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## **The Committee for Men Blinded in Battle. 1917**

New York: The Committee for Men Blinded in Battle, 1917

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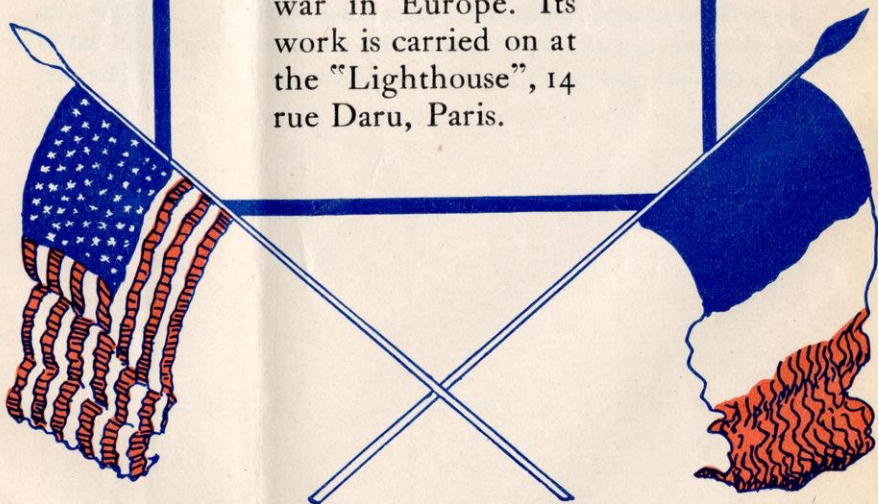
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# The Committee for Men Blinded in Battle

Hon Joseph H Choate, President

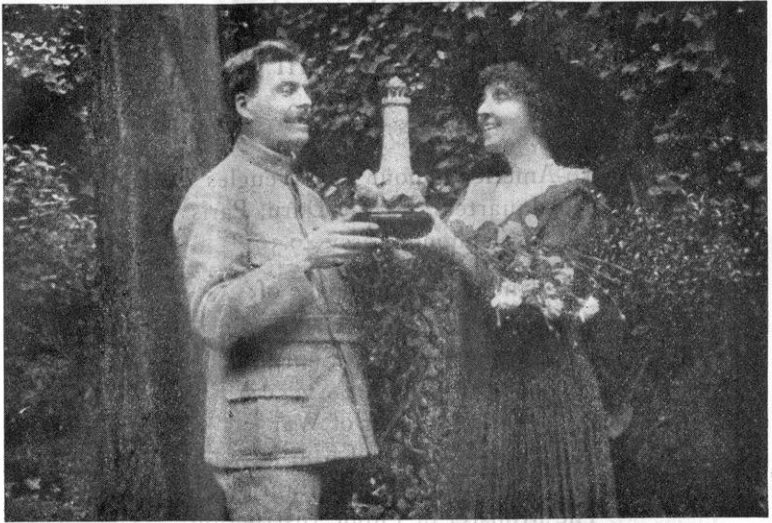
17 East 38<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City

This Committee is assisting in the noble work which France is doing in behalf of soldiers who have been blinded in battle during the present war in Europe. Its work is carried on at the "Lighthouse", 14 rue Daru, Paris.



Special edition of the pamphlet distributed at the Gala Benefit Performance of "The Century Girl" at the Century Theatre, Tuesday Evening, January 9, 1917, for Men Blinded in Battle





*In the Garden of the Phare de France*

*The blind sergeant in the picture was formerly an architect. He is presenting to Miss Holt, "La Gardienne du Phare," a model of a lighthouse which he has made. An electric battery in the base of the little lighthouse sends from the lamp at the top three rays—red, white and blue—symbolizing Liberty, Fraternity and Equality*

Monsieur le Comte Louis de Vogüé  
 Mrs Robert Woods Bliss  
 Mrs Charles B. ...  
 Mrs William B. ...  
 Mrs Francis S. ...  
 Mrs Edmund ...  
 Mrs Frederick ...  
 Mrs Arthur ...  
 Mrs Charles ...  
 Mrs Joseph H. ...  
 Mrs David H. ...  
 Mrs John H. ...  
 Mrs Peter Cooper ...  
 Mrs William ...  
 Mrs Emily H. ...  
 Senator Thomas P. ...  
 Miss Winifred Holt

# Working Together For Men Blinded in Battle

## *In France*

Comité Franco-Américain pour les Aveugles de la Guerre  
Headquarters: 14 rue Daru, Paris  
Telephone, Passy 49.39

Under the Patronage of:

Monsieur Raymond Poincaré, *President of the Republic*  
Hon William G Sharp,  
*Ambassador of the United States to France*  
The Minister of War  
The Minister of Marine  
The Minister of the Interior  
The Minister of Public Instruction  
The Minister of Works

## *Conseil*

Miss Winifred Holt, *Présidente*  
Mrs Peter Cooper Hewitt, *Vice-Présidente*  
Monsieur Ernest Mallet, *Trésorier*  
The Hon J Ridgely Carter, *Secrétaire*  
Monsieur le Comte Louis de Vogué  
Mrs Robert Woods Bliss

## *In America*

The Committee for Men Blinded in Battle  
Headquarters: 17 East 38th Street, New York City  
Telephone, Murray Hill 5258

## *Executive Committee*

The Hon Joseph H Choate, *President*  
The Rt Rev David H Greer, DD, *Honorary Chairman*  
The Hon John H Finley, *Chairman*  
Mrs Peter Cooper Hewitt, *Secretary*  
Mr William Forbes Morgan, Jr, *Treasurer*

Miss Emily H Bourne	Mr Herbert L Satterlee
Senator Thomas P Gore	The Hon William Howard Taft
Miss Winifred Holt	Mr Arthur Williams

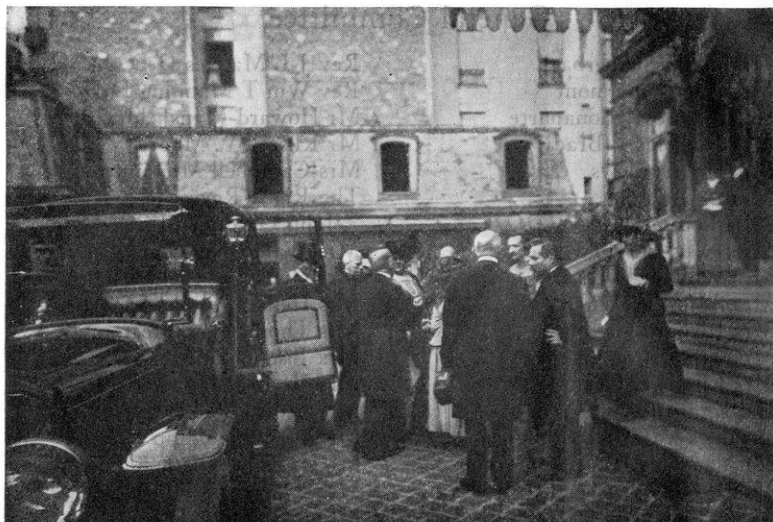
## General Committee

Mr Joseph S Auerbach	Rev J L Magnes D D
Mrs August Belmont	Rev Wm T Manning D D
Hon Charles J Bonaparte	Mr Howard Mansfield
Mrs Nicholas F Brady	Mr Russell W Moore
Mrs Henry Clews	Mrs Campbell Mortimer
Mrs C C Cuyler	The Right Reverend
Miss Louise Dawson	John Gardner Murray D D
Miss Elsa Detmold	Mrs Waldo Newcomer
Mrs William K Draper	Mrs Henry Fairfield Osborn
Mrs Amos T French	Mrs Henry Phipps
Mrs Richard Gambrell	Mrs Thomas Jex Preston, Jr
Mrs T Harrison Garrett	Mrs Joseph Pulitzer
Mrs Elbert H Gary	Mrs Herbert L Satterlee
His Eminence,	Mr Jacob H Schiff
James Cardinal Gibbons	Mr J G Schmidlapp
Mrs Douglas Huntley Gordon	Mr Isaac N Seligman
Mrs F Gray Griswold	Mrs R Manson Smith
Mrs E H Harriman	Mr Francis Lynde Stetson
Mr Joseph Howland Hunt	Mrs Rutherford Stuyvesant
Mrs Henry Burton Jacobs	Mrs Frederic F Thompson
Mrs Francis M Jencks	Mrs Samuel C van Dusen
Mr Willard V King	Mr Felix M Warburg
Mrs Alfred Partridge Klots	Miss Edith Wetmore
Mr Adolph Lewisohn	Dr Schuyler Skaats Wheeler
Mrs Seth Low	Mr Louis Wiley
Mrs John Magee	Mrs Helen S Woodruff

## Patronesses of the Gala Benefit Performance

Mrs Charles B Alexander	Mrs Frederick P Keppel
Mrs William B Anderton	Mrs Lewis Cass Ledyard
Mrs Francis S Barlow	Mrs C Grant LaFarge
Mrs Edmund L Baylies	Mrs Philip M Lydig
Mrs Frederic H Betts	Mrs James W Markoe
Mrs Ernest Bigelow	Mrs William Fellowes Morgan
Mrs Arthur Scott Burden	Mrs Stephen Henry Olin
Mrs Nicholas Murray Butler	Mrs William Church Osborn
Mrs Chester W Chapin	Mrs Roche
Mrs Joseph H Choate	Mrs H H Rogers
Mrs Paul D Cravath	Mrs William Jay Schieffelin
Mrs R Fulton Cutting	Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler
Mrs Henry P Davison	Mrs Henry Dwight Sedgwick
Mrs Frederick Edey	Mrs Charles Steele
Mrs Newbold LeRoy Edgar	Mrs Henry C Sturges
Mrs Charles Dana Gibson	Mrs Richard Trimble

Mrs French Vanderbilt



*President Poincaré Visits the Phare de France in Paris*

Monsieur Poincaré may be seen at the left of the group, shaking hands with Miss Winifred Holt. In the center of the group with his back to the photographer, is the Honorable William G Sharp, the United States Ambassador to France. He is speaking with His Excellency, the Minister of Public Works. Descending the steps is Miss Sharp, daughter of the Ambassador. Mme Poincaré's light dress is just visible. She is talking with Commandant Sallerin, the blind Commandant of the Lighthouse. In the doorway are Mme le Comtesse de la Redorte and M Ernest Mallet, President of the Bank of France and Treasurer of the Comité Franco-Américain pour les Aveugles de la Guerre

Mrs James W Markoe  
 Mrs Frederic H Batts  
 Mrs Ernest Bigelow  
 Mrs Arthur Scott Burden  
 Mrs Nicholas Murray Butler  
 Mrs Chester W Chapin  
 Mrs Joseph H Choate  
 Mrs Paul D Gray  
 Mrs R Fulton Cutting  
 Mrs Henry P Davidson  
 Mrs Charles Steele  
 Mrs Henry C Sturges  
 Mrs Charles D Gibson  
 Mrs Richard Timpler  
 Mrs Winifred Holt  
 Arthur Williams

**T**HE Committee for Men Blinded in Battle is an independent organization, giving immediate aid and classes of instruction to men blinded in the present war in Europe. The headquarters of its work are in Paris at 14, rue Daru. Its efforts are made in close co-operation with the French Government which has made many gifts of money and supplies.

The work of the Committee in France was started in June, 1915, when Miss Winifred Holt, Secretary of the New York Association for the Blind, sailed for Europe to aid men blinded in the war. At first she visited the hospitals, going from Paris to Bordeaux, Marseilles, Lyons, Toulouse and other cities, working with the American Relief Clearing House and accredited by the American Ambassador. She also located groups of blind men who had been discharged from the military hospitals and taught them to "see with their fingers."

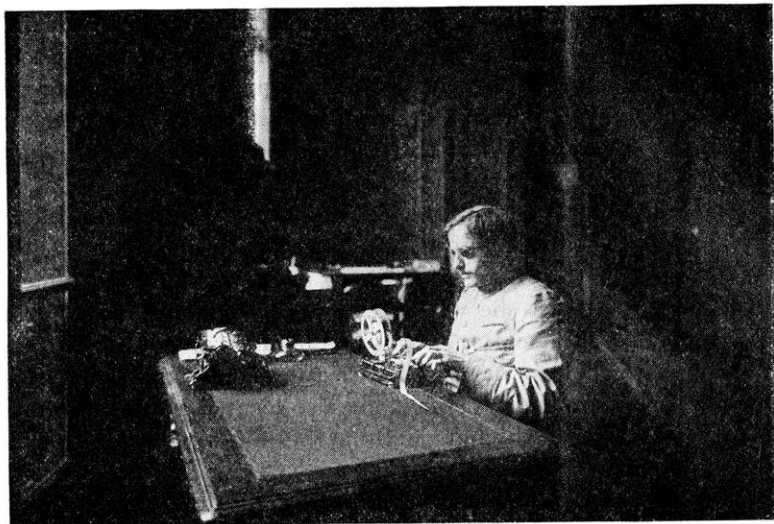
In Bordeaux, teaching was begun in the Hospital of St. Genest; and then, through funds sent by the Committee in New York, a Lighthouse was established, with a noted oculist and surgeon on the staff and a local committee to carry on the work. This committee has purchased the Chateau de Lescure, where work for the blind soldiers is now going forward.

Mrs. Peter Cooper Hewitt joined Miss Holt in Paris in December 1915, and for several months personally assisted in the work. At that time the Committee held classes in the Hotel de Crillon, and taught and helped in homes and hospitals. In March, 1916, after an extended search for a suitable place, a large house was leased at 14, rue Daru. The use of these premises is insured to the Committee until six months after the close of the present war. The house is now known as the "Phare de France," and the work is carried on with the funds collected by the Committee for Men Blinded in Battle.

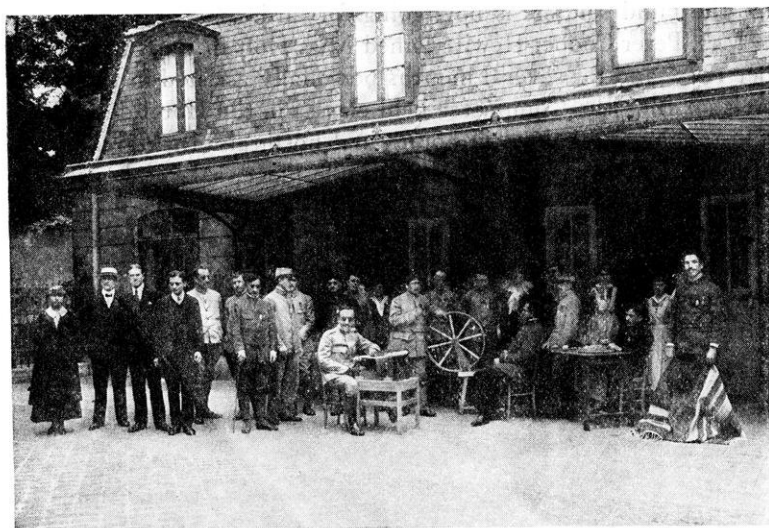
but group of soldier-pupils in front of the Handicraft Department  
at the Phare de France, and members of the staff of instructors  
friends will continue their generous support.

Checks may be made payable to Mr. William Forbes Morgan,  
Jr., Treasurer, and sent to 17 East 38th Street, New York City





*Though this man is totally blind, he takes dictation and writes letters quickly and accurately*



*A group of soldier-pupils in front of the Handicraft Department at the Phare de France, and members of the staff of instructors*

## The Phare de France

14 rue Daru, Paris

WITH over forty rooms, large gardens and a court, the Phare de France is admirably adapted to its work, and accommodates a considerable number of resident pupils besides the teaching and administrative staff. A raised plan of the house and grounds, worked out by one of the blind officers, enables the pupils to find their way about without difficulty.

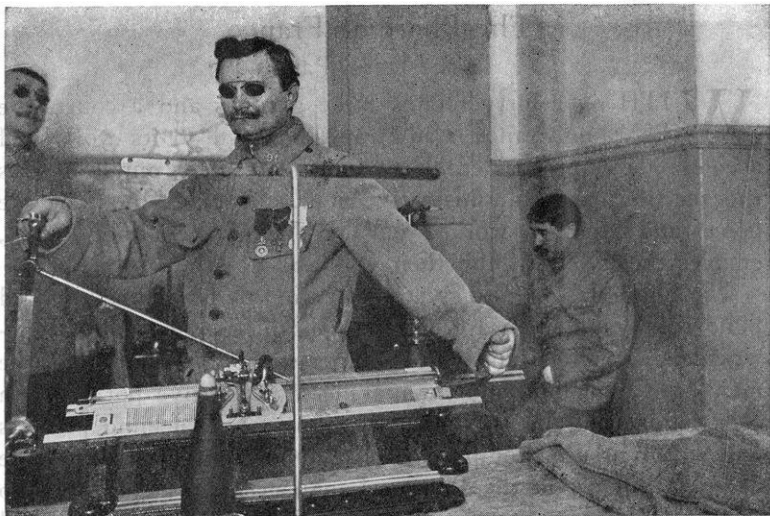
The Phare has already given instruction to over three hundred blind soldiers. There are classes in braille, stenography, type-writing, commercial and various other subjects. In a studio, the men learn modelling and the making of decorative pottery. An electric printing press, under the supervision of blind printers and editor, is used for preparing textbooks and other literature in braille for use at the Phare. Languages and music are also taught, and former members of the skilled professions are helped to take up their work again.

A handicraft department is one of the most interesting and practical phases of the Phare's work. A large stable belonging to the house has been equipped with knitting machines and looms for making rugs, and in a very short time the blind men learn to weave or to operate the machines. It takes only a few weeks, for instance, for a blind man to become expert at knitting sweaters; and since an expert knitter can knit a complete machine made sweater in an hour, it is easy to see that such a trade gives him an excellent means of support—especially since there is a good market for all these knitted products.

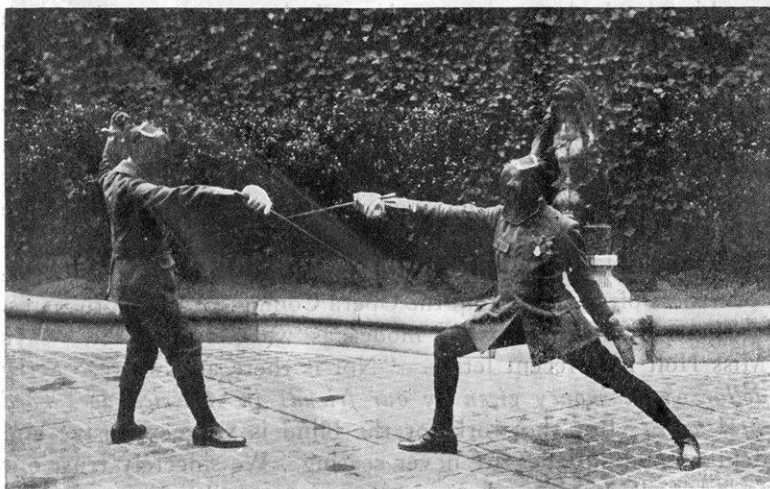
Physical work at the Phare is in charge of a Swedish professor of gymnastics. Some of the men eagerly learn skating or fencing, while others play push ball, ride horseback, and take daily exercise in the gymnasium. For other entertainment, there are frequent concerts and readings at the Phare; a club organized and directed by the blind men holds meetings; and tickets for performances often come from the Opera Comique and the theatres.

"Our organization is as model as we can make it," says Miss Holt in a recent letter. "Nor is there any waste. *Every dollar of the money given by our friends in America does hard vital work.* But the work for the blind is very expensive and demands for supplies are never ceasing. We sincerely trust our friends will continue their generous support."

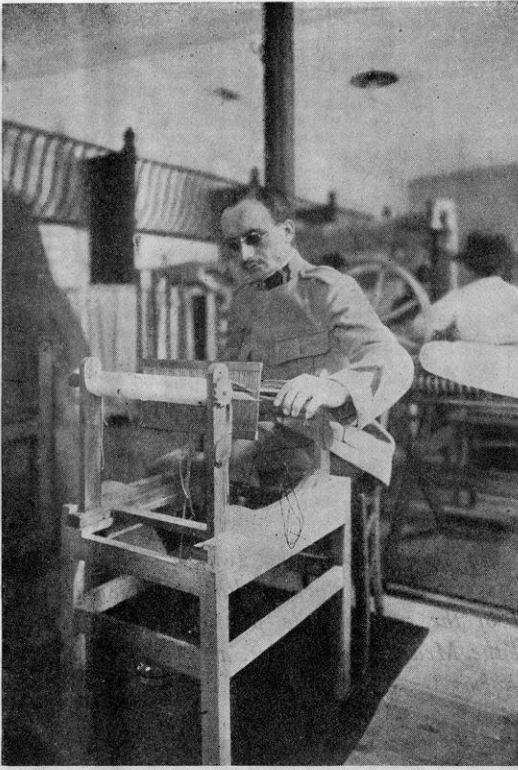
Checks may be made payable to *Mr. William Forbes Morgan, Jr., Treasurer*, and sent to *17 East 38th Street, New York City*



*In less than two months' time this man has learned typewriting so that he can conduct his correspondence and keep his own accounts. He is also a competent knitter, and in an hour he can knit a perfect sweater. His wife has also learned knitting, and with the machine which the Lighthouse has given him, he is about to return home, ready to make an independent living. Back of him, at the right, is a one-armed blind man who is also an efficient knitter*



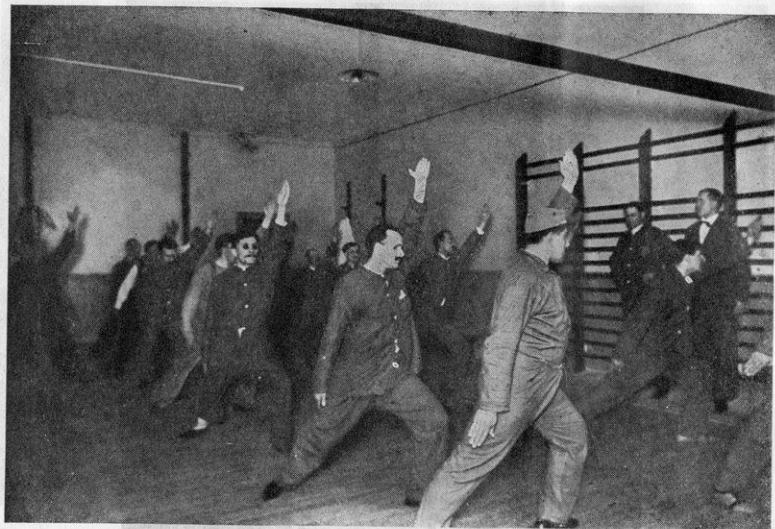
*Two of the Phare's blind pupils Fencing*



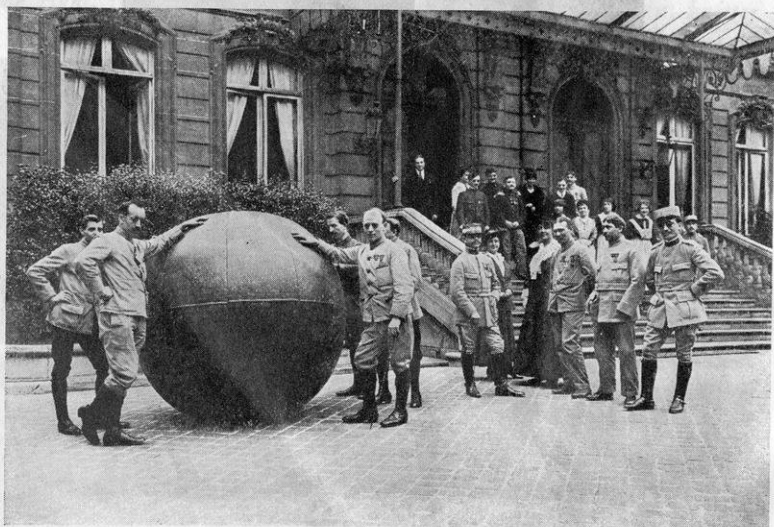
*Having invented a string appliance as substitute for a missing arm, this blind soldier is able to hold the apparatus with his foot, and so weave*



*The push-ball in the Court of the Paris de France*



*In their gymnasium, under the guidance of an instructor, these blind soldiers are building up health and strength for the years to come. All of the men in the picture are wearing the Croix de Guerre and the Medaille Militaire, and many of them have received stars and palms for extraordinary bravery*



*The push-ball in the Court of the Phare de France*

*Two of the Phare's blind pupils fencing*



has just  
France

This shows the new  
been installed at the Phare

*When the records of the dead were published not long ago, this man was counted among the missing. But though "officially dead," he is really alive and well, save for the loss of his sight, and at the Phare he is learning to weave*

Members of the teaching staff and some of the pupils at the Phare de France. At Miss Holt's right is Miss Esther Cleveland, daughter of President Cleveland, who is instructor in stenography. Miss Bernhard Grant, teacher of music and languages, who stands at Miss Holt's left, is a grand-daughter of President Grant. The men were formerly officers in the army. Now they are studying at the Phare and helping their comrades to find "light through work"



*This shows the new electric braille printing press which has just been installed at the Phare. It is the first of its kind in France to come. At the Phare, the Croix de*



*Members of the teaching staff and some of the pupils at the Phare de France. At Miss Holt's right is Miss Esther Cleveland, daughter of President Cleveland, who is instructor in stenography. Miss Bernhard Grant, teacher of music and languages, who stands at Miss Holt's left, is a grand-daughter of President Grant. The men were formerly officers in the army. Now they are studying at the Phare and helping their comrades to find "light through work"*

"La Gardienne du Phare"

I

They sent us our great harbor light  
Who now the woes of battle bear;  
We send our light into their night,  
*Pour les Aveugles de la Guerre*

II

She is our living light, a flame  
Flying against the dark, a prayer  
By day and night—they are the same,  
*Pour les Aveugles de la Guerre*

III

The waves of light beat all in vain  
On eyes that but in blankness stare;  
There is no sun, no Louvre, no Seine  
*Pour les Aveugles de la Guerre*

IV

But her sweet magic makes them see  
Though sightless; drives away despair;  
Makes darkness fragrance, melody,  
*Pour les Aveugles de la Guerre*

O Guardian of the House of Light,  
In your far labor we would share;  
Transmute our gifts into new sight  
*Pour les Aveugles de la Guerre*

JOHN FINLEY

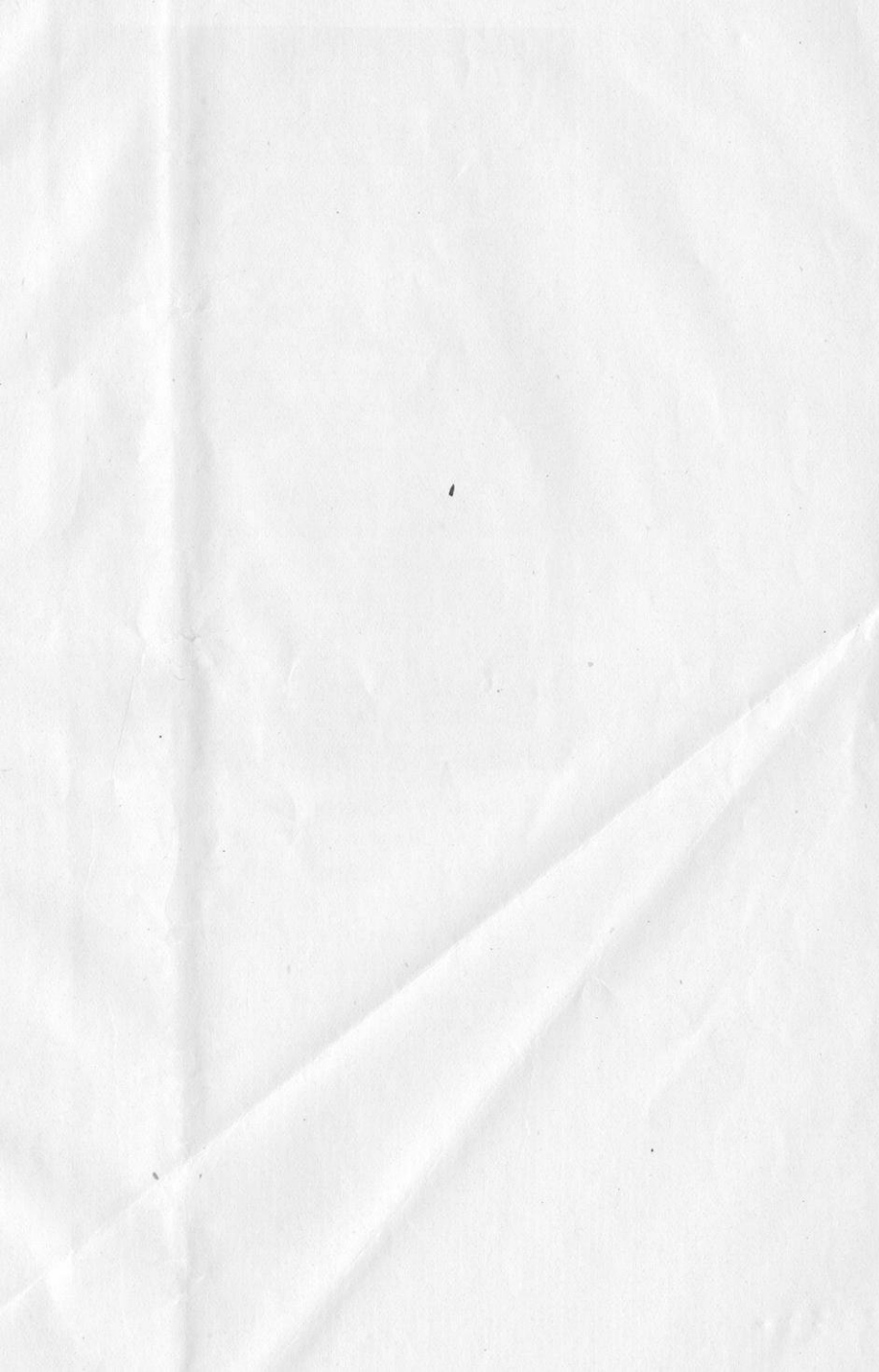
November 30, 1915

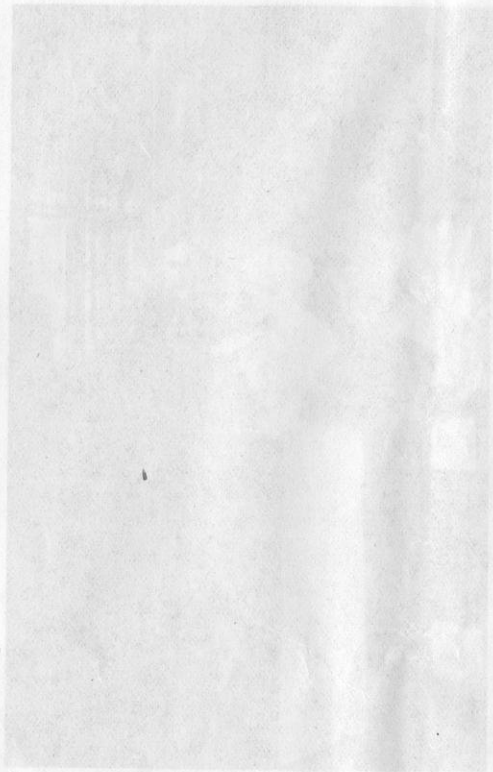




*“Learning to See with his Fingers”  
In the Museum of “Le Phare”*

*Members of the teaching staff and some of the pupils at the Phare de France. At Miss Holt's right is Miss Esther Cleveland, daughter of President Cleveland, who is instructor in stenography. Miss Bernhard Grant, teacher of music and languages, who stands at Miss Holt's left, is a grand-daughter of President Grant. The men were formerly officers in the army. Now they are studying at the Phare and helping their comrades to find "light through work"*





*"Learning to See with his Fingers"  
In the Museum of "Le Phare"*

By  
[Faint, illegible text]



# The Committee for Men Blinded in Battle

17 East 38th Street  
Telephone Murray Hill 5258  
New York City

\_\_\_\_\_ 1917

I hereby subscribe \$\_\_\_\_\_ to aid in carrying  
on the work for "Men Blinded in Battle."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Kindly make cheques or money orders payable to Mr William Forbes Morgan, Jr  
Treasurer.

The Committee for Men Blinded in Battle

17 East 38th Street  
Telephone Murray Hill 2-278  
New York City

\_\_\_\_\_ 1917

I hereby subscribe \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to aid in carrying  
on the work for "Men Blinded in Battle."

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

Kindly make checks or money orders payable to Mr. William Forbes Morgan, Jr.  
Treasurer.

Embassy of the United States of America

Ministère de la Guerre  
Paris, November 8, 1916  
Cabinet ou Sous-Secrétaire d'Etat  
Service de Santé

My dear Miss Holt:

I was very sorry to learn yesterday of your early departure for America, for I feel that it will be such a loss to the war-torn soldiers, so grievously afflicted, not to have your presence among them. I sincerely hope that your stay will be a short one

Let me take this opportunity to tell you how deeply I have been impressed with the unselfish interest and devotion which you have manifested in this work. Having had the opportunity on more than one occasion to see what you have been doing for these poor blind men, and to hear from their lips your praises, I am sure that they will greatly miss you. Surely the sunshine and hope which you have been able to bring into the hearts of your wards have repaid many times over the amount of aid which your friends in America have so generously contributed to the cause.

In thus expressing my regret at your departure, I am nevertheless glad to know that you have planned to leave the work until you return in such efficient hands.

Assuring you of my own hearty co-operation in any manner in which I may be of assistance in this good work,

President of the  
Comité Franco-Américain  
pour les Aveugles de la Guerre  
14 rue Daru, Paris  
Most cordially yours  
I am,  
Wm. G. Sharp (signed)

Miss Winifred Holt  
Hotel de Clillon  
Paris

Embassy of the United States of America

Paris, November 8, 1916

*My dear Miss Holt:*

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*In thus expressing my regret at your departure, I am, nevertheless, glad to know that you have planned to leave the work until you return in such efficient hands*

*Assuring you of my own hearty co-operation in any manner in which I may be of assistance in this good work,*

*I am,*

*Most cordially yours,*

*(Signed) Wm. G. Sharp*

*Miss Winifred Holt  
Hotel de Crillon  
Paris*



Republique Française

Ministere de la Guerre  
Cabinet du Sous-Secretaire d'Etat  
Service de Sante  
19483 C-7

Paris, le 2 Janvier 1917

*Madame la Presidente:—*

*At the threshold of the New Year, I take particular pleasure in expressing to you the high appreciation of the Service de Sante for the eminent aid which you are rendering it*

*The devotion and self-sacrifice which you have shown in accomplishing your work have merited our gratitude, of which I beg you to accept this as the expression*

*Praying you to receive, Madame la Presidente, my homage and respect,*

(Signed) JUSTIN GODART

*Miss Holt  
Presidente du "Phare de France"  
Comite Franco-Americain  
pour les Aveugles de la Guerre  
14 rue Daru, Paris*

Embassade Française of America

Ministère de la Guerre  
Cabinet du sous-Secrétaire d'Etat

Service de Santé

19483 C-7

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Let me take this opportunity to express to you my sincere pleasure in expressing to you the high appreciation of the services he gave for the eminent aid which you are rendering more than one occasion to see what you have been doing for these poor blind men, and to hear from their lips your praises, I am sure that they will greatly miss you. Surely the machine and hope in accomplishing your work have merited our gratitude of which I beg you to accept this as the expression. Praying you to receive, Madams la Presidente, my

In thus expressing my regret at your departure, I am, nevertheless, glad to know that you have planned to leave the work until you return in such efficient hands

Assuring you of my own hearty co-operation in

Comité Franco-Américain  
pour les Aveugles de la Guerre  
14 rue Darn, Paris

(Signed) Wm. G. Sharp

Miss Winifred Holt  
Hotel de Crillon  
Paris