

American Fund for French Wounded Collection

Ms Coll 56



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2016

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Medical Historical Library, Cushing/Whitney Medical Library
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CALL NUMBER: Ms Coll 56

CREATOR: American Fund for French Wounded

TITLE: American Fund for French Wounded Collection

DATES: 1915-1918

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .25 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: In English and French.

SUMMARY: The American Fund for French Wounded (AFFW), founded in 1915, by American women living abroad, was a women's relief agency to aid wounded soldiers in France in World War I. The materials in this collection originated from the Paris Depot of the organization and include correspondence, circulars, newsletters, and images.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0056>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use on site, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/med.ms.0056>.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased 2016.

Custodial History

This collection appears to have descended from Murray Ledyard Burr of Cazenovia, NY. An issue of AFFW's *Monthly Report* and a few issues of *Weekly Bulletin* were added from the Yale University Library.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Materials are in the public domain.

Related Materials

Related material: two American Fund for French Wounded enameled lapel pins. The first has rooster and crossed American and French flags, inscribed "Vive La France." The second is shaped like a "V" with American and French flags on the obverse. Cushing/Whitney Medical Library, Historical Library *Medical Commemorative Medals collection*. Gifts of Kent Hackman (Yale College 1959), from the collection of Alden Frick Megrew (1910-1987). To request access contact historical.library@yale.edu

Biographical / Historical

The American Fund for French Wounded (AFFW), founded in 1915, by American women living abroad, was a women's relief agency to aid wounded soldiers in France in World War I. Its American offices were in New York City and there were some 60 chapters in cities in the United States. The organization collected dressings, blankets, pillows, clothing, food, and amusements for French soldiers in French hospitals. These were stored and distributed to hospitals through the Paris Depot. Isabel S. Lathrop was president of the Board of Administration of the Paris Depot and Anna Murray Vail, formerly a botanist and librarian at the New York Botanical Garden, was treasurer and managed the Depot. Dr. Alexis Carrel served as medical advisor. Carrel was in charge of a hospital and laboratory in Compiègne funded by the Rockefeller Foundation for Medical Research in New York. After the war, the mission of the AFFW was continued by the American Committee for Devastated France.

Scope and Contents

This collection contains letters of Anna Murray Vail and Isabel S. Lathrop to Miss Murray Ledyard, a donor in the United States; circular letters written by Anna Vail and other American women in Paris describing visits to hospitals, the devastation in France, the bravery of the soldiers and hospital workers, and the gratitude of recipients for the gifts received; the AFFW's *Monthly Report*, and *Weekly Bulletin*, both published in Paris; card photographs of devastated villages and individual buildings in France; postcards; photographs showing the depot and the motor vehicles used for distribution; and miscellany.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1	<p>Letters of Anna Murray Vail to Miss Murray Ledyard</p> <p>Typed letters from Anna Murray Vail, at the Paris Depot, to Murray Ledyard, in either Washington, D.C. or Cazenovia, New York. Ledyard was a relative or close friend, since she was addressed as "Dear Murray," and signed with "affection." Vail's letters thank Ledyard for her donations and describe the war and her work in Paris. She discusses the entrance of the U.S. into the war and relations of the A.F.F.W. with the American Red Cross. With the letters is a postcard created for the American Fund for French Wounded showing a woman marking red crosses on supplies and a soldier receiving them. There is also a circular letter dated March 21, 1917. See Folder 6.</p>	1916-1918
b. 1, f. 2	<p>Letters of Isabel S. Lathrop to Miss Murray Ledyard</p> <p>Two thank-you letters from the president of the Board of Administration of French office of AFFW.</p>	1916-1917
b. 1, f. 3	<p>Letter of a Belgian soldier to "Mademoiselle" French</p> <p>Letter from a Belgian soldier in a hospital thanks the recipient (Murray Ledyard?) for her gift and asks if he might correspond with her.</p>	1917 November 15
b. 1, f. 4	<p>AFFW Circular letters</p> <p>The circular letters were written and signed by members of the Paris staff. They were chatty personal accounts of visits to hospitals, describing the conditions on the journey, the staff and patients of the hospital, and the distribution of supplies to soldiers. With these are edited extracts of French letters of gratitude from those assisted by the AFFW. The 1915 folder contains one circular letter dated December 21, 1915 and several pages of extracts.</p>	1915
b. 1, f. 5	<p>AFFW Circular letters</p> <p>Folder contains 29 circular letters dating from April 16, 1916 to December 27, 1916, as well as extracts in French of letters of appreciation.</p>	1916
b. 1, f. 6	<p>AFFW Circular letters</p> <p>Fifteen circular letters are dated January 1, 1917 to October 27, 1917.</p>	1917
b. 1, f. 7	<p>AFFW Circular letters, undated and incomplete</p> <p>An undated letter describes in detail a trip from Paris through Noyon and Chauny and through devastated lands abandoned by the German forces.</p>	
b. 1, f. 8	<p>AFFW <i>Monthly Report</i></p> <p>Incomplete set of a printed newsletter published in Paris, containing news of the AFFW, and donations desired. Issues list officers, staff, and American chapters. The June 1916 issue contains the article, "A Visit to Dr. Carrel's Hospital."</p>	1916 February- 1917 July- August
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. I, No. 2	1916 February
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. I, No. 4	1916 April
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. I, No. 6	1916 June
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. I, Nos. 7-8	1916 July- August

b. 1, f. 8	Vol. I, No. 9	1916 September
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. II, No. 13	1917 January
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. II, No. 14	1917 February
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. II, No. 15	1917 March
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. II, No. 16	1917 April
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. II, Nos. 17-18	1917 May-June
b. 1, f. 8	Vol. II, Nos. 19-20	1917 July-August
b. 1, f. 9	<i>AFFW Weekly Bulletin</i> Incomplete set of AFFW's <i>Weekly Bulletin</i> , published in Paris, and containing short articles. AFFW was working in cooperation with the American Red Cross. One article is about Gertrude Stein, a new staff member (December 8, 1917). Another short article is written by Alice B. Toklas (February 16, 1918).	1917 November 21-1918 April 22
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 1	1917 November 21
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 3	1917 December 8
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 8	1918 January 12
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 9	1918 January 19
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 13	1918 February 15
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 14	1918 February 22
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 17	1918 March 15
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 18	1918 March 22
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 22	1918 April 22
b. 1, f. 9	Vol. 1, No. 25	1918 May 12
b. 1, f. 10	<i>AFFW Other pamphlets and newspaper clippings</i> Folder contains an AFFW pamphlet, "Somewhere in France," a plea for assistance; a single sheet, "Word from the Nancy Branch of the A.F.F.W.," on a new depot set up in Nancy, France; and two copies of a newspaper clipping "Pillows are Desired for Wounded Soldiers." Items are undated.	
b. 1, f. 11	<i>AFFW Photographs</i> Four photographs, 13 x 18 cm. Two show the Paris supply depot and two outdoor scenes show the motor vehicles used to deliver supplies. The vehicles have the French name of the AFFW, Comité Americain pour les Blessés Françaises, painted on the side.	
b. 1, f. 12	<i>Card photographs of devastated towns and buildings</i> Twenty labelled cards (and six duplicates) are 14 x 18 cm. Some have the stamp of American Fund for French Wounded on the back. On the back of others is handwritten "from Adm Pillsbury" [Rear Admiral John E. Pillsbury]. They illustrate French villages and individual buildings that were destroyed by the war.	

- b. 1, f. 13 Postcards
- Eight postcards. Only one relates directly to AFFW, an image of the birthplace of Marechal Joffre in 1917 showing an AFFW car distributing supplies. Five cards have handwritten notes in French. Three show hospitals or hospital staff. See also postcard in Folder 1.
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- b. 1, f. 14 War Relief Clearing House for France and her Allies, printed circulars 1917
- Folder contains printed materials distributed in the U.S. by the War Relief Clearing House for France and her Allies. This was an American relief organization founded in 1914 and run by prominent men. It collected supplies and funds in New York for distribution in France. The documents discuss the changing relation of this organization with the American Red Cross. The relation the War Relief Clearing House and the AFFW is not clear.
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Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Charities, Medical -- United States
Medicine, Military
Military hospitals -- France
World War, 1914-1918 -- Hospitals, charities,
etc.
World War, 1914-1918 -- Medical care -- France
World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives,
American
World War, 1914-1918 -- Women -- United
States

Genres / Formats

Correspondence
Newsletters
Photographs
Postcards

Names

Burr, Murray Ledyard, 1868-1950
Carrel, Alexis, 1873-1944
Carrel, Anne
Lathrop, Isabel S.
Morgan, Ann, Tracy, 1873-1952
Perkins, Elizabeth
Struve, Florence
Vail, Anna Murray, 1863-1955

Corporate Bodies

American Committee for Devastated France
American National Red Cross
War Relief Clearing House For France and Her
Allies