

Letter from William Clemmans from Mesopotamia

"We are having some nice weather now, just like a good old English summer, but rather cold at night and early morning. We are all very glad to see the end of the summer, as the heat is almost unbearable.

To give you a little idea. A few weeks ago I washed a thick flannel shirt, which I hung in the sun, and in a quarter of an hour it was dried and aired ready to wear. The other day we saw a few small clouds (the first for nearly five months); we had a little rain, but not enough to wet the ground.

During the rainy season I was just outside an Arabian town. It was the most dirty place I have ever seen; we were over our boot tops in mud and slush. The streets are drained by a ditch, dug in the centre.

We have just had the luxury of a ration of potatoes (the first for about six months). We have to be rather careful what we eat during the hot weather, our chief food being bully beef and tomatoes. The price of food is very high, as there is very little produced in this country, with the exception of dates, of which I have seen tons. We are all glad the war has ended and are now anxiously waiting to receive our tickets for 'Blighty' as we have come to the conclusion it is the best climate we have as yet experienced."

The letter is undated but appeared in the Bexhill Observer on 8th February 1919.