

Red Cross Expands Services to Soldiers

On the far-flung battlefronts, in army hospitals, in prisoner of war camps and in disaster areas at home, darkened horizons have been brightened by the Red Cross, now now in the midst of a great drive to raise \$200,000,000 to carry on activities through its next fiscal year.

Noted for its relief work in flood, tornado and other disaster areas at home, the Red Cross has greatly expanded its program in work to not only help restore the wounded but also relieve the heartaches and apprehensions of men far from their homes.

Of all its activities during World War II, the Red Cross' blood donor service has been one of its greatest, with the contributions of 100,000 people weekly supplying both the plasma and whole blood providing new life for soldiers stricken on the battlefields.

My men's sides on the battlefield, the Red Cross can be found by them in hospitals as well, helping them along the road to recovery. There is the Red Cross case worker, who may write a wounded vet's letters, attend his personal needs, arrange a loan if he needs one, or help him with his pension claim if he is to be discharged because of disability. And then there is the recreation worker, who strives to relieve the drab hum-drum of the hospital by providing a variety of diversion.

Even when men are captured, the Red Cross follows them behind the enemy's lines. Operating through the central office in Geneva, Switzerland, the International Red Cross receives the names of the prisoners; visits the camps to report on conditions, and assures the receipt of food and comfort packages for the captives.

Through the efforts of the American Red Cross, U. S. prisoners have received initial packages containing wearing apparel to supplement the dress in which they were taken. Consisting of vitamin-rich foods lacking in prison diets, food packages are sent to Europe for weekly distribution. First aid medicine kits are sent out.

Over and above all these services, Red Cross field directors and their staffs accompany troops in the field, straightening out personal difficulties that might arise there or at home, and even moving under fire to provide GIs with cigarettes, Christmas packages and comfort articles.

Operated both at home and overseas, Red Cross clubs serve as welcome havens for tired or lonely Yanks. There are the off-post clubs located in leaves areas; the on-post clubs in overseas camps, where men can obtain snacks, books and writing paper and find recreation; fleet clubs in ports for navy men; aero clubs established on remote air bases; mobile clubs traveling to isolated regions to furnish hot doughnuts, coffee, magazines, cigarettes, new records and library books; and, finally, the rest homes where battle-wearied GIs rest nettled nerves.

As attentive to the mental as well as the physical distress of people, the Red Cross' home service helps to smooth many personal difficulties. It's these home services, for instance, which check the merit of a soldier's request for a furlough because of family sickness; furnish loans to GI dependents in the event of a delay in pay allotments, or aid a soldier in relocating loved ones when changes in addresses may not have reached him.

Despite all of its far-flung war work, the Red Cross still stands mobilized to relieve domestic disasters. During the fiscal year ending June 30, 1944, the Red Cross provided relief in 159 disasters, aiding 68,000 people.

In undertaking disaster relief, the Red Cross works closely with such government agencies as the weather bureau, which furnishes information on the possible scope of disturbances; with the army and navy, which supplies equipment, and the coast guard, which provides both equipment and personnel in the event of floods.

An all-important year-round feature of the Red Cross is both its first-aid and accident-prevention programs. Hundreds of thousands of Americans are familiar with the first-aid work, having been drawn to classes at the start of the war when the fear of bombing raids stimulated interest in methods of quick relief for injured persons.

Other phases of the Red Cross' first aid program include highway first aid stations, mobile units, first aid detachments and school and organization classes.

Hens and pullets on U. S. farms laid slightly over 4 billion eggs in January, about 8 percent less than the record January production last year.

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Visits Parents



Don C. Hatten, seaman second class, of the Seabec, is spending a 12-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. A. Hatten, of Blowing Rock. He is to report to Davisville, R. I., for further orders.

Seventy-two percent of the money advanced to farmers in rural rehabilitation loans since the beginning of the program in 1935 has been paid back to the Federal government with interest, says a report.

LEGION NOTES



By THE ADJUTANT

The Legion's annual oratorical contest was held at the Boone high school last week. The winners were Reba Coffey, Cove Creek high, first, and Una Mae Coffey, Blowing Rock high, second prize. Jack Whitener, Boone high representative and winner of last year's prize, could not attend because of illness.

We have reached an all-time high in membership, and have been awarded the Legion's "Most Distinguished Service Citation" from national headquarters. The following excerpt is taken from a letter received from national headquarters: "It is a privilege for me to extend to Watauga Post 130, the sincere congratulations of the national organization of the American Legion, as the result of your post being awarded the 1945 Most Distinguished Service Citation, resulting from your post having exceeded its entire 1943-44 membership by its enrollment for 1944-45. That's good work, comrades; let's keep it up." Don't forget the Red Cross banquet March 31st at the Legion hut.

Charred and twisted metal, used cement and dried glues from old walls is being used to build new buildings in Russia.

With Pacific Fleet



George C. Trivett, seaman second class, is serving his country somewhere in the Pacific. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Trivett. His wife, Mrs. June Trivett, and four children, reside at Rominger.

The North Carolina Aberdeen-Angus Breeders Association will hold its first annual sale at Elkin on March 13.

Ecuador is taking steps to insure an adequate rice crop in 1945 by authorizing its Central Bank to liberalize credit to rice growers.

Farm Safety Rules Must Be Followed

Emphasizing the fact that keeping fit on the home front is equally as important as keeping fit on the war front, F. S. Sloan, farm labor supervisor for the State College extension service, points out that every farm worker must recognize and observe certain essential points in farm safety.

In the first place, he says, no one should attempt to go out from town or office to do heavy farm work who has not first had a thorough physical check-up to be sure he is fit for the job. To this, the farm worker must add the proper amount of sleep each night, and wise eating habits.

In carrying out the work on the farm, the new worker should wear comfortable clothes—loose, sloppy and ragged clothes are dangerous around farm machinery. The farm worker should also learn to work the right way, which includes such simple, but important details as keeping one's balance on ladders, avoiding haytime hazards, practicing safe tractor operation, and using care in working with livestock.

Even in carrying out farm repair jobs, Sloan says, there is a margin of danger that every farm operator should recognize. He should put special emphasis on using the right tool for every job, using only tools that are in good condition, and practicing the right procedure in using every tool.

Last, but certainly not least, on the list of farm safety practices is the prevention of fires, Sloan says.



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Put yourself in his shoes



Suppose there weren't enough money to bring your child into the world? In a tearful, dejected letter, Pvt. R.'s wife told him she was going to have a baby. There wasn't enough money to pay for medical care and hospitalization. Helpless, Pvt. R. appealed to the Red Cross. In a few days he received word that they had assisted his wife in applying for emergency maternity and infant care.

Suppose you were wounded, disabled, jobless and discouraged? A Marine Private, he was wounded in the South Pacific and discharged for disability. He went home discouraged at the prospect of making his living again. Unable to take up his former trade, in desperation he appealed to the Red Cross. They put him in touch with the proper agency—he's doing swell, now.

Suppose your mother were ill and without funds? Seaman T. M. received word his mother was desperately ill and without money. He remembered advice he'd heard and went to his Red Cross Field Director who requested the boy's local chapter to arrange for care. They did. Now, anxiety lifted, Seaman T. M. is a better fighting man. Another example of your Red Cross in action.

Suppose your son were taken prisoner of war? Imagine the anxiety of the parents of Pvt. E. D., who had had no word from him in months. The Red Cross sent a welfare inquiry. And then the International Red Cross reported that he was healthy and well, and was receiving regularly the American Red Cross packages that helped keep up his spirits. Your money gets the packages to him.

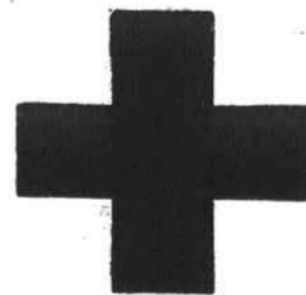
Suppose you were dying for want of blood plasma? The shrapnel and fragments from a shell burst riddled Sgt. R. J. M.'s left arm. He was losing blood fast. A medical corpsman administered first aid and Red Cross blood plasma. Then they carried him to the field station and gave him 8 more pints of plasma. Without it, he would have died.

Suppose you couldn't bring yourself to tell your family you'd lost your leg? He hadn't told them he'd lost his leg... Dad and Mom would take it too hard. But they were coming to see him in the hospital. He appealed to a Red Cross worker to break the news for him. It was a tough job, but she did... and soon Mom was holding his hand while Dad was telling some funny things that had happened back home—and Sgt. J. T. was smiling happily.

The Red Cross can't do this work without your help!

The actual cases outlined above illustrate just a few of the thousands of ways in which the Red Cross helps our fighting men—at home and overseas. But without your help there would be no Red Cross to do this humanitarian work. For the Red Cross is wholly dependent on the money that you and other sympathetic Americans contribute. And after three years of war, the work of your Red Cross is greater than ever.

Think of the pain and suffering you can alleviate by your contribution—and how proud you can be of your part in this heart-warming work. Won't you give all you can?



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