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Copy sent to
B.L.P. 22/11/42

Translation of extracts from letter from René Vaguel, 41 Avenue de la Marne, Bône (Constantine), Afrique du Nord, addressed to Elfrida Just, c/o F.S.C., London.

15th December, 1942.

Dear Friend, and dear English Friends,

ret - from London
6/3/43

Present conditions making it impossible for you to receive news from Friends in France, or to communicate with them, I would like to send you a friendly message on behalf of the France Yearly Meeting and myself, and to renew contacts between us. You may perhaps appreciate hearing again from a modest French Friend, delegate of the France Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends in North Africa, and sole member of the Society in this country.

You will remember that I was present at the Annual Meeting at Whitsuntide, 1939, when we had such a strengthening time together. I should therefore be glad to hear from you, as well as from other Friends who were with you at that Meeting, and also to hear something of Quaker life in Great Britain.....

In case you are thinking of organising any work in Algeria, I should be very happy to offer you my help. The coming into North Africa of the English and American armies has brought war into this country which had not hitherto suffered directly. Bone has already had a number of air attacks. My office and depot have already been somewhat damaged by the blast of a bomb that fell near by. Another consequence is the interning of various foreigners, notably, Italians, of whom there are many in this district. There are also still a number of political internees. Many families are therefore deprived of their resources and are therefore unable to get help and even sympathy. Perhaps you, in accordance with the Quaker tradition, may be able here to put into operation the exhortation to "love your enemies" and come to their help. However that may be, I am at your disposal for whatever you may wish me to do, and to send you the latest news which I have of the Friends and Quaker life in France. I should like also to have a consignment of books and pamphlets on Quakerism, both in English and in French.

I am sending a similar message to the American Friends in Philadelphia.

May God bless your work and enable us to serve him faithfully for the coming of his kingdom.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) R. VAGUEL.