

# FRENCH ARMY IS GAINING ASCENDENCY OVER GERMANS

BY HENRY WOOD  
(United Press Staff Correspondent)

With the French Armies, July 31.—In three titanic forms of warfare imposed the past year by the imperial forces of imperial Germany on the democratic armies of democratic France, the latter have established and maintained an ever increasing ascendancy.

The significance of this fact for humanity at large exceeds a thousand times the more military value it may have in eventually winning the war.

The third year of the war has marked the supreme test before the tribunal of the world—before the tribunal of all humankind—of the superiority of democratic over imperialistic forces. And by "forces" is not meant mere armies.

The year was one in which every force—intellectual, material and physical—that an imperialistic empire was capable of inspiring and producing, was massed against the same supreme forces as inspired and created by a democracy in one great struggle for the survival of the fittest. And France—ever the first champion of democracies—has justified the fitness of democracies to survive.

The test was one that could only come with a fair degree of equity during the third year of the war. It was only then that France, inspired for a quarter of a century previous by the democratic ideals of peace, was able to enter the arena with all the forces of her national life mobilized and turned into a single military aim. Germany had begun the war two years previously with this advantage already established by forty years of imperialistic ambitions and preparations.

While with the opening of the third year of the war, Germany unquestionably still had material advantage due to this long, intensive preparation, yet at that time both France and Germany had at least brought into play the highest forces that a democratic national life was capable of producing and opposing to those of the maximum imperialistic inspiration.

The third year of the war opened with this democratic and imperialistic contrast even more pronounced in the field of military operations than elsewhere. Against the generals commanding the French armies—generals whose whole military education, ideals and aims had been those of a democracy—was ranged the German armies commanded in almost every instance by German princes and sovereigns in-

spired by the highest imperialistic ambition, training and beliefs.

The third year of the war entered with two great battles already in progress—each representing a different form of warfare and a form which the Germans themselves by their superior preparation had been able at will to impose on France. At Verdun it was the war of siege; on the Somme the war of trenches.

For five months and a half preceding the third anniversary of the war the French at Verdun had held out against the Germans' perfected methods of siege warfare, such as they might have employed at Paris, but for the battle of the Marne. The first of August, 1916, marked the passing there of Germany's greatest effort and the gradual retaking by the French of the offensive. For the

first four months of the third year of the war the Germans were slowly driven back from the points where they had nearest attained Verdun, and then in two astounding assaults, one on November 24 and the other on December 15, in which not only the genius of the democratic military commanders of France but the glory of her democratic armies as well, reached their highest expression of the entire war, the French completely liberated their fortress. It was the first liberation of its kind in the world's history. The Forts of Douaumont and Vaux were retaken, the Germans thrown back pretty much on the positions from which they had begun their siege, and the ten month's effort of the Imperial Crown Prince reduced to the useless sacrifice of 700,000 men.

In the meantime on the Somme, France had accepted another great battle in another great form of warfare—the warfare of trenches, selected and imposed by the Germans at the moment that the French lack of munitions rendered it impossible to complete the victory of the Marne.

The battle of the Somme had already been in progress for a month when the third year of the war began. It was continued for another three months, on down till the first of December, when the advent of winter forced a temporary suspension till spring. In this form of warfare which the Germans boasted with imperialistic arrogance to have perfected to such a degree that their lines of trenches and barbed wire were absolutely invincible, the democratic armies of France not only demonstrated that the lines were vulnerable but that their defense could only be maintained at a cost of life and material that in the end would mean defeat.

The full fruits of the victory of the Somme were only harvested this spring. The necessity of suspending the operations for the winter gave the Germans a respite at a moment when another month of favorable weather might well have forced a retirement.

Preparations were immediately begun by the French for the resumption of the Battle of the Somme this spring on a vastly extended front. Facing irreparable losses and certain defeat in this event, Hindenburg chose to avoid the danger by his retreat of February and March, abandoning the trench warfare which the Germans themselves had previously chosen, and seeking to impose on the French the open, strategic warfare of maneuver. Just as the French had accepted the warfare of siege imposed at Verdun and the warfare of trenches imposed on the Somme, they accepted likewise this new form of warfare—with the exception of one point.

Instead of accepting battle before the Hindenburg line on the ground prechosen by the imperial German strategists, the generals of France with the superior strategy inspired in men who are fighting for the democratic ideals of their own land, forced the Germans to accept battle on the ground prechosen by them—on the Aisne and in Champagne. That battle still continues, with an ever increasing ascendancy on the part of the French that gives the utmost hope of precipitating a definite German retreat.

WITH  
**Vacation  
Period**  
AT HAND

**BUSY  
DAYS**

—and the Weather at its hottest, no thoughtful woman will busy herself with sewing when

**Tasteful Summer Garments**

—can be bought here at lower prices than at which they can be made.

Our Prices Will Convince You

**E. E. KIRTLEY**

Ladies' Ready-to-Wear

These three efforts of imperial Germany during the past year to demonstrate the superiority of imperial forces, imperial ideals, and imperial institutions over those of democracies has cost her over 1,000,000 men. The losses at Verdun from the moment the French took the offensive there with the opening of the third year of the war and on down to the final victory of December 15, are authoritatively placed at 300,000. The losses sustained during the five-month battle of the Somme aggregated over 500,000. The battles of the Aisne and Champagne have already consumed over 300,000. The total indeed is far over 1,000,000.

France would have been glad to have spared humanity this cost of demonstrating the superiority of democracies, but the choice was not given her. She accepted the gage that was forced onto her, and has given her blood freely to sustain her ideals. But if those ideals are established for humanity once and for all time to come, her own losses, heavy as they are, she will consider as not in vain.

Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and American Lake, Wash.

These recreation halls will be 60 by 120 feet in dimensions, and built after the style of the old missions, making them distinctive from all other buildings on the reservations.

Over the entrance will be inscribed: "K of C. Hall EVERYBODY WELCOME".

In a recess at one end of the building the altar will be erected with rooms on each side to be used as a sacristy. This can be closed from the main hall by means of sliding doors. The halls will contain a stage for entertainment purposes, a gallery for moving picture machines, a room for the secretary, desk, chairs and stationery in abundance; showers, etc., for the comfort of the soldiers.

It is planned to have the K. of C. Fellows of the Catholic University of America act as secretaries at the various halls, who will be in charge at all times, and will be the camp director of all Knights of Columbus activities for the men.

Lecturers and entertainers are to make a chautauqua circuit of the 16 cantonments, as part of the recreation program now being arranged by the Knights of Columbus at their national headquarters "for the war" in Washington. The lectures will be by men of national prominence, either in business life, as educators, in technical fields, world travelers and occasionally some army officer of high rank. Other entertainment features will include moving pictures, concerts,

minstrels, reading circles, library facilities, athletics and sports of all kinds.

The athletics, it is pointed out, will be organized on a competitive basis, with a view to injecting a great spirit of rivalry.

These recreation halls will be completed and fully equipped when the National army assemblies; the plans for first day the cantonment opens.

\* \* \* \* \*

### WIT AND HUMOR

The old salt who took small parties out by the hour in his cockleshell boat had been much annoyed by the loud and fatuous remarks of 'Arry who had just come down for the day. When just beyond the mile limit the boat began to leak. The old salt, however, reassured the party—told them that there was no danger and was confident that they would reach shore before the leak developed. To allay any further fears he handed around life-belts. The party consisted of five and there were only four belts. "Hi! Where's mine?" asked the terrified cockney, who had dropped all his cheerful chipping of the old salt.

"Don't you worry, my lad!" said the boatman. "You don't need no life-belt! A feller with an' ead as 'oller as yourn can't sink."

## Advertising An Investment

From a little talk by Don Francisco at a Los Angeles Ad Club Luncheon:

**"ANY man who has anything to sell faces the problem of getting his invitation to buy before the largest number of prospective buyers. Printed advertising is the quickest and least expensive method, and this holds true whether your invitation is to eat breakfast food, buy automobiles or attend a masquerade."**

**APPEAL IS MADE FOR FUNDS TO HELP YOUNG MEN IN ARMY**

RECREATION CAMPS AT CANTONMENTS WILL BE BUILT FROM FUNDS SOLICITED

### COLUMBUS KNIGHTS AID

Catholic Church Expects to Raise Million Dollars in Campaign Throughout United States.

Appeal is being made to the Catholics of the country to furnish \$1,000,000 to care for Catholic young men in the army and navy. The Knights of Columbus have designated the present week as the period for raising the sum and the La Grande order has been quick to take up the work.

Archbishop Christie has appealed to every parish in the diocese where Knights of Columbus are located, asking them to support the campaign. Each parish has in turn appointed a committee to solicit funds.

The La Grande committee, to whom donations may be given are: J. H. Peare, Fred L. Meyers, R. J. Sullivan, De Lile Green, Mrs. T. N. Murphy, and Mrs. J. E. Foley, M. H. Turner, and Will Vogel of Union.

The purpose of the fund is to build recreation camps at the 16 army cantonments to care for the comfort and spiritual needs of the men. It is estimated by the church authorities that 30 per cent of the men in the army and navy are Catholics. Similar work was done by the Knights of Columbus during the Mexican trouble, with such success that the war department has accepted their help in this case.

The recreation halls will be built at Ayer, Mass.; Long Island, N. Y.; Wrightson, N. J.; Petersburg, Va.; Annapolis Junction, Md.; Columbia, S. C.; Atlanta, Ga.; Little Rock, Ark.; Chillicothe, Ohio; Louisville, Ky.; Battle Creek, Mich.; Rockford, Ill.; Des Moines, Iowa; Fort Riley Kas.;

LET US DESIGN BUILD AND ERECT  
YOUR MONUMENT OR MARKER

**Vermont Marble & Granite Works**

Corner Cove and Jeff. Ave. Phone Red 61



**Our  
National  
Air**



Look for this trademark on your fan.



Millions of American homes and offices are cooled with electric fans.

Millions more should be! Is yours?

If not—make us a visit today. For a small outlay you can buy a fan that will last a lifetime and cost but a trifle to run. Why deny yourself the comfort your neighbor is enjoying?

Let us send you a G-E fan on trial.

**Eastern Oregon Light  
and Power Co.**