

The Western Guardian

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LEVER BROTHERS LIMITED, Toronto, Ont.

BACK TO P. E. ISLAND AFTER FIGHTING TURKS

Flight Lieutenant Johnson, Son of Rev. E. A. Johnson, Kensington, was with Allenby in Holy Land.

Flight Lieutenant E.A. Johnson, son of Rev. E. A. Johnson, of Kensington, arrived in Charlottetown on Thursday night, accompanied by his brother, Mr. G. S. Johnson, of Winnipeg.

Lieut. Johnson has just returned from overseas and comes fresh from Palestine where he took part in the final overthrow of the Turks by General Allenby, the deliverer of Jerusalem, who is now ranked with the most brilliant generals of the war.

Lieutenant Johnson enlisted in 1915 in Calgary with the Field Ambulance Corps. With this unit he crossed to England and landed in France in the same year and was detailed to hospital duty. But the sterner fighting life of the war appealed more to this red-blooded Canadian and he was successful in getting his commission and securing his appointment with the 4th Canadian Battalion. He went through many battles in France with the infantry and was wounded at the Somme in 1916. His wound was slight, however, and following a quick recovery he applied and was accepted in the Royal Air Force and in Sept. 1917, he was on his way from England with a corps of Imperial airmen to Egypt for training.

Lieut. Johnson declares that the unspeakable Turk has been crushed

for all time and his Empire has crumbled. "I tell you there were no failures in Allenby's bow when it was launched, no half-way success, said he in a recent interview. "It was a grand success, decisive, quick and crushing and there were no regrets; the Turk was conquered and, as he had been reported previously all that escaped of the Turkish army was the German leader Von Saunders, his two daughters and their baggage and they just made their getaway by three-quarters of an hour."

Following training and duty in Egypt he was detailed with the air force that was to play such a telling part in the final overthrow of the Turks and their German leaders.

Coming directly to the preliminary launching of the brilliant blow against the Turkish forces in Palestine Lieutenant Johnson in an interview said that all was carefully planned by Allenby and his staff. There was nothing left undone. At times criticism was hurled at General Allenby for his delay in striking but all the while Allenby knew what he was doing. He was gathering all the available men and war material before pushing forward. He was running no chances and when he struck he was ready and sure of success.

Like other flyers who have been in Palestine with Allenby Lieutenant Johnson says that the air force played a great part in bringing about the ultimate victory.

"The worst of it all was you can never get the enemy planes to stay long enough to fight," he said, "and it was a chance from beginning to end. The British flyers kept a constant observation over every movement of the Turks. Bombs were continually dropped on the armies, camps and billets with the result that the Turk was harassed at all times and unable to carry out his plans.

"The drive strictly lasted two days, for the third day there was nothing to do but to gather in prisoners. On the morning of which the drive was launched the left flank of the enemy was pierced by our cavalry; the latter making their way right through and were able to draw up behind part of the Turkish forces. The portion of the enemy's right flank knew nothing of this and finally the entire enemy army was hemmed in. To illustrate the decisiveness of the blow," said Lieutenant Johnson, "on the first night of the drive an enemy aircraft on duty through the day arrived back at its landing station. This station had in the early part of the day been captured by us. The machine was about to land when the observer discovered his mistake. It was then too late. The observer was shot and the pilot taken prisoner. In that machine were found the order for the Turkish army to retreat so there is no wonder the blow struck by Allenby came as a surprise. All their communications were cut off and known to us and the whole thing just resulted in a walkover. The Turks put up a stiff fight for a short time but they soon realized the hopelessness of the situation, which had developed too suddenly for even some of them even to grasp its significance.

"In one day the land force advanced fifty miles, showing the weakness of the resistance offered. Along a road of five miles in one particular part on either side of the highway and as the motor transports passed along the drivers were captured and the amount of stores and war material taken was enormous. Along this short bit of road alone there were 1,000 horse transports, eighty-eight guns and 100 motor transports taken, not counting the prisoners.

"On the first night of the drive by midnight our machines were over the Turk airbase thus making an easy path for the cavalry. The main attack was launched on the left flank of the enemy where the cavalry and infantry did great work. The enemy was compelled to burn most of his machines which he did freely. He was outnumbered in the air and on land and we also were far superior in every other way."

Speaking of flying in the vicinity of Palestine Lieutenant Johnson remarked that the climate was ideal, but the country over which the fighting occurred was very rocky. The outlying hills were a mass of smooth rock making a forced landing of a machine rather treacherous work. Lieutenant Johnson said that he was forced but once to make a landing but was fortunate in "getting away with it."

Lieutenant Johnson said that when the Turk was attacked and saw he was fighting a losing fight he gathered the bulk of his army and attempted to reach the Jordan. The whole Turkish force was forced by Allenby between two deep hills. "There he was," said

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 - Black Dog Muff at 6.00 9.50 18.00
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 - Marmot Stoles, 7.00 10.50 12.00 20.00

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