

I have recently returned from a visit to the British Troops in Iceland and I feel sure you will be interested in a film showing their numerous activities in that distant land. Immediately after the German invasion of Denmark and Norway, Iceland was occupied by British Troops to safeguard the independence of the inhabitants and to ensure that the island was not used as a base for enemy activities.

Iceland, with a population of 117,000, is larger than Ireland and has a coastline of about 1,500 miles. It is situated in the North Atlantic about 500 miles North West of the Shetlands and 250 miles South East of Greenland, which, incidentally, was first visited by the Icelanders in the 10th century.

Iceland comprises an area of over 40,000 square miles but only 7,000 square miles is habitable. The interior is filled with snow capped mountains, extinct or seldom active volcanoes, lava fields and glaciers. The hot springs or geysers are used locally for heating and there is a project on foot to use hot geyser water for the central heating of the city of REYKJAVIK, the capital of the island.

The principal occupation of the people are fishing and cattle and sheep breeding. The main exports are salt fish, butter and herring oil, mutton and wool.

There is no railway in the whole island and all transport was formerly done by pack ponies but motors are now rapidly replacing them.

As the film unfolds you will observe something of the scenery, its snow capped mountains, lava fields, glaciers and geysers and also its complete lack of timber. You may perhaps recognise relations or friends amongst those who are building camps, unloading stores or carrying out Military Training.

The British soldier with his world renowned fighting qualities is often our best diplomat. His arrival in Iceland has brought new interest into the lives of the Icelandic people, a friendly and hospitable folk.

*[Handwritten signature]*

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