

Brand Whitlock, Brave War Diplomat, Is Dead

American Who Befriended Belgians During Dark Days Succumbs in France—Was Author.

Cannes, France, May 24.—(AP)—Brand Whitlock, former United States ambassador to Belgium and outstanding World war figure, died here today.

Mr. Whitlock, who was 65 years old, died at noon. He had been ill for some months.

He was taken to the Sunnybank English-American hospital March 5 and underwent a serious bladder operation at that time.

He had been improving slowly, and friends said they thought he was on the way to recovery. Today he underwent a second operation.

Mrs. Whitlock was with him throughout his illness.

The outbreak of the World war in 1914 and the invasion of Belgium developed a great humanitarian problem which focussed world-wide attention on the American minister to Belgium.

This man was Brand Whitlock, and his vigorous efforts in behalf of the Belgian civilians in the face of strong opposition by the German military leaders won for him the admiration and affections of the Belgians to a degree only slightly less than their love for their fighting king.

Many others were active in raising funds and food among the allies' powers and neutrals for Belgian relief, but it was through Whitlock's organization that such relief came to be distributed.

Trying situations without number confronted the American minister at Brussels, in resisting pressure of various sorts exerted or attempted on the Belgian non-combatants. It was largely through the vigorous efforts of Mr. Whitlock that the Germans finally desisted from the wholesale deportations of Belgian civilians into Germany for war work.

Mayor of Toledo.

He was recognized as one of the greatest benefactors of Belgium and was showered with honors from many of the allied governments. In 1919, his rank was raised to that of ambassador, but in

1922 he retired from diplomatic service to private life.

His work in Belgium, which began with his appointment as minister Dec. 2, 1913, was his most



BRAND WHITLOCK.

prominent position in public life, although he had served four consecutive terms as mayor of Toledo, from 1905 to 1913, and declined a nomination for a fifth term.

Mr. Whitlock was born March 4, 1869, in Urbana, Ohio, the son of Rev. Elias D. Whitlock, a Methodist Episcopal minister.

His political career at Toledo was almost overshadowed by his success as an author, for during the time of his service as mayor, he produced a number of popular books, including "The Thirteenth District," a novel based on city politics; "Her Infinite Variety;" and "The Happy Average," besides a great number of magazine articles dealing with his views on social problems. He was in wide demand as a lecturer on these problems, for which his political experience had peculiarly fitted him to testify.

Brand Whitlock.

The death of Brand Whitlock recalls the stirring days of the World war and the heroic conduct of Mr. Whitlock in his role as American minister to Belgium. Unafraid of the German military masters of Belgium, Brand Whitlock moved resolutely and effectively to protect the interests of Belgian civilians. He was largely responsible for bringing an end to the deportation of Belgian non-combatants to Germany and he directed the distribution of relief to the millions of needy men, women and children in the stricken little land.

So all-embracing was his mission of mercy that the people of Belgium came to feel for him an affection almost equal to that they felt for their king. And when he retired from the diplomatic service in 1922, he had more than earned the leisure of private life. His career will stand out as a shining light in the history of American diplomacy.

*Taken from
Jackson Citizen Patriot
Jackson, Michigan
circa 1939. 1934*

FRANCE, BELGIUM JOIN IN HONORING WHITLOCK

Cannes, France, May 26.—(AP)—France and Belgium joined Saturday in a funeral tribute to Brand Whitlock, who served as American ambassador at Brussels during the World war.

George De Laval, who was the lawyer representing Edith Cavell, the British nurse who was shot as a spy after Whitlock tried to save her, was one of those present to eulogize the wartime minister.

"You will always," said De Laval, "live in the memory of the Belgian people."

About 100 persons attended the last rites in Holy Trinity church, where Whitlock lay in a casket covered by roses and draped with an American flag. Delegations of American, British and Belgian war veterans were present.

BRAND WHITLOCK WILL BE BURIED IN FRANCE

Cannes, France, May 26.—(AP)—Brand Whitlock, United States ambassador to Belgium during the World war period, who died here Thursday, will be buried in the English cemetery of Cannes Saturday.

A simple funeral service is planned, to be followed by a Belgian tribute to his services to that country during the war.