

PRESENTATION

Entente States, convinced that they would easily pass through the Çanakkale Strait, with the aim of neutralizing the Ottoman State, and to achieve their military and political goals, opened one of the most dramatic theatre of operations of the World War I: Çanakkale Front. Determined to seal the fate of the war at Çanakkale they focused their plans of action on this particular front. Entente States launched their first attack at the Çanakkale Strait on November 3, 1914. Their main attack was launched on February 19, 1915, and continued until March 18 at intervals until their defeat. Realizing the impossibility of passing through the strait only by means of the navy, the Entente devised a joint plan for the navy and land forces to cross the strait; hence, the first landing operation was conducted on April 25, 1915. The battles ensuing the first landing lasted until January 1916 when the Entente States completely evacuated the region.

Mustafa Kemal, by undertaking arduous tasks – first as a lieutenant colonel and as a colonel as of June 1 - and missions - 19th Division Commander and Anafartalar Group Commander - excelling his rank throughout the campaigns conducted on land as of April 25, 1915, in a sense changed the fate of the battles. Following his appointment as the Anafartalar Group Commander the Entente Forces suffered a great defeat, dissolved in the trench warfare, and finally evacuated the region in extreme secrecy.

Contrary to Entente expectations Çanakkale Defense proved to be the defense of the existence of Turkish nation. Those who took part in the war amalgamating their love of country and feelings of immolation with their unprecedented morale stood against the most powerful fleet and land forces of the age intact.

This eight and a half month resistance resuscitated the self-confidence, feeling and consciousness of gaining a victory to the members of a nation that had long been experiencing defeats in the wars it entered. The emergence of the absolute prospect of Turkish Nation's living as an independent nation compounded with the perceptive extension of the resuscitated self-confidence paved Turkish Nation's way to the Turkish War of National Independence.

The work hereby presented is the revised edition of the book titled *Çanakkale Cephesi Harekatı 1'inci, 2'nci ve 3'üncü Kitapların Özetlenmiş Tarihi* [History of the Çanakkale Front Campaign: Summary of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Books] written by late Staff Col. Şükrü ERKAL. In order to be able to acquaint public opinion with the extraordinary endeavor the Turkish Army put forth at the Çanakkale Campaign, specialist historians at the TGS ATASE ATEM - Dr. Hülya TOKER, Özlem DEMİREĞEN, and Betül SAYIN - have revised this edition under the light of recently discovered archive documents. We are of the conviction that this edition shall provide a further insight into the studies to be undertaken.

Necdet TUNA
Brigadier General
Chief of ATASE Division