

FIRST YEAR OF THE WAR IN EUROPE

SKELETON HISTORY OF WAR

January 20—Archduke and Archduchess of Austria slain by Serbian assassin.

August 1—German declaration of war on Russia.

August 3—German forces enter Luxembourg.

August 4—German demand passage through Belgium.

August 7—French invade southern Alsace.

August 8—British troops land in Belgium.

August 11—German plan Liege forts.

August 12—German forces enter Belgium.

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THE EASTERN THEATER OF THE WAR

celerated by a strong attack from the French on the left bank of the Moselle. The German retreat was as orderly as that of the French and English had been. The invaders took up an admirable defensive position. It ran just north of the Moselle river, a series of bluffs, then just north of Chalons and through the wooded, rough regions of the Argonne and the Meuse, joining hands here with the troops besieging Verdun. The allies have tried this line in vain ever since.

Both combatants now tried to turn the west flank. Enormous bodies of cavalry. On the part of the French. On the part of the French. There was largely the desire to link up with the Belgians, now being attacked in Antwerp. The mighty siege guns of the Germans made short work of the Belgian outpost, however, and they fell on October 9. The remnants of the Belgian army retreated along the sea coast and the Germans in a final rush reached Ostend (October 15).

The battle line of the Allies was extended to the sea, the Germans holding the important French city of Lille, while the allies kept Ypres in Belgium and, partly by flooding the lowlands, held the position of the Yser river and canal.

From October 16 to November 10 was fought the desperate first battle of Ypres, when the Germans suffered flaming losses in attempts to break through the line in Flanders and reach Calais. They succeeded in pushing back the allies only a little and the invasion of Belgium by the Cossacks finally ended their defeat and sent reinforcements to Russia.

The Germans in September had performed the feat of pushing a salient into the French line south of Verdun, which forced the west bank of the Meuse river in St. Mihiel; while the French had taken the offensive with some success in Champagne at the same time.

For the most part throughout the winter the fighting consisted of regular siege warfare, with heavy artillery, machine guns and counter-mine.

The flooding of the River Alsace from winter snows and rain gave the French a chance to entrap the French troops on the north side of that river in the vicinity of Soissons for a considerable distance and kill or capture most of them (January 14).

Take Offensive in Spring.

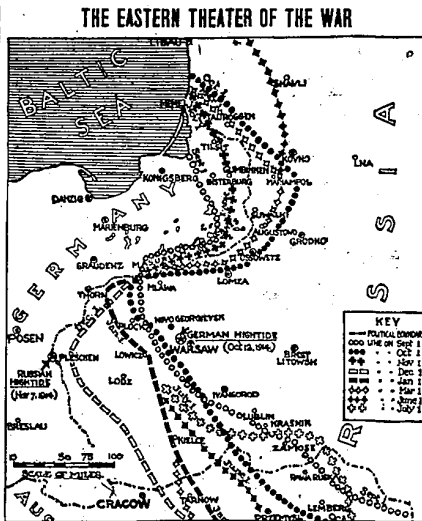
With the spring, the French and English attacked to take the offensive at several points.

In the Vosges the dominating height of Hartmannsweilerkopf was taken and retaken several times in sanguinary charges and finally remained in the hands of the French.

The salient of St. Mihiel was also subjected to tremendous French pressure. The French won the battle of St. Mihiel, but the Germans, despite the apparent weakness of the sharp wedge they had driven into the French line, could not be dislodged and later succeeded in regaining some of the territory they had lost.

The British also reported "victories" at Neuve Chapelle and Hill No. 60, in Flanders. Whether these should be accounted successes for the British is doubtful. The British suffered enormous losses and at Neuve Chapelle bungled affairs to the extent of shelling their own men who had taken German trenches.

The next development was the unexpected use of poisonous gas fumes by the Germans in attacks just north of Ypres. With this novel weapon they succeeded in taking several small villages and more than compensating for the losses on the St. Mihiel salient. The British were severe, but they succeeded in stemming the German onslaught effectively a few miles back from their former position.



The Germans again have penetrated as close to Warsaw as the star which marks the "high tide" of last autumn.

CAMPAIGNS IN THE EAST

The first twelvemonth of fighting between the Russians on one side and the Austrians and Germans on the other is a story of great changes of fortune, both combatants being repeatedly forced only to show the greatest resiliency in defeat and soon to resume the offensive in a most surprising manner.

Russia's losses in the first year of the war are not approached by those of any nation in any war of history. Slow to Mobilize.

On August 1, 1914, Germany declared war on Russia. Almost immediately the Germans crossed the frontier at Thorn and the Austrians south of Lublin. They were practically unopposed because of the slowness of mobilization in Russia. The Grand Duke Nicholas, Nicholas II's brother, was forced to gather his main armies well to the rear of the line of great fortresses running through Kovno, Grodno, Minsk, Novogorod, and Irkutsk.

On account of his desire to do all he could to relieve the French, who were being driven from northern France by the amazing German rush through Belgium, Nicholas attacked sooner than he otherwise would have done. As a result, he met two disasters.

He sent General Samsonoff into East Prussia from the south and General Rennenkampf into East Prussia from the east, the latter winning the first major battle of the war in the East at Gumbinnen.

At this moment the Germans, believing that the French were well in hand and about to be surrounded on their eastern front, quickly withdrew 250,000 men from France and hurled them by rail into East Prussia, where they fell upon Samsonoff with crushing force in the great battle of Tannenberg (Aug. 26).

Meanwhile, the Austrians, leaving only a few troops in Galicia to hold back the Russians advancing from the south, struck the Russians en masse at Krassno and routed them to Lublin.

Most Bloody Drive of War.

With two armies in difficulty, the grand duke decided to abandon one to its fate and save the other. He threw reinforcements into Lublin and ordered the line of the Gnila-Lipa river be forced at abandon one to its fate and save the other. He threw reinforcements into Lublin and ordered the line of the Gnila-Lipa river be forced at abandon one to its fate and save the other.

high tide of Russian invasion. The Austrians withdrew over the Carpathian ridge, leaving Przemyśl to be besieged a second time. The Germans withdrew to Silesia and the Russians, following closely, were able for a brief moment to raid this rich province at Pleschen. At the same time they entered East Prussia again.

But again the German strategic railway proved their undoing. Hindenburg concentrated at Thorn and drove into the right flank of the Russian main forces, throwing them back on Lodz.

He advanced too far, however, and when he had the Russian forces nearly surrounded, he suddenly found Russia in his own rear. In this extremity, the Russian army, he telegraphed for reinforcements.

But before the reinforcements sent from Flanders arrived the Germans had managed at frightful cost to hack their way to safety. This was the bloody battle of Lodz.

Wine Second Victory.

With stronger German forces opposing them the Russians withdrew to the line of Bzura, Rawa and Nida rivers. At the same time the Austrians, attempting to debouch from the Carpathian passes, were driven back everywhere, leaving 50,000 prisoners.

With January Hindenburg made a third desperate attack on Warsaw. For ten days, both night and day, the German guns men and, then, having lost probably 50,000 men and the Russians nearly as many, they gave it up.

Unable to reach Warsaw, Hindenburg concentrated twice Siever's force in the south, and won his second overwhelming victory there. Enormous captures of Russians were made and the fortress of Grodno was attacked farther west, from Osovets to Polotsk. The Germans retreated to Mlawa and then tried to flank the Russians at Przasnysz, which city they took. But the Russians again sank the flankers party, as they had done at Lodz and won an important success (February 22-23).

In March and April, the Russians pressed through the western Carpathian passes and entered Hungary. Just when their future seemed bright, the Germans broke the Russian line in West Galicia and let through enormous forces.

The Russian retreat was not without its gains. They took the Russian Carpathian armies in the rear. The latter tried to retreat, but vast numbers were captured. Przemyśl, which had succumbed to the Russian besiegers March 19, fell again into the hands of the Austro-Germans.

From Przemyśl Von Mackensen drove south through Mostow and Grodno and captured Lemberg, the Galician capital. Then he turned north and marched upon the Warsaw-Vladivostok-Brest-Litovsk triangle from the east.

The Germans now began the grandest maneuver ever seen in the history of human warfare.

From the Windau river in the Baltic province all the way through the border of East Prussia and in a gigantic sweep through the vicinity of Riga, west of the Vistula, and a line south of the Lublin-Chernow railway they reached smashing blows and have reached the very gates of Warsaw.

Cost in Men and Money.

The estimated casualties of the first year of the war are as follows: Tonnage, 4,430,000; entente allies, 6,286,210.

The total cost of the first year of the war is estimated at \$165,000,000,000.

Not Altogether His Fault.

Eddie had traded a nice pocket knife for a forlorn-looking dog, minus his tail. His father tearfully reminded him that he got the worst of the bargain, as the dog had no tail. Ed solemnly answered, "Well, daddy, he was stittin' down when I traded."

Penalty of Progress.

When we get telephones that can be seen through every woman will have to look into the mirror before she answers a call.—Toledo Blade.

Wart Cure.

This is a sure and harmless cure for war. Go to the drug store and get ten cents worth of cinnamon oil and put it on the warts every night and in the morning if you wish. Do not be afraid of getting it on the skin around the warts, for it will not hurt it. The warts will soon start to disappear as quickly as they came. It is best to apply with a toothpick.

Begin Series of Attacks.

The German line makes a salient at Solasau, though not such a pronounced one as at St. Mihiel. The French now began a series of attacks on the upper side of this salient, to the north of Arras. Expanding hundreds of thousands of shells, they tried and again blasted away the barbed wire entanglements and concrete trenches, held by Crown Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria's men, and then charged across the desolate ground for slight gains.

The fighting centered about the sugar refinery of Souchez and the great German work of the labyrinth. Fighting went on in collapse and tunnels below the earth and the casualties were heavy. The French bent the German line and captured the Labyrinth. The German line was now as far west as Tarnow in Galicia, while the Cossacks were able to make raids into Hungary farther south. Hindenburg concentrated great forces for a drive into Silesia and began a drive from the west against Warsaw and Irkutsk. The Siberian corps arrived in the nick of time to save Warsaw from the enemy.

Hindenburg then drew off the northern section of his army in Poland to the north, thinking to take the pursuing Russians in great force from the south. But the Austrians were too slow to carry out the field marshal's plans and the Russians, slipping into a gap in the lines between the German and the Cossack, slaughtered the latter. The result was the

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

BY E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, The Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

LESSON FOR AUGUST 8

THE KINGDOM TORN ASUNDER

LESSON TEXT—1 Kings 12:1-16. GOLDEN TEXT—Pride exalts before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. Prov. 16:18.

Solomon's kingdom though outwardly magnificent contained within it those germs of oppression, formal religion, and the law, as an example of an indulgent monarch which speedily led to its disruption after his death. Forty years Solomon reigned, but the latter end of his life was none too peaceful. "He loved many strange women" and "his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God" (1 Kings 11:1-4). Rezon was his "adversary" (1 Kings 11:25) and Jeroboam whom he at first sought to conciliate (1 Kings 12:28) was finally driven from the land (v. 40). Chapter eleven contains the prophecy of which this lesson is the fulfillment. "And Rehoboam, his son, reigned in his stead" (1 Kings 11:43).

I. The Convention at Shechem, vv. 1-5. This place has an important history beginning in the days of Abraham and Jacob. It was a city of the Levites and the place where Joshua gave his final charge (Josh. 24:1, 25). Abimelech destroyed it though it was soon rebuilt. Here Israel gathered to confirm Solomon's son upon the throne. Jerusalem and Judah readily accepted Rehoboam king, but the ten tribes hesitated and, according to one translation there was a year's delay during which time Jeroboam was sent for and certain reforms were formulated (v. 2). Their charges were not entirely selfish and made no reference to the rights of Jeroboam nor offered any protest against the increasing idolatry. Before allegiance was sworn Jeroboam as spokesman presented these reforms (v. 4) and Rehoboam wisely asked for time to consider the request (v. 5).

II. Good Counsel Neglected, vv. 6-12. Rehoboam came of bad stock (ch. 14:21), yet his first step was a wise one. His name means "Elevation of the people," but he sadly belied the name. Too long had he lived in the atmosphere of luxury and extravagance. The northern tribes suffered greatly through taxation and shared none of the prosperity of Jerusalem. Solomon's "yoke," like that of every earthly monarch, had been heavy (Matt. 11:29, 30). The counsel of the old men was good (v. 7), it was wisely, manly.

Jesus tells us that the greatest must be the servant of all and sets us the example himself (Matt. 20:28). Rehoboam next consulted those of his own circle who "were grown up with him," men of like position and passions, youths as inexperienced as himself who had no sympathy but were wild, conceited, overbearing, selfish. Rehoboam asked "advice" (v. 6) of the old men, but asked "counsel" (v. 8) of the young men, but in neither case is there any suggestion that God was consulted (James 1:5). These young men counseled a boasting and burdensome course which brought Rehoboam to grief. Oppression always results in rebellion, a fact that those who govern or employ others should ponder well. Rehoboam's choice of counselors and his consequent course of action was the height of foolishness (Prov. 13:20).

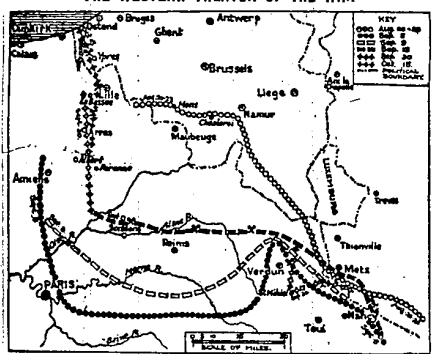
III. Bad Counsel Confirmed, vv. 12-14. Jeroboam's subsequent career confirms us in believing that he more than all others encouraged and fostered the division of the kingdom. But the proud, foolish princeling were both only carrying out the word and will of Jehovah (v. 15; Ps. 76:10). This does not, however, lessen the guilt or folly (Acts 2:23). Not content with declaring his acceptance of the evil counsel he spoke "roughly" (v. 13) and this verse suggests us that "the old men's counsel" was known to the people, thereby aggravating his offense. "Whom God wishes to destroy he first makes mad." Rough words would madden or, by using soft words you may lead an elephant by the tail. Not content to refuse Rehoboam's threats added burdens (v. 14).

IV. Conclusion. God turned away the kingdom from Solomon's house because Solomon had turned away from God (ch. 11:9-11, 31, 33). The true prophet foretold what would happen, the "cause was from the Lord that he might perform his saying" (v. 15, of 1 Kings 32). God's constant and finally fulfilling prophecy. Those which have been so fully and so minutely fulfilled are a warrant that in due time all will likewise "come to pass." Rehoboam is a lesson to the young men of today.

Rehoboam is also a lesson for present day fathers. Finally Rehoboam is a lesson to all who are set in authority. To close our ears to the cry of the needy; to forget our obligations to God and to men (Matt. 25), and to fail to see God's purposes, prophecies and plans, inevitably courts disaster.

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THE WESTERN THEATER OF THE WAR



CAMPAIGNS IN THE WEST

The first month and a half of the war were campaigns made up of a startling, swift moves. On September 12, after the defeat on the Marne, the Germans took up defensive positions along the Aisne river. The ten and a half months since then have seen a long deadlock.

The battle line of the Aisne and the Oise quickly extended northeast to the sea. Fighting has been continuous, with tremendous losses. The general situation has remained unchanged, gains of a few miles for one side at one point offset by minor gains for the enemy in other sectors.

At the beginning of August the Kaiser took possession of the little state of Luxembourg and demanded passage through Belgium to the Franco-Belgian frontier.

Permission to pass denied, Von Hindenburg attacked Liege (August 4), while other German armies passed around the city and swept over the level Belgian roads at a terrific rate. The little Belgian army yielded Brussels and fell back to Antwerp and Ghent.

First Big Engagement.

Not until the Germans had almost reached the French border did the first important engagement take place. This is generally known as the battle

of Mons-Charleroi (about August 20, 25), but at the same time there was severe fighting along the whole line through Thionville in Lorraine and along the Vosges in Upper Alsace, which the French had invaded with temporary success, but at the same time this battle resulted in defeat for the French and English.

While obtaining some successes in counter-attacks on the advancing Germans at Peronne and at Guise, the French were obliged to fall back rapidly to the line of the River Marne.

On the left the French had withdrawn to below Paris and the westernmost German army, under Von Kluck, followed it.

The garrison of Paris was put in thousands of motor cars and hurried on Von Kluck's flank. The latter was not taken entirely unaware and met the attack strongly, but at the same time the army of General Foch attacked the German army on Von Kluck's left and drove it back.

Driven Back From Paris.

The Germans had begun the battle with five armies in line. The withdrawal of the two farthest west now caused the retreat of the third, fourth and fifth in that order, each in turn finding its flank exposed by the withdrawal of the troops on its right. At that time the movement on the east end of the German line was so

ting the Atlantic trade routes, there are prayers, as well as a regular church service every Sunday.

If there is no chaplain on board, the commanding officer of the ship, "church" itself is the deck, the part chosen as sheltered a position as possible. The sailors' favorite hymns are those dealing with the sea, particularly "Almighty Father, Strong to Save."

There is one thing about these services on board ship; every Jack Tar is keen on attending them, and though

they are a matter of routine they are never hurried.

Wart Cure.

This is a sure and harmless cure for war. Go to the drug store and get ten cents worth of cinnamon oil and put it on the warts every night and in the morning if you wish. Do not be afraid of getting it on the skin around the warts, for it will not hurt it. The warts will soon start to disappear as quickly as they came. It is best to apply with a toothpick.

A Souvenir of Belfort.

The recent Solferrino anniversary recalled not only the occasion of a great victory by Italians over Austrians, but also the birth of the Red Cross. The "Souvenir of Belfort" was the title of the work that stirred the conscience of Europe. It was written by a young Swiss, Henri Dunant, who had been among the wounded at the front and seen the sufferings of the wounded. That "souvenir" brought an invitation to Dunant from the Geneva Society of Public Utility to propose an international scheme of trained nurses—viable—under guarantee by all nations. It was that pamphlet which brought the signing of the Geneva Convention in 1864, with the Red Cross on white ground in compliment to Henri Dunant's country.—Westminster Gazette.

BattleShip Service.

Every day on every British warship, whether in the North sea, or bombarding the Dardanelles, or guard-