



Rowlands Gill: The Great War and the Great Peace Britain: The Belgian Connection

Lesson Plan Britain: The Belgian Connection

Teacher/s		Date:
Subject: History / Citizenship		Year:
Learning Objectives: How Britain has influenced and been influenced by the wider world. Understand the methods of historical enquiry. Understanding the connections between local, regional, national and international history.		Success Criteria: The children will understand the impact of the invasion of Belgium on Britain.
Key Questions: Why was the invasion of Belgium so emotive in Britain?		
Starter Activity / Introduction Discuss the meaning of the term <i>refugees</i> . Show news images of current refugee crises on the whiteboard. What is driving people away from their homes? How are they being helped – or not helped?		Resources Current news stories e.g. http://www.reuters.com/
Plenary Recap or explain the German invasion of Belgium in early August 1914 and how crucial this was to the Schlieffen Plan and the hoped for quick victory in the West. Emphasise the importance of the invasion in persuading the British people to support the war. Discuss or complete in writing the analysis of the famous Punch cartoon and haunting painting by William Nicholson. How would images such as these affect public opinion? Look up King Albert's book online or better still buy a copy from ebay. This was published as a tribute to the plight of Belgium after the German invasion. The Nicholson painting was taken from this. Analyse the messages in some of the other paintings/drawings in the volume for example pages 73 & 78.		Resources Britain: The Belgian Connection activity sheets. https://archive.org/details/kingalbertsbookt00dailuoft
Move onto the Rowlands Gill linked newspaper extract. Identify the local connections and the range of items being requested. What do these tell us about the nature of the Belgian refugees: left in a hurry; lacking even basic clothes? Pick out the older words for requested items, for example perambulators. There is extensive online material re Elizabethville.		Resources http://beyondthetrenches.co.uk/remembering-elizabethville-the-belgian-refugee-colony-of-durham/





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Britain: The Belgian Connection

In August 1914 Germany launched a huge surprise attack against France - through Belgium. Since Britain had promised to defend Belgium, Britain was pulled into the war too.

Most of Belgium was conquered and about 5,000 Belgian civilians were shot by the Germans as 'terrorists'. The British army fought much of the First World War near the Belgian city of Ypres, including the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917.

Gallant Little Belgium

Look at these British images of the German invasion of Belgium and fill in the writing frame. Look carefully, both are full of messages to their audience.





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Punch Cartoon *Bravo Belgium*

Talk to a partner about what you can see in the cartoon. Look at the small details.

How is Belgium shown in the cartoon?

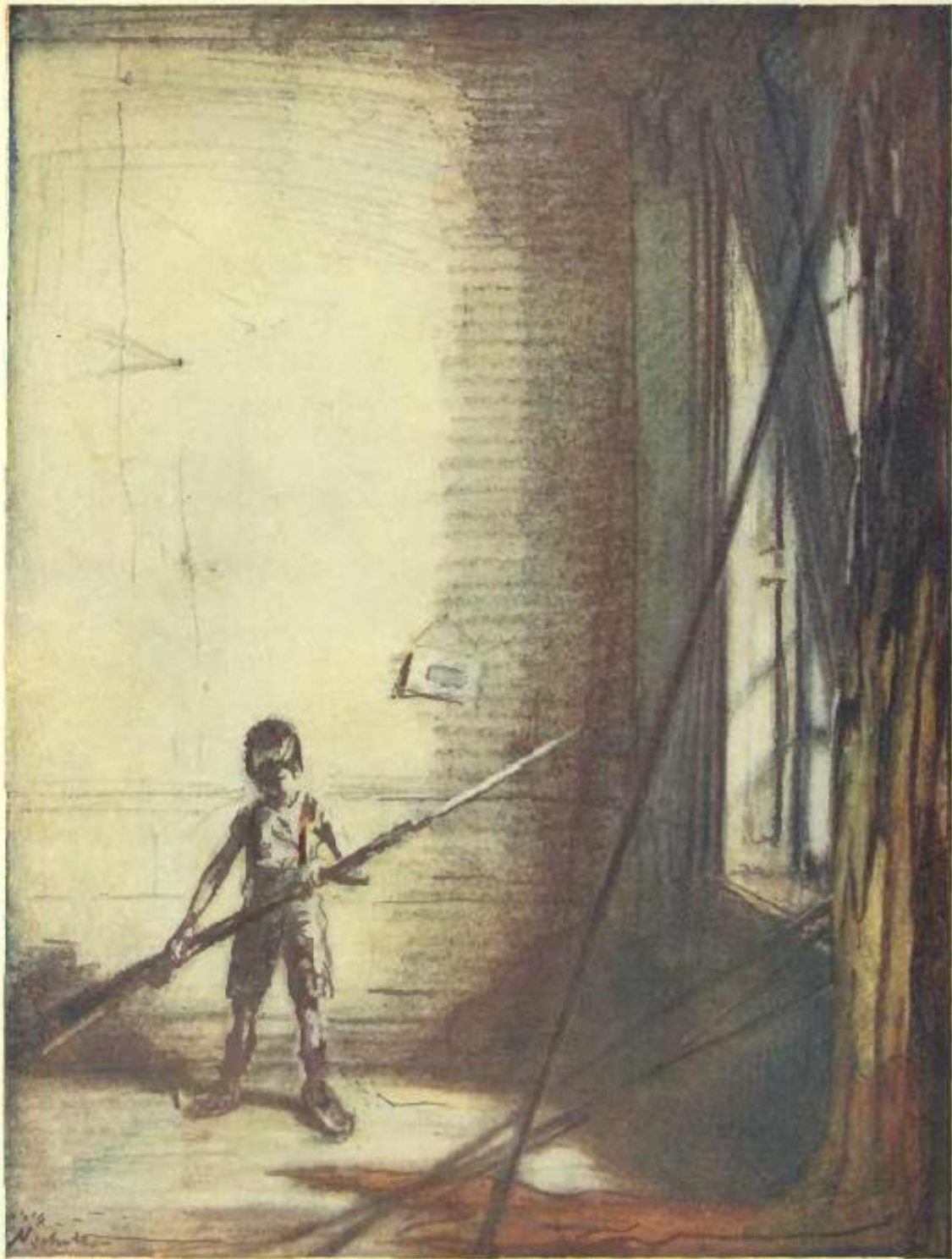
How is Germany shown in the cartoon?

How is the cartoonist poking fun at Germany?

How might this cartoon help British people think that it was worth going to war against Germany?



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THE BELGIAN OF TO-MORROW
BY WILLIAM NICHOLSON





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Painting *The Belgian of Tomorrow*

Talk to a partner about what you can see in the painting. Look at the small details.

How is the Belgian Boy shown in the cartoon?

What do you think the title of the painting means?

How might this painting help British people think that it was worth going to war against Germany?

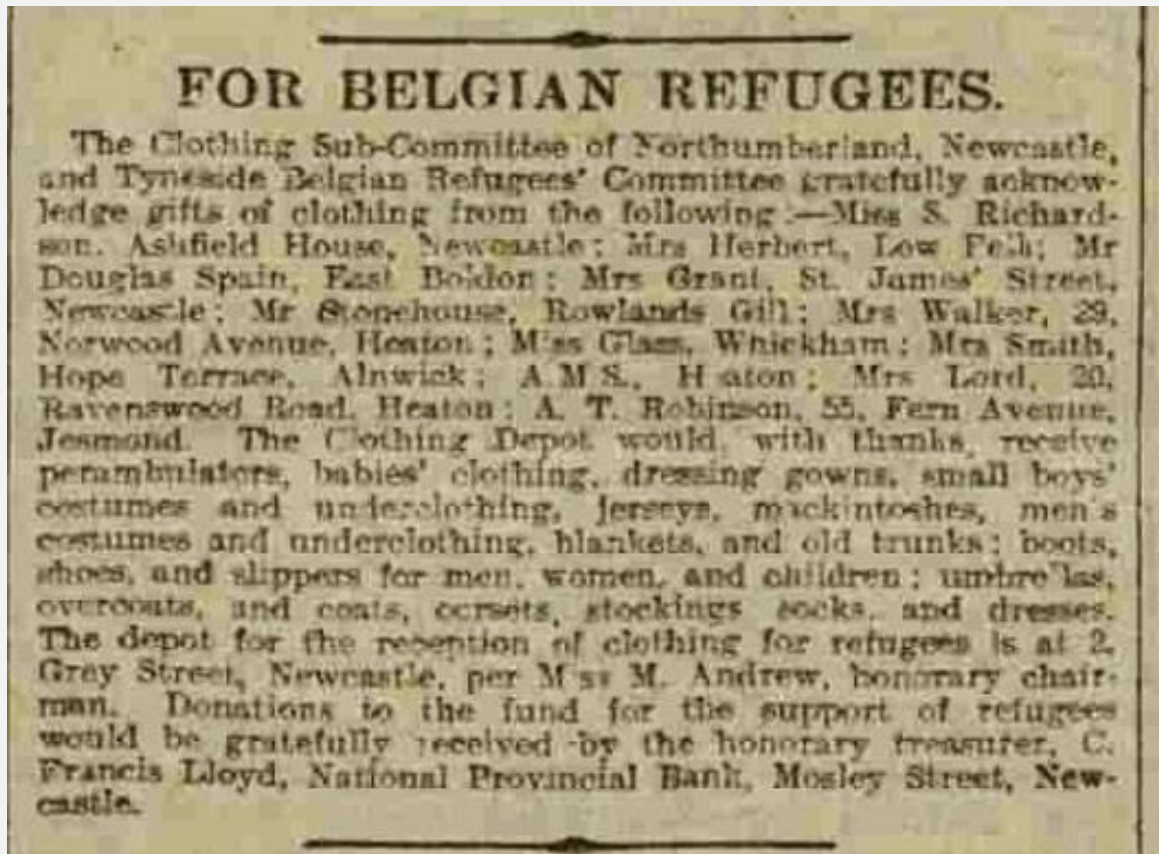
Which image do you prefer, the cartoon or the painting? Explain why?



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Belgian Refugees

Over 250 thousand Belgium refugees took shelter in Britain, many in the North East. They stayed in Britain for the rest of the war and local people set up committees to help them



Newcastle Daily Journal 4th September 1915



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The Newcastle Daily Journal 4th September 1915

What are refugees?
Are there any refugees
in the news today?

Underline or highlight
any references to
Rowlands Gill or
places nearby.

What kind of donations
are people being
asked for?
Why would refugees
need these?

Look up *Elizabethville*,
Birtley online. What
was it?
How were the Belgian
refugees in
Elizabethville helping
fight the war?