

## Transcript of Eric Hasted Video Clip

Eric: Got embarkation leave. Went home had leave, went back to camp. It had all been cancelled [laughs].

Interviewer: Oh no.

Eric: So we'd stand down and then two or three weeks later it's on again [laughs]. So this time we're given a weekends leave then we went back, we were given our tropical kits and our topis, our sun helmets.

Interviewer: Did you know where you were going at that point or not? Did you have any idea where you were going? I mean other than the climate.

Eric: Well, we guessed Egypt because we were given all tropical kit.

Interviewer: Ok.

Eric: Mustn't tell anybody you're going abroad. That was the order of the day.

Interviewer: Yeah.

Eric: And so you packed. When the time came we packed our kit. You'd have your pack on your back, strapped on to the pack was your tin helmet and over the tin helmet was the sun helmet exposed to human view and we had to march from Catterick down to Richmond to get the train.

Interviewer: How far is that? I don't really know.

Eric: Oh, about three miles, three or four miles.

Interviewer: Oh ok.

Eric: And it was in the early hours of the morning so it was dark and the chap on the outside at the front carried a white hurricane lamp and his corresponding number at the back carried a red hurricane lamp and off we marched. We were about half way there and some wag amongst us suddenly broke into song, started singing 'hi ho hi ho it's off to work we go'.