

**DR. MUEHLON'S  
DIARY; NOTES WRITTEN  
EARLY IN THE WAR**

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Dr. Muehlon's diary; notes written early in the war by Wilhelm Muehlon

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**WILHELM MUEHLON**

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**DR. MUEHLON'S DIARY**

# Dr. Muehlon's Diary

Notes written early in the War  
by Dr. Wilhelm Muehlon,  
Ex-Director of Krupp's

With an Introductory Note by the Translator

UNIV. OF  
CALIFORNIA

Cassell and Company, Ltd  
London, New York, Toronto and Melbourne

1918

CP.

## TRANSLATOR'S INTRODUCTORY NOTE

DR. WILHELM MUEHLON, the author of the remarkable Diary here translated, has already won for himself world-wide fame by his courageous testimony to the truth. On May 7th, 1917, he addressed a Letter to Herr von Bethmann Hollweg (at that time Imperial German Chancellor), repudiating the German Government and all its works. This Letter, however, was not published till nearly a year later, ten days after the author's famous Memorandum had appeared in the *Berliner Tageblatt* of March 21st, 1918.\* The Memorandum definitely stated that "the Austrians" had been with the German Emperor early in July, 1914, and that he had promised to give Austria *carte*

\* The Letter was first published in a French translation by *L'Humanité* on March 31st, 1918: the German original appeared in the Swiss paper, *Die Freie Zeitung*, on May 4th, 1918. An English translation both of the Letter and of the Memorandum has been published under the title of "Revelations by an Ex-Director of Krupp's" (Hodder and Stoughton). The reader of the Diary will find the substance of the Memorandum on pp. 8-10.

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*blanche* in her dealings with Serbia, thus committing the German Government to a policy which was practically certain to provoke a European war. Who the Austrian representatives were was not stated; but Dr. Muehlon attributed a full share of the guilt to the German Emperor and named Herr Krupp von Bohlen and Herr Helfferich as his informants.

The Memorandum became known in Germany some time before its publication in the *Berliner Tageblatt*, and appears to have created considerable excitement. It was debated, together with Prince Lichnowsky's Memoir,\* at a meeting of the Main Committee of the Reichstag on March 16th, 1918.

The Imperial Vice-Chancellor, Herr von Payer, speaking for the Government, tried to dismiss the Memorandum by asserting that Dr. Muehlon was a "neurasthenic who could not even come into a room if it contained a few gentlemen with whom he was personally unacquainted. . . . The document could only be regarded as pathological." Readers of the Diary will be able to form their own conclusions as to this insinuation.

\* An English translation of Prince Lichnowsky's Memoir, "My Mission to London, 1912-1914," has been published (Cassell and Company, Ltd.).



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They will find in it a record of the impressions made upon the author during the first weeks of the war. They will become acquainted with a man who was indeed, as every line shows, highly sensitive to moral considerations and placed moral values above material success—a man who could write on the invasion of Belgium, "Our irruption into Belgium means fearful moral injury to ourselves, our action is more unscrupulous than anything ever done by Bismarck or anyone like him, and even a victorious war would not restore to us the confidence of Europe and the rest of the world" (p. 40). We read how he went about among his friends in Berlin expressing his horror at what had been done, but that nowhere could he find any comprehension of his point of view. We can easily understand that among government circles in Berlin in August, 1914, such a man might appear to be a neurotic; for to the men among whom his lot was cast all criticism of the action of the Government would appear to be foolish sentimentality. And we can also well understand how the experiences through which he passed at that time may have left a permanent impression upon his character. But readers of the Diary will also be able to convince themselves of the

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clearness of his intellectual outlook, his knowledge and insight into the issues at stake, and they will read with interest how impressions which he recalls confirm the opinions widely held in neutral States. There can be no doubt that his judgment, and not that of his opponents, will be the final judgment of the civilised world.

Besides the Letter and Memorandum, Dr. Muchlon has recently published two articles in the Swiss Press—"Zur Wahrheit" ("Towards the Truth") and "Deutschland und Belgien" ("Germany and Belgium").\* The first of these articles is a powerful rejoinder to official German denials of the facts revealed in the Memorandum, while the second is a vigorous defence of Belgium against the German Government's attempt to prove that she had failed to maintain her neutrality.†

The Diary itself was first published at Zürich (Orell Füssli) in May, 1918, under the title of "Die Verheerung Europas: Aufzeichnungen aus

\* "Zur Wahrheit" was published in *Wissen und Leben* on May 1st, 1918, and "Deutschland und Belgien" in the same number of *Die Freie Zeitung* which contained the Letter to Herr von Bethmann Hollweg. Neither of these articles has yet appeared in an English translation, though extracts from "Deutschland und Belgien" were given in *The Times*.

† A good deal of the substance of Dr. Muchlon's defence of Belgium will be found in the Diary (see pp. 223, 224).

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den ersten Kriegsmonaten" ("The Devastation of Europe: Notes written during the first few months of the War").

Not much seems to be known in England about Dr. Muehlon's personal history. He is a Bavarian, as he tells us himself (p. 189), and he was one of the directors of Krupp's, the great German armament firm at Essen, "from shortly before the war till towards the end of 1914," when he at last succeeded in "freeing himself from the profession he loathed" (p. xi). It is said that, in resigning his directorship, he sacrificed a very large salary—£10,000 *plus* certain percentages—and that the other members of the Board tried to persuade him to remain by offering to make him chairman.

He appears to have had a long-standing connection with the German Foreign Office: at any rate, even after his resignation from Krupp's—and after he had become a "neurasthenic," according to Herr von Payer—he was employed by the German Government in negotiations with Roumania before that country became a belligerent. Some time early in 1917 he left Germany, bought an old country-house near Berne, and settled there with his family.