

Chapter ~~IX~~^X

Bill was appointed adjutant of his battalion in January 1936, and left England with it later the same year for active service in the Fawzi Bey Rebellion in Palestine, as it then was. Uvani gave me the following picture soon after his departure:

September 17th, 1936. 11.21 a.m. Uvani

"This is a stirring scene in which we view Billy. He is in a ship which is full of soldiery, and consequently there is a great pandemonium of movement. There is bright sunshine.

"I see Billy busily writing. There are three men within this small room beside himself. He looks up from what he is doing, asking questions of one who replies promptly, evidently on account of another; and I see two of these men give a salutation and go forth, leaving Billy with the man to whom he has been speaking.

"There is in this room a table upon which are papers. These Billy picks up, sorting out several which are needed. He goes out, walks across a passage and finds, in another small room, one to whom he gives the papers he carries. These the officer to whom he speaks looks through, notifying his acquiescence.

"I now see Billy, accompanied by the man who was originally with him, mount stairs. He makes his way along the deck, stopping occasionally to speak with others, and finally visits a deck upon which are many men. They sit in groups, hastily arising as Billy comes near. From this deck does Billy enter the interior of the ship, going into a large room, which is the abode of many. I saw him look with a keen scrutiny. He did not stay. Then I saw men streaming into this room with intent to eat; many who jostled each other, talking loudly and laughing, after the manner of men who have not learnt decorum. You smile, Madame?"