

# On the trail of Anne Morgan

Blérancourt, Vic-sur-Aisne, Soissons,  
Anizy-le-Château, Coucy-le-Château

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Trail-discover

# CARD\* at the service of the devastated region of Aisne

\* American Committee for Devastated France

My dear friends,

In your last letter you asked me what our CARD centers are like. I've made a souvenir album to give you an idea of our day-to-day life!

Miss Morgan established the centers close to the local populations so we could identify their needs and provide them with assistance. Our centers, which are housed in barracks, consist of offices, housing for the volunteers, a garage, a library and a hall where the locals can gather.



Thanks to our Ford trucks we can travel all over the region providing relief and assistance to the local people. I hope you will soon be able to come. The villages are being rebuilt and we will soon be moving out of our barracks into houses. You will be amazed to see how well the work is progressing!

Bessie

Members of the American Committee under Blérancourt arch, 1921 © RMN-GP/J.-G. Berizzi



Miss Anne Morgan in uniform, circa 1917 © RMN-GP/R.-G. Ojéda



A CARD driver repairing her Ford © RMN-GP/J.-G. Berizzi

## BLÉRANCOURT, The CARD'S original HQ



Anne Murray Dike © RMN-GP/ G. Blot

I was honoured to meet Anne Murray Dike, the CARD president at the Blérancourt HQ. We took stock of the measures that need to be taken in the area: everything needs rebuilding, especially people's enjoyment in life! There is a great deal of work to be done and it will take years!

Bessie

Anne Murray Dike commemorative stone

Franco-American museum of the Château of Blérancourt

Tourist Office and barracks

Anne Murray Dike's grave

Church

« Our plan is to establish in these various districts a veritable community center, to which will gather information about needs of that community, and from which we can spread out the means of meeting these needs—in such a personal and constructive way that it will be an incentive to re-building and re-creating of a new life and spirit in the French people.»  
(Anne Murray Dike, letter, summer 1917)



Blérancourt town hall during the war, 1917 © RMN-GP/ J.-G. Berizzi



Barracks of CARD, Blérancourt, 1920 © RMN GP/G. Blot



CARD center, Blérancourt, 1923 © RMN-GP/ R.-G. Ojéda



# ANIZY-LE-CHÂTEAU

## ANIZY-LE-CHÂTEAU

## COUCY-LE-CHÂTEAU



Marian Bartol  
© Musée Franco-Américain, Blérancourt

This morning, Marian Bartol offered to show me around the new temporary buildings, the "provisaires", in Anizy: an agricultural school, a church, a dispensary and a permanent store! Up to now, traveling stores had been touring the isolated, devastated villages with provisions, sheets, stoves...

Bessie

Former ANSAM dispensary and centre

50 m  
200 ft

« At every crossroads the road had been blown up, so we had to make constant detours. It was complete desolation, barbed wire entanglements, trenches, shell holes, etc. (...) A group of men are living there and slowly reclaiming the land. They start by collecting all of the unexploded shells and detonating them. Then they use massive shovels to fill in the trenches. »  
(Marian Bartol, letter of 21 January 1921)

District with temporary dwellings



Distribution of provisions in Blérancourt, 1917 © RMN-GP/R.-G. Ojéda



A family of refugees in front of their house, 1919  
© RMN-GP/J.-G. Berizzi

**i** Information

# COUCY-LE-CHÂTEAU

## UPPER TOWN

50 m  
200 ft

« What fun to discover Treasure Island with French children! The French boys find Kipling "un peu bizarre", but Fenimore Cooper "épatant". Anderson and Grimm are as well-known as Pinocchio, the Swiss Family Robinson, Heidi, Little Lord Fauntleroy, Alice in Wonderland and Kim »  
(CARD's report of 1921)



Jessie Carson  
© Musée Franco-Américain, Blérancourt

Our dear Jessie Carson has arrived to join the Committee and take charge of the CARD's education projects. Every day she organises the delivery of books via the circulating libraries and hosts "story time" for our young visitors. They enjoy it more than anything!

Bessie

Library  
Town Council

Tourist Office  
Former ANSAM houses



Coucy-le-Château library, circa 1920 © RMN-GP/H. Lewandowski

**i** Information



Story time in Vic-sur-Aisne, circa 1920  
© Musée Franco-Américain, Blérancourt

Tower Museum

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