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## NO FINAL MILITARY DECISION EXPECTED UNDER TWO YEARS.

**It may Take Even Longer to Achieve This Result in the Opinion of Some American Experts—Victory ultimately Will Come to the Allies—German Drive Won't Move Much Further. U-Boats Impotent to Keep America Out.**

Washington Dispatch to Greensboro News.

Washington, March 31.—From the American standpoint no final military decision on the western front in Europe is expected in less than two years. It may take longer to achieve such a result. The only alternative that is considered here is a possible collapse of morale among the German people, which might force a result, irrespective of the German army itself.

This view of the war situation, it will be noted, does not take into account the possibility of a German military victory. Neither officials of the administration nor military experts regard a German military decision as in the least degree likely. They hold it to be inadmissible even granting further German progress in the present drive. Ultimately, if the war lasts long enough, they are certain of an allied victory. But they cannot, estimating the situation in a most conserving way, foresee the possibility of a German victory.

By victory, is meant no local or evanescent triumph, but a military accomplishment that will bring the war to an end. Amiens and other French cities may yet fall without yielding to Germany a decisive victory, in the opinion of American government officials. It is not expected that the German drive will move much farther, but even if it does there will be no feeling here that Germany, by any possibility, can bring the allies to a pass where they must sue for peace.

### German Internal Breakdown.

No early peace of any kind is looked for in Washington. The government is girding itself up for a long period of war—not so long a period as has already elapsed, perhaps, but one that may extend for three years more.

An early peace, in the judgement of high officials here, can only be brought about in one way—by a breakup in Germany, behind the military lines. This possible factor is receiving consideration in Washington, but it is not for an instant permitted to interfere with war work.

A German collapse involving the civilian and industrial parts of the war machine, is looked upon as a contingency concerning which it is legitimate to speculate, but no more. The government does not in any sense rely upon it. Yet it will not be surprised if such a situation should develop in Germany, once the big drive is stopped and once its awful cost has become fully known to the German people.

The American government well understands the war weariness of the German people, and it also frankly believes that they have been told by their military rulers that this will be the last great battle, which will bring them a final victory. When that promised victory does not materialize it is expected here that there will be a serious time for the German government. That situation is burdened with possibilities which might conceivably overthrow German's present rulers, or render them impotent. It might bring the war to an early end.

### Must Throw off Military Yoke.

But this chance of a German collapse is only regarded as a possible happy alternative to prolonged hostilities. President Wilson who is following every movement these days with the closest attention, has for a long time kept the collapse of German morale in mind as one of the de-

velopments which may shorten the conflict.

From time to time he has addressed himself in the form of speeches before Congress to the German people themselves, always with the view to trying to make them see that they can only attain peace by throwing off the military yoke.

Although the President has decided that the time for further talk concerning peace is not the present, he has never dismissed from his mind the possibility that the very event for which he so long has hoped may yet take place—the separation of the German people from their military bosses. But he is not calculating upon it, in any sense of the word. It is just an element in the situation which cannot be wholly dismissed. It is in the nature of an outside chance.

What the government has pre-eminently in mind today, as it watches and studies the military developments along the western front, is a war that will not come to an end before 1920 or 1921. In either of those years, it is felt here, there is the best reason to expect a decisive allied victory. Meantime the war strength of the United States must be brought to bear at its maximum, for without that strength the allied victory can never be won.

### Begin Big Operations Next Year.

Stoppage of the German drive is expected, then perhaps a partial rebound, with gains on the part of the allies. And then, in the judgement of military men in Washington, will come another period of digging in. The allies will not be ready this year to drive the German army out of France or out of Belgium, and probably not next year, although next year is expected to witness the beginning of a military movement which will have a definite adverse effect upon German fortunes.

Meantime American strength will be thrown into the scale, with increasing volume. It is significant, with respect to American war plans, that the submarine is not now counted upon as the ominous factor which is represented last year. The United States is going forward with its troop shipments and its cargoes of military and food supplies on the basis that the submarine will not be able to interpose any serious obstacle.

This much is certain, in the judgement of American officials—the submarine can never hope to keep America out of the war. Even at the height of submarine destructiveness last year it failed to keep America out, and this year the failure will be even more pronounced, it is predicted in Washington. A much larger factor of American military strength, however, must be present in Europe before the allies can begin the process of definitely whipping Germany. Meantime Germany will be held within bounds with time working steadily against her, as the military and civilian officials here estimate the situation.

### Elevation of Foch Pleasing.

Allied affairs on the western front are developing in a manner greatly to the satisfaction of the administration. The elevation of General Foch to supreme command, giving him direct control of the armies of France, is in direct with the desires of President Wilson, which were urged before the inter-allied war council last November. The President was willing then to go further than any of the entente powers in this respect, but it required, apparently, a military menace of extraordinary proportions to bring into execution the plan that was then proposed by his representative at the council.

It is a matter of comment in Washington today that Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo should be given a large measure of credit for the institution of a supreme command for the allied armies. Mr. McAdoo, it is well known, has been an extremely strong advocate of one-man military direction. It is declared by some well in-

formed persons that Mr. McAdoo was the first man in Washington to urge the idea, and that he hammered away at it until it received the backing of the president.

Whoever may have originated it, however, it is a fact that the United States pressed for it long before the allies were willing to take the step. Now that it has come, it is more than welcome to Washington authorities. The President is only too glad to have the American forces under General Pershing operate under the supreme command, for he believes it to be the proper solution of the allied military problem.

### Elkin's Soldier Boys

—Where They Are.

Elkin Tribune.

Albert Bivens, who was an instructor in Oak Ridge Institute, entered the first officers' training camp at Fort Oglethorpe, and was commissioned 1st Lieutenant in the aviation corps. He is now stationed at Lake Charles, La.

Zaul P. Gwyn, who was connected with the E. & A. Railway Co., entered the second officers' training camp at Fortress Monroe, has been commissioned 2nd Lieutenant in the ordnance department and is now stationed at Washington, D. C.

Reginald Greenwood is a member of the Fiftieth U. S. Band, stationed at Camp Greene, Charlotte.

Andrew Greenwood, who was in the automobile business sold out and enlisted in the aviation branch of service and is now in training at Waco, Texas.

Grover Graham gave up a splendid position with the Chatham Mfg. Co., and entered the Y. M. C. A. army service and is now in the training camp at Camp Mountain, N. C.

Claude V. Long who was Teller in the Elkin National Bank, is now a Sergeant at Camp Jackson.

Rom H. Lewellyn gave up a good position in Durham and enlisted in the Quartermaster corps. He is now a first Lieutenant and is stationed at Camp Sherman, Chillicothe, Ohio.

Richard Smith, of the Elkin Shoe Co., is in the ordnance department in Philadelphia.

Lonnie Walker, of the Five and Ten Cent Store, is now a Corporal at Camp Jackson.

Charlie White, of the Elkin Drug Co., enlisted in the Marine Corps, and when last heard from was in Philadelphia. He is supposed to be somewhere in France now.

Samuel Sprinkle has been in the service for several years, and is now a Recruiting Sergeant, stationed in San Francisco, Cal.

Edward Bivens, who was engaged in the plumbing business, is now in the Signal Corps, Aviation Department, and is located at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Messrs. Howard Blackwood and Paul Gilliam are among the number who will go to Camp Jackson next Monday.

Messrs. Harold Click and Marion Allen have enlisted in the Aviation Corps and are expecting to be called into service at any time.

Our townsman, Mr. T. E. Church, has three sons who are giving their services to our country, and while they did not enlist from Elkin, yet they are "Elkin's adopted sons." They are Edward Church, of Co. C., 5th U. S. Coast Artillery, stationed in Honolulu, Hawaiian Islands. Walter G. Church, Co. B., 46th U. S. Infantry, stationed at Fort Ben Harrison, Indiana. W. J. Church, Battery E., 113th Field Artillery, at Camp Sevier, Greenville, S. C.

Ernest Hudson, private, stationed at Camp Jackson, Columbia, S. C.

So far but one colored man has been called from Elkin. Julius Hampton, who has been working for Dr. J. M. Reese for the past twelve years, will leave Saturday for the colored training camp at Rockford, Ill.

## THE WEAKENING OF THE "BIG BATTALIONS."

It is a dangerous thing to make prophecies, most of all in wars. But the statement of Mr. Lloyd George that the crisis of the war has been reached seems not improbably to be true. What has been persistently insisted on, in these columns, and what most people who have carefully followed the war have always felt to be inevitable, is being developed in the present German offensive. Putting it a little differently, Germany has realized that until she can clear her western front, any other success may be written off as a mere success d'estime. As time has gone on, and she has failed in her various aims, it has become more and more patent to her that only by a tremendous victory over the Anglo-French armies can the war be brought to a tolerable conclusion for her. Having made up her mind to this, she has set to work to effect her purpose, in her usual thorough-going and characteristic way. She has spent months, that is to say, in piling up an enormous mass of men and material, which, when let loose, would descend like an avalanche upon the British and French lines, and simply bury them beneath it. In plain English, Germany has worked out the theory of the "Big Battalions" to the nth, and has staked her fate upon it.

Now it has not been the habit of the German high command to calculate the cost in military operations. It has always held what it considers the sound theory, that loss, up to a breaking point, is immaterial provided the objective is gained. The theory of Kultur, which is very much the theory of the hive, leaves no room for remorse or for humanity. Soldiers are cannon fodder, and cannon fodder must be used with the same cold-blooded indifference as cannon balls.

The sole question ever to be considered is the price in casualties that can safely be paid. If, then, a victory can be obtained at the price, the bloodshed becomes a mere negligible quantity. It has been said that the German high command has calculated the price of passing the steam roller over the Anglo-French line at 1,000,000 casualties. The estimate is a hideous one, but it is becoming more and more evident that it is going to be a sufficient one. The battle is a long way yet from being won, and already it is calculated that the German losses amounted to 600,000. Appalling as this total is, when the way in which the battle has been fought is taken into consideration, there is nothing excessive in the calculation. One French battery commander has explained that in a single day's fighting, he poured 30,000 rounds into German battalions in close formation. The same story could probably be told by all the battery commanders, with the result that after a week's fighting of such a description a casualty list of 600,000 seems tolerably moderate.

Nor is there any reason to believe that the losses of the Allies have begun to approach these figures. The Allies have been fighting, behind defenses, in loose formation, and retiring steadily when their positions became untenable. In spite of this, the Germans profess to have taken only 40,000 prisoners, and the German method, which is to estimate numbers instead of counting heads, has been proved, from the first day of the war to the last, to result in claims of the most ridiculous description. Now these 40,000 prisoners include all the wounded that the British have been forced to leave behind them. As a consequence the German claim assumes an entirely different aspect the more closely it is analyzed.

It need not be said that the battle is not over. Indeed it is probable, that the crisis of the crisis has not yet been reached. General Ludendorff's plan of campaign, which, with the assistance of Marshall Hindenburg, he is supposed to have forced

upon the Kaiser, as General Moltke is declared to have forced the war upon the Kaiser, has committed the throne and the Headquarters Staff too deeply, to make it possible to hesitate in a fight to a finish. The German people are going to demand an accounting of the hideous butchery of the campaign. And the only credit which they will consider against the debit of the bloodshed, is a decisive victory. Now it is quite clear from General Ludendorff's reported words that a decisive victory is still very far off, but there is something even clearer than that, and it is this, that before the decisive victory takes place there will have to be another German holocaust as fierce as that of the past week.

For the moment the Germans are held, and that holding amounts to practical defeat. But, as has been stated, there can be no hesitation now on the part of the General Staff, no matter what the cost. Reserves must be found and flung into the crucible in a number sufficient to wade through carnage to victory by the sheer of brutal test of bodies. Now there is no reason to see why, if Marshal Hindenburg could not succeed in the first week, he should succeed in the second. It is the opening days of an offensive that are all in favor of the attack. In those days the attack has all the advantage of a surprise, and all the force of its first momentum. The momentum, however, necessarily dies down, whilst the surprise is wiped out. Then the defense is able to call in its reserves and to fall back on its supports. It may lose heavily in doing this, though more in the way of what it has to surrender than in actual casualties. Batteries must be fought until there are no horses left, and no means of bringing them out of action remain, machine guns and trench mortars must be deserted red hot where they stand, after they have done the utmost execution up to the last moment. But it does not follow that the loss in personnel ever begins even to approach that of the attack. Nor would it ever do so less than in an attack delivered by vast massed divisions against loose formations behind defenses.

For this reason the Allies, though not in the least concealing the seriousness of the situation, and not in the least underestimating the future chances of the enemy, have right to feel assured of eventual success. As the days go by the enemy is drawn farther from his detouring stations, and so not only is his mobility impaired, but the problem of supplies is increased. Besides, though it is against all the laws of humanity, there is a material advantage in making the country on your front a desert. But the desert, if the bull may be permitted, is converted into a boomerang, when the conditions change, and the attempt is made to advance across it yourself instead of using it as a moat against an enemy advancing across it. So, at the end of the first week, of what will probably prove to be the greatest battle ever fought, the matter stands. The German calculations have utterly broken down in so far as they were based upon an intention of breaking the allied line, and then outflanking and rolling up each wing with an overpowering force. The price, in short, has been paid to the full, but the end has not been achieved. It will have to be paid over again, and paid over again with less hope of achievement.—Exchange.

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The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Catarrh being greatly influenced by constitutional conditions requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts thru the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in the curative powers of Hall's Catarrh Cure that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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## U. S. ARMY FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE WITH ALLIES.

**Over 100,000 Troops From America to be Thrown into Battle.**

The American army in France is to fight shoulder to shoulder with the British and French troops who now are engaged in the titanic struggle with the Germans in Picardy, General Pershing's entire force has been given into the hands of General Foch, the new generalissimo, who is to use the men where he desires.

More than 100,000 Americans, intensively trained and fully accoutred, are available for immediate use in aiding to stem the tide of the German hordes, and large numbers of them, on railroad trains and in motor trucks and even afoot, already are on their way to the battlefield, eager to do their part in defeating the invaders.

The miserable weather which has broken over the country is providing no deterrent to the Americans as they push forward from all directions toward the battle zone.

From the region of the Somme southward to where the battleline turns eastward, furious fighting has continued on various sectors, but everywhere the enemy has been held, and even pushed back at some points. Nowhere has he been able, although he continued to throw great masses of men into the fray, to gain ground, except an infinitesimal tract from the French north of Moreuil. British and French machine guns and riflemen, as in days past, again tore great holes in the ranks of the field gray as they endeavored to press on.

So great have been the losses of the Germans in front of the British north of the Somme that Sunday saw them unwilling again to take up the gage of battle. Along the Scarpe, the British themselves went on the offensive and to the east of Arras captured the village of Feuchy. On the southern end of the line, where von Hindenburg is endeavoring to pierce through to the old German positions as they stood before his retreat in 1916, the British and French troops, fighting together, have met the enemy in furious combats, but everywhere defeated him with sanguinary losses.

### Honey by the ton Going to Waste.

Releigh, N. C. March 30.—One eastern North Carolina county produced 35 tons of honey in 1917, reports Mr. Franklin Sherman. The beekeepers in this country assert that with proper distribution of bee-yards three times as many bees could be kept in the county with equally good results. Even allowing that 1917 was an unusually good honey year, the county could produce 100 tons of honey in average years if it were fully stocked with bees which were managed by good beekeepers. Yet this county does not include ten per cent of the honey producing plants of the eastern section—in other words, over a thousand tons of honey are produced by the native plants of eastern North Carolina in average years, of which scarcely one-tenth is gathered for the uses of man. Think of what this means when honey is selling for around 15 cents per pound.

### Bothered By Cutworms in Garden?

Of course; every gardner is. The earlier in spring the plants are set out, the more loss from cut-worms, and the later they are set out, the less loss. Plowing the ground early and keeping down new vegetation until ready to set out plants will drive many of them away, or starve them. The stems of cabbage or tomato plants may be protected by a loose paper "collar" which when first set, removing this as soon as they get well rooted. The collar should extend an inch above and below the surface of the ground.