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British Red Cross and Order of St John
of Jerusalem, Organization of
Resources Committee



A GREAT WORK

IN WHICH WE
ALL MAY SHARE



An outline of the work of the British Red Cross
and Order of St. John, prepared by the Organiza-
tion of Resources Committee, from data supplied,
in connection with the British Red Cross Cam-
paign, October 19, 1916.

Copies may be had from the Committee,
Parliament Buildings, Toronto.

Why Red Cross Work is Needed

"What Lord Wantage saw and experienced during the Crimean War impressed itself deeply on his mind; he realized that, however well organized an Army Medical Service may be, it never has been, and never will be, able to cope adequately with the sudden emergencies of war on a large scale, and he held that voluntary organizations, unimpeded by official restrictions, are alone capable of giving auxiliary relief and of providing extra comforts and luxuries with the requisite promptitude and rapidity. He felt, moreover, that the British people would always insist on taking a personal share in alleviating the sufferings of their soldiers, and that some recognized and authorized channel through which public generosity could flow was a matter of paramount importance."

Memoir of "LORD WANTAGE, V.C., K.C.B."

Father of the British Red Cross Movement.

A Great Work

The Joint War Committee of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John is the only institution which carries voluntary aid to the sick and wounded of the British Forces on land and sea in *every region of the war.*

Its work is therefore the concern of all classes of British subjects, whether living at home, in the Dominions and Colonies, or in foreign countries.

It is the pride of the Red Cross that in every crisis in the campaigns of Great Britain and her Allies, it has been able to bring prompt and efficient aid to supplement the untiring work of the official services.

The work may be divided into three broad divisions: (1) The transportation of the sick and wounded; (2) Hospitals, rest and convalescent homes; (3) The provision of countless hospital and medical supplies, clothing and other comforts.

1.—TRANSPORTATION

Ambulances.—Their usual duty is to convey the sick and wounded from the field hospital to the clearing hospital, and thence to the hospital train, which brings them swiftly and smoothly to the coast. The British Red Cross has also taken over the whole of the work on the lines of communication of our troops in France, carrying the wounded and sick from the trains to the hospitals and thence to the hospital ships.

Altogether the Society has provided over 2,000 motor ambulances and 600 other vehicles for use abroad and at home. There are between 700 and 800 paid drivers, and over 600 volunteer drivers.

Serving with the British Army in France and Belgium, the Red Cross now has 1,100 motor ambulances, also 60 with the French Army, and 25 with the Belgian.

A complete convoy of 50 motor ambulances has been sent to Mesopotamia and 51 to Italy. Between the time of arrival in Italy and May, 1916, the British ambulances there had travelled 341,543 kilometres and carried 46,000 patients through rough mountain tracks.

In London, the heavy work of transporting the sick and wounded from the trains to the various hospitals has been done by the Red Cross through volunteers, who have lent or given a fleet of motor ambulances and motor cars. By August, 1916, 111,000 men had been moved in this way, and while trains arrived at all hours of the day and night, not a single wounded man has ever been kept waiting. Blankets, hot-water bottles, hot drinks, and everything else the men need are provided.

It costs \$22,000 a week in maintenance alone to keep the fleet of ambulances on the road. Will your municipality share the cost for a day, a week, or longer?

Hospital Trains.—Four hospital trains, capable of carrying 500 men each, have been placed at the disposal of the Army in France. They are as comfortable as they can be made and contain an operating table, dispensary, kitchens, etc., and an expert staff. On occasion a train has been run to a siding, and an urgent operation has been performed during the journey home. In less than twelve months one of these has carried over 26,000 patients and travelled 26,000 miles. It was also one of these in which His Majesty the King travelled after his severe accident while reviewing the troops.

Hospital Motor Boats.—The Mesopotamia expedition has called for the organization of a Red Cross transport service by a fleet of thirty motor ambulance boats on the Tigris. In addition, a shallow-draught, paraffin-driven hospital ship, with 160 cot cases and an ice-making plant, has been built specially at a cost of \$75,000. It is being sent to Basra in sections and will be ready for work in the course of October.

HOSPITALS

In France.—Thirteen British Red Cross hospitals, with a total of 2,214 beds, are maintained in France. In addition, over twenty private hospitals have been supervised and staffed by the British Society.

In Egypt.—Ten hospitals, with a capacity of 1,971 beds, have been established in Egypt. The largest is the Montazah, at Alexandria—once the palace of the ex-Khedive. It has 1,000 beds and already 8,000 soldiers have recovered at this hospital.

In Great Britain.—Since the beginning of the war patriotic and generous people have offered 4,500 buildings for use as hospitals. The War Office gave the Red Cross Society the arduous task of sifting the offers and inspecting the premises offered. Some 1,270 have been accepted, and 1,050 of these, with nearly 41,000 beds, are now working, two-thirds having been equipped and provided with nursing staff by the Red Cross. These hospitals are models of comfort, yet the average weekly expenditure of 800 of them is only \$5.50 a patient.

In addition, there are the splendidly equipped King George Hospital (1,650 beds), a great favorite of the Canadians and Anzacs; the Royal Victoria, at Netley (750 beds); and numerous officers' and nurses' convalescent homes.

Marvellous work has also been done in the special hospitals for paralyzed and maimed soldiers, for the blind, and for those who have suffered severe facial injuries.

SUPPLIES AND COMFORTS

Supplies.—Depots have been established in France, at Malta, at Salonika, and in Egypt. There is nothing required for the equipment of a hospital or the comfort of a sick man that these depots do not contain. Whatever is needed is distributed freely, not only to Red Cross hospitals, but, when asked for, to the Army hospitals. Ambulances, hospital trains and rest stations are supplied. Moreover, very effective aid has been given our distant Allies.

Over \$2,000,000 have been spent in purchasing medical and general stores, a few of which are chloroform, X-ray outfits, tooth brushes, soap, shirts, blankets, fresh eggs and milk, kitchen equipment, fodder, boilers, ice machines, mosquito netting. Gifts have been received to the value of \$1,700,000, and no fewer than 125,000 bales and cases have been sent out and 2,721,700 garments issued, not including 1,100,000 garments and other gifts for the wounded provided by the Order of St. John.

Rest Stations.—Six of these are stationed in France. They are Red Cross hostleries, ministering to the needs of the wounded and sick, and doing much to mitigate the real hardships of war. In a single week 30,000 men were fed and 1,500 dressings done in one station alone.

War Library.—Convalescence would be dreary indeed without books. Over 2,000,000 volumes have been sent to the thousands of hospitals, rest camps, hospital ships and trains.

Food For Prisoners.—Some 64,000 parcels (1,200 weekly) have been sent to prisoners in Germany. So many institutions and individuals have taken up this most important work that the Society has confined itself to the difficult task of filling in gaps, seeing that *every* prisoner, friendless or not, gets regular parcels and that none gets a plethora.

"Missing."—With six branch offices in France and others in Egypt, Malta, Basra and Bombay, this department collects evidence among the wounded in hospital concerning the fate of officers and men who are reported missing. In the last fourteen months alone some 48,700 anxious enquiries have been received, and 61,600 items of information gathered.

IN CONCLUSION

The above has been the merest outline of the work of the British Red Cross, for the purpose of giving to those who have so generously supported the work in the past and will continue to do so, a rough idea of what their contributions have made possible. Nothing has been said, for instance, of the splendid service of the hundreds of thousands of workers at home and abroad—surgeons, nurses, orderlies, men and women of the Voluntary Aid Detachments and St. John Ambulance Brigade—the large majority of whom received their first training in stretcher work, first

aid, hygiene, sanitation, etc., under the auspices of the Red Cross and Order of St. John.

Every one may feel that his money will go to the sick and wounded with a minimum deduction for expenses. The administrative staff, though large, is mainly voluntary, and every possible precaution is taken to secure the most economical administration of the funds entrusted to the Society. For the first year, excluding hospitals, the total home administration and management expenses, including the unpacking, sorting and repacking of gifts in kind, amounted to *only two and one-quarter per cent. of the total income.*

The real authors of all these benefits to our splendid troops are the men and women who supply the money to carry on this work.

WILL YOU SHARE IN IT?

Over \$20,000,000 have been given for this noble work, and more is needed. The Empire-wide appeal has gone out from the Motherland. Last year Ontario gave \$1,514,000. Can we do less this year when the need is greater? October 19th is the day.

EVERYONE HELP!

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS, TORONTO,
September 27, 1916.

WHAT MEN SAY WHO HAVE SEEN THE WORK OF THE BRITISH RED CROSS

"My visit to England and France has aroused deeper appreciation than ever of the splendid work of the Red Cross. It deserves every support, and I trust the people of Ontario will respond with their usual generosity to the British Red Cross Appeal for October 19th."

HON. W. H. HEARST,
Prime Minister of Ontario.

"I bring a message of cheer to those who have relatives at the front and who fear they may be wounded. I believe everything human skill can do, that human care and sympathy can provide, is being done and provided each day and each night throughout the year by the Army Medical Corps and the Red Cross. It is a perfect marvel of efficiency."

MR. N. W. ROWELL, K.C.,
Leader of the Opposition.