

WHY RUSSIA MUST WIN

By A MILITARY CORRESPONDENT

MOST people have felt rather dismayed by the events which have occurred in the Russian campaign since May 1st. Even the people of England, who have an intimate knowledge of Russian plans and Russian character, have been somewhat discouraged by the rapid retirement of the Russian army along the East Prussian border, along the line of the Vistula, north and south of Warsaw, and in Galicia. The greatest retirement has been in the latter theatre where Field Marshal Von Mackensen, General Von Woysch and Archduke Joseph Ferdinand are leading armies against the retreating Russians under General Ivanoff, and other Russian commanders. Three German armies are threatening the line of the Vistula from the south, while other German armies under Von Falkenhausen, Von Eichhorn, and Von Buelow are advancing on Warsaw from the north. Just what the Grand Duke Nicholas intends to do under these circumstances is not clear. The accompanying map shows how far his lines have been pressed back during this campaign, and it may be that the Grand Duke will decide to abandon Warsaw and the great fortified positions at Novo Georgiewsk in the north and Ivangorod in the south.



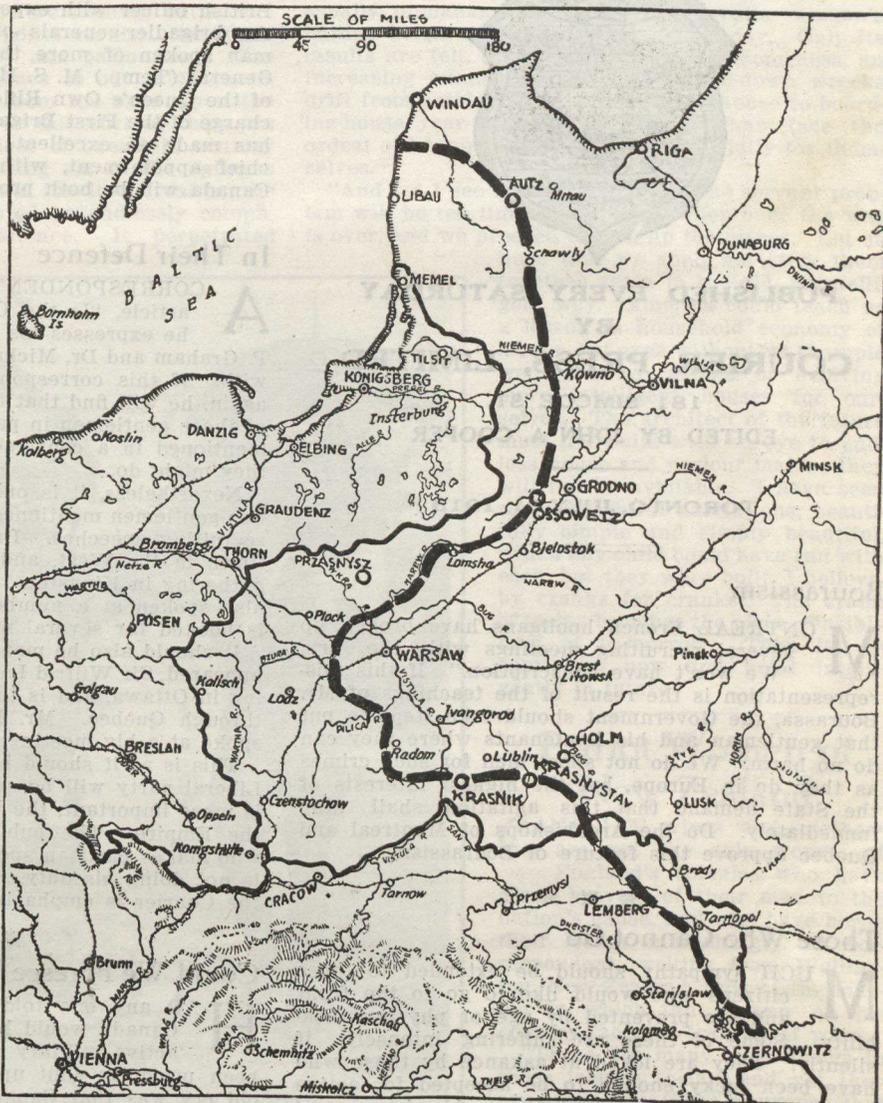
Von Mackensen.

While the Grand Duke may believe that it is good tactics to retire to a new line of battle where the Germans will be farther from their base, the tactics are having a considerable effect upon the campaign in the Dardanelles. Roumania, Bulgaria and Greece are likely to be considerably influenced by what is happening in Galicia and Poland, and it seems reasonable to suppose that any hesitation they may have in joining the Allies will be increased. In addition the stress under which the Russians find themselves may lighten the pressure in the Bosphorus and thus add to the difficulties which the Allies are having in isolating the Turkish army in Gallipoli.

Russia has presumably retired because her supply of guns and ammunition have been insufficient. Germany accumulated guns and shells during the winter and then began her big drive on the plan of August last—to crush one enemy and then turn upon the other. Russia was chosen first because it was necessary to keep the food-producing districts of Hungary free of the enemy, and because it was advisable to win back the oil regions of Galicia. In the first two weeks, the Russians were driven back 85 miles, in the next two, 15 miles, and in the next three, 15 miles—a total of 115 miles in seven weeks. The struggle was begun in Western Galicia by an army under General Von Mackensen on or about May 1st. Tarnow was taken on the 6th, Libau on the 8th, Jaroslau on the 15th, and crossed the San on the 26th. On June 3rd, after a siege of twenty days, the Teutons recaptured Przemysl. On the 9th they took Stanislaw; on the 15th Mosciska, and on the 22nd they recaptured Lemberg. What Russia had gained in Galicia in nine months, they lost in two.

The Russian retirement in Galicia necessitated the falling back in Poland. Hence the Russian line in the middle of July ran much as shown in the accompanying map. Last week Mackensen was in Radom and pushing on to Lublin. As the week closed the Russian armies had all fallen back east of the Vistula, and it was thought that Warsaw was being evacuated.

Why should such a disaster come upon the Russians? Like England and France they were deceived by the Germans. They thought that these guileless, innocent Teutons were telling the truth and arming only for defence. They, like the people of Britain and Canada, refuse to believe in the German menace.



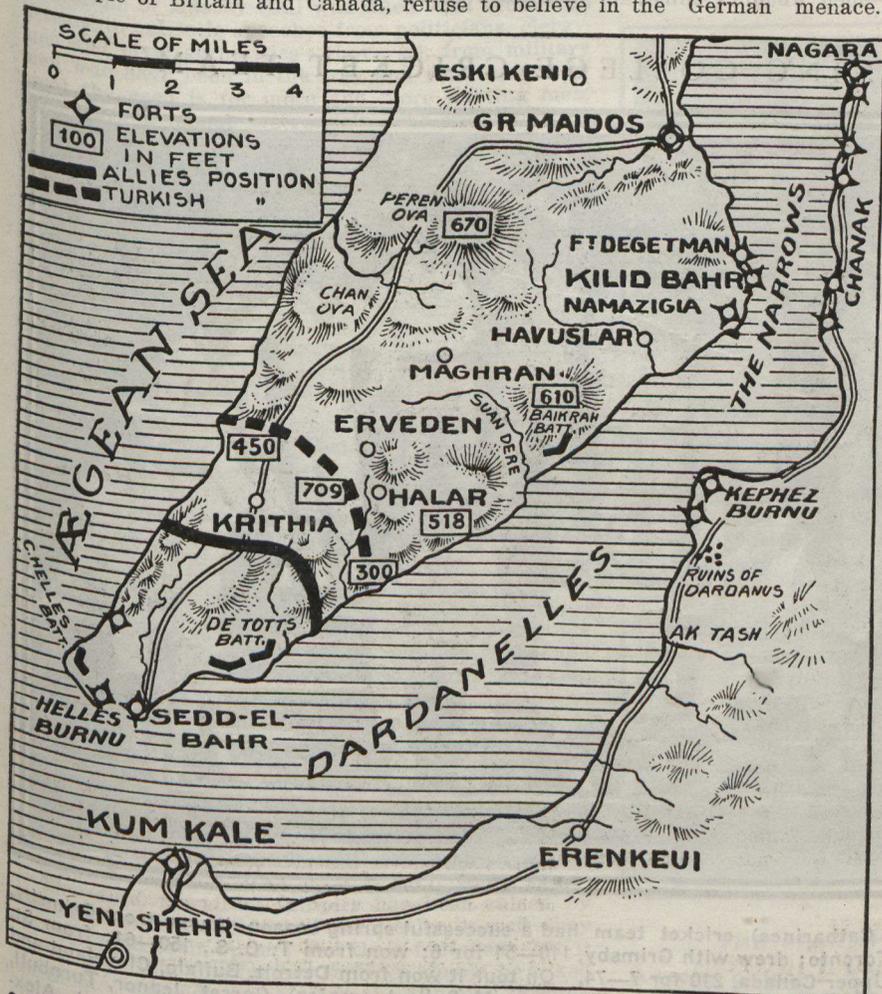
RUSSIA'S THOUSAND-MILE BATTLE-LINE.

Note how the Russian line has been dropped back in the north, along the shore of the Baltic, and how little of Galicia is now in Russian hands. The chief interest, however, centres around Warsaw. Mackensen and other German generals are pressing north from Krasnik and Radom to Lublin, Cholm, Ivangorod and Warsaw. Von Hindenburg is pressing south from Przasnysz towards Warsaw. And the whole world is asking, "Will Warsaw be abandoned?"

They were caught unprepared. They had not enough guns or gun factories, not enough ammunition or ammunition factories, not enough armies and military equipment. Russia believed in peace as England believed in peace—and their unpreparedness is the best proof of their righteous intentions.

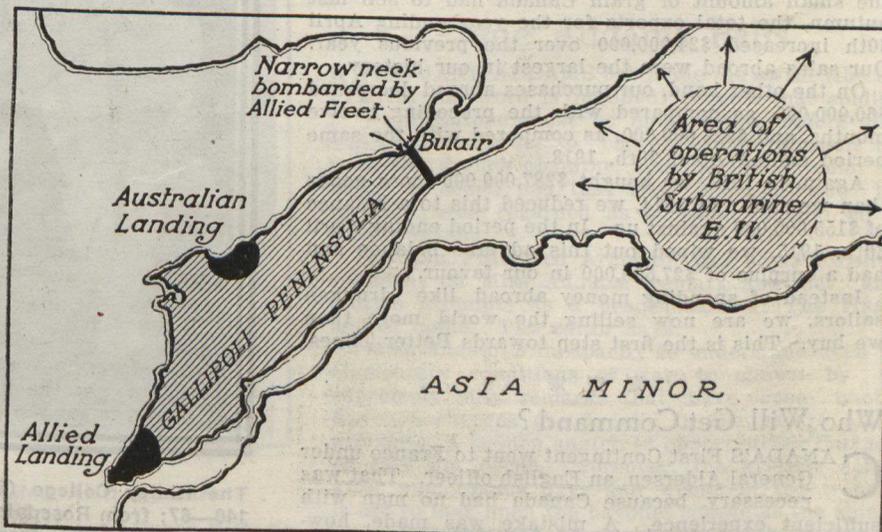
Can Russia come back? Of course, Russia can retrieve the disaster, but it will take a long time. Big guns and big ammunition cannot be made in one month or two. It may be a year before Russia can win back what she lost in May, June and July. Much depends on what happens in the Dardanelles. Sufficient material cannot be secured via Vladivostock and Archangel. If the Dardanelles route was free, the other Allies could share up as they have shared with Italy and Serbia.

On the other hand, there is always the chance that Russia may retrieve the situation of herself. Von Hindenburg in the north is getting farther from the East Prussian railways, and Von Mackensen in the south is now in a country where the roads are bad and transportation difficulties great. It will be extremely difficult to get big guns over the Vistula and to supply them with ammunition when they are over. The Germans, as has been pointed out again and again, are getting farther from their bases, and the Russians are shortening their lines of communication.



THE FIGHT FOR THE DARDANELLES

Slowly but surely the Allies are driving the Turks back past Krithia to the heights of Achi Baba. But it's a long, long way to Tipperary.



THE ISOLATION OF GALLIPOLI PENINSULA.

The Allies are not only fighting those on Gallipoli, but they are starving them, first by a steady bombardment of the Bulair lines and second by submarine action in the Sea of Marmora.