

The street leading towards the station is barricaded and loop-holed, for no German attack will ever again spill itself on the streets of Arras. These barricades are a model of engineering according to the text book, with their low parapets and trenches dug behind to give the requisite height to fire over. The two sides of the obstacle overlap in the most approved style so as to afford through the centre a narrow crooked channel for traffic. The houses round about are pitted with bullets from the rear-guard action that the Germans fought to cover their evacuation of the town. In front of the station there is a large oval "square" which must be crossed circumspectly, *i.e.*, not across its diameter but by crawling around the circumference. This takes time, but there are picquets posted to enforce the rule; a very necessary one, as at any moment a German observation balloon may appear like a gigantic slug on the horizon. The trenches are only about a mile away, as the Germans hold the north-eastern parts of the city.

The station itself, in its monstrous futility, is in many ways the most tragic sight to be met with on the whole of the western front. Imagine a vast building, red in colour, about half the size of the Waverley Station, Edinburgh, and not altogether dissimilar, wrecked by shell fire. The near platform has been put into a state of defence with a sand-bag parapet. The rails lie twisted and broken on the track, mixed with the débris of such sleepers as have not been removed for firewood. Over all is a fine impalpable dust from the glass roof above, the iron supporting stanchions of which have been wrenched asunder by the shock of high explosive. It is well over two years since the last train ran into Arras station.

As one goes out one passes the ticket office. Piles of tickets, to Amiens, to Lens, to Lille, to St. Pol, neatly done up in bundles and tied with string, litter the floor. It is as if a devil's child had laughed at its play.

The cathedral of Arras has been destroyed; not wrecked, as has happened to so many, but completely demolished. It