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Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

Sir John French

Signatur: *H. p.*Datum: *31 März* 191*5*

The Times (London)

Nr. *44483*

vom

*31 März*191*5*

Field-Marshal Sir John French, as every one knows, gained great renown as a fighting leader in the last war, and there was no other general who came out of that war with a higher reputation. As General Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Aldershot he also won the admiration of the Army for his capacity in training and handling troops. Aldershot, in his days, became a model camp and the joy of professional soldiers. He surrounded himself with capable leaders and Staff officers, and not only brought his troops to a high degree of efficiency, but also made his officers a band of brothers, and established good comradeship between all arms and all ranks. Aldershot, then, was a happy family indeed. To his command at Aldershot Sir John French is entitled to look back with the happiness born of good work well done.

As Inspector-General of the Forces Sir John French had the good fortune to be able to extend to the whole Army at home the principles and practices of Aldershot. Indefatigable and persistent, he travelled all over the country and extended his tours on one occasion to Canada and passed Canada's Militia in review. He was well served by his staff while Inspector-General, and during the whole of this period the Army made steady progress in field craft and in readiness for war.

Sir John French's work during the last two years since he succeeded Field-Marshal Lord Nicholson as Chief of the Imperial General Staff is naturally much less well known to the public, for much of the work has been of a confidential character, including his service upon the Defence Committee. Work in an office chair, counsel in place of action, immersion in high affairs of State, and last, but not least, continual contact with politicians and their arts, have perhaps not proved quite so congenial to the ex-colonel of Cavalry as the pleasant labours in the field of his two previous appointments. But he has stuck to his work gamely, and under him the General Staff has gradually developed upon the right lines. Sir John French's great advantage has been his frank and soldier-like character, his charm of manner, and, above all, his devotion to his profession and his passion for fighting. He may not regret the War Office overmuch, but what he will regret, if indeed he is compelled to regret it, will be removal from troops who are dearer to him than life.

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Signatur:

H. p. French

Datum:

8. Aug. 191*4*

The North-China Herald (Shanghai)

Nr. *2452* vom*8. Aug.*191*4*

THE BRITISH COMMANDER.

The appointment of Field-Marshal Sir John French to command the British expeditionary force, if confirmed, will be as popular with the general public as with the army. As a cavalry officer Sir John French has proved his ability rapidly to sum up a situation and then to strike immediately with all the force at his command. Not only is Sir John French a dashing cavalry officer, but he has shown, notably in the South African War, that he is a strategist who can bring much practical experience to bear upon the great problem of conserving his power. Moreover, the British commander has had ample opportunity of making himself acquainted with the administrative side of an army, so that he was obviously the officer upon whom the choice would immediately fall for such an undertaking as the one reported. It is not likely that we shall receive telegraphic information as to Sir John French's staff, but the personnel is of vital importance, in a scheme, which, if indeed realized, will have had no equal since the days of Waterloo.

Signatur: *H. p. French*Datum: *24. Aug. 1913.*

Hamburger Fremdenblatt

Nr. *207 B* vom *24. Aug.* 1913.

General French

Die Nachricht, daß der englische General French, dessen Rücktritt erst im März d. J. gemeldet wurde, sich jetzt im französischen Hauptquartier befindet, dürfte nicht überraschen, ist er es doch gewesen, der unermüdlich den französischen Revanchegeanken in England lebendig erhalten hat und der unausgesetzt für ein militärisches Zusammenwirken Frankreichs und Englands Stimmung zu machen versuchte. Gerade seine häufigen Reisen nach Frankreich und seine offenkundige Arbeit mit den französischen militärischen Autoritäten hatten dem Gerücht von der englisch-französischen Militärkonvention den festen Untergrund gegeben, bis im englischen Unterhaus der Minister sie bestimmt in Abrede stellte.

Es ist bekannt, daß sich General French seinen Ruhm im Burenkriege holte, und daß man in England ganz außerordentlich viel von ihm erwartet. Um so größerem Erstaunen begegnete daher seinerzeit die Meldung seines Rücktrittes. Hatte es doch immer geheißsen, daß French das Kommando über die „Invasionsarmee“ erhalten würde, falls sich England entschließen sollte, sich in einen Festlandskrieg zu verwickeln. Nun ist dieser lange besprochene Krieg da, und General French ist sogleich wieder auf seinem Posten, und zwar auf der Seite derer, für die er sich immer eingesetzt hat.



der im französischen Hauptquartier eingetroffen ist.

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A 10 a

Signatur:

Datum:

H. p. French

6. Nov. 1914

Neue Hamburger Zeitung

Nr. *529* vom *6. Nov.* 191*4*

General French verunglückt.

st. Berlin, 5. November. (Privattelegramm.)
Der L.-A. berichtet, daß der Kommandeur der englischen
Armee General French, der vor einiger Zeit bei einem
Automobilunfall verunglückte, z. St. noch an der persön-
lichen Ausübung des Oberkommandos gehindert sei.

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Signatur: *H. p. French*Datum: *6. März* 1915

The Times (London)

Nr. *40795* vom *6. März* 1915

MÉDAILLE MILITAIRE FOR SIR J. FRENCH.

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, MARCH 4.

Sir John French was this afternoon presented by General Delacroix, late Commander-in-Chief of the French Army, with the Médaille Militaire, the highest French military honour obtainable. Sir John French is the only Englishman on whom it has ever been bestowed, and King Albert of Belgium is the only other foreigner who holds it.

Afterwards General Delacroix presented Generals Sir James Willcocks, of the Indian Army, Sir E. Allenby, and Sir W. Pulteney with the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour, expressing to each the French Government's appreciation of the services he had rendered.—
Reuter.

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Zentralstelle des
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Signatur:

H. J. French

Datum:

17. März 1915

The Times (London)

Nr.

4804

vom

17. März

191

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SIR J. FRENCH'S MÉDAILLE MILITAIRE

The award of the Médaille Militaire, the highest honour in the French Army, to Sir John French, announced in *The Times* of March 6, was formally gazetted last night as follows:—

War Office, March 16.

The President of the French Republic has, with the approval of his Majesty the King, bestowed the decoration "Médaille Militaire" on Field-Marshal Sir John Denton Pinkstone French, G.C.B., G.M., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., Colonel, 19th (Queen Alexandra's Own Royal) Hussars, Colonel-in-Chief, the Royal Irish Regiment, and Commanding-in-Chief the British Army in the Field, in recognition of his most distinguished service on the Continent.

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A 10a

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Signatur: H. p. French

Datum: 24. März 1915

The Times (London)

Nr. 40,813 vom 24. März 1915

"A PROTRACTED WAR."

SIR JOHN FRENCH ON HIS MEANING.

MEN AND MUNITIONS.

In reply to a correspondent of *The Times*, who asked Sir John French his interpretation of the meaning of the term "a protracted war" (used in an interview which has appeared in a number of French and English newspapers), the Field-Marshal states:—

"The protraction of the war depends entirely upon the supply of men and munitions. Should these be unsatisfactory, the war will be accordingly prolonged. I dwelt emphatically on the need for munitions in the interview to which you refer."

The Times (London)

Nr. 40810 vom

24 März

1915

SIR J. FRENCH'S BELIEF
IN VICTORY.

THE NEED FOR MUNITIONS.

PARIS, MARCH 22.

A correspondent of the Havas Agency, who has been making a tour of the British front, gives the following account of an interview he has had with Field-Marshal Sir John French:—

You have [he said] visited our soldiers in the trenches, and you have thus been able to see that the damp, foggy winter has in no way damped their good humour and cheeriness. It is a rough war, this, but the problem it sets is a comparatively simple one—munitions, more munitions, always more munitions. That is the essential question, the governing condition of all progress, of every leap forward. Everybody needs plenty of munitions, but the Germans need them even more than we. I have the feeling that for some time now they have been becoming more sparing of their shells. There is no longer the squandering there was at the beginning. They are economizing. They are feeling the lack of the nitrates required for the manufacture of explosives.

Nor is the *moral* of their troops any longer what it was. One can divine their weariness and lassitude. They made all their calculations for a lightning victory. The plan collapsed and the state of mind of their troops is suffering accordingly.

Moreover, their economic difficulties at home are becoming every day more serious. Doubtless the Germans are still a long way from famine but they are hampered. That is a good deal, and I do not believe in a protracted war.

Spring has come in well for the Allies. The French Army, in whose praise there is nothing more to be said, is in excellent form and very well provided with the means of action. It is showing it daily. The Russians have just occupied Memel and have again entered Eastern Prussia, which Imperial proclamations have seemed to depict as definitely free from all danger of invasion. In the Dardanelles several forts have been reduced. In such difficult enterprises losses are inevitable, and we must not be surprised at them.

The essential thing is final success, whether we are considering the Straits, the Franco-Belgian front, or the Russian front, and I myself, and all those here, are convinced that at the end of these hard months of war, definite victory awaits us.—*Reuter*.

H. p. French
24. März 1915.

Kölnische Zeitung

Nr. *302* vom *24. März* 191*5.*

Eine Unterredung mit French.

Zg Von der schweizerischen Grenze, 23. März. (Telegr.)
Havas meldet aus Paris: Der Vertreter der Havas-agentur an der englischen Front wurde gestern abend von Feldmarschall French empfangen. Der Marschall empfing den Vertreter in einem großen Salon, dessen einziges Möbel aus einem mächtigen Tisch bestand, auf dem Karten ausgebreitet waren. French, dessen Antlitz den Ausdruck einer hervorragenden Energie zeigt, läßt beim Sprechen die graublauen Augen lebhaft und durchdringend auf den Besucher haften. Der Marschall erklärte dem Besucher:

Sie haben unsere Soldaten in ihren Schützengräben besucht und haben feststellen können, daß sie in dem nebeligen und feuchten Wetter nichts an Humor und Fröhlichkeit verloren haben. Dieser Krieg ist ein rauher Krieg, und doch ist sein Problem relativ einfach: Munition, nochmals Munition und immer wieder Munition! Das ist die wesentliche Frage, die Bedingung eines jeden Fortschrittes. Alles braucht viel Munition, aber die Deutschen — und hier werden die Augen des Marschalls lebhafter — brauchen noch mehr als wir. Ich habe das Gefühl, daß sie in der letzten Zeit damit sparsamer umgehen, nicht mehr so verschwenderisch wie am Anfang. Der Mangel an Salpeter beginnt sich bei ihnen fühlbar zu machen. Auch die Moral ihrer Truppen hat gelitten. Man spricht, daß sie müde sind. Alles bei ihnen war auf einen plötzlichen Sieg berechnet. Dieser Plan ist gescheitert, und darunter leidet der Geist der Truppen. Im Innern Deutschlands werden die wirtschaftlichen Schwierigkeiten von Tag zu Tag größer. Gewiß sind die Deutschen noch weit von einer Hungersnot entfernt. Aber sie sind doch behindert, das ist schon viel.

Der Marschall fügte mit Nachdruck hinzu, er glaube nicht an einen langen Krieg. (Aha!) Nach einem kurzen Augenblick des Stillschweigens fuhr der Marschall fort:

Der Frühling kündigt sich für die Verbündeten gut an. Die französische Armee, die über jedes Lob erhaben ist, befindet sich in ausgezeichneten Verfassung und ist reichlich mit allem Notwendigen versehen. Das beweist sie täglich. Die Russen haben Memel besetzt und befinden sich neuerdings in Ostpreußen, von dem man nach den kaiserlichen Kundmachungen annehmen konnte, daß es für immer von jedem Einbruch geschützt sei. In den Dardanellen sind mehrere Forts zum Schweigen gebracht. Verluste sind bei einem so schwierigen Unternehmen unausbleiblich. Wir sind davon nicht überrascht. Wesentlich ist das Endergebnis. Mag es sich nun um die Meerenge, um die französisch-belgische Front, oder um die russische Front handeln, so sind wir überzeugt, ich und alle, die sich hier befinden, daß uns am Schlusse dieser harten Kriegsmonate der Sieg erwartet.

[Man kann zu diesen Äußerungen des Marschalls French nur bemerken, daß es für uns recht erfreulich ist, wie schlecht der britische Oberbefehlshaber sich unterrichtet zeigt. Er hat offenbar nichts davon gehört, daß der Reichstag unserer Regierung soeben das Stickstoffmonopol bewilligt hat und daß in Deutschland Salpeter in beliebigen Mengen hergestellt wird. Er scheint auch nicht gelesen zu haben, daß die englischen Blätter voll der Anerkennung sind über die Widerstandskraft unserer Truppen, deren die zehnfache Übermacht der Engländer nicht Herr zu werden vermochte, und er baut nach wie vor trotz der das Gegenteil bekundenden Berichte Neutralität und trotz der Anleihezeichnung von neun Milliarden auf unsere wirtschaftlichen Schwierigkeiten. Er weiß nicht, daß Memel befreit und Ostpreußen wieder prompt von den Russen gesäubert worden ist, und er muß sich von der Times darüber belehren lassen, daß die vermeintlich „zum Schweigen gebrachten“ Forts der Dardanellen recht unangenehm weiter feuern. Uns kann es recht sein, daß Marschall French so schlecht unterrichtet ist. Was aber die Siegeszuversicht angeht, so wird er hoffentlich bald zu der Erkenntnis geführt werden, daß er auch damit auf dem Holzwege war.]

H. p. French

1915

The Times (London)

Nr. 40829 vom 15 April 1915

SIR JOHN FRENCH.

Sir John French is an old friend, but the John French of the club, the drawing-room, and the hunting field and the French of the great war are two entirely different personalities. The war alters all who enter upon it. It has profoundly affected not only the character, but even the very appearance of those who have been through it since Mons. There is a marked change in the mentality of your chubby subaltern who has really been through the war—and has emerged alive from the glorious retreat and the great advance that marked the beginning of a new world for the whole world. That turning point is as yet only indicated on the map of Europe by the little wooden crosses, the humble, primrose-covered graves, tenderly and affectionately decked by the children and the old peasant folk, the graves of French and British officers and men round about Meaux, often close to the haystacks to which the wounded men crawled, or under the stone walls of isolated villages.

Sir John is a little greyer than he was before the war. But the man is the picture of health; and how much to-day of the world's future depends upon the health of Joseph Joffre and John French! The great commander of an army is the flower of the aloe, which blooms only once in a century. It has not been necessary for us to reveal a commander since the Great Duke, for we now know that the early Afghan campaigns, the Crimea, the Boer War, and the frontier scraps were mere incidents by comparison with the battles of the Marne, the Aisne, and that Battle of Ypres which the French call the Battle of Flanders. We now realize that at Waterloo we had only 24,000 British troops engaged, whereas Sir John has at the present moment (may I say it?) more than twenty times that number at his disposal.

AN AGE OF IMPERSONAL WARFARE.

Like Joffre, French is extremely methodic in his habits, and the daily round of the two men is very similar, except that Sir John lives the life of a simple English country house in the unpretentious dwelling of the leading lawyer

of a small French town. Nowadays one does not know so much of one's generals and great captains as did our great-great-grandfathers. The newspapers of to-day have become less personal and more pictorial. The odds and ends of interesting and amusing gossip from the Peninsula and France which filled the newspapers of the early nineteenth century are gone. Instead we have the somewhat monotonous photographs and the often boring and heavily censored soldiers' letters. As a result of undue suppression rumour arises. There are those who lay down the law in clubs, who picture to themselves the luxurious life of the Headquarters Staff as only a little plainer than their own pleasant existence. American reporters tell us of the splendour of the Kaiser's war equipage, a magnificence almost equal to that of Napoleon in his days of decadence.

I can vouch for it that life at British Headquarters is as unpretentious as is Sir John French himself: the easy breakfast, without formality, of English life, the lunch—as often as not a paper packet of sandwiches eaten in a motor-car out near the trenches, a good simple dinner quickly disposed of, and bed for some by 10 and a long night's work for others, each to his appointed task, but a long day of incessant work.

One thing that we at home do not realize is that our soldiers, especially those who went out in August, regard themselves as being in a far country. "Out here," they say, as though Flanders were as distant as India. To them the little contrasts of foreign life are as great as the change from London to Lahore. Thus it is that, dependent upon themselves, their world is a small one, and thus it is that they have speedily got to know their great general.

It is not too much to say that Sir John French is as idolized by the British troops in Flanders as is General Joffre by the men in the long, long line that starts from Switzerland. Nor is it a misuse of words to state that in the opinion of his German enemies, and our French and Belgian allies, Sir John French's tactics in the great battle of Ypres, place him in the ranks of the greatest of commanders. When he gets his shells we shall hear more of him and his splendid and enthusiastic Army.

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Zentralstelle des
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Signatur:

H. P. French

Datum:

11. Juni 191*5.*

Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung (Essen)

Nr. *452* vom *11. Juni* 191*5.*

French und sein Ehrenwort.

Man schreibt uns: Es ist festsam, ein wie kurzes Gedächtnis wir alle haben, festsam, daß man erst in alten Zeitungen zurückblättern muß, um sich eines Vorganges zu erinnern, der erst ein knappes halbes Menschenleben zurückliegt und für die Charakteristik eines Mannes, der heute auf dem Kriegstheater eine führende Rolle spielt, unentbehrlich ist. In den Tagen des Burenkrieges geschah es, daß French, der heutige sehr ehrenwerte englische Generalissimus und jüngste Ritter des Rosenbandordens, von den Buren gefangen genommen wurde. Er gab sein Ehrenwort, nicht wieder gegen die Buren zu kämpfen, und gewann die Freiheit. Aber der sehr ehrenwerte Mr. French brach sein Ehrenwort, und die Folge war, daß die Buren, als er ihnen zum zweiten Male in die Hände fiel, beschlossen, ihn zu erschießen. Nur dem Eingreifen Lord Kitcheners hatte er es zu verdanken, daß er der richtenden Kugel entging, nachdem für des Wortbrüchigen Leben 1000 in Simonston gefangene Buren ausgeliefert worden. Es ist notwendig, sich diesen Vorgang ins Gedächtnis zurückzurufen, um genau zu wissen, was der „Edle“ wert ist.

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Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

A 102

Signatur:

H. p. French

Datum:

13. Aug. 1915

Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung (Essen)

Nr.

628

vom

13. Aug.

191

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Die Unzufriedenheit der „Times“ über Feldmarschall French.

Am London, 12. Aug. (Drahtb.) Die „Times“ äußert in einem Artikel ihre Unzufriedenheit wegen des Ausbleibens der amtlichen Berichte des Marschalls French, die ungeachtet des Versprechens Asquiths äußerst unregelmäßig veröffentlicht werden. Seiner Zeit hätte man versprochen, zweimal wöchentlich einen amtlichen Bericht zu veröffentlichen, aber das wurde nur in der ersten Zeit getan, bald hörten die Berichte wieder auf, und man erklärte das Ausbleiben mit der Entschuldigung, daß es zwecklos sei, amtliche Berichte zu veröffentlichen, wenn man nichts zu melden hätte.

Die „Times“ beschwert sich weiter, daß selbst dann, wenn etwas zu melden sei, dies nicht geschehe. Wir wissen nur zu gut, fährt das Blatt fort, daß an unserer Front heftig gekämpft wurde. Die Listen der Gefallenen beweisen es und auch die amtlichen deutschen Nachrichten zeigen es deutlich. Wann wird die Regierung einmal einsehen, daß wir eine Nation sind, welche ebenso gut die schlechten Zeiten des Krieges ertragen kann, wie die guten? Dadurch, daß man die schlechten Meldungen zurückhält, beweist man, daß man vom englischen Volke nicht erwartet, daß es sich auch bei einem Fehlschlage gut halten würde. Dadurch wird das Vertrauen des Volkes zu den Führern geschwächt und Pessimismus erzeugt. Ja, sogar die Erfolge werden verkleinert, weil man immer annimmt, daß die gemeldeten Erfolge nicht so groß seien, wie die Meldung besagt. Man versteckt den wahren Zustand und erweckt bei den Verbündeten das Gefühl, daß wir keine Ahnung haben von dem, was eigentlich Krieg heißt. Wir hegen die bestimmte Hoffnung, daß endlich eine Besserung eintreten wird.

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Zentralstelle des
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Signatur:

H. p. French

Datum: 24. Aug. 1915

Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung (Essen)

Nr. 659 vom 24. Aug. 1915

Eine Botschaft Frenchs.

HC Haag, 23. Aug. (Eig. Drahtb.) Reuter meldet aus London: Einer der Führer der englischen Arbeiterpartei, Grady, der soeben von der Front zurückgekehrt war, sagte einem Pressevertreter, daß French ihn gelegentlich eines Besuches ersucht habe, dem englischen Volk folgende Botschaft zu überbringen:

„Meine Soldaten sind Mann für Mann besser als die deutschen Soldaten, sowohl im Angriff wie in der Verteidigung. Meine Kanonen sind besser als die deutschen. Meine 13 zölligen Granaten sind ebenso viel wert als die deutschen 17 zölligen Granaten. Der Kampf tobt jetzt zwischen Grupp und Birmingham.“

Grady stand tief unter dem Eindruck der Verwüstung von Reims. Er sagte einem französischen Kollegen, daß er nach dem, was er dort gesehen habe, keine Nacht ruhig schlafen werde, bevor nicht die Deutschen reichlich für die Vernichtung Reims gebüßt hätten.

Bei der Botschaft Frenchs allein hätte man sich nicht viel denken brauchen, daß aber wieder einmal das hejammernswerte Reims aus der Verfenkung herausgeholt worden ist, ist ein Beweis dafür, daß Stimmungsmache wieder sehr notwendig ist.

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Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

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Signatur: *H. p. French*Datum: *2. Okt.* 1915

The African World (London)

Nr. *613* vom *2. Okt.* 1915**SIR JOHN FRENCH.****An Auspicious Birthday.**

"Tranquille d'esprit" was the phrase used to me in France of Sir John French, and in its context it was, perhaps, the just word, writes a correspondent in the "Daily Telegraph." There is no exact translation. The danger is that it should be supposed merely to mean "tranquil." "Sturdy" is a better phrase. And again I caught a true appreciation of him in the words of an Englishman in the trenches who said, with adjectives, that he was a slogger. Sir John French celebrates his sixty-third birthday to-day (Tuesday), with something that is of far greater value to him than the pleasant congratulations of his friends. For ten months he has waited. In the long history of human war an eagerness to strike and the ability to wait have probably been the victorious factors. But over all has been that elusive power to lead men which no self-control and no acquired experience can give. In a large measure Sir John French has all three. The South African war provided an opportunity for his personal dash, and at the same time proved his sage willingness to rely upon the tactical knowledge of his second-in-command, Sir Douglas Haig. The combination was perfect, and from those early days in which Sir John French tantalised his opponents along the Colesberg position near Norval's Pont, his reputation was assured. To-day he celebrates his birthday, and it is as good an occasion as any on which to remind those at home of the solid and continuous work which has built up our wall of defence in Belgium and in France, against which the Germans have flung away their best troops in useless attack.

The Field-Marshal's work has been of an especially trying character. Month after month he has had to maintain a merely defensive attitude, which is of all positions the most difficult. But the men under him knew his sturdy capacity in retreat, and as little by little the initiative came into our hands, it was only the less informed men who grumbled at our inaction. To-day his long patience is justified, and there will be not one among his countrymen who will not from his heart wish him many happy returns of a day that has risen so auspiciously.



FIELD MARSHAL SIR JOHN FRENCH, K.C.M.G.,
G.C.B., K.C.B., G.C.V.O.,
Commanding the British Expeditionary Force in Flanders.

Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

Signatur: *H. p. French*

Datum: *16. Dez* 191*5*

Neue Hamburger Zeitung

Nr. *637* vom *16. Dez* 191*5*

General French nicht mehr Feldgeneral.

WIB. London, 16. Dezember. (Nichtamtlich.) Das Kriegsamt gibt bekannt, daß Sir Douglas Haig zum Nachfolger des Feldmarschalls French als Befehlshaber in Frankreich und Flandern ernannt wurde. French wurde auf eigenes Ersuchen seines Postens enthoben und zum kommandierenden Feldmarschall der Truppen des Vereinigten Königreiches ernannt. Ferner gibt das Kriegsamt bekannt: Seit Beginn des Krieges befehligte French während 16 Monaten in ununterbrochener und anstrengender Tätigkeit unsere Armeen in Frankreich und Flandern mit größtem Geschick und legt jetzt auf eigenen Wunsch das Kommando nieder. Die Regierung hat ihn in voller Anerkennung seiner hervorragenden Verdienste und zum Dank dafür, die Stelle eines oberkommandierenden Feldmarschalls der Truppen des Vereinigten Königreiches anzunehmen. French nahm die Stelle an. Der König verlieh ihm die Würde eines Viscount.

Der von den englischen Einkreisern zum Sieger über das deutsche Heer vorherbestimmte General Sir John French ist seines Postens als Oberbefehlshaber des englischen Heeres im Felde enthoben und Oberbefehlshaber der englischen Heimatarmee geworden. An seine Stelle ist in Frankreich und Flandern als Oberbefehlshaber Sir Douglas Haig getreten, der die von Lord Kitchener und vielen einflussreichen englischen Politikern als Hauptproblem dieses Krieges bezeichnete Aufgabe lösen helfen soll, die deutsche Westfront zu durchbrechen und Belgien zu befreien, das heißt, England von der Bedrohung an einer empfindlichsten Stelle zu erlösen. General French ist diesem Unternehmen nicht gewachsen gewesen, und er hat sich dabei die empfindlichsten Schlappen geholt. Er hat es vielleicht für undurchführbar erklärt, denn es heißt in der Meldung, daß er auf eigenes Ersuchen seines Postens enthoben worden ist. Er kann aber auch auf sein Ersuchen des verantwortungsreichen Postens enthoben worden sein, weil er ohnehin hätte gehen müssen. Jedenfalls spiegelt sich die tiefe Verstimmung der englischen Nation über den Verlauf des Feldzuges in diesem freiwilligen oder erzwungenen Entschlusse wider. Im Westen wiederholt sich, was im Osten bereits geschehen ist. Dem großfürstlichen Generalissimus Nikolai Nikolajewitsch

folgt der englische Generalissimus in die Verfestigung einer für den unmittelbaren Gang des Krieges ziemlich bedeutungslosen Stellung. General French hat neben seinen mangelnden Verdiensten auch eine im britischen Sinne bedeutungsvolle und über Gebühr gepriesene Feldherrntat für sich aufzuweisen. Er trug im vorigen Jahre durch sein Eingreifen auf dem westlichsten Flügel der französischen Front wesentlich dazu bei, den Vormarsch der deutschen Truppen auf Paris aufzuhalten und die Schlacht an der Marne in dem Sinne zu beeinflussen, der sich in der gegenwärtigen Kriegslage ausdrückt. Sein Verdienst war das Hinausschieben der Entscheidung; für Frankreich vielleicht in ihren Folgen die verhängnisvollste Aktion des ganzen Krieges. Denn diese Kriegesverlängerung brachte die ungeheuren Menschenverluste der Franzosen auf der Westfront mit sich, die bei einem kurzen Kriege zu vermeiden gewesen wären. Vielleicht ist es auch dieser Vorwurf von französischer Seite, der den Feldmarschall aus seinem Amte treibt, wenn es nicht Neuve Chapelle, Ypern und Loos gewesen ist. Ihrem Endergebnis nach bedeuten diese Namen schwere englische Niederlagen, Loos die schwerste, weil hier das neue Kitchenerheer sich als ziemlich minderwertig herausstellte und die englischen Verluste im Vergleich zu den unserigen ungeheurer waren.

Der Nachfolger des Feldmarschalls, Haig, ist als besonderer Sachverständiger im Schützengrabenkrieg in der feindlichen Presse sehr oft mit Auszeichnung genannt worden. Was ihm als Oberkommandierendem das Kriegsglück bringen wird, bleibt abzuwarten.

John French ist 1852 geboren, trat 1866 in die Marine als Kadett ein und ging 1874 zum Heer über. Er kämpfte im Sudan mit (1884 und 85) und zeichnete sich im Burenkrieg besonders aus. Er leitete die Schlacht bei Oudenaarde und kommandierte in den Schlachten von Rietfontein und Lombards Kop die Kavallerie. Die Befreiung Kimberleys wird im wesentlichen als sein Werk angesehen. Im Jahre 1907 wurde French Generalinspekteur der Besatzungen und schließlich Chef des Generalstabes. French hat schon vor dem Kriege die französischen Festungen an der Südgrenze besichtigt und war häufiger Gast bei französischen Truppenübungen.

Vossische Zeitung

Nr. *642* vom *16. Dez* 1915

Der Kommandowechsel.

Drahtmeldung.

London, 15. Dezember.

Das Kriegsamt gibt bekannt, daß Sir Douglas Haig zum Nachfolger des Feldmarschalls French als Befehlshaber in Frankreich und Flandern ernannt wurde. French wurde auf eigenes Ersuchen seines Postens enthoben und zum kommandierenden Feldmarschall der Truppen des Vereinigten Königreiches ernannt.

Ferner gibt das Kriegsamt bekannt: Seit Beginn des Krieges befehligte Feldmarschall French während sechzehn Monaten in ununterbrochener angestrengter Tätigkeit unsere Armeen in Frankreich und Flandern mit dem größten Geschick. Er hat jetzt auf eigenen Wunsch das Kommando niedergelegt. Die Regierung hat ihm in voller Anerkennung seiner hervorragenden Verdienste und zum Dank dafür, die Stelle eines obersten kommandierenden Feldmarschalls der Truppen des Vereinigten Königreiches angeboten. French hat die Stelle angenommen. Der König hat ihm die Würde eines Viscount verliehen.

Man wird sich eine Riste anlegen müssen. Es ist bald nicht mehr möglich, alle die Schiffbrüchigen im Kopf zu behalten, die vor, neben, zwischen und nach Delcassé und Winston Churchill über Bord gespült wurden. Der vorläufig Letzte in ihrer Reihe ist Feldmarschall John French. Er scheidet vom Schauplatz seiner bisherigen sechzehnmonatigen Tätigkeit in Frankreich und Flandern, um zum Dank für seine „hervorragenden Verdienste“ kaltgestellt zu werden. Denn nichts anderes als das bedeutet seine Ernennung zum Befehlshaber der Truppen im Vereinigten Königreich. Wenn es gut geht, darf er dort, solange der Krieg noch dauert, die Oberaufsicht über den Drill der berühmten Dreimillionen-Armee Ritzeners führen, die nach Aussage aus englischem Munde alsbald gar auf vier Millionen anwachsen soll. Der Schlachtenlenker geht zum Garnisondienst über. Ein vollgerüstet Maß von Lob begleitet ihn auf seinem Wege. Er hat seine Aufgabe mit „größtem Geschick“ erfüllt, „volle Anerkennung“ wird ihm gespendet, der König kann nicht umhin, ihm den Viscount-Titel zu verleihen. Man spricht zum Fenster hinaus. Dem englischen Volke, das große Hoffnungen auf French gesetzt hatte und nun plötzlich erfährt, daß auch dieser Mann abgetan ist, soll die bittere Pille versüßt werden. Die Götter fallen, weil sie sich nicht bewähren. Für die Beseitigung des Feldmarschalls French wagte man nicht einmal den üblichen Vorwand geschwächter Gesundheit anzuführen. Der jetzt 63jährige Marschall erfreut sich des Vollbesitzes seiner körperlichen und geistigen Kräfte. Und dennoch wandert er zu den anderen, die der Prüfung in schwerer Zeit nicht standzuhalten vermochten.

Donnerstag, 16. Dezember 1915

Beitung

gelehrten Sachen

Fernsprech-Zentrale: Ullstein & Co. Moritzplatz 11 800
11 801, 11 802, 11 803 bis 11 850. Zentrum 8689 und 8690.

halls French

he Angriffe.

Der Kommandowechsel.

Drahtmeldung.

London, 15. Dezember.

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Man wird sich eine Liste anlegen müssen. Es ist bald nicht mehr möglich, alle die Schiffsbrüchigen im Kopf zu behalten, die vor, neben, zwischen und nach Delcassé und Winston Churchill über Bord gespült wurden. Der vorläufig Letzte in ihrer Reihe ist Feldmarschall John French. Er scheidet vom Schauplatz seiner bisherigen sechzehnmonatigen Tätigkeit in Frankreich und Flandern, um zum Dank für seine „hervorragenden Verdienste“ kaltgestellt zu werden. Denn nichts anderes als das bedeutet seine Ernennung zum Befehlshaber der Truppen im Vereinigten Königreich. Wenn es gut geht, darf er dort, solange der Krieg noch dauert, die Oberaufsicht über den Drill der berühmten Dreimillionen-Armee Kitcheners führen, die nach Aussage aus englischem Munde alsbald gar auf vier Millionen anwachsen soll. Der Schlachtenlenker geht zum Garnisondienst über. Ein vollgerüstet Maß von Lob begleitet ihn auf seinem Wege. Er hat seine Aufgabe mit „größtem Geschick“ erfüllt, „volle Anerkennung“ wird ihm gespendet, der König kann nicht umhin, ihm den Viscount-Titel zu verleihen. Man spricht zum Fenster hinaus. Dem englischen Volke, das große Hoffnungen auf French gesetzt hatte und nun plötzlich erfährt, daß auch dieser Mann abgetan ist, soll die bittere Pille versüßt werden. Die Götter fallen, weil sie sich nicht bewähren. Für die Beseitigung des Feldmarschalls French wagte man nicht einmal den üblichen Vorwand geschwächter Gesundheit anzuführen. Der jetzt 63jährige Marschall erfreut sich des Vollbesitzes seiner körperlichen und geistigen Kräfte. Und dennoch wandert er zu den anderen, die der Prüfung in schwerer Zeit nicht standzuhalten vermochten.

Vor einigen Tagen teilte Ministerpräsident Asquith im Unterhause geheimnisvoll mit, daß in hohen englischen Befehlshaberstellen Aenderungen bevorständen, die aber keineswegs in Zusammenhang zu bringen seien mit der Uebernahme des Oberbefehls aller französischer Truppen durch General Joffre. Diese vorbeugende Erklärung konnte nur den Sinn haben, daß die englische Armee in Flandern ungeachtet des in Aussicht genommenen Wechsels leitender Persönlichkeiten ihre Selbständigkeit bewahrt. Gekränkte Eitelkeit ist es also nicht, was den Rücktritt des Marschalls French bewirkt hat. Seine führende Stellung wurde durch die Rangerhöhung Joffres nicht berührt. Die reinliche Scheidung zwischen Engländern und Franzosen bleibt überall beibehalten, in Frankreich, Flandern wie in Mazedonien. Zur Ausgleichung der Eifersüchteleien ist der große gemeinsame Kriegsrat bestimmt, der hin und wieder in Paris zusammentritt. Hinsichtlich des Marschalls French erhob sich aber die Frage nach seinen Leistungen. Die Antwort fiel gegen ihn aus. French ist Reitergeneral, der sich in Kolonialkriegen einigen Ruhm erworben hat. Als Draufgänger gegen Wilde stellte er seinen Mann. Grund genug für England, in ihm einen großen Heerführer und Strategen zu erblicken. Englische Wanderredner erzählten Wunderdinge von ihm. Conan Doyle und Lord Galdane erhoben ihn zum Himmel. Er selbst sorgte dafür, daß der Glaube an seine

Bedeutung nicht sinke. „Meine Soldaten sind Kopf für Kopf besser als die deutschen, sowohl im Gefecht als in bezug auf die Ausdauer, und meine Geschütze sind ebenfalls besser als die deutschen“. Solche frohe Botschaft erließ er noch im August dieses Jahres an das englische Volk. Auch in Rußland hielt man French für einen großen Mann. Er war der politisierende englische General, der, als einer der wichtigsten Gehilfen der Eintreisungspolitik, wiederholt zur Besichtigung der russischen Truppen nach Petersburg, Moskau und Warschau geschickt worden ist. Nikolai Nikolajewitsch und John French gehörten zusammen. Der eine ist schon längst unten durch, der andere schnallt soeben den Kriegsfädel ab. Man wird in Rußland sehr unangenehm berührt sein von der Kunde, daß schon wieder einer von denen, die zur Besiegung Deutschlands auszogen, das Rennen hat aufgeben müssen.

Draufgängerisch, großsprecherisch, dilettantisch — das sind die hervorstechendsten Eigenschaften des Marschalls French. Es ist kein Zufall, daß gerade er und Winston Churchill in so liebevollem Ansehen bei ihren Landsleuten standen, denn sie verkörpern eben in sich selbst die Hauptcharakterzüge des modernen Albion. Erst der Krieg brachte den Engländern die Lehre, daß damit wenig auszurichten ist. Und so verschwinden die englischen Größen nacheinander von der Bildfläche. In wahrer Verzweiflung wird nach besserem Ersatz gesucht, der aber nicht zu finden ist. Der 54jährige Generalleutnant Douglas Haig, der Nachfolger des Marschalls French, hat, wie French, seine militärische Laufbahn als Kavallerist in den Kolonien zurückgelegt. Von 1909 bis 1912 war er Generalstabschef in Indien, seitdem Kommandierender General in Aldershot. Im jehigen Kriege leitete er die Schlacht von Nieuve Chapelle, von deren „Erfolgen“ die Engländer, wie sie sich nachträglich überzeugten, viel mehr Wesens machten, als in Wirklichkeit dahinter war.

London, 15. Dezember.

Im Unterhause teilte Ministerpräsident Asquith mit, daß Änderungen in den Kommandostellen des britischen Seeres bevorstehen. Er fügte hinzu, daß kein Zusammenhang bestehe zwischen diesen Änderungen und der Ernennung Joffres zum französischen Oberbefehlshaber.

Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

Signatur:

Datum: 17. Dez 1915

Tägliche Rundschau (Berlin)

Nr. 640 vom 17. Dez 1915

Frenchs Abgang.

Wenn eine Regierung in der Lage der englischen Regierung in dieser Stunde sich entschließt, einen Mann in der Stellung Frenchs dieser Stellung zu entheben, so bedeutet das eine Bankrotterklärung, genau so wie es eine lange hinausgeschobene Bankrotterklärung bedeutete, als England sein großes liberales Ministerium fallen lassen mußte, weil dasselbe nicht mehr genug moralischen Kredit und politische Stärke besaß, um die Verantwortung für die Fortführung dieses von seinen Herren und Meistern angezettelten Krieges weiter zu tragen. Jenes war eine politische Bankrotterklärung. Die Entlassung Frenchs mit der klassischen Begründung durch den Hinweis darauf, daß er „seit Beginn des Krieges während sechzehn Monaten in ununterbrochener angestrengter Tätigkeit unsere Armeen in Frankreich und Flandern mit dem größten Geschick befehligte“, bedeutet — nehmt alles nur in allem — eine Bankrotterklärung der englischen obersten Heeresführung. Wenn Herr French diese sechzehn Monate her die englischen Armeen in Frankreich und Flandern wirklich „mit dem größten Geschick“ befehligte, so wäre das kein Grund, ihn zu entlassen, sondern unter allen Umständen ihn in einer so geschickt ausgefüllten Stellung zu erhalten und zu festigen. Keine in noch so dröhnendem Brustton vorgetragene amtliche Gesart wird irgendjemanden innerhalb und außerhalb Englands vermögen, von dieser einfachen, natürlichen Schlußfolgerung abzusehen. In England wird man sich sagen, in Frankreich, Rußland und in Italien wird man sich sagen, und bei uns sagt man sich's auch, es sagen's allerorten „alle Herzen unter dem himmlischen Tage“: die englische Regierung hätte in dieser Stunde ganz zweifellos einen so durch die ganze Welt hin Aufsehen erregenden Wechsel an der wichtigsten Stelle der gesamten englischen Kriegsführung nicht vorgenommen, wenn sie nicht geglaubt hätte, um keinen Preis mehr ihn unterlassen zu dürfen, wenn sie nicht der Ueberzeugung gewesen wäre, daß es so wie bisher mit der englischen Heeresführung unter keinen Umständen weiter gehen könne. Das ist eine so unwiderstehlich auch dem simpelsten Verstande sich aufdrängende Schlußfolgerung, daß keine vergrößerte Titulatur für den abgesägten Herrn French, keine Standeserhöhung, kein pomphaftes Weggleiten über den inneren sachlichen Sinn der Sache ihr vorbeugen oder sie beirren kann. Herr French wird unter sehr billigen Vorbeeren begraben.

Der „Befreier Kimberleys“ hat Antwerpen, Brüssel und Lüttich, hat Nordfrankreich, Flandern und Belgien nicht zu befreien vermocht. Die Sturmzüge gegen die deutsche Front, welche diese so oft zugeschworene und so oft als unwiderstehlich endgültig bevorstehend angesagte Befreiung bringen sollten, sind an dem eisernen deutschen Wall wie Glas zersplittert. An dem Mute des englischen Soldaten hat es dabei nicht gefehlt, an Mannschaften, an Uebermacht der Zahl, an Höllen von Trommelfeuer, an erstickenden Gewölken, an all dem hat es nicht gefehlt. Es bleibt also — da man natürlich die Unererschütterlichkeit der Deutschen nicht zugestehen darf, wenn man die gesamte englische Kriegsführung nicht als verfehlt preisgeben will — nur noch die eine peinliche Möglichkeit, als Erklärung und Entschuldigung der Mißerfolge die Unzulänglichkeit der obersten Heeresführung dienen zu lassen. Das ist natürlich unan-

genehm; aber immerhin läßt sich zur Beruhigung der Engländer und ihrer Mitverbündler eher und leichter eine neue Heeresleitung improvisieren als ein neues Heer. Also wird Herr French als Sündenbock in die Wüste oder Titelherlichkeit gestoßen.

Ob nun der neue Mann das Glück erjagen wird, dem Herr French durch sechzehn Monate mit so wenig Erfolg nachgestellt hat? Der neue Oberkommandierende, General Sir Douglas Haig, ist bereits im vorigen Jahre von Ritchener zum Befehlshaber einer der sechs neu aufgestellten Armeen ernannt und damals vom Generalleutnant zum General befördert worden. Das Jahr zuvor befehligte er, obwohl General, noch das 17. Lanciersregiment in Sialkot in der indischen Provinz Pandschab. Haig ist am 19. Juni 1861 geboren, also neun Jahre jünger als French, dem er übrigens am Anfang des Burenkrieges zugeteilt war. Der neue Oberkommandierende ist, wie auch French, Kavallerist. Er begann seine militärische Laufbahn vor dreißig Jahren beim siebenten Husarenregiment und war später hauptsächlich in Afrika und Indien tätig. Er nahm 1898 an dem Feldzug im Sudan und dann am Burenkriege teil. Im Jahre 1903 wurde er zum Generalinspekteur der Kavallerie in Indien und ein Jahr später zum Generalleutnant befördert. Vorübergehend ist er auch Ritcheners Generalstabschef in Simla gewesen. Wir sehen seinen Taten mit der größten Gelassenheit entgegen. Vielleicht ist Herr Haig persönlich wirklich bedeutender als Herr French, der einst als Napoleon gepriesen wurde. Dennoch glauben wir einstweilen, daß der Wechsel im englischen Kommando kaum von wesentlichem Einfluß auf den Verlauf der kriegerischen Ereignisse sein wird. Denn die Mängel in der oberen Führung bei den Engländern dürften weniger am einzelnen Mann liegen als am ganzen Geist und System. Heerführer im Sinne deutscher nationaler Kriegsführung sind dem englischen Söldnerwesen seiner innersten Natur nach ungemäß. Deutsche Kriegsführung und Heeresleitung im Sinne nationaler Sammlung und nationaler Erziehung zu einer grenzenlosen freiwilligen Hingabe ist dem englischen Kriegshandwerkertum wesenfremd.

F. H.

4 0725 0018 000

Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

A 10a

Signatur:

H. p. French

Datum:

21. Dez. 1915

Tägliche Rundschau (Berlin)

Nr. *648* vom *21. Dez.* 1915

Warum French ging.

(Drahtmeldung unseres Sonderberichterstatters.)
Wien, 20. Dezember. Presseinformationen zufolge, ist die Amtsenthebung Frenchs auf seine entschiedene Weigerung zurückzuführen, die englischen Operationen in Nordfrankreich der Oberleitung des französischen Oberkommandanten zu unterstellen. Infolge der andauernden Meinungsverschiedenheiten zwischen den Kommandanten in Nordfrankreich stehen weitere einschneidende Veränderungen im englischen Heeresstab bevor.

40725 0019 000

Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

A 10^a

Signatur:

H. p. French

Datum:

1. Jan. 191*6*

The Times (London)

Nr. *41152* vom *1. Jan.* 191*6*

LORD FRENCH OF YPRES.

We understand that on the occasion of his elevation to the peerage, Field-Marshal Sir John French will assume the title of Viscount French of Ypres, thus commemorating the great battles in which he and the little British Army then on the Continent barred the German way to Calais.

40 725 0020 000

Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

A 10^a

Signatur:

H. p. French
18. Jan. 1916.

Kölnische Zeitung

Nr. *61* vom *18 Jan.* 191*6*

Der „Vicomte von Ypern“ eine Dublette.

Der belgische Mitarbeiter der „Croi“ schreibt, wie wir der Täglichen Rundschau entnehmen, seinem Blatte:

„Der Feldmarschall French ist also zum „Viscount of Ypres“ ernannt worden. Das ist ja ganz schön, aber das englische Heroldsamt hat vergessen, das belgische Heroldsamt um Rat zu fragen, sonst hätte ihm dieses sagen können, daß es unter dem belgischen Adel „mehrere Grafen von Ypern“ gibt. Einer davon ist z. B. der Major Touques, Graf von Ypern, der im belgischen Kriegsministerium sitzt. Falls man noch einige Titel zu verleihen beabsichtigt, zu denen Ortsnamen des belgischen Flandern benutzt werden sollen, so wird es sich empfehlen, vorher beim belgischen Heroldsamt anzufragen; denn es gibt kaum noch einen Ortsnamen, der nicht schon jemandem als Titel beigelegt wäre.“

40725 0021 000

Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

French

Signatur: *H* *sp*

Datum: *26. Jan.* 191*6*

The Times (London)

Nr. *41043* vom *26. Jan.* 191*6*

LORD FRENCH OF YPRES.

It is announced in last night's *Gazette* that the King has been pleased, by Letters Patent under the Great Seal, to confer the dignity of a Viscount of the United Kingdom upon Field-Marshal Sir John Denton Pinkstone French, G.C.B., O.M., G.C.V.O., K.C.M.G., and the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten, by the name, style, and title of Viscount French of Ypres and of High Lake in the County of Roscommon.

* * * It was anticipated in *The Times* of January 1 that Sir John French would take the title of Viscount French of Ypres, thus commemorating the great battles in which the little British Army then under his command on the Continent barred the German way to Calais. The family connexion with High Lake, Co. Roscommon, goes back to the new peer's great-great-grandfather, John French, younger brother of Arthur French, ancestor of Lord De Freyne.

Signatur *P. French*
Datum *9 Mai* 1919

The Daily Herald (London)

Nr. 1027

HOME TRUTHS ABOUT THE WAR

French's Revelations of 1914.

STAND AND FIGHT

When Kitchener Tried to Ride the High Horse.

By Our Military Correspondent.

"Would that mine enemy had written a book," said Job.

The military and naval mandarins of Whitehall and thereabouts are wishing that their friends wouldn't.

After Lord Jellicoe, Lord French, the Viceroy of Ireland, lays aside his vice regality and arms himself with the slings and arrows of controversial journalism.

Giving the Show Away.

In the "Daily Telegraph" Lord French is writing a serial story of the Great War. And he is giving the show away with both hands. He is damning the consequences and his brother generals.

Lord Jellicoe explained how the Grand Fleet upon which the nation had lavished its hard-earned millions, had to play puss-in-the-corner round the coasts of Scotland and Ireland because it was not properly equipped for the job of sweeping the seas. Lord French describes with delightful naïveté how the generals had failed to visualise the land war of the future and how their counsels were divided.

French and the Liberal Cabinet.

The strategic history of the war and the actual movements of armies are of small interest to anyone, except the soldier and the historians, but there are certain portions of Lord French's story which may be studied with interest and profit by the ordinary person who has to pay the price of war in blood and treasure.

There is a carefully cultivated impression that the Liberal Cabinet of 1914 was averse to going to war. That, however, is not Lord French's opinion. "Personally," he says, "I felt perfectly sure that so long as Mr. Asquith remained Prime Minister, and Lord Haldane, Sir Edward Grey and Mr. Winston Churchill continued to be members of the Cabinet, their voices would continue to guide the destinies of the British Empire, and that we should remain true to our understanding with the Entente Powers."

Belgium the Dark Horse.

Nevertheless that understanding seems to have been very vague. "One of the most important matters remaining for discussion and decision was finally to determine whether the original plan as regards the area of concentration of the British forces in France was to be adhered to."

Lord Kitchener apparently thought that our position would be too exposed. Sir Douglas Haig wanted to postpone the landing until the campaign had actually opened.

And yet we learn that "the General Staffs of Great Britain and France had, for a long time, held conferences, and that a complete mutual understanding as to combined action in certain eventualities existed."

The understanding seems, on the contrary, to have been neither mutual nor complete. And then we are told that "Belgium, however, remained a dark horse up to the last, and it is most unfortunate that she could never be persuaded to decide upon her attitude in the event of a general war."

Not According to the Book.

Lord French next proceeds to devastate the reputation of our commanders and General Staff as regards any intelligent anticipation of what a great war would be, and the form that it would take.

"No previous war experience, no conclusion I had been able to draw from campaigns in which I had taken part, or from a close study of the new conditions in which the war of to-day is waged, had led me to anticipate a war of positions."

And yet Lord French had fought through the South African War and must have remembered the Tugela and the Modder River!

We Didn't Believe Them.

"It is easy to be wise after the event," he goes on, "but I cannot help wondering why none of us realised what the most modern rifle, the machine-gun, motor traction, the aeroplane, wireless telegraphy would bring about. It seems so simple when judged by actual results."

Exactly! But certain civilian writers, and even a few obscure military ones, notably Mr. H. G. Wells amongst the former, had been speculating and drawing conclusions in that direction.

But military mandarins were ever scornful of mere civilian opinion. They only condescend to notice a civilian when he becomes a conscript.

And then comes the damning confession. "I feel sure in my own mind that had we realised the true effect of modern appliances of war in August, 1914, there would have been no retreat from Mons."

Do we pay and maintain these generals for their brains, or for their red coats and gold lace?

Staff College Pedants.

Lord French is really rather rude about the staff, almost as rude as our citizen armies afterwards became, when they were more fully acquainted with that fine flower of our military genius. Speaking of the French General Lanrezac, he says, "I left his headquarters believing that the Commander-in-Chief had overrated his ability; and I was therefore not surprised when he afterwards turned out to be the most complete example, amongst the many others this war has afforded, of the Staff College 'pedant,' whose 'superior education' had given him little idea of how to conduct war."

That sentence might have been written by any Bert or Alf after, say, the Battle of Loos.

Lord Kitchener Interferes.

But perhaps the most amazing revelation that the Field Marshal has so far made is the alleged interference by Lord Kitchener with his conduct of the operations and his supreme command of the British Army in the field.

Military history abounds in examples of the inevitable fatality attending such interference. The American Civil war afforded many of the most striking, but the most famous is Napoleon's attempt to conduct the operation in the Peninsula from the centre of Germany; which attempt cost him his empire and destroyed him.

Wenden!

Our generals might be supposed to have studied these examples and absorbed their lessons.

And yet, according to Lord French, there were continual interferences by Lord Kitchener and the Home Government. "The demand that we should stand and fight was not only urgently repeated, but was actually backed by imperative messages from the French President and from Lord Kitchener and the British Government.

.... At the same time Lord Kitchener was assuring the Home Government that our losses were comparatively small, and that all our deficiencies had been made good.

.... Neither on this day nor for several subsequent days did one man, horse, gun, or machine-gun reach me to make good deficiencies. I refused."

A Petty Squabble.

This brought Lord Kitchener to Paris. He "arrived on this occasion in the uniform of a field-marshal, and from the outset of his conversation assumed the air of a commander-in-chief, and announced his intention of taking the field." Even the British Ambassador objected emphatically, and began telegraphing home for instructions.

"Lord Kitchener appeared to take grave exception to certain views which I expressed as to the expediency of leaving the direction of the operations in the field in the hands of the military chiefs in command in the field. He abruptly closed the discussion, and requested me to accompany him for a private interview in another room.

"When we were alone he commenced by entering a strong objection to the tone I assumed. Upon this I told him all that was in my mind." And all this at the very height of the greatest crisis in our history.

"The Confidence of Children."

"Fortunately the incident terminated in a manner which led to no regrettable publicity."

Comment on that is hopeless, unless the hope lies in another of Lord French's naïve remarks: "These glorious British soldiers listened to the few words I was able to say to them with the spirit of heroes and the confidence of children."

40725 0023 000

Zentralstelle des
Hamburgischen Kolonialinstituts.

Lord French

Signatur: *Yb* *js*

Datum: *15 Juli* 191 *9*

The Times (London)

Nr. 42152

LORD FRENCH AND THE VICTORY MARCH.

MR. CHURCHILL'S INVITATION

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DUBLIN, JULY 14.

The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland received the following telegram from the Secretary of State for War:—

I sincerely hope you will be able to take part in the Procession on Saturday, and ride with Sir Douglas Haig at the head of the British Army Contingent.—
CHURCHILL.

Lord French replied as follows:—

Many thanks for your kind invitation. I regret very much that it is impossible for me to accept it. We are also having a march through Dublin on Peace Day of all serving and discharged soldiers of Ireland. It is my great privilege to take the salute from my countrymen in College Green along with members of the Irish Government and officials. It gives me keen pleasure to think that you have thought of me.—FRENCH.

New York Evening Post

Nr. 142

Marshal French Here as Tourist

On Flying Visit of Few
Weeks, He Says, With-
out Any Mission

Has Only One Engagement, to
Take Dinner With Pilgrims,
He Declares

"French, K.P., O.M., G.C.B., G.C.V.O.,
K.C.M.G., Field Marshal, the Right
Hon. Earl."

That's what one found under "F" in the printed passengers list when the White Star liner *Homer* nosed into Pier 59, at the foot of West Nineteenth Street to-day. The Field Marshal himself appeared much less formidable than the cold type. He was in mufti—a black fedora hat, darkish suit, wing collar, and black tie—and the only suggestion of military rank was the khaki-clad figure of Col. A. R. Cousins, a retired British officer, who accompanied him.

"I'm on no mission at all," said Marshal French when pressed for a statement. "I'm just making a flying visit to the United States at the suggestion of friends, and I'm here solely as a private citizen, a tourist. The only invitation I've accepted is to dine with the Pilgrims on May 11."

Marshal French was in command of the British armies in France up to the end of the Battle of Ypres, when he was relieved by Marshal Haig. Subsequently he was Viceroy of Ireland. He leaped into prominence many years ago during the Boer war, when he secured the surrender of the great Boer commander, Gen. Cronje.

The Marshal found the ship's doctor, when he boarded the *Homer*, to be a relative—R. S. French. The military leader was met on the pier by Col. Lemuel Lloyd, national commander of British war veterans in the United States, and by Sergeant Major Dawson, who was with the Nineteenth Hussars in 1876 in the very company commanded by Lieut. French, who has since received considerable promotion. Marshal French, a short stocky figure with ruddy face, white hair, and a wiry white moustache, greeted his old friend warmly.

When the *Homer* was in mid-ocean Marshal French and Marshal Joffre exchanged radio greetings.



(C) by Paul Thompson.

Field Marshal Lord French of Ypres, who arrived in New York to-day. He was the first commander of the British Expeditionary Force in France.

40725 0025 000

Feldmarschall French

Hamburgisches
Welt-Wirtschafts-Archiv

Signatur.....*JP*

Datum.....*7. Juni* 192 *2*

Deutsche Allgemeine Zeitung (Berlin)

Nr. *260*

Graf von Ipern. König Georg ernannte den
englischen Feldmarschall French zum Grafen von
Ipern.

40 725 0026 000

Hamburgisches
Welt - Wirtschafts - Archiv.

French

Signatur *P*

Datum - 6. Dez. 1924 192 .

New York Evening Post

Nr. 17 . .

Ill in Paris Hospital



EARL OF YPRES (Lord French)

EARL OF YPRES OPERATED ON

Small Tumor Removed From Former
Field Marshal in Paris Hospital

By Associated Press

Paris, Dec. 6.—The Earl of Ypres, formerly Field Marshal French, ex-Commander-in-Chief of the British Army, was taken suddenly ill while passing through Paris yesterday. He was taken to a hospital where an operation was immediately performed.

A bulletin issued at the hospital last night said the condition of the patient was satisfactory. It was added that the operation was of a minor character—for the extirpation of a small fleshy tumor.

40725 0027 000

Hamburgisches
Welt - Wirtschafts - Archiv.French, Marschall
Signatur

Datum 23. Mai 1925 192

Hamburgischer Correspondent

Nr. 235 - 1

Marschall French †.

♂ London, 22. Mai. (Eigene Drahtmeldung.)
Feldmarschall French ist heute abend 7 Uhr gestorben. Er stand
im 73. Lebensjahr.

John Denton Finstone French wurde am 28. Dezember
1852 in Ripple Vale bei Kent als Sohn eines Kapitäns geboren.
1866 trat er in die Marine als Kadett ein, um später zum Land-
heer überzutreten. Als Kavallerieoffizier machte er den Sudan-
feldzug mit und zeichnete sich später als Kommandeur der
Kavallerie in den Kämpfen gegen die Buren aus.

Nach seiner Rückkehr aus Südafrika wurde er Kommandeur
eines Armeekorps, dann Chef des Generalstabes. 1914 schied er
aus dem aktiven Dienst, nachdem er es bis zum Oberbefehls-
haber der ganzen Armee gebracht hatte.

Als jedoch im August 1914 der Krieg ausbrach, trat er an
die Spitze der in Belgien und Nordfrankreich operierenden eng-
lischen Armee. Diese wurde zunächst in den Schlachten von
Mons und St. Quentin zurückgeworfen, konnte jedoch an der
Marne Schlacht wieder teilnehmen und ging dann, nachdem sie
bei Ypern eine Umfassung des linken Flügels der Alliierten ver-
hindert hatte, zum Stellungskrieg über. Den Fall von Ant-
werpen konnte French nicht verhindern.

Im Dezember 1915 wurde er von dem General Sir Dou-
glas Haig abgelöst, gleichzeitig als Viscount of Ipswich and of
Ditch Lake ins Oberhaus berufen und zum Oberbefehlshaber der
Heimatsstreikräfte ernannt, im Februar 1916 auch zum Feldmar-
schall. Im Mai 1918 erfolgte seine Berufung zum Lordleutnant
(Vizekönig) von Irland, wo es ihm indessen nicht gelang, end-
gültig Ordnung zu schaffen, obwohl die englischen Truppen die
Ruslandsbewegung in regelrechtem Kleintrieb zu unterdrücken
versuchten. Er trat dann 1921 von diesem Amt zurück und war
seither als „First Military Member of the Army Council“ tätig.

Frankfurter Zeitung (Frankfurt a. Main)

Nr. 379

General French †

London, 22. Mai. (Reuter.) Feldmarschall Lord French of Ypres ist gestorben.

Feldmarschall Sir John Denton Pinkstone French, First Earl of Ypres, geboren am 28. Dezember 1852 in Riddle Vale bei Kent, ist als der Oberbefehlshaber über die englischen Truppen in Frankreich und Flandern in den ersten beiden Jahren des Weltkrieges auch in Deutschland bekannt geworden. Er war es, der die Schlachten bei Mons und St. Quentin verlor und der Antwerpen den Deutschen räumen mußte. Auch in den Kämpfen bei Ypern, Festubert und Neuve-Chapelle hatte er keine glückliche Hand. So wurde er im Dezember 1915 abberufen und ihm zum Trost vom König der Rang eines Viscount of Ypres verliehen.

French stammte aus einer alten Soldatenfamilie, trat jedoch nach längerem Dienst in der Marine erst 1874 in das Heer ein, wo er bald bis zum Generalmajor vorrückte, nachdem er den Sudan-Feldzug (1884—1885) mitgemacht und sich im Feldzug gegen die Buren wiederholt durch seine geschickte Führung ausgezeichnet hatte. Während des südafrikanischen Feldzuges war er zum Generalleutnant ernannt worden und wurde 1907 Generalinspektor der Festungen und bald darauf Chef des Generalstabes. Nachdem er schließlich zuletzt das Oberkommando über die gesamte Armee innegehabt hatte, schied er im März 1914 infolge der sogenannten Ulster-Rebellion, bei der Offiziere den Gehorsam zu verweigern drohten, aus dem aktiven Dienst, um allerdings im August 1914 wieder an die Spitze der englischen Flandern-Armee berufen zu werden.

Nach seinem wenig rühmlichen Abgang wurde er im Februar 1916 zum Leiter der Luftverteidigung und zum Feldmarschall ernannt. Im Mai 1918 erfolgte dann seine Berufung zum Vizekönig von Irland, wo er jedoch auch wieder wenig Glück hatte, da es ihm nicht gelang, trotz des scharfen Vorgehens der englischen Truppen, Ruhe und Ordnung wieder herzustellen. Er trat daher im April 1921 auch von diesem Amte freiwillig zurück. Zuletzt hörte man im Mai 1923 von ihm, als er mit einer englischen Militärkommission das von Rumänien annektierte Bessarabien besuchte.

The Times (London)

No. 43969

Lord Ypres.

The death of LORD YPRES removes from the stage of British military enterprise in peace and in war a man whose name will always hold a high and honourable place in the annals of his country. When the sudden outbreak of the greatest of all wars called nearly the whole of Europe to arms, its operations at once became and remained till the end so vast in their extent that, in comparison with their predecessors in other and lesser wars, the figures of its individual commanders were dwarfed by the magnitude of their surroundings and of their mission. At the same time the fierce white light that beat upon them and the armies under their command threw into high relief such mistakes as they made—and who among them did not make mistakes?—with the result that even now it is still too early for their contemporaries to be sure that they see them in their proper perspective, and still more to assign to each, with any feeling of finality, his due relative standing in the roll of fame. But of LORD YPRES it will always be remembered, in the first place, that in the supreme hour of the nation's trial his appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the Expeditionary Force was a foregone conclusion. That great honour and responsibility fell to him inevitably as the reward and culmination of his previous distinguished services. From the date of his first commission in the 8th Hussars in 1874, during his earliest term of active service in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-85, and afterwards till his command of the 19th Hussars came to an end in 1893, his work, through all the stages of his promotion, was of the highest value to the efficiency of his regiment, and made him known as a regimental officer of exceptional ability and devotion. During the next stage of his military career his practical interest in the development of cavalry training was given a much enlarged scope in India and at home; and the wider experience he then gained, as commander of the 2nd Cavalry Brigade and in other important capacities, stood him in good stead during the South African War—by some considered the most successful episode in his

career—when he won the valuable victory of Elands-laagte, relieved Kimberley, stemmed the invasion of Cape Colony by his campaign in front of Colesberg, and was a main factor in ROBERTS's advance from the Orange River to Koomati Port.

It was, however, after his return from South Africa, first during his tenure of the Aldershot Command, and then successively as Inspector-General of the Forces and Chief of the Imperial General Staff, that, in the seven years before the war, he performed his most valuable services for the Army and the Empire. Not without reason was he described by SIR EVELYN WOOD as the greatest driving force in the tactical progress of those vitally important times. With LORD WOLSELEY and SIR EVELYN WOOD, as LORD MIDDLETON points out in the appreciation of LORD YPRES printed on another page, he was one of the three men to whom, above all others, the country is indebted for the "Old Con-temptibles." The sum of his achievement was that by aiming consistently at improving the efficiency of each individual arm, by the introduction of a modern and sound system of combined tactics, and by the creation of the new Division of all arms as the basic foundation of the British Army, he had been chiefly responsible for its fashioning into an instrument fit for use on European battlefields. The work had been begun not a moment too soon. Its consequences were seen from the day that the Expeditionary Force landed in France. By common consent that force has been acclaimed as the most efficient military engine that this country, and perhaps any country, has ever produced. The only thing about it that even the great WAR-LORD could call "contemptible" was its size. The first operation which its commander was called upon to conduct was a long retreat before an overwhelming enemy force. It may be that, in spite of the reforms introduced into the Army while he was at the head of affairs, he was not a great intellectual beacon in the military world, that he was lacking in originality of outlook, and had a natural distrust for new theories. It is now generally acknowledged that he was mistaken in his condemnation of GENERAL SMITH-DORRIEN for the gallant stand which that officer made at Le Cateau, and that, when the period of trench warfare had begun, the attempt to pierce the German lines at Neuve Chapelle, the costly action of Festubert, and the delay in throwing the two divisions held in

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reserve into the battle of Loos, were found—after the event—to be open to criticism. But in the unprecedented conditions of a wholly new species of warfare, conducted on so huge a scale, errors of judgment, of strategy, and of tactics were, it may be said once again, common to both sides and to all armies and their commanders. Nothing can do away with the crucial facts that the first commander of the British forces did, in concert with MARSHAL JOFFRE, so conduct that anxious and critical retreat that, when the moment came for the advance, the British were the first troops to cross the Marne, that they were again the first to cross the Aisne in pursuit of the enemy, and that their dogged resolution under their doggedly resolute commander was largely instrumental in preventing the enemy from winning the race for the Channel ports.

It was left to others to complete the work which LORD YPRES and the officers and men of the Expeditionary Force, of which he was the type and, to a large extent, the creator, had alone made possible. For what he and they did in those dark and early days the country and the whole of civilization owe them a debt that can never be paid and never forgotten. The difficulty of their task was not only due to the odds against which they had to fight. After the retreat had been stayed and the line of the front stabilized, they had to oppose to entirely new conditions of warfare newly improvised methods of strategical and tactical attack and defence, in the working out of which, both then and in later days, many mistakes were made. LORD YPRES himself from the first moment of his landing had to adapt himself to the rôle of deciding on his policy and of making his dispositions in concert with, and to some extent in subordination to, the military plans and ideas of a commander and armies who, though our trusted and admired Allies, were men of another race. That he was as successful as he was in dealing with the position in which he was placed, even more delicate perhaps in his case than in that of MARSHAL JOFFRE, is an added reason for the gratitude which the country owes him. He chose as his title, when he received his earldom—one of the many honours bestowed upon him by his KING and country and by the Allies—the name of the town which, for the valour and determination of the prolonged resistance shown there under his command, was to the British armies what Verdun was to the French. The honour of bearing that proud title was rightfully his. But it was shared in a very real sense with the men whom he led, because in them were reflected the high sense of duty and the stubborn fighting spirit which made him the type and representative of the soldierly qualities that enabled them, in the darkest hours of trial, to hold on to the end.

Obituary.

LORD YPRES.

FIRST COMMANDER OF
THE B.E.F.

The Earl of Ypres, whose death we record with much regret this morning, will always live in history as the first Commander-in-Chief of the British Expeditionary Force in the Great War.

To assess his true position among our great soldiers is not altogether easy. The early half of his life shows him to have been first a regimental and then a staff officer of progressive views, much interested in educational and tactical advancement. The opening of the South African War marked his sudden rise to fame and the real zenith of his career, to which he was unquestionably assisted by the peculiar military characteristics of his opponents. The next period is one of plodding, constructive effort towards the adaptation of the British Army to a new purpose. His labours at this stage can rightly be said to have been successful. It is true that the opening of the European War exhibits no flash of genius, no strategic triumph, no tactical master-stroke on the part of the British Commander-in-Chief. He showed excellent qualities so long as the war of movement lasted, but failed to adapt himself to the needs of trench warfare. Yet the entire struggle was instinct with every manifestation of a high sense of duty and of a stubborn fighting spirit on the part of each regimental officer and soldier. The laurels attributed to Lord Ypres accordingly belong to the entire British Army, and he himself stands as its type and the representative of its temper through those days of trial.

In the summer following the end of the war Lord Ypres published a book entitled "1914," in which he gave his own personal views of the retreat from Mons, and committed himself to the severest condemnation of General Smith-Dorrien for standing to fight at Le Cateau. Recently that officer broke his dignified silence in articles published in *The Times*, which served to confirm the impression already created by the carefully sifted evidence and conclusions of the Official History of the War. He has since given a fuller account in his book, "Memories of Forty-Eight Years' Service," published last April. Lord Ypres's book was of absorbing interest at the time, but it has not stood the test of examination in the light of later detailed knowledge. If it cannot be forgotten, it must be forgiven.

FROM NAVY TO ARMY.

John Denton Pinkstone French was born on September 28, 1852, the year which saw the birth of Marshal Joffre, his future colleague in the Great War. His father, Commander J. T. W. French, R.N., who belonged to the family of French, of French Park, County Roscommon, settled, after retiring from the Navy, at Ripple, in Kent. His mother, Miss Margaret Eccles, came from Glasgow. John French, the only son, lost both parents during his childhood, and his early education was superintended by one of his six sisters, Mrs. Despard, who was later well known as a leader of the Feminist Movement. After a short sojourn at a preparatory school at Harrow he was sent to Eastman's Naval Academy at Portsmouth, where many naval officers have been educated. In

Navy, in which he remained altogether four years. The naval service, however, attracted him but little, and he decided to abandon it for the Army.

With that object in view he entered the Militia, and obtained his first commission in the 8th Hussars on February 28, 1874, being transferred a few weeks later to the 19th Hussars. In this corps he served through every rank until he eventually gained command. He soon proved himself to be a capable horseman, was fond of polo, and took a serious interest in his career. Unlike many officers of the period, he did not despise study, and, like Wellington, came to appreciate the value of regular daily work. In October, 1880, he was promoted captain, and in April, 1881, became adjutant of the Northumberland Yeomanry, attaining major's rank just two years later.

THE SUDAN AND INDIA.

French rejoined his regiment on September 24, 1884, and forthwith commanded the party of 19th Hussars allotted to Sir Herbert Stewart's column in the Sudan Expedition of 1884-5, which was being dispatched to the relief of Gordon. He was present at the actions of Abu Klea, Gubat, and Metammeh, earning high approbation for his conduct. When Khartum had fallen and the column began to retrace its steps, French exhibited much courage and resource. "I came on him," said Sir Evelyn Wood, "the last man of the last section of the rearguard." Sir Redvers Buller also wrote of him, "The force owes much to Major French." From the Sudan he returned to England a brevet lieutenant-colonel, and became second in command of the 19th Hussars.

Stimulated by his experiences in the Sudan and by the example of his former commander, the brilliant Colonel Barrow, he proved a zealous regimental officer, and devoted much thought to the training of the cavalryman. He obtained command of the 19th Hussars in 1888. Appreciating the value of the newly-instituted system of squadron training, French did much to exploit this reform, with the result that the regiment gained a great name for efficiency. In the autumn of 1891 he took the 19th to India.

Shortly after completing the statutory period of command French became Staff Officer to General Sir George Luck, Inspector-General of Cavalry in India. In that capacity he participated in the introduction of many innovations in cavalry training associated with that officer's name. The transfer of Sir George Luck to the War Office gave French a further opportunity. He followed his chief to England, and was appointed A.A.G. for Cavalry in August, 1895. A revised "Cavalry Training Manual" was issued by the new Inspector, and French became its editor and principal contributor. Other tasks, such as the formation of cavalry brigades of three regiments, also fell to him.

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.
A CAVALRY LEADER.

In May, 1897, French received the command of the new 2nd Cavalry Brigade, and in January, 1899, he was transferred to the 1st Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot. The outbreak of the South African War thus offered him a unique opportunity of achieving a reputation as a cavalry leader. On September 23, 1899, he was appointed to command the mounted troops in Natal under Sir George White. On October 21, shortly after arriving at Ladysmith, he was ordered to reopen communication with Yule's column, then retiring from Dundee, after the indecisive action of Talana Hill. French was straightway faced with the task of dislodging the Boers from a strong position

at Elandslaagte. This was his first command of a force of all arms in the field; his success won him high praise. After the reverse at Lombard's Kop it became manifest that Ladysmith would be blockaded; so French, realizing that a cavalry leader could be of little value with a besieged force, managed to escape, with his staff, by the last train, actually under the enemy's fire.

He then proceeded to Cape Colony, where the outlook was disquieting. Methuen was moving up the railway from Cape Town to relieve Kimberley, while Gatacre was protecting the eastern colony. In the meantime a force of Boers under Schoeman had crossed the Orange River, threatening to intervene between Methuen and Gatacre. The enemy held Colesberg, thereby menacing the railway on which Methuen was dependent. French with a flying column was ordered to hold Schoeman in check. On November 21 he established his headquarters at Naauwpoort Junction, south of Colesberg. After the successive defeats in December of Methuen at Magersfontein, of Gatacre at Stormberg, and of Buller at Colenso, the occupation of the colony combined with a rising of disloyal Dutch seemed inevitable. French, however, succeeded in retrieving this ugly situation, and Roberts, on arriving at Cape Town in January, 1900, found the colony practically clear of the enemy, so that an immediate advance into the Orange River Free State became possible. French's staff during this period included Major Haig, the future Commander-in-Chief, and Major Herbert Lawrence, who in 1918 was to become Haig's Chief of the General Staff in France.

In January Roberts began his northward advance, with Methuen standing on the Modder facing Kronje, astride the Kimberley railway, and Macdonald feinting on the Boer right flank. French was now ordered to turn Kronje's left wing in order to bring about the Boer retreat from Magersfontein, and thereby relieve Kimberley. On February 11, with three cavalry brigades and a mounted infantry brigade, he forced the River Riet. But the ensuing operations, owing to heat, dust, and absence of water, proved costly in horses. On the 15th the march was resumed when 1,000 Boers with artillery opposed French's advance. He forthwith ordered two of his brigades to charge in successive lines and in open order. This charge by galloping cavalry proved too much for undisciplined opponents, who scattered. Later in the day French rode into Kimberley.

KOEDOESRAND DRIFT AND
PAARDEBERG.

Meanwhile, Kronje was retreating on Bloemfontein, and it seemed as if the whole Boer force might be captured. French, although only able to muster 1,200 horses in a condition fit to move, succeeded in seizing Koedoesrand Drift. The battle of Paardeberg and the Boer surrender were the result of this effort. Two attempts, made by De Wet and Delarey, to stay the British progress were next foiled by French's mounted men at Poplar Grove and Driefontein. At the time he was censured by certain critics for not intercepting the flying enemy. Later events, however, were to prove the immense difficulty of cutting off the elusive Boers in their own country. Bloemfontein was occupied on March 13. During the ensuing halt, French took part in the indecisive action of Karee Siding on March 29, also in the attempt to surround a Boer Laager at Thaba Nchu on April 28.

After a rest of six weeks, the advance on Johannesburg was continued. At Kroonstadt the Boers were turned from their position by French. On May 29 the forward movement began again, and

Vaal. On June 3 Roberts moved on Pretoria, which fell on the 5th. The main Boer Army, under Botha, thereupon retired eastward along the Delagoa Bay Railway to Diamond Hill, thus threatening the British communications with Bloemfontein. After the ensuing action on June 11, in which French took a leading part, Botha was thrust further eastward. The final operations closed with our advance to Koomati Port, the flight of President Kruger to Europe, and the annexation of the Transvaal.

This campaign constitutes the most successful episode in French's career. He had won a valuable victory at Elands-laagte; he had stemmed the invasion of Cape Colony; and he had proved a main factor in Roberts's advance from the Orange River to Koomati Poort. As an immediate recompense his promotion to major-general's rank was made substantive from September 23, 1899, and he received a K.C.B.

His next task was the clearing of the Eastern Transvaal. During July, 1900, he captured Middelburg and Barberton. Making use of little-frequented mountain tracks, he came down on the latter place and surprised the Boers. On November 3 he returned to Pretoria and assumed the supreme control of the Johannesburg district. His activity during the remainder of the war calls for little remark. In June, 1901, he was transferred to the Cape in order to eject the Boers, who were again invading those districts, and so commanded the forces south of the Orange River until peace. His services during two years of tedious guerrilla warfare were rewarded in August, 1902, with the rank of Lieutenant-General, together with a K.C.M.G.

TACTICAL TRAINING.

From South Africa Sir John French returned to take up the Aldershot Command, which he held until November, 1907. During his tenure of that office his whole efforts were directed towards raising the standard of tactical training of the Army. The lessons of South Africa were being steadily enforced. But it was mainly with the training of cavalry that Sir John was personally concerned, and he always opposed the conversion of cavalry into mounted infantry. In February, 1907, he became a full general, and later a G.C.V.O.

In December of that year he was appointed Inspector-General of the Forces. In this capacity he organized Army Manoeuvres on a new and realistic scale. He visited Canada in 1910 with the object of inspecting the Canadian Forces. He also became a member of Lord Haldane's Territorial Force Advisory Committee. Ultimately, in March, 1912, he was appointed Chief of the Imperial General Staff and First Military Member of the Army Council, in succession to Field-Marshal Lord Nicholson. This position he retained until the crisis of April, 1914, which followed on the refusal of certain cavalry officers to participate in any possible coercion of Ulster into joining an Irish Home Rule Parliament. The undertaking given by the Secretary of State to Generals Hubert and John Gough that the troops at the Curragh would not be used against Ulster had been initialled by French and the Adjutant-General. When this pledge was repudiated by the Cabinet, both Sir John French and Sir Spencer Ewart resigned their appointments.

At this point we may consider what Sir John French had achieved between the end of the South African and the beginning of the Great War. Throughout that period he aimed consistently at improving the efficiency of each individual arm. He was responsible for the introduction of a modern and sound system of combined tactics. He had

been occupied with the creation of the new Division of all arms as the basic formation of the British Army. In other words, his task had been the fashioning of the British Army into an instrument fit for use on European battlefields. In this connexion he has been described by Sir Evelyn Wood as the great driving force in the tactical progress of the times. The success of his labours is, therefore, best judged by the performances of the Army at the opening of the Great War. On the other hand, it cannot be claimed that French ever shone as a great intellectual beacon in the military world. He had able subordinates; he trusted them and was not afraid to use them. But he had no originality of outlook; he was not an innovator by nature, and distrusted new theories. He was essentially what his exterior proclaimed him to be, a professional soldier, popular with his subordinates, able to command obedience and respect, but in most ways conservative and conventional. Even though South Africa had taught him independence of thought and self-reliance, he emerged from that trial with many prejudices. Often he would show himself to be the "obstinate little man" and a true cavalry officer, jealous of the uses of his arm in modern war.

THE GREAT WAR.

MONS AND THE MARNE.

In view of his previous record, Sir John French's selection to command the Expeditionary Force in August, 1914, was a

foregone conclusion. His promotion to the rank of Field-Marshal in June, 1913, already indicated his future rôle. Among other qualifications for this office it may be stated that he was known to the French, had attended their annual manoeuvres, and had visited that portion of the Continent where it was expected that British troops might be called upon to intervene on behalf of Belgian neutrality. Yet the actual course of events surprised all previous forecast.

No sooner had the Expeditionary Force landed in France than the Field-Marshal was called upon to conduct a difficult retreat on the left wing of the French Army in the face of considerably superior German forces. The initial and now celebrated engagement at Mons on August 23 was followed by another highly successful rearguard action at Le Cateau, fought by our Second Corps under Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien, though the Field-Marshal had, in fact, desired to avoid this battle. His position was not rendered any easier by the movements of the French troops on either flank. Across the Somme, the Oise, and the Marne, the Expeditionary Force retired, until on September 5 the word to turn and counter-attack was given out by the French General-in-Chief. So the Battle of the Marne resulted.

Owing to the delay which occurred in the transmission of these orders to British G.H.Q., the four divisions of the British Army had completed their marches in retirement on September 5, before the change of plan was known to Sir John French. Consequently, the British troops, on facing about, found themselves two marches in rear of the flanking French Armies—the 5th to the left and the 6th to the right. In spite of this fact, the British were the first of the Allied troops to cross the Marne. It has now become a matter of history how their appearance in front of the gap, which had developed between the First and Second German Armies, and was then only held by two German Cavalry Corps supported by a few infantry, decided von Bülow, the commander of the German Second Army, that he must fall back. Thereupon Colonel Hentsch, the

liaison officer from German Supreme Headquarters, having discretionary powers to do so, ordered the First Army under von Kluck to conform to this movement. The Allies maintained their pressure on the retreating Germans, gradually forcing them back to the River Aisne. The British were again the first to cross that river on the night of September 12-13. But the Germans, now stiffened by fresh reinforcements, then renewed their resistance with the result that by September 15 there was a complete deadlock.

FLANDERS AND TRENCH WARFARE.

The race for the Channel ports ensued. Sir John French and his little Army were transferred to Flanders, and the historic fighting round Ypres dragged on from October 22 until the middle of November. The British Commander-in-Chief could scarcely do more than hold on to his ground. There was consequently little opportunity for him to display any great talent of leadership, save that of dogged resolution. That the result of this fighting should have been such as it actually was may be ascribed to the tenacity of the British soldier and the excellence of his previous training.

The winter saw the beginning of the weary period of trench warfare. At the end of February, Sir John attempted to pierce the German lines at Neuve Chapelle, a costly effort which yielded no results of importance. Soon after, on April 26, there began the second battle of Ypres, characterized by the first employment of discharges of chlorine gas by the Germans. The enemy was again only prevented from converting his initial gains into a serious success

by the tenacity of the British soldier. On May 9-16 was fought the costly action at Festubert which achieved no result whatsoever. Throughout the summer the British began augmenting their forces in men, guns, and ammunition. Finally, after the advent of the New Army divisions, a fresh attempt at piercing the German lines was made from Bethune, with a view to assisting a great French offensive in Champagne. This brought about the Battle of Loos on September 25. Much hard fighting for little advantage resulted. Sir John, in an old-fashioned way, had retained a strategic reserve, composed of the 21st and 24th Divisions, in his own hands until too late. The consequence was that these raw troops were hurried into battle when the flow of the onslaught had already turned to ebb, and they proved incapable of checking the German counter-attacks. With this failure, much questioning in high places arose as to Sir John's ability to withstand the strain of this new class of warfare. Finally, it was decided to relieve him, and to appoint Sir Douglas Haig to command our Armies in France.

THE HOME COMMAND.

Sir John French was therefore raised to the peerage in January, 1916 (taking the title of Viscount French of Ypres and High Lake, Co. Roscommon), recalled, and entrusted with the command of the entire forces in the United Kingdom, where the control, training, and administration of the

troops on pre-war lines were not proving altogether satisfactory. In this new appointment the reputation and experience he had acquired in France found a profitable outlet. He first placed our whole system of military training on a sounder footing. Next he turned to the actual defence of the country against raid or invasion. Mindful of the teaching of the war, he decided to give up the accepted idea of trusting to strategic movements inland to achieve the ultimate defeat of the enemy. Accordingly, he laid his plans so as to crush any invading or raiding troops on the beach, thus denying them time or space to deploy on shore. This scheme was fortunately not tested by actual events. But the problem of defence against aerial attack of the United Kingdom was entrusted to him, and was successfully solved under his supervision.

VICEROY OF IRELAND.

So the years of war saw him busily employed until May, 1918, when he was selected to assume the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It was soon after the Irish Convention had completed its long labours that Lord French arrived in Dublin. His appointment was accompanied by that of Mr. Shortt as Chief Secretary, and his task was intended to be that of putting into execution the conclusions of the Convention. These might roughly be described as the grant of Home Rule to Ireland, with a modified form of Dominion status, in return for the application of military conscription to that country. It was expected that Lord French's war-like prestige would facilitate the institution of the necessary machinery of recruiting. At the same time, it was hoped that a military Viceroy might be able to contribute to the restoration of order in the island.

Disillusionment very soon set in. The Irish people had long passed the point at which they would accept conscription under any guise, and resistance to the forces of law and order were rapidly to gain ground. Lord French had made personal efforts to assist in raising a contingent of even 50,000 recruits in Ireland with but indifferent success, when the Great War came to an end. The General Election, held at the close of 1918, was followed by the declaration of an Irish Republic by Sinn Féin.

After that nothing that the new Viceroy could do was of any avail. The government of Ireland by military authority, based on new Regulations for the Restoration of Order, offers no feature of redeeming interest in the mournful tale of those years of virtual civil war. It must be granted that this system of military government was but a compromise, since the troops were never accorded a free hand. The situation in some respects resembled that prevalent in South Africa during 1901-02, with this great difference, that in Ireland the Army was limited as to its activity by restrictions that rendered the soldier's duty assuredly ineffective and cruelly thankless. Lord French could never dissociate himself from the military point of view, and his relations with his Majesty's Government in London were consequently not always easy. In November, 1919, an attempt was made on his life; a bomb was thrown at his motor-car, but luckily missed its mark. From that point until he resigned his appointment, the system of "Castle government" in Ireland was to depend entirely on the capacity of the troops and of the Royal Irish Constabulary, assisted by auxiliary police units, to enforce the law by arms. There was never any scope for Lord French to display military ability in this lamentable struggle, so that the detailed history of his tenure of office is best passed over.

Lord French was advanced to an earldom in May, 1921, when he retired from the office of Lord Lieutenant, and in June, 1922, it was announced that his style was



to be Earl of Ypres. He was the recipient of numerous other honours and rewards. In December, 1914, he received the Order of Merit, in 1917 he was made a Knight of St. Patrick, and in 1918 he was sworn of the Privy Council. In August, 1919, he received the thanks of the nation for his services, together with a grant of £50,000 by vote of the House of Commons. He also received the D.C.L. of Oxford and the LL.D. of Cambridge, and the freedom of the City of London with a sword of honour. He was Colonel of the Irish Guards and the 19th Hussars, hon. Colonel of the Cambridgeshire Regiment, and Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Irish Regiment. He possessed all the principal orders of the Allies; before the war he had received the Danish Order of the Dannebrog and the Order of Merit of Spain. He was elected a member of the Athenæum under Rule II. in 1904, and was also a member of the United Service, Cavalry, and Marlborough Clubs.

He married, in 1880, Eleanora, daughter of R. W. Selby-Lowndes, of Elmers, Bletchley, and leaves two sons, both of whom served in the Great War. The elder, John Richard Lowndes, Viscount French, who succeeds to the title, followed a normal career in the Royal Horse Artillery, but retired from the service as a captain. He married a daughter of Major-General T. J. Lambart, and has a son and daughter. Lord Ypres's second son, the Hon. Edward Gerald French, went out to France in 1915 as adjutant of the 11th Yorkshire Regiment, was wounded and promoted major, and received a D.S.O. in 1918. He married Leila, daughter of Robert King, and has two daughters. Lord Ypres also leaves one daughter, Lady Essex Eleanora French.

AN APPRECIATION.

BUILDING UP THE OLD ARMY.

We have received the following appreciation from Lord Midleton, who was Secretary of State for War, 1900 to 1903:—

The Great War has so dwarfed all personalities and achievements that 99 out of

every 100 of Lord Ypres's fellow-countrymen associate his name with the Retreat from Mons, and forget the degree to which his previous efforts influenced the almost hopeless conditions under which the Expeditionary Force was organized. The three men to whom, beyond all others, the country is indebted for the "Old Contemptibles" were Lord Wolseley, Sir Evelyn Wood, and Sir John French.

Let the conditions be remembered. For 30 years before the war successive Governments, even after the formation of the "Defence Committee," had declined to allow the War Office to organize for participation in a European War. Small expeditions and the defence of India against Russia were the shibboleth of Cabinets whom no Secretary for War could persuade that in a European *mêlée* England, intervening by her Fleet, would never be able to keep 100,000 red-coats idle in their barracks. Inertia reigned supreme at the War Office until Lord Wolseley, as Adjutant-General (1882-1890), began a continuous and successful action for reform with the fine old Conservative Commander-in-Chief, who enjoyed the implicit confidence of the Army, but his victories were Pyrrhic so long as the chief commands were given, to use his own words, to "bow and arrow generals." When Mr. Stanhope, in the face of much Court opposition, gave Sir Evelyn Wood the Aldershot Command in 1891, the reform of training proceeded apace. The German Emperor, attending two Aldershot field days at three years' interval, expressed his astonishment at the change in the training.

Ten years later, in 1902, with Sir Evelyn Wood Adjutant-General and Sir John French at Aldershot, the old Army was built up. The strength of the home battalions and artillery was substantially increased; the reserves were doubled; the stores were attached to the units; and, above all, no appointment to a command after the close of the Boer War was made unless with a view to taking the troops into the field. The Army ceased to be one to which peace was a necessity.

The part which Sir John French played in these great changes was a remarkable one. He was not a natural organizer, like Lord Wolseley, and his own view of his ability in the field *vis-à-vis* Sir Evelyn

Wood may be gauged by a charming remark he made to the writer when his command and Sir Evelyn's were pitted against each other in the manoeuvres in 1903:—

What are you going to prove by your contest between Aldershot and Salisbury? If Evelyn wins, it only shows what everyone knows, that he is our best tactician; and if I win, it only proves he is our best trainer, and I have learned almost everything I know from him.

But, apart from his fine qualities as a leader, Sir John French held that, in case of war, our Army would be employed on the Continent; that every nerve must be strained to get ready; that our mobilization should be as perfect as the German; and that cavalry should be trained for Europe, and not for the North-Western Frontier. This view, which he never concealed, was gallant in the extreme. It was in the face of every Cabinet decision, and, indeed, even in the years immediately preceding the war, regiments and strength of Regular troops were recklessly reduced and stores cut down to supply additional money for the Territorial Army.

In August, 1914, came the vindication of these prolonged efforts. It is a misfortune that so splendid a public servant should have undertaken in person the justification of his great command in France. His book, "1914," does not truly represent the man. In some ways the Field-Marshal had never outgrown the subaltern cavalry officer. Impetuous, frank, and keen, he chafed under the heavy-handed interferences of a Secretary of State who was also his military superior. If the French-Kitchener controversies had been left to the pen of an outsider French would have had nothing to lose, and any impartial friend would have urged him to eliminate certain paragraphs from his book. But in the ranks of those who fought hardest, hoped against hope, and knew no fear, the name of the man who trained the Expeditionary Force and commanded it through one of the most outstanding achievements of British history must always hold first place.

MIDDLETON.

AVE ATQUE SALVE.

Oh little mighty Force that greatly led
The Arms of Britain when Reveille
called!

John French's little Army, mocked and
marked

First for destruction, that triumphant
held,

And dying broke the spear-point in your
heart—

You bore the standard of our honour
high,

So high it neared Heaven's rampart
e'er you passed.

Oh little Force, man now the rampart
—Blow

Your trumpets, falling in the Soldier
Souls

Calling your Captain to your ranks
again.

BEATRIX BRICE.

The Manchester Guardian

No. 24571

Lord Ypres.

LORD YPRES was a good cavalry leader, and would have made a fine figure in any "colonial war." But the Great War of 1914-15 was not of the "colonial" kind, and cavalry-leading was at a discount in it. He could be rapid and energetic and get good work out of his men in any circumstances where a sort of personal touch could be kept with a whole army, but in a war in which armies were as numerous as divisions used to be, and in which successful action depended on elaborate staff-work, on careful co-operation not only with one's own people but with foreign staffs, and on a deep and resolute vision of the fundamentals of a situation, he was often at a loss. His irresolution during the great retreat which ended in the Battle of the Marne is notorious and admitted; his intention of withdrawing the British army altogether from the line was only stopped by the intervention of Mr. ASQUITH, as he then was, and Lord KITCHENER, who hurried over to France and imposed on him a plain instruction. In the early days of 1915 he wholly misinterpreted the needs of the army for shells, misled the authorities at home, and afterwards blamed them for a shortage for which he could not but be held himself in a large degree responsible. The defence which he afterwards published of his share in these doings did not improve his case. It has to be remembered, in a general judgment on his work during the campaign, that he was attempting the difficult task of co-operating with the French and of acting as an independent commander-in-chief of the British army, and, of course, that many wiser men than he were astray in their estimates of the demands which a modern war would make on both men and materials. That may be, and Lord YPRES did many services during his career for which his country should be grateful, but it is well, all the same, that peoples who indulge in Great Wars should realise later, if they did not know at the time, the weaknesses of the leadership in whose hands their fortunes lay.

Le Temps (Paris)

Nr. 23296

MORT DU MARÉCHAL FRENCH

Le comte d'Ypres, qui restera plus connu dans l'histoire sous le nom de French qu'il illustra, s'est éteint vendredi soir, au château de Deal, à l'âge de 73 ans, après une carrière brillante.

Depuis plusieurs jours, son état de santé s'était aggravé et on prévoyait sa fin prochaine. Lady d'Ypres, sa femme, le vicomte French et l'honorable Gerald French, ses fils, et lady Essex French, sa fille, étaient à son chevet lorsqu'il mourut. Il avait subi, en mars, une grave opération dans une clinique de Londres. Vers la fin du mois de mars son état commença à inspirer des inquiétudes. Le roi vint le voir à la clinique, ainsi que l'ambassadeur de Belgique au nom du roi des Belges, et parmi les visiteurs qui suivirent cet exemple furent MM. Lloyd George et Winston Churchill.

Dimanche dernier, le maréchal demanda à être transporté de Londres au château de Deal, dont il est gouverneur depuis 1923, afin de mourir près du petit village de Ripple, qui est à quatre kilomètres de Deal.

Né à Ripple, dans le comté de Kent, le 28 septembre 1852, fils d'un capitaine de vaisseau, John French avait débuté dans la marine en 1866, à bord du *Britannia*, mais en 1874 il passa au 8^e, puis au 19^e hussards, avec lequel il fit la campagne du Soudan en 1884-85. Colonel de ce régiment

de 1889 à 1893, il occupa le poste d'adjutant général de la cavalerie jusqu'en 1895 et demeura à l'état-major général de l'armée jusqu'en 1897. Promu brigadier, il exerça le commandement de la seconde brigade de cavalerie et, général-major deux ans plus tard, il prit le commandement de la première brigade de cavalerie à Aldershot. C'est en cette qualité qu'il fut désigné comme chef de la division de cavalerie en Afrique du Sud, au début de la guerre contre le Transvaal et la République d'Orange. Il prit une part considérable aux combats d'Elandslaagte, de Rietfontein, de Lambardshap, de Colesberg et de Kimberley. A huit reprises, il fut cité à l'ordre de l'armée pour sa brillante conduite. Le commandement du 1^{er} corps d'armée lui fut confié de 1901 à 1907.

Chef de l'état-major général de 1911 à 1914, il fut nommé maréchal en 1913. Sir John French exerça dès le début de la guerre le commandement en chef de ce corps expéditionnaire que Guillaume II appelait « la méprisable petite armée du maréchal French ». A de nombreuses reprises, lord Kitchener fit officiellement le plus vif éloge de son activité et de son caractère militaire. Son calme était légendaire dans l'armée britannique qui professait pour lui autant de sympathie que de confiance. En décembre 1915, il fut remplacé par sir Douglas Haig à la tête de l'armée anglaise sur le continent, et le maréchal French prit le commandement des troupes stationnées dans le Royaume-Uni.

A cette occasion, le roi lui conféra le titre de vicomte d'Ypres et de High Lake.

La France avait honoré de la grand-croix de notre ordre national et de la médaille militaire cet éminent collaborateur de la première heure.

En quittant, dans les derniers jours de 1915, son commandement en France, le maréchal French avait adressé aux troupes sous ses ordres un message d'une grande beauté.

Il déclare exprimer aux officiers, sous-officiers et soldats avec qui j'ai été si étroitement associé pendant ces derniers seize mois le chagrin profond de les quitter avant que la campagne que nous faisons ensemble depuis si longtemps ait été terminée victorieusement. J'ai cependant la conviction la plus absolue que le couronnement victorieux de leurs splendides et héroïques efforts n'est pas éloigné, et je suivrai leur progrès vers l'atteinte du but final avec un intérêt passionné et l'espoir le plus confiant.

Les succès obtenus jusqu'à présent sont dus au courage indomptable, à la ténacité acharnée ne connaissant pas de défaite et à la bravoure héroïque si fréquemment prouvées par les soldats de l'armée splendide dont ce sera la fierté et la gloire de ma vie d'avoir dirigé pendant seize mois les combats incessants.

Et au triste moment du départ, ma pensée va à ceux que leurs blessures ont rendus infirmes pour la vie; elle se porte avec tristesse sur la grande et glorieuse troupe de nos chers camarades qui ont bravement fait le plus grand sacrifice en donnant leur existence pour la patrie.

Disant adieu à l'armée britannique en France, je lui demande à nouveau d'accepter l'expression la plus profonde de ma gratitude et de ma reconnaissance émue, ainsi que mes meilleurs souhaits pour le glorieux avenir que je sais, lui être assuré.

En 1918, le maréchal French avait été appelé à la lord-lieutenance d'Irlande pour tenter, par son prestige, d'apaiser le pays.

A la fin de 1919 il échappa à un attentat et quitta l'Irlande en avril 1920.

Le mois suivant il faisait le pèlerinage d'Ypres pour revoir le front qu'il avait si brillamment défendu au début de la guerre.

Au mois de mai de l'an dernier, le maréchal présidait à Londres le dîner des Amis de la France. Il y prononça un discours d'une grande élévation :

L'alliance franco-britannique veut dire la sécurité non seulement pour la France, mais pour la Grande-Bretagne. Voilà sa raison d'être, car ce n'est que par une alliance durable entre les deux grandes nations occidentales que la paix du monde peut être assurée. On n'exagère pas en disant que la France est en train de parfaire la cause des alliés, seule et sans soutien, au moyen de vastes dépenses qu'elle ne peut pas supporter. Elle est tenue à garder sur pied une grande armée et une force aérienne, et elle joue, ni plus ni moins, le rôle d'avant-garde pour les alliés.

Le maréchal French concluait en demandant que la nation anglaise soutint la continuité de l'alliance franco-britannique dans l'intérêt de la paix mondiale et de l'existence même de l'empire britannique.

C'est une grande et loyale figure de soldat qui disparaît.

Cape Times (Kapstadt)

NT. 15153

DEATH OF THE EARL OF
YPRES.

A Reuter message received late last night, announces the death of Field-Marshal the Earl of Ypres.

John Denton Pinkstone French was born on September 28, 1852 (the same year as his colleague in the Great War, General Joffre), at Ripplevale, near Walmer. Kent claims him, but he has in him both Irish and Scotch blood, which has gone to the making of so many famous soldiers. As a boy he was always playing at soldiers; since he embraced his profession he has been an indefatigable student of military history. But, like Sir Evelyn Wood, he began to serve his country in the

eral of the Forces. His retirement therefrom in March 1914, gave him a good four months' holiday; and when, on August 4 of that year, his country called him again, Sir John French was found ready.

He at once went to Kitchener and offered to serve under him in the field, but the powers that be decided that Kitchener should go to the War Office, while French would lead the Expeditionary Force. He commanded the British Army on the Western Front

Navy. At 18 he left the senior service, and entered the Army by way of the Militia—a case of Hobson's choice. In 1874 French joined the 8th Hussars, from which he was transferred to the 19th, where he proved himself a capable officer and a good sportsman; 1880 saw him gazetted captain, and married to a daughter of Mr. R. W. Selby-Lowndes, of Bletchley, Bucks. For the four following years he was Adjutant to the Northumberland Yeomanry; was left there, to his disgust, when the 19th went to Egypt in 1882, and was not happy until he followed it in 1884.

In Egypt he saw much dangerous service, and learned how to endure retreat after the fall of Khartoum. Yet, amid the Egyptian disappointments, French won laurels for the work he did with the 19th Hussars, as Lieut.-Colonel of which he returned to England. Years of study and waiting followed, during which he did brilliant service in India, where he reorganised the cavalry. In 1883 he was retired on half-pay, but the period of inaction was fruitful in further original study of cavalry tactics. He wrote a new cavalry drill-book, which masterpiece brought him back in 1895 to the active list as A.A.G. of Cavalry. His reforms were revolutionary; 1899 found him Major-General Commanding the 1st Cavalry Brigade at Aldershot.

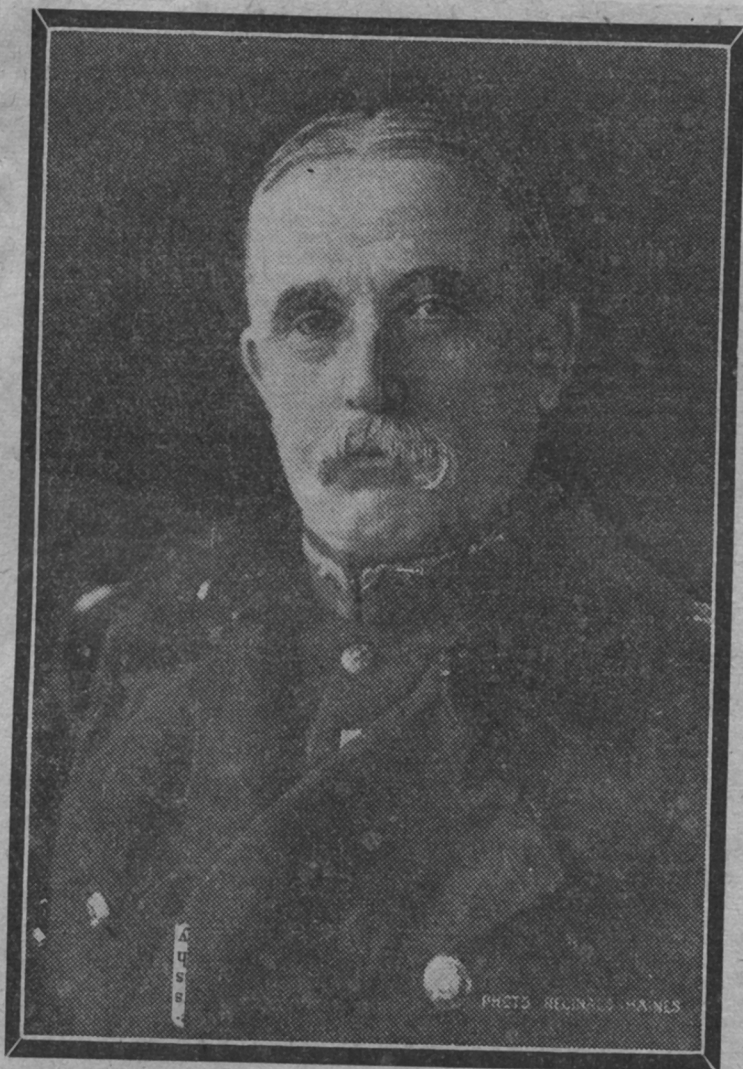
To the public, however, this brilliant soldier was almost unknown when he took command of the cavalry in Natal, and proved his talents at Elandslaagte and Rietfontein. Just in time, he escaped from beleaguered Ladysmith, and saved the situation around Colesberg. French's crowning triumph was the relief of Kimberley, which he reached by a movement of consummate daring. This led to the capture of Cronje at Paardeberg, and during the rest of the war French did invaluable service. Knighted, he returned home to his Aldershot Command, and in 1907 he became Inspector-Gen-

eral of the Forces. His retirement therefrom in March 1914, gave him a good four months' holiday; and when, on August 4 of that year, his country called him again, Sir John French was found ready. He at once went to Kitchener and offered to serve under him in the field, but the powers that be decided that Kitchener should go to the War Office, while French would lead the Expeditionary Force. He commanded the British Army on the Western Front from Mons till the end of 1915, when he handed over to Sir Douglas Haig. The chief events in France while he was in command were the retreat from Mons under circumstances of great difficulty; the battle of the Marne, and subsequent advance to the Aisne; the transfer of the Expeditionary Force to Flanders; the desperate fighting in the autumn, generally called the first battle of Ypres; the successful Neuve Chapelle offensive undertaken in March, 1915; the second battle of Ypres in April, 1915; the abortive operations near Festubert embarked on a few days later; and the important victory won in September in the region of Loos. During the 17 months the Field-Marshal led the British troops in the field, these rose excluding cavalry, from an original total of five divisions at the front to a total of 34 divisions.

His forces up to the last three months suffered greatly from lack of artillery ammunition, except during the opening weeks of the campaign. This hampered his operations to a hopeless extent, and it was largely as a result of the public agitation which he inspired in favour of "shells and still more shells," that the politicians at home were brought to a realisation of the actualities of the situation.

After his resignation from the position of Commander-in-Chief in the field he became Commander-in-Chief of the troops at home, and this he held until May, 1918, when he went to Ireland as Lord-Lieutenant.

It was in 1915 that Sir John French was created Viscount of Ypres and of Highlake, and in 1921 he was created Earl of Ypres, when his term of office in Ireland was over. He became Captain of Deal Castle since 1923. Of late the great soldier had been in failing health, and on Sunday last was conveyed to London. The fluctuations of his conditions were not reassuring, and it was reported on Thursday night he was gradually sinking.



FIELD-MARSHAL LORD FRENCH.

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Hamburgisches
Welt - Wirtschafts - Archiv.

Signatur

25. Mai 1925

Datum 192

New York Evening Post (New York)

No 160.!

OLD FOE SAYS FRENCH 'LACKED SACRED FIRE'

Gen. Von Kuhl Praises Earl of Ypres
But Says Germans
Fooled Him

"HANDICAPPED BY LONDON"

Evening Post Foreign Service

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Berlin, May 25.—General von Kuhl, who was Von Kluck's chief of staff in 1914, in an obituary on the Earl of Ypres, formerly Field Marshal French, characterizes his old opponent in that campaign as a "capable, distinguished soldier who did honor to the British name on all battlefields where he was engaged, but lacked the sacred fire, the boldness and daring of a really great commander."

The little British Army was a "brave, excellently trained force," on which fell the brunt of the German attack in the invasion of France.

Von Kuhl criticizes Field Marshal French's lack of initiative after Marshal Joffre assumed the offensive on the Marne, asserting he allowed himself to be fooled and held up by a German cavalry screen and failed to take advantage of the great opportunity in the closing stage of the battle to thrust his army resolutely into the gap which developed between the German first and second armies.

He was handicapped, however, by London orders to take no risks with the British Army and "made good in the struggles around Ypres, from which he took his title."

The Times (London)

No. 43972

LORD YPRES.

ABBEY FUNERAL
SERVICE.

IMPRESSIVE SCENE.

(By Our Special Correspondents.)

Yesterday afternoon the funeral service of Field-Marshal the Earl of Ypres—whom England knows best, and history will always remember, as Sir John French—was held in Westminster Abbey; and it was the first time within the memory of the present generation that a service for a soldier has been held there. It was a solemn and beautiful ceremony, made splendid by the distinction of the company gathered in the great church and the blaze of military uniforms and decorations.

The choir and transepts of the Abbey were reserved for personal friends of the Field-Marshal and representative mourners; the nave being open to the general public. The service was set for 5.30, but an hour before that time the congregation had already begun to assemble, and for the last half-hour the organist played, first, the two Chorale Preludes of Brahms, then Harwood's "Requiem Æternam," and, finally and very beautifully, the Chorale Prelude of Bach. During this time the nave was filling while, entering by the West Cloister door, the occupants of seats in the choir and transepts were being shown to their places by officers of the Irish Guards. Conspicuous figures were Marshal Joffre, representing the French Government and Army, and Lieutenant-General Bernheim, of the Belgian Army, both of whom were among the pall bearers. The other pall bearers were:—

AIR CHIEF MARSHAL SIR HUGH TRENCHARD, GENERAL LORD HORNE, GENERAL SIR JAMES WILCOCKS, GENERAL SIR HORACE SMITH-DORRIEN, GENERAL SIR IAN HAMILTON, FIELD-MARSHAL SIR ARTHUR BARRETT, FIELD-MARSHAL SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON, ADMIRAL OF THE FLEET EARL BEATTY, FIELD-MARSHAL LORD METHUEN, and FIELD-MARSHAL the DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

These, as they entered, were shown to seats under the lantern, and with them, or in the Sanctuary adjoining, were Field-Marshal Earl Haig (representing the King), Colonel Sir Henry Streetfield (representing Queen Alexandra), Brigadier-General Trotter (representing the Prince of Wales), Lieutenant Colin Buist, R.N. (representing the Duke of York), Colonel Fredk. Packe (representing Princess Beatrice), Prince Arthur of Connaught, Earl Beauchamp (Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports), with the foreign military attachés, distinguished officers of the Navy, Army, and Air Force, and other mourners representing Government Departments, the Dominions, India, and the Colonies, and the Ypres League, the 8th and 19th Hussars, the Cambridgeshire Regiment, and the 14th, 16th, and 28th Battalions of the London Regiment. The principal mourner was the Field-Marshal's elder son.

The coffin, which had come from the Guards Chapel, was met at the West door by the choir and clergy of the Abbey. For a few minutes, the organ having ceased, the silence was almost painful. Then the voices of the choir rang out, and slowly—oh, so slowly!—the procession moved up the aisle to the singing of the Sentences from the Burial Service. The coffin, borne by eight men of the Irish Guards, came to rest under the lantern, upon the Union Jack which covered it being the Field-Marshal's hat, with its white plume, and baton, and one large wreath of white carnations and green fern. At the four corners men of the Irish Guards took up position, to stand, with bowed heads and arms reversed, immovable throughout the service.

After the 121st Psalm, "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills," the Lesson, 1 Cor., xv. 51-58 ("Behold I show you a mystery"), was read by Archdeacon Charles. Then came the hymn, "Before Jehovah's awful Throne"; and versicles and prayers by the Precentor of the

Abbey, including the short prayer of the Order of the Bath:—

God save our Gracious Sovereign and all the brotherhood, living and departed, of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

"THE LAST POST."

The Grace followed and then another hymn, "O God, our help in ages past," singularly impressive and moving. But it was after the Collect and after the Blessing had been given by Canon Carnegie that the really heartrending moment of the service came, when, from somewhere by the chancel, there broke on the silence the first long notes of "The Last Post," by bugles of the Irish Guards. Up the notes soared, wreathing round the pillars, passing from arch to arch, lingering in the vaulting of the roof; and then the nerve-shattering cataract of the drums and "The Réveillé."

While the organist played Chopin's Funeral March, the procession re-formed and passed down the aisle, the coffin lifted again by its eight bearers, the pall-bearers and bearers of the Field-Marshal's insignia following, and after them the body of the mourners, while the packed mass of people in the nave stood with bowed heads. The bearers of the insignia were:—

General Vicomte de la Panouse, the French Military Attaché, Major Nerinex, Belgian Military Attaché, Lieutenant-General Sir Philip Chetwode, Brigadier-General the Earl of Warwick, Colonel Stanley L. Barry, Lieutenant A. FitzG. Watt, and Major the Hon. E. G. French.

Outside the sun was still shining, flags were at half mast, a great crowd stood thronging Broad Sanctuary, where the troops waited to escort the Field-Marshal on his last march to Victoria Station; and the air shook as a minute-gun announced his coming.

THE CONGREGATION.

Among the members of the family present were:—

Viscount French (son), Lady Essex French (daughter), the Misses French, Miss Myrtle

Latman, the Hon. Bertram French, Mr. F. French Kemp, Mr. Edward Lydall, Mrs. F. Lydall, Miss C. M. Lydall, Colonel and Mrs. Schofield, Major Despencher-Robertson, Lady and Miss Robertson, and Mr. and Mrs. Algon Aspinall.

The general congregation included:—

The French Ambassador, the Belgian Ambassador, the Brazilian Ambassador, the Egyptian Minister and the Counsellor of the Egyptian Legation, the Polish Military Attaché, the Japanese Military Attaché, the Serbian Military Attaché, the Earl of Balfour, Mr. Churchill, Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, Sir Samuel Hoare, Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister, General Sir Alexander Cobbe, V.C. (representing the Secretary of State for India), Rear-Admiral Frank Jorden (representing the First Lord of the Admiralty), Mr. H. L. Thomas (representing the Foreign Secretary), Mr. G. G. Whiskard (representing the Colonial Secretary), Mr. Lloyd George, Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Hubert Brand and Rear-Admiral J. D. Kelly (representing the Board of Admiralty), Air Vice-Marshal Sir Geoffrey Salmond (representing the Air Council), Colonel Sir Lisle Webb (representing the Minister of Pensions), Admiral Tiesiger (representing the Royal Navy at Portsmouth), Sir Herbert Creedy, Mr. Ian Macpherson, Sir John Baird, the Duchess of Rutland, Violet Duchess of Rutland, the Marchioness of Anglesey with Lady Caroline Paget, the Marquess Camden (Lord Lieutenant for the county of Kent), the Marquess and Marchioness of Londonderry, the Earl of Derby, Lady Lettice Lygon, Earl and Countess Jellicoe, Countess Roberts, the Earl of Granard, the Earl of Albemarle, the Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury, the Countess of Limerick, the Countess of St. Germans, Lady Henry Grosvenor, Captain and Lady Eva Wyndham-Quin, Lord and Lady George Hamilton, Viscount Valentia, Viscount and Viscountess FitzAlan, Viscount Hampden, Viscount Burnham, Viscount Downe, Viscount Gough, Lord Decies, Lord Southwark, Lord and Lady St. John of Bletso, Lady Waverley, Lord and Lady Loch, Lord Oranmore and Browne, Lady Plumer with Major Plumer, the Master of Ellbank, and Lady Beatrix Wilkinson.

General Lord the Earl of Cavan, General Sir Henry Macdonnell, General Sir Bryan and Lady Mahon, General Sir George and Lady Milne, General Sir John and Lady Maxwell, General Sir Charles Briggs, General Sir Bruce Hamilton, General the Hon. Sir Neville and Lady Lyttelton, General the Hon. Sir Herbert Lawrence, Lieutenant-General Sir Thomas Snow, Lieutenant-General Sir George Gorringe, Lieutenant-General Sir Alfred Codrington, Lieutenant-General Sir Francis Lloyd, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Kavanagh, Air Vice-Marshal E. Vesey, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Whigham, Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Campbell, Lieutenant-General Sir Noel Birch, Lieutenant-General Sir John Du Cane, Lieutenant-General Sir Walter Braithwaite, Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Harrington, Lieutenant-General Sir William Peyton, Lieutenant-General Sir Hugh Jendwine, Lieutenant-General Sir William Leishman, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Shaw, Lieutenant-General Sir William Fitzcarrin Campbell, Lieutenant-General Sir John Keir, Lieutenant-General Sir Arthur Sloggett, Lieutenant-General Sir H. D. Fanshawe, Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Bethune and Lady Bethune, Lieutenant-General Sir Tom Bridges, Lieutenant-General Sir Frederick Stopford, Lieutenant-General Sir William and Lady Pulteney, Major-General Sir Edward Northey (representing the Southern Command), Major-General Sir George MacMunn, Major-General Sir William Thwaites, Major-General Sir Webb Gillman, Major-General the Hon. Francis Gathorne-Hardy and Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy, Major-General Sir Torquhill Matheson, Major-General Felix Ready, Major-General B. F. Burnett Hitchcock, Major-General T. A. Cubitt, Major-General Sir Robert Hutchison, Major-General J. B. Forster, Major-General B. J. C. Doran, Major-General Sir Charles Sackville-West and Lady Sackville-West, Major-General H. C. Sutton, Major-General Lord Loch and Lady Loch, Major-General Sir William Dorrman, Major-General Sir Frederick Robb, Major-General Sir Cecil Lowther and Lady Lowther, Major-General Sir Wyndham Childs and Lady Childs, Major-General R. Ballantine-Allason, Major-General Sir Percy Radcliffe, Major-General the Hon. Sir Edward Stuart-Wortley, Major-General Sir Ivo Vesey, Major-General Sir Reginald and Lady Talbot, Major-General Thomas Pitman, Major-General the Hon. Sir William and Lady Lambton and Lady Katharine Lambton, Brigadier-General Edgar

wenden

Lambart (representing Major-General Sir Francis Eustace), Major-General G. J. Farmer, Major-General Hugh Sutton, Major-General Sir John Daniell, General Holdsworth, Brigadier-General Sir Joseph Laycock, Brigadier-General A. Burt, Brigadier-General Cecil Wray, Brigadier-General W. H. Bowes, Brigadier-General C. Cunliffe-Owen, Brigadier-General Viscount Campden, Colonel Browne Syngé Hutchinson, V.C., Colonel E. Lake, Colonel W. E. Davies, Colonel J. C. B. Eastwood, Colonel Wilson Ransom, Colonel Parsons, Colonel E. K. G. Aylmer, Colonel Sergison Brooke, (representing the Grenadier Guards), Colonel Maitland Kersey, Colonel A. W. Parsons, Colonel Phillips, Colonel Rankin, Colonel-Commandant Morgan R.M., Captain Willan, E.N., Mrs. Carnegie, Captain de Trafford (Ypres League), Colonel Wyld, Colonel Sir Charles Ward, the Hon. Alice Douglas-Pennant, Major the Hon. Francis and Lady Isobel Gathorne-Hardy, Colonel the Hon. Henry Vesey, Captain the Hon. Edward Bingham, the Hon. Mrs. J. B. Seely (representing General Bruce), the Hon. Richard Molynaux, Captain Sir Michael Bruce, Sir Samuel and Lady Power, Sir Stephenson Kent, Lady Cohen, Colonel Sir John and Lady Atkins, Sir Clement Kinloch-Cooke, Sir John Anderson, Sir Robert McCall, Admiral Sir Reginald Tupper, Lady Henderson and Miss Henderson, Lady (Henry) Wilson, Sir John Milbanke, Sir William Bull, Sir Hamar and Lady Greenwood, Sir George Arthur, Colonel Sir Martin Archer-Shee, Lady Worthington-Evans, Major Ward, Miss Stone, Nurse Macnamara, and Nurse McBride.

Mrs. Hugh Rayner (Scoutmaster to the Earl of Ypres' Own Boy Scouts), Mrs. Victor Gordon-Lennox, Dame Maud McCarthy, Miss Hastings (Matron-in-Chief, Army Nurses), Mr. J. Wilson Taylor (representing the Bath Club), Mrs. Richard Raphael, Colonel and Mrs. Lake-Gee, Captain and Mrs. Alan Garner, Captain A. Evans, Rear-Admiral Percy Boyd, Mrs. Richard Selby-Lowndes, Mr. Geoffrey Selby-Lowndes, Major Waggett (vice-chairman Ypres League), Captain and Mrs. Conway Seymour, Colonel Weston Jarvis, Colonel Heneage, Colonel Heath (general secretary) and representatives of the British Legion, representatives of the 23rd St. Marylebone Troop of Boy Scouts, Colonel St. John Gore, Colonel Beevor, Mrs. Wade Chance, Mr. F. Victor Fisher (representing "The Friends of France" of which the Earl of Ypres was president), Lieutenant-Colonel Claude Mortimore (representing Naval and Military Club), Colonel Stuart Sankey (representing the Lord Mayor), Lieutenant-Colonel J. Reid Hyde (representing the High Commissioner for Canada), the Chaplain-General to the Forces and the Deputy Chaplain-General, the Rev. J. Allen James (Chaplain to the Brigade of Guards, also representing the late Chaplain-General to the Forces), Mr. W. W. Grantham (Recorder of Deal), the Rev. Basil Bouchier (representing the Acon Ex-Servicemen's Club, founded by Lord Ypres), and Cadet-Major R. E. Calkin (representing the London Division, Church Lads' Brigade).

The Earl of Middleton was unable to attend owing to illness.

PUBLIC TRIBUTE.

THE TWO PROCESSIONS.

From the Guards' Chapel to Westminster Abbey, and from the Abbey to Victoria, passed the two processions that paid honour to the memory of Lord Ypres. It was the hour of an early summer evening when London, though busy still, is reminded of repose. Light clouds sailed over a faint blue sky; the trees and flowers in the park looked fresher than in the full glow of day; and over them and everything reigned the peace which is a foretaste of the coming night.

The mood of the crowds along the two routes was subdued both by the hour and the occasion. That which gathered in Birdcage-walk for the first procession was relatively small but seemed, perhaps for that reason, the more representative. Waiting on the path were soldiers and ex-soldiers of the generations which had followed the dead leader. Here was a group of Chelsea veterans; there a veteran only of the South African and the

great wars; and yonder younger men in plain clothes who had pinned on the Mons medal in claim of military kinship.

The two processions were very different. The first, escorting the casket on the gun-carriage from the Guards' Chapel to Westminster, was composed of Irish Guards, with whom walked the Rev. J. Allen James, chaplain to the Brigade of Guards. Guardsmen bore the wreaths, as later in the other procession; and the wreaths were so many and so beautiful that the scarlet tunics of the troops were half-concealed by the white and violet tints of the flowers. This procession had the impressiveness of simplicity.

The second, which after the service in the Abbey accompanied the gun-carriage to Victoria, was impressive in another way. It was, indeed, almost overpowering by its magnitude and significance. London has not seen for many years a funeral in which so much military splendour has mingled with so many cosmopolitan tributes to a memory—a memory not of a man only, but of the history in which he bore his conspicuous part.

First in the long line—far longer than the crowds had expected—came the 13/18 Hussars and the 10th Hussars in khaki. These had reached Buckingham Palace, after their ride through Great George-street into the Mall, before the first of the 19 guns, which announced the departure of the gun-carriage from the Abbey, was heard booming from St. James's Park. Then, while the guns continued their hollow sound, minute by minute, came the 1st and 2nd Life Guards in all their bravery; a battery of the Royal Horse Artillery; a battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment; and the apparently endless array of the Infantry of the Brigade of Guards. Their slow step, as they marched with arms reversed, seemed to shake the ground, as the historian says of the British infantry on the hill of Albuera. The colours and the drums were draped; the officers wore crêpe round their sleeves.

FRENCH AND BELGIAN OFFICERS.

A detachment from the Royal Navy was followed by contingents from the Belgian and French Armies, the former in khaki, the latter in steel blue, and both in war helmets. One officer of the Guards accompanied the Belgian officer, another the French officer; and the people, one could feel, were moved to cheer these Allies of the Great War, though they constrained themselves to silence.

In an even deeper silence passed the gun-carriage, with the distinguished pall-bearers walking on either side. None failed of recognition, as appeared after they had gone, when much was said of Marshal Joffre and the Belgian General Bernheim. The crowd was touched on seeing how much older one or two of the great soldiers looked; the sight seemed to bring closer home the debt of gratitude owing them.

The late Field-Marshal's charger, with boots reversed in the stirrups, was led by, and directly afterwards came well-known military officers, foreign and British, bearing his insignia on cushions of velvet.

Lord Haig, the King's representative, and Prince Arthur of Connaught, walked at the head of the mourners—a great and diverse company, some in brilliant uniforms, others in civilian coats and hats. The King's Indian Orderly Officers were there, and foreign military attachés, with representatives of the Ypres League, regiments with which Lord Ypres had particular associations, and Territorial regiments. Nothing seemed missing from the procession, not even the Boy Scouts with dropped banner, which could symbolize the extent and variety of the service of Lord Ypres to the country as a soldier and a man.

From the Mall the procession went into Buckingham Palace-road, and so, by Wilton-road, to the station, whence the casket will be taken to Ripple, near Deal, the place of burial.

The Times (London)

Nr.
№ 4 3973LORD YPRES AND THE
TERRITORIALS.ORGANIZATION BEFORE
THE WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—One passage of Lord Midleton's appreciation of the work of Lord Ypres, published in your issue of the 23rd, calls for notice. He writes:—

Sir John French held that, in case of war, our Army would be employed on the Continent. . . . This view, which he never concealed, was gallant in the extreme. It was in the face of every Cabinet decision, and, indeed, even in the years immediately preceding the war, regiments and strength of Regular troops were recklessly reduced and stores cut down to supply additional money for the Territorial Army.

In such a context these words, unless very carefully read, might seem to suggest that after the formation of the Territorial Force—i.e., from 1908 onward—when Sir John French was successively Inspector-General of the Forces and Chief of the General Staff, he was not in harmony with the Cabinet as regards the objects on which the money voted for the Army was spent. May I be allowed to remind your readers of certain facts, recorded in published documents, which show that this cannot be the meaning of the passage?

After the "Esher" reorganization of the War Office, the preparation of Army estimates was put on a basis enabling responsibility for the allocation of funds, within the total, to be definitely assigned. The relative priority of different forms of expenditure was determined by the members of the Army Council (other than the Secretary of State) sitting as a formal estimate committee with the C.I.G.S. in the chair, and the estimates so prepared were presented to Parliament over the signature of all the members of Council. They show that the actual regimental establishments of the Regulars in 1908 totalled to 177,366 officers and men, and in 1914 to 177,271, the main difference in details being that in the latter year room had been found within the total for a Flying Corps of 1,005. As regards money, while the expenditure on Territorial Forces rose from £2,243,000 in 1908-9 to £3,086,000 (estimated) in 1914-15, the total expenditure on the Army rose from £26,859,000 to £28,845,000 (estimated), the latter figure including £1,000,000 for aviation; so that the whole provision for that new service and the increase for the Territorials were found without taking a penny from the rest of the Army. It cannot therefore

be Lord Midleton's meaning that the Estimate Committee, with first Lord Nicholson and then Sir John French himself presiding, sacrificed the Regulars to provide more money for Territorials.

As regards stores, again, it is well known that during the South African War the Cabinet had laid down definite scales of war reserves ("Mowatt Reserves") and required two military members of Council to give annually to Parliament a formal certificate that these reserves were maintained intact. As new units took their place in the Expeditionary Force, during the period of its organization, the application to them of the authorized scales of reserves naturally increased the total mass of stores so held.

In fact, the Estimates and Establishments of the Army for the whole period 1906-14 exhibit, for the first time in our history, a coherent work of real organization for war, by which the traditional and fortuitous establishments of the several arms were replaced by proportions scientifically calculated to produce, from the men and money available, the six divisions and one cavalry division of the old Contemptibles. By these changes the expeditionary force of 25,000 men, which we had before the South African War, was increased to 160,000 Regulars, with 14 organized Divisions of Territorials in second line. It is true that in the earlier years of the process Army Estimates were reduced by some two millions, but that was the Army's contribution to the needs of the Navy, not to the Territorials, and is outside the scope of Lord Midleton's comment.

Bold the measures of this period may have been; they stand on record as the deliberate acts of the whole Army Council, and if there be any sense in which, proved as they were by the event, they can still be spoken of as "reckless," it cannot be that Sir John French so held them. An incident will serve to show his opinion of the Territorials when the day of their ordeal was at hand. It happened that on the first morning spent by Lord Kitchener in the War Office as Secretary of State I was giving him a general sketch of our organization and resources in men and stores—matters with which he was surprisingly ill-acquainted. I had explained that the Special Reserve stood next to the Regulars on mobilization and was not (as he had supposed) the same as the National Reserve, spoken of by him as "those old gentlemen who draw themselves up in line with umbrellas, in the Park"; and I went on to say that there were then the Territorials, organized in divisions on the same plan as the Regulars, and that his military colleagues would probably tell him that they would be ready for the field long before any new armies that might be raised; to which he replied that he could have nothing but Regular soldiers. At that moment Sir John French (who had entered the room unperceived by me) came forward and, putting his hand on Lord Kitchener's shoulder, said: "What he is telling you, K., is quite right. There are units of Territorials I should like to take with me to France next week, and there are many such units that I shall be praying you for, inside two months."

Cookham, May.

C. HARRIS.

The Times (London)

No 43973

LORD YPRES.

THE KING'S MESSAGE.

The King has sent the following message to Lady Ypres on the occasion of the death of Field-Marshal Lord Ypres :—

The Queen and I have heard with much regret of the death of Lord Ypres and we sympathize with you and your family. The British Army will join me in mourning the loss of the distinguished Field-Marshal. I am very glad I saw him again so shortly before the end.

GEORGE R.I.

The following message was sent by Queen Alexandra :—

I beg you to accept my most sincere sympathy in the heavy loss you have sustained. Both as colonel of my beloved regiment and on personal grounds I grieve at the death of a great soldier.

ALEXANDRA.

Marshal Joffre has sent the following message :—

Profondément ému du deuil qui vous frappe et qui prive l'Empire Britannique d'un de ses plus glorieux serviteurs. Je vous envoie respectueusement l'expression de mes sincères condoléances, et je m'incline avec reconnaissance devant la mémoire de l'ami et du grand soldat, dont le concours loyal et généreux sur la Marne et en Flandres assura la victoire de nos armées.

JOFFRE.

Telegrams expressing sympathy and regret have been received from the Prince of Wales, Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, and Prince Arthur of Connaught.

THE BURIAL AT RIPPLE.

In a gale of wind and heavy, driving rain the burial of Field-Marshal Lord Ypres took place yesterday afternoon in the little churchyard at Ripple, the Kentish hamlet three miles from Deal. The remains were carried by train from London to Deal, and among those at the station to await their arrival were :—

Lord French (son), Lady Essex French (daughter), Major the Hon. Gerald French (son) with his wife and two daughters, Lord Beauchamp (Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports), Lord Warwick, General Sir William Pulteney (representing the Brigade of Guards), Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Bulfin, Major General Farquharson, R.M., Major-General Sir Michael Russel, Colonel Sir Charles Warde and Colonel Henry Murray Warde, Colonel Molloy, Colonel Mayhew, and the Mayor, Aldermen, and Corporation of Deal.

Outside the station, a guard of honour of 100 men from the Royal Marine Depot at Deal, together with their band, was drawn up. The gun-carriage was supplied by the R.F.A., and other troops present were 500 men of the Worcestershire Regiment, with band and bugles. The burial service was conducted by Bishop Taylor Smith, the Rev. F. T. Robinson, and the Rev. C. L. Feltoe, and after the committal prayers buglers from the Worcestershire Regiment sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille."

A Reuter telegram from Madrid states that a memorial service was held in Madrid yesterday, at St. George's Chapel. The British Ambassador and his staff and many of the British colony were present.

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Signatur

P. Ypres
1. Juni 1925

Datum 192

The Times (London)

Nr. ~~No~~ 43976

LORD YPRES AND THE TERRITORIALS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES.

Sir,—As one who has been associated with the Territorial movement from the first, may I supplement what Sir Charles Harris and Sir John Keir have said in this connexion? In the early days, when many hands were against us, we gratefully recognized that we had a friend in Sir John French, and the following reference in one of his dispatches from France, in the early months of 1915, referring to the Territorial Force at the front, afforded ample compensation for our five years' labour:—

The Lords Lieutenant of counties and the associations which worked under them bestowed a vast amount of labour and energy on the organization of the Territorial Force. I trust it may be some recompense to know that I and the principal commanders serving under me consider that the Territorial Force has far more than justified the most sanguine hopes that any of us ventured to entertain of their value and use in the field. Commanders of cavalry divisions are unstinted in their praise of the manner in which the Yeomanry regiments attached to their brigades had done their duty both in and out of action. The service of divisional cavalry is now almost entirely performed by Yeomanry, and divisional commanders report that they are very efficient.

Army corps commanders are loud in their praise of Territorial battalions which form part of nearly all the brigades at the front in the first line, and more than one of them have told me that these battalions are fast approaching, if they have not already reached, the standard of efficiency of Regular infantry.

This was the first time the work of the county associations had been publicly recognized by a high authority, and nothing could have been more encouraging to those who had been responsible for raising the force.

Yours,

DARTMOUTH.

Patshull, Wolverhampton.