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BELGIANS TIED TO HORSES TOWED ALONG BY GERMANS

Belgian Refugee Tells of Seeing Old Man of 70 Shot Because His Strength Failed Him

USED DEAD BODIES TO BRIDGE STREAM

German Soldiers Persistent Looters—Cut off Woman's Finger to Get Her Rings

A TERRIBLE tale of German treatment of Belgians was told by a refugee who arrived from Malines via Antwerp. Speaking of his experiences here he left, he said: I had heard that there had been a battle outside Malines between the Germans and Belgians, so I made up my mind to go down with two friends and see what had happened. Had I known what we were to suffer nothing would have induced me to go on such an errand. As we reached the outskirts of the town we were surprised by a German cavalry patrol. We were tied together with a rope, which was fastened to the saddle of one of the horses, so that we were compelled to go their pace. One of my friends tripped and was dragged along the ground for over 200 yards, till my other friend also fell. The Germans then seemed to think they had driven enough pleasure from our unfortunate plight.

Cut the Ropes.

They cut the ropes which bound us, and we were marched along between their horses till we arrived at what was evidently their officers' headquarters. Here a barrow had been turned over to serve as a table, and on it were many maps and papers.

On our arrival our captors ordered us to join a number of other Belgian civilians, who had been seen digging long pits which, we subsequently learned, were to receive the bodies of the dead. One poor old man I shall never forget. His face haunts me yet. He was at least 70 years of age, and had been hard at work with the rest digging.

At length the limit of his strength was reached, and, utterly exhausted, he sank down for a moment to rest his weary limbs. His utter inability to do any more seemed to terribly enrage the Germans. He was placed against a tree and shot there and then. The awful scene quite unmanned me, and I could not restrain my tears. "You need not weep," exclaimed an officer standing by, "you have killed enough of our men." The old man's body was buried in the very pit he himself helped to dig, and the corpses of five German soldiers were laid above him in the grave.

Gruesome Engineering.

Let me tell you an incident which will give you some idea of how the Germans respect their dead. On the second day of our captivity we saw with our own eyes a bridge which they had made over a stream.

There were no sappers with the party, and no wood or other material out of which a bridge could be made in the ordinary way. So they sank the bodies of their dead to the bottom of the stream, fastening weights to them to keep them in place. I myself saw them put fifteen bodies in the water, till the top one stood well above the surface. Then next these another tier, and so on, till the gruesome causeway was broad enough for an infantry regiment to cross.

Really the Case.

I give you my word, that awful as it seems, that was what I saw, and my friend here, who was with me, will tell you there is no word of exaggeration in what I say.



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Many of the Germans were continuously under the influence of drink, which they stole whenever they could get it, while we were kept short even of water. In that condition they seemed to lose all control over themselves. Two of them on one occasion seized a woman, and, having taken all the money she had with her, tried to drag a couple of rings from her finger. She resisted, so one of the soldiers cut it off and threw it with the rings into his haversack.

A priest who tried to avoid capture was shot, and the body stripped of clothes. These his murderers made use of to disguise themselves when they were sent out to seek information.

A Kindly Hint.

Towards the evening of the third day of our detention we succeeded in effecting our escape. In the morning a soldier who treated us kindly had told us to try to get away as he was sure, he said, that we were not to see the light of another dawn. He was the only one with whom we came in contact who had any heart. A wedding ring on his finger and the photograph of a little child which he showed us may explain why.

We were sleeping underneath carts and managed to crawl between the spokes of the wheels, the German I have been speaking of, who was on guard, keeping a look out to warn us of the approach of any of his companions. We swam the stream which we had crossed before over the bridge of bodies, and got back to Malines.

The next day the bombardment of the town began, and once again I narrowly escaped with my life. A shell hit the roof of my house, and a lady lodger, who was sleeping on the top floor, was killed in her bed. My little son had a marvellous escape, for when the upper part of the house fell in it just missed his head.

My experiences had been more than enough for me, and I made up my mind to get my family to Antwerp, for in Malines there was little food and the majority of the inhabitants were starving. Now from Antwerp we have crossed to London absolutely penniless and with only their clothes we have on, but still only too thankful to be in safety.

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Friendly Women Hid Soldiers Safely From the Marauding German Soldiers

Abraham Hancocks, a private of the 2nd Welsh Regiment and a native of Old Tredegar, has arrived in Cardiff wounded. Like so many others, he got separated from his battalion, and, having joined a number of soldiers from other regiments joined a transport engine.

We went from Amiens to Roi about nine o'clock on Saturday (the states in The Western Mail). . . . We had a few hours' rest, and were then told that we must get away immediately, as the Germans were coming on. I went out with the officer about four miles on a bicycle, and was then sent to tell the driver of the traction engine the way, the officer proceeding.

Attacked by the Germans.

About six o'clock on the Sunday morning we were attacked by a German cavalry patrol. They fired on us and killed one soldier and wounded a French soldier who had joined us. The Germans then charged us, captured us, and disarmed us.

The driver of the traction engine, who was fired at, threw his engine out of gear so that it would be of no use to them. The German officer afterwards told us to strike off to Roi, where we had left, but knowing we should be captured by other Germans we did not go.

Stopped the Motor.

Then a motor car came down the road. I stopped it and found it contained a Frenchman and three ladies. We got the wounded Frenchman on the car, and then a Scotsman rode on one side, another on the other, and I rode behind. The others followed on. We took the French soldier to Roi and left him at the hospital. Later we met the others.

While considering what we should do a lady named Miss MacDonald came up. We told her our troubles, and she took us to have a cup of tea in a convent. We had not been there five minutes before the place was full of Germans. She then rushed us out and hid us in a ruined castle, where we stayed for nine days, food being brought us by a little French lad. So close did the Germans come to where we were that one night we had to nudge each other to keep awake.

NOTICE

Amongst the other important matters to be discussed at the Twillingate District Meeting to be held at Catalina will be the Herring Fishery and delegates should be given a full understanding of the Council's wishes in this respect. All delegates should be able to give particulars of the Settlements in their section and the population of the same in order to supply data for the arranging of Municipal Boards. It will be necessary to know the local and main line mileage of settlements.

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