

and of the adaptation of the means available to the end to be achieved.

"The battle of Amiens was made possible by a complete deception of the Germans as to the British intentions. In that open fighting, in which the Germans believed that the British armies must fail, the leadership and the movement of the various forces were as admirable as was the execution of the plans drawn up.

"We have all paid our tributes to Marshal Foch and his masterly direction of the entire campaign. Let us not forget this morning that under his wise and subject to the general plan of the operations, the British Staff retained its own initiative and showed in the days between May and November that it possessed soldiers who could rise to every emergency, and could move in the field armies such as no British general has ever before commanded."

The Victorious British Army

"The despatch of Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig recounting the events of the campaign in the West from April to November last year will become a classic," says the Morning Post. "Presented with an admirable lucidity, dignified and terse, the record demonstrates how the British Army, having been brought as near to defeat without being defeated as any other army in history, rallied its spent vigor, assembled and trained reinforcements, built new plans on the ruins of the old, waited until the moment came to strike, struck with more than all the old weight and resolve behind the blow, and went on striking until the resistance of the enemy was utterly broken. No words of ours can more fitly describe the victorious campaign than these of the great Field-Marshal:—

"The annals of war hold record of no more wonderful recovery than that which, three months after the tremendous blows showered upon them on the Somme and on the Lys, saw the undefeated British Armies advancing from victory to victory, driving their erstwhile triumphant enemy back to and far beyond the line from which he started, and finally forcing him to acknowledge unconditional defeat."

Haig's Greatness

"What is shinningly manifest is that the Field-Marshal ranks the peer of the greatest among British Generals," adds the Post, "and as for the British Armies, in Sir Douglas Haig's words, they have created new traditions which are a challenge to the highest records of the past and will be an inspiration to the generations who come after us." To which brief and eloquent eulogy we would add the Field-Marshal's

testimony to the infantryman, who 'remains the backbone of defence and the spearhead of attack. At no time has the reputation of the British infantryman been higher, or his achievement more worthy of his renown.'

"Even the genius of Foch," says The Times, "would have been unavailing without the skill of the British General Staff, which, subject to the general plan arranged in concert, still retained all its old initiative, and above all without the magnificent valor of the British Army."

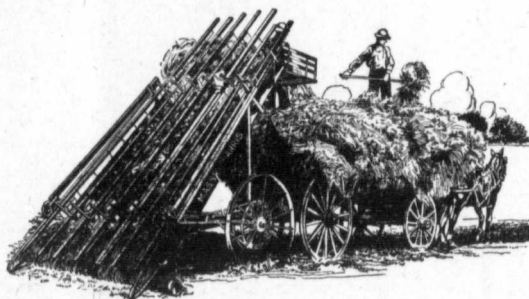
Germans were Out-Generalled
"A fact that comes out very clearly from Sir Douglas Haig's

despatch is that the British victories were not victories won by numbers," says The Times. "If we compare the figures engaged on either side in the German offensives of the spring and in the British offensives of the summer and late autumn, we find that such successes as the Germans gained—and even at their highest valuation it is clear that they paved the way to the subsequent German defeat—were won by overwhelming superiority in numbers, and that the British successes were gained in spite of an inferiority in numbers.

"What the Germans failed to do with a numerical superiority

we accomplished with a numerical inferiority. It is not, of course, denied that at certain critical points the British attack had a superiority in numbers; but it is the supreme test of generalship to be in numerical superiority at the point that matters with force inferior in its total numbers. The business of war, in other words, is to convert a gross inferiority into a net superiority. That it was done so successfully must be put down in part to the individual superiority of the British soldier, but in part, too, to the better staff work and generalship on the British side. The Germans, in fact, were out-generalled."

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