

KING ALBERT OF BELGIUM SPEAKS WITH AMERICAN NEWSPAPER MAN

Thanks the U. S. Soldiers for the Manner in Which They Have Conducted Themselves During the Campaign and for the Care Which They Displayed in Protecting Belgian Property—Great Welcome to the King in Redeemed Cities.

By Wilbur Forrest. (Special Cable to The N. Y. Tribune and The St. John Standard.)

With the American Forces, Audenarde, Belgium, Nov. 25.—I met King Albert today in the desert of Flanders. Moving the great inter-Allied Belgian-French-American-British army toward the Rhine across railroads, telegraph and telephoneless, flat, war-torn waste, such as exists south and west of Brussels today is a stupendous task. In the ancient city of Audenarde, on the Scheldt, the king, in the Flanders desert captured by American troops—I talked to one of the world's few remaining monarchs, who holds his greyer head high as a commander-in-chief of the inter-Allied troops in Flanders which freed Belgium of the invader.

These half million men under King Albert are now filling every road in the forward march. I reached Audenarde after a sixty-hour journey from the vicinity of Lorraine, partly afoot, partly by rail and pickup motor rides. The waste of war, which has left this once populous rich country of Belgium a horror for travel, is slowly being repaired. As they retreated before the armistice was signed the Germans blew up every railroad and destroyed every wire.

King Albert, whose erect, uniformed figure, is now being seen again in Belgian cities as fast as they are evacuated, came to Audenarde today personally to thank Major General William H. Johnston, for the part western troops took in breaking the resistance of the Germans. Entering the city unattended except for two aide-de-camps accompanying him in an automobile, he walked into the general's post command in a former private house on one of Audenarde's side streets, introduced himself, apologized for his inability to come before and then in slow, halting English, praised the work of the American troops who fought their way across the Scheldt at Audenarde just before the armistice halted hostilities on the eleventh of November.

After his conversation with the General, I asked the King if he desired to send me word to the American public. Belgium's democratic monarch answering without hesitation, said: "You may tell the American people for me that I have so much admired their soldiers and have been so much gratified to see them in battle here in Belgium. They have conducted themselves both in battle and otherwise as one would expect of citizens of such

a great nation. Everywhere on the front they have contributed admirably to the great victory." Turning then to Brigadier General H. C. Price of Pittsburgh, commanding the Pennsylvania Artillery Brigade of the Ninety-first Division, the King said: "You are the man who took Audenarde, are you not?" General Price replied modestly that his artillery had aided in the capture of the city. "I cannot tell you how I appreciate that you did not rest on Audenarde," Albert added, "I understand you directed your shells over the city, but not an American shell fell among the buildings or the civilians. The last time I visited Audenarde here the people did not recognize me. It was still held by the Germans. I few over in an airplane. This time they are aware that I am here."

The King's last remark was directed toward the street, where a growing number of his people were gathered, crying constantly the time-honored motto, "Vive le Roi!" As the King stepped into the street, the American 107th Field Artillery Band gathered together an hour before to play for two French generals, who had called to pay their respects to General Johnston, hastily reorganized and played the Belgian National Anthem. Following the King's automobile to Audenarde Square, where is found the most ornate City Hall (with the exception of that of Brussels) remaining in Belgium today, the band played the national airs of all the Allied nations as the King entered the square, built in 1320, and conversed with the Audenarde's Burgomaster and the city officials. Great crowds, hearing of the King's presence, filed the square, at times almost drowning the notes of the band with constant cries.

The crowd followed Albert across the war-battered square to the ancient convent hospital where guns and aged inmates have been German prisoners within their four walls for four years. Then Albert's subjects noted he cheered him to this automobile, wherein he departed.

This is Albert's popularity in Belgium in most direct contrast to the royal refugee across Belgium's border in Holland, who fed the wrath of the people he butchered in an effort to dominate the world. Everywhere Albert has appeared since the German army began to evacuate his kingdom under the pressure of the army in Flanders, his people have enthusiastically welcomed him back with cries of "Vive le Roi!"

SOCIALIST GERMAN PRESS CALLS FOR PUNISHMENT OF WILHELM

Ex-Emperor and Crown Prince May be Brought Back to Stand Trial Along With Holweg, Von Jagow and Zimmermann on the Charge of High Treason.

London, Nov. 26.—It is understood that the question of the extradition of the former German emperor is being considered by British law officers of the law, who are working in close cooperation with the French authorities. Action in the premises was taken immediately after the flight of the former emperor to Holland.

Berlin, Monday, Nov. 25.—"We demand the immediate convening of a revolutionary tribunal for the purpose of passing sentence on the Hohenzollerns, father and son, and on Von Bethmann Holweg," says the Red Flag, the organ of Dr. Karl Liebknecht, in commenting on the disclosures made in Munich concerning the complicity of Germany in bringing about the war.

"William II. must be commanded to return and give an account before this tribunal," the Spartacus organ also demands a reckoning with the Socialist leaders Ebert, David, Molkenbuhr and others for participation in propaganda that led to the overthrow of Germany from responsibility for causing the war.

"We have been told that Germany had no knowledge of Austria's ultimatum to Serbia. It was a lie," says the Vorwarts, "Berlin was said to have admonished Vienna to go slow; it was a lie. On the contrary Berlin incited Vienna."

"In the course of his proclamation, William II. declared 'in the midst of peace we are attacked by the enemy.'"

Rescued from Huns to Die of Starvation!

Hideous Flight of Belgians Demands Immediate Help

Peace does not mean Plenty in Stricken Belgium! Germany's hellish policy has been too thoroughly administered for Belgium to be able to feed and clothe herself again—at least, until the Government has been thoroughly organized on a permanent basis.

Little children, thousands of them, are hungry for a slice of bread, shivering in their worn-out rags. YOU can help to feed and clothe them. They haven't a cent to buy even what supplies are available.

The destitute Belgians need your help about as badly as a human creature could need it.

HOW TO HELP!

All the machinery of the Belgian Relief Fund is at your service to convert your contribution in money HERE into food and clothing THERE.

A dollar here and now means LIFE to one of the starving subjects of King Albert, but look here

NO ONE will come to you and ASK you for your contribution. If you do not voluntarily send it to the Belgian Relief Fund, Local Committee, or Headquarters, the opportunity is gone, and the Belgian you MIGHT have saved, dies of starvation or perishes for lack of clothing or proper protection.

Make cheques payable and send contributions to

Belgian Relief Fund

(Registered under the War Charities Act) to your Local Committee, or to Headquarters: 59 St. Peter St., Montreal.

TURKEY TRIES TO SQUIRM OUT

Heir to Throne Blames Former Ruler and Others of the Bunch for Bringing on the War Which Has Made so Many Enemies.

Constantinople, Sunday, Nov. 24.—

"This last war was the most disastrous in the history of Turkey, not because she was beaten but because it made enemies of nations naturally our friends," declared Abdul Medjid Effendi, heir to the Ottoman throne, to the correspondent of the Associated Press, when he received the correspondent today.

"The present Sultan and myself," he continued, "denounced the proposal that Turkey enter the war. Mohammed V., who was then reigning, showed weakness before a clique of adventurers like Talaat Bey and Enver Bey, then cabinet ministers and now fugitives, whom Germany had fed with dreams of power."

"I am more ashamed of the Armenian atrocities committed during the war than of anything in our history, but I must insist that we were against the will of the present Sultan and the nation as a whole. They were instigated by unpatriotic ministers who were glibly misled in their places by their services to German militarism."

"Of the future, I can say we must have foreign assistance, as the country is exhausted. We prefer to deal with one nation, because the difficulties of international control have been shown elsewhere, but we will welcome any control not menacing the sovereignty of the empire."

PERU AND CHILE FRIENDS AGAIN

Peruvian Gov't Sends An Apology—There Was No Need for the Fracas in the First Place.

New York, Nov. 26.—Difficulties between Peru and Chile, which resulted yesterday in the recall of consular representatives by each nation from the principal cities of its neighbor, have been overcome by an apology on the part of the Peruvian Government.

Carlos Castro Ruiz, consul general for Chile, announced here tonight. A cabinet minister of the Peruvian government today sent by Mr. Ruiz, according to his statement, from the Chilean minister of foreign affairs.

The message, the consul asserted, authorized him to announce that the Peruvian officials admitted that in making public reports of outbreaks against their citizens in Iquique and Antofagasta, Chile they had acted on misinformation. This was furnished, he said, by the Peruvian consul at Iquique, whose authority had been cancelled for this reason by the Chilean government. The apology, sent from Lima, Mr. Ruiz added, was wholly satisfactory to the Chilean officials, and "brought the misunderstanding to an end."

Santiago, Chile, Nov. 25.—The newspapers, in discussing the withdrawal of the Peruvian consuls from Peru, declared that the withdrawals were made in order to avoid very serious difficulties. The manifestations which caused the withdrawals, they say, were without any real reason in either country.

The governments of both countries are advised by the newspapers to proceed quickly to the carrying out of the treaty of 1883, and to solve the open question of the definite possession of the provinces of Tacna and Arica.

Luis Borzono, the new foreign minister, is urged by the majority party in the Chilean parliament to propose a draft in order to clarify the questions between Peru and Chile. The Chilean foreign office declares that the Peruvian consul at Iquique was accompanied aboard a steamer on Sunday by his friends.

An official despatch from the Peruvian foreign minister, given out in Buenos Aires, Monday, declared that a draft was being prepared by the Chilean consul at Iquique was attacked by Chilean crowds, and carried by force aboard a small steamer in the port. The police then notified the consul that they would not permit him to disembark.

A base, impudent, bottomless, shameless lie.

"And does this band of mass murderers, who, in the progress of the revolution, and through the generosity of the German people, managed to escape unhurt really believe it can once more establish its blood-stained, 'hacked rule'?"

The organ of the Independent Socialists, Die Freiheit, says:

"They committed high treason. We cannot lay hands on William and his son, but it is to be hoped that they will yet be brought to justice. Their fortunes, however, must be confiscated. Dr. Von Bethmann Holweg, former chancellor, and Von Jagow and Zimmermann, former German foreign secretaries, who were their tools, must forthwith be arrested and brought to court."

The Conservative Tagliche Rundschau asserts that the disclosures not only are inopportune, in view of the negotiations, "for a revision of the armistice conditions," but primarily are intended to stimulate a revolutionary sentiment.

Count Reventlow, in the Tages Zeitung, says that neither Bethmann Holweg, nor his associates, desired a world war, and that they were not prepared for it. The count adds: "It is not to be denied, however, that their fumbling was responsible for complications which ultimately involved Germany."

Vienna, Friday, Nov. 22.—The minister of war of German Austria announces that measures of extreme severity will be taken to prevent the transfer into Switzerland of gold or bank notes.

VIVID PICTURE OF THE ADVANCE OF THE ARMIES OF OCCUPATION

Mile Upon Mile Through Every Road in the Country Belgian, French, British and American Troops Shake the Ground With the Tread of Their Marching Towards the German Border, and Everywhere They go Through Belgium Are Scenes of Desolation.

By Wilbur Forrest.

(Special to N. Y. Tribune and The St. John Standard.)

Brussels, Nov. 26.—Belgian troops, thousands strong, have been marching to and from Ghent and Brussels for the past ten days. Other roads not many miles southward are filled in like manner with the American olive drab while again, further south, one sees more roaming with the French blue or the British khaki. All the roads, like spokes on a wheel, seem to lead toward the Belgian capital.

French cavalrymen on well-kept steeds and British tanks on cross-roads, long black lances strapped upright on saddles, are leisurely dispersing with the marching columns of foot.

If you ride a few miles across these wheel-spokes, you see British Tommys marching in columns of fours, led by spic and span officers whose orders are obeyed with the precision of clockwork. Here also on almost every road leading back into liberated Belgium are Belgium's liberated refugees who just about fifty months ago fled before the German hordes as they swept down Albert's kingdom. Belgian soldiers and refugees alike then came down the spokes of the wheel toward the rim of the world, and here they are, in countries or to be overwhelmed and passed by the German tidal wave and remain immersed during the four years of enemy occupation.

I saw Belgians today in perfect column, a few abreast, miles long, heads erect, a few sitting along cobble roads, with firm rhythmic tread, their brown uniforms, guns and equipment seemingly so new that they appeared as a handbox army on parade marching towards Brussels. Officers and men alike, springing their shoulders with something akin to swagger, this Belgian army seemed to maintain the same spirit that made the world adore them until it banded with the fat, treeless, sombre Flanders landscape into obscurity.

Batteries and artillery mingled occasionally in line, and greater things hung on caissons in strictest military parade form. Forage wagons drawn by horses and motor supply trucks followed their units here and there, while occasionally a staff automobile purred along past the seemingly endless column of man and war material, every face headed towards Brussels.

Belgian peasants in the fields and at the roadside stood open-mouthed as this army of their countrymen passed. They had been led to believe by the Germans that the Belgian army was irreparably crushed in 1914. Possibly the only contrast to Belgium's army on the march was the German flood of troops that same road towards Ghent fifty months ago.

Belgium's representation amounted to ragged, weary groups of soldiers dragging tired feet in flight towards the Channel ports, the Belgian coast. Today, after four years of fighting in tiny strips of territory on the coast, all that remained of Albert's kingdom, the Belgian army today over a hundred thousand strong, is marching back.

It was the possibility of seeing this marching Belgian army which drew me toward the Flanders desert, for virtually all Belgium south and west of Brussels is devoid either of rail or wire communication. Telegraph poles, formerly carrying scores of wires, have been cut to the ground or appear as a frowsy woman's head. The double track railway lines have been dismantled with their thorough care, rails sticking skyward in grotesque forms, holes in roadbeds, many ten and twenty feet deep.

Narrow paved roads are filled with refugees returning home from God knows where, either afoot or riding army supply wagons. The city of Audenarde, captured by the American Ninety-first Division will remain one of the last monuments to the German nation's wanton destruction in the war. The bloody German knife plunged into the historic old Flemish city almost on the eve of the enemy's capitulation. For years Audenarde had remained intact, though occupied by the Germans. As the American troops began to fight their way near across the Flemish plain to the river Scheldt, the enemy commandant placarded the city with announcements of the contemplated retirement of the German forces and advising the people

to remain calmly in their homes as no German shot would be fired on the town. Young and old from surrounding villages thereupon look refuge in the city and the Germans withdrew to a low ridge on the heights at its western edge. Then before the American soldiers entered, the Germans opened direct, short range fire at the Audenarde buildings, employing both gas and high explosive shells. Many civilians were torn to pieces, more than forty were killed in their homes with gas. All bridges over the Scheldt and the four canals criss-crossing the city were blown up and fire was especially directed on the wonderful city hall, which is almost a replica of that of Brussels and was designed by the architect who created the Royal Palace of Brussels.

The church of Saint Walburga, erected in 1650 and "Our Lady Peneleme Church," the most beautiful religious edifice in Belgium, built in 1256, and other aged buildings were holes through repeatedly by enemy missiles. Audenarde is the home of the famous Gobelin tapestry weavers, who were transported to Paris by Louis XIV, who built up the great industry now owned by the French government.

Armies of men are today working on the Belgian railroads and telegraphs behind the advancing armies. In the meantime the problem of feeding half a million men advancing toward the Rhine is a gigantic task wherein motor trucks are working in constant streams from the nearest railroad. In accordance with army schedules Allied troops should reach the Rhine bridgeheads about December twelfth. But crossing the Belgian desert is the greatest task of all.

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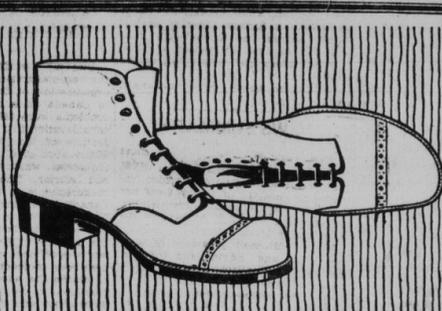
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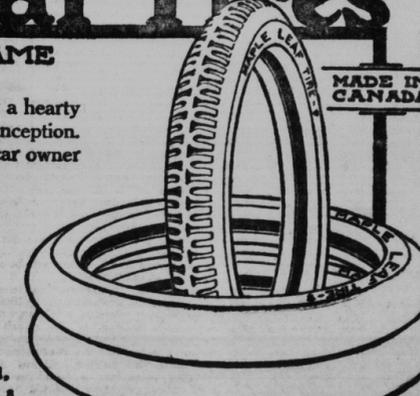
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