

## URGED TO SLAY AND SPARE NOT

German Soldiers Incited to Acts of Cruelty by General Von Bissing.

### 'EMANATION OF HIGH KULTUR'

Governor General of Belgium on Record as Declaring the Innocent Must Suffer With the Guilty—Irvin Cobb's Tale of Horrors.

The horrors deliberately and systematically inflicted upon the people of Belgium by the German soldiers under the orders of their commanding officers, are shown in all their hideousness by official documents and the testimony of eye-witnesses, as well as by letters written by German soldiers in the field. The brazen effort of Emperor William to cast the odium of the fearful deeds on the Belgians is also shown. Quotations given are from documents already made public or in the possession of the government at Washington.

This interview was reproduced in the Berliner Tageblatt of November 20, 1914.

Mr. F. C. Walcott of the Belgian relief commission tells in the Geographical Magazine for May, 1917, of meeting Gen von Bernhardt:

"As I walked out, Gen. von Bernhardt came into the room, an expert artilleryman, a professor in one of their war colleges. I met him the next morning, and he asked me if I had read his book, 'Germany in the Next War.'

"I said I had. He said: 'Do you know, my friends nearly ran me out of the country for that?' They said, 'You have let the cat out of the bag.' I said, 'No, I have not, because nobody will believe it.' What did you think of it?"

"I said, 'General, I did not believe a word of it when I read it, but I now feel that you did not tell the whole truth,' and the old general looked actually pleased."

Speaking on August 29, 1914, at Munster, of the extreme measures which the Germans felt obliged to take against the civil population of Belgium, Gen. von Bissing said:

"The innocent must suffer with the guilty. . . . In the repression of infamy, human lives cannot be spared, and if isolated houses, flourishing villages, and even entire towns are annihilated, that is assuredly regrettable, but it must not excite ill-timed sentimentality. All this must not in our eyes weigh as much as the life of a single one of our brave soldiers—the rigorous accomplishment of duty is the emanation of a high kultur, and in that, the population of the enemy countries can learn a lesson from our army."

### Officers Encouraged Atrocities.

Gen. von Bissing, after his appointment as governor general of Belgium, repeated in substance the above opinion to a Dutch Journalist. The interview is published in the Dusseldorfer Anzeiger of December 8, 1914.

Irvin S. Cobb states his conclusions on the responsibility of the higher German command for the atrocities:

"But I was an eyewitness to crimes which, measured by the standards of humanity and civilization, impressed me as worse than any individual excess, any individual outrage, could ever have been or can ever be; because these crimes indubitably were instigated on a wholesale basis by order of officers of rank, and must have been carried out under their personal supervision, direction, and approval."

"Taking the physical evidence offered before our own eyes, and buttressing it with the statements made to us, not only by natives, but German soldiers and German officers, we could reach but one conclusion, which was that here, in such and such a place, those in command had said to the troops: 'Spare this town and these people.' And there they had said: 'Waste this town and shoot these people.' And here the troops had discriminatedly spared, and there they had indiscriminately wasted, in exact accordance with the word of their superiors."—Irvin Cobb, Speaking of Prussians, New York, 1917, pp. 32-34.

### Hoodwinked German People.

These ideas, then, were systematically impressed upon the military and official classes. It was necessary, however, to work upon the minds of the German people, so that they might lend themselves to the inhuman policies advocated by the military leaders. To do this was difficult, for, as has been shown often, many of the civilian leaders of public opinion, time and again, expressed their horror of the new spirit which was animating the military authorities. The reichstag debates give ample evidence of this, and the task of the military leaders would have been still more difficult if the reichstag had any real power. (See War Information Series No. 3, "The Government of Germany;" see also Gerard's "My Four Years in Germany," chapter 2.)

The military authorities and those in sympathy with them have done all in their power to stimulate a hatred of other peoples in the minds of the Germans. A campaign of education be-

fore the war was carried on with the object of impressing upon the minds of the Germans the treacherous nature of the peoples against whom the military leaders were anxious to wage war. Not only were the Germans gradually led to believe that it was necessary to fight a defensive war against unscrupulous foes, but also that these foes would violate every precept of humanity, and consequently must be crushed without mercy as a measure of self-defense. The fruits of this campaign of suspicion and hatred became evident when almost at the outbreak of the war many Germans became possessed with the belief that the whole population of Belgium, the first country to be invaded, had violated every rule of honorable warfare, that the franc-tireurs (guerrillas) were everywhere present doing their deadly work in secrecy or under the cover of darkness; that women and even children were mutilating and killing the wounded or helpless prisoners.

Extract from a letter written by a German soldier to his brother. (This letter, now in the possession of the United States government, was obtained for this pamphlet from Mr. J. C. Grew, formerly secretary to the United States embassy at Berlin.)

"November 4, 1914. The battles are everywhere extremely tenacious and bloody. The Englishmen we hate most and we want to get even with them for once. While one now and then sees French prisoners, one hardly ever beholds French black troops or Englishmen. These good people are not overlooked by our infantrymen; that sort of people is mowed down without mercy. The losses of the Englishmen must be enormous. There is a desire to wipe them out, root and all."

### Urged to Kill Without Pity.

Extract from another letter to a brother:

Schleswig, 25, 8 14 (Aug. 25, 1914). "Dear Brother. . . . You will shortly go to Brussels with your regiment, as you know. Take care to protect yourself against these civilians, especially in the villages. Do not let anyone come too near. They are very clever, cunning fellows, these Belgians; even the women and children are armed and fire their guns. Never go inside a house, especially alone. If you take anything to drink make the inhabitants drink first, and keep at a distance from them. The newspapers relate numerous cases in which they have fired on our soldiers whilst they were drinking. You soldiers must spread around so much fear of yourselves that no civilian will venture to come near you. Remain always in the company of others. I hope that you have read the newspapers and that you know how to behave. Above all have no compassion for these cutthroats. Make for them without pity with the butt-end of your rifle and the bayonet."

"Your brother, WILLI." The emperor gave his sanction to the reports of the brutal acts of the Belgians in a telegram to President Wilson.

"Berlin, via Copenhagen, Sept. 7, 1914."

"I feel it my duty, Mr. President, to inform you as the most prominent representative of principles of humanity, that after taking the French fortress of Longwy, my troops discovered there thousands of dumdum cartridges made by special government machinery. The same kind of ammunition was found on killed and wounded troops and prisoners, also on the British troops. You know what terrible wounds and suffering these bullets inflicted and that their use is strictly forbidden by the established rules of international law. I therefore address a solemn protest to you against this kind of warfare, which, owing to the methods of our adversaries, has become one of the most barbarous known in history. Not only have they employed these atrocious weapons, but the Belgian government has openly encouraged and long since carefully prepared the participation of the Belgian civil population in the fighting. The atrocities committed even by women and priests in this guerrilla warfare, also on wounded soldiers, medical staff and nurses, doctors killed, hospitals attacked by rifle fire, were such that my generals finally were compelled to take the most drastic measures in order to punish the guilty and to frighten the bloodthirsty population from continuing their work of vile murder and horror. Some villages and even the old town of Louvain (Louvain), excepting the fine hotel de ville, had to be destroyed in self-defense, and for the protection of my troops. My heart bleeds when I see that such measures have become unavoidable and when I think of the numerous innocent people who lose their home and property as a consequence of the barbarous behavior of those criminals. Signed, William, Emperor and King. "GERARD, Berlin."

Lorenz Muller in the German Catholic Review, Der Feis, February, 1915, made the following statement in regard to the emperor's telegram:

"Officially no instance has been proven of persons having fired with the help of priests from the towers of churches. All that has been made known up to the present, and that has been made the object of inquiry concerning alleged atrocities attributed to Catholic priests during this war, has been shown to be false and altogether imaginary, without any exception. Our emperor telegraphed to the president of the United States of America that even women and priests had committed atrocities during this guerrilla warfare on wounded soldiers, doctors and nurses attached to the field ambulances. How this telegram can be reconciled with the fact stated above we shall not be able to learn until after the war."



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## AT THE MOVIES

Liberty Theatre. Directing thousands of battling warriors armed with spear and sword and bow-gun, in chariots and on foot, on the ground and on the top of walls and towers over 200 feet high, is a feat to tax resourcefulness of any motion picture director. The way D. W. Griffith solved the problem of directing the siege of Babylon in "Intolerance," to be shown Sunday and Monday at the Liberty, was by using a balloon. This method proved to be an ideal one, although Mr. Griffith's first experience in the swaying basket was anything but pleasant. In fact it took about three days for the tendency to seasickness that he experienced to pass away. After that, for about two weeks, this eminent director megaphoned his commands from anywhere between 100 and 1000 feet from Mother Earth. Ancient warfare, such as "Intolerance" shows in its clash of mighty men, is the most difficult of all battle scenes to photograph as well as to direct. To get all angles of the conflict, a dozen cameras were used and these were distributed from the top of Babylon's walls, where Belshazzar's hosts fought, to the plain outside the city among the besieging hordes of Cyrus.

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(Continued from Page 1.)  
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