

# EACH MAN KILLED IN BATTLE COSTS A NATION \$3,677



American Nurses Aboard the Steamship "Red Cross" Before Sailing for the European War Zone. (Photograph copyright 1914 by Underwood and Underwood)

**FIFTEEN** billion human lives, a sum total far too great to be grasped by any human imagination, have been lost in war since the beginning of authentic history, if the exhaustive researches made by Benjamin F. Trueblood, LL. D., an authority, are to be accepted.

This battle has cost the world a number of people greater than that of all those who have inhabited the globe during the last six centuries, allowing three generations to the century and accepting the estimate of 650,000,000 for the world's population at the beginning of the nineteenth century as the average population per generation for the six centuries.

But perhaps this statement is too general and complicated of computation, so it may be better to turn to definite consideration of the nineteenth century.

War during this period, according to a very conservative estimate, cost the lives of 14,000,000 men through wounds and disease, 4,000,000 being sacrificed in the Napoleonic campaigns alone, in the 19 years between 1796 and 1816.

The war of 1812-14 between England and the United States resulted in the death of about 50,000 men.

**Even Little Wars Costly**

The war of 1846-48 between the United States and Mexico cost another 50,000 lives, most of the American death being from disease.

The Crimean war of 1854-56 cost the five nations involved—France, England, Piedmont, Turkey, and Russia—735,000 men, 600,000 of whom died from sickness and hardship.

Little Schleswig-Holstein's comparatively unimportant war, in 1864, cost Denmark, Russia, and Austria, 1500 men.

The American Civil war, 1864-65, cost the United States between 800,000 and 1,000,000 lives from wounds and disease, or, to strike an average between the two estimates, 900,000 lives.

The short war between Prussia, Austria, and Italy, in 1866, cost 45,000 lives.

European expeditions to Mexico, Morocco, Cochín-China, Lebanon, Paraguay, etc., between 1861 and 1867, cost 45,000 lives.

The Franco-Prussian war, 1870-71, cost more than 125,000 lives.

The Russo-Turkish war of 1871 cost not less than 250,000 lives.

The Zulu and Afghan wars, in 1875, cost 40,000 lives.

The Japo-Chinese war of 1894-95, according to crude and surely incomplete estimates, cost 18,000 lives.

The English-Boer war in South Africa, 1899-1901, cost the lives of 125,000 men, of whom 100,000 were English, and it involved an additional loss something like 15,000 Boer women and children.

The Spanish-American war of 1898 cost both sides from wounds and disease less than 6000 lives, but the Philippine aftermath of this war has cost the United States the loss of about 5000 soldiers and the loss among the native Filipinos, from wounds and disease, during the entire period of definite war and occasional fighting has amounted, it is said, to 500,000.

The cost of war in money runs ever farther beyond the limitations of human comprehension.

The Napoleonic wars cost France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Austria, Spain, Russia and Turkey, all of whom were involved, in actual expenditure and destruction, not counting loss of trade and other economic waste, not less than \$15,000,000,000.

The British-American war, 1813-14, cost \$200,000,000.

The United States-Mexican war, 1846-48, cost \$130,000,000.

The Crimean war, 1854-56, cost \$1,650,000,000.

The Italian war of 1859, cost \$294,000,000.

The Schleswig-Holstein war, of 1864, cost \$24,000,000.

The American civil war, of 1861-6, cost \$3,000,000,000.

The Prussian-Austrian war of 1866, cost \$235,000,000.

The expenditures to Mexico, Morocco, Cochín-China, etc., 1861-7, cost \$200,000,000.

The Franco-Prussian war, 1870-1, cost \$3,000,000,000.

The Russo-Turkish war, of 1877, cost \$1,100,000,000.

The Zulu and Afghan war, of 1875, cost \$150,000,000.

The China-Japan war, of 1894-5, cost \$60,000,000.

The British-Boer war, of 1899-1902, cost \$1,200,000,000.

The Spanish-American-Philippine war, of 1898 to 1902, cost Spain and the Philippines \$100,000,000, and the United States (Edward Atkinson's estimate for the whole five years), \$700,000,000, or a total of \$800,000,000.

The Russo-Japanese war, 1904-5, cost \$1,735,000,000, of which Japan's share was \$800,000,000.

The grand total of this vast expenditure, about \$23,000,000,000, and the cost of innumerable little wars, of which England alone had 80 during the past century, and of which, for example, there have been an uncounted number in South and Central America, as well as in the foreign possessions of the various European nations (as for example, England's India), would surely add something close to five billions to this total, giving an approximate total cost of \$28,000,000,000, which, for purposes of convenience and with no fear that we really are exaggerating, we may make \$40,000,000,000.

**Cost of Great Wars**

But to juggle with such figures in an attempt to estimate what it has cost so many nations of the world to kill so many of their neighbors is a cumbersome task, so we will reduce our observations to the cost of and the total of lives lost during the great comparatively modern wars, beginning not further back than the Napoleonic campaigns, including in the list only the Napoleonic wars, the United States-British war of 1813, the United States-Mexican war of 1846, the Crimean war of 1854, the American Civil war, the Franco-Prussian war, the Boer-British war, the Spanish-American war, and the Russo-Japanese war.

Taking these alone, and with the certainty that most of the estimates are under rather than over stated, but letting the universality of this offset all errors and give us an average in which we may have some faith, we are confronted with a list of 10 campaigns, in which 8,998,000 soldiers lost their lives through wounds or disease, and which cost the combatant nations

## Fifteen Billion Human Lives Have Been Sacrificed in War Since the Beginning of Authentic History, and Comparatively Recent Wars Have Cost Nearly \$40,000,000,000.

\$32,061,000,000. This suggests a neat arithmetical conclusion. It is this: It costs more than \$3677 to kill one man in warfare.

### Terrible Losses in This War

The cost of killing every man who falls in the present European struggle will be much greater than that, in all human probability, for, with the development of fighting, armament has become more elaborate and expensive as methods of defense have become more efficient and costly. Each addition to the cost of either increases the cost of individual slaughter. The table upon which the previous cost of death is based follows:

**War**      **No. Killed.**      **Cost.**

Napoleonic 6,000,000      \$15,000,000,000

U. S.-Brit. 1813      50,000      200,000,000

U. S.-Mex. 1846      50,000      130,000,000

Crimean 1854      750,000      1,650,000,000

American Civil 6,000,000      2,000,000,000

Prusso-Fran. 1870      225,000      2,000,000,000

Russo-Turk. 1877      250,000      1,100,000,000

Brit.-Boer 1899      150,000      1,200,000,000

Span.-Am. 1899      6,000      500,000,000

Russo-Jap. 1904      200,000      1,735,000,000

Totals      8,998,000      \$32,061,000,000

Now, the actual cost of killing a man in warfare is really but a small portion of the real expense in money of conducting, enduring and recovering from war.

The destruction of property which accompanies warfare invariably is enormous, and the sum total of its amount cannot be included in any possibly accurate estimate of a war's cost, for obvious reasons.

Principal among these is the fact that there is absolutely no manner by means of which it can be determined.

Consider the march of the Germans through Belgium and compare it with the march of General Sherman's army to the sea. The Sherman march was principally through farming country containing few important centers of population, and offering, therefore, really very slight opportunities or necessity for the destruction of property.

Yet General Sherman himself estimated that property conservatively valued at \$300,000,000 was destroyed in the course of this one military movement.

Therefore, should we include losses from property destruction in the great totals upon which we have based the previously given cost of killing a man during the Civil war in the United States, we should add, by means of this one item, \$333 to the expense of every victim of our entire Civil war.

And while Sherman's march may have been, so far as property went, the most destructive single military movement which that great struggle knew, its expenseiveness would shrink into insignificance if we had at hand, with which to compare it, accurate figures of the total value of the property destroyed elsewhere and in other manner during the whole course of the war.

Not one of the Civil war campaigns was conducted in a region approximating in the value of its material property that of the section through

out which the present European war is raging.

Most of it was fought in country comparatively sparsely settled, and in the states in the United States not any one square mile of urban territory bore destructible improvements in value approximating the present-day average value represented by any urban square mile in Europe, particularly in Belgium, and in the rural districts in the United States destructible property values averaged lower than they average anywhere in Europe today, and probably did not amount to one-fiftieth as much as they did in that portion of rural Belgium which was ravaged. Certain rural parts of France which were later wrecked would assess almost as high, but never quite as high, as the Belgian rural districts.

It seems unlikely that railroad destruction will play any important part in the final cost of the present war, for all parties concerned value railroads too highly to make much such destruction probable.

Wanton destruction of private property by the contending forces in time of war is forbidden, theoretically, on land, but during the South African campaigns of the British army there were many "burnings" of farms; in our own Philippine campaigns the destruction of property was large, owing to the necessity of razing villages in order to drive out "suppers," and what the eventual sum total of the property destroyed during the present European struggle may amount to has not been more than hinted at in the more or less complete destruction of the wonderfully rich Belgian city of Louvain—a destruction which never can be repaired, for Louvain's value had been cumulative through the centuries—she was literally priceless.

**Paris Hard Hit**

The voluntary sacrifice by the French of property in the environs of Paris, raised so that it might not obstruct the play of the defending artillery, might very well indicate, in that comparatively tiny area, a total monetary loss much greater than that resulting from Sherman's famous march.

No strictly modern war, until the beginning of the one now in progress, has offered much opportunity for this sort of waste. The Russo-Japanese war was fought in territory comparatively free of high property values, as was the British South African campaign. Our Spanish war signified nothing important of this sort; the Balkan war has involved peoples possessed of slight property values, and has been largely carried on in mountain fastnesses and infertile valleys.

But it seems to be a peculiarity of this war that it will be fought out in those places where it can cost humanity most in material and aesthetic values, as well as by such methods as will make its tax of human life unprecedentedly, staggeringly heavy.

To endeavor to make any estimate, whatever, of the industrial and general economic losses certain to result from the present war, would be a foolish assumption of the right to prophesy, but it is not beyond the province of an investigative mind to consider certain vast losses which must occur.

Professor Charles Richey, in Dr. David Starr Jordan's recent book, "War and Waste," thus tabulated the expense of the then proposed general war:

**NUMBER OF MEN LIKELY TO BE ENGAGED.**

Austria ..... 2,500,000

England ..... 1,500,000

France ..... 4,000,000

Germany ..... 2,800,000

Italy ..... 2,800,000

Russia ..... 500,000

Totals ..... 12,100,000

**DAILY COST OF A GREAT EUROPEAN WAR.**

Food of men ..... \$12,000,000

Food of horses ..... 1,000,000

Pay (European rates) ..... 4,250,000

Pay of workmen in armaments and munitions industry, 10 cartridges a day ..... 4,250,000

Ports ..... 1,000,000

Transportation ..... 2,100,000

Transportation of provisions ..... 4,250,000

Artillery—10 shells per day ..... 1,200,000

Marine—2 shots per day ..... 400,000

Equipments ..... 4,250,000

Ambulance—500,000 wounded or ill (\$1 per day) ..... 500,000

Armaments ..... 250,000

Reduction of imports ..... 5,000,000

Help to the poor (20 cents per day to eat in hotel) ..... 6,500,000

Destruction of towns, etc. ..... 2,000,000

Total per day ..... \$49,000,000

In applying these estimates to the general European war which now actually does exist, but a few changes need be made. The total actual cost will not run far below the estimated cost of about \$54,000,000. Indeed, it may far surpass it.

The principle loss undoubtedly will arise from the withdrawal of men from industry.

The existence of large standing armies in all the nations engaged will make this relatively smaller, considered from one point of view, than would be occasioned by a war in this country involving a similar number of men, but, indirectly considered, the very existence of these standing armies, which have been a fixed charge upon the people, has been one of the things leading up to this war, and, therefore, it might be fair to charge up the total cost of armament and withdrawal of labor from industry for military service during the preceding years of peace to the struggle which now is in progress.

It would be by no means difficult to gather these figures for presentation here, but it would be waste of time, for they would have picturesque value only.

For many years European expenditure for armament has exceeded a billion dollars annually. No human mind can think a billion dollars. It is too great a value for the brain to grasp.

To detail and then total the cost of French and German armies during the peace years, to count up Great Britain's naval and military charges since the end of the South African campaign, and, backward, between that and Waterloo, would be merely to

place upon paper a series of figures. For they would mean so much that to a normal mind they would mean nothing.

And if the cost of this great war may be reckoned as having extended back through all the years of preparation, so it may be reckoned as certain to extend forward through many years of recuperation. The major portion of the ultimate cost of the existing war will be borne by coming generations, resting as a mighty burden upon men and women yet unborn.

Commercial disorganization is another item which defies the statistician. Who shall say, for instance, what Germany's loss already has been through the banishment of her commercial shipping from the seas? It surely has exceeded by far the value of the vessels she has lost, and, before the war is over, it will exceed, in all human probability, the value of every ton of shipping flying German's flag.

Losses suffered by commercial business on land will aggregate a far greater, and therefore more inconceivable sum, which even more completely defies prophecy, and, as the United States has learned, such loss, in these days, by no means is confined to the warring nations, but is spread, not thinly, over the entire surface of the civilized earth.

**Whole World Upset**

Financial disarrangement is now universal, as the result of the great war, and is eating values with appalling greedness. The world's pocketbook is the center of its nervous system and this war, recorded as it is not only by ocean telegraph which flashes instantaneous messages to all parts of the world, but by transatlantic wireless, has upset it as nothing ever has before.

Nor does this business, commercial, and financial loss comprise the total of the inevitable dreary aftermath of waste. Our Civil war ended 45 years ago, yet we are still paying Civil war bills.

We have spent far more than \$2,000,000,000 on our pension list, and it will cost us another two billions before we have finished with it—more than half as much as north and south together spent upon the actual war.

The greater portion of the public debt of the United States is war debt, and since the Civil war this has cost the government in interest charges two and a half billions; with interest still running on three quarters of a billion and more. The state expenditures for bounties and other expenditures directly traceable to the Civil war have totaled more than \$900,000,000.

The after cost of European war has been and will be proportionately less than ours, for they pension far less liberally than we do, but an approximate guess at the price they have been and still are paying for past wars may be formed by a glance at their public debt interest figures, for their public debts are principally war debts.

Before the beginning of the present war the French debt was approximately six billion dollars, demanding interest payments of over two hundred million dollars a year.

**Interest Payment on Wars**

"Thus," says Benjamin Trueblood, "in the 35 years since the Franco-Prussian war, which cost France, including her one billion dollars in

demerity to Germany, not less than three billion dollars, she will have paid out, in interest alone, a sum from two to three times the original cost of that war, or, reckoning the interest on only three billion dollars, a sum fully equal to the cost of the war."

The total war debt of Europe at the beginning of the present war aggregated over thirty billion dollars. Thus interest charges of more than a billion a year have aggregated more than thirty-five billion dollars since the ending of the wars which so terribly afflicted the third quarter of the last century.

For definite examples, the Boer war increased Great Britain's public debt by eight hundred millions, and the Russo-Japanese war increased the debts of the two nations involved by a billion and a half.

So these two wars, neither of them comparable to the struggle which now seethes throughout all Europe, imposed upon this trio of nations an interest charge to run on indefinitely at fully sixty millions a year.

The European armaments which were maintained in preparation for the war which now progresses, and which, in the minds of many, are responsible for it, have cost for a long period more than one billion dollars a year.

The absence from productive occupations of men who have been and who will be killed and maimed will tax the whole world, for the men who fight are the best men—selected stock. This is another item which cannot be estimated—we can only realize that if we could but begin to estimate it we again would find ourselves confronted by unimaginable totals.

If the annual earning power of each of the million men who lost their lives on both sides during our American Civil war be estimated at the extremely low figure of \$400, the nation lost by their death \$400,000,000 a year.

The net deficit in earning power, therefore, has been, apparently, more than \$21,500,000,000, but a part of this must be deducted because the 49 years would have seen, naturally, the death, disablement, and superannuation of many of these workers. But this sum may be cut down far more than half and still more than equal the original cost of the war to the nation.

**18-Karat Cynicism**

Simms—You're a poor sort of a club member. I very seldom see you around at the clubhouse.

Timms—Why, I get around once or twice a week.

Simms—Well, look at me—I'm there every night.

Timms—Yes, but you're married, u. u. I'm single.

**Small Portion.**

"How did you find that piece of steak, sir?" asked the smiling waiter in anticipation of a liberal tip.

"I really don't know," said the large man, gazing at his plate; "I just happened to move that little piece of potato and the steak was under it."

**A Slow Audience**

"I once played to an audience in the coliseum at Rome—Georgia—that it took 40 minutes to get out of the theatre after the show was over."

"Several thousand people in the audience, I suppose?"

"No, only one; he was a cripple."

—Creighton Brothers.