

44/66 20800

SYRIA!.....OFFICIAL ENTRY INTO BEYROUTH.

The Acre-Hakura road presents an unusual picture as Allied advance forces make their way towards Beyrouth.....the terms of the Syrian armistice include the occupation, by the Allies, of the whole of Syria and the Lebanon. As Beyrouth is the chief administrative centre of Syria, it follows that its occupation should present an impressive spectacle.....after an advance guard of mechanised units, sun-tanned war-hardened men of the Imperial Forces march into the City behind an Australian band playing martial airs.....thousands of people lining the streets show their approval; for they know that the occupation is not one of conquest but of liberation....As for the troops, take a look at these splendid chaps from 'down under'. Every man as happy as a sand-boy at having played an active part in preventing the Boche from installing himself in the Middle East....

Syrians are much impressed by the parade of allied might; the Aussies have no complaint against their reception...the people gather in force in the Place des Martyrs to watch an inspection by General Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, G.O.C., and General Catroux, commanding the Free French. General Catroux has been charged by General de Gaulle with the task of bringing about the establishment of legislative assemblies and the formation of governments enjoying popular confidence.

After completion of the formalities of taking over the City,
one of the first duties of General Wilson and General Catroux
is to attend a reception at which they greet dignitaries of the
Church and other high officials.the cordial welcome the
Syrians receive augurs well for the good relationship between the
allies-in-occupation and the liberated peoples.

The reception over, General Lavarack, commanding the Australian
troops, accompanies General Wilson and General Catroux on a further
tour of inspection....Everywhere they go they are welcomed with
open arms, for the people know that the Allies have completed one of the
most difficult tasks an army has ever been called upon to perform.....
And now we go North to the Turkish-Syrian frontier where men of our
patrols are greeted as brothers by Turkish soldiers. This is
the first recorded instance of fraternisation between British and
Turkish troops in the war. Turkish delight is good to eat...it's
also good to see!

Going South again we witness another cheerful aspect of the Syrian
Campaign; The arrival of a trainload of British and Australian
soldiers who were taken prisoners by the Vichy French, and are now
released under the terms of the Convention ending hostilities.....
Are those boys pleased? They couldn't be happier if they learned
that Hitler had broken his neck!

They give details such as names, number and so on, which are checked on the
spot. They're going to get a little more fun out of life from now on.
It will be very welcome after long weeks in a prison camp...the registration
of particulars completed, they submit to the 'ordeal by camera', and if the

After completion of the formalities of taking over the City, expressions on their faces mean anything it seems they are one of the first duties of General Wilson and General Catroux 'thankful in anticipation' is to attend a reception at which they greet dignitaries of the

Church and other high officials.....the cordial welcome the Syrians receive augurs well for the relationship between the Allies-in-occupation and the liberated peoples.

The reception over, General Lawtrak, commanding the Australian troops, accompanies General Wilson and General Catroux on a further tour of inspection.....Everywhere they go they are welcomed with open arms, for the people know that the Allies have completed one of the most difficult tasks an army has ever been called upon to perform..... And now we go North to the Turkish-Syrian frontier where men of our patrols are greeted as brothers by Turkish soldiers. This is the first recorded instance of fraternization between British and Turkish troops in the war. Turkish delight is good to eat.....it's also good to see!

Going South again we witness another cheerful aspect of the Syrian Campaign: The arrival of a trainload of British and Australian soldiers who were taken prisoners by the Vichy French, and are now released under the terms of the Convention ending hostilities..... Are those boys pleased? They couldn't be happier if they learned that Hitler had broken his neck! They give details such as names, number and so on, which are checked on the spot. They're going to get a little more fun out of life from now on. It will be very welcome after long weeks in a prison camp...the registration of particulars completed, they submit to the 'orgasms by camera', and if the