

FRENCH REPORT TELLS OF ALLEGED GERMAN ATROCITIES

French Charge Wanton Atrocities to Germans

Investigating Commission, in Report, Accuses Invaders of Attacking Residents With Indescribable Cruelty and Destroying Property Ruthlessly.

TOWNS BURNED AND FARM LANDS DEVASTATED

PARIS, Jan. 19.—In the report prepared for the French Government by the official French commission appointed to investigate charges of atrocities by the Germans in France, the commissioners endeavor to prove that the rights of man and law of warfare have been violated by the Germans in France. Hundreds of instances are quoted of towns which, it is alleged, have been submitted to wholesale rapine and plunder by the invaders. The commission has been careful to mention only those cases of wholesale destruction said to have been wrought by the Kaiser's troops which were brought about without any military necessity, not because their destruction was required in order to permit the advance of the invading army or the erection of defence works but merely in compliance with the rule evidently laid down in advance for the destruction of French property to the greatest extent possible.

It is pointed out in the report that German officers have been first to direct not only the destruction of property but also the actual removal of objects of value. It is stated that thousands of cases of paintings, silverware, lace and other articles of great value were shipped out of the country by the Germans during their first victorious march through the northern departments of France. Cases are cited where long trains of motor trucks were employed for no other purpose than the removal of property stolen from the French inhabitants.

All Evidence Verified.
In the introductory remarks the report points out that cases of outrages committed upon women, old and young, and little girls, at times as young as 7 and 8 years old, are so numerous that it has been impossible to record them all. The commissioners were particularly careful not to accept any evidence which they were not able to verify in the most thorough fashion. Every report was submitted to a searching inquiry. No hearsay evidence was accepted, and hundreds of cases were set aside merely because the word of a third or fourth party would have been insufficient.

The commissioners also point out that in a great number of cases the victims refused to sign a feeling of shame, to reveal the fate which had befallen them, and although detailed descriptions thereof were furnished by relatives, friends and actual witnesses, no such cases were included in the report. The commissioners also declare that most of the facts revealed in their reports relate to crimes committed in the presence of the commanding officers of the invading forces. It is clearly pointed out that in the great majority of cases these officers could have been averted had the officers chosen to arrest the fury of their soldiers. These officers, as the report states, are alleged to have given a free hand to their troops, and in a great number of cases supervised the work of destruction.

Case Departments Inspected.
The final report covers cases investigated in the departments of the Seine-et-Marne, the Marne, the Meuse, the Moselle, the Vosges, the Ardennes, the Aisne, the Nord, the Somme, the Oise and the Seine. It is signed by Georges Fayolle, first president of the court of appeals; Armand Moland, minister plenipotentiary of France and former chief of the protocol; George Malinger, counselor of state; and M. Pallot, counselor at the court of Cassation. No attempt is made in this summary to review each case mentioned by the commission. Only a few of the most important cases in each department will be mentioned.

In the Seine-et-Marne department the invading army destroyed a great number of villages. The German troops, according to evidence gathered by the commissioners, were equipped with special material used for no other purpose than to set fire and hasten the destruction of property. This equipment comprised not only torches, bombs and grenades but also chemical and a peculiar kind of hand pump similar to the air pumps used for bicycles and with which the German soldiers spread petroleum on burning ruins of the homes of the French inhabitants.

At Chauthonin eleven houses were destroyed in this manner and the towns of Cougny, Ponnard, Harey, Douy-La-Renne and Mayon-Munton also were partly wrecked. At Sancy-les-Provins the Germans arrested on September 6 at 9 o'clock in the evening and immediately took eighty hostages. On the following morning thirty of these hostages were removed to a nearby place named Pierrefort, where the German Red Cross ambulances had been stationed. Here, says the report, the German chief surgeon paraded the French prisoners in front of the German wounded and delivered a short address, which he informed his countrymen that these Frenchmen were to be killed and that they, the wounded, would be permitted to do the shooting.

Blame Gen. von Dutag.
The Frenchmen were lined up against a wall and all those of the German wounded who were able to shoulder a gun or handle a pistol were brought out to do the shooting. As the German surgeon was about to give the order to fire a small force of French dragons appeared and captured the entire ambulance guard. The commissioners point out that the general who was in command of the German forces at this point and who must have given his tacit permission to his men to carry out their plan of putting to death thirty French citizens was Gen. von Dutag.

After the entire destruction of the village of Courtenay by a small German force, probably of the Imperial Guard, these troops took away five men and a thirteen-year-old child, which they compelled to march in front of them. A young man named Edmond Rousseau was put to death here under tragic circumstances. The mayor of the village, who was among the hostages, was questioned as to the situation of the young man in regard to the military law. He replied that Rousseau had submitted to a medical examination and had been found fit for the service, whereupon the Germans ordered him to remove all his clothing in order to be examined by a surgeon. He had scarcely finished undressing when he was shot down before the eyes of the French hostages.

dered on the spot are so numerous that it is impossible to mention them all, the report says. At Rebais the Germans plundered a large jewelry store belonging to the firm of Panterea and all goods of value were carefully packed and loaded upon motor trucks, after which the house was set afire. Serious crimes against women were committed in this town, it is alleged. The wife of a liquor dealer, aged 29 years, was seized by German soldiers and all her clothes were torn from her, after which she was repeatedly attacked. The wife of a grocer who resisted was hanged in the street by the German soldiers and through the interference of an Abbatian soldier. Similar cases are extremely numerous in this department.

In the Marne department a number of chateaux and more modest homes were completely wrecked. The villages of Heilly-le-Maurupt, Supples, Marzeu, Fromentieres and D'Esternay suffered more than any others. Here everything of value was carried away by the Germans. At Supples an entire stock of sewing machines and another of toys were removed. Towns and villages were set in flames without any other reason, it is stated, than that of wanton destruction. In the villages of Somme-Tourbe and Auve not a house was left standing. At Sermaize-les-Bains forty houses are left out of fifty, at Bignicourt-sur-Saulx only three houses are standing to-day.

In these last named villages the fires were started by soldiers carrying bales of hay and cans of petroleum while other troops stood on and prevented any attempt to put out the flames. All these fires were started without any reason other than that already given. In no case, it is alleged, did the Germans even pretend to claim that the property of the inhabitants was being destroyed as a punishment for any particular offence.

One Starved to Death.
In almost every one of the above named towns hostages were taken, most of whom have never reappeared. At Bignicourt thirty men and forty-five women and children were compelled to march in front of the German troops. At Champigny the village priest was among the prisoners taken by the Germans, and who have never returned. It is stated that in the latter village a man named Gauchemin, 65 years old, was tied to his bed and allowed to starve to death, no one being permitted to go near the house where he was being held. The village priest, Brocard was one of the hostages taken by the Germans. At the time of his capture

GERMANS FEAR U. S. IS FAVORING ALLIES

Sale of Munitions Violates Neutrality Spirit, Says Semi-Official Note.

'SUBSIDIZED,' SOME ASSERT

By KARL H. VON WIEGAND, United Press Staff Correspondent. BERLIN, via The Hague, Jan. 23.—Germany is becoming rapidly wrought up over what she believes to be an anti-German attitude by the people of the United States.

The growing feeling of resentment has crystallized suddenly about a semi-official note of protest against the sale of munitions of war to the Allies by American manufacturers published in the North German Gazette. The note charged that the spirit if not the letter of neutrality is being violated by the United States. Persons in high position have expressed themselves in terms of the most bitter indignation at the alleged display of friendliness for the Allies by Americans.

German newspapers gave public voice today for the first time to this rising feeling of resentment. The radical newspapers took advantage of the publication of the protest to make caustic attacks upon America's position in the European controversy. One paper called the attention of its readers to the report that Secretary of State Bryan's son-in-law is a colonel in the British army and hinted in a veiled manner that this might have something to do with the refusal of the American Government to put a ban on the exportation of arms to England and France. Others called the purchase of war supplies in America by the Allies a clever scheme by which Germany's foes actually subsidized America.

These German papers are convinced that America is determined to continue supporting the Allies against Germany. This knowledge will leave deep traces, the importance of which America hardly can afford to disregard, says one of the radical organs.

The Berliner Tageblatt, adopting a more conservative tone, warns America that her reputation in affairs of political morals "is at stake for all the future, and characterizes the semi-official note as an appeal to America's sense of fair play.

It is the belief of Americans here that the growth of this anti-American feeling in Germany at this time is due largely to the fact that the German press is dependent upon London newspapers for American news. London newspapers, naturally, lose no opportunity for calling to the attention of the English public any alleged displays of friendliness by Americans toward the cause of the Allies. In London reports, reported in Berlin, arouse ill feeling among the Germans.

The semi-official statement published in the North German Gazette pointed out that while Germany could not protest that the sale by Americans of arms and ammunition to the Allies was a violation of the principles of international law, yet the trade in "war material with England and France has assumed such dimensions as to jeopardize the neutrality not only of the American Government, but indeed of the American nation."

Special Correspondence to The Sun. LONDON, Jan. 23.—An interesting invention which has just been adopted by the Admiralty is the Mallock-Armstrong ear defender.

It has been found that the heavy guns cause by their terrific din such mental shock that in some cases men are incapacitated for a time. The earpiece is no larger than the cotton-wool plugs hitherto used, but contains a diaphragm of goldbeater's skin, which, while readily responsive to ordinary volumes of sound, prevents any abnormal sound from reaching the ear.

This effect is brought about by a "stop" on each side of the diaphragm, which limits the distance through which it can vibrate. While the ear receives readily and clearly a word of command, it is protected from the noise of the discharge of a gun.

his wife and his daughter-in-law, terrorized by the arrival of the Germans, jumped into the River Saulx. Brocard tried in vain to get away from his captors in order to rescue the women, but was unable to do so. When the bodies of the two women were recovered it was found that both had been shot in the head while in the water.

At Montmarial a young woman named Maude was maltreated by the Germans and her father was murdered while trying to go to his daughter's assistance. The same fate befell little Juliette Maude when she tried to call the neighbors.

A band of forty German soldiers invaded the village of Esternaymin, this department, and went through every home from cellar to attic, removing everything of value. In the home of Mrs. Bouche, a widow, they discovered Mrs. Bouche, her two daughters and two other women, Mmes. Lhomme and Mace, under a strain. Here they had sought refuge. The soldiers ordered the women to undress and upon their refusal fired into the group huddled under the staircase. Mme. Lhomme and one of the girls were fatally wounded, but the others managed to escape.

In this same village an eleven-year-old girl was outraged by one of the German soldiers, it is stated. At the nearby village of Vitry-en-Perthis the women maltreated include one 59 years old, who survived only a few hours. A 21-year-old was attacked four times.

The commissioners state that while they were investigating reports of atrocities received in the city of Rheims the building where they were holding their meetings was submitted to a continuous bombardment by the Germans. One of the shells fell only a few meters from the very office where the commissioners were conducting their inquiry.

Fine Chateaux Wrecked.
The report deals at great length with the wrecking of the Chateau de Baye, which has already been described in cable despatches following the statement made by the owner of the place the Baroness de Baye. The village of Chateau de Beaumont, belonging to the Comte de la Rochehoucauld-Doudeauville, also was pillaged. Both places were completely wrecked, even the room being visited by the invaders, who removed all objects of great value and destroyed all others which could not be removed.

The department of the Meuse suffered probably more than any other part of France. Here a great number of towns have been completely wiped out. At Revinny the Germans carried away everything of value before the house of the town. The church of this village, which was one of the oldest and most interesting landmarks of northern France, was entirely destroyed.

The village of Sommeilles is nothing but a mass of ruins to-day, having been completely destroyed. It is declared by the Fifty-first Regiment of German Infantry. The soldiers of this regiment were equipped with petroleum pumps previously described. It is at this place that a couple named Adnot and their four children, aged respectively 11, 5, 4 and 1 1/2 years, lived. The woman's right arm and breast were cut off, one of the feet of an eleven-year-old girl was removed and the throat of a five-year-old boy was slashed. The woman and the little girl had both been attacked.

At Tilancourt the Germans resented the complaint made by a young girl conservative tone, warns America that her reputation in affairs of political morals "is at stake for all the future, and characterizes the semi-official note as an appeal to America's sense of fair play.

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Prince von Wittenstein, who occupied the place after the departure of the Wurtemberg troops. In concluding their observations in this department the commissioners say: "We have established beyond a doubt that the enemy committed acts of extreme cruelty on the persons of wounded soldiers of the French army."

In the Meurthe-et-Moselle department the town of Nomeny was entirely wiped out and all the surrounding country laid waste. The town, however, was not destroyed until all objects of value had been removed, carefully packed and shipped to Metz.

The inhabitants of these localities blame chiefly the Second and Fourth regiments of Bavarian Infantry for the crimes committed at Nomeny. Civilians in that town were shot down wholesale, it is stated, the Germans claiming that the victims had fired upon the invading armies. "In this instance, as in many others," the commissioners say, "we can state with the most positive certitude that this al-

legation is untrue. At the time of the arrival of the Germans every firearm owned by the inhabitants had been turned over to the authorities at the town hall."

M. Blevet, municipal councillor, has furnished to the commissioners a list of fifty civilians who were killed at Nomeny. Most of the cases recorded by the commission in Meurthe-et-Moselle are of such a nature that their description is impossible.

In the town of Guebwiller situated on the Mortagne River, 150 civilians were killed and only 21 houses out of 475 were left standing. Fifteen men were put to death at a place called La Prele, directly outside the village. The fifteen bodies were found with hands tied behind the backs and completely nude from the waists down. A few miles away, at La Haut-de-Vormont, ten bodies of civilians were found buried under a few inches of earth. Again in this part of the official report the atrocities revealed by the commissioners are of such a nature that no description thereof can be printed.

In the Oise and Aisne departments the commissioners found evidence of murder, rapine and other crimes against women in a great number of towns, but the majority of complaints referred to robbery and the wholesale removal to Germany of objects of every description, from valuable paintings to household articles belonging to the French inhabitants. At Rehalviller the village priest, the Abbe Barbot, was shot down in the street and his body remained unburied during the entire time of the German occupation. At Frainbois the Abbe Mathieu was made a prisoner and was compelled to be present while two of the oldest inhabitants of the village were executed by a firing squad of twenty-four soldiers.

The official report covers forty-eight columns in the Journal Officiel. It enumerates hundreds of cases which have been omitted in this summary and the commissioner's point out on the other hand that they have related only a small part of what they saw. The commissioners submit their report without any comment and the document is presented in the same manner in the official gazette of the French Republic.

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