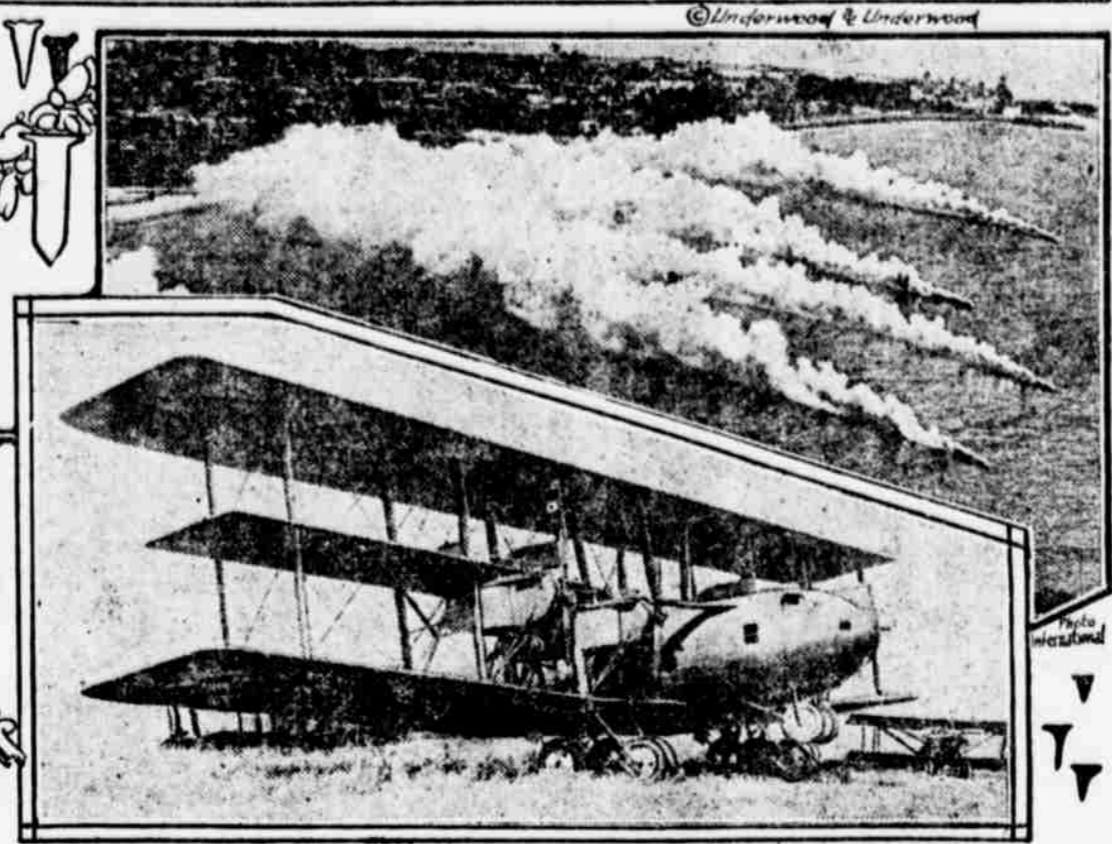
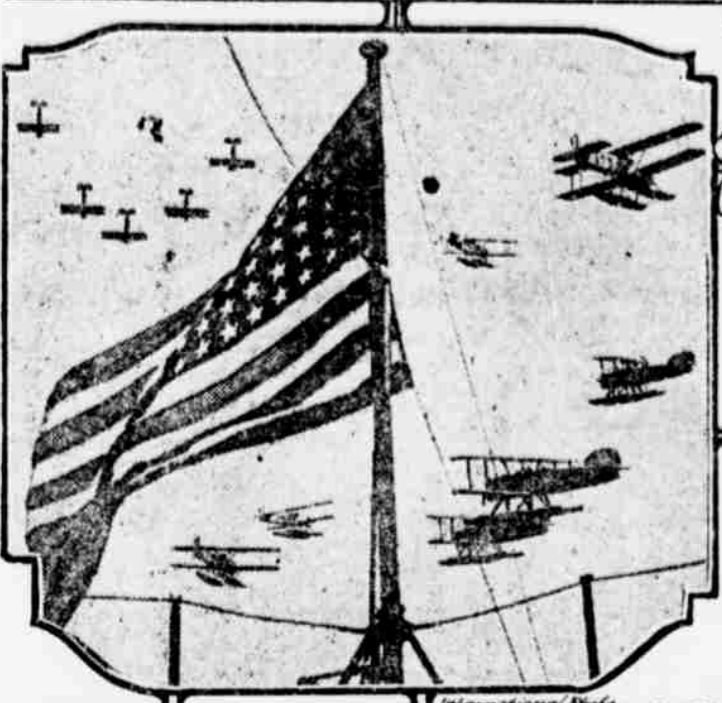
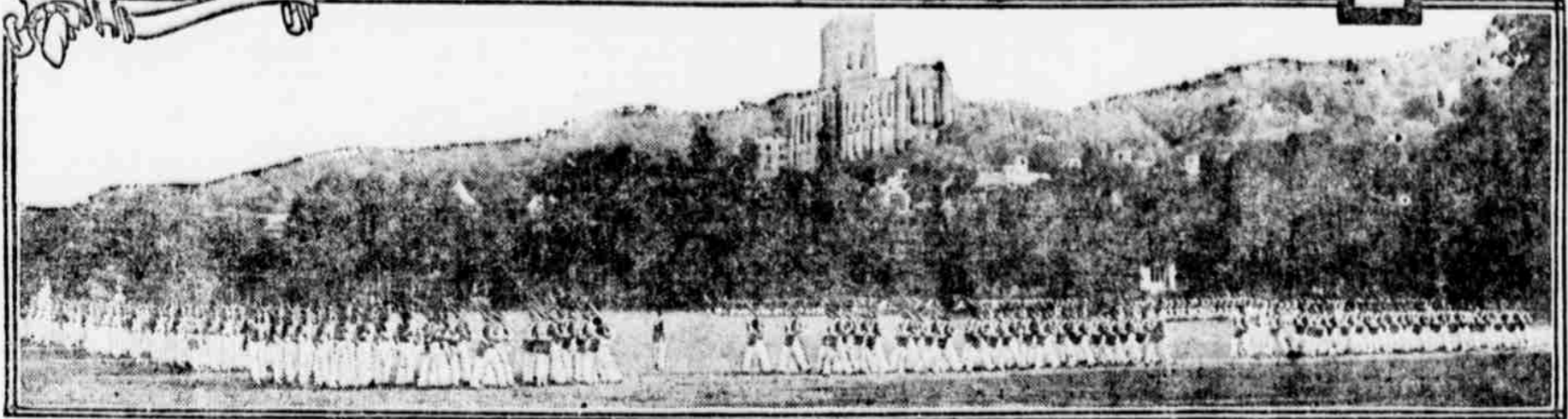


War As It Will Be Fought



CHEMISTRY TO MAKE IT BLOODLESS BUT EVEN MORE AWFUL.

War is a serious problem and the next war will be the most serious of all problems. Battlefields will become bloodless and the agony of muscles will be replaced by the agony of mind.—Col. J. F. C. Fuller, in "The Reformation of War."

By JOHN DICKINSON SHERMAN

IT IS to be assumed that nobody now wants another world war. But the possibility and the dread of it are ever with us. Professional soldiers are studying the last one in search of guidance for the next one. The United States War department is preparing a comprehensive plan for the industrial mobilization of the nation in case of war. Nations are experimenting openly with airplanes and bombs and, doubtless, in secret with gas. The presses are kept busy printing books on the "next world war."

Abroad nations seem to be running a race in developing the airplane as the coming weapon of war. The United States seems to be lagging behind in this development to such an extent that the American Legion has proposed to ask President Coolidge to call an international conference to halt this race by limitation of air armaments. If our aviation accomplishments are comparatively of little importance, what must be the development abroad? United States naval seaplanes bombed and sank in short order two battleships slated for the scrap heap.

Twenty-three United States army airplanes, including sixteen huge bombers, made a flight of 800 miles from Virginia to Maine—and gave the Atlantic coast an object lesson. A transcontinental aerial mail schedule of thirty hours from coast to coast shows that night flying, an essential of military aviation, is practical. A navy Curtis racer, piloted by a naval officer, traveled at the rate of more than four miles a minute and again at the rate of 255 miles an hour.

The Barling bomber, the world's largest airplane, successfully completed its maiden trip at Wilbur Wright field. The bomber has a wing spread of 120 feet. Loaded, it weighs twenty tons. It has six Liberty motors of 400 horsepower each and two pushing and four pulling propellers. It will stay in the air twelve hours and fly about 90 miles an hour.

The United States naval dirigible ZR-1 successfully made a twelve-hour flight of 600 miles over New York, Philadelphia and cities of the Atlantic seaboard.

Now all of these feats in air travel were immediately translated into terms of war. For instance, Commander Ralph D. Weyerbacher, U. S. N., designer and builder of the ZR-1, declares in a printed statement that had the aerial superdrift-nought flown over New York on a warlike errand it would have been an easy matter to have destroyed public buildings, smashed great holes in the crowded streets and reduced the metropolis to a state of panic.

"Had she carried the five tons of high explosives the ZR-1 can float, we could have wrecked the guns of Forts Hamilton and Wadsworth and lifted the seagoing Aquitania from the water, to say nothing of the lesser craft in the harbor," he wrote. "I could not help thinking as we circled Manhattan what grievous destruction may be wrought by aerial bombing over large cities if such floating battleships as the ZR-1 can be developed to a point where they can successfully resist counter-attack."

Commander Weyerbacher translated the possibilities of the ZR-1 into terms of explosives. Others talk about gas. Whole armies put to sleep and taken prisoner in gas warfare is by no means an impossibility twenty-five years hence, Col. Raymond F. Beacon, chief of the technical division of the chemical warfare service, A. E. F., says in a description of the possibilities of the future art of war made public by the American Chemical Society. He says:

"To say the use of gas in warfare must be abolished is almost the same as saying that no progress must be made in the art of warfare toward making it more efficient and more humane. With the use of gas it is possible to saturate a piece of ground so that no troops can cross it, and thus make an artificial barrier for the flank or protect the lines of communication.

Maj. Victor Lefebure in his work, "The Riddle of the Rhine," predicts that the next war will be a war particularly of chemistry. He dwells on the possibilities of the combination of gas and aircraft, and he warns that no prohibition or agreement is going to stop the use of such weapons when national existence is believed to be at stake.

But it is Col. J. F. C. Fuller, D. S. O., who carries this talk of a chemical war to its logical conclusion in his new book, "The Reformation of War." He is an Englishman and a professional soldier who knows war both in theory and practice. His book gives us pen pictures of war as it will be fought when the fighting airplane, tanks and gas reach the full maturity of their terrible power.

Colonel Fuller's basic proposition is that "war is of the inevitable." He has the utmost contempt for peace talk, disarmament propositions, and the outlawing of certain weapons and certain methods of fighting. He believes that when war comes nations will use the most efficient weapon available, be it what it may. He asserts that the traditional soldier is doomed, that in the coming war our present-day armies and navies will be valueless, that the world war will be the last of its kind. Up to near the end of the last great struggle, he says, war was of two dimensions. The airplane made war three dimensional. What is the use of armies fighting, if airplanes can leap the armies and carry the war to the heart of the enemy's country. The airplane, however, is a mere means of transportation for gas, the most efficient means of destruction the world has yet seen. He says 7,300 bullets a minute can be fired in shrapnel from a field gun and then says:

"Gas is, however, composed of chemical molecules each of which can disintegrate; consequently, the projectiles of a gas bombardment cannot be reckoned by thousands per minute, but by thousands of trillions. In fact, so immense a number that it is not even necessary to know the position of the target; all that is necessary is to know in what area it is, and then to inundate that area. Unlike a bullet, the effect of gas does not cease once the force generated to propel it is spent, for, while the bullet is 'dead' the gas molecule is 'alive,' and may remain alive for days after gas has been projected. If the reader can imagine a machine gun which can fire millions of bullets a second, each bullet drifting on after the force of the original discharge has been spent, creeping through trees and houses, wandering over walls and into shelters and dugouts, then he will have some idea how gas can be used to economize military time."

Colonel Fuller says the "traditional soldier" will be succeeded by the "war scientist," whose strategy will be to attack the nerves rather than the bodies of the enemy. "The brute force theory of traditional warfare" will go; in its place will be "the direct attack on the source of all military power—the nerves and will of the civil population." He says:

"A nation which destroys the economic resources of its enemy, destroys its eventual markets, and thus wounds itself. War must entail some loss, but the less this loss is the greater will be the victory; consequently, the military object of a nation is not to kill and destroy, but to enforce the policy of its government with the least possible loss of honor, life, and property. If the enemy can be compelled to accept the hostile policy without battle, so much the better. If he opposes it by military force, then it should never be forgotten that the strength of this force rests on the will of the government which employs it, and that, in its turn, this will rests on the will of the nation which this government represents. If the will of the nation cannot be directly attacked, then must the will of the army protecting it be broken. In the past this will has been attacked by attacking the flesh of the soldiers, and so consistent has this been, that the idea has arisen that the military object of war is to kill and destroy. Thus, in the popular and military imaginations, the means have obscured the end; consequently, the prevailing idea of all parties in the recent war was destruction, to destroy each other, and so blinded were they by the means that they could not see that in the very act they were destroying themselves, not only during the war, but in the peace which must some day follow the war.

"I believe that the world is slowly learning this

lesson, and that, as in my opinion wars are inevitable, the old idea of warfare based on destruction will be replaced by a new military ideal, the imposition of will at the least possible general loss. If this be so, then the means of warfare must be changed, for the present means are means of killing, means of blood; they must be replaced by terrifying means, means of mind. The present implements of war must be scrapped, and these bloody tools must be replaced by weapons the moral effect of which is so terrific that a nation attacked by them will lose its mental balance and will compel its government to accept the hostile policy without further demur."

This strategy will endeavor to "petrify the human mind with fear" and will send great fleets of airplanes to make gas attacks on the nerve centers of the enemy nation. Colonel Fuller says: "A few years ago armies alone went forth to battle; today entire nations go to war, not only as soldiers, but as the moral and material suppliers of soldiers. This being so, we find that, while a short time back it was clearly possible to differentiate between the military and ethical objectives of nations at war, today this differentiation is becoming more and more complex; so much so that both these objectives are likely to coincide, and, when this takes place, to attack the civilian workers of a nation will then be as justifiable an act of war as to attack its soldiers."

Colonel Fuller then points out that the first gas used in the World war was of a lethal nature. But at the third battle of Ypres the Germans used mustard gas and disclosed to the world the possibilities of gas warfare. He says:

"Respirators to a great extent were now useless, for the persistent and vesicant nature of this chemical rendered whole areas, for days on end, uninhabitable and dangerous to cross. Men carried the oily liquid on their clothes, on the mud of their boots, and infected dugouts, billets and rest camps far back on the lines of communication. Few died, but many were incapacitated for months on end. Here, curious to relate, is the true power of gas as a weapon—it can incapacitate without killing. A dead man says nothing, and, when once buried, is no incumbrance to the survivors. A wounded man will spread the wildest of rumors, will exaggerate dangers, foster panic and requires the attention of others to heal him—until he dies or is cured, he is a military incumbrance and a demoralizing agent. Gas is, par excellence, the weapon of demoralization, and, as it can terrorize without necessarily killing it, more than any other known weapon, can enforce economically the policy of one nation on another."

"I believe that in future warfare great cities, such as London, will be attacked from the air and that a fleet of 500 airplanes each carrying 500 ten-pound bombs of, let us suppose, mustard gas, might cause 200,000 minor casualties and throw the whole city into panic within half an hour of their arrival. Picture, if you can, what the result will be! London for several days will be one vast raving bedlam, the hospitals will be stormed, traffic will cease, the homeless will shriek for help, the city will be in pandemonium. What of the government at Westminster? It will be swept away by an avalanche of terror. Then will the enemy dictate his terms, which will be grasped at like a straw by a drowning man. Thus may a war be won in forty-eight hours and the losses of the winning side may be actually nil!"

Colonel Fuller's conclusion is this: "That side," he says, "which gains supremacy in invention and design is the side which is going to win the next war." And again: "If mechanically both sides are equal, then on valor, obedience and self-sacrifice of the soldier will victory depend. But if one side relies on these virtues alone, and neglects to safeguard them by the most powerful weapons obtainable, then will they be of little value, as little as all the valor of the Sudanese at Omdurman."

History shows, of course, that warfare has been "revolutionized" a score of times by various inventions in the ascent from clubs to 75-mile range cannon. But invariably the offense has been later matched by the defense. Perhaps the airplane has already temporarily been rendered useless—a story from London says that the explanation of the forced landing and confiscation of thirty French airplanes in Germany is that the Germans are using a secret method of putting them out of action. Will every gas have its antidote?

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