

Million Letters In the Mails Today Bearing Magic Words "With the Colors"

Keynote of the Splendid Work the Y. M. C. A. Does Among
Our Men In Uniform Is Keeping Them In
Touch With the Folks at Home.

STAMPED WITH STARS AND STRIPES AND RED TRIANGLE

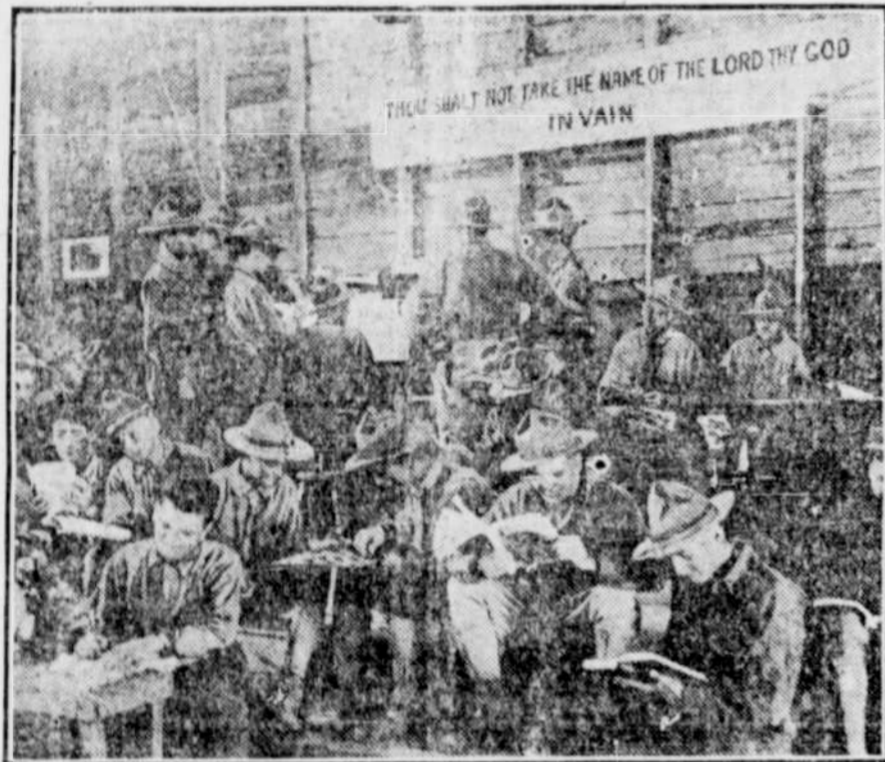
Multifarious Ways in Which the Association Appeals to Your Boy,
Your Neighbor's Boy, or Some Boy You Know and Love—
Creates a Helpful Environment in Cantonment, on Way Overseas,
in Front Line Trench and Beyond—First to Aid as He Comes
Tottering Back—Give Your Share of the \$35,000,000 Required to
Accomplish This "Last Evidence That Somebody Cares."

It was evening on the broad
Hempstead Plain, Long Island,
where the Rainbow division was
spending its last night before embark-
ing for France. It had been raining
hard in the afternoon—a cold, steady
autumn downpour—and there was
nothing to suggest the rainbow in the
outward aspect of the camp. Lines
and lines of sodden canvas housed
27,000 men, gathered from 27 different
states. The ground was dotted with
pools and quagmires. Under the wet
canvas it was damp and cold, with a
penetrating chill. Lit by flickering
candles, the tents were far from cheer-
ful shelter for a man's last night in
his native land.

But there were seven big tents
where electric lights, numbers and
friendliness made the night pleasant.

tables absorbed in their writing!
What an appeal to the sympathies
those great groups of soldiers make!
Fine, clean-cut, upstanding fellows,
some of them mere boys, one thinks
immediately of the sacrifice they have
made for the rest of us and how pre-
cious they are to some one back home.
Somewhere, in far off farm or village
or city street, there are parents or
brothers or wives who would give all
they possess for one glimpse of those
sunburned faces as you and I see
them on their last night before going
across. And it was with a throb of
the heart that I watched them, bent
over their letter paper, in one after
another of those seven big tents.

These were the tents of the Y. M. C.



Music, Games, Good Reading and Correspondence Facilities in Y. M. C. A. Building.

In each of these a soldier was strum-
ming on a piano; others were reading
books and magazines; hundreds were
writing letters home. Behind the
raised counter at one end three or four
young men were busy passing out
notepaper and envelopes, selling
stamps and weighing parcels, which
the men were sending home. One of
the soldiers said to me as I stood in
the tent used chiefly by men from
Iowa: "We came all the way here
from Des Moines, and we were mighty
lonesome. Then we found this Y. M. C. A.
on the job, and it's been a home
and more than a home to us. It gave
us what we wanted when we needed
it most. We'll never forget it. The
boys' best friend is the Y. M. C. A."

Fine, Clean-Cut, Upstanding Fellows.
How close those benches were pack-
ed with men, bending over the long

A. On that last night in America the
association was serving the soldiers
in the best of all ways—giving them
an opportunity to write home. On
previous nights they had enjoyed box-
ing bouts, movies, concerts, dramatics
and a score of healthy entertainments
as well as religious meetings. But on
this last night home ties were strong-
est. And perhaps that is the keynote
of the splendid work the Y. M. C. A.
is doing among our men in uniform—
keeping them in touch with home.

Her Dilemma.

Bessie—Oh, Mabel, I am in an awful
dilemma. I've quarreled with Harry,
and he wants me to send his ring
back. Mabel—That's too bad, Bessie—
But that isn't the point. I've forgot-
ten which is his ring.—Puck.

Subscribe for the Courier.

MY FOURTEEN MONTHS AT THE FRONT

Continued from first page

spected daily, and if not in perfect
running order they are at once taken
care of by the column workshops.
These workshops are very efficient,
and it is remarkable what thorough
work they can turn out. They are each
fitted with a lathe, forge, benches, etc.,
the lathe being run by a small motor-
cycle engine provided for that purpose.
If for any reason the column is un-
able to repair a motor, that vehicle is
sent to one of the bases where there
are stationary workshops, and a new
truck is sent back to replace it. The
mechanics in these workshops are all
trained men and are obliged to pass
severe tests before being accepted for
the work.

Many of them are men who have
worked on the building of cars in the
factories in England, and in cases like
this they are allowed to specialize on
the cars they are familiar with. The
only other mechanics who can claim to
be their superiors are those of the
Royal Flying corps, and they are abso-
lutely the cream of the mechanical
world and are one of the highest paid
bodies of men in the British army.

Another branch of the mechanical
transport which is very much up to
date is the department of stores and
accessories. The men in this depart-
ment are not necessarily trained men,
but they must be good managers, as
they keep in stock all spare parts
which are likely to be called for. Be-
sides this, they have charge of the
petrol oil, grease, carbide, tires for
light cars and, in fact, everything that
is likely to be used on an automobile.
The petrol is all sent from England in
two gallon tins. These tins are sealed
when they are filled, and if a seal is
broken when a tin of petrol is issued to
a driver, or if it appears to have been
opened he may refuse it and demand
one with the seal intact. In this way
the chance of receiving defective or im-
pure petrol is avoided.

There are practically all known
makes of motor trucks and cars at the
front, as many of them were com-
mandeered at the beginning of the war.
Then again, all the motor manufactur-
ers in England are working day and
night to keep the armies supplied with
these vehicles. There are also a good
many American makes in use there.

The work of the chaplains at the
front is not spoken of very much, yet
they work as hard and do as much
good as any men in any other branch
of the service. They are usually at-
tached to the royal army medical
corps. I have seen a chaplain holding
service in a field on a Sunday morn-
ing, and during the service the enemy
commenced to shell some huts close by.
I firmly believe that if it had not been
contrary to orders he would have con-
tinued to worship just the same as
though nothing was happening.

The royal army medical corps is a
tremendous unit, and there, too, will
be found some of the bravest men in
the army, even though they are non-
combatants. This corps is always re-
ferred to as the R. A. M. C., and the
British Tommy speaks of it as the
"Rob All My Comrades."

There is a reason for this, of course,
and as near as I can make out it is
this: When a man is sick or wounded
and is obliged to go into hospital all
his belongings are taken from him. He
is supposed to get them back when he
is discharged from hospital, but when
one considers the thousands that are
taken care of by the hospitals it is
only reasonable to believe that a great
many of the little bundles are bound
to go astray. Tommy cannot see this,
however, so he grumbles and growls
and often refers to the corps in uncom-
plimentary terms.

Continued Next Week.

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COULD GET
WAS ORDINARY
PLUG



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