

BELGIUM: PAST AND PRESENT; THE COCKPIT OF EUROPE

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Belgium: past and present; the cockpit of Europe by A. R. Hope Moncrieff

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A. R. HOPE MONCRIEFF

**BELGIUM: PAST AND
PRESENT; THE
COCKPIT OF EUROPE**

B E L G I U M
PAST AND PRESENT



THE GORDONS AT QUATRE BRAS

TO THE MEMORY OF
N. C. D.
AND THE FIRST HUNDRED THOUSAND
WHO GLADLY GAVE THEIR LIVES
TO RIGHT THE WRONG

PREFACE

THIS book does not pretend to being a formal history of the Flemish and Walloon provinces up to their union as an independent kingdom ; nor does it deal with Belgium exclusively. Its aim is, with pen and pencil, to illustrate the stirring past of that troubled borderland on which neighbour-nations have so often fought their quarrels, till in our own day it made an arena for the main stress of the greatest war ever waged on earth. Those who have gone through that titanic struggle, or followed it with anxious eyes, may willingly find here renewed for them the old fame of names now to us become at once sadly and proudly familiar.

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