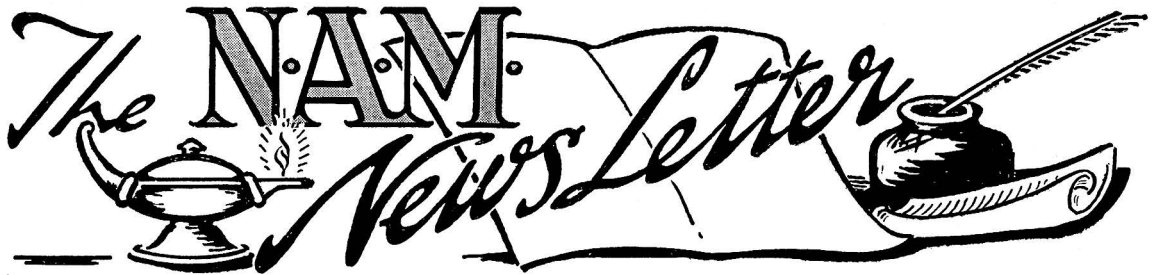


Continuing "NORTH AFRICA."

The N.A.M. News Letter



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

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

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Photo by]

[E.J.L.

"WAITING":

A little maiden at Sousse harbour.

A pre-war snapshot of the sea-port of Sousse, Tunisia, the occupation of which by British Forces was once head-line news. Now the tide of battle has swept on, and the focus of interest has shifted north to the "Toe of Italy." But Sousse—or most of it—remains. It is true that the harbour buildings and warehouses seen on the horizon are now heaps of rubble and twisted girders, and that "near misses" have caused damage to various parts of the European town: but the people are free and happy once again. And in these liberated centres—Gabes, Sfax, Kairouan, Sousse, Nabeul, Tunis, Bizerta—eager children with dark eyes and dusky faces are waiting, waiting . . . waiting for the return of the Missionaries. Two of our Tunisia missionaries are in enemy hands; others, in the Homeland, are making every endeavour to get back. Please join us in prayer that IN GOD'S TIME AND IN GOD'S WAY our workers and their "flocks" may be joyfully reunited.

From

“Somewhere in Germany”

WRITING from “Ilag VIII H” on 24th June, Mr. R. I. Brown said that he was busy in spiritual work, and that the LORD was blessing him and his fellow-believers in their witness. He concludes: “I am happily convinced of the fact that God has His hand upon me, and is permitting me to pass through this experience in order that I may serve Him *here*, and then in fuller measure in North Africa. We are happy when we know we are *experiencing* in an ever deeper way the glorious truths we preach.”

Further News from Tunis

SINCE the publishing of our last “NEWS LETTER” quite a budget of correspondence has reached us from Mr. Stanley Miles. The following extracts are from the most recent letter:

“Three months have quickly passed since the Allied troops entered Tunis, and for us, as you can well imagine, the days have been filled with all sorts of new and striking experiences. The weather has been of the usual Tunisian summer variety, with periods of sweltering heat by day and stickiness by night. Food and general living conditions are much better than during the German occupation, but, of course, there is still heaps to be done before the country gets back to normal. In some places it may take years.

“Our furlough is still uncertain. We had hoped to escape another summer here, but unquestionably the LORD has some excellent reasons for the delay. . . . Considering the past, and much in the present, it is surprising how well we keep, and how happily we seem to jog along. Probably the main reason for our continued stay is that there is so much service to be rendered in all departments of the work.

“Mrs. Miles and Muriel put in much time at the Welcome Canteen—Muriel herself sometimes attending to the needs of fifteen hundred at the tea counter in a single afternoon. The daily Fellowship Service, lasting half an hour, is well attended. Text cards have been printed, and already 8,000 men have asked for one. St. George’s Church is crowded every Sunday morning, and every time Mr. Dunbar can be counted upon for an AI message.

“The Young People’s Camp at Ain Draham is now in full swing, and there seems every prospect of great blessing such as GOD graciously granted last year. The leaders asked us to be present and assist, but we simply could not leave our duties here.

“We have had some delightful meetings with the soldier boys, and of course our home, like all other missionary homes in North Africa, has

been a constant port of call. We shall never forget some of the splendid Christian lads who have stayed with us, and quite a few have helped to spread the Gospel by literature from our Bible Depôt. Last week I was invited to meet and give a 50-minute talk to twenty Chaplains on the “Sixty-year Innings of the N.A.M. in the Barbary States.” It was a unique occasion . . .

“Several Europeans seek me and beg for Bibles, offering any price, but I have now to say that the last copy was sold weeks ago, and I can give no promise when we shall have a fresh supply.”

During the time that our brother was in hiding, Muriel fell ill with appendicitis. The operation wound was very slow in healing, as invalid diet was unobtainable, and the patient’s condition consequently enfeebled. But the LORD granted added grace for the extra heavy trial; and quite evidently we need now have no further fears as to the physical fitness of a young lady who can hand out fifteen hundred cups of tea in a single afternoon!

We shall continue in prayer that the LORD will graciously open up the way for our dear friends to return home for much-needed rest and change.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Marsh

FRIENDS will be glad to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Marsh, of Lafayette, with their son John and baby daughter Ruth, arrived in England late in July, after having been almost a month on board a troopship. They are in good health, but will be all the better for a period of well-earned relaxation in the Homeland. Their daughter Daisy, from whom they had been separated for some years, will evidently have spent the latter part of her school holiday in unexpectedly happy circumstances. Mr. Marsh will welcome opportunities of speaking at meetings in the interests of the work during the coming winter and spring of next year.

The late

Mrs. J. H. D. Roberts

ANOTHER of our N.A.M. veterans, the widow of a former Tangier missionary doctor, has been called Home. Mr. I. E. Bowles recalls her association with the Mission in the following helpful biographical note:

“In 1894 there came to the Mission home in Barking, Essex, two new candidates from Plymouth, namely Miss Florence K. Tregillus and Miss L. Sexton. They remained there for training and the study of Arabic until 1896 . . . in which year Miss Tregillus proceeded to Tangier, and was married (in 1898) to Dr. J. Howard Digby Roberts, who was then in charge of the Tulloch Memorial Hospital: but she was soon to experience the sorrows of widowhood, for in 1906 her husband was taken ill with

typhoid fever, and passed Home in a few days. The death of Dr. Roberts, and of two of our nurses, occurred at the time of a severe epidemic of typhoid, when the Hospital was overcrowded, and the Staff overworked.

"Some years later Mrs. Roberts moved to Rabat, where she endeared herself to large numbers of Moorish women and children until 1935, when, for health reasons, she returned to England."

Mrs. Roberts passed into the Presence of her Saviour on Monday, July 5th. To her son, Kenelm (in U.S.A.) and her daughter Trissie (Mrs. Rayner) we express our most sincere sympathy in their sorrow.

News from the Field

THE following items of interest are culled from letters reaching us, for the most part, through Mr. Warren :

Mr. S. Arthur (Azazga) writes : "There are several important material hindrances to a fuller activity outside Azazga. I have no walking boots . . . I am down to the soles, almost . . . I have received permission to put my car on the road again, but I am advised not to travel beyond the district where I am known . . . I am likely to have further responsibilities in the young people's Camps this summer."

Miss Dew, of Rabat, writes of blessing among the Troops; whilst **Miss Sharpe** tells of one of the bigger (native) girls having given open testimony to her faith in the Lord Jesus.

Mr. T. Warren (Tangier) had a very bad month in June—"his worst month yet," writes Dr. Anderson : "the month finished with a very severe crisis, which lasted some three days."

These distressing bouts of asthma are extremely exhausting, and we commend Mr. Warren to our readers' constant prayer-remembrance. Our brother is ever hopeful that "a change of climate will work wonders," and we earnestly trust that the LORD will guide to just the best spot. We are so grateful that **Mr. L. Bocking** is rendering such splendid service at Tangier, thus considerably easing the burden of responsibility resting upon Mr. Warren.

Mr. P. Padilla, whose excellent Reports we would gladly publish in full were space available, writes with characteristic cheerfulness and graciousness. The LORD is wonderfully blessing him amidst many difficulties.

We are indeed sorry to learn from **Mr. A. G. Willson**, of Djemaa Sahridj, that the friends there are "worse off for commodities now than ever before. We get less bread, and very little sugar." All of which emphasises the tremendous problems of readjustment in many departments that must be made ere living and working conditions become normal in North Africa.

As distinct from up-to-date news items, a large budget of "Annual Reports" for 1942 has reached us from the Field. It is obviously impossible for us to give even the briefest extracts from this vast accumulation of absorbingly interesting material : neither can any general statement accurately summarise the Reports as a whole. They provoke both to abundant praise and earnest prayer. Sometimes

a solitary sentence can be deeply moving—like this one, for instance, extracted from the late Miss Winifred Ross's "Brief Review of the Work" : "The death rate in Tin Town is terrible : they seem to die just like flies, so that every message given is in view of preparing them for death." A poignant interest attaches to this "Review," for, shortly after writing it, our beloved sister was herself taken suddenly to be with her LORD.

Perhaps the concluding words of Miss Ross's report furnish the key-note of glad confidence characteristic of all the others : "The LORD has never failed us, and He never will !"

Home News

WE are thankful to learn, through the Home Office, that **Miss Alma Kraulis**, of Tunisia, is safe.

Miss D. Henman is hoping shortly to return to Tangier to relieve Miss M. Anderson.

Our Associate Member **Mr. H. Morgan** is out in North Africa with the Y.M.C.A., whilst Mrs. Morgan is taking up work amongst the girls in the Forces at Calne until such time as the way opens for her to rejoin **Miss Denison** at Fez.

A list of the names of 14 members of the N.A.M. now in the Homeland, all of whom are desirous of returning to the Field as soon as possible, has been submitted to the Government Department concerned. Will friends please join us in prayer that favourable consideration may be given to this application ?

Mrs. J. A. Liley continues to render invaluable help in the deputation department; and Miss K. M. E. Gotelee, Miss A. Clack and Miss M. Jones take advantage of every available opportunity of making known the need.

The Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor

MOST of our friends will have learned through one or other of the weekly Christian periodicals, that the church at Talbot Tabernacle, Bayswater, has regretfully accepted the resignation of its Pastor, the Rev. E. J. Poole-Connor, who has been appointed "National Commissioner" of the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, and hopes to devote his time and energies henceforth, should the LORD will, to this work, and to a wider Convention ministry.

We would assure our beloved brother—who is, of course, the Chairman of the N.A.M. Council—of our earnest prayers and affectionate good wishes as he launches out into a sphere for which he is so richly endowed in gift and experience, and in which we are confident the LORD will grant special strength from day to day.

Changes in North Africa

(Concluded from last issue of NEWS LETTER.)

The only place on the long northern coast of Africa that so far has not seen belligerent forces at least marching through if not actually engaged in the great life and death struggle, is Tangier, and it is in this cosmopolitan town, at present under Spanish domination, that we find ourselves at the present time. As things had been much against us at our old station in

Algeria, and since the Mission property was still under requisition by the French military authorities, we were invited to join the staff here and take some part in the work. It was a long and wearying business getting the necessary permission and papers, but when at last we were free to travel we naturally wondered just what to expect in this place of which we had heard a good deal, and which we knew had been a centre of missionary activity for many long years. It is different, of course, from anything we have been used to before, and in a way seems to conform more perfectly to one's original idea, based no doubt on early reading of missionary literature, of what a mission station and compound should be. Here in compact form are the Church, the hospital, living accommodation for missionaries, rooms for native converts and their families, the garden, the tennis court, the good situation and the magnificent view across the Straits where two great seas meet. This could hardly fail to please the newcomer and tempt him to say, "Well, here at last is surely something that is not far from the ideal and which must give good returns!" Well, is it so? In my opinion, yes—to some extent at any rate, and with far-reaching possibilities for the future. We have learnt not to lean too much upon outward evidence and wordy statistics, but here we believe there is a quiet work going on for God which glorifies Him. Faithfulness and devotion are things that count for so much in work for God, and most certainly both are found here in no small measure.

In the hospital the physical needs of many are efficiently dealt with and the Gospel is proclaimed. Moors, Jews, Gibraltarians and others are brought into close touch with devoted servants of God and His Word, which is Truth. Native Christians assist in the work and ministry.

The little Church building, although old and in need of repair, or, better still, of being replaced by a new construction, serves during the week for a small kindergartenschool for English-speaking children, and on Sundays for the English service in the morning and the Arabic service in the afternoon. The former is attended by a goodly number of friends, and blessing follows the preaching of the Word, whilst the latter is frequented by both native believers and "enquirers," men on one side and women on the other, but with no dividing curtain. This point is interesting and all to the good, but the time is not yet where this is possible in every place. The service is conducted by a missionary, but sometimes one of the native converts is requested to give the message. Once a month a communion service follows the ordinary meeting.

Sunday schools in English, Arabic and French are also conducted by various workers, and Sunday evening is given up to a united informal gathering in the lounge for hymn singing and prayer. During the week there is the school

for Moorish girls and other meetings in Arabic for Bible study and prayer, and on Friday afternoons the prayer meeting in English for the workers and other friends who like to come.

Outside the compound and down in one of the native quarters, an interesting work amongst Moorish girls is carried on daily. The girls are taught not only sewing but also reading, and, of course, the Gospel message is regularly given.

The Spanish work is also a feature that impresses a newcomer. Here one finds a company of people who delight to meet together under the leadership of their Spanish pastor. Their singing is hearty, although perhaps one could hardly call it melodious, and their prayers are fervent. For a Spaniard to be a true Christian these days is a sure sign that his faith is real and sincere. How many of them, particularly in Spain, have suffered for Christ's sake, and even here they never know what may befall them! They are watched, misunderstood, suspected, and Rome is ever near to encourage and aid in anything she thinks may help towards attaining her own ends.

This, then, is just a bird's-eye view of something of what is going on here in this strategic place, but the bird doesn't see all by a long way. There are the silent hidden hours, the kindly deeds done for this one and that, the quiet visits and chats, the friendly sympathetic touch, the "cups of water" given in Christ's name. All tell, all are God-honouring, all are included in "preaching the Gospel."

Of the future we know nothing, but at present some may envy us when they realise that we live in a place where there is no black-out, where air-raids are unknown, and where almost anything is obtainable, although prices are fantastic.

What the situation may be in a short time none knows; it may be that this small corner of Africa will be flung into the maelstrom of war; it may be she will continue to be spared such a fate; but our business is to seek to know the mind of Christ in all things and under all circumstances, knowing that "Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."

L. J. BOCKING.

Our New Literature

MAY we draw our readers' kind attention to two fresh items of literature—the first, a brochure containing two articles reprinted from "WORLD DOMINION," entitled "Under War Conditions in North Africa," by Mr. T. Warren, and "Comptez Sur Moi" ("You may rely on me!"), by Mr. L. J. Bocking, available at cost price—twopence. The other is "A Letter from North Africa—to Boys and Girls," by Mr. Charles Marsh.

A copy of each of these admirable and timely booklets will be sent, post free, for threepence. Address: Secretary, North Africa Mission, 34, Bisham Gardens, Highgate, London, N.6.