

Get it into your heads that you cannot deceive the enemy. The Germans are not mediaeval Chinese deceived by grinning masks. They know the condition of the Canadian Corps better than you do. They know its inventiveness and resource. They know its solid courage and power. They also know the ferocity of its wrath and its primitive revenge. But they also know the extent of its reserves.

An army without reserve is a defeated army. When you fail to send forward reinforcements you acquiesce in defeat. If the army continues in the line, it merely exposes itself to slow destruction. It is disclosing no information which is not public knowledge, that the Canadian casualties at the Passchendaele Ridge were at least as great as those at Vimy and the Somme. When the attack began there were in England Canadian reserves equivalent to those casualties. It requires no great strategist to guess that those reserves are now used up, that there is not now a Canadian fighting man in England, and that the Corps must live on itself until it is exhausted. It is a rash people which would willingly incur the sullen wrath of an army which has fought bravely, and finds itself defeated by lack of reinforcements which could have been supplied.

For a year we had in England a complete division with a perfect organization. That division has been eviscerated to supply its interior force, as if a man would destroy his watch for the metal it contained. The sacrifice could not be helped. Men were not offering by voluntary enlistment and means did not exist for obtaining them by other methods.

The system of voluntary enlistment was a deadly system. It sacrificed the flower of the flock. It brought into the army all the men of high spirit. It also brought in many men of low physique, who instantly became a burden instead of a support. It brought to the front men who would be more usefully employed at home, and left behind more stolid men, who make most useful soldiers. In the army good feet are equally important with good heads.