

1943

## Foreign war relief: September 1, 1939-December 31, 1942

American National Red Cross

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Red cross. U. S. American national Red cross.  
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# FOREIGN WAR RELIEF

September 1, 1939 • December 31, 1942



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL RED CROSS

Washington, D. C.

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# AMERICAN RED CROSS FOREIGN WAR RELIEF

September 1, 1939, to December 31, 1942

## Why Does the American Red Cross Give Relief Abroad?

The American people have always been conscious of the blessings they enjoy as citizens of a democracy in a country rich in natural resources and with the highest standard of living in the world. As a result they have always been ready to extend a helping hand to the victims of disaster in other countries not so fortunate—countries, in some cases, from which they themselves have stemmed and to which they are still linked by ties of kinship and affection.

Under the terms of the charter given it by Congress in 1905, the American Red Cross undertook to help the people of other lands in peacetime calamities. Through the aid which has been carried on under its banner since then to all parts of the world, compassion for suffering and a desire to help have come to be regarded as outstanding national characteristics of the American people.

That spirit of helpfulness is not limited to times of peace. When the second world war flamed from country to country, a great wave of sympathy for the innocent and helpless victims swept the United States. From coast to coast, the American people wanted to send aid to the women, children, and old people torn from their comfortable homes and deprived of the necessities of life, and to the fighting men made prisoners of war.

The American Red Cross expanded its activities to include relief and service to those suffering from this world-wide conflict. It was possible for the organization to act promptly and effectively because of its more than 60 years of service to suffering humanity, regardless of race, color, or creed, and its extensive experience in giving relief in national and international disasters.

It has the advantage of a close connection with the Government. The President of the United States is ex-officio President of the American Red Cross, and the Departments of State, War, Navy, Treasury, and Justice are represented on its Central Committee. Valuable assistance has been freely given by numerous branches of the Federal Government, particularly by the Departments of State,

Treasury, War, Navy, Justice, and Agriculture, as well as by the War Shipping Administration and the United States Public Health Service. And finally, as a part of the whole international Red Cross organization, the American Red Cross shares the confidence and respect accorded everywhere to its universal emblem of mercy.

### **How Does It Give Foreign War Relief?**

In giving help to the people of another country, the American Red Cross works hand in hand with the national Red Cross Society of that country.

In the case of a natural peacetime disaster, it is usual for the American Red Cross to send a gift of money to be used for emergency relief, as it did, for instance, in 1942, when it sent \$5,000 to the Peruvian Red Cross Society to help the sufferers of the devastating flood at Huaraz, Peru.

In time of war, opportunities to send aid are affected principally by conditions in the countries concerned, the availability of supplies, and transportation facilities. As the agent of the American people, the Red Cross has an obligation to see that their gifts are distributed directly to those for whom they are intended. For this reason, it is the policy of the Red Cross to require certain minimum standards of supervision by its own representatives.

When the war first swept over Europe, the American Red Cross sent direct aid in money or in kind to the people of Poland, Holland, Belgium, France, Yugoslavia, Finland, and Greece as long as it was possible to maintain its representatives on the spot to oversee distribution.

When these representatives no longer received the necessary freedom of action, direct relief to civilians in these occupied countries was reluctantly discontinued. Food parcels and clothing supplies, however, continued to be sent for their fighting men who had become prisoners of war, since distribution of these is handled by the International Red Cross Committee, which, under the terms of the Treaty of Geneva, is permitted to send its representatives into the prison camps of belligerent countries.

It has also been possible for the American Red Cross to send small quantities of such things as urgently needed medicines in response to requests transmitted by the International Committee. Actual distribution of any such relief is in most cases handled by the Joint Relief Commission of the International Red Cross (consisting of representatives of the International Red Cross Committee and



the League of Red Cross Societies), which works in cooperation with the Red Cross Society of the country concerned.

The American Red Cross also sends direct help to the peoples of the United Nations and to refugees outside the Axis-occupied regions, although, as in the case of aid to China, the quantity which can be sent is sometimes drastically limited by transportation difficulties.

When the United States became involved in the war, steps were immediately taken by the American Red Cross to aid Americans interned or held as prisoners of war.

For prisoners in Europe, American Red Cross food and clothing were promptly supplied from the International Red Cross Committee's warehouses in Switzerland. Through the cooperation of the International Committee and the United States Department of State, supplies for prisoners in the Far East were forwarded on the neutral diplomatic exchange ship, the *Gripsholm*, and negotiations are in progress through the Committee and through diplomatic channels to ensure a regular flow of such aid to prisoners in that area.

#### **The American Red Cross Works Through:**

*The International Red Cross Committee*, a neutral body of not more than 25 members, all Swiss, with headquarters in Geneva

*The League of Red Cross Societies*, a federation of all the 63 national Red Cross societies throughout the world, which also functions from Geneva

*The Joint Relief Commission*, set up by these two bodies to distribute relief to civilians, particularly women and children, in countries devastated by war

*The Central Agency for Prisoners of War*, set up by the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva

In addition, the American Red Cross sends aid directly to sister Red Cross societies of the United Nations which are meeting unusually heavy responsibilities, as in Russia, England, and China, and also seeks the cooperation of established local welfare organizations in making the distribution of relief.

#### **Who Pays for Foreign War Relief?**

The resources to provide foreign war relief valued at \$64,938,038 made available by the American Red Cross since September 1939, have come from various sources.



*War brings sorrow and want to young and old.*



When the Germans started their drive across western Europe in the spring of 1940, American Red Cross Chairman Norman H. Davis appealed to the country for a \$20,000,000 war relief fund, and the American people promptly subscribed over \$21,912,000 to aid the victims of the modern Juggernaut of war.

In June 1940, Congress made an appropriation of \$50,000,000 for relief supplies to be purchased by Government agencies "for the relief of refugee men, women and children who have been driven from their homes or otherwise rendered destitute by hostilities or invasion." The President was authorized to have the supplies distributed by the American Red Cross or other agencies. These funds have been spent in the United States, largely for surplus agricultural crops and dairy products, wheat, cotton, pork products, dried fruits, and the like, as well as for clothing and shoes, and all kinds of hospital and medical supplies ranging from hypodermic needles to ambulances and X-ray equipment.

In December 1941, Congress appropriated a further \$35,000,000 for the same purpose.

The third contribution was a very personal one, made by people all over the United States. "Time is money," goes the saying, but it was never more aptly demonstrated than in the making of clothing and surgical supplies by volunteers in the workrooms of Red Cross chapters everywhere.

There was a fourth source of relief funds—money that came from children through the National Children's Fund of the American Junior Red Cross. It was spent in providing help for little children orphaned or made homeless by the war.

In addition, the American Red Cross received contributions from various societies such as the Greek, French, Polish, Netherlands, Yugoslav, and other war relief organizations, for relief to special nationality groups.

### **How Are Relief Needs Determined?**

The American Red Cross sends only such relief supplies abroad as are definitely known to be needed. The usual procedure is for the American Red Cross to receive requests from reliable representatives of the country concerned through American Red Cross representatives on the spot, who forward them to national headquarters in Washington with specific personal recommendations.



The needs of every country present special problems and are given detailed and individual consideration in Washington. This helps to prevent confusion and overlapping of relief, and ensures efficient and economical distribution and the best possible use of all American Red Cross contributions.

## AID TO PRISONERS OF WAR

Immediately after the United States entered the war, negotiations were started for the sending of food parcels, clothing, and other necessities for Americans held in enemy hands, either as prisoners of war or civilian internees.

The belligerent nations, for which the International Red Cross Committee acts as intermediary, are permitted to send such supplies under the terms of the Convention Relating to the Treatment of Prisoners of War signed at Geneva in 1929. Americans held in Germany, Italy, and Occupied France promptly received one parcel weekly from the supplies sent to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva.

Japan, which had not ratified the convention, nevertheless set up in December 1941 a Prisoners of War Information Bureau, as required by the agreement, and also in due course accepted the appointment of International Red Cross Committee delegates in Tokyo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. In spite of prolonged negotiations, which are still being pursued vigorously through Red Cross and diplomatic channels, Japan has so far refused safe-conduct for a neutral vessel to carry prisoners of war relief supplies regularly to the Far East, nor has she to date accepted the appointment of International Red Cross Committee delegates in the Philippines and Singapore.

Japan did, however, agree to the sending of a certain amount of aid for prisoners on the neutral diplomatic exchange ship, the *Gripsholm*. The vessel sailed from New York on June 18 to the neutral port of Lourenço Marques in Portuguese East Africa, where the supplies, which were under the continuous care of an International Red Cross Committee representative throughout the voyage, were transhipped to Japan, where the Committee's delegate in Tokyo assumed the responsibility for their distribution.

On this voyage the *Gripsholm* carried for prisoners of war in the Far East 20,000 American Red Cross parcels, 1,000,000 cigarettes,

10,000 tins of smoking tobacco, \$50,000 worth of medical supplies, and quantities of clothing and other necessities furnished by the Army and Navy Departments. Word has been received through the International Red Cross Committee that all these supplies reached the delegate in Japan safely, and that distribution had been made in Japan, Occupied China, and the Philippines.

In anticipation of the *Gripsholm's* second diplomatic exchange voyage, the American Red Cross loaded much larger quantities, filling all available space, but unfortunately this sailing has been indefinitely postponed. In the meantime, the Red Cross is making every effort to arrange for regular shipments of relief.

Long before the entry of the United States into the war, the American Red Cross had sent aid in the form of food and clothing to prisoners of war of many nationalities through the International

*American Red Cross food parcels go to American and other United Nations prisoners.*





Red Cross Committee's Central Agency in Geneva. By December 31, 1942, in addition to more than 58,000 food packages which were forwarded for known, identified prisoners, the American Red Cross had provided over 840,000 packages for prisoners identified only by nationality.

These standard food parcels have been gratefully received as welcome supplements to meager prison camp diets, not only by Americans, but by British, Belgian, French, Polish, Yugoslav, Netherlands, Greek, Norwegian, and Russian prisoners of war. The greatest number, 349,652, were sent to Yugoslav prisoners; the French have received 142,966, the Poles, 191,637, and the Greeks, 18,575. Large contributions for these parcels were received from many special groups and individuals in this country.

Clothing, much of it made in Red Cross chapter workrooms, has also been sent to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, which guarantees through its delegates who visit the prison camps regularly, that all supplies reach those for whom they are intended.

A center for packing food, clothing, and other parcels for American and United Nations prisoners of war has been opened in Philadelphia. The center has a monthly production capacity of 100,000 parcels, which will be packed by Red Cross volunteers.

### STANDARD PRISONER OF WAR PARCEL

Contents of the standard American Red Cross food parcels are carefully planned to counteract nutrition deficiencies of the prison camp diets. There are slight changes from time to time, but parcels most recently distributed contained:

Milk powder	1 lb.	Cocoa	8 oz.
Cheese	8 oz.	Coffee	8 oz.
Liver paste	6 oz.	Chocolate	4 oz.
Corned beef	12 oz.	Candy	6 oz.
Pork meat	12 oz.	Cigarettes	40
Raisins	16 oz.	Tobacco	2¼ oz.
Sugar	8 oz.	Lunch biscuit (Type C)	7 oz.
Lemon powder	12 oz.	Matches	2 boxes

## AID TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

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### GREAT BRITAIN

With the declaration of war in September 1939, the British people prepared to meet the threat of large-scale bombings which they knew were inevitable. Within a few days, thousands of people were evacuated from vulnerable thickly populated cities to comparatively safe country districts. Trainloads of school children carrying only a minimum of baggage were moved to new homes in remote little villages. Small country hospitals were called on to take in patients from the great city institutions which were being emptied in readiness for expected air raid casualties. Old people, invalids, and mothers with young children were hurriedly given shelter in safer localities.

The first American Red Cross relief shipments to Great Britain consisted of hospital equipment, medical and surgical supplies, blankets, and clothing to help meet the needs of these civilians.

When the bombs fell, aid sent by the American Red Cross helped ease the tragedy of the Battle of Britain, in which so many homes were destroyed or damaged by air raids. Ambulances, mobile canteens, hospital supplies, shoes and similar necessities, and tons of warm clothing made by volunteers in Red Cross chapters were shipped across the Atlantic.

The garments were stored in a great network of clothing depots set up by the British Women's Voluntary Services at strategic points throughout the country. Families blitzed from their homes were promptly outfitted afresh from top to toe, so that they stepped out to face the future with fresh courage.

More than 18,000,000 various articles of clothing, valued at over \$24,900,000, were consigned to the Women's Voluntary Services, which from these and other resources provided shelter and clothing for some 4,700,000 civilians, including 21,000 alien war refugees, through its 21 regional stores, 175 county depots and over 2,500 local centers stocked with American Red Cross clothing, blankets, and other supplies, such as cocoa and chocolate, for blitz victims.

Harassed superintendents and matrons of bombed or overcrowded hospitals were able to meet sudden and urgent demands for their services with the aid of American Red Cross equipment and supplies. Air raid wardens and rescue workers were fortified to carry



on their life-saving work by hot food carried by American Red Cross mobile canteens right into the smoking ruins left by German bombs.

After the air attacks had slackened in intensity, shipment of this type of American Red Cross aid to Britain was somewhat reduced, but not before the shelves of the W.V.S. depots had been completely stocked in readiness for any emergency. Whatever happens, the Red Cross goods will not be wasted. It is expected that when the last "All Clear" sounds, a large percentage of any American Red Cross clothing and other necessities remaining in Britain will immediately be shipped across the Channel for the needy peoples of Europe who are at present cut off from such assistance.

Thousands of young British children were orphaned, maimed, or made homeless by air attacks. The American Junior Red Cross took a special interest in these unfortunate children. During the first three years of the war, besides the warm garments, Christmas Gift Boxes, and toys provided by its members, the Junior Red Cross contributed \$91,000 from its National Children's Fund towards the furnishing and upkeep of special British war nurseries.

After the responsibility for these nurseries was assumed by the British Ministry of Health, the Junior Red Cross contributed \$12,000 for a convalescent home for children in England.

Detailed requests for supplies needed in Great Britain are first considered by the American Red Cross representative there, to whom they are submitted by the British Red Cross, the British Ministry of Health, the Women's Voluntary Services for Civilian Defense, and similar organizations.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF AID TO GREAT BRITAIN

<b>4,700,000</b>	<b>bombed out civilians and alien refugees aided through the W.V.S. distributing agency for American Red Cross.</b>
<b>18,355,000</b>	<b>articles of clothing made by Red Cross volunteers.</b>
<b>18,204,000</b>	<b>surgical dressings made by volunteers in Red Cross workrooms.</b>
<b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>worth of hospital equipment sent.</b>
<b>\$91,000</b>	<b>given by National Children's Fund of the American Junior Red Cross for war nurseries.</b>
<b>\$35,063,458</b>	<b>total value of relief sent up to Dec. 31, 1942.</b>



*Surgical dressings for the wounded.*

## RUSSIA

In September 1941, an American Red Cross mission accompanied the United States representatives to the tri-power conference in Moscow. Its purpose was to offer aid and to determine with officials of the Alliance of Russian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies what supplies were most urgently needed to meet the wartime emergency.

At that time millions of Russians had been affected by the German advance. Suffering was extensive and intense. The American Red Cross without delay forwarded three shipments of aid.

The first, a small one, was stowed in the only cargo space available and, in fact, started on its way at the same time that the American



delegates left the United States. It consisted of \$43,000 worth of anti-gas gangrene serum, a quantity of insulin, one million surgical dressings, and a substantial supply of hospital garments.

Less than a month later, with the cooperation of the British Red Cross, the American Red Cross was able to send about \$400,000 worth of supplies direct from England to Russia, thereby saving valuable time. Half of this shipment consisted of American Red Cross material stored in London for British relief which the British gladly relinquished for this purpose.

Another shipment of greatly needed supplies worth about \$200,000 left an American port before the end of October, in response to a list handed to Chairman Norman H. Davis by Constantin A. Oumansky, then Soviet Ambassador here.

During the course of the following 12 months there were cleared for Soviet ports more than 40 shipments of drugs, medical, surgical, and hospital supplies, soap, and clothing to fill the requests presented to the American Red Cross mission and to supply needs indicated by the member of the mission who remained in the country as the representative of the American Red Cross.

About \$4,000,000 worth of supplies was sent during the first year, with an equal amount scheduled to follow as rapidly as transportation became available. Soap was an important item, for as Dr. Kolesnikov, President of the Alliance of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, pointed out, cleanliness is the most effective means of combatting the dreaded typhus which occurs in eastern Europe. Cleanliness depends on soap, which at that time was extremely scarce. The substantial quantity of 2,625,000 pounds of laundry and toilet soap and 100 tons of surgeon's soap have already gone to Russia to help forestall this high mortality disease so likely to attack homeless refugee groups.

Clothes—more than half a million garments—also were sent to aid the Alliance in its task of caring for the thousands of unfortunate civilians destitute as a result of the desperate struggle of the preceding year. Clothes were sent, too, for the many Russian war-orphaned children, for whom the Alliance has established homes in several Soviet cities. Besides more than half a million garments for these unfortunate little ones, a large shipment of shoes has been sent to Russia. They were paid for out of a contribution of \$10,000 given by the National Children's Fund of the American Junior Red Cross for the express purpose of providing the children with warm winter

footwear. Five hundred thousand pounds of dried milk have also been sent for the use of these war-orphan homes.

At the moment when the whole world was thrilled with the news of the gallant defense of Stalingrad, Chairman Norman H. Davis announced that 10 million surgical dressings made by volunteers in American Red Cross workrooms were on the way to Russia for wounded soldiers. He also promised that "the American Red Cross stands ready to meet as promptly as possible the further requests that will unquestionably be forthcoming to meet emergency needs, at least in part, of the civilian population of our indomitable Ally."

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF AID TO RUSSIA

<b>\$5,896,655</b>	<b>worth of aid already shipped consisting principally of medical and hospital supplies.</b>
<b>2,588,049</b>	<b>commitments for further aid already made.</b>
<b>\$10,000</b>	<b>from the National Children's Fund of the American Junior Red Cross for shoes for orphans.</b>
<b>500,000</b>	<b>garments for civilian refugees.</b>
<b>500,000</b>	<b>garments for war orphans.</b>
<b>2,340,908</b>	<b>pounds of dried milk.</b>
<b>10,000,000</b>	<b>surgical dressings for Russian wounded.</b>

#### GREECE

When the Greek people were attacked, the American Red Cross placed gifts of money totaling \$200,000 at the disposal of the Greek Red Cross to help it in the task of caring for the sick and wounded and aiding civilian refugees.

Because help was needed promptly, dried milk for Greek mothers and babies was bought in nearby Yugoslavia through that country's Red Cross, and it was arranged that the British Red Cross should at once send \$50,000 worth of various relief supplies from its Middle East stores, to be replaced later by the American Red Cross.

American Red Cross representatives established headquarters in Athens, and by December 1940 the S. S. *Grigorios* was on her



way from New York with milk, cocoa, blankets, surgical dressings, and medical and hospital supplies to be distributed through the Greek Red Cross.

It was an added chapter of the Greek tragedy that none of these supplies was fated to reach Greece. Permits for the transfer of milk from Yugoslavia were refused. Fire destroyed the British Red Cross Middle East stores. The *Grigorios* was lost at sea. A larger ship, the *Kassandra Louloudis*, with quantities of foodstuffs aboard, did not reach the Aegean until it was too late. Forced by war conditions to take the long three months' route from New York down around the Cape of Good Hope, she was almost within sight of Piraeus when Greece fell to the invaders.

*Food shipped on the S. S. Kassandra Louloudis fed Greek and other refugees in the Middle East.*



The stores, together with cargoes of two more vessels which arrived from New York a few weeks later with relief supplies, were transferred to Cairo. Here the American Red Cross established its Middle East headquarters with its own representatives to supervise distribution.

Hundreds of Greek civilians, making a daring and perilous escape from Greece, found their way into Turkey, Syria, Palestine, and Egypt. Hungry and homeless, they were aided by the Greek Red Cross in Cairo, and by other sister Red Cross societies and numerous welfare agencies, to which the American Red Cross provided supplies from the Cairo stores. Flour, blankets, beans, milk, syrup, cocoa, and coffee were distributed by the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in Jerusalem, and this arrangement was typical of many by which the American Red Cross was able to aid Greek refugees.

By degrees the majority of these homeless wanderers in the Middle East, for whom the British Middle East Relief and Refugee Administration assumes responsibility, are being placed in camps in east Africa, and the American Red Cross cooperates by providing supplementary supplies of milk, invalid foods, clothing, and educational equipment.

In the meantime, five tons of drugs for sick civilians in Greece were sent from these stores in Cairo through the Greek Red Cross and the International Red Cross Committee. The American Red Cross is also sending medicines on the neutral Swedish Red Cross ships now sailing regularly from Canadian ports with wheat and milk for Greece.

Thirty-two thousand dollars worth of these vital supplies have already been shipped in response to direct requests from the International Red Cross Committee's representative in Greece, who is responsible for their distribution. An additional shipment valued at \$42,386 is being assembled.



### HIGHLIGHTS OF AID TO THE GREEKS

**\$2,406,018** worth of all kinds of relief supplies originally intended for Greece reached Cairo safely, and were used for Greek and other Middle East refugees.

**\$77,000** worth of drugs, vitamin concentrates, and other medical supplies sent to Greece on Swedish ships sailing from Canadian ports, for distribution by the International Red Cross Committee. Included were 600,000 tablets of sulfa compounds, 1,000,000 tablets of anti-pellagra nicotinic acid, 10,000 vials of fish-liver oils, 1,000,000 vitamin pills.

In the Middle East, the American Red Cross has cooperated with the International Red Cross Committee and the Red Cross Societies of Greece, Great Britain, France, Yugoslavia, South Africa, and India, as well as the Egyptian and Turkish Red Crescent Societies, and approximately 70 missions and other agencies, in an effort to help the Greeks and refugees from other countries.

### POLAND

The story of American Red Cross aid to the Polish people can be traced from the shores of the Baltic Sea to far-away India and East Africa. Everything possible was done to help them in their homeland before they were completely cut off from outside help.

American Red Cross foreign war relief funds were first used to bring aid to Polish refugees who had fled to Rumania, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Latvia, and Lithuania. After the occupation of Poland, American Red Cross representatives were able to arrange for the distribution, in the central Poland area, of such things as hospital and medical supplies, shoes, and clothing made by volunteers in Red Cross chapters. Some essential foodstuffs were purchased in nearby countries, but most of the supplies were bought in the United States and shipped to Cracow by way of the Mediterranean and the Italian port of Genoa.

The entry of Italy into the war and the restriction of the freedom of action of American Red Cross representatives combined to make the sending of further aid to this area impossible.

The wanderings of thousands of unhappy Poles who had fled from their country led them far afield. In Hungary, Rumania, Switzerland, France, Spain, Portugal, and later in Russia and the Middle East, the American Red Cross gave aid to these homeless refugees.

After the entry of Russia into the war on the side of the United Nations, thousands of Poles moved down into southern Russia near the Iranian frontier. Some 37,000, among them several hundred motherless children, found temporary shelter in Iran. Reports of the terrible plight of these refugees prompted the American Red Cross to contribute relief supplies from its depot in Cairo.

*Polish refugees in camp at Tehran with Red Cross representative.*





The director of American Red Cross relief operations in the Middle East went to Tehran to work out plans for the distribution of these supplies in cooperation with the Polish Red Cross, the Polish Government, and the British political and military authorities. To this area, in which the British Middle East military authorities assume the major responsibility, the American Red Cross sent supplementary supplies of flour, beans, milk, clothing, blankets, and medicines.

Further shipments were made to Tehran, capital of Iran, to be transferred to southern Russia for the relief of destitute Poles there. With the addition of these supplies, including 4,800 bags of beans, 5,800 bags of flour, some 90,000 blankets, 380 cases of clothing, and approximately 80 tons of drugs, bandages, and medical and surgical necessities, over 1,200 tons had been sent for the use of these Polish refugees in Iran and Russia by June 1942. These were followed by another 895 tons of supplementary supplies of various kinds.

The movement of Polish refugees into the Middle East still continues. Arrangements have been made for the settlement of many of these people in the fertile agricultural districts of East Africa. By the end of October 1942, camps had been established in Kenya, Uganda, and the Belgian Congo. While the British provide the basic food requirements, the American Red Cross has been requested to furnish such supplementary supplies as milk, invalid foods, clothing, and educational equipment.

#### **HIGHLIGHTS OF AID TO THE POLES**

**\$1,009,773 relief to Poland and Polish refugees in Europe.**

**\$521,856 relief for Polish refugees in Iran and southern Russia.**

#### **CHINA**

War relief in China began shortly after the outbreak of hostilities in the summer of 1937. Up to the summer of 1940, relief to the value of a million dollars had been given to the Chinese. Since that time the American Red Cross has sent food and other aid amounting to

more than \$4,000,000. Far more aid would have been sent by this time had the cutting of the Burma Road not made it impossible to get substantial supplies into the country.

In the summer of 1940 the people of east China, who bore the brunt of the invasion, were facing famine conditions. Thousands of people were starving, beriberi and other diseases were taking a heavy toll of life, and food, medicines, and clothing were all urgently needed.

An American Red Cross unit was sent to China to take charge of a greatly enlarged program of relief. Under the terms of the congressional appropriation for foreign war relief, wheat, rice, flour, cotton, medical and other supplies were bought in the United States and shipped to the occupied areas around Shanghai and Hong Kong, as well as into free west China. Distribution was carried out by American Red Cross representatives in cooperation with the Chinese Red Cross, the Chinese National Health Administration, and various established missionary and welfare agencies. It is estimated that about 4,250,000 Chinese received badly needed help, among them some 1,600,000 children.

Besides great quantities of food, among them 13,350 tons of wheat, 3,000 tons of rice, and 588 tons of flour, the American Red Cross sent, sometimes by fast Clipper plane, large amounts of drugs and medical supplies, such as the new sulfa compounds, and thiamine (vitamin B<sub>1</sub>), which is effective in curing beriberi, as well as medical supplies with which to combat bubonic plague.

After China's leading ports were seized by the Japanese, it became increasingly difficult to get aid into the country. With America's entry into the war there was no longer any possibility of sending food supplies to east China or to Hong Kong.

For a while hospital and medical supplies continued to go into Chungking and the free China area over the long and dangerous Burma Road, but the Japanese advance early in 1942 closed this route. Stores of goods which were intended for China are being held in Assam and India until shipment is again possible. Until recently, small quantities of medical supplies, such as concentrated sulfa drugs, and cyanogas to combat the plague, were flown in from time to time whenever a few square feet of cargo space could be found



on one of the planes making the dangerous trip over the towering Himalaya mountains from India to Chungking.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF AID TO CHINA

\$4,047,678	worth of aid already sent.
13,350	tons of wheat.
3,000	tons of rice.
54,337,608	tablets of quinine.
20,482,800	tablets of sulfanilamide.
2,000,000	tablets of thiamine (vitamin B <sub>1</sub> ).

#### YUGOSLAVIA

When Yugoslavia was invaded on April 6, 1941, the American Red Cross at once offered aid. On the following day, purchases of urgently needed supplies were made for shipment from the United States. Because of the rapid military developments, however, these supplies could not be sent to Yugoslavia.

On the advice of the American Minister, the American Red Cross appointed an experienced administrator, an American then resident in Belgrade, as its representative. Twenty-five thousand dollars was cabled to him to be spent on emergency Red Cross services, in cooperation with the Yugoslav Red Cross, for war-stricken civilians. Because their needs for food and shelter increased rapidly, another \$25,000 was sent a few days later. At the same time a similar sum was cabled to the American Red Cross representative in Athens for the relief of Yugoslav refugees who had made their escape into Greece.

From 8,000 to 12,000 refugees a day were soon being fed in Belgrade under the feeding program which was quickly organized by the American Red Cross. A home for refugee and orphaned children was established, and funds were also given to the Children's Protective Association to help it meet its greatly increased needs. Aid was also given to 800 wounded Yugoslav soldiers.

Certain vitally necessary medical supplies were bought in Switzerland for Yugoslavia, through the League of Red Cross Societies and the International Red Cross Committee.

On April 26, the German authorities notified the American Minister that the work of the American Red Cross in Yugoslavia was

no longer approved. Despite the Minister's protest and his citation of the fact that on the last day of operations over 17,000 starving civilians came to be fed, the American Red Cross was forced to give up this badly needed humanitarian service on May 5. Timely aid had, however, been given in the first few weeks of the emergency, and this relief was described by the American Minister as "the greatest factor in preserving the morale of the Belgrade population."

Although no further help could be given at that time to war victims in Yugoslavia, the American Red Cross has provided clothing and food parcels for large numbers of Yugoslav prisoners in German camps.

## FRANCE

One of the great problems which the war brought to France was that of the thousands of refugees who fled before the German advance. To help relieve the sufferings of these unfortunates, the American Red Cross chartered the S. S. *McKeesport*, which sailed from Baltimore in June 1940 under safe-conduct guarantees from the belligerents with a cargo of food, clothing, and medical supplies valued at more than a million dollars. Since the original plans for the distribution could not be carried out after the fall of France, the supplies were distributed in Unoccupied France, with the exception of a quantity of urgently needed medical and surgical supplies which were distributed to civilians in Occupied France.

Early in 1941 a new agreement was made between the American Red Cross and the governments concerned for the shipment of milk concentrates, essential vitamins, and clothing in Unoccupied France to *children only*, and medical supplies for general distribution. The first ship chartered by the Red Cross under this agreement was the *Cold Harbor*, which arrived in Marseille on March 11, 1941. The second ship, the *Exmouth*, arrived April 5, 1941, with a similar but larger cargo. Distribution of these supplies, worth approximately \$2,000,000 and provided largely by Government funds under the congressional appropriation, were distributed under the supervision of the American Red Cross.

Two French ships which had been made available to the Red Cross left New York for Marseille on April 17, 1941, with a total cargo of 13,500 tons of white flour and about 715 tons of milk concentrates. The flour was distributed through about 15,000 bakeries in Unoccupied France in the form of white bread and was given free





*American Red Cross supplies unloaded within sight of London's St. Paul's Cathedral.*

to all persons in the Free Zone on three successive Sundays, starting on May 25, 1941. From the sacks in which the flour was sent, French Red Cross working units thriftily made garments for children.

Another French ship, the *Mont Everest*, sailed in the latter part of August 1942, with a cargo of milk and vitamin concentrates and infants' layettes. These were distributed rapidly through the facilities of the *Secours Americain aux Victimes de la Guerre*. The milk and layettes, bulking large if stored all together, were dispersed in fairly small quantities throughout Unoccupied France. In spite of the present complete occupation of France, local French committees are expected to be able to guarantee distribution to French children.

The occupation of French North Africa opened the way for possible American Red Cross aid in that area. In order to obtain first-hand information on possible needs and methods of distribution, the American Red Cross dispatched a mission consisting of Richard Allen, Vice Chairman in charge of Insular and Foreign Operations of the American Red Cross, and Dr. G. K. Strode, of the International Health Division of the Rockefeller Foundation. They arrived in North Africa in the closing days of 1942.

#### HIGHLIGHTS OF AID TO FRANCE

- \$1,000,000** worth of food, clothing, and medical supplies sent on the *S. S. McKeesport* in June 1940.
- \$2,000,000** worth of milk concentrates, essential vitamins, and clothing, for children only, sent in the spring of 1941.
- \$885,994** worth of milk concentrates for children, sent on the *S. S. Mont Everest* in August 1942.

#### NORWAY AND THE LOW COUNTRIES

American Red Cross help to the people of Norway, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg was drastically limited by the rapid occupation of those countries. Medical and surgical supplies purchased in England were sent by plane to Norway and were distributed in the unoccupied area as long as British troops remained in the country. Later, funds were made available to the Swedish Red Cross to help Norwegian refugees in Sweden.



Refugees who reached areas where the American Red Cross was free to function were the only people from Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg who could be helped. Besides direct aid, grants of money were made to committees of the Belgian and Netherlands Red Cross societies in France and in England to help them in caring for their own nationals there. The Red Cross was also able to send a small shipment of drugs into Belgium with the cooperation of the League of Red Cross Societies and the Belgian Red Cross.

## FINLAND

American Red Cross medical and surgical supplies and equipment for Finnish sick and wounded were sent to Finland during the winter of 1939-40, and cash grants were also made to the Finnish Red Cross to help it meet urgent needs.

Later, American Red Cross representatives recommended the sending of relief for 600,000 Finnish people who had to establish new homes and were in need of food and clothing. The supplies were sent in Finnish vessels to the port of Petsamo on the Barents Sea, then by truck over narrow, icy roads, 270 miles south to the nearest railhead at Rovaniemi, exactly on the Arctic Circle, and then by rail to Helsinki and other points.

Distribution was made through the Finnish Red Cross and other cooperating agencies until June 30, 1941, when military developments closed the channels for further relief to Finland. Relief to the Finnish people at that time totaled \$2,235,575.

## SPAIN

In January 1941, the people of war-impooverished Spain, particularly in the southern provinces, were in desperate need of food to keep them alive until the next harvest. Under an agreement made between the Governments of the United States and of Spain, supplies of flour, milk concentrates, and miscellaneous medicines were purchased with United States Government funds, for distribution under the supervision of the American Red Cross.

An American Red Cross staff was sent to Madrid, and on February 1, 1941, a special Red Cross ship sailed for Spain, carrying not only the precious food, over 4,000 tons altogether, but also the necessary equipment, such as trucks, gasoline, and oil, for its distribution. A similar food shipment was made once every month until June,

amounting to a total relief valued at \$1,641,450, which was sufficient to provide emergency food until Spain's new harvest was available and the immediate threat of famine was over.

In accordance with its usual procedure, the American Red Cross sought the cooperation of various local agencies, such as the Spanish Red Cross and the Auxilio Social, and various religious and charitable organizations, through which distribution was made under the supervision of American Red Cross representatives. Every sack of flour and every case of milk bore the Red Cross emblem with the inscription "Gift to the people of Spain from the people of the United States."

During the closing days of 1942 the number of refugees in Spain increased following the complete occupation of France. On the recommendation of the American Ambassador in Madrid, the American Red Cross provided \$25,000 for refugee relief and arranged for urgently needed supplies.

### MIDDLE EAST RELIEF

Following the diversion to Egypt of relief supplies which were en route to Greece when that country fell, the American Red Cross established headquarters at Cairo, and these and other supplies were gradually distributed to groups of Greek refugees and war victims of many nationalities scattered throughout the Middle East.

American Red Cross representatives cooperated in giving aid over a vast area which included Eritrea, Abyssinia, Egypt, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Iran, Libya, and Cyprus. Following its usual custom, the American Red Cross cooperated with local welfare agencies and other organizations, through which most of the actual distribution of supplies was made.

After the bombing of Alexandria in June 1941, there were 250,000 refugees from the city, of whom at least 150,000 were completely destitute. The American Red Cross gave the Egyptian Red Crescent Society blankets, clothing, and foodstuffs from its stores to help care for them. At the request of the International Red Cross Committee's representative in Cairo, evaporated milk was sent to occupied Eritrea for Italian babies, nursing mothers, and sick persons. In return, the Italian Red Cross sent a quantity of milk to Greece for Greek children.



Help to Greek refugees who came into Egypt was handled through the Greek Red Cross. Many of these Greek refugees were transferred to Palestine, and American Red Cross food supplies were distributed to them through the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in Jerusalem. Refugees escaped into Turkey in small boats from the Greek islands, and numbers of them were sent on immediately to Syria, where Red Cross supplies filled their most urgent needs. To relieve an acute need among sick civilians in occupied Greece, five tons of drugs were given to the Greek Red Cross in Cairo, and forwarded by way of Turkey for distribution through the International Red Cross Committee delegate.

Over 1,200 tons of these war relief materials were also given to help the 37,000 Polish refugees who reached Iran in pitiful condition, and later additional quantities of food, some 895 tons altogether, were sent by the American Red Cross to continue this work. Plans were also made for shipments of powdered milk, invalid food, shoes for women and children, and large quantities of gingham and denim for the camps in East Africa in which Greek and Polish refugees are being settled. Arrangements have also been made for the American Junior Red Cross to supply quantities of basic educational material, such as pencils, ink, crayons, and similar necessities for the schools which are being organized for children in these groups.

Besides the civilian relief given throughout the Middle East, the American Red Cross also provided the British Red Cross with supplies for wounded, sick, and convalescent troops. These included hospital and medical supplies and equipment, including large quantities of quinine and other drugs, as well as great quantities of mosquito and sandfly netting which could not be procured in England or the Middle East.

The American Red Cross also sent a considerable amount of recreational and comfort supplies for these wounded and convalescent troops, and at the close of 1942, at the request of the British military authorities, was making arrangements to forward monthly 5,000 to 7,000 contributed books and magazines for British and other United Nations forces in that area.

## OTHER COUNTRIES

Aid for refugees or civilian war victims in several other countries has also been provided by the American Red Cross.

Hospital and medical supplies were shipped to the Icelandic Red Cross to help it in meeting emergency needs of the civilian

population caused by war conditions, and blankets and play equipment were provided for evacuated children. French Equatorial Africa received drugs, medical and hospital supplies, and infants' layettes. The people of the French islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon as well as of other French territories were also aided.

Substantial shipments of hospital and medical supplies have been sent to the Irish Red Cross, to meet emergency needs among refugees in that country. Foreign war relief has also been extended to the Australian, Canadian, and Indian Red Cross societies.

## REPATRIATION AND RELIEF OF AMERICAN CITIZENS

Many Americans in various parts of the world found themselves unexpectedly stranded or deprived of their means of livelihood through the outbreak of hostilities, both before and after the entry of the United States into the war. In cooperation with the Department of State, Red Cross representatives aided United States citizens in China, Macao (the Portuguese island on which many had taken refuge), and other points in the Far East, as well as in Greece and France.

While the responsibility for the assistance and repatriation of these nationals rests with the Government, the American Red Cross has cooperated by providing funds for supplementary aid, by assigning personnel for this work, and by meeting and caring for repatriates here.

The largest number of American repatriates came from Europe, principally from France and Greece. After the fall of France, the problem of Americans stranded in that country became acute. This was particularly the case with veterans of the first world war and others who had lived there for many years. In November 1940, an arrangement was made under which the State Department undertook to provide the cost of ocean transportation on a loan basis to persons acceptable for repatriation, and the American Red Cross agreed to pay for the maintenance in Europe of those in need, and for their transportation to Lisbon.

The repatriated Americans were received by the port chapter's Red Cross workers, who met them at the boats, helped locate relatives, furnished money for their expenses until they could be rehabilitated,



and in general gave all necessary emergency care and assistance. Approximately 900 people were brought home to the United States under this plan, at a cost to the American Red Cross of \$165,306.

## INQUIRY SERVICE

The American Red Cross does more than help meet the physical needs of the victims of warfare. Just as much in need of relief are the mental and spiritual suffering of those who are without word of their loved ones in enemy countries or in the battle zones. That relief the American Red Cross attempts to bring through its Inquiry Service, which helps establish contact between refugees and their friends in the United States, and between inquirers here and their relatives in overrun countries. Inquiry Service also helps locate men believed to be missing in the battle zones.

Twenty-five words on an official Red Cross form have meant all the difference between hope and despair to thousands of Americans seeking news of their families and friends in war-torn countries. Ever since the outbreak of the war in September 1939, the American Red Cross has been for many people the only medium through which they could get news of their relatives in Poland, Holland, Belgium, and the other lands overrun by aggressor nations. Even when the news has been bad, even when it has been the worst possible, it has at least meant merciful release from torturing anxiety and uncertainty.

The Inquiry Service combines two functions. It maintains a searching service to help locate persons who are missing, and it also serves as a kind of post office between people here and their relatives in enemy-occupied countries. Both services can be carried on only through cooperation with the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva.

In the case of messages, the Red Cross serves only as a forwarding agency. For a time it was possible in some cases for people to maintain contact by letters which traveled over long circuitous routes. Since America's entry into the war, all such avenues of communication have been closed. Under the rules of the United States Office of Censorship, personal messages to residents of enemy or enemy-occupied countries may now be forwarded only through the international channels of the Red Cross.

The messages are received in the local Red Cross chapters, which forward them to national headquarters. They are then sent in

bulk to the International Red Cross Committee in Geneva, which in turn makes every effort to see that they are delivered.

In order to afford some measure of comfort to the families of soldiers reported missing in action in the Philippines but not officially listed as prisoners of war, the American Red Cross has accepted thousands of messages for them. These messages, as well as those addressed to civilians, must be made out on standard forms in local Red Cross chapters. They will be forwarded direct to the International Red Cross Committee delegate in Tokyo, whenever channels of communication become available, and he will do everything possible to have them delivered.

In the case of inquiries, a hunt for the missing person is continued by the American Red Cross or the International Red Cross Committee until some definite report is obtained. A complete record is kept of every case. With so many families in Europe scattered like chaff before the wind, the search is frequently a long one, involving a great deal of correspondence.

A few replies from persons missing in the Far East have already been received at national headquarters in Washington. Some of these came from the International Red Cross Committee delegates in Tokyo, Shanghai, and Hong Kong. Others came through the Japanese Red Cross, concerning people in the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaya, where no International Committee delegate has yet been accepted.

"It is one of the most appreciated services in the world," says a Red Cross volunteer worker in the foreign inquiry department of a large chapter, "and it reaches all classes, rich and poor."

## AMERICAN JUNIOR RED CROSS AID TO CHILDREN

The American Junior Red Cross was founded 25 years ago, during the first world war. After the guns ceased firing, money contributed to its National Children's Fund through the schools was used to help thousands of children in Europe whose lives had been warped by the horrors of the war years.

Today, children of many nations living under the shadow of the second world war are being helped through this same fund.

One of the most recent contributions was a donation of \$10,000 for shoes for Russian war orphans. This will help the Alliance of





*Red Cross garments and toys cheer young war victims.*

Russian Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in its task of caring for these children for whom they have established homes in a number of Soviet cities.

China received great quantities of quinine, vitamin B<sub>1</sub>, and other concentrates and supplies for her war-suffering children through this same fund.

In England many children who had lost their parents or who had had their lives disrupted by bombings were helped through the war nurseries, established under the Women's Voluntary Services, for which the children of the American Junior Red Cross contributed \$91,000. They also made thousands of garments for babies and young children, as well as small pocket toys. Last Christmas 50,000 Gift Boxes and 50,000 packages of candy were sent to England to cheer and comfort youngsters deprived of the warmth and affection of

their own homes. Another 50,000 were sent to children in Iceland, the insular territories, and in Latin American countries.

After full responsibility for the war nurseries was assumed by the British Ministry of Health, an appropriation of \$12,000 was made from the National Children's Fund to establish and support in Great Britain a convalescent home for child war victims who receive special care.

The plight of children in France was particularly distressing, both before and after the collapse of the country. Thousands of child refugees from Holland and Belgium, as well as French children evacuated from their homes in the path of the invasion, were suffering from lack of food and all the usual necessities and comforts. Great numbers of lost, orphaned, and destitute children were finally concentrated in the south of France. Prompt relief, not only for these, but for babies in the Paris area as well, came through a trainload of supplementary foods, milk, and other dairy products sent from Switzerland through the League of Red Cross Societies, of which American Junior Red Cross children paid half the cost through their fund. Another \$25,000 worth of supplies of clothing and supplementary foods for children were sent on the Red Cross mercy ship, the *McKeesport*, which docked at Marseille, where her cargo was distributed by representatives of the American Red Cross through local French agencies. The American Junior Red Cross supplies consisted of children's underwear, hosiery, boys' shirts, blouses, trousers, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, evaporated milk, concentrated soups, chocolate, sweet milk, cocoa, and prepared baby foods.

As soon as Greece became involved in the war, \$3,000 was sent from the National Children's Fund to the American Red Cross representative in Athens. This money was used to buy materials out of which Greek school children, members of the Junior Red Cross, made clothes for the orphans of Greek soldiers. Another contribution to the care of Greek children was made in the form of \$10,000 worth of cocoa sent on one of the vessels that sailed from the United States with other relief supplies.

Polish children received hundreds of garments made by members of the American Junior Red Cross, and clothing, bedding, and medicines bought out of an appropriation of \$20,000 for child victims of the invasion. Finnish children received similar help.

Also in Iceland, where Icelandic children were evacuated as a safety measure against bombings, the American Junior Red Cross



was able to help. Garden tools, candy, toys, and educational equipment, as well as Christmas Gift Boxes, were sent from the United States, together with a special purchase of American films for the entertainment and education of young Icelanders.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF AMERICAN JUNIOR RED  
CROSS FOREIGN WAR RELIEF**

Russia	\$10,000 for shoes for war orphans.
Greece	\$ 3,000 worth of clothing material. \$10,000 worth of cocoa.
China	Over \$8,000 worth of medical supplies.
England	\$91,000 for British war nurseries. \$12,000 for a convalescent home for sick children.
France	\$25,000 worth of children's and infants' foods from Switzerland. \$35,000 worth of clothing and supplementary foods sent from the United States on Red Cross ships.

Over 500,000 garments for infants and young children made by Junior Red Cross members.  
100,000 Gift Boxes containing about 12 items each, annually.

DEMCO

DOES NOT  
CIRCULATE



ADDRESS OF NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS  
AND  
ADDRESSES AND JURISDICTIONS OF AREA OFFICES

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS—*17th and D Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.*

NORTH ATLANTIC AREA—*300 Fourth Avenue, New York, N. Y.*: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont.

EASTERN AREA—*615 North St. Asaph Street, Alexandria, Virginia*: Alabama, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia.

MIDWESTERN AREA—*1709 Washington Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri*: Arkansas, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, Wisconsin, Wyoming.

PACIFIC AREA—*Civic Auditorium, Larkin and Grove Streets, San Francisco, California*: Alaska, Arizona, California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington.

INSULAR AND FOREIGN OPERATIONS—*17th and D Streets, N. W., Washington, D. C.*



