

Sketch of the Great Foch By a French Staff Officer

Did Joffre Have a Presentment of the Events Which Were to Take Place in the Centre of French Lines, When He Put in a New Force, the Great Foch?

[By Major E. Requin.] Foch has been for forty years the incarnation of the French military spirit. Through his teachings and his example he was the moral director of the French General Staff before he became the Supreme Chief of the Allied Armies. Upon each one of us he has left his strong mark. We owe to him in time of peace that unity of doctrine which is the strength. Since the war we owe him the highest lessons of intellectual discipline and moral energy. Physically, Foch is a man of medium height with an exceptionally striking face. His is the forehead of a thinker which is marked by two characteristic folds between the eyebrows; he has deep-set eyes, a large nose, a mouth clearly outlined under a gray mustache, a wiry chin. All the features are strongly marked. His whole face expresses meditation and action, great thought and a tenacious will. His words are brief and always exactly suited to the idea, each one having its own value, and usually completes the phrase, either to develop or to summarize it. Constantly at work, either meditating or discussing with a limited number of officers in whom he has entire faith; he notes in a small book which he has constantly at hand, each one of the ideas to be remembered, with writing as clear as his every thought. Foch was especially known in peace time through his instructions at the Ecole Supérieure de Guerre. As a professor, and then as director, he applied the method which consists in making as the base of all strategic and tactical instruction the study of history completed by the study of military history—that is to say, field operations, orders given, actions, results, the criticisms to be made and the instructions to be drawn from them. He also used concrete cases—that is to say, problems laid by the director on the map or on the actual ground, according to a given general situation. By this intellectual training, he accustomed the officers to solving all problems; not by giving them ready-made solutions, but by acustoming them in finding the logical solution to each individual case. His mind was trained through so many years of study that no war situation could disturb him. In the most difficult ones he quickly pointed out the goal to be reached and the means to employ, and each one of us felt that it must be right. For it was during the great events of August and September, 1914, that Marshal Joffre realized what a valuable second Foch was to be to him. In the month of August, 1914, he commanded the 20th corps in Lorraine. He displayed such qualifications that three months later he was given the command of an army. It was at the moment when Joffre was preparing his manoeuvre of the Marne. Die Joffre already have a presentment of the events which were to take place

in the centre of the French lines, when he put in, not so much new forces, as a new force, the great chief that he had foreseen in Foch? A Will Stronger Than Events. Anyway, raising a few divisions from the 4th and 5th armies, and reinforcing them by two divisions, Joffre placed this force under the leadership of Foch. It was upon this mass, first called "army detachment" and then the 9th army, that the German offensive broke a few days later. General Foch likes to recall the most significant of this ninth army. "We were," he would say, "poor parents. A General Staff of five or six officers gathered in haste to start with, little or no working material, our note books and a few maps." For my part, I slept the first night with the guard soldiers at their post in the village, to be sure not to lose the new General Staff. Thus was the 9th army created. One must imagine the difficulties of organization and command of an army, formed in the course of the falling back movements which prepared the victory of the Marne, among the crowds of population fleeing before the horrors of invasion and encumbering the roads, without the possibility of stopping for a single day! However, under Foch's authority, the 9th army soon learned that it existed, and acquired the realization of its own value. It felt itself more and more stronger than events, and when on September 5th it stopped upon the heights northeast of Senonne, it was ready for every effort and every sacrifice. Joffre's command "to win or die," found it as ready to die as its chief was determined to win. The battle had gone on violently for three days. Upon the left, the 42nd Division, engaged in a violent wood combat across the road from Sozanne to Champahbert, was disputing with the enemy the village of St. Prix. In the centre, the Moroccan Division was holding firmly on the heights of Mondement. The 9th corps reinforced by a reserve division stretched out on the right. But this army corps was already bending to keep in touch with the 11th corps, thrown back by a crushing attack of the enemy as far as the Gouanque heights. All the reserves were engaged, and every unit of the army had only been halted by the strongest injunctions of Foch, and all was in a state of insecure equilibrium which the redoubled efforts of the enemy threatened to disturb. Almost any other commander would have admitted himself beaten. But Foch did not wish to be. Gen. Foch had a most exact knowledge of what can be obtained from a French army. On the evening of May 8th I was ordered by him to carry to the 10th army corps—right corps of the neighboring army which was under his authority for the morning—the command to relieve the 42nd Division and to the 42nd Division the command to come and place itself facing east at

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Amsterdam, July 29.—There is not a single German colonist in Russia who places the smallest faith in the Russian government. Our minds are made up. If Germany does not protect us with a strong hand there is only one way out, namely, to emigrate to the United States or Canada. This is the statement of Pastor Johannes Schlemming who has come to Berlin representing the interests of so-called new Russia. A German government of even hundred thousand persons established along that river. After the Brest Litovsk peace, Schlemming returned from three years' banishment in Siberia and made himself spokesman of two million German settlers spread over different regions of Russia. According to his statement, the colonists were incorporated in the Russian army, first sent to the Russo-German front, and then some three hundred thousand were reduced to beggary and the Bolsheviks killed, those staying at home had their properties confiscated and reduced to beggary and the Bolsheviks completed their ruin. Wolga colonists now ask to be assisted back to Germany or permitted to settle in the Baltic provinces. Failing this they intend to emigrate to America, declares Schlemming, who thus places before the German government a problem filled with peculiar difficulties.

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New York, July 29.—Twenty-one persons were indicted here yesterday by the Federal grand jury on a charge of being implicated in the theft of beef consigned to the United States army. The defendants, who include butchers, purchasing agents, government checkers and truck drivers, are accused of violating the United States criminal statute which has to do with conspires to embezzle and dispose of government property without authority. The defendants have been arrested and held in bail from \$2,000 to \$10,000 each. According to United States Attorney Yaselli, the operations of the defendants have been going on for a long time, but the indictments cover specific acts said to have been committed between April 29 and May 24. The plan, he said, was for checkers to tell foremen at the delivery depots to give receipts to drivers for a less amount than had been loaded upon their trucks. The surplus beef, it is charged, thus withheld from the government, was bought by the accused butchers, who disposed of it at a big profit.

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ON ACTIVE SERVICE

(Continued.) There was a splendid pow-wow, but in the end Coleman, straight and easy in the saddle, came cantering back on a superb open-mouthed snorting bay horse. He did not mind if it was a matter of soldierly indifference to himself, Coleman, after loathing him sufficiently in silence, returned to the others to save Mrs. Wainwright and Marjory upon the backs of their two little nags, and hoisted the professor into the saddle of the groom's horse, leaving the groom to lead the servant to the animal always and carefully. He and the dragoman then mounted at the head of the procession, and amid curious questions from the soldiers they crossed the bridge and started on the trail to Arta. The rear was brought up by the little grey horse with the luggage, led by one student who was the captain of the battery. Coleman, checking with difficulty the battling disposition of his horse, was very uneasy in his mind because of the way in which the captain of the battery had made him feel that perhaps on this ride he would be placed in a position where only the best courage would cover, as he did not see his way clear to feeling very confident about his conduct in such a case. Looking back upon the caravan, he saw it as a most unwieldy thing, and he hurried it with sudden, sharp, contemptuous phrases. On the march there incidentally flashed upon him a new truth. More than the way of the band, he was deeply in love with Marjory. Of course, when he had been distant from her he had had an eternal jealous reaction to that effect. It was natural that he should have thought of the intimate camping relations between Marjory and these young students with a great deal of bitterness, grinding his teeth when picturing their opportunities to make Marjory fall in love with some one of them. He had raged particularly about Coke, whose father had millions of dollars. But he had forgotten all these jealousies in the general splendor of his exploits. Now, when he saw the truth, it seemed to bring him back to his common life, and he saw himself suddenly as not being fantastically superior in any way to those other young men. The more closely he looked at this fact, the more convinced he was of its truth. He seemed to see that he had been improperly elevated over his services to the Wainwrights, and that in the end the girl would have a man because the man had done her no service at all. He saw his proud position lower itself to be a pawn in the game. Looking back over the students, he wondered which one Marjory might love. This hideous Nikolopola had given eight men a chance to win her. His scorn and his malice, his contempt, his spite, he could never forget that the man's father had millions of dollars. The unfortunate Coke chose that moment to address him querulously: "Look here, Coleman, can't you tell us how far it is to Arta?" "Coke," said Coleman, "I don't sup-

RATIONING IN GAZETTE.

[Westminster Gazette.] Unhappily for the people who want to get on with the war without thought of what is to happen after the war, the first difficulties we shall have to deal with are concrete realities. What peace is proclaimed and the markets of the world are again open, the demand for food stuffs may drive prices up 800 per cent. It will be much the same with raw materials for manufactures. Supplies are being steadily exhausted, and the demand immediately after peace will be far in excess of the possible production. That is one of the problems which will require far-sighted statesmanship to solve, and the carrying over into peace of much of that organization for rationing and distribution that has been created during the war. It would be idle to suppose that we have done much in the way of peace preparation. The feeding of the world and the provision for a time a closer rather than a slackened regulation. Otherwise we shall have a confused scramble among all the nations on the principle of "the devil take the hindmost." How the depleted resources of the world are to be used is a side issue of this same question of world shortage. Divorce pulls the feathers from the wings of love. How do you take me for a tourist agency, but if you can only try to distinguish between me and a map with the scale of miles printed in the lower left-hand corner, you will not contribute so much to the suffering of the party which you now adore. The students within hearing guffawed and Oke retired in confusion. The march was not rapid. Coleman almost wore out his arms holding in check his impetuous horse. Often the caravan floundered through mud, while at the same time a hot, yellow dust came from the north. They were perhaps half way to Arta when Coleman decided that a rest and luncheon were the things to be considered. He halted his troop then in the shade of some great trees, and privately he bade his dragoman prepare the best feast which could come out of those saddle-bags fresh from Athens. The result was rather gorgeous in the eyes of the poor wanderers. First of all there were three knives, three forks, three spoons, three tin cups and three tin plates, which the three party of twelve used on a most amiable socialist principle. There were crisp, salty biscuits and olives, for which they appeared in the bottle. There was potted turkey, and potted ham, and potted tongue, all lasting precisely alike. There were sardines and the ordinary tinned beef, designated sometimes with onions, carotis and potatoes. Out of the saddle-bags came pepper and salt and even mustard. The dragoman made coffee over a little fire of sticks that blazed with a white light. The whole thing was prodigal, but any philanthropist would have approved of it if he could have seen the way the eight students laid into the spread. When there came a polite remonstrance—notably from Mrs. Wainwright—Coleman merely pointed to a large bundle strapped to the back of the groom's saddle. During the coffee he was considering how best to get the students one by one out of the sight of the Wainwrights, when he could give them good drinks of whiskey. (To be continued.)

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