

air forces assert, cannot possibly be extinguished. The direction-finding apparatuses and aiming gears of these bombing machines have been steadily improved and the latest triumph of disarmament is that, by means of long-distance control without pilots, bombers can now be sent off against defenceless victims.

Not only has there been no reduction in the number of aerodromes and aerial bases; but these have actually been increased everywhere. Individual battleships have been supplied with fighting and bombing planes as auxiliary weapons and enormous aircraft-carriers have been built. All this has gone on under the catchcry of "disarmament" in regard to all offensive weapons. And it is all in fulfilment of the rule laid down in the Treaty of Versailles that Germany's example should be followed in the destruction of aeroplanes.

Germany has fulfilled the obligation laid upon her to destroy her tanks which remained from the World War. She has thus once more, in loyal fulfilment of the Treaty, destroyed and done away with another "offensive weapon".

It would have been the duty of the other states on their side to begin with the destruction of their tanks. Not only did they fail to do this, but they continued to improve them both as regards speed and as regards resistance and power of attack. The tanks during the War had a speed of from 4 to 12 km per hour; this has been increased to 30, 40, 50 and finally to 160 km per hour.

When Germany no longer possessed a single rivet from her former tanks, France first built medium tanks of from 10 to 15 tons, then heavy types of from 25 to 30 tons, and finally the very heaviest types of about 90 tons.

During the War any tank could be pierced by a 13 mm. projectile, but the new war monsters are fitted with armour plate of from 50 to 60 mm. and are thus absolutely protected against the shells of even the field artillery. Hand in hand with this terrible passive improvement in these types of arms

as regards speed, weight, wading capacity, field of vision, imperviousness to gas and thickness of armour, there has been an enormous development in the weapons of attack carried by these war engines. The machine-guns or guns of 4—5 cm. calibre were superseded by new combinations. Tanks with guns of 7.5 cm., 10 cm. and 15 cm. calibre and even more are no longer things of fancy but terrible realities.

At the same time as Germany had destroyed her tanks and waited for the other countries to destroy theirs in fulfilment of their promise, those other countries had built more than 13,000 new tanks and improved and enlarged them into weapons still more frightful.

Under the provisions of the Treaty of Versailles Germany was obliged to destroy her entire heavy artillery. This too was done. But while the German howitzers and mortars were being cut up by the acetylene burners and thrown into the blast furnaces as scrap iron, the other partners to the Treaty failed not only to carry out a similar destruction of their heavy artillery, but on the contrary continued here again with the same constructional development and improvement.

Long after there were no more 42 cm. mortars it was reported that the French factories had succeeded in constructing a 54 cm howitzer. Long-range guns, firing at a distance of from 60 to 120 km. have been newly constructed. The newest and heaviest artillery has been divided through a most convenient device into portions for road and rail transport in order to increase its mobility to the very utmost with the help of wheel tractors and caterpillar tractors.

This was done in the case of weapons which are really of a very powerful offensive type and against which we in Germany have not only no counter-weapon, but not even the possibility of any kind of defence.

**Gas:** Under the Treaty of Versailles Germany had to destroy all her gas weapons, again as a condition preliminary to disarmament on the part of the other signatories. This

W.L.M. King Papers, Memoranda and Notes, 1933-1939  
(M.G. 26, J 4, volume 171, pages C121363-C121949)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES  
ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES  
CANADA

