

Holy Warfare Source Analysis

Read the letter below and answer the following questions in as much detail as you can.

"After we had for some days besieged the city with many machines and various engines of war, the craft of the Turks, as often before, deceived us greatly. For on the very day on which they had promised that they would surrender, Soliman and all the Turks, collected from neighbouring and distant regions, suddenly fell upon us and attempted to capture our camp. However the count of St. Gilles... made an attack upon them and killed an innumerable multitude. All the others fled in confusion. Our men, moreover, returning in victory and bearing many heads fixed upon pikes and spears, furnished a joyful spectacle for the people of God.

On the fourth day the Turks, having collected their forces from all sides, again attacked the smaller portion of our army, killed many of our men and drove all the remainder back to their camps."

Letter from Anselme of Ribemont to the Archbishop of Reims, 1098

1. How did the Turks trick the Crusaders?

2. How did the Crusaders celebrate their victory over the Turks?

3. How does this source suggest the Turks fight in general?

"So great is the multitude of the Saracens and Turks that from Tyre, which they are besieging, they cover the face of the earth as far as Jerusalem, like an innumerable army of ants, and unless aid is quickly brought to the remaining above-mentioned cities and to the very few Christians remaining in the Bast, by a similar fortune they will be plundered by the raging infidels, thirsting for the blood of the Christians."

Letter from a Hospitaller to Master of the Hospitallers, 1187

1. How does the writer describe the number of Muslim soldiers attacking him and his men?

2. Why is the writer writing this letter to his master in Europe?

3. What do you think the fate of the writer may have been?

"I must not forget to say that the Saracens, after having determined to flee, hurled at us a great quantity of Greek fire, which was very injurious to us, because it was carried by a wind which blew from the city. But this wind, suddenly changing, carried the fire back upon Damietta, where it burned several persons and fortresses. It would have consumed more property, if the slaves who had been left had not extinguished it by a process which they knew, and by the veils of God, who did not wish that we should take possession of a city which had been burnt to the ground."

Letter from Guy, a Knight, to B. of Chartres, 1249

1. What do you think Greek fire may be?

2. How did the Greek fire backfire on the 'Saracens'?

3. Why is the writer happy that the fire did not burn down the Muslim city of Damietta?

Holy Warfare Source Analysis Answers

"After we had for some days besieged the city with many machines and various engines of war, the craft of the Turks, as often before, deceived us greatly. For on the very day on which they had promised that they would surrender, Soliman and all the Turks, collected from neighbouring and distant regions, suddenly fell upon us and attempted to capture our camp. However the count of St. Gilles... made an attack upon them and killed an innumerable multitude. All the others fled in confusion. Our men, moreover, returning in victory and bearing many heads fixed upon pikes and spears, furnished a joyful spectacle for the people of God.

On the fourth day the Turks, having collected their forces from all sides, again attacked the smaller portion of our army, killed many of our men and drove all the remainder back to their camps."

Letter from Anselme of Ribemont to the Archbishop of Reims, 1098

1. How did the Turks trick the Crusaders?

They attacked when they said they would surrender.

2. How did the Crusaders celebrate their victory over the Turks?

Putting their heads on spears.

3. How does this source suggest the Turks fight in general?

By attacking weak spots and with tricks and surprises.

"So great is the multitude of the Saracens and Turks that from Tyre, which they are besieging, they cover the face of the earth as far as Jerusalem, like an innumerable army of ants, and unless aid is quickly brought to the remaining above-mentioned cities and to the very few Christians remaining in the Bast, by a similar fortune they will be plundered by the raging infidels, thirsting for the blood of the Christians."

Letter from a Hospitaller to Master of the Hospitallers, 1187

1. How does the writer describe the number of Muslim soldiers attacking him and his men?

Like an army of ants.

2. Why is the writer writing this letter to his master in Europe?

He needs help/reinforcement from home.

3. What do you think the fate of the writer may have been?

He was probably overrun by the Muslims and captured or killed.

"I must not forget to say that the Saracens, after having determined to flee, hurled at us a great quantity of Greek fire, which was very injurious to us, because it was carried by a wind which blew from the city. But this wind, suddenly changing, carried the fire back upon Damietta, where it burned several persons and fortresses. It would have consumed more property, if the slaves who had been left had not extinguished it by a process which they knew, and by the veils of God, who did not wish that we should take possession of a city which had been burnt to the ground."

1. What do you think Greek fire may be?

Greek fire is a flammable liquid that can be shot/thrown at an enemy and will keep burning even on water.

2. How did the Greek fire backfire on the 'Saracens'?

They burnt their own city.

3. Why is the writer happy that the fire did not burn down the Muslim city of Damietta?

The Christians wanted to take over/occupy the city after the defeat of the Muslims.