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KINGDOM OF SERBIA

USTRO-HUNGARIAN ATROCITIES

REPORT

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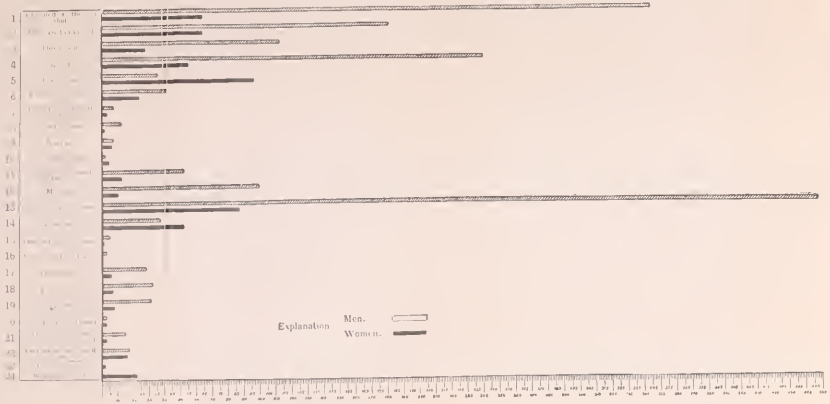
R.A.REISS, D.Sc.

TABLE I

ENQUIRY CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR R. A. REISS INTO AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ATROCITIES IN SERBIA, 1914.

STATISTICS OF ATROCITIES.

Districts of Petchenie, of Matchwa, of the Yadar, and several Communes



[Frontispiece

THE KINGDOM OF SERBIA

REPORT

UPON THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY DURING THE FIRST INVASION OF SERBIA

SUBMITTED TO THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT

BY

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ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY F. S. COPELAND

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PREFACE

The barbarous methods of warfare and the cruelties towards the civil population of an invaded country, such as have been practised by the German Army in Belgium, have been faithfully imitated by her Austrian ally in Serbia. The present investigations and report of a distinguished man of science (who furthermore is a neutral) actually prove that the "charming Austrian people" and "the proud and gallant Magyar race" have had the doubtful honour of surpassing, if possible, their Prussian friends in bestiality.

The material for the report was collected on the spot by Professor Reiss during the months of September, October, and November 1914. It is incomplete, owing to the fact that at the time a large part of Serbia was still occupied by the enemy, and in that part it was impossible to proceed with an enquiry. Besides, many civilians having fled from the devastated regions, it was impossible to correctly establish the number of the victims. For these reasons the damage done by the first Austro-Hungarian invasion is far more considerable, and the number of the victims greater, than is indicated in this report.

Nevertheless, and in spite of this, Professor Reiss's report constitutes a most valuable piece

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of evidence in the history of the criminal side of the European War, as it contains facts verified on the spot, shortly after the evacuation of the invaded territory by the Austro-Hungarians, and collated by an expert accustomed to the methods of modern technical enquiry.

This report (of which extracts have been previously published by the author in the *Gazette de Lausanne* and in pamphlet form) was submitted to the Royal Serbian Government in April 1915, but well-known events have delayed the publication up to the present. In order to preserve the documentary character of the report, the undersigned editor has strictly adhered to the author's original text, but he has been obliged to suppress the names of certain witnesses who are at present interned in Austria and Germany, in order to spare them unpleasantness on the part of the Austrian authorities. For the same reason he has substituted for the names of Austrian prisoners numbers to correspond to the names in the original report placed in the hands of the Prime Minister of Serbia.

Further, the undersigned is responsible for the English spelling of the Serbian names of persons and places, as well as for the correction of the proofs of this edition.

VOYSLAV M. YOVANOVITCH,
Serbian War Press Bureau.

20, Lancaster Gate, W.
June, 1916.

To His Excellency

The Prime Minister of Serbia

You have done me the honour of charging me with making an enquiry into the cruelties and atrocities perpetrated by the Austro-Hungarian Army during its first invasion of Serbia. I collected as much information on the subject during the course of my stay in Serbia, during the months of September, October, and November 1914, as was possible under the circumstances. Thus I interrogated a great number of Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war, and hundreds of eye-witnesses of the atrocities; I examined and interrogated the wounded, I investigated Austrian cartridges forbidden by the laws and regulations of war, etc. Moreover, I travelled through a large part of the Serbian territory which had been invaded by the Austro-Hungarians, and there proceeded to make a technical enquiry in due form. This local enquiry enabled me to verify the depositions of the witnesses by important corroborative evidence. On my visit to these districts I was accompanied by Monsieur Lazitch, Prefect of Shabatz, and Monsieur Barlovatz, formerly Consul-General for Serbia in Paris. In this manner the following localities were visited: Belgrade, Shabatz, Lipolist, Petkovitza, Ribare, Prnjavor, Tchokeshina, Novo Selo,

Leshnitza, Donji Dobritch, Yadranska-Leshnitza, Loznitza, Breziak, Yarebitze, Zavlaka, Likodra, Krupanj, Bela Tzrkva, and Petzka.

For my collation of facts I have drawn equally upon the military and the civil documents that your authorities kindly placed at my disposal. As these documents are known to you, and always at your disposal, I shall only make use of a few of them in this report, viz., of such as are necessary for the deduction of my results.

I have divided my report in the following manner:

1. Explosive bullets and dum-dum bullets.
2. Bombardment of open towns and the destruction of buildings.
3. Massacres of Serbian prisoners and wounded.
4. Massacres of civilians.
5. Pillage and destruction of house property.
6. Review of the causes of the massacres.

In each chapter I shall quote the evidence obtained, together with the names of the witnesses, and shall add my personal remarks. I shall conclude my report by a special chapter on the treatment of the Austrian prisoners on your territory, according to depositions made by the prisoners themselves, and my own personal observation.

I have the honour to be

Your Excellency's

Obedient servant,

R. A. REISS,

Professor at the University of Lausanne.

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REPORT UPON THE ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ARMY DURING THE FIRST INVASION OF SERBIA

I

EXPLOSIVE BULLETS

After the defeat of the Austrians on the Yadar and the Tzer, your soldiers returning from the front related that when the enemy attacked them with rifle-fire, one could hear two detonations, viz.: the sharp crack when the bullet left the rifle, and a second detonation, which sometimes seemed to take place *behind*, and sometimes in *front* of them. The solution of the mystery was soon found. In the cartridge-pouches of the Austrian prisoners of war were found cartridges outwardly similar to ordinary cartridges in every respect except for a black or red band round the cartridge-case close to the rim. On opening these bullets it was proved that they were genuine explosive bullets, forbidden by the rules and conventions of war.

Subsequently your army not only found such cartridges in the possession of its prisoners, but seized whole ammunition-cases full of them. Besides this, machine-gun belts were found, filled entirely with cartridges containing explosive bullets. Other machine-gun belts were filled as follows:— first 15 cartridges containing explosive bullets, then

10 ordinary cartridges, then again 2 explosive, followed by 10 ordinary, and so forth.

These cartridges are put up in cardboard boxes, similar to the ordinary cardboard boxes used in the Austrian army for holding 10 cartridges (two clips of 5). The labels on these boxes bear the printed designation "Einschusspatronen" (Sighting cartridges). These bullets come from the State factory at Wellersdorf near Vienna. The Austrian Eagle is conspicuous on the base of the cartridge case.

As we have said already, the exterior of these cartridges is absolutely similar to that of ordinary cartridges, only about 3 cm. from the base they are marked with a black or red band. Moreover, the noses of some of these cartridges are normal, while others have a small flattened projection. The cartridges with normal noses contained bullets with copper casings, in the others the casing is of steel.

On opening the cartridge, the case is found to contain the normal charge of powder (see Plate 2). The casing of the bullet contains no lead except at the nose and at the base of the bullet. The forward part of the bullet, moreover, contains a tubular receiver cased in a thin sheet of lead. This is filled with a mixture, which the analysis made in the laboratory at Kraguievatz showed to be black powder compressed and mixed with a little aluminium (in the cartridges with steel-cased bullets), or a mixture of six parts of chlorate of potassium to four parts of sulphide of antimony (in the cartridges with copper-cased bullets). A priming of fulminate of mercury is placed at the bottom of the receiver. Behind this receiver lies a second one of steel (c), containing a

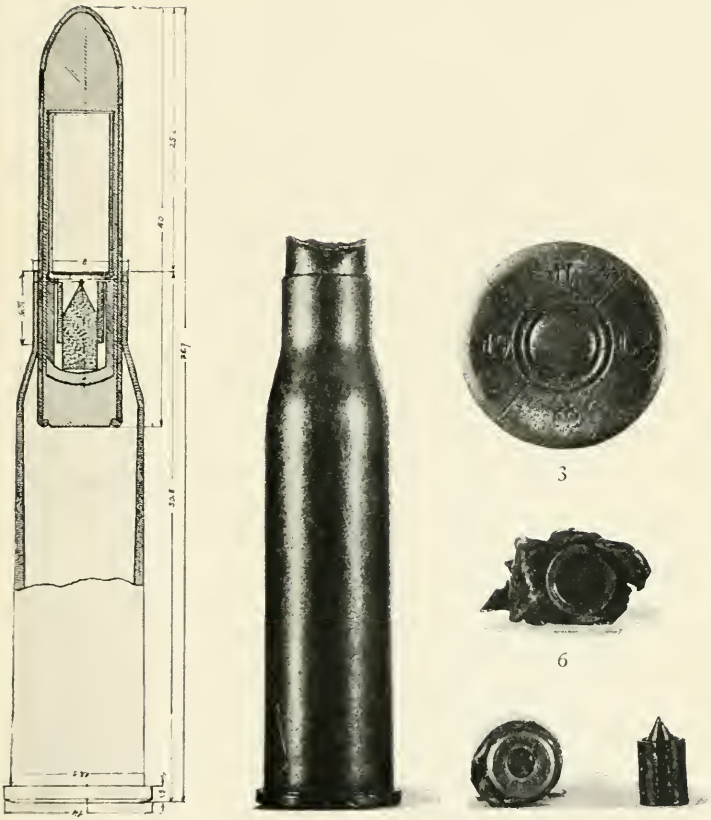
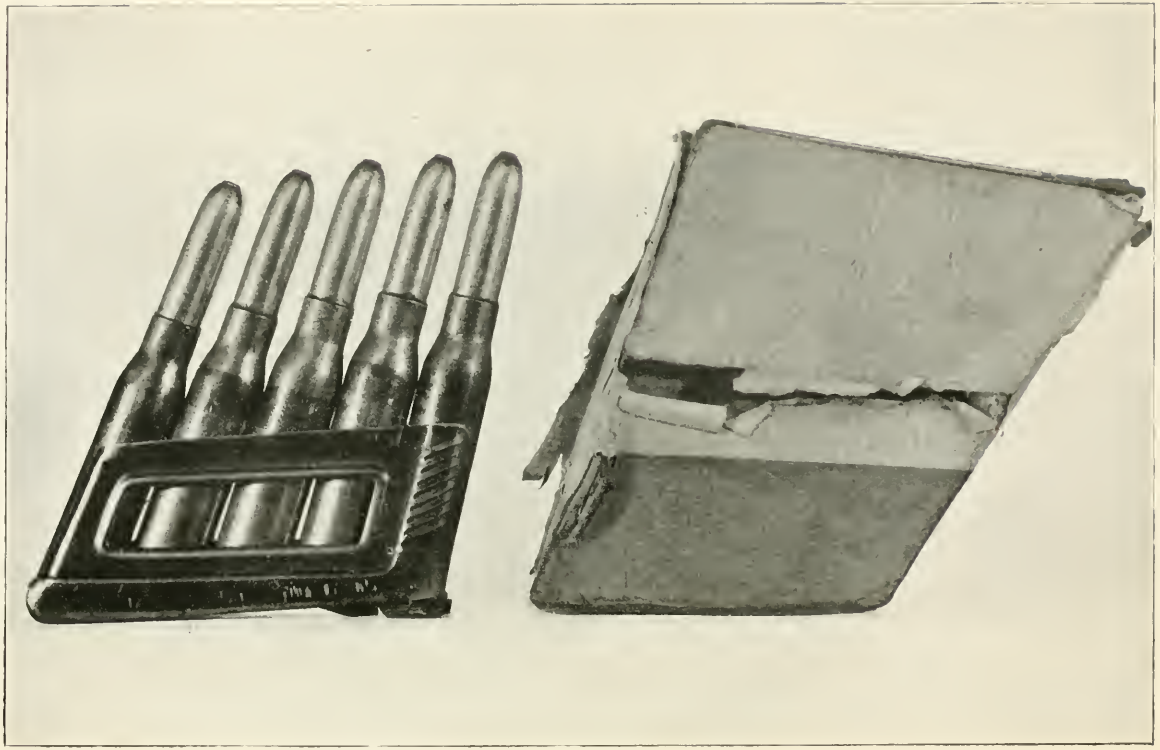


PLATE 2.—1. SKETCH OF A CARTRIDGE WITH EXPLOSIVE BULLETS; 2. CHAMBER FOR POWDER; 3. BASE OF THE CASE BEARING THE DATE 1912 AND THE AUSTRIAN EAGLE; 4. GUIDE TUBE; 5. STRIKER; 6. CHAMBERS FOR NOS. 4 AND 5.

[*Photo Reiss.*



[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 3.— MAGAZINE FILLED WITH CARTRIDGES CONTAINING EXPLOSIVE BULLETS. COVER OF THE SAME.

hollow brass slide-bar, into which is introduced a steel percussion-cap. If the bullet in its flight encounters an obstacle (bone, wood, etc.), the percussion-cap, being shot forward by the acquired velocity, strikes the priming, and thus causes the explosion of the powder and consequently of the bullet. According to the manner in which the slide-bar is regulated, *i.e.* according to whether it is more or less tightened, so that the percussion-cap has more or less free play, the explosion can be made to take place as soon as the bullet encounters the slightest obstacle, or even if its speed diminishes considerably.

This bullet therefore clearly presents all the features of an explosive bullet, such as has hitherto been employed only in hunting pachyderms.

These bullets have been used by the Austro-Hungarian troops in firing upon your soldiers. I have often had the opportunity of seeing the wounds caused by them, either in the hospitals, or even on the battlefields in the first line ambulances.

Usually in these wounds the orifice at the entrance of the bullet is small and normal. The orifice at the exit is huge, and the flesh, etc., often thrust outward in mushroom-form. The interior of the wound is lacerated and the bones encountered are broken in small fragments. The bullet, which explodes within the body, is shattered, and the fragments act like a charge of shrapnel. Finally there is the action of the gases which further enlarges the wound and breaks the bones. These wounds are therefore extremely serious. A limb struck by an explosive bullet has nearly always to

be amputated. A wound in the head or trunk of the body is almost inevitably fatal.

Ordinary bullets fired at a very close range may also cause a normal orifice where the bullet has entered and a very large orifice where it has left the body; but these wounds, of which I saw a fairly considerable number, do not possess an excavation channel as large as that produced by explosive bullets. We have, moreover, frequently found jagged fragments of the bullet in the interior of the wound. At the Russian hospital at Valievo, for instance, several such fragments were extracted from the leg of one of your soldiers (see Plate No. 4). There is therefore no doubt, but that Austrian explosive bullets were employed in firing on your soldiers.

Wounds caused by explosive bullets are even frequent in your army. Thus, in the 5th Reserve Hospital at Valievo, Dr. Major Ljubisha Vulovitch within nine days observed 117 cases of wounds caused by explosive bullets.

I wished to make personal observation of the effect of these bullets and therefore proceeded in the yard of the Artillery barracks at Valievo to experiment at the rifle-butts, firing the cartridges in question from an Austrian service rifle. When I fired at any hard object (a fairly hard wooden board, for instance), I observed that the orifice at the entry of the bullet was quite irregular. In fact, the explosion took place *in front* of the board and the jagged fragments of the bullet lacerated the wood. The photograph (see Plates 7 and 8) shows the normal entrance orifice of an ordinary

bullet (II) and that of an explosive bullet (I). The two shots were fired at the same range (about 20 yards from the board). The excavation channel of the explosive bullet is very jagged, and averages a circumference of 2·4 cm. by 1·2 cm. Its height, therefore, exceeds its width, and it is far more irregular than that caused by the ordinary bullet. It goes without saying that if the explosion had occurred within the board itself, the channel would have been very much larger still.

It was interesting to interrogate the Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war, as to what they knew about these "Einschusspatronen." I therefore proceeded to examine a great number of prisoners, and in the following pages I have quoted verbatim some of the answers I received.

No. 1, of the 26th Regiment, avers that he received 10 "Einschusspatronen" on the strength of being a good shot. They were permitted to fire them on patrol-duty in order to verify the range. They were forbidden to fire them at an isolated man, but permitted to do so at massed groups.

No. 2, of the 28th Regiment of the Line, states that good shots and non-commissioned officers were each given 10 "Einschusspatronen." They were the only bullets used for machine-guns.

No. 3, of the 28th Regiment.—Only squad-leaders were provided with a cardboard package containing 10 "Einschusspatronen." They were given orders to fire them only at night, because of the red light produced by these cartridges.

No. 4, of the 26th Regiment, states that all squads

were supplied with "Einschusspatronen," but that preference was given to good shots and non-commissioned officers. They were given orders to use them especially at a range of 1,000 metres. The officer in command, who was mounted, pointed out the effect of these bullets to him, saying, "See what these cartridges can do." Every one declared that they were wonderful bullets.

No. 5, of the 68th Regiment, asserts that he was given more "Einschusspatronen" bullets in Osiek.

No. 6, of the 28th Landwehr Infantry Regiment, medical student: "I have observed the effect of explosive bullets on the Serbian wounded. A wound in a foot had a huge orifice at the exit, and the inside of the foot was all torn and shattered. In another case, where the tibia had been fractured, the orifice at the entrance of the bullet was very small, but that at the exit was very large indeed, and the flesh torn away and lacerated." These were not the only cases he had seen; many others came under his notice.

No. 7, of the 28th Regiment, says that in his company every non-commissioned officer was supplied with 30 "Einschusspatronen," and that these bullets served to verify the range. He was not personally given the order to use them.

No. 8, of the 2nd Bosnian Regiment, deposes that his regiment was never given "Einschusspatronen" bullets. He knows that these cartridges were served out to the Austrian and Hungarian regiments, and they were served out especially to good shots.

No. 9, of the 26th Regiment. Having only been in the army for two months had had no "Einschuss"

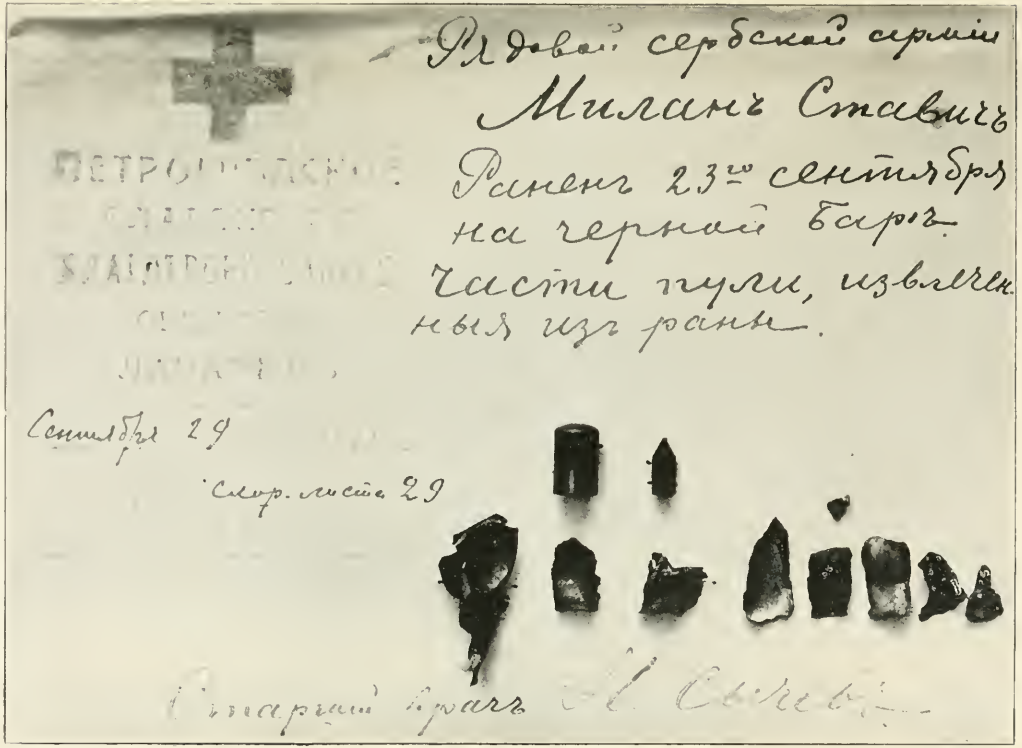
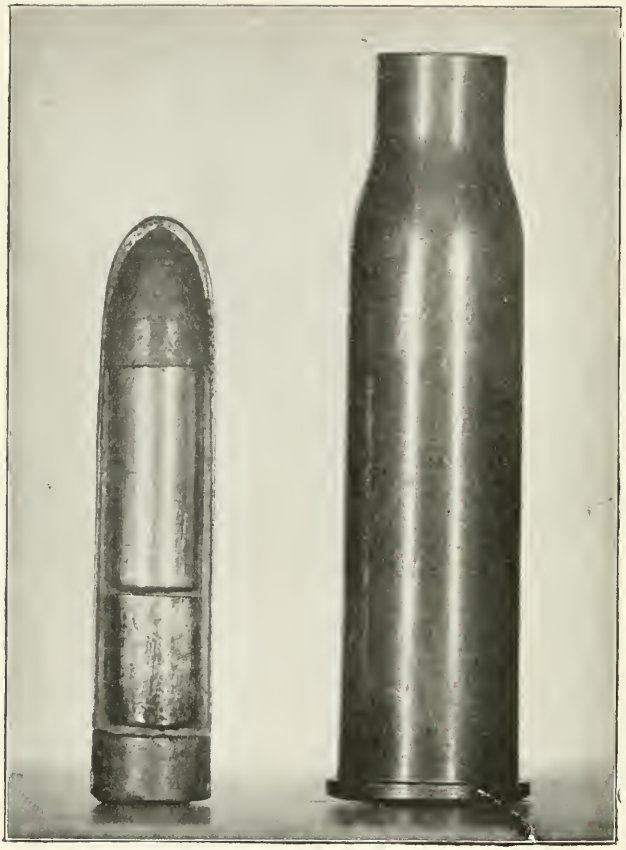


PLATE 4.—FRAGMENTS OF AN EXPLOSIVE BULLET EXTRACTED FROM THE WOUND OF A SERBIAN SOLDIER IN THE RUSSIAN HOSPITAL AT VALIEVO.



[*Photo*] *Reiss.*

PLATE 5.—SECTION OF AN AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN EXPLOSIVE CARTRIDGE.

bullets supplied to him: good shots were given from 10 to 20. The officers explained to them that these bullets exploded, and caused great laceration in the body of a man, inflicting very severe wounds.

No. 10, instructor of the 78th Regiment, was taken prisoner at Tzrni Vrh (Mount Gutchevo). One man in two or three was provided with "Einschusspatronen." His comrade was given 10. They were told that these bullets exploded, but they were not forbidden to use them. Witness No. 10 did not know that the wounds caused by these bullets were severe. He alleges that "Einschusspatronen" were used chiefly by the Germans and Croats of the Franck party (the Government party in Opposition to the Coalition parties).

No. 11, corporal in the 28th Landwehr Regiment. He was not given any "Einschusspatronen" as he was the butcher, and as such had not been in the firing line. But his comrades had spoken to him about them, and he had seen the bullets in their possession. Each of them had 20. Only corporals and squad-leaders were supplied with explosive bullets, but they were forbidden to fire them without special orders.

No. 12, 16th Infantry Regiment of Copreinz (Croatian), states that he was in the battle of the Tzer. Not before September 15th were "Einschusspatronen" given out by First Lieutenant Pertz. "Shooters" and "sharpshooters" were each supplied with 10 cartridges. According to Pertz' instructions, they were to be used when the soldiers were confronted with groups of soldiers or of Serb civilians. They were not to shoot with them until he gave

the signal to do so. Pertz had told them that they were explosive bullets. No. 12 had been given some along with the rest.

No. 13, of the 73rd Regiment, states that he saw only few Serb prisoners. The peasants and other inhabitants were carried off to Bosnia as prisoners. "Einschusspatronen" were served out to good shots. These cartridges raised more dust than ordinary bullets, and must only be used to fire at the ground.

No. 14, of the 73rd Regiment, was in Bosnia with the Reserve. He said that the soldiers of the army on active service were given from 5 to 10 explosive bullets. Not having been with the army on active service, he knew nothing of the effect of these "Einschusspatronen."

No. 15, of the 96th Regiment, states that the good shots were given 10, sometimes 20 explosive bullets, and were not allowed to use them without special orders. These cartridges were distinguished from ordinary ones by a black band.

No. 16, of the 78th Regiment, declares that all good shots were supplied with from 5 to 10 "Einschusspatronen." They were ordered to use them in firing upon the enemy. The officers explained to them that one of these bullets could kill two soldiers, and that they inflicted a large wound. Soon afterwards the soldiers were given the order to spare no one. It was Lieutenant Witze of 1st Marschbataillon (battalion on active service), 2nd Company, who explained the effect of these special bullets to the men. They were served out to the good shots in the Austrian army, but care was taken not to give any to soldiers of Serb extraction.

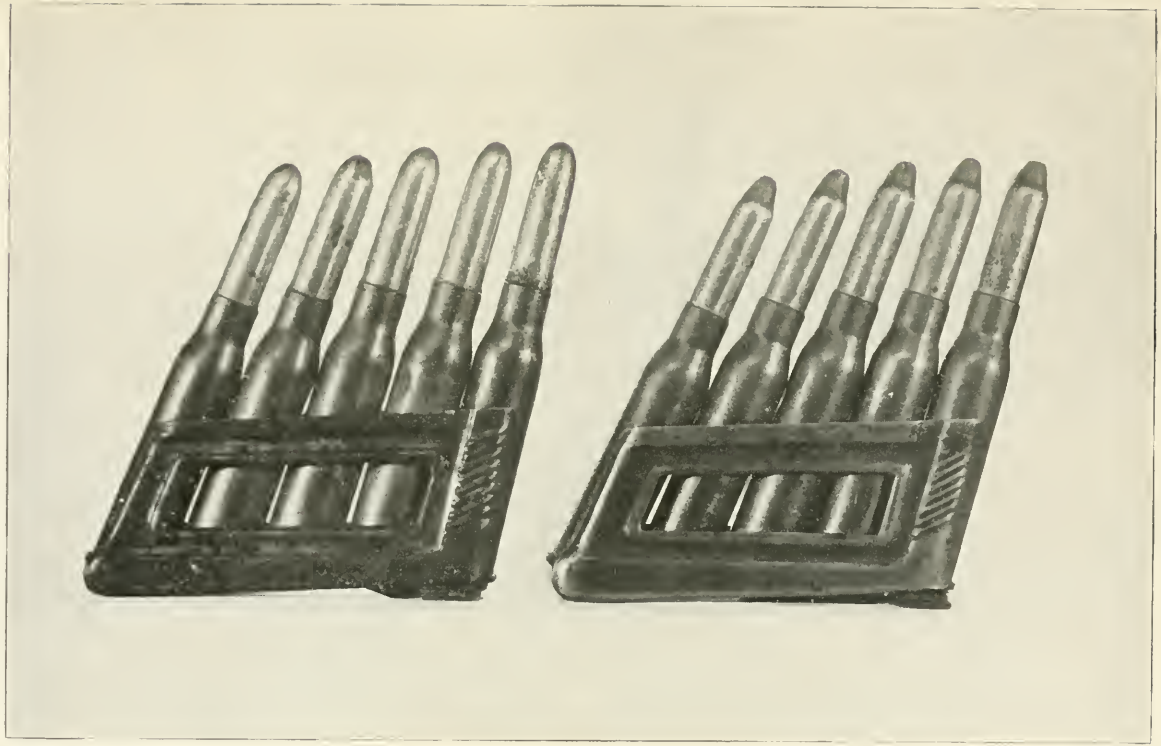


Photo Reiss.

PLATE 6.—ORDINARY AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN CARTRIDGES; EXPANDING CARTRIDGES (DUM-DUM), FOUND ON THE FIELDS OF BATTLE OF TZRNA BARA AND PARASHNITZA.

No. 17. Every good shot was given 10 "Einschusspatronen" bullets. On an average, 60 men in each company were in possession of these cartridges, but they were not allowed to waste them, and were obliged to be as economical with them as possible.

No. 18, of the 28th Regiment. Every corporal was supplied with 10 "Einschuss" bullets. Privates were given 5. They were forbidden to use them at night, "because it is impossible to distinguish between enemy soldiers and Austro-Hungarians." They were not forbidden to shoot at men with them.

No. 19, volunteer of the 8th Czech Regiment. According to him, no "Einschusspatronen" were served out in his regiment. He was taken prisoner in Bosnia without ever having been on Serbian territory.

No. 20, of the 79th Infantry Regiment. He knew the "Einschusspatronen." According to his statement they were supplied chiefly to good shots and non-commissioned officers. They were told by the corporals that these cartridges served to gauge the distance. He was in hospital for treatment at the time when the special cartridges were given out, and when he rejoined the regiment he was not given any "Einschusspatronen." His comrades told him that these cartridges contained explosive bullets, others alleged that the Montenegrins used them, and that that was the reason why the Austro-Hungarian army had also taken to using them.

No. 21, of the 27th (Hungarian) Regiment (10th Compagnie). Every other man was supplied with a box of 10 cartridges. Those who had them shared them with the others.

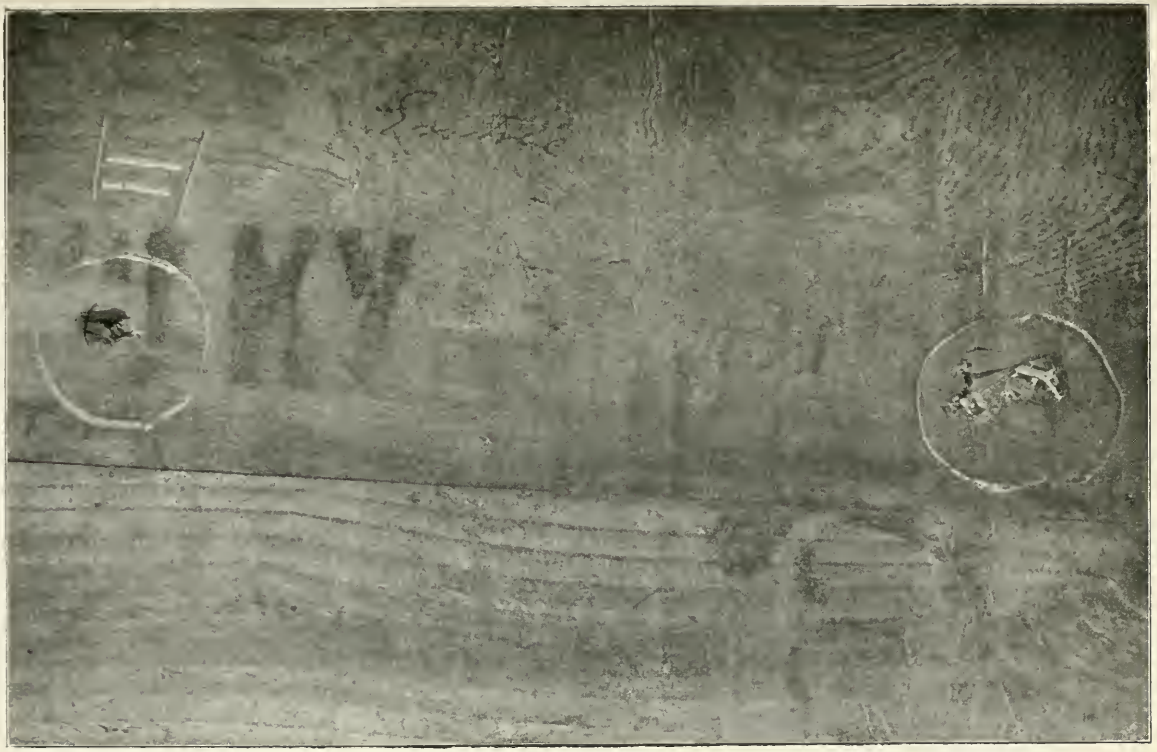
No. 22, non-commissioned officer in the 102nd Regiment, states that he knew that the "Einschuss-patronen" exploded, and that they threw up earth when they touched the ground. He had not studied them at the school for non-commissioned officers. His regiment, being Czech, was considered "not very reliable."

No. 23, physician, in the 96th Regiment of the Line, made the following deposition: "I know that the Austrian troops make use of explosive bullets. Our officers explain to the men that the Serbs use them likewise. No 'Einschusspatronen' were served out to my regiment."

No. 24, reservist of the 70th Regiment, states that the officers explained to them that these cartridges were intended to be used for gauging and verifying the distance, and that they were not used for any other purpose.

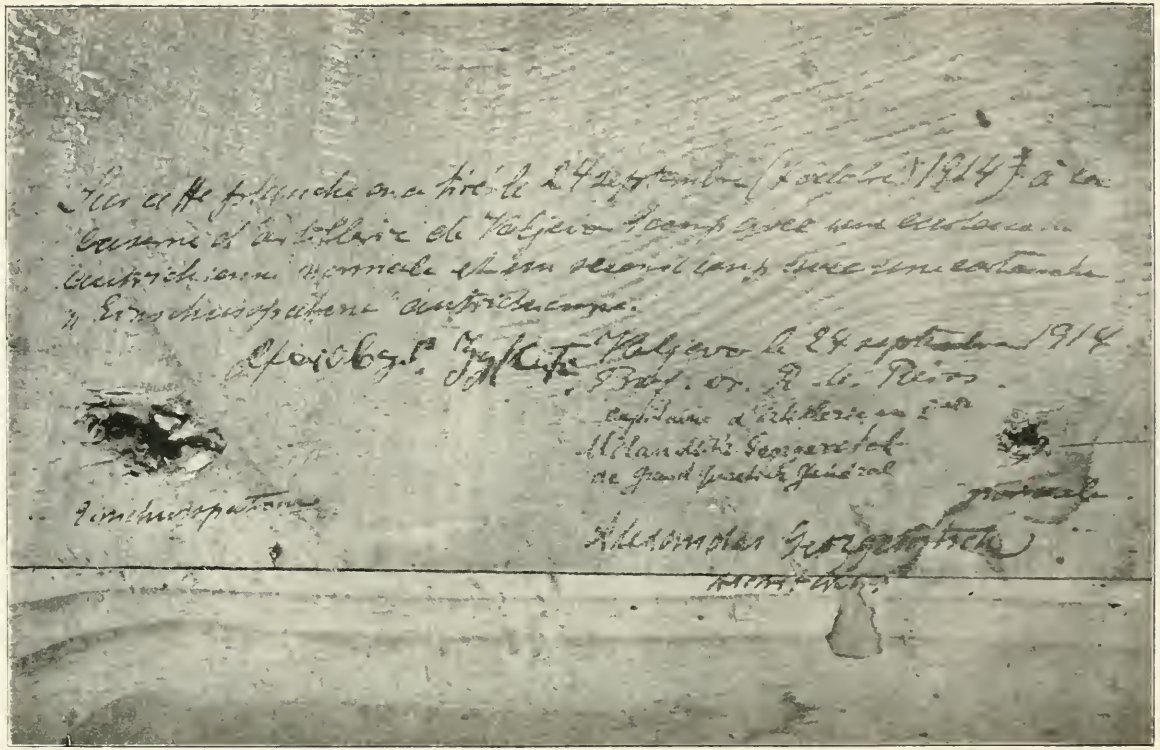
No. 25, corporal of the 28th Regiment. He was given 10 explosive bullets. All non-commissioned officers were supplied with them for verifying the range. They were given orders to fire at human beings with them. Lieutenant Jekete told them to use these cartridges only after having got the range, and only to fire in volleys.

No. 26, of the 28th Regiment, squad-leader, states that about 30 men of his company had been supplied with "Einschuss" bullets during the last battles. The best shots were given 20, the others 5 and 10. They were not allowed to use them without special orders. No officer had ever in time of peace explained to them that these bullets inflicted more serious wounds than those caused by



[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 7.—A WOODEN BOARD FIRED AT WITH AN ORDINARY BULLET (II) AND AN AUSTRIAN EXPLOSIVE BULLET (I).
The orifices of entry.



[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 8.—A WOODEN BOARD FIRED AT WITH AN ORDINARY BULLET (ON THE RIGHT) AND AN AUSTRIAN EXPLOSIVE BULLET (ON THE LEFT).

The orifices of exit.

ordinary cartridges, or that they were explosive. Finally they were told not to use them except by special order. On the island of Kuriatchitza the machine-gun companies were supplied exclusively with cartridges containing explosive bullets.

No. 27, of the 28th (Czech) Regiment, says that each squad (about 40 men) was supplied with a package of 10 "Einschuss" bullets. In the squad preference was given to the good shots. According to him, these bullets had been known only to the officers, who carefully kept the secret of them, and did not divulge the fact of their existence until during the war. "It is an officer's secret," he said. He heard them mentioned for the first time during the war.

No. 28, of the 1st Regiment, squad-leader. All he said was that the object of the "Einschusspatronen" is to gauge the distance.

No. 29, of the 1st Regiment, relates that he never had explosive bullets in his possession, but that he had heard them mentioned in time of peace, as being used for gauging the distance, because in exploding these cartridges give out a peculiar flame.

No. 30, hospital attendant in the 22nd Regiment, alleges that he knows very little about these bullets. He says he never saw any.

No. 31 says that the best shots in the regiment were given 5 "Einschusspatronen." He had never seen them before the war. The best shots always had to open the fire.

Nos. 32 and **33,** both "Einjährige Freiwillige" ("one-year-service volunteers"), assert that "Einschusspatronen" serve to verify the distance. An

officer, who is their uncle, had explained the theory to them. Machine-gun sections in particular were supplied with explosive bullets. About 600 of these cartridges were supplied to each company.

No. 34, of the 100th Regiment, declares that only non-commissioned officers were provided with from 10 to 20 "Einschusspatronen." Privates did not know these bullets. In time of peace these bullets are carefully locked up, and nobody sees them. Their use is kept exclusively for war. They are only given out to non-commissioned officers and good shots.

No. 35, infirmary sergeant in the 28th Landwehr Regiment, deposes: "Lieutenant Fischer or Trischler told me in presence of two other doctors that the Serbs brutally ill-used their prisoners by cutting off their noses, ears, the penis, etc. The lieutenant added, 'But I have got everything ready for these ruffians.'" When we asked him what it was he had prepared, he replied that he had converted 150 revolver-cartridges into dum-dum bullets. I expostulated with him, and said that one ought not to believe such rubbish, but Fischer answered me, that these things had been said and written by intelligent people, and that he, for his part, believed them. He ended by saying that he did not care a —— for "Kultur" and preferred his —— to a thousand Serb swine who deserved nothing better than dum-dum bullets.

No. 36, cadet in the Reserve, of the 102nd Infantry Regiment, was taken prisoner near Tzrna Bara. He alleges that he did not know of the existence of the "Einschusspatronen" before he came to Serbia.

He certainly heard such cartridges spoken of in his regiment, but he never saw any of the bullets in question. At the Military College they were not informed as to the use of these bullets.

From all these depositions it follows that:

(1)—Explosive bullets were employed in the 26th, 28th, 78th, 16th, 96th, 27th (Hungarian), and 100th Regiments.

(2)—The troops were not supplied with them until the middle of September, new style, that is to say, after the Austro-Hungarian defeat on the Yadar and the Tzer.

According to the information I received in Belgrade from General Zhivkovitch, the Austrians also made use of explosive bullets in the battle before Belgrade, on September 10th, old style, that is to say, after the defeat on the Yadar and the Tzer.

(3)—The privates did not know these bullets before the war. They are always locked up in time of peace, and their use is reserved exclusively for war according to the evidence of the soldier witness No. 34.

(4)—Some privates were told that they were cartridges for verifying the range.

(5)—To others it had been admitted that they were explosive bullets, and that the wounds they inflicted were serious.

(6)—Good shots and non-commissioned officers were supplied with from 5 to 20 cartridges containing explosive bullets.

The deposition of witness No. 4 is interesting. He says, practically, that they were given the order to use these bullets at a range of 1000 metres. Now,

at a range of 1000 metres, an ordinary bullet passes through the body like a trocar, and I have seen soldiers who have been seven times wounded at this distance, and still went on fighting. A single wound from an explosive bullet incapacitates a man from further fighting.

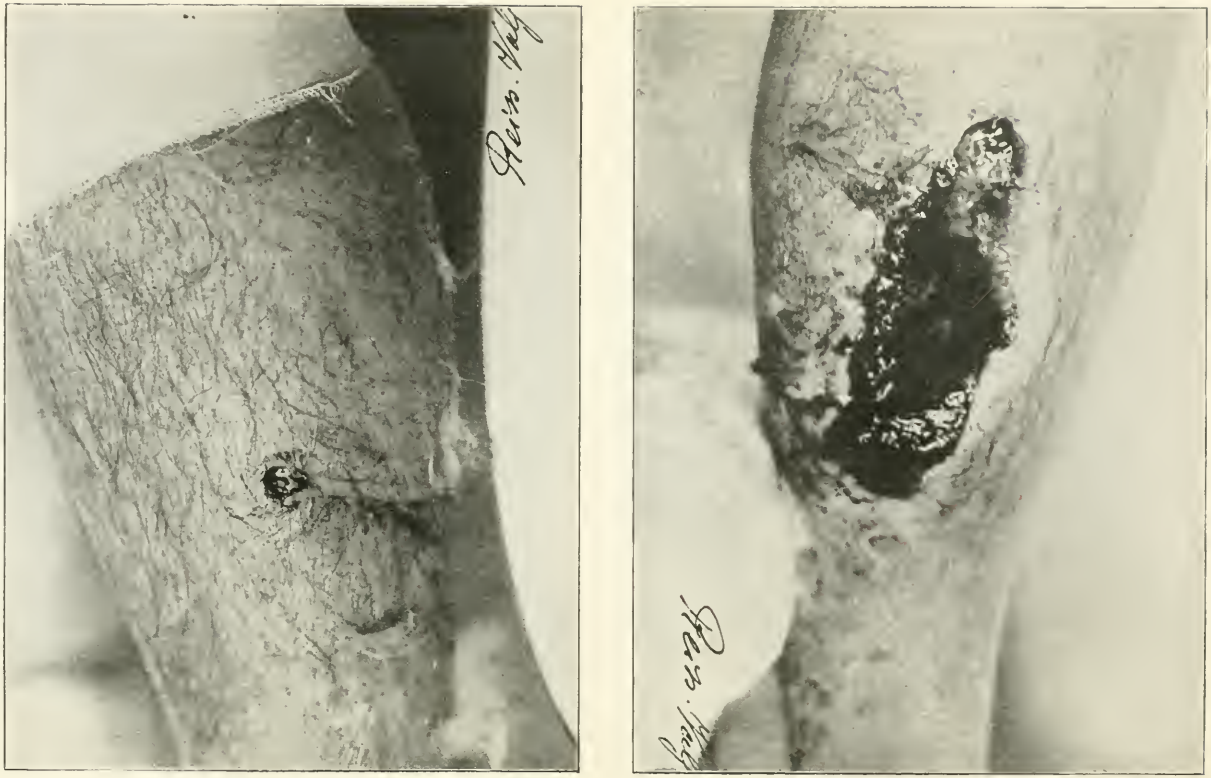
The announcement that the Austro-Hungarian army employed explosive bullets against your soldiers was at first met with a denial by the Austrians. Subsequently it was admitted that special cartridges had been used to verify the range. These "Einschusspatronen" (a Swiss invention, by the way, if I am not mistaken) were to make it possible for the men to get the range by a puff of smoke by day, and a jet of flame by night, both smoke and flame being produced by the explosion of the mixture of powder and aluminium in the receiver within the bullet.

I have shot with these cartridges and do not consider that they really possess any practical value for verifying the range by means of the smoke and flame. As regards the smoke, the quantity is relatively small, and not distinctly visible at long distance range. Moreover, as in the case of the explosive mixtures of aluminium and magnesium employed in photography, the smoke is at once driven to a more or less considerable altitude by the expansion of the gases, and the smoke cloud only forms at a more or less considerable distance from the place of explosion. It is therefore impossible that the smoke should indicate whether an object had really been hit or not. As regards the flame, it is plainly visible by night, but how is a man to

Photos Reiss.

PLATE 9.—WOUNDS CAUSED BY EXPLOSIVE BULLETS.

The orifices of exit (in the shape of a mushroom).



[*Photos Reiss.*

PLATE 10.—WOUND CAUSED BY AN EXPLOSIVE BULLET.

On the left the orifice of entry, on the right the orifice of exit.

judge whether the flame is produced upon the object he aimed at or not? Even in the case of a small persistent light, it is almost impossible to gauge the distance by night, because there is nothing by which to compare the distances. How is a man to realise a distance, when he has nothing to go by but an exceedingly transitory flash? Moreover, it is interesting to recall the deposition of No. 18 in this connection: The men were recommended not to use "Einschusspatronen" by night, because it was impossible to distinguish the Serbian soldiers from the Austro-Hungarian soldiers. Finally, if the bullet explodes in the human body, there is neither smoke nor flame to be seen. How is a man to verify the range in that case? Solely by seeing the fall of the body which has been definitely rendered incapable of further fighting by the severe wound inflicted? This "rendering incapable of further fighting" seems to be the true purpose of the Austrian "Einschusspatronen," for, as may be seen from the depositions of the Austro-Hungarian soldiers, they were not forbidden to fire with them upon the enemy; several witnesses even state that they were incited to do so, even while they were informed that these cartridges contained explosive bullets. How can one, moreover, explain the fact that these range-finding cartridges only became known during the course of the war, and even then only after the serious defeat of the Austro-Hungarians on the Yadar and the Tzer? Be all this as it may, the Austro-Hungarian "Einschusspatronen" is a cartridge containing an explosive bullet, and as such strictly forbidden by the

conventions. It is most saddening to be compelled to note that the numerous Peace Congresses, Hague Conventions, philanthropic and scientific congresses have led to nothing but to the utilisation in actual warfare of engines of death and torture more refined than those of the age of the Inquisition.

I have also observed that the Austro-Hungarian troops made use of expanding, so-called "dum-dum" bullets. In the hospitals at Valievo the army surgeons repeatedly pointed out cases to me, in which the wounds appeared to have been caused by dum-dum bullets. Thus fragments of a bullet which was apparently one of this type were extracted from a wound in the right thigh of Cavalry Commander Milivoie Yakovljevitch. But at the time I was still without proof positive that the Austro-Hungarians really employed expanding bullets, which are, however, far less dangerous than explosive bullets.

I was afforded this proof at Yadranska-Leshnitza, where Dr. Stanoie Milivoievitch, in command of the sanitary department at Yadranska-Leshnitza, forwarded to me an Austrian clip containing five dum-dum cartridges. These cartridges have been found in ammunition cases, and in great numbers upon the battlefields of Tzrna Bara and Parashnitza. They are dated 1914, and have obviously been turned out in a factory. The casing of the bullet is cut at a distance of about 5 millimetres from the nose permitting a cone of lead to project. Dr. Milivoievitch acknowledged the sending of the clip in a paper which is filed with the rest of my documents.

II

BOMBARDMENT OF OPEN TOWNS AND DESTRUCTION OF HOUSES

The bombardment of open towns likewise formed part of the programme of the Austro-Hungarian "punitive expedition." In this manner Belgrade, Shabatz, and Loznitza were bombarded. I visited these three towns during their bombardment and was able to make the following personal observations.

Belgrade. I was in Belgrade from the 2nd to the 4th October, 1914 (new style). At that date the Austrians had bombarded the town for 36 days and nights consecutively. I think nobody will attempt to dispute the fact that Belgrade is an open town, as the old Turkish fortress cannot pass muster as a modern fortification. It is an interesting historic monument and nothing more. This, however, by no means prevented the Austrians from copiously bombarding it. Moreover, this fortress is altogether separate from, and outside the town. During my enquiry I have been able to ascertain that the shells were aimed indiscriminately at private houses, public buildings and factories. At that time 640 private houses, and 60 State and Municipal buildings had been struck by projectiles. (By the end of July, 1915, the total number of buildings in Belgrade affected by the bombardment had reached 718.) Among the

buildings belonging to the State, the town and the Crown, which were affected by the bombardment, I have noted the University, the Serbian National Museum, the State Lottery Buildings, the railway station, the Government tobacco factory, the old Royal Palace, the Military Academy, the Officers' Casino, etc. Some of these buildings are only slightly injured. Thus the damage done to the Royal Palace is comparatively slight, but on the other hand the stables have been more seriously damaged. There was also comparatively little damage done to the Military Academy and the Officers' Casino. On the other hand, the National Museum is completely destroyed, and the University damaged to such an extent that it will be impossible to restore the building. The Government tobacco factory is entirely burnt, owing to the use of inflammatory shells—the so-called "fougasses"—by the Austrians. The Lottery Building has been severely damaged, and the Russian and English Legations were visited by Austrian shells although the Spanish and American flags were hoisted above them. Even the Austrian Consulate was struck by two shells.

Nor have the hospitals been spared. Thus the General State Hospital was bombarded on four occasions, and the residence of the director, the operating theatre of the surgical department which is in a special pavilion in the quadrangle, and the lunatic asylum were damaged.

As regards damage to private houses, a comparatively large number have been injured. Some are almost entirely destroyed, others have escaped with little damage.

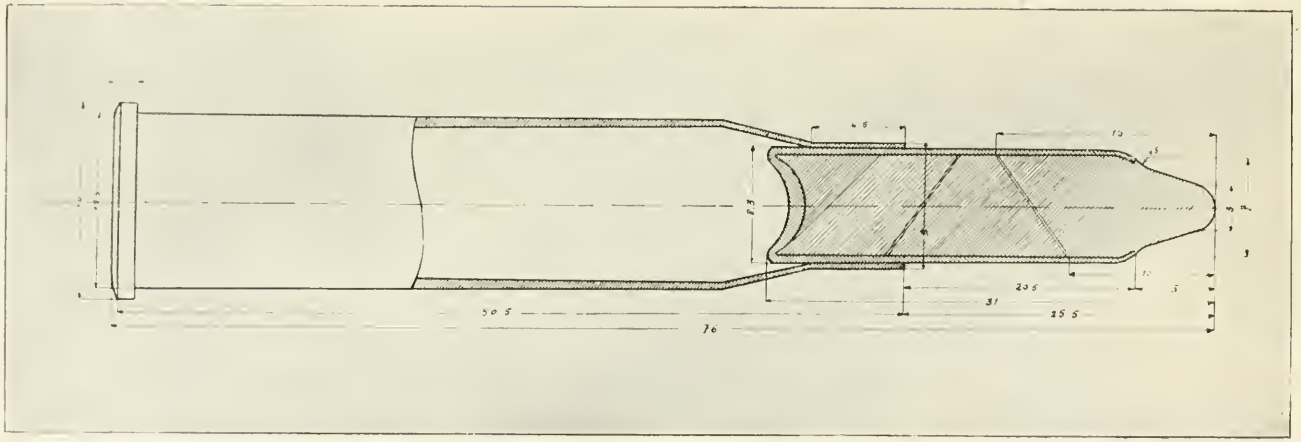


PLATE II.—SECTION OF AN AUSTRIAN EXPANDING CARTRIDGE (DUM-DUM).

See page 16.

PLATE 12.—BELGRADE: THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AFTER THE BOMBARDMENT.

I have investigated whether such private houses as have been damaged or destroyed by the bombardment were situated in close proximity to Public Buildings, which circumstances might, to a certain extent, explain why they had been struck. As a matter of fact this was not so in the case of the greater number of these houses. From this observation I am driven to conclude that the Austrians deliberately sought to destroy private houses.

I wish to draw attention to the fact that the University and the National Museum, etc., have been bombarded. Yet the Hague Convention of October 18th, 1907, which was signed by Austria-Hungary, contains the following stipulation :—

> "Article 27. In sieges and bombardments, "all necessary precautions must be taken to "spare, as far as possible, all buildings devoted "to the service of religion, the arts, science "and philanthropy; all historic monuments, "hospitals and places where sick and wounded "are congregated, so long as such places are "not at the same time serving some military "purpose."

In this case these buildings served no military purpose and were not in close proximity to any building whose destruction was rendered necessary by strategic considerations.

I have also, more or less everywhere, observed traces of shrapnel-bombardment; the University and University lecture halls in particular are riddled with shrapnel-bullets. I have secured a certain number of these as incriminating evidence, likewise

a piece of wood from a bench in the Physical Science lecture hall; the piece is perforated by shrapnel.

Among the different streets, private houses in the Raitcheva Ulitza and King Peter Street bear specially numerous traces of having been bombarded by shrapnel.

Now, in modern warfare, shrapnel is only used against enemy forces, never for the bombardment of towns, where one merely runs the risk of killing civilians. The employment of these engines of destruction therefore points to the conclusion that the Austro-Hungarians sought to strike at the civil population of Belgrade.

At the time of my enquiry, 25 civilians had been killed and 126 wounded by the bombardment; 37 of the latter had been struck by shrapnel and 89 by shells. By the end of July 1915, the casualties caused by the bombardment among the civil population of Belgrade amounted to 140 killed and 288 wounded; 75 of the casualties were due to shrapnel. The Austrians carried away 612 civilians from Belgrade as hostages.

Shabatz. I was in Shabatz from the 22nd to the 24th of October, new style. The town was still being bombarded by the Austrians. The centre of the town was almost entirely destroyed by ordinary shells and incendiary projectiles. The quarter of the town on the bank of the Save had likewise suffered severely, while the other quarters towards the open country had been less damaged. In all, 486 houses had been destroyed or damaged. Many houses were burnt, and during my stay in the town, the Austrians continually directed fou-

gasses towards the centre of the town although this was no longer sheltering soldiers. The exterior and the belfry of the Cathedral were badly damaged. The interior had suffered comparatively little. As will be shown in another chapter, the town of Shabatz was not only subjected to the effects of the bombardment but was sacked from end to end by the enemy troops which passed through it.

Loznitza. In Loznitza I observed the same rage for destruction, by which I had already been struck in Shabatz. When I was in Loznitza there were no military forces there, but nevertheless the Austrian artillery continued to bombard it. Here also I noticed the employment of fougasses. Many houses were completely burnt.

Incendiary projectiles were only used after the second occupation of the town by the Austrians. Two soldiers were burnt in an attempt to extinguish the fire caused in a house by one of these contrivances. After the conclusion of peace the town of Loznitza will have to be largely rebuilt.

Countless houses were set on fire by the soldiers of the army of invasion. Both in town and country, house property was destroyed by fire without any strategical necessity. At the time of my enquiry and in the four districts of the county of Shabatz alone, 1,658 buildings had been set on fire, viz.: 232 in the Potzerski district, 457 in the Matchvanski district, 228 in the Azbukovatchki district, and 741 in the Yadranski district. Almost all this house property consisted in country dwellings. As the result of these fires, 1,748

families in these four districts have been rendered destitute.

I made the following memorandum of the number of houses set on fire in some of the villages inspected by me:—In the village of Ribare, 50 houses, and more than 200 barns were burnt; in Prnjavor, 179 families lost their property through fire; in Novo Selo, 3 dwelling-houses and several barns were set on fire; in Leshnitza, 2 houses and several barns were subjected to the same fate; in Yarebitze, one house and many barns, stables and hayricks were set on fire; in Kostainik, 4 houses and 120 barns were burnt; in Bela Tzrkva, 3 houses became a prey of the flames; in Ljubovia, 135 families have had their houses, their barns, sheds or stables burnt, representing a minimum total value of 373,000 francs; in Selanatz, one house and about 15 barns were set on fire; in Azbukovitza, 39 families have suffered serious loss from having had their dwellings and barns set on fire; in Uzevnitza, 20 houses and many out-buildings suffered the same fate; at Donja Bukovitza, 9 houses and many out-buildings were set on fire; in Donje Koshlje, 12 dwelling-houses and 30 to 35 out-buildings were burnt, etc.

Proof, that this incendiarism was deliberately organised by the army of invasion, is afforded by the deposition of ——, Mayor of ——, in which he declares that the Austro-Hungarian soldiers were provided with small tin cans. With the contents of these tins they washed down the houses they desired to burn and set them on fire with matches. In other localities

I was given similar information. As a rule, all the peasants were amazed at the rapidity with which the fire took hold. It therefore seems to me beyond all doubt that the Austro-Hungarian army, looking upon incendiarism as a means of intimidating the population, had brought some special substance for the purpose of setting buildings on fire.

III

MASSACRES OF SOLDIERS TAKEN PRISONER OR WOUNDED

On frequent occasions the Austro-Hungarian army has been guilty of massacring Serbian soldiers who had been made prisoners or wounded. This fact has been confirmed to me by the evidence of Austrian prisoners, by the official reports of the Serbian military authorities, by the depositions of eye-witnesses, etc., and finally, by the documentary evidence of photographs taken on the spot.

The following depositions quoted were made by Austro-Hungarian prisoners:

No. 37, of the 28th Regiment of the Line, relates that not far from Krupanj a wounded Serbian was moaning under a tree, and an Austrian soldier of the 27th Regiment shot him with his revolver.

No. 38, of the 78th Regiment, states that von Bunić, a Croatian non-commissioned officer in the 16th Regiment, repeated to the others that a wounded Serbian officer had asked him for help. The non-commissioned officer said that he promised to call a doctor at once, but that instead of doing it he had killed the wounded officer.

No. 39, corporal of the 28th Landwehr Regiment, deposes that at Shabatz three Hungarian soldiers (1 squad-leader and 2 privates) brought in a Serbian

soldier, who had been taken prisoner, in order to shoot him.

No. 40, a Croat, of the 16th Infantry Regiment (Copreinz), states that, as a rule, the Serbian wounded were decently treated, at least by the men of his regiment. But the officers exasperated the men against them by telling them that the Serbs mutilated the wounded, cutting off their noses, ears, and the male organ. In *Preglavska Tzrkva*, witness saw 11 or 12 wounded Serbs who were calling for help. He and several others were going to their assistance, but a Lieutenant of the 37th Hungarian Regiment prevented them, threatening them with his revolver and sabre. The Hungarian soldiers butchered the Serbian wounded with knives and bayonets.

No. 41, of the 28th Infantry Regiment, declares that during the first invasion, the Austrian troops killed all the inhabitants and the wounded.

No. 42, squad-leader in the 28th Infantry Regiment, deposes that Lieutenant Müller of the 3rd Battalion, 9th Company of his Regiment gave orders to "finish off" the Serbian wounded, as he did not wish to be troubled with them.

No. 43, hospital sergeant in the 28th Landwehr Regiment, deposes that, after an engagement near Krupanj, he (witness) visited the battlefield, accompanied by two privates of the medical corps and found two wounded Serbian soldiers. He wanted to send them to the "Hülfsplatz" (dressing-station), but the Austrian soldiers refused to render them assistance, and a formal order was required to enforce their obedience. Witness accompanied the two wounded men. When they passed the 78th

Hungarian Regiment, the soldiers of that regiment struck the wounded men with their fists, and at one moment there was an absolute free fight, because the Hungarians wanted to "finish off" the wounded Serbians with bayonet-thrusts. Witness demanded help from the officers, who assisted him in transporting his charges to the ambulance.

It is only fair to add, in justice to certain Austrian officers, that several non-commissioned officers also advocated humane behaviour. Thus Captain *Wolfzettel*, of the 94th Regiment, bade his men give help to all the wounded, no matter what their nationality. He was killed by a bullet, which struck him full in the chest as he was himself attending to the wounded men of his company in the absence of the Red Cross.

Mladen Simitch, Serbian private, a native of Bobova, of the 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Company, 2nd Battalion, wounded at Kostainik, relates that he was in the trenches with many others, both wounded and killed. The Austrians killed off the wounded. He pretended to be dead, and succeeded in crawling to a place of safety. During his escape he was fired at by the Austrians.

The Officer in command of the 1st Serbian Infantry Regiment makes the following statement, under the date of October 13th, 1914, docket O. No. 280:

Near the river Shtipljan, the Austrians made prisoners of about 10 wounded men belonging to the 3rd Supernumerary Regiment. The wounds of the men were dressed. When the Austrians saw themselves obliged to relinquish the positions in conse-

quence of the attack of the 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Serbian Regiment, they shot the wounded, in order to prevent their being retaken alive by the Serbians. The men were found with their wounds dressed, but dead.

With a view to being as impartial as possible, I have also made enquiries as to whether cruelties have been perpetrated by your soldiers upon the Austrian prisoners and wounded. Generally speaking, the Austrian prisoners told me, they had no knowledge of cruelty on the part of the Serbian soldiers. Only one man told me that he had seen the corpse of an Austrian with uniform buttons forced into his eyes. He had been told that the Serbs had mutilated the corpse in this manner, but he did not see the culprits.

This deposition is not unlike the following:—

The Austrian witness, **No. 44,** of the 53rd Infantry Regt., deposes that before they crossed the frontier, a man in Austrian uniform, with his ears and forearms cut off, was led past the troops on horseback. The officers told them: "This is what is in store for you if you surrender." They moreover declared that the mutilated man was a Croat; but none of the soldiers present knew him.

In my opinion the cruelty involved in thus parading on horseback one of their own men mutilated in this fashion, precludes the possibility of his having been an Austrian. Is it not more likely that it was a Serbian soldier, mutilated after having been tricked out in an Austrian uniform, in order to strike terror into the hearts of the invading troops? As I shall presently show, the Austrian

officers spread the fable among their men, that your soldiers cut off the ears, noses and the male organ, and gouged out the eyes of their prisoners. Perhaps they sought to provide ocular demonstration at the expense of some unfortunate Serbian? This does not seem unlikely to me, all the more as, in reply to my articles (published previously in *La Gazette de Lausanne*), the Austrians always quoted the case of the two cavalrymen, said to have been mutilated in this fashion at Kupinovo by the Serbians.

Another accusation which appears in the articles "for the defence" by the Austro-Hungarians, is that only your troops were guilty of firing on ambulances. Not one of the numerous prisoners of war confirmed this accusation, but on the contrary, Witness **No. 45**, an Austrian physician, assured me that at Krupanj, the Austro-Hungarian troops fired upon their own Red Cross.

On the other hand, I know that your troops have everywhere respected places which they knew to contain wounded (dwelling-houses, etc.), and the buildings which served as ambulances. Thus the Austrian position at Batara included two houses about 600 metres distant from each other. One served as the officers' mess; the other was being used as an ambulance. The latter, however, did not fly the Red Cross flag. As soon as this fact was made known to the Serbs, your authorities sent round a circular, forbidding the bombardment of the flagless ambulance.

Some few prisoners have complained of having been robbed of the money they had in their pockets.

This assertion is probably true. But it is a thing that happens everywhere and, without wishing to make excuses for the thieves, I see an extenuating circumstance in the fact that many of your mobilised men have, for the last two years, been prevented from earning anything, and therefore yield to the temptation of pocketing the few francs which they find on their prisoners.

From my enquiry then, it follows that there have been massacres of Serbian prisoners and wounded. I need not relate here in detail what happened at Yovanovatz, where a large number of soldiers of the second levy, belonging to the 13th and 14th Regt. (Timok Division), who had surrendered to the Austrians, were massacred by the enemy. You know the facts of the case, and the official reports are in your hands; you have, moreover, an ocular proof of the crime in the photographs which were taken on the spot, and which will always bear witness against this act which is contrary to all the laws of warfare.

You also have in your possession the photograph taken on the 11th/24th of August, 1914, by Captain *J. Savitch*, and showing a young Serbian private, the skin of whose lower jaw had been torn off by the Austrians.

IV

MASSACRES AND ATROCITIES PERPETRATED ON CIVILIANS

I HAVE spared no effort in verifying the excesses committed by the Austro-Hungarian Army against the civil population in the invaded territory. In this endeavour I employed the following methods: Interrogation of Austro-Hungarian prisoners, interrogation of Serbian eye-witnesses, both civilian and military, the study of the Serbian official reports placed at my disposal by the military authorities, which reports I perused with a view to arriving at statistics, as well as the lists compiled by the civil authorities and obtained by me on the spot or forwarded to me by the said authorities, and finally, the personal inspection of the localities where the massacres and atrocities had been perpetrated.

Eye-witnesses were examined on the spot and in most cases they were my guides to the places where the outrages had taken place. Thus I was afforded the opportunity of verifying the truth of their statements by actual and personal inspection. Besides this I have been at pains by corroborative evidence to assure myself of the reliability of my witnesses and of the authenticity of the facts laid before me.

I have thought it advisable, although you are in

[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 13.—SHABATZ: AFTER THE BOMBARDMENT (OCTOBER 1914).

PLATE 14.—SOLDIERS OF THE 2ND LEVY KILLED AT YOVANOVATZ AFTER GIVING THEMSELVES UP AS PRISONERS (13TH AND 14TH REGTS.).

Photograph taken August 25th, 1914.

possession of the original documents, likewise to include copies of some of the military reports in this paper.

In most cases these reports agree with the information I was able to obtain elsewhere. Yet, I think that they are less reliable with regard to certain occurrences, than the evidence I have gathered from eye-witnesses. As a matter of fact, these reports were made from life, so to say, or, correctly speaking, directly after the excesses had been committed. It is an undeniable fact that at the time all minds were wrought up to a great pitch of excitement, and that since then the imagination has undergone the inevitable reaction, with the result that both such incidents as had been observed by the officers themselves, and such as had been reported to them by eye-witnesses, would bear a fuller investigation.

As regards the statements I have personally taken from eye-witnesses, I believe that I may safely assert that they represent the truth. First of all, the personal investigations I was in many cases able to make, confirm them entirely. Secondly, the minds of the witnesses, by far the most of whom are peasants, had calmed down since the time when the Austrians committed the atrocities. The danger of exaggeration from excitement, which is so natural in the first moment, was to a great extent eliminated. I also noted that the Serb peasants are very reserved indeed, and I am convinced that they are more inclined to say too little than too much. Finally, misfortune has depressed them to such an extent (without however depriving

them of their courage in fighting the enemy) that they have almost come to accept the evils that have fallen upon them as natural and inevitable. This is a state of mind which does not predispose to exaggeration. Thus the number of the wounded, which I adduce in the statistical notes at the foot of the chapter, certainly falls far below the actual number, because the great majority of the victims did not report their case to the authorities. I have had proof of this fact in many localities, where I asked for the number of the wounded. The mayor or his deputy would give me a figure which my personal inquiry proved to be too small by far. Thus, at Lipolist the mayor gave the number of the wounded as 5. Within one hour's search through the village, I had found 17, and I am certain that there were even more. It is also to be noted that even where official lists of the killed and wounded have been drawn up, the number of the victims does not seem to be absolutely fixed; in other words, I think there are many more victims than appear in the lists.

I have also endeavoured to ascertain the number of the cases of rape committed by the army of invasion. This was even a more difficult task than to arrive at the number of the wounded. You, Monsieur le Président, are well aware of popular sentiment in your country in all matters touching the honour of the family, and you know that it is impossible, or at least, exceedingly difficult for a girl who has been outraged to find a husband. The families endeavour to conceal as far as possible the misfortune that has befallen them in the violation

of their women. Hence the almost absolute impossibility of ascertaining the number of women who had been subjected to lewd assaults from the soldiery of the hostile army.

I am convinced that the number of violated women and young girls is very great, and judging by what I saw during my enquiry, I do not think that I am mistaken in saying that in many of the invaded villages almost all the women from the very youngest to the very oldest have been violated. Upon this matter I have collected and included in this report a certain number of statements and typical depositions.

In this chapter you will find first of all the depositions of Austrian prisoners of war, which I believe may be considered veracious, since they are to the discredit of their own army. These depositions are followed by civil and military eye-witnesses. Then follow the Serbian official military reports. You will also find the account of my own personal observations with regard to certain cases, and finally I propose to end this chapter with a short summary of the conclusions that may be drawn from my enquiry concerning the massacre of civilians. I would also draw your attention to the fact that the number of my eye-witnesses includes several persons who had been wounded, and whose wounds or scars I examined. I have in every case added a statement of my personal verification of the wound to the deposition of the witness. I have also in connection with the deposition of some witnesses mentioned the result of an enquiry into circumstantial evidence on the spot.

No. 46, of the 28th Regt. of the Line, relates that a certain Lieutenant *Lazar* (Hungarian) with his 80 soldiers had killed no less than 30 men and women. His company saw the entrance of a café blocked with half-burned victims. This occurred near Zvornik (the village of Zuline).

No. 47, of the 26th Regt., relates that he had seen scattered portions of human bodies—feet, arms, heads, hands, etc. . . .

No. 48, of the 26th Landsturm, states that the men were given the order to bayonet all living creatures, women, men and children, without distinction. A private of the 79th Regt. told him that, near Drenovatz, the Austrian officers made a ring of 26 persons round a house, and then set fire to the house, thus burning the 26 victims.

No. 49, of the 78th Regt., says Captain *Eisenhut* gave the order to kill every living thing in Serbia. The Hungarians devastated every village in Syrmia.

No. 50, hospital sergeant in the 28th Infantry Landwehr Regt., deposes that before crossing the frontier the officers abused the Serbs in every possible way, calling them "barefoot," "gipsies," "assassins," "brigands," etc. All soldiers of Serb nationality were forbidden on pain of death to own to their race—it was considered an act of treason. The officers gave out that they would finish with the Serbs in a week. Witness crossed the Drina with the other troops during the night from the 12th to the 13th of August, and at about 2 o'clock in the morning they passed near Mali Zvornik. From Zvornik they went as far as Ljubovia. The officers told them to shoot

all that was Serbian. The Hungarian officers were everywhere the most ferocious.

All men, old men and children, were captured and driven before the troops with bayonet-thrusts. These people were questioned as to the position of the Serbs and the comitadjis. If their answers failed to satisfy the officers they were shot immediately. In most cases, when the troops entered a village the greater number of the hostages, or even all of them, were killed. These unfortunate people were almost always old men or children. In Velika Reka two young men perished in the flames of a burning house. Witness tried to recover one of the bodies, when First-Lieutenant *Olak* passed him on horseback, and threatened him with his revolver, saying that the two men were comitadjis, which was an untruth.

About 50 metres further on he saw another charred corpse in a house that had been set on fire.

In the same village, more to the right, there was an inn. The innkeeper was bayoneted by Corporal *Begovitch*. The innkeeper's wife, who had witnessed the scene, wrenched the rifle from the corporal and killed him. Other Austrians threw themselves upon her and ripped her body open from end to end with a bayonet. Her child was killed with the same weapon. The house was completely sacked.

Still further on, at the Customs Office, the Austrians knocked at both door and window. A man opened and was killed immediately by being bayoneted full in the chest. An old man at the back of the house wished to surrender, but the men seized him by the collar and cut his throat with a bayonet;

then they sprayed the corpse with paraffin and set fire to it.

Witness encountered a woman on the way, with her hair all dishevelled. She had been bayoneted in the chest, and moreover her clothes were completely torn.

Next morning, not far from him and four of his colleagues, a private came running with the news that Lieutenant *Berticz Joseph*, a Hungarian, wanted to shoot 7 innocent persons. Witness requested his friend, Lieutenant *Stevan Raikovitch*, to go and see what was the matter, and if possible, to prevent *Berticz* from committing the crime. As they approached a wood, *Berticz* saw him and called out "Don't come, if you come nearer, I will kill you." He stopped and witnessed the following: 7 men (2 old men of about 70 and 5 boys of about 14 or 15 years of age) were tied together. The soldiers dug their grave before his eyes. Lieutenant Berticz went up to the first old man, a deaf-mute, struck first him and then another with his fist, showed them the pit, and said: "You Serbian swine, this is for you." He then had the first old man led up and shot. The second was bayoneted to death. The five boys were shot by a volley.

Lieutenant Raikovitch called out to Berticz: "Have you permission to do this?" And he added: "I shall go to Lieutenant-Colonel Petrovitch (or Simonovitch) and tell him what you have done." The latter promised to make an enquiry, but did nothing. The victims had no weapons.

The Hungarians and the Croats were the worst,

but the men were incited by their officers to commit atrocities. Wherever the regiment passed through the officers urged them to kill everything, cows, pigs, chickens, in fact everything whether it was required for the subsistence of the army or not. The men got dead-drunk, with "schnaps" in the cellars. They allowed the liquor to run out of the barrels, so that often the cellars were inundated with alcohol.

From *Uzovnitza* the regiment proceeded to Krupanj. In one village they found great barrels of brandy in the house of a peasant. The soldiers went into the cellar, got drunk, and allowed the liquor to run out till the cellar was full of it. The master of the house make the remark: "Brothers, don't do that, drink as much as you like." A Hungarian sergeant took him by the throat, threw him into the yard and shot him with his revolver. The battle of Krupanj began about an hour afterwards.

At Krupanj witness was shown a young girl who said she had been violated by an officer and then by about 50 men. The girl was pretty and 16 years old. Two women supported her statement.

After the battle of Krupanj they marched on *Bela Tzrkva*, and everywhere witness saw the bodies of peasants, old men and young, who had been killed. The Austrians sustained a great defeat at *Bela Tzrkva*. Everybody lost their heads, especially the officers. The latter had always said "Forward, forward. At 3 o'clock on the 18th of August we must be in Valievo to celebrate the Emperor's birthday there."

This defeat degenerated into an immense panic.

No. 51, Mahommedan, of the 2nd Regt., 3rd Battn., 10th Coy., made the following statement: "You don't know the Austrians. They kill us for a mere nothing, on the slightest provocation, when they are dissatisfied with us." The regiment to which witness belonged was marching forward, when all of a sudden the Serbian artillery opened fire upon them. The order was given to "Retire." They found themselves alongside of the 93rd Regiment. At this moment an old man came out of a wood carrying an axe. He was killed. This happened on the hill at about four hours' distance from Ljubovija. The soldier moreover declares that he will not return to Bosnia if the country should remain an Austrian province because, he says, he will be killed. Here they might do with him what they liked, hang him, kill him, etc. Captain *Koniakowski* told him that the Serbs castrated their prisoners. If a Serb or Mahommedan soldier dared to say a word in favour of Serbia, he was killed for it.

No. 52, of the 28th Regiment, asserts that among the Serbian prisoners he saw as many civilians as soldiers.

No. 53, of the 26th Regt., deposes: "We were ordered, and the order was read out to us to kill and burn all we should meet in the course of the campaign and to destroy everything Serbian." Commandant *Stanzer*, as well as Captain *Irketicz*, ordered the men to perpetrate cruelties upon the civil population. Subsequently, before the second invasion, the order was given in *Yania*, on Sep-

tember 10th, to conquer and to devastate the country; they were however not to kill off the civil population, but to take them prisoners. In spite of this order several outrages were committed. On September 14th, 1914, a Serbian peasant who was guiding the Austrians was shot by Commandant Stanzer, and his soldiers, who fired five times at the man. Another instance:— An Austrian soldier, one *Doshan*, a Croat, boasted of having killed a woman, two old men, and a child, and invited his comrades to go with him to have a look at his victims.

No. 54, of the 78th Regt., taken prisoner at Tzrni Vrh (Gutchevo) had heard that the "high command" had given the order to spare nothing.

First-Lieutenant *Feutek* of the 2nd company on active service, said in Osiek, the garrison town of the 78th, that they must show the Serbs what Austrians could do. They must spare nothing, and kill everything.

No. 55, of the 78th Regt. 15th Company, related that First-Lieutenant *Bernhard* said that every living thing they met must be killed. The two witnesses, Nos. 54 and 55 were first in Ratcha (Slavonia), where Major *Bilina* or *Belina* gave his men permission to sack and loot all they found during the campaign. And, in fact, everything was sacked. During the course of the fighting their company was reduced from 350 to 100 or 120 men.

No. 56, Corporal of the 28th Landwehr Regt., deposes that in *Shabatz* the Austrians killed over 60 civilians beside the church. They had previously

been confined in the latter. They were butchered with the bayonet in order to save ammunition. The soldiers who acted as executioners numbered 8. Witness could not bear to look at the sight. The bodies lay for two days in the square before they were buried. The 8 soldiers were Hungarians. A general and the officers gave the order for the massacre. There were several old men and children among the victims. The corporal came from Bielina; he was for 9 or 10 days in Shabatz.

No. 57, of the 3rd, Bosnian, Infantry Regiment. When his regiment came to Zvornik, they found Serb prisoners there already—women and children. Witness gave them sugar. A corporal who saw him had him tied to a tree for two hours. They then left for Tzrvena Yabuka. A sergeant asked him of what nationality he was. He answered "Serb," and was tied to a tree for two hours. He ought to have answered: "Orthodox." The soldiers of Serb nationality were not allowed to go and fetch water. The Mahommedans and Catholics filled their water bottles for them. "Cadet" Ivchitch (a Dalmatian) always spoke of the Austrian Serbs in most opprobrious terms: "Serb traitors, Serb drabs," etc. At one time the Austrians even believed that the soldiers of Serb nationality signalled to the enemy artillery, and Ivchitch himself read out an order forbidding soldiers of Serb nationality to strike matches during the night. Any man found doing so would be shot. The privates were badly fed. They were given 250 grammes of bread and a little rice per day, and almost no meat at all. Food was distributed only once a day. Sometimes

they were given a little black coffee, at night, or in the morning. The officers drank wine or rum.

In *Tuzla* there were many Serb civilian prisoners, especially women and children. When the women passed through the town the Croats spat at them. On September 29th, a fresh batch of 150 civilian prisoners arrived—old men, women and children. It was 10 o'clock at night. The women could drag themselves no farther, and the soldiers drove them on with blows from the butt-ends of their rifles. The men of the 60th regiment took a youth of 18 years prisoner, and immediately hanged him on a tree.

No. 58, of the 18th Infantry Regiment of Copreinz (Croatian), declares that in Dobritch he saw the soldiers of the 37th Hungarian regiment bayonet 11 or 12 children from 6 to 12 years of age. This massacre was perpetrated by order of First-Lieutenant *Nagy*, and took place on the 16th or 17th of August. Witness was only about 30 or 40 yards distant from the massacring soldiers. At that moment Lieutenant-Colonel *Piskor* of the 16th Regiment passed and called out to Nagy: "Why are you doing such a swinish thing?" Nagy replied: "Order your own troops about and leave mine alone. I have my orders from my superiors to do this."

No. 59, of the 6th Zabal Infantry Regt. Before they crossed the frontier, the Hungarian Captain *Bosznai* gave them the order to kill every living being, from the age of five to old men. But when the men crossed the frontier and came to the first Serbian village, the captain ordered them to set two

houses on fire; on this occasion he enjoined upon them to kill everything now, even infants in their cradles. They captured 30 or 40 women, children and old men, and placed them in front of the troops during the battle (in front of the fighting line) and Witness saw these civilians killed by Austrian or Serbian bullets. This happened at Okolishte. Witness added that he was very pleased to be able to make this deposition before the Courts.

No. 60, of the 37th Regt., was in Bosnia with the Reserve. The Austrian army did not expel the inhabitants of Bosnia, but the latter deserted into Serbia of their own accord. He did not once see a wounded Serbian in their camp. Colonel *Wilde* forbade them to burn, sack, etc. He even killed a soldier belonging to another regiment whom he caught in the act.

No. 61, of the 28th Regt. During the first invasion the Austrian troops killed all the inhabitants, the wounded, etc. Lieutenant Jekete caught 23 peasants and brought them before his captain, who gave each one of them a kick. Whoever gave a cry, was shot down at once.

No. 62, of the 6th Regt. On their retreat, after having penetrated into Serbia, his regiment carried off five Serbian peasants to Vishegrad (Bosnia), to show them sundry Serbians who had been hanged there. It was Lieutenant-Colonel *Detzlinger* (since dead) who gave the order for this cruel trick. This same Detzlinger also posted women and children in front of the fighting line.

No. 63, of the 2nd Bosnian Regiment. His regiment came upon the bodies of peasants who had

been burnt by the 100th Regiment in the third village after Ljubovia. The order for these massacres was given by Lieutenant-Colonel *Krebs* of the 100th Regiment. An officer of the 2nd, First-Lieutenant *Stibitch*, expostulated with Krebs and asked why he had burnt these people. Krebs told him that they were comitadjis and that in any case it was none of his business.

No. 64, of the 93rd Regiment. Near Ljubovia a lieutenant of the first Company shot a priest with his revolver. Captain *Veit* ordered the corpse to be burnt.

No. 65, of the 96th Regiment of the line, asserts that the Austrian soldiers ill-treated the civilian population, and that it was especially the Hungarians who distinguished themselves in these massacres.

No. 66, Reservist, of the 70th Regiment. Captain *Lahodny* gave the order to kill every Serbian creature without mercy, both in Serbia and in Bosnia, and also to burn the villages. In Tuptzi (Bosnia) he saw a party of 5 killed and subsequently, on the line of march, many more, but as his nerves were badly shaken, he could no longer bear to look at them.

No. 67, Corporal in the 28th Regt. Lieutenant *Jekete*, having captured a party of 20 peasants, had 14 of them killed in accordance with orders received from the Colonel.

No. 68, squad-leader, of the 28th Regt., states: "Lieutenant *Müller*, of the 28th Regiment, 3rd battalion, 9th Coy., killed a child and its grandfather with his own hands. He then set the house on fire and threw the two corpses through the

window into one of the rooms. This lieutenant also gave the order to 'finish off' the Serbian wounded, as he did not want to be troubled with them. During the first invasion the officers ordered the men to kill all without distinction. During the second invasion the officers remained well in the rear of the soldiers. But before a battle they advised the soldiers not to surrender because they said the Serbians mutilated their prisoners of war in every conceivable way."

No. 69, of the 28th Regiment. In Ruma, in Slavonia, he saw many houses burnt as well as several civilians killed. He never saw a single wounded Serbian soldier in the Austrian camp. Corporal *Agler* told the men that they would have their noses, ears, etc., cut off, if they were made prisoners in Serbia. As a matter of fact the Serbian officers had treated him most humanely. The war was not popular, although the papers spoke of Serbia as a constant danger to the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

No. 70 relates that he never saw any Serbian wounded in an Austrian camp.

No. 71, of the 97th Regt. of the line, states that at first, in the beginning of the war, during the first invasion, the men were allowed to do everything, burn, kill, etc., but that during the second invasion they were forbidden to burn, but allowed to take prisoners. He further adds that they were given orders to drive out before them whatever civil population they would find in the villages, and above all things to leave nobody in the rear. At *Shor* he saw the dead bodies of 24 civilians, both

men and women, of those whom the troops had driven out before them. In Yania, he saw 4 old men dragging a cart full of rifles, ammunition, etc. A group of 20 women and children followed the cart. A few moments later he heard a volley and was informed that the whole party had been shot. He never saw them again. It was also near *Shor* that two young men were tortured because they refused to be prisoners. Towards ten o'clock they were thrown into a ditch and killed.

No. 72. Whenever his regiment entered a village (in Serbia) he always found it deserted, because other troops moved ahead of his regiment during the campaign. In Bosnia he saw many villages set on fire.

No. 73 and **No. 74**, both "Einjährige Freiwillige" ("one-year-service volunteers"), complained of the way in which they were treated by their officers and of the food. Both declare that they were told to spare nobody, that all they met must be killed. Captain *Stransky* gave the order to cut down all who carried arms, even such as did not fire.

No. 75 declares that several shots were fired from a certain house at the Austrians. The Austrians slaughtered the whole of the family living in the house, and then burnt more than 800 houses. At Krupanj, during the night, the Austrians fired upon their own Red Cross.

Deposition of Witness **No. 76:**

Evidence of Landwehr soldier of the 32nd Regt.

In Shabatz it appears that it was principally the Hungarians who maltreated women and children and killed them afterwards. Privates who took part in the taking of Shabatz did not see the atrocities.

——, civilian, from ——, was carried off with his children to *Bielina* (in Austrian territory) by the Austrians on August 4th. He was sent back to Serbia. He was to return to the Austrians on August 16th and bring back all necessary information concerning the disposition of the Serbian troops. If he failed to return his children would be killed. He surrendered to the Serbian authorities and does not know what has become of his children.

Stana Bergitch, of Ravanj, aged 68, patient in the Russian hospital at Valievo. Both her arms have been broken. Stana was at home in her house when the Austrians invaded the village. Her entire family, consisting of 8 persons, was killed before her eyes. As for herself, the Austrians broke her arms with the butt-ends of their rifles. I verified the injuries.

Kovilka Chobitch, patient in the Civil Hospital at Valievo. She is 60 years of age and a native of Drenovatz. The Austrians took her and 6 other women and blindfolded them. At a given moment the soldiers left them after having made them get out of the cart. The 6 other women succeeded in escaping. She was too old and infirm to follow them. The Austrians fired at her and wounded her in the left leg. (This happened on or about September 14th.) I verified the wounds.

Tzveta Stoianovitch, also undergoing treatment at the Civil Hospital in Valievo. She is 60 years of age and a native of Loznitza. She was outside her house when the two detachments of Austrians, one Infantry and one Cavalry, arrived. She went on

with her work without taking any notice of them. Suddenly she was shot at, and a bullet passed through her thigh. I verified the wound.

Stana Belanovitch (Civil Hospital), native of Loznitza, and 50 years of age. During the night of September 14th, while she was sleeping quietly, the Austrian soldiers suddenly burst into the village. As her bed was near the window, an enemy soldier saw her and fired at her. A bullet grazed her hand and wounded her in the leg. On account of the close range at which the shot was fired, the wound is serious. Verified by me.

—— (Civil Hospital of Mrzanovatz), aged 13 years. He was herding cattle when the Austrians came. He was carried off with 5 other persons, two of whom were old men. Their hands were pinioned, and they were led away as far as the Save. They did not stay there long, but were taken back to the interior. At a certain place all six were placed on a hay-rick. The soldiers then fired upon them at close range (4 to 5 metres). —— was wounded in the head, and had to be trepanned. A bullet also passed through his left arm. The wounds were verified by me.

Besides these, there were likewise at the Civil Hospital on October 17th:

Zhivoin Popovitch, of Bela, suffering from a bullet wound, and *Vasilie Popovitch*, of Shabatz, wounded by a grenade during the bombardment.

——, aged 16, of Shabatz, and ——, aged 14. These two young girls were taken by the Austrians, and depose as follows: Part of the women

of the town were interned, the rest were carried off by the troops. Among the last-named were the two young girls and their grandmother, aged 65. They were compelled to march in front of the troops from half-past one to half-past seven. From time to time the soldiers fired. On these occasions the women were made to lie down. The orders were given in Hungarian, but the wife of the apothecary *Gashitch* translated them into Serbian. In this manner the Austrians took about 2,000 people. Women who had been confined only two days before were compelled to march with them in spite of their condition. When the Austrians came back to Shabatz, several shots were fired by our sentinels. Some soldiers of Serb nationality then said to us: "Get out of this at once!" while the Germans told us to stay. The latter said to us: "We don't want to kill you, but you will be killed by your own troops."

——, of *Shabatz*, aged 19, deposes that she was taken and led with others in front of the troops from 2 o'clock in the afternoon till nightfall. They were then taken into the town, while the men were interned in the church. Towards 10 o'clock at night, —— was liberated. She went to hide in a house in order to escape being violated. The old man —— was likewise interned in the church. The soldiers were Hungarians. On the last day everybody was taken to the church, and from there to the police barracks. The Austrians had intended to carry off all these people into Bosnia, but they had no time to do it.

They divided the people they had brought with the troops into three parties, one of which contrived to escape.

K. Y., of *Shabatz*, aged 60, a wheelwright, deposes that he was taken by the Austrians on July 30th. Several of the enemy spoke Hungarian. Y., together with several women and children, was led away with the troops. Near Mala Vranska three peasants (soldiers of the 3rd levy) fired from a wood. The soldiers ordered the women to lie down and fired in return. They succeeded in taking the peasants and shot them on the spot. Y. and the others were led as far as Velika Vranska. On arriving there they were forbidden, on pain of death, to return to Shabatz. But they fell in with comitadjis and 50 men of the Serbian 2nd levy, who took them along with them.

Draga Petronievitch, of *Shabatz*, aged 32, deposes: On the first day three soldiers came to her and asked: "Where is your husband?" This was on July 30th at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon. No one else came until midnight. At that hour she was together with two other women. A captain arrived, with two privates, and demanded bombs and rifles. He added: "We are Hungarians and not wicked, but hoist a white flag over the house." Next day at about 9 o'clock four soldiers came and ordered her to follow them. Two other women with two children, who had Austrian passports, were left at liberty. Draga Petronievitch was taken to the Hotel Europa, which was crowded with women and children.

They were locked up there for five days and given nothing during all that time but water. The first night nothing happened. The second night the corporals and sergeants took the women into a room apart and asked: "Where are your husbands? What are the positions occupied by your troops? Where are the Serbians?" If the Austrians were not pleased with their answers, they struck them with the butt-ends of their rifles.

Draga had not recovered from the blows she had received (Oct. 23rd, new style). In the night soldiers came into the room where all these women were sleeping and by twos carried out the young girls. One man took the head, the other the feet. If the girls cried out, the soldiers crammed handkerchiefs into their mouths. This happened frequently. From the Hotel Europa they were taken to the Hotel Casino and thence to the church, where there were many people. When the church was bombarded by the Serbs they were compelled to shout: "Long live Hungary!" Within the church, behind the altar, the officers violated the young girls. During the bombardment they were placed well to the fore in the streets, so that the Serbs might fire upon them. From the street they were taken to the Police stables. It was there that they were rescued by the Serbs. The Austrians had intended to carry them off into Austria, but the Serbian guns had destroyed the bridges, thus cutting off their passage. Next day it was too late, "the Serbs were there." Some of the girls who were taken to the officers at night came back next morning dressed in handsome clothes from

the wardrobes of rich houses which had been pillaged. Petronievitch refused to give the names of the young girls who had been violated, but in the end she mentioned the names of a girl of 14 and of two young married women.

Zorka Gaitch, of *Shabatz*, aged 20, deposes: (Her deposition likewise refers to the events which occurred in Shabatz). Her mother was ill. Zorka was taken to the Hotel Europa. During the course of the fourth night a major and two privates came and took her away to the Prefecture, under the pretext that she was to be questioned. At the Prefecture she was compelled to —— with the Major; next day she was set at liberty. Many young girls were similarly outraged.

Dragomir Marinkovitch, aged 18, deposes: On August 4th (old style) the Austrian army passed through *Lipolist* on their flight from the Tzer to the Drina. The inhabitants hid themselves. Many soldiers passed without doing anything. But after an engagement with the Serb cavalry just outside the village, the Austrians, enraged at their reverse, massacred all the villagers they found. Several persons had taken refuge with the Marinkovitch's; the soldiers fired through the windows, killing five and wounding another five persons.

The following persons were killed:

Theodore Marinkovitch,	aged	60
Marko	,,	,,	19
Ruzhitza	,,	,,	20
Milutin Stoikovitch,		,,	18
Zagorka Stoikovitch,		,,	11

The following were wounded:

Dragomir Marinkovitch,	aged	18
Stanoika ,,	,,	60
Bogoljub Tchatarich,	,,	10
Mila Savkovitch,	,,	6
Marta Stoikovitch,	,,	40.

The holes caused by the bullets are still visible in the room. One door shows eight bullet holes, another five. The soldiers were Germans and Hungarians. I have ascertained that the shots were fired into the house from without.

Miroslav Djukitch, of *Dobritch*, aged 18, had hidden when the Austrians came to his house. When they left, Djukitch saw the dead bodies of several villagers. In one house he found a dead woman, whose cheek had been pierced with a knife. (Perhaps a bayonet?) A girl had been killed, pierced by three bayonet thrusts. Another woman was holding a one-year-old child in her arms; the child was dead and the mother wounded.

Marta Stoikovitch, of *Lipolist*, aged 40. A cavalry platoon arrived on August 1st, and dismounted at her house. The soldiers took all the bread, lard, etc., and then ordered water to be drawn for them from the well. Then they took away all she possessed. When she had nothing left, a soldier, who spoke no Serbian, threatened her with his revolver. In her fear she opened all her cupboards. Towards nightfall she endeavoured to escape to her neighbours, but the soldiers fired at her and killed her boy *Veselin*, aged 12. She succeeded, however, in taking refuge with the Marinkovitch's (see deposition by Marinkovitch),

but not without having been wounded in the hip and foot. Her child was thrown into the doorway of her house, and there the body lay for two days. (I verified the wounds.)

Ivana Koitch (aged 56) and *Maria Koitch* (aged 53), both of *Lipolist*. These two women had gone out to fetch water, but on their way home they came upon two men dead, and one wounded, who died two days later. These men were *Kosta Koitch*, aged 56 ; *Zhivan Koitch*, aged 18 ; and *Ivan Koitch*, aged 49. They were ordered to come out of their house, but no sooner had they come outside than they were killed.

Vladimir Popovitch, aged 42, schoolmaster of *Lipolist*. When the Austrians came for the first time, they merely passed through ; but on their return four or five days later, they took him, together with his son George, aged 15, and pinioned them. His mother-in-law, *Saveta Philipovitch*, was subjected to the same treatment. They were led away, and the soldiers ill-treated and abused them as they went. On one occasion they were even threatened with being shot. A captain gave the order to execute them, but the order was not carried out. In Tzulkovitch they were brought before a Lieutenant-Colonel, probably a Croat or Serb, who set them at liberty. They were transported during one whole night, and the following day until two o'clock.

Part of the Austrian troops which passed through Lipolist on their retreat from the Tzer consisted of the 28th Landwehr Regiment (Hungarian).

Marta Maritch, of *Petkovitza*, aged 20, deposes :

About 30 persons, 6 of whom were men, took refuge in their house, because it is larger and stronger. When the Austrians came, they made all the women as well as the children come out. Four of the men were shot in the house. They were *Ranko Veselinovitch*, aged 55; *Milan Maritch*, aged 40; *Milan Blagoyevitch*, aged 45; and *Dushan Maritch*, aged 18. The corpses were robbed. The soldiers took a watch and 100 francs from the body of Milan Maritch. Possibly these victims were shot with revolvers. This account is confirmed by all the members of the family. All the women who failed to escape were driven ahead of the troops as far as *Novo Selo* (on the Drina).

Stana Maritch, of *Petkovitza*, aged 50, relates that *Stana Veselinovitch*, a Bosnian woman aged 60, had an old revolver in her possession. The Austrians took and hanged her for it.

Militza Maritch, of *Petkovitza*, aged 45, deposes that her husband, *Ljubomir*, aged 60, was led out of his house and shot to death as soon as he was outside. Her brother, *Marko Tzvetitch*, was shot in Maritch's house. The undersigned has verified the bullet-marks on the walls of the room. (These were the two men who had taken refuge in the house of Marta Maritch, and who were not killed inside the house.)

——, of *Petkovitza*, declares that 56 persons were killed, 26 carried off, and three wounded (two women and a boy, who has since died of his wounds). Most of the killed were old men and young boys, aged 19 at the most.

——, of *Ribare*, declares that 58 persons were

killed and three or four wounded. Among the killed were old men, young boys and seven old women. Besides this, three or four persons were carried off and have not yet returned. Three of the persons massacred were more than 80 years of age. The greater number were bayoneted to death. The Austrians committed these murders on their return from the Tzer. The detachment spoke German, but the Mayor believes the soldiers were Hungarians. These cruelties were committed for no reason at all. Not a soul in the village had fired a shot.

Yanko Boshkovitch, of *Ribare*, aged 65. Boshkovitch has two wounds in his chest and three in his right arm. The wounds are obviously caused by bayonet-thrusts. When the Austrians came they called him and led him into the yard, where there were already two other men, *Zhivan* and *Ostoia Maletitch*, aged 65 and 55 respectively. In the yard the soldiers bayoneted the two Maletitch to death and wounded Boshkovitch, who fell and feigned to be dead. He owed his life entirely to this ruse. There were dead bodies all round. A little later another detachment passed, which appeared to be Czech, and committed no atrocities. The soldiers who perpetrated the massacres understood no Serbian. They never touched water without having previously made the Serb peasants drink of it. (I verified the scars of the wounds on Boshkovitch.)

Mileva Presitch, of *Ribare*, aged 16. The Austrians carried off her grandfather, *Yovan Presitch*, who was over 60 years of age, and killed him at Prnjavor. *Pavle Peritch*, aged 50, was likewise

carried off and killed at Prnjavor. The Austrians were in Ribare from the evening of August 3rd till 4 o'clock next morning. Of course everything was sacked. It happened that on the morning of August 4th a detachment passed through without doing any harm, but when it passed through again in the afternoon the men committed several excesses.

Mileva Gaitch, of *Ribare*, aged 45. A soldier said to her, "Don't run away, or we shall burn your house down." Most of those who did not run away were killed. She ran away in spite of the threats, but her house was half-burnt. On their way to the Tzer the Austrians committed no atrocities, it was only on the way back that they sacked and massacred.

Dragutin Krsmanovitch, aged 18, and *Dragomir Pavlovitch*, aged 17, both of *Ribare*. When the Austrians arrived in Ribare, a woman came to them and said: "Fly, because the Austrians are killing all the young men." They escaped, but their fathers, who remained, were each of them bayoneted to death (three thrusts each).

Milan Stanchitch, of *Ribare*, aged 56, was wounded in the right arm, at the elbow, in the chest, in the neck and at the knee. The wounds are bayonet wounds. As in the preceding case the undersigned has verified these injuries. The Austrians led Stanchitch, together with his brother *Mihailo*, to Leshnitza, where the latter was killed. Mihailo was led a little beyond the village to the place where he was wounded. He was unconscious for eight hours. He did not understand the language spoken by the soldiers. The detachment had passed the evening before without doing any harm; it was on their

return next morning that they perpetrated all these cruelties. The harvest and all the carts belonging to Stanchitch were burnt.

Ljubomir Tarlanovitch, of *Ribare*, aged 18, was wounded by a bayonet-thrust in the right side of his back. He had taken refuge in a maize field. On his being discovered by the Austrians, they fired upon him without however hitting him. His younger brother, Michailo, aged 16, who was in the street, was killed with 15 bayonet-thrusts. He was first struck and fell, but the soldiers set upon him and riddled him with further thrusts.

Stevania Boshkovitch witnessed this scene. The two sons of the cousin of Tarlanovitch were likewise killed. The wound was verified.

Prnjavor (Pop. 2,400)

Svetozar Rebitch, Mayor of *Prnjavor*, and *Dragomir Antonievitch*, town clerk, declare that 109 persons were taken away to Leshnitza, and have not been heard of since; 199 of the villagers were killed or burnt; 37 were taken away to Bosnia and have not been heard of since; 179 families had their property burnt. The Austrians arrived on July 30th and assembled all the men of the village. Many of them were shot. If they found a military summons on a villager, or any one in possession of a cartridge, that person was shot. All the men who were in the fields and did not come in with the others, were shot. Twenty-six persons perished in this way. On August 4th, on their way back from the Tzer, the Austrians were attacked by the Serb cavalry, who took 3

guns. After the Serbs had retired, the Austrians massacred wholesale. The Austrians had the list of membership of the "Narodna Odbrana," and shot every member of the Society.

Vladimir Preizovitch, aged 42, owner of a house in the Tzrkvena Mala at Prnjavor, took in a Serbian cavalryman who had been seriously wounded and gave up his bed to him. When the Austrians arrived, Preizovitch fled, and on his return, he discovered that the Austrians had lit a fire under the bed of the wounded man, and roasted him. As the result of a scrupulous inspection of the room in which this scene had taken place, the undersigned affirms, that undoubtedly the boards are charred underneath the bed over an extent of two metres by one. The wall is blackened and even more *browned* by smoke. The undersigned also identified a bullet-hole in the window pane. The shot was fired into the house from without.

Vasilia, wife of Preizovitch, deposes: On their return from the Tzer the Austrians arrested about 500 to 600 women and interned them for four days in the Hotel. The girls and young married women were taken away and violated. They were set free by the Serbians.

Milka Yekitch, aged 28, of *Prnjavor*, deposes that a house opposite the Parish Town Hall, and which was partially burnt, contained 8 wounded Serbians. After the Austrians had departed, it was found that four of them had been burnt, and the other four butchered. The Austrians caused the Serbian dead to be buried in the gutter by the roadside.

Tomania Kulesitch, aged 45, of *Prnjavor*, deposes that outside the house of Milan Milutinovitch the Austrians led up women and children, killed them, and then burnt the bodies by throwing them into a burning house next door. It was estimated that in this way about one hundred were killed and burnt afterwards.

In the course of his inspection of the spot the undersigned identified blood-splashes on such of the walls of the house as were left standing, also numerous traces of bullets. Finally, among the ruins of the burnt house, the undersigned identified numerous charred human remains. Previous to this inspection the inhabitants had already buried the largest fragments of corpses protruding from the rubbish. All the villagers from the vicinity of the house have been killed.

This account of Tomania Kulesitch is confirmed by the depositions of other inhabitants of Prnjavor, whose names I subjoin, viz.: *Leposava Peitchinovitch*, *Savka Kulesitch*, *Leposava Kulesitch*, *Ivana Kulesitch*, *Milka Petrovitch*, *Maria Maritch*, *Yanko Kulesitch*.

The undersigned moreover had the pit opened in which the bones, etc., of the victims had been buried, and verified the presence of very numerous human remains.

Tchokeshina

Philip Dobrosavljevitch, aged 39, assistant judge to the Mayor of Tchokeshina, declares that 32 civilians had been killed, including three women (one old woman and two young girls of 16 to 18

years of age). Only 20 corpses were found, however, 12 having disappeared. The latter had very probably been killed in Leshnitza. Dobrosavljevitch found the body of *Pavle Batchitch*, aged 75. After killing him, the Austrians threw his body on the stove in the passage of his house. Batchitch and his son had first been taken as hostages and carried away to Dobritch. The son was killed there, and the father brought back to Tchokeshina, where he was executed in the manner described above.

Mihailo Yankovitch, aged 75, was killed with rifle shots. The male organ was cut off and placed in his mouth. It was in this condition that the corpse was found.

The Austrians arrived at Tchokeshina on July 31st, and the massacres were perpetrated on August 2nd and 3rd. The soldiers were Hungarians. When they arrived, most of the inhabitants had taken flight. On their return from the Tzer the Austrians merely passed through and enquired their way to the Drina. The atrocities were probably committed because several comitadjis had retired towards the Drina, and the Austrians were aware of the fact. They requisitioned everything they needed, food, cattle, etc., without payment, be it understood. Not a shot was fired in the village. Witness states that two barns were burnt. Whenever the Hungarian soldiers met a civilian they made a gesture indicating throat-cutting, while the soldiers of Serb or Croat nationality always reassured the population. Apparently the officers did not take part in the massacre.

Draghitch Dobrosavljevitch, aged 15, of *Tchokeshina*, had a shot-wound two centimetres above the left breast. He was treated at Valievo. When Dobrosavljevitch saw the soldiers pillaging and killing he fled, but the Austrians fired at him. I verified the wounds.

As a rule the peasants who have been merely wounded think nothing of it, and do not report the fact to the authorities. Thus it is almost impossible to ascertain the exact number and the names of the wounded.

The same difficulty occurs in the case of violated women. They will not speak, because the women dread the disgrace, and the young girls who have been violated can no longer hope to get married.

The village of *Novo Selo* has a population of about 1500.

——, of this village, declares that seven persons were killed by the Austrians. Of these he quoted by name one *Mladen Lazarevitch*, a one-armed man, aged 39, who was hanged, and *Mihailo Bashitch*, aged 64, who had his throat cut. The five other men were all aged about 60. Besides these, 28 persons were carried off, some of whom were killed at Leshnitza. The fate of the others is unknown, but in all probability they have also been killed. The only thing known about them is that four were burnt in Prnjavor, and a woman was killed at Leshnitza.

Before the arrival of the Austrians, the comitadjis under Major Popovitch (Vuk), had on their retreat advised the population to take to flight; this

advice was followed by the greater number of the villagers.

Marta Kordanitch, aged about 60, of *Novo Selo*, was wounded in the neck and chest by rifle-shots. I verified the wounds.

The house of *Milan Isakovitch*, ex-Deputy, was completely burnt. The women who remained were molested by the Austrian soldiers. *Kata Radosavljevitch* has two daughters-in-law whose husbands are at war; both were violated by the Austrians, as well as the daughter of Kata Radosavljevitch. (See deposition by the ladies ——.)

In *Leshnitza*, a town of 1200 inhabitants,

Rado Baienatz, aged 52, Mayor of *Leshnitza*, makes the following declaration: "Most of the people killed in Leshnitza were natives of Prnjavor. The victims belonged to several different parishes, 109 came from Prnjavor, 11 (one of whom was hanged) from Leshnitza, and 5 (who were hanged) from Yadranska-Leshnitza. My sister, aged 59, and my daughter, aged 30, are among the killed. The other victims are old men and boys. All these atrocities were committed by the Austrians upon their arrival, *i.e.* between the 31st of July and the 2nd of August. On their return they had no time to commit more."

Simon Kostich, aged 76, of *Leshnitza*. The Austrians first led him round to the different wells and made him taste the water. They were afraid it might have been poisoned. When he was so worn out that he could walk no farther, they sent him home. He found his house pillaged, and the

front door broken down. He hid in his own house till the Austrians had left. After their departure Simon Kostich found 6 persons hanged in the garden belonging to *Nikola Trifunovitch*. They were all old people, one of them being *Marko Alexitch*, aged 65.

Stevan Peritch, aged 75, of *Leshnitza*, was taken by the Austrians; after they had robbed him of all his property they killed his son, Ivan, aged 19, because he tried to escape. They interrogated Peritch concerning the positions of the Serbs and the comitadjis. Then they knocked him down and threatened him with their bayonets and revolvers.

Savka Velimirovitch, aged 66, of *Leshnitza*. The Austrians pillaged all her property. She was at home in her house with her blind husband when the detachment arrived. Searching about, the soldiers found a cartridge-clip, which had belonged to her son who was killed in the Serbo-Bulgarian war. In consequence of this discovery her husband was threatened with execution. She, seized with terror, fled and hid in a barn. A soldier who discovered her, fired at her and wounded her in the foot. She was seized by the legs, pinioned, and the soldiers then struck her three times with their fists, so violently that she fainted. She was then led to the station where she witnessed the execution of a whole crowd including several children. Everybody present at the massacre was compelled to shout "Long live Francis Joseph!" I verified the wounds.

This statement is borne out by the fact that near the railway station at Leshnitza, the undersigned saw a ditch 20 metres long, by 3 metres wide. It

contains 109 corpses. All these people were executed on the spot. Most of the victims are natives of Prnjavor. The undersigned photographed the grave, and had it opened in order to verify the contents.

——, aged 60. He was one of a party of 40 persons who were led up to witness the execution of the 109 victims beside the railway station at Leshnitza. His deposition contains the following additional details. The 109 persons massacred at Leshnitza were men and children (from 3 to 15 years of age). All the victims were tied together by the arms) with ropes. A wire was drawn round them. The Austrian soldiers stood on the railway embankment, and it was from here that they fired their volley. The Serbs fell into the pit in front of them which had been dug all ready beforehand. Directly after the volley the soldiers filled in the ditch without waiting to see whether their victims were dead or only wounded.

Not a single inhabitant of Leshnitza had fired a shot, and no battle had taken place in the vicinity.

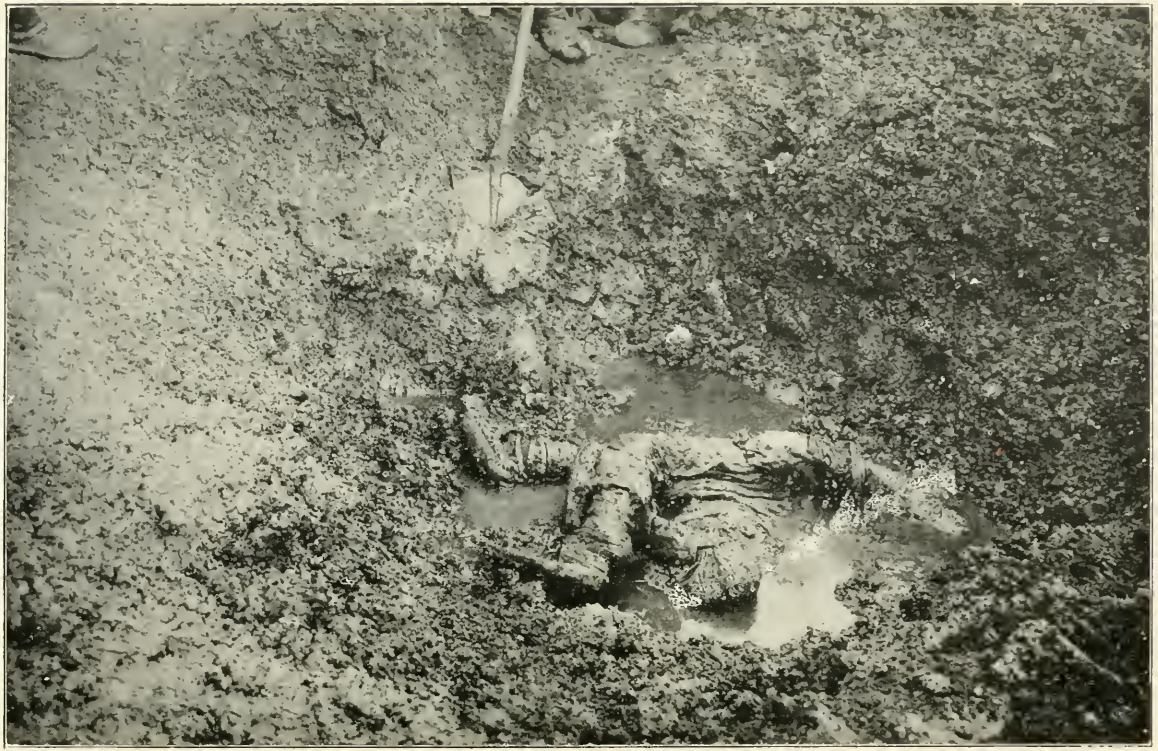
In the village of *Yadranska-Leshnitza* 8 persons were massacred by the Austrians. I append the list with a brief description of their wounds.

Miloie Novakovitch, aged 17, shot, had received several bayonet thrusts.

Stanislav Novakovitch, aged 50, shot, had received several bayonet thrusts.

Urosh Marianovitch, aged 50, had his eyes put out, his hands and one ear cut off, his cheek pierced, and was finally bayoneted to death.

PLATE 15.—CIVILIANS (SERBIAN PEASANTS) HANGED BY THE HUNGARIANS AT LESHNITZA.
Photograph taken immediately after the Austrian evacuation of the place (August 20th, 1914).



[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 16.—THE COMMON GRAVE OF THE MASSACRED CIVILIANS AT LESHNITZA, PARTIALLY OPEN.

Ilia Raitch, aged 56, had his nose and one ear cut off, before being killed.

Radislav Mitrovitch, aged 30, shot dead.

Ranko Mitrovitch, aged 26, shot dead.

Zhivoin Karapandjitch, aged 27, run through with bayonets and shot.

Milosh Vragolitch, age 39, covered all over the body with bayonet wounds, beaten, and finally shot.

Of two of the wounded it is known that one, aged 15, had received a bayonet wound in the left elbow, the other, likewise aged 15, has 17 bayonet wounds in the back. Besides these casualties, nine persons were carried off, some of whom were killed on the journey (at Leshnitza).

Donji Dobritch

Tzvetko Baitch, aged 40, of *Donji Dobritch*, declares that 16 persons were killed in his village, 8 of whom were shot, 1 bayoneted, 3 shot and thrust through with bayonets. Finally there was one whose nose and ears the Austrians cut off before finally shooting him. His name was *Zhivko Spasoievitch*, and he was 60 years of age. *Stanko Zhivanovitch* had his ears cut off and was shot afterwards. *Ivan Alimpitch*, aged 67, nose cut off and shot. *Pavle Kovatchevitch*, aged 68, had his face cut to pieces, and was then shot. *Boshko Kovatchevitch*, aged 56, hands cut off, teeth broken in, and then shot.

The Austrians arrived in the village in the evening of July 31st, and committed the massacres on the following morning. No one in the village had fired

a shot at them. They carried off everything of value, likewise the cattle.

A woman, *Krsmania Voselitch*, aged about 62, whose son was killed, implored the soldiers with tears, for pity. But in spite of her tears the hardened ruffians wounded her with their bayonets. She bears the marks of the wounds on her arms and hands. Eight persons were carried off and their fate is unknown. Three houses and several barns were burnt. These massacres were committed by detachments who did not understand Serbian. The safe of the commune was rifled and several paintings were cut to pieces. Twenty-five women were compelled to accompany the Austrian troops as far as Leshnitsa, where the Serbian guns routed the enemy columns, and delivered the unfortunate victims.

Gorni Dobritch

——, aged 65, declares that three old men of over 60 years of age, one boy of 13, and himself were roped together and taken to the village of Shor. On their arrival there, the Austrians pinioned them so tightly that they could not move, and placed them against a house which they set on fire. After that they took them to Loznitza.

On their way the Austrian soldiers heard some firing, fled, and hid in a field of maize. When the danger was past, they returned to their prisoners, four of whom they bayoneted. Despotovitch succeeded in escaping, and was thus spared the fate of his comrades. At Shor the Austrians had intended to roast them alive. They had begged the soldiers to kill them outright, but the Austrians

answered that they wanted to torture them before they killed them.

Trifun Antonitch, Mayor of *Gorni Dobritch*, had fled from the village, and only knows that 66 persons are missing.

Vladimir Popovitch, aged 60, pope (priest) of the village of *Runjane*, says that 40 persons are missing from his village. At first it was believed that they had been taken away by the Austrians, but on October 25th (new style) a Serbian patrol found the bodies of three persons pinioned and butchered. They were in an advanced stage of putrefaction, and were the corpses of *Luka Philipovitch*, aged 46; *Marko Stevanovitch*, aged 55; and *Philip Tatitch*, aged 48.

Borka Yankovitch, of *Shor*, aged 28, says that 40 persons are missing from her village. Among the missing are four members of her family: her husband, her father, and her two brothers.

Milan Christich, of *Runjane*, aged 61. He had fled at the approach of the Austrians, leaving behind his wife, Staika, aged 60, who suffered from her feet, and was unable to accompany him. On his return he found his wife dead. She had been shot. His house was completely sacked, and the soldiers carried off everything.

Sima Raditch, aged 57, of *Lipnitza*. After the Austrians had burnt his corn, they wanted to burn his barn likewise. When his wife, *Draghinia*, aged 57, begged the soldiers to spare what was their entire possession, the Austrians replied by shooting her dead. *Raditch* was compelled to accompany the detachment to taste the well-water.

Zhivana Stanishitch, of *Kosiak*, fled with two children, leaving three at home. One was an infant of six weeks, one a child of one year and a half, and the third three years. The last named ran away from the house, and was taken in by neighbours. The other two died of hunger.

Maxim Maximovitch, assistant Judge, of *Grntchani*, says that 120 people are missing from the parish, which consists of five villages. A woman of 50 years of age was taken out of her house and eventually hanged. Her body was not found until a fortnight later.

Loznitza

——, of *Loznitza*, aged 48, assistant Judge, has furnished me with the following particulars: Loznitza had already suffered greatly when the Austrians passed through for the first time. After passing through for the second time they bombarded the town with fougasses.

More than 60 persons were killed at Loznitza. One woman was first wounded in the chest and then hanged. Another woman, aged 81, was riddled with 17 bayonet thrusts. Another one had her chest broken in. The Austrians demanded 30,000 francs war contribution for undertaking not to carry off hostages. The sum was handed over, but in spite of this they carried off 60 persons, including 16 who were natives of Loznitza.

Yadranska-Leshnitza

Dragitch Karapandjitch, aged 53, deposes: When the Austrians came they beat *Yanko Karapandjitch*, aged 68, so severely with the butt-ends of their

rifles that he had to take to his bed, and died of his injuries on October 13th. He begged them to spare his son *Ivan*, aged 22, but they killed him in spite of the entreaties of old Karapandjitch.

Mitcho Kalitch, aged 62, of *Yadranska-Leshnitza*, a relative of *Ilia Raitch*, buried the latter and noticed that his nose and ears had been cut off, and his eyes put out (according to the official list: "Ilia Raitch, nose and one ear cut off, subsequently killed"). He had fled, and found the dead body of his kinsman near *Dobritch*.

Milan Ivanovitch, aged 15, of *Donji Dobritch*. He was at home when the Austrians arrived. They asked him questions which he failed to understand, and for this they struck him with their bayonets. He received an especially severe blow on the left elbow. I examined the wound.

Dr. Milivoievitch, *Surgeon-Major*, states that in his ambulance he treated a woman who had received 20 bayonet wounds, and her infant, aged six months, suffering from bayonet wound in the elbow.

Uroshia Marianovitch, aged 50. The Austrians arrived and asked her where the Serbian Army was. Uroshia was at home with her husband. They could give them no answer. Then the soldiers took them and cut off the nose and ears of her husband, and of his brothers, and then killed both of them. This massacre was perpetrated in a maize-field.

——, ex-deputy for ——, aged 54, buried the brothers Marianovitch, and saw himself that Uroshia's husband had no face left, and that his brother had 13 bullets in his head, and 15 bayonet wounds on his body.

Anitza Raitch, wife of Ilia Raitch, aged 63. Soldiers who spoke no Serbian took him into the yard, and she saw them cut off one of her husband's ears. When the family subsequently carried away Raitch's dead body, he had neither ears, nor eyes, nor nose.

Nadezhda Raitch, aged 19, corroborated the statement of her aunt Anitza.

Breziak consists of three villages, viz.: *Slatina*, *Donja* and *Gornia Nedeljitza*. In this district the Austrians killed 54 persons in various ways. Most of them were disembowelled with the great sabres that were carried by your prisoners; this weapon has the following dimensions:—

Width of blade, 5 cm.; thickness of the back of the blade, 0·7 cm.; length of blade, 46 cm.; total length of the sabre, 63 cm. I append the names of some of the killed, with a brief specification of their wounds:

Anitza Yezditch, aged 32, eyes put out, nose and ears cut off.

Simo Yezditch, aged 14, nose and ears cut off.

Yelka Domitch, aged 13, nose and ears cut off.

Tzvetko Pavlovitch, eyes put out.

Krsman Kalabitch, aged 56, eyes put out, nose and ears cut off.

Smiliana Vasilievitch, aged 48, eyes put out.

Mirosava Vasilievitch, aged 21, violated by about 40 soldiers, genital organs cut off, her hair pushed down the vagina. She was finally disembowelled, but only died immediately after this being done.

Lazar Petrovitch, aged 46, one hand cut off and eyes put out.
Militza Petrovitch, aged 45, breasts cut off.
Dobria Petrovitch, aged 18, eyes put out.
Stanka Petrovitch, aged 14, eyes put out, nose cut off.
Ana Petrovitch, aged 7, ears cut off.
} One family. They were found in a ditch with their dog, pinioned and all tied together, including the dog.

Zhivko Pavlovitch, aged 50, cut in pieces.
Stanitza Pavlovitch, aged 50, cut in pieces, and eyes put out as well.
Zorka Pavlovitch, aged 18, cut in pieces.
} One family.

Nikola Tomitch, aged 63, many bayonet wounds.
Zhivko Madjarevitch, aged 70, eyes put out.
Stanoie Madjarevitch, aged 40, ears cut off.
Yotso Milovanovitch, aged 90, skin cut to ribbons.
Milosav Obradovitch, aged 18, nose and ears cut off, eyes put out.
Dragoljub Isitch, aged 18, nose and ears cut off.
Zhivko Peitchitch, aged 70, eyes put out, riddled with wounds.
Svetozar Tomitch I., aged 54, eyes put out.
Svetozar Tomitch II., aged 60, nose and ears cut off.
Tzvetko Yakitch, aged 23, eyes put out.
Mileva Yakitch, aged 17, violated, then killed.
Srcten Rositch, aged 26, slashed and riddled with wounds.

Milivoie Rositch, aged 25.
Sava Rositch, aged 50.
Mihailo Rositch, aged 18.
Stana Rositch, aged 50.
} Eyes put out, riddled with bayonet wounds.

Ljubomir Madjarevitch, aged 16, nose cut off, eyes put out.

Stanitza Shakitch, aged 24, violated several times and bayoneted.

Dragomir Shakitch, aged 35, violated several times, transpierced with a bayonet.

Stana Shakitch, aged 15, violated, several bayonet wounds.

Milcva Gaitch, aged 44, covered with wounds of various kinds.

All these atrocities were perpetrated by the Austrians on their arrival on August 3rd. No one among the civil population had fired upon the enemy, and most of the villagers had taken flight. Almost all those who remained were massacred. The bodies of *Zhivko Boitch*, aged 70, and of his daughter-in-law, *Pelka*, aged 25, and her infant, aged 4 months, were found later on. The bodies had been cut to pieces. An Austrian General Staff had its headquarters in Breziak. The Yadar districts lost about 800 persons in killed and missing. Still this number does not include the atrocities committed by the Austrians among the population of the two communes still occupied by the troops of Francis Joseph (October 1914).

Smilia Vasilievitch, aged 60, of *Breziak*, witnessed the murder of Smiliana Vasilievitch. After having killed the mother, the Austrians wanted to violate the daughter *Mirosava*, but as the girl defended herself, the soldiers killed her, thrusting her through and through with their bayonets. Mirosava called to Vasilievitch to come to help her, but witness

neither could nor dared to interfere. The injured girl died while she was being outraged.

Yovan Milovanovitch, aged 90, and the woman *Vasilievitch* saw the soldiers put out Mirosava's eyes, cut off her ears, and strip off her skin.

Dr. Tcheda M. Mihailovitch, chief 2nd class physician, director of the medical service of the Combined Division, testifies that in Yadranska-Leshnitza he saw the body of an old man of 60, whose eyes had been put out, and whose ears and nose had been cut off with a knife. These injuries presented the appearance of having been inflicted while the unfortunate man was yet alive.

Vladimir Minkovitch, of *Ledintze*, Frushka Gora, sergeant of the 4th battery of the 6th Artillery Regt. of the Reserve, an Austrian who came over to the Serbian camp, deposed and signed the following declaration:

On August 4th we camped on the high road on the left bank of the Korenitza Reka (river). Near by we found the dead bodies of a woman and three quite young girls. All the men of our company including the Commanding Officer saw the victims. All were horror-struck at the sight, including the Commanding Officer *Zharko Varbaski* (Memorandum of the General Staff of the Army of the Drina, Yarebitze, signed by Minkovitch).

The town of *Yarebitze* (pop. 2,115)

——, assistant Judge, and ——, Police-Superintendent, both of *Yarebitze*, declare that 25 persons of the population have been killed, and 10 are missing, 17 were pinioned and taken away to Krivaitza,

where they were killed. They were people between 47 and 60 years of age. The number of the killed includes 8 women, a girl of 16, 1 aged 14, finally 1 aged 10, and a boy of 12.

In *Zavlaka* there were 20 killed, and 7 are missing. Many of the dead bodies were only discovered later, and thus it is probable that the 7 missing persons have also been killed. One of the wounded is at the hospital at Kraguievatz. The following are the names of some of the persons killed in Zavlaka:

Yovan Kristitch, aged 25, shot, and his head crushed by a blow with the butt-end of a rifle.

Vlaiko Yevtimovitch, aged 12, found massacred with 5 other inhabitants.

Zorka Yevtimovitch, aged 19, massacred.

Milovan Kristitch, aged 50.

Tzana Stanimirovitch, aged 50, knifed and sabred.

It was said at first that the women had been violated, but at present this is no longer mentioned. This is probably due to the fact that the peasants are anxious to hush up facts which they consider gravely detrimental to their honour and good name.

Most of the victims were from 50 to 68 years of age. Their number includes the 2 women above-mentioned. It is certain that 2 women aged 74, and 13 younger ones were violated by the soldiers.

The Austrians arrived in the village of Zavlaka on August 4th, and passed through again on August 6th. The massacres were committed on both occasions, when the enemy passed through.

Several victims were taken away to a distance of 2 km. from the village and massacred there.

Likodra consists of 2 parishes, and has a population of about 2,200. It is estimated that 57 are killed and missing. Of the 57 missing persons only 9 dead bodies have been found, the rest were probably killed elsewhere. Many women were violated. Those whose names are given below have admitted that they were outraged by the Austrian soldiery.

1. *Anitza Nikolitch*, aged 64.
2. *Ilinka Perishitch*, aged 77.
3. *Yulka Marinkovitch*, aged 27.
4. *Ilinka Marinkovitch*, aged 29.
5. *Mileva Neshitch*, aged 25.
6. *Miliana Pavlovitch*, aged 42.

Many of the victims had been killed with the bayonet, others were hanged. Most of these atrocities were committed by the Austrians on their arrival, still, several persons were also killed when the troops passed through for the second time.

Ilinka Perishitch, aged 77, of *Krasava*. An Austrian soldier, who wore stars on his collar and a cross on his arm, came to her and addressed her thus: "Come into the house." When they were indoors, he undressed, laid his clothes on the floor and threw Ilinka Perishitch on the floor. She thought at first he was going to kill her, but when she understood what he wanted, she said to him, "Leave me alone, I am not made for this kind of thing, and I could be your grandmother." He answered: "If you are old, to make up for it, I am young." He used her once. When

he had done this, he demanded food and drink. He spoke Serbian badly, and on his departure he urged her to tell no one what he had done. Perishitch had advised all the young girls to fly. Her cousin Theodore Perishitch was in the house at the time, and overheard everything.

Velimir Perishitch, aged 60, of *Krasava*, deposes: The villagers were killed on the arrival of the Austrians and at their departure. Perishitch saw *Ivan Radivoievitch*, aged 62, being killed. Ivan tried to escape with him, but was discovered by the Austrian soldiers who shot him. Most of the soldiers could not speak Serbian. Those who could said to the people, "Run away and hide." When the Serb troops approached the village and their guns opened fire upon the Austrians, the officers of the latter took shelter in the cellars and behind buildings. Perishitch was spared because they had established an ambulance in his house. One day an officer asked him whether he had heard that the Russians had arrived in Serbia. On their retreat the Austrians left 49 of their wounded in the village—47 men and 2 officers.

Ilinka Perishitch (see preceding deposition), cousin of Velimir Perishitch. The wives of the brothers Perishitch corroborated the statement that the Austrians outraged many women. Most of the soldiers were of Hungarian nationality.

Alexander Stevanovitch, Captain in the Engineers, saw the dead bodies of two women in *Bastava*. The breasts had been cut off and put in the mouths of the victims (the women *Soldatovitch*). In a village near Krupanj two young girls,

aged 17 and 21 respectively, were found unconscious in consequence of having been used by more than 20 soldiers.

In *Shlivovo* the Captain saw the body of an infant of four months whose throat had been pierced. In Bastava he saw the bodies of an old man of 60 and another pierced with bayonet thrusts.

Town of *Krupanj* (pop. 1,300)

Many persons, who were brought from other localities, were killed at Krupanj. Only two natives of Krupanj were killed and 13 persons were taken away, of whom nothing has been heard since.

At the limit of the town the Austrians hanged about 20 persons who had been brought there from several villages.

Persida Simonovitch, aged 27, innkeeper in Krupanj. Her inn was made headquarters of the Austrian general staff. The staff consisted of a General, a Major or Colonel, and several other officers. They told Persida to give up her bombs, saying: "With you in Serbia, women have bombs. Give them up."

The General's physician asked her for eggs for the General. She had none herself, but succeeded in procuring one from a neighbour; she wanted to give it to the doctor, but the doctor advised her to take it herself to the General who could speak Serbian. Persida Simonovitch believes that she owes her life to this egg. The Major or Colonel (the officer who came next in rank to the General) was very harsh. Whenever the capture of several

peasants was announced, he immediately gave the order, "To the nut-tree with them!" He spoke Serbian very badly. Simonovitch first saw 5 men hanged, then twice 7 peasants, and finally 1 more. All these men were hanged on the trees by the roadside just in front of her house. Usually the soldiers only left them hanging till they had dug the pits for burial. Only one corpse was left nearly all day. Most of those hanged were old men and young boys. Before hanging their victims the soldiers beat them most terribly with the butt-ends of their rifles. The soldiers were Croats, Germans and Hungarians.

She asked one soldier who spoke Serbian: "Why do you do these things?" He answered: "Because we have been ordered to." Four officers who put up at her inn told her one day to sew them some small bags to hold the money taken from the men who were hanged and from the prisoners, as well as that which they looted in the village. When she asked why they were taking all the money, they answered that the war was a heavy expense to the Austrian State and that this money was to help to defray the cost of it.

In the parish of *Sokol*, 24 persons were killed and 55 carried off. The victims were bayoneted or shot, or clubbed to death with the butt-ends of rifles. The Austrians committed these massacres on August 4th and 5th.

In *Kostainik* (pop. 2,400) the Austrians perpetrated numerous cruelties. In all 94 persons were either killed or carried off.

Tzvetan Markovitch, aged 80, was bayoneted, his body being pierced many times, after which the soldiers set his barn on fire, and threw the corpse into the flames. The comitadji volunteers had passed through Kostainik on their retreat from the Drina. The Austrians probably thought that the villagers were concealing them. The women were outraged.

——, Kostainik, saw six soldiers violate one woman in a maize-field. These six soldiers were telephonists (engineers?). Most of the victims were killed near their houses. *Dragoslav*, the 17-year-old son of the clerk Grouitchitch, was killed. He was carried off with 15 others and all were massacred at Korenitza. Two peasants at Kostainik were hanged at Krupanj. On their return to Kostainik the Austrians again killed several inhabitants. The first invasion took place on August 3rd (old style), the second on August 30th, but at the time of the last incursion all those who were able, took to flight. *Alexia Gaitch*, who was in an advanced state of pregnancy, was first pierced through and through with a bayonet and then killed. Eight women were massacred.

In *Brezovnitza*, 23 persons are dead or missing. The fate of eight of them is unknown, the others were bayoneted.

Parish of *Drina*. Nine persons killed, 11 missing.

Parish of *Tolisavatz*. 42 killed and missing. The victims were massacred in different ways, hanged, run through with bayonets, sabred, burnt alive, etc.

Parish of *Banjevatz*. *Svetozar Markovitch*, aged 38, Deputy-Mayor of Banjevatz, declares that 55 persons were killed or are missing. Several persons are wounded.

Parish of *Bela Tzrkva*. The Austrians perpetrated numerous massacres in this commune. The following are the names of some of their victims:—

Petar Panitch, aged 80, was bayoneted to death in front of his house, after having given up all he possessed without offering any resistance.

Zhivko Arsenovitch, aged 80, was likewise massacred beside his own house.

Milan, *Spasoie*, *Simeon* and *Ljubomir Djurgievitch* were bayoneted to death and mutilated with knives, after the soldiers had robbed them of everything.

Bogosav Meditch, aged 60, was killed and mutilated.

Ilia Markovitch, aged 60, wounded and then killed beside his own house.

The woman, *Dobria Vasilitch*, was killed in her own house.

The child of *Milorad Djurgievitch*, aged 2 years, was killed in his house; the other children were wounded.

Ljubomir Vasitch was clubbed to death. In addition to these persons killed, two persons were carried off and killed at Kostainik, viz. *Stevan Djurgievitch*, aged 50, and *Dragutin Krstitch*. They were also completely mutilated.

Several young men moreover were carried off and have not been heard of since. Their number includes:

PLATE 17.—PEASANTS MASSACRED AT LOZNITZA BY THE HUNGARIAN TROOPS.
Photograph taken August 23rd, 1914.

PLATE 18.—THE WOMAN SOLDATOVITCH (AGED 78) KILLED AND MUTILATED AT BASTAVA, AUGUST 19TH, 1914.

Milutin Rakitch, aged 17, *Zhivorad Kovatchevitch*, aged 17, and *Svetozar Stevanovitch*, aged 17.

In *Likodra*

Rade Zelitch, aged 60, a very wealthy peasant, was murdered by the Austrians, and his body left on the edge of a wood. His family alleges that the Austrians robbed him of 30,000 francs. The neighbours say it was only 20,000 francs. *Ninko*, aged 23, son of Rade Zelitch, declares that his father was killed in the fields, and by two bayonet-thrusts, one in the chest and one through the ear. The Austrians had installed an ambulance in Zelitch's house, and that is how they came to know where he kept his money. They killed his father on their return journey.

Sima Sekulitch, aged 84, *George Rovitch*, and a third party were to be hanged when the Serbian army arrived. The Austrians had no time to carry out their intention and fled. Thus the lives of all three were saved.

In *Tolisavatz*

Radosav Knezhevitch, aged 42, deposes that when the Austrians came to his house, a soldier wounded him slightly with his bayonet; he was taken to the Austrian General Staff, where he was detained for one hour. He was then pinioned and imprisoned with five other persons. They were left for four days without being given anything to eat. They were each pinioned separately, and furthermore all roped together with one long rope. By the

end of the fourth day, 56 persons were secured together in this fashion. The Austrians then retired, taking the hostages with them, but were obliged to give battle to the Morava Division. Several hostages profited by a moment of panic to effect their escape. Knezhevitch does not know what became of those who stayed behind or were unable to escape. He, having escaped, found one of his children which had been taken away a five-hours' march from the place where they had been imprisoned for four days. Many of the missing were subsequently found hanging on trees.

Milosh Djuritchitch, aged 55, of Tolisavatz, was killed in his own house, and the body thrown into the fire.

Raiko Vonikovatz, aged 24. The Austrians came to fetch him from his house, and took him away pinioned. Vonikovatz was in the same party as Knezhevitch. When the Austrians encountered the Serbs, he profited by the panic to escape; as his bonds had loosened he was able to escape, especially as during the moment of panic nobody paid any attention to the hostages. During his flight he fell in with an Austrian patrol which fired upon him, and wounded him. Of the 56 hostages, 13 succeeded in escaping, 5 others were subsequently found dead.

Svetozar Vasilievitch, aged 51, of *Bela Tzrkva*, was one of the hostages who succeeded in escaping. During the march the officers asked why one was at so much trouble to take away these "bougres." It would have been more simple to kill them at once. The women of his village were outraged.

Bastava

Mileva Soldatovitch, aged 40, deposes that all the women and children of the village had fled to the Tile-works when the Austrians came. Only the two women Soldatovitch, who were invalids, remained behind in the belief that owing to their infirmity they would be in no danger. The Austrian soldiers killed them and cut off their breasts. This was done in their own house. One was found lying in her bed, the other behind the door. Besides having had their breasts cut off, the two women bore marks of many bayonet thrusts and their arms had been broken. The breasts were not found. (There is a slight discrepancy here between this deposition and that of Captain Stevanovitch, who avers that the breasts were placed in the mouths of the victims.)

Zhurka Mladenovitch, aged 20, saw the bodies of the two old women whose breasts were cut off (see the preceding deposition). They had been killed in their own house. One lay on her bed, the other behind the door. These atrocities were committed during the retreat of the Austrian troops from the Tzer. In all 7 persons from Bastava were killed.

Michailo Mladenovitch, aged 48, likewise saw the bodies of the two Soldatovitch. They were covered with knife-wounds (probably bayonet-wounds). When the bodies were washed for burial, as is customary, the women who carried out this duty observed that the Soldatovitch had been outraged before they were killed. They were respectively 66 and 80 years of age.

(Cf. the deposition of Captain *Stevanovitch*, of *Bara.*)

Ljubovia

Minko Taditch, aged 49, Mayor and President of the Town Council, declares that his entire parish, including the villages, has a population of 4,500. Fifty-six persons were killed or have been lost sight of during the first Austrian invasion. During the second invasion the number of the killed and missing was augmented to 65. *Yephrem Momitch*, aged 80, had the male organ cut off and put in his mouth. *Sima Savitch*, who was ill (apoplexy), was burnt alive in his house. The other victims were either shot or bayoneted. The women were violated. At first they complained of this, but now they say nothing and try to hide their shame. Several persons were so badly beaten that they were crippled in consequence. The Mayor knew of three such cases :— *Rista Timotitch*, aged 52 ; *Glisha Nikolitch*, aged 78 ; and *Ranko Lazitch*, aged 46.

All these atrocities were committed by Hungarians, Germans and Croats. No one in the commune had fired at the enemy.

Gornia Ljubovidja

Milo Ivanitch, aged 44, Mayor of Gornia Ljubovidja, declares that the Austrians killed 4 persons during their first invasion and 6 during the second. Most of the victims were bayoneted. Their number includes two women, one of whom was 68 years old, and the other 28, and *Radovan*

Rankovitch, aged 60, who was killed and thrown into the fire.

Ilinka Sevitch, aged about 75, of *Miailovitz*, in the parish of Gornia Ljubovidja, deposes: When the Austrians came for the second time (August 26th), a patrol came to search her house. During the course of the search a soldier struck her twice with the butt end of his rifle. Presently the soldiers brought in *Bozhidar Sevitch*, aged 52, *Momchilo Sevitch*, aged 23, and *Zhivoin Sevitch*, aged 20, and killed them before her eyes with great knives (probably the sabres of the pioneers). They struck their victims all over the body. Ilinka was compelled to witness this atrocious scene.

Donja Ljubovidja

Dikosava Yovanovitch, aged about 56, deposes that more than 30 persons were killed in his village.

Pelaghia Lazitch was confined the very day the Austrians carried her off to Bosnia and killed her husband. She was sent back later on, but her infant had died on the journey. About 26 persons were taken away in this manner, and their fate is unknown.

Selanatz

Yakov Panovitch, aged 59, deputy-mayor, deposes that in Selanatz there are 29 persons killed and missing. His cousin, *Lazar Panovitch*, aged 90, was riddled with bayonet-thrusts, and struck on the head with the same weapon. Having noticed that a young girl, *Mileva Panovitch*, had one crooked leg, the soldiers compelled her to strip on the pretext that they wanted to see whether she was malinger-

ing. Two other women, *Anka Mladenovitch*, aged 35, and *Draghinia Mladenovitch*, aged 20, were taken 200 metres away from their house and violated.

In *Azbukovitza*

Draghitch Visitch, aged 51, Mayor of the parish, declares that during the first invasion there were five persons killed and eight lost sight of. Those killed had their noses and ears cut off. He also knows a girl who had been outraged.

In *Uzovnitza*

Gjuro Gjuritch, aged 57, deputy-mayor, states that during the first invasion one person was killed and five during the second. His cousin, *Ilia Gjuritsch*, aged 75, was hanged, and then run through with bayonets. The others were massacred with the bayonet. *Gospava Trifunovitch*, aged 75, was burnt in his house. *Avram Kostitch*, aged 90, was shot. *Urosh Bolitch*, aged 80, a paralytic, was shot.

Michailo Gjuritch, aged 49, of *Uzovnitza*, found his father *Ilia*, aged 75, hanged before his own house. He was covered with bullet-wounds and bayonet-wounds. (See preceding deposition.) His sister, *Yana Nikolitch*, aged 48, was compelled to carry the Austrian wounded to the Drina. She asked them why they had killed her old father, and they answered "Because he refused to shout 'Long live the Emperor Francis Joseph.'"

In *Gornia Bukovitza*

Vladimir Yovanovitch, aged 52, saw four soldiers violate the young girl *Krista Nikolitch*, aged 18. She begged them to kill her rather than to dishonour

her, but the soldiers forced her and violated her. Yovanovitch witnessed this scene from his hiding-place in a thicket.

Draghitch Pantitch, aged 42, saw *Yevrosima Gaitch* run through with a bayonet after his nose and ears had been cut off and his wrists broken. The scene took place before his house. His nephew, *Radoie Gaitch*, aged 20, was shot and his house demolished.

Ljubomir Brankovitch, aged 35, absolutely corroborates the evidence of *Draghitch Pantitch*, and so do *Sveto Saritch*, aged 55, *Svetozar Biserovitch*, aged 39, and *Milan Milovanovitch*, aged 30.

Donia Bukovitza

Tzvetko Yevitch, aged 56, saw *Kosta Maditch*, aged 60, burnt on a hay-cock. He could not say whether Maditch was dead already when he was thrown into the flames. Jevitch maintains that the body of *Kosta Maditch* was spitted and roasted.

Savo Stanoievitch declares that he heard from the family of Kosta Maditch that four persons were burnt in all, viz.: *Zhivoin Milovanovitch*, aged 45, *Ilia Gavrilovitch*, aged about 45, and his son, *Voyslav*, aged 18, and *Kosta Maditch*, who were said to have been spitted. There were five persons killed in the house of *Stanko Petrovitch*.

Maxim Ristitch, aged 60. He saw three soldiers trying to impale *Raia Nikolitch*, aged 60. They had a long wooden spit. Raia shrieked. An officer came upon the scene, and this prevented the Austrians from carrying out their intention. *Nikolitch*, who is deaf, was then taken away for 24 hours. Ristitch also saw the four charred corpses of *Milo-*

vanovitch, *Ilia* and *Voyslav Gavrilovitch*, and of *Kosta Maditch* (see the preceding deposition). He also saw another corpse with its throat cut and the face mutilated.

The Austrians took the women to their camp and kept them there for three days. They were violated there. There were little girls of twelve and thirteen among them.

Stanoie Stanoievitch, aged 47, deposes that many women of Donia Bukovitza were taken for 24 hours to the Austrian camp and violated there.

Donje Koshlje

Milan Gjorgjevitch, aged 50, saw the bodies of 4 persons who had been killed, viz., *Pavle Lukitch*, aged 55, *Gvozden Yevtchitch*, aged 60, *Radosav Yevtchitch*, aged 50, and *Krsman Yosipovitch*, aged 55. The bodies lay beside the houses of the victims. Radosav had his throat cut, Gvozden was burnt. Four other persons moreover had been shot, including the woman *Luia Damianovitch*. Luia, who was only wounded, pretended to be dead, and escaped as soon as the Austrians had gone. Gjorgjevitch had heard that women had been violated. Thus, for instance, in the village of Banjevatz 40 women were said to have been outraged by the soldiery of Francis Joseph, and each woman about 14 times. The soldiers were of Hungarian nationality.

In *Uzovnitza*

Dragutin Muratovitch, aged 46. When the Austrians came for the second time, as he was coming home from the mill he heard rifle shots

being fired beside his house. He went away and hid with friends at the far side of the village. Returning to his house next day he found his daughter *Smiljana*, aged 18, killed by a shot through the eyes, and with her skull crushed in. She had died instantaneously. His wife, *Anka*, aged 38, was wounded in the occiput by an Austrian bullet. (I verified the wound.) Everywhere in the village he came upon the bodies of slaughtered people.

Anka Muratovitch states that she was quietly at home in her house when the Austrians came. The soldiers opened the door of the room, fired, and went. The children were asleep in their bed and covered in with bedclothes, so that the soldiers did not see them. This scene occurred at 2 o'clock in the morning.

In *Likodra*

Draghi Beganovitch, aged 25, of Likodra, saw three peasants brought by the Austrians to within a few hundred metres of his house in Krasava. The soldiers laid the men down beside the hay-cock and then prodded them with their bayonets, turning the weapon round and round in the wound. The victims were men aged about 40. With these three peasants there was also a pregnant woman, who was violated and then killed in the presence of Beganovitch.

I have also received the deposition of Captain *Boyovitch*, who corroborates a certain number of the cases described in this report, such as the massacre of the 109 victims of *Leshnitza*, the murders of *Zavlaka*, etc. His deposition also deals with

the massacre of 17 persons in *Krivaia*, by the Austrian Major *Balzarek*, of which massacre an official report was drawn up by an international commission, which report is in your hands at this moment. Captain Boyovitch also reports the following circumstances: "On August 8th, at 10 o'clock in the evening, Dr. P., Austrian Army Surgeon, of Serb nationality, arrived at the head-quarters of the Third Army, and stated that before crossing the frontier the Croat officers had addressed their troops in the following fashion:

> "You must not allow anything to live, not "even the child in its mother's womb. But "you must not spend your cartridges on killing "these people. As every body has two holes, "let your bayonets go in at the one and out "at the other."

I refrain from reproducing the deposition of Captain Boyovitch in full, as it contains asseverations which strike me as being exaggerated. These are in reference to certain cases which did not come under his personal observation, but which were reported to him by others, who were doubtless inclined to exaggerations by the emotions roused by the sights they had seen.

Deposition made by *Dr. Bashitch*, of the 1st Cavalry Regiment:—

The wounded were found in the school at Tzulkovitch. They had all been taken to this house and had their wounds dressed there. The wounded men stated that, in *Dobritch* the Austrians com-

pelled the women, children, and old men to go into a cellar. At each side of the door, to the right and left, stood an Austrian soldier with fixed bayonet. Each person in passing received a bayonet thrust from either side. Almost all were wounded in this way, and most of the victims were wounded in several places. Those who were thin and active had escaped more serious hurts, but the old men and children were cruelly cut about. This happened on August 6th (old style). On August 7th the wounds were attended to.

When Dr. Bashitch arrived, 2 children of 11 and 9 years of age were at the point of death. Both were suffering from injuries in the abdomen which had brought on acute peritonitis. Dr. Bashitch immediately performed a laparotomy, but the children died in spite of his efforts.

Vidosava Pavla Raitchitch, aged 12, is the only victim of a revolver wound. She received it from an Austrian cavalry soldier (a dragoon). She is the only survivor of a whole family which was shot by the Austrians.

Vidosava, daughter of Pavle Raitchitch, of Tzulkovatz, aged 12, slight bullet wound in the right shoulder.

Gospava, wife of Trifun Lovtchevitch, of Dobritch, aged 55, two bayonet wounds, one in the back, and one near the left breast.

Gospava, daughter of Yovan Tovitovitch, of Tzulkovatz, aged 7 years, superficial bayonet wound in the chest.

Dobrivoie, son of Voyslav Adamovitch, of Dobritch aged 31, superficial bayonet wound in the back.

Natalia, daughter of Voyslav Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 26, superficial bayonet wound in the chest.

Draghisha, son of Pavle Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 11, superficial bayonet wound in the chest, deep bayonet wound in the right side; mortally wounded.

Djevadia, wife of Zhivko Boghitchevitch, of Tzulkovatz, aged 42, bayoneted in the abdomen, dangerously wounded.

Zhivana, daughter of Milosh Stefanovitch, of Dobritch, aged 15, three superficial wounds, viz., in the hand, back, and chest.

Zagorka, daughter of Yovan Lovtchevitch, of Dobritch, aged 10, two superficial bayonet wounds in the side.

Zorka, daughter of Stanka Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 3, two superficial bayonet wounds in the hand and in the chest.

Ivana, wife of Yovitza Lovtchevitch, of Dobritch, aged 32, two superficial bayonet wounds in the breast and chest.

Yovan Lovtchevitch, of Dobritch, aged 48, two superficial bayonet wounds in the back and hand.

Yovanka, daughter of Ivan Grouitch, of Dobritch, aged 10, superficially wounded in the back (with a bayonet).

Leposava, wife of Milan Lovtchevitch, of Dobritch, aged 23, superficially wounded in the left breast.

Leposava, daughter of Yovan Lovtchevitch, of Dobritch, aged 20, two bayonet wounds, one a complete perforation; dangerously injured.

Ljubomir, son of Zhivko Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 9, superficial bayonet wound.

Milosh, son of Yovan Lovtchevitch, of Dobritch, aged 17, three superficial bayonet wounds.

Mirka, daughter of Zhivko Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 15, two superficial bayonet wounds.

Milka, daughter of Stefan Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 17, three severe bayonet wounds.

Milka Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 74, severe bayonet wound.

Milka, wife of Petar Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 50, bayonet wound.

Svetozar, son of Yovan Lovtchevitch, of Dobritch, aged 8, bayonet thrust in left side.

Olga, daughter of Petar Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 6, slight bayonet wound.

Rosa, daughter of Zhivoin Popovitch, of Dobritch, aged 15, severe wound in the abdomen. Her father and mother were killed on the way.

Raiva, daughter of Antonie Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 2, superficial bayonet wound.

Spasenia, wife of Milisav Nikolitch, of Dobritch, aged 23, two superficial bayonet wounds.

Tihomir Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 19, superficial bayonet wound.

Tzonia, wife of Gjoka Yovanovitch, of Dobritch, aged 56, severe bayonet wound in the abdomen.

Milutin, son of Pavle Adamovitch, of Dobritch, aged 9, deep bayonet wound in the abdomen. Dead.

The undersigned treated all the wounds specified above, on August 7th, 1914.

Signed, Dr. Drag. Bashitch,
Surgeon of the 1st Cavalry Regt.

Affidavit by *Misha St. Ilitch*:

"In the village of *Krivaitza* I saw a party of 15 persons who had been massacred. They were all tied together with one big rope. Most of them were women and old men. Two young children (barely 5 years old) were included in their number. Each one of the victims had been killed in a different manner. Some had an arm or a leg broken, others had their throats cut, yet others had been run through with bayonets. In some cases the flesh had been partially sliced away, in others strips of skin had been removed. Beside this group of 15 persons there were yet another three peasants, shot dead. This massacre was perpetrated by order of Commanding Officer *Balzarek*.

"In the village of *Breziak*, I saw the dead bodies of an entire family, consisting of 4 persons (father, mother, and two daughters). Their dog had been tied to one of the girls and killed with its owners. In this village I also inspected the bodies of other 6 victims who had been killed together and then buried by the Austrian soldiers. When the bodies were exhumed, they were in such an advanced state of decomposition, that it was impossible to recognise them. A nauseating stench so infected the atmosphere that we could not endure the presence of the bodies.

"Valievo, October 5th, 1914.

"(Signed) MISHA ST. ILITCH."

This written affidavit refers to the Balzarek affair which is narrated in full in Report No. 23, by *Colonel Djura Dokitch* (see his deposition) and it is

mentioned in Captain Boyovitch's deposition, taken down in Yarebitze. The affidavit of M. St. Ilitch was accompanied by photographs which are in my hands. You are in possession of the report of the International Commission which collected important evidence bearing upon this affair and whose report I shall not repeat in my present work.

Official Military Reports

No. 1

Under the date 12/25 of August, *Kuyundjitch*, Officer in Command of the 1st Company, 3rd Battalion, 13th Regt., makes the following report:—

More than 20 persons belonging to the village of *Grushitch* have been killed. Half of the victims were young women, young boys and children.

In the village of *Tzulkovitch*, 15 persons, the greater number of whom were young boys, girls, and children, were assassinated, mostly bayoneted to death. A one-year-old infant was bayoneted full in the chest, and died in consequence of this injury. All these atrocities were committed in the rooms and cellars where the population had sought to take refuge at the approach of the Austrian invasion.

(See deposition by Dr. Bashitch.)

A young man had hidden in a maize-field. A passer-by told him that the army marching past was not Austrian but Serbian. The unfortunate youth left his hiding-place and was taken by the

Austrians, who butchered him, after having first put out his eyes.

Fifteen to twenty persons belonging to the village of *Metkovitch* were killed.

More than 50 persons belonging to the village of *Dobritch*—men, women, and children—have been massacred. The women had their breasts cut or torn off. The mayor was among the killed.

A large number of young boys, girls, and children have been taken away from the above-named villages into captivity.

No. 2

Petar Obritch, Officer in Command of the 2nd Coy. 3rd Battalion, 13th Regiment, reports under the date August 12/25th :—

In the village of *Grushitch*, the Austrians killed the Mayor because he refused to betray the Serbian military secrets. They violated the women, and carried off all the young men into captivity.

In the villages of *Desitch* and *Radovashnitza* the Austrians wounded several persons.

In the village of *Bela Reka* the enemy soldiers killed the mayor, fired upon the peaceable civil population, and slashed the breasts of a Bohemian woman, the mother of 4 children. In the villages of *Petkovitza* and *Ribare* they set fire to several houses.

No. 3

Stoyan Dintchitch, Commanding Officer of the 4th Company, 3rd Battalion, 13th Regiment, reports under the date 12/25th of August :—

On August 7/20, in the village of *Bela Reka*, I

PLATE 19.—THE BUTCHER AND THE VICTIMS.

Joseph Balzarek (1), a Major of the 16th Hungarian Regt., taken prisoner by the Serbian Army at Krivaitza, and recognised by the peasants as officer who had ordered the massacre of civilians in that village. Photograph taken in the presence of a Dutch surgeon, Dr. Van Tienhoven (2); a Swiss manufacturer, M. Jules Schmidt (3); and representatives of the Serbian Red Cross and Home Office.

PLATE 20.—YOUNG PERSONS FROM 15 TO 17 YEARS OF AGE MASSACRED AT THE VILLAGE OF GRUSHITCH.

Notice the wounds at the apex of the skull and the eyes gouged out.

found the dead body of one of our peasants covered with bayonet-wounds inflicted by the Austrians. This particular villager had served them as guide. In the same village I heard the lamentations of a gipsy woman whose son had been killed by the Austrians because he refused to follow them into captivity. Another woman showed me a grave newly filled in, where the Austrians had buried her husband after having sacked his house and barns, etc. I also heard the pitiful and touching wailing of a young girl whose sister had been outraged and killed by the Austrians for refusing to follow them into captivity. One young girl of the village of *Tzulkovitch* told me that more than 20 persons, young girls or boys, were carried off from there into captivity, in order to cut off King Peter's supply of soldiers for several years to come.

No. 4

Radisav Starchevitch, Commanding Officer of the 3rd Battalion of the 13th Regt. of the 1st levy, reports under the date 12/25th of August:—

On my way through the villages where the Austrian army had been I heard nothing but the wailing and lamenting of women. In *Bela Reka* the Austrians had murdered a young girl. They killed the richest peasant in *Grushitch*, after having extorted 100 ducats from him. In *Tzulkovitch* they killed the mayor.

No. 5

Djoka Popovitch, priest, and chaplain of the 13th Regt. of the 2nd levy, made the following deposition dated 12/25th August:—

On the lines to the right of, and above the village of *Grushitch*, I saw the body of a boy of 17 or 18 who had been killed by the Austrians. Almost all the men of this village had been carried off into captivity. I was told that the Austrian soldatesca (both officers and privates) had been guilty of many acts of rapine, sparing neither old women nor little girls. Gipsy women were also outraged by the enemy. A gipsy wet-nurse complained that two soldiers had sucked her milk. In *Bela Reka* the Austrians carried off the entire male population into captivity (from boys to old men of 60 and 70).

I spoke with a young boy of the 2nd class of the primary school, who had been taken prisoner, and contrived to escape. The child was ignorant of the ultimate fate of the other prisoners, but he saw many of them shot in a maize-field. No sooner had the army of the enemy entered the village than all the inhabitants were assembled to hear the proclamation of the Emperor Francis Joseph. The proclamation was read out in Serbian. The women were compelled to shout "Long live Francis Joseph," while all the men were being taken away into captivity. The women were outraged. The mayor of the village was killed. The whole place was sacked.

In a house opposite the Town Hall of the village of *Tzulkovitch* I myself saw a heartrending spectacle of old men, old women, girls, young men, small children and boys—all suffering from bayonet wounds. The courtyard and the house were full of mangled men. A very great number of the wounded were little girls. There was also a

mother, who had been bayoneted in the cheek and thigh, and the infant she held in her arms had been wounded in the shoulder. The most horrible sight I saw was a boy who dragged himself into the yard—with his bowels hanging out, and without medical assistance. In a yard directly behind the house lay the dead bodies of two young girls.

On proceeding from *Tzulkovitch* to *Dobritch* I met a peasant who had been taken prisoner, but contrived to escape. He told me that a considerable number of people had been killed, slaughtered and wounded in the neighbourhood. At the same spot I met a young girl all covered with blood who told me that the Austrians had killed her two elder sisters and her younger brother.

No. 6

Mihailo Mikovitch, Commanding Officer of the 1st Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Regt. of the 1st levy, reports under the date of August 12/25th:

On Aug. 7/20 he saw mutilated Serbian women in *Tzulkovitch*. One of them had received a knife-thrust in the abdomen; after killing another, the Austrians slaughtered her child and placed the corpse between the legs of the dead woman. The inhabitants of the neighbourhood assured him that many atrocities of this kind had been committed in the neighbourhood.

No. 7

Lieutenant Arandjel Milenovitch, Second in Command of a Company, reports under the date of August 12/25th:

Following the road along the Tzer, I saw the bodies of two boys who had been killed in the (Austrian) positions. In the village of *Desitch* I saw the body of a peasant whose throat had been cut, and in *Tzulkovitch* the bodies of two quite young girls and three young women who had been killed.

No. 8

Dr. Nikola Ristitch, Army Surgeon (of the 13th Infantry Regiment, 1st levy), reports under the date of August 12/25th:

In the village of Desitch, he noted on August 7th that the whole population had taken flight.

On the same day, in *Bela Reka*, he was told by the peasants, that a large number of boys and girls, as well as young women, had been carried into captivity. In one house he found an old man, wounded, whose wounds he dressed. When he returned on the 8th and passed again through the village, a young gipsy woman told him that her husband had been killed. In the midst of the village of *Bela Reka*, he saw three young girls who bewailed an elder sister whom the Austrians had carried off and killed. Deceased was the wife of *Dragutin Markovitch*, of *Tzulkovitch*. On the outskirts of the village he visited a wounded man named *Mirko Krainovitch*, who was lying in bed, his right arm covered with blood. From this peasant he heard that the Austrians had taken him away, together with three other peasants, to the village of *Lipolist*, where the soldiers shot them. Two were killed on the spot, whereas he and one other man contrived to rise after the Austrians had left.

Krainovitch's right arm was broken by a bullet, another bullet had passed through the muscles of his right leg, and a third had grazed his chest.

In *Tzulkovitch* he (Dr. Ristitch) found new-made graves. The people of the neighbourhood told him that 20 peasants had been shot there.

On the road from *Kotzeljevo*, on August 5/18th he met two ox-carts. In one lay a woman and her daughter, both wounded in the legs. In the other lay a little girl of 5 or 6 years, wounded in the abdomen.

No. 9

Lieutenant *Draghisha Stoiadinovitch*, Second in Command of the 2nd Company of the 1st Battalion of the 13th Infantry Regiment, reports under the date of August 9th/22nd:

On August 7th and 8th, being in command of the sentinels on outpost duty, I made the rounds of the village of *Tzulkovitch* and the neighbourhood. There, in a ravine, I saw, piled up one on the top of the other, the corpses of 25 lads between 12 and 15 years of age and of two old men of over 60, pierced with bullets and slashed with knives and bayonets. On exploring a house I discovered two dead women, their bodies riddled with bullets. In the yard of a house lay an old woman, killed beside her daughter. They lay just outside the door, half-naked, their legs wide apart. Within the house beside the extinct fire sat an old man, haggard and dying, covered with bleeding wounds caused by knife and bayonet-thrusts. He said to me: "I cannot tell how it is that I am still alive. For

three days I have sat here, looking upon my dead wife and child, whose bodies lie beyond the door. After covering us with shame, they massacred us with their knives and then they fled, the cowards. And I am the only one left alive. I look upon that pool of blood, their blood, which spreads towards me, and I cannot even take one step to move away from it." In another yard I found a little boy of 4, thrown in there after he had been killed. The corpse had been partly devoured by dogs. Near him lay a young woman, stripped, and her slaughtered infant thrust between her legs. (See report No. 6.) A little further on, the body of an old woman was stretched on the ground. On a metal bedstead, hidden in the interior of the house lay the body of a very beautiful young girl, all convulsed by the final agony—her chemise covered with blood. On the floor, almost hidden beneath a pile of rugs, lay an elderly woman, also killed.

On the far side of the village I found two old men killed beside the door of a little cottage. Opposite the cottage two young girls lay dead. The peasants told me that the Austrians took all the inhabitants of both sexes, including two children, to their camp, and there ordered them to shout "Long live the brave Austrian army! Long live the Emperor Francis Joseph!" And all who refused were shot on the spot. I was also told that they killed the peasants for one or two dinars. In one house they (Austrians) found an old woman with her six daughters. Four of the daughters and the mother were killed, one daughter was wounded, and the remaining one contrived to

escape. I spoke to the two survivors. All day long wounded women and children come to me begging for medical assistance.

No. 10

Captain *Ilia Pantitch*, Officer in command of the 2nd Battalion of the 13th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of the 12/25th of August:—

As soon as the Austrian troops entered the village of *Prnjavor*, the officer in command caused several local notabilities to be shot, in order to intimidate the rest of the population. All food-stores were at once confiscated. The Austrians pointed their rifles at the villagers in order to make them take to their houses. Then they set fire to the houses. I saw the charred corpse of a woman and her child, both burnt alive. She had clasped it in her arms, and covered it with her skirt, as if in an attempt to protect it from the flames. In another spot I found a woman with one child between her knees and two others by her side. They had been burnt alive. The young girls and young married women were ravaged, not only by the common soldiers, but by the officers as well.

The Austrians, upon two different occasions, carried off people as hostages. The first time they took them across the Drina; their fate is unknown. The second time they took all the male population from boys of 12 upwards. The greater number of this convoy, however, was able to escape owing to the arrival of our cavalry in pursuit of the Austrians.

In the village of Prnjavor I was shown the sites of six houses, whose owners are at present on active service, and who on their return found nothing left of their homes. The houses had been completely burnt and the members of their families burnt alive. In four other houses nobody was spared, not even the little children. All these families have been completely wiped out.

No. 11

Captain *Milan Nikolitch*, Officer in command of the 4th Company of the 4th Battalion of the 13th Infantry Regiment, reports under the date of August 12/25th:—

A man between 40 and 45 years of age was murdered in the village of Desitch. In a village near Tzulkovitch, a private of my Company found three men and two old women massacred by the Austrians. They had been killed within their house, and the bodies were then thrown into the yard. In Tzulkovitch itself an old man of 55 to 60 years of age was killed together with seven or eight children.

No. 12

Major Rad. Miloshevitch, Commander of the 1st Battalion of the 14th Regt. of the 1st levy, reports under date of August 9/22nd:—

Captain *Yovan Yovanovitch* sends a communication to the effect that on August 7/20th peasants of Kik informed him that the village had been sacked by the Austrians, and that one of their officers had violated a little girl. Captain *Radenko*

Kaljevitch says that he witnessed the pillaging of the village by the Austrians. Second-Lieutenant Miodrag Miushkovitch saw a peasant in *Mali Kik*, whom the Austrians had wounded in both thighs. Some women told him that a young girl had been violated by an Austrian. I myself saw an enemy soldier who had stolen property in his haversack (1 belt, 2 shirts, 2 pairs of stockings). Privates *Voin Golubovitch* and *Yovan Stoianovitch* saw a boy of 16 in the village of Kik, who had been 7 times bayoneted and then thrown on the grindstone of a mill. Private *Yevrem Miladinovitch* was told by an old woman in the same locality that the Austrians had murdered 3 young girls. Corporal *Dobrosav Mikitch* was informed by a woman of the same village that a young girl had been outraged by 8 Austrian soldiers, and had died in consequence.

No. 12 (*a*)

Major Milan Todosievitch, Officer in Command of the 2nd Battalion of the 13th Regt. of the 1st levy, reports, under date of August 9/22nd, that he saw that the Austrians had killed a boy of 14 in a water-mill between *Pushkarevatz* and *Mala Gradna*. The body of the child was thrown into the river. An old man who witnessed the deed, avers that the lad had been killed for no reason at all. Near *Maidan* Hill he also saw an old man aged between 50 and 60, from *Sipulja*, who had been severely wounded in the groin by the Austrians after having been compelled to serve them as a guide.

No. 13

Corporal *Randjel Stamenkovitch*, of the 2nd Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, declares in an official report, dated August 9/22nd, that on the road 10 km. south-west of the village of *Yarebitze*, he saw the bodies of 2 boys (aged about 15), 3 women (aged about 40), 2 young girls (aged about 18), and 11 men (aged about 50), who had been killed by the Austrians. The bodies were all tied together by the hands and thrown in a heap.

No. 14

Corporal *Stanimir Stevitch*, of the 4th Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regt. of the 1st levy, declares in an official report dated Aug. 9/22nd, that on August 7/20, in the vicinity of the village of *Sipulja*, he came upon the bodies of 3 boys under 10, 2 boys aged 12 and 14, and 2 young girls under 20, all 7 roped together and bayoneted.

No. 15

Second-Lieutenant *Radivoie Milovanovitch*, Second in Command of the 1st Coy., 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, reports under date of August 9/22nd, that on August 7/20 he saw, in the village of *Sipulja*, the body of an old man whom the Austrians had killed and mutilated. He found the daughters-in-law of the dead man weeping beside the corpse. The peasants of *Sipulja* and *Dvorska* complained that the Austrians had carried off almost the entire non-combatant population, and especially all males over 14 years of age.

[*Photo Mil. Hutch.*

PLATE 21.—WOMEN AND OLD MEN MASSACRED AT KRIVAIA.

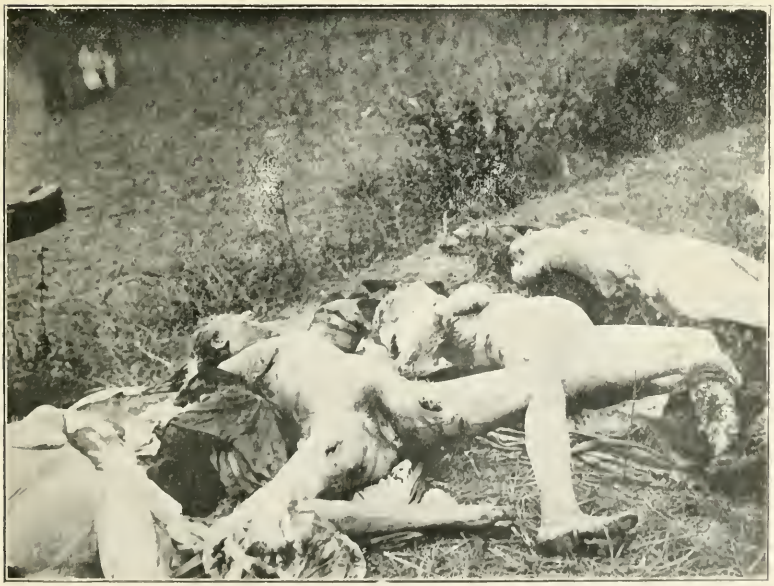


PLATE 22.—WOMEN MASSACRED AT KRIVAITZA, NEAR ZAVLAKA.

No. 16

Second-Lieutenant *Mihailo Fatitch*, Second in Command of the 1st Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Regt., reports under the date of Aug. 9th/22nd, that on Aug. 7/20th he saw the Austrians bayonet an old man in a village, near which the fighting took place. The incident was observed by the whole of his Company.

No. 17

Lieutenant *Yovan Dimitrievitch*, Second in Command of the 4th Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Regt., of the 1st levy, reports under the date of August 9th/22nd, that on August 7th/20th he saw in a house in the positions round *Pushkarevatz*, the body of an old man who had been massacred by the Austrians.

No. 18

Section Commander Sergeant *Dushan Milosavljevitch*, of the 4th Section of the 3rd Company of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of August 9/22nd, that on August 6/19th, on the way to the positions on the Tzer, he saw the body of a boy of 15 or 16, whom the Austrians had killed in front of their positions near the village of *Volonje*.

No. 19

Section Commander *Dob. Milenkovitch*, 2nd Section, 3rd Coy. of the 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of August 9th/22nd, that on August 7th/20th he found in a wood the

bodies of two women and one old man who had been massacred by the Austrians. This had been done in the vicinity of the village of *Tekerish*.

No. 20

Major *Vladimir Brkitch*, Commander of the 3rd Battn., 12th Regt., reports under the date of August 9/22nd that near the village of *Bistritza* he saw 18 corpses—8 female and 10 male—lying in a small river. Among the corpses there were those of two children under 10 years of age. In the village of *Tzikitch* the Major saw the bodies of two peasants who had been killed, and one peasant who had been shot in several places. A woman who had escaped from *Shabatz* told him that even little girls under 10 had been violated there.

No. 21

Major *Dushan Stamenkovitch*, Commander of the 4th Battn., 14th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of August 9/22nd that he heard from a woman that the Austrians had killed her brother in their positions at Ossoi. He himself saw the bodies of two massacred peasants. While crossing over to the right bank of the *Yadar* he observed 8 or 9 corpses roped together. These persons had been killed in a field by the river edge. One of the bodies was that of a woman, and one that of a little girl. On the road from *Pushkarevatz* the Major learnt from a peasant-woman that the priest of that village had been killed. Near the river *Suvaia* he was told that the husband and two children of one peasant-woman had been killed,

as well as the father of another. In a house in the village of Tzikot he saw the body of an old man who had been killed.

No. 22

Colonel *Vasa Stoiunovitch*, Commander of the 15th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of August 12th/25th that he has been informed of the following atrocities committed by the Austrians:—

In the village of *Yarebitze* 6 young girls of about 15 were taken away as hostages, one old man was burnt alive, 4 children were slaughtered with their mother and the bodies thrown in a heap; another child had its fingers cut off. One woman complained that the enemy had taken away her 4 children as hostages. In one house all the inmates found in it were killed, even the children between two and ten years of age. The men of the neighbourhood aver that the girls and women, and even all the old women, were outraged by the Austrians. Many young girls were carried off. One young woman relates that she was violated by five Austrian soldiers.

In the village of *Simino Brdo* 2 young girls and 2 old men were taken away as hostages. They were members of the family of *Stanko Zhivanovitch*. One young girl was violated in the Church of Yarebitze.

In the village of *Rumska* a peasant-woman complained that her father and brother had been killed and the young girls violated.

In the village of *Zavlaka* 18 persons were killed, including 2 young girls and 4 children. The rest of the victims were old men and old women.

In the village of *Shuriatze*, according to information received from the peasants of *Tzikot*, the Austrians killed the pope (village priest) after having tortured him and spat in his face. They also killed a peasant and his three brothers in *Tzikot*, because they found a Turkish bullet in their house.

In the village of *Desitch* they massacred 5 women, 4 old men, and 5 children.

In the village of *Neshkutze*, 30 persons, women, young girls, and children, were killed, and their dead bodies thrown in a heap.

In the village of *Bela Reka* the Austrians killed 4 old men, 2 women, 6 children, and a young man. Certain soldiers sucked the milk of a peasant woman who was nursing an infant.

All these villages were sacked and numerous acts of rapine were committed.

In the village of *Baitch* the Austrians entered a house, and on finding there an old man lying in his bed they riddled him with bayonet-thrusts. In a wood near the village they killed an old man, a woman, and a child.

The Mayor of the village of *Bela Reka* was killed. Nine members of his family were taken away as hostages. A gipsy woman complained of Austrian soldiers having sucked her breast. Many mutilated corpses were found all round the positions on the Tzer.

No. 23

Colonel *Gjura Dokitch*, Commander of the 20th Infantry Regt., 1st levy, reports under the date of August 13/26th.

In a meadow, close to the river, on the left bank of the *Yadar*, just below the inn of *Krivaia*, I saw the following spectacle :—

A group of children, girls, women, and men, 15 in all, were lying dead, tied together by their hands. Most of them had been bayoneted. One young girl had been bayoneted below the jaw, on the left, and the point of the weapon had come out through the right cheek-bone. Many of the corpses had no teeth left. On the back of an old woman who was lying on her face, there was some coagulated blood, and in this were found some teeth. This old woman was lying beside the girl whose wound has been described above. It would appear that the old woman was killed first, and the young girl immediately afterwards, so that the teeth of the latter were scattered on the back of the old woman. The chemises of the little girls and young women were blood-stained, which seems to indicate that they had been violated before being killed. Near this group, apart, lay the dead bodies of three men who had been bayoneted in the head, throat, and cheek. (The Balzarek affair.)

No. 24

Captain *Ivan Mishitch*, Commander of the 4th Coy., 4th Battn., 5th Regt., reports under the date of August 8/21st, that on August 7/20th he noted the following particulars at Leshnitza :—

No sooner had he entered the village than many women and little girls met him and his soldiers with complaints that the Austrians had subjected them to terrible tortures. They (the Austrians) had

massacred the boys over 8 years of age, outraged the women and girls, and taken away the old men as hostages. In one place the Captain saw 6 gallows, upon which 6 persons belonging to the neighbourhood had been hanged.

No. 25

Colonel *Alexander Petrovitch*, Commander of the 6th Infantry Regt., of the 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 8/21st:

According to the depositions of the women of Leshnitza, which depositions are embodied in the minute, the Austrians, on August 6/19th shot 50 of our peasants in that neighbourhood. They did this with the object of intimidating the population. In order to enhance the effect of this measure they brought along the women and children to witness the execution. The 12-year-old son of *Milutin Pavlovitch*, of *Leshnitza*, was one of the victims. They hanged 6 peasants in the orchard belonging to *Nikola Lazarevitch*. About 50 peasants were taken as hostages, and there is every reason to believe that they have been killed. According to the deposition of *M. Jacob Sabord*, pointsman at the railway station, the Austrians buried 109 of their victims just outside the station itself; the number of the killed included old men, young people, and children.

No. 26

Lieutenant *Yevrem Georgevitch* (Drina Division, 1st Levy) reports under the date of August 12/25th,

[*Photo S. Yovanovitch.*

PLATE 23.—FAMILY MASSACRED AT KRIVAIA.

[*Photo S. Yovanovitch.*

PLATE 24.—PEASANTS MASSACRED AT KRIVAIA BY ORDER OF THE AUSTRIAN MAJOR BALZAREK, AUGUST 17TH, 1914.

that the following persons were killed by the Austrians:

In the borough of *Stupnitza*, Yadar district, county of Podrinje:

Milosh Yankovitch, aged 55.
Maxim Nedelkovitch, aged 50.
Nedelko Mitrovitch, aged about 40.
Djoka Mitrovitch, aged 60.
Yovan Obradovitch, aged 30.
Marko Vasilievitch, aged 60.
Ljubomir Maximovitch, aged 30.
Marko Mitchanovitch, aged 60.
Yovan Petrovitch, aged 60, and his wife, aged 50.

In the village of *Tchuritze*, in the parish of *Tzikot*, the Austrians killed and massacred the following persons:

Zhivoilo Blagoievitch, aged 60.
Milisav Ristivoievitch, aged 8.
Alimpie Radovanovitch, aged 30.
Petra, wife of *Milutin Stanimirovitch*, aged 40.

Sava Popovitch, priest, aged 80, *Sava Stevanovitch*, *Philip Stevanovitch*, and *Sava Simeonovitch*, were taken as hostages.

Yovan Blagoievitch, aged 50, and *Yula Simeonovitch*, aged 20, were wounded in the neck and side.

Bogosava Vukovitch, his wife and two children were taken away as hostages.

In the village of *Tzikot* and *Krivaitza*, parish of *Tzikot*, the following persons were massacred:—

Gregor Philipovitch, aged 55.
Stoiko Yovanovitch, aged 60.
Ilia Alexitch, aged 60.

The last-named had his ears and nose cut off, he was also castrated. He was subjected to these tortures with the sole object of extorting money from him. He died in frightful agony.

The Austrians furthermore killed:

Dimitrie Petrovitch, aged 60.

Simeon Pavlovitch, aged 60.
Yevrem Pavlovitch, aged 58.
Zhivan Pavlovitch, aged 49.
} All three members of one family.

Zhivan Andritch, aged 50.

Tzveta Antonovitch and *Matia Yovitchitch*, aged 60.

Yevrem Zhivanovitch, aged 60.

Niko Matitch, aged 60, and the son (aged 25) of *Vidoie Matitch*.

Stepan Achimovitch, aged 70.

Sima Achimovitch, aged 70.

Damian Achimovitch, aged 40.

Obrad Glishanovitch, aged 50.

Kosta Andritch, aged 65.

Tzvia Krsmanovitch, aged 60.

Vasilie Djukanovitch, aged 60.

Tzvia Lazitch, aged 60.

Kosta Yovitchitch, aged 50, and his son, *Milorad Yovitchitch*, aged 25.

Stanisava Matitch (little girl aged 4) and *Kata Andritch*, aged 4.

In the parish of *Dvoraitza* the following persons were killed:—

Maxim Vasitch, aged 53. This unfortunate man was tied to a mill-wheel which was then set in motion. Whenever the wheel carried him round

to the Austrians, they diverted themselves with prodding him with their bayonets. They furthermore killed:

Luka Yosipovitch, aged 50, and

Dragomir Yosipovitch, aged 27 (both bled to death).

Zhivoin Paitch, aged 29.

Stepan Raitch, aged 19.

Sretchko Petrovitch, aged 55.

Vichentie Novakovitch, aged 50 (after killing him, the Austrians cut off his fingers, which they put in his pockets).

Stepan Kapetanovitch, aged 30.

Milia Obradovitch, aged 53.

Theodosia Mitrovitch, aged 50.

Ignat Taditch, aged 55.

Stoiadinka Taditch, aged 53.

Sima Yovitchitch, aged 61.

Petar Markovitch, aged 63.

Radisava Mitrovitch, aged 56.

Pantelia Yakovljevitch, aged 54.

Matia Paitch, aged 58.

No. 27

General *Mihailo Rashitch* reports under the date of August 12/25th, that the Austrians killed *Zhivoin Tzvetkovitch*, peasant, his wife, and 5 young children.

An old man aged 70 named *Pavle Blazhitch* was first grilled alive and then killed. *Tchirko Nedelkovitch*, aged 58, had both his arms broken and was furthermore wounded by 4 revolver shots in the head and abdomen.

The enemy shot dead the 17 peasants, whose names are as follows:

Yovan Radovanovitch, aged 70.
Vladislav Vladoievitch „ 55.
Zhivko Taditch „ 56.
Milia Vragelitch „ 50.
Yovan Bookvitchki „ 54.
Yakov Adamovitch „ 70.
Mihailo Jakovitch „ 57.
Stevan Rakitch „ 55.
Theodore Stankovitch „ 45.
Radislav Shubarashevitch „ 60.
Sofronie Miyatovitch „ 70.
Vladislav Vlaitch „ 25.
Tomania Darosavljevitch (a woman aged 50).
Yovan Stoianovitch, aged 60.
Zhivoin Petrovitch „ 58.
Nicola Krpa „ 60.
Zhivko Shvaba „ 30.

Many men and boys were taken away as hostages. All women who failed to find some place of safety were outraged.

No. 28

Lieutenant *Yevrem Georgevitch*, orderly officer of the Commander of the Drina Division, 1st levy, reports under the date of August 9th/22nd:

In the village of *Tolisavatz*, district of *Radjevo*, the following persons were massacred by the Austrians:

Raiko Popovitch, aged 35, *Tzveta*, daughter of *Vasilie Popovitch*, aged 22, a daughter-in-law of *Spasoie Yankovitch*, aged 25. She had her arms cut off.

In the village of *Moikovitch*, *Radjevo* district, the following were killed:

Ilia Markovitch, aged 58, *Yovan*, the three-year-old son of *Dragomir Georgevitch*, *Petar Panitch*, aged 87, *Ljubomir Vasitch*, aged 35, *Milan Djurgjevitch*, aged 45, *Dobria*, wife of *Theodore Vasilievitch*, aged 40, and her child, aged 4.

In the village of *Shlivovo*, *Radjevo* district, parish of *Sokol*, there were killed:

Sofronie Tzvetinovitch, aged 70, *Bogosava Radinovitch*, aged 50, *Zaria Pavlovitch*, aged 55, *Nikola Gruianitch*, aged 60, *Dragomir Markovitch*, aged 48, *Stanko Markovitch*, aged 60. Three women between 28 and 40 years of age were likewise killed, but they could not be identified.

In the village of *Stave*, *Radjevo* district, parish of *Sokol*, the following persons have been killed:

Bogosav Blagoievitch, aged 45, *Zhivana Simitch*, aged 52, *Lazar Radovanovitch*, aged 65, *Pantelia Simitch*, aged 68, *Milenka Ivanovitch*, aged 34.

In the village of *Bastava*, *Radjevo* district, parish of *Sokol*, the following persons were massacred:

Milan Kekitch, aged 58, *Mile Ristitch*, aged 50, *Blagoie Soldatovitch*, aged 30, *Pelaghia Soldatovitch*, a woman of 65, *Yakov Soldatovitch*, aged 60.

In the village of *Vrbitch*, *Radjevo* district, the Austrians killed *Yevta Vutchetitch*. They also took away three young girls as hostages.

No. 29

Lieutenant *Ivan Srdanovitch*, Second in Command of the 3rd Coy., 3rd Battalion, 3rd Supernumerary

Regt., reports under the date of August 12/25th, that he went to see the village of *Prnjavor*, of which he is a native, and that he there substantiated the following facts: All the men were assembled by the Austrians, one party was taken to *Leshnitza*, and executed there, the other locked up in the School buildings and given to the flames. Several women were assembled in the large house, generally known as the house of *Milutinovitch*, executed, and then burnt with the house. This party included several children who died in the arms of their mothers.

No. 30

Colonel Dr. *Mihailovitch*, of the Army Medical Service, Inspector of the Cavalry Division, reports under the date of August 10/23rd:

In the inn of the village of *Petkovitza*, where the seriously wounded Serbian soldiers had been left, he found four charred corpses. In the fields belonging to the village he found the bodies of massacred peasants. The villagers told him that many peasants had been taken away as hostages. According to the depositions of the inhabitants, which tally perfectly with each other, the Austrians either killed or took away as hostages most of the male population over the age of 12. There were many cases of rape. Even girls of 10 were ravished. He was told that a child had been speared with a bayonet before the eyes of its terrified mother. He was also told that an Austrian soldier had sucked the breast of a wet-nurse.

No. 31

Captain Dr. *B. Georgevitch*, Army Surgeon of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, reports under the date of August 8/21st :

Passing through the village of *Dobritch*, he found the bodies of two peasants who had been killed by rifle shots. In the inn of the village of *Bogosavatz* he saw the bodies of 6 persons who had been bayoneted. In the streets of the village he perceived the dead bodies of four youths about 15 years of age. In *Prnjavor* he heard from the peasants that on the morning of the day of his arrival the Austrians had recovered 50 corpses from the burning house of the heirs of *Milan Milutinovitch*. The doctor himself saw a skeleton on the charcoal, which by the slightness of the bones he judged to be that of a youth. He also noticed other fragmentary bone remains. In another building all riddled with bullets, he saw a whole heap of corpses. In the house of *Mihailo Milutinovitch*, which had been set on fire, he found 15 corpses. It appears that all these persons were first shot, and then thrown in the fire.

The said doctor adds that he dressed the wounds of the seven-year-old son of *Andreia Maistorovitch*, who had been wounded by a bullet which struck him in the abdomen and passed out through his left thigh. He also attended the daughter of *Stevan Stevolitch*, aged 20, wounded by a bullet which had perforated the right side of her chest. The bullet entered under the right nipple and passed out underneath the right shoulder-blade. He was also requested to attend *Vladislav Alano-*

vitch's little girl, aged 2 years, who had been wounded by a sharp weapon in her right arm.

No. 32

Commander of the Reserve, Dr. *Hranislav Yoksimovitch*, Army Surgeon of the Horse Artillery Division, on August 10/23rd, at the village of *Tchokeshina*, attended the woman *Milosia Nikolavna*, aged 60, who was suffering from wounds produced by fire-arms in her right elbow, left hand, right cheek-bone, and in both breasts. The bones of the right elbow and left hand were fractured. According to her statements, the Austrians had shot her because she had no bread to give them, and told them she had no husband, whereas they found a man's shirt in the yard. In the village of *Tzulkovitch*, Dr. Yoksimovitch treated a child which had been wounded in both arms. The child's mother had been killed. In the village of *Bela Reka* he attended to a young girl aged 18, *Stana* by name, who had received a bullet wound in the chest.

No. 33

Captain *Nikola Peiovitch*, Commander of the 3rd Coy. of the 2nd Battn. of the 14th Infantry Regt. of the 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 9 22nd :—

On that day, in the village of *Bogosavatz*, in the house of *Nikola Antitch*, he saw the dead bodies of the owner, who was over 50 years of age, and his wife, aged 20, his daughter-in-law, 3 boys between 3 and 7 years of age, and a little girl of 3 or 4 years. In another room in the same house he

found the mutilated corpse of the brother of Nikola Antitch. In another house, of which he did not know to whom it belonged, he saw the bodies of 8 persons who had been massacred—3 women, 2 men, and 3 little boys, all thrown in a heap. He also saw in a third house, a murdered woman from whose womb the Austrian soldiers had taken a male fœtus. In one yard he saw two men who had been hanged. The right arm of one of them had been flayed, from which it would seem that he had been tortured before being hanged. In the yard of another house he found the bodies of 4 men; one corpse had been thrown on the fire.

No. 34

Captain *Stevan Burmazovitch*, Commander of the 2nd Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regt., 2nd levy, reports under date of August 17/30th, that in the village of Bogosavatz he saw himself the bodies of an entire family consisting of 8 members, who had all been killed by the Austrians. Outside a shed lay the body of an old man. In the yard of one house he saw the body of a man aged between 40 and 50. Another corpse lay in the road just outside a house. A little farther along he saw the bodies of two who had fallen while clasping each other in a last embrace. A woman told him that these two were brother and sister, and had been killed together. Four children had been killed within their own home; they were from 8 to 15 years of age. An old woman told him that many people had been carried off as hostages.

No. 35

Captain *Matia Nikolitch*, Commander of the 3rd Company, 1st Battn., 12th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of August 17/30th, that on August 8/21st, in the village of *Prichinovitch*, he saw the body of an old man who had been massacred. Three other old men between 50 and 55 years of age had been riddled with bayonet-thrusts. The same was the case with three old women, whose bodies were found completely stripped. The body of a young girl was found in the same condition.

No. 36

Andreia Stanoievitch, Officer in command of the 3rd Coy., 2nd Battn., 13th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of August 17/30th, that a soldier of the 6th Infantry Regt. asserts that in a village near *Prnjavor*, he saw the Austrian soldiers violate a young girl and kill her directly afterwards. They also cut off her breasts and left her in a sitting posture.

No. 37

Captain *Yovan Mundritch*, Commander of the 1st Coy. of the 2nd Battn., 13th Infantry Regt. of the 2nd levy, reports that a young girl from *Shabatz* told him that she had been outraged by the Austrians. She told him that in *Shabatz* the Austrians had shut up all the women in an hotel, and that they then violated all over 10 years of age. Mothers, who attempted to defend their daughters, were ill-treated by the soldiers, who struck them with the butt-ends of their rifles.

No. 38

Corporal *Zharko Chairanovitch*, of the 3rd Regt. of the 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 10/23rd.

In the village of *Bastava* the Austrians cut off the breasts of *Yakova Soldatovitch*, a woman aged 60. They killed the son of *Andreia Soldatovitch; Milan Soldatovitch* was murdered. In the village of *Moikovitch*, parish of *Bela Tzrkva*, 6 old men were killed. In the village of *Likodra* 3 persons met with the same fate. Many persons were taken away as hostages.

No. 39

Captain *Ilia Pavlovitch* (Timok Division, 2nd levy) reports under date of August 16/29th, that in a house in the village of *Mahovo* he saw the body of a woman who had been bayoneted. A child was asleep on her breast.

No. 40

Captain *Bozha Pandurovitch*, Commander of the 3rd Coy., 4th Battn., 12th Regt. of the 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 16/29th, that in the village of *Livade* he saw two corpses, one of a man, the other of a woman, both aged about 80, who had been killed with knife-thrusts.

No. 41

Major *Sreten Raikovitch*, officer in Command of the 1st Battn. of the 15th Infantry Regt., 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 16/29th,

that the officers and men of his regiment observed the following incidents:—

On the road, just outside the village of *Mahovo*, they found the mutilated corpse of an old man. In a private wood near the same village they discovered the body of an old man, with his ribs and spine fractured. In one house lay a woman killed with her two little children. A third child had fled into a wood where our men had succeeded in finding it. In a house in the village of *Livade* they came upon a woman aged 60, dead, and with her nose and ears cut off. In the meadows of *Arambashitch* the Austrians killed two boys. In the village of *Mahovo* the soldiers found a young girl of 17, a man, and a woman massacred. The young girl had been struck down by a blow from an axe in the back. In one house in the village of *Yevremovatz* they found the bodies of 2 women and 4 small children, who had all been killed. In the village of *Bama* they discovered the dead body of an old man whom the Austrians had taken to serve them as guide. All our soldiers who fell before *Shabatz* on August 8th were slashed with bayonets.

No. 42

Captain *Milorad Yovanovitch*, Commander of the 2nd Coy., 2nd Battn. of the 15th Regt., 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 16th/29th that in the village of *Mahovo* he saw a woman suffering from several bayonet-wounds who told him, before dying, that the Austrians had killed her.

No. 43

Lieutenant Dr. *Tchedomir Marianovitch*, Commander of the 4th Coy. of the 4th Battn. of the 15th Regt., 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 16/29th :—

In a house in the village of *Livade* he saw the body of an old man who had been murdered. The right side of his lower jaw had been torn off. In *Shabatz* he was told that all Serb soldiers who had been taken prisoners by the Austrians had been massacred.

A party of 20 soldiers had been executed in the yard, outside the stables belonging to a house owned by one *Gashitch*. A second party of 30 soldiers was butchered in a room, and the bodies were thrown pell-mell on the top of each other. All were pierced with bayonet-thrusts. When Lieutenant M. inspected the place, there was so much blood that it came up to his ankles. The atmosphere was intolerable, impossible to breathe.

Military Depositions made before the Undersigned

Colonel *Antitch*, Chief of Staff of the Cavalry Division, tells me that in Petkovitza he saw the bodies of 3 men and 5 women who had been massacred and burnt. He also states that in that village about 30 persons are said to have been confined in a house which was then set on fire. He furthermore deposes that in *Prnjavor* everything was burnt down. He was also told that many old men and children were burnt. One old man of 80, a former deputy, was taken, tied to a car and afterwards killed. Near *Prnjavor* station the Austrians shot about 50 persons (as a matter

of fact, they numbered 25), peasants, women and children. All these atrocities were committed during the retreat of the army of Francis Joseph. About 17 persons, principally old men, were shut up by the Austrians in the Parish School at *Prnjavor*, and burnt with it. During my inspection of these premises I have personally noticed numerous blood-stains on the walls, caused by such victims as were wounded before being burnt. Charred and calcined bones bear witness to the truth of the facts reported by the Colonel.

Milan Yovanovitch, Army Chaplain of the First Infantry Regt., deposes that opposite *Prnjavor* station the Austrians shot 25 persons, 15 of whom were natives of Ribare. He buried them himself. Among the victims were natives of Ribare:—

Mihailo Vasilievitch,	aged 50.
Bozha Vasilievitch,	,, 25.
Milinko Vasilievitch,	,, 40.
Nikola Radjevatz,	,, 20.
Pavle Bresitch,	,, 40.
Yovan Bresitch,	,, 60.
Milan Yevtitch,	,, 40.
Veljko Georgevitch,	,, 60.
Matia Subotitch,	,, 60.
Mihailo Mihailovitch,	,, 23.
Andreia Gontitch,	,, 56.
Zhivko Gontitch,	,, 60.
Draghitch Gontitch,	,, 50.
Nikola Markovitch,	,, 20.
Dragutin Yovanovitch,	,, 25.
Paia Yovanovitch,	,, 25.
Dimitrie Likotritch,	,, 20.

Zhivko Scvitch, aged 22.
Ivan Voinovitch, „ 30.
Ivan Sevitch, „ 21.
Ivan Miyatovitch, „ 50.
Pavle Vorinchevitch, „ 50.
Ivana Milinkovitch (a woman), „ 30, and
Mihailo Lazarevitch, „ 50.

The young men in this list had been disabled during the earlier wars. They produced their Invalid Certificates in order to prove that they were non-effectives, but the Austrians shot them notwithstanding.

At the suggestion of his military informants, the undersigned likewise ordered the opening of a pit situated close to the house of *Mihailo Milutinovitch* in *Prnjavor*. The exhumation proved that the pit contained many human remains, including the bones of a young girl or boy, the hair of a very young girl, a little girl's bracelet, etc., etc. Of the civilian witnesses some said that the grave contained the remains of ten persons, others spoke of 30 victims. (Cf. the subsequent paragraph dealing with the results of personal investigation.)

Military Telegram sent to the Undersigned

In the village of Moikovitch the following persons were killed :—

Dobria, wife of *Theodor Vasitch*, aged 27.
Dragutin Djuritch, a child aged 7.
Ilia Markovitch, aged 60.
Peter Panitch, „ 95.
Ljuba Vesitch, aged 47, clubbed to death with the butt-ends of rifles.

Stevan Djuritch, aged 48, and his two brothers, *Spasoie Djuritch*, aged 57, and *Milan Djuritch*, aged 37.

Simeon Djuritch, aged 58.
Voia Neditch ,, 58.
Zhivko Arsenitch, ,, 95.

Simka, the wife of *Alexie Pantitch*, was wounded.

According to the deposition of *Milan Popovitch*, priest of *Bela Tzrkva*, the following persons were massacred in the village of *Bastava*:

Peladia Soldatovitch, a woman aged 71.
Yakov Soldatovitch, aged 68.
Milorad Ristitch, ,, 53.
Milan Soldatovitch Kckitch, ,, 58.
Borisava Soldatovitch, ,, 21, and
Ranko Nikolitch, ,, 54.

This enumeration only includes one of the sisters Soldatovitch.

In the village of *Stave:*

Bogosav Blagoievitch, aged 38.
Raiko Popovitch, ,, 28.
Lazar Radanovitch, ,, 65, and
Mihailo Simitch.

According to the deposition of Madame *Stana Ignatovitch*, of *Tzulina*, the following persons were massacred in the village of *Tzulina*, parish of *Drina*, *Radjevo* district:—

Bogosav Blagoievitch, aged 60, murdered in his own mill, and *Milivoie Gluvak*, of the village of *Amaitch*, aged 40, killed, and his body thrown into the *Drina.*

According to the depositions of Mr. *Dobro-*

sav Yeremitch, Mayor of *Bela Tzrkva*, and Mr. *Dushan Knezhevitch*, Mayor of *Tolisavatz*, the following persons were massacred :—

Yevrem Knezhevitch,	aged	70.
Radomir Novakovitch,	,,	47.
Dragutin Philipovitch,	,,	48.
Tosha Pavlovitch,	,,	52.
Boghitch Pavlovitch,	,,	48.
Nikola Knezhevitch,	,,	62.
Svetozar Knezhevitch,	,,	81.
Matia Knezhevitch,	,,	48.
Luka Pavlovitch,	,,	50.
Ivan Pavlovitch,	,,	17.
Spasoie Pavlovitch,	,,	52.
Svetozar Pavlovitch,	,,	17.
Axentie Masalovitch,	,,	54.
Petar Masalovitch,	,,	49.
Stanoie Masalovitch,	,,	54.
Zharko Gaitch,	,,	18.
Marko Zhivanovitch,	,,	52.
Dimitrie Zhivanovitch,	,,	17.
Ljubomir Gaitch,	,,	41.
Sretchko Gaitch,	,,	17.
Yovan Djokitch,	,,	62.
Svetomir Djokitch,	,,	18.
Dobrosava Lukitch,	,,	60.
Zhivan Novakovitch,	,,	19.
Radosav Philipovitch,	,,	63.
Petar Philipovitch,	,,	25.
Milosh Djurkovitch,	,,	56, burnt alive.
Radomir Konstantinovitch,	,,	49.
Marko Pantitch,	,,	20, and
Ranisav Todorovitch,	,,	18.

Seriously wounded :

Raiko Voinikovitch, aged 23, and *Dimitric Yevtitch*, aged 45.

Women outraged :

Mileva Knezhevitch aged 45.
Tzveta Knezhevitch, „ 42.
Stania Ivanovitch, „ 65.
Maria Stoshitch, „ 60.
Mika Mrtsaljevitch, „ 48.
Kata Masalovitch, „ 70.
Petra Kovatchevitch, „ 42, and
Yona Pilkovitch, „ 35, all of *Stanisavtze*, parish of *Staninavtze*, *Radjevo* District.

According to the deposition of Mr. *Dobrosav Yeremitch*, Mayor of *Bela Tzrkva*, *Dragomir Kostitch*, of *Bela Tzrkva*, was massacred.

Reported by
ALEXANDER STEVANOVITCH,
Captain in the Engineers.

The depositions of soldiers and civilians taken down and collected by me, already embody a certain number of the results of personal investigation which I was able to make on the spot. I made yet further investigations, however, and the present chapter embodies the summary of my deductions.

I investigated the affair of the Austrian Major *Balzarek*, and to this end studied the report of the International Commission, and the photographs taken in connection with the proceedings of the said Commission, and I have interrogated eye-witnesses. The net result of all this investigation is proof conclusive that the report of the Inter-

[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 25.—PIT OPENED BEHIND THE CHURCH OF SHABATZ.

Notice the position of the corpses (legs uppermost), and the rope attached to the arms of one of the victims.

[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 26.—PRNJAVOR: THE RUINS OF THE HOUSE MILUTINOVITCH, WHERE ONE HUNDRED WOMEN AND CHILDREN WERE BURNT.

national Commission is in absolute accordance with the facts of the case, and that the death of the victims enumerated in the report is certainly the result of a system of extermination and vindictive warfare.[1]

The statements of my witnesses, both Austrian prisoners and Serbian civilians, contain repeated allusions to a butchery of civilians behind the Church of *Shabatz*. Some of the witnesses allege that the common grave contains 120 victims, others say that there are no more than 60. I caused the grave to be opened in the presence of *Mr. Yovanovitch*, Mayor of *Shabatz*, *Dr. Milutinovitch*, Cavalry Lieutenant, *Mr. Zdravkovitch*, *Mr. Lazitch*, Prefect of *Shabatz*, and *Mr. Crawfurd Price*, correspondent of the *Times*. The Prefect of Shabatz drew up an official report of the proceedings.

The dimensions of this common grave are 9 metres by 3 by 3·50 metres. When the earth had been removed to a depth of about 1 m. corpses in various positions began to be uncovered. These bodies were garbed in the national peasant dress, and the feet still wore the "opantzi." A thick rope was still twined round the arm of one of the corpses. Owing to the advanced state of decomposition and the confused way in which the bodies were lying, it was impossible to form an exact estimate of the number of the victims. It was similarly impossible, by examining the wounds, to establish the cause of their deaths. I therefore considered it sufficient to have only part of the grave opened, in order to ascertain whether the

[1] See "L'Illustration" (Paris), 13 février 1915.

depositions of my witnesses concerning this butchery were in accordance with the facts. I particularly noticed that the arms of the victims were pinioned. Judging from what I saw the number of the unfortunate victims may well exceed 60.

In *Lipolist*, as has already been stated, I by personal investigation verified the fact of the massacre in the house of *Dragomir Marinkovitch*. I also examined some of the wounded.

In *Petkovitza* I explored the house of *Maritch* in search of external evidence, and was able to establish the truth of the facts as put forward by the witnesses.

In *Ribare* I examined several of the wounded, and there, as also in other localities, I came to the conclusion, that these wounds, whether due to bullet or bayonet, failed of being mortal, not by intention, but owing to want of skill on the part of the aggressors.

Prnjavor suffered specially severely from the visitations of the Austro-Hungarian troops. I there made a series of personal observations, which prove the truth of the evidence collected by me.

Thus my witnesses assured me that the Austrians confined 17 persons in the parish school and then burnt them alive. On exploring the spot, I noted first of all that nothing remains of the school, which was completely gutted by fire, but the bare walls. In the hall on the west side I saw numerous and large splashes of blood upon the walls. Among the charred rubbish, which cumbered the ground, I discovered a quantity of calcined bones. The splashes on the walls prove that the victims were

first wounded, and the great extent of the spots seems to indicate that these wounds were produced with great force, causing the blood to spurt out to a comparatively great distance. The calcined bones prove that the bodies, alive or dead, were subsequently burnt.

From there I proceeded to the house of *Milan Milutinovitch.* Beside the ruins of this house there is another one of which nothing but the four walls are left standing. On these walls I observed a considerable number of splashes of blood and the marks of rifle bullets. Among the rubbish in the ruins of the house of *Milutinovitch* I found many charred and calcined remains of human bones. It will be remembered that, according to the depositions of the women of *Prnjavor*, the Austrians killed many women and children on that spot. My very first observations already enabled me to establish the reality of this massacre. I then caused the pits to be opened, which are in the close vicinity of the two burnt houses, and in which the peasants had already buried the larger portion of such human bodies as were only partially consumed by fire. An ocular inspection of these remains convinced me that there must have been many children among the victims. I also had another pit opened, not far from the house of *Mihailo Milutinovitch.* This pit contained numerous human remains of young children, both male and female, and others which appeared to be the remains of adult females. The number of the killed, who were buried in the pit is certainly in excess of ten.

Milka Yekitch had deposed that in a house opposite

the Parish Town Hall, four wounded Serbian soldiers had been burnt alive, and four others butchered. I proceeded to this house and there ascertained that in truth part of the house had been burnt, and that the floor of the undamaged part was covered with great pools of blood. I also verified the deposition of *Vladimir Preizovitch*, who stated that the Austrians had roasted in his bed a wounded Serbian whom witness had taken into his house. In the room which contains the iron bedstead, I observed that the floor underneath the bed showed traces of fire over an extent of 2 m. by 1 m. and that the wall was blackened and browned by flames. The deposition of *Preizovitch* was thus completely borne out by the evidence of facts.

Finally, near the station, I inspected the pit in which the priest *Milan Yovanovitch* buried the 25 young men, old men, and women who had been shot.

In *Leshnitza* the Austrians executed 109 civilians between 8 and 80 years of age. The depositions of *Savka Velimirovitch* and *Ivan Maletitch*, as well as those of other eye-witnesses taken in conjunction with the results of my own personal investigations, have enabled me to reconstruct the scene of the butchery. The 109 victims were taken to a spot near the station, where a large pit had already been prepared, measuring 20 m. in length by 3 m. in width. The arms of the hostages were pinioned, and the whole group was surrounded by a coil of wire. Then the soldiers took up their position on the embankment of the railway at a distance of about 20 m. from the pit, and from there fired a

volley. Everybody fell pêle-mêle into the pit, which was immediately covered in with earth, without any trouble being taken to verify whether the persons shot were dead or still living. It appears certain that many of the victims were not mortally wounded, and that some perhaps were not wounded at all, but that they were all dragged into the common pit by the rest. I do not think I err in estimating that about 50 per cent. of the number were buried alive.

During this execution a second party, consisting of about 40 persons, many of whom were women, was led up to witness the execution of the first party, and while these were being pierced by the Austrian bullets, the others were compelled to shout, "Long live the Emperor Francis Joseph!"

I examined and measured the common grave and caused it to be partially opened. I was thus enabled to ascertain that the corpses still bore the cords with which they had been pinioned. On the other hand I noted that the bodies were lying pêle-mêle on the ground; some were head downwards, others in a crouching position, yet others were bent double, etc. The positions of some of the bodies seemed to indicate that such victims as were only wounded had made efforts to free themselves from the earth which covered them.

I have already repeatedly stated that I interrogated and examined a very great number of wounded persons. In many cases the wounds were already replaced by scars, in others the wounds were so severe that they were not yet healed. But I repeat, that the nature of all these wounds proves

conclusively that they were inflicted with the intention of causing death, and it is only due to chance, or lack of skill on the part of the massacring parties, that any of these wounds failed to prove fatal.

In short my personal observations, of which I have here quoted only a few, placed me in the position to check and verify the depositions of my witnesses, and to realise their reliability.

With the help of information obtained on the spot, and the official lists which were placed at my disposal, I have succeeded in compiling a few statistics which throw an interesting light on the achievements of the Austro-Hungarian army of invasion. My present report is furnished with several statistical diagrams which I have drawn with the assistance of my head clerk, M. Jean Burnier.

These statistics have been compiled from the lists of the victims of the Austro-Hungarian atrocities in the district of *Potzerie*, county of *Podrinie*, together with the lists of the districts of *Yadar*, and *Matchva*, the lists of the parishes of *Kostainik*, *Tolisavatz*, *Banizevatz*, *Sokol* and *Zavlaka*, the village of *Brezovnitza*, and finally from the names of the victims as given by eye-witnesses.

	Killed.			Wounded.	
Age.	Males.	Females.	Age.	Males.	Females.
under 1	4	4	under 1	0	0
1	1	4	1	0	0
2	2	4	2	0	1
3	7	6	3	0	3
4	2	4	4	1	0
5	7	3	5	0	0

Killed.			Wounded.		
Age.	Males.	Females.	Age.	Males.	Females.
6	4	5	6	0	3
7	5	3	7	0	1
8	3	3	8	1	0
9	7	4	9	1	1
10	3	2	10	0	3
11	5	0	11	0	0
12	12	5	12	0	1
13	4	3	13	2	0
14	10	7	14	1	0
15	12	4	15	1	4
16	20	8	16	1	0
17	27	3	17	3	1
18	21	18	18	5	1
19	29	6	19	2	0
20	21	3	20	1	2
21	23	6	21	1	2
22	4	4	22	0	1
23	6	2	23	0	3
24	1	3	24	1	0
25	18	9	25	0	1
26	6	6	26	0	1
27	8	5	27	0	1
28	13	1	28	1	0
29	4	0	29	0	0
30	16	13	30	0	1
31	8	1	31	1	2
32	6	4	32	1	5
33	2	2	33	0	0
34	2	1	34	0	0
35	15	4	35	0	1
36	3	5	36	1	1

Killed.			Wounded.		
Age.	Males.	Females.	Age.	Males.	Females.
37	6	1	37	0	0
38	10	3	38	1	0
39	6	1	39	1	0
40	15	16	40	1	1
41	8	0	41	0	1
42	1	6	42	0	3
43	1	1	43	0	0
44	3	1	44	0	0
45	29	4	45	1	1
46	6	2	46	1	0
47	10	1	47	0	0
48	27	6	48	1	1
49	17	2	49	0	0
50	41	22	50	3	1
51	14	1	51	1	0
52	21	7	52	1	0
53	22	1	53	0	0
54	26	5	54	1	0
55	27	6	55	1	3
56	24	5	56	1	1
57	12	1	57	1	0
58	36	6	58	0	0
59	14	1	59	0	0
60	68	11	60	1	3
61	11	1	61	0	0
62	24	0	62	1	0
63	8	0	63	0	1
64	13	3	64	0	0
65	31	5	65	0	1
66	5	0	66	0	1
67	6	0	67	0	0

	Killed.			Wounded.	
Age.	Males.	Females.	Age.	Males.	Females.
68	12	2	68	0	0
69	3	1	69	0	0
70	28	5	70	1	1
71	3	2	71	0	0
72	4	1	72	0	0
73	1	0	73	1	0
74	6	1	74	2	0
75	10	2	75	0	0
76	1	0	76	0	0
77	0	0	77	0	0
78	2	0	78	0	0
79	2	0	79	0	0
80	5	4	80	0	1
81	1	0	81	0	0
82	1	0	82	0	0
83	1	0	83	0	0
84	0	0	84	0	0
85	1	0	85	1	0
86	1	0	86	0	0
87	0	0	87	0	0
88	0	0	88	0	0
89	0	1	89	0	0
90	3	1	90	0	0
91	0	0	91	0	0
92	1	0	92	0	0
93	0	0	93	0	0
94	0	0	94	0	0
95	2	0	95	0	0
Age unknown	24		Age unknown	3	4

Age.	Missing. Males.	Females.	Age.	Missing. Males.	Females.
1	1	0	32	9	2
2	2	1	33	3	0
3	1	0	34	4	0
4	0	1	35	3	3
5	2	0	36	4	1
6	1	0	37	4	1
7	0	0	38	6	1
8	0	2	39	1	0
9	0	0	40	6	4
10	6	3	41	1	0
11	0	0	42	6	0
12	5	3	43	4	1
13	6	0	44	3	0
14	4	3	45	16	4
15	14	1	46	2	0
16	6	3	47	5	0
17	18	3	48	7	1
18	24	3	49	6	0
19	14	0	50	28	4
20	15	1	51	6	0
21	14	0	52	15	0
22	2	0	53	12	1
23	0	0	54	10	0
24	6	0	55	19	2
25	7	1	56	10	1
26	2	0	57	5	1
27	6	0	58	18	1
28	9	0	59	3	0
29	2	0	60	29	7
30	7	3	61	1	2
31	2	1	62	6	0

Age.	Missing. Males.	Females.	Age.	Missing. Males.	Females.
63	5	1	78	0	0
64	5	0	79	0	1
65	7	0	80	4	0
66	3	0	81	0	0
67	3	0	82	1	0
68	3	0	83	0	0
69	0	0	84	0	0
70	10	2	85	1	0
71	0	0	86	0	0
72	3	0	87	0	0
73	1	0	88	0	0
74	0	0	89	0	0
75	4	0	90	2	0
76	1	0	Age unknown	4	3
77	0	0			

The total number of the killed in these districts and parishes amounts to 1,300, the total number of the wounded to 116, and the total number of the missing to 562. There were 994 men killed and 306 women killed, 51 men wounded and 65 women wounded, there are 489 men missing and 73 women missing.

There were 87 children under ten years of age killed, 15 wounded, and 20 are missing.

As has been already stated, the actual number of the wounded is certainly far in excess of that indicated by the figures; but owing to the circumstance that the peasants attach slight importance to wounds which are not fatal, they fail to bring the injuries they have received to the knowledge of the authorities.

I would draw attention to the fact that I was not placed in possession of the lists of killed, wounded, and missing in many villages, or even towns through which the Austrians passed during the course of their first invasion. The town of *Shabatz*, for instance, is not included in my statistics, and according to the information I was able to obtain, the Austrians carried off about 1,500 of the inhabitants there. On the other hand the Austrian army frequently got rid of its hostages by killing them. It is therefore safe to assume that many of the missing have been killed. Under these circumstances I venture to estimate, without of course being able to verify my figures in a perfectly accurate manner, that a total number of about 3,500 to 4,000 members of the civil population fell victims to the first Austro-Hungarian invasion.

It was an interesting matter to enquire into the different forms of death and mutilation inflicted upon the civil populace by the soldatesca of the enemy, and thus I have tabulated the following methods of procedure :—

Victims shot, bayoneted to death, killed with knives, arms lopped off, torn off, or broken, legs broken, nose cut off, ears cut off, eyes put out, genital organs cut off, victims stoned, women violated and killed, breasts cut off, persons hanged, victims burnt alive, one child thrown to the pigs, victims clubbed to death with butt-ends of rifles or sticks, victims impaled, victims whose skin was cut in strips.

Very many persons were burnt alive. In the parish of Prnjavor alone they number 122. Both in the case of the killed and the wounded, the

PLATE 27.—LESHNITZA: THE COMMON PIT WHERE 109 CIVILIAN VICTIMS WERE BURIED ALIVE.

(See pages 134, 135.)

[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 28.—SCHOOLROOM AT PRNJAVOR WHERE SEVENTEEN VICTIMS WERE BURNT AFTER BEING WOUNDED.

Notice the splashes of blood on the wall.

injuries were inflicted on all parts of the body. The number of the dead and mutilated is also very great.

In the three aforementioned districts the various kinds of death and torture inflicted were apportioned as follows:—

	Males.	Females.
Victims shot	345	64
„ killed with knives	113	27
„ hanged	7	6
„ massacred and clubbed to death with sticks and butt-ends of rifles	48	26
Victims disembowelled	2	4
„ burnt alive	35	96
„ pinioned and robbed	52	12
„ whose arms were cut off, torn off, or broken	5	1
Victims whose legs were cut off or broken	3	0
Victims whose nose was cut off	28	6
„ „ ears were cut off	31	7
„ „ eyes were put out	30	38
„ „ genital organs were cut off	3	3
Victims whose skin was cut in strips, or portions of their face detached	15	3
Victims stoned	12	1
„ whose breasts were cut off	0	2
„ cut in pieces	17	16
„ beheaded	1	0
Little girl thrown to the pigs	0	1
Victims killed without the manner of their deaths being specified	240	55

It should be noted that some of the victims enumerated in this statistical table suffered two or even more forms of torture. Each torture has been entered in its own category, so that the totals of the numbers entered in this table are higher than those given before for the total number of victims.

From all the preceding it is clear that the number of victims—children, women, young men, and old men—amounts to a comparatively high percentage of the population of the territory invaded. The evidence submitted to me also proves that the manner in which the soldiers of the enemy set about killing and massacring was governed by a system. It was the same system of extermination which is also reflected in the bombardment of open towns with shrapnel and fougasses, and in the systematic setting on fire of dwelling-houses and farm-buildings. It is impossible to look upon the atrocities that have been committed as the acts of a few apaches, such as certainly may be found in every army. This might have been believed, if the number of the victims ran into several dozens, but when they have to be counted by thousands, the excuse of misbehaviour on the part of isolated blackguard elements is no longer admissible.

Since the Austrians, especially after the direct accusations brought against them in the "Gazette de Lausanne," could no longer deny the massacres of the civil population, they have endeavoured, after the manner of the Germans, to justify themselves by declaring that the execution of civilians was rendered necessary by the hostile attitude of the population, which was accused of taking an active

PLATE 29.

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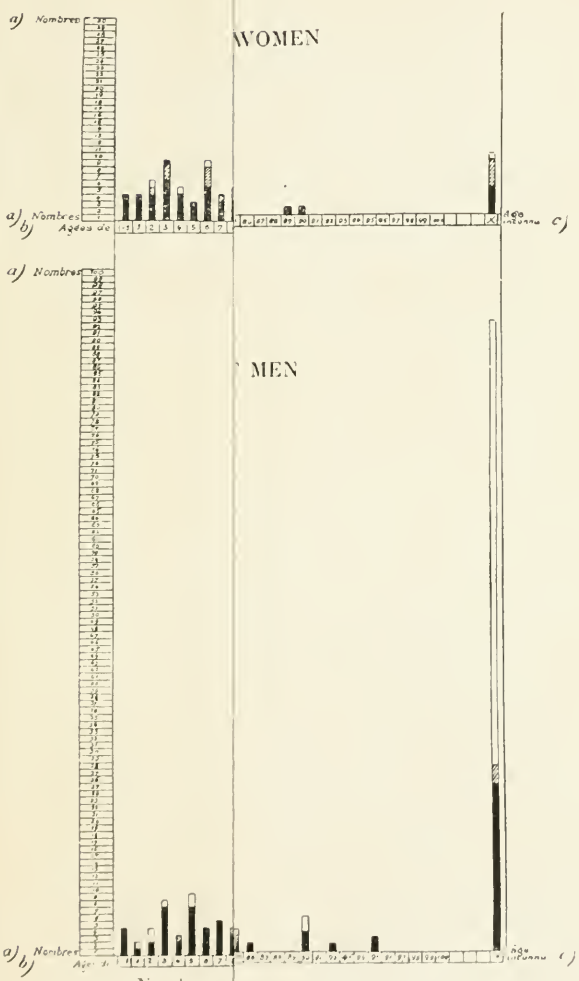


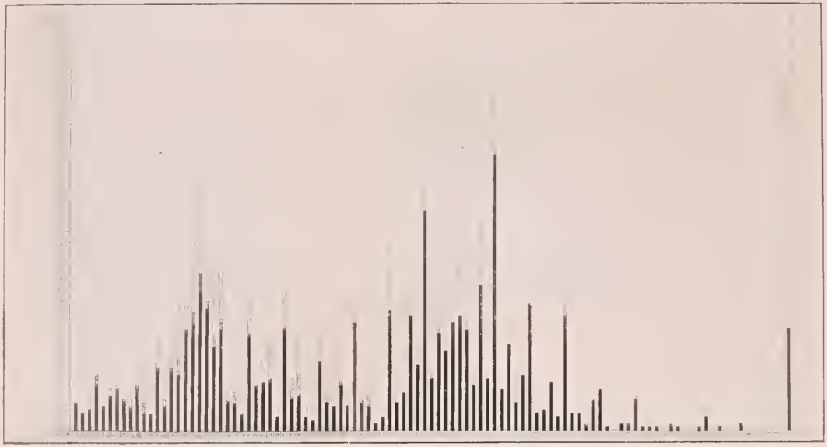
a) Number.

PLATE I

ENQUIRY CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR R. A. REISS INTO AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ATROCITIES IN SERBIA, 1914.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Districts of Pozerie, of Matchva, of the Vadar, and several Communes.



The black lines denote killed. The medium lines denote wounded. The light lines denote prisoners or missing.

part in the military operations. In other words, the civil population was supposed to have fired upon the troops. But my enquiry has proved to me that most certainly the overwhelming majority of the civil population never fired a shot or perpetrated any act of hostility towards the Austro-Hungarian troops. It is possible that here and there a peasant may have fired a shot at the enemy, but even if such occasions have arisen, the Austro-Hungarians had no right to execute hostages, and this in virtue of article 50 of the Hague Convention of October 18, 1907, signed by their Government. This Article stipulates: "No collective punishment, pecuniary or otherwise, may be pronounced upon the population on account of the acts of individuals for which the population cannot be held collectively responsible."

It is very probable, and I shall explain this in the chapter devoted to the causes of the massacre, that the Austro-Hungarian troops occasionally looked upon the non-uniformed soldiers of the 2nd and 3rd levy as peasant francs-tireurs.

The Austrian explanation, that the executions were necessitated by the hostile conduct of the population may be formally disposed of by the following facts:

1. When an army finds itself obliged to execute civilians for illegally taking part in warlike actions, the guilty parties are shot. No army should stoop so low as to inflict further punishment on persons who, as a matter of fact, are only defending their own country. Almost one-half of the victims of the Austro-Hungarians were bayoneted or clubbed

to death with the butt-ends of rifles, they were butchered and hanged, burnt alive and even mutilated.

These methods are quite opposed to the customary methods observed in executing francs-tireurs.

2. Among the victims tabulated in my statistics there are 82 children under 10, 8 of whom were not even one year old, there are 306 women, and a very large number of old men of over 60 years of age. It is impossible to suppose that babes of 2 and 3 months, or old men of 95 should be francs-tireurs.

3. When an army is compelled to resort to executions, then, as I said before, the guilty parties are shot. How is it then that among the civil victims of the Austrian invasion there should be so large a number of wounded? Is it possible that the Austrian High Command has invented a semi-execution by which the victim is wounded but not killed?

No! The tardy excuses of the Austrian officials fall to the ground. Their army has methodically carried out a mission of extermination, and the butchery of children, women and old men is part of that mission.

PLATE 30.

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1914.

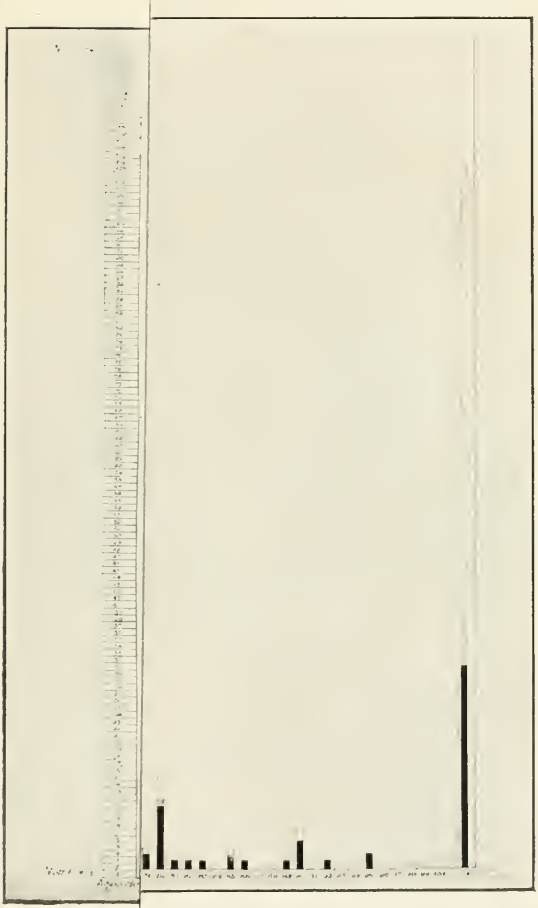

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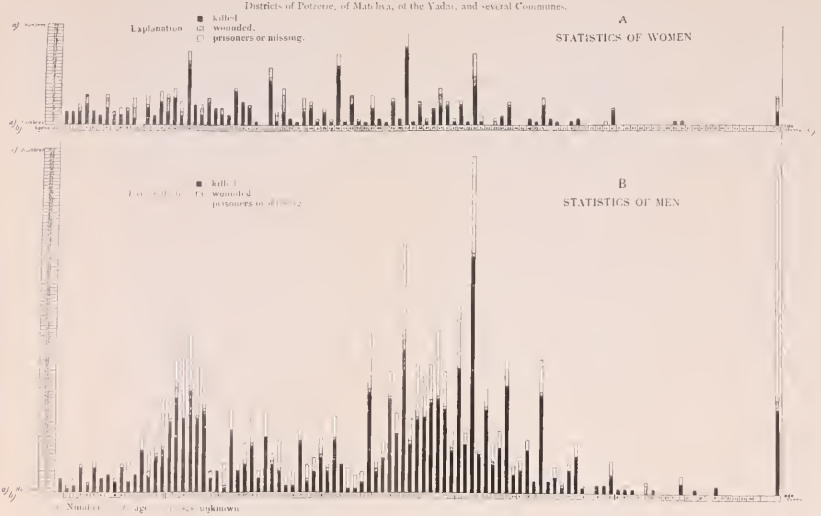
PLATE 20

ENQUIRY CONDUCTED BY PROFESSOR R. A. REISS INTO AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN ATROCITIES IN SERBIA, 1914

Districts of Potzerie, of Matchva, of the Yadar, and several Communes.



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PILLAGE

Depositions by Austro-Hungarian Soldiers

No. 77, of the 26th Regt., says that they were not forbidden to loot and pillage. One company of his regiment boasted of having set a village on fire.

No. 78, of the 28th Regt. They had no precise orders with regard to pillaging.

No. 79, of the 78th Regt., says that the Hungarians laid waste all the villages in *Syrmia*. The Mahommedan peasants always followed the Army transport section in order to plunder.

No. 80, Hospital Sergeant of the 28th Landwehr Infantry Regt., deposes: The soldiers pillaged and set everything on fire—houses, gardens, granaries. Each battalion was accompanied by about 50 Bosnian Mahommedan peasants whose business it was to sack and burn the Serbian villages. These men were veritable savages who yelled all the time, while they plundered. In *Uzovnitza*, the house of the pope (priest) was completely sacked and the furniture destroyed. The soldiers made up the fire on the bed; the pope himself was compelled to walk in front of the troops. On the day of the battle near Krupanj, witness arrived in Krupanj

late in the evening. He was in company with Dr. B., who slept in the same room with him. Towards midnight a tumult broke out, and somebody broke down the door, shouting: "Here are the Serbs!" But these Serbs were none other than the Austrians themselves. The tumult had been staged in order to permit them to plunder, and by five o'clock next morning practically everything had been sacked. The men got dead drunk with "Schnaps" in the cellars, and allowed the liquor to run out, so that in some cases the cellar was filled with it.

No. 81, of the 96th Regt., says that when his regiment passed through the villages the houses were deserted. He saw several villages in flames.

No. 82, of the 4th Bosnian Regt. His regiment was accompanied by armed Bosnian peasants. They followed the Army Transport Corps, and accompanied the police in order to "keep an eye" on the Serbs. They wore yellow and black badges on their arms. Witness heard these civilians bring lying reports about the Serbs to the Officer in command, who thereupon had several houses set on fire.

No. 83, Hospital attendant of the 22nd Regiment, states that General *Gabriel* forbade the burning of houses; he said that one ought to treat the property of others as though it were one's own.

No. 84: Before the battle, the Officers of the 25th Hungarian Regiment of Reserve told the men to burn everything. It was principally Major *Seifert* who gave these instructions.

No. 85, of the 32nd Regt., 14th Coy., 4th Battn., had his left leg amputated. He tells us that in

Shabatz the soldiers drank schnaps, and that a great number of barrels were found opened in the streets. The men had no bread, and were forbidden to open the tinned provisions. They bought prunes and apples.

No. 86, Sergeant in the 96th Infantry Regiment, 4th Battn., 3rd Coy. The following passages are excerpts from the diary kept by this soldier, and found upon him. It appears from the text of this diary that the sergeant is not in the least inspired by hatred against Austria-Hungary, but that, on the contrary, he is patriotic.

"Our transport has not arrived for two days (under the date of Aug. 13th, 1914), consequently we are short of provisions. The famishing men are dispersed throughout the occupied villages all over the plain of the Drina, and are frenziedly plundering everything they can lay hands on. They carry off everything, absolutely everything, but there was no bread, and without bread all that was worth nothing. All the fruit has been picked, the cattle are slaughtered, the poultry cleared out to such an extent that there is nothing but misery and desolation behind us. It is just as if the Turkish Army had passed. My Captain has forbidden our company to plunder, whereas others have omitted to do so. But the men, goaded by hunger, have dispersed in the neighbourhood and are indulging in unbridled pillage."

"It is regrettable that our soldiers beat and maltreat the Serbian soldiers, even when they surrender. Our army treats its prisoners with excessive harshness. Houses are demolished, cattle slaughtered, orchards laid waste. Even the Albanians did not

do these things. Here we are behaving in the worst possible fashion. Yet our Captain has forbidden it most severely; these things go against his honour!"

"—— (of the 18/8). To-day is the King's birthday. We are on the march, and passing through a large village near Yarebitze. I saw that all the shops and stores there had been looted. The soldiers carried off everything they could lay their hands on. I also saw the bodies of men and women who had been killed, and children between two and six years of age left alone, weeping. I also saw what I never saw before, and what no one will ever see again. I saw horrors, sufferings, and misfortune beggaring description."

Depositions of Serb Civilians

Shabatz

Marinko Stepanitch, merchant of *Shabatz*, deposes that he had about 50,000 francs' worth of goods stolen or spoilt. His safe was forced with a cold chisel; it contained 2,000 fr., which have, of course, disappeared. Stepanitch senior, an invalid, aged 62, was taken away and made to walk ahead of the detachment. The whole house was gutted.

Maria, wife of *Isa Svitzevitch*, *née Schneider* (of Austrian origin), housekeeper in the household of *Dragomir Petrovitch*, lawyer, and Captain of the Reserve, deposes: Three Hungarian Officers stayed in my house. They polluted the table and the dinner-service. She prepared food for them, but had to taste every course in front of them. Everything was pillaged and destroyed. They carried off

every article of value, including the spoons, forks, etc.—four dozen of each, jewellery, ornaments, and most of the contents of Mrs. *Petrovitch's* wardrobe. One day the officers had the safe carried down at midnight into the yard by their orderlies, had it forced, and seized the contents. The furniture was smashed, dresses were torn, armchairs, mirrors, and other articles broken, the carriage was damaged, etc.

They looked everywhere for Petrovitch, junior, Lieutenant in the Reserve, and threatened Maria because she would not tell them where he was.

In the evening they took off their uniforms and got themselves up in Mrs. Petrovitch's dresses.

Pavle Babitch, Mayor of *Lipolist* : In his house the Austrians likewise demolished the furniture. He himself had fled. The parish funds and records were burgled.

Pantelia Maritch, Mayor of *Petkovitza*, declares that the Town Hall was set on fire. He furthermore deposes that the Austrian soldiers were provided with little tin cans, with the contents of which they washed down the place where they intended to start the fire. The actual lighting was done with a match. The municipal safe was taken into the street and forced, pictures were slashed and the records thrown about and destroyed ; the school was similarly pillaged ; the schoolmaster's private room was subjected to the same fate. Inkstains were conspicuous everywhere.

Budimir Zhivanovitch, Mayor of *Ribare*, declares that the Austrians fired 50 houses and more than 200 barns. Eye-witnesses were struck by the fact that the fire took hold immediately.

Milivoie Isakovitch, Mayor of the village of *Novo Selo*, deposes: Not a soul in the village fired a shot at the Austrians. None the less they set fire to 3 houses and several barns, by means of some special substance for igniting houses. It was generally believed that the compound which the enemy used for igniting houses asphyxiated the inhabitants in burning, so that they were unable to escape. The Austrians also indulged in indiscriminate pillage wherever they found anything to take away. They committed all their atrocities in *Novo Selo* on the day of their arrival, i.e. on July 30th.

Matia Kordanitch, aged about 60, of *Novo Selo*: The Austrians tried to burn down the mayor's house. They also gutted the safe. They committed these crimes on their return from the Tzer. The fire was put out by the Serbian soldiers on their arrival in the village. In the course of his inspection of the premises mentioned the undersigned distinctly observed traces of ignition in the woodwork, and that everything in the house had been sacked and plundered.

In *Leshnitza*, a town of 1,200 inhabitants

Bado Bajcnatz, aged 52, Mayor of *Leshnitza*, declares the following: The Austrians arrived in Leshnitza on July 31st, and committed their atrocities from the moment of their arrival until August 2nd. Two houses and several barns were set on fire. The whole town was thoroughly sacked. Every safe was gutted, furniture and pictures were ruined.

Among the houses pillaged special mention must be made of those owned by *Simon Kostitch* and *Stevan Paritch*, aged 73, of Leshnitza, who was himself taken away by the Austrians after they had robbed him of four oxen, three cows, twelve pigs, three sheep, etc. They also burnt 700 stooks of corn, each representing about 40 kilogrammes of wheat.

Ivan Maletitch, aged 60, deposes: In the village of Leshnitza the Austrians burgled the post-office safe, value of contents unknown, as well as the parish safe, from which they took 200 frs. The records of Leshnitza were destroyed.

Vladimir Popovitch, aged 60, pope of the village of *Rumbanje*, deposes that in his village everything was sacked by the Austrians.

Sima Raditch, aged 57, of *Lipnitza*. The Austrians, after burning his corn, wanted likewise to set fire to his barn. When his wife *Draghinia*, aged 57, implored them to spare it, the sole answer of the soldiers was to shoot her. After this murder the soldiers pillaged, and looted 320 frs. as well as a Savings Bank Book worth 2,000 frs. They drank "raki" and what they could not drink they allowed to run out.

Ivan Maditch, of Loznitza, aged 38, declares the following: Loznitza had much to suffer when the Austrians passed through for the first time. After passing through for the second time, they bombarded the town with fougasses. Two soldiers who attempted to extinguish a fire caused by these projectiles were burnt. Everything in the town was pillaged; merchandise which could not be

carried away was thrown into the street. The safes were gutted. Already during their first transit the Austrians had burnt and pillaged. The number of houses that have been burnt is very great.

In *Breziak*

In the parish of Breziak, where an Austrian staff had taken up its quarters, every house was pillaged, several barns were set on fire, furniture was demolished and the safes were gutted.

In the house of the Mayor of Breziak all was sacked and demolished. The safe was gutted and all articles of value, such as the plate, etc., were stolen. The mayor possessed many fine pictures which were broken, and handsome furniture, which was smashed. The house and table linen was likewise carried off. All the young fruit trees were cut down.

The Mayor's wife is a native of Berlin, and lived for many years in Austria. She is indignant at the outrages committed by the Austrians. She had fled when they arrived. But they were furious when they failed to find her at home. They were especially enraged against her husband, whom they proposed to "roast." This lady says that before the war she was proud of being a German, but that to-day she is ashamed of it.

Everywhere in Breziak, one meets with the inscription: "Hoch Oesterreich."

Maxim Vidakovitch, pope of Breziak. The Austrians smashed everything in his house, including 4 sewing-machines. Everything of any value was taken away. An inscription left by the in-

vaders shows the exact date of their passage, i.e. August 15th (new style). During my inspection of the premises I found inscriptions in the cupboards: "Pope, if you come back, see what the 'Schwabe' has done." "Go to the ————, pope, with your popess and the whole of Serbia." His vestments were likewise torn.

In *Yarebitze*, town of 2,115 inhabitants

Tcheda Antonitch, assistant judge, and *Radomir Maditch*, commissioner of police, declare: In Yarebitze one house and very many barns, stables and hayricks were fired.

Milorad Paltrovitch, aged 33, merchant, deposes, that all his goods were destroyed or ruined with paint which they found on the premises. A sewing-machine was broken and the safe gutted. According to him, he had altogether 50,000 or 60,000 francs' worth of goods stolen or ruined. He succeeded, however, in taking away in his flight all the securities he had kept in the safe. As a matter of fact, every safe in the parish, 6 in all, was forced and burgled.

Pantelia Stefanovitch, aged 62, merchant. Stefanovitch is the owner of two shops. According to him the damage caused by the Austrians (everything was looted and ruined) represents a loss of 100,000 frs. to him.

In *Zavlaka* the sack was general. As usual, the Austrians carried off every article of value.

In *Likodra* there were likewise many houses pillaged by the Austrians.

In *Krupanj*

Every place in the town had been ransacked and robbed, and every dwelling devastated, except that of Dr. Alfandari, district physician, that of the chemist, and that of a merchant whose wife is a Bosnian, and whose brother is a sergeant in the Austrian army. The latter was with the detachment that visited Krupanj. Every safe was gutted, pictures were broken, mattresses spoilt, etc. The municipal records were destroyed.

Persida Simonovitch, aged 27, innkeeper in *Krupanj*. An Austrian staff, having for chief a general and a colonel or major, took up its quarters in her inn. Four officers, who lodged with her, asked her to sew them some little bags to hold the money taken from those who were hanged, from the prisoners, and that which came from the looting of the town. She asked them why they were taking away all this money? The officers answered that the war cost very much, and that this money was to help their State to defray the cost. These same officers sent her out to procure wine which she paid for with her own money. They never refunded her expenses, although they drank and ate all the provisions she possessed.

The Brothers *Markovitch* depose that their shop was completely looted, and that their goods were dragged along the floor and soiled. The invaders tried to force the safe, but were unsuccessful. Messrs. *Markovitch* estimate that the Austrians caused them 50,000 frs. worth of damage.

The parish of *Sokol* was completely pillaged.

The parish records, the school library, and the parish Town Hall were all destroyed.

In *Kostainik*, a town of 2,400 inhabitants, 4 houses and 120 barns were burnt by the Austrians, and the houses were pillaged.

Parish of *Banjevatz*

Svetozar Markovitch, aged 38, deputy mayor, declares that the enemy pillaged and destroyed everything in Banjevatz.

In *Ljubovia*

Ninko Taditch, aged 49, Mayor, and President of the Town Council, deposes the following: In his parish of 4,500 inhabitants, 135 families have had their houses, barns, sheds, and stables fired, the minimum total value of all these buildings being estimated at 373,000 frs. The people had hoisted white flags and furnished all the food-stuffs demanded by the enemy. The Austrian soldiers spoke in opprobrious terms of the Serbian people and their King.

Gornia Ljubovia

Milo Ivantitch, aged 44, Mayor of *Gornia Ljubovia*, declares that in his village 17 families lost their entire house property during the second Austrian invasion. The damage caused by the Austrian army amounts to 16,000 frs.

In *Selanatz*

Yakov Panovitch, aged 59, deputy mayor, deposes that in Selanatz the Austrians fired a house and some fifteen barns. They pillaged everywhere, and

especially the house belonging to *Mladenovitch*, in which nothing was left. They stole all the money they could find.

In *Azbukovitza*

Draghitch Vasitch, aged 51, Mayor of the parish, declares that during the first invasion, 39 families suffered serious losses through their houses and barns being set on fire. The Austrians indulged in indiscriminate pillage.

In *Uzovnitza*

Gjuro Gjuritch, aged 57, deputy mayor, says that during the first and second invasions, 20 houses and many outbuildings were fired, and that everything was pillaged.

Stanoie Stanoievitch, aged 47, deposes that in the village of *Donja Bukovitza*, 9 houses and many outbuildings were fired. His own house was burnt down by the Austrians.

In *Donje Koshlje*

Milan Gjurgjevitch, aged 50, deposes, that 12 houses and from 30 to 35 outbuildings were set on fire in his parish. The whole village was sacked, and all articles of value were taken away.

In *Likodra*

Rade Zelitch, a rich peasant, was butchered and his body left on the edge of the wood. His family says that the Austrians robbed him of 30,000 frs. The other peasants say it was only 20,000 frs.

Ninko, the son of Zelitch, adds that the Austrians had installed an ambulance in his father's house, that is how they came to know where he kept his money. It was on their return that they killed Zelitch and stole his money.

Serbian Official Military Reports

No. 1

Colonel *Vasa Stoianovitch*, Commander of the 15th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of Aug. 12/25th:

In the village of *Draghintze* all the shops, and all the houses have been looted. Everything that could not be carried away was broken or burnt and the wreckage thrown into the streets. The church of the village of Yarebitze was used for stabling horses.

The villages of *Yarebitze*, *Simino Brdo*, *Zavlaka*, *Rumska*, *Shurintze*, *Desitch*, *Neshkutze*, and *Bela Reka* were pillaged.

No. 2

Colonel *Gjura Dokitch*, Commander of the 20th Infantry Regt., 1st levy, reports under the date of August 13th/20th:

In the village of *Yarebitze* all the shops were broken into and looted. It was the same with the houses. The village church was turned into a stable.

No. 3

Captain *Ivan Mishitch*, Officer in command of the 4th Coy., 4th Battn., 5th Regt., reports under

the date of August 8/21st, that on August 7th/20th he observed the following conditions in Leshnitza:

The entire town had been sacked. In many houses the windows were smeared with fæcal matter. Everything, down to the smallest things, had been carried off. He was convinced that the Austrians had poisoned the wells at the moment of their retreat. Whatever the enemy soldiers could not take away, they destroyed. Grain was soaked in petrol and burnt. Within the church everything was thrown into disorder and wrecked. (I have nowhere received any information which would lead me to believe that the Austrians poisoned the wells before retiring. My enquiry proves that, on the contrary, they feared such action on the part of our population, but they do not seem to have perpetrated this infamy themselves.)

No. 4

Colonel *Alexander Petrovitch*, Commander of the 6th Infantry Regt., of the 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 8/21st:

According to the depositions taken down in the official reports, all the shops and houses in Leshnitza have been wrecked.

No. 5

General *Mihailo Rashitch* reports under the date of August 13/26th, that the Austrians have plundered all the shops and private houses in the village of *Tchokeshina*. They even wrecked the monastery which is in the vicinity of the village.

No. 6

Lieutenant *Ivan Srdanovitch*, Second in Command of the 3rd Coy., 3rd Battn. of the 3rd Supernumerary Regiment, reports under the date of August 12/25th:

Almost all the dwelling-houses in the village of *Prnjavor* have been burnt, likewise all the sheds, the corn, and many agricultural implements.

(This is not strictly accurate, because in Prnjavor a certain number of houses and barns, etc., still exist,—gutted of their contents, it is true.)

No. 7

Colonel *Dr. Mihailovitch*, of the Army Medical Service, Inspector of the Cavalry Division, reports under the date of August 10/23rd:—

In the school of *Petkovitza* everything had been wrecked. Maps and books were torn. The rooms of the teachers, both male and female, had been broken into and pillaged.

No. 8

Major *Sreten Raikovitch*, Officer in Command of the 1st Battn., 12th Infantry Regt., of the 2nd levy, reports under the date of August 16/29th, that the officers and men of his regiment had observed the following facts:—

In the villages of *Markovo*, *Livade*, *Arambashitch*, *Yevremovatz*, and *Varna* all the houses were wrecked. Whatever the Austrians had not been able to carry away was ruined. Everyone re-

marked especially upon the revolting trail of filth the Austrians left behind them.

No. 9

Djoka Popovitch, priest, and chaplain of the 13th Regiment, of the 2nd levy, deposed under the date of August 12/25th:

The houses of the village of *Grushitch*, especially those on the North side, have been sacked and plundered. Every house has been ransacked in every cranny and corner. The contents of the granaries, etc., were not spared either.

No. 10

Company Commander *Stoian Dashitch*, commanding the 3rd Coy. of the 3rd Battn. of the 13th Regiment, reports under the date of August 12/25th:

In the village of *Bela Reka* the Austrians have taken and carried away everything of value; even the savings-book of a poor woman.

No. 11

Dr. *Nikola Ristitch*, Army Surgeon of the 13th Infantry Regt., 1st levy, reports under the date of August 12/25th:

In the village of *Desitch* he noticed a house, whose door had been battered in, and the interior of which was completely wrecked. The broken furniture was scattered in every direction, the chests were forced open, only a mirror was hanging intact upon the wall.

No. 12

Lieutenant *Draghisha Stoiadinovitch*, Second in Command of the 2nd Coy. of the 1st Battn. of the 13th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of August 9/22nd :

While going the rounds, I saw in the village of *Tzulkovitch*, a house which was in a condition of utter disorder ; everything was wrecked, and in a state which was obviously due to the looting which had taken place there. All the other houses I could see had been subjected to the same fate. The enemy had plundered monstrously in the village.

No. 13

Captain *Ilia Pantitch*, Officer in Command of the 4th Company of the 2nd Battalion of the 13th Infantry Regt., reports under the date of August 12/25th :

In the village of *Prnjavor* the enemy seized upon everything that was of any value ; he principally carried off the outfits of the young girls. When the Austrians were compelled to beat a retreat they set fire to *Prnjavor*. In the street on the road from Leshnitza to Shabatz almost every house has been fired. The same applied to the street on the road to Radovintze. The whole village has been destroyed by the flames, with the exception of the south-eastern portion where the road branches off to Petkovitza.

The numerous depositions of Austrian prisoners, of Serbian authorities and civilians clearly show

that the pillage of the towns and villages temporarily occupied by the army of invasion, was carried out systematically. In connection with this statement I would recall what I have already said in the chapter devoted to the bombardment of open towns and the burning of house-property.

As a matter of fact, pillage often went hand in hand with arson and, as I already remarked in the chapter in question, the Austro-Hungarians appear to have been specially provided with materials for causing these conflagrations.

I wish to call special attention to the deposition of private, No. 79, of the 78th Austrian Regiment, who mentions that the Hungarians laid waste all the Serbian villages in Syrmia, which statement has been confirmed by many other prisoners of war. It is also borne out by the following document found by a Serbian private on the field of battle:

K. u. K. 9. Korpskommando,
R. No. 32.
Ruma, August 14th, 1914.

By order of the A. O. K. Op. Kr. 259.

"In consequence of the hostile attitude of the population of *Klenak* and *Shabatz*, Serbian hostages are once more to be taken in all villages, etc., including those on this side of the frontier, villages which are, or are going to be occupied by the troops. These hostages are to be summarily executed in the event of any crime being committed by the inhabitants against the forces (treason), and the enemy villages are to be set on fire. The Command

of the Army Corps reserves the right of burning villages on our own territory. This order will be communicated without delay to the population by the political authorities.

"(Signed) HORTSTEIN, General." [1]

This order proves conclusively that the Austro-Hungarians were in the habit of taking hostages on their own territory, hostages which were killed, if need arose. The wording of the document also proves that these hostages were Austro-Hungarian subjects, albeit of Serb nationality. It furthermore proves that incendiarism was applied equally by the enemy in his own territory.

The depositions of Nos. 79 and 80 state that the army of invasion was followed by armed Bosnian Mussulman peasants, brought specially by the enemy troops to commit depredations in the villages and houses. These depositions are confirmed by the statement, reported further on, of Private, witness No. 82, of the 4th Bosnian Regiment, and by other

[1] K. u. k. 9. Korps Kommando,
R. No. 32.

Ruma, am 14. August 1914.

Auf Befehl des A. O. K. Op. Kr. 259. Zu Folge feindseligen Verhaltens der Bevölkerung von Klenak und Chabatz sind in allen serbischen Orten auch diesseits der Grenze, die von Truppen belegt sind oder es werden, neuerdings Geiseln auszuheben und bei der Truppe festzuhalten.

Diese sind bei Verbrechen der Einwohner gegen die Kriegsmacht (Anschläge, Verrat) sofort zu justifizieren und in diesen Falle auch die Orte des Feindeslandes niederzubrennen. Das Niederbrennen von Ortschaften auf eigenem Gebiet behält sich das Korpskommando vor.

Dieser Befehl wird durch die politischen Behörden der Bevölkerung sofort kund gemacht werden.

HORTSTEIN, *General.*

statements I had occasion to obtain. These peasants, as witness No. 80 said, threw themselves upon the houses, howling, and altogether like savages. Thus they set the example to the soldiers, who had perhaps up to then been restrained by a sense of decency. It is idle to insist on the illegal and inhuman character of this measure adopted by the Austro-Hungarian high command, but it is one more proof of the system of extermination practised by the enemy.

I would also draw attention to the deposition of *Maria Svitzevitch*, of Shabatz, housekeeper in the household of *Mr. Dragomir Petrovitch*, with reference to the description of the looting of this wealthy house by three Hungarian officers. She tells us incidentally, that in the evening these extraordinary people dressed themselves up in *Mrs. Petrovitch's* clothes. This is a detail which was certainly not invented by *Maria*, because in relating it to me, she clearly showed that she could not understand this, to her, most singular proceeding. To anyone accustomed to dealing with criminality and sexual perversion there is nothing amazing in the incident reported. These officer-thieves were also sexual perverts and their persistent demand for Mr. Petrovitch, junr., whose photograph they had seen and who is a handsome youth, proves that they were sodomites as well.

This deposition, like many others, and incidentally that of *Persida Simonovitch*, of *Krupanj*, for instance, proves that not only the privates were guilty of looting and pillaging, but also, and, indeed, sometimes principally the officers. In saying this

I would not accuse either the entire Austro-Hungarian army, nor its corps of officers, as a whole. The declarations of the privates among the prisoners, which I have included in this report, state that a considerable number of officers had strictly forbidden the men to loot. These honourable men would certainly be among the first to regret the deeds committed by others, less honourable than themselves. The instructions given to the troops do not appear to have been everywhere the same. Thus there were whole regiments which took no part in either pillage or massacre, owing, probably, to the influence of their chiefs, who refused to lend themselves to the policy of extermination. Unfortunately there were other units where this moderation was not observed, but where looting and massacring were systematically practised. Certain importance also attaches to the declarations of prisoners of war, who assert that the soldiers of the army of invasion indulged to excess in alcoholic drinks, and that the stores of "raki" and other spirituous beverages belonging to the inhabitants of *Matchva* were very fully laid under contribution by the soldiery. The officers do not seem to have done anything to prevent these orgies. On the contrary, some of them seem to have gone very near setting their men the example, even if they did not actually do so, for in the houses inspected by me, which had harboured officers, I always found a formidable quantity of empty bottles.

The declarations of Serb civilians, no less than those of Austrian prisoners of war, accuse the in-

vading troops of having destroyed by fire or other means all movable property, cereals, etc., which they could not take away. Personal inspection has convinced me of the accuracy of these assertions.

I will here also report a public rumour, which has been repeated to me by reliable witnesses who however did not see the matter for themselves. *Mr. Lazitch*, Prefect of *Shabatz*, is one of my authorities. According to this rumour the Austrians brought certain women to Shabatz, prostitutes and others, who are said to have superintended the packing of all articles of value, which were then placed in carts and at once transported across the Save. As I said before, I cannot vouch for the authenticity of this fact, not having had the opportunity of obtaining absolute proof of it.

It goes without saying that I obtained verification on the spot for the depositions obtained from the civilians I interrogated. I found them strictly accurate ; of course I had no means of checking the exact amount of the losses, or proving whether the figures given me corresponded with the truth.

Judging by my experience of judicial enquiry, I even think they should be considerably reduced, because the losers have almost always a tendency to exaggerate their losses. But, even so reduced, the pecuniary loss suffered by the civil population in the invaded territory is enormous. Judging by what I have seen, it must greatly exceed 100 million frs.

Wherever the Austro-Hungarians have been, I have personally observed the traces of an absolutely thorough-going pillage of everything of value, and

the destruction of what could not be carried away. During their short stay in *Belgrade*, the Austro-Hungarians likewise began to loot. Thus, it is estimated, that in Belgrade itself 745 houses were pillaged, and 516 houses in *Topchider* and *Tchukaritza*.

The shutters of the shops are smashed, and I noticed that in *Shabatz* the smashing must have been done with wire-cutters, possibly with the tools used for cutting barbed wire.

I also observed that the fury of the invaders always vented itself on patriotic pictures and portraits. Everywhere the portraits of King Peter and the Princes Alexander and George have been disfigured, and it was a favourite sport of the soldiers to gouge out the eyes of these portraits.

I have, in addition, observed a feature which strikes me as being almost pathological. The soldiers have defaced the walls with paint or ink, wherever they could. Thus, the walls of the Bishop's palace in *Shabatz* are covered with ink-stains. Finally, both men and officers, instead of making use of closets, deposited their fæces all over the place—in the beds, in the china, in the baths, on the floor, etc., and often the rooms were so full of fæcal matter that the prevailing stench rendered them uninhabitable. I observed this phenomenon particularly in the house of Mr. *Dragomir Petrovitch*, which was occupied by the three Hungarian officers already referred to.

This particular mania for soiling with fæcal matter seems to me to constitute one of the manifestations of a kind of collective Sadic frenzy which had seized upon the army of invasion.

Finally, the Austro-Hungarian officers and men robbed all the safes they found in the towns and villages occupied by them.

In *Shabatz* alone, almost 1,000 safes were forced and relieved of their contents. I found three strong-boxes which had not been opened, but attempts had been made to break them; their greater strength was their protection. I might remark, in passing, that all the safes that had been forced were of Austrian manufacture, whereas the three that proved refractory were of English or American make. As a rule, the safes were opened by blows with hatchets and other heavy instruments, which battered in the protective plates of sheet-iron. Sometimes the broken safes were left lying in the middle of the street—a typical picture indicating the passage of the Austro-Hungarian troops. Sometimes the opening of the safes was contrived more neatly. Thus, in *Shabatshka Zadruga*, the handiwork of the robbers is so perfect, that it might cause many a professional safe-burglar to blush with jealousy. The protective plates of sheet-iron, which are fairly thick, were cut through with a kind of long cutting crow-bar (technically known as a "knacker"), which we found on the premises. In the villages, the safes found in the town clerk's office, the post office, and in private houses were all forced open and deprived of their contents.

In several villages I noticed that the Austro-Hungarian soldiers had also cut down large numbers of fruit-trees, which proves absolutely, that the enemy army desired at all costs to injure the civil population, as by this means it sought to destroy

[*Photo Reiss.*

PLATE 31.—SHABATZ: THE FORCED AND PILLAGED SAFES IN THE BANK "SHABATSHKA ZADRUGA."

one of the resources of the country for many years to come.

As has already been stated, I inspected a great number of houses that had been devastated by the Austrians. I will merely quote one typical instance. The house of *Jakob Albala*, in the *Potzerska Ulitza* in *Shabatz*, was visited by the enemy. Everything of value was carried off. The safe was plundered. Mattresses and upholstered chairs were torn, and so were the pictures. Clothes had been pulled out of the wardrobes, torn and scattered about the floor. Cupboards were battered in, chairs, sofas, and other furniture smashed, mirrors and glazed cupboards broken. The china was smashed to atoms, and the stock-pot turned upside down. The proprietor, who had fled, died of an apoplectic shock when he heard what had been done in his house. Lying on the floor, I found the will of the unfortunate man. He possessed a fortune of more than 150,000 frs., which, by this will, he bequeathed to the poor of *Shabatz*, regardless of religious distinction.

In short, from the depositions I have obtained, and from what I myself have observed, it looks as if the pillage and theft of articles of value had been systematically organised by the army of invasion.

The answer given to *Persida Simonovitch* by the officers, that the money sent from the civil population was to partially pay for the war, may have been in so far true, as part of it may have been sent to the treasury, while the rest went into the pocket of the thief.

In any case, pillage was one of the methods

employed by the Austro-Hungarian "straf-expedition."

It is perhaps not inapt, in view of the foregoing, to recall the stipulations of the Hague Convention of October 18th, 1907, signed and violated, like so many others, by the Dual Monarchy:

Article 23: G. It is expressly forbidden to destroy or to seize property, except in such cases where such destruction and such seizure are imperatively demanded by the exigencies of war.

Article 28. It is forbidden to permit the pillaging of a town or place, even if it has been taken by storm.

These are the Articles which Austria-Hungary has signed, and her signature, like all signatures, is equal to a pledge of honour. Her army of invasion has done its best to disregard the said pledge.

VI

CAUSES OF THE MASSACRES

After having proved all these cruelties and atrocities it was interesting to seek for the causes. As a matter of fact, having in time of peace found the Austrians, and especially the Viennese, charming to all appearance, I was greatly surprised to see that in time of war this people could be guilty of such excesses. I therefore endeavoured by interrogating the prisoners and other investigations, to ascertain the causes of this change of attitude. I believe the following to be the correct explanation.

For a long time the mighty Austria-Hungary had decided, as you know, to crush your democratic and liberty-loving Serbian people. Free Serbia attracted the Austro-Hungarian subjects of Serb race and, furthermore, she blocked the way to Salonica. But the people of the Dual Monarchy had to be trained for the execution of this inconvenient neighbour. To achieve this object, the Austro-Hungarian papers, faithfully seconded by the German dailies, inaugurated a campaign of systematic disparagement against Serbia.

According to these papers there could be no people more barbarous and more detestable than the Serbs. They were lousy, thieves and regicides. Nay, more, these abominable Serbs were murderous savages. They cut off the noses and ears of their

prisoners, gouged out their eyes, and castrated them into the bargain. Such statements could be read even in serious journals. It goes without saying that the famous Carnegie Commission provided a welcome opportunity for further forcing this note. This report, which was drawn up by enquirers who made no enquiry either in Serbia or in Greece, constitutes a most partial piece of special pleading in favour of Bulgaria.

But the preparation of the public by the newspapers was not sufficient to inspire the troops with sufficient dread of Serbian barbarism. Therefore the officers of both superior and inferior rank made it their business to school their men on the subject of the alleged atrocities which your army would inflict upon its prisoners All the Austro-Hungarian prisoners whom I questioned assured me that the officers had warned them not to let themselves be taken, as the Serbs would massacre them. Even the officers believed in this tale. Thus a First-Lieutenant confessed to me that at the moment when he was taken prisoner he had drawn his revolver with the intention of committing suicide, because he feared he would be tortured by the Serbs. The instinct of self-preservation had prevailed however, and he added : "To-day I am glad I did not do it, because Colonel *Ilitch* is like a father to us."

I append a series of depositions by several Austro-Hungarian prisoners which show very clearly how the soldiers were prepared and trained for pillage and massacre by their officers.

No. 87, Hospital Sergeant in the 28th Landwehr

Regiment, deposes: The officers told us to shoot all that was Serbian. The Hungarian officers were the most ferocious. Wherever the regiment went the officers urged them to kill everything—cows, pigs, chickens; in short, everything—even what was not necessary for the subsistence of the troops.

Lieutenant *Fischer*, or *Trischler*, said in front of witness to two medical men that the Serbs brutally ill-used their prisoners, cutting off their noses, ears, the penis, etc., and he added, "but I have got everything ready for these ruffians." The others asked him what he had prepared, and he replied that he had converted 150 revolver-bullets into dum-dum bullets. When witness expostulated with him, and told him that one ought not to believe such rubbish, the Lieutenant answered that these things had been said and written by intelligent people, and that he, for his part, believed them. Moreover, he did not care for "Kultur," and preferred his "—— to a thousand Serb swine," who deserved nothing better than dum-dum bullets.

No. 88, of the 2nd Bosnian Regt., says that his regiment had orders not to touch anything, and not to kill any one of the civil population.

No. 89, of the 78th Regt., had heard that the order to spare nothing was given by the high command. First-Lieutenant *Feutek* of the 2nd Company on active service, said at *Osiek*, the garrison town of the 78th, that they must show the Serbs what Austrians can do. They were to spare nothing and to kill everything.

No. 90, of the 78th Regiment, 15th Company, related that First-Lieutenant *Bernhard* told them

that they must kill every living creature. Witnesses Nos. 89 and 90 were first in *Ratcha* (Slavonia) where Major *Belina* gave his men permission to sack and loot all they could find. Everything was sacked.

No. 91, of the 16th Infantry Regiment. In *Dobritch* he saw some privates of the 37th Hungarian Regiment bayonet 11 or 12 children from 6 to 12 years of age. This massacre was ordered by Lieutenant *Nagy*, and took place on the 16th or 17th of August. Witness was only about 30 or 40 yards away from the massacring soldiers. At that moment Lieutenant-Colonel *Piskor*, of the 16th Regt., passed, and called out to Nagy: "Why are you doing such a swinish thing?" Nagy replied: "Order your own troops about, and leave mine alone. I have my orders from my superiors as to this." The officers told the men that the Serbs cut off the noses, ears, etc., of the wounded.

No. 92, of the 6th Zabal Infantry Regt. Before they crossed the frontier Captain *Bosznai* gave the order to kill every living creature from 5 years of age to old men. But after the men crossed the frontier, and when they came to the first Serbian village, the captain ordered two houses to be set on fire, and on this occasion he enjoined upon them to kill everything now, even infants in their cradles.

No. 93, of the 2nd Bosnian Regiment. His regiment came upon the bodies of peasants who had been burnt by the 100th Regiment in the third village beyond *Ljubovia*. They had been burnt on some hay. The order for these massacres had been given by Lieutenant-Colonel *Krebs* of the 100th Regiment. An officer of the 2nd, First-

Lieutenant *Stibitch*, expostulated with Krebs, and asked him why he had burnt these people. Krebs replied that they were comitadjis, and that, moreover, it was none of his business.

No. 94, Reservist, of the 70th Regiment. Captain *Lahodny* gave them the order to kill without mercy all that was Serbian, both in Serbia and in Bosnia, and also to burn the villages.

No. 95, Corporal of the 28th Regiment, deposes: Lieutenant *Jeketc*, having captured a party of 20 peasants, killed 14 of them by order of the Colonel.

No. 96, squad leader in the 28th, deposes: Lieutenant *Müller* of the 28th Regiment, 3rd Battn., 9th Company, killed a child and its grandfather with his own hands, then he set fire to the house and threw the two bodies into a room through the window. This Lieutenant also gave the order to finish off the Serbian wounded, as he did not want to be troubled with them. During the first invasion the officers gave the order to kill everything without exception; during the second, the officers remained well in the rear of the men; but before a battle they advised their men not to surrender because, so they said, the Serbians mutilated their prisoners of war in every conceivable way.

No. 97, of the 97th Regiment of the line, states that at the beginning of the war, during the first invasion the men were permitted to do everything, burn, kill, etc., "whereas now they are forbidden to burn, but are still allowed to take articles of food." He further adds that they were given orders to drive out before them the entire civil

population they met with in the villages, and above all things to leave nobody in their rear.

Nos. 98 and **99** both declare that they were told to spare nobody. Captain *Stransky* gave the order to kill all who carried arms, even though they did not fire.

No. 100. Before the fighting the officers of the 28th Hungarian Regiment of the Reserve told their men to burn everything. It was especially Major *Seifert* of this Regiment, who gave such instructions. On the other hand General *Trollmann*, of the 18th Division, forbade his men, under pain of death, to touch anything whatsoever. In spite of these injunctions, however, the men were guilty of cruelty and excesses.

No. 101. The first Bosnian Regiment killed peasants in *Stavain* (Bosnia) and burnt all the houses, because some unknown person had fired a shot in the village. It was the Lieutenant-Colonel of the Regiment, a Hungarian by extraction, who ordered this massacre. In Uvatz Lieut.-Colonel *Krumenack* gave the order to set every house on fire, and that merely in order to destroy the house of a Serbian priest. In *Strbzi* and *Dobrava* everything was likewise burnt by order of the same commander. All these villages are in Bosnia. As a general rule all houses on the Drina (Austrian side) owned by Serbs were fired.

It was the 4th Hungarian Corps that committed the massacres in *Shabatz*. Lieutenant *Schavasnitz* expressly forbade his men to plunder.

No. 102, of the 28th Regiment. Corporal *Agler* told him that he would have his nose, ears, etc., cut off, if he were taken prisoner in Serbia.

No. 103, of the 26th Regiment, says they were not forbidden to sack and loot.

No. 104, of the 28th Regiment, declares that they were given no precise orders as regards looting.

No. 105, of the 78th, says that Captain *Eisenhut* gave orders to kill every living thing in Serbia.

No. 106, of the 26th Regiment, deposes that he was ordered, and the order was read out to his regiment, to kill and burn all they should meet with in the course of the campaign, and to destroy all that was Serbian. Commander *Stanzer*, and also Captain *Irketicz* ordered them to perpetrate cruelties upon the civil population.

No. 107, Corporal in the 28th Landwehr Regiment. The General and the officers gave orders to kill the civilians in Shabatz.

No. 108, of the 3rd Bosnian Infantry Regiment. "Cadet" *Ivchitch* always used the most opprobrious terms in speaking of the Austrian Serbs.

No. 109, of the 28th Regiment, 3rd Battery 12th Coy. The detachment was told that the Serbs ill-treated their prisoners, and cut off their ears, nose, etc.

No. 110 declares that Mahommedan and Catholic peasants from Bosnia accompanied the Army Transport Service. He saw them on Serbian territory. They were there to plunder. These peasants were included in the commissariat of the troops. Between *Kogluk* and *Bielina* he saw armed civilians in the carriages with the officers and men.

No. 111, of the 4th Bosnian Regiment. His regiment was accompanied by armed Bosnian peasants. They followed the Army Transport

Section, and accompanied the police in order to "have an eye" on the Serbs. They wore yellow and black badges on their arms, and witness heard that these civilians brought lying reports about the Serbs to the officer in command, who thereupon ordered the houses to be set on fire.

No. 112, Hospital attendant of the 22nd Regt., relates that General *Gabriel* forbade the burning of houses, and told the men that they must treat the property of others as if it were their own.

No. 113, of the 28th Regiment. In *Krupanj* the detachment was led past a line of Serb soldiers in torn uniforms. The officers showed them to the men, saying: "Look at these vagabonds, who would dare to make war on us. Throw them some crusts of bread." Witness heard that these soldiers were subsequently shot.

As may be seen from the above quoted evidence, the men were not only frightened by their superiors, but they were in many cases given direct orders to pillage.

That the butchery of the population was systematic and according to order, is yet more clearly proved by the following excerpts quoted from a pamphlet issued by the Austro-Hungarian high command, and found in the possession of the men. These excerpts demonstrate most perfectly how the men were systematically trained and prepared for massacre:

"*K. u. K. 9th Korpskommando.*

"Instructions regarding behaviour to be adopted towards the population in Serbia.

"The war is taking us into a country inhabited by a population inspired with fanatical hatred towards ourselves, into a country where assassination, as the catastrophe of Sarajevo has again shown, is condoned even in the upper classes, who extol it as heroism. In dealing with a population of this kind all humanity and kindness of heart are out of place, they are even harmful, for such considerations, whose application is sometimes possible in warfare, would here place our own troops in danger

"I therefore give orders that, during the entire course of the war an attitude of extreme severity, extreme harshness, and extreme distrust is to be observed towards everybody."[1]

This was written by the Commander of the Army of that same Austro-Hungarian Empire, whose government was going to send a large number of people to the scaffold upon the evidence of forged documents prepared in its own Legation in Belgrade!

The instructions continue:

"To begin with I will not tolerate that non-

[1] K. u. K. 9. Korpskommando.

Direktionen für das Verhalten gegenüber der Bevölkerung in Serbien.

Der Krieg führt uns in ein Feindesland, das von einer mit fanatischem Hass gegen uns erfüllten Bevölkerung bewohnt ist, in ein Land, wo der Meuchelmord, wie auch die Katastrophe in Sarajevo zeigt, selbst den höher stehenden Klassen erlaubt gilt, wo er gerade als Heldentum gefeiert wird.

Einer solche Bevölkerung gegenüber ist jede Humanität und Weichherzigkeit höchst unangebracht, ja gerade verderblich, weil diese, sonst im Kriege ab und zu möglichen Rücksichten, hier die Sicherheit der eigenen Truppen schwer gefährden.

Ich befehle daher, dass während der ganzen kriegerischen Aktion die grösste Strenge, die grösste Härte und das grösste Misstrauen gegen jedermann zu walten hat.

uniformed, but armed men of the enemy country, whether encountered singly or in groups, should be made prisoners. They are to be unconditionally executed." [1]

The Austro-Hungarian General Staff, like all the rest of the world, was well aware that your soldiers of the Third Levy and a good half of those of the Second Levy have never been uniformed. The directions given in these "instructions" are therefore an undisguised summons to massacre these soldiers, a summons which was obeyed to the letter by the troops.

Further on, in speaking of the hostages, we find the following: "In traversing a village, they are to be brought, if possible to a passage *en queue* (sic) and they are to be summarily executed, if even a single shot is fired at the troops in that locality." (In direct contradiction to the Hague Convention of 1907.)

"Both officers and men will keep a strict watch on every inhabitant, and not tolerate that he should put his hand in his pocket which probably conceals a weapon. They will, generally speaking, observe an attitude of extreme severity and harshness.

"The ringing of bells is absolutely prohibited and the bells will be taken down. As a rule, every belfry will be occupied by a patrol."

Who does not remember the incessant recriminations of the Germans that the French were occupying the belfries for military purposes? Are

[1] Zunächst dulde ich nicht, dass nicht uniformierte, aber bewaffnete Leute des Feindeslandes, werden sie nun in Gruppen oder einzeln angetroffen gefangen werden; sie sind unbedingt niederzumachen.

these not the grounds upon which they would excuse their destruction of the Cathedrals of Rheims and Malines? The instructions issued by their friends and allies explain why, going by what they do themselves, they accuse others of similar procedure.

"Divine service is only to be permitted at the request of the inhabitants of the locality, and only in the open air and outside the church.

"No sermon, however, will be permitted under any conditions whatsoever.

"A platoon prepared to fire will hold itself in readiness near the church during Divine service.

"Every inhabitant encountered in the open, and especially in the woods, is to be considered the member of a band which has concealed its weapons somewhere, which weapons we have not the time to look for. These people are to be executed if they appear even slightly suspicious." [1]

[1] Beim Durchmarsch nehme man sie möglichst bis zum Passieren der Queue mit und mache sie unbedingt nieder, wenn auch nur ein Schuss in der Ortschaft auf die Truppe fällt.

Offiziere und Soldaten fassen jeden Einwohner stets scharf ins Auge, dulden keine Hand in der Tasche, welche voraussichtlich eine Waffe birgt, und treten überhaupt stets mit der grössten Strenge und Härte auf.

Keine Glocke darf läuten, nötigenfalls sind die Glocken abzunehmen; überhaupt ist jeder Kirchturm durch eine Patrouille zu besetzen.

Gottesdienst nur über Bitte der Ortsbewohner und nur im Freien vor der Kirche, jedoch unter keiner Bedingung eine Predigt.

Während des Gottesdienstes eine schussfertige Abteilung in der Nähe der Kirche.

In jedem Einwohner, den man ausserhalb der Ortschaft, besonders aber in Waldungen trifft, sehe man nichts anderes als Bandenmitglieder, welche ihre Waffen irgendwo versteckt haben; diese zu suchen haben wir keine Zeit; man mache diese Leute, wenn sie halbwegs verdächtig erscheinen, nieder.

Here is an incitement to murder pure and simple. Every man found in the fields is a comitadji who has to be killed. Truly it is difficult to believe that we live in the twentieth century!

This document, which I can only describe as an invitation to massacre both civil population and soldiers, winds up with the following words:

"Once more discipline, dignity, but the greatest severity and harshness."[1]

It is idle to insist further on the undeniable fact that the men were systematically prepared for the work of massacre by their officers. The mere perusal of the evidence and of this fantastic document suffices to prove it.

Both evidence and documents also attest the fact of premeditation and of a very long preparation. The consequences of this preparation were not slow in making themselves felt. The Austro-Hungarian soldiers, finding themselves on Serbian territory and face to face with these people who had always been represented to them as barbarians, were frightened. It is from fear, lest they should be massacred themselves, that they probably perpetrated their first cruelties.

But at the sight of blood, the phenomenon took place which I have often had occasion to observe: man was transformed into a bloodthirsty brute. A positive access of collective Sadic frenzy seized upon the troops, the type of frenzy which everyone who has attended a bull-fight has been able to observe on a small scale. Once the bloodthirsty and Sadic

[1] Nochmals: Mannszucht, Würde, aber grösste Strenge und Härte.

brute was unchained and let loose by his superiors, the work of destruction was duly carried out by men who are fathers of families and probably kindly in private life.

Thus the responsibility for these acts of cruelty does not rest upon the privates—mere victims of the instincts of the wild beast, which slumbers in every human being—but on their superior officers, who failed to restrain these tendencies; nay, I will say even more, who aroused them.

The massacres were all the more readily committed by the Austro-Hungarian soldiers, as they were stimulated by the prospect of gain by pillage, which was permitted and even commanded by their superior officers. Those who from a sentiment of dignity did not wish to take part in the massacring and looting, were probably drawn into it by the fanatical Bosnian Mahommedan peasants, those professional plunderers, by whom the high command took good care to have the troops accompanied while on the march.

In short, it is beyond all doubt that the massacres of the civil population and the pillage were systematically organised by the command of the army of invasion; it is upon the command that all the responsibility must rest, and also the disgrace with which for all time to come this army has covered itself—the army of a people which claimed to be at the head of civilisation, a people which desired to impose its "KULTUR" on others who did not desire it.

Events have justified the attitude of those who refused to accept this "Kultur."

VII

TREATMENT OF AUSTRIAN PRISONERS

During my stay in Serbia I have frequently come in contact with Austro-Hungarian prisoners through interrogating them on the various points connected with my enquiry. I thus had the opportunity of observing, at all hours of the day, and in the different prisoners' camps, the treatment which was meted out to these people. I think it advisable to append here a brief summary of my observations, supported by the depositions of prisoners, which I obtained, and of which I render a few of the most typical.

I will say at once that the prisoners of war of the Serb race feel absolutely at home, and, as if to show their satisfaction, they wear a small ribbon with the Serbian colours on the breast of the tunics or on their caps. I saw several hundreds of these prisoners wearing the tricolor, and who, though perhaps not quite so comfortable as in their own homes, seem to be delighted to find themselves in Serbian territory. I also noticed that they are shown great confidence, and that outside the hours of work they are permitted to go about quite freely.

In the prisoners' camps I had occasion to visit, the prisoners are divided into companies, according to their trades. They are made to work: some are tailors, others bakers, yet others are employed

in repairing the roads, etc. One soldier (a Czech), an architect by profession, directed the construction of the bakehouse at Nish. The "one-year volunteers," boys who have received a good education, are unoccupied, and complain of the weariness brought on by this lack of occupation. One of them, a student of engineering, asked me if he might not be employed in a technical office.

The prisoners were given the same food as the Serbian soldiers: soup twice a day, meat, vegetables, and an allowance of bread. Their companies are often commanded by officers of Serb race.

I have often seen the prisoners in contact with the native population, and I have never observed the slightest hostile demonstration on the part of the latter. There are many married men among the prisoners, and these are very anxious about their families, because they only very rarely hear from them.

As for the officers, wherever I have been, they are suitably lodged. In *Nish*, for instance, they are housed in the citadel. There was an Austrian commander there who assured me that every possible thing was done to make matters agreeable for them and he only regretted one thing, which was that they were only allowed to go out once a week. At first they had been given their meals at the Officers' Casino, but after the massacres at Shabatz, demonstrations were feared, and they were made to take their meals in the citadel. This particular major told me that he quite understood the precautions which had been taken. For the rest they have the free use of a pretty garden, and

they have an Austrian cook who works under the supervision of an Austrian officer. These officers did not give me the impression of being too discontented with their fate, as they sang and entertained themselves as well as they could. The rooms in which they are lodged are simple, but very suitable.

I append a few typical depositions by Austro-Hungarian prisoners of war.

No. 114, of the 25th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, 12th Company, complains of the lack of food in the Austrian army. The Army Transport Corps was never on the spot. The troops were told that the Serbs maltreated their prisoners, cutting off their noses, ears, etc. Witness is greatly surprised at the humane treatment he is experiencing in Serbia. He was slightly wounded, and the doctors and hospital attendants were very kind to him.

No. 115, squad leader of the 1st Bosnian Regiment, deposes that an Austrian Hospital Corporal was taken prisoner by the Serbs, and subsequently released. This incident was greatly praised by his Austrian colleagues. Their officers were of German extraction. He himself was wounded in the shoulder, and congratulated himself on having been very well treated by the Serbian hospital attendants, who gave him tobacco and bread.

No. 116, of the 32nd Landwehr Regiment. The bread is much better than the Austrian bread. His comrades and he had not expected to be so well treated in Serbia. It was said everywhere in Austria, and especially in the army, that the Serbs

ill-treated their prisoners, cutting off their nose, ears, the penis, etc.

No. 117, of the 91st Regiment, from Budweis, and **No. 118,** from Karlsbad. Both declare that the Serbian population provided the Austrian prisoners with food, and that in hospital they were treated the same as the Serbian soldiers.

A Major commanding, prisoner in Nish, witness **No. 119,** assured me that the Serbs did all they could to make things pleasant for the prisoners, and there was only one thing he regretted, and that was that they were only allowed to go out once a week. They had at first been admitted to the Officers' Casino, but after the massacres of Shabatz, demonstrations had been feared. The commander said, he quite understood the precautions taken by the Serbian military authorities. The officers are lodged in the citadel, and a fine garden is at their disposal. They have an Austrian cook, and one of themselves superintends the catering.

No. 120, of the 78th Hungarian Infantry Regiment. He cannot but admit that he is very well treated. The food is good, and there is meat twice a day. He does not feel cold at night in the large rooms in the prison, which serve as dormitories. The officers had told the men that the Serbs ill-used their prisoners.

No. 121, of the 8th Landwehr Regiment. He is satisfied, and has nothing to complain of. The police beat some of the prisoners, but he does not know why they were thus treated. The men who were beaten belonged to different races, and they

met with this rough usage after the news of the massacres of Shabatz had been received. Such occurrences were rare, however, He himself had always been well treated. Never had the population demonstrated against the prisoners on their journey.

No. 122, of the 78th Regiment, is satisfied with his food and treatment. He saw that some of the prisoners were beaten by the police ; but he does not know why.

No. 123, "one-year volunteer," in the 92nd Infantry Regiment, finds the food good, but misses his first breakfast, the coffee-and-milk in the morning.

No. 124, of the 79th Infantry Regiment. Both he and **No. 125,** of the 28th Hungarian Landwehr Regiment, are satisfied with their food and treatment.

From all this evidence, and a great deal more which I obtained, it is quite plain that the prisoners are satisfied with their food which, taken all round, appears to be far more plentiful than that which they had received on the Austrian front. It is also apparent that the great majority of these Austro-Hungarians are quite astonished at being so humanely treated in Serbia. I have already explained in the preceding chapter that those soldiers had been led to believe that your army ill-used and massacred its prisoners. These men were therefore agreeably surprised to experience the very opposite.

It is true that privates **Nos. 120, 121** and **122** relate that several prisoners were man-handled by

the police at *Skoplje*. This incident actually took place, but the explanation is already contained in the evidence of the witnesses. It was an outburst of excitement after the massacres of Shabatz, and moreover directed against men who, perhaps, had nothing to do with it, but who belonged to the enemy who had done so much evil. Still, I think it would be as well to see that such man-handling episodes do not recur, for the beauty of the part played by Serbia in this war consists precisely in this, that she has indulged in no reprisals towards the Austro-Hungarians who have committed atrocities without name or number.

I know that the maintenance of so many prisoners of war is a heavy tax upon your country, and that it is a difficult matter to house them. Your military authorities are doing their utmost to make life as endurable as possible for these prisoners. I have frequently met Colonel *Ilitch*, and I know that this excellent man has done almost more than possible for the captured soldiers of the enemy. He made it a point of honour to treat them like Serbian soldiers. The Austrian Lieutenant F. S. said to me: "Colonel Ilitch is like a father to us." Obviously your resources are only limited, and the sheds in which you are obliged to house these men cannot be easily heated. It is inevitable that some of them should suffer, but this occurs even in countries which are far less sorely tried than yours. These countries cannot make the irrefutable excuse which you have every right to quote: the "impossibility of doing better." The lot of a prisoner of war is never an enviable one, and judging by what

I have seen, you will always have the right to say that, in spite of the economic difficulties that beset your country, you have done your duty as far as possible, and often even more than your duty. You have practised humanity.

R. A. REISS,
Professor at the University of Lausanne.

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