

knew that the hour of supreme trial was at hand. Just how great was their peril, once the Central Empires turned their combined resources against them, may be seen from a glance at the map. Along their entire northern border stretched the Austrian Empire. On the western border was the Austrian province of Bosnia; then friendly Montenegro; then hostile Albania. On the east lay Bulgaria and well the Serbians realised that their eastern neighbours were only awaiting a favourable opportunity to pay off old scores. In its extremity, the government of Serbia appealed for assistance to Great Britain, France, Russia, and to its old Ally, Greece. Fortunately for them, it seemed, the Government at Athens was dominated at the time by the remarkable Venizelos, who at once declared that his countrymen were in honour bound to go to the relief of Serbia. His government was apparently of the same mind, and a resolution was passed inviting the Allies to send an expeditionary force to Greece to march to the assistance of the threatened Serbians. This could only mean that Greece, too, would lend her support. Consequently on October 1st, 1915, a party of French and English officers landed in Greece to prepare for the arrival of troops. A few days later the first of the troops landed at Salonika.

Within a few days of their landing, French troops began to move northward, followed soon afterwards by British forces. The plan decided upon was to proceed by rail up the valley of the Vardar river with the intention of reinforcing the Serbians in the neighbourhood of Uskub; these were threatened by the left wing of the Bulgarian army, a force over 100,000 strong. When we consider the distance to be traversed, over one hundred miles, the inadequacy of the means of transportation, a single-track, grass-grown railway line, and the strength of the forces of the enemy to be encountered, we hardly wonder that the French and British forces failed utterly to give any assistance to their stricken allies. Heroic efforts were made to push forward but the difficulties were too great to be overcome. Sarrail was compelled to withdraw to Salonika and the Serbians were left to their tragic fate. (See *The Serbian Campaign* in the January number).

In the meantime strange events were taking place in Greece. It had been confidently expected that once the Allied troops landed in Greece, the Government at Athens would actively co-operate. But the Allies reckoned without their host. Hardly had the first of the French troops pitched their tents in the outskirts of Salonika before King Constantine summoned Prime Minister Venizelos to the Imperial palace and informed him that his action lacked the royal sanction. Venizelos immediately resigned and his departure from power was the first of a series of disquieting events that have continued ever since. The new ministry proclaimed as its policy the maintenance of a state of armed neutrality,