

**Barnard College Archives**  
**World War I – War Service**  
**2.5 document boxes; 1 linear feet**  
**BC # 26**

**Historical Note**

Barnard College was an active participant in the war relief effort during World War I. Barnard was a partner with Columbia University in the Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work which launched a concerted campaign to assist the country in places such as rural areas suffering from the scarcity of male labor, in foreign locations in need of medical care and supplies, and locally with the soldiers coming from and going to war.

The Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work became the Committee on Women's War Work in June, 1917, and they, along with the Barnard College War Relief Association, spearheaded activities such as the Women's Agricultural Camp that provided manual labor to farms in upstate New York that had lost many of their farmhands to the war; nurses, through the American Red Cross, to assist with the repatriation of devastated towns and villages in France; workers, through the YMCA, to set up and work in canteens in France; and undergraduate students and alumnae who set up and worked at a canteen at the Columbia University Boathouse to feed, socialize with and entertain troops in transit through New York City going home from the war.

**Scope and Content of the Collection**

World War I materials (1917-1921) consist of reports, inventory lists, resupply lists, receipts, informational bulletins, correspondence, solicitation letters for donations and volunteers, booklets, pamphlets, speeches and notes for speeches, newspaper clippings, financial statements and reports, invoices, meeting minutes, certificates, photographs and other ephemera. These materials relate to the war relief work done by undergraduate students, alumnae and faculty at Barnard College.

The materials in the World War I collection are arranged into six different series: 1. Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/Committee on Women's War Work, 2. American Red Cross, France Repatriation Unit, 3. YMCA, France Canteen Unit, 4. Women's Agricultural Camp/Farmerettes, 5. Barnard Boathouse Canteen, and 6. Photographs. The abstracts below describe the contents in the related folders for each subject. The photographs for the entire collection are located in Section 6 although a description of the photographs related to each category has been included in the individual abstracts.

**1. Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/Committee on Women's War Work**

Documents that relate to the overall efforts of the Barnard College community include several Information Bulletins by the Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work (later renamed the Committee on Women's War Work), a government bulletin on War Work of Women in Colleges, a New York City Report of the Committee on Agriculture chaired by Dean Gildersleeve, a form letter calling for volunteers, and handwritten notes and a draft of a

“Clearing House” resolution prepared by Virginia C. Gildersleeve, Dean of Barnard College and chairman of the Committee on Women’s War Work, who was a major force behind the war relief efforts at the college. The photographs in the collection relating to the Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women’s Work/Committee on Women’s War Work include a few photos of the Red Cross Work Room (with duplicates) and six photos that show the dignified celebration accorded French and American officers when they visited the Columbia campus in November, 1918. Personages identified in these photos include Columbia President Butler, Professors Crampton, Knapp, Braun, Baldwin, and Hirst, and undergraduate president Dorothy Brockway. (See Box 2: Folders 6.a.-c. to locate these photographs.)

## **2. American Red Cross, France Repatriation Unit**

The records of the Barnard Unit of the American Red Cross that went to France as a Repatriation Unit from 1917-1919 included a detailed, typewritten account of their arrival in France and their efforts to establish a distribution center, and obtain and distribute goods to the townspeople. Members of this unit were Dr. Eugenia Ingerman ’11, Leslie Gardiner ’07, Edith Balmford ’13, Mildred Hodges ’12, Margaret Peck ’14, Georgia Cerow ’12, Katharine Darrin ’06, Jessie Nottingham ’10, and M. Helen Davies ’16. Also included were a medical inventory, roster of villages served, inventory lists, receipts, donation inventory and shipping list, and correspondence between Miss Leslie Gardiner, the Director of the Barnard Unit, and many of the recipients of the generosity of the Barnard Unit. Additionally, a souvenir-type booklet of photographs shows the Ruins of Cambrai (one of their locations) with picture after picture of rubble caused by the war. In addition to the souvenir booklet of photographs of Cambrai, there are over 20 photos of the living quarters and everyday life events of the Repatriation Unit in France, separate photos of Dr. Ingerman, Mildred Hodges, and Margaret Peck, photos with the British Army Unit that provided assistance, and the surrounding war-battered area. (See Box 2: Folders 6.d-e. to locate these photographs.)

## **3. YMCA, France Canteen Unit**

There are documents relating to the YMCA Canteen Unit in France including a rules book for how to set up and run a canteen which includes fold-out drawings of a model wet canteen, a pamphlet for a conference at Barnard about a preparatory course for overseas canteen workers, and a report by Mrs. F. Louis Slade about the mission of the women’s overseas section of the YMCA and the need for women to work in the canteen units. Alumnae who were part of the canteen unit were Alice Waller ’14, Virginia Boyd ’06, Theodora Curtis ’04, Katharine Gay ’11, Hazel Woodhull ’10, Isabel Totten ’05, Jean Townely ’13, Edith Morgan ’17, and Jennie Wylie ’09. There are no photographs in the collection of the France Canteen Unit.

## **4. Women’s Agricultural Camp/Farmerettes**

The Women’s Agricultural Camp (also known as the Women’s Land Army or the “Farmerettes”) is documented with a Handbook of Standards for the Woman’s Land Army of America, an informational bulletin on agricultural service, and the first annual report of Barnard College’s Women’s Agricultural Camp. In addition, there is a speech by Miss Ida Ogilvie, the director of the Women’s Agricultural Camp, about the history of the camp and the necessity of its continued existence. A few newspaper articles and images of the “Farmerettes” from 1917 and

1918 are also in the collection. There are approximately 20 photographs of the Farmerettes working at the Bedford camp and out in the fields in 1917 and 1918. A few of the photographs are duplicate images. According to handwritten notes on the back of one of the photographs, Barnard students who were Farmerettes included: Elizabeth Waterbury, Effie Ross, Mary Hildreth, Edith Oberlé, Alice Johnson, Marion Alleman, Gertrude Mannis, Jessie Howard, Alice Rice, Elizabeth Alleman, and Dorothy Robb. (See Box 2: Folders 6.f.-h. to locate these photographs.)

#### **5. Barnard Boathouse Canteen**

The most extensive documentation in the collection relates to the Barnard Boathouse Canteen. The records include a typewritten report of the organizational history of the Canteen (which opened on March 6, 1918) and the original committee members, the final report by the acting chairman when the Canteen closed on March 24, 1919, committee meeting minutes, the constitution of the Barnard Boathouse Canteen including an addendum submitted by the student workers, the policies, procedures and rules for the Canteen, correspondence soliciting donations from faculty and alumnae, financial reports, general correspondence, food department reports including detailed invoices, receipts for improvements to the building, two guest books recording the signatures of the soldiers who visited the Canteen from March 6, 1918 to March 18, 1919, several incomplete account books, a certificate acknowledging the contribution of the Barnard Boathouse Canteen, and ephemera such as admission tickets printed with directions, hours of operations, activities and costs of meals. There are three different images included in the photographs related to this collection – two photos of a group of soldiers and women on the Boathouse terrace with warships on the Hudson River in the background, and one interior photo of soldiers and women singing around a piano. (See Box 2: Folder 6.i. to locate these photographs.)

#### **6. Photographs**

The photographs in the World War I collection range from snapshots of everyday life in wartime France to publicity photos of the Barnard Boathouse Canteen. While there are no photographs to document the activities of the YMCA, France Canteen Unit in the collection, there are numerous photographs of the American Red Cross Repatriation Unit in France and the Farmerettes in Bedford, New York. There are only a few posed, publicity-type photos of the activities at the Barnard Boathouse Canteen. The photos in the Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/Committee on Women's War Work section are comprised of a variety of events and war relief efforts that took place on the Columbia and Barnard campuses.

## Box List:

### World War I Materials

#### Box 1

1.a. Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/ Committee on Women's War Work –Information Bulletins	1917-1918	Box 1: folder 1.a.
1.b. Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/ Committee on Women's War Work – "Clearing House" notes, resolution	1919	Box 1: folder 1.b.
1.c. Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/ Committee on Women's War Work – Solicitations	1917	Box 1: folder 1.c.
1.d. Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/ Committee on Women's War Work – New York Mayor's Committee on National Defense/ Committee on Agriculture	1917	Box 1: folder 1.d.
1.e. Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/ Committee on Women's War Work – Essay, ticket, receipts, "stock certificate"		Box 1: folder 1.e.
2.a. American Red Cross, France Repatriation Unit – Reports, inventories, receipts, village roster, donation and shipping lists	1917-1919	Box 1: folder 2.a.
2.b. American Red Cross, France Repatriation Unit – Correspondence, receipts	1917-1918	Box 1: folder 2.b.
2.c. American Red Cross, France Repatriation Unit – Correspondence	1920-1921	Box 1: folder 2.c.
2.d. American Red Cross, France Repatriation Unit – Souvenir book of ruins of Cambrai	1918	Box 1: folder 2.d.
3.a. YMCA Canteen Unit in France – Booklet		Box 1: folder 3.a.
3.b. YMCA Canteen Unit in France – U. S. Committee on Public Information/ War Work of Women in Colleges	1918	Box 1: folder 3.b.
3.c. YMCA Canteen Unit in France – Pamphlet, report		Box 1: folder 3.c.
4.a. Women's Agricultural Camp/Farmerettes –Handbook, information bulletin, First Annual Report, 1917 (4 copies)	1917-1919	Box 1: folder 4.a.
4.b. Women's Agricultural Camp/Farmerettes –Miss Oglivie's speech, newspaper clippings and photos	1917-1918	Box 1: folder 4.b.
4.c. Women's Agricultural Camp/Farmerettes – Women's Land Army : Official Uniforms		Box 1: folder 4.c.
4.d. Women's Agricultural Camp/Farmerettes – Resolution	1919	Box 1: folder 4.d.
5.a. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Organizational history & member roster	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.a.
5.b. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Final report	1919	Box 1: folder 5.b.
5.c. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Invoices, correspondence, financial statements, itemized schedules, receipts	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.c.
5.d. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Meeting minutes	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.d.
5.e. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Constitution, resolution	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.e.
5.f. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Procedures, rules, policies	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.f.
5.g. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Solicitations	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.g.
5.h. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Financial reports	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.h.
5.i. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Incomplete notebooks	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.i.
5.j. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Food department reports	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.j.
5.k. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Tickets	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.k.
5.l. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Correspondence	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.l.
5.m. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Guest book	1918	Box 1: folder 5.m.
5.n. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Guest book	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.n.
5.o. Barnard Boathouse Canteen –Account ledger	1918-1919	Box 1: folder 5.o.
5.p. Barnard Boathouse Canteen – Certificate	1919	Box 1: folder 5.p.
6.a. Photographs – Columbia University Mobilization Committee for Women's Work/ Committee on Women's War Work		Box 2: folders 6.a.-c.
6.b. Photographs – American Red Cross, France Repatriation Unit		Box 2: folders 6.d.-e.
6.c. Photographs – Women's Agricultural Camp/Farmerettes		Box 2: folders 6.f.-h.

6.d. Photographs – Barnard Boathouse Canteen

Box 2: folder 6.i.

Note: see also Dean's Office and Departmental Correspondence, Barnard Farm