

1917 - 2017

100 Years of Balfour

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The Balfour Declaration can only be understood in the context of where the world stood on the morning of Friday 2nd November 1917

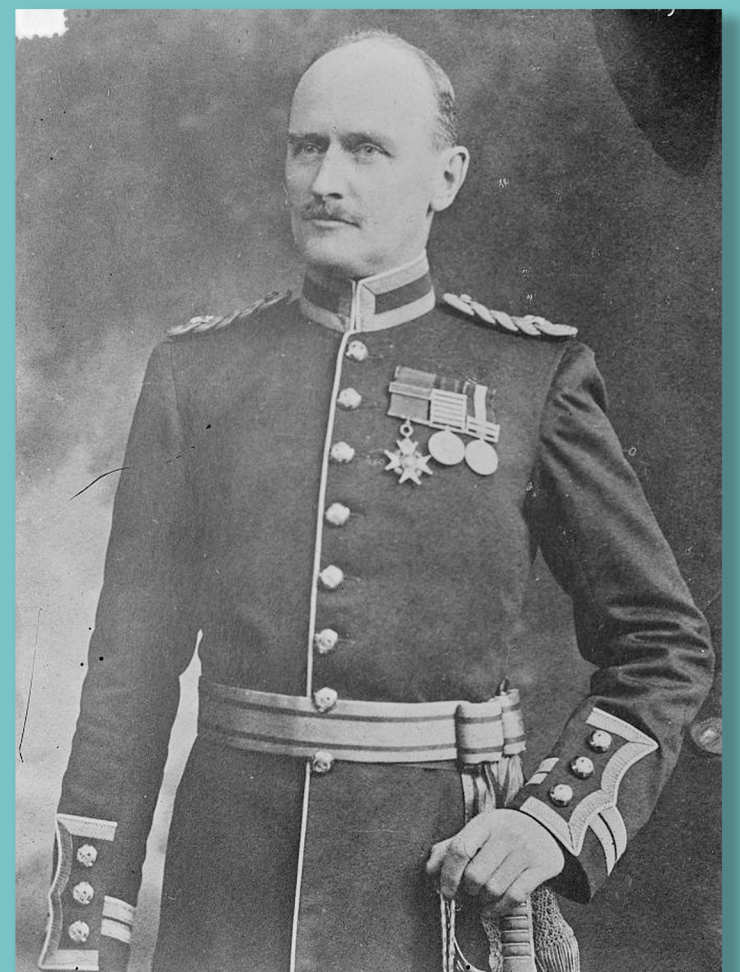


The Great War that had begun in the summer of 1914 was still raging and pitting the Central Powers - including Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire (Turkey) - against the Allies led by France, UK and Russia. On the Western Front, millions of troops were at a stalemate in trench warfare.

◀ **British troops in the trenches, 1917**

Also on that Friday morning in November, the newspapers reported that Beersheba, a desert town in Ottoman-controlled Palestine, had been captured by British forces, under the command of General Allenby. The British Army, headquartered in Egypt, had already taken control of Palestine's Gaza coastal strip and was to take Jerusalem in December 1917.

Field Marshal Viscount Allenby ▶



▲ **A general view of Beersheva, 1917**