

DEATH FROM THE AIR.

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France has her Maginot Line to ~~protect~~^{guard} that part of her frontier which is not naturally protected by mountain range or sea. ~~But in~~ in the less vulnerable sections ~~she has~~ she has line upon line of protecting artillery. Sunken emplacements conceal a gun and a gun's crew --- the watchdogs of our ally across the Channel. ^{great} Every calibre of ~~artillery~~ artillery up to the mighty howitzer is set immovable in the soil of France --- ~~ready~~ --- ready to defend if the need arise. She has also guns of a calibre that make even the howitzer look like a toy pistol --- watch the mighty engine of destruction ~~roll~~^{roll} slowly forward on its own railway ----- stately, menacing and ominous. The French Government decided that pictures of this gun in action should not be shown; our cameramen cannot therefore x film it actually firing, but even in silence it is awe-inspiring. Each shell that feeds it, weighs a ton and a half --- compare its size with that of a full-grown man. See how many man are required to work the powerfully-g geared elevators --- watch the loading and aiming of this colossus of the battlefield. Each time this gun is fired it costs the French taxpayer two thousand pounds. The damage it could do can scarcely be counted in figures.

France has another army --- in the air. Her factories every day and every night are now pressing forward a programme of intensified production. Specialized workshops turn out wings, bodies and engines on the chain system --- a mighty array of fighters

can take off at a moment's notice to defend the frontiers ⁱⁿ the blue sky. In any war, whether of the past or the future, offence and retaliation must play a big part. So France lines up an imposing phalanx of heavy bombers. While they are loading up ~~the~~ their deadly cargo --- these actual bombs that will presently explode before our eyes --- let us consider what aircraft France can use in attack --- the 16-ton Farman --- the Amiot --- the Bloch --- Dreadnoughts of the air that carry enormous loads of death-dealing metal, yet climb at the rate of a thousand feet a minute. ~~But since the war has turned chiefly into the~~
~~Defence of France~~ --- How does our ally deal with the bombers of the potential enemy? ~~Science has given her anti-aircraft~~
~~forces a superhuman power, and an eye of supernatural power.~~
 Predictors pick up the drone of the approaching raider almost as soon as it has left its base aerodrome. The diagram shows how waves of sound establish its position and speed. The mechanical eye and ear transmute to feet per second the roar of a petrol engine and the whirr of a propeller --- exact mathematical calculations spin an invisible web of destruction around the raider as he races toward them at 300 miles an hour. Automatically, with ~~the~~ infallible exactitude, the predictors direct the angle of gunfire and work out the range. The anti-aircraft batteries unleash their upward hail of destruction.

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It is well that defence against the bomber should be so accurate and complete. For if the modern sky-raider does get through, he can jettison his whole cargo in a few seconds ---- with one single lever he can blaze a trail of barbaric massacre the length of Oxford Street.

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