

fully equipped, trained as no Army had ever been trained before, was waiting at the Frontier. An Army of less than a third faced it.

The situation seemed hopeless.

On the ninth day, the Chemist informed the Minister of War that everything was in readiness. The insults heaped upon the nation by the Tyrant were thrown back at him. War was declared.

The Commander-in-Chief of the Army was given orders that he must hold the enemy at the Frontier as long as possible.

The fighting squadrons of the Air-Fleet were detailed to prevent the enemy's aircraft from making any observations. The remainder of the aircraft working together and flying very low, just skimming over houses, trees, and other obstacles, commenced to distribute the earthen-coloured crystals. They were scattered systematically for a depth varying from fifteen to twenty-five miles in rear of the fighting line. This work was carried on ceaselessly day after day.

Mean while the battle on the Frontier waged violently. For ten days the unequal contest went on, the army of heroes gradually giving way. The while the planes in rear continued to scatter the crystals at a feverish pace.

At last the ground, buildings, the stagnant pools of water, every thing was covered by the crystals. In some places thicker than in others, but all fully gone over several times. The guns with their specially prepared igniting shells were placed in position along the whole line just in rear of the segregated district.

Orders were issued for the retreat of the Army. It was ably carried out, only in a few places did it develope into a rout, and then stiffening forces were brought from another point and the enemy's advance was stemmed. The prohibited area was evacuated of every living thing. In triumph the enemy advanced. His millions were allowed to flow over the Frontier to the depth desired. He was given a few days to establish himself well within the area, his further advance being stopped by the second line defence. His thousands of guns, his millions of tons of munitions, his countless transports were all brought into position, and he prepared for his second and final thrust.

Then a hurricane of shells poured upon him. Fire broke out instantly wherever a shell fell. Flames varying from three to six feet spread over the whole area within a few hours, emitting a heat so intense that the steel guns were a molten mass in a few moments.