

GERMANS EXCUSE ATROCIOUS ACTS

Murder, Pillage and Arson Part of Deliberate Scheme of Warfare.

HIGH OFFICERS GO ON RECORD

No Possible Evasion of Responsibility for Bestial Acts Which for Centuries Have Had No Parallel—Officially Indorsed.

The people of the United States are beginning to learn the truth concerning the conduct of the war by Germany. Proof is offered that German officials deliberately lied in their statements concerning atrocities committed by the Belgians and allies. That their own soldiers were disgusted by the cruelties practiced at the order of high officers of the kaiser is shown. Extracts taken from pamphlets issued follow:

The Vorwaerts of Berlin, October 22, 1914, said:

"We have already been able to establish the falseness of a great number of assertions which have been made with great precision and published everywhere in the press, concerning alleged cruelties committed, by the populations of the countries with which Germany is at war, upon German soldiers and civilians. We are now in position to silence two others of these fantastic stories.

"The war correspondent of the Berliner Tageblatt spoke a few weeks ago of cigars and cigarettes filled with powder alleged to have been given out or sold to our soldiers with diabolical intent. He even pretended that he had seen with his own eyes hundreds of this kind of cigarettes. We learn from an authentic source that this story of cigars and cigarettes is nothing but a brazen invention. Stories of soldiers whose eyes are alleged to have been torn out by franc-tireurs are circulated throughout Germany. Not a single case of this kind has been officially established.

"It matters little that reports of this nature bear an appearance of positive certitude, or are even vouched for by eye-witnesses. The desire for notoriety, the absence of criticism, and personal error play an unfortunate part in the days in which we are living. Every nose shot off or simply bound up, every eye removed, is immediately transformed into a nose or eye torn away by the franc-tireurs. Already the Volkszeitung of Cologne has been able, contrary to the very categorical assertions from Aix-la-Chapelle, to prove that there was no soldier with his eyes torn out in the field ambulance of this town. It was said, also, that people wounded in this way were under treatment in the neighborhood of Berlin, but whenever inquiries have been made in regard to these reports, their absolute falsity has been demonstrated. At length these reports were concentrated at Gross Lichterfelde. A newspaper published at noon and widely circulated in Berlin printed a few days ago in large type the news that at the Lazaretto of Lichterfelde alone there were ten German soldiers, only slightly wounded, whose eyes had been wickedly torn out." But to a request for information by Comrade Liebknecht the following written reply was sent by the chief medical officer of the above-mentioned field hospital, dated the eighteenth of the month:

"Sir: Happily there is no truth whatever in these stories.

Yours obediently,

"PROFESSOR RAUTENBERG,"

German Soldiers Protested.

Thus the teachings of the German War Book and of the German apostles of frightfulness, suspicion and hatred, had now begun to bear their natural fruit. But the voice of protest was not entirely silent. A considerable number of letters by German soldiers who were shocked by the German atrocities were sent to Ambassador Gerard, because he was the representative of the United States, the leading neutral nation. The three letters which follow, in translation, were received by the American ambassador from German soldiers.

Here is the protest of a German soldier, an eye-witness of the slaughter of Russian soldiers in the Masurian lakes and swamps:

"It was frightful, heart-rending, as these masses of human beings were driven to destruction. Above the terrible thunder of the cannon could be heard the heart-rending cries of the Russians: 'O Prussians! O Prussians!'—but there was no mercy. Our captain had ordered: 'The whole lot must die; so rapid fire.' As I have heard, five men and one officer on our side went mad from these heart-rending cries. But most of my comrades and the officers joked as the unarmed and helpless Russians shrieked for mercy while they were being suffocated in the swamps and shot down. The order was: 'Close up and at it harder!' For days afterwards those heart-rending yells followed me and I dare not think of them or I shall go mad. There is no God, there is no morality and no ethics any more. There are no human beings any more, but only beasts. Down with militarism.

"If you are a truth-loving man, please receive these lines from a common Prussian soldier."

Following is the testimony of another

German soldier on the eastern front: "Russian Poland, December 18, '14. 'In the name of Christianity I send you these words.

"Wounded Russians are killed with the bayonet according to orders. 'And Russians who have surrendered are often shot down in masses according to orders, in spite of their heart-rending prayers. 'In the hope that you, as the representative of a Christian state, will protest against this, I sign myself, 'A GERMAN SOLDIER AND CHRISTIAN.'

The third letter, from the western front, shows the same horror of the system of which the writer was a witness.

"To the American Government, Washington, U. S. A.

"Englishmen who have surrendered are shot down in small groups. With the French one is more considerate. I ask whether men let themselves be taken prisoner in order to be disarmed and shot down afterward? Is that chivalry in battle? It is no longer a secret among the people; one hears everywhere that few prisoners are taken; they are shot down in small groups. They say naively: 'We don't want any unnecessary mouths to feed. Where there is no one to enter complaint, there is no judge.' Is there then no power in the world which can put an end to these murders and rescue the victims? Where is Christianity? Where is right? Might is right.

"A SOLDIER AND A MAN WHO IS NO BARBARIAN."

Socialists Oppose System

Many of the Germans, as has been already indicated, do not believe the reports of the atrocities committed by the Belgian civilians and refuse to accept the system of frightfulness. The Vorwaerts, the leading socialist paper, which has a very wide circle of readers, has opposed the policy of frightfulness. All honor to its editors who have so courageously opposed the powerful military authority! Its editorial, entitled "Our Foes," published August 23, 1914, reads as follows:

"What should one say when even such an organ as the Deutsches Offizier-Blatt expresses its sympathy with a demand that 'the beasts' who are taken as franc-tireurs should not be killed, but only wounded so that they may then be left to a fate which makes any help impossible? Or what should we say when the Deutsches Offizier-Blatt states that 'a punitive destruction even of whole regions' cannot afford full recompense for the bones of a single murdered Pomeranian grenadier? Those are the desires of blood-thirsty fanatics and we are thoroughly ashamed of ourselves because it is possible that there are people among us who urge such things."

"Barbarism," Declares Vorwaerts.

On the following day, August 24, 1914, the Vorwaerts returned to the attack in an editorial "Against Barbarism."

"One might, in the first place, possibly believe that such a demand for a bloody vengeance [against alleged Belgian outrages] emanates from a single disease-racked brain; but it appears that whole groups among certain classes who represent German kultur want to indulge in orgies of barbarism and to devise a whole system for the purpose of organizing a war of revenge."

"What of law and custom! Such thoughts do not stir a 'great nation.' Thus in a leading article of the Berliner Neueste Nachrichten, the demand is made that all the authorities in Brussels—one, the second, burgomaster, is generously excepted—should be immediately seized and subjected to trial in order to expiate the wrongs which, according to fragmentary and highly uncertain reports, were said to have been committed by the people. They demand that the captured city should immediately pay a fine of 500,000,000 marks; that all stores of the conquered territory be requisitioned without paying the inhabitants a single penny for them."

Vorwaerts in Protest.

Three years later, August 26, 1917, the Vorwaerts quoted the following passage from the Deutsche Tageszeitung:

"We have a ring of politicians who hold that might makes right (Macht-politik), who despise the forces of the inner life and believe that they must eliminate all ethical points of view . . . from foreign and social politics. For them, Germany of the present and of the future is the country of the Krupps and Borsigs, of the Zeppelins and the U-boats. Any idea of a connection between politics and morals is rejected and any reference to the right of a moral method of consideration is ridiculed as delusion and sentimentality."

The German officers were provided with the forms to be used in terrorizing the conquered people. The common soldiers were provided with phrase books which would enable them to impose their will upon the terrified people. Minister Brand Whitlock in his report to the state department on September 12, 1917, writes:

"The German soldiers were provided with phrase books giving alternate translation in German and French of such sentences as:

"Hands up. (It is the very first sentence in the book.)

"Carry out all the furniture.

"I am thirsty. Bring me some beer, gin, rum.

"You have to supply a barrel of wine and a keg of beer.

"Lead me to the wealthiest inhabitants of this village. I have orders to requisition several barrels of wine.

"Show us the way to . . . If you lead us astray, you will be shot."

BRITISH SCORE VICTORIES IN AIR

Nearly Four Thousand Machines Downed in Year. Army and Navy Busy.

London, July 3.—In one year on the British Western front the royal air force has accounted for 3,233 enemy airplanes. In the same period the naval airmen shot down 623, a total of 3,856.

An official statement dealing with these operations says:

"The royal air force during the year beginning July 1, 1917, on the British Western front destroyed 2,150 hostile machines and drove down out of control, 1,083. In the same period the air force units working in conjunction with the navy shot down 623 hostile machines.

"During this period 1,094 of our machines were missing, 92 of these were working with the navy.

"On the Italian front from April to June, 1918, the British destroyed 165 hostile machines and drove down six out of control. Thirteen of ours were missing.

"On the Saloniki front between May and June 21 hostile machines were destroyed and 13 were driven down out of control. Four of ours were lost.

"From March to June in Egypt and Palestine, 26 hostile airplanes were destroyed and 51 were driven down out of control. Ten of ours were missing.

"In all the theaters of the war the British air superiority and strength progressed rapidly and continuously. From this it is safe to assume that when the new factor of America's output, both aircraft and personnel, enters the situation of the fighting zones, the aerial ascendancy of the entente allies should give them very great advantages."

Timely Drama on the Screen.

With the eyes of the world centered upon the great events which are transpiring across the water—the stories that come back of the boys going "over the top" and the unflinching heroism with which each one is "doing his bit"—the events that are vividly shown in Francis Ford's stirring

screen-story, "Berlin (via America)", hit close to the heart. For who among us has not sent a son, a husband, a sweetheart or a brother on into the great adventure with a smile and a hidden tear.

It is the story of an American boy—one just like your own—who even at the sacrifice of his good name, works for the cause which is dear to him. Francis Ford directed the production and enacts the leading role. Opposite him plays Edna Emerson and a notable cast including Jack Newton, William Canfield, Lois Scott, Dell Coyne and Emma Warren.

Manager Gilbert M. Tyler has obtained "Berlin (via America)" for the Opera House and it will be shown two days, next Monday and Tuesday.

To Clean Off Church Grounds.

Everyone who has relatives, or who is interested in any way, are requested to meet at Beavercreek church on Thursday, August 1st for the purpose of cleaning off the church grounds.

SUBSCRIBE TO "THE ADVERTISER"

Notice of Scholarship Examination THE CITADEL

Charleston, S. C. Courses in Engineering, Sciences, and Art. B. S. and C. E. Degrees. Military instruction of unsurpassed excellence. Classed by the War Department as "Distinguished Military College". One vacancy in the State Scholarships for Laurens County will be filled by competitive examination on August 9th. These scholarships provide for nearly all expenses, and only those candidates who are unable to pay are eligible for them. Necessary blanks can be obtained from the Superintendent at the Citadel.

A limited number of pay cadets will be received. Expenses, including board, uniforms, tuition, and all other fees, \$337. Next session begins Sept. 20th. Catalog sent on request. Address Col. O. J. BOND, Superintendent, THE CITADEL, Charleston, S. C. 52-4t

Lame Shoulder.

This ailment is usually caused by rheumatism of the muscles. All that is needed is absolute rest and a few applications of Chamberlain's Liniment. Try it.

Howdy P. A. P.

PURITY AND PROGRESS

LOYAL ORDER of MOOSE

Welcome Brothers

THERE ARE NO MOOSE IN POTTER'S FIELD!

THERE ARE NO HUNGRY MOOSE!

WE ARE 700,000 IN AMERICA

Lodges in all the principal cities of the United States. Club rooms open every day 8 a. m. to 11 p. m.

Open Charter Fee Only \$6.00

Regular Fee \$25

Join Now and Save \$19

Benefits

\$7.00 a week Sick and Accident Benefits, \$100 Burial Benefit. Free Medical Attention for Self and Family. Dues \$1.00 per month, no assessments.

Notice Opening OF THE Laurens Lodge

Open Charter See G. M. Tyler, at Opera House For Application for Membership.

"Texas" A. B. Ritchie

At Opera House, July 19

District Supervisor

Supreme Lodge of the World

Loyal Order of Moose

After 1,500 in Laurens County. Join now and build your own home. P. S. See and hear Texas Ritchie at Opera House Friday, July 19.

Organized 1889

Club Rooms with Bath, Reading, Writing and Lounging Rooms.

Games, Music and other entertainments free to members. Free vocational education for the children of deceased members.

Mothers' expenses paid while children are in school if she desires to accompany them.

What They Are

The Loyal Order of Moose is not an insurance organization. It is an excellent Social Order with beneficial features. Its cardinal virtues are aid the sick, bury the dead and inject sunshine into the dark places. It holds high above all other things, as hope's great throbbing star, above the darkness of the dead, the love of wife and friends.

Characteristic

The Loyal Order of Moose does not tolerate interference with one's religious or political views. Political or Sectarian discussions are not countenanced in the lodge rooms, but patriotism, obedience to law, equal rights and respect for opinions of others insisted upon. As one enters the lodge, so he departs—a free man.

Over 10,000 in the Carolinas This Year