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CONVENTION FOR THE AMELIORATION OF THE CONDITION OF THE WOUNDED AND SICK IN ARMIES IN THE FIELD*

Concluded at Geneva August 22, 1864

(Translation)**

The Swiss Confederation; His Royal Highness the Grand-Duke of Baden; His Majesty the King of the Belgians; His Majesty the King of Denmark; Her Majesty the Queen of Spain; His Majesty the Emperor of the French; His Royal Highness the Grand-Duke of Hesse; His Majesty the King of Italy; His Majesty the King of The Netherlands; His Majesty the King of Portugal and of the Algarves; His Majesty the King of Prussia; His Majesty the King of Württemberg,

Being equally animated with the desire to soften, as much as depends on them, the evils of warfare, to suppress its useless hardships and improve the fate of wounded soldiers on the field of battle, have resolved to conclude a convention to that effect, and have named for their plenipotentiaries, viz:

(Names of Plenipotentiaries)***

Who, after having exchanged their powers, and found them in good and due form, agree to the following articles:

ARTICLE I

Ambulances and Military hospitals shall be acknowledged to be neutral, and, as such, shall be protected and respected by belligerents so long as any sick or wounded may be therein.

Such neutrality shall cease if the ambulances or hospitals should be held by a military force.

ARTICLE II

Persons employed in hospitals and ambulances, comprising the staff for superintendence, medical services, administration, transport of wounded, as well as chaplains, shall participate in the benefit of neutrality, whilst so employed, and so long as there remain any wounded to bring in or to succour.

ARTICLE III

The persons designated in the preceding article may, even after occupation by the enemy, continue to fulfill their duties in the hospital or ambulance which they serve, or may withdraw in order to rejoin the corps to which they belong.

* Article 31 of the revised Convention of July 6, 1906, provides:

"The present Convention, when duly ratified, shall supersede the Convention of August 22, 1864, in the relations between the contracting States.

"The Convention of 1864 remains in force in the relations between the parties who signed it, but who may not also ratify the present Convention."

Article 34 of the revised Convention of July 27, 1929, provides:

"The present Convention shall replace the Conventions of the 22nd August, 1864, and the 6th July, 1906, in relations between the High Contracting Parties."

The following parties to the 1864 Convention have ratified neither the 1906 nor the 1929 revised Conventions: The Argentine Republic, Panama, Persia (or Iran).

**The original Convention is in the French language. The French text is, therefore, for all interpretation purposes the standard one. The English version printed here is taken from the proclamation of the President of the United States of America, July 26, 1882.

***For these names see *British and Foreign State Papers*, vol. 55, p. 43, or Malloy's *Treaties between the United States and other Powers* (1776-1909), vol. 2, p. 1903.