

BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS.

Cameraman. E.P. GENOCK.

STORY. Syrian Campaign. Damour - Defence position of Beyrouth captured.

Film used Plus X.

There's not much to this material, but am sending it down because Beyrouth may not fall immediately, and also because Noble who insists on working on this sector too, despite all rota arrangements, had film which should work in well.

The Damour position, can be compared to Keren in Eritrea, as the defences were exceptionally strong. Despite heavy artillery fire from both sides and sniping, the local Syrians carry on with their work - in what turns out this year to be an excellent harvest - as the war passes swiftly through their locality.

ROLL 1. Cu. Notice Sidon
Gv. Town
Sv & Cu. Arab cameraman Omar Jarcho (this for sequence on War Correspondents that I intend doing some day)

* Gv & Cu small groups refugees coming in from Beyrouth after walking over the mountains.

ROLL 2. Local colour shots of native activities still going on, even couple of miles behind front.
Gv. Army trucks on road passing shepherd & sheep.
Sv. Women at well.
Gv. Bus of refugees coming in to village from Beyrouth.
Sv. Refugees.
Gv. Village pan to women at well.
Sv. Women kissing in greeting.
Sv. Corn being threshed as in days of Bible.

ROLL 3. Gv. Threshing and winnowing going on behind the line.
Sv. Old man threshing.
Sv. Two types winnowing.
Angle same.
Sv. Winnowing finally for grain.
Cu. Grain.
Gv. Countryside towards Damour.

ROLL 4. Gv. R.A.F. Meteorologist in field taking wind readings with Balloon.
Sv. Releasing balloon and taking readings.
Cu. Same.
Sv. Assistant calculating.
Cu. Taking readings.
Gv. Army truck passing sheep.

ROLL 5. * Gv. Shell bursts before Damour.
Sv. Other bursts.
Sv. Down road, Australians waiting to move forward.
Sv. Men crouching behind Cactus.
Sv and Cu. 25 pounder firing in banana grove.
Sv. Commander calling ranges and taking his lunch of Watermelon.

ROLL 6. * Further angles on bursts and artillery and sou self at camera, requested by office.

ROLL 7.
 Gv. Cars on bridge of Damour river.
 Sv. Car and despatch rider up road.
 Sv. 25 pounder in hidden position - cleaning in readiness.
 Scu. Australian aligning gun.
 Cu. Australian at sight.

ROLL 8. * Gv. Australians mopping up in banana grove as sniping going on.
 Gv. Infantry resting at entrance of village.
 ? Gv. Pan to signallers lorry pulling away with wire.
 Sv. Artillery house, where 75 mm guns hidden which held advance through village.
 Sv. Anti-tank on porte covering side road out of village - pan to.
 Sv. Australian Capt instruction French police. Various angles same.

ROLL 9.) Gv. Damour street scene - wounded being taken away
 Pan to 75 mm gun, track in to
 Sv. Australians who finally captured gun by mortar fire - direct hit.
 Sv & Cu. Leader of Section
 Cu. Damour sign - with telephone wires down

ROLL 10. * Sv. French tank used by Australians on first entry into town and hit by 75 (shown above along road) with male transport passing.
 * Sv & Cu group. Colonel, Major & Captain of 2nd Battalion Foreign Legion, captured, being interrogated by Brigade Major and interpreter.

CAMERAMAN'S DOPE SHEET.

SUBJECT: Making a desert Aerodrome.

Location: Western Desert.

Cameraman: H.E. ASHWOOD

Date: 3th July.

Length 200 ft.

Making an aerodrome in the heart of the desert is no small matter when the unevenness of the ground and scrub bushes are taken into consideration, but when these Indian A.M.P.C. Troops under the supervision of the R.E.'s get down to the job its just a matter of a few days before a perfectly flat landing ground is completed and ready for the R.A.F. to move in.

The squads of men armed with picks and shovels are given sections to clear as soon as they arrive at the chosen ground, and these pictures show the determined way in which the men set about the task, for each man knows that the results of his efforts will soon mean a little more worry for Hitler.

Shots show - The troops receiving orders on arrival.
 " " Taking up their picks and shovels - marching off to commence their task. Close ups etc.

An officer demonstrating to the men what they are to do - shots of desert before the work commences. - The troops starting work - Ditto close-ups etc... on the job etc...

Burning of the scrub. Members of R.A.F. with tractors and levelling iron going over the cleared ground to give it the final smoothing from stones and flattening. - The finished ground.

N B
No Stage

Convention
not Announced

B160/A1

BRITISH PARAMOUNT NEWS. CAMERAMANS REPORT.

CAMERAMAN	- B. Hart.	ROTA.
STORY	- Syrian ^{Down went in} Announced signed.	LENGTH - 270 ft.
LOCATION	- Acre, Palestine.	NEGATIVE - PLUS X.

Genock covered main story, my Material is to be used in conjunction with his and are cut in shots, showing the period of waiting and suspense, while the Vichy French decided.

On one roll are the following General, in between the other shots and in this order. Lt.-General Lavorack, G.O.C. Australian Forces, he is waiting. General Sir H.M. Wilson G.O.C. He is bald and is sitting waiting. General Catroux for the Free French, also waiting while the Vichy French make up their minds.

Silhouette shot. War Correspondents typing.

C.U. of various War Correspondents. 1st Naval, 2nd Australian, 3rd British, 4th Free French all waiting for the News. General view of verandah, Crowd waiting. Group of War Correspondents change logs as they write. Cars wait. Australian W.C. gives news.

Cameras waiting. Group of War Correspondents get news. General view of house where discussions were held with men waiting. Military Police on guard at the door. Dumbleby of the B.B.C. giving news and General Sir H. Wilson Broadcasting, and hearing play back. Shots of B.B.C. recorder and pan shot from loudspeaker to General Wilson hearing own voice (maybe you can get record of his voice from B.B.C.) Backshot between his legs at loudspeaker. Shots of cameramen shooting. General view as General Wilson broadcasts. Various shots of place, and people waiting, man playing with old cannon ball with foot to show tension. Some material and shots will end abruptly as I had continued camera trouble.

B160/C.

BRITISH PICTORIAL PRODUCTIONS.

CAMERAMAN: R. NOBLE.

Story: Peace Treaty being signed at ACRE.

Footage 130

SUPER XX.

General Wilson arriving at Scene of Conference ACRE.

Shot showing back of General Wilson as he signs.

Pan up to other end of table to Vichy General de Verdillac.

Various close ups of both Generals and staffs, while signing Treaty etc...

Paramount have shot of Treaty and signatures which is ROTA.

Shot in my last story shows French General arriving.

REMARKS. Taken in Photoflood light camera running very slow. Suggest develop to maximum time.

Signed. R. NOBLE.

B160/D

BRITISH MOVIE TONE NEWS. LTD.

Cameraman. N. Fisher.

Date. 14.7.41.

Location: Acre, Palestine.

Footage 150 feet

Consignment No. 26.

Light conditions: Poor artif.

SIGNING OF TREATY BETWEEN BRITISH AND VICHY FORCES.

In the ancient town of Acre, representatives of the British and Vichy forces meet to sign the final draft of the peace terms bringing to a conclusion the war in Syria.

General Sir Henry Haitland Wilson signs for Britain and General de Verdillac for the Vichy side.

General scenes in the conference room.

Close up of General de Verdillac signing also close up of General Haitland Wilson.

STORY - Syrian Campaign ends with Peace Treaty
 Justice.

CALERAMAN - E.P. Genock.

FILM - Plus X.

LOCATIONS - Front and Acre.

FOOTAGE - 1,100 ft.

With Australian troops 8 miles from Beyrouth, fighting still goes on, while awaiting the arrival of an envoy from General Dentz.

At Advanced Brigade H.Q. the normal plan for approaching the main port of Syria, is directed; - only at the Signal Office are the signs of extra activity - with orders to all observations posts to watch for the arrival of a Vichy French envoy on the Beyrouth road.

On the afternoon of Friday July the 11th a signal arrives at all H.Q.'s ordering 'Cease Fire' at midnight. Next morning while the forward troops are, for the first time since the beginning of the war, taking it easy, a conference is held at Cavalry School near Acre. The initialled proposals are taken to General Dentz.

Two days later the same envoy General Verdillac returns with the power to sign the accepted conditions. General Wilson and General Verdillac sign the Convention for the Cessation of Hostilities.

Covered also by Fisher, Movietone, Noble, Universal, Parer. Australian Official, and Free French Cameramen.

ROLL 1.

Supply transport passes through the Sapper - made road through the banana groves on the edge of the Damour river, directed by Military traffic cop - while infantry 'foots' it across hillside.

ROLL 2.

Types watching through telescope for sign of arrival of envoy (At this moment bombed by by Vichy planes, thus reason for next shot).

Bren Gunner against rock face firing at planes. Various shots and angles, signal office and message being received. Mule laying signal wire across mountainside.

ROLL 3.

General shot of country tilting down to valley banana grove forming mule park. Mules being watered and fed, these mules supplied food and ammunition to troops who trekked across mountains to outflank Damour and Beyrouth.

ROLL 4.

Shots of activities at Intelligence Office and Brigade H.Q. with Brigadier Savage at his H.Q.'s on the crest of a mountain overlooking Beyrouth.

Arrival of delegates at the Armistice conference held in a schoolroom of the Sidney Smith Barracks (Cavalry School) at Acre. The G.O.C. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson arrives with his A.D.C. followed by General Verdillac arriving on behalf of General Dentz. Angles and scenes are bad as we were refused any positions which would have yielded better pictures.

Various shots of delegates and posed scene of General, Wilson, General Laverack, and General Catroux, and Air Commodore Brown.

ROLL 6.

Semi-view of G.O.C. at conference table.
General Catroux conversing informally with General Verdillac.
Air Commodore Brown.
Naval (Captain Morse R.N.) and Staff officer conferring.
Officers at map. (Camera trouble on early scenes so there may be displacement.)
French typists - typin' out final proposals for initialling.
G.V. Conference room.
Medium shot of General Wilson initialling (then the power station failed and all was dark. Last two shots were weak rear lighting.)
Underexposed night effect scenes re-enacting receiving signal for 'Cease Fire' at Advanced H.Q.

ROLL 7.

Brigadier with signal of 'Cease Fire' (Night effect - supposed to be.)
Close up, 'Cease Fire' order.
Signal reads to Forward Formations from G.O.C. Corps.

"At 0001 Hours 12 July all forward troops will stand fast and stop firing O. Full military precautions will be taken O. Troops in the rear and all Defence Measure Movement will carry on O. No Fraternalization O. Ack."

General Shot, scene round Howie next morning, gunners and troops taking it easy for the first time in five weeks. doing all the things they have wanted to do.
Various close shots, reading, washing, putting cover on gun as symbolising end of campaign etc.

ROLL 8.

Various close shots of Australian troops taking it easy.
General view of No Man's Land past the road block from which can be seen Beyrouth and Radio Mast of Beyrouth.
Close ups of Road Block put up by the French.

ROLL 9.

Troops on the road passing time cleaning their anti-tank gun.
Infantry resting in place in a banana grove, writing, and feeding on bananas (in place) too.

ROLL 10.

NEWMAN SECTION SUPER XX.

- S.V. Conference table - General Wilson and General Catroux.
- C.U. Same.
- G.V. Conference table.
- S.V. General Wilson signing Convention for Cessation of Hostilities.
- S.V. General Wilson.
- S.V. General Verdillac.

ROLL 11.

SUPER XX.

General view and angles of conference during signing.

British troops teach Arabs to play darts.

Dated 9th July, 1941.

It is generally believed that the men of the East are wise in all things, but when these British Troops in the Western Desert produced a Dart Board amongst this group of Arabs they found that here was something - and something good that they were not already wise to. However, seeing the interest the Arabs were taking in the game, our troops soon offered to teach them how to play, and found them very apt pupils too, and it was not long before a real tournament was in progress.

A strange sight indeed this typical English game being played under a tropical tree in the heart of the desert, for here there are no village "pubs" with oaken beams, and sand takes the place of sawdust on the floor.

Shots self explanatory.

(One or two shots may be a trifle out of centre owing to damaged Vicrofinder).

TOTAL FOOTAGE 400 FT.

LENGTH. 200 ft.

Subject:- Flying with a Desert Dawn Patrol.

Opposition Presents:-

Where taken: Western Desert.

None.

Cameraman:- H.E. ASHWOOD.

Date:- 7th July 1941.

The R.A.F. have proved to the world their superiority over the much vaunted Luftwaffe. This is due in no small measure to the organisation coupled with the keenness of the personnel, who welcome the opportunity of getting to grips with the enemy.

These pictures taken at a fighter squadron in the Western Desert give some idea of the rapidity with which an emergency Dawn Patrol takes the air, after receiving a signal that enemy planes are approaching.

Shots show:-

The operations officer and his runner dash off to give emergency pilots and mechanics flying orders after receiving signal at "ops".

"Ops" officer and pilots discussing position of enemy on map. Pilots prepare to take off. - ditto - ditto running to planes - while engines are being started up by mechanics. Close ups of props - pilots going to machines. Pilots getting into cockpit - ditto closing cockpit cover - the fighters take off. Ground and following shots. The Hurricane in the air. Ditto climbing etc. Two of the planes "peel off" in search of the enemy - various shots of planes roaring past in the air. A Victory roll by one of the fighters as it returns to land.

Remarks:- 300 ft + X (Only about 40 ft. O.K. on reel owing to convex jamming.)

(Please join up reels in order of taking. Tins marked).

UNIVERSAL TALKING NEWS

R. NOBLE.

Story Night firing of Medium Artillery, shelling enemy positions on Beirut road. Coastal.

Various angles of 6" Howitzers firing at night and in early dawn. Shots show road round bay, captured French tanks moving up and sheets of flame from our guns in the distance.

Footage. 200 ft.

Films. Kodak Super XX

Remarks:- I believe that Paramount have done or are doing Artillery fire during daylight. This could be used with their story.

BRITISH PICTORIAL PRODUCTIONS.

Camcraman: R. NOBLE.

Story Vichy French approach for peace terms.

Footage. 300 ft.

Super XX.

General de Verdillac arriving at Advanced H.Q. with his officers and staff. General is 2nd in command to General Dentz and acted as envoy.

English Staff Officers arriving.

General Allen arriving and going in to Conference with Verdillac. Meeting over, shake hands and say good-bye, salute and in car.

Cars drive off to meet General Wilson at Acre.

General Verdillac walking along verandah and going in to meet General Wilson.

The first meeting is at Saida, the same house which was filmed with General Allen and staff inspecting Photos with stereoscope.

Remarks. On front of one roll is off 60 ft of action of troops advancing through shell and bombs. This is the day after P.M. has announced on wireless that the French wanted Peace.

Sgd. R. NOBLE.

Genock is covering the meeting with Gen. Wilson. Should follow soon.

BRITISH PICTORIAL PRODUCTIONS

Cameraman. R. NOBLE:

STORY. Flour being distributed to Syrian Villages owing to War shortage.
(Under British supervision and organisation).

Footage. 200 ft.

Film: Super XX,

Syrian people gathered round truck with 15 tons of flour on board.
Serving out the rations. Various types including small boy and women having
flour tipped into bags. Shot of lorry arriving in village, showing Syrian
atmosphere pulling down tailboard. Man placing flour on donkey and taking
it home. Various types close-ups.

Food is already stored to be taken into Beyrouth, immediately it
is taken, owing to food shortage, we are also supplying refugees from shelled
areas in Syria.

Remarks.

Thought this would make small propaganda "snippet".

(Sgd) R. NOBLE.

BRITISH MOVIE TONNEWS LTD.

Cameraman. N. FISHER.

Date: July 12th 1941.

Location: Damascus front Syria.

Footage: 300 ft.

Consignment No. 25.

Light conditions: Good.

TRUCE ON SYRIAN FRONT.

Following General Dentz' request for a truce to discuss peace terms,
there is cease fire order on all fronts in Syria.

Scene at a British artillery battery on the front near Damascus.
The cease fire order is received by radio and the message is relayed to the
guns by megaphone. The gunners stop in the act of loading. Various scenes
on other parts of the front showing the tired troops taking advantage of the
lull by resting, sleeping, writing home and bathing, while awaiting the next
move.

The G.O.C. of the area is seen in conference with his officers.

CAMERAMAN'S-DOPE SHEET

British Movietone News Ltd., 22 Soho Sq. London W.1.

Cameraman : N. FISHER.

Date : July 8th, 1941.

Location: Palmyra, Syria.

Footage: 760 ft.

Consignment No. 24.

Light Conditions: Good.

ALLIED FORCES OCCUPY PALMYRA.

After a tough struggle, the outstanding feature of which was the accuracy of the British artillery fire against the forts defending Palmyra, British troops occupy the town.

Palmyra was formerly an outpost of the Roman Empire, and the ruins are amongst the most famous in the world, though they have not been readily accessible to tourists owing to the difficult journey across the desert.

Not to (Scenes showing cars crossing the great salt flats of the Syrian
be used (Desert en route for Palmyra. On the way a fort, (Fort Descarpenteries),
By order (is reached, having just been occupied by the Arab Legion under Major Glubb
of (Pasha. These troops of the Arab Legion are popularly known as "Glubb's
Censor (Girls". Various scenes inside the fort showing the Arabs manning the
M.E. (leopoles and hauling down the Vichy flag from the tower.

Various scenes in Palmyra showing Bren carriers moving through the ruins of the ancient city. Troops armed with Tommy guns carry out a search for snipers in the ruins of the Temple of Baal. Other scenes show troops on a sight-seeing tour of the ruins.

Various shots of the Foreign Legion fort. (Fort Weygand), showing the entrance gate with the white flag still flying and the havoc inside caused by the deadly accurate British artillery fire.

On the aerodrome are several wrecked German aircraft on the ground. These planes have had the swastikas and crosses painted over and the Vichy emblem substituted. These planes were shot up on the ground before they could take off.

General view of Palmyra.