



Charles W. and Mary Lesley Ames Family Papers

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Van Rensselaer

May 9th, 1918.

Dear Madam:

At a meeting of the National Council of the American Fund for French Wounded, held at its office in this city on April 3d, 1918, action was taken upon a cable message recently received from Mrs. Lathrop which announced that the American Fund for French Wounded in Paris had become an auxiliary of the American Red Cross in France, and asking that the National Council should cable its sanction of this new arrangement.

By a unanimous vote her request was complied with. Then, in view of the possibility that it might be advisable to put the American Fund for French Wounded in this country on the same footing as in France, and also in fear of the possibility that, unless the American Fund for French Wounded should become an auxiliary of the American Red Cross here, it might find difficulty in obtaining supplies for its workrooms, (the government having assumed control of a very large proportion of such materials), the National Council appointed a committee to confer with representatives of the American Red Cross.

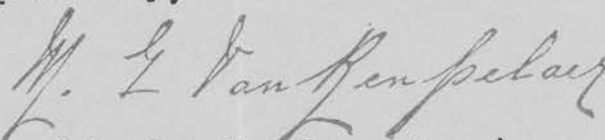
At a meeting held on May 1st this committee reported as follows to the National Council: At the request of the committee Mr. Whiteside, the counsel of the New England Branch, had conferred with the representative of the Red Cross in Boston. Mr. Whiteside and Mr. Nevin, the counsel of the New York Branch, had asked for an interview with the Red Cross authorities in Washington and had been referred by them to Mr. Coffin in New York. Consequently, Mr. Whiteside and Mr. Nevin had a long conference with Mr. Coffin. The result of all these negotiations was that, it seemed to the committee that no action at all should be taken. The standing of the American Fund with the Red Cross authorities both here and in France, they explained, is very high. There is no slightest desire on the part of these authorities to interfere in any way with the work of the American Fund for French Wounded as it is being conducted here. As Mrs. Lathrop had sent no details by letter amplifying her statement by cable, it was not possible to explain what the new arrangement in Paris is. The agreement effected here last October, in which it was decided that the two associations should co-operate still holds good here and is perfectly satisfactory to the Red Cross. And there is no reason why it should not satisfy the American Fund for French Wounded, especially as the workrooms of the American Fund for French Wounded are supplied with materials for the present and do not believe they will have difficulty in renewing the supply in the near future.

Therefore, as has been said, the committee reported that the present arrangement should be preserved. The National Council accepted its report and the committee was discharged. Consequently there is no change to be noted in the relations of the American Fund for French Wounded with the American Red Cross.

It remains, as before, a society "co-operating with the American Red Cross" upon terms of perfect amity and mutual helpfulness. And, as before, the American Red Cross will continue to ship the consignments of the American Fund for French Wounded as rapidly as the amount of cargo space at its disposition makes possible.

The National Council begs that each Branch will kindly convey these facts to its committees.

Respectfully,



(Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer)
Chairman

National Council of the American Fund for French Wounded

May 10th, 1918.

At a meeting of the officers of the American Fund for French Wounded, held in New York in March, 1918, when circumstances made it needful to reorganize without delay the administration of the Fund in this country, it was decided that a New York Branch should be formed, to stand on the same footing as the Branches already existing, that there should also be formed a National Council, with headquarters at New York (but otherwise in no way identified with the New York Committee) to co-ordinate the work of the Branches, the local committees, and the Paris Depot, and to represent their common interests in any necessary dealings with other organizations or persons. At that time it was possible to elect only temporary officers for this National Council.

Now a very strong New York Committee has been formed with Mrs. Ethelbert Nevin as Honorary Chairman, Mrs. Robert Bacon, Mrs. Nicholas Murray Butler, and Mrs. F. Gray Griswold as Honorary Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Charles M. Chapin as Chairman. A full list of its officers and members will be sent to other committees as soon as possible.

At a meeting of the National Council held on May 1st the temporary officers of the National Council (with the exception of Mrs. Bodman, the Secretary) resigned their positions and the following permanent officers were elected:

Honorary Chairman,
Mrs. Ethelbert Nevin,

Honorary Vice-Chairman,
Mrs. Alfred Partridge Klotz.

Chairman,
Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, New York.

Vice-Chairman,
Mrs. Charles M. Chapin, Chairman New York Branch
Miss Edith Bangs, Chairman New England Branch
Mrs. Russell Tyson, Chairman Chicago Branch
Miss Louise Dawson, Chairman Baltimore Branch

Treasurer,
General Dupont, Wilmington, Delaware.

There has not yet been time for General Dupont to inform the National Council whether or not he will accept the position of Treasurer. Nor has there been time to make out a full list

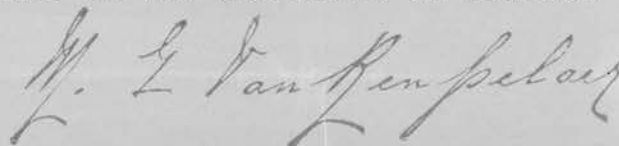
sent to the committees. Meanwhile the National Council thinks it important that they should know that the re-organization is virtually effected and that the affairs of the American Fund for French Wounded are progressing in a most satisfactory way.

Will you kindly inform us without delay in regard to the size of your committee and which one or more of the following kinds of work it prefers to undertake and is best fitted to do:

- ✓ 1. Surgical dressings
- ✓ 2. Hospital shirts, pajamas, convalescent suits
- 3. Hospital supplies
- ✓ 4. Clothing for refugees
- ✓ 5. Comfort or surprise bags
- ✓ 6. Ambulance pillows

After hearing from you we will send you some new data to assist in whatever kind of work you choose.

It is the earnest desire of the National Council to get in closer touch with all its members and in that way to be of the greatest service to them and to the sufferers in France.



(Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer)
Chairman National Council,
American Fund for French Wounded.

P. S. All committees now shipping through New York can continue to do so.



The American Fund for French Wounded

HEADQUARTERS OF
CHICAGO COMMITTEE
60 EAST WASHINGTON ST.

Telephone 3131 Randolph

"The American Fund for French Wounded, by its depots, prepares the way for our troops in France," said an officer of the Staff of General Pershing.

THE AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED

1914 During the winter of 1914 there was a small auxiliary committee of three women working in conjunction with the New York Committee and collecting money to be sent to France,

1915 In May, 1915, a committee of fifteen women was appointed under the French Wounded Emergency Fund to appeal for the French Hospitals, the object being to send a constant stream of supplies for the duration of the war to the small hospitals in France, where surgical dressings, hospital garments and equipment of all kinds were needed. The hospitals number 3,905 which have been helped.

1916 In January, 1916, the shop was opened at 60 East Washington Street, which was given to the Fund through the courtesy of Mr. James O. Heyworth. At that time the name of the association was changed to the American Fund for French Wounded, and the shipments were sent direct to France instead of via England.

1917 In this country we have about 400 committees with the National Council headquarters in New York City. The Chicago branch of the Fund has over 80 sub-committees in Illinois and the neighboring states.

WHEN the headquarters were opened a fund of \$2,000 was raised and from that time the work has steadily increased from month to month. Arthur Young & Company audit the accounts of the Chicago Committee every three months, and the last quarter (from April to July) shows that cash and supplies to the value of \$67,626.40 were sent to France.

In 1915 we sent 1,567 Comfort Bags to the wounded soldiers in the French Hospitals. In 1916, 4,165; in 1917, 9,616; and we hope again this year to be able to double the number sent the previous year.

1918 In France we are co-operating with the Service de Santé and the American Red Cross and our work is endorsed by the French Government. The Secretary of State in France and the War Ministry both sent most cordial expressions of gratitude to our president, Mrs. Lathrop, in Paris on July Fourth and Fourteenth, and asked her to convey the appreciation of the Government to the committees in America.

VIVE LA FRANCE!

VIVE L'AMERIQUE!

May the work of our Fund help to bring about a lasting union of the two great republics.

THE CHICAGO COMMITTEE
OF THE
AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH
WOUNDED

OFFICERS

MRS. HENRY S. ROBBINS, Honorary Chairman
MRS. RUSSELL TYSON, Chairman
MRS. KEITH SPALDING, Assistant Chairman
MRS. BENJAMIN CARPENTER, 1st Vice-Chairman
MISS MARIE J. ROZET, 2nd Vice-Chairman
MRS. GEORGE HALLECK TAYLOR, 3rd Vice-Chair.
MISS NAOMI DONNELLEY, Recording Secretary
MRS. WILLIAM E. CLARKE, Corresponding Secy.
MRS. GEORGE S. PAYSON, Treasurer
MISS MABEL E. DICK, Assistant Treasurer

MRS. JACOB BAUR
MRS. WATSON BLAIR
MRS. GEORGE F. BROWN, Jr.
MRS. C. DANA CORBIN
MRS. HALE HOLDEN
MRS. WILLIAM H. HUBBARD
MRS. WILLIAM PRESCOTT HUNT
MISS CAROLINE KIRKLAND
MRS. BRYAN LATHROP
MRS. HUGH J. McBIRNEY
MRS. L. HAMILTON McCORMICK
MRS. ARTHUR RYERSON
MRS. ARTHUR A. SMALL
MRS. JOHN A. SPOOR
MRS. J. GORDON WILSON
MRS. JOHN H. WINTERBOTHAM
MRS. E. S. WORTHINGTON

CONTENTS OF

CHRISTMAS BAG - \$2.50

Mirror

Comb

Towel

Soap

Tooth Brush

Tooth Paste

Handkerchief

Writing Pad

Envelope

Pencil

Game or Playing Cards

Vaseline

Razor

Shaving Brush

Shaving Stick

CONTENTS OF

CHRISTMAS BAG - \$2.50

Mirror
Comb
Towel
Soap
Tooth Brush
Tooth Paste
Handkerchief
Writing Pad
Envelope
Pencil
Game or Playing Cards
Vaseline

Knife
Pipe
Tobacco

Paris, July 16, 1918

A letter received by Mrs. Russell Tyson, Chairman of the Chicago Committee of the American Fund for French Wounded, from Mrs. J. Gordon Wilson.

"We are now very much in the war zone. As I write you I can plainly hear the great thunder of the guns on the front, only a few miles away, punctuated every fifteen minutes by a near-by explosion from big "Bertha". We are now being bombarded but all Paris remains calm. (When you hear a particularly loud crash and ask any of the people where they think that one is, you only get a shrug of the shoulders and "Who can say?" as an answer.) Yesterday evening (I was talking to Mrs. Warren when) we heard one very close at hand. We rushed along the street and in a few minutes were on the scene. The shell had burst in the middle of the road making a hole a foot or two deep and a few yards across, throwing pieces of brick pavement and stones in every direction. No one seemed to have been injured at that place and we took a look and moved away, but all day long the shells came and must have found many marks

In looking back now over these days in Paris, I think the most lasting impression in my mind was the first sight of American wounded. The hospitals were crowded with them when we arrived, but they are being evacuated fast now to make room for the fresh arrivals we saw pouring into the city yesterday. I don't think anyone seeing those splendid troops march off to the battle front can picture the sight of the return of those who have paid the price. One thing, however, stands out above everything else when you visit them and that is their splendid spirit and cheerfulness; none are discouraged, all are ready to go back as soon as they are able. They all say the same thing, "Tell them back home that we are not coming back without the victory."

The A. F. F. W. has grown enormously in the scope and volume of its work since I was here in 1917. Where before we had perhaps a scant layer of cases on the floor of the theatre we have now pyramids, where we sent out hundreds of bales of supplies to the hospitals we now send out thousands. The value of the work for the French wounded all over France can never be overestimated. The A. F. F. W. has filled the gaps in a hundred places and has actually made it possible for many small hospitals to continue to exist and save lives. It has never been possible for France to supply an abundance to hospitals many things that we consider necessities, and after visiting the American hospitals with their wealth of supplies and comforts for the wounded, the French hospitals seem bare and cheerless by comparison. (Last week I visited many French wounded. They lay so quietly and uncomplainingly on their beds, the poor tired soldiers of four years fighting. As we handed them the surprise bags made in America their eyes shone and they tried to tell us how much the coming of the American soldiers has meant to them, and how grateful they feel for all America is doing, not only for the soldier but for the civilian.)

We have assisted on the 4th and 14th of July at two most wonderful parties given for the soldiers of the Allies. The Red Cross asked the A. F. F. W. to give the party on the Fourth at their expense, and the personnel of the Alcazar worked hard and whole-heartedly to make at a success. We had the entire upper floor of the "Ambassadeurs" restaurant including the wide balconies overhung with trees. We invited 500 wounded men and prepared to give them a good variety entertainment as well as all kinds of things to eat, including white bread sandwiches and cake. The Red

Cross furnished the flour and sugar, two items which would have been impossible to secure otherwise. We had plenty of cigarettes and presents for everyone. The day was a glorious one, warm and sunny, and so we hoped that all our wounded would be able to come. (We passed the morning making our preparations and were all ready when the Ambulances began to arrive. There were plenty of strong willing arms ready to help the lame and lift out the badly wounded.) Our American boys were the first arrivals. Those of us who stood at the head of the stairs could hardly keep back the tears as we watched those splendid youths being half-carried or borne up and put in their places. We put pillows under poor stumps and made room for stiff and bandaged limbs and still the slow procession came up the stairs. French blind and wounded, American boys with bandaged heads and arms, a British Tommy helpless in a wheeled chair, tenderly borne by an army officer and an American Red Cross man, all coming up into the sunshine with bright faces and high spirits and expectant looks.

It was not long before all the ice was broken and we were the merriest company and the best of friends in the world. I wish you could have heard the shouts of laughter over the antics of the acrobats or the exclamations of delight over the presents. It was a happy afternoon for us all and when the bearers came and told the boys that they had come for them to go back to the hospital, again there was a general wail - "they wanted to stay a little longer" "they were having such a good time". "Best day I've had in France, sister", many a one said as he shook hands at the last and joined the slow procession to the waiting ambulance. //

(Perhaps one of the items on the program the men enjoyed the most was an American jazz band. It appealed not only to American boys but to the French too, and particularly to their blind, for we had 25 with us.)

I want to tell you that I have had a talk with the first American boy to be blinded. He is only 19 years old and does not know yet that he will never see. He is able to be up and can get about fairly well with his little cane. He has one glass eye now and the other is under a heavy bandage. He has the brightest face and is just a sweet, winsome lad, feeling himself very far away from his mother. He will soon be sent home, but before he goes he will be taught a little more how to be blind. He is learning Braille and the typewriter and is in gentle, loving hands. //

(Our party on the 14th was even larger than on the 4th and included many well men as well as wounded. We had the theatre of the "Ambassadeurs" and gave them a cinema entertainment. Hundreds of men had come into Paris straight from the trenches to march in the great procession of soldiers of all the Allies in the morning, and we sent out invitations to those as well. We had once more the happiness of giving a few bright hours to the men who are doing so much for us. We had Americans, French, Belgians, Czech-Slavs, Italians, Irish, and English Guards, Senegalis, Black Watch Highlanders, Marines, aviators, etc., all represented. Just as on the Fourth, the men entered into the spirit of the entertainment and forgot the trenches and the horrors of the war, and were children again. They clamoured for dolls dressed as nurses, trumpets, balloons, gay handkerchiefs, soap, cigarettes, playing cards, games, etc., as we went up and down amongst them, distributing our little presents. This was altogether an A.F.F.W. party and paid for by our own Fund. We can never regret what we do in this way. I wish we might have a special entertainment fund and in a simple way regularly bring together the fighting men of the Allies and those of the wounded who can come to a gathering of this kind. I personally spoke with many. They were all unanimous about what we had done. We had given them happy hours and something to think about when they went back to the trenches. They felt we were their friends. Many of them asked if they might come and see us at the Alcazar when next on leave. American boys seemed hungry to talk to women "from home". Many of

them asked if they might come and see us at the Alcazar when next on leave. American boys seemed hungry to talk to women "from home". Many of them said that for six months they had seen no women but French women and they longed so to talk to their own people. Some American boys are with the French army, a number of them came to our party and I can't tell you of their delight at getting American tobacco, food presents, and above all at seeing American women. They made a picture standing in a little group in their light blue uniforms, with their smiling, fair faces all excited watching the whole scene and just enjoying every second because it seemed to bring a little bit of "home" to them.

Will you try, if it is possible, to make public a plea for an entertainment fund for the Alcazar. It should form a part of our work here. It would mean much to our own men as well as to the French.

Yesterday I spent the day at one of the big stations where we have a "vestiaire" for distributing clothing to the refugees. Alas! they are coming in again. They were arriving in big trucks from towns not very far away which are now under German fire. We helped very old women and little children to alight, led them to tables where they were given something to eat and then fitted them out with the necessary clothing, and once more helped them into the waiting train by which they were to be carried to another part of France. This continuous stream of women and little children fleeing almost empty-handed from their homes, their eyes staring with fear, terrified with what they have seen and fearful of the future surrounded by strange faces in unknown parts of the country. All makes the most sorrowful picture of the wrack of the war that human mind can compass.

On one side of the station yesterday a hospital train was being filled with badly wounded French soldiers being taken away to make room for others, American wounded soldiers were being driven in from the near-by battle-fields, and we were unloading and re-loading the refugees as fast as we could, all the while hearing the great thunder of the cannon and the explosions of the shells thrown into the city from the big guns in the German lines.)

America must continue to help. Over here we realize how hard it is to keep on raising money and sending supplies, but as long as the British Fleet can hold the Huns' battleships in their own harbors, and American shores are safe from what is taking place here, and America's brave sons are making glorious history on the battle-fields of France, Just so long must help come and sacrifices be made at home so that we can succor the needy and helpless and all the wounded who need our aid.

(I am afraid the Censor will not enjoy such a long letter. Send my greetings to the Committee and tell them the A. F. F. W. needs their help more than ever.

Cordially,

Lilias Gordon Wilson.

A meeting of the National Council of the American Fund for French Wounded was held at 73 Park Ave., New York City, on Wednesday, June 5th, 1918, at 11 A. M.

There were present:-

Miss Bangs	New England
Mrs. Fay	" "
Mrs. Carpenter	Chicago
Mrs. Nevin	New York
Mrs. Binney	Kansas City
Mrs. Bliss	New York
Mrs. Bodman	New York (Secretary)
Mrs. Chambers	New York
Mr. Chapin	
Mr. Stout	

Mrs. Van Rensselaer in the Chair.

The meeting was called to order and the Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting, which were approved.

Mr. Chapin read the Treasurer's report, which was accepted.

Mrs. Nevin then took the chair, while Mrs. Van Rensselaer read her report as Chairman. This was accepted. She also read cables from Mrs. Lathrop in Paris, referring to the need of certain supplies.

The Secretary read a telegram from Mr. Nevin regretting his inability to be present at the meeting.

Mrs. Chapin stated that she ^{was} acting as proxy for Miss Dawson, of Baltimore.

It was moved by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mr. Chapin, that hereafter the titles of the officers of the National Council should be President and Vice-Presidents, instead of Chairman and Vice-Chairmen.

to avoid confusion with the titles Chairman and Vice Chairmen given to the officers of the Branches.

Carried

It was moved by Miss Bangs, seconded by Mrs. Chapin, that Mr. Ames of St. Paul, to be elected Vice-President of the National Council.

Carried

It was moved by Mrs. Fay, seconded by Mrs. Chapin, that the term Honorary Vice-President of the National Council be changed to Honorary Member and that Mrs. Alfred Klots, of Baltimore, and his Eminence, Cardinal Gibbons, to be elected Honorary Members of the National Council.

Carried

Mrs. Van Rensselaer then stated that General Dupont declined to be Treasurer of the National Council.

It was moved by Mr. Stout, seconded by Miss Bangs, that the Bankers Trust Company be appointed Treasurer of the National Council and Mr. Chapin continue as Assistant Treasurer, with power to sign checks on this deposit.

Carried

After some discussion, it was decided that all money sent to the New York Headquarters, unless designated for the National Council, should go to the New York Branch.

Mrs. Van Rensselaer then spoke of the proposed incorporation of the American Fund for French Wounded.

It was moved by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mrs. Bliss, that the ten days' notice of the discussion of that question be waived.

Carried

Mrs. Van Rensselaer then read the Articles of Incorporation.

Mr. Stout said that he had talked with Mr. Frederick Conder who helped organize the French Heroes Fund, and that Mr. Conder believed there would soon be strict laws passed allowing only those organizations that are incorporated, to collect money from the public. Mr. Stout said that he thought we should take every measure necessary to have as high a standing with the public as possible, especially as many people think we have gone out of business entirely. Therefore he urged that we be incorporated in this state as soon as possible.

Miss Bangs then stated that she had received the blank of Incorporation late Monday and had been unable to discuss the matter with Mr. Whiteside; that she felt she could not cast her 12 votes for New England in favor of so important a step without discussing the matter with the other New England delegates for whom she was acting as proxy. She said that it seemed to her personally a very good plan.

Mr. Stout then suggested that as it would be very difficult to get all the members again for another meeting to vote on this matter of incorporation and as the Incorporators were together now, they could sign the Articles of Incorporation, subject to the approval of the New England Branch.

Mrs. Carpenter stated that she had four votes from Chicago and thought the idea of incorporating a very good one.

It was moved by Mr. Stout, seconded by Mrs. Chapin, that the organization known as the American Fund for French Wounded shall be known under the name of "American Fund for French Wounded, Incorporated."

Carried

Mr. Stout then stated that in the Articles of Incorporation we must set a date for our Annual Meeting, and suggested that the meeting should come some time in January.

After some discussion, it was moved by Mrs. Hevin, seconded by Mr. Chapin that the Annual Meeting should be the second Wednesday in November.

Carried

Mrs. Bodman then read the revised Constitution and By-Laws of the A. F. F. W. article by article. These were approved as drafted with some changes.

An Administration Committee was formed consisting of

Mrs. Chambers
Mrs. Van Rensselaer
Mrs. Chapin
Miss Bangs
Mrs. Coonley
Mr. Stout
Mr. Chapin

It was suggested that the President and Vice-President see Mr. Davison and ask him to write a letter endorsing the A. F. F. W.

The date for the next meeting was left undecided.

It was moved by Mr. Stout, and unanimously seconded and carried that a standing vote of thanks be given to Mrs. Van Rensselaer for the work she had done for the Fund.

A standing vote of thanks was also given to Mr. Chapin and Mr. Stout.

The Incorporators then signed the Articles of Incorporation and the meeting adjourned

American Fund for French Wounded (Inc.)

73 Park Avenue, New York City

(RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT)

Co-operating with the American Red Cross

NEW YORK BRANCH

Honorary Chairman

MRS. ETHELBERT NEVIN

Honorary Vice-Chairmen

MRS. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER

MRS. F. GRAY GRISWOLD

Chairman

MRS. CHARLES M. CHAPIN

Vice-Chairmen

MRS. C. LEDYARD BLAIR

Secretary

MRS. SCHUYLER VAN RENSSELAER

MRS. HERBERT BODMAN

MRS. ROBERT BACON

Treasurer

MRS. WALTER P. BLISS

Committee

Mrs. Hugh D. Auchincloss
 Mme. Baldensperger
 Mrs. Jessie Baskerville
 Mrs. David C. Briggs
 Mrs. William B. Bristow
 Mr. Charles M. Chapin
 Mrs. Talbot Chambers
 Mrs. John Claflin
 Mrs. Henry D. Dakin
 Mrs. Udo M. Fleischmann
 Mrs. Maximilian Foster
 Mrs. Charles Downer Hazen
 Mrs. E. de Peyster Hosmer
 Mr. Thomas Hastings
 Hon. J. Frederic Kernochan
 Mrs. Alvin W. Krech
 Mrs. Shepard Krech
 Mrs. Joseph Larocque
 Mr. Frederic R. Newbold
 Mrs. Samuel T. Peters
 Mme. Carlo Polifeme
 Mrs. Harold Pratt
 Mrs. James Roosevelt
 Mrs. John S. Sheppard, Jr.
 Mrs. Worthington Smith
 Mr. Richard Stevens
 Mrs. Robert L. Stevens
 Mrs. William Sturgis
 Mrs. Arthur Sutcliffe
 Mrs. Ramsay Turnbull
 Mr. A. Parker Nevin } *Counsel*
 Mr. William Stout }

July 30, 1918.

Mr. Charles W. Ames
 501 Grand Avenue
 St. Paul, Minn.

My dear Mr. Ames:

I have just received the copy you were kind enough to send me of the address you delivered on June 14th.

I have read it with the greatest interest and with much admiration. It is very impressive even when read, and when delivered before so large an audience it must have been still more effective. We are greatly pleased at your reference to the American Fund for French Wounded and ~~am~~ ^{are} sure that this Society will profit by it. I shall send my copy eventually to my niece, Miss Vail, in Paris, as anything will interest them deeply which shows how we in America think of France.

Certainly we have reason to rejoice at the news from France we are getting just now. Here the work of the AFFW is going well, although our work-rooms are not as busy as at other seasons.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Ames and thanks once more for sending me your address, I am

Sincerely yours,

M. E. Van Rensselaer
 (Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer)

President, National Council
 American Fund for French Wounded,
 Inc.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF INCORPORATORS OF THE
AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED, INC.

The first meeting of the Incorporators of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., was held this 9th day of July, 1918, at 2:15 P.M. at the principal offices of the Corporation, located at 273 Park Ave., New York City, in the Borough of Manhattan, City, County and State of New York.

There were present the following Incorporators:

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer
Mrs. Charles E. Chapin
Mrs. Walter P. Bliss
Mrs. Talbot R. Chambers
Frederic A. Newbold
William Law Stout

being the majority of the Incorporators whose names appear on the Certificate of Corporation.

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer was selected Chairman of the meeting and Miss Neola S. London was appointed temporary Secretary of the meeting.

The Chairman stated that the Certificate of Corporation of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., had been duly filed in the office of the Secretary of State at Albany, and in the office of the County Clerk of the County of New York, and that the Certificate had also been duly endorsed by one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, as provided by law.

The Secretary presented waiver of notice of time and place of this meeting of the Incorporators, signed by a majority thereof.

On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That the Incorporators of the American Fund for French Wounded, approve of and recommend to the Board of Directors, the acceptance, adoption and approval of the By-Laws of the Voluntary Un-incorporated Association, known as, and existing under the name of the "American Fund for French Wounded", and that such By-Laws, when adopted by the Board of Directors, shall constitute the rules and regulations governing the conduct of the affairs of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., consistent with the provisions of the Certificate of the Corporation with the provisions of the Membership Act of the Laws of the State of New York.

The meeting then discussed a recommendation to the Board of Directors, that the officers of the American Fund for French Wounded, as a Voluntary Un-incorporated Association be elected the officers of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That the Incorporators of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., recommend to the Board of Directors, the election by them of all the officers now serving with and elected by the Un-incorporated Association heretofore known as the "American Fund for French Wounded".

There being no further business before the meeting, the meeting adjourned.

SECRETARY

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE DIRECTORS
OF THE
AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED,
INC.

The first meeting of the Directors of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., was held this 9th day of July, 1918, at 2:30 P.M. at #73 Park Avenue, New York City.

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer was appointed Chairman of the meeting, and Miss Hecia C. London, temporary Secretary.

The Secretary announced that a majority of the Directors, whose names appear in the Certificate of Incorporation, were present at the meeting, and further stated that the following notice of meeting had been sent to all of the Directors:

"July 2, 1918.

The meeting of the Directors of the American Fund for French Wounded, under the Act of Incorporation, will be held at #73 Park Avenue, New York City, July 9th, at 2 P.M., for the purpose of formally adopting the revised By-Laws and electing the officers of the National Council.

You are earnestly requested to be present.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) M. G. Van Rensselaer, Per M.G.
(Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer)

President, National Council
American Fund for French Wounded."

The Chairman stated that at a meeting of the Incorporators of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., held this day, certain resolutions, embodying recommendations to the Board of Directors, had been unanimously adopted, one resolution relating to the adoption and approval of the By-Laws of the Un-incorporated

Association of the American Fund for French Wounded, and the other relating to the election of the existing officers of said Un-incorporated Association.

On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: On the recommendation of the Incorporators, that this Board of Directors approve and adopt the By-Laws of the Un-incorporated Association, known as the American Fund for French Wounded, and further that the officers of the Un-incorporated Association of the American Fund for French Wounded be elected, and they hereby are elected, the officers of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

The Chairman presented to the meeting, the By-Laws which had been thus adopted, and which were ordered spread upon the minutes. The Chairman further stated that the officers of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., as elected under the foregoing resolutions, were as follows:

Honorary President,	Mrs. Ethelbert Nevin,
President,	Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer,
Vice Presidents:	Mrs. Chas. M. Chapin, Chairman N. Y. Branch. Miss Edith Bangs, Chairman New England Branch. Miss Louise Dawson, Chairman Baltimore Branch. Mrs. Russell Tyson, Chairman Chicago Branch Charles W. Ames, St. Paul.
Secretary,	Mrs. Herbert Bodman,
Treasurer,	Charles M. Chapin,
Counsellors:	A. Parker Nevin, William Law Stout, Alexander Whiteside.
Honorary Members:	Mrs. Alfred Partridge Klete, His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons.

Members-Elect:

Miss Emily Chauncey,
Mrs. James Roosevelt,
Mrs. William G. Rockefeller.

Administrative Committee of the National Council:

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer, Chairman
Mrs. Charles M. Chapin
Charles M. Chapin
Miss Edith Bange
William Law Stout
Mrs. Talbot R. Chambers
Mrs. Coonley.

On motion duly made and seconded, Mr. Charles M. Chapin was elected Treasurer, and the Central Union Trust Company of New York was appointed Assistant Treasurer.

On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That the Central Union Trust Company of New York be appointed depository for the funds and monies of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., and that checks and drafts, against funds, should be signed by the Treasurer, or, in the event of his absence or inability, that checks or drafts should be signed by the Assistant Treasurer, on voucher signed by the President of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

On motion duly made and seconded, Miss Emily Chauncey, Mrs. William G. Rockefeller and Mrs. James Roosevelt, were elected members of the National Council.

On motion duly made and seconded, it was:

RESOLVED: That the members of the Administrative Committee of the National Council of the American Fund for French Wounded, Un-incorporated, be elected to said Administrative Committee of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

The Board then conferred upon the Administrative Committee the power and discretion to add new members to the Honorary Members of the Council.

The Board appointed as Counsel for the Fund, Mr. A. Parker Nevin, Mr. William Law Stout and Alexander Whiteside.

On motion duly made and seconded, the following resolution was adopted:

RESOLVED: The Treasurer be authorized and directed to have the books of the Fund audited every three months by a certified accountant, and that a duly certified audit be sent to the Charity Organisation Society, in form suitable to said Society.

The Secretary was authorized to procure a suitable Minute Book for the Fund, and also a Corporate Seal.

There being no further business before the meeting, the meeting adjourned.

The Chairman brought up the point that a large and beautiful poster might be made to send to all the Committees.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That Mrs. Van Rensselaer, as a committee of one, be appointed to visit the Pictorial Publicity Committee, of which Mr. Charles Dana Gibson is Chairman, and inquire about the cost of having a poster made for the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

The next point of discussion was the question of how the money for the support of the Paris Depot and Motor Service should be divided between the different Branches. It was decided to continue the \$3,000 a month for the month of July and to write Mrs. Lathrop to learn whether so large a sum would still be required for the ensuing months. Also, Mr. Bevin was instructed to discuss this matter with Mr. Lathrop as soon as he reaches Paris and to cable the result.

There being no further business before the meeting, the meeting adjourned.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE
AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED, INC.

A meeting of the Administrative Committee of the National Council of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., was held this 23rd day of July, 1918, at 4:00 P.M. at #73 Park Avenue, New York City.

There were present the following members of the Administrative Committee:

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer
Mrs. Charles M. Chapin
Mrs. Walter P. Bliss
Miss Edith Bangs
Charles M. Chapin
William Law Stout
A. Parker Hevin
Mrs. Talbot R. Chambers) as
Mrs. Coonley) Advisers

To these had been sent the following notice:

"July 17, 1918.

A meeting of the Administrative Committee of the National Council has been called for Tuesday next, July 23rd, at 4:00 P.M. at #73 Park Avenue.

Miss Bangs is coming from Boston to attend it and we hope that you will certainly be here. There are some letters from Mrs. Lathrop to be discussed.

Very truly yours,

E. G. Van Rensselaer

(Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer)

President, National Council
American Fund for French Wounded

Mrs. Van Rensselaer, as Chairman, called the meeting to order to discuss various points that were incorporated in Mrs. Lathrop's letter of June 20th to Mrs. Van Rensselaer.

The Chairman read the letter and also the minutes of a meeting of the Administrative Board of the Paris Depot, held on June 22nd at the Alcazar.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That the Resolutions contained in the minutes of the meeting of the Administrative Board of the Paris Depot be approved by the National Council; also that that part of said Resolutions which pertained to the "acceptance of money only to be disbursed at the discretion of said Board" not being exactly understood because of an explanatory clause which contradicted the Resolution, should be returned by Mrs. Van Rensselaer to Mrs. Lathrop to determine the exact meaning thereof.

On motion, duly made and seconded, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting of July 9th be sent out to all Branches of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

The Chairman announced that Mrs. James Roosevelt had accepted membership in the National Council, but that Miss Chauncey had declined, fearing she would not be able to be useful. The Chairman stated that she had refused to accept this answer and would further urge upon Miss Chauncey to accept membership.

The Chairman read a letter from the Chairman of the German Atrocities Film Corporation, which asked for an opinion upon its projects. It was decided that no answer was necessary.

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF
THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF THE AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED, INC.

A regular monthly meeting of the National Council of the American Fund for French Wounded, Inc., was held on October 9, 1918, at 11 o'clock A.M. at #73 Park Avenue, New York City.

The members of the National Council present were:

Mrs. Chas. M. Chapin	}	Vice-Presidents
Mr. Chas. W. Ames		
Mrs. Herbert Bodman	}	Secretary
Mr. Chas. M. Chapin		
Mr. William Law Stout	}	Treasurer
Mrs. Talbot Chambers		
Mrs. Jessie Baskerville	}	Delegates
Mrs. C. Ledyard Blair		
Mrs. Walter P. Bliss	}	New York
Mrs. Nicholas Murray Butler		
Mrs. Udo M. Fleischmann	}	Branch
Mrs. H. C. Harris		
Mrs. Worthington Smith	}	
Miss Mattie Norton		
Mrs. Prentiss Coonley	}	Delegates
Mrs. Edward Hasler		
Mrs. G. H. Taylor	}	Chicago
Mrs. Robert Wood	}	Branch
		Delegate
		Baltimore Br.

The New England Branch was not represented, as the Influenza Epidemic made traveling inadvisable.

^a
~~The~~ The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Chapin who read ~~the~~ letter from the President, Mrs. Van Rensselaer, telling of her inability to be present on account of illness.

The Secretary read the minutes of the meeting of the Incorporators of the organization held on July 9, 1918, those of the meeting of the Directors held on the same day, and those of the meeting of the Administrative Committee of the National Council held on July 23, 1918. All the minutes as read were unanimously approved.

On motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously

RESOLVED: That the reading of the Constitution and By-Laws adopted on July 9th be waived.

The Treasurer's report was read by Mr. Chapin:

Owing to a mistake in its form as presented at the meeting the Treasurer's Report is not here incorporated but will be before the minutes are presented for acceptance at the next meeting.

Following the Treasurer's report a discussion arose regarding money sent to Paris through other channels than the National Council.

On motion duly made and seconded Mr. Ames' resolution to the effect that it would be best to have all funds for the upkeep of the Paris Depot pass through the National Council was unanimously adopted. The Secretary supported Mr. Ames' opinion to the effect that there should be more corporate action in the organization so that the Branches may feel that they are not independent units but are working together, and so that the Paris Administration may know exactly what we in America are doing and the various Branches may each know what the others are doing.

The reports from the Branches were then read by their respective representatives. The report of the Chicago Branch was not received until after the meeting but is here given with the others.

REPORT OF NEW YORK BRANCH

FROM JUNE 1ST, 1918, TO OCTOBER 1ST, 1918.

Financial

Since June 1st we have sent to Mrs. Lathrop a total of \$17,856, of which more than \$8,000 was for the Discretionary Hospital Fund.

Our cash receipts have steadily increased since June:

June	\$	8,889.	
July		9,926.	
August		12,802.	
September		17,426.	
Oct. 1 - 8		5,030.	<u>\$53,743.</u>

On October 1st, we had on hand a total of \$16,274 including \$14,524 in the Discretionary Hospital and Undesignated Funds, and \$1,750 in the special funds.

Workroom

During the summer months the Compress Workroom worked every day, making a total of 77,000 compresses, or an average of 1,222 per day. In addition, our Compress Workroom made 1,600 bed pads. These figures are significant because it means that a comparatively small number of women worked loyally and devotedly during the heat of the summer.

From June to October 1st, our Workroom shipped 123,197 articles including:

- 98,227 made by New York Workroom.
- 24,970 received from others and examined and repacked by N. Y. Workroom.
- 4,438 Comfort Bags rec'd by N. Y. Workroom up to October 8th.

Comfort Bag Shop

On September 1st we opened a Comfort Bag Shop at 501 Fifth Avenue. The shop itself was contributed by the U. S. Railroad Administration and Mr. Thorne of the Oceanic Investing Co., ~~as were~~ The services of Miss Bruette and her many able assistants, *were voluntary.*

- 1,800 bags ready for shipment
- \$2,696 taken in
- 212 bags still to be disposed of - we are anxious to sell the remaining stock.

Shipping

Because of the discontinuance of the Vacation War Relief Committee, it was necessary to secure new quarters for our Shipping Department.

Due to the very successful efforts of Mrs. Baskerville, Mrs. Blair and Mr. Newbold we secured a lease of very desirable

rooms at 531 Seventh Avenue at a greatly reduced rental. A special fund has been raised to meet this additional expense for the coming year.

From June 1st to October 1st we have shipped 1,232 cases containing 1,058,220 articles. The total value of articles shipped is approximately \$143,908.

During the past ten days the Shipping Department has packed 3,123 Comfort Bags.

- - - - -

REPORT OF CONTRIBUTIONS OF MONEY SENT TO THE PARIS DEPOT

FROM JUNE 1ST, 1918, TO OCTOBER 1ST, 1918.

NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

For the upkeep of Paris Depot and Motor Service thru National Council	\$4,000.00
For Mrs. Lathrop's Emergency Fund	745.00
For Comforts for U.S.A. Soldiers in French Hospitals	50.00
For Game Fund at Paris Depot	50.00
For French Children's Christmas	214.00
For Work for Refugee Children	625.00
TOTAL	<u>5,684.00</u>

SUPPLIES FORWARDED TO THE PARIS DEPOT

FROM JUNE 1ST, 1918, TO OCTOBER 1ST, 1918.

Surgical Dressings	3,488,384
Bed Pillows and Pillow Slips	5,360
Blankets, Sheets and Comforts	1,859
Towels and Handkerchiefs	56,602
Hospital Garments	26,387
Pairs of Socks	25,611
Other Knitted Articles	6,683
Hospital Supplies, including Absorbent Cotton, Hot Water Bottles, Ether, etc.	15,301
Comfort Bags	8,522
Civilian Garments	<u>61,432</u>
	3,693,141

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REPORT OF CHICAGO BRANCH
AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED

RECEIPTS

June, 1918	\$ 10,383.75
July 1 - October 1	39,717.44

DISBURSEMENTS

June, 1918		
Overhead Expenses	\$ 1,921.20	
Paris Depot	150.00	
Dispensaries	400.00	
Supplies Purchased	<u>6,450.66</u>	8,921.76
July 1 - October 1		
Overhead Expenses	5,941.08	
Paris Depot	2,895.00	
Dispensaries	3,694.86	
Supplies Purchased	<u>27,282.41</u>	39,813.35

HOSPITAL SUPPLIES

June, 1918	
Surgical Dressings	32,639
Hospital Garments	2,401
July 1 - October 1	
Surgical Dressings	54,651
Hospital Garments	9,830

CIVILIAN RELIEF

(Including: Garments, Knitted goods,
refugee bags, and trench kits)

June, 1918	5,828
July 1 - October 1	21,099

- - - - -

REPORT OF BALTIMORE BRANCH OF
AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED

From June 1st to October 31st, 1918 -

The Workrooms of the Baltimore Branch close June 1st and do not open till October 15th, as most of the workers are out of town during that period. Therefore my report is a meagre one. The work finished when the workrooms closed June 1st filled 7 boxes, containing the following garments and Surgical Dressings.

<u>Garments</u>		<u>Surgical Dressings</u>	
Pajamas	279	Wipes	13,300
Hospital Shirts	122	Compresses	5,400
Comfort Pillows	54		
Hand Knitted Helmets	6		
" " Scarfs	6		
" " Socks	39 prs.		
" " Bed "	43 "		
" " Sweaters	9		
" " Wristlets	6 "		
" " Mittens	5 "		
Slippers	3 "		
TOTAL	572	TOTAL	18,700

These boxes were sent to 26 West 23rd Street ^{New York,} to be forwarded to France in June.

In July

\$75.00 was sent to the New York Branch toward the upkeep of the Paris Depot

\$30.00 was sent them toward the upkeep of the National Council, but as both of these amounts have been acknowledged from the Paris Depot I presume the latter amount was not needed in New York.

We have on hand today hundreds of pajamas, shirts, comfort bags, comfort pillows, sweaters, etc., made by some of my county committees, that will be packed and forwarded this week to the new address, 531 Seventh Avenue.

- - - - -

On motion duly made and seconded the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks be sent to each Branch for the splendid work done as shown in the reports just read.

*from
Elean
Ridges*
Mrs. Chapin announced that the figures of the New York Branch were greatly augmented by the large donations received from St. Louis, New Jersey, and from St. Paul, which had sent very generous contributions. An expression of thanks to each of these Committees was unanimously voted.

Cables sent by Mrs. Lathrop between July 9th, the date of our last meeting, and the present time were read by the Secretary, and also cables from Mr. Nevin while in France.

The Chairman announced that owing to Mrs. Van Rensselaer's illness Mr. Ames would, in her stead, present the matter of the relations between the American Red Cross and the American Fund for French Wounded. Mr. Ames said that this report should be made by Mr. Nevin and will be made this afternoon by him. All he himself wished was to state briefly the general results of the present nego-

tiations between Mrs. Lathrop and the American Red Cross, as represented by Colonel Harvey Gibson, now in charge of the work of the American Red Cross in France.

"These negotiations were going on when Mr. Nevin reached Paris. He spent a number of days conferring with Mrs. Lathrop and Colonel Gibson and getting advice and information from the French authorities and American relief workers, thus preparing himself to advise Mrs. Lathrop as to a decision which had to be made between two courses of action proposed as the only alternatives by Colonel Gibson. These alternatives were that the American Fund for French Wounded must allow itself to be absorbed in the American Red Cross -- to become a department of it -- or else must cease to have any official connection with it. In letters to Mrs. Lathrop Colonel Gibson had said that either of these courses would be satisfactory to him and assured Mrs. Lathrop of the friendly attitude of the American Red Cross should she choose to separate from it as the result of this long and careful consideration. Mr. Nevin advised Mrs. Lathrop to choose the course of separating from the American Red Cross, which course she followed. The separation has therefore been completed in France, and the National Council is now to decide whether it approves thereof. There are advantages in independence. We must continue our work under the patronage of the French Government. Mr. Nevin will assure you that the American Fund for French Wounded is honored and beloved in France as we would wish it to be; there is the amplest recognition of the magnificent work which has been done by you women of America for almost four years. We are now going to be in a position to do an increasing amount of work, and should begin a campaign to stimulate the interest and enlarge the capacity of all our Branches and Committees. My own feeling is, and I am glad to go on record regarding it, that we should concentrate our efforts chiefly on the hospital work. We had our warning last year of the danger of dividing our interest and complicating our activities. It has been inevitable that we should be called upon to help out in emergencies with work not included in our original purpose. But I hope that from now until the need for all relief work is past, we shall hold our attention and interest to the original purpose of our society -- the care of the French wounded. I hope that we may close our career only when the need for work for the French wounded is over. I do not mean that that need will be over when the war is over. We can carry on our benefactions for a long time after the war in connection with the rehabilitation of the wounded. We can furnish much needed help to men who are going out to begin life over again.

"This separation", Mr. Ames added, "leaves us in a very delicate position. We must be careful to give no offense whatever to the Red Cross. We must not use its name in any way in connection with our work. On the other hand, we must provoke no discussion as to the circumstances of our separation."

On motion duly made and seconded the action of the Paris Administration in deciding to separate from the American Red Cross and to act as an independent organization was unanimously ratified by the National Council.

In this ratification the New England Branch concurred, as Miss Bangs had instructed the President of the Council so to cast by proxy the votes to which her Branch is entitled.

at his own expense and
Mr. Ames suggested that a resolution of thanks be offered to Mr. A. Parker Nevin for his great service to the American Fund for French Wounded in going to Paris on its behalf, at a great personal inconvenience and giving his aid there at a critical moment. This was moved, seconded, and unanimously adopted.

The Chairman announced that delegates should be sent to future meetings in the same way as to this present meeting -- that is, one representative for each group of twenty Committees affiliated with any Branch.

The meeting then adjourned.

An informal meeting was called for 2:30 o'clock, when Mr. A. Parker Nevin was to give an account of his trip abroad. Many other members of the American Fund for French Wounded then joined the National Council to hear Mr. Nevin. Before he was called upon to give the account of his recent trip to France, Mr. Ames offered the following resolution, which was duly seconded and unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED: That the hearty thanks of the National Council be extended to Hon. A. Parker Nevin, its General Counsel, for his great service to the organization rendered in his recent trip to France for conference with our Paris Administration.

At the close of the informal meeting held in the afternoon Mr. Ames announced that he had a little matter of diplomacy he wished to present: "It seems that it would be fitting for us, as the National Council of the American Fund for French Wounded, at this moment, to send suitable messages to the representatives of the French Government to make it plain to them that we intend to continue our work in their service. I move that the officers be requested and authorized to send suitable messages to Marshal Foch, Andre Tardieu and Ambassador J. J. Jusserand." This motion was seconded by Mr. Nevin and carried.

American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

73 Park Avenue, New York City

NATIONAL COUNCIL

Honorary President
MRS. ETHELBERG NEVIN

President
MRS. SCHUYLER VAN RENSSELAER

Vice-Presidents
CHAIRMEN OF THE NEW YORK, NEW ENGLAND, CHICAGO, AND BALTIMORE BRANCHES

MR. CHARLES W. AMES, St. Paul

Treasurer
MR. CHARLES M. CHAPIN

Assistant Treasurer
CENTRAL UNION TRUST COMPANY

Secretary
MRS. HERBERT BODMAN

Honorary Members
His Eminence Cardinal Gibbons
Mrs Alfred Partridge Klots

Members
Mrs. Talbot Chambers
Mr. Frederic R. Newbold
Mrs. William G. Rockefeller
Mrs. James Roosevelt

Mr. A. Parker Nevin
Mr. William Law Stout
Mr. Alexander Whiteside } *Counsel*

One representative for each group
of twenty Committees affiliated with
any Branch

One representative of the
Paris Administration

Paris Administration

President
Mrs. BENJAMIN GIRAULT LATHROP

Vice-President
DR. ALEXIS CARREL

Treasurer
Miss ANNA MURRAY VAIL

Secretary
MR. HERBERT M. NICHOLS

October 13, 1918.

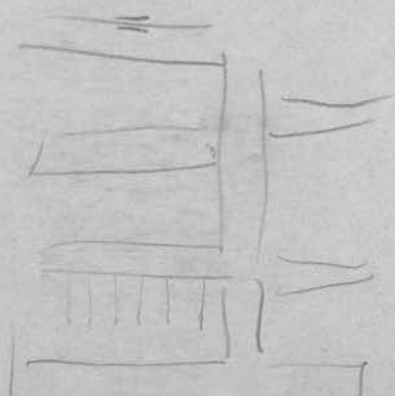
My dear Mr. Ames,

I am enclosing copies of the messages I sent yesterday, to show that they really went and in a shape little altered from that which Mr. Knecht supplied. As you will see, I also cabled to Mrs. Lathrop. And I have written to Mr. Knecht to thank him for his kindness.

Once more I thank you for all of yours and am,

Very sincerely yours,





American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

73 Park Avenue, New York City

NATIONAL COUNCIL

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Paris Administration

Paris Administration
President
Mrs. BENJAMIN GIRAULT LATHROP

Vice-President
DR. ALEXIS CARREL

Treasurer
Miss ANNA MURRAY VAIL

Secretary
MR. HERBERT M. NICHOLS

October 11th, 1918.

My dear Mr. Ames,

Many thanks for the telegrams and for your kindness in getting them drafted for us and, in the first place, making the suggestion. They shall go in the morning. I need change only one or two words, I think, making the one to Jusserand a little more smooth and less truncated than Mr. Knecht wrote it.

I cannot tell you how much good your visit and your frank talk and excellent advice did me at a time when I greatly need help and stimulation. I have worked so much alone all summer, especially after Mr. Nevin went abroad, that my thoughts had grown stale, and although my interest had not flagged my efforts sometimes did because I was not sure whether they were wisely imagined. From now on I hope to be more in touch with others, as interested as I am; and I shall try to get some new people in the office who will take hold with energy.

I went out today for half an hour (and was rather glad to get home again!) I wish you could have seen with me our new packing rooms on Seventh Avenue. I do not believe you had time to visit them but they were worth seeing today, filled with scores and scores of cases ready to despatch. Two shipments went ~~last~~ this week; the boxes I saw are very largely filled with Christmas bags but many other kinds of things also. It was a heartening sight.

I trust that you will have an agreeable trip although to me even a sight of California would seem dearly bought by so long a journey and so brief a stay as the memorandum on your letter indicates.

Thanking you once more for your friendly helpfulness,
I am,

Very sincerely yours,

M. E. Van Rensselaer

¹
COPIES OF TELEGRAMS SENT ON LIBERTY DAY .

October 12, 1918.

Ambassador J. J. Jusserand,
French Embassy, Washington D. C.

The National Council of American Fund for French Wounded deeply impressed by unequalled genius and success of Marshal Foch and heroism of French soldiers for whom the Fund is proud of having worked since the beginning of the war. We wish on Liberty Day to e/xpress to your Excellency and Madame Jusserand our respectful regards and our profound sympathy with France, and beg you to convey to President Poincare and the French Government the assurance of our devotion and continued service to the soldiers of France until victory shall be achieved.

M. G. Van Rensselaer

(Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer
President, National Council, A.F.F.W.

October 12, 1918.

Andre Tardieu

Commissioner Franco-American Co-operation
Paris.

American Fund for French Wounded proud to renew on Liberty Day assurance their devotion to heroic French soldiers saviors of civilization. Congratulate on magnificent results Allied unity. Beg you convey to Marshl Foch, Prime Minister Clemenceau, General Petain, War Secretary Mourier their pledge to help glorious wounded of France until victory assured.

Rensselaer

President National Council

American Fund for French Wounded.

October 12, 1918.

Lathrop

Alcazar Dete, Champs Elysees
Paris.

Council meeting enthusiastically decides for independent activity. Conditions excellent here. Congratulation greetings of Liberty Day

Rensselaer.

Oct. 22, 1918.

Mrs. Benjamin G. Lathrop,
President, American Fund For French Wounded,
Alcazar, Avenue Gabriel,
Paris, France.

My dear Mrs. Lathrop:

This is the first real moment that I have had when I could write to you since the meeting in New York, now twelve days ago. After a few days in New York and Washington, I came here to join Mrs. Ames and Alice, for a little glimpse of Theodore (he is just finishing his Aviation course and may be sent over to France at any time now).

Of course the most interesting feature of our New York conferences was the hearing of Mr. Nevin's account of his expedition to France. Evidently his arrival there was most opportune and we are all very grateful to him for going. He gave me a comprehensive but concise account of his experiences in a two hours' talk, and, as you know, I was peculiarly in position to understand the finesse of his negotiations. He and I are in very close harmony on all matters relating to the Fund. You would be amused if you could have "eavesdropped" to see how we worked each other up to a fervor of enthusiasm over you and all your works.

The meeting of the National Council was sufficiently successful although it suffered from the absence of Mrs. Van Rensselaer, Miss Bangs and Mrs. Tyson. I felt that the organization is not nearly as aggressive as it used to be, but it is certainly harmonious and devoted to its proper work. Everybody was breathlessly interested in what Mr. Nevin had to say, and it was a happy circumstance that Mr. Alfred I. White was present in the audience (I took lunch with our cousins Alfred and Annie on the day before, made sure that they understood the inside situation in connection with the American Red Cross and was very glad to perceive the depth of their interest in our work).

I look forward with great confidence to the successful continuance of the A.F.F.W. effort to the end of the chapter. With the end of the war in sight (only the date remaining to be fixed) I am most eager that our admirable

2.

organization shall make a "finish" that will be worthy of all that has gone before. To this end I think we should continue to concentrate our attention on hospital work and resist all temptation toward tangents. We have had our warning in bitter experience of the inexpediency of branching out into civilian relief. I hope we may continue the Dispensary work which we have actually undertaken so long as it may seem expedient (I am very proud of what I hear of the good work of Miss McGregor and Miss Clark, and Mrs. Ames will send some more funds for them as soon as she gets home) but I think we should discourage our committees from going into new work along those lines, and I agree that the Epinal Creche is quite out of our line and should be discontinued.

The fact is that there is still need far in excess of our capacity, for work for the French Wounded, and for that the Fund came into being, - most fortunately. My own idea is, that after the war ends we can for some months continue to help the Reformes to get back into life, give them clothing and little necessities on a large scale; and that that will continue to furnish an outlet for our energies and our supplies. Then let us wind up our work and not let it "peter out". If you and others wish to keep on in some new line, then form a new organization (in France and America) for the new purpose.

I do not think we need to bother very much just yet about the subject of the Memorial although we might as well think about it when we have time. But I want to look forward to a suitable memorial history of this noble work. You will remember I talked with you and Miss Vail about that in Paris, two years ago. Apart from the records, the material for such a history ought to be collected and arranged right now. Would not that furnish an attractive vocation for Mrs. O'Shaughnessy?

Meantime our relations with the French Government seem to be very satisfactory. Marcel Knecht, who is surely a good friend, expressed a desire that we might cultivate our diplomatic relations diligently. On this side of the Atlantic we are keeping in touch with the Embassy and the French High Commission. He thought you should cultivate the Personnel of the Government and its wives (Madame Poincaré etc.), as you well know how to do. He thinks, also, that you should, for the sake of the Cause, have a decoration, which he is sure will be yours for the asking. He approved of a plan that Mr. Nevin and I devised to have the French Diplomats over here invited to a banquet in New York to celebrate your

3.

arrival next winter.

This brings me to express my great satisfaction that you have consented to come over to give the American Committees fresh inspiration. Under the new regime we very much need press work and advertising of the right kind. Nothing can so effectively awaken and revive interest in this work as the presence and the personality of its embodiment in its President. We shall look for you about January first, and will try to plan out your itinerary so as to get the greatest good from your visit in the shortest time (we shall be just as eager as you are to get you back "on the job").

I will now descend from the Vice-Presidential perch. I was most pleased and honored to be given an official connection with the organization which had been so near my heart for three years. My feelings, however, are much more intimate and personal. Bettie Ames and Edith Winter have constituted a very close bond between St. Paul and Paris. We are sorry to have them leave the Alcazar and your protecting wing but feel that they have earned the right to have some of the work and experience for which they so earnestly long, and maybe they will come back to you some time !

Mrs. Ames and Alice join me in affectionate greetings to you and Miss Vail.

Sincerely yours,

Oct. 22, 1918.

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer,
Vice Pres., National Council,
American Fund for French Wounded,
732 Park Avenue, New York City.

My dear Mrs. Van Rensselaer:

This is the first time that I have had an hour and a stenographer in combination so that I could carry out my promise to write you my suggestions pursuant to our meeting and conferences of week before last.

I was much pleased with the spirit of our organization but not quite satisfied as to its business efficiency. We are manifestly weak on press work and we need a competent professional office secretary. If we could find exactly the right woman for that it would be a good investment to pay a good salary, - and even two salaries if we could find two useful persons, one for secretary and one for press agent. These salaries should, I think, be divided between the National Council and the New York Branch. With any sort of success the increased contributions would soon justify the expense. I suggest that in the selection of one or more helpers of this kind Mr. Nevin's advice be taken.

I believe that we should carry on our work for the French Wounded for a year at least and probably for six months after the end of the war. We ought not to branch out into side issues such as Civilian Relief. The Dispensaries which we are now committed to may well be carried on so long as the American Committees behind them are willing to support them, but I think we should not commit ourselves to new undertakings of the same kind.

The great task of our American organization is to strengthen and revive the interest of our Committees. For that purpose Mrs. Lathrop's expected visit will be of the very greatest help. Her American itinerary should be carefully planned for the best results in the shortest time. If we can work out the suggestion for a diplomatic banquet to celebrate her arrival in America, that would give our campaign a fine "send-off" and a real impetus.

Mrs. S. V. R.-----2.

Do not hesitate to write me at St. Paul whenever you wish my opinion on any of the knotty problems which come up to you.

Most sincerely yours,

Oct. 22, 1918.

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer,
Vice Pres., National Council,
A. F. F. W.,
732 Park Avenue, New York City.

My dear Mrs. Van Rensselaer:

I am enclosing you with this official communication a copy of my letter to Mrs. Lathrop for your information. I am also moved to add a more personal word to you.

We masculine appurtenances of the A.F.F.W. feel a natural delicacy in offering advice. The Fund is distinctively a woman's enterprise and its success has come entirely from the feminine sympathy functioning with feminine tact and insight. Our business judgment should be helpful to you but it must be adapted to the medium in which it works. Again, the "politics" of the situation are always intricate and the personal considerations puzzling (for example, Mr. Knecht told me that Madame Lauzanne went up to work at our headquarters and her reception was such that she did not care to keep on. That seems a dreadful pity!)

I feel every confidence in your wisdom, sagacity and your ability to secure the harmonious cooperation of people who must work together to secure the best results. After all, counsels of perfection are not to be taken too seriously. We can never realize the "one hundred per cent" ideal and must do the best we can do under all the circumstances. What we can accomplish and will accomplish in the A. F. F. W. will be very much worth while and perhaps help to satisfy our own cravings to do our little part in this thrilling War Emergency. So let us not be unduly worried, anxious or disappointed when things go wrong and results seem second best.

You won't mind my thinking aloud to you in this fashion. I greatly enjoyed my little conferences with you. Hope you have dominated your ailments and that you are having the satisfaction of seeing things move in the right direction. Mrs. Ames joins me in friendly greetings. We shall

Mrs. S. V. R.-----2.

stay here for a few days longer and get back to St. Paul
by the end of the month.

Sincerely yours,

P.S. The telegrams sent the High Commissioner and the
Ambassador worked out "fine". I left my cards with the
Jusserands when I was in Washington last week, but could
not see them.

American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

73 Park Avenue, New York City

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March 1st, 1919.

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Dear Mr. Ames,

Thank you for your letter of the 27th. Of course I do not expect you to read my history "all through" for life is short and books are many; but some parts of it may interest you. The second volume is the better of the two, and the most valuable part of the book, I think, the account of Gov. Andros's administration, which has been frequently mis-written by New England patriots, and the story of Leisler's Rebellion at the end of the book, for this has never before been written with anything like the same fulness, and to do it I got copies of documents from London previously unused.

Mrs. Lathrop's cable gave us no choice about the site of the proposed hospital. Nancy was eliminated, as was also shown by cables she sent to Miss Bangs, Mrs. Tyson, and Mr. Nevin. But the three Branches that survive (for the small Branches at Seattle and Baltimore have gone out of business) unanimously agreed to support the new Rheims plan and to urge Mrs. Lathrop's coming on the date she had set---March 8th; and she has been cabled to accordingly.

Will you kindly take this instead of a more formal announcement of the date of the next National Council meeting as my stenographer is getting married and I have to do her work? It will be on Wednesday, March 12th, at three o'clock at the new headquarters to which we have just removed---6 East 61st St. I hope that both you and Mrs. Ames may possibly be present. With kind regards to Mrs. Ames,

Sincerely yours,

President, National Council.

Enclosed letter of Mrs. Lathrop's filed with her other letters M L A

*Ans d
March 13 '19
M L A*

M. L. Van Rensselaer

American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

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MR. HERBERT M. NICHOLS

*Saw her
March 25th in
N.Y. M.L.A.*

March 19th, 1919.

MY dear Mrs. Ames,

Thanks for your letter. I hope that I shall see you and Mr. Ames when you come to meet your daughter. Of course we have been much perturbed by the changes in Mrs. Lathrop's date of sailing. Yesterday we heard that it had been again postponed, from the 15th to the 18th. Today the French Line telephones that they believe the ship sailed yesterday but have had no cable to say so.

This second change absolutely cancels the plan to begin with two meetings, in Washington and in Wilmington, before Mrs. Lathrop goes to Boston, as they were set for the 28th and 29th and the French Line people say the ship cannot arrive before the evening of the 27th and probably not till the next day. It is a great pity as they promised to be popular and, presumably, ~~lucrative~~

lucrative meetings. I am enclosing a copy of the cable

we got yesterday as I am not sure that one has already

been sent you. The date is that of its arrival here--
we never know when a cable leaves Paris. With kind re-
gards to Mr. Ames,

Sincerely yours,

M. L. Van Eenbelaer

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS
National Headquarters
Washington, D. C.

October 23, 1918.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE
AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED

For a considerable period the operations of the American Fund for French Wounded have been carried on in France under a cooperative arrangement with the Red Cross.

The essential features of such arrangement have been that the Red Cross provided transportation facilities for the Fund and has made monthly contributions toward its maintenance expenses, in return for services rendered from time to time by the Fund to the Red Cross upon its request.

It is announced, due to imperative changes in conditions of transportation and otherwise, that the American Fund for French Wounded will, after October 1st, 1918, operate in France independently of the Red Cross, and disassociated with it, but with assurances that friendly help will be given it by the Red Cross whenever practicable.

In connection with this matter the Red Cross is forced to announce that for the present, and until further notice, it will be unable to accept shipments to France for use by any organization other than the Red Cross itself. This is rendered necessary by the imperative calls upon the Red Cross for very large quantities of material, and because of the limited amount of transportation space available to the Red Cross. Of course, this is not intended to mean that any relief organization is not entirely at liberty to arrange shipments to France on its own account.

Will you please give this statement the proper publicity throughout your Division.

G. E. Scott

GENERAL MANAGER

Recommended:

J. G. Blaine

Director, Department of Development.

AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED, Inc.
NATIONAL COUNCIL
73 Park Avenue, New York City

October 24, 1918.

Dear Mr. Ames,

No enclosure

We feel that the cable I forwarded to you this morning, saying that the French Government had instructed the High Commission here with regard to our shipments, should not be widely circulated. But as this one (which has just come) mentions no names, and as Mrs. Lathrop wishes the information spread, we are sending it to all our Committees, and asking the other Branches to do the same. Taken together, the two messages certainly convey good news!

Sincerely yours,

M. L. Van Linschoten

Cablegram received at 73 Park Avenue, October 23.

Have been officially notified here that High
Commission of France to Washington has been
ordered to receive our material for shipment.

Lathrop

AMBAASSADE
DE LA REPUBLIQUE FRANCAISE
AUX ETATS-UNIS

Washington, October 20, 1918.

Dear Madam President,

I am very grateful to you for the sentiments you expressed in so touching words in behalf of your National Council, on the occasion of the continuous success of our united arms.

While our soldiers know and admire each other, more and more, day by day, so also grows the friendship and sympathy between our two nations, to the lasting advantage of both.

One thing, I know, cannot grow, that is the zeal evinced, from the earliest days, by the American Fund for French Wounded, for the helping of our victims of the war; nor can, in any way, be increased the depth and sincerity of our gratitude.

Will you be so good as to convey my thanks to the National Council, and to tell them that I have taken great pleasure in forwarding their message to my Government.

I have the honor to be,

Sincerely yours,

JUSSERAND

Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer
President, American Fund for French Wounded
73 Park Avenue
New York.

American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

6 EAST SIXTY-FIRST STREET
73 Park Avenue, New York City

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April 2nd, 1919

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MR. HERBERT M. NICHOLS

My dear Mr. Ames:

The regular monthly
meeting of the National Council
will be held on Wednesday, April
9th at 3 o'clock at Headquarters
6 East 61st Street.

It is hoped that you
will find it possible to attend.

Very truly yours,

Ly. Q. Van Rensselaer

President National Council
(Mrs. Schuyler Van Rensselaer)

American Fund for French Wounded, Inc.

RECOGNIZED AND APPROVED BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT

Co-operating with the American Red Cross in France

73 Park Avenue, New York City

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April 11, 1919

A special meeting of the National Council will be held at Headquarters, 6 East 61st Street, on Thursday, April 24th, at 3 o'clock, to hear Mrs. Lathrop report upon her work in France and to consider and decide upon her plans for the permanent hospital at Rheims. It is earnestly desired that you may make it possible to attend this very important meeting.

M. G. Van Rensselaer

President, National Council