



A civic welcome in Dover for these boat loads of refugees from Belgium.

Heartrending scenes as Belgians pour into Kent

BELGIAN REFUGEES FLOOD INTO KENT

From 20 August 1914, with the Germans rapidly overrunning Belgium, 250,000 Belgians took whatever boat was available and landed along the south coast, especially at Folkestone and Dover. These were found homes all over Kent, and later beyond.

LOCAL RESPONSE TO TAKING IN BELGIAN REFUGEES

October 1914 Eynsford and Farningham Parish Councils reported receipt of Circular from Dartford Rural District Council asking villages to form committees to receive some Belgian refugees.

REFUGEES IN CROCKENHILL

Mr Thomas Wood made provision for a family of 14.

Mr Eugene Peeters and family were housed in 19 Cray Road.

Mr Peeters found work in a munition factory and the family was soon self-supporting.

By December the Crockenhill Relief Committee was seeking subscriptions for refugees. Money came in freely especially from the working class, so 14 refugees could be supported for a year.

February 1915 - His sons, Francois (13), Constant (8), and Camille de Cort (7) were enrolled into Crockenhill School.

Funds given to the War Memorial Fund.

BELGIAN REFUGEES IN CROCKENHILL

Belgian
children

Read letter dated Dec. 16th from Mr.
Eugene Peeters, 19 Bray Road, Crockenhill,
forwarding three names, as under, of Belgian
boys desirous of attending the Crockenhill Council
School, viz.,

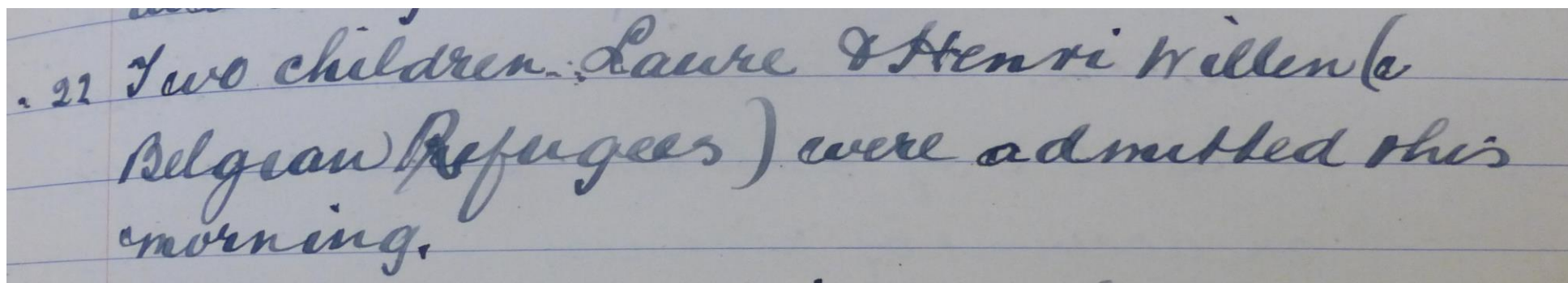
Francois Peeters	13 years
Constant Peeters	8 "
Camille De Cost	7 "

The correspondent reported that
arrangements had been made for the admission
of these children to the School, and that the
Kent Education Committee had been notified.

Entry in the Crockenhill Council School Managers' Minutes, February 1915,
about admitting Belgian refugee children

REFUGEES IN EYNSFORD

Miss Sydney Dyke and the Red Cross made provision for 16 refugees.



22 Two children, Laure & Henri Willen (a Belgian Refugee) were admitted this morning.

22 October 1914 - Admission register - Eynsford Church School

Laure (born 1/10/05) and Henri (born 2/11/03) Willen, Darenth House, parent Louis, last school Liege (Fetinne) 4th year. Left to France 22 February 1915, readmitted 21/6/1915.

Amelie Landers (born 7/4/08) Darenth House, parent Arnaud, last school Liege. 10/6/15 left village, 2nd time 1/7/1915 gone to live in London

December 1914 At Eynsford Parish Council it was reported that funds were being raised for refugees in Eynsford, but the Red Cross in Eynsford was also helping needy cases in the home population.

REFUGEES IN FARNINGHAM

13 October 1914 - Farningham Parish Council decided to take no action, but H.J. Ward of The Hill House was Chairman of the Farningham Belgian Refugee Committee.

Mr Waring offered the Manor House, Farningham, to house any refugees.

30 November 1914 - Farningham Church School log mentioned 2 Belgian children admitted.

Anglo-Belgian memorial, a gift from the Belgian nation to thank Britain for the help given to refugees during the 1st World War. Sculptor - Victor Rousseau. Unveiled 1920, on the Embankment, south of Waterloo bridge

