

When I came back to Egypt at the beginning of 1936, I came for convalescence in a warm climate known to suit me. I came direct from King Edward VII Officers Hospital, Osborne House, Isle of Wight, where I had been recuperating after serious illness - one of many periods of such a sort since my invaliding from the RAF in 1931 for disabilities due to active service. Although then in an official category of 90% disability, soon after arrival in Egypt I was offered appointments, first as a Staff Officer at Air Headquarters, and then as Liaison Officer Middle East, under the auspices of the Foreign Office, in which capacity I toured throughout the M.E. As it would not have been possible for me to pass any Medical Board, I agreed to accept these appointments in a civilian capacity, with senior status. I continued in this work for several years until my accident in 1941, when I was very seriously injured by being crushed by a service automobile. On recovery some months later, I accepted an appointment with status as a chief of Department known then as Administration & Security Officer, Near East Region, B.O.A.C. About 2 years later, I again retired for recuperation, and settled myself temporarily on a small country estate near Benha, where I rented the Guest House of Fahmy Pasha. While at Benha, I founded, organized and maintained a Rest Centre for Allied Forces, known as the "United Nations Services Club." When eventually I left Benha, I handed over this Centre - by then serving several hundred service personnel every 24 hours - in working order to the British Authorities. I received letters of thanks from Army Headquarters in Cairo, and a very gracious letter of approval from H.M. Queen Mary. Soon after, I proceeded to Australia, to accompany my Mother, then a lady of 82 years, but full of energetic enterprise, to visit her grandchildren in that country. My Mother died soon after arrival in Australia. I then returned to continue residence in Egypt. As a private resident in Egypt it has been my inclination and habit to lead a quiet and retired personal life, interesting myself in literature, drawing, music, etc. Owing to the situation which developed concerning the Arab Refugees at Gaza, I later took up voluntary work - partly personal, partly linked with the United Nations Administration, and partly with the World Council of Churches. In Cairo, I worked on Committees, on articles for the press, and general planning, and at Gaza I assisted in organizing the receipt and distribution of clothing and supplies to the Refugees. In the course of several visits to Gaza, clothing, etc., was distributed to about thirty-six thousand Refugees. In Cairo I also took an interest in work for Social Welfare, including the finding of employment for young fellows on leaving an orphanage, arranging visits for and accompanying the British Embassy cinema-van to various Welfare Centres, and helping in athletic and other organisation. I have letters of kindly appreciation and thanks from the Egyptian Committee concerned with this work; and concerning the Refugee work I have letters of approval from our Foreign Secretary, Mr. Eden, and a further gracious letter of encouragement from H.M. Queen Mary. This also had the kindly interest of Mr. Casey, Australia's Minister for External Affairs, when he discussed this matter during his visit to me when he last came to Cairo.

On "Black Saturday," 26 January, 1952, I was a witness of the grim Turf Club tragedy, barely escaping myself. Later on the same day the mob set fire to the building where I resided then, my flat was partly burned, and I and others there barely escaped with our lives. It then happened that I was the cause of the arrest (the only such arrest) of one of the mob-leaders of the attack on the Club. Later a servant of mine who had volunteered to give evidence against this man, was terrorised or bribed into leaving my service, and into trying to start a "case" against the Embassy and myself, alleging that I have a secret political office in Cairo. My servant boasted at the time that he had the backing of Fathi Radwan. This case, under Embassy guidance (but at my personal expense) was legally contested, and was eventually dropped.

As a result of the conditions which developed soon after, anti-British tension and hostile propaganda made it impossible to continue any of our work either for the Refugees or for Social Welfare, except in a very limited and entirely personal way. By order of the new Revolutionary Leaders, our United Committee for Arab Refugee Aid was dissolved, our Egyptian Chairman "discredited" and a sub-Editor of an Arabic newspaper who had helped us placed under arrest. It was also alleged, somewhat ungraciously, and certainly without any truth, that all our work had been only "Imperialistic propaganda!" The same atmosphere was created with regard to work for Social Welfare. In spite of this, however, for the first few months after the Revolutionary Coup d'Etat, senior officers of the Egyptian Ministry of War were personally, at least in semblance - very friendly with me. I was invited frequently to the War Ministry to discuss "reform" etc., officers lunched or dined at my flat, and I was invited to lunch at the Egyptian Officers Club, in company with a British diplomat. In particular the Director of Bureau of General Neguib was very well disposed whenever we met. Later on some rather peculiar approaches were made to me by an intermediary saying that he represented Major (now General) Abdel Hakim Amer and Maitre Soliman Hafez, and suggesting that I should discuss certain matters, and make them known to our Embassy. I was a good deal disconcerted by these demi-official approaches and of course asked our Embassy for advice. In conformity with the advice then received, I tried to discourage any such course of action, and consequently the matter faded out, this being fortunately assisted by the sudden reshuffle of appointments amongst the Revolutionary Leaders.

As time passed, and tensions increased, all contacts from my "friends" at the War Ministry ceased. From certain comments in later conversations, I am of the opinion that it was by order of Colonel Zacharia Mohieddin, that communications with me ended. When I met Mohieddin at the reception at our Embassy on 2nd June (Coronation), his manner was not at all cordial. He seems to me of sinister personality, with a tendency to fanatical cunning, and now influenced by astute ex-Nazi advisors.

Since the difficulties about my residence visa started in June last, I have had several talks ("interrogations" really) with the Egyptian Investigation Department. I have so far been treated correctly and politely during these talks, but was frankly told that as a retired British Officer who has held political appointments in the past, I am now "suspect." I was assured, however, of the security of my residence here, and that in no case would I be asked to leave at short notice or during the winter. I was also told that the circumstances of my contacts with King Farouk were correctly estimated and not resented. I must here remark that my long relationship with the ex-King originated not in any political matter, but through the interest he then took in Social Welfare work. He had heard of my endeavours on behalf of unemployed men in England (which at the time had the approval and support of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and also of H.M. Queen Mary), and my campaign to obtain reforms in Merchant Navy conditions, which had the interest of Lord Runciman. King Farouk asked my advice on certain points - and thus started a long and rather odd "friendship," in which my part was rather that of an "elderly" and by no means always approving "consultant." I never took any part at all in the ordinary social amusements or frivolities of the young King. At that time Farouk was a charming lad, cheerful, humorous, intelligent and of excellent appearance. A degeneration in appearance and qualities seemed to be accentuated after his motor accident. I do not think he was any longer fully responsible. During the last two years before his abdication I was unable to obtain any personal audience with the King, though written correspondence was still possible. At one period I wrote for King Farouk a Memorandum on Hospital Reform in Egypt, and as a result had a personal interview with the then Minister for Health, to discuss this matter. Bishop Gwynne also became interested, and through this I was able to bring about a reconciliation (after long estrangement) between our Bishop and the King. An outcome of this was the gift by King Farouk of bronze

grilles now in position behind the Altar at All Saints Cathedral, Cairo.

My first presentation to Prince Mohamed Aly was by a mutual friend, and I came to know him well in due course. He was always charming both to my Mother and myself, and always a staunch friend of Anglo-Egyptian cooperation. Alas! his good will to England does not seem to have stood him in good stead! At present he is still an exile in Switzerland.

I am at a loss to understand the sudden accentuation of hostility by the Egyptian Authorities about my visa. When on Saturday, 24th October, our Vice-Consul asked Colonel Hamzawi if I would be granted a re-entry visa if I went abroad, he agreed without hesitation. Perhaps when it was for Syria that I made my application, the present conditions in Palestine made Hamzawi consider this suspicious? The following facts are relevant: Yesterday, when my servant called with a message for me at the Turf Club, he was asked many questions about me by one of the Boabs, including an enquiry as to whether I am a member of the British "secret police." Two Egyptian friends of mine, "well placed" people of the "old regime" told me a couple of days ago that they had been warned of arrest if they continue to meet English people. A lady of the "old regime" tells me the political police here told her that she is suspected of "treason" because she visits the British Library, and because an "officer of a hostile country - i.e. myself - visits the house of her family. A friend of mine at the Egyptian Foreign Office sent me a message some time ago, through his mother, to say that it would now be dangerous for us to meet, even in the most ordinary social way. My letters are not always reaching their destinations in England, and letters to me now seem to be "held up" in the Egyptian post. Visitors to me at my hotel are noted, and reported upon. When I tackled Capt. Hafiz upon this point he eventually agreed that this is a fact. I presume that in these days Colonel Mohieddin and his clique suspect me of some special kind of political activity, though I have not the least idea as to what they suspect, and therefore I just continue a normal quite routine of life as usual. I think these people are now, however, dangerous, and so arrogant that they could go to foolish extremes. The recent hangings, for instance, of allegedly pro-British agents, though certainly ill-advised, were ruthless and vengeful and directed by a malicious desire to harm British prestige by all possible means.

November , 1953.