

WAR WORK BULLETIN

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The Blue Triangle and the War



WHEN the war came to America, the Y. W. C. A. was ready. It had the workers and the money and the experience when the first Hostess House at Plattsburg was needed, and it made good there. Wherever it has been a need, since then, it has walked in with a plan and workers and made good every time. It has enlarged its regular program, based on the experience of fifty years' work with women, so that it is now the one woman's organization in the group of seven working under the War and Navy Commissions on Training Camp Activities for the morale both of the troops and women in industry.

FOR WOMEN IN WARTIME.

The Blue Triangle program includes all women affected by the war: girls in munition centers here in America, girls in French powder works, wives and mothers and sweet-hearts of our soldiers in camp, women war workers abroad, Red Cross nurses in American base hospitals in France, as well as the rank and file of self-supporting women at home who have always known and appreciated the help of the Y. W. C. A. are all of them the present concern of this greatest of women movement.

The Blue Triangle works very quietly. It is a national institution with a net work organization covering the whole country, and as such is pretty much taken for granted. Not until one sees it at its war-work—three thousand soldiers and relatives fed every Sunday at the Camp Upton Hostess House, for instance, or two thousand war-tired French munition women at Lyon swarming into their Foyer des Alliées for their luncheon and rest time, does one realize the place that the Blue Triangle has taken in the world of today.

Its horizon blue uniform—smart and trim—with the blue Y. W. C. A. triangle on sleeve and black tricorne, is well known abroad and will soon be better known in this country, as the visible reminder of the quiet but nevertheless most effective work that lives everyday organization is doing.

WINNING THE WAR.

Labor turnover must be kept down if output of shells and airplane motors is to be kept up. And girls cannot stay at hard factory work if their living conditions and leisure hours are not happy. A soldier who worries over his family is a poor soldier. The Hostess House makes the good-byes more cheerful, and the visiting days, even when they are stormy or miserably hot—really happy reunions.

There is no way of measuring what the Y. W. C. A. does except public opinion—and public opinion is making itself felt. Everywhere you hear what employers, commanding officers, head nurses, returned travelers have to say about the Y. W. C. A. From Clemenceau and President Wilson down to the rookie who loves the rocking chairs at the Hostess House, they all have something good to tell. The mountain mother who tells the camp hostess that she has made bearable the loss of her boy and the army officer

in the field, who wrote of the Y. W. C. A., "My observation in France after six months, is that the best investment of charitable funds is made by the Y. W. C. A., and they are doing the most creditable work with the lowest expenditure," have different angles on the work, but they both tell the truth. It is a good, hard working business organization, which gets wonderful results for its money. Major Kelly, who wrote of what he knew, and Brig. Gen. Semple, who O. K.'d his opinions, appreciated the kind of results that come from a happy mind and a quiet heart. That is the kind of quiet courage and persistence that the Y. W. C. A. calls morale.

THE WOMEN WHO PLAN.

Nothing shows better the place of the Blue Triangle today than the people who form its War Work Council. When the Y. W. C. A. went on a war basis, many of the strongest and most earnest women of the country, looking well ahead and banking on its personnel and achievement, formed the Council which directs the War Work of the National Board of the Y. W. C. A.

Mrs. James S. Cushman of New York, is Chairman; Mrs. John R. Mott and Mrs. William Adams Brown, Vice-Chairmen; Mrs. Henry P. Davison, Treasurer, and Mrs. Howard M. Morse, Secretary.

The War Work Council has frequent meetings in different parts of the country. Last May a meeting was held in Washington to consider especially the industrial and housing programs. Mrs. Thomas Marshall, Mrs. Robert Lansing and Mrs. Josephus Daniels helped Mrs. W. H. Bayly, President of the Washington Y. W. C. A., in receiving the guests. Later Mrs. Woodrow Wilson received the members of the Council at the White House.

In August the Council met at Portland to plan their fall campaign for war work funds, \$15,000,000 this year instead of \$5,000,000 as last year. Among those at the meeting were: Mrs. James S. Cushman, Mrs. Warner Leeds, Miss Florence Simms, Mrs. Robert E. Speer, Mrs. Herbert L. Boardman, Mrs. William Adams Brown, Mrs. Endicott Peabody, Mrs. Herbert Lee Pratt, Mrs. Henry P. Davison and Mrs. Coleman du Pont.

"Morale Will Win the War"

Morale, of course, the Blue Triangle is working for. That word sounds well, and sounds important. But morale is an indefinite sort of good at best. Only when one sees a letter, such as one which M. Lalleman, Chief du Cabinet of France, brought from Premier Clemenceau to Mrs. Cushman when she was in France, does one see how direct and immediate in terms of shells and soldier's stamina is the work of the Blue Triangle. Here is what the Premier said: "Mons. Clemenceau knows that I am to see you today and desires me to convey to you not only his own personal thanks, but the gratitude of the French Government for all

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that your organization is doing for the young girls and the women of France. They feel that it would be impossible to express adequately the value of the help you are bringing the Government in the solution of some of their difficult problems.

"The war is being fought on French soil. As the family is so is the pollu. You are resting and refreshing and cheering him on when you do this to his women folk. You supply him with munition when you make the hard work of the women in the unites a little less of the burden that it must be. We thank you most sincerely."

This is the contribution that the Y. W. C. A. makes directly to the morale of our Allies.

"For every fighter a woman war worker" is true in America now. When our army was a million and a half strong, a million and a half girls and women were making shells, filling shells, painting camouflage on gun-carriages, and a dozen processes in the making of airplane motors. There are more going in every day. Industrial hostess houses in America, as well as in France, are contributing definitely to lowering the labor turnover, and increasing the output, just by making the girls happier. It would be worth going if there were no other results. As it is the Y. W. C. A. can appeal to the women of America on every ground—efficiency, official standing, real interest in women and a real patriotic contribution to the winning of the war.

Chairmen of Committees

Social Morality, Mrs. ROBERT E. SPEER
Finance, Mrs. HERBERT L. PRATT
Co-operation and Publicity, Mrs. LEWIS LAPHAM
Work for Foreign-born Women, Work in Europe, Mrs. JOHN R. MOTT
Housing Committee, Mrs. JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR.

Work Among Colored Women and Girls, Mrs. HENRY MARSHALL
Hostess Houses, Mrs. E. M. TOWNSEND
Junior Council, Mrs. FRANK LEWIS BARRETT, JR.
Workers Bureau, Mrs. DAY H. MORSE
Nominating, Mrs. KATHARINE LAMBERT
Laid Service, Mrs. ARTHUR G. STONE

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The Blue Triangle Budget for War Work for Women

1. Work among girls engaged in war industries and replacing men in service.	\$2,100,000
<i>Undertaken at Government request. Two million girls and women are now making war supplies.</i>	
2. Club and recreation work in communities near camps.	2,700,000
3. Emergency Housing.	1,000,000
<i>Where girls are called to Government work without proper housing.</i>	
4. Hostess Houses in or near camps.	2,400,000
<i>One request a day is being received for Hostess Houses.</i>	
5. Work among colored girls affected by war conditions.	400,000
<i>Colonel Roosevelt allotted a part of his Nobel prize money for this work.</i>	
6. Work among foreign-born women.	430,000
<i>The Americanization program includes home service interpretation and translation.</i>	
7. Bureaus.	1,885,000
Personnel,	\$225,000
Building and Equipment,	185,000
Social Morality,	500,000
Education,	975,000
8. Educational and Information Service.	533,000
9. War Work in Other Countries.	3,000,000
<i>Europe and Asia Minor.</i>	
10. Administration, including salaries and travel.	552,000
<i>Large numbers of trained war workers will be needed.</i>	
	\$15,000,000



A hundred Hostess Houses in army and navy cantonments, from the State of Washington and the Great Lakes to Jacksonville and San Juan, Porto Rico, provide Blue Triangle hospitality for the friends and families of our troops. Comfortable nurseries, cafeterias where real home cooking is to be found at low rates, big living rooms with open fires, deep chairs and books—these make a real refuge for soldiers and their friends alike. From the President down to the newest rookie they all say that the Hostess House is the best place in camp.

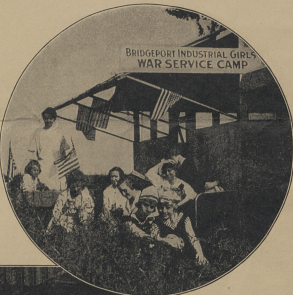


Our hotel for American women in Paris.

The Blue Triangle Foyers des Allies (Canteens of the Allied Women) are international affairs. French and American women are united in giving these French munition workers the kind of recreation and food at noon that will keep them working happily. The second day of one of these foyers, two thousand women came. They have games, gymnastics, classes in English or any other subject they want to learn—and such comforts as sewing machines and irons. The Hostess House idea in another form—"homes" as one French officer said, "for those who have no homes."



One of the week-end camps at the seashore which the Blue Triangle maintains for girls in war industries. No vacations this summer, for the war does not stop while people take holidays. A good week-end keeps one going, however, and helps to make the work go faster and better. These girls are inspectors of munitions—a real part of the army of the Second Line of Defense.



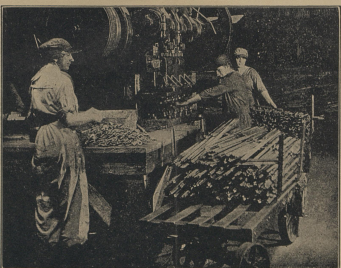
"Yeomanettes" and factory workers drill for efficiency.



Mrs. James S. Cushman of New York, chairman of the Blue Triangle War Work Council, who recently made a trip to France to see the work of the Y. W. C. A. For our own Red Cross nurses we have huts in the base hospitals, a hotel for American women war workers in Paris, foyer canteens for French women munition workers and the housing and general supervision of all women detailed for service with the American Army; stenographers for army offices, and the women telephone and telegraph operators of the Signal Corps, are all under the care of the Y. W. C. A.



These girls, workers at a gas mask factory, are arriving at an estate at Ardsley which was lent for the summer for their week-end vacations. College girls, school teachers, young girls and old women, girls who have worked hard before, and rich young women whose husbands are overseas, make up our war factories to-day. Nothing we can do for them is too good. They are the backbone of the nation this minute.



This is the kind of girl that is winning the war.

In "Columbia Cells," a patriotic pageant, which the girls' club of Bremerton, Washington, gave, these yeomanettes, who have abandoned their navy uniforms, look even more charming than in their business clothes. Pageants all over the country are to be a great feature of the Y. W. C. A. fall campaign for funds, and a wonderful stimulus to patriotism as well. Industrial girls in many centers are finding great pleasure, after days of hard work, in pageantry.

