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FACTS ABOUT THE SALVATION ARMY

By ELIZABETH TYLER

The people of the South are once more called upon to give. This time it is for one of the most worthy of all causes—the Salvation Army Home Service Fund.

When war was declared the Salvation Army workers went over seas with our boys and down into the trenches into the very jaws of death. They crossed the sea with our boys with never a thought of personal injury—never dreaming of the wave of popularity or publicity they would get for this noble Christian service; they had only one desire and that was to serve our boys when they most needed friends. They spent much of the money that it had taken them many years to collect in small change—spent it ungrudgingly—because they saw that our boys needed it.

All they asked in return was that they be allowed by their every day examples to teach the Christianity our Savior taught while on earth.

Many soldiers tell of the wonderful work the Salvation Army has done overseas. To me there is nothing unusual about that work, but it is the same kind of work and service the Salvation Army has always given here at home—at our very own doors. It has taken the stories told by the returning soldiers who have come to know the Salvation Army to bring about this wave of popularity for the Salvation Army, but the Army has always worked and served as they are now serving.

It reaches a class of people that no other religious organization can or attempts to reach. The men and women that are too ragged and miserable to attend the services at our churches—they reach the poverty that hides and shrinks in the by-ways of life. A man or woman can never fall so low, but that this army of earnest workers stretch out a helping hand to them. Every man, woman and child in America should contribute to this Home Service fund because there is not a corner in our beloved land, however remote, that does not receive direct benefit from the Salvation Army, for fifty per cent of the population of the cities is made up of people that come from small towns and from those remote sections and ninety per cent of the boys and girls that appeal to the Salvation Army for assistance are those who have come to the large cities and find themselves unequal to the struggle for existence.

The Salvation Army conducts Rescue Homes, Day Nurseries, Homes for the Helpless and Aged and Blind, Lodging Houses for the men and women that are unable to pay and free clinics—it extends its services everywhere that misery and poverty exist.

Soldiers Tell Of Overseas Work.

The soldiers that are returning from France after their hard struggle have nothing but words of praise for the Salvation Army, and from the lips of a soldier now at Camp Gordon comes a story of a frail Salvation Army lassie that defied the shot and shell of the Hun and carried him three miles to a first aid station and saved his life—that man is Sergeant James McCoy of Co. E 17th Infantry. Sergeant McCoy is the proud possessor of the Croix de Guerre, and the famous Belgium medal for bravery was among the first Americans to join the Allies in the great world war.

"It was on my twentieth birthday, August 5, 1918, in the famous Argonne Forest that I received five machine gun bullets in my legs as a sort of a birthday present from the Hun," says Sergeant McCoy, of Camp Gordon, Atlanta, Ga., as he extolled the work of the Salvation Army abroad. "The rain of bullets from the machine guns brought me to the ground with hundreds of my comrades. In spite of the pain, I crawled along, and after making two miles towards a first aid station I fell in a faint and lay there with shot and shell bursting around me. I will never know who found me, but when I awakened I was looking into the eyes of a frail Salvation Army lassie, who had bound my wounds to check the flow of blood and who was bathing my face bringing me back to consciousness."

"It was after midnight, and the only light around us came from the bursting bombs and the hand grenades which were being hurled by one of the strongest battalions of the German Crown Prince. She bade me have courage and said that she would carry me to the nearest first aid station, which was three miles away. She unloosed my equipment and carried me in a military fashion straight out over that perilous journey three miles away. Time and again she stopped to regain her strength and each time after she was ready to go on she would bathe my face and make me as comfortable as possible. How long it took her to bring me through that shot ridden land I will never know, for I afterwards learned that I fainted several times during the journey. It was daylight when the lassie carried me to the first aid station and after she

had placed me in the hands of my sturdy comrades she sank to the ground unconscious."

This is only one of the many things that I know of concerning the Salvation Army and their work with the American troops abroad. They are the greatest friends we have, and, if the American public can only be told of ten per cent of their heroic deeds in No Man's Land the appropriation of \$12,000,000, asked for by the Salvation Army, will be but a drop in the bucket of the funds actually received.

Brothers, sisters, wives or sweet hearts of the American soldiers should always love and support the Salvation Army, for they owe that wonderful organization a debt of gratitude, for by its example of humble Christian service it has implanted in the hearts of the world through her fighting men a renewed faith in Christ and the seeds it has sown in No Man's Land and at the training camps, which will spring up and bear fruit that will give the world the first real taste of democracy.

Heroes Explain Why

In the following words Private Frank Ivy, of Goldsboro, N. C., sums up what he has seen of the work of the Salvation Army abroad. Private Ivy, who was a member of Company K, 167th Infantry, was severely wounded in the early battles of Soissons while he lay on his cot at Fort McPherson Hospital, waiting time to heal the wounds inflicted by the Huns, he was at his happiest period as he discussed the work of the Salvation Army, both here and abroad.

When he learned of the coming drive in May for additional funds for this great cause, the wounded hero said: "I hope I am out by that time and, if I am not, there are thousands who would go far and wide to tell the people of this country just what the Salvation Army stands for, what it did for its boys under shell fire, in the hospitals, and, in fact, everywhere we went, the Salvation Army worker was bound to be there. This is no advertising campaign, for all the boys will have to do is to tell the truth of this great work and the great American public will do the rest."

Sergeant George Henderson, of Jacksonville, Fla., who was wounded at Chateau Thierry, is following the example of Private Cook and organizing the discharged soldiers of Florida to put over the Salvation Army Drive in his home State, as the Salvation Army so ably assisted to put over drive after drive in the cruelest days of the great world war.

"We doughboys know how to help, and we are going to do it," says Sergeant Henderson. "The Salvation Army cared not for shot or shell, for their only thought was to aid others in spite of the personal risk to themselves. They started in the war with us at our training camps in America and remained with us until we put the Hun back on his own ground and started him on the greatest retreat that a losing army was ever forced to make."

Debt of Gratitude

America will never know the gratitude she owes to the Salvation Army and the number of lives that this little sturdy band of workers saved by their fearless actions in the greatest of all fights."

Hundreds of statements have come to our office from those who know of the Salvation Army's work in the trenches.

There will be no vital change in the administration of the work. The Tambourine Girl will no longer circulate among us, however, except at devotional services. The big drive is for funds to replace this smiling lassie and release her from collecting small change to devote her entire time to a work of mercy. The people of America will be asked to contribute once each year instead of all the year round to the Salvation Army and perpetuate its work.

Some of the most prominent men in the South will tour this section of the country in the interest of the drive. Judge J. S. Reynolds, formerly Solicitor General of the Augusta Circuit and one of the best known lawyers in the South, is chairman of the speaker committees. He has gathered about him men who have made good in their respective lines and who will speak in the behalf of the Salvation Army Drive.

Among the prominent speakers who will tour the South are: Judge Marcus Beck, of Georgia; Dr. S. E. Bell, Walter P. Andrews of Atlanta, Clifford Walker, Attorney General for Georgia, Rev. James Horton, C. Murphy Candler, Georgia Railroad Commissioner, Hooper Alexander, District Attorney, and many others.

The Salvation Army is not basing its plea for funds on its war record. It has behind it in America forty years of work as thoroughly and conscientiously rendered as was the work of the Army last and lassies in the trenches and on the battlefields of France. I know the people of America will help.

Several thousand veterans of the Argonne Forest recently entered New York harbor. Among them were several badly wounded Marines. One man, easily distinguished because of a coat sleeve that dangled empty at his side and a Croix de Guerre, was making his way slowly to the waiting ambulance when a Salvation Army girl approached him and offered doughnuts and coffee. "Now I know I am home," he said. "Those doughnuts helped a whole lot 'over there,' and, first crack out of the box when we land, we find more waiting for us. The best thing about the Salvation Army work out near the front line was the smile that accompanied the gift. Those girls had a knack of wrapping up every doughnut and every cup of coffee in a smile. The doughnuts were fine, but the smile—that took the place of powdered sugar." The Salvation Army Home Service Fund Campaign for \$12,000,000 opens May 19, to last one week.

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Mrs. Kate Margulis, Middleburg, Logan Co., Ohio, writes as follows:

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—THO. F. RIGGS, Iowa Falls, Ia.

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