

BELGIUM AND GERMANY.



TEXTS AND DOCUMENTS.

PRECEDED BY
A FOREWORD

BY

HENRI DAVIGNON.

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A WORD TO THE READER.

We have collected in the present volume a certain number of texts, facsimiles, and other photographs of such a nature as to give an accurate picture of the heroic but deplorable situation of Belgium in the present war. Our country which existed by Right has been crushed by Might. But her honour remains, and with it remains the glory of the struggle in which she has sought to avenge her afflictions. After a superhuman effort on the part of her soldiers under the leadership of their King, and vigorous protests on the part of her Government and moral, civil and religious authorities, and while awaiting the day of reparation which must inevitably come, Belgium avails herself of her right to make clear to the world how loyal has been her spirit and how undeserved her sufferings. Indeed, it is her duty to do so. An enemy, strong beyond all measure, defying treaties and setting at naught the most solemn promises, has fallen upon her, laid her low and devastated her according to a pre-conceived plan, and left her in ruins and drenched in blood, in the hope of obtaining by terrorism what he has been unable to obtain by threats and to compensate himself for the price he has had to pay for victory. Because he was checked in his advance successively at Liège, Antwerp and the Yser, the invading monster thought by calumny to belittle the honour and the loyalty of Belgian citizens.

It is not our purpose here, either by argument or speeches or dissertations to reply to the systematic propaganda which has been carried on in neutral countries with an energy which is sufficient in itself to condemn it. Nothing is more convincing than the naked truth, and, in the case of Belgium, the truth appears in a triple light. Whoever wishes can come into contact with it in its three incarnations and receive from it a deep impression of the loyalty and innocence and infinite suffering which it presents to anyone who examines it.

The reader will find, first of all, in the following pages, the story of Belgium's claim to independence, an independence which was recognised by the Powers in 1830 in consequence of a spontaneous and irresistible movement in favour of it on the part of a people born to liberty. In 1839 the Powers imposed upon the country a statute, very carefully prepared, constituting it a strictly neutral State. In 1870 they guaranteed that State against all attacks from outside, and in 1907 entered into a second formal engagement to respect both the spirit of the statute and the obligations to the fulfilment of which it bound them.

We shall next see in what manner Belgium met the threats and actual violation of her rights by the strongest of the Powers which guaranteed the inviolability of those rights, and what were the true and wise precepts which Belgium recommended her unarmed population to follow.

Finally, by the contemplation of a long succession of appalling occurrences, we shall know by what systematic cruelty, injustice and violation of the laws of war and of humanity itself, the aggressor has placed a prosperous country, which he coveted, under his yoke.

The texts which have been reproduced speak for themselves, and may be verified in the historical and juridical works from which they have been collected, or in the newspapers of neutral or hostile countries which have called our attention to them. The unpublished statements are necessarily incomplete, having been collected on the battlefield or furnished by martyrs fainting from exhaustion, or obtained at an inquiry such as is always very dangerous and difficult to hold for fear of malicious reprisals on the part of the occupying army.

However, we have collected and published a sufficient number of these statements to enable the reader to realise the enormous extent of the damage inflicted on the victims of the invasion, the unceasing and bloody persecutions to which they were exposed, and the terrible and ungoverned rage of the butcher. However anxious we may be for a calm discussion of the facts, it is impossible to view Germany's dealings with Belgium in a light other than that in which we present them. We shall see that for every form of suffering undergone by the Belgians, whether massacre or devastation, whether atrocities committed on individuals or atrocities committed on communities, evidence of premeditation can be found in the publications of German theorists or the orders of the military commanders, or the admissions of their soldiers.

* * *

We confidently hope that the perusal of this narrative will lead the impartial reader to form the following conclusions.

The first is that "*Belgium in resisting Germany has only performed her duty.*"

Beyond the recognition of this fact Belgium asks for no mark of approval, and King Albert speaks in the name of all his people when he says in reply to the expressions of admiration with which he is greeted on all sides: "I have but done what any honest man should do." There is another conclusion which follows from this as a corollary, and one which closely concerns Germany, namely, that the bargain proposed by the mighty Empire to the little nation was an infamous bargain. The German Chancellor himself made this clear to the whole world when he said in the Reichstag: "The wrong we are committing." His tardy defence, by which he hoped to allay the indignation of neutrals after several months of war, and which consisted in the publication of two private Anglo-Belgian "Conversations" which were already known, before the occupation of Brussels, to have taken place, only brought out German bad faith in a clearer light. It was necessary to alter the text of these conversations in the translation in order that they might support his argument. The publication of the garbled passages in their complete and original form affords yet another proof that not even through her General Staff—who, in any case, are not competent to bind the country—did Belgium ever envisage any military action, except in consequence of an attack which she was, by treaty, bound to resist.

* * *

The second conclusion to be drawn from the examination of the facts attested by the documents is that from the very beginning of the German invasion of Belgium, and before any proof could have been given of a hostile attitude on the part of the population, *a system of terrorism was established.* This system was already prepared in the minds of the leaders in conformity with the principles which governed their strategy. It was applied to Belgium immediately it was known that a free passage through the country would be refused; and the exaggerated apprehensions which filled the minds of the soldiers, and in particular the dread of the "franc-tireurs," by which they were haunted, were additional motives for its application. The responsibility for the death of advanced patrols of Uhlans shot by small detachments of the regular Belgian Army sent forward to await the enemy in concealment and then fall back and rejoin the main body, was, without any hesitation or any form of enquiry, thrown upon civilians.

As a matter of fact the civilians received the fullest instructions from the authorities warning them of their danger; their arms had been taken from them by order, and stored and labelled at the Communal Hall, and they had merely observed an attitude of curiosity with regard to the invader—which attitude, however, was soon changed into one of fury. They were ignorant of the true character of this war; they were prepared for the horrors of the battle field; but, outside its zone, they expected to experience nothing more than an orderly occupation during which the rules of war would be observed.

Everywhere the Clergy had advised an attitude of calm. The first place in which the German troops halted after crossing the frontier at Gemmenich was the borough of Battice. The day before, the Curé had assured his parishioners from the pulpit that "the Germans are not savages." The following day the village was sacked and burned to the ground, and a number of civilians were assassinated. The whole of the district beyond the forts of Liège outside the range of the Belgian shells was the first to suffer from the application of the system. The sanguinary check inflicted on the invader when his armies met with an unexpected resistance was visited on the populace, for it was thought necessary to make such an impression upon the people that their Government would be induced to abandon the struggle. The calm which ensued upon the fall of Liège was quickly followed by fresh extortions, and on the banks of the Meuse itself, as early as the 15th of August, Visé was entirely destroyed for no military purpose. To this succeeded, at very short intervals, the massacres at Andenne, Dinant, Tamines, Aerschot, Louvain and Termonde, accompanied, in every case, by pillage, incendiarism and systematic devastations. The enemy had hoped that after the events at Liège their passage through the country would be unopposed, but when this was continually denied them in conformity with strict international obligations, they set themselves to put an end to delay and to destroy undefended towns "by way of warning" as they themselves now confess. As long as there was an army in Belgium the same system was to be applied. The fury engendered by the thought of the losses which had been sustained and of the time which had been wasted, and the composition of the regiments of the first line, did much to bring about its application. In presence of the ruins of Dinant, more complete than those of Pompeii, and of the bodies exhumed at Louvain and Aerschot, the military authorities stood aghast, and recognised that "we have gone too far;" "it was

not necessary ;" " too much has been done." But not one of them disavowed the principle itself which had inspired the system. It is merely a question of degree which must be estimated, says the Staff Officer's Manual, solely according to military exigencies.

And the interpretations differ according to the temper of the commentator. " Belgium has suffered," say the Roman Catholics, " from the circumstance that the first troops to arrive were Saxons or Pomeranians, sincerely convinced of the absolute power of the priests." And thus they explain the execution of 49 ecclesiastics who have to-day been recognised as innocent, the imprisonment and ill-treatment of numbers of others, the sacrileges and the desecrations.

Persons with an inadequate knowledge of the Belgian temperament continue to lay the blame on the fanaticism and the ignorance of the country people and the vagueness of the instructions issued by the Government, hoping thus to excuse the devastations and reprisals which took place in the south of Luxemburg, in the suburbs of Malines, at Limbourg and on the rural table lands near Liège. But the case of Dinant, Louvain, Namur and Termonde embarrasses them. In these towns the bourgeois, the intellectual class and the landowners had to suffer, as well as the monuments of art and science and charitable institutions. In these cases they endeavour to shut their eyes and express no opinion at all. Civilians carried away to Germany as prisoners and the few survivors of the massacres were warned not to speak ; the lists of bodies exhumed at Dinant were required to be given up : the Town Hall of Louvain was declared to be still standing and the bombardment of Termonde was described as a strategic necessity.

Although the vast majority of the less educated in Germany, debarred from enlightenment by the strict intellectual blockade maintained by the Censor, still hold to the legend of the " gouging out of eyes and the conspiracy of the priests," an inclination to refute them has manifested itself in the independent press. A direct lie is given to an imperial statement as it appears in the telegram to President Wilson. Henceforth only isolated assaults by civilians are spoken of, but the brain of the soldier is still nourished with the suggestion which it has been thought necessary to keep alive. His friends write to him from his country : " Do not let the civilians come near you " ; " Fire on those who approach you." And he, in his turn, does not scruple to write from the war zone : " We are drinking the red wine of a Curé who has been executed."

* * *

The third conclusion which neutrals must necessarily draw in face of the facts is that the *German army in Belgium deliberately and effectively set at nought the rules of war.* Here again, the wolf accuses the lamb. A single principle pervades the German notion of right :—"What is necessary or useful from the military point of view is permissible." The weaker party has to accept this principle and bow to it when resistance to it would bring upon him inordinate suffering.

And this is how they justify their treachery in battle : expanding bullets are used because the morale of their enemy's troops is such that they can stand up to fair blows ; hospitals and open towns are bombarded because fortified towns are secured against sudden attack ; asphyxiating gases are employed because a winter in the trenches has only had the effect of enhancing the courage of the Belgian soldiers.

What is a man's life to them ? What do they care for the laws of humanity or the usages of civilisation ? If regard for principles which the introductory chapter of the Conventions of the Hague deems to be axioms universally admitted, should involve a loss of time or a sacrifice of troops, or render success doubtful, it must be immediately set aside in the interests of humanity itself and with a view to a speedy termination of the war. Hostages, human shields and wanton shootings, such are the barbarous methods which will compel French, English or Belgian troops to take precautionary measures and reserve for themselves certain rights useful to assailants ; and they will be justified in so doing.

And above all, there is the great method, of which the manual speaks—wholesale reprisals. For this a formula was already prepared. It is only necessary to reproduce the texts of the placards and the proclamations adapted to the occasion. This method may be usefully employed at all times, as upon the arrival anywhere of the wearied troops, in order to procure them a refreshing sleep, and executions have taken place by way of averting an imaginary danger. Others are synchronous with the alleged commission of the offence. Thus, when an attack is made by the regular army on a railway line, men, women and priests are taken from the villages of the neighbouring district, thrown into prison and conducted from one place to another without food or water ; a mock execution takes place, and finally they are actually shot as a warning to others and a guarantee for the future. Other executions again

took place subsequently to the offence by way of vengeance or retaliation and in this case consisted in the massacre of 100, 300 or 800 persons, some of them little children at the breast "for the innocent must suffer for the guilty."

And can we suppose that a man who has once "got his hand in" so to speak, would be deterred by the respect due to a wounded and disarmed soldier. The difficulty of transporting prisoners and the embarrassment they cause present another form of "military exigencies." And then comes the order to make no more prisoners—and the soldiers' notebooks are there to testify that this order is carried out.

* * *

The fourth and last conclusion to which the study of the documents leads us is that Germany, having crushed Belgium in forcing a passage through the country after the fall of Liège, made an improper and arbitrary use of her occupation of that country by employing its resources for her own ends. Heavy war contributions during the period of hostilities were followed by systematic expropriation of the public funds. Requisitions, fines, and confiscations have paralysed the economic energies of the nation while the employment of intimidation and violence has paralysed it morally. But thanks to American generosity Belgium still subsists, in spite of the occupation, and it is, perhaps, the most consoling, and at the same time the most touching, aspect of the war that the great people of the new world should have spontaneously given their support to one of the little nations of the old Continent as a token of the admiration of the later races, with their future before them, for the self-sacrifice and high moral perceptions of a people in whom are revived the noblest traditions of the past.

Nor will Belgium perish on account of the moral subjection to which she is exposed. Her enemies may imprison without trial the Burgomaster Max, the incarnation of civic independence ; they may try to impose silence and inactivity on Cardinal Mercier, who publicly denounced the Burgomaster's martyrdom ; they may daily arrest young people hurrying to join the camps of the army behind the impassable Yser, and visit their sins upon their families ; they may attempt by threats or feigned benevolence to convince the nation that its interests are with the invader—but nothing avails against the latent fundamental and paramount forces which operate to keep Belgium within herself, and isolate Germany on the soil which is the centre of her exploits, and make the Belgian people feel more and more confident of their final deliverance, and of a day of justice and redress to come.

It cannot be said with truth of a nation that it has lost everything when it has preserved its soul ; nor indeed can this, in any case, be said of Belgium outside the daily narrowing circle within which the might of Germany battens upon its own sophisms. The sympathy of humanity throughout the world is with her. There is no one who is not grieved at her lot or who does not admire her secretly, if not openly, and no one who is not prepared to rejoice at her redemption.

For, thank God, the God of absolute justice and eternal right, there is sufficient pure air in the universe, sufficient space in the spiritual world, for the fame of a people who have been able to show what liberty and honour mean for them, to live and thrive there unscathed by the ambitions, cupidity, selfish aspirations or reactionary forces of others.

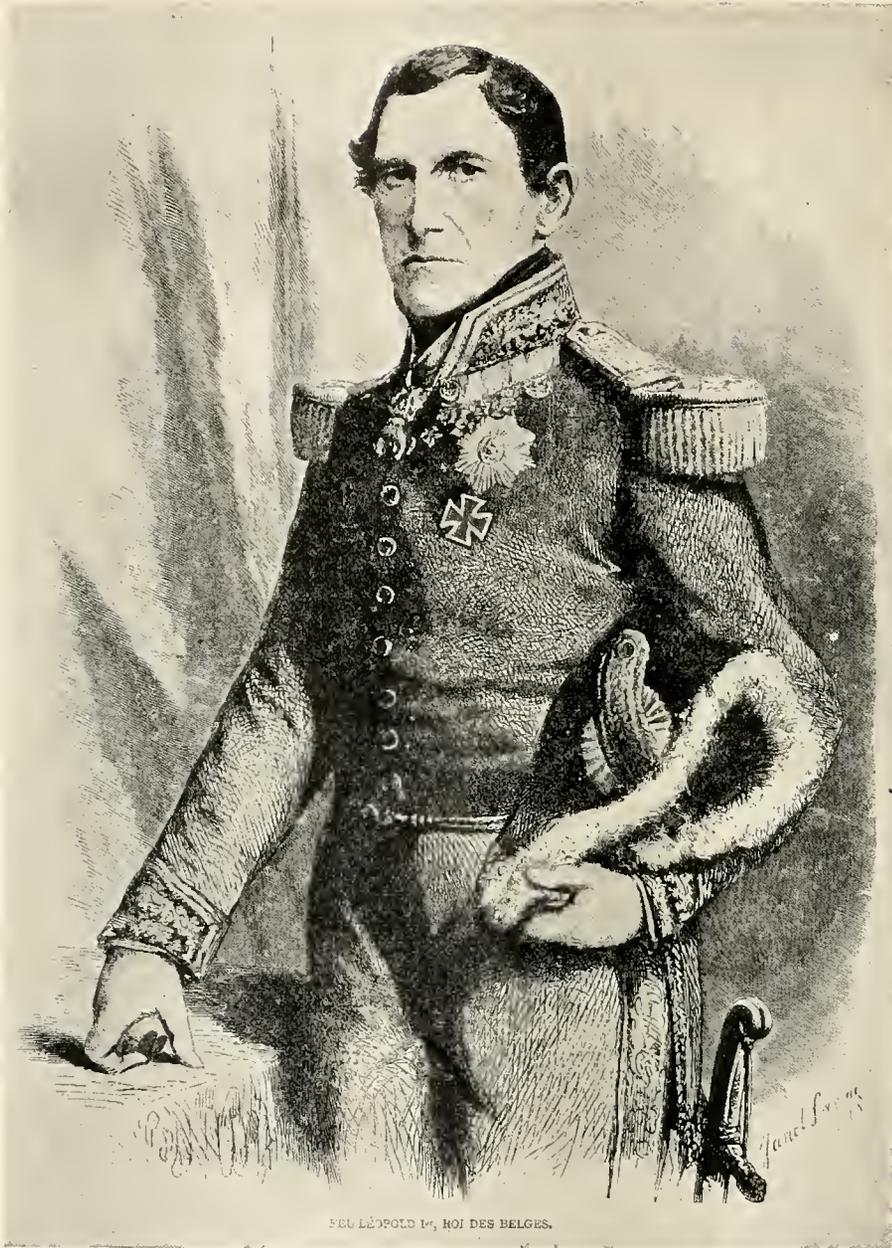
HENRI DAVIGNON.

London, May 1915.

BELGIUM AT THE BAR OF HISTORY.

“Belgium, proud and confident, submits herself to the judgment of the World.”

PAUL HYMANS, Minister of State, Belgian Minister at London.



H.M. LEOPOLD I, Elected King of the Belgians on the 4th June, 1831.

"The position of Belgium has been determined by treaties and perpetual neutrality has been solemnly assured to her. . . . We cannot remind ourselves too often that neutrality is the true aim of our political existence. Sincerely, loyally and bravely to maintain it must be our constant aim."

(Speech of the King at the opening of the Belgian Parliament on the 10th November, 1840.)

THE FOUNDATIONS OF BELGIAN INDEPENDENCE AND NEUTRALITY.

"The Belgian provinces forcibly separated from Holland shall form an independent State."

Order passed by the Provisional Government of Brussels on the 4th October, 1830.

"Belgium . . . shall form a perpetually neutral State."

"The five powers . . . guarantee to it this perpetual neutrality, as also the integrity and inviolability of its territory. . . ."

Article 5 of the Treaty of 18 Articles signed on the 26th June, 1831, by the representatives of the five Great Powers, including Prussia, and approved by the National Congress of the 9th July, 1831.

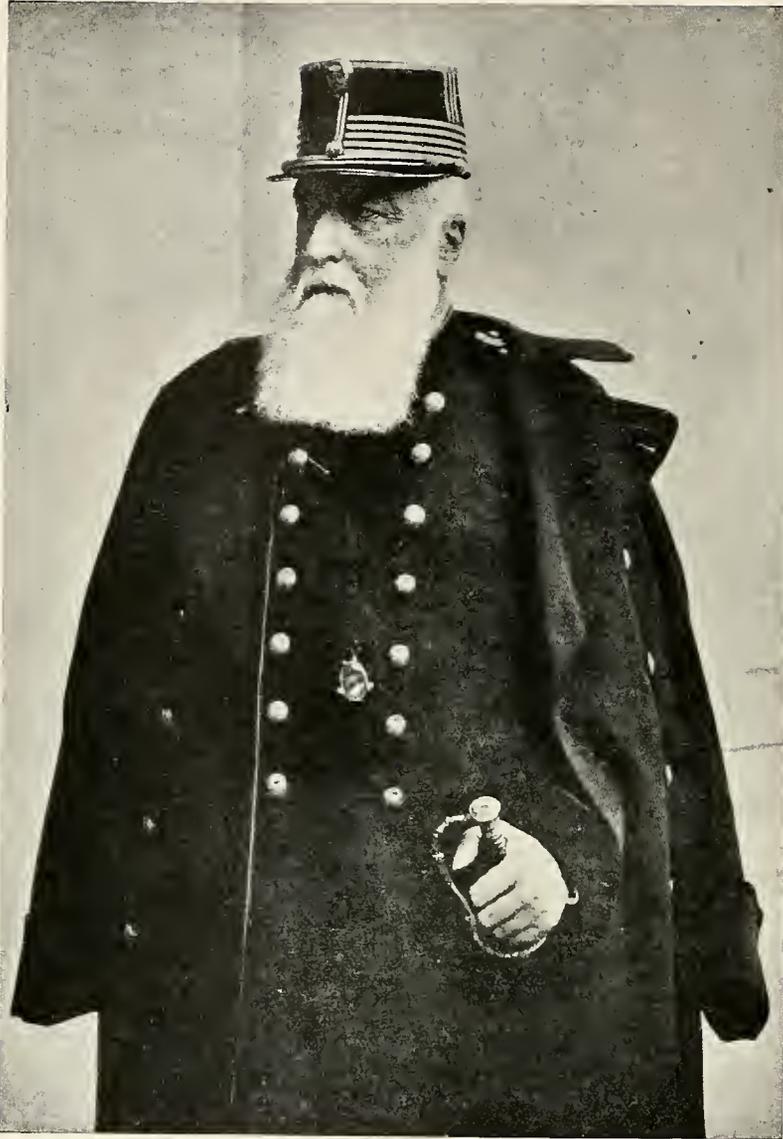
"Belgium, within the limits specified in Articles 1, 2 and 4 shall form an independent and perpetually neutral State. It shall be bound to observe such neutrality towards all other States."

Article VII of the Treaty of 19th April, 1839, between Belgium and the Netherlands.

"H.M. the Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary and Bohemia, H.M. the King of the French, H.M. the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, H.M. the King of Prussia and H.M. the Emperor of all the Russias, declare that the Articles hereunto annexed, and forming the tenour of the Treaty concluded this day between His Majesty the King of the Belgians and H.M. the King of the Netherlands, Grand Duke of Luxembourg, are considered as having the same force and validity as if they were textually inserted in the present Act, and that they are thus placed under the guarantee of their said Majesties."

Article I of the Treaty signed at London on the 19th April, 1839.





H.M. LEOPOLD II, crowned King of the Belgians on 10th December, 1865.

"Belgium, in the position in which International Law places her, will bear in mind both her duty to neutral States and her duty to herself. . . . The Belgian people are deeply conscious of their duty; they know the value of the benefits that they were so fortunate as to acquire 40 years ago and have so honourably preserved. They are not likely to forget what is at stake—the welfare, freedom, honour, and the very existence of their country."

King's speech from the Throne, 1870.

THE CONFIRMATION OF BELGIAN NEUTRALITY.

“H.M. The Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and H.M. the King of Prussia, desiring at the present time to record in a solemn Act their fixed determination to maintain the independence and neutrality of Belgium as established by Article VII of the Treaty signed at London on 19th April, 1839, between Belgium and the Netherlands, which article has been declared by the quintuple Treaty of 1839 to have the same force and the same validity as if it were inserted textually in the said quintuple Treaty, the said Majesties have resolved to conclude a separate Treaty between themselves, which, *without invalidating or impairing the conditions of the quintuple Treaty above mentioned, will be* SUBSIDIARY and ACCESSORY to it.

“Article 1.—H.M. the King of Prussia having declared that, notwithstanding the hostilities in which the North German Confederation is engaged with France, *it is his fixed determination to respect the neutrality of Belgium*, so long as the same shall be respected by France, H.M. the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on her part declares that, if during the said hostilities the armies of France should violate that neutrality, she will be prepared to co-operate with His Prussian Majesty for the defence of the same in such a manner as may be mutually agreed upon, employing for that purpose her naval and military forces to ensure its observance, and to maintain in conjunction with His Prussian Majesty, then and thereafter, the Independence and Neutrality of Belgium.”

Treaty signed at London on the 9th August, 1870. An identic treaty was concluded and signed the same day between France and Great Britain.

“SIR,

In confirmation of my oral assurances, I have the honour to give you in writing the declaration—**SUPERFLUOUS IN VIEW OF THE TREATIES IN FORCE**—that the North German Confederation and its allies will respect the neutrality of Belgium, provided of course that it is respected by the other belligerent.”

Letter from Herr von Bismarck to Baron Northomb, Belgian Minister at Berlin, dated 22nd July, 1870.

“ARTICLE I.—THE TERRITORY OF NEUTRAL POWERS IS INVOLABLE.

“ARTICLE II.—BELLIGERENTS ARE FORBIDDEN TO MOVE ACROSS THE TERRITORY OF A NEUTRAL POWER TROOPS AND CONVOYS, EITHER OF MUNITIONS OF WAR OR OF SUPPLIES.

“ARTICLE X.—THE FACT OF A NEUTRAL POWER REPELLING, EVEN BY FORCE, ATTACKS ON ITS NEUTRALITY CANNOT BE CONSIDERED AS A HOSTILE ACT.”

5th Convention by the Hague, signed by 44 States, including Germany.

2 August 1914
6 C^m

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ER=AUSGABE

... am vergangenen Freitag von S. M. dem Deutschen Kaiser Deutschland in den
Kriegszustand erklärt worden war, ist gestern, Sonnabend Vormittag die

Allgemeine Mobilmachung

verfügt worden

Das Kaiserlich Deutsche Generalkonsulat hier erlässt dazu folgende

BEKANNTMACHUNG

an die Wehrpflichtigen des Deutschen Reiches.

Seine Majestät der Deutsche Kaiser haben eine allgemeine Mobilmachung angeordnet. Alle im Auslande befindlichen wehrpflichtigen Personen haben sich dem entsprechend unverzüglich in das Inland zurückzubewegen und sich bei der in ihrer Kriegsheftung bezeichneten Kommando-
stelle zu melden. Diejenigen Wehrpflichtigen, die keine besondere Kriegsheftung in Händen
haben, haben sich bei dem zunächst zu erreichenden Grenzbezirkskommando zu stellen.

Mittellose Wehrpflichtige können die Fahrkarte bis zur Grenze durch Vermittlung des Kaiser-
lichen Generalkonsulats 10 Place Léopold, erbitten. Es wird darauf hingewiesen, dass es un-
bedingt erforderlich ist, auf erste mögliche Reisegelegenheit nach Deutschland wahrzunehmen, da
später infolge Aufhebung der gewöhnlichen Fahrpläne die rechtzeitige Ankunft an dem Bestimmungs-
orte in Frage gestellt ist.

KAISERLICH DEUTSCHES GENERALKONSULAT.

Hilgen, über Galizien eingetrossenen Zeitungs-
nachrichten zufolge hat Deutschland gestern, Sonn-
abend Abend 7 Uhr 30, Russland den Krieg erklärt.
Deutschland hat gleichzeitig Frankreich Belgien
zur Handlung gegeben, dass neuzugewonnenen
Grenzen wurde. Die Kaiserliche Marine hat
die Flotten in Kriegsstellung gebracht. Die
Ost-Flotte in Kriegsstellung gebracht.

In dieser kritischen Zeit ist eine genaue Kenntnis
von der Lage der Flotten und Kriegsmarine des Reichs
und der Verbündeten von Interesse. Wir geben im Folgenden
die Zahl der Kriegsmarine der Kaiserlichen Marine
an.

Jährliches Rekrutungskontingent einschließlich
der Freiwilligen, Deutsches Reich 300.000 Mann
Österreich-Ungarn 200.000 Mann, Italien 150.000
Mann, außerdem etwa 200.000 Mann der zweiten Ka-
tegorie (Reservisten), die für die ersten Monate des
Krieges in Frankreich, 225.000 Mann, Holland 150.000
Mann.

Friedensstärke Deutschland 400.000 Mann nach
der neuen Wehrverfassung (1913), Österreich-Ungarn
410.000 Mann, Italien 200.000 Mann, Frankreich
800.000 Mann, nach Einführung der dreijährigen
Dienstzeit, Russland 1.800.000 Mann.

Die Zahl der Feld- und Reservegruppen beträgt
in Deutschland 1.500.000 Mann, Österreich-Ungarn

1.500.000 Mann, Italien 820.000 Mann, Frankreich
2.000.000 Mann, Russland 3.000.000 Mann. Als Reserve
gruppen werden unter Berücksichtigung des
1.100.000 Mann, Österreich-Ungarn 1.500.000 Mann,
Italien 1.000.000 Mann, Russland 2.000.000
Mann.

Die Friedensstärke der Kaiserlichen Marine
beträgt 1.200.000 Mann, Italien 1.000.000 Mann,
Österreich-Ungarn 1.000.000 Mann, nach dem neuen Wehr-
gesetz von 1913, 2.500.000 Mann, Italien 3.000.000
Mann, Frankreich 2.000.000 Mann, Russland 2.000.000
Mann.

Die Zusammensetzung von Feld- und Zweibund
ergibt:

Jährliches Rekrutungskontingent (Einzubund) 600.000
Mann, Zweibund 650.000 Mann.
Friedensstärke (Einzubund) 1.400.000 Mann, Zwei-
bund 1.800.000 Mann.
Feld- und Reservegruppen (Einzubund) 430.000
Mann, Zweibund 610.000 Mann.
Einsparungen der 3. Kategorie (Einzubund) 200.000
Mann, Zweibund 350.000 Mann.
Landwehren (Einzubund) 2.000.000 Mann, Zweibund
2.500.000 Mann.

Kriegsmarine (Einzubund) 11.000 Mann, Zwei-
bund 110.000 Mann.

Über die russische Armee

Die russische Armee hat in den letzten Jahren
eine bedeutende Verstärkung erfahren. Die
Zahl der russischen Soldaten ist auf über 3
Millionen angewachsen. Die russische Armee
ist in der Lage, eine große Anzahl von
Soldaten in den Kampf zu stellen. Die
russische Armee ist in der Lage, eine große
Anzahl von Soldaten in den Kampf zu stellen.
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Anzahl von Soldaten in den Kampf zu stellen.

Notice distributed by the German Consul General to the
German residents in Antwerp on August 2nd, 1914, the date
of the German ultimatum to Belgium.

At the end of the circular the following sentence was added: "Germany, as well as France, has
given to Belgium the assurance that her neutrality will be respected."

ORAL GUARANTEES, GIVEN BY THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GERMAN EMPIRE, WITH REGARD TO THE NEUTRALITY OF BELGIUM.

"Belgian neutrality is provided for by International Conventions and Germany is determined to respect those Conventions."

Speech by HERR VON JAGOW, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, at the meeting of the Budget Committee of the Reichstag on April 29th, 1913.

"Germany will not lose sight of the fact that the neutrality of Belgium is guaranteed by International treaty."

Speech by HERR VON HEERINGEN, Minister of War, at the same meeting.

"In the course of the conversation which the Secretary-General of my Department had with Herr von Below this morning, he explained to the German Minister the scope of the military measures which we had taken, and said to him that they were a consequence of our desire to fulfil our international obligations, and that they in no wise implied an attitude of distrust towards our neighbours.

"The Secretary-General then asked the German Minister if he knew of the conversation which he had had with his predecessor, Herr von Flotow, and of the reply which the Imperial Chancellor had instructed the latter to give.

"In the course of the controversy which arose in 1911 as a consequence of the Dutch scheme for the fortification of Flushing, certain newspapers had maintained that in the case of a Franco-German war Belgian neutrality would be violated by Germany.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs had suggested that a declaration in the German Parliament during a debate on foreign affairs would serve to calm public opinion, and to dispel the mistrust which was so regrettable from the point of view of the relations between the two countries.

"HERR VON BETHMANN-HOLLWEG replied that he had fully appreciated the feelings which had inspired our representations. *He declared that Germany had no intention of violating Belgian neutrality*, but he considered that in making a public declaration Germany would weaken her military position in regard to France, who, secured on the northern side, would concentrate all her energies on the east.

"Baron van der Elst, continuing, said that he perfectly understood the objections raised by Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg to the proposed public declaration, and he recalled the fact that since then, in 1913, Herr von Jagow had made reassuring declarations to the Budget Commission of the Reichstag respecting the maintenance of Belgian neutrality.

"Herr von Below replied that he knew of the conversation with Herr von Flotow, and that *he was certain that the sentiments expressed at that time had not changed.*"

Letter, dated 31st July, 1914, addressed by M. DAVIGNON, Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the King's Ministers at Berlin, London and Paris.

"The troops will not cross Belgian territory. Grave events are imminent. Perhaps you will see your neighbour's house in flames, but the fire will spare your dwelling."

HERR VON BELOW, German Minister at Brussels, to Brussels journalists on the morning of the 2nd August, 1914.

Kaiserlich
Deutsche Gesandtschaft
in Belgien

Brüssel, den 2 August 1914

Tres confidentiel.

Der Kaiserlichen Regierung liegen zuverlässige Nachrichten vor ueber den beabsichtigten Aufmarsch französischer Streitkräfte an der Maas - Strecke Givet - Namur. Sie lassen keinen Zweifel ueber die Absicht Frankreichs, durch belgisches Gebiet gegen Deutschland vorzugehen

Die Kaiserliche Regierung kann sich der Besorgniss nicht erwehren, daß Belgien, trotz besten Willens, nicht im Stande sein wird, ohne Hilfe einen französischen Vormarsch mit so großer Aussicht auf Erfolg abzuwehren, daß darin eine ausreichende Sicherheit gegen die Bedrohung Deutschlands gefunden werden kann. Es ist ein Gebot der Selbsterhaltung für Deutschland, dem feindlichen Angriff zuvorzukommen. Mit dem größten Bedauern würde es daher die deutsche Regierung erfüllen, wenn Belgien einen Akt der Feindseligkeit

Photograph of the first page of the original text of the ultimatum sent by Herr von Below, German Minister, to M. Davignon, Minister for Foreign Affairs, at 7 p.m. on August 2nd, 1914.

THE BARGAIN OFFERED BY GERMANY TO BELGIUM.

Imperial German Legation in Belgium,
Brussels,
August 2, 1914.

(Very Confidential.)

“Reliable information has been received by the German Government to the effect that French forces intend to march on the line of the Meuse by Givet and Namur. This information leaves no doubt as to the intention of France to march through Belgian territory against Germany.

“The German Government cannot but fear that Belgium, in spite of the utmost goodwill, will be unable, without assistance, to repel so considerable a French invasion with sufficient prospect of success to afford an adequate guarantee against danger to Germany. It is essential for the self-defence of Germany that she should anticipate any such hostile attack. The German Government would, however, feel the deepest regret if Belgium regarded as an act of hostility against herself the fact that the measures of Germany's opponents force Germany, for her own protection, to enter Belgian territory.

“In order to exclude any possibility of misunderstanding, the German Government make the following declaration :—

“1. Germany has in view no act of hostility against Belgium. In the event of Belgium being prepared in the coming war to maintain an attitude of friendly neutrality towards Germany, the German Government bind themselves, at the conclusion of peace, to guarantee the possessions and independence of the Belgian Kingdom in full.

“2. Germany undertakes, under the above-mentioned condition, to evacuate Belgian territory on the conclusion of peace.

“3. If Belgium adopts a friendly attitude, Germany is prepared, in co-operation with the Belgian authorities, to purchase all necessaries for her troops against a cash payment, and to pay an indemnity for any damage that may have been caused by German troops.

“4. Should Belgium oppose the German troops, and in particular should she throw difficulties in the way of their march by a resistance of the fortresses on the Meuse, or by destroying railways, roads, tunnels, or other similar works, Germany will, to her regret, be compelled to consider Belgium as an enemy.

“In this event, Germany can undertake no obligations towards Belgium, but the eventual adjustment of the relations between the two States must be left to the decision of arms.

“The German Government, however, entertain the distinct hope that this eventuality will not occur, and that the Belgian Government will know how to take the necessary measures to prevent the occurrence of incidents such as those mentioned. In this case the friendly ties which bind the two neighbouring States will grow stronger and more enduring.”

Translation of the German ultimatum.



H M. King Albert, crowned King of the Belgians on the 23rd December, 1909.

"Valiant soldiers in a holy cause, I have every confidence in your stubborn valour, and greet you in the name of Belgium. Your fellow citizens are proud of you. You will triumph, for you are *the army which fights on the side of justice.*"

Proclamation of the King to the Army, 5th August, 1914.

BELGIUM READY FOR ALL EMERGENCY AND UNITED IN THE FACE OF THE MENACE.

"NEVER since 1830 has a more grave moment come to Belgium : the integrity of our territory is threatened.

"The strength of our just cause, the sympathy which Belgium, proud of her free institutions, and of her moral conquests, has never ceased to enjoy at the hands of other nations, the fact that our independent existence is necessary for the balance of power in Europe, these considerations give rise to hope that the events which we fear will not take place.

"But if our hopes fail, if we must resist the invasion of our soil and must defend our threatened homes, this duty, hard though it be, will find us ordered and prepared for the greatest sacrifices (*cheers and cries of 'Long Live the King! Long Live Belgium!'*).

"From this moment, with a view to meet every contingency, the valiant youth of our nation stand ready, firmly resolved with the traditional tenacity and calmness of the Belgians to defend their fatherland at a moment of danger (*cheers*).

"To them I send a brotherly greeting in the name of the nation (*cheers and cries of Long Live the Army!*). Throughout Flanders and the country of Wallonie in town and country one sentiment alone fills every heart—patriotism ; one vision alone fills every mind—our threatened independence. One duty alone is laid upon our wills, stubborn resistance (*cheers*).

"At this grave moment two virtues are indispensable—courage, calm (*renewed cheers*) but firm, and close union among all Belgians.

"Striking evidence of both these virtues is already before the eyes of a nation full of enthusiasm.

"The faultless mobilisation of our army, the multitude of volunteers, the devotion of the civil population, the self-sacrifice of families have shown incontestably that the whole Belgian people is carried away by stimulating courage (*applause*). The moment has come to act.

"I have called you together, gentlemen, to give to the Legislative Chambers an opportunity to associate themselves with the impulses of the people in the same sentiment of sacrifice. Gentlemen, you will know how to deal urgently with all the measures which the situation requires for the war and for public order (*general assent*).

"When I see this enthusiastic gathering in which there is only one party, that of the fatherland (*enthusiastic cheers and cries of Long Live Belgium*), in which at this moment all hearts beat as one, my mind goes back to the Congress of 1830, and I ask of you gentlemen, are you determined unswervingly to maintain intact the whole patrimony of our ancestors? (*Yes, yes, from every side.*)

"No one in the country will fail in his duty.

"The army, strong and disciplined, is fit to do this task : my Government and I have full confidence in its leaders and its soldiers. (*Hear, hear.*)

"The Government, firmly attached to the populace and supported by them, is conscious of its responsibilities, and will bear them to the end with the deliberate conviction that the efforts of all united in the most fervent and generous patriotism will safeguard the supreme good of the country.

"If the foreigner, disregarding the neutrality whose every duty we have always scrupulously observed should violate our territory, he will find all Belgians grouped around their sovereign who will never betray his coronation oath, and around a Government possessing the absolute confidence of the entire nation. (*Cheers on all the Benches.*)

"I have faith in our destiny ; a country which defends itself commands the respect of all ; such a country shall never perish. (*Hear, hear. Long live the King, long live Belgium.*)

"God will be with us in this just cause (*fresh applause*).

"Long live independent Belgium (*long and unanimous cheers from the Assembly and from the Galleries.*)"

The King's Speech to the Belgian Parliament met in session extraordinary on 4th August, 1914.



M. DAVIGNON, Minister for Foreign
Affairs.

“No hesitation was possible as to the reply called for by the amazing proposal of the German Government.”

Letter to Belgian Ministers at Paris, London and St. Petersburg.



BARON DE BROQUEVILLE, Minister of
War, President of the Council of
Belgian Ministers.

“I declare in the name of the whole nation, united heart and soul, that this people, even if they are conquered, will never be subdued.”

Speech to the Chamber of Deputies on
4th August, 1914.

THE PROFFERED BARGAIN REJECTED.

“ Brussels,

“ 3rd August, 1914.

“ The German Government stated in their note of the 2nd August, 1914, that according to reliable information French forces intended to march on the Meuse viâ Givet and Namur, and that Belgium, in spite of the best intentions, would not be in a position to repulse, without assistance, an advance of French troops.

“ The German Government, therefore, considered themselves compelled to anticipate this attack and to violate Belgian territory. In these circumstances Germany proposed to the Belgian Government to adopt a friendly attitude towards her, and undertook, on the conclusion of peace, to guarantee the integrity of the Kingdom and its possessions to their full extent. The note added that if Belgium put difficulties in the way of the advance of German troops, Germany would be compelled to consider her as an enemy, and to leave the ultimate adjustment of the relations between the two States to the decision of arms.

“ This note has made a deep and painful impression upon the Belgian Government.

“ The intentions attributed to France by Germany are in contradiction to the formal declarations made to us on August 1, in the name of the French Government.

“ Moreover, if, contrary to our expectation, Belgian neutrality should be violated by France, Belgium intends to fulfil her international obligations and the Belgian army would offer the most vigorous resistance to the invader.

“ The treaties of 1839, confirmed by the treaties of 1870, vouch for the independence and neutrality of Belgium under the guarantee of the Powers, and notably of the Government of His Majesty the King of Prussia.

“ Belgium has always been faithful to her international obligations, she has carried out her duties in a spirit of loyal impartiality, and she has left nothing undone to maintain and enforce respect for her neutrality.

“ The attack upon her independence with which the German Government threaten her constitutes a flagrant violation of international law. No strategic interest justifies such a violation of law.

“ The Belgian Government, if they were to accept the proposals submitted to them, would sacrifice the honour of the nation and betray their duty towards Europe.

“ Conscious of the part which Belgium has played for more than eighty years in the civilisation of the world, they refuse to believe that the independence of Belgium can only be preserved at the price of the violation of her neutrality.

“ If this hope is disappointed the Belgian Government are firmly resolved to repel, by all the means in their power, every attack upon their rights.”

Reply of the Belgian Government to the German Ultimatum.

ADMISSION BY THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF GERMANY OF THE VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

"We are now in a state of necessity (*Notwehr*), and *necessity knows no law*."

"Our troops have occupied Luxemburg and perhaps have already entered Belgian territory. THAT IS A BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. It is true that the French Government declared at Brussels that France would respect Belgian neutrality as long as her adversary respected it. We knew, however, that France stood ready for an invasion. France could wait, we could not. A French attack on our flank on the lower Rhine might have been disastrous. Thus we were forced to ignore the rightful protests of the Governments of Luxemburg and Belgium. *The wrong*—I speak openly—*the wrong we thereby commit* we will try to make good as soon as our military aims have been attained.

"He who is menaced as we are and is fighting for the highest possession can only consider how he is to hack his way through (*durchhauen*). We stand shoulder to shoulder with Austria-Hungary."

Speech of Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg, German Imperial Chancellor, before the German Reichstag on August 4th, 1914.

"The Belgian Minister when Herr von Jagow ex-

"You must understand that many has decided to violate the feel the most poignant regret. question of life or death for the want to be caught between the a decisive blow at France, in order

"But," said Baron Beyens, ently extended to make it possible

"They are too strongly fortified of you? Merely passage, to refrain your railways and occupy the fortified

"There is," replied the Minister at once, "a arriving at the only demand could ad- that France had invitation to us and it. Would not that we had been ly betrayal?"

tary of State did very pertinent ques- pursued :

he asked, "have you proach us with? for three quarters filled all the duties wards Germany, as

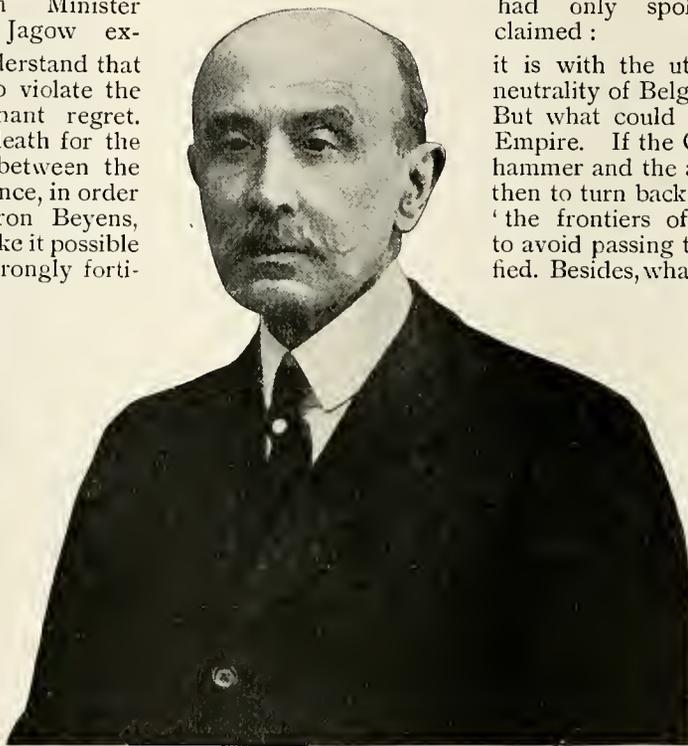
Great Powers who guaranteed it? Have we not given Germany evidence of loyal friendship? What return does Germany propose to make for that? To make Belgium the battle-field of Europe, and we know what devastation and disaster modern war brings in its 'train.'

"Germany has nothing to reproach Belgium with and the attitude of Belgium has always been perfectly correct."

"You must recognise then," replied Baron Beyens, "that Belgium cannot give you any other reply than that which she has given without losing her honour. It is with nations as with individuals, and there is not one kind of honour for peoples and another for private folk. You must recognise," insisted Baron Beyens, "that the reply could not have been other than that which has been given."

"I recognise it as a private individual, but as Secretary of State I have no view to express."

Last interview of Baron Beyens with Herr von Jagow, 3rd August, according to the book of M. Waxweiler, "Neutral and Loyal Belgium."



BARON BEYENS, Belgian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Germany.

had only spoken a few words claimed :

it is with the utmost grief that Ger- neutrality of Belgium, and personally I But what could you expect? It is a Empire. If the German armies do not hammer and the anvii they must strike then to turn back again against Russia.' 'the frontiers of France are suffici- to avoid passing through Belgium.'

fied. Besides, what is it that we are asking to allow us free from destroying tunnels, and to let us places that we need.' plied the Belgian very easy way of reply of which this mit. It is to suppose addressed the same we had acceded to Germany have said guilty of a coward-

"The Secret- not answer this tion. Baron Beyens

"At any rate," anything to re- Have we not always, of a century, ful- of our neutrality to- towards all the other

GREAT BRITAIN, GUARDIAN OF THE SANCTITY OF TREATIES.

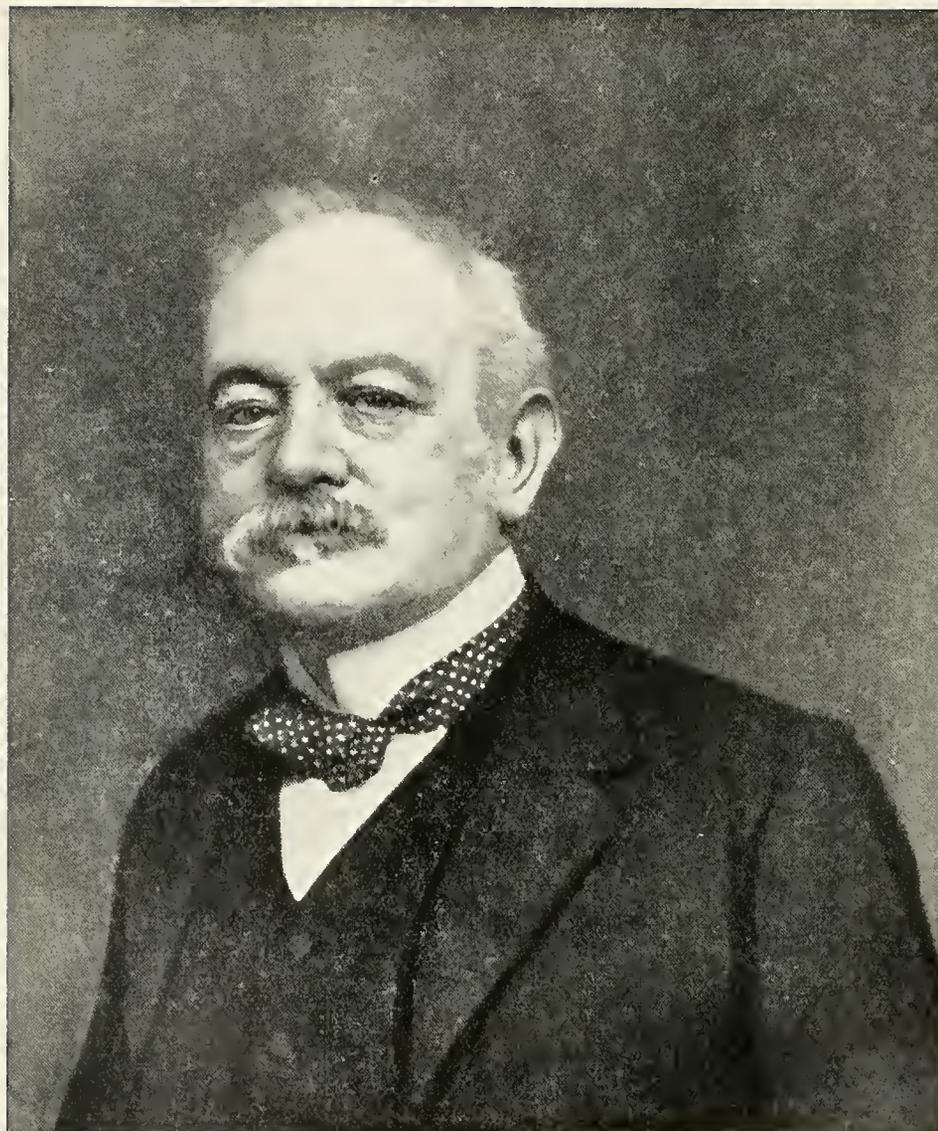


SIR EDWARD GOSCHEN, British Ambassador in Germany.

"I found the Chancellor very agitated. His Excellency at once began a harangue, which lasted for about twenty minutes. He said that the step taken by His Majesty's Government was terrible to a degree; *just for a word*—"neutrality," a word which in war time had so often been disregarded—*just for a scrap of paper* Great Britain was going to make war on a kindred nation who desired nothing better than to be friends with her. All his efforts in that direction had been rendered useless by this last terrible step, and the policy to which, as I knew, he had devoted himself since his accession to office had tumbled down like a house of cards. What we had done was unthinkable; it was like striking a man from behind while he was fighting for his life against two assailants. He held Great Britain responsible for all the terrible events that might happen.

"I protested strongly against that statement, and said that, in the same way as he and Herr von Jaow wished me to understand that for strategical reasons it was a matter of life and death to Germany to advance through Belgium and violate the latter's neutrality, so I would wish him to understand that *it was, so to speak, a matter of "life and death" for the honour of Great Britain that she should keep her solemn engagement to do her utmost to defend Belgium's neutrality if attacked.* That solemn compact simply had to be kept, or what confidence could any one have in engagements given by Great Britain in the future?"

Extract from Sir E. Goschen's report telegraphed on 4th August, 1914, but not received by the Foreign Office, and re-written in London on 8th August.



M. JULES CAMBON, French Ambassador in Germany.

GERMAN PREMEDITATION.

"I have received from an absolutely reliable source an account of a conversation which took place a fortnight ago between the Emperor and the King of the Belgians, in the presence of the Chief of the General Staff—General von Moltke. This conversation, it appears, has made a profound impression on King Albert. I am in no way surprised at the impression he gathered, which corresponds with what I have myself felt for some time. *Enmity against us is increasing, and the Emperor has ceased to be the friend of peace.*"

Letters from M. JULES CAMBON to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in France, dated 22nd November, 1913.

"But in the next European war *it will also be necessary that the small states should be forced to follow us or be subdued.* In certain conditions their armies and their strong positions can be rapidly conquered or neutralised ; this would probably be *the case with Belgium and Holland.*

". . . . This will be a vital question for us, and our aim must be to take the offensive with a large superiority from the first days. For this purpose it will be necessary to concentrate a large army, followed up by strong Landwehr formations, which will induce the small states to follow us or at least to *remain inactive in the theatre of operations, and which would crush them in the event of armed resistance.*

". . . . An ultimatum with a short time-limit, to be followed immediately by invasion, would allow a sufficient justification for our action in international law."

Extract from a Secret official report on the strengthening of the German Army, dated Berlin, the 19th March, 1913, which came into the hands of the French Government from a trustworthy source.

"France must be so crushed as never to be able to rise again to interfere with us."

"This result must be secured at any cost, even at the cost of an European war."

"*The neutrality of Belgium will not stop us.*"

General von Bernhardi : *Warfare of to-day.*

"The plan for the invasion of France was thoroughly thought out a long time ago. It was necessary for its success that it should take place in the north *by way of Belgium.*"

Deutsche Kriege Zeitung, 2nd September, 1914.

M^r Hammerstein a
fait part des préoccupations de l'état-major de son pays relatives
à la situation politique générale et aux éventualités de guerre
du moment. Les courtes de troupes, l'an total de 100.000 hommes
environ, était projeté pour le cas où la Belgique serait attaquée

L'armée de Belgique en ce point
qu'après la violation
de notre neutralité
sur l'Allemagne.

Il continuer dans ce sens : "Le débarq^{ement} de ces troupes (les Français)
sur la côte de France, vers Dunkerque et Calais, se fera à
l'abri le plus possible le mouvement. Le débarq^{ement} par deux ou plusieurs
lieux beaucoup plus de temps, parce qu'il faudrait transporter
plus considérables ^{d'objets} et la limite serait encore compliquée.

Voici aussi, résumé, l'ordre de l'attaque au cas de violation
de notre neutralité, sous réserve de l'avis de l'état-major : 1° notre coopération
de la Belgique au cas de guerre ; 2° l'offre de nous prêter nos ports ; 3° l'offre de nous fournir
l'armée anglaise, en ce moment, en ce moment, dans la confiance ; 4° l'offre
de nous fournir les renseignements nécessaires.

fin septembre 1906

Facsimile extract from a draft report of the Belgian Minister for War in 1906 relating to a private conversation between a Belgium officer of high rank and the British Military Attaché, regarding the possibility of a landing of British troops in case of the violation of Belgian neutrality by Germany.

TARDY AND FLIMSY EXCUSES.

“Oberstleutnant Barnadiston machte mir Mitteilungen von den Besorgnissen des Generalstabs seines Landes hinsichtlich der allgemeinen politischen Lage und wegen der Möglichkeit eines alsbaldigen Kriegsausbruches. Eine Truppensendung von im ganzen ungefähr 100,000 Mann sei für den Fall vorgesehen, dass Belgien angegriffen würde.”

“Barnadiston fuhr fort: Die Landung des englischen Truppen werde an der französischen Küste stattfinden, in der Gegend von Dünkirchen und Calais, und zwar würden die Truppenbewegungen **MOGLICHST BESCHLEUNIGT WERDEN**. **EINE LANDUNG** in Antwerpen würde viel mehr Zeit erfordern, weil man grössere Truppentransporte brauche und andererseits die Sicherheit weniger gross sei.”

“Nachdem Barnadiston seine volle Genugung über meine Erklärungen ausgesprochen hatte, betonte er: 1. *dass unser ABKOMMEN* absolut vertraulich sein sollte; 2. dass es seine Regierung nicht binden sollte; 3. dass sein Gesandter, der englische Generalstab und er und ich über die Angelegenheit unterrichtet seien und 4. dass er nicht wisse, ob man die Meinung seines Souveräns vorher eingeholt habe.”

“ABGESCHLOSSEN, September 1906.”

German translation of the text opposite by the *Norddeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung*, of the 13th October, 1914. In this translation there are three alterations of the text:

(1) Omission of the sentence “the entry of the English into Belgium would only take place after the violation of our neutrality by Germany.” This sentence, which forms an integral part of the text, is reproduced in French by the German translator after the translation, as if it were a note independent of the text.

(2) Alteration of the word “conversation” into “convention” (*abkommen*).

(3) Alteration of the date “end of September 1906” into the expression “concluded September 1906” (*abgeschlossen*).

This garbled version has been spread broadcast and served as a basis for the Dutch version published at the Hague (R. W. E. Wijnmalen 1914) and the English version for America.

Deutsche Kriegszeitung

1. — Namur, am 24 August
von den Deutschen genommen.

Veröffentlichungen des deutschen Gouvernements.

Berlin, 5. Sept. Bei der Wegnahme des hoch in Felsen gelegenen Sperrorts Givet haben, ebenso wie in Namur, die von Oesterreich zugesandten schweren Motorbatterien sich durch ihre Beweglichkeit, Treffsicherheit und Wirkung vortrefflich bewährt; sie haben uns ausgezeichnete Dienste geleistet. Die Sperrbefeestigungen Girson, Ayvelles, Fonde und Lafere haben wir ohne Kampf genommen. Damit befinden sich sämtliche Sperrbefeestigungen im noerdlichen Frankreich, ausser der Festung Maubeuge, in unseren Händen.

Gegen Reims ist der Angriff eingeleitet. Die Kavallerie-Armee des Generalobersten von Kluck streift bis Paris. Das Westheer überschritt die Aisnelinie, fortgesetzt wird der Vormarsch gegen die Marne, einzelne Vorhuten erreichen sie bereits.

Der Feind befindet sich vor den Armeen des Generalobersten von Kluck, Bulow, Hausen und des Herzogs von Württemberg im Rückzug. Auf und hinter der Marne, vor der Armee des deutschen Kronprinzen leistete er im Anschluss an Verdun Widerstand, wurde aber südwärts zurückgeworfen.

Die Armeen des Kronprinzen von Bayern und des Generalobersten von Heeringen haben immer noch einen starken Feind in befestigten Stellungen im franzosischen Lothringen gegenüber.

Im obern Elsass streifen deutsche und franzosische Abteilungen unter gegenseitigen Kämpfen.

Im Osten ernten die Truppen des Generalobersten Hindenburg weitere Früchte des Sieges. Die Zahl der Gefangenen wächst täglich und stieg bereits auf neunzigtausend. Wie viel Geschütze und sonstige Siegeszeichen noch in den Wäldern und Sümpfen stecken, lässt sich noch nicht übersehen. Anseheinend sind drei russische kommandierende Generale gefangen. Der russische Armeeführer soll nach russischen Nachrichten gefallen sein.

Das Deutsche Militär-Gouvernement.

Nouvelles officielles de la guerre

1. — Namur a été pris par
les Allemands, le 24 août.

Nouvelles publiées par le Gouvernement allemand.

Berlin, 5 septembre. Lors de la prise des forts d'arrêt situés sur les hauteurs rocheuses de Givet, tout comme à Namur, les lourdes batteries à moteurs envoyées par l'Autriche se sont distinguées par leur agilité, par la précision de leur tir et par leur efficacité. Elles nous ont rendu d'excellents services. Nous avons pris les forts d'arrêt de Girson, d'Ayvelles, de Fonde et de Lafère. Ainsi tous les forts d'arrêt du nord de la France, sauf la place forte de Maubeuge, se trouvent en nos mains.

L'attaque contre Reims est préparée. L'armée de cavalerie du colonel général von Kluck pousse ses marches jusque devant Paris. L'armée de l'ouest a passé la ligne de l'Aisne, la marche vers la Marne continue; certaines avant-gardes l'ont déjà atteinte.

L'ennemi est en retraite devant les armées des colonels généraux Kluck, Bulow et du duc de Wurtemberg. Sur et derrière la Marne, devant l'armée du Kronprinz allemand, il a résisté s'appuyant sur Verdun, mais il a été rejeté vers le Sud.

Les armées du prince héritier de Bavière et du colonel général von Heeringen se trouvent toujours en face d'un ennemi fort et protégé par des positions fortifiées de la Lorraine française.

Dans la Haute-Alsace, des troupes allemandes et françaises bataillent continuellement en patrouillant.

A l'Est, les troupes du colonel général Hindenburg récoltent de nouveaux fruits de leur victoire. Le nombre des prisonniers russes augmente quotidiennement et a déjà atteint le chiffre de 90.000. On ne peut pas encore préciser le chiffre des canons pris, de nombreux canons s'étant enfoncés dans les marais et dans les forêts. Il paraît que trois généraux commandant des corps d'armée sont parmi les prisonniers. Le généralissime russe serait, d'après des renseignements russes, mort.

Le Gouvernement Militaire Allemand.

Duitsch officieel krijgsnieuws

1. — Namen werd op 24 Augustus door de Duitschers ingenomen.

Mededeelingen van het duitsche Gouvernement.

Berlijn, 5 September. Bij de wegneming van het hoog op de rotsen liggende afsluitingsfort Givet hebben, zooals te Namen, de zware motorbatterijen zich door hunne beweegbaarheid, trefzekerheid en uitwerking voortreffelijk beproefd; zij hebben ons uitstekende diensten bewezen. De afsluitingsvestingen Girson, Ayvelles, Fonde en Lafere hebben wij zonder strijd genomen. Daarmede bevinden zich alle afsluitingsvestingen in 't noordelijke Frankrijk, uitgenomen de vesting Maubeuge, in onze handen.

Tegen Reims is de aanval in 't werk gezet. Het kavallerie-leger van den generaaloverste von Kluck stroopt tot voor Parijs.

Het leger in 't westen heeft de Aisne-linie overschreden, de voormarsch tegen de Marne wordt voortgezet, enkele voorhuden bereiken ze reeds.

De vijand bevindt zich voor de legers der generaaloversten von Kluck, Bulow, Hausen en hertog van Wurtemberg op den terugtocht. Op en achter de Marne, voor het leger van den duitschen Kroonprins, leverde hij in aansluiting aan Verdun wederstand, toch werd hij zuidwaarts teruggeworpen.

De legers van den Kroonprins van Beieren en van den generaaloverste von Heeringen staan nog altijd tegenover eenen sterken vijand in bevestigde positiën in 't fransehe Lotharingen.

In Opper-Elzass stroopen duitsche en fransehe afdeelingen onder wederzijdsche gevechten.

In 't Oosten oogsten de troepen van den generaaloverste Hindenburg de vruchten der overwinning.

Het getal der gevangenen groeit dagelijks en steeg reeds op 90.000 man. Hoeveel kanonnen en ander materiaal zich nog in de wouden en moerassen bevinden, laat zich nog niet overzien. Waarschijnlijk zijn drie russische kommandeerende generaals gevangen. De russische legeraanvoerder zal volgens russische tijdingen gevallen zijn.

Het Duitsche Militair Gouvernement

War News placarded at Brussels by the German Military Staff.

1. The fall of Namur.

2. Admission of the presence of Austrians before Namur.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY WAS MORE ANXIOUS TO SUPPORT GERMAN FORCE THAN TO RESPECT INTERNATIONAL LAW.

“ The Hague,

“ August 28, 1914.

“ On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform your Excellency as follows :— Whereas Belgium, having refused to accept the proposals made to her on several occasions by Germany, is affording her military assistance to France and Great Britain, both of which Powers have declared war upon Austria-Hungary, and whereas as has just been proved, Austrian and Hungarian nationals in Belgium have had to submit, under the very eyes of the Belgian authorities, to treatment contrary to the most primitive demands of humanity and inadmissible even towards subjects of an enemy State, therefore *Austria finds herself obliged to break off diplomatic relations* and considers herself from this moment in a state of war with Belgium. I am leaving the country with the staff of the legation and I am entrusting the protection of Austrian interests to the United States Minister in Belgium. The Austro-Hungarian Government are forwarding his passports to Count Errembault de Dudzeele.”

CLARY.

Declaration of war from Austria to Belgium (telegram addressed by Count Clary, Austro-Hungarian Minister, to M. Davignon) *four days after the fall of Namur.*

“ Antwerp,

“ August 29, 1914.

“ *Belgium* has always entertained friendly relations with all her neighbours without distinction. She *has scrupulously fulfilled the duties imposed upon her by her neutrality.* If she has not been able to accept Germany's proposals, it is because those proposals contemplated the violation of her engagements toward Europe, engagements which form the conditions of the creation of the Belgian Kingdom. She has been unable to admit that a people, however weak they may be, should fail in their duty and sacrifice their honour by yielding to force. *The Government have waited,* not only until the ultimatum had expired, *but also until Belgian territory had been violated* by German troops, before appealing to France and Great Britain, guarantors of her neutrality, *under the same terms as are Germany and Austria-Hungary,* to co-operate in the name and in virtue of the treaties in defence of Belgian territory. By repelling the invaders by force of arms, she has not even committed an hostile act as laid down by the provisions of Article 10 of the Hague Convention respecting the rights and duties of neutral Powers.

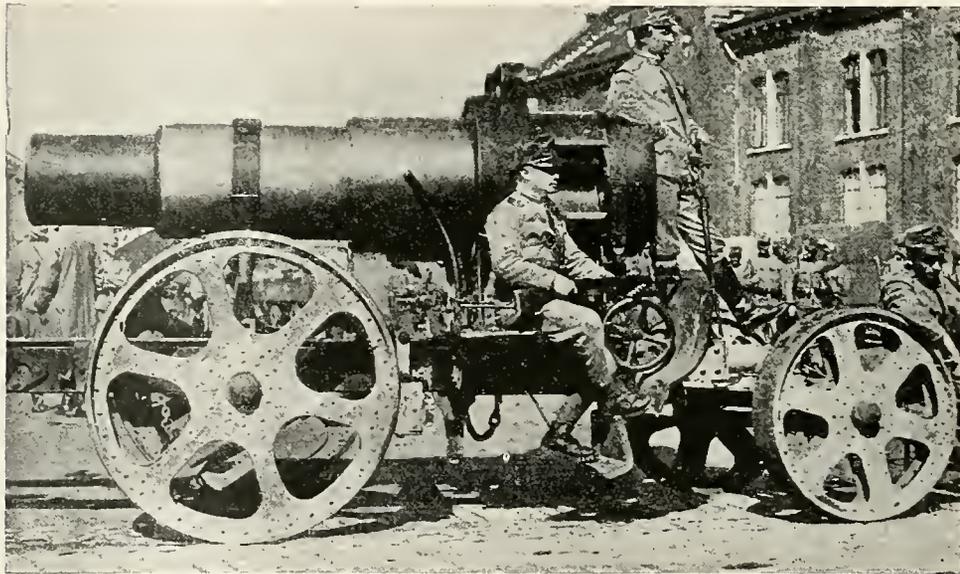
“ *Germany herself has recognised that her attack constitutes a violation of international law,* and, being unable to justify it, she has pleaded her strategical interests.

“ Belgium formally denies the allegation that Austrian and Hungarian nationals have suffered treatment in Belgium contrary to the most primitive demands of humanity.

“ The Belgian Government, from the very commencement of hostilities, have issued the strictest orders for the protection of Austro-Hungarian persons and property.”

DAVIGNON.

The reply of the Belgian Government.



Motor cars equipped with mortars lent by Austria to Germany for an attack on the fortifications of Namur, Maubeuge and Antwerp. These formidable engines of destruction remained some time at Brussels. They are here shown at the infantry barracks with the Austrian officers and men entrusted with the working of them.

"Our batteries of motors equipped with mortars, coming from various directions, were concentrated at Cologne on August 15th. It was there, on the night of the 15th to 16th, that I received the order to proceed. *We were directed first to Verviers and halted there.* On August 21st we left Verviers for Namur where our activities commenced. Two hours after, at one o'clock in the day, the first fort of Namur, Cognelle, fell; the second followed an hour later. A mortar of 30 cm. 5 had been in action against the Cognelle fort, two of 45 cm. against the other. By August 24th Namur was in our hands. The 27th saw us on the way to Maubeuge, and on the 29th we were there in position, with only half our batteries, however, since the remainder were approaching Givet."

Statement of the Austrian Colonel Albert Langer, to the *Neue Freie Presse* of Vienna (18th February, 1915), reporting *the co-operation of Austria in the war against Belgium* as early as August 16th, 12 days before the rupture of the diplomatic relations between the Austro-Hungarian and Belgian Governments.

BELGIUM BEFORE THE INVASION.

“The Belgium population is of a peaceful temperament ; its demeanour is one of calm and it has great practical sense. The Civil Authorities had warned it at the beginning of the War to maintain the attitude of self-possession demanded by the circumstances. . . . The religious authorities had spoken in the same sense as the civil rulers.”

JULES VAN DEN HEUVEL, Minister of State, Minister of Belgium at the Vatican.

AUX HABITANTS

DU

PAYS DE LIÈGE

La grande Allemagne envahit notre territoire après un ultimatum qui constitue un outrage.

La petite Belgique a relevé fièrement le gant.

L'armée va faire son devoir !

La population du pays de Liège accomplira le sien !

Aussi ne cessera-t-elle de donner l'exemple du calme et du respect aux lois.

Son ardent patriotisme en répond.

Vive le Roi, commandant en chef de l'armée !

Vive la Belgique !

Le Lieutenant-Général
Gouverneur Militaire de Liège

LEMAN.

Liège, le 4 Août 1914.

Liege - Imprimerie La 43702

Translations.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF THE DISTRICT OF LIÈGE.

Powerful Germany invades our territory after an ultimatum which is tantamount to an outrage. Little Belgium has proudly picked up the gauntlet.

The Army will do its duty !

The population of Liège will also fulfil theirs !

They will not cease to give an example of calm and respect for law.

Their fervent patriotism is a guarantee of this.

Long live the King ! Commander and General of the Army.

Long live Belgium !

LEMAN, Military Lieutenant,
Governor of Liège.

Liège, 4th August, 1914.

TOWN OF LIÈGE.

Liège, 5th August, 1914.

The Burgomaster to his fellow citizens.

I consider that it is fitting to communicate to you herewith the text of a circular that I have just received from the Minister of the Interior in which he lays down the rights and duties of the inhabitants in case of a foreign occupation.

I call your earnest attention to the instructions contained in this circular which will serve as a guide for your conduct in case our town is unfortunately occupied by the invading Army.

Burgomaster G. KLEYER.

VILLE DE LIÈGE

Liège, le 5 Août 1914.

LE BOURGMESTRE A SES CONCITOYENS.

Je crois utile de vous communiquer ci-après le texte d'une circulaire que je viens de recevoir de M. le Ministre de l'Intérieur, et qui règle les droits et les devoirs des habitants en cas d'occupation étrangère.

J'attire toute votre attention sur les indications contenues dans ce document qui vous servira éventuellement de guide si le malheur voulait que notre ville fût occupée par l'armée envahissante.

Le Bourgmestre.

G. KLEYER

I. Proclamation by the Military Governor of Liège to inhabitants of the town and environs.

II. Communication by the Burgomaster of Liège to his fellow citizens.

Translations.

**PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF NAMUR.
VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE.**

The civil Governor calls the very earnest attention of the inhabitants of the province to the grave danger in which civilians might be placed in case they should take up arms against the enemy.

In this matter it is most essential that they should observe a complete self-restraint.

The defence of the territory is the duty of the public forces alone.

Any disregard of this appeal might have the effect of provoking reprisals, such as the burning of buildings, &c.

BARON DE MONTPELLIER.

Seen and approved.

Namur, 7th August, 1914.

The Military Governor

MICHEL.

7th August, 1914.

Gouvernement Provincial de Namur

Avis très important

Le Gouverneur civil attire la très sérieuse attention des habitants de la province sur le très grave danger qui pourrait résulter pour les civils de se servir d'armes contre l'ennemi.

Ils doivent, à cet égard, observer comme il convient du reste, l'abstention la plus complète.

C'est à la force publique seule qu'il appartient de défendre le territoire.

Toute inobservation de cette recommandation serait de nature à provoquer, le cas échéant, des représailles, des incendies, etc.

Namur, le 7 août 1914

Baron de Montpellie.

Vu et approuvé :

Namur, le 7 août 1914

Le Gouverneur militaire,

MICHEL.

Imprimerie de Michel, 11, rue de la Ville de Namur - Téléphone 228

AVIS

Tous détenteurs d'armes à feu (fusils, carabines, revolvers), particuliers et négociants, sont tenus obligatoirement d'en faire remise à l'Hotel de Ville, au plus tard Lundi 17 courant, de 10 heures à midi.

Les armes déposées devront porter l'adresse du propriétaire. Il sera délivré récépissé du dépôt.

Le Ministre de l'Intérieur recommande aux civils, si l'ennemi se montre dans leur région

De ne pas combattre

De ne proférer ni injures, ni menaces :

De se tenir à l'intérieur et de fermer les fenêtres afin qu'on ne puisse dire qu'il y a eu provocation :

Si les soldats occupent, pour se défendre, une maison ou un hameau isolé, de l'évacuer, afin qu'on ne puisse dire que les civils ont tiré :

Le acte de violence commis par un seul civil serait un véritable crime que la loi punit d'arrestation et condamne, car il pourrait servir de prétexte à une répression sanglante, au pillage et au massacre de la population innocente, des femmes et des enfants

Fleurus, le 14 Août 1914.

Le Bourgmestre,
Dr EVERAERTS.

Fleurus, Imp. Lucien Haequart-Watiau

NOTICE.

Any one in possession of firearms (such as guns, rifles, or revolvers), whether in their private capacity or as dealers, are hereby ordered to deposit them at the Hotel de Ville not later than Monday, the 17th instant, between 10 o'clock and noon.

The arms deposited must bear the address of the owner. A receipt will be given for the arms deposited.

The Minister for the Interior recommends civilians in case the enemy should show himself in that district :

Not to fight ;

To give expression to no insulting or threatening words ;

To remain within their houses and close the windows, so that it will be impossible to allege that there was any provocation ;

To evacuate any house or isolated hamlet which the soldiers may occupy in order to defend themselves, so that it cannot be alleged that civilians have fired ;

An act of violence committed by a single civilian would be actually a crime for which the law provides arrest and punishment. It is all the more reprehensible in that it might serve as a pretext for measures of oppression resulting in bloodshed or pillage, the massacre of the innocent population, with the women and children.

Fleurus, 14th August, 1914.

The Burgomaster,
DR. EVERAERTS.

Examples of proclamations issued by the provincial and communal authorities :

- (1) The Governor of the Province of Namur.
- (2) The Burgomaster of Fleurus.



Lieutenant-General LEMAN, Commanding the fortified position of Liege.

(See p. 28).

HOW THE CIVIL POPULATION WAS PREPARED TO RECEIVE THE ENEMY.

“The threat of foreign invasion must cause trouble and emotion among the people. The first duty of Communal officials must be to warn those over whom they exercise authority of their *duties towards their country*, and of the attitude which they must adopt towards the invading army. For that reason the present circular is issued.

“According to the Laws of War, armed action—that is to say, resistance to or attack on the enemy, the *use of weapons* against isolated soldiers of the hostile army, or direct intervention in combats and skirmishes—is *never permitted to men who are not embodied in either (1) the Regular Army, (2) the Civic Guard, or (3) Bodies of Volunteers observing military law, subject to a responsible officer, and wearing a distinctive badge.*

“Only such persons are authorised to engage in hostilities and are styled belligerents ; when they are captured or lay down their arms they are entitled to be treated as prisoners of war.

“If the population of a region not yet occupied by the enemy takes arms spontaneously at the approach of the invader, but has not the time to organize itself in military fashion, it will be considered belligerent if it openly carries arms and observes the Laws of War.

“But isolated individuals, belonging to none of the categories stated above, who may engage in acts of hostility, would not be considered as belligerents. If captured they would certainly have worse treatment than prisoners of war, and might even be put to death.

“*Acts forbidden to soldiers are of course still more inadmissible to civilians*—such as the use of poison or poisoned weapons, the killing or wounding by treachery of persons, military or civil, belonging to the hostile nation, the killing or wounding of enemies who have laid down their arms, who can no longer defend themselves, and have surrendered at discretion.”

Extract from the circular addressed at the beginning of hostilities on the 4th August, 1914, by the minister of the Interior, M. Berryer, to the 2,700 communes of Belgium. The Governors and Burgomasters saw that these instructions were posted everywhere.

“ TO CIVILIANS.

“The minister of the Interior recommends civilians in case the enemy should show himself in that district :

“Not to fight ;

“To give expression to no insulting or threatening words ;

“To remain within their houses and close the windows, so that it will be impossible to allege that there was any provocation ;

“To evacuate any houses or isolated hamlet which the soldiers may occupy in order to defend themselves, so that it cannot be alleged that civilians have fired ;

“An act of violence committed by a single civilian would be actually a crime for which the law provides arrest and punishment. It is all the more reprehensible in that it might serve as a pretext for measures of oppression, resulting in bloodshed or pillage, the massacre of the innocent population with the women and children.”

Every Belgian newspaper published on each day the above notice on its first page in large print.

THE HONOUR OF THE BELGIAN ARMY.

“ Sire,

“ After several battles had been fought with great bravery on the 4th, 5th and 6th of August by the 3rd Division of the Army reinforced from the 5th by the 15th Brigade, I considered that the forts of Liège could no longer serve as more than a temporary obstacle to the advance of the enemy. I nevertheless maintained the military government of the place in order that I might organise its defence as far as was possible for me, and for the sake of the moral effect on the garrisons of the forts.

“ That my decision was well founded was proved by the grave events that followed.

“ Your Majesty is aware that I took up my position in the fort of Loncin on the 6th August towards noon.

“ Sire,

“ You will be grieved to learn that this fort was blown up about 5.20, burying in its ruins the greater part of the Garrison, perhaps four-fifths.

“ I should have lost my life in this catastrophe had it not been that my escort, composed of Commander Captain Collard, a non-commissioned Infantry Officer, who has no doubt perished, gendarme Thevenin and my two orderlies (Ch. Vandenbossche and Jos. Lecocq), removed me from a part of the fort where I was in danger of asphyxiation by the fumes of the explosion. I was carried into the trench, where I fell. A German Captain of the name of Grüson gave me some water to drink, but I was made a prisoner and then taken to Liège in an ambulance.

“ I am confident of having upheld the honour of our arms. I surrendered neither the fortress nor the forts.

“ I trust, Sire, that you will be pleased to pardon the shortcomings of this letter ; I am physically much prostrated by the explosion at Loncin. In Germany, where I am about to be taken, my thoughts will be, as they have ever been, of Belgium and her King. I would willingly have given my life in their service, but death has passed me by.

“ Lieutenant-General,

“ (Sd.) G. LEMAN.”

“ In the name of the nation I greet you, officers and soldiers of the third division and fifteenth mixed brigade. You have all done your duty, you have upheld the honour of our army and you have shown the enemy what it costs unjustly to attack a peaceable people, which finds invincible strength in its righteous cause. The country may well be proud of you.”

Extract from King ALBERT's message to the army after the fall of Liège.



M. ADOLPHE MAX, Burgomaster of the City of Brussels, imprisoned by order of the German Military Governor, on 26th September 1914, detained in a fortress without ever having been tried.

"As long as I live and retain my liberty I will protect with all my power the rights and the dignity of my fellow citizens."

Words of M. Max, posted on the walls of the Capital the day before the entry of the German Troops, 19th August, 1914.

Translations.

CITY OF BRUSSELS.

BELOVED FELLOW CITIZENS :—

A notice posted to-day informs us that the Belgian Flag which flies from the front of our houses is looked upon as a "provocation" by the German Troops.

Field Marshal von der Goltz said, however, in his proclamation of 2nd September, that "nobody would be required to abjure his patriotic feelings." Thus we could not foresee that to show these feelings would be regarded as a crime.

The proclamation which informs us that it is so is, I acknowledge, drawn up in moderate terms and with a regard for our susceptibilities.

It will none the less be deeply wounding to the sensitive and proud population of Brussels.

I ask the population of this town to give a fresh example of the self-restraint and greatness of soul which it has already so often exhibited during these sad days.

Let us provisionally accept the sacrifice which is imposed upon us ; let us withdraw our flags in order to prevent any friction, and patiently await the hour of redress.

Brussels, 16th September, 1914.

Burgomaster, ADOLPHE MAX.

CITY OF BRUSSELS.

NOTICE.

The German Governor of the Town of Liège, Lieut.-General von Kolewe, caused the following notice to be posted yesterday :—

"To the inhabitants of the Town of Liège.

"The Burgomaster of Brussels has informed the German Commander that the French Government has declared to the Belgian Government the impossibility of giving them any offensive assistance whatever, seeing that they themselves are forced to adopt the defensive."

I absolutely deny this assertion.

ADOLPHE MAX,
Burgomaster.

Burgomaster Max, having failed to fulfil the engagements entered into with the German Government, I am forced to suspend him from his position. M. Max will find himself under honourable detention in a fortress.

Brussels, the 26 Sept., 1914.

BARON VON LÜTTWITZ,
General,
Military Governor.



**HIS EMINENCE CARDINAL MERCIER, Archbishop of Malines, Primate of Belgium,
President of the Royal Academy of Belgium.**

"The servant is not above his lord." Text of St. Matthew, quoted by the Cardinal in his Pastoral Letter at Christmas. All the copies of this letter were seized with a view to their destruction by the German Military Authorities. The venerable Archbishop was imprisoned in his Palace and forbidden to move about in his diocese or in the district under his jurisdiction.

A GREAT BISHOP IN PRESENCE OF THE SUFFERINGS OF HIS PEOPLE.

"From the outset of military operations the civil authorities of the country urged upon all private persons the necessity of abstention from hostile acts against the enemy's army. *That instruction remains in force.*

"It is our army, and our army solely, in league with the valiant troops of our Allies, that has the honour and the duty of national defence. Let us entrust the army with our final deliverance.

"Towards the persons of those who are holding dominion among us by military force, and who assuredly cannot but be sensible of the chivalrous energy with which we have defended, and are still defending, our independence, *let us conduct ourselves with all needful forbearance.* Some among them have declared themselves willing to mitigate, as far as possible, the severity of our situation and to help us to recover some minimum of regular civil life. Let us observe the rules they have laid upon us so long as those rules do not violate our personal liberty, nor our consciences as Christians, nor our duty to our country. Let us not take bravado for courage, nor tumult for bravery.

"You especially, my dearest Brethren in the Priesthood, be you at once the best examples of Patriotism and the best supporters of public order.

"On the field of battle you have been magnificent. The King and the Army admire the intrepidity of our military chaplains in face of death, their charity at the work of the ambulance. Your Bishops are proud of you.

"You have suffered greatly. You have endured much calumny. But be patient ; history will do you justice. I to-day bear my witness for you.

"Wherever it has been possible I have questioned our people, our clergy, and particularly a considerable number of priests who had been deported to German prisons, but whom a principle of humanity, to which I gladly render homage, has since set at liberty. Well, I affirm upon my honour, and I am prepared to assert upon faith of my oath, that until now I have not met a single ecclesiastic, secular or regular, who had once incited civilians to bear arms against the enemy. All have loyally followed the instructions of their Bishops, given in the early days of August, to the effect that they were to use their moral influence over the civil population so that order might be preserved and military regulations observed.

"I exhort you to persevere in this ministry of peace, which is for you the sanest form of Patriotism ; to accept with all your hearts the privations you have to endure ; to simplify still further, if it is possible, your way of life. One of you who is reduced by robbery and pillage to a state bordering on total destitution, said to me lately, 'I am living now as I wish I had lived always.'"

Extract from the second part of the Pastoral Letter of Cardinal Mercier, entitled *Patriotism and Endurance*. Such a teaching cannot but have greatly aided a strong and religious people to support with resignation and in silent hope the galling yoke of brute force.



M. HENRY CARTON DE WIART, Belgian Minister of Justice.

“In spite of the untold atrocities, in spite of murders, in spite of the burning and massacre of innocents, the loss of wealth and the destruction of so many works of beauty—for dead stones as well as living souls, have suffered martyrdom at the hands of the invader—though our towns have been devastated and our fields laid waste, though our families are in mourning and wandering among ruins or passing on their way to exile, who amongst all these sufferers would to-day exchange his loss for the gain of the robber?”

Speech delivered at the Hotel de Ville in Paris, 20th December, 1914.

THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT AS GUARDIAN OF INTERNATIONAL LAW.

"Numerous violations of the rules of international law and of the duties of humanity have been committed by the Invaders.

"They cannot remain without protest. They must be held up to the reprobation of the civilised world.

"A Committee has now been formed with this object.

"This Committee proposes to collect, classify and examine in the most careful and impartial manner possible, all the facts which may come to its knowledge.

"The Civil and Military Authorities, as well as private persons, are invited to bring to its notice cases of violation of international law, and to furnish at the same time any circumstances which may serve as evidence thereof." (*Moniteur Belge*, August 8th, 1914.)

By the ministerial order, of which the above is the preamble, the Minister of Justice composed the Committee of Inquiry as follows :—

President : M. van Iseghien, President of the Court of Cassation.

Members : MM. Cattier, *Professor of the University of Brussels* ; Nys, *Judge of the Court of Appeal, Professor of public international law at the University of Brussels* ; Vernaegen, *Judge of the Court of Appeal at Brussels* ; Wodon, *Professor at the University of Brussels*.

Secretary : M. Gillard, Director of the Ministry of Justice.

When the Government removed to Antwerp, the Committee was formed as follows :—

(*Moniteur Belge*, 23rd August, 1914.)

President : M. Cooreman, *Minister of State*.

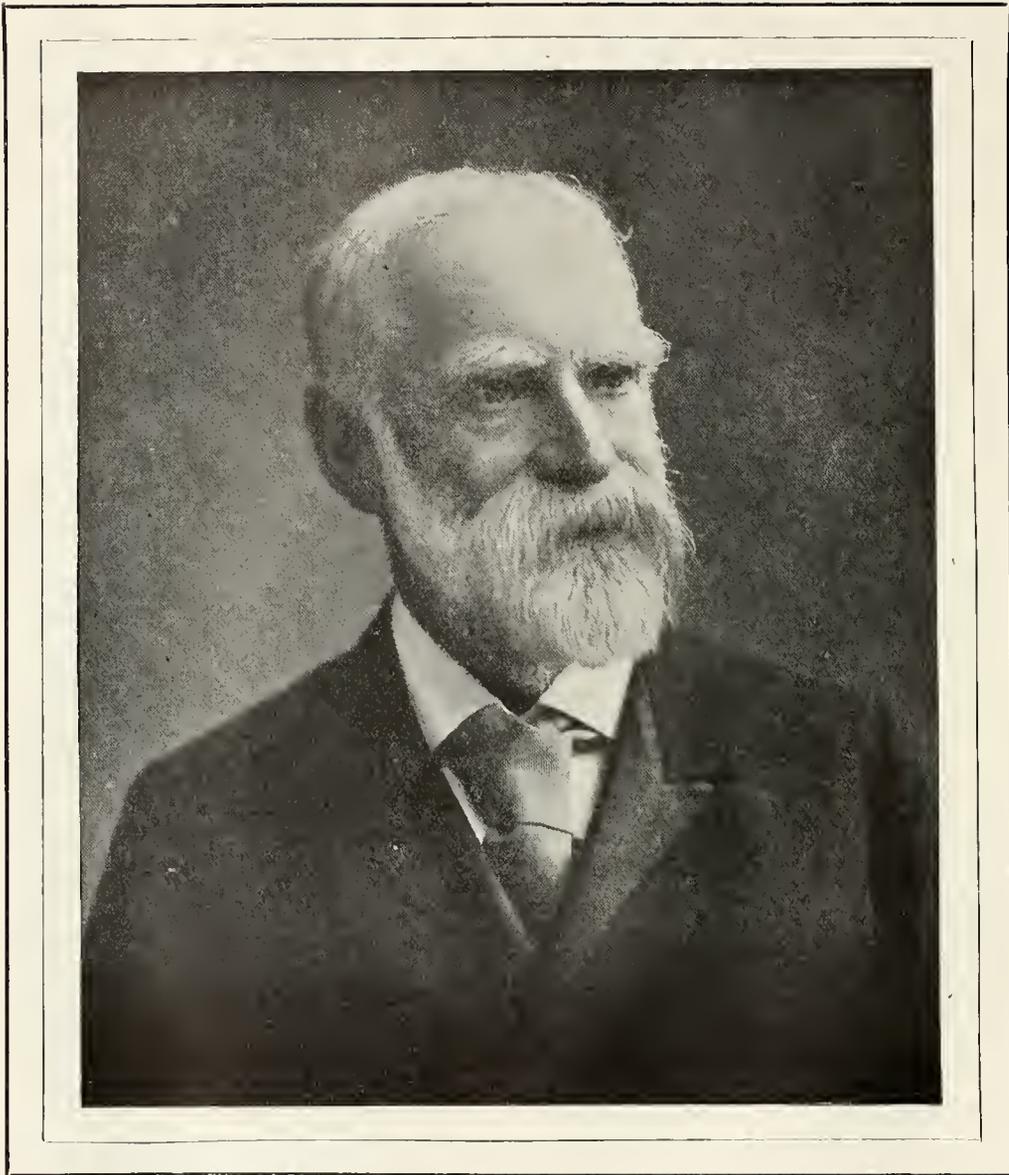
Members : Count Goblet d'Alviella, vice-president of the Senate ; MM. Ryckmans, Senator ; Strauss, Sheriff of Antwerp ; Van Cutsem, President of the Tribunal.

Secretaries : Chevalier Ernst de Bunswyck and M. Orts, Councillor of Legation.

Finally, at the time of the siege of Antwerp, delegates were instructed at London to examine on behalf of the Committee the refugees from the invaded district under the presidency of Sir Mackenzie Chalmers, formerly *Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department*. MM. de Cartier de Marchienne, Belgian Minister in China, and Henri Lafontaine, Senator, were appointed members of the Committee, and M. Henri Davignon, *Secretary*.

The neutral powers were approached as to whether they would consent to appoint representatives to sit on the Committee, but, influenced by scruples arising from their neutrality, they preferred to abstain from doing so.

The committee of inquiry drew up 12 reports. The depositions will be given to the public as soon as the names can be made known without danger to the witnesses. No denial of a definite character or supported by any evidence has up to now been made of the findings of the Committee.



Photograph by Lafayette, Dublin (reproduced by permission).

VISCOUNT BRYCE, President of the Committee, appointed by the British Government to report upon 1,200 depositions made by Belgian Refugees.

“Sensible as they are of the gravity of these conclusions, the Committee conceive that they would be doing less than their duty if they failed to record them as fully established by the evidence. Murder, lust, and pillage prevailed over many parts of Belgium on a scale unparalleled in any war between civilised nations during the last three centuries.”

Extract from the Committee's report.

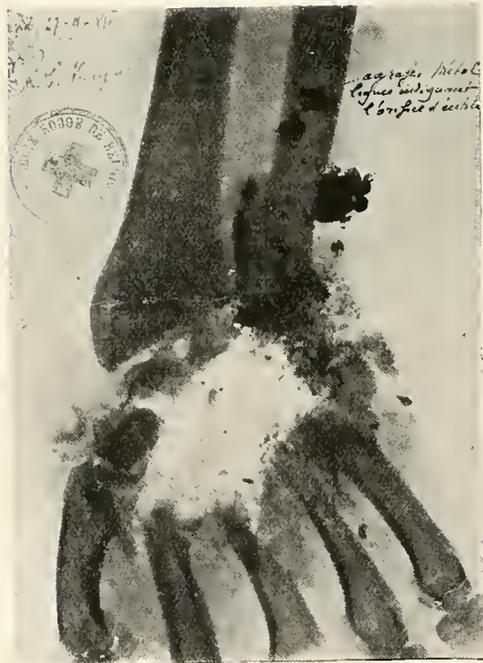
GERMANY'S DISREGARD OF THE RULES OF WAR.

“ It is not true that the life or property of *a single Belgian citizen* has been touched by our soldiers except when the bitterest necessity for self-defence rendered it unavoidable. . . .

“ It is not true that our troops raged like brutes against *Louvain*. . . .

“ It is not true that our war staff despises the rights of peoples. It knows nothing of undisciplined *cruelty*. . . .”

MANIFESTO BY 93 GERMAN SAVANTS, ARTISTS AND PROFESSORS.



Wound caused by an expanding bullet.

HONOUR IN WAR : FORBIDDEN PROJECTILES.

" Besides the prohibitions provided by special conventions, it is especially forbidden :

" (e) To employ arms, projectiles or material of a nature to cause superfluous injury."

Article 23 of the Hague Rules of War.

" Gand, 26th September, 1914.

" To the Minister of War.

" I have the honour to send you herewith some cartridges fitted with the so-called 'dum-dum bullets,' taken on the person of the *Hanoverian Oberleutnant Von Hadeln*, made prisoner by my troops at Ninove on the 26th of this month. His pistol, which he threw away just before he was taken, could not be recovered.

" (Signed) L. CLOETE,
" Lieutenant-General and Governor of Gand."

Seizure of dum-dum bullets on a German Officer.

" The box with green label sent me [*'20 patronen No. 403 für die Mauser selbstladende pistole caliber 7.63'*] must have contained loaded cartridges. It contains one clip in three of *expanding bullets taken from the special boxes with yellow tickets*. These balls are made expansive in the manufacture ; it would not be possible to make them such by hand.

" Antwerp, 28th August, 1914.

" (Signed) V. ROUSSEUX,
" Expert Armourer."

Report of the Expert Armourer.

" The soldier, Théophile Levant, of the 5th Lancers, was wounded at 12 noon on 27th September, at the battle of Alost, *by an expanding bullet*. The orifice of entry, corresponding to the diameter of the ball, was situated one-third of the way up his left forearm, on the front side.

" The bullet splashed, carrying away all the bones of the wrist, the ends of four upper small bones of the palm, and the soft tissues of the back of the wrist. On the front of the wrist the flesh was lacerated in several places. *The lesions were such that it was necessary to amputate the forearm.*

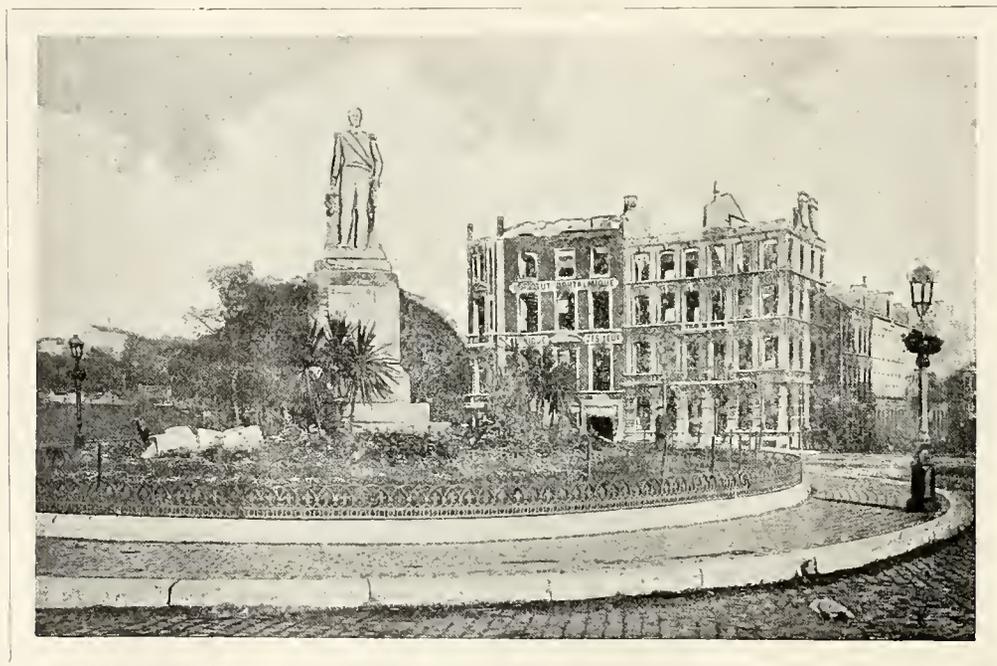
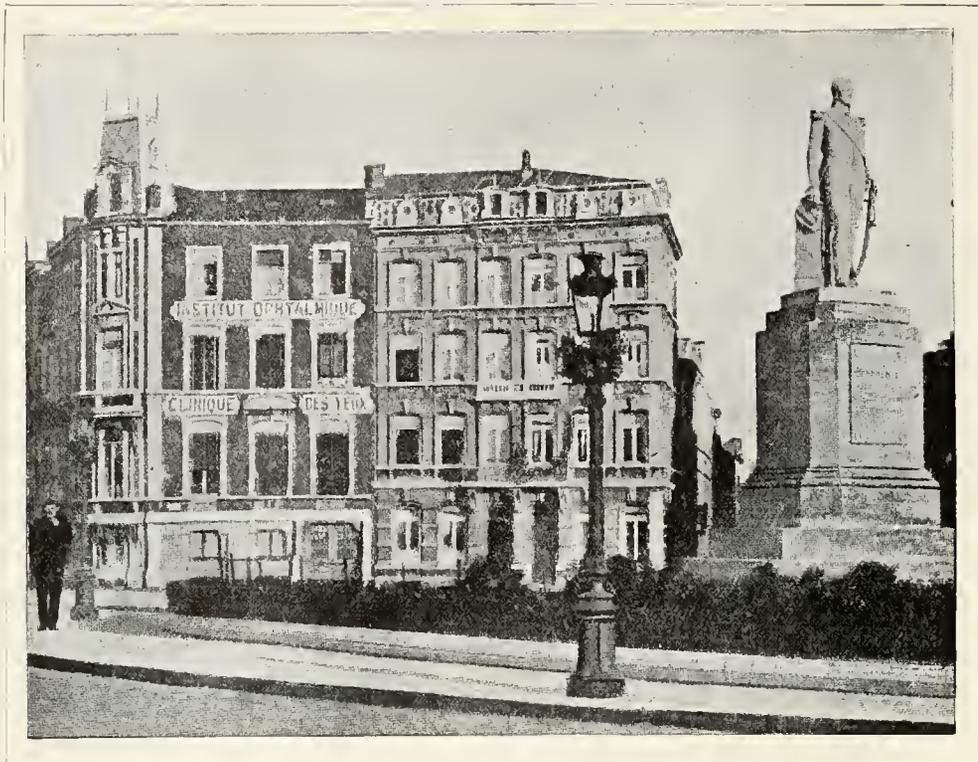
" The amputation took place at 8 p.m. on 27th September. Present : Doctors Van de Velde, Neiryneck, and De Broyker. The operation was also witnessed by Doctor Bossaerts (Chief of the Red Cross Hospital at Ghent) and the nurses on duty, Mesdames M. Lippens, E. J. Braun, P. Lippens and Mesdemoiselles de Hemptine and Lamont, also by the hospital attendants MM. Braun and Carpentier.

" Annexed are two photographs and one X-ray photograph of the wounded hand. It has been preserved.

" Signed by the eleven persons mentioned above in the Report,

" DR. J. VAN DE VELDE.
" DR. NEIRYNCK.
" DR. DE BROYKER.
" M. LIPPENS.
" S. LIPPENS.
" A. DE HEMPTINE.
" EMMA LAMONT.
" DR. BOSSAERTS.
" A. BRAUN.
" E. J. BRAUN.
" RENÉ CARPENTIER.

Certificate of three doctors, four hospital attendants, and two ambulance attendants.



Place Léopold at Namur before and after the German occupation. One of the houses behind the statue is the Nursing Home of Dr. Bribosia, where Belgian and French wounded were killed.

HONOUR IN WAR: FORBIDDEN METHODS OF WAR. THE PROTECTION OF THE WOUNDED.

"The contracting Powers agree to abstain from the use of projectiles, the sole object of which is diffusion of asphyxiating or deleterious gases."

Declaration signed at The Hague the 29th July, 1899.

" . . . it is especially forbidden to kill or wound an enemy who having laid down arms OR HAVING NO LONGER THE MEANS OF DEFENCE has surrendered at discretion.

Art. 23 of The Hague Rules of War.

"On the 23rd April, 1915, the Germans prepared to attack the sector of Steenstraat-Langemarck employing asphyxiating gases. Clouds of gas were driven forward and settled in the trenches occupied by the Allied troops.

"The gases were seen to form a low cloud of a dark greenish colour which became lighter and transformed itself into a bright yellow towards the summit; the cloud may have been 100 metres in height. These gases appear to be of different kinds being formed of chlorine, formaline, nitrous vapours, sulphur, dioxide and gases not yet analysed.

"The Germans have employed the following methods of driving these gases forward:—

"(a) Fires lighted in front of the trenches. The gases which are then released are driven along by the wind in the direction of the enemy's positions;

"(b) Jars thrown into the trenches either by hand or from engines;

"(c) Tubes which set free the gases;

"(d) Shells containing asphyxiating gases.

"The gases which the Germans have employed have effect to a distance of three kilometres. After a minute or a minute and a half the victims begin to vomit and to spit blood. Their eyes and mucous membranes become enflamed and they are overcome by a sort of stupor which lasts for three or four hours and sometimes longer."

Extract from the 14th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

"*Quartermaster Bandoïn van de Kerchove*, 3rd Lancers, deposes that after he had been wounded by two German bullets at the battle at Orsmael (10th August, 1914), the Germans maltreated him in spite of his injuries. One of them took his carbine from his hand, whirled it round his head, and inflicted a violent blow on his ribs with it. A second German, seeing that he was still alive, fired on him from a distance of only six feet; luckily for him the bullet only inflicted a grazing wound on his abdomen. [Depositions taken at Ghent, 17th August, 1914.]

"A cyclist-rifleman, who fell into the hands of the Germans in this same battle, was found hanged in a hedge. *We have several witnesses to this fact, among them the priest of the village, who took charge of the burying of the corpse.* [Evidence of Captain Dezande, of the Cyclist Battalion.]

"On 16th August, French soldiers, wounded on the previous night at the battle of Dinant, were found with their skulls battered in by blows with clubbed rifles. [Evidence taken at the Session on 30th September, 1914.]

"On 23rd August, at Namur, *German soldiers* moved their own wounded from the private hospital of Dr. Bribosia, which was used as a dressing-station, but *killed two Belgian and two French wounded men* who had been tended there. They then set the hospital on fire. [Evidence at the Sessions of 29th August, 1914, 28th September, 1914, and 1st October, 1914.]

"On 25th August at Hofstaede, near Malines, a Belgian rifleman left slightly wounded *was finished off with blows from the butts of rifles* which smashed in his skull. [Evidence taken at Session of 27th August, 1914.]

"Twenty-two soldiers of the same corps were found dead in a little wood lying to the right of the road from Malines to Terneuze, near Baarbeck. Eighteen of them *had been killed by bayonet thrusts* in the face; they had bullet wounds, but these were not dangerous, only sufficient to prevent them from escaping. But the four remaining Belgians, who had fatal bullet wounds, bore no traces of the bayonet. [Evidence taken at Session of 12th October, 1914.]

"On 25th August, at the battle in the neighbourhood of Sempst, the soldier *Lootens*, of the 24th of the Line, whose duty it was to aid the ambulance staff in carrying off the wounded, found *two Belgian corpses bound to a tree.* These soldiers were still wearing their full equipment; their coats were torn open, and it was clear that they had been bayoneted in the stomach; their entrails were protruding from the wounds.

"On the 25th August, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, a nurse attending to the wounded at Epeghem *saw a German soldier give a death blow to a Belgian soldier slightly wounded in the lower part of his face by striking him on the head with the butt end of his rifle.*"

Extract from the 7th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

"It is proved—

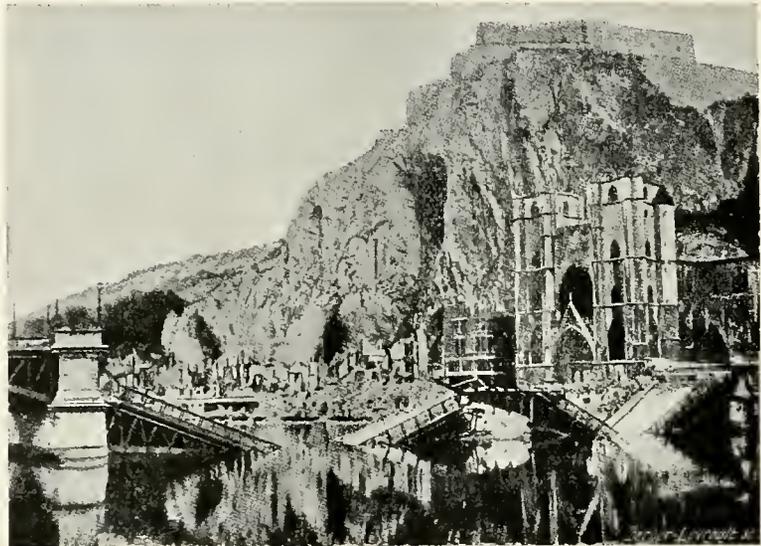
"That the rules and usages of war were frequently broken, particularly by killing the wounded and prisoners."

Conclusions of the Report of the English Committee.



I.—The town of Louvain, a great part of which was destroyed by the German army wantonly and not in the course of any military action 25th to 30th August, 1914.

II.—The town of Dinant, burnt and completely destroyed by the German army 23rd to 25th August, 1914.



III.—The town of Termonde, bombarded on three occasions and entirely burnt after it had been sacked by the German army between the 4th September and the end of October, 1914.

THE DESTRUCTION OF OPEN TOWNS: LOUVAIN, DINANT, TERMONDE.

"The attack or bombardment by any means whatever of towns, villages, habitations or buildings which are not defended is forbidden."

Art. 25 of the Hague Rules of War.

"It is forbidden to destroy the enemy's property unless such destruction be imperatively demanded by the necessities of war."

Art. 23 (J.) of the Hague Rules of War.

"The giving up to pillage of a town or place even when taken by assault is forbidden."

Art. 28.

"At Louvain a third of the buildings are down; one thousand and seventy-four dwellings have disappeared; on the town land and in the suburbs, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-three houses have been burnt.

"In this dear city of Louvain, perpetually in my thoughts, the magnificent church of St. Peter will never recover its former splendour. The ancient college of St. Ives, the art-schools, the consular and commercial schools of the University, the old markets, our rich library with its collections, its unique and unpublished manuscripts, its archives, its gallery of great portraits of illustrious rectors, chancellors, professors, dating from the time of its foundation, which preserved for masters and students alike a noble tradition and were an incitement in their studies—all this accumulation of intellectual, of historic, and of artistic riches, the fruit of the labours of five centuries—all is in the dust."

Extract from the Pastoral letter of Cardinal Mercier (Christmas, 1914).

"To sum up, the town of Dinant is destroyed. It counted 1,400 houses; only 200 remain. The manufactories where the artisan population worked have been systematically destroyed. Rather more than 700 of the inhabitants have been killed; others have been taken off to Germany, and are still retained there as prisoners. The majority are refugees scattered all through Belgium. A few who remained in the town are dying in hunger."

Conclusions of the 11th Report of the Committee of Inquiry (16th January, 1915).

"The town of Termonde was systematically destroyed. It was destroyed by methodical arson, accompanied by pillage. Even allowing that there was a military necessity for the bombardment, that bombardment only completed the devastating work of the German pioneer-troops."

Conclusion of the 9th Report of the Committee of Inquiry (24th December, 1914).

"It is proved—

" . . . that the burnings and destruction were frequent where no military necessity could be alleged."

Conclusions of the Report of the English Committee.



What remains of the Library of the University of Louvain.
The outer walls—the interior.

PLACES THE DESTRUCTION OF WHICH IS FORBIDDEN : BUILDINGS DEVOTED TO SCIENCE.

“ . . . All necessary steps should be taken to spare, as far as possible, buildings devoted to religion, art, science and charity, historic monuments, hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected. . . . ”

Article 27 of the Hague Rules of War.

“ The tragic burning of the University buildings of Louvain by the German troops has caused a twofold disaster, the destruction of a very remarkable historical monument and the loss of the treasures of learning that had been preserved for centuries in the archives of the Library.

“ The University of Louvain dates from the beginning of the 14th century. All the world knows the *Salle des Pas-Perdus* in the University buildings ; so many reproductions have been made of its graceful cloisters, its columns with their varied capitols, its brackets boldly carved with original designs.

“ The University buildings erected at the end of the 17th century, and a vast building added at the beginning of the 18th century, were used for the purposes of the University Library. Few library buildings could bear comparison with our great room, with its oak panelling so boldly conceived and so carefully executed as to be at once imposing and harmonious. Another room, restored a year ago, was a gem of the fine and delicate architecture of the Renaissance. In the old medical lecture hall, which had been scrupulously preserved in all its details, University degrees used to be conferred with solemn pomp. The public reading room, called the “ *salle des portraits*,” contained a collection which was of unique interest in the literary history of the Low Countries ; the portraits of the most illustrious professors and distinguished benefactors of the ancient university found a place there.

“ The Library of the University of Louvain possessed 500 manuscripts. Particularly notable amongst them was a tiny manuscript written by Thomas a Kempis with his own hand, and numerous prayer books illuminated with gorgeous miniatures. Our collection of incunabula was among the most important and most valuable. We had from 800 to 1,000 specimens. The total number of our volumes was upwards of 250,000. Our collection of early impressions was of the richest ; documents, pamphlets, and notices regarding the Revolution in the Low Countries and Jansenism were bound in volumes of “ *miscellanies* ” which formed an immense library which it is impossible to replace.

“ We kept in large cupboards a fine collection of Flemish bindings of the 16th and 17th centuries, and rare bibliographical and typographical curiosities of every sort. We guarded the whole with a jealous care for all the precious memorials of the ancient University. Who has not admired the finely preserved original of the charter founding our University in 1425 ? Who has not heard speak of the copy on vellum of the famous work of Andre Vesale, *de humani corporis fabrica*, a copy of which Charles V. presented to our University ?

“ The burning of the University buildings has completely destroyed the treasures kept in the Library of the University of Louvain. In their night of drunken and murderous orgy the German soldiers spared nothing. Those who have this crime against learning and civilisation on their conscience will have to bear, in the judgment of history, a heavy and lasting responsibility.

“ P. DELANNOY,

“ Librarian of the University of Louvain.”



The hospital of Lierre protected by the flag of the Red Cross systematically bombarded by the German Army. The principal hall—a wounded Belgian and an infirm old woman were killed there.

PLACES THE DESTRUCTION OF WHICH IS FORBIDDEN :
BUILDINGS DEVOTED TO CHARITABLE OBJECTS.

LOUVAIN.

"On Thursday, 27th, at 8 o'clock, an order was given to all the inhabitants to leave Louvain : the town was going to be bombarded.

"Old men, women, children, *sick people, lunatics from the asylums*, priests, nuns, were brutally driven like cattle along the roads. We only realise now the atrocities committed during this terrible exodus. These people were driven in different directions by brutal soldiers, forced to kneel and to lift their arms each time they met German soldiers and officers ; they were left without food during the day, without shelter during the night."

Extract from the 5th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

TERMONDE.

"Next day (5th September) began the complete destruction of the town by fire, under the direction of a Major von Sommerfeld. The hospital was not spared ; it was drenched with petroleum and set alight. The sick, wounded, and old people were carried out ; but one epileptic man perished in the blaze."

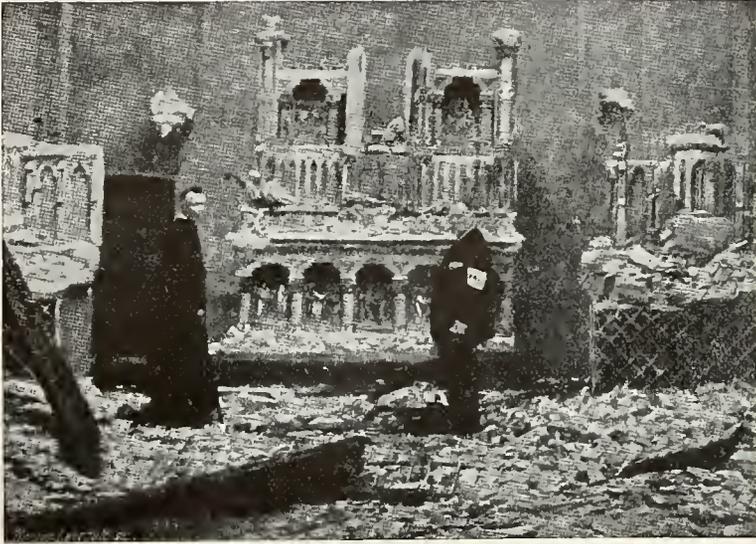
Extract from the 9th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

LIERRE.

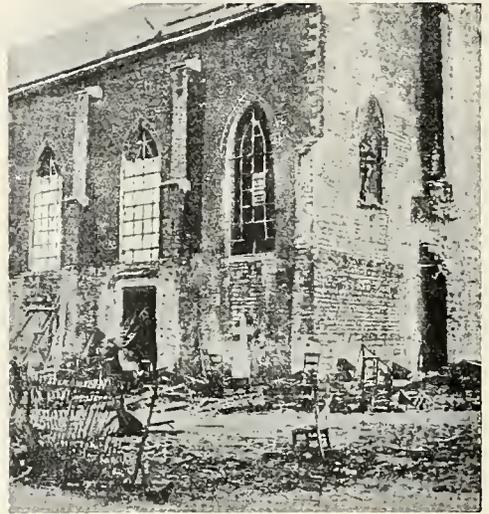
"On the 29th September began the bombardment of Lierre. The first bomb fell at a distance of 150 metres from the hospital from which the Red Cross flag was clearly seen to be flying. The second shell fell within 9 or 10 metres of the hospital.

"I went to look immediately after the bombardment ; a woman had been killed, besides a little boy and a little girl in the interior of a house. I had their remains taken up. I went to the hospital. One of the nuns told me that they had just brought down the bodies of four people killed by one of the shells. I asked on what spot the shell had fallen, and there I found two more corpses lying dead. On the ground floor there were two old women killed by fragments of shells. I ran to a photographer. He took four negatives."

Statement of a witness before the Court of Inquiry, 3rd November, 1914.



Interior of a Church at Termonde.



The Church of Elewyt.



The church of Visé burnt down long after the capture of Liège and at the time when the Belgian army had retired towards Louvain. Visé is the last Belgian town on the left bank of the Meuse. The town was completely destroyed after all military operations had ceased, 15th August, 1914.

PLACES THE DESTRUCTION OF WHICH IS FORBIDDEN: BUILDINGS DEVOTED TO WORSHIP.

"The ancient church of Hastières suffered odious profanation. Horses were stabled in it. The priestly vestments were torn and befouled. The lamps, statues, and holy-water stoups were broken. The reliquary was smashed, and the relics scattered about. Among them were some relics of the Eleven Thousand Virgins of Cologne, which had escaped the fury of the Huguenots of 1590 and the Revolution of 1790. The tabernacle resisted an attempt at burglary, but two of the four altars were profaned; the sepulchres at the altars were broken open and the remains in them thrown out and trampled under foot."

Statement of a witness annexed to the report of the sitting of the 18th December, 1914. (11th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.)

"The church presents a lamentable aspect. Its three doors, as well as that of the sacristy, have been more or less consumed. The door of the nave and side door on the right, both of massive oak, seem to have been forced in by a battering ram after the flames had weakened them. In the interior, the altars, confessionals, harmoniums and candelabra are broken, the collection boxes are forced open, the wooden Gothic statues which decorated the columns of the nave have been torn down, others have been partially destroyed by fire."

Report by M. Pierre Orts, Secretary of the Committee of Inquiry on his visit to Aerschot.

"At Grimberghen at the Abbey Prémontrés there were two sealed crypts into which no one ever descends. On the right are buried the princes of Mérode Rubempré, on the other side the prelates.

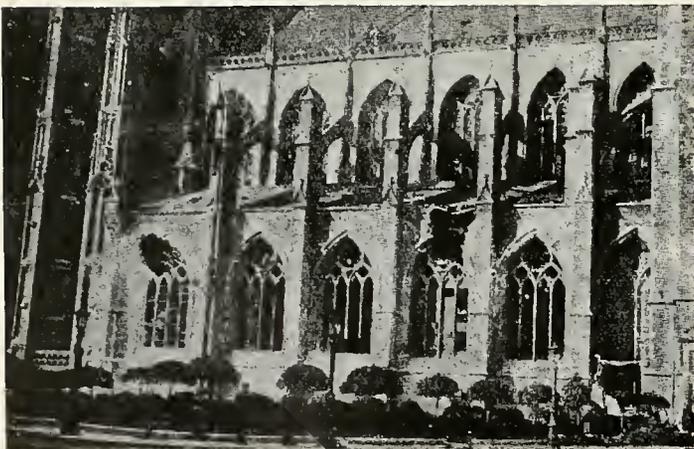
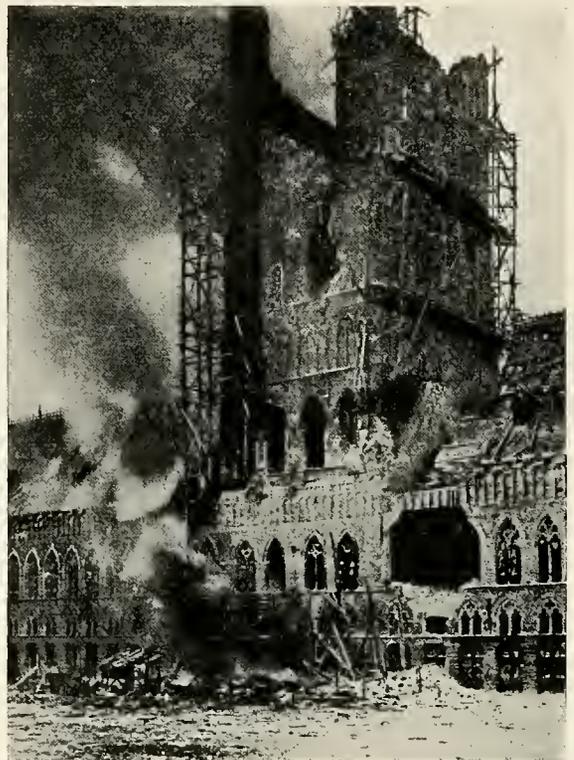
"The tombs have been violated. Some rings which the dead prelates wore on the fingers had been carried away."

Evidence of M. C. de Vilvorde.

"What shall we say now of the material damage caused in a few days within our diocese. We visited several of the districts which have suffered, and we shed bitter tears before the ruins of churches, schools, presbyteries, dwelling places and entire monuments which had been destroyed, sometimes in the confusion of battle, but more often by incendiarism. Must we cite the names? Dinant, Tamines-Saint-Martin, Sorinne, Spontin, Hastières, Hermeton-sur-Meuse, Onhaye, Anthée, et Maurenne, Surice, Romedenne, Franchimont, Villers-en-Fagne, Frasnes, Villerzee, Bourseigne-Neuve, Musson, Baranzy, Ette, Gomery, Tintigny, Houdemont, Rossignol, Herbeumont, Maissin, Porcheresse, these are parishes which the war has willed shall be blotted out from the map of our diocese. And apart from the villages which have suffered martyrdom we know of 150 others where the damage has been more or less serious.

"But what fills our heart with the deepest feeling of bitterness is the thought of the sacrileges of which our diocese has been the theatre in many localities. From the bottom of our heart we deplore these sacrileges, because they are a direct offence against Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, which for so long we have sought to make known, loved and honoured throughout our diocese."

Extract from the Lent charge of His Grace Monseigneur Heylen, Bishop of Namur.



Malines and Ypres contained two jewels of medieval architecture: the metropolitan church of St. Rombaut and the Cloth Hall.

Three attempts were made by the Germans to reach the first building with their guns, the second was shattered a little more every day by the murderous shells bent on destroying the most noted communal monument of Flanders.

PLACES OF WHICH THE DESTRUCTION IS FORBIDDEN : HISTORICAL MONUMENTS.

SAINT ROMBAUT DE MALINES.

Of all the monuments which our glorious past has bequeathed us none can be more remarkable than the Church of St. Rombaut, the construction of which was begun at the end of the thirteenth century and completed in 1312. It is a Gothic edifice in the form of a cross with a colossal tower in the west.

This massive and venerable tower is of admirable proportions. It gives an impression of strength, vigour and solidity never to be forgotten. Standing before it one has the idea of being in the presence of something of an eternal nature. It seems indeed to be the Guardian of the City.

Only the gay notes of its chimes, which on summer evenings charm with their silvery music the ears of the inhabitants assembled at the Cafés in the square, seem somewhat to soften the austerity of its aspect as a tutelary spirit.

The interior of the church itself inspires a feeling of intense fervour, but it is necessary to take part in one of the solemn masses which are celebrated there on the days of high festivals in order to grasp all the liturgic splendour of Flemish Catholicism. Streaks of copper, gold and silver scintillate in the light of the lofty windows and the resplendent stained glass. The excellence of individual works of art, while they contribute to the splendour of the sacred objects which the ceremonial of worship seems to invest with life, is almost lost in the simple, all-pervading beauty of the entire edifice.

Besides its beautiful Verity pulpit of the seventeenth century carved by J. F. R. Bockstuyns and representing a multitude of men and women, saints and angels, quaintly grouped together in delicious crudity, and its superb communion bench carved by Arnold Quellyn in 1678, St. Rombaut possesses a work of very high order, namely, the Christ on the Cross, by Van Dyck.

THE HALLES OF YPRES.

The first stone of the Halles of Ypres was laid in the year 1200 by the Count of Flanders, Beaudouin IX. The whole was completed in 1304. In 1620 an elegant building was built at its side with colonnades, which afterwards became the Hotel de Ville. Above this, over the whole 133 metres of frontage, a huge romantic room, decorated with wonderful frescoes, occupied the whole of the first floor.

The Halles of Ypres, in their ancient simplicity, formed one of the most beautiful lay monuments of Gothic style, not only of Belgium but of the whole of Europe. "One finds oneself," said the historian, Henri Pirenne, "in presence of an entirely new art which owes nothing to anybody. Flanders has nowhere adopted as a model those great and severe buildings whose practical purpose is so happily mingled with a character of heroism and majesty. It is in the Halles that the Flemish civilisation of the thirteenth century finds its most noble and characteristic expression."

The artist will fully confirm the judgment of the historian. The Halles of Ypres are in the lay and communal architecture of the middle ages what the cathedral of Chartres is in religious architecture, the perfect model of the highest expression of a definite ideal.

Extract from *Belgique illustrée*, by Dumont Wilden.



Safes broken open with the help of the tools of professional burglars by the German Troops at Dinant, Termonde and in the environs of Malines.

FORBIDDEN PILLAGE.

"The giving up to pillage of a town or place, even when taken by assault, is forbidden."

"Pillage is formally prohibited."

Arts. 28 and 47 of the Hague Rules of War.

"One company, under a captain, burst into the offices of the 'Dender Central Bank,' a private company, and searched them from end to end. Soon after, a special squad entered the bank, and blew open the safe in the room of the manager, from which frs. 2,400 were taken. They then forced the wrought-iron gate of the bank cellar, which contained the boxes deposited by private customers. But there was a second door to the cellar which resisted their burglarious efforts. It was only the great solidity of this structure which preserved the private safes below."

Extract from the 9th Report of the Committee of Inquiry : The Sack of Termonde.

"While a certain number of soldiers were perpetrating this massacre, others pillaged and sacked the houses of the town, and broke open all safes, sometimes blasting them with dynamite. They entered the Banque Centrale de la Meuse, seized the Director, M. Xavier Wasseige, and demanded that he should open the safes. On his refusal they attempted to break them open. As they did not succeed, they led M. Wasseige and his two eldest sons to the Place d'Armes and shot them, together with 120 of their fellow citizens, with machine guns. M. Wasseige's three youngest children, held by soldiers, were forced to witness the murder of their father and brothers. It is also said that one of M. Wasseige's sons lay in agony on the Place d'Armes for a whole hour, no one daring to give him help."

Extract from the 11th Report of the Committee of Inquiry : The Sack of Dinant.

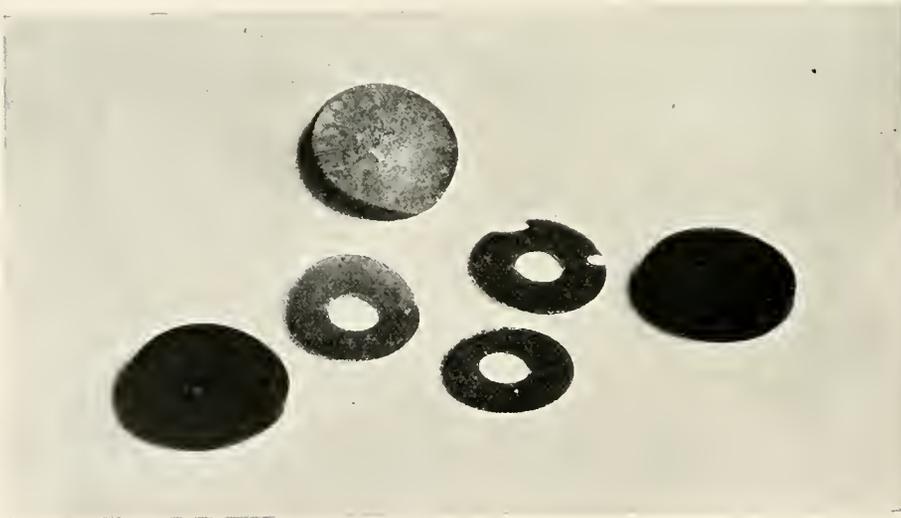
"The German authorities entered the private banks and seized the cash in hand. They found £12 at the Banque de la Dyle and £480 at the Banque Populaire."

Extract from the 5th Report of the Committee of Inquiry : The Sack of Louvain.

"It is proved :

" . . . that looting, house burning, and the wanton destruction of property were ordered and countenanced by the officers of the German Army."

Conclusions of the Report of the English Committee.



Incendiary tablets found on soldiers belonging to the special corps of "pionniers" and among the ruins of houses destroyed by fire at Termonde.

RESPECT OF PRIVATE PROPERTY.

"A company was directed (at Termonde) to carry out the destruction of the houses. This company kept central reservoirs where each man carrying a pneumatic belt went to replenish himself with an incendiary liquid with which to sprinkle the wood on the outside of the houses ; another man wearing a glove especially provided with a preparation of phosphorus, passed in front of the houses which had been sprinkled and rubbed his glove on the wood. This set fire to the houses and permitted a whole street to be burnt all in a quarter of an hour. In order to expedite still further the burning of the houses, the men threw inside inflammable matter of which I send you a sample."

Report of the Belgian military authority, 19th September, 1914.

"These tablets are black in colour with a metallic surface ; they are shiny, greasy to the touch, elastic and without odour. When rubbed on paper they leave a black mark.

"They have a diameter of 20.5 millimetres, a thickness of 2.9 millimetres, and shew in the centre a circular aperture of 4.2 millimetres. They weigh 1.43 grams. Examined under a magnifying glass they shew a slight trace of parallel lines going the same direction on both sides ; which seems to indicate that they have been submitted to a process of rolling.

"When cut in transverse sections it is seen that they are black only on the surface and that they are composed of a substance of a horny nature, of a yellowish colour and transparent.

"When lighted they quickly burst into flame, and produce a deflagration while emitting a yellowish flame.

"A chemical examination shews that they are composed of nitro-cellulose.

"*Conclusions.*—These tablets are made with nitro-cellulose gelatinised with a view to enabling them to be submitted to the process of rolling and afterwards cut by a machine.

"Their surface is covered with black lead with a view to lessening the electric properties of the nitro-cellulose and facilitate their manipulation.

"It is possible that the central aperture of these tablets is designed to enable a number to be joined together by means of a wick intended to be ignited before they are thrown on to the spot where it is desired to produce the fire.

"Chemist, 1st Class,

(Signed) G. DE RUDDER."

Analysis of the incendiary tablets with an indication of their use.

"It is proved :

"... that elaborate provision had been made for systematic incendiarism at the very outbreak of the war."

Conclusions of the report of the English Committee.



His Grace Monseigneur CHARLES GUSTAVE WALRAVENS,
Bishop of Tournai.

Taken as a hostage at Tournai on the 24th August, 1914; died in the same town, 16th February, 1915.

“The venerable Bishop of Tournai, an old man and an invalid, was shut up for five days at Ath, in a nauseous place, where he had only a mattress to lie upon, and no food save what certain devoted ladies brought him.”

Extract from the 10th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

RESPECT FOR NON-COMBATANTS: HOSTAGES.

“ . . . in cases not included in the regulations adopted, populations and belligerents remain under the protection and the rule of the principles of the law of nations as they result from the usages established between civilised nations from the laws of humanity and the requirements of the public conscience.”

Preamble of the Hague Rules of War.

“ The belligerent is forbidden to compel the nationals of the adverse party to take part in the operations of War directed against their country.”

Art. 23 of the Hague Rules of War.

From the first moment when the German army came into touch with the Belgian forces before Liège, it sought to protect itself by thrusting before it groups of civilians. One witness described to us the way in which a German battery, which was firing at the Carmelite Monastery of Chèvremont, sought to shelter itself from the fire of a fort by massing around itself people arrested from the neighbouring villages, including women and even children. The same witness declares that he saw a body of German troops, who passed through the gap between forts Fléron and Chaudefontaine, driving before them many civilians, whom they had picked up on the highway: most of them had their hands tied behind their backs. Another group was made to march in the middle of the column; it included an old man of eighty years of age, whom two companions had literally to drag along.

To turn to the other side of Belgium—a witness gives us the following description of a German column as it marched through a commune of the Borinage (province of Hainault) on its way to attack the French, who were falling back to the other bank of the Sambre. “There came first cyclists, then infantry in open order, then a party of about 100 ‘hostages,’ then masses of infantry, next some motors (of which several were being dragged by horses), then some guns, and lastly a group of about 300 more ‘hostages’ who had ropes passed round them.

Although the French had lined the heights which commanded the valley, they hesitated long before firing. The reason was that they saw these civilians both at the head of and behind the German column. After the fighting had begun, and many Germans had fallen under the French fire, the troops occupying the village of —— set fire to all the houses along the street where they were standing.” This did not hinder the onward march of the invading army. At 10 p.m. the witness observed another group of civilians, which comprised this time many women and children. Part of them, men, women and children, were forced to spend the night on the bridge over the Sambre, in order that the French might be prevented from bombarding it. Others were pushed forward toward the French firing line: among these were the priest in charge of the Free School, an old man of 64, and three younger ecclesiastics. On the following morning our witness, who was under arrest himself in another group of “hostages,” noticed eight nuns stationed on the bridge, to preserve it against attempts at destruction.

Extract from the 10th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

“It is proved:

“ . . . that the rules and usages of war were frequently broken, particularly by the using of civilians, including women and children, as a shield for advancing forces exposed to fire.”

Conclusions of the Report of the English Committee.



Degrading mark painted in oil colours on the back of every civil prisoner interned in one of the German camps "Kriegsgefangenen Celle." "Kriegsgefangenen Munster."

Thousands of Belgian citizens have been similarly deported to the prisons of Germany, to Munsterlagen, to Celle, and Magdeburg. At Munsterlagen alone the civil prisoners numbered three thousand one hundred.

Pastoral letter of Cardinal Mercier.

CUSTOMS RECOGNISED BY CIVILIZED NATIONS; CIVILIAN PRISONERS.

A witness, who was arrested when alone, and long after the termination of hostilities, has given us a *detailed narrative of his captivity*. He was seized in the suburbs of Brussels, and added to a party of about twenty other civilians, who were taken to Germany on a military train, under a guard of four soldiers. At the German railway stations the populace seemed to have been expecting the passage of the train; they insulted the prisoners, whom the soldiers in charge pointed out to them as "the *franc-tireurs*." Our witness affirms that in another carriage of his train there were *other civilian prisoners*, including an *old gentleman with two little girls of twelve and thirteen, and a boy about ten years old*. The rest of the train contained military prisoners, Belgian, French and English, whom the crowd did not molest, and who received decent rations; but the civilians were given nothing but bread and water. After several days of most painful travelling, the civilian prisoners were interned at X———, where our witness reports that they found several hundred other Belgian non-combatants. To the number of over 650 they were shut up in a granary, and forced to sleep on straw. There were six priests among them. They were roused in the morning by blows and curses, and led into a barrack square; here an inscription was placed on their backs, designating them as "prisoners of war" at the town where they were detained. At midday they were given a bowl of soup. The punishments in vogue were the cells and the pillory—on which men were exposed for hours on end—not to speak of curses and blows from sticks or the butt ends of rifles. The rooms were insanitary, and the latrine was an open one—a rudimentary structure composed of a fir tree nailed down on supporting beams over a trench about thirty feet long. In this place there were imprisoned *300 inhabitants of a certain Flemish village, including the parish priest, his curate, the schoolmaster, the secretary of the commune, and a seminarist, as also a priest from the diocese of Namur, a seminarist from Hoogstraeten, and a clerical professor from the College of St. Pierre at Brussels*.

Extract from the 10th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

From another witness we have information concerning the lot of the civilian prisoners interned at another German town. This was the place to which a great number of the inhabitants of Louvain were carried off. Crammed together in goods wagons without windows, these poor people, among whom were over 100 women and children (some of the latter mere infants), were forced to travel almost without food and without any chance of sleep. At Z——— they were turned out, to be lodged in sheds which in time of peace served some for horses and others for soldiers. Many of these people remain there still; most of them have only their summer clothing, some no proper clothing at all, for they were turned out of their houses just as they were, without being permitted to finish their dressing or to take any baggage in their hands. They have only straw to sleep upon, and it has never been renewed. They were given on their arrival only one blanket between each two persons, and these blankets were old, dirty and very thin. Fire and lighting were unknown luxuries. The food consists of one loaf for each three persons, given out on alternate days, and this loaf weighs less than six pounds. Each morning and evening they have a small ration of coffee, and each day at 11 a.m. a bowl of soup, which it is often impossible to consume. The German authorities have made no provision for the cleanliness of the prisoners—no towels, no soap. After a time those of the prisoners who had money were able to improve their condition somewhat; but many had been carried off without warning, and had no funds whatever.

We are assured that the moral sufferings of the prisoners are even worse than their physical sufferings. They have to live in unpleasant and dangerous contiguity with individuals suffering from contagious diseases. These civilians are of all ranks of life—priests, university professors, lawyers, employers of labour, shopkeepers, working people. All alike are condemned to complete idleness. No books are allowed, and no tools. The German soldiery, alleging that they are dealing with "*franc-tireurs* and murderers," treat them with the greatest brutality. Can we wonder at the fact that many of the prisoners have become insane?

Extract from the 10th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

Paroisse de Saint-Hadelin (Olne)



Les Membres du Conseil de Fabrique, les Chefs des Confréries de la Sainte-Vierge et de Sainte-Barbe vous prient de bien vouloir assister au **Service solennel** qui sera célébré en l'église de Saint-Hadelin, **Lundi 9 Novembre, à 10 heures et demie**, pour le repos des âmes des membres de Confrérie dont les noms suivent :

P. J. Hougrand, décédé à Micheroux, le 22 Février, membre de la Confrérie de la Sainte-Vierge.

Elisabeth Franquet, décédée à Verviers, le 9 Juillet, membre des deux Confréries

Ainsi que pour les victimes du massacre des 5 et 6 Août en cette paroisse :

Jean Naval, Georges Delrez, veuve Desonay, Joséphine Desonay, Victor Warnier père, Victor Warnier fils, Nelly Warnier, Edgard Warnier, de Saint-Hadelin.
Jean Matz, André Crahay et Paul Bailly, de Forêt.

Tous tués le 5 Août sur le Fawen

Jean Willot, Laurent Gillet, Jacques Rabier, Denis Naval, Jean Naval, Jacques Maguel, Henri Maguel, Pierre Dewandre, Julien Dewandre, Henri Dewandre, Joseph Delsaute, Louis Gernay, Guillaume Leclercq, Jean Legrand, Noël Grand'ry, Joseph Grand'ry, Léonard Grand'ry, Augustin Sequaris, Pierre Dethier, Paul Dethier, Léonard Lamarche, Félicien Boeur, Alphonse Boeur, Vicor Hubert, Henri Hubert, Joseph Tixhon, Edouard Daenen, Gilles Hautvast, Gaspard Hautvast, Jacques Hautvast, Joseph Hautvast, de Saint-Hadelin.

Victor Polet, Jean Backer et Fernand Maguel, d'Ayeneux

Joseph Strauven, de Charneux ; Joseph Delhalle, de Robermont.

Toussaint Hansez, Victor Hansez, Toussaint Hansez, Laurent François et Jules Saive, de Bouny.

Tous tués à Riessonsart le 6 Août.

Albert Schweiz, Betty Schweiz, Wilhelm Hasenklever, Blaise Graner, Antoine Daelhem, de Saint-Hadelin.

Hubert Blum et Mathieu Klein, de Fleron.

Tous tués dans les Heids d'Olne le 6 Août.

Denis Naval-Rogisler, de Magnée, tué dans les Heids d'Ayeneux le 6 Août, et Mathieu Clossel, de Saint-Hadelin, tué à Bouny le 6 Août.

Priez Dieu pour le repos de leurs âmes.

Doux Cœur de Marie, soyez mon refuge.

Notre-Dame de Lourdes, priez pour nous.

Saint Joseph, patron de la Belgique, priez pour nous

Saint Hadelin, patron de la paroisse, priez pour nous

Sainte Barbe, patronne de la bonne mort, priez pour nous.

Letter of invitation to attend the celebration of a service for the repose of the souls of **61 PERSONS, OF WHOM FOUR WERE WOMEN, MASSACRED** within the territory of the Commune of Olne (a few kilometres from Liège) on the 5th and 6th August, 1914.

[TRANSLATION]

PARISH OF ST. HADELIN (OLNE)

The Members of the Conseil de Fabrique, and the Heads of the Brotherhoods of the Holy Virgin and Sainte Barbe, invite you to assist at the solemn service which will be held at the Church of St. Hadelin on Monday, 9th November, at 10.30, for the repose of the souls of the members of the Brotherhood whose names are here given :

P. J. Hougrand, died at Micheroux on 22nd February, member of the Brotherhood of the Holy Virgin.

Elizabeth Franquet, died at Verviers on 9th July, member of the two Brotherhoods.

Also for the victims of the massacre of 5th and 6th August in this Parish :

Jean Naval, Georges Delrez, the widow Desonay, Josephine Desonay, Victor Warnier, Victor Warnier, son, Nelly Warnier, Edgard Warnier, of St. Hadelin.

Jean Matz, André Crahay and Paul Bailly, of Forêt.

All killed on 5th August on the Fawen.

Jean Willot, Laurent Gillet, Jacques Rahier, Denis Naval, Jean Naval, Jacques Maguel, Henri Maguel, Pierre Dewandre, Julien Dewandre, Henri Dewandre, Joseph Delsaute, Louis Germy, Guillaume Leclercq, Jean Legrand, Noël Grand'ry, Joseph Grand'ry, Léonard Grand'ry, Augustin Sequaris, Pierre Dethier, Paul Dethier, Léonard Lamarche, Félicien Boeur, Alphonse Boeur, Vicor Hubert, Henri Hubert, Joseph Tixhon, Edouard Daenen, Gilles Hautvast, Gaspard Hautvast, Jacques Hautvast, Joseph Hautvast, de Saint-Hadelin.

Victor Polet, Jean Backer and Fernand Maguel, of Ayeneux.

Joseph Strauven of Charneux ; Joseph Delhalle, of Robermont.

Toussaint Hansez, Victor Hansez, Laurent François and Jules Saive of Bouny.

All killed at Riessonsart, on 6th August.

Albert Schweiz, Betty Schweiz, Wilhelm Hasenklever, Blaise Graner, Antoine Daelhem, of Saint-Hadelin.

Hubert Blum and Mathieu Klein, of Fléron.

All killed in the heights of Olne on 6th August.

Denis Naval-Rogisler, of Magnée, killed in the heights of Ayeneux on 6th August, and Mathieu Closset, of St. Hadelin, killed at Bouny on 6th August.

Pray to God for the repose of their souls.

Gentle Heart of Mary, be my refuge.

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

St. Joseph, patron of Belgium, pray for us.

St. Hadelin, patron of the Parish, pray for us.

Sainte Barbe, patroness of kindly death, pray for us.

WHOLESALE REPRISALS: THE FIRST MASSACRES.

"I was anxious, in the evening of the 3rd August, to calm the anxieties of my parishioners. I said to them: 'You have nothing to fear; if you do not attack the soldiers they will do nothing to you. Do you suppose that they are going to pillage your houses and burn the village, and assassinate women and children? The Prussians are not savages.'

"The following day, the first act of the soldiers who entered Battice was to break the doors and windows, to carry off whatever they pleased, and to kill several persons and torture others.

"On the afternoon of Wednesday, the 6th August, a superior officer came and said to me:

"'Monsieur le curé, where is the burgomaster?'

"I replied:

"'The burgomaster is not here.'

"'And the population?'

"'There are several inhabitants here, but most of them have fled in the direction of a neighbouring village.'

"'What are they afraid of? Go and tell them to come back. You will do them a good service.'

"And he added the following words:

"'Tell them that they have nothing to fear. I am the commander of the troops billeted here, and I take you under my protection. Make a point of telling the inhabitants that I take them under my guardianship.'

"I went away full of confidence in his words. But I had not reached the hamlet before the sack of Battice began. More than twenty persons were killed or burnt alive. The whole village was set on fire with the exception of the part about the station, which was required by the troops.

"Such is the story of that day.

"And do you know how they would justify these murders and this destruction of an entire parish?

"At first they said: 'Someone fired from this house' (M. Fraikin's house). Now, I can assert in the most solemn manner that there was not anybody in this house or in the surrounding houses.

"Next they accused the curé, saying: 'He fired on us from the belfry of the church.' And yet the soldiers, as well as the inhabitants, saw me leaving the village at the request of the officer ten minutes before the fusillade.

"Finally, by way of a third explanation, they said: 'The burgomaster killed our commander after shewing him welcome.' Now, the burgomaster had disappeared before the arrival of the enemy, and did not see them again at Battice until several weeks later, when the Germans wanted him in order to make him give up the treasury of the Commune.

"G. VOISIN,

"Curé at Battice."

(Extract from a letter addressed on the 12th March, 1915, to the Dutch newspaper *De Tyd*, of Amsterdam).

Battice is the first important village met by the German army in their march on Liège. It is on the plateau immediately before the town of Herve, which was half destroyed, and of which 44 inhabitants were killed, and the villages of Olne, Soumagne, Micheroux, La Bouxhe, where from the first days a number of civilians, men, women and children, were shot or burned.

WHOLESALE REPRISALS: THE MASSACRES AT AERSCHOT.

"I have been able to reconstruct the drama of Aerschot, with the aid of the depositions of eye-witnesses and of two letters of Mme. Tielemans, the burgomaster's wife, written to the Minister of State (Cooreman) and to the Committee of Enquiry into the violations of international law, letters which were shown me by Chevalier Ernst de Bunswyck.

"The Commanding Officer at Aerschot was killed, not treacherously in his bedroom, but on the balcony of the house of the burgomaster who was giving him hospitality. The market place was full of soldiers. All of a sudden shots were fired without any apparent reason. Indescribable chaos followed. The soldiers fired at random on the surrounding houses. The commander fell and was carried by his comrades in arms into a room, where he expired. After his death there was a desire for reprisals. The mayor was arrested, with his brother and young son who had been wounded on the preceding day by a ricocheting bullet, and who, when the confusion in the market began, had hidden himself with his mother in the cellars of the house. The surrounding houses were also searched, and the twenty-seven persons were arrested in the cellars haphazard. They wanted also to arrest the senior curé of the town, but he had taken to flight. Consequently another priest was seized in his stead. As it was impossible to lay hands on the mayor's wife and daughter, who had succeeded in escaping, a price was set on their heads. . . .

"The thirty persons who had been arrested and who could not be charged with the shadow of a crime were conducted to a trench. Their eyes were bound and they were all shot, with the exception of a certain Mommens whom it had been decided to pardon but who was compelled to assist in the burial of the bodies of his fellow citizens. As soon as the work was finished this individual was told to go to Louvain and tell there the story of what he had seen; it was no doubt desired that his narrative should terrorise the city."

Evidence of Dr. L. H. Grondjjs, Dutch subject, formerly professor at the Technical Institute at Dordrecht.

OUTSIDE THE LOUVAIN GATE:

Victor Page.
Bruno Tuerlinckx.
Jean Henri Smets.
Louis van den Heuvel.
Pierre Mathijs.
Raymond Nijs.
François Schellens.
Jean Oostens.
Louis Deroey.
Auguste Boschmans.
Camille van Broeckhoven.
Henri Nijs.
Adophe Govaerts.
Prosper Mertens.
François Brans.
Omer Nijs.
Louis Verbraeken.
Ferdinand Roelants.
Joseph Tielemans (Burgomaster).
Louis Tielemans (son).
Emile Tielemans (brother).
8 unknown (unrecognisable).
Constant Grandjean.
Roger Vanautenboer.
Camille Vertruyn.
Emile Goyaerts.
Alphonse Toussaint.
Charles de Jonghe.
Joseph Goossens (Sichem).
Henri Cypers.
Gustave Dubois.
Jean-Baptiste Vermeiren (Rillar).
Jacques Nijs.
Isidore Evariste Tuerlinckx (Sichem).

3 unknown.
Henri Devroery.
Louis van Autenboer.
Victor Cools.
Paul Feenus.
Victor Wouters.
2 unknown.
François Verhaegen (Rillaer).
Camille Nijs.
Richard Vermaelen.
Edouard van Aelst (Messelbroek).
2 unknown.
Léonard Verbist (Rillaer).
Alphonse van den Bemden.
Joseph van den Bemden.
Adrien van den Bemden.
François Matthijs.
Louis van Winkel.
Robert Carette (Priest).
Hubert Nijs (Reeginevoort).
Alphonse Minnen (Messelbroek).
Polidore Goossens (Sichem).
Jules van der Heyden.
Adolphe van Autenboer.
Théophile Truyts.
Alphonse Mutsaerts.
Jules Lavaerts.
Léon Vancrickinge.
Charles Luyten.
2 unknown.
Hubert Vermunicht.
Emeri Van der Plas.
Pierre van Aerschot.
Walter Tierens.
Edmond Deleender.
François Grandjean.

Charles Lamotte.
François Peelaerts.
Gustave van de Pol.
Rigobert van den Plas.
Léonard Bergen.
Jules Stalmans.
Jean François Matthijs.
Richard Mertens.
Henri Grandjean.
Jules Nijs.
Silvain Kobeyus.
Joseph Mertens.
Jules Gustave Grandjean.
Léonard Grandjean.
Arthur Rijckmaus.
Joseph Verhaeghen.
Ferdinand Grandjean.
Pierre Touseuts.
1 unknown.
Lucien Meijermaus.
Vital Duhaen.
Joseph Windelinckx.
Célestine Claes.
Eugène Serré.
Alda Mariën.
E. Andries.
Van Mol Marguerite.
NEAR THE GARDEN OF THE HOSPITAL:
2 children:
Carmen Siekens.
Marie Vertruyn.
Servant to the Curé Van Roye.
Louis Deroo.
Marie Ons.
NEAR THE MALINES GATE:
Jean Boxsteyns.
Alphonse van Opstal.

Wed. Van Eyck.
Lucas Meriens.
François Mertens.
Edouard Janssens.
François Vouneckx.
Julien Desmet.
2 unknown.
François Debie.
1 unknown.
Auguste Bergen.
1 unknown.
5 soldiers.

ANRODENBERG:

Jean Camerlinckx.
Jean van de Velde.
Joseph Claes.
Jean-Baptiste Delatin.
E. Jean Coremans.
François Peeters.
Louis Serneels.
Victor Bergen.
François Bergen.
E. Bergen.
Joseph van der Borgh.
Louis Nijs.
Jean Daems.
Jean Ceulemans.
Guilichnus Janssens.

SAS:

Evarard Bruyninckx.
Frits Bruyninckx.
Victor Bruyninckx.
Gustave Michiels.
Isidore van Gaubergen.
François-Nicholas-Joseph Chapeauville.
Auguste Cuypers.

155 bodies exhumed at Aerschot on the 16th-17th and 18th December, 1914.



The house of the burgomaster on the Square at Aerschot. On the balcony the German Commanding Officer was struck by a German bullet.



The grave outside the town into which, on the very spot of the massacre, the bodies of the burgomaster, his son, his brother, and 93 other civilians were thrown pell-mell.

Monsieur le Président

La narration que vous me demandez a
depuis des jours être terminée. Je l'avais adressée
à Monsieur le Ministre Schollaert ne sachant
à qui l'envoyer.

Je puis vous affirmer que ces premiers corps
de feu brûlés sur la grande Place par les Alle-
mands et que je puis vous affirmer aussi en
étant sur la porte de la rue à ce moment
Le général se trouvait sur le balcon ^{de son commandement} avec des
deux cents de troupes. Le général a reçu à ce
moment une balle perdue ou destinée par
les siens - la fusillade était de nouveau
que je ne comprends pas comment ceux qui
se trouvaient avec lui furent échappés. La
fusillade est exécutée de coups de feu.
Les Allemands ont eu l'infamie d'accuser
mon fils d'avoir été leur officier à ce
moment nous étions dans la cour avec

mon mari les enfants les sœurs et
même - quelques soldats allemands
qui se présentaient des balles des Alle-
mands. Je puis vous affirmer que nous ne
possédions aucune arme; mon fils
était trop digne de caractère et surtout
trop chrétien pour qu'une pensée de
meurtre pût même germer dans son
cerveau - Vous pouvez avoir des rense-
gnements sur son caractère chez son
oncle. Votre ami Paul Laepsaet
à Audenarde - Cette accusation n'a
été avec toute sa cruauté que sa mort.
Recevez Monsieur le Président
l'assurance de mes sentiments les
plus distingués

M^{me} J. Tielemans

Ville Beau Liege.
Hessingue 24 Sept. 1914

Photograph of one of the letters written to the President of the Committee of Enquiry by the wife of the Burgomaster of Aerschot. In order to justify the burning and sack of this town of 8,000 souls, and the massacre of 150 persons (of whom the bodies have now been exhumed) including several women and little children, during the 19th and 20th August, the German military authorities accused the son of the Burgomaster, Tielemans, of having assassinated the commander of the troops billeted on the town. (Translation opposite).

[TRANSLATION.]

MONSIEUR LE PRESIDENT,

The narrative for which you ask me must have been already received by you. I addressed it to Monsieur le Ministre Schallaert, not knowing to whom to send it.

I may add the following, which I can assert to have taken place at the time the first shots were fired on the square by the Germans, as I was at the moment at the gate of the street. The General happened to be on the balcony of my house with his two *aides de camps*. A stray bullet, or one fired by his own men, hit him on the temple. The firing was so continuous that I do not understand how those who were with him were able to escape. The front of the house was riddled with shots.

The Germans were infamous enough to accuse my son of having killed their officer. We were at that moment in the cellars with my husband, the children, the domestics, and even several German soldiers, who were seeking protection from the bullets of their own men. I can assure you that we had no arms in our possession. My son was of too gentle a character and too good a Christian for any thought of murder to enter his head. You may obtain information as to his character from his uncle, your friend Paul Kaepsaet of Audenarde. This charge against him has caused me no less grief than his death.

Receive, Monsieur le President, the expression of my most distinguished sentiments.

MME. J. TIELEMANS.

VILLA BEAU RIVAGE,
KESSENGEN.

24th Sept., 1914.



Photograph of four victims of the massacre of Andenne. A witness holding an official position in the town recognised on the right of the lower part of the photograph the body of the sheriff of the commune, a married man and father of three children. These victims were shot in a meadow near the Davin iron foundries.

WHOLESALE REPRISALS; THE MASSACRES AT ANDENNE.

The statistics of the losses at Andenne give the following total:—Three hundred were massacred in Andenne and Seilles, and about 300 houses were burnt in the two localities. A great number of inhabitants have fled. Almost every house has been sacked; indeed the pillage did not end for eight days. Other places have suffered more than Andenne, but no other Belgian town was the theatre of so many scenes of ferocity and cruelty. The numerous inhabitants whom we have cross-examined are unanimous in asserting that the *German troops were not fired upon*. They told us that *no German soldier was killed* either at Andenne or in its neighbourhood. They are incapable of understanding the causes of the catastrophe which has ruined their town, and to explain it they give various hypotheses. Some think that Andenne was sacrificed merely to establish a reign of terror, and quote words uttered by officers which seemed to them to show that the destruction of the place was premeditated. Others think that the destruction of the bridge, the obstruction of a neighbouring tunnel, and the resistance of the Belgian troops were the causes of the massacre. All protest that nothing happened in the place to excuse the conduct of the Germans.

Extract from the 11th Report of the Committee of Inquiry concerning the violations of the rules of war, dated 16th January, 1915.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Camus, Jules, Burgomaster, doctor of medicine, aged 64, father of a family. | Guillette, Félix, brother, factory manager, aged 42, bachelor. | Rambeaux, Joseph, brother, trader, aged 48, married. |
| Gillet-Dumont, Lambert, factory overseer, aged 28, father of a family. | Gulitte, Valère, son, medical student (forced by the Germans to fetch from a cellar the bodies of his father and uncle). | Wascotte, surveyor, aged, 23, father of a family. |
| Dozin-Dumont, Emile, independent, aged 26, father of a family. | Lecharlier, Félicie, aged 50, housekeeper, mother of a family. | Jacquière, Jules, hotel keeper, aged 52, bachelor. |
| Genicot, Joseph, father, merchant tailor, aged 52, father of a family. | Lecharlier, Maris, sister, aged 49, mother of a family. | Gilles, Florent, joiner, aged 21, bachelor. |
| Genicot, Léon, son, merchant tailor, aged 15. | Hubeau, Florent, factory hand, aged 47, father of a family. | Mathieu, Jules, manufacturer, aged 63, ex-sheriff, father of a family. |
| Demazy, Gustav, tenant, aged 50, bachelor. | Mme. Hubeau, his wife | Corneille, C., factory hand, aged 47, father of a family. |
| Demazy, Jules, confectioner, aged 51, bachelor. | Mlle. Hubeau, his niece, aged 14, after having been outraged by twenty German soldiers. | Cornelle, Léon, joiner, aged 42, father of a family. |
| Liégeois, Jules, engineer, aged 51, father of a family. | Cousin, Jules, factory hand, aged 19, bachelor. | Vivier, Jules barber, aged 31, father of a family. |
| Roland, Léon, trader in tobacco, aged 33, father of a family. | Cousin, Joseph, brother, factory hand, aged 22, bachelor. | Laffut, Gustave, trader, aged 34, bachelor. |
| William, leather dealer, aged 50, father of a family. | Bertrand, Théoduly, master mason, aged 48, father of a family. | Hérode, Emile, brewer, aged 37, father of a family. |
| Thys, Achille, harness maker, aged 51, father of a family. | Bertrand, Nestor, his son, mason, aged 19, bachelor. | Marchal, butcher, aged 35, bachelor. |
| Bacus, Théophile, tenant, aged 43, father of a family. | Noel, Jean, trader, aged 25, bachelor. | Gramtinne, François, father, butcher, aged 45, father of a family. |
| Bacus, Léon, his son, blacksmith, aged 25, bachelor. | Servais, René, baker, aged 26, father of a family. | Gramtinne, son, student, aged 14. |
| Lasson, Eugène, father, manufacturer, aged 62, father of a family. | Hella, Fulgence, father, aged 50, factory hand, father of a family. | Fissette, Richard, University student, aged 18. |
| Lasson, Victor, son, manufacturer, aged 37, father of a family. | Hella, son, employé, aged 20, bachelor. | Philippart, Jules, manufacturer, aged 32, married. |
| De Barys, Armand, manufacturer, aged 26, married. | Debrun, Emmanuel, locksmith, aged 35, father of a family. | Rasquin, Antoine road maker, aged 50, father of a family. |
| Davin, manufacturer, sheriff of the town, aged 37, father of a family. | Minne Zénobe, glazier, aged 28, married. | Lavigne, Maurice, butcher, aged 23. |
| Davin, manufacturer, aged 38, bachelor. | Gillard, Maximilien, workman, aged 55, bachelor. | Heneffe, chemist, aged 45, father of a family. |
| Davin, Auguste, manufacturer, aged 25, bachelor. | Jacquière, Emile, father, collier, aged 50, father of a family. | Lallemand, Adolphe, clerk, aged 43, bachelor. |
| Bolly, Louis, engineer, aged 33, father of a family. | Jacquière, son, aged 18, bachelor. | Magis, Léon, shoemaker, aged 52, married. |
| Lallemand, Prosper, glazier, aged 33, father of a family. | Jacquière, son, aged 19, bachelor. | Renglet, Louis, blacksmith, aged 60, father of a family. |
| Stellings, Auguste, tailor, aged 36, father of a family. | Defréne, Eva, housekeeper, aged 46, mother of a family. | Gaukemma, boatman, father of fourteen children. |
| Froidebise, Ferdinand, father, independent, aged 86 (killed while singing the "Marseillaise"). | Warzée, infant, aged six months. | Braihant, Alfred, market gardener, aged 45, father of a family. |
| Froidebise, Ernest, son, engineer, aged 37, father of a family. | Titeux, Charles, factory hand, aged 55. | Bouhisse Jules, joiner, aged 19 bachelor. |
| Deschamps, François, plumber, aged 20, married. | Michel, Henri, trader, aged 45, father of a family. | Beaujean, Alexandre, coachman, aged 70. |
| Walgraffe, Joseph, master plasterer, aged 54 father of a family (had his head cut off; the head and body were afterwards thrown into the burning house). | Ancelin, J., coffee house keeper, aged 45, married. | Moreau, Constant, manufacturer, aged 51, father of a family. |
| Polet, Alexandre, coffee house keeper, aged 40, father of a family. | Rabot, father, paper maker, aged 46, father of a family. | Tillieux, Emile, factory hand, aged 50, father of a family. |
| Baras, Arthur, painter, aged 40, father of a family. | Rabot, A., son, aged 16. | Daenen, Anselme, manufacturer, aged 31, father of a family. |
| De Bois, Maurice, manufacturer, aged 35, father of a family. | Landenne, Armand, agent for coal, aged 58, father of a family. | Braihant, Isidore, merchant-butcher, aged 26, married. |
| Hamoir, chemist, aged 40, father of a family. | Reuliaux, Albert, student, aged 19, bachelor. | Noel, Jean trader, aged 26, bachelor. |
| Guillette, Camille, father, chemist, aged 40, father of a family. | Crossart, foreman, aged 55, father of a family. | Hubeau, Edmond, slaughterman, aged 54, father of a family (killed at a slaughter-house). |
| | Brissa, Emile, stationer, aged 52, father of a family. | Hubeau, his son, aged 19. |
| | Genneret, Alexandre, father, carman, aged 60, father of a family. | Karel, Léon, veterinary surgeon, aged 64, father of a family. |
| | Genneret, Jules, son. | Damoiseaux, Joseph, factory hand, aged 46, father of a family. |
| | Rambeaux, Félix, trader, aged 42 father of a family. | Godfroid, J., trader, aged 50, father of a family. |
| | | Dereppe, J., manufacturer, aged 26, bachelor. |
| | | Moreau, Octave, cabinet maker, aged 38, bachelor. |

First list of 103 bodies exhumed and identified (with their approximate ages).

Andenne is a small Wallonian town situated on the right bank of the Meuse, between Namur and Huy. A bridge joins it to the village of Seilles. It possessed a population of 7,800 souls. The German troops entered it on the 19th August, 1914. The massacres and pillage took place on the 20th, 21st and 22nd August. The massacres were principally the work of the 28th Regiment of Pioneers, under the orders of Colonel Schoenemann.



Scenes of horror photographed at Andenne.

THE MARTYRDOM OF ANDENNE.

The German troops who were wishing to invade the territory on the left bank of the Meuse arrived at Andenne on Wednesday, 19th August, in the morning. Their advance guard of Uhlans found that the bridge was not available. A regiment of Belgian Infantry had blown it up at 8 o'clock on the same morning. The Uhlans retired after having seized the Communal cash box at Andenne and brutally maltreated the burgomaster, Dr. Camus, an old man of more than 70 years of age. The burgomaster had several days before taken the most minute precautions to prevent the population from engaging in hostilities. He had posted up everywhere placards ordering non-resistance. All firearms had been collected in the Hotel de Ville, and the local authorities had personally visited certain of the inhabitants to explain their duty to them.

The main body of the German troops arrived at Andenne in the afternoon. The regiment halted in the town and outside it, waiting for the completion of a pontoon bridge, which was not finished till the following morning. The first contact between the troops and the people was quite pacific. The Germans ordered requisitions, which were satisfied. The soldiers at first paid for their purchases and for the drink which they served to them in the cafés. Towards the evening the situation began to grow more strained. Whether it was that discipline was getting relaxed, or that alcohol commenced to produce its effect, the soldiers ceased paying for what they were taking. The inhabitants were too scared to resist. No friction took place and the night was calm.

On Thursday, the 20th August, the bridge was finished and the troops defiled through the town in great numbers in the direction of the left bank. The inhabitants watched them passing from their houses. Suddenly, at 6 o'clock in the evening, a single rifle shot was heard in the street, followed immediately by a startling explosion. The troops halted, their ranks fell into disorder, and nervous men fired haphazard. Presently a machine gun was set up at a corner and commenced to fire against the houses, and later a cannon dropped three shells into the town at three different points.

At the first rifle shot the inhabitants of the streets through which the troops were defiling, guessing what might happen, took refuge in their cellars or, climbing out over the walls of their gardens, sought refuge in the open country or in distant cellars. A certain number of people who would not or could not make their escape were killed in their houses by shots fired from the street, or in some cases by soldiers who burst into their dwellings.

Immediately afterwards commenced the pillage of the houses in the principal streets of the town. Every window shutter and door was broken in. Furniture was smashed and thrown out. The soldiers ran down into the cellars, got drunk there, breaking the bottles of wine that they could not carry away. Finally, a certain number of houses were set on fire. During the night rifle shooting broke out several times. The terrified population lay low in their cellars.

Next day, Friday, the 21st August, at 4 o'clock in the morning, the soldiers spread themselves through the town, driving all the population into the streets and forcing men, women and children to march before them with their hands in the air. Those who did not obey with sufficient promptitude, or did not understand the order given them in German, were promptly knocked down. Those who tried to run away were shot. It was at this moment that Dr. Camus, against whom the Germans seem to have some special spite, was wounded by a rifle shot, and then finished off by a blow from an axe. His body was dragged along by the feet for some distance. A watchmaker, a Fleming by birth, who had lived for some time in the town, was coming out of his house on the order of the soldiers, supporting on his arm his father-in-law, an old man of 80. Naturally, therefore, he could not hold up both his hands. A soldier stepped up to him and struck him with an axe on the neck. He fell mortally wounded before his own door. His wife tried to bring him assistance, was pushed back into the house, and had to assist helplessly at the last agony of her husband. A soldier threatened to shoot her with his revolver if she crossed the door-sill.

Meanwhile the whole population was being driven towards the Place des Tilleuls. Old men, the sick and the paralysed were all brought there. Some were drawn on wheel-chairs, others pushed on hand carts, others, again, borne up by their relations. The men were separated from the women and children, then all were searched, but no arms were found on them. One man had in his pocket some empty cartridge cases, both German and Belgian. He was immediately apprehended and set aside. So was a cobbler who had a wounded hand; the wound was a month old. An engineer was also put apart because he had in his pocket a spanner which was considered as a weapon. Another man seems to have been arrested because his face showed his contempt and rage at what was going on. These people were shot in the presence of the crowd and all died bravely.

Subsequently the soldiers, on the order of their officers, picked out of the mass some 40 or 50 men who were led off and all shot, some along the bank of the Meuse, and others in front of the Police Station.

The rest of the men were kept for a long time in the Place. Among them lay two persons, one of whom had received a ball in the chest, and the other a bayonet wound. They lay face to the ground with blood from their wounds trickling into the dust, occasionally calling for water. The officers forbade their neighbours to give them any help. One soldier was reproved for having wished to give one of them his water bottle. Both died in the course of the day.

While this scene was going on in the Place des Tilleuls, other soldiers spread themselves through the town, continuing their work of sack, pillage and arson. Eight men belonging to the same household were led out into a meadow some 50 yards from their dwelling, some of them were shot, the rest cut down with blows of an axe. One tall, red-haired soldier with a scar on his face distinguished himself by the ferocity with which he used an axe. A young boy and a woman were shot.

About 10 in the morning the officers told the women to withdraw, giving them the order to gather together the dead bodies and to wash away the stains of blood which defiled the street and the houses. About midday the surviving men to the number of 800 were shut up as hostages in three little houses near the bridge, but they were not allowed to go out of them on any pretext, and were so crammed together that they could not even sit down on the floor. Soon these crowded buildings reached a highly insanitary condition. The women later in the day were allowed to bring food to their husbands. Many of them, fearing outrage, had fled from the Place. These hostages were not finally released till the Tuesday following.

VILLE DE DINANT

Il est rappelé aux intéressés détenteurs des listes d'exhumés (Série A) que celles-ci doivent rentrer SANS AUCUN DÉLAI à l'Hôtel de Ville.

Des mesures rigoureuses pourraient être prises contre ceux qui n'obtempéreraient pas à cet ordre formel de l'AUTORITÉ ALLEMANDE.

A Dinant le 20 Octobre 1914.

Le Bourgmestre ff., Fr. BRIBOSIA

Imprimerie administrative E JANUS Dinant.

[TRANSLATION.]

TOWN OF DINANT.

Persons holding lists of bodies exhumed (Series A) are reminded that these lists must be returned without delay to the Hotel de Ville.

Severe measures may be taken against any person not complying with this official order of the German authorities.

Dinant, 20th October, 1914.

The Burgomaster, Fr. BRIBOSIA.

Notice placarded at Dinant enjoining, by the official order of the German authority, all the holders of lists of bodies exhumed to hand them over to the military authority at the Hotel de Ville.

WHOLESALE REPRISALS: MASSACRES AT DINANT.

26 OLD MEN BETWEEN 65 AND 75 YEARS OF AGE.

Edmond Manteaux, aged 71; Gustave Nicaise, 77; Léon Nicaise, 75; Félix Simonet, 73; Julien Disy, 68; Jules Jacquet, 65; Pierard Soume, 67; Alexandre Georges, 67; Emile Arrès, 67; Auguste Mathieu, 67; François Fastrez, 68; Jules Seghin, 68; Célestin Bon, 65; Charles Rouffiange, 68; Félicien Genot, 65; Henri Georges, 68; Charles Bietlot, 76; Collard, 70; Victor Demacle, 69; Léopold Gonze, 66; Eugène Lehayé, 67; Alfred Gilain, 64; Emile Coupienne, 64; Jules Monard, 70; Couillard, 70; Bouchat, 70.

76 WOMEN.

Mesdames Stevaux, aged 75; Marsigny, 23; Thonno Jadot, 80; Chabottier, 80; Delaete, Morelle, Anciaux, the widow Joris, Rasneu, Adrienne Piette, 74; the widow Jacquet, Léopoldine Monin, Pauline Fonder, aged 18; Joséphine Lion, Eloise Bovy, aged 23; Adèle Bovy, aged 28; the wife of Bovy, *née* Marie Defayse, Marie Schram; the wife of Jules Materne; the widow Hénenne, Marie Pinsmaille; her daughter Pinsmaille; Marie Minet; Nelly Rodrique; Odille Fastrès, Jeanne Bourdon (of Neffe); Félicie Pirlot; Emma Raes, the wife of Bourdon; Henriette Poncelet, the wife of Betemps; Marie Martin; Clothilde Bourguignon; the wife of Kinique; Marthe Neaujot; Marie Paquet; Marie Diskeuve; the wife of Paulet; Louise Paulet; the widow Javaux; Henriette Martin; Louise Kinique, aged 18; the wife of Collard, aged 83; Eugénie Paulet, the wife of Struvay; Gilda Genon; Nelly Paulet; Gilda Marchot; Renée Dufrenne; the wife of Bultot; Victorine Delimoy; the wife of Toussaint; Léonie Bultot; the wife of Joseph Guéry; Jeanne Lempereur; Marie Guéry; the widow Even, aged 75; Georgette and Anna Charlier; Charlotte Laloux; the wife of Florin; Céline Toussaint; Thérèse Dulieu; the wife of Meura; her three daughters Meura; Marguerite Gustin; the girl Cajot; the wife of Dauphin; Henriette Roulin; Germaine Roulin; Juliette Herman.

37 YOUNG BOYS AND LITTLE CHILDREN.

Joseph Firmin, aged 16; Jules Vinstock, 15; Léon Colle, 16; Georges Collignon, 16; Vital Sorée, 15; Maurice Broucoux, 16; Eugène Deloge, 15; Edmond Thibaut, 15; Alphonse Monin, 15; Louis Chabottier, 15; Marcel Hennuy, 15; René Mouton, 15; Georges Delaey, 14; Emile Nepper, 15; Constant Migeotte, 15; Georges Zwolden, 14; Eugène Goffin, 15; Jules Gaudinne, 16; Marcel Fonder, 15; Benjamin Louys, 15; Louis Ferret, 16; Marcel Bovy, 5; René Dupont, 10; Claire Struyvay, 2½; Félix Balleaux, 20 months; Félix Fivet, 3 weeks; Joseph Dupont, 8 years; Jean Rodrique, 6 months; X. Bétemps, 2½ years; Edmond Bourguignon, 1½ years; Edmond Gustin, 3 years; Norbert Bultot, 2½ years; Micha (of Dréhance), 1 year; the son of Edmond Boudon, 16 years, his daughter, 13 years, Kinique, 11 years.

Extracts from one of the lists of persons whose bodies were exhumed at Dinant. This list contains 612 names. The total number of victims is more than 800.



The dead city of Dinant; the scene of the worst massacre of all those of which the German Army was guilty in Belgium.

THE MARTYRDOM OF DINANT.

" On Friday, the 21st, about 9 o'clock in the evening, German troops coming down the road from Ciney entered the town by the Rue St. Jacques. On entering they began firing into the windows of the houses, and killed a workman who was returning to his own house, wounded another inhabitant, and forced him to cry ' Long live the Kaiser.' They bayoneted a third person in the stomach. They entered the cafés, seized the liquor, got drunk, and retired after having set fire to several houses and broken the doors and windows of others. The population was terrorised and stupefied, and shut itself up in its dwellings.

Saturday, 22nd August, was a day of relative calm. All life, however, was at an end in the streets. Part of the inhabitants, guided by the instincts of self-preservation, fled into the neighbouring countryside. The rest, more attached to their homes, and rendered confident by the conviction that nothing had happened which could be interpreted as an act of hostility on their part, remained hidden in their houses.

" On Sunday morning next, the 23rd, at 6.30 in the morning, soldiers of the 108th Regiment of Infantry invaded the Church of the Premonastrensian Fathers, drove out the congregation, separated the women from the men, and shot 50 of the latter. Between 7 and 9 the same morning the soldiers gave themselves up to pillage and arson, going from house to house and driving the inhabitants into the street. Those who tried to escape were shot. About 9 in the morning the soldiery, driving before them by blows from the butt ends of rifles men, women, and children, pushed them all into the Parade Square, where they were kept prisoners till 6 o'clock in the evening. The guard took pleasure in repeating to them that they would soon be shot. About 6 o'clock a captain separated the men from the women and children. The women were placed in front of a row of infantry soldiers, the men were ranged along a wall. The front rank of them were then told to kneel, the others remaining standing behind them. A platoon of soldiers drew up in face of these unhappy men. It was in vain that the women cried out for mercy for their husbands, sons, and brothers. The officer ordered his men to fire. There had been no enquiry nor any pretence of a trial. About 20 of the inhabitants were only wounded, but fell among the dead. The soldiers, to make sure, fired a new volley into the heap of them. Several citizens escaped this double discharge. They shammed dead for more than two hours, remaining motionless among the corpses, and when night fell succeeded in saving themselves in the hills. Eighty-four corpses were left on the Square, and buried in a neighbouring garden.

" The day of 23rd August was made bloody by several more massacres. Soldiers discovered some inhabitants of the Faubourg St. Pierre in the cellars of a brewery there and shot them.

" Since the previous evening a crowd of workmen belonging to the factory of M. Himmer had hidden themselves, along with their wives and children, in the cellars of the building. They had been joined there by many neighbours and several members of the family of their employer. About 6 o'clock in the evening these unhappy people made up their minds to come out of their refuge, and defiled trembling from the cellars with a white flag in front. They were immediately seized and violently attacked by the soldiers. Every man was shot on the spot. Almost all the men of the Faubourg de Leffe were executed *en masse*. In another part of the town 12 civilians were killed in a cellar. In the Rue en Ile a paralytic was shot in his armchair. In the Rue Enfer the soldiers killed a young boy of 14.

" In the Faubourg de Neffe the viaduct of the railway was the scene of a bloody massacre. An old woman and all her children were killed in their cellar. A man of 65 years, his wife, his son and his daughter were shot against a wall. Other inhabitants of Neffe were taken in a barge as far as the rock of Bayard and shot there, among them a woman of 83 and her husband.

" A certain number of men and women had been locked up in the Court of the Prison. At six in the evening a German machine gun, placed on the hill above, opened fire on them, and an old woman and three other persons were brought down."

Text of the 11th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

WHOLESALE REPRISALS : MASSACRES AT TAMINES.

"About 5 o'clock on 21st August, the Germans carried the bridge of Tamines, crossed the River Sambre, and began defiling in mass through the streets of the village. About 8 o'clock the movement of troops stopped, and the soldiers penetrated into the houses, drove out the inhabitants, set themselves to sack the place, and then burnt it. The unfortunate peasants who stopped in the village were shot; the rest fled from their houses. The greater part of them were arrested either on the night of the 21st August or on the following morning. Pillage and burning continued all next day (22nd).

"On the evening of the 22nd (Saturday) a group of between 400 and 450 men was collected in front of the Church, not far from the bank of the Sambre. A German *detachment* opened fire on them, but as the shooting was a slow business the officers ordered up a machine gun, which soon swept off all the unhappy peasants still left standing.

"Many of them were only wounded and, hoping to save their lives, got with difficulty on their feet again. They were immediately shot down. Many wounded still lay among the corpses. Groans of pain and cries for help were heard in the bleeding heap. On several occasions soldiers walked up to such unhappy individuals and stopped their groans with a bayonet thrust. At night some who still survived succeeded in crawling away. Others put an end to their own pain by



Photograph taken at Tamines showing the bodies of persons who had been shot on the ruins of a burnt house.

rolling themselves into the neighbouring river.

"All these facts have been established by depositions made by wounded men who succeeded in escaping. About 100 bodies were found in the river . . .

" . . . The Germans burnt, after sacking them, 264 houses in Tamines. Many persons, including women and children, were burnt or stifled in their own homes. Many others were shot in the fields. The total number of victims was over 650.

"The Commission of Enquiry devoted special attention to ascertaining whether the inhabitants of the village had fired on the German troops. Every surviving witness unanimously declared the contrary. They explained the massacre of their fellow-villagers by the fact that the Germans attributed to the inhabitants the shots which had been fired by the French skirmishers, or perhaps to the anger produced among the Germans by the success of an attack which had been made on them that night by the French troops."

Report of the Committee of Inquiry concerning the violation of the rules of war, dated 16th January, 1915.

Tamines is an industrial borough situated on the Sambre, between Charleroi and Namur. It had a population of 5,700 persons. The 77th German Regiment of Infantry, from Celle, met there on the 19th and 20th August the French troops which arrested its progress during two days on the Sambre. It was after the withdrawal of the French on the 20th, 21st and 22nd August that the massacres and pillage took place.



I.—The Square of St. Martin at Tamines (its present condition), where about 450 men were shot or bayoneted during the evening and night of Saturday, the 22nd August, 1914. (The white marks represent chloride of lime, which was spread over the place where bodies lay.)

II.—Another corner of the Square. The small gate marked with a cross is the entrance to the garden where the victims were carried and buried by the survivors, by order of the German soldiers, on Sunday morning. The houses were pillaged and burnt from the 21st August, and several of their occupiers were burnt alive or shot in front of their doors.



III.—The Church of St. Martin and the old cemetery. The Sambre flows beside the Square. Several victims, wounded or simulating death, succeeded in escaping during the night by climbing across the bodies and swimming the river. Several were drowned. (The + indicates the cemetery where the bodies of the victims repose to-day.)

THE MARTYRDOM OF TAMINES.

"On reaching the Square the first thing that we saw was a mass of bodies of civilians extending over at least 40 yards in length by 6 yards in depth. They had evidently been drawn up in line to be shot. We were placed before these corpses, and were convinced that we too were to be shot.

"An officer then came forward and asked for volunteers to dig trenches to bury these corpses. I and my brother-in-law and certain others offered ourselves. We were conducted to a neighbouring field at the side of the Square, where they made us dig a trench 15 yards long by 10 broad and 2 deep. Each received a spade. While we were digging the trenches soldiers with fixed bayonets gave us our orders. As I was much fatigued, through not being accustomed to digging, and faint from hunger, a soldier brought me a lighter spade, and afterwards filled a bucket of water for us to drink. I asked him if he knew what they were going to do with us. He said that he did not. By the time that the trenches were finished it was about noon. They then gave us some planks, on which we placed the corpses and so carried them to the trench. I recognised many of the persons whose bodies we were burying. Actually fathers buried the bodies of their sons and sons the bodies of their fathers. The women of the village had been marched out into the Square, and saw us at our work. All round were the burnt houses.

"There were in the Square both soldiers and officers. They were drinking champagne. The more the afternoon drew on the more they drank, and the more we were disposed to think that we were probably to be shot too. We buried from 350 to 400 bodies. A list of the names of the victims has been drawn up and will have been given to you (the Commissioners).

"While some of us were carrying the corpses along I saw a case where they had stopped and called to a German doctor. They had noticed that the man whom they were conveying was still alive. The doctor examined the wounded man and made a sign that he was to be buried with the rest. The plank on which he was lying was borne on again, and I saw the wounded man raise his arm elbow-high. They called to the doctor again, but he made a gesture that he was to go into the trench with the others.

"I saw M. X— carrying off the body of his own son-in-law. He was able to take away his watch, but was not allowed to remove some papers which were on him.

"When a soldier, seized with an impulse of pity, came near us, an officer immediately scolded him away. When all the bodies had been interred, certain wounded were brought to the Church. Officers consulted about them for some time. Four mounted officers came into the Square, and, after a long conversation, we with our wives and children were made to fall into marching order. We were taken through Tamines, amid the débris which obstructed the streets, and led to Vilaines between two ranks of soldiers. Think of our moral sufferings during this march! We all thought that we were going to be shot in the presence of our wives and children. I saw German soldiers who could not refrain from bursting into tears, on seeing the despair of the women. One of our party was seized with an apoplectic fit from mere terror, and I saw many who fainted."

Deposition of a witness before the Committee of Inquiry.



The Station square at Louvain. A group of German officers and soldiers on the very spot where numbers of civilians were massacred on the 26th August. At the foot of the statue of the Belgian diplomat Sylvain van de Weyer (who signed the Treaties of 1839) may be seen the heap of earth under which the victims were buried.

“The depositions which relate to Louvain are numerous, and are believed by the Committee to present a true and fairly complete picture of the events of the 25th and 26th August and subsequent days. We find no grounds for thinking that the inhabitants fired upon the German army on the evening of the 25th August. Eye-witnesses, worthy of credence, detail exactly when, where, and how the firing commenced. *Such firing was by Germans on Germans.* No impartial tribunal could, in our opinion, come to any other conclusion. . . .

“We are driven to the conclusion that the harrying of the villages in the district, the burning of a large part of Louvain, the massacres there, the marching out of the prisoners, and the transport to Cologne (all done without enquiry as to whether the particular persons seized or killed had committed any wrongful act), were due to a *calculated policy* carried out scientifically and deliberately, not merely with the sanction, but *under the direction of higher military authorities*, and were *not due to any provocation or resistance* by the civilian population.”

Extract from the Report of the English Committee of Inquiry.

WHOLESALE REPRISALS : MASSACRES AT LOUVAIN.

"On 14th January, 1915, the Reverend Father Valerius Claes, a Capuchin monk, who has already exhumed, in various parts of the town of Louvain, 96 bodies, opened the trench dug at the foot of the monument of Van de Weyer in the Station Square at Louvain.

"*There were present* : MM. *Alfred Nerinx*, professor at the University, performing the duty of Burgomaster ; Dr. *Louis Maldagne*, professor at the University ; Dr. *Dicudonne*, Medical Officer ; the Examining Magistrate, *Simons*. The German *Colonel Lubbert*, Military Commander of the town, and his *aide de camp*, subsequently joined the other members. All the streets adjoining the Square were guarded by the police.

"Dr. Maldagne, recently returned from Germany, where he had been carried as a prisoner with several of his colleagues of the University, was a witness of the massacre of civilians in front of the station on the evening of the 26th August. The victims he saw were chosen indiscriminately and made to lie flat on the pavement. They were killed by a gun shot in the neck, the back or the head.

"*The bodies which were exhumed bore traces of bayonet wounds.* Several in a state of advanced decomposition were unrecognisable. Madame Van Ertyck recognised her husband, aged 60, and her son, aged 27. The body of a boy of 15 was exhumed, together with those of Charles Munkemer, Edgard Bicquet, of Pensioner Major Bicquet, of A. van Gaer, O. Candreis and two women Mmes. A. Bruyninckx and Périlleux.

"Under these bodies, *in a second grave*, seven others were discovered. On the following day the body of Henri Decorte was removed from a quite small grave, and the body, doubled up, of the Reverend M. *Van Bladel*, curé of Herent, near Louvain."

After an eye-witness, correspondent of the Dutch Newspaper *De Tyd*.

"Everywhere he was known for his devotion, and all his colleagues looked upon him as a saintly priest. He gave proof, during 33 years, of his love for you, and his anxiety for your spiritual and moral interest. It was for love of you that he went, in company with his beloved vicar, to meet the foreign soldiers, that he bowed respectfully and even bent the knee, so far as he could bring himself to do so, before them, praying and imploring them, not for himself, but in the hope that the army would spare his beloved parish and preserve your houses from incendiarism and destruction, and your persons from assassination. His presbytery and his garden offered you a refuge whilst he himself was seized and thrown on to a cart and carried to Louvain, and thence to Rotselaer, and from Rotselaer to Wesemael, and then again by Putkapel and Wilesele to Louvain, where he passed the whole of the night on his feet and in suffering, until that terrible moment when, after a calvary of three days, crying out in a loud voice, 'Injustice, injustice,' he was carried away by four soldiers to the scene of his martyrdom."

Words spoken by His Eminence Cardinal Mercier at the public funeral of the Abbé Van Bladel, curé of Herent, held at Herent on 22nd March, 1915.

"It is proved :

"That there were in many parts of Belgium deliberate and systematically organised massacres of the civil population, accompanied by many isolated murders and other outrages.

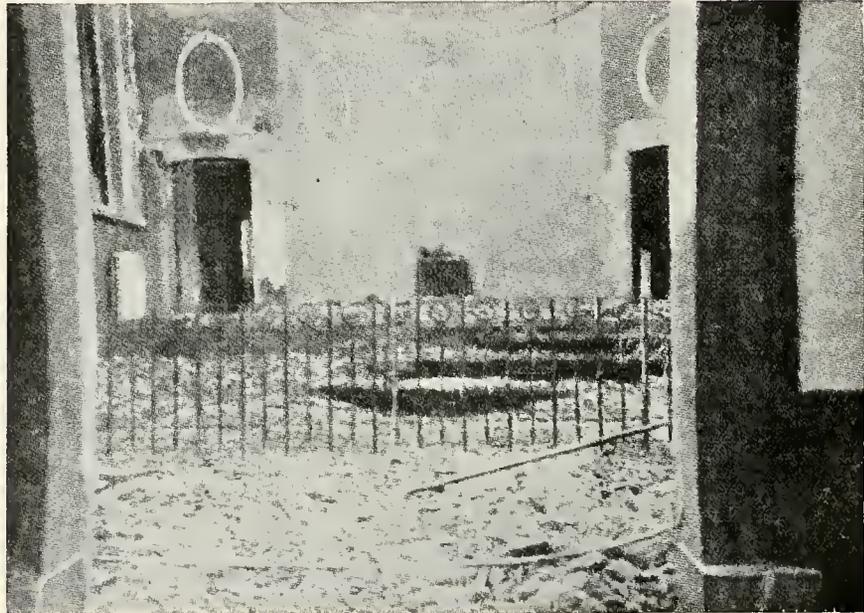
"That in the conduct of the war generally innocent civilians, both men and women, were murdered in large numbers, women violated, and children murdered."

Conclusions of the Report of the English Committee.



I.—House in Station Street at Louvain, on which a German mitrail-leuse opened fire.

II.—The Court-room of the Tribune at Louvain, devastated and burnt.



III.—A school, the door of which was broken with a hatchet, and which was burned from top to bottom.

THE MARTYRDOM OF LOUVAIN

(according to a neutral witness).

"The vanguard of the Army of Von Kluck occupied Louvain, without striking a blow, on the 3rd August at noon. The first error to rectify is the following: Louvain was not bombarded. There was no fighting, except in the direction of Tirlmont and Dieste to the north and south of Louvain. The destruction of this town was carried out deliberately by a company of incendiarists seven days after its occupation. The commander of the place who gave the orders was named Manteuffel, and it was the 52nd Regiment of Infantry which was established there during these early days.

"The burning began at half-past seven in the evening of the 25th August. Whilst the town was burning on all sides the Germans shot the unfortunate people as they fled from their burning houses. It was a night of unimaginable horror. Most of the inhabitants, however, succeeded in escaping by the courtyards and gardens. I myself succeeded in doing so when, about midnight, the houses adjoining the one which I occupied in Juste Lipse Street began to blaze.

"The following morning I was taken prisoner and conducted to the station at about 10 o'clock.

"With me was a Spaniard, Father Catala, Spanish Vice-Consul, who had been for some little time principal of a college in Station Street, which had been burnt down, in spite of the Spanish flag flying over its door. The first group of prisoners, from 70 to 80 in number, included some distinguished persons, advocates, medical men, &c. Five of us were foreigners, Father Catala, three young Spaniards, and myself. We were placed in files of four, surrounded by soldiers, who insulted us and treated us in a brutal manner. At the beginning of the Station Street there was a corpse partially carbonised. In the corridors of the station were lying fifteen or twenty bodies of civilians who had been shot. The town, especially in this quarter, was enveloped in smoke and flames. These were days of indescribable terror.

"I had in my hand my passport proving my foreign nationality. I was looking for a means of saving myself from the death that I felt was threatening, for the German soldiers, as well as officers were, at that moment, no longer men but ferocious beasts. God alone could, by a miracle, save us. They did not wish to hear anything about my passport. Every time that I tried to prove my innocence and my American nationality the officers threatened and struck me. When I saw that all was useless I resigned myself and prepared for death. My companions did the same. . . .

"Towards eleven o'clock they began to conduct us towards Malines, in the environs of which fighting was going on between Belgians and Germans. To the right and left of the road everything was in flames. At Héron, five kilometres from Louvain, I saw in a corner of the wall the body of a little girl of 12 or 13 years of age burned alive. We were terribly ill-treated during the whole of the journey whether we were made to run or to stop, or to walk slowly, it was all by blows with a sabre, the butt end of a rifle or a lance. We were kicked and spat upon, and, O my God! to what insolence we were subjected! I supported a sick old man who dragged himself along with the help of my arm in order to escape death, for if he had stopped he would have been pierced by a bayonet or shot by a bullet. We glanced towards one another from time to time in a state of stupefaction at such barbarity. At length we arrived in a field nine or ten kilometres from Louvain. There a halt was made and an officer told us that we were about to be shot. When I repeated to him that I was a South American, as was proved by my passport, he cried out, with fire flashing from his eyes, that it was I who would be shot the first 'because I had kept concealed in my church mitrailleuses and other arms.' He ordered me to hold my tongue. They then tied our hands behind our backs with our own handkerchiefs. The soldiers drew themselves up in line and every preparation was made for our execution, and we were left there for a quarter of an hour with death staring us in the face.

"Presently we were divided again into groups, with our hands still bound, with the soldiers drawn up in front of us as shooting parties, and we were then made to proceed through the fields from village to village towards the Belgian lines.

". . . At nightfall we arrived at Campenhout, where we passed the night imprisoned in the church where fighting was going on all round. The following day Father Catala, the three young Spaniards and myself were set at liberty. It was after innumerable difficulties we succeeded in reaching Brussels at noon on the 27th August. The other persons, all of whom were Belgians, continued their journey, always in front of the infantry, as far as Malines, where they were finally set at liberty.

"The remaining inhabitants of Louvain were no better treated. Many were conducted as prisoners into the interior of Germany (Munsterlagen). Several thousands were dragged as far as Tirlmont. Thousands of others passed a whole week in the woods, living only on potatoes which they gathered in the fields. During the 27th, 28th and 29th August, Louvain remained denuded of its inhabitants and the Germans seized the occasion to pillage systematically house after house, everything in fact which had not been burned, so that the families which subsequently returned, if their dwellings were still standing, found nothing but the walls.

"What the Germans have done at Louvain, and in the whole of Belgium, is indescribable. A narrative of these events would fill volumes. As for myself, since God has saved my life, I am pleased to have been able to be in a position to see and verify all those iniquitous doings which cover with opprobrium German militarism, of which many other foreigners have been witnesses, if indeed they have not been the victims, and amongst them South Americans, Uruguayans, Brazilians, Colombians, &c., who are able to testify, like myself, to the truth.

"MANUEL GAMARRA,

"Paraguayan Priest, student at Louvain."

Letter addressed to the Belgian Minister at Buenos Ayres, published in the *Courier de la Plata* and the *Argentina* of the 4th March, 1915.



Le Collège des Proviseurs de Saint-Julien-des-Belges a l'honneur de vous inviter au service religieux qu'il fera célébrer le Vendredi 22 Janvier, à 11 heures, pour le repos de l'âme des Prêtres et Religieux, mis à mort par les troupes allemandes au cours de l'invasion de la Belgique.

Vous en trouverez ci-centre une première liste.

A cause de l'exiguïté de l'Église Nationale, le service religieux aura lieu dans l'ÉGLISE DES STIGMATES, à l'angle de la Via dei Cestari et du Corsa Vittorio Emanuele.

- LE PRÉSIDENT
BARON D'ERP, Ministre de Belgique près le Saint-Siège
- LE SECRÉTAIRE
C. DE T'SERCLAES, Président du Collège Belge
- M. VAES, Recteur de Saint-Julien-des-Belges
- OSCAR BOLLE.
- G. KURTH, Directeur de l'Institut historique Belge
- A. POTTIER, Chanoine de Sainte-Marie-Majeure

DIOCÈSE DE LIÈGE.

- L'abbé O. CHAROT, curé de Forêt
- L'abbé J. DOSSOGNE, curé de Hockay
- L'abbé F. JANSSEN, curé de Heure-le-Romq
- L'abbé R. LABEVE, curé de Bloigny
- L'abbé B. RENDONNET, vicaire d'Oline.
- L'abbé E. TIELEN, curé de Haccourt.

DIOCÈSE DE MALINES.

- L'abbé R. CARETTE, professeur au Collège Saint-Pierre à Louvain
- L'abbé H. DE CLERK, curé de Bucken, près de Louvain.
- L'abbé P. DERGENT, curé de Gelrode.
- L'abbé J. GORIS, curé de Outgarden
- L'abbé E. LOMBERT, curé de Bovenloo, près de Louvain
- L'abbé VAN BLADEL, curé de Hieret, près de Louvain
- Le R. P. DUPIERFELD, jésuite de Louvain
- Le R. P. VINCENT SOMBROEK, conventuel de Louvain
- Le R. P. VAN HOLM-N, espucien de Louvain
- Le R. Chanoine-Prémontre J. WOUTERS, curé de Pont-Brule
- Le Frère ALLARD (dans le monde F. Forger), religieux jospérite de Louvain
- Le Frère SÉBASTIEN (dans le monde: Mr. Straatman), religieux jospérite de Louvain
- Le Frère CANDIDE (dans le monde: Mr. Pives), des Frères de la Miséricorde de Clauwput, près de Louvain

DIOCÈSE DE TOURNAI.

- L'abbé E. DRUIT, curé d'Acos
- L'abbé J. FOLLART, curé de Roselica

DIOCÈSE DE NAMUR.

- L'abbé J. ALEXANDRE, curé de Mussy-la-Ville
- L'abbé A. AMBROISE, curé d'Onheve
- L'abbé BILAUDE, aumônier des sourds-muets à Bouge
- L'abbé BURNIAUX, professeur au Collège Saint-Louis à Namur
- L'abbé DODO, professeur au Collège de Virton.
- L'abbé G. CASPAR, professeur au Collège de Belle-Vue à Dinant
- L'abbé J. GEORGES, curé de Tintigny
- L'abbé P. GILLE, docteur en Théologie de l'Université Grégorienne, vicaire de Couvin
- L'abbé GLOUDEM, curé de Latour
- L'abbé HOTTLET, curé de Les Alloux
- L'abbé J. LAISSE, curé de Spontin
- L'abbé MARECHAL, séminariste de Meissen
- L'abbé PATRON, vicaire de Deury
- L'abbé PIRET, vicaire d'Étalle
- L'abbé PIERBARD, curé de Chastillon
- L'abbé PIRET, curé d'Antheux
- L'abbé POSAIN, curé de Surice
- L'abbé E. SCHLIGEL, curé de Hastieres
- L'abbé ZENDEP, curé retraité
- Le R. P. GILLET, benedictin de l'abbaye de Maréssous
- Le Chanoine NICOLAS, de l'abbaye des Prémontrés de Leffe

Le Collège des Proviseurs recommande également à vos charitables prières l'âme de Monsieur N. PONTIÈRE et de Monsieur V. LEMERTZ, professeurs à l'Université Catholique de Louvain, fusillés par les troupes allemandes

A considerable number of priests and Catholic monks were killed by the Germans in Belgium. The Committee of Enquiry is not yet in possession of a complete list, but will publish it as soon as it has been possible to draw it up. Above in facsimile is the invitation to the religious service celebrated at Rome, on 22nd January, on behalf of the priests and monks put to death by the German troops. An initial list of victims is affixed to this invitation . . .

THE LIFE OF INDIVIDUALS: PRIESTS PUT TO DEATH.

"Hundreds of innocent men were shot. I possess no complete necrology; but I know that there were ninety-one shot at Aerschot, and that there, under pain of death, their fellow citizens were compelled to dig their graves. In the Louvain group of communes one hundred and seventy-six persons, men and women, old men and sucklings, rich and poor, in health and in sickness, were shot or burnt.

"In my diocese alone I know that thirteen priests or religious were put to death. (1) One of these, the parish priest of Gelrode, suffered, I believe, a veritable martyrdom. I made a pilgrimage to his grave, and, amid the little flock which so lately he had been feeding with the zeal of an apostle, there did I pray to him that from the height of Heaven he would guard his parish, his diocese, his country.

"We can neither number our dead nor compute the measure of our ruins. And what would it be if we turned our sad steps towards Liège, Namur, Audenne, Dinant, Tamines, Charleroi, and elsewhere?

"Their brothers in religion or in the priesthood will wish to know their names. Here they are: *Dupierreux*, of the Society of Jesus; Brothers *Sebastian* and *Allard* of the Congregation of the Josephites; Brother *Candide* of the Congregation of the Brothers of Mercy; Father *Maximin*, Capuchin, and Father *Vincent*, Conventual; *Lombaerts*, parish priest at Boven-Loo; *Goris*, parish priest at Autgaerden; *Carette*, professor at the Episcopal college of Lovvain; *De Clerck*, parish priest at Bueken; *Dergent*, parish priest at Gelrode; *Wouters Jean*, parish priest at Pont-Brûlé. We have reason to believe that the parish priest of Hérent, *Van Bladel*, an old man of seventy-one, was also killed; until now, however, his body has not been found.

"(2) I have said that thirteen ecclesiastics had been shot within the diocese of Malines. There were, to my own actual personal knowledge, more than thirty in the dioceses of Namur, Tournai, and Liège: *Schlägel*, parish priest of Hastière; *Gille*, parish priest of Couvin; *Pieret*, curate at Etalle; *Alexandre*, curate at Mussy-la-Ville; *Maréchal*, seminarist at Maissin; the Reverend Father *Gillet*, Benedictine of Maredsous; the Reverend Father *Nicolas*, Premonstratensian of the Abbey of Leffe; two Brothers of the same Abbey; one Brother of the Congregation of Oblates; *Poskin*, parish priest of Surice; *Hollet*, parish priest of Les Alloux; *Georges*, parish priest of Tintigny; *Glouden*, parish priest of Latour; *Zenden*, retired parish priest at Latour; *Facques*, a priest; *Druet*, parish priest of Acoz; *Pollart*, parish priest of Roselies; *Labeye*, parish priest of Blegny-Trembleur; *Thielen*, parish priest of Haccourt; *Janssen*, parish priest of Heure le Romain; *Chabot*, parish priest of Forêt; *Dossogne*, parish priest of Hockay; *Roussinet*, curate of Olme; *Bilaude*, chaplain of the institute of deaf-mutes at Bouge; *Docq*, a priest, and others."

Extract from the Pastoral Letter of Cardinal Mercier (Christmas, 1914).

"At Christmas, when I issued my Pastoral Letter, I did not know with certainty of the fate of the Curé of Hérent; since then his body has been recovered at Louvain and identified.

"Further, the numbers quoted in my Pastoral Letter should at the present date be revised. Thus, with regard to Aerschot, I gave the number of victims as 91. As a matter of fact the total number of inhabitants of Aerschot whose bodies have been recovered amounted, some days ago, to 143. The moment, however, to dwell on these particulars has not yet arrived. Their recital will be more in place at the enquiry for which you have enabled me to hope.

"I shall, indeed, be glad to see full light thrown on the incidents to which I have felt compelled to call attention in my Pastoral Letter and on others of a similar nature.

"It is essential, however, that the results of the enquiry should bear the seal of indisputable authority. With this object in view I have the honour to propose to you, Monsieur le Comte, and, through you, to the German authorities, that the Committee of Enquiry be composed equally of German delegates and Belgian magistrates, and that it should be presided over by the representative of a neutral Power. I am happy to think that His Excellency the Minister of the United States would not refuse either to accept the position of Chairman or to entrust it to a delegate of his choice."

Extract from a letter written by Cardinal Mercier, dated 24th January, 1915, to Colonel Comte Wengersky, District Commander at Malines. No steps appear to have been taken in consequence of this letter.

THE INNOCENT VICTIM : A CHALLENGE TO THE CONQUEROR.

The Legend of the "Francs-tireurs."

"We assert, with all the inhabitants of our villages, without exception, and with the whole Belgian population, that the story of the Belgian francs-tireurs is a legend, an invention, a calumny.

"It is evident that the German army trod the Belgian soil and carried out the invasion with the preconceived idea that it would meet with bands of this sort, a reminiscence of the war of 1870. But German imagination will not suffice to create that which does not exist.

"There never existed a single body of francs-tireurs in Belgium.

"This is so certain that we have no hesitation in solemnly challenging the German authorities to prove the existence of a single band of francs-tireurs formed either before or after the invasion of the territory.

"No 'isolated instance' even is known of civilians having fired upon the troops, although there would have been no occasion for surprise if any individual person had committed an excess. In several of our villages the population was exterminated because, as the military authorities alleged, a major had been killed or a young girl had attempted to kill an officer, and so forth. . . . In no case has an alleged culprit been discovered and designated by name."

"Let them not think that they can alter the truth by means of those general and stereotyped assertions which were made first of all in the villages on the passage of the troops and which subsequently went the round of the German press and are now paraded in a form of German literature which can only be qualified as ignoble, with photographs of alleged scenes in which francs-tireurs have taken part.

"Facts should be cited and proofs given. Where is a village or a house from which a Belgian fired on soldiers? What is the name of the Belgian civilian who was caught with arms in his hand? Who are the witnesses heard by hundreds and on their oath?

"Let an enquiry be organised on these data, such as been so often proposed; an enquiry conducted by Belgian and German delegates and presided over by a neutral president."

"A one-sided enquiry, such as is being carried on at the present moment by the German authorities, has no authoritative value. Its results must be rejected in advance. It does not contain the necessary conditions to ensure impartiality. The depositions it contains are vitiated by intimidation or the absence of freedom. It is not even certain that these depositions will be faithfully registered, the witnesses having to sign their declarations drawn up in a language which is foreign to them.

"The Belgian people, confident in the absolute truth and justice of their cause, has no misgivings whatever as to the result of a serious enquiry. Meanwhile, they are, and will not cease to proclaim themselves, innocent."

The reality of German Atrocities.

"Let us however accept for one moment, not by way of admission, but of supposition, this hypothesis of a legitimate repression of francs-tireurs. We assert that it will be made clear, by the examination of each particular instance of the destruction of a village and the extermination of the civilians, that the punishment is so greatly out of proportion to the alleged crime that it could not be justified by any kind of argument. Such are the events that happened at Andenne, Tamines, Dinant, Leffe, Neffe, Spontin, Surice, Ethe, Tintigny, Houdemont, and many other places, events so abominable that they will one day rouse the conscience of the whole world, and that one day a sense of justice in Germany itself will stigmatise them in scathing terms when she has a true knowledge of the facts, and has recovered her equanimity.

"Further, still on the supposition that what took place, in certain parts at least, was merely the repression of francs-tireurs, what civilised mind would dare to justify, on behalf of soldiers, the following acts: the infliction in some cases of blows and wounds, atrocities of all kinds, barbarities and sanguinary methods, cruel and infamous treatment, on mere hostages or prisoners; the despatch of the wounded, the shooting of peaceful and unarmed civilians, pillage by armed men to an extent almost incredible, the employment of priests, young people, old men, women and children as a shield against the bullets and shells of the enemy; the impulation to the civil population of acts of war for which Belgian or French soldiers were legitimately responsible, and the severe punishment inflicted on the population in consequence thereof; summary executions by shooting, without any form of enquiry or regular sentence, extermination of entire families and even villages; incendiarism in more than 200 villages of the two provinces, independently of the destruction caused by the fighting; moral torture inflicted on persons of weak constitution and sometimes upon whole populations. Ontrage and murders of women, young girls, and children at the breast. . . .

"Now these crimes are so numerous that one or another of them and often all of them at once, have been committed in hundreds of our villages.

"An impression of dismay and horror provoked by these barbarities remains with those of our population who have lived through these terrible events and have suffered on account of them in a way which it is impossible to describe. It is, they say, a monstrous war, carried on, not against soldiers, but against unarmed civilians. They have one and all forgotten the events, horrible as they are in themselves, of the war properly so called, and remember only the sufferings during less than a week by an entire population unarmed, terror-stricken, and given up to the mercy of ferocious soldiers. It has been said (but can it be true?) that the number of civilians killed is not far behind that of soldiers who have fallen in battle. It is astonishing indeed that there have not been still more victims, and we cannot but admire the ingenuity with which the inhabitants of such localities as Dinant, Tamines, Spontin, Houdemont and numerous villages lying between the Sambre and the Meuse escaped to the full extent of the destruction to which they had been doomed.

"Millions of eye-witnesses are ready to affirm these facts upon oath as soon as the regular committee of enquiry shall have been appointed."

Extracts from the protest addressed to the German authorities by His Eminence Monsignor Heylen, Bishop of Namur (provinces of Namur and Luxembourg), 10th April, 1915.

THE CONFESSION OF THEORISTS, OF LEADERS AND OF SOLDIERS.

"A war energetically carried on *cannot be entirely confined to acts against the enemy under arms* and his means of defence, but it will tend, and should tend, also to cause the destruction of his material and moral resources. No consideration can be given to the dictates of humanity, *such as consideration for persons or property*, unless they are in accordance with the nature and the object of the war."

Introduction to the *Kriegsgebrauch im Landkriege*, a manual published by the German General Staff.

Geachte Medeburgers,

In overeenstemming met de hogere deutsche militaire overheden, heb ik de eer U opnieuw aan te bevelen U te onthouden van alle uitdagende manifestaties en van alle vijandelijke akten welke onze stad aan gruwelijke weerwraak zouden blootstellen.

Gij zult u vooral onthouden van alle mishandelingen jegens de deutsche troepen en bijzonder op hun te schieten.

In geval de inwoners op de soldaten van het deutsche leger zouden schieten, zal het derde deel der mannelijke bevolking door de wapens omgebracht worden.

Ik herinner u dat de verzamelingen van meer dan vijf personen ten strengste verboden zijn en dat de personen die aan dit verbod zouden te kort blijven, onmiddellijk zullen aangehouden worden.

Hasselt, den 17 Augustus 1914.

De Burgemeester,
FERD. PORTMANS.

Chers Concitoyens,

D'accord avec l'autorité militaire supérieure allemande, j'ai l'honneur de vous recommander à nouveau de vous abstenir de toute manifestation provocante et de tous actes d'hostilité qui pourraient attirer à notre ville de terribles représailles.

Vous vous absteniendrez surtout de sévices contre les troupes allemandes et notamment de tirer sur elles.

Dans le cas où des habitants tireraient sur des soldats de l'armée allemande, le tiers de la population mâle sera passé par les armes.

Je vous rappelle que les rassemblements de plus de cinq personnes sont strictement défendus et que les personnes qui contreviendraient à cette défense, seront arrêtés séance tenante.

Hasselt, le 17 août 1914.

Le Bourgmestre,
FERD. PORTMANS.

1914 — Jos Van Laeghem, Hasselt

Notice posted on the walls of the town of Hasselt by order of the German military authorities.

Translation.

"FELLOW CITIZENS,

"I, in agreement with the German Higher Military Authorities, have the honour again to request you to abstain from any provocative manifestations, and from all hostile acts which might bring terrible punishment on our City.

"You will above all abstain from all acts of cruelty towards the German troops, and particularly from firing on them.

"In the case of civilians shooting on the German army, a third of the male population will be shot.

"I remind you that the assembling of more than five persons together is strictly forbidden, and that those who break this rule will be arrested on the spot.

"Hasselt, 17th August, 1914.

"FERD. PORTMANS,
"Burgomaster."

THE SYSTEM OF TERRORISM AND ITS PRINCIPLES.

"Ruthlessly to employ the necessary means of defence and intimidation is not only a right but a duty for every commander of an army."

Kriegsgebrauch im Landkreig, a manual recommended to the officers, p. 115, published in 1902.

"An officer will realise that war necessarily entails a certain severity, and still more that the only true humanity resides in the ruthless employment of such severity."

Kriegsgebrauch im Landkrieg, p. 7.

"These are voluntary and deliberate violations of the rules of war, but they were only a result of transgressions already committed by the enemy. They therefore appear to us, in spite of their horror, to have been forced upon us and to be in conformity with international law, and a threat against further transgressions."

Dr. Karl Strupp, *Das Internationale Landsgriegsrecht*, p. 79, published in 1914.

"The whole town is guilty of the acts of every one of its inhabitants."

Dr. Karl Strupp, *Das Internationale Landsgriegsrecht*, p. 248.

"The only means of preventing surprise attacks on the part of the population was to exhibit pitiless severity and to make examples which, by virtue of their terrifying character, would act as a warning to the whole country."

German official message communicated by wireless telegraphy, 27th August, 1914.

"The innocent must suffer with the guilty or, if the latter cannot be discovered, *the innocent must pay the penalty for the guilty*, not because they have committed a crime, but to prevent the commission of crimes. The burning of a village, the execution of hostages, the decimation of the inhabitants of a commune, who have taken up arms against the advancing troops, are less acts of vengeance than signs of warning to the parts of the territory not yet occupied."

"And it is beyond doubt that *the destruction by fire of Battice, Herve, Louvain and Dinant has acted as a warning signal*. The devastations and the rivers of blood which flowed during the first days of the war in Belgium saved the great Belgian towns from the temptation to attack the weak armies of occupation which we had to leave there. Is there anybody in the world who would imagine that the capital of Belgium would have tolerated us, we who live to-day at Brussels as if it were in our own country, had the population not trembled, and were they not still trembling, before our vengeance."

Extract from an article in the *Kölnische Zeitung* of 10th February, 1915, signed by Walter Bloem.

"Experience has shown that a contribution in money produces the greatest effect on a civil population."

Kriegsgebrauch im Landskriege.

Armee - Oberkommando

LE 22 AOUT 1914.

Abteilung II b. Irr. N. 150.

Aux Autorités communales

LE LA

VILLE DE LIÈGE

Les habitants de la ville d'Andenne, après avoir protesté de leurs intentions pacifiques, ont fait une surprise traître sur nos troupes. C'est avec mon consentement que le Général en chef a fait brûler toute la localité et que cent personnes environ ont été fusillées.

Je porte ce fait à la connaissance de la Ville de Liège pour que les Liégeois se représentent le sort dont ils sont menacés, s'ils prenaient pareille attitude.

Ensuite, il a été trouvé dans un magasin d'armes à Huy des projectiles « dum-dum » dans le genre du spécimen joint à la présente lettre. Au cas que cela arrivât, on demandera rigoureusement compte chaque fois des personnes en question.

Le Général-Commandant en chef
s von BULOW

Im La Blouse

Translation.

ARMEE-OBERKOMMANDO. 22nd August, 1914.
TO THE COMMUNAL AUTHORITIES
TO THE TOWN OF LIÈGE.

The inhabitants of the town of Andenne, after having protested their peaceful intentions, made a treacherous surprise attack on our troops.

It was with my consent that the General had the whole place burnt down, and about 100 people shot.

I bring this fact to the knowledge of the town of Liège, so that its inhabitants may know the fate with which they are threatened, if they take up a similar attitude.

Dum-dum projectiles were subsequently found in a gun-smith's shop at Huy, of a kind of which I send you a specimen in the present document. If this happens it will be necessary to call the persons in question to account.

The General Commanding-in-Chief,
vON BÜLOW.

Notice posted on the walls of Liège on the 24th August.

WHOLESALE REPRESSION : ITS FORMULAS.

"A fine of 600,000 marks in consequence of an attempt made by . . . to assassinate a German soldier, is imposed on the town of O. . . by order of . . ."

"Efforts have been made, without result, to obtain the withdrawal or reduction of the fine.

"The term fixed for payment expires to-morrow, Saturday, the 17th December, at noon.

"Bank notes, cash, or silver plate will be accepted."

* * *

"The German authorities, having exacted a war contribution of 2 millions of francs from the town of M . . . on account of the inhabitants having fired on the troops at the time of their entry into the town, and the municipality having stated that it does not possess the necessary funds and cannot raise them among the inhabitants, the German authorities require a settlement in bills of exchange."

* * *

"I have to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated the 7th of this month, in which you bring to my notice the great difficulty which you expect to meet in levying the contributions . . . I can but regret the explanations which you have thought proper to give me on this subject; the order in question which emanates from my Government is so clear and precise, and the instructions which I have received in the matter are so categorical that if the *sum due by the town of R. is not paid the town will be BURNED down without pity.*"

* * *

"*On account of the destruction of the Bridge of F.—I order : The district will pay a special contribution of 10 million francs by way of amends. This is brought to the notice of the public who are informed that the method of assessment will be notified later and that the payment of the said sum will be enforced with the utmost severity. The village of F. will be immediately destroyed by fire, with the exception of certain buildings occupied for the use of the troops.*"

Extracts from *l'Interprète militaire zum gebranch in Feindesland* (for use in the enemy's country). MANUAL EDITED AT BERLIN IN 1906. "It contains," says the introduction, "the French text of the greater part of the documents, letters, proclamations and certain orders of which it may be necessary to make use in time of war."

BEKANNTMACHUNG

Von einem am 28. Oktober d. J. gesetz-
mässig zusammengetretenen deutschen
Feldkriegsgericht sind bestrahlt worden :

1 Der staatliche Schutzmann de Ryckere wegen tätlichen
Angriffs gegen einen in rechtmässiger Ausübung seines Amtes be-
findlichen deutschen Beamten wegen gemeinschaftlicher Körper-
verletzung eines Beamten in zwei Fällen wegen Verlangens
befreiung in einem Falle und wegen tätlichen Angriffs gegen
einen deutschen Soldaten

mit 5 Jahren Gefängnis

2 Der belgische Schutzmann Seghers wegen tätlichen An-
griffs gegen einen in rechtmässiger Ausübung seines Amtes be-
findlichen deutschen Beamten wegen gemeinschaftlicher Körper-
verletzung eines Beamten und wegen Verlangens befreiung in
zwei Fällen

mit 3 Jahren Gefängnis

Das Urteil ist am 31. Oktober d. J. vom
Herrn General-Gouverneur Freiherrn von
der Goltz als zuständigem Gerichtsherrn
bestätigt worden.

Der Stadt Brüssel wurde wegen des tätlichen
Angriffs eines Schutzmannes de Ryckere gegen einen deutschen
Soldaten eine Strafcontribution von

5 Millionen Francs.

aufzuerlegt

Brüssel, den 1. November 1914.

**Der Gouverneur von Brüssel,
Freiherr von Lüttwitz,**
Generalmajor

AVIS

Le tribunal de guerre legalement
convoque a prononcé, le 28 octobre 1914,
les condamnations suivantes :

1 Contre l'agent de police de Ryckere pour avoir attaqué
dans l'exercice légal de ses fonctions un agent dépositaire de
l'autorité allemande pour les soins corporels volontaires, pour
un cas en deux cas de concert avec d'autres, pour avoir provoqué
l'excèsion à un délinquant dans un cas et pour avoir attaqué un
soldat allemand

cinq ans de prison

2 Contre l'agent de police Seghers pour avoir attaqué dans
l'exercice légal de ses fonctions un agent dépositaire de l'autorité
allemande pour les soins corporels volontaires de cet agent
allemand, et pour avoir provoqué l'excèsion à un délinquant toutes les
infractions constituant un seul fait

trois ans de prison

Les jugements ont été confirmés le
31 octobre 1914 par M. le Gouverneur
General, Baron von der Goltz.

La ville de Bruxelles, sans faubourgs, a été punie pour fait-
tout commis par son agent de police de Ryckere contre un
soldat allemand d'une contribution additionnelle de

cinq millions de francs

Bruxelles, le 1. novembre 1914.

**Le Gouverneur de Bruxelles,
Baron von Lüttwitz,**
General

BERICHT

Ein oorlogstribunaal wettelijk bijenge-
voepen heeft den 28^{en} October 1914, de
volgende vonnissen uitgesproken :

1 Tegen den politieagent de Ryckere, om in het wettelijk
uitoefenen zijner bediening een agent van de Duitsche overheid
aangevallen te hebben, voor vrijwillige lichaamslijke wonden in
twee gevallen begehracht met gemeen overleg van anderen
om in een geval de ontspanning van een gevangene verschaffte en
een Duitsche soldaat aangevallen te hebben

vijf jaar gevang.

2 Tegen den politieagent Seghers, om in het wettelijk
uitoefenen zijner bediening een agent van de Duitsche overheid
aangevallen te hebben, voor vrijwillige lichaamslijke wonden aan
den Duitschen agent en om de ontspanning aan een gevangene
verschaffte te hebben alle de inberkingen een enkel feit uitma-
kende

drie jaar gevang.

De vonnissen zijn den 31^{en} October 1914
bekrachtigd geweest door den Gouverneur
General Vrijheer von der Goltz.

De stad Brussel zonder voorsteden, is gestraft ge worden
voor den aanslag gepleegd door haar politieagent de Ryckere
tegen eenen Duitschen soldaat tot een bijgevoegde bedrag van

vijf miljoen francs

Brussel, den 1. November 1914.

**De Gouverneur van Brussel,
Vrijheer von Lüttwitz,**
General-Major

[Translation.]
NOTICE.

A court-martial, legally convoked, pronounced, on the 28th October, 1914, the following sentences:—

(1) On policeman de Ryckere, for having assaulted in the lawful exercise of his duties a regularly appointed agent of the German authorities, and for causing him bodily injury on two occasions with the aid of other persons, and for having brought about the escape of a prisoner on one occasion, and for having assaulted a German soldier,

5 years' imprisonment.

(2) On policeman Seghers, for having assaulted in the lawful execution of his duties a regularly appointed agent of the German authorities, and for causing bodily harm to this same German agent, and for having brought about the escape of the prisoner, all these charges forming a single offence,

3 years' imprisonment.

The sentences were confirmed on 31st October, 1914, by the Governor General, Baron Von der Goltz.

The town of Brussels, not including the suburbs, is ordered on account of the crime committed by one of its policemen, de Ryckere, committed on a German soldier, to pay an additional contribution of 5,000,000 francs.

Brussels, 1st November, 1914.

*The Governor of Brussels,
Baron VON LUTTWITZ.*

BEKANNTMACHUNG

Am 25 September abends ist auf der Strecke
Lovenjoul-Vertryck die Eisenbahn und Telegra-
phenlinie zerstört worden. Daraufhin sind die
genannten zwei Ortschaften am 30. September
morgens zur Rechenhaft gezogen und Geiseln
genommen worden.

In Zukunft werden stets die dem Zufall nächst
gelegenen Ortschaften — unbekannt, ob dieselben
der Beihilfe schuldig sind oder nicht —
hinmühsam bestraft werden. Zu diesem Zweck
sind in allen denjenigen Ortschaften, welche nahe
den bisher schon durch Anschläge bedrohten
Bahnhöfen liegen, Geiseln festgenommen worden,
welche bei dem geringsten Versuch, nahe der
betroffenen Ortschaft Eisen-Telegraphen- oder
Telephonlinien zu zerstören, sofort erschossen
werden.

Ferner sind alle zum Bahnschutz bestimmten
Truppen angewiesen worden, jede sich dem
Bahnpersonal, Telegraphen- oder Telephonleitungen
in verdächtiger Weise nähernde Person zu
erschliessen.

Brüssel, den 1. October 1914.

**Der General-Gouverneur von Belgien,
Freiherr von der Goltz,**
Generalfeldmarschall

AVIS

Dans la soirée du 25 septembre, la ligne du
chemin de fer et le telegraphe, ont été détruits
sur la ligne Lovenjoul-Vertryck. A la suite de cela,
les deux localités citées ont eu le 30 septembre,
au matin, à en rendre compte et ont dû livrer
des otages.

A l'avenir, les localités les plus rapprochées de
l'endroit où de pareils faits se sont passés — peu
importe quelles en soient complètes ou non —
seront punies sans miséricorde. A cette fin, des
otages ont été enlevés de toutes les localités
voisines des voies ferrées menacées par de
pareilles attaques et à la première tentative de
détruire des voies de chemin de fer, des lignes
de telegraphe ou de telephonie, ils seront im-
médiatement fusillés.

En outre, toutes les troupes chargées de la
protection de voies ferrées, ont reçu l'ordre de
fusiller toute personne s'approchant de façon
suspecte des voies de chemins de fer ou des lignes
telegraphiques ou telephoniques.

Bruxelles, le 1. octobre 1914.

**Le Gouverneur General de Belgique,
Baron von der Goltz,**
Feldmarschall

BERICHT

Den 25^{en} September is op de lijn Lovenjoul-
Vertryck, de spoorweg- en telegraaflijn vernield
geworden. Daarop is den 30^{en} September s mor-
gens van de twee genoemde dorpen reukenschap
gevoerd worden en hebben zij geiselen
moeten stellen.

In toekomst zullen die dorpen, die de plaats
waar zulks gebeurde naast gelegen zijn, ten
strengste gestraft worden, onbekommerd of zij
of niet door luistand schuldig zijn. Voor dit doel
zullen in alle zulke dorpen welke in de nabijheid
liggen van spoorweglijnen die al door aanvallen
zijn bedreigd worden, geiselen vastgenomen
worden, welke onmiddellijk zullen doodgeschoten
worden bij de eerste poging nabij het betrekke-
lijke dorp spoorweg-telegraaf- of telefoonlijnen
te vernielen.

Verders hebben alle tot bescherming van
spoorweglijnen bestemde troepen order gekregen
iedereen persoon dood te schieten die op ver-
dachtige wijze den spoorwegs, telegraaf- of
telefoonlijnen nader komt.

Brussel, den 1. October 1914.

**De Gouverneur General in België,
Vrijheer von der Goltz,**
Veldmarschall

[Translation.]
NOTICE.

On the evening of the 25th September, the railway and the telegraph wires were destroyed on the Lovenjoul-Vertryck line. The two localities above-mentioned were, on the morning of the 30th September, called to account for this and were compelled to deliver hostages.

In future, the localities situated nearest to the spot where such offences take place, whether they are privy thereto or not, will be most severely punished. To this end hostages have been taken from all the localities adjoining the railways threatened with such attacks, who, at the first attempt to destroy railway lines or the telegraph or the telephone wires, will be immediately shot.

Further, all Troops guarding railways have received orders to shoot any person approaching in a suspicious manner the railways or telegraph or telephone wires.

Brussels, 1st October, 1914.

*Governor General of Belgium,
Baron VON DER GOLTZ,
Fieldmarshal.*

REPRISALS : THE APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES AND EMPLOYMENT OF "FORMULAS."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT IN BELGIUM.

"It has happened in districts at present occupied by more or less strong bodies of German troops that convoys of waggons and of patrols have been attacked by surprise by the inhabitants.

"I draw the attention of the public to the fact that a 'register' is kept of the localities, in the neighbourhood of which such attacks have taken place, and that they may expect their punishment as soon as the German troops pass near them.

"Brussels, 25th September, 1914.

"The Governor-General of Belgium,

"BARON VON DER GOLTZ,

"Fieldmarshal."

Proclamation posted at Brussels on the 25th September, 1914.

"On 22nd August, 1914, the General Commanding the 2nd Army, General von Bülow, imposed on the town of Wavre a war levy of frs. 3,000,000 (£120,000), payable up till 1st September, to expiate the heinous conduct, contrary to International Law and the Customs of War, which they showed in making a surprise attack on the German troops.

"The General Commanding the 2nd Army has just ordered the Chief of Staff of the 2nd Army to collect without delay the said levy, which the town must pay on account of the conduct of its inhabitants.

"I order and summon you to hand over to the bearer of the present the two first instalments, namely, frs. 2,000,000 (£80,000) in gold.

"I also ask that a letter, duly sealed with the town seal, should be given to the bearer, declaring that the balance, frs. 1,000,000 (£40,000), will be paid without default on the 1st September.

"I draw the town's attention to the fact that in no case can it count on the delay being prolonged, for the civil population of the town has put itself beyond the pale of the International Law by firing on the German troops.

"*The Town of Wavre will be set on fire and destroyed, if the payment is not made when due without distinction of persons ; the innocent will suffer with the guilty.*"

Letter addressed on the 27th August, 1914, by Lieutenant-General von Nieber to the Burgomaster of Wavre.

"A legally constituted court-martial pronounced the following sentences on 28th October :—

"(1.) The police constable de Ryckere was condemned, for having attacked, in the legal exercise of his duties, an authorized agent of the German authorities, for having voluntarily inflicted bodily hurt in two cases, with the aid of other persons, for having procured the escape of a prisoner in one case, and for having attacked a German soldier, to

"5 years' imprisonment.

"(2.) Police constable Seghers was condemned for having attacked, in the legal exercise of his duties, an authorized agent of the German authorities, for voluntarily inflicting bodily injury on this German agent, and for having procured the escape of a prisoner (all these offences constituting one charge), to

"3 years' imprisonment.

"The sentences were confirmed on 31st October by the Governor-General, Baron von der Goltz.

"The town of Brussels, not including its suburbs, has been punished for the injury done by its police constable de Ryckere to a German soldier, by an additional fine of

"5 million francs.

"Brussels, 1st November, 1914.

"The Governor of Brussels,

"BARON VON LUTTWITZ,

"General."

Commune de Grivegnée

AVIS TRÈS IMPORTANT

Monsieur le Major-Commandant DIECKMANN, du Château des Bruyères, me prie de porter ce qui suit à la connaissance des habitants

Bataillon DIECKMANN.

Château des Bruyères, le 6 Septembre 1914.

A la présente discussion assistaient :

- 1) M. le Curé FRYNS, de Bois-de-Breux ;
- 2) M. le Curé FRANSEN, de Beyne ;
- 3) M. le Curé LEPROPRES, de Heusay ;
- 4) M. le Curé PAQUAY, de Grivegnée ;
- 5) M. le Bourgmestre DEJARDIN, de Beyne ;
- 6) M. le Bourgmestre HODEIGE, de Grivegnée ;
- 7) M. le Major DIECKMANN ;
- 8) M. le Lieutenant d. R. REIL.

Par M. le Major DIECKMANN, porte ce qui suit à la connaissance des personnes présentes :

1. — Jusqu'au 6 Septembre 1914, à 4 heures de relevé, toutes les armes, munitions, explosifs, pièces d'artillerie qui sont encore en possession des citoyens, seront remises au Château des Bruyères. Celui qui ne le fera pas sera passible de la peine de mort. Il sera fusillé sur place ou passé par les armes, à moins qu'il prouve qu'il n'est pas fusillé.

2. — Tous les habitants des maisons occupées des localités de Beyne-Heusay, Grivegnée, Bois-de-Breux, Fléron, devront rentrer chez eux à partir de la chute de jour (en ce moment, à partir de 7 heures de nuit — heure allemande). Les maisons protégées seront délaissées aussi longtemps que possible et sera sur pied. Les portes d'entrée seront fermées. Celui qui en contrevient passera à ses risques et périls. Toute résistance quelconque contre ces ordres entraînera la mort.

3. — Le Commandant se doit reconstruire aucune difficulté dans ses visites domiciliaires. On est prié, sans exception, de montrer toutes les pièces de la maison. Quiconque s'y opposera sera sévèrement puni.

4. — A partir du 7 septembre, à 9 heures du matin, je permettrai l'occupation des habitations de Beyne-Heusay, Grivegnée, Bois-de-Breux, par les personnes qui y demeurent précédemment, aussi longtemps qu'aucune défense formelle de trépasser ces lieux n'aura été prononcée pour les habitants ennemis.

5. — Pour avoir la certitude qu'il n'y aura pas de trépasser, les Bourgmestres de Beyne-Heusay et de Grivegnée devront dresser immédiatement des listes de personnes qui seront remises, par échéance de 24 heures, comme otages au Fort de Fléron. Le 6 septembre 1914, pour la première fois, de 6 heures de jour jusqu'au 7 septembre, à midi.

Il y va de la vie de ces otages à ce que la population des communes précitées se tienne paisible en toutes circonstances.

Pendant la nuit, il est sévèrement défendu de produire des signaux lumineux quelconques. La circulation des vélocipèdes n'est autorisée que de 7 heures de nuit à 5 heures du jour (heure allemande).

6. — Je désapprouve, hors des limites qui me seront soumises, les personnes qui, de nuit d'un jour à midi de l'autre jour, ont à s'occuper comme otages. Si le remplacement n'a pas lieu en temps utile, l'otage resté de nouveau 24 heures au Fort. Après ces nouvelles 24 heures, l'otage encourt la peine de mort si le remplacement n'est pas fait.

7. — Comme otages, sont placés en première ligne, les Prêtres, les Bourgmestres et les autres Membres de l'Administration.

8. — J'otage que tous les civils qui circulent dans ma circonscription, principalement dans les localités de Beyne-Heusay, Fléron, Bois-de-Breux, Grivegnée, s'engagent de leur déférence envers les officiers allemands, en ôtant leur chapeau ou en portant la main à la tête comme pour le salut militaire. En cas de doute, on doit saluer tout militaire allemand. Celui qui ne s'estacé pas doit s'attendre à ce que les militaires allemands se fassent respecter par tous les moyens.

9. — Il est permis aux militaires allemands de visiter les véhicules, paquets, etc., de tous les habitants des communes. Toute résistance à ce sujet sera punie sévèrement.

10. — Celui qui a connaissance que des quantités supérieures à 100 litres de pétrole, benzine, alcool et d'autres liquides analogues se trouvent à un endroit déterminé des communes précitées et qui ne l'a pas annoncé au Commandant militaire qui y siège, lorsqu'il n'y a aucun doute sur le lieu et la quantité, encourt la mort. Les quantités de 100 litres sont seulement valables.

11. — Celui qui s'obstine pas de suite au commandement à lever les bras se rend coupable de la peine de mort.

12. — L'entrée du Château des Bruyères, de même que celle des allées du parc, est interdite, sans peine de mort, depuis le crépuscule jusqu'à l'aube (de 6 heures de soir à 6 heures du matin — heure allemande), à toutes personnes qui ne sont pas des soldats de l'armée allemande.

13. — Pendant le jour, l'entrée du Château des Bruyères n'est permise que par l'entrée Nord-Ouest, là où se trouve la Garde, et pour autant de personnes qu'il y a de cartes d'entrée distribuées. Tout rassemblement à proximité de la Garde est déconseillé dans l'intérêt de la population.

14. — Quiconque, par la communication de fausses nouvelles qui seraient de nature à nuire au moral des troupes allemandes, de même celui qui, de quelque manière, cherche à prendre des dispositions contre l'armée allemande, se rend suspect et encourt le risque d'être fusillé sur-le-champ.

15. — Tandis que, par les dispositions susvisées, les habitants de la région de la forteresse III B. sont menacés de peines sévères lorsqu'ils enfreignent ces dispositions d'une manière quelconque, ces mêmes habitants peuvent, lorsqu'ils se montrent paisibles, compter sur la protection la plus bienveillante et le secours en toutes occasions lorsqu'on leur fait ou pourrait leur faire du tort.

16. — Les demandes de remise de bétail pour sa quantité déterminée se font journellement, de 10 à 12 heures avant midi et de 2 à 3 heures après-midi, au Château des Bruyères, auprès de la Commission de bétail.

17. — Celui qui, sous l'égide de l'Image de la Convention Suisse, veut ou même cherche à nuire à l'Armée allemande et est découvert, est puni.

(s) DIECKMANN.
Major-Commandant

Pour copie conforme,

Le Bourgmestre
Victor HODEIGE.

Grivegnée, le 8 Septembre 1914.

Order of Major Dieckmann, posted on the walls of the Commune of Grivegnée (near Liège) on 8th September, 1914.

HOSTAGES: THEORY AND PRACTICE.

"The system of hostages has become rarer in contemporary wars, from which certain professors of international law have erroneously concluded that it had disappeared from the rules of war between civilised nations. . . . We must reject the unfavourable decisions with regard to the employment of this method of war by the German army *in isolated cases and for divers reasons.*"

Kriegsgebrauch im Landkrieg, p. 113.

"4. After 9 a.m. on the 7th September, I will permit the houses in Beyne-Heusay, Grivegnée and Bois-de-Breux to be inhabited by the persons who lived in them formerly, as long as these persons are not forbidden to frequent these localities by official prohibition.

"5. In order that the above-mentioned permit may not be abused, the Burgomasters of Beyne-Heusay and Grivegnée must immediately prepare *list of persons who will be held as hostages* for 24 hours each at Fort Fléron, from the 6th September, 1914, at 6 p.m. till the 7th September at midday.

"The life of these hostages depends on the population of the above-mentioned Communes remaining quiet in any circumstances.

"During the night it is severely forbidden to show any luminous signs. Bicycles are only permitted between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. German time.

"6. From the list which is submitted to me *I will designate persons who shall be hostages* from midday to the following midday. If the substitute is not there at the correct time, the hostage must remain another 24 hours at the fort. *After these 24 hours the hostage will incur the penalty of death, if the substitute has not presented himself.*

"7. *Priests, Burgomaslers and Members of the Administration are to be taken first as hostages.*

"8. I insist that all civilians who move about in my district, particularly those of Beyne-Heusay, Fléron, Bois-le-Breux and Grivegnée show their respect to the German officers by taking off their hats, or lifting their hands to their heads in military salute. *In case of doubt, every German soldier must be saluted.* Anyone who disregards this must expect the military to make themselves respected by every means."

Extract from an order of Major Dieckmann reproduced *in extenso* opposite.

"1. The Belgian and French soldiers must be delivered as prisoners of war before 4 o'clock in front of the prison. *Citizens who do not obey will be condemned to hard labour for life in Germany.*

"*A rigorous inspection of houses will commence at 4 o'clock. Every soldier found will be immediately shot.*

"2. Arms, powder and dynamite must be given up at 4 o'clock. Penalty: being shot.

"Citizens who know of a store of the above must inform the burgomaster, *under pain of hard labour for life.*

"3. Every street will be occupied by a German guard, who will take ten hostages from each street, whom they will keep under surveillance. If there is any rising in the street, *the ten hostages will be shot.*

"4. Doors may not be locked, and at night after 8 o'clock there must be lights at three windows in every house.

"5. It is forbidden to be in the street after 8 o'clock. The inhabitants of Namur must understand that there is no greater and more horrible crime than to compromise the existence of the town and the life of its citizens by criminal acts against the German army.

"The Commander of the Town,

"VON BÜLOW."

"Namur, 25th August, 1914. (Printed by Chantaine.)"

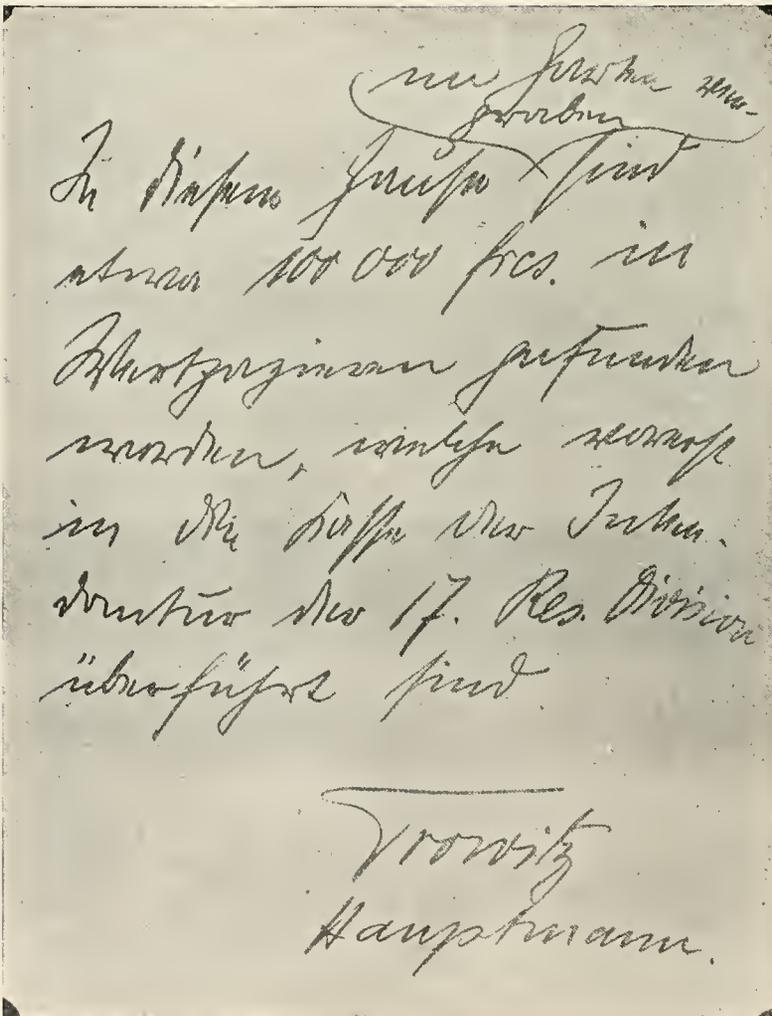
Proclamation posted at Namur on 25th August, 1914.



Dieses Haus ist zu Schützen

Es ist streng verboten, ohne
Genehmigung der Komman-
dantur, Häuser zu betreten
oder in Brand zu setzen.

Die Etappen-Kommandantur.



1. "Nicht plündern" (not to be sacked), an inscription in chalk on one of the few houses left intact at Dinant.

2. Short notice posted on the door of certain houses. It bears an impression of the stamp of the commander of Louvain. Printed in German characters, these proclamations were evidently prepared before the war. They are stamped with the seal of the commander at the halting place or garrison. Translation: It is forbidden to pillage this house or to set it on fire without the authorisation from the Office of the Commander.

3. Receipt for 100,000 francs, value of stock "found" in a garden at Nederzwalm and deposited at the treasury of the 15th Reserve Division of the German army.

DAILY PILLAGE AND INCENDIARISM.

"We passed the Belgian frontier on the 15th August, 1914, at 11.50 in the morning, and continued our march uninterruptedly along the main road until we reached the interior of the country. We had scarcely arrived there when a horrible sight presented itself to our eyes. The houses were completely destroyed by fire. The inhabitants had been driven out and some of them killed. Not one in a hundred houses was spared. *All had been sacked and burnt.* We had scarcely passed through this large village before the succeeding one had been burnt, and so on in succession. . . ."

EITEL ANDERS, SOLDIER.

"24th August. A woman told us that the owner of the shop, a widow, had fled yesterday for fear of the English. Very good, Heinrich and I proceeded to break a window at the back. We entered the kitchen and there found a round loaf. We then went to the cellar, whence we brought out five bottles of wine and four bottles of beer. Then, finding all the connecting doors closed from above, we burst them in one after the other. By this means we reached the shop. There we found practically all we were looking for."

HANS GEORG HARWART, CHASSEUR.

"7th August, 1914. 8.30 on Friday we received the news that the English had disembarked in Belgium. Afterwards everything was destroyed and we continued to advance. On the way we saw many people who had been hanged."

WITTILER, HUSSAR.

"October 11th, 1914. There is one good thing, and that is that one is never thirsty. We drink five or six bottles of champagne a day, and for underclothing we have nothing but silk. When one is in need of underclothing one has simply to go inside a house and change. Naturally, most of the time there is nobody in the houses. When there are any people there they say, 'Monsieur, there is nothing left,' but for us the word 'nothing' does not exist. These poor people inspire pity. But war is war. . . ."

FRITZ HOLLMANN, CAVALRYMAN.

"17th August. In the afternoon my eyes fell upon a little chateau belonging to one of the secretaries of the King, who was absent. Our men had conducted themselves there as veritable vandals. They had ransacked the cellars first, and then turned their attention to the sleeping rooms, where they scattered the objects all over the place. They had even made vain attempts to break the safe. Everything was upside down, magnificent tapestries, silk and even china vases. This is what happens when men are authorised to requisition for themselves. I am sure that they have carried off a number of useless objects simply for the pleasure of pillaging."

AN OFFICER OF THE 178TH SAXON REGIMENT.

". . . As for us men of Eisleben, we made our way towards the village with our guns under our arms. We entered first of all a house which we had not yet set on fire. There we found all we wanted. We had some pigeons roasted, but with very great caution because the best of these Belgians poisoned a great many things before escaping. Finally we made a breakfast worthy of a Sunday. *Farther on a large shop fell into our hands.* I took thence three day shirts of very fine work, six pairs of stockings, a packet of cigarettes, matches, drawers, cigars, wine, beer, in short, all that we could make use of. We had scarcely left before the shop was in flames. No man can form an idea of all this, for everything, perhaps 8,000 to 10,000 marks worth of merchandise, was destroyed by fire."

KARL VOGELGESANG, SAXON SOLDIER.

"We arrived as a battalion of the vanguard at Mellier. Here began the racket of war in its true sense. Everything eatable, eggs, lard, ham, bread, all was requisitioned and *the great part of the time nothing was paid for.* The inhabitants were so terrified that they did not dare to make any claims. The population only speaks French, our soldiers make themselves understood by signs.

"Mellier is situated on the main road which leads to Brussels. The station building was opened by force. (The traffic had ceased already for three weeks.) In this building was installed the office of the battalion and the hostages were also lodged there. It was piteous to see a man of 72 years of age and a white-headed priest compelled to pass the whole of the night in this place without any kind of comfort and without the most indispensable nourishment. The gate at which tickets were taken was broken to pieces. *Pourquoi?*

"Without delay the roads and the heights (the village is surrounded by hills on the right and left) were secured by advance posts of non-commissioned officers. Obstacles were placed across the entrances to the villages, such as carriages turned upside down, wooden beams, stones, &c. Beer was brought in cases for which a requisition receipt (which was certainly without any value) was given. Unfortunately one has had an opportunity of seeing the *bête humaine* aroused in many of the soldiers. There was seen good cause to ask if the 'kultur' was not an external varnish. Bands composed of ruffians (*Spitzbubenclémence*) were stealing *all they could lay hold of*, ducks, chickens, &c. Unfortunately they were frequently *encouraged by non-commissioned officers* who were either badly instructed or were of the same temperament as the soldiers. They ransacked the houses like savages, in search of arms, without making any distinction of social rank. . . ."

". . . The men pillage in terrible fashion; everything is ransacked in the houses and often destroyed. They strangle and then roast chickens, ducks, rabbits. . . . Small objects of attire share the same lot. *All rules of right are abolished and we are greatly injuring our reputation.*"

A NON-COMMISSIONED RESERVE OFFICER.

All these documents are reproduced from campaign diaries in the possession of the Belgian, English and French Military authorities.

gingen über dem Gang der Arbeit
 aufpassen zur Nacht, um gleich zu
 den Arbeitern zu gehen und ihnen
 ein wenig Wein und ein bisschen
 Kuchen zu verabreichen, auf seine
 dies regieren. Eine andere
 Woche gleiches Gema geht auf
 seinen Platz los, 1/2 Liter mit
 guten dreifach veredelt. Eine
 Woche insoweit Kaffee von
 vielen Entschickten aus dem
 Hauptlager, der einen Herbeigung
 in mir noch tief in die
 Apparat kann.

31. Aug. Heute nach Sonntag
 Abends war die regnerische
 Nacht war ein Lärm was
 immer noch in die Nacht
 nicht schliefen zu überlassen
 was viele in die Nacht

Continuation of the Diary of Gaston Klein (translation opposite).

Der 3. Februar war wieder ein
 Tag von 30 den gemacht wurde
 ein Tag der Lubmittel ausgeführt
 und die 1. Menge sollte ein
 3 Mann und 4 Mann war
 ein Tag. Am 6. 9. war noch ein
 Freitag war haben wir 300
 auf dem Fluss in die Nacht
 von 22 Personen die, ab was
 ein Tag und ein Tag
 die Leute sind alle von den
 Mann und gemacht die haben
 von der Nacht gemacht die
 sollen die Nacht gemacht die
 Mann gemacht die in den
 gemacht. 7. 9. die ganze Nacht
 gemacht 60 den alle gemacht
 die Nacht gemacht 7. 9. die
 was der Tag der in die

A page of the Diary of a soldier cyclist (unnamed) (translation opposite).

LOUVAIN AND AERSCHOT.

“ . . . We continued our march towards Louvain. Here, in the district adjoining the station, there is not a house which has not been attacked or even destroyed. We disembarked from the train and entered the town which was in flames. Never have I seen such a thing. The most beautiful houses of the principal street were all on fire and *the sack began*, consisting principally in the seizure of the wine, and you should have seen the way this was done. Everybody had as much as he could carry. At night we slept in the barracks and carried off all we could possibly make use of . . .

“ . . . The 31st August we entered Aerschot in order to guard the station . . . and the 2nd September I had a little respite of which I made use to visit the town. No one, without seeing it, could form an idea of the condition it is in. Men and women, and perhaps the priests also, took refuge in the church. Léon released twenty or thirty women who were there, but the men were detained. The women were all obliged to provide themselves with tickets in order to pass the posts, *and all my life I shall never drink more wine than I drank here* . . .

“ . . . On the 5th we again made a march of 50 kilometres as far as Diest in order to obtain provisions. The 1st company received the remainder. I killed three men and wounded four. *The 6th September was a day of rest. We only sent 300 Belgians to Germany, amongst whom were 22 priests. It was terrible to see the women and children bidding them farewell. All the people are incited by the priests who have preached in the churches that they should fire upon the Germans and kill them in order that they may enter into Heaven.*”

Extracts from the diary of a soldier cyclist who began his service at Burg on the 15th August.

“ After Roosbeek we began to have an idea of the war : houses burnt, walls pierced by bullets, the face of the tower carried away by shells, &c., a few isolated crosses marked the graves of the victims. We arrived at Louvain, which was a veritable military ants' nest. *The battalion of the Landsturm of Halle arrived, dragging with it all kinds of things, especially bottles of wine, and amongst them there were many who were drunk. A party of six cyclists were going round the town looking for lodgings. It presented such a picture of devastation that it would be impossible to imagine anything worse. Streets were blocked by burning and falling houses ; only a few remained standing. One had to walk over broken glass and bits of burning wood. The tram and telephone wires were dragging in the streets and obstructing them.*

“ The stations, which were still standing, were filled with people billeted there. On returning to the station nobody knew what was to be done. At first a few troops only were to enter the town, but at that time *the battalion was drawn up in close array with the intention of breaking into the first houses to carry off the wine and anything else under the name of 'requisition.'* They assembled, a disordered crowd, everybody going as he pleased. *Officers went on in front to give a good example.*

“ One night in barracks there were numbers of drunken men ; that was enough.

“ That day inspired me with a contempt which it is beyond me to describe.”

Extract from the diary of Gaston Klein, of the 1st company of Landsturm, dated 29th August, 1914.

(The originals are deposited at the Belgian headquarters.)

MASSACRES OF CIVILIANS.

"5th August, in front of the Fort of Fléron. The position was a dangerous one, as *suspicious civilians* were moving about. Houses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 were evacuated. The owners were arrested and shot the following day. Suddenly the village was bombarded. Our baggage train and the 4th Company of the 27th Regiment hurried away; having lost their way and being bombarded by their own artillery. From the point D.P. *I shot a civilian*, hitting him full in the forehead at a distance of 400 metres, as we afterwards found."

Extract from the diary of Kurt Hoffmann (1st company of the 4th Chasseurs). The text is accompanied by a plan in pencil. (From the file at the English War Office.)

"17th August. At 2 o'clock in the morning there was an alarm. Rifle shots were heard. We slept, our rifles under our arms, until day time. Previously I had passed by villages where fighting was taking place in the streets. *We broke windows with the butt ends of our rifles and burned the houses*, and immediately afterwards the same lot befell a large village, and so on as far as Liège. . . .

". . . 23rd August. . . . Three men and a woman were shot. We made prisoners of 14 men and one woman; the former were shot. We have set fire to everything which could be burned. Outside the village there were a few civilians. A lieutenant and I fired a few shots at them. They fled to the woods, *after which we drank several bottles of champagne*, and thus we avenged the blood of our comrades. . . ."

Extracts from the diary of Gustave Schöpfer of the 8th Reserve Hussars. (The original is in possession of the Belgian Staff.)

"We got into the property of a well-to-do inhabitant, by a breach effected in the rear, and we occupied the house. Through a maze of rooms we reached the threshold. There was the body of the owner on the floor. Inside our men destroyed everything, like Vandals. Every corner was searched. *Outside in the country, the sight of the villagers who had been shot defies all description*. The volley had almost decapitated some of them. Every house had been searched to the smallest corner, and the inhabitants dragged from their hiding-places. *The men were shot*; the women and children shut up in a convent, from which some shots were fired. Consequently, the convent is to be burnt. It can be ransomed, however, on the surrender of the guilty and on payment of 15,000 francs."

Extract from the diary of a Saxon officer of the 178th regiment, dated 23rd August, 1914.

"In the evening, at 10 o'clock, the first battalion of the 178th regiment went down to the village that had been burnt to the north of Dinant. A sad and beautiful sight, and one that made you shudder. *At the entrance of the village there lay about 50 dead bodies strewn on the road*. They had been shot for having fired on our troops from ambush. In the course of the night many others were shot in the same way, so that we could count *more than two hundred*. The women and children, lamp in hand, were obliged to watch the horrible scene. We then ate our rice, in the midst of the corpses, for we had not tasted food since morning."

Extract from the diary of the soldier, Philipp Kamenz, 178th Saxon regiment.

"*Three hundred of the inhabitants were shot and the survivors were requisitioned as grave-diggers*. You should have seen the women at this moment! But you can't do otherwise. During our march on Wilot things went better: the inhabitants who wished to leave could do so and go where they liked. But anyone who fired was shot. When we left Owele, shots were fired: but there, women and everything were fired on. . . ."

Extract from the diary of the soldier, Schlauter (3rd battery of 4th regiment of Field Artillery and the Gnard). (These three diaries are in the possession of the French military authorities.)

THE KILLING OF THE WOUNDED.

"*After to-day no more prisoners will be taken. All prisoners are to be killed. Wounded, with or without arms, are to be killed. Even prisoners already grouped in convoys are to be killed. Let not a single living enemy remain behind us.*

"1st Lieutenant commanding the company, Stoy; the Colonel commanding the regiment, Neubauer; the General commanding the brigade, Senger."

General order addressed on the 26th August by General Stenger, commanding the 5th German Brigade. (Reproduced from the statement of German prisoners interned in France.)

"In the trench alongside the highway were lying some Frenchmen in open order. Although none of them was wounded all had the appearance of being dead. When we approached them certain of them raised their hands and cried out: "Pardon, camarade." What were we to do? *We had been forbidden to make any prisoners.*"

Letter from a German soldier published in the *Koustanzer Zeitung* of 5th October, 1914.

"12th August 1914. In Belgium. It is easy to imagine the fury of our soldiers, when you see the villages that have been destroyed. There is not one house left undamaged. All eatables are requisitioned by the soldiers no longer under command. We have seen on several occasions a number of men and women who had been executed after sentence passed on them. Little children were running round looking for their mothers. Dogs chained up were left with nothing to eat or drink, while the houses were burning over their heads. But the just anger of our soldiers goes hand in hand with sheer vandalism. In some villages which had already been deserted they "set up the red cock" on all the houses (burnt them). The inhabitants sadden me. If they use disloyal weapons, after all they are but defending their country. The atrocities that these civilians have been and are guilty of are avenged in a savage manner. *Mutilation of the wounded is the order of the day.*"

Extract from the diary of the soldier Paul Glöde. (File at the French Ministry of War.)

"October 2nd. The Bavarians no longer make prisoners."

From the diary of K. Barthel, a sergeant in the 2nd company of the Foot Guard. (File at the British War Office.)

"August 24th. Before the village of Ermeton We took 1,000 prisoners; *at least 500 prisoners were killed.* The village was burned because the inhabitants also had fired. Two civilians were also shot. In searching a house for beds we found exceptionally good food; bread, wine, butter, jam, preserved fruits, and many other things formed our booty We washed ourselves clean of blood and cleaned our bayonets"

Extract from the diary of a soldier of the 1st Regiment of the Guard (in the possession of the British authorities.)



Types of German ambulance attendants with arms and cartridge cases, photographed at Louvain.

THE GERMAN CONSCIENCE.

" If a blinded and maddened population treacherously attacks and slaughters without pity the brave sons of our people who are facing death for their country, as well as the wounded, doctors and hospital nurses—if bands of men endanger the safety of the lines of communication of the armies, self-preservation requires that *extreme measures should immediately be adopted against them*. Indeed, it is a sacred duty of the military commanders to take such measures. In such a case the innocent will have to suffer with the guilty. *The repeated instructions of the command of our army have allowed no doubt to subsist as to this matter*. It is no doubt to be regretted that in repressing these infamous acts it should be impossible to spare human lives, and that isolated houses as well as flourishing villages, and even entire towns, should be annihilated, but this should not provoke *misplaced sentimentality*. All that we may destroy is, in our eyes, less in value than the life of a single one of our brave soldiers. That is self-evident, and indeed, properly speaking, it is not necessary to mention it.

". . . Whoever speaks here of barbarity commits a crime. Rigorously to carry out a duty is to obey a mandate of a high civilisation (Kultur), and in that matter the population of the enemy's country has only to take a lesson from our army."

Extract from a proclamation addressed on the 29th August, 1914, at Munster, by General Baron Von Bissing, to the population in the district of the 7th Army Corps.

" In an order of the day, I recently appealed to the public not to display *false and misplaced sentiments of sympathy* towards the prisoners of war. You should show more of a *German conscience*.

" Must I again repeat this remonstrance? It would seem so. According to the reports which have been submitted to me, all kinds of dainties, and in particular chocolates, have again been offered to the prisoners in spite of the prohibitions which have been issued, and that at Munster as well as elsewhere. Are you so full of pity for others and so anti-German in spirit that you do not hear the cries of distress of our own prisoners in France? You may be sure that they are not offered chocolate there. Unfortunately, it is not possible completely to isolate from the outside world the prisoners of my district. I have, therefore, been obliged to put an end to the commerce in provisions and dainties which has been established in the encampments without my authority. It is mostly children and young people, and in particular little girls, who crowd round the prisoners unceasingly. They are *entirely wanting in good breeding*. It is for their relatives and the schools to alter this state of things.

" If these warnings should remain without result, recourse will be had to *exemplary punishment in order to put a stop to this anti-German conduct*. It is on the sentiment of the young generation that the future of our country depends.

"The General Commanding,

"VON BISSING."

Order of the Government of the encampment of the prisoners at Munster, published by the *Dusseldorfer Tageblatt* on the 11th December, 1914.

und nicht biffid, wie die auf sich
 versalten fest vor allem. Wenn
 Mitleid mit denen flemken.
 Verkennungsig mit dem Belben
 und ~~flemken~~ Bayonett drauf
 los gehen. —

Von dem großen Regen wird die
 gestrichel haben. Wenn sie in
 belgischen Aachen, haben immer
 Soldaten waffensindig flem die
 Belgisch französisch Grenze in der
 Hütte u. Und wenn feld auf
 mit. Siegen werden wir. Hoffentlich
 befrucht die gesunden und sich
 nicht so viel feld zu machen
 befrucht sind gehen. Viele fische
 Ein anderer Wille

In Mitte September bliebe ich
 ganz gesund für
 die Krankheit, wie die auch
 was ich mit diesem Regiment
 zinsig auf Brüssel.
 Wenn die recht in der
 vor dem Erscheinen, namentlich
 in der dortigen. Laß keinen
 an die flemken kommen.
 Verkennungsig schreibe
 unser ganz erachtet,
 der für in neue kommen.
 Es sind ganz furchterliche
 furchterliche Gesellen die
 Belgien auf die Frauen
 und Kinder sind bewaffnet

Belgien, den 25. 8. 14

Liebe Brüder!

Dein Freund und Helfer
 eines Adressen, und feld, daß die
 diesen Brief nach rechts auf feld,
 wie ~~die~~ dem Regiment auf
 Brüssel abficht. — Wenn die
 feld im Aachen, wie feld,
 so wird die dieses Brief feld
 nachgelesen werden.
 Wie die recht, wie ich für ein
 Soldat als Bräutigam feld
 nicht werden unglücklich für
 bleiben, vielleicht feld für immer,
 obgleich ich ganz gern als Leutnant
 inspektör zu einem Feldregiment
 gehe

und schreiben Sie mir wenn
 feld, wie alles nicht allein.
 Wenn die die recht, daß die Lichte
 zinsig feld, und was immer
 vor die feld, wie; die die
 feldungen feld, zinsig
 feld, daß für die feld
 die Soldaten gefesselt haben.
 Die Soldaten müssen immer
 schreiben schreiben immer feld
 schreiben, daß kein feld
 für feld in die feld
 Liebe immer mit and
 zinsig. Hoffentlich fest
 die die feldungen feld

Photograph of a letter found on the 25th September, 1914, south of Baserode (environs of Louvain).

[Translation opposite.]

THE KIND OF MENTALITY REQUIRED.

“Schleswig, 25.8.14.

“Dear Brother,

“I lately obtained your address through Frederick, and I trust that you will receive the present letter in good time before your regiment leaves for Brussels. No doubt should you have already started my letter will be forwarded.

“As you know I am attached to the Lazaretto here and I shall remain here for a long time yet, perhaps altogether, although I should much like to go with a field ambulance, as an Inspector of ambulances. But I shall certainly remain here until the middle of September.

“You will shortly go to Brussels with your regiment as you know. Take care to protect yourself against these *Civilians*, especially in the villages. Do not let anyone of them come near you. *Fire without pity on everyone of them who comes too near.* They are very clever, cunning fellows these Belgians, even the women and children are armed and fire their guns. Never go inside a house, especially alone. If you take anything to drink make the inhabitants drink first, and keep at distance from them. *The newspapers related numerous cases in which they have fired on our soldiers whilst they were drinking.* You soldiers must spread around so much fear of yourselves that no civilian will venture to come near you. Remain always in the company of others. *I hope that you have read the newspapers and that you know how to behave. Above all have no compassion for these cut-throats. Make for them without pity with the butt-end of your rifle and the bayonet.*

“You will have learnt the news of the great victories. When you arrive in Belgium our soldiers would probably have crossed the Franco-Belgian frontier. Keep well. I hope that you will come back to the house in good health. May you prosper. Best greetings.

“Your brother,

“WILLI.”

(Translation of the letter opposite.)

What a German Doctor wrote to a soldier in the field.

“10th August, 1914.—We dined at Minden in a brewery. We were received and looked after everywhere most courteously. We heard here the story of the deeds of terror and cruelties perpetrated by the Belgians at Liege. A Surgeon General was billeted on the Burgomaster. When he sat down at table he was seized from behind by his host and his throat was cut. Wounded men were taken into a sham hospital. When the Red Cross came back with the materials for bandages it was found that the eyes of all the wounded men had been taken out and their hands tied behind their backs. On one of the prisoners they found some fingers which had been cut off from an officer with the rings on them.”

Extract from the diary of the soldier K. Barthel (filed at the English War Office)

What German soldiers are told before their departure.

Lebbike 6. 9. 14

Liebe Tante Emma

Leben sehr in mit Schreibern d. f. u.

Diner feiertag ganz vergessen habe, auch für
 Tante Marie feiertag kommen der Brief 7
 1/2 hat man nicht alle Kälber da wenn man nicht
 persönlich kommen will. Man wird so gut. Anschuldigung
 ganz wie jetzt habe ich auch mit gehabt, denn für den
 die den Krieg nicht anmacht ist etwas vorange
 wärtliches, das entschuldigen für solche Versuche als
 milderen Standes gut. Ich habe mich nicht
 an den Krieg gewöhnt, das man alle ganz natürlich
 bekommt. Man wünscht sich mittheilen wenn man
 durch ein Brief kommen, das nicht abgelehnt ist, wenn
 man nicht mit ein 1/2. Man entschuldigt sich aber wenn
 man einen ganzigen Tag kein schreiben kann.
 wenn nicht. Man wird so gut. Anschuldigung
 am Tisch, ist keine Arbeit mit Speck, trinkt Pasteten
 die immer vortheilhaft. Ich was geht hat und sieht
 ich für schon die Nacht. Medizin, ein obren geschrieben
 worden ist, können. Wie helfen muss alle perennieren.
 Neben wie keine spritzen. Bei einem so sagt die geladene
 Stühle neben einem, ge... hat ich die ab...

THE KIND OF MENTALITY REQUIRED.

“ Lebbeke, 6.9.14.

“ Dear Aunt Emma,

“ I am much shocked on realising that I forgot your birthday and that my letter will also be too late for the birthday of Aunt Marie. What is the use of almanacs if one does not look around one from time to time, but I have never had as good an excuse as I have this time, and for one who is not taking part in the war it is an extraordinary thing, and there are certainly extenuating circumstances for forgetfulness.

“ I have become little by little so accustomed to the war that everything appears to me to be natural. *One is astonished sometimes when one passes by a village which has not been destroyed by fire, when one is not obliged to start marching at midnight, or when it happens that for a whole day one does not see a franc-tireur shot. In the evening we sit down comfortably at table and eat black bread and bacon, and drink red wine which belonged to a Curé who was shot, and it gives us pleasure to see how well those houses blazed from which shots have been fired. We sleep almost all together. If we have not sufficient protection we keep loaded revolvers at our side. I have not yet made use of one, but it is not advisable to go for a walk without a revolver. Our captain who, to be frank, is excessively cautious, goes so far as to take with him, by way of a guard, two ambulance bearers armed with revolvers and rifles whenever he has to make his way in the evening to a solitary spot. To our great satisfaction the intelligent surgeon of the army corps, who is the chief officer, Reiske by name, has spoken in praise of our activity, which has evidently given much pleasure to our energetic staff doctor. We are awaiting the fall of Antwerp, which will be considerably hastened by the attack to take place in the next few days. We shall then probably quit for ever this treacherous country and make, as I hope, for England, as soon as the sea passage is clear, a matter which the fleet will meantime see to. Otherwise we shall make for Russia, for it is quite certain that before long France will be the scene of a final battle. News takes a long time to reach me from the home, and it is a long time since I have heard from Marguerite. I hope that everybody is in good health. Write often when you have time, for it is a pleasure to see any sign of life. News from the field of battle reaches us eight days later than it does those who have remained at home, but I prefer being here and regret only one circumstance, namely, that I am not able to take part in the fighting. Once more cordial greetings and best wishes for your birthdays to yourself and Aunt Marie.*

“ Yours,

“ FRITZ.”

Literal translation of the letter opposite. (From the file of the Belgian Staff.)

What a Doctor in the Field writes to Germany.

“ You write to me about the Belgians. They have only themselves to thank that their country has been thus devastated. I have seen all the great towns attacked and the villages besieged and set on fire. At Tongres we were attacked by the population in the evening when it was dark. An immense number of shots were exchanged for we were exposed to fire on four sides. Happily we had *only one man hit*, he died the following day. *We killed two women*, and the men were shot next day.”

Unfinished letter written by a German soldier to his brother-in-law. (From the file of the English Staff.)

The information which the German population is given.



1. German Staff photographed inside the Hotel de Ville at Louvain.

2. The Hotel de Ville in the midst of ruins only spared because it served as the quarters of the superior officers.

AFTER A MONTH OF WAR: DAILY AND SYSTEMATIC CALUMNY.

"I solemnly protest to you against the fashion in which this war is being carried on by our adversaries, whose methods are such as to make it one of the most barbarous wars of history. . . .

"Apart from the use of these monstrous weapons, the Belgian Government has encouraged the civil population to take part in the fighting, and has for a long time carefully organised the resistance. The cruelties perpetrated in this guerilla warfare *even by women and priests* on wounded soldiers, doctors, and hospital nurses (doctors have been killed and ambulances burned) were such that *our generals were compelled* at last to adopt extreme measures for the punishment of the guilty and to *terrorise* the bloodthirsty population, thus preventing it from continuing this shameful practice.

"Villages and *even the ancient City of Louvain* (with the exception of the magnificent Hotel de Ville) had to be destroyed for the protection of our troops."

Telegram sent by Emperor William to President Wilson, 4th September, 1914.

"*The cruelties in question are* the blinding of the wounded, cutting out of tongues, castration, members cut off, wounded killed when they were already lying on transport stretchers, odious attacks by the population. Monks who the day before had welcomed our men took the most active part at night in sudden attacks, revolver in hand, etc., etc."

From a private letter of Prince Henri XXXIII of Reuss communicated to the neutral press by an official telegram from Berlin, Thursday, 28th August, 1914.

"*A Catholic priest was arrested in his church.* It appears that he had given the enemy information as to our positions. He had to walk between our bayonets, and the perspiration poured down his face. The old man did not seem to find much pleasure in this forced march!"

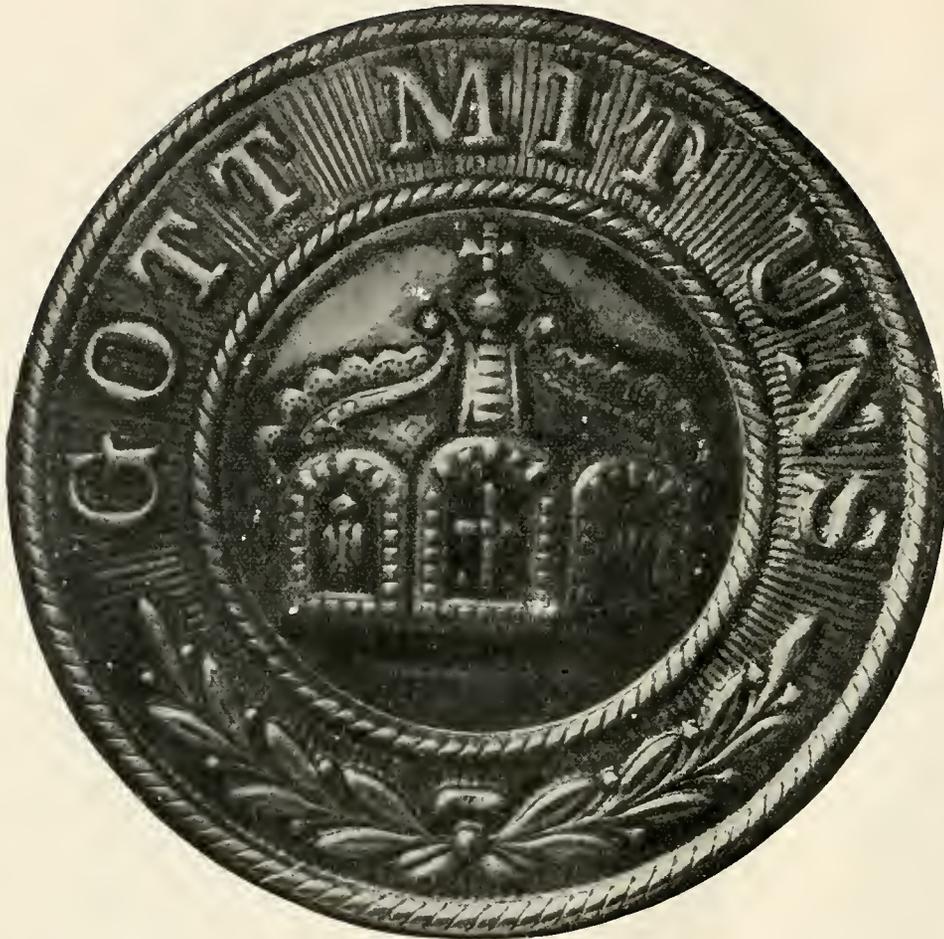
Extract from the diary of a marine gunner, 7th Company, 4th Regiment.

"We have to contend constantly with *francs-tireurs* and are *obliged* (underlined in the text) to destroy flourishing spots in order to avenge the murder of our comrades."

Letter from a soldier of the 200th Regiment 43 Div. XXII C.A.R. to Eugene Scheufer, Berlin.

"The Belgian soldiers . . . fire at the backs of our troops, they tear off the ears and pierce the eyes of those who fall into their hands. *The people are fanatic and under the thumb of the priests*; they carry out blindly the priests' orders, not troubling themselves whether their obedience to them will bring them to death or not. They are the slaves of the priests."

Extract from the war diary of the muskateer Franz Schmiedt (1st Batt. of Landsturm, identification badge No. 20).



“Gott mit uns.” German device inscribed on the soldiers’ belts.

“What we hear about our soldiers is the product of our private life.” Of them we can confidently say : “God is with our work.”

Words spoken at Berlin on 12th March, 1915, by D. Nahling, Privy Councillor. The Empress sent a representative to his lecture, passages from which are produced by the *Norddeutscher Allgemeine Zeitung* of 13th March, 1915.

AFTER EIGHT MONTHS OF WAR: POSITIVE AND OFFICIAL REFUTATION.

"We have already been able to establish the *falsehood of a great number of assertions which have been made* with great precision and published everywhere in the press, concerning *alleged cruelties* committed by the populations of the countries with which Germany is at war upon German soldiers and civilians. We are now in a position to silence two others of these fantastic stories.

"The War Correspondent of the "Berliner Tageblatt" spoke a few weeks ago of cigars and cigarettes filled with powder alleged to have been given out or sold to our soldiers with diabolical intent. He even pretended to have seen with his own eyes hundreds of this kind of cigarettes. We learn from an authentic source that this story of cigars and cigarettes is nothing but a brazen invention. Stories of soldiers whose eyes are alleged to have been torn out by *franc-tireurs* are circulated throughout Germany. *Not a single case of this kind has been officially established.* In every instance where it has been possible to verify the story its inaccuracy has been demonstrated.

"It matters little that reports of this nature bear an appearance of positive certitude, or are even vouched by eye-witnesses. The desire for notoriety, the absence of criticism, and personal error play an unfortunate part in the days in which we are living. Every nose shot off or simply bound up, every eye removed, is immediately transformed into a nose or eye torn off by the *franc-tireurs*. Already the "Popular Gazette of Cologne" has been able, contrary to the very categorical assertions of Aix-la-Chapelle, to prove that there was *no soldier with his eyes torn out in the field ambulance at this town.* It was said, also, that people wounded in this way were under treatment in the neighbourhood of Berlin, but whatever enquiries have been made in regard to these reports, their absolute falsity has been demonstrated. At length these reports were concentrated at Gross Lichterfeld. A newspaper published at noon, and widely circulated in Berlin, printed a few days ago in large type the news that at the Lazaretto of Lichterfeld alone there were 'ten German soldiers, only slightly wounded, whose eyes had been wickedly torn out.' But to a request for information by comrade Leibknecht the following written reply was sent by the chief medical officer of the above-mentioned field hospital, dated the 18th of the month:—

"Sir,

"*Happily there is no truth whatever in these stories.*

"Yours obediently,

"PROFESSOR RAUTENBERG."

Extract from the *Vorwaerts* of Berlin, 22nd October, 1914.

"*Officially, no instance has been proved of persons having fired, with the help of priests, from the towers of churches.* All that has been made known up to the present, and that has been made the object of inquiry, concerning alleged atrocities attributed to Catholic priests during this war, *has been shown to be false and altogether imaginary, without any exception.* Our Emperor telegraphed to the President of the United States of America that even women and priests had committed atrocities during this guerilla warfare on wounded soldiers, doctors and nurses attached to the field ambulances. How this telegram can be reconciled with the fact stated above (that there is nothing against the priests) *we shall not be able to learn until after the war.*"

Signed, LORENZ MULLER, and published in prominent type in the German scientific review, *Der Fels*.



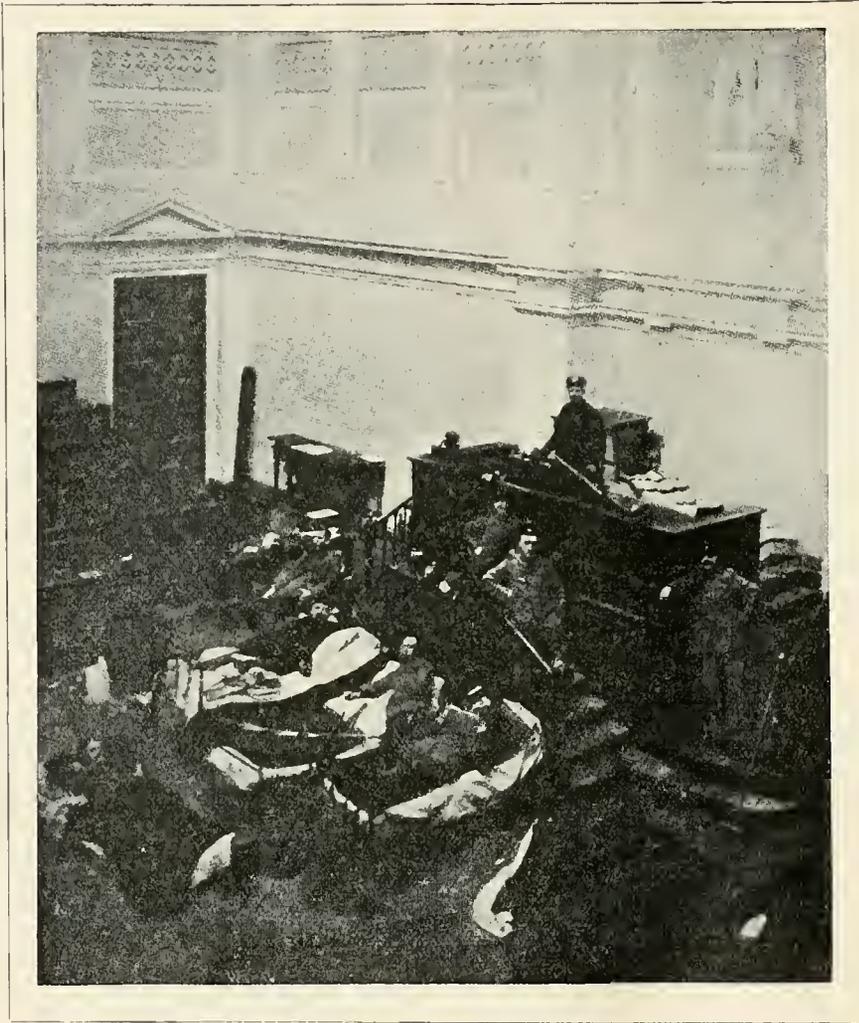
Types of German officers and soldiers photographed at Louvain.
has a serrated bayonet.

The man in the centre of the group

UNDER THE GERMAN YOKE.

“ He who travels to-day in Belgium must harden his heart, for every step that he takes reminds him how terrible it must be to have lost one's liberty in one's own country, and he thinks with horror what would be his own feelings in a similar extremity.”

Sven Hedin, *Ein Volk in Waffen*, page 124.



The Parliament of a free country: the Assembly Room of the House of Representatives at Brussels transformed into a dormitory for the troops.

“The occupying State shall regard itself only as administrator and usufructuary of the public buildings”

Article 55 of the Hague Rules of War.

SYSTEMATIC EXPROPRIATION.

“Neither requisition in kind nor services can be demanded from communes or inhabitants except for the *necessities of the Army of Occupation*.

“They must be in proportion to the resources of the country. . . .

“Supplies in kind shall as far as possible be paid for in ready money ; if not, their receipt shall be acknowledged and the payment of the amount due shall be made as soon as possible.”

Article 52 of the Hague Rules of War.

“This forcible expropriation of private property was followed in the whole of Belgian territory under occupation by a *policy of spoilation* organized by the German authorities which the official order of the German headquarters announced would be put into force from the 27th August, 1914.

“The Landsturm will be called out to secure the lines of communication and for the supervision of Belgium. This country, placed under German administration, will have to provide for the military requirements of all kinds *in order to relieve the German territories*.”

“Disguised under the name of requisitions this expropriation is no less contrary to the rules of International Law than the violation by the German armies of private property. It constitutes a flagrant violation of Articles 23(g), 46 and 52, of the regulations concerning the laws and customs of war on land, annexed to the 4th Hague Convention : it moreover ignores the engagements entered into in Belgium by the German authorities themselves. These authorities at the time they imposed upon the Belgian provinces a *heavy war contribution of 40 million francs per month* after the enormous requisitions, impositions and fines of every kind to which the communes and Belgian citizens were subjected, found themselves compelled to put an end to the system which they had hitherto adopted.

“*Belgian agriculture, manufactures and commerce have not suffered in a less degree*. The produce of cattle rearing, raw materials, manufacture produce and machine tools have been seized and carried off to Germany without regard to any right.”

Extract from the 13th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

“It is impossible to furnish any complete estimate as to requisitions or imposition of fines or destruction of property. The total number must be enormous.

“The German invaders have requisitioned grain, provisions, cattle and horses both in the towns and in the country ; they have also requisitioned stores of cotton and wool, *raw material* as well as *manufactured products*, copper fixtures, parts of the installation of certain factories, motor cars, benzine and all kinds of implements which might be useful in the manufacture of arms and munitions. In the course of our journeys across Belgium we scarcely saw any cattle, and literally no pigs or horses. Some of the villages have been completely destroyed. A certain number of houses have been burnt in nearly all the villages and all the towns on the principal roads by which the invasion has taken place. In most cases the inhabitants did not have time to save anything, with the exception of a few clothes on their backs.

“The destruction of implements and plant cannot be estimated. In the smallest villages through which the army passed, no less than in some of the great towns, as Louvain and Malines in which fighting took place or which were completely destroyed by fire, all the houses left standing have been pillaged. *We noticed in several of these houses that the furniture which it was impossible to carry away was broken to pieces*.

“The ravages thus caused have not been repaired ; indeed, very little has been done to made good the material damage caused by the passage of the troops.”

Extract from a report published at New York on 14th February by the Rockefeller Foundation.



Court Room of the Assize Court, Courts of Justice at Brussels, transformed into a Guard room.

THE REIGN OF INFORMERS AND ARBITRARY TRIALS.

"Numerous complaints have been addressed to me in my capacity of President of the Order of Advocates by my compatriots, protesting against *grave abuses, in particular with reference to the adoption of repressive measures.* It is not for me to decide as to the justice of these complaints, but they reveal none the less a situation which one cannot possibly disregard. This task is one which falls on the Bar. . . .

" . . . Looking at things as a whole, without passion or prejudice, a lawyer cannot fail to acknowledge that everything in the *German judicial organisation in Belgium is contrary to the principles of Law.* . . .

"It is justice uncontrolled, the judge left to himself, that is, to his impressions, his prejudices and his surroundings. It means a prisoner abandoned in his helplessness, alone and at the mercy of his all-powerful adversary.

"The establishment of a form of justice uncontrolled and therefore offering no guarantee is for us the most dangerous and the most oppressive of all illegalities. We cannot conceive of justice as a juridical or moral possibility without liberty of defence.

"Liberty of defence means that light will be thrown on all the details of the trial, that the voice of the public conscience will make itself heard at the Pretorium. It means that in the interest of the unfortunate, as in the interest of justice and of Right itself, everything may be said, though in the most respectful terms, and everything may be dared.

"This principle is one of the great conquests of our domestic history ; it is the foundation stone of individual liberty.

"What are your means of obtaining information ?

"Apart from the judges regularly constituted there are the secret police and informers.

"*The Secret Police*, without a uniform or badge to denote their office, mingle with the populace in the streets, and cafés, and on the tramway platforms, listening to conversation, seeking to hear secrets, on the watch, not only for actions, but for intentions.

"The host of *informers* has, they say, multiplied. Of what value can be their statements, inspired as they are by hatred, rancour, or low cupidity ? Such auxiliaries cannot bring to the workings of justice any useful co-operation.

"If we add to this complete absence of control and defence temporary detention or prolonged imprisonment, if we add to it the domiciliary perquisitions, we shall have an almost complete view of the *moral torture* to which are subjected, at this moment, our aspirations, our thoughts and our liberties. . . .

"Does there exist a moral force which is superior to justice ? This latter dominates all the others. Old as humanity itself, eternal as is the desire of men and nations to be and to feel themselves protected, it is the basis of all civilisation. Art and Science are its tributories ; religions exist and prosper under its aegis. Is it not a religion in itself ?

"Belgium has raised a temple to it within its capital.

"This *temple*, which is our pride, *has been transformed into barracks.* A very small part of it, which is becoming daily smaller still, is reserved for the Courts and Tribunals ; and the Magistrates and Advocates reach it by a back staircase.

"Painful as are the conditions under which it is called upon to administer Justice, the Bench has, nevertheless, decided to sit. The Bar is solid with it. Accustomed to live in an atmosphere of deference and of dignity, it no longer recognises itself amid the scenery of a guard-house. Indeed, can we say that Justice is still Justice when surrounded by so little sign of respect ?

"What *offends us* is not the proximity of your soldiers ; we honour in them their patriotism and their courage. What *offends us is the contact of bayonets* and the thousand undefinable things which necessarily accompany the lodging of soldiers in barracks. What wounds us is the little regard which seems to be professed for our persons and our functions."

Extracts from a protest addressed to the German Governor by the President of the Order of Advocates at Brussels.

A LONG COVETED NATIONAL SOURCE OF WEALTH.

"The Belgian stock of draught horses has long been famous. In the last 20 years the breeders, encouraged and supported by the Government, have succeeded in bringing the stock of these horses to such a degree of perfection that this branch of national activity had become an important source of wealth. Most of the continental countries came to Belgium for their supplies of draught horses. *Germany was one of the best customers for draught horses reared in Belgium.* She imported every year from Belgium horses to the value of more than 24 million francs."

Extract from the 13th Report of the Committee of Inquiry.

"GENERAL DEPÔT FOR HORSES.

"The Commission for the purchase of horses will sit on Monday, 3rd November, at 3 o'clock (4 o'clock German time), at the Grand Place, Thuilleries.

"All carriage and saddle horses as well as yearling foals must be brought before this Commission.

"Carriage horses must be, if possible, provided with their working harness. Purchases will be paid in ready money and without any rebate.

"For the German General Government.

"The Officer in Charge of the Central Depot for Horses.

"Any persons neglecting to bring their horses to the Commission *will be liable to have their stock requisitioned without indemnity.*"

Notice posted in the villages of the breeding districts during October and November, 1914:—

"BELGIAN FOALS.

"More than 60 head of horse *directly imported from Belgium*, between the ages of 2 and 3 years, including 6 stallions, will be sold to the highest bidders on Tuesday, the 2nd February, at 10 o'clock in the morning, at the Magervichhof, by order of the Minister of Agriculture, Domains and Forests.

"No purchases can be made by others than the farmers of the various districts of the country who can prove themselves to be such by an official document.

"The sale will take place in the open air.

"The horses can be examined from the early hours of the morning. It is requested that men may be sent to take immediate delivery of the horses purchased.

"Viehcentrale Magervichhof,

"Friedrichsfelde, Berlin."

Deutsche Tageszeitung, 2nd February, 1915.

"Sale of Belgian horses and mares, BOOTY OF WAR.

"A sale will be held on Thursday, 15th October, at 10 o'clock in the morning, and on Friday, 16th October, at 9 o'clock, on the grounds of the slaughter house of Cologne, on behalf of the Chamber of Agriculture, with the assistance of the Central Horse Rearing Society of the Rhine.

"There will be offered for sale *a war booty of 260 horses and 54 mares between the ages of 4 and 5 years, most of them in foal.* (Friday afternoon at 1 o'clock.)

"Horses taken as booty of war can only be bought for the farming of the Rhenish provinces or bordering provinces. The purchasers must produce an official certificate proving the fulfilment of this condition and sign a contract undertaking to employ their horses entirely for the purposes of agricultural development. The mares used for breeding which have been taken back for the account of the Chamber of Agriculture can only be purchased by the farmers of the Rhenish provinces, who must undertake, in writing, to employ them for at least 3 years for breeding purposes.

"The conditions of sale will be read at the opening. The sale will take place without guarantee and the purchase money must be paid in cash. The approach to the meadow in which the sale will take place is reserved exclusively for persons holding an official certificate proving that they are farmers."

Kölnische Zeitung, 15th October, 1914.

Arrêté

1. L'exportation hors de Belgique de machines à travailler le métal est interdite. Tout essai d'exporter des machines de ce genre entraînera la confiscation de ces machines.

2. Exception est faite pour les machines qui sont exportées en Allemagne sur l'ordre du Gouvernement Général.

3. Cet arrêté entre aussitôt en vigueur.

Bruxelles, le 17 février 1915.

Le Gouverneur Général en Belgique,
Baron von BISSING,
Colonel Général.

(Translation.)

BY ORDER.

1. The exportation from Belgium of machinery for working in metal is forbidden. Any machinery of this nature which it is attempted to export will be confiscated.

2. Exception is made in the case of machinery exported to Germany by order of the General Government.

3. This order will be enforced immediately.

Brussels, 17th February, 1915.

The Governor General in Belgium,
Baron VON BISSING,
Colonel General.

Samsing, 6. März

Kölnische Zeitung

Erste Morgen-Ausgabe

1915 - Nr. 236

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Pädagogium zu Bad Pyrmont

Privat Realschule (Kl. VI-1) ertheilt Einjährigen-Zeugnis (bisier 664). Oster- u. Herbstversetzung. Gute Verpfl. u. Aufsicht (pe

Neuwied am Rhein

Zehnklassige höhere Mädchenschule u. Pensionat der evangel. Brüdergemeine.

H14) Prospekt durch den Direktor, H. Gammert.

Ueber Möbeltransporte

aus den Hauptorten nach Belgien nach Deutschland und Oesterreich Ungarn ertheilt Auskünfte u. Kostenanschläge Speditions & Lagerhaus Akt. Ges. Aachen.

Barackenbau.

(Vr)

Wir liefern Holzbaracken zur Unterbringung von Gefangenen für die Großindustrie und städt. Verwaltungen Kostenlose Angebote. Kürzeste Lieferfrist.

Wilh. Becher & Co., U.-Barmen.

I.—German notice communicated to a Belgian newspaper published by permission of the censor concerning the removal of machinery from Belgium to Germany.
II.—Advertisement of a transport agent residing at Aix-la-Chapelle concerning the removal of furniture to Belgium.

INDUSTRIAL RUIN.

“ An army of occupation can only take possession of cash, funds and realizable securities which are strictly the property of the State, depôts of arms, means of transport, stores and supplies, and, generally, all movable property of the State which may be used for operations of war.

“ All appliances, whether on land, at sea, or in the air, adapted for the transmission of news or for the transport of persons or goods apart from cases governed by maritime law, depôts of arms, and, generally, all kinds of war material may be seized, even though belonging to private persons, but they must be restored and indemnities for them regulated at the peace.”

Article 53 of the Hague Rules of War.

“ It appears from a complaint addressed to the Governor-General of Belgium by the Federation of Belgian Builders, dated 22nd January, that the *German authorities entered factories and announced their intention of taking possession of the machine tools* with which they were stocked. These machines were taken to pieces, and many were removed and sent to Germany without any document being given to the proprietor stating the nature, number and value of the tools seized. By the 21st January the value of the machines seized exceeded 16 million francs.

“ Moreover, by the terms of a *contract between the Royal Feldzeugmeisterei, of Berlin, and the firm of Sonnenthal, Junior, of Cologne*, the latter places itself at the disposal of the Feldzeugmeisterei, with a view to forward by the quickest route to the German factories which have received orders for ammunition, *the machines seized* in the invaded territory of Belgium and France. It undertakes also to return these machines after the war to the Belgian and French factories to which they belong.

“ The firm has the right and is under the obligation, with the assistance of the gun foundry of Liège, to set up in the factories of the territory under occupation machinery suitable for the manufacture of ammunition, and to advise as to the seizure of these machines.

“ The Royal Government indignantly protests against acts which are in flagrant violation of Article 53 of the Regulations annexed to the Fourth Hague Convention. The list contained in Article 53 is limited, and does not authorise either the seizure or the transport to another country of industrial machinery; such machinery should on all occasions be left untouched when it is *private property*. (Article 45.)

“ The removal of the machines neutralises the efforts of the manufacturers to maintain some activity at their factories, condemns numerous workmen to idleness and to starvation, and will have the result of retarding the recovery of trade after the war.

“ Finally, the German Authorities also systematically disregarded the terms of Article 52 of the above-mentioned rules, under which requisitions in kind cannot be levied on communes or inhabitants except for the needs of the army of occupation.

“ I may mention by way of example :—

“ (a) Advertisements in the German newspapers of sales to German farmers of *stallions, mares and foals* requisitioned in Belgium ;

“ (b) *The despatch to Germany and on the Russian front of wines* taken from private persons.

“ (c) The systematic felling of walnut trees, which are sent into Germany to be used for rifle stocks ;

“ (d) The seizure and transport to Germany of *raw materials* belonging to private persons, such as cotton, hemp, india-rubber, wool, nickel, copper or leather, the value of which amounts to tens of millions of francs ;

“ (e) The requisition in the suburbs of Jodoigne and in the district of Geer of 130 oxen and a large number of pigs, which were forwarded to Germany.

“ These illegal requisitions are all the more reprehensible in that they affect a population already ruined by the War, and deprive it of provisions absolutely indispensable to its subsistence.”

Protest of the Belgian Government addressed to neutral countries.

AVIS

Par ordre de l'autorité allemande, il est prescrit :

1° AUX MARCHANDS DE VIN ;

2° A TOUS LES HABITANTS DE CHARLEROI ET DE L'ARRONDISSEMENT DE CHARLEROI de dresser la liste de tous les vins qu'ils ont en cave, en indiquant le nombre des fûts et des bouteilles, et les différents crus. CES LISTES DOIVENT ÊTRE REMISES A L'HOTEL DE VILLE, PLACE CHARLES II, AVANT MARDI 24 COURANT.

Ces vins ne peuvent plus, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, être enlevés des caves des propriétaires. Ils doivent être réservés en vue de la consommation éventuelle de l'armée de campagne et serontquisitionnés contre paiement, d'abord chez les négociants, puis chez les habitants.

Celui qui ne donnera pas une déclaration exacte avant la date précitée aura son vin confisqué.

Charleroi, le 18 Novembre 1914.

Der Kreishauptmann
VON DIEST
Oberst

6778 - Imp Ancremanne et Warlus, rue Palasant, Jamb.

Translation,

NOTICE.

BY ORDER OF THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES IT IS REQUIRED :—

(1) OF WINE MERCHANTS ;

(2) OF ALL THE INHABITANTS OF CHARLEROI AND OF THE DISTRICT OF CHARLEROI

to draw up a list of all the wines they have in their cellars, showing the number of barrels and bottles and the different vintages. THESE LISTS MUST BE DEPOSITED AT THE HOTEL DE VILLE, PLACE CHARLES II, BEFORE TUESDAY, 24TH INSTANT.

These wines must not, until further order, be removed from the cellars of the proprietors. They must be preserved with a view to their possible consumption by the army in the field, and will be requisitioned against payment, first, from the merchants, and afterwards from the inhabitants.

Wine belonging to anyone who does not make an exact statement before the above-mentioned date, will be confiscated.

Charleroi, 18th November 1914.

Der Kreishauptmann
VON DIEST
Oberst.

Notice posted at Charleroi on the 18th November, 1914.

“ SEIZURE ” OF RAW MATERIALS.

	Francs.
“ Grain	18,000,000
Linseed... ..	2,450,000
Oil Cakes	5,000,000
Nitrates... ..	4,000,000
Animal and Vegetable oils	6,000,000
Petrol and Mineral oils	3,000,000
Cotton stuffs	1,300,000
India Rubber	10,000,000
Leather goods imported from abroad	20,000,000
Hair	1,150,000
Ivory	451,000
Wood	500,000
Cocoas	2,000,000
Wines	1,100,000
Rice	2,000,000
Coffee	275,000

“ Further, the whole stock of coffee, representing a value of 50 to 65 millions of francs, is held up by the German authorities.”

Approximate value of goods seized at Antwerp by the German Authorities.
(Report of the President of the Chamber of Commerce.)

“ The greater part of the merchandise seized was removed and transported to Germany *without any assessment*. Part of it was carried away in motor vehicles without any vouchers being given of its requisition. After numerous steps had been taken the traders who were the victims of these proceedings succeeded in obtaining vouchers for the various quantities removed.

“ The situation has since been still further aggravated by the seizure of the stores of wood warehoused at Antwerp.

“ The German Authorities have lately sent the following notice to Wood Merchants :

“ Whatever is in your possession either on your own account or on the account of others in the way of pine joists of 5 to 9 centimetres, as broad as possible and at least 4 metres long, or pine planks, also as broad as possible and not less than 4 metres in length by about 218 centimetres in thickness, are seized or requisitioned by the German Army Department and will shortly be exported to Germany.

“ You are responsible for the preservation warranty or insurance of the goods. The price will be fixed hereafter by the War Office at Berlin.”

“ Seizures of the same nature were made in all the industrial centres of the country. Everywhere raw materials have been carried away or are held up with a view to their being used to assist German trade.

“ In certain localities the Germans have gone still farther and compelled the manufacturers under threat or confiscation to prepare the raw materials requisitioned. Thus, MM. Cornesse Bros, Tanners at Stavelot, were informed that the German Authorities would remove the skins of their manufacture and compel them to cure 300 skins per month for export to Berlin.

“ On the 17th March MM. Cornesse addressed the following protest to the German Governor general at Brussels, and to the Minister of War at Berlin :

“ The German Military Authority has just decided that tan hides of our manufacture will be removed by them and exported to Berlin where the price would be definitely fixed by a Commission appointed by the Minister of War.

“ We can but protest against this seizure which is directly contrary to the international Convention drawn up at the Hague, especially as these hides are taken from us in order to be exported to Germany and worked in that Country.”

Extract from the 13th report of the Committee of Inquiry.

Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt

für die okkupierten Gebiete Belgiens.

Wet- en Verordningsblad voor de bezette streken van België.

Bulletin officiel des Lois et Arrêtés pour le territoire belge occupé.

BRÜSSEL

N° 27.

4. JANUAR 1915.

BEFEHL.

Der belgische Bevölkerung wird hierdurch eine Kriegskontribution in Höhe von monatlich 40 Millionen Franks für die Dauer eines Jahres auferlegt.

Die Verpflichtung zur Zahlung liegt den neun Provinzen ob, die für die geschuldeten Beträge als Gesamtschuldner haften.

Die Zahlung der ersten beiden Raten hat spätestens bis 15. Januar 1915, die der folgenden jeweils spätestens bis 10. eines jeden Monats an die Feldkriegskasse des Kaiserlichen Generalgouvernements in Brüssel zu erfolgen.

Werden zur Beschaffung von Zahlungsmitteln seitens der Provinzen Schuldurkunden zugestellt, so bestimmt deren Form und Inhalt der Kaiserliche Generalkommissar für die Banken in Belgien.

Brüssel, den 10. Dezember 1914.

Der Generalgouverneur in Belgien,
Freiherr von Bissing.

BEVEL.

Aan de bevolking van België wordt hierdoor eene oorlogschetting van maandelijks 40 miljoen franken opgelegd, voor den duur van één jaar.

De verplichting tot betaling is aan de negen provinciën opgelegd, die daarvoor solidair aansprakelijk zijn.

De betaling der twee eerste aandeelbedragen moet gedaan worden ten laatste tot den 15^{en} Januari 1915, de betaling der volgende aandeelbedragen ieder ten laatste tot den 10^{en} van iedere maand, aan de veldoorlogskas van het Keizerlijk General-Gouvernement in Brussel.

Indien door de provinciën schuldbekentnissen worden opgemaakt ten einde betalingsmiddelen te verschaffen, worden de vorm en de inhoud van deze schuldbekentnissen bepaald door den Keizerlijken Commissaris Generaal voor de Banken in België.

Brussel, den 10^{en} December 1914

De Gouverneur Céntral in België,
Baron von Bissing.

ORDRE

Il est imposé à la population de Belgique une contribution de guerre s'élevant à 40 millions de francs à payer mensuellement pendant la durée d'une année.

Le paiement de ces montants est à la charge des neuf provinces, qui en sont tenues comme débitrices solidaires.

Les deux premières mensualités sont à réaliser au plus tard le 15 janvier 1915, les mensualités suivantes au plus tard le 10 de chaque mois suivant à la caisse de l'armée en campagne du Gouvernement Général Impérial à Bruxelles.

Dans le cas où les provinces devraient recourir à l'émission d'obligations à l'effet de se procurer les fonds nécessaires, la forme et la teneur de ces titres seront déterminées par le Commissaire Général Impérial pour les banques en Belgique.

Bruxelles, le 10^{en} décembre 1914.

Le Gouverneur général en Belgique,
Baron von Bissing.

(Translation.)

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF LAWS AND REGULATIONS FOR THE BELGIAN TERRITORY UNDER OCCUPATION.

BY ORDER.

A war contribution of 40,000,000 francs is imposed upon the population of Belgium to be paid monthly during one year. The nine provinces will be responsible for this amount and will be held jointly liable for its payment.

The two first monthly payments must be made not later than the 15th of January, 1915. The following payments not later than the 10th of each following month at the Treasury of the Army in the field and the Imperial General Government at Brussels.

Should the provinces be compelled to have recourse to the issue of obligations in order to procure the necessary funds the form and tenor of this stock will be determined by the Imperial Commissioner General, as regards the banks in Belgium. Brussels, 10th December, 1914.

Governor General in Belgium,
Baron Von Bissing.

Page of the *Moniteur belge* (under the control of the Germans) containing an order imposing on Belgium a war contribution of 40,000,000 francs to be paid monthly.

Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt

für die okkupierten Gebiete Belgiens.

Wet- en Verordnungsblad voor de bezette streken van België.

Bulletin officiel des Lois et Arrêtés pour le territoire belge occupé.

BRUSSEL.

N° 33.

19. JANUAR 1915.

VERORDNUNG

Art. 1. Die für das Jahr 1914 zur staatlichen Personalsteuer veranlagten Belgier, die in der Zeit nach Ausbruch des Krieges freiwillig ihren Wohnsitz verlassen und sich länger als zwei Monate ausserhalb Belgiens aufgehalten haben, haben einen ausserordentlichen Steuerzuschlag in Höhe des Zehnfachen der vorbezeichneten Steuer einschliesslich der Staatszuschläge zu entrichten, falls sie nicht bis zum 1. März 1915 in Belgien wieder ihren Wohnsitz nehmen.

Als ausserhalb Belgiens aufhaltsam wird bis zum Beweise des Gegenteils jeder Steuerpflichtige angesehen, der sich nicht an seinem belgischen Wohnsitz aufgehalten hat oder aufhält.

Art. 2. Artikel 1 findet keine Anwendung auf Steuerpflichtige, bei denen der Betrag der vorgenannten für 1914 rollenmässig veranlagten Steuer einschliesslich der Staatszuschläge nicht höher ist als :

35 Fr.	in Gemeinden	bis 10000	Einwohnern :
45 Fr.	„	von 10000 bis 23000	Einwohnern :
60 Fr.	„	von 23000 bis 50000	„
80 Fr.	„	von 50000 bis 75000	„
100 Fr.	„	von mehr als 75000	„

Der Verwaltungschef bei dem Generalgouverneur wird ermächtigt, aus Billigkeitsgründen Befreiung von dem Steuerzuschlag zu gewähren.

Art. 3. Vom Steueraufkommen erhält die Hälfte das Generalgouvernement in Belgien zur Deckung der Kosten der Verwaltung des besetzten Gebiets gemäss Artikel 48 und 49 der Haager Landkriegsordnung; die andere Hälfte erhält die Gemeinde, in der der Steuerpflichtige zu der in Artikel 1 bezeichneten Steuer für 1914 veranlagt ist.

Art. 4. Die Steuer ist spätestens am 15. April 1915 fällig und nach Ablauf dieses Tages im Zwangswege beizutreiben.

Art. 5. Auf gleichen oder ähnlichen Voraussetzungen (Artikel 1) beruhende kommunale Sondersteuerordnungen werden hiermit aufgehoben und dürfen künftig nicht erlassen werden.

Art. 6. Diese Verordnung tritt sofort in Kraft. Der Verwaltungschef bei dem Generalgouverneur in Belgien wird mit ihrer Ausführung betraut.

Brüssel, den 16. Januar 1915.

Der Generalgouverneur in Belgien,
Freiherr von Bissing,
Generaloberst.

VERORDENING

Art. 1. De gedurende het jaar 1914 voor de personeele bijdragen voor den Staat aangeslagen Belgen, die na het uitbreken van den oorlog vrijwillig hun woonplaats verlaten en zich langer dan twee maanden buiten België opgehouden hebben, zullen een buitengewonen belastingbijslag ten bedrage van het tienvoud der vermeldte belasting, die staatsbijslag inbegrepen, te betalen hebben, in geval zij niet vóór 1^o Maart 1915 zich weder in België huisseten.

Als buiten België verblijvend wordt, zoolang niet het tegendeel bewezen wordt, elk belastingsschuldige beschouwd, die zich niet in zijne Belgische woonplaats opgehouden heeft of ophoudt.



Bernard Partridge.

The Kaiser : " You see you have lost everything."

The King of the Belgians : " Not my soul."

(Reproduced by special permission of the Proprietors of Punch.)

The country that did not sell her soul.

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