

CANADIAN
LEGION WAR
SERVICES

Organized in October, 1939, Canadian Legion War Services is one of the four voluntary organizations authorized by the Canadian government to render auxiliary services to the fighting forces, and it also provides educational services to troops in Canada and overseas. At the present time, more than 50,000 members of Canada's overseas army, including units of the 1st Canadian Division in Italy and reinforcement units in North Africa, are being serviced by the Canadian Legion War Services.

Since the organization commenced its activities in November, 1939, and up to December 31, 1942, there were 136,953 registrations for educational courses. In addition, it handled 322,791 personal service cases. During the same period there was a total attendance of 20,735,437 in the 518 recreation huts built or leased by the organization, and 13,895,177 in the 81 dry canteens. The Legion also maintains 1,773 libraries and has more than a million books in circulation.

The organization has distributed nearly two million magazines, 36 million sheets of notepaper, 16 million envelopes and 40 million cigarettes; it has sponsored 17,681 concerts, dances and smokers, with an attendance of over four million troops, and 33,113 picture performances, with a total attendance of nearly 10 million.

The organization has held 7,151 individual religious services in its huts, with an attendance of over one million.

Covering practically every phase of war relief work, the Canadian Red Cross Society has enlisted the voluntary assistance of some 2,096,600 persons, including 1,239,300 adults and 857,300 junior members, in 31,789 branches throughout Canada. The bulk of these are working at knitting and sewing of comforts and supplies for the armed forces, hospital patients and civilian relief; packing parcels of food for prisoners of war; operating blood donor clinics; or serving in one of the four Red Cross Corps.

The Society also sponsors classes in home nursing and first aid through the voluntary assistance of graduate nurses. In order to utilize to the fullest degree the home nursing and first aid facilities of the Red Cross and the St. John Ambulance Association, the two organizations have recently co-ordinated these services under a joint board.

There are about 750,000 women, in some 10,000 groups and Red Cross workrooms, making and packing comforts and supplies. More than 21,278,370 articles of hospital supplies, comforts and relief clothing have been shipped overseas during the war and up to the end of 1942 by the Society. Several million articles have been distributed in Canada and Newfoundland.

Provision of food parcels for Canadian and British prisoners of war is one of the major activities of the Red Cross. By the end of 1942 about 3,000,000 food parcels had been packed in Canada. Five packing plants are now in operation - at Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor and Winnipeg - each plant packing 20,000 parcels weekly. It is estimated that 100,000 parcels a week will cost \$13,000,000 in 1943. A budget of \$5,500,000 for the packing of prisoners of war food parcels was set by the Society for 1943, and the balance above this budget will be paid for by the British, Australian and other Allied Red Cross Societies.

To supplement food rations for prisoners of war in any country, the national Red Cross Society is permitted, under conditions laid down by the Prisoners of War Convention of Geneva, 1929, to send food in two ways:

- (1) By shipping bulk supplies to the prisoners' chosen camp leader;
- (2) By making collective shipments of identical individual parcels, not personally addressed, through the International Red Cross in Geneva.

The Canadian Red Cross parcel is uniform and standard, weighing 11 pounds. Its contents vary slightly from time to time, but usually consist of the following 16 articles:

Radcliffe