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HOW TO STUDY STEREOGRAPHS. |

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Pictures furnish material for thought as does the printed page, and they even rival print in that task. How extensively, and often exclusively, do advertisers rely upon pictures for attracting customers! Cartoonists compete with the most gifted writers in newspapers and magazines; and the great picture galleries of the world quite possibly exert as much influence as the great libraries.

One danger of the printed page is that it may lead to no imaging. A little girl who was studying a description in geography of a river valley was asked what she saw, as she reproduced the facts. She replied that she saw the page containing the words. There is always this danger in the use of books.





SCOTS ENTRENCHED AND CHEERILY AWAITING A COUNTER-ATTACK

Somewhere in the distance the Germans are scanning the plain, trying to determine just where these sturdy Scotsmen are and how many of them there may be, but the scene that greets their eyes is just as monotonous, just as desolate and devoid of life as those tumbled fields of earth that stretch between you and the horizon beyond that row of stark trees, the mute evidence of the place where there once was a road.

One would hardly think that there was any system to war while looking at this jumble of men and material. But those things that have been cast aside are useless, those ammunition cases and hand grenade boxes are empty. The plank was in the way in the trench, so they threw it aside. You can see the handles of broken shovels and the tail stock handle of a trench artillery carriage. The trench was one of those built in the late months of the war. The war then was more nearly approaching a war of movement and consequently the trench was made less elaborate and without the expensive timber work.

But look at the men. They are far from useless and unserviceable with their rifles, bayonets fixed, close at hand. Their gas masks at the "alert", steel helmets strapped to their heads waiting. Passing the time with cigarettes and gossip, waiting for the Germans to attack, and then—those rifles will spit flame and steel. Some of these intrepid Scots will fall but others will live, brush the mud and grime from their kilts and calmly await another attack which the Germans are likely to launch.

U. S. OBSERVATION AIRPLANE ON WEST FRONT

Here, waiting the call to action, are two of our observation airplanes. Airplanes of this type perform services of the utmost importance. The development of modern fire-arms has made cavalry reconnoissance impossible: the daring raids which this branch of the service made in former wars to discover the enemy alignment, disposition of reserves, supply depots, and to secure other needed information, are no longer attempted. Today the observation airplane is the eye of an army.

Observation planes carry two men, a pilot and an observer. The pilot runs the machine; the observer, telescope in hand, scans the enemy trenches and the terrain for miles in their rear. The observer is ever on the lookout for enemy troops on the move, or for any indication of reserves strategically hidden in forest or trench. Sometimes he will see, far off in the distance, long columns of soldiers moving along the winding roads, sometimes he will see batteries changing position under his eyes; and sometimes long trains of troops pulling in on the enemy's interior railways. This information he must carry at once to headquarters for there, after comparing with reports from other observers, the information received often gives a clue to the foe's intentions.

The observation plane supplements the work of the observation balloon. The latter, from its stationary position, obtains a general idea of the disposition of the foe's forces. With this as a basis, the airplane is sent to make a detailed reconnoissance, in the course of which it will secure information which the balloon could by no means obtain.





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19255 Repairing Field Telephone Lines During a
Gas Attack at the Front.





OBSERVATION BALLOONS NEAR COBLENZ, GERMANY

These observation balloons that look something like great marine animals with funny little mouths and clumsy flippers are called "blimps," a name that was perhaps coined by some one who thought of the word "limp" and the letter "b" of "balloon."

The number of thin cables to be seen under each of the balloons is two, one under each of them, that are taut and straight. These are connected to a large drum on the rear of a heavy automobile truck. They allow the balloon to rise to a certain height and, when its day's work is finished, or when a German tries to attack, the motor of the engine turns the drum, drawing the huge gas bag down to earth.

The observers in the balloon nearest to you are leaning over the edge of the basket giving the final instructions. The other balloon has not yet been completely inflated for its upward voyage. Soon the observers will open the valves that will allow a part of the gas in the main bag to flow into the fin-like projections that act as rudders in the wind, keeping the balloon steady.

On either side of the wicker basket in which the officers are standing you can see two bucket-like contrivances. Those are the parachutes. There is a hook that is attached to the harness worn by the observers so in case of emergency the parachute automatically disengages itself, allowing the observers to drop gently to earth.

OBSERVATION BALLOON FATALLY PIERCED BY INCENDIARY BULLETS FROM AMERICAN PLANE

Far above the surface of the earth you can see one of the battles of the air, with the American aviator in his 'plane victorious over the German observation balloon. Swinging in the tiny wicker basket which to you seems just a dot beneath the balloon, a German officer has been watching the least little movement behind the lines of the American troops.

It was to defeat his purpose that the American in his 'plane ventured over the lines and gave battle. Swooping swiftly, curving and diving to avoid the hail of machine gun bullets and high explosive shells with which the Germans sought to bar his path, he reached his goal and with incendiary bullets struck at the hugh gas bag.

One of his bullets has penetrated it, less than a minute ago, for within a few seconds the balloon will be entirely consumed with the flames, and the observer will have attempted to save his life by jumping with his parachute. In the length of time that it takes you to look at the balloon with its finlike projections at the stern to add to its stability, the highly inflammable gas will have burned and the few bits of charred wreckage dropped to the earth.

His work done, the aviator is turning to journey back toward his own lines, three or four miles over enemy territory, to report: "One 'blimp' shot down."





This issue contains images and text from “The World War through the stereoscope,” a 1923 collection edited and compiled by Joseph Mills Hanson and published by the Keystone View Company, which was then the largest publisher of stereographic images. The illustrated guidebook and all 300 images are available from the Library of Congress.

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