

ALLIES JUSTIFIED IN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER FIAT

Careful Study of Figures Known to be Approximately Correct as to Respective Strength of Allied and Enemy Armies Shows Entente Right.

By Bampton Hunt.
(Special Cable to The N. Y. Tribune and The St. John Standard.)

Paris, Nov. 1.—A careful study of the figures known to be approximately correct as to the respective strength of the Allied and enemy armies in the field provide an unanswerable argument justifying the Allied governments in refusing to consider for one moment all questions granting an armistice to Germany except upon terms of unconditional surrender.

It is now clear that Germany staked everything upon the elimination of Russia from the side of the Allies. Once this was accomplished, there is no doubt but that the Germans possessed enormous superiority in numbers. On this fact they based all their operations at the beginning of the present year. Other conditions remaining unchanged, the summer of this year ought to have seen German triumph before the Americans were in a position to "enter the dance," as the French say.

Americans Make History.

The astounding rapidity and unbelievable strength in which American troops reached the Western front will go down in history as the real vital factor which brought to an end the greatest war the world has ever seen.

At the end of 1917, when the Germans began to transfer their troops from Russia to the Western front in preparation for the final offensive that was to end the war, the enemy had 150 divisions, roughly, and 1,500,000 men in France and Belgium. By March 21, the date on which the first of their great offensives began, their total strength here had been raised to 207 divisions, or well over 2,000,000 bayonets.

Against this force the French had 108 divisions and the British about sixty, after allowing for a half dozen Belgian divisions and a weakened Portuguese army corps, making a grand total, roughly, of 1,650,000 men. The enemy in addition had between 700,000 and 800,000 men available in the rear to make good losses, bringing his total to 2,800,000.

Three Reasons for Success.

Today this state of affairs has been permanently reversed. The change is to be attributed to three reasons, each complimentary of the others. First, the magnificent devotion to duty shown by the French and British to the four terrific German drives of March, April, May and June. Second, the incomparable skill of Foch, who struck with unerring precision on July 18 at the exposed flank of the Germans between the Aisne and the Marne and has ever since followed up the blow with clearvoyance and success, that will be acclaimed in all time to come as the highest exemplification of modern military genius. The third and culminating reason was the entry of the American army, not necessarily into the fighting line but into position in the war zone where they constituted an ever increasing menace to German military power.

German Losses 1,200,000. Since March 21, 400,000 German soldiers have been taken prisoners by the Allies and certainly double that number have been killed or rendered unfit for fighting. German strength today, after subtracting these 1,200,000 losses of killed, wounded and prisoners from their total strength of 2,800,000 of March 21, is therefore not more than 1,600,000 or, at most, 180 divisions, a large number of which have been reduced well below ten thousand men each.

The Allies, on the other hand, have consistently increased in strength in spite of their losses since March 21. The Portuguese army corps has been temporarily withdrawn from the firing line after having acquitted itself magnificently. This has been compensated for, however, by the entry into the line of Italian divisions and strong attachments of Poles and Czechoslovaks. Further, the first American army, which may be regarded as representing twenty divisions, has taken its place in line, while the second American army is about to do so, and the third is undergoing training and organization.

Recapitulating, while the German total fighting strength has fallen to somewhere near 1,500,000, the Allied total has risen to more than 2,000,000, still left to retain her grip on her spoils.

Germany's cry for an armistice and peace is a pitifully disguised plea for mercy.

The worst injustice the Allies could inflict on the world and on Germany itself at the present juncture would be to give quarter to a half-disarmed army.

Peace with Germany, while Germany still has an army of 1,500,000 fully trained fighting men at her command, would mean the postponement of peace in Europe for another fifty years, perhaps for all time. Until that army is destroyed and the political organization behind it irretrievably broken up, there can be no lasting peace in the world.

This is the unshakable opinion of every French father and mother I've ever spoken to, and they speak not only for themselves and their dead but for future generations.

"77"

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COLDS

ARMISTICE ISSUE NOT IN PRESIDENT WILSON'S HANDS

Whole Question is Now Before Allied Council—Wilson's Course Commended in Paris—Germany Has Two Ways of Bringing War to End.

By Bampton Hunt.
(Special Cable to The N. Y. Tribune and The St. John Standard.)

Paris, Nov. 1.—Further consideration of Wilson's ultimatum, for so the American President's third reply to Germany is described here this morning, has only deepened the good impression his note first produced.

Wilson, it is realized, has cleared the ground of all possible misunderstanding both on the part of the Germans and the Allies and put an end once and for all to any further attempt at cavilling on the part of the enemy. The whole question of an armistice has passed out of the hands of Wilson and now, for all practical purposes, rests with Foch so far as German armies are concerned, and with Bessier, as regards the enemy's fleet. If they advise and the Allied governments consent to a cessation of hostilities, Germany knows in advance that the terms can only be the dismantling of her army and the dismantling of her fleet to such an extent that it will be impossible for her to resume fighting.

In other words Germany has the choice of only two ways of bringing the war to an end. Either she must capitulate unconditionally forthwith or she may prolong the war for a few weeks or months with the certainty that sooner or later she will be compelled to the same terms of unconditional capitulation.

As Paris sees it, no further rejoinder from Germany is admissible. She appealed to Wilson and all that remains is for her to accept such reply as the Allies may grant to her request. Wilson's reply is doubly satisfactory from the French viewpoint, inasmuch as it has removed all possibility of any further misunderstanding of the President's personal attitude. It may now be stated frankly that in the earlier stages of the President's conversations with the enemy there was a real feeling of alarm here and in London that the American President might be inclined to act rather as an arbitrator between the Allies on the one hand and Germany on the other, instead of merely as an intermediary who had been appealed to by the enemy to convey their appeal to the Allies.

A leading Paris newspaper remarked significantly that "There is only one man concerned in the present war who deliberates entirely alone and that is Wilson, while in private conversations the word 'dictator' has been whispered. This, as I cabled at the time, was undoubtedly due to widespread misapprehension of Wilson's real status and was probably the direct result of the state of nervous tension under which people of all classes and in all countries have been living for the past three or four years."

Wilson has never given the slightest reason for anybody to assume that he is acting as anything but an impartial and impersonal intermediary whom Germany had selected to pass her appeal on to her European adversaries. The enemy undoubtedly has repeatedly endeavored in the childishly spiteful terms employed in his notes to Wilson to set up frictions between the nations allied against her.

The German statement that the enemy would be prepared under certain conditions to submit a proposal for an armistice to the American commander in the field, is an instance of this, but was so obviously intended to irritate the British and French commanders and the respective nations behind them that the gibe entirely failed to accomplish its purpose as have all the other petty devices by which in his dealings with Wilson the enemy has sought to cause friction between the Allies.

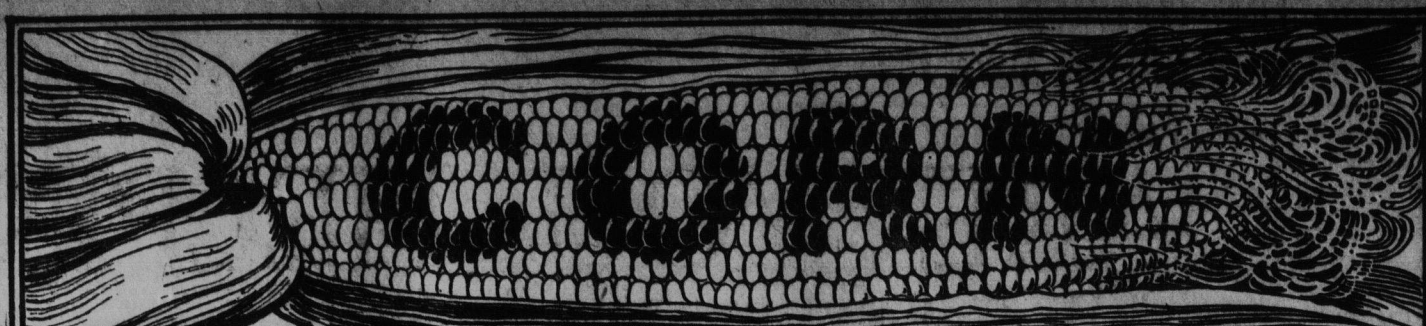
A feeling which has been prevalent here for some time that there must not be any more "solitary promenades" on the part of any of the Allies has been greatly relieved by today's dispatch from Washington reporting that in official diplomatic circles the Wilson's notes have been regarded as signifying that there will be no more separate pourparlers with Germany, but that in the future the United States government and those of the Allies will act in concert.

This has been received with immense approval here as indicating a definite step forward in the direction of bringing about a unification of diplomatic policy that shall be on all fours with the unification of command in the field. It is felt here that just as the unification of command was brought about by the German offensives on the western front, so, through the German peace offensive at Washington, we are now within a measurable distance of achieving unity of diplomatic aims.

In the opinion of the French it has now become indispensable as the next immediate step toward diplomatic unity that America should add her signature to the pact of London and thus bring herself into alignment with France, Great Britain, Italy, Belgium and Japan. Under the pact of London, which was signed before America came into the war, the nations allied against the Central Empires pledged themselves not to sign a separate peace.

This document, curiously enough, is the only diplomatic head, technically speaking, which unites the nations known as the Allies, between whom, with the exception of that between Britain and Japan, there are no formal treaties of alliance. Until America also subscribes to this pact, community of diplomatic action, although impossible, will be difficult.

Moreover the addition of the signature of the United States would render vain any further efforts of Germany to emphasize the fact of America's isolated position, diplomatically speaking, among the nations who have combined in a holy crusade to stamp out the virus of militarism from the world. I have reason to believe that this question already has been under careful consideration at Washington and that important developments may be expected to occur within the next few days which will prove most satisfactory to opinion both here and in London.



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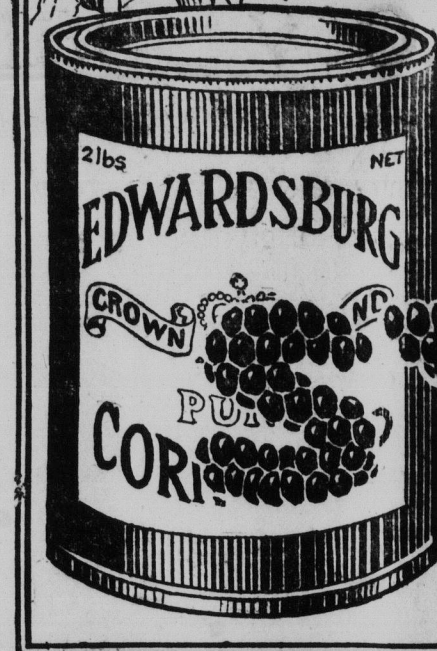
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"CONTACT WAS MAINTAINED"

(By an Artillery Officer.)

"Expect contact plane at 5.30 a. m. tomorrow."

The headquarters orderly splashed his way toward "B" Company headquarters. Already three signatures lay on his mud-stained envelope, and as he stumbled along the sticky moss which was ironically termed "Haymarket," he swore frequently and with fervor.

He drew aside the dripping tarpaulin which served "B" Company for a door, grunted sheepishly at the Company Commander, finally took his envelope and then once more waded along waterlogged "Haymarket." Turning to his lieutenant the Company Commander read the message. "In case," he said.

Five thirty the following morning,

found "B" Company—or what was left of them—a thousand yards deep in the Bosch line. Grey dawn had even then hardly chased night away, but much had happened in the half-light. The fog of war lay thick on the battlefield. "B" Company knew they were "digging in" on the rise officially known as "Hill 99," but did headquarters know? Message running was a precarious job, besides being slow.

To this scene came Captain — of the Royal Air Force in a contact plane. He came from the west like a huge gnat, and he was heralded by a spittery barrage of "archies." Really he did not seem to mind. He was so low that machine gunners turned staccato volleys on him.

Below "B" Company signalled violently. They knew what it meant to them that he should see. Ground flares, this turned into home-made helios—in a variety of ways they gave him their location.

The pilot saw, skinned on his Kias on horn, and then, bursting through a cloud of Archies, turned and sped out of sight again.

If one had been with the batteries in that particular sector one might have seen him drop his message to the artillery group commander, heard the latter's grim "Good," and then, maybe, have noticed line after line of guns firing well in front of our "new positions"—to the undisputed delight of "B" Company. The contact plane supplied the missing link, for communication is one of the problems of modern warfare.

Back again went the plane welcomed as vociferously as ever. The Bosch shells him savagely. All round shrapnel clouds burst in the air; machine-guns tried, belt after belt, but if he did mind Captain — did not show it. As coolly as ever he collected his news and turned again to the rear. He did this many times that

day; he spotted the Bosch concentration for the inevitable counter-attack. Back again to the artillery, and the artillery spoke joyfully. As they say in France, that concentration had a very thin time for the next half hour. Certain it was that "B" Company waited in vain for the counter-blow, and were not sorry it did not come. But the "eyes" of the artillery had not ed, and there was no need to worry.

The following day the British official recorded local activity in the — sector, during which our line had been advanced a thousand yards on a front of a mile. It also mentioned that enemy concentrations had been brought under fire.

But Captain — looked ruefully at his plane when his day had finished. Certainly it was not so fresh as when it started. The fabric showed rents in a dozen places; there were shrapnel and bullet holes too near his seat to be comfortable. But he had

done his job. Contact had been maintained as he and his like are maintaining it every day. When he turned into bed he slept the sleep of the just.

So It Goes.

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