

7. Eugenie Hamer

1865 – ?

Eugenie was a member of Artistic and Literary Society of Antwerp and became secretary general of the local Red Cross Ladies. In 1906 she helped establish the Belgian Alliance for Peace through Education, an organisation she represented at the IWC at The Hague in 1915. She was one of the group of five Belgian women given permits by the German authorities to attend - although they had to walk the last five miles of their journey.

“There was a moment of intense feeling when it became known that the Belgian delegates had arrived. They had received a permit to come from the German Governor in Belgium, but had to travel the last portion of the Esschen-Roosendaal route on foot. As they ascended the platform the whole Congress rose in token of respect and cheered heartily.”¹

Eugenie Hamer opposed any resolution that demanded an immediate peace as she argued there could be no peace until Belgium was liberated.

During the World War One she worked as a nurse. In 1926 she became editor of a conservative Catholic journal where she focused on foreign policy with a special interest in Poland and the Slavonic countries. She received civilian medals of honour from the Belgian Red Cross, and from Poland and Estonia.

¹ Towards Permanent Peace Sept 1915 p. 8.