

New York Tribune
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Germans Got Cold Cheer in Brussels

***City Shut Up Like Clam at Approach of Army and
Only a Few Hundred Curious Watched 26-Hour Passage of Troops***

Brussels, Aug. 20 (delayed)—With the swiftness of moving pictures the scene here has changed to one of peace. Gone are smart officers of staff in front of the cafes, French and Belgian aviators in their fur jackets, the dust covered wounded, jubilant, shrieking motor horns and messengers on motorcycles. Now, following the instructions of the Burgomaster, the people have withdrawn indoors and the streets are strangely silent. Empty shops are closing, and taxicabs and automobiles, fearing seizure, have been secreted by their owners. When the Germans at last arrive—and three times this morning their approach has been heralded—their triumphal procession will be greeted coldly and by a very small audience.

Meanwhile the last train to Ostend, which had as many farewell appearances as Adelina Patti, finally departed and the station was closed. So also are the doors of the post office and the telegraph office, the latter closing instantly after I had deposited most of my money to pay cable tolls. For any cables the Germans will let us send we will need no money. Meanwhile, this dispatch is being taken to Ostend by motor car, but after the Germans enter that route may also be closed. The English correspondence and all the American correspondents except three got out last night. Two hundred Americans are registered at the American Legation.

The first Germans to enter Brussels were on bicycles and in gray, an officer and two privates. they were white with dust. Rifles were slung from their shoulders and their spiked helmets covered with khaki. At the circle where the Boulevard Regent meets the Chaussee de Louvain probably three hundred men and three or four women were gathered. They were, of course, of the concierge and workmen class in blouses. The windows of the houses in which they had been employed were so tightly closed that Lady Godiva might have ridden the length of the boulevard and felt no shame. Few people and hermetically closed house fronts made it appear as though within an hour the day had changed from Thursday to Sunday morning.

The entire route over which it was expected that the Germans would pass had been carefully policed. Both gendarmes and citizens with special licenses from the Burgomaster kept the few spectators back from the curb when the bicycles appeared. These same policemen forced those who advanced curiously to retreat. The Germans came riding quickly, obviously with no thought that they might be molested. One of them as he passed asked in French of a policeman the way to the railroad station. The man with the motor car to Ostend won't wait longer, so I must stop. The number of Germans immediately outside the city is reported to be about 16,000. They are to occupy the Royal Palace and the Hotel du Ville.