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CRUEL TREATMENT CHARGED TO GERMANS ABSOLUTELY FALSE

STORY TOLD BY AN AMERICAN REPUTATES THE CHARGES

KAISER'S TROOPS WERE CONSIDERATE

Acts of Kindness and Generosity Accredited to German Officers in Many Instances

(By Associated Press.)

New York, Sept. 16.—The Associated Press staff correspondent of American birth and antecedents who was sent from the New York office and was caught in Brussels at the time of the German invasion, held as a prisoner several days and who finally escaped to Holland, has sent by mail the following story of his experience: "The night before the Germans entered Brussels, when the Belgian civil guards and refugees began pouring into the city from the direction of Louvain, they brought stories of unspeakable German atrocities, maltreatment of old men and children and the violation of women.

Rumors Cause Apprehension. "The Belgian capital reeled with apprehension. Within an hour the gaiety, the vivacity and brilliancy of the city went out like a broken arc light. The radiance of the cafes was turned to darkness; whispering groups of residents broke up hurriedly and locked themselves into their homes, where they put up the shutters, and drew in their tri-colored Belgian flags. The historic Belgian city went through a state of morbid consternation remarkably like that from which it suffered on June 18, 1815, when it trembled with the fear of a French victory at Waterloo.

"In less than 24 hours the Belgian citizens were chatting with the German invaders and the allegation of greater brutality and torture dissolved into one of the myths which have accompanied all wars.

Atrocities Denied. "Neither in Brussels nor in its environs was a single offensive act, so far as I know, committed by a German soldier. In a city of more than half a million people, invaded by a hostile army of perhaps a quarter of a million soldiers, no act sufficiently flagrant to demand punishment or to awaken protest came to my attention.

"The frightful reports that had preceded the German army into Brussels included the disemboweling of old men, and the impaling of children on lances, just outside of Louvain. Investigation not only failed to substantiate these rumors, but could not even discover any one in the immediate vicinity who credited them.

An eye witness of unimpeachable veracity told me the worst behavior he had observed during the first German entry into Louvain (August 19) was that of a German soldier who leaned from his horse and kissed a pretty Flemish girl who brought him a glass of beer.

"I marched for days with the German columns, often only one day behind the fighting, with the houses that had been burned still smoldering, the ground freshly broken by shell and trampled by horses and men, and the memory of the German advance vivid in the minds of the inhabitants. I interviewed an average of twenty persons in each of a dozen towns, and found only one instance of a non-combatant who had been killed without a justifiable provocation.

Evidence Not Convincing. "In this case the evidence did not clearly prove the man had been wantonly murdered. He lived in one of the typical small Belgian country-side houses, which combines the comforts of home with the lure of a small public bar. This house was at the north end of Merbes Le Chateau, a town through which a large part of the German army passed on the road to Brussels. A son of the murdered man, whose name was Arthur Nicodem, showed me blood clots on the floor marking the place where Nicodem fell, his throat cut by a savagely German sabre.

"It was said by some inhabitants that the murdered man showed a pair of binoculars, but a more probable explanation was that English outposts had concealed themselves in the house, from which they fired a rain of fire upon the first German invaders. The inference that the shooting was done by Belgian civilians may have influenced the Germans to retaliate. In that neighborhood four houses had been burned and one was ablaze as I passed August 26.

"This town of Merbes Le Chateau, which had been the scene of an important skirmish between the Germans and English on the previous Sunday, was visited with rifle shots. The small number of windows intact showed that the Germans had made a de-

liberate assault upon the residents of the town. But the inhabitants themselves admitted that the shooting had been done by a comparatively small number of Germans, and that the firing had not begun until English soldiers who had concealed themselves in the houses had first fired upon the Germans.

Greatly Exaggerated. "I have emphasized the one fatality of the non-combatant because the news of it traveled up and down the Sambre and across to Hantes-Wiberie and Solre-sur-Sambre, multiplying as it went and developing ghastly and inhuman details until it seemed unanswerable reproach to the whole German empire. With this one possible exception, I did not encounter in any of the other towns I visited a single instance of mistreatment of any sort by German officers or soldiers.

"Buisieres—particularly the lower part of the city—virtually had been destroyed by a cross fire from French and German artillery. Tops of breweries had been hurled to the ground and walls had either disappeared or become dislodged. The whole city lay in smoking ruins, with only its drawbridge across the Sambre and a few marble stands and boat houses showing above the debris. But, here, two days after the battle, women and children were moving comfortably about the town and not a single complaint was uttered against German conduct.

"There are, of course, reported outrages beyond investigation, either on account of their vagueness or because it is impossible to weigh the provocations. It is known, for instance, that 112 natives were killed in Ronchamp, not far from Ardennes; German soldiers say that they were killed because they fired upon them from the roofs and windows of the houses.

"The history of the absolute destruction of Louvain with its cathedral and its university is by this time well known. The German version of this is that the inhabitants under the

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Turks Mobilizing

Paris, Sept. 16.—A dispatch to the Havas agency from Petrograd says: "It is announced that the Turks have concentrated a large army on the Bulgarian frontier and that General Liman von Sanders, a Prussian cavalry officer who trained the Turkish army is expected to take command."

Extreme Cruelty Charged To Germans By Belgian Committee

Washington, Sept. 16.—A resume of findings of the Belgian commission of inquiry appointed by the King of the Belgians, to investigate the alleged atrocities committed by German troops was made public today after the report had been presented to President Wilson.

The findings were grouped under the headings of "the atrocities at Linne-mout and Orsmael," "the massacre of Aercheval," "the destruction of Louvain," and the summary in part follows: "German cavalry occupying the village of Linsmeau, were attacked by two gendarmes and Belgian troops. A German officer was killed by the Belgian soldiers during the fight, and subsequently buried at the request of the Belgian officer in command. No civilians had taken part in the fight; nevertheless, the village was invaded at dusk on August 10th by a strong force of the German cavalry, artillery and machine guns. In spite of the formal assurances by the burgomaster that no civilians had taken part in the fight, two farms and six outlying houses were destroyed by the gun fire and reduced to ashes. All the male population was compelled to come forward and hand over whatever arms they possessed. No recently discharged firearms were found. Nevertheless, the invaders divided these peasants into three groups. Those in one group were bound and eleven of them placed in a ditch, where they afterwards were found dead, their skulls fractured by bullets of rifles.

"During the night of August 10, German cavalry entered Velin; the inhabitants were seized. Without provocation the Germans fired on M. De-Gilme's house and broke into it. They destroyed the furniture and also looted valuables. They burned his barn and cattle. They carried Mme. De-Gilme half naked to a place two miles away. She then was released, and as she fled, was fired on without being hit. Her husband was carried to a point in another direction and fired on by the Germans. The same troops sacked and burned the house of a railway worker. Farmer Jef Duvels, of Neerhespen, is an eye witness to the following atrocities committed by German

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COMPLAINT IS BEFORE WILSON

BELGIAN COMMITTEE PRESENTS PROTEST TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

WILSON REPLIES

Gives Nations Attitude in Elaborate Speech Saying America Prays For Peace

Washington, Sept. 16.—Addressing the Belgian commission which came to protest against alleged German atrocities in Belgium, President Wilson said today:

"Permit me to say with what sincere pleasure I receive you as a representative of the King of Belgium, a people for whom the people of the United States feel so strong a friendship and admiration, a king for whom they entertain so sincere a respect and express my hope that we may have many opportunities of earning and deserving their regard.

"You are not mistaken in believing that the people of this country love justice; seek the true path of progress and have a passionate regard for the rights of humanity.

"It is a matter of profound pride to me that I am permitted to be their spokesman, and I am honored that your king should have turned to me in time of distress as to one who wishes on behalf of the people he represents, to consider the claims to the impartial sympathy of mankind of a nation which deems itself wronged.

"I thank you for the document you have put into my hands containing the result of an investigation made by a judicial committee, appointed by the Belgian government to look into the matter of which you have come to speak. It shall have my most attentive perusal and my thoughtful consideration.

"You will, I am sure, not expect me to say more. Presently I pray God, very soon this war will be over. The day of accounting will then come, when I take it for granted, the nations of Europe will assemble to determine a settlement. Where wrongs have been committed their consequences and the relative responsibility involved will be assessed.

"The nations of the world have fortunately by agreement made a plan for such reckoning and settlement. When such a plan cannot compass the opin-

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WILSON REPLIES TO GERMAN PROTEST

States Emphatically That Nothing Could Possibly Be Done at Present

Washington, Sept. 16.—President Wilson today replied to the message recently received from Emperor William protesting against the alleged use by the allied armies of dum dum bullets. He said that he had read the communications with the gravest concern, but that it would be unwise and premature for the United States to express final judgment in the controversy.

The message was almost identical with the speech made by the President to the Belgian commission which protested against the alleged German atrocities.

A cablegram replying to the protest of President Poincare of France, who charged that the Germans were using dum dum bullets also was preferred. It was not made public but known to follow closely the text of the President's message to Emperor William, which was as follows:

"I received your Imperial Majesty's important communication of the 14th instant and have read it with greatest interest and concern. I am honored that you should have turned to me for an impartial judgment as the representative of a people truly disinterested as respects war and truly desirous of knowing and accepting the truth.

"You will, I am sure, not expect me to say more. Presently I pray God, very soon this war will be over. The day of accounting will then come, when I take it for granted, the nations of Europe will assemble to determine a settlement. Where wrongs have been committed their consequences and the relative responsibility involved will be assessed.

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(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

MINOR CASES HEARD IN CRIMINAL COURT

OS BOZEMAN WAS PRO-NOUNCED NOT GUILTY

THE CHESTER CASE

Negro Found Guilty of Assault and Battery of High and Aggravated Nature—Little Done

Wednesday did not see much of any importance transacted at the court of general sessions. When the court convened yesterday morning the trial of Os Bozeman, charged with the killing of Matthew Jones, was resumed and the charge was delivered to the jury by Judge Meminger. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty in this case.

Will Chester was arraigned on the charge of assault and battery and throwing rocks into a train and a verdict of not guilty was likewise returned in this case.

The only other case at yesterday's session was that of Will Archer, charged with assault and battery with intent to kill and carrying concealed weapons. This case went to the jury yesterday afternoon at a o'clock and after a short deliberation that body returned a verdict of guilty of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. As it was time for adjournment no other case was taken up yesterday.

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CHARGES MADE ARE ERRONEOUS

BRITISH MINISTER MAKES SCATHING REMARKS THAT ARE UNWARRANTED

IS VERY BITTER

Makes Strong Assertions—Claims State of Anarchy Exists in Mexico

New York, Sept. 16.—Sir Lionel Carden, former British minister to Mexico, and recently appointed minister to Brazil, sailing today from Liverpool, is quoted by the New York city news association as having made this statement concerning the withdrawal of American troops from Vera Cruz:

"It is a desperate shame that the United States has seen fit to abandon the decent people of Mexico when they most need help. I do not know the reason for this but it would seem that President Wilson has been misinformed in some matter.

"The people who did not get protection in Mexico City and elsewhere, went to Vera Cruz for protection. What will they do now? They have no way of getting away and will be left to the mercies of the lawless element that will immediately overrun the town and country.

"When it is said that a state of absolute anarchy exists in Mexico, it is not stating the facts too strongly. There were some 4,000 good policemen in the City of Mexico, but these have been supplanted by an army of 35,000 soldiers that fought these are several thousands of wild Yaqui Indians, who two months ago fought with bows and arrows as the only weapons they knew.

"Neither life, liberty, nor property is safe. Huerta has some sort of government; Carranza has none whatever; the only claim he has to greatness is his physique; and that is not terrifying either. There is not even martial law here, because there is no organization."

SERIOUS WRECK

Montgomery, Ala., Sept. 16.—An Atlantic Coast Line railroad passenger train was derailed near Grady, 30 miles from Montgomery, tonight but reports indicate no passengers were killed. Several were injured but not seriously, according to information received here.

(By Associated Press.)

British ambassador at Vienna in a report dealing with the rupture of diplomatic relations with Austria, declares Russia and Austria had about reached an agreement on the Austro-Russian dispute, when the matter became one of discussion between Germany and Russia and on July 31 Germany sent an ultimatum to St. Petersburg and Paris, following this quickly with a declaration of war on the two countries.

"A few days delay," says the ambassador, "in all probability might have saved Europe from one of the greatest calamities in history."

The British submarine E-9 has reached Harwich after having torpedoed the German cruiser Hela off Heligoland. The cruiser went down but most of her officers and crew were saved.

President Wilson yesterday received at Washington the Belgian commission sent by King Albert to protest against alleged German atrocities in Belgium. The president took their lengthy written protest and in a speech promised that it would have "my most attentive perusal and my most thoughtful consideration."

The British official press bureau quotes Russian official sources as authority for the statement that the rout of the Austrian army in Galicia is complete. The Austrians are estimated to have lost 250,000 men in killed and wounded, and 100,000 men and 400 guns captured. In this communication the failure of the German effort to save the Austrian army is noted, and the Germans are said to have lost many pieces of siege and other artillery.

The Russian general Rennenkampf who is conducting operations in East Prussia recently has found himself in a dangerous position and has fallen back to Russian fortresses on the Russian frontier. The Germans, under General von Hindenburg are reported to be following up their advantage with the hope of dealing the Russians a heavy blow before they can be reinforced.

Sir Maurice de Bunsen, recently

RETREAT OF GERMANS ENDS IN PREPARATION FOR ANOTHER BATTLE

AUSTRIANS Routed

German Fought in Attempt to Save Their Allies.

London, Sept. 17.—The official press bureau issued the following announcement tonight: "It is stated from Russian official sources that the rout of the Austrian army in Galicia is complete, though full details have not been received. The Austrian loss since the taking of Lemberg is estimated at 250,000 killed and wounded, 100,000 prisoners and 400 guns, many colors and vast quantities of stores.

"The Germans made desperate efforts to save the Austrian army, but failed completely.

"At one point the Germans lost 36 pieces of heavy artillery and at another several dozen pieces of siege artillery."

STORM MOVING NORTHWARD

Warnings Displayed on the Atlantic Coast.

Washington, Sept. 15.—Storm warnings were displayed again tonight on the Atlantic coast between the Virginia capes and Jacksonville, Fla. The weather bureau announced that the storm reported over the Bahama Islands yesterday had moved northward and that its center tonight was near and off the Georgia coast.

Arch Young, a negro dairyman, was shot to death by a Jersey bull in a pasture near Spartanburg.

A storm was reported off the South Carolina coast last night.

More than 2,000 white pupils are enrolled in the schools of Greenville.

W. P. Pollock of Cheraw announces that he may run for the senate to succeed Senator Tillman.

The trustees of the University of South Carolina announce they will accept cotton warehouse receipts for tuition.

Important Happenings Of The War, Told In Short Paragraphs

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ALLIED ARMIES WILL MEET STUBBORN DEFENCE FROM GERMANS

REINFORCEMENTS FOR BOTH ARMIES

Next Fight May Be As Costly As Battle of Marne Which, When Known Will Horrify World

London, Sept. 16.—The German army, which less than a fortnight ago, was at the "gates of Paris" and the right wing of which then extended to the southeast of the French capital, tonight is drawn up on almost a straight line, extending from the neighborhood of Noyon, in the West, to Boisfarges on the Meuse, north of Verdun, with its left resting on the German fortress of Metz.

Thus the right wing at least has now gone back more than seventy miles in two weeks, while the rest of the army has had to retire before the whole could find ground on which to make another stand against the advance of the allies.

There seems little doubt that the Germans intend to give battle on this line, with the river Aisne in front of their right, the hills of Rheims facing their center and the mountains and forest of Argonne on their left. They went back steadily before the French and English armies, fighting only rear guard actions until their flight, in command of General von Kluck, got across the Aisne. Then they turned and delivered several accounts which, however, according to the British accounts, were repulsed. The Germans leaving 200 prisoners in the hands of the British.

The costlier attacks doubtless were delivered in the hope of giving the troops of the right wing, assisted by the long advance followed by a retreat almost as long, an opportunity to rest and prepare positions from which they could resist attacks from the allies in which they could await reinforcements before taking up the offensive again.

The Germans are in the hilly country around Noyon, on the plateau to the north of Vic-sur-Aisne and Soissons, and north of Rheims, where they are digging strong trenches and reviewing reinforcements. But even here their right wing, which up to the present has borne the brunt of the fighting and the retreat, is not altogether safe, for the French army operating from Amiens clings to its flank, while the British and French forces continue to press to the front.

It is essential, however, that they should hold their positions, for they cover the lines of retreat to the north which would be the only way out of defeat if defeat should be their lot. That they realize this is shown by the fact that they have contested every foot of the ground with the allied armies the last two days and that both sides have suffered heavily.

The British army, as has been its lot since it landed in France, is taking its full share in the fighting, which on the front has been particularly severe since the Germans crossed the Aisne and made their first determined stand in their retreat from Paris.

The German center, which in the last few days has come into line with the two wings now stretched from the heights north of Rheims to the western foothills of the Argonne ridge, dipping a little south to touch Ville-sur-Tourbe, just northwest of Camp de Chalons. This is all high, round ground, in many places covered by heavy forest, which by this time may have been destroyed.

The crossing of the Meuse which the Germans have selected at Consmoye is just out of range of the fortress guns of Verdun, so that as far as the battle now pending is concerned, they have not to reckon with this stronghold, except as it offers support to the French in case the allies are compelled to retire.

The Germans on this long line cover as many lines of retreat as possible, including those in Namur, Givet, Messines, Sedan and Stenay, and soon should be ready, if they have not already commenced, to give battle, or if the offensive comes from the other side to defend their positions.

It is believed that General Joffre, French commander-in-chief, retains the initiative, having received reinforcements to relieve his overworked troops, but whether he will try again to envelop the German right, or to break up the Crown Prince's army on the left remains to be seen. It is known the German right has been considerably reinforced and that it would be more difficult than before to work around that wing while the German left and center, which also have done a lot of hard fighting and

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