

Jerusalem Rejoiced When British Came

Triumphant General's Path Strewn With Flowers and Palm Leaves by Women; Population Much Impressed by Allen- by's Proclamation

(Special Cable to New York Times.)

London, Dec. 18.—W. T. Massey, British correspondent with the Palestine army, telegraphs as follows from Jerusalem under date of Dec. 11:

The war has removed the Holy City from the Turks' blighting influence, but though there was the sound of a bitter clash of arms around it, no British bullet or shell was directed against its walls. The epoch-making victory, which will stir the emotions of countless millions of Christians and Moslems throughout the world, has been achieved without so much as a stone being scratched or an inch of soil destroyed, and it is to the glory of the British arms that the most venerated place on earth should have come through the ordeal of battle unharmed by even the disturbance of a particle of its ancient dust.

The Turks were forced to withdraw by General Allenby's strategy and the valor of his army. Turkish artillery fired from a position quite close to the Holy City, and enemy guns thundered from the Mount of Olives, but on our fire the inhabitants could make out nothing more than the distant rumble of guns and bursts of musketry, carried on the wings of the wind. General Allenby put the sanctity of the holy sites before every other consideration, and only approached the city when the pressure of his troops in the mountains west and northwest forced the enemy to yield to superior strategy.

Allenby's Entry Without Pomp

I write this after witnessing the official entry of General Allenby, his staff,

and the military commanders of the detachments of French and Italian troops. It was a ceremony fully worthy of the cause for which we are fighting. There was no great pageantry of arms, no display of the pomp and circumstance of a victorious army. The commander in chief had a small staff guard, less than 150 all told, of Allied troops. There was the quiet ceremonial of reading the proclamation of military law and the heads of the religious bodies, and the official entry was over.

At 8 o'clock in the morning the mayor of the city and chief of police came out under a flag of truce. The mayor, who holds his high civic position as a member of the Hussein family, which possesses documentary proof of direct descent from Mohammed through the Prophet's daughter, offered to surrender the city. The formal surrender was arranged for at noon on the 8th.

Between the offer to surrender and the formal acceptance there was sharp fighting in the outskirts of Jerusalem, the Turks fighting more stubbornly than at any period of these operations and meeting bayonet with bayonet. London troops were sent to the north of the city. As they debouched from a defile they were heavily attacked by Turks lining a ridge of the Mount of Olives, and strong machine gun fire was poured in to them. The ridge was carried by a superb bayonet charge, and by noon the Turks were pushed back so far that they occupied ground 7,000 yards north of the city walls. Welsh troops were operating from the south and east and drove the Turks down the Jericho Road. This

was the military position on Dec. 9 at noon.

At noon through the suburbs the people flocked into the highway and welcomed the commander-in-chief's representative by the time immemorial method of clapping their hands, while old women and girls threw flowers and palm leaves on the road. The ceremony of surrendering the city was very brief. The general gave the mayor instructions for the maintenance of order, and had guards placed over the public buildings outside the Holy City, but no soldier of the king passed within the walls that day. Though the sound of guns had hardly ceased the people felt secure and happy. Scene as Allenby Entered.

The Turk was driven further northward and eastward on Dec. 10. Otherwise the situation was unchanged, today, when at high noon we had the unforgettable picture of the commander-in-chief's official entry.

From the outskirts of Jerusalem the Jaffa Road was crowded with people who flocked westward to greet the conquering general. Armenians and Greeks stood side by side with Moslems dressed in the brighter raiment of the East. The predominance of tarbush in the streets added to the brightness of the scene. It was obvious that all regarded the day as an important occasion, for they wore their best robes, and I saw many of them abandon their natural reserve and join in the vocal expressions of welcome at the general's approach. This relaxation of the Arab's usually stolid, immobile expression was significant.

The flat-topped roofs and balconies held many people crying aloud a general welcome, but it was in the streets where the cosmopolitan crowd had assembled that one looked for and obtained the real feeling of all the peoples. What astonished me were cries of "bravo" and "hurrah!" uttered by men who could hardly have spoken the words before. That the welcome was not artificial or manufactured I can testify, for quite close to the Jaffa Gate I saw three old Mohammedans with tears of joy coursing down their cheeks. They clasped their hands, their hearts too full to utter words.

General Allenby entered the town on foot. Outside the Jaffa Gate he was received by the military governor and a guard of honor. Drawn up on the right of the gate were men from English, Scottish, Irish, and Welsh counties. Op-

posite them were fifty men afoot, representing the Australian and New Zealand horsemen. Inside the walls were French and twenty Italian soldiers from detachments sent by their countries to take part in the Palestine operations. Close by the Jaffa Gate, whose iron doors are rarely opened, is a wide breach made in the old walls to permit the Kaiser's entry when visiting Jerusalem in 1898. This was not used for today's historic procession, Allenby entering by the ancient gate which is known to the Arabs as "The Friend." Inside the walls was a crowd more densely packed in the narrow streets than that outside.

Allied Commanders Together. N

The commander in chief, preceded by aides de camp, had on his right the commander of the French detachment and on his left the commander of the Italian detachment. Following were the Italian, French and American Military Attaches, and a few members of the general staff. Guards of honor marched in the rear. The procession turned to the right into Mount Zion and halted at El-Kala Citadel.

On the steps at the base of the Tower of David, which was standing when Christ was in Jerusalem, the proclamation of military law was read in four languages in the presence of the commander-in-chief and many notables of the city. The terms of the proclamation promised that every person could pursue his lawful business without interruption, and that every sacred building, monument, holy spot, shrine, traditional site, endowment, pious bequest or customary place of prayer of whatsoever form of the great religions of mankind would be maintained and protected according to the existing customs and beliefs of those to whose faiths they were sacred. It clearly made a deep impression on the populace. While the proclamation was being read guns were booming to the east and north and the dropping of airplane engines overhead told of our Flying Corps denying passage for observers in enemy machines to witness the event which gladdened the hearts of all Jerusalem.

Reforming, the procession moved up Zion street to the Barrack Square, where General Allenby received the notables and heads of the religious committees. The presentations over, the procession returned to the Jaffa Gate and Allenby left Jerusalem.

An American worker in the hospital who knows the people well, assured me there was not one person in Jerusalem

who in his heart was not devoutly thankful for our victory. He told me that on the day Nebi Samwil was captured three wounded Arab officers were brought to his hospital. One of them, who spoke English, said: "I can hip, hip, hurrah for England now." The officer was told to be careful, as Turkish wounded were inside, but replied he did not care, and in unrestrained joy he called out: "Hurrah for England!"

Gaza's Fall Surprised Turks.

I learn from an excellent source that the Turks were taken completely by surprise by the British successes at Beer-sheba and Gaza. After the fall of the latter town they became very anxious about Jerusalem. On Nov. 10 officers came up from Hebron bringing the archives. On the 12th Enver Bey visited Jerusalem and went to Hebron, and on his return it was reported that Jerusalem was to be evacuated by the Turks. Some people were sent away and others warned to be in readiness. On the 16th a new decision was taken to defend Jerusalem at all costs. More German officers came to the Turkish Army and many technical troops also.

Some Americans Taken Away.

During the war there were executions at Jerusalem. Before the first battle of Gaza the Mufti of Gaza and his son were brought to Jerusalem. The Mufti, who advises the Caliph on matters of religious law, was hanged on a gallows erected near the Jaffa gate, and his son was shot. Less than a fortnight ago General von Falkenhayn ordered that all Americans should be removed from Jerusalem, but Turkish doctors who had seen the good work done at the American Hospital protested that the doctors' staff should remain. Their protests succeeded, but only two days before the surrender a number of Americans were taken away.

The soldierly qualities of the troops have never been put to a higher test than during this great battle for the Holy City. Despite mud, rain and fog, they beat the best Turkish troops, men formed into storming companies with steel helmets and the latest equipment that Germany could provide. The country fought over is most difficult. There is hardly one square yard that is flat. It is one continual succession of hills and

valleys, all thickly strewn with boulders. The descents and ascents are like steel and forbidding to any but the most robust and gallant of men.

Every summit scaled was crowned by well made trenches with strong points crisscrossed with machine guns and communication trenches. Ridge after ridge was held strongly, and nothing but wonderful determination and will to victory enabled the attackers to take them.

There have been repeated attempts by the enemy to retake the top of Nebi Samwil, that crest on which Samuel was buried, and whose tomb and mosque near by have been wrecked, willfully by Turkish gunfire. The Turks attacked the London Territorials here four times with their new storm companies, but all were completely repulsed with heavy losses.

On the last occasion the enemy shelled Nebi Samwil very heavily, and so certain were the Turks that they went to occupy it with their rifles slung over their shoulders. The Cockneys waited till the enemy got quite near, when they dealt out the punishment with bayonet and rifle and threw the Turks into confusion.

For the final attack on the Jerusalem defenses the line was organized south of the Jerusalem road. The Londoners took the line and splendidly dismounted yeomen made their attack north of the road pivoting on Nebi Samwil. The Welsh and Home Counties troopers had the honor, which they deserved, of taking Bethlehem, leaving no trace of war's struggles on that holy place. A Turkish battery was firing at them from close to the town, but no reply was made for fear of touching one stone of the town. To these Welsh and Home Counties men

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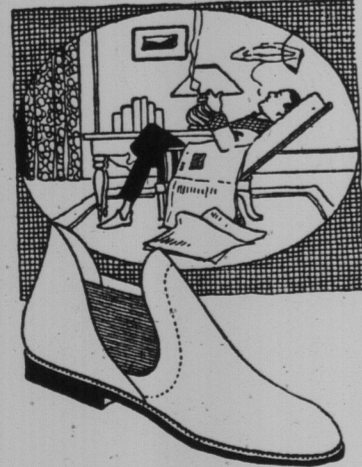
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