

When the Germans Surrender

A Great Military Expert Prognosticates Events at the Close of the War

Assuming that the German attack on France absolutely fails, and that a similar fate attends the actions of the German fleet against ours, one must presuppose a tremendous wave of enthusiasm sweeping over the armies invading Germany which must carry them over the different frontiers well on the road to Berlin, writes a great military expert in London Answers. Step by step the German armies must be imagined as recoiling, on the one hand, from the French forces, swelled by the British Expeditionary Army, and, on the other hand, from the enormous Russian masses moving with slow but irresistible momentum towards the same goal—Berlin.

The German fortresses are enormously strong, but nothing can withstand the onslaught of a well-directed army with magnificent artillery such as the French Army is equipped with. The forts of Cologne, Strassburg, and Ehrenbreitstein, much larger and mounting heavier guns than those at Liege, must fall to the attack of determined forces in sufficient strength, and able to bring to bear guns of the right calibre, and, once the plan of the German invasion of France has been thoroughly foiled, we must suppose the French Army sweeping everything before it.

When Panic Threatens.

With both France and Russia threatening the German capital, and her sea commerce totally paralyzed by the operations of our Fleet, the German armies must continue to give battle under the most disheartening conditions which preclude the idea of any victory of sufficient importance to retrieve the campaign. Panic will begin to spread through the Fatherland, and with panic will come disillusionment and a terrific revulsion of feeling.

The German people, who for years have been taught that German arms were invincible, will feel that they have been made the catspaw of an unscrupulous set of gamblers.

The Imperial family will be looked upon by Germans as was Napoleon III. during the sorrowful days of the disasters in the war of '70—with feelings of the bitterest hatred. If history teaches us any lesson at all, it is that, if a victorious emperor can ask nothing too much of his subjects, a defeated emperor must expect no mercy. When Napoleon was losing there were few to say a good word for him.

In Peaceful Solitude.

Thus it is safe to argue that the Kaiser, being regarded as personally responsible for the awful plight of the country, will precipitate a movement against his dynasty that may become too violent to check.

If the Emperor survives all vicissitudes, one might, having regard to all the possibilities, foresee him and his family exiled to some quiet spot where his power for mischief would be for ever gone.

I was going to mention England as a possible refuge for the Emperor, noting its popularity as a home of monarchs who have lost their crowns, but I hardly think the Kaiser would feel comfortable living at Twickenham, where King Manuel consoles himself for the loss of his kingdom, or even Farnborough, where Napoleon III. made his home, and where his widow, the Empress Eugenie, lives to-day.

No; I think the Austrian Tyrol, or somewhere in the Bay of Naples, more appropriately fits the picture.

Such an anti-dynastic movement would probably be initiated by the commercial interests in Germany.

The anti-dynastic movement may take two forms. There may be a strong Socialistic movement towards the establishment of a republic to replace the present autocratic form of government, or there may

be an overwhelming feeling in the direction of breaking up the confederacy, and resolving the Empire into a series of strong, independent states again.

Whether Germany will sue for peace before the invading armies actually reach Berlin is of little importance. What is important is that before the German armies are entirely routed, internal political conditions will compel them to demand an ignominious peace.

And what will be the price of this peace?

When Germany brought France to her knees in 1870 they secured as the price of peace a war indemnity of £200,000,000, and the secession of the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine.

In their turn, the victorious armies will demand a war indemnity not as large as they might wish, because of the necessity for preserving Germany from going into bankruptcy, but still heavy enough to cripple the Fatherland for years, and, more important still, will insist on huge territorial adjustments, everything being done to remove artificial frontiers between kindred races.

Alsace and Lorraine.

It is a foregone conclusion that Alsace-Lorraine, which has always been a thorn in the side of Germany and a source of weakness to her, will be restored to France.

The whole of the budding Colonial Empire of Germany will disappear. I hope we shall not take any of her colonies, for we have enough and to spare already, and, in any case, Germany's overseas possessions are not of much account. Possibly we may consent to them being parcelled out equally between Russia and France, contenting ourselves with Togoland, and passing Kiao-Chao over to Japan.

France certainly will insist on the slice taken from the French Congo being restored to her.

Denmark, in recognition of her good behavior during the war, may demand, and with every hope of success, the restoration to her of Schleswig-Holstein.

What Belgium's reward would be is impossible to say. Possibly a monetary one. There is nothing territorially that could be offered this tight little kingdom, for one has to have regard in all these frontier adjustments to the sentiments and race origin of the people whose land it is proposed to divert. Belgium would never ask to be loaded with such a thankless gift as a German province that might be a canker to her as Alsace-Lorraine has been to Germany.

Servia, who should have conquered Bosnia-Herzegovina from Austria, will be given authority to retain what is hers by right unchallenged.

I am prophesying that Italy will be strong enough to withstand the bullying of the other two members of the Triple Alliance. If she does so, her reward will be the restoration of the Italia Irredenta, that little triangle, with Trieste at the extreme left-hand corner and Fiume at the extreme right-hand corner, which formed part of the old Venetian Republic, and was filched from her by the Hapsburgs.

Expelled From Turkey.

For other Balkan states whose conduct has been beyond reproach there will also be territorial rewards. Turkey stands to lose most. If she controls her ambitions, all will be well with her. If she elects to make trouble during the war, the Powers of the Triple Entente may decide, for the sake of the future peace of Europe, to expel her entirely from Europe.

Russia then might, with some reason, ask for the reward she has always coveted—Constantinople. Probably the arrangement that would be made would be to join the remainder of the Turkish European Empire to some Slav state in sympathy with Russia, so that, even if Russia didn't actually get Constantinople, she would be the commanding influence there. The absorption of all Poland into the Muscovite Empire is certain.

Roumania would be territorially enriched at the expense of Austria, in accordance with the line of race, and the Powers might decide to end the comic-opera business of the Albanian monarchy by passing her on to one of the Balkan states.

Generally, the effect of the crushing defeat of Germany and Austria-Hungary will be to reduce considerably the boundaries of the two empires.

How far Germany will suffer will depend largely on internal conditions and her ability to bargain.

Whatever else happens, however, the loss of her colonies and Alsace-Lorraine are certain. Equally certain is the loss to Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina and almost as certain the loss of the Italia Irredenta.

Arms and the Nations.

More important even than the territorial changes will be the influence on armaments. Europe will find

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