

CLOSE ORDER FIGHTING IN FINAL TEST AGAINST TACTICS LEARNED FROM INDIAN AND BOER



German infantry in skirmish formation. On the firing line it will be observed that they carry full kit and advance shoulder to shoulder with no appreciable space between the men.

The remarkable photograph is an illustration of the massed formation mode of fighting which dates back to the Napoleonic era. Here are seen Serbian infantrymen preparing to repel attack.

Mr. J. S. Stewart Richardson, though only in his thirties, participated in the Boer War, during which, between fights, he acted as correspondent of an Edinburgh newspaper. More recently he reported phases of the Mexican internecine warfare and was at the taking of Vera Cruz by the United States.

By J. S. Stewart Richardson.
THE greatest lesson whether these militarists were right or in the art of warring war after the others. Of course, it was shown in Manchuria that the Japanese and Russians clashed in many engagements in massed formation, but it is known that in both armies the field service regulations have been subsequently revised.

With others, the military experts of these nations have agreed that with the remarkable evolution of artillery and other arms advanced troops in close formation against a perfectly entrenched or concealed foe is suicidal. Army commanders of to-day, when so



Open order mode of attack practiced in the armies of the United States and Great Britain and modeled upon the tactics of the American Indian in warfare. In the illustration a detachment of Cameron Highlanders, a British line regiment, are seen advancing to attack.

spacious mark. After which he dismounts and devotes his spare time between firing to giving as correct an imitation of an inert and invisible object as he may in the course of the manoeuvre toward the enemy.

It is a strange fact that with the development of the rifle and heavy calibre gun and the consequent possibilities of enormous loss of life in any action, small forces of men are used to better advantage to-day than ever. Of course, these forces cannot be operated as independent units. Superiority in force of numbers no longer is regarded as essential to turn the tide of battle.

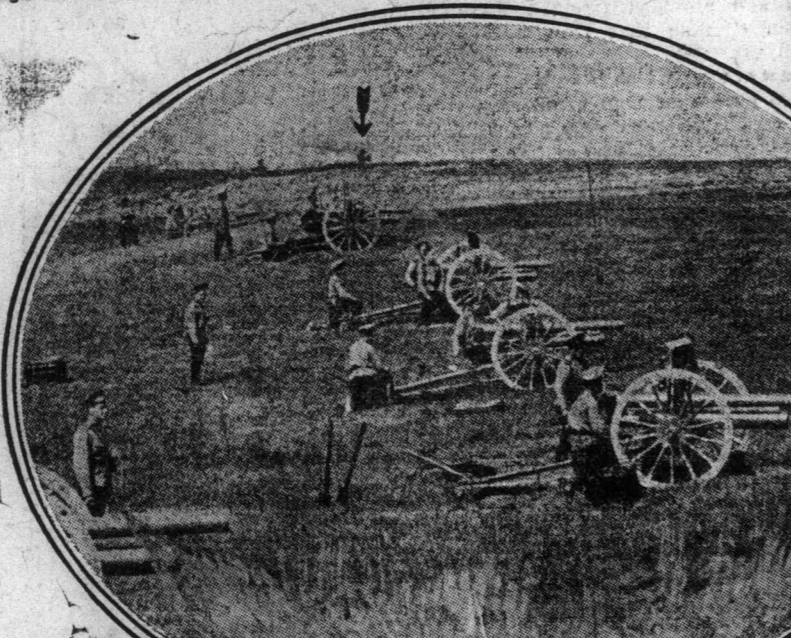
In the late South African campaign an army of 10,000 Boer farmers, few of whom had had experience in military tactics other than being trained to a high degree of efficiency in handling a rifle and to cover after the fashion of the American Indian, held back for nearly

lessons in the game, which he learned quickly when he had been taught adaptability by his brethren from the Colonies, he forgot that he had at one time been a "chick red here."

It is worthy of note that where 30,000 men of General Buller's column had failed, little more than 5,000 were actively engaged in the fight at Pieter's Hill, which opened the way to the stricken, disease-infested and Boer-invested town of Ladysmith.

At the battle of Gusanmas, which opened the Cuban campaign in 1898, the Spaniards declared that they had a force of 4,000 men engaged. These were entrenched behind rifle pits and bushes in a mountain pass, and were dislodged by an American force of less than 1,000 men. The attacking force had to fight for the most part in the open, and authentic reports of the action show that the American troopers carried the posi-

tion. The southerly movement of the Germans may effect a junction of the crown prince's army and that of Barbaric, which has been held since the battle of Verdun in Lorraine. Thus the Germans give evidence from the east and north in a vast enveloping destined to crush the allies right wing by their weight of numbers, their left was pushed



Six gun Russian battery in position for indirect fire. As the guns are concealed from the enemy, so is the enemy screened from the gunners by the elevation immediately in front of the guns, which are pointed by direction from the officer (indicated by arrow) at the point of observation. According to the most approved method, indirect artillery fire is a trigonometrical proposition.



German lancers advancing at the charge. The Kaiser's mounted troops have been considered the finest in the world, and the present campaign will reveal the tactical advantages to be gained by manoeuvring cavalry in force. Lances were discarded by the British army after the South African War.



German artillery in force. They are shown in a position which is unshielded and disguised only by the woods in the rear. Their fire is direct, which, as has already been demonstrated in the present campaign, is not an obsolete manoeuvre of German arms.

United States, while attention was directed to the fact that while there is likely to be a radical rearrangement of frontiers and a transfer of territory at the close of the great European inter-allelic conflict an even greater change will be wrought in the fighting machinery of the nations.

That which will be laid in the tactical balance will be the separate and distinct modes of fighting being demonstrated in the present war in the utilization by the armies involved of the highly improved armaments with their vast lethal possibilities.

According to the American military strategist and the British, warfare's art has been carried back more than a century by the adoption of the high powered rifle, so that the trained skirmisher of to-day emulates the American Indian in his every movement.

The American soldier's teacher was the Indian. The tutor of the English trooper was the Boer, who instinctively went back to first principles in defending his country against the invader. The result is that, like the American, the British soldier to-day carries to the firing line a minimum of weight, consisting of little else than his rifle, ammunition belt, water bottle and first aid package.

many men of their commands may be utterly annihilated by a slight mistake, manifest their ability in leadership to a great degree by low casualty losses. The day of sacrificing large numbers of men ruthlessly in order to gain a slight tactical advantage has long since passed, say the military authorities.

Adoption by the American Indian of the shield, cover-seeking, open-order mode of attack was because the red men and their foes were marksmen. With bow and arrow and lat with the rifle, they excelled, and their American assailants, frontiersman and soldier, had perforce to adopt the Indian style of skirmishing at the grim game of life and death.

While the soldier carries a bayonet to the firing line the weapon is regarded by many experts merely to be used in an emergency, after the manner of the knife which was carried by the medieval knight and the dirk worn in the hose of the Scottish clansman, who was primarily armed with a claymore, or heavy sword.

The modern rifle has practically caused the spectacular bayonet charge to be relegated to the past, as it has compelled the soldier in defence to obtain shelter which, offering him opportunity to sweep and cover the approaches to his position from his front, and if possible from his flanks, will utterly conceal him from attacking snipers.

The fact that infantrymen, well entrenched, caught by surprise by heavy artillery fire was demonstrated repeatedly in the Cuban campaign between American and Spaniard, in the South African conflict between Briton and Boer, in the Manchurian campaign between Japanese and Russian and in the late Balkan wars. To drive the enemy from a position, therefore, it becomes necessary to carry that position by strategy. If it is essential that the position must be carried by infantry, supported by artillery fire, the commanding officer must assume that the storming party will be subjected to a withering fire.

conditions it is to a large degree a matter of the volume of fire and its control which may turn the tide of battle. Advancing against artillery fire is declared to be impossible and that artillery cannot be combated save only by artillery.

Another phase of the modern field combat is that while the man behind the rifle must needs remain cool and collected in his endeavor to register a point in the game of which he is but an infinitesimal pawn, with every round of ammunition expended, the old time galantry on the field of battle is of little value to the commanding officer of any fighting unit. Said a regimental commander recently:—

"Of course I do not deny that conspicuous valor on the field of battle has its inspiring effect. The soldier who, a quarter of a century ago, left the ranks to aid a stricken comrade might have been regarded as a hero. If the soldier to-day performed a similar act he might be regarded as doubly a hero, for while he might be applauded by some for what he did, he would more than likely be court-martialed for insubordination."

Although not regarded as the most potent arm of the military service of nations, had been one of the most important and necessary branches, has, as cavalry proper, been discarded as useless. As the "eyes of the army" it has been to a degree replaced by the aeroplane and the dirigible balloon.

In the wars of the fifties mounted troops were utilized as a heavy force with which to inflict strong frontal assault. To-day the cavalryman may in extreme cases be called upon to harry a foe in retreat, but his function is that of an infantryman who is mounted that he may travel faster. He is an infantry skirmishing specialist generally, who possesses a horse that he may move quickly from place to place, and that the command of which he is a unit may reach the ultimate in mobility.

Like the infantry bayonet charge, bringing of cavalry into action as cavalry is no longer regarded as practicable in the light of modern armament improvements. The present war will not furnish another Balaclava. Mounted troops to-day are drilled as infantrymen, and not only will there be no call for a great cavalry charge except to inflict a final blow upon a broken retreating force, but it is unlikely that mounted troops will go into action at any time with their horses.

It was only as a last resource that the veteran General yielded to the advice of his juniors and turned the Boer flank in a series of skirmishes in which his men operated burgher fashion—which was really Indian fashion. It has been written that the tradition ridden General of the Boer commander was as surprised as the Boer commander upon the completion of the manoeuvre.

It is held by advocates of the open-order mode of fighting that the Germans are equally loath to adopt it as were the British in the dark and doubtful days of 1899 and 1900. Then British generals were almost scandalized to see cherished ideals concerning the proper methods of subduing England's foes discarded in favor of the tactics of men who had not been taught from the latest guide books the proper way to encounter and engage an enemy in the field.

Tommy Atkins had received a few more

tions of the enemy by advancing Indian fashion—skirmishing through the long grass from cover to cover, offering as little as possible of themselves as a target to the vigilant Spaniards, and firing from every point of vantage reached.

In his description of the battle, Richard Harding Davis, the war correspondent, wrote:—"The Eastern men broke at the word and ran for the cover they were directed to take like men trying to get out of the rain, and fell panting on their faces, while the Western troopers and hunters slipped and wriggled through the grass like Indians; dodging from tree trunk to tree trunk, and from one bush to another."

As in the subsequent battles of the campaign, the men in employing the tactics of the original inhabitants of their country followed their individual inclinations and instincts rather than any special orders that were issued regarding their mode of seeking cover. Now the American soldier is trained explicitly in the art of proper concealment while advancing.

In the many expeditions which have been participated in by United States marines, observers have remarked the almost uncanny emulation of the Indian by the enlisted man of the Marine Corps. At Vera Cruz they showed how to "bug" the ground on the firing line, and when the order was given to extend, instead of crawling or running in a crouching position to assume the new formation, the men gripped their rifles close to their sides and rolled.

The movement is a recent innovation in the general field service orders. It appeared novel to many who saw it, but was familiar to Americans Indian tribes more than a century ago.

FIRST NEWS SECTION

FORTY-FOURTH YEAR

ARE GERMAN CUT OFF

Belief is Growing Enveloping Movement—They Battle at Verdun

[By Special Wire to the Courier]
LONDON, Sept. 7.—The belief is growing that the great decisive battle is being fought at Verdun, the strong fortress at France on the Meuse near the south frontier. If the fourth German army marching southward, cuts off the retreat of the French eastern armies, which recently have been holding the Germans in check between Toul, a fortified town 14 miles west of Nancy and Epinal, a strongly fortified place and near the Alsace frontier, it might repeat the coup which in 1870 drove General Charles Denis Sauter Bourbaki and his army of 150,000 men into Switzerland.

RUSSIAN STRENGTH WAS DARK WHICH

Two Huge Armies Austrians and Allies Not Far Away

[By Special Wire to the Courier]
LONDON, Sept. 7.—The Petrograd correspondent of The Post in an article dealing with the capture of Lemberg and Halicz says:—"The establishment of Russian authority in this region is being enormously facilitated by the fact that the native Slav population, which recently has been held in the Lorraine, is now being urged to carry out protracted operations over a vast territory without the enemy getting a single hint to give them alarm."

Britain's Making

[By Special Wire to the Courier]
LONDON, Sept. 4 (delayed transmission).—Few people know that the royal flying corps is made aeronautical, as well as military history by sending at short notice aeroplanes across the channel by the air route, without