

soldiers themselves began to get away as fast as possible. Some in automobiles, some in wagons, and the rest running as fast as their legs would carry them. However, after an hour they seemed to recover from their fright, and returned to the town where they were heard threatening and shouting at the top of their voices as they broke in doors and windows and discharged their rifles at the terrified citizens, setting fire to one house after another.

He said the night was appalling. The people fled from their burning houses; poor, old people in rags, half-naked women, children shuddering with fright, all trying to save their lives while their homes were burning.

The next morning, German soldiers were patrolling the streets, threatening women and taking some of the men, who were afterwards exhibited in Germany as civilians who had caused the outrage. In the afternoon a notice was posted on all the street corners, declaring that German soldiers had been killed by civilians, and that an exemplary punishment awaited the inhabitants on any renewal of the outbreak.

The next morning, without any cause, a notice was placed that "new acts of hostility having been committed against their troops, civilians must evacuate the city, the bombardment of which would commence at noon." One can scarcely understand all the terrors of this flight of a distracted people, who, under the threat of immediate death, were fleeing from the city. Men, women, children; aged people, and infants newly born, the sick and the dying, all were carried through the streets, which were filled with their cries and tears. The Germans in the street hustled and abused them. Women were separated from their husbands, children from their parents. Thousands of men, and some 200 women and a few children were sent off to Germany; others were reserved for a worse fate. For two or three days they were forced to march in front of the German troops, who were going to meet the Belgian army between Louvain and Malines; others were marched from Louvain to Hal and other places. He also told me, although he had not seen this with his own eyes, that others had been tied together in couples to await execution.

At noon, groups of soldiers penetrated their abandoned houses and carried off their loot in wheelbarrows, and for five