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SECOND SECTION

V-Why the Germans Failed on the Western Front BY PHILIP GIBBS

Newspaper Syndicate.) voted all their mental energy to the tion and treachery, and had sold the back the German tide. study of the actual problem of the bodies of their countrymen to the torwar in which they deliberately engag- turers for roubles paid by Germany, ed by the most minute study of every or robbed by Imperial taxation. In success. In their war colleges and those of beasts, if there is any truth have to fall back in a further retreat, net of sea-power. staff schools they had analyzed every in reports from Russia, the first in- so that Paris herself would be aban- In the battle of the Somme, during alternative plan of attack, every pos- stinct behind the movement of the doned to the orgies of a conquering the second half of 1916, after many sible method of striking rapidly and Bolsheviki was an agonized cry for army, Foch in the centre of the small and desperate battles before, effectively so as to destroy their en- brotherhood in place of human cru- French line said, in spirit, if not in the British armies in France and emy by weight of numbers hurled elty of castes and war lords. The those exact words (I was told then Flanders with French troops on their were certain when they moved their German troops in Russia, and before Staff): "I am not going to retreat. I way through a fortress system of troops toward the French and Belgian the war ended weakened them as de- am going to attack." He attacked trenches thirty miles deep and forty frontiers in July of 1914, that ac- fenders of German castes and war late in the evening when the Germans miles broad, and in spite of their own cording to the unalterable laws of lords. From a military standpoint had lit their bivouac fires, believing enormous losses, destroyed immense military science, the game was in the German obsession in Russia di- that the fighting of the enemy and broke the spring of 1918 the German Head-

And yet they failed.

By striking through Belgium, which lit is almost certain—the enemy would was almost defenceless against their have broken the western front and ris, had to retreat in disorder, fight- Somme," and at last they could stand onrush, they gained their first and rolled up the French and British ar- ing bloody rear-guard actions. frightful advantage. The French mies if he had just put in that extra General Staff, who ought to have bit of weight needed at the exact moknown through their intelligence ment of great success. That he did French Troops Go Forward in Taxis. which they laid waste behind them, branch what was common talk in not do so was partly lack of men, ow- Marshall Joffre, quick to realize to the shelter of their great Hinden-German military circles long before ing to the adventures in Russia, and the wonderful chance, ordered Gen- burg line which they had been buildthe war, failed to anticipate this nor- partly a military hesitation due to eral Manoury to attack Von Kluck on ing for a year. The British troops thern attack and exposed themselves ignorance of our extreme weakness. | the flank with the Army of Paris, | did not cease their attacks during the unbreakable faith and courage of the to its thrust by concentrating all their best troops behind the eastern frontier. In spite also of the forty years' menace against them, the French were utterly unprepared for enemy was in August of 1914, when The British army, weak in numbers fearful price to themselves, draining duction of war material, and gave ions of Senegalese and Moroccans, on them . important commands to younger men who had not the same "striking" That victory of the Marne was the a most incredible folly they took the of scientific ability. They were late power as the French or British. Von death-blow to Germany's hopes of a risk of adding the greatest power in in making these reforms, and the Kluck's army passed through Amiens quick, certain victory, and after that the world-in numbers of men and in Germans had struck deep down into in a great tide, after the retreat of they knew the war would be a long, potential energy—to their list of ene-France before they were made. And the French from Bapaume, which I costly and uncertain struggle. In mies. With almost deliberate carevet the Germans failed on the western saw on a tragic night, and then bore November of 1914 and again in April lessness they flouted the United

lost the war entirely by reason of

vided their armies ,and our western and he sent the Crown Prince's army spirit of the German troops engaged front, heavily pressed as it was, did reeling back from the Marne. The against them by the fury of their gun-

Her First Colossal Blunder. The first colossal blunder of the a cab.

recall, simply, the early events of the vain to get With that coast in her fought until they were but a thin marine activities. The German General Staff, hands her submarine would brown living line standing in the By those miscalculations they lost

(Copyright, 1909, by the McClure, with the German people, had long nave been a more tenrible and dead-, midst of their dead and wounded, the war in the long run, and by other, ing retreat, with heroic rear guard, had gone before, were sent out from The generalship and staff work of sian armies began to move westward to France and all of us. But von to the enemy had he known our ex- tain. the German army was in many ways they were undoubtedly stricken with Kluck, acting under the orders of his one immense mistake they made the Canadians and Australians, supmasterly, and far higher in efficiency fear at the vision of the Russian General Staff, drove steadily down, own strength to the psychology and years of costly fighting except the ported later by three American diviand knowledge during the first two | 'team-roller.' For two years they leaving the coast as fruit to be pluck- he hesitated to deliver the last attack temper of their soldiers and civilian losses they had inflicted on the en- sions, they began a counter-offensive years of the war than that of the Brit- sacrificed vast numbers of their finest ed later, and intending to drive a because of his own fearful losses, population. They put a greater emy's man-power. Then the French and fought a battle every day, when ish, and even of the French. It troops to put their weight against wedge past Paris, which would then land the British held Ypres, and never strain upon them than human nature line broke at the Chemin des Dames; they smashed the enemy out of his would be absurd to pretend that Brit- that Russian mass and to roll it back fall into his hands as the best fruit of let go. ish generalship was in the early days through blood and mud, gaining all. Three things upset his reckona match for the enemy's. There spectacular and high-sounding victo- ing and spoiled his plan. The first was hardly a general in the British ries which set the joy-bells ringing was the survival of the little British army who had ever handled more in Germany, and led to-Bolshevism, army as a fighting force when he than a division of men in the field. That anarchy was the revolt of men thought it was annihilated; and the and army corps or groups of divisions | who had seen their sons and brothers | second (and more important) was were unknown to our staff officers, sent forward in masses, without sup- the genius of a certain French gen-They had to learn how to move men port of guns, and often without rifles, eral named Foch, not then famous in in masses, whereas the German gen- against German armies with the most the world; and the third was the spirerals in times of peace were familiar, powerful artillery in the world and itual exultation of the French troops during autumn manoeuvres, with ar- machine gun fire which killed men in which lifted them suddenly from the mies on the full scale of modern war- swaths. It was the mad and fierce despair of their first tragedies and In strategy and tactics they vengeance of mobs against leaders made them certain, with a fine, won-front. were trained scientists who had de- who had governed by bribery corrup- derful faith, that they would turn to build up a new army on a vast

Foch Speaks Memorable Words.

which was taken up towards Meaux, whole of the following year (1917), as I saw the troops go, in the little and in the battles of Arras, Messines,

war of the kind that was to happen, his armies were striking down after heavy losses down from Mons Germany of her blood. and were desperately short of equip- through France in five columns. Gen- and. Le Cateau, was still strong in ment, heavy guns, ammunition and eral Von Kluck was commanding the spirit, and they attacked the river grievous mistakes, and had paid a the little British army-the old "Con- rear-guards with their horse artillery frightful price for them by the time temptibles"—were fighting back from in so fierce a way that when I follow-

and enduring error in their war-plan,

and by that stupidity lost their supreme chance of victory. They established themselves in trench posiand stationary warfare for more than a year while they devoted their main energies of attack on the Eastern That gave England the time scale, to make guns by thousands, to manufacture high explosives by millions of tons, to rally up the young manhood of all her Empire, and to detail which might help forward its spite of its later cruelties, worse than that the whole French line might blockade Germany by a world-wide

attack, in all available strength, until the Aisne to conform with the retreat their infantry attacks. The Ger-Germans Ignored the Human Soul. March 21, 1918. Again and again in the centre, and Von Kluck's army mans called this slaughter of their on the German right, nearest to Pa- manhood "the blood-bath of the it no longer and made their first big retreat in Flanders and Picardy, across a wide sweep of territory red taxicabs from Paris, five men to Lens, Flanders and Cambrai inflicted prodigious losses on the enemy, at a

but on the gambler's instinct. With broke and they fell back in a fight-brothers of the older brothers who man Empire had committed suice down past Beauvais and Meaux to of 1915 Von Kluck's army in the States and forced her to declare war. Creil and Chantilly, not far from Pa- North tried to smash their way Their temptation was great. The To answer that question it is nec- ris. The game seemed easy to him through to Calais, which they had British naval blockade was causing essary to take the whole of the Ger- but in his confidence he did not tron- failed to take in their first rush down severe suffering by food shortage to man war plan into consideration, ble to take advantage of one supreme to Paris, and they found themselves the German people and denying them both East and West, and to analyze chance which was his, and that was up against the British, who had swung access to raw material which they a little the peculiar psychology of the the cajture of the changel ports. For up north into Flanders and Picardy. needed for the machinery of 'war. German mind. In my opinion they a little while they were at his mercy. In the first battle of Ypres they al- The submarine campaign, ruthlessly most succeeded in smashing their way carried out, would, and did, inflict their psychological stupidity, which Germans Could Have Had Channel through the British lines, weak in great damage to British and Allied numbers compared with their shipping, and was a deadly menace hind their military technique. / In I saw the last uniformed men- strength, and should have done so by to England. But German calculaother words, they had manufactured joustom officers, firemen and police- just that extra "punch" which so of- tions were utterly wrong in estimata terrible war machine almost perfect | nen-leave Boulogne, which lay open ten they failed to deliver when the ing the amount of time needed to in its mechanism, but guided by men to the enemy. Calais and Dieppe game was in their hands. So it was break her bonds by submarine warstone-blind to the soul in human na- were undefended. The British army also in the second battle of Ypres, fare before America could send over had moved its base from Boulogne to when their first use of poison gas great armies to Europe, and the Ger-St. Nazaire, away down south. At gained a stupefyingg surprise. The man war-lords were wrong again in Enemy Obsessed with Russian Bogey. that time Germany could have seized English, Irish and Scottish troops, underestimating the defensive and Before dealing, however, with that the coast for nothing, which after supported for the first time by the offensive success of the British Navy part of the subject it will be well to wards they tought desperately and in stubborn courage of the Canadians, and Mercantile Marine against sub-

been obsessed with the bogey of Rus- ly menace to England, and therefore and, again, victory might have gone errors they made their loss more cer. action, first to the outskirts of Am- England and Scotland to fill up the

ing men into one shambles after an- and once again the Germans drew jest and strongest defensive system-

launched them into gulfs of ruin. began to see signs of revolt among the Americans now ready to attack humiliating surrender of any great German soldiers against the slaugh- with many divisions, and now rush- power in the history of the modern ter to. which they had to sacrifice ing across the Atlantic in a great world. themselves. Many prisoners to tide whom I spoke had abandoned hope The British, though terribly weakof victory even then, and cursed ened for a time, held their lines intheir leaders. In letters which I tact against enormous odds "with to the time of the armistice, drove grabbed from German dug-outs, and their backs to the wall," as Sir Doug- the enemy before them between the in thousands of letters which fell into las Haig called upon them to do. The Argonne and Rheims, and the Allied the hands of our Intelligence officers. French troops fought desperately in armies on all parts of the Western

beginning to desert. Then in the open flanks. last card on a gambler's venture, with him." failed once again to give credit to the army like a cardboard box. French and British. They did not believe that the American armies

French, nor the striking power of all fighting with the most abject and

there were cries of agony and despair defence with all their old heroism front captured hundreds of thoufrom the civilian people writing to and faith. And Marshal Foch play- sands of prisoners, many thousands their men in the field. Again and ed the game of strategy with superb of guns, scores of thousands of maagain people writing from many dif-skill and courage. For a time he chine guns, and vast stores of the enferent towns used the same phrase dissipated his Army of Beserve by emy's material of war, so that the upon unprepared positions, and they spirit of that cry caught hold of the British line, and the German war machine was smashed their to describe the war. They called it supporting the British line, and the German war machine was smashed "The Great Swindle." Revolution Germans, knowing this, took enor- to bits by November 11th, 1918, Not was beginning its murmur, and sol- mous risks of striking down in a deep only was the machine smashed, but diers were talking of desertion and wedge-like salient to the Marne with the spirit of the German army and

quarters Staff prepared to play their they said. . "We can do what we like availing despair.

Ludendorf knew that night that failed in their last reckless gamble would arrive in time to count. The Germany was lost. It was Germany with fate all was lost.

iens and then to the outskirts of gaps in the British army, and with could bear, and by driving their fight- and they, too, fell back to the Marne, lines of defence, broke through his other, and by trying to dope their near to Paris. It seemed to them the Hindenburg line-captured many people by false promises which were as though at last they had indeed great cities-Lille, Tourcoing, Rounever fulfilled, they sowed the seeds the game in their hands. But it baix, Cambrai, Tournai, Donai, Valof revolt and despair which finally was only ignorance and stupidity enciennes, Maubeuge and entered the little old town of Mons, where They did not take into considera- the British army had first withstood tion the genius of Marshal Foch nor the shock of German arms-on the the tenacity of the British and morning before the armistice ended

"Foch has no Army of Reserve," also-broken to the dust of an un-

Before that morning when German not recover the full weight of German line had to fall back to fire and the unending intensity of They believed that at last they held But as rapidly as he had sent his generals crossed the Allied lines with the trump card to redeem all their blue men behind the British khaki the white flag of surrender it was relosses. Russia was out of the war he called them down again, borrowed vealed to them in a blinding light definitely and absolutely, and after four British divisions, reinforced that they were ruined. They knew the infamous treaty of Brest-Litovsk | more by drafts of young boys from | that behind the American divisions the German war lords hurried over England and Scotland-from the last laiready in action against them, and to the western front nearly all their reserves of British boyhood-and proving heroic quality as fighting divisions who had been in the east. brought up the Americans. He had men, there was a New World in arms. They did not know that many of these his Army of Reserve and he strack ready to pour millions of men across troops had been converted to the Bol- on three sides of the German salient the Atlantic in an irresistible tide. shevistic philosophy of pacifism. They and smashed the Crown Prince's They knew also that their own rethat they could call up no more youth Germany Knows She Has Lost. for gun-fodder, and that having

German people knew of the coming now that had no army of reserve. The German war lords, in spite of offensive, and waited for it with The Crown Prince had to borrow their military science, their skill in blood-shot eyes and a kind of last from the troops of Prince Rupprecht generalship their masterly knowparting hope. The German officers of Bavaria, who had been waiting ledge of organization, had committed were, mostly, confident of success. with twenty-nine, divisions in hand enormous blunders and in the larger transport. They committed many right wing of the German armies and Ourcq and harassed the enemy's German war had been transport. They committed many right wing of the German war had been transport. shoulders and said: "It will be an- ish lines. They went into the fur- as blind as bats and as stupid as owls. nace fires. It was the turn of the They lacked material strength in a they had weeded out their older and Mons with a French army on their ed across those fields I saw heaps of many began to take leave of their The first blows struck against the tide, and it turned against the enemy challenge to the world, and the souls unscientific generals, reorganized right largely composed of old "Ter- German dead swept up in piles like sences under the desperate strain of British were successful. Attacked until he was swept back and engulfed. of brave peoples beat them from the their methods of defence, devoted the ritorials," who were not reckoned autumn leaves and burning in bon- their position. They no longer act- by one hundred thousand boys of time of those early days when all the whole energy of the nation to the pro- upon as first line roops, and battal- fires after petrol had been poured ed on the laws of military science, stons to forty-eight, the British line eighteen years of age, the younger odds were in their favor. The Ger-



"I Do Not Know Just What Is The Matter But I Seem To Be Losing My Grip"

66TT TELL, I know. You have been worrying too much until you have got your nervous system all run down."

"I could not help that. I guess you would worry, too, if you had all the troubles I have had."

"Perhaps. But I think I have learned a lesson. Worrying does not get you anywhere."

"Well, what am I to do?"

"If you will take my advice you will use Dr. Chase's Nerve Food. That is what got my nervous system right when I had that breakdown a couple of years ago, and I have been talking it up ever since." "How will it benefit me?"

"It will restore vigor to your nervous system. The trouble is now that your nerve force is at such a low ebb that your vital organs are slow and weak in action. You do not get the good of the food you eat, and for this reason you have no chance of gaining strength and vitality."

"But how long will I have to take this treatment?"

"If you could take a rest it would help some, but mark my words you will not be using the Nerve Food more than a week or two before you begin to see the benefits, and, then you will not need me to encourage you in its use."

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"You will not be sorry, for I have recom-mended it to scores of men in just such condition as you are to-day, and I know just what it will do."

"Thank you, old man, I only hope it will give me such energy and vitality as you

"It certainly will if you give it a fair

Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, 50 cents a box, 6 for \$2.75, all dealers, or Edmanson, Bates & Co., Ltd., Toronto. On every box of the genuine you will find the portrait and signature of A. W. Chase, M.D., the famous Receipt Book author.

BOOKS and their AUTHORS has no recollection of ever having, past life, and also the rivalry of an-, pended upon it? Drink, there is heard anything about the war or the other, is sufficient to keep him from your answer in one word." By Joseph Hocking, 320 Pages, causes of it, the speeches have a realizing his object. One day, how- The idea of the book seems to be Price \$1.25. Hodder & Stoughton, tremendous effect upon him, and he ever, at a party, he receives a sud- to show England as it really was in immediately enlists. He is befriend- den shock, and meets his mother and those days, as seen through the Toronto, Publishers.

the majority of which have been spy front. Captain Luscombe, while vis- ends with his union with Lorna. stories, but in "The Pomp of Yes- iting some friends, tells them the Such is the thread of the story. The picture is not a pleasing one. terday," he has produced semething story of his protegee, and causes but the plot and the characters are the prospect held out before the different from the usual. His story, some little excitement in the minds used by Joseph Hocking to pour up- reader for success in the war is not as the title suggests, is based upon of two aristocratic young men, who on the people of Britain a strong bright. But the victory has now a verse of Kipling's "Recessional," evidently find in the story something condemnation of their methods of been won, and people will perhaps and it is a story with a purpose. It personal. He also awakens the inter- carrying on the war. He looks out drop back into old ways. But this is, indeed, one of the finest pieces est of Lorna Bolivick, daughter of an upon the sin and vice in the countrovel by Joseph Hocking will do of British propaganda work that was English baronet, who demands that try, and asks how the people expect much to help the people of British written during the war, although the he shall inform her of the doings to win in what he terms a holy war countries learn where the weakness

The hero in the story is a man pening in the life of Paul Edge- for special condemnation. In a ness. some adventures in India. He ar- whiich the hero is known. He visits "The boat by which I came to rives in England soon after the the Y.M.C.A. army buts, and there France was held up in the harbour commencement of the war, and at- for the first time in his memory, he for twenty-four hours. Why? I am By James Lane Allen, 219 Pages. tends a recruiting meeting. As he hears the story of the gospel. He not talking without my book,-I McClelland & Stewart, Toronto, The Appetite of Youth towards things changes. He sees and I will tell you why. The fire-

vigor and snap into the system, wake forget you have a stomach, forget your days of sickness if Dr. Hamilton's Pills are used. Insist on havno other medicine so good.

been most ed by the speaker, Captain Luscombe, father. Memory comes back, his eyes of a man who had dropped prolific in turning out war books, and goes into action on the western position is assured, and the story from another world and was so-

is thrilled, and his whole attitude know; I have made investigations, Quickly Restored the war. He sees that what is needed, would not come away. And the gov- and the story in this book circles stimulated, the stomach strengthen he preaches, and especially in con- hood, and their sense of responsib- which he describes a scene in Kened, and robust health quickly fol- nection with the liquor trade. He lity, to be manufactured. The gov- tucky adorned with beautiful ferns, lows. Fig. Hamilton's Pills ingilli has some thrilling experiences at ernment allowed private individuals The Englishman has a strong desire

when they themselves are steeped in of their civilization lies, and may Meanwhile great events are hap- iniquity. The drink traffic comes in help them to overcome that weakcombe, which is the name under stirring little speech the hero says:

what Britain lacks in her conduct of men were in public-houses, and the emblem of fidelity is the fern, is a purifying of the nation, a realiza- ernment allowed these public hous- around a certain species of fern tion that God is on the side of the es to be open; the government allow- which, according to the author, is Allies, but that before victory can ed these firemen to drink until they only found in a certain mountain rebe expected there must be a greater were in an unfit condition to take us gion in Kentucky. An American amount of vision and cleansing in across. The government allowed the author comes into touch with an the national life. This is the gospel stuff that robbed them of their man- English critic through a book in ing Dr. Hamilton's Pills, 25c per box, from the front. But the fact that he of others depended on us? When which occur in the shipment of the is ignorant of the incidents of his the success of the war-probably de- (Continued on Page 14.)