

I read it, and to my astonishment saw the first account of the now famous German retreat. The editor of the paper had put in brackets after it:—*Wohl et was edferigt!* A few days after followed the official German account, which stated that the Germans, meeting with superior forces in the neighborhood of Paris, had to retreat for tactical reasons. It did not say, as was reported in many English papers, that the Germans were defeated—loud protests were raised against this incorrect translation of their official account.

But I never heard of the Battle of the Marne, or of a blunder before Liege till I came across into Holland.

I might here remark that the German papers gave the minimum of news. Most of the matter daily circulated consisted of historical sketches or of polemics against the enemy: of actual war news there was little, and this little was mostly copied from Dutch and English papers. Censorship was very strict, and great care was taken to prevent party strife, or any form of criticism of the authorities and their methods of waging war. Two of the chief Cologne papers were suppressed in turn for a day or two, the *Kölnische Zeitung* on account of an article written about the late Pope Pius X., the *Kölnische Volkszeitung* for venturing to criticise a passage in the Kaiser's telegram to President Wilson, where he made an unfavorable allusion to the Belgian clergy. Fault-finding articles from the English press were sometimes reproduced in the German papers, to the no small astonishment of those who did not dare to think for themselves, but acted and thought just as the military authorities wished. This unity of the German people, this blind obedience of the will and judgment to such an unscrupulous government as the Prussian, is undoubtedly a great source of power and efficiency in time of war. It is a great military asset for a nation that is fighting to win at all costs. What shall we say as to the moral aspect of the question? The Germans knew nothing of atrocities committed in Belgium by their troops—they had never read of such in their own press, and they will not believe information coming from other sources. Therefore they have no scruples on this score. But the question is: Should they not insist on being better informed as to the course of events; should they not see that the game is played properly?

The campaign in the German press was just as thoroughly organised as that of the armies in the field. In the beginning Russia was the arch-enemy, but soon she lost this place of honor in favor of England. The complete unanimity of the press in denouncing England day after day seems to point to the fact that the lead must have been given by the Government. It was probably recognised that this was the best means of conducting the diplomatic campaign—of interesting the neutral powers in Germany's favor, and of weakening the bonds which held the Triple Entente together.

What was said of the British troops? The German soldiers generously acknowledged their great fighting powers. Every branch of the service was specially praised—infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineers, air-men. The only weak point in the force was that it was too small. One officer told me they were by far the best troops he had fought against; he was glad to meet such brave men in battle; they were, as he said, foemen worthy of his steel. In the beginning Germans had a supreme contempt for the English Army, and laughed at the idea of new armies being raised in a few weeks. What could they avail against the trained armies of the Continent? And, besides, the war would be over before they could be sent to the front. Many of the officers told me in the beginning that if a German army, even though small, could be landed in England it would quickly conquer the country. But if these hopes were ever entertained, they were quickly dispelled by the appearance of the new voluntary armies which were able to hold their own against the best troops Germany could send against them.

Very much has been spoken and written about French's 'contemptible little army,' though the Germans have repeatedly denied that the Kaiser ever used

such a phrase. I read some time ago in an English paper that it was used on the occasion of an army-order given by the Kaiser to his troops when passing through Aix-la-Chapelle on his way to the front. Now, I happened to be in Aix at the time, but never heard a word of any such order. It certainly never got into the local press. Rumor had it that the Kaiser slept for one night in a castle adjoining the town, guarded by only six soldiers. Some people said they recognised him as he passed by in his motor, but certain it is that no notice was given of his coming; he was not publicly received; there was no demonstration in his honor.

The German people had been well informed as to the political difficulties in Ireland before the outbreak of the war. It was confidently asserted that England would not dare to help France, for that would mean the dissolution of the Empire. I had often to give some explanation as to why Irishmen of all classes joined so loyally in the war. After the outbreak of hostilities one sometimes saw paragraphs in the German papers telling of dissension in Ireland. These were given a prominent place, though the original version in the *Times* was often difficult to find. But whatever illusions may have been entertained in the beginning, they were quickly dispelled. People wondered at the marvellous way in which the Empire held together.

I might here say a word about Zeppelins. Those which visited Liege, Namur, and Antwerp, generally passed over Aix before midnight on their way thither, and returned again early next morning. These airships had taken hold of the popular imagination. People took pride in them as being a national invention; there was something fascinating in their nightly raids. Much was said of their visiting London, and of their helping in a future naval action. When I returned to England I found people quite apathetic; they regarded the Zeppelin menace as a huge joke. The Germans' view was quite different. They took special delight in the fact that their air fleet was a sure means of striking a blow directly at England. The many advantages enjoyed by the Zeppelins were all well known to the Germans. I might enumerate a few here. They usually operate at night, when it is dangerous for the more unstable aeroplanes to ascend. If they fly high enough they cannot be reached by cannon from below; the accuracy of their aim is thus diminished, but that makes little difference if the target is large. Even a fleet of airships on our part is of no avail unless it happens to be concentrated in the proper place, and at the proper time to ward off an attack. This very rarely happens. If my enemy is armed with a loaded rifle, it is not enough for me to get a rifle of my own. I must take the initiative, and deprive him of his weapon, or of the power of using it. Thus it would seem that the only adequate defence against Zeppelin raids would be either to destroy the hostile fleet, or by operations on land and sea to drive the Germans so far away from our coasts, that we are outside the radius of action of their air-fleet.

The quiet life in the hospital was a strange contrast to the weird excitement of the battlefield. A spirit of quiet happiness pervaded the house. The consciousness of having done their duty helped the inmates to bear their sufferings with patience. Many indeed were maimed for life, many were never to leave the hospital alive. But they felt no resentment. Civilian Germany sang the 'Hymn of Hate,' but these men would have none of it. Experience at the front had taught them to respect their enemies, it showed them that they had to fight against a brave and generous foe, that British soldiers were men, and not the mixture of cruelty and cunning they had been led to expect. Thus they were strangely tolerant when contrasted with their countrymen, who in their salons sang the 'Hymn of Hate,' or from comfortable arm-chairs wrote off burning articles for the press. Experience had convinced them that the price to be paid was too great, that the amount of human suffering on every side was in no way commensurate with the gain to be hoped for. Was not the world big enough for us all? was an expression which was often on their lips.