

provinces. It is interesting to note that at this time telegrams from the British control officers stationed in the interior were in no way interfered with.

Towards the beginning of October Damad Ferid, the Grand Vizier, resigned office, and was followed into power by a Government of strong Nationalist tendencies. It was early evident that this new Government was secretly occupied in organising for war, a fact of which there is now ample proof.

Djemal Pasha was installed as Minister of War, with Djevad Pasha as Ottoman Chief of the General Staff, and Colonel Galatali Shevket Bey as Commander of the Dardanelles defences. Working in close touch with the Nationalists these officers were employed in the elaboration of schemes for placing at the disposal of the Nationalist forces the large stocks of military material, arms and ammunition collected in the various Turkish arsenals and depôts, the guarding of which, with the reduced Allied effectives, had long been a difficulty.

Previous to the fall of the Damad Ferid Cabinet Nationalist bands from the vicinity of Angora, under the command of General Ali Fuad, the dismissed commander of the 20th Army Corps, approached the Anatolian railway at Eskishehr, and destroyed two small bridges on the railway in the vicinity of Bilejik. Their objective appeared to be to gain possession of the large stores of ammunition distributed along the railway, which it had been impossible to remove. I therefore dispatched Brigadier-General R. E. Solly Flood, C.M.G., D.S.O., with a strong Brigade of all arms to Eskishehr, with instructions to transfer the large depôt of small arms ammunition at Kutaya to Ismid. This was satisfactorily accomplished, and leaving only sufficient troops to guard the railway, the remainder were withdrawn. It was now seen for the first time that the Nationalists intended to adopt an attitude hostile to the British.

Breaches of the Armistice became of almost daily occurrence, and, in consequence of the obstruction and bad faith on the part of Djemal Pasha, Ottoman Minister of War, and Djevad Pasha, Chief of the General Staff, an ultimatum by the Allied High Commissioners, demanding their removal from office within forty-eight hours, was handed to the Ottoman Government. The intimation that they had resigned their positions was received within the time limit.

The secret hostile activities of the Ottoman War Office were continued under their successors, and the position, in which a Government which was openly organising for war was permitted to continue in power, was intolerable. The effective military occupation of Constantinople was necessary, and for this end the preliminary measures had already been taken.

The general plan agreed upon by the Allied naval and military representatives consisted of the junction of the Allied troops ashore with the Allied naval forces landed for the purpose, and of their occupation of the Turkish War Office, Ministry of Marine, and post and telegraph offices. In accordance with the orders received from His Majesty's Government I instructed Lieutenant-General Sir H. F. M. Wilson, K.C.B., K.C.M.G., commanding Allied troops in Constantinople, to carry out the occupation on the morning of

16th March. By 11 a.m. the operation was completed, no resistance being offered. This result was due largely to the excellent arrangements made by the naval and military staffs concerned, and to the strong naval reinforcement placed at my disposal by Admiral Sir J. de Robeck, Bart., G.C.M.G., K.C.B., whose command had been reinforced only a few days previously by the arrival of the First Battle Squadron, Atlantic Fleet, under the command of Vice-Admiral Sir Sydney Fremantle, K.C.B., M.V.O.

The 2nd Battalion East Surrey Regiment arrived from England on 14th March. In the early hours of 16th March and during the following days certain important military and political personages were arrested. In the carrying out of this unpleasant duty officers, N.C.Os. and men displayed a high standard of dash and determination. In one case a platoon of 1/95th Russell's Infantry encountered stubborn resistance and suffered some casualties.

In view of the situation which was certain to arise in Anatolia on the news of the occupation of Constantinople becoming known, and of my instructions to avoid becoming embroiled in operations in Asia Minor, I had early in March decided to complete the withdrawal of the British and Italian troops from the Anatolian Railway.

Owing to certain unforeseen delays the withdrawal of the most distant troops (the Italian battalion at Konia) was not completed until the day before the occupation of Constantinople; it was immediately followed by the withdrawal of the 1/25th Punjabis at Afion Kara Hisar and Eskishehr. Its concentration and withdrawal was opposed by Nationalist forces. Bridges on either side of Eskishehr were destroyed.

On 22nd March the 1/25th Punjabis reached the broken bridge at Akhissar (twenty miles east of Ismid), bringing with them practically all the railway rolling stock from Eskishehr, which it was advisable to prevent falling into the hands of the Nationalists. Here they were met by a strong mixed force of all arms under Brigadier-General F. S. Montague-Bates, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O., which covered the repair of the bridge during the attacks of the Nationalist bands, a task for which the Royal Engineers, under Captain (A./Major) E. U. Grimshaw, R.E., deserve special mention.

On the 27th the final withdrawal to Ismid was effected. Landing parties of the Royal Navy had garrisoned Ismid during the operations. Meanwhile the 1/21st Punjabis and the 1/54th Sikhs had arrived from Egypt, and orders were issued for the formation at Ismid of the 242nd Infantry Brigade under the command of Brigadier-General F. S. Montague-Bates, C.B., C.M.G., D.S.O.

During the month of April the Turkish Government endeavoured, by the employment of armed force, to regain the control which they had lost to the Nationalists in the districts bordering the Sea of Marmora.

East of Ismid Circassian irregulars, under their leader Anzavour, had succeeded in capturing Ada Bazar and Boli from the Nationalists and had commenced an attack upon Gueye, a town on the railway, while Ottoman regular