# In the Twilight of the Turkish Empire

## The Amazing Experiences of a Captured British Officer

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In Colloboration with **CAPTAIN FRANCIS YATES BROWN** 

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# III--Starvation, Terrorism, Bribery and Brigandage CONSTANTINOPLE.

then the Turco-German General ried by thin soup. Headquarters on the Palestine Front -that I first met at close quarters the terrorism and misery under Sickness and bitterness of which Turkey lived during the war. made me far from hungry, so that I up in a tiny room about ten feet long Germans sent me. The Turkish

by six feet wide. My furniture was corporal of the guards, the sentry germs, was that drawn from the fa- of meats or vegetables, and stuff Turk political organizations, instead misery as brigands. mous "Well of the Holy Virgin;" them into their mouths.

The days passed my confinement of the Southern Dobrudja, the charges rose yet again, for the countries of the days passed my confinement of the state of affairs, carried out a policy of the days passed my confinement of the state of affairs, carried out a policy of the state of affairs of the state of af

war, left all alone and with nothing nally from Salonika, with a long, ply, when a prominent neutral lady foot, on horseback, or on donkey- But for forced loans many Greeks scripted he could always pretend stantinople, or that Enver Pasha bad to distract his mind, can only think, tongue-twisting name impossible to and think, and think-of what his remember. I called him Jean Wilold unit is doing, of whether he li, French being our medium of conmight have escaped capture had he versation He was well off, and had done something different, of when been an official of the Ottoman Bank and if he will hear from home, of in Constantinople. For the first whether he will have to live through two years of the war he had kept months or years of captivity.

I spoke to nobody, except when a Christian woman came to tidy the the press gang took him. room each morning, while a guard watched through the open door to see that we did not conspire. This general beastliness of the Turks woman-ragged, bootless and gaunt -would whisper fierce questions in broken French, as she threw water on the dusty floor or stabbed with a

lived in my bed. very hungry. Pigs of Turks!" And I had to whisper back that the English would certainly come and drive the pigs of Turks out of Nazareth.

When she had taken her stooping back and herepatchwork clothes out of the room I would probably not have the chance to speak to a fellowhuman, even in a whisper, for the next twenty-four hours. I had nothing to read ,and there was nothing but a hillside, seen through the tiny window, to take my mind from my bitter thoughts. For hours at a time I paced the few feet across the room and back again, then sat on the bed and looked through the window at what little I could see of Nazar-

Chained Prisoners. Several times during the first few days I noticed men, women and boys walking in a huddled bunch, with guards round them. Some had their hands shackled, some had a chain linking one arm and one leg, others were chained by the arm to the next person. They moved aimlessly over the hillside, presumably for exercise, while the guards pushed and beat any who stumbled or to happen, and most people were, of my acquaintance urged him to r hoping for it. All the gold in the lieve the distress.

One morning I was visited by the Ottoman Bank (of which he was at governor's aide-de-camp, just after the time an official had been transsuch a party had disappeared from ferred to Asia Minor', whither the view . I asked if these shackled and Turkish Ministry had planned to rebrow-beaten prisoners were Chris- tire. Later, I heard this same story "My dear sir," said the aide-de- last gasp from scores of Turkish stranded on the beach, with great everything worth the stealing before

camp, with all the blandness of the subjects, including officers who had educated Turk when telling a lie, actually fought in the campaign. "we put chains on nobody, and our It was from Jean Willi that I first Christian criminals are as well treat- tearned how thousands of people in ed as others. You must be mis- Asia Minor had died or were dying of starvation. I was able to verify his

It was curious that after this con- statements from personal experience. versation I never again saw groups Many British prisoners, in fact, died of civilian captives at Nazareth. Post of hunger. A small loaf of bread sibly the governor's aide-de-camp at non-military rates cost us twelve took care that they should be taken plastres (half a dollar as pre-war for exercise on the far side of the values), sugar was about three hundred plastres a kilo, and tea more than two thousand plastres a kilo.

This same officer paid me further visits, for he was learning French needed to buy a shoddy suit of and wanted practice. Once, when he was in my room, I saw from the window a strange procession. A few banners were carried at the head of it, then came some Turkish soldiers, and finally a mass of men and women, shambling along with bowed heads. Somewhere a band was blaring out the horrible, whining discord which the Turks call music. It would be impossible to imagine anything more melancholy and unenthu-

siastic than the people's attitude. "What is that?" I asked . ney, while the population that produced them could not itself find en-"Two days ago," said the aide-deough to eat. The "Cedars of Lebacamp, "the Turks gained a great victory over the British in the Jordan Valley, between Es Salt and Amforty per cent. pre-war population of man. The governor has organized this procession to celebrate it. The population is showing its joy at the

I looked at the sad-faced, ragged rabble below and remarked that they looked more like mourners at a funeral than celebrators of joy. The Deserted Babies Starving at Damas-Turkish officer had spoken, however,

without the least suggestion of irony. When taken to German Headquar- en for a walk through the streets I ters I complained about the food, noticed, lined against walls and door-An officer, remarking that although ways, little babies with scarce enan enemy of the British, he did not ough strength to cry their hunger like seeing fellow-Europeans in the and distress. Arab mothers, them-trembling and sinking sensations. obtain any kind of shelter. Often hands of the Turks, promised to send selves on the verge of starvation, had "Ferrozone strengthened my heart, they were found literally starving." me meals from the German General left the children they could not feed gave vigor to my nerves, soon made time, who might have given trouble, blunder, and dabbled in every spectime, who might have given trouble. Stall's mess. Evidently the German to the mercy of Allah (who was per-General Stall on the Palestine Front haps asleep) or of Turkish officials fed themselves very well. For the (who were awake but brutally cal-rest of my stay in Nazareth I fed luos) Nobody but the British pris-better than I could have done in a oners took the least notice of these better than I could have done in a oners took the least notice of these London hotel under wartime condi-tables. Not till they were dead to do grand work try it, 50c per tions, which was a very pleasant did the police pay any attention to box, or six for \$2.50.

I was in solitary confinement, shut was unable to eat much of what the

utterly wretched. The prisoner of with it. He was an Israelite, erigi- the Turkish Minister for Food Sup- to become robbers. Travelling on were rather better than in Anatolia. out of the army by bribing Turkish officers and policemen, but finally

Jean Willi's principal subject of conversation was the stupidity and among whom he had to live. Also, he was never tired of asking why the British left the Dardanelles. They could have forced their way through hairpin some of the many bugs that with ease had they stayed a week longer, he said, as the Turkish troops We were at their last gasp and nearly out of ammunition. Every one in Constantinople was expecting this

Syrian portof Haifa. so so so

while five thousand plastres were

In the Lebanon province starva-

tion seemed to have been organized

systematically. Magnificent forest

lands ceased to exist when the Turks

of trees—cedars, fruit trees, nut

trees, and others-for use as fuel on

the railways coal being unobtain-

able. Crops were commandeered,

either without payment or for small

sums in almost worthless paper mo-

on" are no more; and sheer destieu-

tion is responsible for the fact that

this fertile land is the work of one

man-Djemal Pasha, self-tyled "The

At Damascus whenever I was tak-

cut down thousands upon thousands

Ruined Fishermen of Haifa.

port of Haiffa in May, 1918, and see-

fishing were left utterly destitute.

a western country. The soldiers-

ERED WITH PALPITATION,

WEAKNESS, ETC.

If your heart flutters, be careful.

time. Excitement, over-exertion or

If blood rushes to the head, if pal-

itation and short breath are notice-

If you want a good honest remedy

ry Ferrozone. We recommend Fer-

ight. It cured A. F. Beattle, who

lives at Allen Hotel, Bay City, Mich.

me Symptoms of Weak Heart

Sinking Feeling, Heart Paint,

"I was weak and miserable

"I was subject to heart palpitatio

Heart Fluttering

motion may cause it.

Mr. Beattie says:

able, there's cause for alarm.

the walls and doorways.

the same mournful average.

It was as a prisoner at Nazareth-change after bread and water, va- them. Their small bodies were in rags, lousy, half-starved and of- separate from their families, with the then removed for burial; and more ten bootless—lived like beasts of the intimation that the lives of relatives man avoiding military service, so Many times, in the bozaars and mothers left more infants against fields. They were kept from open or friends would pay for a breach of revolt by fear of the Germans, the loyalty. When I was a prisoner at

Yet the Germans were sending journey from Aleppo to Asia Minor longing for the British to advance. bed with one greasy blanket and a, who stood outside my door, and one train-load of grain I saw soldiers running from the rail- And in Constantinople Enver Pasha, rickety little table, on which stood or two of his friends. all hungry and fruit out of the country; German way line towards the hills, under the pseudo-Napoleonic war minister, rickety little table, on which stood or two or his menus. an and in rags—would hang around in privates were better fed than Turkan earthenware carafe for the bad and in rags—would hang around in privates were better fed at them with revolvers. They the rotting amount and in rags—would hang around in privates were better fed at them with revolvers. an earthenware carate for the bad and in rags would man around in privates were leaving and Telaat Pasha, rose even higher. Finally the police of the wishes of the population water supplied to me. The only wa- the corridor until the remains were leaving a life of chedlent. The scheming grand relates of police blackman was written "vive Les Anglais!" water supplied to me. The only wa- the corridor until the remains were isn majors and the scheming grand vizier who was taken out, then put their dirty clans made fortunes by juggling the army for one of lawless once a telegraphic.

"To the devil with the poor. Let of thousands took to the mountains the Caucasus. Solitary confinement makes a man ful friend in the dragoman who came them rot," were the words used by and wild places of Asia Minor, there In the capitol, I found, conditions

The daily deaths of babies from prospect of loot, a total lack of in- Damascus Arab officers often stole ey. Anybody who knows the Turk- Pasha was whispered to me, followstarvation averaged about fifty in telligence, and the stupid fatalism into my room when the Turkish com-Damascus; and Aleppo could boast ingrained in the Turkish peasant. | mandant was absent, and spoke Several times during the train their hatred of the Turks and their

ter in Nazareth, by the way, that was taken out, then put their dirty claim made for one of lawless once a telegraphist at Adrianople, that they might not continue to let that wildfired through every bazaar not bad and liable to contain disease hands into the dishes, snatch pieces with the food supplies. The Young misery as brigands Hundreds of thousands deserted that was to include the Maritza Basin tary net. Thereupon the blackmail population more despairing than

-if the army-dodger possessed mon- hatred of the Germans and of Enver

the need for soldiers became more bill a small piece of paper on which

rangement, the recognized tariff was bitter mirth. two hundred dollars for each month's leave, with pretended complaints suggested by the doctors by as innocent as they appeared. We way of bouns.

my ward doctor one thousand dol- of propaganda. After the first of lars if I could be evacuated to Eng- the 1918 bomb raids on Constantinand as an unfit prisoner. The doc- ople Captain Yeats threw out a tor was delighted, and would have hint that the attack was not the earned the money if the Ministry of work of the British at all, but was a War had not sent its own medical display of Hun frightfulness, to staff to decide which prisoners were show what would happen, if the

to be exchanged. self-sacrifice. The pro-German Min- pearance of truth. pers; but for the rest it folded its true.

or a fair bribe for the privilege of re- lies would win the war. Once a parmaining in civilian clothes a fort- ty of us were sitting with our guards When, with the passage of time, when a waiter hid underneath our

When a rich man-Turk, Greek, Damascus or Akon-Kara-Hissar that Jew or Armenian-really was con- a revolution had broken out in Consend him to a hospital, bribe the loved the British and was about to hospital who examined him, and, open the Dardanelles, or that Bulfinally, bribe the medical board to garia had declared war on Turkey. give him leave. At the large hos- For a time such fairy tales gave pitals in Constantinople, such as the birth to hope in the prison camps, one in which I shammed mental de- but afterwards they occasioned only

Yet these rumors were not always ourselves started one or two stories While in hospital I once 'offered on their sensational rounds, by way Turks' loyalty to Germany wavered The miserable, exploited popula- After an interval of weeks this beaution seemed powerless to translate tiful lie was whispered back to him discontent into action. It lacked by a Greek, with every circumcourage, cohesion and capacity for stance and detail to give it an ap-

istry was thus able to carry on un-1 Nothing, in fact, was too amazing hindered its policy of terrorism. Ito be believed in Constantinople, and Both with us and among themselves at the time I was hiding there, noththe people talked sedition in whis- ing indeed, was too amazing to be

STARTING IN BUSINESS.



JOHN CORNELIUS.

funeral directing. Mr. Cornelius is fully acquainted with all the in-John Cornelius Has Opened Under-tricacies of the business, having comtaking Establishment on Princess St. menced his apprenticeship when only thirteen years of age. For many years he was with the late W. M. Drennan and later took over the managership of the undertaking establishment of T. F. Harrison. When Mr Harrison retired from that busines Mr. Cornelius became associated with S. S. Corbett and for twenty-one years has served him. Mr. Cornelius has now opened his premises and many friends in the city will wish him success in the endeavor for which he is so well qualified.

### Save the Children

Mothers who keep a box of Baby's Own Tablets in the house may feel that the lives of their little ones are reasonably safe during the hot weather. Stomach troubles, cholera infantum and diarrhoea carry off thousands of little ones every summer, in most cases because the mother does not have a safe medicine at hand to give promptly. Baby's Own Tablets relieve these troubles, or if given occasionally to the well child will prevent their coming on. The tablets are guaranteed by government analyst to be absolutely harmless even to the newborn babe. They are es-After thirty years' experience in pecially good in summer because the undertaking business, John Cor- they regulate the bowels and keep nelius, son of the late Capt. John the stomach sweet and pure. They Cornelius, has opened a modern es- are sold by medicine dealers or by tablishment at 274 Princess street, mail at 25c a box from The Dr. Wiland is prepared to do embalming and liams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

### back across Anatolia was unsafe in jand Armenians remained untouched, the highest degree. In every fast- if they left politics alone. There was ness one would be certain to meet a plenty of paper money about, and not

Arab town of Kadimain

from the Air.

band of armed ruffians, destitte and a little gold. Those were the days of utterly merciless, who would cheer- extravagant speculation, when minfully kill for the sake of a pair of isters received colossal bribes, little boots or a shirt.

More than a few German soldiers acting as go-betweens, and rich who had walked a mile or two from merchants manipuliated so as to get the beaten track were killed by bris gands. Many of the gendarmes sent to deal with the robber bands were found dead, with their heads battered in. Many others were hand and glove with them, and gave information of possible plunder. Sometimes a gang would descend on a village, I remember being taken to the kill a few inhabitants as a warning ing line upon line of fishing boats to the others, and proceed to steal

Three friends of mine, British offithey might not be floated. The reason for this, I was told, was that cers, once escaped from Affion-Kara. several of the fishermen had taken Hissar, in the centre of Asia Minor, their craft to Cyprus and deserted to with the intention of travelling the British. To prevent desertion southward to the coast. During the that all but the wealthy went sugarallowed to put to sea from the Medi- caves, and avoided observation by terranean ports; with the result that coming into the open only at night- the sugar bought by the wealthy thousands of people who lived by time. All went well until, on a hill- would have been mixed with powderside, they found themselves sur-The misery we lived through was rounded by brigands. One of them such as would be quite impossible in offered resistance, and was promptly shot dead. The other two were stripped of their clothes, so that when

Easily Corrected cloth Black Sea provinces, who, having caped the systematic massacres of 1915-1916, hid in the hills and kept themselves alive by robbing Turks.

The Plight Of The Armenians, In the provinces the lot of the sub- scoundrelly enormously wealthy Leject nationalities was dreadful. Most vantine vulgarians all made rich see if your symptoms resemble of the Armenians had been wiped by fattening on the starved popula out, and most of the few left alive tion. had run through great hardships to | Some of the ministers traded opthe British zones of occupation. Ex- enly, Enver Pasha and his assocept for one of two traders in the ciates owned two of the largest larger towns, the only Armenians left shops in Stamboul. The "Comin Anatolia were young women kept | mittee of Union and Progress," a for the pleasure of Turkish officers

Thousands of Greeks were dragged "As I grew worse I began to have interior, where they were lucky to obtain any kind of shelter. Often sums for their political ends.

they were recaptured one was quite take but a few of the swindles I naked, and the other was clad in remember from my Constantinople nothing but a sack, which a kind days, these were the Smyrna sugar brigand had given him for a waist graft, involving the barefaced theft of twenty truckloads of this com-There were so many brigands in modity; the Regie tobacco graft; the GOOD ADVICE TO FOLKS BOTH- Turkey during the last year of the cocaine and quinine hold-up, enginwar that they had to rob and murder eered by a few Jewish speculators. each other, so as to gain a bare so that for a time the hospitals existence. In particular, the Turkish could obtain these drugs only at the bands made a dead set against the price of twenty thousand plastres few handful of Armenians from the per kilo; the oil swindle, the match swindle; and, above all, the cornering of the wheat supply, whereby many of the poor were starved. And the beautiful Island o Prinkipo, with its magnificent villas, was infested by swarms of oily,

politicians made little fortunes by

A large consignment of sugar, for

example, was received from Austria

at twenty plastres a kilo. The cus-

toms authorities held it up and stole

as much as they dared for private bar-

ticians and ministerial underlings bar-

gained behind closed doors. Then a

certain amount of the sugar was sup-

plied, at nominal rates, to the army,

the navy and the civil officials; and

the rest was sold in open market, by

the merchants who had bid highest

for the privileges, at more than two

hundred piastres a kilo. There was

gaining, while the merchants, poli-

vampire of corruption that drained the very life blood of the people, enof profiteering, and by controllin



Five years ago today, July 5, 1914." The Kaiser's Crown Council at Potsdam received upon war. Find General Von Hindenburg.

Answer to westerday's puzzle. Upside down nose near han