

old covered surfaces. Practically the entire northern part of Africa, except the western section is flat and without habitation or transportation routes, and it was in such a country that the war was fought. No wonder it moved so abruptly when once it got a start.

At Cairo and along the Nile I got another surprise. Out of a typical desert of moving sands and complete desolation one runs abruptly into the restricted ribbon of cultivation of the Nile and delta. The actual separation of the extreme desert of mountains of sand to the pure green of the Nile is separated only by the width of the uppermost irrigation canal. Reno reminded me of this situation or rather the Nile civilization reminded me of Reno in that it is a true oasis in a desert with sharp demarcation between cultivation and the surrounding hostile country. Flew right by the pyramids and while all other man-made structures of the city remained microscopic these pyramids remained as giants in a desert. Every square foot of the Nile and delta is used for cultivation, in fact I have never seen such concentration of farming. The colors and patterns I will never be able to describe. Picked out the approx position of Alexandria but could not see far enough to the north to see the city. I personally would rather have seen that city than Cairo because of the importance it has played in the early development of biology and science in general. The city of Cairo is like the rest of them, dirty and disorganized and primitive, and crowded, and smelly and dirty again. On leaving Cairo again I was further impressed with the contrast between the Nile and the desert, in reality it is ^{completely} surrounded by desert with the borders so uneven and dramatic that you could actually stand with one foot in the fertile Nile valley and the other in the hot ^{slippery} sands of the cruel desert. You are certainly impressed with its complete isolation from the entire world, even the braided channels leading to the north are not too good for transportation. Near the airport were several sand ridges which in reality were young mountains. Every thing is moving. And how under such conditions can they contact the outside world. Thank goodness all we had to do was to fly out. While