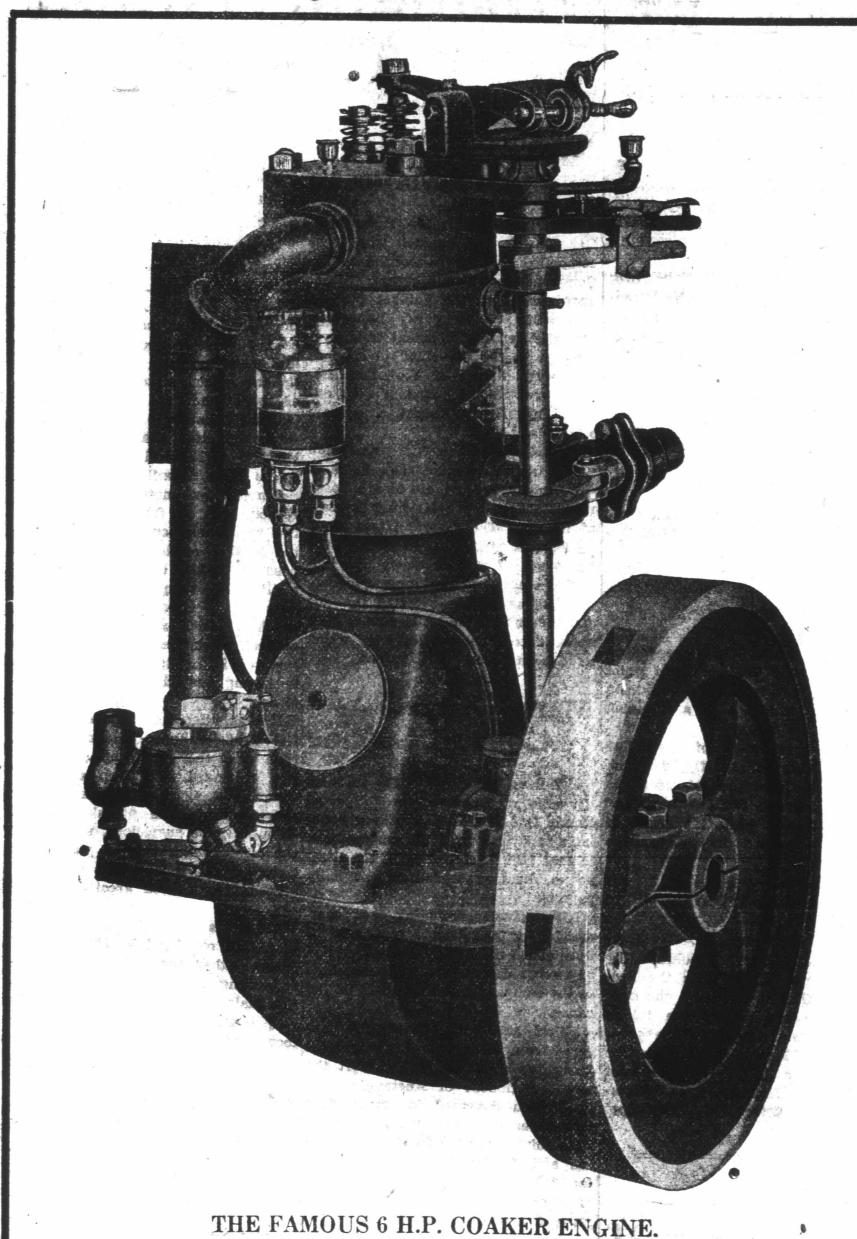
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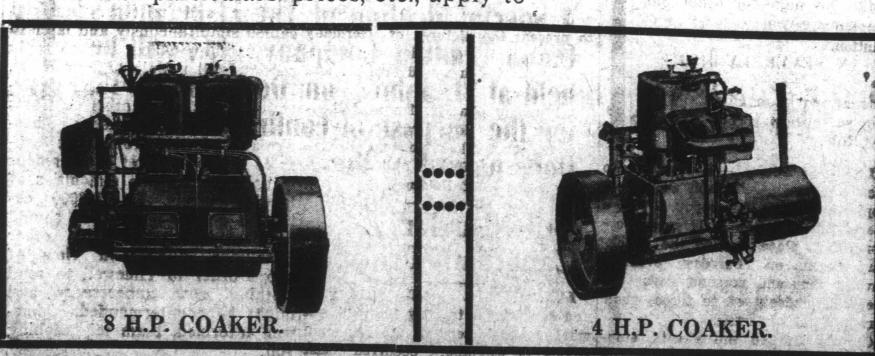


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## Story of the Expedition to Bagdad Is Thrilling Page in The History of British Arms

ONE of the most severe surprises Turkish Custom House had been set the Turks were given in this war on fire. was on the Persian Gulf, where they found their offensive forestalled by a British invasion and the march on Bagdad.

Turkey had shown her hand since came in about midday, and next day and Great Britain were ready for the of Sinbad the Sailor. ' events leading up to and subsequent

British in the Gulf of Persia were would be subjected to further attack dier-General W. S. Delamain, to Bah- tary station of Bagdad was

lives among the flats and palm the ocean-going steamers can ish bank, where it prepared entrenchrest of the British force.

Two More Brigades Arrive.

Here, on the 11th, there was some ing village by the 117th Mahrattas and the 20th Punjabis. Two days later Lieut.-Gen. Sir Arthur Barrett arrived with the rest of the Indian contingent. This included the Ah mednagar Brigade and Belgaum Bri-

The Ahmednaggar Brigade (Brig. Gen. W. H. Dobbie) contained the 1st Oxford Light Infantry, the 119th Infantry and the 103rd Manrattas. The Belgaum Brigade contained the 2nd Norfolks, the 110th Mahrattas. 7th Rajputs, and 120th (Rajputana) Infantry, under Brig.-Gen. C. I. Fry. There were also the 48th Pioneers, the 3rd Sappers and Miners, and the 33rd Light Cavalry.

On the 15th the disembarkation light task on the soft, muddy ground along the Shat-el-Arab. Meanwhile Gen. Delamain, with the Poona Brigade, was busy with a force of 2,000

The action was meant only as reconnaissance in force, and Sahain and the date plantation beyond it were not entirely cleared. During that day the landing was completed, and on the 16th the British force city, whose fate might depend on a speedy British arrival, Gen

Sahain was found to be deserted miles to a place called Sahil, near British field guns and from gunboats bad, but they were screened by charge, but broke and fled. Pursuit was almost impossible, partly because ing to a mirage, which, fortunately the diversion toward the Suez Canal Turkish not less than 6,000 killed for the enemy, appeared to screen she had still sufficient troops in the wounded and prisoners.

38. The Turkish casualties were esti- ments were brought from India under ammunition wagons. As usually hapmated at over 1,500. The action de- Lieut.-General Sir John Nixon, who pens the Arabs set upon the former cided the fate of Basra.

British force lay at Sanijek, news Early in January we discovered came that the Turks had evacuated that the Turks were occupying a The victory of Shaiba meant th Basra, and that the Arabs had begun strong position on the banks of a end of a serious Turkish offensive for to loot the place. Accordingly Gen. canal some eight miles north of Ma- the present. By the 20th, or five days Barrett embarked certain troops on zera, and on the 20th we organized a later, the Turk forces were more two river steamers, and ordered the reconnaissance to ascertain their than 100 miles from Basra. On the rest of his force to take the direct strength and dispositions. Supported river 12 of his boats were captured or

the 22nd. About 10 o'clock Gen. gagement between Sir James Outram they had placed their money on the get up to the nail ends, in the Barrett reached Basra, where the and the Persians during the Short wrong horse,

Up Goes the Union Jack. Immediately the British flag was flown on the German Consulate. The desert column after a 30-mile march

the last of August, 1914, and Russia the British formally entered the City During the remainder of the month to the 30th of October, when Islam the British were occupied in preparing a base camp. Their position was By the beginning of November the secure, but it was certain that they

ready. The Government of India had The enemy had fled at Sahain, but sent the Poona Brigade, under Briga- he would return, and the great milmore than 300 miles distant. Fifty This brgade contained the 2nd Dor- miles above Basra, at the point where sets, the 20th (Punjab Infantry, the the former channel of the Euphrates 104th (Wellesley's) 23rd Pershawur) joins the Tigris, lies the town of and the 30th Mountain Batteries. On Kurna-a positon now of less strate-November 7th the force reached the gical importance than in former days, bar of the Shat-el-Arab, where the for the old Euphrates is of little use Village of Fao, with its Turkish fort, for traffic. Kurna is the point where groves. The gunboat Odin bombard-longer ascend the river. On Decemed the fort and troops landed and oc- ber 2nd it was learned that the Turks cupied the village. The brigade then had assembled there, and next day a sailed 30 miles up the estuary, pas- small force of Indian troops with a sing the refinery of the Anglo-Per- detachment of the Norfolks under

> cult business than was expected. The British force landed on the eastern Shaiba, a few miles west of Basra, bank four miles below the town early were selected for the assault. On the the gunboats went ahead, shelled Kurna, and engaged the Turkish arnear Mezera, about ten miles above was done, and the attack was not column advanced, and about midday came abreast of Kurna, which clearly held in force.

Our men subjected to a heavy fusilade and since the Tigris is there but great clouds of horsemen. three hundred yards wide, and Kurna s screened in trees, we could do little in reply. Accoordingly Colonel Fraser led his men back to the origintrenched, and sent a message to Basra

help-the 7th Rajputs and the rest the Norfolks. On the 7th we vanced against Mezera, which Turks had again occupied, took it and drove the defenders across the water were marched some miles up the

A body of sappers swam the stream ed and the men crossed. By the evening the force was close to Kurna,

But there was to be no assault That night the Turkish officers approached the British camp donwstream and asked for terms. General Fry insisted on an unconditional surrender and just after midday next day the Turkish garrison laid down

trenched camps at Kurna and at Mezera on each side of the Tigris, to Turks was observed to the south, hold off any possible attack from the north. Turkish troops from Bagdad hovered around and in January there British lines. On the morning of were 5,000 of them seven miles from Mezera; but they did not attack.

The British had achieved their cade against any advance upon the Gulf which might threaten India.

key's rebuffs in Transcaucasia and casualties amounted to about 700; the Bagdad country to outnumber grave- We captured several machine guns Our losses were 353, of which 130 ly the small British army on the and large quantities of stores and on his arrival at Basra, took supreme allies and completed what the British On the 21st, while the bulk of the command of the operations.

by the gunboats we shelled their sunk. Sir John Nixon's brilliant ac-The Turks had sunk three steamers camp and drove them back with some tion had cleared the delta, and though at one point in the Shat-el-Arab and fifty casualties to our own troops, the floods were delaying the British, had a battery to command the place, The Turkish force was estimated at the pursuit was kept up in an amazbut, after silencing the battery, the some 5,000 men and six guns. The ing manner. river expedition managed to pass the enemy next appeared near Ahwaz, on It had also convinced those shrewd you may expect as many presents obstruction early in the morning of the Karun River, the scene of an en- trimmers, the Arabs, that for once as there are marks, as soon as these

war of 1857. There we had placed a small garrison to protect the pipeline 300 prisoners of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. Rajputs Fight Splendidly.

West of Ahwaz a Turkish force of three regiments and a number of Arab tribesmen were reported, and on the third of March we made an attempt to reconnoitre this position. The enemy was discovered to be 12,000 strong and our expedition of 1,000 men were in imminent danger of being cut off. Our retirement was not effected without heavy fighting in which we severely punished the enemy, but lost five officers and 56 rank and file killed and about 130 wounded, mostly among the 4th and 7th Rajputs, both battalions behaving with astonishing courage and being adroitly led by their British and native officers.

The sight of the red and white flags of the Arabas, whom we had hoped for as allies in breaking Turkish rule, was disquieting, and it presently appeared that the enemy was clustering in strength around whole area of occupation. On the day following the opera-

tions near Ahwaz, our cavalry, re-

11th and 12th of April, Kurna was bombarded at long range, but beyond the destruction by a floating mine on one of the Tigris bridges, no damage battle-ground, baffled foemen boats suffered severely from the guns of Ahwaz was no more effective, and

Kurna and Ahwaz were only feints and the real attack was delivered against Shaila and the possession of Basra. The action began on the 12th of April, and lasted for 3 days. were regulars of the Bagdad Corps (the 13th, and there were detach-Nineveh Ruins). This force had at east 20 guns with it.

cover of a heavy artillery preparations, the Turkish infantry advanced stamped the Polar Bear. The Bear from three sides, and when their gunfire slackened, set to work to dig

afternoon from the south, where we succeeded in beating it back.

During the night a heavy fire was kept up from rifles and machine guns and in the morning we found the Turks in possession of some houses and rising ground to the north, from should be ousted. The British advance was completely successful, and a simultaneous counter-attack by the Turks from the west was easily renow obtained complete pulsed with the loss of several hun-

april 14th we moved in force against these entrenchments, which contained the bulk of the enemy's army, at purpose and had established a barri- least 15,000 strong. We carried their advanced positions, and in the afternoon rushed their main trenches.

The situation, however was not; A final charge with the bayonet put without its anxieties. In spite of Tur-the whole enemy to flight. The British

were in the Dorsets; our killed were Shat-el-Arab. Further reinforce- equipment, including motor cars and bayonets had begun

The Pursuit Begins.

Six weeks later the enemy back, but was quickly dispersed mainly through a surprise attack, and by the excellent practice of our naval gunners. We took nearly all his field guns, and next day, the 2nd of June, he was in full flight, leaving his tents standing. That evening we were north of Ezra's Tomb 33 miles north of Kurna, and our naval flotilla was in pursuit. It captured two large lighters containing field guns. ammunition and mines, and we took

The pursuit was continued by moonlight. On the 3rd of June we were 75 miles north of Kurna, where Amara, an important station, was captured, along with 700 men and 30

The rest of the force was dispersed among the marshes and the advance on Bagdad was continued. D. C. F. Townsend, C. B., brought with him the Rawal Pindi Infantry Division more mountain batteries and light

There were many sharp encounters during the long march to the north. wherein our cavalry showed their fighting qualities. The Arabs were inclined to be "neutral" for a time. but later it was related, via Berlin, how a large force of them joined Sir John Nivon's force and apparently stayed by it.

By the 19th of November, Zeur, an important post, had been cleared of the enemy, and on the 22nd there was an encounter for the possession of Ctesiphon, 18 miles from Bagdad.

### BEAR HUNTERS \* \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

A LL the talk is now war, hosts are gathered from afar; Three places, Kuran. Ahwaz and every mother's son you meet chatters, as he walks the street, how the British or the French (under Joffree) seized a trench. Every brave young British man hopes some day to lead the van on a gory strewn around. Still, in spite of merce in their groove somehow must be made to move. Winter's coming, don't forget, the streets are getting mighty wet: you must soon begin to choose just what brand of rubber shoes you will for that season buy for your wife, your girl, your boy. Sometimes you will buy a shoe which will wear a week or two, then you find the heels and soles quickly fill with jagged holes. Some may cost \$1.10, which will wear some days, and then, in through heel and in through toe you will find the water go: coughs and colds with speed will follow-your cheeks become The British position around Basra both pale and hollow. Here's advice we give you, friend: your rubber troubles you can end-in any buy the old Bear Brand. On the sole of every pair you'll find means money saved to you, and likewise 'tis a stylish shoe. No more we'll say, my dear old chap, The attack was resumed in the but add the proverb: "Verbum



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