Heroism and Humanity Behind the Lines

One of America's greatest humanitarian efforts is little-known today. *WWI Crusaders* brings the past to life by telling the personal stories behind the facts in an as-it's-happening style.

The CRB: During World War I (1914–1918), the American-led Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB) initiated, organized, and supervised the largest food relief program the world had ever seen. The CRB and its Belgian counterpart, the Comité National (CN), fed and clothed for four years nearly 10 million Belgians and northern French trapped behind German lines. The relief efforts faced huge logistical challenges, international intrigues, and internal conflicts between the CRB and CN leaders.

The CRB delegates: Young, idealist Americans volunteered to go into German-occupied Belgium to guarantee the relief food would not be taken by the Germans. These humanitarian crusaders had to maintain strict neutrality in word and deed as they watched the Belgians suffer under the harsh German regime. They also had to deal with a faction of Belgians who resented the delegates' presence and tried to limit their authority.

The book: *WWI Crusaders* is the first book for general readers that tells in one complete volume the interlacing stories of German brutality, Belgian resistance, and the Americans of the CRB. The situation in German-occupied Belgium during the war caused a tumbling together of extraordinary people into a chain reaction of life-and-death situations far from the trenches and killing fields of World War I. And hanging in the balance were millions of civilian lives. It is a story that few have heard. The book covers from the beginning of the war to May 1917, when the last Americans left Belgium because of America's April entry into the war. An extensive epilogue wraps up all major stories and people through the end of the war and beyond.

It's all true: Through lively personal stories, this nonfiction book follows a handful of young CRB delegates, a 22-year-old Belgian woman, two American diplomats, the leaders of a Belgian underground newspaper, and the founder of the CRB, who would become known to the world as the Great Humanitarian. His name was Herbert C. Hoover.

www.WWICrusaders.com

U.S. $24.95

ISBN 978-0-9906893-8-6

52495

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Front cover design by Laurie Shields Design; back cover and book interior design by Pratt Brothers Composition.

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WWI CRUSADERS

Jeffrey B. Miller

Milbrown Press

WWI CRUSADERS

A band of Yanks in German-occupied Belgium help save millions from starvation as civilians resist the harsh German rule.

August 1914 to May 1917.

Jeffrey B. Miller