

FLANDERS BATTLES SEEN AS CLIMAX

Constitute Greatest Offensive Operation Undertaken by Allied Forces.

GRIP OF TEUTONS IS BROKEN

Ultimate Fate of German Armies on West Front No Longer Open Question, Declares Military Authority.

By JOHN LLOYD BALDERSTON. Copyright, 1917, by the McClure Newspaper Syndicate.

London.—The desperate efforts of the Kaiser's autocracy to secure peace before winter, have been regarded here as the direct results of the British victories in Flanders. It is because these epoch-making successes reveal such comparatively little movement on the map, and result in hauls of prisoners very small compared to the standard set in the campaigns in Russia, that the general public here and abroad has failed to realize all that Sir Douglas Haig's autumn offensive implies for the future of the world.

This great turning movement that began in Flanders on July 31, it may now be said, is regarded by the allied staffs as the first major or decisive offensive operation undertaken by the allies on the west front since the battle of the Marne. The Somme campaign last year, with its half-million casualties, more than double the number suffered in Flanders, was a subsidiary operation. It was carried out in order to make the Ypres offensive possible. And the Ypres offensive has already succeeded.

This is England's year. Next year, at least in the closing phases of the campaign, if it lasts so long, England may have to share the honors with America. France did her full share and more in 1914 at the Marne, and in 1915 when her desperate frontal assaults on the German line wore down the enemy's manpower, in 1916 when her glorious resistance at Verdun broke the Kaiser's last bid for a decision. England took over the burden in the closing phases of the Somme battle; the battle of Flanders over-shadowed everything else in the history of the present year.

Seen as Climax of War. I am able to give American readers a brilliant analysis of the Flanders operations, prepared by a most competent authority who must be nameless. This expert makes clear why it is that the statements made above are true; he shows how the Flanders battles which show the German line back, for the moment, only a few miles, represent the climax of the war and constitute the main push, for which Loos and the Labyrinth and Champagne, the Somme and Vimy and Arras, were only intended to pave the way. The statement follows:

"When the allies passed tactically to the offensive on July 1 last year upon the Somme, the German front rested on the Alps at one extremity, and on the coast at the other. And the front, while apparently it could not be turned on either flank, was supposed to have been made impregnable to assault. The effect of that state of things was that the line, as a line, could be held with a minimum of troops, and that although the total enemy force might be of no more than moderate dimensions, the fortified character of the front still made it possible to employ an important percentage of that force, and the best of it in point of quality, as a movable reserve to be used either for a tactical counter-offensive or to meet attack wherever attack might develop. Thus here were some one hundred and twenty German divisions on the west front altogether, and yet there were such assaults as those upon Verdun.

Front Found Not Impregnable. "But the battle of the Somme having finally and conclusively demonstrated that the front was not impregnable to assault, the state of things was radically changed. The change did not come about all at once, but when the Somme was followed by its equal, the loss of the Vimy ridge, and that in turn by the loss of the Lys ridge and the Champagne ridge, the position became this: the enemy had at once to increase the number of men holding his line, and found his resources in the form of movable reserve cut down. He increased his total force on the west by some thirty divisions, but, despite that, he had fewer troops whom he could play about.

"Now a movable reserve is a very important part of the German defensive, and that defensive, by any change which cuts down such a reserve, is necessarily weakened. The change makes resistance to attack more difficult, by making it more difficult to provide against attack. Further, the security of thickening the troops in the line has meant, in the face of the superiority of the allied force, a consistently heavier rate of losses.

"Evidently, as a matter of plain common sense, these effects had to be thought about before the operation of attacking the enemy front with the object of turning it could be entered upon. Further, there had to be the reasonable assurance that attack would be stronger than the strongest defense the enemy could put up. Without some such reasonable assurance, an attempt would have been a courtship of failure.

"As to the point of the front where his operation was to be looked for, here was never any mystery. The point was the sector east of Ypres. It has always been manifest that the Germans violated the neutrality of Belgium because, without the roads and railways through Belgium, their operations into France, dependent on the roads through Metz, could not have been carried out. It was to be on three times as many as on the very least. And the main concentration of these facts is

that for all essential supplies the Germans on the west are absolutely reliant on the Belgian routes.

"Now the question of whether they might continue to rely upon the Belgian routes was in this attack to the east of Ypres to be put to the test. If they could defeat that attack, well and good. They might then consider themselves secure, their hold on Belgium secure, their armies in the west safe so far as supplies were concerned, and, what is more, the German alliance or confederacy assured by the effect of this success, and the way opened for peace negotiations more or less in accordance with their own views.

"But if they could not defeat the attack, then equally all this was altered. They were insecure; their hold upon Belgium must become precarious; their entire force on the west must be jeopardized; the effect of defeat undermining the faith of their allies must undermine their confederation; and the hope of a peace upon anything like their own terms must be destroyed.

More Than Fight for Territory. "It will be seen that the battles east of Ypres are much more than a fight for a system of ridges; certainly much more than a fight to decide whether the British or the enemy shall through the winter stand on wet ground or dry; much more even than a struggle for the coast, or for presumed submarine bases; much more than the impressing of German public opinion. These battles decide whether or not a vital operation is possible; a vital operation, because to the whole German force on the west it is a matter of life and death, and a matter of life and death to the modern Prussianized and militarized German empire.

"As a test, when it comes to the shock of battle, is always tactical. Let strategic schemes be as sound and well conceived as they may, if the troops who are to carry them out are not up to the work, the plans cannot be realized. With this tactical test, so far as it has gone, we have every reason to feel in the highest degree satisfied. So far we have not missed a step.

"Further, we knew that although there has been singularly little vicissitude of fortune, we have compelled the enemy to put forth and have met his utmost effort. Five divisions have been identified east of Ypres as just brought from Russia and from Champagne. It is telling evidence of the strain this defense has imposed. A stronger defense than that hitherto offered may be dismissed as wholly improbable.

"In a case like this, the German command is not accustomed to lock the stable door after the horse has been stolen, and it is idle to suppose that we should have been allowed to advance as far as the outskirts of Passchendaele and the Houthulst wood if any means of the enemy's command could have prevented it. The means are not at the enemy's command, and if they are not now, they never will be.

Test Has Been Decisive. "In brief, this tactical test has been decisive, and that decision is the decision of the war. The fate of the German armies on the west is no open question. Before the assault on the Messines ridge it might have been so regarded. It cannot be so regarded now.

"And what is the authoritative German view of the matter? Let us judge as usual by acts. First of all there is the distribution of 'Fatherland Party' pamphlets among the German soldiery. The morale of the German army needs to be re-inforced. The procedure has no other meaning. Why does the morale need to be stiffened? Because of the effect of the repeated shocks it has undergone. Shocks are not caused by victories. All the detailed accounts agree that the morale of the German troops is patchy. Some fight well; others fight badly. The morale of an army which is sinking always takes this form of rotten spots, which tend to spread. It leaves a force unreliable, for an army is a chain of linked units and units, and if some of the links be rotten the chain will break to a certainty. The 'Fatherland' propaganda is apparently an attempt at cure.

Know They Are Beaten. "Next there is the official representation in the German newspapers of the resistance east of Ypres as a 'victorious' resistance. Seemingly it is victorious because we do not accomplish everything at one bound. There could not be a grosser military absurdity, and of course the men who write bulletins of that kind know that such stuff is nonsense. The fact that they write it, and feel constrained to write it, discloses their real opinion. They know that they are beaten.

"To pass on, there is the reported conference of enemy rulers at Sofia. The military reverses of Germany on the west, the main and deciding theater of war, are so many hammer blows at the confederacy. Will Germany's allies follow Germany all the way to ruin? It is doubtful.

"Lastly there are the rumored further impending peace offers on more 'liberal' terms. Why should there be such offers if the military situation is 'excellent'? Do not they arise out of the peril of the German army on the west, the German army, and the peril of the Prussianized German empire it involves? If we take the defeat of the German army as now foregone, these proceedings are harmonious and consistent with each other. On any other supposition they are inconsistent and inexplicable. There is a theorem which fits them all. That theorem is the truth.

As Germans View It.

To turn from this authoritative English view of the Flanders campaign, one of the most vivid pictures of what the British attacks in Flanders mean to the unfortunate German soldiers crouching in the mud under an unprecipitated volume of fire has been written by a German correspondent, Professor Wegener of the Cologne Gazette. Despite his effort to put the best face possible on the situation, it is not necessary to read between the lines to appreciate the hopelessness with which the enemy must look forward to new and greater attacks in the spring, in which the American army will play its part.

those to put his hope not in the moral superiority of his troops, but in the material superiority. The incomparable fighting strength of the German soldier was to be broken, and must be broken, by a tremendous development of mechanical weapons and the unheard-of accumulation of guns, ammunition, mines, gas, armored cars, and the like. This is all in accordance with the English way of thinking, for their battle is fundamentally a battle of money.

Recognize Bravery of British.

"The natural dislike, mingled with contempt, which we Germans have for this way of thinking, must not prevent us from understanding that the conception is exceedingly serious. Anybody who formerly followed English Colonial wars, English voyages of discovery, and English sport, knows how much of the successes of the English in these spheres was always due to brilliant preparation and equipment. Of course all depends upon whether there are behind the material and the machines real men to use them. But we all know that this is the case with the English, and we are far from wanting to deny it; on the contrary, we should be diminishing the achievements of our own men if we did so.

"Even earlier the fighting was well described as a super-material battle, but since the end of August it has become quite plain that the English intend to increase their efforts still further by still more gigantic guns and still more enormous masses of munitions and all the engines of war. On our maps of the ground behind the enemy front, upon which we mark from time to time his new camps, batteries, strategic railways, and so on, one sees how all of Belgium that remains unoccupied, and especially the area of Ypres and Poperinghe, has become really one enormous war camp, crossed in every direction by a close network of strategic railways that have sprung out of the ground.

Sees French Activity. "There was a further considerable expansion of all this recently. Feverish activity could be seen among the English. Bridge after bridge appeared across the Ypres canal, new roads crossed the country, branch lines advanced further, the enemy artillery was brought closer to the front, and new battery positions were prepared. New munition dumps were laid down, new aerodromes, and new encampments, thickly sown though the encampments already were. As regards troops as well as material, the Englishmen hope to get his results by the employment of masses.

"During the period of preparation the bombardment of our front was incessant. From the methods of the new artillery, it was realized that the enemy had thought out a new tactical scheme to meet the Hindenburg-Ludendorff defensive tactics. This is not the place to go into details about that. But a feature of the scheme was that the enemy tried constantly to broaden the zone of his artillery destruction behind our front. The increasing frequency of the bombardment, which often developed into drum fire, and was directed against our lines of approach and command positions, gradually showed that the new attack was near. The drum fire assaults on the whole battle front increased so much in strength that they were obviously preparing for the new infantry storm.

Attacks Nerves of Defense. "The drum fire was different from former drum fire, not only in its more terrible mass effect, but also because of its peculiar employment in the rear. It was not, as formerly, an almost unbroken thunder, but a series of fire storms of tremendous violence but of limited duration, alternating with periods of comparatively small activity; both the fire storms and the pauses varied, so that one could realize the intention of destroying the nerves of the defense, by the element of uncertainty.

"Of airmen also the English had prepared masses in excess of anything known before. This development was sudden, and it took some time before we had caught up with the numerical superiority. The enemy airmen tried to advance in swarms over our lines, but the perfect bravery of our men was able to force them back, and in the main to keep them behind their own lines.

So much for Professor Wegener. The Herr professor doubtless knows, if his readers do not, that the "unheard of accumulation" of material, the "masses" of airmen in "excess of anything known before," will next spring be still more unheard of, and still more in excess of anything known before.

Stone Age Blotter. Instead of blotting paper we soon may be using a piece of stone to dry our letters. This is not as unreasonable as it sounds, for there is a kind of stone found at the bottom of certain hot springs which is excellent for blotting purposes, observes an exchange. The stone is a sediment that has formed in the bottom of the springs, and may be had in considerable quantities. It is highly absorbent, though not soft in the ordinary meaning of the word. When placed on a sheet of paper it will absorb the surplus ink more quickly and satisfactorily than the usual blotter.

The scarcity of all kinds of paper caused by the war and the growing demand for varieties more important than blotting paper makes it probable that we may be buying a yard of stone before long to use as a blotting pad. When one side becomes heavily inked it can be cut off with a knife and the remainder of the stone used again.

His Certificates.

"President Wilson hates Kaiserism as bitterly, and, by Jove, he raps it as hard and well, as was the case of Whistler with the Royal academy. The speaker was George Luko, the fashionable New York painter. "An American admirer of Whistler," he went on, "once wrote to our great man in care of the Royal academy in London. The letter had a hard task to find Whistler, but it did find him at last, and on the envelope Whistler saw that the Royal academy people had maliciously written:

"Not known at the Royal academy." Whistler enclosed the envelope to a newspaper with the comment: "Behold, my certificate of merit!"

FLOWER NAMED FOR NATION'S WAR LEADER



Gen. John J. Pershing, leader of America's armed forces in France, is godfather of Uncle Sam's finest chrysanthemum. One of the most popular exhibits in the government botanical gardens at Washington is the "General Pershing," which is shown in the picture.

Machinery of the Body

By DR. SAMUEL G. DIXON, Commissioner of Health of Pennsylvania

The indifference of mankind to his body has always been beyond my comprehension. His value as an individual unit among his kind depends upon the condition of the living organic machinery within his body. This represents nature's greatest effort. It is upon the perfection of this machinery that our nation will have to depend to succeed in the horrible war we have been plunged into to preserve our national liberty.

Man should be taught from childhood to be proud of his body. He should be taught early in life that it is the home of his brain and very soul. He should be taught how complicated it is and what great care is necessary to keep it in order, and that every time it is out of order it falls below its normal standard of accomplishment.

The care of the body means the care of its outward parts, like the limbs, and of its internal organs, particularly those of digestion.

Notwithstanding the fact that the body is the most valuable property mankind possesses, there is nothing toward which the majority of men display more indifference. There seems to be a general idea that the body is indestructible. That is why we see so many poor, miserable specimens of mankind within our midst. If they realized what objects of pity they really are, every effort would be made to "spruce up" and present the best possible appearance to their fellow creatures.

I have heard people say of others: "They are too proud to care for appearances." Yet these same people are apt to share our common feeling of being proud of the appearance of their homes, of our mechanical machinery, or of our animals, particularly our horses.

Many a man allows his children to grow up without proper care or attention for their bodies, the temple of all they have, while his driving horse is kept in a state of perfection so that it may not only be admired, but also perform its duties to the highest degree.

A pet driving-horse has its body kept clean, its bed and living conditions most carefully looked after, and its food prepared with the greatest care. If one day it does not get as much physical exercise as on another, the food is reduced so that its physical condition may be maintained. If it gets over-warm while traveling, it is at once covered with a blanket to prevent taking cold.

Let us give thought to what we are doing and see that our bodies and those of our children are at least as well taken care of as those of our animals, and that we value them as highly as our other possessions. Let us at once learn to be proud of our bodies and realize the fact that they are complicated and require the greatest care to keep them in order. Just now our nation demands that each individual be of the greatest value that we may win this war upon which our liberty depends.

A Hard Row to Hoe.

For centuries the status of a woman as a female slave and after marriage as a female chattel. Veritably it may be said that the second estate of that woman was far worse than the first, concludes Judge Robert Grant in Scribner's. A female slave in legal phraseology an "infant" until her marriage.

Demands of War May Bring Back the Celluloid Collar.

It is no longer considered good form to point the digit of scorn or throw lighted matches at a gentleman who wears a highly inflammable celluloid collar. Nothing but a world war could supply an alibi for this economical Atonia, but nowadays the wearers of the stiff and glistening strangers rank with the food conservers and the liberty bond buyers in the matter of patriotic endeavor.

Of late, or recently to be more explicit, some person with a mania for details has discovered that millions of pounds of potatoes are used annually in the United States in the manufacture of starch. Not content with this discovery, observes a writer in the New York Herald, he sought additional details and ascertained that about a third of all the starch coined, spun or manufactured goes eventually to the neck of the country. The stiff collars of the nation are responsible for a great percentage of the potato shortage. Obviously anyone who wears a starched collar is contributing to the

lant, called a growth stimulant, which is found in all these foods. It is found also in clover and alfalfa in abundance and animals fed on such foods store up this fat soluble in the fat of their bodies. When a better substitute is made with sugar and milk, some of this wonderful growth stimulant is there. Adults as well as children need food containing it, and we are told that the wounds of our soldiers do not heal well unless they have food which supplies this growing principal.

Plenty of good whole milk—a bottle to carry for luncheon—is the best kind of a drink and with a thermos bottle it may be kept hot, if there are no facilities for heating it at school.

Nellie Maxwell

Pulse of the Ocean May Yet Be Harnessed by Boring of Tunnels Through the Cliffs.

Near the city of Santa Cruz, Cal., there is a low abrupt chalklike cliffs some 20 feet high. In several places the action of the waves has worn picturesque archways through projections from these cliffs. At one place an arched tunnel extends directly inshore and into a small open pitlike space in the rocks.

As the ocean swells come shoreward in rhythmic succession with the regular pulse of the vast Pacific their hydraulic pressure intermittently forces the water up in the pit to a level higher than that of the surface of the water.

So there, in that natural chamber, someone years ago built a float. It works up and down, safe from storm waves, and its regular perpendicular tread is attached to a wheel that turns an electric generator.

Cleanliness and Neatness Most Important Factors in Arranging Invalid's Tray

Cleanliness and neatness are important factors to be considered in arranging the tray of an invalid, points out Miss Louie Kennedy, instructor in domestic science in the Kansas State Agricultural college.

The food should be so arranged that the patient will not have to put forth much effort to obtain it. The artistic touches count for much in arranging the tray. Daintiness arouses the eye and creates an interest in the food. The best dishes and linens obtainable are not too good for the patient.

The food should be fresh, and of the best quality. It is desirable to have as great a variety as possible. The cooking should be done with the utmost care. Hot foods should be served hot, and cold foods cold. Enough food should be given to satisfy the patient but the plate should not be overloaded, and it must be served regularly. Serving meals on time is as important as giving medicine on time.

Mother's Cook Book.

The School Lunch.

In preparing a luncheon for school children, two things should be kept in mind: providing good, wholesome nutritious food and packing it attractively. In these days when all housewives wish to conform to the requests of our food administrator, sandwiches must be made of other than wheat flour. Bran bread, rye and barley bread, and steamed brown bread will, with an occasional roll of white flour, give a needed variety. As most all breads need some wheat flour to add gluten, there is much white flour used even with the best of planning. Sandwiches and cakes, if wrapped in waxed paper, will keep fresh and moist. The care in packing so that the food is not jolted over rough roads or joggled in the hands of the little people, is very important, for small people are fastidious, being offered with bash when out of its proper course.

Breads may be varied by adding nuts, raisins and dates, or oatmeal bread to which dried fruits are added, or nuts if preferred, is a most wholesome bread well liked by the children.

A handful of dates, figs or raisins or an occasional piece of candy is always a delight to the child.

Custards, egg sandwiches, cheese in various forms, nuts and salads will all take the place of meat. Chicken and fish cannot be shipped abroad so we are told to indulge in them in place of pork, mutton or beef. Beef hearts and liver sweet breads are meats that are perishable and so are not shipped. Such meats make most tasty dishes if they are not always cooked and served in the same way.

In all our conserving we must remember that the children must be well fed. Milk, butter, cheese, and the yolk of egg as well as vegetables such as cabbage, spinach and other green leaves add an important stimulant.

As It's Done in the Army.

A captain, returning to camp at night with his family, was challenged by a slightly intoxicated sentry. "Halt! Who's there?" "Captain Smith and family." "Captain Smith—advance and be recognized. Mrs. Smith and baby—mark time. The pup—at ease." And then the corporal of the guard placed the sentry "at rest."

Volume in Five Words.

One of England's first hundred thousand men spent two years at the front without once writing home. At last his mother wrote to the captain of his company asking him to prevail upon the unitary Tommy to write. The captain did. After two days Alfred produced the following: "Dear Ma: This war is a blinger. Tell Auntie."

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Had To Give Up Was Almost Frantic With Pain and Suffering of Kidney Complaint. Doan's is My Relief.

Mrs. Lydia Hunter, 1225 Margaret St., Franklin, Pa., says: "A cold started my kidney trouble. My back began to ache and get sore and lame. My joints were swollen and became swollen and painful and I felt as if needles were sticking into them. I finally had to give up and went home to my bed."

"My kidneys didn't get right and the sections were really and distressing. I had awful dizzy spells when everything before me turned black; one time I couldn't see for twenty minutes. A full pain in my head set me almost frantic and I was so nervous, I couldn't stand the least noise. How I suffered! Often I didn't care whether I lived or died."

"I couldn't sleep on account of the terrible pain in my back and head. Nothing seemed to do me a bit of good until I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills. I could soon see they were helping me; the backache stopped, my kidneys were regulated and I no longer had any dizzy spells or rheumatic pains. I still take Doan's occasionally and they keep my kidneys in good health. Yours to before me, F. W. CLARKE, JR., Notary Public."

Get Doan's of Any Store, or a Box of Doan's Kidney Pills, F. W. CLARKE, JR., Notary Public, FOSTER-MILBURN CO., BUFFALO, N. Y.

New York poor are lessening use of milk because of price.

The Ointment That Does Not Irritate Head Because of its soothing and laxative effect, Leucine Brown Ointment can be taken by anyone without fear of causing a rise in the head. There is only one "Brown Ointment," W. W. GIBBY'S signature is on box. See.

Extremes. "What is to be done with all these bills on hand?" "Why, foot 'em."

SOAP IS STRONGLY ALKALINE and constant use will burn out the scalp. Cleanse the scalp by shampooing with "La Creole" Hair Dressing, and darken, in the natural way, those ugly, grizzly hairs. Price, \$1.00.—Adv.

USED HERCULEAN STRENGTH

Sir William MacGregor Years Ago Gained Distinction by Saving Many Lives From Wreck.

Sir William MacGregor, G. C. M. G., is a man of Herculean strength—indeed, until he took part some years ago in the rescue of some Indian coolies from a shipwrecked vessel, he stated that he had not previously realized the value of his great strength, says a correspondent.

A broken mast was the only connection with the stranded vessel, and over this, again and again, Sir William clambered with a man or woman on his back, and more often than not a child also between his teeth, held by the clothes.

On a reef below was a woman, who had fallen overboard, having got at the ship's spivits and become mad drunk. Two men who went after her were in the act of being swept out to sea, when Sir William slid down a rope, seized the woman's hair between his teeth, grasped the two men and brought all three to a place of safety. For this he received the Albert Gold Medal from Queen Victoria, and the Clark Gold Medal from Australia.

A Touch of Nature.

The scene is a crowded bus. A soldier, back from the trenches, sitting in a corner near the entrance, puts his hand into his pocket for his fare, and pulls out a shilling and some coppers. The bus jolts violently and, to the soldier's dismay, the shilling slips from his fingers just as the lights go out, as they always do in London, in these days, when a bridge is being crossed. The passengers with one accord begin to grope for the soldier's shilling. "Fraid it rolled off, mate," says the conductor. Then lights go up again, and discover three passengers each holding out the shilling.—Christian Science Monitor.

An Average Load.

"There goes what you might call the average suburbanite." "How do you place him?" "He's carrying home something his wife asked him to get at a department store, a steak, a head of lettuce and a new record for his phonograph."

Henrietta, Okla., women are working in a coal mine.



Instant Postum

fits the spirit of the times perfectly. It is

Purely American

Economical

Convenient

and is a pleasing, wholesome, drug-free drink good for both young and old.

There's a Reason