

67 WALL STREET
NEW YORK

January 23rd, 1945.

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

I know you must have a very heavy mail to attend to - so heavy, perhaps, that one letter more or less won't make much difference.

I am interested in the work of the American Field Service because I have a boy in it who was unable to pass the physical tests for active service and was rated 4-F, but who, in this service, driving his ambulance at and near the front, feels that he is doing his full part in the war.

The American Field Service has its main office in New York City, at 60 Beaver Street. It is always ready to hear from or to interview personally any men disqualified for the regular services, who feel they can be of use in this voluntary organization. The enclosed folder tells about the service.

I wonder if you might like to say a word about the American Field Service in your daily column. I know how widely it is read and as the A.F.S. gets its volunteers from all over the United States, it seems to me that a little message about it might bring it to the attention of some who could find in it a splendid outlet for their energies and for their desire to serve which may have been thwarted by some relatively slight physical disability.

I have not had the pleasure of seeing you for a good many years; not since the Groton School 50th Anniversary celebration which you and the President attended. I hear quite frequently from my brother Lathrop, who has settled down in California, apparently for the duration. I hope he will come East later.

May I ask you, if you have the chance, to give my sincerest good wishes and affectionate regards to the President as he takes up again his hard task.

I am,

Very sincerely yours,

Charles S. Brown

".... In serving our Allies,
they serve America."

Franklin D. Roosevelt



".... I am most grateful for the
help and invaluable work render-
ed by the A.F.S. They have march-
ed with us over many miles and
have never failed to render in-
valuable and efficient service."

General Montgomery

THE AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE

The American Field Service is a small volunteer organization of ambulance drivers, serving with the armies of our Allies. It functions with the approval and support of the War Department, the Department of State, the British War Office, the authorities of the Fighting French, and of the generals in the field. It was organized in France in 1914, and in the last war served in the Balkans and in France. Two of its drivers were made members of the Legion d'Honneur; five received the Medaille Militaire; two hundred twenty-seven received the Croix de Guerre; fourteen gave their lives before America's entry into the war.

In this war, we have served in France, Syria, and East Africa. We have been with the Eighth Army and with the Fighting French from Bir Hacheim (where we had heavy losses) and Tobruk, through the retreat to Alamein, on the Alamein Line, and in every step of the advance from Alamein to the surrender of the Germans in Africa. Our ambulances and drivers were in Tripoli the day it fell; in Tunis, the morning after the fall of that town. Our units are now working with the Gurkhas (the shock troops of the Indian Army) in Burma, and with the Eighth and Fifth Armies in Italy. Some were used in the landing at Termoli; others crossed the Garigliano on rafts with the infantry; others

took part in the landing near Rome. We are now organizing a unit to serve with the Fighting French; this, it is hoped, will see action in still another theater of war.

Our men volunteer for eighteen months service from the time of their departure, but very many re-enlist. They are technically civilians, but are in uniform. They are attached to the armies of our Allies in lieu of troops which the Allied Armies would otherwise have to furnish; they are under the military discipline of the armies to which they are attached. They must pay for their equipment, passport fees, inoculations, etc., which is estimated at approximately \$150.00. They are paid only \$20.00 a month, but arrangements are made to transmit to them any funds which they or their families may deposit with our New York office. While they are abroad, they are maintained by the armies to which they are attached, and they receive medical care from them in case of sickness or injury.

Before our entry into the war and in the early days of the war, we took, and were encouraged to take, young men in perfect physical condition. They saw action much sooner than they could have in any other way, and their experiences have been of great value to them and to the American Armed Forces, which most of them, with our encouragement, have since joined. Now we accept

only men unable to satisfy draft board requirements for first line service, and we can truly say that we furnish such men an opportunity for service with the troops that would not be open to them in any other way.

Though we are less numerous than we were in the last war - only some seven hundred men in all - we are still growing. As in the last war, we have had our losses and our honors. We have had seventeen deaths, of which eleven have been in battle and from wounds; we have had twenty-nine others wounded, and eleven were taken prisoners. Two of our drivers have received the Medaille Militaire; thirty-two have received the Croix de Guerre; one has been appointed to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and has received the British Empire Medal; one has been appointed Honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire; four others have received the British Empire Medal, and four have been mentioned in British dispatches. The African Star has been authorized by the British for all members of the American Field Service who have served in the Desert Campaign.

There is one more aspect of the situation. Our men work in intimate contact with both officers and men of the British Armies - with Englishmen, Scotchmen, Irish, Welsh, Australians,

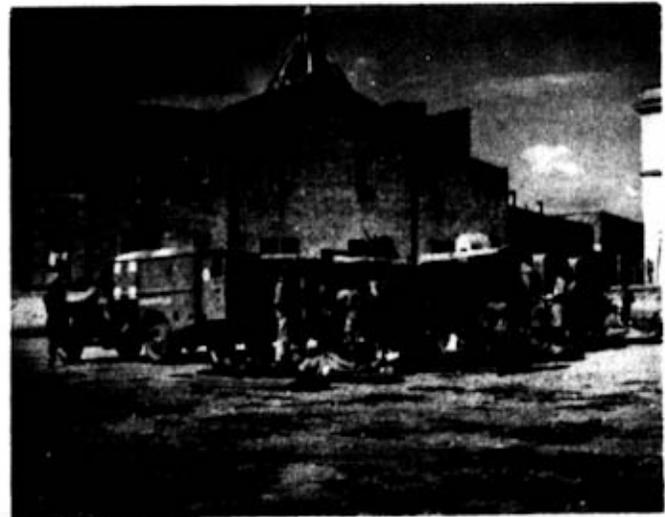
South Africans, and New Zealanders. They have worked with the French, and are to be with them again. Under the conditions of military life, our men form close friendships with these soldiers of our Allies; they grow to understand them and to be understood by them. We do not believe they will be worse Americans because of their experience - quite the contrary - but we do believe they will be informal, lifelong ambassadors of international good will and understanding.

They take an active, useful, and merciful part in this war; they will be better equipped than most to bring a spirit of understanding and sympathy to the international problems that will arise after the war. The American Field Service offers a real opportunity for 4-F men, whose desire to render active service to the cause of their country in this crisis, would otherwise be thwarted.

".... I wish to congratulate all members on valuable and important work they have performed since AFS units commenced operating with British Forces."

General Sir H.M. Wilson
(Commander-in-chief Central
Mediterranean Theatre)

".... The services which they provided were of great assistance to the war effort and it is hoped that they can be continued. Many examples of unselfish devotion occurred and resulted in comparat-



ively heavy casualties as these people work under exposed conditions and have an outstanding reputation for single-minded purpose."

General Eisenhower