

they left was a few bottles of "vin ordinaire", while all the sealed wine had been taken. The owner of a small jeweller's store in the Brückenstrasse told us that three days before our arrival there had been a big scrap in front of his store between rioters and the police and four dead and two wounded had been lying out in the street until they were removed the next day. There is no doubt that the arrival of our troops saved the city from a pretty bad time. "What a wonderful city to sack" might well have been said of Cologne. But there was very little looting done by our troops. I do not suppose that there was ever a more peaceful occupation of a hostile country.

The ordinary life of Cologne seemed to go on during the occupation with very little change. Cologne is really one of the finest cities in Europe, with a broad boulevard called the Ring, lined with trees, running for about six miles round the city. The rule that all civilians, unless provided with a pass, were to be off the streets by 9 o'clock, did, of course, do away with public night-life. But up to that hour the cafés, restaurants and theatres were in full swing and were well patronized by civilians and our troops. One or two affairs between civilians and our men did occur, and, for a time, the plan was tried of not allowing our troops to use a café between particular hours. But this, I believe, was discarded later. There was a well-known *café-chantant* on the Hohestrasse, which always attracted a lot of Allied military and a great many of the wealthier German civilians. It was a café long before the war. During the first two or three days of the occupation one of the songs contained sly hits against the Allies, veiled in Kölner slang, and evidently much enjoyed by the German part of the audience. The director of the concert was not a little surprised when he was ordered to cut that song out of the programme and

to put that particular artist off for the rest of the week. There were no more allusions to the Allies, veiled or unveiled. They must have thought that the British were too stupid to understand any German slang.

The danger in so large an industrial centre as Cologne was that the Bolshevik element would try to sow dissension and dissatisfaction among the forces of the Allies. There was a certain amount of propaganda among our troops, but a very thorough contra-espionage system stopped that. The experience in similar work in France during the war was useful. Fraternization, particularly between German girls and our men—if one can call it fraternization—was more difficult to prevent, and is explained to a large extent by the fact that our men had just finished a very hard year's fighting and were glad to be in feminine society. The attitude of the German women and girls, whose husbands, brothers or lovers had, a short month or more before, been facing the Allies in the field as bitter enemies, is more difficult to understand. Certainly, had the position been reversed, one could not conceive of our womenfolk behaving in so complaisant a manner towards German conquerors.

The opera in Cologne was particularly well patronized by the forces of occupation. I saw but very few of our people in other theatres, where many excellent plays were produced by very good companies. One of these latter theatres always insisted on our occupying a box free of charge whenever we went there. It was always a trying ordeal there, however, for two or three of us had to bear the brunt of the concentrated gaze of hundreds of German civilians. And for real hard, unblushing staring, the German can hold his own in any company. The opera house in Cologne is an extremely fine theatre, very much resembling the Frankfort opera house. The very best operas were given there and the artists were all first-class.