

GERMAN WAR PRACTICES

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Issued by the Committee on Public Information

German Sources.

In this pamphlet throughout, as in the preceding pages, the evidence is drawn mainly from German and American sources. The German sources include official proclamations and other official utterances, letters and diaries of German soldiers, and quotations from German newspapers. The diaries which are so frequently quoted form a unique source. The Rules for Field Service of the German Army advises each soldier to keep such a diary while on active service. Very many German soldiers who have been taken prisoners had kept such diaries, and these have been confiscated by the captors. Many have been published, frequently with facsimile reproductions to guarantee their authenticity. The best known collection was made by Bedier, whom Prof. Hollmann, of the University of Berlin, properly described as "the distinguished Prof. Joseph Bedier of the College de France." Of Bedier's publication Prof. Nyrop, of the University of Copenhagen, says:

"He has translated the diaries and commented upon them just as one does with all old historical documents, and, in order that everyone may be in a position to check up his work, he has also accompanied the account with facsimile copies of the documents he used. Here, accordingly, at the outset every proof of the evidence which he has employed is provided. No falsification is possible. The accounts are those of eye-witnesses, and these eyewitnesses are Germans. They tell what they themselves or their comrades have done, marks with running comments which show that not only have common law and The Hague convention been violated, but sins have also been committed against the most elementary laws of humanity. Both the material and the presentation are massifiable. The details which are provided by the German soldiers in regard to their own violent acts are horror-striking."

Prof. Hollmann attempted to prove that Bedier had made mistakes in translating and interpreting, but he did not deny the genuineness of the diaries. "These notebooks," he says, "may well be authentic and I accept this without further comment for all of which are provided with the name of their authors and whose authenticity can in any case be established after the war."

The American evidence is drawn mainly from material in the archives of the State department. In addition, statements from our ambassadors and ministers and other well-known officials and authors are given. Messrs. Hoover, Kellogg, and Walcott have written statements especially for this pamphlet. All of this material is essentially the testimony of neutrals, for it is based wholly on observations made before the United States entered the war. Occasionally official documents and well authenticated facts from foreign sources are used.

The purpose of this pamphlet is to show that the system of frightfulness, which is itself the greatest atrocity, is the definite policy of the German Government, against which more humane German soldiers themselves revolted at times. For this reason it has not seemed necessary to set forth the individual acts of cruelty; such acts are cited only when necessary to illustrate the system. Anyone who wishes to read chapters of horrors can find them in the Report of the Committee on Alleged German Outrages, presided over by the former British Ambassador to this country and therefore generally known as "the Bryce report;" in the official reports by the Belgian Commission d'Enquete; in the official French reports compiled under the auspices of the French minister for foreign affairs; in many other publications, and especially in the conclusive admissions of the official German White Book cited above. The last, published by the German government, is the most damning testimony concerning the system of frightfulness.

TREATMENT OF CIVILIANS.

1. Massacres.

Protection of Non-combatants Agreed To By Germany.

In the wars waged in ancient times it was taken for granted that conquered people might be either killed, tortured, or held as slaves; that their property would be taken and that their lands would be devastated. "Vae victis!—woe to the conquered!" For two centuries or more there has been a steady advance in introducing ideas of humanity and especially in confining the evils of

warfare to the combatants. The ideal seemed to have become so thoroughly established as a part of international law that the powers at The Hague thought it sufficient merely to state the general principles in Article XLVI of the regulations: "Family honors and rights, the lives of persons and private property, as well as religious convictions and practice, must be respected. Private property can not be confiscated." Germany, in common with the other powers, solemnly pledged her faith to keep this article, but her military leaders had no intention of doing so. They had been trained in the ideas voiced by Gen. von Hartman 40 years ago: "Terrorism is seen to be a relatively gentle procedure, useful to keep the masses of the people in a state of obedience." This had been Bismarck's policy, too. According to Moritz Busch, Bismarck's biographer, Bismarck, exasperated by the French resistance, which was still continuing in January, 1871, said: "If in the territory which we occupy, we can not supply everything for our troops, from time to time we shall send a flying column into the localities which are recalcitrant. We shall shoot, hang, and burn. After that has happened a few times, the inhabitants will finally come to their senses."

The frightfulness taught by the German leaders had held full sway in Belgium. This is best seen in the entries in the diaries of the individual German soldiers.

Extracts From German War Diaries.
"During the night of August 15-16 Engineer Gr— gave the alarm in the town of Vise. Everyone was shot or taken prisoner, and the houses were burnt. The prisoners were made to march and keep up with the troops." (From the diary of non-commissioned officer Reinhold Koehn of the Second Battalion of Engineers, Third Army Corps.)

"A horrible bath of blood. The whole village burnt, the French thrown into the blazing houses, civilians with the rest." (From the diary of Private Hassemmer, of the Eighth Army Corps.)

"In the night of August 18-19 the village of Saint-Maurice was punished for having fired on German soldiers by being burnt to the ground by the German troops (two regiments, the 12th Landwehr and the 17th). The village was surrounded, men posted about a yard from one another, so that no one could get out. Then the Uhlans set fire to it, house by house. Neither man, woman nor child could escape; only the greater part of the five stock we carried off, as that could be used. Anyone who ventured to come out was shot down. All the inhabitants left in the village were burnt with the houses." (From the diary of Private Karl Scheufele, of the Third Bavarian Regiment of Landwehr Infantry.)

"At 10 o'clock in the evening the first battalion of the 178th marched down the steep incline into the burning village to the north of Dinant. A terrific spectacle of ghastly beauty. At the entrance to the village lay about fifty dead civilians, shot for having fired upon our troops from ambush. In the course of the night many others were also shot, so that we counted over 200. Women and children, lamp in hand, were forced to look on at the horrible scene. We ate our rice later in the midst of the corpses, for we had had nothing since morning. When we searched the houses we found plenty of wine and spirit, but no eatables. Captain Hamann was drunk." (This last phrase in shorthand.) (From the diary of Private Philipp, of the One Hundred and Seventy-Eighth regiment of infantry, Twelfth Army Corps.)

"Aug. 6th crossed frontier. Inhabitants on border very good to us and give us many things. There is no difference noticeable."

"Aug. 23rd, Sunday (between Birnal and Dinant, village of Disonge). At 11 o'clock the order comes to advance after the artillery has thoroughly prepared the ground ahead. The Pioneers and Infantry Regiment 178 were marching in front of us. Near a small village the latter were fired on by the inhabitants. About 220 inhabitants were shot and the village was burnt—artillery is continuously shooting—the village lies in a large ravine. Just now, 6 o'clock in the afternoon, the crossing of the Maas begins near Dinant * * * All

APPLICATION FORM FOR COAL.

Consumers Must State in Writing Amount Needed.

Anderson, March 23.—Beginning on April 1 all consumers of coal will be required to make written application for their annual requirements before the coal dealers will be permitted to make deliveries of coal to them. Forms of applications have been prepared by the State fuel administrator, in accordance with instructions from Washington, and today supplies of these forms were forwarded to each city and county fuel committee chairman throughout South Carolina. After these forms are properly filled out by the consumers desiring coal they are to be filed with the coal dealers who are to furnish the consumers the coal desired.

These forms require the consumers to state the quantity of coal required during the year ending March 31, 1919, the quantity desired for immediate delivery, the quantity of coal consumed during the year ending March 31, 1918, the quantity of coal now on hand, kind of building and number of rooms for which the coal is desired, and the name of the coal dealer with whom the order for coal is placed. These forms are to be signed by the consumers and "any person who willfully makes a false statement upon the application is subject to prosecution under the Lever act which imposes a penalty of \$5,000 fine or two years imprisonment, or both."

The State fuel administrator is also sending out supplies of forms which are to be executed by the coal dealers throughout the State and which are to be filed by them with their local fuel committee chairman. These forms inquire as to the coal receipts of the dealers during the year 1917, the dealers' storage capacity, the amount of coal sold during 1917 and the names of the mines from which this coal was bought and received.

The "service flag" is not official, but its general use is encouraged by the Government. It has been patented by private parties. The matter of having an official service flag not so controlled is under consideration by Congress.

villages, chateaux, and houses are burnt down during this night. It was a beautiful sight to see the fires all around us in the distance.

"Aug. 24th. In every village one finds only heaps of ruins and many dead. (From the diary of Matbern, Fourth Company, Eleventh Jager Battalion, Marburg.)

"A shell burst near the 11th Company, and wounded seven men, three very severely. At 5 o'clock we were ordered by the officer in command of the regiment to shoot all the male inhabitants of Nomeny, because the population was foolishly attempting to stay the advance of the German troops by force of arms. We broke into the houses, and seized all who resisted, in order to execute them according to martial law. The houses which had not already been destroyed by the French artillery and our own were set on fire by us, so that nearly the whole town was reduced to ashes. It is a terrible sight when helpless women and children, utterly destitute, are herded together and driven into France." (From the diary of Private Fischer, Eighth Bavarian Regiment of Infantry, Thirty-third Reserve Division.)

NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that the tax books of the Town of Bamberg will be open until April 1st for the payment of town taxes. After April 1st the books will be closed and unpaid taxes will go into execution. Bear this in mind and pay your taxes before the books close.

H. D. FREE,
Town Treasurer.
Bamberg, S. C., March 12, 1918.

CITATION NOTICE.

The State of South Carolina—County of Bamberg—By J. J. Brabham, Jr., Esq., Judge of Probate. Whereas, J. H. Roberts, M. D., hath made suit to me to grant him letters of administration of the estate and effects of Mrs. S. E. Roberts, deceased.

These are therefore to cite and admonish all and singular the kindred and creditors of the said Mrs. S. E. Roberts, deceased, that they be and appear before me in the Court of Probate, to be held at Bamberg, on Wednesday, March 27th, next, after publication thereof, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any they have, why the said administration should not be granted. Given under my hand and seal this 12th day of March, Anno Domini, 1918.

J. J. BRABHAM, JR.
Judge of Probate

ESTATE NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given to all creditors of the estate of Romeo Govan, deceased, to file their claims at once duly verified, with the undersigned administratrix of said estate, and those owing said estate will please make payment likewise.
SILVIA JENNINGS,
Administratrix.
Bamberg, S. C., March 15, 1918—3t

HANDS, ARMS, LIMBS ASLEEP

And Was Run-Down, Weak and Nervous, Says Florida Lady. Five Bottles of Cardui Made Her Well.

Kathleen, Fla.—Mrs. Dallas Prine, of this place, says: "After the birth of my last child...I got very much run-down and weakened, so much that I could hardly do anything at all. I was so awfully nervous that I could scarcely endure the least noise. My condition was getting worse all the time..."

I knew I must have some relief or I would soon be in the bed and in a serious condition for I felt so badly and was so nervous and weak I could hardly live. My husband asked Dr. about my taking Cardui. He said, 'It's a good medicine, and good for that trouble,' so he got me 5 bottles...After about the second bottle I felt greatly improved...before taking it my limbs and hands and arms would go to sleep. After taking it, however, this poor circulation disappeared. My strength came back to me and I was soon on the road to health. After the use of about 5 bottles, I could do all my house-work and attend to my six children besides."

You can feel safe in giving Cardui a thorough trial for your troubles. It contains no harmful or habit-forming drugs, but is composed of mild, vegetable, medicinal ingredients with no bad after-effects. Thousands of women have voluntarily written, telling of the good Cardui has done them. It should help you, too. Try it. E 74

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Many a Bamberg Reader Will be Interested.

When people read about the cures made by a medicine endorsed from far away, is it surprising that they wonder if the statements are true? But when they read of cases right here at home, positive proof is within their reach, for close investigation is an easy matter. Read Bamberg endorsement of Doan's Kidney Pills.

J. H. Murphy, farmer, Elm St., says: "In my estimation, Doan's Kidney Pills are the best kidney remedy on the market and I can honestly recommend them. I haven't had occasion to use any Doan's Kidney Pills for several years, but I clearly remember the good I derived from them when last I used them. I had a lameness in my back and my kidneys were disordered, causing me much annoyance. I used Doan's Kidney Pills and they completely cured me of this trouble and put my kidneys in good shape again, so I am glad to endorse this remedy. Anyone having trouble with their kidneys should try Doan's Kidney Pills."

Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Murphy had. Foster-Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N. Y.

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