

CLAIMS TURKEY AS ALLY.

Germany Says Porte Will Join Her Against Russia and England.

Special to The New York Times.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 30.—The most significant of all messages received via the Sayville radio route from Berlin was made public today by the German Embassy in Washington. According to this message, which came to the embassy early this morning from the Foreign Office in Berlin, Turkey is going to participate in the European war as an ally of Germany and Austria against Russia and England, and there are hints in the dispatch of "fatal consequences" to England from her Moslem subjects.

The dispatch also brought information that John Burns, who resigned from the Asquith Ministry, in which he held the post of President of the Board of Trade, because he was opposed to Great Britain becoming involved in the European war, has made a speech against the policy of Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, and that this has created a deep impression. No allusion to such a speech by Mr. Burns in criticism of Sir Edward Grey had been received from England through any of the regular news channels.

The dispatch to the embassy follows:

"Former Minister Burns's speech against Grey's policy causes deep impression; hints fatal consequences from Mohammedan subjects.

"News from Constantinople foreshadows the active participation of Turkey against Russia and England.

"Prof. Delbrueck explains unheard-of unanimity of Germans by the conviction that a struggle for life has been forced upon them.

"The East Prussian authorities recall fugitives after great victory at Gilgenburg."

A. Rustem Bey, the Turkish Ambassador here, said tonight that he had received no word from his Government indicating that it intended to join the European conflict. He said he had not heard from his Government for several weeks, possibly because of disturbed cable communications.

There had been intimations that the Moslems might be stirred up to revolt throughout the British Empire, and that there might be unrest in India and Egypt. Suggestions had been made that German influences were fostering revolution among these natives, but this is the first official intimation that the German Government seems to expect trouble among Mohammedan subjects of Great Britain.

The official German statement corroborates reports received by other members of the Diplomatic Corps that Turkey was planning to aid Germany, and it had been feared that the Ottoman Empire would seek to start a revolt among the Moslems of India.

The embassy announcement of the expected "active participation" of Turkey follows very closely the news reports of the sending of German army and navy officers and subalterns to Constantinople. The Turkish Army has been under German instruction for many years. It is thought that the officers reported as having been sent from Germany to Turkey are to serve the Turks in the direction of their military and naval forces.

KILLED 2,000 TURKS OF CRACK CORPS: British Also Inflicted a Loss of ...

New York Times (1857-1922); May 25, 1915;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2009)

pg. 4

KILLED 2,000 TURKS OF CRACK CORPS

**British Also Inflicted a Loss of
5,000 Wounded in Dar-
danelles Fight.**

FRENCH IN FIERCE BATTLE

**Losses in Attack Near Sedd-el-Bahr
Said by Turks to Have
Been 2,000 Killed.**

PARIS, May 24.—News received here from the Dardanelles is to the effect that the recent Turkish attack against the British troops near Kaleh Tepe, (on the European side, opposite Nagara,) by two Turkish divisions, was carefully prepared by General Liman von Sanders, the German commander, and his staff, with the object not only of inflicting a check on the Allies, but of raising the spirits of the Turkish troops and re-assuring public opinion, which is said to have been profoundly impressed by the heavy Turkish losses at the beginning of May.

General von Sanders brought up the First Army Corps, a crack organization which had been reserved for the defense of Constantinople. The landing of these troops was greatly hampered by the bombardment from the Allies' aeroplanes. Two divisions of this corps which had been put ashore the night before at Maidos, immediately marched to Kaleh Tepe and attacked the Australians and New Zealanders the night of May 18-19. They were completely beaten, however, losing 2,000 men killed and 5,000 wounded, the reports say.

In the southern end of the peninsula the French troops faced strong defensive work. At certain points they advanced to within a few yards of the Turks, and fierce bayonet and hand-grenade fighting followed. In one of these hand-to-hand struggles it is asserted that a Colonial infantryman named Laborde spontaneously took the lead as his group was entering a Turkish trench and by throwing grenades succeeded unaided in stopping a Turkish counter-attack and preventing quick-firers from being used until he fell wounded.

The fighting at Kaleh Tepe, referred to in the above dispatch, was reported in THE TIMES of Saturday, in a cable-gram from General Sir Ian Hamilton to the Governor of Victoria, Australia.

40,000 TURKISH WOUNDED.: Dardanelles Troops Crowd Constantinople Hospitals.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES. *New York Times* (1857-1922); Jun 1, 1915;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2009) pg. 7

40,000 TURKISH WOUNDED.

Dardanelles Troops Crowd Constantinople Hospitals.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

CONSTANTINOPLE, (via Bucharest,) May 29.—Italy's entrance into the arena alongside the Allies has had a profound effect throughout Turkey, as the newspapers concealed the real position and represented Italy as likely to support the Turks, owing to her suspicion of the Mediterranean policy of Russia.

The town is full of wounded soldiers

from Gallipoli, where the casualties already exceed 40,000. Every effort, however, is being made to prevent any communication between the inmates of the military hospitals and the general public. As the existing accommodations for the wounded were insufficient, an open space between Haidan Pasha Hospital and the sea is covered with tents in which patients are attended. Meanwhile, the rosier bulletins are issued of the situation, but they no longer deceive any one. The arsenal and repairing yards at Steny, on the Bosphorus, are now being run by the Krupps. German engineers are building a light railway from Belkos to Sungaldak for coal transport, as the activity of the Russian fleet hinders the bringing of supplies by sea. The coal problem for the navy is very serious, as only 2,000 tons of Welsh coal are left.

The Germans are still making efforts to smuggle ammunition through to Turkey. Red Cross material passing through, for example, was found to contain sections of a submarine and an aeroplane. An X-ray examination of the baggage of a German diplomatic courier at Predeal, on the Austro-Rumanian frontier, revealed the fact that its contents consisted of mine cases and asphyxiating bombs, while the day before sixteen boxes of cartridge cases were seized at Giurgiu among the belongings of an Austrian courier on his way to Turkey.

I have seen a reliable eyewitness of the Armenian massacres. He says the situation in Armenia is perfect hell, and that the inhabitants are maddened by war, typhus, and famine. On May 12 several bands of Kurdish horsemen made a concerted rush into the Armenian quarters at Moush, first attacking the shopkeepers in the bazaar, burning, looting and murdering as they went. The massacre went on till far in the night, even the regular police joining. Fully 250 men were killed. The women, if old and ugly, were murdered or beaten; if young and pretty, were taken away. The children generally were spared, but a few were put to death for sheer amusement. The political effect of these horrors is very deep in Constantinople, as many of the best officials of the Turkish Government are Armenians.

The heir apparent now speaks openly of the necessity of a separate peace.

I traveled with a German officer from Constantinople, who had just been appointed to the command of the prisoners' camp at Ulm. He said he hoped he would have the English prisoners under him, as he wanted to visit the sins of the nation on them, and calmly and rather proudly confessed that when he was at the front in France, near Lille, he had on two occasions done away with British prisoners.

TURKS DEPOPULATE TOWNS OF ARMENIA: Traveler Reports Christians of ...

New York Times (1857-1922); Aug 27, 1915;

ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times (1851-2009)

pg. 3

TURKS DEPOPULATE TOWNS OF ARMENIA

Traveler Reports Christians of
Great Territory Have Been
Driven from Homes.

600,000 STARVING ON ROAD

Adds That More Than 100,000
Greeks Have Been Deported from
the Mediterranean Coast.

A traveler who has just arrived in New York from Turkey, where he was long a resident, told THE TIMES yesterday of conditions as he found them in Constantinople, and of the wholesale deportations of Armenians from the interior districts of Asiatic Turkey. For reasons that are valid the narrator does not wish to have his name published, but THE TIMES can vouch for his qualifications as an observer, especially of conditions in the Armenian district.

Leaving Sivas, where he spent some time, he proceeded to Constantinople and thence to Athens, from which port he sailed for New York. When in Constantinople about four weeks ago, he said, the tension was pretty high. In official circles it was maintained that everything was proceeding smoothly for the Turks, but there were many individuals, he said, who expressed discouragement. These put little faith in Germany's motives in aiding Turkey, and some even charged Enver Pasha with having sold out to Germany for money.

German doctors and nurses told him that long after the beginning of hostilities Germany had got more than 2,000 officers into Turkey through Rumania, disguised as surgeons and Red Cross helpers. The ruses of false bottoms in care and the labeling of munitions as other commodities to smuggle supplies through Rumania were also the subjects of boast. From what he observed in Constantinople and from the dispatches since leaving there, he judged the Allies were about through with the Gallipoli end of the campaign and ready to chase the Turks out of Europe. In case it should become necessary to evacuate Constantinople he said Konia would become the new capital, and that he understood some of the records had already been removed there.

"The Armenians of the interior," he said, "have been deported in the direction of Mosul. At the time I left Sivas two-thirds of them had gone from the city, including all Protestants, teachers, and pupils. According to my best knowledge and opinion, with the exception of Armenian soldiers and prisoners, and a very few exceptions, who for various reasons were necessary to the Government, all Armenians are gone from Sivas. According to what I consider good authority, I believe it to be true that the entire Armenian population from Erzerum to and including

Gemereh, near Cesarea, and from Samsoun to and including Harpoot, has been deported. There is also a movement in the central field which had not become general, but will doubtless become so. More than 100,000 Greeks from the Marmora and Mediterranean coast have been deported.

"We heard many rumors of massacres, but I have no evidence on the subject. To my knowledge no general massacres have occurred in the Sivas vilayet. Not a few men have been killed in one way and another.

"This general movement against Armenians began months ago in arrests for alleged revolutionary activity and in search of guns and bombs.

"After I had seen thousands of people start out I came to the conclusion that if anything could be done to stop this terrible crime, which impresses me as ten times worse than any massacre, it must be done in Constantinople. In Constantinople I found that the whole plan of deportation was one of the central Government and that no pressure from the Embassies had been able to do anything to stop it.

"I believe there is imminent danger of many of these people, which I estimate for the Sivas, Erzerum, and Harpoot vilayets to be 600,000, starving to death on the road. They took food for a few days but did not dare take much money with them, as, if they did so, it is doubtful whether they would be allowed to keep it. Our Ambassador promised to do what he could and gave me some hope that some relief funds might be sent to Harpoot at once. It

is questionable whether relief work will ever be allowed, but it ought to be undertaken if possible.

"It was impossible to carry out of Turkey one address or a scrap of writing of any kind. I bought an empty account book and started a new traveling expense account, after crossing the border.

"I met on the road near Talas the people of two villages. They were going on foot, with less than a donkey to a family, no food, no bedding, hardly any men, and many of the women barefooted and carrying children. A case in Sivas worthy of notice was that of a woman whose husband had worked in a hospital as a soldier nurse for many months. She contracted typhus and was brought to the hospital. Her mother, a woman between 60 and 70, got up from a sick bed to go and care for their seven children, the eldest of which was about 12. A few days before the deportation the husband was imprisoned and exiled without examination or fault. When the quarter in which they lived went the mother got out of bed in the hospital and was put on an oxcart to go with her children."

THE DEFENCE OF EGYPT.

TURKS PREPARING TO ADVANCE.

SIR H. MCMAHON IN CAIRO.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CAIRO, JAN. 6. In spite of economic distress and Arab discontent...

Thanks to the prudence and firmness of Sir Ronald Graham, supported by a capable staff...

According to information from authoritative sources published in tonight's newspapers...

The attempts to stir up religious fanaticism have generally failed. The German Consul at Damascus...

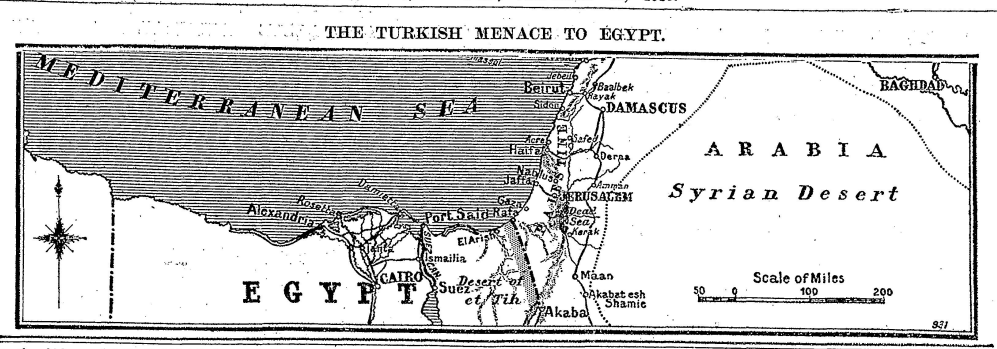
GERMANS MASTERS. The movement of Arab soldiers from the south to the north...

THE RECENT PUBLICATION in the local Press of an accurate account from authoritative sources...

ARRIVAL OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER. JANUARY 9. Sir Henry McMahon, the High Commissioner...

MR. WILSON'S MEXICAN POLICY.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 10. A pronouncement made by President Wilson in his speech at Indianapolis...



months which preceded the Turkish attack on the Allies, and since then, has held the highly responsible post of Acting British Agent in Cairo...

DISCONTENT IN SYRIA. The Press Bureau reports from a trustworthy source in Damascus...

THE HONOURS conferred on Sir Milne Cheetham and Sir Ronald Graham have not been officially announced in London.

THE TRANSIT OF THE DESERT.

ATHENS, JAN. 8. The 8th Turkish Army Corps has left Damascus for the Egyptian frontier...

A telegram from Beirut states that foreign consuls and officers were reported to Damascus...

GERMAN-OWNED SHIPS IN AMERICA.

PRESIDENT TO PRESS THE BILL.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 10. In a rousing speech at Indianapolis the President on Friday proclaimed his fixed determination to press the Ship Purchase Bill...

Merchants and farmers, he continued, must have their ships and stock in the way of the release of American products to the world.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN FRANCE.

PARIS, JAN. 10. The French Government, having vainly endeavoured to obtain amelioration of the lot of the French prisoners in Germany...

GERMAN WAR NEWS.

THE FIGHTING IN ALSACE.

The following war news is officially circulated through German wireless stations and received by the Marconi Company:—

BERLIN, JAN. 8. Main-Headquarters reports are as follows:— On the Western front there have been very heavy rains...

Both west and east of Strasbourg (Germany) there is nothing to report. The French have been driven out of Upper Bismarck...

THE FRENCH FLEET IN THE ADRIATIC. An article in the Journal des Debats explains the operations of the French Fleet...

MAIN HEADQUARTERS reports the following:— The weather has been very rainy yesterday in the Western theatre of the war.

THE STRIKE AT DURBAN.

In the evening of January 7, the French again tried to take the village of Upper Burnhaupt by a surprise attack...

UPPER ALZASCE trivial engagements only took place yesterday. At about midnight our troops attacked the village of Lower Alz.

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN FRANCE.

PARIS, JAN. 10. The French Government, having vainly endeavoured to obtain amelioration of the lot of the French prisoners in Germany...

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN FRANCE.

PARIS, JAN. 10. The French Government, having vainly endeavoured to obtain amelioration of the lot of the French prisoners in Germany...

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN FRANCE.

PARIS, JAN. 10. The French Government, having vainly endeavoured to obtain amelioration of the lot of the French prisoners in Germany...

TREATMENT OF PRISONERS IN FRANCE.

PARIS, JAN. 10. The French Government, having vainly endeavoured to obtain amelioration of the lot of the French prisoners in Germany...

PARIS, JAN. 10. The French Government, having vainly endeavoured to obtain amelioration of the lot of the French prisoners in Germany...

BERLIN ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

GROWING RESPECT FOR THE ENEMY.

AMSTERDAM, JAN. 6. The Berlin correspondent of the Telegraph, describing (January 5) the beginning of the new year in Berlin...

Never has the tragedy of our time been made so clear to me as on this night when I stood in the streets of Berlin...

THE GUMBLERS TO THE FOM.

Those who are outside cannot judge of the opinion here. Berlin is a city of opinion here...

A SALUTARY REACTION.

We lie with our noses above the kettle in which public opinion simmers and boils.

RIOTS IN BELGIUM.

AMSTERDAM, JAN. 11. The Brussels correspondent of the Telegraph reports that the Belgian riots of the last few days in the German Army and have been very serious...

RECRUITING FOR THE INDIAN ARMY.

DELHI, JAN. 9. Recruiting for the Indian Army is proceeding most satisfactorily...

JAPANESE ENVOY TO THE VATICAN.

ROME, JAN. 8. A religious order in Rome having a branch in Tokyo has received information that the Japanese Government intends sending an Extraordinary Envoy to the Holy See...

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

ROME, JAN. 10. The Berlin correspondent of the Telegraph states that Germany has informed the United States that she is ready to exchange 5,000 British prisoners...

SANTA CLAUS IN SERBIA.

DISTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN GIFTS.

During a recent visit to Nish I was able to be present at the distribution of gifts brought over by the American Santa Claus ship...

THE MILITARY SITUATION.

So far as military operations are concerned the situation is stationary. The Austrians are digging themselves in on the northern front...

FRENCH SUCCESS IN THE CAMEROON.

M. Doumergue, French Minister for the Colonies, has received the following communication from the Governor of French West Africa:—

BRITISH CONGRATULATIONS.

The Germans in great force violently attacked the British position on the railway from Duala to the south-west of the Cameroons...

LAST GANG OF REBELS CAPTURED.

PRETORIA, JAN. 9. It is officially announced that a small band of rebels near the Bechuanaland border...

THE INTERNED IN HOLLAND.

AMSTERDAM, JAN. 10. My Groningen correspondent states that as the infantry barracks at that place...

NEW QUARTERS FOR THE PRISONERS.

AMSTERDAM, JAN. 10. The Berlin correspondent of the Telegraph states that Germany has informed the United States that she is ready to exchange 5,000 British prisoners...

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

ROME, JAN. 10. The Berlin correspondent of the Telegraph states that Germany has informed the United States that she is ready to exchange 5,000 British prisoners...

The Defence of Egypt. (FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.) The Times (London, England), Monday, Jan 11, 1915; pg. 7; Issue 40748. (1422 words) Gate Document Number: CS117638187

TURKISH ARMENIANS IN ARMED REVOLT

**Were Ready to Join Russian
Invaders, Having Drilled
and Collected Arms.**

SEE DAY OF DELIVERANCE

**Native Paper Says They Are Pre-
pared for Any Sacrifice—Refuse
to Join Turkish Army.**

PETROGRAD, Nov. 12. — Reports reaching the Russian capital from the Turkish border attach increasing importance to the part the Armenians are playing in the Russo-Turkish war.

In several towns occupied by the Russians the Armenian students have shown themselves ready to join the invading army, explaining that they had prepared themselves for the Russian approach by constant drilling and by gathering arms secretly. All along the line of march, according to these dispatches, the Armenian peasants are receiving the Russian troops with enthusiasm and giving provisions to them freely.

An Armenian newspaper, referring to this crisis in the history of Armenia, publishes the following:

"The long-anticipated day of deliverance for the Turkish Armenians is at hand, and the Armenians are prepared for any sacrifice made necessary by the performance of their manifest duty."

From this border country there have come to Petrograd further reports of armed conflicts arising from the refusal of Armenians to become Turkish conscripts and to surrender their arms.

It is now rumored that the important City of Van is today besieged by Armenian guerrilla bands in great force. In Feitun the number of insurgents is said to exceed 20,000, and they are reported to have defeated all the Turkish troops sent against them, causing heavy losses to the Turks.

THE BATTLE OF THE CANAL.

FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT.

FIGHTING ON LAND AND WATER.

We are able to publish this morning a full and accurate account, received yesterday from our Special Correspondent at Ismailia, of the Battle of the Suez Canal.

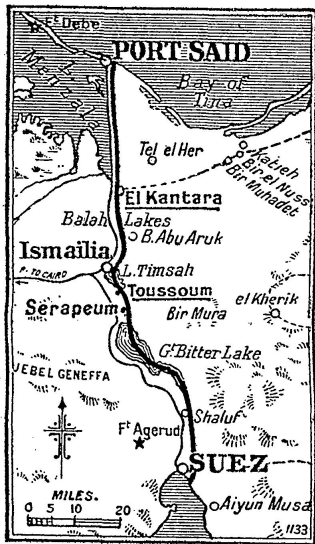
The bare outlines of the fighting, which reached its climax on February 2, have been recorded already. Our Correspondent is now in a position to describe it as a whole, and to add a number of dramatic details which marked the first, and most unsuccessful, attempt of the Turks to invade Egypt.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

ISMAILIA, FEB. 10.

Though skirmishing had taken place between the enemy's reconnoitring parties and our outposts during the latter part of January, the main attack was not developed until February 2, when the enemy began to move towards the Ismailia Ferry. They met a reconnoitring party of Indian troops of all arms, and a desultory engagement ensued, to which a violent sandstorm put a sudden end about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. The main attacking force pushed forward towards its destination after nightfall. From 25 to 30 galvanized iron pontoon boats, seven and a half metres in length, which had been dragged in carts across the desert, were hauled by hand towards the water, with one or two rafts made of kerosine tins in a wooden frame. All was ready for the attack.

The first warning of the enemy's approach was given by a sentry of a mountain battery, who heard, to him, an unknown tongue across the water. The noise soon increased. It would seem that Mudjah Idoon ("Holy Warriors")—said to be mostly old Tripoli fighters—accompanied the pontoon section and Regulars of the 75th Regiment, for loud exhortations often



in Arabic of "Brothers die for the faith; we can die but once," betrayed the enthusiastic irregular.

The Egyptians waited till the Turks were pushing their boats into the water; then the Maxims attached to the battery suddenly spoke and the guns opened with case at point blank range at the men and boats crowded under the steep bank opposite them.

A GALLANT TORPEDO-BOAT.

Immediately a violent fire broke out on both sides of the Canal, the enemy replying to the rifles and machine gun fire and the battery on our bank. Around the guns it was impossible to stand up, but the gunners stuck to the work, inflicting terrible punishment.

A little torpedo-boat with a crew of 13 patrolling the Canal dashed up and landed a party of four officers and men on the south of Tussum, who climbed up the eastern bank and found themselves in a Turkish trench, and escaped by a miracle with the news. Promptly the midget dashed in between the fires and enfiladed the eastern bank amid a hail of bullets, and destroyed several pontoon boats lying unlaunched on the bank. It continued to harass the enemy, though two officers and two men were wounded.

As the dark, cloudy night lightened towards dawn fresh forces came into action. The Turks, who occupied the outer, or day line, of the Tussum post advanced, covered by artillery, against the Indian troops holding the inner, or night position, while an Arab regiment advanced against the Indian troops at the Serapeum post.

The warships on the Canal and lake joined in the fray. The enemy brought some six batteries of field guns into action from the slopes west of Katab-el-Kheil. Shells admirably fused made fine practice at all the visible targets, but failed to find the battery above mentioned, which, with some help from a detachment of infantry, beat down the fire of the riflemen on the opposite bank, and inflicted heavy losses on the hostile supports advancing towards the Canal. A chance salvo wounded four men of the battery, but it ran more risk from a party of about 20 of the enemy who had crossed the Canal in the dark and sniped the gunners from the rear till they were finally rounded up by the Indian cavalry and compelled to surrender.

CHARGE OF THE INDIANS.

Supported by land naval artillery the Indian troops took the offensive. The Serapeum garrison, which had stopped the enemy three-quarters of a mile from the position, cleared its front, and the Tussum garrison by a brilliant counter-attack drove the enemy back. Two battalions of Anatolians of the 28th Regiment were thrown vainly into the fight. Our artillery gave them no chance, and by 3.30 in the afternoon a third of the enemy, with the exception of a force that lay hid in bushy hollows on the east bank between the two posts, were in full retreat, leaving many dead, a large proportion of whom had been killed by shrapnel.

WARSHIPS IN ACTION.

Meanwhile the warships on the Lake had been in action. A salvo from a battleship woke up Ismailia early, and crowds of soldiers and some civilians climbed every available sandhill to see what was doing till the Turkish

guns sent shells sufficiently near to convince them that it was safer to watch from cover. A husband and wife took a carriage and drove along the Lake front, much peppered by shells, till near the old French hospital, when they realized the danger and suddenly whisked round and drove back full gallop to Ismailia.

But the enemy's fire did more than startle. At about 11 in the morning two 6-in. shells hit the Hardinge near the southern entrance of the Lake. The first damaged the funnel and the second burst inboard. Pilot Carey, a gallant old merchant seaman, refused to go below when the firing opened and lost a leg. Nine others were wounded. One or two merchantmen were hit, but no lives were lost. A British gunboat was struck.

A DRAMATIC DUEL.

Then came a dramatic duel between the Turkish big gun or guns and a warship. The Turks fired just over and then just short of 9,000 yards. The warship sent in a salvo of more 6-in. shells than had been fired that day.

During the morning the enemy moved towards Ismailia ferry. The infantry used the ground well, digging shelter pits as they advanced and were covered by a well-served battery. An officer, apparently a German, exposed himself with the greatest daring, and watchers were interested to see a yellow "pie dog," which also escaped, running about the advancing line. Our artillery shot admirably and kept the enemy from coming within 1,000 yards of the Indian outposts. In the afternoon the demonstration—for it was no more—ceased but for a few shells fired as "a night-cap." During the dark night that followed some of the enemy approached the outpost line of the ferry position with a dog, but nothing happened, and day found them gone.

THE ATTACK ON EL KANTARA.

At the same time as the fighting ceased at the ferry it died down at El Kantara. There the Turks, after a plucky night attack, came to grief on our wire entanglements. Another attempt to advance from the south-east was forced back by an advance of the Indian troops. The attack, during which it was necessary to advance on a narrow front over ground often marshy with recent inundations against our strong position, never had a chance. Indeed the enemy were only engaged with our outpost line.

Late in the afternoon of the 3rd there was sniping from the east bank between Tussum and Serapeum and a man was killed in the tops of a British battleship. Next morning the sniping was renewed, and the Indian troops moving out to search the ground found several hundred of the enemy in the hollow previously mentioned. During the fighting some of the enemy either by accident or design held up their hands, while others fired on the Funjabis who were advancing to take the surrender and killed a British officer. A sharp fight with the cold steel followed, and a British officer killed a Turkish officer with a sword thrust in single combat. The body of a German officer with a white flag was afterwards found here, but there is no proof that the white flag was used. Finally all the enemy were killed, captured, or put to flight.

ROUNDING UP THE PRISONERS.

With this the fighting ended, and the subsequent operations were confined to "rounding up" prisoners and to the capture of a considerable amount of military material left behind. The Turks who departed with their guns and baggage during the night of the 3rd still seemed to be moving eastward.

So ended the battle of the Suez Canal. Our losses have been amazingly small, totalling about 111 killed and wounded. Our opponents have probably lost nearly 3,000 men. The Indian troops bore the brunt of the fighting and were well supported by the British and French warships and by the Egyptian troops. The Turks fought bravely and their artillery shot well if unluckily, but the intentions of the higher command are still a puzzle to British officers.

Did Djemal Pasha intend to try to break through our position under cover of demonstrations along a front over 90 miles in length with a total force, perhaps, of 25,000 men, or was he attempting a reconnaissance in force? If the former is the case, he must have had a low idea of British leadership or an amazing belief in the readiness and ability of sympathizers in Egypt to support the Turk. Certainly he was misinformed as to our positions, and on the 4th we buried on the eastern bank the bodies of two men, apparently Syrians or Egyptians, who were found with their hands tied and their eyes bandaged. Probably they were guides who had been summarily killed, having unwittingly led the enemy astray. If, on the other hand, Djemal Pasha was attempting a reconnaissance it was a costly business and gave General Wilson a very handsome victory.

THE TURKISH ADVANCE.

Till the last week of January there had been some doubt as to the road by which the Ottoman Commander-in-Chief in Syria intended to advance on the Canal. Before the end of the month it was quite clear that what was then believed to be the Turkish advanced guard, having marched with admirable rapidity from Beersheba via El Auja, Djebel Libni, and Djiffafa, was concentrating in the valleys just east of Katab-el-Kheil, a group of hills lying about 10 miles east of the Canal, where it enters Lake Timsah. A smaller column detached from this force was sighted in the hills east of Ismailia Ferry. Smaller bodies had appeared in the neighbourhood of El Kantara and between Suez and the Bitter Lakes.

By the night of February 1 the enemy had prepared his plan of attack. To judge both from his movements during the next two days and the documents found on prisoners and slain, it was proposed to attack El Kantara while making a demonstration at El Ferdan further south, and prevent reinforcement at the first-named post. The demonstration at Ismailia Ferry by the right wing of the Katab-el-Kheil force which had been partly refused till then in order to prevent a counter-attack from the Ferry, was designed to occupy the attention of the Ismailia garrison, while the main attack was delivered between the Tussum post, eight miles south of Ismailia, and the Serapeum post, some three miles farther south. Eshref Bey's highly irregular force in the meantime was to demonstrate near Suez.

The selection of the Tussum and Serapeum section as the principal objective was dictated both by the consideration that success here would bring the Turks a few miles from Ismailia, and by the information received from patrols that the west bank of the Canal between the posts, both of which may be described as bridge-heads, were unoccupied by our troops. The west bank between the posts is steep and marked by a long, narrow belt of trees. The east bank also falls steeply to the Canal, but behind it are numerous hollows, full of brushwood, which give good cover. Here the enemy's advanced parties established themselves and entrenched before the main attack was delivered.

LATE WAR NEWS.

WORK OF FRENCH WARSHIPS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, FEB. 12.

In the course of the recent attack on the Suez Canal the French warships Requin and d'Entrecasteaux contributed with success to the defence of the Canal. The Requin silenced heavy Turkish guns and the d'Entrecasteaux dispersed large groupings of the enemy. There were no casualties on either ship.

* The Requin is an old battleship, reconstructed in 1901, which has been used for gunnery school purposes, her largest armament being two 10-in. guns. The d'Entrecasteaux is a protected cruiser, built in 1894, with two 9-in. and 12 5-in. guns.

FIGHT FOR THE HOLY LAND.

SIR A. MURRAY'S VICTORY.

20,000 TURKS DEFEATED.

900 PRISONERS.

Telegraphing on March 28 the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief in Egypt reports:—

We advanced our troops a distance of 15 miles from Rafa to Wadi Ghuzza (Gaza), five miles south of Gaza, to cover construction of railway.

On 26th and 27th we were heavily engaged in this neighbourhood with a force of about 20,000 of the enemy.

We inflicted very heavy losses on him and have taken 900 prisoners, including General Commanding and whole Divisional Staff of 53rd Turkish Division.

This figure includes four Austrian officers and 32 Austrian and German other ranks.

We also captured two Austrian 4-2 inch howitzers.

All troops behaved splendidly, especially troops of Welsh, Kent, Sussex, Hereford, Middlesex, and Surrey Regiments and the Anzac and Yeomanry mounted troops.

THE NEW CRUSADE.

DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE KAISER'S HOPES.

The district of Gaza, which has from immemorial times been a stronghold of the Holy Land, is within 50 miles of Jerusalem. That this district has now been reached by British soldiers must give rise to many thoughts in British and German as well as in Turkish minds. It is now 20 years since the Kaiser made his progress through Palestine and the East, and in the spirit of the new crusade, cast his mantle over Moslem and Christian alike. The political dreams which led to that visit are now in process of being shattered, and the Holy Land, it would seem, is on the eve of being rescued from a regime which, through centuries, has held it in bondage.

The victorious progress of the British arms is largely due to the remarkable way in which roads and railways have been pushed across the desert. When the enemy was crushed at Romani last August that place was a railhead, and from the above report it appears that the line has now been carried over 100 miles farther to the east.

Since our retreat from Katia last spring the operations which have now carried our troops into Palestine have been an unbroken series of successes. The principal engagements have been the following:—

August 4.—A force of 18,000 Turks beaten at Romani; 5,930 prisoners taken in the battle and subsequent pursuit.

December 21.—El Eris occupied after being for two years in the hands of the enemy.

December 23.—Turks overwhelmed at Maghaba; 1,350 prisoners.

January 9.—Capture of Rafa, with 1,600 prisoners.

March 6.—Turks abandoned a very strong position between Rafa and Beer Sheba, the enemy's base.

THE ARAB WORLD.

ITS PAST AND ITS FUTURE.

The following article is by the author of the article on the "Clean Fighting Turk," which was published in "The Times" of February 20. He is a distinguished authority on Oriental affairs.

The fall of Baghdad has brought the British people directly into touch with the Arab world—that world of noise, bustle, passion, and rhetoric which has lain under the deadening influence of the various Turkish dynasties near upon a thousand years. At this moment the Arab race presents a sad spectacle, divided, scattered, and tattered by war, revolution, conquest, and deliberate misgovernment, yet one not devoid of promise. When the Arab has met civilization in the past the marriage of intellects has been fruitful. The nature of the issue is demonstrated by the ruins which scatter Syria, Mesopotamia, and Irak.

The groves of columns at Tadmor, the vast temple of Baalbek, the palace of Al Hadhr, the hippodrome of Gerasa, the theatre of Amman, the basilicas of the Hauran and North Syria, the mosques and tombs of Damascus, the desert castles of Kerak, Salkhad, and El Nejin, are witnesses to results of the mating of the Arab mind with the successive cultures of Greece, Rome, Parthia, Persia, Byzantium, and the Franks.

By the strange movements of the web of fate the British in Baghdad now come once more face to face with the Arab world for the first time since the last English, Irish, and Scottish Crusaders left the Holy Land. For though Egypt is Arab in tongue, the western desert in name, it is not until you arrive at Baghdad that you reach that roaring, chinking, clattering, arguing, bellowing, demonstrative world of Rabalaisian jest, caustic satire, plaintive poetry, majestic verse, calculated rhetoric, comprehensive, invective, subtle flattery, remorseless logic, and strident, car-piercing din which stretches to the Mediterranean coast on the west, to the Kurdish hills on the east, and the rugged fringes of the Taurus on the north, that space of earth which the old Arabian geographers named Irak, Jazirah, Shamiyeh, Suriya, and Filistin.

FROM PROSPERITY TO DESOLATION.

Outwardly the Arabian world of to-day is unprosperous; squalor, poverty, and noise are its outward habiliments. As one who has some faith in the future, I dread the reaction which may take place in English minds when the public realizes what a land of ruin and desolation the Turks have made of what was once the centre of a prosperity which had endured for 3,000 years.

The Arab is physically and intellectually as virile as he ever was, but superficially he is unrecognizable from his former self. In the early days of the Abbasid Caliphate, not only was the Arab world prosperous, but we have records of an elaboration of government and a complexity of administration which would astonish those who are only acquainted with the social and political conditions under which Arabs live to-day.

The Baghdad of Harun-al-Rashid was not a disorderly agglomeration of tortuous streets, picturesque ruins, pointed arches, slender minarets, ragged awnings, and crumbling walls. It was built on a rigid system with broad avenues, named and ordered quarters, solid and businesslike Government buildings, palaces, and massive walls. It was not inhabited by squalid and ragged population, sunken in disease and poverty, but was an orderly capital with a perfect police system, regular cantonments of troops, colleges, observatories, exchanges, law courts, hospitals, poor houses, public baths, trade centres, and guilds. There was society in Baghdad: wits and poets, philosophers and statesmen, lexicographers, learned doctors and metaphysicians met and conversed in schools and assemblies. Through the pages of the old chroniclers one gets small glimpses of that extraordinary and elaborate world which pivoted on Baghdad, for Baghdad was not an oasis in the wilderness; Damascus, Kirkisya, Raqqa, Mosul, Ras-ul-Ain, Erbil, and scores more great cities

surrounded it. Now many of them are marked by mere undulations in the soil.

Such was the Arab world which pushed forth armies to furthest Turkestan, and had, before the building of Baghdad, stretched out its advance guards beyond the Pyrenees. And be it said, though the Arabs were conquerors, yet were they not destroyers. So long as the lordship of Islam was in Arab hands, intellect, art, science, and commerce flourished. Presently oppressors, often tyrants, the provincial Governors of the Arab Caliphs hardly ever left a province without adding to it some monument or institution.

CAUSES OF DECAY.

Whence comes, then, this desolation and wretchedness of to-day? In the days of Charlemagne Europe was emerging from the darkest chasm of history, and Baghdad was at its zenith; to-day the flourishing provinces of which Baghdad was the Imperial capital are deserts, and of Baghdad itself there only remains a pile of 149,000 souls where 2,000,000 once subsisted in affluence. Has the Arab degenerated? What explanation can account for the utter collapse of this people? Degenerate in the true sense the Arab certainly is not; you will find his memory as acute, his wit as nimble, his sense of humour as keen, his observation as direct as in the days of Ibn Batuta, Abu Nowas, or El Tabari. Lids and supra, of good physique, his perfect features, glossy hair, small hands and feet, show he is in body as true as his puns, oratory, wit, and astuteness prove his mind to be unaltering; yet he who gave civilization and order to a third of Asia and the whole of North Africa now lives on a dunghill amidst filth and ruins. What is the answer to the enigma?

I think the answer is that the Arab intellect is one that only produces itself to the utmost by contact with other minds. For centuries the Arab of Arabia, which is the Arab of isolation, has remained in the same position, neither advancing nor retreating, absolutely changeless. In the days of the Prophet the Arabs of Arabia were, as to-day, intensely aristocratic in sentiment as regards birth and breed, desultory but courageous warriors, brilliant poets, fine conversationalists, and astute diplomatists. The Arabs that Arabia has put forth have been whatsoever the contacts they established with the other world made them.

When they met Rome they produced Palmyra, when they met Byzantium they produced the brilliant Omayyad civilization, when they absorbed Sassanian culture they produced Baghdad, when they invaded Spain they produced Cordova, but when they were in turn subjected to the Turks, not by conquest, but by the infiltration of Turkish dynasties and the Turcofication of the necessary means of civilization and intellectual contact; they lost all the trappings of material civilization, keeping only their fiery hearts, their azile thoughts, their poetry, and their individuality. The Turk has not been able to oppress an Arab and reduce him to slavery and sullen servage as he could the Armenians, Bulgarians, and Greeks. The Arab remained the intellectual superior of his master; the Turks could fight and bully, divide and rule, the Turk could reduce all Arabistan to ruins, but he could not make the Arab admit Turkish superiority. But just as the Greek, Roman, Byzantine, Sassanian, and Spanish contacts were fruitful, so the Turco-Arab contact has been sterile, fruitful only in ruins.

TURKISH MISDEEDS.

Turkish policy towards the Arabs has been consistently destructive. By means of the sale of land taxes a class of publican, or tax-farmers, has grown up, which battens on the poverty of the peasantry, encourages rapacity in the landlord, and paralyses agricultural industry. In the cities the Turks have encouraged faction and feud until everywhere a selfish, grasping mass of intrigue and hatred, and which public works are neglected and epidemics gain year by year. On the country-side conscription and grinding taxation combine to ruin the peasantry by the spread of venereal disease, the unsettlement of family life, and the impoverishment of every essential factor. The breeds of cattle degenerate through want of winter fodder, the forests are burnt for charcoal, highway robbery checks communications, deliberate fostering of local feuds prevents the possibility of co-operation and common action. In the desert the Turks intrigue among the tribal chiefs, set one against another, encouraging lawlessness, plundering, and tribal war. The assets of the country are bartered away, and such concessions to Levantine financiers, and such railways as exist carry with them a load of scandalous stipulations calculated to suit the strategic aims of German soldiers, the commercial aims of German and Levantine middlemen, the aims of Istanbul patriots, and one and all to retard the natural development of the country. The Arabs, under such influences as these, have seen their cities and agriculture wither away, and, being easily divided, have sunk back into the misery from which they had emerged in a blaze of glory.

Let us be frank; the Arab has been steam-rollered by history, and has suffered in the process. In the march of lower Mesopotamia, whither he has fled from taxation and oppression, he is as a wild animal, his hand against every man's. He has known no government that did not mean oppression, extortion and slavery, he has known no neighbour who was not an enemy; the marsh Arab knows no law, he is desperate and untamable. The forces which he has turned his hand from a garden to a swamp have changed him into an amphibious predatory scavenger. The Arab of Korbelia and Nejeif, isolated from the rest of the Arab world by schism and feud, hugs himself in proud isolation, lacerating his mind with ancient griefs and indignation, and holding fiercely aloof from contact with strangers.

The Arab of good family, of the cities of Syria, with all his brains and intelligence, is impeded and shackled by the atrocious system of government under which he has lived. For such a one to enter into the civil service is to enter into a nest of corruption; to go in for municipal politics is to be the pawn of intriguing governors; to go into the army is to be a bankrupt man; to remain in the city drawing his income from land is to be exposed to every temptation which isolation and idleness can offer; for the Turks see to it that any man who rises above his fellows must either be corrupted or crushed. The Arab peasant, wherever the Arab land is tilled, is the avvil smitten by a hundred hammers, yet he toils on in spite of tax gatherers, recruiting sergeants, highwaymen, robbers, and rapacious officials. The Bedawi of the desert lives from the bonds of settled life, as a bird from a limed twig; he mocks at the universe; to him city or village is slavery; better it is to live out in the parching desert, ever wandering in search of scanty pasture, than to fall into those toils of slavery.

THE SPARK OF VITALITY.

Yet though the Arabs are brought to this pass, there are sure and certain indications that after centuries of deforming and errant circumstance they have within them still that eternal spark of vitality which enabled them to beget greatness in the past. The Syrians, Moslems, and Christians who go to America and dive into the sea of 80 million of Caucasian people, rise to

the surface, doctors, lawyers, journalists, and merchants, or else return to their homes laden with money the result of their labour in an open market. In Aleppo you may see to-day modern houses, buildings showing uncommon architectural originality and taste, European in outline, but purely Arab in thought and conception. In Egypt the Arab from the Turkish provinces rises to the highest posts in the civil service. In the desert the flame of poetry burns as brightly as in the days of Muta-Nobi. On the Mediterranean littoral, in spite of administrative folly and wickedness, the towns have grown and prospered by contact with the world.

To-day a little breeze of life is stirring in the Arab world. Isolated, dispersed, sundered by creed and geographical circumstance, warped as they are by misfortune, nevertheless there is among the Arabs a movement toward cohesion, a new sense of being. There is an Arab movement, vague, undefined, at times almost imperceptible, yet it exists. The common tongue, the common vitality, the pride of race, the great memories of the past, combine to stimulate through the Arab world a little throbbing pulse of life. The Arabs are so ancient and so unconquered a people that there is not yet a sense of nationalism, the Arabs are in a pre-nationalist state; but the racial sense is strong and deep, the pride of race is deeper still, the desire to realize their destiny is growing.

At this moment the British are in Baghdad. The Turks, please God, are going from the lands they have ruined and broken. The Arabs are on the verge of a new contact, contact with the post-war Europe that is not yet. What may come of it who can tell? Approached as "natives" or in a "whitewash" manner the Arab will shut up like an oyster. Approached as what he is, in the light of what he was (and if the teachings of 2,000 years of history mean anything again shall be), the Arab of the future will prove to be one of the great world-assets. Firmness, tolerance, humility, and understanding are the qualities which those who would be his, raise the palm and pray for. To help the Arab once again to greatness, to partnership in the fruitfulness of the earth, to break the spell of the Turanian destroyer, and begin afresh the great story of Semite civilization is more than an Imperial task—it is a contribution to the fulfilment of the destiny of mankind.

PARCELS FOR PRISONERS.

SIR STARR JAMESON'S REPLY TO CRITICISMS.

Sir L. Starr Jameson, chairman of the Central Prisoners of War Committee, writing from the offices of the committee, 4, Thurloe-place, S.W.7, says as follows, in view of the various criticisms in the Press and by members of the House of Commons, and seeing that some time must pass before the Parliamentary Committee can report, to summarize again the information already given to the public, and so perhaps to relieve the anxiety of friends and relatives of prisoners of war. He makes the following points:—

That the Central Committee only supplies directly some 8,600 prisoners. The others, some 28,000 in number, are supplied as before by regimental care committees and approved associations, working under the Central Committee.

That the supply of bread from Denmark and Switzerland was only arranged for because the prisoners themselves complained that that sent from England arrived in a bad state, being a rule sour.

The German railways carried no parcels at all from December 15 to 25, on account of the congestion due to Christmas. From January 7 to 27 the German railway service was much disorganized, owing to snow and storms, and huge quantities of parcels accumulated in Germany and the subsequent distribution was most irregular. Records of dispatches, the acknowledgment cards show the most extraordinary irregularity in the arrival of parcels; often a man will receive in February a parcel sent off in the first week in December, while he may have previously received intermediate ones. Or he receives quite a block at one time, and so on. Over 142,000 parcels have been sent by the Central Prisoners of War Committee to the men for packing to be done at 4, Thurloe-place, and up to date some 40,000 postcards of acknowledgment have been received.

That dispatch is absolutely regular can be readily proved. But after making all allowances for uncertain factors, there is written proof to show that 50 per cent. of the parcels which leave Thurloe-place reach the hands of the prisoners.

The Central Committee and the different organizations throughout the country have nothing to do with the parcels from the moment the postal authorities take them over. At Thurloe-place they are placed in bags, which are sealed on the premises by the Post Office officials. If they are not delivered, the one remedy is by negotiation and protest between the Governments.

It is known that Germany's short of food and that this is increasing as the blockade continues. It must, under present circumstances, be a great temptation to hungry men charged with the conveyance through Germany of parcels, which they know contain food, to open and make use of their parcels. It is now the practice in the parent camps to open all this before giving them to the prisoners and, as this cannot be done at the working camps, the men in the latter have their parcels. We have protested vigorously against this practice through the Foreign Office and enlisted the kind offices of the International Red Cross, but so far without avail.

"My Committee," Sir Starr Jameson concludes, "was the first to suggest inquiry; we welcome and have always welcomed the criticisms and suggestions of fair-minded men. The Parliamentary inquiry, which we have been promised, is held, we think, public to remember that a comparatively small number of instances are not necessarily typical of the whole, that the subject is large and complex, and that the defects, whatever they may be, must not, in common fairness, be too hastily assumed to lie on this side of the North Sea."

EXPERIMENTAL AEROPLANES.

MANUFACTURE FORBIDDEN EXCEPT UNDER LICENCE.

The Minister of Munitions has made an Order under the Defence of the Realm Regulations that on and after April 1, 1917, no person shall without a licence from the Minister of Munitions commence or proceed with the experimental manufacture of any aeroplane or seaplane or any part thereof other than any kind of aero-engine. Provided that where a licence from the Minister of Munitions is required shall have been made and is pending for the carrying on of any experimental manufacture, which has been commenced before April 1, nothing in the Order shall prohibit the carrying on of such manufacture until the licence shall have been refused.

For the purpose of the Order experimental manufacture means any manufacture which is not under contract, and includes the preparation of working drawings, but not the preparation of general arrangement drawings. All persons desirous of obtaining licences for experimental manufacture should apply in writing to the Controller of Aeronautical Supplies, Air Board Office, London, W.C.1, giving full particulars of the manufacture for which the licence is required.

The Order is not intended to prevent and discourage the design of new machines, but only to prevent the design and construction of machines upon designs and machines which have no prospect of possible encouragement to original design, and no obstacle will be placed in the way of any persons where there is any reasonable likelihood of their being able to produce a useful design.

The Actors' Association will hold its annual general meeting next Sunday, at 6 o'clock, at the Ambassadors Theatre. Sir George Alexander will preside. The crisis in the history of the theatre will be discussed, and every member of the profession, whether a member of the association or not, is invited to attend.