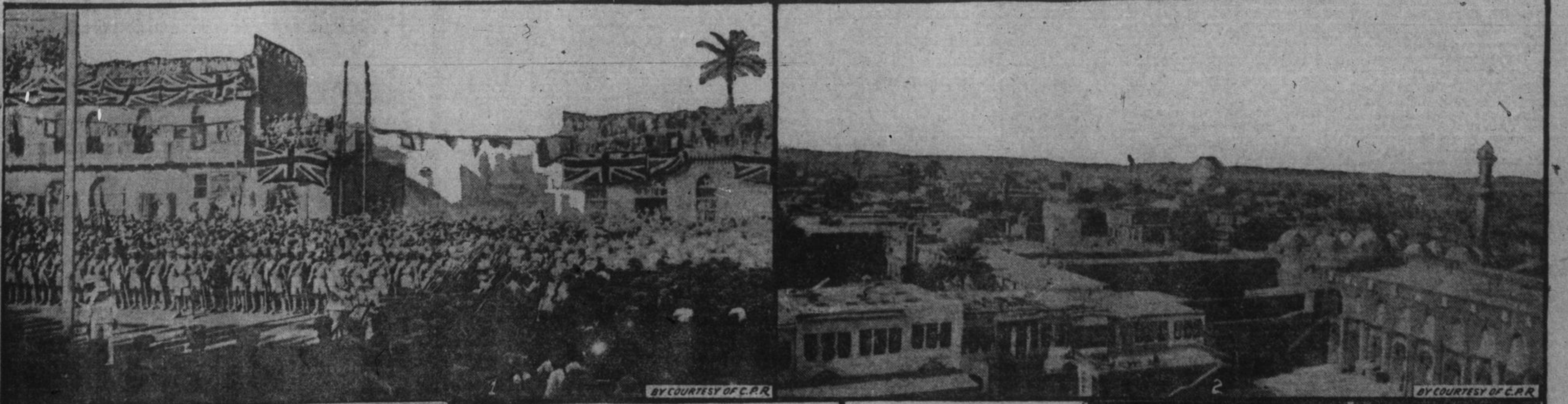
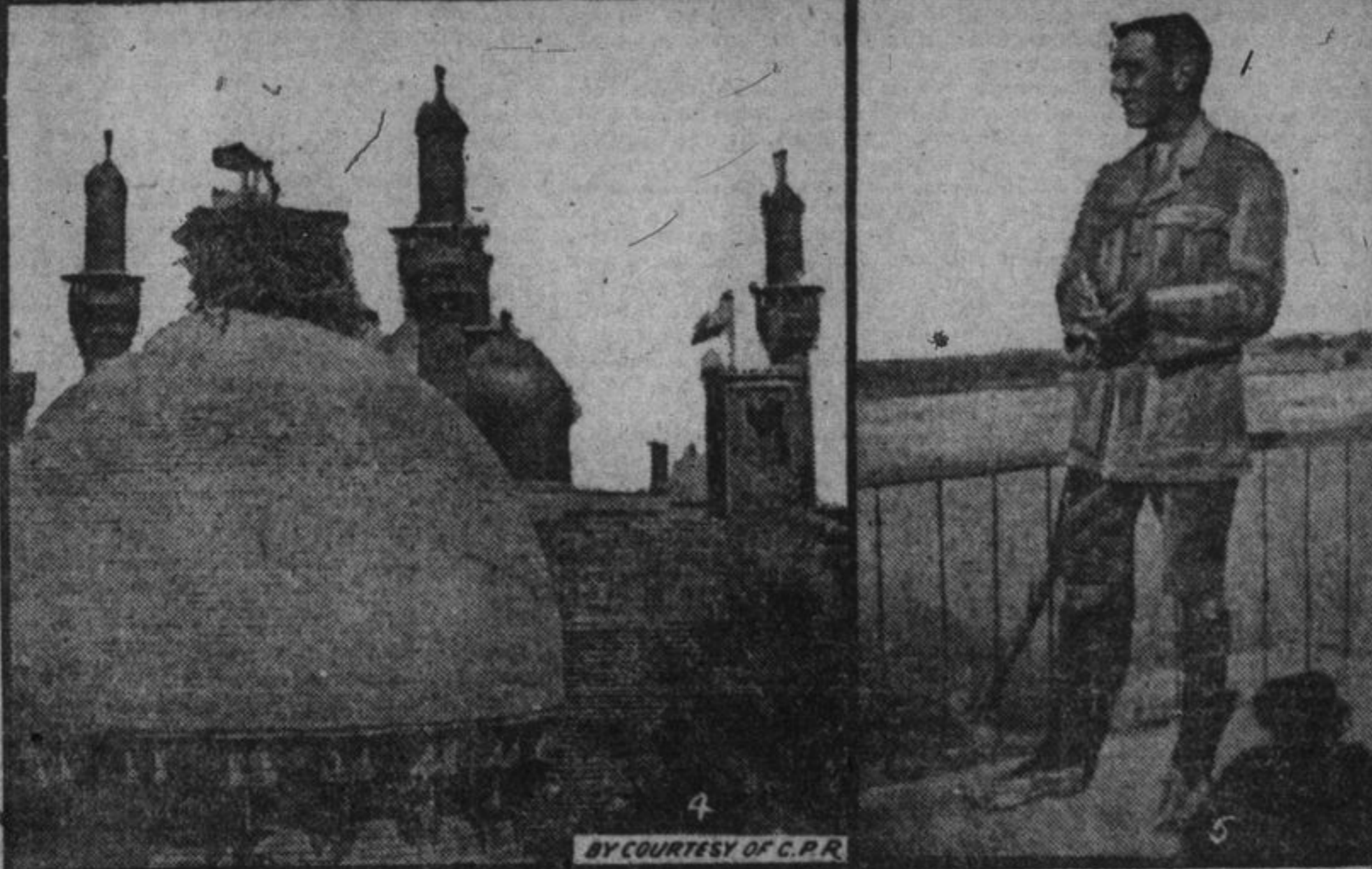
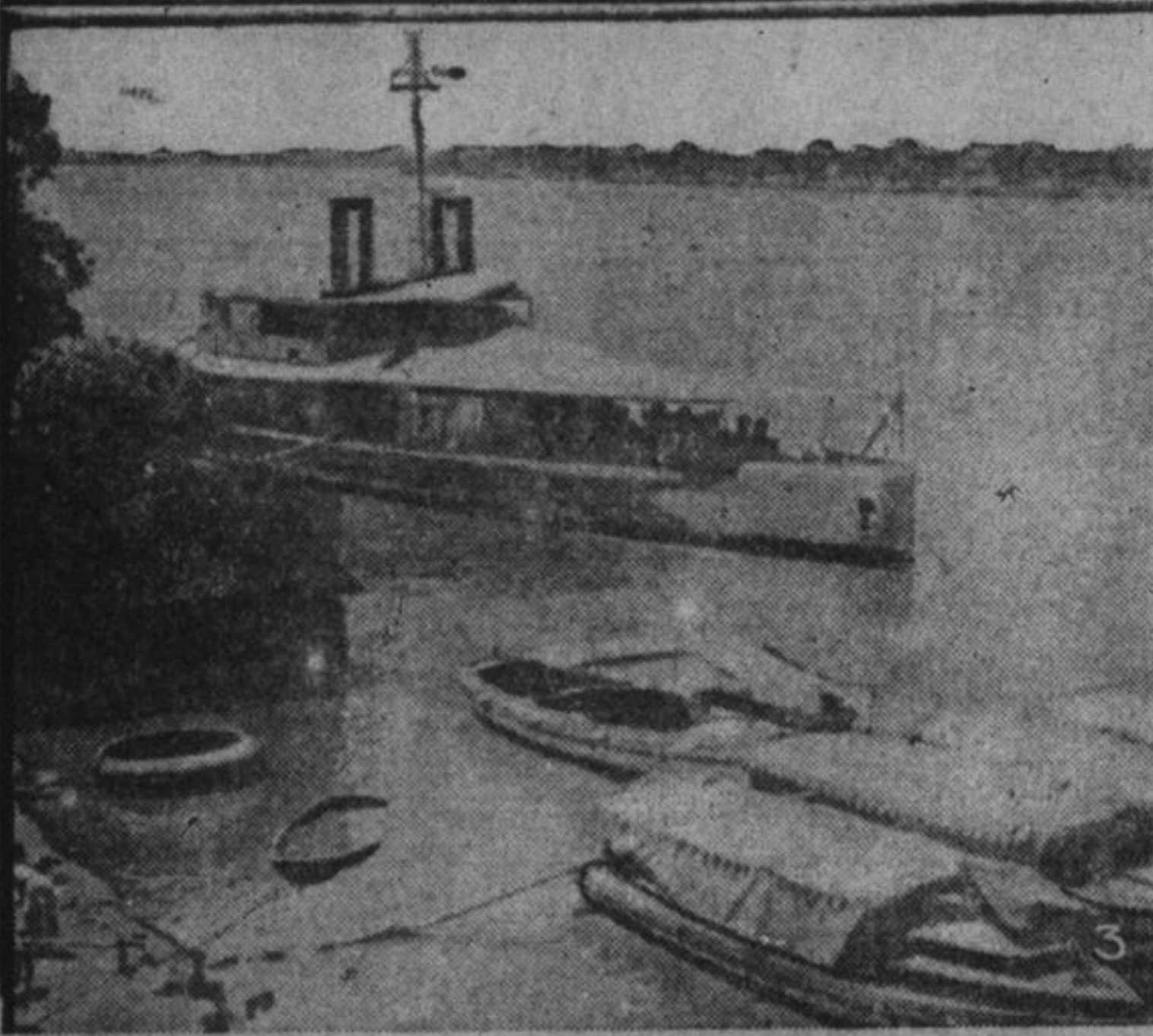


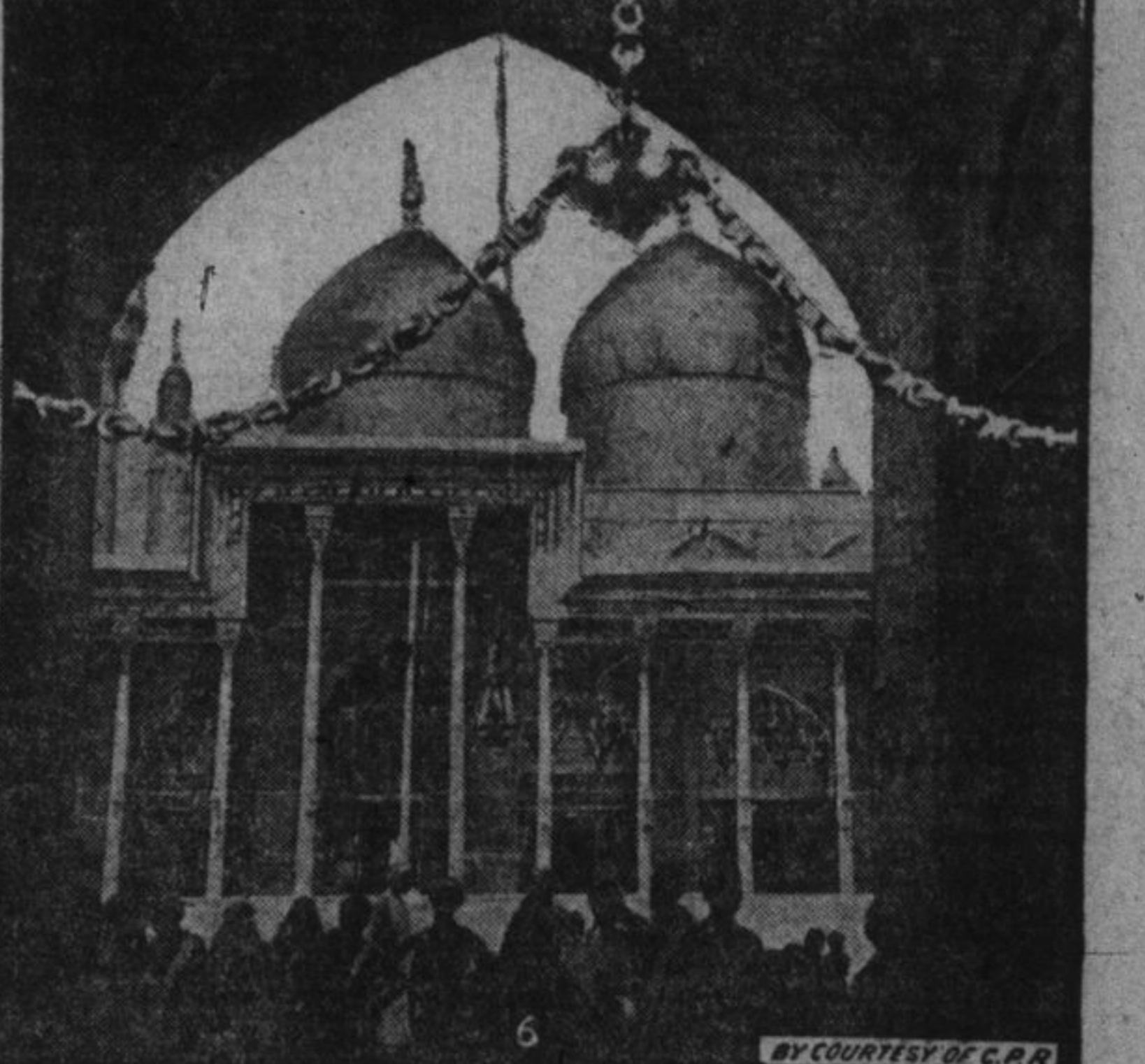
BAGHDAD AND THE MESOPOTAMIA CAMPAIGN



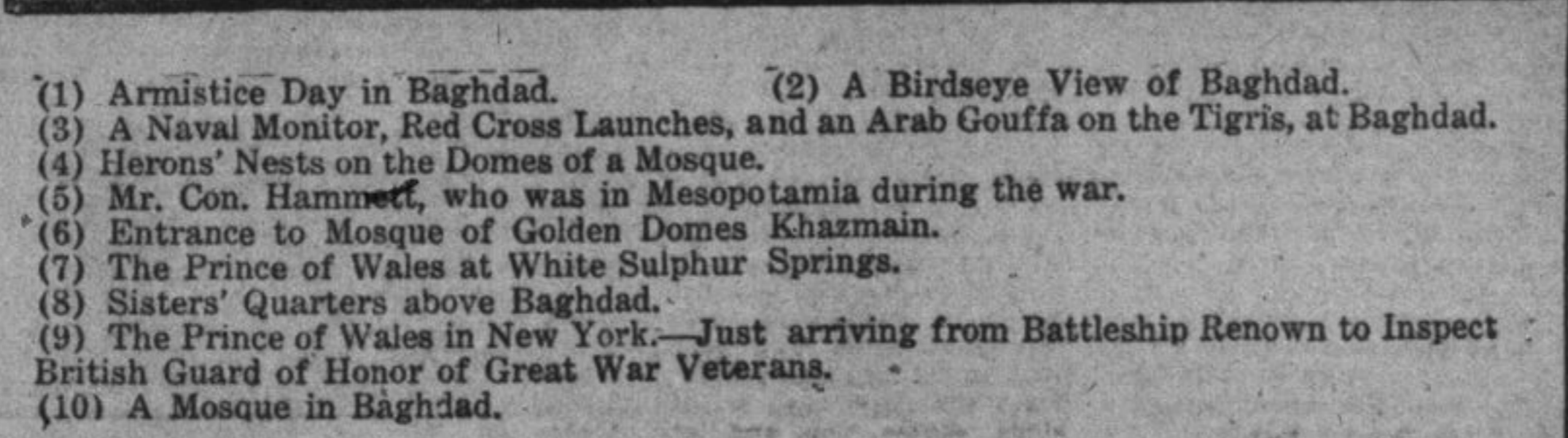
BY COURTESY OF C.R.R.



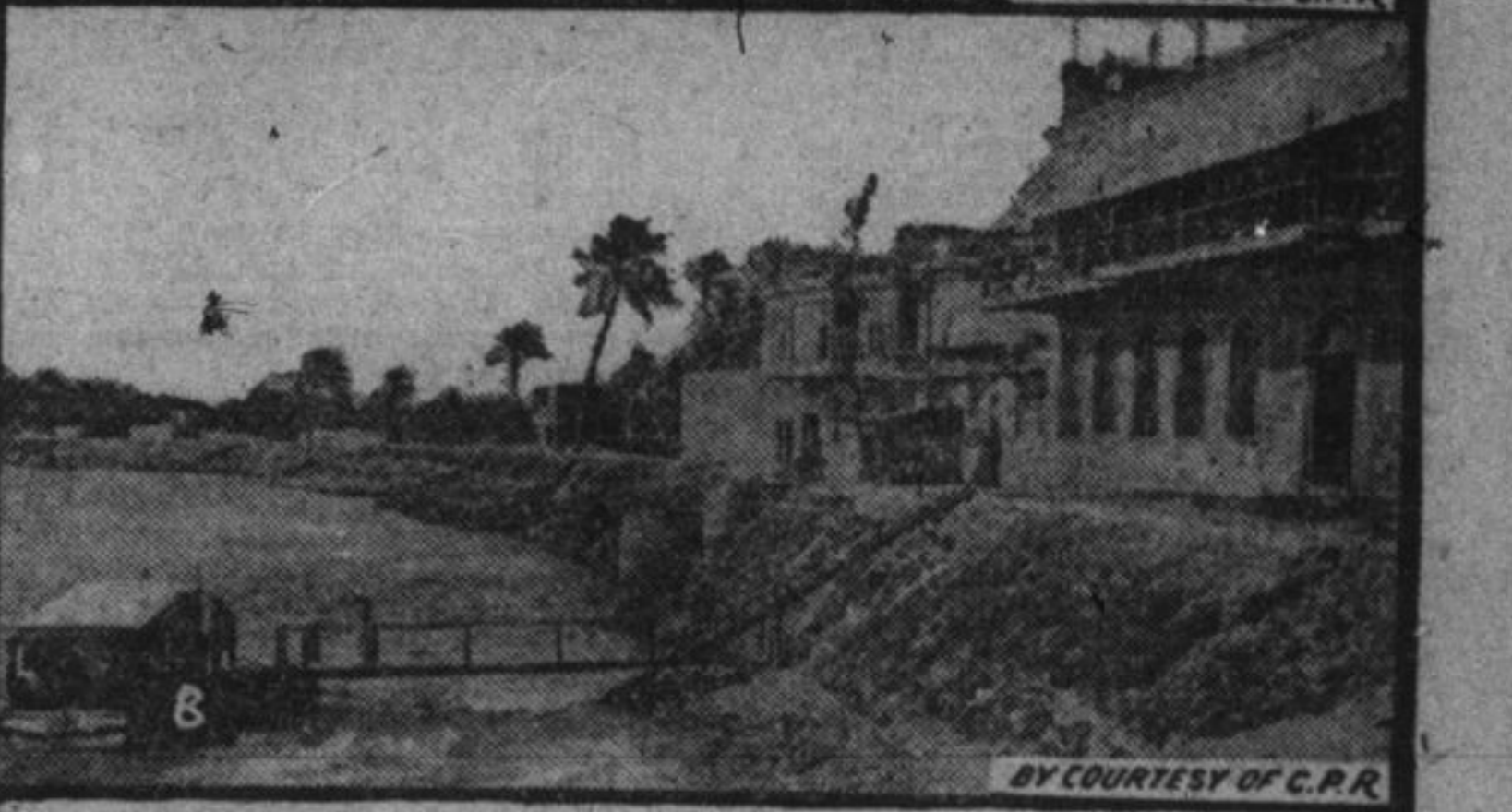
BY COURTESY OF C.R.R.



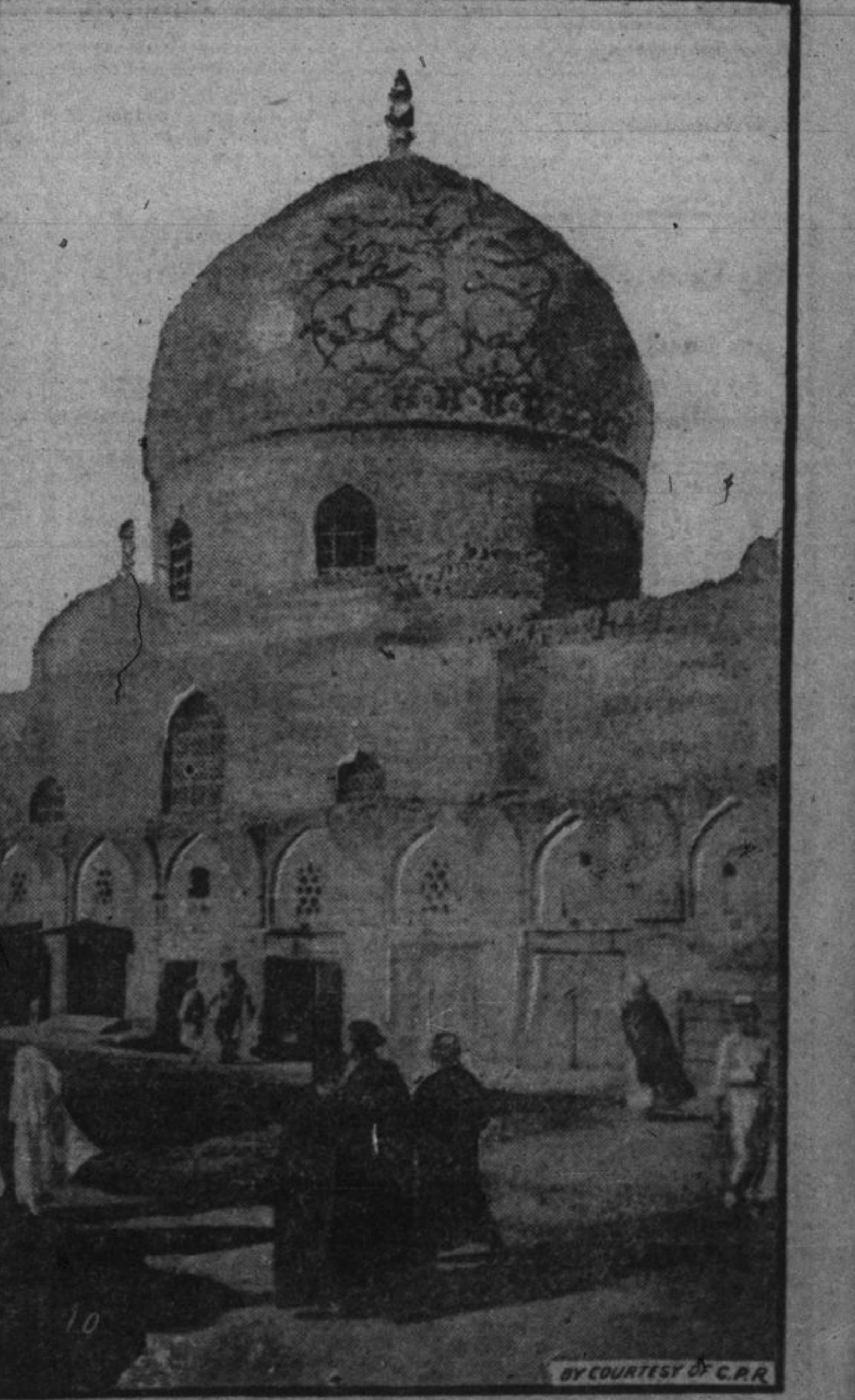
BY COURTESY OF C.R.R.



(1) Armistice Day in Baghdad. (2) A Birdseye View of Baghdad.
 (3) A Naval Monitor, Red Cross Launches, and an Arab Gouffa on the Tigris, at Baghdad.
 (4) Herons' Nests on the Domes of a Mosque.
 (5) Mr. Con. Hammett, who was in Mesopotamia during the war.
 (6) Entrance to Mosque of Golden Domes Khazmain.
 (7) The Prince of Wales at White Sulphur Springs.
 (8) Sisters' Quarters above Baghdad.
 (9) The Prince of Wales in New York.—Just arriving from Battleship Renown to inspect British Guard of Honor of Great War Veterans.
 (10) A Mosque in Baghdad.



BY COURTESY OF C.R.R.



BY COURTESY OF C.R.R.

THE PRINCE IN THE UNITED STATES.

The Prince of Wales captured the hearts of the people of the United States just as he did the hearts of the Canadians. Enthusiastic receptions greeted him everywhere he went. In Washington he made a profound impression amongst American statesmen, and in that capital as well as in all the other cities visited the Prince was idolized by the people, who were glad to learn that an English Prince can be as democratic as the humblest of his countrymen. The Prince was made a freeman of New York city. When leaving there he promised to see the United States soon again. The visit just completed will no doubt add to the friendly relations that exist between the British Empire and the great American Republic.

THE BRITISH AT BAGHDAD.

With the eyes of the world concentrated on that all important area known as "The Western Front", the arena of the greatest crusade in the world's history, the progress of Great Britain's lesser campaigns have passed almost unnoticed. Yet the successful occupation of Mesopotamia was the termination of all Germany's hopes in the East; and in no other area of the war has British prestige suffered greater vicissitudes. With the surrender of that ill-fated band of heroes under General Townshend our prestige in our vast Eastern possessions was at its lowest, and in no instance has it been more brilliantly upheld than in the subsequent route of the Turks and the British occupation of all that vast territory. No other campaign has exemplified with greater clarity the pertinacity of British troops in the face of almost unsurmountable difficulties; no other campaign in proportion has placed a bigger toll on the lives, health and reason of the Empire's defenders.

It is not my purpose in this short article to describe the military operations in detail, these are already, or will in time be adequately recorded in literature. I can, however, try to visualize to all who live under the protection of the British flag the untiring and heroic efforts which have been made to reduce these vast deserts peopled by nomadic and often recalcitrant tribes to some semblance of law and order. The rise and fall of civilization in this country has been affected more than any other by the energy or the laissez faire of its various conquerors, of which the British occupation is the addition of but one more to a list which comprises all the preceding Empires which are recorded in history. Like a page from the history of the great Alexander's triumphant wars in the East, the British occupation has been marked by the same remorseless fight against the enemy, the continual depredations of nomads on its long line of march, the unceasing toll on the lives of brave men by excessive heat and lack of water and transport, and the wastage of every resource and disease that the flesh of man is heir to. Following in the wake of our disease-stricken emaciated but victorious troops, have gone the first incursions of British law and order. At the call of duty, these men—than whom none are braver—have carried the initial propaganda of the Empire's political policy into the vastness of the desert; here gaining the allegiance of one wandering tribe, there being foully murdered and his body subjected to all the indecencies which religious fanaticism can prescribe. It is in these byways of the world that the Empire puts its greatest test on the loyalty of its subjects.

A contrast of the conditions in Baghdad under Turkish and British rule is in itself a conclusive testimony to the beneficial results which have accrued to the population of this town under our regime. Needless to say the Baghdad of today is very different to the same city in the time of the Great Caliph. It has that worn and dissipated look which is sometimes seen in a man who after a prosperous youth and prime middle-age drags out his remaining years in poverty and make-believe. Any romance which may have existed among its delapidations, the rigors of martial law have successfully exterminated. The Bazaars, at one time the richest in the East, consist now of long gloomy alleys of mere holes in the walls, punctuated by gaps of brilliant light where the roofs have fallen in; these spaces only serving to accentuate the tawdriness of the wares and the filth of the merchants. Handicrafts are confined to the crudest only of workmanship, a sufficient indication of the centuries of poverty which by a miracle the place has been able to survive.

At the taking of the city the street bazaars, houses and people were in an appalling condition too loathsome to describe. It is remarkable that any-one who entered a Turkish hospital ever left it alive, for on our arrival the patients were slowly being devoured by parasites in the most obnoxious atmosphere and filth it is possible to imagine. Conditions in this last respect are an entirely different now, that I can truthfully say that with a few reservations the hospitals of this town can compare very favorably with our home institutions. The streets and bazaars are now clean, wholesome, and moderately passable. There are special sanitary police, who attend to and prevent the necessity for scavenging, a condition very different to affairs under the regime of the Turks, when the streets were the receptacle for all rubbish and the scavenging left to dogs and crows. Since our arrival the main streets, principal houses, hospitals and public buildings are lit through-out by electricity and furnished with electric fans for the first time in their long and varied history.

This area of Mesopotamia, which under an old system of irrigation long since destroyed, enjoyed great prosperity and ranked as the greatest grain producing country of the then known world is with the completion by British engineers of the dam across the Euphrates on a fair way to a return of some of its old grandeur. Efficiently governed its population conserved by modern hygiene, its communications opened up by railway construction, it may quite easily become once again the half-way house between the markets of the Far East and the West.

C. HAMMETT.



BY COURTESY OF C.R.R.