

RECORD OF BRITISH SOLDIER IS ONE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT

Has Engaged Oftener and Won Oftener Than All Europe—Nothing That Suggests Decadence About His Prowess—His Advance Almost Constant.

Richard G. Conover in Washington Post.

How much of a battler is the British soldier? What is the fighting pedigree of Tommy Atkins and what is his possible achievement, measured by past performance in the field?

Great Britain, having cast her lot with France and Russia in their war with Germany and Austria, what standard of valorous morale and what prestige does the red-coated man of war bring to the fray? Immediately the army of John Bull is mentioned the mind runs to Waterloo. Beyond question that battle is popularly deemed the high-water mark of British military accomplishment.

These significant facts and characteristics, which can scarcely be percentage or tabulated, should be borne in mind:

The soil of Great Britain proper has never been trodden by an invading army since the time of William the Conqueror. France has on occasion sent a quota of troops to aid rebellion in Ireland, but never has an out-and-out French army landed on British soil to battle with a united British people.

Great Britain's Powers.

It was the great orator, Daniel Webster, who pointed out in one of his eloquent periods, that the drum beat of Great Britain circled the globe, and that the sun never set on British dominion. Hasn't this special significance with respect to prestige? All over the earth the Briton has spread himself most liberally, and always through force of arms. No other nation has carried its flag farther and more variously, to permanent possession. It has taken power, courage, and oft-tried endurance to raise her banner where it flies. When the eye lights on the British Jack there's a picture of prowess and prestige formed at once. Perhaps the picture is much more vivid than actual accomplishment warrants, but the picture is there. This prestige cannot be standardized with respect to its sure effect.

Great Britain's soldier has traveled thousands of miles to fight, conquer, and permanently possess. Other nations have sent their fighting men as far, but after a generation of warfare has been checked up it will be found that she holds the most, if not all, of what she fought for. In the magnitude and variety of military operations of which he has been the achieving agent, there is no soldier on earth to be compared with the battler of the British Isles. This is a chronicle of feet entirely apart from praise.

England Whipped But Once.

Great Britain proper has a population of 46,036,570, and yet she controls territory inhabited by every race of man, containing 378,739,590 human beings. Isn't the prestige in the air? Whenever you think of England you breathe prestige.

And remember this—only one nation in the world ever went to battle with Great Britain without being in the end whipped completely or compelled to submit to subjugating compromise. Sooner or later a British army has defeated its adversary in a battle that meant finality of the quarrel. During intervals the British standard may have been trailed in the dust at infrequent reverses, but when the treaty of peace was signed the successes of the British soldier dictated the terms. The gradual incorporation of Normandy by France during three centuries of brawling is almost the only exception to England's successful "fight and keep" system.

How did the British soldier behave at Waterloo? What sort of a man and a fighter was he? How did he compare with the soldiers of the other nations fighting with him? Never was there a better time to weigh him than at Waterloo, for he battled at the side of Dutch, Belgian, Prussian, Hanoverian, and miscellaneous German troops.

Wellington a Hard Master.

It is a curious fact that Wellington himself did not have a very high opinion of the British soldier's sense of duty or patriotism. He believed that he could make him fight and that he would fight hard. Wellington believed in flogging in the army, and many a British private was punished thus for derelictions. Letters are extant in the Iron Duke's handwriting, in which he says he commanded the "damnedest lot of rascals and vagabonds unhung" at Waterloo. In the famous Creevey papers there is evidence that Wellington did not think the British soldier would have fought so well had not he (the duke) commanded them. The conversation between Wellington and Creevey the morning after Waterloo contains this:

Lost 30,000 Men.

"The first thing I did, of course, was to put out my hand and congratulate him upon his victory. He made a variety of observations in his short, natural blunt way, but with the greatest gravity all the time, and without the least approach to anything like triumph or joy. 'It has

been a damned serious business,' he said. 'Blucher and I have lost 30,000 men. It has been a damned nice thing—the nearest-run thing you ever saw in your life. Blucher lost 14,000 on Friday night, and got so damnably licked I could not find him on Saturday morning; so I was obliged to fall back to keep up my communications with him.' Then, as we walked about, he praised greatly those guards who had kept the farm against the repeated attacks of the French; and then he praised all our troops, uttering repeated expressions of astonishment at our men's courage. He repeated so often its being 'so nice a thing—so nearly-run a thing' that I asked him if the French had fought better than he had ever seen them do before. 'No,' he said, 'they have always fought the same since I first saw them at Vimeira.' Then he said: 'By God, I don't think it would have been done if I had not been there.'"

"Rough and Foul-Mouthed."

Many of the British soldiers at Waterloo had been with Wellington in his Peninsular campaign. Sir Thomas Picton, the general on whom he placed the greatest dependence at Waterloo, had been with him in Spain and Portugal. Wellington said of Picton: "He's as rough and foul-mouthed a devil as ever lived."

Picton was killed at Waterloo—shot through the head—and he was commanding thousands of the same sort of men that he had often sworn at.

This is not to be an account of Waterloo—just a few words of description of the British soldier fighting there. In tabloid the battle was fought at its most centralized point by 68,000 troops led by Wellington and Napoleon, with 72,000 men. The English commander had 156 guns, the French 246. There is eternal argument as to what the outcome would have been had not Blucher, with 30,000 men, arrived to reinforce Wellington at 6 p. m. Twelve miles or so away Napoleon's general Grouchy, with 33,000 men, failed to march to the aid of his emperor. From noon until 7:30 p. m. on the immortal June 18, 1815, the French hurled thousands against the allies and were as constantly repulsed. On "points" Napoleon would score because of having been the aggressor. Toward the last the left of the allies' line seemed to waver.

"And Blucher Came."

Wellington was heard to mutter: "Would that night or the Prussians would come!" But Blucher came. Napoleon tried the Old Guard last and they charged up to the "thin red line" awaiting their onslaught grimly determined. Repulse, and then a sanguinary pursuit by moonlight of the fleeing French. The British losses were 13,000 and the Prussian 7,000. The French suffered to the extent of 30,000.

No matter what Wellington thought of the animating spirit of British valor, it is a fact that in the battle of Waterloo he placed British troops at the pivotal or crucial points. It was the guards of Maitland posted in the cornfield along Wellington's battle ridge that sprang to answer the duke's famous command, "Up, Guards, and at them!" when Napoleon's celebrated fighters were within twenty paces. The first volley by the British soldiers killed 300 French. The "red coats" fired with cool and steady aim. The French wavered. The British soldier for the first time that fatal day became the aggressor and drove Napoleon's crack battalions down the ridge.

The British Square.

The bearing and behavior of the British soldier were illustrated at an important point of the battle when Ney gathered together 5,000 magnificent horsemen, and placing himself at their head, charged. Instead of being appalled at the advance of this galloping host, it is recorded that the British soldiers felt rather relieved that it was not infantry coming against them. Calmly the British were formed into squares, with their guns placed on the crest of the ridge. Ney's men rode against the artillery and captured it. But the squares poured such a steady, murderous fire in on them, they were forced to retreat down the slope.

Gen. Reille's Prophecy.

Wellington knew the French impetuosity of attack from his peninsular experiences. He had evolved a system of tactics specially to resist them. At Waterloo he placed his first line of infantry behind a ridge so that it might be invisible before the attack and during the attack itself. Not until the assailants had reached the very top of the ridge, confused by the fire of skirmishers and artillery, did the line of soldiers reveal itself, firing point blank at short range and following up with a bayonet charge. With the exception of one brigade and a chain of skirmishers, all of Wellington's infantry was so arranged.

While eating breakfast on the morning of Waterloo Napoleon asked

General Reille his opinion of the British soldier against whom he had so often fought in Spain. Reille replied:

"When well posted, according to Wellington's usual manner, I consider the English infantry invincible on account of their calm tenacity and the superiority of their fire. Before you can charge with the bayonet you will have to wait until half the attacking party is killed. But the British army is less agile, less supple, and less able to maneuver than we are. If it cannot be conquered by a direct attack, it might be by maneuvering."

"All Over Before Dinner."

Napoleon is reported to have scoffed at this opinion, so unerringly confirmed before night. It was the first time Napoleon had come in direct conflict with English troops. He said irritably to Soult: "Because you have been beaten by Wellington you consider him a good general. But I tell you that Wellington is a bad general, that the British are bad troops, and that it will be all over before dinner."

This great battle that settled the fate of Europe fairly bristles with instances of British valor. Horse and foot, they outfought the French at every point of the field. It has been said that they took less chances than the French, and that their commander exposed them less. Well, veterans declare that it takes more real courage to remain calm under fire, and not strike back until ordered than it does to career hurrahing forward in a charge, buoyed up by excitement and passion. Some of the British squares were charged no less than thirteen times by Ney without being penetrated. The great French cavalryman, having three horses killed under him, was found by an aid standing in a bewildered fashion at the side of an abandoned British gun, striking its mouth with the flat of his sword.

In a general way it can be said that all of the victories of Wellington over his French adversaries were due to a skillful use of the two-deep line against the massive column which for many years was the fighting formation of France. The use of infantry in line was not his invention. It was used from Marlborough to Frederick the Great generally three or four deep. The French revolutionary generals reintroduced the advance in heavy mass, relying upon the effect of its impetus, the same as had been practiced by the pikemen of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

Napoleon was fond of this mass formation, although if he had any out and out favorite, it was a blend, or *ordre mixte*, in which brigade or regiment was drawn up in alternate battalions in line three deep and in column. More dash is required with the mass, more steadiness with the line. The British soldier for more than 200 years has gained much of his prestige through steadiness.

English Soldier at Zenith.

The British infantry at Waterloo used a nine-pound flint-lock musket, fitted with a pan, and not to be depended upon for accuracy for a range of more than 250 feet. The general volley effect was what was expected. Each soldier carried 60 stout paper cartridges, about .16 caliber, and about twenty to a pound weight. The cartridge had to be torn open by the teeth, a splash of powder thrown into the pan to catch the igniting spark, and then driven down the musket barrel with an iron ramrod. To stand and reload in the face of fire required the steadiness that became part of the English soldier, most prominently.

So, according to battling percentages, or averages, it would seem that the British soldier leads the International War League list. He has engaged oftener and won oftener than all Europe. There is nothing that suggests decadence about his prowess; no highest point of greatness in his past history from which he has dwindled or declined. He is at his fighting zenith now as much as at any time of his career. Most of the other nations of the earth have had their more glorious days, but the British soldier's advance has been almost constant.

TO MAKE CAMPHOR.

Pioneer Plant in the United States to Be Installed in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia Public Ledger. The American camphor corporation, incorporated for the manufacture of gum camphor, has taken the building on the southeast corner of Lehigh avenue and Edgemont street, which is being fitted as the pioneer plant in the manufacture of this product in the United States.

While its product will be available for pharmaceutical purposes, the corporation purposes catering to manufacturers of celluloid, who take about 80 per cent of the gum camphor imported into this country.

Equipment for giving the factory an output of 25,000 pounds a day will be installed in a few weeks, and by mid-winter the plant is to be in complete operation, consuming daily 3,200 pounds of turpentine, the base of synthetic camphor. As a by-product, the company will have a daily production of about five tons of glauber salts, which enters into the manufacture of dyes.

This country's consumption of camphor is estimated at 12,500 pounds a day, of which the Philadelphia factory, when running full, can, it is said, supply about 20 per cent.

BIGGEST TOBACCO WEEK ON ROCKY MOUNT MARKET

Two Million Pounds Sold and Farmers Get Over Quarter Million Dollars Cash.

Rocky Mount, Oct. 24.—The past week has been the heaviest of the season; beginning Monday morning the receipts of leaf tobacco have been very large, the sales blocking four days out of the five and Friday only being able to dispose of the offerings by fast selling, the last sales ending about dark. For the week the receipts total about 2,000,000 lbs., the amount paid out to the farmers being about \$250,000 to \$300,000.

The offerings have been about like the past week, there being about equal quantities of good serviceable tobaccos and common nondescript grades. Prices have shown no appreciable decline, notwithstanding the heavy receipts, and the market closed Friday evening very active, the buying sticking to the sales closely to the last.

Much of the tobaccos are badly graded and sell for a reduced price. It pays the farmer to grade and handle his tobacco well, as he invariably gets a bigger price for same. Also there has been much damaged tobacco offered. This the farmer can not always help, and is due largely to the long wet spell of the week before.

Good receipts are expected next week.

Sales up to date run about the 8,000,000 lb. mark.

DIVERSIFIED FARMING.

Movement in South Growing In Strength and Importance.

Louisville Home and Farm.

Reviewing the situation in the South solely from the standpoint of cotton, one gets a wrong impression. The South has had good crops of corn and grass, of wheat and fruit, of early and late vegetables. We are having a great many suggestions made to the South concerning the diversification of agriculture, as though that diversification had not yet begun.

Home and Farm has reported by month the fine results that have come to various quarters from the increase in the acreage devoted to Southern cowpeas, alfalfa, clover, peanuts and corn. It reported large crops of early vegetables last spring and large crops of later vegetables, bringing fine prices. It has been a great fruit year in the South from Arkansas to Georgia and Virginia. The apple crop in Kentucky is 50 per cent better than ever before, with peaches abundant from June until October. In Kentucky we have had a poor crop of potatoes, because of the early drouth, but we have had an unusually fine second crop of potatoes.

The ruin of the tobacco crop was predicted in May, and June, and July, and August; but September and October told another tale, and we are having the best crop of tobacco that Kentucky has known.

We point to these facts to disabuse the public mind of some apprehension concerning the South. The cotton problem is a national problem, and it must be treated upon national grounds. But the diversification of agriculture in the South is a Southern movement. It has been preached early and late by Home and Farm for many years. It is growing in strength and importance, and it is bringing into co-operation farmers, bankers, merchants and railroads.

For the encouragement of Southern farmers we call attention to the reports of the effect of the European war upon Western agriculture. Kansas and the Western States report heavy buying of army horses, saddles, harness and foodstuffs by European belligerents. Sales of army horses to Great Britain by Kansas City, Mo., amounted to one million dollars in September.

In Kansas City the wheat arrivals in September were 11,800,000 bushels against 2,300,000 a year ago. The output of feeding animals, says a telegram from Western Missouri, indicates more extensive fattening operations in that section of the country than ever before. A few weeks ago the purchase of feeder cattle was restricted by the inability to float loans, but the cattle paper broadens daily. Hay is weak, owing to the abundance of excellent pasturage. Hides are bringing good prices.

Moreover, the Western farmers who are feeding cattle are profiting from the slump in cottonseed; they are getting cottonseed meal from \$5 to \$7 a ton under the cost last year. What Western Missouri and Kansas can do a large part of the Southern States can do. If you are blue about the cotton market, take heart of hope as you review the prospects held out to the Southern farmer, who, on cheap lands, can raise cattle as valuable as those raised on the high-priced of the Western States.

Then make your arrangements for more cattle, more hogs, more poultry, more dairy products next year, and the reduction of your cotton acreage one-half.

Government officials have estimated that 1,350,000 horsepower in the form of gas alone is wasted every day by the old-fashioned coke ovens of the United States.