

WORLD'S GREATEST WAR DAY BY DAY

KAISER WILL LOSE SAY EXPERTS

Exhaustion of Teutons is Expected and Decisive Battle is Likely to be Fought in Germany, is Consensus of Opinion

WASHINGTON, D. C. Oct. 1.—The war in Europe will last from nine to eighteen months.

Germany, unless she is superhuman, will be defeated.

The foregoing is the consensus of opinion entertained by more than two score active army officers on duty in this city and its environs. Only those officers of and above the rank of Captain were interrogated.

Mindful of the President's orders to Government officers not to comment on the war and his plea to his fellow countrymen not to engage in discussions, the correspondent of the World addressed to more than three score officers the following two questions with the understanding that their names would not be used, and their answers were to be wholly academic, from a military standpoint, and without regard to personal sympathies:

1. How long will the war in Europe last?
2. Which side will be the victor—Germany and Austria or the Triple Entente?

The two answers given were the result.

Opinion of Duration Vary.
On the question of how long will the war last the opinions ran from nine months to eighteen months. A majority of the officers estimated one year. Twenty officers declined to reply.

One officer said Germany had a fighting chance to win.

A remarkable feature of the discussions was that in nearly every instance the same line of reasoning was followed in making the opinion.

The one thing on which all agreed was:

"This is a war not only of ready resources, but of all resources, and until one side has about exhausted all its resources the fighting will go on."

Other discussions led to this:

From the manner in which the belligerents have struggled and with a knowledge of the state of mind of the powers engaged preceding the war, this struggle is to be almost a death struggle, that is, until one side is so crushed that it will require a half century or more for even a waking recovery.

Many of the officers have read General Bernhardi's latest book, in which the famous German officer gives the mental attitude of Germany. None of the officers followed the footsteps of English and American reviewers in stating that this German viewpoint as portrayed by General Bernhardi was responsible for the war.

Fight to Exhaustion Forecast

What the officers did say was:

"With Germany convinced that Great Britain is in the path she must travel to become the empire of the world, and with the British mind made up that the British Empire is not going to fall to one side and allow Germany to proceed to the goal Britain now possesses, the struggle will not end in a month or in many months, but will go on for a year or more until one side is physically incapable of fighting longer."

The following, the consensus of several military opinions, views the struggle as far as it has gone and touches on the resources of the belligerents so far used:

"Germany has thrown into the western theater of war—in France—the flower of the great military machine which she has been building since the Franco-Prussian war and which has been the admiration and envy of the military world. At first nothing seemed to be able to check the onward march of this tremendous power. Held up a few days by the heroic courage of the Belgians, this wonderful machine literally sped to within forty miles of Paris.

"What happened then? Despite the greatness of the organization, the perfect working of the integral parts of the machine, without the mischance of a single one of the complicated plans for the taking of Paris, it was found the whole thing was flesh and blood and that it could not do almost the impossible."

Fear of Kaiser Spurs Allies

"There was in the situation around Paris when Generals Von Buelow and Kluck and the Crown Prince were at its gates that which the Union army found in Virginia, South Carolina and Georgia several times during the Civil War—a certain desperation on the part of the defender which comes only to the man protecting his family from harm."

"A new fighting spirit was produced in the ranks of the allies by the rapid advance of the German forces. The apprehension that all would be crushed by the Germans and made subjects of the Kaiser made the men of the allies more superhuman than did the long, arduous and expensive training the German forces had received."

"From then until nine days ago that spirit in the ranks of the entente carried it forward and pushed the enemy back. That spirit has kept the armies of the allies persistently at the Germans, holding them in check, driving them back there a few feet and producing the greatest battle in the history of the world."

"This spirit will triumph over the spirit of national aggrandizement upon which the German cause is built in the teachings and writings of its own statement—Sybel, Giesenrecht, Treitschke, Droysen and Hausser—are to be accepted as the thought of the German nation."

German Resources Surpassed

"There must be the material as well as a fighting spirit in the armies of a victorious nation or alliance, and a close study of the resources show that the entente—Great Britain, France and Russia—in money, men and geographical location, are better equipped for a long war than Germany. Great Britain probably alone would succumb in a test of resources, but Great Britain and Russia combined have more resources than Germany."

"If the present battle goes the way of the allies, Germany will be forced to retreat to her line of fortifications across her own border. What effect this will have on the German troops is the same as that on the troops of any army—the production of a feeling of doubt as to the greatness of the organization. But more than that, before the Germans go far fresh German troops will be thrown into this main army under three great generals. These troops will be trained and seasoned. Necessarily they will come from East Prussia and from Austrian Galicia."

"Such a move is what the allies are attempting to force Germany into making because then the hordes of Prussian troops, despite the bad weather and bad condition of the country in East Prussia for fighting, would force their way across the mountains into Central Germany."

Allies Outnumber Germans
"In fact, it appears as though the allies were conducting a retreat and advance engagement, all the time forcing Germany to centralize her forces away from the borders and into the heart of the German nation."

"True, Germany is training the reserves and her citizens; also, the allies are doing the same thing. Numerically, the allies' armies now, and will in the future fighting, outnumber the Germans. According to reports the artillery of the allies is equal, if not superior to the Germans. Only in the big siege guns do the Germans excel and, according to reliable information received here, the allies are rushing work on siege guns to equal those of the Krupp."

"The greatest battle is yet to come. It will be the decisive battle, too, and it will occur in Germany. It will be when the allies, working inwardly by the retreat and advance movement, get the German armies in Germany and begin hammering from all sides."

"This will be months from now, and when this battle takes place all the belligerents virtually will have new armies in the field. Germany will get hers from where she got her present army—from among the German states. Great Britain will obtain hers from the British

Isles, Canada, India, Egypt and Australia. Russia will bring her forces in from Siberia and South Russia. France will draw more on her African possessions. The resources of the allies are greater than those of the German Empire."

SERVIANS HARD FIGHTERS

Austrian Captain Tells of Gallantry of Little Nation in War

(By Associated Press in Coos Bay Times.)
ROTTERDAM, Oct. 1.—An Austrian Captain, wounded in the battle of Sjabats, is quoted in the Bohemia, published at Prague, in part as follows:

"The Servian infantry is very brave, but does not shoot as well as it might. The only good shots the Servians have are the Komitadje irregulars, who, concealed in the foliage of bushes and trees, make a specialty of shooting down Austrian officers."

"The Servian artillery is excellent, accounted for in part by the circumstances that fighting in its own country it is fully familiar with the terrain. As a result their range is good, all the more so since they are given by the native information which we cannot get, of course. Generally the direction of advance of our army is given by the Servian peasants to their army by the lighting of great straw fires. In the sepulchre under the church at Sjabats we found a telephone station with wires running to the various Servian headquarters."

"But the Servian soldiers are brave. Some of our tactics are peculiar. Now and then numbers of them permit themselves to be made prisoners of war for the mere purpose of supporting a plan of ambush. Cases, too, have been known in which prisoners of war made attacks on our men with hand grenades concealed by them. The confusion resulted from this has in many instances resulted in the escape of the prisoners."

"We have found that women fight us with rifles, while even children are employed to throw bombs. A twelve-year-old girl, who was shot through the legs and taken into the hospital at Neusatz, boasted of having thrown sixteen bombs among Austro-Hungarian troops."

PUNISH PAPER IN BERLIN

Authorities Stop Socialist Organ Three Days for Criticism

LONDON, Oct. 1.—A dispatch from Copenhagen says the Berlin Vorwaerts socialist organ, announced the commander in chief had ordered the paper to suspend publication three days. The action, Vorwaerts says, was due to its free criticism of the alleged bad treatment of prisoners of war by Germany in comparison with the good treatment accorded German prisoners in France and England.

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