

THEY BACK UP THE WOMEN WHO ARE BACKING UP THE MEN

Agents of the Young Women's Christian Association Are Taking Care of Women War Workers in This Country and in France

WHEN the Government asked the Young Women's Christian Association to assist in looking after the girls at military cantonments and in their vicinity the girls who in large numbers wanted to work in munitions and army supply factories, the foreign born women who spoke no English and could not understand the draft and the girls who were attracted to military centres by the glamour of the uniform, the association was ready to assume the responsibility.

Last year the War Work Council of the Y. W. C. A. asked for \$4,000,000 for the year's work and the nation responded with \$5,000,000. This year the request for \$15,000,000, the Y. W. C. A.'s share of the United War Work Council of \$170,500,000, caused little surprise, so rapidly had the work increased and so well had the organization met all unusual demands.

When the draft called men from peace pursuits to training camps armies of girls were called into industry. They went to towns not ready to receive such a large influx of workers. It became the work of the Y. W. C. A. to see that the girls were properly housed.

Buildings were rented, purchased or hurriedly erected. Board and room registers were opened and model lodging houses were put up to prove the practicability of the Y. W. C. A. housing suggestions. These plans are now being used by the Government.

Clubs for War Workers. The War Work Council has opened Industrial War Service clubs in big munitions centres. These clubs are housed in buildings put up by the Government or the Y. W. C. A. near the plant. They have rest rooms for reading, writing and receiving friends, halls for recreation and model lodging houses were put up to prove the practicability of the Y. W. C. A. housing suggestions. These plans are now being used by the Government.

At Bush Terminal, Brooklyn, where blocks upon blocks of great concrete buildings form the very crux of Government work and distribution, there are fifteen thousand girls doing practically all kinds of work—office work, inspection, straight factory work, such as making uniforms and gas mask-fitting machinery or turning lathe. There are even girls who operate the electric cranes on the docks. These girls live in furnished rooms and board houses. The Industrial War Service Club provides them with an attractive place to spend their evenings and a place in which to have a good time.

The first Y. W. C. A. hostess house which some one called "the home that followed the flag," was built in an incredibly short time at the request of the commanding officer at Plattsburg. Since then eighty-five hostess houses have been built for women munition workers, but social work, as we have it, was unknown to French employers. The "Foyers des Allies" supply this need for healthy recreation. Some foyers are housed in barracks and others in hastily built houses.

Hostess Houses Meet Real Need. These hostess houses have made it possible in many instances for mothers and wives to visit men before they leave for overseas. They are large, roomy houses, with screened verandas, large living rooms with open fireplaces, comfortably furnished with wicker furniture, chintz hangings, pillows, pianos and victrolas. They have cafeterias where soldiers may eat with their guests and all of them have an emergency room where the mother may sleep if there is a possibility of her being called to the hospital in the night to see a dying son.

The hostess house in New York city, which was opened in Mrs. Henry P. Davison's home at 12 West Fifty-first street, has already outgrown its quarters and has moved to 30 East Fifty-second street. Among those who have been entertained there are Belgian, French and English soldiers and sailors, Australian and New Zealand soldiers, American soldiers, sailors and marines, Red Cross nurses, canteen workers, Signal Corps girls, wives of privates and officers of high rank in both army and navy. Relatives of soldiers who have been invalided home are beginning to make use of the house.

At the Camp Dodge hostess house a young lieutenant, knowing that he was going overseas, sent for his fiancée. She arrived with her father and 9 P. M. only to find that her betrothed was leaving at midnight. A room in the hostess house was hurriedly decorated with flags, palms and potted plants, the army chaplain sent for, a much worked wedding record was put on the victrola and the ceremony was performed in less than an hour after the girl's arrival.

Aid for Foreign Born. Work among foreign born women has been very important since the war because many wives and mothers have not understood why their men were



WAR SERVICE CENTER for GIRLS MAINTAINED by Y. W. C. A. at BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

taken to camp, nor what the Government would do for them. Furthermore those who could not speak English had difficulty in finding their men in camps. The Y. W. C. A. put the foreign speaking hostesses in the camps.

At one camp the secretary found the Captain distraught with his problem. There were 130 non-English speaking men, varying from a university graduate from Persia who did not want to be a cook to Poles and Hungarians from the heart of Chicago's foreign district. At Fort Riley an Irish lieutenant had demanded the school-room for his non-English speaking soldiers. These included Armenians, Poles, Bohemians, Serbians, Greeks, Syrians, Hungarians, Russians, Belgians and Italians.

The war work programme of the division of foreign born women for this second year of the war is organized under six separate heads. They are:

- 1. Promotion of the international institute field.
2. International information and service bureau.
3. Camp and community work.
4. Reconstruction bureau.
5. Recruiting bureau.
6. Research and information department.

The work which has the most general appeal to-day, when the heart of the whole world is in France, is the work in Europe.

For French Women Workers. At the request of the French Government secretaries have been sent to France to open "Foyers des Allies" in the munition centres throughout the country. In Paris the Hotel Petrograd is serving as a hostess house and as a hotel for women workers in France. The French Government provides physical necessities and good nourishment for women munition workers, but social work, as we have it, was unknown to French employers. The "Foyers des Allies" supply this need for healthy recreation. Some foyers are housed in barracks and others in hastily built houses.

Hotels have been opened for American women at port cities and large American army centres. Others have been opened for American Signal Corps girls. Wherever the Signal Corps girls are stationed the Y. W. C. A. opens a house for them. The hostess plans social affairs and recreations for the girls.

Huts for the use of Red Cross nurses at base hospitals have been made homey and attractive by Y. W. C. A. secretaries. The closer to the firing line a hospital is the greater necessity for recreation to take the minds of nurses away from the constant tragedy with which they deal. One masquerade which had been planned for ten days was broken up by the arrival of a consignment of wounded soldiers, the first to reach this particular hospital in days. The soldiers were received by doctors and nurses dressed as clowns, harlequins and Marie Antoinettes in rooms filled with great bowls of red poppies and blue cornflowers. There was no time for a change of costume.

When peace is declared these nurses will have to stay in France to care for wounded men not able to be brought home. Y. W. C. A. huts will be needed more than ever then to keep up the courage of tired, homesick nurses. American Signal Corps girls cannot come home at once. There is a vast amount of cleaning up work which will fall to the American Army and these girls will need to stay at their switchboards. Y. W. C. A. hotels will afford decent, comfortable living quarters for women awaiting passports.

If the Y. W. C. A. is to meet these demands as it has the demands of the past year, the budget must be raised for the campaign week of November 11-18.

What the Y. W. C. A. Is Doing.

THE Y. W. C. A. WAR WORK COUNCIL has put its resources at the service of the War Department Commission on Training Camps Activities.

The Y. W. C. A. War Work Council maintains ninety-one hostess houses in army, navy and aviation camps; thirteen of them for colored troops.

Special aid to the foreign born in their home tongues provided by the Y. W. C. A. War Work Council helps cheerful service beneath the flag.

The Y. W. C. A. War Work Council makes a "bit of home within the camp" during off hours for the men and visiting days for mother, friends and babies.

Ninety-three girls' club and recreation centres provided by the Y. W. C. A. War Work Council make men in uniform welcome to homelike social events. War service centres provided by the Y. W. C. A. War Work Council keep girls fit to do their bit on war orders for our armies overseas. For every man in khaki there will be a girl in war industries. Hostel houses have been provided by the Y. W. C. A. War Work Council for the girls of the United States Signal Corps, who tend the wires for the army in France.

FOUR YEARS IN THE FIGHT — The Women of France — We Owe Them Houses of Cheer



UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN

FRENCH WOMEN SEND GREETINGS

ONE of them holds the title of Duchess. Another one is a Socialist leader. Some are Jews, some Catholics, and there are Protestants among them. But all of them have united as French women to send greetings to American women. These messages are personal greetings from France's prominent women to all women in this country. They have been carried to our shores in the personal handbag of Mme. G. Avril de Sainte-Croix, who is in the United States to assist the Y. W. C. A. in its part in the United War Work Campaign set for November 11 to 18. Each letter is written personally by the sender. Mme. Avril de Sainte-Croix is now in New York for a few days and will spend considerable time in Washington.

The first Liberal Jewish temple erected in Paris was founded by two women, Mme. Brandon, Simon and Mme. Eugenie Simon. They write: "To you, dear sisters in America, who came to us in our need, to help us carry our burdens and to cheer us, we send our endless gratitude.

"And now our husbands, your brothers and your sons are coming to us by the thousands, exposing their bodies as a living wall against the wild rush of the Hun. They are saving with their blood not only France but all humanity.

"We thank you for this. And we thank you for all the material help and the moral comfort you bring our brave women war workers."

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MRS. HENRY P. DAVISON (RIGHT) and COMMANDER EVA BOOTH

"We bless you, American women, from the bottom of our hearts." No woman in France holds a higher place in the love and respect of her country than Mme. Jules Siegfried, president of the National Council of Women. She sends these words to America, where she has countless associates and friends: "How happy I am that you are the ones to bring to the United States the sisterly greetings of the National Council of French Women. We have no words to express our thankfulness, and the feelings of comfort which fill our hearts when we think of the devotedness, the sacrifice with which our sisters from America have backed their glorious soldiers in the greatest and most sacred cause nations ever had to defend. They have given us untold help in our social work, particularly just now.

"May God's blessings be on all American mothers whose sisters are these women who lifted the anguish of their hearts and gave those they loved best in the world. "Dear allied sisters, look beyond your beloved soldiers and you will see the freed and better humanity for which you have consented to suffer."

The Duchess d'Uzes's letter is: "Please tell the American women how grateful we are to their splendid country. Every day those of them who have come over to France give us proof of its generosity, of its devoted and loving sympathy. Make them feel how thankful we are—it is more than words can express." Paul Strauss, president of the Committee for Female Labor, wrote in the names of French women employed in war industries: "You will tell each known and unknown friend of our infinite gratitude for their ministry of sympathy. You will be better qualified than any one to carry to American women our tribute of respectful admiration."

Mme. Avril de Sainte-Croix brought a letter from Mme. A. G. Jacob, superintendent of the arsenal at Puteaux, near Paris. "Allow me to ask you to take to American women the feelings of deep gratitude which all our workwomen have expressed for the help to the American Y. W. C. A. our arsenal is going to have a foyers. How much joy it will give."

There were also letters from Mme. H. Gervais-Courtellet, superintendent of the Pyrotechnics of Bourges, one of the most important munitions factories in France.

BRITISH W. A. A. C.'S MEET AMERICANS

"GEE, fellows, a hut!" A contingent of American boys, stopping for reequipment in a town near the front, burst into the British Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. They were looking down upon the hostess in charge and asked for shaving brushes, cream and permission to use them.

The hostess apologetically explained that the hut was a girl's affair, put up and maintained for Queen Mary's Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. Therefore she couldn't supply shaving brushes, but wouldn't the boys come in just the same? Well, the boys did, for the reequipment station was in a town where there were no American women, and the boys were homesick for anything that spoke English. The hostess was Miss Winifred Moberly, who at the present time is in this country as a speaker for the Young Women's Christian Association in the United War Work drive.

The Yanks aren't so different from our Tommy's. Moberly said in describing the incident, "and a man who has been living in camps, on the march and among men simply wants to be made to feel at home. He rather wants to be fussed over, you know, and these American boys of yours are only appreciative."

The contingent stayed for a while and then wandered back that evening. Now there is a rule in a British W. A. A. C. camp that every man who goes to the hut must be accompanied by a woman. The situation was a bit awkward. Either the men would have to go or the rule, but neither happened. Miss Moberly rapidly calculated the number of men present, sent a hurry call to the W. A. A. C. camp and in short order an adequate group of girls arrived as hostesses. Somebody struck up a tune on the victrola, and soon the Yanks were teaching the British girls American dances.

"We learned a lot about Americans," Miss Moberly said, "while your reequipment station was so near, and we saw your national game—baseball. The men organized a team and played on our recreation field. How they could talk so much and play to amaze us. Your baseball language is so jolly picturesque, you know. Some of our girls, working a mile away, heard the first game going on and thought there was a battle in progress. It was wonderful."

The English W. A. A. C.s and English Tommies work side by side in the fighting lines and of the instruction given to the individual soldier marks an enormous advance in science, intelligence and in thoughtful care. Pains have also been taken under the direction of the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., the Knights of Columbus and the Salvation Army to provide entertainment of one kind and another, but always of course of a good kind.

Sermons, lectures, talks, moving picture shows and dramatic entertainments are going on in the convalescent hospitals, the base camps and at all the posts where there is leisure and where there is nothing to stand in the way, all of which was practically unknown to the men who fought in the civil war.

"Pershing and his intelligent associates have recognized that diversion from the monotony of trench and camp life by means of recreation is not only desirable but essential in order to maintain a good vitality for the boys who have to do the fighting. An artist like Capt. Bairnsfather, who can cheer up the boys with his clever sketches, an artist with a sense of dramatic humor like Harry Lauder or Linden Smith constitute a positive asset for the fighting force of the soldiers.

"The army of to-day owes an enormous obligation to the seven great organizations—the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the National Catholic War Council and K. of C., the War Camp Community, Jewish Welfare Board, American Library Association and Salvation Army—which are taking so much of home and cheer to the fighting men in the field and aloft. Similarly the nation owes these agencies its unstinted support in their coming campaign for the \$170,500,000 that is required for them to continue their essential services."

Their Hostess Houses Follow the Flag and Meet a Real Need — Important Work Done Among Foreign Born Women in America

France and the result is equally good for both men and women, said Miss Moberly.

"The girls show unusual bravery and thoughtfulness," she said. "For instance, one time a fire broke out near the men's camp. A terrific conflagration resulted, necessitating several hours of intensive work for the men. The W. A. A. C.s heard about it and they collected their own rations, cooked them and fed the men through their long vigil.

"The effect upon the men themselves was manifested by an incident which occurred in an office that employed only men. It finally was decided to install a woman telephone operator, and a British W. A. A. C. was sent for. The men were enlisted chaps, working at a Government job, and, as often happens when men are together and away from women, their language became a bit lax. From the day the girl entered, however, the whole tone of the office changed. She was treated with the utmost consideration and respect, and never during her period of service there did she hear a coarse joke or vulgar remark.

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"The men, when they have understood what the draft meant, have promptly marched to camp. They came home have entered the industrial armies or followed the dictates of Hoover and they are doing their share in the Red Cross," she said. Miss Crawford, a Vassar graduate and an interested student of foreigners, spent several years travelling about the world, studying the future American on his native land and has visited practically every country in Europe.

"When you realize that there are 3,000,000 people in this country who do not speak English, and that there are more Italians in the city of New York than in Naples, it isn't hard to see that our department has a lot of work to do," said Miss Crawford. "At present we are working with thirty-seven different nationalities and our staff comprises 185 workers in forty-eight different centres."

The work includes home information, training camp centres, foreign born community work and thirty-three centres to help in the draft registration. Government bulletins have been translated into thirty-seven different languages. Eight hundred foreign publications have been supplied with information about the United War Work campaign.

When the labor situation of the South brought 5,000 Mexicans into this country in the mining districts of Arizona and New Mexico, together with their families, the Y. W. C. A., through its International Institute, made a special effort to establish a strong, friendly international friendship on this side of the border.

"The sacrifice of the European women in this war," Miss Crawford said, "has been very great. In the beginning they gave their brothers and husbands to the armies of their native lands, and then they gave their American born sons, who entered the war, to our service. And later they offered themselves for work for our Government, in the munition plants and uniform factories.

"Every day new problems arise. At present there are thousands of refugees growing into Seattle, waiting to go back to their native lands by way of Vladivostok. That presents a great problem and one which we are preparing to meet as best we can."

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LACK OF WELFARE WORK MADE CIVIL WAR CONDITIONS WORSE

MAJOR GEORGE HAVEN PUTNAM contrasts the work of the welfare organizations which minister to the needs of America's fighting men in the present war with the few similar efforts made in behalf of the civil war soldiers. What the seven agencies now joined together for a United War Work Campaign are doing is so tremendous, however, compared with the cheer extended to the civil war soldiers that at first the idea of contrasting the two seemed almost absurd to the Major.

"The veteran," said Major Putnam, "realizes that the boys of 1861 received no such attention either for physical care or for moral or mental welfare. Notwithstanding the enormous differences that have taken shape in the last half century in the methods of warfare, there are certain essential features of war that remain practically the same.

"There is the continued peril of death or of disabling; there is still the fatigue of the long marching and of the endurance of trench conditions; there is of course always risk of hunger and thirst as a result of the capture or misappropriation of the commissary wagons and of the water casks, or of the cutting off from their base supplies by barrage fire or in other ways of the troops who are in the advance line.

"The Sanitary Commission took upon itself the forwarding of 'home' packages to the troops that could be

reached, and in some of the camps it provided rest and recreation centres. Communication, however, was difficult, and the commission was able to do very little work outside of the armies in Virginia. Two years of my service were spent in Louisiana and a large part of the rest in North Carolina, and I can say that during the whole term of the war I secured from the Sanitary Commission no further service than was represented by a single sheet of notepaper.

"The Christian Commission gave cooperation in the work of the Sanitary Commission and took upon itself as a special responsibility to provide for preaching, particularly in the camps which were not provided with chaplains. Revival meetings were held and Bibles, hymn books and literature of a kind classified as 'wholesome' were distributed. The Christian Commission also, however, had difficulty in reaching the camps that were furthest away from Washington or from the base of supply.

"Some work was done by the Young Men's Christian Association, but that association was very far from possessing the magnificent organization that has succeeded in building up for the present war. The friends and families at home did what they could from time to time, and particularly of course at Christmas, in the sending of boxes and packages. The difficulties of transportation, however, prevented the dis-

tribution of such packages from being general, and a large number of the soldiers, including those in my own army corps, the Nineteenth, were able to secure very little material of this kind.

No Recreation Provided. "There was practically no attempt, or at least no organized attempt, to provide recreation for the soldiers. Now and then a regiment was ordered to include in its membership fellows who could sing, or who had some dramatic ability, and these men were of course always utilized when time and place permitted, but there came from outside practically no help or suggestions in the direction of entertainment. War veterans may, therefore, have an inclination to break the Tenth Commandment when we learn of the extent and comprehensiveness of the work that is being done for the soldiers of to-day.

"The advances in hygiene and of intelligence in hygiene have made the hospitals places of civilized and intelligent care instead of (as was the case in Louisiana in the '60s) breeding places for maggots and for germs of all kinds. The work of nursing has itself become a scientific profession and the patients are intelligently cared for with a great deal more effectiveness than was possible half a century back.

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maintain a good vitality for the boys who have to do the fighting. An artist like Capt. Bairnsfather, who can cheer up the boys with his clever sketches, an artist with a sense of dramatic humor like Harry Lauder or Linden Smith constitute a positive asset for the fighting force of the soldiers.

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Y. W. C. A.

IT is the business of the Y. W. C. A. to back up the women who are backing up the men. In France are huts for American nurses and French women workers in munition works. Thousands of American girls working as telephone operators under the Signal Corps are looked after in Y. W. C. A. hotels in England and on the Continent. Co-operating with the Y. W. C. A. are the Salvation Army lassies, who toil among the men. These two organizations of women are an indispensable part of the seven.