

of Wayne University College of Medicine and Harper Hospital, Detroit.

The substance, still unidentified, not only cured experimental ulcers in dogs but actually prevented their development. The patients who have been treated with this new substance have not been followed long enough, nor have there been enough of them for the Detroit doctors to be sure they have a stomach ulcer cure, but they are encouraged to hope so.

The anti-stomach ulcer substance was found in the kidney excretions of normal healthy women but only negligible amounts were found in the excretions of ulcer patients. Whether the peptic ulcer patient has his ulcer because of deficiency of the substance is not now known.

The powder is given in the form of a liquid injected under the skin. When given in large doses, it checks the secretion of acid in the stomach. Only small doses, however, are needed for ulcer.

Science News Letter, June 22, 1940

POPULATION

More Casualties in 4 Weeks Than in 4 Months of Verdun

THE GERMAN conquest of Belgium and the northeast corner of France, and Allied resistance took more soldiers' lives and wounded more men in four weeks than the four months of bloody Verdun in 1916, the most conservative possible guess at total casualties indicates.

It is probable that at least 600,000 of the two to two and a half million men engaged were killed or wounded. Verdun cost 596,000 casualties, according to Capt. B. H. Liddell Hart, British World War I historian.

As at Verdun—where 315,000 Frenchmen and 281,000 Germans were put out of action, aside from prisoners taken by each side—the defending Allies probably suffered the greater losses. Perhaps 325,000 to 350,000 of the total killed or wounded were British, French or Belgian. The Allies and the Germans each claim killing and wounding half a million of the enemy—a million in all, which figures must be discounted. None of these figures include casualties among the millions of refugees who got in the different armies' way and whose killing and wounding by the scores of thousands was inevitable whether deliberate or not.

Wounded are supposed to outnumber the killed by as much as four to one, but statistics of the last great war certainly

do not bear this axiom out. The four years and three months of hostilities on three fronts — western, Italo-Austrian, and eastern — killed 8,538,315 and wounded 21,210,452, according to the U. S. War Department. This is a ratio of five to two. The ratio holds very nearly for each of the powers that lost most heavily during the conflict: Germany, 1,773,700 killed and 4,216,058 wounded; France, 1,357,800 and 4,266,000; British Empire, 908,371 and 2,090,212; and Italy, 650,000 and 947,000. The United States suffered 126,000 killed and 234,000 wounded. These figures include among the killed those who died of disease—in most cases as much war victims as those who died of shot or shell—but does not include a much larger number of missing, practically all of whom must be considered dead. They were the ones of whom not enough was left to identify.

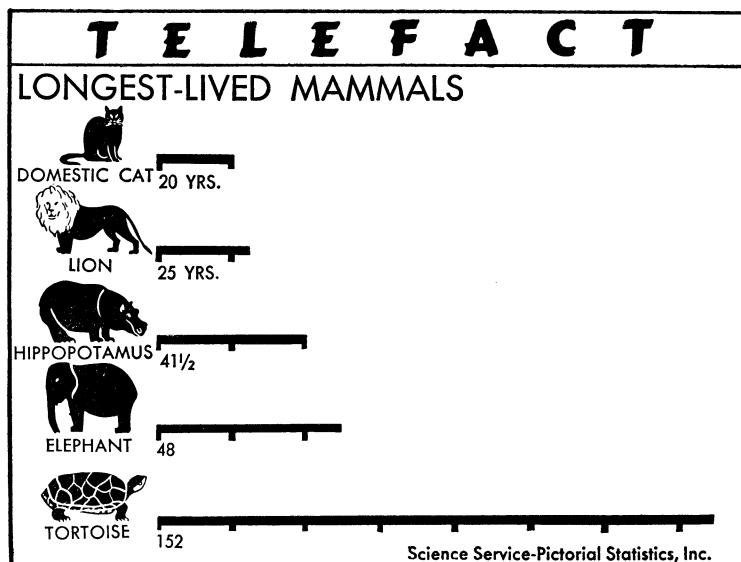
On the basis of these figures, deaths as high as 200,000 and wounded totaling 400,000 are not unreasonable.

One First World War offensive was even more costly than Verdun or the gigantic battle for Flanders, but it took longer—the four-and-a-half-month Allied offensive on the Somme. Capt. Hart estimates the cost of the bloodbath in which the Allies captured all of 120 square miles (a little more than one-third the

area of New York City) at a cost of 700,000 Germans, 400,000 British and 250,000 French casualties. Other educated guesses are still higher. It will be noted that the troops on the offensive, the Allies, lost fewer men. The Somme in 1916 as well as Verdun and Flanders seem colossal exceptions to the theory that offense takes more lives than defense.

The two to two and a half million men in the Flanders battle is also a conservative estimate.

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