

place of the city, five young German officers assisting. At Aerschot men and women were deliberately shot when coming out of burning houses. At Liège, Louvain, Sempst, and Malines women were burned to death, either because they were surprised and stupefied by the fumes of the conflagration, or because they were prevented from escaping by German soldiers. Witnesses recount how a great crowd of men, women, and children from Aerschot were marched to Louvain, and then suddenly exposed to a fire from a mitrailleuse and rifles. "We were all placed," recounts a sufferer, "in Station Street, Louvain, and the German soldiers fired on us. I saw the corpses of some women in the street. I fell down, and a woman who had been shot fell on top of me."

## Fiendish Slaughter of Children

Here is the evidence of a Belgian Post Office official, giving a story of fiendish slaughter of children. He says (page 137 of the evidence):

"Before the war I lived at Malines. I was taken prisoner by the German soldiers early in September. They compelled me to march (with other refugees) with the troops.

"In passing through a village near Sempst, the name of which I do not know, I saw several old men (Belgian civilians) beside the road wounded. I saw a private German soldier go up to one of these wounded old men (he was bleeding in the face) and strike him in the back with the butt end of his rifle. He fell down and was struck heavily again several times whilst on the ground. I believe he was killed.

"He had given no sort of provocation. Several other civilians were struck at the same time by the Germans, but I did not think seriously hurt. There were non-commissioned officers present, but I think no commissioned officer.

"In the same village I saw two little children (girls), three or four years old, standing beside the road with a woman who appeared to be their mother. As the Germans came up, two of them drove their bayonets through the bodies of these two children, killing them.

"Close beside the road there was a small farm homestead burning and the bodies of the two children were pitched into the flames by the soldiers who killed them; they tossed them in with their bayonets. It was a different soldier who killed each child. The same thing was done by each, one killing one child and one the other. I saw no commissioned officer present. The mother was crying—the soldiers pushing her away. I did not think she was hurt. Other people saw this happen, but they are strangers to me and I cannot give their names. This village was about half an hour's walk from Sempst—on the east of it."

There are pages and pages of such revolting evidence.

Here is the well authenticated evidence of a married woman, a Belgian refugee:

"My husband and I were at the outbreak of the war between Germany and Belgium keeping a small shop at Tamines. My husband also worked as a labourer.

"Our house is situated on the village green at Tamines, and commands an uninterrupted view of the same.