

# THE SCHOOL PAPER.

FOR GRADES VII. AND VIII. (1914).

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## BRITAIN AT WAR.

*Britain declared war against Germany on the 4th of August. In anticipation of this declaration, the Ministry of the Commonwealth of Australia, fully confident that its action would be in accord with the wish of the people, had offered, on the previous day, the Australian fleet and 20,000 men to the mother country. From Canada, New Zealand, and other parts of the Empire, offers of help were also sent to the British Government. The King promptly acknowledged these offers in the following memorable words:—*



Photograph by W. & D. Downey, London.]

**HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.**

(The uniform is that of an Admiral of the Fleet.)

"I desire to express to my people of the oversea dominions with what appreciation and pride I have received the messages from their respective Governments during the last few days. These spontaneous assurances of their fullest support recall to me the generous, self-sacrificing help given by them in the past to the mother country. I shall be strengthened in the discharge of the great responsibilities which rest upon me by the confident belief that, in this time of trial, my Empire will stand united, calm, resolute, trusting in God.

GEORGE, R.I."

\* THE CALL.

**Loom**, rise; threaten.

**Brood-ing**, dark; gloomy-looking.

**Clar-i-on** ("a" as in *am*), loud and clear.

**Pre-pared**, ready; fit for a particular purpose.

**Creeds**, beliefs; convictions.

**Wran-gled**, had disputes; quarrelled.

**Blare**, make a loud, harsh noise.

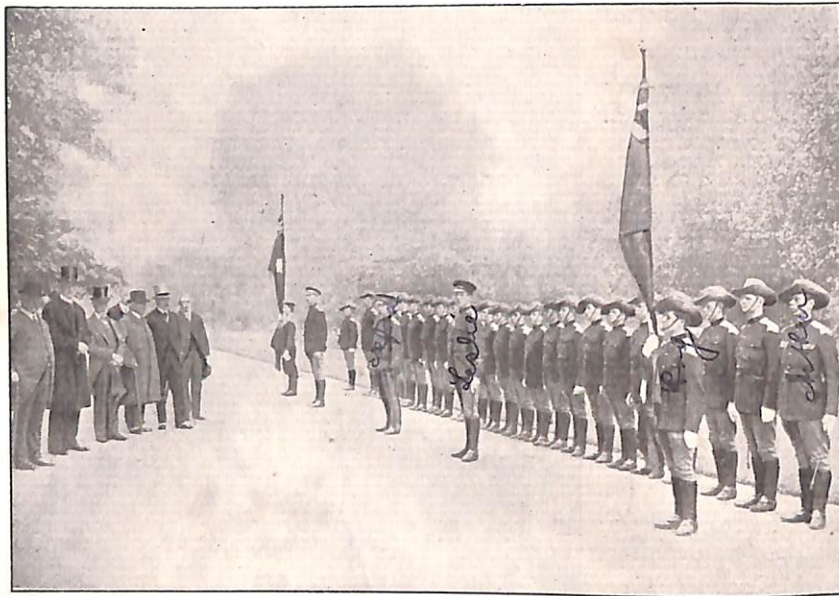
**Fate**, destiny; fixed doom.

**Yore**, years long past.

**Sheath**, case for a sword or similar weapon; scabbard.

1. Northward unto Brisbane, west-ward unto Broome,<sup>1</sup>  
The smoke is blacking out the stars, the clouds of battle loom,

The frightened birds wheel high above, the brooding shadows fall,  
But, high above the grim, grey gums, there comes a clarion call—



By the courtesy of the proprietors of *The Australasian*.]

**LORD ROBERTS INSPECTING THE AUSTRALIAN MOUNTED CADETS IN LONDON.**

(On the extreme left are Sir John Madden and Sir Reginald Talbot (once Governor of Victoria); the fourth figure is Lord Roberts; and, on his left, is Lord Denman.)

*Coo-ee! It's the mother coun-try calling,  
Coo-ee! Her sons shall make reply;  
The children of the free,  
From sea to surging sea,  
Have heard the call, they'll stand or fall, prepared to do or die.*

2. Forgot our tale of party strife, forgot our varied creeds,  
Perhaps we've wrangled over words, we stand as one in deeds;  
Divided in her time of peace—when first the bugles blare,  
Her enemies have yet to learn the Empire stands four-square.<sup>2</sup>

3. It is not ours to rule the fate which God may hold in store,  
But let us stand to meet it as our fathers stood of yore;  
Our sword is loosened in its sheath—go, tell the mother-land  
Her sons have girt their armor on, their help is close at hand.

*Coo-ee! The mother country's calling,  
Coo-ee! Her sons have made reply;  
From Darwin<sup>3</sup> to the Bight,  
We're ready for the fight—  
Australia's sons have manned their guns, prepared to do or die.*

—ORIEL, in *The Argus*.

1. **Broome**, a pearl-fishing station and small seaport in the north-west of Western Australia.  
2. **Four-square**, figuratively, established on a firm basis, and presenting an unbroken front to every point of the compass. "And the city" (the heavenly city of Jerusalem) "lieth four-square." (*Revelation*, XXI., 16.)  
3. **Dar-win**, the largest town in the Northern Territory. It is on Port Darwin, and used to be called Palmerston.

**THE IMMEDIATE CAUSES OF THE WAR.**

**Con-ti-nen-tal**, European.

**Bourse**, exchange where bankers meet to transact business.

**Inter-na-tion-al** (first "a" as in *am*), pertaining to the intercourse of nations.

**Hu-mil-i-at-ing** ("a" as in *ale*), lowering one's position or dignity; mortifying.

**Ar-til-ler-y**, cannon; ordnance.

**Me-di-a-tion**, attempt to make two parties friends; reconciliation.

**Ac-ced-ed** ("e" as in *me*), assented; agreed.

**In-ter-ven-ed**, interposed; came between.

**Dip-lo-mat-ic**, pertaining to diplomacy, the art and practice of conducting negotiations between nations.

**Am-bas-sa-dor**, minister sent by one government to another to look after its interests there.

**Kai-ser** (*kiz-zer*, "i" as in *ice*), emperor. (It is derived from the Latin name, *Cæsar*.)

**Neu-tral-i-ty**, state of taking no part on either side.

**Vi-o-lat-ed** ("a" as in *ale*), infringed; transgressed.

**In-ti-mat-ed** ("a" as in *ale*), declared; made known; communicated.

1. It is only fourteen days since a fall in stocks<sup>1</sup> on the Continental bourses indicated the prospect of serious international trouble in Europe; to-day (August the 6th), the five most powerful nations of the world are at war.

2. First, Serbia<sup>2</sup> resisted a humiliating demand made by Austria. Austria declared war, and instantly had her artillery at work. Serbia partially retracted, and asked for mediation. The Vienna press asserted that it would be impossible for Austria to cease action, even if her demands were unconditionally acceded to.

3. Then, Russia intervened, stating that the matter was one for settlement by an agreement of the Powers.<sup>3</sup> Austria ceased diplomatic conversations.



THE RT. HON. HERBERT H. ASQUITH, PRIME MINISTER OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

The British Minister for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey) tried to arrange a conference of ambassadors. Germany held aloof, and it did not take place. Sir Edward, nothing daunted, requested the Kaiser to suggest a form of mediation which would be acceptable to Austria and Germany, but received no reply. Russia began to mobilize her troops; and Germany, in support of her ally, Austria, declared war.



THE RT. HON. SIR EDWARD GREY,  
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS.

the 4th of August, Britain joined Germany and Austria.

1. **Fall in stocks.** When the value of the shares in a company or companies begins to decrease, there is said to be a fall in stocks.

2. **Ser-vi-a**, country south of Austria. Agriculture is the main industry, but mining is extensively carried on. The country is ruled by a king and two houses of parliament. Population (1910), 2,911,701; area, 18,650 square miles. The area of Victoria is 88,600 square miles.

3. **Pow-ers.** The Great Powers of Europe are Britain, Germany, France, Russia, and Austria-Hungary.

4. **Trea-ty of Lon-don.** After the fall of Napoleon, 1815, Belgium and Holland, which had been separate states, were united as the kingdom of the Netherlands. In 1830, hostilities broke out between the two countries. These were brought to an end in 1831, when the Treaty of London, signed by Britain, Prussia, Russia, and Austria, granted Belgium her independence and guaranteed her neutrality. By neutrality is meant the condition of a state or government which refrains from taking part, directly or indirectly, in a war between other powers; and such a guarantee as that given by the Treaty of London implied that the country would not be invaded by any of the Powers that signed the treaty, and that they would not permit others to invade it.

### IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

1. Before the declaration of war against Germany, the Minister for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey) made, in the House of Commons, a memorable speech in explanation of Britain's position. The following are the concluding sentences:—

"I must ask the House to consider what would be our position if France were beaten and made subordinate to Germany, with Belgium, Holland, and Denmark under the same dominating influence. It is said we might stand aside, husband our resources, and intervene at the end to put things right; but, if we run away from our obligations, our honor,

and our interest regarding the Belgian treaty, I doubt whether any material force would be of much value in face of the respect we should have lost among the nations."

2. After the declaration, the Prime Minister (Mr. Asquith) made a statement to the Commons, in which he said:—

"If I were asked what we are fighting for, I would say—first, to fulfil a solemn international obligation, which, if entered into between private persons, would have been an obligation of law and honor which no self-respecting man could repudiate; secondly, we are fighting to vindicate the principle that small nations are not to be crushed in defiance of international good faith at the arbitrary will of a strong, overmastering power. With a full conviction of the obligation which lies upon us to challenge this issue, let us now make sure that all the resources, not only of the United Kingdom, but of our vast Empire, are thrown into the scale."

### \* BRITISH FREEDOM.

**An-tiq-ui-ty**, ancient times; early ages.

**Pomp** show of magnificence.

**Sal-u-ta-ry**, wholesale; beneficial.

**Ar-mor-y**, here, defensive and offensive weapons.

**In-vin-ci-ble**, unconquerable; insuperable.

**Mor-als**, doctrine or practice of the duties of life.

**Ti-tles**, just claims.

**Man-i-fold**, many in number, or various in kind.

It is not to be thought of that the flood

Of British freedom, which, to the open sea

Of the world's praise, from dark antiquity<sup>1</sup>

Hath flowed, "with pomp of waters, unwithstood,"<sup>2</sup>

Roused though it be full often to a mood

Which spurns the check of salutary bands,<sup>3</sup>

That this most famous stream in bogs and sands<sup>4</sup>

Should perish, and to evil and to good

Be lost for ever. In our halls is hung

Armory of the invincible knights<sup>5</sup> of old;

We must be free or die who speak the tongue

That Shakespeare<sup>6</sup> spake, the faith and morals hold

Which Milton<sup>7</sup> held: in every-thing, we are sprung

Of earth's first blood, have titles manifold.<sup>8</sup>

—WILLIAM WORDSWORTH (1770–1850), a famous English poet.

1. **Dark an-tiq-ui-ty.** The epithet *dark* may be applied on account of the unenlightened state of the people in early times; or, more probably, on account of our dim knowledge of those times.

2. **With pomp of waters un-with-stood.** The quotation is from a poem entitled *Civil War*, by Samuel Daniel (1562–1619), an English poet. In Daniel's poem, the reference is to the River Thames.

3. **Spurns the check of sal-u-ta-ry bands.** This is an allusion to the riots and rebellions that have occurred in the course of British history. The "salutary bands" are the laws and customs

4. **Bogs and sands.** If people are careless about their rights and duties—if they fall into apathy, the river of freedom will cease to flow.

5. **Knights**, in feudal times, were men-at-arms, serving on horseback, and admitted to rank after vowing to protect the weak, maintain the right, and lead a stainless life. Now-a-days, a knight is one who is admitted by the king or queen to the order of knighthood, which comes next in rank to that of a baronet.

6. **Shake-speare.** William Shakespeare (1564–1616), greatest of dramatic poets, was born at Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, England.

7. **Mil-ton.** John Milton (1608–1674), a great English poet, was the author of *Paradise Lost*. In addition to poems, he wrote much in prose, and took an active part in public affairs from 1642 to 1658.

8. **Ti-tles man-i-fold.** We have many just claims to have sprung from earth's best blood.

## WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

**Pa-tri-ot-ic** (*pa*, "a" as in *ale*; or *pat*, "a" as in *am*), actuated by love of one's country.

**In-tel-li-gent**, having a clear knowledge about things.

**Loot-ing**, plundering or sacking (a conquered city or the like)

**Tyr-an-ny**, unjust or oppressive government; government without law.

**Sac-ri-fic-ing**, suffering to be lost.

**Dis-ci-pline** (*plin*, "i" as in *ill*), training, whether physical, mental, or moral; drill.

**Ar-ro-gant**, proceeding from undue claims or self-importance; proud; overbearing.

**Pol-i-cy**, settled or definite course or method followed by a government or an individual.

**Re-sist-ance**, act of resisting or of standing against force or pressure; opposition; hindrance.

**Av-e-nue**, passage; way or opening.

**Dom-i-na-tion**, government; overbearing rule.

**U-surp**, take by force and without right.

**Prem-i-er** (*prem-i-er* or *pre-mi-er*), first in position, rank, or importance; principal; leading.

**Su-prem-a-cy**, highest power or authority.

**Ad-min-is-tra-tion**, rule; government; putting laws in force.

**Con-cil-i-a-tor-y**, kind in manner; tending to win good-will.

**Boast-ful-ness**, boasting; self-praise.

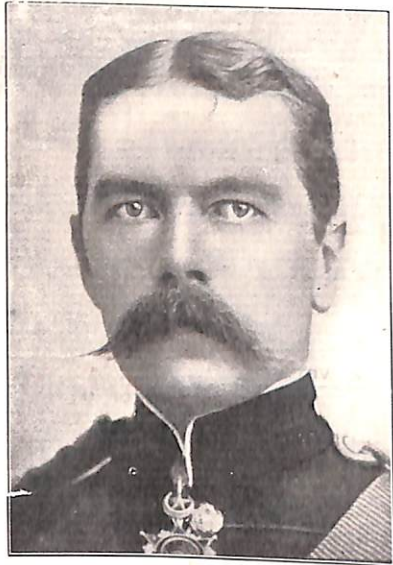
**Cri-sis**, time of difficulty, danger, and suspense.

**Trus-tee**, one who manages anything in trust for another.

**Cow-ard-ice** (*is*, "i" as in *ill*), want of courage to face danger; base fear of danger or hurt.

**Ri-val-ry**, competition; act of becoming, or state of being, a rival.

1. This is a time when our boys would like to be men, and our girls to be women—the boys to fight, and the girls to nurse. Must they stand idly by in this day of trial? By no means. There is not a boy



FIELD-MARSHAL EARL KITCHENER,  
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR.

From his advice to the soldiers of the Expeditionary Force:—"Fear God; honor the King; abstain from liquor and looting; be courteous to women; be sure that your conduct justifies the welcome and trust awaiting you."

or girl in Australia who cannot help in some way. Some will do extra work at home while father or brother is absent with the troops; others will deny themselves pleasures to give their pence to a patriotic fund; some girls will learn first aid and nursing, and others will help to make clothing for the soldiers.

2. At a time like this, too, we must look forward. In a few years, the boys and girls of to-day will be the men and women of Australia. What kind of men will the boys be; what kind of women, the girls? Every boy can redouble his efforts, in school and playground, to become a man who will be a strength and a credit to Australia, and to the race from which he is sprung; every girl can strive her utmost to become a good woman, an intelligent citizen, and a capable home-maker. Without good homes, no nation can be strong; and so the girls can help quite as much as the boys. Every boy and girl, too, should try to understand what we are fighting for in this war.

3. The Briton of to-day is the child of forefathers who fought for centuries against king and noble to win freedom. The passion for

freedom is in his blood, and the very hint of tyranny makes him set his teeth and stiffen his back. His forefathers took part, now and then, in the wars of the Continent; but Britons, from their insular position, were free, for long stretches of time, from the fear of invasion. The Briton was, therefore, able, without sacrificing his country's safety, to keep up the struggle for freedom with his rulers. The German of to-day, on the other hand, is the child of forefathers who were forced by fierce tribes on every side to think more of the safety of the tribe than of their own liberties. Centuries of bitter experience have burned into the soul of the German the fact that he cannot enjoy freedom unless his Government is very strong. To give his rulers this strength, he has learned to give up his own freedom, to submit patiently to stern military discipline, and to make many similar sacrifices for the Fatherland that the Briton need not make for his country. Britons, in short, have been free to grow in freedom, while the Germans' growth has been cramped by the need of being always ready to act as one man against an enemy.

4. This constant thought of war and of instant obedience has fashioned a type of man who has many virtues, but also some grave faults. It has made the Germans an alert, powerful, and able nation, but it has made many of them arrogant, over-ambitious, and too ready to place the claims of their nation above the rights of mankind. Bismarck,<sup>1</sup> their great empire-builder, took little heed of right and justice when they stood in his way. Weak peoples might appeal to treaties and to the law of nations, but the "destinies of Germany were to be worked out by blood and iron."

5. We can now see at what cost Bismarck's policy of "blood and iron" has been carried out. Germany, which had been the home of high thought, advanced science, and great music, became a dreaded menace to the peace of Europe. The people who had won the world's respect by their gallant resistance to Napoleon's<sup>2</sup> tyranny, by their splendid devotion to their universities of learning and schools of music, by their spirited schemes for abolishing poverty, became the most heartily disliked people in Europe.

6. With the healthy ambition of Germany to play a great part in the world, we cannot quarrel. A brave and hardy people, ready to make



THE VETERAN FIELD-MARSHAL EARL ROBERTS, WHO IS ENGAGED IN ORGANIZING A BODY OF IMPERIAL LIGHT HORSE.

great sacrifices for the Fatherland, and growing in numbers at the rate of 2,400 every day, must become one of the world's great powers. With the Germanism of Bismarck, we must quarrel to the end; but, if Germany, as a result of this war, changes her ways, and shows herself worthy of our trust and friendship, she will find that the British people are ready to meet her half-way. When Germany has again made the world love her as she once was loved, a thousand doors that are now grimly shut in her face will again open to her their avenues for peaceful expansion.



From *The Australasian*.]

**ADMIRAL SIR JOHN R. JELlicoe, WHO IS IN COMMAND OF THE BRITISH FLEET.**

7. Meantime, we have to face a people who have broken their word to Belgium,<sup>3</sup> who have asked us to break our word to Belgium, and have insulted us by asking our countenance to a scheme for depriving our friend, France, of her colonies! Our duty is clear; and we are glad and proud that our feelings have found utterance in the words of the British Minister for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey). The Governor of Victoria (Sir Arthur Stanley) summed up the words of Sir Edward when he said:—"What will it profit us to gain the world, if we lose our honor? If we lose our self-respect, we lose all that makes life worth living."

8. We are proud, too, of the words of the British Prime Minister.<sup>4</sup> Statesmen have, too often, believed that, while the private citizen must keep his word, the statesman may be allowed to break the nation's word for the nation's good; but Mr. Asquith holds that the word of the British nation is as sacred as the word of the British citizen. A similar appeal<sup>5</sup> to his countrymen, made by President George Washington has often, since Washington's day, helped to keep Americans in the path of national honor; and we may be



**FIELD-MARSHAL SIR JOHN FRENCH, WHO IS IN COMMAND OF THE BRITISH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**

sure that, long after the present troubles are over, Mr. Asquith's great words will be treasured in the hearts of the British people.

9. Here, then, is the heart of the whole matter. We are fighting not only for our homes and for those who are near and dear to us, but for our ideas of right and wrong, and for our ideas of what a government should be. As a liberty-loving race of British blood, we could not quietly submit to the domination of a Bismarck and his Germans—to their national selfishness, their arrogance and pride. If we were brought under the German yoke, we could no more be content than the Poles of Prussian Poland,<sup>6</sup> the Danes of Schleswig-Holstein,<sup>7</sup> or the French population of Alsace and Lorraine.<sup>8</sup>

10. We believe, too, with all our hearts, that it would be a dark day for the world, were Germany to usurp the position that Britain, the premier power of the world, now maintains.



Photo. by Shier, Melbourne.]

**GENERAL SIR IAN HAMILTON, WHO IS IN COMMAND OF THE HOME ARMY.**



Photo. by Johnstone O'Shannessy, Melbourne.]

**BRIGADIER-GENERAL BRIDGES, WHO IS IN COMMAND OF THE AUSTRALIAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE.**

We honestly consider that the day of German supremacy would be a bad day, not only for small nations like Holland and Belgium, Denmark and Switzerland, but also for the backward nations of the world. If we compare the harsh, masterful German administration in German South-west Africa—the rule that drove the Herreros<sup>9</sup> to rebellion—with the conciliatory British methods employed in Egypt and the Sudan, and in British East Africa, we can realize what the change would mean.

11. We heartily detest anything that smacks of boastfulness about our powers of governing backward nations; but, at the same time, these powers have been given us by God for use, and, at a crisis like this, we do well to consider the result, were our possessions to pass into German hands. Moreover, our rule in countries

like India and Egypt is that of trustees who are anxious to govern in the best interests of the subject peoples. To surrender this fine work to a nation whom we honestly think less fitted for the task would be dastardly cowardice.

12. Waging the war in this spirit, we shall not be easily depressed by reverses, nor lose our heads should success attend our arms; nor will we allow ourselves to be provoked to words or deeds that might, afterwards, sow seeds of bitterness in the hearts of the German people. Let us not forget the great things Germany has done for the world in the past; and let us hope that, in happier days to come, we may be able once more to give her our respect and trust, and work with her in friendly rivalry, in a world that is wide enough for us both.

—WILLIAM GILLIES, M.A., author of *Stories in British History for Young Australians, &c.*

1. **Bis-marck** (1815-98), a practical, farsighted German statesman and shrewd, trusty minister. He fostered in Germany the ideal of a strong, effective man as ruler, and, thinking lightly of constitutions, wished the central power in the hands of a vigorous and patriotic monarch. He welded the petty states of Germany into a strong nation, and played a prominent part in the events leading up to the Franco-Prussian war of 1870.

2. **Na-po-le-on**, who was declared Emperor of the French in 1804, set his ambition on a world-wide empire. In 1806, he invaded Prussia, and overthrew the Prussian armies at Jena and Auerstadt. He united the German states of South Germany in the Confederation of the Rhine, and subjected them to French rule. In 1813, Prussia, hitherto crushed by French exactions, sprang to arms and allied herself with Russia. Napoleon was defeated with great loss at Leipzig and driven out of Germany. Two years afterwards, he was utterly defeated by the Allies at Waterloo.

3. **Bel-gi-um**, country in north-west of Europe, bounded by France, Germany, and Holland. Its neutrality was guaranteed in the Treaty of London, 1831, by Great Britain, Prussia, Austria, and Russia.

4. **British Prime Min-is-ter**, chief minister of the British Government and political adviser of the king. The position has developed with the party system, the Prime Minister being the official head of the party in power.

5. **Ap-peal**. The reference is to Washington's farewell address to the people of United States (1796), in which he said, "Observe good faith and justice towards all nations. I hold the maxim no less applicable to public than to private affairs that honesty is the best policy. Let our engagements be fulfilled with perfect good faith."

6. **Poles of Pruss-i-an Po-land**. Poland was once an independent country, but is now included in the dominions of Russia, Austria, and Germany. In 1772, occurred the First Partition of Poland, at whose expense Austria and Prussia extended their dominions. Russia again interfered in 1793, and, in the Second Partition, joined with Prussia to obtain further territories. *Prussian Poland* is used in the text for the province of Posen.

7. **Danes of Schles-wig-Hol-stein** (*shlaz-vik hol-stin* ("o" as in *old*, "i" as in *ice*). Schleswig-Holstein is now a German province bordering on the North and Baltic Seas, south of Denmark. Originally, it was a Danish state, but a succession dispute having arisen on the extinction of the direct Danish line in 1864, it was taken by Austria and Prussia after a short war. Subsequently, a war broke out between the two, and the whole fell, in 1866, to Prussia.

8. **French pop-u-la-tion of Al-sace and Lor-raine**. Alsace and Lorraine are now German provinces bordering on the north of France. They originally belonged to France, but were ceded to Germany after the Franco-Prussian war in 1870.

9. **Her-re-ros**, a Bantu race inhabiting Damaraland, the northern part of German South-west Africa.

### \* THE KING'S MESSAGE TO THE FLEET.

On the outbreak of the war, His Majesty the King sent the following message to Admiral Sir John Jellicoe, Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleets:—

"At this grave moment in our national history, I send, through you, to the officers and men of the fleets which you command, an assurance of my confidence that they will revive and renew the old glories of the navy, which will prove again a sure shield of Great Britain and of the Empire in the hour of trial."

"Ye Mariners of England" (see p. 128), a poem very appropriate to the present occasion, was written by Campbell not long before the Battle of the Baltic took place (2nd April, 1801).

### WHY THE GERMANS HAD TO ATTACK LIÈGE.

**Oc-curred** happened; come to pass.

**An-tic-i-pat-ed** (second "a" as in *ale*), foresaw; expected; foretold.

**Front-ier** ("o" as in *odd*), boundary line between two countries; border.

**Com-par-a-tive-ly**, measured by comparing with something else.

**Of-fen-sive**, aggressive attitude; opposite of *defensive*.

**Ar-ti-fi-cial**, made by the hands of men.

**Nec-es-sa-ri-ly**, of necessity; because it cannot be avoided.

**In-de-pend-ent**, free; not subject to control by others.

**Pre-cise-ly**, exactly.

**Am-mu-ni-tion**, anything stored to be used in defence, especially powder, balls, &c.

**In-ter-rupt-ion**, break; cessation.

**Cir-cuit**, circle; boundary around anything.

**Im-per-a-tive**, compulsory; unavoidable.

**Im-posed**, put; laid as a duty.

**Cam-paign**, operations of an army during war.

[In an article by Hilaire Belloc, published two years ago in the *London Magazine*, and reprinted by *The Argus* of the 11th of August, 1914, the reasons why a German force would endeavor to enter France through Belgium are set out. Events have occurred just as he anticipated. The following is an adaptation of a portion of the article.]

1. After the great German victories over the French in the war of 1870-71, a new frontier was defined between France and Germany. This frontier the French lost no time in fortifying in such a way that no army could pass without prolonged fighting, heavy losses, and possible defeat, and that with a comparatively small expense of numbers on the French side, leaving the masses of the French forces free to take the offensive.

2. The obstacles thus designed by the French consisted in the great ring-fortress of Belfort at the southern end; then, next in order, the Vosges (*vozh*, "o" in *old*) mountains (difficult country needing little artificial strengthening); then, the great ring-fortress of Épinal; next, the great ring-fortress of Toul; and, finally, at the northern end of the system (which is 150 miles in length), the great ring-fortress of Verdun.

3. This series of obstacles makes it absolutely certain that the Germans, instead of trying to get through them, would try to go round the line. To turn it on the south would mean marching great bodies of men through exceedingly difficult country. Since they could not hope to turn the French line on the south, they must necessarily try to turn it on the north.

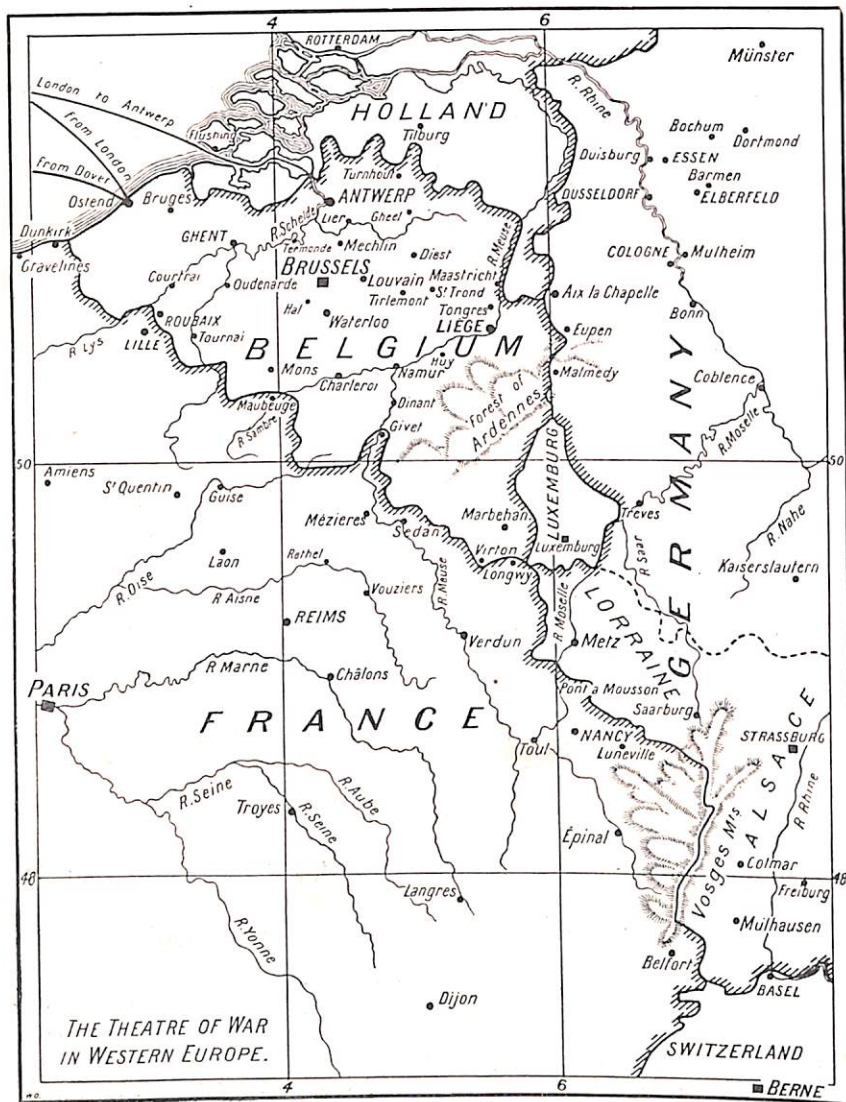
4. Once you are north of Verdun (*ver-dun*, "u" in *up*) and past the end of the line of obstacles that the French have constructed, the little independent country of Luxemburg and the larger independent country of Belgium lie between the French and the Germans.

5. So thoroughly has European opinion taken for granted the certainty that Germany would invade Belgium in case of war, that the taint of Germany through which German armies would have to come has, part of Belgium through which German armies would have to come has, for many years, been fortified in precisely the same way as the French frontier.

6. The German attack would have to be made along the line of the lower Meuse River. You cannot get into Belgium from Germany without crossing that river; and, on it, there stand two first-class fortresses,

which, so far as guns and works go, are as strong as anything in Europe. These two fortresses are Namur and Liège.<sup>1</sup>

7. The Germans could not cross the Meuse to march through Belgium lower down than Liège, neglecting that fortress, because, if they did so,

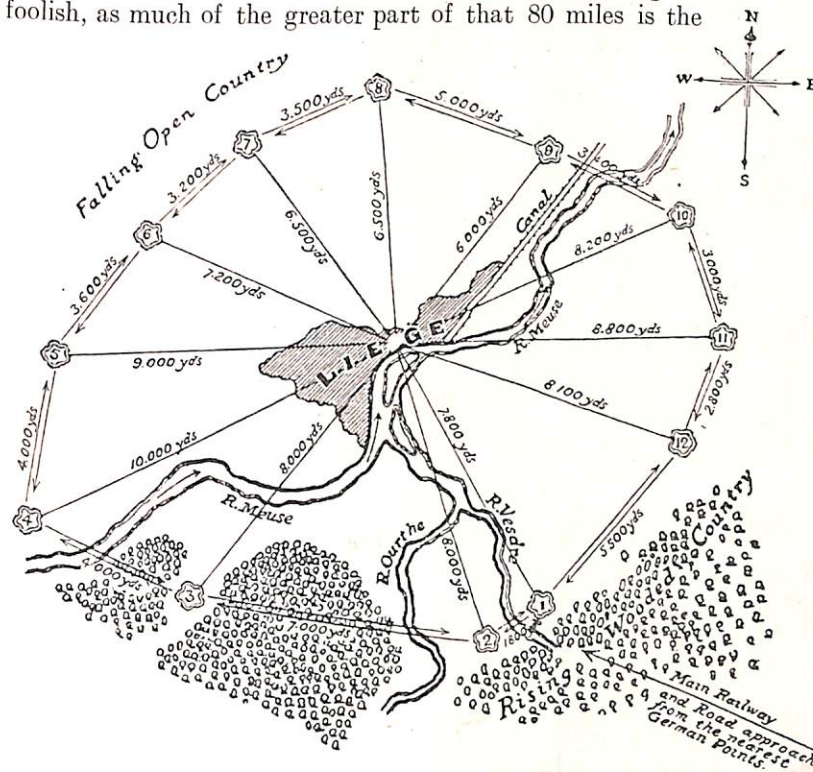


NOTE.—War is also in progress between the Austrians and Serbians along the southern frontier of Austria, and the Russians are attacking the German and Austrian forces along the eastern frontier of Germany.

their line of communications—that is, the food of the army and its ammunition, and everything by which it exists as a fighting force, and

an interruption in the supply of which would mean defeat—would then run between great fortified garrisons, Liège and Antwerp,<sup>2</sup> with a third a little farther on that line of advance, at Namur.

8. Many excellent authorities have suggested that they would attempt to cross the Meuse somewhere well below Namur, and between that town and Verdun. But, in spite of their opinion, it does not seem probable, or even possible, that the Germans would do anything so foolish, as much of the greater part of that 80 miles is the



PLAN OF LIÈGE AND ITS FORTS.

exceedingly difficult country of the Ardennes.<sup>3</sup> The Germans would, and must, try to get across the Meuse at Liège, and, therefore, must take that town in some way, by occupation or by force, so as to render its fortification inoffensive to themselves.

9. It cannot be doubted that, within the first few hours after hostilities had begun, the German troops crossing the frontier in the neighborhood of Aix-la-Chapelle<sup>4</sup> would have come under fire of the easternmost forts which surrounded Liège; and I would add that it cannot be reasonably doubted either that, with the utmost rapidity, the German forces would form a circuit all about that great ring, and attempt to bring about its fall. They would do that long before any French or

British troops could be got upon the scene; and we may take it that a siege of Liège would be the first imperative necessity imposed upon the Germans at the outset of the campaign.

10. To sum up, it seems inevitable that, in the case of hostilities, Liège and the Lower Meuse would be the point of attack; that the old German conception of "rushing" a ring-fortress, even with no stronger resources behind it than those of Belgium, must be abandoned; that a regular siege of Liège would have to be undertaken before a general German advance into Belgium was safe; that the forces required to conduct such an operation would have to be larger in proportion to the opposing forces that might soon be gathered in the Belgian plain; that Britain was peculiarly suited to afford aid at this point, and that an expeditionary force would land upon the stretch of coast between and including Boulogne<sup>5</sup> and Ostend, and would be asked to operate in the flat country, whose limits upon the east run somewhat beyond the line of Namur and Louvain.

1. **Li-ège'** (*le-azh'*, "a" as in *ale*), Belgian city on River Meuse; an important manufacturing center.
2. **Ant-werp**, famous fortified city and naval arsenal of Belgium and center of its foreign trade.
3. **Ar-dennes'** (*ar-den'*), strip of country on the northern frontier of France. Originally, it consisted of a vast forest on both banks of the Meuse. It is still wooded in places, marshy in others, but, for the most part, made up of uncultivated heath and poor pastures.
4. **Aix-la-Cha-pelle'** (*aiks-lah-shah-pel'* or *ase-lah-shah-pel'*), important German city near the border between Germany and Belgium. A treaty concluded here in 1748 terminated the War of the Austrian Succession.
5. **Bou-logne'** (English pronunciation, boo-lon', "o" as in *old*), French seaport on the English Channel, about 23 miles from Dover.

#### \* PATRIOTIC MEETING OF TEACHERS IN MELBOURNE.

The night is full of darkness and doubt;  
The stars are dim, and the hunters  
out;  
The waves begin to wrestle and moan:  
The lion stands by his shore alone,

And sends, to the bounds of earth and sea,  
First low notes of the thunder to be.  
Then, east and west, through the vast-  
ness grim,  
The whelps of the lion answer him.

—R. T. ALEXANDER. These lines were written just before the last war in South Africa (1899–1902), and are applicable to the present crisis.

1. On the 15th of August, at the Melbourne Town Hall, a very large number of State-school teachers assembled, at the invitation of the Minister of Public Instruction (the Hon. T. Livingston), to consider means of providing comforts, special clothing, &c., for the British soldiers at the front during the war in Europe. The proceedings were marked by great enthusiasm.

2. In opening the meeting, Mr. Livingston said that the Empire was in a serious position through the extraordinary action of a foreign power. There had already been many striking manifestations of patriotism on the part of the Australian people; but, now, the time for the mere waving of flags had gone by, and that for action had arrived. In the past, the patriotism of teachers could, he was glad to say, always be depended on, and that patriotism, he felt sure, would be exhibited in the highest degree in the present crisis.

3. Mr. Elmslie, M.L.A. (Leader of the Opposition Party in the State Parliament), said that they must all act together, and act now. The appeal of the Minister of Education would be fully responded to throughout Victoria.

4. The Director of Education (Mr. Frank Tate) said that this was a time for stimulating the desire to make sacrifices for the welfare of the Empire. He hoped that there would be no limitation of benefits to Australian soldiers; yet it would be necessary, also, to consider those who would be thrown out of work because of the war, and to take into account the terrible distress that must inevitably come upon the poor in Belgium, France, and Britain. As teachers, they recognized that there was a "soul of goodness in things evil," and, rightly used, this dreadful war might produce lasting good to Australia in its effect on our national character. Teachers would have a capital opportunity to impress upon children their civic obligations, and to promote a zeal for social service. He trusted that they would do all in their power to steady public opinion, and to see that, neither by word nor action did we, as a community, do anything that would be remembered with bitterness by Germans in the years to come. We were not waging war with the Germany that had done so much for civilization through education, the arts, and the sciences, but against the over-ambitious, arrogant, faithless Germany of the war party; and, even with these, our motto should be—

"To honor, as you strike him down,  
The foe that comes with fearless eyes."

5. Mr. H. Lampe (President of the Teachers' Union) said that this was a struggle upon which the maintenance or fall of our Empire depended. There was no doubt of the loyalty of the teachers of Victoria. What they must practise for themselves, and what they must teach their children, was that patriotism did not consist in mere empty phrases, but in self-denial for the good of one's country.

6. Mr. James Weddell (Ex-President of the Teachers' Union) said that the teachers throughout the State were throwing themselves with enthusiasm into the present movement for the alleviation of suffering and the support of those who were fighting in defence of the Empire. They intended to do something that not only the Department of Education, but also the community as a whole, would be proud of.

7. Miss Van Nooten, and Messrs. George Robinson, Robert Scott (Teachers' Classifier), H. W. Greenwood (Secretary of the St. John Ambulance Association), and Peter McGregor also addressed the meeting.

8. It was unanimously resolved that a patriotic fund be raised in the State schools of Victoria, and that each school form classes for instruction in first-aid and nursing, and sewing classes for making articles of clothing.

Finally, the meeting appointed a strong central committee to give effect to these resolutions.



## YE MARINERS OF ENGLAND.

*cres.*

Ye mar - i - ners of Eng - land, That guard our na - tive

*mp*

seas, Whose flag has braved a thou - sand years The

*f*

bat - tle and the breeze! Your glo - rious stand - ard

*mp*

launch a - gain To match a - noth - er foe! And

*f*

sweep through the deep, And sweep through the deep, And

*p*

sweep through the deep, While the storm - y tem - pests

*mp* *f*

blow, ..... While the stormy tem - pests blow; ..... While the

bat - tle rag - es loud and long, And the stormy tem - pests blow.

The spirits of your fathers  
Shall start from ev'ry wave!  
For the deck it was their field of fame,  
And ocean was their grave.  
Where Blake and mighty Nelson fell,  
Your manly hearts shall glow,  
As ye sweep through the deep  
While the stormy tempests blow, &c.

The meteor flag of England  
Shall yet terrify burn;  
Till danger's troubled night depart,  
And the star of peace return.  
Then, then, ye ocean warriors!  
Our song and feast shall flow,  
To the fame of your name,  
When the storm has ceased to blow, &c.