

APRIL

3

Friday

Up at 4 A.M. Packed my kit. Breakfast at 5 A.M. Left Maadi Base Camp at 6 A.M. by truck with 3 other 26 Sn. chaps for Cairo main Stn. Found that train didn't leave till 3 P.M.

Arrived Kantara at 7 P.M. Crossed Canal on barge or ferry worked by chains. Had sausages, potatoes - bread & tea in Aussie mess.

Slept on station till 12 P.M.

Changed money into Palestine

4

Saturday

Left Kantara at 12.30. Slept off on train. Reached El Arish at 6 A.M. Country changed from desert to undulating grassland. Passed frontier into Palestine at 7 A.M.

Very pleasant journey. Got 12 big oranges for tin of Bully Beef.

Arrived Haifa at 3.30 P.M. Taken to Barracks by truck. Leave in town from 6 P.M. till 10.30 P.M. Mt. Carmel 1/2 mile away.

APRIL

5

Sunday

Left Barracks at 6.45 A.M. by bus for stn. Boarded train for Syria (narrow gauge). Most interesting trip. Many hikers boarded train from time to time. Many beads in line. Green fields, for miles - no fences. Converses with Palestine woman & girl. Crossed border into Syria. Came out on to vast plateau. Snow covered mountains in view. Arrived Damascus 7.45 P.M. Quarantined in Camp.

Monday

6

Into Damascus on leave from 9 - 12 A.M. by truck. Met a Mr. & Mrs. Harris from Beirut. Once lived in Napier N.Z. Visited Bazzaz. Bought 10 photos of Damascus. Returned to camp for lunch. Bought by truck to Rly. Stn. at 1 P.M. Train left at 3.30 P.M. for Aleppo. Frank & I in compartment.