

THE RECONQUEST OF SUDAN — 1898 NILE EXPEDITION

Internal Letter

BERBER, SUDAN to HALFA, SUDAN

5 JU 98

Cover with 5 milliemes camel stamp from Captain (later Field Marshall) Douglas Haig at Berber to Major Arthur Sandbach, Governor of Nubia. The stamp is tied with a manuscript "X" and cancelled with the **BERBER 5 VI 98** c.d.s. It is backstamped **HALFA 6? VI 98**. The enclosed letter states in part, 'On the Atbara, I was Broadwood's C.S.O. We had a busy time as the Cavalry was out before the infantry left the Nile. But I'll tell you all about our experiences when we meet.' The battle of Atbara took place on 8 April 1898.



Douglas Haig (of the Scotch whisky family) was commissioned in the 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars as a Lieutenant on 7 February 1885, promoted to Captain 23 January 1891, and made his Majority 16 November 1898. He saw action during the reconquest of the Sudan at Atbara and Omdurman, receiving a brevet of Major, mention in dispatches, and the Egyptian medal with two clasps. He later went on to serve in South Africa and India, becoming Major General 1 May 1904 and Lieutenant General in 1914. He was created Field Marshal in 1917 and 1st Earl Haig in 1919. His name is most often associated with the slaughter in 1916's Somme offensive and 1917's Passchendaele (Third Ypres) campaign.