

Charles W. and Mary Lesley Ames Family Papers

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(ang 4 15. 501 Frand Ave St Paul Branch Frunch Wounded Energency Fund) I am sending you a list Drusings & materials Sunt to the Niw york office (32-41 West 38 St.) Since the huddle of July. I am also dending you Some parts of letters received from N.y. and London - knowing that they will interest all the leveles as they have interested soon. you will see from the lists how well the lineles have done and that much good work has also come from the Work koons. at the work rooms almost all of the Shirts and byjamas han

been made, and much sheeting has been but a himed. "Kits" of Samples, we will glady for them up here a send them to thun Very Succerely Mary L'Ames

Watern Union Jel. (Sunt 11 PM) To hirs Utulbert Nevin & 38 West 39 the St Mr Toad wishes our boyes sent to Mr Edwards care american Relief Clearing House Paris. Shall we Sund nine boxes now ready to you for you to forward to Paris? Mary & Ames 1501 Grand ave St Paul Minu

Tuesday Nov. 9'15 To Mer Harold Goad Sond Stopment Adel Stopment Holel Please stay with us here Have arranged for meeting here Saturday night. Nave talked with Miss Memillan. Here us your train to St Paul. also. Mrs C. W. Ames 501 Frand Av. St Paul

NIGHT LETTER THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH COMPANY

25,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA

CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD

BELVIDERE BROOKS, GENERAL MANAGER

THEO. N. VAIL. PRESIDENT

SEND the following NIGHT LETTER subject to the terms on back hereof which are hereby agreed to September 30, 1915.

Mrs. Ethelbert Nevin, Chairman,

F. W. E. F.

38 West 39th Street,

New York, N. Y.

Telegram of instructions received but no reply to Mrs. Ames? Sunday Night Letter. Must hear about delivery of nine boxes referred to. I am writing you today at length but please telegraph in full immediately that we may avoid expensive journey to New York to straighten matters out.

MARY L. AMES.

Prepaid.

NIGHT LETTER THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH

25,000 OFFICES IN AMERICA

CABLE SERVICE TO ALL THE WORLD

BELVIDERE BROOKS, GENERAL MANAGER

THEO. N. VAIL, PRESIDENT

TIME FILED

CHECK

SEND the following NIGHT LETTER subject to the terms on back hereof which are hereby agreed to

St. Paul, Minn. September 30,1945.

Mrs. Mary Hatch Willard, Chairman,
Surgical Dressing Committee,
7 West 29th Street,

New York, N. Y.

Will you please telegraph full answer to our letter of
September twenty-seventh to Miss Carifa Spencer regarding
our last nine boxes sent to Two Twenty-Five West Forty-Fifth
Street. Until we know positively that these have been safely
received by your committee our workers can have no confidence
in any further shipments.

MARY L. AMES.

501 Frank Hue. St Paul monday Sep. 27 15 my dear Miss Spencer -We are in con didirable incertainty and trouble, because your Surgical Drissings Committee did not send us any word of your fresh change of address from 25 West 45 " St, to 7 West 29 85. We have naturally him anding our boyes to the former address, and also our bells of lading.

On august 30 the sent (or rather one of our circles, Chairmon Miss Helm Burn, White Bear Lake sent there hopes of dressings Le. Boxes mumbered 15, 16, 17. yesterday we received word that these three loyes were at the N. y. trught office unclaimed My daughter wester It on the 15th Sop. suding The Bill of Lading for six other hours (Nos 18, 19, 20, 21, 22,23) sunt off that day a also addressed to \$5 W. 45 to

are these also lying in the freight office? and have you wer received the bell of lading? But I know you had not received it where last my daughter week because soo received it back with word on the outside not at this udbre She Then reduct it to wer Willard to 105 West 40 theet. Jurily the Post Office Should have been notified that you had moved from 25 West 45 to your present

addenss. We are especially anxious to know what has become of the three boyes sent or ling 30 h and also to know if you receive the dix later We shall soon have Six or seven other boxes to Send - but we do not dare start them off until this uncertainty is cleared up, We have also written

and telegraphical to Mes Mining of the French Wounded atterpumpen from his channely fund, and from his received word of your new address. the Numbers of our boyes, he acknowledging them, as it would help us, in our records - a we should Then ful sure which boxes you are referring to. If you will telegraph us (at our expuise) on receipt of this, I shall be gratifully Sincerely Mary & Ames

P.S. I suppose these boyes above mentioned were sent by treight on the same R. Rs as previous sendings - which were lare Lackawanna dine N. G. C. St. L- D. La W. Fast Trught

The American Timed for French Wounded was started in Franch some France-Prossed Wate in 1914. the organization and has feel buch since that time the President of the Faris Office - now situated at the Aleagar of Ele on the Champs Elesie of the live . Salsotte. Office has supplied several Thousand smally hospitals in France with aurqual

dressings, bedding, Nospital Farmuits, rubbier articles surgical Instruments, anesthan a antidefilies. Before America Entered The War, a before the Red Cross lugan to work for Butter dupplies in a large way the American tind for Fruth Wounded was affect trucky at work, forming its Committees lu Muerica from whom lame The money a supplies to suppost the Work of the Paris Office.

The work grew rapudly some lommittees in the U:8, with an efficient Aradquer ters in N.G. City. The Report of the Work 102 1917 States that: Shipments per houth were -651,000 and We that for the year of 1917 There were shipments for the year of: Hospital Supplers 1,550,378 durgical Dressings 5,436,018 Civelian Samuels 358,639 millambus) 471,434 Frand Total 7,816,469

all these articles were dictional transported free of cost to France by the French Government and were distributed direlly to the Hospitals by the Puris Office.

Our St Paul Branch for Committed Vannded was formed in may 1915 and has now com Alted its 3rd year - and is still working regorousty. and our three years we have Sent to the Paris Depot Driskings & Hospital Supplies). and dwing the last year Repryue garbents. spirit in so doing about 20,000. To which should be added and spiced from gifts of money sent for to the Polices Office, and for the case of a motor. This

motor was also the gift of a St Paul Citizen. also we are now organing Dispussary in Francisco postular initial expenses of which 3000, were defrayed by a few persons directed to The Cause of the American Fund for Franch Wounded, Since The Red bross look up the larger work of The Care of our armies & Those of our allies I they have accepted the co-of Cration of the of F. F.M. as

a friendly aid. and lately Care of all American Soldiers A. F.F.W. - The Paris Office has I therefore, he addition to all former work, to send out a corps of visitors to find and care for These wounded americans - and this they gladly unyou tan easily understand That these Soldiers - stranded in French Hospitals, usually goute mable to speak fruch lonely & duffering, are

rejoiced bryond measure to hear their native longue & must these freendly visitors There soldiers all delare that the Franch Nospetals give them every care and are devolsor to them - but that they long to hear & speak to an american. We feel that it is important that the work of the X F. T.W. should be kept up. While The Red bross must do the heavy work of muting the ling demand for supplies of all Ruds

and of the ling organization of ways & means, transporter tron depoto de de, this little dister - The EX FFW - older me The Field a knowing the ways in methods of the Franch Prople 1. Their Hospitals - ear. be Ty great use to the Big Institution in many Jursonal ways - where the personal worch is meded. & sur of St Paul could our litizens 12,000 a year we should be able to con times to do our share of Theo work - We could said

our quota of goods of all kinds - we could care for our own special Dispunsary soon to be placed near the Front under the care of hos It Paul Women, Miss Elizabette Miss miss mary Clark already in Paris) - and we could continue our aid to The general Expenses of her Caris Office . Many Citizens have bene very generous to this cause. Will not They & others Continue the to aid the good work? mary Lotmes (Mrs C.W.) Theriman.

sus ethered nein, Chaveran French desudes French 38 wert 39th Co new Yall ale Now advised that our three Faxes humbers is address 25 west 45 Th It are unclaimed though till of lading was marked to saw ad-chees. Letter of a direct from six boxes numbered 18 to 23 Cert & carried diese September 15 16 Murnes & as marked addus unknown. Be an naturally much surprised and disturbed by the and cannot alid anything more with we know That there mind boxes have been been been has havefull assurance that falue thes. ments all be properly handled. Hole you can & resten our confidence unwedsately. See teller. nyfat helli -Sept 26,1915

Hon. SECRETARY: MISS EVELYN WYLD. VICTORIA 1724.

July 20th. 1915 London

THE ST. PAUL COMMITTEE,

French Wounded Emergency Fund.

Mesdames,

We have received work from the Vacation War Relief Committee that you are shipping to us a Consignment of supplies.

Upon their arrival I will send you word at once, but in the meantime, I wish you would send word to your Committee how very pleased we are to add another Donor to our List.

I have just returned from France, and it will be as gratifying to you as it was to me to know that the Gifts which we have sent over are in actual use in the Hospitals. I went from bed to bed where the men were wearing our Shirts: I saw our Towels hanging on the Chairs, and saw dozens of Pyjama Suits being worn by the men. They all begged me for Slippers, which seem to be a crying need. In our Work-rooms here we make these out of

Hon. SECRETARY: MISS EVELYN WYLD.

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TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 1724.

July 20th. 1915

pieces of carpet and felt or of some heavy material used for hangings. Should you wish me to send you a sample of any of the things we do, let me know at once.

I have been to France three times and I shall go over at stated periods. This will keep me in touch with the work, and I shall be able to let all of you know in America just how the conditions are.

I motored from Normandy down into
Brittany, but I did not cover all our territory:
this is not surprising, as we are now looking after more
than 350 Hospitals in 16 Departements.

As you know, we do not send any Supplies to the Croix Rouge Hospitals, as they receive not the usual Fr.1.70. but Fr.2. per day from the Government. In addition to this the men have the Gifts from the Croix Rouge to supplement the Government allotment. Our Hospitals are the poorer

Hon. SECRETARY: MISS EVELYN WYLD.

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July 20th. 1915

Military, and we now have them all practically on our shoulders. This we have asked for, and I made arrangements when I was last in France, that all Relief Funds receiving appeals from Hospitals should turn over those in Normandy and Brittany to us. On the other hand, we turn over all Lists which come to us from other parts of France. We know in this way exactly what is given to the Hospitals and there is no longer any over-lapping.

I found France very difficult to work in. The Railways are so congested: you cannot travel any longer in comfort: I stood up 4 hours on a trip from Paris to Caen. I tried to get envelopes in a small village in Brittany and could not do so. Gauzes and Sheets are well nigh impossible to buy and Blankets are no longer procurable in quantities.

HON. SECRETARY: MISS EVELYN WYLD. -4-

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July 20th. 191 5

One of the big Distributing Agencies in Paris is now sending to me for their supplies, and hereafter I shall probably have to buy most of their Woollens and Linens for them.

our Head Quarters in London. I should like to make this point very clear, because it may explain to you in America that it is better to send to London.

I know that it costs more to send things here, but if you could go to France and see the congestion there—see the disadvantage under which one has to work—see the difficulty in buying things at short notice, you would all agree, I am sure, that it is better to pay a little more in getting the things to us, where you know they will be unpacked within a few hours and sent to France either that day or the next. The moment our Supplies come in they are sent into the Warehouse and at once packed into Bales.

We do not send supplies that are unasked

HON. SECRETARY: MISS EVELYN WYLD.

-5-

TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 1724.

July 20th.

1015

for: we have appeals come from the Hospitals and send them exactly what they have asked for.

Usually it is not a week from the time the appeal is written before the goods are in the Wards.

Will you ask your Committee if they
can either write little personal notes and put them
into the pockets of the Day-shirts or pin on the Garment
a little flag. You do not know what this means to the
men. they are perfectly delighted when they find some
little personal touch.

They were all very interested in having me tell them how we are sending these things from America.

We now have five American Motor Cars in our service, and I received a cable to-day saying Boston was probably sending one from her Committee.

I have had the Cars marked "French Wounded Emergency Fund" on the side, and in one corner the City which sends them, and maintains them.

HON. SECRETARY: MISS EVELYN WYLD.

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July 20th. 1915

I found the Hospitals better than I expected, although some of them are still desperately poor. They told me in many cases that they had received all their Instruments from us. The Mattresses are in a filthy condition: I think that struck me more than anything else: they are all in lumps and most of them smell so that you can scarcely stay in the Ward. This can be understood when you realize there has been very little Rubber-Sheeting in most of the Hospitals, no Bed-pans whatever and not enough cotton-wool to keep things clean. One can imagine the result without going into details. The Directice of one of the Hospitals told me that every Mattresse in her Hospital should be burnt, and there was no chance of having any of them even cleaned.

I went to the old Chateau where William the Conqueror was born. This was filled with Algerians: they told me these men are remarkably patient.

HON. SECRETARY: MISS EVELYN WYLD.

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July 20th. 191 5

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They had had no money for Apparatuses, and he had made out of a little Sewing Machine a contrivance with which he moved the Wrists: next to this stood an old Wheel to which he had put a wooden base, and the patient was told to revolve this wheel, thus loosening his elbow.

One room was entirely fitted with home-made mechanical effects like these.

Where the men are taken to the Convents and have the nursing of the Sisters they have the best care.

I am enclosing you a letter from

Mrs.Wethey, one of the best representatives we have
in France. Should you care to get into communication
with her she will always be glad to write to your Committee

* FRENCH WOUNDED EMERGENCY FUND.

34, LOWNDES SQUARE, S.W.

HON. SECRETARY
MISS EVELYN WYLD.

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TELEPHONE: VICTORIA 1724.

July 20th.

1915

direct. Her address is,

Mrs.Wethey,
Hotel d'Angleterre,
Caen. Calvados. France.

May I suggest to your Committee that in making Garments they made a good number of one certain kind, for instance, if we receive 50 Shirts it is more practical than if this number is divided into Shirts? Socks, Pyjamas, Vests and so forth.

When I receive things in bulk they usually go to a Hospital in one Bale.

Mr. Goad was enthusiastic about the work in Columbus, and I am delighted that the Consignment is coming.

Should the war continue beyond the summer, I am going to send to all the Committees as much material as I can that will do for the Newspapers, and if we can keep our things before the Public, we can double our working capacity in the fall.

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34, LOWNDES SQUARE, S.W.

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July 20th. 191 5

Let me know by letter or cable at any . time if you want me to do anything here, and please be assured that I will always look after personally everything that comes from the other side.

In our own Work-rooms upstairs, we have now over 250 Volunteers, and this is all besides our business force. In these Work-rooms they have a Slipper Room, a Bandage Room, an Old Linen Room, and a Sewing Room. They all dress in white, with white head-gear, and have a long list of people waiting to obtain a place. It might not be a bad idea to have some such Work-room in America, as it seems to stimulate the interest where they are made a feature of our organizations.

> With many thanks for your splendid help; Believe me,

> > Yours sincerely,

ahl Strong o

Hon. Sec. for the American Branch

FW.E.F

July 20, 1915. London. 34, Lowndes Square, S.W.

THE ST. PAUL COMMITTEE,
FRENCH WOUNDED EMERGENCY FUND.

Mesdames.

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It gives us a great advantage in having our Head Quarters in London. I should like to make this point very clear, because it may explain to you in America that it is better to send to London. I know that it costs more to send things here, but if you could go to France and see the congestion there - see the disadvantage under which one has to work - see the difficulty in buying things at short notice, you would all agree, I am sure, that it is better to pay a little more in getting the things to us, where you know they will be unpacked within a few hours and sent to France either that day or the next. The moment our Supplies come in they are sent into the Warehouse and at once packed into Bales. We do not send supplies that are unasked for: we have appeals come from the Hospitals and send them exactly what they have asked for. Usually it is not a week from the time the appeal is written before the goods are in the Wards.

Will you ask your Committee if they can either write little personal notes and put them into the pockets of the Day-shirts or pin on the Garment a little flag. You do not know what this means to the men. They are perfectly delighted when they find some little personal touch. They were all very interested in having me tell them how we are sending these things from America.

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I am enclosing you a letter from Mrs.Wethey, one of the best representatives we have in France. Should you care to get into communication with her she will always be glad to write to your Committee direct. Her address is, Mrs.Wethey,

Hotel d'Angleterre, Caen. Calvados. France.

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Work-room in America, as it seems to stimulate the interests where they are made a feature of our organizations.

With many thanks for your splendid help,

Believe me,

Yours sincerely,

Isabel Stevens Lathrop

Hon. Sec. for the American Branch.

(F. W. E. F.)

(Letter sent by Mr.Goad.)

Hotel D'Angleterre, Caen.

July 6th, 1915.

Dear Mrs. Lathrop,

I am sending you a sketch drawn by a wounded man in Cabourg Hospital and I hope to have some photos for you soon, which are being developed. The following little accounts of hospitals I have taken from my reports. If they are what you want I will send more.

"To-day we took bales to Les Pieux, one of the very poor hospitals, where the men have hardly the necessities of life. The little village has exhausted its resources, but they struggle bravely to clothe their soldiers who are drest in the oddest assortment of garments. The "Ambulance" is a great barn like building with a floor of earth on which stand the beds, at least some of them stand, the others have to be propped against the wall. They look MOST uncomfortable. The windows are all hermetically sealed, and the only ventilation is by the door which stands open when fine, when wet there is none. I noticed some deep cracks crossing the floor, through which water was running, and I was told that when it rained the water overflowed along the floor between the beds. On one side the men had dug a little gutter to try and drain it. In summer it is bad enough, but what will it be in autumn and winter? And here were three men with inflammatory rheumatism. One had been in bed for three months, and another nine weeks, and their drawn faces showed the suffering they had been through. Sheets they are very short of, clean ones are only to be had once in five weeks. The only cheerful thing in the place is a magpie, tamed by one of the men. He hops about everywhere, and is a great pet with the bed ridden men. The two large bales you sent here will give such comfort and pleasure. Sister Laurent is writing to tell you how badly they needed all you sent, and how greatful they are.

Formation Sanataire, Dielette.

This place is interesting, as the Hospital is on the site of a big iron mine owned by the Germans, and worked with much success by them. It is supposed now to have been a strategic point by which they intended to take Cherbourg in the rear. The little village is almost deserted as there is no fishing, and it is some distance from the main road. The bales for this place we took with us, and two of the strongest convalescents carried them from the motor up the steep hill. I cannot describe the pleasure of these men when they saw the clothes, the days are so monotonous, and they have so little pleasure. They each had a shirt, a vest, handkerchief, tricot, and a pair of socks. Two dear little "Sisters of the Poor" from Paris have charge of the Lingerie, and do all the dressings most skilfully. There were many cripples here. Men with stiff legs, twisted arms, and distorted faces from shell wounds, but they all crowded round eagerly to see what had been sent. The Trousers you put in these bales were splended, and just what they need. All the men wanted them, but the little Sisters were very impartial, and dealt them out only with GREAT consideration to the most needy. One of the men here a "Chasseur" from the "Midi" found a card in his shirt with the words "worked by a Philadelphia girl" written

on it, which pleased him very much when I translated it. It was a pretty shirt with lilac and green stripes, and he was much envied by the others.

At the DEPOT, QUERQUEVILLE there are a number of men now. During the last week all the Hospitals have been filling rapidly, and they are running short of supplies of dressings, and also of clothes. At Querqueville each ward is a little house to itself. The Lingerie is the principal house, one story up. It is looked after by a Mdlle. Joret who has slaved for the soldiers with the greatest devotion. have seen some of her darns so large, and in so many different colored wools, it was hard to tell the original color of the sock. Your nine bales were carried up into the Lingerie, and the distribution began. News of this event soon went round, and across the big open space, from every building men poured out, and made for the spot. Men on crutches made wonderful time. Legless and armless they crowded up the narrow staircase, and stood waiting their turn with longing eyes. Mdlle. Joret knew all of them intimately and checked the greedy, and encouraged the bashful with a firm hand. From their poor sore feet, where the skin was broken and blistered, she softly drew the dirty socks, and then with equal care put on the new ones, (even old ones are precious), so one by one the men disappeared into an inner room, and the change was affected. The slippers went like wildfire, many of the men had tied up their feet in rags, and it was a joy to fit a slipper to a wounded foot, and see the comfort it gave. Malle Joret is sixtyfive, but I am quite sure last Monday was one of the happiest days of her life. She was past thanks, but as the last soldier went down well clad and happy, she wiped her eyes with a cache nez and murmured C'est le bon Dieu."

I know you will be glad to hear one of your gifts brought comfort to a dying man. It was in one of the crowded wards at Granville. The man had had a terrible case of fractured jaw, and was unable to speak. Other complications had set in and they said it was only a case of a few hours. In the bales you had sent some packets of writing paper and pencils, and I was taking these to the different men. When I got to his bed, and he saw the packets his eyes lit up, and with great difficulty, but so eagerly, he wrote a few words to his wife. He had evidently wanted to write and had not been able to explain. He was quite exhausted with the effort, but watched me as I closed and stamped it, and half an hour later he died.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) L.H. Wethy.

ST. PAUL BRANCH FRENCH WOUNDED EMERGENCY FUND.

Aug. 4th, 1915. 501 Grand Ave.

Dear

I am sending you a list of the seven boxes of Surgical Dressings and other materials sent to the New York office (39-41 West 38th street) since the middle of July.

I am also sending you some parts of letters received from New York and London - knowing that they will interest all the Circles as they have interested us.

You will see from the lists how well the Circles have done, and that much good work has also come from the Work Rooms. At the work rooms almost all of the shirts and pajamas have been made, and much sheeting has been cut and hemmed.

If any of the Circles wish for "Kits" of samples, we will gladly make them up here and send them to them.

Very sincerely,

Mary L. Ames,

Chairman.