UNCONQUERABLE BELGIUM

The Belgian Constitution is Inscribed on the Congress Memorial in Brussels
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INTER-ALLIED PUBLICATIONS
INTRODUCTION

Belgium is occupied by the Germans. Eight and a half million Belgians are suffering. They have lost their freedom. Their honor is assailed. Their nation is bleeding to death.

If seven per cent of the United States population, that is some ten million Americans, were deported to Germany, killed or made prisoners of war, if ten million able-bodied Americans thus became victims of Hitlerism, it would no doubt create a very serious problem. If this total number of men
were seized or killed within a period of less than four years, one would indeed say that this is a bloody war. Ten million Americans killed or interned in four years would be a calamity for the United States and would bring misery and unhappiness to their country.

As a matter of fact, nobody believes that such a catastrophe could happen. In World War I the total number of men killed or taken prisoners of war, including those of the enemy, amounted, in four years, to 16,500,000 and that figure hardly represented two per cent of the total populations involved, not counting the British dominions and colonies. Even then that figure seemed, and it still seems to us, exceedingly high.

Yet, what has happened in Belgium today? Seven per cent of the Belgian population has been killed, been taken prisoner of war, rots in concentration camps or has been deported to Germany for forced labor. Out of the 8,350,000 inhabitants of Belgium, nearly 600,000 have suffered or are suffering a terrible fate at the hands of the Germans. During the battle of Belgium, in May 1940, nearly 7,000 Belgian soldiers and some 10,000 civilians were killed. Over 70,000 Belgian soldiers are still prisoners of war. From the beginning of the occupation 3,500 Belgian civilians have been executed by the Nazis. Over 7,500 Belgian civilians are in German prisons and 430,000 have been deported. Several more thousands are in prisons or in concentration camps in Belgium.
War always is an ugly affair. But Hitler is not only waging a military war, he was not only thirsting for victories in the field. His plans went further than that, and the monstrous experiment he made with the Jews gave us an inkling of what was going to happen. Today he is trying to wipe out whole populations. In Belgium, he is undermining the existence of the nation by degrading it to such an extent that, after the Allies' victory its postwar era may well be one of physical weakness and of sorrow.

Six hundred thousand Belgians, six hundred thousand martyrs. Seven per cent of the population. Seven per cent which comprise most of the able bodied Belgians.

But, however much of the country is thus crippled, the Belgians are fighting back. They are fighting back in the occupied territory thanks to strong and highly co-ordinated underground movements, and on the battlefields thanks to an army which was re-organized in England and in the Belgian Congo. They fight as their ancestors fought for centuries to obtain their liberties and freedom.
A message from

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT

(Broadcast to Belgium in 1942)

People of Belgium,

The President of the United States is deeply concerned by the atrocities visited upon you by the Brutal Nazis.

The President will not forget the terrible sufferings inflicted by the Germans on the innocent men, women, and children of Belgium. He will always remember what this once free country is going
through under oppression. The United States pledges its entire resources to destroy the conqueror and to restore self government to Belgium. Only by a complete destruction of Hitlerism can the occupation be ended.

The annihilation of Hitlerism has already begun with a vengeance. Its armies are being soundly defeated for the first time, on several fronts. The United States is engaged in a mighty effort of production for war. It is such an effort that no combination of enemy countries can possibly match it. The President said that this year the United States will produce sixty thousand planes to be followed by one hundred and twenty-five thousand next year. Tank production will reach forty-five thousand this year; seventy-five thousand next year. By the end of this year eight million tons of new shipping will be launched to help carry these weapons of war to the men in all nations opposed to the Axis who are anxious to use them. Ten million tons of new ships will be added to this great fleet next year.

The Nazis have exacted a terrible price from Belgium, in blood and torture and starvation...
and cruelties without number. But the loyalty and patriotism of the Belgians remain staunch. Death itself is still preferable to them than slavery.

President Roosevelt has authorized the U. S. radio to say in his name that the sacrifices of all people who love liberty shall not be in vain. Belgium will emerge from her present struggle a better and stronger country.

Americans are appalled by the Nazi policy of reducing Belgium by deliberate starvation. They understand thoroughly how that country has been plundered by the Germans. The horde of German troops and Gestapo agents saddled on once-prosperous Belgium are well fed while Belgian men, women and children hunger. The Nazis maintain huge stocks of food for their soldiers—food rightfully belonging to Belgians. Other food supplies of all kinds are exported to Germany to help maintain order within that country.

Belgians are not deceived by German propaganda efforts to persuade them to believe that shortages are caused by the United Nations blockade. German looting has gone on under their very eyes. Belgians understand that while
food reserves exist in abundance in America, no help can be forthcoming that would give comfort to the enemy. But that food is waiting, and one day it will be forthcoming.

America is sparing no resources to aid in the destruction of Nazism. Americanism might is pouring into the common battle. German defeat is inevitable. It cannot be delayed long.

And after the war, the United Nations, including Belgium, are assured of winning the peace. President Roosevelt said: "We are determined not only to win the war, but also to maintain the security of the peace which will follow."

The President of the United States will always remember the sacrifices of Belgium. Unprovoked murder, executions, imprisonments, tortures and starvation, have proved unavailing to the Nazis. The will to resist has never been so consolidated as in the face of these inhuman persecutions.

Belgium continues the fight. At home, increasing Nazi measures of repression testify to the success of Belgian sabotage and slowing down in work. Abroad, loyal Belgians all over the world de-
vote their every waking moment to the cause of a free Belgium. Thousands of Belgian men and young men are participating in actual combat with the armies of the United Nations. Their cause is the just cause of freedom for Belgium. Their victory is assured by the spiritual and physical might of the peoples of the world who reject bondage.

At the second year of Nazi occupation of Belgium, hope is brighter than ever for release. The might of the United Nations is now so great, its aims so clear, that only the time of defeat for Hitlerism remains doubtful. President Roosevelt said: "We shall not fight isolated wars, each nation going its own way. Twenty-six nations are united, not in spirit and determination alone, but in the broad conduct of war in all its phases.... Gone forever are the days when the aggressors could attach and destroy their victims one by one without unity of resistance."

President Roosevelt pointed out that the militarists in Berlin and Tokyo started this war. "But," he said, "the massed, angered forces of common humanity will finish it."

The objectives in this war are
clear, the President said. "The objective of smashing the militarism imposed by war lords upon their enslaved peoples—the objectives of liberating the subjugated nations—the objective of establishing and securing freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom from want and freedom from fear everywhere in the world."

These aims are not new to Belgians—nor to Americans. The United States and Belgium have worked for them shoulder to shoulder in the community of nations. Belgium's contributions toward the betterment of humanity have been great in the past. In culture, in art, and in science and industry, Belgium has ranked in the forefront of progressive nations. That country is guiltless of aggression. She has suffered terribly by the aggressive ambitions of Germany—twice, within the memory of most of her people. These wrongs shall be righted. Germany shall not again be allowed to impose her tyranny on peace-loving Belgium. Belgium's cause is humanity's cause.

The hearts of the Belgians are with their free government in London, and with their brave King Leopold, now a prisoner of
the hated Nazis. Nothing Germany has been able to do has altered this condition.

King Leopold asked the support of his army in May, 1940. He said then: "Belgium expects you all to honor her flag. Officers, soldiers, whatever happens, my fate will be the same as yours. . . . Our cause is just and unsullied. Providence will help us. Long live Belgium."

As more details are learned, Belgium's honor has indeed been greatly augmented by the heroic resistance of the army that died in its tracks opposing Hitler.

Americans look forward to the day when soon King Leopold may say again, "our cause is just and unsullied. Long live Belgium."