

happened — a heap of British corpses would perhaps alone have barred the way to Ypres and Calais. But their store of ammunition — vast as it was — was spent, and the gas cylinders were empty. It took 10 days to replenish the latter and on May 24th. in the early morning, a bank of green vapour, three miles long, came floating with the breeze towards the British trenches between Shell-trap Farm and BELLEWAARDE LAKE. The cloud was 40 feet in height. This time the intended victims, the troops of the 4th. Division, had some protection in the shape of respirators, but the surprise was in many instances so great that large numbers were gassed out of action. On the heels of the gas came a violent shelling which made our men recoil a little, especially about Shell-trap Farm and near the Menin Road. But a strong counter-attack blew the Germans back to their trenches "like rabbits" as one Essex officer wrote. The fight was distinguished by the steadfast behaviour of the cavalry, who lost this day a splendid leader in Captain Francis Grenfell V. C., whose memory will ever be cherished in the annals of British arms.

The result of the latest fighting was that the Germans had captured Bellewaarde Lake, and our new line ran from the west of it to Hooghe. A week after the terrific fighting just recorded, this same Hooghe, chateau and village, were first bombarded, and then rushed by the enemy's troops. It was a local action like that at Hill 60, and the 3rd. Dragoon Guards held the line until June 3rd. until they were nearly destroyed, and of Hooghe only the site remained.

The British losses were 100,000 men in The Second Ypres Battle; that of the Germans was at least double. The result was only to show that the German machine was superior to ours and that our men were superior to a machine. Wherever we had got to grips with the enemy we had worsted him, and his reliance upon such dastardly methods of war as poison gas covered the German name throughout the world with obloquy. And as the attempt proved it was even worse than a crime — it was a blunder.