

Guide to the American Field Service Application Records

MS 1930



compiled by William Landis, Carol King, and Robert Bartels

May 2009

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1930

CREATOR: Brinton, Joseph Porter

TITLE: American Field Service application records

DATES: 1917-2016

BULK DATES: 1985–1995

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 24.34 linear feet (34 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The American Field Service Application Records comprise the history of an application filed in 1990 by American Field Service veterans of World War II for retroactive recognition as United States Army servicemen by the Pentagon under provisions of the G.I. Bill of 1977. The collection also contains research materials and publications relating to the history of the American Field Service during both world wars. The records, comprised of original documents, as well as photocopies thereof, were amassed by Joseph Porter Brinton, III, an ambulance driver with the American Field Service during World War II, who compiled the guide for their use.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1930>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1930>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Joseph Porter Brinton, III, 2008 and 2018.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright for unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the American Field Service has been transferred to Yale University. These materials may be used for non-commercial purposes without seeking permission from Yale University as the copyright holder. For other uses of these materials, please contact beinecke.library@yale.edu.

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Preferred Citation

American Field Service Application Records (MS 1930). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Processing Information

Folders within the collection were retained whenever possible and provide copious notes, written by the donor, about their contents. The contents of these original folders were not verified against the label and notes written on the folders. Materials that were received unfolded were foldered during processing by Manuscripts and Archives staff, and materials were reboxed for preservation purposes. The descriptions of the contents of each original box provided in this finding aid is excerpted from the donor's summary. Engaging with the guide (in Box 13, folder 1 of the original accession) compiled by the donor is a crucial first step for any researcher wishing to use these records. Books, journal articles, and other printed ephemera are listed at the end of the inventory for the first accession but are not arranged in any way.

Biographical / Historical

Joseph Porter Brinton, III, was a member of Yale College, Class of 1945W. He received a BBA from Baruch College City University, New York, in 1957. Brinton was an ambulance driver with the American Field Service during World War II.

The American Field Service was established in 1914 as a volunteer ambulance corps. Its members, largely recruited from American colleges and universities, served in wartime Europe, primarily France.

Scope and Contents

The American Field Service Application Records comprise the history of an application filed in 1990 by American Field Service veterans of World War II for retroactive recognition as United States Army servicemen by the Pentagon under provisions of the G.I. Bill of 1977. The collection also contains research materials and publications relating to the history of the American Field Service during both world wars. The records, comprised of original documents, as well as photocopies thereof, were amassed by Joseph Porter Brinton, III, an ambulance driver with the American Field Service during World War II, who compiled a guide for their use.

Arrangement

The materials are arranged in three parts and one addition: I. Main business file (original box designation B), II. Main writing file (original box designation E), and III. Boxed volume files (original box designation VB). Within these parts, the materials are arranged as received from the donor. The donor's original box designations have been preserved in the inventory of the collection, and the donor's summary of the contents of each original box (with the exception of the VB boxes) is in the first folder within the original box designations.

Collection Contents

Brinton, Joseph P. III, "Guide to the American Field Service Application Archive," typescript

This guide explains the organization imposed by Brinton on the Main business file (B), Main writing file (E), and Boxed volume files (VB) components of the archive. Researchers wishing to use the archive should consult the guide as a preparatory step.

b. 13, f. 1

Main business file (B)

b. 1, f. 1-91	B1	Circa 1981-1983
This box contains earliest records of PL 95-202 applicants from 1981-1983. The first writing at the back of the box probably commenced in 1982. Content of missing papers can usually be deduced from adjacent records. The subjects include attempts to notify a disinterested and hostile AFS Corp., improper attorney report disowned by source, effort to obtain a current veterans address list, devious obstruction by Corp. Secretary R. Applewhite, test mailing to AFS veterans, report of results. No record was kept of unanswered notes to Corp. leader A. Howe. The extensive phone and in-person dealings with Applewhite were not recorded by us. The front of the box likely overlaps to a large extent with the content of B2 and perhaps B3. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B1.		
b. 1, f. 92-117	B2	Circa 1985-1989
Activity from first major mailing in February 1985 until the Department of Defense suspended PL 95-202 applications in 1988 and posted new regulations in 1989. Affiliation with AFS Corp. through Howe and Applewhite and creation of the AFS Veterans Committee in final form is covered, along with problems and dealings related to writing a PL 95-202 application. B2 contains a very large amount of historical research data and notes. Written research notes are very much curtailed because the researcher (Brinton) was forced to photocopy information, maps, and photographs to save time, rather than read carefully and write notes. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B2.		
b. 2, f. 1-72	B2	Circa 1985-1989
b. 2, f. 73-105	B3	Circa 1982-1991
Mainly 1988-1989 files relating to completion and submission of AFS application after new Department of Defense regulations for PL 95-202 were protested, but adopted. Then, the Army's Center of Military History produced a very sketchy, derogatory report that had to be answered. In addition, the back of the box contains a continued collection of folders devoted to individual AFS veterans leading the application or contributing to it. All formal notices and newsletters mailed between 1982 and 1991 are consolidated here. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B3.		
b. 3, f. 1-71	B3	Circa 1982-1991
b. 3, f. 72-123	B4	Circa 1989-1990
Mainly 1989-1990 files documenting conflicts among members of the AFS Committee as judgement of the PL 95-202 application approached. At the same time, Goodwillie and Brinton facing adverse questions and demands by the Air Force board in charge at the Pentagon. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B4.		

b. 4, f. 1-13	B4	Circa 1989-1990
b. 4, f. 14-147	B5 Covers events from September 1990, when the founders dissolved the AFS Veterans Committee, until July 1993, when Senator Graham filed his pro-AFS entitlement bill, S. 1260, in Congress. The contents may include documentation on AFS decisions rendered by the Department of Defense PL 95-202 board, the adverse decision on the Graham-Brinton request for review in 1991, the decision entitling volunteers in Burma with US 3rd CCS, the subsequent Department of Defense decision entitling AVG-Flying Tigers, and the Representative J. Tanner AFS entitlement bills submitted to Congress in 1992 and 1993. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B5.	Circa 1990-1993
b. 5, f. 1-87	B6 Materials overlap B5 data on the effort to get approval from Congress, and run from late 1992 until roughly 1995. The effort to find a suitable attorney starts here with Howland in 1993. Documentation concerns many key decisions, laws, and summaries of AFS findings and claims to date. After Tom Hale reported the failure of Congress to consider supporting AFS entitlement, there was no further application activity until Cantrall filed a repeat application to the Department of Defense board in 1995. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B6.	Circa 1992-1995
b. 5, f. 88-114	B7 Contains application follow up activity by Brinton from roughly 1995-2001. Most of the files are organized by subject, the most recent being Bissler's effort to employ military attorney E. Fidell in Washington. Also included are materials on George Bush. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B7.	Circa 1995-2001
b. 6, f. 1-101	B7	Circa 1995-2001
b. 6, f. 102-111	B8 Contains information about the work of Associate Editor William R. Cantrall, including research and advice that he provided during the period 1986-1990, and Brinton's assistance in Cantrall's ill-advised and ill-fated repeat PL 95-202 application to the Department of Defense board during 1994-1996. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B8.	Circa 1986-1996
b. 7, f. 1-52	B8	Circa 1986-1996
b. 7, f. 53-82	B9 Contains documentation regarding three different elements of AFS Committee application business: financial records; response sheets from AFS veterans; and address lists and other information regarding AFS veterans. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of B9.	Circa 1985-1993
b. 8, f. 1-8	B9	Circa 1985-1993
Main writing file (E)		

b. 8, f. 9-25	E1	Circa 1988-1989
	Contains outlines and drafts for the eventual AFS Application book copyright, circa 1988-1989. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of E1.	
b. 8, f. 26-34	E2	Circa 1985-1989
	Contains the first draft of the AFS Application text, and possibly some supporting research material. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of E2.	
b. 9, f. 1-8	E2	Circa 1985-1989
b. 9, f. 9-56	E3	Circa 1985-1989
	Contains research materials gathered for the AFS Application, but for the most part not used. Includes documents, illustrations, and maps. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of E3.	
b. 10, f. 1-65	E4	Circa 1985-1989
	Contains partially organized research data used to compile the AFS Application book. Includes photocopies of overseas records regarding AFS veterans from the nascent, poorly organized AFS archive in New York City, and affidavits of AFS veterans illustrating service rendered to the U.S. Army overseas. Includes documents, illustrations, and maps. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of E4.	
b. 10, f. 66-85	E5	Circa 1985-1989
	Contains various versions of the extremely important summaries that the AFS PL 95-202 applicants composed and distributed to describe their wartime service. The information above was excerpted from notes supplied by the donor, which are in the first folder of E5.	
b. 11, f. 1-22	E5	Circa 1985-1989

Boxed volume files (VB)

Contains various copies and files relating to the AFS Application, including a World War I-era photograph of AFS ambulances in the field. The donor did not provide notes or summaries about the content of the original VB boxes. According to information supplied by the donor, box VB3 was donated to Princeton University Library, box VB4 to the Harvard University, Widener Library, and box VB5 to Harvard University Archives, Pusey Library. Box VB6 was distributed to libraries noted above. Box VB2 contained an exact duplicate copy of the contents of Box VB1 and was discarded.

b. 11, f. 23-24	VB1
b. 12, f. 1	VB1
b. 12, f. 2-24	VB7-VB8

Books and other published research materials relating to the American Field Service

b. 13, f. 2	German World War II propaganda Printed ephemera aimed at demoralizing Allied soldiers.	Circa 1944-1945
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b. 13, f. 3	Rock, George. <i>The History of the American Field Service, 1920-1955</i> . New York: Platen Press	1956
b. 13, f. 4	Desloge, Joseph, Jr. <i>Passport to Manhood: Adventures of a WW II Front Line Ambulance Driver with the British and the French Foreign Legion</i> , self-published book	1995
b. 13, f. 5	<i>Desert Rat Sketch Book</i> , related materials	Circa 1959
b. 13, f. 6	Saber, Clifford. <i>Desert Rat Sketch Book</i> . Franklin Square, New York: Sketchbook Press	1959
b. 16, f. 1	Saber, Clifford. <i>Six Color Prints from Desert Rat Sketch Book</i> . Franklin Square, New York: Sketchbook Press	1959
b. 14, f. 1	Gleason, Arthur. <i>Our Part in the Great War</i> . New York: Frederick A. Stokes	1917
b. 14, f. 2	Gilmore, Scott. <i>A Connecticut Yankee in the 8th Gurkha Rifles</i> . London: Brassey's	1995
b. 14, f. 3	Seymour, James W. D. <i>Memorial Volume of the American Field Service in France, 1914-1917</i> . Boston: American Field Service	1921
b. 15, f. 1	Inventory of publications donated to Yale in 2008 and to be donated later by Joseph Brinton III	2007
b. 15, f. 2	<i>Britain against Germany, 1939-1945</i> . British Information Services pamphlet	1945 December
b. 15, f. 3	<i>Victory in Burma</i> . British Information Services pamphlet	1945 July
b. 15, f. 4	Lapsley, James Thomas III. <i>Gentleman Volunteers: American Ambulance Drivers in the First World War</i> . M.A. thesis (History): University of California, Santa Cruz	1971
b. 15, f. 5	Gilbo, Patrick F. <i>The American Red Cross</i> . New York: Harper and Row	1981
b. 15, f. 6-8	Publications on the American Field Service	1942-1995
b. 15, f. 9	Axel Jansen correspondence relating to American Field Service history	Circa 1995

Accession 2018-m-0043: Additional material, 1937-2016

Publications

Application for Entitlement of American Field Service Military Personnel to U.S. Army Discharges and Veterans Administrative Benefits

b. 1, f. 1-5	American Field Service Application	1988
b. 2, f. 1-5	American Field Service Application	1988
b. 3, f. 1-2	American Field Service Application	1988-1989
b. 3, f. 3-4	American Field Service Application copy 15	1989
b. 4, f. 1-3	American Field Service Application copy 15	1989
b. 4, f. 4	American Field Service Application Guide to Application Archive	2003

Publications > Application for Entitlement of American Field Service Military P [...] (continued)

b. 4, f. 5	American Field Service Application Guide for Attorney Sec. 401	bulk 1990–1996
b. 4, f. 6	American Field Service Application India pages, deleted from chapter 11, pages 2-38	1988
b. 4, f. 7	American Field Service Application, On Active Duty with the US Army	1995
b. 5, f. 1-4	American Field Service Application parts one and two	1988–1989
b. 6, f. 1-5	American Field Service Application parts one and two	1988–1989
b. 7, f. 1-4	American Field Service Application parts one and two	1988–1989
b. 7, f. 5	American Field Service Application, Roster of American Field Service Volunteers of WWI and WWII Eligible for US Army Discharge	1991
b. 7, f. 6	American Field Service Application summary, Brinton copy	1989–1990
b. 7, f. 7	American Field Service Application, World War One, Conformity to New Regulations	1990
b. 7, f. 8	American Field Service Application, World War One and Two, house copy	1989–1990
b. 8, f. 1	American Field Service Application, World War One and Two, house copy	1989
b. 8, f. 2	American Field Service Application, World War One and Two, Request for Review	1990–1991
b. 8, f. 3	American Field Service Application Volume 2-A, two versions of explanation	1989
American Field Services Application Supplement		
b. 8, f. 4	Application Supplement	1977–2006
b. 8, f. 5-7	Application Supplement	2006–2011
b. 8, f. 8	Final extras	2006
b. 8, f. 9	First draft pages	2006
b. 8, f. 10	Removed pages	1988
<p>Newsletters and magazines</p> <p>The accession consists of the American Field Service Application, filed in 1990 by American Field Service veterans of World War II for retroactive recognition as United States Army servicemen by the Pentagon under provisions of the G.I. Bill of 1977. The accession includes multiple copies and drafts of the application, as well as correspondence, research files, and personal files of Joseph P. Brinton III, who was heavily involved in the formation of the application.</p> <p>The accession is arranged into three groupings: publications, subject files and correspondence, and personal files.</p>		
b. 9, f. 1-2	American Field Service drivers list	1937–1997

Publications > Newsletters and magazines (continued)

b. 9, f. 3-5	American Field Service general publications	Circa 1960s-1980s
b. 10, f. 1-6	American Field Service general publications	1990–2015
b. 11, f. 1-2	American Field Service general publications	1996–2015
b. 11, f. 3-5	American Field Service Letters (formally News Bulletin)	1942–1945
b. 12, f. 1	American Field Service Letters (formally News Bulletin)	1942–1945
b. 12, f. 2	American Field Service Roll of Honor	1945
b. 12, f. 3-4	New Crusader, Journal of the Eighth Army Veterans Association	1988–2002
b. 12, f. 5	World War Two Tributes to American Field Service, 50th Anniversary Driver's Reunion	1995
Subject files and correspondence		
b. 13, f. 1	Archives guide	1988–1989
b. 13, f. 2	Special American Field Service excerpts	1946–1976
b. 13, f. 3	Extract Edition part 2	1949–1950
b. 13, f. 4	Manuscript for Appeal	1990–1991
b. 13, f. 5	Original manuscript of response to U.S. historian's unsatisfactory report	1990
b. 13, f. 6	World War One response	1990
b. 13, f. 7	1st draft, new information	2003
b. 13, f. 8	Manuscript pages for much used eight page summary	1990–2003
b. 13, f. 9	American Field Service 1st drafts, archive guide	Circa 1990
b. 13, f. 10	Guide to American Field Service Application, manuscript data worksheets	Circa 1990
b. 13, f. 11	Extra file box sheets	1981–2003
b. 13, f. 12	Extra Pics Prints	Circa 1988
b. 13, f. 13	Office of Strategic Services	1988–1993
b. 13, f. 14	Thank You correspondence	1955–2002
b. 13, f. 15	Charles Loizeaux entitlement case	1997–1999
b. 13, f. 16-22	Boaz, Ralph Evans, Purple Heart application case	1991–1994
b. 13, f. 23	Long, Malcolm Elliott, and Richard W. Nelson	1986–1989
b. 13, f. 24	World War Two bibliography	Circa 1990s
b. 13, f. 25-26	Angell, Jim, and Jim Sutton	1986–1990
b. 13, f. 27	Extract of American Field Service Veterans Committee Report of Historian	1981–1990

Subject files and correspondence (continued)

b. 13, f. 28	Special sheets research	1982–1992
b. 13, f. 29	Miscellaneous reference data	2007
b. 13, f. 30	American Field Service Youth and western trip itinerary	1964
b. 14, f. 1	Application books	1996
b. 14, f. 2	Print supplement expense	2006
b. 14, f. 3	American Field Service donation expense	2003
b. 14, f. 4	American Field Service correspondence	2004–2005
b. 14, f. 5	American Field Service archives	2006
b. 14, f. 6	Golobic, Eleanora	1991–2005
b. 14, f. 7	Welles, Edward O.	2001
b. 14, f. 8	ISBN library classification article	1989
b. 14, f. 9	Yale Alumni	1990–1991
b. 14, f. 10	Howard, Michael, Yale file	1989–1991
b. 14, f. 11	Yale press releases	1988–1989
b. 14, f. 12	Camurat, Diane, author	2003
b. 14, f. 13	Photographs, Joseph Brinton's room	1988–2005
b. 14, f. 14	Cantrall, William R.	2011
b. 14, f. 15	Nelson, Richard, extras	2008–2010
b. 14, f. 16	American Field Service duplicates	2006
b. 14, f. 17	Squire, Chick	2009
b. 14, f. 18	American Field Service group photo	Circa 1940s
b. 14, f. 19	American Field Service clippings	2009–2010
b. 14, f. 20	Extract of Cumings Origins of the Korean War	1981
b. 14, f. 21-23	American Field Service miscellaneous material	2008
b. 14, f. 24	Bombed in Casalbordino	1995
b. 14, f. 25	Chamberlin, Ward, The War	2007
b. 14, f. 26	Edward, Joyce	2006–2008
b. 14, f. 27-32	Albright, Alan	1990–2010
b. 14, f. 33	Newsclippings	2005–2007
b. 14, f. 34	Discoveries	2003

Subject files and correspondence (continued)

b. 14, f. 35	Barres, Oliver M.	2003
b. 14, f. 36	Nierenberg, Judith	2003
b. 14, f. 37	Sanders, Sol	1979
b. 14, f. 38	Yonts, Charles	2004
b. 14, f. 39	Calendar	2003
b. 14, f. 40	Late page extra and late news	2003
b. 14, f. 41	Book part one, World War Two response to Historian, new pages not inserted	1989
b. 14, f. 42	Extras, Xerox pages	Circa 1989
b. 14, f. 43	Miscellaneous drafts	2003
b. 14, f. 44	Postscripts	2004
b. 15, f. 1	American Field Service research papers	2006
b. 15, f. 2	Newsletter sheets	1989
b. 15, f. 3	American Field Service committee termination	1991
b. 15, f. 4	American Field Service newsletters	Circa 1950s-1970s
b. 15, f. 5	Volunteer drivers	1984
b. 15, f. 6	American Field Service clippings	1977
b. 15, f. 7	Bowen, John G., records	1977
b. 15, f. 8	American Field Service news	1947-1948
b. 15, f. 9	Army maps	1945
b. 15, f. 10	World War Two diary notes	Circa 1940s
b. 15, f. 11	Italy Clippings, World War Two, Sorrento	Circa 1960s
b. 15, f. 12-13	Italy maps and notes	Circa 1950s
b. 15, f. 14	Miami Herald Treasure Coast	1989
b. 15, f. 15	Veteran Affairs	2016
b. 15, f. 16	World War Two news	Circa 1990s
b. 15, f. 17	Addresses	1989
b. 15, f. 18	Kimball, Paul, reference list	1990
b. 15, f. 19	Brinton, Joseph files and writing	Circa 1940s-1980s
b. 15, f. 20-21	Brinton, Joseph, correspondence	2012-2016

Subject files and correspondence (continued)

b. 17, f. 1	Six Color Prints From Desert Rat Sketch Book, Sketchbook Press, Franklin, New York	1959
Personal files		
Photographs		
b. 16, f. 1	Allemang, Richard	Circa 1940s
b. 16, f. 2	American Field Service Application archive, photographs and negatives	Circa 1988
b. 16, f. 3	American Field Service general	1944–1985
b. 16, f. 4	American Field Service office	Circa 1961
b. 16, f. 5	Brinton, Joseph P.	1945
b. 16, f. 6	Craig, Charles W., 2005 gifted photographs	Circa 1940s
b. 16, f. 7	Italy	1940–1949
b. 16, f. 8	Italy negatives	Circa 1940s
b. 16, f. 9	Ponselet, Vivian	1964
b. 16, f. 10	World War One, US Army ambulance	1977
b. 16, f. 11	World War Two	1942–1988
b. 16, f. 12	World War Two, Dodge T-211 ambulance	Circa 1990s
Scrapbook		
b. 17, f. 1	American Field Service scrapbook compiled by Joseph P. Brinton	1946
b. 18, f. 1	Scrapbook of photographs taken in Italy, compiled by Joseph P. Brinton	1946

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Ambulance drivers
Veterans -- Legal status, laws, etc. -- United States

Names

Brinton, Joseph Porter

Corporate Body

American Field Service