

Damascus line, while the main highway from Jerusalem to Damascus ran directly through their position and would form their natural line of retreat. A series of demonstrations and limited attacks was planned upon the left of their main position lying between the high-road and the Jordan river to attract their attention to that part of their line while the main attack was launched to their right near the sea coast. If this succeeded in effecting a breach the whole of the cavalry were to pour through it and endeavour to cut their lines of communication and pursue the defeated troops. A vigorous holding attack was made on the Turkish left on September 19, with the anticipated result. Next morning the main attack was launched by a very strong force of Australian, British, and French troops on a front of sixteen miles with its centre opposite Gilgal. After some hours of stubborn resistance the Turkish troops on the extreme right gave way and in the course of a vigorous pursuit were completely routed and dispersed. The whole of the allied cavalry rapidly advanced across the plain of Sharon in two columns, one of them turning immediately eastward to intercept the retreat of the remainder of the Turkish army by seizing the Damascus road and railways while the other pursued the routed enemy to Nazareth and thence turned eastward toward the Jordan. British infantry advanced by forced marches and seized the fords of that river while the Arabian auxiliaries cut the enemy's railways by a series of attacks at the same time. Seventy-five thousand prisoners and seven hundred guns were taken in this decisive victory. The Seventh and Eighth Turkish Armies ceased to exist. A cavalry column advancing from Nazareth on September 23 occupied Haifa and Acre and the country around Lake Tiberias. Allenby then advanced northward meeting with very slight opposition. His cavalry entered Damascus on October 1, taking 7,000 prisoners while a French force occupied Beirut. The junction of the Palestine railway and the main line to Aleppo was reached on October 5. Tripoli was taken on October 13, Homs on October 15, and Aleppo, the enemy's base and great railway centre, was occupied on October 26, the insignificant remnant of the Turkish army retiring without any resistance. The Turkish forces in Mesopotamia were entirely cut off from their supplies. General Marshall resumed his advance upon Mosul on October 24. Conscious of its weakness, the Turkish government despatched General Townshend, whom they still held as a prisoner of war, to the British Admiral in command in the Aegean Sea to sue for peace. The terms offered and eventually accepted were equivalent to unconditional submission. A fleet of British and French destroyers entered the Dardanelles on November 9,\* and British troops took possession of the forts at Constantinople. A large allied fleet arrived on November 13, with the intention of beginning active operations against the German fleet on the Black Sea, which were only prevented by the conclusion of the armistice with Germany.

#### EVENTS ON THE EASTERN FRONT, 1918.

After the conclusion of the armistice with the Central Powers at Brest-Litovsk, the Bolshevik Government at Petrograd was still