

WONDERS OF EGYPT.

THE LAND OF THE PHARAOHS.

NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER'S IMPRESSIONS.

Private W. J. Henry, of the New Zealand Medical Corps, writing from Cairo to Mr. G. F. Henry, of Symonds Street, gives an exceedingly interesting account of some of the wonders of Egypt. He says: —

“Something of what Robert Hitchens so felicitously describes as ‘the spell of Egypt’ fell over me as our troopship neared Suez, for I had been musing on the departed glory of Egypt, and of my chance of penetrating the world-famous Pyramids, and of trying also, as hundreds of thousands before me have tried, to fathom some of the inscrutable mystery of the Sphinx, whose creator, Hitchens says, ‘conceived eternity and then expressed it in stone.’

“Of the town of Suez we saw little from the boat, but after picking up a pilot and engineer gang, we passed into the canal, skirting which for a distance is a fine street — broad, tree-planted and having fine, comfortable, even stately buildings. A number of Indian troops and Royal Engineers were guarding the canal. We arrived next morning at Port Said, where we saw the coal gangs at work. Here I at last understood why coaling is reputed to be done more expeditiously in Port Said than in any other port in the world. The spectacle of these gangs of brown, ill-nourished half-naked, sweating unfortunates at work, tyrannised over by brutal overseers who drive them up and down the planks from collier to steamer, and from steamer to collier, viewed through a hanging veil of coal dust, together with the angry vociferations of drivers and driven, constituted to my mind a veritable inferno. These coalers scrambled like animals for broken meat tossed over the side into the coal; even regarding as a prize a piece of bread that had fallen into and been recovered from the water.

“Guarding the Port Said end of the Canal is a fine bronze of De Lesseps, the engineer of the Canal. We did not remain here long, but pushed on to Alexandria, where we came ashore, and entrained for Cairo. Here at the Zeitun camp we are allowed a great amount of liberty, considering the work we are on. I am on hospital duty in the ‘receiving hospital,’ where we take most general cases for a few days. If a patient does well, we may nurse him till cured; if not, we send him into town to a military hospital. Though we have as yet only tents to work in, we have already received 200 cases. We take nothing infectious here, but everything else, ranging from dysentery to appendicitis.

“I have already seen many of the great sights of this place; but Luxor and Karnak are, I fear, impossible at present, being some distance up the Nile. The Pyramids and Sphinx at Ghizeh I saw on my first trip, and from a distance saw the Pyramids at Memphis, about eight miles distant from Ghizeh. They are built of blocks of stone from five feet by four feet, by ten feet to three feet, by four feet by four feet. I entered the great Pyramid which contains two chambers, one above the other, for the king and queen. This Pyramid, Cheops, is 430 feet high and square. Formerly all were covered with alabaster, but one of the Caliphs stripped them to make a mosque. He left, however, a small cap on the lesser one, to show how they were fixed. Behind Cheops is the Sphinx cut out of the bed rock, with human head on lion's body. The features are well carved, and show well, in some lights, the roundness and facial expression. The nose and lips were knocked about a bit when Napoleon was here. Nearby is the Temple of the Sphinx, which was formerly quite silted over. The whole roof has been lifted off, evidently by someone who wanted to get inside. The floor is of alabaster, and the columns are of granite five feet in the floor and from fifteen to twenty feet high by two feet square — in one piece. Here quite a number of mummies were found. Next we came to a well-like place — sides built in, and one broken through, revealing two chambers in the wall, one above the other. Here the mummies of two princesses were found, and removed, but one

sarcophagus was left in place. We saw tombs in the rocks with carved columns and figures on the walls, and some quite good carvings of the arts and of processions — teams of bullocks, dancing girls, musicians, etc., as well as figures of persons buried there. Nearby there are the ruins of some old houses said to be those of the Romans of the time of their occupation. I searched around and found one bead and a number of more or less perfect human bones. We next entered the Pyramid, and found first a descent, then an ascent — the upper chamber being the king's and the lower the queen's. The king's sarcophagus is left, all else has been removed. The chambers are lined, as far as we could see, either with marble or alabaster. The other Pyramids, five, have all been entered, and visitors can now go into two, I think.

“On another day I went into the Gezira Gardens. They are known for their beautiful grotto and Mosaic pavements. There is a fine zoo here with a most affectionate hippo, and several large lions, tigers, cheetahs and giraffes. The chameleon are about the rummiest things on four legs that I have seen up to date. On another day I went to the Egyptian Museum where a few of the spoils of Egypt are stored. Mummies and mummy cases, of course, predominated; and there were in the jewel room some fine pieces of enamel, considering age. The Arabic Museum next received my notice. Here were some wonderful things also; though, of course, five hundred years is not in it with four thousand years. I saw an octagonal cornelian dish, about 24 inches across by four inches deep, cut out of one piece of stone. It was valued at £1,000, while a group of lampshades of old glass and enamel were priced at £1,500 apiece. The gem was a smaller one, and although somewhat damaged, was much older, and said to be absolutely priceless.

“The Khedival Library contains a collection of very beautiful old Korans dating back to 725 A.D. Some are reminiscent of our old illuminated manuscript Bibles — gold leaf and blazonment still fresh and harmonious in colour and design. The binding on these is very fine, and the blocking on the covers could hardly be excelled. Some marbling on end papers and covers that I saw surprised me very much as I thought it was more modern. There were also some fine inlaid weapons — swords, scimitars, and guns, as well as some very beautiful (we were assured) old pottery and tiles.

“The citadel is a fine pile of buildings, enclosed by a huge wall built on a spur of the Mokattam Hills, overlooking and commanding Cairo. In its centre is the Mosque of Mehemet Ali, the man who made so much history here. This mosque is very beautiful, its walls being of alabaster and courtyard of white marble. Inside is hown [hewn?] the sarcophagus or tomb of Mehemet Ali. It was originally lighted by five huge candelabra; but though the candelabra remain, electricity is now used. These candelabra we saw with the setting sun falling on them through stained-glass windows, and they were beautifully iridescent. The colouring inside is very artistic, the sense of harmony and proportion being well nigh perfect. From the mosque rise two graceful and slender minarets. We were shown the court the Mamelukes were slaughtered in; and their tombs are shown not far distant. From the walls are to be seen the two mosques that Napoleon shelled, the broken stones in the walls are still unrepaired, and in one place the cannon-ball still rests in the hole it made. Behind the Citadel is Napoleon's old fort, and near it the ruins of an old mosque. I went into both these and also visited another mosque during prayer time, and observed the ceremony; but there was no definite service on. The atmosphere of the place was deeply religious, and reminded me of a Roman Catholic Church. But I was not allowed long to watch it, for beggars and attendants soon demanded back-sheesh, so I climbed the minaret, and got a splendid view of the locality.

“A few days ago we were marched out past an obelisk near here. It is a column of brown granite, about thirty or forty feet high; and although they say it is the oldest monument in Egypt, the hieroglyphics above, about ten feet from the base, are well preserved. Each face is carved with the same figures, but two of them are reversed. About the ground line the column has suffered considerably by wind erosion, for the surface of the stone and figure are quite

worn off. Near here is shown the tree under which Mary and Joseph rested during their flight into Egypt; this being on the site of the ancient Heliopolis which must have been a very considerable place, for it is said to have extended three miles from the centre each way. Now there is nothing to be seen of it at all. A suburb of Cairo, Matariyeh, served by a quick rail service from Cairo, six miles distant, has sprung up to take its place. Continuing our march we were taken along the banks of a navigable canal, through a large farming district, and here is a pumping station lifting water into the canal system which irrigates the country for miles. Frequently are seen quaint water wheels worked by horses, cows, bullocks, or camels, while in other places the water is raised by hand.

“We are all proud of the way New Zealand has worked for the Belgian Fund and are grateful for the assistance being given to the Sick and Wounded Fund.

Dominion. 24 June 1915 [16/07/2016]

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE OVERSEAS

The members of the Wellington Division met at the Star Boating Shed on Monday, when a general practice in “first-aid” work and stretcher drill was held under the supervision of Mr. J. P. Hislop, superintendent of the division. The attendance was good and several new members were enrolled. The secretary, Mr. A. O. Richardson, read a letter received from Mr. W. J. Henry, a member who is serving with the Ambulance Section of the Main Expeditionary Force, in which he stated that all the men in charge of squads in his section were all St. John Ambulance Brigade men, with the exception of one, which speaks well for the training they received.

New Zealand Herald. 21 July 1915 [16/07/2016]

BATTLEFIELD SCENES.

LIVES SOLD DEARLY.

OVER 1700 TURKISH DEAD.

Writing from the Dardanelles under date May 28, Private W. J. Henry, of the Medical Corps, says: — “There has not been any heavy engagement lately, though, of course, casualties come in at any time, as the fighting continues uninterruptedly. We had an armistice a few days ago, for the enemy had been tremendously punished during an attempted charge. One of our officers says he counted 1700 dead in the area of an acre before our trenches, and that was not all.

“When our chaps went over the ground to bury our own killed, they found one or two incidents worth telling. Two men were found dead, and one was clinging on to the back of the other - they were chums. Perhaps both were wounded, and the one was trying to crawl with the other on his back, when the machine-guns got them. A New Zealander was found with a Turk transfixed by his bayonet, while four New Zealanders — I was told this by a padre who saw it — they were surrounded by 23 dead Turks.

“The New Zealand boys, as well as the Australians, are good enough soldiers for me. The Gurkhas’ reputation has not suffered, either. Some of them went out one night to find two snipers, but could not get them; but found a machine-gun. Next night they went out for two machine-guns and returned with six. The weather is very pleasant, and, as the organisation for sending up stores and water is very good, no one suffers. Even in the trenches the food is hot. The wounded are able to be seen to at once and operated upon on the beach within half-an-hour of injury.”

Star. 27 July 1915 [16/07/2016]

HONOURS EARNED.

D.C.M. FOR NEW ZEALANDERS.

AMBULANCE MAN AND ENGINEERS DECORATED.

[Per Press Association.]

AUCKLAND. July 26.

A letter has been received by Mr G. F. Henry, of Auckland, from the Minister for Defence, advising him of the receipt of a cablegram from Sir Alex. Godley, stating that the King has conferred the Distinguished Conduct Medal upon Private W. J. Henry. Private Henry is the elder son of Mr G. F. Henry, and is a member of the Field Ambulance. He was born in Timaru and educated in Christchurch, where he learned the printing trade. Private Henry came to Auckland about eight years ago, and it was here that he qualified in ambulance duties. Recently he returned to Wellington, where he was employed as a jobbing compositor in the Government Printing Office. He joined the Main Expeditionary Force in Wellington. Private Henry is twenty-eight years of age.

New Zealand Herald. 31 July 1915 [16/07/2016]

WARFARE IN TURKEY.

TURKS AS FIGHTING MEN.

INSPIRATION OF “KULTUR.”

SOME FIRESIDE DELUSIONS.

The conditions under which the campaign against the Turks is being conducted are discussed by Private W. J. Henry, D.C., New Zealand Medical Corps in a letter written from the Gallipoli Peninsula on June 11: —

“As you read my description of the canal fight you will have realised the sense of security given by a 30ft wall,” Private Henry writes. “We saw no real warfare where we were; it was all at a little distance from us, though there were samples of it at other places. But here, at the

Dardanelles, we have the real thing, and it has caused me to reconstruct some of my ideas. First of all, I will tell you the calibre of our enemy: he seems entirely different from what I had thought him. I had pictured him as a puny fighter—ill-trained, badly-equipped in munitions of war, treacherous, and without resource. He appears now a hard, straight hitter, numerous and persistent, well-equipped with machine-guns, fairly honourable and resourceful. Instances of treachery may have happened in the western theatre, such as using machine-guns on stretchers, white flags covering armed men, and burying arms and ammunition in places meant for the dead. This last they tried to do after having asked for an armistice for burying. Of course it took with it the natural penalty - our men had seen every move.

Instances of Chivalry.

“But these tricks look too much like inspiration. Our “cultured” foes have tried long ago every subterfuge of that nature; so these attempts lack even the virtue of originality. But though they fire on the Red Cross, we are not without instances of their having decently tended our wounded who came into their hands, and were retaken where they fell by us on the following night. Their wounds had been dressed, and they were covered with blankets; and so our chaps express their intention of regarding the red crescent and their wounded as far as is possible.

“Then again, this ‘rabbit-warren’ trench warfare. I believed before the war that it would be at a distance that engagements would be fought; but here we have trenches sometimes 50yds, sometimes even as close as 10yds or 15yds apart, and with this comes the revival of hand grenades.

“The next delusion was the ‘fearful hardships’ to be endured. In the type of action as waged here everything possible in reason, for our comfort, is done. We frequently have fresh meat, and now we are getting fresh bread, the first being given to us yesterday, whilst new boots and clothes are supplied as required. It certainly is an eye-opener in the matter of organisation. Of course for the first few days, and until the machine could work, things were pretty rough. Water has to be brought here, as there are no springs or natural sources of supply, so tank steamers are sent to meet the necessity. Even parcel and paper mails reach us all right; but you can have no idea how short we are of magazine and other reading matter.

Stoicism of the Wounded.

“The final delusion to be dispelled was ‘Cries of the wounded.’ The Turks sometimes squeal when hit, but I have not heard one chap here more than faintly groan, and then he did not want anyone to know it. Of course, this excludes cases of delirium following a serious hit. Always their thoughts seem to be for their mates and the stretcher-bearers; that their mates may not think or know them to be badly hurt, and for the others that they cannot take cover in the open, and that they must be pretty heavy on the stretcher. They are wonderfully game. Of course practically all work is done by night, especially if the open has to be encountered, in moving troops, stores, or the like.

“Several fellows have told me that my name was mentioned in despatches for one or two things done here; but of this I, so far, know nothing, as not one of the officers has said a word.”

Evening Post. 2 August 1915 [16/07/2016]

The following resolution was passed with acclamation by the Typographical Union on Saturday: — “That this union congratulates Mr. W. J. Henry on his being awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal for his services in the Red Cross Brigade of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, as mentioned in despatches, and that a copy of the resolution be forwarded to him.” Mr. Henry is a member of the union.

New Zealand Herald. 11 August 1915 [16/07/2016]

A tribute to the work of Private W. J. Henry, Field Ambulance, of Auckland, who was recently awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal, is contained in a letter received in Auckland yesterday from another Red Cross worker. The letter was written from the headquarters of the New Zealand force on June 24, and contains the following remarks: — “Private W. J. Henry has been doing splendid work, and all the boys swear by him. During the first few days’ fighting he risked his life time after time attending to the wounded. One infantryman told me that if ever a man deserved a V.C. Henry did. He is very modest, and does not say much, but I know he has been mentioned in despatches.”

New Zealand Herald. 8 September 1915 [16/07/2016]

DEEDS OF VALOUR.

NEW ZEALAND HONOURS.

ZEAL AND BRAVERY.

GABA TEPE AND QUINN’S POST.

A list of 11 non-commissioned officers and men of the New Zealand Expeditionary Force to whom the Distinguished Conduct Medal had been awarded was received by the Minister for Defense about the end of July. Particulars of the acts of gallantry performed by each of those men have been received by Press Association cable from London. The list is as follows: —

Field Ambulance.

Private W. J. Henry; next of kin: G. F. Henry, 23, Symonds Street. On April 25, at Gaba Tepe, Private Henry attended the wounded under the heaviest fire, allowing no danger to interfere with his duties.

Auckland Star. 8 September 1915 [16/07/2016]

Lance-Corporal W. J. Henry, of the New Zealand Field Ambulance, who was mentioned in yesterday’s cables as having been awarded the D.C.M. for having attended the wounded under the heaviest fire, is a son of Mr. G. F. Henry, of Symonds Street. Auckland. In a letter

referring to the work which earned him the distinction, Lance-Corporal Henry says that before landing he was given charge of a section of 'bearers.' He continues: "In the first few days, when events crowded one another, I managed, with the backing of my 'bearers,' to do one or two things which brought me, with others, under the notice of the officers. There was no running into danger about it, for no one was out of danger."

Evening Post. 10 September 1915 [16/07/2016]

L.-Cpl. W. J. Henry, New Zealand Field Ambulance, who has been awarded the D.C.M. for attending wounded under heavy fire, makes modest reference to his work in a letter to his father, Mr. G. F. Henry, Symonds-street, Auckland. Before landing, he was given charge of a section of bearers. "In the first few days, when events crowded one another," he writes, "I managed, with the backing of my bearers, to do one or two things which brought me, with others, under the notice of the officers. There was no running into danger about it, for no one was out of danger."

Otago Daily Times. 27 October 1915 [16/07/2016]

Private W. J. Henry, New Zealand Field Ambulance: "For conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on April 26 at Gaba Tepe. During and subsequent to the landing Private Henry attended on the wounded under a very heavy fire, allowing no danger to interfere with his duties. He invariably showed the greatest courage and presence of mind."

New Zealand Herald. 30 December 1915 [16/07/2016]

Ashburton Guardian. 6 January 1916 [16/07/2016]

GALLIPOLI LANDSCAPES.

APPEARANCE OF COUNTRY.

SOLDIER'S INTERESTING DESCRIPTION.

Writing from Lemnos, where he was resting on October 26, Corporal W. J. Henry, D.C.M., of Auckland, gives a very interesting description of that part of the Dardanelles that has just been evacuated by the New Zealanders and Australians. He says: —

"At Cape Helles the whole of the front above the water-line is faced by cliffs 100 ft to 300 ft high, broken by occasional gullies, the back being flat or rolling land dotted with farms, vineyards, and almond and olive groves, although the greater area has been under crop—wheat or oats. Of the productivity of the soil I could not judge, but might guess medium second-class. There is an abundance of water, wells being in all directions. Sloping land extends right up to the base of Achi Baba, but there are no fences anywhere, the fields being merely divided by a ditch. The pastoral ground had evidently lain fallow during the past year, for the fields bore only weeds with a few straws of self-sown grain — I saw a few fair heads of oats with about 3ft 6in straw - daisies, poppies, irises, and the like gay-coloured flowers which, when we first landed, gave the country an aspect of great beauty.

“Altogether different is the country behind Anzac on the foothills of Sari Bahr - Hill 971, so named from its height — and there the flanking spurs run down to the beach. Where we landed the sand extends only to about spring high tides, then immediately steep broken ground rises several hundred feet to an irregular plateau, cut in all directions by ridges and gullies. These latter would be in winter creek beds, with a foot or two of water. Tortuous, steep, rugged, the sides covered with a straggling scrubby growth, it makes ideal country to defend, but fearful stuff to attack. Once in a mile or two a bit of flat hill-side is encountered, and this has been put under cultivation, enough to plant, perhaps, three dozen olive or almond trees.

“Just north of Anzac is a belt of flat land 100 yds to 300 yds broad, from beach to hills. This was for a long time no good to us, as it could be swept by the enemy’s guns, of which the principal ones were nicknamed ‘Beachy Bill,’ ‘Tuckertime Liz’ and ‘Anafarta Annie.’ Still further north at Suvla Bay, there is a flat gully, perhaps a mile broad, running from a big stretch of flat right up under the village of Anafarta towards Sari Bahr, and it was up this gully that the advance of August 4 was pushed. This land appeared to be burnt, but it may have been under cultivation, though I think not. Here are a few miles of arable country dotted with farmhouses; but the tenants were not in evidence.

“The weather for the six months that we have been here has been very dry, luckily so for us, as the appearance of the gully beds suggests torrential rains in winter, causing frequent landslips along the courses of the steep gullies. We could see by the minarets that there were mosques in the villages, but these were sedulously avoided by our gunners.

“On these islands where we are now resting, and where the population is Greek, the scenes are most tranquil. Little villages dot broad valleys, whilst quiet-going old mills are a feature of the landscape. The land seems to be of poor to fair quality; but here again the crops are off, and the ground is burnt and bare. The vine and olive are cultivated, and grain is grown for home consumption. What we may buy here at Lemnos is somewhat limited in variety, though less so in price, tinned butter (Dutch) going as high as 8s per lb, with Italian half that amount, plain biscuits 2s per lb, and eggs 2s per dozen.”

New Zealand Herald. 1 July 1919 [16/07/2016]

MEN ON TRANSPORTS.

NEW ZEALAND NAVAL OFFICERS.

The following are naval passengers on the Ruahine, which is due at Wellington on July 6: — Edward Dean, skipper, R.N.R., Waikino; L. J. Walker, engineer, sub-lieutenant, R.N.R., Poverty Bay ; W. J. Jennings, chief officer, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Thames; Chas. V. Scrivener, Auckland ; H. T. Forrest and wife, Auckland.

Quartermaster-Sergeant W. J. Henry, D.C.M., N.Z.M.C., who is returning on the troopship Ruahine, was one of the first of the men of the Main Body to be mentioned in despatches after the landing on Anzac Day. His Distinguished Conduct Medal was awarded “for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on April 25, 1915, at Gaba Tepe. During, and subsequent to the landing, Private Henry attended on the wounded under a very heavy fire, allowing no danger to interfere with his duties. He invariably showed the greatest courage and presence of mind.” That he found his scout training very useful was apparent from a letter received some time ago by Mr. Horace Stubbing, scoutmaster, of Northcote. Sergeant

Henry escaped wounds, but contracted typhoid at the beginning of 1918. His brother, Corporal E. S. Henry, died of wounds received last October at Bapaume.

Auckland Star. 7 July 1919 [16/07/2016]

CONSPICUOUS BRAVERY.

Q.M. SERGEANT W. J. HENRY.

Among those returning by the troopship Ruahine, due at Wellington this evening, is Quartermaster-Sergeant W. J. Henry, D.C.M., N.Z.M.C., who received his decoration "for conspicuous bravery and devotion to duty on the 25th April, 1915, at Gaba Tepe, Dardanelles. During and subsequent to landing Private Henry attended on the wounded under a very heavy fire, allowing no danger to interfere with his duties. He invariably showed the greatest courage and presence of mind." After his name had been mentioned in dispatches he still worked conscientiously among the wounded, as the following incident will show: Many wounded men had been received who would have had to spend the night without covering, as nearly all the overcoats had gone with patients. He volunteered to take a squad to a depot he had seen for blankets. It was a dark night, though the sky was clear, and they had to avoid several lines of trenches and barbed wire. Steering by the stars he found the depot, got the blankets, and returned to the station without mishap. Sergeant Henry was invalided to England about twelve months ago with typhoid, but his brother (Corporal E. S. Henry) died of wounds received in France shortly before the armistice was signed.

Waikato Times. 1 June 1928 (Papers Past) [12/08/2024]

THE "MOOSETTE" FEEDER.

It is recognised by the extensive use that farmers throughout South Auckland make of Moose Nuts that they have no superior as a milk stimulator and an aid to milk production. What is desired to stress upon these users and all farmers is the efficient service that is rendered by the "Moosette" Feeder. This is an ingenious device which has been invented by Mr **W. J. Henry**, of Mercer. It operates automatically and ensures a regularity of rationing which supplies the little extra that enhances the butterfat return. It is, in other words, the stepping stone to increased prosperity for the dairy farmer. Many hundreds of users of the "Moosette" Feeder acknowledge the fact that it saves time and trouble in feeding the cows in the bails. This feeder serves a double bail in a run through shed, while it has the added advantage of discovering the good feeder as well as the good milker. The operation of the "Moosette" feeder is simple. All that is required is to pull a trigger and down comes an accurately measured feed. By it, the deleterious results that accrue from haphazard feeding are eliminated and, further, the farmer is permitted to ration his cows regularly and uniformly. This is a factor of more importance than appears at first sight. As the price of the "Moosette" Feeder is only £1 2s 6d, this is an infinitesimal outlay set alongside the benefits it extends its users. See the "Moosette" feeder at the stand of the New Zealand Cattlecake and Oil Co., in the Root Section. The New Zealand Cattlecake and Oil Co. are sole agents for this most effective feeder.