


3-8-2010

## Young Men's Christian Association (Y.M.C.A.) - Rennes, France (MSS 312)

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*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 312 YOUNG Men's Christian Association – Rennes, France**

½ box. 3 folders. 3 items. 1918-1919. Originals.

1945.5.1

***ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY***

Upon the United States' entry into World War I, the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) offered to assist the government in providing for the welfare of troops encamped at home and abroad. The YMCA established posts (called "huts") to serve as headquarters for a variety of social, educational and religious activities for the soldiers. The American YMCA did much of its work in France where, in order to free soldiers for duty in the ranks, the organization also operated canteens. After the signing of the Armistice in November 1918, the YMCA continued to provide services to soldiers during the process of reassignment or repatriation.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

The collection consists of a guest book maintained by the American YMCA at its facility in Rennes, France, from February through August 1919. For most entries, soldiers write the date, their name, military unit, home town, and remarks. The remarks express gratitude for the YMCA's hospitality but more often express whimsical sentiments and, given that the war was over, an eagerness to return home. Names of the hut and canteen personnel are noted at the front of the book. Included is a postcard found in the book, postmarked 22 February 1918 from Louisville, Kentucky and picturing "A Typical Y.M.C.A. Hut."

***SHELF LIST***

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>1918-1919</b>	<b>3 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory		1 item
Folder 2	YMCA Guest book	Feb.-Aug. 1919	1 item

Folder 3 Postcard to Miss Anna [Feb. 22, 1918] 1 item  
 Herbold, Louisville, Kentucky  
 (found in book)

### ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS YOUNG Men's Christian 1918-1919  
 312 Association – Rennes,  
 France

Guest book of the American YMCA  
 kept at Rennes, France, February-August  
 1919. Includes soldiers' names, military  
 units, home towns and remarks. Also includes  
 1918 postcard showing typical YMCA post.  
 ½ box. 3 folders. 3 items. Originals.  
 1945.5.1

### ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Herbold, Anna  
 Soldiers, 1919  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – Postwar period – France, 1919  
 World War I, 1914-1918 – YMCA – France, 1919  
 Young Men's Christian Association – Postcards, 1918

### ***SEE or SEE ALSO***

Young Men's Christian Association  
 See also:  
 YMCA

Niedermeier/Jeffrey 03/09/2010