

**THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE, BEING
THE THIRD VOLUME OF "FIELD
NOTES FROM THE RUSSIAN
FRONT," EMBRACING THE PERIOD
FROM JUNE 5TH TO SEPT. 1ST, 1916**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649048083

The Russian Offensive, Being the Third Volume Of "Field Notes from the Russian Front,"
Embracing the Period from June 5th to Sept. 1st, 1916 by Stanley Washburn

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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STANLEY WASHBURN

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GENERAL BRUSILOV SITS NEXT TO THE CZAR AT A WAR COUNCIL.
The Czar and his generals at a council of war which was held just before the Great Advance.

Frontispice

THE RUSSIAN OFFENSIVE

BEING THE THIRD VOLUME OF "FIELD NOTES
FROM THE RUSSIAN FRONT," EMBRACING THE
PERIOD FROM JUNE 5TH TO SEPT. 1ST, 1916

BY

STANLEY WASHBURN

(Special Correspondent of the London Times with the Russian Armies)

AUTHOR OF "FIELD NOTES FROM THE RUSSIAN FRONT"
"VICTORY IN DEFEAT," ETC.

ILLUSTRATED WITH FIFTY-TWO PHOTOGRAPHS BY
GEORGE H. MEWES

LONDON
CONSTABLE AND COMPANY LTD

1917

1551

W33

First published
1917

217

TO
MY WIFE
WHOSE PRESENCE WITH ME IN WARSAW AND RUSSIA
DURING THE CAMPAIGNS OF 1915 AND
1916 HAS MADE MY WORK
POSSIBLE

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FOREWORD

As I wrote a year ago, victory was won potentially when the character of the Russian people was crystallized, no matter whether the actual fighting continues one year longer or five. For in wars, even as in private life, it is character, given only time to adjust itself to circumstances, that wins. Guns wear out, ammunition is shot away, and all material assets disappear, but character is the one enduring value without which neither man nor nation can permanently prosper. The retreat from Warsaw, with the subsequent check to the German invasion a year ago, marked the turning of the tide, for it was the Russian capacity to accept defeat without loss of morale or confidence in ultimate victory that has made possible the renaissance of the army this year.

No one realizes more clearly than the writer the defects of the articles now published in book form. They have been written from the front under conditions which make finished literary production impossible. The greater portions have

been written within the sound of the guns, and all so near in time to the actual events that there is bound to be a lack of perspective as to the whole picture on a front nearly 300 miles long. As the writer has been the only foreign correspondent to have any considerable access to the south-western front during these operations, it has seemed worth while to republish these first-hand impressions of the great offensive just as they were originally written. The movements of General Litchitsky's army corps have been barely touched upon because, in the opinion of the writer, the Kovel front has been the dominant movement, and it has seemed wiser to confine the articles to first-hand observations and information than to attempt to deal accurately with distant operations which were in progress at the same time. In publishing a book such as this, the choice must be made between timeliness and polish. Early production means criticism on account of literary defects, but time taken to polish and rewrite means such delays that the subject-matter has lost much of its interest long before it is published. It has seemed worth while to reproduce these sketches of the Russian achievement while the story is still fresh in the public mind. If the writer can in a measure present intelligently to the West a picture of what the great Power in the East has been doing this summer, and how she has done it, he is willing to accept the criticism of literary