

AMERICAN

Y.M.C.A.

# On Active Service

## WITH THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE

May 3, 1918.

Miss Ida M. Tarbell,  
132 East 19th Street,  
New York City

Dear Miss Tarbell:

I have your fine letter. I can't tell you how much good it did me and how much I miss our talks together. With that line holding but bending badly, it is pretty hard sometimes to keep one's poise thru things. I would give a good deal, if I could see you and get your reaction on this present situation.

I am awfully glad to hear that all thru the South and West you find people stirred up on this thing. It is perfectly evident, after you have been over here awhile, that it is no longer a question of America doing her bit. We must do more than that, if we are going to do this job. Of course, the only recipe for keeping sane these days is to be so busy that you do not have time to think. In fact, as Jac said to me the other day in Paris "there is no use whatever in thinking that even the smartest have the faintest idea of what is going to happen". Dr. Vincent, who was here talking to our boys last week - who by the way spoke very warmly of you - said the same thing, that this thing has become a sort of giant beyond the control of anybody or anything.

I gather you are standing your trip pretty well. I had letters from Alice Rice and George Martin the other day and they both spoke of how well you looked. I am hoping that you feel equal to coming over this summer. I don't know whether you would feel like spending sometime working in the Y.M.C.A., but it would be one of the best things in the world to see the thing at first hand and get right in it. I wrote to Alice about this. Of course, I was an idiot to think for a moment that she would leave Cale, but she would be a perfect marvel in this thing. All her Mrs. Wigg's philosophy would be heaven sent for this particular work.

I missed Miss Morgan on her return. She lunched with Jac when I was in Paris the same morning that I dined with him and she sent a message for me to call her up, but I was leaving early the next morning and did not get a chance. Of course, I would have liked to have seen her, but I did not care so much, so long as you said you hadn't had a chance to spend much time with her, since mainly I would like to have gotten some news of you. I take it she had some scrap on her hands in America and I gathered that she and the Fund for the French Wounded are going entirely separate ways now. Where is Miss Marbury in all this? Everybody who has seen Miss Morgan's work is full of enthusiasm for it.

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I dined last week in Paris with some New York people, who are now living in Paris and they had been working with her. I suppose she will want you to go into that work with her, but I knew this end of the thing is more important, and I think you will feel so too.

I had a note from Ray the other day. He is in London, and said he would be in Paris any day now. Of course, I will see him, when he does come.

I ran into Irving Cobb the other day in Paris. He has been out on the front in the battle and was going right back. If this battle will ever stop, he is going to spend a few days talking to our boys in the huts and he has promised to come here one of the first places.

Give my love to everybody. When you have a chance you know I am always grateful for your letters.

Faithfully yours,

*Robert*

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