

GERMANS CONSCRIPT 8000 GIRLS OF LILLE

Terror Held Hearts of Inhabitants Four Years—Many Tales of Horror Revealed to Deliverers—Russian Prisoners Treated Like Dogs

By PHILIP GIBBS Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. With the British Armies in France, Oct. 21.

To go into Lille was as good as anything that could come to a man who had seen four years of war, and I am glad that I lived to see the liberation of that city, to see the joy of thousands of people who during all those four years have suffered tragic things, unforgetable outrages to their liberty and spirit, and have dwelt under a dark spell of fear, and have waited month after month, year after year, with a faith that sometimes weakened, but never died, for the rescue that has now come to them.

It seems a miracle to them, now that it has come suddenly, and they fill their streets like people in a dream, hugging their gladness, yet almost afraid that it is unreal and that they may wake again to find the swarms of field gray men about them and guns in their gardens and the German law hanging upon them.

They opened their arms in great embraces of gratitude and love for those who have helped to rescue them from their bondage, and I saw the joy of vast crowds, and the light in thousands of eyes was like sunlight, and I have seen in a few hours one make hundreds of friends who thrust gifts into one's hands and poured out their emotion in words of utter simplicity and truth, and thanked one person as though he were all the army and had done this thing alone.

It was overwhelming and uplifting. Before one had gone far up the first avenue of Lille one was surrounded by a great crowd. A lady broke through the ring and, clasping both hands, said: "I embrace you for the gladness you have brought us."

"Children walked hand in hand with me for a little way as if they had known me for years and talked all the time of their gladness because the German men had gone. Then other children took their places and other groups gathered and one was closed in by new crowds who set one's hands and cried: "Welcome! Welcome! Long live England!"

But many times in the crowds I heard English voices, and ladies came forward a little and the groups parted so that we might talk. They had been caught in Lille when the Germans came and had suffered four years' agony. "We have longed for this day," said one of them, "and now it is like a dream. We can hardly believe that all those gray men have gone and that we are free."

An American doctor at Lille took me into his house, where I sat in his presence and drank a glass of wine with him and saw his secret cupboard, where he had hidden his brass ornaments from the enemy, who had determined that every scrap of brass in Lille should be taken. In those apartments, as elegant as any in London or Paris, or a thousand miles remote from the war, though only a mile or two, I heard many things of German brutality and German oppression and the tragedy of the besieged city.

Then there was an English clergyman, who for four years had ministered to the English wounded and recited prayers over the English dead. Mr. Moore is his name, an earnest housekeeper in Miss Browne's convent in Yorkshire, and his cat is called Bunny, and he has people in England who will be glad to hear after all this time that the clergyman and the housekeeper and the cat have survived the ordeal of war.

BRUGES GAY AS ALLIES ENTER CITY

Burgheers Raise Their Hats and Sing "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary" People Cheer Belgian Cavalry and the Old Bell Adds Its Peals to Joyous Acclaim

By PHILIP GIBBS Continued from Page One wept because their hearts had overbrimmed. As at Lille and Roubaix and Tourcoing, so in Bruges, everybody spoke a little English, even the children, because they had been learning for four years until this day should come. They gathered around, all speaking together, all telling of the things they had suffered, all passionate against the enemy, who had been hard with them, who had robbed them, imprisoned them, outraged their liberties and their homes.

"They forced our young girls to work in the fields," said a Flemish lady. "They stole everything," said hundreds of people. "There is hardly a man in Bruges who has not been in prison," said the old Burgomaster, Viazet de Bocarme. "They are pigs," said a young nun. But above all this flame of indignation there was gladness, because the evil spell had been broken that very morning and the enemy had gone. "I drove round Bruges with a swarm of boys like fleas on our car, and as we drove they sang patriotic songs and the crowds cheered again. I saw with a group of old burgheers raised their hats and sang, "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary," from one end to the other, and while another crowd scrambled to get my shoulder bagges, I was an English man in khaki, and that was good enough for them, though I had done nothing to help them except to write feeble words.

60,000 Requisitions by foe The noble old burgomaster, Viazet de Bocarme told me the hard facts of the German occupation of Bruges. They had 60,000 requisitions put upon them, so that they had to deliver up property to the value of \$1,000,000. They took all the wine of Bruges at the nominal price of forty-one cents a bottle. They made four separate demands for everything made of copper and paid nothing for it. They destroyed all the machinery in the great works of La Bruggeoise where 2500 workmen were employed.

They put upon the town fantastic expenses, as when they furnished a rest house for German officers at the expense of nearly \$5000, and made a winter garden, with marble baths, like those at Pompeii, at a cost of \$10,000, the only result being that one German bishop had one bath there and no one else.

British Hury for Retreat Meanwhile, southward on the British front the troops continue, not without difficulty, to hasten to the enemy retreat from the big cities long held in bondage. They are now well beyond Tourcoing and Roubaix, those two big manufacturing towns, which have linked up with Lille. They were the east Yorks and other troops of the Thirty-first division, who took Tourcoing and are now pushing out to villages beyond Mons, where the bombardment of the town has been shattered, like many other false dreams which for a little while seemed in touch with reality.

Life in Roubaix and Tourcoing as hard as in Lille. There are many rich manufacturers in these towns and among them a number of Yorkshire and Lancashire business men with great industries such as Mr. Richardson, who had a cotton mill employing nearly 5000 men before it was stripped of all its machinery by the enemy. Food could be had by those with money enough to pay for it, \$12.50 for a pound of butter, and everything on the same scale. But many poor people, I am told, died of starvation and there was general misery.

At Lille I was told by distinguished citizens that seven out of every ten men had been in prison at some time or other "for refusing to pay fines or for other crimes against German oppression. In Tourcoing, as has been mentioned, the manufacturer whom I had mentioned, was actually taken as a hostage and imprisoned six weeks in Germany for the fantastic reason that the French had shelled Alexandria.

At Ostend there are 25,000 out of 45,000 people still living in the town, and about half of them were rescued from the sea front when Sir Robert Keyes landed from his flagship. When he went on shore in a motor launch, which put off from a destroyer with the King and Queen of the Belgians, they were greeted with overwhelming enthusiasm. The last Germans left Ostend at 9 o'clock last Thursday morning, but they still had machine guns on the outskirts of the town near the gas factory and the port was still within range of the German guns when the King and Queen landed and went through the streets. The King and Queen were so closely pressed by cheering crowds, eager to touch them and to kiss their hands that they could hardly move.

The gallant old Vindictive lies afloat across the mole and the enemy, before leaving, sank three more vessels, including a mail steamer and a dredger. In order to block up the fairway, but there is still room for small craft to pass.

"RAINBOWS" WIN GLORY IN A YEAR

42d Division, Which Left U. S. October 17, 1917, Has Great Record WAS IN MANY BATTLES

By EDWIN L. JAMES Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. With the American Army in France, Oct. 21.

The Forty-second (Rainbow) Division, one of the crack units of the American army, left the United States just a year ago. On October 18, 1917, its headquarters and certain elements of the division left America and the remainder followed on the succeeding days.

It is no wonder that there is no pardon in the hearts of French women for other women of their own town, who in weakness of character and looseness of heart, were beguiled into relationship with the Germans. Trainloads of these women left some of the towns in a woman's outfit and were taken to France by the British soldiers to whom this is largely due are still facing German gunfire and machine-gun bullets.

British Sail Fighting Sunday morning British troops of the First, Second and Third armies advanced on a general line east of Courtrai, Roubaix and Douai. The Fourth Army, on the right, in touch with the French, the value of which was the result of opposition from machine-gun rear guards and have taken a large quantity of war material in Le Cateau.

With the American troops have advanced with the gallantry and have taken many prisoners. On the Third Army front there was an attack at 2 o'clock Sunday morning and a number of prisoners and machine guns were taken. Around St. Python, southwest of Valenciennes, there was hard fighting.

The village of St. Python was stubbornly defended with barricades in the streets and machine guns in the houses. On the Second Army front the British troops crossed the river Lys and came astride the Courtrai-Tournoi road and are advancing toward Rollegheun south of Courtrai itself.

In a recent message I described how 45,000 people on one side of the canal, with 5000 others among the British troops on the west side, were waiting in their cellars, with heavy fire very close to them, for deliverance from captivity. These people should now be free after a terrible experience of fear and hunger and agonizing hope, which has lasted through several days and nights.

They have had worse times than the people in Lille and Tourcoing, Roubaix and Bruges, when the enemy had no fought against before his flight, but now they, too, will enjoy the best things, which is freedom from hostile rule, and their thanksgiving will go up to the powers which is traveling over Belgium and northern France and is the voice of the brave people who have suffered four years of misery and now are glad.

There is no German proclamation asking Belgian civilians to demonstrate their loyalty to the Allied troops, and they say that in order to make things easy with President Wilson, it has been decided to avoid the bombardment of towns with large populations, though this does not apply to the villages which are now being shelled by the enemy, so that the civilians have been killed during the last two days.

Food could be had by those with money enough to pay for it, \$12.50 for a pound of butter, and everything on the same scale. But many poor people, I am told, died of starvation and there was general misery.