

The Janus

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Veterans' Application

According to a report received in Archives from Arthur Howe, Jr. (ME 2), of the AFS Veterans' Committee, things are moving but, as you might expect, not with all due haste on the part of the U.S. Government.

Arthur spent 28-30 November in Washington storming the citadels of government, among others the Air Force Personnel Council. As a result of this discussion at the Council, Arthur recommends "that our strategy for the immediate future be that of attempting to get the PW 95-202 process back on track as promptly as possible".

Other contacts were William Howard Taft IV, Deputy Secretary of Defense, and his military aide, Brigadier General Goodbar, with whom Arthur left important chapters of the application.

His next visit was to the American Legion Headquarters, where he saw Mr. Phillip Riggin, Congressional Liaison Officer to the Legion. Arthur's approach was to suggest that "the Legion after studying our case would at least adopt a neutral ground, and not actively oppose us".

Another significant visit was to the office of the Chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

All in all, it seems obvious that Arthur has made considerable progress in getting attention for our case in upper echelons of government. As he has emphatically suggested our efforts should be directed toward the reactivation of PW 95-202.

Update on AFS Archives

As you know from one of our earlier issues of The Janus, AFS received a two-year grant from The National Historical Publications and Records Commission which allowed us to secure the services of Archivist Lawrence D. Geller. Mr. Geller has completed his description and index of our World War I holdings and it is our plan to publish this work in book form within the next several months. We will let you know when we have more exact information about our intended publication date. The book will be an attractive volume and will have at least 50 illustrations from our extensive collection of World War I photographs. It will be available to the public and, we hope, will have a wide library circulation. More details later.

Speaking of photographs, our cataloging and description now include over 3,000 of them. Our estimate of the total number in our Archives is over 10,000. The collection of WWII photographs is equally impressive.

Mr. Geller now has an Assistant Archivist working with him, Eleanora Golobic. Her last position before coming to AFS was at the Bund Archives of the Labor Movement, New York. At the Bund, Ms. Golobic was archivist in charge of a project funded

by the National Endowment for Humanities. There she created a guide to overall archival holdings, including the European and American collections. In her work here so far, Ms. Golobic has been engaged in continuing our cataloging and inventory of WWI photographs. She holds a Master's degree in Slavic Languages and Literatures from the

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University of Chicago and is a doctoral candidate in history.

We are fortunate to have received a grant of \$50,000.00 from the Florence Gould Foundation. By this grant AFS Archives was enabled to secure our second Archivist and also to send Mr. Geller to France to survey the AFS holdings at the museum in Blerancourt and to establish contacts with other museums at Verdun, Paris, Brussels, Blerancourt, Reims, and Beauvais. Mr. Geller has also visited **Red Roof**, Piatt Andrew's home in Gloucester, to survey his library, AFS-related objects, and manuscripts.

Our relationship with the Gould Foundation is due to their primary interest, Franco-American cooperation and friendship.

The President of the Foundation, Mr. John R. Young, and Mrs. Young have visited our archives on more than one occasion. Three other members of the Foundation's board of directors visited us with the Youngs, among them Daniel Davison, grandson of Trubee Davison, friend of Piatt Andrew's, a driver for the American Hospital in Paris in 1915, and a supporter of the Field Service programs.

At the present time, at Mr. Young's behest and with his assistance, we are negotiating with Blerancourt to establish some kind of permanent working arrangement between their museum and AFS. The Gould Foundation gave a matching grant to the "Friends of Blerancourt" for physical improvement of the museum and for the construction of a new pavilion. We hope to increase AFS representation at Blerancourt by adding to their AFS permanent collection and also by a temporary exhibition. We would also like to microfilm AFS manuscripts which they hold and to have an exact inventory of their holdings to include in a comprehensive AFS WWI and WWII archival finding aid.

Archives Advisory Committee

You will be pleased to know that AFS has formed this committee and that we have had our first meeting here in New York. The Committee is listed below:

Robert M. Applewhite: Corporate Secretary AFS, WWII driver (ME 30, FFC, CM94, IB60-T).

Charles P. Brauch: Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, AFS.

Ward B. Chamberlin: Washington, D.C.: President and General Manager, WETA 26; former Senior Vice President, Public Broadcasting Service; former Chairman, AFS Board of Directors; former Chairman, AFS Trustee Members; WWII driver (ME37, CM104, IB59-T).

Andrew Gray: Writer, Historian; grand-nephew of A. Piatt Andrew; founder of AFS.

Linda Hall: Executive Director, AFS U.S.A.

George G. Herrick: retired State Dept. Officer; great-grandson of Myron T. Herrick, Ambassador to France.

Arthur Howe Jr.: Lyme, Connecticut: Educational Consultant; Corporate Director; Foundation Trustee; former President, American Field Service; WWII driver (ME 2).

Edwin Masback Jr.: President, Masback Hardware Co.; former AFS Treasurer and Acting Director General; former Chairman, AFS Board of Directors; former Chairman, AFS Trustee Members and Interim Chief Executive Officer; WWII driver (ME37).

Carolyn Stolper: Vice President for Development, AFS

Some of you may have read Andrew Gray's piece "*The American Field Service*" published in the 25th Anniversary issue of *The American Heritage*, December 1974. We have reprinted this illustrated essay as a special tribute to the Field Service drivers; enclosed is your copy. Mr. Gray has a more recent article in *Laurels*, the magazine published by the American Society of the French Legion of Honor, Spring - Summer 1988.

1989 - Double Anniversary Year

Plans are afoot to celebrate the founding of the Field Service in 1914 and the reorganization in 1939, our 75th and 50th anniversaries. It is too early to give you details and dates, but included will be banquets, reunions, in or near New York City and Washington, and in other regions of the country, possibly Massachusetts, North Carolina, Illinois, and California. AFS Archives is planning a traveling exhibit of AFS history and memorabilia to be available for any and all AFS gatherings. It is devoutly to be wished that as many of you as possible will take part in these celebrations. More later.

Recent Acquisitions

During the past number of months, the AFS Archives received the painting "November 11, 1918" by Cyrus LeRoy Baldrige, T.M.U. 184. The painting, a copy of which is reproduced here, has the inscription on the bottom, "From my sketch made at Audenarde, Belgium, November Eleventh, 1918, 11 a.m., Baldrige". The painting was accompanied by a drypoint of the same picture as well as a signed copy of Baldrige's book, "Time and Chance" and a copy of "I was there; with the Yanks in France". The package contained a review of the latter by Alexander Woolcott, both Woolcott and Baldrige were beginners of the *Stars and Stripes*. All of the Baldrige items were the gift of Mrs. Mary H. Mulberry of Camino Rancheros, Santa Fe, New Mexico, who was a close friend of the late Cyrus Baldrige and his late wife. In a letter to the AFS Archivist, Mrs. Mulberry noted, "I feel Cyrus would be very happy and proud to have them with you".



Last April, the Archivist traveled to Florida to interview and make a tape of the WWII experiences of James A. Doughty, ME16 and the British Special Boat Service. Many of you may have learned that Mr. Doughty was captured with members of his commando group and was interrogated on the Greek Islands of Kalimnos, Leros, and later in Salonika,

reputedly by Kurt Waldheim. The tape details Doughty's AFS experiences at length and goes into the Waldheim allegations in detail. It should be noted, the press to the contrary, that Jim himself said that he could never be fully sure that the German Lieutenant who questioned him was indeed Waldheim. These tapes are most valuable to the AFS oral history collections to document our war-time service; we are particularly anxious to hear from any of you who would like to participate in this program.

We are also very fortunate to have received a copy of the Beauport Chronicle; the Intimate Letters of Henry Davis Sleeper to A. Piatt Andrew, Jr. 1906-1915, the gift of the editors, Andrew Gray and E. Parker Hayden Jr. These letters document the pre-WWI connection between these two important figures of the WWI Field Service. They provide an understanding of their unique relationship that made the AFS such an effective organization both in America under Sleeper and in France under Andrew.

Among other accessions the Archives has received is the Diary of Eugene R. Hammond (ME 16, CM 92) under the title *American Field Service Journal June, 1942 - August, 1945*. This professional job of record keeping is beautifully printed and bound for easy reading and covers such subjects as: the voyage from New York to port Taufiq, initial training and rear area activities, the big push and the chase westward, the New Year begins, Nufilia to Tripoli, Tripoli to Tunis, the end of the Desert War, the break in action the Summer of 1943, the focus shifts from Africa to Italy, winter stalemate near the Adriatic, with the Poles before Cassino and onwards to Rome and beyond.

Included with the Diary are various artifacts donated by Mr. Hammond, including such objects for the museum collections as a British helmet inscribed with names of sites which were part of the north African and Italian campaigns, web belts with British insignia, Red Cross arm band, press clippings, badges and insignia among other graphic items of use in museum displays on the history of AFS in WWII.

Another recent Diary accession is that of Norman C. Kunkel IB 5, CM92T. It is a record of his experiences with the British 8th and 21st Army in India and Burma and the U.S. 5th Army in Italy. He wrote to us in May 1988: "My strong values, my fiance, family and friends all helped me to survive

the horrors of war, including the horrors of Bergen Belsen concentration camp, which I helped to torch after all survivors had been liberated. My experiences in wartime have convinced me that war is hopeless and that if we do not eliminate national hatred there will continue to be war. I am happy that AFS is no longer mopping up after war but is acting for peace".

The WWII drivers' diaries have one thing in common with their WWI counterparts in our collections. They show the level of education and literacy of the men of both services which was illustrative of conscious policy of recruitment by the Field Service leadership in both wars.

These are some, but by no means all, of the gifts received by the AFS Archives in the last year. The quality of the collections is illustrative of nothing more than the quality of distinguished service rendered by the men of the American Field Service from 1914 to 1917 and from 1939 to 1945. It is our hope that this service will be widely acknowledged through our planned program of exhibitions both in the U.S. and overseas and in projected publications.

We need your cooperation in the perpetuation of your story. Please send the AFS Archives any literary, documentary or graphic materials including photographs and artifacts that reflect the history our organization in both World Wars.

Eighth Army Veterans' Association

Some time ago, Manning Field (ME1, CM86) sent us a copy of the 8th Army Veterans' Association publication *The New Ambassador*, in which appeared the following letter:

American Volunteers

"I would like to mention and pay tribute to a little-known group of American volunteers who served the 8th Army well at Alamein and before and all the way to Tunis.

I refer to the American Field Service Units (Ambulance). This group supplied the 8th Army with 500 ambulances and drivers and during the advance from Alamein to Tunis moved 7,000 casualties, suffering death and injury themselves in the process. Their work consisted mainly in transporting wounded from A.D.S. units back to M.D.S. and then C.C.S.

As a member of the 7th Armoured Div. during the whole of that campaign I remember seeing their vehicles many times and know they also served other formations such as the N.Z. Div., 50th and 51st Divs. & c. One of their ambulances was among the first vehicles into Tripoli (attached to 11th Hussars). Needless to say, they were proud to have served in the celebrated British 8th Army.

J. W. York

Bury St. Edmonds
Sept. 1987

A letter from archives to the editor Alec Lewis elicited a warm reply and enclosed were two other references to AFS in the New Crusader, one an item which appeared in March 1981 and the other a letter in the December 1987 issue. We reprint them below:

The First Americans

"There were many units serving in the Allied armies in North Africa and Italy whose activities went largely unpublicised but one of these occupied a very important place in the esteem of the troops - the American Field Service Volunteer Ambulance units.

Formed in the early days of the First World War by a group of Americans living in Paris, the organization was consolidated in the American army when the U.S.A. entered the war.

Volunteers all, they came from various walks of life - actors, artists, writers, cab drivers, students, business men, engineers, from youths of 18 to men of 55. Many were said to be Quakers. They all wanted to do their bit even though their country was not at war and they all volunteered for front-line service. Several were disabled and all were considered medically unfit but they had one thing in common - they were gentle, caring men. They could have held well-paid jobs at home but they preferred to risk their lives giving service where it was really needed.

Sections commenced work in France in 1940 and gave outstanding service during the hurried evacuation of refugees to Southern France. Many of the volunteers were interned, others escaped to join a unit of approximately 100 men which went to Egypt to join Wavell's Desert Force.

The group had initially been equipped in America but once in the field they lived hard on pay which only amounted to a monthly canteen al-

lowance and they were kept in operation through the generosity of public-spirited Americans.

In the early part of the desert war come of the A.F.S. volunteers were taken prisoner and were lost on the "Zamzam", the sinking of which by a German submarine nearly led to grave complications before the U.S.A. officially entered the war.

About 500 drivers and ambulances were with the Eighth Army and they had two companies in Italy with the Eighth and the Fifth Armies - 485 and 567 Units. Their primary role was to collect the wounded from dressing stations and to take them to hospitals further back. They worked well forward, often under shell-fire and were in constant danger traversing minefields. One company carried 4,000 patients in one month and during the battle of El Alamein carried no less than 7,000 wounded soldiers. At Bir Hacheim they had very heavy losses and when Tobruk fell one unit lost 10% of its personnel. By the time they reached Tunis over one-third of the ambulances bore scars of battle, bullet holes and splinters.

The A.F.S. volunteers are still remembered with gratitude by the many veterans who were transported in those U.S.A. ambulances.

March, 1981

American Ambulances

"I was interested in the mention of the American Field Service Units in the September issue of *New Crusader*, who were with us in the Western Desert.

I was a Theatre Sister (62nd General Hospital) until June 1942 and received casualties brought to us from CCS in the Tobruk Hospital. They had little time to stop for a few moments with us but they were cheerful at all times and in the last days in Tobruk it was decided to evacuate the Nursing Sisters leaving behind the RAMC personnel in situ. We were all sad to have to go at such a time.

We were taken to Alexandria by drivers of the Field Service Unit, along the Trigh Capuzzo Road. The driver of the vehicle which carried some of us was Doug. G. Attwood. Memory plays strange tricks at a time like this. We stopped for a few minutes at Sollum and Sidi Barrani where we ate our rations (one boiled egg and a slice of bread shared by two of us - How do you share a boiled egg?). Doug had on board some lemonade bottles but no opener. He hit the tops off on a wheel of the truck

and we drank the contents, avoiding the splintered glass as well as we could. Doug chewed gum and sang "Georgia, Georgia", whilst we, revived by the repast, must have added a hundred tunes remembered, until we arrived at a Field Catering Tent near Matruh and were given soya sausages and mugs of tea.

A few minutes later we were on our way down the long road to the Delta, and not a Stuka in sight! We entered Alexandria on June 20th (I think), said "Goodbye" to Doug and the other drivers as they returned to Tobruk, mission completed. I would like to pay tribute to those fearless men who though "non-combatant" (some were Quakers, I believe!) suffered injuries and death and though far from home never complained and served us well.

My husband is a permanent resident at the Star and Garter Home at Richmond since I could not look after him at home these days but I can visit any time and although he cannot see nowadays and is quite paralysed since 1982, he is so well looked after there. I stay all day every Wednesday and I seek out any of the lads' who served in the Middle East during the war, for a chat. It takes one back!

Edna M. Burgess
ex Quamins/R

London W6
Dec., 1987

I am sure that you will be interested in an invitation that Mr. Lewis extended in his letter: "Any of your veterans would always be welcome at our El Alamein Reunion held annually at Blackpool".

If you are interested in joining the 8th Army Veterans Association (Manning Field is a member), write Membership Secretary, Mrs L.J. Kenyon, 38 Pinewood Avenue, Thornton Cleveleys, Blackpool FY 5 5EW, or Alec Lewis, 7, Whinfall Road, West Derby, Liverpool, L12 2AS.