

MY YEARS IN THE KAISER'S ARMY

Officially we were told that it was only to be used as a weapon against barbed wire, but we used it against everything and everybody.

"I shall never forget the time when the Commandant called for greater stringency against disaffected civilians, and in support of this order each soldier was handed a 'revenge call,' signed by the committee of German Refugees from Antwerp, who had fled to Germany and Holland. It related some horrible things that had been done to the Germans while we were at Herbesthal, and as it was signed by the President of the Reichstag and the Kaiser's chaplain, we had to believe it. Freiherr von Bolle—our regimental commander—addressed us and said: 'You have read what your brothers and sisters have suffered. Let the hand of the Fatherland lie heavily on its enemies!' And so it was. But enough has already been written on this subject, and I want to forget some of the things I saw.

"Soon we approached Louvain. There has been much written about the sack of this town. We, of course, had our spies there, and they reported that there was much disaffection caused by the clergy, but no word of open hostility. However, Louvain was decided on as the example.