

Let me give you one picture that I saw after the battle of Amiens. The battle of Amiens was a great victory. It was perhaps the greatest we ever had. Our troops went into it fit and healthy and well trained, we had plenty of artillery, the Germans were completely surprised and thoroughly beaten. At the end of the day I was asked to go back to a casualty clearing station, I was told that there was something wrong. I went. And there I saw the aftermath of victory. There was something wrong; the extraordinary secrecy of the movement had somehow hampered the medical services. And there was ambulance after ambulance full of wounded men, some shrieking, some groaning, some dying, some dead, some just suffering in patience, waiting to get to the hospital gate. Inside the doors of the small building, its windows boarded up tightly so that no light would give away its position to enemy aircraft, the fumes of acetelyne gas from the lamps, the terrible smell of gas gangrene from some of the wounds, the sickening scent of ether, the white faces of the worn-out nurses, the bloody hands of the doctors who had to work as fast as butchers only to save and not to kill, made a scene of horror that I can never forget, and the next time war strikes this country that is what you will see in your cities and the doctors and the wooden operating tables will be your doctors and your office tables and the blood will be the blood of your wives and your children.

You say that's impossible, that it could not happen. It may be impossible today, but it will happen tomorrow unless the viewpoint of humanity is changed. I do not need to tell you how close we are to scientific developments which will make your very inmost cities as vulnerable as was the city of Rheims when it came under the fire of German guns.

There is no use whatever talking about "the war being over" or "when another war comes". The whole condition of Humanity ~~is~~