

## NAN VISITS EUROPE

By DOROTHY DOUGLAS.

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When Nan went on her first visit to Europe she had not the slightest hint that she would arrive in a land hewn into the horrors of war. She had taken her trip across the ocean on a long delayed holiday and had expected to find only joy and merriment for Nan had a way of meeting happiness halfway wherever she went.

But in Belgium she had led from the advance of the common enemy into Paris and from the gay city she had enjoyed a scant three weeks when with hundreds of other Americans she had scrambled onto safer English soil.

London was a haven of refuge to Nan, who had smelled the smoke of battle and heard the boom of distant fire. She had seen pitiful little families of Belgian refugees fleeing along the roads from devastated homes, leaving behind them all beauty and all hope and going they knew not where.

But London was waiting with open arms to receive all of the weary refugees from the courageous little country, and Nan found herself again face to face with the realities of war. There were no less than a dozen of these Belgians sheltered in hospitable homes in Norland square.

It was in the acre of green park belonging to the square that Nan became acquainted with little Jean Leman, a Belgian child who had been brought over from the devastated city of Louvain.

Jean's mother was a French lady, who was sleeping beneath a flower garden in Belgium. Her father was a soldier, Maj. Albert Leman.

From that moment on Jean and Nan became fast friends. They romped and played and went on long bus rides through the city and out into country lanes.

When the wounded soldiers began to arrive in trainloads, Nan could no more have left the city of London than she could have cut off her own right hand. She simply had to remain. Something held her, she knew not what.

It was during the sixth week of the war that Nan discovered little Jean Leman's photograph on the front page of the Sketch. Major Leman was anxiously seeking news of his little girl and had asked the papers to assist him in the search. Nan did not wait to have her breakfast but went quickly into the boarding house next door in search of Jean.

Nan explained as swiftly as possible in her improved French that Daddy Soldier was in London and that he was looking for his little girl.

"We will go down this morning when you have eaten your nice breakfast," Nan told her and went off to ascertain the location of the King Edward VII hospital and the quickest way of getting there.

Jean chatted incessantly on the journey down; she was so excited that Nan felt her own calm engulf her as if for the purpose of steadying the child. Consequently, when they arrived at the hospital and approached the big Belgian officer whose head was swathed in bandages and one arm pinned in like fashion to his side, it was Nan who displayed a most wonderful calm. Major Leman broke down emotionally—perhaps more than he had during the entire weeks of fierce fighting—when Jean was swept into his uninjured arm. Over her head, which he held against his breast, he looked at Nan and made swift apology for having conversed in a foreign tongue.

"One is apt to forget convention in moments of great emotion," he added. "In a moment I will thank you for having cared for my little Jean."

"You are not going away from me again, are you?" Jean was asking her father.

"Yes, dearie, as soon as this arm is better, and the more often Miss Nan brings you down to see me the sooner I can get back to help the soldiers at the front."

So it was that during the long hours of convalescence Nan came to know love. The emotion was so great and wonderful that Nan was shocked at her own weakness before the attack.

Jean did not know what her father and Nan were talking about, nor why her father swept Nan so suddenly into his arms, but she smiled for the picture was pleasing and Jean knew that all was well.

## Light Humor.

In the latter half of the eighteenth century one of the members of a little scientific society in Liverpool, England, laid a curious wager. He bet a brother scientist that he would read a newspaper by the light of a farthing dip at a distance of 30 feet. The B. S., finding the feat difficult at even a sixth of the distance, cheerfully accepted the wager.

The layer merely coated the inside of a shallow wooden box with sloping pieces of looking glass, so as to form a concave lens, placed behind his farthing dip and readily deciphered the small print at the stipulated distance.

The experiment was witnessed by a Liverpool dockmaster. He was a thinking man and saw great possibilities in this learned jest. He straightway adapted the principle to lighthouse requirements and forthwith the modern reflex light, with its miles of reflected range and untold life-saving powers, sprang into being.

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