

Ethel Gray –WWI Reconstruction Aide

Ethel Gray was appointed by the Surgeon General in 1918 to work as a Reconstruction Aide (physical therapist) during World War I. Gray traveled extensively and compiled a wonderful collection of photographs and letters from abroad. Working in military hospitals, Gray saw firsthand the horrors of war and captured the sights and sounds in her writings and pictures. Gray also catalogued her travels of some of Europe's most beautiful venues. She remembered the joy of Armistice Day and cheering crowds that flooded the streets of Angers, France. One of the highlights of her experience was getting to see General John Joseph "Black Jack" Pershing. Ethel's Gray work in WWI helped set the stage for women's expanding roles in the next world war.

WAR DEPARTMENT
Office of the Surgeon General,
Washington.

APRIL 29, 1918.

WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

ETHEL I. GRAY of MASSACHUSETTS

is hereby appointed Reconstruction Aide in the Medical Department of the Army, at \$60 a month except as hereinbelow otherwise provided, and will enter upon her duties after having taken the oath of office prescribed by section 1767 of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

When practicable she will be furnished lodgings at the hospital where she is serving, and in that event the commanding officer of the hospital will receive one ration a day in her behalf and provide her with proper meals.

When serving at a hospital where it is not practicable to lodge her she will receive additional pay at the rate of \$62.50 a month.

When serving beyond seas she will receive additional pay at the rate of \$10 a month from the time of leaving home port under orders to the time of arriving back at home port under orders.

When designated as Head Aide she will receive additional pay at the rate of \$15 a month.

Her uniforms soiled while on public duty will be laundered as a part of the hospital laundry.

She will receive transportation, and \$4 a day in lieu of actual traveling expenses, (a) when traveling under orders on joining first station of duty; (b) when traveling under orders between stations of duty; (c) when traveling under orders on return home from last station of duty.

She will be provided with suitable lodgings and subsistence at the cost of the United States while detained under orders at a port of embarkation awaiting transportation.

W. C. GORDAN
Surgeon General, U. S. Army

Oath of office taken
MAY 16 1918
Filed in S. G. O.

By *[Signature]*
Colonel, Quartermaster Corps

INSTRUCTIONS.

All pay allowed under this appointment will be paid by the Medical Department and noted on this letter of appointment.

Vouchers for pay will be made out on Form 355. When base pay \$50 is shown on the form, the whole amount due should be indicated on the face of the form, and the items thereof should be indicated on the second fold of the back of the form, thus, e.g.: "Base pay from _____ to _____"; "Additional pay in lieu of lodgings and meals, from _____ to _____"; "Additional pay for service beyond seas at _____ from _____ to _____"; "Additional pay as Head Aide from _____ to _____"; "Item additional pay in lieu of lodgings and meals must be supported by the responsible officer's certificate that it was not practicable to lodge her at the hospital.

Vouchers for per diem in lieu of traveling expenses are paid by the Quartermaster Corps.

