

# FOURTH YEAR OF WAR SEES CRISIS SAFELY PASSED

### America Arrives During Year to Stem Tide of Disaster and Help Convert Hun Triumph into Allied Victory—Marvelous Record of United States in Transporting Troops.

WASHINGTON, July 27.—Events big with the fate of nations have marked the fourth year of the war which now comes to a close. It has been twelve months of alternate hope and concern for the powers of the entente alliance.

It was on July 28, 1914, that Austria declared war on Serbia, beginning the great struggle. During the past 12 months there have been occurrences that in some aspects have been of even greater import in their influences upon the world than those in the preceding period. Russia's collapse, the Italian defeat last autumn, the stupendous drives of the Germans against the allied armies, and the wonderful defensive operations that have again and again checked the enemy when success for him seemed near at hand have held the world breathless. But, transcending the significance of any event in the actual theaters of the war, America's full participation in the conflict, involving the transportation overseas of more than a million men to engage in it must remain for all time the great outstanding feature of the fourth year of the struggle. It is upon America that the entente is relying for the men and resources to turn the tide.

#### Americans in France

It was not until the great German offensive was started late in March of 1918 that the American troop movement began to assume really noteworthy proportions. The figures from the months of August 1, 1917 to July 1, 1918, follow:

August, 18,323; September, 32,523; October, 38,259; November, 23,016; December, 48,840; January, 46,776; February, 48,027; March, 83,811; April, 117,212; May, 244,345; June, 276,382; July, 300,000.

On July 1, 1918, there were 14,644 American marines in France, bringing the total number of American troops in that country and Italy up to 3,019,115.

During the recent fighting in France the work of the American soldiers has compared favorably with that of other fighting men in the world.

#### Offensives Faced

The allies have been called upon to face two great offensives during the past year. The first of these came last October in Italy and the second in France, began on March 21. The German drives in France, while separated by periods of from a few days to several weeks, have been considered as different phases of the same offensive. The abortive Austrian attack against Italy in June also is looked upon as merely another attack against the western front and not as a distinct military operation.

But these offensives perhaps never would have been begun had it not been for the collapse of Russia during the past winter. German and Austrian troops, released from the Russian front, were taken to France and Italy to swell the masses of men hurled against the allies in the western theater of operations. As long as Russia remained in the fight she held great numbers of Teutonic troops in the east, and her withdrawal from the war exercised a fundamental influence on the course of its development.

#### Situation a Year Ago

The year opened with the fortunes of war apparently favoring the entente. The British had forced back the Germans to the famous Hindenburg line. The French had established themselves firmly along the Chemin des Dunes, north of the Aisne. The echoes of Verdun were still ringing the knell of German hopes in that sector of the battle area. The Italians were holding their lines along the Isonzo. The rejuvenated Russian "vanguard" of July First had carried the war far into the Austrian defenses in Bukovina and Galicia.

The German and Austrian commands had no illusions as to further Russian belligerency. There came to the allies reports that the central empires were taking the pick of their forces from the Russian front and concentrating them for a new drive against some part of the line in the western theater. Then came the blow against Italy.

#### Russian Collapse

Events in the meanwhile had been moving swiftly in Russia. On November 1, while the offensive against Italy was under way, Alexander F.

Kerensky, then the Russian premier, announced that Russia was worn out by the war and that the allies must shoulder the burden thenceforward. Seven days later Kerensky was deposed by the Bolsheviks. The fall and flight of Kerensky was the signal for Germany and Austria to enter into peace negotiations with Russia, which concluded in the Brest-Litovsk treaty.

#### Rumania Capitulates

With the greater part of her territory occupied by the Germans, Austrians and Bulgarians, with her government driven from Bucharest to Jassy and with the Russian Bolsheviks openly hostile toward her, Rumania found herself in a critical situation. Rumanian troops during February and March advanced into Bessarabia, a part of the new republic of Ukraine, but they were hemmed in by the enemy forces and obliged to withdraw. At last, on May 6, Rumania signed a treaty of peace with the central powers.

By this treaty Rumania lost the province of Dobruja, on the south side of the Danube, which she had received after the Balkan war, and agreed to a rectification of her western frontier. Economic concessions also were made under pressure from the Teutonic Alliance.

#### Peace Tentatives

The period between December 1, 1917, and March 1, 1918, may be called the period of peace tentatives. German efforts to secure a peace which would leave to Germany all the fruits of her victory gained through Russia's collapse, and with Belgium and large portions of France to be used as pawns at the council table, began with the address of Count Czernin, then Austrian foreign minister, at Brest-Litovsk, on December 26. The keynote of the address was general peace without annexations and indemnities.

#### Enemy Offensives

Last winter it became known that the Germans were massing forces on the western front. Reports came that large units were training behind the lines and that new and more terrible engines of war than had been known before were to be used in German effort to break the allied lines, crush their armies and force them to make peace. The drive was well advertised and even the place where it was to be launched was known with comparative certainty.

On the morning of March 21, the Germans began their attack from the vicinity of Arras, on the north, to Le Ferre, on the south, and centering their heaviest columns against the British forces under General Clough, at St. Quentin.

#### Allies Forced Back

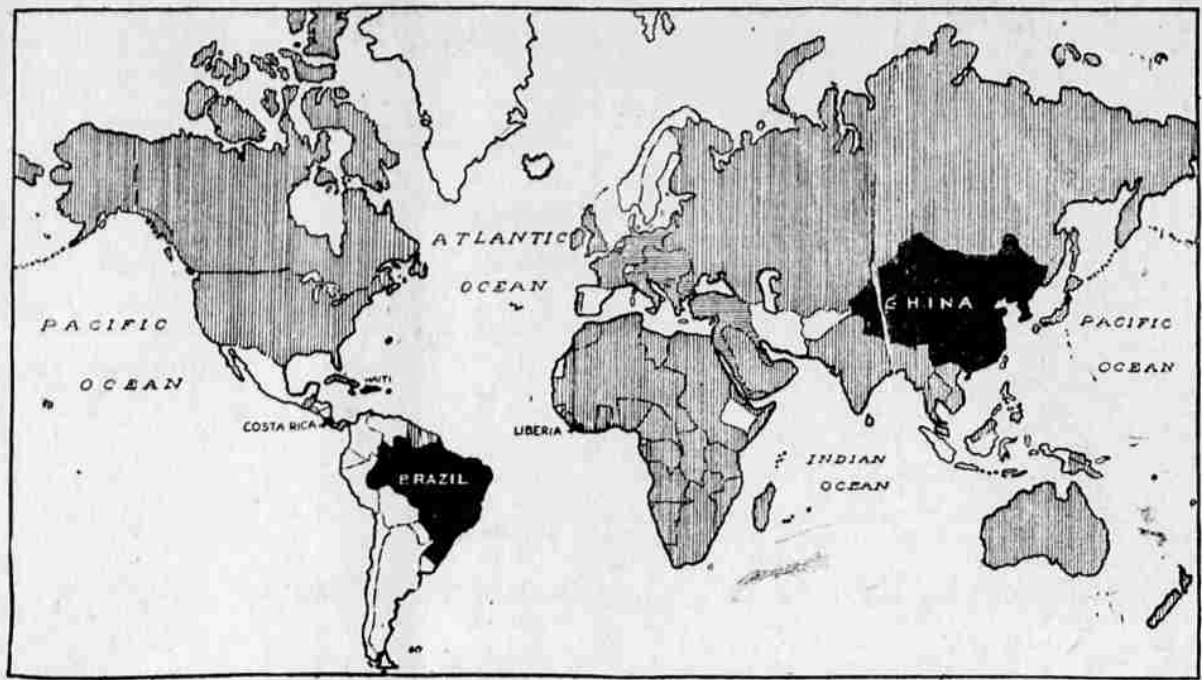
Staggering before the impact of the blow, the British army fell back rapidly. For eight days the Germans poured through the old allied line in an effort to crush the British and drive a wedge between them and the French, who were holding the lines to the south. Then came a period of reaction and the Germans came to a stop. They had driven ahead for 35 miles, along a front extending more than 50 miles, before they were halted.

Hardly had their legions been held before Amiens than a new offensive was begun in Flanders, on April 2. It swept the British back through Armentieres, but did not break their lines. The British, with the French, who were rushed up to the front, stopped the Germans after they had reached the hills southwest of Ypres. There, on April 9, the Germans suffered a terrible defeat that halted their offensive in that quarter.

#### Foch in Supreme Command

In the midst of the drive in the sector toward Amiens, the allied nations took a vitally important step. They named General Ferdinand Foch, hero of the first battle of the Marne, gen-

## YEAR SEES SEVEN NATIONS JOIN WAR FOR FREEDOM



Nations shaded—those which were at war July 28, 1917. Nations in black—those which joined the allies the last year. Neutral nations in white.

eralissimo of the allied forces on the western front, which includes all the line in Italy as well as in France. Even the Murman coast in northern Russia, has been held to be under his command.

After a period of quiet, the Germans attacked once more, this time on the Aisne river, and in seven days they reached the Marne at Chateau Thierry, making a penetration of about 28 miles. At the Marne they were checked and the impetus of the blow was broken.

With hardly a day's pause for re-organization of their forces, the Germans again attacked, choosing the sector between Montdidier and Noyon, on the southern side of the salient driven into the allied line during the March offensive, as the stage of the March offensive. This offensive ran for five days and was stopped north of Compiene after losses which were described as unprecedented had been inflicted upon the Germans.

From June 14 until July 15 the Germans were engaged in shifting their forces and then they again struck. This time the line of attack was from Chateau Thierry eastward, around to the north of Rheims and then down the Vesle river to Prunay and from that village eastward to Massiges. This attack at the close of the year developed into one of the most ambitious of the German strokes.

#### Halted by Americans

German forces crossed the Marne over a wide front, but were unable to make ground against American troops near Chateau Thierry and could not advance rapidly further east. They did, however, forge ahead on the north side of the Marne and between that stream and the mountain of Rheims, it appeared for a time that they might reach Eperday.

Then General Foch struck a counter blow, which is still in progress. Americans and French attacked the Germans between Fontenoy, in the Aisne west of Soissons and Belleau, on the Cignon northwest of Chateau Thierry. So sudden and powerful was the blow that the Germans fell back rapidly until their reserves could be hurried up.

The rapid advance of the allies, however, so menaced the German forces further south that on July 19 the enemy began a retreat across the Marne. On Sunday, July 21, French and Americans entered Chateau

Thierry and pressed on after the retreating Germans.

Since that time the allies have gained slowly, but steadily, not only south of Soissons, but also north of the Marne and between that river and Rheims. There were indications that a German retreat from the salient is now under way.

#### Italians Stand Firm

On June 15, the Austrians began a drive against Italy. It was a failure. The Austrians crossed the Piave, but on the west bank met with such stubborn resistance that progress was impossible. Slowly the Austrians were driven back toward the river, and then the Piave, swollen by rains in the mountains complete the over-

#### Minor Operations

Jerusalem was captured by the British on December 10, and shortly afterward the fall of Jericho was announced. Since the taking of Jericho the British forces in Palestine have

not been active on the offensive.

General Maude led the British troops into Bagdad on March 11, and shortly afterward died from cholera. His forces pushed further up the Tigris until the intense heat of summer terminated operations.

The Turks after the collapse of Russia took advantage of the demoralized condition of the Russian forces to advance thru the Caucasus and obtain possession of the regions subsequently ceded them by the treaty of Brest-Litovsk.

The French and Italian drive in Albania began on July 6 and is still in progress.

During the year British forces in Africa drove German forces before

them in German East Africa and in German Southwest Africa and finally compelled them to disperse or surrender. This took from Germany the first of the vast colonial possessions held by her when the war began.

#### Submarine Warfare

The past year has been marked by a gradual decline of submarine sinkings as compared with the number of ships being built by the entente allies. The operations of the British and American destroyers have spread terror among the "wasps of the sea," while a great mine field completed in May by the British navy converted virtually the whole North sea into an area closed against U-boat activities.

### TREICHLER-PEIRSON INC. IN NEW QUARTERS

Treichler-Peirson, Inc. have moved to their new location in the Garnett-Corey building, corner Main and Grape streets, where they have much larger and better quarters and would be pleased to have everyone call and see them.

Messrs. Treichler and Peirson have been in the automobile business here for nearly four years and have been associated together for about two years, during which time their business has been steadily increasing. They now handle Dodge Brothers motor cars, Oldsmobiles, G. M. C. trucks and Sampson tractors, Smith form-trucks, U. S. and Goodyear tires and auto supplies.

They conducted a demonstration of the G. M. C. Sampson tractors at the Hamilton Patton ranch Saturday, that was largely attended.

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