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Code No. 28-96



No. 3

T. 3915 Wt. 6119. 200,000 Bks. 11/42. J. D. & Co. Ltd.

Book 3.

Currency.

N.A.F. = 200 to £1. (Bank of Algeria).

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My first impression of Agiers was rather a thrilling one, because I saw it all lit up at night & this was the first time I had seen lights in a harbour since being in Cape Town.

After disembarking we were piled into gaxis & taken to B.P.D. As usual this transit camp was similar to most others & I was thankful I did not have to stay there long.

I was very anxious to get to my destination & see my new lab. I think I can honestly say that this was the first posting for a long time that I really looked forward to. Probably because I knew I was going to

Spar Price whom I knew so well. Anyway my movement order came through by lunch time & I was very glad. Transport ~~was~~ took me right to N^o 2 RAF GH & when I saw it was very thrilled indeed. It stood on the top of a hill just outside a place called Mason Casse. From the front of the hospital one could see right onto the sea front & to the left look right on to Algiers which was about 7 miles away. After finding the warden's office I went to the lab & soon found it situated at the end of a long corridor. Spar Price was not in at that moment so I waited & had a

look round the place. It was
not as big a lab as I had
anticipated, but nevertheless very
nice & clean & at a first glance
I could see plenty of equipment.
After a short while Spdr Price
came in & seemed very pleased
indeed to see me. After a short
chat, he took me all round
the hospital & introduced me
to the departmental chiefs. I
soon found out that there were
quite a few chaps here whom I
knew well & were all with
me at Halton in '40 & '41.

After going all round the
hospital I came back to the
lab & met my assistant & had
a talk over a few things.

I can honestly say that I felt very happy & very pleased with everything. Star Price put me up for promotion the following day & it did not take me very long to settle down.

We were sleeping in tents & had hospital beds and mattresses to sleep on. & The food was quite good.

After a few weeks I was thoroughly at home & had made several changes in the lab & started to teach my assistant & help to get him through his lab exam. I soon found out that he was a very able & willing worker & we got on very well indeed together.

We also had one Italian P.O.W.

Who did all the washing up for us. After a while the work got so great that he could not keep up with it & he asked for an assistant which we were able to get him. After a while we were able to teach him one or two little jobs which helped us considerably & he came on very well indeed.

I found out that there was plenty of sport on the unit & it did not take me long to get my place in the football team.

After a month my promotion came through & I went into the Sgt's mess which made a lot of difference as most people know.

my promotion was not backdated as I had hoped it would be, only to my time of arrival here which was not very much.

A few days after I was promoted the Sgt's mess had an outing & I we had a very pleasant day at Tripaza, Uidea & the tomb of the Christians.

On the way back we ran into a terrific swarm of locusts which hung around this area for a week or more & were a source of nuisance to everyone & of course the crops. Most people have seen locusts on the pictures but this was the first time I had ever seen them in the flesh.

& I hope the last. They are
horrible pests & if any windows
are left open they will fly in
& go straight for any food which
may be lying about.

Nevertheless in spite of the
locusts we had a very enjoyable
day & a pleasant change.

Every fortnight the Sgt's mess
held a dance to which most
of the sisters came & I always
made a very pleasant evening.

I paid one or two visits to
Algiers but soon found out
that there was not a great
deal to do there except go to a
show & I will say this, that there
were always plenty of films to
see. There was also a very

nice opera House where they
 held some good shows. The
 season closed down during the
 summer & I was sorry because
 I had intended going each
 week & kept putting it off
 until finally it was too late &
 had to wait until the winter
 season started again.

To buy anything in Algiers
 was just out of the question,
 because the prices were too
 high. Even gifts at the gift
 shop were a terrible price
 & in my opinion not worth
 buying.

As we were about 4
 miles out of Algiers liberty
 runs were run into Algeria

twice a week which enabled
one to go to a show in comfort
knowing you could get back
to camp ~~every day~~ without
any bother. Trying to hitch
hike it, was an impossibility.

We had some very good
EVSA shows at the hospital
& at one time were getting at
least one every week, but as the
summer went on they got less
& less. nevertheless we still had
2 cinema shows each week which
usually provided reasonable
entertainment.

Most of the Chaps on this
unit had not been overseas very
long & they were some of the
worst bunch of Chaps for

meaning I have lived met. I think it would have done a lot of them good to spend a few months in the desert without any entertainment at all. Nevertheless, they did not worry me very much as I was very happy in my job & that was all I worried about.

By the time June came round we had not had any cricket & so I tackled S/L Price about it who was acting as sports officer for the unit & he elected me as secretary of the cricket club. After a week or so I managed to get the club going & we started playing away matches because we had not a ground of

our own at the time. Later on we managed to get our own ground & matting. We started the cricket far too late in the season & by the time we really got going it was time to pack up being the end of the season & getting too dark to play at night.

So the end of the summer came & I had not taken any leave. September arrived & my pal said to me that it would be a good idea for us to go away together somewhere, but the question was where? In the end we decided to go to a rest camp about 3 miles away, but not awfully keen on the idea.

About 3 days before going on leave I was going on pay parade & was called to the C.O.'s office

immediately. I had no idea what he wanted to see me for & was trying to turn over in my mind what I had done wrong. Anyway I marched in smartly & saluted & he got up from behind his table, went across & shook hands with me & said "Congratulations - you are a $\frac{1}{2}$ Sgt now." Well I could have fallen through the floor & could not believe my ears for a minute. Of course the rank was only acting, but nevertheless paid which I suppose was the main thing.

My friend & I went on leave the first week in September & spent most days swimming at Quitsville. We were very lucky to have exceptionally good weather or I'm afraid we should not

have enjoyed ourselves at all.

During that week we saw quite a number of shows & I suppose on the whole, had quite a good time although I felt I wanted to get right away from the place for a little while.

On my return from leave, the work bumped up nearly 100% & it was really hard going for the two of us for the next month or so.

Cricket did a natural death & once more football took its place & I think it is here that the next chapter in the book should begin.

One Sunday afternoon early in Oct I had been playing football & came back to the laboratory to collect a towel & some soap & passing one of the sisters' office, I saw her in

sitting at the desk writing. Seizing the opportunity I went in and asked her if she would come to the Sgt's mess dance. I must have looked an awful sight in football kit & hair all over the place & as it was all done so quickly, I must have caught her unawares & she accepted my invitation. The following week, I had a return invite to a dance at the Y.W.C.A., which, I must confess, shook me considerably as I never expected it. Unfortunately the dance was cancelled but instead we went to the pictures. It was a very enjoyable evening & realised then that I had formed a great liking for this girl. And so I made up my mind not to let

The opportunity slip by without finding out if she would care to come to the pictures again with me sometime. Knowing that I was keen on dancing, she asked me if I would like to go to the Y. W. dance the following Wednesday. I was very delighted & thrilled & accepted her kind invitation.

Next Wednesday would not come round fast enough but eventually did & I had a half-day & met her for tea & then the dance in the evening. By now we realised that we both had a number of things in common & both liked one another's company.

I had known her 3 weeks now & it was my birthday week, which

of course caused for celebration.
 We had a very nice little party &
 I was convinced even more than that
 I had a very lovely girl.

As time went on, we arranged
 out $\frac{1}{2}$ days & days off together & then
 I had to go & get Infective Hepatitis.
 I don't think in my whole ~~case~~ life
 have I been so annoyed with myself
 as I was then, because I did not
 feel ill & did not want to go into
 hospital - nevertheless I had to &
 that was that. Of course I asked
 to go on his ward & I think that
 I made one of the quickest recoveries
 from Jaundice that anyone did
 has ever done. I was in and
 out of hospital in 9 days, which to
 anyone knowing how resistant

Maundice can be sometimes, was exceptionally quick work. Mind you had I not wanted to have got out so quickly, I am sure I could have had another week at least! So once again I was free to go out with her but she was going on leave the next day so I did not see her for 5 days.

On her return we really began to enjoy ourselves & went to concerts, cinemas, theatre, dances, in fact everywhere together. Even though it was the beginning of December, the weather was still very warm & on five days we went out on picnics which were a great success.

The time was passing very quickly now & after what one might

call 3 years of solitary confinement.
I was enjoying life to the fullest.

It was not until I started going out
with Margaret that Algiers held
any interest at all. But with her,
it was a different place & I might
add a place I shall never forget
as long as I live.

December rapidly melted away
& Christmas was drawing near.

Once again I was in a show on
Christmas day which, when the
time came proved to be most
successful.

As is customary in the Air Force,
the S.N.C.O.'s relieve the duties of
all work on Christmas day &
do what work there is to be done
on the wards.

After serving out the Admen's
dinner I went straight on to
Margaret's ward & helped with
the washing up & meals. We had
some good fun together & everything
went very well indeed. At 6:30
I left the ward & went straight
away to do the first show for the
patients. Almost immediately
afterwards we followed up with
another show for the staff. By the
time I had finished at 11:30, I
was just about all in & finished
off the day with a cup of tea in
the bunk with Margaret. Although
I was dog tired & thoroughly worn
out, I enjoyed the day immensely &
am sure I would not have so
had it not been for Margaret.

Boxing day. I was so tired that I went to bed in the afternoon & slept 3 hours solidly. In the evening we had our Christmas dinner followed by a dance in the evening. Naturally I was with Margaret all the time & realised how that I was more than fond of her.

The Christmas celebrations finished up with a dance on New Year's Eve which was more of a success than the one on Boxing Day.

