

# DISINTEGRATION OF ALLIES IS WHAT HUNS ATTEMPTING

Considering Germany's Success of Last Two Weeks Avoid Confusion.

OFFENSIVE ADVANCE IS NOT A VICTORY

Victory or Defeat Will Come Only at the End of the Final Action.

(Continued from page 3) between April 23 and May 27. It is the safe factor of the comparative rate of loss which will determine the present enemy effort in his favor or ours, according to the price which each side is paying on the battlefield.

The defensive, however, merely tried, must always work to hold the offensive with a minimum number of men up to that moment when the defensive phase shall terminate. Its whole object is to compel the offensive to waste men until the equilibrium is restored. This mere calculation, however, suffers from two great disadvantages which greatly affect military practice in the field.

The first is the effect upon civilian feeling in a great war of invasion which the continued advance of the enemy is sure to produce, coupled with the certain and increasing effect, greater or less, according to the intelligence and discipline of the retreating troops, upon the army which is compelled to retire. The second is the loss in material and prisoners which the retreating involves.

Offensive Can Afford Greater Loss. The loss of prisoners is equivalent for the purposes of war to an actual loss in killed. The men whom the enemy seizes in his advance, many of them unwounded and many more only slightly wounded, are a complete loss to the retreating side, a loss permanent and irreparable, whereas the force which is advancing recruits itself in time from the recovery of its wounded.

We had a very good example of this fact during the great movements of last March. The first losses of the enemy were very high. After a two days' interval came another period of heavy loss in the battle for the ridges of the Somme Valley. Then four days later there was another period of heavy loss on the line where the enemy was at last held. But though the rate of loss—that is, the number of men hit—on the German side was very much higher than the French and British their capture of prisoners was on such a scale that no sort of equilibrium was established and

the battle went on for another month unceasingly to the north. At the same time the loss of material was so heavy that though it was rapidly replaced it also delayed the moment when the enemy was compelled to halt. On this last point, however, we have to remark that the present war with its vast industrial bases fully developed as it now is in the west differs from wars of the past in the past a great capture of materials was often in itself decisive of the campaign. Today even such losses as those suffered last March are replaced in a few weeks.

Enemy Losses Light at First.

Now, if we turn to the present great action which is going on upon the watershed between the basins of the Oise and the Marne, though we have very few indications to guide us on this question of the proportion of losses, yet we have a few hints afforded even by the meagre news which has reached us so far. It would seem that the enemy's losses on the first day were comparatively light. The blow was a sudden advance, it was very rapid and opportunity for engaging the enemy heavily in the centre was clearly not presented. His losses began to be heavy on the two wings in front of Rheims and in front of Soissons; then came at the close of the second day and throughout the third what evidently were very heavy losses all along his line; that was the day when he was fighting his way forward over the Vesle River and up the slopes of the Tardenois plateau. Much of the country during this day's fighting was wooded and confused and he by that time was opposed even in the centre by forces which may have been as much as a third of his own. On the flanks he lost very heavily indeed in falling to debouch out of the Soissons, and he lost heavily in the series of attacks and counter attacks outside of Rheims. In the forty-eight hours following, during which he again advanced rapidly in the centre, his losses were once more light, but towards the end of that period he met heavy counter attacks on both his flanks, and his loss must again have been very high. Lastly came the local action of Saturday, June 1, in the valley of the Ourcq, which gave him a pocket of about five miles in depth by eight miles in breadth and brought him as far west as Reuilly.

I take it if one could have a curve plotted of the enemy's losses during these six days, from the morning of May 27 to the evening of June 1, it should have not a steadily rising line, but one rising in three great waves, of which the last is perhaps the steepest.

In the Dark About the Main Elements. Unfortunately we have no indications, whatsoever, of the position, numbers of loss as contrasted with the comparative rate. The whole thing has developed with such rapidity that the situation of the opposing divisions is always difficult and often impossible. All we can say by this time is that something not far short of fifty



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divisions must have been thrown in within this six days. Certainly there was much more than forty. That means of infantry alone say 400,000 men. What proportion of these were put out of action we do not know.

Neither do we know the second element in the affair, which is the proportion of strength in which the Allied command has chosen to meet and engage this offensive. No one knows how an action is proceeding unless he knows at least the mere numerical standing of the opposing forces. It is impossible for that element in calculation to be made public. Nevertheless there is something more than a mere negative point here and it is important that public opinion should appreciate that something.

This is the fact that the defensive up to what it judges to be the climax of any action works on the principle of the use of the minimum numbers. The defensive may misjudge the moment of the climax and if so it loses the battle. It may, as was the case at the Marne, judge its moment exactly, in which case it wins the battle, however impressive the previous successes of the offensive may have been.

But the thing to remember is that up to this chosen moment the defensive must in the nature of things keep back as many men as possible. In those words "as possible" resides, of course, the whole difference between victory and defeat. But the commander, whether he is good or bad, whether he will be victorious or defeated, while he is on the defensive must keep the minimum. That is the very meaning of his position.

The Military Theory of Defence.

People sometimes write as though the defensive were a sort of hurried attempt to stop the attack by throwing in everything one has and rushing up all available resources just as men rush up water to put out a fire. The offensive has the initiative always represents the defensive in this light, because that is the one which must unfavorably describe it to the public. All the more must the defender in this crisis remember that the reality is far otherwise. The defensive is always doing out men sparingly and thinking of the least force with which the task at hand can be accomplished.

We do not know how many divisions the Allies command has put forward to meet the attack, divisions, more or less, of the enemy up to date, but we do know with absolute certainty that it has deliberately met them with a small number. That is the point we must keep fixedly in mind during the whole course of the action up to the point where the counter attack is staged. Of that moment and of the fate of such a counter attack neither we nor the enemy know anything.

## NEWCASTLE

Newcastle, June 8.—A very excellent concert was given in the Kirk Hall on Thursday evening by the C. S. E. T. boys of the Presbyterian church, assisted by a large number of friends. The hall was filled, and the proceeds were about \$10.00, one-half of which will go to the Red Cross. Rev. L. H. MacLean presided.

The C. S. E. T. boys who took part were Boyd Bell, Dick and Jack Corbett, Charles Dickson, Blair Jardine, Frank MacAnlay, William Russell, Robert and Sandy Sutherland and Byron Taylor. The girls were Florence and Kaitie Cassidy, Helen Diebold, Addie Falconer, Helen Forrest, Jean Jardine, Marjory Kennedy, Marion Malby and Margaret McCurdy.

The Commodore C. S. E. T. boys have elected officers for the ensuing quarter as follows: President, Austin Clarke; vice-president, James Sargent; secretary, J. Walter Stuart; treasurer, Fred McCormack; captain of baseball team, Russell O'Donnell. Douglas McKay was given charge of the key to the athletic rooms.

Rev. Father McLaughlin of Rexton was a visitor in town this week. Mr. and Mrs. Angus Kenny of Rexton are rejoicing over the arrival of a son on Sunday last.

F. D. Spavin of Deakstown was in town yesterday.

Gr. Sterling Jardine is home on furlough from Woodstock.

We regret to have to chronicle the

death of little Joseph Clement, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clement Ryan, which occurred on May 30th, at the age of two months. Interment was in St. Mary's cemetery on the 31st. Deceased leaves his parents and following brothers and sisters: John, Katherine, Margaret and Loreta, also a half-brother, James W. Ryan and a half-sister, Mrs. W. F. McGrath.

Much sympathy is felt for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Carter, because of the death of their little son, Edward Herbert, on Monday, aged five weeks. Interment was in St. Mary's cemetery on Tuesday afternoon. Deceased is survived by his parents, two brothers, Frank and John, and one sister, Nan. Miss Mary Marguerite DeWolfe of Rexton has graduated from the Boston City Hospital Training School for nurses.

Mr. Charles Robinson of St. John spent Sunday with his mother and sister here.

Mrs. John Russell was a visitor to St. John this week.

Pte. Ernest Robinson, returned soldier, was before the Medical Board in St. John this week.

Sergeant B. A. Burdon of Fredericton, who enlisted in Regina as a private in the first contingent and went overseas as a signaller in the fifth battalion and climbed up to rank as sergeant by bravery on the battlefield, where he won each of his stripes, has been gazetted as a lieutenant and transferred to St. John. Lt. Burdon has seen 22 months service in the trenches and was called back to Canada to instruct the 236th as wireless operator and signaller. Lt. Burdon's father is a haggaman in the Newcastle-Fredericton C. G. R.

## ONE WAY TO GET FUEL.

When Mike Fisherty abandoned South Boston for Lynn and hired a cottage with a bit of back yard, the first thing he did was to hurry back to the Hub of the Universe and purchase a monkey. "Divil a wurrd" of his scheme would he disclose to his old cronies in Boston. But afterward he let out:

"'Twas like this: I chained the monkey to a stick in me yard, and the coal thrash do be passin' all day forent, and on ivry cair do be a brakeman. In one walk, bogorra, I had two tons of coal in me cellar, and the monkey never want hit."

## AN EX-PARTE PROCEEDING.

Two Tuakoo graduates represented, respectively, plaintiff and defendant in a municipal court the other day. The question at issue being

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close, the judge asked for some authorities.

The attorney for the plaintiff handed up a book. His Honor was so impressed with the citation that he ordered, "This case seems to be in point." When the judge had finished, opposing counsel, much perturbed, demanded, "Miss Attorney, let me see that book."

"No, sah!" was the retort. "Look up 'yo' own law!"

## KEEPING UP THE GAME.

"Smith is a great golf bug, isn't he?" said Brown.

"Yes," replied Jones. "He kept his hand in all winter and had practice every day."

"But how could he practice in winter when the links are closed?" asked Brown.

"We walked downtown every morning, and every 200 yards he would swing at an imaginary ball with his cane," replied Jones. "Then he would come a blue streak and when he got downtown he would drink a Scotch highball."

The idea.

"We must give until it hurts." "I think I got the idea. We must act as though we were giving money to our own wives."

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