

S. S. Carthage

20<sup>th</sup> Oct 97

4571

My dear Pippa

We shall arrive

at Port Said this afternoon, having

for the most part had fine weather, except

the first day, which was rather

rough, with a swell which made

the bad ship roll rather more

than was pleasant. Our

train was 2 hours late at

Marseilles, but the ship did not

come in till an hour afterwards,

and then stayed to coal and

we started eventually, at 9.30

P.M. - a whole day wasted.

My cabin is a very good one,

on the upper decks, and as there is a gangway between it and the side of the ship we escaped being washed out in the Gulf of Lyons, which happened to several unfortunate people down below. My stable companions are (1) Capt. Davies, (2) a fat Frenchman who is however otherwise unobjectionable, and (3) the ship's kitten. There are no very remarkable characters among the passengers and there is plenty of room, the 1<sup>st</sup> class being only about  $\frac{2}{3}$  full, though the 2<sup>nd</sup> is chock. Among the 2<sup>nd</sup> class is Peddie,

Asst. Surg. Z.I.R. returning after sick leave. The only other people known are two Athabaskan baristers and an Abt<sup>l</sup> lady Mrs. Ryves.

The course from Marseilles to Port Said goes first between Corsica and Sardinia, and then through the straits of Messina - Unluckily we passed through the latter at night and so missed the beauties of the scene. This ship is in a very bad state of repair; she rolls so much and is so ancient that all the fittings have worked loose and rattle about most vilely.

793(a)

and things have not been improved  
by the ship having been laid up for  
the last six months without any  
repair having been done. Caesar (or  
someone) was quite right when he  
remarked ~~that~~ "Delenda est Carthago"  
(see Latin Grammar) - the Carthage  
ought to be destroyed. I shall work  
this joke up and spring it on our  
table at dinner some night.

The following articles have been left  
behind - Great Coat - Pneumatic Shuttles.  
Field glasses - The former may be  
put in lavender to await my return  
but please send the others out. I  
enclose a Postal Order to defray ex-  
penses. I shall write again  
from Aden -

With love to all

yr loving brother  
Alfred Atterbury