

Thutoscope

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SATURDAY

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with Nell Shipman and
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Sunday and Monday

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Big V.Tuesday and Wednesday — Fox
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2 -- Shows Daily -- 2

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only advance slowly. The retreating enemy has destroyed the roads. New roads must be prepared, railroads constructed, not only on which to move the guns themselves but the immense quantity of ammunition required. This is the case also with other supplies of other kinds. While these roads are being reconstructed the retreating army, if held intact, falls rapidly back upon new positions, upon positions, either already prepared, or else which they immediately throw up and which in time develop into systems of defense. Probably we will not see again such a long period of stagnation in trenches, as we did before, for the Germans seem to be now compelled to force a decision within a short time at no matter what cost in men. So we may not again see such elaborate and extensive trench systems; that is all. Trench warfare has not, and will not, come to an end—until war does.

Trench warfare, or as we should say, "position" warfare, alternates with "war of movement". Just how this takes place under modern conditions has been as lucidly, as by anyone, explained by Col. Azan, of the French Army, in his work, "The War of Positions", from which I quote as follows:—

"Whenever two adversaries are approximately equal in power, the war of positions is the only one possible. Admitting that the line of resistance of one of them may be temporarily pushed back on a large extent of front, and that two or even three successive lines of positions may be carried, there always remains in the rear another line of positions, under the cover of which the vanquished party may reorganize his forces; the parts of the front adjoining that which has given way accept the necessity of retirement and set themselves to work to straighten out the line. War of movement is, therefore, restricted to the space which separates the positions captured from the positions behind them.

If, on the other hand, a victorious offensive definitely cuts the enemy's line, war of movement may find wider scope. Either the beaten troops become demoralized, and, if pursued with energy, throw their own reserves into disorder—thus causing a disaster which the resistance of a few fragments of the line will have great difficulty in repairing; or else the remnants of these troops, falling back on unshaken reserves, are able, with them, to rally on new positions; in this latter case each fragment individually experiences war of movement, though it tends to establish itself, for actual fighting, in a posi-

tion which it either reinforces or prepares afresh.

War of movement is thus, for the time being, generally imposed by the stronger on the weaker side. But it modifies itself more or less rapidly, according to the courage or the tenacity of the defeated troops, into a war of positions; it thus permits the equilibrium of combat to be re-established and a new line of resistance to be formed. Then the war of positions begins again.

There are, nevertheless, circumstances in which the war does not present the aspect of two lines of opposing positions, each endeavoring to force the other back, but in which it resumes the features of a war of movement.

These instances are as follows:

1. When one of the armies is insufficiently supplied either with men or materiel, to cover the fronts which it must hold.

2. When one of the armies, having its front well supplied, lacks sufficient reserves either in men or in material, to go to the rescue in case a breach is made. This might occur when a belligerent, enfeebled by the wastage of the war, did not soon enough accept the necessity of shortening his front.

3. When the armies facing each other have to manoeuvre over a large space in comparison with the amount of their effective—as in East Africa or Equatorial Africa, in Mesopotamia, etc.

In these different instances, the troops are no longer held in by a continuous barrier which prevents manoeuvring. And yet, when they come into contact, they all consolidate their positions by digging trenches, by providing them with the accessory defenses, by utilizing their artillery to the best possible advantage. Thus the actual combat, which follows these preparations, takes on the same character as the war of positions.

Movement, when it becomes possible, is limited, furthermore, by a reason other than the encountering of organized positions; this is the difficulty of transporting an adequate supply of material and provisions.

Bold and rapid movements, such as used to be carried out, have become very difficult. Napoleon could say that he "made war by the legs of his soldiers", because his success came through bringing up his infantry by forced marches, in order that, at the critical moment, they should intervene on the battlefield.

(Continued on page 11)

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