

ALLIES OCCUPY CONSTANTINOPLE; SEIZE MINISTRIES

Turkish and British Indian Soldiers Killed in a Clash at the War Office.

NO OTHER RESISTANCE MADE

Guns of Fleet Guard British, French and Italian Troops as They Land.

HIGH AGITATORS ARRESTED

People Told in Proclamation Turkey Is Not to Lose City and Sultan Is to be Supported.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 16 (Associated Press).—Constantinople was occupied this morning by allied forces under General Sir George F. Milne of the British Army, which occupied the Ministries of War and Marine and assumed control of the posts, telegraphs and telephones, which have been temporarily suspended. Shipping also has been suspended.

This long-looked-for military demonstration by the Allies against Turkey was carried out with only one untoward happening, a serious clash at the War Office, where the Turks resisted the allied troops.

An exchange of shots resulted, in which several Punjabi of the British East Indian forces and a few of the Turks were killed.

The excitement caused by the occupation quieted down before darkness, which brought absolute calm.

Fleet Covered Landing of Troops.

The landing of the forces of occupation was carried out under the guns of the formidable allied fleet anchored in the Bosphorus. The British dreadnought Benbow was moored at the Galata quay, her guns trained upon Stamboul. Another man-of-war faced the arsenal in the Golden Horn, while all the other warships in the Bosphorus were standing by with their decks cleared for action.

Except in the instance stated, however, there was no resistance to the allied forces as they carried out the orders for the occupation of the historic capital of the Ottoman Empire. The population, in fact, showed little alarm, nor was there any sign of panic except in one section of Stamboul as the commanders of the allied troops brought their forces ashore. The excitement was on the part of shopkeepers near the War Office where the clash occurred. They closed their shops in their first fright, but speedily reopened them.

The forces landed included 4,000 blue-jackets and marines from the British warships, and contingents from the forces of all the Allies represented here. Indian detachments having Moslems on their roster were among the troops taking part in the operation.

Comprehensive military and naval plans had been made for carrying out the allied measures and precautionary steps taken. Last night a number of Turkish agitators and other persons who were regarded as possible disturbers of the peace were arrested, including the commander of the 10th Turkish Division; Djemal Pasha, former Minister of War and his Chief of Staff, Djevad Pasha; an Imperial Prince who was conspicuous in the crisis, and Senator Mahmud Pasha.

People Warned Against Hostile Acts.

The dead walls of Constantinople had been placarded with a proclamation by Major Gen. Henry F. M. Wilson of the British troops, declaring that any one committing any act that threatened the safety of the allied forces would be tried by court-martial and sentenced to death or such other penalty as the court might fix. The proclamation was printed in Greek, English and French, and it was eagerly scanned by curious crowds in all sections of the city, who after the landing took place wandered around the streets in a dazed manner, apparently unable to understand exactly what had happened.

Subsequently the British, French and Italian High Commissioners issued the following proclamation:

First—Occupation is provisional.

Second—The Entente Powers have no intention to destroy the Sultan's authority. They wish rather to strengthen it in all places which shall remain under Ottoman administration.

Third—The Entente Powers persist in their purpose not to deprive the Turks of Constantinople. But if, God forbid, troubles develop and massacres occur that decision probably will be modified.

Fourth—In this critical hour every one must attend to his own affairs and assist in maintaining general security without permitting himself to be deceived by those whose frenzy tends to destroy the last hope of build-

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ing upon the ruins of the ancient Turkish Empire a new Turkey. In short, it is the duty of every person to obey orders issuing from the Sultan.

Fifth—Certain persons implicated in threats, of which more will be told later, have been arrested in Constantinople. They naturally will be held responsible for these acts and for the consequent results.

The French this evening are patrolling Stamboul with Senegalese troops. The British are guarding Pera, the suburb northwest of the Golden Horn, while the Italians are guarding Scutari, the portion of Constantinople on the Asiatic side of the Bosphorus.

The Allies are declared to believe their measures have provided amply for the maintenance of security and order in Constantinople, and consider it questionable whether even the so-called Nationalist forces in Anatolia are in a position to attempt anything serious.

The Cabinet met late this evening. Its resignation is expected.

Bonar Law Tells Allied Plans.

LONDON, March 17.—Andrew Bonar Law announced in the House of Commons today that Constantinople had been occupied by allied troops as proposed, and that at only one point was there fighting. Two British soldiers were reported killed and one officer and three men wounded. One Turkish officer and eight Turks were killed and others were wounded.

Mr. Bonar Law said that at the same time the Turkish Government had been warned that the occupation of Constantinople would continue until the terms of the Peace Treaty were duly executed, and, further, if outrages against native Christians continued, the terms would be more severe.

For reasons previously indicated it was decided that the Government, in conjunction with its Allies, should proceed with the occupation of Constantinople. The general administration of that city would not be taken over, but the Ministries of War and Marine would be occupied, the postal and telegraph services and navigation of the Bosphorus placed under control and the police put under allied officers.

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