

**CAMPAIGN AT THE DARDANELLES, 1915.**

After closely blockading the entrance to these straits for some months, a powerful British and French fleet was assembled for a naval attack in February, 1915. The coast defences had meanwhile been greatly strengthened, and a powerful army assembled for their protection under the direction of German officers. The bombardment began on February 19, and was continued at intervals until the evening of March 2. Several of the forts were silenced and greatly damaged. On March 20, the attack was renewed. Three battleships of the allied squadron were sunk during the day by mines or gun fire. This was a serious reverse.

A military expedition under the command of Sir Ian Hamilton had already been organized to attack these defences in the rear. It consisted of a British, an Australian-New Zealand and a French army corps, numbering 120,000 men. A much larger force of Turkish troops, with a considerable number of German officers and soldiers had been assembled to oppose the invasion. A landing was effected on April 25, with serious losses. A limited foothold was secured on the peninsula but after most persistent efforts, the troops failed to carry the heights dominating their position. Siege operations were then undertaken, which continued in the face of insuperable difficulties until the end of the year, when the undertaking was reluctantly abandoned, and the allied troops were withdrawn, after months of incredible efforts in which they had displayed indomitable courage and tenacity.

**OPERATIONS IN EGYPT AND MESOPOTAMIA, 1915.**

The British garrison in Egypt had been strongly reinforced the year before. The Suez canal was fortified and guarded by strong garrisons. An advance of the Turks from Syria was repelled in the first week of February, 1915. Subsequent small raids were easily repulsed. In April the British-Indian force in Mesopotamia was reinforced by a second division, and General Sir John Nixon took command. The Turks were defeated at Shaiba on April 12, and again at Nasiriyeh on the Euphrates about ninety miles above on July 24. They were again defeated at Kut-el-Amara, on the Tigris on September 28, and closely pursued by a British division under General Townshend. They were driven from a fortified position in Ctesiphon, twenty miles from Bagdad, on November 22. Afterwards they were greatly reinforced and Townshend was obliged in turn to retire to Kut-el-Amara, where he was surrounded and besieged.

A formidable attempt of the Turks to invade Russian territory in the Caucasus was defeated. One Turkish army corps was forced to surrender and two others were entirely routed. The Russians gained ground slowly in Armenia and Persia.

**CONQUEST OF GERMAN SOUTHWEST AFRICA, 1915.**

The rebellion in South Africa terminated on February 3, with the surrender of the last rebel leader. The colonial forces under the command of General Louis Botha, the premier of the Union, under-