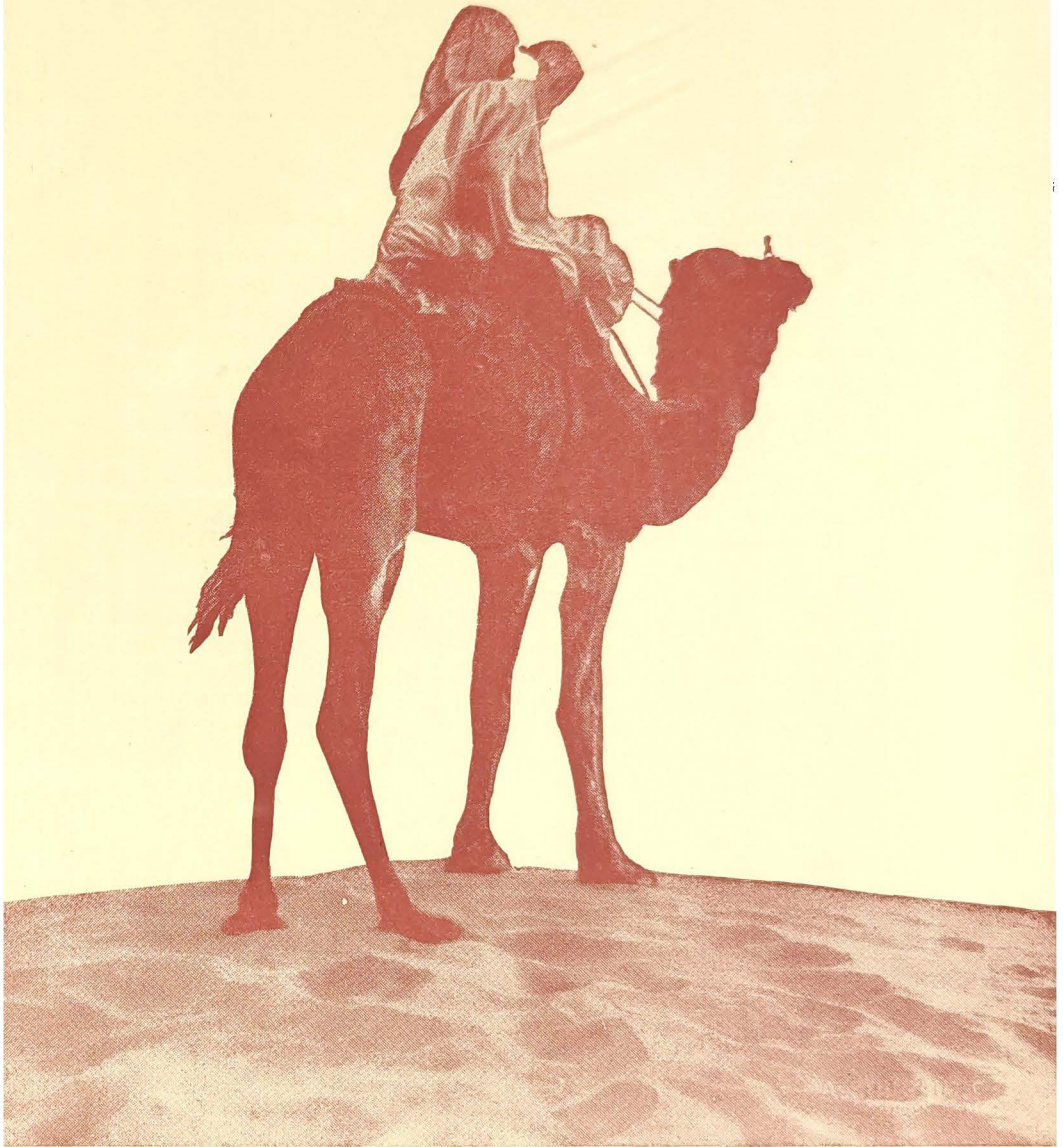


# *A Thirsty Land*



*Algiers Mission Band*

No. 138.

MARCH - APRIL, 1962.

# ALGIERS MISSION BAND

*Founded in 1888 by Miss I. Lilius Trotter*

HEADQUARTERS:

DAR NAAMA, 45 AV. CLEMENCEAU, EL BIAR, ALGIERS.

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GREAT BRITAIN

*London Centre: Algiers House, 92 Gordon Road, Ealing, London, W.13.*  
(Telephone—Office: PERivale 1765      Visitors: PERivale 5322)

# A THIRSTY LAND

The Bi-monthly News and Prayer Sheet of the  
Algiers Mission Band

Annual Subscription, including postage:

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No. 138

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## EDITORIAL

**I**N going to press, we give thanks to Almighty God that a cease-fire has been declared for troubled Algeria, though unfortunately it seems that this is by no means an end to the struggle in North Africa.

How much the more ought we, as Christians, to pray for peace, and for all believers in Christ. One dare not contemplate what the future may hold for *them* in the event of further trouble in Algeria.

We would commend to your prayers also those who minister to them during this most difficult transition period in Algeria's history, that they may be 'kept' as they go about their work from day to day in His Name.

"Our God is able."

D.B.E

## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

ALGIERS, 19th MARCH, 1962

Today's news of the official "cease-fire" between French and Algerians marks the beginning of a new stage in the history of Algeria. Above all, it gives hope for the continued freedom of proclaiming the Christian Gospel—at least in the foreseeable

future. But unhappily all has not become calm overnight in this troubled country. There is still a difficult transitional period to pass through. During February and March many more lives have been lost, and even now the acts of terrorism have not ceased. So we urge you all to keep on praying for Algeria.

\* \* \*

On turning over a page or two you will find the annual summary of A.M.B. accounts. Once again we must be very thankful to the Lord for having been so generous in His provision for all our needs. We also take this opportunity of expressing our grateful thanks to all who have contributed to our funds during the past year. You have been partners with us in our work for the Lord.

\* \* \*

As the way is not at the moment clear for them to return to the Field owing to cancellation of return visas, the Rev. and Mrs. Waine will be remaining in Britain for a few more months, and will be available until June next for deputation meetings. Please pray for them as they consider the needs of their children's health and education, that they may know the Lord's will in these important matters.

The strength of A.M.B. missionaries on the Field is now down to the very low number of 12. We wish to emphasize once again the urgent need for more missionaries to maintain the Lord's Work in Algeria. We ask you to pray that God will make plain His plan for the continuance of the work which He has entrusted to the Algiers Mission Band for 74 years. Please pray that the Lord will thrust forth labourers into this part of His harvest field. It is not so much ours to plan as to pray. He knows the need and, He can in answer to our united prayers make others aware of it, and of their responsibility.

\* \* \*

In this connection we received a letter from a friend and supporter of the A.M.B., whose counsel is valued. Here are some extracts from his letter:—

"The Lord has done some mighty things for us in the matter of financial mercies in the past ten years because prayer was made . . . The Lord is no man's debtor, and this He clearly showed in the gentle and natural way He abated the shortage . . . Now, the shortage is on another plane—recruits! Yet the Lord's Hand is not shortened . . . Prayer was made and prayer was answered perhaps beyond our normal expectations — Praise His Glorious Name!"

He then makes a call for "earnest and definitely persistent prayer in this matter." Shall we respond to this call by engaging at once in prayer along these lines?

PETER G. LONGLEY

## IN MEMORIAM

Miss E. K. M. Ridley

*Died February 9, 1962*

"MISS MAY RIDLEY came to the Field in 1907" writes Miss Grautoff, "and I (returning to Algiers after a short time in England) was asked to bring out this new recruit—a keen, bright young worker. Her first missionary experiences began at No. 2 Rue du Croissant, the old Arab house which Miss Trotter had rented in the Casbah.

In those early days, when "Be quiet" or "Go in peace" were almost the only words we could say in Arabic, she and I were given a class of naughty Arab boys to manage, after a senior missionary had given them a short talk on some Bible picture. We were to teach them to colour Arabic designs, and we prepared for them clay tiles which, when successful, we put in the brilliant sunshine to dry. The boys loved the messy job, and some showed real talent in colouring."

Later, after some Arabic study, Miss Ridley was posted to the station of Relizane, which was opened in 1909. "There," as she has said, "I had the privilege to be with her (that is with Miss Freeman) for several years." There also, she had fellowship in the work with Miss Butler, who had been her prayer partner in England; and after Miss Butler left to open up her new station at Tlemcen, Miss Ridley remained at Relizane, which became her home in Algeria for the chief part of her time of service on the Field. There especially, "Mile May" by which name she was known, will still be remembered with affection by many who first heard the "Old, old Story" from

her lips. A very special part of her work at Relizane was with a group of young girls, to whom the mission house became like "home" under her loving jurisdiction. An old number of "A Thirsty Land" (No. 47, Winter, 1938-1939) gives Miss Ridley's own touching account of one of these girls—one whose faithfulness unto death testified to the reality of her love for the Saviour in whom she had learned to trust.

Never very robust, though full of life and energy when not hampered by rheumatism, Miss Ridley's strenuous time during the War years of 1939-45 — part of which she spent working with the Y.W.C.A. in the war zone—left her so tired out that she was obliged (in 1946) to retire from the field, and was never able to return—though her interest in the work and her love for the people never failed. When the long illness and death of the sister she lived with left her without a sister, she was herself so ill that those who cared for her dared not tell her of the sudden death of their one remaining brother not long after, and she died without knowing that he was gone. As one said, after telling of her peaceful passing, "What a joyful surprise for her to meet him on the other side."

## WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

**I**N writing a short note for "A Thirsty Land" I would ask our praying friends to uphold in prayer the natives of this land who are believers in Christ, or seekers after the Truth. There are these secret ones, thank God, but we feel the enemy of souls is working subtly to undermine or dim their faith and joy.

It is not my business to discuss politics—we avoid that; but there is fear about the future. "What will the new Government be, and how will it help us," some will think. Some will say, "The Christians have failed us. "We only asked for quietness and safety, and now which party will be uppermost? Will it be the communists?" They are here already. As one Arab woman informed me "They tell us that there is no hereafter, we are as the animals." Or will it be the ultra Muslim party? How will the Christian believers stand the strain?

There are so many (without any political knowledge) who yet trusted the French rule, and these are badly shaken. Then there are also the freed prisoners, the revolutionists, now coming back to share the power in the land. How will *they* treat the believers? Only a deep faith in the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ can carry the Christians through.

Lastly, for ourselves—as we prepare our classes and meetings these next months — pray that our faith and confidence may shine forth in each message, so that Christ's power may be manifested through His grace.

For these will be difficult, but very precious months, preparing a scattered Christian Church for the unknown future.

Arabs can be courageous soldiers when well led, and Arab women shew much bravery in suffering, but there is subtlety and want of truth from their youth up (a form of self-protection). When we talk of truth in all our dealings rather than lies, they say "Yes, but it is the children who are so given to lying." Alas, it continues into old age—so much to unlearn. M. D. GRAUTOFF.

## FURTHER NEWS OF SETIF

*Given by Miss I. B. Gow*

I AM now back at Dar Naama, after six weeks at Sétif, where I was living with Mlle. Chollet, the Missionary of whom you read in the last issue of "A Thirsty Land." The bullet wounds in her leg have healed well, and she is now able to move about without crutches. Thank you for your prayerful remembrance for this missionary's healing; and continue to pray for her, as once again she has her girls' classes and receives women in her home.

When I arrived at Sétif, water was in very short supply. It only ran in the taps for two hours each day, which meant that the first task every morning was to fill all the jugs and empty pails in the house, that is, until the snow came. After the first snowfall my colleague added to her prayers "Thank You, Lord, for the snow"—for it meant *water*, and water gives the assurance of harvest from the various fields and plots of ground. Last year, because of the drought, the harvest failed for the most part, causing extra hardship for the poorer people of the district.

Does it surprise you to read of snow in "sunny Algeria"? But Sétif is a market town on an elevated plain, about 3,600 feet above sea level. We had five days of snow, in that time it piled up to a height of over 3 feet, and the weight of snow on the overhead vines in the garden caused them to collapse. It made me feel quite at home, as I shovelled my way downstairs, through each fresh snowfall. The temperature some mornings was several degrees below freezing point. However, before I left Sétif the snow had nearly disappeared. Such a severe winter had not been ex-

perienced in this region for many years.

It is difficult to describe adequately to you the journey to and from Sétif. As the train climbed the hillsides, or moved across the plains, I had the opportunity of enjoying God's handiwork in nature. An added occasion was given me to have an even closer look at the villages and people. On the return journey a section of the railway line which runs through Kabyle country, was blocked. The train, therefore, took us as far as possible, then all passengers had to leave it to board buses which were waiting to take us a half hour's journey by road. On the way we passed many small groups of villagers living, it seemed to me, far from the opportunity of hearing the Gospel. At one time, perhaps, they were within reach of a missionary, but in these days—through lack of personnel and the upheaval in Algeria—many have never heard the Message. When we ended our bus-trip, we took another train past the blockade, and continued on our way to Algiers without further interruption.

In Sétif, as elsewhere in Algeria, the great spiritual need of the people was impressed upon me as I mingled with them in the streets and in the market places, the need for the Salvation that Jesus offers them, for they are indeed as sheep without a shepherd.

Praise God for His protecting care and strengthening grace in these difficult days; and continue to pray for the multitude of untouched souls, as well as for those reached with the Gospel message; and hold fast to the Word of God, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

I. B. GOW.

## RELIZANE

MARCH, 1962

*"Troubled on every side,  
yet not distressed."* (2 Cor. 4: 8)

**I**N spite of all that is happening, and continues to happen in this land, we are still able to visit in the homes, and are well received. The atmosphere in the town is not very pleasant, but we thank God that so far no harm has come to us. This is due, we believe, to the prayers of God's people on our behalf. The future is still uncertain, but we know that God has Algeria in the hollow of His hand, and His plan will be accomplished whatever the circumstances.

It is because we believe that God has something for us to do in the fulfilling of His plan here, that we began by having part of the house repaired and put in readiness to receive the helpers whom we believe He is going to send us. This kept us housebound for a time, but we were able to have conversations with one of the workmen, resulting in an invitation to visit his wife. Praise God for another open door!

The teen-age girl who is so desirous of knowing more of the Way of Truth, has been prevented from coming to the mission house. We feel her father is the cause of this, and so we are hoping it will be possible to have a class in her home, which would mean that we should be able to reach more of our friends and neighbours.

At the moment we are going through what would seem to be a phase of a falling away of several of

our people who seemed to be most promising. One woman who has had a connection with the mission house for many years does not come any more. She is a professing Christian, and has been coming twice a week for Bible study and for prayer, until recently. Another woman who was opposed to the messages, and who later became interested in a remarkable way, asking many questions, has now been drawn away, and does not wish to hear any more. We wonder why this should be so. We know there is much to deter people from wanting to hear God's message and to accept His Way of Salvation but, as God's messengers, that should not be our concern. Is this falling away due to the fact that we are not giving ourselves enough to prayer for these souls, who are so surrounded by the power of evil that sooner or later they succumb to the attacks of the enemy?

*"The victories won by prayer, by prayer must still be held.  
The foe retreats but only when  
by prayer he is compelled."*

May God help us to be that united band of prayer-warriors that will compel the enemy to retreat from this dark land.

It may be that some of you would like to have a greater share in this prayer warfare. If so, why not begin a regular monthly prayer meeting in your home, inviting some of your friends to join you? There are several such meetings in Britain which, by their continued prayer effort, are making a valuable contribution to the Lord's work in this land.

E. CLARK & A. E. POWELL.

## FAT'MA OF RELIZANE

"Safe in the Arms of Jesus,  
Safe on His gentle breast;  
There by His love o'ershadowed,  
Sweetly her soul doth rest."



*The following article was written by the late Miss E. K. M. Ridley, who had helped Fat'ma in the wonderful stand she made for the Lord.*

How much of light and shade has been crowded into one short life! The Light of the Life of Christ has been indeed victorious over the deep shadows of care, temptation, sorrow, doubt, fears, and trials, from which Fat'ma's life seemed seldom free.

There was no light in Fat'ma's face when first we knew her, though He must have already begun to shine upon her when, as quite a young girl, she helped to form the nucleus of the Relizane "Family." Her eyes were peculiarly heavy with inward dark-

ness, as if a thick black curtain lay over her soul, though she was easily stirred to superficial gaiety, and like most Arabs she was very proud and quick to take offence. She soon learned to love the mission house and the motherly side of her character was developed by helping Aouda (the first girl of the "Family" to become a Christian) in her care of the smaller children, as well as in house things. The two were very great chums and she has said more than once that she owed much of her spiritual understanding to Aouda. For many years Fat'ma's most constant prayer was that God would open the eyes of her understanding. That prayer was in due time abundantly answered, and then her dull eyes began to shine with the Light of Heaven, and God gave her great spiritual understanding, though at the same time her trials and difficulties greatly increased, and persecution for His sake was not unknown. She said once: "When I was without knowledge of Christ I was happy and always gay, but since I became a Christian I have had nothing but grief and trials, nevertheless I would rather be as I am for now I have Christ and He is better than all the laughter of this world." She grew patient and loving, and ceased to get angry when she had to be reproved for any small or greater fault. She became as honest as the day, and household things could safely be left in her hands, and the little ones were devoted to her. Saadia, the latest addition to the Family was her special care, and during the years when the Station was closed she was the human centre around with the Christian women and children gathered.

Though her eyes were defective she took great pains to learn to read and



spent all her spare time poring over her Gospels or her hymn book, till she almost knew them by heart.

As personal sorrows increased, Fat'ma stayed her heart on the verse, "I will not leave thee an orphan I will come unto thee," St. John 14. v. 18 (Arabic translation). When falsely accused of evil and brought before the Judge, she took comfort in the words, "When they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak, for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak." God did indeed undertake for her, and set her at ease in the court, where judgment was given in her favour.

Her one brother was a good-for-nothing fellow, for whom she prayed daily, and there is cause to believe that her prayer for him was answered before he died. She and her mother lived under very distressing circumstances for many years while the mission station was closed, and always her faith in Christ was living; constantly she wrote: "The way is difficult but Christ is always with me." The last two years were joyful ones again for her, as she found her place once more in the mission station and became Mrs. Stalley's right-hand in the house and in mission work. Many times Fat'ma refused marriage to a Moslem man, though often it was almost forced upon her. Once, she sat with her girlhood companions waiting for the final marriage arrangements. Her heart was heavy, and she sat apart from her friends praying that God would yet deliver her. As she prayed some question of money arose, which ended in the tearing up of the marriage contract, and so God set her free at the eleventh hour.

God has accepted her sacrifice, and

taken her to Himself. Never very strong, she easily became infected with her brother's illness, consumption, and after a comparatively short time of suffering she entered the gates of Heaven about six weeks ago, having given a good witness to the very end.

Her mother's grief is intense, for she has now lost all whom she held dear in this life, and sorrow has aged her greatly. We can believe that Fat'ma's witness and prayers for her will be heard, and that in time she, too, will find her rest and peace in the Arms of Jesus.

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## A TE DEUM TAPESTRY

*Easter 'threads' for a  
Te Deum Tapestry*

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept."

1 *Corinthians* 15, v. 19 & 20.

"These things have I spoken unto you . . . that your joy might be full."

*John* 15: 11.

\* \* \*

"Lift up your heads, ye weary ones,  
And be ye glad of heart,  
For Passion Day and Easter Day,  
The saddest Day, the gladdest Day  
Are but one day apart."

*Anon.*

D. B. EDGE

# ALGIERS MISSION BAND

## Summary of Accounts for the Year ended 30 June, 1961

RECEIPTS				PAYMENTS	
	£	£		£	£
BALANCES, 1 July, 1960—				GENERAL FUND	
Algiers ... ..	206			<i>Algiers :</i>	
London ... ..	2,086			Allowances	
	2,292	2,292		to Missionaries 1,765	
GENERAL FUND				Travelling & Furlough 458	
Donations, Algiers	208			Rent ... .. 228	
"    London	855			Repairs & Maintenance 174	
Income Tax Recovered	28			Transport Vehicles 123	
Interest Received	905			Lighting,	
Transfer				Heating & Water 298	
from Legacies	3,138			Postage, Telephone and	
	5,134	5,134		General Expenses 157	
DESIGNATED FUNDS				<i>London :</i>	
Donations, Algiers	252			Allowances to	
London	649			Retired Missionaries 464	
Literature Sales,				Allowances to	
Algiers	59			Home Staff 786	
London	128			Rates, Lighting and	
	1,088	1,088		Heating ... .. 163	
				Repairs & Alterations 273	
				Postage, Telephone,	
				Travelling and General	
				Expenses 162	
				5,051	
				DESIGNATED FUNDS	
				Literature Production 593	
				Colportage and	
				Itineration ... .. 11	
				Special Purposes 229	
				Designated Support 156	
				Personal ... .. 450	
				1,439	
				BALANCES 30 June, 1961	
				Algiers ... .. 557	
				London ... .. 1,467	
				2,024	
		£8,514			£8,514

The above is a condensed abstract to the nearest pound sterling of the combined Cash Accounts of the Algiers Mission Band kept in Algiers and London. Transactions in French currency are included at the rate of 13,80 NF to the pound. Copies of the Audited Mission Accounts may be seen on request at our offices.

PETER G. LONGLEY, *Treasurer.*

## PRAYER CYCLE

*"Fear not; I am the first and the last."* Rev. 1. 17.

- Monday :** ALGIERS. The Misses V. Wood & B. Gow, Mr. & Mrs.  
P. G. Longley.
- Tuesday :** BLIDA. Miss P. M. Russell and Mlle J. Guibé.  
MILIANA. Miss M. D. Grautoff.
- Wednesday :** RELIZANE. The Misses E. Clark and A. E. Powell.
- Thursday :** TLEMCEN. Rev. & Mrs. R. J. Waine (on furlough).
- Friday :** SETIF. Mlle. G. Chollet.
- Saturday :** TOLGA. Madame Lull.  
TOUGGOURT. Miss I. K. Nash.
- Sunday :** LONDON CENTRE. Miss D. B. Edge and Missionaries  
on furlough at Algiers House.

Please remember also, the members of the Executive Committee, Algiers,  
and of the Home Council, London.

