

NEAR EAST RELIEF

(Formerly The American Committee for Relief in the Near East)

SYRIA-ALEPPO DISTRICT

Telegraph and Cable Address: NEAREST

ALEPPO

Marash, Turkey.

June 20, 1920

Dear Family:

You probably got the letter I wrote two days ago saying my Xmas package arrived by camel. I didn't get a chance to even look at the box till after Dr. Lambert went back to Aleppo as there was so much to do getting the party off and writing letters for Aleppo. But Saturday morning we got up at 4:30 & Dr. Lambert & Miss Buckley & Miss Blakely left Marash by auto - the first time our auto has carried anybody away from Marash since January. They drove to the At Su & crossed in the river bed, (the bridge having been burned) & met the Clinton auto on the other bank. So they went on in the other car & ours returned here.

Right after they all left I got a hammer & everybody gathered round to see what was in my box. It surely was Xmas. They used to say Xmas comes but once a year, but there have been 3 this year, one Armenian one of Dec. 25 & this last one. Everything was fine. We are going to have the plum pudding for dinner today (Sunday) & of course the candy is a real treat here. A box of chocolate like these can't be had for love or money within 300 miles.

Except the fruit cake, which was moldy (plain three).



21
Marash. Everything was needed, handkerchieves, socks,
& all. We didn't ever throw away the little hunks of
newspaper used for packing, but read all the
news on that too. The magazines are being read by
everybody here. Gen. Pershing's photo is already on
the wall, & Marion's is on my desk. The V. P. O.
films will be handy if Lyman brings my camera back,
but I'm afraid the bandits got it from him. The
printing paper was just what I wanted, as I was all
out, but now I can make some more pictures, & will
print tomorrow night. The chemistry book I don't need
now, but Miss Lied, who teaches chemistry here in the
college, is going to buy it for me & I can get
another one when I come back to U.S. Thanks
to all the family for all the nice things. After
imagining that the box was at the bottom of the sea it
surely was great to see it.

I won't be here more than three weeks more
now, & may not have another chance to write before
leaving, but of course may not be able to get out. I
heard this morning that the Turks & French were
not able to agree & the armistice is ended &
fighting will begin again. Perhaps it is not
true, but I wouldn't be surprised if war began
again, as the Turks have won so far & don't
feel like having the French dictate terms to them.

NEAR EAST RELIEF

(Formerly The American Committee for Relief in the Near East)

SYRIA-ALEPPO DISTRICT

Telephone and Cable Address: NEAREST

ALEPPO

Dr. Lambert's opinion is that the French have bungled everything, not only Marash, but Antak & Wifa too. After they evacuated Marash the General who commanded here was disgraced & sent home, & all of the French swore they would never leave Antak, but all but a few have gone out, & all these trenches are occupied by the Turks.

Dr. Lambert told us about the Wifa affair. He knew something was happening there & decided to go by auto & see. The French officers told him it was foolish and dangerous, but they didn't even know what was going on there themselves & had sent no reinforcements. Dr. Lambert got there safely, & this is what he reported. Fighting began there on Feb. 9th, (one day before it stopped in Marash). The French had no cannon, but the Turks & Kurds had. The French were in one of the American buildings, & for two months they were under rifle & shell fire. The Armenians were armed but did not enter the fight & merely protected themselves. Finally food gave out, & the French decided to evacuate. They got the Armenians to request their evacuation on account of shortage of food, & the Turks & Kurds agreed to let them leave the city unharmed with all their equipment & arms. The French asked for ten

4/ Turkish Officials as guarantors of safe passage, but instead, the Turks gave to gendarmes Mr. Woodward an American, went out with the French at Midnight April 9th. They hoped to get out of the hills before daylight. The afternoon before the evacuation the Armenians reported to the French that all the Kurds were leaving the city, & warned the French of a probably ambush. But the French laughed, & went out in some sort of formation which was especially open to attack. At daylight they were going thru a defile in the hills when the Kurds opened fire. The French couldn't defend themselves & the column was soon all broken up. Mr. Woodward took a white flag & with an interpreter, ^{or some of the gendarmes} went up the slopes to the Kurds, but there was no officer to surrender to. They were merely bands of Kurds without leaders. Woodward looked back & saw the Kurds had begun to massacre the French & were falling the wounded. The gendarmes took Woodward back to Ufa. The next day 100 naked French soldiers & one officer were brought back to Ufa as prisoners. The Kurds killed all the rest, about 400 soldiers & 14 officers. Two soldiers escaped to Jerevan.

When Sr. Lambert reached Ufa he saw the place where the massacre had taken place. The dead horses were still unburied, but the French were buried. The thing had happened just a week before. There was no massacre of Armenians in Ufa. In Aintab the Turks suffered much more than the

NEAR EAST RELIEF

(Formerly The American Committee for Relief in the Near East)

SYRIA-ALEPPO DISTRICT

Telegram and Cable Address: NEAREST

ALEPPO

Armenians in killed & in property loss. The Turks admit that they used over 400 tons of gasoline & only succeeded in burning two Armenian houses, while the Armenians burned several rows of Turkish houses with a few tons they got from Travis. One time the Turks threw a burning pole soaked in turpentine over to an Armenian house. The Armenians turned the pole around & threw it back & the Turkish house burned.

The French used 7 tanks in Antab. Dr. Lambert came up with the convoy that brought the tanks, & says they made good time. Then the French foolishly sent a tank thru the town with soldiers following on foot. The Turks shot all the foot soldiers, then the tank got into a ditch & turned over on its side. The Turks watched it awhile, then decided it was out of commission, so a big crowd of them started out to take possession. The tank officer waited till they were all close up, then let loose with a machine gun, so there was some real killing on. The tank of course was just playing dead in the ditch.

Dr. Lambert came from Aleppo with a French convoy later with autos & ambulances & wagons, &

6/ took all the orphans out of the city & back to Aleppo, all the while fighting was still on. They had to enter & leave the city at night. He says it was about a terrible time. As they were approaching the city in the evening French shells from the city began to hit them on the hillside near them, so they supposed the Turks were there waiting to ambush them, therefore their own cannon opened up on the same spot. Later they found it was a body of French cavalry guarding them. The French in the college thought they were the Turks. The cavalry officer came in a little later and clear thru at such a blunder. The shells only wounded his horse however. Returning to Aleppo with the orphans the Turks attacked, but the French drove them off.

Knowing these things I'm not particularly anxious to go to Aleppo soon if fighting begins again. If there is no war I will go out by auto about July 10 or 15th, to Aleppo, then Jerusalem & Cairo if it isn't too hot. From there I don't know how I'll come. I have money enough. I'll ship my ~~trunk~~ trunks from Beirut direct to New York via Cook's agency, & just take hand baggage home. In New York I'll buy me some new clothes & throw my uniforms down a sewer, if I have enough money left. Will try to be home Sept. 15th if all goes well. It will be too hot to travel much. Must close now. Lots of love to all the house. Thanks again for all the Xmas gifts.

Stanley.