

ALLIES

THE ENEMY

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The following despatch has been received from Mr. H. Warner Allen, the 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 con-

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 hors de combat (dead, prisoners or permanently disabled), while the remaining 1,500,000 men are counted as having been 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, twice counted 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

appears in them, and the means after they have occurred. A writer in the "Klönische 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—the number of deaths was 1,000,000 more than 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 admit. Even when there is not what is now called "hard

	Killed	W'nd	Missing
15th Reserve Div	42	131	—
16th Reserve Div	230	1,020	1
15th Division	208	863	1
14th Division	109	531	2

These figures show a total of 559 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, and 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, taking 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 those 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

First, the Reserve, the Ersatz Reserve, the Landwehr, and the trained Landsturm (second) battalions 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, the untrained militia, the

composition of the Landsturm, who had never been incorporated in the active army, either on account of the numerical limitations of a year's contingent or in view of mental incapacity.

Historically the Landsturm, 22 or trained or untrained, was often to be utilized for home defence, as in the case of the gravest national necessity. Already, however, the trained men of the second half of the Landsturm—men of from 35 to 45—had been called up, and in February the German authorities announced that the situation was such

...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 conscription was called up and incorporated. The training of these recruits