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NUMBER 85.

# REALITY.

THE WORLD'S SEARCHLIGHT ON GERMANY.



"MILITARY NECESSITY."



## GENERAL SMUTS' MESSAGE TO RUSSIA.

The Revolution in Russia seems to me to bring about an achievement, a result, which it otherwise might have taken another fifty years or a century of tragedy and of suffering to have brought about. The enormous strain of this war has broken the bonds of the Russian people, and once more they stand free and able to direct their own destinies. I can assure the Russian people that there is not in this country a man, a woman, or a child that does not sympathise profoundly with them, that does not rejoice in the heartiest manner with Russia in the events that have taken place there recently.

I remember that the Germans have always held up the Russians as a barbarous Power. They have always used this argument even against England. They say, "See what you are doing now." You are a part of the great Teutonic race; you are a civilised Power—not so highly civilised as we are, it is true—but you are lagging behind somewhat. At any rate we will give you the benefit of the doubt, and call you a branch of the great Teutonic race. See what you are doing. You are helping to degenerate the Latins of Southern Europe, France, and Italy, and on the other hand you are helping that barbarous power of Russia which can only be a danger to European peace and civilisation." That is the German argument. They look upon the Russians as barbarians, and upon the Russian power as a threat to the future of civilisation.

I have heard these arguments often in private conversation, and read them in books and in articles, but what is the truth? What was the state of affairs 100 years ago under Napoleon? Who saved Europe then? Was it not the "barbarous" power of Russia? Russia on that occasion, as on previous occasions, came in to save the world, and our hope and prayer in this great struggle is that Russia will do it once more. We wish the people of Russia well. We look forward to the day when that enormous power which is now seething in the revolutionary crisis through which it is passing will concentrate itself, organise itself, and discipline itself, and then march again at the head of civilisation, and help to break down this much-vaunted German civilisation, which is now the real threat to the civilisation of the world.

### FIGHT AGAINST TURKISH TYRANNY.

There is another point. Russia has always and consistently fought Turkey—that barbarous Power which has been trying to overwhelm civilisation from the South. All the other European Powers have anything but a clean record in this matter; even we in England have coquetted from time to time with the "bloody Turk." Russia has never done it. Russia has always been true to her inside instincts, and she has gone for the Turk whenever she has seen him. Now in this war nobody has struck harder blows at the Turk than Russia, and it is our wish, and our hope, and our trust that Russia will continue to bear her share in smashing this power of the Turk, because if there is one result we want to achieve in this war it is that the Turk shall never tyrannize any more over any Christian population. We have nothing against the Turks in their home land, but we must see, and Russia must help us in bringing it about, that this tyranny with which Turkey has ruled over Christian nations must cease for ever.

One of the results of the war will be the freeing and liberation of all the peoples who have groaned for hundreds of years under Turkish power. That has been the traditional policy of Russia, and we hope and trust she will remain true to that policy, and will see that no Christian nation is left under the rule of Turkey at the end of this war.

Germany is prepared to do anything. She will swallow all the nice formulas which Russian democracy or any other democracy may devise, and she will swallow Russia as well. She is clever enough to do that. She sits to-day over Belgium, Serbia, most of

Rumania, and 25 millions of Russians and people who formerly belonged to the Russian Empire; she has swallowed an enormous portion of Europe. Certainly, no word that official Germany has spoken leads us to infer that she will disgorge all these without being forced to do so. The official words spoken by the German Chancellor are all to this effect—they are prepared to make peace, longing for peace, thinking for peace, and praying for peace on the basis of the German victories, that is on the basis of what they have bitten off and are now trying to digest in Central Europe and in other parts of Europe. Such a peace will never happen. You may talk about peace without annexation or indemnity, but you must remember you are talking to a people who will swallow every formula, and everything besides, and swallow you in the end if you are not careful.

There is no doubt that this is a case for hard fighting. Germany, as Bismarck once said, is founded on blood and iron, and not on ideals and formulas; and what was brought about by blood and iron I suppose will have to be undone and smashed in the same way. Then only will it be possible for the Russian democracy, like other democracies in the world, to feel safety and security once more, and go towards the future with a feeling of optimism. I will therefore, while expressing the profoundest sympathy with our Russian comrades and the Russian people, say to them—Do not forget the others who are suffering. Do not forget Belgium.

### REMEMBER BELGIUM.

Belgium is crushed under the German heel to-day, but it is not of her choosing and her doing. The German Chancellor has himself admitted it was a sin that had been done, and they will never renounce the evil fruits of their victory unless forced to do so. I would appeal to our Russian brethren to remember Belgium. I have had occasion to see in other parts of the world what gallant efforts Belgium has been making. In East Africa and in Central Africa I saw some thousands of Belgian troops fighting, as it were, next door to me, fighting bravely and well and with the best results. As regards the Belgian people, not only the English but all the other democracies in the world ought to stand by them to the very end for the services they have rendered; and I am sure that nothing is further from the minds of the Russian democracy than to leave her Belgian Ally in the agony through which she is passing now. I am sure nothing is further from their minds, whatever formula may be for the moment devised in order to find a way to peace.

### THE CASE OF SERBIA.

Take the case of Serbia. Serbia was the reason why we went to war. She was going to be crushed under the Austrian heel, and Russia said this shall not be allowed. Serbia has in that way become the occasion probably of the greatest movement for freedom the world has ever seen. Are we going to forget Serbia? No! We must stand by those martyr peoples who have stood by the great forces of the world. If the great democracies of the world become tired, if they become faint, if they halt by the way, if they leave those little ones in the lurch, then they shall pay for it in wars more horrible than human mind can foresee. I am sure we shall stand by those little ones. They have gone under, but we have not gone under. England and America, France and Russia, have not gone under, and we shall see them through, and shame on us if ever the least thought enters our minds of not seeing them through.

I need not refer to the other smaller countries who have gone under, but we who are strong, we who have achieved power, have the heart and courage to see it through, and to see that peace is made which shall bring a free world not only for the big but for the little ones. I am sure I am expressing the thoughts and feelings of every Englishman and every Russian and every democrat in the world.—*Speech at the Grafton Galleries, May 30.*



## WHAT GERMAN SOLDIERS SAY.

The Hamburg *Fremdenblatt*, evidently anxious to maintain the morale of the German army and prevent its soldiers from surrendering, concocts an indictment against the British army. "No historian," it declares, "will dare to sully his pages with anything like a truthful record of the unspeakable bestialities perpetrated by the English troops in Belgium and France. The feature that strikes the eye most particularly is the immeasurable roughness with which the English soldiers treat Germans who fall into their hands, the torturing of whom amid a chorus of derisive laughter forms their chief diversion."

The best answer to this clumsy lie comes from German soldiers themselves. Below are extracts from two letters written by prisoners-of-war to relatives in Germany:

Lieut. L—, in hospital, France, to Dresden, March 9: "A splinter went right through my steel helmet and wounded me in the head; my left arm and leg were paralysed. My medical corps N.C.O. bandaged me and brought me to a dug-out, where I lay until the English came up. They behaved very decently. Of course I had to remain in the dug-out with several English wounded for twenty-four hours under a heavy German fire, until I could be moved. . . . Wherever I went I was treated in a kind and friendly manner, and got everything I wanted as far as it was possible. Nurses and a German-speaking doctor (he had studied in Germany) treated me very well. . . . The food is splendid. . . . I do not know how long I shall remain here. I hope a long time, for I cannot conceive a prisoner-of-war getting any better nursing and attention than here."

P— F—, German prisoner-of-war in France, to Eilsleben Magdeburg, April 11: "I am an English prisoner—it was a terrible battle. . . . Our opponents took us, a chivalrous enemy. Quite different to what we are told. . . . The treatment is very good—food excellent; we have butter, ham and bacon, cocoa; it may be different in the camps, but in the hospitals it is very good. Not an unkind word is said to us—the English are gentlemen. Poor Germany! Now that I have seen things here I can no longer believe in a victorious ending. The enemy are invulnerable and strong."

### "I HAD FEARED REPRISALS."

Nor are captured German soldiers less emphatic in paying tributes to British sailors, as the following letters prove:

J— K— G—, German prisoner-of-war in England, in a letter to Regensburg, April 18: "The hospital ship was torpedoed by the Germans, which is extremely unjust, and it was thanks only to the efficiency of the English sailors that all were saved. The treatment and food is everywhere equally good."

Lieut. S—, German prisoner-of-war in England, in a letter to Hamburg, April 18: "We were torpedoed on our way. . . . We were then put into life-boats and afterwards taken up to the escorting English torpedo-boats. . . . The English crew as well as the marines (torpedo-boat crews) behaved in an exemplary manner towards us. There were only German and English wounded on board, and I cannot understand why there is not a special route left for boats from France to England which are distinctly recognisable as hospital ships."

Lieut. B—, German prisoner-of-war in England, to Regensburg, April 18: "We were torpedoed and our hospital ship sunk. I went in a small life-boat, whose occupants were picked up in about an hour and a half by an English torpedo-boat. . . . The English behaved very decently. I had feared reprisals."

Lieut. B— had "feared reprisals." In other words, he had swallowed the lies of the Hamburg *Fremdenblatt*.

## ENGLAND "SERIOUSLY UNDER-ESTIMATED."

The German publicist, Köhler, writing in an article called "Wrong Roads," which has obtained wide publicity in Germany, warns his countrymen:

We assuredly must reckon with the reaction which will follow on the hard blows suffered by such a capable and determined nation as the British. Only dreamers think of an England "lying on the ground." If the further development of the war really brings England to the decision "thus far and no farther," she will devote her whole strength to reconstruction, and she will not shrink from strong measures, showing the energy and toughness of which she has given an example in the indisputably complete success of her system of conscription.

If we are just, we cannot hide the fact that we seriously underestimated England. If we really thought at the beginning of the war in August, 1914, that we should have finished the war by Christmas, such a view depended absolutely on the assumption that England would appear in the Continental theatre of war only with a tiny army. It was generally thought that such an army could be estimated at about 60,000 men. People wiped out of their memories the great experience of war which England had acquired in her numerous Colonial wars, and they made the mistake of leaving history out of account. The general public cannot, of course, know to what extent our authorities were clear about English armaments and the transport problem, but it was only gradually that we arrived at the certainty that we were in any case opposed by an enemy who, militarily, was extremely capable. The Kaiser, too, is exposing his illusions. Addressing German troops near Arras on May 20, he spoke of the "unheard-of supplies of ammunition of our adversaries," and added, "How long this war may last must depend upon God's will." That must be a depressing reflection for the Germans, who have gained a world-wide notoriety for their infractions of all laws—human and Divine.

## WE SHALL REMEMBER!

For every deed of darkness done  
There is a debt that must be paid;  
For every crime that fouls the Hun  
Full reparation shall be made.  
And every hour of suffering borne  
By noble comrades for our sake,  
And every breast from which was torn  
The spirit that no hate could break,  
We shall remember!

Hunger and thirst and bitter cold,  
The broken wrecks that once were men,  
The tales of agony untold,  
The torture of the stifling den,  
The toil among the bursting shells,  
The garbage that the swine despise,  
And all the several man-made hells  
That German Kultur could devise,  
We shall remember!

And those dear children of a land  
Ground down beneath the invader's heel  
Who stretched their weak but willing hands  
To comfort where they might not heal,  
Mere babes and women frail and weak  
Who gave from out their wretchedness  
Unheeding of the smitten cheek  
If they might soothe a friend's distress,  
We shall remember!

TOUGHSTONE, in the *Daily Mail*, June 2.



## GERMAN ARMY SCANDALS.

The revelations concerning German army scandals which were recently made by Dr. Müller, Herr Cohn, and others in the Reichstag, and supplemented by the Berlin *Tageblatt*, are still echoing their way through the German Press. The *Morgenpost* says:

"The punishment of binding men to the guns still remains in force, and, owing to the laxity of inspection of officers' encampments, regular orgies occur nightly, even in places immediately behind the front, while disgraceful religious and social disqualifications continue to guide the highest authorities in the appointment of officers.

"A business man or a shopkeeper, however he might have distinguished himself in the field, can never hope to rise to officer's rank. Aspirants are even examined as to the occupation of their fathers, and, in the event of the latter being engaged in trade of any sort, their sons' candidatures for commissions are at once cancelled.

"As to the Iron Cross scandal, information that has come to hand from various quarters enables us fully to corroborate the statement that persons who were never under fire, railway station commandants, commissariat employees, clerks, accountants, and even stable boys and officers' orderlies, become the recipients of the Iron Cross much more easily than infantrymen fighting at the front.

"So notorious is this that among soldiers at the front the standing joke is 'Rain of bullets in front, showers of orders in the rear.'"

## EXPOSING A FALLACY.

The following passages are taken from an article by Captain Persius in the *Berliner Tageblatt* of May 21. It may be noted that the whole edition was suppressed by order of the German Government:

"The expectations must be considerably reduced of those who believe that Great Britain can be brought to her knees by starvation, and will therefore sue for peace. As a matter of fact, very few Germans openly express the opinion that the English will be starved out within a few weeks or months as a result of German submarine warfare.

"We must not regard too casually the help of the United States. We must remember that since the beginning of the war the U.S. wharves have gone in for intensive expansion, and that their production has increased enormously. The support which the Entente may expect from the United States in the matter of merchant shipping is a factor which will have to be reckoned with from next autumn onwards.

"Before our enemies have completely exhausted their overseas tonnage a considerable time must elapse. To conceal the fact would only be doing an injury to those men on whom the German people are building their hopes—the crews of the German submarines. In order to appreciate and fully realise their task it is necessary to keep ourselves free from extravagant optimism."

## ITALY'S OFFENSIVE.

A correspondent of the *Messaggero* (May 30) states that all General Cadorna's objectives, from Tolmino as far as the sea, were achieved and exceeded after the third day of the battle on the Carso. "In the fortress of Boscomalo sixty dug-outs were discovered, full of material, munitions, arms, and corpses. The fortress was surrounded by a circle of defences to a depth of 1,000 yards. Near Flondar the Austrians, in the space of one hour, fired 1,000 shells of 350 (14-in.), 380 (15-in.), and 420 mm. (16½-in.), without killing a single Italian soldier. The Austrian losses were greater than in any other battle of the present war. After four days' fighting there still remained unburied from 20,000 to 30,000 Austrian corpses. Never has such slaughter been caused by the Italian and British guns." The Italian advance continues.

## 1878 AND 1917.

Two score years ago two German warships, the *Grosser Kurfürst* and another, came into collision off Folkestone. At the danger of their lives the fisherfolk of Folkestone saved several hundreds of men, and those who were drowned the town buried with full naval and military honours. Not only did they thus bury the dead and rescue those whom they could, but they heaped upon the rescued all the hospitality they could give. The German recognition was characteristic. It was Wilhelm I. who reigned in those days, and Wilhelm I. was pious. And to mark his appreciation of all that Folkestone had done he sent to the Vicar—a Bible richly bound. It was for use in the parish church. Besides, he sent a gold watch or two inscribed with the Imperial arms. You may still read on the monument erected by the German Government a list of the victims.

Now a new monument will arise. It will write in letters of fire the record of a murderer's infamy. The German raiders who flew over Folkestone on May 25 and killed seventy innocent civilians—men, women, and children—have left an ineffaceable memory. The destroyed houses, the men blotted out, even the women done to death, may at last long be forgotten, but the "cry of the children," the "small, slain body, the flower-like face," these will not pass!

## PROOF POSITIVE.

*The Kaiser on the Front near Arras:*

"It is not the Prussian or German manner to boast."

*Baron Hans von Wolzogen in the Berlin Post:*

"Holiness comes to bloom within the soul, but in the German soul alone does it come to fruition. The German soul is at once will and wisdom—moral will and soulful wisdom.

"In practical everyday life it makes itself recognisable by the peculiarly German quality of the sense of duty, a virtue which exists merely in a chrysalis state among all other peoples. It is we only who, as Schiller says, have absorbed the Divine in our wills.

"That which is so frequently described as the 'German inner consciousness' is really nothing more nor less than the wise will of our soul which has absorbed the will of God within it, and carries out that will as its highest duty.

"When we talk frankly and boldly about the 'German God,' what we mean to express thereby is the power of the Divine action within the German soul, for only in the German soul is centred the Kingdom of Heaven.

"This is German Christianity."

## THE TRUTH AT LAST!

"Away with Belgium! Death to Belgium! There are no longer any Belgians in the world. There are no more Belgian Ministers, nor Belgian Governments, nor Belgian King either."—*Rheinisch-Westfälische Zeitung*, May 28.