

Chesca Lord

4th October 1916

To: Mr. D. Lloyd-George

**A report to the
Prime Minister
David Lloyd
George on the
progress of the
war so far.**

Miss Chesca Lord

1. Background

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The war has been raging in Europe since August 1914. At that time we thought the war would be over by the end of the year but our men are still out there in the trenches, the air and the seas. The casualties are high but we are determined to carry on for as long as is necessary until we secure a victory over Germany.

2. How well we are doing?

2.1 The Western Front

Since the failure of the Schlieffen Plan in 1914, fighting on the western front has been a stalemate within the trenches. Many technological and warfare breakthroughs have been made including gas and the tanks being put into action for the first time. The tanks were not as successful as expected but as I will later mention in section 5.1 a new design is being worked on as we speak.

There have been several important battles on the western front so far;

2.1.1 The Battle of the Marne

A great success on our part in September 1914, which prevented to German capture of Paris and forced them to retreat north.

2.1.2 The Battle of Ypres

The Battle of Ypres in April 1915 saw gas being used for the first time. The Germans released about 152 tonnes of chlorine gas into the air and let it drift over onto our trenches. This gas attack caused panic, chaos, injuries and the deaths of thousands of our soldiers.

2.1.3 The Battle of Verdun

In February 1916 the Germans blasted 23 million shells into the forts of Verdun in a costly battle for the French and Germans, which killed 315,000 French, 282,000 Germans and destroyed the whole city of Verdun.



2.1.4 The Battle of the Somme

The battle of the Somme directly followed Verdun as an attack on the Germans by us at the time when they were bombarding the forts of Verdun. However, this battle was not a success, the Germans, we suspect had been expecting this attack for a while and had strengthened their defences considerably and even after the five-day bombardment of the German trenches when hundreds of thousands of men were sent over the top by

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Field Marshal Haig, 20,000 men never returned on only the first day and by the end we and the French had together lost 620,000 men, advancing only 15km.

2.2 Naval advances

2.2.1 Gallipoli

The Gallipoli campaign would have been an excellent opportunity to open up a supply route to Russia through the Black Sea. We had intended to bombard the Turkish forts at Gallipoli and then travel up the Dardanelles straight to the Turkish capital of Constantinople. However, we had underestimated the strength of the Turkish forts, resulting in British defeat.

2.2.2 Jutland

Despite coming out of this battle losing fourteen ships and 6,000 sailors, considerably more than Germany's loss of 2,500 sailors and thirteen ships, we ended up at an advantage over the Germans. Their fleets have not ventured out of Wilhelmshaven and we have control over the seas and an effective blockade.

3. How well our allies are doing

3.1 France

The French are standing their ground in a powerful defence effort on the Western front. As seen at the battle of Verdun, at which the Germans threw everything they had at the French, they did not back down and surrender.

3.2 Russia

We have worked well in coordinating our battles with the Russians; the Battle of the Marne and the first Russian offensive were at the same time, as was the Brusilov offensive and Verdun. Russia is a very important ally to us as having an alliance on the Eastern front eases the pressure of the German forces, they are split on both sides of Germany and so cannot be their strongest possible offensive force.

However, whilst the Russians are keeping the German army split, it is still quite powerful and Russia's troops, led by Grand Duke Nicholas are short on supplies and have poor communications. The Russians are building their forces and equipment with help from us and the French and will soon have a much stronger army.

4. How much longer the war will last

It is difficult to judge exactly how much longer the war will go on for but I predict that with our new technological advances, new tactics and help from other countries, it should be over in under a year. I will go on to talk about how the war will come to an end soon with us as the victors.

5. How we may achieve a swift victory

5.1 German morale

Our naval blockade over the German ports is proving to be a great success. Supplies of food and ammunition are unable to be brought into Germany and they are having to ration the food to the German citizens. We predict that the citizens of Germany will soon become aware of the problems and will not be as supportive towards their country.

Meanwhile, we must ensure that this loss of civilian support does not affect Britain and that we keep imported supplies coming in.

5.2 New weaponry and war technology

5.2.1 New Tank Designs

Tanks were first brought into use after the battle of the Somme but we did not have enough tanks to create a significant enough effect. The tank itself is a great idea, it can plough through the thick mounds of barbed wire and the infantry can follow behind to attack the German Trenches. However, the conditions inside the tanks are poor and a new super tank is being worked on at the moment, which should be coming into use late next year.

5.2.2 Aeroplanes

Aeroplanes in the war were originally used for simple yet vitally important reconnaissance, giving us detailed information about the enemy trenches. However, as technology has developed many new and improved aircrafts have been designed and put into use. Planes now can drop bombs and fire guns, and are a vital part of warfare. Our latest planes this year are the Sopwith Pup with one gun, and the RE8 with two guns built in.



5.2.3 Gas

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Although gas will probably not be the breakthrough to win the war, it is a way in which we could kill or injure many German soldiers to reduce the power of their forces. Gas has been in use since the battle of Ypres in 1915 and since then, we have been developing new and more effective ways of firing, different gases to use and better, more comfortable gas masks.

5.3 More Supplies and Soldiers

With women now doing the majority of work in Britain, we can still have the country running smoothly whilst the men are at war. We still have a steady rate of recruitments although I think, together with all of the Generals in the war that there should be a tightening of the laws towards conscientious objectors, we need more men in order to get that extra force behind us to drive forward and win the war.

5.4 New Alliances

5.4.1 U.S.A

The Germans have been sinking American supply ships so we believe that it is only a matter of time before they turn against Germany. With the support of the U.S.A., our army would be much stronger and we could break through the Germans to achieve victory.

5.4.2 Italy

Italy is already at war with Germany but for the purposes of gaining Austrian land. They have made little progress so far but when we join forces, we will have an even stronger army.

6. Conclusion

Overall, as you will have realised by reading this report we are not doing that well in the war, all of the break-throughs we have attempted to make have not come out as successes.

However, if we were that bad, the Germans would have won, only they too have not had any successful break-throughs and we have not let down our defences and have no intention of doing so either. We will fight to the end!