

General Allenby - A Kitchener Man

Conqueror of Palestine and Destroyer of Two Turkish Armies Modest and Courteous as Well as a Warrior

(By Frank Dilnot in N. Y. Times.)
Sir Edmund Allenby, the British general whose victories in Palestine have written him on the roll of great soldiers, is one of those unpretentious, modest men, with quiet voice and quiet manner, who deceive the unthinking. There is a touch of gentleness in him. He is a good listener. Withal he does not pretend to be the rugged, imposing rock of impenetrability which is the popular conception of the strong person of unconquerable strength. He is just the direct man of few words and long vision, courteous and kindly, but who does not trouble to shine in small talk.

And those who cannot see below the surface would not recognize the purposefulness, the tenacity and clear brain which mark him clearly for those who have eyes to see. It is easy now for all with the picture of that soldierly figure before them to recognize in the square jaw the will power of the man, to see in those deep-set eyes the reflectiveness and seriousness which are factors in his success, and to discern in that slight, unconscious canting forward of the head and shoulders when he speaks the respectfulness of the student.

The respect, almost the reverence, with which he is regarded by Eastern peoples, with whom he has been now for a long time associated, is an indication of the character of the man. His military conquests give the other side of him. Some of these persons who are responsible for great achievements are, so to speak, highly developed specialists, who are specially adapted for the tasks to which they have set their hands, but who, outside those tasks, give the impression of being mere machines, very effective machines, but nothing more, to the ordinary man and woman. General Allenby, on the other hand, is one of those complex personalities which provide fascination for students and give the impression of that wonderful thing called individuality.

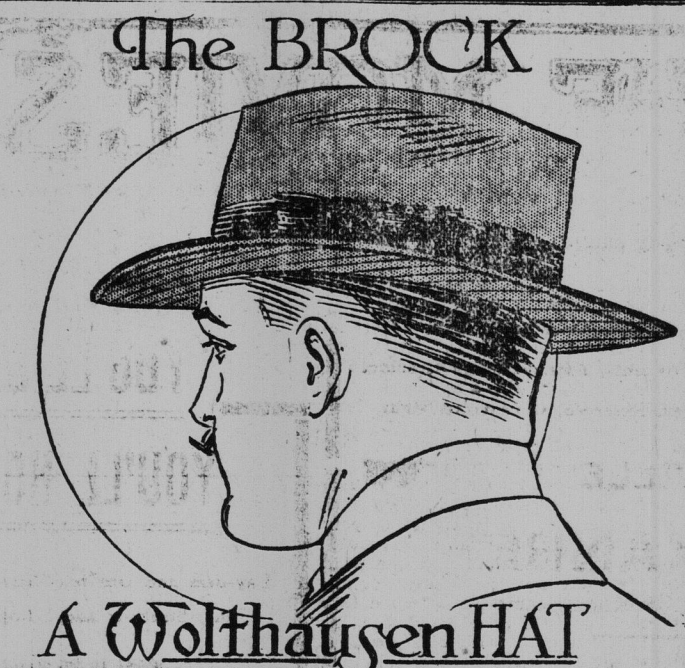
Edmund Henry Allenby was born in 1861, and he is therefore 57 years of age. As a boy he went to Haileybury College, one of the great schools in England, of which Eton and Rugby are the best known. At Haileybury, as at other schools of that class, a very important part of a boy's education consists in teaching him as an integral part of his life, manners, uprightness, and a skill in outdoor sports—in other words, in manliness. Bookish pursuits sometimes suffer under this system unless the boy has an aptitude in that direction, although, of course, the nominal objects of the school are its classes and lectures. More precious to the average English father and mother, however, is the atmosphere which is carefully preserved with a view to the turning out of English gentlemen in the best sense of the word.

It was at Haileybury that Edmund Allenby first began to show traits which marked him out for an active life. He was a youth of high spirit and of quick comprehension. While there is no record of any particular distinction in the scholastic way, he manifested an interest in literature which deepened and broadened as time went on.

When he entered on a soldier's life with a commission in the Inniskilling Dragoons he was the picture of a dashing young cavalry officer filled with sentiment in the picturesque career which such a position opened up, but at the same time it was noted that he had in him a vein of seriousness which was not always found in the young fellows in aristocratic circles who in the old times entered the British army. In those days a young officer must have a private income. It was also a recommendation if he had aristocratic connections.

All that, of course, is changed now. (It was only last week that we read in the papers of how a young working miner enlisting as a private at the beginning of the war had become a British general.) Young Allenby, however, had strong stuff in him. He meant to make good. He soon had the opportunity of showing that he was no ornamental soldier. In 1884 when he was 23 years of age he served with his regiment in the Bechuanaland expedition and showed the promises of his future in his shrewdness as well as in his courage. That, however, was only the beginning. In 1888 he fought in Zululand, and after that became adjutant. His next big opportunity was in the South African war, in which he fought in 1899 to 1902. His cavalry tactics here brought him into prominence, and he had to pit his brains against that clever old natural fighter, General Delarey. For his work he was twice mentioned in despatches home by his commander-in-chief and was decorated by the government.

The big work of his life began, however, in the present war, for he was one of those commanders who went out with that never-to-be-forgotten and heroic British army at the declaration of war and helped to stave off the German onslaught on Paris. Outgunned, overwhelmed by numbers, deluged with high explosives which they could not return, that little British army of less than two



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hundred thousand men retreated stubbornly, killing masses of the enemy and yielding an awful tribute of death as it went back, step by step, from Mons. It was Allenby, with his cavalry acting as a screen, who helped the heroic infantry to sell their lives at high cost. Time after time, he flung his command into positions, often enough deadly to many of his men, but also deadly hindrances to the oncoming Germans. His own life, of course, was in danger a hundred times. Always his mind was as clear, his brain as active as when in those far-off days at Haileybury he went out as a youth in flannels to battle on the cricket field. As was evidenced in the report of General French it was largely due to him that a remnant of the heroic Britishers were saved from destruction. Even more important perhaps was his part in stemming the forward sweep of the hordes of Germans.

From that time onward Allenby was in the thick of the fighting on the western front, and he had many opportunities for distinction. It was on Easter Monday, 1917, that he commanded the right wing of the British forces in the great battle of Arras, one of the most successful actions fought by the British troops up to the recent offensive. Allenby's men it was who carried the initial

network of trenches east of Arras fighting their way along the valley of the Scarpe toward Douai. A little later General Allenby was transferred to the British forces in Egypt, and, building on the careful plan which had already been initiated, proceeded to construct his scheme for the advances up through Palestine. Allenby was one of the original Kitchener generals and had been trained in the school of that tenacious organizer with the iron will. He gave traces of Kitchener influences by his keen, long-sighted survey of the task before him, a request for additional forces, and his refusal to move until they arrived. His immobility in the face of possible criticism was a good indication of his character. When the men, guns, and ammunition arrived in sufficient amount he struck with terrific force, and kept on striking. It cannot be doubted that his careful prevision has been a great factor in the recent successes.

Never was a better illustration of the man than his careful handling of the delicate situation when once he entered Jerusalem. His declaration to the mixed community will remain a model of wise statesmanship on the part of a military commander. He issued a proclamation in Arabic, Hebrew, English, French,

Italian, Greek, and Russian. Here are some passages from it:
Least any of you be alarmed by reason of your experiences at the hands of the enemy who has retired, I hereby inform you that it is my desire that every person should pursue his lawful business without fear of interruption. Furthermore, since your city is regarded with affection by the adherents of three of the great religions of mankind, and its soil has been consecrated by the prayers and pilgrimages of millions of devout people of these three religions for many centuries, therefore, I make it known to you that every sacred building, monument, holy spot, shrine, traditional site, endowment, pious bequest or customary place of prayer of whatsoever form of the three religions will be maintained according to the existing customs and beliefs of those to whose faith they are sacred.

He placed guards over the holy places. He gave the Moslems special charge of buildings and sites particularly precious to Moslem sentiment. When there arrived the fateful day of which he was to take formal possession of the city, he came not on horseback in glittering display but modestly on foot, as became a Christian man, approving the shame of foot. His reverence, his careful regard for feeling, his effective actions to safeguard the interests of the varied peoples were appreciated as his fame spread in the surrounding country. A legend grew up about him among the Arabs. They regarded his conquest of Jerusalem as inspired, because in the name Allenby they found the equivalent of the words "Allah Nabil" meaning God and prophet. For many generations there had been current among the Arabs and other tribes the prophecy that "He who shall save Jerusalem and exalt her among the nations will enter the city on foot, and his name will be God, the Prophet."

The effect he produced among the people of the country undoubtedly helped him in the military operations from that time onward. He left no stone unturned to fall in with the deepest sentiments of the Eastern peoples. One of his first actions after entering Jerusalem was to insure the return of the "Holy Scrolls" the parchment on which are inscribed the fundamental laws. They had been taken to the desert, thirty-five miles away, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Turks. Allenby presided at the gathering when they were formally returned, and the grateful people gave him a copy of the scrolls enclosed in a silver case as a memento.

Allenby was the principal figure in welcoming the American Red Cross Commission on July 4, when there were assembled representatives of all Allied nations and high dignitaries of the Roman Catholic church, Protestant, Moslem, Armenian and other churches. It was on this occasion that John H. Finlay, state superintendent of education in New York, made a speech in which he said that America's contribution to the spiritual and physical enlightenment of the Holy City. Mr. Finlay's speech was followed by one from General Allenby, who welcomed the American mission in the warmest possible terms.

ATTACKS NERVOUS GERMANS.

Religious Paper Curses Those Who Don't Want to Fight for World Power.

Among the many obligations recently hybrid at the heart of out at Germany as are openly manifesting their loss of faith in the ability of the Kaiser's armies to conquer the civilized world was the following plea, translated from the Reichshotte by the London Times:

"German people, full of envy must then regard thy moral foes, who are being urged on to victory by strong-willed, ardent patriots. Clemenceau sends every traitor and alarmist to the gallows, or to penal servitude, but thou dost tolerate openly treason within thy borders and dost suffer systematic depression of the general spirit.

"Curse all those hyphenated ones, waffles, thirty-five miles away, to prevent their falling into the hands of the Turks. Allenby presided at the gathering when they were formally returned, and the grateful people gave him a copy of the scrolls enclosed in a silver case as a memento.

"German people, go into thy churches and pray to thy God that His grace may be full and that He may give thy Kaiser strength to wake our Bismarck from the dead, to renew the spirit of this Hercules, who shall purge Germany's Augean stable, slay the Hydra of dissension, and save his people from faintness of heart, treachery, and ruin."

THE SWORD A METAPHOR.

As An Implement of Warfare it Has Been Discarded.

There is a curious kind of irony in the fact that a weapon once so universal as the sword should now have become

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hardly more than a metaphor, observes The London Chronicle. We speak and write of "victory by the sword," or of "a peace imposed by the sword," though the sword is now more a decorative object for parade functions than a piece of tempered steel for killing purposes. Strapped, high explosives, poison gas and the rest of the too ingenious modern deviltries have left the more heroic weapon to rust in its sheath.

Yet it will probably never be supplanted as a metaphor because it is a bit in it which no other word possesses. Certainly poets are not likely to substitute anything else for it. —Newark News.

The Morning Cup

well begins the day.

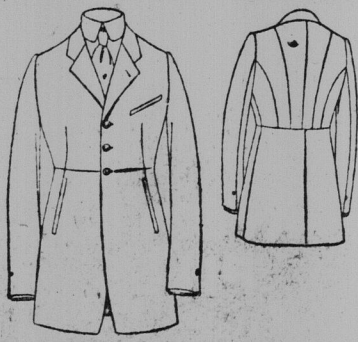
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THE "ALBERTAN" COAT

New Model Shown in The Semi-ready Tailoring Store

This is No. 580—or the newest design from the studios of the Semi-ready tailoring shops in Montreal. It is a business suit, with a clear-cut waist seam and a back of six pieces—a morning coat design on a sack suit, with the slash bottom pockets and flapless breast pockets.



Here is the Albertan—a smart coat which will be worn in all the centres of fashion. It is one of the quietest smart coats shown in the Semi-ready Portfolio of Fashion for the fall and winter season. Mr. Fraser is showing a new overcoat style this season, "The Vernon."

MUTT AND JEFF—MUTT OUGHT TO GIVE HIS GAS-MASK TO THE GERMANS

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By "BUD" FISHER

