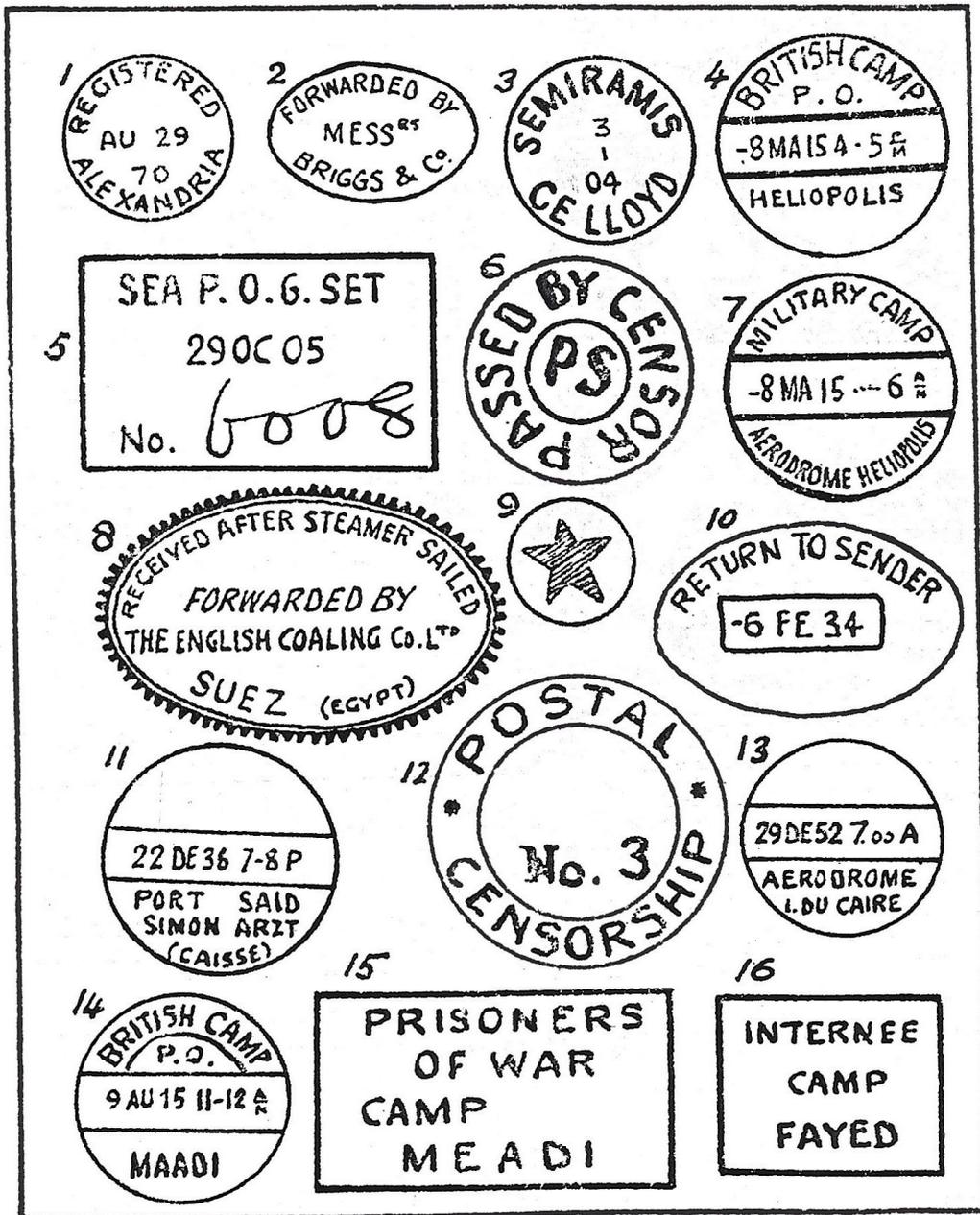
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
36	3.12.1876	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5	Nil	3	0	12		
			By French packet								76	6		
37	5.12.1876	Marseilles	By French packet	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	5	Nil	3	12	76	7	
38	19.12.1876	Marseilles	By French packet	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	4	Nil	3	27	76	8	
39	25.3.1877	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6d	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	15/5	A	3	31	77	6	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d applied.
40	7.8.1877	Marseilles	By French packet	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	6	Nil	3	14	77	7	
41	25.9.1877	Marseilles	By French packet	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	7	Nil	3	2	77	7	
42	14.10.1877	Brindisi	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	7	Nil	3	22	77	8	
43	6.1.1878	Brindisi	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	7	Nil	3	12	78	6	
44	29.1.1878	Marseilles	By French packet	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	-	-	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d	7	Nil	4	?	?	?	
1 APRIL 1878. BRITISH POST OFFICES AT ALEXANDRIA AND SUEZ CLOSED.														
45	2.6.1878	Brindisi	-	1 PT.	-	-	1 PT.	-	-	-	10	78	8	
46	12.5.1878	Brindisi	-	1 PT.	-	-	1 PT.	-	-	-	17	78	5	

THE POSTS OF GREAT BRITAIN IN EGYPT.

Brig. Rawson's revised "Earliest and Latest Dates of the Postal Markings" will appear in the next issue of the "Q.C."

POSTAL MARKINGS ASSORTED.

Gordon Ward, M.D.



Odd postmarks which I have acquired from time to time appear illustrated herewith but it must be understood that these illustrations are no more than diagrams. I have often left out serifs, or made my circles either too small or too large. Moreover, I cannot teach myself to draw an oval. Many of these marks have been shown to our Study Circle but I trust that some other readers may also find them novel enough to be of interest.

1. This appears in red upon a cover directed from Alexandria to London via Marseilles. It arrived in London on 29.8.70. There seems to have been a stamp, in the bottom left corner, cancelled with one of BO1 stamps, but the remaining traces are very slight. There are no other postal markings except a manuscript "Recomandirt".
2. It was old Sam Briggs who founded the firm of Briggs & Co. and he carried India letters across Egypt. However the cover from which the illustration is taken seems to have originated in Alexandria on 8.4.1845. According to L'Orient Philatelique of July 1914, which contains an excellent article on the subject, this cachet is excessively rare, much more rare even than most of those of 'Waghorn'!
3. This obliterator is used on a postcard from Egypt to Switzerland. It is twice struck and the inscription seems to include "GE.LLOYD". A member of the Egyptian S.C. said that he remembered this boat, had travelled on it, and believed that it had been absorbed by one of the larger lines, but had never heard that it carried mail. The date is 3.1.04 and the card arrived as Basle two days later. No other example of this mark is known to the Circle.
4. Numbers 4 and 7 appear on the same cover together with the mark of the Egyptian P.O. at Heliopolis. The cover is addressed to himself by an eminent philatelist. It would be interesting to know what was happening at Heliopolis on this date. The Times History of the War ( 22 volumes ) has a picture of the camp but has nothing to say of any aerodrome there. Nor does the extensive index afford any clue.
5. I have this mark on two covers. One has Egyptian stamps and the other, dated 30.4.05, was from Belgium to India. There is nothing very remarkable about this mark except that it has usually escaped description by writers on the Suez-Bombay sea post.
6. This is on a cover from Mexico ( 7.5.15 ) to Port Said. It ties to the envelope a censorship label which itself covers the Port Said arrival mark and another censor mark "Passed by Censor No. 3" in a single line circle. The label is the highly decorative blue label often seen on covers of this period. The mark illustrated seems to have been peculiar to Port Said.
8. Various post offices and agents have used marks indicating that a letter addressed to a ship could not be delivered because the ship had sailed. In this case a private company seems to have undertaken the forwarding of the letter which did, after many adventures, reach the addressee after he had left his ship, in Australia. It may be noted that the letter is addressed "c/o S.S.Largs Bay, bound for Australia, Calling at Suez, Egypt." It may well be that the coaling wharf of this Company was the only spot at which the ship called. It is evident from the existence of a rubber stamp that forwarding of letters was a usual part of the Coaling Company's business. The letter had left England on 28.4.25 and in its attempt to catch the ship had visited Alexandria, Port Taufig and Port Said ( 7.5.25 ) as well as Suez.

9. This appears on a cover from Cairo ( 4.8.18 ) to Paris ( 5.9.18 ). The cover has been opened and censored. It seems to have originated with a French military unit but the mark is too faint to read more than the word "Armee". It was posted at an Egyptian office. Another five-pointed star mark appears on two letters addressed by a lady at Ibrahimia to a member of H.M. Forces. These are dated 20.5.18 and 17.7.18. The star is absent from three other covers from the same series. Further information may show that this is an Egyptian mark.
10. This is a Cairo mark struck in red on a cover dated 6.2.34 from Budapest to Cairo. The space below the centre contains an arabic inscription. There is also in black a boxed mark reading "Unclaimed/ arabic / Non Reclame". It is perhaps remarkable that although the letter reached Cairo on 26.12.34 it was not forwarded until 6.2.35 ( for 6.2.34 must be a mistake ). This was perhaps due to the rather casual address " Miss Evelyn Burford, English teacher, arrived 1933, Cairo ".
11. This is not the usually encountered postmark of the Simon Arzt store at Port Said. A search of the "Petit Larousse" dictionary was indicated by the word 'Caisse' . It was learnt that it was at first equivalent to the English 'case, meaning a box or container, but there were many secondary meanings. A "caisse d'epargne postale" was one of those quoted. On turning to "Epargne" it appeared that a caisse d'epargne was an "etablissement financier qui recoit de tres petites sommes de 1 fr. a 1,500 fr." None of this was very helpful but the general impression derived was that a "caisse" in the postal sense must be a counter in a post office. Letters handed over this counter would then receive a "caisse" postmark, whereas those posted in a letter box would receive a normal mark in the sorting department. The only example I possess of this mark is obviously philatelic and this again points to a special service for which one would have to go to a counter.
12. This is one of those early censor marks of which Mons. Gabriel Boulad wrote so well in L'Orient Philatelique of October, 1946. They were used only for about two weeks from 4 September, 1939. They were then changed for others which included arabic wording. The mark with "No.3." in the centre was not known to M. Boulad when he wrote but two copies have now been seen - one I sent him without recording the date and another dated 18.9.39 on a letter from Port Said to England.
13. This postmark has recently been replaced after being in use since the expulsion of Farouk on 26.7.52 or as soon thereafter as a die could be made. The inscription "Aerodrome I. du Caire " is said to be short for " Aerodrome Internationale du Caire ". My only copy of the replacement postmark reads "Aerodrome du Caire " and is dated 28.2.53. The postmark illustrated is not one that commonly reaches this country and is nearly always a back stamp.
14. This is one of the less usual British military camp postmarks.
15. This is on a cover dated 29.11.15 which has four other boxed postal markings reading (1) From prisoner of war (2) Free (3) Turkish, and (4) Passed by Censor. It is not however a philatelic cover, being sent by Cosma Papadopoulos to the Interpreter at the 16th Station Hospital at Lemnos and sent via Cairo and Alexandria to that destination.

16. Cachet of No. 19 "Italian Internee Camp" at Geneifa. I have only two examples of this, dated 20.8.40 and 14.9.41. They are written by different persons but both describe the location, on the flaps of their envelopes, as being at Geneifa. Other covers from this camp, dated 19.12.41, 26.12.41, 20.10.43 and 28.11.43, ( this alone admits that the camp was at Fued ) and 1.3.44 lack this mark. In the Philatelist for September, 1951. there is a note about these covers. A Mr. Leo. F. Goerth of Cincinatti has sorted some thousands of Middle East covers and reports that about 10% of the Internee covers bore this mark. A single cover only bore the handstamp " Italian Internee Camp / Ramses City / Embabeh ". A letter from Mr. Goerth says that he had only about 200 Italian internee covers altogether.

---

A PROBLEM. by Gordon Ward, M.D.

The war time postmark with the symbol " E.601 " was undoubtedly used at Cairo. I have covers dated as follows -

1939. October. 6 covers. November 9 covers. December. None.

1940. January. None. February. 2 covers. March. 7 covers. Later. 17 covers.

The problem is to explain why there are no Cairo covers in December, 1939 and January, 1940. Before answering it one ought to consider the distribution of E.602 ( Alexandria ) covers -

1939. October, 3 covers. November, 3 covers. December, 14 covers.

1940. January, 14 covers. February, 6 covers. March, 9 covers. Later 13 covers.

In both cases these 'Later' covers are well distributed in other months. It is only from December 1939 to February 1940 that something seems wrong. There are only 2 covers from Cairo, both in February. At the same time the Alexandria covers increase greatly, showing 34 covers from these same months. There would seem to be only one possible explanation, namely, that letters collected in Cairo during that period were sent off to Alexandria to be cancelled. But what was the cause ? That I do not know. Perhaps a lucky bomb destroyed the Cairo office.

Perhaps, on the other hand, Cairo was served out with an E.602 handstamp in error. There are two supposed Alexandria marks - B.P.O. E.602 and M.P.O. E.602. The latter is rare. I have one cover from Douglas McNeille to Brigadier Grylls. There is no doubt that McNeille whose location on the flap of his envelope is " Army Audit Office, Headquarters Brit. Troops, Egypt was stationed at Cairo. This cover is dated 3.2.40. Mr. Gilbert has a cover dated 20.1.40 and I possess (but cannot find at the moment) two covers dated 22.3.40 and 30.10.39. I know of no other covers with this M.P.O. E.602 mark.

It is surely very suspicious that these four covers are all within or very close to the period during which the proper Cairo E.602 is absent.

On the whole it seems wise to assume for the present that during December 1939, January and part of February 1940 Cairo was using the Alexandria number M.P.O. E.602.

---