

THE FORGOTTEN CRUSADERS

6/5/2010

THE POPE HAS CALLED UPON AL OF THE CATHOLIC FACTIONS TO TAKE UP ARMS AND CONQUER JERUSALEM, AND AS ALLWAYS THE ENGLISH ARE THE FIRST TO JOIN.

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The first battle

ATTACK, HE SAID, sending his cavalry from the flanks, his spearmen pushing forward and the archers providing a rain of fire killing many. Even so, the enemy had guns and then the soldiers heard that sound which echoed in their minds the sound of firing guns. They felt the bullets pass through their skin and onto their hearts but neither the cold steel of the swords nor the bullets could pass their hearts, armed only with hope faith and the will to survive. Every one fought as hard as possible, the wounded, the half dead and even the dead got up and fought for they were the holy crusaders led by king Arthur the king of England. This was it Jerusalem would fall to the crusaders once and for all! The enemy army started collapsing. One group after another fell into the hands of the crusaders. When the last enemy group was defeated it was time for the English crusaders to walk in the newly conquered city.

On the way back

Though now flaming the city was conquered the crusade would be successful only after the king himself returned to England. So King Arthur left behind one fourth of his army and with them General Smith. Now that the city was secured, it was time to plan their return to the homeland ENGLAND.

Finally the king and his generals agreed to use the legendary Venice ships. When the time came, King Arthur's army aborted the ten transfer ships knowing that this may be the last time they were on dry land.

After days of sailing between Tunic and Sicily an enemy roman fleet was seen on the horizon. The Venice captain took immediate action sending the transport ships to the shore of Tunic in order to leave Arthur and his men. Even so, Arthur insisted no leaving his archers onboard to help, but the Venice captain told him that this was between Venice and the Roman

Empire. After the English army was on dry land the Venice fleet assembled and was ready to fight. Both Arthur and the Venice captain knew that this was a suicide mission even for the experienced captain.

The sea battle

The Venice ships charged on towards the Romans avoiding their cannonballs and preparing to fire. Without losing time the Venice captain ordered the archers to fire burning some Roman ships to the bottom of the sea. Even with these small wins they still were heavily outnumbered and the Romans had canons. When the Romans started hitting the Venice fleet, the ships started sinking one by one. By the end of the day the Venice fleet had vanished in the bottom of the sea, while the Roman fleet was slowly disappearing in the fog.

King Arthur knew that the only way to the home land was through the enemy Moorish territory all the way to Spain.

“Men” he started, “today God has turned against us and will try to stop us from reaching England, but not even God can stop our will to return home. So follow me and everyone how is too scared to follow, leave now and don’t come back, but each time someone asks you where you came from you, will have to say that you were a coward and sold your bow which you never deserved. While those who followed me will be noble heroes,” With those words, Arthur’s men were ready to deal with whatever god brought in their way.

The enemy prepares to attack

The next day the English crusaders started their journey to Spain, but little did they know that a scout had spotted them and was now reporting what he had seen.

“My king” the scout started nervously, ‘I saw an English camp near Tunic, their numbers are gigantic and as I saw the king was with them’. “WHAT” the Moorish king asbat said jumping off his gold throne ‘what do they want here’?

Then general Rajah who loved war said,

-‘my king, the reason that they are here is simple’ he went on, ‘they find you a threat and want to conquer you and your lands.’

-‘What do you suggest I do, General?’

-‘There is only one thing we can do, and that is to show them our military strength.’

-‘You mean attack them?’

-‘Yes, we will gather troops from all over our kingdom and will ask help from our allies, the Egyptians.’

-‘Very well general you are now in charge of this operation. Do not fail me,’ said the king in a threatening voice as if he had failed him once more.

When he left the palace, the General sent some messengers to all the regions of the kingdom and one to Egypt. In two days he had his answers. Most regions sent armies but Egypt refused to help along with three other regions of the kingdom. Even so, General Rajah had all the troops he needed to win the crusaders.

At the same time Jerusalem was under siege and was running out of supplies. General Smith was heavily wounded in one of the attacks; it was a matter of time before Jerusalem was conquered by Egypt.

The survivors

It was a cloudy night with no moon when General Rajah attacked. No one could see a thing in the dark and that was perfect time for general Rajah to take the crusaders by surprise.

First he had his archers take out the guards one by one and then sent his men to slowly get in the tents and execute the soldiers. His plan was very successful until someone woke and screamed with a voice that went right through your ear, 'intruders grab your weapons and fight men!'

But it was already too late. More than half of the army was dead and from those who remained, half of them had run away to save their souls. After hours of fighting, King Arthur finally ordered retreat, but the enemy cavalry was chasing them down. The only hope he had was to head towards the Sahara. Finally after miles of running the cavalry stopped and went back.

A noble death

Spearman run holding ladders towards the walls of Jerusalem. Men assembled on the walls ready to repel the attackers, while at the same time at the gate, the enemy was breaking through until hot oil fell on them, they felt their skin burn and had a slow painful death. While at the walls the attackers were beaten. Everyone thought that the siege was going to be lifted until they saw those flags at the horizon; they knew those were reinforcements and within them were catapults. Once the enemy broke through there was no hope Jerusalem was lost, so was General Smith.

Though King Arthur had survived he had one eighth of his army. They all stopped to relax, but when they saw the dust of sand coming from General's Rajah's Army they knew they had to move on. After days of walking, they reached the desert and from then on no one knows what happened. Some say they were buried under the sand, others say they hunt the desert Sahara up till this day. Even so, two things are certain. First of this entire crusade was on all sides a failure and the souls of King Arthur and his men will never rest till they are back in England!

Written by Theodor Zorbas