Lesser Known American WWI Postal History
1914 to 1920
The Vanguard 1914-1917

- American Red Cross Mercy Ship
- Commission for Belgium Relief
- Representing English & German POW’s
- Henry Ford “Peace Ship”
- Volunteer Ambulance Units
- French Foreign Legion
- Lafayette Escadrille
American Red Cross “Mercy Ship”

- ARC “Mercy Ship” left NY 9/12/1914 with 170 doctors & nurses.
- 16 teams (350 doctors & nurses) served in England, France, Russia, Germany, Austria-Hungary and Serbia
- Withdrawn 10/1915
The Commission for Relief in Belgium

Belgium

Executive Committee

10 October 1916

We regret to hear from your friend in America, Mr. F. H. Kellogg, that you are in need of assistance. We have written to him and have asked him to contact you through his American friend, Mr. S. A. Carter, in California. We hope that he will be able to assist you.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Executive Secretary

Annexed is a copy of the letter from Mr. F. H. Kellogg.

COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM

66, RUE DES COLONIES, 86

BRUXELLES

OPENED BY

M. J. H. Kellogg

Santa Rosa

California

M. S. A.

CENSOR.

298
Representing English & German POW’s

American Berlin Embassy to an Irish POW

German POW in South Africa to American Counsel

Interned English Civilian in Austria to the American Counsel, Vienna
Henry Ford “Peace Ship”  
(Ship of Fools)

• Ford sponsored an international peace conference in Stockholm, Sweden
• The Oskar II left NJ 12/4/15
• 60 delegates, 3 newsreel men, 34 newsmen & a personnel staff of 20
• Ford promised to “get the boys out of the trenches by Christmas”
• The “Peace Ship” stopped at Norway, Sweden, Denmark and the Hague in Holland
• At Norway Ford left the ship to return home
• Conference was held with representatives from Denmark, Holland, Norway, Sweden and United States
Volunteer Ambulance Units

American Hospital Paris

American Hospital B (Juilly)

Ambulance of the American Hospital
Volunteer Ambulance Units

- Over 3500 Americans served in 43 volunteer ambulance section.
- Majority came from Ivy League and eastern prep schools.
Volunteer Ambulance Units

A thank you note from General Pershing to Mrs. Harmon for donating money to the AFS in memory of his wife. General Pershing's wife and two daughters had earlier died in a house fire at the Presidio of San Francisco, CA.
Volunteer Ambulance Units

- American Field Service – the Camion Section (Reserve Mallet)
- In spring of 1917 the AFS provided 800+ volunteers to the French Motor Transport Service
- 14 truck sections - Transport Material Unit (T.M.U.)
Americans In The French Foreign Legion

Paul & Kiffin Rockwell pictured in their French Foreign Legion Uniforms.
Lafayette Escadrille
(L’Escadrille N. 124)

James R. McConnell

Henry S. Jones

M. McConnell
Havre de Grace

Henri S. Jones
Esc. Sqn 124
P.S. 121

Mademoiselle Marcelle Guerin
147 Rue de Longchamps

Sept. 17-16

Paris

Head. Edward Jones

Sanford
Pennsylvania

LAFAYETTE

U.S. A.
The War Years 1917-1918

- Postage Rates/Franking to the US
- Woman Volunteers
- The WWI Black Soldier
- American POW’s in Germany
- German POW’s – France
- German POW’s – US
Postage Rates

NOTICE TO READERS: When you finish reading this magazine, place a 2-cent stamp on this notice, hand same to any postal employee, and it will be placed in the hands of our soldiers or sailors at the front. No wrapping—no address.

A. S. BURLESON, Postmaster-General.
Postage Rates/Franking to the US

(5/1917 – 10/20/1917)
Postage Rates/Franking to the US
(5/1917 – 10/20/1917)
Postage Rates/Franking to the US
(Use of AEF Booklet Pane Stamps 10/20/1917-10/29/1920)
Postage Rates/Franking to the US
(Use of AEF Booklet Pane Stamps 10/20/1917-10/29/1920)
Postage Rates/Franking to the US
(Registered Jacket)
Woman Volunteers

Red Cross Volunteer (Secretary of State Lansing’s daughter)

British Woman's Auxiliary Army Corps (WAAC)

“Hello Girls” – American Female Switchboard operators
Woman Volunteers
(YWCA Hostess House)

• Marcia Dunham – Archangel North Russia YWCA worker.
• Datelined American Embassy.
• Card was sent by diplomatic pouch to the US.
The WWI Black Soldier
(Background)

Pre War Army
- Regular Army Units (10,000)
- 9th & 10th Cavalry
- 24th & 25th Infantry
- National Guard (10,000)
  - 8th Illinois & 15th New York Regiments
  - 1st Separate Battalion District of Columbia
  - 1st Separate Co. of Maryland
  - 9th Battalion of Ohio
  - 1st Separate Co. of Connecticut
  - Co. L of Massachusetts National Guard
  - Co G of the Tennessee National Guard

WWI Units
- 404,308 African Americans served in the Army
- 42,000 in combat units (92nd & 93rd Divisions)
- Remainder as Labors in Uniform
  - Butchery Companies, Nos. 322 & 363
  - Stevedore Regiments, Nos. 301, 302 & 303
  - Stevedore Battalions, Nos. 701 & 702
  - Eng Service Battalions, Nos. 505 to 550
  - Labor Battalions, Nos. 304 to 315, 317 to 327, 329 to 348 and 357
  - Labor Companies, Nos. 301 to 324
  - Pioneer Infantry Battalions, Nos. 801 to 809, 811 and 813 to 816
The WWI Black Soldier
(92nd Division APO 766)

183rd Brigade

366th Infantry Regiment

359th Field Artillery Regt. All white officers. Black officers were considered incapable of learning the technical requirements of the job.
The WWI Black Soldier
(93rd Division Served With the French Army)

370th Infantry Regiment – former 8th Illinois National Guard

Port Siles to Snell
2-23-24

Mrs. Lucy Snell
Woolwine, Va.

American Expeditionary Forces
Young Men’s Christian Association
Consecrated by Prayer, Fasting, and Sacrifice

This is the address,
My dear mother, I will
drink you a few times
Let me eat food from you
The American people and
They have sent for you
For a few lines
I have
I have

Dear mom, I have
From home very much. I want
To let you know I love you.
I want you to hear from me

Yours truly,
W. E. Snell
The WWI Black Soldier
(Labors in Uniform)

303 Stevedore Regiment

313th Labor Company
American POW’s in Germany

First Americans Captured 1917

Ingolstadt
(US Marine 2nd Div 6th Regt)

Limburg

Langensalza
American POW’s in Germany
(International Red Cross)

American POW card to the International Red Cross, Geneva, Switzerland

International Red Cross card to the family of an American POW - 94th Pursuit Squadron
American POW’s in Germany
(American Red Cross)

Returning American POW’s - Switzerland

[Image of train and postal envelopes]
American POW’s in Germany
(American Red Cross)

When a Prisoner is Captured

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Prisoners of the Great War

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Total: 366
American POW’s in Germany
(AEF Office in Switzerland)

The Assistant Auditor for the War Department,
Treasury Department,
WASHINGTON, D.C.,
U.S.A.
German POW’s – France

- 48,000 German POW’s
- POW camps at Ligny-En-Barrois, St. Pierre des Corps, Gievres, Souilly, St. Nazaire & Brest
German POW's – France

(Mail to German POW's)

German POW's Sorting
Mail – St Pierre des Corps
German POW's – US
(Interned Ships)

SMS Prinz Eihel Fredrick – Portsmouth, Va.

SMS Cormoran - Guam

SMS Grier - Hawaii
German POW's – US
(Temporary Holding Facilities)

Alcatraz Island, CA

Ellis Island, NY

Baguio, Mountain Province, Philippines

Hot Springs, NC
German POW’s – US
(Permanent Holding Facilities)

Ft McPherson, GA

Ft Douglas, UT

Ft Oglethorpe, GA
German POW’s – US
(Mail to German POW’s in the US)

Forwarded Through Berlin Naval Office

Held by British Nine Months

Inter-Island Steam Navigation Co. Hand Stamp

Returned Mail – Ft Oglethorpe, GA
Postwar

• American Red Cross
• Russian Prison Camps – US Guards
• APO 946 - Berlin
American Red Cross
(Grave Site Pictures Made for Each Family of a Fallen Soldier)

The American Red Cross
National Headquarters
Washington, D.C.

With deep sympathy in your loss,

The American Red Cross sends you the photograph of the grave of
this American Soldier
who gave his life for his country.
Russian Prison Camps – US Guards

Ulm, Germany

Parchim, Germany

 Pvt. Walter G. Englehardt,
 U. S. Troops on duty at
 Russian Prisoner of War Camp,
 Ulm, Germany via Berlin.

[Envelope with postmark]

[Handwritten note]

[Envelope with Red Cross mark]

[Handwritten note]
APO 946 - Berlin

APO 946 Had Limited Mail Processing – Registration Cancel Only Example?

Mail to the American Berlin Mission was sent to APO 927 (Coblenz) then pouch to Berlin.
A Mystery

Gloucester Immigration Station, NJ, return address. Mailed through the New York PO 1/4/1919

Censored by Dept Justice, Ellis Island, NY