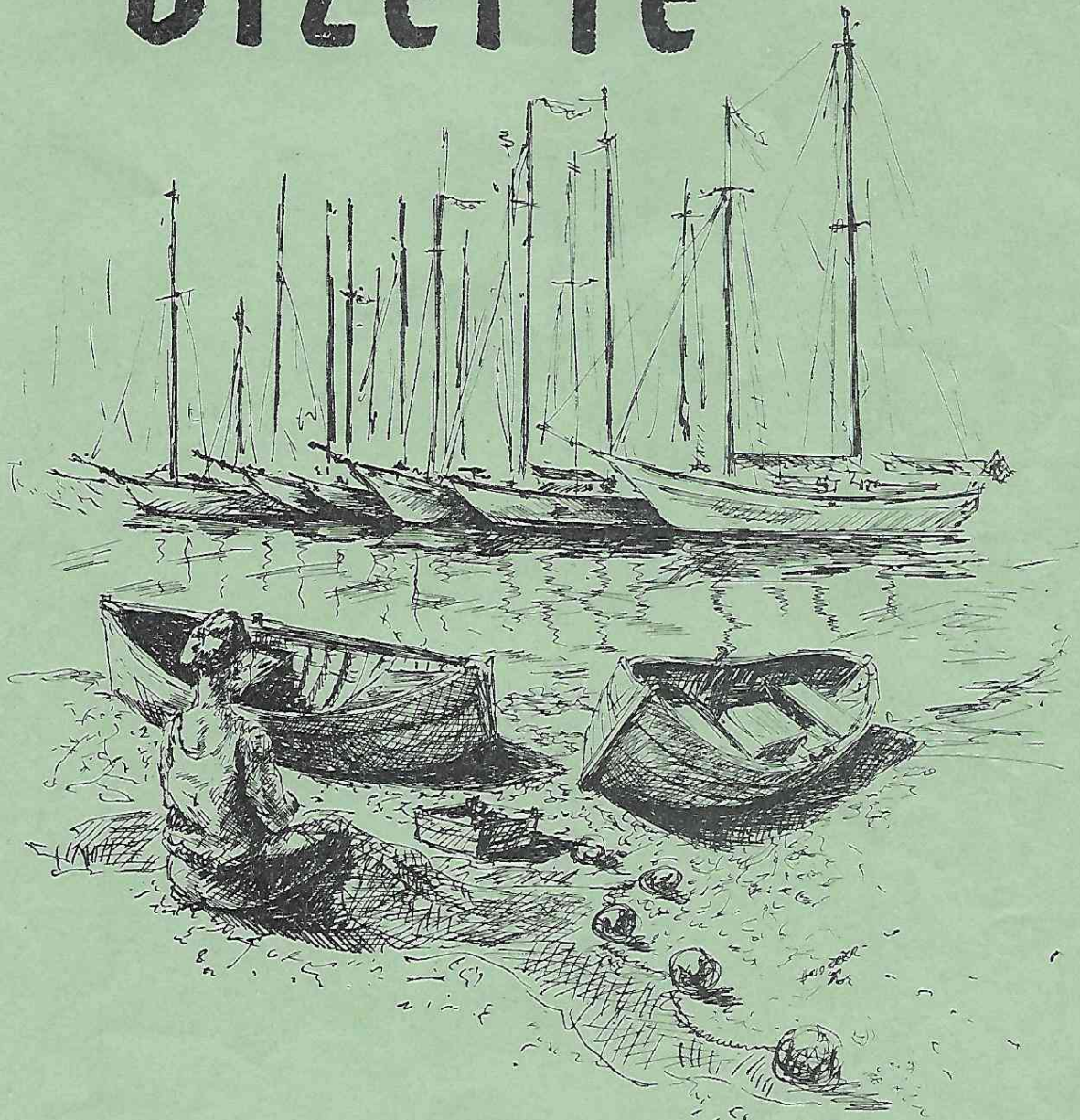


Bizerte



Tunisia

67

The City

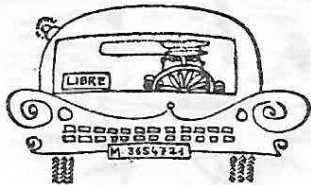
Bizerte is a seaport of northern Tunisia, with a population of about 40,000 people, of whom about 10,000 are Europeans. The city occupies a site of an ancient Tyrrian colony, which later became a Roman colony and an important port. It was conquered by the Arabs in the 7th century, and thereafter was in succession subject to the rulers of Tunis or Constantinople. Bizerte became a French protectorate in May 1881 and the French government began laying a modern city along the north side of the canal, built docks and warehouses and protective jetties. At Bizerte and nearby Ferryville, Naval and supply bases were constructed. German and Italian troops occupied the town and the city was finally captured by Allied forces in May 1943 and was thereafter a principal operating base for forces engaged in operations against Sicily and Italy. Tunisia has been independent since 1956.



The People

Tunisians are friendly to foreigners and appreciate an interest in their local customs, etc. It is possible that small groups may gather and gaze at personnel in uniform. These groups are always friendly. Discretion should be used in taking pictures. Even the more educated and well-to-do groups may at times show dislike to having their pictures taken.

Transportation



Two trains leave Bizerte daily for Tunis and return. Busses are scheduled to and from Tunis every two hours from 0800 until 1800, however they are sometimes unreliable. Taxis also run to and from Tunis. They are all equipped with meters. The fee can be read on the meter and usually amounts to about 75¢. After 2100 the fare is raised 50% more than is shown on the meter. Most of the taxis are small Renaults carrying a maximum of three passengers.

Clubs

The French Naval Officers Club and the Nautical Club offer food and beverages for officers. The Petty Officers Club at the naval base offers recreational facilities for enlisted men. Bars ashore offer only native wines, beers and liquors. The Club Sport Nautique, on the canal, and the bar at the Hotel Corniche Palace offer an American style bar and entertainment. There are several sidewalk cafes which offer local wines and beers. Imported liquors are generally expensive.

Theaters

There are four cinemas in Bizerte. Movies are usually in French, but occasionally English films are shown with French sub-titles.



Restaurants

Eating ashore is not generally recommended, however Le Petit Mousse Restaurant, two miles northwest of Bizerte, offers excellent food and drinks. Le Chantilly on Dag Hammershold Square, and the restaurant at the Hotel Corniche Palace both have excellent European food. Local wines, especially Thibar are excellent. Restaurants will not usually accept American dollars, so make sure you exchange enough money before going ashore. Local milk is not recommended.

Hotels

The best hotel in Bizerte is the Hotel Corniche Palace, which has modern facilities, including showers and bath. The price runs approximately \$5.00 per day. Another good bet is the Touring Hotel. The price range here is about \$3.00 per day. Most of the other hotels in Bizerte have only limited facilities.



Currency

Local currency is the dinar. The official rate of exchange is approximately \$1.92 equals one dinar. The dinar is broken into millimes (each dinar consisting of 1,000 millimes). An easy way to compute is to consider each 100 millimes worth 20¢. All personnel aboard ship should exchange their currency prior to going ashore.



Churches

There are only Catholic churches in Bizerte and Ferryville. One is located near the main gate of the naval base.

Athletics

Bizerte has both soccer and basketball teams which enjoy playing American teams. The basketball courts are outside, however dressing facilities are available nearby.

Shopping

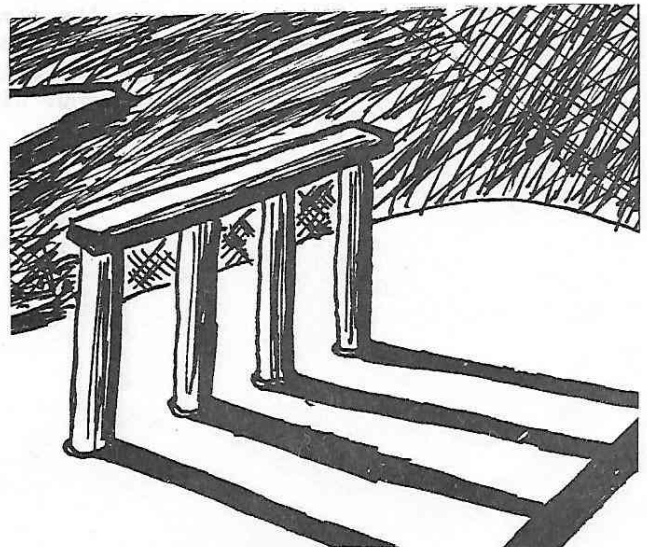


There are many small shops in Bizerte which offer goods at moderate prices. Items of special interest are rugs, donkey and camel saddles, silver inlaid trays and jewelry. When shopping in Bizerte, expect to bargain for all items except gold and silver jewelry.

Carthage

Approximately 30 miles south of Bizerte lies the ancient city of Carthage. A favorite spot for the sightseer and camera enthusiast alike, Carthage offers many ancient ruins dating from as early as 700 B.C.

Carthage has had a very tragic history. An invasion by the ancient Romans totally destroyed the city, and the few remaining columns still standing show the scars of the ancient battles.





People-to-people is Person-to-person. It all depends on you.

Bizerte has people, just as any other country does. Important people. They are people who we depend upon for support in our cause for freedom. The impression of America left with these people depends on you.

For almost two hundred years America has commanded the respect of others because it respects others -- respects their customs, their traditions, and their way of life.

Ashore in Bizerte or any other European city, you are the closest association these people have with America.

As a one-man delegation, the pride of your country is your direct responsibility.