

THE SLAV MARCH TO BERLIN

Three Weeks of the Russian Campaign in Condensed Outline

SUHKOMLINOFF, the Russian Kitchener, makes it known to all the world, and especially to the Allies engaged in brooming the Germans out of France, that he intends to converge his three armies of invasion in Berlin. He does not say when. He has learned from the Kaiser's experience that making timetable is one thing and running on it another.

The main thing is—the three-headed Slav march is calculated to terminate at the place where the German Reichstag meets, where Emperor William lives more than he does at Potsdam, where the bins of German war gold glisten in the tower of the Julius Thurm, where the traffic experts follow the movements of all trains in the Fatherland, where the Intelligence Office collected its world museum of more or less useless information based on espionage, and where since the latter part of July war has not been "the bountiful jade." Since ever the Slavs started this march they have announced that they would focus it at Berlin. They say it again, and since signing the three-power protocol they keep on saying it. Here and there they may have changed their original plans of advance. But they have never altered the original intention.

The other day Suhkomlinoff made it clear that for the past few sunrises and sunsets the impact of the Slav armies had been somewhat diverted for a particular reason; that was to clean up Austria, whose chief army was in the way to the march to Berlin. At the time of writing the Slav army has put out of business 300,000 Austrian troops and a thousand pieces of artillery in Galicia alone. As to the actual state of the Austrian remnant opinions differ. The original Austrian army numbered somewhere between 750,000 and a million. But it has

been honeycombed by Slav and Hungarian factions, subdivided by reinforcements sent to help the Germans against the French in Lorraine, whittled down by the Serbs along the Save and the Danube and the Drina, and battered by the overwhelming steam roller advance of the Russian army at Sawa, Lemberg and Przemsyl in Galicia, at Krasnik, Radom and Tomaszow in Poland.

THE entire battle front of the Russian advance extends from Koenigsberg, near the Baltic, to the mouth of the Dneister, emptying into the Black Sea. It is divided into three areas of operations, East Prussia, Russian Poland and Galicia, with three main armies under the supreme command of the Grand Duke Nicholas. The earliest fighting in the first week of August took place in East Prussia. Gumbinnen was the first place occupied by the Russians; afterwards Intersburg. Then came the investment of Koenigsberg, capital of East Prussia; after which the army in that area under Gen. Rennenkampf was held up by German reinforcements. The Germans were able to augment their forces at Koenigsberg, which now stand at 560,000 infantry, 40,000 cavalry and 2,000 guns. In East Prussia Rennenkampf was able to check the intended invasion of Russia by the Germans, and the Germans from sending reinforcements southward to Poland, thus making it necessary to transport Germans from the western lines in France. And it was at Allenstein in East Prussia that the German howitzers played havoc with the Russians.

It is said that the Russians lost 100,000 in killed and wounded, 70,000 prisoners, 500 field guns and scores of machine guns. The credit for this crushing blow to the Slavs in East Prussia goes to Gen. Von

Hindenburg, as commander-in-chief, and to Gen. Leudendorff, of the General Staff, said to be second in strategy only to the late Von Moltke. Petrograd despatches allege that after the victory at Allenstein, Hindenburg was hurried back to France to command an army there, leaving only troops of the second line to hold East Prussia. The correspondent also states that the detachment of 300,000 men from the west, when East Prussia was in danger, really caused the defeat of the Germans on the Marne.

Another Petrograd despatch insists that the whole Russian campaign in East Prussia was designed to help France and England at an obvious and expected cost of men to Russia, who flung her first forces under Rennenkampf into that theatre as the nearest effective line of invasion. There never was any serious strategic intention in Russia to make the Baltic region a battle ground. It was done in order to make it necessary to detach several army corps from France. The ruse worked. Three hundred thousand men were flung back from France to East Prussia, to save Koenigsberg. The German defeat at the Marne and the Russian defeat at Allenstein were the consequences. Russia expected this and was prepared to pay the cost in order to help the Allies in the west. Germany immediately concentrated in East Prussia. She withdrew or withheld several army corps from Poland and Galicia in the main area of invasion. Hence the crushing defeat inflicted on the Austro-German armies at Krasnik and Przemsyl.

Thus over a vast triangle covering central Europe, with Przemsyl as one angle, Koenigsberg as another 600 miles north, and Paris and the valley of the Marne another on the western edge of Europe, we are compelled to regard the operations of these two Armageddons of at least 8,000,000 men as one brain-reeling, incomprehensible unit of war in which an army of a million here or there is but the moving of a few pawns on a cosmic chessboard.

On the far southern end of this 600-mile battle front the main army of Austria was engaged under General Dankl. The first objective of the



LINES OF ARMAGEDDON FROM THE BALTIC TO THE BLACK SEA

This map shows the area of the Great Triple Battle Front between the Russians and the Austro-German armies, along which a series of great battles has been waged during the past three weeks. At the top is Koenigsberg in East Prussia, near which at Allenstein Gen. Rennenkampf was defeated by German reinforcements from France. Further down in the vicinity of Warsaw is the zone of operations in Poland where the Austrians tried to turn back the centre Russian invasion

heading upon Posen, and where the combined Austrian and German forces of a million men were driven back across the border into Germany by a series of battles fought around Lublin, Radom and Krasnik. Below the Vistula and the San Rivers, where the Teutonic army was trapped by two streams, a bog and a horde of Russian cavalry, turning back the Austro-German invasion of Poland. Below that again is the southern area of

Armageddon centring about Lemberg, where the main Austrian army, reinforced by several German army corps, were badly worsted, first at Rawa, then at Lemberg, then at Grodek and Rzesow and driven back upon Jaroslaw and Przemsyl, which at latest advices was invested and would probably be taken by the Russians. The next stand of the Austro-German forces in this region must be at Cracow. Indications of troops are only approximate. Many changes have since occurred.