

The Syrian Army Camps near Medina

Muslim b. 'Uqba and his troops left Wādī al-Qur' for Medina and camped his army at a place called "Jurf" at a distance of three miles from Medina.188

On the other hand, it was long since the people of Medina had been informed about the departure of Syrian army and were prepared for confrontation and defense. They reconstructed the same trench that the Muslims had dug to defend Medina in the battle of Ahzāb (*Khandaq*), which over time had partly ruined. They also erected high walls to protect some parts of Medina.289

Reconstruction of the old trench and construction of new trenches took fifteen days in all.3 For these tasks, the Quraysh had undertaken the distance between Rājī4 and Ahzāb Mosque and the *Ansār*, the distance between Ahzāb Mosque and the Banī Salama and Mawāḍ neighborhood to carry out the digging and reconstructing the trench from Rājī to the Banī 'Abd al-Ashhal.592

The trench had been dug on the west side of Medina, so Muslim b. 'Uqba was determined, after consultations he had or because of the trench that was an impenetrable barrier to his troops, to launch the attack from the east of Medina which was a rocky land called Harrah.6

The setting up of Syrian army camp near Medina made the people of Medina take the war more seriously and plan and carry out extra measures to defend the town. For the sake of integration of defense and battle, they also had to choose someone as their commander-in-chief. The setting up of Syrian army camp near Medina made the people of Medina take the war more seriously and plan and carry out extra measures to defend the town. For the sake of integration of defense and battle, they also had to choose someone as their commander-in-chief. The setting up of Syrian army camp near Medina made the people of Medina take the war more seriously and plan and carry out extra measures to defend the town. For the sake of integration of defense and battle, they also had to choose someone as their commander-in-chief.

1. Yaqūt Hamawī, *Mu'jam al-Buldān*, vol. 2, p. 128.

2. Ya'qūbī, *Tārīkh-i* vol. 2, p. 250; Mas'ūdī, *Al-Tanbīh wa al-Ishrāf*, p. 263; Samhūdī, *Wafī' al-Wafī'*, vol. 1, p. 129.

3. Digging the trench and its reconstruction took six days (Ibn Sa'd, *Tabaqāt*, vol. 2, p. 67).

4. Name of Jewish quarter in Medina (Yaqūt Hamawī, Muʿjam al-Buldān, vol. 2, p. 128).
5. Banū ʿAbd al-Ashhal is a clan of the Aws tribe from which Saʿd b. Maʿdīdh and a number of Sahāba are regarded to have originated; Suwaydī, Sabʿīk al-Dhahab, p. 173; Zirkī, al-Aʿlām, vol. 2, p. 42.
6. Tabarī, Taʾrīkh, vol. 4, p. 372.

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