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Serving our armed forces, a primary Red Cross responsibility

American National Red Cross

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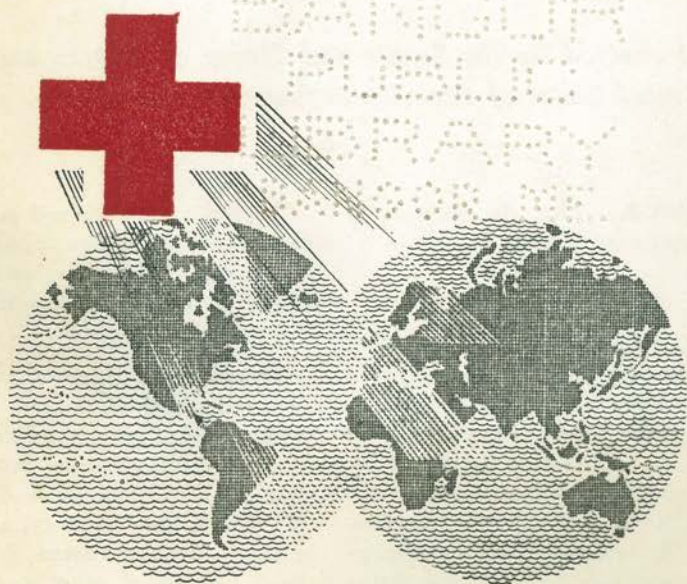
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Serving our **ARMED FORCES**

A PRIMARY RED CROSS RESPONSIBILITY



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

Washington, D. C.

Red Cross Services to the Armed Forces

AS DEFINED BY INTERNATIONAL TREATY AND FEDERAL STATUTE

THE GENEVA CONVENTION, signed by 12 nations of Europe at Geneva in 1864 and ratified by the United States in 1882, is the original document upon which the existence of the Red Cross depends. The nations represented at Geneva agreed upon ten articles "for the purpose of mitigating the evils inseparable from war. . . ."

The charter based upon this Convention and granted to the American National Red Cross by the Congress of the United States defines the powers and purposes of the organization in part as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled. . . .

"Section 3. That the purposes of this corporation are and shall be—

"First. To furnish volunteer aid to the sick and wounded of armies in time of war, in accordance with the spirit and conditions of the conference of Geneva of October, eighteen hundred and sixty-three, and also of the treaties of the Red Cross, or the treaties of Geneva, of August twenty-second, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and July twenty-seventh, nineteen hundred and twenty-nine, to which the United States of America has given its adhesion . . .

"Second. And for said purposes to perform all the duties devolved upon a national society by each nation which has acceded to any of the said treaties or conventions . . .

"Fourth. To act in matters of voluntary relief and in accord with the military and naval authorities as a medium of communication between the people of the United States of America and their Army and Navy, and to act in such matters between similar national societies of other governments through the 'Comité International de Secours,' and the Government and the people and the Army and Navy of the United States of America."

Interpretation of the American Red Cross Charter

BY THE SOLICITOR GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

During World War I, John W. Davis, then Solicitor General of the United States and counselor of the Red Cross, was asked to interpret the powers and duties of the American National Red Cross as specified in its charter. His opinion reads, in part:

"When any question arises as to the scope and activities of the American Red Cross, *it must always be remembered that its charter is not only a grant of power but an imposition of duties.* . . . In determining the powers and duties, as also the privileges and immunities, of the American National Red Cross, one must consider the act of incorporation of January 5, 1905, for, like every body corporate, it can exercise only those powers conferred upon it by law. . . .

"It is quite clear that the charter purposes and the duties arising under the Geneva Convention are not co-extensive; that the former are much broader, and that the American National Red Cross may do many things under the law of its creation for which the Geneva Convention does not provide. . . .

"What more broad and comprehensive expression could have been used than that of 'matters of voluntary relief'? Are not the words in their common acceptance sufficient to cover

everything which charity, gratitude and patriotism might suggest to the people of the United States? . . . I do not think that the charter will bear any more restricted construction.

"It does not warrant, of course, the providing of any military supplies or war materials, but may well include such labors as the furnishing of comforts to American troops, whether sick or well; the establishment of refreshment stations for them, both at home and abroad; the conduct of places of rest and recreation in and out of the war area for troops when off duty; the transmission of correspondence, literature and seasonable gifts; and the collection and exchange of information concerning the wounded and prisoners of war. So long as the Red Cross abstains from doing those things necessary to supply and equip the army and navy for military service, *it would seem to be competent for it to act for the American people in all those ways by which they seek to express to the country's defenders their affection, sympathy and gratitude.*"

Ten Years of Red Cross Expenditures for Services to the Armed Forces and Veterans

FISCAL YEARS	EXPENDITURES IN BEHALF OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES	EXPENDITURES IN BEHALF OF VETERANS	TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR THE ARMED FORCES AND VETERANS	PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL RED CROSS EXPENDITURES
1939-40	\$ 736,000	\$ 905,000	\$ 1,641,000	11.1%
1940-41	2,627,000	1,180,000	3,807,000	15.3
1941-42	12,395,000	1,050,000	13,445,000	30.8
1942-43	50,839,000	1,085,000	51,924,000	56.5
1943-44	107,261,000	2,226,000	109,487,000	66.8
1944-45	131,186,000	2,563,000	133,749,000	69.8
1945-46	126,481,000	8,384,000	134,865,000	67.7
1946-47	42,743,000	18,410,000	61,153,000	51.0
1947-48	20,843,000	19,026,000	39,869,000	39.1
1948-49*	<u>20,098,000</u>	<u>17,063,000</u>	<u>37,161,000</u>	<u>40.3</u>
Totals	\$515,209,000	\$71,892,000	\$587,101,000	56.2

* Estimated.

Why the Red Cross Serves the Armed Forces

THE excerpts from the federal statute already quoted make abundantly clear that the American Red Cross has an *official* responsibility to serve the armed forces of the country. That responsibility was assigned to the Red Cross by Congress as a condition of its existence.

But there is an even more compelling reason why the Red Cross considers this service to be one of its primary jobs. It is this:

The Red Cross is today recognized by the American people as their instrument for the expression of sympathy, loyalty, and good will toward all those men and women who, for whatever reason, have assumed the task of guarding their native land in peace and war. Thus the Red Cross has a moral as well as a legal obligation to maintain its service to the military.

Public concern for the welfare of our military establishment is traditional with us. This concern is intensified by the fact that in all the major wars in which the United States has engaged, from the American Revolution to World War II, our military forces have been preponderantly made up of civilians rather than professional soldiers. Those who have been fortunate enough to remain at home have

acutely felt their obligation to help those from among their own number who have sacrificed personal interests, in times of emergency, for the good of the nation.

The place of the civilian in providing supplemental aid and comfort to the military personnel was well recognized long before the Red Cross itself was founded. It was natural, therefore, that when Congress was called upon to give official status to the work, the job should be assigned to an independent citizens' organization entirely financed by voluntary contributions and largely manned by volunteer workers.

For the people of the United States have always wanted to participate in that job themselves. The Red Cross was set up as an instrumentality through which any citizen can contribute—in time or money or sympathetic understanding—to the extent of his desires and abilities.

What the nation expects of the Red Cross in terms of service to the military is clearly more than care for the sick and wounded in time of war. The phrase in the Red Cross charter empowering the society "to act in matters of voluntary relief" implies a much broader scope of activities. It encompasses the need for a channel of communication between the citizen soldier and his family at home. It envisages the need of the serviceman for advice and help in moments of personal crisis which the obligations of military duty make it impossible for him to handle unaided. It recognizes the desirability of a civilian organization that can act for the serviceman and his family as a liaison in their dealings with

the government and with the military establishment. These purposes are served by the Red Cross.

Finally, the Red Cross was established to satisfy the need for an organized community effort that could harness and put to constructive use the great reserve of volunteer service latent in our civilian population. During the past 10 years, the Red Cross has expended well over half a billion dollars in service to the armed forces and to veterans—dollars that were voluntarily contributed for that purpose by the people of this country. But even more significant are the millions of hours of volunteer effort that have likewise been freely contributed to that service through the Red Cross—hours that, if paid for at going wage rates, would have multiplied Red Cross expenditures many fold. This volunteer service, symbolic of all that is warm and human and neighborly in American life, is the truest measure of what the Red Cross stands for in its relations with the military establishment.

The American Red Cross continues to exist and to carry on its service to the armed forces of this country because there is a vital job to be done and because the American people have accepted the Red Cross as their medium of action in this department of community responsibility. There can be no doubt that, if the Red Cross did not already exist, the people of this country would see to it that a similar organization, of equal extent and capacity, was promptly established.

Background of Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces

THE tradition of service to the armed forces of the United States through a unified civilian war relief agency goes back to the days of the Civil War when the Sanitary Commission was privately organized to supplement the army medical service. Out of this grew the American Association for the Relief of Misery on the Battlefields, organized in 1866, which had as its insignia the Red Cross on a white field. In 1881 the American Association of the Red Cross was incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia. Thus the American Red Cross, as a going concern, was founded even before the United States ratified the Geneva Convention.

Further impetus was given to the work of the Red Cross during the Spanish-American War when almost a hundred Red Cross relief committees were formed. An active auxiliary of the New York group at that time recruited over five hundred well-trained nurses, assigned them to army camps, furnished them with necessities and comforts for the soldiers, and paid the majority of the nurses' salaries and maintenance. In 1898, the record shows, Red Cross service included

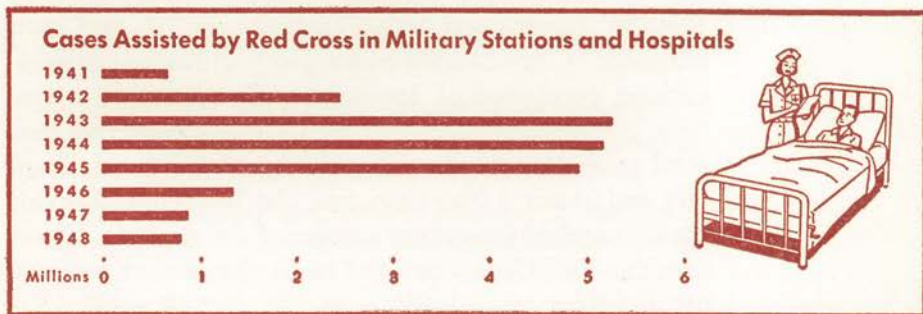
canteen service at railroad stations, ports of embarkation, and other points of troop concentrations.

In her report to the Senate and House of Representatives, dated April 7, 1902, Clara Barton, then president of the Red Cross, thus describes Red Cross activities on the Pacific Coast:

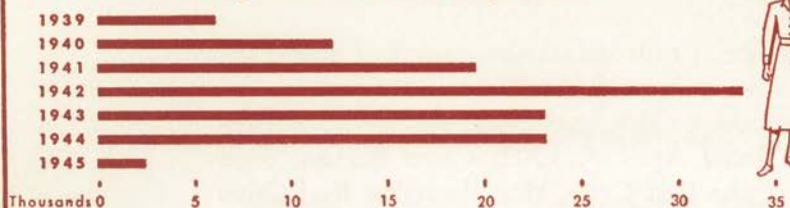
The war of the Philippines has left the Red Cross societies of the Pacific slope neither peace nor rest. Statistics will show you that about 120,000 soldiers have passed through their hands, from the strong sturdy volunteer on his way out, to the poor, wounded, sick broken wreck come home to die. All have been fed, cheered, and nursed. They will show you also that \$80,039.16 in money has been raised and used in this beneficent and patriotic work.

Then, in World War I, came the first opportunity for full realization of the potentialities of the American Red Cross to serve the armed forces in a major conflict. The story has been often told . . .

\$400,000,000 voluntarily contributed by a generous people—an unprecedented and truly staggering sum as measured against the background and scale of government and other financing of the time. Several million workers, nearly all volunteers, mobilized to serve. 20,000 nurses recruited and



Nurses Enrolled by Red Cross for Military Service



assigned to the military. Relief articles produced in huge quantities. Supplies and services and assistance carried to millions of members of the armed forces at home and abroad and to hundreds of thousands of families at home. The work, during the war and its aftermath, carried into a total of 25 foreign countries.

Following an interval of peace, with the Red Cross still actively serving our veterans and our peacetime armed forces, came the second great call for service. During World War II, the tremendous voluntary mobilization through the Red Cross was repeated upon even a more gigantic scale. In the 5 years from 1941 to 1946, the American public contributed over \$784,000,000 to the Red Cross. This has rightly been termed "the greatest free-will offering in history." At the peak of its war effort, Red Cross volunteer enlistments reached a total of 7,500,000 workers. Of 104,500 nurses certified to the military, 70,500 were assigned. Over 50,000 community clubs and organizations, composed of approximately 5,000,000 members, contributed through Red Cross camp and hospital councils. Operating through 3,757 local chapters and about 5,000 branches, the Red Cross organization reached into every corner of the nation. Overseas, the Red Cross operated in all theaters of war and on all fronts.

With the cessation of hostilities in 1945 and the rapid demobilization of America's wartime armed forces, the extent of Red Cross service to the men and women on active military duty naturally showed a corresponding decrease. Service to veterans and their families, on the other hand, was correspondingly increased.

But the end of World War II by no means signaled an end to the usefulness of the Red Cross as an instrument of welfare service to the armed forces both in military installations and in military hospitals. In June 1949 Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson addressed the Red Cross National Convention at Atlantic City in these words:

The National Military Establishment is the product of the American people; and the Red Cross stands and functions as a living link between the man in service, wherever he is stationed, and the mothers and fathers and wives and children back home who have given him to the service. Both the men in uniform and the people back home have come to expect certain things from the Red Cross. . . .

When Congress adopted legislation . . . creating the Red Cross in 1905, this organization was formally assigned as a medium of communications between the people of the United States and their armed forces. Today regulations of all branches of the military service recognize the role of the Red Cross.

We of the National Military Establishment need the work of the Red Cross as we need a good right arm. We recognize in our military plans the place for the Red Cross. . . .

The Commander in Chief, the President of the United States, and we of the National Military Establishment, want your Red Cross president and your Board of Governors to continue to work with us in planning the welfare of our armed forces. . . .

Today's Need for Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces

OUR government is currently maintaining the largest peacetime military establishment in the history of the country. Today the United States has more than 1,500,000 men and women in active service. This is five times the military strength of the nation in the years just prior to World War II. And these figures do not take into account the military and naval reservists and the members of the National Guard who, when on active duty, are just as much a responsibility of the Red Cross as are those in the regular Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

The American people and our government have said: Let us be prepared for any eventuality. For the armed forces, this is an order. For the Red Cross, with its clearly defined obligations, it has all the force of an order. The Red Cross must continue not only to serve our peacetime military establishment, but must be ready to assume those larger responsibilities that are inevitable in wartime.

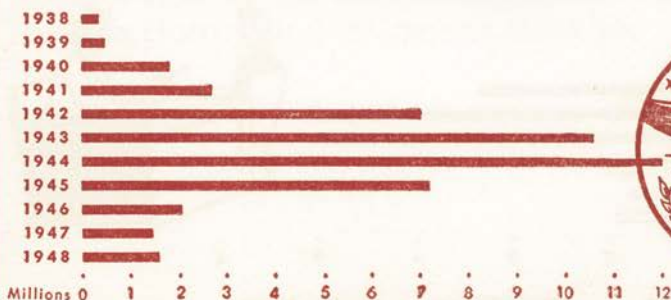
The peacetime job is all the more important because of the character and make-up of our present defense forces. The vigor of youth being needed

in military service, the great majority of the personnel are young, upwards of 50 percent being 21 years of age or younger.

The backbone of the forces is, of course, made up of career personnel, both commissioned and enlisted, who voluntarily devote their professional lives to the country's defense. Their devotion to the military profession does not relieve them, however, of the personal and family problems to assist with which the American Red Cross was created. They, too, are entitled to Red Cross service when they need it.

Career personnel, moreover, bear the heavy and constant responsibility of making into efficient servicemen and sustaining the morale of the very great number of young men who remain in service only for an enlistment or so. These are essentially civilian youths, accepting the responsibility for military service that our times have placed upon them, but many of them undergoing it with the expectation of an early return to civilian life. They are entitled to help in making their period of service personally constructive, in meeting the inevitable personal and family problems that may deeply affect their present and future lives, and in facilitating their return to civilian pursuits upon discharge. For their well-being as well as that of career personnel, the military establishment has itself developed and is vigorously pursuing an extensive and constructive

Men and Women in the U. S. Armed Forces (annual average)

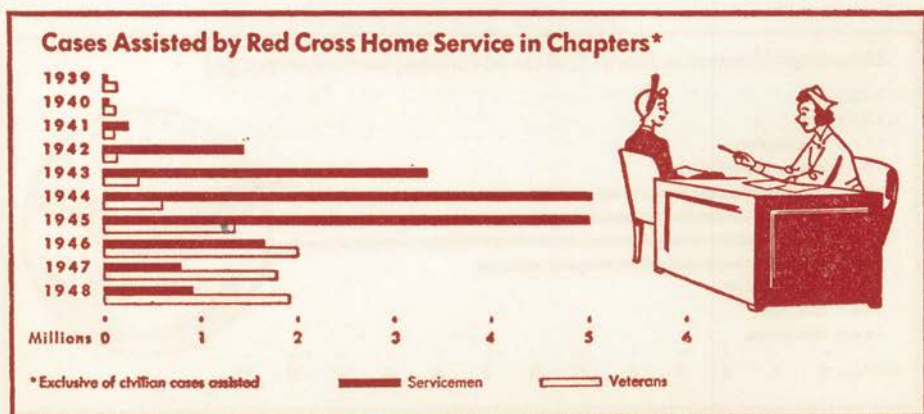


program of educational, recreational, and cultural activities in pursuance of its primary function to prepare for military action in case of need. Under these circumstances there is obvious need and opportunity for the Red Cross to supplement the efforts of the military establishment in the field of welfare.

The importance of this work, both from the standpoint of military morale and from that of good citizenship, has been recognized by the military establishment in many ways and by the President of the United States through the appointment of his Committee on Religion and Welfare in the Armed Forces, of which the President of the Red Cross is a member.

The need for service to the armed forces is further accentuated by the fact that the current mission of our military establishment is far different from any that it has ever before faced in peacetime. Our forces are far flung, many of them in foreign countries. In addition to our active training centers at home, outposts are being maintained across the world from Europe to the far Pacific. Naval and troop movements are constant. Maneuvers in the field are frequent and prolonged.

The size of our present military establishment means, likewise, that more than a million families across the nation have members currently serving in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast



Guard. Taking into account more distant family relationships, it is hard to find a family that is not touched by this necessity for military preparedness. Today, almost to the extent of war days, the well-being of our armed forces is everybody's concern.

The Red Cross, by its very nature and constitution, is the American people in action. Furthermore, the Red Cross has proved that it has the experience and capacity to handle the job. Through the national organization, its 3,746 chapters and their 4,845 branches, the Red Cross is in a position, on the one hand, to serve every U. S. military establishment at home and abroad, and, on the other, to maintain contact with every community from coast to coast and from border to border, as well as with communities in our territories and our insular possessions.

But the ultimate essential to success in this job is public confidence. The Red Cross has the confidence and support of the American people who, through two generations, have seen to it that whatever the Red Cross financial need, it was met. It has the confidence, also, of the men and women of the armed forces, as witness the Red Cross experience in its 1949 fund raising drive when 85 percent of all military and naval personnel voluntarily made donations to the Red Cross fund.

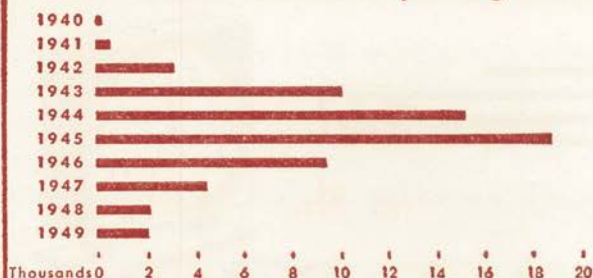
Both at home and abroad, the Red Cross is equipped and organized to carry on its traditional role as friend and counselor of every member of the armed forces and as the medium of communication between the people of America and their military establishment. Under its charter, the Red Cross can do no less.

How Red Cross Services to the Armed Forces Are Organized

ESSENTIAL to the successful conduct of Red Cross service to the armed forces is constant and intimate liaison between Red Cross national headquarters and the Departments of the Army, Navy, and Air Force. As John W. Davis pointed out in his statement covering the duties and responsibilities of the Red Cross, the Red Cross can obviously render to the armed forces only such services as the military establishment itself deems helpful and expedient. It follows, therefore, that the entire Red Cross program for the armed forces has been defined and approved in military regulations and in other official understandings.

Within the Red Cross organization, the program of service to the armed forces is conducted by three major service divisions—Military Welfare Service, Service in Military Hospitals, and Home Service. In each of the military departments and in the offices of their respective surgeons general, special officers are designated to act as liaison with the Red Cross. By appointment of the President of the United States, the armed forces are represented on the Board of Governors of the Red Cross.

Red Cross Paid Personnel Directly Serving the Armed Forces

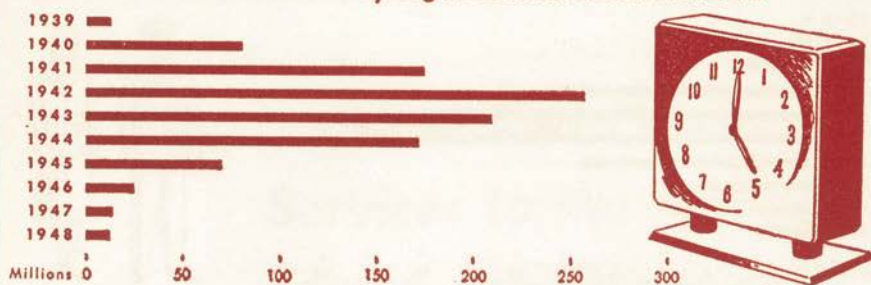


In the field, both in the United States and abroad, Red Cross service to the armed forces is conducted by Red Cross field directors who are directly assigned and accredited to military stations and military hospitals. It is the function of these field directors to maintain constant working contact with the commanding officer of these installations and with their staffs. In this way the needs of local military installations are made known to the Red Cross which is then in a position to supply the specific services required.

The other end of the chain of communication between the military establishment and the people of the country is Home Service. This branch of the Red Cross, functioning through the local Red Cross chapters, is the point of contact with the families of the men and women in military service, and with military personnel away from their stations. Home Service work is with the veteran as well as with the serviceman on active duty.

One of the principal strengths of the military welfare and hospital service lies in the ability of Red Cross field directors to call upon the facilities of local Red Cross chapters for whatever volunteer or other assistance may be needed. Through these field direc-

Hours of Service Contributed by Organized Red Cross Volunteers.



tors, all the services offered by the Red Cross are integrated and placed at the disposal of the military establishment. By this means, such widely diversified Red Cross facilities as the volunteer nurse's aides, Canteen Service, Motor Service, Safety and Health Services, and Arts and Skills Service may all be called upon to assume their proper responsibilities in an integrated service to the armed forces. In the same way, the resources of the Junior Red Cross membership and the services of college students are utilized.

A vital factor in the military welfare and hospital service lies in the complete national coverage supplied by Red Cross chapters and branches. Every serviceman and woman in the entire United States military establishment, at home or abroad, has ready access to the Red Cross through its field directors. Correspondingly, families of those in military service can readily be reached at short notice through some local Red Cross chapter or branch.

Finally, to implement its services to the armed forces, the Red Cross has available an army of several hundred thousand volunteer workers. Widely diversified in training and skills, these volunteers are equipped to provide someone to fill almost any job

from that of a Gray Lady serving in a military hospital to that of an experienced Home Service chairman serving in a local chapter. Their work is equally important whether it is serving the serviceman on active duty or his family back home. Through Red Cross volunteer service, the deep-seated desire of thousands of Americans to express their appreciation and thankfulness to the armed forces of the nation is given practical outlet.

This is the basic organization that has successfully carried out the Red Cross program of service to the armed forces in two world wars and in the intervening period of peace. This is important, for the organization has proved that, because of its sound framework, it is capable of great flexibility. In the fiscal year 1939-40, serving a peacetime military establishment of about 300,000 servicemen, the Red Cross in military installations and hospitals gave assistance to servicemen and their families in 53,365 cases. The work was carried out with a paid staff of some 250 Red Cross personnel. In 1943-44, under stress of a national emergency, the Red Cross gave help to servicemen and their families in 5,248,445 cases, not counting the assistance on the home front through the chapters. To accomplish this, the Red Cross staff engaged in this work at home and abroad, was expanded to a total of over 15,000. By 1948-49, the Red Cross paid staff engaged in military welfare and hospital work had dropped to approximately 1,900. The caseload during that year was 775,152. Faced with any national emergency, the Red Cross can adapt itself, speedily and effectively, to whatever demands may be made upon it.

A Summary of the Red Cross Program of Service to the Armed Forces

THE RED CROSS program of service to the armed forces is based upon clearly demonstrated needs. These needs have been recognized by the military establishment itself, and the measures taken by the Red Cross to meet them have received official military sanction.

The major part of this Red Cross program continues to function both in periods of peace and in periods of war. Active hostilities naturally mean an extension of Red Cross operations and an inclusion in the Red Cross program of duties not ordinarily required in time of peace.

The program has been designed, on the one hand, to help men and women serving in the armed forces, whether on active duty or in military hospitals, and, on the other hand, to help the families and dependents of those in military service. Through its network of field directors in military installations and chapters back home, the Red Cross is in a unique position to serve the man and his family as a unit. In all this work, the Red Cross cooperates closely with the military authorities, supplementing and assisting in the

efforts of the military establishment with respect to the health and welfare of military personnel.

The specific services rendered by the Red Cross in connection with its military welfare program are outlined below.

Red Cross Services to Men and Women on Active Military Duty and in Military Hospitals

Acting in close cooperation with commanding officers in military installations and working through its own field directors and local chapters, the Red Cross undertakes the following responsibilities on behalf of servicemen and women:

1. Counseling: Counseling with servicemen in personal and family problems.

2. Financial Assistance: With the approval of the commanding officers, financial assistance by loan or grant to servicemen who are without sufficient funds and are required to return home because of sickness, death, or other emergencies in the immediate family. Also, upon recommendation of medical officers, financial assistance is extended to enable patients in military hospitals to take advantage of leaves for the purpose of recuperating from illness, when local chapters report that home conditions are favorable.



3. Reporting and Communications:

- a. Assisting with communication between servicemen and their families.
- b. Transmitting or requesting information through Red Cross channels when direct communication will not meet the need.
- c. Obtaining, upon request of medical officers, social histories, including medical data, to be used as an aid in determining diagnosis, treatment, and ultimate military disposition of patients in military hospitals. Similar information is obtained for use in military disciplinary barracks.
- d. Investigating home conditions at the request of commanding officers to obtain confidential reports needed in considering discharge or leave.

4. Information: Providing information to servicemen concerning federal and state benefits available to them or their dependents while in service or after discharge, and assistance in applying for such benefits. Also providing information regarding various community resources.

5. Referral: Referring service personnel to appropriate specialized agencies to obtain services and benefits that are available to them or their families, such as legal aid, medical care, employment, and the like.

6. Medical and Psychiatric Social Work: Performance of medical and psychiatric social work for patients in military hospitals. The major responsibility, carried out by Red Cross social workers, is to provide assistance to patients in connection with personal and family problems that may threaten to retard response to treatment or adjustment to permanent disability.

7. Field Service on Maneuvers: Uninterrupted service to troops engaged in maneuvers or field training through Red Cross field directors who accompany them.

8. First Aid and Water Safety: Extension to the military establishment of the benefits of the Red Cross first-aid and water-safety program. Classes in swimming for the disabled and handicapped are conducted in some military hospitals.

Red Cross First Aid and Water Safety Certificates to the Armed Forces



9. Comfort Supplies: Providing comfort and chapter-produced articles for military patients temporarily without funds or to whom such articles are not accessible, the articles having been approved through understandings with the military authorities. Such articles may be furnished also to active duty personnel in emergencies.

10. Recreation: Providing recreation workers who plan and conduct medically approved individual and group recreation for patients, utilizing in this activity the assistance of chapter volunteers. The Red Cross has responsibility for incorporating within its program and coordinating suitable recreational activities for patients offered by other interested groups and individuals. Furnishing free motion pictures in wards of the larger hospitals and in patients' recreation houses when feasible. The Red Cross also provides volunteers to assist the military in recreational activities for able-bodied personnel.

11. Service to Military Prisoners: Cooperation in helping to solve personal and family problems during detention and upon release.

12. Junior Red Cross: The Junior Red Cross members provide articles and voluntary assistance for the comfort and recreation of the armed forces.

13. Red Cross College Activities: College students contribute to the welfare and recreation programs in various ways through the operating services of the chapters.

14. National Blood Program of the Red Cross: Cooperating with the military in securing donations of blood through the Red Cross regional blood centers and providing whole blood and blood derivatives to military hospitals when requested.

15. Disaster Services: The facilities of the Red Cross Disaster Services are available to military installations when needed.

16. Volunteer Services: The assistance of chapter volunteers is extensively used in carrying out the foregoing responsibilities and also those that follow.

Red Cross Services to Families of Men and Women in Military Service

Red Cross assistance to the families of men and women in military service is largely rendered through local Red Cross chapters. When such families are living on military installations, however, Red Cross service is available through local Red Cross field directors. This service includes:

1. Counseling: Counseling with families of servicemen in personal and family problems.

2. Financial Assistance: Providing, by the use of Red Cross funds or by referral to other resources, financial assistance needed by dependents of servicemen in emergencies.

3. Reporting and Communication: Guidance concerning direct communication between the family and the serviceman. Transmitting or requesting information through Red Cross channels when direct communication will not meet the need.

Reporting to the families of seriously or critically ill patients in military hospitals, following the official notification sent by hospital authorities, giving such additional information concerning the patient's condition and personal situation as may be approved by the hospital authorities. Reporting to the families of servicemen who die in military hospitals, following the official notification, giving such additional information as may be advisable in the opinion of medical officers.

4. Assistance in Applying for Government Benefits: Informing families of servicemen about government regulations and assisting them in developing and filing claims for government benefits to which they may be entitled.

5. Referral: Informing families of specialized agencies and assisting them in obtaining services that are available to them.

6. Assistance to Relatives Visiting Military Installations: Provision for the care and comfort of relatives who visit patients in military hospitals, and assistance in emergencies to relatives who visit able-bodied personnel.

7. Health and Safety Services: Instruction for families of servicemen in first aid, water safety, home nursing, and nutrition.

Additional Red Cross Services in Time of War

When requested by the military, in time of war or when war is imminent, the Red Cross will, in addition to the foregoing services, undertake responsibility for the following activities to be conducted at military installations at home or abroad or in centers in leave areas outside the continental United States that are under the direction and control of the military authorities.

1. Assist the military in the operation of recreational centers to which the Red Cross will assign trained staffs responsible for the conduct of the program. The Red Cross will also enroll local volunteers for such activities. The program maintained in off-post facilities outside the continental United States may include:

- a. Recreational facilities or any type of recreational activities including dances, motion picture shows, reading and recreation rooms, information booths, checking service, barber shops and valet services, tours of places of interest, etc.
- b. Billets, meal service and snacks, including refreshments at parties, dances, and special events in leave areas.

Red Cross. U. S. American national Red Cross.
" 5. M. W.



2. Providing canteen or clubmobile service for troops in isolated areas and at ports of embarkation and debarkation. Staffed by Red Cross girls, the clubmobile is a small mobile unit equipped to provide comfort articles, refreshments, snacks, reading material, phonograph music, and motion pictures to men who, because of their isolation, do not have access to these facilities and services.

3. Providing supplemental recreation supplies and equipment, recognizing that the government has primary responsibility. The Red Cross will undertake to meet needs due to unforeseen situations, such as the temporary unavailability of regular government supplies.

4. Providing all the foregoing services applicable to hospital ships, mobile hospital units, hospital trains, ambulance planes, and rest homes.

5. Giving assistance to prisoners of war in enemy prison camps, including:

- a. Handling inquiries as to their welfare through the International Committee of the Red Cross, after clearance with the Department of Defense.
- b. Obtaining through the Department of Defense names of prisoners of war so that Red Cross services may be available to their dependents, if necessary.
- c. Providing supplementary food packages, clothing, medicine, and comfort articles and other supplies, and distributing them to prisoners of war through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

