

Tel El Behi  
Egypt 21-7-16

Dear May

I received your P.C. all some three days ago and I can tell you I was very pleased to get it after all May. Letters and papers are the only thing we have to look forward to out here. I have had some great times here since I returned from England. We have been on the move pretty well all the time up to about a fortnight ago, then since when we or rather the Brigade have been resting. I have not seen Tom for since last March so I can't tell you anything about him the beggar never writes although he said he would when I last saw him. I expect by the time you get this you will have heard that I am not with the Mtd Brigade now. They have started a Camel Corps here now it is going to be a huge affair eventually. Well May I was fortunate enough to get my Commission a week or so ago goodness only knows we waited long enough for it.



and I am now what you might call a Staff Leath  
 Burns is in the Coy with me and is keeping in the penk  
 there are quite a number of Boys from the district around  
 about this Camp including Alfie, the Sague and Jimmy Wilson  
 from Beaconsfield. How is Conscriptio going to affect  
 the Boys from the village or rather the Colver  
 it is time something hurred them up. I believe our George  
 has been trying for a Commission it is hard to imagine  
 him leading a charge unless it was retreating. I would like  
 fine to get back home for a while now but I am  
 afraid it won't be for a while so I specks I will just  
 have to go on with the game things seem to be moving on  
 the Western front now so who knows I might be amongst  
 the First Footers next Christmas yet anyway we will live in  
 hope. I don't think we will be here long we are only here  
 organizing as soon as we get shook down I think we  
 will proceed to Abbassia the look out for the Camels instead  
 marching to John Peel we will be doubling along to  
 the strains of the Camels are coming.



Well May it is very hard to concoct a letter here as  
we are unable to give any information Re our movements or  
chambers but still a few lines will let you know how we  
are getting on. I have written quite a lot of letters this  
month as I got so far behind in my correspondence while  
we were taking around so I am trying to catch up  
Harold is still with the 1st Buzell and keeping very well.  
Give my Best Regards to all at Home and tell Aggie  
and Effie to write a line occasionally.

I remain

Yours Sincerely  
Alice.

My future Address will be  
Lieut A. J. Black  
New Zealand Company  
Imperial Camel Corps  
Egypt



Palestine

23-8-17

Dear May

I received your most welcome  
epistle of June 28<sup>th</sup> and was awfully pleased to  
hear from you letters as you might guess are  
the only things we have to look forward to  
out in the wilderness.

Things have altered very little here  
since last I wrote we are still toiling about  
in the sand doing our best to carry  
aboard by throwing odds and ends in his  
direction.

The papers that he have taken the  
names of the first batch for ex Z furlough  
I have put in my application but don't  
know whether I will be lucky or not  
but as we say out here chaleesh.

We have just had three days wind  
with a couple of sand storms thrown  
in so you can guess how much I am  
in love with Egypt at the present time

I had a letter from Roland Gamille  
a few days ago he is getting on well but  
tells me he has not had the luck to  
run into any of the Parora Boys yet.



(2)

you were saying your father had had a letter from George McKague. George ought to find scope enough for his curiosity in France. I was very sorry to hear about Donald Frazer being badly wounded but still I suppose in this war business one must expect to get hurt.

Leslie Kimes is still going strong and like the rest of us hoping he is one of the chosen on this leave stunt I am afraid there will be some disappointed soldiers when the numbers go up as we can't all go.

Now that I am afraid I will have to conclude this Epistle as inspirations in the news line are about off. Bob Mellar Harold Caldwell + Harold Thre all keeping well likewise yours truly

Give my kindest Regards

to all your folk.

I Remain

your Sincere Friend  
Alice Black

P.S. I'll offer I will apply to be sent to the hospital where she is nursing when I return to reconferate at B.

W.S.



Miss Watson

Otupua

South Canterbury

New Zealand





Elanishi

4-2-17

Dear Elly

I received your last letter all serene written in Sept. and needless to say was awfully pleased to hear from you.

I am sorry I have not been able to answer it before but we have been so unsettled this last two or three months I really have not had time. It is rather an interesting spot where we are camped at present on the Border of the Philistine Country, close to the River of E-gypt within a mile or two of where its waters floweth into the sea.

This River would not lead a stranger to suppose that it had water in it very often in fact from what I am able to learn it only floweth whilst

(2)

it raineth.

Ere this you will have read an account of our Pilgrimage into the Land of the Israelites the time we journeyed into Bafa.

The Turks did not seem overpleased to see us yet there was no lack of warmth in their reception.

We have been having a few days rest lately so to break the monotony we got up some Camel Sports they were one long scream from the word go. The Programme was made up of Trats Gallops Bareback wrestling and Rescue Race.

A Football Team from the 8<sup>th</sup> M R came up and played our Boys yesterday the game resulted in a draw 3 all. Bob Whillan Harry Caswell and Harold were amongst the Barrackers for the 8<sup>th</sup>



(3)

and I am pleased to be able to report them all in the pink.

I think Leslie Purvis and Joe Elbahoney are the only two in this outfit that you will be likely to know they are keeping very fit also Leslie is a full blown Sergt. now.

Glancing through a list of the names in the first and second ballot my eyes alight on a few well known names I am afraid it must have hurt the dignity of some of the youths of the village to have to come away as common ~~Privates~~ Privates.

However after a few months in the army I am inclined to think that they will come to the conclusion they are not so much better than anyone else. Of as good anyway a try out will tell.

According to the papers lately there is great peace pow-wow taking place



I don't know what the outcome will be  
it won't be a case of what Germany  
wants to do though, it will be a case  
of what she ~~will~~ have to do.

Now that I am afraid I will have to  
tick this pencil and lose up a news  
is about off.

kindest Regards to all at Home  
I Remain

yours Sincerely  
J. Black

P.S. I owe Effie a letter  
so will write a few lines to her later on.  
Cherish  
also