

FORTY DAYS IN 1914

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649167135

Forty days in 1914 by Sir F. Maurice

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.

Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

SIR F. MAURICE

**FORTY
DAYS IN 1914**

FORTY DAYS IN 1914

4Mod.
M4544f

FORTY DAYS IN 1914

BY
MAJOR-GENERAL SIR F. MAURICE
K.C.M.G., C.B.

WITH FOUR MAPS

154686
1/4/20

LONDON
CONSTABLE AND COMPANY LTD
1919



PREFACE

THIS little book owes its origin to curiosity. I wanted to see if it was possible to discover what the Germans were planning and doing during the retreat from Mons. I found that by piecing together evidence obtainable from the accounts of the early parts of the war published in Germany, in neutral countries, in France, and by Belgian authorities, as well as from the reports of the very full investigations which have been conducted into the German atrocities, in Northern France and in Belgium, it was possible to work out the movements of the German armies, and from these to deduce the German plans. The information obtained in this way threw what has been to me an entirely new light upon the campaign, and made clear what had previously been dark.

Much of what I have written about the Germans is necessarily conjectural, and therefore I make no claim to be writing history. But I believe that the positions I have ascribed to the German forces at

Forty Days in 1914

various dates are in the main accurate, and I must leave my readers to judge of the deductions which I have drawn from those movements.

I have found that the accounts published in Allied and neutral countries, owing to lack of information, do but scant justice to the part played by our original Expeditionary Force. Even such an authority as M. Hanotaux, in his excellent little book, *L'Énigme de Charleroi*, makes the fighting at Mons begin only at 3 o'clock in the afternoon on August 23, and says that such fighting as did take place was done by our First Corps, which was hardly engaged at all. I hope that what I have written here may at least have the effect of making clearer the influence which our operations had on the campaign as a whole.

For my account of the operations of the French Armies I am indebted chiefly to "Quatre Mois de Guerre," published in the official French *Bulletin des armées* for December 1914, to M. Hanotaux's *Histoire illustrée de la guerre*, and to his *L'Énigme de Charleroi*. My account of the operations of the Belgian Army is drawn from *L'Action de l'armée belge*, the official report of the Belgian General Staff, and from *The Invasion and the War in Belgium*, by Professor Leon van der Essen. To all of these I owe much valuable information as to the movements of the German armies. I have also to

Preface

express my indebtedness to my brother-in-law, Captain C. T. Atkinson, who has kindly read the proofs and made many valuable suggestions.

I have in my last chapter endeavoured to explain the strong and weak points in the German system of conducting war, and what we may learn from it to our advantage.

I must apologise for the fact that it has been necessary to limit the number of maps, and therefore I have to ask my readers in following the operations occasionally to refer both to the general map and to the maps of the battlefields.

F. MAURICE.

November 1918.

