

**SUMMARY OF WORLD
WAR WORK OF THE
AMERICAN YMCA**

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Summary of World War Work of the American YMCA by International Committee of Young Men's Christian Associations

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**INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF
YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS**

**SUMMARY OF WORLD
WAR WORK OF THE
AMERICAN YMCA**

*Young men's Christian associations, Inter-
national committee.*

**SUMMARY OF
WORLD WAR WORK
OF THE
AMERICAN Y M C A**

**With the Soldiers and Sailors of America
at home, on the sea, and overseas**

**With the men of the Allied Armies
and with the Prisoners of War in
all parts of the world**



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ERRATA ON RUSSIAN MATERIAL IN FIRST EDITION

"Summary of World War Work of the American Y. M. C. A."

- 161 p. 66, sec. 5, 2.1—Omit "while America was still neutral."
3.3—Omit "Moscow."
- 169 p. 67, 1.1—In place of first sentence read—"Among its demands on
177 America for support in a great crisis this government as-
179. sured Dr. Mott of its hearty approval of American volun-
teers going to Russia as Y secretaries."
1.9—Omit "even."
185 3.4—Omit "combined."
196 5.3—Add "A service corresponding to this was also carried on
205 with the Irkutsk Garrison."
- 206 p. 68, 1—For "true magnitude" read "extent." Add "but gives little
229 comprehension of the difficulties overcome."
237 3.1—Read "Y men served neutrally through," etc.
3.2—Read "cities extending first aid and other forms of relief,"
omitting "and directed first aid."
- p. 69, 1.3—Insert after "organization"—"with the cordial cooperation
of the existing Russian Government, the Russian Co-operative
Societies and Russian and American Red Cross, the
International Harvester Company."
- sec. 6, 3.1—For "only" read "most."
- p. 70, 1.4—Add "including the American Naval Forces."
- p. 71, sec. 7, 2.1—Read "twelve" for "eleven."
2.3—following "Polish" add "Chinese."
2.9—For "adequately" read "as far as possible."
3.1—After "work" add "during 1918."
- p. 72, 1.1—For "Two months" read "some time."
- p. 73, 4.11—For "each" read "most," for "group" read "groups."
- p. 74, 3.4—Read "One regiment proposed that the Y canteen cars
which made the trip across Siberia with them be erected in
Prague as a public memorial to American constancy and
service."
- p. 75, 1—Following the word "workers" omit the remainder of lines
1, 2, 3 and 4, commencing "a canteen car furnished." Fol-
lowing paragraph 1 add—"mention should also be made of
the splendid service rendered from Vladivostok to the
American, British, French, Chinese and Russian sailors, all
of whom received attention and service through the Inter-
national Hut."
3.1—read for "of 76" "totalling 1726."

ERRATA

- p. 24, sec. 9, 1.4 —for 12,955 read 10,481.
- p. 28, par. 3, 1.1 —for Dr. read Mr.
- p. 29, par. 5, 1.13—for 1,000 read 500.
- p. 39, par. 3, 1.3 —for "rue" read "Avenue."
- p. 40, par. 1, 1.7 —for "the foyer" read "her billet."
- p. 50, par. 3, 1.5 —add More than one hundred secretaries were in constant service on the troop trains from the debarkation stations on this side back to the demobilization camps.
- p. 115, 1.15—omit "attorneys and."
- p. 119, par. 2, should read 319 secretaries were decorated or cited. 128 were wounded or gassed. Besides these 11 were killed in the battle zone, 81 others died overseas, and 58 in the home camps.
- p. 130, 1.3—for 1919 read 1918.
par. 2, 1.5—for January 1919 read December 1918.
- p. 149, Citations and decorations, entry 14—Croce di Guerra
entry 18—Medalha de Agradecimento
- p. 157, l. 5, 7, for Reese read Rees.
- p. 164, par. 3, 1.14—for 1918 read 1919.
- p. 168, last line—for 60,000,000 frs. read 80,000,000 frs.
- p. 175, par. 5, 1.5—for "Y supervision" read "under contract originally suggested by the Y under whose supervision they at first were."
- p. 177, sec. 9, par. 3, 1.1 —for 351,460 read 351,468.
1.2 —for 21,558,214.41 read 21,558,339.97.
1.13—insert "who when out of blanks, gave a receipt."
1.16—should read, "letters were entrusted to the ordinary mails until arrangements were made in September 1918 with the Navy."
- p. 178, 1.5—add The average time, from acceptance to delivery, however, was 62 days.
- p. 178, par. 2, 1.6—for "In" read "During."
par. 4, 1.1—should read "With the exception of cable transfers, for which the cable charge was made, the remittances were transmitted."
par. 4, 1.3—omit.
par. 5, 1.3—for 263 read 92.
1.4—for "one thirteenth" read "one forty-eighth."
- p. 196, sec. 12, 1.7—read "the American Library Association and all other organizations."
- p. 199, par. 3, 1.6—read "but little overlapping, thanks to the Liaison Committee of the Red Cross and the Y."
- p. 236, between entries 7 and 8 insert
Nicholson, John W. Moorestown, N. J.
Died, Moorestown, N. J., April 10th, 1918, of pneumonia. Recreation Secretary, Hut No. 8, Camp Dix.
- p. 236, entry 10, should read "Pierce, Raymond G. Greenfield, Mass. Clerk, died Camp Devens, September 27th, 1918, of influenza. Recreation Secretary, Camp Devens, Mass."
- p. 238, last entry, for Wanamaker, read Wannamaker.
- p. 239, between 2nd and 3rd entries—Warren, Maud Radford, Ithaca, New York.

FOREWORD

The purpose of this book is to report official facts to the vast army of patriotic Americans "at home" who contributed the funds required to conduct the World War Work of the Y M C A. It is estimated that the \$161,000,000 intrusted to the Y M C A in the various drives came from more than 15,000,000 contributors. Over 200,000 men and women volunteered for service with the Y in the Armies at home and abroad. From this army of volunteers, 25,926 were selected. Workers and dollars came from every part of the country, every profession and occupation, every religious denomination. The Y M C A was an officially designated channel through which this vast stream of material and human power was poured by the American people for the benefit of its soldiers.

This book also undertakes to interpret in terms of service the value of the work of volunteers and the 25,926 loyal men and women who served with the American Red Triangle in the World War—to record how these workers in the armies of twenty-eight nations rendered a free service to the soldiers requiring cash expenditures of \$129,000,000; how in addition to this free service they conducted the Post Exchanges for the American Expeditionary Forces under Government Orders to the extent of \$50,000,000; and how great expenditures still continue for welfare work throughout the world.

Approximately seven-eighths of the service was rendered directly to American soldiers. The remaining one-eighth was rendered directly to Allied soldiers, in response to urgent representations of Allied Governments and Commanders that such service would make their troops better fighters. Its indirect benefit to America may be judged by General Pershing's statement, June 25, 1917: "The greatest service which America can render to the cause of the Allies at the present moment, is to extend the work of the Young Men's Christian Association to the entire French Army."

A specific military function was assigned to the Y M C A. Its duty was to assist in maintaining and promoting morale. It had been proved in the Spanish War and on the Mexican Border that Y M C A service made better fighters. That was the justification for allotting it space and privileges in the congested camps and lines of communication, all the way to the battle line.

War is a grim business and until the War had been won military efficiency was the sole consideration. As a mere purveyor of comforts and luxuries, no organization could have been granted a share of the inadequate transportation for its supplies and workers. Because Y M C A welfare work and other activities grappled effectively with

intangible foes that reduce the fighting efficiency of soldiers, and that cannot be reached by military regulations and penalties, its service was welcomed by the American and Allied Governments and commanders as contributing directly to victory.

These pages record in summary the ways in which the Y M C A performed its assigned duty. The following letter by Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler, with indorsement by General Pershing, expressed the official Army view of its function and performance:

"There is no one factor contributing more to the morale of the Army in France than the Y M C A. The value of the organization cannot be overestimated. Give me 900 men who have a Y M C A rather than 1000 men who have none, and I will have better fighters every time." To which General Pershing added: "The conclusions and opinions of Lieutenant Colonel Wheeler are concurred in by these Headquarters."

A complete history of the Red Triangle in the War would include detailed accounts of the work of the British, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, and Indian Associations, together with all the special service rendered by other national movements over the whole world. In this survey it has been possible only to glance here and there at this allied work where and when American workers touched hands with those of other nations.

This preliminary summary is intended to present a rapid glance at essential facts. Part I includes a survey of the world-wide service of the American Y M C A during the War. Part II is a brief report, mainly statistical, of the various departments and activities.

The limitations imposed upon this abstract make it impossible to pay any adequate tribute to the work of other organizations. The Relief organizations, with the American Red Cross at their head, have done a work whose extent and quality will be remembered as long as human history exists. These institutions worked in an entirely different field from the Y, and rendered an essential service different in character. As a result of these activities during the War, the word "relief" has received a new meaning.

The Y work in the War was in the field of social welfare. In the same group belong the war organizations of the Y W C A, the Knights of Columbus, the Jewish Welfare Board, the Salvation Army, the War Camp Community Service, and the American Library Association, each of which played its part and earned and received the approbation which is its due measure. **In this group, the Y faced problems immeasurably greater than any other institution, and in volume of work was compelled to attack, according to trustworthy estimates, more than ninety per cent of the total task overseas.**

Owing to the summary nature of this account only the names of those who headed large geographical areas are included. This has meant the exclusion of the names of many of those who held major positions and did a service worthy of record, and of the thousands