

## **AMERICAN FIELD/AMBULANCE SERVICE, WWI**

### **A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources**

#### **CONTENTS**

General Sources.....p.1  
Personal Narratives/Unit Histories.....p.3  
Italian Service.....p.4  
Ernest Hemingway.....p.5

The American Field Service, volunteers who provided ambulance service for the French Army before the United States entered the war, was incorporated into the US Army Medical Department in 1917. Re-designated as the US Army Ambulance Service, it continued to serve with the French for the remainder of the war. Some of the volunteers served with the Italian Army in Italy (see below). This unique service traces back to the American Ambulance Hospital at Neuilly established in 1914 by wealthy Americans living in Paris. Another volunteer group, the American Ambulance Field Service, formed in Apr 1915 under A. Priatt Andrew as an auxiliary of the Neuilly hospital. About a year later, the ambulance service became independent and shortened its name to American Field Service. Meanwhile, parallel but separate ambulance service to the French Army was also being provided by two Red Cross-affiliated groups: one comprised British volunteers under H. H. Hajes and another American volunteers under Richard Norton. These two groups combined into the Norton-Hajes Ambulance Service under the American Red Cross. Once the United States officially joined the war in 1917, the newly created US Army Ambulance Service superseded the function of all the volunteer ambulance groups and attracted most of their personnel.

#### **GENERAL SOURCES**

American Field Service. History of the American Field Service in France. 2 vols. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1920. 1046 p. D629.F8.H5.

Includes separate histories and material on over 30 ambulance sections in France.

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Geller, L.D., compiler. The American Field Service Archives of World War I, 1914-1917. NY: Greenwood, 1989. 87 p. Z6207.E8.A45.

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Gray, Andrew. The American Field Service. NY: AFS Intercultural Programs, 1989. 10 p. F629.F8.G73.

Haller, John S., Jr. Farmcarts to Fords: A History of the Military Ambulance, 1790-1925. Carbondale, IL: U So IL, 1992. pp. 169-75. UH500.H35.

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Jansen, Axel. “heroes or Citizens? The 1916 Debate on Harvard Volunteers in the ‘European War.’” In War Volunteering in Modern Times: From the French Revolution to the Second World War. NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011. pp. 150-62. UB320.W37.

McCallum, Jack E. “Les Sections Sanitaires: American Volunteers in the Great War.” PhD dss, TX Christian, 2001. 340 p. D629.F8.M23.

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Covers the post-WWI history.

Smucker, John R. The History of the United States Army Ambulance Service with the French and Italian Armies, 1917, 1918, 1919. Allentown, PA: USAAS Assoc, 1967. 191 p. #709-Amb.1967.

Includes section histories.

U.S. War Dept. The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War. Vol. VIII: Field Operations. Wash, DC: GPO, 1925. pp. 223-59. UM24.1917-18.A25v8.

**PERSONAL NARRATIVES/UNIT HISTORIES**

Banister, G.T. Friends of France: The Story of the American Field Service (1914-1917) and the American Field Service Medal, Insignia and Documents. St. Petersburg, FL: Banister, 1985. 48 p. CJ5813.B36.

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Bodfish, Robert W. A History of Section 647, United States Ambulance Service with the French Army. Worcester, MA: Stobbs, 1919. 109 p. #709-647Amb.1919.

Bowerman, Guy E., Jr. The Compensations of War: The Diary of an Ambulance Driver during the Great War. Austin, TX: U TX, 1983. 178 p. D629.F8.B693.

Bryan, Julien H. "Ambulance 464": Encore des Blessés. NY: Macmillan, 1918. 220 p. D629.F8.B78.

Buswell, Leslie. Ambulance No. 10: Personal Letters from the Front. Whitefish, MT?: Kessinger, 2007? Reprinting of 1916 edition 155 p. D629.F8.B82.

Camion Letters from American College Men, Volunteer Drivers of the American Field Service in France, 1917. NY: Holt, 1918. 100 p. D640.C335.

Cutler, G. Ripley. Of Battles Long Ago: Memoirs of an American Ambulance Driver in World War I. Hicksville, NY: Exposition, 1979. 280 p. D630.8.A36.  
Includes numerous photos.

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He commanded Sec 552, 1917-1919.

Greenman, Edward. Grandpa's War: The French Adventures of a World War I Ambulance Driver. NY: Writers/Readers, 1992. 239 p. D570.9.G74.

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See esp pp. 84-104 & 189-202 on Richard Norton.

Patrick, Jeff L. "'To the Relief of the Wounded': A History of Section 598, American Ambulance Service in World War I." Indiana Military History Journal (May 1987): pp. 3-8. Per.

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p.4

Reeks, Arthur S. Papers. 1 Box. Arch.

Scrapbook, memoirs, documents re Ambulance Company 7, 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, WWI.

St. Jacques, E.J. Photo Collection. Arch.

Includes Ambulance Service scenes, 1917.

Seymour, James W.D., editor. Memorial Volume of the American Field Service in France. Boston: Amer Field Service 1921. 261 p. D609.U7S4.

Brief biographies of members who died overseas.

Shively, George J. Records of S.S.U. 585. n.p., 1920. 286 p. #709-503Amb.1920.

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Smith, Paul M. "Swift Evacuation: Ambulances and Drivers from America." Der Angriff (Jul 1982): pp. 11-23. Per.

Stevenson, William Y. At the Front in a Flivver. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1917. 257 p. D629.F8.S74.

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U.S. Army. 139<sup>th</sup> Ambulance Company. History of Ambulance Company Number 139. Kansas City, KS: E. R. Callender Print Co, 1919. 86 p. #701-139.1919.

## **ITALIAN SERVICE**

American medical assistance to Italy included 30 sections of the US Army Ambulance Service, sent in June 1918. Half of the sections were very shortly withdrawn for service in France. For information on the Italian operations, see the two above-cited works: John Smucker's History of USAAS, pp. 48-59 & 118-130, and U.S. War Dept's Medical Department in the World War, Vol. VIII, pp. 941-944. See also:

American Red Cross. The Work of the American Red Cross during the War. Wash, DC: ARC, 1919. p. 69. D629.U5.A5.

Bakewell, Charles M. The Story of the American Red Cross in Italy. NY: Macmillan, 1920. 253 p. D629.I7.B3.

Includes appendix listing personnel by section.

Burka, Edward R. "The Army Ambulance Service in Italy, 1918." Military Collector & Historian (Spring 1987): pp. 41-42. Per.

On uniform & insignia.

Davison, Henry P. The American Red Cross in the Great War. NY: Macmillan, 1919. pp. 207-21.  
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**ERNEST HEMINGWAY**

Before the arrival of USAAS sections in Italy, volunteer ambulance service was provided by the American Red Cross, beginning late 1917. Volunteer Ernest Hemingway, served in Section 4 of the Red Cross Ambulance Service in Italy. See:

Sanford, Marcelline Hemingway. "At the Hemingway's: Ernest Returns From War." Atlantic (Feb 1962): pp. 60-66. Reprint, BiogFiles.

Smith, Paul M. "The Famous and the Extraordinary." Der Angriff (Jul 1982): pp. 23-27. Per.

Villard, Henry S. "A Prize Specimen of Wounded Hero." Yankee (Jul 1979): pp. 72-77 & 134-45.  
Reprint, BiogFiles.

**See also:**

-biography on Ernest Hemingway in Biographies.