Poster - Hun or Home? Buy More Liberty Bonds

Object: Poster
Place of origin: United States (published)
Date: ca. 1917 (published)
Artist/Maker: Raleigh, Henry (artist)
Materials and Techniques: Lithograph
Credit Line: Given by the Imperial War Museum
Museum number: E.156-1919

Gallery location: Prints & Drawings Study Room, level C, case Y, shelf 78, box A

Public access description
The USA entered the First World War in 1917. It established a system for the general population to make financial contributions to the war effort in the form of Liberty Bonds, the equivalent of the British War Bonds. Tales of (largely unfounded) atrocities, such as rape, child murder and mutilation and abuse of soldiers' bodies, were behind many of the images for such posters. In this one, the German soldier, identifiable by his spiked helmet, looms up like an ape toward a female figure. The imminence of horror is intensified by the fact that she is clutching a baby and seems, by her pigtail and short skirt, to be merely a girl.

Descriptive line
Poster by Henry Raleigh entitled 'Hun or Home? Buy More Liberty Bonds'. USA, ca. 1917.

Physical description
Portrait format poster printed in black and red on an ochre ground. Captioned across top. Below this, to left, a hulking German soldier - identifiable by his spiked helmet - moving toward a girl to the right, in fearful pose, holding a baby, moving forward but looking back.

Dimensions
Height: 758 mm sheet, Width: 512 mm sheet

Museum number
E.156-1919

URL
http://collections.vam.ac.uk/item/O75737/hun-or-home-buy-more-poster-raleigh-henry/