

AIRPLANES TO BE DECIDING FACTOR IN WINNING WAR

Enemy's Bases And Strongholds Can Be Smashed Through Them

U. S. OFFICER SPEAKS Kiel Canal Could Be Rendered Useless By Aircraft

(From the New York Times.)
"It is the new thing that wins in war," said Brig-Gen. Geo. O. Squier, chief signal officer of the American army, in charge of aircraft preparations, who both as a research scientist and soldier has been studying at John Hopkins university, the efficiency of the army and the national defense ever since he was graduated from West Point in 1887, after which he spent five years working at John Hopkins university.

It was Gen Squier who laid the United States telegraph cable system in the Philippines, and later he was military attaché of the American embassy at London. But now, as chief signal officer of the army, the particular new thing he has in mind as the agency for winning the present war is the use of airplanes in such numbers that they will be invincible that all the interior transportation and other vital resources of Germany for continuing the war will be at the mercy of the allies, that Kiel itself will cease to be the safe refuge of the enemy fleet.

To say that the airplane is not new, that it was practical thing long before the beginning of the war, is beside the mark. The newness is in quantity. Gen. Squier speaks of airplanes for the purpose he has in mind in about the same numerical terms that soldiers of the past used to speak of troops. There was a time when reference to 100,000 infantry seemed big. Well, they have talked about 100,000 airplanes in the number America needs to do her part in the war, and the pending bill calls for an appropriation of \$20,000,000 for the building of aircraft. That is certainly something new about that.

Gen. Squier will not use specific figures himself, but the motto which, figuratively speaking, he has hung all over the walls of the headquarters of the Signal corps at the war department is "Enough planes to defeat Germany."

"Just how many that will be," he said, "depends primarily on Germany. Von Hindenburg has as much as anybody else, perhaps more, to do with the formulating of our plans. We cannot have any specific plans that may not have to be changed any day. That is the difficult thing for me to make clear to the loyal and patriotic business men who are standing by ready to help us in manufacturing. They are men who deal in enormous quantities, and they are accustomed to predict the needed quantity of output for normal peace operations a long way in advance, but we cannot do that in war. We must be ready to make quick shifts, ready at all times to assume all the responsibility for appearing inconsistent. A soldier who cannot reverse himself from day to day, if necessary is not

Settle it any way you please, madam.



—Kirby in New York World.

fit for his job.
"Wars," continued the general, resuming the thread of his interview, "are usually won by new devices. History shows that, Frederick the Great was the first to employ the principle of drill, and won, his battles by that agency. Until this time armies had been formless crowds of men which could not be quickly handled and manoeuvred. Frederick the Great was the first drill master. He saw the possibilities in having men trained to march and halt and wheel and counter-march, and so on, automatically like a great machine, in response to a word of command. He made an army a co-ordinate, coherent thing, capable of quickly responding to meet every emergency as the emergency was seen and understood by a man in supreme command. And his success was based on that.

"This now seems a very simple matter-of-course thing, but it was unheard of before Frederick the Great introduced it into warfare as his new contribution. Whereupon he became the world's great soldier for a generation or more and all the other nations went to drilling their armies.

"Napoleon's contribution was the faculty of adapting his battle plans to the ground on which the battles were to be fought. He was the first to see the advantages of terrain and to make use of ravines and woods in the disposition of his artillery and other forces. To-day, of course, that is the mere A B C of warfare, but it was new when Napoleon introduced it and his success depended upon it. For more obvious illustrations we may go back to the first use of gunpowder, and the victories of troops that had powder with which to go against spears and arrows."

"Now in the present war, Germany has confronted the allies with innovations against which we have been fighting in the conventional way. First she astonished the world with the big guns that tore down the Belgian forts, forts that would have been impregnable against any other type of weapon. Then came her Zeppelins, against which the allies had nothing to oppose successfully, and then the U-boat. Germany had the big new things, plus all the con-

ventional agencies of warfare.
"But our turn has come. Millions of men have been digging themselves into the earth. Submerged boats have been destroying our ships, and the world is at a deadlock. The possibilities of the two long familiar elements, earth and water, seem to have become exhausted. But there is the third element, the air, which has distinct qualities that the others do not possess. The air is the greatest of all oceans, without coasts or limits of any sort. Let us learn to think of it that way. To do so will help, psychologically, to solve the problem. Instead of thinking of ourselves as living on top of the earth, let us think of ourselves as living at the bottom of this hitherto unknown, limitless ocean. We must learn to use it as the final element of our defense. We must win it for our own as the third great element, for I believe that all the wars of the future will be fought in it, and I believe that this war will be won in it.
"It is transparent. Men cannot hide themselves in it by digging. It will not conceal the submarine. You can neither mine it nor net it. It makes possible a war in great dimensions. In the old way a line of fortifications on the border meant protection for an entire country, but in the new way every square foot of enemy territory is subject to attack, regardless of where the armies of the earth may be holding their lines.

"To develop all the possibilities of fighting in and from the sky, the present war will be America's great part. Europe is war weary and exhausted. The personnel of our allies for the most part have been used up, killed in the infantry, cavalry and artillery. I mean the young men between nineteen and twenty-five years of age, the period of life when men are at their best for aerial work. In Germany this class of personnel has certainly been exhausted. So it remains for us, coming in from the sea, to end this thing the first possible minute.

"Nothing else counts. Saving a week of this war would be cheap at any price. And the United States alone, can make this contribution to her allies and the world. We can outman all the other countries involved, friends and foe, and we can surely outbuild them. So we should make this a great national plan to win, to make our contribution to the distinctly American in coalition and magnitude. And there must be promptness at any cost, for the sake of our own people as well as for the people of Europe. To win quickly by the sheer weight of the number of our machines means the sending of the minimum number of men of the United States to the trenches.

"We can train our men for actual warfare in the air in seven months, comprising eight weeks of ground work and four months of flying at the training schools in this country, and then a month of intensive battle-plane training work in France. I don't know how many will be needed. That, again, depends upon Von Hindenburg, but we want enough to operate in regiments and brigades if necessary to make all Germany unsafe, to force her to demobilize her air force at the front and send the men and machines back to protect the cities. This will blind her artillery and render it helpless by depriving it of the range finders. Furthermore, our regiments and brigades will be able to destroy all of Germany's interior lines of transportation for the movement of troops and supplies. They will be able to rob the enemy fleet of the security it now enjoys at Kiel. An airplane can now carry and drop a thousand pounds of explosives. If that is not enough to sink a dreadnought, it certainly can disable her for three or four months, and then she can be disabled again in the same way after repairs. We can make the Kiel canal itself useless.

"These are some of the things that America can do if she has a sufficient preponderance of machines. In addition to all that, we can carry on the more conventional aircraft warfare along the front, working on the three levels ranging all the way from the altitude of 10,000 feet to the solo machines down through the one-mile level of the range finders to the bomb-dropping machines flying as low as circumstances call for admit.

"We will waste no time in experimenting with battle-plane devices of our own before we begin the work of construction. On the contrary, we will call on our allies to furnish us with their best plans and specifications, with which we can rush our building program."

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Lesson VI.—Third Quarter, For Aug. 5, 1917.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, 11 Chron. xxxiii, 1-20—Memory Verses, 12, 13—Golden Text, Isa. lv, 7—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

There are so many things in the affairs of this world which we cannot understand that we can only find rest in remembering that the Lord liveth, and He is not discouraged, and He shall finally subdue all things unto Himself. It therefore becomes us to rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him (Isa. xlii, 4; Rev. xvii, 14; Pa. xxxvii, 7; Phil. iii, 10, 21). That Ahaz should be such a wicked king, Hezekiah, his son, such a good king and Manasseh, his son, such a monstrosity of iniquity is surely a strange sequence of events, which I certainly do not profess to begin to understand, but I rest in Him who foresees and overrules all things. There is something worthy of prayerful consideration in the fact that Hezekiah had fifteen years added to his life after his serious illness (Isa. xxxvii, 36), but did not render to God for this extension of time as he should have done (11 Chron. xxxii, 25).

Manasseh must have been born about three years after that illness, as he was twelve years old when he began his reign (xxxiii, 3), and the question pre-empted, Was it a real blessing to Hezekiah that he lived so long? When we are determined to have our own way God sometimes indulges us, even though He knows it is not the best thing for us, as when He gave Israel their request, but sent leanness into their soul (Ps. cix, 15). A man once said that the Lord sent two boys were very young they were sick unto death, but she would not give them up, and God let them live. But they grew up to give her a broken heart. Whole-hearted submission to the perfect will of God is the better way. Contrast the Lord Jesus at the age of twelve about His Father's business and returning to the lowly home at Nazareth, there to be subject to Mary for the next eighteen years (Luke ii, 42-52).

Manasseh's reign was the longest of any of the kings of Judah, fifty-five years, and part of it was the very worst, according to the record in lesson verses 3-10. He wrought much evil in the sight of the Lord and caused Judah and Jerusalem to err and to do worse than the heathen whom the Lord had destroyed before the children of Israel, and part of the word speaks to him and to his people, they would not hearken (verses 2, 4, 9, 10).—He was surely controlled by the devil during that part of his reign.

The Lord permitted the kings of Assyria to take him and bind him and way him to Babylon, and there in his affliction he humbled himself greatly before God and prayed unto Him, and God heard him and brought him again to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then he knew that Jehovah was God (verses 11-13). In the Apocrypha there is a record of a dream, part of which is: "Thou, O Lord, according to Thy great goodness, hast promised repentance and forgiveness to them that have sinned against Thee. . . . I have sinned above the number of the sands of the sea: . . . I have set up abominations, have multiplied offenses, O Lord, I have sinned, and I acknowledge mine iniquities, wherefore, O Lord, forgive me, and destroy me not with mine iniquities."

Whatever his actual prayer was, God, who reads the heart, saw that he was sincere and abundant pardoned him, according to Isa. lv, 7. Whatever encouragement there is in this and in the conversion of Saul of Tarsus and of the penitent thief for any and every sinner, however great, to turn to the Lord, for He came to save sinners, and His word ever stands firm, that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out" (John vi, 37). He is not willing that any should perish and has no pleasure in the death of the wicked (11 Pet. iii, 9; Ezek. xxxiii, 11). His cry to sinners is, Look unto me and be saved, every one that believeth shall come unto me, hear and your soul shall live. And to His own who have wandered He cries: O that they were wise, that they would consider their latter end! O that my people had hearkened unto me and Israel had walked in my ways! (Isa. xlv, 22; lv, 3; Deut. xxviii, 20; Ps. lxxxi, 13). When restored to Jerusalem and to his kingdom he endeavored to right some of the wrongs he had done and to bring forth fruits meet for repentance. He offered peace offerings and burnt offerings unto the Lord and commanded Judah to serve the Lord God of Israel (verses 14-17).

Such a change in such a man must have impressed many and turned many to the Lord, but we shall see as we go on in our lessons that the turning of the people away from God was very desperate, and it was not long until Judah was carried into captivity for her sins. The turning away from God and His word in our day is as God foretold that it would be (11 Tim. iii, 15; iv, 3, 4; 11 Pet. iii, 3, 4; Luke xvii, 20-30), but He will build His church, and take her to Himself and bring her back with Him in glory and Israel shall then welcome Him, and they shall never be unrighteous any more, but shall be a blessing to all nations, and the earth shall be filled with His glory through Israel, His chosen messengers, according to Pa. lxvii.

Frederick J. Dornay and his 17-year-old son, John, who were drowned while on a fishing trip to Georgian Bay, were buried at Ingersoll.

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NO LIVES LOST.

By Courier Leased Wire
Quebec, Aug. 2.—Though it caused heavier damage than any previous flood, the recent rise of waters in Beaucaise caused no casualties. This was definitely established yesterday evening when travellers arrived in this city from St. Marys, following the receding of the waters. There are two things, however, that are feared now, famine and plague. All the stores and shops in St. Marys, Scotia, Valley Junction and up the Chaudiere River above those points have been flooded and travellers arriving here yesterday reported that already there is a shortage of food. As there are numbers of dead animals scattered here and there and as deposits carried by the surging waters have been piled high on various spots, the public health is now threatened.

Mayor Martin, M.P., of Montreal, at a political meeting, said he was ready to go before the Governor-General to plead that he not sign the conscription bill until after an election.

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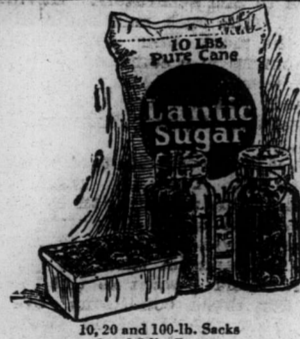
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