

Aintab, Turkey  
 July 1st 1920

Dear Mother:

Today I'm in a new country, it seems, altho just 50 miles from Marash. I got a note in Marash yesterday saying Miss Mather, a relief worker was in Aintab waiting for us to take her to Marash. So Augsburg & I came in the auto this morning with one gendarme, & had no trouble. Crossed the Ak River in the river bed without getting stuck. Before we reached the river we passed a forlorn looking Turk standing by the road. He waved for us to stop & said four armed Kurds had just robbed him of his four horses & all his stuff & had disappeared over the hill. He seemed to think we ought not to go on, but our gendarme loaded his gun & we went on & saw nothing of the Kurds. As we reached Aintab the effect of the big battle here could be seen. French flags were flying on the college & on strongly fortified positions over the city. We went down the wrong road & didn't find our mistakes till we appeared in the front of a barracade in the road in front of a stone building, windows & doors barricaded with rocks. Turks peered out at us so we turned & went to the other side of the city. At a corner a French sentry halted us, searched the car (for we were flying the Turkish flag), then called an officer, who ordered that the car could go on. The sentry ran ahead and opened a gate in a complicated barbed-wire fence. Next a Turk sentry ran out in the road at the next corner but we just scooted by & up the hill to the hospital. We now find we are not supposed to go down the street without that sentry's permission. The city is in a peculiar state. According to the terms of the armistice the French were to withdraw from Aintab to their



camp, so the French merely moved to their camp - the college which is impregnable. The Armenians here put up a fine fight & dictated the terms of the Armistice. The Armenians here predict more trouble. The Turks think the Armenians are very strong. Let them think so. The fighting here was much different from Marash - tanks, armored cars, aeroplanes bombing the town, cavalry charges, etc. But it differed from Marash in that here perhaps 30 or 40 Armenians were killed, while in Marash over 10 or 12 thousand perished. Here perhaps 50 French were killed and 400 or 500 Turks. By the way, the French fought true to form, their aeroplane bombing their own positions by mistake & dropping French mail in Turkish sections, just as they did in Marash.

We hear that Dr. Lambert, when he left Marash, went to Aleppo, then returned to Antakya & on his second return to Aleppo took two big truck loads of Armenians to Aleppo. When about 30 miles away from Aleppo a band of brigands stopped them, robbed all of everything they had, put the women in the car & sent them on, & held the men. We now know two stories about the men, one that they are being held for 1000 pounds ransom, the other that they were ~~released~~ released at night & walked to Aleppo. Dr. Lambert is getting his share of excitement. Must close as we must start back for Marash at 3 P.M. Miss Mathy is not well & is not coming with us, but will come in another car on Sunday. I expect to leave Marash in two weeks (or three) & will be home sometime between Sept. 1st & 15th. We are going to take a Victrola back to Marash! Situation in Marash is not good. The Turks & we are quarreling about the hospital. The Turks think it is theirs. Lots of love to all. Sorry I have to write such a short hurried letter. Have had a little sick, but am <sup>again</sup> starting.