

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

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Mrs. W.H. Heisen

[Scrapbook]: World War I

Denver, Colorado: 1917 - 1919

\$900



Octavo. Fabric covered boards. Very good with cracked gutters, staining, and worn edges. A scrapbook kept by an American Red Cross volunteer, Mrs. W.H. Heisen from Denver, Colorado, beginning in 1917. The first page reads, "this book is dedicated to the American Soldiers in the World's War for Democracy." Heisen collected newspaper clippings, soldier's photographs, and various ephemera from her time with the Red Cross including a hand made patch she was given "for faithful service in the gauze room." Many of the articles have to do with Colorado soldiers, one of which reads, "Colorado-Wyoming Soldiers Saved Paris by Stopping Hun Drive" which discusses a group of field artillery soldiers from the area stopping a German "drive across the Marne."



Also included are letters from soldiers with whom Heisen corresponded, some of which are affixed to the pages while others have been copied down and retained in the book by Mrs. Heisen. One letter from a Sergeant Faley reads, "I enlisted in the army May 17, 1915 and expected to see all kinds of real fighting before I had my recruit drills learned for all the papers were full of war." She also includes photos of her in her Red Cross uniform as well as images sent to her from soldiers, some portraits of the men and others photos from the barracks and training camps. These include one of a crashed plane which was used for cadet training with the caption, "a cadet is allowed 5 planes to be damaged or "crashed" before he is reprimanded." Other photos include a plane flying captioned, "sunset Everman, Texas;" and an aerial view of a Texas airfield which reads, "the photograph was taken at an altitude of 2900 ft with a 4x5 English "pin point" camera... the whole Western Front is photographed with these cameras... please take care of this photo as they are...not for publication." Two photos are from the "boys from the 116th Aero Squadron Southern Field, Americans, Georgia."

The book ends with a page dedicated to her farewell from the Red Cross with a photo, napkin with a printed cross, and a card with her name on it. Below the photo she writes, "the Red Cross ladies from Barnum and some souvenirs of the chicken dinner they gave for me on March 28th 1919. Twenty ladies were present, we had a lovely day. Mrs. Hull presented me with 4 yards tating and the ladies gave me a boquet [sic] of carnations. Many pleasant hours were spent working with these ladies. I enjoyed every one of them."

A interesting collection depicting a woman's time with the Red Cross during World War I. [BTC#402239]

This book is dedicated to the
American Soldiers
in the World's War for
Democracy
and is the property of
Mrs. W. H. Heiser
1134 Downing St.
Denver, Colo.



Presented to me September 20th 1917
By Mrs. J. H. Brewster.
For faithful service in the quaze room.



Taken in Bamum on the grounds
of the Congregational church. ~~March~~ March 28 '19

I was inducted into the services of the

U.S.A. March 6-1918

Having been rejected for a year before
that, being a half inch too short.

I left McBrand went to San Antonio
Texas. Kelly Field.

Starting Soldier life then I stayed in
Kelly Field about a month. then
was put into the 116th Aero Squadron
in Kelly Field no. 2. which is the Flying
Field. I stayed there about a month.

Moving with the Squadron to American
La. Southern Field.

Which I like better than I did Kelly Field.

I hope France will be our next
move.

God bless you and all other red cross workers.

Sincerely,

Pvt. Bert. P. Rife

Home
Western Neb
Saline Co.

116th Aero. Sqd. Southern Field.
American La.

At Bliss Texas

Feb. 10. 1918

I enlisted in the army May 17. 1915 and expected to see all kinds of real fighting before I had my recruit drills learned. For all the papers were full of war. but after a few weeks this all passed over and I left Jefferson Barracks, Mo. for San Diego, Cal. where I joined the 1st Cavalry. We stayed there for three months then went to the Border. where I remained until last June.

The night Villa raided Columbus, N.M. we were called out. and were told to begin packing up to leave and join Gen. Pershing to Chase the Bandit.

We all worked hard to load our horses and equipments. Thinking we were going to see some of that real soldiering we heard the old-timers talk about.

Then came orders to leave our equipments on the cars and wait for further orders. The orders came a week later and they read "Pitch Camp This was done

UNCLE SAMUEL HAS SET HIS 'WATCH ON THE RHINE'



What the Yankees 'Forgot.'

When our soldiers arrived in France in any considerable numbers, they were trained to trench warfare. Most of their preliminary work in the cantonments in this country had been with the idea that the war was to be settled in the trenches. The first great German offensive in March changed that idea. It was pretty evident then that the fighting was to be in the open.

Much of the training that was given in this country thus had to be abandoned at the start of real warfare. The Americans who plunged into our first great national offensive at Cantigny had been put thru a "brushing up" process. As Frederic Palmer has put it, the "trench kinks" had to be straightened out of their legs. There was a short period of intensive drill, to supplement whatever training in open warfare had been given over here, and then the Yankee boys were given the word to "go" and found themselves at last privileged to take part in the great conflict.

How rapidly they accustomed themselves to the change, and how brilliantly they succeeded in open warfare, history now records. With characteristic American initiative they proceeded to adopt practically a new line of fighting. All the work of weeks and months in learning trench warfare was forgotten, and the soldiers while actually under fire "brushed up" on open tactics.

The style of fighting in which they found themselves involved was naturally more pleasing to the Americans than the trench style. The American temperament is too nervous and restive not to welcome the sort of fighting that means quick decision. Cantigny, Belleau wood, Vaux, Chateau Thierry, the Vesle, Saint Mihiel and finally the bloody fighting in the Argonne, all testify to the brilliant maneuvering as well as the courage of our soldiers. Yet the men who achieved such things were in training only a few months, and most of that training was along lines of semi-defensive fighting in trenches. The student of history will marvel that so much could have been accomplished under such circumstances.



"Some Crash" Overman Fld. Texas

The Red - Cross Ladies from Barre and
some survivors of the chicken dinner they gave for
me on March 28th 1919. Twenty ladies were present. We
had a lovely day. Mrs. Hull presented me with 4 yds. taffeta
and the ladies gave me a bouquet of carnations.



Mrs. HEISEN



Many pleasant hours were spent working with
these ladies. I enjoyed every one of them.