



"Fakhri" Ottoman

The "Bullet" of the last agony

The Prophet's Medina suffered the same as all Arab countries under the authority of the Ottoman Turkish occupation for almost four centuries, and it was a troubled period in Arab history during which the Turks practiced the most severe types of injustice, abuse and depletion of resources. Moreover, the Turks were not often satisfied with the injustice of the rulers and deliberate negligence, but rather they continued this injustice by committing crimes, massacres and flagrant violation.



They tortured Medina with the appointment of the Turkish "Tiger".



During the First World War, the Turks transferred power in the Ottoman Empire until they found themselves in the crowd of the warring countries; as one of its weakest parties within the period (1918-1914 AD), and it was like a shroud in which the country was wrapped in with its overflowing history for its final resting place, and its legacy began to turn into new powers and regional divisions. In fact, the Ottomans were not forced into this war except with the aim of receiving the last bullet of mercy, so as not to be a source of inconvenience to the new powers which was established in several parts of the borders of the Ottoman Empire.

Since the beginning of the war, the Ottoman Empire and its ruling party "Committee of Union and Progress" during that period were scrambling to protect their borders from the British and French ambitions and control, as the allies begin to move to its eastern lands. Hence, the Turks wanted to exploit the religious sentiments of the Muslims of the East due to their influence on the Two Holy Mosques in the Arabian Peninsula, whereas it was one of the important and sensitive areas for them, so that it would not lose its control, especially the Hijaz. If it separated, it would lose its alleged religious standing, and its trump card in gaining affection in the Islamic world.

The Turkish concern over the issue of preserving Medina and strengthening its garrison increased, so the Minister of War Anwar Pasha and the Levant Governor Jamal Pasha decided to visit Medina and arrived on 27th Rabi' al-Awwal (1334 AH) corresponding to 2nd February (1916 AD), in order to determine the situation and the possibility of its resilience in the face of expected military operations. They thereupon sent a corps led by the deputy governor of Levant, Omar Fakhri Pasha, with the aim of strengthening the Medina's defenses against any move or revolution, however, it was not officially announced, instead; it came under the pretext of inspecting the military garrison. Fakhri Pasha then arrived in Medina on 31th May (1916 AD) to take command of its Ottoman garrison forces after he was granted wide powers.

An image from the three options with the file Omar Fakhreddin Turk Khan Pasha

(1367-1285 هـ)
(1848-1868 م)

Reference:

Feridun Kandemir, *Defending Medina (the last of the Turks under the shades of our Prophet ﷺ)* translated by: Al-Medina Al-Munawwarah Research and Studies Center, (Medina: dn, dt).

He was born in the town of Ruse in the coast of the Danube River in Europe, and his father, Muhammad Nadir bin Omar Agha, a soldier in the Ottoman army, was also director of telegraph and mail. Omar Fakhri Pasha, like other soldiers, graduated from the military school in Istanbul, and was known for his excellence as he was the first in his military class. Moreover, he had military participation in several fields, until he was nominated in (1326 AH / 1908 AD) as a deputy to the Chief of Staff of the Fourth Corps, and at the same time he was appointed head of the Customary Administration Court to investigate rebellions in the army. Next, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the War of the First Regular Division and after the Ottoman Empire joined the First World War, Fakhri was a commander of the Twelfth Corps in Syria, was promoted to the rank of Pasha, and he was then nominated as a deputy of Jamal Pasha to lead the Fourth Army in Syria.



References:

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2. Imad Yusuf, *Hejaz during the Ottoman Era 1918-1876* (Beirut: Al Warraq publishing house, 2011).
3. Naci Kiciman, *Medine mudfaasi yahud hicoz bizden nasil* (Istanbul: Sebil Yahyinevi, 1971).