

HO 45/10944/257142

DISTURBANCES: Anti-German Riots

1914-1920

These newspaper cuttings and lists are included in a file on anti-German riots that took place in the United Kingdom during the First World War.

When the First World War broke out in August 1914, pockets of anti-German sentiment developed throughout the United Kingdom. This occasionally took the form of rioting and damaging property as people turned on German members of their communities.

Businesses were targeted on the basis of German sounding names, and as a trade associated with Germans, bakers were also particularly targeted. The Home Office recorded cases of compensation claims from individuals and businesses across the UK who were subject to these attacks.

A particular period of heightened anti-German feeling came after the sinking of the Lusitania, a British ocean liner travelling from New York to Liverpool which was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-boat on 7 May 1915.

Many areas were subject to disturbances, such as Liverpool, Birkenhead, Bradford and Essex. As there was a high German population in East London, Poplar became an area of particular tension as was publicised in certain areas of the press at the time. The shop of a Mr Jungblut, a member of the Poplar Guardians and Borough Council, was one such target that ended up being destroyed.

During the war, thousands of German nationals were interned, men in specially created camps and a small number of women in prisons and asylums.

Midway through the war on 19 June 1917, King George V and the British royal family discontinued the use of their German titles and surnames, changing their family surname from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor.



257,142
36



Sub-number

○○○36

Registration

DATE. 10 May 1915.

Chief Constable, Liverpool.

Disturbances

Misc. Crimi.

Rioting at Liverpool.

Telegraph that considerable rioting is taking place in the City, attacks being made on German shops. Asks that, in the event of requisition being made for military aid, it may be agreed to at once.

MINUTES.

This telegram was received in the Home Office about 10.30 pm. By Sir C. Kemp's direction I repeated it over the telephone to S. of S., who approved of military aid being given if requisitioned. I informed W.O. accordingly (11 pm.); they will take care that any communication on the subject is dealt with at once. I have sent a copy of the telegram to W.O. In view, however, of the soldiers being, presumably, within the jurisdiction of the requisitioning magistrates (if a requisition is made) it would appear quite possible that the soldiers might be sent without reference to W.O. (Army Order of 24 May 1912).

ad 10/5/15. CJ
11-5-15

Further mem. within

ad 11/5.



Home Office
Whitehall
S.W.

The Times Tuesday, May 11th 1915.

RIOT IN BIRKENHEAD.

A crowd in Birkenhead last evening sacked the premises of a pork butcher named Schwarb in Watson-street. The police were powerless to prevent the destruction. At another place kept by a German in Camden-street the crowd threw all the furniture into the street and set fire to the articles, the fire brigade being called out.

THE TIMES, MONDAY, MAY 10, 1915.

GERMAN-OWNED SHOPS WRECKED.

The intensity of feeling aroused in Liverpool has resulted in a number of shops owned by Germans being wrecked. The windows of the shops were broken and the contents thrown about the streets.

In the neighbourhood of Everton so threatening was the attitude of the crowds that a *posse* of police about 50 strong had to be called upon and they made about 20 arrests. The angry rioters thereupon jostled the police in an endeavour to rescue their comrades, and the police had to use their batons to quell the disturbance.

THE TIMES, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1915.

THE LIVERPOOL RIOTS.

**DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT
£40,000.**

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LIVERPOOL, MAY 12.

Apparently the rioting in Liverpool has now ceased. It is estimated that the wrecking of premises which has accompanied these anti-German demonstrations will cost the rate-payers about £40,000, 200 establishments having been gutted and the contents in some cases completely cleared out.

This afternoon 150 of the German residents who have been taken charge of by the police were removed by special train and under military escort to Hawick for internment. A large crowd assembled at Lime-street Station to witness their departure, but there was no hostility shown towards them.

THE TIMES, TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1915.

FERMENT IN LIVERPOOL.

**ALIENS TO BE INTERNED FOR
SAFETY.**

There has been considerable display of feeling in Liverpool as a result of the sinking of the *Lusitania*. All Germans and Austrians have been forbidden the use of the Cotton and Corn Exchanges, and there is a greater disposition than ever to ostracize everything German.

The Liverpool Cotton Association yesterday accepted the resignation of Mr. H. Kern, who was a director and ex-president of the Association. Mr. Kern, who was German Consul in Liverpool when the war broke out, sent the following telegram to the Association from an address in Sussex to which he recently withdrew:—

The postal arrangements from here are so unreliable that I telegraph placing my resignation unreservedly in your hands. I will not attempt to describe my feelings. I am sick at heart and sad beyond words.

Relatives and friends of the crew of the *Lusitania* have sought reprisals by attacking the shops of Germans, principally pork butchers' establishments. The damage done has been very considerable, many of the places having been completely wrecked and the goods and furniture thrown into the street. The police have been powerless to resist the onslaughts, which have been carried out by crowds of two or three thousand persons. The attacks started on Sunday night and were continued throughout the city yesterday. As a consequence the publichouses in the city were closed at 6 o'clock last night. A large number of arrests were made.

The police are taking drastic steps for dealing with the situation that has arisen. For their own protection all Germans and Austrians who have not become naturalized British subjects are to be interned, and certain of those who are naturalized are being warned to leave the city and to go to inland districts. This action is, of course, being taken under the Defence of the Realm Act, and should the warning be disregarded a military order will be obtained to enforce it.



257142
36

In Camp

I learn from the C.C. that things quieted down last night at Liverpool without it being necessary to requisition troops.

The disorder was difficult to deal with because though the attackers were not in hostile mood as against the Police and could be dealt with at ^{any} particular point all night, other attacks would break out at once elsewhere. The C.C. made considerable use of Specials in motor cars. He thinks Liverpool will probably be quieter now altogether, over the week end. Probably about £50,000 of damage has been done. The C.C. has detained about 150 Germans for internment - some volunteers, some not.

There are signs of similar disorder breaking out, or to be apprehended at Salford, Birkenhead and Wallasey.

aw
11/5

CTJ
11-5-15

See p. 11/5
S.W.H. 11/5

Abstract of Claims made under the Riot (Damages) Act during the war.

(b) Claims in each Police District.

Police District.	Claims Lodged.						Claims Paid.		Claims not yet Settled.		Discrimination against Claims by Alien Enemies.	Remarks.		
	By British Subjects.		By Alien Enemies.		By Others.		Total.	Number.	Amount.	Number.			Amount.	
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.								Number.
Bedford County	4	£ 61. 19. 11	-	-	-	-	4	£ 61. 19. 11	4	£ 61. 19. 11	-	-	-	-
Bedford Borough	2	158. 11. 6	-	-	-	-	2	158. 11. 6	2	158. 11. 6	-	-	-	-
Chester County	4	428. 12. 2	1	166. 2. 3	-	-	5	594. 14. 5	5	218. 3. 0	-	-	None	-
Birkenhead Borough	18	1160. 12. 3½	14	2,017. 1. 10	1	7. 5. 0	33	3,184. 19. 1½	29	1,687. 18. 0	-	-	None	-
Wallasey "	19	379. 6. 8	2	167. 2. 4	3	111. 3. 2	24	657. 12. 2	11	127. 15. 8	3	97. 7. 0	Claims by A.S. not admitted	-
Durham County	6*	708. 15. 7	1	15. 13. 10	-	-	7	724. 9. 5	6	442. 7. 7	-	-	Claims " " " " arising from German parents to claimant's behavior before Riot.	-
Gateshead Borough	33*	1,167. 3. 10	6	1,210. 19. 8	-	-	39	2,378. 3. 6	38	1,304. 13. 6	1	43. 10. 0	None	* 10 were Naturalized B.S. of German or Austrian origin.
South Shields "	13	273. 14. 9	-	-	-	-	13	273. 14. 9	5	59. 2. 2	-	-	-	-
Sussex County	1	89. 9. 9	-	-	-	-	1	89. 9. 9	1	89. 9. 9	-	-	-	-
Southwold or Sea Borough	8	217. 17. 5	6	456. 0. 10	1	3. 10. 8	15	677. 8. 11	14	320. 17. 0	-	-	None	-
Hertford County	1	14. 6. 3	-	-	-	-	1	14. 6. 3	1	14. 6. 3	-	-	-	-
Kent: Gravesham Borough	6	528. 7. 2	-	-	-	-	6	528. 7. 2	5	395. 0. 0	-	-	-	-
Imbridge Wells "	-	-	1	10. 5. 6	-	-	1	10. 5. 6	-	-	1	10. 5. 6	-	-
Lancaster County	50	3,407. 6. 4	-	-	-	-	50	3,407. 6. 4	43	1,545. 14. 10	-	-	-	-
Boothle Borough	45	3,243. 6. 7½	3	643. 18. 4	1	73. 19. 9	49	3,961. 4. 8½	49	2,719. 9. 7	-	-	None	-
Liverpool "	543	26,476. 9. 7	63	21,760. 4. 8½	19	562. 9. 4	625	48,799. 3. 7½	450	22,280. 6. 1	46	6,322. 14. 1½	Discrimination at first, but on 1 Dec. 1905 City Council resolved not to pay further claims by A.S. unless compelled by action at law.	-
Manchester "	99*	1,970. 2. 10	20	941. 4. 8	1	32. 4. 3	120	2,943. 11. 9	51	984. 1. 1	3	214. 4. 3	Requirements as to time limit & method of lodging claims strictly enforced.	* including 12 naturalized Germans
Salford "	58	2,351. 12. 0½	4	363. 4. 9	4	66. 3. 1	66	2,780. 19. 10½	51	1,721. 6. 10	-	-	Claims not admitted	-
Leicester: Leicester "	1	4. 3. 1	-	-	-	-	1	4. 3. 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Leics: Grantham "	1*	11. 17. 6	-	-	-	-	1	11. 17. 6	1	11. 17. 6	-	-	-	* German born
London City	1	20. 6. 0	1	190. 0. 0	-	-	2	210. 6. 0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Hants: Peterborough Borough	3	31. 18. 6	1*	63. 0. 0	-	-	4	94. 18. 6	-	-	4	94. 18. 6	-	* Claim to be denied B.S. but has never been naturalized.
Northumberland County	5	51. 13. 0	1	33. 12. 3	-	-	6	85. 5. 3	4	38. 10. 11	-	-	-	-
Newcastle-upon-Tyne Borough	30	1,242. 12. 7½	4	566. 8. 1	-	-	34	1,809. 0. 8½	32	928. 10. 6	-	-	None.	-
Synemouth "	5	83. 15. 1	6	406. 5. 4	-	-	11	490. 0. 5	11	145. 7. 6	-	-	None	-
Notts: Nottingham "	3	39. 6. 9	5	27. 0. 3	-	-	8	66. 7. 0	3	39. 6. 9	-	-	Claim not admitted.	* including 2 naturalized Germans
Southants: Wincoburgh "	1	15. 12. 5	-	-	-	-	1	15. 12. 5	1	15. 12. 5	-	-	-	-
Stafford County	3	142. 8. 1	1	6. 12. 6	-	-	4	149. 0. 7	2	107. 10. 0	1	4. 0. 0	-	-
Suffolk, West "	6	147. 4. 7	-	-	-	-	6	147. 4. 7	6	132. 6. 11	-	-	-	-

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	By British Subjects.		By Alien Enemies.		By Others.		Total.	Number.	Amount.	Number.			Amount.
	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.	Number.	Amount.							
Surrey County	1*	12.0.0	-	-	-	-	1	12.0.0	-	-	-	-	naturalized
Warwick: Birmingham Borough	1	4.10.0	-	-	-	-	1	4.10.0	1	4.10.0	-	-	-
York, East Riding County	1	5.2.2	-	-	-	-	1	5.2.2	-	-	-	-	-
Hull Borough	39	3,165.8.6	11	493.2.1	-	-	50	3,658.10.7	48	2,598.9.2	2	10.0.0	None.
York, North Riding: Middlesbrough	4	84.17.1	-	-	-	-	4	84.17.1	3	31.5.6	-	-	-
York "	-	-	1	7.5.11	-	-	1	7.5.11	-	-	1	7.5.11	-
York, West Riding County	47*	6,855.15.2	2	125.16.0	-	-	49	6,981.11.2	47	4,729.15.8	-	-	None, save in 1 case, owing to claimant's provocation.
Bradford Borough	2*	8.19.0	1	7.0	-	-	3	9.6.0	-	-	-	-	* including naturalized Germans, connections with German parents.
Leeds "	60	800.0.0	1	4.0.0	-	-	61	804.0.0	-	-	61	804.0.0	* naturalized Germans.
Rotherham "	25	2,282.2.6	7	829.7.4	-	-	32	3,111.9.10	20	931.0.6	-	-	1 claim by deported A.S. rejected.
Sheffield "	15	147.19.6	1	22.6.0	8	409.1.5	24	579.6.11	12	281.4.7	-	-	None.
<u>Wales.</u>													
Flint County.	-	-	1	110.12.6	-	-	1	110.12.6	-	-	-	-	-
Glamorgan: Neath Borough	2	20.0.0	2	388.0.0	-	-	4	408.0.0	4	404.0.0	-	-	The 2 claims by A.S. were contested by Police Authority but settled on Council's advice during the procedure in view of decision in case of Shefferson & Golding.
Swansea "	3*	367.18.6	-	-	-	-	3	367.18.6	3	173.7.6	-	-	None including naturalized Germans.
<u>Total</u>	1,169	58,183.4.7	167	31,025.13.11	38	1,265.16.8	1,374	90,474.15.2	960	44,503.18.2	123	7,618.5.3	

H045

10944

257,142

185



number
registration

257142/180 = 243363/493A
257142/181 = 323445/1

War Cabinet Secretary (Capt. Clement Jones)

Riot Damages.

Ask Ho. to attend a meeting of a Committee considering the claims which may be made by enemy investments at the termination of the war, and, inter alia, claims in respect of property of alien enemies damaged in riots during the war.

MINUTES.

I attended this C.C. - see memorandum of what took place, within.

The C.C. desire to obtain particulars of claims under the Riot-Damages Act in the provinces, especially as respects the treatment of claims by alien enemies

? issue report for return as in draft.

within.

and 27.6 C.J.

28.6.17

Mr. Hunter of the Ho. would like a copy of the L.O.P. in 107.7
no objection' and

C.J.
(add a footnote as to the case of Schaffner v Goldberg)

Wrote to Capt. Jones
28/6

Circular as within issued to

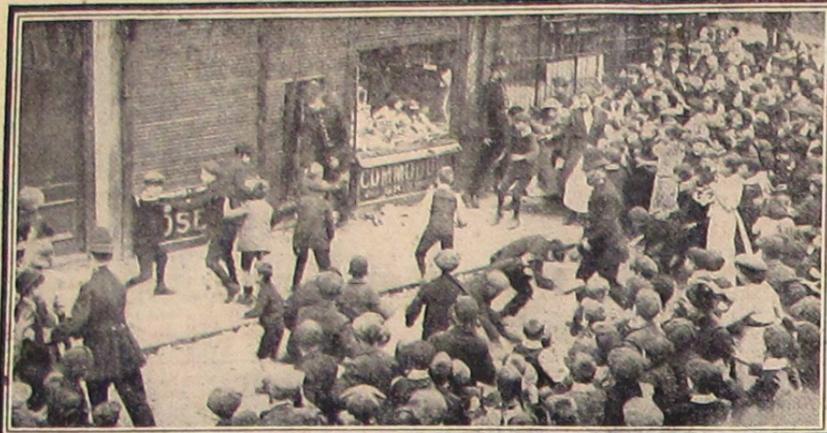
Town Clerks of Police Boroughs }
Clerks of the Peace of Counties }

9/7/17.

Mr. Dixon instructs that the Met. Police, City Police, Lord Mayor and the Tyne River are not to be applied to at present.

Figures for Scotland & Ireland not required by Ho. - the C.C. will

The Women Rise Up In Wrath Against A Nation That Poisons Their Sons & Murders Innocent Children



An attack on a tobacconist's shop in Crisp-street, Poplar. Women and children joined in the demonstration, and the police as usual afforded every protection to the shopkeeper.



Soldiers raking death in the horrible poison gases the Germans now use against the Allies. A nation that uses such barbarous tortures must expect its methods to recoil upon its citizens abroad. Too long has Germany regarded England as a nation of kind-hearted fools.—(From J'Al Vu.)



English residents, who lived in the "war-zone" in Poplar, hastily removing to a quieter neighbourhood. They lived too close to the Germans to feel quiet in mind.



Women in Kentish Town defy the police and Territorials to prevent them wrecking a German baker's shop.



"Spoils of war in Poplar"—the women's only chance to show their hatred of German barbarity.



Mrs. Margaret Little and her child, who are among the Lusitania's missing.

Officers Gas Poisoned.

Batten	Captain H.C.C.
Chadwick	Second Lieutenant F.
Clarke	Lieutenant A.R.S.
Hadwen	Lieutenant N.W.
Inchley	Second Lieutenant W.
Miller	Lieutenant H.T.,
Ozanne	Lieutenant W.M.,
Robins	Captain G.U.,
Sigrist	Lieutenant A.
Unwin	Captain C.H.,



The children of Mrs. Bretherton, who were on the Lusitania. One of them is missing.



It wasn't that these women hated the trader, but he was of the nation that poisons their sons.



The salesmen of Smithfield who did not try to hide their feelings against everyone bearing a German name.



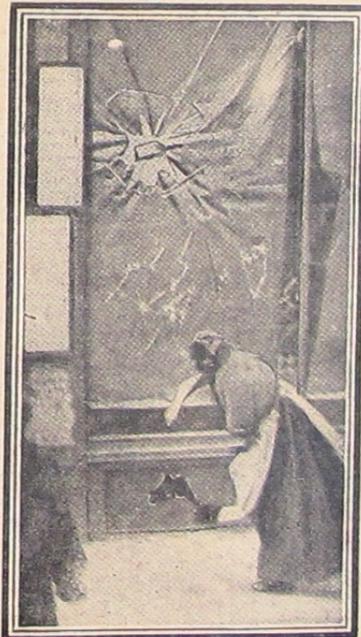
The police endeavouring to protect a shop in Cable-street, East. The law afforded every protection to the aliens. How different to the police methods in Berlin when our Ambassador's house was stoned! Women led the anti-German outbursts in London yesterday. Their detestation of Germany's barbarity had at last broken bounds.



A scene in the Minories after an attack on some of the shops there. The Germans in America had gloated over the poisoning of British soldiers, the drowning of women and children on the Lusitania, and the wrecking by incendiary bombs of peaceful people's homes. It was in the minds of the women that the Germans in England would also rejoice openly but for fear of their skins. Possibly some innocent Germans suffered, but the German Government don't mind innocent suffering.—(Daily Sketch, etc.)



Lieut. W. M. Ozanne, of the 2nd Duke of Wellington's Regiment, one of the officers poisoned by gas.—(Lafayette.)



Don't blame this woman, but think of what the sinking of the Lusitania has meant to her.



A German butcher's van in the hands of the porters at Smithfield Market. Germans had been warned to keep away from the market. They got Germany had "regularised" its murders on the sea by its previous warning notices. incendiary bombs of peaceful people's homes. It was in the minds of the women that the Germans in England would also rejoice openly but for fear of their skins. Possibly some innocent Germans suffered, but the German Government don't mind innocent suffering.—(Daily Sketch, etc.)

THERE IS NO ROOM IN ENGLAND FOR A GERMAN.

DAILY SKETCH.

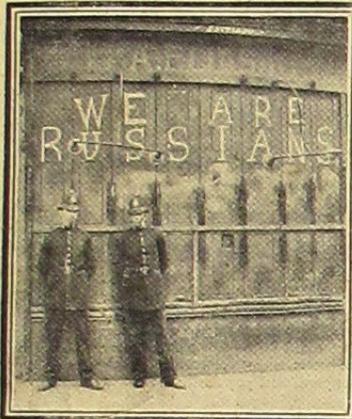
LONDON: Shoe Lane, E.C. MANCHESTER: Withy Grove
Telephones—8 Lines—Editorial and Publishing—Holborn 6512.

BRITAIN'S BEST PICTURE PAPER.

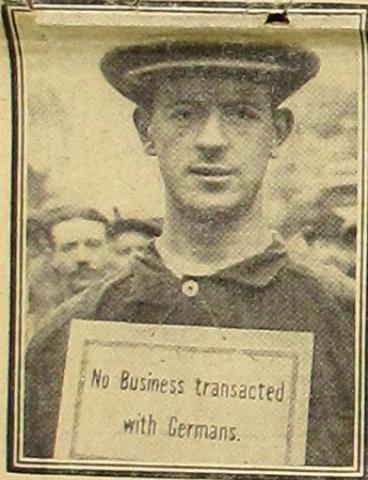
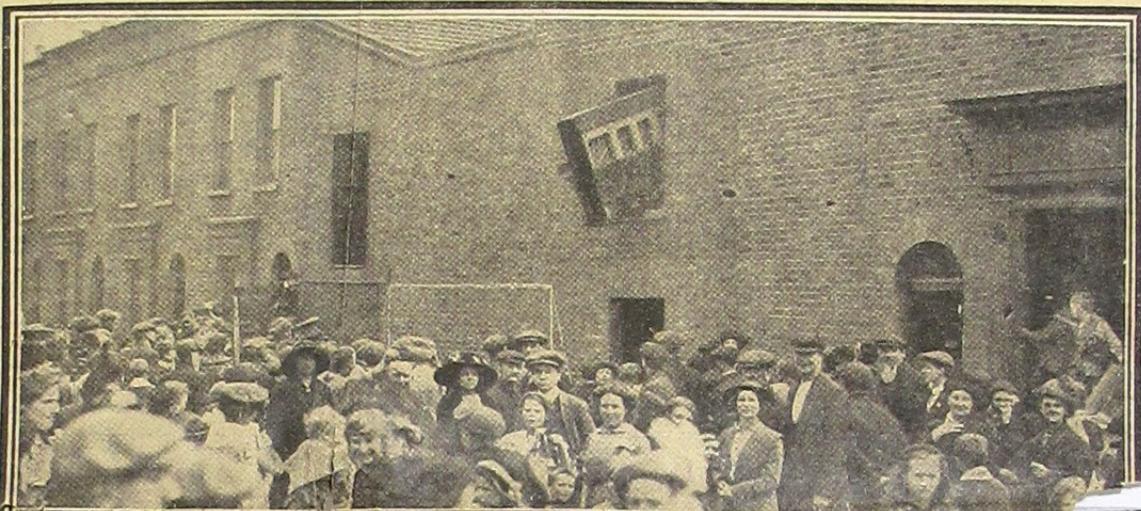
EXCLUSIVE PICTURES.

The Picture Paper for the week-end is the ILLUSTRATED SUNDAY HERALD. It is there that you get the latest and the best. Be certain of your copy on Sunday by ordering it Now.

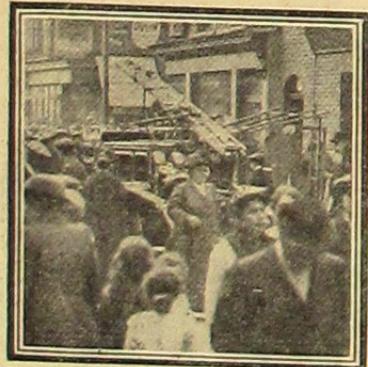
How They Brought The German Piano Home At Poplar.



"We are Russians"—a sign that Poplar respected in the heat of its indignation.



The motto of the Smithfield butchers.



To cool the ardour of some of the crowd a fire engine was brought on the scene in Poplar.



A piano was among the "trophies" at Poplar yesterday. Thrown into the streets from an upper window, it arrived right-side up on the street, and was borne off in triumph. It represented to the women and children at least one blow at the enemy.—(Daily Sketch Photographs.)

GAOL IS THE HOME FOR THE HUN IN WAR TIME.

DAILY SKETCH.

GUARANTEED DAILY NETT SALE MORE THAN 1,000,000 COPIES.

No. 1,927.

LONDON, THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1915.

(Registered as a Newspaper.) ONE HALFPENNY.

Clear Out The Germans, Say The People.



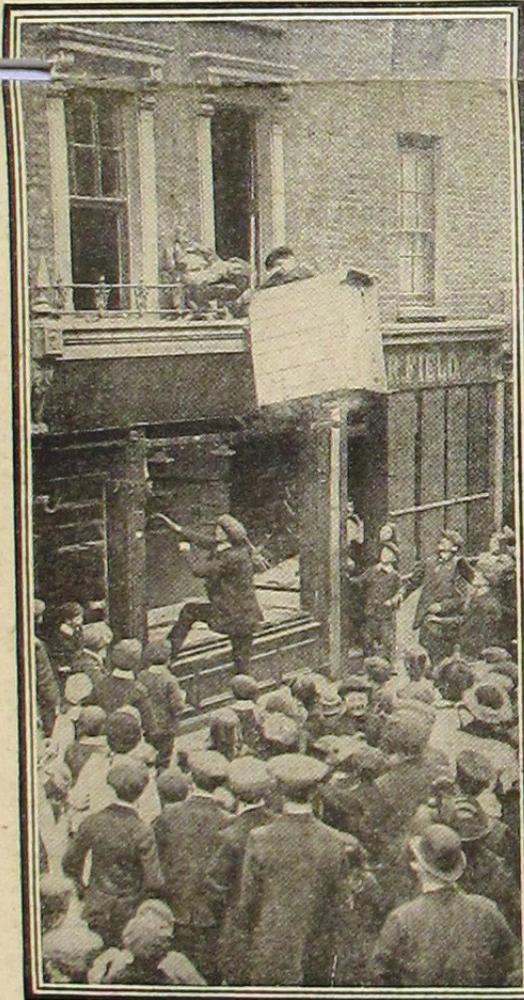
For the anti-German scenes which took place in London and all over England yesterday the German House of Commons, "No one could be surprised that after the progressive violation by the enemy of the moment in the sinking of the Lusitania—there had arisen a feeling of righteous indignation among the pictures were taken during attacks on shops in Poplar, which was the scene

Government alone is responsible. In the words of Mr. Asquith, in the House of Commons, "No one could be surprised that after the progressive violation by the enemy of the moment in the sinking of the Lusitania—there had arisen a feeling of righteous indignation among the pictures were taken during attacks on shops in Poplar, which was the scene of fierce anti-Teuton outbursts.—(Daily Sketch Photographs.)"

POPLAR ECHOED THE CRY OF THE STOCK EXCHANGE: "NO FREE GERMANS IN LONDON."



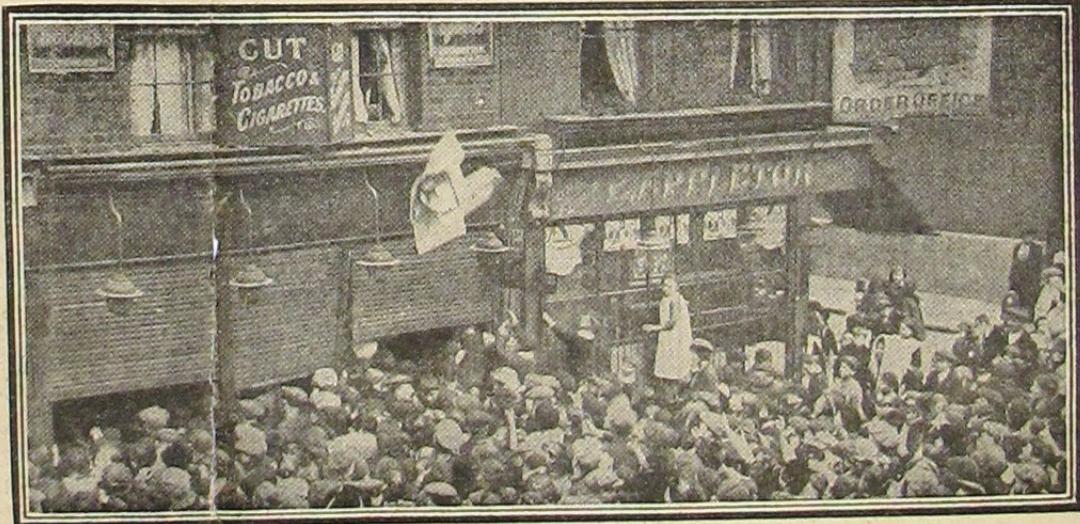
"No Germans must be left in the City of London," was the unanimous verdict of a meeting held outside the Stock Exchange yesterday, and that is *England's* opinion.



Throwing furniture out of the window at Poplar.



The shop of Jungblut, a member of the Poplar Guardians and Borough Council, was wrecked.



After the attack on a tobacconist's shop in Crisp-street, Poplar.

In the City and the working-class districts yesterday there was but one expression of opinion: "We will not have any Germans in England unless they are under lock and key. Whatever the Government may think about the enemy problem, the nation has made up its mind."