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Rochester
in the
War Work of the
American Library Association

By WILLIAM F. YUST, *Librarian*

THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
AND

Secretary THE ROCHESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Rochester, New York

Being a Reprint from
Volume III, World War Service Record of
Rochester and Monroe County
1930

Reprint under the direction of
the Board of Trustees
of the Rochester Public Library
CHARLES HASTINGS WILTSIE, PRESIDENT

Rochester in the War Work of the American Library Association

By WILLIAM F. YUST,
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WHEN the United States entered the World War the librarians of the country saw their opportunity to do their part by supplying the soldiers with reading matter. There was no question about its value in developing efficiency and keeping up morale, which, according to Napoleon, is three-fourths of the strength of an Army. A plan was worked out under the leadership of the American Library Association with Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, as General Director. In response to a resolution of the Association it was invited to undertake this task by the Commission on Training Camp Activities.

THE ORDER: The Commission authorized the Association to provide adequate library facilities in the thirty-two cantonments and National Guard training camps. This order contemplated the erection in each camp of a suitably equipped central library to be under the direction and management of the Association from funds to be provided from private sources.

In placing the stamp of approval on this order the Secretary of War wrote to the Commission as follows:

"August 23, 1917.

"I understand that the American Library Association has generously assumed the responsibility, under the direction of your Commission, for providing reading material in our training camps, and that the plans which they have formulated to carry out this design are most comprehensive.

"It is my understanding that the Library War Council will assist in connection with the campaign to provide the libraries and books, and I trust that this activity, which will mean so much for the men, will meet with every success."

"Cordially yours,
"Newton D. Baker,
"Secretary of War."

FUNDS: To carry on this work \$5,585,000 was raised through two nation-wide campaigns, the first one separate in September, 1917, the second a part of the United War-work Campaign in 1918. In Rochester, after consultation with representatives of the leading city organizations and neighboring libraries, it was decided not to organize a separate campaign to raise the \$12,500 quota for this purpose (the number of dollars equal to the number of 5% of the population), three national campaigns having already been conducted, the Liberty Loan, the Y.M.C.A. War-work, and the American Red Cross. In each of these the local subscription was so far in excess of the quota as to more than cover the library quota. However, \$7,500 was appropriated to this purpose from the Y.M.C.A. fund, which had been collected to provide recreational activities and which specifically included the provision and distribution of reading matter. The second year on the percentage basis, \$25,625 was received from the Community Chest, which combined in one campaign the appeals of all the War welfare organizations.

BUILDINGS: The Carnegie Corporation made a grant of \$320,000 to be used in the erection of 32 buildings at a cost of not exceeding \$10,000 per building, including equipment of shelving, tables, comfortable chairs, etc. A standard type of one-story wooden building was planned by architect Edward L. Tilton, who contributed his services to the cause.

Most of the buildings were 93 or 120 feet long, and 40 feet wide. These dimensions correspond approximately to those of our typical branch libraries. In addition to accommodations for 150 to 250 readers and ten to fifteen thousand books, there were living quarters for the staff, and work and storage rooms, sometimes a fireplace or a porch.

These buildings housed the central or main library. Every Y.M.C.A. and K. of C. and Y.M.H.A. building and every Y. W. C. A. hostess house and every base hospital reading-room was a branch of the camp library. Smaller collections, called stations, were placed in barracks, mess halls and police stations. Deliveries were made from central to the branches by the A.L.A. camp library automobile. One camp had 18 branches and 97 stations.

BOOK CAMPAIGNS: The call for books began early in the War and continued to the end. It found a ready response among all classes of people. The first call came in August, 1917. A more intensive campaign was conducted in March, 1918, and a third



COLLECTING BOOKS FOR SOLDIERS.
FOUR TRUCKS OF THE ROCHESTER POLICE AND FIRE ALARM TELEGRAPH SYSTEM
COLLECTED AND DELIVERED THESE BOOKS TO THE ADMINISTRATION BRANCH OF
THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY AT EDGERTON PARK.

the following year. Meanwhile there was a constant flow of books to the public libraries of the country, where they were assorted and put in condition for shipping to the camps in accordance with instructions issued by authorized state agencies, one in every state.

The appeal was for many kinds of books but especially good fiction, poetry, biography, history and travel, essays and drama, books for studying France, her country, people and language, Baedeker's guide books (ironically enough) and books on citizenship, patriotism and the War. It was emphasized that they should be alive, interesting, in good physical condition and look fresh and attractive.

Rochester's quota in the first campaign was 10,000 volumes; in the second, 25,000; and in the last, a share of 30,000 for the State outside of New York City.

Here was an opportunity for people to put their idle books to work. They were urged to give quickly. But up to January, 1918, only 456 individuals had responded and 2204 volumes had been shipped. However, William H. Brett, director of the shipping center for this district, wrote about these: "The admirable quality of the Rochester gifts is exceedingly impressive." Nevertheless it was evident that more must be given if Rochester was to do her share.

A more vigorous and thorough campaign was then organized in connection with the national drive for two million books, which directed public attention to the magnitude of the need. With the cooperation of the Trustees of the Public Library, of which Mayor Hiram H. Edgerton was President, a committee was appointed. This consisted of Adeline B. Zachert, Chairman; Anne R. Collins; James A. McMillen; Bernice E. Hodges; and Ada J. White. Newspaper publicity was in charge of Bernard C. Haggerty, Secretary to the Mayor. The chief centers designated for the collection of books were firehouses, schools, branch libraries, libraries of educational institutions, book stores, department stores and some of the churches.

For a whole week the call was heard through newspapers and posters in store windows, in shops, banks and other places, through public addresses, direct mail, house organs and church calendars. People were asked for books which they had themselves enjoyed, they were urged to give not only of their superfluity but also of their favorite volumes, from which it would hurt them to part.

The results were immensely gratifying. In one public school two grades alone contributed 500 volumes. Many families were exceedingly generous. In several homes as many as 200 volumes were given. This outpouring of books deluged the library at Exposition Park, which served as a clearing house. There a large part of the staff, assisted by other librarians in the city and numerous volunteers, worked for weeks assorting and preparing the books for shipment.

Most of them were of a high order, but very many were unsuitable. They were classified and made ready for use as soon as they reached the camp. Into each volume was pasted a label stating that it was a gift from the residents of Rochester.

Strenuous collections lasted only a week, but the stations which were opened to receive books were continued indefinitely and people were urged to form the habit of turning in new books as soon as they had read them. This hope was realized in a measure and many fresh books were added.

From Rochester 33,014 volumes were sent to various camps, mostly Camp Wadsworth. During the first campaign, which netted about two thousand books, small contributions came in also from nearby towns, Barnard, Churchville, East Bloomfield, East Rochester, Fishers, Lyndonville, Newark, Pittsford and Sonyea.

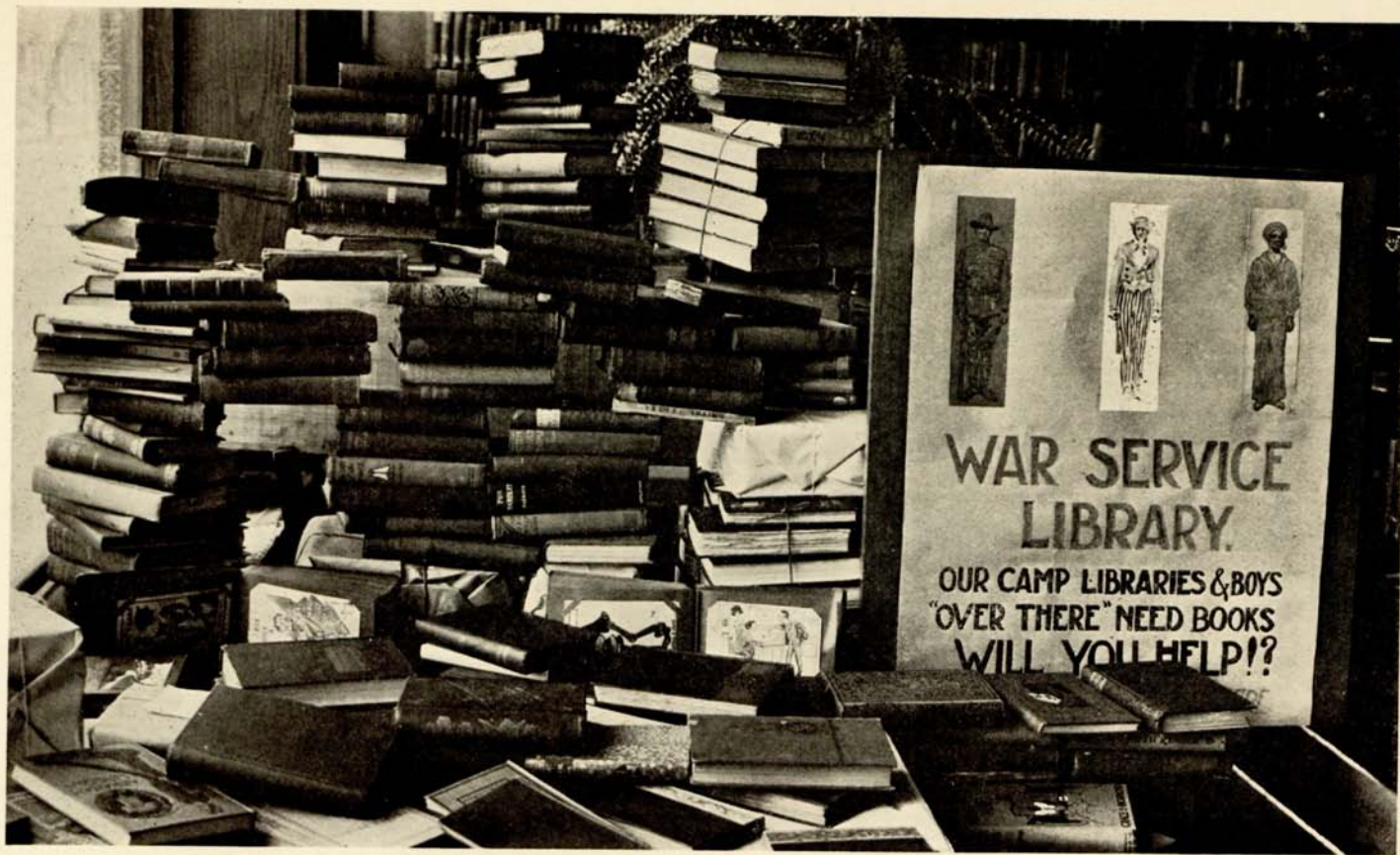
O FOR A BOOK!

"O for a book and a shady nook!"

You recollect the rhymes,
Written how many years ago
In placid, happier times?
Today no shady nooks are ours,
With half the world at strife,
And dark ambition laying waste
The pleasant things of life;
But still the cry for books is heard,
For solace of the magic word.

"O for a book," the cry goes forth,

O for a book to read;
To soothe us in our weariness,
The laggard hours to speed!"
From countless hospitals it comes,
Where stricken soldiers lie,
Who gave their youth, who gave their strength,
Lest Liberty should die.
How small a favor to implore:
The books we've finished with—no more!



A WINDOW FULL OF BOOKS FOR SOLDIERS.
THESE WERE BROUGHT TO ONE OF THE RECEIVING STATIONS, THE GENESEE
BRANCH OF THE ROCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY.

A book can have a thousand lives,
 With each new reader, one;
 A book should have a thousand lives,
 Before its course is run.
 And we few kinder things can do,
 Our gratitude to show,
 Than give the freedom of our shelves
 To those who need it so;
 Nor let them ask without avail
 The sweet beguilement of a tale.

—E. V. L. in "Punch."

MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS: Postmaster General Burleson authorized the sending of any magazine to the camps by simply affixing a one cent stamp and handing it to a postal employee, unwrapped and unaddressed. These came to be called "Burleson Magazines" as they poured into the camps, frequently filling many mail bags on a single train. Magazines were also collected at every local book center. In some places the combination of these two sources produced congestion and confusion. But even an oversupply at times came into unexpected usefulness where thousands of men were quarantined.

As the work became better organized about fifty of the leading magazines were received regularly on subscription at each library as well as a few leading daily newspapers from different sections of the country. Some publishers sent their papers free to nearby camps, and no reading service was more thoroughly appreciated.

SCRAP-BOOKS: A feature of the book campaigns in Rochester as elsewhere was the making of scrap-books for soldiers and sailors. Hundreds of blank books were bought by the Public Library. Any one who was willing to fill one of these scrap-books could obtain it, together with a copy of the directions. Each branch library had on exhibition sample books finished according to library specifications to serve as models for prospective scrap-book makers.

The instructions emphasized the fact that the scrap-books were for grown men, virile and active, interested in everything under the sun, also that they were for invalids, convalescents, in hospitals and perhaps in prison camps. Therefore, they must be cheerful. A plentiful use of colored pictures was recommended, good jokes and jingles, short stories and illustrated articles. The aim was a wholesome well-balanced variety.

Each book contained a neat bookplate for the name and address of the maker. This provided a novel way of sending a letter to a soldier or to many soldiers. Of these scrap-books, 2,383 were sent from Rochester.

PURCHASED BOOKS: It was evident from the beginning that the supply of gift books, however large, would not be adequate. Among those most needed were up-to-date books and periodicals of an educational character on technology, engineering, transportation, aviation, wireless telegraphy, and text-books on many phases of military science. Over two million volumes of this character were purchased with American Library Association funds. More than half of these were sent Overseas.

THE LIBRARY WORKERS: The library work described in this article had the hearty support of the entire city. It would be impossible to mention all who took an active part in some way. Only the names of those prominently identified with it are given, both librarians and others:

Edna E. Bayer, of the Public Library staff, was in charge of the library at the Y.M.C.A.—K. of C. Hut, U.S.A. School of Aerial Photography at Kodak Park.

Anne R. Collins, Librarian of the Reynolds Library, promoted the collection of books and served on the book campaign committee.

Donald B. Gilchrist, entered the regular military service from the University of Minnesota library and attained the rank of Captain. During his last year of service he was assistant librarian and later librarian of the American Commission to negotiate peace at Paris, December, 1918, to July, 1919. He became librarian of the University of Rochester in October, 1919.

Eleanor M. Gleason, librarian of Mechanics Institute, served on the Headquarters staff in Washington, April 5 to July 3, 1918, and later as A.L.A. librarian in France at Neufchateau.

Bernice E. Hodges, Secretary to the Librarian, was in charge of the library office while the Librarian was serving as Camp Librarian; also served as a member of the book campaign committee.

James J. McMillen, Librarian of the University of Rochester, served as member of the book campaign committee until he entered military service as Chief Quartermaster in aviation, Naval reserve flying corps, June 17, 1918.

Ada J. White, of the Public Library Book Order and Catalog Department, served as a leader of the book campaign committee. She had charge of receiving the books donated, discarding the unfit and preparing the others for shipment by classifying them, pasting in bookplates, pockets, and making cards so that the books would be ready for use immediately on reaching the camp.

Adeline B. Zachert, of the Public Library Extension Department, was Chairman of the committee in charge of the book campaign in March, 1918, speaking before many local organizations; she served also as supervisor of libraries in camps and stations in the vicinity of Rochester.

Through the newspapers of the city, *Abendpost*, *Democrat and Chronicle*, *Herald*, *Post Express* and *Times-Union*, the people were kept informed of the needs, progress and results of the undertaking. The Public Library's file of newspaper clippings for the period contains almost a complete history of the work from its inception to its conclusion.

The schools both public and parochial, under direction of Joseph P. O'Hern, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, co-operated by relaying the call for books and issuing it to school principals.

The Boy Scouts distributed leaflets in the residential sections appealing for books and later made return visits to collect books.

Junior Red Cross members brought books from their homes to the schools.

The department stores, book dealers, the Ad Club, Chamber of Commerce and some churches, cooperated in collecting books.

The Public Safety Commission, R. Andrew Hamilton, Commissioner, placed the trucks of the Fire Department at the service of the committee. Emil H. Schmidt, Superintendent of the Fire and Police Alarm Telegraph, directed the gathering of books from all parts of the city and delivering them to the Public Library at Exposition Park.

Students from the University of Rochester, East and West High Schools, Washington Junior High School, Mechanics Institute, Nazareth Academy, responded to the call for help in preparing the books. Other helpful volunteers in this group were Mrs. Harold Fisher, Mrs. C. E. Pardee, Mrs. William E.

Witter, and the Misses Dorothy Cooney, Olive Fay, Dorothy Gouinlock, Mabelle Howard, Elizabeth Ketchum, Constance Mendock, Lillian Meng, Helen A. Thomas, Margaret Tillson and Miss Clum.

Mrs. Mark W. Way, during her visit at Camp Wadsworth, assisted in furnishing the camp library building and giving the interior certain touches of home which made a strong appeal to the boys.

The Women's Educational and Industrial Union shipped many cases of books and magazines to the Y.M.C.A. at Camp Dix before the A.L.A. appeared there.

Edward C. Widman, of the City Engineering Department, personally, collected many books in the various campaigns and also sent magazines and newspapers direct to many of the boys in camp and field who had enlisted from the city service. He has donated to The Rochester Historical Society a collection of several hundred letters and postcards received in acknowledgment of these personal contributions from him. One of these reads: "You are the only one outside of the family that sends me papers and I enjoy reading Rochester papers. Believe me the fellows go after them like a house on fire."

CAMP LIBRARIANS: Most of the camp libraries were in charge of librarians from the large libraries of the country, who were released for this purpose at no expense to the A.L.A. except for traveling and subsistence, their salaries being paid by the home libraries. No man in the profession escaped an appeal to take part in camp library work. In response to the call from Headquarters at Washington, the Board of Trustees of the Rochester Public Library granted leave of absence, with pay, to the Librarian, William F. Yust. He served for nine months as librarian in three camps.

The period of service in each camp was as follows: Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, South Carolina, February 18 to May 18, 1918; Camp Beauregard, Alexandria, Louisiana, November 12, 1918 to February 10, 1919; U. S. Marine Barracks, Parris Island, South Carolina, February 14 to May 11, 1919.

Mental pictures of the library work in these camps move across the motion-screen of memory.

A familiar figure among the assistants at these libraries was Mr. Fred Yust, father of the Camp Librarian, and a veteran of



THREE GENERATIONS SERVING IN THE LIBRARY
AT CAMP BEAUREGARD, ALEXANDRIA, LA. CAMP
LIBRARIAN WILLIAM F. YUST; HIS SON HARLAN;
AND HIS FATHER FRED YUST, A VETERAN
OF THE CIVIL WAR.

the Civil War. His favorite place was at the loan desk and he never missed a day, though seventy-four years of age. He was fond of contrasting the splendid service of the American Library Association with that received by the soldiers of '61. In those days it was provided by the Christian Commission and was mostly of a religious character, such as hymn books, portions of scripture, tracts and religious newspapers. But his company had a little library of real books which they had stolen. Of these he was custodian. He claimed that was where he got his library training.

A third Yust in two of the camp libraries was the librarian's son, Harlan, age 12, who served as page at Beauregard and Parris Island. For this service he was cheerfully released from home by his mother. Thus three generations of one family were serving in the library at one time. The camp paper called this "a family phenomenon that probably no other camp in the world can equal."

CAMP WADSWORTH LIBRARY: Camp Wadsworth, covering over three thousand acres, was where the 27th Division trained. It consisted mostly of men from New York State, and many from Rochester. Most of the books from Rochester were sent there. When the former librarian, George G. Champlin, Reference Librarian in the State Library at Albany, left the camp, the library was still in an old negro church standing at the edge of a cemetery. It had been temporarily loaned for this purpose by the Y.M.C.A., which had used it as music headquarters.

It was a red-letter day when the soldiers, with a number of trucks, moved it and the twenty-six unopened boxes of books into a new standard-type A.L.A. building, the most substantial and distinguished looking on the grounds. It was finished and furnished like a real library and would have done credit to any small city.

Its attractiveness, the many excellent books, of which 10,282 came from Rochester, the good work done even in the old church, the eagerness of the soldiers, and the fine cooperation of various other agencies, caused the library soon to occupy a position of decided importance in the life of the camp. Its activities reached their greatest height during the days just preceding the departure of the 27th Division. At that time the book collection reached 13,870 volumes in the main library and eleven branches, six in Y.M.C.A. buildings, and one each at the K. of

C. building, the Y.W.C.A. Hostess House, the Base Hospital, the Range, and the Soldiers' Club in Spartanburg.

Contact with the home library was one of the regular methods of meeting specific requests. A call came for something on camouflage. The camp library indexes contained numerous references to magazine articles but the magazines themselves were not there. A letter to the Rochester Public Library brought the needed numbers by return mail.

One morning a notice was tacked on the bulletin boards of four regiments offering to give every man a book to take along Overseas and inviting them to come early to the library and make their own selection. They came early. Some asked rather dubiously if it was true. Others inquired where the books were which they might take. When they were told they might have any book in the library, their incredulity changed to amazement.

Every book taken was marked with this stamp:

If allowed by your officers, you may take this book
with you Overseas. Pass it on then to a comrade
or to a Y.M.C.A. or K. of C. representative.

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Some brought in books of their own and gave them to the library. These were labeled at once and many of them were immediately drawn by other men for Overseas.

The most extensive branch of the Camp Wadsworth library was at the Base Hospital, (Library Journal 43:347), with its 800 patients, a medical detachment of 300, about 100 nurses, and 70 physicians and surgeons. The commanding officer, understanding the curative power of books and the service they were performing throughout the camp, provided room even amid crowded conditions. Miss Ola M. Wyeth, a trained librarian, was placed in charge. This established for the camp library the distinction of having the first formally appointed woman hospital librarian, a precedent soon followed in many other camps.

Miss Wyeth's daily schedule included a systematic visitation of the wards, accompanied by an orderly who assisted in collecting and distributing books. She found those who were too sick to read, but they were interested in pictures, and hailed the scrap-books with delight which had come from Rochester.



CAMP LIBRARY BUILDING OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, CAMP WADSWORTH, SPARTANBURG, S. C., 1918.

On one of these rounds she said to a patient "You seem to like poetry." "Yes, that's my business," he answered. "I write poetry for the magazines and like to read somebody else's poetry once in a while." Another who particularly enjoyed her visits and who discussed modern English novelists and the leading poets with amazing aptitude proved to be an ex-prize fighter, who was in the prison ward because he would not submit to discipline.

Thus, in a comparatively short time, the hospital library was filling a definite need. The official stamp of approval placed upon it at its inception was followed by continued recognition of its usefulness. This was shown by the provision of two splendidly equipped library rooms and comfortable quarters for the librarian in the new Red Cross building.

CAMP BEAUREGARD LIBRARY: This was the trying period immediately following the Armistice. Interest in the camp was at a low ebb. The epidemic of influenza and meningitis had been severe there and the mortality high.

Among the casualties was the library. It was closed during the quarantine and the librarians labored among the patients, distributing not only magazines and papers but also food and other comforts. They were among the heroes who went over the top while the library went under. When its doors re-opened it had difficulty in regaining consciousness.

To the lethargy caused by the influenza and the Armistice was added later the distraction and confusion of demobilization. Then came long days and weeks of delays, anxious, provoking, homesick days with nowhere to go, no one to see, no marching, no fighting, no recreation.

The situation was an illustration of the problems which confronted training camps and camp libraries everywhere. It called for a shifting of emphasis from preparation for war to preparation for the pursuits of peace and the job back home.

The library at once started a campaign of advertising through posters, leaflets and slides sent from Headquarters and a regular "Camp Library" column in *Trench and Camp*, the camp paper. The library soon began to show signs of life, and in a few months the circulation of books was the largest since its opening, although the number of men in camp was decreasing daily. Interest in military books ceased almost entirely, but the

demand grew steadily for books on automobiles, gas and electric engines and on such subjects as business letter writing, book-keeping, shorthand, practical printing, and photography. Most of these books had to be bought in order to be up to date, which taxed the A.L.A. book fund to the utmost.

While the slow process of resuscitating the library was still going on, the librarian received orders to move to Parris Island. A doctor should be loath to leave his patient but the change promised a new experience and the opportunity to do some constructive work of a permanent character. So the transfer was welcome.

U. S. MARINE BARRACKS LIBRARY: Parris Island is the drill-ground of the U.S. Marines, famous fighters for a hundred years, especially in France. Their favorite song begins,

"From the halls of Montezuma
To the shores of Tripoli,
We fight our country's battles
On the land as on the sea."

And the last lines are

"If the Army and the Navy
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,
They will find the streets are guarded by
The United States Marines."

Parris Island lies off the coast of South Carolina. The end of the railroad is at Port Royal, "the jumping-off place." From there the island is reached by a boat ride of several miles in "The Kicker." It is therefore completely cut off from any kind of human society.

With this isolation goes desolation. The island is about three and a half miles wide and four and a half miles long, somewhat pear-shaped but lacking the juiciness and sweetness which this comparison suggests. Some of the Marines, chafing, while waiting for their discharge, evolved the theory that the Island was the original Garden of Eden, cursed because of the great transgression, and now so desolate that it had been abandoned even by the Angel with the Flaming Sword.

It had been a military post for ten years and small collections of books had been accumulated by the barracks, the hospital and the prison. When War was declared the post was greatly enlarged. Two million dollars worth of new buildings



U. S. MARINE BARRACKS LIBRARY, PARIS ISLAND, SOUTH CAROLINA.
PERMANENT BUILDING OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

were added to provide for many recruits. The A.L.A. sent thousands of volumes which were placed in the Y buildings, the K. of C. building, and in the libraries already started by the military authorities. But the Island was only one of many points served from the central distributing depot at Charleston.

The field was an appealing one for library service on account of its personnel as well as its isolation. The requirements for admission to the Marines are very rigid. Rejections even during the War rush averaged nearly ninety percent. Strong emphasis is placed on expertness. One of the noticeable things about a bunch of Marines is the large number who wear marksmanship badges. There is a saying among them, "Down here, if you can shoot, they think a lot of you. If you can't shoot, you're no good."

When the order went into effect to enlarge the military equipment of the Island and make it permanent, it seemed desirable to add at least the recreational comforts and conveniences which had been regular features of all temporary camps including an A.L.A. library building of standard camp library type. The nearest libraries of importance were in Savannah and Charleston, thirty-five and sixty-five miles away.

The fact that these recreational facilities came late had certain advantages. They were more carefully planned and better built and above all more thoroughly coordinated. This appears in the systematic plan for grouping, around a recreational center, the main buildings of all the welfare organizations, such as Hostess House, Red Cross, Library, Clubhouse, Bank, Y., K. of C., etc. The site of this community center was located in an old cottonfield.

The library was the central one of the group and the first to be finished. It included the permissible luxuries of a wide screened veranda along the entire rear of the building, a fireplace at one end and living quarters at the other end.

First, a garage was built. This housed the librarian while the library building was under construction and the books were being organized in another building. Many of these, as well as other equipment, came from various camps that were being abandoned. Some books bore evidence of hard usage. Others were new purchases coming direct from the publishers. All the usual subjects were represented. The needs of the Marines were kept especially in mind, but also those of the officers and their families.

Toward the end of these preparations, Mr. X, appointed successor to the librarian, arrived one night. The next morning before eight o'clock he wired Headquarters that he did not wish to remain. He was under the impression that the library was finished and in operation. When he saw the building only nearing completion, the classification and cataloging of five thousand books being pushed, and more to come—and then the task of moving, he thought the job was going to be too strenuous for him. So he left for home on an early "Kicker" and a more courageous successor was found in the person of Harold G. Russell, who finished the job with enthusiasm. He said, however, in retrospect, that Mr. X showed rare perspicacity when he departed so hurriedly.

The library was opened May 29, 1919, and although the number of men on the Island had been reduced to two thousand, the issue of books the first month ran over four thousand. Strange as it may sound, one of the early calls that came to Rochester was for juvenile books for the children of the officers; they were sent immediately. The librarian established cordial relations with some of the officers through their wives and children.

This chapter would be incomplete without an acknowledgment of the exceedingly helpful cooperation of all the officers of the post, especially General Joseph H. Pendleton, Commanding Officer, Colonel Charles H. Lyman, Adjutant, Major L. S. Willis, Post Treasurer, and last, but not least, Captain Watson, in charge of "the Brig," the Naval prison. He sent many willing prisoners to assist around the library, to which they were always glad to come. They cleared and graded the grounds, built the sidewalk, set out shrubbery, made flower-boxes and kept things spick and span. Before the Ford arrived, the Captain even offered the use of his mules, which was the high-water-mark of his favor.

THE SOLDIERS WITHIN OUR GATES: A number of small groups of men were stationed in Rochester and vicinity for varying lengths of time. A card bearing the following invitation was placed in the hands of every one in uniform:

"To our Guests, the Soldiers:

"The libraries of Rochester have placed a collection of one thousand books in the Y.M.C.A.—K. of C. Hut for your free use. The Secretaries of the Hut will be glad to receive your suggestions for books to be added. Larger libraries are also at your disposal.

"Special attention is called to the following:

"Rochester Public Library, six Branches, especially the Business Branch at the Municipal Building, 13 S. Fitzhugh Street, Telephone Stone 8345 or Main 4542.

"Reynolds Library, 150 Spring Street, Telephone, Main 5127.

"University Library, University Avenue and Prince Street, Telephone Stone 2578.

"In these libraries you will find books of travel, history, literature, stories, foreign languages, science, useful and fine arts, as well as current magazines.

"You are invited to make use of all library privileges. Come in person or call by telephone. We shall be glad to serve you."

"THE LIBRARIES OF ROCHESTER."

THE SOLDIERS' PREFERENCES IN READING: At the Camp Wadsworth Library a questionnaire was received from Dr. G. Stanley Hall, member of the National Research Council, which was giving psychological examination of troops. Most of his inquiries referred to the kind of books the average soldier (not officer) prefers.

The soldier's motive in reading is much like that of the man at home. He wants to study, to be informed, to be braced up, to be entertained, he wants to kill time. Some belong to one class, some to another, some to various classes.

Some of Dr. Hall's questions, with replies, follow:

1. KIND OF BOOKS THE AVERAGE SOLDIER (PRIVATE) PREFERS:

A. Religious Books. Very little call. A book entitled "Why Men Pray" has not been out of the library. Fosdick's "Meaning of Prayer" was drawn for Overseas but returned the next day. The library has only a small number of religious books. Chaplains distribute Bibles and some religious literature.

B. Poetry. The demand for poetry is definite but not extensive. Favorite authors are Kipling, Service, Riley.

C. War Books. Books dealing with the War are in considerable demand. Favorite books are: Empey—"Over the Top and First Call"; "Private Peat"; Hankey—"Student in Arms"; Hay—"All In It" and "First Hundred Thousand"; Wells—"Mr. Britling" and "Italy, France, and Great Britain in the War"; Gerard—"My four years in Germany"; Barbusse—"Under Fire."

D. Novels and Romances. They like stories of wild-west life, of mining and lumbering, stories of swift decisive action, of adventure and daring, stories of struggle, fighting, killing. During the day they drill and practice bayonet-fighting, how to make a ferocious attack, stab the enemy, kill him in fifteen seconds. At night, and when off duty, it is only natural that they should not be in a mollycoddle mood. The ordinary love story is the largest single class of books drawn. The types of stories mentioned above are merely variations of the love story which runs through all of them. Women, real women, pictures of women, stories about women, make the most powerful of all appeals to the soldier.

It must be remembered, however, that fully half of the collection is fiction, which has an important bearing on the circulation. This is in response to a large demand in the first place. On the other hand the supply fosters that demand.

Among the most popular novelists are:

Beach	Doyle	Locke	Poe
Bindloss	Dumas	Michelson	Phillips
Chambers	Farnol	London	Rinehart
Churchill	Grey	McCutcheon	Roberts
Connor	King	McGrath	Ward
Dixon	Kipling	Oppenheim	White
			Wister
			Wright

Also the humorists: Twain, Bangs, Dooley, Ade and Ward.

E. United States Propaganda. What about books like Dixon's "Fall of a Nation"? Though extreme, they are performing a useful service in arousing people to the seriousness of the situation and the need of throwing their whole resources into the fray. People must be made to see the demons coming in order to hate them.

2. WHAT BOOKS WOULD YOU ADVISE FOR GETTING A SOLDIER INTO THE RIGHT MENTAL ATTITUDE?

These should be books which, like a good oration, make the threefold appeal to the intellect, the sensibilities and the will. President Wilson's "Why We Are At War"; W. W. Earnest's "Questions and Answers Concerning the War"; books giving a correct idea of the Germans, their ability and their methods, so that our soldier may understand his enemy; books picturing the suffering, especially of Belgium and France; Raemakers

cartoons; Hunt—"Blown in by the Draft"; Empey—"First Call"; "Private Peat" and other narratives of men who have seen service; Hay—"Getting Together".

3. ENEMY PROPAGANDA. TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THIS INFECTED THE SOLDIER'S READING?

Very little of this comes to the attention of the Camp Librarian. They (the propagandists) naturally would not try to distribute material in this way. Recently a request was received from a soldier for Fritz von Frantzius—"Book of Truth and Facts", which was interned at the Rochester, New York, Public Library, after it had gotten into three branch libraries. It is doubtful whether much has been secretly done here among the men.

These answers were based on a study of book circulation among the soldiers and an examination of the record of 1994 books selected by them to be taken Overseas. When they began to go across an order came from Headquarters to give every man a book to take with him. This order established a new type of traveling library, one which works while it is on its way:

BOOKS DRAWN FOR OVERSEAS

Subject	1st 3 days		Next 5 days		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
General	0	0	1	0	1	0
Philosophy	7	0	5	0	12	0
Religion	5	0	4	0	9	0
Sociology	6	0	10	1	16	0
Military	300	26	159	18	459	23
Language	47	4	31	3	78	4
Science	36	3	29	3	65	3
Useful Arts	157	13	82	9	239	12
Fine Arts	11	1	12	1	23	1
Literature	63	5	47	5	110	5
History and Travel	26	2	25	2	51	2
The War	106	9	105	11	211	10
Fiction	340	29	380	42	720	36
Totals	1104		890		1994	

The first period of three days covered April 25 to 27, 1918; the second period of five days covered April 28 to May 2. The statistics were divided in this way because certain classes of

books, such as Military and Useful Arts (automobiles, electricity, and telephones), were so depleted the first three days that a drop in the percentages of these classes seemed inevitable.

This proved to be the case, as the figures show. Military books dropped eight percent, and useful arts four percent.

When the men could not get what they wanted in these preferred classes they turned largely to fiction, which shows an increase of thirteen percent in the second period. The War also appealed to a few more in the second period, probably because the material on this subject had not been so nearly exhausted.

A FEW TYPICAL TITLES OF BOOKS DRAWN FOR OVERSEAS

Autobiography of a Clown
 Bill Nye—History of the United States
 Biography of Napoleon
 Bryce—American Commonwealth, 2 vols.
 Duruy—Short History of France
 Fosdick—Manhood of the Master
 Franck—Vagabond Journey around the World
 Kant—Critique of Pure Reason
 McClintock—Best o'Luck
 Macquarrie—How to Live at the Front
 Maeterlinck—Wisdom and Destiny
 Simonds—They Shall Not Pass
 Van Dyke—Fighting for Peace
 Wier—Songs the Whole World Sings
 The World Almanac

Most of the leading poets and numerous dramatics were represented, especially Kipling and Shakespeare.

Of the novelists as many as a dozen copies of a single author were taken.

Books on the following subjects were drawn in large numbers:

Mechanical engineering, applied electricity, motors, batteries, gasoline engines, telephone, wireless telegraph.
 Health, hygiene, disease, medicine, first aid.
 Text books on mathematics, physics, chemistry.
 Elementary text books for learning French.
 Manuals on small-arms, machine-guns, field-artillery and trench-fighting.
 Tanks, gas, bombing, liquid-fire.

NOTES FROM MY DIARY: "These have been days full of thrills for me. Again and again that lump has come to my throat as the boys, such splendid fellows, crowded into the library and se-

lected a book to take along to France. They always ask where the books are located which they may take. It makes me feel good to be able to say, 'The library is yours, help yourself.' We are not giving them only cheap books or those which did not cost us anything, but we are giving them the best we have—and we have some fine, beautiful and valuable books."

* * *

"Yesterday I went in the Ford to one of the mess-shacks and got two hundred and fifty books. While I was getting them the boys pulled out. So I drove right to the train and after they were in the cars I handed the books to them through the open windows. They were delighted."

* * *

"A mule-team load of coal was delivered today by a nice looking fellow, healthy and strong. To show our appreciation I brought him a bundle of magazines and a book, 'David Harum,' adding that it was a corking-good horse story. His remark was tragic, 'I can't read.'"

* * *

"Tonight about nine o'clock a soldier came to the library and made an appeal on behalf of the Casualty Camp, of which I had never heard. He said it contained several hundred men, who have nothing in the way of reading or entertainment. I hitched up our Henry at once and took over five bags of magazines which we had just gotten that afternoon from the post-office. They were very appreciative, and I was glad to be able to respond so promptly."

* * *

"A bright-looking boy brought in Laura Bancroft's 'Twinkle's Enchantment,' which he had kept out for months. When told he might take a book Overseas he chose this one. Asked what he wanted with it, he said it was helping him to learn to read.

"He had worked in a coal mine in Pennsylvania and Indiana when he was eight years old. Later he had lived in Jamestown and Buffalo, but didn't want to go to school when he could.

"The next day Tom, a library assistant, took him two more easy books for learning to read. But Tom was too late. Our pupil had left camp with his company."

"One evening as I sat down at a table to write a letter my knee touched a package placed there by the janitor. It contained ten copies of White's 'Military Signal Corps Manual.' I remembered that the Signal Corps was to start for Overseas in the morning. So I marked one copy for reference and decided to take the other nine to the train on which the boys were to go.

"Soon one of them came in for a book to take with him. He selected one about the war. 'I have a book you would like,' I said, and produced one of the new signal books. His face beamed as he examined it and said 'Some book! I'd like that.' Hardly had time enough passed for him to reach his tent when two others appeared. 'Say, you got any more of those signal books.' Away went two more books to France.

"This performance was repeated until eight copies had gone. The next morning an early bird got the last one."

* * *

"One night near library closing time, a member of the Signal Corps asked if he could take out that volume of splendid pictures, the New York Times War Portfolio, which is in constant use in the building and not allowed to go out. He said he was on signal duty four hours and these pictures would help to pass the time. He got it, agreeing to return it when the library opened the next morning.

"At 11 o'clock I stepped over to his tent and looked in. There he sat with the receiver to his ear and his eyes in the book. In body he was here on duty, in spirit he was 'over there.' "

THE LAST CALL: The greatest test for the A.L.A. came after the Armistice. "When the fighting stopped, the use of books increased enormously." While the troops were waiting the word to start home and there was little to occupy their interest except wineshops, company commanders plead for books as a means of warding off the evils of inaction.

A welfare secretary at Verdun wrote to the A.L.A., after procuring 500 volumes and 250 sacks of magazines, "I have seen so few here that one magazine had to do for 50 lads." Books previously sent abroad had seen such hard service that they had literally been "read to pieces." Indeed some of them were "read in pieces" where the supply ran short and the boys sep-

arated a single book into portions containing one or more chapters, which were handed around the trench or camp and read in serial fashion.

Then a final call was issued for a half million more books. These were mostly for our soldiers in France and Germany but also for the home-coming transports and troop trains. It was planned to have at least one book for every man on his way across the Atlantic. In Rochester the book collecting agencies already described again responded with several thousand volumes. The response to this last call from the country at large carried the number of books given by the American people beyond five million. These, together with the technical and educational books bought by the A.L.A., brought the total number of books in service up to seven million. Over one third of these were shipped Overseas. There, from a central library in Paris, through fifteen regional libraries, books were sent to 1200 points reaching American troops everywhere in France.

SUMMARY: This article does not claim to tell the whole story of the War-work done by the American Library Association. Even its general outlines are touched only as they are needed to give the local activities their proper setting. An adequate treatment of the subject would fill a book. It would include an estimate of the value of this work in the winning of the War, in the rehabilitation of the soldiers, and in the lessons it taught the War Department, the public and the librarians themselves. It would include an estimate of the permanent results as shown by the existence of the flourishing American Library in Paris, and by the extensive library activities taken over and continued by the War Department.

The vast extent of the service is suggested by a few figures, as shown in a statement published by the American Library Association in 1926:

"At its peak there were library buildings in 64 large camps and stations in America and abroad; 1886 branches and stations in these camps; there were libraries in 933 of the smaller Army camps and posts, Naval and Marine stations; 1150 vessels were supplied with books; there were libraries in 259 hospitals, and a personnel of 740, aside from enlisted men, detailed for service. And the organization used (we might appropriately say, *used up*) about seven million books. It was the largest library system ever operated."

EDITOR'S NOTE: For further details as to library service in the War, see, *War Service of the American Library Association*, by Theodore Wesley Koch, Chief, Order Division, Library of Congress (1918); also, *Books in the War, the Romance of Library War Service*, by Theodore Wesley Koch (Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston and New York, 1919).

World War Service Record
of
Rochester and Monroe County

- Volume 1 Those who died for us. 674 pages, 1924
Volume 2 Those who went forth to serve. 2005 pages, 1928
Volume 3 Those who supported the service. 608 pages, 1930



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