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Luring Teutons On To Saloniki

French Generals Who Fought Before Paris Use Same Tactics in Greece.

***Allies Hold Strong Lines And Intend to Stick,
If Only to Repay Russia's Tannenburg Sacrifice.***

Paris, Dec. 30. – The same team that, to put it politely, drew the enemy after them to the gates of Paris, have been drawing the same enemy after them to Saloniki. That they will throw him back from Saloniki, as they threw him back from Paris, is assured.

General Sarrail, who was one of those who commanded in front of Paris, commands the Allies in Greece, and General Castelnau, who also commanded at the battle of the Marne and is now Chief of Staff of General Joffre, has just visited Saloniki. He was sent to “go, look, and see.” He reports that the position, now held by the Allies, is impregnable.

The perimeter, held by the Allies, is fifty miles in length and stretches from the Vardar River on the west to the Gulf of Orphanos on the east. There are three lines of defence. To assist the first two on the east are Lakes Beshik and Langaza and on the west is the Vardar River. Should the enemy penetrate the first lines they will be confronted ten miles from Saloniki by a natural barrier of hills. Should they surmount these hills the allied warships in the harbor can sweep them off those hills as a firehose rips the shingles off a roof.

The man who pretends to understand the situation in Saloniki is of the same mental caliber as one who understands a system for beating the game at Monte Carlo. But there are certain rumors as to what the situation may become that can be eliminated. First, Greece will not turn against the Allies. Second, the Allies will not withdraw from Saloniki. They now are agreed that it is better to resist and attack or stand a siege, even if they lose 2,00,000 men, than to withdraw without a fight.

Easy Field for Spies to Work.

The present Government here believes that had the Government it overthrew in October sent troops to aid the Serbian Army four months ago this war would have been made shorter by six months. The present Government is now determined. Apart from resisting the expected advance of the German-Austrian-Bulgarian forces the presence of 200,000 men at Saloniki will hold Rumania from any aggressive movement on Russia.

To aid the Allies Russia at Tannenberg made a sacrifice and lost 200,000 men. The French now feel bound in honor to see by keeping the armies at Saloniki that Russia is not threatened. As a member of the Government said to me today: “There is no western line or eastern line. The line of the Allies is wherever a German attacks. France went to the Balkans to

help Serbia. She went too late, which is not the fault of the present Government. But there remains to keep the Germans from Egypt and to keep Rumania from an attack upon the flank of Russia. The Allies are in Saloniki until this war is ended.”

In Saloniki I saw many evidences that this is the purpose of the Allies, that both England and France are determined to hold fast. The French were building barracks of stone and brick, and erecting ready-to-set-up houses, each capable of holding 250 men. Their camp outside the city was five miles square. Following the plans of their engineers, they were building roads, draining, repairing bridges and erecting new ones.

On the 14th December, when the Greek Army evacuated Saloniki the buildings and open places, formerly occupied by them, were at once taken over by the British for garages, parking places, storehouses, and machine shops for auto trucks, and from the transports began disembarking thousands of men.

To Repay Russian Sacrifice.

The censor would not permit me to say what numbers of men, stores, guns and ammunition were brought ashore. But it is one of the peculiarities of the situation that is something that every German knows. Probably in no other war has a condition so remarkable existed.

A German correspondent with the German forces in Monastir claims that he has already visited Saloniki; seen everything that was to be seen in the way of preparation, even the trenches in the first lines of defense, and returned to Monastir. In this there is nothing improbable. He could have come to Saloniki also from Berlin via Constantinople for Saloniki is still a neutral port and therefore is the haven and happy hunting ground for spies.

A German spy, who watches the Allies preparing to meet his army is in no more danger than when he watches his wife cook his coffee and black his boots. Upon a Greek city of 120,000 allied troops have descended, but the local authority is still Greek.

At the base of an army there always has been martial law, countersigns, passports and passwords. But at Saloniki, any German, Austrian Turkish or Bulgarian officer, if out of uniform, instead of being shot, can go where he likes, see what he likes, and report to his intelligence department.

From my room in the Hotel Olympos one could count guns on every battleship or torpedo boat, be it British, French, Russian, or Italian, that entered the harbor, and at a distance of a hundred yards could watch the transports unload. You could not approach your window without seeing something that even a friend should not have seen. It made one feel as if he had been reading another man's letters.

And a German did not need to look from the window. Like everyone else he was free to go down to the very landing stage and with a pencil and notebook check off the men, horses, and guns.

One Greek newspaper every morning printed just what had been brought ashore, but as it always undervalued and sneered at what it saw, it rendered valuable service. In spite of petty obstructions by local Greek officials, and in spite of spies, a great army has been landed.

In the event the fight will not be pulled off on the wharves. It will be waged along the fifty-mile front, and if the spies have reported only half of what every one was free to see, by now the Germans know what men await them.