

ANGLO-IRAQI DIALOGUE FOUNDATION

ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE (AISC)

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



September 2018

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Solidarity Event with Basra

A solidarity event was held on 21 September at Ravenscourt Park Methodist Church. Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) attended this event, which was hosted and organised by the Iraqi Cultural Café in London to show solidarity with the city of Basra in its current difficult situation.

Basra is Iraq's second largest city after Baghdad, and its people have suffered greatly in the last decades. However, in the last two months their situation became unbearable as the city has had no running drinking water. Thousands of citizens have been admitted to hospital due to Basra's unsanitary conditions. This, combined with corruption, a lack of electricity and adequate services, has led to widespread protests and social unrest. At this event, the Iraqi community and Iraqi creatives stood in solidarity with the people of Basra. Poems were read by Mr Abdul Karim Kassid, Mr Awad Nasser and Mr Falah Hashim. A short film, based on the paintings of the Iraqi artist Mr Faisal Laibi Sahi, was also shown to the audience at this event.



The Iraqi community in solidarity with Basra at Ravenscourt Park Methodist Church, London



Higher education in Iraq

On 14 and 15 September, Ihsan M Al-Hakim, director of the Anglo-Iraqi Dialogue Foundation (AIDF) was invited to attend an international conference on the future of higher education in Iraq.

This conference was organised by London's Iraqi Embassy and the Iraqi Ministry of Higher Education in Baghdad, and was titled "Higher Education for the Development of Iraq". In attendance at this conference was Iraq's Minister for Higher Education, Dr Abdul Razzaq Al-Issa, the British MP and under-secretary of education Mr Nadhim Zahawi, and Baroness Emma Nicholson, the UK Prime Minister's envoy of commerce to Iraq. The heads of Baghdad University, Babylon University, Mosul University and Falluja University were also in attendance, as were the leaders of British universities including Sussex University and Loughborough University.

The conference was opened by the Iraqi Ambassador to the UK, Dr Salih Hussain Al-Timimi, who welcomed all guests and set out the conference's agenda. He stressed the importance of this conference in developing higher education in Iraq for the country's future prosperity. A speech was also given by the Iraqi Higher Education Minister at the conference's opening ceremony, in which he talked about the key role played by higher education in Iraq and the world. Many agreements and protocols were signed by the Iraqi and British educational authorities and organisations.



Anglo-Iraqi film premiere, London

The premiere of the Iraqi-British film, "English Breakfast" was held on 19 September 2018 in London. Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) attended this film premiere at the Phoenix Cinema in Finchley, north London.



The Phoenix Cinema opened in 1912, and was refurbished in 2010, keeping its original classic art-deco exterior and interior which is reminiscent of the Iraqi cinemas of Baghdad and other cities.

This film was directed by the Iraqi film director Mr Jaafar Murad. The film itself is an Iraqi social psychological drama focusing on the experiences of an individual in London who is haunted by his past. All his attempts to run away from his past in Iraq were unsuccessful.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Hasna Kadem & Jaafar Murad

The story of this individual, his family and friends shows some aspects of the Iraqi community's life in London with images of London's landmarks. These images were harmoniously combined with great background music, composed and made by the British musician Mr Gez Wenham.

Credit should be given to the director for his spontaneous filming of scenes, bringing together Iraqi and British professionals, actors and technicians, and producing this film with a limited budget. This opens the horizon for future productions of Iraqi-British and Arab-British films with a reasonable production budget.



The Phoenix Cinema, Finchley, London

International Cinema Festival for Women's Rights, Casablanca, Morocco

The International Film Festival for Women's Rights was held in Casablanca, Morocco, between 13 and 15 September 2018.

This film festival recognized and celebrated Arab and international films, including "Behind the Mirror", a film directed by the Iraqi film director Mr Jaafar Murad and starring Ms Sherine Chalhie, with music by Mr Gez Wenham. "Behind the Mirror" won the main award at the festival dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of women's rights.

This was the second International Cinema Festival for Women's Rights held in Casablanca, and its focus was on promoting and enhancing women's human rights. Delegations from many Arab and European countries participated in this festival, which is backed by many cultural organisations.

The festival was directed by Ms Raja Sharkaoui and the festival's co-ordinator was Mr Mohammed Amady. Its judging panel was led by Mr Nader Mustafa Qana from Kuwait University.

It was a great privilege for Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre to participate in some of the festival's events, to participate in the festival's night of success and to join all the festival's winners, including Mr Jaafar Murad, at their gathering held in the Majestic Hotel in Casablanca, Morocco.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla pictured with Iraqi film director Jaafar Murad, participants and the Casablanca Cinema Festival director.

Andalusian Music in Morocco

On 15 September, Nadeem Al-Abdalla from the Anglo-Iraqi Studies Centre (AISC) was invited to attend the Dar Al-Ala for Andalusy Music in Casablanca, Morocco, by Ms Lala Rashida Omrani who is a member of this Andalusian music house.

This was a great opportunity to visit the society of the Andalusian music in their iconic house whilst they celebrate their 60th year; the Dar Al-Ala for Andalusy Music was founded in 1958. It was great to talk with the music choir and to listen to their musical pieces.

Nadeem was received by the musical house's director, Mr Mounir Al-Safrioui, who is an artist and architect. He designed and refurbished the current music house which retains the classic Moroccan styles with Andalusian touches. A tour of this music house took in its museum which contains an array of tens of musical instruments left to the house by famous musicians, or which had been gathered and collected by the music house, and a great archive for classic Andalusian, Moroccan and other Arabic music and records.

Also, the museum contains tens of old music books and photographs. Some of the music books housed in this museum are more than 100 years old. Among its archives were documents of the first Arab Music Festival, held in Cairo in 1932, and the second Arab Music Festival held in Fes, Morocco, in 1947.

Andalusian music has always been the link between east and west, north and south, Arab and Europe, and also it connects Baghdad musicians with Andalusia/Spain a thousand years ago, which later moved into Morocco and other north African countries.



Nadeem Al-Abdalla, Mounir Al-Safrioui and Lala Rashida Omrani at the Andalusian Music School.



Artefacts at the Andalusian Music School



Andalusian Music School, Casablanca, Morocco



مركز الدراسات الانكلو عراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE

FROM OUR LIBRARY THIS MONTH

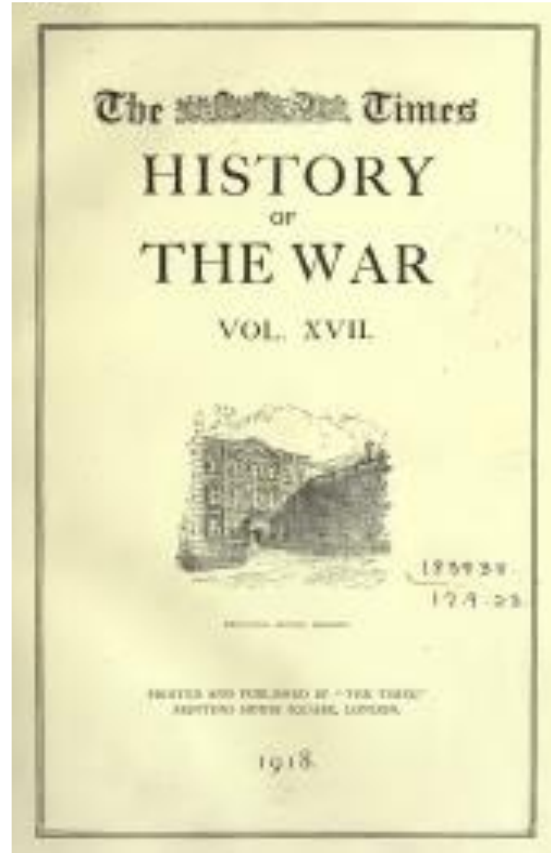
"The Redemption of Mesopotamia", *The Times History of the War Volume 17* (published 1918)

This was the ninth chapter of "The Times History of the War" (Volume 17) which was published in 1918 at the publishing office of The Times newspapers in London.

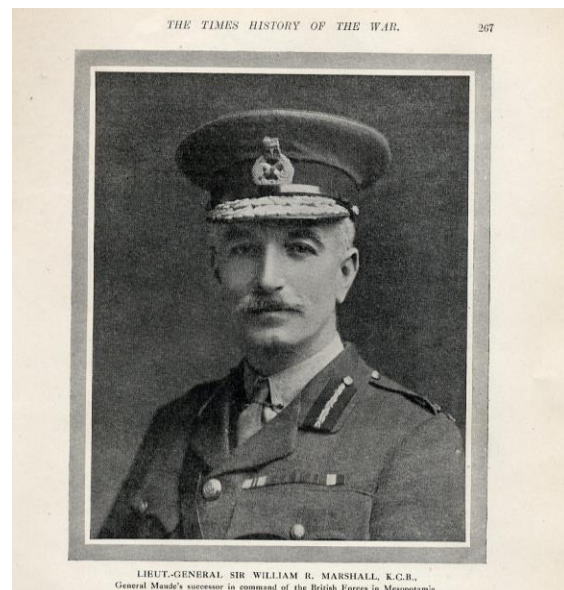
The Times is one of Britain's oldest and most respected broadsheet newspaper publishers. During the First World War (1914-1918) they published 22 volumes of what became known as "The Times History of the War". The contents of each volume came from weekly articles in The Times newspaper.

This article covers the last phase of the British Army's Mesopotamia campaign, including Britain's entry into Baghdad in March 1917 through to September 1918. Key events covered include the death of Sir Stanley Maude, the British Army commander who led the British troops into Baghdad; the coming of Sir William Marshall, who succeeded Maude as British Army commander; the retreat of the Turkish Army from Mesopotamia. The article shows photographs of the British Army troops and their artillery and Iraqi cities and local people.

مركز الدراسات الانكلو عراقية
ANGLO-IRAQI STUDIES CENTRE



"The Times History of the War" (Volume 17)



General Sir William Marshall, who took over command of the British Army in Mesopotamia (Iraq) at the end of 1917



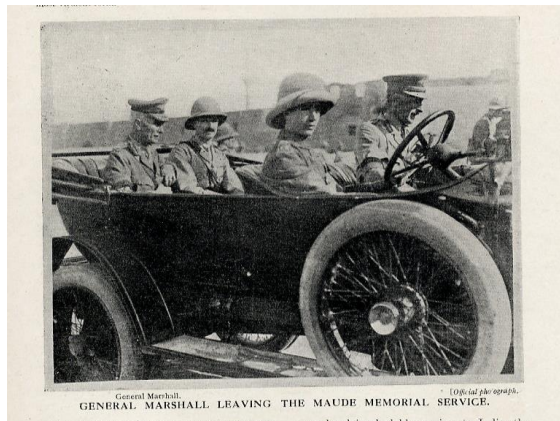
MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SIR STANLEY MAUDE.
Held in the Citadel, Baghdad, November 25, 1917.



A BRITISH COLUMN MARCHING THROUGH BAGHDAD.



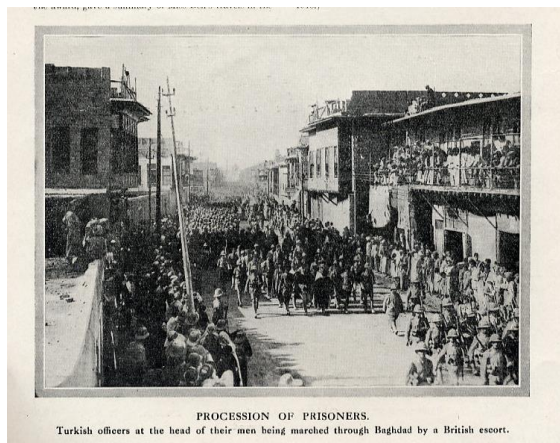
WATER FOR THE HORSES.



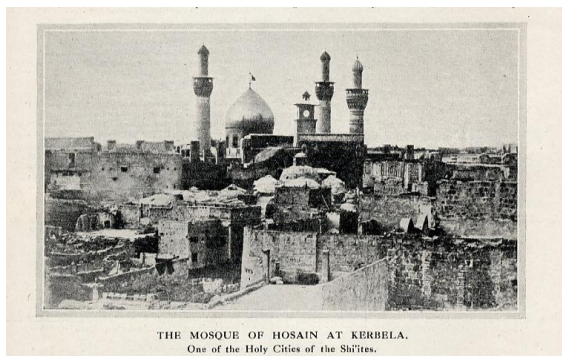
General Marshall.
GENERAL MARSHALL LEAVING THE MAUDE MEMORIAL SERVICE.



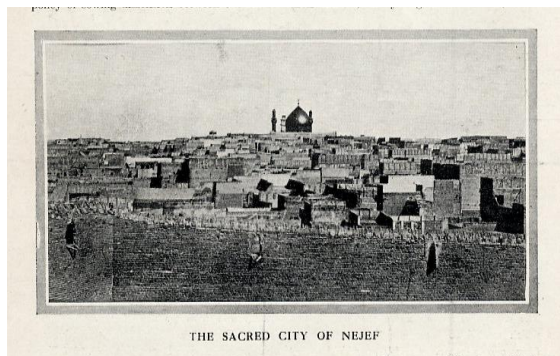
SUPPORTS WAITING TO REINFORCE CAVALRY ATTACKING.
Official photograph.



PROCESSION OF PRISONERS.
Turkish officers at the head of their men being marched through Baghdad by a British escort.



THE MOSQUE OF HOSAIN AT KERBELA.
One of the Holy Cities of the Shi'ites.



THE SACRED CITY OF NEJEF

These photographs from "The Redemption of Mesopotamia" show the funeral proceedings for General Maude, Turkish prisoners in Baghdad, locals and the British Army and the holy shrines of Imam Hussain (Karbala) and Imam Ali (Najaf).

FURTHER INFORMATION

To find out more about the AISC project, our activities and services, please visit our website at:

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“Enhancing Integration Through Knowledge,
Where East Meets West ”

