

THE MENACE OF THE AIR

Recent Air Manoeuvres Proved That Enemy Attack Could Destroy Principal British Cities

DEFENCES INADEQUATE

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Last month great manoeuvres were carried out by the Royal Air Force. They were the first large scale manoeuvres in the air that have been attempted in the history of flying. The idea of the manoeuvres was that Britain was fighting a Continental Power, and heavy air attacks on London had decided the Government to move the capital to Manchester.

The attacking forces had to continue their air attacks so that the evacuation would be impeded. These manoeuvres, carried out with great efficiency by the airmen concerned and with remarkably few failures of engines, showed once more the extreme difficulty of defence against well organized air attacks.

Great Britain is no longer an island. Man's conquest of the air, though it will ultimately bring great benefits to humanity, has removed our great barrier of the narrow seas. So long as the British Navy was efficient and powerful we could defend our country against invasion. Now we are in the same boat with the other Continental Powers. True, we are not open to attack by invading armies, but a more terrible form of attack from the air can be made upon us.

Since the end of the Great War, great advances have been made in the technique of flying. Aeroplanes are more reliable, they can fly higher and farther, and at greater speeds. And the machines have been enormously improved.

The Americans have carried out experiments with an aeroplane bomb weighing 4,000 pounds. In its explosion it displaces 1,000 cubic yards of hard sand. Such a bomb dropped in Princes Street, Edinburgh, or in Piccadilly, London, would wipe out the whole street.

Marshal Foch, that great master of modern warfare, writing three years ago, used these words:—
"The potentialities of aircraft attack on a large scale are almost incalculable, but it is clear that such an attack, owing to its crushing moral effect on a nation, may impress public opinion to a point of disarming the Government, and thus become decisive."

What Marshal Foch means, is that sustained air attacks will, in the first place, inflict great damage on crowded cities by blowing up buildings, starting numerous fires and, worst of all, by dropping bombs loaded with poison gases.

Another method of gas attack from the air is by carrying the gas in cylinders in the form of a liquid to be discharged in a fine spray into the air and forming a poisonous vapour. Experiments have been successfully carried out and this is a perfectly feasible method of attack.

It would be a big task to serve out gas masks of the whole population of our country; and, even if it were possible there are at least two poisonous gases known to science which are able to penetrate any gas masks yet invented.

Some relief would be found by taking refuge in underground tunnels, cellars, vaults, etc., but the whole population could not live there day and night and carry on its war-work as well.

Furthermore, if the attacks are concentrated on the railway centres the whole transport of a country could be disorganized. Such pressure, therefore, could be brought to bear as to subdue a population by continuous air attack as the Field-Marshal foretells.

Now let us consider the strength of the three leading Air Forces in the world.

France maintains on a war footing 1,400 fighting aeroplanes, and she has nearly 4,000 reserve aeroplanes. She has pilots, mechanics, and the other personnel required for this huge force.

Italy has 700 aeroplanes and 600 in reserve, and she is adding enormously to her Air Force.

Britain has 650 aeroplanes in the regular Air Force, and 350 reserves. But of our regular Air Force some of the squadrons have to be maintained in Mesopotamia, others are in India, Egypt, China, or earmarked for service with the Navy. The Russians are building up a formidable air fleet; and although Germany is forbidden to have fighting aeroplanes under the Peace Treaty she has a very large civil Air Force, and passenger aeroplanes can be converted to bombers in a few hours. Japan and America are both devoting great attention to their air services.

Now as to the defence against aeroplanes. The fact of the matter is that there is no defence except counter-attack. All we can do is to carry out reprisals against an enemy. In fact our official policy, decided on by successive British Governments, is to provide a Home Defence Force in the air of such strength that no Continental Power will venture to attack us, the reason being that we could hit back in the same way, or harder.

This will be poor consolation for the inhabitants of our cities. And it must be remembered that cities as far north as Glasgow and as far west as Cardiff, as well as London, will bear the burnt of air attacks in the event of war with a Continental Power.

To show the difficulty of defence I will give some figures of the last great air attack on London in the war. This was at Whitman, 1918.

Only 33 German aeroplanes took part in the attack. The defence consisted of 800 anti-aircraft guns, placed around London, aided by 400 searchlights. In addition there were 100 British fighting aeroplanes which took the air in a very gallant manner and attacked the enemy in the darkness wherever they could find him. We had moored balloons, carrying nets or "aprons" of piano wire, in certain areas. The raid was the most damaging we experienced during the war, but only six of the 33 attacking aeroplanes were brought down. Three were shot down by the British aircraft and three by the anti-aircraft guns.

At the end of the raid most of the anti-aircraft guns were red hot and had fired off nearly all their ammunition, and the defending aeroplanes had nearly all used up their petrol. If the enemy had had another twenty or thirty aeroplanes to follow up with, far more damage would have been done.

Yet if we should have to face the tragedy of another war on the large scale in which we could be attacked from the Continent, the attacking aircraft would not come in scores; they would come in hundreds.

It is difficult to exaggerate the seriousness of the position, and all the countries of Europe are in a similar difficulty.

During the Geneva Naval Conference we heard a great deal of our dependence on overseas supplies and the need of more warships. We could fill the English Channel and the North Sea with cruisers, and they would be as useless as barrels of butter so far as protecting the country against air attack was concerned. If we were completely blockaded by sea, we could be starved out in seven weeks. But if we were attacked by a strong nation on the Continent, we should be bombed out in seven days. It would, in fact, be a competition in frightfulness between the enemy and ourselves.

Yet we spend over \$50,000,000 on the Navy and only \$15,000,000 on the Air Force. The Army costs us over \$50,000,000 a year. The first necessity here is for a Ministry of Defence, which will allocate the available money to meet the greatest necessities of defence.

But something more is required. Many disarmament conferences have been held since the war, but they have resulted in very little. The reason is that every nation insists on providing what it considers necessary defence forces so long as war is looked upon as a possibility.

The only real way to solve the matter is to outlaw war, just as we have outlawed the duel, feudal armies, and slavery.

I believe the civilized peoples are prepared to take this step. When that step is taken we shall lose the habit of war and the fear of war, and the question of armaments will solve itself.

Some relief would be found by taking refuge in underground tunnels, cellars, vaults, etc., but the whole population could not live there day and night and carry on its war-work as well.

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Air Tragedy Strikes Home



Young Terence Carries On.

Captain Terence B. Tully piloted the plane "Sir John Carling" into that mysterious mid-Atlantic region which holds the fate of a mounting list of missing flyers, and left "Young Terence," nine years old, to look after his mother and his younger brother. "Love to you and the boys" was the last message Mrs. Tully received from the father, husband and daring air pilot. Young Terence is shown in the picture above, beside that of his father.

Prince George Favors Rajah by Cello Solo

London.—Prince George has earned a name as an "entertainer." It was at one of the "Do-Something" parties popularized by Mrs. Vernon Lewis, a New York hostess, in the hotel suite of the Maharajah of Rajppla.

After dinner the Maharajah announced that, instead of the usual musical entertainment before the dancing began, every one of his guests would have to contribute something toward the fete. The King's third son borrowed a cello and played a solo, then changed to a clarinet and did the same.

TYPHOON IN JAPAN KILLS 1,000—DAMAGE HEAVY

Storm and Tidal Wave Caused by Submarine Earthquake Cause Havoc in Devastated Region

WORLD TOUR OFF

Mexico also Hard Hit by Similar Storm at Same Time

Tokyo.—One of the typhoons that sweep through these eastern seas periodically, combined with a tidal wave thrown up by an earthquake under the ocean, served to lay waste several towns and damage others on the island of Kiu-shu, of which Nagasaki is the chief city.

The stricken district is almost completely isolated, but the meagre reports received indicate that over 1,000 have been killed, many more are missing, thousands are injured and the damage will run into the millions of dollars. An official report from the Kumamoto prefecture places the death toll at 1,000, and 780 homes washed away.

RICH REGION.

The region devastated by the typhoon and tidal wave combined was

rich in population, of which the city of Kumamoto was a centre with a population estimated at 75,000. Nagasaki's population of 110,000 includes a large number of foreigners. Before communications failed from Nagasaki many houses were reported to have collapsed and the streets were strewn with telegraph and telephone wires and toppled poles. Train service was stopped.

The storm, described as one of the worst hurricanes in the history of West Mexico, headed up the coast from the Gulf of Tehuantepec, Oaxaca, and swept northward as far as Guaymas, Sonora, within 300 miles of the United States border. Territory several hundred miles inland was reported affected.

According to the Literary Digest, worms are drawn to the surface only by musical sounds which annoy them. This is passed on as a suggestion to the early birds.—El Paso Times.

Meagre reports to the Nogales Herald over badly crippled communication lines said the death toll might reach into hundreds, while other hundreds, perhaps thousands, were left homeless, and shipping suffered severely.

Three of Mexico's greatest seaports—Guaymas, Salina Cruz and Mazatlan—are reported to have suffered heavy property loss, while two vessels of the National Line, the Jalisco and the Navajon, are missing. Mazatlan, fourth important west coast port, also felt the lash of the storm, but not so severely as the other towns.

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Polo Cup Remains in United States

Great Britain's Team Lost Second Match and Series at Meadowbrook

Westbury, N.Y., Sept. 14.—The United States "big four" again reigned supreme in the world of polo, but only after the most spirited challenge they have ever had.

In a close and fiercely fought battle this afternoon on the green turf of the Meadowbrook Club the United States' four horsemen checked Great Britain's thrilling comeback to win the second and deciding match of the International Cup series by a score of 8 to 5.

The margin of triumph was gained in the first period when the brilliant young United States forward, Tommy Hitchcock, scored three sensational goals in succession, but it took all of the defensive skill of the Yankees to hold this margin against the spirited attack of the reorganized British team.

Throughout the last seven periods the Britons, immeasurably strengthened by the addition of the hard-riding Captains George and Denning to the forward line, fought the Americans to a standstill in a battle that contrasted sharply with their route in the opening game last Saturday.

HITCHCOCK LEADING SCORER.

Hitchcock, as he was in the first game, scintillated in the attack, scoring five goals altogether, but except for his flashing sprint in the opening period, Tommy rose to his customary heights only at intervals thereafter. His work in the first six minutes of the game, however, was enough to decide the battle. Two of his three goals in that chucker were tallied in less than a minute of actual play.

Three years ago the same combination swamped the British 16 to 5 and 14 to 5, while they had a 10-goal margin last Saturday.

Tropical Rains Halt Harvesting

Severe Electrical Storm Sweeps Over Winnipeg—Nobody Hurt

Winnipeg.—Harvesting operations in several western districts, particularly in Manitoba were halted following heavy rain storms over the week end.

After a day of stifling heat, with the mercury climbing well above the 80 mark, Winnipeg and district experienced one of the worst electrical storms of the season, accompanied by a torrential downpour. A heavy wind preceded the rain, but no reports of damage have been received.

Rural districts reported heavy rain and wind, but no crop damage was reported.

Heavy rainfall was fairly general over the Saskatchewan district. Threshing will be probably delayed in parts of that province.

Believed a storm casualty, the body of William Bohn, aged 21, was found lying on the road near Broadview, Sask. It is thought he was struck by lightning.

LUNATIC GIVES CRACOW A NIGHT OF TERROR

Warsaw, Poland.—The city of Cracow lived through a night of terror. For twelve hours it was in danger every moment of being blown up by an insane man. A gunner named Korcia who had run amuck in Fort Grzymalow threatened to set off the enormous quantity of explosives stored there.

The lunatic, who had been left alone at the post, communicated his intention to the commander in a letter demanding that the President of the Republic and Premier Pilsudski come to Cracow and ask him for the keys to the fortress. All night the demented man ran around the buildings with a lighted torch, threatening to throw it into the powder towers.

Officers sent by the commander finally succeeded, after parleys lasting many hours, in persuading the maniac to surrender by showing him a false telegram announcing that his request had been granted by the President and the Prime Minister. As soon as he opened the door, soldiers overpowered him and transported him to an insane asylum.

Duchess of York to Go on Air; King May Address the Empire

London.—The King's daughter-in-law, the Duchess of York, will make her first essay in broadcasting Sept. 21. It is probable that the King himself, before the end of the year, will attempt the experiment of speaking by wireless to his 450,000,000 subjects throughout the world.

The Duchess will speak into the microphone on the occasion of the presentation of the freedom of the city to her at Glasgow.

Before the King is invited to address by wireless the whole population of the British Empire, however, there are many difficulties of transmission to be overcome. Further experiments will be attempted in October and upon the results will depend the opening of an Empire service.

FARMERS PROVE TO BE GOOD JUDGES
Left to Right—Mary Anderson, Peel County; Wilma Beucher, Peel County; Evelyn Young, Cheltenham; Alice Bacon, Claremont; Ida Galbraith, Glen Valley, who proved their ability as prize stock judges at the C.N.E.