

7128 M Bt Wk Kieppenberg
20 Ru
N Z E F
Middle East Forces.

752/6
Western Desert
4/12/40.

My dear Jim,

I'll address this to C/o M. Canby as suggested & hope you will remember me very kindly to all the boys. It looks to me like a good party. Last year I looked over towards D'Noville Island and wondered if you would by any chance see the convoy but the morning was misty & we passed well clear of land.

Your latest two letters, Nos. 11 & 14 were waiting when I got back from here two days ago & were as welcome as ever. Many of us are finding our correspondence dwindling with the passing months, though mine has not, and it's good to see your first nearly every week.

I had a very good leave, spent a lot of money, saw nearly all my old friends recently arrived & others left at home, thoroughly enjoyed myself & was unfeignedly glad to get back. It shows what a good manager I am that I left Cairo with 10 pence only, having scandalized the porter & by giving him only 1 pt. tip for carrying my luggage out, but I couldn't afford any more. Poor my driver had 7, knowing my belated 0, we renounced our resources and bought 5 cakes & 3 oranges at the Halfway House & were glad to have a clean run for 300 miles & reach the battalion in time for dinner.

I spent a good deal of time at Maadi, lunched with Alvin A & B messes & with the 1st Ru, had dinner with the 26th, our sister battalion, who made a special night of it & with the Medical Corps