

The Canadian Army Corps is admittedly the most formidable striking force in the allied armies. Probably it is the best organized and most effective unit of its size in the world today. It has come on wonderfully since last year and this is due not only to the courage, resourcefulness and intelligence of the men, but to the splendid and unremitting work of the officers, and to Currie's great ability. I believe he is the ablest Corps Commander in the British Forces; more than that I believe he is at least as capable as any Army Commander among them....

It appears that the younger members on Haig's staff recommended, in November last, that ten Corps Commanders should be dispensed with and replaced. They were kept on during the winter and about the time the offensive began eight of them were relieved. The British higher command believed that the Germans would not undertake an offensive. Three days before it began the Chief Intelligence Officer gave the Canadian Corps a tip that they need not expect an offensive from the Germans. Currie told me that the reports of the Chief Intelligence Officer at British Headquarters were so useless and misleading that when he recognized the signature he always tore them up and threw them into the waste-paper basket without reading them.

Of course there are many British Divisions well organized, highly trained and competently led, but there are enough otherwise to enable the Germans to strike, and the Germans always know just where to strike.

At Passchendaele last autumn, Currie refused to fight under Gough as he considered him incompetent.

I went into all these and many other matters on Thursday in the War Cabinet and although I spoke with restraint I did not mince matters. Apparently I gave no offence as Lloyd George told me it was a memorable speech and gave me his congratulations, as did Walter Long and other Ministers. All the representatives of the Overseas Dominions who were present expressed themselves, either openly or privately, as grateful for the service that I had done in taking up the matter and speaking plainly....

One could almost weep over the inability of the War Office and even of the Admiralty to utilize the brains of a nation at a time when brains are most needed. At the War Office they restricted brilliant men who enlisted in the new Army to the rank of Brigadier General in order that professional soldiers might not have their careers interfered with. I attacked this in the Cabinet on Thursday and said that it amounted to scrapping the brains of the nation at a time when they were most needed....