



The Grand Hôtel  
de la Poste

Salvo Vella

PROPR.

Port Said, le Aug. 2, 1920.

Dear Mother:-

I have a little time now to write a letter before trotting around to the steamship agency again. I was never so disgusted in my life as I've been here with steamship agencies, trying to get out of the country. In Cairo I finally got a ticket on the Russian boat before to Marseilles for 36 L. Stu. after failing to find anything for Italy. Then next day I met two American army officers who told me a U.S. Army transport was at Port Said on its way to Trieste. They told me that I could go on it, & advised me to sell my

ticket & come with them, which I did. At Port Said I hired a row boat & went out on the canal to the transport, but Captain Galloway said I could go if either the American consul or the Czechoslovak consul would give him a written request to take me. Another chap named Haboust, who is a Chatauegas lecturer & movie who has been in Palestine taking movies was also trying to get on the boat. So we went to the consul & made our request, at which he sneered and said "Can't do anything for you" and walked off. It is the first time anybody has been discourteous. He or I find now he is an Englishman substituting as Amer. consul while the real consul is away. So we told Captain Galloway & he said "Go to the Slav consul." So we went & had him write out just what Galloway had asked for. We took this on board ship the

3/ next morning early & Galloway said it was O.K. & we might go. The boat was to sail at noon so we got our baggage on board and were making ourselves as comfortable as possible on deck (the cabins were full, & nothing left but deck space) and at 12 M., the time set for the boat to sail, a message came from Galloway at the American consulate saying he could not take us! So we waited for him & protested but he said he couldn't do anything. The consul had said "Let them take a regular passenger vessel".

So we had to get off again & go thru all the custom's red tape again. Nebornet, the Chatagrus man, is going to advertise our consul here in American papers, & I wish you would let some reporter publish my opinion of him as a

4/ \*! - - - " Let the reporter fill in. It took us two days hard work and five row boat trips to the boat to get permission to go & then to have that changed was too much.

We have spent the rest of our time here trying to get a boat for anywhere outside this pest hole of a city, but can't get anything except the most expensive. There is a Lloyd Triestino boat leaving here in about four hours for Venice, via Alexandria & Corfu, which we may possibly get, but if we do we will have to travel third class to Alexandria & 2nd to Venice. We are going to try for it anyhow. I can get a boat to Marseilles on the 11th, but have all my money changed to itelear, as I expected to go to Trieste on the transport, so have to change back

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# The Grand Hôtel de la Poste



Salvo Vellu  
PROPR.

Port-Said, le

Adresse Télégraphique: HOTEL POSTE - PORT-SAID

and lose 10 % on exchange.  
If we succeed in getting off this P.M.  
on this boat I'll mark on the  
outside of this envelope (on the back)  
the name of the vessel & the destination.  
~~to~~ From Venice I'll either go to  
Florence, Rome & Naples, or perhaps  
to Paris & London.

I had an offer yesterday of a  
free ride on the U.S. Army Transport  
"Crocker" to Manila, via India  
China & Japan! But they told me  
I couldn't get to New York before the  
middle of October, so I didn't

accept, as I would lose my chance of  
a fellowship or the other offer. But  
that would have been a fine trip.

This country is just as  
full of the seven plagues as it was  
in Pharaoh's time, only they are  
in the shape of bootblacks &  
peddlers who hound a fellow  
every moment he is on the  
street. If you get a shine, no  
matter how good, you are sure to  
have ten other boys hollering  
"shine" at you every ten feet. Then  
if you sit down somewhere a  
boy will come & perform tricks  
for you, slight of hand or  
contortionist, & then demand  
money from you as though you  
had asked him to do it. They  
drive you crazy, & you have to

7/ have a cane or club to keep them away from you. This is a fact, that if you sit down on a chair outside the hotel & close your eyes a moment, a boy will be shining your shoes when you open your eyes!

In Cairo I saw the Egyptian museum & had a look at old Pharaoh who is lying in state there, the one who oppressed the Israelites, & also the one who was ruling when the Exodus took place. There are lots of mummies there and all the best Egyptian sculpture & art. Cairo's really a fine city.

On Saturday I saw the Procession of the Holy Carpet in

8/ Cairo. This is the biggest day of the year in Cairo. The Holy Carpet is sent every year to Mecca & placed on the tomb of Mohammed for one year, the old carpet being sent to the royal family. So 1000 soldiers were drawn up in a hollow square & drilled for a while - & I can certainly bend it to those Egyptian soldiers for they are well drilled - then the Holy carpet, on the back of a big camel & followed by 5 sheikhs on camels paraded around the square seven times, while 63 cannon shots were fired, & then started on its journey to Mecca. It was quite a sight.

Hope everybody at home is well & am feeling fine. Will see you all about the middle of September if all goes well. Will write again from my next port. Lots of love to all, from Stanley.