

TWO LEADERS ON THE WEST FRONT



Gen. Sir Douglas Haig, commanding the British forces on the west front, and Sir Pertab Singh, high commander of the Indian forces.

GERMANS LOSE THE INITIATIVE IN SECOND YEAR OF GREAT WAR

Co-Operation Among the Entente Allies Brings Sweeping Change Over the Aspect of Military Affairs—Two Largest Empires of Earth, Russia and Great Britain, at Last Fully Organized—Second Year's Campaigns Reviewed.

New York.—Germany is on the defensive. The initiative has passed to the entente allies. This is the one great outstanding fact of the second year of the great war.

Before, she aimed a blow where she pleased and the allies parried it as best they might. She seized most of Belgium and a seventh of France. Twice she overwhelmed the Russians who had penetrated East Prussia. She smashed her way far into the czar's dominions and crushed Serbia and Montenegro. She directed a fearful battering-ram of shells and human bodies on Verdun.

But with the present summer a sweeping change came over the aspect of military affairs.

Co-operating through the allies' war council with Gen. Joseph Joffre at its head, the Italians beat back the Austrian columns in the Trentino, the Russians drove the Teutons before them in the East with horrible destruction and the British and French began a slow and methodical bending of the long established lines in the West.

At Last Fully Organized.

These are the movements which are still going on as the war enters its third, and according to Lord Kitchener's Delphic prediction, final year. Whether the Kaiser will retrieve himself, again seize the initiative and enter on new campaigns of conquest cannot be foretold. One thing is certain, the two largest empires of the earth, Russia and Great Britain, are at last fully organized for war against him.

On the first anniversary of the war, August 1, 1915, the Austro-German sweep of Poland was in full swing. Lublin fell that day; Chorn, August 2; Warsaw, August 6; Ivangorod, August 7; Serock, August 9; Lomza, August 11; Stedlee and Sokolow, August 14; Kovno, August 19; Novogorodsk, August 21; Ossowice, August 24; Kovel, August 25; Brest-Litovsk, August 27; Ollta, August 28; Lutsk, September 2; Brody, September 3; Grodno, September 4; Dubno, September 10; Tusk, September 17, and Vilna, September 20.

It seemed to neutral observers nothing could stop the Teutons in the East, and it was generally believed the invaders had themselves chosen the line extending from just west of Riga, nearly straight south, to Roumania on which they spent the winter.

Russia Seemed Beaten.

Even when, on September 8, the czar took command of all his armies in person, won a victory near Tarnopol, September 10, and recaptured Lutsk September 20, and Czartorysk October 20, few believed the Russians could revive. Lutsk was soon lost again, and on October 25 the Germans stormed Illuxt. Then things settled down for the winter and almost every neutral critic thought the spring would see a resumption of the Teuton drive.

On October 8, the Teutons crossed the Serbian border at many points and five days later the Bulgarians, newcomers in the war, invaded from the east. Fighting desperately but hopelessly, the Serbians were pressed back by torrents of heavy shells to which they could not reply, and on November 29 the German general staff was able proudly to announce that the operations against Serbia had ended in complete success, while Austria at the same time was finishing off Montenegro.

But unsuccessful as the year 1915 had been to the allies in the field, their will to conquer did not waver. At the moment early in December, when the German imperial chancellor was making a clear offer of peace in a speech to the reichstag, the representatives of Germany's enemies

were meeting in a new war council at Paris, resolved to redouble their heroic efforts and never compromise.

Conscription in England.

On December 21, David Lloyd-George, the strongest man in England, declared Great Britain faced defeat unless greater efforts were made; and just a week later he demanded general conscription, threatening to resign if this measure were not put into effect.

The conscription bill passed its first reading in the house of commons January 6, and spring saw it in full force. Premier Asquith was able to announce that England's total effort was five million men.

Meanwhile in the East, a greater giant was nursing his wounds and regaining his strength in four-fold degree.

A forewarning came to the world on February 17, when Erzerum was taken. On April 19 the great Black sea port of Trebizond fell, and two days later the first Russian contingent landed in France. Still the German writers would not believe, and it took the magnificent Russian drive of June, which won all of Bukovina and a large slice of Volhynia and Galicia to convince them that Russia was again a force to be reckoned with.

Russia Well Equipped.

To understand this phenomenon of Russian resurrection it is necessary to realize not only that the Russians now have the heavy artillery and shells they lacked in the great retreat, but that their losses in numbers bother them not at all.

Seven million young men have come of military age in Russia since the war began, and of these at least five million are fit for duty. Despite her gigantic losses, it is quite possible there are more soldiers and potential soldiers in Russia today than when the war started. Certainly there are now and will be for many years to come all the "cannon fodder" that can be utilized at the front.

Erroneously considering the western front the most dangerous, the German general staff on February 21 began a heavy attack on the fortress of Verdun, with the object of using up French ammunition and men until no allied offensive would be possible this year.

Being on the outside of a curved line they were able to place more guns and maneuver more freely than their opponents, and month after month they drew closer to the now famous little city.

Whether their gains were victories or defeats will only be known after the war, when we learn the number of killed and wounded they paid for each point. They advanced, but were never able to stampede the defenders. Perhaps Verdun will be the last great German offensive. Certainly today the Teutons have their hands full stemming the Russian advance, which is penetrating Transylvania, and the Anglo-French pounding attack along the Somme.

Austria on Defensive.

The Austrians, who in the latter half of May debouched from the Trentino and almost gained the foothills and smiling plains of Italy, are also content to stand and ward off the blows of the Italians, after giving up most of their gains.

The year saw the Germans lose their Cameroon colony in January, while columns of Belgians, French and British close in on the stout defenders of the East African colony, the last of the Kaiser's overseas possessions.

In Mesopotamia the British, penetrating to within seven miles of Baghdad, were defeated and forced to retreat, being finally besieged in Kut-el-Amara on December 19. A relieving expedition was unsuccessful and on April 30 the "warrior" capitulated.

France, too, has largely recovered from the financial shock, though activity is not on such a great scale as in England. In Russia private business is not good, but owing to the suppression of vodka, the mujik, is happier today and is saving several times as much money as ever before.

Italy is suffering from a dearth of coal, which has closed most of her factories.

Some of the neutral countries of Europe, especially Denmark, Sweden and Norway are becoming opulent from war business. In Holland the upper classes have made money, while there have recently been food riots by the lower classes.

Switzerland is harassed continually by both sides to the quarrel, Germany demanding to be allowed to purchase and export goods freely from Swiss towns and the allies threatening to withhold food and other supplies if Germany is provisioned by her mountain neighbor.

Japan, the United States, Cuba and some of the South American countries were never so prosperous before in their history, due to the stimulus of war orders, which has galvanized domestic business as well.

\$64,000 FOR PANAMA HAT

Prices Paid in the City of Mexico in Carranza Currency for Summer Covering.

St. Louis.—Honestly now, how would you like to fork over \$5,500 for a suit of clothes?

Shell out \$64,000 for a Panama hat?

Dig \$2,000 just to have your trunk moved?

These are prices and charges they hurl at you down in the City of Mexico when you try to use Carranza currency as a medium of exchange.

Thomas Randolph, chairman of the board, National Bank of Commerce, is authority for the statement that these prices really exist, the information having been sent him in a letter he received from a friend in Brownsville, Tex.

It is presumed stores do not want Carranza currency and have named the high prices to stimulate the flow of United States gold and currency.

On April 15, Sir Roger Casement was captured attempting to land from a German submarine on the Irish coast. The next day the Sinn Fein society revolted, seized Dublin and set up a provisional republic. The rebellion was quelled in less than a week.

On June 3 the German and British fleets engaged in a great battle off Skagerrak. Although the Germans claimed a victory, they have not yet followed it up by coming out to deal another blow at the blockading vessels. The reports of losses by the two sides are impossible to harmonize. War Costs Fifty-Five Billion.

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Grand total	\$55,710,000,000

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The financial situation of both sides is fairly good. The same cannot be said for the economic situation. Germany and her allies are plainly in distress in many ways. Few or none have relief of actual hunger, but the vitality of many noncombatants is lowered by lack of proper food. There is a great scarcity of rubber, copper, high grade iron, material for warm clothing and an almost absolute lack of strictly exotic products, such as tea, coffee and cocoa.

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The Red Mirage

A Story of the French Legion in Algiers

By L. A. R. WYLIE

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SYNOPSIS.

Sylvia Ormsby, her lover, Richard Farquhar, finds, has fallen in love with Captain Arnaud of the Foreign Legion. In Captain Sower's room Farquhar forces Sower to have Preston's I O U's returned to him. Farquhar is helped to his room by Gabrielle Smith, Sower's secretary. Refused, he forces Farquhar to resign his commission in return for possession of Farquhar's father's written confession that he had murdered Sower's father. Gabrielle saves Farquhar from suicide. To shield Arnaud, Sylvia's fiancé, Farquhar professes to have stolen the confession and tells the real culprit why he did so. As Richard Nauden he joins the Foreign Legion and sees Sylvia, now Mrs. Arnaud, meet Colonel Destin. Farquhar meets Sylvia and Gabrielle, and learns from Corporal Goss of the colonel's cruelty. Arnaud becomes a drunkard and opium smoker. Sylvia becomes friendly with Colonel Destin. Arnaud becomes jealous of Farquhar. Farquhar, on guard at a villa where a dance is in progress, is shot down by Arnaud. Arnaud justifies his insanely jealous action to Colonel Destin. Arnaud goes to a dancing girl who loves him for comfort. Gabrielle meets Lowe, for whom she had sacrificed position and reputation, and tells him she is free from him. Sylvia meets Destin behind the mosque. Arnaud becomes ill but Sylvia will not help him, nor interfere for Farquhar. Gabrielle, aiding Farquhar, who is under punishment, is mistaken by him in his delirium for Sylvia. Farquhar delivers a message to Destin at night and finds Sylvia with him. He learns that it was Gabrielle who aided him.

There are women who appear able to fool all men with their wiles, but they can't fool smart women. Sylvia made men miserable wherever she went—made them throw their lives away recklessly. But the dawn of a day of reckoning is beginning for her, and a woman of her own sort is the instrument.

CHAPTER XIV—Continued.

"Faithful friend!" He caught her hand roughly from the bride. "There is something in all this I don't understand. Have I been mad—or dreaming?"

"Dreaming, Richard."

"Oh, I remember—the men who follow mirages die." That was the night when she came to give me 'God speed,' and it was for that man who came to me that night on the plateau—who saved me? Was it you?"

"Yes."

"And everything—all you said—was a lie, a charitable farce?"

"It was the truth."

He did not speak for a moment. He bent lower in the saddle, as though to penetrate the twilight that hid her from him. And suddenly it was her hand that sought his and held it.

"I am sorry," she said. "I did not mean to hurt you."

"I have to thank you," he answered unevenly.

Then gently he freed himself and, pulling his horse round in the middle of the road, galloped back in the direction of the barracks.

CHAPTER XV.

Mrs. Farquhar.

"And so we part company?"

"I think it better, Mme. Arnaud."

Sylvia looked up from her book. It was "East Lynne," and the condition of the cover suggested assiduous reading.

"I dare say you are right," she said lazily. "All the same, I don't quite understand you, Miss Smith. You saved me in rather an awkward dilemma the other night. And now you want to leave me."

Gabrielle smiled.

"If I was of any assistance to you, it was for reasons that had nothing to do with you personally."

"Sylvia fidgeted irritably. "What do you mean?" she asked.

"Madame Arnaud, you are pretending. You want to pretend that the lives that you have linked to yours have really nothing to do with you—that you are not responsible, that you are just a beautiful, innocent woman sitting among your dreams on a mountain top far above the turmoil of ordinary mankind. And you want me to pretend with you. But I really can't. As you said—I know too much. I'm a discomfort."

The liberty curtains dividing the open door from the courtyard were pushed aside and Sylvia's English maid made her discreet appearance.

"If you please, madame, a lady wishes to see you—Mrs. Farquhar, from England."

There followed a brief, poignant silence. Sylvia Arnaud's hand tightened convulsively on the bonbonniere, and she looked at Gabrielle with the helpless appeal of a child who suddenly realizes that it has lost itself in a crowd of strangers.

"Tell Mrs. Farquhar that I—I am—"

But Mrs. Farquhar was already in the room. She stood for a moment on the threshold, smiling at them both, with the delighted consciousness of having successfully performed the part of an agreeable surprise packet. Her appearance undoubtedly heightened the desired effect. She wore a white dress and a white toque. Moreover, she was profusely powdered, and looked, if possible, younger and more

daringly self-assured than ever. For a minute, during which she hesitated, her bright eyes rested rather earnestly on Gabrielle Smith, who, bowing formally, went out into the courtyard with a grim amusement written on her small, sunburnt face. Whereupon Mrs. Farquhar advanced and kissed Sylvia on both cheeks.

"My dear Sylvia—my dear little Sylvia—now I am sure I am the last person on earth you expected—an old woman traveling in a savage country full of foreigners! It's almost incredible, isn't it?"

Sylvia smiled faintly, like someone awakened from a stupor.

"Oh, I don't know. Won't you sit down? I certainly didn't expect any English person in this dreadful place. If one can live in England—"

She broke off suddenly. "What made you leave?"

"You see, I have been rather lonely. Since Richard left—"

"Ah, yes, of course." Sylvia sat down with her back to the sunlight, her hands clasped tightly in her lap. "You must miss him very much."

"Oh, terribly. But that's our fate—to have to get on without people we have suffered for. You, for instance, I'm sure sometimes you feel sad—a little homesick—"

"Often." Sylvia looked up eagerly.

"We are alike, rather. We understand each other." Mrs. Farquhar was silent a moment, considering the white-faced woman opposite her with bright, affectionate eyes. "And so you are sometimes lonely? If it were not for Captain Arnaud I should pity you, Sylvia."

"Yes, of course, if it were not for Desire—"

She stopped, as though seeking for words, and slowly, beneath the persistent gaze of the blue eyes, the last trace of color died from her cheeks. The hand that passed Mrs. Farquhar's cup across the table shook. "I am sorry—but the life out here makes one so nervy and jerky."

"Yes, I can imagine that," Mrs. Farquhar agreed seriously. "I had hoped to find Captain Arnaud here. I was so charmed with him, you know, and wished Richard and he had been more friendly. Poor Richard!"

Sylvia's hand tightened on the carved arm of her chair. She made a movement as though on the edge of an impulsive speech, then drew back, white lipped and silent. Mrs.