

How Germany Makes War

(Continued from page 2)

banding, and directly prohibited by The Hague Convention." The allegations as to the British use of flat-nosed ammunition is found on inquiry to refer to the Marks IV and V revolver ammunition used by British officers. Before permitting its use the Government tested this ammunition, which is not "soft nosed," and is made of one metal (not a hard envelope with a soft core), does not expand or cause unnecessary suffering.

The German official and other statements that British troops are employing projectiles prohibited by The Hague Convention is, therefore, not only untrue, but would appear to have been made for the sole purpose of justifying the previous issue to, and use by, German troops of projectiles who do most undoubtedly contravene The Hague Regulations.

PROMISCUOUS USE OF SEA MINES.

Another notorious infraction of The Hague Convention, and one which can serve no strategic purpose but is purely revengeful, is the sowing of trade routes with "automatic-contact" mines. The North Sea, at length closed by Great Britain, has been the scene of a large number of tragedies in which trawlers were involved. But the North Sea is of strategic importance to Germany, whereas the north coast of Ireland, where the "Manchester Commerce" was wrecked by a mine, and her captain and thirteen of her crew drowned, is quite outside any strategical area for German naval operations.

For reasons already given the bombardment or shelling by airships of unfortified towns may be a military necessity, but on September 2 an airship dropped four bombs directly on the little old town of Deynse, whose one large building, the Hospital of the Sisters of St. Paul, flew a large Red Cross flag and sheltered two hundred aged and sick people. This is merely a typical instance.

The levying of money contributions on conquered cities is only sanctioned by The Hague Convention so far as the contribution is levied for the needs of the army or the administration, but this definition is so vague that probably the Germans could make out a case for the fifty or more millions demanded from the Belgian cities.

No excuse, however, can be urged

for the revival of the mediaeval custom of taking hostages, and holding them responsible with their lives for the good behaviour of people over whom they can exercise no control. Of this abundant evidence exists, not only in Belgian reports but in proclamations issued to the conquered territories.

Such an announcement, made by the officer in command of German forces occupying the Commune of Grievnee, near Liege, was issued to British papers by the Official Press Bureau on September 24, and runs as follows:—

"I shall select, outside the lists given me, persons who from noon on one day to noon on the next have to stay as hostages. If the relieving hostage does not appear punctually, the first hostage will be detained for another twenty-four hours in the fort. After a second twenty-four hours he may be shot if his substitute does not appear."

"In the first class among hostages will be the priests, the burgo-masters, and the members of the Administration of the commons."

Another announcement was posted at the Belfry and Town Hall of Tournai on September 23:—

TO OUR FELLOW-CITIZENS

"The military authorities have informed us that the telegraphic and telephonic communications of the German Army have been cut.

"The Army has, therefore, immediately seized as hostages Monsieur Louis Caty, Councillor (Prefectoral), Monsieur Victor Maistreau (Deputy Mayor), Jean l'Houneau (Professor at the Athenee). The citizens are answerable with their heads as well as the hostages for the public tranquillity and security, as well as the maintenance and protection of the railways, telegraphic and telephonic communications. The authors of any attempt on these communications will be immediately put to death.

"We therefore beg our fellow-citizens to abstain from any act which could possibly be regarded as calculated to interrupt the communications mentioned.

"The lives of the hostages would certainly be sacrificed thereby."

A third source of information as to German conduct of the war is the Belgian Commission, which began to sit at Antwerp before the fall of that city, where its work was seen by Mr. Whitehouse, an English M.P., who pro-

nounced it to be a responsible and judicial body.

Made every possible allowance for the inevitable bias of a body of Belgians investigating the sufferings of their own country, it is impossible to disregard the stories they have collected, which show the German as one of the most ruthless invaders in history.

For obvious reasons the evidence collected by the Belgian Commission and by neutral observers in that unhappy country must be anonymous.

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The witnesses either live at this moment under the German heel or might want to return to their desolated homes before the German occupation is withdrawn.

CANNOT PUBLISH DETAILS.

Other obvious reasons prevent the publication of details concerning the outrages on women which forms so large a proportion of the charges brought against the German troops. The victims and their relations alike seek to bury these horrors.

The deliberate slaughter of children, which even drunken lust cannot explain, is so frightful a charge that no pronouncement should be made on it without irrefragable evidence, and this will be forthcoming when Belgium is free of German troops.

One of the most horrible stories, quite unprintable, came to the knowledge of the writer through a market gardener, still carrying on the shattered remnants of his business, and writing to solicit orders from a friend in England. He told, incidentally, of the faces of some unhappy Sisters of Mercy, seen in the wards of a hospital, where the doctor told him some of their sad story. He added: "I wish I had never seen them, for though I have seen many dead and wounded such faces I never saw."

Tales of outrage and murder, of pillage and rapine fill the pages of the Belgian report, and God must judge between Germany and these innocent and hapless victims. For the most part these crimes are committed under the influence of drink, but with the iron discipline of the German system they would have been impossible had not the general order gone forth.

What was that general order? There can be no possible doubt that its gist is contained in the following official German statement issued from Berlin:—

"The only means of preventing surprise attacks from the civil population has been to interfere with unrelenting severity, and to create examples which, by their frightfulness, would be a warning to the whole country."

NO QUARTER AND NO PRISONERS.

Read this in conjunction with the Kaiser's telegram to his troops at Pekin in July, 1900:—"When you meet the foe you will defeat him. No quarter will be given, no prisoners will be taken. Let all who fall into your hands be at your mercy. Just as the Huns a thousand years ago, under the leadership of Attila, gained a reputation in virtue of which they still live in historical tradition, so may the name of Germany

become known in such a manner in China that no Chinaman will ever again dare to look askance at a German."

In another telegram, sent to the President of the United States shortly after the sack of Louvain, the Kaiser said: "My heart bleeds when I think that such measures should have become inevitable."

Read in the light of these three communications the descriptions of the destruction of Belgian towns and villages take on a new light. It is noteworthy, too, that in Brussels and Antwerp, where representatives of neutral countries were established, no such outrages took place.

Another curious fact is the preservation in all the places demolished of certain houses, chalk-marked in German "Good people" or "Friendly people." At Dinant, moreover, as at Louvain, the first occupation of the town was not accomplished at the point of the bayonet and amid a hail of shells, which would account for the destruction, but the massacre of the inhabitants and the firing of houses began later. German soldiers are described

by a number of witnesses as carrying a small flat disc of some benzine-soaked material, which they use to set fire to houses.

The German excuse is a simple one. If they do not destroy the houses and kill or drive off the inhabitants, the latter will engage in guerilla warfare; or perhaps they say that the Belgians were already sniping them. Every army operating in hostile country has had to meet the peril of snipers, women as well as men, and in the Boer War it became necessary to empty the farmhouses, or burn them, and place the women and children in concentration camps. This was done after two years of other tactics had been tried, and in a country where only the roughest distinction could be

made between combatants and non-combatants.

But never before in history has a so-called civilised nation, by way of reprisal for the chance shots of snipers, exacted a toll in which innocent and guilty perish and their homes with them. In the Civil War in America guerilla warfare was common, and women and children alike joined in it, as they did in South Africa. There is no instance in either case of women or children being deliberately killed for such a share, and the shooting down of groves of unarmed men, as described by the artillery officer quoted in my first extract, is an unthinkable brutality, at which the Kaiser's most cruel predecessor in the history of the Lowlands—the hated Alva—would have hesitated.

The Germans, on their own confession, spread terror in order to prevent guerilla warfare. They will be tried at the bar of history, not for isolated deeds of brutality committed by a drunken and savage soldiery, but for a policy of terrorism, emanating from the Great General Staff and vouchsafed for by the Kaiser himself, who regards it as "inevitable."

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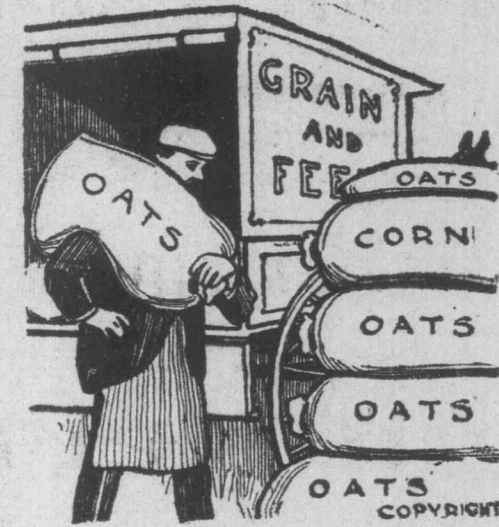
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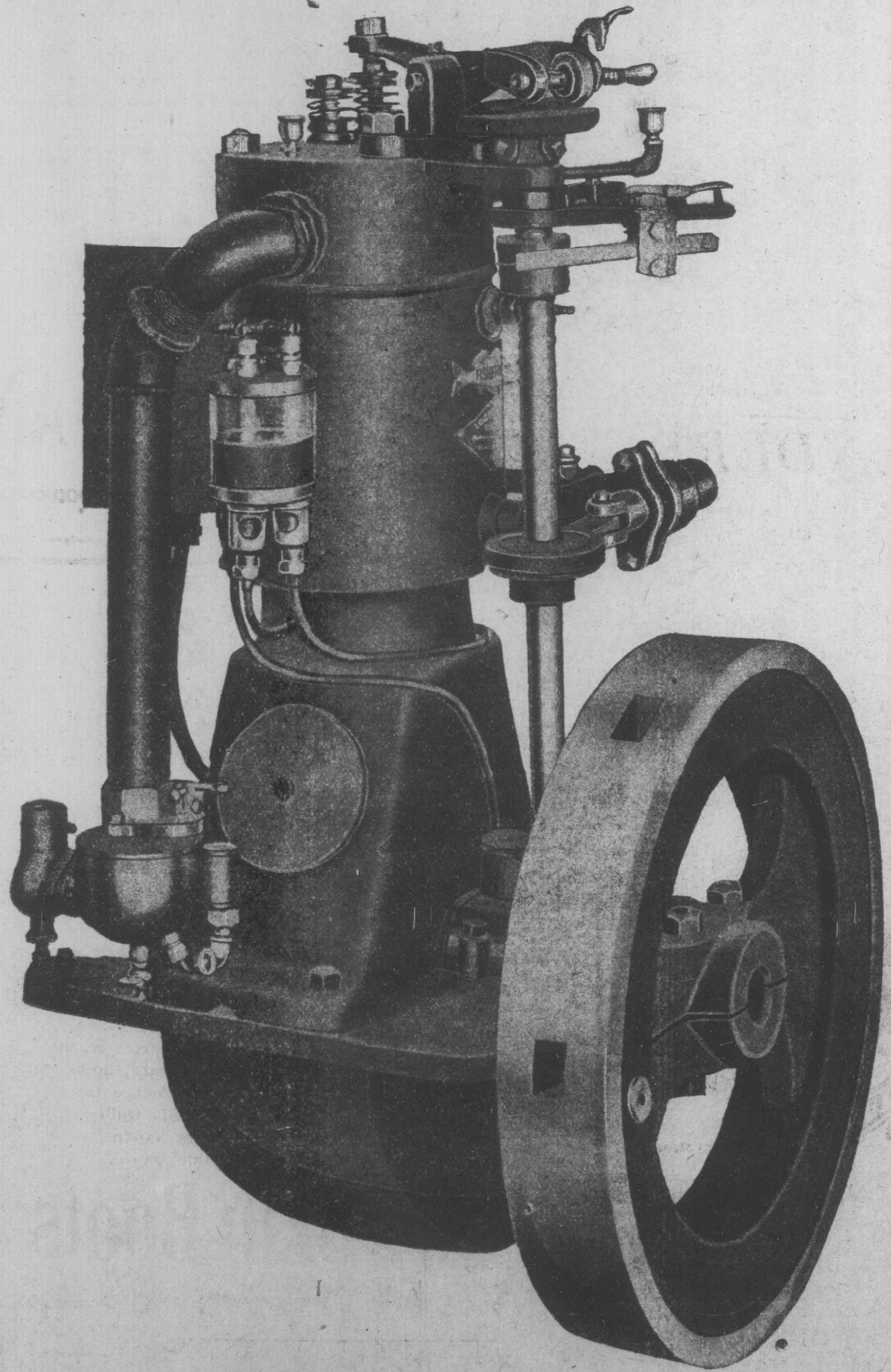
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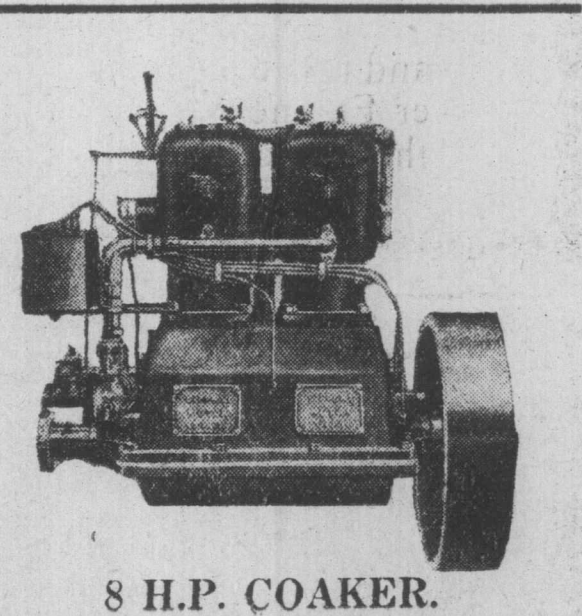


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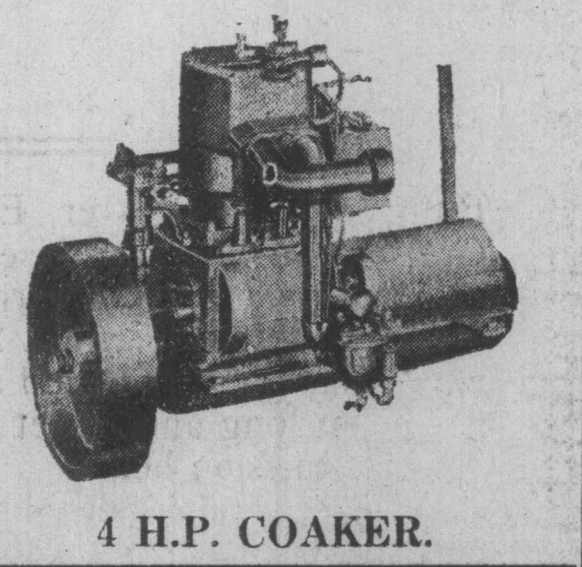
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