

down Wādy el-Hafī, or valley of the barefooted man (nicknamed Mephibosheth) and examine the five dolmens (Finn, p. 209; *Mem.*, III, p. 101) called Kabur el-Beni Israim, marking the tombs of five grandsons of Saul erected by men of Jabesh; find south of the wādy the tomb of Kish with the gigantic *kōk* of Saul, in which tomb Jonathan's bones or ashes lie, and "the tomb of the two brothers" Armoni and Mephibosheth lower down the valley (Ganneau's *Researches*, Vol. II, p. 278).

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## REPORT ON THE PILGRIMAGE TO MECCA.

*Translated from the Diary of the Captain of the Escort of the Pilgrims.*

MILITARY Report of the Expedition of the "Hag Sherif" (Holy Pilgrimage) of 1301 and 1302 (A.H.):—

At 9 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, September 7th, 1884, the Mahmal Sherif left by a special train from Abbassiyeh to Suez where it arrived at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. After the procession had been paraded through the city up to 6 o'clock, the Mahmal was again placed on the train and we proceeded to the docks.

On Monday, September 8th, we remained in the docks.

On Tuesday, September 9th, at 9 a.m., the baggage and Mahmal were shipped on board the "Rahmaniyeh," and the steamer left the docks and we slept at sea.

On Wednesday, September 10th, at 6 a.m., the steamer left for Jidda.

On Friday, September 12th, at 11 a.m., we arrived at Yembo el-Bahr, and after making the necessary salutes from the steamer we remained there up to 2 p.m., then left for Jidda.

On Saturday, September 13th, at 12 noon, we arrived at Jidda when passengers and baggage were all landed on shore and remained there until next morning for want of transport, but the Mahmal camels, Holy Carpet, and Treasury were left on board and were disembarked in the morning.

On Sunday, September 14th, at 8 a.m., the necessary procession was made and passed through the streets of Jidda *en route* for the

usual centre of pilgrimage, in the proximity of which the monument erected on the tomb of our mother Eve is located. On the passage of the Mahmal through the gate of the city wall its crescent came in contact with the top of the gate (which was rather low) and broke, but was repaired by the silversmiths there.

On September 15th, 16th, and 17th, we waited at Jidda, and on Wednesday night some fireworks were displayed in presence of some Turkish officers and most of the principal inhabitants of the town.

On Thursday, September 18th, at 3 p.m., we started from Jidda for Mecca, and arrived at a place called Harra on Friday the 19th at 6 in the morning, having taken no rest. We remained there up to 3 p.m.

At 3 p.m. we left Harra and came to the "Café of the Garden," distant nearly three hours from Mecca. On Saturday morning we left at 3 a.m., and at 7 a.m. the Mahmal was passed in procession to a place lying between several mountains known by the name of Sheikh Mahmūd, at a distance of thirty minutes from Mecca. There we encamped, but the Treasury, Pledges, and Holy Carpet were sent into the town with the Egyptian Almonry, under proper escort from the guard of the Mahmal.

From Saturday, 20th, up to Saturday the 27th (eight days), we stayed at Mecca.

On Wednesday, 24th, there came to the camp H.E. the Governor-General of the Hejaz with H.E. the said Brigadier-General, who, in the name of H.H. the Khedive, delivered the Mahmal Sherif over to him, and made him all due reverence required for the occasion.

On Sunday, 28th, at 7 a.m., the Mahmal went in procession through Mecca bound for Gebel Arafat, and we got to a village called Munch at 10 a.m., thence to Muzdalafa at 1 p.m. and thence to Gebel Arafat without any rest, and there passed the night.

At 3 p.m. on Monday, 29th (the great day of the Pilgrimage), the Mahmals went up to their usual places in the mountain where we remained up to 5 p.m., when we came down bound for Muzdalafa, at which we arrived at 8 p.m., and there waited for seven hours. Next morning, at 3 a.m., we started from that place for Munch, which we entered on Tuesday, 30th, at 8 in the morning.

From Tuesday, September 30th, up to 1 p.m. of Thursday, October 2nd, 1884, we stayed at Munch, our stay being 54 hours.

At 1 p.m. we proceeded from Munch to Mecca and arrived there at 4 p.m., when the Mahmal Sherif was laid inside the Mecca Haram (Shrine) as usual, and the soldiers went to their headquarters at "Sheikh Mahmüd."

From Thursday, October 2nd, 1884, up to Monday, the 20th, we took residence at Mecca—for 20 days.

On Thursday, October 16th, at 3 p.m., a scrimmage took place between H.E. the Sherif troops and the Bedouin on the mountains surrounding us; one of the soldiers received a bullet in his left leg but is recovering. Fortunately we have no other mishap to record.

On Tuesday, 21st, at 8 a.m., we left Mecca bound for Medina, where after a journey of 13 days we arrived on Sunday, November 2nd, at 7 a.m., *via* the route known as "Esh-Sharki." The march was performed sometimes by day and sometimes by night, and occasionally by both day and night, according as there was more or less water on the way, and according to the difficulties of the roads, especially the hot grounds and the marshes; the average march being nearly 18 in every 24 hours.

On Monday, November 3rd, at 7 a.m., the "Mahmal Sherif" paraded through Medina until it came to the Prophet's Shrine (Haram), when the Holy Carpet and Standard were taken from there and deposited in the "Prophet's Cell" (Tomb), but the Mahmal with the green carpet remained within the Shrine. The Treasury and the Deposits were entered into the Egyptian Almonry under escort of a portion of the Mahmal company. As for the soldiers, we encamped them outside the town in the vicinity of the "Ambaria Gate," with the Emir el-Hag Esh-Sherif.

From Sunday, November 2nd, up to Monday (1 p.m.), 10th, we abode at Medina, our time of stay there being nine days.

On Monday, 10th, at 1 p.m., we left Medina bound for El-Wej where we arrived at 3 p.m. on Saturday, the 22nd, the journey being 13 days, at an average march of 16 out of each 24 hours, owing to the same reasons given for the march to Esh-Sharki.

Saturday, 22nd, and Sunday, 23rd, we remained at El-Wej.

On Monday, 24th, at 11 a.m., the Mahmal and baggage were loaded on the transport ship "Mansurah," with the exception of the camels which slept on shore for want of sufficient water in port to enable the lighters to approach the wharf and convey them on board the ship. The soldiers, Treasury, Emir el-Hag and pilgrims all remained on board.

On Tuesday, November 25th, at 7 a.m., the Mahmal camels were got on board and we sailed for Et-Tor.

On Wednesday, 26th, at 12 noon, the steamer anchored at Et-Tor. The soldiers, employés, and pilgrims, with the exception of a few old people, all went on shore to the Quarantine tents. Forty-eight hours' stay at Et-Tor, from 12 noon, 26th, up to Friday, November 28th (1 p.m.).

At 1 p.m. we left by steamer from Et-Tor for the Suez Docks, where we arrived on Saturday, November 29th, at 8 a.m.

At 7 p.m. of November 29th, the special train, with the Mahmal Sherif, left for Cairo. Arrived at Cairo station on Sunday, 30th, at 8 a.m., and thence to Abbassiyeh, where it reached its headquarters there with the necessary procession.

On Monday, December 1st, at 7.30 a.m., the Mahmal Sherif paraded through Cairo, and, after the procession, was that day delivered over at the Finance.

During the Expedition, the soldiers behaved themselves well. No rations were issued to the soldiers during the Expedition, except 15 days before their departure from Cairo, without meat, 10 days' meat and 19 days' bread and flour from Medina, as per appended list marked "A," in which a sum of 19,387 $\frac{2}{3}$  P.T. is due to them. The white clothing of the soldiers became very seedy and much worn—having been used day and night during the journey—as also the bedding.

A rifle barrel was accidentally broken through the fall of a camel on the mountains. Two bayonets and some petty things were lost during the night journeys in the mountains through the fall of camels and their loads, and we could not remain far from the pilgrims owing to the Bedouin rascals and robbers that pursued us, hanging on our rear.

The police soldiers did their duties with the exception of six of them, of whom three sold hasheesh and were reported to the War Office, which telegraphed to have them punished.

Of all the Egyptian pilgrims, only six died a natural death, viz., two policemen, one artilleryman, and three natives. One of the police soldiers was left at the Medina Hospital.

The arrangement of setting apart one camel to carry one man and his baggage and one waterskin for every two men, was not enough, and there was consequently a great deal of trouble and difficulty in the march, as, after appropriating the camels for the

water, those for the ammunition, and those for the Expedition, two men had to ride one camel. Had the rations been issued to us, seventy-five per cent. of the men would have gone a-foot, especially as the camels are weak, and can move with a burden of no more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cantars, or 2 cantars at the most.

The arms and tents need some repairs, patching, and alterations, having suffered during the journey from stones, dirt, and rain, which was exceedingly heavy in the marshes—in these marshes a man sinks to a depth of 20 centimetres and even more, and a quadruped nearly up to the knee—and also from the ground, which was often as hard as iron and as sharp as a knife.

The price of edibles in those parts is very high, it cost a soldier 20 P.T. a day to live, at the rate of two meals at 10 P.T. each. Water is very scarce, especially on the way, but is sold in the towns. A water-bottle that is scarcely enough to quench one's thirst is obtained for 10 paras.

Some soldiers committed slight offences during the journey and got punishment drill and were reprimanded. The awards of punishments coming under the jurisdiction of the Officer Commanding the Battalion I will submit to his approbation, such punishments to be carried into effect as he thinks fit.

112 dozen cartridges were destroyed during the Expedition by being fired from the cordon at night-time, according to orders, and during the march at night to keep at bay the Bedouin miscreants and robbers who infested the mountains, and kept close in the rear of the pilgrims, at a distance of about 100 metres only.

On Monday, November 10th, fireworks on a large scale were exhibited outside Medina, where there were present the Governor Pacha of the town, all the Turkish officers there, and all the distinguished inhabitants and Government employés.

The N.C. officers and men have, during the journey, been tried by constant outlay, owing to the by far higher cost of edibles than the cost of rations allowed to them, and they are, therefore, indebted to each other. I have written about this to the Sirdariyeh from Mecca, and I beg that, if approved, the case may be examined and justice done to them.

Lastly, on my arrival at the Battalion Headquarters, the officers and men were taken on the Battalion with pay and allowances from 1st December, and a "Marching in State" was furnished to the Officer Commanding the Battalion.