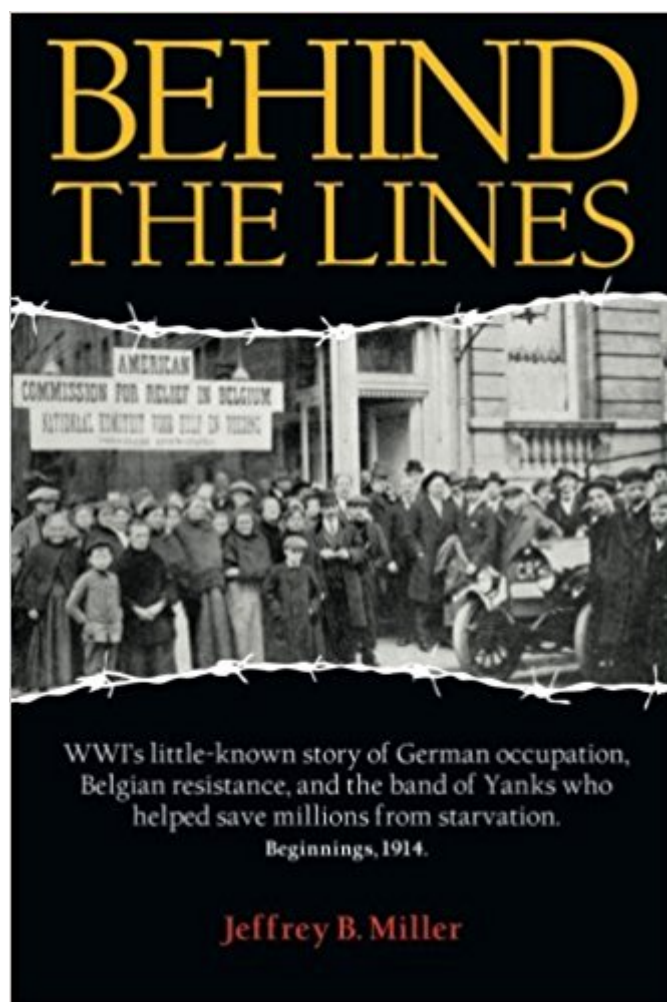


The book was found

Behind The Lines: WWI's Little-known Story Of German Occupation, Belgian Resistance, And The Band Of Yanks Who Helped Save Millions From Starvation.





Synopsis

During World War I, the Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB) initiated, organized, and supervised the largest food and relief drive the world has ever seen. Working in concert with its counterpart in Belgium, the Comité National, the CRB fed and clothed for four years more than 9 million Belgians and northern French trapped behind German lines. Young, idealistic Americans volunteered to go into German-occupied Belgium to guarantee the food would not be taken by the Germans. They had to maintain strict neutrality in what they said and did as they watched the Belgians suffer under the harsh German regime. Covering August 1914 through December 1914, this nonfiction book follows a handful of CRB delegates, a twenty-two-year-old Belgian woman, two U.S. diplomats, the head of the CRB, and a Belgian businessman and a Belgian priest who team up to fight the German occupation. It is a story that few have heard.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

KIRKUS STAR REVIEW"Just in time for the Great War's centennial, this valuable narrative reprises a dramatic chapter of world history that rarely takes center stage in history books...the pages fly by, thanks to Miller's consistently smooth prose and careful scene-setting. He effectively captures the human drama... Miller writes that his goal was to write for people "who never read history books"; he accomplishes that splendidly, while also creating a work that scholars will admire. An excellent history that should catapult Miller to the top tier of popular historians." Kirkus Reviews "The Indie We Love...Writers like Miller bring to life the people, the heroes we do not know..." Monica Carter, Foreword Magazine."...Miller, fascinated with this largely forgotten slice of history, has published

"Behind the Lines" (Millbrown Press), a fascinating look at the first five months of the relief campaign..." William Porter, Sunday Denver Post, Oct. 12, 2014 "..."The impressive research and generally crisp writing transforms what could have been an arid study into a dramatic and at times inspiring narrative. Miller weaves back and forth between the grand sweep of the invasion of Belgium and up-close, anecdotal material and observations concerning his grandmother's family and others in the path of the Kaiser's troops..." Alan Prendergast, Westword, Denver's alternative weekly newspaper, Oct. 22, 2014

STARRED REVIEW One of the historian's jobs is to take all the shards--all the accounts, statistics, stories, and documents of a particular time--and make them click into place like a pattern in a kaleidoscope. Jeffrey B. Miller does this admirably in Behind the Lines. Miller's history primarily concerns the Commission for Relief in Belgium (CRB), the privately run organization that kept a whole nation from starving during WWI. . . Miller discloses the details with a master's touch for synecdoche. . .Blue Ink Reviews, June 2015

KIRKUS STARRED REVIEW, Sept. 7, 2014 "Just in time for the Great War's centennial, this valuable narrative reprises a dramatic chapter of world history that rarely takes center stage in history books...the pages fly by, thanks to Miller's consistently smooth prose and careful scene-setting. He effectively captures the human drama, with exquisite descriptions of how characters looked... and why they behaved as they did... Miller writes that his goal was to write for people 'who never read history books'; he accomplishes that splendidly, while also creating a work that scholars will admire. An excellent history that should catapult Miller to the top tier of popular historians." SUNDAY DENVER POST, William Porter, Oct. 12, 2014 "..."Miller, fascinated with this largely forgotten slice of history, has published "Behind the Lines" (Millbrown Press), a fascinating look at the first five months of the relief campaign."

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Jeffrey B. Miller has been a writer, editor, and author for nearly forty years. His career includes starting six magazines (city, regional, and national), being editor-in-chief of five inflight magazines, and director of communications for AAA Colorado. He is also the author of Stapleton International Airport: The First Fifty Years (Pruett Publishing, Boulder, CO, 1983), which was the first history book

about a major U.S. airport; and co-author with Dr. Gordon Ehlers of *Facing Your Fifties: Every Man's Reference to Mid-life Health* (M. Evans & Co., New York, 2002), which was one of only three health books that *Publishers Weekly* included in its "Best Books of 2002."

The author does a great job of summarizing the work of Herbert Hoover and the CRB but I would have enjoyed far more information on the resistance in the occupied lands by the Belgians. I hope the authors follows through with his promise to publish another book covering 1915.

This is one of the great untold American, feel good, stories. It comes during a time when Americans can well use some great things said about us..... A reminder who who we are and who we can be. It talks about the incredible sacrifices and yet no one seems to know about it. I am not a history buff at all, but because of the recommendation of someone else, I decided to read it. The format makes it for such easy reading, more like reading a great novel, and well organized with a flow like reading articles in a magazine,.. than what could be a cumbersome lesson on history. Don't miss it.

Jefferey Miller's *Behind the Lines* is a fascinating story about the CRB (Commission for Relief in Belgium) in Belgium during World War I. It's a little known aspect of the Great War, making Miller's story not only entertaining, but informative as well. Unlike many other historical narratives, *Behind the Lines* is a compelling page-turner, never getting bogged down in historical nitpicking or unnecessary detail. The book is irresistible and keeps you on the edge of your seat throughout. Thanks to Miller's exhaustive research and knowledge about the CRB, *Behind the Lines* takes readers on a journey that feels timeless (even though a century has passed) and relevant even in today's world. *Behind the Lines* is a stunning read for history buffs and everyday readers alike. The book will pull on your heartstrings, keep you in suspense and ultimately show the power of humanity, even in the face of great peril. If you are looking for an engaging, informative and well-written book that begs to be read, look no further than Miller's *Behind the Lines*.

Full disclosure first. Jeff is a friend of mine and I was witness to the long, arduous process that resulted in this book. While our friendship is long and enduring, it's never clouded my perspective regarding his writing. Having never been a great fan of "history" books I found this story and narrative to be absolutely compelling. I'm distant enough from the war, as are most of us still alive today, that it doesn't resonate the way perhaps Vietnam or the newly-minted wars in the Middle East. This book, so profoundly researched and so personally driven, gave me a very clear sense of

one aspect of WW1 and, by merit of that, a deeper understanding of the scope of this tragedy and it's intimate effect on so many. The blend of historical perspective and personal stories made this book a compelling read. If you have an interest in WW1 and our global history, it's a must. Well-written, beautifully structured and a page-turner.

This historical document about the Commission for the Relief of Belgium is wonderful. It's a story every American should read for two reasons: to learn about our countries' involvement in the feeding of millions of Europeans during the early years of WWI, and to learn about the important development of the American ethic of giving to those in need. It's also a fascinating look at the complexity of establishing a network of food production, procurement and distribution during war, coping with conflicting governments and the realities of available means of travel. I heartily recommend this book, and I look forward to the next two volumes!

This book was very good

Well researched and written. A captivating story that added to my knowledge and love of history.

History told by a wonderful story teller. It was a great read!

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