

The Ashar, on the Creek near Bridge. Basra



How We Won the War in Iraq

FRANK DAVEY

B.2167.

Abdulaly & Brothers, Baghdad

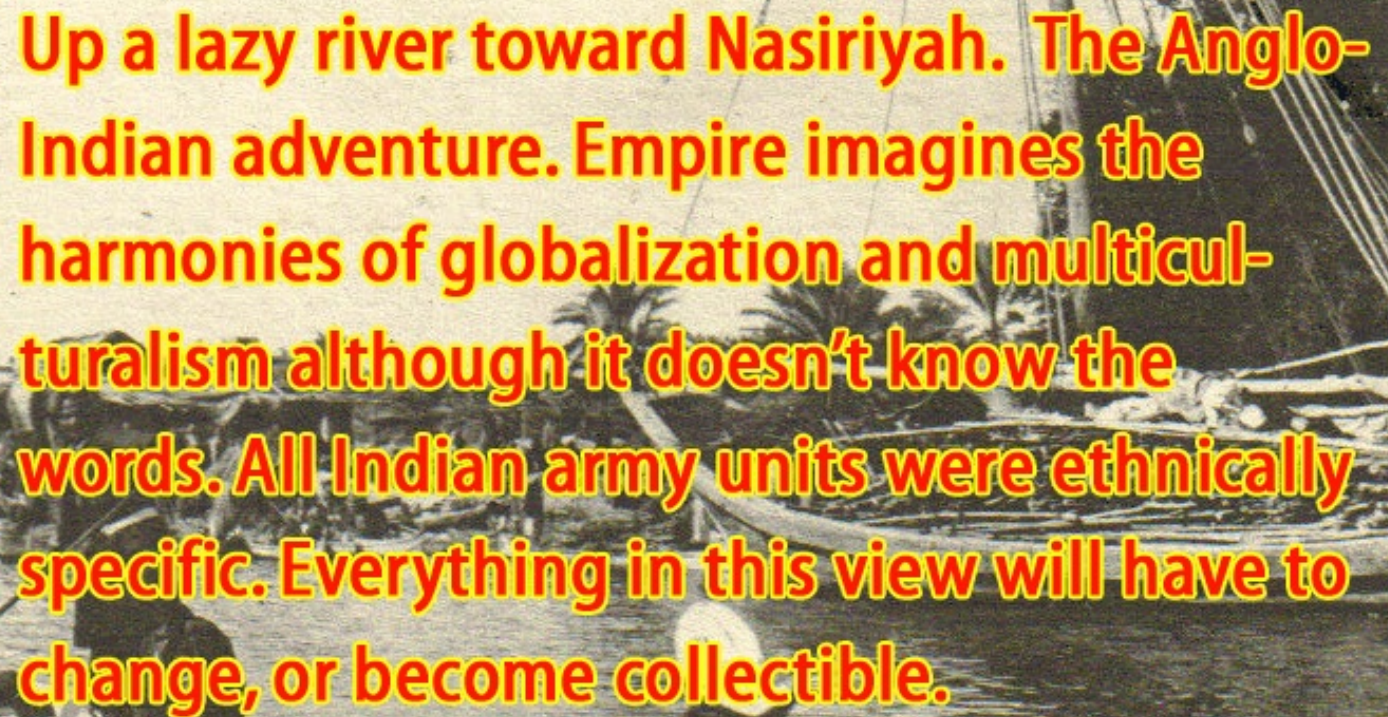
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FRANK DAVEY

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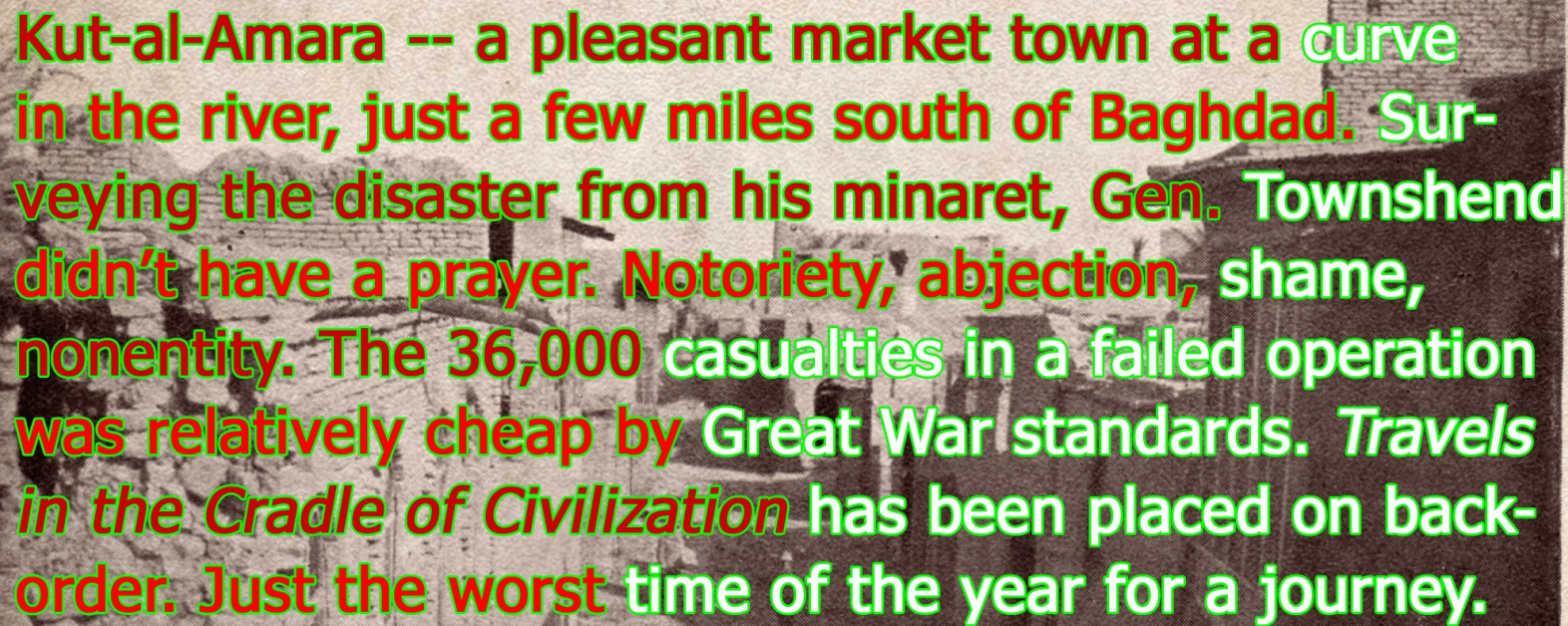


Up a lazy river toward Nasiriyah. The Anglo-Indian adventure. Empire imagines the harmonies of globalization and multiculturalism although it doesn't know the words. All Indian army units were ethnically specific. Everything in this view will have to change, or become collectible.

Dissimulation. Lynndie England. Dal Lake.

Fuel Market, Basra.

FD



Kut-al-Amara -- a pleasant market town at a curve in the river, just a few miles south of Baghdad. Surveying the disaster from his minaret, Gen. Townshend didn't have a prayer. Notoriety, abjection, shame, nonentity. The 36,000 casualties in a failed operation was relatively cheap by Great War standards. *Travels in the Cradle of Civilization* has been placed on back-order. Just the worst time of the year for a journey.

KUT-EL-AMARAH. (134)

A ruined street.

The smoke drifts toward the ozone layer. See, the emperor does have clothes. Vikings too, and vandals. War, she said, is economic initiative by other means. Far called, our navies melt into the invisible business of redistributing advantage. Of course, the sea is calm tonight.

Naval engineering. International relations History.

FD

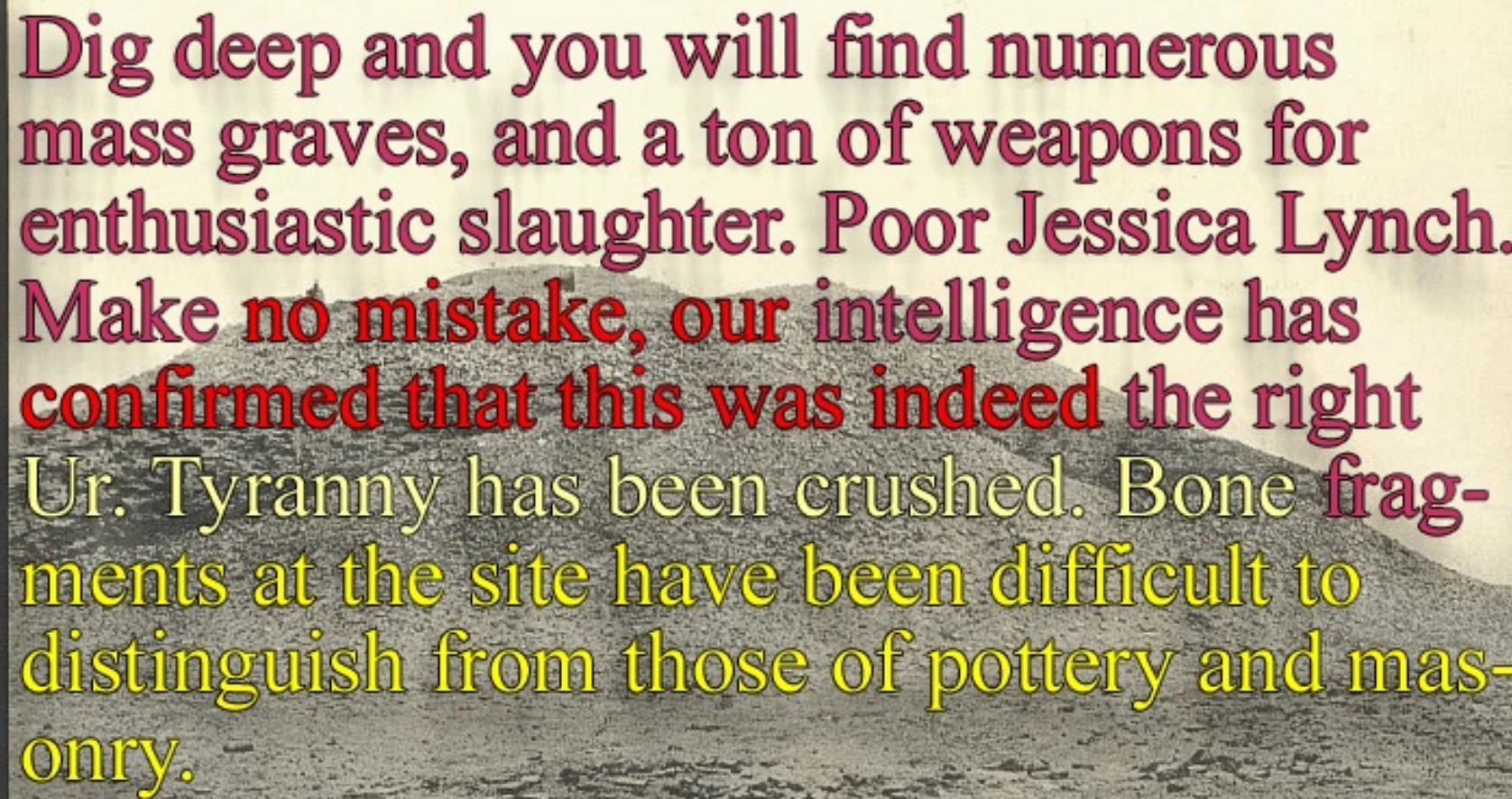
H.M.S. EMPEROR OF INDIA

Picturesque boats ply the inland waterways.
Western and Asian customs intermingle. On

larger ships souvenir photos could be printed within hours of the event. 'Freedom' was on almost everyone's lips.



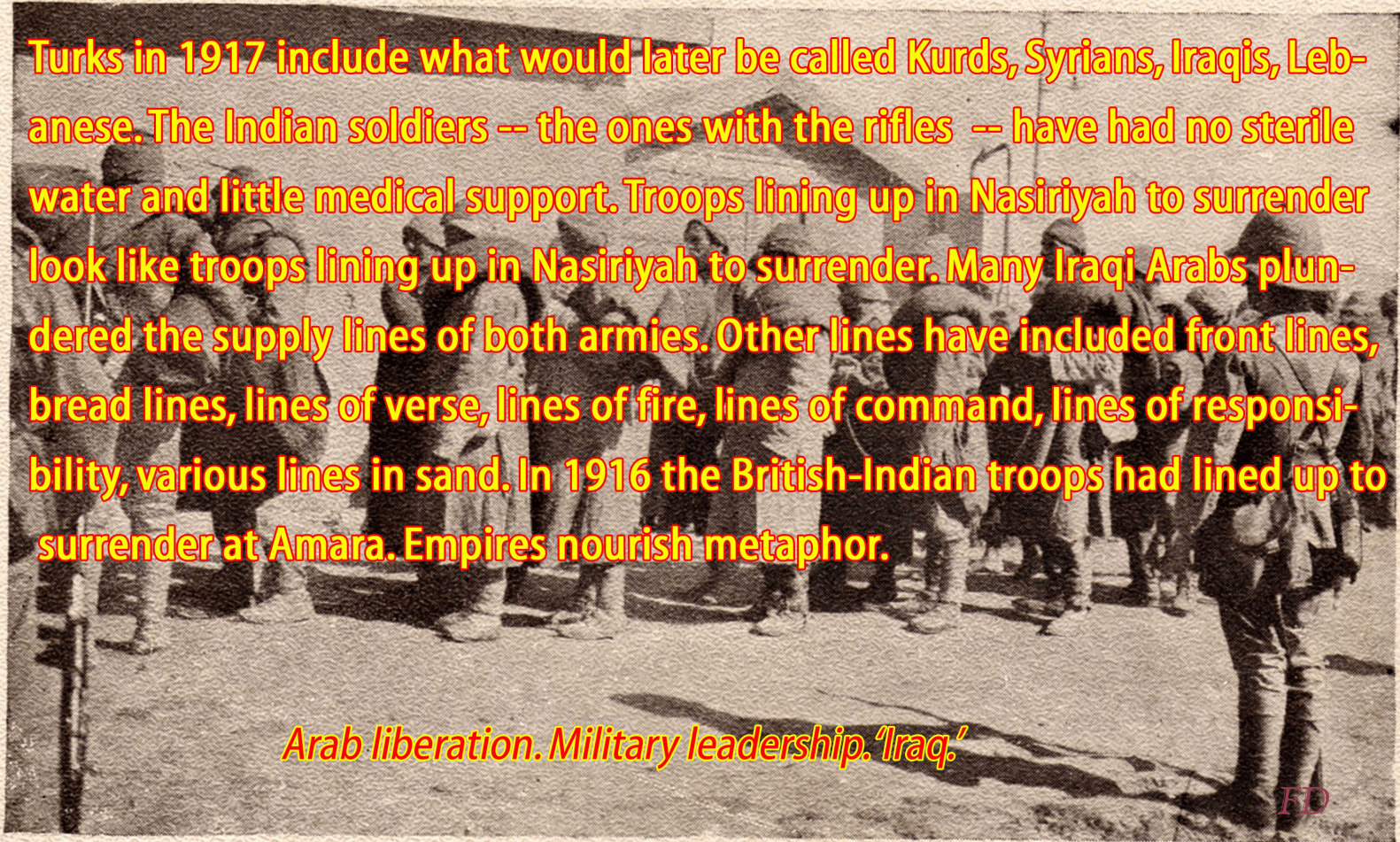
RIVER HOSPITAL BOATS ON THE SHATT-EL-ARAB.



Dig deep and you will find numerous mass graves, and a ton of weapons for enthusiastic slaughter. Poor Jessica Lynch. Make no mistake, our intelligence has confirmed that this was indeed the right Ur. Tyranny has been crushed. Bone fragments at the site have been difficult to distinguish from those of pottery and masonry.

"UR" of the Chaldees, Nasiriyeh.

Turks in 1917 include what would later be called Kurds, Syrians, Iraqis, Lebanese. The Indian soldiers -- the ones with the rifles -- have had no sterile water and little medical support. Troops lining up in Nasiriyah to surrender look like troops lining up in Nasiriyah to surrender. Many Iraqi Arabs plundered the supply lines of both armies. Other lines have included front lines, bread lines, lines of verse, lines of fire, lines of command, lines of responsibility, various lines in sand. In 1916 the British-Indian troops had lined up to surrender at Amara. Empires nourish metaphor.



Arab liberation. Military leadership. 'Iraq.'

(74)

Turkish Prisoners taken in February 1917.

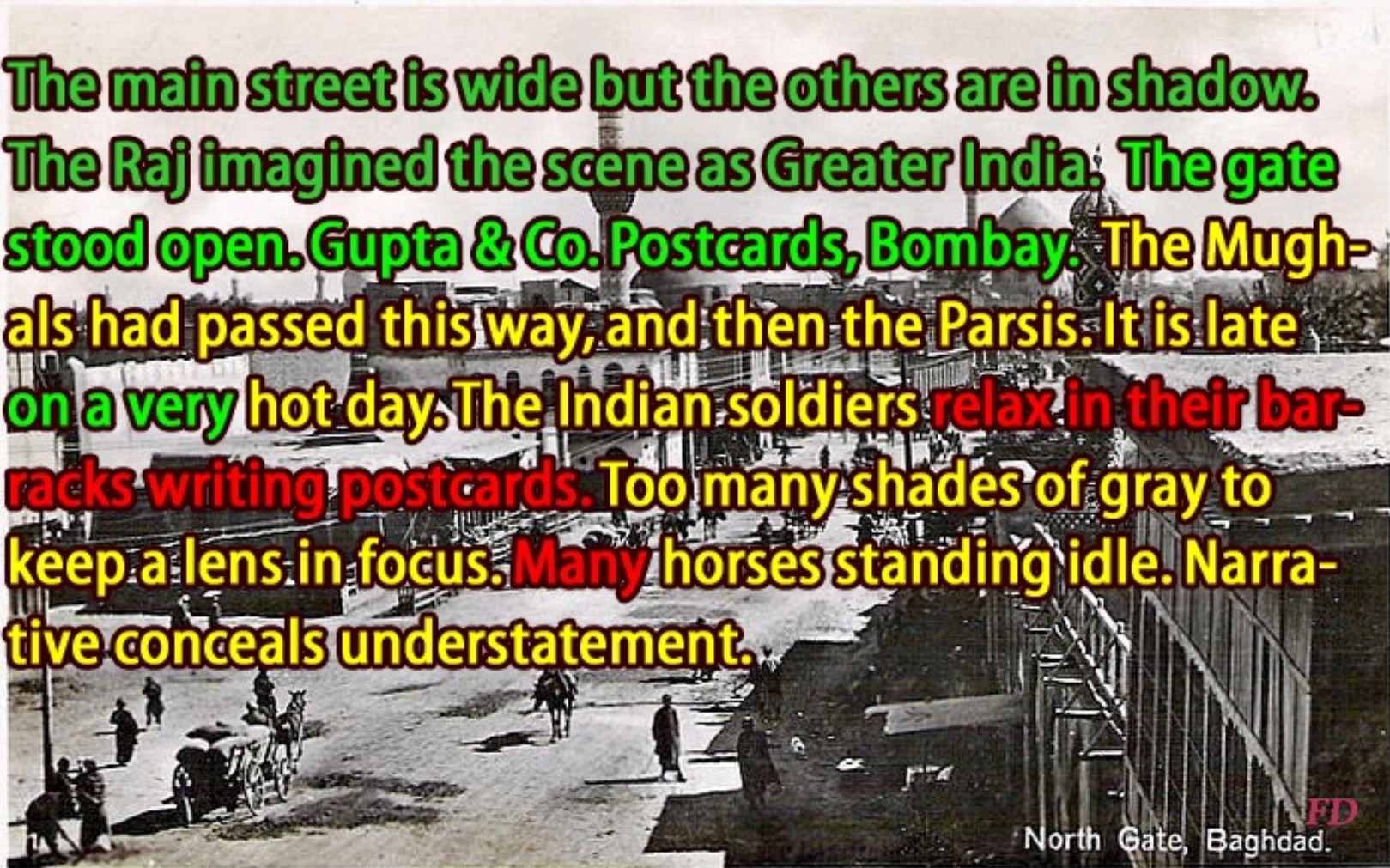
Peace Day Celebrations, Baghdad, July 19, 1919

'Celebration' may be a desire, or a political device. 'Peace' means that somewhere the Versailles treaty has been signed. Foreign fields have many corners. A flag can be the symbol of a pen. Germany is shrinking but the British Empire remains an indeterminate space. The sky is dark either because the photograph has not aged well or because the sky is dark.

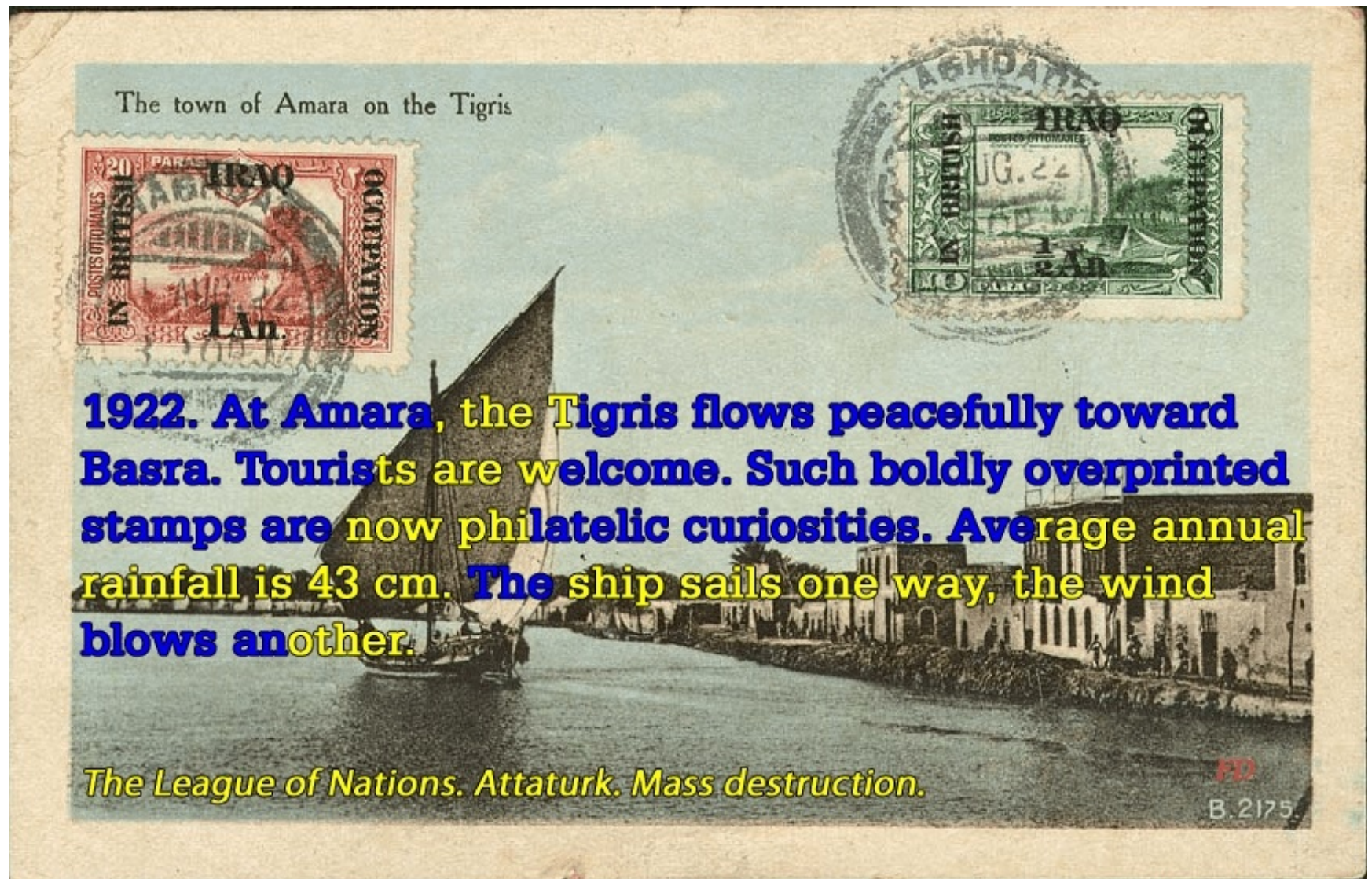
Exit strategies. International security. Meteorology.

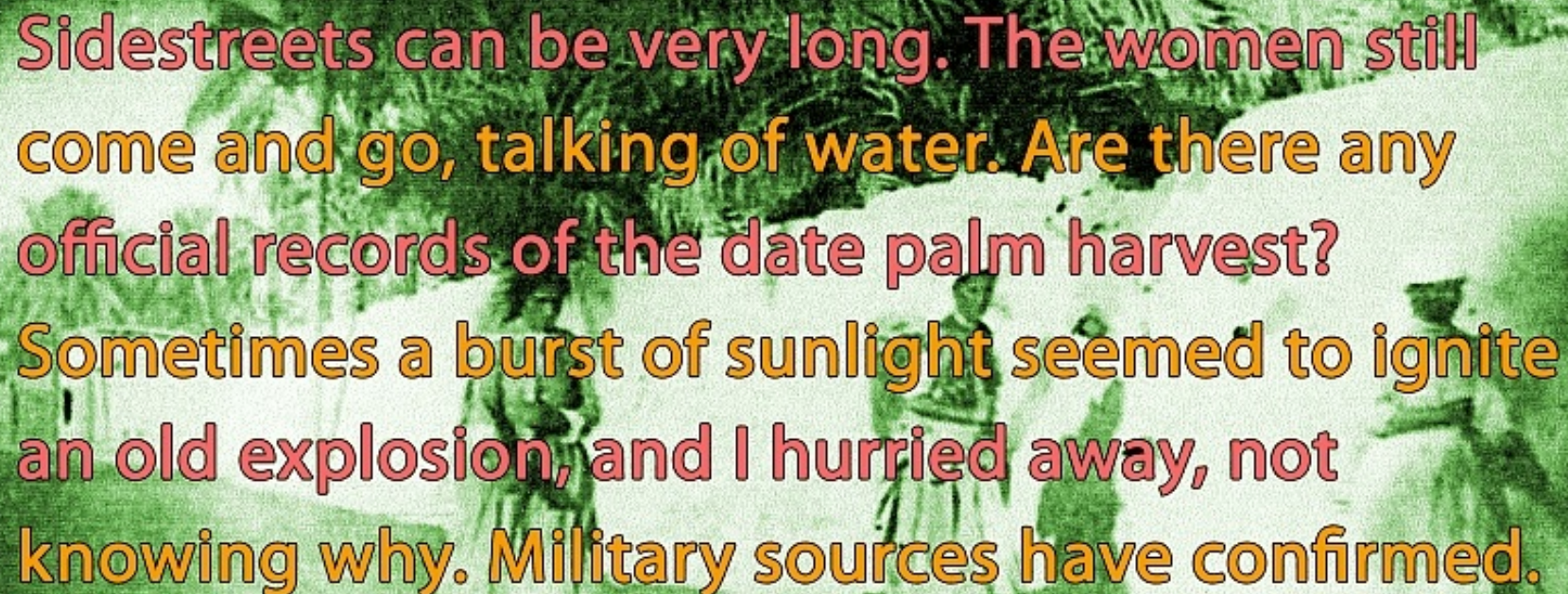
FD

The main street is wide but the others are in shadow. The Raj imagined the scene as Greater India. The gate stood open. Gupta & Co. Postcards, Bombay. The Mughals had passed this way, and then the Parsis. It is late on a very hot day. The Indian soldiers relax in their barracks writing postcards. Too many shades of gray to keep a lens in focus. Many horses standing idle. Narrative conceals understatement.



North Gate, Baghdad. **FD**

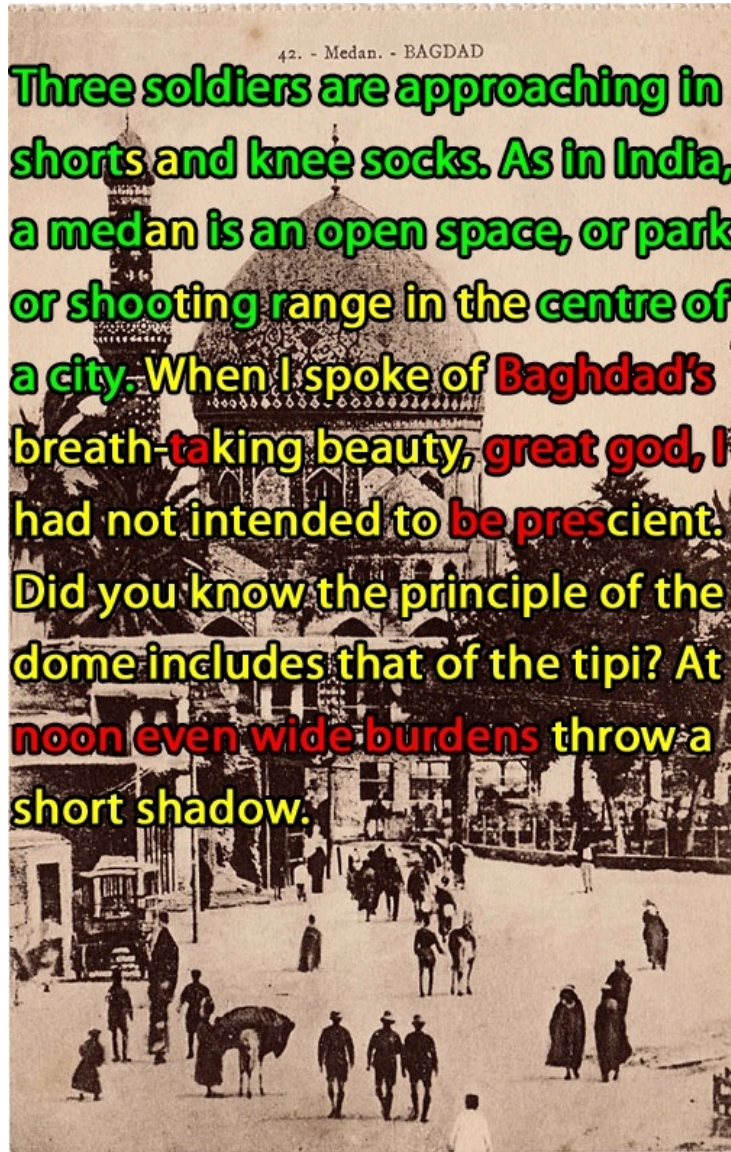




Sidestreets can be very long. The women still come and go, talking of water. Are there any official records of the date palm harvest? Sometimes a burst of sunlight seemed to ignite an old explosion, and I hurried away, not knowing why. Military sources have confirmed.

42. - Medan. - BAGDAD

Three soldiers are approaching in shorts and knee socks. As in India, a medan is an open space, or park or shooting range in the centre of a city. When I spoke of Baghdad's breath-taking beauty, great god, I had not intended to be prescient. Did you know the principle of the dome includes that of the tipi? At noon even wide burdens throw a short shadow.



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