

# KENNEL KAPERS — IN — KANGAROO LAND

If you good people are beginning to wonder what Australia has to do with this series of articles, we are in the same boat. We've been on the sea for a month now, yet there are still two weeks to go.

We shouldn't gripe, however, because we are visiting parts of the world which we never thought we would have the chance to see firsthand.

Leaving London, we entered the Mediterranean Sea through the Strait of Gibraltar. It was dark and the Rock of Gibraltar was lit up by a series of floodlights. It appears to be the largest outdoor advertisement in the world for a certain insurance company.

We sailed along the barren, rocky coast of North Africa, under the tip of Italy, and into Greece, where we picked up about 70 Greek immigrants to Australia.

About a day later we entered the Suez Canal. The canal is a marvel in itself. Engineered by the Frenchman deLesups, it joins the Red Sea and the Mediterranean Sea—100 miles of narrow channel cut out of seemingly endless desert.

The ship must go through the canal in convoys. In ours there are about 15 ships. There are several lakes in the canal which allow convoys going in the opposite direction to pass each other.

Our ship went through for a fee of about \$20,000 and a saving of 1,652 miles by not going around Africa. Because of the Suez crisis several years ago, however, the British are building a whole new

line of ships to go around Africa if trouble breaks out again.

Port Said, Egypt, stands at the entrance to the Suez. This city was the main point of conflict several years ago, when British and French troops entered Egypt.

If you remember, it was the United States through the United Nations which stopped the British and French before they got further. Port Said still bears signs of the battle. Bombed out buildings and walls riddled with machine gun bullets bear mute testimony to past events.

Also in evidence were the remains of a large statue of deLesups standing at the entrance to the canal, which had been bombed by an Egyptian mob during the crisis.

Whether it be for the sake of the tourists who came through Port Said, or whether it is evidence of a general improvement throughout Egypt, we do not know, but President Nasser has built many fine new schools, apartment houses and government buildings in Port Said.

Everywhere we went people extolled the virtues of Nasser, and how much he had done for the country since he forcibly came into power. For once Robbie kept his mouth shut and didn't dare to get into any political arguments.

As an example of how dangerous such a thing is, while he was talking with a young Egyptian student about life in America, a policeman came up and arrested the student.

Then about half a block away, a small riot occurred when the student tried to get away from the policeman. About 10 or 12 young boys jumped in to help the student. To tell the truth, Robbie didn't wait around to see whether he got away or not.

As we walked along the streets of Port Said, we came upon a beautiful Catholic church and a Mosque. We had been told to visit these two places as they would hold quite a bit of interest for us.

Our problem arose, however, when we discovered that no one in our group of five Australians and two Americans knew the correct procedure in entering and visiting the Mosque.

Out of nowhere came an Egyptian shoeshine man, filled with information as to the correct ritual when entering the Mosque. He insisted that he show us, free of charge, all that was necessary. The gentlemen followed us to the

Mosque, and told us to remove our shoes at the doorway. This, in its entirety, was our lesson in Mosque ritual.

The Egyptian insisted that Robbie allow him to shine his shoes, without charge, while we were in the Mosque. After a few unheeded "no's" by Robbie and a few "hurry ups" by our friends, Robbie decided he'd let the Egyptian polish his shoes to save further delay.

The Egyptian did a fine job of shining Robbie's shoes, and Robbie thanked him by giving him half a shilling, which is considered a very adequate sum. This was not enough the Egyptian indignantly told Robbie.

Robbie politely told the man that he could not be shamed into paying an outrageous price for the "free" service. The Egyptian, whose temperature rose a point with each step, began to shout that he wanted more money, four times what he had been paid.

By this time we had reached the Catholic church. Our five-minute stay was the most beautiful time of our Port Said day. The tone was quite different outside, when we found our "friend" waiting.

He thrust out his hand and angrily demanded more money, which Robbie again refused him. The man threw the money on the walk, and a dozen kids scrambled for it, one

coming up as the victor. Now the man insisted he had nothing, and would be satisfied with the amount he originally was paid. We were followed by this raging man for five or six blocks. He became so angry—and we weren't too pleased—that he hurriedly opened a bottle of liquid black polish and threatened to "shine" Robbie.

Luckily, one of our Australian friends decided he'd like to have a picture of the threatening Egyptian and the threatened American. The Egyptian ran hastily down the street and away from the camera.

He was afraid, apparently, that we would turn his photograph over to the Police Department. Actually, we wonder what the police could and would have done anyway.

The good judgment of some people will never wear out—they don't use it often enough.

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