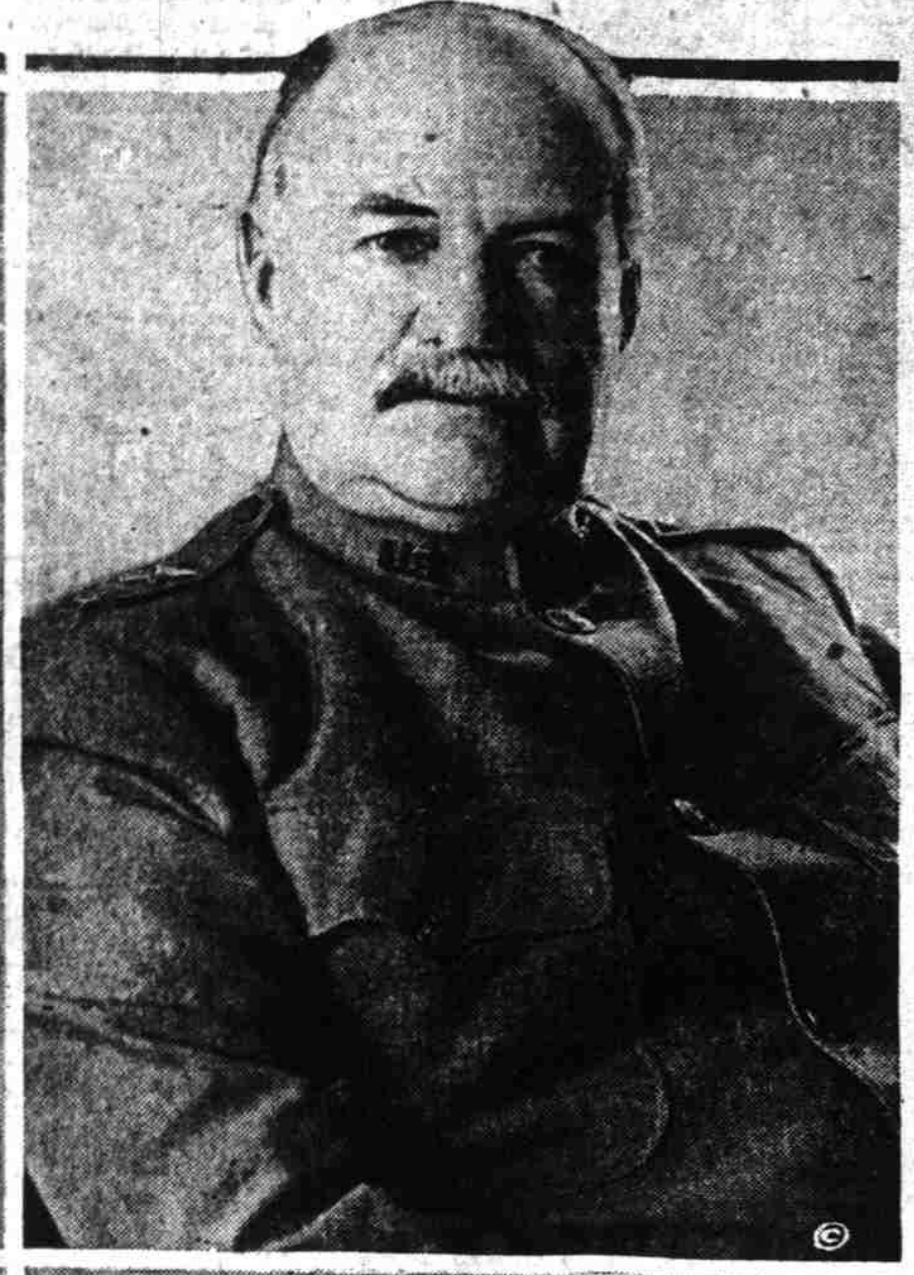


AMERICA'S FIRST MILLION

Tide of Numerical Strength Is Turned

ACROSS

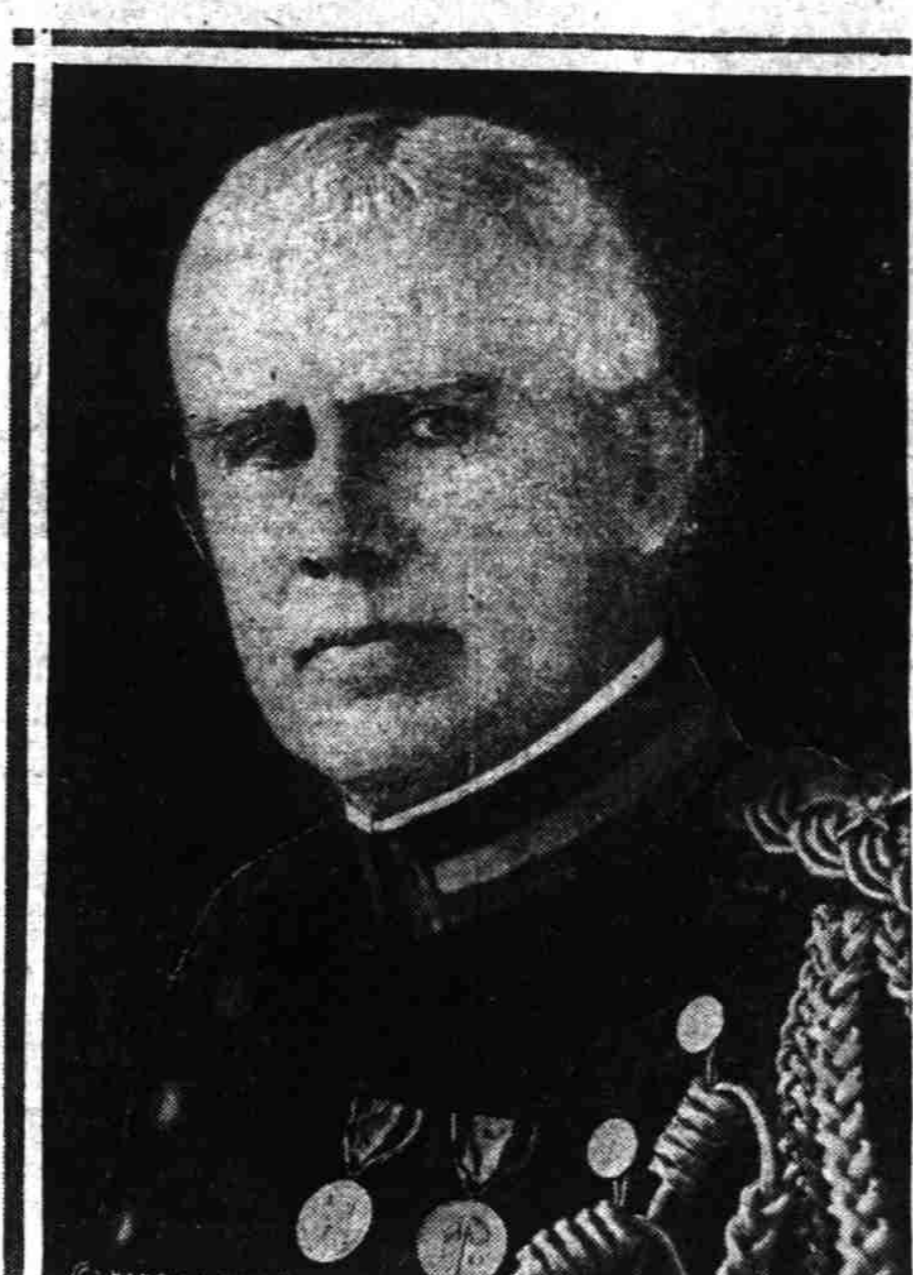
Allies' Favor



General Hunter Liggett, commanding first corps.



General Pershing, commanding American forces in France.



General Duncan, commanding the 77th (national army) division.



General Edwards, commanding the 26th (national guard) division.

Fresh Legions Go To Take Up Battle

As Midsummer Approaches With Allied Forces in Ascendancy in Numbers, Hun Hopes for Victory in the Field Glimmering.

BY FRANK H. SIMONDS

The announcement made for the Fourth of July that our first million had arrived in Europe stirred the American people profoundly, as it should have moved them. Looked at from the side of national pride and patriotic performance, it will remain memorable in the history of this, the greatest of all wars, and it is a feat commensurate not with what we expected of ourselves, but of what our allies hoped of us. Yet it is not on this aspect of the achievement that Americans will care now to lay emphasis, when so much still remains to be done and our enemy continues dangerous and defiant, if not yet victorious, certainly not yet defeated.

It is to the military side of America's contribution that most minds will turn at this moment. What will 1,000,000 American soldiers mean at this crisis in the world war? What will they mean in the restoring of the balance between the German and his opponents on the western battlefield, the balance destroyed by the collapse of Russia? Before attempting to answer these questions it is essential to point out certain facts. We have sent 1,000,000 men to France and they are a solid fact on French soil, but we cannot reckon that we have sent 1,000,000 fighting men across the ocean or that all of the fighting men who have crossed are yet in line or ready for service. To begin at the beginning, we are told by the war department that of the 1,000,000 some 68 per cent may be counted as fighting men, and this would mean 682,000 men. Add to this total the number sent in the two weeks that have passed since the announcement was made, and we may safely estimate that on Bastille day there were in France three quarters of a million Americans already on the fighting line or destined soon to be ready to appear there.

By Way of Comparison

This means that we have now in France an army whose organized strength is greater than that of the German army in peace time, more than half as strong as the mass which Germany hurled at France in the Marne campaign and three quarters as strong as the French army which defeated the German bid for supreme victory between Paris and Verdun in September, 1914. Now, of this 750,000, a third, approximately 250,000, have been organized into the first American army, and this army may be reckoned as representing a really formidable force, since it includes all of the troops which have been longest in France and is commanded by those of our officers who have had the best training and the most experience. It includes the First division, which has

given a good account of itself in several sectors and won the smart little success at Cantigny a few weeks ago. This army in strength represents about the same numbers as the army with which Petain defended Verdun, and its units in physical strength are superior to Petain's soldiers because of their youth. At Verdun France was already using middle aged men, although the fighting achievement of these middle aged men will stand as an everlasting monument of courage and endurance. We have, then, given the allies—our allies—one army, which, if still inferior to the best of the British and French armies, is a resource of great importance. In addition, we may reckon upon another force, equally strong, scattered along the front in British and French units, getting its training on the firing line and contributing mightily to relieving the strain upon the older troops. All things considered, this army may be considered about equal to the first of the Kitchener armies, which came out after training on the line, but held its share of that line.

Large Numbers In Sight

There remain 250,000 troops, which are still lacking in the necessary training in France, which serves as a post-graduate course for our graduates of the home camps. But experience has already shown in France a month after they land our American troops can be sent to the front—that is, to a quiet sector—provided that they are strongly supported by French or British units. This is not too much to say, that by the middle of August we shall have two armies of 250,000 each on the line, if it is decided to use them in France. The French and British were both driven to do this by the approaching exhaustion of their man-power. They had to do this, with the reserves of men left to them, how long they could supply wastage in existing units. Thus, if the French have 1,250,000 in their available army, they must keep an equal number behind to fill the gaps caused by casualties, and the British situation is the same, of course. It is misapprehension to detail which contributes so much to the general confusion when numbers are mentioned.

No New Units Created

In this situation the allies could not increase the number of their divisions. It takes time—many months—to create new divisions and units, with the necessary officers and organization. In point of fact, the French stopped increasing the number of their units in the first year of the war. The British were both driven to do this by the approaching exhaustion of their man-power. They had to do this, with the reserves of men left to them, how long they could supply wastage in existing units. Thus, if the French have 1,250,000 in their available army, they must keep an equal number behind to fill the gaps caused by casualties, and the British situation is the same, of course. It is misapprehension to detail which contributes so much to the general confusion when numbers are mentioned.

middle of August. When they get on the line the allied total will stand between 248 and 256 divisions, as against 225 for our German foes.

In other words—and this is the biggest fact of all—we have already sent to France enough organized units to restore and more than restore the balance between the enemy and our allies, when all of our units are ready; and all of our units will be ready to do something within the next month and to do considerable before the middle of September, while from four to six weeks still remain for campaigning. It may be that our first 40 divisions have already evened things up; certainly they would have if the Germans are still but 205 divisions strong, as they were last March, accepting for the basis of calculation the lowest conceivable estimates of allied divisions. But allowing for everything, it seems fair to say that by the middle of August America will have met the demand made upon the numbers to counterbalance the advantage accruing to the Germans through the Russian collapse and the consequent transfer of German divisions to the Western front.

By the middle of August the Germans will no longer have any advantage of numbers on the west front; they may not have it by August 1. And with the loss of this advantage goes the hope of winning the war; if it be not won before that time, for it is apparent that Germany has no new reservoir from which to draw other divisions as she drew divisions from Russia. As for Austrian divisions, they are exhausted. German hopes of aid from this direction, while neither Bulgaria nor Turkey can or will supply men in any numbers; it may be doubted if either nation would lend the Kaiser a single division. As for divisions organized out of Russian recruits, this is a prospect of no great moment. It would find officers for them; it would take a year to create the organizations essential to effective units, and if all these difficulties were surmounted there is nothing to suggest that the Russians would be willing to fight.

Hun Leaders Hard Pressed

The truth is that Hindenburg and Ludendorff went to the bottom of the German barrel last spring and last winter. They gathered up all that was left, they made the most of it, they used every resource and opportunity, they took their gamble and they have staked their last dollar on the last card. Now, it is essential to avoid undue optimism and equally necessary to avoid exaggeration. The Germans still have a slight advantage in numbers on the line or available for active service. They will preserve that advantage for a few weeks more, but will lose any numerical superiority some time in August. Therefore, if our troops continue to go to Europe at the present rate—that is, some half million every two months—the balance will swing sharply in our favor. But few will be any of the troops which reach Europe after the middle of September can be used in the present campaign.

We may conclude, then, that the Germans, knowing that the Americans have sent enough troops to Europe to equalize the situation by mid-August, will make their next offensive some time before this change occurs. We may conclude that Ludendorff is putting the finishing touches upon the organization of a final attack which shall equal that of March 21. I do not believe that he is making a heavier blow, and that he is using the remaining resources of his plans in that methodical and amazingly skillful fashion which was revealed in the last great attack which he made in the west, for all other attacks, since by comparison have been minor.

If this second major attack fails to bring a decision—and I believe it will fail—then there will not be time left to organize a third before the weather conditions close the campaign of 1918. Great gains in ground like those made earlier in the year, provided they do not open the way to a decisive success, a success which will break the military power and civilian will of France or Britain, will not count, for they will not change the situation. We may safely say to ourselves, with every recognition of the terrific weight of the blow that is coming, that it is the last, and that, if it falls, then, before the Germans can prepare a new blow, the fighting for the year will be over.

Outlook for Next Year

Looking to the future, this means that when next year's campaign comes America can have on the line not less

Germany Faces Its Worst Situation

Her Own Forces, Worn by Four Futile Offensives in West in Three Months, Face Grim Fact That No Fresh Armies Are Available in Reserve.

After all, it is something to feel that we met the appeal of our gallant allies between March and July, that we gave them the necessary men, that we restored the balance destroyed by Russian collapse. Our soldiers are not yet comparable with the men of Ypres or of Verdun. Our officers are not the officers of the French army at the Marne, but on the physical side we have now the finest troops in Europe and they bring the added advantage which is the possession of fresh and unwearied troops going into an action which has endured for a long time.

Allies' Appeal Is Answered

We have the next German blow to parry, and it will be a terrible task. Beyond that is the German peace offensive, which will not be less dangerous and we shall have to be efficient in meeting the peace offensive as we have been in getting the men over to meet the military blow. But the military blow is there and we are understanding the character of the German menace to us, as a civilized nation, more clearly and more generally each week.

What we celebrated upon our own national holiday on July 4 we may therefore believe the French hailed with equal enthusiasm on their Bastille day. As for the British—but they celebrated the Fourth of July with us, which is again something of enduring significance.



An Institution for the Common Good

THE Finley institution offers to all the refinement and elegance of a fine home. Our service remains always the same. Lack of great means is no longer a barrier to the best funeral.

In the chapel, warmth and softness have replaced the cold, stern surroundings of years gone by. No inconvenience mars the solemnity. Adjoining the chapel are private rooms for the relatives, and directly off the chapel is our private driveway—one of the features of the Finley establishment—most unique in all America.

We believe the public should know of these better funeral methods, and we hope to win the approval of those who shall learn of us through these messages. Do not think because the Finley Institution is modern and up-to-date that our prices are not within the reach of everyone. While our price is the same to everyone, money has never been a barrier to any worthy family.

J. P. Finley & Son
Progressive Funeral Directors
Montgomery Street at Fifth

LIFT OFF CORNS!

Freezone is magic! Apply a few drops on a sore, touchy corn or a painful callus. Instantly that corn or callus stops hurting you. Then shortly you lift that bothersome corn or callus right off, root and all, with the fingers. No! Not one bit of pain, no soreness, no irritation.



A few cents buys a tiny bottle of the magic Freezone at any drug store. Sufficient to remove every hard corn, soft corn, corn between the toes and painful callus from one's feet. Freezone is the much-talked-of ether discovery of a Cincinnati genius. Corns and calluses lift away without even a twinge of pain. Why wait? No humbug!