

1917
C411
"Tamines was occupied by the Germans in the first fortnight in August, 1914. On or about the 15th or 16th August I saw a German soldier kill a little Belgian boy of about 15 years of age who was walking on the aforesaid green. The little boy was killed by a rifle bullet. As far as I could see the boy was doing no harm to any one. I do not know the boy's name.

"On some date between the 15th and 20th August I saw about 20 German soldiers, together with an officer, on the aforesaid green. A little girl and her two little brothers came and looked at the said soldiers. I then saw these soldiers kill her and her two little brothers. The girl was killed by being shot through the ear. These three children, whose ages were 8, 12, and 15, were no relations of mine or my husband, but they were well known to me as inhabitants of Tamines.

"At about the same date referred to in the preceding paragraph of this my declaration, I saw German soldiers force an old man of about 70 years of age, who was well known to me, to assist them to lift up certain wounded German soldiers. When he had finished this work he was shot and killed by the soldiers."

"On one occasion children were even roped together and used as a military screen against the enemy, on another three soldiers went into action carrying small children to protect themselves from flank fire. A shocking case of the murder of a baby by a drunken soldier at Malines is thus recorded by one eye-witness and confirmed by another:—

"One day when the Germans were not actually bombarding the town I left my house to go to my mother's house in High Street. My husband was with me. I saw eight German soldiers, and they were drunk. They were singing and making a lot of noise and dancing about. As the German soldiers came along the street I saw a small child, whether boy or girl I could not see, come out of a house. The child was about two years of age. The child came into the middle of the street so as to be in the way of the soldiers. The soldiers were walking in twos. The first line of two passed the child; one of the second line, the man on the left, stepped aside and drove his bayonet with both hands into the child's stomach, lifting the child into the air on his bayonet and carrying it away on his bayonet, he and his comrades still singing. The child screamed when the soldier struck it with his bayonet, but not afterwards."

The evidence of the violation of women is too shocking to print. The Commission in summing up, says:

"The cases of violation, sometimes under threat of death, are numerous and clearly proved. They were often accompanied by cruelty, and the slaughter of women after violation is more than once credibly attested."

It is to save the women of Canada from such horrors that the army of the Dominion is fighting in Flanders, and for the same reason the Union Government proposes to properly reinforce that army.