



Adams, Fred, Lee
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VISITS MANY COUNTRIES

Fred L. Adams of Norris City
Writes Interesting Letter.

Has Seen More of the World Than Many
of Us Will Ever See, and is En-
joying the Trip Very Much.

Fred L. Adams, who is one of Uncle Sam's men and now aboard a fighting ship, writes his mother from Beirut, Syria, under date of July 18th. While the date is more than two months ago, it should be remembered that it takes a letter quite a while to reach here after it is written. Fred describes pretty thoroughly much of the countries his ship has visited and his letter will no doubt prove of interest to many of our readers, whether they are personally acquainted with Fred or not. His letter follows:

Mrs. G. C. Mayberry—My Dear Mother:—As I have not wrote to you in a long time, I will try it now, although it will be several days before this reaches you.

I will now give you an idea of some of the things I have seen on my way here. First was the Azores Islands, about 3,000 miles from New York. All of these islands were formed by volcanoes in the ocean bed and finally worked their way to the surface and are very mountainous. They are owned by the Portuguese. San Miguel is the largest of the groupe and has the most population. Ships go into the port about every two weeks. There is one port of about 1,700 people. Steamers go to the smaller islands once a month. There is one peak on the mountains that can be seen for 75 miles on a clear day.

All the fences around the farms are very straight and are of hedge. Smoke from these volcanoes can be seen rising in the air like large clouds, and all of the country roads are of white sand.

Through the straits of Gibraltar they are about ten miles long and about five miles wide. There is a very strong fortress at the Mediterranean end of the straits.

The name is Gibraltar, and it is one of the strongest fortresses in the world. It belongs to the English, who leased the big rock and then fortified it. On the African side are mountains of honeycomb rock of lead color, which is very beautiful from the water. Mountains are all you can see from the water, in fact I have not seen a piece of level land since I left the states, except in Egypt.

Barcelona, Spain, is Spain's largest seaport and is the most civilized place I have seen since I left Boston, Mass. It is surrounded by large mountains. Sailing and viewing are great sports here, as are bull fighting and bathing, all of which I like to attend. We had liberty there and most every man in the ship's company went ashore. Barcelona is one of the most beautiful cities of Spain, and it isn't much. The governor's house is a large fort to the east of the city; only two saluting guns visible, and has tunnels leading about one mile from the barracks to the fort; in fact it is all tunnels under the mountains. This port has a nice water front. There are two harbors, the inner and outer. We tied up along side the dock. Many ships come to this port from all over the world at the present time, but most of them from South Africa and the Americas.

Alexandria, Egypt, is mostly populated by Egyptian Arabs. Egypt is a very historic place, there being so much junk built there before the time of Christ. Pompeii is a large station, and as it is now, looks like all that was left of a building; and there is the Sphinx, which was built at the same time Pompeii was built, about 500 years before Christ. The station is about 500 feet high and 20 feet in diameter and is in three sections. There is one of the most beautiful parks in the world here full of flowers. Here are the catacombs, used by the royal family as a burial place 3,000 years before the coming of Christ. To enter this place you have to go down a winding stairway 100 feet and then use a candle to light you around.

We are having a very nice time over here since the ship is getting settled down. We have an awful lot of work to do when we put a ship in commission—work from daylight until dark. Now it is getting so we can sleep about 24 hours a day. We have sailing parties after 4 o'clock p. m. when we do not have a sailing period earlier in the day.

Beirut is a place where most all American warships come and lay for five or six weeks before raising anchor. We had to make a stop at Joppa, a small town in Syria, Asia Minor, to leave some money there for the American counsel. It is a very pretty place from the sea. From there we came to where we are now and dropped our anchor and have not raised it yet.

We have had six bags of mail since we left the states and that was about three days ago.

Our sports have began to increase. We get from 3:30 to 6 o'clock every day now. We get regular liberty three times a week. Moving pictures most any night we ask for them.

Beirut is like all the rest of the cities here look, good when you are out in the sea but they are hell when you go into them.

I will close for this time and will try to get a little more dope next time.

Don't get excited if you don't hear from me for two or three months at a time, because the war game delays the mail so much. Your loving son,

F. L. ADAMS.