

ALLENBY  
SOLDIER AND STATESMAN

The general must know how to get his men their rations and every other kind of stores needed in war. He must have imagination to originate plans, practical sense and energy to carry them through. He must be observant, untiring, shrewd, kindly and cruel, simple and crafty, a watchman and a robber, lavish and miserly, generous and stingy, rash and conservative. All these and many other qualities, natural and acquired, he must have. He should also, as a matter of course, know his tactics; for a disorderly mob is no more an army than a heap of building materials is a house.

**SOCRATES**



FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT ALLENBY OF MEGIDDO AND  
FELIXSTOWE, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

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ALLENBY  
SOLDIER AND STATESMAN

*By*  
FIELD-MARSHAL  
VISCOUNT WAVELL  
OF CYRENAICA AND WINCHESTER  
G.C.B. C.M.G. M.C.



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## PREFACE

I UNDERTOOK the writing of Allenby's biography nearly nine years ago—shortly after his death. I was then commanding a division at Aldershot; busy, but not so busy that I could not hope to complete the work in reasonable time. It took me many months to collect material, since Allenby had left no record of his life and no papers. Just as I had got fairly started on the writing I was sent to command in Palestine, and soon had to deal with a rebellion there. I returned to England in 1938 to take over the Southern Command, the largest and busiest in England, and again could spare little time for writing. When I was ordered to the Middle East, two months before the outbreak of war, I had almost finished the account of Allenby's military career, but had not begun the equally, or more, interesting history of his work as High Commissioner in Egypt. As I saw little prospect of writing this while the war lasted I arranged to publish what had already been done, leaving the Egyptian story till after the war. The result was *Allenby: A Study in Greatness*, which was published in 1940. It told of Allenby's life up to the end of the war against the Turks in 1918.

During the first two years of the war, when my headquarters were in Egypt, it seemed a pity not to take advantage of being on the spot and at least to collect material from those who had known and worked with Allenby, British or Egyptian. Gradually the volume *Allenby in Egypt*, which completed the story of his life, was compiled. It was written in spare hours or half-hours, often separated by days, weeks, or even months, during two years of intense military work. Some of it was written during my frequent journeys by air. It was published at the beginning of 1944. The present volume combines the contents of the two previous volumes, and thus contains a full record of Allenby's whole life. It is, in fact, the work as originally planned.

In this new edition certain portions of the first volume, on Allenby's military career, have been omitted, since I felt that they

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were not essential to the story of Allenby's life, and the complete book would be better balanced without them. Otherwise the matter of the two volumes has remained unaltered.

I have already acknowledged in the prefaces to the two previous volumes my thanks to the many friends who have helped me with this biography, and will not repeat them here, though my gratitude to them remains unchanged.

W.

NEW DELHI  
*November 1945*

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