

# ENGLAND FOUGHT USE OF TANKS IN WORLD WAR

So many celebrities have claimed to be "the inventor" of the wonderful tanks that played so great a part in the winning of the war that even most people have put hazy notions concerning the origin and development of the weapon so dreaded by the German soldier.

Now Sir Albert Stein has lifted the veil and has told the story of how the tank was born, and of the uphill fight with the authorities which was necessary to secure its adoption. In the course of a striking article in the September Strand Magazine, Sir Albert traces the history of the land ship.

It was at a supper at Murray's in 1914 that the idea of a great land ship capable of crossing the Rhine was discussed. Then came plans for a super-armored car, and Mr. Churchill became interested. The result of his interest was the appointment of a land ship committee.

No government department would consent to house the new organization, however, and so Sir Albert, then a lieutenant in the R. N. V. R., took officers himself and thereby made mortal enemies at the admiralty. Mr. Sustace D'Eyncourt was the chairman of the committee, and he had as his chief lieutenants Major Hetherington and Colonel Crampton. Sir Albert Stein was secretary.

So rapidly did the committee work that in August, 1915, Mr. Tritton and Lieutenant Wilson had ready a full-size model of a tank afterward known as "Little Willie."

Then came a series of setbacks. Manufacturers were no more favorably disposed to the new machine than the admiralty and war office had been, and there was great difficulty in securing the necessary parts.

Sir Albert tells the interesting story of the evolution of the name tank. In 1916 it was suggested that the name "land ship" should be changed for secrecy's sake. Mr. D'Eyncourt suggested "water carrier." In government offices committees and departments are known by their initials. For this reason I considered the proposed title wholly unsuitable, and in our search for a synonymous term we changed "water carrier" to "tank."

"The first tank, 'Mother,' was finished on January 26, 1916, and was tried in Hatfield park.

"Colonel Swinton, who was acting as assistant secretary to the committee of imperial defense, was interested with the task of raising and training a corps to man the tanks. The first tanks were sent to France in September, 1916, and were in action seven months after the order for them had been given."

Sir Albert tells a good story of a Tommy's impression of the tanks expressed in a letter to his family. Here it is:

"They can do up prisoners in bundles like straw binders, and, in addition, have an adaption of a printing machine, which enables them to catch the Huns, fold, count and deliver them in quires, every thirteenth man being thrown out a little farther than the others. The tanks can truss refractory prisoners like fowls prepared for cooking, while their equipment renders it possible for them to charge into a crowd of Huns, and, by shooting out spokes like porcupine quills, carry off an opponent on each. Though 'stuck up,' the prisoners are, needless to say, by no means proud of their position. . . . They can chew up barbed wire and turn it into munitions. They turn over on their backs and catch live shells in their caterpillar feet, and they can easily be adapted as submarines."

Even after the appearance of the tanks in action the war office was by no means favorably disposed toward the new-fangled weapon, and an order for a thousand tanks was countermanded.

Then followed a dramatic incident. Sir Arthur went at once to Mr. Lloyd George, then secretary of state for war. He declared that he had heard nothing of the instruction. "I told him," says Sir Arthur, "that I could not stop the order now. He could cancel my appointment, but he could not possibly get me to cancel the order."

"Sir William Robertson, chief of staff, then appeared, and Mr. Lloyd George told him that he could not understand how the order could be cancelled without his knowledge. Next day the order was restored."

Sir Arthur's troubles were not over, however. His fight with the war office was to go on. How bitter that fight was is shown by the fact that three generals demanded his dismissal for presuming to press for more and more tanks. Sir Arthur and his colleagues won the day—and helped to win the war.

### Not Much.

The Romans' Thanksgiving was dedicated to Ceres, goddess of the harvest. It "was a day of worship and rustic sports." Times haven't changed much. —New York Telegram.

# OFFERS SOME RULES TO PREVENT "FLU"

Evanston Health Commissioner Gives Advance Warning Which North Shore Might Observe

## PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Reports of Scattered Cases of Influenza Leads To Action On Part of Health Authorities

Dr. C. T. Roome, Evanston Commissioner of Health, has set forth the following health rules close adherence to which, he is certain, will have the effect of successfully combating a possible return of the terrible Influenza epidemic, which claimed an appalling toll of victims last fall and winter.

There have been some scattered cases of influenza reported in and about Chicago during the last few weeks though none were reported on the north shore.

The following rules might readily be applied here as well as in Evanston:

1. All cases or suspicious cases must be reported at once to the local health department by the physician or any other person having knowledge of a known or suspected case.

2. Any person afflicted must be isolated at once in a separate room; the period of isolation continuing during the course of the disease and until all clinical manifestations have disappeared and the temperature has been normal for three consecutive days.

3. None other than the necessary enter the sick room or come in contact with the patient. The attendant should wear a face mask of gauze or other approved design when in attendance on the patient.

4. All discharges from the respiratory tract, mouth, throat and nose of the patient should be received in cloths and the cloths burned immediately after using, or put in vessels containing an approved disinfecting solution.

5. Any person suffering with symptoms simulating influenza such as fever, headache, backache, sore-throat, or severe prostration should remain at home until it seems reasonably evident that the case is not one of influenza. We would suggest that anyone suffering from the above set of symptoms should call in the family physician in order to make sure.

6. No case of influenza shall be removed from the premises on which found unless consent to such removal be first obtained from the local health authorities or from the state department of public health.

7. When the foregoing precautions are properly observed, other occupants of the premises who show no evidence of influenza need not be confined to the premises. It is recommended, however, that persons residing on premises on which a case of influenza exists should refrain so far as possible from attending public gatherings and avoid unnecessary contact with other persons. Visiting on such premises is strictly prohibited.

8. Upon termination of the case the premises occupied by the patient shall be given a thorough cleansing, airing and sunning.

9. No children will be allowed to go to school from a home where there is influenza.

10. During the last three months of last year, Evanston alone had over 2,800 cases of influenza reported with 150 deaths. Everything in our power should be done to try to prevent a recurrence of the terrible conditions that obtained at that time.

### Seven Hills of Ancient Rome.

The names of the seven hills of ancient Rome are, the Palatine, the Capitoline, the Aventine, the Caelian, the Esquiline, the Quirinal and the Viminal.

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Pride at Root of Mistakes. I have been more and more convinced, the more I think of it, that, in general, pride is at the bottom of all great mistakes. All the other passions do occasional good; but whenever pride puts in its word, everything goes wrong, and what it might really be desirable to do, quietly and unobtrusively, it is mortally dangerous to do proudly.—Ruskin.

Uncle Eben. "A whole lot of what dey calls sports," said Uncle Eben, "consists in gittin' into a powerful fret over sumpin' dat dey wasn't no particular necessity fur."

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