

# The Rape of Belgium

A Journal of the American Legation at Brussels

By Hugh Gibson, Witness



The secretary of the American Legation in Belgium, seeing everything, kept a personal diary of Germany's immortal sin. The seal of neutrality is broken, and here is one of the great documents of the war.

To-day's instalment is electric with the sense of "something big" in the air. There is disturbance at the General Staff, the Governor General vanishes, troops pour through the city. Just what had occurred is not clear even yet. The French line had stopped retreating, but the first shots of the Battle of the Marne were not yet fired for nearly forty-eight hours, and the German defeat was not yet in sight. The distant Russian invasion had already been crushed at Tannenberg. The Austrians were suffering heavily at the Russian hands, but were not yet routed. The full explanation of this day's excitement may not be given for years yet.

**B**RUSSELS, September 4.—Autumn is coming, with little gusts of wind and falling leaves. Clouds are thick and there is a sort of hidden chill in the air. It is depressing in itself, and makes us think with some dismay of what is ahead of the millions of men who are in the field, if the war is to continue into the winter, as seems probable.

I am sure there is something big in the air to-day. For several days there has been a growing nervousness at headquarters. For four days there has been no official proclamation of German victories. Persistent rumors come in of large numbers of British troops between here and the coast, advancing in the general direction

of the second line of defenses. They say that the French government has removed to Bordeaux, which seems quite possible, and even sensible. They tell us all these things every time that we go over to the General Staff, but they do not publish anything about it.

### Getting Ready for Siege of Antwerp

A British Red Cross doctor was in to-day and told us some items of interest. He said that he had been assigned to care for the wounded prisoners who were being brought back from France on their way to Germany, and that he had seen all

me when I went back for the third time. All the sentries were blown up and given the strictest sort of instructions that I was to be passed along without question whenever I appeared. I was also given another *Passierschein* to add to my collection, directing everybody to let me pass wherever I wanted to go. In view of the fact that a lot of our work here is in behalf of German subjects this is about the least they could do.

Some news has been brought down from Antwerp that makes it seem necessary for me to go there and get back again before the siege begins. I had hoped to get away this morning, but have not yet been able to get a decision as to exactly what is to be done. I now hope to get away after lunch.

I spent all yesterday afternoon enciphering a telegram, which I must get off either through Holland or Antwerp. We are able to send nothing but open messages over the military wire through Berlin, and I have a strong suspicion that these are being censored.

### Germans Prepare To Take Maubeuge

**B**RUSSELS, September 7, 1914.—Did not get off to Antwerp to-day, but hope to make it by to-morrow noon. There was too much going on, but arrangements are being made for a *laissez-passer*, etc., and I anticipate no trouble beyond being shot or made prisoner.

Gherardi (American Naval Attaché at Berlin) came in this morning for a call and then left for Maubeuge, which the Germans had arranged to capture during the day. They seemed very sure of it, but I would not be surprised to see him come sailing back without having seen the surrender.

Baron von der Lancken, of the

Foreign Office in Berlin, called this morning. He is here to handle relations with the Foreign Ministers remaining in Brussels. As we have had the care of German interests they all come here first, and our position is better than that of any other legation in the country. We have things on a working basis.

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### Another instalment to-morrow

\$200,000 for Jewish Fund

Although New York's campaign to raise \$5,000,000 for Jewish war relief is not to begin officially until December 3, at a meeting yesterday of the committee which will have charge of the drive and of representatives of Jewish newspapers Jacob H. Schiff started the fund with a contribution of \$200,000. Others said they would follow his example, and confidence was expressed that the major portion would be pledged before the books were opened.

### Freed of Sedition, He Plans To Serve for Drafted Brother

Harry Lataner, of 171 Forsyth Street, who improved his release on bail last week on a charge of seditious utterances by going to Madison Square and getting arrested again on similar charges, was discharged yesterday by Magistrate Corrigan in the Yorkville police court on both charges that had been brought against him.

### Niagara Insurance Co. First To Shift Star in Service Flag

Probably the first service flag in the city to shift one of its stars from the field of white to the border line of red is in a window of the Niagara Fire Insurance Company, 125 William Street. The transposed star is white, while its former companions are blue. It is the star of Richard Wesche, of 1212 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn. He was reported "missing" after the torpedoing of the patrol boat *Alcedo* on November 5.

### Mt. Lassen, Only Volcano In U. S., Dying, Say Explorers

REDDING, Cal., Nov. 20.—Lassen Peak, in recent years the only active volcano in the United States, is dying, according to a report brought here today by three men who ascended the mountain. Its cauldron is fast turning into a cavern of ice, they said.

### J. P. McNichol Died Intestate

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 20.—State Senator James P. McNichol, Republican leader, who died last Wednesday, left no will. This became known to-day when application was made to the register of wills for letters of administration. In her application Mrs. McNichol gave the value of Senator McNichol's estate as \$100,000 and upward. It is variously estimated that the Senator left from \$3,000,000 to \$15,000,000.

### Y.M.C.A. War Fund Expected to Pass \$50,000,000 Mark

Reports So Far Received Make the Amount Subscribed \$49,209,411

### All Returns Not Yet In

President Wilson Declares the Result Will Prove a "National Blessing"

The Young Men's Christian Association campaign for a \$50,000,000 war fund shot far beyond the goal set for it and fell just short of \$50,000,000 when the late returns were in last night. The returns now show a grand total of \$49,209,411.

In response to a telegram from Dr. John R. Mott, general secretary of the National War Work Council, reporting the result obtained, President Wilson sent this answer:

"My heartfelt congratulations on the remarkable and gratifying results. I think it is a national blessing."

### More Contributions Expected

That more contributions are still to be reported is unquestioned, since in a few places, due to local conditions, the campaign runs until Saturday. A few far Western reports are still to come in. The sums contributed during the last days of the campaign were unprecedented, and indicate, according to officers of the War Council, that the campaign workers all over the country made unusual efforts for a strong finish.

Last night's figures show the Eastern division, with headquarters in New York, leading a close race against the Central department, with Chicago as its pivot. These two, still struggling to finish on top, lead the other divisions by generous margins. Last night's figures show the following relative standing:

Division	Total
Eastern	\$20,981,665
Central	18,280,712
Northeastern	6,258,925
Western	1,773,599
Southwestern	1,287,099
Southeastern	1,297,488
Grand total	\$49,209,411

A. H. Whitford, the director of the national campaign, indicated in a state-

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ment last night that the final figures would be larger. "It is utterly impossible," the statement reads, "to give the exact final figures at the hour of going to press Tuesday night. The figures given out are complete, so far as we have them, but there will undoubtedly be additions because of final meetings of collecting teams that have been held up in various parts of the country to-day. As quickly as we get the final figures, which probably will be by to-morrow or next day, they will be announced."

### President Wilson Notified

In reporting the outcome of the campaign to President Wilson Dr. Mott telegraphed:  
"It gives me great joy to report to you personally the remarkable success of the financial campaign of the national war work council of the Young Men's Christian Association, which closed at midnight yesterday. You will recall that our goal was thirty-five million dollars. From present indications, nearly, if not quite, fifty million dollars has been subscribed. You will be rejoiced to know that the hope you expressed in your letter to me of November 8, that there might be such a unanimity and complete success of this patriotic and practical effort, has been thus fully realized, because every state and apparently every county of the

country and all classes, parties and creeds have joined with real generosity and sacrificial spirit in accomplishing the desired end.  
"Let me renew our expression of deepest gratitude to you for your influential and indispensable part in accomplishing the result. Also, let me reassure you once more of the desire of our movement to strengthen your hands in every way in our power in rendering a larger and better service to the enlisted men of our own army and navy, and also of the forces of the nations which have made common cause with us."

### Joffre Gives Part of U. S. Fund to Heroes' Children

PARIS, Nov. 20.—Children in orphan asylums whose fathers were soldiers who were decorated with the military medal have received \$4,000 from Marshal Joffre.  
The donation of Marshal Joffre probably is part of the \$100,000 collected in his honor in the United States for French war charities. In acknowledging the receipt of the fund sent to him through the American Ambassador to France, Marshal Joffre wrote Frank A. Vandorip, treasurer of the fund, that in accordance with the desires of

**HAVE YOU ANY? KNITTING READY?**  
The RAINBOW DIVISION WORKERS' COMMITTEE heretofore working under the National League for Women's Service at 227 Madison Avenue, New York City, beg to advise you that they are now an Auxiliary of the New York Chapter of the Red Cross, with workshop and office at 7A East 71st Street, New York City, where wool can be procured and knitted garments delivered.  
**RAINBOW DIVISION WORKERS' COMMITTEE**  
Red Cross Auxiliary  
Mrs. GEORGE H. DYER, Chairman,  
7A East 71st St., New York.



Field Marshal Baron von der Goltz Pacha, first Governor General of Belgium

of Brussels. X—'s arrest, while on a trip to Alost, looks as though the Germans had some reason for keeping people from getting out that way with knowledge of military conditions here. Another thing. We were to have returned the call of von der Goltz to-day at noon. Between here and the Spanish Legation yesterday something happened. He never got to the Spanish Legation. This morning we got a message from the etat-major that von der Goltz had "telegraphed" to ask that we should postpone our call. Where he is nobody would say.

### Troops Continue To Pour Through City

The officer who brought the message merely stated that he had been called away in great haste and that it was not known when he would return. Troops are marching through the town in every direction and in large numbers. Supply trains and artillery are creaking through the place night and day, and we are awakened nearly every morning either by the crunching of the heavy sieges pieces or the singing of large bodies of troops as they march through the streets. Every day we realize more and more the enormous scale on which the operations are being conducted. It seems tremendous here, and we are seeing only a small part of one section of the field of operations.

The British prisoners who had been brought back by way of Brussels—about three thousand in all. He said that they were in good spirits and were sure that things would come out right in the end. There were the remnants of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders, who went into action something over a thousand strong and came out only a handful.

I made two attempts to see Herwarth to-day, but was kept on the sidewalk and in the courtyard by the big green dragons who guard the entrance to headquarters. After the second attempt I returned to the Legation and telephoned him that I should like to see him when he could get it through the heads of these people that we were not tramps. He was very nice and apologetic, and had all the officers in the German army out in the street waiting for

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