

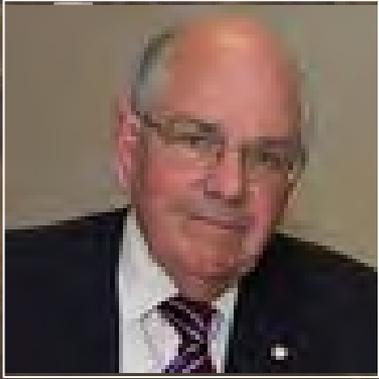
“The Hello Girls”

America’s First Women Soldiers

*Brought to you by the
U.S. World War One Centennial Commission
and The Doughboy Foundation*

*Building the National WWI Memorial in
Washington, D.C.*

2020 Webinar Series



Daniel S. Dayton
Chairman
Doughboy Foundation

Executive Director
World War One
Centennial Commission

“The Hello Girls”

America’s First Women Soldiers

Welcome

2020 Webinar Series



Theo Mayer
Chief Technologist &
Program Manager

**World War One
Centennial Commission**

“The Hello Girls”

America’s First Women Soldiers

Getting Started

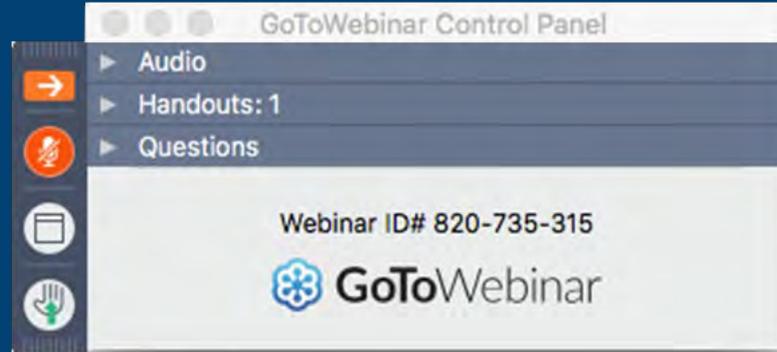
2020 Webinar Series



Theo Mayer
Chief Technologist &
Program Manager

**World War One
Centennial Commission**

Control Panel



2020 Webinar Series



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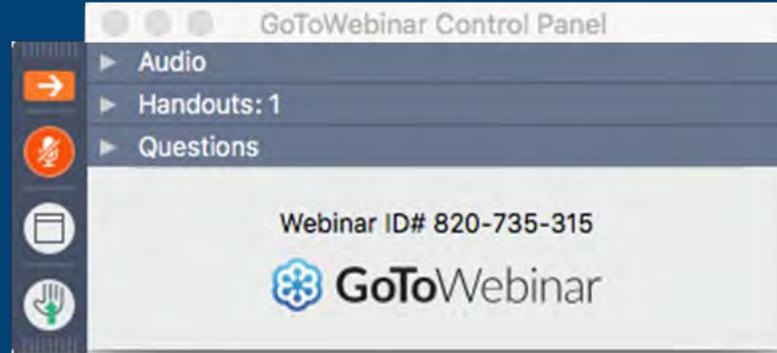


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Control Panel

The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar Control Panel window. The title bar reads "GoToWebinar Control Panel". The main content area is titled "Audio" and includes the following elements:

- A sidebar on the left with icons for navigation, audio, chat, and handouts.
- Audio source selection: Computer audio (with a signal strength indicator), Phone call, and No audio.
- A microphone icon with the word "MUTED" in red text.
- A dropdown menu for "Built-in Microphone".
- A volume slider.
- A dropdown menu for "Built-in Output".
- A status bar showing "Talking: theo mayer".
- Buttons for "Handouts: 1" and "Questions".
- Webinar ID# 820-735-315.
- The GoToWebinar logo.



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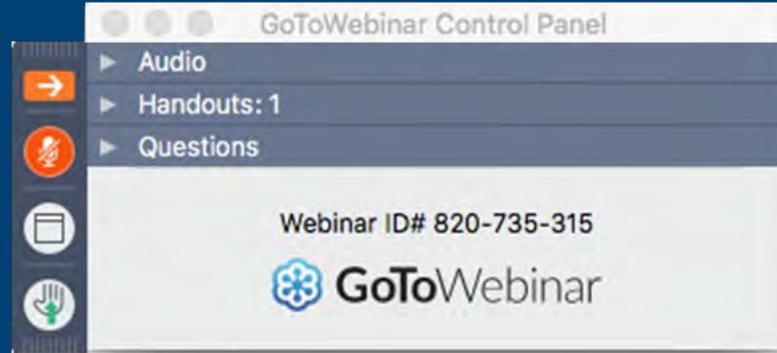
The screenshot shows the GoToWebinar Control Panel interface. At the top, the title bar reads "GoToWebinar Control Panel". Below this, a "▼ Audio" section is expanded. It contains three radio button options: "Computer audio" (unselected), "Phone call" (selected), and "No audio" (unselected). To the left of these options is a telephone handset icon. Below the radio buttons, the dialing information is displayed: "Dial: +1 (914) 614-3429", "Access code: 616-252-958 #", and "Your audio PIN: 103 #". A dropdown menu shows "United States" with a US flag icon and a double-headed arrow. Below the audio settings, there is a link "Problem dialing in?". The "Talking:" section shows "Andrew McGreal". At the bottom of the panel, there are expandable sections for "Handouts: 1" and "Questions". The footer of the panel displays "Webinar ID# 820-735-315" and the GoToWebinar logo.



Theo Mayer
Chief Technologist &
Program Manager

**World War One
Centennial Commission**

Control Panel



2020 Webinar Series



Dr. Elizabeth Cobbs

Historian & Author

"The Hello Girls" - Harvard Univ. Press

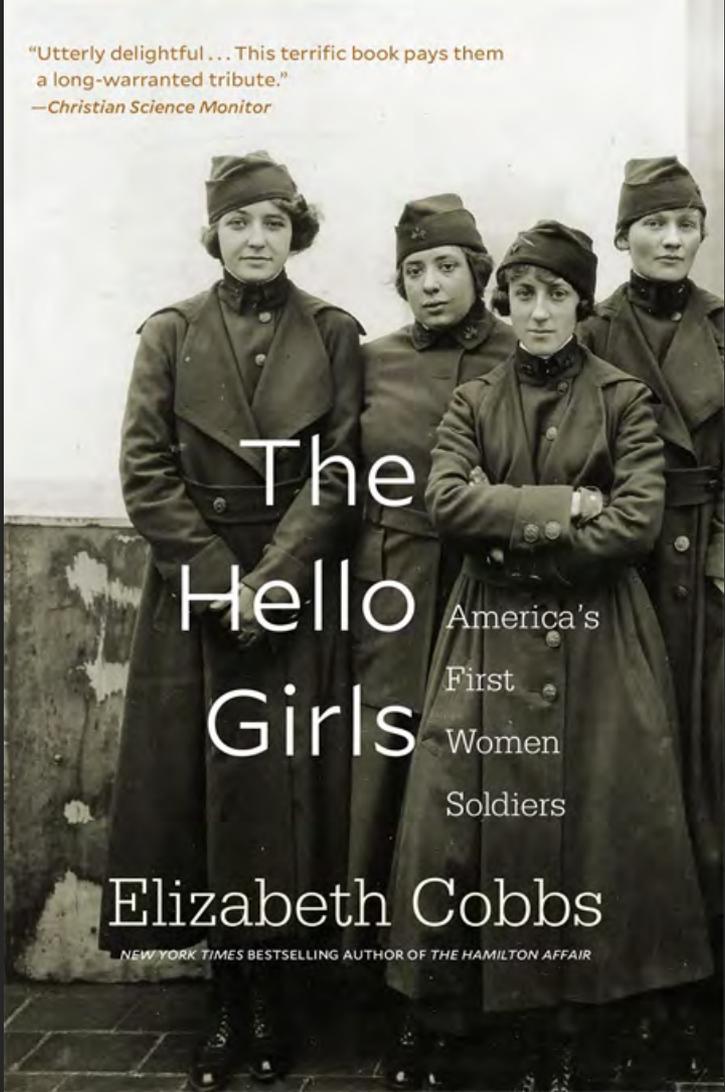
“The Hello Girls”

America’s First Women Soldiers

2020 Webinar Series

"Utterly delightful . . . This terrific book pays them
a long-warranted tribute."

—*Christian Science Monitor*



The Hello Girls

America's
First
Women
Soldiers

Elizabeth Cobbs

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE HAMILTON AFFAIR

Any descendants of the seven units of Signal Corps women (I have a complete list), please contact me below. I would like to include any stories, letters, photos of your ancestresses in my definitive history of their role in the unexpected, rapid conclusion of WWI.

"I was a member of the first women's combatant unit in the US Army."

Oleda Joure Christides, Signal Corps, AEF Chaumont, France 1918--1919.

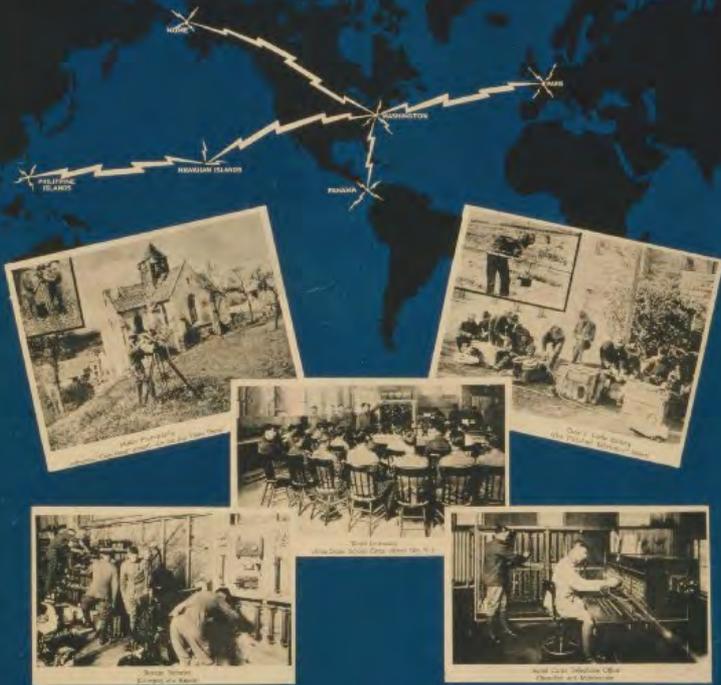






The SIGNAL CORPS

TRAINS MEN FOR
TELEGRAPH TELEPHONE
RADIO



There is in Your Locality a
U. S. ARMY RECRUITING OFFICE









159447





Joan of Arc Saved France



W.S.S.
WAR SAVINGS STAMPS
ISSUED BY THE
UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT

**WOMEN OF AMERICA
SAVE YOUR COUNTRY**

Buy WAR SAVINGS STAMPS

UNITED STATES TREASURY DEPARTMENT

IF YOU WANT

To

FIGHT!



Howard Chandler Christy, 1915.

JOIN THE MARINES

QUEEN MARY'S ARMY AUXILIARY CORPS.



WE'RE LOOKING
TO **YOU**
TO JOIN OUR
CIRCLE!

ENROL TO-DAY

FULL PARTICULARS AND FORMS OF
APPLICATION FROM THE NEAREST
EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE.

ASK AT POST OFFICE FOR ADDRESS.





**Back our
girls over there**
United War Work Campaign





April 6 1918





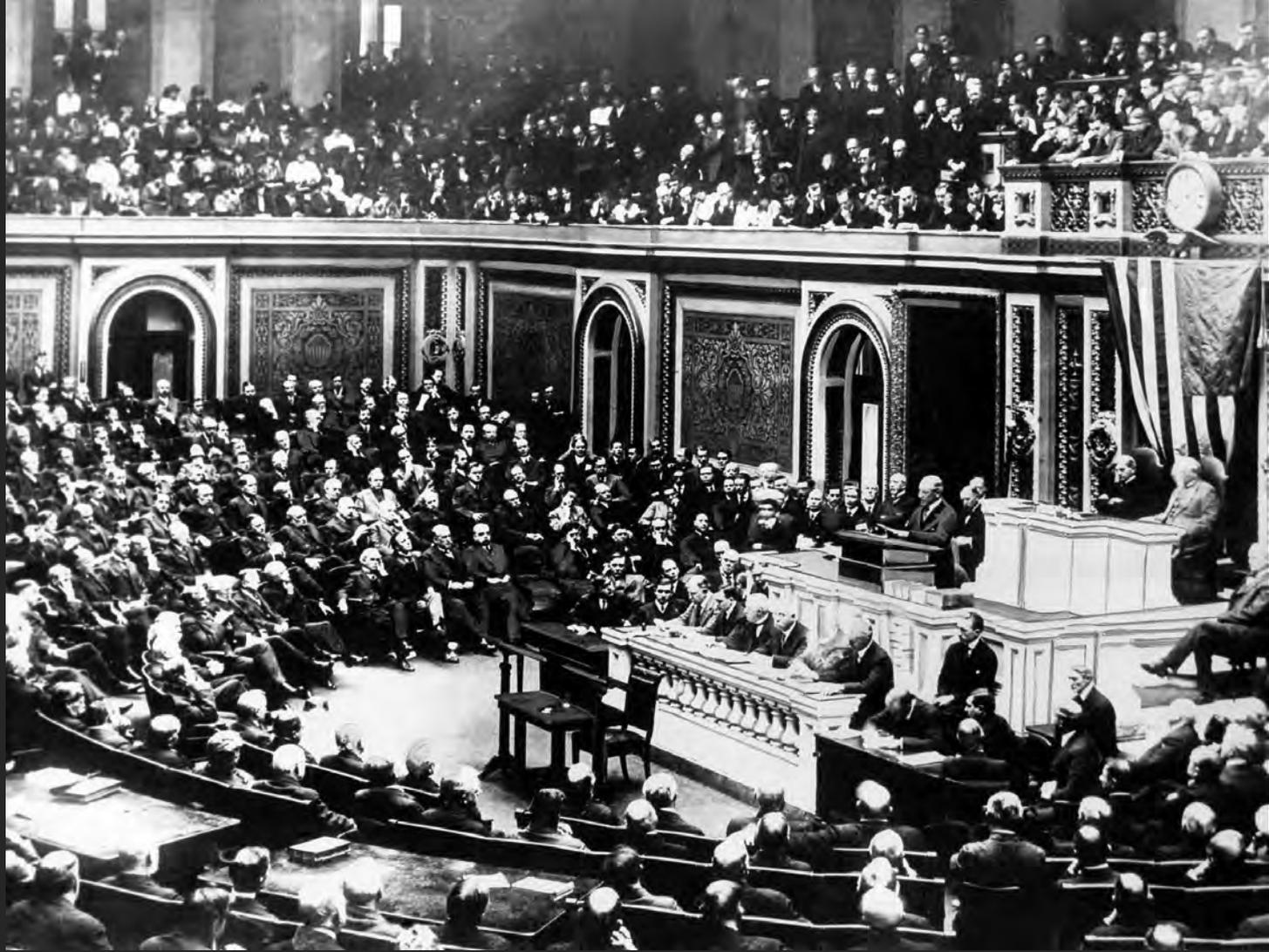


50699



21981
SIGNAL CORP
USA





Secret Orders
to
Miss Banker
Miss Fresnel
Miss Prevost.

Signals
First Army
19 Aug 1918

1. With luck, I shall want you by the 26th or 27th. In the meantime, get helmets and gas masks. Better ask Col. Gibbs to get you the new American type masks. You can talk while wearing them. When you get the masks learn how to put them on and wear them.

2. Bring all your worldly goods. The storehouse ^{here} can handle what you cannot carry. I will send a

truck to Chaumont for your things and a car for you.

3. I will arrange for quarters and a mess for you at the new place but it would be well to bring regular soldier mess kits if you can get them. They may be in handy later.

4. This new job is probably for the duration of the war so kiss your happy home good bye and get ready for a roving life.

Hitt
Signals



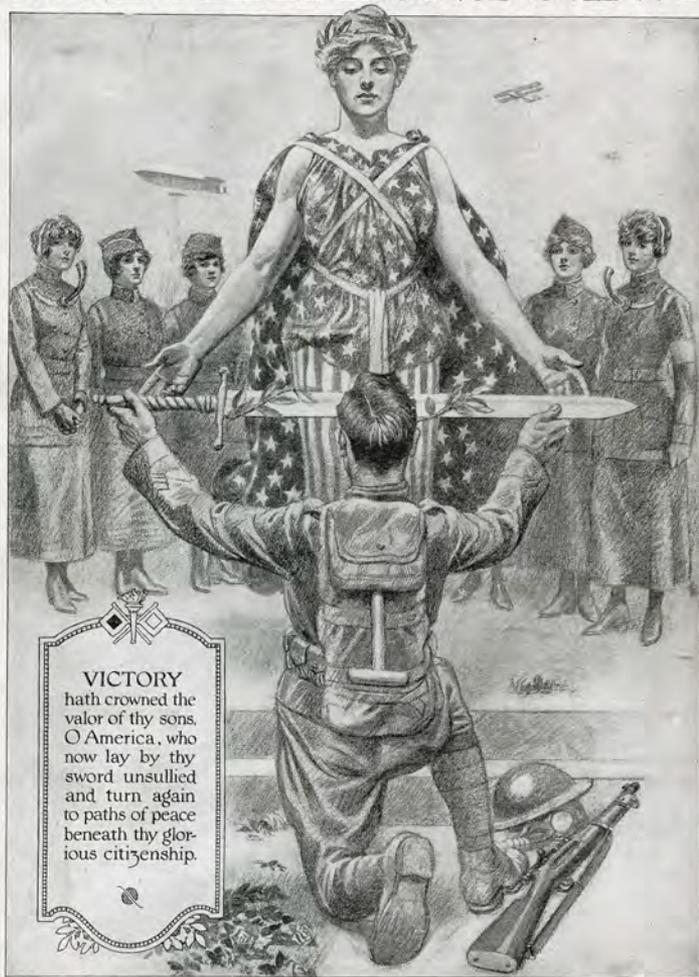


28408





BELL TELEPHONE NEWS



VICTORY

hath crowned the
valor of thy sons.
O America, who
now lay by thy
sword unsullied
and turn again
to paths of peace
beneath thy glor-
ious citizenship.











TESTER, HELLER INTRODUCE BILL TO HONOR THE 'HELLO GIRLS'

Senators Recognize Military Service and Fight for Veteran Status of the Women Telephone Operators of WWI



(Big Sandy, Mont.) - U.S. Senators Jon Tester (D-Mont.) and Dean Heller (R-Nev.) are honoring the groundbreaking service of the women who connected American and French forces on the front lines during World War I.

The Senators' bipartisan Hello Girls Congressional Gold Medal Act will award the women of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, dubbed the Hello Girls, with the Congressional Gold Medal for their service and subsequent 60 year fight to be recognized as veterans.

S.206 -

Hello Girls' Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019

**Senators Tester and
Blackburn**

H.R.1953

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver



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Q&A

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“The Hello Girls”

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2020 Webinar Series

THE
HELLO GIRLS
A NEW AMERICAN MUSICAL

BACKGROUND

Prospect Theater Company



CARA REICHEL

Producing Artistic Director

established 1998
in our 22nd year
of supporting, developing and producing
new musical theater



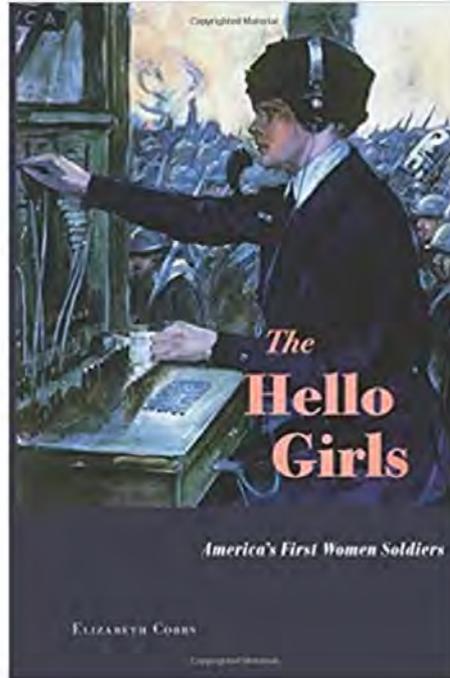
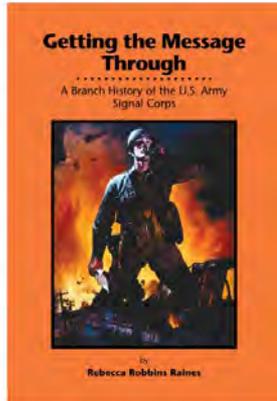
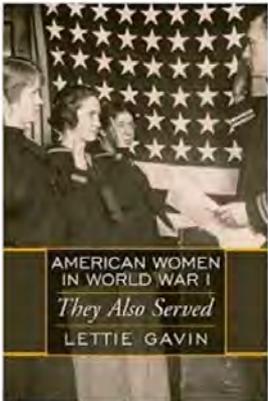
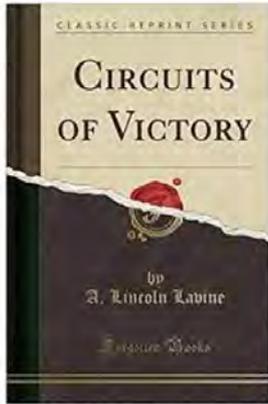
PETER MILLS

Resident Writer

INSPIRATION



RESEARCH



The Stars and Stripes

**HELLO GIRLS HERE
IN REAL ARMY DUDS**

**Signal Corps Colors Adorn
Hats of New Bilingual
Wire Experts**

THEY HAVE SERGEANTS, TOO

**Company of 33 Regulars Represents
Half of States of
Union**

**UNCLE SAM PRESENTS
"HELLO, GIRLS!"**

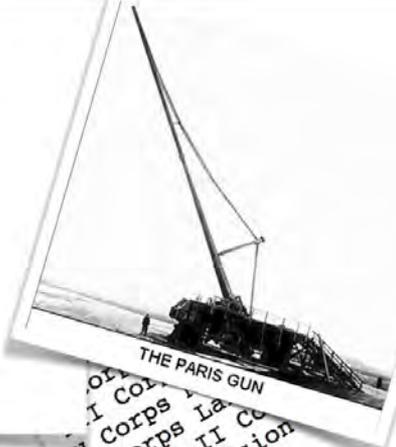
A Melodious, Mirthful Extravaganza in Three Acts Produced for the First Time in France, under the auspices of the A.E.F. Protective and Benevolent Society for the Suppression of Luxus, in the Theatre de Guerre. Performances in both French and English. Assisted by a chorus of 33—COUNT 'EM—33 Real American Telephone girls, representing half the States in the Union, and able to get anybody's

RESEARCH



The Wrong Way.
HANDLING OF CORDS IS A MENACE
TO THE EYES

THE DIARY OF BERTHE M. HUNT, a woman who served in the U.S. Army in France during WW I as a telephone operator with the Signal Corps. The diary covers the year, 1918



THE PARIS GUN

1st Division
2d Surprise
3d Raleigh
4th Daylight
5th Slayer
26th "28th "
 I CO
V Corps La
French II C

Wilson
 the same as for male soldiers in comparable positions:
 per month; supervising operator, \$72; operator,
 and each operator recruit was expected to
 needed to purchase her own dark blue wool
 ing long skirt, black hightop shoes and brown

HEARD IN HEADQUARTERS
 1st Stenog.: Say, Mac, what does O.I.C.
 stand for?
 2nd Stenog.: "Officer in Charge," you
 bonehead.
 1st Stenog. (absent minded): Oh, I
 see.



DEVELOPMENT

CAST SIZE: How many performers do we need to tell this story...?



DEVELOPMENT

CAST SIZE: How many performers do we need to tell this story...?



DEVELOPMENT

CAST SIZE: How many performers do we need to tell this story...?



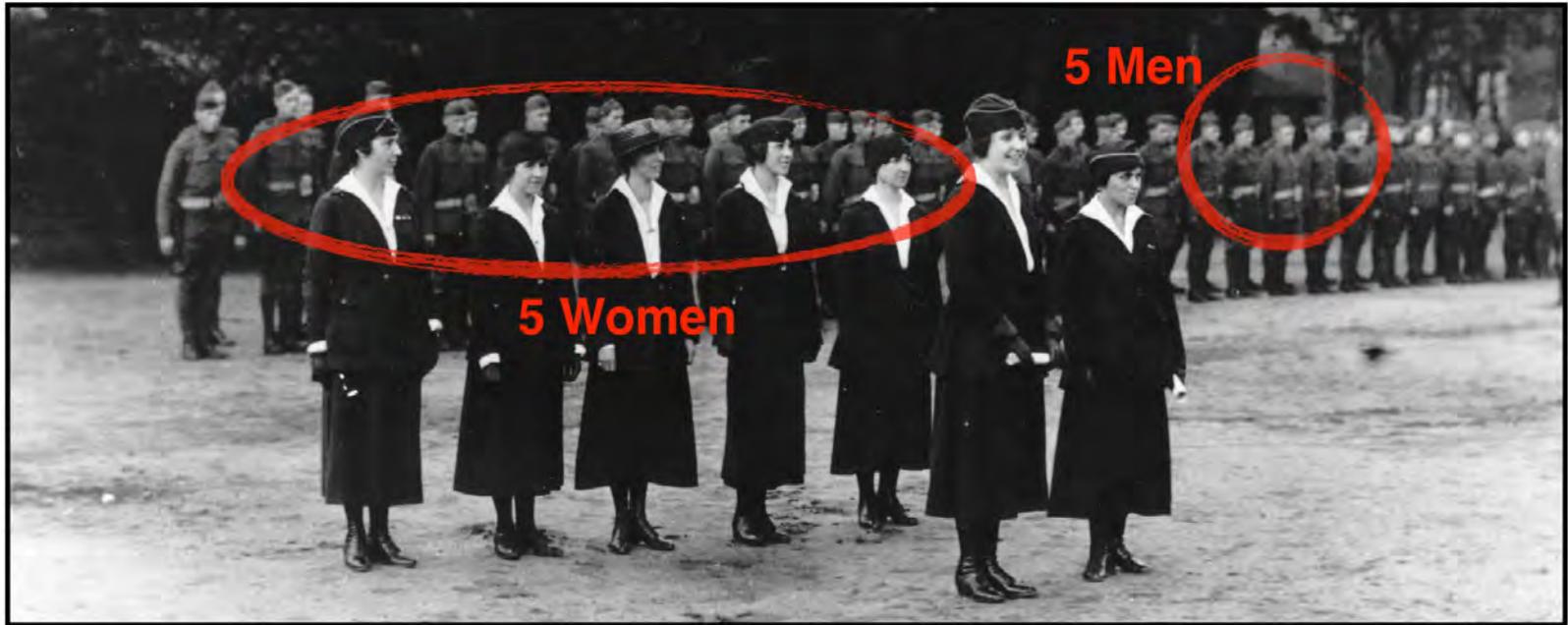
DEVELOPMENT

CAST SIZE: How many performers do we need to tell this story...?



DEVELOPMENT

CAST SIZE: How many performers do we need to tell this story...?



DEVELOPMENT

ACTOR/MUSICIANS



DEVELOPMENT

ACTOR/MUSICIANS



FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL

SEEK PHONE GIRLS
FOR SERVICE ABROAD

Disciplined Body of
Hundred Being Re
by Army Signal C

MUST SPEAK FREN

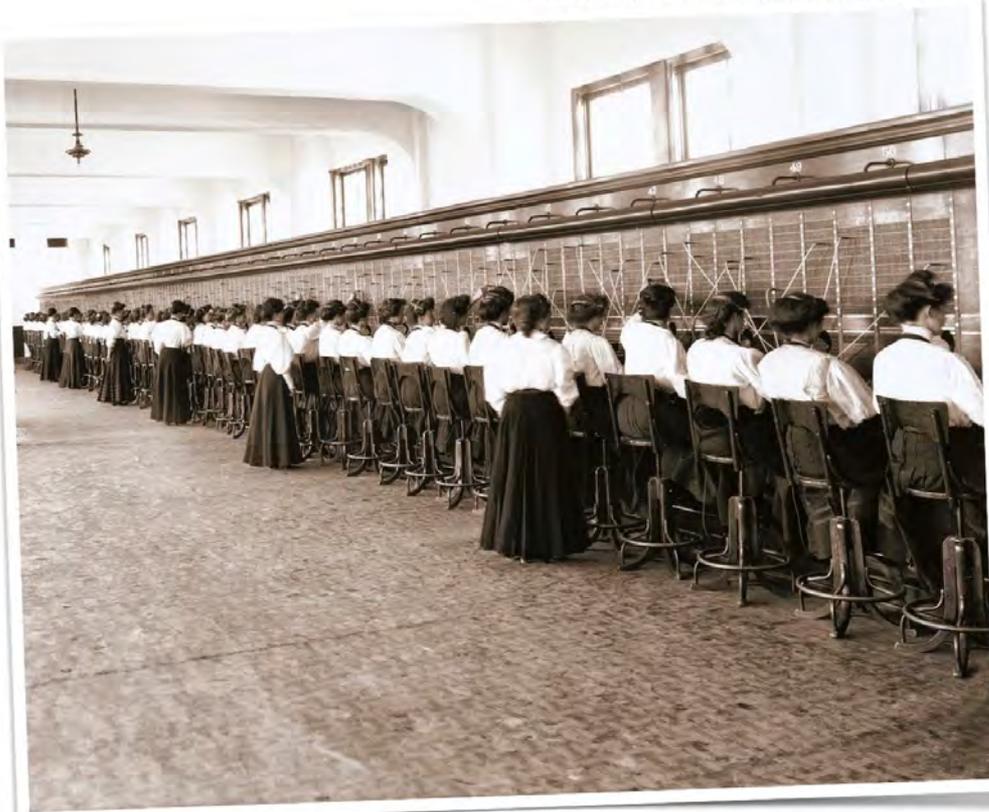
Will Replace Men in B
France to Join All
American For

A disciplined army of "board soldiers" to take men in the gigantic tent now being built in France. Together all the units of the expeditionary forces, is by the Army Signal Corps. Women have volunteered for service and recruiting service has called more, and it is pointed out that women and girls who will "do as much to help win



“Answer The Call”

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL



“Connected”

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL



Grace & Suzanne

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL

Application for Service in FEMALE TELEPHONE UNITS, U.S. SIGNAL CORPS

Name.....Ago.....
Address.....Date of Birth.....
Birthplace.....Citizenship.....
Name and Birthplace
of Father.....(If foreign
(born state
whether
(naturalized)
Name and Birthplace
of Mother.....
Do you speak French fluently and write
Do you speak English without accent
How and where did you acquire command
State telephone experience, where of
or toll (long distance) operator
as chief operator, etc.

Names and addresses of persons to
to loyalty, character, ability, etc.

1.....
2.....
3.....
4.....

Are you prepared, if accepted, to serve for period of

The process of selection began.

Miss de Blank, say, of Minnesota, is one of those that has applied, along with thousands of others. Her turn for examination finally comes. She presents herself at the offices of the Northwestern Bell Group.

With beating heart, she is led to an inner sanctum, containing a single table, with a telephone on it and a chair.

"Be seated, please." The attendant disappears, and she is alone.

The bell tinkles. Somewhat uncertainly, without having been instructed to do so, she answers the telephone.



"We Aren't In The Army Yet"

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL

The infamous “Hoboken incident” involving the second unit highlighted the problem, when spontaneous mixing between men and women challenged military procedure and gender-based social codes. Just before sailing in March 1918, a group of bored operators under Inez Crittenden organized a dance for themselves in an empty room at the port of embarkation, partnering with one another. Their laughter and music wafted into the hall, and intrigued men gravitated toward the attractive sound. A government document describes what happened next: “A number of officers, without any introduction, who were looking in at the doorway, came in and suggested that they would join them in the next dance.” The men helped the women push tables aside.²⁵

After some consideration, Miss Campbell accepted the offer, “partly out of patriotism, partly curiosity, and mostly because my sister was already in France as an Army nurse,” she said. Buying the uniform, however, was a considerable sum for the average young woman in 1918. But help came from the Commercial Club of Emmett, who stepped in and held a community benefit picnic one hot afternoon in August. At the end of the day, the club president handed her enough money to purchase her Army wardrobe.



“Je M’En Fiche”

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL



**HELLO GIRLS HERE
IN REAL ARMY DUDS**

**Signal Corps Colors Adorn
Hats of New Bilingual
Wire Experts**

THEY HAVE SERGEANTS, TOO

**Company of 33 Regulars Represents
Half of States of
Union**



“Hello Girls”

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL



Piano/Conductor

8. Quinze Minutes

THE HELLO GIRLS

CHAR: ACKERSON: Impossible. The Germans are still 70 miles from Paris.

MATT: There's no way they could reach us here.

RISER: Then what do you suppose it was...? (music pl)

BERTHA: Is everyone ready? We have to leave as soon as the next one hits.

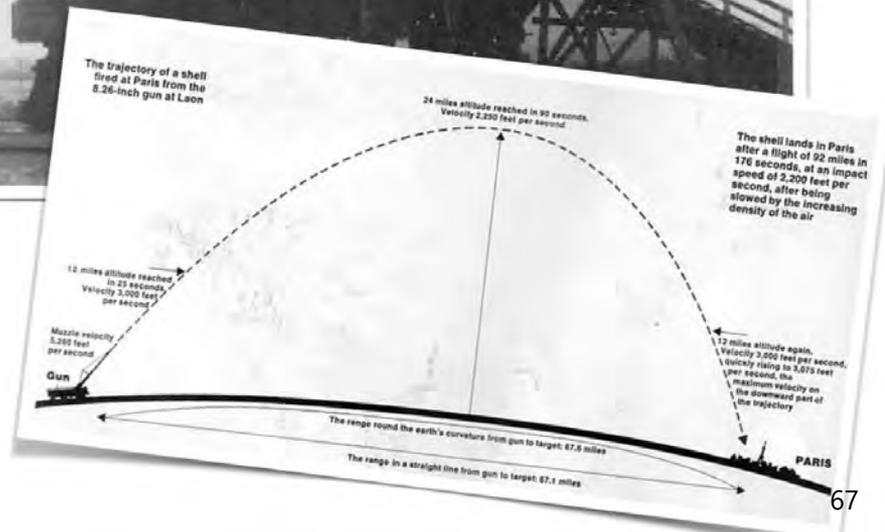
HELEN: I can't go out there!

LOUISE: But that's just what the Germans want. To frighten us with their giant gun. Are you going to let them win?

BERTHA: We'll all be with you, Helen. If we stick together, we'll be fine.

SUZANNE: Grace is waiting for us at the office. We can't let her... (a distant explosion is heard)

♩ = 40 (DX)

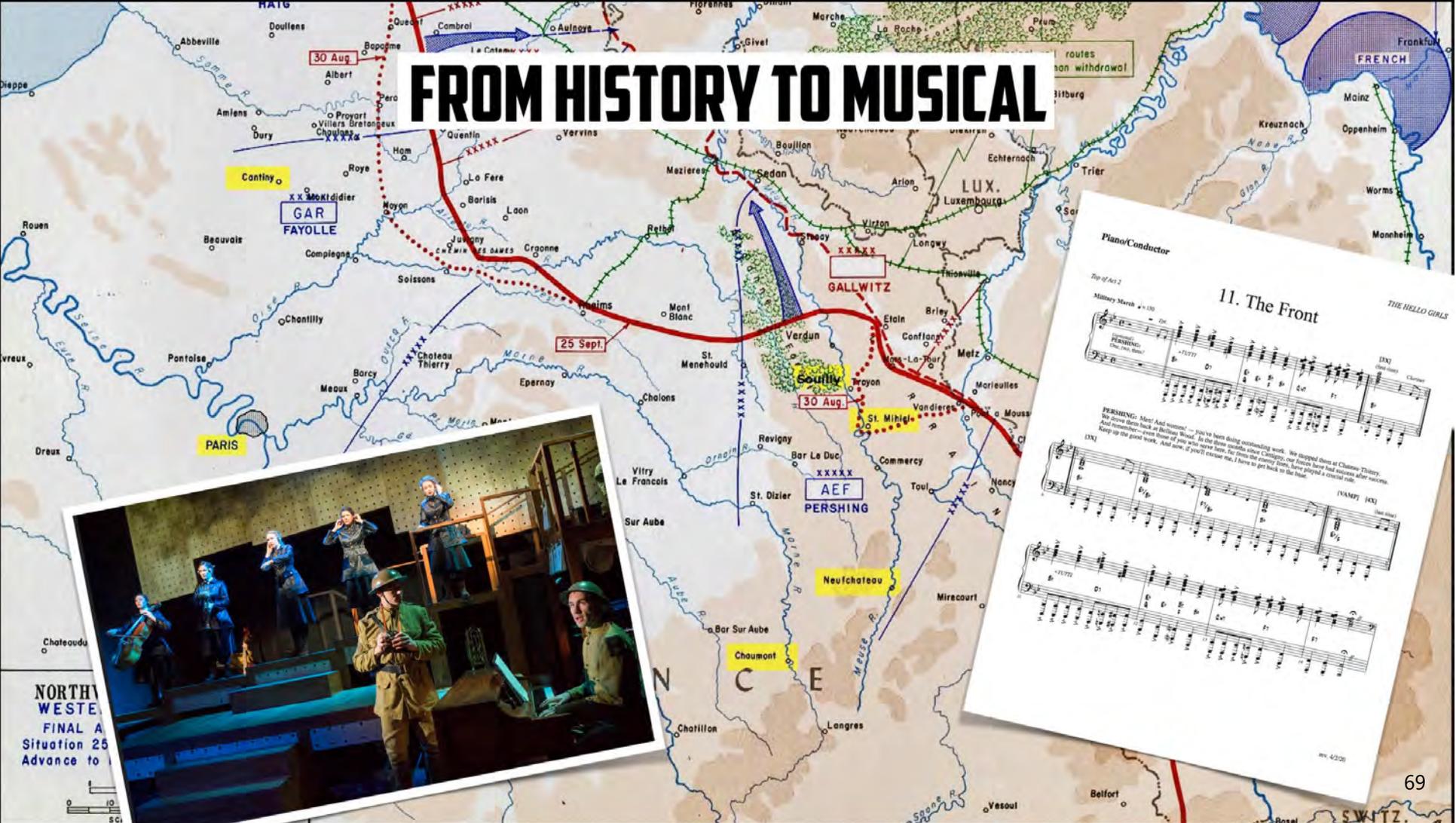


FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL



“Lives On The Line”

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL



NORTH WESTERN
FINAL ADVANCE
Situation 25
Advance to

Piano/Conductor

Tip of Act 2

Military March # 130

11. The Front

THE HELLO GIRLS

PERHING: Men! Add voices! — You've been doing outstanding work. We stopped them at Chateau Thierry. And remember—even those of you who were late, for down the enemy lines, have played a crucial role. Keep up the good work. And now, if you'll excuse me, I have to get back to the line.

(VAMP) (FX)

no. 4220

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL



“The Duration”

FROM HISTORY TO MUSICAL



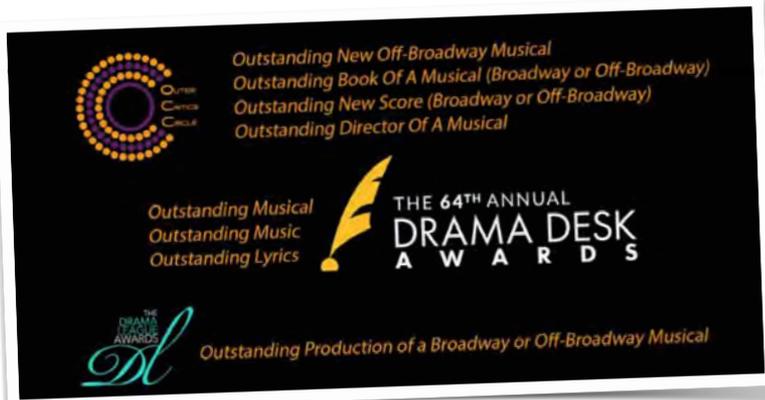
“Making History”



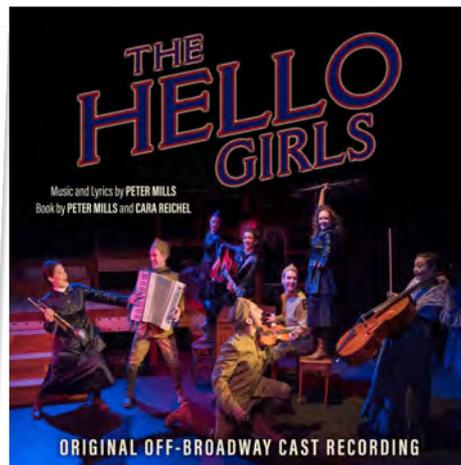
Louise LeBreton, 1918



Louise LeBreton, 1979



TheHelloGirlsMusical.com





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Q&A

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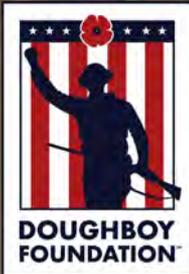
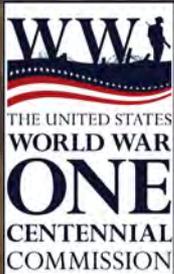
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“The Hello Girls”

America’s First Women Soldiers

Wrap Up & Coming up

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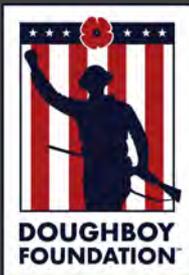
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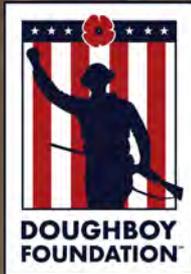


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Bonus Documentary: 6 minutes



“The Hello Girls”

America’s First Women Soldiers

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Thank You

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