

Fighting Forces Compared

IN view of the report that Gen. Pershing recently claimed that "America won the war," the following official figures, published in the Boston Transcript, illustrating the efforts made by the British Empire and America are interesting: Between August 4, 1914, and November 11, 1918, more than six million men passed through the ranks of the British army. This contribution places Britain in the second place among the Allies in respect of the contingent contributed for military service. Pride of place goes to France, while the third largest contribution was made by the United States of America, who sent close to two millions of her sons to fight in this theatre.

The table below shows the strength of the British army in France under three heads. Column A gives the ration strength of the army—that is, the total number of men (excluding colored labor and prisoners of war) who were being fed from army stocks in France. This figure includes thousands of men whose duty was not to fight, but to supply, equip, and in other ways assist the fighting men. Column B gives the combatant strength, including all fighting troops, namely, cavalry, machine gunners, garrison and cyclist battalions, together with the troops in divisional or base depots—that is, all troops whose functions are in the first place fighting. Column C gives the rifle strength—that is, the officers and men of the infantry battalions alone.

BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, 1918.

	A.	B.	C.
	Ration strength.	Combatant strength.	Rifle strength.
Mar.	1,828,098	1,293,000	816,000
April	1,667,701	1,131,124	528,617
Sept.	1,752,829	1,200,181	493,806
Nov.	1,731,578	1,164,790	461,748

The following are the comparable figures for the United States drawn up from official sources:

U. S. ARMY IN FRANCE, 1918.

	A.	B.	C.
	Ration strength.	Combatant strength.	Rifle strength.
Mar.	245,000	123,000	49,000
April	319,000	214,000	61,000
Sept.	1,641,000	1,195,000	341,000
Nov.	1,924,000	1,160,000	322,000

The captures of prisoners and guns in France during the victorious offensive against the German army between July 18 and November 11 were as follows:—

	Prisoners.	Guns.
British armies	200,000	2,640
French armies	135,720	1,820
American armies	43,300	1,421
Belgian armies	14,500	474

In addition, there were 80,000 British combatant troops in Italy who co-operated effectively in the final defeat of the Austrian army, capturing 30,000 prisoners. In Palestine and Mesopotamia about 400,000 British troops on an average throughout 1918 were fighting, and the complete defeat and destruction of the Turkish army was effected by the British alone, and a total of 85,000 prisoners taken.

TOTAL OF TROOPS FROM BRITISH EMPIRE EMPLOYED IN WAR.

British Isles	5,704,416
Canada	640,886
Australia	416,899
New Zealand	220,099
South Africa	1,350,070
India	1,401,360
*Other colonies	134,837
Total	8,654,467

*Includes colored troops recruited from Africa, West Indies, etc.

TOTAL CASUALTIES.

	Approx. killed, died missing of wounds, and	Approx. Wound.
Br. Isles	662,083	140,312
Canada	56,119	306
Australia	58,460	164
N. Zealand	16,122	5
S. Africa	4,828	33
India	47,746	871
*Others	3,649	356
Total	851,117	142,057

In the second column the prisoners repatriated are not shown. Men now known to be killed are shown under heading of "killed."

*Includes colored troops from South Africa, etc., but excludes 44,262 African native followers—that is, died and killed, 42,318; wounded, 1,322; missing, 622. The deaths were due mainly to epidemics.

Official figures made public January 25, 1919, by Gen. March in Washington showed that on November 11 the United States was represented on the Western front by 1,950,100 men. France, on November 1, the last day for which official figures were available, had 2,559,900 men. The British and the Portuguese attached to the British army totaled 1,718,990, while the Belgian and Italian forces on the Western front aggregated about 200,000. These totals are all based upon what is termed the ration strength. This includes every soldier who has to be fed, both combatants and the necessary medical and supply organizations. Gen. March made no specific mention of bayonet strength, as referred to by the British.

Rat Hunt Is on Again.

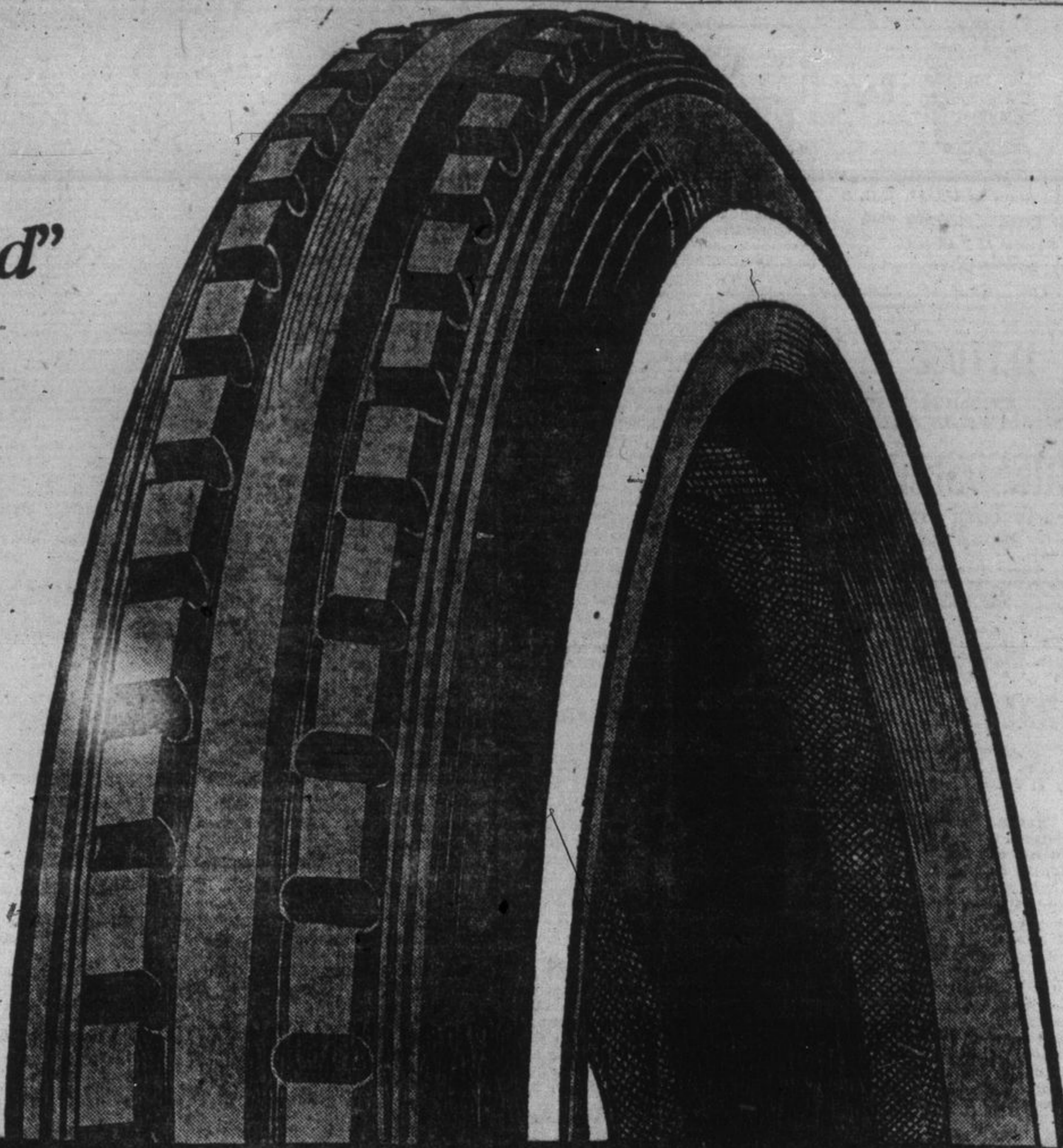
The people of the United Kingdom, young and old, have embarked on another vigorous campaign against rats with the beginning of the new year, under the provisions of the Rat and Mice Act. This law compels the occupants of land to keep their premises free of these rodents, a penalty of £5 being provided for failure to do so. The law applies also to ships in port.

Henry Ford will make a more determined fight than ever for Senator Newberry's seat in the U.S. Senate following the conviction of the Michigan Republican senator by a jury at Grand Rapids of criminal practices in his election.

By a vote of 16 to 13 the Toronto Council reversed its previous decision regarding the Mount Pleasant street railway and voted for construction of the line.

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