

they regarded as the antidote to our superior sea-power.

The fact which must have impressed the Germans most of all was that these ambitious and courageous British naval officers had successfully invaded Germany. They had crossed the frontier of the Fatherland. Apart from the injury which they inflicted, their feat proved that Germany was not inviolate. Hence these daring officers produced material and moral results of the highest importance. German papers contained an admission of the panic into which the city of Düsseldorf had been plunged by this aerial raid. The populace clamoured to the Governor for protection against the terrible British bombs, and loud complaints were heard as to the ineffectiveness of the fire which had been directed at the British machines.

In concluding this chapter it may be of interest to give the most authentic figures available respecting the number and variety of the large dirigible airships possessed by Germany. German figures cannot be accepted, because, by presenting alarming statements, they have tried to create a feeling of alarm in England and to impress neutral Powers. Statements based on information which is available on the other side of the Atlantic may, however, be accepted as accurate. The *Scientific American* published details early in the war of all the airships possessed by Germany when the war began—naval, military, and civilian owned, the last named being subsidised and available for war. The particulars are as follows :