

BRUSSELS FINOS
FRIGHT NECESS

Stories of German Atrocities
Dissolve Into Myths as
Army Marches In.

OBSERVER DENIES EXCESS

Associated Press Staff Correspondent
Says He Failed to Authenticate
Frightful Reports
Told by Belgians.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.—An 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 and held as a prisoner for several days before escaping to Holland, has sent by mail the following story of his experiences:

"The night before the Germans entered Brussels, when the Belgian civil guards and the regular army were moving into the city from the direction of Louvain, they brought stories of unspeakable atrocities, maltreatment of old men and children, and the violation of women.

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

Rumors Not Substantiated.
"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 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 that the worst behavior he had observed during the first German entry into Louvain (August 19), was that a German soldier who leaned from his horse and kissed a pretty Flemish girl who brought him a glass of beer.

Single Instance Mentioned.
"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 20 persons in each of a dozen towns and found only one instance of a non-combatant who had been killed without a justifiable provocation.

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

Shooting Done by Small Number.
"This town of Merbes-le-Chateau, which had been the scene of an unimportant skirmish between the Germans and English on the previous Sunday, was riddled with rifle shots. The small number of windows which remained intact showed that the Germans had made a deliberate assault upon the residents of the town. But the inhabitants themselves admitted that all of the shooting had been done by a comparatively small number of Germans, and that the firing had not begun until the English soldiers who had concealed themselves in the houses, had fired first upon the Germans.

"I have emphasized the one fatality of the non-combatant because the news of it traveled up and down the Sambre and across the Hantes-Wiseppe and Solre-sur-Sambre, multiply as it went, and developing ghastly and inhuman details until it seemed an unanswerable reproach to the German empire. With this one possible exception, I did not encounter in Nivelles, in Blanche, Buisseries or Solre-sur-Sambre, or any of the 100 rounded villages, a single incident of mistreatment of any sort by German officers or soldiers.

City Destroyed by Crossfire.
"Buisseries—particularly the lower part of the city—virtually had been destroyed by a crossfire from French and German artillery. But here two days after the battle, women and children were moving comfortably about the town and not a single complaint was uttered against the German bombardment.

"The town of Solre-sur-Sambre is a small village about five miles south of Buisseries. In this town 130 French were killed by German shells. They were brought in in a single day. Auguste Bariaux, burgomaster, said that he knew of no cases of German cruelties save distant rumors, which he had learned to discredit. It ought to be said to the credit of the Belgians that they have not allowed their bitterness toward the Germans to carry them into unfair recrimination.

Provocation Hard to Weigh.
"Robert J. Thompson, American Consul at Aachen, visited Liege during and after the capture of the forts. It is the opinion of Mr. Thompson that no outrage was committed by Germans during the several days fighting there. There are, of course, reported outrages beyond investigation, either on account of their vagueness or because it is impossible to weigh the provocation. It is known, for instance, that 112 natives were killed in Penouchamp, not far from Ardennes; German soldiers say that they were killed because they fired on them from the roofs and windows of the houses.

"The history of the absolute destruction of the historic city 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 direction of the burgomaster, established themselves in the church, in which they also installed a machine gun. They proceeded to greet the Germans with a deadly fire.

"The Belgians say, on the other hand, that part of the German army, taking one of their own retreating divisions for the enemy, opened fire upon them when they were retreating, thinking this an assault by Belgian civilians, the Germans razed the whole city.

BELGIUM'S ROYAL COMMISSION AND NEW PHOTOGRAPH OF PRESIDENT, WHO RECEIVED THEM YESTERDAY.



TOP, LEFT TO RIGHT, COUNT LEWIS DE LECHTERVELDE, EMIL VAN DER VELDE, HENRI CARTON DE WIART AND PAUL HYMANS. BELOW, WOODROW WILSON.

Burgomaster's proclamation on the entrance of the enemy took them up again when it looked as if the Germans were retreating from the town and opened fire from their windows upon a retreating German train.

"The most authoritative German denial of German offenses comes from Major-General Thaddeus von Jarozelsky, military governor of Brussels, who informed me that in numerous cases he had been received with a pretense of friendliness by Belgian civilians, who later fired on the German soldiers.

"In such violations of the rules of warfare, the General said, he punished the offenders by burning the houses from which the shots were fired.

Severities Half Excused.
"This explanation of the burning of villages is given with such perfect unanimity by all German officers and men that to go into separate instances is unnecessary. It seems to serve as a sort of blanket extenuation for all German severities. I can only say that the army as a protection against fire reprisal which was susceptible of investigation, I have found either that the outrage was a firm of the Belgian mind, or that it was more than half excused by circumstances.

"I have actual knowledge of the sniping by Belgian civilians at Marnes and other towns, and even the Belgians admit that in a few instances they have been guilty of this.

"A Belgian fugitive from a suburb of Charleroi brought to Nivelles a story of the Germans marching the priest and several of the inhabitants before the army as a protection against fire from the houses. This has received ample verification, but hardly comes under the heading of atrocities.

Officers Expect Sniping.
"The prevalence of the Belgian practice of sniping from the houses was perhaps indicated by the warning of German conduct as it appeared to an impartial observer who had the rather extraordinary opportunity of traveling for days with the German columns over a distance of more than a hundred miles through a dozen important cities and towns.

"I witnessed numerous cases of the most careful courtesy on the part of German soldiers. In Brussels they not only paid their care bills, but tipped generously.

Captors Hungry; Prisoners Eaten.
"German officers always turned to the French prisoners with a pleasant word and treated them with every consideration. A French Lieutenant and two English officers traveled with us in the prison train from Beaumont to Aachen, a halting journey, which took over 24 hours. German officers went without food so that the prisoners might be fed.

"If the conduct of the German soldier errs at all, it is on the side of a too complete subordination.

"It is impossible for anyone who has seen much of the German system to believe in the tales of deliberate depredations and unsoldierly conduct."

Troop Movement Denied.
MONTREAL, Sept. 16.—The Canadian Pacific formally denied this afternoon persistent reports that troops from Australia, New Zealand and India had been passing through Canada on their way to Europe. The railroad officials assert that no such troops have been transported on their lines.

BELGIAN REPORT IN

Commission Says Murder Was
Accompanied by Torture.

DESTRUCTION IS PICTURED

Allegations Divided Into Groups and
Are Declared Supported by Evidence — Individual Instances Enumerated.

(Continued From First Page.)

and looted valuables. They burned his barn, hay, cornstacks, implements, cattle and his farmyard. They carried off Mme. Deglimme, half naked, to a place two miles away. She was then released and as she fled was fired on, without being hit, however. Her husband was carried to a point in another direction and fired on; he is dying. The same troops sacked and burned the house of a railway watchman.

"Farmer Jef Dierck of Neerhespen is an eye-witness to the following atrocities committed by German cavalry at Oresmael and Neerhespen on August 10, 11 and 12: An old man had his arm cut in three longitudinal slices; he was then hanged head downward and burned alive. Young girls were assaulted and little children outraged at Oresmael and mutilations too horrible to describe were inflicted on other inhabitants. Prisoners were hanged, while others were tied to telegraph-poles and shot.

Wounded Commandant Murdered.
"After an engagement at Haelen, commandant Van Damme was so severely wounded that he was lying prone on his back. He was murdered by German infantry firing their revolvers into his mouth.

"Numerous wounded and unarmed soldiers were ill-treated or killed by German troops and in different places doctors and nurses and ambulances were fired upon.

"At times the Germans went into battle with a Belgian flag.

"While digging trenches and with the white flag hoisted, Belgian soldiers were set on by Germans and shot.

"Another time, near a fort at Lincoln, a group of German infantry hoisted the white flag, and when the Belgian soldiers approached them to take them prisoners they were fired upon at close range.

"The massacre of Aerschot: 'Aerschot, a town of 8000 inhabitants, was invested by the Germans the evening of August 19. No Belgian troops remained behind. No sooner had the Germans entered the city than they began shooting several inoffensive civilians. In the evening, declaring that a superior German officer had been shot by the son of the burgomaster, or, according to another version of their story, that a conspiracy had been hatched against the German commandant by the burgomaster and

his family, the Germans took noid of every man in the city, carrying them 50 at a time within some distance of the town. There they grouped them in lines of four men, made them run ahead of them and fired on them, killing them afterward with their bayonets. More than 40 men were found thus massacred.

Every Third Man Shot.
"They pillaged the whole town, taking from private residences all they could lay their hands on. The following morning they took one man out of every three whom they had arrested the previous evening, and leading them outside the city, shot them. Among these were the burgomaster of the town, Mr. Tielemans, his 15-year-old son and his brother.

"Then they compelled the remaining villagers to dig holes to bury their victims.

"For three whole days they continued to pillage and set fire to everything in sight.

"About 160 inhabitants of Aerschot are supposed to have thus perished. The largest part of the city is destroyed.

"The destruction of Louvain: 'The German army penetrated into Louvain, after having set fire to the surrounding towns and villages.

"They took hostages; all the prominent men of the city were detained. Women and children were outraged and ill-treated by the soldiers.

"Previous to the German invasion the whole city had been warned repeatedly not to offer any resistance to the German troops, or to oppose hostile acts. More than that, all arms belonging to civilians down to fencing tools, had been ordered deposited several days previously in the City Hall, and there was not a weapon found on any civilian.

"On August 25 an engagement took place in the neighborhood of Louvain between German and Belgian troops. The Germans repulsed and pursued by the Belgians, retreated toward Louvain in full panic. Many witnesses testify that at that moment the German garrison in Louvain was erroneously informed that Belgians were entering the city. Immediately the German garrison stationed at Louvain withdrew toward the station, where they clashed with their own troops, which were being pursued by the Belgians. Everything seems to point to the fact that a contact took place.

Troops Bombard City.
"From that point, pretending that the Belgian civilians had fired on German troops, the Germans began bombarding the city and kept up their bombardment until 10 o'clock that night. At the place where the affray started not a single body was found of a civilian, proving that the population had not participated in the shooting.

"The houses which had not taken fire were set afire by rockets with which the German soldiers were provided. The largest part of the city of Louvain, especially the Haute Ville, that is to say, the part comprising the modern houses, the cathedral of St. Peter, the University Hall, with the old and famous library of the university, its manuscripts, its collections and scientific institutions, the theater and many more buildings were at that time consumed by flames.

"The fire continued for several days. Numerous corpses of civilians covered the streets and squares. An eye-witness testified that in one place he counted more than 50 charred bodies; many persons who had taken refuge in their cellars trying to escape and falling into the furnace of the blazing city.

"The fire started a little above the American college; the city is entirely destroyed, with the exception of the City Hall and the station.

"The procedure of the Germans seems to be the same everywhere. First of all they requisition food and drink, of which they partake to the point of

Hoover
Suction
Sweepers
\$5 Down
\$5 Month

Lipman Wolfe & Co
"Merchandise of Merit Only"

Free
Sewing
Machines
\$1 Down
\$1 Month



New Voile Blouses
\$1.50

—The prettiest of new Autumn blouses of plain and embroidered voile are here. The styles are widely varied, too. They show the new long set-in sleeves, joined with hemstitching, yoke effects back and front, also hemstitched. Collars of organdie, tucked and hemstitched, of self material edged with Oriental lace, and of pique, forming vest effect in front. The sleeves are finished with cuffs to correspond with the collar. Trimmed down the front with plain and fancy pearl buttons.

First Autumn
Showing
C-B

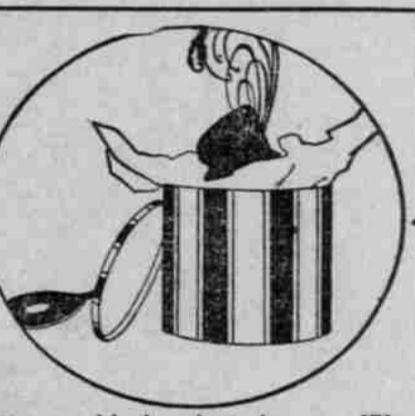
A La Spirite Corsets
MODELS FOR EVERY
FIGURE

—The present-day tendency toward extreme individuality in dress makes every well-dressed woman seem to be presenting a different version of smartness. —If you are corseted in a C B A La Spirite Corset, wearing the model designed for you especially, you will rest assured that your version of fashion denotes a true realization of smartness and elegance. —The new models show the long and medium-length hip, and medium and high bust with a slight incurve at the waistline, with light boning for medium and slender figures and boned more substantially for fuller figures. The materials are particularly pretty and dainty, in white and flesh color. \$1.00 to \$5.00. —Fourth Floor

Sale Now of
Women's
Misses'
Children's
Knit
Underw'r
First Floor

New Shapes of
Black Velvet
\$1.95

\$2.45
\$3.95
\$4.95
\$7.95



—Every express these days brings us new black velvet shapes. We, ourselves, have no knowledge of what is coming. We have selected amongst the many hat-makers, five or six of the foremost millinery houses who specialize on import millinery. —To them we give the privilege of expressing to us without order any new shape or style created. That is why customers continually find millinery that is new, different from what is found elsewhere. —Exclusive millinery at prices that are always attractive. —Come and see the new velvet shapes. —Second Floor

When People Buy
Blankets in September
There Must Be a Reason

—The reason is this: We are selling standard blankets now at prices deeply lowered from our regular figures. We are doing this because months ago we laid the foundation of this sale. —We purchased 3700 pairs of blankets from the best mills in America. These were bought long before there was any thought of war, before wool rose to such a high figure. For this reason we are enabled to offer most attractive sale prices on blankets. —For this reason people are buying them by the half dozen. —The following quotations give you some idea of the reductions:

Table with 2 columns: Blanket type and price. Includes items like 11-4 SIZE BLANKETS, COTTON FLEECE B'KETS, 85c Fleece Blankets, etc.



Marabou Collarette
Regular Price \$2.50
\$1.48

—Fashion again decrees that marabou shall be the vogue for early Fall neckwear. Today we offer very pretty soft marabou collars in black and natural with silk tassel ends, special, at \$1.48. —First Floor

Oval Antique Gold
Picture Frames
Regular \$1.25 to \$2.50
From Cabinet to 14x18 Sizes
Many Styles 59c

Sixth Floor

\$1.00 ITALIAN
CASTILE SOAP 69c BAR

—Genuine imported Italian olive oil Castile soap, in white or green. 3 1/2-pound bar. 69c —Although Castile soap has doubled in price since the war began, we are offering this genuine imported Castile at a lower price than ever before for this fine quality of soap. We were fortunate in receiving a large import order last week, placed before the war was thought of, which enables us to sell this soap at a figure so far below the market cost today. We cannot too strongly advise our customers to purchase a large supply, for it will in all probability be many a day before Castile soap can be bought at anywhere near as low a price.

Imported Soaps

- Cottan's imported violet soap, special, a cake 19c
Violet de Nice soap 19c
Grenville soap, all odors, bx \$1.00
Roger & Gallet's soap, all odors, special 25c
4711 unscented soap 15c
Pear's unscented soap 12c
Pear's glycerine soap 15c
Crown English bath tablets, all odors (imported) 20c
John Knight's (London) bath tablets, each 25c; dozen . . . \$2.50
Half size tablets 15c
Terebene shampoo soap 20c

English Hair Brushes

- One-Fourth Off
\$2.50 whalebone headache brushes, special \$1.99
\$2.75 split horn brushes . . \$1.98
\$3.50 whalebone brushes, \$2.69
\$3.50 natural brushes, sp1 \$2.23
\$1.25 Pearson's cushion brushes, with double bristles 69c
\$1.00 Pearson's cushion brushes, with single bristles 59c

Royal British Ivory
One-Fourth Off

- This ivory is heavy in weight, with fine grain, which closely resembles the genuine.
\$2.75 mirrors \$1.98
\$3.50 mirrors \$2.69
\$5.00 bonnet mirrors . . . \$3.69
\$1.75 trays \$1.29
\$1.25 buffers 94c
\$3.00 concave hair brushes \$2.23
\$4.00 concave hair brushes \$2.98
\$2.00 jewel boxes \$1.48
\$1.50 hair pin boxes 98c
\$2.50 pin cushions \$1.48
\$2.75 puff boxes \$1.98

Face Powders

- Imported face powders can no longer be imported.
Roger & Gallet's Violet de Parme, box 50c
Vera Violette 98c
Peau de Espagne 98c
Coty L'Origan or Jasmine . . \$2.00
Djer Kiss Powder 75c, \$1.00
Djer Kiss Talcum, can 25c
Mary Garden Talcum 50c
Roger & Gallet's Violet Talcum at 25c
Roger & Gallet's Bouquet des Amour Talcum 50c
Bourjois Vanity Powders and Rouges 50c
Genuine Rice Powder 25c
La Noye Face Powder 50c
La Noye Liquid Powder, a bottle 50c and \$1.00
La Noye Dry Rouge 50c
La Noye Rice Talcum 50c
La Noye Rice Powder 25c
Charmy's Myral Powder . . . \$1.00
Charmy's Lyrtis Powder . . . \$1.25
D'Orsay's Face Powder . . . \$1.50
Pinaud's Tivoli Powder . . . 50c
FRENCH POWDER PUFFS
35c Lamb's Wool Puffs . . . 23c
50c Lamb's Wool Puffs . . . 29c
French Chamois, each 10c

Imported Perfumes in Bulk

- No further importations.
Mary Garden, ounce \$2.00
D'Orsay's Reve, Chevalier, Charme, Rose Violet, Jasmine or Muguet, ounce \$2.00
Houbigant's Moss Rose, Honey-suckle, Violet Muguet, an ounce, at \$1.00
Bouquet Farnese, Ext. oz. . \$1.50
Houbigant's Ideal, ounce . . \$1.75
Coty's L'Origan, ounce . . . \$2.50
Roger & Gallet's Violet de Parme Indian Hay, Oleitine, ounce 75c
Charmy's Myral or Lyrtis Extracts, ounce \$1.50
Charmy's Myral or Lyrtis Toilet Water, bottle \$1.00
Djer Kiss Extract, ounce . . \$1.25
—Drug Section, First Floor

drunkenness. They they begin to shoot wildly from the windows of abandoned houses, declaring that the inhabitants have fired on them. —Then the firing and shooting scenes begin, and murder, and especially pillage and acts of cold cruelty, are witnessed. Neither age nor sex is respected. Even where they claim to know the perpetrator of the deed, they allege, the Germans do not content themselves with executing summarily the culprit—they wreak their vengeance on the whole town. After a first massacre, somewhat at random, they shut the men in the churches and order the women to go back to their

homes and leave the doors open. —In several instances the civilians were sent to Germany to be compelled as was done in the days of slavery." —The Commission adds: "Since collecting the above testimony the following cables regarding the same subjects were received from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium: "September 8—You have received the reports of the commission of August 25 and 31. Since then a great many localities situated in the Villorve-Malines-Louvain triangle, an extremely fertile and densely populated

district, have been paralytically pillaged and totally destroyed by fire. The inhabitants have fled, while a number of them, among them women and children, were arrested and shot without trial and without apparent reason, except to inspire the population with terror. This was done in Sempt, Weerde, Elewyt, Hofstade, Wespelaar, Wilsede, Bieken, Eppenheim, Houtheim, Thémeloo, Tilstet, Melrode, Horent, At Wavre, where the population was unable to pay a levy of three millions. 56 houses were set on fire. The largest part of Cortenberg is burnt. To excuse these attacks the Germans allege that an army of civilians resisted them.