

plenty of variety. This morning I have been in the office and apart from routine work have given orders for surrounding & searching a village, pursued & confined some court martial papers, interviewed a DAPN, several Intelligence & Special Service officers, had a talk with a Secret Service Agent, examined very carefully a road reconnaissance report & delivered a stiff reprimand to two young officers sent in by their P.O. for the purpose. This afternoon the Governor of Aleppo is returning my official call, we will have a very smart guard, the Brigade Band to play a General Salute & I will entertain him to coffee & cigarettes while the Band plays upstairs downstairs. Very good fun really, if one could only slip home occasionally.

Aleppo is a typical Eastern city, partly modernised with buses & pictures and one good every expensive hotel & with perhaps 20% of the population in Western dress. But it is far more Eastern than the cities of Egypt or Palestine. The dominating feature is the great ancient Citadel with its towers, mounted on a huge artificial mound of Hittite days & looms over the whole city. But you must look in the tourist's books for descriptions.

The troops are in very good fettle. They like it better than the Westerns thought, but have been soldiers long enough for one place to be much like another to them. We have