

GEN. MONTGOMERY IN SFAX

VICTOR ACCLAIMED BY THE PEOPLE

TOWN HANDED OVER

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

SFAX, APRIL 11 (delayed)

At a parade this morning General Montgomery, by the cordiality and informality of his manner, and by special acts of regard for the French, won the hearts of the people of Sfax, who assembled to cheer a victor but ended the ceremony by acclaiming a deliverer.

The crowd, which, since many were dispersed on the outskirts, was not large for the size of the town, assembled in all its best. A motley of gay French colonial uniforms and Arab robes contrasted with the drab of battle kit like the sand of the parade ground. A guard of honour faced the crowd in the centre, where notabilities of the town were gathered for presentation.

At one side, facing the same way as the crowd, was a detachment of French infantry. They had their regimental pennant, according to French military custom, fixed to the bayonet of a rifle.

The crowd, a little overwhelmed and awed by what was happening was reserved in its welcome even of the armoured cars which preceded the General's entry on the parade ground. "Monty's" car drove to within a few feet of the crowd and moved slowly past while he stood facing them and saluting. When he arrived at the centre of the line where the notabilities were assembled he alighted to take the salute.

RACECOURSE CEREMONY

SFAX, April 11.—General Montgomery formally handed over the administration of Tunisia's second city to Colonel Schmeltz, commander of the French military territory of southern Tunisia. Colonel Schmeltz is to administer the city under General Jurion, Vice-Regent of Tunisia, who was appointed by General Giraud, until the civil authority is ready to reassume its functions.

Before the grand stand on the racecourse, which the Axis armies used for a military warehouse, and which was still stacked with Italian ammunition and other supplies, the crowd screamed "Vive Montgomery!" and tossed bouquets to the General. There were fresh cries of "Vive de Gaulle!" when a guard of honour of the Fighting French marched on to the field to join a guard of honour from the Eighth Army.

The United States was represented at the ceremony by Lieutenant-Colonel Harvey S. Gerry, of Scarsdale, New York, attached to the civil affairs division of Allied Forces H.Q.—*Associated Press*.

On page 3 is an earlier message from Our Special Correspondent at Sfax in which he describes the scenes of joy in the town on the entry of the Eighth Army.