

MIDDLE EAST FORCE'S XMAS CARD.

The design of the Christmas card the Middle East Force will send all over the world was completed in an office tent by the flickering light of a hurricane lamp.

The artist was Lieut Edward George Ayling, R.A.S.C, who received movement orders a few minutes after he began his first rough sketch. He worked far into the night to finish it and won a competition open to all ranks of the M.E.F.

The winning design shows a typical London skyline in silhouette - the dome of St. Paul's, Westminster Bridge, the Houses of Parliament and Nelson's Column - side by side with one of Cairo's English Bridge, minarets and mosques. It carries the cross-words emblem of the British Army above the legend, "Greetings from H.M. Middle East Forces."

Printed in red and black it will appear on 1,250,000 Christmas cards sold to troops at five for twopence), on 250,000 air letter cards (for Empire destinations only) and on 1,000,000 airgraphs.

Lt. Ayling is a commercial artist in civil life. His wife lives at 3 Sterry-drive, Ewell, Surrey, with their three-year-old son. He is an old boy of Battersea Grammar School and served in the R.A.C. before being commissioned in the R.A.S.C. as a camouflage instructor and lecturer.

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