

WELLS COLLEGE
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

World War I Wells College Canteener Collection

Quantity: ¼ Linear Foot

Containers: ¼ Archival Box

Processed: July 6, 2010

By: Molly Brown

Finding Aid: July 6, 2010

Prepared by: Molly Brown

Edited by: Molly Brown

Prepared for Web:

By:

Access: There is no restriction on access to the World War I Wells College Canteener Collection for research use. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish material from World War I Wells College Canteener Collection should be directed to the Archives and Special Collections. It is the responsibility of the researcher to identify and satisfy the holders of all copyrights.

INTRODUCTION

Biographical Note

The Canteeners from Wells College were part of the YMCA program that sent alumnae overseas during World War I, ten to a unit, stationed at various canteens in groups of two. Members were to be college graduates, over the age of 25, all had to fulfill the other qualifications imposed by the YMCA.

The YMCA group conducted canteens and before the armistice was signed, devoted itself to entertaining and cheering men from the fighting front for rest. The women's sole duty (unlike the women who worked for the Red Cross, whose work had to do with aiding the sick and wounded) was to cheer the boys. The YMCA job meant service – in any way possible, but, first and foremost, to keep up morale. They planned entertainment and kept everyone interested and busy. They arranged movies, the entertainment for the camps, exchanged the money for the troops, sent home remittances for the boys, and ran the stores, as well as aiding in religious work.

When the American soldiers had been fighting in the trenches for a certain length of time, they were granted seven days leave. They couldn't go home, so they would send them somewhere as close to home as possible – where there were other American girls to look at, talk to, and dance with. For all the soldiers' amusements, they went to the Y, where they bought food between meals, talked to the Y girls, read books, wrote letters, played games, went sightseeing and danced. Such were the general characteristics of a leave area though each area has its own peculiar and distinctive atmosphere.

History of the Papers and Their Organization

Series 1 contains correspondence from the women who worked in the canteens and is listed in alphabetical order by last name of author.

Series 2 contains newspaper clippings of the women who worked the canteens.

Related Material

- Baldwin, Marian. Canteening Overseas, 1917-1919. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1920.
- Temple Hollcroft Collection
- World War I Poster Art Collection

World War I Wells College Canteener Collection

DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPERS

Scope and Content Note

The majority of the contents of this collection are letters the Wells Canteener women sent home from abroad. The remainder of the collection contains newspaper articles which describe their work and living conditions, as well as the article entitled The Y Girl in the Leave Area.

Organization and Arrangement

The papers are organized into 2 series

Series Descriptions

Series 1, Personal correspondence from Wells College Canteeners to persons at home

Series 2, Articles about the Canteeners

World War I Wells College Canteener Collection

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
Series 1:			
1	1	1919	Correspondence from Katherine Barnes
1	2	1919	Correspondence from Emily Benton
1	3	1918	Correspondence from Mae Bozard
1	4	1919	Correspondence from Irene Dayton
1	5	1918	Correspondence from Irelene DeWitt
1	6	1918-1919	Correspondence from Sue Fritsch
1	7	n.d.	Correspondence from Martha Fulton
1	8	1919	Correspondence from D. E. Hough
1	9	1919	Correspondence from Mildred Jerrett
1	10	1918	Correspondence from Doris Mancley
1	11	n.d.	Correspondence from Esther Marks
1	12	n.d.	Correspondence from Elizabeth Marshall
1	13	n.d.	Correspondence from Lorenza Mills
1	14	1919	Correspondence from Helen Milliken
1	15	1918-1919	Correspondence from Margaret O'Brien
1	16	1918-1919	Correspondence from Ellen Pratt
1	17	n.d.	Correspondence from Elizabeth Persons
1	18	1918	Correspondence from Florence Risley
1	19	1919	Correspondence from C. Risner
1	20	1918-1919	Correspondence from Wilhelmina Roenke

World War I Wells College Canteener Collection

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	21	1918	Correspondence from Constance Scudder
1	22	1919	Correspondence from Virginia Smith
1	23	1919	Correspondence from Edith Starbuck
1	24	n.d.	Correspondence from Lois Tappan
1	25	1918	Correspondence from Louise Elizabeth Wyman
1	26	n.d.	Correspondence from Unidentified Canteeners

World War I Wells College Canteener Collection

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Description</u>
Series 2:			
1	1	n.d.	<u>The Y Girl in the Leave Area</u> article
1	2	1918	Newspaper articles on Canteeners