

BRITISH MASTERY OF AIR UNSHAKEN

German Inferiority Aloft Increasingly Apparent in Recent Combats

ENEMY'S LOSSES HEAVY

Sixty-two Boche Machines Destroyed by the Allied Fliers in Week

By the Associated Press. London, Aug. 24.—British air fighting on the western front during the last week provides a striking indication of the difficulty now confronting Germany in the air, which must increase in the near future as the growing air superiority of the Allies makes itself felt.

In the battle area, probably owing to the recent heavy German air losses over the Somme battlefield, enemy scouts are compelled to operate in large formations at a much greater height than formerly. Notwithstanding this, the British airmen continue to take a heavy toll of them.

63 Destroyed, 21 Damaged. Severe air fighting has occurred on the front between Albert and the Amiens-Roye road, resulting, according to latest reports, in the destruction of sixty-two enemy machines and the driving down of twenty-one airplanes out of control. Twenty-six British machines have been reported missing.

This superiority has been attained without any diminution in the aerial activity in other sectors, a large number of raids having been made against enemy positions far behind the German lines, in which more than 130 tons of bombs were dropped, and attacks on the Rhine provinces pressed with the utmost vigor.

Germany Virtually Defenseless. Coupled with a virtual cessation of German air raids on London, the increasing number of bombing raids into Germany, of which there were twenty-one during the past week, must be demoralizing, showing Germany that despite her utmost efforts she is unable adequately to protect her air frontier.

The effect of the Allied air supremacy is seen in various captured German orders, one of which directs that "no aircraft are to be sent to the front." Within ten miles of the front small groups only of from eight to ten men are to proceed together.

By the Associated Press. With the American Army in France, Aug. 24.—American bombing airplanes flew over Comfians, between Verdun and Metz, twice yesterday afternoon and dropped forty-one bombs. Six bombs were observed to make direct hits.

Five of the bombs fell west and north of the railroad station and the other on a warehouse.

While returning from the raid the American aviators were pursued by German flyers. The enemy, however, turned back when they got inside of the American line. The German anti-aircraft fire was weak and ineffectual.

CZECHO-SLOVAKS AS BELLIGERENTS STANDING AT THRESHOLD OF NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

By WALTER LITTLEFIELD

The declaration of the British Government, last Tuesday, recognizing the Czecho-Slovaks as an allied nation, is a great political and military event—entirely not only creates a belligerent State in the heart of middle Europe amid German Austria, Magyar Hungary and Prussian Germany, and recognizes the legacy of a great war, one in Siberia, one in France, and one in Italy, but the prestige of the power uttering it, whose protecting wings have through the ages shielded political refugees from Bohemia and Moravia, such that it deals a vital blow to the very foundation of the fabric of which the Dual Monarchy is composed. It is worth while, if merely as a text, repeating in full:

Since the beginning of the war the Czecho-Slovak nation has resisted the dominion of its enemies by every means in its power. The Czecho-Slovaks have constituted a combatant army fighting in three different battlefields, and attempting in Russia and Siberia to arrest the German advance, in Italy to assist the efforts to achieve independence. Great Britain regards the Czecho-Slovak nation as an allied and belligerent power against Austria-Hungary and Germany.

Great Britain also recognizes the right of the Czecho-Slovak National Council, as the supreme organ of the Czecho-Slovak national movement, to exercise the present trust of the future Czecho-Slovak Government, to exercise supreme authority over this allied and belligerent power.

One of the most ill-advised phases of the international policy of the Allies was, for a long time, to assume the status quo ante of Austria-Hungary as a political entity, which after the war, the Pact of Rome, April 9-11, changed at that. Here not only the Jugo-Slavs received official recognition but delegates of the Poles, Czechs, Slovaks, the Rumanians and other subject races of the Hapsburgs pleaded their individual causes and were heard. The debate at Rome cleared the air. It had been different in 1915, when all had been fighting a cross-purpose and were played off against each other by Budapest and Vienna until German Austria and Magyar Hungary reconstructed the old internal questions, which annihilated their common purpose in 1918, until after the war.

The story of the adventures of the Czecho-Slovak army in Siberia reads like another "Arabian Nights." Originally army numbers 50,000, originally organized by dispatch says it has grown to 300,000—and was made up of Bohemians and Moravians and Slovaks, all Slavs, who belonged to the Eighth and Ninth Austro-Hungarian Army Corps, and some to the Second and the Thirtieth, who had freely surrendered to Brusiloff in July, 1917, and were sent to Russian Siberia in the "Green Guard" units. Many Czecho-Slovaks, who had surrendered to the Russians at various times during the war, beginning at the battle of Tarnopol, in September, 1914, and the following information:

A considerable number of Czecho-Slovak deserters have concentrated in the Beskid Mountains, in eastern Rumania. They are well armed and offer a

Britain's Recognition of a Brave and Historic People a Long Step Toward Their Release From Three Centuries of Oppression—Story of Their Part in European History Filled With Glamor of Victory and Gloom of Defeat and Humiliation

WHERE CZECHO-SLOVAKS CLAIM RIGHT OF INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT



stubborn resistance to the gentler measures. They obviously receive support from the Czech population, since the authorities have already issued a public order threatening punishment to all those rendering support to the movement.

The "Green Guard" Three armies—three Czecho-Slovak armies—have been spoken of, and yet there is a fourth about which little is heard. It calls itself the "Green Guard," and in the mountains of eastern Moravia, it is fighting with a halberd around its neck. Aside from introductory rumors of numerous successes which took place in the Austro-Hungarian armies on June 16-20, followed by wholesale executions, nothing was definitely known about the "Green Guard" until a Reuters agent on July 20 managed to furnish the following information:

They obviously receive support from the Czech population, since the authorities have already issued a public order threatening punishment to all those rendering support to the movement.

represented a national reaction of the Czechs against German influence. The troubles of Bohemia began in 1526, when, under the threat of the Turkish invasion of Hungary, the crown was elective, was conferred on Ferdinand of Hapsburg, Archduke of Austria, who was simultaneously elected King of Hungary. This was a purely personal union of the three crowns, but Hungary was almost wholly overrun by the Turks, and the Hapsburgs, who held the crown thereafter, did their best to Germanize and Austrianize Bohemia.

Bohemians' Fullest Result In 1818 Bohemia broke away and elected a Protestant prince, the Elect of Palatine as King, but in the struggle which followed (1820), and which was the beginning of the Thirty Years' War, the Bohemians were beaten, and thereafter they were treated as a conquered people. The native nobility was destroyed and its estates given to adventurers who ever since have been loyal to the Hapsburgs.

For a century and a half the Czecho-Slovak people almost disappeared. Their revival dates from the period of the French Revolution, which inspired patriotic writers to revive the national

language and culture with such success that the nation recovered self-consciousness and took up its struggle for freedom with renewed vigor.

Czechs consistently Anti-German In 1847 defeat convinced Francis Joseph of the necessity of taking the Magyar into partnership, so the Czecho-Slovaks were divided between the two parts of the empire. Theoretically Bohemia was and is still an independent kingdom, and Francis Joseph even promised to be crowned king at Prague; but Bismarck's influence prevented this. Since then the Czechs have maintained a constant struggle against the Hapsburgs and the ruling races in Austria, as well as against the influence of the German empire, which regarded them as a great obstacle to its plans.

The bulk of the nation longed for autonomy within a federalized Austrian empire and under the Hapsburg crown, but the origin of terms with which the people's reluctance to take part in the present war was met strengthened those who demanded complete independence. Thousands of military conscriptions, great numbers of confiscations and arbitrary imprisonments angered the people, whose soldiers were already going over to the Russians and Serbs in great masses. Finally in November, 1915, a committee of exiles in Paris demanded complete independence and unity of the Czecho-Slovak people.

Joint Population 11,000,000 The area of the Czech countries is approximately 70,000 square miles, and of the Slovak regions about 18,000. According to the census of 1910 there were about 5,000,000 Czechs and 2,000,000 Slovaks, but these figures were underestimated for political purposes, and national leaders say that there are about 8,000,000 Czechs and 3,000,000 Slovaks. Among them live some 2,000,000 Germans and several hundred thousand Magyars, and the program of the independence movement provides for complete cultural autonomy of the German national minorities. There are more than 2,000,000 Czechs and Slovaks in the United States.

In 1818 the Czechs came into conflict with the Pan-Germans of that day, and the Hungarian revolution under Kossuth attempted to suppress the liberties of the Slovaks with the result that all the revolutionary movements collapsed and left the Hapsburgs supreme.

Wanted to Return German Colonies London, Aug. 24.—The British Government has been collecting and will soon publish evidence of Germany's ostentatious in governing her colonies, after which the world will agree that the colonies cannot be restored to Germany. Declared Under Foreign Secretary Cecil in his weekly interview, which was intended as a reply to German Colonial Secretary Solf's recent speech in Berlin before the German Society.

Table titled 'How to Pronounce Today's War Names' listing names and their pronunciations.

RED CROSS "INVASION" PROMPTED BY MERCY

German Lies to Swiss Quickly Exposed by American Red Cross, Which Established Depot to Care for Wounded

By CARL W. ACKERMAN

ports in Washington or New York of an American invasion of Switzerland or of Germany. I told the Swiss, with whom I spoke, that "there was nothing to the German rumors; that Germany was only trying to cause trouble."

Just a German Lie "But the Germans can prove it," they answered. "Buempfliz is filled with army supplies and Buempfliz is on the direct line from Bern to Germany." Buempfliz was a little town near Bern which was not even known to the great mass of Swiss citizens. It had a box factory, a depot and a few score houses and stores. The box factory had been bought "by American capital," according to rumor, and the American army was buying land and property nearby!

Reports of an American invasion of Switzerland to strike at Germany, became so general that the Swiss Government had to take some action; not that Switzerland doubted America's intentions, but because public opinion had been aroused by German agents and the German lie had to be silenced. So a committee was appointed to journey to Buempfliz.

When the commission arrived at the box factory it found a number of good Swiss citizens, mostly girls and women, busily engaged in packing boxes. Several men were working at a planing and sawing machine, others were nailing together small boxes. An American from the Far West, a former secretary to a United States Senator, was in charge. The committee looked around, into boxes and barrels. In some rooms the boxes from the quartermaster's depot of the American army in France, with the official army seal still intact, were piled to the ceiling, several rows deep. On some of the boxes some one had hastily painted a red cross. In the habit of making so many objects at the front with the red cross emblem, the Germans charged that the American army was using the red cross to disguise the supplies for the American army of invasion.



Four United States sailors in new uniforms supplied by the Red Cross. Photo taken in a German camp

other German lie, spread in this neutral country to cause excitement and hostile feeling, was placed in the huge volume which history is writing—a volume which has to be enlarged every day to hold all the false statements which come, directly and indirectly, from Berlin.

Only in one respect was the German charge true! The United States Red Cross Society did intend to invade Germany through Switzerland, but only to feed and clothe American prisoners of war, to do something which Germany would not and could not do!

Splendid Railroad Facilities Switzerland was selected for headquarters because of the splendid facilities there for shipping relief supplies to soldiers interned in Germany. For nearly a half century this country has been the headquarters for the International Red Cross, which was founded in Geneva, and during the war the headquarters for the British, French, Italian, Serbian and Polish Red Cross societies. The Swiss Government, too, had graciously permitted the belligerents to send mail and supplies on the Swiss railroads free of charge. For those unfortunate men who have been captured by Germany these Red Cross organizations have been their sole aid, support and comfort, for Fate, the judge of a soldier's career in battle, is as merciless as the devil and as ruthless as Imperial Germany. Not every man who goes over the top of the trenches is marked for a hero's death, selected to be among the wounded or rewarded with a scarless victory. Some are destined to be banished to a Hun camp, there to eke out a miserable existence until the end of the war.

MAJOR GENERALS OF MARINES

Lejeune and Waller Nominated to Rank by the President

Washington, Aug. 24.—Nominations of two marine corps brigadier generals, John A. Lejeune and Walter W. Waller, to be major generals, and of six colonels to be brigadier generals, were sent to the Senate today by President Wilson.

The colonels named brigadiers are: James E. Mahoney, Ben H. Fuller, John T. Myers, Charles G. Long, Wendell C. Neville and Albertus W. Catlin. "Doris S. Ransom," an assistant quartermaster with rank of colonel, also was nominated to be a brigadier general.

40 AIR SQUADRONS TO TRAIN

Four Will Locate in Texas and Thirty-six on Long Island

Washington, Aug. 24.—Houston, Tex., Mineola, L. I., Canby, L. I., Westport, L. I., and Babylon, L. I., are the first locations selected in connection with the organization of the forty new air squadrons. Four will be located at Houston and thirty-six on Long Island.

The Hazelhurst Field is the main base on Long Island and there are five others yet to be named. Conditions similar to those in France will apply to the training.

RELIGIOUS NOTICES

- List of religious notices including church services, baptisms, and other community events.

Large advertisement for 'The HERO SUPPLEMENT' featuring a star emblem and text: 'The HERO SUPPLEMENT will be issued with the Philadelphia PUBLIC LEDGER TOMORROW Sunday, Aug. 25. Only those who reserve copies in advance can be sure of obtaining this issue. The limited number available for this city will be quickly taken. See your newsdealer tonight.'