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SEE OUR WINDOW.

## S. MILLEY

### Italy and the Balkans

The military aspects of the Italian participation in the Allied operations in the Balkans are of minor importance now. It is interesting to know that to the huge army of Serbs, French, British and Colonial troops there is now added an Italian contingent, but, knowing nothing of its numbers, it is impossible to discuss the effect it will have in the general campaign.

On the political side, however, the arrival of Italian troops in the Balkans has a real meaning. We do not know in what fashion the Allies have by their agreements divided the Near East. We do know that Serbia is to be restored and that Russia is to have the city of Constantinople and both shores of the Straits, if the Allies win. We can assume that Italy has been assured the possession of Valona, a protectorate over all Albania, save for Scutari and perhaps a paring of Northern Epirus, which may remain in Greek hands, but the question of Asia Minor remains open.

The best information that has come from Europe indicates that Italy will be permitted at the end of the war to hold the island of Rhodes and the surrounding group, which she occupied "temporarily" during the Tripolitan War. But it is equally authoritative asserted that the Allied bargain includes the possession of Smyrna and the Aegean coast of Asia Minor by Italy and the occupation of Syria and the coast from the Gulf of Alexandretta to Jaffa by France.

Italy, France, Russia and Britain have unquestionably agreed to settle the Eastern Question in such a fashion that Austria and Germany shall permanently be excluded from the Balkans. They have agreed that Serbia shall have Bosnia, Herzegovina, the coast of Dalmatia, south of the Narenta, and a corner of Northern Albania. It is certain, if the Allies win, that Montenegro will be joined to Serbia and that the Bulgarians will be excluded from part of Macedonia.

But all of this is contingent upon victory; therefore, if Italy is to be able to claim a share in the Eastern estate she will have to claim it on the basis of her participation in the campaign that definitively drives the German out of the Balkans and the Turk out of Europe. It will not suffice for Italy to occupy Georgia or even Trieste, even her possession of Valona will not count; it is in Macedonia that the decision will come.

The thing to be remembered is that what is now taking place all through Europe is not one campaign or many campaigns in a war, but a deliberate, systematic attempt to abolish the German influence outside of German frontiers. The economic alliance of the Allies aims at making a tariff wall

against the Germans, surrounding all the nations now fighting the Germans. The military campaigns and the naval campaigns, outside of the main field of operations in Russia, Austria, and France aim at destroying the bases of German political and economic influence in the future.

The campaign in German East Africa, now approaching an end, will put a crown on the efforts of two years in the matter of German colonies. Of the considerable edifice which existed before the war there is left nothing now but a little kernel, which is bound to disappear in the next few weeks or months. Germany beyond the seas will then be a memory. And since Britain has assayed her colonial troops to conquer these German colonies, it will be for the colonies to decide whether they shall be returned. The answer is known.

But more important than Germany's Colonies were her financial and economic bases in the Turkish Empire. Turkey had become in a sense a German ward, and the Bagdad Railroad was only one sign of the German expansion through the Near East. Through Turkey, Germany menaced the French, Italian and British colonies in Africa, and through the religious primacy of the Sultan of Turkey in Islam she threatened the peace of India, Egypt and French North Africa.

The Allies are now agreed to put a permanent end to this menace by transforming conditions in the Balkans. Serbia is to be made a strong state, at the expense of Austria. Bulgaria will be beaten presently, her king will lose his throne and it is quite as certain that Allied success will cost Constantinople and Greece his throne. Bulgaria, freed of Austro-German control and royalty, may receive a portion of Macedonia and her old lands in Thrace, Greece, once Constantinople is gone, may get Epirus, but the total elimination of Teutonic influence is resolved upon.

The Triple Alliance ultimately broke down because of the rivalry of Austria and Italy in the Near East. Italy almost deserted Austria at the time of her Bosnia annexation. Austria nearly attacked Italy at the time of the Tripolitan War. Now, with the present war, Italy has definitely taken her stand with the Mediterranean Powers. She purposes to take the Trentino, Trieste, Dalmatia and the Adriatic Islands from Austria and by establishing herself in Albania command both sides of the Adriatic at the Straits of Otranto and dominate the sea.

Russia is resolved to take the Dardanelles and the Bosphorus and thus break the bridge between Germany and the Asiatic territories of the Turk, some of which may be left to him. Britain and France, because of their own colonies are bound to con-

sent to this change. Allied military and commercial strategy alike aims at building a wall against Austro-German expansion at the Danube, closing Austrian outlet to the open sea at Valona as German outlet is closed at the Straits of Dover.

It is essential to remember, now, that Germany has realized, temporarily at least, her dream of expansion to the Near East. Her progress is fully revealed by her achievement. And this makes it absolutely clear what the Allies in their turn must do. More important than any present operations in the East or the West is the campaign to close the Balkans to Germany, for it is, in effect, closing the door of the future to Germany, the only door left open now that German colonies have been seized and the bases of German commerce abroad destroyed.

Germans no longer expect to hold Belgium or any portion of France, but they do hope and expect to hold the gateway to the Near East. Here alone is there a possibility of profit at all commensurate with the sacrifices they have made. The Allies on their part are resolved that there shall be no profit. This resolve gives meaning to the Italian participation in the Balkan campaign, and it explains why this Balkan campaign is, from the point of view of future consequences, the most interesting that is now going forward.—N. Y. Tribune.

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### Mr. Churchill on How it Began

Mr. Winston Churchill, in his third article in the Sunday Pictorial, speaks of Great Britain as "The Great Amphibian." He shows how the Grand Fleet was ready on August 4th.

"It was eleven o'clock at night—twelve by German time—when the ultimatum expired," writes Mr. Churchill. "The windows of the Admiralty were thrown wide open in the warm night air. Under the roof from which Nelson had received his orders were gathered a small group of admirals and captains and a cluster of clerks, pencil in hand, waiting."

"Along the Mall from the direction of the Palace the sound of an immense concourse singing 'God Save the King' floated in; and on this deep wave there broke the chimes of Big Ben; and, as the first stroke of the hour boomed out, a rustle of movement swept across the room."

#### Commence

"The war telegram, which means 'Commence hostilities,' was flashed to the ships and establishments under the White Ensign all over the world. 'Aye! commence hostilities at once against Germany,' urged them; persevere in them; concentrate upon them; repent not of them; pursue them to the very end."

These were the steps preceding that historic act on August 4:

"On the afternoon of July 26, 1914, orders were issued to prevent the ships of the First Fleet from dispersing, as they would otherwise have done at daylight on the 27th, or to recall such as had started. At midnight the ships of the Second Fleet were ordered to remain at their home ports in close proximity to their balance crews. On the 27th all naval aircraft moved to the vulnerable points on the East Coast, the Second Fleet was completed, an informal 'stand by' telegram was sent to the admirals abroad, and far away on the China Station the battleship Triumph began to mobilize."

"During the 27th and 28th the protecting flotillas along the East Coast were raised to full strength. On the night of the 29th the whole of the First Fleet, with its auxiliary cruiser squadrons and flotillas, passed the Straits of Dover and gained their war station in northern waters."

"That same day the official 'warning telegram' of approaching danger was issued. On the 30th the 'Precautionary Period' began, the naval harbors were cleared, and a modified examination service instituted. On the 31st the Immediate Reserve mobilized, and various reserve cruiser squadrons came into being."

"On August 1, shortly before midnight, the general mobilization of the Navy was ordered, and the Third Fleet began to come on to a war basis. This step was approved by the Cabinet on Sunday, the 2nd, and regularized by Royal Proclamation on the next day. All reservists had, however, responded to the Admiralty summons; and on August 3rd, when the ultimatum was sent requiring Germany to evacuate Belgium, the whole process by which the naval power of Britain is placed in readiness for war was completed in all respects."

"At the great War Council held on the afternoon of August 4, attended by the principal naval and military personages as well as the Cabinet Ministers directly concerned, the Admiralty were able to agree to the immediate dispatch of the whole regular Army, not four but six divisions if necessary, to the Continent, to undertake the transportation and the security of the island in their absence. This considerable undertaking has been made good by the Royal Navy."

#### Once More!

"Once more now in the march of the centuries Old England was to stand forth in battle against the mightiest thrones and dominations. Once more in defence of the liberties of Europe and the common right must she enter upon the voyage of great toll and hazard across waters uncharted towards coasts unknown, guided only by the stars. Once more 'the far-off line of storm-beaten ships' was to stand between the Continental Tyrant and the dominion of the world."

#### TWO YEARS AFTER.

Now look two years after that historic night at the Admiralty of which Mr. Churchill speaks.

"The first year passed and darkness lay on the earth," says the Observer on July 23—two years after Austria's insolent note to Serbia.

"There was a stretched ordeal; a year and more seemed like one long night of trial. The forces of iniquity were very strong. Faith in the sequel might well have been shaken more than once in all but the souls of firmest staunchness amongst those who had cherished the brighter hopes for the future of civilisation."

"Twelve months ago the confidence of the Central Empires was near its zenith. They thought that Russia was on the point of ruin; that the Allies'

offensive in the West would be foiled to the end in bloody repulses; that France must sink in exhaustion; that Britain was not and never would be fully aroused."

#### The Darkness.

"Then Bulgaria was gained; Serbia was crushed at last like Belgium; the British were expelled from Gallipoli and brought to surrender at Kut. The attack on Verdun was followed by the Austrian blow which forced the gates of the Alps and threatened the Venetian plains. Even seven weeks ago it might have been thought at Berlin and Vienna that, despite the failure of all efforts to break Britain's sea-blockade, the spirit of the ultimatum of July 23, 1914, recognising no law but force, would win the most fatal and terrible struggle which has ever convulsed civilisation."

"The second year has passed and no longer is it darkness with the Allies, but light."

"Seven wonderful weeks have at last brought the aggressors to account and transformed the whole situation in Europe—stubborn and protracted as the fight must yet be before the Prussian creed of Might is beaten to the earth and the cause of the Allies, great and small, comes finally to its own. Again we say that there is no short cut to victory. The way is like a Roman road—long, straight, lifesome. We are sure of the issue. The price to pay will test us to the utmost. Not now nor for many a day dare we relax a single fibre."

"But once again history appears visibly unto men as Justice marching. And it is an uplifting thought for all who bear the British name to-day, whether gloriously at the front or honorably at home throughout the Empire, that but for the fleets and new armies, and the workers and the free citizenship of Britain and her dominions, the mighty aggression of two years ago would have triumphed over Europe to-day, and more than Europe. We have stood in the way. History will never know a nobler vindication of the better ideals of mankind, nor a more saving proof of the mysterious brute-quelling power breathed out in manifold ways by the prophetic soul of the wide world dreaming on things to come."

"These are the thoughts we must keep before us if we would follow with a right understanding the deeds of our men in France and realize what purposes are being wrought out so largely through them in common with all the Allies. As we extend our view from the Somme to the Styr and from the southward streams of the Alps to the headwaters of the Euphrates, we shall see still more clearly how all German calculations are breaking down and how alarm and foreboding are spreading through the Central Empires, and even more through Turkey and Bulgaria. Nemesis is sternest when it turns the very purposes and methods of guilt against the authors of it. That is what we see."

#### What We See.

"If the Allies had designed the conditions of the final struggle they could hardly have ordered it more to their advantage as respects the extent of the enemy's lines. Stretched to the uttermost they must yield the sooner. Every day's struggle, whether ground is gained or not, thins the defence at some points, and brings the Allies nearer the day when they will rupture the enemy's dispositions, break up by degrees his continuous fronts, and roll up his sections."—Public Opinion.

### Sergt. Duffett, D.C.M.

The official story in brief of the valor of Sergt. A. G. Duffett, D.C.M., is as follows:—"During a heavy bombardment he was buried by a shell explosion. Although ordered to leave the trenches he remained on duty. He was later wounded in the head and again refused to leave the guns until compelled by the seriousness of his wounds."

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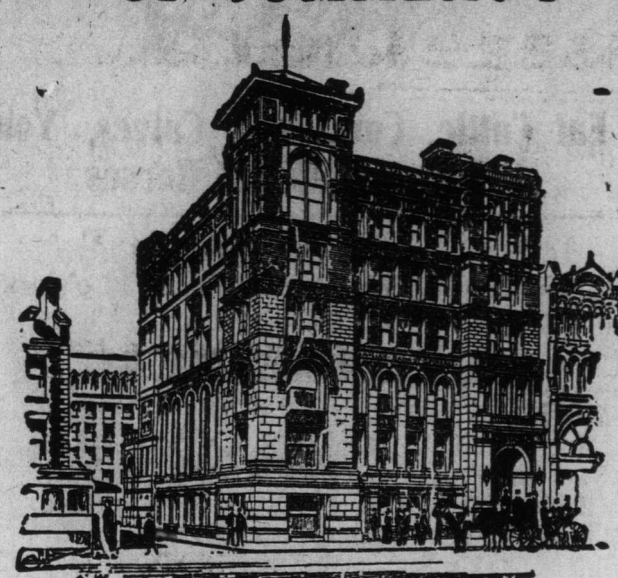
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