

THE CODE OF MASSACRE; A GLASTY STORY OF GERMAN ATROCITIES

**Belgian Non-Combatants Slain by Hundreds—
Over Four Hundred Men Butchered—The Hor-
rors of the Burial—The Massacre at Tamines—
Explanation of Crimes—Women's Terrible
Task.**

The following is from the Manchester Guardian.

The Belgian legation has communicated to the Press Bureau one of the most terrible accounts yet published of the savage treatment of non-combatants by the German military authorities. It is a report drawn up by a member of the Commission of Inquiry into the Rights of Nations and of the Laws and Customs of War.

The report describes the sackings of the village of Tamines and the town of Dinant and the wholesale shooting of the male non-combatants of both places. With those who perished in the burning houses the number of victims at Tamines is alleged to have been over 400 and at Dinant 100, including some women and children. In the villages of the German province of Luxembourg over 1,000 persons were shot and over 8,000 houses burnt.

The only conceivable pretext for these deeds—that some civilians had been killed and wounded, or perhaps that some of the outrages were committed by drunken men, the report alleges that the Germans systematically sacked and burned places where any of their men were shot or killed, and then they proceeded to, by regular soldiers. Below are the main portions of the document:

I.—MASSACRE AT TAMINES

Tamines was a rich and populous village situated on the Sambré, between Charleroi and Namur. On Thursday, August 20, a German patrol appeared in front of the village. The Germans were first of all to go; even in the morning the Germans killing milk cows, a cow or a small herd is left here or there; but they are the exceptions.

The supply of condensed milk ran out long ago. Now milk is a necessity for the most civilized children between the ages of one and two years. Some children, it is true, put through under exceptional circumstances of privation, but it is not the usual thing; they stand apart from the rule. Average young child must have milk. And here there is no milk. The sucking child must have his milk or a substitute. There is, of course, no substitute to be had in the village, and equally there is little there.

Every woman knows that a civilized young mother must "keep up her milk." She must have something to eat—in many cases special food. Every woman knows that a certain proportion of civilized mothers cannot feed their babies even at that.

On the evening of the 22nd (Saturday) a group of between 400 and 450 men were collected in front of the village. The German detachment opened fire on them, but as the shooting was a slow business the officers ordered up a machine-gun, which soon swept off all the unhappy peasants still left standing. Many of them were wounded, and hoping to save their lives, got with their hands up, and then they were immediately shot down. Many wounded still lay among the corpses. Groans of pain and cries of distress were heard from the bleeding heap. On several occasions soldiers walked up to such unhappy individuals and stopped their groans with a bayonet thrust. A little while later still survived succeeded in crawling away. Others put an end to their own pain by rolling themselves into the neighboring ditches.

Horror of the Burial.

Next day, Sunday, the 23rd, about 6 o'clock in the morning, another party, consisting of prisoners made in the village and the neighborhood were brought into the square. One of them makes the following deposition:

"On reaching the square, the first thing that we saw was a mass of bodies of civilians extending over at least 40 yards in length by six yards in depth. They had evidently been drawn up in rank to be shot. We were placed behind the ranks of corpses, and were convinced that we too were to be shot."

"An officer then came forward and asked for volunteers to dig trenches for the bodies of the dead. I and my brother-in-law and certain others offered ourselves. We were conducted to a neighboring field where they made up a trench five yards long by ten broad and two deep. As I was much fatigued, though not brought accustomed to digging, and being faint from hunger, a soldier then brought me a lighter spade, and afterwards filled a bucket of water for us to drink. I did not. By the time that the trenches were finished it was about noon. They then gave us some planks, on which we placed the corpses, and so carried them to the trench. I recognized many of the persons whose bodies we were burying. Actually, fathers buried the bodies of their sons, and sons the bodies of their fathers. The women of the village had been marched out into the square and saw us at work. All round were the burnt houses."

"There were in the square both soldiers and officers. They were drinking champagne. The more the afternoon drew on the more they drank. We buried from 500 to 600 bodies. The names of the victims have been drawn up and will have been given to you (the Commissioner)."

"While some of us were carrying the corpses along I saw a case where they had stopped and called to a German doctor. They had noticed that the man whom they were conveying was still alive. The doctor examined the wounded man and made a sign that he was to be buried with the rest. The plank on which he was lying was brought on again and I saw the wounded man raise his arm elbow-high. They called to the doctor again, but he made a gesture that he was to go into the trench with the others."

"When a soldier, seized with an impulse of pity, came near us, an officer immediately scolded him and again we were led to Villaines between two ranks of soldiers. We all thought we were going to be shot in the present case, but the bright side of things, and something good in others."

II.—SACK OF DINANT

The town of Dinant was sacked and destroyed by the German army, and its population was subjected to the most terrible treatment. The population was terrified and starved, and then they were killed. The Germans systematically sacked and burned places where any of their men were shot or killed, and then they proceeded to, by regular soldiers. Below are the main portions of the document:

III.—OUTRAGES IN BELGIAN LUXEMBOURG

A. Arrest of Hostages.

In every village occupied the Germans systematically arrested hostages. In

certain places they were not seriously maltreated. In others they were subjected to abominable treatment. Certain hostages were taken off to Germany. Usually, after they reached Germany they were not missed.

2. Pillage.

In almost every locality plunder was systematically complete. The first care of the soldiers on arriving in a village was to ask for wine and spirits. Soon they got drunk, and scenes of cruelty, incendiarism, and promiscuous shooting immediately followed. At Libin, a soldier, firing at a hen, shot a child less than a year old through both legs.

3. Incendiarism.

The northern part of the province have been generally respected. On the other hand, two regions in the south of the province have been completely devastated. (The report mentions statistics of the houses burnt in 23 villages.) The number of houses burnt in the province of Luxembourg is over 8,000—and almost not a single house was left but by willful and systematic incendiarism.

4. Executions.

In a great number of villages the German troops gave themselves up to veritable executions on a mass scale. The number of men shot in the whole province is over 1,000. The following figures relate to certain villages only:

Neufchateau 18
Vance 1
Bertrix 21
Etalle 80
Houdemont 11
Belfontaine 11
Touligny 10
Isle 10

Maisin: 10 men, one woman, and one young girl shot, two men and two women wounded. Anloy, 53 men and men shot. Clameuse: Two men shot; two men hung. 11 persons of the community were shot by the Communists. In many places hostilities destruction was not limited to the houses but extended to the villages and the surrounding country.

Cases of rape by drunken soldiers have been numerous. In one village a woman was violated by soldiers who had her husband. Facts of this kind are naturally hidden by the families, and the sentiment which makes them act so has been respected by the Communists, but they have no doubt that cases of rape were quite common.

Explanation of Crimes.

In the most part of these villages the troops did not even allege that they had been attacked by the civilian population. It seems certain that the inhabitants did not commit any hostile act. In many places German soldiers had been shot by French patriots and sentinels, but they have no doubt that cases of rape were quite common.

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A Further Terrible Report.

The Belgian Legation has issued a further terrible report (in continuation of that published on Saturday), says the Manchester Guardian. The report is a member of the commission of inquiry on the violation of the rights of nations and of the laws and customs of war. This report is a continuation of the first, and adds the following, which are the main passages:

The town of Andenne is situated on the right bank of the Meuse between Namur and Huy. The German troops were wishing to invade the territory on the left bank of the Meuse arrived at Andenne on Thursday, Aug. 19, in the morning. A regiment of Belgian infantry had blown up the bridge at 6 o'clock on the same morning. The Germans retired after having seized the communal cash box at Andenne and brutally maltreated the burgomaster, Dr. Camus, an old man of more than 70 years. The burgomaster had several days before taken the most minute precautions to prevent the Germans from entering the town. He had posted up every where placards ordering non-resistance. All firearms had been collected in the town hall. The Germans had personally visited certain of the inhabitants to explain their duty to them.

The main body of the German troops arrived at Andenne on the evening of the 19th. The German troops entered the town and the local authorities, the regiment halted in the town and outside it, waiting for the completion of a pontoon bridge. The first contact between the German troops and the people was a peaceful one. The Germans ordered requisitions, which were satisfied.

How It Began.

On Thursday, Aug. 20, the bridge was finished, and the troops moved through the town in that manner, in the direction of the left bank. The inhabitants watched them passing from their houses. Suddenly, at 6 o'clock in the evening, a single rifle shot was heard in the street, followed immediately by a startling explosion. The troops halted, their ranks fell into disorder, and nervous men fled in all directions. A machine gun was set up at a corner and commenced to fire against the houses, and later a battery of heavy artillery opened fire on the town at three different points.

At the first rifle shot the inhabitants of the streets through which the troops were passing, guessing what might happen, took refuge in their cellars, or, climbing out over the walls of their gardens, sought refuge in the open country or in distant cellars. A certain number of people who would not or could not make their escape were killed in their houses by shots fired from the street, or in some cases by soldiers who burst into their dwellings.

Immediately afterwards commenced the systematic pillage of the houses and streets of the town. The terrified population lay low in their cellars.

The Burgomaster Murdered.

Next day, Friday, August 21, at 6 o'clock in the morning, the soldiers spread through the town, continuing their pillage and the early closing of the shops. Eight men belonging to the same household were led out into a meadow some fifty yards from the dwelling, some of them were shot, the rest cut down with blows of an axe. One tall, red-haired soldier, with a scar on his face, distinguished himself by the ferocity

Headed for Massacre.

Meanwhile the whole population was being driven towards the Place des Tilouls. Old men, the sick, and the paralytic were all brought there. Some were drawn on wheel-chairs, others pushed on handcarts, others, again, borne up by their relations. The men were separated from the women and children, then all were searched, but no arms were found on them.

"One man had in his pocket some empty cartridge cases, both German and Belgian. He was immediately apprehended and set aside. So was a soldier, who had a wounded hand; his wound was a month old. An engineer was also put apart because he had in his pocket a spanner, which was considered as a weapon. Another man seems to have been arrested because his face showed his contempt and rage at what was going on. These people were shot in presence of the crowd and all died bravely."

Subsequently the soldiers, on the order of their officers, picked out of the mass some forty or fifty men, who were led off and all shot, some along the bank of the Meuse, and others in front of the police station.

While this scene was going on in the Place des Tilouls, other soldiers spread themselves through the town, continuing their work of sack, pillage, and execution. Eight men belonging to the same household were led out into a meadow some fifty yards from the dwelling, some of them were shot, the rest cut down with blows of an axe. One tall, red-haired soldier, with a scar on his face, distinguished himself by the ferocity

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It was at this moment that Dr. Camus, against whom the Germans were seeking to have some special spite, was wounded by a rifle shot, and then finished off by a blow from an axe. His body was carried away from the feet for some distance.

A watchmaker, a Fleming by birth, who had lived for some time in the town, was coming out of his house on the order of the soldiers, supporting on his arm his father-in-law, an old man of eighty. Naturally, therefore, he could not hold up both his hands. A soldier stepped up to him and struck him with an axe on the neck. He fell mortally wounded before his own door.

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THE MAN WHO LED THE BRITISH SHIPS TO VICTORY



Vice Admiral Sir F. C. D. Sturdee

MORE FOOD REQUIRED FOR STARVING BELGIANS

The committee in Belgium who have charge of the distribution of all relief supplies have made another appeal for food for these people. It is estimated that it will take \$6,000,000 per month until spring to give these starving millions two meals of soup and bread per day. New Brunswick has done well, over twenty cars of food and clothing and \$12,000 in cash has already been sent forward, but a special appeal is now made by the provincial committee for each to buy food in large quantities wholesale to send the admiral's steamer Trepanier, sailing from Halifax about Dec. 25.

The committee has on hand about \$11,000 that will be invested in food stuff at once, but more is urgently required. The Belgians are starving and we must redouble our efforts promptly. Have you sent what you can? Send cash contributions to James H. Frink, mayor of St. John, treasurer, and address all communications to James Gilchrist, secretary, P. O. Box 204.

MORE AFFINITIES

Some peculiar combinations of names have been devised from various characters and facts of the war.

The happy combination of French and Joffre has been pointed out. It shows that the first three letters of the names of each make Joffre in one case and French in the other. Here is the diagram:

FREE-NCH
Then the Kaiser's Kultur and Turen are alphabetical affinities as it proved in the following:

KUL-TUR
TUR-KEY
Be-L-grum
Eng-L-and
Ser-L-a
Fran-CH
Rus-S-ia

That the Allies are bound by more than the threat of a common oppressor might be shown by the following arrangement:

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Meanwhile the whole population was being driven towards the Place des Tilouls. Old men, the sick, and the paralytic were all brought there. Some were drawn on wheel-chairs, others pushed on handcarts, others, again, borne up by their relations. The men were separated from the women and children, then all were searched, but no arms were found on them.

"One man had in his pocket some empty cartridge cases, both German and Belgian. He was immediately apprehended and set aside. So was a soldier, who had a wounded hand; his wound was a month old. An engineer was also put apart because he had in his pocket a spanner, which was considered as a weapon. Another man seems to have been arrested because his face showed his contempt and rage at what was going on. These people were shot in presence of the crowd and all died bravely."

Subsequently the soldiers, on the order of their officers, picked out of the mass some forty or fifty men, who were led off and all shot, some along the bank of the Meuse, and others in front of the police station.

While this scene was going on in the Place des Tilouls, other soldiers spread themselves through the town, continuing their work of sack, pillage, and execution. Eight men belonging to the same household were led out into a meadow some fifty yards from the dwelling, some of them were shot, the rest cut down with blows of an axe. One tall, red-haired soldier, with a scar on his face, distinguished himself by the ferocity

Those who tried to run away were shot.

It was at this moment that Dr. Camus, against whom the Germans were seeking to have some special spite, was wounded by a rifle shot, and then finished off by a blow from an axe. His body was carried away from the feet for some distance.

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