

## FIGHTING OLD YEAR OUT, THE NEW IN

### HOW WAR GAME STANDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR

Five Months of Fighting Finds the Germans Being Slowly Forced Back, But Defeat Has Not Yet Been Accomplished.

### ALLIES UNDERESTIMATED THE ENEMY

Russia's Plan to March to Berlin at the Start of Hostilities, Failed to Materialize and Budapest is Substituted.

[By J. W. T. Mason, former European manager of the United Press.]  
NEW YORK, Dec. 31. (11 a. m.)—The end of the year and with it the conclusion of five months fighting, finds only three positive results accomplished which to a practical certainty will continue as permanent factors in the campaign. These are the expulsion of German commerce to sea; the freeing of Serbia, and Russia's occupancy of eastern Galicia. Everything else that has happened in the war zones is tentative. In east and west, indecision dominates the situation, for while Germany has been beaten in her main objective, Germany's defeat has not been accomplished.

Whether or not this was the reason why the Germans succeeded in clinging to the heights of the Aisne, it has proven the most costly error of the year.

Once entrenched the German repelled all frontal attacks and forced the allies to attempt outflanking maneuvers.

For a month, from mid-September until the middle of October, the allies sent columns northward, trying to outflank the enemy; but the Germans met every new move with a counter stroke. Finally on October 9, the Germans captured Antwerp and then rushed rapidly across Belgium, occupying Ostende on October 15. Thereafter the Germans presented no flank to be turned by the western army, and the battle line was continuous from the North sea through western Belgium and northern France to Luxemburg.

At this stage, the Germans tried to regain the general offensive, which they had lost at the battle of the Marne. They sought to extend their line from Ostend along the Belgian and French coast to Calais. Then began the struggle of the western campaign. As a counter effect, the allies attempted to pierce the German line at Arras, which is the main northern, outer gateway to the German communications. Indecision again resulted. After a series of ferocious conflicts of the war, in which the numerically inferior English army particularly distinguished itself, only a draw resulted. The allies saved the coast and the Germans saved their communications. So the principal contest in the west rests at the close of the year.

A series of subordinate encounters has been in constant progress along the Franco-German border throughout the year, almost independent of the major conflict further to the west. At the beginning of the campaign, the French attempted an offensive of their own in Alsace and Lorraine but speedily were compelled to abandon both. Faulty strategy and nervous uncertainty on the part of the troops gave local advantage to the Germans, which became irresistible as the advance of the main German campaign gathered so terrific an impetus in northern France. The French armies were compelled to abandon the lost provinces.

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### TURKEY

[By Henry Wood, United Press Staff Correspondent.]  
CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 10.—(Mailed from Salonika to New York to avoid the Turkish censor.)—All Turkish women strongly favor the war, and for a reason of their own. For the time being at least, hatred of England pervades them that is only equalled in Germany.

Two years ago the Turkish government called for public subscriptions to a fund to purchase two dreadnaughts. They were to give Turkey naval supremacy over all of the Balkan nations. The women of Turkey then saw their opportunity for emancipation. During two preceding Balkan wars they had made great strides forward. One woman had flown in an aeroplane over St. Sophia. Others had accepted dangerous and secret diplomatic missions. In many ways they had demonstrated that, if given opportunity, they could show courage, character and intelligence equal to that of any Turkish male.

The young Turks had recognized this fact. They had brought influence on the Sheik-ul-Islam to moderate their condition. And when the government called for public subscriptions for the warcraft, the women of Turkey saw another golden opportunity of winning emancipation. So far as the male Turks were concerned, calling the movement a "popular subscription" was a misnomer. Rather "unpopular extortion" would have been far more applicable. The officials in charge simply fixed the amount each man must contribute. It ranged from a week to a month's salary. If the man paid well and good, if not, the local authorities collected.

But so far as the women were concerned, this was unnecessary. They gave biscuits, soap and bazars when the participation in such things by Turkish women was as radical as would be the advent on Broadway of the female populace of New York in Lady Godiva garb. Their fall in the estimation of Turkish males by such participation equalled also what would be the fall in the estimation of American men caused by a general pulling off of the Godiva act. Yet they never hesitated.

In addition they pinched and scrimped to make the greatest contribution possible. They cut down their household expenses; they ate less; they dressed more cheaply and they sold their jewels—some even sold their hair, the most sacred of woman's natural adornment, according to the psychology of Turkish men. In all a total of \$35,000,000 was raised. The Turkish women raised more than half.

The two dreadnaughts were being rushed to completion in British shipyards when Turkey most needed them after Greece had bought two cruisers from the United States. The last installment was paid and the crews and officers selected. Then came the European war and England seized the two craft. British announcement that they will be paid for in full was of no avail.

Leading Turkish citizens tell me  
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### AUSTRIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
VIENNA, Dec. 31.—The war office in its review of the situation today declares efforts of the Russians to force the Carpathian passes have been repulsed. The danger of an attempted invasion of Hungary is said to be remote inasmuch as strong forces now dominate every inlet through the mountains.

The Russians, it is stated, attempted a surprise attack at Uzsook pass, but were in turn surprised and defeated with heavy loss. Austrian artillery has been posted where it commands all of the approaches from the north and the majority of the heights in that vicinity are also said to be dominated by crack Hungarian divisions.

The Russian demonstration which is believed to indicate intention of renewing the campaign against Craoov, was not pressed according to the war office and there has been little fighting on the northern line. There has been some fighting near Zakliczyn in western Galicia, but at no point, the war office claims, have the enemy gained any material advantage.

### RUSSIA

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
PETROGRAD, Dec. 31.—Today's report from the front declares the Germans are being driven back at several points on the Vistula and Rawka rivers, following a series of attacks and counter attacks in which both sides lost heavily.

The advantage, it is stated, is with the Russians, although along most of the battle front the fighting has taken on the nature of an artillery duel.

The Galician operations are progressing, the Austrians being compelled to fall still farther into Carpathian passes.

Reinforcements are being sent to the southern front and preparations made for forcing the passes and opening the way for the invasion to Hungary.

To the west, the Russians have taken a number of Austrian positions east of Zakliczyn, capturing many prisoners and a number of machine guns.

The fighting in the Caucasus is increasing in volume. The Turkish armies there are being strongly reinforced and there has been a battle in progress in the vicinity of Sarykamysh for several days. The Russian artillery is reported to be much superior to that of the Turks who have found it impossible to construct entrenchments that are not easy for the Russian gunners to demolish.

A strong Turkish column is reported to have been attacked by the Cossack cavalry north of Sarykamysh and forced to retreat after losing half of its strength.

The Turkish forces which were yesterday reported concentrating in the vicinity of Yalauzudjan pass are today said to be advancing in the "general direction of Ardahan."

### It's Getting Warmer.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—Although near zero weather still prevailed, the force of the cold wave in the middle west had been broken today, according to the weather bureau. The temperature has been rising generally west of the Mississippi during the past twenty-four hours and rising temperature was forecasted for the central states east of the Mississippi. Lowest temperature last night was one degree above the zero mark, while predictions for tonight say it will not go below 18 degrees.

### Race Meeting Tomorrow.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 31.—Police today announced there will be no interference with the race meetings due to begin tomorrow, unless book making is attempted and plans for staging the meeting progressed. Betting is to be conducted with detective agents acting as stake holders and players. New Orleans is thronged with sportsmen to view the meet.

### GERMANY

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
BERLIN, Dec. 31. (Via wireless to London.)—Flat contradiction of the French claims of successes came from the war office today. It is declared in the official statement that the French attacks north of Chalons have been repulsed with heavy losses and that at no point along the battle front have there been any gains by the allies.

According to the statement, the allies are shelling Westende again and have succeeded in destroying many of the houses and public buildings. The fire however, has not caused any military losses, according to the war office.

An entire French company is reported to have been annihilated when German sappers succeeded in blowing up a line of trenches between Alger and Auberge to the south of Rheims. The French attacks north of Chalons have been repulsed, it is declared. In the western Argonne region, it is stated, that several of the French trenches have been taken with 250 prisoners.

A French attack on Filirex, north of Toul, has failed while all attacks on the German positions at Senheim have broken down.

In the eastern theatre of action, it is stated, that fighting is in progress along the Bzura and Rawka but that elsewhere things are quiet.

### FRANCE

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
PARIS, Dec. 31.—Fighting which is increasing in intensity, is in progress along the French center and right. Following the exchange of almost continuous artillery fire by heavy guns on both sides, the infantry is again pressing forward slowly, but surely. The chief operations today are reported to be in upper Alsace and in the Champagne district.

The operations in Alsace are on an extensive scale. The troops which have been massed along the Tou-Nancy line and the neighborhood of Belfort, are being pushed forward to the support of General Pau, who is in entire charge of these operations. It is the intention of the general staff to clear all of upper Alsace of Germans if possible so that attacks can be commenced on both Metz and Strasbourg soon after the first of the year.

In the Champagne district, the operations are slowly developing into a general battle with the advantage of the part of the French. Great wedges have been driven into the Germans at some points and their trenches captured. In the north, operations are still retarded by the weather. Heavy snow squalls have succeeded the rain, making the conditions for the troops in the field even worse. So severe are conditions that it has been necessary to relieve the men in the outer lines of trenches every few hours while stimulants and hot tea and coffee are being furnished in unlimited quantities. An epidemic of pneumonia and rheumatism is reported among the troops and hundreds are being invalided to the coast cities for treatment.

### CAPTURED STEINBACH.

[By William Philip Blimms, United Press Staff Correspondent.]  
PARIS, Dec. 31.—The French have captured the village of Steinbach, in upper Alsace, following one of the hardest fought engagements of the war to date on the eastern front. They had literally to battle their way from house to house, meeting a raking machine gun fire from the rapid firers the Germans had posted on roof tops and in windows.

The losses on both sides were very large. Occupation of this position is declared officially to be of the utmost strategic importance, opening as it does, the way to the roads that run to Altkirch and Mulhausen.

Announcement of this triumph for the forces of General Pau was the chief feature of the afternoon official communiqué. It was stated at military headquarters that the Germans were defeated only after hours of the most desperate fighting, in which the French essayed half a dozen bayonet charges. Repulsed, they came back again and again until they finally gained a foothold on the very outskirts of the village. They then advanced from house to house, using their machine guns to dislodge the Germans.

The fighting is now confined to the center and right wing of the French lines. From the sea to the Aisne the situation was reported quiet today. The snow and rains have made active operations impossible. The troops are remaining in their trenches, doing their best to keep warm.

The Germans blew up two of the  
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### BELGIUM

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
PARIS, Dec. 31.—Details of the German aerial operations in the vicinity of Dunkirk, indicate that the real object was the elimination of Belgian field headquarters which are now in Furnes. The German aviators, four in number, dropped not less than a dozen and some of the estimates say fully twenty-five bombs on Dunkirk, two on Rozendaal, half a dozen on Furnes and others on military camps in that vicinity. Fifteen persons were killed and twenty-seven wounded in Dunkirk. No casualties were reported at the other places.

The aviators flew high and although they were bombarded by the aerial guns, completed their task without being hit, so far as could be seen from the ground. The bombs were loaded with shrapnel which smashed many windows. There was no panic in Dunkirk and most of those killed and wounded suffered because they refused to take refuge in the buildings.

### NOT A MATTER TO BE SETTLED IN A FEW HOURS

Will Probably Take Weeks and Months Before United States and England Finally Come to an Agreement.

### IS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT QUESTION

Officialdom is Not Alarmed Over the Protest From America, But Some of the People are Very Much Excited.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Many weeks and probably months will be consumed in discussion between the United States and Great Britain over this government's shipping protest. Immediate settlement of all questions raised is not expected. This was stated today on high official authority.

First and early result confidently expected by this nation is that Great Britain will agree to cease arresting American vessels and conveying them to English ports for examination of cargoes unless good grounds exist regarding their contraband character.

Other questions are to form the basis of prolonged discussion.

While the president has declared that some of the points raised are "not debatable," being grievances clearly established by precedents made by Great Britain herself, there are others which are certain to become subject to indefinite exchange of notes and conferences between the heads of the two nations here and in London. For months many of the topics have been discussed almost daily at the state department between British Ambassador Spring-Rice and department officials. It was declared today that the question of revising England's contraband list would be the bone of lengthy contention.

Many eliminations will be demanded. Officials privately pointed out today that one of the chief effects—though not the purpose—of the protest to Great Britain would be to restore confidence everywhere in the world, especially in Germany, that the United States is really neutral in the strictest sense of the word.

It would go a long way, one official explained, towards dissipating the growing impression that the United States was too friendly towards the allies because of the restrained shipment of arms and ammunition from the United States to the allies.

[By Ed L. Keen, United Press Staff Correspondent.]  
LONDON, Dec. 31.—The admiralty has prepared for the foreign office a complete report of the operations of all ships which have been held up or diverted into port, vessels carrying goods from the United States. In every instance the reason assigned for the action is given. Specific allegations of irregular manifests and of contraband are cited and it is expected this document will prove a very essential factor in completing the answer of Great Britain to President Wilson's demands.

The situation is still considered the most serious development of the war to date, outside of the actual fighting. There is a strong minority in England that seems anxious to seize upon the action of the United States as evidence that it is pro-German, and of the developments, especially those outside of London, are urging the government to stand firmly by its past actions to tell the United States that it will "not be permitted to coin money out of England's necessities."

Officialdom generally however, believes that a way will be found out of the matter that will be satisfactory to both sides. The best experts on international law have been called into consultation with the foreign office and the high law officers of the crown, including the attorney general and the solicitor general. They will pass upon each individual contention raised by the United States. It is also the intention of the foreign office to discuss the matter with Ambassador Page as President Wilson's direct representative. The evident attempt on the part of certain officials to characterize the protest as a "political dodge" has enraged Americans here. It was plain that the official press bureau was trying to make out a case against the United States of giving publicity to the note before it actually had been presented to England, in its statement that the note was not handed over until Wednesday and Ambassador Page personally forced a retraction from the foreign office. At the American embassy it is stated that so soon that word was received that the note was to be sent, the foreign office was immediately informed. The summary and the note itself followed. In every way the usages of diplomacy were followed out, so far as the embassy here is concerned and Ambassador Page was prompt to re-tract the imputation. It is not believed, however, that this will in any way complicate the situation.

No answer from England is looked for by the embassy for several days. The questions at issue are too grave to be dismissed off hand and the attitude of the other neutral countries, especially those of the Scandinavian peninsula will also be considered at the same time. It is hoped by officials here that some way will be found whereby these countries will agree to prevent transshipments of supplies from America. If this can be done, the solution of America's problem will be easy.

Open up the Argument.  
LONDON, Dec. 31.—Direct negotiations in connection with the United States protest against Britain exercising the right of search on the high seas began today. This afternoon the American ambassador, Walter H. Page, called at the foreign office by appointment. For a long time he was closeted with Sir Edward Grey, the foreign minister. It is understood that Page explained the position of the United States and emphasized that the protest was made in the most friendly spirit in the hope of clearing up conditions, that if ignored, might result seriously.

No statement was made regarding the meeting other than the formal one that the negotiations had been begun and that they probably would continue for some time.

Complaint Against Japan.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Constant and serious interference with American commerce on the Pacific was charged today against Japan—Great Britain's ally. A prominent member of the Pacific delegation of the house was authority for the statement that Japan has been holding up United States vessels on the high seas in a manner similar to that which brought sharp protest against Great Britain.

R. P. Schwerin, of the Pacific Mail Steamship company, operating a fleet of merchant and passenger vessels from San Francisco to oriental waters, is the complainant against Japan. He has filed with congress a preliminary statement of the case. This claims that not only was the mail steamship Manchuria held up and detained for forty-eight hours, but that practically every other vessel of the line has been subjected to interference from the naval forces of Japan.

The representative in question has  
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### The War at a Glance Summarized by John Edwin Nevin, United Press Staff Correspondent.

[United Press Leased Wire Service.]  
ENGLAND—The foreign office is still considering American protest against right of search and an answer is not expected for several days.  
FRANCE—The French have taken the village of Steinbach, upper Alsace and claim to have made substantial gains at several points on the center and right wings.  
RUSSIA—The war office claims substantial victories at several points

on the Vistula and Rawka rivers and in southern Galicia. Severe fighting with the Turks continues in the Caucasus.  
AUSTRIA—It is officially announced that the efforts of the Russians to take the Carpathian passes have failed.  
GERMANY—The situation on both the east and west fronts is described as "substantially unchanged."