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

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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

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<td>YMCA Guest book</td>
<td>Feb.-Aug. 1919</td>
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</table>
Folder 3  Postcard to Miss Anna  [Feb. 22, 1918]  1 item
Herbold, Louisville, Kentucky
(found in book)

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

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

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