

**Fifth report concerning the aid and comfort given by the Sanitary Commission to sick and invalid soldiers / by Frederick N. Knapp.**

**Contributors**

Knapp, Frederick Newman, 1821-1889.  
United States Sanitary Commission.  
National Library of Medicine (U.S.)

**Publication/Creation**

[Washington, D.C.?] : [publisher not identified], [1863?]

**Persistent URL**

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/jd6vxxwse>

**License and attribution**

This material has been provided by This material has been provided by the National Library of Medicine (U.S.), through the Medical Heritage Library. The original may be consulted at the National Library of Medicine (U.S.) where the originals may be consulted.

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection  
183 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BE UK  
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722  
E [library@wellcomecollection.org](mailto:library@wellcomecollection.org)  
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

SANITARY COMMISSION.

No. 77.

---

---

FIFTH REPORT

CONCERNING THE

Aid and Comfort given by the Sanitary Commission

TO

SICK AND INVALID SOLDIERS.

---

By FREDERICK N. KNAPP,

SPECIAL RELIEF AGENT.

---

CENTRAL OFFICE, U. S. SANITARY COM'N,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 1, 1863.

DR. J. FOSTER JENKINS,

*General Secretary:*

SIR: My last report upon Special Relief was dated December 15th, 1862. The present report furnishes the statistics of the work from that time to the present date, October 1st, 1863, a period of nine and a half months.

The main purpose kept in view in this work of Special Relief has been the same as for the past two years, viz. this—as indicated by previous reports:—

First. To supply to the sick men of the newly arrived regiments such medicines, food, and care, as it is impossible for them to receive in the midst of the confusion, and with the unavoidable lack of facilities, from their own officers. The men to be thus aided are those who are not so sick as to have a claim upon a general hospital, and yet need immediate care to guard them against serious sickness.

Second. To furnish suitable food, lodging, care, and assistance, to men who are honorably discharged from ser-

vice, sent from general hospitals, or from their regiments; but who are often delayed a day or more in the city—sometimes many days—before they obtain their papers and pay.

Third. To communicate with distant regiments in behalf of discharged men whose certificates of disability or descriptive lists on which to draw their pay, prove to be defective; the invalid soldiers meantime being cared for, and not exposed to the fatigue and risk of going in person to their regiments to have their papers corrected.

Fourth. To act as the unpaid agent or attorney of discharged soldiers who are too feeble, or too utterly disabled to present their own claim at the paymaster's office.

Fifth. To look into the condition of discharged men who assume to be without means to pay the expense of going to their homes; and to furnish the necessary means where we find the man is true, and the need real.

Sixth. To secure to disabled soldiers railroad tickets at reduced rates, and, through an agent at the railroad station, see that these men are not robbed or imposed upon by sharpers.

Seventh. To see that all men who are discharged and paid off do at once leave the city for their homes; or, in cases where they have been induced by evil companions to remain behind, to endeavor to rescue them, and see them started with through-tickets to their own towns.

Eighth. To make reasonably clean and comfortable before they leave the city, such discharged men as are deficient in cleanliness and clothes.

Ninth. To be prepared to meet at once with food or other aid, such immediate necessities as arise when sick men arrive in the city in large numbers from battle fields or distant hospitals.

Tenth. To keep a watchful eye upon all soldiers who are out of hospitals, yet not in service ; and give information to the proper authorities of such soldiers as seem endeavoring to avoid duty, or to desert from the ranks.

On this basis of objects aimed at, I report concerning the work during the past nine months in general terms :

1. Most of these old methods of relief have been continued with satisfactory success.

2. Some new methods of relief have been resorted to, which, in their practical working, have justified their introduction.

3. The class of men rightfully claiming this Special Relief assistance of the Commission has enlarged, embracing with those to whom help was previously given, others whose newly developed or increasing needs naturally brought them under our care.

4. The arrangements which are made by the Commission in this direction (Special Relief) has evidently become still more generally known, and applied for, and appreciated throughout the Army.

5. The co-operation of the Medical Department of the Army, as also of the Quartermaster's, Commissary's, and Paymaster's Departments, has been still more ready and cordial even than before.

6. The cost of maintaining this branch of the Commission's work during the past nine (9) months has somewhat diminished relatively to the number of men who have been assisted, and the amount of assistance rendered to them ; although the total amount is about one half larger than in an equal term of time before.

7. While nine (9) months ago the direct call upon the Commission for help from disabled discharged soldiers, after

they had returned to their homes, was but infrequent, it has now so largely increased (through applications made to the Special Relief Office) as to justify me in presenting to you in detail, appended to this report, some of the facts of the case, as also some statistics which I have collected bearing upon the subject; and to call your attention to the urgent necessity which evidently exists for having, from some source as early as possible, a comprehensive and practical system matured and instituted, which will provide for this class of men; unless we would have throughout the community a host of mendicants who, pointing to their honorable wounds and disabled bodies, will have established their necessity and right to live upon the charity of the people.

Having made these general statements I will now report, in detail, but briefly as may be, upon the several branches of Relief; and first at Washington:

1st. "*The Home*,"\*374 *North Capitol Street*. Increased accommodations for securing room and comfort at the Home, referred to in my last report, have been obtained; and now, instead of 140 beds, we have at the Home 320, besides a large baggage room, a convenient washroom, a bath-house, &c. Two of the additional buildings, one 16 feet by 60, the other 28 feet by 90, were put up by the Quartermaster's Department. The third building, 30 feet by 50, (with an L 20 by 35) for a "Hospital," was at the expense of the Commission, at a cost of about \$800.

The necessity for this building, devoted exclusively to Hospital purposes, is found in the fact, that although the men who come under the care of the Commission are mostly on their way to their homes, and might therefore be supposed to be not so very feeble as to need specially "Hospital" treatment, yet, as a matter of fact, many of them are weakened to such a de-

---

\* See ground plan of "*The Home*," at end of Report.

gree by disease, that by the time they reach Washington, or the railway station from the front, or from the various hospitals, their strength is nearly exhausted, and they are only restored, if at all, by such care as hospital treatment affords; and frequently they are too far gone to make even that available, as is indicated by the record, which shows that from February 23d to October 1st, there were received at the Home 665 men, very sick, who were placed in the new Hospital, of which number thirty-eight died there. This was from February 23d, when this new building was opened; but dating back to December 15th, there has been under the charge of the Commission, including those just named, some 900 men who were very sick and feeble, of which number a total of sixty-one (61) have died at the Home. These were nearly all men having their discharge papers with them, and they had, consequently, given up their claim upon the General or Regimental Hospitals, and had taken the first stage of their journey towards their homes. If they had not found the care which the Commission thus offered to them, many of these same men must have died in the cars along the way, or at some stopping point on their journey. Of the remaining 840 of these very feeble men, we have reason to believe that many, except for the care and rest secured to them by the provision of the Commission, could not have lived through their journeys.

This unusually large proportion of very sick or dying men who came into our hands is accounted for by the fact, that at the time of the advance movement of the army in the spring, and the breaking up of the corps hospitals near Aquia Creek, discharge papers were granted to many soldiers who, in their earnest desire once more to reach their homes, counted upon more strength than was left to them, and so they came to us, and waited there till, with straining eyes,

and one hand reached out towards the friends they had hoped and longed to see, they died. And allow me here to record this fact, that although these men died thus waiting, hoping, watching to catch the light which almost fell upon them from their firesides at home, yet from the lips of no one of those sixty dying men has a murmur or complaint been heard; tender messages did they leave to be sent on, but not one word of repining at their fate; no syllable of regret that they had joined the ranks—discharged from the service they were, but soldiers still—they died in their country's cause.

In charge of this "Home Hospital" is an experienced and kindly nurse as matron, Miss Charlotte Bradford, who served faithfully last summer upon the "Hospital Transports;"—there are day and night watchers, and all facilities for giving cheerfulness and comfort to these men detained by the way.

The surgeon now in charge of the Home is Dr. T. B. Smith, whose report accompanies this; his labors are successful. Dr. Smith is also Medical Examiner for Pensions, for the Commission. The former surgeon in charge, Dr. Grymes, who for nearly a year and a half had given his whole soul and strength to the work, died in January last. He was at his post almost till the hour of his death, though too feeble to walk without support. He had a loyal and a loving heart, and the Commission as well as the soldiers certainly have cause to remember him with the deepest, tenderest gratitude.

In order to show more in detail the work of the "Home," I make the following extracts from the Report of Dr. Smith, included in the report of Mr. J. B. Clark, the Superintendent:

"On many occasions, either during my visits to the sick,

or just previous to their departure for home or their regiments, have soldiers spontaneously, and with emotions of gratitude, exclaimed, 'Doctor, this is very unexpected kindness,' 'I have seen no such care and comfort since leaving my home.' One recently said to me, while sitting in the Hospital and looking upon the completion of arrangements for his departure, 'Doctor, I have been so kindly treated here, and been helped so much more than at any time before, since my sickness, that I am almost afraid to go beyond that door.' These are a few of many grateful expressions which the comfort they have enjoyed has called forth from the soldiers under treatment in this Hospital; and not from these only; for we keep at the Home constantly a supply of beds, stretchers, and comforts of all kinds, to be placed on board the cars when needed there—articles which are daily sent for from the railroad station, where notice is given that all these aids are ready, near by, for any sick soldier who needs them on his journey."

"That the community at large are only partially informed of the character and amount of good work done in this institution, I am well satisfied, judging from the expressions of favorable surprise made by citizens, visitors and relatives of soldiers who come in from abroad, and thus see and judge for themselves. The procuring of pay, pensions, and transportation for the men while they lie comfortably in the hospital under treatment, would alone be accomplishing much, the omission of which would cause indescribable suffering, and loss and anxiety to the disabled soldier."

"Many within the past four months have reached the 'Home' in a dying condition. Such have invariably, I believe, been carefully watched, their own names, and parents' or friends' names and residences obtained and recorded;



their effects secured, labeled, and stowed away safely. When thought wise, on account of time requisite to reach this city, their friends have been informed of all these circumstances by telegraph. The dead are in all instances afforded a proper burial in the Government grounds, and each grave properly designated; or, if so requested by friends, the bodies are forwarded."

"In June last many of the two years' regiments went home, and on their way through this city, their wounded and sick who were too feeble to go forward with the regiments, entered our little Hospital. Over 120 have in this way either stopped, to be subsequently properly disposed of in General Hospitals, or simply to have their wounds dressed and eat a meal, to invigorate them for the tiresome railroad journey before them." \* \* \* \* \*

The doors of the 'Home' are open night and day; yet vigilant watch is kept, not to harbor any man who ought to be with his regiment, or reporting to some medical officer. Otherwise, the 'Home' would quickly become what of course there is, as we are ready to acknowledge, apparent and real danger of its becoming, unless wisely managed, viz., *a philanthropic interference with Army discipline*, pleading its humanity as an excuse for its intrusion. To unite tender kindness and cordial welcome with the exercise of a discriminating judgment, and often stern authority, is not easy; but I believe that in our Special Relief work the presence of the one does not exclude the working of the other, and that not the soldier only, but the army, is the stronger because of the 'Home.' The name of every man who enters there is recorded, his papers examined, and how he came there, found out. Whenever there is a doubt about the man, a thorough investigation of his case is at

once made, which sometimes results in turning over to the military authorities deserters, and men who think that within the walls of a charitable institution they can find a ready shelter for a mean shirking of duty.

I enter this record because it is needed to answer the honest objection which, on the ground of its "tendency to weaken military discipline," might be made to the fundamental principle on which the Special Relief work of the Sanitary Commission is based, and on which the "Homes" and Lodges, scattered now all over the East and West, are founded. The authority and importance of military discipline are not set aside or lost sight of; on the contrary, they are always rigidly insisted upon. In this work the Sanitary Commission, as the representative of the people at home, seeks to do precisely what it believes would gladly be done—were it right or possible to enter into this kind of work—by the military and medical authorities themselves, under the administration which the people all so cordially desire to support.

To turn again to the records of the Home:

Number of different individuals received there from December 15, 1862, to October 1, 1863-----	7,187
Number of nights' lodging furnished-----	26,523
Number of meals furnished-----	65,621

Almost all the men received here have been men discharged from the service on account of disability—wounds, or continued sickness. Of these, one-half at least were delayed in the city on account of imperfections in some of their discharge papers, the final statements, on which to draw their pay, requiring often a number of days for their correction.

The Superintendent's report divides the 7,187 men received recently at the home as follows :

Maine -----	374
New Hampshire-----	194
Vermont -----	177
Massachusetts-----	865
Rhode Island -----	63
Connecticut -----	152
New York-----	2,063
New Jersey -----	410
Pennsylvania -----	1,658
Delaware -----	29
Maryland -----	35
Virginia -----	36
California -----	3
Michigan -----	259
Ohio -----	178
Indiana -----	118
Illinois -----	55
Wisconsin -----	199
Minnesota -----	10
Colorado -----	3
District of Columbia -----	5
U. S. Army, (Regulars) -----	262
U. S. Navy -----	1
Quartermaster's Department-----	8
Political Refugees-----	7
Contract Nurses -----	53

Next in order after the "Home" is *Lodge No. 2*, in 17th street: this was no longer needed, and was closed in March; larger accommodations more centrally situated rendered its continuance unnecessary.

Number of nights' lodging given there from Dec. 15 to March 12 -----	1,550
Number of meals -----	2,130

*Lodge No. 3*, in "F" street. When this Lodge was built, the office for the payment of discharged soldiers was near by, in "F" street; that office having been removed to "H"

street this Lodge has been closed: (it now is used as the local storehouse of the Commission, and furnishes excellent accommodations.)

From Dec. 15th until it was closed, this Lodge furnished nights' lodging-----	3,760
Meals-----	17,960

*Lodge No 4*, in "H" street. This is the new Lodge with large accommodations, immediately connected with the office of the paymaster for discharged soldiers. It was opened about the 1st of February.

Number of nights' lodging furnished at Lodge No. 4, from Feb. 1st to Oct. 1st-----	9,832
Number of meals furnished-----	50,096

This relief station consists of six buildings. A dormitory of a hundred beds; a dining-room, seating about one hundred, with a large kitchen attached; a baggage room, where all the discharged men coming in to be paid off can deposit their baggage, receiving a check for it; a storehouse; quarters for guard; and a building containing the office of the Free Pension Agency, office of the Medical Examiner for Pensions, and ticket office for the railroad agent selling through tickets to soldiers at reduced rates of fare.

All disabled soldiers discharged directly from the Army of the Potomac or from the hospitals in this vicinity, come to the Paymaster's office, which is within this same inclosure, to be paid off. Government can no longer hold itself directly responsible for these men, and here is where we take them up. Yet Government cordially co-operates in our work, furnishing to the Commission part of these very

buildings, and giving such army rations at this Lodge as we can use for these men advantageously with our other supplies.

The object of the whole thing at this Lodge is this, viz : so to supply to the discharged soldier close at his hand and without a cent of cost, all that he needs—food, lodging, assistance in correcting his papers, aid in looking up his claims, help in obtaining his pension and his bounty—such that there can be no excuse or opportunity for the soldier to put himself or be put into the hands of claim agents and sharpers, or to go out and expose himself to the temptations of the city.

To secure this end, every man who comes to the paymaster with his discharge, at once receives a ticket insuring him care and a helping hand ; and by an arrangement with the paymaster, whenever a man appears there with defective papers, he is at once referred to the Relief Office for assistance or advice. The work at this office occupies three persons constantly, besides those who go with cases that have to be looked up personally at the hospitals or with the regimental officers in the field, and cannot be arranged by correspondence.

To indicate something of the kind of work done here, I make the following extract from the report of Mr. J. B. Abbott, who has served most faithfully and efficiently as Assistant Special Relief Agent, with his office at Lodge No. 4. and upon whom almost the entire responsibility in this department for the past year has rested :

“ At this office, from January 1st to October 1st, 1863, the number of discharged soldiers whose accounts against the Government have been settled through our assistance, men who were too feeble to attend to settling their own ac-

counts, or who were unable to obtain their pay, because of some charge against them on the pay-rolls, or some errors in their papers, 2,130."

Information and directions have been given relative to settling pay accounts, collecting arrears of pay, extra duty pay, commutation money to about 9,000 men.

The aggregate value of the 2,130 cases amounted to \$130,159.01. This amount was collected and paid to the soldiers through this office.

But for the gratuitous aid thus afforded these soldiers discharged from the service, disabled by wounds or worn down by long marches and exposure in the field, or enfeebled by disease, anxious to get home, would have applied to "Claim Agents" for aid in obtaining speedily their dues from the Government, submitting willingly to pay a commission ranging from ten to forty per cent. These agents, with some rare and admirable exceptions, in four cases out of every five, impede the settlement of accounts instead of facilitating them.

Taking ten per cent. as an average, which is the lowest commission usually charged by Claim Agents, the amount saved to the soldiers in adjusting the 2,130 cases of which a record has been kept, is shown to be \$13,015.90. Add to this ten per cent. of the probable aggregate value of the 9,000 cases in which information and directions have been given, (for in most of these cases the soldiers would otherwise have gone to Claim Agents,) and the amount saved to the soldiers through the Commission by this office is shown to be at least \$70,000 during nine months ending September 30th.

The number of letters written in adjusting the above

cases of sufficient importance to make a copy necessary, 2,224.

Many of the cases have been very difficult to adjust, requiring several weeks to complete them. Below I add extracts of two or three cases from a day's record of the Journal, which will show in detail the character of the cases we adjust, and the difficulties met with in completing them.

“Sergeant Edward W. M. Passage, Company F, 16th Reg't Mich. Vols. Enrolled at Plymouth, Mich., in July, 1861, to serve three years or during the war. 'Discharged by reason of a Surgeon's Certificate of disability, given at Convalescent Camp, April 30th, 1863.' The Commander of the Post being unable to obtain from his Company Commander his descriptive list, the date of last payment could not be given in his final statements, nor his clothing account, except the amount (\$3.60) of extra clothing drawn at Convalescent Camp. Left his regiment in June, '62, just previous to the battles before Richmond, having fallen a victim to the malarial fever; was put into one of the corps hospitals for a few days, and then sent to Fortress Monroe, where he remained a short time. He was then transferred to General Hospital in Philadelphia. In this Hospital he received a furlough for thirty days, and went home to Detroit, Michigan. At the expiration of his furlough, being unable to report back to Philadelphia, he reported, as soon as he was able, to the nearest military post, St. Mary's General Hospital, Detroit, Michigan; but not aware of the proper form, did not notify the surgeon in charge of the Hospital in Philadelphia, where he received his furlough; consequently he was marked 'deserter,' and so reported to his Company Commander, who has borne him as a 'deserter' upon the subsequent pay-rolls.

“While in St. Mary's Hospital, having partially recovered his health, he received papers from Michigan authorizing him to recruit men for the service, at the same time receiving a furlough for twenty days, which was twice extended twenty days. At the expiration of his furlough extensions he reported to the commander of the Military Barracks at Detroit, who reported him for duty and forwarded him to Washington. From Washington he was sent to Convalescent Camp, and there pronounced unfit for military duty and discharged from the service.”

"This man was not aware that he was marked a 'deserter' till he applied to the Paymaster General to get indorsed upon his final statements the date of his last payment. Then he was informed that he was entitled to no pay, being borne 'a deserter' upon the pay-roll. He denied the charge, and was referred by the Chief Clerk to this office for assistance in getting the charge removed.

"We obtained a certificate from the surgeon or physician who attended him after the expiration of his furlough until he reported to St. Mary's Hospital, stating that during this time he was unable to report because of disability. This certificate was given under oath before a Notary Public. Certificates were also obtained, one by one, from the several military posts where he had been, covering his time from the date he was marked a deserter to the date of his discharge. Upon these certificates we got the charge removed and secured his pay."

"Wm. Benty, private, Company F, 16th Regiment U. S. Infantry, enlisted at Clayton, Iowa, November 6th, 1861. 'Discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability,' given at Camp Parole, Annapolis, Md., April 7th, 1863, 'because of a gun-shot wound, the ball never having been extracted.' The wound has not healed, and it troubles him very much; he is anxious to get home; says he 'cares very little about his pay, if he can only get home.' He was wounded at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, sent to Hospital, Newport, Kentucky, where he remained nearly three months. The surgeon considered him unfit for military duty, and was willing to give him a discharge, but could not, as he could not obtain his descriptive list. At his own request, the commander of the post gave him a pass to go to his regiment, then in Northern Alabama, to get his descriptive list. On his way back he was taken prisoner by guerrillas, (this was about the 22d of August, 1862,) his money and effects taken from him, and his papers destroyed. He was sent to Chattanooga, thence to Macon, Georgia, and after nearly two months' confinement, was sent to Richmond and paroled on the 18th of October, 1862. At the expiration of his pass, given by the commander of the post at Newport, Kentucky, he had been marked a 'deserter,' (as nothing had been heard of him,) and so reported to his commanding officer, who marked him a 'deserter' upon the regimental pay-rolls.

"We obtained a certificate from the Commissary General of paroled prisoners, giving the date of his capture and parole, gathered up one by one all the important facts of the case, and forwarded them to his company commander, so that at length we obtained a certificate certifying that the man had been



wrongly marked a 'deserter.' Upon this evidence, the charge was removed, and his pay secured, amounting to nearly one hundred and fifty dollars.

"This man we furnished transportation home, from money of the 'Ware Fund,' and when his account was settled, we forwarded him a draft for his money."

"George Poole, Company K, 3d Maryland Vols., enrolled in Company C, Baltimore Light Infantry, in Dec., 1861; he was subsequently transferred to Company B. In June, 1862, the Baltimore Light Infantry was consolidated with the 3d Indiana Vols. He was put into Company K, a new company formed at the time of consolidation. Discharged on a surgeon's certificate of disability, given at Convalescent Camp; claims pay from the 28th of Feb., 1862, to the date of his discharge, except for the months of January, February, March, and April, 1863, for which months he was paid, except from the 29th of January to the 19th of February; for this period his pay was deducted, he being marked a 'deserter.' I obtained an official certificate showing that he was not a deserter for this period, and got the charge removed, which entitles him to the amount deducted from his pay. To secure his back pay, or get it endorsed upon his final statements, we were obliged to get statements from rolls in the 2d Comptroller's office, 2d Auditor's office, and offices of two regimental paymasters, besides examining several rolls in different accounts on file at the Paymaster-General's office, to verify his statement, or to obtain evidence that he was really entitled to the pay which he claimed.

"Having shown satisfactory evidence to the Pay Department that he was entitled to the pay which he claimed, it was endorsed upon his final statement, and his money secured, amounting to \$186.85."

"We are daily adjusting such cases as the above, and some more complicated, which, except for the aid afforded by the Commission, would have been placed in the hands of claim agents before referred to, who usually charge in such cases from \$25 to \$50; or the soldiers would have disposed of their claims to some sharper for a passage home, as many of these men are very willing to do, after having been confined in hospitals for months, and anxious to reach their friends; and in such cases the man leaves with the word 'deserter' affixed to him."

"We are greatly indebted to the uniform kindness, consideration, and co-operation that has invariably been extended to us by the officers and clerks of the various Government offices

with whom we have had business to perform. I desire especially to mention the names of E. H. Brooks, Esq., Chief Clerk, Paymaster General's office, and Major D. Taylor, Paymaster of discharged soldiers."

"In submitting this report, I desire to bear testimony to the faithfulness of my assistants, and their constant interest in the work." \* \* \* \* \*

*Lodge No. 5*, near 6th St. Wharf. This was a small building, but it has rendered valuable service, giving food and shelter to sick and wounded men arriving on the boats from Aquia Creek, and furnishing food to be carried into such boats as, loaded with wounded, had no adequate provision for feeding the men on board.

An ambulance was stationed at this Lodge to take men to the Home, or to Hospitals: the Superintendent of the Lodge visited every boat immediately on its arrival at the wharf, and rendered all assistance and gave all needed information to the sick or wounded, taking those unable to walk in ambulances, and guiding the others to the horse cars, and furnishing them with tickets to go to the Paymaster's Office, or to the Home, or elsewhere, as the case might be.

There was one week, at the time of the breaking up of the Corps Hospitals near Aquia Creek, when we gave coffee and food to over five thousand (5,000) men on board the boats which arrived at the wharf.

The boats came up in such rapid succession, that with all the efficiency of the Medical Director, (and surely no man in the whole Medical Department—I am safe in saying—does or can more fully and admirably unite wise and energetic efficiency with kind and generous humanity, than does Dr. Abbott, the Medical Director at Washington,) with all his promptness in having his entire train of ambulances at the wharf waiting night and day, it was simply impossible but that many of these men, numbered by thousands, should be detained often some

hours before their turn would come to be removed. Meantime they needed just the care we were ready to give to them.

This necessity existed, as is seen, from no oversight in having all reasonable Government provisions made.

And in this connection I may fitly refer, both for the sake of justice to the Medical Department, and as an apology for our own *existence*, to the frequent inquiry uttered, often in a tone of censure, how it is possible, if the Medical Officers do their duty, that there can be any opportunity even for this supplementary work of relief.

The question shows utter ignorance of the terrific weight of work of the most complicated and delicate character, which the officers of the Medical Department have upon their hands, and of their constant liability to be called upon at any moment to meet great and unexpected emergencies. The fact is simply this: that while the Medical Department has made a larger and wiser provision for the comfort of the sick and the wounded than the world ever before saw, there is not, and cannot be, a minuteness of detail and a waiting at every corner to give to a fainting soldier a cup of water, such as friends at home in their anxious love ask for. Yet this work needs to be done, and therefore we, who are simply the hands to the people's heart and bounty, do the work. But if the Medical Department were to attempt it in all its minutiae of detail, their power for their own hundred-fold greater work would be weakened in a way that would find no justification.

But to return from this digression: this Lodge, No. 5, was removed a month since to Maryland Avenue, near the R. R. Station, where it is doing the same work for the sick or wounded arriving by cars from the army, which was formerly done on the wharf, for those arriving by boats.

The whole number of nights' lodging furnished at this building, from Jan. 1st to Oct. 1st.....	1,620
Meals.....	14,590

Closely connected with the work at the Relief Station in Maryland Avenue, is the Lodge at Alexandria, located within the stockade, near the railway track and junction, where all the cars to and from the army stop. Here there is a Lodge 16 feet by 90, with an L 24x32, furnished with all conveniences of gas and water, and admirably arranged and conducted by Mr. James Richardson, Special Relief Agent. Alexandria is now the "Gateway of the Army of the Potomac," and whenever a train of sick or wounded is coming in, a telegram is sent in advance from the front, and when the train arrives at this point, food is ready for them and distributed among them while the train is waiting. Here, too, are often gathered at night sick men who arrive too late to go on to Washington, or who are unexpectedly delayed. A sign upon the office of Col. Devereux reads, "All sick, wounded, and invalid soldiers are requested to report to the Sanitary Commission Lodge."

The necessity for the existence of this Relief Station is indicated by the fact that during the first week after it was opened, 1,761 meals were given here.

In January last "The Nurses' Home" was opened, under the care of Mrs. Dr. Caldwell, in Washington, near the Special Relief Office.

The Nurses' Home has proved a source of immense relief to nurses arriving in the city, and to those worn down by service at the hospitals and needing a few days of quiet and rest, and also to the wives and mothers, and sometimes daughters, of soldiers, who have come on seeking their husbands, or sons, or fathers, in the various hospitals. We have had a very large number, during the past two months, of this latter class to care for, who utterly ignorant of the cost of the journey, and of obtain-

ing board and lodging, even for a day or two, in the city, were utterly destitute and helpless. A number who were weary and almost broken-hearted have been received here at a home. A number of refugees, also—mothers and little children—have been received here and warmed and clothed. This has proved in its working one of the kindest charities of the Commission.

Since the "Nurses' Home" was opened, in January, the total number of nights' lodging given here has been.....	1,583
Meals furnished .....	3,040
Number of different women sheltered.....	1,190
Total cost to Commission.....	\$2,300

In regard to the Free Pension Agency, I make the following extract from the Report of Mr. Bascom, the Director :

"The Pension Agency of the Sanitary Commission commenced its work on the 10th of February, 1863, and up to this date (Oct. 1st) 985 applications for invalid pensions have been made from this office, and the necessary papers filed in the Government Pension Bureau."

The Agency has proved a beneficent one to the soldiers in many ways.

1. "It has saved to them already an aggregate expense of more than six thousand dollars, (\$6,000,) and at the same rate will save in a year over ten thousand (\$10,000.)"

2. "It has rescued them from imposition, annoyance, and a great amount of trouble, in ascertaining in what way to procure their pensions."

3. "It has aided a considerable number of soldiers to obtain complete testimony to sustain their claims after their regularly appointed and paid attorneys have refused, unless with additional fees, to procure essential evidence."

4. "It has also come to the relief of several who had employed and paid attorneys whom the Pension Office has refused, on account of some misconduct, to recognize as attorneys in any case."

"Finally, the Agency has been of no small service to the Government, in procuring and forwarding *all* the testimony bearing upon the claim—that which makes against a case, as well as that which makes for it. In this way it will undoubt-

edly save many hundreds of dollars to the Government in a moderate length of time."

*Agency for getting Back Pay for Soldiers in Hospitals.*—It was found that very many soldiers in hospitals had various amounts of back pay due them, which their families sorely needed, but which was so tied up, that it could not be collected without an amount of investigation and labor which the paymasters had no right to bestow upon individuals.

An agent of the Commission, authorized by the Paymaster General's Chief Clerk, has entered upon the work of obtaining the necessary information in each case, so as to enable the Chief Clerk to furnish to the man a certificate of the pay due to him, that he may draw his money upon it.

The report of Mr. Neal, the agent of the Commission, shows that in Stanton Hospital alone, during the first week of his work, the back pay of fifty-six men was thus collected. Some of it had been due six or eight months, and the men had been mustered and paid for intermediate months, leaving this which was due in the position of an old debt. The total amount of money thus put into the hands of these fifty-six men (almost every dollar of which, as I learned, was sent to their homes by the chaplain,) was over \$3,000. The detail of this work involves much painstaking labor, but its results amply repay for the time, expense, and care.

Another agency connected with the Special Relief Office has been the work of seeking to guard the discharged soldiers while scattered through the city from being robbed or foully dealt with. For this purpose during the past six months we have employed, besides a relief agent, a "detective," who visits the railroad station and all the places of resort, and whose duty it has been to watch for and bring to justice all persons who were imposing upon the soldiers, detaining them, leading them astray, or committing fraud upon them; and the city is

full of men who are thus lying in wait for the soldier. This detective, by means which need not be specified, has rendered great service—and his work is not ended.

The Relief Station and branch of the "Home" at "Convalescent Camp," Alexandria, near Fort Albany, is still under the care of Miss Amy M. Bradley, formerly matron of the "Home."

The whole work is managed efficiently and with great success. She has the confidence and co-operation of all the officers in charge of the camp, and daily she comes with ambulances into Washington, to the Paymaster's Office, and to the "Home" and railway station, bringing the sick and discharged men who have been receiving her care.

Miss Bradley's report of the past nine months' labor in this camp of some five thousand men, shows what an amount of work can be done, relief afforded, influence exerted, by one individual thoroughly in earnest, and with resources at hand.

Tickets directing the bearer to call at the Sanitary Commission Lodge, for such articles as the surgeon may specify, are put into the hands of all the surgeons and officers in the camp, and as occasion calls these tickets are filled out and given to the invalids who need supplies. In this way, since June 1st, (four months,) Miss Bradley has distributed from the stock kept constantly on hand, some four thousand of shirts, drawers, socks, &c., besides some 10,000 smaller articles, such as towels, handkerchiefs, slippers, and the like. Previous to April, at which time regular hospitals were first established here, Miss Bradley, in hospital tents attached to the Lodge, attended to the very ill, receiving there during that time one hundred and twenty-five sick men.

She accompanied to Washington to the Paymaster's Office during four months, and assisted many of the more feeble in

getting their pay, discharged soldiers whose united pay amounted to over \$100,000.

In the camp she visits and writes letters for the sick, and in all ways practicable ministers "special relief."

It has been a good work, and I may fitly mention, that under the wise executive management of Lieut. Col. McKelvey, the name "Convalescent Camp" no longer is associated with suffering, but is synonymous with care, comfort, and kind and liberal provision for all that the convalescent soldier needs.

The cost to the Commission of maintaining Special Relief work in Washington and vicinity, from Dec. 25th, 1862, to Oct. 1st, 1863, has been about \$24,585. This does not include nine hundred and eighty dollars used from the "Ware Fund," so called, money placed in my hands for purposes which do not so legitimately come within the original work of the Commission, but which yet have an earnest claim. Thus with that money we have sent to their homes discharged soldiers who were destitute, or almost entirely destitute, of means:—many fathers, mothers, and wives of soldiers;—some families of refugees who come to us in the saddest condition of want, and army nurses from the front, sick or worked down by devoted labor.

Could I give a simple picture—in one group, as they pass before me—of all the persons who have been helped by the few hundred dollars, entering with their anxious faces, their camp-worn or travel-worn garments, some in mourning, some very aged and bowed down, and some as little children, it would be a picture that with warm breath would breathe a blessing, which could be felt by the very heart of all those who have furnished the means for these additional charities.

Leaving Washington, we come next to Annapolis; here, in July last, a "Home for nurses, mothers, wives, and relatives of sick soldiers" was established, similar in its objects



and methods to the "Nurses' Home" in Washington. It has met an evident need, and given to many wives and mothers, who came among strangers seeking their sick husbands and sons, the shelter and welcome of a home. During the past two months the number of meals furnished there has been 2,847; the number of nights' lodging 569. There have been as many as twenty-five women who found their rest here in a single night. The "Home" is conveniently located, with an experienced matron in charge, and is performing a kind mission.

At Baltimore there has been a Special Relief Agent, who has taken in hand the defective papers of discharged men, aided in collecting their pay, obtained transportation for those without means, and in general given "aid and comfort" to those needing it. His assistant, with great faithfulness, has visited every boat which has arrived from Fortress Monroe since the 1st of June last, and every train of cars from Washington or from the West, looking after, protecting, directing any soldiers who seem to need assistance. His record book shows that he has thus given aid, more or less, to 4,627 from June 1 to October 1, of whom he has taken over 2,000 to the "Union Relief Rooms" of Baltimore, where they have received meals and lodgings with kindly care.

In Philadelphia there has been much done by the "Woman's Pennsylvania Branch U. S. Sanitary Commission" in the way of Special Relief, although the admirable local organizations of the city left comparatively a small amount to be done in that direction, excepting the work of helping the families of soldiers. The "Free Pension Agency" of the Philadelphia Branch of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, under the efficient management of Mr. Ashman, has been

doing a most valuable service. Up to the present date Mr. Ashman has made out the pension papers for over one thousand applicants, and with painstaking care investigated and successfully followed out many peculiarly complicated cases. He also, without cost, collects all "claims" for discharged soldiers. Notices of this office and its aid are posted in the hospitals in that vicinity, and endeavors are made to secure its benefits to all discharged soldiers needing such assistance as it renders.

In New York whatever Special Relief work has fallen upon the Commission has been attended to by the "Woman's Central Association of Relief." With occasional exceptions, this work has consisted in judiciously assigning the applicant for aid to such existing Relief Association in the city as his case pointed to; or if more immediate assistance was needed, as clothes and transportation, such have been furnished. The local provisions in New York for assisting disabled soldiers are large, embracing the "New England Rooms," and the State Institution—"The New York Relief Association."

The following report from Boston will show the methods adopted there, and the results which have followed.

It is to be considered that this Relief work in Boston was not started until March last, its need until then hardly being acknowledged, yet the absolute necessity for its existence has been asserted by its results every day since. I make mention of this fact and insert the report in full, in order to set an example and give the suggestion to the various large cities throughout the land, and I would ask whether the associate members of the Sanitary Commission in such cities and large sea-coast or inland towns might not wisely and humanely establish "Homes" on a smaller or

broader scale, as the case may be. At least they should, I am sure, carefully inform themselves of the nature of the needs in their midst, and the methods in detail by which those needs are to be met.

F. N. KNAPP, *Special Relief Agent*

*U. S. Sanitary Commission, Washington, D. C.:*

MY DEAR SIR: I submit herewith a brief Report relating to the Special Relief service of the Sanitary Commission in Boston.

This service was organized in the month of March, 1863, under the direction of an executive committee, appointed for the purpose by the resident associate members. The establishment, which is located at No. 76 Kingston street, is in charge of a superintendent and assistants, and has been administered with the following results:

From the date of its organization to October 1, 1863, a period of about six months, aid has been rendered to 3,050 soldiers, classified as follows:

Furnished with transportation at Government rates--	1,091
"        "        "        paid by Commission--	142
"        "        "        by Quartermaster-----	450
"    carriage within the city-----	875
"    special attendance to their homes-----	71
"    lodging-----	1,407
"    meals—(No. of meals, 4,129)-----	1,938
"    clothing—(No. of garments, 489)-----	260
"    aid in arranging papers-----	96
"        "    obtaining pay-----	91
"    medical advice-----	322
Wounds dressed-----	155
Procured commutation of rations-----	73
Loaned money—(amount, \$10 02)-----	19
Gave money—(amount, \$9 08)-----	28
Sent to Hospital-----	60
Referred to local Relief Association-----	25

Enlisted-----	14
Obtained Pension-----	1
Procured Coffins-----	3
	<hr/>
Total-----	3,050

The recipients are thus classified in the order of States: Massachusetts, 1,480; Maine, 926; New Hampshire, 210; Vermont, 31; New York, 54; Pennsylvania, 12; Ohio, 41; Rhode Island, 9; Maryland, 2; District Columbia, 7; Louisiana, 2; Illinois, 5; Iowa, 4; Minnesota, 5; California, 1; Connecticut, 6; U. S. Army, 70; U. S. Navy, 26; Invalid Corps, 45; Kansas, Wisconsin, Missouri, Kentucky, Delaware, Alabama, and Rebel army, 1 each.

The following articles, drawn from the Supply Department of the N. E. Woman's Auxiliary Association, have been used in furnishing the rooms and for distribution:

Bedquilts, 13; blankets, 13; sheets, 124; pillows, 56; pillow-cases, 63; bed-sacks, 12; flannel shirts, 70; cotton shirts, 48; socks, 218 prs.; towels, 78; slippers, 62 prs.; old shirts, 51; cotton drawers, 106; dressing-gowns, 1; flannel drawers, 42; handkerchiefs, 60; slings, 16; flannel shirts, 24; one lot bandages and old pants; six tin cups and 2 water-pails.

I am unable to furnish you at present with an exact statement of the cost of the service for the last three months, ending October 1, but hand you herewith a full statement of expense account for the three months ending July 1, 1863, which period includes the first outlay for furnishing rooms, &c.

For the three months ending July 1, 1863, the total expenditure, covering the whole cost of the service, was \$1,962 17, classified as follows:

For furnishing Rooms-----	\$464 51
“ “ Hospital-----	254 82

For Rent and Taxes-----	118 50
“ Salaries-----	363 59
“ Advertising-----	185 00
“ Printing-----	49 00
“ Stationery-----	70 71
Traveling Expenses-----	45 00
Postage-----	8 00
Superintendent's Current Expense Account-----	320 03
Miscellaneous-----	83 01
	<hr/>
Total-----	\$1,962 17

For this period of three months the number of soldiers who received the aid of the Commission was 837.

Deducting from the total expenditure the first necessary outlay for furnishing rooms, \$719 33, as shown in above statement of account, and as distinguished from the ordinary current expenses, the cost per soldier is shown to be as 837 to 1,342.84, or about \$1 45 each.

Permit me to add that abundant evidence has been afforded that this service of the Commission, as already administered in Boston, has been attended with the most beneficent and gratifying results.

I am, my dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,

JOHN S. BLATCHFORD,

*Sec'y of Boston Ex. Com. Sanitary Com.*

BOSTON, October 1, 1863.

---

I pass now from the North to the West. The Special Relief work at the West, at three or four points, was established a year and more ago by the Branches of the Sanitary Commission; while at other points this work had not until within six or eight months its special place assigned to it,

but it came in connection with the General Relief work of the Commission. I have not the reports in full which would enable me to give the details of all these Lodges and Homes at the West. I will speak of their methods and their work in general terms, giving the gross results of their labors, with such extracts as are at hand.

In general terms, then, the same Special Relief work is done at the West by the Commission and its Branches which has been described in detail at Washington; modified, of course, at each point, by the circumstances of the case. Thus, at one point there is no occasion for the correction of papers, but the largest occasion for shelter and care; at one station there is no call for clothing and nursing, but the loudest call for nutritious food; at one section a Home or Lodge has no place, in another section its open doors are like open arms to those ready to perish.

And thus, according to the needs which were to be met, have been the methods and amount of Special Relief throughout the entire West. And while I cannot furnish the full detail of this work, I can with great confidence assert, that throughout the region an immense amount of relief has thus been given to thousands and thousands of soldiers; and at all the several points of relief after Lodges have been established the aid has been given promptly, wisely, and abundantly. Could the records of these several Lodges and Homes have been copied, they would, I am sure, make a living history, telling how much soldiers have to bear, and yet what kindly helps are at hand to aid in making their burdens light; how much, with all alleviations, soldiers have to suffer, yet how nobly and patiently the suffering is borne; of weak limbs bound in with strong hearts; of eyes looking towards home, yet with feet firmly set towards the camp or battle-field.

I can, however, give in figures the numbers cared for at these Homes, as indicated by the number of lodgings and of meals furnished there to October 1st. Part of these Homes, as I said, have been opened only seven or eight months—others from nearly the beginning of the war.

The following are some of the figures furnished by Dr. Newberry, Associate Secretary in charge of the Western Department of the U. S. Sanitary Commission at Cleveland, Ohio :

Nights' lodging furnished-----	2,569
Meals given-----	12,227

Home at Chicago, Ill., (opened in July last.)

Nights' lodging furnished-----	3,109
Meals given-----	11,325

Home in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Nights' lodging (about)-----	10,000
Meals given-----	40,017

Home at Louisville, Ky.

Nights' lodging-----	17,765
Meals given (at the Home)-----	52,080
“ “ (at the Station House)-----	49,933

Lodge at Nashville, Tenn.

Nights' lodging-----	4,821
Meals given-----	11,909

Home at Cairo, Ill.

Nights' lodging-----	79,550
Meals given-----	190,150

Lodge at Memphis, Tenn.

Nights' lodging-----	2,850
Meals given-----	14,780

This note should be here made : that at Cincinnati, Louisville, and Cairo, many besides *invalid* soldiers are included in the numbers of those fed and cared for. At these points the Home of the Commission drawing rations from Government for the purpose, has at times provided for detached companies, or parts of regiments, or even whole regiments; thus meeting the needs which in Washington and elsewhere are provided for at the "Soldiers' Rests," which are under the exclusive care of Government. This fact, in part, accounts for the numbers attached to the record of the Homes at those places, which might seem unaccountably large, if limited strictly to invalid soldiers receiving care.

The following extracts of reports bearing various dates will give an idea of the methods and spirit of the work in the "Homes" at the West :

CLEVELAND, August 15, 1863.

"At the close of a busy and wearisome day, I have time for only a word before the mail closes. We have had our hearts and our hands full in the last twenty-four hours, and many of our ladies have had their first sight of the dreadful effects of war.

"Yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock, the long expected regiment (4th Massachusetts) arrived. There were nearly a hundred sick, and all in a very worn condition. The preparations so long made proved ample, and after two hours' merciful work among the hospital cars, and a full feast set out for the well, the ladies had the satisfaction of sending the brave boys on their way in a much better condition than that in which they came to us.

"Another regiment was telegraphed to be here in two hours from the departure of the first, and so, at 8 o'clock, when the 28th Maine came in, there was an abundant meal



spread for them, and a fully organized committee of ladies to attend the sick. The hospital cars, five in number, were crowded with bad cases. All our ladies were down there and worked like heroines.

“At 10 o'clock at night we left the depot, only to go home to make fresh arrangements to meet a third regiment at 5 o'clock this morning.

“This last regiment, the 47th Massachusetts, has occupied us all the morning of this beautiful Sabbath, and our hearts have been sorely tried by the state in which the men were found. We had very good provision for their reception, and the well men were abundantly fed. Meantime, the ladies carried hand basins and towels into the hospital cars. Each sick man was refreshed by having his face and hands bathed, and then the tea, coffee, warm gruel, bread and jelly, dried beef, sponge cake, egg and wine, and stimulants, were dispensed with lavish hand. One very badly wounded man and the surgeon, who was very ill indeed, were carried at once into our little hospital and carefully tended. Four sick men were sent into Camp Cleveland hospital, four also of the Maine regiment last night.

“A sad scene, indeed, was the death of one poor fellow this morning in our little hospital. He was sinking fast when the train came in. Everything was done for him that kindness or experience could suggest, but he was too far gone with the exhaustion following a lung fever, and died almost within sight of his home and family.

“Poor fellow! how hard he tried to speak and to send some word home. He was a splendid soldier they said, and when the men of his company filed sadly in to look at his dead face, and some even kissed his forehead and dropped their tears upon it, we knew that they felt it hard to leave

their comrade, and harder yet it seemed to frame the sad story into words that his waiting friends at home might hear. We have taken every care of the body, and it is to be forwarded to-morrow by express.

“I think that you would be quite satisfied with the part our Soldiers’ Aid Society has taken in the care of the regiments, and surely it has been a blessed work. It would be well for the Union cause in Cleveland if we had such calls made upon our sympathies and our benevolence every week. You have no idea how nobly our ladies came out to this duty, nor how richly they were rewarded by the bright faces of those New England boys, as they left the depot, cheered and refreshed by the care they had received. This last regiment was peculiarly needy. It had passed every important point in the night till now, and this half day in Cleveland was such a blessing to the poor fellows. They numbered about 700, with 100 at least seriously sick, and nearly all, indeed, ailing somewhat, and just from the trenches at Port Hudson. \* \* \* \* \*

“Next day the 49th Massachusetts came in, tired, dusty, and so hungry, but there was enough for all, and the sick were attended in the cars as before.

“The surgeon was exceedingly careful of his men; knew at once who was to stay, and we had beds carried out of our little room to the side of the car. Seven men were thus brought into the home. The ladies supplied them with stimulants, and at 8 o’clock they were ready to go over to the hospital. One poor fellow fainted before the omnibus left. He was very sick. They brought him back apparently dying, but thanks to the motherly care that he received, animation was restored. The Dr. was called, and pronounced it a bad case—partial paralysis of the throat,

caused by great exhaustion. This morning we found him well enough to be carried over to the hospital. Our duties with this regiment were not over till near midnight."

---

SOLDIER'S HOME, SUPT.'S OFFICE,  
CINCINNATI, *Sept.* 21, 1863.

"DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Sec'y West'n Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville :*

DEAR SIR : Agreeably to your request, I send you a brief report of what you denominate "the workings" of the institution from its opening May 15, 1862, to September 1st, 1863.

The number of arrivals have been 40,017, comprising soldiers from every loyal State, varying from one to a regiment at a time. Some have eaten a single meal and taken their departure; others have staid a day, two days, a week; and of late, whole companies on special duty in this city for even months.

In addition to the food and shelter here furnished to the soldier, articles of clothing are given him, from a pair of shoes to a whole suit. He gets his stationery here, his letter franked when he finds himself without stamps; he gets various kinds of military information, which saves him many steps and much inconvenience and vexation.

Discharged soldiers have been greatly benefitted and befriended in many ways. Erroneous papers have been returned to be corrected for them; and when Paymasters were without funds, their final statements have been cashed to the full amount and they sent on their way home to their needy families.

The sick soldier has been taken here, and his immediate

wants and necessities provided for, till he could be better attended in hospital.

The Committee of the Commission to whom has been entrusted the management of the Home, have been unceasing in their efforts to have it come promptly up to every reasonable expectation; and there will be no labor done, no sacrifice made of time and money and personal comfort that will be looked back upon with more honest pride and satisfaction than that which has been bestowed on the Soldiers' Home of the Cincinnati Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission.

Very respectfully yours,

G. W. D. ANDREWS, *Supt.*"

---

The following extracts from reports of Mr. Morton will show the *character* of work in the Home at Louisville:\*

"LOUISVILLE, June 11, 1863.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Sec'y West'n Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission:*

"SIR:—Since the 1st of February, 1863, the number of men received and cared for at the Home has been . . . . . 10,189  
 Average number weekly . . . . . 599  
 do do daily . . . . . 85  
 Since the 24th of March I have given attention to the claims of . . . . . 310  
 Collected for discharged soldiers in the aggregate. . \$25,064.93  
 A weekly average of 31 men, and amount of. . . . . \$2,506.49

"I have had frequently to return defective papers for correction, and take pleasure in stating that the officers to whom they

---

\* See ground plan of "The Home," at end of Report.

have been sent have been 'obliging and prompt in perfecting and returning them, that the soldier might receive his pay and resume his journey homeward.

"When it has been necessary, in the case of defective papers or otherwise, that the soldier should go on without detention, I have made advances to facilitate them, and remitted balances after collections for their account.

"Whole number of deaths since the 1st of February, 12.

"On the arrival of very sick men, friends abroad are notified promptly, and every attention is given to make them comfortable. Dr. Burch, of Hospital No. 1, has been very kind and prompt in giving attention to the sick at the Home. In case of death, all the effects and money of deceased soldiers are preserved and delivered to the properly authorized party or parties. The dead are decently buried in Cave Hill Cemetery, where many of our noble dead sleep side by side. The graves are numbered, so that friends can find their remains.

"The Home now receives passing troops going to the field, by brigades, regiments, companies, or parts of companies. We are making additional improvements, which will be completed in a few days. The new building is 300 feet long and 25 feet wide, and when completed, the capacity of the Home will be sufficient to accommodate a thousand men daily." \* \* \* \*

---

SOLDIER'S HOME, LOUISVILLE, }  
*September, 1863.* }

"The Home is now complete in buildings and all arrangements necessary to provide for and take care of all discharged and furloughed soldiers arriving in the city, who may desire or require a resting place, attention, or assistance in any way.

"In the Home proper, we have capacity, with bedding and

furniture, to accommodate two hundred, and the station house attached, furnishes comfortable lodging room for eight hundred more—and is frequently occupied by regiments and detachments passing through the city.

For July the whole number of meals given was.....24,907  
 For August.....14,319  
 Whole No. of lodgings furnished at the Home, for July, 1,260  
 For August .....1,395

“No record of those lodging in the station house has been kept.

“Our collections for feeble and disabled soldiers have amounted to \$3,396.73.

“For the comfort and convenience of discharged soldiers arriving at the Home, and those from other places in the city who are feeble and require rest while waiting for their pay, rooms have been prepared in one of its buildings, as an office for a Paymaster and the accommodation of his clerks, which are occupied by Major Camp, Paymaster U. S. A., who is prompt and obliging in his attention to those having business with him.”

“This arrangement has diminished the calls upon us to make collections for discharged soldiers generally, it being necessary only to collect for such as are absent, or too feeble to call directly on the Paymaster and receive payment in person.

“We continue to give attention to defective discharge papers, and have daily calls for assistance in the way of advice. I am grateful to state that all the employees at the Home are attentive and prompt in the discharge of their duties, and so far as I know, universal satisfaction has been given to those who have enjoyed its hospitalities.” \* \* \* \*

“From its geographical position, the Home at Louisville

is one of the most important in the United States. Mr. Morton has furnished us the following report of its work for the month of October, from which it will be seen that its sphere is greatly and rapidly enlarging :

SOLDIERS' HOME,  
LOUISVILLE, *Ky.*, Nov. 12, 1863.

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY, *Sec'y West'n Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville :*

DEAR SIR: I give you below the number of Lodgings and Meals furnished at the "Home" for October.

Whole number of lodgings-----	4,142
Meals given at Home-----	11,926
Meals given at Station House-----	24,114
Total number of meals given at Home and Station House-----	36,040

"No account was kept of lodgings in the Station House, which was filled several nights during the month."

---

"SPECIAL RELIEF AGENCY, U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION,  
NASHVILLE, *July 1, 1863.*

DR. J. S. NEWBERRY,

*Sec'y West'n Dep't U. S. Sanitary Commission, Louisville :*

"DEAR SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this agency, for the quarter ending June 30th.

"About the middle of March last I was assigned to the charge of this work. In connection with Dr. Read, I at once set about making arrangements to establish a Soldiers' Home at this point. Our effort were kindly seconded by Major General Rosecrans, who fully apprehended and appreciated all that the good people of the loyal States, through the agency of the U. S. Sanitary Commission, are doing to mitigate the privations

and sufferings of the brave men who are carrying their country's flag into the very heart of the bogus Confederacy.

“Through the kindness of the General, we succeeded in having assigned to us a splendid suite of large, airy, well-ventilated rooms over the passenger depot of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, and here, on the 26th of March, 1863, we formally opened the “Home.” The objects kept in view at this agency are the same as those which have accomplished so much in the Special Relief agencies at Washington, Cincinnati, Louisville, &c., viz: to furnish to discharged, sick and furloughed soldiers a resting place and food; also, all needed assistance in correcting defective papers, obtaining pay and pensions, and to see them all safely on their way to their homes, without charge. In short, to do all for this class of men that their parents and brothers could do were they here in person, with abundance of means and thoroughly acquainted with the work of the various offices. Thus with a small force, aided by a thorough system, the Commission is enabled to do for these men what a great multitude of their personal friends would be utterly unable to accomplish, were they to put themselves to the expense of a journey and sojourn here.

“By request of General Rosecrans, we have admitted to the Home only discharged and furloughed soldiers. All others passing through Nashville, and not under charge of an officer, are ordered to report to Exchange Barracks, where they are provided with rations and comfortable lodgings, and furnished with transportation to their respective commands. But, although we have not formally admitted to the Home these detached parties of soldiers, and their names do not appear upon our books, yet, on arriving at the depot after a long ride, tired and hungry, we have fre-



quently furnished them with refreshments and a temporary resting place, and then directed them to the barracks.

“The following statement exhibits such part of the work of the agency at this point as can be expressed in tabular form:

“There have been admitted to the Home during the quarter—

Discharged soldiers-----	1,050
Furloughed “-----	486
	<hr/>
Total-----	1,536

“Distributed among the States as follows: Ohio, 352; Indiana, 388; Illinois, 421; Michigan, 91; Wisconsin, 74; Tennessee, 31; Kentucky, 109; Pennsylvania, 30; Missouri, 14; Minnesota, 6; New York, 4; regular army, 3; Rhode Island, 4; Massachusetts, 1.

Largest number cared for any one day-----	127
Average number cared for per day-----	46
Number of deaths-----	8
Whole number of meals furnished-----	7,457
Whole number of lodgings furnished-----	3,064
Defective papers corrected-----	79
Number too feeble to go to pay office for whom I have drawn pay-----	211
Amount of money received and paid over-----	\$12,867 62
Entire cost to the Commission in furniture, fix- tures, and current expenses up to July 1-----	\$407 72

“We have guides to visit the depots on the arrival of trains to conduct the men to the Home, where their baggage is checked, and their names, number of company and regiment, condition, destination, &c., properly recorded. After which their papers are carefully examined, and such as are defective retained for correction. I lose no time in writing out the necessary corrections to be made and forwarding them to our agents at Murfreesboro or other points, who

receive them on the arrival of the mail, and at once set out to the regiments and companies to have the corrections made. Sets of papers are frequently returned to me from Murfreesboro corrected on the day they are sent out from here.

After a soldier has been a long time sick in hospital, and is at last informed that he is discharged, and his papers are made out, and he actually starts for home, but few can appreciate his sufferings of mind if, through the carelessness of his captain, or from some other cause, he is compelled to wait while his papers are sent back to be corrected. Everything in him is absorbed in the one idea of home. No pains or labor have, therefore, been spared to enable those arriving here from the front to go on with as little delay as possible. In many cases of defective papers, when the necessity was peculiarly urgent, I have made advances of money to facilitate their homeward passage, and remitted balances after collecting their accounts. For these favors I have reaped a rich harvest of reward in witnessing the evident happiness it afforded the soldiers, and in their gratitude expressed on leaving the Home, and in letters acknowledging the receipt of amounts forwarded. I enclose herewith a copy of one such letter just received from a discharged soldier from Indiana. \* \* \*

Many applications are made for assistance by soldiers and their friends who are able to attend to their own business, but are strangers in the city, and do not know where to commence or how to go to work.

Many letters of inquiries are received and answered, and much time is spent in various other ways in the legitimate labors of the agency, a record of which is not kept, and which cannot be exhibited in a report of this kind.

The question has often occurred to me, "What would these men have done had it not been for the care taken of them at the Soldiers' Home?" It would have cost those who had defective papers as much to get them corrected as the corrections would have amounted to on the average when made, and then their board while waiting would, in many instances, have absorbed the balance due them on their papers.

I believe this agency have saved these men more than four times as much money in this way as the entire cost to the Commission in establishing the Home and its current expenses during the quarter. And then who can compute in dollars and cents the amount of anxiety and suffering that we have thus been instrumental in saving.

\* \* \* \* \*

Those who have died at the Home have been buried at the expense of the Government in the Cemetery here, where so many of our noble dead who have laid down their lives in their country's service sleep side by side, and their money and effects are sent to the heirs as soon as we can get into communication with them.

The thanks of the Commission are due to all the officers of the Government through whom this agency has had business to transact in this city for the cordial good will with which they have aided us in carrying on the good work.

Very respectfully,

L. CRANE,

*Special Relief Agent, U. S. San. Com'n.*

\* \* \* \* \*

“The establishment of the Soldiers’ Home at Nashville has thrown upon us a new branch of work. Almost every day discharged soldiers reach the Home from this point with papers so defective that they cannot draw their pay upon them; some with papers which would enable them to draw a part only of that which is justly their due. When this occurs the soldier remains at the Home and his papers are returned for correction here. I make it a point, upon the arrival of the train, to have my horse ready saddled, and my other business so arranged that I can ride promptly to the regiment or regiments and secure the correction of the papers in time to return them, if possible, by the afternoon train—always by the next day. In doing this I cannot cease to think of the loss, anxiety, and delay the soldier discharged from the service must have experienced at Nashville before this work was assumed and systematized by the Commission, of the sickness of heart which would well nigh crush out the little life remaining in the sick and crippled soldier, without money and among strangers, anxious to reach his home, with the thought, perhaps, that it was only to die there, when he found his papers were worthless and he had no one to go to for help. The importance of this work could never have been fully known, except through the experience of doing it.”

“The answer of letters and telegrams of inquiry from the Hospital Directory at Louisville, and from friends at home who communicate directly with this office, has become an important part of the work here—a work always interesting, often sad in the information to be communicated. If the hospital records and the long list of casualties at the battle of Stone River and subsequent skirmishes afford no positive data for answering the inquiry or finding the soldier, recourse is had to the officers of the regiment. At first, reliance was placed upon letters to

the regiments, but the results were far from satisfactory ; and now, if the regiment is accessible, personal inquiry of the officers of the company, and an inspection of the company rolls, is always resorted to if the man cannot otherwise be found. This work and the correction of discharge papers is doing much to endear the Commission to the hearts of the soldiery. Heretofore, dealing almost exclusively with the sick and wounded, the able-bodied soldiery in the field, who really mould the public sentiment of the army and communicate it to the people at home, knew but little of the work of the Commission, and the receipt of one box of stale pound cake and mouldy gingerbread for the well men of the regiment, although calculated to fill the hospitals rather than relieve the sick, would occasion more cordial letters of thanks to the donors than the receipt of car-loads of purely hospital stores. But now as you visit the regiments to get the discharge papers corrected, and point out to the soldier how he or his comrades can secure all needed assistance on his way home if discharged, or call around you the comrades of a missing soldier to gather up all the information possible and secure any clue which will determine his fate, the constant expression you hear is decided and heart-felt: "Thank God that somebody is doing this work for the soldier."

"A few incidents will illustrate the difficulties and the interesting character of this part of the work.

"Eli Gleason, Co. C, 21st Michigan V. I., is inquired for. No satisfactory information being attainable here, the regiment is visited. It is found that he is accounted for on the muster rolls of his company up to the 31st of December, from which time his name is dropped and no explanation given ; but on inquiry among his comrades it is ascertained that he was wounded in the battle of Stone River, taken to a hospital which was subsequently captured by the rebels, when he was taken four miles to the rebel rear by a comrade

who was also a prisoner, and is now at Camp Chase, paroled. There all positive information ends. His wound ought not to have been fatal, for, although shot in the hip, another comrade saw him walk without help some twenty rods to the rear, indicating that it was merely a flesh wound. It is also stated in the regiment that after the occupation of Murfreesboro by our forces, the name of the soldier, company, and regiment, was found cut in the wall of a building, but where they know not. His comrades promise to find its location, if possible, and report here, when that clue will be followed up till it fails or leads to a definite knowledge of the soldier's fate. Should that simple record, traced by his own hand, but point to the location of his grave, the friends at home could hardly refrain from making a pilgrimage to the spot. Should it lead to his discovery, yet alive, who shall give expression to their gratitude?"

"An inquiry is made for Henry Hass, Company C, 5th Kentucky Volunteer Infantry. It is ascertained that Henry Hoos of that company was killed in the battle of Stone River, and his body left upon the field occupied by the rebels—that Henry Hess of the same company is with his regiment, well, and that no Henry Hass was ever a member of the company. This information is communicated with such descriptions as will insure identification, carrying joy or sorrow to the mother who makes the inquiry, according as it shall be found to have been her son or another's son, probably equally beloved, who has fallen."

## SOLDIERS' LODGE, MEMPHIS, TENN.,

*August 4, 1863.*

\* \* \* \* "During the month of July, the arrivals at the Lodge have been 617. Of these 234 were discharged, and 218 furloughed soldiers; number of meals furnished, 2,011.

"The arrival of a matron about the middle of July has enabled us to add greatly to the comforts of all, and especially of the sick and convalescent. We have also constructed during the month 24 additional bunks, giving us 42 in all.

"I am constrained to mention again the amazing ignorance and carelessness shown in making out the final statements of discharged soldiers.

The plea that the soldier can return his papers if wrong, and have them corrected, is often of little practical value. In this department discharged men are paid at this place. On his arrival here the soldier learns that his papers are wrong. If he is able to travel and has money enough to get home, where he can wait patiently and safely the return of his papers for correction, he suffers only from the annoyance of going home with unsettled papers, and possibly from a feeling of resistance in finding himself under such ignorance and carelessness that even pecuniary justice is not done him. But the cases of discharged men with any money in their pockets are exceptional ones; as a rule the men being both penniless and sick, or so debilitated that a return to Vicksburg, or the delay here necessary for the return and correction of their papers, is at the serious risk [of life. Already a number have died while waiting for corrected papers—men, too, who, without doubt, would be living now had their papers been correct.

“Here are notes of one day’s experience with discharged soldiers :

“Three men discharged from —; papers of one wrong; of two others so made out as to subject them to a loss of \$25 advance bounty, and two months and three days’ clothing allowance; but three dollars among them, and regiment left Vicksburg a number of days ago in the expedition (supposed) against Mobile; so no chance of getting papers corrected for weeks; got Government transportation for them to St. Louis endorsed on discharge papers.

“Two other discharged men, same regiment, without a cent; papers so made out that they lose \$22 advance bounty, and about one and one half months’ clothing allowance. Poor fellows, both sick and debilitated, took what was coming to them and started home. One discharged man from — certificate of discharge not dated and statements altered. I sent papers back and he remains here till their return. Found three other discharged men at pay office; no money, and papers all wrong. Two discharged men of the —, from Corinth; one just gone with consumption, going home to die; the other sick. Both in charge of a man from same regiment, furloughed expressly to go home with them, and under written instructions from their surgeon to get them home as soon as possible. Both sets of discharge papers wrong, and not a cent in the party. Had paid out their last eighty-five cents for food, coming in from Corinth.

Got Government transportation for all, and gave them a little money to go home.

“In all, eleven discharged men; papers wrong, three dollars in the party, and not one able to carry his knapsack to the boat, about twenty-five rods.



“I may be pardoned for enumerating some points in which papers prove wrong.

“1. The omission of date of enlistment or enrollment, which should appear in Final Statements, as well as in certificate of discharge.

“2. Omitting to say that the disease or disability for which the man is discharged was incurred since enlistment, if such be the fact; or the contrary, if the contrary be the fact.

“3. Neglect to state whether or not the clothing account was ever settled.

“4. Alteration or erasure of dates, day and month, and of amounts of money.

“5. Omitting to state time of discharge, to date certificate of discharge and Final Statements.”

\* \* \* \* \*

---

SOLDIER'S LODGE, MEMPHIS, TENN.,

“Report for one week:

No. of furloughed men admitted this week-----	398
discharged men admitted this week-----	7
convalescents going to regiments -----	62
recruits going to regiments-----	11
paroled men going to regiments-----	39
all other classes going to regiments-----	42
	<hr/>
Total-----	559

“From the States as follows: Illinois, 234; Indiana, 86; Ohio, 66; Iowa, 55; Wisconsin, 33; Missouri, 29; Michigan, 15; Kentucky, 18; Minnesota, 6; Regular Army, 4; Musicians, 3; Kansas, 2; Marine Brigade, 2; Alabama,

Tennessee, Virginia, Signal Corps and Pioneer Corps, 1 each.

Number going from regiments, 39; going to regiments, 433; number on detached service, 30; to join Invalid Corps, 5.

No. of meals furnished during the week-----	1,205
lodgings furnished during the week-----	482
Largest number cared for in one day-----	209
Average number cared for per day-----	128
No. of deaths-----	0
sent to the hospital-----	5
we procured transportation for-----	4
of defective papers we corrected-----	4
aided in drawing pay-----	3

Very respectfully, yours,

C. W. CHRISTY,

*Superintendent and Relief Agent.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### CAIRO.

Reports of a portion of the relief afforded by the Home at Cairo to 15,345 soldiers of the Union, represent the States as follows: Illinois, 5,907; Wisconsin, 1,090; Minnesota, 109; Iowa, 1,183; Kansas, 61; Nebraska, 5; Missouri, 793; Michigan, 835; Indiana, 1,919; Ohio, 2,300; Pennsylvania, 12; Maine, 2; Kentucky, 315; Tennessee, 58; U. S. Regulars, 71; not known, 595.

\* \* \* \* \*

In Dr. Andrew's report concerning the operations of the Sanitary Commission, in connection with the battles of Chickamauga on the 19th and 20th of September, we find reference to the establishment of the "Mountain Lodge," where thousands of sick, and hundreds of almost dying men,

have since been refreshed in their wearisome way over those rough mountain roads. He says :

“ On the 28th ult. I laid the plan for the establishment of a resting and feeding place on the ambulance route, for the benefit of the wounded in transitu midway between Chattanooga and Stevenson, before Surgeon Perin, Medical Director of the Department. It at once received his hearty approbation and the promise of every necessary aid. I readily procured the consent of Rev. O. Kennedy, Chaplain of the 101st Ohio, an excellent man, with a head, a heart, and a hand always ready for any good work, to take charge of the Lodge, and have taken the liberty to appoint him an agent of the Commission for that purpose. After much delay and many disappointments he started with the tents, stores, and furniture, and we can say with as much certainty as of any future event, that it will be in complete running order in time for the next train of wounded men. The deprivations and sufferings of those on the two trains which have already come over that dreaded passage, have convinced every one of the necessity of the “Lodge,” and there is no room for fear for the future in this regard. It is expected that each ambulance train will so arrange its movements as to stop at that point, (where there is an abundance of wood and water, and where there will be abundance of wholesome, palatable food, and of kind attention,) for a good night’s rest.”

Again, in the *Sanitary Reporter* of November is the following :

From the “Mountain Lodge,” near Chattanooga, we have as yet received no detailed report, and in lieu thereof append the following from the *Cincinnati Gazette* :

“CINCINNATI.

“EDS. GAZETTE: It is not unfrequently stated that the

contributions made by our benevolent citizens to the United States Commission seldom reach those for whom the donations were really intended. Such statements have a tendency to diminish public confidence, and retard the operations of the Commission. I desire in a public manner to testify to one act of the Sanitary Commission, done at a time and place to fully testify to the indispensable benefits that institution has done to our suffering men.

On the 24th inst. I came over the cheerless and horribly muddy road leading down the valley of Sequatchie, from Chattanooga to Stevenson. Major Welsh of the 18th was with me, and in an ambulance we had Lieut. D. B. Carlin, a brave and valuable officer of the 18th, who was slowly recovering from a severe wound received at Chickamauga. This officer was yet totally helpless, and had been sent out from the field hospital with less than a day's rations to accomplish a march of four days. The country on this route affords nothing for the subsistence of either man or beast. In this emergency I knew not what to do. The officer, as well as the driver of the ambulance and the officer's attendant, were likely to suffer severely.

At a point just eight miles above Jasper we espied, on the river bank, three or four hospital tents, and near by a few smaller tents; and riding up to one of these, we discovered a small placard, with the words "Soldiers' Home" on it, and we rejoiced to discover the jolly countenance of the kind-hearted chaplain of the 101st Ohio Volunteers, now doing detached duty as agent of the Sanitary Commission in this isolated spot, for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers being sent to the rear.

We stated our case, and were liberally supplied with fruit, crackers, tea, &c., with a good bottle of the best of ale, (Walker's best,) and were kindly urged to remain and partake of a warm supper. This invitation we were reluctantly compelled to decline, on account of the lateness of the hour, and the necessity existing to reach Jasper. This is only one of a thousand similar instances occurring daily everywhere along this line. The fact that this aid, so much needed, reached us when so unexpected, made an impression on my mind.

\* \* \* \* \*

Yours,

C. H. GROSVENOR,  
Lieut. Col. 18th O. V. I.

## SPECIAL RELIEF WORK ON THE ATLANTIC COAST.

---

Until recently, this has not been made there a distinct branch of the work, but has been carried on in connection with the General Relief work of the agencies of the Sanitary Commission, established at various points on the coast. At Newburn, Dr. Page, at Port Royal and Folly Island, Dr. Marsh, at New Orleans, Dr. Blake and Dr. Crane have thus had charge of this service. Recently arrangements have been made for establishing "Homes" at all the important points on the coast, including St. Augustine, to which the sick are now carried in large numbers. Special Relief agents have gone out, taking with them all the furniture and material which may be needed; and in connection with these "Homes" will be free agencies for obtaining pay and correcting papers wherever such agencies can be of service.

---

The following incident is from the journal of Special Relief; it has been printed in a little tract entitled "The Lord will Provide," but is inserted here to illustrate the work we do and the men whom we sometimes meet with :

PHILADELPHIA, *July 1st, 1863.*

(Wednesday night, 10 o'clock.)

I want to note down before I forget it, the case of a man whom I have just been helping on his way home.

I was in the Commission's Rooms here in Philadelphia, this afternoon, on my way from Washington, when a soldier came in with an intelligent but very anxious face, saying that he was

in trouble, and had come to see if he could get advice or assistance. His case was simply this : He was an inmate of a General Hospital, Washington, (wounded in foot, still very lame,) had obtained from the surgeon a furlough for thirty days, to visit his home in Maine, in order to see his wife who, according to a telegram which he had received, was sick, lying very low. With his furlough and transportation paper (an order from the Government to the railroads along the way from city to city, to furnish him transportation at expense of Government, but to be charged in final settlement to the man,) he had left Washington and nearly reached Philadelphia, when he discovered that both his furlough and transportation papers were gone—probably stolen from his pocket. He had nothing to show in proof that he was not a deserter, and no means of continuing on his way to his home. He said the adjutant general at Philadelphia had listened to his case kindly, and had telegraphed to Washington to get assurance that a furlough had been granted him. I also telegraphed to our Relief Office to have a messenger sent out to the hospital, and get assurance that the man had received a leave of absence, so that the military authorities here could be authorized in furnishing him with a paper which would protect him against arrest.

I told the man to come to see me this evening, at the hotel here, to see if an answer was received to my telegram. He came in a little while ago, (with a young man who helped him along), bringing the needed military pass from the authorities here—based on the answer which had just been received by the adjutant general to his telegram. (I also, at the same time, received an answer at our office, attesting to his furlough.)

As the man was entirely without money, and could not get another order for transportation, I relieved his anxiety by telling him that I would arrange some way for him to get home, so that he could go by the first train in the morning ; so I

## SPECIAL RELIEF WORK ON THE ATLANTIC COAST.

Until recently, this has not been made there a distinct branch of the work, but has been carried on in connection with the General Relief work of the agencies of the Sanitary Commission, established at various points on the coast. At Newburn, Dr. Page, at Port Royal and Folly Island, Dr. Marsh, at New Orleans, Dr. Blake and Dr. Crane have thus had charge of this service. Recently arrangements have been made for establishing "Homes" at all the important points on the coast, including St. Augustine, to which the sick are now carried in large numbers. Special Relief agents have gone out, taking with them all the furniture and material which may be needed; and in connection with these "Homes" will be free agencies for obtaining pay and correcting papers wherever such agencies can be of service.

The following incident is from the journal of Special Relief; it has been printed in a little tract entitled "The Lord will Provide," but is inserted here to illustrate the work we do and the men whom we sometimes meet with :

PHILADELPHIA, *July 1st, 1863.*

(Wednesday night, 10 o'clock.)

I want to note down before I forget it, the case of a man whom I have just been helping on his way home.

I was in the Commission's Rooms here in Philadelphia, this afternoon, on my way from Washington, when a soldier came in with an intelligent but very anxious face, saying that he was

in trouble, and had come to see if he could get advice or assistance. His case was simply this : He was an inmate of a General Hospital, Washington, (wounded in foot, still very lame,) had obtained from the surgeon a furlough for thirty days, to visit his home in Maine, in order to see his wife who, according to a telegram which he had received, was sick, lying very low. With his furlough and transportation paper (an order from the Government to the railroads along the way from city to city, to furnish him transportation at expense of Government, but to be charged in final settlement to the man,) he had left Washington and nearly reached Philadelphia, when he discovered that both his furlough and transportation papers were gone—probably stolen from his pocket. He had nothing to show in proof that he was not a deserter, and no means of continuing on his way to his home. He said the adjutant general at Philadelphia had listened to his case kindly, and had telegraphed to Washington to get assurance that a furlough had been granted him. I also telegraphed to our Relief Office to have a messenger sent out to the hospital, and get assurance that the man had received a leave of absence, so that the military authorities here could be authorized in furnishing him with a paper which would protect him against arrest.

I told the man to come to see me this evening, at the hotel here, to see if an answer was received to my telegram. He came in a little while ago, (with a young man who helped him along), bringing the needed military pass from the authorities here—based on the answer which had just been received by the adjutant general to his telegram. (I also, at the same time, received an answer at our office, attesting to his furlough.)

As the man was entirely without money, and could not get another order for transportation, I relieved his anxiety by telling him that I would arrange some way for him to get home, so that he could go by the first train in the morning ; so I



handed him ten dollars, and gave to him one of our tickets, which would show to the railroads and steamboats that he was entitled to travel at reduced rates of fare, also cards and directions to the Relief Station in New York, and to the "Home" of the Commission, in Boston, where he would be taken care of kindly on his way without cost. He wished to give me an order upon his paymaster, at Washington, so that the ten dollars might be returned, and insisted resolutely upon my receiving his note of hand for the amount.

After talking a while with him, I found that he was a fellow of fine, manly spirit, a hard-working man, with no means of support but his labor, and just now his wife sick, and an aged mother dependent upon him, and some little children to be cared for, so I said to him, "No, I shan't let you pay that back again, you have got to receive that as a present from the Sanitary Commission—it is out of some money entrusted to me as a discretionary fund, so that I can give a helping hand to those who need a lift on the way home."

He was much moved by the kindness, and with a look of real thought and feeling, and with a slow, deep tone of voice, after some hesitation, looking me full in the eye, he said: "Now I will tell you something! and I will tell you just how I take this. When we got out of the cars last night, after I had lost my papers, and was so exercised about it, and was almost broken down with the idea that I had got to turn back again to the hospital, at Washington, with no chance of getting to see my wife at home,—when we got out of the cars, I picked up a wrapper, which had in it the furlough and transportation papers of another man; and, come to look at them, they belonged to a man whom I knew by sight, as he had been in the same hospital with me. I didn't exactly, at first, know what to do with them. I saw that I could use them just as well as not to carry me straight home, and no one would be the wiser for it,

as they didn't know my name along the railroads; and two acquaintances who were along with me advised me to do so, and said that I would be a fool if I didn't do it, that I had *found* them, and might never see the owner of them even if I were to hunt all night after him, and that it was the only chance in the world for me to get home for one year at any rate, and the probabilities were, that unless I went *now*, my wife might be gone before ever I reached there.

"It was a hard trial to me, the toughest time I ever had in my life, and at first I didn't know what to do; but when I thought about seeing my wife, if I should find her alive, and having to feel, when I *looked* at her, that I hadn't come home in exactly an *honest way*, I felt as if she would somehow know it all, and would tell me *she wished I hadn't come!* For one of the last things she said to me was this: she said, "*You may go!—I am willing you should go, if you only won't lose your principles!* Let me hear that you are killed, or that you have died in any way, only *don't* let me hear that you have ever done what was wrong!" That's what my wife said, and my mother said just the same, and she is a praying woman, and I know that they both pray for me every day, and have done so every single day since I went out to the war, 'most two years ago.

"When I thought of *that I couldn't* keep and use that man's furlough and transportation any more than I could have died! and I went and hunted till I found the man, and gave them to him; and then I had a feeling somehow come right over me, that the Lord had got some way ready that he would provide for me to get home and see my wife; and that's just the way that I take this help that you've been giving me; I take it of the Lord's providing; not but what I'm just as grateful to you, you know, as if I didn't take it this way, for I am; but I can't but look upon it so. You

*don't* know, you never *can* know what a kindness you have done me. And now when I come to see my wife, I can feel that I have a *right* to have her glad to see me again, for I'm going to carry back to her, in me, all the principle I had before I left to go to the war, for honestly I tell you, if I do say it, who ought not to say it, that I have held on to my principles just as I would have hung on to my musket if one of the rebels had undertaken to twist it out of my hands ; that's just the way I have hung on to my principles, more times than one, too, for I've had some pretty sharp temptations come along across my track, first and last, in these two years. I don't say I did this always so much for the sake of doing right, and because I was so dead-set against doing anything wrong (though I have some ideas of my own about that), but because, somehow, the sight of my wife and my children and my mother would always keep coming up before me, and I couldn't bear the idea of disappointing them, and wronging them, and breaking their hearts, for I know as well as I want to that it would do just that if I were to go home broken down in my principles, and with the mean kind of look and way that men always have when they've been doing wrong, and been acting out of sight of home as they wouldn't have done if their wife and folks had been round.

“I guess I have talked about enough, but now that I'm on it, I am just going to tell you one thing more, seeing that you are willing to listen to me so, and that is that what my wife said to me there when I left home actually made me dream twice of getting a furlough and going home ; and the first time they were all as glad as could be to see me, and my wife was as proud of me as could be, though, as it seemed in my dream, I had lost one of my legs and

had to go on crutches, and had my face awfully scarred, so that I had been afraid the children wouldn't want to come to me; but they did, and hung around me all day long, and the neighbors, too, all came in. But the other time when I dreamed about getting home, and I thought this time that the war was all through, I found that my wife and the children and all looked somehow sad and disappointed, and though they were very kind to me, and looked as if they pitied me, it didn't seem as if they cared as much for me one half as they used to, or cared to have me with them, and my wife didn't seem to want to walk out with me, though I had got to be a captain, and knew that I looked like a real soldier; and finally, when I asked my wife why this was so, she looked me right in the face, but didn't say a word, when it came all over me, how for a while, the last four months in the army, I had gone off on a wrong track with some men who hadn't much principle, and hadn't written home as much, or cared as much about my wife as I used to. And while she was looking at me this way, and I was trying to hide my face, I all of a sudden waked up, and I guess that time, after I found it all was a dream, I guess I was happier than I ever expect to be again in this world, unless it be next day after to-morrow, if I get home and find that my wife is still alive. Now I hope you won't think strange of me for talking so about myself, 't isn't my usual way, but somehow you were so kind to me, and asked so about my wife, that I kept talking on. I'm not going to thank you again, only I hope sometime or other to meet you again. I should like so much, when I get back, to tell you how I found things at home."

EXTRACT OF ONE DAY'S RECORD FROM THE  
JOURNAL OF THE "NURSES' HOME," AT WASH-  
INGTON.

Seven women and ten children received to-day. First, a mother of a soldier; next, a soldier's wife; three hospital nurses; then two wives of refugees, with their children.

The soldier's mother showed me this telegram to explain to me who she was, and why she was in the city; it was from her son: "Mitchel's Station, Va.—I am to be shot on Friday next—can you do anything for me?" With this telegram in her hand she had hastened on from her distant home by the first train to Washington, to appeal to the President to save her son. She gathered up and brought with her such testimonials as she could obtain; also evidence of the circumstances connected with her son's enlistment. She was a poor woman, but neatly clad, and with an honest and earnest face, about fifty years old. Her husband, it seems, was so much shocked by the telegram that he could not act, so she had to come on. As she came to the Nurses' Home, almost utterly exhausted, she looked like one who had been through a terrible night of darkness, watching by what seemed a death-bed, but had suddenly caught sight of a bright gleam of light, for she had already laid her case before the President, with such testimony as palliated the act of "desertion" on the part of her boy, and the sentence of death had been revoked. It seems that some months ago her son had run away from home to enlist, (he was but 17 or 18 years old, and his parents had gained no intelligence of him until a letter came in his handwriting

announcing to his mother that he was in the army and was to be tried as a "deserter," but that there was no danger but what he should get off. His mother had then written, asking him to tell her all the circumstances of his enlistment. The letter which he sent in return his mother brought on to Washington with her, and as she allowed me to copy it, I insert it here :

"DEAR FATHER AND MOTHER.—I now take the opportunity of writing you a few lines, hoping to find you in good health. I had got your letter and I read it; then I gave it to the Colonel, and I do not know what he will do with it, but I hope he will not go hard on me. He is a very severe man when he gets angry, and a very good one when he ain't angry. I have been very sick with fever and ague, and I am out in the rain here ever since I have been caught, without even a tent. All the house we have is a few limbs of trees. I have the shakes every other day. Where we are in camp, is a very sickly place, and very lousy. The lice is taking away our clothes. It ain't safe to put down our crackers without we put a stone on them, as the lice would run away with it. I am now getting along first-rate. I just now got your letter from home. While I was writing this letter I received your letter, dear mother, and read it. And now I will tell you how and where I enlisted. The day that I left home I was made acquainted with a fellow named, as he called himself, Captain Cody, and he agreed to take me to Pennsylvania and get me three hundred dollars, and I asked him how, and he told me when I got there I would see. When I got there he took me to some house in South 2d street, as he called it, in Philadelphia, and we stayed there that night, and in the morning we got our breakfast; then he gave me some liquor to drink, and I did

not know where I was till I found myself in Norristown, Pennsylvania, in the Marshal's office, talking to the doctor. I was asleep. When I awoke the doctor told me that I was an enlisted man, and I said I was not, and he showed me some papers that I signed when I was drunk; but I do not believe I ever signed a paper; then I asked him where was the money, and he told me that the boarding-master took two hundred dollars, and said I owed him twenty-five more. The boarding-master was Captain Cody. He swore that I owed him the money, and that is all I know about it. And there was a lieutenant who said he would get me clear for twenty-five dollars, and I gave it to him; but I did not see him any more. The place I enlisted was Norristown, Pa. That is all at present.

“ I send my best love and respects to you all. Good bye.

“ If you have got one of John Peterson's pictures, send it in the letter. That is all.

“ Direct to ————,  
—————.”

Such was the letter which was followed by the brief message sent to his mother, “ I am to be shot next Friday; can you do something for me?” As she handed me the telegram, although her son was now safe, her whole frame shook. She had two other sons, she said; one a little fellow of ten, and the third at home, disabled from wounds received in the battle at Chancellorville. Her journey and expenses had used all the money she had been able to bring from home with her, and it was a real joy to us to be able to give her a resting place and kind care; and then to-morrow we shall furnish her with a ticket to her home.

2d. The soldier's wife—very young and frail—she has

journeyed alone over 500 miles in the last two days, to see, if possible, her husband alive.

She found him in the hospital near by; has been with him all day, and has now come into the "nurses' home" full of hope that he will recover, and delighted to find the admirable and kind care which is bestowed by the general hospitals upon those who are sick, and of which she had heard such terrible reports of neglect. She is grateful, very, for the shelter and the hand of sympathy which the Home offers to her.

3d. THE WIVES OF THE REFUGEES.—One of these, with the four children, was brought to the office of the Sanitary Commission, by the provost guard, early this morning. She was miserably poor and destitute, and with her children sadly in need of warm garments. According to the papers which she carried with her, and her own story, she had come on all the way from Tennessee in order to find in Alexandria some relatives of her husband who were said to live there. Her husband had been shot by guerrillas near his own house, where he had gone on a six days' furlough from the army, not very distant. As she had nothing to live on, and feared for her own life, she had fled and came on here. In Alexandria she had searched in vain for her husband's relatives. She brought all her goods with her; namely, a bed, blankets, and some clothes, in four dirty bundles. She now wants to get back as far as Kentucky. She says she can't feel at home "way north;" that she had rather starve "down south" than stay up here. She and her children will be made comfortable, and then sent on their way. She is not entirely satisfied with her treatment at the Home. She thinks that she is not "waited upon" as a soldier's wife from so far off ought to be, and that she has



received very little attention; and that, if this house pretends to be a kind of hotel—only where they don't take any pay—they ought to look a little more after the folks they entertain; that at any rate a black girl might be sent to take care of her children; and that surely it is a great place where a body has to help to sew upon the garments which are going to be a *present* to her! But still, upon the whole, she is glad of the shelter and the garments, though her pride is a little wounded; and most certainly the poor little children are warmer for the flannels and shoes. It is strange how these "poor whites," who haven't energy enough apparently to harvest the crop which is to keep them alive, can overcome all the difficulties of such a journey as this, with baggage and children, travelling a thousand miles.

The other woman, wife of a refugee—she came from Culpepper with her six children, her husband is with her. They were simply "starved out." At one time the place was in the hands of the rebels and they couldn't get away; at another time in the hands of the Federals, and they hoped not to be obliged to go away—and so for two years they had lived on—until at last, as the husband told me, they had but "half a gallon" of meal left. So they had to give up their home; they succeeded in escaping the guerrillas, and after a long and terribly wearisome journey on foot with these six children they reached a place of protection. They had been at the Sanitary Lodge in Alexandria, resting for a day or two before they came on to Washington. They were Methodists, and persons with deep religious faith. Under all their labor and sorrow (for they buried a little child shortly before they left their home in Virginia) they were quiet and cheerful, apparently having perfect confidence that God would yet give them a home and all the happiness which

was best for them. The children, too, in their gentleness and expression of face, bore mark of the daily prayer which had never failed, as the mother told me, to be offered at the poor man's altar. This family had seen better days, but there was no complaint at their lot. They are grateful for the kindness we are able to show to them, though they are somewhat closely packed together in two rooms. Arrangements are made to ticket the whole family through to their old home in Western Pennsylvania.

4th. THE HOSPITAL NURSES.—Two of these are from the General Hospital, one worn down by excessive labor, needing a few day's rest; the other has just returned from a visit to her home, and is unable to go over to Alexandria to-night. The third is from a Regimental Hospital, where she has served devotedly for nearly two years—and she is ordered in by the Surgeon of the regiment, whether she will or no, to rest for at least one week; but it seems as if resting were to her the hardest form of labor. She will soon be really sick if she cannot go to work.

---

These extracts from records, give some idea, though necessarily imperfect, of one part of the Special Relief work of the Commission.

(The statistics concerning disabled discharged soldiers, with reference to the provision to be made for them in coming years, will be hereafter added.)

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRED. N. KNAPP,  
*Special Relief Agent.*

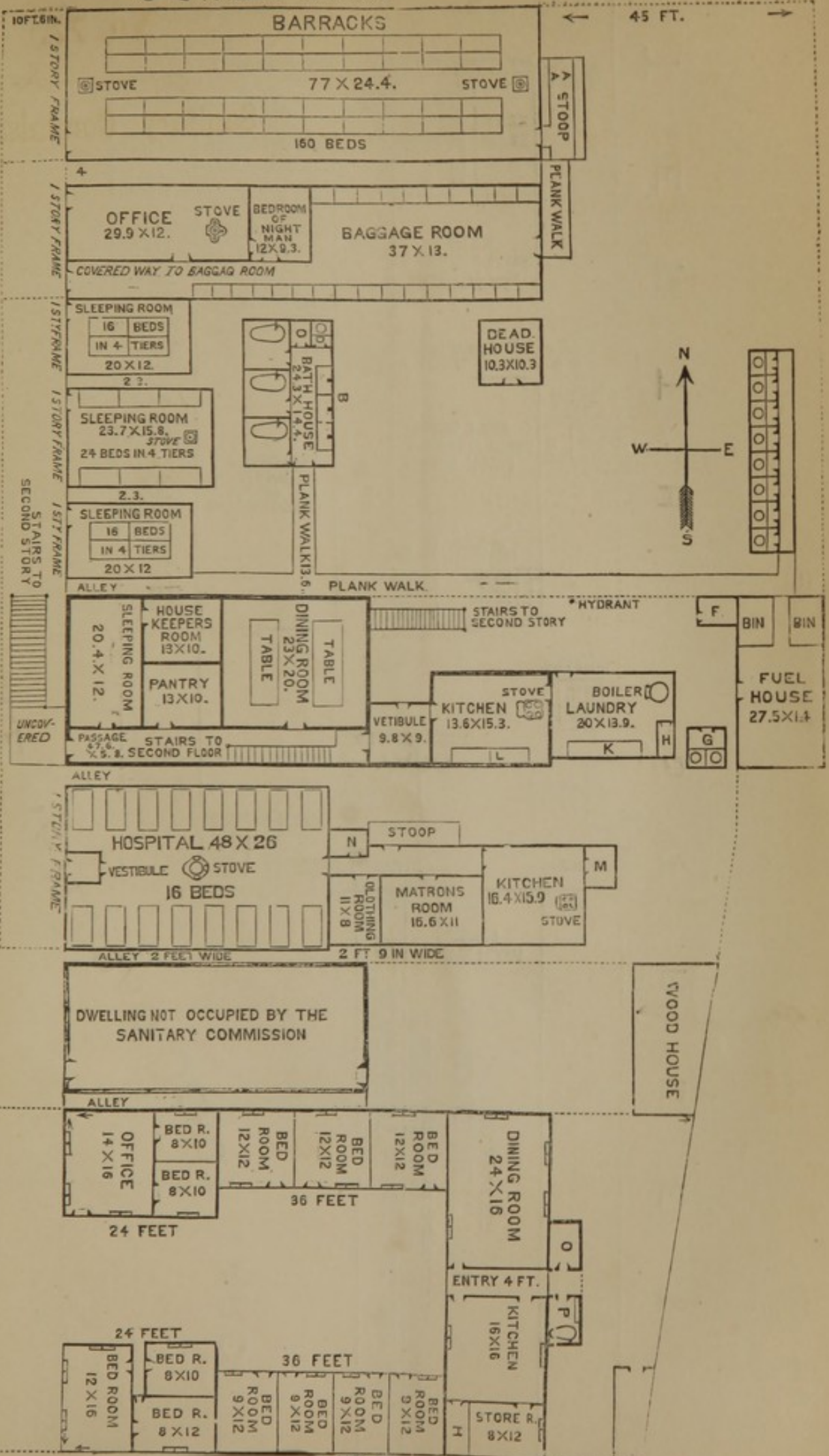
**No. 77.**



**Sanitary Commission.**

C STREET NORTH

GROUND PLAN OF "THE HOME," U. S. SANITARY COMMISSION, AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

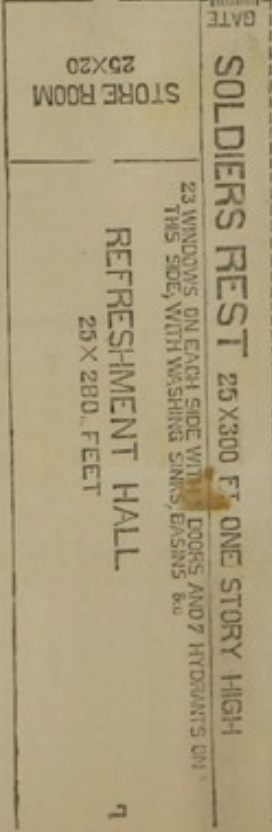
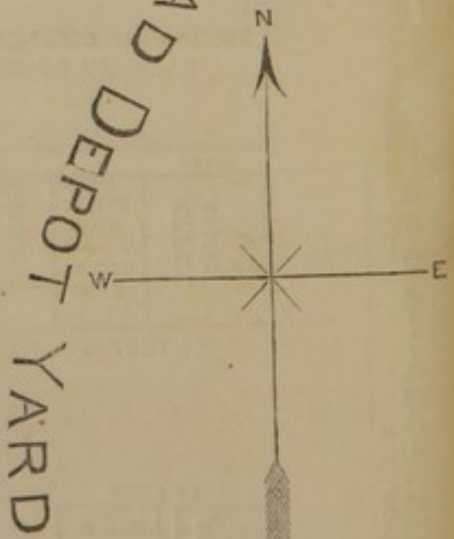
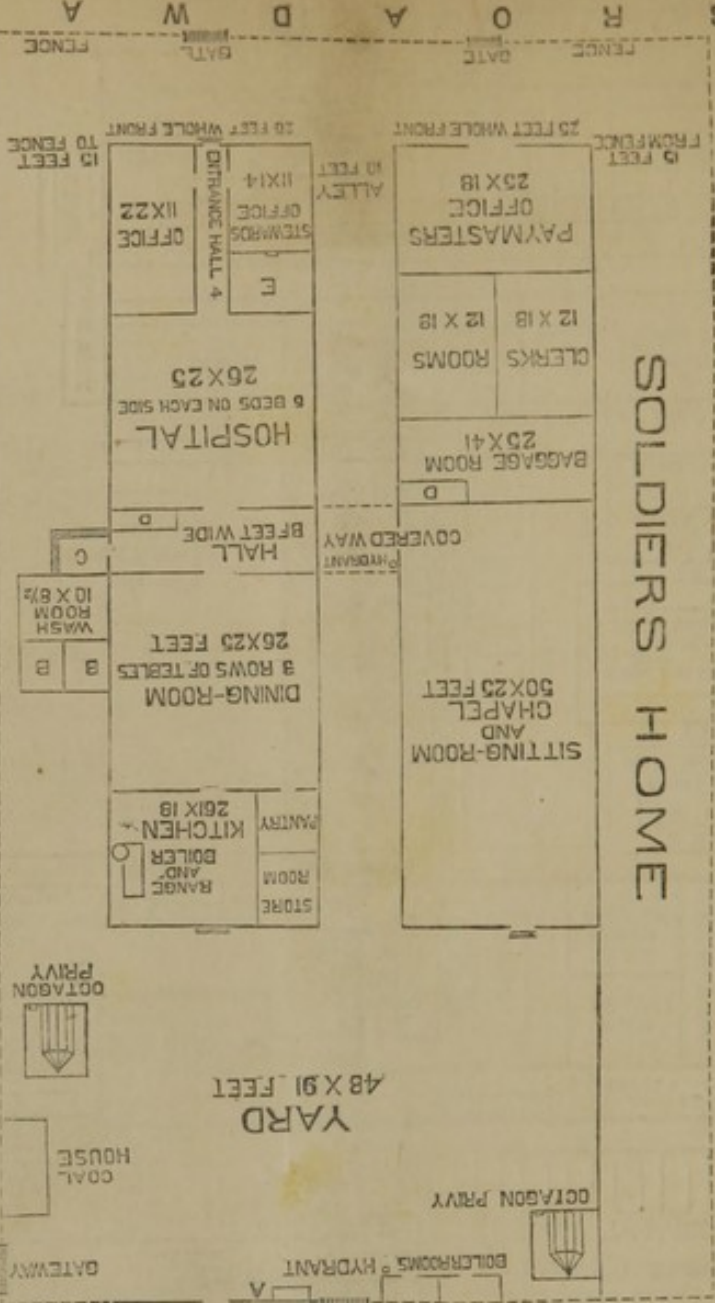


Home for Wives and Mothers of Sick Soldiers.

WATERS-SON SC. N.Y.

L O N I S V I L L E A N D N A S H V I L L E R A I L R O A D D E P O T Y A R D

SOLDIERS HOME



T E N T H S T R E E T

B O R O A D A W A Y

*Shaham*