



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

A. C. R. N. E.

INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE.

From AKK
 To the whole family
 Subject Homeward Bound

Beirut Syria.
 July 21, 1920

Dear Family:

Just have half an hour to write before starting for home! As you see, I'm part way there already, being in Syria, & expect to sail this P.M. for Jaffa, or else tomorrow morning by U.S. Torpedo boat to Jaffa.

I left Marash at 4 A.M. on Friday the sixteenth. We had heard that a French column was to move towards Aintab on the 17th, so decided to get out before that. We had just got outside the city when a police officer halted us & began to search the car for mail. That about 500 letters, some of them from French prisoners, so didn't want to be caught. After he had looked a while, I pulled five letters from my pocket & gave them to him, then we started suddenly & drove off. At Aintab we decided at first not to stop, then thought there might be news of trouble ahead, so we left the car outside the city & I walked in, got thru the French lines all right, & was well on my way to the Amer. Hospital when a Turk stored his rifle over a wall & motioned to me to come along. He wanted to know where I was going, & was at all satisfied when I said "American Hospital". He took me inside the Turkish fort & passed me on from one sentry to another till I was in headquarters. I suddenly realized that they took me for a Frenchman, & when I explained I was an American it made all the difference in the world. The commander appeared & sent a man to show me the way. Som afterwards I found that there was almost a state of war in the city again. The Turks had demanded



that the Armenians give up a mosque they were holding
& when the Armenians refused, barricades went up all
over the city & shops closed.

At the hospital I found a letter for me from Dad
telling about Foghat wanting me to help in Syria. At noon
we set off again for Aleppo, with two other cars from
Aintab accompanying us. One of them was to go on to Aleppo,
& the other was carrying cigarettes & jam for the Turkish
"chetes" who always give our cars trouble. This car went
ahead & distributed the jam & smokes, so when we
arrived the chetes were in good spirits & made no trouble
at all. At Hillis we stopped. The French have a

great camp there. We heard rumors of trouble in Aleppo,
but went on. Three miles from Aleppo the British had erected
a monument with the inscription "Here was fought the last battle
of the Great War in the Near East". Before approaching, a line of soldiers
could be seen on the crest of the hill, & suddenly an Arab
rushed into the road, drew his sword & waved it at us to stop.
Other Arabs ran out & formed a line across the road, all
drew their knives & brandished them & looked at vicious
as they could even after we had stopped. They thought we
were French & apparently would like to have used their
knives on us. After half an hour arguing with the Arab
captain we were allowed to proceed. The Arabs were
hurriedly digging trenches & gun emplacements beside the
English monument, which had been destroyed, & only
"the Great War" - showed where the inscription had been.

As they looked like war in Aleppo. Before entering the
city we were searched again, & our Turkish gendarmes were
disarmed by the Arabs. At the consulate, the Consul

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From

To

Subject

Wilson told me the situation. The French had sent an ultimatum to the Arabs, with five points:

- (1) French occupation of Aleppo as a military base against the Turks
- (2) " control of the railway from Beirut to Aleppo.
- (3) " " of all Syria & the Lebanon.
- (4) No more conscription to raise the Arab army.
- (5) Punishment of those who were helping the Turks.

The Arab decourse were to have till Sunday night to decide after that the French would advance. We had arrived on Friday, & so if we were to get out at all would have to leave for Beirut not later than Sunday morning. By hustling I got everything in shape on Saturday & left Aleppo Sunday, arriving here in Beirut 2 A.M. Monday.

In Aleppo the city was under martial law. Couriers had been sent as far as the Euphrates to call in the Bedouins from the deserts to fight the French. On Saturday all day the Bedouins kept pouring in to the city. I think I have never seen such a thrilling sight as the Bedouin Arabs galloping down the main street of Aleppo. Several hundred of them on fine horses, all armed with swords & rifles & shouting at the top of their voices came racing down the street, followed by perhaps a hundred more on camels. All these had come in from the desert & were in their native dress. Even boys were had come, & all had rifles, many of them English. One Arab on a camel apparently thought we on the street were French, so he pulled out a curved sword & made signs of what he would like to do to us, & showed his teeth. None of us

had a camera during all this parade,
 The Arabs requisitioned two of our autos, & will mount
 machine guns on them to police the city. The government is
 as much afraid of the Bedouins as of the French. Arab
 officers say the battle will not last long, as they will
 fight outside the city & if they lose will permit the
 French to enter without further fighting. The railway
 one which I came to Beirut is mined & will be
 blown up the moment the French start toward Aleppo.
 At Kyat we found the pieces of French, well fortified. In
 the Beirut-Kyat railroad we passed many "tanks" &
 carloads of sand bags, etc. We just got out of Aleppo in
 time, I guess, altho I hate to miss the fun.
 My plans are to get to Jaffa first. I hear there is a
 quarantine against Beirut for plague, so I was advised to
 this p.m. & will try to land at Jaffa. If I can't I will
 miss Jerusalem. I can't go by rail as the road to
 Damascus is cut due to the trouble. If they will allow me
 to land at Jaffa & get to Jerusalem I will go on to
 Alexandria, see Cairo, & probably sail for Trieste on
 Aug. 5 on the "Belona". From Trieste I go to Venice,
 Florence, Rome & Naples & from there home. It is said
 to be impossible to get passage from France to England
 without waiting for months, so I will try & go straight
 from Naples to New York. I have plenty of money.
 I should be leaving Naples the first week in September.
 Hope to be in Jerusalem tomorrow night, but may have to
 miss it altogether. Had no trouble in getting my passport.
 Must close & go to dinner. Had a fine swim in the
 Mediterranean last evening. Wish you were all here to
 go home with some. Love to all, from Stanley.