



Attractive daughter, Grandpa, Self, Eric, Mother. Still many miles to go.

Came across this Arab family on table-land at mid-day. Mountains beyond. Very hospitable folk. Gave us rest and refreshment. We reciprocated by giving bull-beef & cigarettes.

Hike to the Valley of Cedars. 23, 24, 25 May, 1942.

With Eric James (Westland) & Harry Hefferen (Auckland). The C.O. granted permission to make the trip, from our camp in Orontes Valley, over the 8000' plus high Lebanonns to Valley of Cedars. Distance ~ 23 miles each way. Among the best 3 days in my army life.

Solomon obtained the cedar-wood for his temple in Jerusalem from this valley.

(I. Kings, Chapter v.)

We left Camp at 6 A.M. but didn't reach our destination that day. Spent the night at 8000' amid snow fields. Harry Hefferen suffering from exhaustion. Made it next morning. Spent day in the valley. Returned to camp on third day. Eric was killed July 15 near Alamein.



Harry & I with Arab family. Note the lone hen tied to stone.



Terraced fields on lower slopes.



Farther on we came across the men-folk with their sheep and goats.