



**Cost Great Britain \$100,000,000 to Stage Single Battle.**

Everybody knows that the late and still lamented war was not only the biggest but the costliest war in history. It remained for Great Britain to show how rapidly modern warfare runs into money, so that, for instance, the mere setting of the stage for a single battle may cost upward of \$100,000,000.

During the fourteen days from July 17 to July 30, 1917, the British Army was getting ready for the third battle of Ypres. Part of this preparation consisted in a thorough bombardment of the German positions, during which the British guns expended 4,283,550 rounds of ammunition. This ammunition cost £221,389 14 s. 4d., or approximately £107,947,351 at normal exchange according to "statistics of the military effort of the British Empire during the great war."

This formidable volume, recently published with the sanction of the War Office, audits Armageddon and renders a cost accounting of destruction with almost appalling minuteness, as witness the four pence noted in the receipted bill for the preliminary bombardment of Ypres, which is furthermore itemized to show the different varieties and sizes of shell used. They ranged from 1,000 fired by the giant 280mm howitzers to 2,359,608 fired from the great 75mm howitzers.

shrapnel and high explosive from the eighteen pounders corresponding to our three inch field gun. Next to these the six inch howitzers consumed most shell—750-119 and the 4.5 inch gun was a close third with 728,345.

The total cost of this preparation was greater than of any other indulged in by the British during the war. But the cost per day had mounted to an even higher level six weeks earlier, when, from May 20 to June 6, they were getting set for the battle of Messines. During a period of eleven days their artillery expended 3,561,680 rounds at an approximate cost of \$85,075,502. This averages \$7,734,227 a day, where the longer bombardment at Ypres averaged \$7,710,525.

Nearly 19 Million Dollars Was  
Burned Up in One Day.  
But even Ypres and Messines do not represent the peak load. The heaviest expenditure in any single day by the British armies in France was from noon to noon, September 28-29, 1918, when they pushed off for the final advance in Flanders before the armistice. During these twenty-four hours 948,847 rounds were expended, very nearly twelve shells a second or 720 a minute. The stated approximate cost of this ammunition was \$18,815,000, which amounts to \$753,878 an

hour and \$13,064 a minute. Every time a watch ticked off a second that day the equivalent of \$217.77, or more than the monthly income of the average family, went up in smoke.

These figures are for artillery ammunition and for France alone, where the estimated strength of the British forces, all ranks and labor units, of November 1, 1918, was 1,966,727 officers and men. And this was only one of several theatres of war in which British land forces were operating. In Italy, on the same date, their number was 83,630; in Salonica, 183,007; in British East Africa, 115,670; in Egypt, 458,246; in Mesopotamia, 408,138, and at Aden 11,461, giving a grand total of 3,236,870 in the expeditionary forces. To this must be added the estimated strength of British and colonial troops at home, 1,603,384, and in India, Burma and the garrisons of defended ports. This brings the total estimated strength of British land forces ten days before the Armistice to 5,336,943.

**Cost of Army Maintenance.**

To maintain and operate such armies cost correspondingly great sums. The "Statistics" states that for the period from April 1, 1914, to March 31, 1919, five full fiscal years, the army expenditure proper was equivalent to \$14,113,249,807, of which \$4,006,330,193 was spent in 1918-19 alone. The average yearly expenditure during the period was \$3,823,649,981. The army expenditure for the year April 1, 1918, to March 31, 1919, was \$127,859,286. So

the average war time annual expenditure was 2,048 per cent. of what it had been, and during 1918-19 was more than 2,900 per cent. higher.

And the army expenditure was only one of several war cost items. Another table gives the average daily expenditures at different periods for the army, navy, munitions, shipping, etc., as follows:

1916--October 8 to December 9, \$27,970,040 daily.

1917--April 1 to May 5, when the Germans retreated to the Hindenburg line and the Arras offensive began, \$36,261,020 daily.

1917--November 1, to 1918, January 29, the period of the peak load, \$36,529,620 daily.

1918—April 1 to November 9, a stretch of more than eight months, \$36,172,980 daily.

To provide for these expenditures Parliament granted between August, 1914, and November 12, 1918, a series of twenty-five war votes of credits ranging in amount from £27,000,000 to £700,000,000. The grand total of these credits was £2,742,000,000 equivalent to \$42,456,120,000 at normal exchange for the sovereign.

London is badly off for bridges over the Thames; Westminster Bridge is 1,063 yards from Waterloo and 1,690 from Vauxhall. In Paris there are twelve bridges over the Seine, with an average of 845 yards between them.



He—"One more kiss, darling, and I'll go."

She—"Yes, Harold, but you've already had forty-seven on the same promise."

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Found Three of Them.

Three smart young men were trying to take a rise out of a very old Hebrew. One saluted him with, "Well, Father Abraham, how are you to-day?"

"You are wrong," said the second student, "this is old Father Isaac."

"No," said the third, "you are both mistaken: this is old Father Jacob."

The Hebrew looked at the young men and replied: "I am neither old Father Abraham, nor old Father Isaac nor old Father Jacob; but I am Saul, the son of Kish, seeking his father's asses, and lo, I have found three of them."