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Australians and the Arab Uprising Reading List

The Arab Revolt is seen by historians as the first organized movement of Arab nationalism. It was started by Sherif Hussein ibn Ali, who conducted a series of campaigns, starting from Mecca in June 1916. It brought together different Arab groups for the first time with the common goal to fight for independence from the Ottoman Empire. Much of the history of Arabic independence stemmed from the revolt beginning with the kingdom founded by Hussein. After WWI was over, the Arab revolt had implications. Groups of people were put into classes based on if they had fought in the revolt or not and what their rank was. In Iraq, a group of Sharifian Officers from the Arab Revolt formed a political party of which they were head. Still to this day the Hashemite kingdom in Jordan is influenced by the actions of Arab leaders in the revolt.

Throughout the war, Turkey had done its best to encourage uprisings against British rule in Egypt. At the war's end, nationalist leaders, such as Saad Zaghlul, agitated for an end to the British protectorate. On 8 March 1919, to head off the movement, British administrators exiled Zaghlul to Malta. This immediately led to widespread disruption, strikes and violence. To control the situation, the Australian Light Horse and what remained of the New Zealand Mounted Rifles were rearmed and re-horsed. The 3rd Australian Light Horse Brigade under Brigadier-General Lachlan Wilson was stationed at Zagazig. Eventually, he had twelve regiments, a Rolls-Royce armoured car and motor transport under his command (Wilson 1919: Appendix pp. 8-22). Their role was to break up riots and protests, enforce curfews, and protect property and vital assets. There were strikes, boycotts and attacks on communications assets including telephone, telegraph and rail. The operations began under relatively simple rules of engagement: firing on mobs, except when in absolute self-defence, was forbidden. By May, due to robust operations by the Australians in particular, along with concessions made by the British government, riots were tailing off. June was exceptionally quiet and, by July, the Light Horse was finally on its way home.

DEASEY, David J. (2019). **Post-war operations in the Middle East.** *United Service* **70** (1, March), 13 – 16. Call No: J030 US 2019.

GRAVES, Robert Ranke (1928) *Lawrence and the Arabs* (London : Cape) Call No: 576 GRAV 1928

GULLETT, H. S. (1941). *The Australian Imperial Force in Sinai and Palestine 1914-1918.* The official history of Australia in the war of 1914-1918, Volume VII, 10th edition (Angus & Robertson: Sydney). Chapter XLV and Appendix The Egyptian Rebellion in 1919 pp. 776-793. Call No. 570.14 BEAN v.7

KIRKBRIDE, Sir Alec Seath (1971) *An Awakening: the Arab campaign 1917-18* (Tavistock, Eng.: University Press of Arabia) Call No: 576 KIRK 1971 [Australians: 23, 32, 56, 80-3, 128-9]

PERRY, Rowland (2009) *The Australian Light horse: the magnificent Australian force and its decisive victories in Arabia in World War I* Call No. 576 PERR 2009 [Arab Revolt p. 207-9, 215, 216, 218, 258, 259, 279, 282, 291, 301, 359, 269, 412, & 505]

GREY, Jeffery (2015) *The War with the Ottoman Empire: The Centenary history of Australia and the Great War Vol. 2* (South Melbourne: Oxford University Press) Call No. 570.14 CENT 2015 [Arab Revolt p. 10, 86, 101, 104, 109, & 154]

WILSON, L. C. (1919). *Narrative by Brigadier-General L. C. Wilson C.M.G., D.S.O. of operations of Third Light Horse Brigade, A.I.F., from 27th October 1917 to 4th March 1919* (L. C. Wilson: Zagazig, Egypt). Call No: 503.2 WILS 1919

Secondary Sources

THOMAS, Lowell (192-) *With Lawrence in Arabia* (London : Hutchinson) Call No: 576 THOM 192?

DJEMAL, Ahmad, Pasha (1922) *Memoirs of a Turkish statesman, 1913-1919* (London: Hutchinson) Call No: 501.2 DJEM 1922

HAMILTON, Jill, Duchess of (2002) *First to Damascus: the story of the Australian Light Horse and Lawrence of Arabia* (East Roseville, N.S.W.: Kangaroo Press) Call No: 576 HAMI 2002

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Dr David Leece
Library Manager
5 March 2019