

STORIES OF GERMAN ATROCITIES NOT PROVED, SAYS AMERICAN WRITER

The Chicago Tribune prints a long copyrighted dispatch from James O'Donnell Bennett, staff correspondent, dated at Aix-la-Chapelle, Germany, which in specific detail disputes and denies the charges of cruelties and atrocities lodged against the Germans in Belgium. Mr. Bennett, in company with John T. McCutcheon of the Chicago Tribune, Irvin S. Cobb of the Saturday Evening Post, Roger Lewis of the Associated Press and Harry Hanson of the Chicago Daily News, traveled 100 miles through 20 towns and their observations led him to the firm conviction that the reports of barbarities alleged to have been perpetrated by German troops are falsehoods.

The following dispatch to the Associated Press, evidently forwarded by Roger Lewis, is in substantial agreement with Mr. Bennett's story in the Chicago Tribune:

By the Associated Press. New York.—An Associated Press staff correspondent of American birth and antecedents, who was sent from the New York office and was caught in Brussels at the time of the German invasion, held as a prisoner for several days, and who finally escaped to Holland, has sent by mail the following story of his experiences:

"The night before the Germans entered Brussels, when the Belgian civil guards and refugees began pouring into the city from the direction of Louvain, they brought stories of unspeakable German atrocities, maltreatment of old men and children, and the violation of women.

"The Belgian capital reeled with apprehension. Within an hour the gaiety, the vivacity, and brilliancy of the city went out like a broken arc light. The radiance of the cafes was exchanged for darkness; whispering groups of residents broke up hurriedly and locked themselves into their homes, where they put up the shutters and drew in their tri-colored Belgian flags.

"Fears of Brussels quieted. The historic Belgian city went through a state of morbid consternation, remarkably like that from which it suffered on June 18, 1815, when it trembled with the fear of a French victory at Waterloo.

"In less than 24 hours the Belgian citizens were chatting comfortably with the German invaders and the allegations of German brutality and dehumanized torture dissolved into one of the myths which have accompanied all wars.

"Neither in Brussels nor in its environs was a single offensive act, so far as I know, committed by a German soldier. In a city of over half a million people, invaded by a hostile army of perhaps a quarter of a million soldiers, no act sufficiently flagrant to demand punishment or to awaken protest came to my attention.

"None Knows of Outrages. The frightful reports that had preceded the German army into Brussels included the disemboweling of old men and the impaling of children on lances just outside Louvain. Investigation not only failed to substantiate these rumors, but could not even discover any one in the immediate vicinity who credited them.

"An eye witness of unimpeachable veracity told me that the worst behavior he had observed during the first German entry into Louvain (August 19) was that of a German soldier who leaned from his horse and kissed a pretty Flemish girl who brought him a glass of beer.

"I marched for days with the German columns, often only one day behind the fighting, with the houses that had been burned still smoldering, the ground freshly broken by shell and trampled by horses and men, and the memory of the German advance vivid in the minds of the inhabitants.

"No Proofs of Murder. I interviewed an average of twenty persons in each of a dozen towns and found only one instance of a non-combatant who had been killed without a justifiable provocation. In this case the evidence did not clearly prove that the man had been wantonly murdered.

"He lived in one of the typical small Belgian countryside houses which combine the comforts of home with the lure of a small public bar. This house was at the north of Merbes-le-Chateau, a town through which a large part of the German army passed on the road to Maubeuge.

"A son of the murdered man, whose name was Arthur Nicodem, showed me blood clots on the floor marking the place where Nicodem fell, his throat cut by a saw-edged German sabre.

"English Fired From House. It was said by some inhabitants that the murdered man showed a pair of binoculars; but a more probable explanation is that English outposts had concealed themselves in the house, from which they poured a rain of fire

upon the first German invaders. The inference that the shooting was done by Belgian civilians may have inflamed the Germans to reprisals.

"In that neighborhood four houses had been burned and one was still ablaze as I passed on Wednesday, Aug. 26.

"This town of Merbes-le-Chateau, which had been the scene of an unimportant skirmish between the Germans and English on the previous Sunday, was riddled with rifle shots. The small number of windows intact showed that the Germans had made a deliberate assault upon the residents of the town. But the inhabitants themselves admitted that all of the shooting had been done by a comparatively small number of Germans, and that the firing had not been begun until English soldiers who had concealed themselves in the houses had fired first upon the Germans.

News of Incident Goes Far. "I have emphasized the one fatality of the non-combatant because the news of it traveled up and down the Sambre and across to Hantes-Wiberie and Solre-sur-Sambre, multiplying as it went and developing ghastly and inhuman details until it seemed an unanswerable reproach to the whole German empire.

"With this one possible exception, I did not encounter in Nivelles, in Binche, Buissiere, or Solre-sur-Sambre, or any of the other towns I visited, a single incident of mistreatment or any sort by German officers or soldiers.

"Bruissiere—particularly the lower part of the city—had been virtually destroyed by a cross fire from French and German artillery. Tops of breweries had been hurled bodily to the ground, and walls had either disappeared or become grotesquely discolored.

Burgomaster Denies Reports. "Into this town 130 French killed and more than a hundred wounded were brought in a single day. August Blalraux, burgomaster, said that he knew of no cases of German cruelties, except distant rumors which he had learned to discredit. It ought to be said to the credit of the Belgians that they have not allowed their bitterness toward the Germans to carry them into unfair recrimination.

"Robert J. Thompson, American consul at Aachen, visited Liege during and after the capture of the forts. It is the opinion of Mr. Thompson that no outrage was committed by Germans during the several days' fighting there.

"There are, of course, reported outrages beyond investigation, either on account of their vagueness or because it is impossible to weigh the provocation. It is known, for instance, that 112 natives were killed in Renouchamp, not far from Ardennes; German soldiers say that they were killed because they fired upon them from the roofs and windows of the houses.

Differ on Louvain Incident. "The history of the absolute destruction of the historic city of Louvain with its cathedral and its university is by this time well known. The German version of this is that the inhabitants, under the direction of the burgomaster, established themselves in the church, where they also installed a machine gun. They proceeded to greet the Germans with a deadly fire.

"The Belgians say, on the other hand, that part of the German army, mistaking one of their own retiring divisions for the enemy, opened fire upon them, whereupon, deluded into thinking this an assault by Belgian civilians, the Germans razed the city.

"I have not been able to acquire any direct evidence in regard to these last two instances, but the explanation generally credited by disinterested persons is that the Belgians, who had laid down their arms, according to the burgomaster's proclamation on the entrance of the enemy, took them up again when it looked as if the Germans were retreating from the town, and opened fire from their windows upon a retiring German train.

Jarozsky Tells Outrages. "The most authoritative German denial of German offense comes from Maj. Gen. Thaddeus von Jarozsky, military governor of Brussels, who informed me that in numerous cases he had been received with a pretense of friendliness by Belgian civilians, who later fired upon the German soldiers from windows and from between the roof tiles. This was done, he said, after a declaration of surrender by the burgomaster and a proclamation warning the citizens against any show of resistance.

"In such violations of the rules of war, the general said, he punished the offender by burning the houses from which the shots were fired.

"I can only say that in every case of reported outrage or reprisal which

was susceptible of investigation I have found either that the outrage was a figment of the Belgian mind or that it was more than half excused by circumstances.

"The prevalence of the Belgian practice of sniping from the houses was perhaps indicated by the warning of the German officer who acted as guard for five American correspondents, including myself, who were being taken as prisoners from Beaumont to Aachen in an army train. We were advised to lie down on the floor of the car as the Belgian snipers would shoot at us from the houses. But there was no firing.

"This, of course, is not a brief for the German army; it is an account of German conduct as it appeared to an impartial observer who had the rather extraordinary opportunity of traveling for days with the German columns, over a distance of more than a hundred miles through a dozen important cities and towns.

"Sometimes I was near enough to the front to see the white artillery smoke spurt into clouds along the horizon and hear the double detonations which came from artillery at short range. At other times I trailed behind through the desolate waste which a victorious army leaves behind it.

Pay All and Tip Well. "On the contrary, I witnessed numerous cases of the most careful courtesy on the part of German soldiers. In Brussels they not only paid their cafe bills, but tipped generously. Along the road, when a German officer or soldier entered a Belgian house for food or shelter, it was not with a demand but a request. In spite of the confusion and errors which arose from a strange tongue there was almost no friction of any sort.

"The German soldiers were punctiliously considerate and polite to women and children, apologizing for the discomfort they were causing. Upon leaving a house where they have been given shelter, I have seen them shake hands with the concierge, peasant woman, or in some cases with the gentlewoman of a Belgian villa, as pleasantly as if they were bidding adieu to their hosts at a week-end house party.

"So many instances of this sort are at hand that a recital of them would be tedious.

"Naturally inclined to be gruff with their soldiers, the German officers always gave the French prisoners a pleasant word, and treated them with every consideration. Not a single exception to this civility toward prisoners has come to my attention.

"A French lieutenant and two English officers traveled with us in the prison train from Beaumont to Aachen, a halting journey which took over thirty-six hours. The train was crowded with German wounded and French and English prisoners, and there was nothing to eat or drink, except a few fragments of rye bread, hard as a stone, and a little liquid compound of chicory, which in Belgium masquerades under the name of coffee. Since there was not enough of this disheartening fare to go around, German officers went without food so that the prisoners might be fed.

Aid Owners of Cafe. "In a little cafe in Beaumont, concierge and madame had fled before the approach of the soldiers and abandoned their business. Two officers found them in hiding, brought them back, and in a day they had taken in more money than in any previous week in their career.

"These incidents could be indefinitely prolonged, but they would only offer additional support to a point that I think I have already established—the universal kindness of German soldiers as I have observed them.

"I have seen perhaps half a dozen cases of drunkenness in observing nearly 1,000,000 soldiers, and these few were only good-naturedly mauling. In Beaumont while I was detained for 24 hours in the small cafe previously mentioned, with an armed guard at the door, although specifically told that I was not an ordinary prisoner, a swaggering petty officer of some sort, lunged toward me and showed me the sharp convincing edge of his sword, insisting that I run my hand across it.

Warned to Avoid Drinking. "German discipline and German training seem to have put into the German soldier an exemplary behavior which is nothing less than remarkable. Before I fell asleep on the floor of the Beaumont cafe, with two German soldiers' guns slanting almost over me, I heard the petty officer who was in charge of us, giving instructions to the guards, which included the statement that any one of us who stirred outside the door should be shot. Then he counseled them, almost in a fatherly way to drink only moderately, stating that if they became drunk he would recommend a sentence of 15 years in the penitentiary.

"If the conduct of the German soldier errs at all it is on the side of a too complete subordination. It is impossible for any one who has seen much of the German system to believe in the tales of deliberate depredations and unsoldierly conduct.

"Our comrades in the eastern army also fought gallantly, also the army of the crown prince. The fourth army, under the duke of Wurtemberg, advanced victoriously. Our enemies are withdrawing in flight.

"The eastern army has driven three Russian corps over the frontier. Two Russian corps capitulated on the open field. Sixty thousand men and two generals were taken prisoners.

"For all these victories we have to thank but one—that is our God, who is ever over us."

THE NEWS TOLD IN PARAGRAPHS

Latest Happenings Gleaned From All Over the State.

LIVE NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Child Finds Mother Dead—Mother Saves Family From Fire—Five Hurt in Gasoline Explosion. Steeple Jack's Fall Fatal.

William Zimmerman, a well-known Dauphin county farmer, was found dead in bed at his home in Halifax.

Fremont Lenke, financial secretary of Camp 52, P. O. S. of A., at Tower City, was sent to jail for one year for embezzling \$133 belonging to the camp.

James V. Murray, corporation clerk in the Auditor General's department, and a taxation expert, has resigned to resume his practice.

Members of the Dolphin County Bar endorsed the candidacy for Judge Geo. Kunkel for Supreme Court Justice and named a Campaign Committee.

David Reber, an aged resident of Cresona, was arrested by State police, charged with setting fire to his own home at that place.

In a fall from a wagon, when the seat tilted, August O. England, of West Chester, suffered fractures of both wrists.

The Cumberland County Grand Jury found a true bill against Max Morganthau, charged with the murder of John M. Rupp, a farmer.

George S. Thiels, a brakeman, of Pottsville, was badly injured when he fell from his freight train between two cars. He may recover.

Orlando Dowlands, of West Cain, has been arrested for the larceny of a lot of school books from the wagon of Israel Berry, one of the School Directors.

John Miller and his son David were seriously injured when the rope of the scaffold on which they were painting at Schuylkill Haven broke. They fell more than thirty feet.

Fire that is thought to have been caused by mice nibbling at matches caused a loss of \$1000 to the home of Alfred Steinholtz at Boyertown. The family were almost suffocated by the smoke.

A little child of Mrs. David Wetzel, thirty-four years old, of Baumstown, found her dead upon the kitchen floor from inhaling illuminating gas. The keyholes and windows were found stuffed.

Morris Brehm was probably fatally burned and four other men seriously hurt when a gasoline tank blew up in a garage at Harrisburg. Brehm had only been working in the establishment a week.

Mrs. John Shaffner, wife of a farmer living near Harrisburg, saved the lives of her five children by throwing them out of windows when their home caught fire. The father jumped from the window first and caught the youngsters. The home was destroyed.

The Stewartstown Agricultural Association, which annually conducts fairs all over York county, has been chartered with a capitalization of ten thousand dollars. Sixty-nine names of subscribers are attached to the charter.

Losing his balance while working on a church steeple, Frederick Holtzapfel, seventy-two years old, of Beaver Springs, fell fifty feet there and sustained injuries from which he died an hour later. It was the steeple jack's first accident in the fifty years he followed that dangerous trade.

Mrs. Alene Troxell, who shot her husband, former Assemblyman Harry G. Troxell, as he was entering their home last Christmas night in Criminal Court at Williamsport, entered a plea of nolo contendere to a charge of assault and battery and Judge Whitehead, after directing her to pay the costs and get rid of any firearms she might have, suspended sentence.

Patrick J. Price, thirty-eight years old, and son of Thomas Price, former burgess of Archibald borough, was found dead in a gas-filled room in a hotel on Pennsylvania avenue. Whether Price, who was one of the best known young men in Lackawanna county, committed suicide or accidentally left the gas jet open has not yet been determined by the authorities.

The Treasury Department at Washington notified Joseph H. Shepp that it would purchase the South Ward school building site on West Broad Street, Tamaqua, for \$22,000 as offered by the school board. The Department has also purchased ten feet of adjoining ground from A. W. S. Loewen and upon the plot will erect a Federal building, an appropriation for which has already been made.

STATE COLLEGE ENROLLS 3250

Commutation of Death Sentence Granted One.

STATE TAKES OVER SCHOOL

Public Service Body Has Union Station Case—Police Chiefs Of State Form Association—Blames Carelessness For Fires.

Commutation Of Death Sentence.

Harrisburg—Commutation of the death sentence was refused two men and granted to one, the applications of two others being continued by the State Board of Pardons at its September session. John Chmielewski, Lackawanna, and William Abel, Philadelphia, both of whom are to be hanged this week, were refused commutation, and it was granted to Martin Fleming, Dauphin. The cases of Malena Massa, Schuylkill, and Alexander De Filippis, Beaver, were held over.

The board recommended pardons as follows: John McFalls, Philadelphia, assault and battery; William Snyder, Lackawanna, enticing; Leonard Collier, Huntingdon, assault; Adam Phillips, Luzerne, assault and battery; Sam Spina, Luzerne, felonious wounding; Frank Henry Olesnovitch, Lackawanna, highway robbery; Elisha Cole, Chester, attempt to rape; Herbert Priem, Lackawanna, second degree murder.

These applications were refused: Luka Zareovic, Dauphin, second degree murder; Albert S. Von Neida, Philadelphia, murder, committed in 1897; Michael Yowersky, Lackawanna, attempt to rape.

Favor Selling By Weight.

Reports made by almost all of the sixty city and county sealers of weights and measures attending the State convention of such officials at the recent sessions endorsed the proposition to sell all commodities by weight and favored a uniform system of marking. The reports indicated that thousands of inspections had been made in every county, Philadelphia reporting 111,000, and that hundreds of false weights and measures had been confiscated. Co-operation on the part of manufacturers of containers, weights and scales with the sealers in their efforts to obtain compliance with law was generally noted. The convention heard addresses by Louis A. Fischer, chief of the national division of weights and measures at Washington; W. L. Janssen, city sealer of Scranton, and John F. McGroarty, county sealer, Luzerne.

Union Station Case.

The Central Railroad of New Jersey raised the question of jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission to require it to permit other railroads to unite with it in erection of a union station. The case arose out of the petition of the city of Scranton for the Commission to issue an order for the Central to have other railroads join with it in the enterprise. The York Water Company contended that the city of York had no right to require the company to install meters under terms of an ordinance when the State Commission regulates such matters.

Police Chiefs Form Association.

Twenty-seven chiefs of police formed the State Association of Chiefs of Police, with James N. Tillard, of Altoona, as president. Other officers elected were Charles Evans, South Bethlehem, vice president; Geo. W. Harder, Williamsport, secretary and treasurer; Executive Committee, James Robinson, Philadelphia, chairman; Colonel J. B. Hutchinson, Harrisburg, and Superintendent Robinson, Philadelphia, made addresses.

Sealers Urge Sale By Weight.

The sale of all commodities by weight was advocated at the opening of the third conference of the sealers of weights and measures of Pennsylvania by Harry A. Boyer, president of the association. He urged that the association take up the matter of uniform sealing and marking after inspecting. He said that the general construction of scales of all descriptions had improved as had the liquid measures.

Blames Carelessness For Fires.

Sixty per cent of 16,500 fires investigated by the State Fire Marshal's office in two years are declared by State Fire Marshal J. L. Baldwin to have been due to carelessness, and he has directed his deputies and the fire officials in the municipalities of the State to start a crusade to bring about better prevention.

State College Enrolls 3,250.

The sixty-sixth year of the Pennsylvania State College opened with an attendance of 3,250 in all courses. The number has quadrupled in seven years. The Freshman class has been limited to 600 owing to lack of building accommodations, more than 200 applications having been rejected.

Keep Down Uric Acid

Uric acid is a poison formed inside our bodies in digesting certain foods, especially meat, and by the burning up of nerve and muscle cells during exertion.

Uric acid is harmful as long as the kidneys who create and excrete, make uric acid so fast that it overloads the blood, weakens the kidneys, and attacks the nerves, causing rheumatic pains. It forms gravel, hardens the arteries and brings on dropsy or Bright's disease. By removing the kidneys to normal activity Doan's Kidney Pills help to overcome excessive uric acid.

A Maryland Case

"Every Picture Tells a Story" Mrs. N. U. Miller, 1559 Jackson St., Baltimore, Md., says: "For over a year I had kidney complaint. Any sudden move caused a pain in my back and often I was unable to sleep. My feet and ankles swelled badly and mornings I couldn't get my shoes on. I almost frantic. Two boxes of Doan's Kidney Pills completely cured me and today I am in good health."

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Eye to Business.

A young suburban doctor whose practice was not very great sat in his study reading away a lazy afternoon in early summer. His manservant appeared at the door.

"Doctor, them boys is stealin' your green peaches again. Shall I chase them away?"

The doctor looked thoughtful for a moment, then leveled his eyes at the servant.

"No," he said.—Lippincott's.

REMARKABLE LETTER FROM A WELL KNOWN WASHINGTON DRUGGIST. In reference to Elixir Hahlek the great remedy for cholera and fever and all malarial diseases. "Within the last five months I have used 500 bottles of Elixir Hahlek for Malaria, Chills and Fever. Our customers speak very well of it. Henry Evans, 923 F St., N. W., Washington, D. C." Elixir Hahlek 50 cents all druggists, or by Parcel Post, prepaid, from Kloczewski & Co., Washington, D. C.

He's Too Good. Dolly—At last I have met my ideal! Kind hearted, modest, patient, self-denying! But, alas, married!

Daisy—Don't worry! No woman will live long with such a freak! You'll get a chance at him.

Shame on Him. "What is your friend so elated about?" "Seems his wife is marooned in Europe."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Queer Talk. "So poor old Bill has gone under." "Yes, they say his business is going up."

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W. N. U., BALTIMORE, NO. 39-1914.

KAISER ADDRESSES TROOPS AT VIRTON

Rotterdam.—The Cologne Gazette reports that the German emperor delivered a speech to his troops after the battle of Virton, near Longwy, when he visited his son, Prince Oscar, who is commandant of the grenadiers.

The Kaiser appeared in the evening with his suite in five automobiles. He kissed his son and then walked along

the lines greeting the men, who were quartered in the village. Standing in the middle of the square, the Kaiser said:

"I greet you as your chief. I thank you. I have often seen your regiment on parade and now it gives me particular pleasure to greet you on conquered land.

"Your regiment fought as I expected and as your fathers fought in 1871. The battle of Virton will be eternally inscribed in letters of gold in the history of the war.

"Our comrades in the eastern army also fought gallantly, also the army of the crown prince. The fourth army, under the duke of Wurtemberg, advanced victoriously. Our enemies are withdrawing in flight.

"The eastern army has driven three Russian corps over the frontier. Two Russian corps capitulated on the open field. Sixty thousand men and two generals were taken prisoners.