

New Commander Appointed to Resolve Stalemate

A new commander of the British Forces was appointed yesterday, mainly to help deal with the current stalemate on the Western Front. Field Marshal Haig was appointed for the job, mainly due to his expertise in commanding British forces during the Boer War 15 years ago. Haig, who has had a long and successful career, hopes to defeat the Germans using new tactics and ideas gained when he fought on the dry South African plains in 1900. The new commander commented 'the way to capture machine guns is by grit and determination'.

However, these ideas are as yet untried, and he faces difficulty in capturing the guns which have been so successful for both sides throughout the war.

Haig has set out plans for an elaborate training system, whereby a number of divisions should be placed sufficiently behind the line to allow them ground and the opportunities for gaining experience. Field Marshal Haig has also stated that it is 'not possible to compare a national army created during the course of the war with one which has been long established in times of peace'.

Haig also believes that so far 'the Germans have throughout the war maintained a greater density opposite the British lines than they have elsewhere'.

New German Gas Breakthrough

Late on Sunday, a new type of gas was released, thought to have been produced and engineered by the new German scientific unit, known as Pioneer Regiment No.36. The gas, known as phosgene, has been diagnosed as a more powerful and suffocating one than the chlorine that it is added to.

The use of this gas has caused another outcry, as this clearly breaks once again the 1907 Hague Convention on weapons which cause unnecessary suffering. The effects have been described as horrific, with '...blood...gargling from the froth-corrupted lungs'.

As we speak, a new type of gas mask is being developed, which will hopefully replace the 'P' helmet introduced in July this year. The first ever helmet, used first in May, was the pad respirator, which was cotton waste soaked in a cotton solution. The current model is soaked in sodium phenate, which is a full face mask.

Gas has now been developed as a major weapon, which has been used by the Allies since September, this year.

New Leader Places Military Aircraft Order

The importance of aircraft for reconnaissance purposes in modern warfare was underlined by the unveiling of new plans by the newly appointed Field Marshal Haig. He plans to introduce more planes for reconnaissance and spying, to help British intelligence. After the success in pin-pointing a gap in the German lines in mid-September 1914 using tactics engineered by Mr. ██████ of the ██████, the few aircraft available are currently used to their full extent. But if we want to win this war, then we need more of this sort of vital information updated every day. As we speak, new, faster and more efficient and controllable models are being designed, and at least 20 new 'spy-planes' will be ready in about a year's time.

Government Release New Report of Evil Germans in Killing Frenzy in Belgium

A report issued by the government tells of the atrocious and inhuman way that German troops invaded and massacred Belgians, leaving behind them a trail of panic and destruction.

The report tells of how, in the first few months of the war, German mercilessly shot, knifed and tortured innocent civilians on their way to capture Paris. One account speaks of how a soldier 'drove his bayonet into a small child's stomach, and lifted the child into the air on his bayonet. He then joined his comrades in singing and celebrating, the dead child held triumphantly above his head'.

It has also been discovered that a secret German factory has been collecting human corpses from the battlefield, and melting down the fats to produce soap and candles.

Airships Claim Hundreds of Lives in East Anglia

Yesterday evening great airships, some said to be over 350 feet in length, went on a bombing spree in and around the city of Norwich. Bombs of up to 25 tons were dropped, killing and injuring many hundreds of people. 78 people are reported to be dead so far, but the number of casualties is thought to be well over 200.

Mrs. Smith, a resident of Norwich, described the ordeal: 'The whole street seemed to explode.

There was smoke and flames all over, but the worst of it was the screams and shouts of the dying and wounded, and the mothers looking frantically for their kids'.

The three huge airships causing the destruction were eventually brought down by anti-aircraft fire.

Anger of new DORA clamp down

New measures have been introduced by the Defence of the Realm Act, also known as DORA. These new rules apply mainly to pub regulars, who will be restricted in many areas. Many people have called these new measures 'stupid and unnecessary'. These rules state that pubs are: to cut down on opening hours; to water the beer down considerably; and to ban customers from buying rounds of drinks.

These rules are meant to be for the benefit of British citizens, but it seems that from the public uproar, this is apparently not so.

Women at Work!

Significant steps have been made towards the reality of having women at work. Trade Unions and the Government met yesterday, and reached an agreement. This means that women will be able to work in factories and in other jobs helping with the war effort, including munitions factories, and to be treated equally as males. However, these jobs are only temporary, and only 'for the duration of the war, or till sufficient male labour should again be available'. David Lloyd George, and Mrs Pankhurst, leaders of the march earlier this year, are 'extremely happy with the decision.'

This means that, for the first time, the government has accepted that women can help us in the war effort.

Now having women at work seems a reality, as factories are to be set up by the government where there are to be no male employers or workers. This means that women will no longer be prejudiced by men who are opposed to them taking male places at the workplace. Women will also be paid the same as males, despite these being only temporary jobs.

This move will, however, still be opposed by many, as it was earlier on this year. The consequences of that decision was widespread opposition by males in the workplace, which led to strikes and refusal to work with or to train women.

This decision has come about after many people were proved wrong in their belief that women could only do light indoor work, often not requiring much strength or skill. It has been seen that women learn quicker than men, and often perform better than men in the same job. This is true, despite the more difficult conditions that these women face than they had been for men before the War.

The Lads See Hope Despite Torrential Rain

It has been widely reported that foul weather has been heavily hampering the process of the British soldiers, and many deaths are now known to be the direct fault of the awful weather.

The living conditions of our men in the trenches have also been widely disapproved of, with hints of disease and death being the consequences. According to reports, the non-stop rain between 25 October 1914 and 10 March of this year has left trenches like mud-pits, with many soldiers hampered, and some drowning.

Soldiers cannot joke about the 40,000 cases of trench foot recorded so far, nor about the multitude of rats, fleas, blood and rotting corpses. One soldier described how 'a human arm stuck out of the side of the trench: everybody who passed it solemnly shook it by the hand'.

Poet soldier Michael Riley describes the appalling conditions:

*I've a little wet home in a trench,
Where the rainstorms continually drench,
There's the sky overhead,
Clay or mud for a bed,
And a stone that we use for a bench.*

SHOOTING HOMING PIGEONS

Killing, Wounding or Molesting Homing Pigeons is punishable under the Defence of the Realm Regulations 21A by six months imprisonment or a £100 fine.

The Public are reminded that Homing Pigeons are doing valuable work for the Government, and are requested to assist in the suppression of the shooting of these birds.

A £5 reward will be paid by the NATIONAL HOMING UNION for information leading to the conviction of any person SHOOTING HOMING PIGEONS belonging to its Members.

Information should be given to the Police, Military Post, or to the Secretary of the Union, C.C.PLACKETT, 14, EAST PARADE, LEEDS.