



NEWS SHEET  
REPLACING PRO TEM.

A  
**THIRSTY  
LAND**

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of the  
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**I will extol Thee my God, oh King :**

**One Generation shall praise Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts.**

**The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.—Psalms 145. vs. 1, 4, 18**

Dear Friends of the A.M.B.,

Since I sent you the last News Sheet we have all rejoiced in the Allied Victory in Tunisia, and the end of the Axis threat to N. Africa. We have realised that God has again shown us one of His "Mighty Acts," and our praise has gone up to Him. But "The God of battles" is also "Our Father" and He has been true to His Name. He has cared for His messengers even in the details of their lives, proving His faithfulness, as one worker wrote, "by speedy and miraculous answers to prayer."

Mrs. Stalley writes of the full provision of needed milk for their little Elizabeth, through the American Red Cross and tells of the timely advice as to her feeding given by a baby specialist in a Red Cross Hospital nearby. In the midst of a world-war our Father is "nigh unto all them that call upon Him."

Here at Home God is answering the prayers of mothers and bringing their sons into contact with missionaries in N. Africa, as letters have testified. One man found at Dar Naama a worker who had stayed, during

a mission some years ago, with his mother. And that mother, at Home, rejoiced that God had answered her prayers and had led her son in a strange land to those who would seek to be a blessing to him.

We were told in the News the other day that the Arabs, because of the unusually wet weather, say that the Allies have come "with wet feet." This is a cause of great rejoicing, as it means a year of plenty and fruitfulness after one of drought and famine. May it be that God will call some men and women of the Forces to return after the war to bring the water of Life to the thirsty lands of N. Africa. Let us pray that God will shield and guide one who has already expressed a desire to offer for Mission work when the war is over. Others are deeply interested and are asking questions—lifting up their eyes to "look on the fields" which are white indeed to the harvest.

During the war years a list has not been given in this paper, as it was before, of workers and stations. It seemed wiser not to do so and space is limited. Some friends have, however, asked about the location of missionaries, and in this News Sheet the place where each is stationed is given.

Travelling from East to West in Algeria we come first to the desert outpost of Tolga. Here M. and Mme Lull are living, with their three little daughters—of whom the youngest, Danielle Monique, was born during April. She came to them just after a time of severe testing and trial. Both M. and Mme Lull had been seriously ill, the latter with inflammation of the lungs and pleurisy. Food had been most difficult to get and very costly. There had been air-raids in the neighbourhood, and locusts were making an appearance!

But their letters told of God's goodness in supplying their need. A goat was lent to Mme Lull and the little ones had the needed milk, and the valiant "Danielle" is a fine healthy baby in spite of all, and is a great joy to her parents and tiny sisters. Mme Lull is, however, weak after her severe illness early in the year and needs our prayers. She does much among the Arab

women and children around her who come with their sickness and sorrow and their need of One to help and save. M. Lull has good classes for boys, and meetings for men and lads, among whom there are some who are specially interested. He wrote of a proposed itineration in the neighbourhood of Biskra if permission could be obtained from the Authorities. An indefatigable colporteur, M. Lull is well known as he journeys in the towns and countryside, on his bicycle where possible. This family cannot stay in the desert during the tremendous heat of the summer—let us pray that they may find a cooler spot for a holiday and that refreshing may come to them all. Every place is so very full at present and it is not easy to find room.

Further west we come to the large town—on a high plateau—of Setif. Here Mr. and Mrs. Thomson with their baby Maureen, are stationed. All were well when we last heard, and Mr. Thomson was considering taking charge of the Y.M.C.A. centre for the Forces, as he had been asked to do. The need is great for such service and spiritual opportunities are many.

Algiers is the next A.M.B. Station as we journey still westward. Here there are three centres. Our headquarters at Dar Naama, El Biar (a suburb of the city), where Miss Perkin and Miss Ridley have been joined by Miss Farmer and Miss Layte who were unable, owing to conditions to remain at Setif. M. and Mme Nicoud with their schoolboy son Jean are also at headquarters and are helping in the work for the Forces. They ask prayer for a Christian Kabyle lad who is to help them in some canteen work, that his faith may be strengthened and deepened and that he may prove himself a true helper. Also at headquarters are two Christian native girls, Fifine and Zohra, who help in the house.

Miss Perkin writes from Dar Naama, of the men of the Forces who come to the Y.M.C.A. Centre there, "Many men are interested in Mission work and in our literature. We have distributed a good many *A Thirs'y Land* magazines. One man in the Navy, a keen Christian, wants to

offer after the war " (as mentioned earlier) " I have sold six copies of *The Master of the Impossible*, and a good many have read Miss Trotter's *Life*. Our evening Prayers, chiefly taken by the men, are really appreciated and sometimes the speakers are warmly thanked afterwards.

The Christian group at B.M. have a meeting every night and have had some conversions. We have been having some native soldiers in; I have been able to distribute tracts among them, and they have asked for more. Two had been in Mlle Buticaz' class, one in the Dellys class, and several had been in touch with missionaries elsewhere. One who had been four months at Chercelle bought a New Testament, and two bilingual copies of the 51st Psalm. One soldier boy, a good reader, came several times and was most interested in Bible subjects. He took away tracts with him. Quite a group of these native soldiers began to come regularly, and asked for a service to be held on Easter Sunday. But before Easter they all melted away, as so often happens. A soldier going into Tunisia sent a friend to ask for Arabic tracts to distribute whenever he got the chance. Of course, I gave them to him." Miss Perkin also writes that Si Ali (of Tozeur long ago) and his wife T., are doing well at Tizi Ouzou. Let us pray on for F. (Dar Naama), who hopes to be married in the summer to a Christian soldier, now in Morocco. May God shield them both from all evil, and give them His blessing. It is good to hear that the Mission Car can, in some measure, be used again.

The second centre in Algiers is in another suburb where Miss Nash, who was ill but is evidently better, is continuing her girls' classes.

Thirdly, in the vicinity of the University of Algiers, live M. and Mme Millon and their little adopted girl. They are French workers, among students, specially the Moslem men. In these war days they are having most interesting contacts with many nationalities, including British and Americans. A great hindrance to the work is theosophy, which adapts itself to Roman

Catholics, Protestants, and Moslems. M. Millon asks special prayer for a student who writes that he wishes to give himself wholly to the Lord. Also for the Moslem students who come to the bookshop, and for those who are mobilised.

South from Algiers is the desert post of Bou Saada. There Mlle Butticaiz is bravely working alone. She writes that many there have died of typhus and many are ill and suffering. One who has lately visited Mlle B., writes, that she is "doing a brave work amongst children and sad tired women." Mlle also has a class for boys on Thursdays. She expects to stay on until the weather becomes too hot. She is grateful for prayer and says, "I often feel very weak, but His presence is sure, and I can sing 'no never alone.'"

After Algiers still travelling west, we reach Blida where Mr. and Mrs. Buckenham are carrying on their work among the native people, alongside the daily contacts with men and women of our forces. These contacts have given great opportunities in many directions and God will surely add His blessing both now and in future days. Edmund Buckenham "is away from home, but is still happy in his useful war service."

On to the west from Blida we come next to the mountain station of Miliana where Miss Grautoff and Miss Russell are at work. For two years or more they were not allowed outside the town, but at last they have both had a short and greatly needed holiday. They were back again for Easter, when little groups of women and children came and listened quietly and well. Six classes are held weekly for children and girls and two women's meetings. Many women also, come to have letters written to soldier or prisoner husbands. Miss G. and Miss R. often visit in the hospitals and whenever possible they go to see their Arab friends both in the town and outside it. Miss Grautoff asks prayer for blind Y., and her husband—and that the family may soon be re-united. The father has taken the children away from their mother and sent them to their grandmother—which means great sorrow for poor Y.

Mostaganem, where Mlle Gayral has

worked for many years single-handed, is the next A.M.B. Station as we travel still westward. Mlle writes that she has "daily opportunities" for passing on the Good News. She tells of an Arab girl who had learnt about Christ and who went away into the country and began to tell and teach her family what she knew, and sent to ask for tracts to give in her village. This girl needs prayer as her family were planning a Moslem marriage for her.

As we journey still further west, towards Morocco, we come last of all to Tlemcen. Here, Mr. and Mrs. Stalley and their little Elizabeth, together with Miss Wood who has had long experience of work in the desert at Tozeur and Nefta, are stationed. Miss Wood is busy with the native work and Mrs. Stalley also, as far as possible. Mr. Stalley is *pro tem* working with the French Red Cross and gets many opportunities with men of the Allied forces, and also with natives in relief work, sometimes in villages. Three of his "special" young Arab men, including "Andrew" are working with Mr. S. in the Red Cross now, and are enjoying it. Mrs. S. writes of "Andrew" who was with them on Easter Sunday—the anniversary of his baptism—"We do indeed thank God for the way he has been 'kept', throughout the year."

Nurses from the hospital, and others visit the Mission House, as well as members of the Forces, and Mr. and Mrs. Stalley ask us to pray that God will bless all the contacts made in their home with so many different people. Tlemcen, is the last of our A.M.B. stations to the westward, and all our workers have been named.

A later letter, received after this News

Sheet had been written gives two or three additional glimpses of the work which are interesting. Miss Grautoff writes, "At Dar Naama we met many people. Some were brave wounded men back from the front. It was just splendid to hear young men, some in their twenties and some even younger fearlessly standing up before others, and pleading with them to take heed and to decide now for Christ. Night after night those short prayer talks were splendid. The same thing goes on with Mr. and Mrs. Buckenham in their crowded central Court (open to the sky) at Blida; Mr. Thomson also is doing the same work at Setif, and Mr. Stalley with the Red Cross, in all three languages. You who know the land will realize *how* great is the need for every Christian worker. It is all precious work. . . . Having had a month's change, we (i.e. Miss Grautoff and Miss Russell) hope now, if we keep well to have a long term of regular classes. Then perhaps others may want to come up here to Miliana for rest in the summer."

We hear that those workers who desire to do so can apply for a visa for England. Whether any will want to risk coming and whether they will obtain a visa if they do, we cannot say. In any case, all these brave messengers of Christ need our prayers that they may be refreshed and renewed physically, and that day by day they may receive fresh power from on High, to meet the constant calls that come to them.

Your fellow worker,

MILLICENT H. ROCHE.

(Hon. Sec.).

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Chosen vessels to bear His Name—His personality; with all that is wrapped up in that Name of fragrance and healing, authority and power; chosen to go about this weary sinful world with the living Christ folded in our hearts, ready and able as of old to meet the need around. Is not this a calling for which it is worth counting, as St. Paul did, all things but loss?

Chosen vessels—there is the vessel and there is the treasure in it, for ever distinct, though in wonderful union, like the seed vessel and the seed, the one enshrines the other.

I. L. TROTTER.