

ALLIES WIN DIPLOMATIC VICTORY IN PERSIA

AN ESTIMATE OF THE ENEMY'S LOSSES

Representative of the British Press with the French Armies places German casualties at 300,000 a month.

The following despatch has been received from Mr. H. Warner Allen, representative of the British press with the French armies:

Much has been written, often of a contradictory nature, concerning the numerical strength of the German army after the wastage of over a year's warfare and the reserves on which it had to draw to fill up gaps and form new units. Information derived from a variety of sources confirms the following calculations.

During the first fifteen months of the present war—from August, 1914, to the end of October, 1915—the total German losses amounted approximately to four and a half million men on the combined fronts. Of this total, three millions may be taken as definitely lost in combat (dead, prisoners or permanently disabled), while the remaining 1,500,000 may be considered as having returned to the fighting line. The German casualty lists are incomplete. We have it on the authority of prisoners that men who are only slightly wounded are not included in the casualty lists. In one case a man was twice wounded and remained several weeks in hospital, and yet his name never appeared in the casualties of his regiment.

Moreover, as a general rule, these lists are delayed, and casualties do not appear in them until at least two months after they have occurred. A writer in the "Kronische Zeitung" recently stated that the number of killed during the first year of the war was equal to the excess of births over deaths in the German Empire—that is to say, about 850,000. This estimate would seem to correspond with that of the official casualty lists.

Net Losses 200,000 a Month.

We have, however, a considerable amount of other evidence which shows that the German losses are very much greater than they are. Even when there is not what is now called "hard fighting," the drain on the resources of the army is very considerable. Between May 1 and June 20 four divisions under General von Fieck suffered the following losses:

	Killed	Wounded	Missing
15th Reserve Div 42	131	—	—
15th Reserve Div 230	1,020	—	—
15th Division	208	863	—
64th Division	109	531	2

These figures show a total of 589 killed, including nine officers, 2,551 wounded, including 25 officers, and four missing. This gives an average of 147 killed and 840 wounded during fifty days, or of 88 killed and 384 wounded per division per month. This does not include sickness statistics. During the period in question these divisions were in Champagne and took part in no serious engagements. Mr. Belloc estimates that the German losses amount to an average of 400,000 men a month. Colonel Foyler, asking what he admits to be a minimum estimate, reckons them at 150,000 a month. The information at my disposal leads me to believe that the truth lies between these two extremes, and that during the last nine months of the war the German casualties have reached 300,000 a month, exactly as they did during the first six months. Not more than one-third of this total is able to return to the front, so that the German net losses amount to 200,000 a month.

The Drain Measure by Measure

At the beginning of the war Germany, apart from the elements of her active army, had two distinct sources on which she could draw to obtain the men she needed to fill up the gaps and to form new units:—

First, the Reserve, the Ersatz Reserve, the Landwehr, and the trained Landsturm (second ban), all of which had received a more or less thorough military training. All these men were called on during the first year of the campaign, as well as the 1914 contingent (men born in 1894), and the volunteers of the 1915 and 1916 contingents. These served to bring the units of the active army up to war strength and to keep up the necessary supply of men.

Secondly, the untrained Landsturm, composed of men without military training, who had never been incorporated in the active army, either on account of the numerical limitation of a year's contingent or in view of their physical incapacity. The Landsturm, practically the Landwehr, was to be utilized for home defence, and in the case of the gravest national necessity. Already, however, the first ban of the Landsturm, the 1914 contingent, was called up, and in February the German authorities considered that the situation was sufficiently serious to justify them in calling up for training throughout the Empire the first ban of the Landsturm, untrained men under 39 years of age. At the same time the 1915 contingent was called up and incorporated. The training of these recruits

was pushed forward very actively, and by the beginning of March reinforcements of men from the untrained Landsturm reached the fronts after only a few weeks' instruction.

The heavy losses suffered by the Germans in the French offensive in Champagne in February and March, 1915, produced a perceptible effect on their organization. Not only did the enemy begin to draw on his untrained reserves, but from this moment he began to form new units, not from fresh troops but from the elements of existing units. Thus in March the French came into contact with new divisions which simply consisted of regiments withdrawn from previously existing divisions.

All Mobilized Up To 45.

The French offensive in the Woerth (March and April, 1915) and Ailette (May and June, 1915), increased the wastage. They coincided with the opening of the active operations against Russia, and the Germans began to utilize their 1915 contingent.

The losses in officers were very serious. The official lists up to June 1 save 43,972 officers as killed, wounded and missing. On July 15 this figure had increased to 52,041; that is to say, an increase of 8,069 in six weeks.

On the eastern front the casualties were particularly heavy. German documents show that the 4th Infantry Regiment lost on the Narva 36 officers and over 1,000 men, the 24th Infantry Regiment lost in Galicia 48 officers and 2,746 men, the 1st Reserve Regiment lost 14 officers and 788 men, the 21st Reserve Regiment lost 21 officers and 463 men, the 61st Regiment, 10 officers and 536 men, and the 92nd Regiment 40 officers and 1,196 men.

By the beginning of June orders had been given for the enumeration and registration of the 1916 contingent. Similar orders were given in regard to the 1917 contingent, and even for that of 1918 as far as recruits of over 17 were concerned. At the same time the second ban of the untrained Landsturm—men between 39 and 46—were registered and incorporated. Finally, the whole of the 1916 contingent, which had already been reduced by the number of youths who had volunteered for active service before their time, was called up progressively, so that by the end of June every man between the ages of 17 and 45 had been medically examined and registered.

By the end of August the whole of the 1916 contingent had been called up, and the 1917 contingent was being mobilized. The only remaining reserves were the 1917 contingent, and about half of the 1918 contingent, apart from men over 45.

The French successes in Champagne and Ailette in September made the situation still more difficult for the Germans. How heavily they felt in those months the authorities to be gathered from the following details:

In Ailette the 11th Regiment of the 6th Army Corps had 2,041 men hors de combat, the 10th Grenadiers of the same corps lost 1,519, the 15th Regiment, the 63rd Regiment of the 50th Division 2,056 men.

These figures, being official, are doubtless below the mark. To meet further losses Germany will be compelled to raise the age limit of military service above 45, and already a secret circular has been issued instructing the authorities to proceed to the preparatory registration of men between 46 and 50.

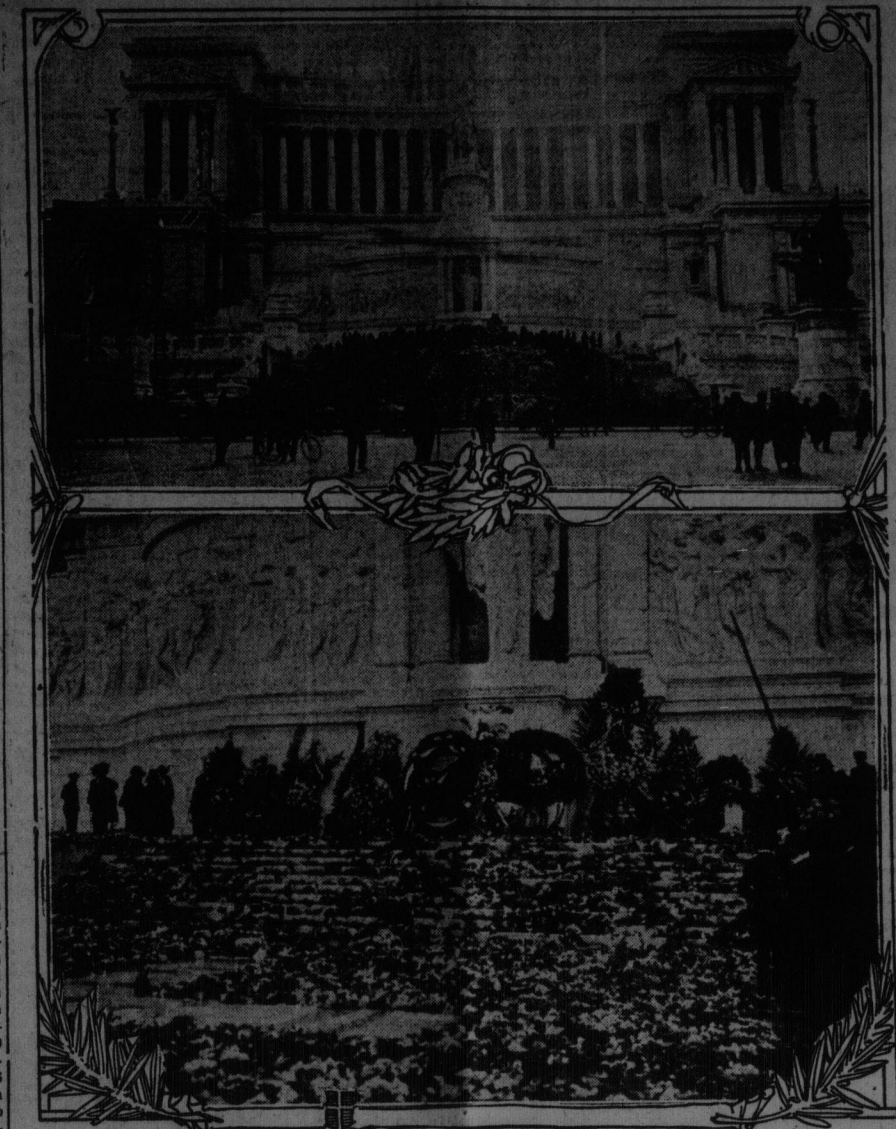
For some time past the numerical strength of the German army has been stationary on the various fronts, with an increasing tendency to shrink. The number of men called up for active service since February last certainly does not exceed the number of casualties, and at the present moment the number of men in the depots does not exceed the number of that date.

To keep pace with the wastage Germany has been forced to exhaust at most all the reserves of men, and the work has been carried out with ruthless severity. Acting under instructions, the army doctors have passed as fit for service men with one eye, lame men, hunchbacks and even men suffering from tuberculosis, heart affections and other diseases. Her last reserves are being rapidly used up, and if the numerical strength of her army can still be kept up for a limited time its quality has deteriorated and must deteriorate more and more as the proportion of untrained Landsturm men and those 17 and 18 years of age, by no means fit to endure the hardships of a prolonged campaign, continues to increase.

MONUMENT IN PARIS TO MISS EDITH CAVELL

Paris, Dec. 26.—A committee, of which Paul Painlevé, Minister of Public Works is chairman, has been organized for the object of presenting the city of Paris with a monument in the form of a bas relief in memory of Miss Edith Cavell.

THE GREAT MONUMENT TO VICTOR EMMANUEL II. HEAPED WITH FLOWERS IN HONOR OF ITALY'S FALLEN HEROES



A most imposing ceremony was held in Rome on November 2. All Souls' Day. Members of the royal family, Senators, Deputies, provincial and communal authorities deposited flowers as a tribute to the heroic soldiers who had died for the nation during the ages of 17 and 45 had been medically examined and registered.

PERSIAN CABINET HAS FALLEN

London, Dec. 26.—The Persian cabinet has fallen, according to a despatch received from Teheran by Reuters Telegram Company. Prince Firman Fima has been nominated premier by the Shah. This is considered to be a great diplomatic victory for the Entente Allies.

GRAIN RATES OVER THE C.N.R. BUILDING AT CAPITAL USED BY C. COMPANY OF THE 104TH IS BURNED

Fredericton, Dec. 26.—The holiday passed off very quietly in Fredericton and the storm resulted in there being small congregations at the services in the churches today when Christmas musical programmes were repeated and elaborate services prepared for.

Yesterday services were held in the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, while the Evangelical churches held a union service in the morning at the George street Baptist church. At the custom house on Friday afternoon Collector L. C. MacNutt was presented with a beautiful gold-headed walking stick, suitably engraved, by members of his staff. A large shed at Fredericton exhibition grounds, known as transportation building, was destroyed by fire late Saturday afternoon, with a loss of about \$700, which is covered by insurance. The building had been used by C. Company, 104th Battalion, which is stationed at exhibition buildings for a drill shed in bad weather, and a quantity of straw used for men's beds, was also stored there.

BRITAIN AND FRANCE BUY BIG WHEAT SUPPLY FROM AUSTRALIA

Melbourne, Australia, via London, Dec. 26.—A wheat deal just completed with the British and French governments involves nearly 3,000,000 pounds sterling, and the price is about five shillings a bushel. A sale has also been made to Italy. A cargo for South Africa has brought the record prices of five shillings five pence.

DURATION OF THE WAR DEPENDS ON MAN POWER ALLIES CAN PUT IN FIELD

Would be finished up quickly if sufficient men available to keep up offensive until enemy crippled and beaten back across his own frontier, Earl Derby says.

London, Dec. 26.—It is announced officially that the armistice scheme, which is already in force for men enrolled under the Derby plan, has been extended to give the right to wear a special armband to men who have been refused for military service on account of medical reasons.

Earl Derby has issued a booklet on the administration of the group system. He says in a prefatory note: "It is recognized by the general staff that the duration of the war will de-

pend on the man power the Allies are able to put into the field. If it were possible for the Allies to put in the field such an overwhelming majority of men and guns that, no matter what the cost, the offensive could be pursued until the enemy armies were largely destroyed and their country invaded, the war would not be prolonged. Every man who can possibly be spared for the army and navy directly assists in shortening the war, and thereby diminishes the industrial loss."

THE CANKER IN THE HEART OF KULTURLAND

Moral decay of German Empire moves newspapers to frank condemnation—Nation tired of the war.

(London Daily Express.) The moral decay of the German nation continues to occupy a large share of the attention of the German press. The canker in the heart of Kulturland has been in existence, of course, for many years, and to travellers it has been notorious, because it is so open and unashamed; but it is only quite recently that the newspapers of the Fatherland have been moved to such unreserved frankness in its condemnation.

A nation is made by its teachers. Germany's teachers have detracted the Deity and set up the State in His place. And the State is the Kaiser, the enlightened ruler whose soldiers took grain to the womanhood of Belgium and who himself countenanced, supported, and justified the wholesale massacre of Armenian Christians by the Turks. It is only in the natural order of things that the nation should reflect the spirit of its ruler.

"Shameless Depravity." The conduct of the people, however, must be more flagrant than was suspected when even the Berlin Kreuzzeitung is moved to make such a protest as that which follows: "What difference between the august days of last year and today! For many the war has already lost its terrors, simply because they are not personally affected by it. Just because their roofs are not burning over their heads and the glow of the war-fury does not scorch their breath, they feel themselves secure, and reassure their old life. Even in these great days they retain their pitiful pettiness. The exploitation of the distress and a shameless profit-hunger show themselves like so many festers on the body of the nation."

The people live a life of such repulsive immorality and indecency, so shameless in its open ostentation and depravity, that soldiers returning home to heal their wounds turn away their heads in horror and ask themselves why they should sacrifice their lives and their health for such a people. Why, indeed? Were these heroes somewhat more initiated into the secret of what goes on in our midst daily they would see that, however dark the picture seems on the surface, it was blacker by far beneath.

And we talk about the religious and moral regeneration of our people and about the German spirit bringing about the world's salvation! Let us rather look to our own salvation. It is high time indeed, for unless we abandon, and that instantly, our criminal conduct, all the victories of our brave soldiers will not save us from that perdition towards which as a nation we are rushing so fleetly.

Sold Into Bondage. Another aspect of this social decadence is dealt with in Maximilian Harden's review, "Die Zukunft," which makes some astonishing revelations. It is imperative and in the most vital interests of the German people that a solid barrier be placed against the spread of reckless matrimonial alliances, thanks to the cupid of the tribes of marriage brokers, are being made in every part of the country.

"Every girl is possessed by the obsession of getting married." How frequently we hear men talking in that fashion! Yet their mental indolence prevents them from seeing whose fault it is that young girls find no way but that of marriage to realize their aspirations for sympathy and psychological communion.

It is due to the brutal heartlessness, the sordid race after money of a great mass of our men, forcedly added as they are by the vile marriage brokers, that young girls lightly sacrifice love, youth, and happiness for a marriage that is in most cases nothing but a brutish enslavement.

A National Shame. The picture is an ugly one, but the sequel is even worse, for the writer in the "Zukunft," declares that today in Berlin alone there are 30,000 divorced girls-wives. It is only necessary to reflect for a moment on what bare statement means to understand how near to Gehenna is the German Empire. The article goes on to say:

And why not, ask the men? The costs are paid by others. Who are those others? The poor victims themselves. What do we see as the result of this inhuman system which is gnawing like a canker at the very heart of the German nation and destroying its hopes of future regeneration of the race at a time when those of us who are real men are shedding their hearts' blood on the battlefields? The result is this: that today in Berlin alone there are 30,000 divorced girls-wives.

This is nothing short of a national shame, which cries out aloud to the authorities for instant and drastic action. To remove this shame from our midst is every whit as imperative as the engineering of the food question, because where one involves the material, the other concerns the moral starvation of the race.

Germany Sick of the War. To the German plea for peace already published in this column must be added one of a still more poignant character from the Berlin Socialist journal "Vorwärts":—

The real cause of the high cost of living is the long duration of the war, and every successive week of war renders the economic situation of the poorer classes more intolerable. The best safeguard against future price increases is the speedy termination of the war. We rely on the leaders of our party doing everything in their power to put an end to the conflict. The great manufacturing interests, the popular Press, and the Chancellor declare that there is no reason for terminating the struggle, seeing that Germany holds Belgium, a part of France, and a part of Russia, and has her road free to Egypt and the Indies. Will she do all this for? That we are not fighting to protect our frontier, but to add to our territory. We appeal to the leaders of the party to take up openly and frankly the campaign against all sorts of annexation plans so that the constantly growing desire of the proletariat for peace may be finally satisfied.

If the party enters resolutely on this road it will reach to itself not the great masses of the people only, but also all sections of middle class society, who are equally sick of the war.

The Single Bell. Even the "Vossische Zeitung" joins in the peace cry and asks in some agitation, "What ARE we fighting for?" We are still of opinion that the Government has done wisely in prohibiting discussions in the Press of what we all exact as the price of a victory which as yet is not at all certain.

Such programmes—all of them more or less fantastic—have already been far too much exploited abroad contrary to German interests. Nevertheless, it is quite legitimate to put the question, whether it would not be practicable meanwhile to permit the discussion of such problems as need an immediate solution, such as the nature of the objects which the Government thinks will be gained by the war.

We may perhaps be allowed to remind the authorities of the danger of permitting only one bell to sound in the belfry, because in such a case every word that is uttered passes as though it were inspired, and every effort of the people to arrive at a clear understanding as to what the Government hopes to achieve against our adversaries is rendered fruitless beforehand.

B. C. Hurley Grateful. S. C. Hurley, who has been convalescing in Ormoco after his recent operation, returned to the city Friday to spend the holidays here. Mr. Hurley desires to express his thanks to the sisters and nurses of the St. John Infirmary for the care given him, to Doctors S. H. McDonald and W. N. White for the manner in which they treated him, and to the many friends who remembered him during his illness.