

Warfare Has Developed To Considerable Extent Since First Started

London, May 9.—Gas warfare has developed to a very considerable extent since its first use as a surprise weapon by the Germans at the battle of Ypres. At that time the gas cloud or "wave" was released from great cylinders of liquid gas added in the trenches and dispersed by pipes leading through the ground.

This form of attack has now been discarded, for it depended for its effectiveness on the prevailing wind blowing from the right quarter. It became apparent that the gas was a far more important weapon than any gas cloud or wave, for its action is independent of the wind and a continuous barrage of gas can be kept up so that the target area is continuously covered.

Although entirely surprised by the German gas attack, the British and French quickly devised defensive measures and every soldier was supplied with a gas mask. The box respirator which every Allied soldier carries is an absolute protection against all forms of gas, provided that it is put on at the first alarm and is removed until the danger is past. It is very difficult to fight an hour without removing the respirator. There can be little speech, a man can neither eat nor drink. During a gas attack, there is to be as little unnecessary moving as possible, for violent movements of the body are likely to displace the mask and let a little of the poisonous air into the lungs. Gas is now used largely by both sides, for the bombardment of back areas and lines of communication, for the silencing of machine batteries, and as a barrage weapon in an infantry attack, when its effect is often supplemented by gas wave discharges from trench cylinders. The effect of a gas attack is much worse and lasts much longer in closed spaces such as trenches, dugouts, and is more effective in woods and villages than in the open. There are many kinds of gas now in common use. There is a purely suffocating gas; a tear gas, which attacks the eyes; a sneezing gas, intended to provoke an easier assimilation of the poison gas which accompanies it; and lastly the mustard gas, which is an eye lung and skin irritant.

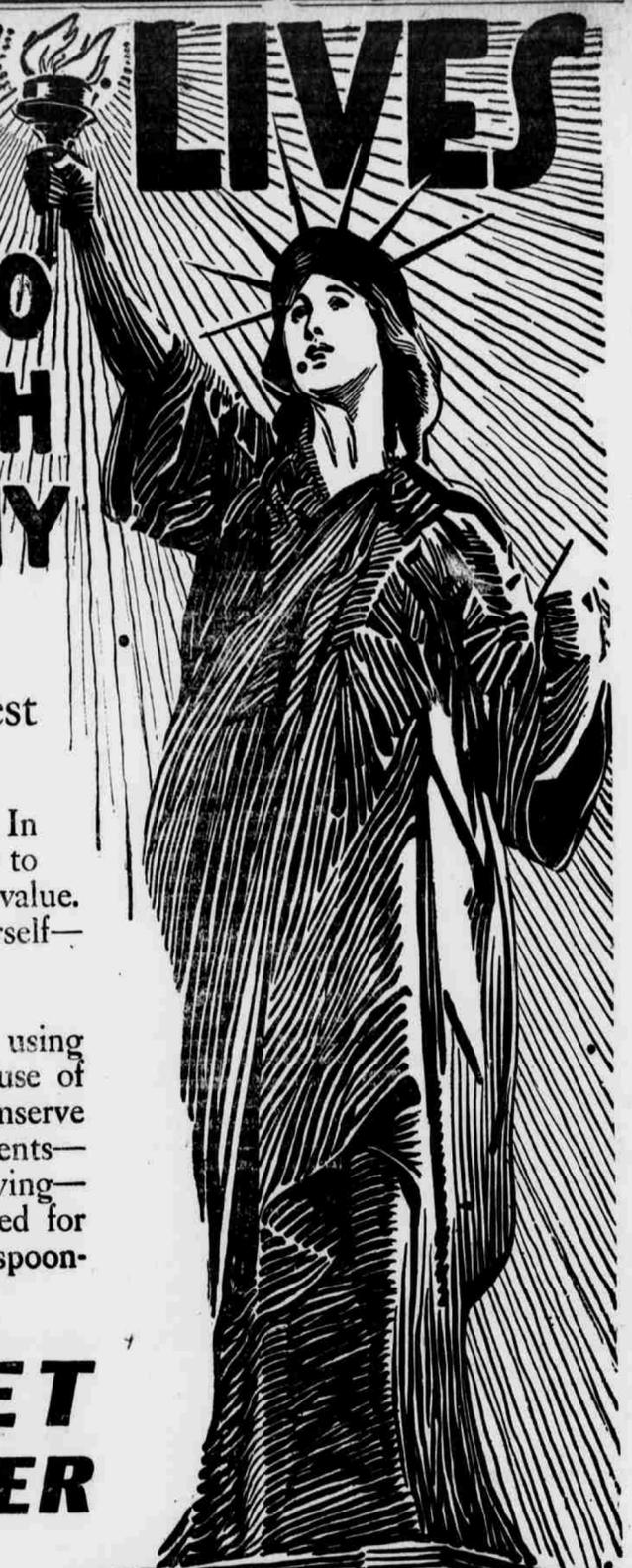
Gas shells in most cases contain a mixture, designed to produce a cumulative effect. The shells are fired from guns of all calibre and gas mines and "torpedoes" are discharged from trench mortars. The majority of gas casualties recover quickly, provided they have been only slightly exposed to the gas before they put their respirators on. The effects of the irritant mustard gas are not usually serious, most cases recovering in two or three days. It is generally stated that the attacks of the French and British are more potent even than those of the Germans, while the Allies' respirators are much better than the German because the Germans have not been able to get rubber enough to use plentifully in these instruments. The German mask is of leather or treated so badly that German gas casualties have been inordinately heavy.

Paris, May 9.—The arrest of a German subject, Simon Freschmann, on the complaint of swindling soldiers, has called attention to the fact that the Prefecture of police and the Secret Service department have still 50,000 records of foreigners living in France to investigate. One of the reasons for the delay in action is the liberality France has shown, even toward the subjects of other countries at war with France. A considerable number of papers have criticized the government for too great leniency in this respect, and have attributed some of the espionage that has come to light to this attitude.

Freschmann, the Libre Parole says, enjoyed greater liberty of movement than French citizens and traveled freely without documents in parts of France to which Frenchmen were unable to penetrate without safe conducts from the military authorities. He escaped the concentration camps altogether and was apprehended only when soldiers filed a complaint against him for obtaining money under false pretense that he could have them assigned to choice posts in the interior.

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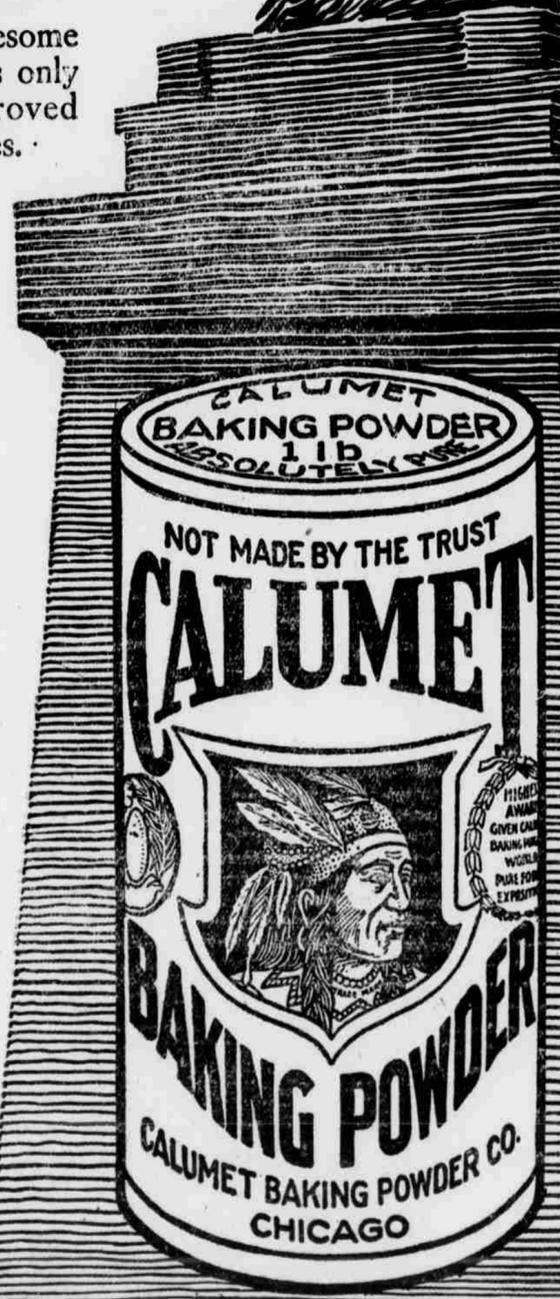
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