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EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

To Ports in the Middle East come American freighters laden with arms and equipment for our forces. Large numbers of tanks are slung ashore fully assembled and ready for despatch to destinations in the desert. As the tanks come ashore, troopers of the Royal Tank Corps rip off the Tarpaulins, make a few minor adjustments, fill them up with petrol, and away they go. In less time that it takes to say "Waltzing Matilda" , they're out on the ranges putting in a few bursts.

The South African human dynamo, Field Marshal Smuts, arrives at an aerodrome in the Western Desert on a lightning tour of his men in the front line. Few mwn have won such whole hearted admiration as South Africa's beloved "oom Yonnie". Down an Avenue of Cheering men drives one of the Empire's greatest statesmen.

Transport vessels from Vichy France come into a Syrian port, bringing back British and Imperial troops taken prisener during the campaign. The men were taken through Greece, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Occupied and unoccupied France before finally arriving at Beyrouth. (And they even found time for a spot of souvenir hunting).

And are they glad to be back in circulation again? - Army grub never tasted better!

In Jerusalem the exchange of prisoners problem (now, happily concluded,) brings General Dentz and his staff into the picture. Until such time as all captured British Officers are released, the Vichy General and his officers are held as hostages. Every courtesy is extended to them during their detention. The final settlement of the terms of the Acre Convention has now solved the problem and (to use a hackneyed phrase) the incident is closed. At Marseilles we see the arrival back in (so called) unoccupied France, of Vichy troops returning to their unhappy country from their Syrian adventure. Bitter experience has no doubt taught them much; but whatever they think about Petain, the old woman counts most of all now.