


CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	

WESTERN UNION



TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L
If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.	

RECEIVED AT

1104 Conn. Ave., N. W.

Franklin 4597

24W IW 11 COLLECT 2 EX

PARIS VIA CO NEWYORKCITY NY OCT 22 1919

MRS STOCKS MILLAR

24

CARE NATIONAL CATH WAR COUNCIL LARAYETTE HOTEL

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS CABLE RECEIVED CARRY ON YOUR GIRLS

NO SIG

10AM OCT 22



Mr. Joseph Miller
National Catholic War Council
11 Park Avenue
93 2nd Fourteenth St.
U. S. A. Washington D. C.

Expéd. : M^{me} l'amirale Moren
137 r. du Ran.

Paris xv

Paris 25 Oct^{bre} 1919

137. rue du Ranelagh

Chère Madame,

Depuis le triste matin
où nous nous avons dit adieu
à la gare St. Lazare, bien
souvent ma pensée a été
venue chercher le vous si
sûr. Durant la traversée
qui vous laissait seule en face

de vos réflexions ; vous ne pouvez
cependant trouver dans vos souvenirs
que le sentiment du devoir
noblement accompli.

J'ai appris avec plaisir que
vos échos arrivés à bon port.
Combien j'aimerais savoir que
justice vous est rendue et que
vous pouvez espérer vous voir
revenir en France.

Qui m'eût dit, il y a neuf mois,
quand vous arriviez avec ce rôle
ingrat de détourner l'action du

N.C.W.C. jusqu'à la réserver aux
Œuvres de guerre françaises pour
la reporter sur le soldat Améri-
cain. Qui m'eût dit alors que
vous rempliriez ce rôle de manière
à vous attirer non seulement
ma profonde estime pour votre
caractère mais encore ma réelle
affection ? Je vous ai suivie
pas à pas dans cette tâche où
vous vous faisiez toute à vous,
oubliant de vous-même ; j'ai
constaté que, grâce à vous, d'ex-

celles relations commencent
de s'établir entre le N.C.W.C.
et la société française. Quel
bien vous auriez pu faire
encore sous ce rapport si
vous étiez restée parmi nous
et surtout si vous aviez été
plus indépendante !

A quelle œuvre de désolument
alliez-vous vous consacrer si
vous restiez aux Etats-Unis ?
J'espère que le bonheur

de retrouver vos enfants
et petits-enfants aura
compréhension les ennemis que
vous avez connus en France ?
Je n'ai que un regret,
c'est que le souvenir de
mon pays soit associé dans
votre esprit à ces moments
pénibles.

Vos "filles" vous diront
combien vous manquez au

Plus ; cette maison sans
direction est un corps sans âme.
Chez moi, bien des
petits tracas : la monnaie
courante de la vie ! Il faut
voir plus haut : l'union
parfaite règne à mon foyer
et mes enfants marchent sur
les traces de leur cher père ...
j'en remercie la Providence.
Me ferez-vous le plaisir

de me répondre, chère Madame ?
de continuer à travers l'Océan
ces causeries où, malgré la
différence de nos nationalités,
je me trouvais en communion
de pensées et de sentiments
avec vous ? j'en serais heureux.
Prenez je vous prie à mon
fidèle attachement.
J. Morin

ÉTOILE SERVICE CLUB

16, Avenue de Wagram

Paris, France



Oct 29-19

Mrs Stokes Millard

Dear friend

Just a few lines to thank you
for your kindness to me and
to say that I am quite recovered
and back to work.

I am very sorry to know that
you left under such circum-
stances, but never mind everything
will work out O.K. and rest
assured that you can always
call on me for anything that
I possible can do
at the present time. I am collecting
a little data that I can use
later.

Use both sides.

when I can make it all stone-
tail, I will send it to you.
or possible bring it to you.
Some people may think that
I know very little, but perhaps
I can show them a little bit more
than what ~~it~~ they think.

The Real workers often speak
of you and miss you very
much and so do the boys.
There is a certain something
that is missing around the club
since you have gone.
They all hope that you will
come back someday and
take up your old position.
Quite often there are letters
in the Chicago Tribune about

ÉTOILE SERVICE CLUB

16, Avenue de Wagram

Paris, France



The club and you.

It certainly was a surprise and to say the least to know that some people would act the way they did toward you.

Now if there is anything that you can think of that I can do for you don't be backward but let me know.

I hope that this letter will find you well and enjoying the very best of good health. Alas that you have opened some people's eyes to conclusions over here by now.

I will close hoping to hear from you in the near future

Use both sides.

I am Yours to command
where and when You will

John P O'Brien

P.S. Address me here at the club

Nov. 21st

13 AVENUE BOSQUET.

Dear Mr. Mullan

I went to the Boile Club on
November the 11th for a dance
in honour of the armistice, &
the whole evening was such a
success that I thought you would
like to hear about it.

I was struck by the dignity
of both the girls and the men,
they were enjoying themselves
at the same time no one
was rowdy or noisy. Every
one was at their best. The
girls were so occupied
making it pleasant for

every one and yet so calm
and self possessed that I
realized that the influence
you had brought to bear in
many circumstances was
bearing its fruit and that
all the care you had taken
in organizing this horse
had really been a profitable
work and that you would
be glad to know about it.
I am sure you know
all the more better than I
as your special friend
must keep you posted.
Miss Sullivan is quite
wonderful I consider.

Every one who hears that
you have left ~~so~~ quite
distressed, including Father
Hemmick - but I am sure
you are very busy in
America and I am glad
you are still working
for the N. C. W. C.

I hope you have enjoyed
seeing your children & little
grand children after this
lengthy absence -

Believe me very
sincerely yours -

Comdse J. de Sayre

never
forget
you.
May
accept
your
me in
wishing
you
all
happiness
Most
sincerely
yours
Diana A. B. B.
12/1/19

Dear Mrs. Kellar:

Thank you so very much
for your letter, and the kind
thought that prompted the
sending of the sweet sentiment.

It was before me when I
reached home November twentieth.
Our sailing had been post-
poned the second time and we
did not start until the eleventh,
one full month from the original
date. After leaving Bouray I came
to the Club expecting to sail
for home in a few days.

I remained at the Club until
"going home" time.

I am sure Mrs. Kollar you
would be proud of the way
your girls "carry on" at the
Club. While not sharing
their views and not of their
minds in some cases. I want
to tell you that they were
perfectly splendid to me and
I found many new friends.

Miss Riley and Miss Collins
were very sweet and kind.
After having been to the market,
and up so early in the morning,
they made their way to the
station to see us off and brought
with them a delicious basket of

fruit and flowers, fresh and lovely from the
market place. When women like to be
and feel in that fashion you know they
ought to call them "splendid" and to proud
of their devotion. They did indeed love
you! I am sure you will find much to
keep you busy, and happily we your
new friends and I wish you all joy
and comfort. Always seen so hard
and sweet, believable at times that we
find ourselves saying "why?" and we
never know the answer! I often tell the
folks at home that no one of us means I
want to get to Heaven. Just to reach a

few questions that I could not
find answers to on this earth.
In most cases they think I am
profane! Do not grieve, dear
Mrs Miller the good God will
one day solve all our little problems
until then we can afford to accept
what He sees fit to send us.

One of the very hard things, so
far in life, for me, was to give
up my book "over there" and
come back to unlooked for conditions
but "whatever is, is best" and God
knows!

We called on Father Burke
the following day after our arrival
at New York and had a very
pleasant visit with him.

Remember dear Mrs Miller I am ever
grateful for all your kindness. I shall

OFFICERS

Honorary President

MOST REV. PATRICK J. HAYES

Honorary Vice-Presidents

RT. REV. JOSEPH F. MOONEY

RT. REV. MICHAEL J. LAVELLE

VERY REV. JOHN J. DUNN

VERY REV. THOS. F. BURKE, C.S.P.

President

JOHN J. BURKE, C.S.P.

Treasurer

JOHN J. PULLEYN

ADVISORY BOARD

REV. LEWIS J. O'HERN, C.S.P.

REV. F. B. DOHERTY, U. S. A.

REV. G. J. WARING, U. S. A.

REV. F. P. JOYCE, U. S. A.

REV. E. E. McDONALD, U. S. N.

REV. M. C. GLEESON, U. S. N.

REV. E. A. BRODMANN, U. S. N.

Pro Deo et Patria

The Chaplains' Aid Association

605 Fifth Avenue, New York City

The work of the Association is to promote the
spiritual welfare of our Soldiers and Sailors

My dear Mrs. Helen

I was just this,

Said, "Won't you do
something for those folks?"

he said what -

Said, "And Mrs. Helen
back to France - It was a
great mistake to leave her" -

He looked at me and

said, "No, I won't." - He

took a good look

at that question and

was satisfied I was

best" - Said "Why"

he said, Mrs. Helen

gave me the best example of her
loyalty to me - She asked me
not to please Mr Veneschaurov
but as much as she hated him
said, "See that shows you what
kind of a woman Mrs Muller
is - She is more than loyal to
you - you will never look at
more loyal woman to work
for you - ~~at all~~ or as a friend"
Then I said, "Do you know she is
depending on you daily?" He looked
up quickly & said "She ought to"
said "Don't think so!" - his
hurry came in then - and
when he could talk again he
said - "I'm keeping Mrs Muller
for other work - She can do big things

OFFICERS

Honorary President

MOST REV. PATRICK J. HAYES

Honorary Vice-Presidents

RT. REV. JOSEPH F. MOONEY

RT. REV. MICHAEL J. LAVELLE

VERY REV. JOHN J. DUNN

VERY REV. THOS. F. BURKE, C.S.P.

President

JOHN J. BURKE, C.S.P.

Treasurer

JOHN J. PULLEYN

ADVISORY BOARD

REV. LEWIS J. O'HERN, C.S.P.

REV. F. B. DOHERTY, U. S. A.

REV. G. J. WARING, U. S. A.

REV. F. P. JOYCE, U. S. A.

REV. E. E. McDONALD, U. S. N.

REV. M. C. GLEESON, U. S. N.

REV. E. A. BRODMANN, U. S. N.

Pro Deo et Patria

The Chaplains' Aid Association

605 Fifth Avenue, New York City

The work of the Association is to promote the
spiritual welfare of our Soldiers and Sailors

and I want her in
the work — so it
dropped —
He told me you had
not gotten the place —
that a Miss Gauthier had —
that all I know about
it — I was in Washington
kept with on a job hunt —
as I've been offered something
under the War Dept.
I'm here today, and
feel rather sad — as I've
put so much of myself in my

both but always so.

May for me - See me
from when I go down -
My love - G. L. B. Capron

Dec 31 - 1919 -

May the New Year have all
sorts of luck and blessings
for you -

Maggies Sept 10 th	20 ⁰⁰
Truck of straw for Botany	9 ⁰⁰
Flour for hay with horse ship	2 ⁰⁰
Maggies Mar-	5-10
Flour for Maggies & horse	10 ⁰⁰
	<u>44-10</u>

For Anne G. M. D.

Accounting for 80.3rs 5¢ rec'd Sept 20/99
from Mrs. Stocks Miller as special
fund for Hospital work,

Sept. Flowers for ^{very} sick boys 10. ^{3rs. -}

Sept. Magazines 4.

Nov. Flowers 9.

Nov. Magazines 7.

Nov. Paper (News) 5.95

35.95

Note expended by K. W. L. 441 0

total 80.05

Nellie E. Conway

Don't know when I will come home, hope to stay until end.

Paris France

Jan. 15 1920

Dear Mother Miller:

I thank
for the calendar you
sent us all for Thomas.
Since you left I have
been very busy, which
is a blessing always.
I have missed you
many times and ways.
Miss Egan and I have
had one another

here at the Club which
has been a comfort to me
indeed.

I believe I have
developed more spunk
since you saw me last.
You always said I needed
more of it.

I have enjoyed reading
the letters you sent, Gertrude
Kathrine Welch, Miss N. McDonald
Miss Preece has been at St Michel
since Dec. 23rd. Miss K
Welch at Hotel Cecilia. Misses
Pielly and Burke are at a
canteen over near Metro
Station "Italie" ^{for the girl} Reports are
favorable in regard to arrangements.
We had a wonderful time
here Xmas for the boys

Two hundred and twenty
boys were served a fine
dinner with everything
from soup to nuts.
Advance Xmas night.

New Years eve we
had a dance and
midnight supper.

The boys seem to
hold us on a same
pedestal you put us.

O! I must tell
you of the loving

cup the boys gave
the girls of the
Etoile Service Club.



The following
~~is~~ is inscribed there
on:

To the girls of the
Etoile Service Club

In appreciation of their
untiring efforts in
our behalf.

The boys

Xmas Dec. 25 1919.

We said in one breath

If only Mother Millan
were here, all credit is
due her for the Club's existence.
I forgot to mention the
cup is mounted upon
black ebony:

A large percent of the
girls have been
sick. Margaret Sullivan
and Elizabeth Treak went
home not in the best
of health, You will no doubt
see Elizabeth as her home
is in Washington D.C.

Many of the girls have
been to Italy, and have
come back with glowing
reports of trip. Gertrude and
I expect to go there on our
next honeymoon.

I hope it won't cause as
much comment as our
last leave.

It is strange to notice
the same ones who
supported you, are
still supporting those
in authority, all working
to one big end.

I am sending account
for \$0.75 to be you game me
to spend for boys in Hospital
I could ramble on but the
other girls can give a
more glowing account
than myself

Love & best of luck for 1920.
your nurse Nellie E. Conway

January 15th 1920

My dear Mrs. Miller:

To assume an apologetic role is not
worthy of my first letter to you -

Suffice to say - I can turn up all
reasons - why, the silence! - in one
word - "Busy". You know, appreciate
and understand what that means.

I feel deeply that you have longed to
hear from your girls, but I put every
ounce of energy, time and devotion into
my work when you left. There had to
be an outlet for pent-up feelings and I
knew of no way this would please
you more and honor the cause more
than by doing my best. I feel I was on

a Staus Too, with Cruel and Merciless Judges, but I think
I have stood the test. I am still at the club. — that, as
You well know — was my heart's desire. I have been
Chosen as one of six on Tail Staff — others — Mrs Moore
Misses Sullivan — Macdonald, Kirkson, Mac and
me. — But, oh my dear, many a time have I longed
to go in Your room and forget, needless to say I
have not gone in that chamber of sorrow but twice
since our last night there — from every nook and corner
came memories — ghosts of yesterdays — Grew some
some and others — oh, how sweet! —

You seemed to understand and know when things
were not right — There were times when the "Seven
horns" were not I could stand in Your room, and
relax. — away from disturbing elements

Miss Conway and I often chat of you — Ellen is a
treasure and her quiet but firm ways is even recognized
by the Powers — that — be — Comprois! —

Outside of club circles I know little, my heart was
and is in the work here — "our boys" have been
wonderful — The holidays left nothing to be desired.

Thank your presence. When we were presented
with our loving cup - the one opinion voiced
"This belongs to Mrs. Miller" echoed thru the room.
It was the boys & I feel as tho a part of it belongs to
me too. It is a beauty and you can feel proud
of it. It is a treasure some folks dare not touch.

They had no part in the winning gift. —
One of the boys said — "It is not so much the
cup this I gain, but what it represents
and is filled with — our love and appreciation
to you girls. You will never know what a
home you have given us here" — That speech

is a balm for the heaviest of heart aches,
and it must console yours. Your influence
has never wavered for one moment. The work
has been carried on by those that were trained
by you and your ideals have been theirs,
I cannot realize we are well into Nineteen -
Twenty - time goes like a gale over here - 'tis
a mad whirl we live -

Miss Conway and I hope to take our
next leave together, sometime the latter part
of February - As most everybody has
tripped to Italy - there will be no objection
to our doing so - !! Many have

gone to England since we did. What a disturbance our
leave to the British Isles was - Ellen and I never see
any of the rest of the 1st Unit - nor our affairs keep
us busy. But right now I am going to remark
that those that criticized under your regime are getting
the worst deals under the present one. They still
criticize but satisfaction never comes.

The interlocking sense of the ridiculous saves many a
trying situation for me.

I went into Liberty about your daughter's Kimona
shortly after getting your splendid letter. I hope
she has received it ere this. Mails have been so
delayed over here - I shall always treasure our close
association together, Mrs. Miller, and I'm proud to have
you entertain the opinion you do of me. - Yes, there were
times when I did suffer - and deeply too. - but
that's in the past and soon I will be in my own
element again - my experience has been worth
it all - I would not give up these big red hooded

American lads of ours for all the Stravinsky
in the world. —

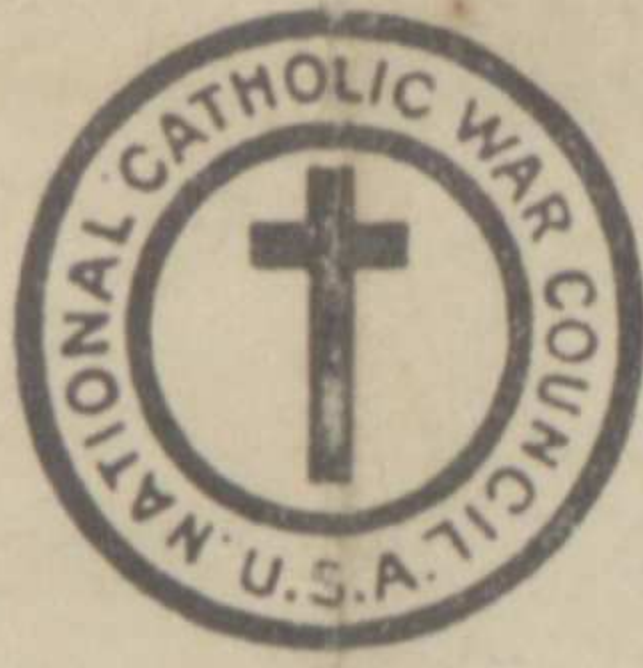
I never spent a better Christmas in my life than
I did here at the club — I've worked as never
before — but if you ^{only} could have seen that
library downstairs set for dinner and
full of such happy faces — It was a
day I shall never forget! —

Do let me hear from you again and I shall
be only too glad to bring you anything
from over here that you might desire —

My best love — Affectionately,

Louise M. T. G. —

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES



MAISON DE LA FEMME BELGE
87, AV. DE LA TOISON-D'OR
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

2.10.19.

Dear Mr. Millar,

I cannot get over the telegram
calling you back to America.
What a shame! whose doing is that?
I hope they will give you a chance
of defending yourself.
Of course, I want my name to be
one of the first on the list to protest
against such treatment & I sincerely
hope that every girl with common
sense will do the same, I very often
thought there were some 'Bolcheviki'
amongst your staff.
I wish I could be near you

to know all the details. The
grudge I have got against
you is to have sent me to
Belgium against my wish.

I was very happy under you in
Paris & here seem to me more of
a "refugium peccatorum" for those
who were dissatisfied in Paris &
such is not my case & I will
proclaim it to the face of
the world.

Two months here already and I have
done a stroke of work yet. There is
no work for me here. I have got my
French against me.

You will not go to America without
seeing me, will you not?

Much love &

Affectionately yours
Lera Perdran

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES



MAISON SAINTE-CATHERINE
1, RUE JEAN-MACÉ
BREST (FINISTÈRE)

February 18th 1920.

My Dear Etoile Mother.

You will never know how happy I was to hear from you. I had wanted so to write you but time is so fleeting and then things happened with such a zip and a bang after you left. I shall not go into details now as I am coming to you too soon for that. I sail on the Savoie, March 13th, and if possible will go west via Washington.

I did not go to Verdun where you had assigned me why,,,,,..... Well I have been most happy here at Brest and Miss Curlett has been most delightful to work with.

Miss Bonney is most pitiful to behold and all I can think when I see her on the streets of Paris looking like a lost soul, is, "Have you learned a lesson?" But no I think not. She is not capable of that. The strong attachment that once existed between her and Miss Coleton is evidently no longer, as Miss C.. just sniffed when her name was mentioned the other day, and said "Oh that lassie, "

It was rather a mystery why I should get a letter from Father Burke when no one else did but I ignored it, intending to see you when I returned and then him. However I am glad he has it, just to know how one individual feels.

It has always been a consolation to me to feel that I could and did have the courage too proclaim the principles for which I stand.

With fondest affection,
Ruth Howard.

ÉTOILE SERVICE CLUB

16, Avenue de Wagram

Paris, France



Feb. 22. 1920

My dear Mrs. Miller

Your very kind letter of January 31st reached me last evening, and I assure you that I appreciate your kindness and thought of me - we have all thought of you, and have spoken of you so often - If you could get a glimpse into the Club now you would find quite a change from the cheer

Use both sides

and bustle of your dinner - most
of the boys, as you know have
gone home, and for the few
who are here the place
seems big. There is no one
on the staff now but Miss
Sullivan, Mrs. Moore and
Miss M^c Bride. By the
time this letter reaches you,
the Club will be closed to the
boys, though I understand
that the girls coming in
from the different houses
will have it for a stepping
stone to the home sailing -

Quite a number are to
sail tomorrow. All of

ÉTOILE SERVICE CLUB

16, Avenue de Wagram

Paris, France



2

the first unit who are still here. Miss Egan. Miss Conway etc - and several others. I think ten in all. I am sure you will be glad to see them. There is another sailing I believe the 6th of March. and again on the 20th so all will be home soon. I have been all mobilized over here and am stopping at the Cecilia. at present I am having some dentistry done and when it is finished I hope to go

to Ireland for a couple of months
to visit my sister before returning
home. I am sure I shall be
glad to see the good old M.
S.A. again. The girls have
all been taking their two
weeks holiday - and all
seem to plan on the same
trip - through the South of
France and to Italy.

I took mine in January
with Miss Condra, and
we had a most delightful
time - first we went to
Londres - from there to
Carcassonne - Avignon
Nice and Monte Carlo.
And then on to Rome where

ÉTOILE SERVICE CLUB

16, Avenue de Wagram

Paris, France



3

we spent five lovely days -
we had a private audience
with the pope. and attended
his mass. I have a friend
in Rome who has lived there
all her life. and she took
us to so many interesting
places that we might
not otherwise have seen.

Miss Knapp is there now
with Christine Hynes and
Lucille Boylan. They all
started on their holiday
last Friday. Poor Miss Knapp
was to have come with

Use both sides.

me, but she got scarlet fever
out at Le Pecq and only came
out of quarantine in time to
take her little trip before she
sails. Several of the girls are
joining the Red Cross. Miss
Osborne has signed with them
and is starting for Albania
next week. Miss Mc. Bride
is seriously considering it.
but if she signs she will
be sent to Turkey. Can
you imagine Mac in Turkey!
She works as hard as ever
with her pies and doughnuts.
I don't know what she
will do next week when
she has no boys to feed.

ÉTOILE SERVICE CLUB

16, Avenue de Wagram

Paris, France



4

About your suit - I spoke to
Miss Sullivan. but she
says she is afraid she
cannot get it, as all the
suits were turned into
the office, and she thinks
they were distributed. I
am so sorry about it.
Of course not being in the
organization now, I could
hardly go down there to
enquire about it. I am
glad you are so well and

still interested in your work.
I am feeling fine - I have had
my trials and disappointments
as you know - but when one
has the consciousness of work
well done, and to the utmost
of one's powers, it is not hard
to hold high the head, and smile.

I hope to meet you some day,
and have a nice visit and
chat over everything -

Good-bye with love from
your girls and boys

Yours very sincerely
Agnes Cavanagh

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES



March 1, 1920

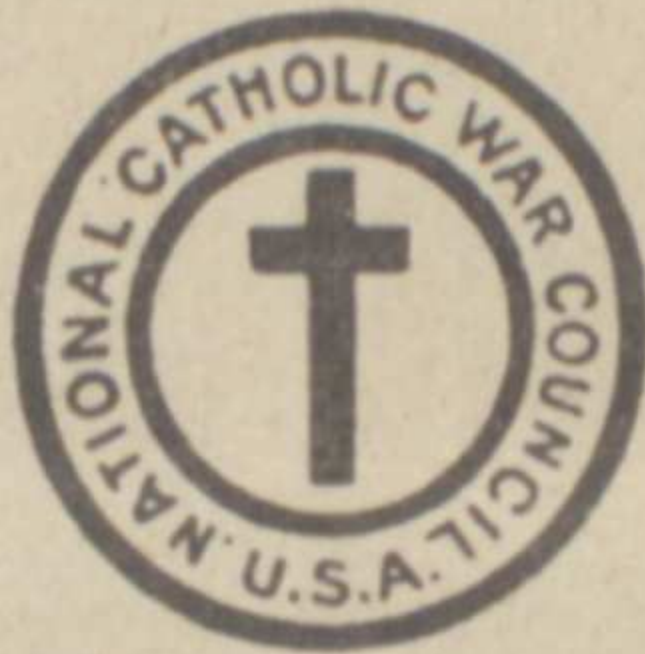
MAISON STE-MARGUERITE
CARREFOUR STE-MARGUERITE
ARRAS (PAS-DE-CALAIS) FRANCE

My Dear Mrs. Millar:-

Your letter of some months ago was certainly welcomed and I sat down and answered it at great length and in detail because I knew you would be interested, - then, too, you are truly the only one I felt I could write to as I felt that time, unburden my troubles and get your advice, - for your letter came like a ray of sunshine after a big storm when I was wondering if it really was 'worth while'. Today Miss Hardwick tells me you inquired if I ever got your letter, implying you must not have received my acknowledgement, and I am adding that letter to the many others that have been miscarried. In fact, thus far I can't find that a single letter I have written since coming to France, - much less that have been addressed to me through the American Express at Paris and re-directed to the Club, have ever reached their destinations. I have not had a single word from home until two weeks ago, and they have been wiring and 'phoning and worrying themselves sick over it. My official army discharge, a months salary and bonus from Ft. McHenry have never reached me, and needless to say I have been upset and worried over it here. It has been fortunate that I have been so busy and occupied with the management and interests of Arras' activities, or I might have matured a good home-sick spell.

But, - to get to your letter again, - I never will be able to tell you what a boom it proved to me the day of its receipt, and had you been my own mother and taken me under your wing it would not have comforted me more, - I felt at the time it was an answer to my prayer for strength in my loneliness, for you know I have never made a confidant of any of my staff, - this from the standpoint of discipline and fear it might create party feeling among the girls and I did so advocate and try to promote unity in our midst. I wanted one unit without 'clicks' in it and the girls responded splendidly to the impulse for a long time. Then the inevitable developed with the same ring leader of the Etoile Club strife as the sorceress, - never open and above board but under-surfacing and instilling the spirit of discontent, - finally getting the girls to feel martyrs and frightfully

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES



No2

MAISON STE-MARGUERITE
CARREFOUR STE-MARGUERITE
ARRAS (PAS-DE-CALAIS) FRANCE

abused, even citing a new leadership in Miss Cruger because she countenanced certain privileges that were not in harmony with the status the French people have of male acquaintanceships. etc. You remember how when the unit first arrived, and for months afterwards, we were held up for want of the sewing machines and typewriters, - also the unfinished house and my final painting it throughout myself so as to get things working, - well, the necessitated idleness got the girls in the habit of no responsibility and matured a listless disinterest in everything, - so that when we did get the machines in December, they immediately felt abused to be asked to apply themselves more than a few pupils a day and I just could not rouse them to any endeavor or enthusiasm. They felt the Council had made a mistake in its survey of the field here and not installed the proper sort of relief agency. Miss Forbes held it should have been a warehouse with herself the active Lady Bountiful and eliminate the red tape of inquiry as to the worthiness of the applicant. Miss Cruger advocated taking only those girls who had a brevet and did not approve of enrolling anyone else, - the quarters were not large enough, etc. and the Council did not expect its personnel to work nights if they gave an afternoon lesson, etc. We had served tea to those who called on us formally at the beginning of our residence, but it had to be eliminated as our work developed and the girls felt abused because I would not allow them to go up town to a teashop every afternoon that was the rendezvous of the English military. I visualized the outcome, acquaintanceships and dinner and dance invitations out to the various camps, and in this danger zone with all the precautions and warnings handed me by both the English and French commandants to keep the girls indoors after dark, - to be always armed myself when on the street, I just could not see the tea-shop advances and the girls felt abused again. Then Laura Donohue came up to replace Miss Forbes who did not weather the place well and was off duty so much. Laura and Drusilla Matthews were always combatants and housing them in such small quarters as this only tended to

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES



No 3

MAISON STE-MARGUERITE
CARREFOUR STE-MARGUERITE
ARRAS (PAS-DE-CALAIS) FRANCE

aggravate the griefs of both, and the long and short of it was we were in a continuous upheaval of angry words which certainly demoralized the activities of the house, and I asked for a change of personnel of both Miss Donohue and Miss Cruger. The latter asked for a transfer to Belgium just at the time of your return to America and Mr. Denechaud did not grant it. She was anxious to be near her people and had joined the Council with that understanding, she said, -assignment to Belgium. When it was not granted she laid down and waited for them to discharge her as she felt she was out of her proper setting. Then I was sent Miss MacVeigh and Miss Hardwick as replacements, both good workers and enthusiastic in the scope of work to be accomplished. I have gone into this detail of explanation and were you closer at hand could explain more that I should like to as I know now just what you went through at the Club with the same stewardness at the helm as I had here. Then too, you are going to hear rumors and tales from the girls when they get back home, how abused they were, overworked, etc. at Arras, and I want you to withhold your judgment, for I know you will not be disappointed in me as a disciplinarian if you have both sides to judge. Was into Paris two weeks ago and Miss Colleton was frank in her statement that I was the most unpopular directress, that the girls all had the same story of being starved and generally abused, etc. I was so thoroughly disgusted to have her show her faith in their tales without consulting me for the right or wrong of it or getting my version, at least, that I just looked at her listlessly and asked her if she believed it all, and when she said 'of course, I do', - they all said the same thing' I was too crushed to offer an argument. She had never been up here to see just what we were doing with, -how we had to do it, -much less knew nothing of the struggle I had to get the girls to work and still keep their good will. The latter may be my own fault as I would not report anything discrediting the standing of a girl if I could possibly do it and up to the request for these transfers which were entirely for the good of the service, never have written one discrediting (much less spoken it) of a member of my unit. I stood by

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES

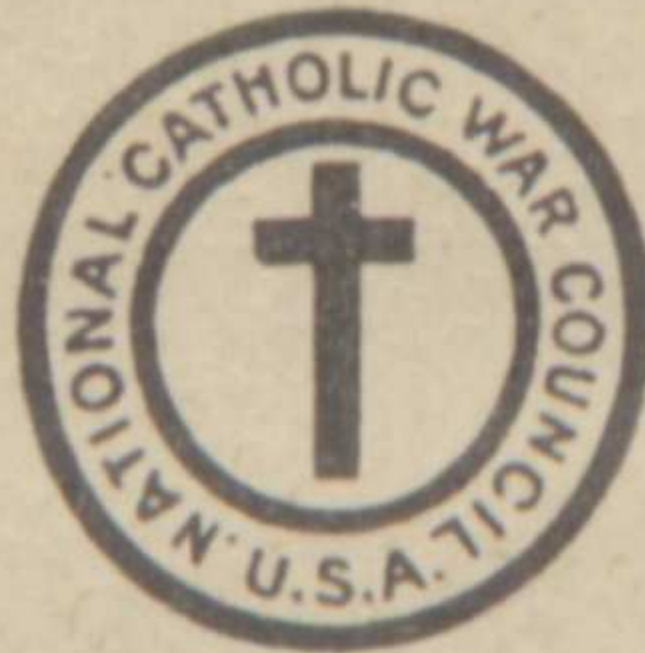


No. 4

MAISON STE-MARGUERITE
CARREFOUR STE-MARGUERITE
ARRAS (PAS-DE-CALAIS) FRANCE

them loyally and taken their post of duty whenever any opportunity for diversion came their way in the desire to keep them contented as they made comparisons with the advantages of the other houses, getting into Paris, etc. All I can say is this, - if I have lost the good will of that click of three, and this loss is to figure against my rating of success in the work of the Council here as directress, - I gladly accept it, for I never could conscientiously have retained it at the cost it made to the service and work of our house. I did ask Miss C. to come to Arras herself, go over the menus we had had for the seven months, - also the figures of our table cost, etc. where it showed just how much we paid for butter, eggs & meat (the grievances) and judge for herself, - and she did stop here on her rounds of survey to all the houses. I was on my leave and I have not had the stimulus to write her since my return as to her verdict, - in fact, I don't care now, - my work is closing in another two weeks, - I've gained my goal, - have night classes with a big registration cater to every girl that make application (and thus far we have not had a single undesirable regardless of the crape-hangers predictions) have secured the barrack and now feeding over 200 children a day (have 225 registered but some are always sick or absent) and paramount over them all, - we have the girls and women crazy over us, - the parents crowding in on us every chance of a cinema or other invitation (as our cinemas average 500 to 600 attendance) - the clergy seeing some merit in our mission and attending our functions in person now - to say naught of the good will of the city administration which you remember were so obdurate and unfriendly. They gave me a crew of 27 German prisoners 'gratis' to fix up the barrack for the Christmas fete (1027 kids in attendance) and had them work overtime that I would not be disappointed. Then they equipped it later for the canteen making me horses, table tops and benches special and without cost - to accommodate 225 at a sitting. They have accepted my invitations to the cinemas and on last Saturday when the travelling movie arrived here, the mayor together with the Prefect, Town Commandant and Pas De Calais historian

NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL
OF THE UNITED STATES



MAISON STE-MARGUERITE
CARREFOUR STE-MARGUERITE
ARRAS (PAS-DE-CALAIS) FRANCE

dropped business and came over to the house to be 'snapped' and they insisted being taken in the process of shaking hands with the American directress and thanking me for our services to their folk. Then they escorted us all over to the garrison opposite where Lafayette mobilized his American expedition, and the Commandant gave orders for everyone on the quarters to report in the field for the movie, - German prisoners, French officers, and all. They are all for us now - late in the game, its true, - but a satisfaction in the knowledge we finally won them over and gained their cooperation in the end. I was thoroughly pleased at this voluntary offer of access to the garrison where no one is allowed to take views and the whole official force appearing.

The house here is to be left as a community center for the girls, - specializing in trousseau making and cooking training for girls - marriage preparation, they term it. It will also feature typewriting. I tried awfully hard to have it used as a dispensary or specialty hospital, - say maternity, contagious, or the like, - but the medical men would not countenance two and they are just opening a dispensary at the hospital. They will also have a crech there, and the city would not vote for two. This can be cleaned so easily it would be wonderful for medical purposes, but probably will do as great a good in its outlined work.

Personally I have applied for assignment with the Red Cross anywhere they want to send me, - there is nothing calling me back to the U.S.A. and I feel the need here is so great for volunteer workers, that it is an obligation that I stay where most needed. I intend to stay in welfare work entirely, - when I get back to the States take a specialty in the College of Philanthropy and make my life more one of 'give' than 'take'. I have found my right groove at last, I feel, but I want to do my work with the most advanced system and train accordingly.

Here, I have sat and written you just as I might visit with you were you closer at hand. I get so interested that I sit and pound off a letter just as I would talk, - and I am going to ask that you treat this as confidential

as I feel that freedom in talking with you, - and I will always remember the encouragement and cheer you gave me in those first weeks of my overseas life, the inspiration for bigger and better service that it imbued and the ideals that were formulated thereof. Moreover, I want you to retain your faith in me, - my life is empty and lonely, but the knowledge that somewhere someone does believe in your worth and endeavor, fills a great big portion of the vacuum. Let me hear from you often, - I love to get your letters and I promise you the same service whenever I can get a spare moment to write.

With every good wish in the world for your well being and success, remember me always as your friend

Margaret A. Sampbell

The address on the letterhead will reach me as I will leave a forwarding one when we close up.

Forgotten news; -

Miss McBride goes to Constantinople with the A.R.C.
(personnel officer)

Miss McDonald to the Government in clerical work.

Miss McTiernan " " " " " "

Miss Osborn A.R.C. to Albania in child welfare work.

Many of the girls are staying over to travel and sight-see since the new demob. ruling.