

this is the only clipping we got.

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SPECIAL

BOOKS DISPEL ENNUI FOR U. S. DOUGHBOYS

Chicago Woman Tells How Library Body Is Serving Soldiers Abroad.

BY HARRY HANSEN.

SPECIAL CABLE TO THE DAILY NEWS.
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Paris, France, Feb. 26.—The American doughboy is getting restless because there are no more Germans to kill. Whether he is guarding the main street in a town in Germany or doing military police duty on the boulevards of Paris he yawns in his spare time and mutters the familiar, "Where do we go from here?"

The American Library association believes it has found an antidote for this letdown in snap and go due to the absence of fighting—books. It is making use of the money allotted to it in the fall campaign to get books to the doughboy just as rapidly as he calls for them. No matter if he is patrolling the streets of Coblenz or waiting for a ship at Brest, the response from the doughboy is remarkable, as is shown by the avalanche of letters received daily at the headquarters in Paris.

Chicago Woman in Charge.

Mary Eileen Ahern of Chicago, long identified with the A. L. A. work, came here two weeks ago at the request of Herbert Putnam, librarian of congress, to help speed up the work of getting books to the soldiers. In the remarkable rooms of the association overlooking the palace of President Poincare Miss Ahern described to me the other day how the soldiers find new fields opened to them by books, how the requests are piling in and how books are sent under the franking privilege anywhere and returned in the same manner with practically no loss. At the same time she opened a vista of the tremendous results likely to be achieved by the army schools for which the A. L. A. is now assembling 500 working libraries of books cov-

ering all subjects and trades, including horseshoeing, farming, teaching and book-keeping, as well as classical studies.

"The absence of a high objective among the soldiers," said Miss Ahern, "has caused some sort of a relaxation. Part of this appears in the physical condition of the soldiers, a great number of whom, released in a measure from regular hours, uniform food and tense expectation, are not remaining at the high grade maintained in actual war time. This relaxation makes greater demands on our supplementary organizations, like the American Library association.

Better Results Assured.

"We have been increasing greatly in power and popularity in the last six months. The administration of the book service for the American expeditionary force has been given entirely to the A. L. A. by the military. This assures much better results than if the books were handled by the other welfare agencies having numerous other activities. Our library service has been especially developed for the army of occupation; the service of supplies and the 1st army, which is now going home. A librarian directs the book service in each army. J. P. Jennings of Seattle is the librarian in Coblenz and supervises the distribution of books in the army of occupation. He has installed a great American library in Coblenz and the commanding officer in each camp details his best man as librarian for his unit.