



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF IN THE NEAR EAST  
SUCCEEDING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS  
Aleppo District

Aleppo, Syria.

Nov. 6, 1919

Dear Marion,

Your letter + Mother's + Stuart's, written on Sept. 30 arrived a few days ago in Aintab, where I was working. I was the only one in Aintab to get a letter that day, so of course was the object of much envy. I was glad to hear all about doings in Darby - about Marion's school, May's wedding, Stuart's new job, etc. You spoke about it getting cold in Darby now and having a fire in the sitting room grate. It's getting cool here too, but there isn't such a thing as a grate or a stove in any of our houses, so we will have to get along on our stoves and overcoats. Wood is so scarce here that an old wooden box is sufficient capital to start a lumber business. It's a common sight to see a man sitting in the market with a couple of boxes or boards for sale.

I just got back from Aintab this afternoon after working up there for about a week. I was expecting to go to Beirut with Runaway for a week's vacation before starting on a new job in the winter, but railway conditions were so unsettled due to a strike & to troop movements that we postponed it, and then Lambert gave me another of these "odd jobs" that I'm sick of. I've been doing "odd jobs" for the last two weeks, as the lab work has dropped off almost to nothing, and Dr. Lambert has promised



THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEE RELIEF IN THE NEAR EAST  
SUPPORTING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

me a real piece of work very soon. Well, the latest job of mine was something the New York Office ordered. They sent over thousands of blanks - one for each orphan - to be filled out giving the child's name, religion, scars, father's occupation, story - and photographs, etc, etc. - and this to be done in triplicate. The idea is to get people at home interested in individual orphans so that they will support them until they become self supporting. I was a little peeved at the amount of work required, but anyway took the Graflex, the blanks, + all the films I could carry + piled them on our Red truck bound for ~~Antak~~ <sup>Marash</sup> with a load of passengers - all Circassians - and the wildest-wooliest looking men I've seen. They look like Cossacks - long fur coats, wicked looking daggers, + beautifully carved silver scabbards. They had saddles with them + were going to travel by horse from Marash to Sivas. Of course each one had to pay his fare - and just to show you how our transportation department earns money, these ten Circassians paid over \$200 for that ride to Marash. We had five flat tires before going a third of the way to Antak, and reached there just at sunset. I got off here and the truck went on to Marash. On the way from Aleppo we passed Arab cavalry on the road to Katma, where the French are camped. The Arabs hate the French. As we crossed the railroad a train was going by loaded with French Moroccan troops + artillery, headed for Aleppo.

I had a very interesting time at Antak - photographed 960 orphans in three days, + got interpreters started on the job of filling out the history sheets, developed films at night, took a lot of photos of general interest around Antak, etc, etc.

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF IN THE NEAR EAST  
 SUCCEEDING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS  
 Aleppo District

And so kept very busy. It was very interesting work, if you could call it work, especially ~~the~~ taking photos of the little girls. They certainly are comical. Their chief amusement is saying "Gud mornink" every time an American comes near.

[Excuse interruption, but an Arab wedding procession is passing - torches, drum, bag pipe, dancers, & all the rest]

But the most interesting part of the trip to Aintab was the evacuation of this territory by the British & the coming of the French. On Monday morning at 7.30 there was a review of the 18th Indian Lancers before the French staff officers who had just come. I arrived a little late but was just in time to see the big line of Indians gallop down the field in one long line abreast, past the reviewing officers. Then they formed across the field and charged in a straight line directly towards the reviewing staff - and reined in their horses from a gallop to a dead stop not more than 15 paces from the colonel. It certainly was a great sight. The Indians make a fine appearance with their turbans, long lances, etc. Every Indian lancer is armed with a lance, a bay sword on one ~~of the~~ side of his saddle and an Enfield rifle in a holster on the other side.

On ~~Tuesday~~ Monday night the British troops from Marash arrived at Aintab & camped there over night. The next morning the Marash and Aintab troops broke camp together and started on their long trip to Egypt. The evacuation began at 8 A.M., and by 11 A.M. there wasn't a blooming

Had dinner the other night with Dr. Shepard and Dr. Merrill.

Tommy or Hindos to be seen. Their camps were so completely empty that you wouldn't know there had been a camp there, except for watering troughs & fences.

French troops had arrived a few days before, & on the occasion were drawn up along the roadside outside the city with their band to give the British a proper send off. There were Moroccan cavalry, French-Armenian infantry, & regular Frenchies, and an band. These were on one side of the road, and the reviewing "stand" on the other, where the French Colonel, & the British staff officers reviewed the troops as they passed. The Americans were allowed here, too, & the high Turkish officials, & I had the Graflex to take official photos.

It took two hours and a half for all the troops to pass. They went out in regular wartime fashion - armored cars ahead, next came the Fords with machine guns, then ambulances, advance guard of Indian tanks, ammunition carts, supply wagons, etc. & finally rear guard. When the British had all passed, the French Colonel rode to the head of his own troops, & with a great flourish of his sword marched them into Aintab - very spectacular on his horse. He has only a few hundred soldiers now, but more are coming - with artillery & machine guns. I got a number of good photos & will try to print a few tomorrow to enclose with this letter. I just missed getting the Colonel at the head of the French. ~~Earlier~~ The day before that Gen. Weir had me photo the combined French and British staff officers with the Turkish officials. I close that too. | If the Sledge wants &



THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR RELIEF IN THE NEAR EAST  
SUCCEEDING THE AMERICAN RED CROSS  
Aleppo District

use these photos let them have them. I have the negatives and can print more.

Well, the very next day after the British left, the Turks in Aintab began to distribute Mauser rifles. The Armenians are very uneasy. The French troops are composed partly of Armenians who ~~the French~~ had enlisted with the French, so the Turks hate them especially. In Marash a few days ago a French Armenian soldier was shot in the back while going thru the Bazaar, and a little later a Turk was shot. Dr. Wilson operated on the soldier but he died.

The auto that went back to Aleppo from Aintab the day before I came back (yesterday) was fired on three times. Capt. Elder says the bullets were close, but none hit the car. I came back today but had no trouble. Between Aintab & Hulus we passed the British troops on the march. They stretched for over ten miles along the road, and it took us 50 minutes from the time we passed the rear guard till we came to the first armored car at the head of the column. We passed more French troops coming towards Aintab. The British say it will take them 26 days to march to Beirut, & then they must go on down to Egypt. Just outside of Aleppo about four miles we passed a new monument the English have created marking the site of the last engagement of the war in Turkey - when the 15th Cavalry defeated the Turks & captured Aleppo.

THE AMERICAN COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEE IN THE NEAR EAST

I must close now & go to bed, as I am leaving again tomorrow. When I got back this afternoon Dr. Lambert told me Dunaway had gone on to Beirut on A.C.R.M.E. business and that that would be the best time for us to take our week off & see a little of south Syria. So I am leaving Aleppo tomorrow night and will meet Dunaway & Magee at Ryak Saturday morning if everything goes well. I'll have to travel on a troop train. According to Magee's plans we will go from Ryak to Damascus, & will hire a Ford and tour the country - Tiberias, Nazareth, Haifa, Sidon, Beirut, etc. Will write you all about it later. This will finish my "joy riding" until the spring, when my contract is up. Then we are planning to float down the Tigris from Diarbekir to Bagdad on a raft. If I have any money in the bank you had better send it to me in the shape of a draft on a New York bank. They sell better than anything else here. I want it so that I can have it just before coming home, when I'll probably want to do a little extra sightseeing. However, if you think I had better leave that in the bank and not do so much running around, all right. But if it is to be sent at all it should get here ~~not later than~~ <sup>the first of February,</sup> ~~the first of February,~~ & it takes much longer than ordinary letters to get here.

In answer to some of your questions: - I don't need any wool socks, handkerchiefs, cocoa, or anything. Have lots of the above. Tell Stuart not to bother sending the chemicals. The kind of fancywork done most by the Armenians is drawn work - bureau & table covers, centerpieces, lace doilies & sets for tea tables. Don't send stamped linen. The work is done mostly on voile, not on linen. I don't know whether I can send any home thru the mail yet. Have bought some. They also make collars & cuff sets, bags, pajamas, handkerchiefs. In enclosing a sample of work, I find upon this one handkerchief you sent me. Too bad to do such nice work on a handkerchief. It is a little work.

Don't ask to pay for it will say probably  
 can't ask the family  
 don't ask to pay for it will say probably  
 can't ask the family