

Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter



OFFICE OF THE NORTH AFRICA MISSION, 34, BISHAM GARDENS, HIGHGATE, LONDON, N. 6

HON. SECRETARY: OSWALD L. CARNEGIE

AMERICAN AUXILIARY: HON. SECRETARY, DR. HARVEY FARMER, 6109, COLUMBIA AVENUE, PHILADELPHIA, PA., U.S.A.

No. 19

EDITED BY E. J. LONG, F.R.S.G.S.

SEPT.-OCT., 1941

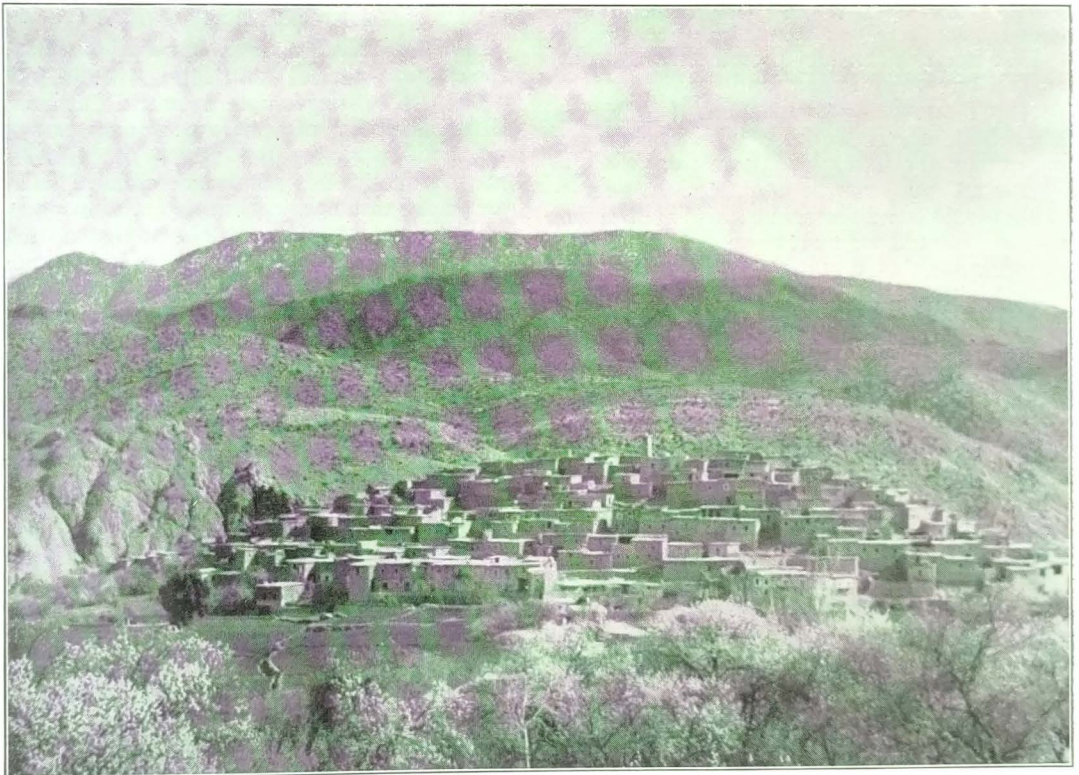


Photo by:

A CHAOUIA VILLAGE, ALGERIA

[O. L. Carnegie

North Africa is a land of striking contrasts, but it is pictures such as the above that emphasize the fact more vividly and convincingly than any verbal description ever could. It is hard to realize that scenes of this character, though admittedly off the beaten track of the tourist's itinerary, are nevertheless within a few hours' journey of modern cities like Algiers, with their fashionable shops, boulevards, tramcars, and all the other evidences of western civilization. But now that there are war-time restrictions limiting the radius of our missionaries' travel many an outlying village must await the return of former facilities ere the Gospel message can again be proclaimed there.

1941

“Our Primary Objective”

UNDER the above heading, our Field Superintendent, Mr. Warren, has recently addressed words of sage counsel to our missionaries in North Africa; and whilst our brother's circular letter is of a semi-private character, and certainly never intended for “home consumption,” we feel that certain sections deserve a wider publicity, for many of the lessons they inculcate are such as all of us might learn—or re-learn!—with profit:

“As a Mission to Moslems our primary objective should be effectively to evangelize the peoples of North Africa. What is effective evangelization? Is it merely to preach the Gospel, or is it to *win* souls to Christ? . . . Each one of us should ask: Am I effectively contributing to the achievement of this object? . . . Let us seize the present opportunity for reviewing the situation as it concerns us and our bit of work.

“We need to consider the employment of our (1) Time, (2) Talent, and (3) Means.

“(1) TIME. How do we spend it? What proportion of our working-day is given to real missionary activity? If we were working for an industrial or commercial undertaking would our directors be satisfied on that point? Should we treat the Lord with less consideration than a human employer? . . .

“(2) TALENT. We all have talents of one kind or another. . . . It is probable that in work amongst Moslems ‘gift,’ in the sense of outstanding ability, counts for less than patience and tact. The brilliant orator or controversialist may not be more successful in the long run than the patient plodder who has bought up his opportunities. . . . Whatever talent we have, let us see that it is used, and not wrapped up in a ‘sweat-rag.’ Keep your plough-share bright with use.

“(3) MEANS. Our material means are usually limited, but can we expect to have more confided to us unless we use well that which we have? The very scarcity, during these days of war, of money, medicines, or facilities of transport, should lead us to take stock of what we have, and see if we could not make much of the little, or even discover new lines of approach, or new ways of employing our time.

“What about *Studies*? Could you brush up or extend your linguistic studies? Then there is Bible study; in our busy days we had all too little time for that. Make your holidays holy days by giving more time to GOD and His Word.

“What about *Writing*? Friends are eager for news. Seize the opportunity when an ‘ink-spiration’ comes to you! Pen portraits of people are often very interesting, and help to make people live before the eyes of our friends. . . .

“Where we cannot be *extensive*, perhaps we can be *intensive*. If we meet fewer people, we ought to make a deeper impression. . . . If we have converts, we should try to enlarge their field of vision, and get them to realise their responsibilities to their people.

“I once asked an old missionary to give a talk to our Paris students on ‘If I could begin again!’ It was very suggestive. Why not sit down and write an essay on that topic, and then see how much change you could bring about NOW with a little effort and application?

“. . . . And don't forget Paul's motto: ‘That by all means I might save some.’”

News from the Field

GAFSA. It is good to know that **Miss Brookes** (of America) and **Miss Kraulis** (of Latvia), reasonably remote from the “alarms and excursions” of war, are getting along happily down in the Oasis of Gafsa. Recently our friends have made contact with four young Arab college students, who now come along to the Mission House to read in John's Gospel. Miss Brookes asks for prayer for these young fellows, who are obviously showing a gracious spirit, for the average young Moslem student is notoriously intractable and argumentative.

TUNIS. **Mr. Miles** and **Mr. Brown**, an intensely interesting account of whose colportage work filled the middle pages of our last issue, write cheerfully from Tunis. Mr. Brown has been much encouraged by the evidences of spiritual life in three young Jews, whose testimony to Christ among their own folk has been courageous and consistent. Mr. and Mrs. Miles and Muriel are now at St. Germain, a little seaside village not far from Tunis that has often been their summer headquarters; and there our brother hopes to combine holiday and work.

AZAZGA. **Mr. Arthur**, whose knowledge of French administration in relation to missionary work is unrivalled, and who is generally a shrewd and accurate observer, makes it clear in recent letters that Algerian officialdom reacts fairly sensitively to Vichy. Our readers will know that for some time now the travel facilities enjoyed by our workers have been somewhat restricted. We ought to be much in prayer that there may be no

further encroachment upon the personal liberties of our missionaries.

DJEMAA SAHRIDJ. We have news from **Mr. Willson**, dated as recently as the end of July, stating that he was having encouragement in the work, and that the normal activities of the station are being carried on without too many restrictions.

CHERHELL. **Mr. Bocking** writes enthusiastically regarding a Whit Monday outing for the young people. Out in the open, during the afternoon, a meeting was held that attracted the attention and held the interest of passers-by, including a party of Boy Scouts and their leader. Hymns were sung, and several of the young men gave their testimony. It is gladdening to know that such excursions, of a semi-public character, are still possible in these days of tension, and that young believers—natives and Europeans—make no secret of their friendliness towards the British missionaries.

SETTAT. Our sisters, **Miss Buxton** and **Miss Reed** write of the Lord's faithfulness during this time of special need. The work entrusted to their care is prospering, and the meeting for young women on Fridays has reached record numbers. A special meeting has also been started on Sundays for three who have confessed faith in the Lord Jesus ; and our sisters earnestly desire that from this little nucleus "greater things" may grow in the coming days.

TETUAN. From **Miss Low** and **Miss Bradbury** in the Spanish Zone the news is consistently cheering. Attendances at the dispensary continue to be good, and our friends rejoice in the many opportunities of telling folk about the Lord Jesus. They are "not hindered in any way," either in class-work or in visiting, of which latter there is plenty to do. One item of news is especially encouraging : A Christian native woman, living at some distance from the Mission House, is sending her daughter, aged 16, in order that she may learn to read. This dear woman is longing for the time to come when her daughter will be able to read the New Testament to all at home.

TANGIER. Friends of **Miss Lickman** will be sorry to learn that she is suffering from an impacted fracture of the thigh. She is, however, making a good recovery, and the Doctor is very pleased with her progress. **Miss Lickman** is greatly missed, not only in the house, but in the shopping expeditions, where her knowledge of Spanish has always proved invaluable.

Miss Drury desires our prayers for the girls among whom she works. Some are in a very weak condition, and greatly need nourishing food ; but prices are high, and even bread is not always available in satisfying quantity. **Shereefa**, the native teacher, is a great comfort and help. The children listened very attentively on a recent occasion when she gave her testimony ; and such a witness to the grace of Christ, coming from one of their own people, was especially impressive.

Miss Lincoln has given up her English school during the summer vacation. She has evidently had a successful session. Her Arabic work has also grown, and she now has two classes a week, as she found it advisable to have a separate class for some of the women from better-class families. **Miss Lincoln** still carries on with her visiting, and is encouraged in her French Sunday School work. With **Miss Bowker** she shares in a Junior Arab Sunday School.

Mr. and Mrs. Warren deserve special mention in this "News Letter." The administrative work that they tackle is immense in volume, intricate in detail, and as valuable as it is unspectacular. Our friends are far from strong, and **Mr. Warren** is often greatly distressed by asthma. The constant demands of his position, however, permit of little respite ; and the briefest holiday simply means the accumulation of arrears of correspondence and business claims of an exacting character. We cannot be too thankful to **GOD** for so ordering **Mr. Warren's** steps that we have his gifts and energy and resourcefulness at our disposal at Tangier in such critical days as these : but we have a real responsibility to bear him up constantly in prayer before the Throne of Grace.

MISS ELSIE TILNEY. We learn from **Mr. A. G. Tilney** that he has recently received the first hand-written communication that his sister has been able to send for some thirteen months. **Miss Tilney** was limited to 25 words, and wrote in French. Here is an English rendering of her message :

"Delighted to get your note. Constantly thinking of you with prayerful affection. Have been interned since December 5th. I am rather thinner, not too well, but smiling. It is cold. Conditions are better [than formerly]. Those in authority are courteous."

This brief message came from **Besançon** ; but **Miss Tilney** has since been moved to **Vittel**, where conditions are, we understand, much better. We are sure you will not forget

to keep on praying for our sister, and fellow-internees.

The Mohammedan at Prayer

THE Mohammedans are an outstanding example of a people "ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness"; for the Moslem seeks to commend himself to God by the strict observance of five religious practices: The Witness (an affirmation of belief in the one God, Allah, and His Apostle, Mohammed); Prayer (five times daily); Almsgiving (most ostentatiously observed on Friday, the Moslem's "holy" day); The Fast (from daybreak to sunset throughout the lunar month of "Ramadhan"); and the Pilgrimage to Mecca, which every able-bodied male Moslem endeavours to undertake at least once in his lifetime.



The strict Moslem prays five times daily, the hour of prayer being proclaimed from the Mosque-tower of town or village by the *Muezzin*. If no mosque is accessible, the Moslem prays just where he happens to be—sometimes in the most public places, and amidst noise and confusion; although it should be stated that such publicity is rarely witnessed nowadays in the more Europeanised parts of North Africa—an abstention due rather to laxity than diffidence.

One who has often seen the Moslem at prayer thus describes the rather intricate ritual (which, by the way, is preceded by essential ablutions):

"The worshipper first raises his open hands until the thumbs touch the ears, exclaiming aloud "Allah is great!" After uttering mentally a few short petitions, the hands are brought down and folded together near the girdle, whilst the Moslem recites brief passages from the Koran.

"Then, bending forward, he rests his hands upon his knees and repeats three times a formula of praise to Allah. Standing erect he cries 'Allah is great!' as at the beginning; then, dropping upon his knees, he bends forward until nose and forehead touch the ground, immediately between the expanded hands.

"This is repeated thrice, to the accompaniment of short formulas of prayer and praise.

"If the Moslem happens to be particularly devout, he may stand up as at the first and repeat the whole performance a second, or even a third, time."

It is doubtless true of at least a minority of these stricter Moslems that "they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." But if they have faith, it is faith in "a lie" (2 Thess. ii, 11). The Koran knows nothing of a Saviour; and since the sole hope of countless millions of Moslems is the intercession of Mohammed, a fearful awakening will be theirs in that Day of Judgment which every Moslem secretly dreads.

"Shall we, whose souls are lighted with wisdom from on high—

Shall we, to men benighted, the Lamp of Life deny?"

Let us pray earnestly for God's richest blessing upon every available avenue of approach to these needy souls!

DEPUTATION WORK. We would like our friends in the Midlands to know that Mrs. J. A. Liley, wife of Dr. Liley (now serving with the R.A.M.C.), has expressed her willingness to speak at Missionary or Gospel Meetings in the Midlands.

Mrs. Liley, having lived for many years in Morocco, Libya and Tunisia, is a missionary of wide experience, and we can warmly recommend her as a most acceptable speaker. She may be written to direct at the following address:

c/o Miss A. Haworth, 23, Rochdale Road, Edenfield, Ramsbottom, Near Manchester.

Past experience leads us to remind friends that preliminary correspondence is greatly simplified if the first letter states the full name and exact location of Church or Mission Hall, the precise character of the meeting (with average attendance), and the time the service begins. It is always appreciated if a selection of dates can be furnished.