

## SECOND YEAR OF THE WAR—1915

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### GERMANY VICTORIOUS IN THE EAST

Russian Armies Overwhelmed and Driven Back Into the Interior  
Serbia Is Crushed and the Whole Nation Put to Flight  
British Suffer Disaster at Gallipoli and in Mesopotamia  
Turks, Led by German Officers, Massacre 1,000,000 Armenians  
Germany's Vast African Empire Seized by Britons and Boers  
Sinking of the Lusitania Strikes the World Aghast with Horror  
German Zeppelins and Submarines Bomb Defenceless British Towns  
Germans Use Poison Gas, Liquid Fire and Other Infernal Devices

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#### Survey of Events in the Year 1915

GERMANY'S dream of World dominion seemed near to realization at the close of 1915. Europe then lay all but prostrate at her feet. The remnant of Russia's once mighty army, betrayed and broken, had been driven back into her bleak interior. Warsaw and all Poland had fallen, like a ripe plum, into the hands of the Huns.

Serbia had been desolated and the whole nation put to flight. Turkey and Bulgaria had joined the German alliance and were rendering a truly Satanic service. Greece, though nominally neutral, was secretly aiding Germany. With the Balkans obedient to her nod; Germany's path to the East by way of Constantinople seemed at last opened.

The failure of the Dardanelles campaign had assured the security of Constantinople. There was nothing to fear as yet from England's campaign in Mesopotamia, for was not the "contemptible English army" locked up in Kut-el-Amara, facing starvation? England, moreover, had been unable as yet to bring a preponderant force to bear on the Western front. Italy, it is true, had come to the rescue of civilization, but there was little to fear from this quarter, for Austria and her ally the Alps would protect that frontier.

There had been some German reverses, however. The English, French and Boers together had seized the German colonies in Africa, while Japan and Australia had dispossessed Germany of her Asiatic possession, and her islands in the South Pacific; but these colonies would be recovered in due time after Europe had been conquered.

Only France remained unconquered—France the invincible nation, which alone stood between Germany and her control of the world! France must be destroyed. The Crown Prince would have the honor of breaking through that wall of steel at Verdun, and advancing to the conquest of Paris! France, bleeding to death, was at the end of her military resources! England could not organize her forces in time to prevent the death-blow that was to be delivered at Verdun. So the German war lords viewed the military situation during the second year of the War.

Finally the power of Great Britain should be destroyed. As a necessary step in that program, Admiral von Tirpitz would unleash his submarines and sink all the enemy and neutral ships that plied the seas, in order that England might be coerced or starved into submission. Germany's ruthless submarine policy would also serve as a warning to other neutral nations, especially the United States, that Germany would hesitate at no crime against humanity in her will to victory.

Hence the deliberate sinking of the *Lusitania*, a crime without parallel, that struck the World aghast with horror, and the scuttling of other passenger ships and freight boats, including American vessels, which compelled America tardily to enter the War.

Germany and her allies, during this crucial year of 1915, pursued a military program that, in sheer atrocity, dwarfed all the classical excesses of Nero, Domitian, Genghis Khan and Mahomet. The massacre of 1,000,000 Christian Armenians by German-led Turks and Kurds marked the trail of the Apocalyptic Beast in the East. The bombing as they slept, of defenseless cities, by Zeppelins, and the shelling of English coast towns, by submarines, were features of German warfare in the West. Clouds of poison gas, infernos of liquid fire, blinding bombs, the Huns had sent for good measure into the trenches on all the fronts.

In spite of the employment of these infernal agencies of warfare, and though the cause of civilization still trembled in the balance, the close of the year nevertheless saw all the armies of the Allies intact and gaining strength for the decisive contest.

The march of events in all theaters of warfare during 1915 is here presented in their chronological order, enabling the reader to visualize the successive phases of the great conflict.