

C.M.R. Camp

Aug 8th 1896

Umatata

Dear Advertiser in my own name
who is ~~the~~ very much for your
letter, it is indeed good of you to
think of me. I saw you had done
well in your Trip in the papers let
me congratulate you. Poor old Jesus
did not shine in the May races but
I expect they had their bump supper
all the same. I always have had an
affection for Jesus and the Hall. As to
our chances of a scrap with the niggers
I should say it was very likely and
may come when the winter reaches
here, but Poundland is small game
compared with Con Paul, ~~that~~ may come
soon too. We always have to be ready
to move at a moments notice and they
are getting larger supplies of ammunition
up and another Maxim or so, which I
suppose is not for nothing. I am sorry

Hand. 8.11.2

1891 28 Feb

to hear Highfield cricket is so slack, the
 Lyoko was very good in its way but I ought
 not to be content, to see crickets I am also
 sorry to hear about John and Chadwick
 I hope he does not. I would like to thank
 goodness you tell Chadwick and I love
 him. Faithful Old Archie Schabhorn writes
 to me very regularly, he was a thoroughly
 good thick headed old deacon. I wish you
 see Old Vaughan remember me to him and
 tell him this like suits me better than any
 other kind of life would. So you have found
 the Americans like a true patriot's I expect
 you will find it rather dull and tedious
 work at times but volunteer officers are
 badly wanted and we must think
 of England before our thoughts of personal
 convenience. You may see fighting before
 I do, or I may be dead (either by an old
 fellow) long before you fire a shot. The
 other day I went down to King to play

for them against the English, I had no
 chance to have got leave as all leave
 has been stopped, however they gave me
 leave and I spent about a day. It was
 a real treat to see those English faces
 again, I had a long talk with Mackenzie
 and Bell, Hammond, Martineau, upon
 Malabar, etc. Mackie had a head of
 dysentery and was in bed. They beat us
 by 25 points to nothing but that is not
 matter, I would have given 100 points to
 see them again. This is not a life I
 should care to stick to for many years
 it is alright in the days of my youth
 but that is all. I have to go on states
 is about five minutes. Mind you write
 again it is not good to be right of
 each other, we had good times together
 in the paper and there is hope for the
 future also. States now, I must go on
 with this letter. - It is raining like hell now,

so I am not going to church. Church & you
may laugh but it is a touch of civilization that
I generally keep up. When I come home you
will probably find I have become a colonial
perhaps I shall talk through my nose and
preface every remark with the word "man". The
CMR speak a language of their own, would you
understand me if I was to inform you I have
been chancing my b---dy nit and wanting
like hell. Stables are a beastly nuisance on a
rainy day, grooming a wet horse in the rain
and splashing about in three inches of mud,
luckily our horses are hard and can stand it.
I think I am going into the Artillery troop, I
have to be examined by the doctor tomorrow.
I am on guard tomorrow night, lately the
horses have been getting loose in the stables,
the wretched guard has to go and tie them up
and you have to be sharp as they all kick
at night. Hope you enjoyed your Continental
trip. I remain

your affectionate friend
Arnold B. Hunt

H. Squadron

Libode
Dec 24th 1898
Dear John
I am very sorry
for having sent you the money
I had received, but I intended
to send it to you. Life is very
difficult at Libode. I had a row
with three niggers on horse
back the other day, they were
stealing things out of the
house and snatching things
while I was refusing one with a
stick and another with a
whip so I had to collar him and

concern which however is not so bad as
being an officer. All promotion is through
the ranks. I don't suppose for a moment
we are much good as a fighting force
we might frighten a few niggers, but
I can't tell what will happen when
the real Boer war comes. The Imperial
army will have to teach them, I wonder
they don't send more Imperial cavalry in
out they are certain to be swatted very
soon. The only news I get of what
is going on is through English papers
so you are ^{a month} ~~two weeks~~ in front of me
there. All I know about is that
everyone says it is certain to come at
the present moment ^{now} and that is
more important to us. I hope they don't
move us from here before Christmas not
that anything special happens at Christmas

but it will be more comfortable than if
we were under the moon in the previous and
supper shall be in your hands on the
night of the 24th and have given on the
25th so I shall probably have to go
without Christmas this year. Write and
tell me about your work and let me
know about the Richmond & Blackheath
match. Did we beat Cheltenham?
For this year I don't you start
writing of letters to the Hawley Union to
try and induce them to stop the Redford
match, we could now that we have beaten
them. We don't want St Pauls either, &
Uppingham and Wellington could well
take their places. You might say that
we might easily play the schools at
football that we do at cricket. Namely
Cheltenham Wellington and Uppingham.

many good night
and a sleep

over
(over)

Get John to discuss it in the Sen. List, and
he might have a debate under some or
will disregard title but really to effect
that object, let me know when the house
was in foot. Last term, any house matches
won, say so. What was the house that was
beaten? Have they any chance of getting
a few marks in the sports this year?

I wish you all luck for 1897, may
you prosper and increase in riches
be happy contented and well. We
shall meet again in the future and
talk over the days that was, and
grouse and grumble because those days
have gone. For Ad Gilbert will be
in Africa soon. I do say. Remember
me to your people and Old
Mar Vaughan if he is with you.

I remain
am
(one sick)
your loving friend
Donald R. Hunt

CMR Barracks



March 12th 1897

King Williamstown

Cape Colony

Dear Tom

Just a line to say
thank you for "Seven Seas"
it is awfully good of
you to remember me. We
came in a couple of days
ago from Pondoland a
200 miles track. We are

in view in case they
know any more holes in
E Aqueduct in Beekmantown,
but I doubt if we go,
it is more probable we
shall be here some time
if so I will write a long
letter, we have plenty to
do just now. It is
change to get back to
civilization again. I suppose

you heard about Hopkins' death
he was one of the best, he
stayed on his horse to see
that his men took care
and was shot while descending

them was shot through the
head his horse ^{was frightened} took him
200 yards ~~away~~ in front of
the others so he was easily
killed. He was a good fighter
man. I cannot make out
why you were not shot. The
Boards account (CP as the papers will show)

ought to have been chewed up to
a man, ^{loop.} Burns in charge of them had
a marvellous escape.

We shall have a big row
at her soon, the caps are
good in the Transkei and
Pondoland, they say the Niggers
round the Kei are more likely
to break out than the Pondos.
We expect to be fighting before
the year is out.

I remain

Your loving friend

Donald R. Hunt

Thanks once more



March 21st 1897

C.M.R. Barracks

King Williamstown
Cape Colony

Dear Tom

I wrote last week in a great hurry, thank you very much for the Seven Seas, I feel very much like one of the lost Legion myself. I wonder what India was like ^{just} before the meeting. I should think it was something like this.

What was that quotation from Horace about walking on a thin crust with burning lava underneath with the chance of breaking through when least expecting it. It may all come to nothing, but just now it seems more probable that we shall have as much as we shall want and in the near future too. We have not much chance of going to Bechuanaland they will take volunteers if more men are wanted. A few days ago I was talking to a C.M.R. fellow

who was in the Langberg fight when Hyphum got
slighted. He says he does not think they will
get Galichur and Co out of the Langberg without
striking them out, the company round is utterly
useless and the mountain is a damned
green place to get at and is full of caves.
This fellow who is in the town hospital here
is full of all sorts of stories, the same number
of a campaign do not always reach the papers
thank goodness. One fellow ought never to
have gone where they did it was a position
Sir Charles Kempen could not tackle some years
ago with 700 men, Kempen tried to do it with
80 C.M.R. and who is more might have done
it if the Magistrates had not come up and tried
to arrange a 24 hours amnesty. One fellow
wrote if they were there will be the devil to
pay, they have been kept out of the mountain
had not come in better fighting men than
the Galichur and don't see a green much,
no discipline, their officers

are utterly incompetent; this fellow says he saw
one trying to teach his men a little drill he
said when I clap my hands one or two
men when I saw a sergeant, an
H.C.R.V.C. might do much better than these
officers for what I can make out. The Cape
are a bit better but are a little too independent
in the way of discipline. A Diamond Field
here sent a C.P. party by mistake and
nearly shot him, the J.F.H. party got
and fired at the priest when he saw. The J.F.H.
is only a Whiston man and is not up to
much. Each man seems to have a uniform of his own
fancy, some wear jack boots with ordinary
leather put on them, some wear riding
boots and some wear some other. The
C.P. party is well into the mountain
and some of the men will be the devil to
pay, they have been kept out of the mountain
had not come in better fighting men than
the Galichur and don't see a green much,
no discipline, their officers

riding their fast little ponies. They have never
been beaten, and licked us about 1881.

The now with the Transvaal will come very
soon now, everybody is preparing for it,
in King and East-London houses that
a few months ago could be had for next
to nothing have now gone up to more
than five times their real value and still
there is a tremendous competition for them;
in other words people are clearing their
families out of the Transvaal as fast
as possible. It is worth while being in
this country just at this moment there
is always some new thing to think about
every day. Rhodes ought to come back
quickly and get the government well in
hand. Write again soon your letters
are very welcome, thanks very much for
the Pink Uno. I will come home and see
you in two years, this last year has gone
very ~~quickly~~ quickly. Remember me to your people
I remain yours affectionately Donald A. Hunt

Aug 4th 1897

Ngamakhwe
God-knows-where

Dear Tom

I feel a bit off just now so you must excuse rather a feeble letter. I have been out all day burying Rinderpest oxen, not a cheerful job, losing up my boys and bringing all my diplomatic powers to bear to prevail upon the thick headed skulls of grumbling niggers. If it were not for financial reasons and an old fashioned out of date sense of duty I should have chucked it all long ago. As it is I am getting I think 15/- a day and am implicitly trusted in the spending of government money. If we were to chuck it some damned Cape Policeman or other outsider would get the job and make a fortune out of it.

There are four of us CPRR here to today only I wanted about a dozen
on this show, a number elegant more boys and Walter had gone to
who does nothing except drink, a fair share. I nearly had a rough-house
class private who swaggers and talks with a headman. The other day, he spread
so if he were Jesus Christ, and a good to buy or other his own. We tried
little chap named Walter who's like I got round him in the end but he
has a second class private, the whole hundred we all he could and made it
work falls on no two. Personally I don't a how day's job instead of one. I have
mind a bit of work but it is hard on get the pull of him now though and it
my knee. Walter and I at first had we meet again I will stand no humbug,
to get on orders from the other two, but All the farmers etc in this district
we soon checked that, now we work are very good chaps and will always
the track on our own lines. We get as fast as we can at any time. They regard
for as private from headquarters the Midway as a sort of war and
and stay away as long as possible. Myself has to help everybody. I am
if we want both in and expenses time of Midway so will not mention
to each other and take no notice of it again. The Langley has been taken
anyone else. I would not have come in at last by Salty, good old CPRR.

A telegram came to the Magistrate this evening about it - but gave no details, all I know is that the C.M.R. and Kaffarian Rifles were in the first line of attack. I expect we have lost men. I think I shall try and get up to Mashonaland or somewhere up Gilbert's way, of course I can't at present but do not mean to lose an opportunity. Just now there is plenty to do here. Thanks very much for Pink Um, I like the Pink Um but like Haileybury better and am very sorry to see them slating the school. In your last letter you seemed to have got the hump a bit, I tell you you do not know your luck in being at home. I have made many friends out here but none like those I made

at H.C., I wonder what the difference
is really. You mention that John
seems a bit too much of a swell
for Haileybury, it is not entirely his
fault he has always been brought
up to consider himself an infallible
genius, I hope Varsity life will open
his eyes, I am certain a couple of
years in a South African force
would. It was a pity Gerald went
to Haileybury, or rather had brothers
there before him. After all poor old
Gilbert was worth the crush of us
put together, he is now slaving
for the good of the Empire, alone
and absolutely out of reach, I hope
he comes through his period of hell
fire without being broken in constitution.
But these again are family matters
and I won't bother you (though you
are one of us) with them. There was
a dance at a farmer's place about

House of Commons, he has a great
work to do and is doing it in
spite of all opposition even from
his own countrymen. Jameson
Forbes and the rest of them are
hard at it too. Does Labby still
state everything South African still!
It is a pity he cannot be made
to understand this is a new colony
and things are naturally a little
rough and ready to begin with, and
it is best they should be. I bet there
is no ~~S.A.S.~~ Transvaal Republic within
ten years and I also bet there is
no fighting about it, they are caving
in now we have a few troops
out here. You need not show
all in this letter to anyone
Goodbye old chap for the present
we'll meet perhaps someday.

I remain

Your affectionate friend
Donald J. Hunt

15 or 20 miles from here last Saturday night, rather got wind of it and sent an express for me. I got there about 10 o'clock and danced till I could dance no more. Among other things I felt madly in love with one Miss Clarke the best girl I have met out here so far. I am buying cattle in her district just now and put up there last night; ~~the~~ she played and sang to me all the evening, school songs, she seems to know them all, says of the Old Brigade, Georgia, etc. then we sat on the steps and talked a bit, then she turned in and I sat with the old chap and had another pipe and turned in too. It is all right, I am too busy to think about marriage just yet, besides I have no money. I am glad to say I have not been much

troupled with women so far in my career. If you want a good wife however South Africa is the place to get one, they are good honest people and are quite capable of looking after themselves, at the same time they are perfect ladies, and enjoy the ordinary run of girls at home. Miss Clark is just about as perfect all round as you can imagine. I wish you could see her. When you were in London did you speak to any of our chaps, I think they all know me, some think I am generally called. I hear very little of the outside world nowadays, Rhodes is pretty quiet, he is always doing most when least is heard of him, he has probably got something up his sleeve, he does not give a damn for such petty things, as Anguier's and debates in the

Ngamahe

Aug 11th 1897

Dear Tom

I will try and answer your last long letter. I have not the slightest idea when I last wrote to you it may have been yesterday or last year. Government have stopped buying cattle and are making the niggers do it on their own. The latter are grousing like hell. Personally I am jolly glad, it was a rotten billet in every sense of the word. At present we are hanging on here inoculating. Luckily I learnt inoculating and bile taking at odd moments while on the other job, now it is coming in very useful as every man is wanted who knows anything about it. The resident Magistrate here told me I might perhaps be wanted to go up to Kokstad at any time as an inoculator as they are worse off up there even than down here. I may be returned to my squadron at any moment though, one can never tell. All these little odd jobs are useful it is just as well to learn everything when one has a chance. These Magistrates are in a holy funk

~~undamaged~~
of the Niggers, especially the R M here who has the reputation of being a great alarmist. Certainly it is about the time for another Kaffir war. The Nigger idea is that the white man has brought the disease on purpose to deprive them of their prosperity. If all their cattle die they will not have much to lose by fighting and they have been getting discontented for some time past. These Fingoes are getting very cheeky they won't get out of a white man's way nowadays when they meet. They chased a couple of lile labeis the other day and it was a headman who did so not as in the first days of Rinderpest the young men. The government keep on saying the territories are perfectly quiet, but why did they keep the C M R here when the Bechnanaland affair was on, why are they strengthening the C M R and C P, why was a line regiment moved into the Eastern Province, why are all the magistrates kept so well supplied with arms and ammunition. I suppose it will come with a rush some day, 12 hours would be a long notice. All these traders and farmers say it must come and most of them say the sooner the better.

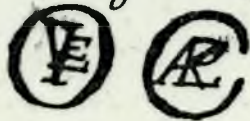
I hope you are better acquainted with the CMR than Gertie Ogle she writes to tell me they looked very nice in their red coats. ^A CMR man in England is very different to a CMR man out here. I have no doubt but surely we did not wear red. I have not seen my helmet for over 4 months and one only wears black uniform in headquarters or King. The papers all say our fellows looked smart, I cannot imagine a smart CMR, I have never met one yet. We were never intended ^{to be} smart-looking but to be smart in looking after muzzers.

It was a pity we did not send more men home but at one time it was doubtful whether even a single man could be spared to go. Pondoland is supposed to be garrisoned by not less than 500 men, there are 280 there now. I shall wait on a bit in the CMR then if nothing turns up go up to Mashonaland. You must be sick of alarmist yarns and Rinderpest by now.

I am not anxious to leave Ngazakwe as I am as happy as a king here, there is a very good old chap named Clarke in the district whose

place I get over to as often as I can, they
are all very good to me. He has a daughter
who is about as good as they make 'em.
I went for a ride with her the other day.
Wouldn't the mater be shocked if she knew.
It seems a pity we are leaving Sedgford
but I suppose it is for the best. I intend
to become a rich man and buy the place,
of course I may die or be killed before
this year is out, things would then
be only "as you were". I believe you would
regret me as much as any one but the
mater. I do not intend to become a burden
to my family if I can possibly help it
so I must tread the path of the younger
son till I win to hearth and saddle of
my own. I sometimes get damnably
home sick, it relieves my feelings to
write to you. We have one or two things
in common and it is not good to forget
one another. I remain

Can you read this



Your affectionate friend
Donald R. Hunt

as you can, but paper me if I am sometimes behindhand in answering

It is hard to write letters in a crowded tent (I squander time in laundry and bell tents)

I remain, your affectionate friend

1896
Donald R. Hunt

Remember me to Holly when you see him.

I Squadron
Kokstad
East Grignaland

Dear Tom

There is not much time to write letters nowadays but I must send you a line to thank you for that splendid little pipe you sent me, not forgetting also the continuous supply of Pink 'Uns which are always welcome. It is very good of you to remember me. I wish I could repay your kindness, but it is not easy to find anything on the bare veldt worth sending home. These last two months I have spent chiefly on patrols. We have had a pretty respectable scare in

this part of the world. & then, the engine
chug did after all try to get his end up again.
He started on night by mounting a former
not far from Kharak, and tried to do the
same to another but failed. A patrol of
100 of our fellows started at half past
one the same night but failed to catch
him. We thought we had struck something
at last, when the alarm sounded in the
middle of the night. I was not a third
patrol as I had only just come in
from Lumbur and they wanted fresh horses.
A few days later news came that
& then had gone south and was
trying to induce the Gacacs to rise. A patrol
of 25 of us was promptly sent after him
we rode with striped saddles and rode
hard. We chased him past Mt. Aghlye
into the Bengani district. Once we got
within ten miles of him but were stopped by

the Bengimuloh being full and the dry- was
impassable. We had a bad night then, and
I learnt a great many new swear words
on that occasion. It was a bit annoying
to get going so slow and then missing him.
We would have been certain to have had
some shooting to do as he had said he
would not be taken alive. We got back
to Kharak again on Christmas Eve and
have not been out since, though there are
a couple of patrols out still. & then
is supposed to be somewhere in Bantland
at any rate he has not been caught yet.
We had had weather on our patrol and
having no blankets generally slept, as it
was, in a hut. ^{at the pass in Bengani now} That night on the Bengimuloh
we walked in the dry-mud. We had
several exciting little incidents but were
disappointed in the end each time, and so
we came home without having fired a shot.

We must have looked a bit dirty as we rode through Khatad coming home, I was covered with mud, and the two legs of my breeches were separate garments held together by my belt. The scare is over now I think. The Niggers did not rise as they saw Le Fleur was nowhere from the beginning, but at the same time the brutes would not help us or give us information. They always prefer to wait and see which is the winning side. I may be going down to Umata shortly to learn signalling. I will write from there if I go. Meanwhile all letters addressed here will be forwarded, please put my name in full as there are two other Hunts. It is very hot just now, thank God I am not in poor old Gilbert's shoes, it must be hell up there. I never told you I had transferred to "I" squadron. It is a brand new squadron and by far the best in the corps, it contains among others the Jubilee bat, and has a splendid set of non coms. Write as often

March 17th 1898



Umutata

Dear Tom

I have wandered down to this infernal hole, and unless I am kicked out shall be here for three or four months. After that I know not where I go. I am going through a course of signaling. It is a change from the constant patrols up in Kiststad. Shaving in saddle soap, sleeping on the veldt often without a blanket, lumpy beef, cold water, ^{no} ^{drink} fuel to make

a fine with, and days and days
of increasing rain. Still I think
I would rather be up there in
preference to this dead alive
headquarters show with all its
little jobs and petty annoyances.
On patrol there is plenty of good
fellowship, you are in duty bound
to help the over-man and he you.
If he is a horse guard you have
up his neck for him and so on.
No one gives a damn about
uniform or well blacked boots.
When a patrol went out there
was always the old chance of

might - over reception. This place

is garrisoned by recruits, and
people in the different offices
all of them seem to think themselves
small green cherubs. I suppose
they are very necessary individuals
for the working of the regiment -
but I should like to see them
whacked on two months patrol
with half a horse's outfit.

I think the score up in ~~the~~
is practically over now that
the steam is caught, though the
farmers say it is only beginning.
There are still being cut and

The beacons on the hills round Khatia
are still kept up though no one
takes much notice of them now.
Pat Hunt the chap I have been
knocking about with for this last
year or so, has left the corps
and gone up to Bulawayo to try
his luck. I had a letter from him
the other day saying he had joined
the B S A Police because he was
hungry. I expect to be home in
about 14 months time if nothing
happens out here. I should
like to go to British Columbia.
Do you ever hear from Warren
now? I began with the intention of
writing a long letter but cannot now.
I remain your affectionate friend Donald R. Hunt

Cape Mounted Riflemen,

April 10th 1898

Headquarter Troop

C M R

Umtata

Easter Sunday

Dear Tom

I have not written to you for a long time, but I do not forget you.

It is awfully good of you to send the Pink 'em so regularly, it is

always welcome. I came down here from Kiststad to go through a course

of signalling. I have chucked that

now after having been at it a

month, and have got the billet of Adjutant's Orderly. It is a good billet

in some ways but a very lazy one.

I have to ride down town once a day

and ride back again and my duty for
the day is over. You see if anything
good turns up I can be the first
to apply for it, besides this bitter-
generally things promotion. I have not
much desire to be a corporal though.
I expect to be in Whistata for about
3 1/2 months. I am sorry Cambridge
had such hard luck in the Boer
Race. Don't you wish England would
have a clash at- Swazina & and all
the rest of them? It seems to be
the same all over the world, always
going to be a Boer but never quite.
It is the same over here in this
corner of the Empire too. Last
and December it could not have been
meaner. I am glad Epitimus has
a healthier place, I don't if he would
have lectured through if he had not
been moved. If Spain and U.S. fight
I would be a bad idea to join one side or
the other, and learn a little of the
warfare. I am sorry for poor old
Spain but I think one would probably
earn more at home among the
youths as they speak our lingo. What
is the weather like at home and what
are the year's shorting prospects as
far as football begins here soon I shall
play for the Headquarters Troop.
I believe a Regimental paper is
started in May. I will send you a
copy if possible. Can you suggest any

place for me to go to after I have done
my time in this infernal continent.

British Columbia seems very civilized
and will soon be played out like
Australia and N.Z.. I am dead off
staying at home. Farming in East
Bygonaland would pay if it was
not for these scares, nobody will
have any confidence in the place till
the Bygonas are wiped out. I wish
we could see into the future and
be able to tell whether we are
destined to starve or grow fat.

Remember me to Shipman if ever you
write to him, and ask him to write
to me I promise to answer him. Old
Shippey is one of those who do really
care about this bally Empire. ^{Remain} your affectionate friend
^{to} Donald R. Hunt

12.6.98

F. Lister

~~B.C.A.~~

Inlanje
British Central Africa

Dear Donald

Excuse Her Majesty's paper but I cannot find mine. And though my love & loyalty are immense I do not think that the small sum I receive annually precludes my using a sheet of H.M.'s paper occasionally. I read your letter & was much pleased but I fear, mind you I only say I fear, I am not going to chuck it up yet, that the little walking tower is knocked on the head. You will have heard by now of the gruesome chaos at home probably you know more than I do. As I have not yet heard how the father's money stands. I suppose you have heard all, anyhow I will tell you what I know. F.S.H. having

steadily inhibited excessive quantities of alcohol for several years, naturally we find his wrong in the head, but apparently not in his body as the world. However he is now I imagine practically under control & dying, perhaps at the moment of writing dead. Well his affairs seemed unalterably so they were examined & it appears that he has devised himself into the hands of Genl. Rowell & other accountants & lawyers & had been speculating wilyly & to some \$100,000 in debt & concealed by assets. The question some day awaiting to be seen is if the partners & his sisters among his gone things are all in the millbank. Cheerful isn't it. That is why I rather think our expedition is "off." The Secretary should not have spent much of it intended a wrecking such purposeful

400000 carriers as possible, not a Canadian or a British caravan costing some thousands of pounds. But don't do run with the 10's. You see I would take you with me ^{being sufficient} & I will go with you to Mercom of the bottom of Tanganyika there we should begin our trip & we could not afford the German steamer up the lake, besides we should miss the shooting. There are Arabian, Ottoman & Belgian & German settlements there, it is not an unwarmed unknown region by any means. And for Tropical Africa it is healthy. Then at Uganda we strike English again & in a year's time there will probably be fifty dotted right down through the Sah-El. I should like to know which will be seen by them. If not we shall have our money's worth in getting through. As regards life one might that often enough by living in the country where only a well as above as I am. I could "go out comfortably & sit in before a white man turned up. I am absolutely alone. Had my first little house not long ago it was an old caravan

an was shot just alongside me. It was my first experience not a pretty fight. Then I had to go in & clear out some thick bush. There was no "Harris" to send, the niggers were too polite to go in unless I went first. I suppose you have seen or heard the angry lead go hurtling by too. You see how things stand now. I shall have to stay out here at an rate until 1900 if not 1901 ~~not~~ before I have the cash to go home & pay my debts here. I wrote home last Friday through F. R. Anderson this going by Ft. Zomba shld. catch the same mail & I unfolded our scheme boldly as you had fallen in with it. & said that I feared it was "off" but that "we should see". I sent a copy of your letter (only omitting the remark about having nothing at stake but our lives) home to England. So I have sprung the mine I wonder what they will say. Your letter April 12th got here June 3rd pretty slow work isn't it? With regard to details in your letter in case it ever did come off or you wanted to come up here. I will start on another piece of fodder which I have now found

10. 3. 98 Don't be frightened Lister
it is important read
it soon in full. Inlanje
Dear Donald B.C.A

I have just been tearing
up old letters & discovered yours dated
Oct 26th 97 which I received when under
the Doctor in Blantyre in December.
Some people sigh for the wings of a turtle
dove. I don't want the wings I want the
gizzard if only I could exchange my
liver for a gizzard. I should be a happier
& a better man. I was in Blantyre recovering
from my 1st dose of dysentery & my 2nd
attack of bilious fever which had at
that time become jaundice. My liver
was also enlarged. And yet I used to take
far too much exercise with the thermom-
eter up to ~~150~~ 150° F^{ahr} in the sun
& 119° in the shade & 102° minimum
for the 24 hours. Pleasant wasn't it.
So will you perhaps forgive me for
not answering you at once? I am now
getting over another slight touch of bilious

when I arrived I found the clothes & stores
I had sent on a week before, & hoped to
find dry & ready, had not arrived. The
d-d bustles had finished the weather
& water & stopped in villages en route
& I had passed them without knowing it.
Africa is indeed a happy country. We have
been having a war lately far from here
though. So all the Sikhs & native troops
to be spared have been called to the
front. Consequently this Fort. ~~with~~ the
officer in command, leaving only 3 Sikhs
& about 30 men (black) was practically
deserted. The Sikhs played the devil.
This is an important place on the Portuguese
borders a slave trade stopping station
& part of the district had only been conquered
in October after rising against us. The
Sikhs were left in charge in Jan^r 18th of this
year & as I said played the very devil.
The district did as it liked murdered
raided & raped in comfort. (The white
man had been d-d black too) No taxes

of course, came in. (2) Bay
of course, came in. Bay the boss of this
Mlange district in which this Fort is, only the
other side of the mountain (Mlange) came over
to look after things. The Sikhs refused to
acknowledge him said they had been left
in charge etc etc. He made them under-
stand a few things, then came back
raving & sent me over to take charge
& here I have been since Feb 1st. There
was no one to complain to as the Comm^r
was on his way to or in England. And the
Assistant & Acting Commissioner was at
the front fighting & every white officer
was with him. I had a pleasant time.
The situation was like a pig sty. The
Sikhs had taken possession of my office
refused to salute me, to acknowledge
me. To let me do my duty by myself
or even to take Tomatoes (all there was)
out of the Fort garden which of course be-
longed to me. So I started by turning them
out of the office, utterly ignoring them

to Abercorn at S. of Tanganyika then
walk canoe so called house boat or steamer
to Uganda to top of the lake then walk
to Uganda then comes the novelty (tho
I doubt if as a direct journey the other has
been done & with luck we might do it
before the telegraph people get there.)
The novelty is this go from Uganda down
the Nile through the "Bahr el Ghazal"
to Khartoum & thence to civilisation
Egypt & home. Supposing Dervishes still
unconquered then we must take the
sporting adventures route thro northern
East Africa. Somewhere take the boat
to the coast opposite Aden (Gardafui
is about there is it not?) then land
having done a near trip & passed thro
some of the finest shooting country in
the world. What say you it seemed impossible
at first to me but I almost think it
practicable now. Think it over & tell
me seriously not by return but soon
you have really been & should like
to see some of the most interesting in the world

(3)
to know what you think. I hope you will
agree. as to coming up here directly you
reach Chinde you will know where I am
at. At Durban, Inhambane, Delagoa Bay
or Beira you can soon get a boat to Chinde
or if you could get attached to the A.T. & Co's
line of construction from
Tete to from Umatali and Beira,
or from Salisbury. The agreement is
or was with Maj. Forbes a month's notice
on either side. You would get your
baggage to Tete on the Zambezi for nothing
except thrown in but otherwise is hard
to do. From Tete to Chindawa
is only 3 days on a fair road on which
the best time to travel is during June,
July or August. Supposing you were at
Tete for the A.T. & Co's you could
easily get them to give you a pass for
a few seasons etc. on the pretext of
desiring work at B're. I have a good
many friends in the country & do not
nothing for yourself (an excellent test)

The first of it is all American & a thing
Bearing upon it least so he struck me the
only thing I saw of the same kind
contracted it to a matter of some
credit & interest. But he said
of the workers a list that is history
of the world and of course and
to be a telegraph. I don't know
how far it is from that there
no doubt it could not be
of that department of labor
I am in the way of it
each other in the way of
these personal relations
as many of them are
over the south of Africa &
I will an old friend of mine
I believe I was able to
his father is a change of
theology but the company don't
American's the way
I believe of the
of money

clear the country of the ever less valuable it is true but it is the same as to depend on the
than this which is trying a good deal & I told
it is possible if you really wished of the
might be rather to get you a little though
it with the day kind. My own ideas of
fitting or placed near to you in
you. I suppose that takes our leave directly
it is done. I can take mine after 15th April
1899th but don't please a better amount
for 2 or 3 weeks being able to go to
the point of view of the whole state
I'd - but this I fear is a castle in the air
& I have envisaged it as a very necessary doubt
we are to get little in the new country
the health & wealth part to do & I believe
I would wish to go in for the little to get a white
I do think we are in the new world
I would have a district to a service
Photography has been the word to build up for
and what should be on the spot
I should like to have some friends of class
Smith's Harisun. You will be fresh
I am to be I am to Captain, India only

at Aldershot to 1898. I shall have been
in the country & rising up 3 miles in the country
fairly well & I believe to be the best of the
men, also suppose we should have
and again last as we have for the
Beith The Sports. Besides all we
should have that in the day to go to the
farming though the new County. France
I would like to see something for
England get it, you bet that will be done.
Well, there's my idea that it is not
likely to let me hear more of it.
I'm in bad, suppose The Peter says you
£50. Be of which you might have to spend
£50. Be get here. I have £250
from Government & can raise another
any thing from the M. C. & get £20
for my sale. It's little enough but
we would only do it if it all or the bit
of business whether rich or poor

Cape Mounted Riflemen,

Headquarter Troop

July 28th 1898

Umtata

Congratulations on Jesus
in the Mays, from Old Hall.

Dear Tom

Thanks for your letter
and that ^{HCRVC} card enclosed in
the Pink Us. The papers comes
all right and I have never
had to pay anything extra as
far as I know. There is nothing
in particular going on here.
I don't know whether I told
you in my last letter that
I had got a little bit of promotion
namely to first class instead of

second class private. I was a
triple distanced about home
news when last I wrote to
you, I am not so troubled
now, misfortunes will come
now and again. I am longing
to hear your opinion of the
whole matter, you having been
to HC lately. I heard from
Epiborn the other day saying
that he had been in a little
bit of a scrape and had come
out spoiled and ragged. I should
imagine Epiborn would be a

handy man in anything of that
sort; he is always pretty steady.
I have never received my baptism
of pie yet, though last Christmas
we got pretty close to it - one
or twice. We are being hurried into
Mounts Lyfingby and I suppose
I shall soon be on skis again
like a Reevier. I am not sure
whether we are to have the de Moppe
long rifle or carbine, the longest
is a certainty in either case I
am sorry to say. In the Rehards
his of a scrape and had come
out spoiled and ragged. I should
imagine Epiborn would be a
good picture by an E. epiborn
fellow "More" Easton. "The Rehards"

you cannot appreciate the situation
till you have been in it. The
news in the Zakhamba is generally
a month or more old and probably
of little interest to anyone out of
the corps, but it gives you an
idea of what we are like. If it
were not for the Zakhamba we in
Umtata should never hear what
our pals in other squadrons are
doing from year's end to year's end
we as a rule are not a letter
writing crush, I consider myself
quite an exception. I have at
last begun to play football again.
I hope to see you alive and fit
before many months are past.

I remain
your affectionate friend Donald D. Hunt

Jan 7th 1899

C.M.R.

Umatā

Dear Tom

Just a line or so
in answer to yours and to
show that I am still keeping
my end up after a fashion.

I thank you very much for the
book you sent me, I have
read it right through and
shall do so again, many
times I expect. I am glad
to see he has not tried to
improve on the account of
Abnera, Napier's is the account
I have been brought up on and
it is I think the only one

I could read. The account of
Magellan is good but do you
not think he rather implied
that Nelson and Collingwood
were the best of friends. I have
always imagined they were
a little quarrelsome. Robert
I am sorry, C M R life does
not help one to keep one's
history quite up to the mark,
and it is easy to forget things.
What one you long to do in
town & hope being there were
necessary you leaving the
Abolition, if you do you will
probably live to regret it in
a year or so when the great
times. I hope you received the

December number of the Liberator,
the S. Marks (C. S. M.) account of
Alice's duty written by a Protestant
is rather good. Nothing exciting
is going on. We have had a
race meeting and Synphora
and a cricket tournament is
now on. On Tuesday about
40 of E. S. M. are leaving here
to do their duty along the
River. I don't think there is
anything particular or down there,
but a Galetha happened to both
sideways at a magistrate the
other day. Magistrates are a
wonder race and are never
really comfortable unless they
have a troop of C M R doing guard
on the premises. I am very sorry

to hear that you have as you
say had a rap on the knuckles.
You take it very philosophically
and I am glad you do so.

After all it is not necessary to
hurry into these things foolishly,
Cecil Rhodes and Kitchener are
still I believe waiting. When
on the ~~subject~~, as I think I
told you, I nearly make an ass
of myself but I was luckily
sent just in time up to Hobart
250 miles away. Le Fleur was
a great scoundrel but he did
me a good turn.

I remain

your affectionate friend

J. P. Hunt

I hope to see you at the end of
May or the beginning of June.

Dear Tom
I have been lucky
enough to have been
directly under the clouds
eye all the way so far.

Have you
been
down to

Hart Hill lately?

I hear John took

Nona over to an

Aldershot field

day. Reggie

has become a

few so please

Belthulie town

April 25th 1900

Thanks for Link the received
a week ago I meant to have written
to thank you then for it. Campaigning
has been comparatively 'soft' so far.
We find plenty to do all the same.
Of the outer world & the war in
general I know nothing. All I know
is that Roberts is at Bloemfontein
& it is reported that he does not
intend moving till he has collected
at least 3 months provisions. Everyone
thinks he will be in Pretoria or before

pull his
leg about
it - from me.
Write to
3rd Norfolk
Militia
Field Force
SA

Good luck
to you.
Yrs affectionately
Donald R. Hines

May 15th I shall be in your I think he
will eat all his 3 months provisions
& a bit more before he gets there.

However it is idle for me to run talks
about these things. We were huddled up
to Bettlebridge Bridge some time ago as the
Boers in this S E corner of the Free State
were supposed to march to there in 48 hrs.
We came up & dug trenches & parapets
& got washed out by rain & some of us
got dysentery & most of us got diarrhoea
but the Boers came. Then we refused
to believe there were such people & hunched the town & made our position absolutely
impossible. The Boers (or a few of them)
from after day light then reduced the
number of men in the trenches by night.
To from 150 to 80 or 90 then to a mere

getting
dark
& I have
no candle
We have
Commander
the Field
Cornet's
house
it makes
a good
mess &
ante room
D.R.H.

of rain of the slope of the hill & were
full & overflowing with water. Now we
are split up & have ~~two~~ three companies &
the details of the 2nd Batta guarding the
Mogger bridge, 3 strong companies guarding
the other Railway bridge or rather the new
low level Railway bridge they are building
alongside it. The Cheikins & a few details
of other regiments are on the other side of
the river. ~~We~~ ~~with~~ two companies of one
are here at Bettlebridge village. The Boers
could sit on the top of the hills overlooking
the town & make our position absolutely
impossible. The Boers (or a few of them)
from after day light then reduced the
number of men in the trenches by night.
To from 150 to 80 or 90 then to a mere

The Colonel is with us so we live well but
have to work hard as is right & proper.
Maj Eden (who Denham Spurrell knows)
is with us plus two Subs - Webb (Batten),
Hodgson a good man, & my own sweet
little innocent self. The Colonel is
Commandant Bethulia, Eden O.C. Det^{mt}
Hodgson O.C. H Company Webb Railway Staff
officer, & I am acting O.C. D Company & Q^{tr} Master
to the Detachments. I may get a mounted
infantry section to command as it is
wanted badly. If they don't mount us in
a few days they never will I fear, as they
will get a small mob of Irregulars instead
as they are wanted at once. A command
of that sort (M^{td} Inf) would be heaven.
I hear Shippy is not to come, I'm sorry.
He is a deal better than some we have here.
He is a good soldier & we have some real
rotters here. We hope to see Bloemfontein shortly

Harbord, attached to us from Cheshire,
was on Board of Agriculture, hence
my envelope.

June 4th
1900

Edenbury
~~D.F.S.~~
|| Orange River Colony

Dear Tom

Received today your letter
of May 5th. Many thanks.
Ditto for Pink Ums regularly received.
Fox Hall is flourishing & wishes to
be remembered to you. That chap
Beresford you mention I have heard
about from several quarters, he was
I fear 'not much', but as I only

know about him from hearing
has said the better.

The Men is said to be over, but who
can tell. By there is a campaign
in the northern Transvaal a good
round number of troops will be
required still.

You are more 'anyone than

I am about my future. The blood
has influence & it prevents I am
not one of persons but Colonel,
like Kings, are not exactly like
himself & who can what tomorrow

will bring. He has promised (at least
the night-visited his promise) to
get me something here. Fearing that

the Adjutant advises me his
he says is no chief or chieftain
than the line.

Kelly-Kenny is a friend of the
Regiment's & has tried to get

no up to the front, but Denmark
has the arranging of these things
& wouldn't let me go.

Life here is very peaceful, today

I shot my first buck, not my
first but the first this trip.

It is a fine big Springbok ram
with a good pair of horns which
I hope to bring or send home.

It is the finest buck shot by the
Regiment so far. I got him walking
at 350, through the body with
a bullet I had dum-dummed.

I have a camp of my own here
now the E Kent Volunteers have
gone. I live in a commandeered
house with my Company just
outside. In my house are five

rooms, but I prefer to occupy
the biggest-middle room as a
bed-sitting-room also as a
sitting-bed-room à la The Drway
of Blood.

Of the war I know little except
what one hears in 'Railway Gossip'.
Brabant's Horse have I believe
made themselves disliked by the
Boers. When the Boers meet them
they (the Boers) usually return with
a list of killed exceeding their

~~the~~

list of wounded. Brackets there
are perhaps not entirely to blame
they are mostly Willard's whose
women were friendly treated
when leaving the Trenchard & they
certainly have a good deal to
wipe out.

The Royal Seal Rifles are said

to have done worst out here,

Stromberg was excusable but
their second march according
to all accounts was awful.

The men simply howled & held

up white handkerchiefs when the
Boers came near them & made
little or no attempt at resistance.
I am sorry for Gates, but in
his case too it was Redoubting
not Stromberg that sent him
home.

I wonder how this Country is
to be governed, between you & me
this country (D.F.S.) has been
very well governed & I have
heard we shall not give them
such a good government as the

had before. Of the Transvaal I know
nothing. These Free State farmers
are quite like English country
gentlemen & vastly superior to
the blackguardly Cape Dutch who
I met when in the C.M.R.

My idea of a Dutchman has
undergone a change.

Do you remember my winning
sixpence from your father at
whist; I still have that coin.

It was with trepidation that I sat
down to that game & exultation with
which I arose. Remember me to your
people & Vaughan too when you see him ^{to the} _{to the}

The letter dated at first
from Kruger's drop from ^{9th}
then he lost that post -
then he began again the 11th
from Pretoria - he says -
I have arrived at Pretoria
safe & sound after having
~~a little scrape with the~~
Boers our company had
it hot for a time but there
wasn't one got injured
the Boers don't seem to give
in very quickly but it is
all up with them - We
are stationed at Pretoria

Station with the people
kept I expect we shall stay
here for some time as

there is a good lot of grass
to do. I have not been half the 3 days. I was in
the town the building had built the office -

All right - some of them. I am sorry I could not look
Old Pongest House is rather good for a workshop - the
people. I shall try to have people more very decided -
a book bound for work & pleasure to see too -

We seem to get settled very things in the dining
after to make something very to buy some a very
only fancy something for small but bread is 1/- a
Bread to be made small bit of some 1/8 - which
should all about - 1/-

Pharmaking is a very
nice place for before -
Preston in my idea -

at home - we were
paid up yesterday £9. -
so I shall bring it home
bumping - we don't buy
much food stuff for our
money won't stand that
I think we shall be coming
home in a month or two

Edenbury
O. N. C.

HART HILL,
ST JOHN'S,
WOKING.

Aug 26th 1900

Dear Tom

Thanks for your letter.
You are a good chap to remember me
so persistently, as a rule my
friendships die an early death, time
killing them after a very short struggle.
You & I however have hung on for over
ten years in spite of time & distance.

I have just passed through a crisis
& am by no means sure I have done
the right thing. My conscience pricks
me sorely at times & I feel I may
have let my parents & Mother in.

I have been offered & have accepted
a commission in the Regular Infantry.

Ought I to have refused it?

Sir Godfrey Lagden is as you know the

last of Broadland, long ago I applied to him through General Thorne who was then here. Then I heard he ^{was} in Shropshire & near & saw him mentioning sufficient checks to do so. The interview was favorable. For some time I heard nothing more. data on Broadland on Oct 1898 had of mine who is now practically in G.D.'s A.D.C. with & told me in G.D. I was formerly inclined towards the bar advised me to apply to Sir A. Milner through Thorne who is now in Shropshire. I writes up your name who told me to make a formal application & he would recommend. I made the application & was Brigadier Major told me it had gone through.

Sept. 12th

Had to find him for letters lately. Haven't written home for ages.

To carry on
 A little later I received a printed form saying my name had been put on a list of ^{my} ~~names~~ ^{names} ~~list~~ (I suppose = Sir A.M.'s list) but that he could not hold me any longer before of employment as this has now ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~dropped~~ ^{dropped} ~~totally~~ ^{totally}.
 Before I received the letter I had ~~been~~ ^{been} ~~asked~~ ^{asked} ~~to~~ ^{to} ~~take~~ ^{take} ~~from~~ ^{from} ~~Miss~~ ^{Miss} ~~saying~~ ^{saying} ~~accept~~ ^{accept} ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~regular~~ ^{regular} ~~by~~ ^{by} ~~if~~ ^{if} ~~approved~~ ^{approved} ~~;~~ [;] ~~simply~~ ^{simply} ~~enough~~ ^{enough} ~~is~~ ^{is} ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~approved~~ ^{approved} ~~a~~ ^a ~~day~~ ^{day} ~~or~~ ^{or} ~~two~~ ^{two} ~~afterwards~~ ^{afterwards}. The Colonel ~~was~~ ^{was} ~~in~~ ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~room~~ ^{room} ~~with~~ ^{with} ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~when~~ ^{when} ~~Mr~~ ^{Mr} ~~Thorne~~ ^{Thorne} & so he wanted a definite answer or - one by him I did not have much time after all to decide. I had to settle in a few minutes what I had been deliberating & hesitating on for months. I accepted the commission. Perhaps I was right perhaps wrong. I could have been certain I was for anything at all it would have been

wrong to accept it. I was not quite certain, though well in the morning.

If I refused I was chucking away the chance of a life time. I shall never have such an opportunity again.

Again it was largely a question of money. I consulted Maj Eden, he said ~~though~~ ^{they} would never have told me to accept if they were unable to support me.

I know them better, it is as likely as not they will attempt to deny themselves small luxuries & comforts to support me. Reggie too would swear he could do on a smaller allowance, when he is already at the point of the irreducible minimum.

I'm not gazetted yet but may be any day to any Regt. I shall still push & plan to get something out here & failing that shall come home a subaltern of the line & after my drills etc. shall try for odd employment.

HART HILL.
ST JOHN'S
WOKING.

in whatever corner of the globe happens
to be handy. Anyhow I shall have
a definite profession instead of being
an aimless wanderer.

I should like to get into the Mounted
Police out here. The Transvaal Military
Police or the O.R.C.P. Both forces
combined are, I hear, to number altogether
9000 & to be under the supreme command
of Baden Powell. B.P. is just the
man for it, in fact there is no one else
capable of the job; by the way I wish
some one would sjambok all his relations
very hard. He himself is a splendid man
& they are spoiling his reputation by
their self-advertisement.

All is peace & quietness here though
a little while ago we thought we might
possibly have some work to do. The
Wimberg lot moved south but turned east

To day had a meeting of some kind towards the
Railroad as was reported. Day had
did not go & was right & waited for me.
British comes as usual; with all their
div' & div' & middle, appeared from
nowhere in particular & returned the place
& disappeared again into space. We were
only on the way outwards of the trouble
so it only affected us in a small way.
A Column under Maj. Ruddle was sent
& Secretary. I don't know where you
They wanted judging so we had to go
out to my farm with me & I
Commander every article & change around
we could find in house of. Mr. a nice job,
the man on authority & manager in the other
of deception & falsehood; I don't mind them
but I hate the woman & children. They put
my slaves then say a hard little thing
physical, then play a game & tests you
the bills then about carrying & containing
till you learn. All about nothing too

as all we want to ~~to~~ ^{for a few days} ~~to~~ ^{have} (they
get paid) a wagon & span of oxen or mules,
or possibly a Cape cart & pair of mules
horses. We'll not get our transport after
much trouble; my fear was we'd be
so Commanding. We loaded all the
wagons, sap-cuts, rolled carts & all
names of carts & Q. they all were
shouting, clucking, whiffo, breaking down,
blowing, sticking in drifts etc in the
other side of the. Boy's of the Indian I
was by both his and I do not see seem
as the boys were coming across the
Secretary road. I was left behind
carrying my pack in being a fool & dog
instead of a good ^{in day's} ^{later} ^{Secretary}
Horseman my ^{his} ^{day's} ^{later} ^{Secretary}
mind in some ^{the} ^{Box} ^{seats} ^{at} ^{once},
we loaded on my Geo. wagon, Commanding
a little darning, I collected a few Indian

Mr. By (the ruff rag Briggs had left behind to
look after his camp & sick horses.) We started
late in the afternoon & reached Reddersburg that
night. I met there an A. N. C. P. subaltern who
was at school in Norwich with G. H. Holley
& also knows your father by name. His name
was Dix, he has been in Richmanland &
elsewhere for the last 7 years. We swapped
lies & turned in. Next day my donkeys
the load was much too heavy
gave way, but I happened to pass a wagon
of Briggs' so stole two good mules &
two sacks of coats
was on my way. The next morning I
reached Duveldorp after upsetting & nearly
drowning my mules in a drift, a two hours
delay as my harness was broken in
every possible & impossible place. The Column
started an hour after my arrival so I was
only just intima, I watched them move
out Mr. By & Geomany spreading out
like a fan & covering an enormous
stretch of country, the guns, anti-column
hospital etc creeping lazily along the road

HART HILL,

ST JOHN'S,

WOKING.

in a thick cloud of dust. I sat on the top
of a hill & watched it all & smoked a
pipe & then rejoined my escort & wagon
on their return journey. I did 13 miles back
that evening my wagon being light & empty.
The next day I did the odd 32 in here,
On the last day two of my horses (Argentines
a feeble race of horseflesh) gave out & one of
my men went sick I put him in the wagon
blanketed him & jolted him home. Otherwise
all was correct.

I should like to have gone with the
Column they were going to Thabanchu
where the Boers were supposed to be.

We have quite settled down again to
our peaceful occupation of trench digging,
Gibraltar is not in it with my hill.

In a few days if possible I mean to
ride or train down to Trampenberg & see

A. H. Spooner who is still there with
half a company. They have rather a nice
lot down there Hanbury & Cattell, also
Lanes, are very good fellows. The O.H.s
I have met lately are Webber, Fickling
S. Knights, Tuffell an old chap & O.C. Supple
here he belongs to Buffs Militia I think.
Filmer Bennett (Buffs or Huss of some sort)
passed through in charge of a prisoner train,
he pointed out to me Villiers Maresmit's A.D.C.
a far Frenchman. Mills I saw several
months ago. One other but can't remember
who or where he was.

Have lost your last letter or would
answer it word for word. Your volunteer
friend at Smalden ought to think himself
damned lucky to have any clothes at all.
The British Army have long forgotten the existence
of just pipe clay & polish & are learning
the value keeping their things decently
dirty.

Good night

Yours ever

Donald J. Hunt

Oct 10th 1900

Edenbury
O.R.C.

HART HILL,
ST JOHN'S,
WOKING.

Dear Tom [Thanks for Pick'Ups]

We have been having rather a busy time during the last fortnight or so as we are under-garrisoned & several small Commandos of 50 to 200 are hovering round, all except one being east of us. Swetford's reoccupation by the Boers came as a surprise to us & woke us up. Reddersburg, where a chap named Dix of the O.R.C. Police is in charge, wired that they were going to be attacked & asked for reinforcements.

I was sent with 21 Durham Mtd Inf with orders to get there if possible before the Boers, if not to retire on Riet-Rivers (which would have been impossible). I arrived soon after dark, picked up the roads etc & — nothing happened. Harbord with ²⁰ of

on M¹ arrived for Tappin's Run at midnight.
Next day we pointed towards Sventobog
& ~~the~~ Smith's pits but saw no one.

We were then recalled to our station
& on inspection Commandants were damaged
for having cut us. They would have been
damaged still more if Pegg's Boat had
homed up as we expected with the
Remains of the N¹th M¹. In that case
we had decided to go to Sventobog as
people who escaped & came in told us
the Boats were land on.

We have since heard that a Ben patrol
came within a few miles of us & asked
a nation if there were any traps in Sventobog
I suppose they thought they'd get another
off thing like Sventobog & N¹th where
every one was asleep.

Since the wire had the usual sort of
seams. Seams seem to be exactly the
same all the world over, Sventobog was
just the same as Balthuk & Balthuk

the same as this.

The whole thing is rapidly developing into
a P¹th man's job and we may be our
home very soon, that at least is the
opinion, but who can tell.

Standing might be surprised any night.
I have very little faith in the N¹th country
& still less in the Sventobog. The latter
horror as we have so understood when
they think there is anything on.

Our sentries quite understood they're going
to look out for the ordinary office & challenge
him once by night they 'pay no regard' to
anybody else's approach & if the ordinary
office goes round twice he can get within
a yard or two before being asked who he is
or what time it is.

At Kaal Spinn the Otter might be a number
patrol of the 6th M¹th and it is the
camp & dismounts in front of the ground two
before being challenged, the sentry's excuse
was that at the time he was the Otter and

of his bear, he confessed to having heard them coming in the distance. Perhaps I oughtn't to mention these things as a regiment naturally keeps these little mistakes to itself so don't publish it abroad. Our sentries are fools.

Yesterday I saw Causton who was in Ladysmith. He had been home & come over again with a draft. He was just passing through in the train. He saw our Norfolk cap badges & remarked he came from Norfolk too so I asked him his name & spotted who he was. He wanted to be remembered to you.

Last night the wire was cut all round us the only place we could communicate with was Jagersfontein Road.

I must say I should like to have a fight before we are ordered home.

Yesterday there were 8 armed Boers in a farm-house quite close to us here. Eden wouldn't let me take a patrol

out to try & collar them until he'd wired
to Blomfontein for permission, meanwhile
the Boers scotched & when the answer
came it was 'No'.

I want to get into the Police here
the Army is impossible for a middle-aged
sedate nonentity like DRH. The Colonel is
very good & says I will get on in the
profession, but what's the good when one
has already lived in vain for a quarter of
a century. If one could be certain that
Armageddon was tomorrow it would not
be so bad. But Armageddon may not
come for 500 years & then I should be
tired of waiting. A Whierman's life out here
is a very happy & inexpensive one though
one has to sleep cold some nights. If I get
in now at the beginning I may be a - ? -
- big boss - after many years of toil & tribulation.
My position in the Army will always be
more or less a false one from lack of funds.
Young Spooner is now at Van Zyl Spruit

20 miles south of Edinburg, he reported the
line cut close to him the other night,
it wasn't cut after all & he got damned.

Since Returns Haarsbruch Touris Touche
& Co have been around no trains have been
allowed to run at night so we see double
amount of life & movement by day.

I have a small detachment ^{10 men} at a Gangers
hut 5 miles south which I visit daily.

I think Govt ought to feed my pony for me,
there is plenty of forage here too.

The Highland Light Inf passed south the other
day en route for Smithfield, they were a tough
looking lot.

The CIV have also gone through, for home.

They've done good work & when they've
done it have had it properly advertised, in a
great many quarters they are unloved.

No doubt they are on the whole a useful force.
I hope they won't be allowed to process behind
the Lord Mayor it would be a little too
theatrical altogether. Remember me to all old
friends, you know most of 'em

Yours ever
Donald R. Hume

Edinburgh
June 3rd 1901

HART HILL,
ST. JOHN'S,
WORKING.

Dear old Sir Thomas

In answer to your last letter of uncertain date — yes rather I received 'Shewingtons' & have read it & liked it. Perhaps not a great literary effort, but historical & therefore useful & well worth reading. Madagascar will eventually belong to the South African Federated States.

Met Gibber of the Sussex again today. He & Green then other Captain had begged or borrowed a bottle of green liqueur, in consequence I feel quite hilarious. But after all an oasis in a dry land is worthy of attention. I dine with Gibber tomorrow night if he's still here which is uncertain. I know Green

So tomorrow morning. Gibbons & I
with the Archbishop, W. P., Dick Martin,
Graham Spinkett, & many other celebrities.
Brod has not shot yet under the
table (this is a bit, but will come).

Anyhow we had a happy evening
& talked of old friends & did not
bottom about war & nations & transport
or shop of any kind.

I like the success very much, they are
a good outside crowd.

On M1 on returning there's here
there's leave tomorrow morning & one
ought to be in tonight or 12 or 1 o'clock,
under little Reggie Hunter.

I do Regie's B will have to start
back again at daybreak & seem
6000 ship towards Southampton.

The 9th dancers, who are now M1,
have been through & I met Campbell
who was the grand National or some

he is a good chap too, & never lost
Reginald.
Thanks for such the press reception &
always appreciated by everybody including
the Commandant.

Still plenty of Boro. The Transport
will be all appearances can be seen
than the O.P.C. & lately the colony
Boro who can tell.

you hear about from the San Diego
came quite as a shock, I saw in
later on in the Daily Graphic's
However I don't think he has lived in

Paris. He was, like an Epitaph, a
white man all through, whose
influence was after them.

The 3rd Norfolk are spread from
Baltimore & Norfolk sent to Southampton
& reside chiefly in Black Horse for
whence they were sent to patrol the

line.
I saw young Brown last week

he was at that moment very warlike
& dragged me out to chivvy Bous,
an unprofitable procedure, he nearly
made me miss my train back to
Edenburg too.

We agreed to go to Bloemfontein together
but Columbus came to him & likewise
to me so we had to give it off.

Damn, excuse me a moment, our
sentries are shooting at something
or nothing, expect it's Reggie Bunting.

All correct, only the usual horse
or cow that would answer a challenge.

Our garrison consists chiefly of
St. John's (by name) Scotch Volunteers
who are rather particular when a
sentry-go who they allow to approach
them. A more suspicious lot I've
never come across. The HLI V.R. Co.
have done good work lately just below
here on the line. Only I wish they would
not continue to eat their reserve rations
unnecessarily. It's beastly cold, so good night.

yours ever Donald J. Hunt

June 5th

Dined with Gilbert last night.

Ruggie Burton has come, & gone back again to Bloomington with close on 60,000 sheep and 1000 cattle.

Poor little devil, he had a long days fighting the day before he left - Kaffir Thov. Then trekked down here, & we have now packed him off again with a

Column of starving sheep
10 miles long.

Just packed off 67
refugees to Springfontein
a nasty job & troublesome.

Rather busy.

Yrs
J. P. H.

Dec 28th 1901

Johnny

Dear Tom

Your Christmas card
was good, thanks for
it.

Just back from Natal
where I have been this
last week A D Cing

Sir G:

Saw the Elandslaagte
field, Ladysmith, the
Tugela hills etc. Thought

We must get natives &
rule them properly.

I will write at greater length
on this when I can.

Peggie ought to have landed
by now. It is rough missing
him in Durban by so little.

Good luck & good fortune
to you & yours.

Yrs affectionately

J. P. H.

1891
May 30th

W

J. W. Purdy Esq.
2 Kedburn Street
~~Woodgate House~~
Chelsea Aylesham
London S.W. Norfolk

England

King Williamstown
May 30th 11.30 p.m.

Dear Tom

I am writing in semi-darkness with a pen like a needle and its damned cold. I have just come off my first relief, the rest of the guard are playing euchre. Thanks very much for sending me the Pink We, it is always welcome and eagerly devoured. It is about the only paper nowadays that does not abuse South Africa and everything South African. We are all delighted to hear Labby had to climb down. Have you read "Peter Halkett" I have just finished it and

was greatly disappointed after hearing so much about it. It is into action first and the column almost impossible to get it out come in when the muggers are in the here now. The Middlesex Regiment. I know all the fellows who are to be stationed here so I were killed when Toto's place was expect we shall go. The other taken, they say our wounded were singly day about six of us put in for hatched to pieces, one Milne was found a transfer to Bechuanaland, we still alive with nine wounds, shot and have I think I a good chance of assegai, in him. Our fellows had to getting there. I don't expect the push the bullets in the end and our home papers tell you much about 70 dead (~~no~~^{no} wounded) muggers were the fighting them, poor old E Squadron found where the C M R had gone. are still up there with a few of I hear Toto has recaptured his the Artillery troop. E had ninety stronghold, most probably from the men to begin with ^{when the transport up} last week they went into action with their full strength 68. They have lost most were than weathers and that C. D. F. Squadron of the C M R and a few hundred

Cape Police are to take their places.

Galishue (pronounced ~~Had~~ Hlischua) is keeping his end up just as well as he did at first. He is an educated man and one of the best rifle shots in South Africa.

He captured three provision waggons the other day and sent our Colonel (Dalgetty) a few samples of the whisky he had collared. Some sick men (malaria fever) are down here now, they say all our chaps have to eat is milderpest meat and now and then a few biscuits, they drink the water out of the pumpkins but they have to cook them first. Nearly all the C.M.R. horses up there are dead. Dalgetty did a neat thing last week, these niggers had about 2000 head of cattle hidden up in the Langberg, Dalgetty sent to Kuruman for

ten Minderpost seen which he allowed
the Niggers to capture, within a few days
nearly all those 2000 had got the
Minderpost and most are dead or dying.
I hear the Basuto scouts are doing very
well now though they were not quite up
to the mark at first. They went round
after the last scrap and collared the
wounded and chucked them over a
brandy kind of precipice shooting at them
as they went down. It was with great
difficulty that a few wounded could
be saved at all. The Minderpost is
getting much nearer here, I hear the
Transkei is to be placed within the
infected area. I don't believe we shall
right the Transvaal, at any rate
not yet. I still believe the fight
with the Niggers all round will come

pieces. There are great rumours every day but nothing much ever seems to happen. I am very glad to hear you are a volunteer officer they are badly wanted and every one ought to be one who can possibly manage it. You will probably find it very sickening and a great nuisance (besides expensive) at times but it is all the more necessary to stick to it. I wish we could get away from King and live on the veldt again I am fed up with civilization. However I dare say I shall have had enough of the veldt before another two years are up. I shall thank myself lucky if I get through that amount of time with a whole skin, there will be a good deal to go through before then. There is not much to do here

except play football and now and then shoot. King was to have played East London last Saturday but East London scratched at the last moment, I was very disappointed as I was the captain of the King crush. I often go out shooting with a fellow named Maude (his father ^{and uncle} were a hunting men his father died a general but I think his uncle are alive) he is a good chap to go out with as he never tires, I hate men who knock up before half the day is over and he is always in good spirits. We got 24 hours or 12 hours leave and ride anywhere, he has a pony but I sold mine so ride my trooper. There is not much to shoot, a few green plovers, kibbikins we call them,

there are always pigeons and now and
then a hare or two. We have several
times seen buck but they are very
scarce. The buck are pretty well all
of one kind, dyka, I don't know how
to spell it perhaps "dyker" would be
near the mark, I am not a Dutchman.
Quail come in I think about October
or November, they are good fun.

I believe there is plenty of shooting
in Bechuanaland but it would be
an unwholy place to be stationed as
it is all desert and fever strikes
throughout. I bought some good
cartridge cases the other day they ought
to last some time. Remember me to all
old friends; especially if you happen to go
down to H.C. Dave and Vaughan are about
the only bucks I care for. I remain
your affectionate friend Donald R. Hunt

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