

GENERAL SIR I. HAMILTON DESCRIBES LANDING OF TROOPS AT SUVLA BAY

Overwhelming Masses of Turks Attacked the Invaders But "Fighting Magnificently and Calling Upon the Name of God Our Men Stood to it and Maintained by Many a Deed of Daring the Old Traditions of Their Race".

London, Jan. 7.—Gen. Ian Hamilton's report on the British operations on the Gallipoli Peninsula was published in the Official Gazette last night. The report which was submitted to Field Marshal Earl Kitchener, Secretary of State for War, carries the story of the Dardanelles operations up to mid-October, when he relinquished his command.

Gen. Hamilton strongly opposed the abandonment of any of the bases held by the British troops. Concerning his retirement the report says:

"On the 17th of October your Lordship called asking me for an estimate of the losses which would be involved in the evacuation of the peninsula. I replied in terms showing that such a step was to me unthinkable. On the 16th of October I received a cable recalling me to London for the reason, as I was informed by your Lordship on my arrival, that His Majesty's Government desired a fresh, unbiased opinion from a responsible commander upon the question of early evacuation.

COULD NOT GET REINFORCEMENTS.

Probably no more important contribution to the history of the present war has yet been made. The report throws light upon the great landing at Anzac cove and Suva Bay, August 7, which has been the subject of strong attacks upon the military administration of the government, the whole operations requiring the combined action of the army and the navy.

The handling of the masses of troops within a limited area probably was the most complicated ever undertaken and military men are not surprised that some important details failed to work out as planned.

The Suva Bay landing failed to accomplish its object the report shows, partly because the force consisted largely of untried troops under generals inexperienced in the new warfare and partly through the failure of the water supply. The suffer-

ings of the troops for lack of water make painful reading.

Gen. Hamilton bestows the highest possible praise upon the bravery of the men. He believes that after the middle of August the Turks outnumbered the British and had plenty of fresh soldiers and munitions, while the British Government was unable to furnish him with the reinforcements he wanted.

THE SUVLA BAY LANDING.

The most stirring passages of the documents describe the ill-fated landing at Suva Bay and Anzac early in August for securing command of the heights in the middle of the peninsula and cutting off from their base the Turkish forces at the lower extremity where the allied armies made their first landing.

The operation began on August 6. The climax was reached at break of day on the 10th, when the Turks made a grand attack on the summit of Chunnuq Bair hill upon a short front held by two battalions of the Sixth North Lancashire and the Fifth Wiltshire Regiments, which Mr. Hamilton describes as weakened in numbers though not in spirit.

"First our men were shelled by every enemy gun," he says, "then assaulted by a huge column consisting of no less than a full division, plus three battalions. The North Lancashire men were simply overwhelmed in their shallow trenches by sheer weight of numbers, while the Wiltshires who were caught out in the open, were literally almost annihilated.

"The ponderous mass of the enemy swept over the crest and swarmed round the Hampshire and Gen. Baldwin's brigade, which had to give ground, and were only extricated with great difficulty and very heavy losses.

"Now it was our turn. The warships and the New Zealand and Australian artillery, an Indian mountain artillery brigade and the 69th Brigade Royal Field artillery, were getting

the chance of a lifetime. As successive solid lines of Turks topped the crest of the ridge, gaps were torn through their formation and an iron hail fell on them as they tried to re-form in the gullies.

"Not here only did the Turks pay dearly for their capture of the vital crest. Enemy reinforcements continued to move up under a heavy and accurate fire from our guns. Still they kept topping the ridges and pouring down the western slopes of Chunnuq Bair, as if determined to gain every thing they had lost. But once they were over the crest they became exposed not only to the full blast of the guns, naval and military, but a battery of ten New Zealand machine guns which played upon their serried ranks at close range until their barrels were red-hot.

ENORMOUS LOSSES.

"Enormous losses were inflicted, and of the swarms which had once many a crest the farthest line only a handful ever straggled back to their own side of Chunnuq Bair.

"At the same time, strong forces of the Turks were hurled against the spurs to the north-east, where there arose a conflict so deadly that it may be considered the climax of four days' fighting for the ridge. The line was driven clean down the hill. At the foot of the hill the men who were supervising the transport of food and water were rallied by Staff Captain Street. Unhesitatingly they followed him back where they plunged into the midst of that series of struggles in which the general's fight in the ranks and men dropped their scientific weapons and caught one another by the throat.

"The Turks came on again and again. Fighting magnificently and calling upon the name of God, our men stood to it and maintained the traditions of their race. There was no flinching; they died in the ranks where they stood. Here Generals Cayley, Edgewood and Cooper, and their gallant men achieved great glory. On this bloody field fell Brigadier-General Cooper, badly wounded.

"Toward this supreme struggle the general reserve were now hurried, but by 10 in the morning the effort of the enemy was spent. Soon their ranks began to trickle back, leaving a track of corpses behind them. By night except for prisoners or wounded, no live Turk was left upon the side of the crest.

Two lesser attacks were made by the Turks the same day.

12,000 LOSSES IN A DAY.

General Hamilton continues: "By evening the total casualties of Gen. Birdwood's force had reached twelve thousand, and indeed a very large proportion of officers. The 13th division of the new army, under Major-General Shaw, had alone lost 6,000 out of a grand total of 10,500. Brigadier-General Baldwin was gone, and all his staff men and commanding officers, 13, had disappeared from the fighting centers had lost literally every single officer.

"The old German notion that no unit could stand the loss of more than 25 per cent, has been completely falsified. The 13th division and the 29th brigade of the 10th Irish division had lost more than twice that, and in spirit were game for still much more fighting as might be required."

The British had held all they gained except two important salients, one a hill, momentarily carried by the Gurkhas, and the position on Chunnuq Bair, which had been retained 48 hours.

"Unfortunately," says Gen. Hamilton "these two pieces of ground, small and worthless as they seemed, were worth, according to the ethics of war, ten thousand lives for by their loss or retention they just marked the difference between an important success and a signal victory. The grand coup had not come off, the Marrows were out of sight and beyond field gun range, but this was not the fault of Gen. Birdwood or any of the officers or men under his command."

The first operations in the Anzac zone appeared to have been carried out with comparative success. The Suva Bay expedition, which has been the subject of the greatest criticism, suffered various misfortunes. Elaborate plans were worked out by the army staff with Vice-Admiral de Robeck.

During the night of the 11th a division consisting of the 32nd and 34th Brigades were brought from Imbros to Suva. Three brigades with their batteries were landed in the darkness. The division made good its position ashore. Most of the supporting force, consisting of the Irish Tenth division, were brought from Mitylene. Gen. Hamilton compliments highly the navy for landing the first of them at dawn from a distance of 12 miles at the psychological moment when they were most needed.

But the navy was unwilling to land six battalions where the corps commander considered they could act most effectively. The cause of the navy's action, Gen. Hamilton says, was for some reason, not specified, but it resulted in delay. The men were obliged to march a considerable distance under fire and arrived fatigued.

Gen. Hamilton lays stress on the most difficult and complicated operations ever attempted on so large a scale. It was impossible to concentrate a third of the fresh troops to be launched in an attack on Suva and Anzac within the confines the British held ground. Part of the forces were at Imbros, part at Murdos, part at Mitylene, respectively 14 miles, 60 miles and 120 miles from the arena in fact that a large proportion of the troops were new men.

"On the morning of the 8th," says the report, "Gen. Stopford, recollecting the vast issues which hung upon his success in forestalling the enemy, urged his divisional commanders to push on; otherwise all the advantages of the surprise landing must be nullified. But the divisional commanders believed themselves to be unable to move."

The weather was hot. The new troops suffered much from want of water. There was disorganization, inevitable after a night landing, followed by fights here and there with an enemy scattered over a country unknown.

"These pleas for delays," says Gen. Hamilton, "were perfectly well founded. But it seems to have been overlooked that the half-defeated Turks in front of us were equally exhausted and disorganized, and that an advance was the simplest and swiftest method of solving the water trouble and every other sort of trouble."

"Be this as it may, the objections overbore the corps commanders' resolution. But it was lack of artillery support which decided them to acquiesce in the policy of going slow, which, by the time it reached the troops became translated into a period of inaction. The divisional commanders were informed that in view of the inadequate artillery support General Stopford did not wish them to make frontal attacks on entrenched positions, but desired them to try to turn any trenches which were met with. Within the terms of this instruction lies the root of our failure to make use of the priceless daylight hours of the 8th of August."

General Hamilton explains that artillery could not be disembarked before on account of the necessity of disembarking mules for carrying the water supply, and argues that, while normally infantry cannot advance, driving power and a certain ruthlessness were required.

The remainder of the story of Suva consists largely of misfortunes. General Hamilton explains that the senior commanders lacked experience in the new trench warfare and in the Turkish methods, and appreciation of the paramount importance of time. On the 15th General Stopford was relieved of the command of his division corps. General DeLisle succeeded him.

The accounts in the reports of the suffering of the soldiers from lack of water are graphic. An enormous quantity was secretly collected at Anzac, where a reservoir, holding 100,000 gallons, was distributed by distributing pipes, was built. Oil tins, with a capacity of eighty thousand gallons, were collected and fitted with handles, but an accident to a steamer delayed the delivery of the supply at the time of landing.

ABSENCE OF WATER.

Describing the operations on August 10, General Hamilton explains why the reserves were not available.

"At times," he says, "I thought of throwing my reserves into this stubborn central battle, where probably they would have turned the scale. But each time water troubles made me give up the idea, all ranks at Anzac being reduced to a pint a day. That thirst is a sensation unknown to the dwellers in cool, well-watered England, but at Anzac, when the mules carrying the water-bags arrived at the front, the men would rush up to them in swarms just to lick the moisture that exuded through the canvas bags. Until wells had been discovered under the freshly won hills the reinforcing of Anzac by even so much as a brigade was unthinkable."

Concerning the water supply for the troops landed at Suva on the 7th he says:

"As it turned out, and judging merely by the results, I regret to say that the measures actually taken for distribution proved to be inadequate and suffering and disorganization ensued."

The distribution of water from the beaches failed to work smoothly. The soldiers cut the hose to fill the water bottles and lighters, grounded so far from the beach that the men had to swim to them to fill the bottles.

SIZE OF TURK FORCES.

In the middle of August, General Hamilton estimates, the Turks had 11,000 rifles to the British 9,500. The Turks had plenty of ammunition and reserves, while the British divisions were 4,500 below their nominal strength. General Hamilton wanted 50,000 fresh rifles. He sent a long cablegram asking for reinforcements and munitions, believing that with them furnished at once—he underlines "at once"—the troops could clear a passage for the fleet to Constantinople.

"It may be judged how deep was my disappointment," he says "when I learned that essential drafts of reinforcements and munitions could not be sent, the reason given being one which prevented me from further insistence."

The report describes fighting, only partially successful and with heavy losses, on the 21st of August, which was designed to consolidate the British positions. Important fighting ceased then.

HEAVY TOLL OF SICKNESS.

Sickness, the legacy of a desperately trying summer, took a heavy toll of the survivors of so many arduous conflicts," the report continues. "But all ranks were cheerful. All remained confident that so long as they stuck to their guns the country would stick to them and see them victoriously through the last and greatest of crusades."

An important feature of the document is the description of the joint army and navy plans for probably the most difficult and complicated operations ever attempted on so large a scale. It was impossible to concentrate a third of the fresh troops to be launched in an attack on Suva and Anzac within the confines the British held ground. Part of the forces were at Imbros, part at Murdos, part at Mitylene, respectively 14 miles, 60 miles and 120 miles from the arena in

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which they were to appear simultaneously with munitions, stores, animals, vehicles, and particularly, water.

In conclusion, General Hamilton bids an eloquent farewell to his comrades.

CHILD GETS SICK CROSS, FEVERISH IF CONSTIPATED

A laxative to-day saves a sick child to-morrow. Children simply will not take the time from play to empty their bowels, which become clogged up with waste, liver gets sluggish; stomach sour.

Look at the tongue, mother! It coated, or your child is listless, cross, feverish, breath bad, restless. Doesn't eat heartily, full of cold or has sore throat or any other children's ailment, give a teaspoonful of "California Syrup of Figs," then don't worry because it is perfectly harmless, and in a few hours all this constipation poison, sour bile and fermenting waste will gently move out of the bowels, and you have a well, playful child again. A thorough "inside cleansing" is oftentimes all that is necessary. It should be the first treatment given in any sickness.

Beware of counterfeit fig syrups. Ask your druggist for a 50-cent bottle of "California Syrup of Figs," which has full directions for babies, children of all ages and for grown-ups plainly printed on the bottle. Look carefully and see that it is made by the "California Fig Syrup Company."

MOUNT ZION

Quite a number from here attended the New Year's entertainment at New Durham on Friday evening last.

Miss Sarah Carter is the guest of her sister, Mrs. John Read during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Swears spent Sunday with their son at Fairfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Read and son of Burford, Mr. and Mrs. Will Bonney and son of Harley and Mrs. J. Bonney of New Durham, spent New Year's with Mr. and Mrs. Charles Read here.

Miss Crandell of Brantford, is a guest of Mrs. James Murray.

Miss Gladys Swears spent the week end in Brantford the guest of Miss Reta Baird.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bawthineimer of Harley, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Clewment of Salem spent New Year's day with Mr. and Mrs. J. Swears.

Mr. Lorne Giles has enlisted to fight for his King and Country.

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