

TELLING THE NEWS



In the village of Thetford, England, the "town crier" spreading the news of the armistice. Before the war the crier was a man; now it is a woman.

Kut Prisoners' Terrible March To The Seaside

British Report Tells Story Of Turkish Cruelty

Robbed and Starved

Three Thousand of General Townshend's Division Who Set Out Never Heard of Again

The report on the treatment of the British prisoners of war by Turkey, of which a short account was received by cable, relates in detail the experiences and vicissitudes undergone by the Sixth Division. This division, under General Townshend, was besieged in Kut-el-Amara from December 4, 1915, and, rescued by starvation, surrendered on April 29, 1916. The whole force was by that time naturally very much weakened by long privation. About 1,100 of the worst cases—British and Indian—were sent down the river, and the rest were sent down the river, and the rest were sent down the river.

The entry of the Turkish forces into Kut took place in the morning. Within a very short time they were busy looting, assisted by the Arabs of the town. The kits of both officers and men were systematically rifled, especially for boots and water bottles. Stray soldiers made their way into the hospital and seized what attracted them, one of their officers made unsuccessful attempts to stop them; others were seized as the men. One held up the officers of a British unit with a revolver and collected their watches and money; many others were seen carrying British words and field glasses. This went on until nightfall, when the prisoners had to organize a guard for their own protection, as best they might.

During the night and the following day the greater part of the British force, officers and men, was marched about eight miles up the river, to Shamran, where they were to encamp until they could be sent on to Baghdad. They found no preparations for them whatever at Shamran, only a bare piece of the desert trod by Turkish sentries. Here for a week the men lay about unsheltered in sun and rain. For two days no rations were issued by the Turks; there was nothing to eat but some dates and black bread, which Arab soldiers peddled among the men in exchange for boots and clothing, thus bringing their destination a stage further; the Turks also led a traffic in their dry and stony skin biscuits. It was, in short, very soon clear—and at the time this came as a surprise—that the Turks had nothing to do but to wait for the arrival of the power nor the will to protect the lives of the prisoners they had taken.

Officers and Men Separated.

Their state of chronic confusion in all matters of supply and transport was a familiar story before long; all necessities had to be demanded and redemanded, argued about, insisted on, and more especially waited for. But over and above all this there appeared one sign after another that the help which the British officers themselves could give was to be hampered and largely rejected. On May 6 when the column of prisoners was to set out on the 100-mile march to Bagdad, these officers learned to their consternation that they were to be separated from their men; by that time they well understood what the consequences would be. They did what they could by urging upon the Turkish commandant the men's condition, by stipulating that they should not be required to cover more than eight miles a day, and by setting aside the large number who were unfit to make the journey at all except by boat. This number was much reduced, but the limit of the day's march was expressly agreed to. Thus the officers had to leave the men with whom they had shared the long hardships of the siege. They have recorded how great was the contrast, even in the wretchedness of the camp at Shamran, between the men's disciplined bearing and that of the Turkish soldiers around.

Turks Broke Promise. It was arranged that the officers and the absolutely unfit should be sent to Bagdad by river, and on May 9 and May 11 they embarked in two heavily loaded boats. Everyone was gradually relieved of more and more of his possessions. On the day of the surrender a generous weight of kit allowance had been granted to each officer; this was reduced by successive stages from 300 pounds to 100, and later again to thirty, and at each reduction the surplus disappeared, to be seen no more. The river journey was long and crowded, particularly for one of the boats, which was stranded for several days through shortage of fuel.

The Turkish commandant had kept his promise about the length of the day's march for one day. On the second day the men were made to march eighteen miles, and afterward twelve to fifteen miles daily, living at night on the open ground. They were herded like sheep by mounted Arab troopers, who freely used sticks and whips to fling forward the stragglers. Food was very short, the heat was intense, the clouds of dust perpetual, and a great number of the men had now neither boots nor water bottles. They were stripped of their uniforms, and a great number of them still further, by the time of their arrival at Bagdad most of the Arab guard were dressed in odds and ends of British uniforms, stolen during the march. There was little or no control by the Turkish officers, who usually rode at the head of the column. So, after nine days' march, the column arrived at Bagdad on May 15, and were marched for three or four hours through crowded streets before being taken to the place where they were to camp. Meanwhile the first boatload of officers had already reached the city, and had likewise been exhibited to the crowd, which reacted in unbecomingly demonstrative silence. They were then lodged for a few days in the Turkish cavalry barracks before continuing their journey northward. On their last evening in Bagdad they attracted the surprised attention of the commandant, who, holding an after-dinner concert—behavior most unbecoming, as he pointed out, on the part of prisoners who could have nothing to be so cheerful about. The main question of the moment, indeed, was to all of them one of great anxiety. What was to happen to the mass of prisoners now arriving in Bagdad, all so grievously in need of rest, food and care? If these men were to be left to the chances of Oriental ignorance and mismanagement—to put it no worse than that, and assuming good will on the side of the Turks—their plight was easily foreseen.

Helped by U. S. Consul. It was a dispiriting life enough with nothing to do all day but to lie about, but at least it was rest, and through the unceasing efforts of the American Consul there was at length a sufficiency of food. Mr. Brisell had been profoundly impressed by the miserable state of the prisoners as they arrived in the city. His position was not a little difficult and delicate. If he showed himself over-conspicuous in charity for the prisoners he ran the risk of finding it frustrated by Turkish suspicion, so that he had to proceed circumspectly.

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The end of their time in Bagdad was at last approaching. On the eighth of August, after many delays, twenty-two officers and 323 men embarked by river for the British lines. These had a long and broken journey, never feeling secure against a like disappointment until they were actually in the hands of their own people. It is worth mentioning that just before they had left Bagdad the

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Turks—then and then only—had provided them with new boots and clothing, feeling ashamed, as a Turkish officer candidly expressed it, to send them home in their rags.

3,000 Never Arrived.

There remains to be told what had happened to the main mass of the prisoners, those who had been judged capable of the journey up country and across the Syrian desert to Asia Minor. Week after week, through June and July, parties of them had left Bagdad, following the route already taken by their officers. They had been seen leaving the city camp and crowded into the railway trucks which were to take them as far as Samarra, the rail-head (as it then was) some seventy miles up the river. From there they would go on foot. Their state of preparation for a march of 500 miles can be pictured from what has been described already; and the efficiency of the Oriental care to which they were intrusted is as easily imagined. The officers were left in Bagdad, and who watched them depart, could only feel the deepest anxiety.

The truth of what happened has only very gradually become known, and in all its details it will never be known. It is urged that Turkish powers of organization and forethought were utterly incapable of handling such a problem as the transport of these prisoners, the plea is sound enough as an explanation; as an excuse it is nothing. It begins to be evident how it came about that of the men who surrendered at Kut more than 3,000, British and Indian, have never been heard of at all.

Shock Left Her Weak and Nervous COULD NOT SLEEP

When the system receives a shock of any kind, the heart becomes weakened, the nerves unstrung, the appetite poor, faint and weak feelings come over you, you can't sleep at night, and you wonder if life is worth living.

To all those who suffer from nervous shock we would recommend Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills as the best remedy to tone up the entire system and strengthen the weakened organs.

Mrs. J. J. Bunyan, Pilot Butte, Sask., writes: "I have used Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills after having suffered from a terrible shock to my whole system. I was so utterly weak and nervous I could not sleep at night, and my appetite was very poor. I could not walk across the floor without trembling all over."

I had hot flushes and fainting spells. When I was on the second box of your Heart and Nerve Pills, I began to feel that they were doing me good, so I kept on until I had used six boxes, when I felt like a different person.

I am never without them in the house, and highly recommend them to all who suffer with their heart."

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills are 50c. a box at all dealers, or mailed direct on receipt of price by The T. Milburn Co., Limited, Toronto, Ont.

Semi-ready Peace Benefit Sale of New Clothes

This is a sale designed to influence a downward trend in the cost of Men's Fine Clothes—and there is not a single sign on the horizon of any such trend as yet.

We want clothes to get cheaper because "the higher the fewer"—and in a great manufacturing business selling direct from the maker to wearer we must keep up the volume to keep down the price.

For the whole month of January whilst we are welcoming home our returned heroes we will keep up the assault by selling Men's Overcoats and Suits at less than the price at which we can replace them.

The "label in the pocket" has been our proud boast of price superiority—proof of the fact that for quality and workmanship Semi-ready Clothes are dollars cheaper than their equals.

This sale is a Benefit—a genuine Peace Benefit Sale.

\$18.00 Suits and Overcoats	\$15.00	Boys' Knicker Suits	\$7.50
20.00 Suits and Overcoats	16.50	Boys' \$10.50 Suits	8.50
25.00 Suits and Overcoats	20.00	Boys' 15.00 Suits	12.00
28.00 Suits and Overcoats	23.00	\$15.00 Youths' "Long" Suits	\$12.00
30.00 Suits and Overcoats	25.00	16.50 Youths' Suits	13.50
35.00 Suits and Overcoats	28.00	20.00 Youths' Suits	16.00
40.00 Suits and Overcoats	32.00	Boys' \$15.00 Overcoats	\$12.00
50.00 Suits and Overcoats	40.00		

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MUTT AND JEFF—JEFF FIGURES IF THEY'D DO THAT TO A GENERAL, THEY'D ALMOST KILL A PRIVATE—By "BUD" FISHER (COPYRIGHT, 1918, BY H. C. FISHER, TRADE MARK REG. IN CANADA)

