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GERMAN SOLDIER-EDITOR GIVES UNSTINTED PRAISE TO THE BRITISH SOLDIER

Says He Started For the Front With an Extremely Poor Opinion of the Englishman as a Fighter

SOON HAD CAUSE TO CHANGE MIND

Found in Britons Foemen Worthy of His Steel and Fighters Who Knew How To Use Their Brains

A correspondent of The London Times writes as follows of the German view of the British soldiers and the change in tone, in this connection, of the German press:

In the earlier days of the war the German press was by no means prone to praise the fighting qualities of the British soldier, but nowadays it is different—the English soldier has compelled the unwilling respect and appreciation of his enemies, and the article reprinted below is only one of many of similar tenor now finding their way into the German newspapers. Protests against the circulation of certain vulgar picture postcards holding the English nation and army up to ridicule have also been published. It is significant that most of these emanate from German soldiers at the front.

Expected Tennis Raquets

The following article appears in The Berliner Zeitung am Mittag, under the title of "The Fights with the English around Ypres, a combatant," the combatant in question being one of the editors of that newspaper serving as a first lieutenant with the German forces:

Full of fight and confident of easy victory our young regiments started to march against the enemy, to "catch the English," as our soldiers put it. All were certain that providence had gifted the English with long legs solely to facilitate their running away the faster.

Thus we advanced by long and short marches through Flanders, the great cemetery, towards the west, delighted with the beautiful Flemish landscape and the inhabitants thereof, whose language we soon managed to understand even as they speedily came to understand ours.

We thought of the pictures that the comic papers are wont to give of Tommy Atkins, and looked forward to the prospect of gathering in a first-class tennis racquet from the war equipment of one of these "smooth-faced rascals."

There were a few who warned us against a possible under-estimation of the English, but their misgivings were quieted by pointing out that these were mercenary troops before us, men hired for a few pence a day to fight bare of patriotism and incapable of sacrifice.

The First Englishman

Sooner than we thought we were upon the enemy. One morning on our march someone called out: "Here is the first dead Englishman!" We galloped across the field where one of our patrols had halted a few hundred yards from the roadway. There he lay, the Englishman, the first we had seen in this campaign, dead, stretched out on his right side. The bullet had gone clean through his heart. Very young, slim and sinewy of body, becomingly clad in his field-grey khaki uniform. The young, beardless face was snowy white and his left hand cramped on his chest. One more mother will soon be shedding bitter tears!

Shortly after we discovered in a house two wounded English officers, and confiscated their diaries, which contained many valuable notes, while an hour later the first English prisoner was picked up by a patrol and passed along our column. He naturally was of great interest to our soldiers. "Looks like a chauffeur—wonder whether the mercenary can shoot—looks more cut out for the football and cricket field!"

Another hour passed and then the comrades of our prisoner gave us an answer to that question. In fact, they gave us a practical demonstration—such a clear demonstration that our battalion was reduced to half its size after the first few encounters.

One suddenly realized that the English mercenary could not be routed with just a hurrah and a yell, and we learned from personal experience that these smooth-faced gentlemen used their long legs not always for running away, but sometimes for desperate and dangerous charges. Within a few hours we learned that we had facing us an opponent not to be underestimated.

The English infantry who opposed us at Ypres must be considered among their best troops. Particular stress must be laid on the energy with which the English infantry defended the hills occupied by them and when driven back tried again and again, especially at night, to recover the lost ground.

In these endeavors they were efficiently supported by the fire of their field artillery which, like the French, is quite equal to the German. They had also transported heavy naval guns to Ypres, and the English shells and shrapnel have caused enormous damage among our own infantry.

As the surrounding of the English forces by our troops made itself more and more felt, the English infantry tried again and again to break through our lines, particularly in the vicinity of Beclaire, though without success. On the afternoon of one of these attempts to break through 500 English and 20 officers fell into our hands.

Trenches Well Hidden

The English trenches were mostly so arranged as to be quite invisible to the naked eye. When we had got into the first trenches were astounded at their systematic construction as regards depth, side protection against splintering of shells, breastwork, and flooring. The trenches were nearly all excellently arranged for a long stand.

We were particularly astounded at the steel and iron plates built into the breastworks. The floor of the trenches was designed with an eye to maximum comfort. Our men captured there a mass of excellent preserves, corned beef and jam, and many also secured one of the shaving outfits which nearly every English soldier carries.

When we had taken a position it frequently occurred that we found a



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Frenzied Hate Against England

WHAT about the German attitude towards Britain at the present time? writes a correspondent of the London Express who has just returned from Germany. Every one has read in the newspapers recently about the hatred of Germany for Britain, but only those who have been in Germany and have heard the expression of that hatred from German lips can realize its almost incredible intensity. I have heard nothing like it before, and scarcely imagined that one nation could regard another with such terrific feelings of concentrated hate. The detestation which people in Britain express for the conduct of the Germans towards Belgium is really moderate compared with the unrestrained fury of the Germans when they speak of Britain. Their eyes blaze like the eyes of a wounded tiger, and they can scarcely express themselves, so fierce and overwhelming is their rage.

There will be nothing left of London worth looking at, they tell you, when the German army has done with it. It will be a blackened ruin, and there will not be a public building left with one stone standing on top of another. It will be consumed with fire cast upon it by the German fleet of aeroplanes, and all that the Londoners will have left will be eyes to weep with over the desolation of London's ruins.

When a German talks to you of Britain he completely forgets Russia and France. They don't matter, he cares nothing about them. He may make terms with them one of these days, but with Britain he will make terms—never! The profoundest depths of the German heart are today stirred with a hatred of England which should never be forgotten. Germany has a thirst for revenge on England which will take long to slake, but at present they hope to slake it, and the mass of the population believe that Britain will before long be invaded and humbled in the dust.

This unexampled hatred is, of course, due to the belief, fostered by the German Government, that England was responsible for the war.

disproportionate number of dead to very few living defenders. At any rate it looked like that at the first glance, but we soon discovered that a large number of the "killed" were shamming and these were easily "killed" into life with the bayonet.

Some "Dummy" Trenches

In some cases the English had dug trenches but had not occupied them, and to deceive us had put large round turnips and similar objects along the breastworks. Their firing line was then placed either before or behind this trench, so well assimilated to the land as to be practically invisible, so that it was almost untouched by the fire which we directed against what we considered the occupied trench.

Frequently it happened that severe infantry machine gun firing broke forth from the wood, and we then advanced against it in short rushes, only to find on arrival that the ground was practically clear of soldiers and that nearly all the shots had been fired down from the trees. The English infantry had hidden itself in the tree-tops and had even hauled up machine guns.

Harrassing Night Attacks

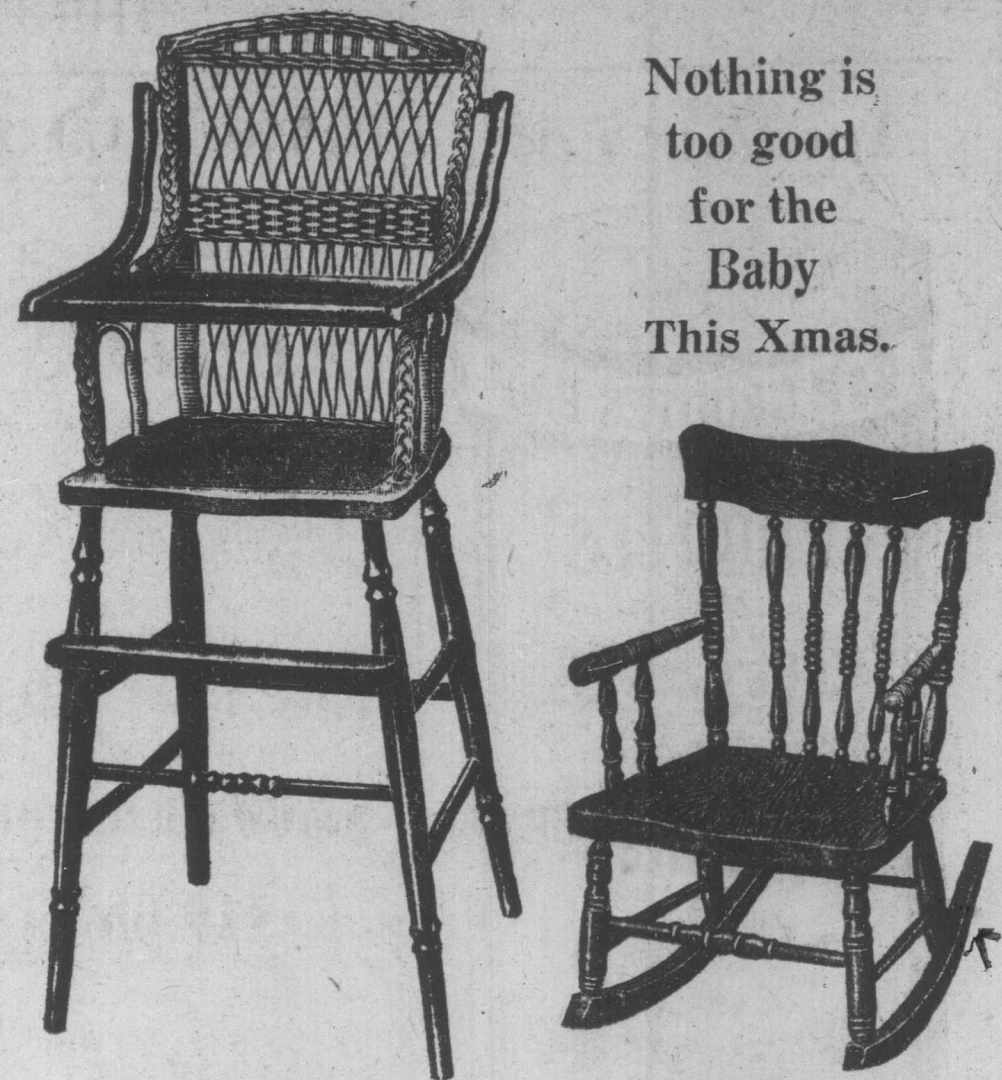
In combats at night our opponents repeatedly use tactics new to us. As a rule, we avoid firing at night, but use the bayonet, and shoot only when it is light enough to take aim. The English and French seem, however, in their rifle firing by night to have gone over partly to the usual practice of the artillery, which, as is well known, continuously sweeps certain selected stretches of ground by shell fire. After my regiment had occupied the village of Beclaire after night-fall, a continuous infantry fire lasting for hours swept over houses and streets, so that it was impossible to remain there. After entrenching near Beclaire we were harassed all night by a continuous fire of infantry and machine guns, which resulted in very few victims but prevented the worn-out troops from getting a moment's rest. And this was just what the English wanted.

Let us beware of under-estimating our opponents even if they are but the English mercenary.

Germans Held at Bay

In another Berlin newspaper is given an equally long account of the all-night siege of some farm buildings in which a body of English troops of unknown strength had taken refuge.

After hours of desperate fighting all the buildings were at last in flames and the English were compelled to come out and surrender, the writer describing with some humor his disgust at the discovery that the defending garrison that had been holding a good-sized German detachment at bay all night, comprised one English colonel, one major and 34 men.



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