

12. III. 15

TURF CLUB,
CAIRO.

My dear Pat,

The sending of a card at Imas was a very small matter compared with your letter, written so long ago as the 4th Jan: its receipt was an unspeakable pleasure to me. The delay in acknowledgment arose from my absence from Cairo. I've been doing a bit of campaigning - a very modest bit you will say when you hear all about it. Despairing of getting a job at the front, I attempted to secure one with the Flying Corps here, as an Observer, and failed on acc of my ignorance

of Arabic - (are you surprised to hear that my
French, which was also a condition, was accepted
without question?). Then, hearing of the contemplated
formation of a Camel Corps, I tried in another
application, and was at once taken on. We were
ordered to join within 24 hours, and off I went,
mobilised at a place called Abu Suer, 1400
Camels, 800 Arabs, with an Indian A.S. Regt of
Imperial Service Troops as escort. It was an
Alwar Regt, the most moderate unit I ever
struck. Here my Hindustani came in useful,
resulting in my appointment as Provost Marshal
Interpreter and General Utility man. We never
came under actual fire - were at Refishe, not
far from the scene of the fight, on morning of
3rd. The poor show of the Turks convinced

the Govt that the maintenance of the Corps at its full strength was unnecessary, so it is reduced to 500 Camels and a small personnel which does not justify my inclusion. We finally found ourselves at Ismailia, whence I returned here on Monday. In the meantime the Committee had determined that it is not in the interests of the Club to retain an Asst Sec, and pay him for doing nothing, consequently the present holder is given y^e order of y^e Govt. The Secretaryship of a Club at Alexandria is becoming vacant and my application for that went in. There were legions of local applicants which were reduced to three of whom I was one, but the Committee of that Club, I learnt yesterday, have decided to defer the final selection, pending

Results of adverts, in the "Times" and other English papers; not being over-keen to stay in Egypt I shall not await further developments. Also I can, if I feel inclined, take over a job as Censor here, at the end of this month, but it does not appeal to me, so I've determined to return to England and take my chance of getting some sort of job with the Army there. It is the only thing in which my heart is. Probably I shall leave here on or about the 5th April, by a Pilsby boat, and my address will henceforth be the "Junior Army & Navy Club, Whitehall".

You will have had eno' of me and my affairs so to other matters.

In the papers which arrived by yesterday's mail

TURF CLUB,
CAIRO.

is to be read Giblet's gazette as Major, Shaver
as Lt Col, and Tilgai re-taken on from the
super-numerary list. I am wondering if he has
re-joined: the last letter I had from him was
written from Russia: he was serving with the
Russian Army, and very pleased with every thing.
Welch, the Vet of Pindi days was in the Club on
Wednesday, going thro' from the Sudan to Alexandria,
he told me Giblet is engaged to be married, to
a lady of the same name. I have not seen it
in any paper, I owe him a letter too, and
must write today. All the dear lads are
so good in writing to me. Their letters are

to welcome, and so looked for.

I am so glad you are having such valuable and I take it, enjoyable experience on the Staff.

How I long for meetings with you all, to hear from your lips, the things that you have done and seen. I pray you may never have such terrible times as the retreat furnished; it seems to me a pity that you are not all with the Regiment, which is certainly the most desirable thing in life. Clem, & Lilly Whiblet are very sick because they are detained in England. What a pity it is that dear old Marcisse had to go home: it was good to see his name in despatches. How splendidly all Tenths have done. I've not heard a word of or from Brock, and wonder how he is getting on. Ino Vaughan

is a C.B.: Bungo a K.C.M.G., and Hans a
Major Gen - all for good service in the field:
each will, I'm sure, be accorded further honours
before everything is finished. They are a duo
impossible to beat.

As you say, it is dreadful to reflect upon the
terrible loss we've sustained - Pic, Willie, Rosie,
Rabbit, Jouseyes, Bob Drake - search the world o'er
and you will not find more gallant soldiers,
more lovable friends: always I am very sad when
I think of them. The Regiment will never be the
same again. Luckily we have some very good
boys coming on, by all accounts; they will
no doubt live up to the old traditions and
prove as good as their predecessors, but to
an old "has-been" like me, that knowledge

is poor comfort for the loss of the dear, kind
Comrades of so many years.

Be sure Pat that my thoughts are ever with you,
that my constant wish is, that you may come
out of this terrible war safely: almost I am
reduced to hoping that the Cavalry may not
again be exposed to danger - but not quite -
I want the Regiment to earn every glory
which the war can field. How I wish I were
with it.

Much love to you, dear Pat.

Yours ever

Pelise