American Women Aiding England's Wounded Soldiers

Wives of Noblemen Doing Wonderful War Relief Work—Care for Wives and Widows of Fighting Men

"THE American women of England" is what they call themselves in an appeal for help in the work they have undertaken for the succor of wounded British soldiers and sailors and for the giving of employment to the wives and widows of England's fighting men. They are the American wives of English noblemen—duchesses, countesses, baronesses, &c.

With the Duchess of Marlborough, who was Miss Consuelo Vanderbilt, as chairman they have got together to organize a war relief enterprise, and are already doing wonderful things. First and foremost, they have started and are running a great hospital at Peignton, in the south of England.

The president of the organization is Lady Paget, who once upon a time was Miss Minnie Stevens of New York—a daughter of that famous Mrs. Paran Stevens who was for many years a social leader in the metropolis.

The chairman of the hospital committee is Lady Randolph Churchill. She was before she married Lord Randloph Churchill Miss Jennie Jerome, daughter of that Leonard Jerome, who a generation ago was a celebrity in New York—the beau ideal of the man about town and the special chum of William R. Travers, the wit, and of the elder Sothern, equally famous for his acting of *Lord Dundreary* and for his practical jokes at the expense of his friends.

Others associated with the management of the hospital are the Duchess of Roxburghe, who was Miss May Goelet; Lady Camoys, who was Miss Mildred Sherman and the Countess of Granard, wife of King George's Master of Horse, who was Miss Beatrice Mills, daughter of Ogden Mills.

All of these American women—with the exception of Lady Randolph Churchill, whose father was only moderately well off as wealth is considered nowadays—brought great fortunes to their titled husbands. Now they are dipping deep into their purses to show, as they have expressed it, their "sympathy with Great Britain in her hour of trial."

With their money they have started what they call the American women's war relief fund, out of which the Peignton hospital, as well as other enterprises, is maintained.

The house occupied by the hospital at Peignton is one of the finest mansions in England. Before the war began it was the residence of a very wealthy American, E. Paris Singer, whose money was originally derived from sewing machines.

The Singer mansion at Peignton stands on an elevation, surrounded by magnificent and spacious white marble terraces, with extensive gardens. Its situation is the most healthful imaginable. To-day this palace, which cost in the neighborhood of $2,500,000, is converted into a completely equipped surgical hospital, with 270 beds and every appliance known to medical science. There is even an operating theatre, taking the place of what was until recently a drawing room. Every rug and every yard of drapery has been removed from the house lest such furnishings should harbor germs, and practically every stick of the costly furniture has been taken away.

The mansion thus transformed is called to-day the American Women's Hospital and from a staff on the roof flies the flag of the American Red Cross. From another staff floats the Stars and Stripes.

In the management of this establishment, which in peace times bore the name of Oldway House, the women are working in cooperation with the British Red Cross, and it has been formally accepted as a military hospital by the War Office.

Another branch of the work of the American Women's War Relief Fund is the making of clothing for British soldiers and sailors. It employs, at sewing work and at good wages, the wives of soldiers and other women who find themselves destitute by reason of the war. For this purpose persons sympathizing with the enterprise have placed at the disposal of the fund adequate quarters in the heart of London free of rent.

In one such workroom sixty women who would otherwise be without employment or means of subsistence are busily engaged with needles and sewing machines, and to supply them with food a kitchen is established on the premises, providing an excellent dinner for two pence (four cents) with free tea.

Another workroom has been opened in Islington, which is one of the poorest quarters of London, and all of the workrooms are managed in connection with the Queen's Central Committee of Women's Employment.

The fund planned to give a fully equipped hospital ship to the War Office. But Lord Kitchener, when the idea was communicated to him, said that he would rather have some motor ambulances for conveying wounded soldiers from the firing line to the field hospitals. As a matter of course the plan was changed thereupon and the women used the money to purchase several ambulances, each of them mounted on a 30 horse-power chassis and fitted with every modern contrivance for the comfort of disabled fightingmen. Each of these vehicles has room for two hospital attendants and four stretchers, or will accommodate two stretchers and six men who are able to sit up.

The Countess of Suffolk is another American woman of English title who is taking an active interest in the war work. Before her marriage she was Miss Daisy Leiter, a sister of Joseph Leiter and daughter of Levi Z. Leiter of Chicago and Washington.

Meanwhile on this side of the water many women of wealth and social prominence are entering upon the same kind of work with extraordinary enthusiasm. Mrs. Gifford Pinchot, but recently a bride, has gone abroad to join her sister-in-law, Lady Alan Johnstone, in the organization of a field hospital. Lady Alan Johnstone is Mr. Pinchot's sister and her husband was formerly a secretary of the British Embassy in Washington. The hospital will be paid for out of the Pinchot millions.

Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney is now in France with $250,000 to spend in organizing and equipping a complete field hospital. She was, before her marriage, Miss Gertrude Vanderbilt.

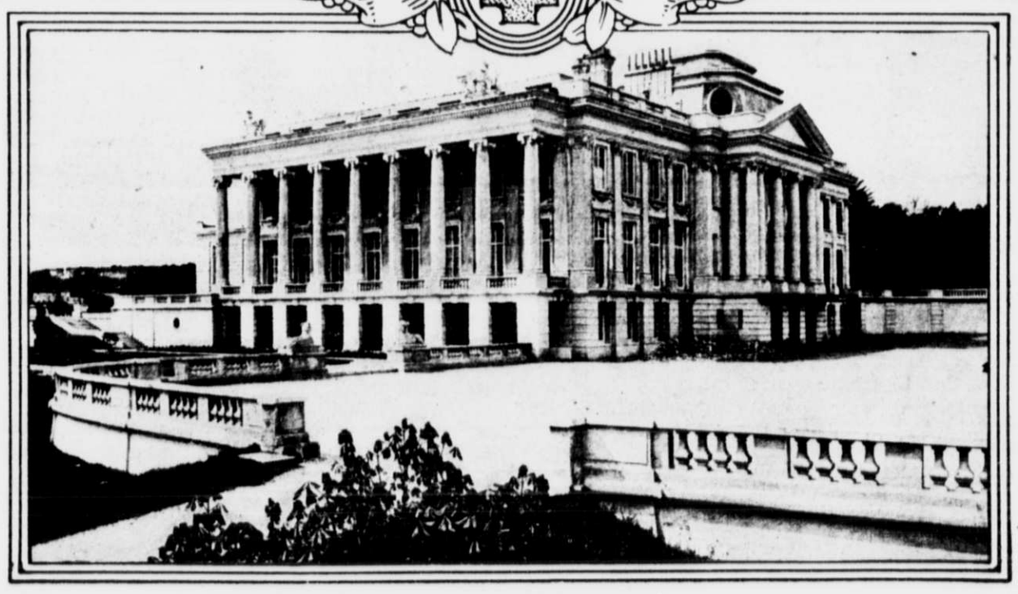
In the way of giving and collecting money for war help the women who lead in the social life of Newport in the summer are doing wonders. Headed by Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish they raised $43,785 at one bazaar over and above all expenses. Associated in this work are Mrs. French E. Chadwick, Mrs. Pembroke Jones, Mrs. Hermann Oelrichs, Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, Jr., and Mrs. George D. Widener.

Another Vanderbilt heiress, by the way—Gladys, daughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt and sister of Alfred G. Vanderbilt—has organized and paid for a field hospital in Austria. She is the wife of a Hungarian nobleman, Count Ladislas Szechenyi.

The former Anna Gould, sister of George J. Gould, who married Count Boni de Castellane, and, having secured a divorce, is now the wife of the Prince de Sagan, has taken a conspicuous part in the same kind of work in France.

It is well worth mentioning in conclusion that a woman physician of distinction, Dr. Sophie Nordhoff-Jung, who through several administrations has attended professionally the ladies of the White House, as well as those of the diplomatic corps in Washington, is now in Munich in charge of a great base hospital that is conducted by the American Red Cross. Born in Germany, but considering herself an American, she happened by mere chance to be in Munich when the war broke out and the Bavarian authorities were only too glad to avail themselves of her skilled services.

Connected temporarily with this hospital, for emergency purposes, are a number of nearby houses which are crowded with British, French, German, Austrian and Russian soldiers. The high esteem in which its management is held may be judged from the fact that men who are seriously wounded are picked out to be sent thither. Under Dr. Sophie Nordhoff-Jung are serving several American volunteer nurses at this time, one of them being a California opera singer, Miss Maude Fay, who was recently prima donna in the famous opera house at Munich. Another is Mrs. William Thaw of the Pittsburg family.



American Women's Hospital at Peignton, England.

Above—American Women's War Committee. Seated left to right—Mrs. Harcourt, Lady Randolph Churchill, Mrs. John Astor, Lady Paget, Duchess of Marlborough and Lady Lowther.

Napoleon Anecdotes

IN 1802 Bonaparte proposed the formation of a Legion of Honor, which was to include in its ranks men of distinction from every walk in life, not only soldiers but savants, jurists and authors.

"It is aristocratic in its tendency," said Berlier, a distinguished lawyer, "leading France back to the ancient regime when crosses, badges and ribbons were the toys of monarchy."

"Well," replied Napoleon, "men are led by toys. The French are not all changed by ten years of revolution; they are what the Gauls were—fierce and fickle. They have one feeling—honor. We must nourish that feeling; they must have distinction."

The oath taken by a new member of the Legion of Honor was: "To devote himself to the service of the republic, to the maintenance of the integrity of its territory, the defence of its government, laws and of the property which they have consecrated; to fight against every attempt to reestablish the feudal regime or to reproduce the titles and qualities thereto belonging."—*Napoleon and the End of the French Revolution*, Charles F. Warwick.

[Before] his coronation the marshals he had newly created a few months before came to pay him a visit, all gorgeously arrayed. The splendor of their costume, in contrast with his simple uniform, made him smile. I was standing at a little distance from him, and as he saw that I smiled also he said to me in a low tone:

"It is not every one who has the right to be plainly dressed."

Presently the marshals of the army began disputing among themselves about the great question of precedence. Their pretensions were very well founded, and each enumerated his victories. Bonaparte, while listening to them, again glanced at me.

"I think," said I, "you must have stamped your foot on France, and said, 'Let all the vanities arise from the soil,'"

"That is true," he replied; "but it is fortunate that the French are to be ruled through their vanity."—*Memoirs of Mme. de Remusat.*

Having washed his face and hands, he picked his teeth very carefully with a boxwood toothpick and then brushed them for some time with a brush dipped in opiate; went over them again with fine tooth powder and rinsed his mouth with a mixture of brandy and fresh water. * * * It was to these minute precautions that he attributed the perfect preservation of all his teeth, which were beautiful, strong and regular. During the whole of his reign he never appears to have had recourse, except for scaling, to Dubois, his surgeon-dentist, borne on the lists for 6,000 francs, and the recipient of a gold travelling case, the instruments in which were for the exclusive use of the Emperor.—*Napoleon at Home*, Frederic Masson.

Bonaparte dictated with great ease. He never wrote anything with his own hand. His handwriting was bad, and as illegible to himself as to others; his spelling was very defective. He utterly lacked patience to do anything whatever with his own hands. The extreme activity of his mind and the habitual prompt obedience rendered to him prevented him from practising an occupation in which the mind must necessarily wait for the action of the body.

Those who wrote from his dictation—first M. Bourrienne, then M. * * * Meneval, his private secretary—had made a sort of shorthand for themselves, in order that their pens might travel as fast as his thoughts. He dictated while walking to and fro in his cabinet. When he grew angry he would use violent imprecations, which were suppressed in writing, and which had at least the advantage of giving the writer time to come up with him.

He never repeated anything that he once said, even if it had not been heard; and this was very hard on the poor secretary, for he remembered accurately what he had read and detected every omission.—*Memoirs of Madame de Remusat.*

One day in a library Napoleon attempted to reach a book far above him on the shelf. A tall courtier took the book down with this excuse:

"Pardon, Sire, I am taller (higher) than you."

"No, only longer!" snapped the Emperor.—*The Napoleon Story*, Wayne Whipple.

When the steward of his Tuileries palace was exhibiting the new upholstery with praises and demonstrating how glorious it was and how cheap withal, Napoleon, making little answer, asked for a pair of scissors, clipped one of the gold tassels from a window curtain, put it in his pocket and walked on. Some days afterward he produced it at the right moment, to the horror of his upholstery functionary; it was not gold but tinsel!—*Heroes and Hero Worship*, Thomas Carlyle.

If the work which gave him a constant feeling of the possession of power absorbed him so much that all preoccupation of the feelings disappeared, need we be astonished that he imposed the same silence on his physical wants? One is compelled to ask if he had any such regular and urgent wants. At least he had no fixed time for satisfying them. He had control over his stomach, or rather he forgot that he had one, and ate when there was something to eat, in an absent manner and thinking of the work which he had laid aside and was anxious to take up again.—*Napoleon at Home*, Frederic Masson.

One day at breakfast when, as was often the case, Talma had been admitted to see him the young Napoleon was brought to him. The Emperor took the child on his knee, and, far from caressing, amused himself by slapping him, though not so as to hurt him; then turning to Talma, he said:

"Talma, tell me what I am doing?"

Talma, as may be supposed, did not know what to say.

"You do not see it," continued the Emperor; "I am slapping a king."—*Memoirs of Mme. de Remusat.*

Homing Pigeons Useful as Messengers in War

European Armies Have Developed Birds as Bearers of Despatches to a Remarkable Degree

FREQUENT references in the war news to the use of homing pigeons discloses the interesting fact that these winged messengers have proved themselves so useful and so trustworthy that they cannot be supplanted even by such up to the minute devices for conveying information as the field telephone, the wireless telegraph, the heliograph, the motorcycle and the aeroplane, all of which are freely used by all the forces in the field.

Indeed, notwithstanding the wonderful progress that has been made in modes of conveying intelligence the homing pigeon will be more extensively used in the present conflict than in any other recorded in history. At least preparations have been going on for years to this end. For the first time pigeons drilled as carefully and as persistently as any other part of the military establishment will be tried in war.

From the earliest times recorded in history the homing pigeon's wonderful faculty of getting home in a hurry has been utilized in conveying messages. In the days of the Pharoahs navigators sailing to Egypt used to release pigeons with messages to let the folks know they were coming home. In the seventh century the Arabs maintained a regular pigeon post. Pigeons also rendered valuable services to the Dutch at the siege of Leyden in 1574.

But it took the siege of Paris during the Franco-Prussian war forty-four years ago to establish fully the value of the homing pigeon as a messenger. During the siege seventy-four balloons ascended carrying pigeons to Tours and other points. It was estimated that 800 pigeons were sent from the provinces to Paris during the siege, and that the total number of messages carried by these winged messengers would make a library of 500 volumes. Barreswill and Dagron developed a process of microphotography by which 2,000 to 3,000 letters could be photographed on a film two inches long and an inch and a half wide. The messages were read by placing them in a stereopticon and throwing them on a screen. Upward of 40,000 such messages were sent during the siege.

So entirely successful was the pigeon post that one of the first things Bismarck did after the treaty of peace was signed was to establish a pigeon loft in Berlin for the use of the army.

By 1874 there were military pigeon lofts at Cologne, Metz, Strassburg and Baden. The Emperor gave prizes to encourage the sport of pigeon racing. Ten years after the war there were no fewer than 178 private homing pigeon societies in Germany owning a total of 52,240 pigeons, exclusive of the military flocks.

Every nation in Europe took up the breeding and training of homing pigeons for use in time of war. Italy followed next after France and Germany in 1876. At the present time Italy has sixteen military pigeon lofts. Russia has five military pigeon lofts. Spain has a magnificent military pigeon system with eighteen lofts scattered at advantageous points throughout the kingdom; Portugal has fourteen military lofts, Austria seven, Switzerland four, Sweden and Denmark each have several. Holland has no military pigeon lofts, but the Government encourages the breeding and training of homing pigeons, and the fame of the Dutch pigeons is worldwide. In Belgium, where pretty much everybody keeps homing pigeons, flying them in races may be called the national pastime.

During our own little war with Spain the homing pigeon rendered important service in carrying messages from the blockading fleet in Cuban waters. Even Japan has taken to breeding homing pigeons for military use. Without doubt some of these pigeons will see service in the impending campaign in the Shantung peninsula.

Naturally, after rendering such distinguished services during the memorable siege of the French capital, the homing pigeon is especially prized in France. It was inspiration rather than forethought that placed the pigeons at the service of the Government in 1871. At that time there were no military pigeons, either in France or elsewhere. But some citizens of Paris by the merest chance had some pigeons, and it occurred to them that they might be utilized. They were offered to the Government and promptly accepted. It was six years after the war before France set about the organization of a military pigeon system. Now there are twenty-eight military lofts, chiefly along the eastern boundary, in the vicinity of the present conflict, with about a hundred birds stationed at each, besides ten thousand in Paris. Throughout France there are a hundred thousand homing pigeons in the hands of private owners which the Government is empowered by law to commandeer in case of need.

The breeding and training of the pigeons are under the care of the Engineer Corps. The utmost care, to say nothing of affection, is lavished on the birds by the soldiers, who become very fond of their feathered comrades. The pigeon houses are placed facing the northeast, which is opposite the direction from which the worst rains come. The average flock consists of about a hundred birds, each of which receives daily rations of an ounce and a half of peas, beans and vetches, divided into three meals, with unlimited mortar, salt, sand and oyster shells to aid in digestion. As soon as they can fly, which is when they are about five weeks old, their training begins, to continue throughout their useful life, which averages about fifteen years. Great care is taken to prevent them from perching on anything when they are taken out for their first flights. Those that do alight on neighboring roofs or trees are shot without mercy. The command to fly is given by shouting or clapping the hands; the signal to return is a whistle.

As soon as the young pigeons have acquired confidence in their wings they are taken a couple of kilometers from home and released. The distance is increased daily to 300 kilometers on the thirty-fourth day. After the pigeon is fully trained, so that it can find its way home from any point of the compass from a distance of 300 kilometers, it is exercised daily, morning and afternoon, except when there is rain, snow or fog. Careful records are kept of each bird's performance. Celluloid bands giving the bird's number, corps to which attached, and its home loft are attached to the leg.

Despatches are written on strips of paper three inches wide by four and a half inches long, triply folded and then rolled, or else they are photographed from manuscript on films two inches long by an inch and a half wide. In the French army two methods of attaching the message to the pigeon are used. In one a goosequill an inch and a half long is slipped over one of the tail feathers, then the message is inserted and held in place by a tiny wooden plug. The other method is to attach a tiny aluminum cylinder containing the message to one leg. Others maintain that the best way is to use a strip of very thin strong paper six inches long by three-fourths of an inch wide, which is simply rolled about one leg and held in place by a rubber band. When a message is attached to a tail feather so as to annoy the bird he is likely to alight and pull the feather with its message out and then go on.

Any ordinary homing pigeon can be relied upon to cover a flight of 250 miles in five to seven hours. A few can make 500 to 600 miles. Some of the finest records have been made by American birds. One of these remarkable birds, named Nym, owned by J. R. Husson of Cresson, Pa., made the flight of 243 miles between New York and its home town in 237 minutes in 1880, which figures out at the rate of a mile in 58½ seconds. The fastest trains make the run of ninety miles between New York and Philadelphia in two hours, at an average speed of forty-five miles an hour. Two railroads have cut the time between New York and Chicago to twenty hours, the distance in one instance being 912 miles, in another 948 miles, which also is substantially forty-five miles an hour.

The average speed of these trains was maintained by Francisco, a homing pigeon owned by L. Walfelear of Hoboken in 1879 for the distance of 375 miles between Steubenville, Ohio, and New York. Indeed, Francisco did a trifle better, for he covered the distance in eight hours and eight minutes. Of course the speed is much less than that made by Nym, but the distance was greater and the wind, which seriously affects a pigeon, not so favorable.

Another famous flight was made by Ned Damon, owned by T. F. Goldman of Brooklyn in 1885. Ned covered the distance of 508 miles from Abingdon, Va., in 14 hours and 25 minutes, which was an average of a little more than thirty-five miles an hour.

Atlanta, owned by Samuel Hunt of Fall River, Mass., made the flight from Jonesboro, Tenn., to his master's home, a distance of 715 miles, in nine days in 1885. The longest flight recorded for a homing pigeon was from Montgomery, Ala., to Fall River, 1,040 miles, made in 1885 by Alabama, also owned by Mr. Hunt. Alabama was twenty days on the road.

The marvellous feature of the flight is not that it was made in twenty days, but the intelligence that enabled the bird to find its way home at all. This almost supernatural intelligence of the homing pigeon has interested scientists for years. All sorts of theories have been advanced to account for it. The latest theory is that of a French savant who after long and elaborate study, observation and experiments, has succeeded in convincing himself, at least, that the homing pigeon is guided solely by its wonderful vision. This explanation may answer in the case of pigeons elaborately trained over gradually increasing distances for nearly the range of their flight, but it fails utterly in Alabama's case. This pigeon never saw more than an inconsiderable fraction of his route near his home before he was turned loose at Montgomery to find his way over a strange country for more than a thousand miles. Balloonists have found that their range of vision is increased to a remarkable degree at high altitudes, but no one will venture to maintain that Alabama could see a thousand miles.

The most reasonable explanation is that made by a French scientist who after a series of experiments consisting of the elimination or deadening of the senses of sight, hearing and smell, decided that the pigeon depends upon the latter sense. Pigeons blindfolded and their ears closed with wax found their way home. But closing their nostrils with wax rendered them helpless even for short distances. His explanation was that each locality has its individual odor and the pigeon, by circling up gets into an air current bearing the odor and follows it home.

Homing pigeons have made some interesting altitude records too, notwithstanding the fact that the rarefied atmosphere at great heights renders flight difficult. During a balloon ascent by Gay-Lussac in 1850 homing pigeons were released at an altitude of 20,000 feet. They fell heavily until they reached denser air, but then flew straight home. Other pigeons thrown out from balloons at high altitudes have been frozen to death in their drop through the cold rare air and fell like stones to the earth. Leo Stevens, the American aeronaut, has released homing pigeons at an altitude of 14,000 feet and 200 miles from their home. They all returned safely.

The homing pigeon upon being released invariably circles upward to a great height until it gets its bearings, then strikes a bee line for home. Stevens's pigeons, recognizing that 14,000 feet was quite high enough for all practical purposes, never circled a circle but in each instance simply flew to the top of the balloon, where they sat calmly down until they got their bearings, then spread their wings and hiked for home. Does this incident not support the claim that the homing pigeon is possessed of remarkable intelligence?