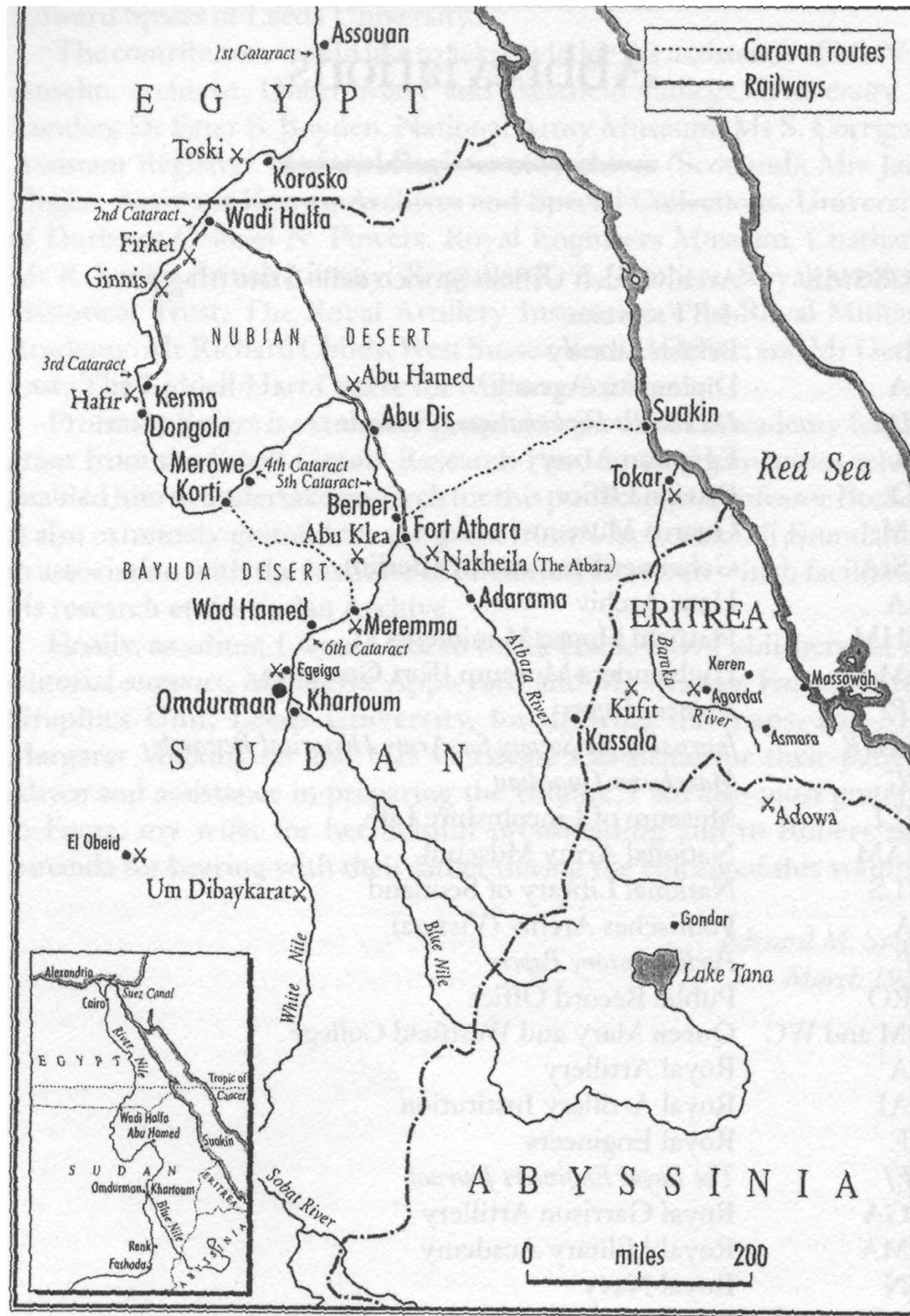
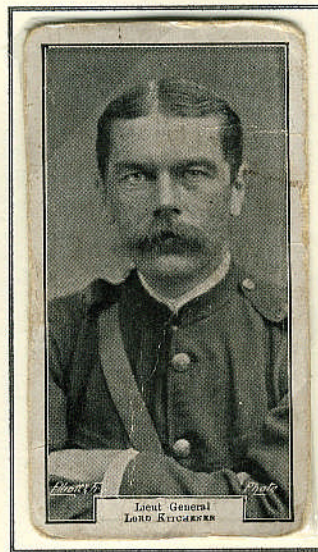


Theater of Operations in the Sudan



THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN — 1896 - 1898



No. 4.

SMITH'S
STUDIO
CIGARETTES

2d. per Packet of 10.

LIEUT.-GEN. LORD KITCHENER
G.C.B.,

Has seen much active service in Egypt, being in the Nile Expedition at Toski, Dongola, Firket, Atbara, and Omdurman. Was Sirdar of the Egyptian Army from 1892 to 1899. Went to South Africa as Chief of the Staff to Lord Roberts, and succeeded latter as Commander-in-Chief. He is now suppressing the remaining Boer forces.

THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

WADI-HALFA, SUDAN to BERLIN, GERMANY

21 FE 96

This postcard dated 20 February 1896 was sent from Wadi Halfa some three weeks before the commencement of the Egyptian invasion of the Sudan of March 16th, 1896. The three milliemes postcard is uprated with a two milliemes stamp to pay the postcard rate to Germany. It is cancelled with the "Swiss" type **WADI-HALFA 21 FE 96** c.d.s. and has the **ALEXANDRIE 29 II 96** transit marking and an unclear German arrival datestamp.



THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

Officer's Unpaid Letter — Endorsed: *Field Service No Stamps Procurable*

WADI-HALFA, SUDAN to ENGLAND

31 MR 96

The cover, postmarked with the "Swiss" type **WADI-HALFA 31 MR 96** c.d.s., has the postage due **T** marking and charged 5d. (double- weight rate) upon receipt. However, it is incorrectly charged as the cover (and assumed contents) weigh less than half ounce. It is backstamped **ASSOUAN 2 IV 96**, **ALEXANDRIA 7 AP 96**, **LONDON Q X 15 AP 96**, and **STROUD A AP 16 GLOS**. The flap of the cover has the red crest of the 11th Soudanese.

This cover is addressed to Lady Stanton, the mother of Captain Edward Alexander Stanton of the Oxfordshire Light Infantry and attached to the 11th Soudanese Battalion of the Egyptian Army. Stanton took part in the battles of Firket on June 7th and was present at the shelling of Hafir on September 19th. Stanton designed the first stamps of Sudan in 1897.



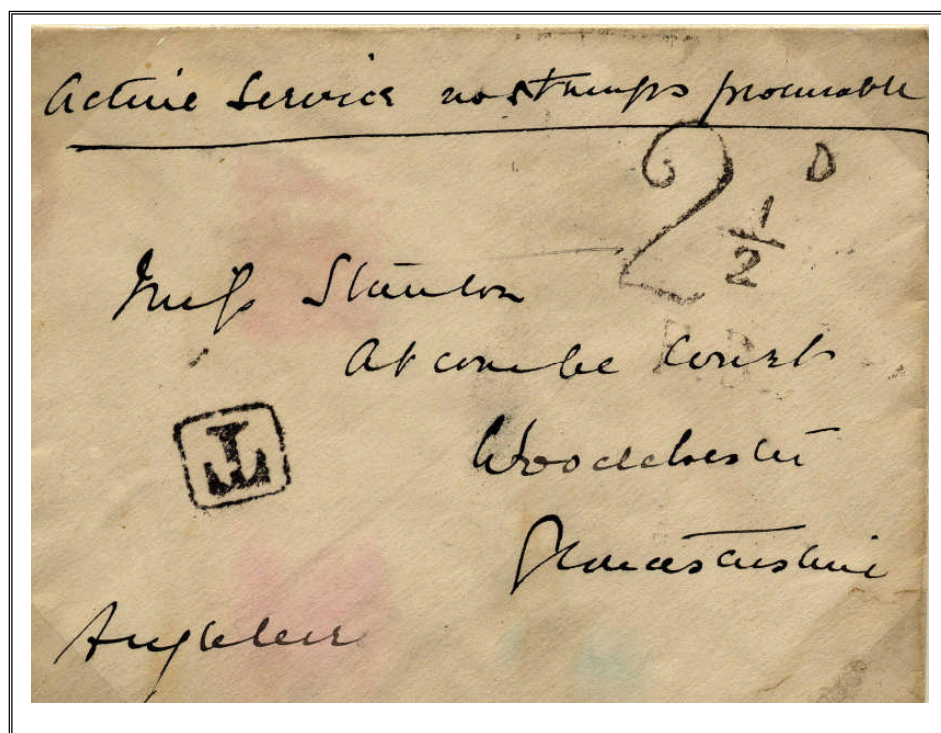
THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

Officer's Unpaid Letter — Endorsed: *Active Service No Stamps Procurable*

SUDAN to ENGLAND

APRIL 96

This cover does not have a date stamp of origin. However, it was probably written at or near Akasha which was captured on March 15th. Throughout April and May Sirdar Kitchener strengthened his forces at Akasha prior to the advance on Firket. The cover was sent up to Wadi Halfa Camp where it entered the postal system although it failed to receive a date stamp. From there it was backstamped **CAIRE 1 MY 96**, **STROUD H MY 8 96 GLO**, and **WOODCHESTER B MY 8 96**.



THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

Officer's Unpaid Letter — Endorsed: Active Service No Stamps Available

WADI-HALFA CAMP, SUDAN to ENGLAND

29 JU 96

Wadi Halfa Camp, located just above Wadi Halfa, served as a base camp for the troops in the Dongola Campaign. It opened in March upon the arrival of the soldiers. The earliest postmark reported is 3 JU 96. This cover bears the T marking and 2 1/2d. was collected for the single letter rate upon receipt.



This cover is to the mother of Captain Frederick Gore Anley of the Essex Regiment, who was attached to the Egyptian Army. He was appointed governor of Wadi Halfa in 1899.

THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

The enclosed letter from Capt. F. G. Anley (June 1, 1864 – 17 March 1936) reads:

The Desert Near Firket 29 June

My dear Mater: Here we are for a spell of railway work out in the desert. From Akasha to Firket the line leaves the river and we are out here for a bit building rather a big railway embankment wh requires a good deal of hard work.

We all expected that we would have rather a hard time out here on a limited supply of water but now that we have settled down to the job it is really quite pleasant. It is very hot but it is a dry fresh heat-nothing -?- and stuffy about it so that I suppose it is very healthy.

Our water is brought out to us on camels and altho they have done us very well in allowing us a good supply we have to be of course very economical about it.

I am glad that we have got away from Firket. I think that the place was very unhealthy particularly by the spot where we were camped. We were a good deal bothered by the battle field smells, wh I must say are not pleasant, and I don't think our water supply was very clean as we were below Firket and a good many dervishes were killed crossing the river.

Strickland the other officer in this battalion got ill there and it at present in hospital with fever wh. The Doctor fears will turn out to be typhoid. I expect that the water we were drinking had a good deal to do with it.

The night before we left Firket we had a panic in the camp. The camels wh. Were to carry all our kit next morning stampeded and running all among the men who were lying in the open created some confusion. A few men about 9 ran down to where Shenleton and I were sleeping saying the Dervishes were on them; they however stopped and came back with us when we called to them. We found the battalion quite steady when we got to them. But 3 men had run off and gave the alarm to another regt. Who sounded their bugles & everybody turned out. The 3 men were flogged yesterday. The Egppies are prone to this sort of thing. I think the next time any thing of this sort happens these -?- men will think twice before they leave the camp and dash off.

We are getting on with our embankment very well and we should get off in a week's time. I don't know whether we will go back to Firket or further south, the latter I hope.

My health continues to be very good but I will be glad when the weather becomes a little cooler, but that will not before a good 3 months I think. I had a letter the other day from Sissy Anley and also one from Uncle Bennett. They both said you were looking very well.

I don't think that I have any more news to tell you.

Much love,

F.G. Anley

THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN — 1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

1 Piastre Officer's Letter Endorsed by the Sirdar

WADI-HALFA CAMP, SUDAN to ENGLAND

8 JL 96

This cover was sent by the Sirdar, Horatio Herbert Kitchener, to The Right Honourable George Curzon, Member of Parliament and Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in 1895–1898. It was forwarded from the House of Commons to Carlton Gardens. The backstamp is **LONDON S.W. 8 P/JY 28/96**. It is signed *Herbert Kitchener* at the lower left and endorsed *Gen Sir H. Kitchener Nile Camp July 96*.



Curzon (11 January 1859 – 20 March 1925) was appointed Viceroy of India in January 1899. He was created a Peer of Ireland as Baron Curzon of Kedleston, of Kedleston in the County of Derby, on his appointment. Kitchener served under Curzon as Commander-in-Chief, India.

My name is George Nathaniel Curzon,[]
I am a most superior person.
[]My cheeks are pink, my hair is sleek,[]
I dine at Blenheim twice a week.

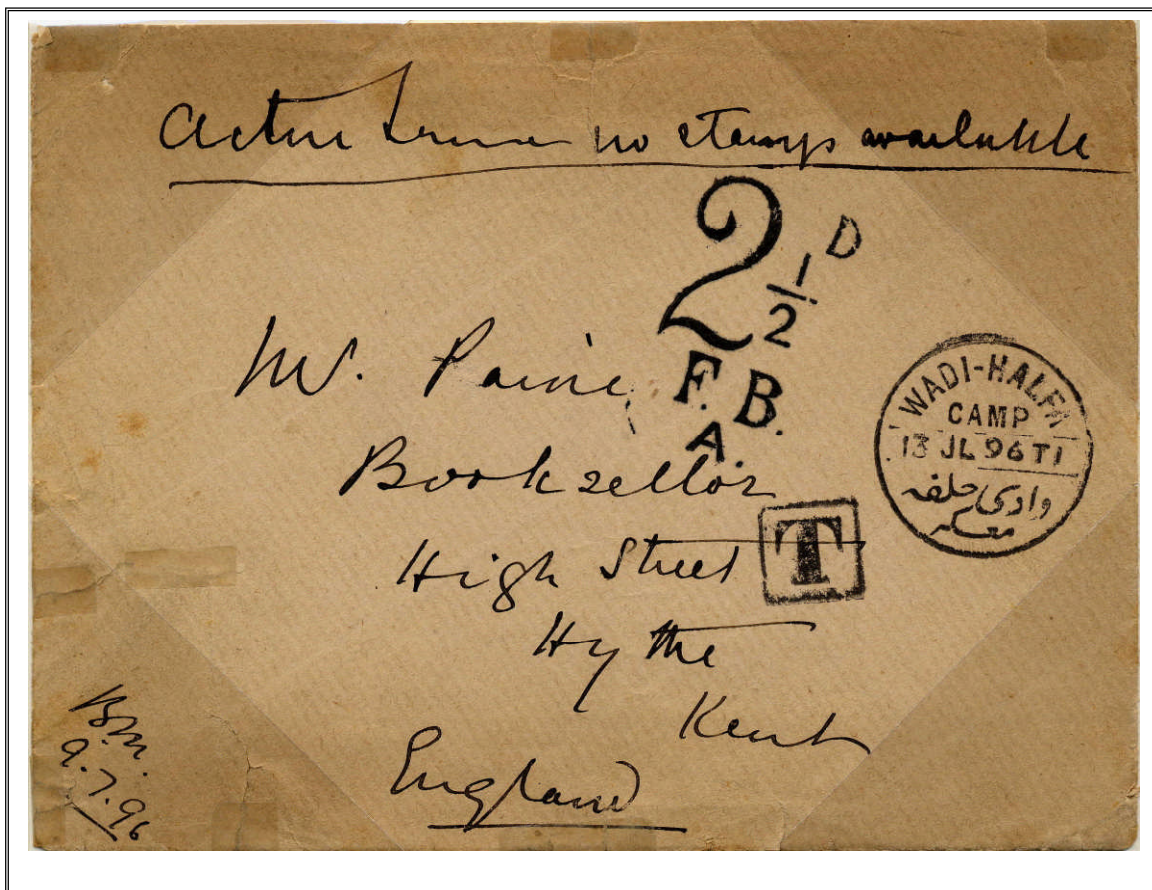
THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN — 1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

Officer's Unpaid Letter — Endorsed: Active Service No Stamps Available

WADI-HALFA CAMP, SUDAN to ENGLAND

13 JL 96

This cover has the boxed T and the 2½^D F.B. A. markings and is backstamped at **HYPHE F 7 P JY 28 96 KENT**. The manuscript endorsement at the lower left corner **B.M. [?] 9-7-96** could be the date the letter was written along with the initials of the sender.



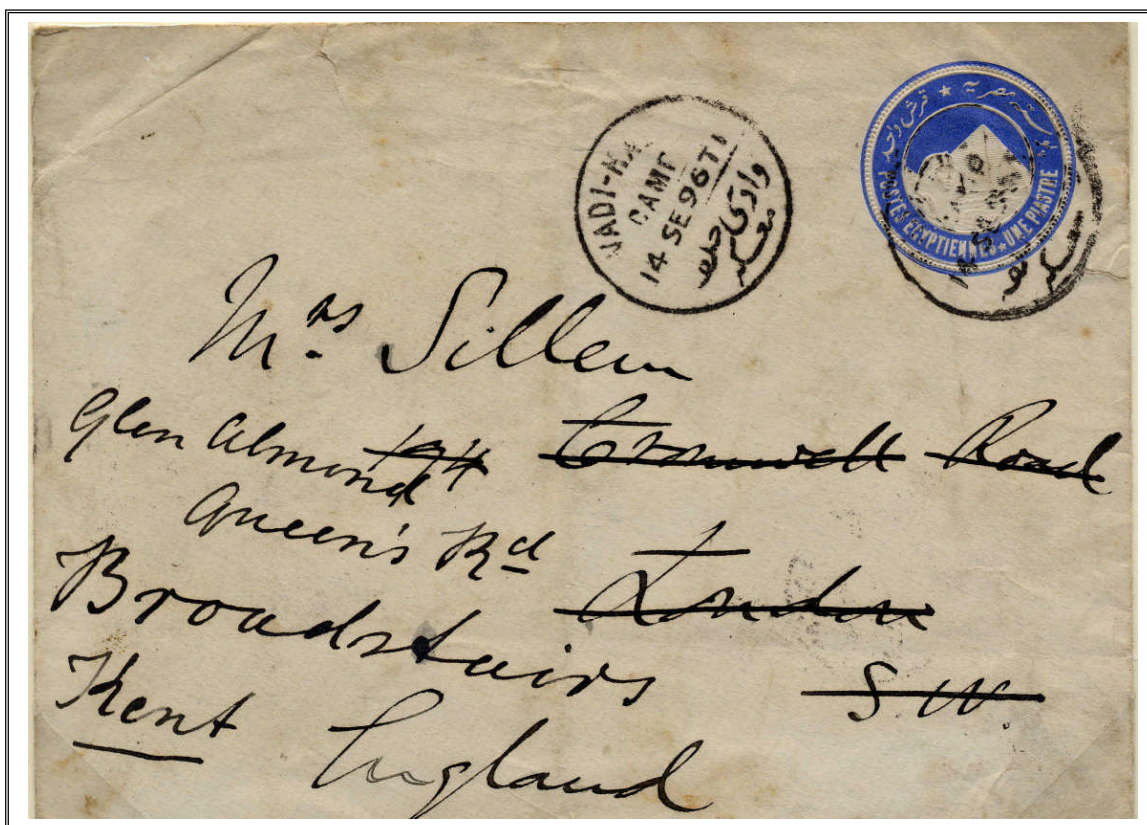
THE RECONQUEST OF SUDAN — 1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

1 Piastre Officer's Letter

WADI HALFA CAMP to ENGLAND

14 SE 96

Keown-Boyd describes Wadi Halfa as "... a dump both literally and metaphorically."¹ The same description would fit Wadi-Halfa Camp. This postal stationery envelope is backstamped **CAIRE A 18 IX 96, LONDON – W 41 SP 24 96**, and **BROADSTAIRS STATION OFFICE B.U. SP 25 96**.



J. Sillem of the Welsh Regiment was promoted to temporary Major on July 11, 1894. He became a permanent Major on December 23, 1896 and brevet Lieutenant Colonel on December 24, 1896. The Welsh Regiment was attached to the Third Egyptian Infantry Battalion, First Brigade, and was present at the battles of Firket (June 7, 1896), Hafir (September 19-26, 1896) and Abu Hamed (August 7, 1897).

¹ Keown-Boyd, p. 156.

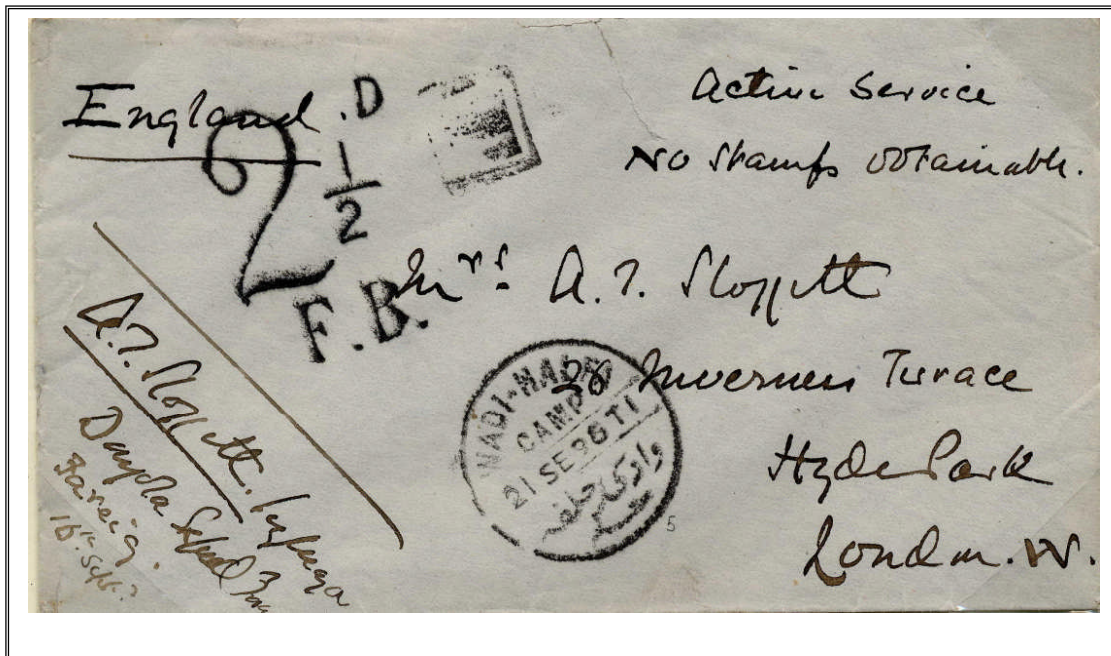
THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

Officer's Unpaid Letter — Endorsed: *Active Service No Stamps Obtainable*

WADI-HALFA CAMP, SUDAN to ENGLAND

21 SE 96

Letter written at Fereig on September 16th, two days prior to the action at Hafir. Endorsed in the lower left A. T. Sloggett, Surg. Major Dongola Exped. Force, Fareig 16th Sept., the cover bears the T marking and the 2½ d. F.B. handstamp indicating the amount to be collected. It is backstamped **PADDINGTON 7:30 AM OC 5 96**.



Surgeon Major Arthur T Sloggett, later promoted to Surgeon Lieutenant Colonel, was attached to the First Brigade as the senior medical officer. He was severely wounded at the battle of Omdurman when his horse was shot from under him.

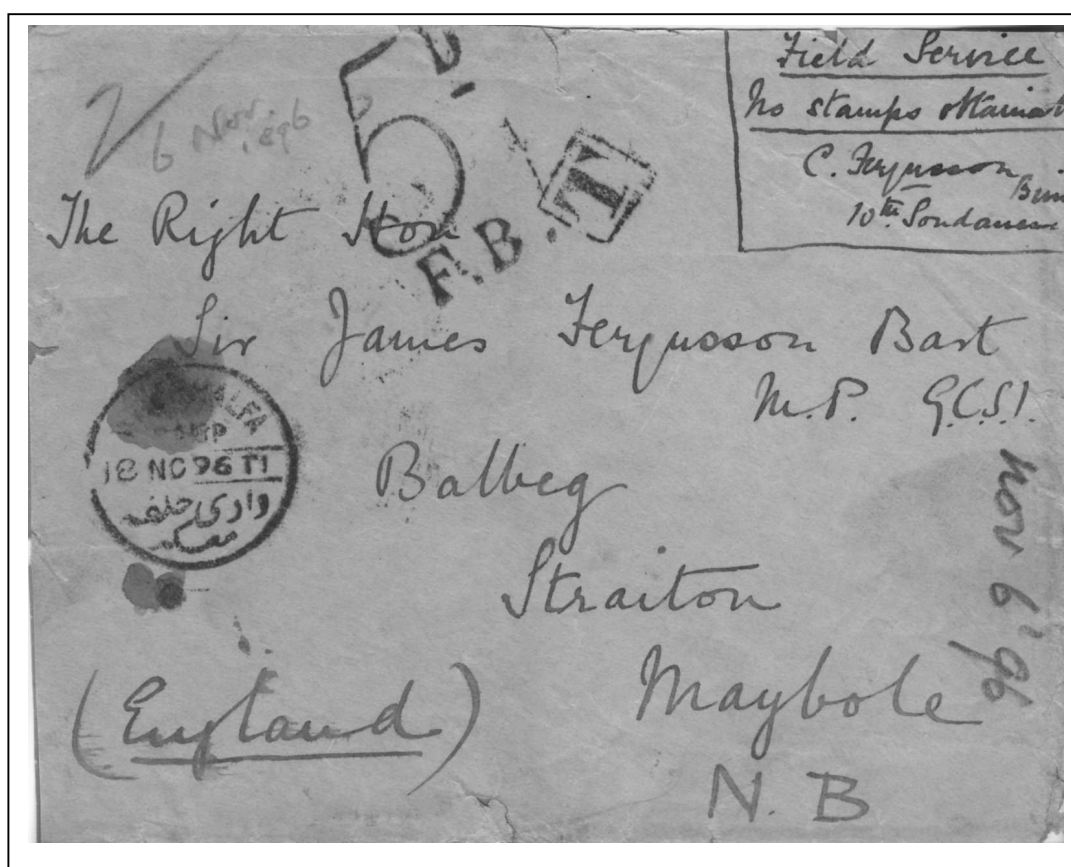
THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

Officer's Unpaid Letter — Endorsed: Field Service No Stamps Obtainable

WADI-HALFA CAMP, SUDAN to ENGLAND

18 NO 96

The cover is endorsed by *C. Fergusson, Bim* [Bimbashi or Major] *10th Soudanese* and has the **T** marking and the **5^d F.B.** handstamp indicating the amount to be collected. However, as has been seen, many covers have been improperly charged and this may be another one. It weighs less than half an ounce and therefore the rate should have been 2½d. It is backstamped **CAIRE A 24 XI 96**, **GLASGOW 730 PM DE 2 96**, and **MAYBOLE A DE 3 96**. While the envelope is addressed to England, Maybole is located some 40 miles southwest of Glasgow not too far from the Firth of Clyde.



Charles Fergusson was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Grenadier Guards on 7 November 1883 and promoted to Captain 1 October 1895. He served in the Dongola Expeditionary Force in 1896 with the 10th Soudanese Battalion, including the engagement at Firket and the operations at Hafir (mentioned in dispatches, British Medal, and Khedive's Medal with two Clasps). In 1897 he served at the capture of Abu Hamed and the subsequent occupation of Berber (mentioned in dispatches, Brevet of Major, and two Clasps to the Khedive's Medal). In 1898 he was involved in the battles of Atabara (mentioned in dispatches) and Khartoum (mentioned in dispatches) and the defeat of Ahmed Fedil's army (mentioned in dispatches, Distinguished Service Order), Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, and to clasps to Khedive's Medal). It should be noted that the recipient of the letter was Governor of New Zealand from 1873 to 1874 and the sender Governor-General of New Zealand from 1924 to 1930.

THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

Officer's Unpaid Letter — Endorsed: *Field Service No Stamps Available*

WADI-HALFA CAMP, SUDAN to CAIRO

6 DE 96

This stampless cover to Mrs. Arch Simms at Post Restante, Cairo has the black T marking cancelled by blue crayon, suggesting that postage due shouldn't be collected.² The letter probably should have been charged the regular internal rate of five milliemes. It appears that there might have been some confusion in the Egyptian post office concerning mail from the front. It is backstamped **CAIRE** but the date has been cut from the back flap.



The cover is endorsed in the upper right by **W. H. Drage --- S.D.S. & S.D.D.** William Henry Drage (1850-1915) was in the Commissary and Transport Corps. He served in the Egyptian Army from December 1, 1886 to 1904 as Director of Supplies. His final British rank was Lieutenant Colonel.³

² A similar cover without the T marking is found in Smith, p. 602.

³ See Harrington and Sharf, p. 227

THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN—1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

Officer's Unpaid Letter — Endorsed: *Field Service*

WADI-HALFA CAMP, SUDAN to CAIRO

10 DE 96

The stampless envelope to Mrs. Anley in Cairo, not a common destination for covers from this campaign, has the black T marking cancelled by blue crayon, although there is another uncanceled one just beside it. The domestic letter rate was five milliemes and perhaps it was collected upon delivery although there is no indication of it. The cover was forwarded from Thomas Cook & Sons to the Ghesireh Palace Hotel. The enclosed letter was written at Merowe on November 29. The cover is backstamped **CAIRE A 15 XII 96** and **CAIRO POST OFFICE 15 XII 96 GHESIRAH PALACE HOTEL**



THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN — 1896 DONGOLA EXPEDITION

The enclosed letter from F. Gore Anley to his mother reads as follow:

Merowe

Soudan

29th Nov 96

My dear Mater

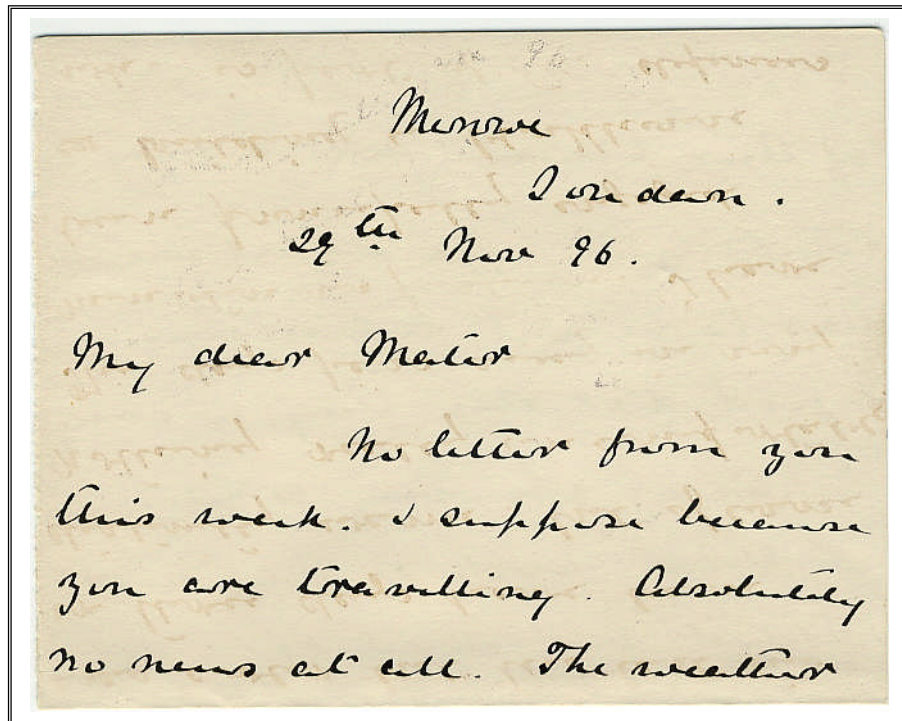
No letter from you this week. I suppose because you are travelling. Absolutely no news at all. The weather was cooler but the last two or three days have been distinctly warm, but of course nothing really uncomfortable. The days pass away in very monotonous fashion. I have been principally engaged in building a blockhouse wh. Is part of the defences of this place. Not a very complicated affair but one has to be out supervising a good deal else they go wrong. Egyptians are very careless in their work if they aren't watched very carefully.

We are also just commencing drill. The men want it badly after the long campaign.

I am feeling quite well.

Much love

F. Gore Anley



THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN — 1896 SUAKIN

INDIAN ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

Some 4,000 Indian troops arrived in Suakin on 30 May 1896, relieving Egyptian and Sudanese soldiers who were sent to the Dongola Campaign. One officer and fifteen men of the Indian Army Postal Service arrived at Suakin on June 1 and established a base post office. A sub-post office opened at Tokar around June 8 and closed November 9. The troops, having seen no military action, returned to India in December.⁴

One Anna Concession Rate

SAWAKIN, SUDAN to BOMBAY, INDIA

21 6 96

The concession rate for enlisted men was one anna. The SOLDIERS' AND SEAMEN'S ENVELOPE, surcharged one anna on nine pies, was posted by Staff Sergeant W. Nicholl in the Egyptian civilian post office which did not recognize it. It should have been mailed at the Indian Army postal facility and thus was charged **OVERLAND POSTAGE DUE A^s 5** on arrival, double the normal foreign rate of 2½ annas. Postmarked with the rare variety half moon **SAWAKIN 21 6 96** c.d.s., it has the year separated from the month and lacks the accounting marks found in other date stamps.⁵ The cover is backstamped **SEA POST OFFICE JL 12 96** and **COLABA BOMBAY 2ND DELY 19 JL 96**



⁴ Dastur, Vispi S., *India Used Abroad*, Mysore Philatelics, Mysore, India, 1982. Some of the dates are different from those in Stagg.

⁵ Stagg, E.C.W., *Sudan The Postal Markings 1867-1970*, 1974, The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1974, page 23.

THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN — 1896 SUAKIN

INDIAN ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

One Anna Concession Rate

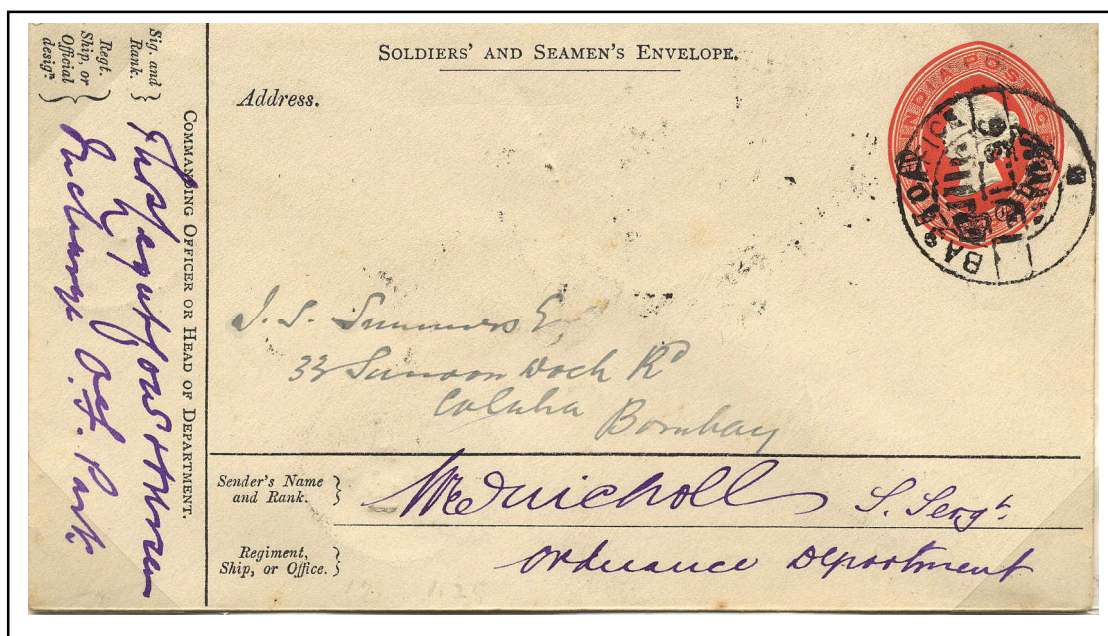
SAWAKIN, SUDAN to BOMBAY, INDIA

24 VI 96

Staff Sergeant Nicholl again tried to mail a SOLDIERS' AND SEAMEN' ENVELOPE through the Egyptian post office. This time it was the unsurcharged nine pies envelope uprated with a half anna stamp making the postage a quarter anna too much. Again it was unrecognized and charged by the Indian post office double the regular foreign postage rate of 2½ annas. This is indicated by the **OVERLAND POSTAGE DUE A 5** marking. Note that this is slightly different than the one on the previous cover in that only **A** is used for anna and not **A^s**. It bears the Sawakin full moon date stamp that was used from about June 1886 to December 1896. The cover is backstamped **SEA POST OFFICE** (about 10%), **ADEN JL 3 96** and **COLABA BOMBAY 2ND DELY 18 JL 96**.



The **BASE OFFICE B** canceller was assigned to the Indian Post Office at Suakin and is known to have been in use from at least June 3 through November 20. Later usage is likely, as the garrison did not return to India until December 9. Posted in the correct postal facility by Staff Sergeant W. Nicholl, it is postmarked **1 JL 96**. The cover is backstamped **COLABA BOMBAY 5TH DELY 18 JL 96** and **BOMBAY 4TH DELY 18 JL. 96**.



THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN — 1896 SUAKIN

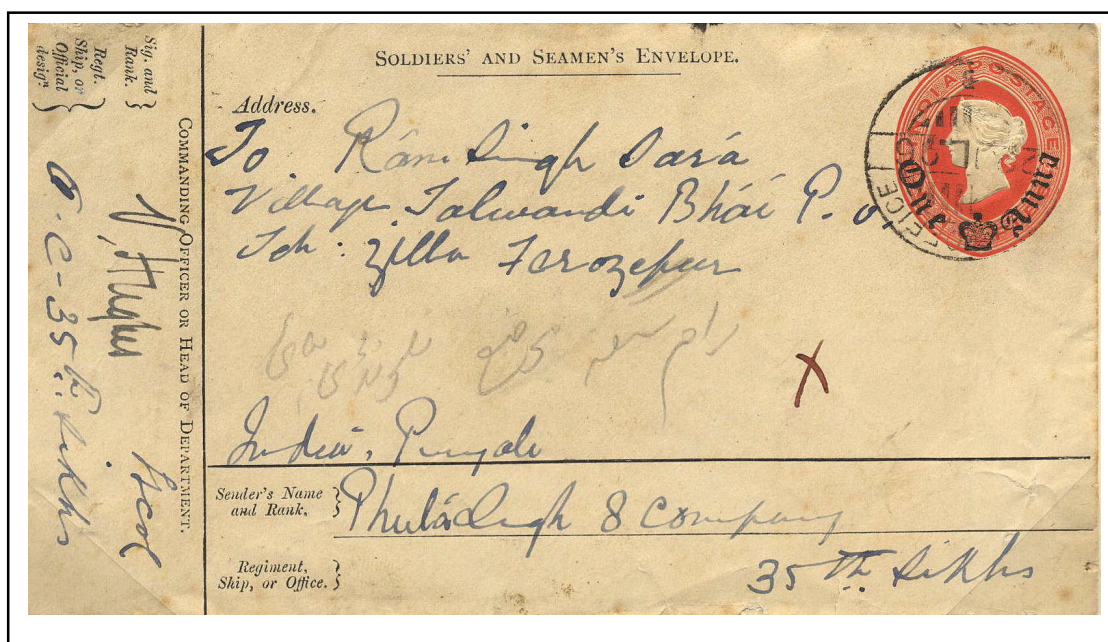
INDIAN ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

One Anna Concession Rate

SAWAKIN, SUDAN to FEROZEPORE, INDIA

BASE OFFICE B 22 JL 96

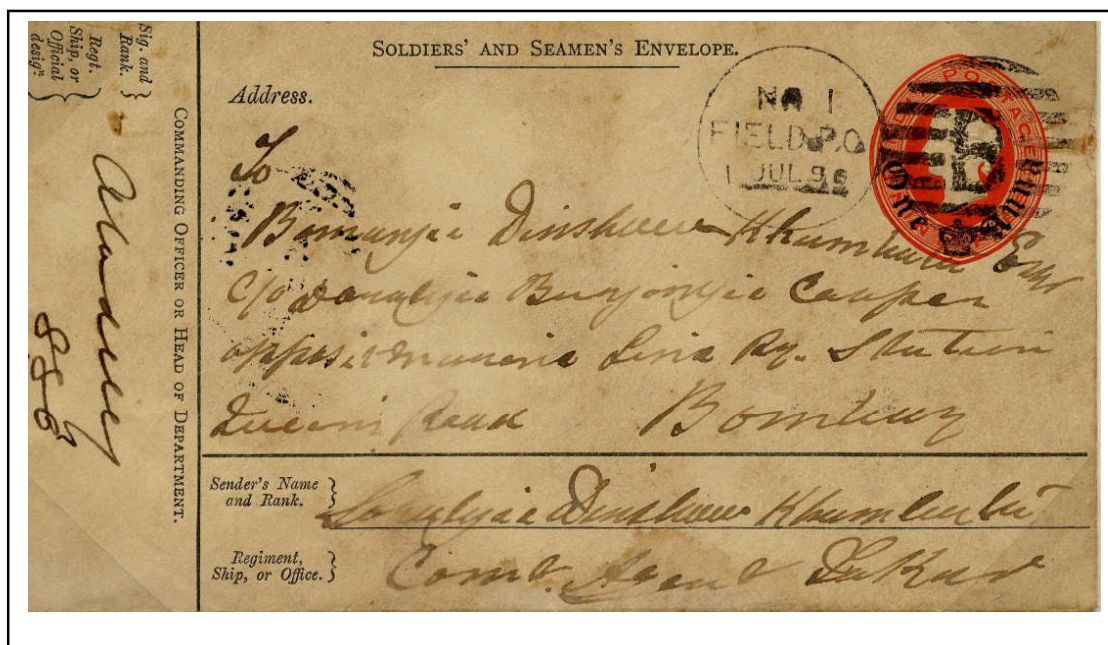
Sent by a soldier in the 35th Sikh Infantry, the cover is endorsed V. Hughes, Lt. Colonel, Officer Commanding — 35th Sikhs. It is backstamped **SEA POST OFFICE A AU 3 96** and **FEROZEPORE B.O.** (date unclear).



TOKAR, SUDAN to BOMBAY, INDIA

№ 1 FIELD P.O. 1 JUL 96

The **№ 1 FIELD P.O.** and eight-barred Bombay **B** duplex c.d.s. and obliterator was assigned to the sub-post office at Tokar when it opened on June 8. The office closed on November 9. The cover is backstamped **SEA POST OFFICE A AU 3 96** and **MARKET 5^{HIDE} BOMBAY 8 AU 96**.



THE RECONQUEST OF THE SUDAN — 1896

INDIAN ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

Foreign Postcard Rate

TOKAR, SUDAN to IRELAND

№ 1 FIELD P.O. 25 AU 96

Postcards were charged the normal foreign rate of one anna but this quarter-anna card was overrated with a one-anna stamp. Mail between Tokar and Suakin was exchanged twice a week. Mail was sent every two weeks by Egyptian steamer from Suakin to Suez where it was sorted for dispatch to other destinations. Thus we have the **SUEZ 8 IX 96** transit marking and the arrival c.d.s. of **GLENTIES SE 17 96**.



The message reads: *It is reported from Suakin that for the past week the mean temperature has never been below 104° day or night. — Tokar Soudan 25.8.96 Y.A.M.*

SAWAKIN, SUDAN to ADEN

BASE OFFICE B 17 NO 96

Late usage for Base Office c.d.s.. The cover is countersigned by the Field Paymaster Suakin with the **ADEN NO 20 96** arrival marking on the reverse.

