THE THREE MILLIEMES ARMY POST STAMPS FOR USE BY THE BRITISH FORCES IN EGYPT — 1936 - 41

Purpose of Exhibit: This exhibit shows the various forms of these special holiday stamps (royal printings, control number blocks, and large multiples) and their use. Smith, Chaloub and others consider the royal printings proofs or pre-production material. They represent the earliest impressions made from the printing plates. Based on the exhibitior's research special items are identified with a 6 point maroon border. Especially noteworthy are the three solo use covers of the small Army Post stamps properly used (pages 10, 11 and 12) although combination and multiple uses are considered scarce.

Historical Background: On March 1, 1936, there was a change in the postal concession regulations between the Egyptian postal authorities and the Commander of the British Forces in Egypt. A new one-piastre Army Post stamp bearing King Fouad's portrait replaced letter stamps. As with the letter stamps they could only be used on letters posted in military mailboxes from members of the British forces to destinations in the United Kingdom and the Irish Free State. However, the destination regulations were relaxed when Commonwealth troops came to Egypt after the start of World War II.

On December 1, 1936, a three-millimes stamp in green was issued for use on Christmas and New Year's cards. These stamps were withdrawn from sale on February 15, 1937, and issued again in December 1937 through 1939 for the holiday mail season, each time being withdrawn the following February. These stamps remained on sale until February 1940 but continued to be used for the following December's Christmas mailings. A cover with the latest use of this stamp is on page 6.

On December 16, 1939, the small Army Post stamps with King Farouk's picture replaced the large Army Post Stamps. This was too late for the use of the three milliemes stamp on Christmas cards so the stamps were withdrawn from sale and released in October 1940. First day covers of this stamp do not exist but any other use on cover is scarce. Army Post stamps became invalid on 1 May 1941 when the postal concession was revised once more.

EXHIBIT PLAN:
1. Large Army Post stamps
   pages 2 - 4
2. Proper and improper uses
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3. Small Army Post stamps
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4. Solo use on cover
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5. Other uses on cover
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LARGE ARMY POST STAMP FIRST DAY COVER 1 DECEMBER 1936

SELECTED REFERENCES:
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LARGE ARMY POST STAMPS

Three Milliemes

Date of Issue: December 1, 1936
Printer: Photogravure, Survey Department, Cairo.
Perforation: 13½ x 14
Control Numbers: A/36
Quantity: 500,000 printed in sheets of 200 consisting of two panes of 100 each.

Note: These stamps were issued for franking Christmas and New Year's cards. The stamps were withdrawn from sale on February 15, 1937, and issued again in December 1937, and 1938 for the holiday mail season, each time being withdrawn the following February. They were last issued in October 1939, as the Small Army Stamps did not get released until December 16th, too late for use on holiday mail. The King Fouad stamps remained on sale until February 1940. The width of the control on Pane A is 9.5mm and the length of the stroke (') is 6.7mm while on Pane B the control width is 9.0mm and the length of the stroke is 6.5mm.

White Paper Pane A

Toned Paper Pane A

There is a constant flaw (a dot between the P and O of POST) on the second stamp of the bottom row.

No flaw Pane B
LARGE ARMY POST STAMPS — SPECIAL ROYAL PRINTINGS

Imperforate

One pane of 100 stamps of the 3 milliemes value was printed on unwatermarked, ungummed thicker paper or card stock for the Royal Collection. On the reverse of each sheet was diagonally printed CANCELLED. These are considered proofs as they came from the first impression of the plate.

Misplaced Perforations

The Government Survey Department also produced regular sheets on watermarked and gummed paper with misplaced or freakish perforations for the Royal Collection. These are also considered to be proofs. Two panes of 100 of the three milliemes were printed from the single plate.
LARGE ARMY POST STAMPS

Three Milliemes

Upper right block of 25
Improper use of the stamp as regulations stated that Army Post stamps were valid only on mail to Great Britain and Ireland. It is doubtful if these covers ever reached their destinations.
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LARGE ARMY POST STAMPS

M.P.O. ALEXANDRIA to SCOTLAND

18 DE 36

M.P.O. CAIRO to ENGLAND

12 DE 37

The three milliemes stamp was released again for holiday mailings at the beginning of December 1937.
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LARGE ARMY POST STAMPS

B.P.O. E 602 to ENGLAND

The three milliemes stamp was released again for holiday mailings in October 1939, as the small King Farouk stamps didn't become available until 16 December, too late for timely Christmas card mailings. They remained on sale until February 1940. The datestamp was used in Alexandria from 10 October 1939 to 19 September 1940.

F.P.O. 171 R.A.F. BASE HELIOPOLIS to ENGLAND

While the King Farouk 3 milliemes stamps went on sale in October 1940, some unit post offices still had some of the large Fuad stamps for sale. This cover is thought to be the latest known use of the 3 milliemes King Fuad stamp.
SMALL ARMY POST STAMPS
Three Milliemes

Date of Issue: December 16, 1939
Printer: Photogravure, Survey Department, Cairo
Perforation: 13½ x 13½
Control Numbers: A39, A40 A39
Note: Printed in sheets of 400 consisting of four panes of 100.¹
Quantity unknown.

¹Around 1937/38 new printing presses were installed making it possible to print the small definitive stamps in four panes of 100 stamps each. The plates were made from two transfers from the multipositive of two panes; therefore only two control types may be detected for each value. Pane A has perforations extending through the bottom margin while Pane B has the perforations extending through the right margin.
Printed by the Government Survey Department on thicker, unwatermarked and ungummed paper for the Royal Collection. On the reverse of each sheet was diagonally printed CANCELLED. One pane from each plate was printed making for a total of 200 copies of the 3 milliemes. These first impressions from the printing plate are considered to be proofs.

The Government Survey Department also produced regular sheets with misplaced or freakish perforations for the Royal Collection. Two panes of 100 of each plate were so made for a total of 400 copies of the 3 milliemes.
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SMALL ARMY POST STAMPS

Three Milliemes

Upper right corner and lower right corner blocks from Pane A, control A/40 A/39

There is a minor constant variety on position #47, a small blob next to the lower right margin.
The three millimes small Army Post stamp, issued December 16, 1939, was too late to be used by the troops for the timely sending of Christmas and New Year cards. The stamps were withdrawn and reissued in October 1940. Members of the Egypt Study Circle have recorded thirty covers bearing a single three millimes stamp for the unsealed Christmas card rate. Two of philatelic origin (from one philatelist to another) are postmarked 16 JA 40 and addressed to England. The remaining 28 have postmarks from 23 October to 24 December 1940. The latter cover, postmarked 24 DE 40, is a sealed envelope from one chaplain at Field Post Office 170 (R.A.F. Base at Helldopolis) to another at Canal Base & Lines of Communications, both within Egypt. The destinations of the 27 covers properly used during the correct October/early December 1940 period are as follows: Northern Ireland, 2; Scotland, 2; New Zealand, 6; England, 6; Australia, 7, and India, 4. Note that the postal concession rate for holiday surface mail was suspended between 6 and 9 December and letters and cards were carried free.

The D.M. 1. Postmark was assigned to Division Headquarters of the 6th Australian Imperial Forces when it was moved to Ikingi Maryut, Egypt in September 1940. The datestamp was lost during the 1941 Cretan campaign.
Endorsed "Card Only/In English" this is one of four recorded covers to India with the solo 3 milliemes small Army Post stamp, and one of the two covers posted at Field Post Office 171 (Royal Air Force base at Heliopolis). The backstamp reads 10 DEC. 40/11:45 A.M. The cover bears the circular DEPUTY CHIEF FIELD CENSOR and the Indian triangular PASSED BY CENSOR handstamps.
At this time the New Zealand Field Post Office No. 1 was located at Camp Maadi and surface letters were sent from Port Tewfik on the Red Sea. This is one of six covers sent to New Zealand with the solo use of the three milliemes Farouk stamp.
There were no regulations against using the 3 milliemes Army Post stamp for other authorized postal purposes. Due to a shortage of 1 millieme coins the stamps were sold in multiples of five so there were extra to go around and not to be wasted. The cover below shows the legitimate use of the three milliemes stamp along with two of the ten milliemes to make up 23 milliemes of the 40 milliemes airmail concession postal rate. The rest of the rate is comprised of various young King Farouk stamps totaling 17 milliemes. F.P.O. 171 was located at the Royal Air Force base at Helipolis.
The airmail rate to Hong Kong was 75 milliemes consisting of 10 milliemes basic concession letter rate plus a 65 milliemes surcharge. The three milliemes small Army Post stamp is used in combination with a 2 milliemes “Boy King” Egyptian stamp and seven 10 milliemes Army Post stamps. This piece bears \textit{PASSED CENSOR/4} in a triangle, a Hong Kong censor marking. F.P.O. 190 was assigned to the General Head Quarters in Cairo.
A block of ten and three pairs of the 3 millimes small Army Post stamps overpays the 40 millimes airmail rate. This extraordinary franking may be a record franking for this stamp. The second stamp from the left on the top row is position #47 showing a small blob next to the lower right margin.