

SYRIA CONVENTION: FIRST PICTURES.

Issue No. 1088..1.3.1941

Title: Escape From Yesterday.

Lines: Stagg.

Voice: Stagg.

Track: Beau Geste.

Shortly before General Dentz asked for an armistice our forces in Syria occupied Palmyra, a city whose beginning goes back perhaps a thousand years before Christ. Paramount cameraman E.P. Genock now sends pictures that record the triumphant conclusion of the campaign. As the French retreated, Bren carriers brought the din of modern war into this scene of vanished glory. The Roman temples and colonnades recall the Third Century splendour of Queen Zenobia, who made Palmyra the jewel of Rome's eastern empire.

(GV TROOPS ENTER) Centuries before Christ Palmyra was an important junction of caravan routes from India and the Far East. It fell into ruin when ships superseded camels as carriers of merchandise. Its temples bear witness to earlier civilizations which flourished and declined.

Close by a German plane testified to good work by the RAF. Trying to disguise the machine the Nazis had painted out the Swastika. It was the presence of enemy aircraft in Syria that forced the British to attack General Dentz.

In the cavalry school at Acre peace was eventually signed. General de Verdillac came from Dentz with authority to accept British conditions. General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, who commands in Syria, presented the Vichy French with the terms of peace. This is yet another significant scene which the cine-camera preserves for the records of history. War correspondents outside wearily awaited the outcome of the discussions, and Richard Dimbleby, substantial owner of a familiar voice, made a record which was used later in the BBC news.

Discussions over, the convention was signed by General Maitland-Wilson, and the war in Syria was won.

General de Verdillac signed on behalf of Vichy and General Dentz.

Meanwhile the last shots of the campaign were fired.

By radio all units had been instructed to cease fire as soon as General Dentz agreed to our armistice conditions, and to the peace convention. It was doubly gratifying to the army - a proof that the foe was beaten, and the end of fighting against our former allies. Almost in the act of firing, the guns were unloaded. They are still in Syria, on guard lest the Germans desperately drive East, towards the oil of Baku and Iraq. But for the moment the guns are silent. For the first time for weeks the troops are able to relax.

(SV MAGAZINE) They even have bananas - a yellow fruit once sold in Britain. It's beginning to look as if somebody'd put the skins under Hitler. A swim's quite pleasant too, when there's no longer anybody to drop a bomb before you had time to get your clothes on.

continued on back.....

Date: 27th Nov 1941
Place: Beirut

Present: Mr. ...
Mr. ...

General De Gaulle asked for an armistice our forces in Syria were
... a city whose beginning goes back perhaps a thousand years before Christ
... General De Gaulle now stands witness that record the triumphant conclusion
of the campaign. As the French retreated, French soldiers brought the din of battle war
into the ruins of vanished glory. The Roman temples and colonnades reared their Third Cen-
tury splendor of Queen Zenobia, who made Palmyra the jewel of Rome's eastern empire.
(BY THE PRESIDENT) Centuries before Christ Palmyra was an important station
of caravan routes from India and the Far East. It fell into ruin when ships superseded
caravans as a means of overland trade. Its temples bear witness to earlier civilizations
which flourished and declined.
Close by a German plane fell to the ground by the RAF, trying to escape
the machine the Nazis had painted out the Swastika. It was the presence of enemy troops
in Syria that forced the British to attack General De Gaulle.

SYRIAN ARMISTICE continued.

on./

Peace coincided with the harvest. Britain has saved Syria from the horrors
of a Nazi conquest, and will give the people political independence, under which they
can live their pastoral life in the manner of the unchanging East. The women fill
their pitchers at the well as in the times of Abraham. Syria is able to pursue her
peaceful existence now that Britain is in victorious occupation.

... the war in Syria was won.
... General De Gaulle signed on behalf of Vichy and General De Gaulle.
... Meanwhile the last days of the campaign were hard.
... By night all units had been instructed to cease fire as soon as General
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... continued on page...