

Capt. L. W. Raley

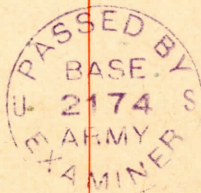
157th Inf., A.P.O. 45

New York, N. Y.



V...— MAIL  
VIA AIR MAIL

DR. JOHN W. RALEY, President  
Oklahoma Baptist University  
Shawnee, Oklahoma



*L. W. Raley*



No. \_\_\_\_\_



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

To

DR. JOHN W. RALEY, President  
Oklahoma Baptist University  
Shawnee, Oklahoma

From

Capt. L. W. Raley

(Sender's name)

157th Inf., A.P.O. 45

(Sender's address)

New York, N. Y.

July 1st, 1943

(Date)

Dear Buddy:

We are here in North Africa. Of all the places I have seen this is one of the most peculiar. Races of all the world seem to be gathered here and are living together in a kinda of resigned attitude. At a certain city I had the privilege of visiting yesterday I saw them mixed together - Arabs in their robes, like bed sheets, French, Spanish, English, Italian Civilian and soldiers of all countries, wearing clothing peculiar to their country or branch of the military service. Nothing could be more welcome to me though, than the streets of a Texas or Oklahoma city - just any - it wouldn't make any difference.

This country is interesting. They have some of the most fertile fields I have ever seen with beautiful vineyards, watermelons, cantelopes, tomatoes, etc growing beautifully and right beside it a barren waste. Water and rocks determine the fertility. The Arabs are rather colorful in their costumes. The men for the most part wear pleated skirts, sewed together at the bottom except two holes for their legs. They go in for elaborate pleats and baggy bloomers. Remind me of those Violet used to wear when she played basket ball in grammar school - only moreso. Women wear long, flowing dresses or robes wrapped around them. Many of them still are hooded. The houses are built of rock, which they have in abundance, with stucco plaster. They have high rock walls about their houses and premises, with large gates that are seldom ever opened, day or night, and never at night. This is true of both city and country homes. The city I visited yesterday looked very much like a modern city, except for the Arabs and other 'foreigners'. The stores have very small stocks, and very few of them have glass windows. In the small towns the stores are closed from noon until 4 p.m. Last Saturday afternoon I went to one near which we were bivouaced (however you spell it) and at three oclock did not see a store open or a person on the streets. So different from our towns on Sat. p.m.

I surely am glad Coleman has entered the seminary. I hope now that he gets a church and qualifies for a commission in the chaplaincy. By the way, I saw Ch. Buchanan, who was with the division when mobilized. He told me he and Truman swapped out services for a long time but T. was transferred to another unit shortly before we arrived. Surely wish I had gotten here in time to see him. Don't know where he is now. Ch. B. asked to be remembered to you.

Had a letter from Alice in which she mentioned getting ready for the family reunion. Surely hope you got to go and that everyone had a good time. Of course, I realize it was sadly incomplete without me!!!! but suppose you were able to manage. Alice writes that Papa and Mamma are getting along fine. I finally got an allotment of \$10.00 a month through for them.

Sapce is almost gone, so

Eye and love to all,

V...-MAIL



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