

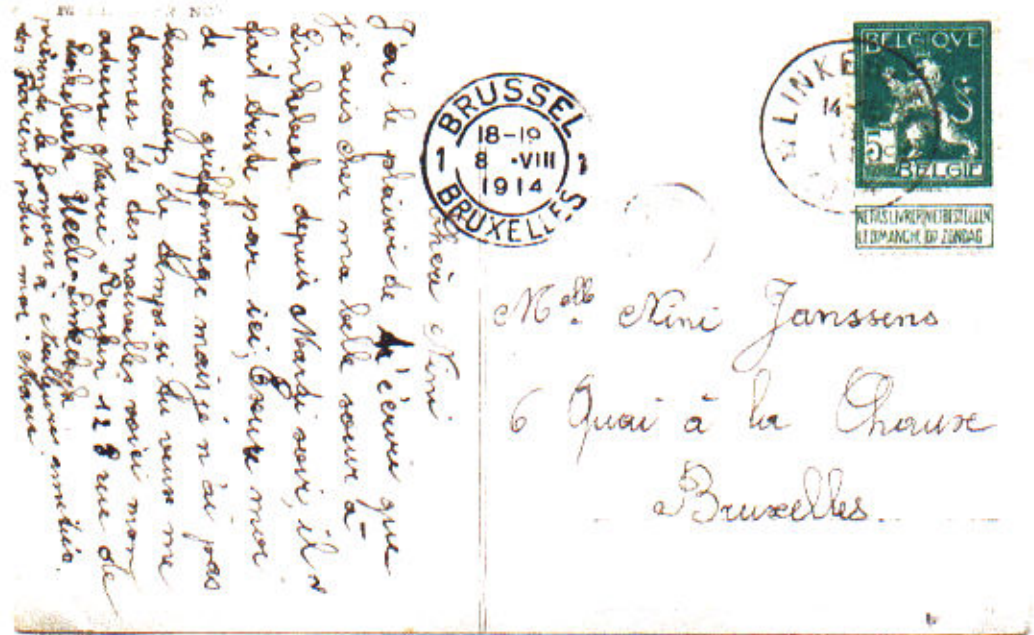
## It Would Be Sacrificing the Nation's Honor. . .

. . . or so **Belgium's** government responded to Germany's August 2, 1914 demand for unimpeded transit of Belgium to attack France. With Belgian refusal and British support for Belgium, the world went to war on August 4. 1914-1918 Belgian mail and stamps in this Display Class exhibit show some of the consequences—personal, governmental, and military—of that courageous decision by Free Belgium. (Free Belgium is any area not under German control when an item was mailed.)

Card from Linkebeek, later occupied by the German army. The sender has been staying with relatives since August 4, the first day of the German invasion.

Dear Nini

I am happy to tell you that I have been at my sister-in-law's home in Linkebeek since Tuesday night. Things are sad here; excuse my scrawl but I don't have much time. If you would like to write to me, my address is Marie Rankin, 128 rue de Linkebeek, Uccle-Linkebeek. Best wishes to your family. Marie



8 August, 1914 card from Linkebeek to Brussels

Exhibit items show the range, speed, and terror of the invasion, the war-long defense of a small part of Belgium from the Germans, and some of the problems and solutions of the Belgian postal service and the citizens of Free Belgium. Material used includes message content, destinations both usual and unusual, uncommon rates and frankings, and post cards with pictures showing effects of the war on Free Belgium. All envelopes and cards were postmarked between August 3, 1914 and December 31, 1918.