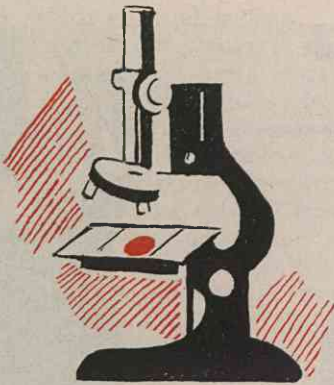


BLOOD

FOR THE FIGHTING FORCES

Blood like ammunition has become a necessity in modern warfare.



On July 22, 1950, the Secretary of Defense designated the American National Red Cross as the official procurement agency for blood and blood derivatives for the armed forces.

The first call by the military establishment for blood for Korean combat forces was made August 21, 1950 and the Red Cross was requested to step up immediately blood collections to meet rapidly growing needs of the armed services.

Shipments of whole blood are flown regularly from the West Coast to receiving depots in Japan by Military Air Transport Service. Distribution to Korea is made from there. Blood in excess of that required in the combat areas will be utilized for stockpiling plasma and other derivatives for military use.

Speedy and massive blood transfusions have proven extremely valuable in combatting shock suffered by the wounded in Korea. Shock usually results from loss of fluid from the blood circulation. It can also be caused by severe injuries or continued hemorrhage. Transfusions of whole blood usually overcome shock, when given soon enough. This healing medicine is being given in advance first aid stations, often under enemy fire; sometimes, as many as 20 pints of whole blood, or blood and plasma, have been administered to one man.

Combat victims of fire and explosion also require quantities of blood. In deep burns, the body fluid leaks out of the capillaries. The remaining blood tends to become thickened and requires the addition of plasma to replace the escaping fluid. In severe cases, whole blood may also be needed to replace damaged blood cells and increase circulating blood volume. Lacking red blood cells to carry oxygen to vital parts of the body, the tissues around a wound let more fluid leak out. To restore an adequate blood volume, blood transfu-