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UMass Amherst Libraries 

# Lloyd Walsh Papers

1917-1930 (*Bulk:* 1918-1920)

3 boxes (4.5 linear ft.)

Call no.: MS 541



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In June 1917, Lloyd Walsh volunteered for duty in the American Field Service, and for three months, he served as an ambulance driver for Service Section 68 (S.S.U. 68). When the United States entered the war later in the year, however, most AFS units were transferred to the American Expeditionary Forces or disbanded, and Walsh transferred to ambulance duty with the American Red Cross. He continued to serve with the Red Cross after war, stationed in Vienna, eventually rising to the rank of Captain.

The collection includes a thorough paper trail of Walsh's work as a volunteer with the AFS and Red Cross during and after the First World War, along with a capsule service record, correspondence, and news clippings that flesh out his experiences. Adding

to the picture is Walsh's decorated Red Cross footlocker, two German helmets, and two Hungarian posters.

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Medical

World War I

## Background on Lloyd Walsh

Born on December 6, 1894, Lloyd Walsh felt the call to serve well before the U.S. entered the fray of World War I, and during the winter 1916-1917, he volunteered with the American Field Service to serve in the ambulance corps attached to the French Army, and by June 1917, he was assigned for duty with Section Sanitaire Unis 68 (SSU 68), an outfit comprised almost exclusively of young men from Amherst.

During the late summer 1917, Walsh's unit served on the front lines in France, where it frequently came under fire. With the American entry into the war in September 1917, Walsh chose to transfer into the American Red Cross (ARC), where he served as an ambulance driver. Stationed in Neufchateau, he helped ferry patients, supplies, and equipment between the front and hospitals and dressing stations in the rear and, while stationed in Paris in 1918, he witnessed some of the early air raids. Walsh received recognition during the summer 1918 for leading a convoy of fifteen ambulances under aircraft fire to evacuate the civilian population at Beauvais.

During the Second Battle of the Marne on July 21, 1918, after his commanding officer was wounded at Pierrefond, Walsh assumed command of his section. After tendering the wounded to Chantilly, Walsh accidentally drove to the front, where he was fired upon by a German plane, taking cover in a ditch under his ambulance. For his service, he won promotion to Second Lieutenant on July 26, 1918, and was put in command of a new section of fifteen ambulances at Chateau Thierry in August. He sustained minor wounds during a gas attack on August 2.

Following the Armistice, Walsh remained with the ARC in Europe. Placed in charge of transport at Tours on December 12, and promoted to 1st Lieutenant, he had charge of a crew of fifty mechanics and drivers and sixty ambulances. Awarded the American Field Service Medal on January 3, 1919, he was promoted to Captain during the spring. Ordered to Budapest in September, he helped escort Hungarian officials to Bucarest to purchase gasoline and benzene for the Hungarian government and the American Red Cross, and for the next year, he served in "various capacities with the Commission to Austria and Hungary, American Red Cross," including operating as Transportation Officer for the Vienna Unit and courier for the Austrian Section of the Reparation Commission. In late July 1920, he resigned his commission to return home in the hope, he wrote, of earning more money.

## Scope of collection

Although lacking personal correspondence, the Walsh collection includes a thorough paper trail of Capt. Lloyd E. Walsh's work as a volunteer with SSU 68 of the AFS and the ARC, along with a capsule service record, correspondence, and newsclippings that flesh out his experiences. The realia in the collection are noteworthy, including two Hungarian war-date propaganda posters, two German helmets, and Walsh's foot locker, the latter plastered with stickers from places he visited.

Among noteworthy items in the collection are the scripts for two plays put on by men in Walsh's command, ca.1919, and a letter of Aug 26, 1919, in which Walsh pieces together a precis of his time in the AFS and the ARC, and a series of letters and documents from December 1919 relating to his role escorting Hungarian officials to purchase gasoline and Benzene. Written in English, Hungarian, Romanian, and German, the letters are a telling hodgepodge of the difficulties of maneuvering through the former Austro-Hungarian Empire. Also intriguing are a letter from a German or Austrian man in September 1919 who claims to have invented an improved car part and who sought Walsh's assistance in obtaining an American patent and a letter from the the ARC informing Walsh that his mother had not heard from him and requesting that he write her as soon as possible.



Lloyd E. Walsh

## Inventory

Advertisements

ca.1918  
Box 1: 1  
American Express Company Checkbook  
ca.1918  
Box 1: 2  
American Field Service Bulletins  
1917  
Box 1: 3  
American Red Cross Ambulance Reports  
1918  
Box 1: 4  
American Red Cross: Special Requisition For Supplies  
1918 Mar.  
Box 1: 5  
American Red Cross Receipt Book  
ca.1918  
Box 1: 6  
Certificate: Inspector, Red Cross  
1919  
Box 2  
Certificate: Secretary, Red Cross  
1919  
Box 2  
Cinema des Nouveautes: Movie Ticket  
ca.1918  
Box 1: 7  
Correspondence  
1917  
Box 1: 8  
Correspondence  
1918 Jun.-Sept.  
Box 1: 9  
Correspondence  
1918 Oct.  
Box 1: 10  
Correspondence  
1918 Nov. 2-7  
Box 1: 11  
Correspondence  
1918 Nov. 8-29  
Box 1: 12  
Correspondence  
1918 Dec.  
Box 1: 13  
Correspondence  
1919 Jan.-July  
Box 1: 14  
Correspondence  
1919 Aug.-Dec.  
Box 1: 15  
Correspondence  
1920 Feb.-Aug.  
Box 1: 16  
Correspondence  
1920 Sept.  
Box 1: 17  
Correspondence  
1921  
Box 1: 18

Correspondence

1930 Mar.

Box 1: 19

Correspondence

Undated

Box 1: 20

Dunapalota Hotel Brochure

ca.1919

Box 1: 21

Map: Budapest Térképe

ca. 1918

Box 2

Map: France, "Movement of the 319th Field Artillery (6' guns) from the time of arrival in Europe"

ca. 1918

Box 2

Map: Karte von Frankreich 1:80000

1918

Box 1: 22

Menus

1917, 1918

Box 1: 23

Newsclippings

1917- 1931

Box 1: 24

Photograph: Mon Sainte-Michel

ca.ca. 1918

Box 2

Play: A Farewell Party

ca.1919

Box 1: 25

Play: How The Germans Know

ca.1919

Box 1: 26

Poster: Magyarország Elda Rabolása a Béke Halála

1919

Box 2

Poster: Patrona Hungariae

ca.ca. 1918

Box 2

Prescription

ca.1918

Box 1: 27

Rationing Card

1919

Box 1: 28

Receipts

ca.1918-1920

Box 1: 29

Retracing Old Red Cross Trails

1926

Box 1: 30

*Saturday Evening Post*

1918 Aug 319

Box 2

Transportation: Tickets, Insurance, Permissions, Passenger Lists, Souvenirs

ca.1918-1920

Box 1: 31

Trianon Theater "Let's Go!" Program

ca.1919

Box 1: 32  
Walsh, Lloyd Edward Identification  
1917-1920  
Box 1: 33  
Footlocker  
ca.1917  
Helmets, German  
ca.1917  
Box 3

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Acquired from Ed Klekowski, 2008.

### Processing Information

Processed by Gregory Boczenowski, September 2008.

### Related Material

See also the Photograph album of Frederick V. Waugh (PH 026), who served with SSU 39.

### Languages:

English, Hungarian

### Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Lloyd Walsh Papers (MS 541). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

Ambulance drivers.  
American Field Service.  
American Red Cross.  
World War, 1914-1918--Medical care.

### Contributors

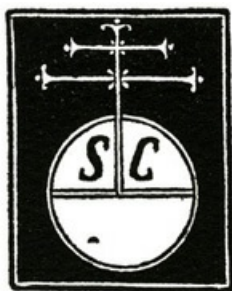
Walsh, Lloyd. [main entry]

### Genres and formats

Footlockers.  
Helmets.  
Posters.

### Link to similar SCUA collections

Medical  
World War I



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