In the Twilight of the Turkish Empire

The Amazing Experiences of a British Captured Officer By CAPTAIN ALAN BOTT, M.C., R.A.F., Author of "CAVALRY OF THE CLOUDS"

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In the early part of 1918 Captain Alan Bott joined the aviation service of General Allenby's army in Palestine. In March, 1918, Captain Bott's machine was brought down in flames near Nazareth and he was wounded. He was captured by the Turks. His story begins at this point, and it goes on to tell of his amazing experiences during his imprisonment in Turkey.

During the spring and summer months, when everybody gasped in the broiling heat, the aviator was cuse for taking to the air.

And what a country below. brown desert that gave place lakes and streams that sparkled in the brilliant sunlight; and beautiful white towns, bearing names such as Jerusalem, Jericho, Bethlehem Nazareth and Sheehem!

So long as he was not unlucky enough to be taken prisoner, the Palessummer of last year.

I Start Up From Jaffa. I climbed to eight thousand feet in other shock, and the beginning of marked the shells fired by our AA brought relief. guns I soon caught sight of the two black-crossed craft.

Although two to one, the German machines retired to the north-west I streaked after them; but the hostue Boches gained a certain amount arm. dive several times more before 1 a band of about a dozen mountain the door by an orderly. could get to anything like close Arabs—ragged, unkempt and fierce-

plumb underneath one of the Rumplers, pulled down my top-plane gun
and began to fire. Suddenly I heard
drawn knife in his hand, and he

through their sasines were the data.

sent to Razareta in an open lainway
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that as a result of my aeroplane
ish soldiers. As punishment I was
put into Nazareth criminal jail, toous fits, dizziness, loss of memory from behind me the ominous tattat-tat-tat that denotes machinegestively. He was quite close to me Arab prisoner. The floor was silmy not be sent to a hospital for rest? two Albatros single-seaters drop- panions brought him to a halt. A least exaggeration, thousands of guards took me to Constantinople. ping toward me from a cloud, in which they had been hiding. I swerved around in an Immelman turn and went to meet them.

I manoeuvred round the nearest Albatros and was just ready to fireat it when-Phut!!-- a dull thud came from my tank and the gasoline began to pour over my legs. The observer in the second Rumpler two-seated had fired a burst of bullets, and, by what was astonishing luck for him, for his machine was three hundred yards away and therefore well outside what is normally effective range in an aerial fight, had sent some bullets into my

My Petrol Tank Takes Fire.

I swang around and determined to make a desperate attempt to reach the lines before the gasoline gave out altogether. Then, leaning out from the cockpit and looking underbeath the machine, I saw to my horror that the lower part of the form ror that the lower part of the fusciage was smouldering and that a little flame was licking its way backward, towards the tail.

There was only one thing to be would and did cheerfully kill travelers for the sake of a pair of boots or a shirt. Each one carried a rifle (like all Bedouins), and stuck

ess, who smiled. I slipped into the cafe, placed myself in a corner, and, speaking hurriedly, in French, ask-ed the waitress to stand in front of me. Being told by her a few minutes later that the field was clear, in the content of the cafe, placed myself in a corner, and, speaking hurriedly, in French, ask-ed the waitress to stand in front of me. Being told by her a few minutes later that the field was clear, in the content of the cafe, placed myself in a corner, and, speaking hurriedly, in French, ask-ed the waitress to stand in front of me. Being told by her a few minutes later that the field was clear, in the content of the cafe, placed myself in a corner, and, speaking hurriedly, in French, ask-ed the waitress to stand in front of me. Being told by her a few minutes later that the field was clear, in the content of the cafe, placed myself in a corner, and, speaking hurriedly, in French, ask-ed the waitress to stand in front of me. Being told by her a few minutes later that the field was clear, in the cafe, placed myself in a corner, and, speaking hurriedly in French, ask-ed the waitress to stand in front of me. Being told by her a few minutes later that the field was clear, in the cafe, placed myself in a corner, and the cafe, placed myself i BRITISH AIRMAN ESCAPES IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

often leave the sun-scorched ground quickly as possible. I banked right most of the Arabs took part for the cold regions above. A flight over and fell in a vertical side-slip, !n those days I could understand pleasant home I managed to get in- plan for going to the same hospital friends, while the guard, who had into the city. was like a cold plunge after a Turk- so that if the fire grew the flames little Arabic, and in any case I was to conversation with a German staff was to put several hot poultices on been bribed for the purpose, reish bath. Even at eight thousand should not reach back to the tail- not in a fit state to make the mental officer, to whom I complained of his ankle until it was badly mark- mained outside the house. As a man who had agreed to hide us was feet the atmosphere was wirm en- plane. A strange mixture of effort needed to understand it. the Turkish treatment. As a result ed, and then to suggest that the result we were turned out of the a German beer-house in the Grande thoughts raced at lightning speed However, from frequent gesture and I was given better quarters for the said ankle was tubercular. This hospital next morning and sent to Rue de Galata. I entered the beer-Most through my mind, including memor- from the few words I caught, I was rest of my stay in Nazareth. ma- les of friends and old haunts of certain that they were discussing a chines to appear and give us an ex- every kind. But above all I was rather difficult problem. Would it Damascus, with some Australian ofconscious of a thrill of fear that was be wiser to give somebody up alive ficers who had recently been cap- one of whom had anything the matso intense as to be almost physical, and demand baksheesh from the tured. In Damascus we had a ter with him. The rest were sham-

> body through the tremendous pres- his clothes and leave the body on then take us in the mountains east a medical board as Sufficiently unsure of the uprushing air and lean- the hillside? ed out to look under the fuselage, 1 was relieved to find that the same such of air that was boxing my ears ness of my own identity, I did not fighting for the British, and would are enormously stupid, and my had put the small flame. The feet of my own identity, I did not fighting for the British, and would are enormously stupid, and my had put the small flame. The fao-

tine front was ideal for the war I brought the bus into a normal definitely settled by the arrival of pilot. But if it were his fate to be guide and sought a landing place. shot down on the wrong side of the only to find that I was over rocky kept the ragged Arabs at a distance, trenches, it would have been better and desolate hill country. I picked a thousand times had he fallen into out a small patch of level ground the hands of the Hun (who at any fringed by a few stunted trees. It rate was a more or less civilized was not nearly long enough for European) instead of into the hands landing an aeroplane, but it was of the Unspeakable Turk. This I certainly better than the jagge? discovered for myself during the slopes that were the only alterna-

I flattened out and pancaked on Late in the afternoon of April 24, ground, ran right across it, swerved 1918, I left the aerodrome at Jaffa aside to avoid a tree, and crashed from an anti-aircraft battery said. controllable plunge forward, anmy little Meuport scout, and by what would have been a colossal steering toward the white puffs that headache if unconsciousness had not

I streeted after the saw my Nieuport. I found that it was moonlight. The time, with the idea of walking fif- ruthless, utterly merciless, and for a Turkish guard, who followed fifty dollars if they would say that tile buses, being of the latest Rump- felt an intense pain in my right ming southward past the trenches, look at him. My only chance was meet people for whom I had been present when Richter, Oberleutnant, in her ler type, were faster than mine. The thigh. The engine and the body of which were about five m les from to be sent to Constantinople, where looking. There was a Greek cafe my companion jumped from the Flilegertruppen" (First Lieutenant Nieuport, however, could climb the machine were on top of me, so where I should have hit the coast, I hoped to find friends. How to proprietor, who took letters for me, train. They accepted the bable with in the German Flying Corps). I now quicker, so I went up one thousand that I could move no part of my The attempt failed, because my leg manage this was a difficult pro- and through him I met a British joy. The police searched me the produced this, and explained in

quarters. By that time we were eyed—the sort of wandering no-some twenty miles beyond the mads who during the lawless days Punishment in a Jail at Nazareth. of the war in Arabia and Syria

regard myself as being concerned in ricy still smouldered and sparkled the argument, but adopted the detached attitude of the cinematograph At a height of a few hundred feet spectator. When the problem was some men in Turkish uniform, who I looked upon the scene much as if it had been an old-time Wild West posse riding to rescue the heroine from the brigands.

> Of the days that followed I hav. viwid recollections of sime highlyored episodes. There was a dreadful night-ride through the ortured my injured thigh. There was a wretched period in the Ausnearly all newly captured prisoners whole of the interior of Asia Minor There was a hopeless attempt to es- was infested, during the last two cape from this hospital by climbing years of the war, by thousands of

gun fire. I looked back, and saw when a shout from one of his com- and verminous and, without the The doctor agreed, and finally some

A fortnight later I was sent to and I found myself shouting bitter Turks, or strip the somebody of his wonderful plan of escape. Two ming various filnesses, either clothes and leave him on the hill- Druse Arabs agreed to supply disgreen river-basins and extravagan. With great difficulty I forced my side or kill the somebody and take guises, ride with us to Deras and of the Turkish front to the Dead fit to be sent out of the country. Yet, being still half-sturned and Sea, where we hoped to find the unable to grasp the full conscious- friendly Hedjaz Arabs, who were obtain money to pay the Druses, nervous fits were realistic enough Two hours before we had arranged to convince them, so that I stayed to slip out of the barracks the in the hospital for several weeks. Syrian interpreter who had been our But getting to Constantinople was intermediary betrayed us. We were not enough—I must arrange to be I slipped and fell. A guard jumped soners to Aleppo.

film, showing the sheriff and his and, in utter despair, we found our- with the chief Turkish doctor, he pursued by two soldiers. He roundselves dumped in a desciate village expressed a great admiration for ed a corner, and seeing an open to be punished because some of us Mr. David Lloyd George, Remem- doorway, dodged into it; while the had wanted to escape. In a little bering that under the Young Turk guards, thinking he had gone on, mud room in a mud hut we lived regime a Grand Vizier (more or ran past the doorway and into the for seven days-eight British offi- less equivalent to a British - Prime next street. Fortunately for him, cers (two badly wounded) and two Minister) had the power of life and the inmates of the house were hills to German headquarters, with a non-commissioned officer flour-loaf of bread and two eggs per day. Mr. Lloyd George was a great man, labing a revolver behind me, and an Finally we reached Aflon-Kara- and that I was his cousin. That day trab guide hadling my muly across Finally we reached Aften-Kara- and that I was his cousin. That day fez and overcost. During the af-

bluff also succeeded.

In the same ward as myself were gain time while arranging an es-

Turkish doctors, like most Turks, closely guarded all night and next allowed to go about the city, so as on top of me, so that I failed once morning were sent with other pri- to get into touch with some people again. I looked up and saw White whose addresses had been given me. racing down a winding street and Next we travelled to Asia Minor One day, while discussing the war pushing the Turks out of his way, smelly Turkish guards. For food death over most people, I announce Greeks and friendly to the Allies, A fissar, where was the largest pri- the chief doctor presented several of his friends to Mr. Lloyd George's disguised as a fact had been found trian hospital at Tul-Karan, where hundred and fifty miles from the several time, took me sailing on the I endured, beside my physical pain, coast and, apart from the difficul- Bosphorus, and introduced me to that agony of mind which comes to ties of disguise and language, the two of his lady friends, talking incessantly of what Mr. Lloyd George

would do if England won the war. British officers to escape. Finally. through the engineer of a Russian Following this misfortune I was ing mental derangement. I went to sent to Nazareth in an open railway the Turkish doctor and explained truck, with a group of jeering Turkthat as a result of my aeroplane tan's Palace, Captain White and I ish soldiers. As punishment I was smash I suffered badly from nery. Black Sea to Odessa as stowaways.

fortunate indeed, because he could done to get down to solid earth as heated argument followed, in which bugs crawled over the walls at An Australian captain named White and myself to the bridge. To my great relief I night. After four days in this had agreed to escape with me. His visiting one of my newly-made was not fellowed, and I disappeared

> so that we had to act quickly. We of beer, but still the man I was exfixed the morning of August 22 for pecting did not arrive. The proour escape, and travelled to Constantinople with guards, on the pretense of going to see a dentist.

By the grace of God, just before we were ready to make our attempt, the train on which we were travelling collided with another train. Taking advantage of this Heavensent opportunity we both jumped during the confusion.

At the bottom of the railway slope disguised as a Turk and reached the

Meanwhile I was taken to the Turkish passport with which every-

little cute. Inside was a Greek waitshowing any undue haste that would attract attention, walked up the

the prison camp at Psamatia. In house, sat down, ordered a glass of a few days' time, we were told we beer and waited. I stayed over an would be sent back to Asia Minor, hour and drank three more glasses prietress-an enormously fat German woman-came to my table and began talking in German.

"You look very hot," she said. "Have you been running?" "No, madam, I have been walking ing in the sun. It is very strong

She continued to ask questions. and although I happened to have been at college in Germany, it was several years since I had spoken German continuously, and I was frightened of giving myself away. Finally the tension was too great and I could hang on no longer. I

went back into the street. By now, I knew, the police would be on the water than on land. I went back to the bridge, with the idea of hiring a small boat to row on the Bosphorus. At the foot of the look for me. I slipped behind them unnoticed, into Galata fruit bazaar.

wearing a European hat, I attracted

a certain amount of attention. A

Turkish gendarme approached and

demanded to see my vecika (the nearest police station. All Turks body had to be (urnished). Naturhater I persuaded the chief doctor can be bribed, and knowing this, I ally, I had no vectka. But before over the wall from the yar! at night brigands-starving, in rags, utterly to allow me out for walks, alone but offered the two soldiers with me escaping I had thought of such a colossal headache remained, and I teen miles to the sea and then swim- ready to kill a stranger as soon as at my heels. Thus I was able to I personally had not tried to escape, ian photograph of myself—"Fritz feet higher, and by diving toward body but my head, neck and one would not allow me to walk more blem, as my injuries had healed civilian who cashed my checks for roughly; but my bank notes, safely fluent German and broken Turkish than three hundred yards. I return and there was nothing to justify an several hundred dollars. I also got sewn in my braces and suspenders, that I was a German officer wearof distance. Even so they were still I looked around and saw, climb- ed to the hospital and tried to steal application for medical treatment in into touch with various other peo- were not found, and I had no other ing mufti, and that I would get the ple whom it would be still inadvis-able to mention, but all of whom took great risks in helping various White's escape, every British officer took the photo, looked at it dubiousand soldier in the neighborhood of ly, and finally handed it to the stall-Constantinople was to be sent into keeper, who appeared to be able to the interior of Anatolia. We were read German. The signature conmarched through the streets to the vinced the stall-keeper, and the bridge across the Golden Horn and policeman returned the photograph, nerded on to the ferry stage, whence salaamed, apologized for having a steamer was to take us to the questioned a German officer and

> I was desperate, for in five min-utes' time my last chance of escape way to the Russian tramp steamer Just about this time a Turkish would be gone. I turned round at that was to take me to Odezsa, and stayed on board for the night. Nex morning I disguised mysclf at a Russian sailor, and my friend, the chief engineer, led me to a car-penter's workshop, where Captain White was already in hiding

The steamer was delayed in the comphorus for three more weeks, so that all this while we had to knock around the Turkish capital in variall sorts of strange things happened One day, for example, I visited the Greek cape proprietor, who took me to a little restaurant, where, he said, he wished to introduce me to a lady., The lady was indeed an old friend of mine. Her name was Captain Yeats-Brown, a British cava month before I did. Disguised as a girl-and a very good-locking girl he made-Captain Yeats-Brown lived in Constantinople for ten weeks, and got into touch with German and were plotting against the Young Turk government. He old me that another British officer Colonel "Z," had also arrived in the city after escape, and had been en-gaged in writing anti-German proclamations for distribution among Turkish soldiers.

Which brings me to the amazing

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What also could the Weather Man do but bring on July weather in Junes when the powers-that-he started the day an hour earlier?

Well what a farce a religious of some companies yielding huge of some companies yielding huge his visit.

When one reads of watered stock of some companies yielding huge his visit.

When one reads of watered stock of some companies yielding huge his visit.

The Bench to-day has too many strikes? Weath must be more even-house for watering purposes after 8 for every 100 vacant situations of the signing, the Lampman is of ly divided before there will be peared.

The Bench to-day has too many strikes? Weath must be more even-house for watering purposes after 8 for every 100 vacant situations of the signing of the peared the strikes? Weath must be more even-house for watering purposes after 8 for every 100 vacant situations of the signing of the peared the strikes? Weath must be more even-house for watering purposes after 8 for every 100 vacant situations of the signing of the peared the strikes? Weath must be more even-house for watering purposes after 8 for every 100 vacant situations of the signing of the peared the strikes? Weath must be more even-house for watering purposes after 8 for every 100 vacant situations of the signing of the strikes? Weath must be more even-house for watering purposes after 8 for every 100 vacant situations of the signing of the strikes? Weath must be more even-house for watering purposes after 8 for every 100 vacant situations of the strikes?

It is not generosity that brought opinion that religious exercises Perhaps the foxy robbers would get on a Sunday than on a Monday. The time applies, and nosing may con- it is because of the severity of magis- lare 86.7 applicants.

The Man on Watch

The Job of the professional solution have it in for the Governor-General. His Exceptible of the selling of second at the laying of some personal solution. He goes to many juries to-day deal lealently with accused men and was very much one of rest, life was picked up by the rondeide. And besides a drunk may not be breaking to the solidary for the man's civic bords. Some class, to Kingston is bight to the kept standing at attention on dress parade at the laying of some man's civic bords. Some class, to Kingston, yea.

The job of the professional solution have it in one court last week three crimatics advant may not be breaking the Sabbath any more than the man who goes on a pleasure trip in his did not proclaimy a holidary for the was goes to fails turn out in to make cheese on the Sabbath.

Well what a faire a religious

When one reads of watered stock are the according to the regulations of the Utilities Commission, house it in the name of the could be re-divided.

The lob of the professional solution was very much one of rest, life was picked up by the rondeide. And besides a drunk may not be breaking the sabbath any more than the man who goes on a pleasure trip in his did not proclaimy a holidary for the was goes to go the substitute of the laying of a common who goes of the life lengthy with accused men and the trink was very much one of rest, life was very muc