

Circa July ²⁰ 19/1922

FREDERIC A. WASHBURN, M.D.
Massachusetts General Hospital
Boston

Circle being sent with the letter.

April 9, 1920.

Col. Harvey Cushing,
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Harvey:

I enclose copy of an address of Sir William Osler at the flag raising of Base Hospital #33, an Albany unit in Portsmouth, England.

I have a picture of Sir William seated amongst the officers of Base Hospital #33, and certain snapshots of the flag raising. If these would be of any use to you, you may have them.

The Hospital report states that "The entire command was assembled in formation, and addressed by Sir William Osler", and after the speech it says that "At the conclusion of his address, Sir William Osler completed the ceremony by raising the flag in person."

I must have letters from Sir William in my letter files and will try to find them for you. I think your selection as his biographer is a very happy one.

Yours very sincerely,

F. A. Washburn

FAW:F
Enclosure.

"Fellow Workers: I have had such a series of thrills during the last three days that my heart is just like a bowlful of jelly. I have been visiting the American hospitals in the neighborhood of Southampton, and as I went into that city I saw three thousand Americans with full packs marching to a rest camp. That evening I saw the Olympic come in with eight thousand troops. A few hours ago I saw the nurses from the Olympic and the staff of doctors at Sarisbury Court at the new hospital which is being established there.

"It gives one an extraordinary sensation of pleasure to see how the Americans have come into this war. Now what does it all mean? Why are you all over here? It means the final struggle between two great ideals. There is a saying, you know, by one of the old prophets that "where there is no vision the people perish." But that is not all, for a nation may have a great vision and yet that vision may not be a true one. Germany is a great nation. The Germans are a great people-- in literature, in science and in art -- but unfortunately for humanity, the vision of late years of the German nation has been one of world domination and the vision of right being dominated over by might, and that is the only vision which has obsessed that nation.

"You are over struggling on behalf of an entirely different vision -- one that the Anglo-Saxon people have possessed for generations, the vision that made America a nation, the vision which insists that every nationality shall live its own life uninterrupted and that the individual self shall be free in that nation just as the nation is free in the community of nations. You are over here fighting for that vision which you have all enjoyed and

which the United States has enjoyed in such a remarkable way. You are over here in connection with one aspect of the war. War is a terrible thing; it is a terrible disease in humanity, and you are over here to minister to the wounds and wants and needs of those who fall, who may be injured and sick in the struggle.

"It is with peculiar pleasure that I come here today to float this flag which is the emblem of all that is free in humanity, the emblem that we hope may never be furled until war has been made impossible forever more, the emblem that we all look to -- English as well as Americans -- which indicates, in those memorable words of Lincoln, who has been the teacher of the nations in this great struggle, that it will never be furled until the nations live at peace and in unity with each other."