

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."

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

1. How did the Turks trick the Crusaders?

2. 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 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?

"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."

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'?

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."

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 does this source suggest the Turks fight in general?

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 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.

"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."

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

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.