



LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

German barbarians: what they say..

[s.l.]: French War Office, [s.d.]

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/47UTQEYQGGD5Y83>

This material may be protected by copyright law (e.g., Title 17, US Code).

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

German Barbarians

WHAT THEY SAY :

« As representatives of German science and art, we, the undersigned, do solemnly protest, before the civilized world, against the lies and slanders with which our enemies have recently stained Germany's just and good cause...

» **IT IS NOT TRUE** that we are waging war contrary to the law of nations. Our soldiers are guilty neither of indiscipline nor of cruelty...

» **Believe us !** Believe that, in this struggle, we will go to the end as a civilized people, as a people to whom the inheritance of a Goethe, a Beethoven and a Kant, is as sacred as its own land and its home. **We answer for it on our names and OUR HONOUR.** »

WILHELM VON BODE, *director of the Berlin Museums.* — L. BRENTANO, *prof. of political economy.* — F. VON DEFREGGER. — RICHARD DEHMEL. — A. DEISSMANN, *prof. of protestant theology.* — R. EUCKEN, *prof. of philosophy.* — LUDWIG FULDA. — ERNST HÆCKEL, *prof. of zoology.* — Prof. ADOLF VON HARNAK, *chief librarian of the Royal Library.* — GERHART HAUPTMANN. — MAX KLINGER. — P. LABAN, *prof. of Law.* — KARL LAMPRECHT, *prof. of history.* — MAX. LIEBERMANN. — F. VON LISZT, *prof. of Law.* — HEINRICH MORF, *prof. of roman philology.* — FRIED NAUMANN. — WALTER NERNST, *prof. of physics.* — WILHELM OSTWALD, *prof. of chemistry.* — MAX PLANCK, *prof. of physics.* — WILHELM RÖNTGEN, *prof. of physics.* — G. VON SCHMOLLER, *prof. of political economy.* — MARTIN SPAHN, *prof. of history.* — F. VON STUCK. — HERMANN SUDERMANN. — HANS THOMA. — WILHELM TRUBNER. — SIEGFRIED WAGNER. — FELIX VON WEINGARTNER. — WILHELM WINDELBAND, *prof. of philosophy.* — WILHELM WUNDT, *prof. of philosophy. Etc., etc.*

(Extract from the manifest of the German intellectuals.)

WHAT THEY DO :

THEIR CONFESSIONS

Longeviller, August 24th 1914.

Dorf durch die 11 Pioniere zerstört. 3 Frauen an den Bäumen erhängt...

Village destroyed by the 11th Engineers. Three women hanged on the trees...

(Extract from a German soldier's note-book.)

P. T. O.

THEIR CONFESSIONS (Continuation)

Cirey, August 24th.

In der Nacht sind unglaubliche Sachen passiert : Laden ausgeplündert, Geld gestohlen, Begewaltigungen. Einfach haarsträubend !...

In the night, incredible things have taken place : shops plundered, money stolen, violences... Simply to make your hair stand on end.

(From an officer's diary.)

Dinant, August 25th.

Die Belgier haben in Dinant an der Maas auf unser Regiment geschossen aus den Häusern. Es wurde erschossen was sich sehen liess bz. aus den Fenstern gestürzt, ob Weib oder Mann. Die Leichen lagen Meter hoch auf den Strassen...

The Belgians, at Dinant on the Meuse, fired on our regiment from inside the houses. We shot everyone we could see, or we threw them out of the windows, women as well as men. The bodies lay three feet high in the streets.

(From a soldier's diary.)

August 26th.

Das wunderschöne Dorf Gué d'Hossus soll ganz unschuldig in Flammen aufgegangen sein. Ein Radfahrer soll gestürzt sein und dabei sein Gewehr losgegangen; gleich ist auf ihn geschossen worden. Man hat männliche Einwohner einfach in die Flammen geworfen! Solche Scheusslichkeiten kommen hoffentlich nicht wieder vor. In Leppes sind etwa 200 Männer erschossen worden. Dort war ein Exempel am Platze; dass auch Unschuldige litten war unvermeidlich; ebenso ist aber eine Prüfung des Schuldverdachttes erforderlich auf dass dieses wahllose Niederknallen von Männern unterbunden wird...

The charming village of the Gué-d'Hossus, has apparently, though innocent, been destroyed by fire. It seems that a cyclist fell down, which made his gun go off of itself. He was immediately shot at. The male inhabitants were simply thrown into the flames. Let us hope that such horrors will not take place again. At Leppes, about 200 men were shot. There, an example was necessary; it was unavoidable that some innocents should suffer; but a proof of all suspicions of guilt ought to be required, so that such an indiscriminate shooting of all men might be controlled.

(Diary of an officer of the 178th regiment of infantry, 12th saxon army corps.)

Laval-Morancy, August 28th.

Anscheinend Ruhetag. Fassen aller Lebensmittel, Brot, Marmelade, Wein, Zigarren. Schlachten Gänse, Hühner; spiele Klavier, plündere feste...

Apparently a day of rest. Confiscation of all provisions : bread, jam, wine, cigars. Killed geese, chickens, etc. Played piano, plundered fast !...

(Diary of a soldier.)

The laws of war do not justify German atrocities

HOW GERMANY HONOURS HER SIGNATURE .

The HAGUE CONVENTION of the 18th of October 1907, signed by Germany, provides as follows :

ART. 2. — The inhabitants of an unoccupied territory, who, on the enemy's approach, rise spontaneously in arms in order to fight the invading troops, without having had time to organize themselves according to art. 1, shall be considered as combatants if they carry their arms openly and respect the laws and uses of war.

ART. 3. — The armed forces of the contending parties may be composed of combatants and non-combatants. In the case of capture by the enemy, both have the right to be treated as prisoners of war.

ART. 4. — The prisoners of war are under the power of the government of the enemy, but not of the individuals or groups who have taken them.

They must be treated with humanity.

Everything belonging to them personally, with the exception of arms, horses and military papers, remains their own property.

ART. 22. — The rights of the combatants, concerning the ways of injuring the enemy, are not without limits.

ART. 23. — Besides the prohibitions settled by special conventions, it is particularly forbidden :

- a) To use poison or poisoned weapons ;
- b) To kill or wound treacherously men belonging to the adverse army or nation ;
- c) To kill or wound an enemy who, having laid down his arms or having no means of defence, has surrendered unconditionally ;
- d) To declare that no quarter will be given ;

e) To use arms, missiles, or material which may cause unnecessary harm ;

f) To use unduly the flag of truce, the national flag, or the military badges and uniform of the enemy, as well as the distinctive marks of the Geneva Convention ;

g) To destroy or seize the property of the enemy, except in the cases when that seizure or destruction should be imperiously required by the necessities of war ;

h) To declare extinct, suspended or void in law the rights and legal actions of the citizens of the adverse country.

It is likewise forbidden to compel the citizens of the adverse party to take a part in the operations of war waged against their own country, even if they had been in the service of the enemy before the beginning of the war.

ART. 25. — It is forbidden to attack or bombard by any means whatever, towns, villages, houses or buildings which are undefended.

ART. 27. — In cases of sieges and bombardments, all necessary steps must be taken to spare as much as possible all buildings used for sacred worship, arts, sciences, and public relief ; historic buildings, hospitals, places where the wounded and the sick are gathered, provided those buildings are not used at the same time for any military purpose.

ART. 28. — It is forbidden to pillage a town or place, even after it has been taken by storm.

ART. 50. — No collective penalty, either as a fine or otherwise, can be required from the populations on account of individual acts, for which they could not be considered responsible as a whole.

ART. 51. — No tax shall be levied, except according to a written order from a general in command and on his own responsibility.

It will be collected, as much as possible, according to the rules for the assessment of the existing taxes.

The tax-payer shall be given a receipt for any money paid.

ART. 53. — The army occupying a territory shall be allowed to seize only the money, funds and valuables belonging exclusively to the State, the magazines of arms, means of transport, provisions, and generally all personal property of the State, which can be used for the operations of war.

So haben wir 8 Häuser mit der Einwohnern vernichtet. Aus einem

Wannu mit
sinn Iwonn sind
mir 18 jähriges Mädel
yon usseren. Das
Mädel konnte mir
leid tun den sie
musste sich in unser
Licht, aber
sinn. Wirte ge
yon die auf unsere
Mannschaft wir
sind, denn der
sind es keine Men
schen sonder Tiere
Wir sind jetzt auf
den Wege nach
Sedan.

Hause wurden allein
2 Männer mit
ihren Frauen und
ein 18 jähriges Mäd-
chen erstochen. Das
Mädel konnte mir
Leid tun den sie
machte solch unschul-
digen Blick, aber
man konnte ge-
gen die aufgeregte
Menge nicht aus-
richten, denn dann
sind es keine Men-
schen sonder Tiere
Wir sind jetzt auf
den Wege nach.
Sedan.

We have thus destroyed eight houses with their inhabitants. In one house only, two men with their wives and a girl of eighteen were stabbed with bayonets. I might have pitied the girl, for she had such an innocent way of looking at us, but it was impossible to do anything against the infuriated mob; then indeed they are no longer men but brutes. We are now on our way to Sedan.

(Last page of an unknown soldier's note-book.)

Rethel, September 8th.

Leider lässt die Disciplin mehr und mehr nach. Schnaps, Wein und Plündern sind in der Tagesordnung...

Unfortunately, discipline is getting looser and looser. Spirits, wine and plunder are the order of the day.

(From an officer's note-book.)

25 Kaffeeassessoren. Um 7.15 Abmarsch
 nach der Besetzung der Brücke.
 Um 10 Uhr Abmarsch nach Orchies.
 um 2 1/2 Uhr, Durchsuchung der Häuser. Sämtliche
 Civilpersonen werden verhaftet.
 Eine Frau wurde erschossen,
 weil sie auf "Halt" Rufen nicht hielt
 sondern ausreizen wollte. Hierauf
 verbrennen der ganzen Ortschaft.
 Um 7 u. Abmarsch von der brennenden

(September)
 25 Kaffeeassessoren. Um
 7.15 Abmarsch
 Wieder zur Besetzung
 der Brücke.
 Um 10 Uhr Abmarsch
 nach Orchies
 angekommen um
 1 1/2 4 Uhr. Durch-
 suchen der Häuser.
 Sämtliche
 Civilpersonen werden
 verhaftet.
 Eine Frau wurde
 erschossen,
 weil sie auf "Halt"
 Rufen nicht hielt
 sondern ausreizen
 wollte. Hierauf
 verbrennen der
 ganzen Ortschaft.
 Um 7 u. Abmarsch
 von der brennenden

25. Coffee. At 7.15, starting, again to occupy the bridge. At 10, starting for Orchies. Arrival at 2 p. m. Houses searched. All civilians are arrested. A woman was shot for not stopping at the command of « Halt » but trying to run away. Thereupon the whole place set on fire, etc.

(From a soldier's note-book.)

September 8th 1914.

Dienstag 8/9/14. — Wecken 5 Uhr morgens. Heftiges Waldgefecht. Artillerie griecht ein. Befehl alle Franzosen mit Ausnahme der Verwundeten niederzuschossen, auch wenn sie die Waffen strecken wollen, da die Franzosen uns bis auf nächste Entfernung herankommen liessen und dann mit heftigem Feuer überraschten.

Tuesday 8/9/14. — Reveille 5 a. m. Very violent fight in the woods. Artillery brought into action. Order to shoot down all Frenchmen, the wounded excepted, even if they offer to lay down their arms, because the French allowed us to come within a short distance, then took us by surprise with intense firing.

(Last page from a killed soldier's note-book.)

They spoke

They acted

Judge them.

The above extracts may be verified by comparison with the original documents, kept at the French War Office.