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## The British Army As It Really Is To-day

### Great Britain Has Accomplished in Two Years What Took Germany Forty Years to Achieve.

Just a few days before the beginning of the offensive upon the Somme, correspondents appear to have been provided with unusual opportunities of visiting the British front, the real front, and of making the closest inspection of the army. Apparently what they wrote then was not closely censored, especially what they were mailing home, the authorities knowing that before anything could appear in print that might affect the British plans the great offensive would have been launched. Among the correspondents was Henry Suydam, who has seen every army in Europe. He pays a warm tribute to the British army; he says it has been less understood in the United States than the army of any other belligerent; it has been unjustly criticized; and has been the butt of such stupid songs as "Everybody's Fighting but the British."

Speaking of the morale of the army, Mr. Suydam says that it is possible for a civilian to come to a correct judgment on this point as well as a military authority. He says: "You do not need to be a military expert to recognize the broad signs of inefficiency. These things are the first to show themselves; you may decide by a quick expedition along the front whether an army is fit or unfit; whether it expects to win or merely hopes not to be defeated. The British Army expects to win; such is the essence of British spirit. It is a spirit which has persisted despite tremendous initial difficulties in forming a barrier by free and voluntary methods of enlistment, to that always-threatening German line in France and Flanders." On the British front he found everything ready,

the men, the leaders, the guns, and mechanical supplies. Everywhere there was a feeling of quiet confidence in the result, coupled with an acknowledgement of the fact that the victory would have to be paid for in many lives.

Mr. Suydam dwells particularly upon the fact that Great Britain has accomplished in two years what Germany had forty years to achieve. He speaks of the absolute unpreparedness of the British Empire for war. Facing the greatest military machine that had ever been built up she had only 160,000 men, that immortal "contemptible little army" to which the Kaiser made reference. By in two years Great Britain has become one of the most formidable military powers of the world. Mr. Suydam believes that such an achievement as that of Great Britain, the making of an army of 5,000,000 men in two years, is something that no race in the world but the Anglo-Saxons could have attained. It is a glorious makeshift; it displays the particular British gift of performing wonders with the material at hand. He hopes and believes that the United States, fronted with such a crisis, might rise to the situation as the British have done, but he thinks that no other people in the world could do what stands to the everlasting credit of the British.

Mr. Suydam says: "A big offensive is less nerve-wracking than monotony of trench warfare. Whole sectors of the line know that a 'push' is coming; the soldier visualizes the British army advancing over a wide frontage; he is animated by a sense of corps spirit which is sometimes necessarily lack-

ing in the isolated mining and sniping and counter-attacking of a single trench. And because these offensives have been few (like chapter-headings in the chronicle of the war), American public opinion has failed to understand the terrific strain to which the British armies have been subjected. There is not an officer or man in the British forces in France who would not rather undertake one big offensive every six weeks than spend a fortnight in trench fighting. Great Britain has been fighting hard since August, 1914, when 160,000 regular soldiers took the field and were promptly overwhelmed by the fury of the first German advance; the self-deprecation and detached unconcern which is manifested in London is quite lacking at the front, where each man is keen, in spirit and deed, to end the war as quickly as possible by a British victory.

"While every army in Europe was provided in August, 1914, with a certain formal reserve of heavy guns, main dependence was placed upon small field guns of 3.5-inch or 4-inch calibre, firing either shrapnel or high explosive. The British army (according to authoritative statements published in The London Times) took the field in 1914 with 76 pieces of artillery, of which 54 were 19-pounders (5.3-inch). The German armies invaded Belgium with a general superiority of artillery (except for the famous French 75-millimetre gun).

"The Krupp works, at Essen, with years of experience in supplying European wars with guns and ammunition, stood ready to invent new gunnery devices or to duplicate inexhaustibly those already proven. The British army was provided with neither adequate reserves of material nor with adequate agencies for following Neuve Chapelle, and ultimately leading to the establishment of the British munitions industry under the tutelage of Mr. Lloyd-George, producing them.

"The British army, with the supply of guns, ammunition, and aeroplanes which constituted its equipment on August 4, 1914, might have been fairly matched with Turkey or Roumania or Greece; the wildest enthusiast would have laughed ironically at the prospect of the British army opposing the deadly perfection of the German system."

### DELVIL'S WOOD

With the British Armies, Thursday, via London, Friday, July 28—1 have been talking with some British soldiers who held the Delville wood under the German bombardment. One said: "The Delville wood is easily the worst place on earth as far as I can guess. It is just crowded with corpses and to stay there is to join that company. The only cover one can get is to crawl under a log and hope for the best, or crawl into a shell hole and expect the worst—which generally arrives and detached unconcern which is manifested in London is quite lacking at the front, where each man is keen, in spirit and deed, to end the war as quickly as possible by a British victory."

The attack succeeded without many casualties. It is in holding the ground that the worst time comes to the men who capture it. The history of the fight in this corner of the ground since July 14 is one of the most wonderful things for sheer stubborn courage that has been done in all this great battle.

### READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

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July 4, 1916, 3m



## IMPORTANT WARNING!

The Rifle Range on the South Side Hill will be in constant use from daylight till dark for Musketry Practice until further notice. All unauthorized persons are therefore prohibited from approaching the Range within 200 yards from either side or within 1,000 yards of the Targets to the eastward. Any unauthorized persons so doing will be liable to arrest, besides incurring serious danger from rifle bullets. This prohibition does not extend to any part of the hills west of the 1,000 yards firing point.

(Signed),

JOHN SULLIVAN,  
Inspector-Genl. Constby.

W. H. RENNIE,  
Captain (in charge of Musketry Instruction).

July 15, 1916



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## Carson Anxious for Prosecution of War

Is Solicitous of Concentrating Attention on This Supreme Object

LONDON, Aug. 3.—No one has been more anxious says Sir Edward Carson, than myself since the war began to keep the attention of Parliament and the country concentrated on the prosecution of the war to the exclusion of all mere democratic matters which do not conduce to that one supreme object.

My persistence in demanding from the Government a measure dealing with the parliamentary register of voters is no exception, though at first sight some people might perhaps suppose it to be so. Indeed I am only anxious for the registration bill because without it the country may find itself in the near future and it may be nearer than some people imagined in no condition to deal effectively with the most vital issues arising directly out of the war.

But the possibility of an appeal to the country becoming unavoidable is not all. As I said in my speech, I hold that a general election before the end of the war ought to take place because the House is not competent to decide the issues of momentous import which the conclusion of the war will bring immediately to the front.

The present House was elected when nobody dreamed war would be upon us before the next dissolution. It was elected by voters whose minds were then full of political projects which to-day are trifles, in comparison with the all absorbing national life-and-death struggle with Germany.

The members of the present parliament were returned to curtail power of the House of Lords, to establish the church to institute an insurance tax, and most curious of all to reduce armaments, thus increasing the national unpreparedness for the war which was so close at hand.

One hundred and fifty of them exerted their combined influence just before the war to weaken the navy. Some of them, while the war has been raging, have done their feeble best to hamper operations and to undermine the determination of the people.

Why, the shock of war has revolutionized opinion in every mind. Political issues which we were elected to support or resist in 1910 are ancient history. The dividing line of parties has been broken and new combinations are forming to promote new ideas of which all that time few dreamed.

It is now surprising that in such circumstances some members of Parliament blind to the charge much as before taking place, already have been repudiated by their constituents but the point is, the present House, as a whole, elected under conditions now dead, has lost all authority and therefore all right to exist.

There are nevertheless sound reasons against holding the general el-

ections immediately. I do not suggest such a policy, but I do assert we ought to be ready for one.

It would be an utter travesty on popular government if such a Parliament, which we much remember, has already prolonged its own existence beyond its legal term, were to presume to settle on behalf of the people the far-reaching problems that will surround the making of European peace and which must vitally influence the whole future of empire for generations to come.

The moment peace begins to be talked of—I mean seriously talked of, not by mere faddists and cranks—that momentum will have to ascertain the real views of the country and not merely the views of the House. But if the present stale and most unrepresentative House since the Rump, which Cromwell had to expel, with his halberds continues till the end of the war without submitting itself for re-election by the people, we shall have forfeited our claim to be called a democracy in any genuine sense.

The German people will, no doubt, have to submit to whatever arrangements it may please the Kaiser and his chancellor to impose upon them; but are the British people to be no less completely in the hands of Asquith and Grey?

That is really the question involved in my demand for the registration bill for unless constituents are thereby renewed the House will be dumb at the moment when all its history will have the best right to let its voice be heard.

READ THE MAIL & ADVOCATE

