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THE CLEAN - UP AT GALLIPOLI THE GRAVE OF THE BRITISHERS THE TRUTH OF THE FAMOUS "EVACUATION."

The readers of the *Continental Times* have enjoyed more than one of the vivid letters of our Correspondent with the Turkish forces, Mr. E. Bleek-Schlombach. Mr. Schlombach has now compiled many of these articles as well as various new ones in a volume which is to appear shortly under the title of "Allah-il-Allah," and will be published by O. G. Zehrfeld of Leipzig at the price of 1 Mark. It is to be richly illustrated with special photographs.

A wave of cynical laughter has resounded throughout the world over the claim of the English to have evacuated Gallipoli "voluntarily" and "without losses," not to speak of the almost incredible and brazen preposterousness of Mr. Asquith's declaration that this ghastly defeat and humiliation of Britain is to "form one of the brightest pages in the history of the British army" or words to that effect. Verily these voices that reach us from the House of Commons would be far more in keeping with the House of Bedlam. Yet British cunning in falsifying history is both great and unashamed, and care must be taken that the falsehoods that are meant to cover up disaster and defeat do not prevail with that much-beguiled maiden—Clio, the muse of history. Mr. Bleek-Schlombach's account throws a sharp and destructive light upon British boasts and British misrepresentations: "Gallipoli—the Grave of the Englishmen—such will be its name in history. Down here, on Cape Helles, remote and legendary, the parting ridge between Europe and Asia, proud old England laid its lofty Oriental ambitions to rest in a grave—buried them at the beginning of 1916 with hundreds of thousands of the soldiers she had sacrificed in vain.

The 7th of January, 1916, had been fixed upon by Field-Marshal Liman von Sanders, the leader of the Fifth Turkish Army,—which had kept the invading Scots, Brits, Australians and Frenchmen in such masterly check,—as the proper time for making a final clean-up of the enemy forces.

The irresistible drive began in the afternoon about two o'clock under the tremendous action of the entire reinforced Turkish artillery.

General Monro, the chief in command of the hostile forces, must have been aware that his fateful hour was about to strike. He was able to confirm the terrible fact he had feared so long—the time had come when the artillery of his opponents was almost equal to his own even in a material sense—in numbers and in calibre. That the spirit of the Turkish soldiers, their zest for battle and their skill, had, from the very beginning exceeded the morale of his own mercenary troops is something that had been painfully borne in upon him through the enormous losses which had followed his numerous futile attacks.

"S. O. S. Save our souls!" This desperate cry of the sinking ship was sent out by him and was answered by a whole fleet of transport steamers, all masked with that symbol of mercy—the Red Geneva Cross, for the English knew that the magnanimity of the Turkish commanders was such that it respected even this base and fraudulent misuse of the Red Cross emblem. Monroe was thus able to save at least the last remnants of his expeditionary corps. The pose was kept up before the eyes of the world—as well as the mask and the sounding phrase.

The Austrian motor mortars and the stationary as well as mobile Turkish batteries now began their victorious work upon the enemy positions, toiling fiercely for several hours. As the climax to some excellent tunnelling operations several terrific mines were exploded. With gnashing teeth, and in deplorable and hasty flight the British officers scattered from the comforts and the luxuries of their dug-outs.

In order to save at least the greater number of their guns, they gave the command to abandon all their food supplies—vast stores large enough to last for months—as well as the horses, the mules, the entire park of wagons and motors, the field hospitals—everything!

About the time of the evening prayer the Turkish infantry all along the line set their bayonets for the attack. And then the valiant sons of Allah stormed forward—from the left wing on the Dardanelles, over Kerevis-Dereh, across "Bismarck Heights," down to the right wing on the Aegean Sea. Irresistibly they plunged forward—across trenches, wire entanglements, wolf-pits, and across hillocks of the corpses of the enemy. The battle fever of the Osmanli troops, which their leaders had found such difficulty in repressing, now broke into open flame. Even before the long-drawn prayer of the Hodscha had ceased, the battle-cry of "Allah-il-Allah" came thundering up from the charging lines, and went echoing down to the sea where English cruisers and torpedo-boats with covered lights went erring about, seeking to take a hand in the battle upon the shore and to cover the flight.

For the same reason the Staffordshires, a regiment of prize troops, were flung forward to take upon themselves the terrible momentum and shock of the storming Turks. But they were swept away as by some elemental force,

ground to pieces and mowed down under the bayonets of the Turkish braves who at last were enjoying the exaltation of cleansing their native soil from the plague of the enemy.

Then the machine-guns were rushed up and these began to hammer their death and destruction into the headlong, fleeing ranks.

That the British were not literally thrown into the sea is to be attributed only to the superiority of their big naval guns which held up the pursuers by a wild cannonade of 15 inch shells—a final opportunity for squandering expensive ammunition.

A moonless, impenetrable night, out of which a few large stars sparkled forth, mercifully covered the horrors of the battlefield Jackals, hungry for prey, came slinking down from the hills, and their hoarse cries mingled with the screech of night-owls that go flying about the ragged walls of the old bastion of Sedd-ul-Bahr and the stone stumps of the old wind-mills.

The Damoclean sword of complete annihilation hung threateningly over the feverish activities along the landing-places during the night—and it was only at dawn that the fleet was able to afford its laborious protection.

Soon, however, the shore, the coastal camps and the landing-places were subjected to the fire of the Turkish guns. The flight, the "evacuation" had to be interrupted once more.

It was only about midnight on the 8th of January, after the storm had subsided and the lighters were once more able to approach on smooth water under the protection of darkness, that the "brilliant retreat" of that 250 million pound expedition which had promised to give its members "a promenade to Constantinople" could be effected.

I happened to meet an Australian prisoner who was wounded and was being conducted to the hospital of the Red Crescent at Pera. "Well, I've had a look at her after all—this here Constantinople," the man from the Antipodes remarked, then added with a sour smile, "but not in the way we fellows thought." On the morning of the 9th of January, in the year 1916, he it remarked for "all those whom it may concern" there was nothing left of the opponents of the Holy War—nothing save the mounds of dead men and the tangles of the wounded they had left groaning upon Gallipoli!

Translated by R. L. O.

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