



P.L.O. GUY 1885-1952: IN MEMORIAM

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IN MEMORIAM

THE Board of Editors of the *Israel Exploration Journal* mourn the death on 7 December 1952 of their colleague, Lieutenant-Colonel P. L. O. GUY.

Philip Langstaffe Ord GUY was the son of the Sheriff-Clerk of Lanarkshire, Scotland. He was educated at Charterhouse School and the Universities of Glasgow and Oxford. After the first World War, during which he fought first in the French and then in the British Army, he joined the Carchemish and el-'Amarna excavations, and in 1922 was appointed Chief Inspector in the Department of Antiquities of the Mandatory Government of Palestine. In this capacity he excavated an Iron Age cemetery on Mount Carmel and directed many minor undertakings; he also made a preliminary survey of the prehistoric remains of the Huleh area. In 1925 he was appointed Director of the Megiddo excavation on behalf of the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago, and he directed this, the largest archaeological undertaking in Palestine, until 1935. He attempted to clear the whole surface of the tell stratum by stratum up to stratum V, i. e. Iron Age I, inclusive. He introduced a daring technical innovation by photographing the excavated remains from the air with an electrically-controlled camera attached to a balloon. The result was a series of remarkable aerial views of the building remains and cemeteries of ancient Megiddo. A magnificent

volume on *Megiddo Tombs* embodies the results of his work. In 1938 he became Director of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and planned a new archaeological survey of the country. Owing, however, to adverse political conditions, this work had to stop, after a modest beginning in the coastal plain near Tel Aviv and in the Negev. In the course of this survey Guy's attention was drawn especially to the ancient dams of Mampsis (Kurnub), which he studied in detail, arriving at the conclusion that their main purpose was to check the erosive effect of winter floods.

In 1939 Guy rejoined the British Army, in which he served until 1945; he attained the substantive rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, serving as Military Governor of Benghazi and Asmara and member of the Allied Supply Mission to Syria. After the Second World War was over, he worked in the Palestine Department of Agriculture as Director of the Acre stud farm, and late in 1947 rejoined the Department of Antiquities. At the termination of the British Mandate in 1948 Guy remained in Israel and became Chief of the Division of Excavations and Survey of the Israel Department of Antiquities, in which post he continued until his death. Since 1948 he had directed excavations on behalf of the Department at Bet Yerah (North), the tell of Jaffa, Ayelet ha-Shaḥar, etc.

Guy joined the Board of Editors of the *Israel Exploration Journal* at its inception, and continued until his last days to take an active interest in the paper, never relaxing his efforts to achieve the highest standards of editing and publication.

P. L. O. Guy was not only an eminent archaeologist, combining meticulous attention to detail with a broad grasp of the essentials of theory and practice. He was also distinguished by an exceptionally wide range of interests and a thorough knowledge of an astonishing variety of subjects. Among his particular interests were soil conservation and climatic and agricultural improvement. Guy never lost sight of the practical application of archaeological research to questions of land reclamation, soil conservation and planning. In May, 1952, although already seriously ill, he showed members of the International Symposium on Desert Research over the ancient site of Mampsis (Kurnub) and its dams.

Above all, Guy was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word, of unfailing courtesy and helpfulness. No one who had the honour and privilege of working with him will ever forget him.

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