

# Allies Ready For Foe's Last Drive in West

## Both British and French Alert as Supreme Test Draws Near

## Haig Must Bear Brunt, Is Belief

## Experts Declare Hindenburg Likely to Open First in Flanders

By Arthur S. Draper

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Since the middle of January the weather has been exceptionally mild and, unless there is a sudden change, conditions for launching an early attack in the West will be far superior to those of the last two years.

February is normally the worst month of the year in Flanders, but so far it has proved exceptionally fine. The last week in 1916 saw the opening of the German campaign at Verdun, but it was not until March, 1917, that Hindenburg began to withdraw from the Somme, and it was April before Nivelle launched his attack.

There are two excellent reasons why an early offensive may be expected: First, Germany now has the initiative, and the quickest way the enemy can hope to improve the morale behind his lines is to gain a military success. That morale needs strengthening, all the reports of German confidence to the contrary notwithstanding. Second, this winter has been remarkably favorable for the movement and training of troops.

It is reasonable to expect heavy fighting within the next four weeks, and the first blows may be struck any moment. Instead of one or two troops, military students consider four or even five simultaneous attacks at widely separated points possible.

May Strike at French  
Some critics have forecast a campaign against the French, because their army has been under a longer and heavier strain than the British and because Paris offers a tempting bait and Hindenburg declared he would be there by April; also because the French front represents two-thirds of the whole Western line and cannot possibly be held so strongly as the British.

But another school looks for a major blow against the British on the assumption that the decisive year of the war will be 1918, and unless the enemy can break his strongest foe he will be no better off than he is to-day.

They admit this is a reversal of German strategy, but then the campaign against Serbia, Rumania and Italy were not intended to end the war, but only as steps toward that objective. They hold the coming campaign will be followed by peace.

How Experts Stand  
I have had opportunity to sound opinion in high quarters and can state that those who advance the latter view have the weight of expert military judgment behind them. Germany has approximately 150 divisions in the West, and the number may reach 200 in another month. Where will she hit? Haig's communications for the last fortnight have recorded twenty-two raids or attempts to enter his lines.

Seventeen of these have been between

Armentières and St. Quentin, on the right wing of the British army, and the part of the front with the best footing at this season of the year. The other raids have been on the Ypres front. In many of them Haig admitted the enemy captured prisoners and a trench raid as now conducted is no simple dash across No Man's Land with a few shots fired, a few bombs thrown and a scurry home. It is well organized and carefully planned, with a definite objective, that objective being chiefly to learn the disposition of the enemy's forces.

When the enemy shows such an interest in this part of the line he either expects Haig to strike or he wants to measure his chances of success in launching a blow.

Raid Answers Raid

The same communications reported almost daily heavy hostile fire at certain points of this front, generally south-west of Cambrai or northwest of St. Quentin. In the period of Haig also ordered raids in this sector.

When the communiqué reports heavy fire these days it means "hell broke loose," not a few random shots. When the enemy concentrates his guns on a certain point it is not practice, but an attempt to break up some movement of troops or guns or to handicap workers on railways.

All of which indicates there is good reason to expect a lively time on the battlefield which already has been the scene of some of the bloodiest fighting of the war. Probably that part of the British front offering the most natural obstacles, but also the greatest reward if smashed, is that between the coast and Ypres.

Dunes Wonderful Defence

Along the coast the dunes are a wonderful defence, while to the south the flooded area continues to make this one of the few parts of "No Man's Land" which really justify the name. The capture of Calais by the Germans would mean disaster to the Allies, but before the enemy could hope to reach that important port he would have to perform much greater feats than have been accomplished thus far in this war.

Because the chief attention is centered on the question of where the enemy is going to hit, little thought has been given to the possibility of a drive from this side. The maxim that the best defence is a strong offense is worth remembering, and certainly is not one the enemy is likely to forget. When the big blow falls it is probable the whole front will spring into activity, and an enemy success at one point might very easily find him suffering a reverse at another.

The enemy will pound away at certain points and the Allies will parry his blows without attempting to hit him in another place is too ridiculous to consider. Says the critic of "The Manchester Guardian": "The French salient at Verdun is very tempting, but if the Germans take up the Verdun idea again it will not be Verdun, but some point further south on the French lines, and this attack will probably be combined with a movement on Western Italy."

"The rule governing these things is, if a flanking movement fails, to enlarge the radius of the arc. The Cambrai-St. Quentin sector, however, is a tempting target to the Germans, because success at that point would open the Oise Valley, which was barred by the French victories of last spring. Moreover, the railways in it make the manoeuvre and rapid development of vast forces feasible, while the country in which the enemy would try to penetrate offers no natural obstacles of importance to his continued advance."

The Reichstag reassembles February 23, and there will be a lively political campaign launched at that time. If the military campaign is successful, the military will be placed at a disadvantage. But the German militarists worry less to-day about their political enemies than they do about the weather.

If the weather continues fine the odds favor an early resumption of the fighting on the greatest scale of the war.

# British Politicians Split On Versailles Conference

## Colonel Repington Sees a Scheme to Force the Resignation of Sir William Robertson or to Limit His Power

By Arthur S. Draper

LONDON, Feb. 9.—The full results of the last Versailles conference have not yet been made public. Colonel Repington's telegram from Paris in today's "Morning Post" urging Parliament to "demand the fullest details" about the recent decisions of the Inter-Allied War Council may be considered the first gun in the new battle.

I am in a position to throw some light on this struggle, the decision of which is of vital interest, not only to Britons, but to all the Allies.

Colonel Repington, who severed his connection with the Northcliffe press some weeks back, after acting for many years as military correspondent of "The Times," is a strong supporter of Sir William Robertson, head of the War Office. Colonel Repington believes there is a scheme on foot by the politicians either to force Robertson's resignation or to limit his power until it is practically null.

Robertson is a skilful soldier and also has the reputation of being something of a politician. As the permanent British representative at Versailles General Sir Henry Wilson, a loyal supporter of Robertson, is also a loyal supporter of Robertson. Instead of there being a direct exchange between Robertson and Haig, Colonel Repington evidently believes that a three-cornered arrangement has been made and that thereby Robertson has lost some of his authority.

Split in Press Seen  
Against this situation Colonel Repington has begun the fight which undoubtedly will split the politicians' press. On the one side, the Conservative papers, such as "The Post," "The Globe" and the Liberal "Daily News" (because it hates Lloyd George) will support the Repington campaign, while on the other side will be the Northcliffe organs.

In the political field the chief interest will centre on the stand taken by Asquith, who put Robertson in his present place. Asquith, stating that there is no question about Haig's command of the field forces. All reports stating that Allenby or Plumer are

# War Council Should Confine Itself To Politics, Says English Expert

The New York Tribune Foreign Press Bureau

Some idea of the scope and functions of the Allied War Council at Versailles, insofar as it affects military operations, is given by Colonel A. M. Murray, C. B., in an article in "The Daily News," of London. Colonel Murray says in part:

"The Versailles War Council having now been in existence for two months, it may be interesting to learn something more about this new organization. After two months of reflection, are the reasons for constituting the council as strong now as they were represented by the Prime Minister to be immediately after the Italian debacle? If so, is the new organization likely to succeed in securing the object for which it was created?"

"It is impossible to read Field Marshal Haig's dispatch of December 25 without feeling that, while he and his international colleagues, with their staffs, worked together in terms of intimate cordiality and close liaison throughout the year, there was something wanted to link detached plans together so as to assure the best use being made of the large forces which were at the disposal of the Allies. There was agreement between the different commanders in chief, because it was no one's business to disagree; but it was a nebulous, unregularized, agreement, and as such no value for strategic purposes. Sir Douglas Haig had his plan—he has told us what it was, and Generals Nivelle and Cadorna had theirs; but

# Francis Heard From; Still in Petrograd

## Indications of Better Relations Between Embassy and Bolsheviks

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Fear that Ambassador Francis might have been expelled from Petrograd by the Bolsheviks was dispelled to-day by the receipt of a cable message from the ambassador, dated February 5. The report that he and other diplomats were being sent out of the country began to circulate prior to that date. In his message the ambassador made no reference to any conflict with the Petrograd authorities.

Some indications of slightly improved relations between the Lenine-Trotsky government and the embassy exist. Red Cross supplies recently landed in Russia have arrived at Petrograd without delay and without charge having been made for their transportation.

# How a U. S. Officer Sounds To a British "Ad" Writer

## "We'll Hand Out the Lemon to Kaiser Bill," Is One Expression Credited to Him

This is how an American officer talks, according to an advertisement in an English newspaper:

"Say, boys, we've got some stunt on now, but I guess we'll help you to hand the lemon to Kaiser Bill when we all get going for his nabs. You British and French soldier boys are the goods all right, and we are proud to get into line with you in this world's championship fight. We'll make old Hindenburg, Ludendorff and the rest of the crowd see more khaki and blue than'll be good for their eyesight before very long. Meantime we're training hard on bully beef, plum and apple 'shun and, best of all, on a real joy smoke."



This is the way an American officer looks to British eyes, or, at least, the way he is made to look in an English newspaper.

# Russian Fleet Training Guns On Helsingfors

## Baltic Ships Move Into Harbor While Bolshevik Troops Enter City

## Red Guard Beaten In North Finland

## Orgy of Murder and Looting Continues in South, Stockholm Hears

By Carl Lundberg

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 9.—Kemi, the last stronghold of the Red Guards in North Finland, is now in the hands of General Mannerheim, commander of the government forces. Thus civil war is now confined to South Finland, particularly around Viborg and Helsingfors.

In Torna the White Troops attacked the Russians yesterday with machine guns, and took 300 prisoners and a quantity of ammunition and foodstuffs. The commander of the White Troops, Johanson, was killed.

The Stockholm "Stidningen" is informed that the Russians are becoming masters of Helsingfors, instead of the Russian Maximilists. A great number of Russian troops are being moved into the harbor, menacing the town with its big guns. Murder and looting continue throughout the city.

# Rebels Considered A "St. Bartholomew's Night" in Finland

LONDON, Feb. 9.—Scandinavians from Finland, according to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen, report that the Red Guard government in Finland a few days ago seriously discussed the question of arranging a "St. Bartholomew's night." It is said they planned to kill all members of the capitalist class over eight years of age.

The project was rejected by only two votes. According to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Copenhagen, a special correspondent of the "Berlinske Tidende," who succeeded in escaping from Helsingfors, sends to his paper a wireless report, which was not allowed to pass the Red Guard censorship, in which he says that the Red Guards have made a frightful slaughter of the bourgeoisie in Helsingfors, and have been plundering and killing in a most brutal manner.

The theatre and a large number of public buildings in Helsingfors have been destroyed. The Red Guards, however, have been unable to control the people and anarchy is increasing. Storehouses in Helsingfors which contained food from Denmark for starving Finns have been destroyed by the Red Guards and Russian Bolsheviks.

The massacre of St. Bartholomew resulted in the killing of more than 20,000 persons, members of the Huguenot faith, in France in 1572. The principal victim was Admiral Coligny and the massacre began in Paris on the night of August 23-24.

# Russia Defended Serbia's Interests Against Italians

By Arthur S. Draper

LONDON, Feb. 9.—What follows is the translation made by "The Manchester Guardian" of a secret memorandum of the Russian Foreign Office, apropos the negotiations with Italy prior to her entrance into the war:

"The question of wresting Italy from the Triple Alliance of that time and prevailing upon her to join the Allies arose at the very beginning of the war. The attempt was unsuccessful. Von Buolow's mission to Rome led only to a change in the Italian policy, which delayed that country's entrance into the war for a half year. The German representative strove to buy Italy's neutrality with concessions at Austria's expense. The Dual Monarchy was unwilling to follow this course."

Did Not Need Italy

"In view of the fruitlessness of this bargaining, the possibility of Italy joining the Allies arose once more in the latter half of February, 1915. At that time the Russian government did not see any imperative necessity for Italy's intervention in the affairs of the Balkans. The Russian Foreign Affairs expressed apprehension that the appearance of a fourth European member in the coalition might complicate the relations among the Allied powers. While he did not oppose the plan for drawing Italy into the alliance, M. Sazonoff considered that in any case the initiative in this matter should proceed from Italy herself."

"Negotiations were for many months in London at the end of February, 1915, on the initiative of the Italian Ambassador. They were conducted by Sir Edward Grey and Ambassadors Cambon of France, Benckendorff of Russia and Imperiali of Italy. They became involved, however, on the one hand, by Buolow's continued efforts to incline the Cabinet in Vienna to make concessions to Italy, and, on the other hand, by the contradictoriness of the interests of the great powers in London."

"France and Russia considered Italy's demands exorbitant, the former with regard specifically to the question of the southern Italian shores of the Adriatic and later with regard to the territory northeast of the Adriatic. Six weeks were spent in deciding the details of future territorial disposition of Albania and Dalmatia. The Russian Minister of Foreign Affairs persistently defended the interests of the southern Slavs and maintained that an outlet to the sea was fundamentally assured to Serbia, step by step repelling Italy's desires for the extension of her seacoast and for the neutralization of regions intended for Serbia."

# Egg-Laying Hen Now a U. S. Ward

Five million dozen eggs will be added to the nation's food supply because of an order which will be put into effect to-morrow prohibiting the killing of egg-laying hens at any time before May 1.

The hen will thus become one of the country's war wards and it will be a crime punishable at the discretion of the food administration to wield an axe over her sacred head. Not only are farmers and others prohibited from killing her, but transportation companies are forbidden to carry her, dead or

alive, and dealers, wholesale and retail, must not interfere with her egg-laying proclivities.

The slaughter of roosters may continue as usual, and chickens which have not reached the egg-laying stage of life are still left to the mercy of the squab consumer.

It is the first time in the country's history that legal protection has ever been thrown about the hen.

Wholesale prices were fixed as follows: Fowls, 35 cents a pound; young roosters, 35 cents; old, 27 cents. Retail prices will be set later.

# Bolshevik Arrest Prominent Poles

LONDON, Feb. 9.—The Bolshevik authorities have arrested a number of prominent Poles at Petrograd, as a reprisal for the imprisonment of Chief of the Russian army, who was seized by the Polish Legion, according to the Cologne "Volks Zeitung," a copy of which has been received at Amsterdam. These arrested include the newly appointed Archbishop of Mohilev, von Rupp.

The Foreign Office to-day received a dispatch from the British Embassy at Petrograd, dated 10 o'clock Friday. No reference was made in it to the reported expulsion of the Entente missions from Petrograd.

# Finnish White Guard Threatens Death on Failure to Surrender

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 9.—Advises from Haparanda say that Tammefors has been in the hands of the White Guard since Thursday. Railway communication between Petrograd and Viborg has been interrupted, and it is believed that the White Guard had finally captured Viborg.

As a consequence of an order by the White Guard at Tornio, that the failure to surrender arms would be punished by death, thousands of rifles, a quantity of ammunition and four machine guns have been handed over. In the fighting at Uusaborg the White Guard was victorious, 1,200 of the Red Guard being taken prisoner.

According to a message received from the headquarters of the White Guard in Vasa, Finland, the Red Guard has met with a serious reverse in recent fighting. The statement says: "Last night, after eleven days of minor encounters, the Red Guard at Knopis surrendered. More than 500 were taken prisoner. Near Antrea, in the province of Karelia, the government forces captured six field guns, eleven machine guns and large quantities of munitions, provisions, motor cars and rifles."

"The battle continues at Villpula. On the other fronts the enemy is retreating, pillaging and burning as he goes."

# Free Russia Meeting Lacks Bolsheviki Fire

Another Russia held the stage yesterday in Arlington Hall—a free Russia, which seemed more near, to approach the American idea of democracy than that revealed at the Bolshevik convention held in New York last week. An orchestra played "The Star Spangled Banner." Old Glory dominated in the decorations, and the delegates seemed not entirely oblivious of the fact that America as well as Russia had shaken off a tyrant's rule in a revolution for freedom.

During an intermission when a committee on credentials was in session, Clon Lya Tolstoy wandered or sauntered into the Bolsheviki nest in a balcony. A noisy radical at once gaged him in argument. They were warm in the discussion of evolution versus revolution, despite the quiet influence of a nearby policeman. Out-talked, the court retreated after his vehement opponent had called upon the spirit of Leo Tolstoy to descend to withhold the son from a perversion of his father's sentiments.

Asked his name, the Bolsheviki bader replied with a grandiloquent gesture: "My name is Legion. I speak for the struggling masses of Russian workmen."

In the subsequent election of officers there seemed to be no slate. Voldemar T. Kruglak, of the editorial staff of the "Rusky Golos," having called the meeting to order, named Leon Martynov, a laundryman, temporary chairman, and thereafter temporary Kruglak's newspaper appeared to mock the meeting. There were none of the "Novy Mir" tactics, such as ran a steam roller through the recent Bolsheviki convention.

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7 Hudson Seal Coats Belted or loose models (dyed muskrat), trimmed with real skunk fur. Reduced from \$295.00	235.00	6 Hudson Seal Coats Belted or loose models (dyed muskrat), trimmed with real skunk or kolinsky fur. Reduced from \$350.00	285.00
2 Moire Caracul Coats Full-length models, trimmed with real skunk fur. Reduced from \$295.00	250.00	2 Moire Caracul Coats Full-length models, trimmed with real skunk fur. Reduced from \$398.00	350.00
4 Real Scotch Mole Coats Full-length models, trimmed with ermine or taupe fur. Reduced from \$675.00	450.00	1 Mole Coat-Wrap Full-length original Paris model of real Scotch mole. Reduced from \$1850.00	600.00
1 Ermine and Kolinsky Wrap Handsome full-length original Paris model. Reduced from \$3500.00	1000.00	1 Women's Broadtail Coat Full-length original Paris model of broadtail. Reduced from \$2800.00	1000.00

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25.00 Heretofore \$29.50	Natural Beaver	Heretofore \$25.00	17.50
24.00 Heretofore \$29.50	Dyed Black Fox	Heretofore \$29.50	24.00
25.00 Heretofore \$32.50	Real Skunk	Heretofore \$28.00	21.00

# An Unusual Sale—Tuesday

# WOMEN'S WINTER COATS

These are not reduced coats, but entirely new winter models just received from the tailor's hands.

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