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LOUIS APPELT, Editor

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#### SOLDIERS DOOMED TO DIE IN BATTLE.

When great and terrible battles are being fought and a monstrous war is causing the entire civilized world to gasp and shudder, questions are apt to be asked by non-combatants and readers of war news as to the chances a soldier has of escaping from battle unharmed, figured on a percentage basis; and also questions pertaining to the disposition of the thousands upon thousands of men found mangled and lifeless upon the field.

"What becomes of the great heaps of the slain, piled five deep in long widrows? Are they all buried, or are left to lie where they fell?"

And again, "What is the percentage of men, in a given number engaged, that will surely be slain in the battle or be numbered among the wounded?"

Such questions as these are frequently heard, and are answered as follows by one of our own war experts:

#### THE UNLUCKY TEN PER CENT.

The medical staff of an army, he says is equipped upon the theory, based upon a past experience, that 10 per cent will be killed or wounded in each battle. If the number of casualties is eighteen, the estimate is that fully 20 per cent, or 3,600, will be dead on the field, 8 per cent, or 1,440, will be so severely wounded that it will be inadvisable to move them, 40 per cent or 7,200, will be able to walk, one-half of them to the station for the slightly wounded in the rear, the rest to the field hospital, and 32 per cent will require to be carried off the field. HIS OWN SURGEON IF POSSIBLE.

Every soldier of every army carries, in a sealed tin box, a first aid packet, consisting of a bandage, antiseptic gauze and adhesive plaster. A part of the training of the soldier is how to use these, and if the wound is slight and in an accessible place he may apply the dressing him-

self, if more severe, a comrade may apply it for him.

The wounded soldier, with or without first aid dressing, if he is able to walk, passes back to the rear to the field hospital, which is always more or less sheltered from the fire of the armies. If he is unable to walk he is carried back on a litter by the hospital corps. As soon as he can stand transportation he is passed on to the general hospital and thence in due time to the convalescent camp to recuperate.

In the Manchurian campaign, one-third of the wounded Japanese returned to the ranks within a month.

#### THE ZONES OF LOSSES.

In deciding upon his arrangements for a battle, the chief surgeon bears in mind that the wounded will be distributed in "zones of losses." The usual proportion of wounded is 20 per cent up to one thousand yards range; from one thousand to four hundred yards range, 50 per cent; in the final rush, 10 per cent, in pursuit 10 per cent.

The field hospital is not pitched till the tactical situation develops and the point where the main attack is to be made known. Then a site is chosen beyond the range of the enemy's fire, accessible to front and rear by road, yet off the route of march of advancing troops, convenient to wood and water, if possible, near buildings which may be used for the overflow of wounded, for, of course, casualties in battle are not limited by rule and the facilities provided may be overwhelmed.

Conditions on the battlefield are all unfavorable for clean surgical work, and it is often impossible to reach many wounded for hours, and sometimes for days, as in the attack upon the Liege forts in Belgium, where the Germans wounded in the assault were unattended for long periods, thousands of them dying where they lay beneath the guns of the forts.

#### UNITED IN THE AFTERMATH.

The chief surgeon has under him a corps of surgeons for amputating the limbs of the wounded and for dressing wounds, and also a corps of litter bearers and ambulance men. Many acts of heroism that are not recorded in the annals of the battles are per-

formed by the men of the hospital corps, and of the Red Cross who go out often in the face of terrific firing and gather up the wounded.

Where an army is entrenched, or fighting in the cover of a wood, or in any other protected place which it holds for a long period of continuous fighting, the gravely wounded are gathered up as they fall by the litter bearers, assisted by the soldiers, and are passed back to the rear.

When a fighting army is driven out of its position and the advancing enemy rushes over the field and on in pursuit, the medical corps then has an opportunity to gather in the wounded left in the wake of the two armies, and often the medical corps of the two opposing armies work together upon the field, each carrying off its wounded. Often an armistice is taken so that the wounded may be picked up and the dead buried.

Generally the medical staff of each army aims to care for its own wounded, but in every case where it is necessary the wounded of the enemy are cared for with the same attention that is given those of the home army. Thus in Antwerp the Belgians are caring for large numbers of wounded Germans, and the medical staff of the German army cared for the wounded Belgians they found when they captured the forts of Liege.

#### BURYING THE DEAD.

The last service rendered to the soldier by the medical staff is to see that those killed are promptly buried after the battle; for, as the dead soldier has now become rubbish, or waste matter, his disposal is properly a part of the sanitary work of the medical staff. The widows and orphans, waiting at home until anxiety deepens into dread, and dread into despair, may be able to form some estimate of the reverent care with which this last rite is performed for their loved ones "humanely" killed by modern methods, when they know that the chief surgeon counts on a burial squad of five hundred men disposing of 140 bodies an hour, after the bodies have been collected.

There is no ceremony about it, and no reverence shown for the dead. It is all a matter of the cold, horrible business of war.

The dead must be buried, and as quickly as possible, for there is other work to do. One squad collects the dead in piles, another digs long, shallow trenches and the bodies are packed in the trenches and covered with earth. The dispatches told that before Liege the Germans had so many dead, and the soldiers were so needed for fighting and gathering in the wounded that there was not time to dig trenches so the bodies were piled in heaps, oil was poured on and they were burned.

#### TO THE GRAVE UNWEPT.

Often an army is driven from its position and must leave the dead behind. Then they are sometimes buried by the enemy which occupies the position, but more often, in the present war, the dead of both armies are left to be buried by the non-combatants. It is a common thing for the army officers to order the villages near the scene of battle to bury the dead. At Liege, and at other battlefields of the present war, nearly all the dead were buried by the non-combatant natives, and in this the women helped.

An effort is made to get the name of each dead soldier so that it may be included in the list sent back to the home town of the regiment. But generally, where the fighting is as severe as it is in this war, and where one army is pushing another on and on, there is no time to do this, and the list of dead are made up from those who do not answer to the roll call and are not among the wounded. The majority of widows and orphans will never know just how or where their loved ones were killed or where they were buried.

#### A SURVEY OF THE WAR.

This great war in Europe, perhaps the biggest, bloodiest and most useless in the history of the world, has come so suddenly, and its effects are being felt so disastrously on this side of the water, and right here in Clarendon County, that we are hardly able to get our bearings, and in calm and meditative moments we wonder what it is all about. Sixty days ago nobody dreamed of such a thing. Some people have been preaching that the world is getting better; many have argued that civilization had

advanced to that state when there would never be any more wars, and that while there would be small questions arising between nations, yet these would be settled by arbitration. But alas, how erroneous are such views, and as we witness four or five of the greatest and reputedly most civilized nations of the earth after each others throats, and ruthlessly slaying thousands of innocent lives, making widows, orphans, poverty, distress and want, how can we escape the conclusion that the world is not growing better, and that mankind is as selfish and grasping and as blood thirsty as it ever was. This writer lays himself open to the charge of pessimism and asserts that he does not believe that the world at large is growing better. A great many people are growing better, and all the people of the world are growing wiser and more advanced, but selfishness, greed, avarice, and a disregard for the lives and rights of others are just as rampant as they ever were.

Our opinions concerning this great war, must be formed from the news which we get from the other side of the water, and from all the news we have had it is a useless and heartless war. We did not know, until the fighting began, how closely the whole world was linked and bound together in a commercial way. Who would have thought sixty days ago that if a war were to break out in Europe we would have felt its effects so sharply right here in Clarendon County. Who would have thought that all the commodities which we have to buy would have advanced so in price. Who would have thought that cotton, the greatest commodity which we raise in the South, would become for a time practically worthless, and that the effects of this would be felt by us, even down to the pound of sugar that we buy, or the pair of shoes that we buy for the baby in our homes.

But we know now what it means, here in the South, and here in Clarendon County, and we naturally inquire, who brought it about. This takes us back to where an Austria prince and his wife were slain by some anarchistic students who were subjects of the small and

weak country of Serbia. There are anarchists in all countries, and who is it who does not remember the hanging of seven anarchists in Chicago, or the assassination of three of our own greatest presidents, Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley, by anarchists. But should any country be held responsible for the individual acts of a few anarchists in that country? Austria-Hungary made demands upon Serbia for reparation, and Serbia agreed to make honorable amends, but Austria, feeling that Germany, her big protector, would back her in any unreasonable demands, made her claims so unreasonable that poor little Serbia could not accede and maintain her self, respect among the family of nations. Then Russia, whose people are of the same race as the Servians, began to mobilize her troops in case she should be brought in, mobilizing them on her own territory, which she had a right to do. Russia saw the German plan behind the whole thing, whereupon the German Emperor, the big bully of Europe, issues an ultimatum to Russia giving her only twelve hours in which to cease mobilizing and to disperse her troops.

The German Emperor knew all about the triple agreement between Russia, France and England, but he wanted to get after Russia, and he hoped to bring France in and whip her, as his old grand daddy had done in 1870, before France could wake up. He hid not count on England coming in, and it is doubtful that England would have come in but for the utter disregard of the rights her ally, poor little Belgium, but Germany in attempting to march her great German army across Belgium against her protests, telling poor little Belgium, "we have nothing against you, we have got to make use of you and march across you and destroy your property, we will pay you afterwards if you do not kick about it, but we are going to do it anyhow." This brought England in, and Germany was already advancing towards France and France was trying to keep her back. The big bully of Europe, the German Emperor, who inherited the military fighting

spirit from his forefathers and has been teaching and unculcating that spirit among his people for the past twenty five years, has now reached the age of about fifty years, and has an immense fighting spirit of his forefathers and in order to go down in history for greatness he must have a great war and conquer somebody before he gets too old to direct a war; or before he dies. Conquest and victory in war are his highest conceptions of greatness. Human life has little value for him, and human suffering amounts to nothing with him in his efforts to become greater than his grand father Wilhelm. He boasts of a god born right to rule, and it is "my country" and "my subjects" and "my soldiers." He must be greater than Napoleon, whose fate it is hoped that justice will decree that he should share. Impartial writers are already ascribing this great war to the German Emperor William. Historians will truthfully and justly place the responsibility upon him. What a pity it is that in those countries of Europe and the Eastern world, where they have monarchs and kings and emperors, with so much authority and the power to declare war, that they did not also have a code of honor, and the old time South Carolina "Code Duelo", so that when an autocrat like William of Germany got the swell head so bad that he felt as if he if he must fight, he would challenge the other fellow and let the two big fellows fight it out themselves, without bringing "my people" and "my subjects" in to suffer the loss of life and property.

It seems to me that from the standpoint of right and honor, since these countries are into the war, (and they all claim to be fighting for honor) England, Russia and France are not only justified but doing the proper thing to sign an agreement for none of them to individually make terms of peace until they all agree. The war has been unjustly precipitated by Germany, and somebody has got to be whipped before it ends. It is true that the German army is the best trained and one of the largest in the world. So far it seems to be almost invincible,

and its successes in battle are many, but Napoleon's army was also great, and the dreams of the Emperor of Germany seem to be akin to those of Napoleon. Germany may win, but I believe that finally there is another Waterloo to come, and this time Germany will not be on the same side that she was before. An All wise hand is in it, and the map of Europe is going to be changed. I believe that the time is rapidly passing when men are born to rule, or inherit that right by birth. After the wreck of France and the downfall of monarchies and emperors a republic and the rule of the people arose. In the changing of the map of Europe as the result of this great war let us hope that republics will rise where the masses who have to do the fighting will also have a say so in the government, and that wise presidents, elected by the masses, will succeed these vain glorious, selfish and heartless monarchs.

In the meantime what a great country is America, where "all men are born free and equal," and where the humblest and the lowest have a voice in the government, and all people may own property, protected by the strong arm of the law, and worship God in freedom and without molestation.

(The above is a contibuted article from a friend of The Times.

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