

The Daily Hunt

½ d

Wednesday, 5th August 1914

Britain at War!

Belgian neutrality threatened – Britain retaliates

By Mr. Nathan Douglas, War Correspondent, Birmingham, England

The Great British community has been left reeling when, at 7.00pm yesterday evening, Prime Minister Asquith and his government declared war on Germany, who had invaded the neutral country of Belgium. Britain and Belgium are longstanding friends, and when the peaceful nation was invaded by the aggressive, warmongering Germans, Mr. Asquith warned of war and then followed through on his threat when the German troops did not leave.

Of course, the Great British public have been fearing a war since 1906 and the invention of the first HMS Dreadnought, but many older citizens did not actually believe that war would come and we could learn lessons from past wars.

Damley Road, which is a small area in London, has residents who remember previous wars. "We're all finished," sobbed one of the inhabitants of Damley Road, Mrs. Summerfield, "I tell you now we're all finished!"

When asked to go into more detail for her sombre opinion, Mrs. Summerfield simply blew her nose loudly and repeated what she had already said.

The events of the past week have unfolded at an alarming (and often confusing) rate leaving other members of Damley Road uncertain of the future. "I think we're approaching even more dangerous times," warned Joe Patience, who is well-known for playing musical instruments in his spare time. "Who would have thought that the murder of Archduke Franz Ferdinand would lead to a Europe-wide war within a week? I dread to think what will happen next."

Certainly, Mr. Patience is correct. It is just a week ago when Archduke Franz Ferdinand, who was heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, was assassinated by a Serbian man. This one event quickly escalated into all-out war as Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia followed by a domino of countries rushing to the

aid of their allies until finally, early last night, Britain were the last to join against the Triple Alliance.

That being said, some people welcome war and say that it will clear the air in Europe. Charlie Slipton, of number twenty-one Damley Road, said that he could not wait to be old enough to join the war and wanted to do his bit for King and country. He was not the only one who had such opinions. Leonard Hopkins, who is merely sixteen years old, reported that he was going to sign up in the morning as it was his responsibility and duty as a man.

So, very mixed opinions in Damley Road on the morning after the outbreak of war. One thing is very common though throughout the entire street though. "No matter what the next two or three months bring, it'll all be over by Christmas," Georgie Summerfield, 27, told me.

With certainty this high, let us hope that the British retaliation is swift.