

**WITH THE  
BULGARIAN STAFF**

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With the Bulgarian staff by M. P. Noel-Buxton

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**M. P. NOEL-BUXTON**

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DIRECTING THE BATTLE AT CHATALJA.

From left to right: Colonel Nerezoff (Chief of the Intelligence Department), Colonel Jostoff (Chief of General Dimitrieff's Staff), General Savoff (Commander-in-Chief), General Dimitrieff (Commanding the combined Armies at the front).

# WITH THE BULGARIAN STAFF

BY  
NOEL-BUXTON, M.P.

*Noel Edward Noel-Buxton*

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS

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ANNEX 1

L. C.

TO THE MEMORY OF  
THOMAS PALMER NEWBOULD  
WHO COUNTED THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM  
OF MORE VALUE THAN LIFE  
AND DIED FIGHTING  
FOR THE BALKAN ALLIES  
JANUARY 1913

*(Vide note, p. vi.)*

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## THE LATE MR. PALMER NEWBOULD

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Mr. T. P. Newbould was killed while fighting in the ranks of the Greek Army on January 1st, 1913.

The special interest of Mr. Newbould's sacrifice of his life lies in his character as a man, not only enthusiastic, but of the order-loving type, and immersed in prosaic business. Even in proposals of the most quixotic kind in a recent letter to me, he devoted several pages to details of organisation which the Byronic temperament would resent. This makes his action all the more noteworthy. It is not often that a man of any kind gives life itself for an altruistic end. It is still rarer for a man of a temperament specially sane. The act implies no doubt an emotional instinct for dedication, but in a man of this type a great deal more. He does not risk the cessation of everything visible and sensuous without balancing the pros and cons. He decides quite deliberately that the advantage of proving his belief in something greater than the visible outweighs all that can be said for a long-continued life of minor services. Everyone thinks a good object worth a certain amount of trouble, if that trouble is not too painful. Newbould held the benefit of liberation from tyranny to be so great, and the belief in the unseen and the moral to be so important, that he judged it worth while to abandon altogether the sensuous life.

Just before a meeting of the Balkan Committee in the House of Commons, at the outbreak of war, some of us begged him at least to delay his departure. He consented to reflect, but during the meeting of the Committee he whispered that delay might mean the intervention (or the unwelcome applause) of his friends, and he left at once for the front. He wished to prove the reality of his belief, and he succeeded.

## PREFACE

MY connection with the work of the Balkan Committee has brought me the friendship of many Balkan statesmen, and it was to that connection that I owed the privilege of being attached to the Bulgarian General Staff at a critical period of the campaign in Thrace, and of seeing much that was beyond the reach of the foreign military attachés.

I am allowed to illustrate the point by quoting the following passage from a letter recently received from Mr. Gueshoff, the Bulgarian Prime Minister: 'The unceasing labour of the Balkan Committee to impress its objects upon public opinion brought about a change in that opinion which we most gratefully acknowledge. The Committee was a real

## PREFACE

prophet when it declared that unless effective reforms were speedily carried out, the bloodshed and anarchy, which daily grew worse in Macedonia, would find their climax in a war between Turkey and Bulgaria.

'The war predicted broke out. And it broke out in spite of their and our efforts to avert it, by opening the eyes of the Young Turks to the urgency of inaugurating a policy of real reforms. Do you remember your visit to Sofia in the spring of 1911? You were coming from Constantinople, where you had spoken with the Young Turks. You spoke with us too. And we agreed that the wisest course for Bulgaria was to continue to give a fair trial to the new Turkish régime.

'That trial lasted more than four years. You and we strained all our exertions to persuade the Young Turks that Macedonia must be pacified, that an end must be put to the bloodshed and anarchy which were ruining that distracted province. All was in vain. Rampant lawlessness,