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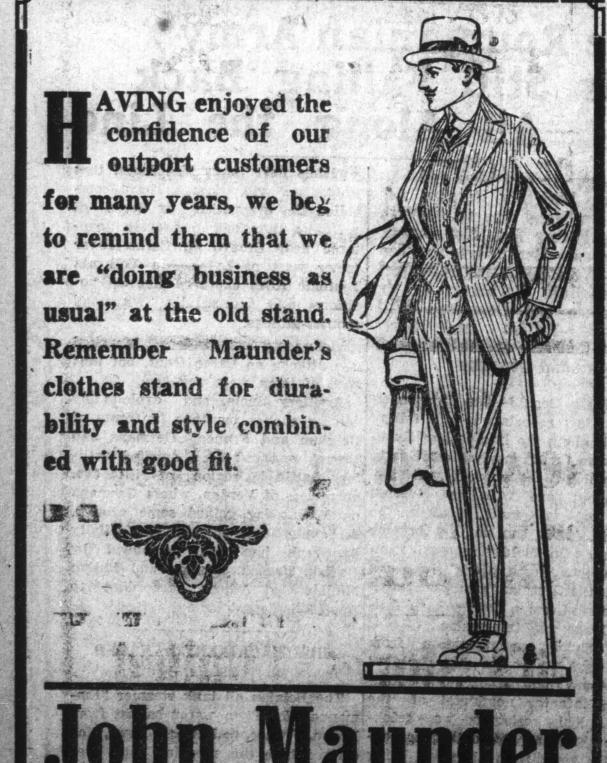
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The Crushing of Roumania

Campaign of German Invaders Divided Into Three Phases, the Last of Which Is Now In Process of Development.

the war for many months see the Germans making a tremendhave been those for the con- ous effort to eliminate that country quering of Rumania. This is so, before the Saloniki movement belargely, because the Rumanian front comes dangerous.

happens. Gains are made here and place. there, but they are small and do not. It was not to be expected that the seem to lead anywhere. Great losses Germans would stop here. The mere

few of the elements of military great need of men.

study exists where we find mobility, nobody. not where we are confronted with! It was Rumania's second and most render and which she is rendering as

the Rumanian frontier. on the offensive. In the west they limit should have been so recognized from when von Falkenhayn was removed them back into Hungary. and Field Marshal von' Hindenburg

the west lost its grip on affairs, an' bred among the Mazurian Lakes, was been successfully accomplished. Durarmy on the western front to hold western portion of Little Wallachia. back the highly organized armies of

hope of victory has gone. But he still fall back. Thus, several of the north-

In any event, it is extremely probable that we have seen the last Gercan effort on the Franco-Belgian line. Russia is still the great unknown. Russia has never yet reached ner maximum. There are still heights toward which she aspires, heights in numbers of men and ammunition. She shown what may be expected and it is something which Germany crossing the same crests. To do so when she is well supplied with both, may well guard against and fear.

It is not probable, either, that we shall see Germany attempt an offense here for some time. Rather, in anticipation of the Spring effort of the Russians, the Germans are probably intrenching as they have already insection of the eastern front. Their first thought is the destruction of Rou-

A similar situation, so far as the as they have given Bulgaria what they Germany has nothing to fear by the Bulgaria must lose it. And that is Germans occupied Craiova the all there is to it

Germany, indeed, does not become was doomed. Their lines of sive is concerned this narrows the ceased to exist.

most interesting operations situation down to Rumania, and we

is the only mobile front in any The campaign against Rumania may theatre and because it is the only be divided into three phases. The first point in the circle at which Germany was Mackensen's operation in Dois on the offensive. On all other fronts brudja, by which the gateway to Bultrench warfare is the rule. It is, apart garia, was closed and Rumania almost from our sympathies and viewed only entirely neutralized by the loss of as a military problem, more or less Constanza and Cernavoda and the uninteresting because nothing ever destruction of the bridge at the latter

may be sustained through the defense fact that Mackensen, the greatest of these positions and the effort to driving force in the German Army had been placed in command of the To sit down and watch attrition, Dobrudja forces was sufficient to indiwatch one side being slowly worn cate that something more important down through the constant, unremit- was afoot. After the Cernavoda bridge ting hammering of the other contains fell Mackensen was neutralized in not a ray of interest to the onlooker. Dobrudja. He was hemmed in by the It is not war as war has been con- Danube and the Black Sea with a ceived and studied. It contains but large force, while Germany was in

It was only logical, therefore, to It is a development, rather, of natu- look for a move that would make use ral resources, of factories, of the ma- of his position. And yet, with this fact thine shop and the lathe, but it bears before them, the Rumanians wasted no resemblance to the science of war- precious material and men in atfare as this science has been develop- tempting to drive him back. There ed through the centuries. Strategy was nothing to be gained. He was (and war without strategy is a stupid out of the picture and a menace to

stagnation. And nowhere else on any disastrous mistake. Military critics quickly as the railroad facilities at front is there mobility other than on foresaw an attempt to force a crossing of the lower Danube, an invasion It is the only point on the battle cir- of Bessarabia, and a possible drive at cle where we see the Germanic allies Odessa. This was impossible and

their efforts to resisting the attacks of the outset. The difficulties in the way the Anglo-French armies, and in mak- were insurmountable. Instead of ing such counter attacks as necessity wasting time in fighting Mackensen may dictate. But there is no offensive the Rumanians should have turned all and probably never will be again. Ger- their resources against the Germans many gave up all offensive in the west from the west in an attempt to throw

Mackensen's first step, then, may be regarded as the first phase of the Ger-Von Falkenhayn is a westerner, and man offense against Rumania which all westerners belong to the school of resulted in the neutralization of Ruthe Crown Prince, who, contrary to mania to the extent of closing the his father, has held that the west regateway by which alone an invasion properly Germany's field, holding as of Bulgaria was possible. The second Germany's natural enemy, phase of these operations was the France, and her implacable, unrelent- breaking down of the resistance at the passes and the taking of sufficient of When the battle of Verdun termi- them to enable von Falkenhayn to nated in such a total failure, and von come across the mountains, debouch Hindenburg was made Chief of Staff, from the passes, and spread out in the plains to the south.

an easterner, a man brought up and This part of the operation has also in the saddle. Immediately the policy ing the last week the German's have changed. Von Hindenburg looks to concluded another of their spectacular the east to bring a solution of the war. drives, going as rapidly as if unop-He knows that he will always be com- losed into the very heart of Rumania, pelled to keep the greater part of his almost completely cutting off the

What happened seems to be that after a great battle, which developed But, with the remains of it, he hopes south of Vulcan Pass, the Rumanian to crush his enemies in the east, and line was broken and the Germans then, by turning on the west, either poured through the breach. This took victory or bring about a stale- in flank the Rumanians defending the mate. The probabilities are that all passes to the east and forced them to ern passes were avilable to the Germans, so that their lines of communication were not in danger. .

The situation east of Vulcan Pass is not clear. To what extent the mountain barrier is in German control is not known. It is impossible, however, for a commander to accomplish anything by forcing his way through one pass among several in the vicinity would expose his line of communications to vital thrusts from several directions, and a success in any of

To achieve his purpose it is necessary that several of the passes be taken. Therefore, in the absence contrary reports, I have assumed the trenched on the western front. At Germans have accomplished what

should achieve the present result. The third phase of the Rumanian conquest will be the advance to the Germans are concerned, is reproduced Mackensen, and a Teuton line drawn hayn can link up with those of on the Saloniki front. The defense of across Rumania which will cut off this front has been intrusted for the Moldavia from Greater Wallachia. part to Bulgaria. The Germans This is the phase which is now in asume the position, apparently, that progress. It will be time enough to agreed—all of Macedonia, including It is sufficient for the time to point out that three phases of the Rumanian operations exist so that they may be

outlined in a few words. When the and the Oriental Railroad is threat-ern army were broken. It is a case ened. Then a vital interest is placed either of starving them into submis-

The great advantage of cutting an opponent in two is that he can be defeated in detail. If the point of the break is somewhere near the centre, so that the two separated wings are fairly evenly divided, the blow is apt to be the deathblow. This does not seem to be the case here. The left wing which the Germans have cut off is only a comparatively small fraction of the Rumanian Army, what fraction we do not know because we do not know how the Rumanian forces were distributed.

We do know that the bulk of the Rumanian Army is safe, fighting to prevent an advance further eastward of the Germans who are in possession of the Jiul Valley. The situation in that part of Rumania east of the Jiul Valley is not essentially different. The proposition with which the Germans are faced is one of fighting their way forward against the major portion of the Rumanian Army with the object of defeating it and destroying its fighting efficiency.

Imagine a three-quarter circle, with Germans on the outer circumference and Rumanians on the interior. The advantage of interior lines, with greater ability to reinforce any given point, is, of course, with the Rumanians. The prestige of victory which the Germans have obtained, and the high morale which goes with it, together with the more material advantage of heavy artillery, and plenty of it, is all with the in-

As the Germans advance the circles becomes smaller. Mackensen is endeavoring to cross the Danube so that one horn of the arc may be drawn towards the other. The strategical effect of such battle line is also with the Germans. A break on one wing will necessarily affect the entire line. The one hope of the Rumanians seems to be in the assistance which Russia can her command can rush her troops for-

There is no indication that the Ger man invasion can be halted thrown back. The corpse of another of the Entente's high hopes is about to be placed in the crypt.

It is time, therefore, to consider briefly what the situation is, with Rumania no longer a factor. It has been proved in the last nine months that Germany acting offensively against any of the larger nations, whether France, England, or Russia, is powerless. She has made no such effort as Verdun in other fields, not even against Rumania, for it has not been

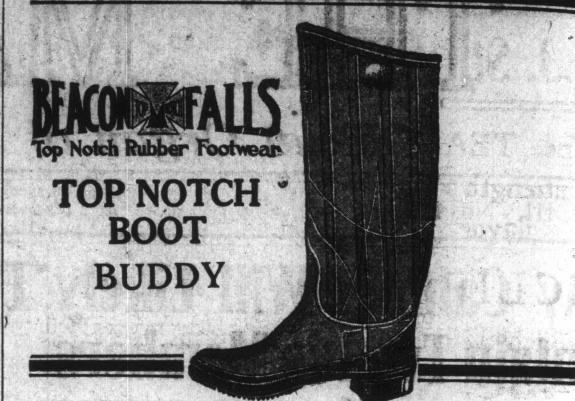
We have seen what has happened. And yet, at the time of this effort, Rumania was not a factor. The Allies, indeed, will be no weaker from a military standpoint that before Rumania entered the war. Rumania's entrance was intended as a fatal thrust at Germany. It would have been fatal if it had gone home.

This thrust the Germans have turnaside most brilliantly and effectively. The situation has not been changed to Germany's advantage other than in this way. The wheat supply that Germany will acquire through the victory will do much to relieve the situation at home and offset the effect of the British blockade.

At the same time, Rumania will always be a threat. The Rumanian Army will, as fast as we can now udge, always have a good line of retreat open-the gateway to Bessaraba. In numbers the Germans will not be as well off as before Rumania entered the war, because she has undoubtedly suffered heavy losses in her offensive. The political effect will be but little, largely because there is no one left to be affected by political considerations. It is therefore a negative victory that Germany has won, viewing the whole thing from the standpoint of the war at large.

From the standpoint of the Allies it has been another stupid and terrible blunder. It was an act of absolute folly that permitted Rumania to begin her operations by invading Transylvania. Her enemy was Bulgaria; it was only through Bulgaria that the vital point of the German lines could be reached. A stroke in this direcpresent they have no men for this was necessary in order that they tion would have had the result of cutallies, of cutting the Oriental railroad and interposing a barrier between Germany and Turkey that would have permitted Turkey to have been defeated and possibly forced into a separate peace. The same thing is also true of Bulgaria, except that there is practically no doubt that if Germany could have been cut off from Bulgaria. peace, as far as it relates to Bulgaria. would have followed with almost ab-

The salvation of the situation would The situation in Rumania may be of Sarrail. What he has been doing, what the reasons were that have delayed him from making any signs of doing nothing while such a gold opin the balance and Germany will de- sion or capturing them. But as an portunity was slipping from his grasp tend it. So far as a German offen-effective fighting force they have in plain sight. And yet this is exactly



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