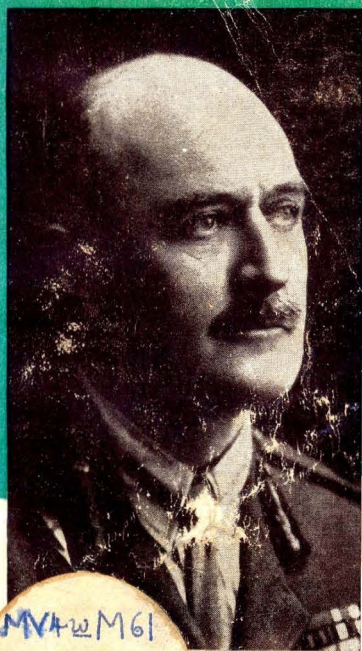


# ALLENBY

# IN EGYPT



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FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT

# W A V E L

OF CYRENAICA & WINCHESTER G.C.B. C.M.G.

VICEROY OF INDIA



# ALLENBY IN EGYPT

Volume II of

*Allenby: A Study in Greatness*

by Field-Marshal Viscount Wavell  
of Cyrenaica and Winchester  
G.C.B., C.M.G., M.C.  
Viceroy of India

After the last war, Egypt was fast approaching nationhood. As a result of freedom of speech and thought and material prosperity brought by the British occupation, the national consciousness was awakening after centuries of vassalage. At Versailles the Peace Conference was about to open; France was angling for Syria; the Balfour Declaration had created tremendous difficulties in Palestine. These, and many more, Near East problems cut across each other and were to produce their own repercussions in Paris.

Allenby, fresh from his Palestine victories, was appointed Special High Commissioner for Egypt, and it was to a troubled and potentially turbulent country that he had to restore law and order. Saad Zaghlul had become the champion of Egyptian nationalism. Riots and outrages against British soldiers and residents followed his agitation. Allenby promised to make inquiries and to redress grievances—and he adhered to this programme throughout his administration.

Unfortunately, Allenby found the same difficulties in his relations with the Foreign Office in London

(Continued on back cover)

**ALLENBY IN EGYPT**

## ALLENBY

### A STUDY IN GREATNESS

312 pages, illustrated.

"Here is a piece of work well done and apt reading for the times. General Wavell is at once the pupil and successor of his great Palestine commander, and is qualified also by sobriety, detachment of view, and a gift of clear, concise writing. Three factors have combined . . . the skill of the very competent biographer; the crescendo of interest, culminating in one of the most brilliantly conceived victories in history, and, last and most, the rugged splendour of Allenby's character."—SIR RONALD STORRS, in *The Spectator*.



*Photo "Illustrated London News"*

**FIELD-MARSHAL VISCOUNT ALLENBY OF MEGIDDO AND  
FELIXSTOWE, IN 1922**

# ALLENBY IN EGYPT

BEING VOLUME II OF  
ALLENBY: A STUDY IN GREATNESS

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

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TO  
MY FRIENDS IN EGYPT  
WHO SHOWED SO STOUT A HEART  
WHEN THE TEST OF THEIR FRIENDSHIP CAME



## PREFACE

I UNDERTOOK the writing of Allenby's biography nearly seven 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 the present 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 present 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 present volume 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

## PREFACE

of it was written in my frequent aeroplane journeys. On being transferred to India nearly two years ago I laid the manuscript aside. I felt, however, that the record of Allenby's courage and leadership could not fail to be an inspiration in these troubled times. So I have lately made a special effort to revise and complete it.

The story of Allenby's work in Egypt has not before been told in any detail or with fairness to Allenby; Lord Lloyd's *Egypt since Cromer* was obviously written without full knowledge of the facts. Allenby cared for results only, and never chose to justify or explain them. It is hoped that the present story, of which the facts can be guaranteed, will enable a better judgment of his career and character to be made. I believe it will be held fully to justify the sub-title of the previous volume—"A Study in Greatness". I believe also that the stout support Egyptians have given us in this war, especially at times when our victory must have seemed doubtful to them, can be attributed in some measure to the impression that Allenby left of British resolution and fair dealing.

Since this second volume has appeared after so long an interval, I have caused to be reprinted here—as "Allenby the Man" and "Allenby the General"—the prologue and epilogue of the previous volume, which summarize Allenby's character and military qualities. They will help the reader to appraise Allenby's career and character as a whole.

I owe a deep debt of gratitude to two men who have most generously helped me with information—Sir Walford Selby and Gerald Delany. They lived through the events described, had intimate knowledge of the personalities concerned, and possessed a keen sense of history. Selby, as a member of the Residency staff in Cairo and later of the Foreign Office, has given me the inside, official viewpoint. Delany, as Reuter's representative in Egypt for many years, has been in close touch with both official and

## PREFACE

unofficial circles, British and Egyptian; his knowledge and judgment of events in Egypt are unrivalled. He was better qualified than I to write this book, but has generously given me instead his knowledge and help. I hope that he will soon write his own book on Egypt. Among others who have given me valuable help and advice are the late Sir Maurice Amos, Sir Alexander Keown-Boyd, and R. A. Furness, who were all three on the staff at the Residency during Allenby's term of office, and Colonel R. H. Andrew, Lord Allenby's nephew. I thank the Foreign Office for allowing me to see the official documents of the period. Finally, I thank my cousin, Raymond Wavell-Paxton, for all the work he has done in dealing with my publishers at home in my absence abroad.

I deeply regret that Lady Allenby, who asked me to undertake this Memoir of her husband, did not live to see the task completed. She leaves with all who know her the memory of a gracious and noble woman, a fitting companion to her great husband.

A. P. W.

*New Delhi,  
April 1943.*

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as had many other British administrators. The Foreign Office was aware of unrest, but did not appreciate the deep nature of its causes, and either would not take the advice of the man on the spot or dallied with half-measures. Vexations, disappointments, misunderstandings, were characteristic of the whole six years of Allenby's administration. The British in London attacked him; the Egyptians respected and trusted him. "But both Great Britain and Egypt owe him a debt of gratitude. In a most difficult period in the relations between the two countries, he upheld essential British interests without causing bitterness; he secured for Egypt independence from a reluctant British government and a liberal constitution from a reactionary monarch."