

and numerous crowd. But if you looked into the window you saw everywhere the sign "Ersatz" (substitute) and the articles displayed looked very shoddy. The crowd was different too. No longer did you find the old Teutonic aggressive stare. At the beginning of the occupation they were uneasy and doubtful as to the attitude of our military forces. Many of them—particularly the demobilized men—knew of the dull brutality and childish bullying that characterized German rule in France and Belgium. Their demeanour was now characterized by excessive obsequiousness and also an eagerness to oblige. That first evening one of our party, seeing some cameras in a store window, wanted to buy one. We all trooped in, to the evident consternation of the man behind the counter. He attempted to greet us in fairly bad English, which was not helped by his nervousness. We selected a camera, which by the way had a very good lens and would have sold at twice or three times the price in London, and we could see from the man's air of surprise when he took the money that he never expected that he would be paid for it, least of all in cash. But it was not very long before the shopkeepers of Cologne saw that the occupation meant a very good thing for them and not long before the prices began to take that familiar, buoyant lift. The sellers of souvenirs, especially of Eau de Cologne, did a tremendous business with our forces.

I do not think that, in the unhappy event of Germany having won the war and occupying British countries, that our civilian population would have observed the same obsequious demeanour towards their conquerors, and I feel certain that there would have been a great deal more trouble between civilians and military during such an occupation. But the Germans are a well-drilled race and there is no doubt that the German General Staff had left very explicit instructions concerning the behaviour of the civ-

ilian population towards our forces. During my stay in Cologne I saw a good deal of a certain Monsieur T—, who, in times of peace had been a teacher of modern languages in Cologne and Düsseldorf. He was a Belgian and inspired by a very bitter hatred of everything German. We were talking one day about the obsequious demeanour of the Germans, when he made a remark, which was to me a very illuminating one, and possibly a very just one: "You know the Germans are not a proud race. They have no real pride. They merely have vanity. So long as they can play the big man before the eyes of the world, so long as things go well with them, they have every appearance of being a proud people. But once prick the bubble and only a hurt vanity is left and their attitude towards those stronger than themselves is characterized by a servility, which people of other nations would find unmanly and undignified." In the Officers' Club in Cologne the waiters and band were German, and this band, some of them, no doubt, demobilized men, actually used to play such tunes as "God Save the King" and "Britannia Rules the Waves" to our officers.

Although German Headquarters still existed and functioned during the period before the signing of the treaty, having its location in Cassel, and although it was necessary for our General Headquarters to keep a watch on its activities, its authority among the rank and file was, to a very large extent, gone. And nowhere was this more strikingly shown than in the matter of demobilization. We have all heard of the wonderful German system of mobilization; how, on the outbreak of war, each German soldier quietly takes the train to his depot, walks to his own particular cupboard and pulls out a fighting kit complete to the identification disc. Their system of demobilization had been just as wonderful, but in November, 1918, the system had crumpled up; Bolshe-