

American Red Cross Abroad

The Great War and Aftermath 1914-1922

Purpose: This exhibit traces the American Red Cross (ARC) transition from a tiny volunteer group in 1914 to an international organization with a global war relief and public health mission by 1922.

Scope: This exhibit will explore the ARC work first under its motto "humanity and neutrality"

*On US entry into WW1, the ARC went abroad with the American Expeditionary Force (AEF).

*The ARC was also tasked to provide support for the Allied armies and civilian populations.

*Mail generated, particular the ARC stationery with ARC return addresses, illustrates the extent of this complex mission of the ARC work as a major part of the US war effort.

*The ARC mail reveal significant postal history in mail handling among its various missions, e.g. in France, typically free franking through the AEF, in Italy, Italian censorship sent via the Italian post, while in Turkey, via one of three non-US field post offices.

*The ARC created a postal service in Paris formed a post office with censors and a courier service.

*In 1919, the ARC expanded to become a primary provider for war relief and global public health.. Mail ranged from defeated Germany and Austria into the turmoil of the new nation-states of Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and the Middle East.

*The ARC Commission to Siberia served US soldiers, the civilian population, and POW's.

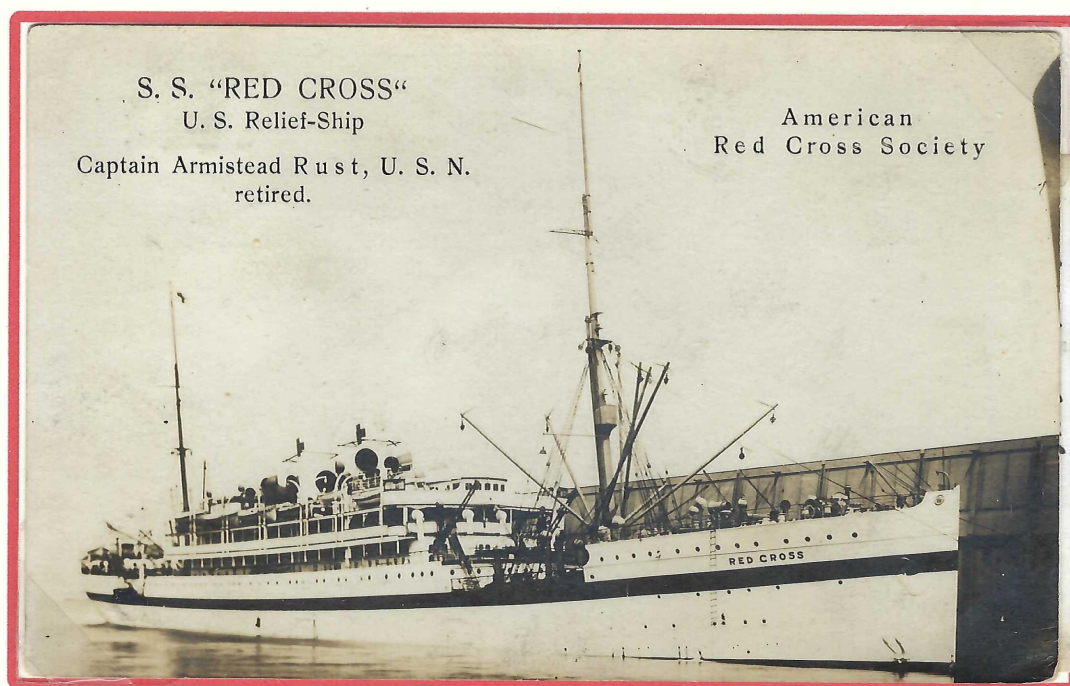
Importance: The ARC made a major contribution to the US and Allied war effort.

* This exhibit fills a historic and philatelic "blind spot".

* The extensive ARC mail and its postal service is a fresh chapter in military postal history.

* To highlight the transition, the ARC chose a new motto "the Great Mother of the World" officially endorsed in 1931.

ARC First Mission *SS Red Cross* 1914



Official ARC Society card of *SS Red Cross* formerly *SS Hamburg* ready for her single voyage. JT Donnelly Engineer writes: "Falmouth, England. Sept. 28 1914. Just a little remembrance of the Red Cross" Uncensored.

American Red Cross Abroad

Section A "Neutrality 1914-4/17"

Frame I. 3-4 SS Red Cross
4-12 ARC Volunteer Teams
13 Christmas Ship USS Jason
14-16 ARC Indirect Support

Section B "Yanks at War" 1917-19

Frame II. France 1917
1-4 Base Hospitals 1st to the Front
5-8 ARC Direct Support
9-12 ARC Military Hospitals
13-16 Lansing Sisters "Deux Drapeaux"

Frame III. France 1917-1919

1-7 ARC Paris
8-12 Support for the People
13-15 ARC France
16 Society of Friends

Frame IV. Abroad 1917-1919

1-4 Xmas 1918
5-8 ARC England
9-10 Mission to Russia
11 USS Gen. O'Reilly
12 Occupation of Germany
13-16 Post Armistice France

Frame V. Italy 1917-1919

1-2 ARC Support
3-7 ARC Locations
8 Franchigia Postale
9-12 Propaganda Postcards
13-15 Ambulance Service
16 "Finito"

Section C "Call It Peace" 1919-22

Frame VI. Europe

1 POW Berne
2 Germany
3-4 Austria/Hungary
5-12 ARC Post Office and Courier
13-16 Poland and the Baltics

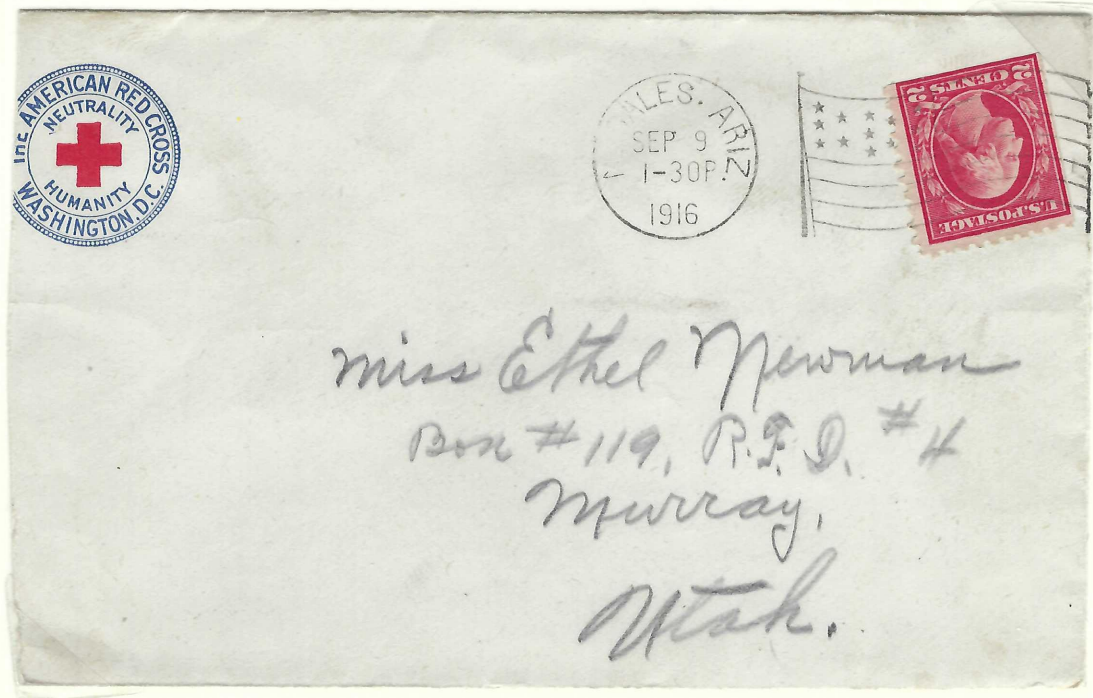
Frame VII. Balkans and Palestine

1-7 Balkans
8 Greece
9-11 Turkey
12-16 Palestine

Frame VIII. Siberia and Beyond

1-6 Commission to Siberia
7-9 Camp Service
10-11 POWs
12 Children's Colony
13 Farewell Russia
14 Western Hemisphere

"Neutrality" 1914 to April 1917



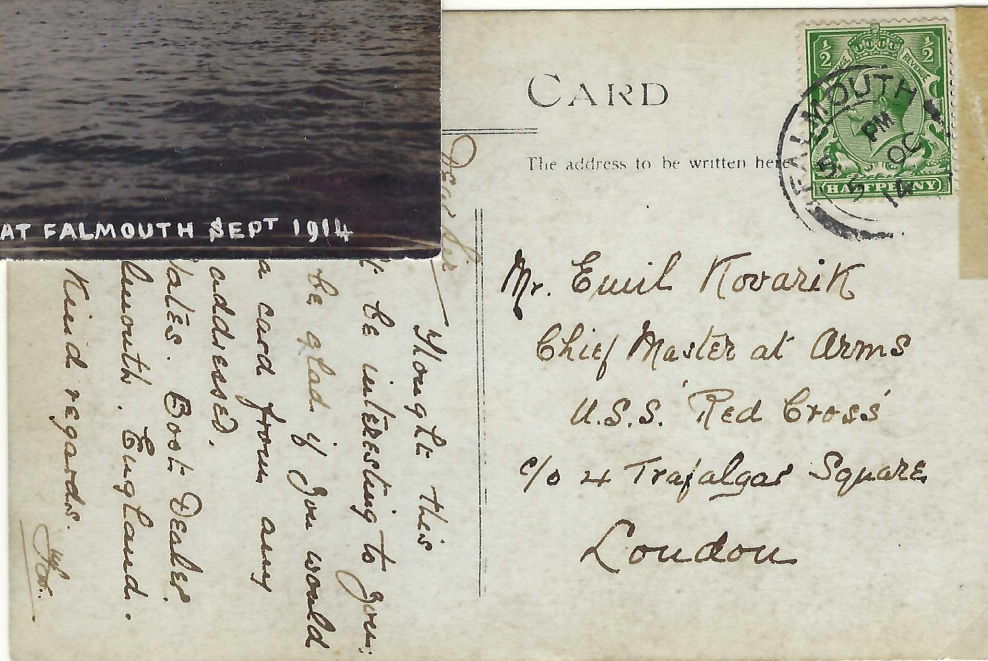
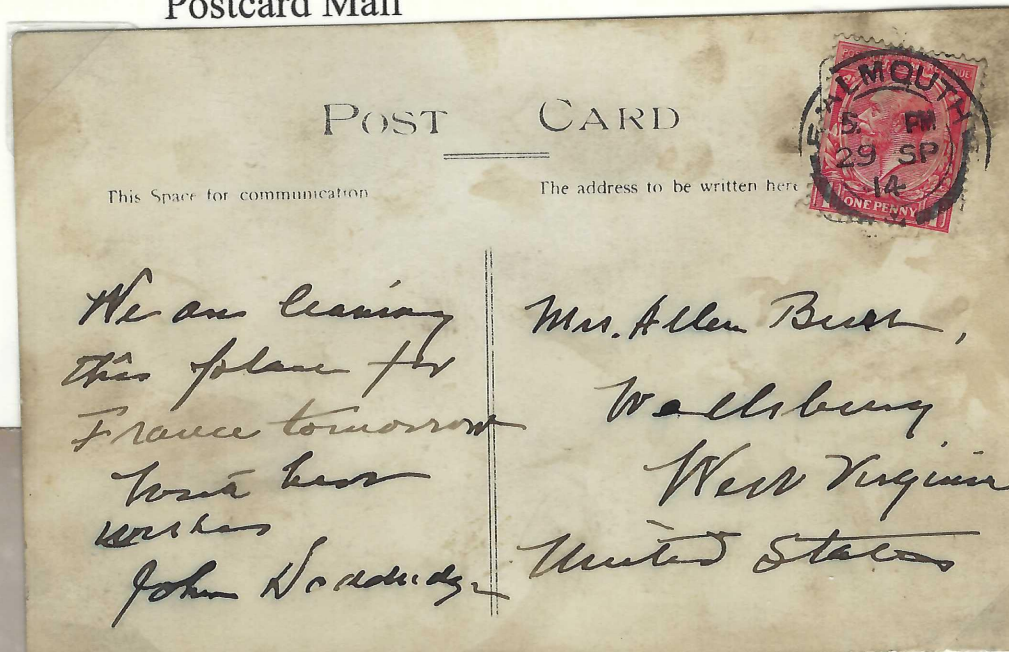
ARC stationery with its motto "Neutrality Humanity" mailed at the border by a Utah National Guardsman mobilized during the Pershing Punitive Expedition in 1916. ARC mail for this mass mobilization is quite scarce.

40 Items of Significance red outline. 7 DISCOVERY ITEMS NOTED IN GOLD.
Postal Notes in blue text.

Abbreviations/Notes. AEF American Expeditionary Forces used in both Europe and Siberia
ARC American Red Cross (CRA for French/Italian spelling)
APO Army Post Office (US or British) MPES Military Postal Express Service WW1 US Army postal service
OAS "On Active Service" British equivalent of "Soldiers Mail" (French used "FM" or "SM")

Neutrality
SS Red Cross

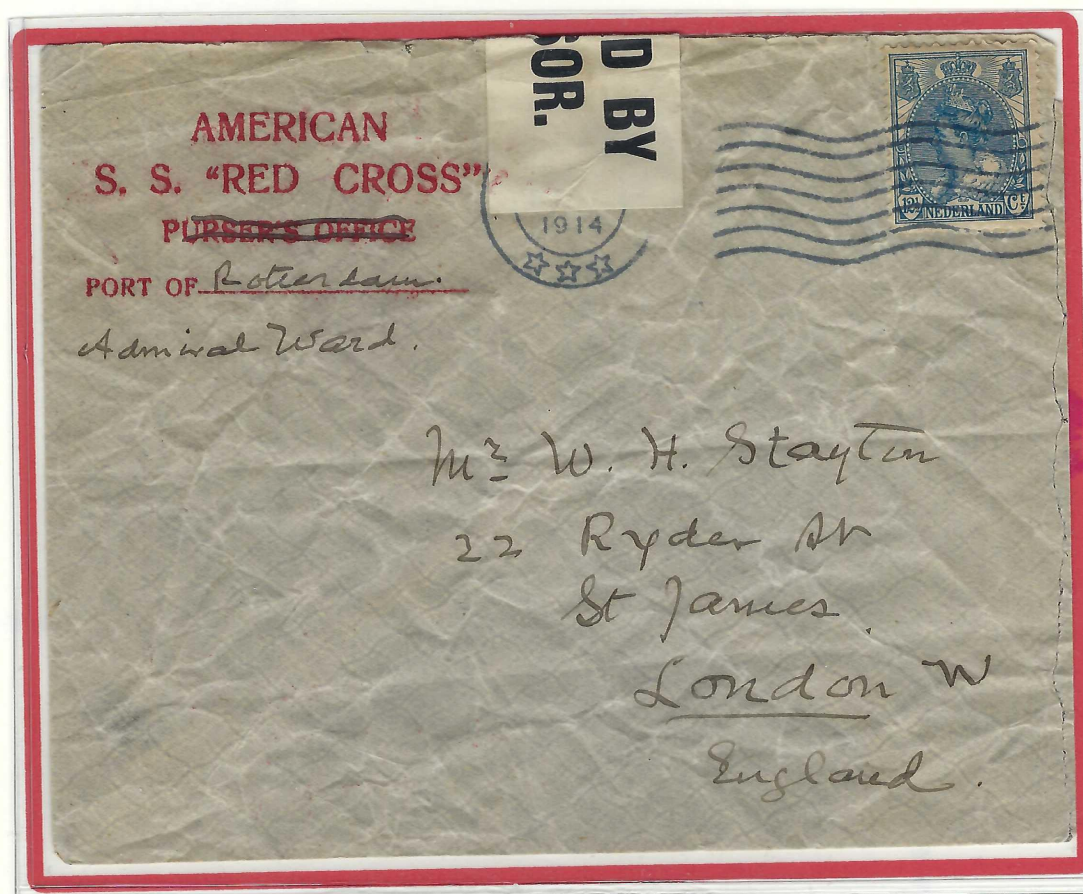
SS Red Cross Falmouth September 1914
Postcard Mail



Incoming and outgoing post cards from the SS Red Cross. The ship carried 10 ARC volunteer medical teams and 10,000 tons of medical supplies. Commander John Doddridge was the executive officer and Emil Kovarik Master at Arms. Card likely created by its sender "Yates Book Dealer Falmouth".

Neutrality
SS Red Cross

SS Red Cross Rotterdam 1914



SS Red Cross return address envelope from expedition commander Admiral Aaron Ward USN ret. At Rotterdam, the four medical units assigned to serve in Germany and Austria-Hungary, disembarked. The ship returned to New York to complete its one and only voyage. **Only known example.**

Neutrality
Volunteer Medical Teams

ARC Unit "C" in Russia

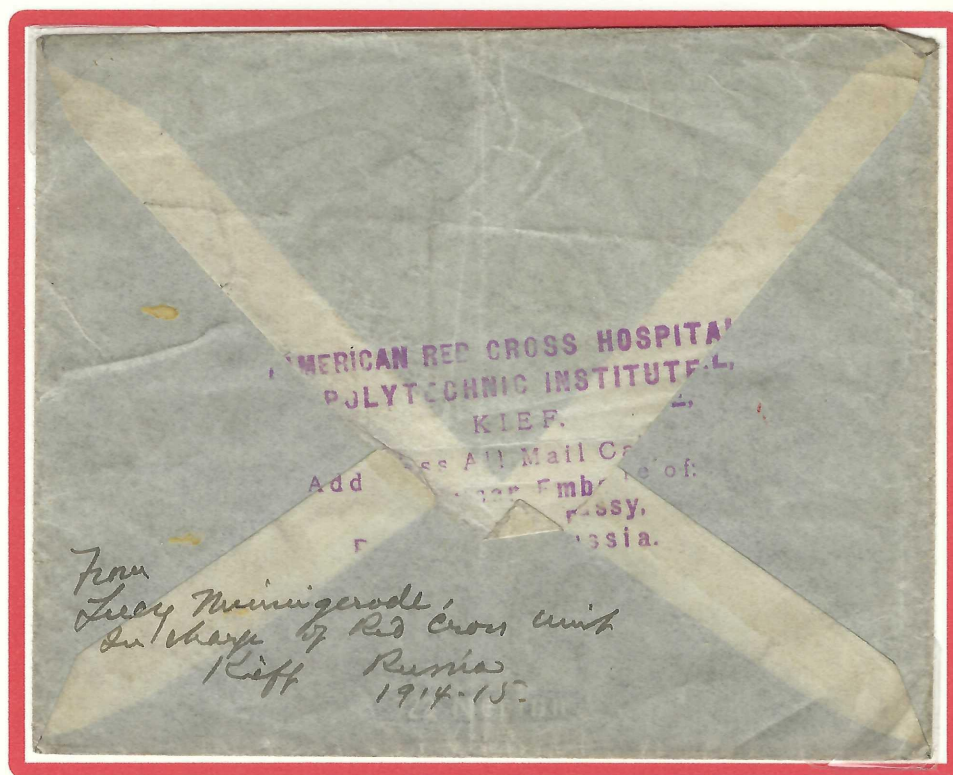
REVERSE:
cyrillic DT
"censor
allowed"
and 10c
postage due



ARC return address envelope mailed "KIEB" (Kyiv) with Russian Imperial free franking stamp, 2-line "North American United States" and circular Red Cross stamp "Russian Society of the Red Cross* Hospital of the Chapter of the North American United States".

Neutrality
Volunteer Medical Teams

ARC Hospital
Polytechnic Institute



Circular "ARC" and on back flap "ARC Hospital Polytechnic Institute Kief"
with directions for incoming mail through the American Embassy in
Petrograd. Mailed in early 1915. **DISCOVERY ITEM**

Neutrality
Volunteer Medical Teams

ARC HOSPITAL UNITS "C and H"
Russia

Address: American Embassy,
Petrograd, Russia.

AMERICAN RED CROSS



HOSPITAL UNITS „C“ AND „H“.

Kiev, Russia 3/14

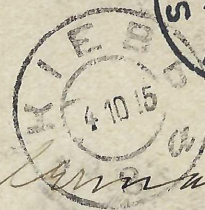
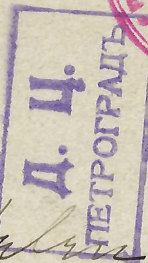
*Dearest Missy - I am so sorry for you all over the loss of your
dear, aunt Nell; It must have been a great consolation
to you, to be able to be with her & do something for her -
wish I could have done something for my poor old dad
when he was ill - I cannot realize it yet that he is dead
Thanks for your nice letters I love to hear from you
and the love from your mother*

AMERICAN RED CROSS



HOSPITAL UNITS „C“ AND „H“

ADDRESS: AMERICAN EMBASSY,
PETROGRAD, RUSSIA.



Miss Helen Linderman

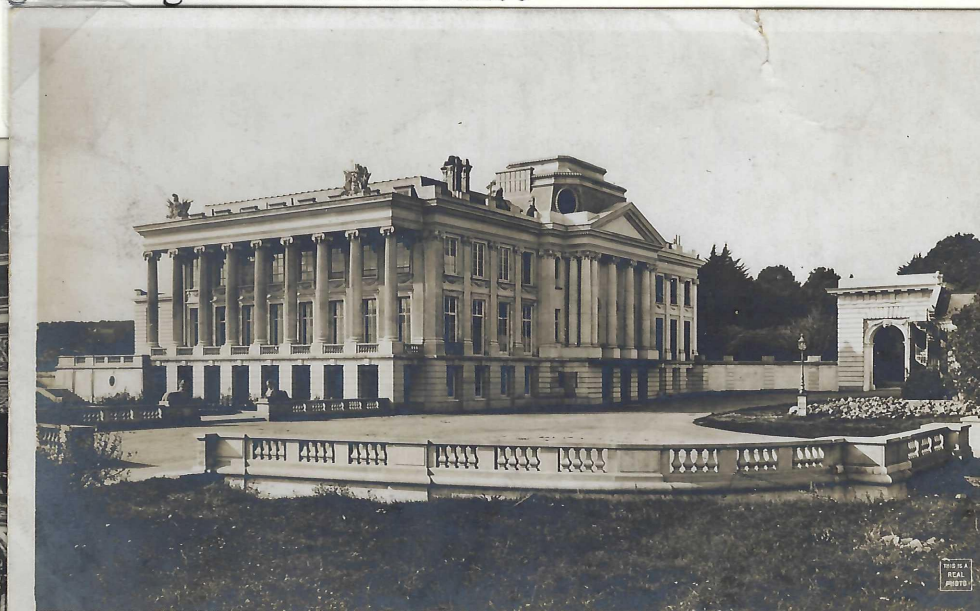
*South-Bethlehem,
160 East 91st St
New York City
U.S.A.*

Mailed "KIEBb" (Kyiv) 4.10.15. Return address "American Embassy, Petrograd, Russia" also on the ARC Stationery. The original 10 teams were withdrawn by October 1915. **LATE MAIL.**

Neutrality
Volunteer Medical Teams

ARC Unit Sites
Paignton England and Pau France

ARC Site England



AMERICAN WOMEN'S WAR RELIEF HOSPITAL, OLDWAY, PAIGNTON, DEVON, 1914.



AMERICAN WOMEN'S WAR RELIEF HOSPITAL, OLDWAY, PAIGNTON, DEVON, 1914.

ARC Site France



Les Pyrénées Illustrées
433 — PAU - Palais d'hiver - Le Palmarium



PHOTOTYPE LABOUCHE FRÈRES, TOULOUSE

Contemporary post cards "American Women's War Relief Hospital" Paignton Devon and "Palais d' Hiver" Pau Les Basses Pyrenees, sites of the ARC volunteer medical teams.

Neutrality
Volunteer Medical Teams

ARC Unit I Gleiwitz Germany



German Feldpost
mail to Helen Fritz
ARC nurse Unit I.
Free franking

Incoming post cards to Unit I addressed "Victoria Theater" or "American Red Cross Conzerthaus". Unit G was at Cosel Germany.

Neutrality
Volunteer Medical Teams

ARC Unit K
Vienna Austria

Dr. H. Denison
K. u. K. RESERVE-SPITAL Nr. 8.

XII, Johann Hoffmann-Platz Nr. 20.



Amerikanische Rote Kreuz-Mission.

WIEN



Rec'd Jan'y 28" 1915.

Mr. Henry A. Denison,
1913 S. Compton Av.,

St. Louis,

Missouri,

Via Italien



Dr. WALCOTT DENISON,
AMERICAN RED CROSS,

K. u. K. Reservehospital Nr. 8

XII Johann Hoffmannplatz 20
Wien, Austria



Mr. Henry A. Denison,
1913 S. Compton Ave.,

St. Louis,

Missouri,

U. S. A.

durch Dänemark
oder Rotterdam

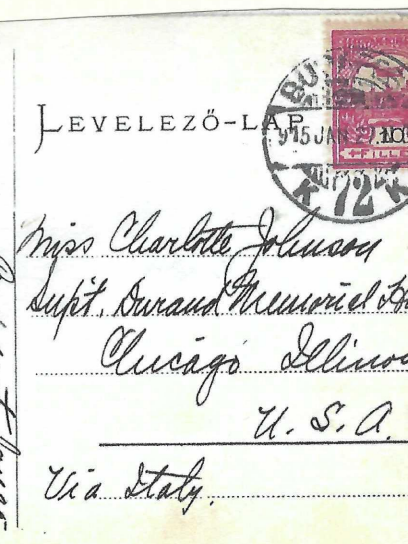
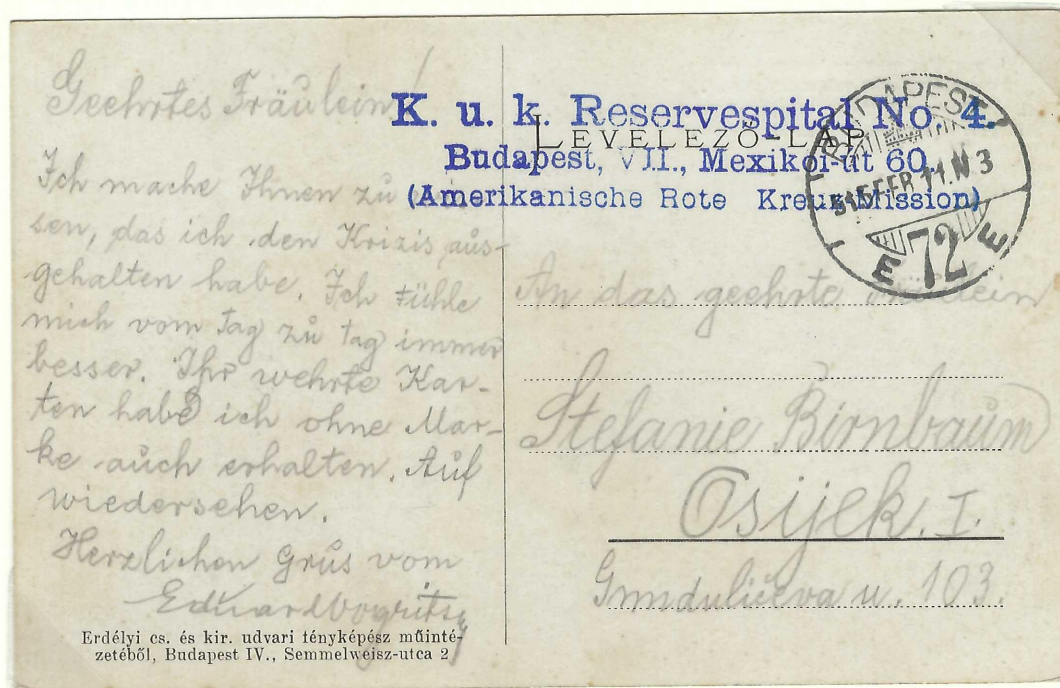
Rec'd - June - 27"

"Imperial and Royal Reserve Hospital Nr. 8". Upper envelope mailed 11. I. 15 marked "via Italy". The lower a simple Red Cross mailed 25. V. 15 now directed "durch Denmark oder Rotterdam", a result of Italy's entry into the war.

Neutrality
Volunteer Medical Teams

ARC Unit E
Budapest Hungary

K.u.K. unit
stamp allowed
free franking



Upper stamped "Imperial and Royal Reserve Hospital no. 4 American Red Cross Mission". Lower card of the hospital from Katrina Hertzner ARC nurse. "c/o US Consulate" and "via Italia" indicate of mail routing

Neutrality
Volunteer Medical Teams

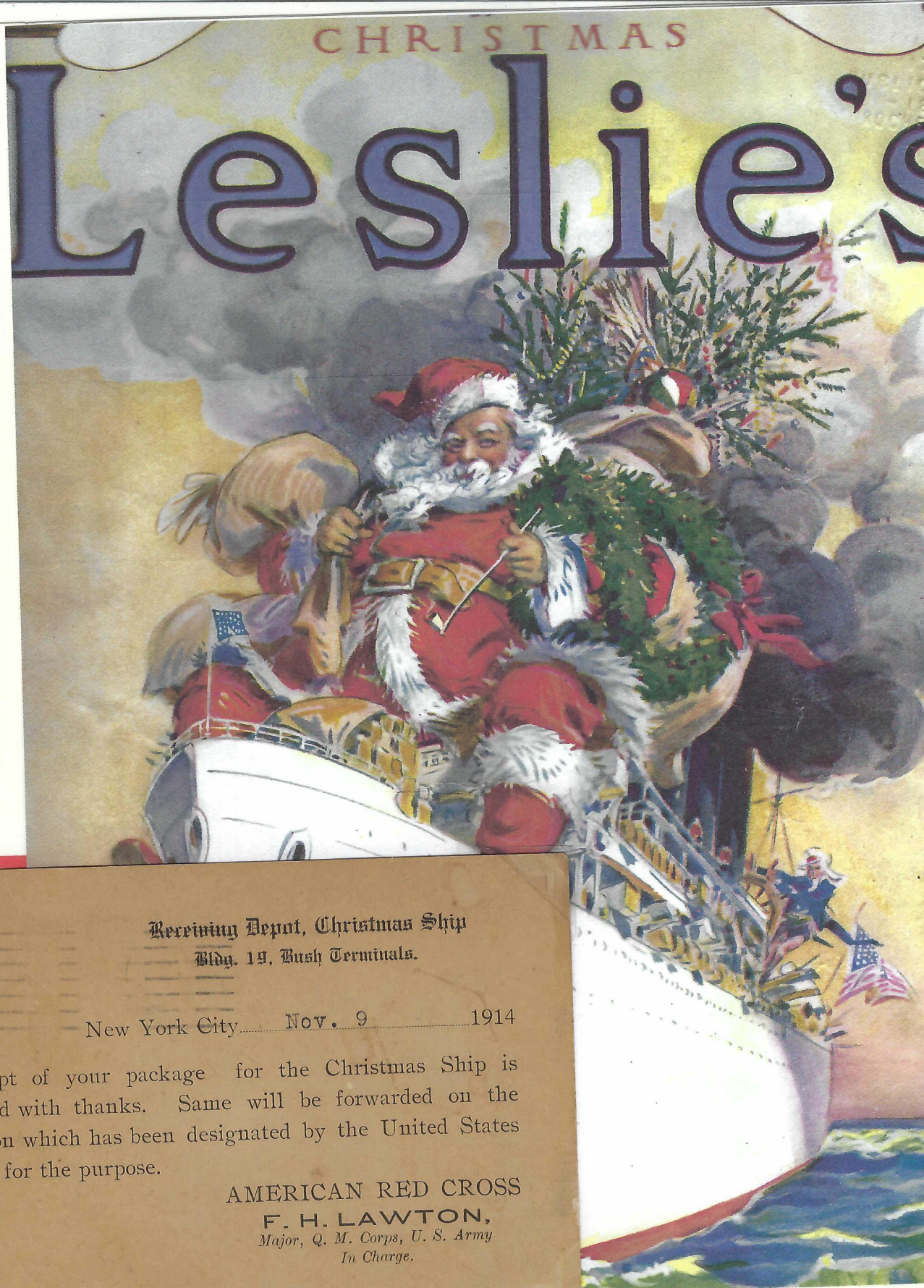
Red Cross Service Sophia Bulgaria
ARC Unit E Budapest Hungary

Bulgarian
postage
with French
censor
"opened by
Military
Authority
368"



Mail from Dr. Charles Pancoast. Lower from Budapest Jul 12 1915 with two censor stamps and Red Cross unit stamp upper corner. The upper marked Apr. 4 1916 six months after the withdrawal of the volunteer teams finds him in Sophia Bulgaria.

Neutrality
Christmas
Ship
USS Jason



Package
Receipt
Card

Receiving Depot, Christmas Ship
Bldg. 14, Bush Terminals.

New York City Nov. 9 1914

Receipt of your package for the Christmas Ship is acknowledged with thanks. Same will be forwarded on the U. S. S. Jason which has been designated by the United States Government for the purpose.

AMERICAN RED CROSS
F. H. LAWTON,
Major, Q. M. Corps, U. S. Army
In Charge.

The receipt signature block includes ARC and US Army Quartermaster Corps. *USS Jason* (AC-12) aka the Santa Claus Ship carried 5 million gifts for children of all five major combatants, plus Belgium and Serbia. It sailed in December 1914. Leslie's Magazine cover celebrates the event.

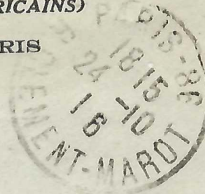
Neutrality
Direct Support France

American Relief Clearing House
American Fund for the French Wounded

AMERICAN RELIEF CLEARING HOUSE

(COMITÉ CENTRAL DES SECOURS AMÉRICAINS)

5, RUE FRANÇOIS 1^{ER} • PARIS



Peter Bent Brigham Hospital

Monsieur le Président du

Surgical Dressings Committee,

BOSTON



AMERICAN FUND FOR FRENCH WOUNDED

(Comité Américain pour les Blessés Français)

ALCAZAR D'ÉTÉ, CHAMPS-ÉLYSÉES, PARIS



Miss Virginia Baumer,
Home Service Department,
American Red Cross,
307 First National Bank Building,
Syracuse,
New York,
Etats-Unis d'Amerique.

ARC was heavily involved in both of these organizations. The head of the Clearing House, H. Herman Harjes was also the chief representative of the ARC in France. President Wilson's insistence on neutrality explains the absence of direct reference to the ARC.

Neutrality
Direct Support France

The American "Ambulance" Neuilly/Juilly

Mrs Munroe Room 183
AMERICAN AMBULANCE HOSPITAL
Lycée Pasteur — NEUILLY-sur-SEINE



Miss Helen J. Hinckley

America, Women's War Hospital

Paignton

S. Devon

England



*in. Stamps
Garage.
Service.
AMBULANCE AMERICAINE
FIELD CENSO
BLESSE
1542
Navy Stores Dept
Medical Department
a St.
Westminster
London*

CARTE POSTALE

Correspondance

*Am spending the week in
Juilly with my squad.
There is not much to do
here and I am having a
good rest after a hard
two weeks in Paris. Hope
you are having a good
time in the work. When
you going to Mexico?
I am to be hard for
getting more and more
fascinated with this life.
Love to all.*



1819 Gale Station.

*1209-1st Ar
New Haven Conn.*

Great Falls

Etats-Unis

d'Amérique

Unmont

1916 AMERICAN AMBULANCE CORPS.



2 — AMBULANCE AMERICAINE — Juilly (S.-et-M.) — La Cour des Ambulances

In 1914 the French government offered the Lycée Pasteur in Neuilly to the American Hospital of Paris. Letter marked "Ambulance of the Hospital of Paris" "Ambulance" was the French designation for a military hospital. A second unit was established at Juilly "Ambulance Americaine B" closer to the front.

Neutrality
Direct Support France

Three ARC Ambulance Services

"Conducteur Services
Sanitaires Americaine #5"
Harjes formation



"Ambulance of
the American
Hospital
*Ambulance"

"American Volunteer
Ambulance Corps"
combined Norton
Harjes formation



ARC was involved in three US volunteer "formations" in France prior to April 1917. All sent via French military post "Tresors et Postes"