

Under the Patronage
of
H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Aly

Red Cross & Red Crescent
Work in Alexandria

by
Count Patrice de Loghet



Pan-African Anglo-Hellenic Editions
34, Rue Fouad Ier, Alexandria

By the same Author

“OUR HOME IN CAIRO ”

With an Architectural Note

by Professor K. A. C. CRESWELL

F. S. A., Hon. A. R. I. B. A.

In course of preparation

“HELLENIC FAMILIES IN ALEXANDRIA SINCE 1800”

“THE EGYPTIAN ARMY

FROM THE TIME OF MOHAMED ALY”



Published under the Patronage

of

H. R. H. PRINCE MOHAMED ALY

First President of the Egyptian Red Crescent (1911 - 1914)

**RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT
WORK IN ALEXANDRIA**

by

Count Patrice de Zogheb

Pan-African Anglo-Hellenic Editions
34, Rue Fouad 1er
Alexandria

I have to express my appreciation of the honour His Royal Highness Prince Mohamed Ali, Heir Presumptive to the Throne of Egypt, has bestowed upon me by granting to this book His Patronage.

The Prince was the First President of the Egyptian Red Crescent. on two Sub-Committees of which I have had — in Alexandria — the privilege of sitting. I have thus had the occasion to ascertain what the Prince's personality meant, at its foundation, to an organization which has now become a flourishing and potential institution.

That is why all of us venture to express the hope that His Royal Highness will continue to take in our work the interest which proved so fruitful at the start.

The Author



H.R.H. PRINCE MOHAMED ALY
Heir Apparent to the Throne
First President of the Egyptian Red Crescent (1911-1914)

To all men, women and children of goodwill
and, more especially to those of Switzerland
and of the Canten of Geneva,
who — putting aside hatred, dislikes and prejudices —
are striving to alleviate suffering all over the world,
I venture to dedicate
this book

AUTHOR'S FOREWORD

When apologizing for a book, the usual attitude is that one's friends insisted on its publication and forced one into it but, in the present case, I can plead no such excuse, the responsibility for a work of local interest being mine alone. My justification, however, is that even exclusively Alexandrian reminiscences may, some day, prove to be of value as contributing, if only in a modest way, to the history of modern Egypt and its associations with the present world war.



In June 1940, I capped the interest I have always taken in Red Cross questions by opening in Alexandria, on behalf of Dr. Vaucher, the offices of the Delegate of the International Committee of the Geneva Red Cross. My appointment, as I am not a Swiss citizen, usually the primary condition for assuming responsible tasks on behalf of the International Committee, was essentially an emergency one and, on my resignation, (the motives of which are not disclosed in this book) I was succeeded by M. Etienne Combe, a Swiss, so that the Committee's principle was once more safeguarded.



My work was of a varied kind. I came into touch with all sorts and conditions of men, of neutral and belligerent rival nationalities. My relations with the Egyptian or British Military and Civil Authorities, with Italian and German internees, with the Swedish and Swiss Consulates (in charge of German and Italian interests in Egypt) were invariably of the pleasantest.

I was privileged to enjoy the loyal cooperation of a staff of voluntary workers, my intercourse with Dr Vaucher and his helpers being regular and cordial. I thus retain excellent recollections of a work which it was only with the deepest regret I was forced to relinquish.

All this applies also to my duties as a member of the Propaganda Committee and of the «Comité d'Activités Sociales» of the Egyptian Red Crescent in Alexandria to which I still continue to belong.



I finally wish to thank all those who were kind enough to assist me in the compilation of a work concerning activities which would never have been possible without — at the start — the support of a staff of voluntary workers whose devotion to the common cause was beyond praise.

N B — A list of Corrections will be found at the end of this book.

THE FOUAD I
EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT
NATIONAL SOCIETY

THE EGYPTIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY was founded during the Italo - Turkish war of 1911 by the late El Said Aly Youssef Pasha and a group of Egyptian notables with the object of assisting the wounded and civilian population of Tripoli.

At the outbreak of the Balkan war of 1912, H.H. Prince Mohamed Aly, brother of H.H. the Khedive of Egypt, accepted at the latter's request the presidency of the Egyptian Red Crescent. The Prince gave the organization considerable impetus so that between October 14th 1912 and December 31st 1913, some L. Eg. 150,000 had been collected by him.

The Prince opened the campaign by a large garden party at his sumptuous Manial Palace in the island of Roda near Cairo. The subscription register had been placed in the garden under a venerable *ficus bengalensis* reputed to be one of the oldest trees in Cairo of imposing dimensions. The list was headed by Field-Marshal Viscount Kitchener of Khartum, then Diplomatic Agent and Consul General for Great Britain in Egypt, and so rapid was the response that in the course of the afternoon some L. Eg. 10,000 had been subscribed. Prince Mohamed Ali followed up this first success by an extensive tour in the provinces of Egypt where thousand of pounds were collected, the subscription of the town of Assiut being especially noteworthy.

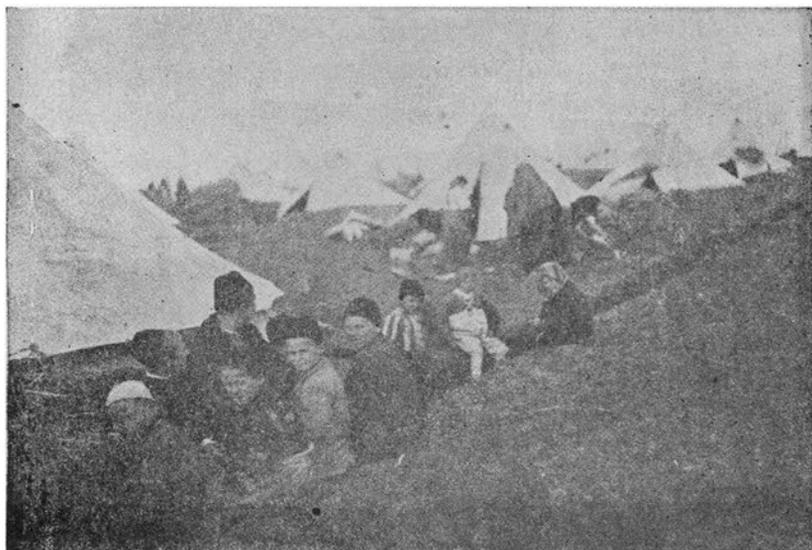
The Princes and Princesses of Khedivial Family also

responded generously and supplied from their different estates 40 magnificent mules which proved invaluable in the mountain passes of the Balkans.

Lord Kitchener and General Sir Reginald Wingate (Governor General of the Sudan and Sirdar of the Egyptian Army) had also been giving the Prince every assistance; thanks to their efforts it became possible for the Egyptian Army to cede to the Red Crescent a complete field hospital recently acquired in England, which was able to leave almost at once for the Balkans. They, also, obtained the services of Egyptian hospital orderlies, who being already trained, could also leave at once.

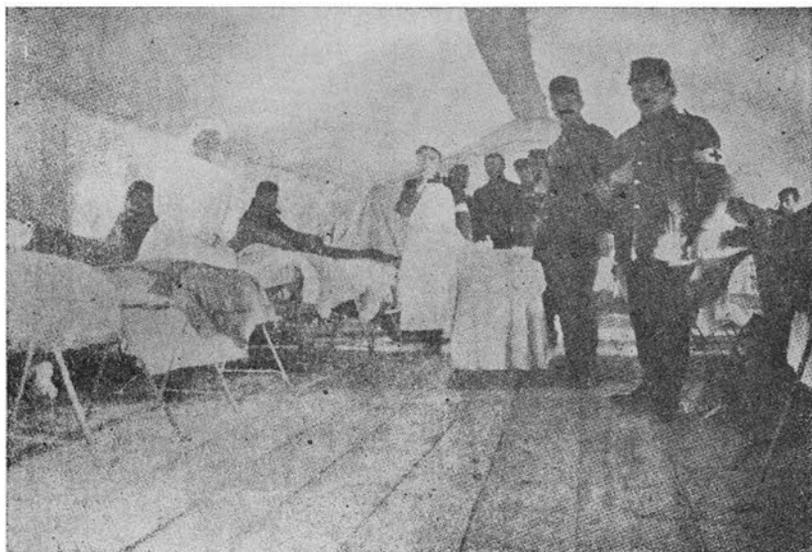
The Red Crescent experienced some difficulty as regards Egyptian doctors who, most of them without private means, could not, however willing they were to serve, be expected to do so without any pay. A solution was finally found by a British doctor in the service of the Egyptian Government, whose father had served the Turks many years ago and who still retained for the latter a very great affection: he suggested his spending with the Egyptian Missions in the Balkans the leave of absence to which he was entitled and his example was followed by many Egyptian doctors. The latter generously took it in turn to spend their leave with the Mission in the Balkans, on the moderate *honorarium* of £. 1 a day, considerably less than what their practice in Egypt was bringing them. However, they had the satisfaction not only of assisting the Red Crescent, but of acquiring also, valuable experience of war wounds and war epidemics.

The organization thus equipped for the Turkish Balkan fronts several Medical Missions, including 56 doctors and a numerous staff of orderlies, etc. The Missions - led by the famous surgeon Dr. Aly Ibrahim, now president of the Egyptian Red Crescent, had at the head of each, some well known Egyptian doctor who had left his practice in Egypt



Egyptian Red Crescent Refugees. (Balkan War - 1912-1914)

(Page 2)



Red Cross Hospital. (Balkan War)

(Page 2)

to render assistance in a country where Red Crescent work was practically non-existent. The Missions were divided up between Constantinople, Scutari and Yanina.

It is impossible to give here details of their numerous activities, but the following are of interest: over 45.000 refugees were evacuated while at Adrianople, Preveza, Salonica ; thousands were cared for lodged and fed for several months. The Missions also performed many gracious and kindly acts, such as the burial, at their own expense, of several hundred Turkish soldiers.

In Egypt the organization continued its activities, very ingeniously hitting upon the idea of acquiring a Turkish vessel which had arrived in Egyptian waters, where it was about to be interned for the duration of war. It was bought by the Egyptian Red Crescent and turned into a transport vessel in which thousands of refugees were transported from war zones to safety.

The appointment as President of the Prince, who was intensely popular with all classes of the Egyptian and foreign colonies, had proved a great asset to the Society which thus reaped to the full the benefit of the personality presiding it. The Prince was especially careful in safeguarding the Society's purely philanthropic character and resolutely opposed it being drawn into anything savouring of politics. He showed himself a shrewd and foreseeing administrator and - at the end of the Balkan war, when the Egyptian Missions returned to Egypt - he refused to agree to the balance of funds then in the hands of the Egyptian Red Crescent (some L.Eg. 35.000) being remitted to Turkey. The Prince held - and subsequent events proved him to be in the right - that the Egyptian Red Crescent should carefully husband its small resources for any future emergency. It was thus owing to his foresight that during the 1914 - 1918 World War the Egyptian Red Crescent was able not only to contribute a donation of

Lstg. 1000 to the British Red Cross, but also to organize a Hospital Train. It further equipped a large hospital for Turkish Prisoners of War which was kept open till the end of 1917.

Under H.H. Hussein, first Sultan of Egypt, his son Prince Kamel Ed Dine followed Prince Mohamed Ali as President of the Society. Prince Kamal ed Dine was succeeded by Abdel Rahim Pacha Sabry - father of H.M. Queen Nazli - who himself retired in favour of Mohamed Moheb Pasha.



With peace the Society lapsed into a somewhat quiescent state, but it did not cease to take an interest in relief work, contributing valuable assistance to the population of Palestine.

However, thanks to the encouragement and protection of H.M. King Fouad, the Society resumed its activities and, on April 5th 1923, its Regulations were approved of by Royal Decree, so that the necessary conditions in the matter having been fulfilled, the Egyptian Red Crescent was duly recognized by the International Committee in Geneva on February 24th 1924. It was also confirmed as belonging to the Egyptian Army Medical Services and as being the only Red Crescent Society in Egypt. By a special Royal Decree, King Fouad also authorized the Society to assume the name of "The Fouad I Red Crescent National Society".

At the outbreak of the Ethiopian War, the Egyptian Red Crescent was represented in Abyssinia by a mission of Egyptian doctors under H.H. Prince Ismail Daoud.



In July 1938, the Egyptian Crescent, with the Government's assistance, opened its Cairo hospital of 120 beds for victims of accidents. In so doing, it had in mind the fact that the succouring of such victims would necessarily give doctors and the staff considerable experience in the treatment of the wounded in war.

The Egyptian Government also allotted for a year, in June 1940, to the Red Crescent the product of a fee of a half-piastre on cinemas and other places of amusement tickets and, at certain dates, on railway tickets, telegrams and trunk calls.

In 1941, the generosity of M. Joseph Sednawi, M. George Sednawi, his brother, and other members of their family resulted in the presentation to the Egyptian Red Crescent of a fully equipped hospital, in Cairo, so that in the latter city the Society has now its second hospital: the Sednawi hospital, which bears the name of the late Samaan Sednawi, father of the donors, was opened by T.M. the King and Queen of Egypt, on May 5th 1941.

The King was pleased on this occasion to confer on MM. Joseph and Sednawi the titles of Pasha and Bey respectively.



The Egyptian Red Crescent has not taken part in international war work and has limited its activities in the present conflict to purely local relief.



The Alexandria Section of the Egyptian Red Crescent was founded in the spring of 1940 by H.E. Ahmed Pasha Kamel, an ex Minister for Public Health and also of Trade and Industry and now Director General of the Alexandria Municipality. He was loyally supported by many Egyptian and foreign notables of Alexandria. Kamel Pasha had the assistance of his municipal staff, from which the name of his active private secretary M. Charles Zahar should not be omitted. Madame Kamel Pasha, on her side, took a great interest in the matter so that almost immediately, thanks to husband and wife's joint tact and initiative, some hundred and fifty inhabitants, Egyptian and European Alexandrians, were among the founders. A « Conseil de Direction »

of twenty one Members, with an Executive Delegation of five, was appointed.

The cosmopolitan element of Alexandria was stressed by the fact that one third of the «Conseil de Direction» are non Egyptians. The Governor of Alexandria was appointed Honorary President, with Amed Kamel Pasha as President, Soliman Bey Yusry and Mr. H.B. Carver as Vice Presidents, Dr. Saleh Hamdy Bey and Mr. J. Smouha as, respectively, Secretary General and Treasurer.

These nominations were the result of a meeting of Egyptian and foreign notables of Alexandria who voted on the question.

The following Committees were subsequently set up :

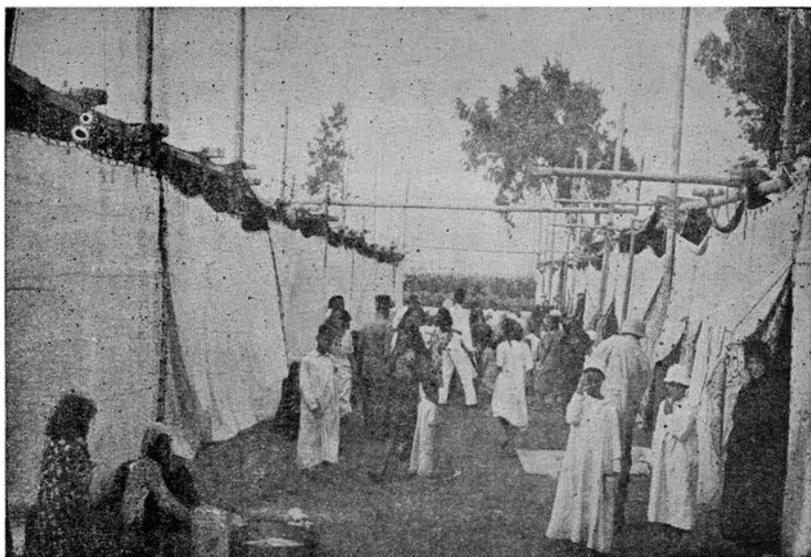
- a) Propaganda Committee under Senator Fahmy Bey Wissa ;
- b) Subscription Committee under Mr. Edwin Goar ;
- c) Red Crescent Youth Committee under Soliman Bey Yusri ;
- d) Medical Committee under Doctor Saleh Bey Hamdy.

To the Propaganda Committee was added a “ Comité d'Activités Sociales ”, under Mme Ahmed Pasha Kamel, the object of which was to organize social functions with a view of raising funds.

Some months later “The Ladies Red Crescent Committee”, under the Presidency of Mme. Hussein Pasha Sabry (a sister-in-law of H.M. Queen Mother Nazli of Egypt) in Alexandria and in Cairo, under Mme. Hussein Pasha Sirry (wife of the then Prime Minister) was founded, together with a Ladies' Sub-Committee of Voluntary Nurses, of which H.H. Princess Chiwekar Ibrahim is Honorary President, under Mme Ahmed Pasha Kamel.

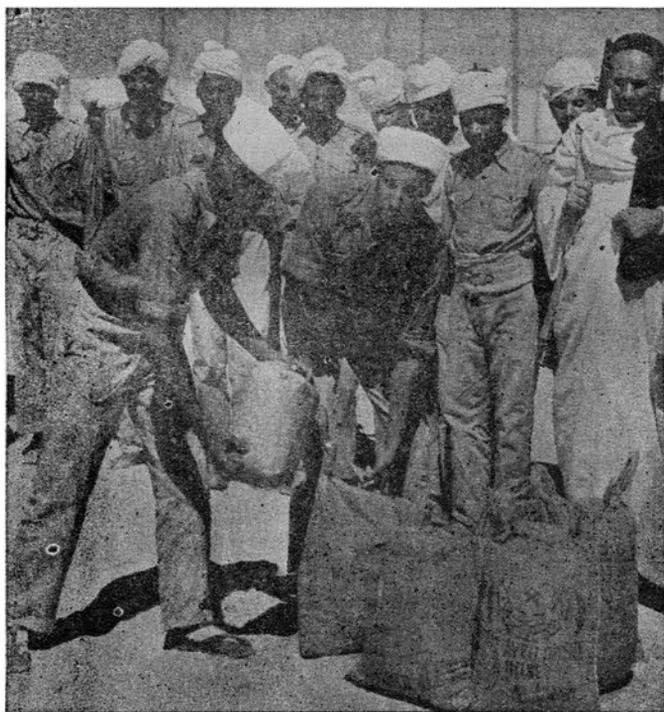
All these Committees set to work immediately and, after two years' existence, the Alexandria Section of the Egyptian Red Crescent has the following activities to its credit :

- a) thanks to the subscriptions of its 4 categories of



Egyptian Red Crescent refugee Camp

(Page 7)



Distribution of flour to Moslem Libyan Prisoners
by the Egyptian Red Crescent

(Page 100)

Members, the energy of its Committees, the generosity of Alexandrian, Egyptian and foreign communities, together with the support of the Fuad I Egyptian Red Crescent National Society and of the Egyptian Government with the Alexandria Municipality, the state of its finances is satisfactory ;

b) it has opened and maintained, with the collaboration of the Alexandria Hygienic Services, a hospital of 50 beds ;

c) it has rendered valuable assistance to refugees, either from Egypt or from abroad, and has helped to evacuate inhabitants of Alexandria who had either fled the city or lost their homes as the result of bombardments. In this respect, it opened a large refugees camp at Khourshid, near Alexandria, where the poor were lodged, fed, and treated medically, the Ladies' Committee being specially active. Some of these refugees, who dwelt in the extreme danger zone, were very much affected by aerial bombardments and fled to the provinces of Behera and Gharbia where the Alexandria Red Crescent Section supplied the local *Mudirs* (1) with funds, foodstuffs and clothing for them. Others of these refugees eventually arrived in Cairo, where they were, on arrival, met by members of the Ladies' Red Crescent Committee and evacuated to the Embabah Model Farms (2) which were transformed into an evacuee camp.

To avoid delay and red tape, the Ladies' Committee has devised a system of autonomous squads, which are :

1) the Work Room Squad where clothes and linen for air raid victims and refugees are made ;

2) the Hospital Squad which, immediately after an air raid, visits the wounded in hospital and distributes cigarettes, fruit and sweets and attends to their wants ;

(1) "*Mudirs*" or provincial Governors.

(2) Not far from where Bonaparte won the so-called "battle of the Pyramids".

3) the Railway and Police Station Squads which immediately after a bombardment, succours those whose dwellings have been hit and after attending to their more immediate needs, shepherds them either to a refugee village or to a Red Crescent refugee centre ;

4) the Treasurer and Cashier Squad in charge of Red Crescent Funds ;

5) the Refugee Centre Squad which includes all the Ladies and the Committee who take it in turn to distribute food and clothing. The Ladies are assisted by two persons entrusted with the task of conducting a rapid enquiry as to the "bona fide" status of air raid victims ; this was found to be necessary owing to some cases of fraud.

After an air raid, the wife of the President (who receives first hand official information as to casualties) informs the different squads which, at once, set to work. In cases of immediate necessity and pending the official grant of Government Authorities which must necessarily take some time, families are given food coupons for the Municipal canteens. The Ladies' Committee is at especial pains to prevent victims of air raids who are their family's bread winner leaving hospital before being cured. They are also trying to deal with the problem of permanently injured air raid victims who have lost their situation owing to injuries.

d) it has opened in Alexandria hostels for victims of air raids who have lost their homes as the result of the latter ;

e) it has afforded valuable assistance to Alexandrian Benevolent Societies of all denominations and to War Charities.

All this relief work has been greatly assisted by the generosity of the U.S.A. Red Cross which has been most lavish in its gifts of motor vehicles, foodstuffs, clothing, blankets etc... This has enabled the Red Crescent to make important

grants to the many charitable institutions in Alexandria which have been hardly hit by the war. (1)

Finally, I should like to enlarge upon the Alexandria Junior Red Crescent which includes some 1200 members belonging to over 20 Egyptian and foreign Schools and Universities of all religious persuasions and ranging from the ages of 5 to 25. It aims at fostering among all young people of Egypt a feeling of cooperation and self — sacrifice, the object of which is the moral and material improvement of the masses in Egypt and, among the many forms it aims at encouraging, the latter should be mentioned :

a) flower and vegetable school allotments whenever possible;

b) school libraries and recreation centres; medical treatment and first aid instruction for schoolchildren ;

c) free holidays for delicate children in camps ;

d) cleaning, upkeep and decoration of schools ;

e) school concerts, performances and entertainments ;

f) adoption of poor schools by more fortunate school godmothers ;

g) exchange of visits from school to school ;

h) assistance for crippled or sick children ; upkeep of beds in hospitals ; comforts and entertainments for crippled children ;

i) summer camps ;

j) hygiene propaganda in villages ;

k) public security propaganda ;

l) kindness to animals ;

(1) The 1941 Report of the Alexandria Red Crescent dedicates a special page of thanks to the people of the U.S.A. for the generosity of their Red Cross.

At present especial efforts are being made on behalf of the infant welfare centre at Zahrieh near Alexandria where 150 babies are cared for and fed. Here, also, the U.S.A. Red Cross has donated important stocks of milk, clothes, medicines and foodstuffs.

The Alexandria Junior Red Crescent is supported to the extent of some 70 o/o by the children themselves, the remaining 30 o/o being supplied by the Alexandria Red Crescent.

⑥

It can thus be seen that the Egyptian Red Crescent is developing its activities quite normally and all tends to hope that it has before it a great future.

THE "COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX ROUGE"

The International Committee of the Red Cross (C.I.C.R.) is a body consisting of up to 25 coopted Swiss citizens, which, since its foundation in 1864, sits in Geneva with the following aims:

- 1) extend to all countries the Red Cross movement ;
- 2) safeguard Red Cross principles ;
- 3) notify to existing Red Cross Societies the creation of new ones ;
- 4) induce all civilized States to adhere to the Geneva Convention of the Red Cross ;
- 5) ensure the observance of this Convention and denounce any violations thereof ;
- 6) urge Government to pass legislation or issue regulations to prevent any such violations ;
- 7) create War Agencies for assisting prisoners and other war victims ;
- 8) visit prisoners' and internees' camps so as to assist their inmates morally and physically ;
- 9) act as an intermediary between Governments and nationalities, either in peace or in war, for the purpose of relieving suffering arising out of war, sickness or disaster.

The Committee which has juridical personality, has existed since 1864 when, as the result of an International conference, a number of Governments agreed to a series of resolutions which constitute, to this day, the basic principles of all Red Cross Societies. The fact that it has not been found necessary to modify these principles proves the

shrewdness of their drafters and the tact with which were defined relations between civil and military authorities. Such principles are briefly as follows : every country is to have its autonomous Red Cross Society, which can constitute itself in the manner it likes, provided that it has a Central Committee for the whole of the country ; this Society is to keep in touch with its Government so as to ensure its help being accepted in case of need.

Owing to their being nationals of Switzerland, a country to which, since many years, international agreements have recognized a neutrality status and this largely owing to its geographical position, the members of the Committee are already inclined to a spirit of neutrality and fairmindedness, which it is their duty to encourage and to foster *among* themselves and *around* themselves. Whatever their sympathies or antipathies, their likes or dislikes, they must, if they are to serve the Red Cross, hearken only to the voice of humanity, regardless of nationality, race, creed, or political conviction. Members must learn to impose upon themselves a discipline of heart and mind, and that is why, with strife at its most acute stage, the Committee has managed, time after time, to inspire confidence. It knows, that confidence, and confidence alone, can confer on it the moral authority which — without political power at its disposal — has, however, never been denied to it.

The different national Red Cross Societies, as well as their Governments, have always approved of the principle of the Committee (dubbed “ International ”) being made up of Swiss citizens only who, it must be once more insisted upon, belong to a state which must remain perpetually neutral. Time after time, after the Committee had been called upon to intervene between two States, it was found that its action had displeased one of the two conflicting parties. Such displeasure, however, usually turned out to be temporary,

for, with the next swing of the pendulum, it happened this time, that the Committee's action was now pleasing to what had been the aggrieved State on the previous occasion. *Hodie mihi, cras tibi*. The Committee is not a judge, a superstate, claiming to lay down the law but a friend which, in the bitterness of war and even peace, steps in to offer assistance.



The Red Cross movement is a good example of "how great a matter a little fire can kindle" for it was the pleasure jaunt of Henri Dunant, a member of the well known Geneva family, which happened to take him to Italy in time to be present to the battle of Solferino. The armies of Napoleon III and Victor Emmanuel of Piedmont encountered those of Francis Joseph of Austria and such were the appalling scenes of suffering Dunant witnessed that, with the assistance of the local population, he there and then improvised on the spot first aid to the wounded. The horrors of the battlefield had not escaped Napoleon III himself and, without consulting his Piedmontese ally, he took the initiative of opening negotiations with the young Austrian Emperor. Both rulers were heartily disgusted with the scenes of bloodshed they had seen and soon put an end to them by an armistice shortly followed by peace.

Dunant himself had not remained idle and, on his return to Geneva, that small town of generous ideals, he published a pamphlet "Un Souvenir de Solferino" in which he denounced the horrors of war and the fate of those affected by it. The result was instantaneous and the "Société Genevoise d'Utilité Publique" presided over by another Genevese, Gustave Moynier, invited Dunant to expound his ideas to the members. The latter thereupon appointed a Commission, later to become the "Comité International de la Croix Rouge", consisting of General

Dufour (Commander-in-Chief of the Swiss Army), Gustave Moynier, Henri Dunant, Dr. Louis Appia and Dr. Théodore Maunoir, to study the question. Its work was fully successful and thanks to the influence of Napoleon III, the prestige of General Dufour, the methodical organization of Moynier and the initiative of Dunant, the Swiss Government convoked an international conference in Geneva, which was attended by 26 Governments.

The result was the Geneva Convention of August 22nd 1864, the object of which was to mitigate the evils of war on land. As a well deserved compliment to Switzerland (the national flag of which is a white cross on a red background) a red cross on a white background was adopted as a symbol. On October 20th 1868, the convention was extended to war at sea and in July 1906 at Geneva a fully revised convention, which now replaces previous ones, was adopted.

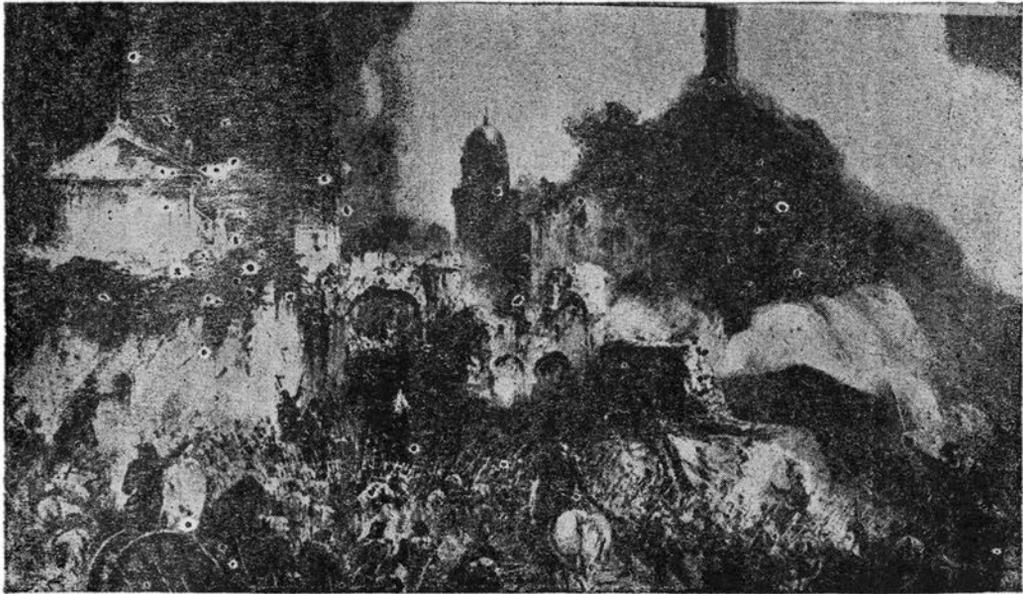


From the beginning, the generous Geneva idea had made many converts. National Red Cross Societies were founded in almost all countries, the principles being that to obtain official recognition, a National Red Cross Society must adhere to the Geneva convention and be recognized as an auxiliary to its national Army or Navy medical services. It must adopt the emblem of the Red Cross except in certain countries like Egypt, Turkey, Persia, Japan etc., where the emblems of the Red Crescent, the Red Lion, the Red Sun have been adopted instead of the Cross. Its activities must extend through the country and its dependencies ; it must be open to all citizens of the country, irrespective of sex, politics or religion and it must maintain contact with other national Red Cross Societies and with the International Committee.

The war of the Duchies of 1864 between Denmark on the one side, with Prussia and Austria on the other and the 1866 war between the two latter countries, were



Monks in the Middle Ages ministering to the wounded.



The Battle of Solferino.

opportunities of testing the new organizations. At the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, the system was functioning fairly well and the International Committee set up in Bâle an information agency for the benefit of German and French wounded.

During the Balkan war of 1912, the Committee was very successful with an agency of this kind in Belgrade.

In August 1914, the Committee was ready, a thing which can hardly be said of certain of the belligerents. Much of the work connected with the Information department and the Prisoners of War Agency thus fell upon the Committee and once again the Swiss proved their devotion to humanity by constituting and maintaining, during the whole of the war, an International Agency for prisoners of war with a staff mostly volunteers, of over 2000 persons. The belligerent countries inundated Geneva with requests for information so that 17 different sections had to be formed. From 2000 to 15,000 letters were dealt with daily and, by the end of the war, several millions of index cards had been set up so as to avoid any delay in tracing requests for information. Thousands of missing were traced, prisoner's camps were visited by International Red Cross Delegates, prisoners received material and moral assistance. civilians were evacuated from occupied districts, the repatriation of internees, of the severely wounded and sick prisoners, together with medical staffs, being organized. At the same time, basic principles were carefully guarded and on many occasions representatives of the Committee appealed to the various belligerents to denounce acts against the Geneva convention such as the shelling of hospitals, the exercise of reprisals, the inhuman treatment of the wounded and of medical staffs, the requisitioning of medical stores belonging to Red Cross Societies, the misuses of the Red Cross emblem, etc., etc.

The 1918 Armistices, with their subsequent Peace Treaties,

did not put an end to the Committee's activities, which continued to justify its existence in peace as well as in war. The whole social and economic machinery of Europe had, after 4 years of war, been upset and there was much to be done: famine, want and pestilence were everywhere. It is impossible to give here more than a passing reference to the Committee's activities, which were of various kinds. It took, for instance, an active part in the "Save the Children Fund" of 1920 and, in 1921, to relieve starving populations affected by the war, the Committee joined up with the League of Red Cross Societies to convene an International Conference, which was attended by over 80 representatives of Governments, Red Cross Societies and Relief Agencies, a Russian Relief Commission being appointed with Dr. Friedjof Nansen as High Commissioner. (1)

In 1921 and 1925, the Committee organized an exhibition of medical stores and supplies, in Geneva, subsequently founding the "Institut International de Matériel Sanitaire".

Among the many means of contact between the Committee and National Red Cross Societies there is the periodical "Bulletin International de la Croix Rouge" to which was added, in 1919, the "Revue Internationale de la Croix Rouge".

As the result of internal unrest in Hungary, Ireland, Posnania, Lithuania, the Ukraine and Montenegro, a certain number of political arrests had taken place and the Committee, in the most tactful way, intervened to better conditions. In refugee questions it had not been idle and much work was done, not only by suggestion and (whenever necessary representations) to the League of Nations, but also by direct

(1) Dr. George Vaucher, whose name often recurs in this book in his capacity of Near East Delegate worked as Secretary. -

assistance to refugees, such as in the case of Greeks from Asia Minor.

In 1933, its delegates investigated the economic position populations in Germany more especially in the Ruhr area and, on several occasions, it was called upon to collaborate with the technical services of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office.

During the Chaco War (1933-1934) between Bolivia and Paraguay, the International Committee sent several delegates, over 25,000 prisoners of war being attended to.

During the Abyssinian War (1935-1936), two delegates were sent, assistance being rendered to the Ethiopian Red Cross and to foreign ambulance services.

During the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), 16 delegates were sent, 75 prisons or internment camps, containing more than 40,000 prisoners, being visited. Hospital material, pharmaceutical supplies and foodstuffs, averaging over 500,000 Swiss francs, were supplied to Red Cross Societies of both sides. Over 5 million messages from families from one side of Spain to another were forwarded, via Geneva, valuable assistance being rendered in the evacuation of women and children, in exchanges and repatriations.

In 1938 and 1939, two Delegates were sent to China and Japan, to ensure distribution of material and foodstuffs.



During the present war, the International Committee has proved itself most active, especially as regards its central Agency of Prisoners of War. Some 900 persons, with very modest stipends, and from 700 to 800 voluntary unpaid helpers are working at the Geneva Central Agency. There are, further, another 1600 persons on the list of helpers, but only occasionally owing to their being unable to attend regularly. Switzerland has 26 auxiliary sections, forming a total of 5200 helpers.

The Agency's expenses amount to some 280,000 Swiss francs per month (80 o]o of the funds coming from Switzerland) but thanks to the voluntary helpers some 2. 1]2 million Swiss francs have been economized.

By October 21st 1941, the Agency, since the beginning of this war, had received more than six million letters and messages and sent out more than nine million. For September 1941, for instance, 2088 telegrams were received and 1436 sent out. There are more than 16 million index cards, either applying to prisoners of war (or civil internees) or to requests for information. Over 4 million messages of 25 words have been transmitted. About 1. 1]2 million P. of W. cards, drawn up by the latter on their being captured, have been received.

The Agency has about 519,000 pages of official lists of P. of W., (1) which, after being photographed, have been sent on to the respective Governments. In this respect it should be noted that, to avoid copying mistakes, the Agency relies largely on photographs of prisoners' lists and other documents, such as marriage and death certificates, identity papers etc...

Delegations have been opened in the following countries :

- a) Europe : Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Balkan States, Finland, U.S.S.R, France, Gt. Britain, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland (General Government), Portugal, Serbia ;
- b) Africa : French Equatorial Africa, Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda, Sudan, Italian East Africa, Union of South Africa, Belgian Congo, Egypt, Rhodesia ;
- c) America : U.S.A., Argentine, Brasil, Canada, Dutch East Indies ;
- d) Asia : Ceylon, British Indies, Dutch Indies, Iran, Palestine, Syria ;
- e) Pacific Islands : Australia, New-Zealand.

(1) i.e. «Prisoners of War».



HENRI DUNANT
(Page 14)



General DUFOUR
(Page 14)



Monument in Bale commemorating
the first C.I.C.R. Prisoners of War Agency
(Page 15)

The «Service de Secours,» which deals more especially with the forwarding of parcels to prisoners, made up by national Red Cross Societies and other such organizations, forwarded, during October 1941, 5 million kilos of goods in over 600 trucks. Since its foundation, this branch has sent off more than 40 million kilos of goods in over 5000 trucks. There are about 30 Delegates of the Committee engaged on inspecting about 500 Prisoner's and Civil Internee Camps, a report of each visit being sent to Geneva.



The Committee's activities are thus increasing every day so that in the present bitterness of war, it is of some solace to think that there is an institution which is bent on something else than hatred and destruction. And so, from the dirt and want of prison camp, from the anguish and squalor of hospital, the grateful thoughts of many must go out to the original gallant little Committee of Five, to whom humanity owes so much.

PRISONERS OF WAR THROUGHOUT HISTORY

THE HISTORY OF PRISONERS of war throughout the ages constitutes a gruesome and depressing narrative of the ruthless attitude of man towards his fellow creature and my reason for enumerating all his acts of cruelty is to prove that, in spite of all, there has been throughout centuries a slow but steady improvement resulting finally, in the Convention for prisoners of war, of July 27th, 1929.-

②

It was at first the custom to put prisoners to death, largely because there was no advantage in treating them otherwise. Nomads acted very cruelly towards the vanquished and put them to torture.

The ancient Egyptians behaved likewise, King Sesostrius compelling vanquished kings to draw his chariot and prisoners to build the magnificent monuments we now admire. In many cases, prisoners were sacrificed to the gods.

The ancient Persians, though seldom putting prisoners to the sword, had little respect for human dignity: Babylon, for instance, had to supply the king with 500 Eunuchs and the Caucasian provinces with 100 men and women every five years. The ancient Hebrews were cruel towards Gentile prisoners of war, their aim being to destroy those who did not worship Jehovah and their attitude appearing as a sacred duty. (1)

(1) Numbers, Ch. XXXI v. 7., 13, 17, 18; Deut. XX v. 13; Judges I v. 7.

The laws of Maniu, on the other hand, laid down for Hindus certain philosophical and human principles to be applied, however, only between Hindu Aryans belonging to the privileged cast, other prisoners being severely treated.

The Carthagenians, an exceptionally cruel race, followed the principles then in vogue of exacting the highest possible contribution from subjected states, either in money or in kind and for this ruthless cruelty was necessary.

As for the ancient Greeks, their culture and refined feelings often induced a certain generosity towards prisoners of war, though the general principle was to enslave them. Generosity was, nevertheless, often discouraged as in the case of Hermocrates, a Syracusan general, who was exiled because he suggested treating Athenian prisoners humanely. During the Peloponnesian war, the Athenians condemned captives to have their right hand thumb cut off so they should no longer be able to use a lance.

The Taurians hoisted their prisoners' heads on poles outside their dwellings as a protection against evil spirits. The Scythians skinned their prisoners of war alive, the skins being used to cover their helmets, their horses, and even their own bodies. The Druids disembowelled their prisoners so as to foretell the future by their victims' quivering entrails !

The Romans, owing to their ambition and wish for conquests, spared their prisoners of war, using them, however, as slaves and for games in the Circus. Julius Caesar, himself, was not above having the hands cut off of those who had so bravely defended Uxollodunum no doubt to discourage resistance to the Roman invader.

The Christian era with its principles of charity brought some lessening of the horrors of war and, consequently, a more humane attitude towards prisoners of war. Many examples of cruelty, however, especially among

populations like the Vandals or the Allemani who though living in a Christian epoch, were pagans, still remained. The times were essentially savage ones and Attila, the "Scourge of God" who systematically exterminated his prisoners, was symptomatic of the epoch. Clotaire II. in his expedition against the Saxons, put to death all male captives taller than his sword.

Charlemagne ordered the execution of four Saxon prisoners of war because Witikind, their national hero had been allowed to escape to Denmark instead of being handed over to him. As regards his own subjects, Charlemagne laid down the conditions under which they could be ransomed: a prisoner, for instance, was allowed to ransom himself by handing over anything except his falcon or his sword.

Some hold, however, that the principle of ransom was less due to the Christian spirit than to the idea, prevalent even among pagans, that the prisoner became his captor's property. Instead, therefore, of enslaving or killing his prisoner, the captor can claim payment for release. To that was rapidly coupled the principle of exchange so that the two principles of exchange and ransom of prisoners were soon in full force.

From the Xth century onwards, war was becoming more humane, the spirit of chivalry among knights and warriors appearing gradually. Prisoners were no longer put to death or tortured though in many cases heavy taxes were exacted from them and their families, those not of gentle blood being put to forced labour.

In the Middle Ages, customs of feudal warfare recognized the right for persons of knightly rank to redeem their liberty, it being the duty of feudal tenants to contribute towards their suzerain's ransom. This custom prevailed in the Hundred Years War and during the Italian internal wars of the XVth century.



St. Louis, King of France.

(Page 23)

An early French "*ordonnance*" expressly authorizes a son, though still a minor, to pledge himself without the assistance of his guardian in order to redeem his father.

The Middle Ages and the Renaissance are full of examples of well known prisoners of war being ransomed :

Louis IX of France, St. Louis, (1) was captured in Egypt by the Saracens during his Crusade. He was imprisoned at Mansourah, in a house, which still exists, until his redemption, the price of which was a large sum of money and the cession to the Saracens of Damietta, then in the possession of the Crusaders. Duguesclin, Francis I of France are all examples of well known captives and since the capture of Richard Cœur de Lion, every Troubadour of the Isle de France had been singing :

“ Dans tour moult obscure ”

“ Ung Roy puissant languit.”

It was for the followers of Him who had promised “mercy to the merciful” to be the first to organize the systematic ransoming of prisoners of war and in these troubled times, three great figures of the Catholic world emerge :

St. Jean de Matha (1162-1213) was born in Provence. After a vision ordering him to proceed to Rome, he founded the Order of the Holy Trinity, the object of which was the redemption of prisoners and captives. The rules of the Order laid down that a third of its worldly goods was to be set aside for this purpose and by the end of the XVIIIth century, over a million prisoners had been ransomed.

St. Peter of Nolasque (1182-1256) was born in Languedoc. The blessed Virgin appeared to him and urged him to found an order to assist prisoners, which became what is now the still flourishing Order of “Our Lady of Mercy”. In this

(1) Two of his descendants became prisoners in the present war: the King of the Belgians and the Duke of Aosta.

respect it should be noted that our word "mercy" (in French «*merci*») is derived from the latin «*merces*» («*ransom*») for granting a prisoner a ransom was equivalent to saving his life. St. Peter of Nolasque's work was very successful, his prestige enormous and it was only owing to his age and infirmities that he was not able to accompany St. Louis on his Crusade.

Finally, St. Francis of Assisi took his journey to the East, with a view of improving and, if possible, redeeming the many Christians who were prisoners of the Saracens. The «*poverello*» managed to obtain some alleviation of their sufferings and incidentally so impressed the chivalrous Saladin that the latter granted the custody of the Holy Places to the Franciscan Order, a privilege which the latter retain to this day. Saladin appears, in these days of cruelty and treachery, to have behaved very generously. When Jerusalem fell, he granted quarter to every inhabitant on the following terms : men were to pay 10 gold bezants, women 5 and children 2. Later, at the request of his brother Seif El Islam and of Balean of Ilberim, Governor of Jerusalem, he released without ransom a thousand of those who were too poor to purchase their freedom. Guy de Lusignan, King of Jerusalem, who had been captured at the battle of Tiberias and for whom Saladin had the greatest regard, was released, with ten of his nobles against the surrender of the town of Ascalon. A devout Moslem, Saladin seems never to have failed to put into practice the teachings of the Quorân enjoining generosity to the poor, the orphan and the prisoner of war.

Despite, however, individual cases of kindness the fate of prisoners of war remained tragic and, for centuries, Christian and Moslem, tortured by hunger and thirst, were still to row under the lash on Moslem and Christian galleys.

Nevertheless the good seed was yielding its increase and by the end of the Renaissance, the idea of ransoming

prisoners was definitely adopted, prices becoming standardized.

Cervantes (1547 - 1616) was ransomed from captivity in Algiers for 500 ducats. His enemies did not fail to draw attention to the fact that whereas he received 50 ducats for each of his plays, a donkey cost in Spain 10 ducats. Cervantes was thus valued 50 times this useful animal! Don Pedro de Valdes, a Spanish sea Captain captured by Drake during the battle of the Armada in 1588, was, after three years of pleasant captivity in England where he made many friends, ransomed for £. 3000. In the XVIth and XVIIth centuries, an officer's ransom was fixed at a quarter of a year's pay, thence arousing the expressions «to grant», or, «refuse quarter». The treaty of 1743 between France and England fixed the ransom of a Marshal of France at 50.000 *livres*, and that of a Lieut. General at 15.000. The treaty of 1780 rated a soldier at 25 *livres* and a Marshal or Admiral of France at 60 soldiers, that is 1500 *livres*. The treaty was then denounced and prisoners were only exchanged against those of equal rank. Louvois was very much criticized by his enemies for having accepted to release Dutch seamen at 3 *livres* per head. In 1743, the Prince of Orange was captured by the *Bailli* of Lyons, who, always according to the principle of the prisoner becoming the property of the captor, sold him to the King of France for 40.000 gold crowns.

The French Revolution was responsible for a definitely more humane treatment of prisoners of war who, by the law of June 20th 1792, were placed under the protection of the French Nation. The decree of the Convention of May 25th 1793 laid down the principle that no prisoner of war could be forced to serve in the army of the state which had captured him. The principle of monetary ransom was abolished, the only principle admitted being that of exchange man for man and rank for rank. It laid down further that non combatants attached to armies should not be considered as prisoners of war.

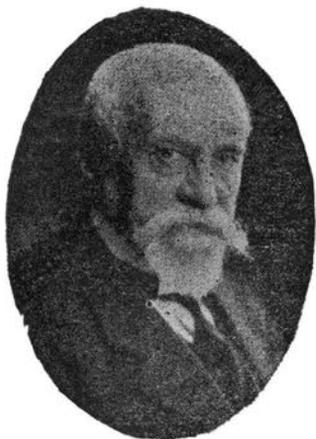
During the Napoleonic wars, the French, British and Spanish Governments adopted the habit of lodging their prisoners of war in discarded hulks at Chatham, Plymouth, Portsmouth, Brest, Toulon, Cadiz etc... Conditions there were abominable and prisoners, driven to desperation, were continually escaping; thence the expression «*French leave*» which corresponds to the French «*filer à l'anglaise*». I remember meeting, some years ago, an elderly British naval officer, whose grandfather after being captured by the French at the age of 14, on board a British battleship, was detained in Verdun for several years; his treatment and that of his fellow prisoners varied according to *Boney's* state of mind towards *la perfide Albion*.

At the beginning of the XIXth Century the question of prisoners of war was dealt with by other nations, on several occasions and more especially by the «Instructions to Armies in the Fields of 1863» of the Government of the U.S.A.

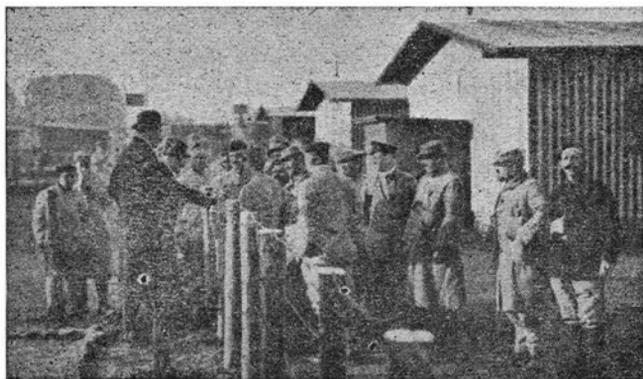
The Geneva Red Cross Convention of August 22nd 1864, ratified at Berne by all the States of Europe, and completed by additional articles in 1868, decided that military chaplains, male and female nurses, the medical personnel and the wounded belonging to an ambulance were to be considered as non-combatants.

The Declaration of Brussels 1874 on the Laws of War and the «Manual of the Laws of War» (voted in 1880 by the Institute of International Law) together with well known lawyers, such as Blüntschli, Calvo, Haller, de Martens, Phillimore etc... gradually registered, in more or less similar terms, the rights and duties of prisoners.

The War Regulations of the Hague 1907 Conference, a sequel to that of 1899, dealt fully with the treatment of prisoners of war, and though adding nothing to existing practice, no longer left such treatment at the discretion of the signatory powers but made it henceforth binding upon



The late Gustave Ador
President of the International
Committee, (1910-1928)



International Committee Delegates inspecting
a Prisoners' Camp.

(Page 18)

Prof. Max Huber
President of the International
Committee.



them. These regulations provided for the humane treatment of prisoners whose personal belongings, except horses, arms and military papers, were to remain their personal property. Confinement was only to be adopted as an indispensable measure of safety and to last only as long as circumstances demanded. With the exception of officers, a power holding prisoners was entitled to utilize their labour, but work was not to be excessive and to have nothing to do with military operations. Prisoners were authorized to work for public services, private persons, or on their own account, but the work was to be paid for, wages being used to improve the prisoners' position, and the balance, after peace, being handed to them. Generally speaking, a power holding prisoners was bound to treat them, *quâ* lodging, food, clothing, etc., on the same footings their own troops. A prisoner of war released on parole and recaptured bearing arms against the government (or its allies) to whom he had pledged his *parole*, was to forfeit his rights as a prisoner of war and could be brought before the courts for this offence.

These rules and others were unfortunately not always properly observed by some of the belligerents of the great war of 1914-1918, and an improved code of rules, drafted by the International Law Association, was adopted at the 1921 Conference, held at the Hague. Finally, on July 27th 1929, after arduous negotiations, conferences and discussions, 48 Powers signed the Convention concerning the treatment of Prisoners of War, which is discussed in the following chapter.

THE PRISONERS OF WAR INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION OF JULY 27th 1929

IT WAS IN GENEVA on July 27th 1929 that 48 States signed this most remarkable document to which is annexed a Suggested Draft of Agreement concerning direct repatriation for reasons of health of prisoners to their own country, or for their settlement in a neutral country.

Negotiations had been conducted during what might perhaps be termed the «Golden Age» of the League of Nations of which Germany was now a member. Locarno had put the seal on a Franco-German reconciliation and in England a Labour Government was returning to power. The United States, in spite of their policy of aloofness, were following Geneva operations with great interest and two of their representatives were signing the Prisoners of War Convention.

No better moment could have been chosen and the general spirit of goodwill and kindness to Prisoners of War, that underdog of all times, is apparent in every paragraph.

The U. R. S. S. has not so far, to my knowledge availed itself of article 93 to ratify the Convention.



I will now attempt to give a «résumé» of the latter, article per article, so that anybody interested in the question may realize the many sides of the prisoner of war problem.

Art. 1

The Convention applies to :

- (1) All persons, referred to by articles 1, 2 and 3 of the

Regulation annexed to the Hague Convention (concerning the Laws and Customs of war on land) of October 18th 1907, and captured by the enemy. (*)

(2) All persons belonging to the armed forces of belligerents captured by the enemy in the course of maritime or air operations of war.

Art. 2 and 3.

The modern principle of prisoners being held by the Power (and not by the individual who has captured them) is reaffirmed. Prisoners must be humanely treated and protected

(*) The Regulation reads as follows :

Art. 1. «Laws, rights and duties of War apply not only to the army but also to militias and volunteer corps, provided the following conditions are observed : »

(1) they must be led by a person assuming responsibility for his subordinates ; »

(2) they must wear a distinctive sign which can be recognized from afar ; »

(3) they must bear arms openly ; »

(4) they must conform to the laws and customs of war.

Art. 2. « The population of a non-occupied territory which, on the approach of the enemy, spontaneously takes up arms to fight against invading troops without having had time, as per art. 1, to organize itself, will be treated as a belligerent if it bears arms openly and respects the laws and usages of war. »

Art. 3. « Armed forces of belligerents may be made up of combatants and non-combatants. In case of capture, the one and the other are entitled to be treated as prisoners of war. »

against acts of violence, insults and public curiosity, prisoners being entitled to the respect of their personality and honour. Reprisals are forbidden.

Art. 5.

Every prisoner must declare his real name or his service number but no means of constraint may be used on him for information concerning the state of his army or his country. Should he fail to give his real name or service number he risks losing the privileges enjoyed by the class of prisoner he is entitled to be treated as.

Art. 6.

Personal belongings—except weapons, horses, military equipment and military papers—shall remain in the prisoners possession. Money may be taken from him only against a receipt, each prisoner being credited with its amount. Identity papers, rank badges, decorations and valuables may not be removed from prisoners.

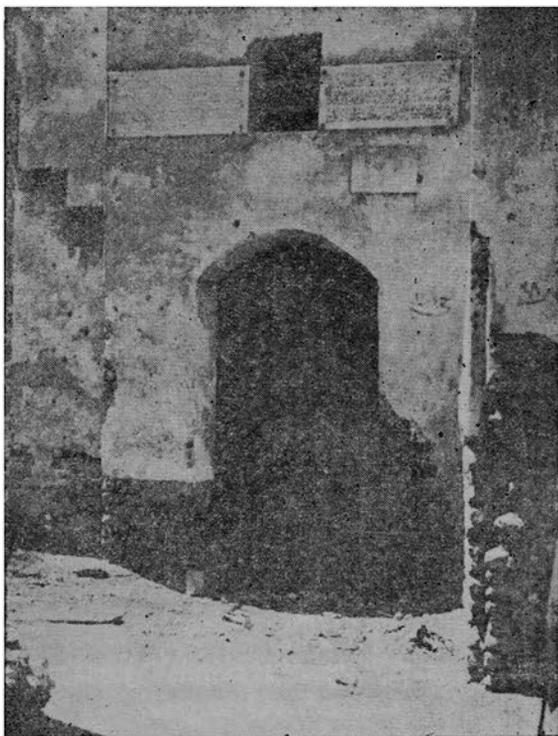
Art. 7. 9 and 10.

Prisoners must be evacuated and interned away from danger zones. Provision is laid down for easy route marches, hygienic conditions etc..

Art. 11, 12 and 13, 14, 15.

Food rations for prisoners must, in quality and quantity, be the same as those of the troops of the Power holding them; the latter must supply, also, clothing, underwear and shoes. All collective disciplinary measures «*quâ*» food are forbidden.

Provision laid down for a supply of drinking water, baths, physical exercise, canteens, open air infirmary, medical, surgical and medical inspections, precautions against tuberculosis and venereal diseases etc..



St. Louis' Prison at Mansourah.

(Page 23)

Art. 16.

Full liberty for prisoners to practise their religion, ministers of all denominations being authorized to assist those of their own confession.

Art. 17.

Intellectual pursuits and games organized by prisoners to be encouraged. (1)

Art. 18.

Privates to salute officers of the Power holding them, but officers only to salute those superior in rank to them.

Art. 23 and 24.

Officers to receive from the Power holding them the same pay as in their own country, but such pay not to be more than what they would be getting in the latter. (2) Belligerents to fix the maximum cash prisoners may have in hand, any surplus being put to the latter's credit.

Art. 27, 28, 29 and 30.

Privates can be put to work but N. C. O's shall act only as overseers. The Power holding prisoners to be responsible for their pay if working on behalf of a private individual. A 25 consecutive hours' rest, preferably Sundays provided for weekly. Officers may, if they ask for work which suits them, be given it.

Provision for indemnities to prisoners «quâ» accidents while working.

Art. 31, 32, 33, and 34.

Work by prisoners to have nothing to do directly with operations of war or with the making and transporting of

(1) As I write this, I can hear from Berlin, the radio description of a boxing match between two British P. of W. camps.

(2) See Author's «Red Cross and Red Crescent Diary», September 10th 1940.

weapons, munitions and war material for combatant units. If this is not adhered to, prisoners to have the right to protest through the Senior Prisoner (" homme de confiance ") or through the representatives of the Power protecting them. (1) Prisoners may not be put to unhealthy or dangerous work.

No wages to be given for administration, fitting up, or maintenance of camps ; until belligerents agree, wages to be fixed as follows :

a) work for the State paid according to scale for its own soldiers when they do the same work or, failing that, on a scale corresponding to work done ;

b) work for public bodies or private parties to be paid for as per agreement with military authorities. Balance of prisoners' pay to be paid to them at the end of their captivity, or in case of death, to their heirs.

Art. 35.

At the outbreak of hostilities, belligerents to publish measures taken by them to execute the Convention. (2)

Art. 36, 37, 38, 39.

Within a week of capture, every prisoner to be able to send his family a postcard announcing his capture and state of health. (3) Transmission to be as rapid as possible, prisoners

(1) In Egypt, for instance, Sweden protects Germans and Switzerland Italians.

(2) Was this done ? I wonder ?

(3) Thanks to my « Italian Prisoners of War Fund » I was able, despite the confusion of the first months, to supply the British Hospital Authorities in Alexandria with several thousands of postcards. Dr. Vaucher subsequently evolved a type of postcard which was of great assistance in drawing up each prisoner's index card.

being allowed, in principle, to correspond in their native tongue.

Prisoners authorized to receive, against receipt, individual parcels of food and other commodities for their upkeep and clothing.

Letters, remittances of money and articles of value, as also parcels for prisoners (sent to or sent off by them) to be free of postal taxes in countries of origin and destination as well as in transit countries.

In admittedly urgent cases prisoners may, against payment, send off telegrams.

Prisoners may receive books individually.

Art. 40.

Provision for rapid censorship of correspondence, for control of foodstuffs under conditions suitable for the latter's preservation, such control being, if possible, in the presence of addressee or of the « Homme de Confiance ». (*)

Correspondence can be forbidden by belligerents for military or political reasons and for short lapses only.

Art. 41.

Provision for rapid transmission of necessary legal documents, marriage certificates, wills etc..

Art. 42.

Prisoners may petition military authorities concerning their captivity « régime » They can also apply to their protecting Power to draw attention to complaints, all such petitions and complaints having to be transmitted forthwith; even if proved without foundation, such complaints not to give rise to any punishment.

(*) See Art. 43 and 44.

Art. 43 and 44.

Prisoners to be allowed to choose «Hommes de Confiance» (“men they trust”) to represent them with the military authorities and their protecting Power. This choice to be approved of by the military authorities. These men to be entrusted with receipt and distribution of collective parcels as well as with the administration of mutual assistance organizations set up by prisoners. In officers’ camps the the senior officer to be the «homme de confiance».

Art. 45 and 46.

Prisoners to be bound by the same laws and regulations as men serving in the army of the Power holding them. Offences against discipline to be punished according to these laws and regulations except for what may be provided for by the present Convention.

Prisoners not to incur any penalties other than those applied in the army of the Power holding them.

All corporal punishment and imprisonment in places without daylight as well as any form of cruelty are forbidden.

Art. 47.

Offences against discipline, such as attempts to escape, to be put on record forthwith. After punishment, prisoners not to be treated differently to other prisoners but those having attempted to escape may be submitted to special measures of control though always enjoying the guarantees laid down by the present Convention.

Art. 50.

Escaping prisoners of war who have been recaptured before having managed to rejoin their own army or to leave territory occupied by the Power holding them, to incur only disciplinary penalties.

Art. 51.

In case of successful or unsuccessful escape, comrades of escaping prisoner to be subjected to disciplinary penalties only.

ART. 53.

Disciplinary penalties not to be an obstacle to prisoners' repatriation to their own or to a neutral country. If being proceeded against for some penal offence, this repatriation may be delayed until the end of the inquiry and, in the case of a sentence, till the latter has been served.

ART. 54 and 55.

Confinement to be the most severe disciplinary penalty inflicted. Sentence not to exceed 30 days. Even in case of several offences, these 30 days not to be increased. Penalties by restriction in food to be applied only if applicable in the armies of the Power holding the prisoners. Such restrictions, however, authorized only if state of prisoners' health permits them.

ART. 56.

Under no circumstances are prisoners to be transferred to penitentiary institutions (prisons, penitentiaries, convict camps etc..) to serve disciplinary sentences. Provision laid down for hygienic conditions, prisoners being allowed in the open air or to take exercise two hours a day.

ART. 57.

Prisoners serving disciplinary sentences to be allowed to read, write, and receive (or send) letters. However, parcels and cash remittances may be held up till end for sentence. In case of parcels containing perishable goods, these to be given to the prison camp or to infirmary. Prisoners serving disciplinary sentences to be allowed medical inspection daily.

ART. 59.

Subject to powers of the Courts and higher military

authorities, disciplinary sentences can be passed only by an officer with disciplinary powers in his capacity of Camp Commandant, or by the responsible officer acting for him.

Art. 60, 61, 62.

In case of judicial proceedings pending against a prisoner, Power holding him to notify representative of Protecting Power as soon as possible and, in any case, before the date of hearing of case. Provision for details of case (charge, prisoners' whereabouts, date of hearing etc...) being notified to Protecting Power 3 weeks before hearing.

No prisoner to be condemned without being heard.

Prisoner to be defended by somebody of his choice and to have a competent interpreter. Protecting Power to advise him of his rights before hearing of case. If defender not chosen by prisoner, Protecting Power to find him one. Protecting Power's representative to be allowed to be present at hearing. Only exception to this rule is for a hearing "in camera" for reasons of security of the State. In this case, Power holding prisoner to notify Protecting Power.

Art. 63, 64, 65.

Sentence can only be passed on a prisoner by the same courts and with the same procedure as in armies of Power holding him; prisoner to have same rights of appeal. Sentence to be notified forthwith to Protecting Power.

Art. 66.

In case of a prisoner sentenced to death, details to be notified as soon as possible to Protecting Power for transmission to Power in the Armies of which prisoner was serving. Sentence not to be carried out until three months from date of this notification.

Art. 67.

A prisoner not to be deprived, either by a judicial



The Emperor Valerianus surrendering to Sapor,
King of the Persians

sentence or otherwise, of the right (laid down by art. 42) to petition representatives of Protecting Power.

Art. 69.

Powers to be under obligation to return to their own country, and this after putting them into a fit state to travel, prisoners of war who are seriously wounded and this without taking into consideration their rank or number. (1) by subsequent agreements to be entered into as soon as possible, belligerents shall agree upon cases of non fitness or illness entailing the return of prisoners to their own country or upon cases entailing evacuation to a neutral country. Until such agreements have been entered into, belligerents to be at liberty to refer to the Draft Type of Agreement annexed to the present convention for information of contracting Parties.

Art. 69, 70, 71.

As soon as hostilities have started, belligerents to agree as to the appointment of Mixed Medical Commissions, composed of 3 members, two of which shall belong to a neutral country and a third to be appointed by the Power holding prisoners; one of the neutral doctors to preside. These Mixed Medical Commissions to examine sick or wounded prisoners; decisions to be majority ones and to be carried out with the shortest delay.

Besides those singled out by the camp doctor the

(1) This is a departure from the former principle which succeeded that of ransom, of exchange of prisoners, private for private, officer for officer. The present principle is that of the prisoner's health; some months ago, the British and Italian Governments agreed to the exchange, viâ Smyrna and Alexandria, of 600 Italian seriously wounded ("grands blessés") against 150 British of the same category.

following prisoners shall be examined by the Medical Commission :

- a) Those applying directly to the camp medical officer ;
- b) Those singled out by the "Homme de Confiance" either on the latter's or on the prisoner's initiative.

Art. 71.

Prisoners who are the victims of accidents caused by work, except those suffering from wounds inflicted by themselves, to enjoy these privileges.

Art. 72.

For humane reasons, belligerents may enter into agreements for repatriation to their own country, or settlement in a country and this during hostilities of prisoners of war who, though they are fit have been prisoners of war for a long time. (1)

Art. 73.

Expenses «quâ» repatriation and transport of prisoners to a neutral country to be met, from the frontiers of the Power holding them, by the Power in whose armies they have served.

Art. 74.

No repatriated prisoners may be used for active military service.

Art. 75.

On concluding an armistice, belligerents must in principle include in it agreements concerning prisoners of war. Repatriation of latter to be made as soon as possible after peace. However

(1) How many of us realize the state of mind of prisoners of war and civil internees who, because of their respective Governments' failure to agree, may have to spend years of their life behind barbed wire ?

prisoners against whom judicial proceedings for a penal offence are pending, or who have been sentenced for such an offence, may be detained till they have served their sentence.

Art. 76.

Provision for wills, death certificates, funerals, upkeep of graves etc...

Art. 77.

On the outbreak of hostilities, all belligerents as well as neutral Powers who have received prisoners, to open an official Information Bureau concerning prisoners on their territory.

Each belligerent Power shall, as soon as possible, advise its own Information Bureau of all prisoners captured by its armies together with all details enabling prisoners to be identified so that their families may be notified of their capture and given an official address to which they can forward their correspondence.

The Bureau to communicate forthwith all information to Powers concerned and this through the Protecting Power and the Central Agency described in Art. 79.

The Bureau entrusted with the duty of dealing with enquiries concerning prisoners shall receive all details concerning internments, change of camps, releases on parole, admissions to hospital, deaths etc. together with any other information necessary for drawing up and keeping up to date, an index card for every prisoner. (1)

Subject to what is laid down in art. 5, the following to figure on the prisoner's index card :

- a) service number ;
- b) name and surname ;

(1) See in my " Author's Red Cross and Red Crescent Diary ", Oct. 20th 1940, Judge Stenuit's Memorandum on "Kartothek" for Prisoners of War camps in Germany.

- c) date and place of birth ;
- d) rank and unit ;
- e) father and mother's names ;
- f) address of person to be notified in case of accident ;
- g) description of wounds ;
- h) date and place of capture and internment ;
- i) date and place of wounds or death ;
- j) any other important information.

Weekly lists with all recent information helping to identifying prisoner, to be communicated to Powers interested.

After peace, individual prisoners' index cards to be handed over to the Power in whose armies they have served.

The Bureau to collect also all personal belongings, correspondence, articles of value, pay books, identity signs left behind by prisoners who have been repatriated, released on parole, have died or escaped and to communicate them to the countries interested.

Art. 78.

Welfare Societies for prisoners of war constituted according to the laws of their country, are to receive for them and for their accredited representatives, and this within the limits of military necessities, all facilities from belligerents to accomplish their work. Representatives of these societies shall be allowed to distribute comforts in hospitals, camps and halting places, subject to their being granted personal permits by the military authorities and undertaking in writing to submit to all police measures.

Art. 79.

A neutral Agency for information on prisoners shall be created in a neutral country and the C.I.C.R., if it thinks fit, shall offer to organize this Agency.

The Agency shall concentrate all information about prisoners

obtained through official or private channels and will then transmit it as soon as possible to the prisoners' country of origin.

All these measures must not be taken as limiting the humanitarian activities of the C.I.C.R.

Art. 80.

Provision laid down for exemption from postage dues and for other exemptions mentioned in art. 38 in favour of these information agencies.

Art. 81.

Persons attached to armed forces without actually belonging to them (such as newspaper correspondents, reporters, sutlers, army contractors etc..) captured by the enemy which the latter thinks necessary to retain, are entitled to be treated as prisoners of war, subject to their being bearers of identity papers issued by the military authorities of the armed forces they were attached to.

Art. 82.

The present Convention must be respected by the contracting parties under all circumstances. Should one of the belligerents not be a signatory to the Convention its clauses are, nevertheless, to remain binding on other belligerents.

Art. 83.

Provision for Contracting Parties' rights to conclude other special agreements concerning prisoners of war on any question they may think fit.

To insure the observance, on both sides, of the present Convention and to encourage, all such special agreements between belligerents, the latter may at the outbreak of hostilities,

permit representatives of authorities in charge of Prisoners of War questions to meet. (1)

Art. 84.

The text of the present Convention, together with any special agreements provided for in Art. 83, shall be placarded up for inspection by Prisoners of War and (as much as possible) the text must be in the prisoners' own language. (2)

The text of the present Convention must, at their request, be communicated to prisoners unable to inspect the placarded text.

Art. 85.

Powers to communicate to one another, through the channel of the Swiss Federal Government, official translations of the present Convention, together with the laws and regulations insuring its being applied. (3)

Art. 86.

The High Contracting Parties recognize that the assistance of Protecting Powers in charge of the interests of belligerents is a guarantee that the present Convention is adhered to ; for this purpose Protecting Powers may appoint delegates, outside their diplomatic « personnel » from among their own subjects, or even among subjects of other neutral powers.

These delegates must be approved of by the belligerent to whom they shall be accredited.

(1) In 1917, Lord Newton and Prince Hatzfeldt Wildenburg, the latter a well known figure in London and Cairo Society, met at the Hague to arrange, on behalf of their respective Governments, certain questions concerning prisoners of war.

(2) See Authors " Red Cross and Red Crescent Diary " Dec. 13th 1940.

(3) Has this been done ?



King Darius, after surrendering to Alexander the Great, dies of wounds with his head in the latter's lap.

Provision for representatives of Protecting Power, or its delegates, being allowed to inspect without exception all places where prisoners are interned; they shall be admitted to all places where there are prisoners, and allowed to talk with the latter, on principle without witnesses, personally or through an interpreter. Belligerents to facilitate as much as possible the duties of representatives or delegates of the Protecting Power, military authorities being informed of such inspections.

Belligerents enter into agreements as to persons of the prisoners' own nationality being allowed to take part in these inspections. (1)

Art. 87.

Protecting Powers shall offer their good services to settle disputes between belligerents. (2) Provision for Protecting Power suggesting a meeting of belligerents on neutral soil. Belligerents. to be under obligation to follow up such proposals made to them. Protecting Power to be able to submit to powers interested the name of some prominent figure belonging to a neutral Power or appointed by the C.I.C.R. to be present at the meeting.

Art. 88.

All the aforesaid provisions shall not be deemed to exclude the humanitarian activities of the C.I.C.R. for the protection of prisoners of war.

(1) e.g. during the Great War of 1914-1918, the Anglican Bishop for Northern Europe was allowed to travel from England to Germany, to inspect the Ruhleben internees in their camp near Berlin.

(2) The French text «devront» (“shall”) is obviously imperative and it is to be hoped that habitual diplomatic caution will not emasculate this important provision.

Art. 87.

The present Convention shall be deemed to complete Chapt. II of the Regulation annexed to the Hague Conventions of July 29th 1899 and October 18th 1908.

Art. 90, 91, 92, 93, 94.

Provision for ratification, coming into force, adherence to Convention etc..

Art. 96.

Anyone of the contracting Powers shall be at liberty to give notice of withdrawal from the present Convention but such withdrawal to come into effect only a year after it has been notified in writing to the Swiss Federal Council who shall advise the other contracting Powers.

However, not only shall this withdrawal apply only to the Power which has decided upon it but, further it shall not be effective if made in the course of the war during which this Power is engaged. It shall, on the contrary, continue to be valid for a year after peace has been signed and, in any case, until after repatriation operations are completed.

Art. 97.

Provision for a certified copy of the present Convention being lodged in the files of the League of Nations by the Swiss Federal Council. Likewise, ratifications and withdrawals which shall have been notified to the Swiss Federal Council shall be communicated by the latter to the League of Nations.

A PRAYER

O LORD FATHER of mercies, friend of all who are comfortless and forlorn, we pray Thee to consider with especial lovingkindness all prisoners of war. Be so present to them that, in the weariness of their imprisonment, they may find spiritual freedom in Thee ; being released from fear and sin, from darkness and oppression of the heart, from bitterness of hope deferred. Lead them thus on in divine knowledge in their school of trial, and, in Thy mercy, speed the day of their glad deliverance.

I am indebted to the Egyptian Gazette for permission to quote this very beautiful prayer which appeared in its columns some years ago.

THE ANNEX TO THE PRISONERS OF WAR CONVENTION

AS I HAVE STATED, the Convention includes, as an Annex, a suggested Type of Agreement (“Accord Type”) concerning repatriation to their own country and hospitalization in a neutral country of prisoners of war for reasons of health. It embodies the following principles which I reproduce as faithfully as possible :

I. GUIDING PRINCIPLES CONCERNING THE DIRECT REPATRIATION AND HOSPITALIZATION IN A NEUTRAL COUNTRY.

A - Direct Repatriation

The following will be directly repatriated :

1. The sick and wounded whose possibilities of being cured *within a year cannot* be hoped for, their health requiring treatment and their intellectual or physical possibilities appearing to have been considerably reduced.

2. The sick and wounded who *cannot* be cured and whose intellectual and physical possibilities appear to have been considerably reduced.

3. The sick and wounded who *are* cured but whose intellectual and physical possibilities appear to have been considerably reduced.

B - Hospitalization in a Neutral Country

The following will be hospitalized :

1. The sick and wounded whose being cured within a year can be hoped for, especially if their health can benefit from what the neutral country can offer them.

2. Prisoners of war whose intellectual or physical health appears to be seriously threatened by their being kept in captivity whereas their hospitalization in a neutral country could probably protect them from this serious threat.

C - Repatriation of Prisoners under hospital treatment
in neutral countries.

Prisoners of war under hospital treatment in neutral countries, belonging to the following categories, will be repatriated :

1. Those whose state of health appears as being (or about to be) such that they belong to the class of those who should be repatriated for reasons of health.

2. Those cured but whose intellectual or physical possibilities appear to have been considerably reduced.

II - SPECIAL PRINCIPLES FOR DIRECT REPATRIATION
OR HOSPITAL TREATMENT IN A NEUTRAL COUNTRY

A - Repatriation

The following will be repatriated :

1. All prisoners of war who, following organic lesions, are suffering from the following changes, real or functional : loss of a limb, paralysis, alteration of the joints provided the defect concerns at least a foot or a hand or is equivalent to the loss of a foot or a hand.

2. All prisoners of war, wounded or injured, whose condition is such as to render them invalid and whose cure cannot be foreseen within a period of a year.

3. All sick whose condition is such as to render them invalid and whose cure cannot be foreseen within the period of a year

To this category belong more especially :

(a) progressive tuberculosis of any organ which may not be cured or considerably improved by treatment in a neutral country ;

(b) non tuberculous affections of the respiratory organs, presumably incurable and thus, before all, pulmonary emphysema with or without bronchitis, bronchial dilatations, advance asthma, gas intoxication etc...);

(c) grave chronic affections of the circulatory organs (e.g. valvular affections with lack of compensation, grave affection of the miocardium, the pericardium and of the vessels particularly aneurisms of the larger vessels etc...);

(d) chronic grave affections of the digestive organs ;

(e) chronic grave affections of the urinary and sexual organs (e.g. all cases of chronic nephritis confirmed with complete semiology especially when there are cardiac and vascular alterations, as also chronic pyelitis and cystitis etc...);

(f) chronic grave affections of the central and peripheral nervous system (grave neurasthenia and hysteria, epilepsy, Basedow etc...);

(g) blindness of both eyes or of one eye when the vision of the other remains inferior to one in spite of correction with glasses ; reduction of visual power when it is impossible to correct it to one half at least for one eye ; other serious affections of the eye such as glaucoma, iritis, choroiditis etc...);

(h) total bilateral deafness as well as deafness on one side when the other ear cannot perceive a voice at normal pitch at one metre's distance ;

(i) all cases of mental disorder ;

(k) grave cases of chronic intoxication by metals or other causes (saturnism, hydrargyris, morphinism, cocaineomania, alcoholism, intoxication by gas) ;

(i) chronic affections of the organs of locomotion

(arthritis deformans, gout, rheumatism with alterations clinically evident) provided they are in an advanced stage ;

(m) all malignant neoplasm, if they cannot be operated without danger to the patient's life ;

(n) all cases of malaria, with appreciable organic changes (such as chronic hypertrophy of the liver, of the spleen, cachexia etc...);

(o) chronic skin diseases of a serious nature, as much as they cannot be treated in hospital in a neutral country ;

(p) serious cases of avitaminosis (berri berri, pellagra, chronic scurvy).

B - Hospitalization

Prisoners of war shall be admitted to hospital if they are suffering from the following diseases :

1. All forms of organic tuberculosis if according to medical standards they are curable, or, at least, could be considerably improved by means applicable in neutral countries (high altitude, sanatorium treatment etc.).

2. All forms (necessitating a treatment) of affections of respiratory organs and of organs of circulation, of digestive organs, of nervous and genito-urinary organs, of locomotion system and of the cutaneous system, provided that these diseases do not belong to the category necessitating direct repatriation or, if they are of a very acute nature with a tendency to rapid and complete cure. The affections implied in this paragraph are those which are likely to give the patient a real chance of being cured much better than if he were treated in captivity.

Disorders of the nervous system, the determining causes of which are accidents of war or of captivity itself, such as prisoners of war psychasthenia and other analogous cases, should be specially taken into consideration.

All cases of this kind, when duly established, should be admitted to hospital forthwith, provided their serious character or constitutional nature does not necessitate immediate repatriation.

Cases of psychasthenia of prisoners of war, which are not cured after three months of hospital treatment in a neutral country or are not on the proper way of being definitely cured, must be repatriated.

3. All cases of wounds, of lesions and their consequences which offer better chances of cure in a neutral country rather than in captivity provided these cases should neither justify direct repatriation nor be insignificant.

4 All duly established cases of malaria presenting no organic changes clinically visible, such as hypertrophy of liver and spleen, cachexia etc., if their stay in a neutral country offers favourable chances for a definite cure.

5. All cases of intoxication (particularly by gas, metals, alcaloids etc.), for which the chances of a cure in a neutral country are especially favourable.

The following shall be excluded from hospitalisation :

1. All duly certified cases of mental disorder ;
2. All nervous, organic or functional complaints held to be incurable, these two categories belong to those entitling the prisoner to direct repatriation.
3. Chronic grave alcoholism.
4. All contagious diseases in the period of which they are catching (acute infectious complaints, primary and secondary syphilis, trachoma, leprosy etc.).

III - GENERAL REMARKS

Generally speaking the above rules should be interpreted as broadmindedly as possible.

This broadness of interpretation should be applied more especially to neuropathic or psychopathic cases caused or determined by war events or even by captivity (prisoner of war psychasthenia) as well as to all degrees of tuberculosis.

It stands to reason that camp doctors and mixed medical commissions can come up against many cases not mentioned among the examples given under Chapter II or against cases not applying to these examples. Such examples are only given as being typical ones; a corresponding list of examples of surgical alterations has not been drawn up because, putting apart cases undeniable by their nature (such as amputations) it is difficult to draw up a list of special cases since experience has shown that it was inconvenient in practice to give a list of such particular cases.

All cases, not applying exactly to examples given should be decided according to the spirit of the above-mentioned guiding principles.



Francis I of France by Clouet.

(Page 23)

THE « COLIS DU PRISONNIER »

THE “Colis du Prisonnier” is a self-supporting charitable organization (independent of the International Committee of the Geneva Red Cross but working under its auspices) which—with the concurrence and assistance of its delegate, Dr. Vaucher—my voluntary helpers and I founded in Alexandria about a year and a-half ago. Its object is to supply—at the lowest possible prices—and forward, on behalf of relatives or friends of prisoners of war of all nationalities, parcels of comforts to the latter. It cannot supply or forward parcels to civilians either in neutral or enemy countries.

While still responsible for the offices in Alexandria of the International Committee of the Red Cross, I had been struck by the necessity for such an organization. Not only were Italian prisoners, many of them totally destitute, arriving in Egypt but also considerable difficulties were experienced by relatives and friends of British and Allied prisoners in Italy and Germany to send them parcels. Conditions obtaining in Germany and Italy made us suppose that prisoners there would be lacking in the use of many commodities and, on the other hand, few of their relatives and friends were familiar with Egypt, its different languages, its customs : these relatives and friends came up against the difficulties of buying comforts from local tradesmen, of making them up in parcels and, finally, dealing with the Egyptian Postal and Customs authorities which they had no idea how to handle.

Dr. Vaucher though agreeing with the necessity of such an organization, held that it did not enter within the scope of the International Committee’s duties in Egypt so that,

though having with us the assistance of his experience, we were to start and carry on alone! Our attempt proved completely successful and, after only some twenty months' existence, the "Colis du Prisonnier" has sent off to Germany, Italy, Libya, Egypt, and India for prisoners of all nationalities some fourteen thousand parcels. We have now regular monthly standing orders from organizations and clients, some orders having even been telegraphed from England, on behalf of relatives of prisoners who find it more convenient to forward parcels from Egypt rather than from England.



There are, generally speaking, three types of parcels: clothing, food and "mixed" (that is, partly food and partly clothing). Parcels are either "individual parcels," in which case they must not exceed (including wrapping) 5 kilos, and "collective parcels," when up to 10 kilos are allowed. In spite of continually rising prices, it may be said that the cost of a parcel varies from 80 to 140 Egyptian piastres. The sender either selects its contents or chooses one of the 14 standard types, of which here are three examples:—

A.— 1 condensed milk, 1 Quaker oats, 1 jam, 1 tea (or cocoa), 1 beans, 1 corned beef, 1 sugar, 1 chocolate, 1 "Nescafé," 1 shaving soap;

B.— 1 sweater, 3 pair woollen socks, 3 pairs cotton socks, 1 woollen pyjamas, 1 cotton waistcoat, 1 towel, 6 handkerchiefs, 1 cotton drawers;

C.— 1 sweater, 3 pairs woollen socks, 1 woollen waistcoat, 2 pairs cotton socks, 1 towel, 2 handkerchiefs, 1 chocolate, 1 tea (or cocoa), 1 condensed milk, 1 tobacco (or cigarettes), 1 sugar, 1 dates.

These are merely suggestions, which can be varied according to the sender's wishes, provided, of course, the parcel does not exceed the prescribed weight.

Astonishment has been expressed at the "Colis du Prisonnier's" refusal to accept commodities supplied by the senders who, sometimes, have taken offence at their refusal. This is because the organization wants to be satisfied as to every parcel containing exactly what is stated. A tin of foodstuffs, a closed box, a bag of sugar, are beyond our control and we cannot satisfy ourselves that it does not contain anything that is prohibited, either for export from Egypt or for import in the country of destination.

Prohibited articles for prisoners vary according to different countries, but it can be stated that *mufti*, maps, compasses, large knives, saws, cigarette paper, writing pads, ink, and foreign newspapers are not allowed.



The route followed by a consignment of parcels varies greatly and, for obvious reasons, is kept secret. The question is further complicated by the internal necessities, strategical or economic, of the countries it has to go through. A consignment of parcels may leave Egypt and cross one country in a relatively short space of time. Then it may be delayed by congestion on the railways of another and, at a later stage, a third country may be holding up all traffic for several weeks. It is a long way from Egypt to Germany or Italy and that is why no one knows when a parcel may arrive. Last autumn, for instance, receipts for parcels to Germany were returned after some eight weeks but four months now appears to be the usual time between the dispatch of a parcel and the return of the receipt. There is, however, no guarantee that this lapse of time should not be either increased or shortened.

Our organization came up at first against considerable scepticism as to prisoners ever receiving their parcels but, I am happy to say, letters and receipts from prisoners as to the safe arrival of their parcels have dispelled any anxiety

felt on this point. To start with, our arrangements as to checking the fate of every parcel are most elaborate. The outer wrapping has a list of the parcel's contents and, in the inside, a postcard with this list recopied on it. The postcard is already addressed to the "Colis du Prisonnier," c o the International Committee of the Red Cross, so that the prisoner has only to sign this postcard which, post free, reaches us in due course. Ledgers are kept with particulars of every parcel leaving our office; number, names of addressee and sender, date of departure, contents and, eventually, date at which the receipt has reached us. Every parcel can thus be traced at once, the return of signed receipts being at once entered in the ledger.

It has been suggested that the signing of receipts is a mere formality, the prisoner being forced to sign for what he has not received. That is not our experience: I have before me a letter from prisoner No..... in Camp No....., in which he complains that from parcel No... such and such an article was missing, contents not being those described in the list found inside the parcel. This is the best proof that the prisoner *not only does not sign for what he has not received but can complain about what is missing from the parcel*. Further, periodical inspections are carried out by delegates of the International Red Cross Committee. The latter, when inspecting camps, are at liberty to confer with prisoners as to any complaints and have had occasion to satisfy themselves as to the safe delivery of parcels. The International Prisoners of War Convention, signed in Geneva on July 27 1929 by 48 States, deals with the question of parcels. Article 37 lays down the right of prisoners to receive parcels of food and clothing. Article 57, while conceding that a prisoner undergoing punishment may have his parcels held up till the end of his sentence, lays down that, should such parcels contain perishable goods, they must be handed over to the camp hospital or to camp kitchens.



A voluntary worker at the "Colis du Prisonnier"

(Page 51)

Contenu du Colis: n° 1477 A

1 Dat.
 1 quater
 1 beaus
 1 corned beef
 1 car d'huile
 1 can future
 1 dattes

5 biscottes
 1 savon
 1 chocolat
 1 tabac

Cous mes remerciements pour
 votre aimable envoi.

Signature

Holodziecki Jean
 7 talag B Nazareth
 2313

Formule 26-10-1944

A receipt for a parcel, sent by the "Colis du Prisonnier",
 signed by a Prisoner of War

(Page 54)

“Collective parcels” are handed over to and signed for by the “*homme de confiance*,” that is, a senior prisoner who, acting as foreman, represents the prisoners *quâ* the camp authorities. It happens also that the sender of a parcel receives a letter from the “*homme de confiance*” asking — the prisoner having left the camp, — what should be done with the parcel? Another proof that all precautions are taken for the prisoner, and no one also, to receive it.



The “*Colis*” has received not only many letters from prisoners expressing their thanks for parcels received, but also, requests for parcels from others who, for some reason or other, have nobody to send them anything. Our organization, in such cases, tries not to disappoint such requests and several hundreds of parcels, paid for either by the organization out of its meagre funds or by private donors, have been sent to prisoners without relatives or friends.

The organization receives no grant, official or unofficial: it exists only through the generosity of its friends and of the public. The devoted assistance of a staff of voluntary workers—including Mmes. Charles Gorra, Edouard Karam, George Ayoub, Léon Matossian, Ferdinand Debbane, Boris Catzeflis, and Toukhlazian, with Mlles. Schemel, Anaide and Eranie Meramedjian, Karam, Lian, Saunier, Villemin, Gasche, Escher, etc., supported by the generosity of M. J.D. fumaroli, has proved invaluable. The auditing of the books is very kindly done by M. Edmond Lambling, while M. Etienne Combe—who succeeded me at the offices of the International Red Cross in Alexandria — is always ready with the benefit of his assistance and advice.

It is thus that the loyal and unselfish cooperation of all those I have named has enabled the organization to continue so successfully in a work carried on irrespective of nationality, race, or creed.

AUTHOR'S RED CROSS AND RED CRESCENT DIARY

« Whatever their sympathies, all those in
» the service of the Red Cross must
» hearken only to the voice of humanity,
» without any consideration as to nationality,
» race, belief, or political party. Members
» must learn to impose on themselves
» this difficult discipline of heart and mind.
» Thus, only in the bitterness of strife,
» can the International Committee inspire
» perfect confidence.

Jacques Chenevière

1939

Lansanne, Aug. 29th.

Events are moving so rapidly that I do not see how war can be avoided. Writing to Jacques Chenevière, President of the Central Commission of the International Committee of the Red Cross (1) in Geneva, putting myself at the disposal in Alexandria of the organization under the orders of a Swiss Delegate.

Jacques Chenevière is a well known member of Geneva society who has preferred literature to the banking and financial interests of the rest of his family. He has achieved a deserved celebrity in France where he has been living since some years., The French Government has thought fit

(1) - Author's Note :

I shall use the initials "C. I. C. R." to indicate the "Comité International de la Croix Rouge".

to reward his work in literature and philanthropy by making him an Officer of the Legion of Honour.-

Sept. 3rd.

England declared war on Germany this morning; Egypt will certainly be involved. No reply from Jacques Chenevière.-

Sept. 4th.

King Alfonso XIII, has returned to our hotel; he is well up on all prisoners of war questions as, during the last Great War, he ran a private Prisoners of War Agency on his own account, rendering untold services to many people.-

Sept. 6th.

At the Requiem Mass for Count Covadonga, the King's Son, met X— with whom I had a long talk on Red Cross questions., He stressed the unpreparedness of almost all belligerents in the last War., The prisoners of War agencies, for instance, which every Power should have had ready to function at the outbreak of hostilities, were in 1914 practically non-existent.- He regrets that the King should no longer be able to assist, as the head of a neutral Power, Red Cross Work., X— insisted on the King's efforts during all the German occupation of Northern France and Belgium during the last War. King's Minister to Belgium Marqués de Villalobar, X— tells, me was magnificent especially in the Edith Cavell case.

Sept. 10th.

Chenevière, whom I rang up, suggests my running over to Geneva to see him.-

Sept. 12th.

Long conversation on Red Cross questions with King Alfonso who, after bridge about midnight, becomes quite expansive., Was full of reminiscences and anecdotes, striking all who

approached him with his unfailing kindness and obliging nature. Ready to help any lame dog over a stile. During the Great War, people applied to him constantly. Thanks to him, the German Authorities pardoned Yvonne Roberts, and Princesse Marie de Croy; countless other examples of his helping all those applying to him, one of whom was Maurice Chevalier.

Sept. 15th.

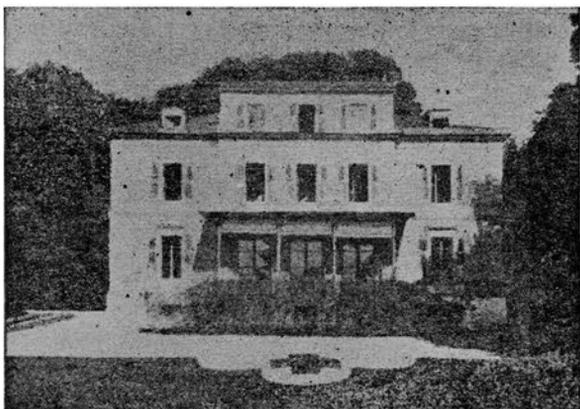
Chenevière writes that the C. I. C. R. has decided, at present, to employ Swiss citizens only. They will more than probably be obliged to depart from this principle, but will then deal with each case on its own merits.-

He adds however :

- « This decision does not in any way, as far
- » as you are concerned, invalidate the
- » intentions of the C.I.C.R. towards yourself.
- » I repeat, therefore, that I would like you
- » very much not to let me ignore when
- » your departure for Egypt will take
- » place. It is important that you should not
- » leave without my having told you whether
- » we shall have to have recourse to the
- » help you have been kind enough to
- » spontaneously offer me.

Sept. 18th.

I call on Chenevière at the Villa Moynier in Geneva the premises of the C.I.C.R. At the door, I come across our old friend Mme Franz de Planta, whose husband is a member of the International Committee. She acts as a voluntary janitor (familiar with all the ropes of the Red Cross) to assist callers. Rather wonderful for those, who have seen her in the luxury of her well appointed flat in Geneva, or of her magnificent Château in the Grisons, to come across her doing such dull



The Villa Moynier, home of the former President of the Int. Red Cross Committee, now the latter's headquarters.

(Page 58)



The Central Commission of the C.I.C.R. with M.M. Jacques Cheneviere (President), F. Barbey, Mmes Frick-Cramer, Odier, Borel

(Page 58)

work day by day... Good for her! We have a long talk about the Polish situation, which is tragic.-

Chenevière turns up. He instructs me to put myself on arrival, at the disposal of Dr. Georges Vaucher, the C.I.C.R. delegate for the Near East. He then introduces me to Barbey late Swiss Minister in Belgium who is a historian of distinction. One of his works is devoted to the claim of Charles Naundorff to be the Infant Dauphin who, after the death of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette was smuggled out of the Prison du Temple. Barbey believes in the genuineness of this claim, as opposed to a Belgian writer, whose name I forget. (1) This Belgian, I met many years ago when visiting the battlefield of Waterloo, next to which he owned the "Gros Caillou" farm, where Napoleon spent the night before the battle. He showed me a collection of "La Libre Belgique", published under German occupation by Belgian Patriots, including a copy containing on its title page a snapshot of General Von Bissing, Governor General of Belgium, reading the paper! Barbey is now on the Central Commission of the Prisoners of War Agency, where his experience as a diplomat and writer is invaluable.

I mention that I may soon be leaving for Copenhagen via Germany on a short visit. Can I be of any use to the C.I.C.R.? Chenevière asks me to let him know date of my departure so that I can take the C. I. C. R. mail to their representative in Berlin.



Vaucher, to whom I am to report on arrival in Egypt, belongs to a well known Neuchâtel family several members of whom, Robert and the late Theodore Vaucher, were well known in journalistic political circles. Vaucher, himself, has considerable experience of Red Cross work. He worked as

(1) He died some years ago.

Secretary in the organization of the Famine Conference (with Dr. Nansen as High Commissioner) held in Geneva under the auspices of the C.I.C.R. in 1921. He was appointed Director of the Information Section of the Nansen Delegation in Moscow in 1922. He finally came out to Egypt where he now represents "La Genevoise" an important Life Insurance Company. He is the author of an interesting philosophical thesis « Valeur affective des mots et jugements de valeur » and has written largely on social and economic questions in newspapers and international reviews. He is married to Mme Nelly Zananiri-Vaucher, an authoress of distinction, who has published "Le Jardin Matinal", "Vierges d'Orient", "L'oasis Sentimental", "A midi sous un ciel torride" I understand she is assisting her husband in his Red Cross work.



Chenevière stresses the necessity for anybody working for the C. I. C. R. to set aside all personal likes and dislikes, either political, personal or national and to see only human beings in need of assistance. (1)

(1) In an effective article in the "Journal Suisse d'Egypte" of a few months later, Chevenièrè expressed himself as follows :

- » The Swiss nationality of the International
- » Committee induces its members to a continuously
- » impartial and neutral state of mind. Whatever their
- » sympathies, they must, in the service of the Red
- » Cross, hearken only to the voice of humanity
- » without any consideration as to nationality, race,
- » belief, or political party. Members must learn to
- » impose on themselves this difficult discipline of heart
- » and mind. Thus, only, in the bitterness of strife,
- » can the Committee inspire perfect confidence. It
- » knows that this confidence and this confidence
- » alone can confer on it its moral authority, a frail
- » one since it has no political power or material
- » means to enforce it but which no one has hitherto
- » denied it.

Oct. 10th.

King Alfonso's interest in all welfare questions for war victims, irrespective of nationality, has led me to put a suggestion before him which, if adopted, would considerably relieve the hardships of many of the underdogs he is always so kind to. Coming from him and put up by the Vatican to all belligerents, it might be really useful. I submitted a Memorandum a few day ago on the subject.

King replies has considered my suggestion but is afraid can do nothing. Any active move connected with war might be interpreted as an intention of dabbling in politics, which is the last thing he wishes to appear doing. After Franco's generous attitude towards himself and all the Royal family, he thinks he should not do the slightest thing liable to misinterpretation.

Oct. 15th.

Duchesse Decazes, Comtesse de Cramayel (daughter of Sir John Latta), Madame de Geoffroy, and other French residents in Lausanne are collecting for the French Red Cross., Everybody responding very generously.-

Oct. 26th.

Mrs Will Gordon who delivered an excellent lecture last year on the "Les trois Chamberlain", has started a collection for the British Red Cross. Very popular, knows lots of people and should do well. As there are, so far, no British prisoners in Switzerland, proceeds will be lodged in a Bank till they arrive.

Nov. 10th.

Cocktail party given by Colonel Gabbitt, British Vice-Consul, and his beautiful wife. Their daughter is now in Egypt; married to Lieut-Commander Alan Noble, son of Admiral Sir Percy Noble.-

Nov. 11th.

Listened in at the Hospital (where my mother was admitted some weeks ago) to the celebration in London of the Armistice. She reminded me that, some years ago, the the Captain and crew of a German battleship had attended, at an English port Armistice Day celebrations afterwards going to lay wreaths on the graves of some German prisoners buried near by.-

The pity of it all....

Nov. 18th.

Bazar for Polish Red Cross.- Crowded!

Nov. 19th.

My sister and-I, with one or two friends, dined very quietly with the King who described his visit to the Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva a few days ago, adding many interesting recollections of his own Agency during the Great War. He was most expansive on the subject of servants; said he would not dare have an English valet as that would mean two extra servants: one for the valet and one for himself! Complained that "English servants are terrible snobs"!!! Dinner excellent.

Nov. 20th.

Duque de Parcens, Counsellor of the Spanish Embassy in Warsaw, arrived. Gave us news of many Polish mutual friends. He was living on board a sleeping car on a siding in Warsaw station.-

Nov. 25th.

Mme X... who is married to a Pole, arrived here with her two small girls after three weeks of hardships. She drove herself through the forests, dodging the fighting and living from hand to mouth from what the peasants gave

them. When aeroplanes were overhead, she would stop the car, lay her children in a ditch and lie down on them as the planes had a nasty habit of peppering all they saw on the roads.

②

Warsaw hospitals in an appalling condition. Everything lacking, major operations being performed without chloroform.

②

— 's father is a large landowner on the Czecho-Polish border. Till 1919, he had been an Austro-Hungarian subject. Then he was decreed, owing to where his property was situated, a Polish subject. When during the Russo-Polish war of 1920 the Czechs seized his land, he was turned into a Czechoslovak subject to become in 1938 by the grace of Munich, once more a Polish subject. He is now in German occupied Poland, but what his present passport is nobody seems to know... What a muddle!!!

Nov. 29th.

The Italian Consul General gave a tea party where Swiss, Italians, French, British, and Germans jostled one another while exchanging, as the case happened to be, smiles, or scowls.

Nov. 30th.

The Swiss are organizing relief work for Finland, and their Red Cross is sending a mission there.

Rome, Dec. 1st.

Arrived in Rome this evening on my way to Egypt. Very different to April 1915 when I watched riots in the streets against the Austro-Hungarian Embassy.-

Dec. 5th.

Lunched with Pepito de la Gandara who gave me

many interesting details of his Red Cross job in Switzerland during the last war. The different, but all fascinating, *Mata Haris* persisted in seeing in him an enemy agent. They accordingly brought all their wiles to bear upon him with a view of finding out all he knew. I understand that he did nothing to undeceive them..

⑥

Yesterday, my taxi blundered into a student pro-Finnish demonstration which was smashing the windows of the Soviet Embassy.-

Dec. 6th.

At Vittoria Dampierre Ruspolis, I was told a good story about passersby, outside the Grand Hotel, being pelted with electric bulbs, apparently thrown from King Alfonso's suite there. The police found that the culprit was a tame monkey belonging to an American occupying the rooms above the King's. It used to clamber down, pick the bulbs used for floodlight nights, and take pot-shots at the public!-

⑥

Came across X... who stressed the trouble the Vatican took during the last war with its prisoners of war work and the little gratitude experienced from certain of the belligerents. He seemed to think that, this time, the Vatican did not intend to put itself to all this worry to suffer in return misinterpretations of the most offensive kind.

Dec. 9th.

Tried to ring up Lord Lloyd at the British Embassy but he had just left. X... told me that when last in Rome, Lloyd was arrested by an overzealous policeman who overheard him in the Corso describing the plot to shoot the Duce. Lloyd was hauled off to the Police station his attempts at explaining that he was the High Commissioner to Egypt

being ignored. Sir Ronald Graham had to be brought down post haste from the Embassy to bail him out.



Before leaving Lausanne, I managed to bring with me some "Nescafé". Much appreciated by all those dining or lunching with me who, so far, have only been drinking coffee substitutes.-

Genoa, Dec. 7th.

I sail from Genoa to Egypt on an Egyptian steamer.-

Dec. 12th.

Landed late in Alexandria in the midst of A.R.P. practice. All life suspended in the town without a cab or taxi . . . A Mrs. Malcolm, wife of Capt. George Malcolm whose husband is serving in Palestine, finds herself on landing stranded in the streets of Alexandria with nobody to meet her, no cabs to take her to the station, and no Egyptian money... I knew her father-in-law, Sir Ian Malcolm of Poltalloch well, and after a cup of tea in my flat, I start shepherding her to the station on foot with each of my servants carrying a piece of luggage. The black-out is complete, we have no lamps, and blunder into the Post Office where we are warned that if we are caught by patrols during an alert, we will be forcibly detained indoors. We successfully dodge these patrols, arriving at the station in time for her train to Cairo.

Dec. 30th.

According to Vaucher (the delegate to the Near East of the C.I.C.R.) the latter has appealed to all Red Cross Societies and to the Egyptian Red Crescent to found a Committee for the Polish victims of the war. Ahmed Kamel Pacha, Director General of the Alexandria Municipality, has promised his assistance. All of us asked to cooperate.

Dec. 31st.

Rotten end of a rotten year !

- » Ring out the grief that saps the mind
- » For those that here we see no more ;
- » Ring out the feud of rich and poor ;
- » Ring in redress to all mankind.

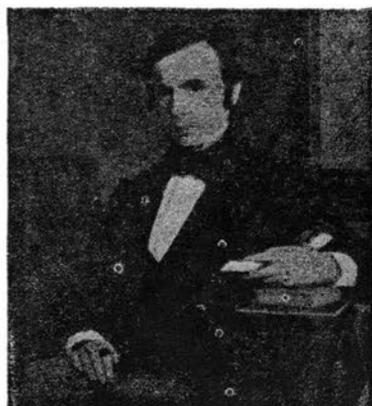
- » Ring in the valiant man and free,
- » The larger heart the kindlier hand ;
- » Ring out the darkness of the land,
- » Ring in the Christ that is to be ».

TENNYSON

(“ In Memoriam ”)



Dr. Théodore Maunoir
(Page 14)



Dr. Louis Appia
(Page 14)



Gustave Moynier
(Page 14)

1 9 4 0

Jan. 7th.

Vaucher has written to M. Allemann, Polish Consul in Alexandria, about a Committee for relief of Polish victims of the war to be founded in Alexandria with assistance of Egyptian Red Crescent.-

Jan. 25th.

Mc Caskie is on one of the Tribunals advising the British authorities on questions of internment in England of enemy aliens. A barrister of distinction, a K.C., a Recorder of the City of York, he talks French well, and is familiar with Germany and its language. I write to him asking for some literature about those Tribunals, their duties, how they work, and the results they have achieved. I send Vaucher a copy of my letter (to Mc Caskie) for his negotiations with the Egyptian Government which, as yet, has had no opportunity to gain any experience in these questions.-

Jan. 30th

I understand the problem of German civil internees in Egypt is a complicated one. Among the German subjects, there are persons of distinctly opposed political views: there are the Nazis, the Anti-Nazis, and the Jews. How will they, in England, deal with the problem? So far quite a lot of Germans here have not yet been interned.

Vaucher adds that according to the Hungarian Minister, the problem in Hungary is most complicated as Poles are continually crossing the frontier to escape starvation in their own country. The Egyptian Red Crescent has already sent help to the Polish Refugees in Roumania and will shortly do

the same for Poles in Hungary. The C.I.C.R. has also received from the Egyptian Red Crescent a small donation for Polish prisoners of war in Germany.-



German Military Authorities have issued a circular concerning messages and parcels for prisoners of war. For instance :

correspondence to and from P. of W. is post free. Same for parcels to them which further, are customs free. Number of parcels is unlimited, weight not to exceed 5 kilos.-

there is a long list of prohibited articles such as :

- (a) civilian clothing (excepting of course underwear), weapons, large penknives, scissors, fountain pens, electric torches, maps, inflammable products, candles, alcohol, compasses, tourist rüch-sacks, quill pens, photographic apparatus, binoculars, magnifying glasses, spare parts for telephone or radio sets, etc.
- (b) all forms of pharmaceutical products, vaseline tubes, solid or liquid ammonia, books or printed matter of a doubtful or offensive character, cigarette paper, agendas, writing paper, postcards, hair wash, mouth lotion, toothpastes scent, cigarette holders. sheets of blank paper, and boot polish.

Collective parcels to a camp for a group of needy prisoners should be addressed to the "Homme de confiance" or Senior Prisoner, as per art. 43 of the 1929 Prisoners of War Convention.-

The C.I.C.R. are not in a position to receive and transmit parcels for uninterned civilians.-

Until further notice, the C.I.C.R. are not supplying parcels for prisoners of war or civilian internees., I wonder whether

we might not remedy to this deficiency by organizing something locally in this respect ?- (1)

This matter of letters and parcels to prisoners of war is a delicate one. During the last war, a Captain X..., told me that, while a prisoner in....., he wrote home as follows :

« About the new car, I very much insist on your putting the carburettor next to the fire ».-

His mother who did not own a car, had the idea of putting his letter next to the fire which revealed, written in invisible ink ; “ Send me a uniform which, turned inside out, looks like « *mufti* »”. This was done and after escaping from the camp, he turned his uniform inside out, the smuggled *mufti* carrying him through as a bogus civilian right up to the frontier.

Jan. 31st.

The C.I.C.R. have written to Vaucher as follows :

« Mr. Malcolm Davis has again visited Hungary » and Rumania. The fate of Polish refugees in neutral » countries seems to have improved and there are » numerous organizations helping them.-

« On the other hand, very few are troubling » themselves about Polish Prisoners to war. There » are 250.000 in Germany and 150.000 in occupied » Poland ; owing to the rapid campaign and of the » great number of prisoners, the latter need underwear, » shoes and soap. They have no means of spending » their time, no tobacco, and other things which could » improve their fate.-

« In view of this situation, the C. I. C. R. have » decided to act on their behalf.- We have a complete » list of Polish prisoner camps and we know the

(1) Our “ Colis du Prisonnier ” eventually met this want “ quâ ” prisoners of war.

- » number of occupants of each camp. The C.I.C.R.
- » suggest sending these camps collective parcels for
- » distribution to the prisoners by the "Homme de
- » Confiance" (1) This of course, requires money and
- » goods.-

« The C.I.C.R. would therefore, be very glad to

- » to receive some help for these prisoners, either in
- » cash or in goods. Donations will immediately be
- » forwarded to the camps as collective parcels.-

Feb. 1st,

My sister Dagmar writes that she is on the Lausanne "Pro Polonia" Committee now operating in Switzerland. One of its principal aims is the foundation and upkeep in Yougoslavia, under the control of the Geneva "Union Internationale de Secours aux Enfants", of a home for Polish mothers and children. It is also providing for Polish refugees in Hungary, Roumania and Lithuania.

Feb. 5th.

Hungarian Red Cross writes to Vaucher as follows :

- « At present, more than 52.000 Polish refugees,
- » 40.000 military internees and nearly 12.000 civil
- » internees are to be found in Hungary. The exact
- » number cannot be ascertained as new refugees
- » continue to arrive. The Royal Government of
- » Hungary supplies their food, the pay of the military
- » internees and has entrusted the Hungarian Red
- » Cross to deal with their numerous wants. Our
- » Society with the cooperation of other humanitarian

(1) This is the "Homme de Confiance", or prisoner's foreman, referred to in art. 43 of the 1929 P. of W. Convention. These men represent the prisoners *quâ* the camp authorities.-



H.E AHMED KAMEL PACHA
Director General of Alexandria Municipality
President of the Alexandria section of the Egyptian Red Crescent

- » organizations, powerfully supported by the
- » International Committee, and the League of Red
- » Cross Societies, is dealing with this. Thanks to an
- » appeal to several national Red Cross Societies, we
- » have received :

International Committee and
 League of Red Cross Societies 5.000 - Swiss Francs
 Swedish Red Cross 2.000 - Swedish Crowns
 American Red Cross 23.000 - Dollars
 Office of Polish Refugees . . 10.000 - „
 Polish Relief Fund 45.000 - Pengos

« Since the 20th. of September, the “CENTRAL
 » INFORMATION OFFICE OF THE HUNGARIAN
 » RED CROSS” is dealing with military refugees
 » interned in camps and drawing up index cards.
 » The cards drawn up in the first two months
 » contain the names of more than 23.000 persons
 » and the former continue to pour in from the camps.
 » A special section of the Office deals with civil
 » refugees. This section has already transmitted to
 » the Central Information Agency in Geneva 5.000
 » requests for information and 15.000 messages ; it
 » is continually forwarding the correspondence of
 » civil refugees in Hungarian territory and attending
 » to their welfare».

Mar. 13th.

Ahmed Pasha Kamel, Director General of the Alexandria Municipality, has asked me to serve on the “Conseil de Direction” or General Committee of the Alexandria section of the “Egyptian Red Crescent”. I reply that our Estate Office organization is at the disposal of the Red Crescent but that I, myself, would be no good on the “Conseil”.

Kamel, an ex-Minister of Pnblic Health and also of

Trade Commerce and Industry is one of the youngest men to have held Cabinet rank. He has edited political newspapers with considerable success and his energetic and progressive mind is a great asset to public life in Alexandria. He is assisted by a charming wife who is as active socially as in welfare work such as hospitals, A. R. P. Red Crescent etc... Kamel's Private Secretary is Charles Zahar who combines intelligence with tact and initiative so that many questions can be dealt with through him without worrying the Pasha in person every time.



Peace between Finland and Soviet Russia was signed to-day.

Mar. 16th.

Meeting of founders of the Egyptian Red Crescent under presidency of Governor of Alexandria supported by Kamel and Dr. Mahmoud Maher, of the Cairo section of the Egyptian Red Crescent. Maher is a brother of Aly Pasha Maher, the Prime Minister and of Ahmed Pasha Maher, President of the Chamber of Deputies; a clear headed, practical man who knows what he wants. The meeting elects the "Conseil de Direction" for which I decline to stand.

May 23rd.

The « Conseil de Direction » of the Alexandria section of the Egyptian Red Crescent has appointed various Committees; I am to serve on the Propaganda Committee, with the following: Senator Fahmy Wissa (President), Mtre. Abbas Musfy (of "Al Ahram", an Arabic newspaper), Mtre. Ahmed Moursi Badr Bey, (a member of the Chamber of Deputies, and a Municipal Councillor), MM. A. Ambron, V. Adm (Editor of the French newspaper "La Réforme"), A. Carr, (Hellenic Press Attaché, and Head of the Hellenic Tourist, Press and Propaganda Bureaux in Alexandria), Capt. Jack

Goar; Hassan Kamel Bey, (a Councillor at the International Mixed Court); Mtre. C. Schemel, (Editor and owner of "Al Bassir", an Arabic newspaper, and a prominent Rotarian).

May 24th.

Great dismay at the Belgian surrender especially among the numerous Belgians here. My impressions of King Leopold as a boy in 1915 at Eton College are amusing: after Mass in Windsor which Catholic Etonians attend, I looked in at the Presbytery to see Canon Longinotto and his cook Margaret, both old friends. In the kitchen a boy asking for an apple turned out to be Prince Leopold (then Duke of Brabant) to whom Margaret promptly introduced me! Surely unique circumstances in which to meet a future king!

May 28th.

Grave news from France. Hospitals and other Red Cross arrangements apparently quite inadequate. Radio broadcasting extremely moving news from Dunkirk. Several British Regiments we had in Egypt are thought to be in the thick of it all; am anxious about many old school fellows.-

May 30th.

Just received a most moving letter from —— to whom I had written voicing my anxiety about friends involved at Dunkirk. She says:

« It is extraordinarily nice of you to send us
» such a message. My husband and I welcome the
» kind thought that prompted it. It is a moral support
» which we appreciate, especially just now when we
» are morally so bewildered and disappointed, not
» at "la fortune de la guerre", but at the way
» events have turned » -

« Our hearts are torn for our men in Belgium,

» among whom we have relatives and friends and
» for our people at home ».-

A great hearted woman, and one of the best...

June 3rd.

Our Real Estate Office has put part of our family house in Alexandria, 34 Rue Fouad 1, at the disposal of the Egyptian Red Crescent, rent free.-

June 4th.

Wrote a long letter to Vaucher suggesting that, in view of the probable extension of hostilities all over the Near East, the C. I. C. R. should open in Egypt a local Branch so as to have on the spot a clearing station for prisoners, letters, etc., instead of posting all the way to Geneva and back.

④

Old Etonian dinner at Mustapha Barracks (Coldstream Guards Officers Mess); Salisbury Jones, the C.O., an old friend from Dinard and Paris days, whom, -with his wife née de Bunsen, we shall miss, is away on a mission to Weygand in Syria. As oldest Old Boy present, I have, once more, the melancholy privilege of proposing "Floreat Etona". Grave news from Calais and Dunkirk; all very subdued. No speeches and no band. On getting home, the radio confirms anxiety about the — th., many of whom were dining with us here a year ago; they seem to have behaved magnificently. Old Etonians are certainly living up to the School's traditions':

« What we are leaving,
« Others receiving,
« New sons of Eton
« When we're gone,
« Keep forward straining
« Fresh honour gaining,
« Keep the torch burning
« Hand it on



The Duke of Brabant, now King of the
Belgians, during the last War.

(Page 73)

June 6th.

Vaucher replies that the creation of a local Branch in Egypt of the C. I. C. R. would be very complicated, and not provided for by the 1929 Convention ; in any case, a Central Agency for Prisoners of War can only work in a neutral country.- (1)

June 7th.

Kamel replies expressing thanks for the offer of our house for the Egyptian Red Crescent.-

June 8th.

Meeting of the «Comité d'Activités Sociales» of the Egyptian Red Crescent under the Presidency of Mme Ahmed Pacha Kamel of which the members are Mmes. Barthas, D. Gaudin, (wife of U.S.A. Vice-Consul) P. Griparis T. Karam, Teddy Peel, Fahmy Bey Wissa, MM. Hassan Bey Kamel, Gaston Zananiri and myself. Hon. Secretary : Anthony Carr, Hellenic Press Attaché. After the meeting, Mme. Kamel takes us to the Alexandria Municipal Stadium to inspect the First Aid A.R.P. station. The latter is a magnificent reinforced concrete building (of recent construction which cost several hundred thousand pounds) into part of which the first aid A.R.P. station has been very ingeniously fitted. It has complete poison gas decontamination centres ; one for men and one for women. In each, 8 fully trained voluntary helpers and a specialized doctor spend the night. There are excellent

(1) In January 1942, my suggestion did turn out to be possible as, of its own accord, Geneva subsequently sent out a special mission composed of Dr. Vischer, Dr. Pierre Descœudres and Mlle. Hentsch, to take over Vaucher's Offices (which had grown to an enormous size) and give to these offices the scope suggested by me.

sleeping arrangements with a complete set of shower baths and minute antiseptic installations for contaminated cases. Also a complete first aid A.R.P. post with an operation room.

Mme Kamel explains that these first aid A.R.P. posts have been set up all over Alexandria as far as Sidi Bishr the well known Alexandria bathing resort some 20 kilometers from the centre of the town. In each of these posts there is a doctor with 4 voluntary trained nurses and a servant who sleep there every night; let us hope all this will not be necessary. In any case Mme. Kamel and those working with her are to be congratulated on their effort.

June 10th.

Italy declares war on England. I feel as if two life long friends were divorcing...

As regards my many friends of both nationalities in Europe and in Egypt, I anticipate a difficult situation. I am prepared to do all I can for Red Cross and welfare work for both sides but, on no account, do I intend being drawn into controversies on the pros and cons of this war which distresses me beyond words.-

June 13th.

Vaucher has asked me to open in Alexandria the Offices of the Correspondent of the Near East Delegation of the C.I.C.R. I can use the premises of "La Genevoise" a Swiss Insurance Company (of which Vaucher is Agent) and its clerks.- I have to start without funds and find everything, including a staff of voluntary helpers.-

My duties will be to act as Correspondent for Vaucher, and, as such, to :

I - Manage the C. I. C. R. Alexandria Offices, which are entrusted with :

a) Sending to the C.I.C.R. in Geneva, for transmission

to enemy occupied countries, messages to private persons of a purely family type. Nothing about politics or business. Maximum 25 words. Sender charged P 10., (about Sh. 2|-) for postage. Recipient of message to reply on the back of the form.-

- b) Sending the C. I. C. R. in Geneva, telegrams for transmission to private persons in enemy occupied countries under the same conditions. Once again, no fee is charged but the sender has to deposit the cost of the telegram to Geneva, of the telegram from Geneva to the enemy country (reply paid) and the cost of the reply from Geneva to Cairo. A deposit of L.E. 2 (Two Pounds Egyptian) is usually sufficient.
- c) Enquiries made through the C.I.C.R. in enemy countries as to the fate of private people. Here again no fee, the principle of the C.I.C.R. being that all we do is free of charge.- (1)

II Maintaining contact with Egyptian Governmental Authorities concerning internees of all nationalities, more especially interned Germans and Italians, including transmitting requests and complaints, either from internees or their families, on all sorts of questions. Inspection of internment camps. Medical commissions for internees, the latter's general welfare, sports and pastimes etc..

III Same with British Military Authorities for Italian, and eventually German, P. of W.

(1) I remember the gasp of astonishment of a fat gentleman when, in reply to his " what are your terms ? ", I stated that the C. I. C. R. worked for the public free. He was most suspicious and went away persuaded there was a snag somewhere.

The C. I. C. R. ten piastres messages of a purely family type read as follows:

COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
Palais du Conseil Général
GENÈVE (Suisse)

Demandeur - Anfragesteller - Enquirer

Nom - Name

Prénom - Christian name - Vorname

Rue - Street - Strasse

Locataire - Locality - Ortschaft

Département - Country-Provinz

Pays - Country - Land

Message à transmettre - Message - Mitteilung

(25 mots au maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial — (nicht über 25 Worte, nur persönliche Familiennachrichten) — (not over 25 words, family news of strictly personal character.)

.....

.....

.....

Date - Datum

Destinataire - Empfänger - Addressee

Nom - Name

Prénom - Christian name-Vorname

Rue - Street - Strasse

Localité - Locality - Ortschaft

Pays - Country - Land

ANTWORT

Bitte sehr deutlich
schreiben.

REPONSE AU VERSO

Prière d'écrire très lisiblement.

REPLY OVERLEAF

Please write very clearly.

June 14th Air Raid 12²²

June 16th Air Raid 13 h. 30

June 18th Air Raid 8⁵⁰

Expect my duties will expand considerably as this Office is likely to become the refuge of all those in trouble... Complicated still further by the fact that, technically speaking, the Kingdom of Egypt is not at war with either Germany or Italy. It has, however, a British occupation, the respective relations between the two countries being more or less defined in the Anglo-Egyptian Treaty of Alliance of 1936.-

I call on Miralai G. Naldrett - Jays Bey, Assistant Commandant Alexandria City Police with whom I have to deal with on questions regarding persons of enemy nationality interned by the Egyptian Government. He introduces me to Bimbachi A. Rickards, his Assistant. I cannot conceive two more different men: Jays is a widely travelled and cultured Englishman, somewhat of the diplomatic type. Talks umpteen languages and is popular despite his having to refuse many requests on which, however, he always gives one a fair hearing. Married to a Swiss who is very active in welfare work.

Rickards is quite different; silent and dour. Has a strong vein of dry humour which, occasionally, reveals itself in some question, very much to the point, which pricks the bubble in a torrent of words hurled at him by some garrulous petitioner.-

As with Jays, it is "yes" or "no" and one can get things done which is a blessing.-

June 21st.

Instructed by Vaucher to visit, at the Italian Hospital, four Italian ladies captured in the Western Desert; two of them in what the French call a "situation intèressante" were being taken to a maternity ward by an Italian "General." On arriving at the Hospital, I find facts quite different. The "General", in whose care the ladies were when captured, turns out to be a minor official of some Libyan Municipality. His smart uniform led him to be confused with a General

captured the same day!!! The real General is, I understand, rather uneasy at this case of persistently mistaken identity. His own wife, now in Italy, is sure to be very annoyed at his «supposedly» taking off to hospital two ladies, each expecting a baby, instead of being with his troops!!!

Ladies well treated and, though weeping copiously, have nothing to complain about. Husband-official, poor chap, has apparently been sent to hospital with some Italian prisoners whereas, as a civilian, neither he nor the ladies should have been captured.

I collect Red Cross messages from them to be sent through Geneva to their relatives in Italy and Libya.-



A good story:

Some P. of W. have given the donkey which drags their refuse cart the name of X... (the Prime Minister of the country they have been captured by). The Camp Commandant hears of this and the donkey is impounded, the prisoners being left to draw the cart themselves. On their complaining, to the Camp Commandant the latter replies:

“Looking for X... are you? Has had to leave to preside the Council of Ministers and will, in future, no longer be available for drawing your refuse cart”.



I call on M. de Gerber, the Swedish Consul, in charge of German interests here. Like most Swedes, he is pleasant and well mannered. Very precise and meticulous in business being further, «ce qui ne gâte rien», well off and generous. Assisted by M. Manoli, an Austrian of Greek extraction.-



A few days ago an elderly lady, with her son and daughter, all in deep mourning, called on me. Her other son, a boy of twenty, was, just before the war, spending

July in a foreign country where he thought fit to loudly criticize the Government. He was arrested, and invented a cock and bull story about his being the secret agent of a rival power. When on trial, kept the public in roars of laughter by chaffing the Judge. The latter lost his temper and gave him 15 years imprisonment... The mother said that her son, after an unfortunate love affair, had acted in a moment of despair. She drafts a Memorandum which she insists on my sending to Vaucher who, I think rightly, replies that the matter is purely political and does not concern the C. I. C. R. As the boy is an Egyptian subject, I suggest the family approaching their own Government. A pathetic case in which I can do nothing...

④

This Office seems more and more to be, in the eyes of the public, a place where those in trouble can apply. I, personally, am ready to help all and sundry, but how can I act in cases not within the scope of my duties?

June 22nd.

Our first air - raid, from 1 a.m. to 2.30 a.m. Sirens start again at 7 a.m. From my window with my morning tea, I admire several fair ladies trooping down to the private air-raid shelter we have built in the basement of our family house. Neither early hours nor impromptu air-raids suit the *coiffure* and complexion of our Alexandria beauties...

④

With Vaucher to Kamel to ascertain whether the raid was on military or civil objectives. Evidence seems to bear out the first hypothesis with, however, quite a lot of accidental damage to Municipal property. Kamel not pleased at the bill he will have to foot, gloomily adding: "Je suis la 6me Colonne qui doit réparer ce que les cinq autres ont détruit..." (1)

(1) "I am the 6th Column which has to repair what the five others have destroyed..."

Vaucher then takes me to call officially on the Governor. Great difficulty in seeing the latter. When we do, we cannot get a word in as he is surrounded by umpteen telephones, all ringing... Finally he gives orders that he must not be disturbed, disconnects his telephones and, with a charming smile, states that he is ready to listen to us. Immediately sirens then start again, together with the guns. The Governor suggests adjourning to the air-raid shelter which we do, followed by his staff and policemen. A gentleman in handcuffs with a policeman in charge and the governorate cat attach themselves to our party. A local newspaper tout who is always trying to pump news out of me of course spots us. Most excited at our procession, and suggests a snapshot? I hide behind Vaucher so that I, at any rate, will not appear in this motley group. The air-raid shelter seems to have grouped every Tom, Dick and Harry of the neighbourhood but we manage to take refuge beside a glass partition. Everybody talking at the top of his voice, the guns are booming, the cat on my knees is purring, and the handcuffed gentleman, most irregular (!), is eating an orange the policeman has given him. All very familiar and «entre nous», the Governor being as urbane and charming as ever. We join Mme. Vaucher for lunch at 3.30...

By the end of the day we have had six alerts with firing most of the time.

June 23rd.

Vaucher drafts a cable to Geneva reporting my visit to the Italian Hospital but wisely omits any reference to the ladies captured in the Western Desert being «enceintes» as we anticipate jokes of different kind.-

Another Air Raid at 0 15.

June 28th.

M. Charles Kohler, the Chancellor of the Swiss Legation

(with his assistant Mazzetti) is acting on behalf of Italian interests in Egypt; calls to suggest my inspecting with him the Italian civil internees camp at Gabbari. The Camp Commandant is a pleasant Egyptian, Major Ahmed Ezzat, of the Egyptian Police. Talks several languages; receives us hospitably; is assisted by Lieut. Bartlett, an Englishman of the Police who seems popular with everybody.-

The civil internees are housed in the Quarantine first and second class Lazzaretti which are fairly comfortable, but, unfortunately, cannot remain permanent quarters; owing to their proximity of the Port, they are danger zones, near which Prisoners of War should not be housed, according to the Geneva Convention of 1929. On the whole, the accomodation, considering there was no time to organize anything, might certainly be worse.-

As far as we are concerned, the great difficulty is the absence of any «homme de confiance», or foreman (art. 43 of P. of W. Convention of 1929) to represent the internees. The latter are all talking at once; everyone trying to attract our attention to his own particular case. Most unsatisfactory! Owing to our just starting, we are not properly organized yet and cannot go into any complaints to-day. The internees resent this. One of them gets very violent and abusive; Ezzat shows he has a good sence of psychology and, in spite of the man's rudeness, puts his arm round his shoulders, soothing him just as if he were a naughty child... The man calms down at once, and an unpleasant incident is avoided. "Kriegsgefangenenpsychose" the German call it.

Amusing details about arrest of civil internees as soon as Italy had declared war. The Egyptian Government did the thing in style, a taxi being sent for each one; after a few days, there was a bill of several hundreds of pounds which suited taxi-drivers more than it did the Government!

Now the procedure is to ask a future internee to report at such and such a date. An impecunious gentleman improved on this by driving about in a taxi all morning and finally going out to Gabbari where having reported himself, he instructed the taxi driver to claim payment from the camp authorities...

Three well-known Italian internees are being treated at the Egyptian Hospital. Well and cheerful, in spite of hospital being antiquated and not to be compared with either the very modern Egyptian Al-Moassat Hospital or Italian Hospital where many internees would like to be lodged at their own expense. However, the escort difficulty must be overcome first. One of these internees is a great favourite with all the Egyptian nurses. Tells their fortunes; promises each one of them a rich husband with many sons. The policemen on guard all adore him, their enthusiasm growing daily. Before yesterday, he was told that he was better than a Pasha. Yesterday, "you are too good for a Pasha; you are a Prince". This evening he was promoted to King which makes him fear a charge of «lèse-Majesté» being added to his Italian passport...

④

Visit some air-raid victims at the Jewish Hospital, a small but admirably run Institution. A dear old Italian lady, who was badly wounded in the head, is very nervous and we have to multiply assurances that there will be nothing this evening.

④

Kohler, the Chancellor of the Swiss Legation (with his country in charge of Italian interests which means the shepherding of some thousands of Italian women, children and elderly men most of them hard up through the internment of their sons, husbands, father etc.,) has not a pleasant job. Gets in a kind word for everybody and never seems either

to lose his temper or get tired. His wife is a Hellene who assists him splendidly.

June 30th.

Vaucher, being very busy, deputizes me with his wife to visit the Italian Prisoners at the General Hospital: well treated, only complaint being from a sergeant who was asked to sweep his room out. As he talks pure Sicilian and the Sister the broadcast Scotch, I am not astonished at the misunderstanding which is soon cleared up. Prisoners get the same food as British patients and before we leave, I have occasion to taste a meal about to be served which I find excellent. Prisoners agree but would like more bread which is insufficient in quantity, though excellent in quality. I go into this and satisfy myself that the deficiency in bread, *quâ* an Italian, is compensated by the generous allowance of meat, potatoes and vegetables I saw and tasted myself. The premises, ex-Victoria College, are sunny, clean and cheerful. We collect names of all prisoners, particulars of wounds, and address of nearest relative for transmission by cable to Geneva who, then advises these relatives. The prisoners having asked for an interpreter to accompany the doctor on his daily round of visits, I ring up Colonel Alexander who deals with the matter at once.-



Field Marshal Italo Balbo's death in Libya is a great loss as his personality, popular with both sides, could have done much to smooth out bitterness and difficulties between belligerents « *quâ* » Red Cross and Prisoners of War questions. Remember meeting him in Geneva at the League of Nations some years ago and liked him immensely.

July 1st.

Call on Major Alwyn Barker, a well known Alexandria resident at Kom-El Dick Fort, who is Deputy-Assistant

Adjutant-General; am to deal with him in matters concerning British Military Authorities. A good friend and an Old Etonian who served with distinction during the last war in the Rifle Brigade. Always most helpful. When I mention that the Italian P. of W. would like less meat and vegetables and more bread, Barker states that they had the same trouble with Irish recruits who at first wanted more potatoes but soon got used to the new, more luxurious, diet. He promises to help me to trace several Italian internees who were hauled off an Egyptian steamer which (on the Italian declaration of war) had put in to Malta.-

Prof de Capite, an Italian physician, who tells me he has acted in Alex. for the Italian Red Cross and who, so far, has not been interned, calls on me; I show him comforts for Italian prisoners which are pouring in on all sides cigarettes, books chocolates, sweets etc. He promises to help.-

②

I have to break the news of his father's death in Scandinavian occupied territory to an Alexandrian resident. I go cautiously and ramble about a "serious illness". The poor chap does not understand and keeps on asking what sort of illness? His wife joins in, and he finally realizes. Most painful... We get off a wire, *via* Geneva, to his sister. I deliver him a signed and sealed official copy of telegram announcing the death.

July 3rd.

Kohler and I call on the Italian internees who have now left Gabbari for the "Scuole Littorie", the magnificent Italian Schools built by a Roman Architect, Busiri-Vici and opened by the King and Queen of Italy on their visit in 1933. German civil internees already there but are kept strictly apart as the Egyptian Authorities do not wish them to mix with the Italians. This requires some careful thinking out for

the use by both nationalities, at different hours of the day, of the swimming pool and sports grounds. The Germans have a very competent chief, or local «Fuehrer», who talks French and English well ; was manager in a German Bank ; precise and to the point ; business questions should be dealt with rapidly. Conditions on the whole are good, except for some overcrowding. I meet several Germans and Austrians I know, including a local Alexandrian sculptor of talent who is continuing his work in camp. Their kitchen arrangements are excellent, thanks to their being granted a certain autonomy by the Authorities who, I understand, pay so much a head for German internees, the latter being allowed to engage their own cooks, order their own food etc..

As per art. 88. of the P. of W. Convention, I go into different questions with Kohler and the Italians, the most important of all being the appointment of a foreman, or «Homme de Confiance», to represent the Italian internees in their dealings with the Authorities. Besides this «Homme de Confiance», different Committees have been set up; a sanitary Committee to deal with medical questions such as sifting the cases of internees applying for examination by the Mixed (International) Medical Commission, a sports and recreations Committee, a house and food Committee, etc..

Religious questions are not forgotten, Protestants having a Swiss clergyman, Pastor Widmer and Catholics several priests all talking Italian.

July 4th.

Another air-raid during the morning ; voluntary helpers all plucky and in spite of the guns firing quite close to us, I had to go round asking them to keep away from the windows owing to the danger of glass breakage.

July 5th.

Frank de Rougemont, retired Manager of the National Bank of Egypt, called, on the suggestion of Kamel, asking for the free use by the British Red Cross of the premises which my brother and I had offered the Egyptian Red Crescent. Delighted to grant his request !

©

Vaucher has sent me my credentials to Baker Pasha Commandant Alexandria City Police; translated they read as follows :

Cairo, July 5th. 1940

21 Avenue Fouad I

«His Excellency the Commandant of Police

» Alexandria.

«Excellency,

«I have the honour to inform you that Count
» Patrice de Zogheb, a Danish subject, has kindly
» accepted to be the Alexandria Correspondent of
» the Delegation of the International Committee of
» the Red Cross for the Near East.

«Monsieur de Zogheb is the Director of our
» Office at No. 18, Fouad I Street, where messages

» and requests for news, addressed in Europe, through
» the International Committee in Geneva, are prepared.

« He has, further, kindly accepted to deal with
» questions connected with prisoners of war and
» civil internees in Alexandria.

» I should feel very much obliged to your
» Excellency for kindly granting him all facilities to
» enable him to fulfil his mission.

« Please accept, Excellency, with my anticipated
» thanks, the assurance of my highest esteem.

(s) G. Vaucher

Baker is a retired Colonel who after serving with distinction in the Great War, has managed to fit into the cosmopolitan life of Alexandria with great tact. He is assisted by a pleasant wife as popular as himself.

July 7th.

Air Raid at 20⁴⁰

July 8th.

Red Crescent Flag Day, yesterday and to-day, organized by its "Comité d'Activités Sociales", composed of

Madame Ahmed Kamel Pasha, (President);

Mesdames :

Th. Barthas

Daniel Gaudin (Treasurer)

P. Griparis

Th. Karam

E. T. Peel

Fahmy Bey Wissa

Messrs.

Anthony Carr, (Secretary)

Hassan Bey Kamel

Gaston Zananiri

Count Patrice de Zogheb

Anthony Carr is a most energetic Secretary who manages to combine his activities of Hellenic Press Attaché with those of Director of the Hellenic Press and Tourist Bureau. A journalist of talent he has travelled a lot having been born in Constantinople. He has lived in America for many years and knows India well; full of original ideas.

Flag Day is a success; we collect over L.E. 1500, a big effort for a city like Alexandria which has been very hard hit financially.-

②

Our Estate Office received a letter from the Red Crescent, thanking my brother and myself for our offer of premises in our family house.-

②

Article 69 of the Convention of the 27th July 1929, laying down the status of Prisoners of War, provides for the appointment of Medical Commissions of Mixed Nationalities. One doctor must belong to the Power detaining the prisoners, and the other two to a neutral Power. The Egyptian Government has appointed Professor Petridis, a Hellene as President, with Dr. Escher, a Swiss, and Dr. Mahfouz, an Egyptian. The representative of the C.I.C.R. has, according to art. 70, certain duties in connection with the examination of prisoners by this Commission. To-day we meet at 8 a.m. at the « Scuole Littorie » to examine the German and Italian internees. The Commission finds that X— a German, is very ill indeed, and asks me to see about his immediate admission to the Italian Hospital. At the Governorate, Bimbachi Rickards, a man of few words, acts at once and in spite of red tape, X— is, a few hours later, safe in hospital.-

②

Mme.— a lady of French origin, married to a gentleman with a neutral passport, has offered her services as a voluntary helper with our staff. She has unfortunately been

trumpeting, since some time, strong anti-Italian opinions. How on earth can I employ her in an office which has to do such a lot of work for Italians? I feel Rome or Berlin could, rightly, send in to Geneva a complaint that the Alexandria offices of the C. I. C. R. employs people who have been ventilating hostile views against their nationals. *Our staff whatever they think and feel, must keep their opinions to themselves.*- She appears very huffy though I do not give her the real reason.

⑥

The release of three Italian civil internees of the Jewish persuasion, all over sixty-five, has been obtained.-

⑥

With Kohler, we visit Italian Officers at the Anglo-Swiss Hospital, and N.C. O's with privates at the General Hospital, (ex-Victoria College). All very well treated and thank Heaven there is no bitterness on either side! I arrange with the Head Sister of each ward for comforts (cigarettes, shaving soap, writing paper, pencils, jig-saw puzzles, sweets, etc., etc.) to be sent to her, she being entrusted with their distribution. I confer with the prisoners alone and find they have no objection to this system of distribution. She will ring me up when stock runs short.

Article 12 of the P. of W. Convention lays down that clothing, shoes, and underclothing shall be supplied to prisoners by the Power which is holding them but comforts are not provided for. My modest "Italian Prisoners Fund", *built up from donations specially earmarked* for this purpose, will prove very useful. I have also a large stock of comforts in kind, given to me for the Italian prisoners and arrange with Mme. Kohler of the Swiss Legation and Mme. Burkhardt, also Swiss, to distribute them together.-

July 11th.

Mixed Medical Commission at the «*Scuole Littorie*» for

Italian internees. I am present at the *examination* but the Commission takes its *decisions* «*in camera*» sending up its report directly to Rifaat Pasha, Under-Secretary of the Ministry of the Interior. I think that both the C.I.C.R. and the internee should be entitled to know at once the Commission's findings of which Rifaat Pasha should also advise us. The «*Homme de Confiance*» system is now working quite smoothly; he represents the internees with the Military Authorities and the protecting Power (Sweden for the Germans, and Switzerland for the Italians.) There is a Chief, a Medical Delegate who sifts the work for the Mixed Medical Commission, a Delegate for food and housing questions, one for games, etc. The Housing Delegate points out that considerable confusion is caused by new arrivals during the night in *large* batches who disturb the rest of the whole camp. The Medical Commission and I go to the Governorate and put the application in writing to Jays who, very reasonably, agrees to night arrivals being in *small* batches. Third parties such as the Red Cross and the Mixed Medical Commission are obviously very useful to act as go between the Government and the internees.

July 12th.

Air-Raid at 10 25

July 13th.

The——— an Italian cruiser, is reported to have been sunk. There are many survivors with some seriously wounded or badly burnt through an explosion.-



I write to Kamel asking for comforts for Libyan Moslem Prisoners, now at the «*Scuole Littorie*». I talked with many of them before and after their meal which, I am satisfied, is good and abundant. They are pleased with their food but lack comforts, such as cigarettes which they cannot buy as

they are all very poor. On this point Jays and the Governorate Authorities have been very sympathetic and anxious to help as far as Red Tape can allow.

Air-Raid at 1 35

July 15th.

Wrote to Baron X——, a German internee that Geneva had wired asking news of him. Authorities most kind about getting letter and reply about Baron X—— through at once.-

July 16th.

The Danish Legation which, as a Danish subject, I had advised of my appointment has sent me on behalf of the Minister and Staff a very kind letter of appreciation and congratulation.-

②

Written to a Chief Italian "Homme de Confiance", concerning his request for a piano and other musical instruments for the internees.-

②

Air-Raid at 22 15

July 17th.

Article 16 of the P. of W. Convention provides for Ministers of religion being allowed the free exercise of their ministry among prisoners. Pasteur Widmer, a very charming Swiss Protestant whom I have rung up in this respect, calls on me. He talks German well, but complains about having to apply to the Egyptian Authorities for a pass whenever he wants to visit the camp. I write to Jays, asking for a permanent pass, but anticipate difficulties.-

I think it would be misinterpreted were *Italian priests* to have access to *Italian* P. of W.; I always reply to applications that I am satisfied as to the services of two Catholic Army Chaplains, Father Jerome, (U.S.A. Franciscan) and Father Roach (Canadian) being sufficient. They

were both ordained in Rome and speak Italian well. Mrs. Gaudin, a Catholic, wife of the U. S. A. Vice Consul, had some time ago brought Father Jerome to call on me; I found him kind and sympathetic.-

②

Called on Dr. Alfred Brunner, the Swiss Chargé d'Affaires. He is from Berne and like Kohler, married to a Hellene.-

②

Friendly passage of arms, to-day at Red Crescent meeting, because of somebody saying: « *Not a penny to the International Red Cross; they are helping our enemies* »... I am, happily, in a position to give facts and figures about the help afforded by C.I.C.R. delegates to *Allied* Prisoners in Germany and Italy and the misunderstanding is cleared up satisfactorily.-

②

The principal of a French College wants to send off a Red Cross message to France. The poor chap is terribly upset; I have to explain word by word what he has to fill in, where to sign etc., just as if he were one of the illiterates who invade this office daily!

July 18th.

Just written to Major Alwyn Barker, as follows:

« I again saw the Italian wounded in the General
« Hospital yesterday and was astounded at the
« satisfactory progress made by all of them, especially
« the very bad cases of burns. The sisters and
» doctors have done wonderfully, and I am taking
» steps to report the whole thing to Geneva.

A few days ago I had been rung up by Cairo to go round, with the Swiss Consulate officials, to visit these wounded. A scene I wish I could forget! A wooden hut, at this time of year, stifling; a batch of men, most of them



Mme Ahmed Pacha Kamel,
President of the
"Comité d'Activités
Sociales" and Vice
President of the Ladies
Committee of the Egyptian
Red Crescent.



Mme Hussein Pacha Sabry, President of the Ladies Committee
of the Egyptian Red Crescent with-on her left-Soliman Bey
Yusri, Vice President of the Alexandria Red Crescent.

badly burnt, some silent, some moaning, some delirious ; a ghastly stench of humanity and medicine . . . To one unused to that kind of horror, the burns were most painful to see ; faces scorched yellow, others bright red ; several of them shrouded in bandages with only holes for eyes mouth and nose ; unable to smoke except through a holder held for them, and, even then, care had to be taken about bandages catching fire. Dr.—— the Italian ship surgeon was not wounded and is now doing magnificent work with his English colleagues who, he told me, are kind and attentive to him. He messes with them and finds all most thoughtful. Asks for clothes and comforts as he lost everything except his life. Thanks to an Italian resident, I can at once supply a shirt trousers and shoes though, strictly speaking, this is incumbent per P. of W. Convention of 1929, on the British authorities who are responsible for food clothing and linen.

July 20th.

People come in here on every available subject. To-day an Englishwoman wants the C.I.C.R. to find her daughter who was last heard of in a convent in Nice. The nuns have emigrated apparently to Spain but what about all the pupils? British Consulate cannot contact Nice and poor lady very worried.

④

Phone message from Major—— ; a new batch of Italian prisoners have come in. For the last batch, he and his brother officers stood the poor chaps a meal of spaghetti and Chianti which, considering there were several hundreds of them, was very generous on the part of British officers. Can I, he asks, for this new batch, supply the spaghetti and Chianti? I have my "Italian P. of W. Fund" made up of donations, specially earmarked for this purpose, so that I can reply affirmatively.-

④

July 21st.

Air-Raid at 9 45 p.m.

July 22nd.

Vith Vaucher, another hectic day at the "Scuole Littorie", interviewing German and Italian internees. One of the silliest cases was arguing for half an hour with an Italian internee who, though very well off, refuses to enter the Italian Hospital as he does not want to pay for his keep there. The Egyptian Government is sending internees to the Egyptian National Hospital which is terribly old-fashioned and inadequate whereas everybody else prefers either the Egyptian "Al Moassat" or the Italian Hospital. The Egyptian Government agrees but in that case, will not pay. I leave the deadlock to Vaucher to grapple with in Cairo.-

I ring up Mme.— with whom I am dining, to tell her that I cannot get away. I finally leave the « Scuole Littorie » at 11 p.m., where I had been since 3 in the afternoon. Mme.— very kindly kept my dinner for me, which I need badly.

July 23rd.

Again « Scuole Littorie ». There are 91 Germans, (2 in hospital), 252 Italians, (15 in hospital) and 20 Libyans, all well. Many hundred more expected shortly.

July 24th.

Medical Commission "Scuole Littorie", at 8 a.m.

⑥

Hardly back at the Office when Prof. Crescenzi, of the Italian Hospital, appears. He would like me to get the British Naval Authorities to allow him to visit the Commander of the "X—" (the Italian cruiser sunk a few days ago) who is dying. He is in a British Hospital ship in harbour and could not be landed owing to serious injuries. C. who is prepared to go there blindfolded, offers his services. In reply, I am requested to thank C. for his kind offer, but the Commander

died this morning. Funeral at the British Military Cemetery. I attend with Kohler, Crescenzi and members of the Swiss Consulate. Everything extremely dignified and impressive, the British Authorities having as usual, done the thing handsomely. Immediately behind the gun lorry bearing the coffin, comes the Commander of the Australian battleship which sank the Italian cruiser. Many members of the Italian Colony, some of them in tears.



Air-Raid at 4 a.m.

July 25th.

8 a. m. Internees medical commission at the Italian Hospital. Passage of arms with the gentleman who, some weeks ago, at Gabbari camp, had tackled me so persistently that I had been obliged to ask him to allow somebody else to get a word in with me. This rankles with him, as also my refusal to discuss with him his legal objections to his being interned by the Egyptian Government, a political question I am not authorized to go into.-



Air-Raid at 4, 15 a.m.

July 26th.

Donations for Italian prisoners in money, cigarettes, books, pencils, etc., keep on pouring in from all sides. Crescenzi sent round some books but I refused to accept from him an autographed copy of a play of Pirandello which would really be wasted in a prisoner's camp. He has been most generous already.

Am writing a personal letter of thanks to everybody sending something.-

July 27th.

As arranged with Mme. Kohler, wife of the Chancellor

of the Swiss Legation and with Mme. Burkhardt-Reinhart, (a prominent member of the Swiss Colony, and a great supporter of the Oxford Group) I go to distribute comforts to Italian prisoners. Both have a pass from the British Military Authorities. While in the Italian Officer's ward, air-raid starts; all the shutters have to be put up owing to flying shrapnell. Hospital next to railway crossing.



A deputation of Italian internees at the « *Scuole Littorie* », asked to be allowed to attend the funeral of Lieut. Barlett, the English assistant of Major Ezzat, who died suddenly of septicemia. They specially stressed their gratitude for his kindness.



Air Raid at 4.30 a. m.

Jul. 28th.

An Italian is delighted because, in a few days, he received from his son, now in Italy, a telegraphic reply to his enquiries. In spite of congestion in Geneva, the fellow has the cheek to want to send another telegram, apparently thinking that he can conduct a weekly correspondence with his son although I had explained that hundreds of people are clamouring for replies to their telegrams, some of which we sent months ago. He expresses his relief at his son being safe and sound in Italy where he has, though an officer, not been called up yet. I suggest that, as he was prepared to put down another £ 2 for a second telegram to his son, he should let me have something, either in cash or in comforts, for my «Italian Prisoners» fund, especially as his own son may be among them some day, He will then be very grateful for anything done in this line... All I get is a «*ci pensero*» («I will think about it»). Nothing more seen or heard of him... Nasty fellow.. Every day Italians, many of them poorly dressed and apparently hard up, come in with

something, in kind or in cash, for their countrymen, but *he* is prepared to spend only for himself.

②

Air raid alert at 9.30

Jul. 29th.

«LOST ! The Apostolic Delegate» !...

His Secretary here this morning, asking us to find Monsignor Testa, who is thought to be in Palestine and with whom they are unable to communicate. I reply that Vaucher will shortly be leaving for Jerusalem but that I see no reason to be anxious on His Excellency's behalf.

②

The Office is working at top pressure. We send up to 200 written messages a day, plus umpteen telegrams, requests for information, mostly on behalf of the Italian Colony, who are all clamouring for news of their relations in Italy. A dear old Italian cook, expressed delight at Mme. Gorra's (1) kindness and, apparently taking us for some commercial undertaking, patted her on the back, saying: «Lei è una brava figliola, le manderò molti clienti...» which, being interpreted, meaneth "You are a good girl, I will send you many clients..." This, with men, women and children queueing outside !-

②

Wrote to Vaucher concerning the German interneess' request to have Dr.— as their regular dentist as they are not satisfied with the present one. Remind him that Lehmann, their foreman or "Homme de Confiance" would like a chiropodist to attend to them.

②

(1) One of my voluntary helpers.

Air-Raid at 10 40

July 30th.

Etienne Combe, the Alexandria Municipal Librarian, called on me at my request, in connection with Red Cross Literature. He is a prominent member of the Swiss Colony, a writer and lecturer of distinction.-

④

Air-Raid alert 18 10

July 31st.

Jays wrote describing as an "ideal arrangement" certain suggestions I made concerning comforts for Libyan Musulmans and the Egyptian Red Crescent. Praise from a man with brains like his is always pleasing... So glad somebody does appreciate our uphill work!

④

Air-Raid Warning at 1 10

Aug. 1st.

Guns start firing at 9 a.m. but no siren!

④

Swiss National Holiday. I telegraph to Dr. Alfred Brunner, the Swiss Chargé d'Affaires, expressing appreciation at my connection with an organization founded by Swiss citizens in a country with which I am so intimately connected.-

④

An excellent article on the C. I. R. C. by J. R. Fiechter appears in the "Journal Suisse d'Egypte et du Proche Orient", of which he is Editor. Fiechter is an active and cultured Swiss, full of energy, and ready to help. Among his many activities is that of President of "L'Atelier" (an association of poets, sculptors and painters). He is also a devoted social worker, one of the founders of the Alexandria "Service

Social" and Senior Professor at the Egyptian Government Schools. His wife does a lot for the Junior Red Crescent.-



Staff more or less recruited. A cousin of mine, Mme. Charles Gorra, is to run the Office under me, assisted by Mme. Edouard Karam who is to specialize in parcels for prisoners, civils internees and all questions connected with the Postal and Customs Authorities. Mme. Alfred Catzeflis is to deal with messages sent through the International Red Cross Office in Geneva, while Mlle. Renée Schemeil is to keep the books and records.

Mme. Touhlzian with Mlles Anna Gorgourati, Caracatsanis, Blanche Psychalinos, Marie-Rose Zananiri (sister-in-law of Vaucher), Jeanne Arcache, Anahide and Eranie Méremedjian : MM. G. Mavridis and S. Xenakis, of the regular staff of the Insurance Company "La Genevoise", are kind enough, despite their duties with the latter, to give us their assistance daily.

I owe too much to all these voluntary helpers without, on their names coming up, expressing to them my grateful thanks.-



Very much struck at the understanding attitude concerning our work shown by Egyptians, especially of the lower classes. They are a kindly folk always open to pity.



I have, since some time, a special register in which trace can be found of every Red Cross message leaving our Offices and also of reply received. Mlle Schemeil in charge of this very dull but indispensable work.



Am trying to get up lectures for internees on non-political subjects and rang up Etienne Combe to get him to repeat for the benefit of the internees, his very excellent lecture on

the town of Alexandria delivered some months ago and which had a great success.

Aug 4th.

I sent up chocolates and cigarettes to the British Hospital Sisters as a token of appreciation for their kindness to the Italian Prisoners of War.

Aug 6th.

Fiechter's article on the C. I. C. R. appeared in "La Réforme".- (1)

Aug 7th.

Air-Raid at 1 a.m.

Aug. 8th.

I am negotiating with the Exchange Control of the National Bank of Egypt, on the question of cash remittances to Allied prisoners in Italy and Germany. The Exchange Control at the Bank is run by H. G. Hallett. Helpful but up against many difficulties owing to the Allied blockade restrictions.-

⊙

Aug. 2nd.

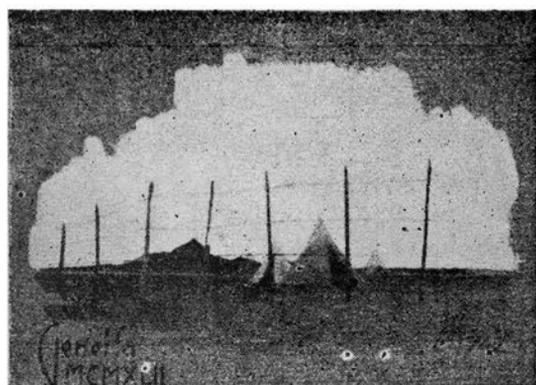
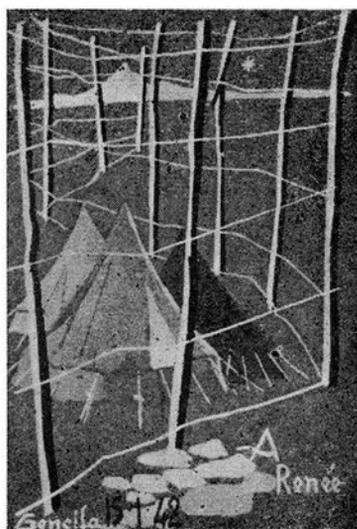
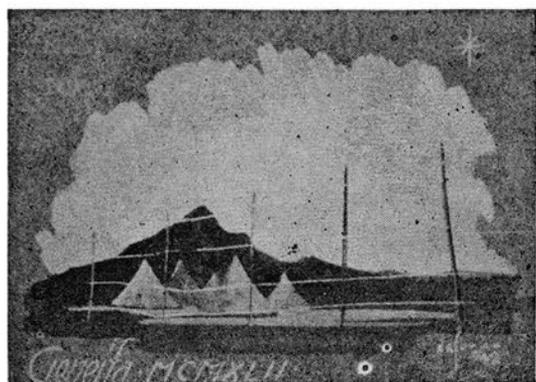
I have had Fiechter's article on the C. I. C. R. translated and published in the "Tachydromos" (2). I also dictated an English translation for the "Egyptian Gazette".-

Aug. 3rd.

Evening performance got up by the Italian internees at the « Scuole Littorie ». A lot of amateur talent. They have formed a band; we listen to extracts from operas, several comic interludes by a Neapolitan hairdresser and applaud an

(1) A local Alexandria paper.

(2) A local Hellenic paper.



Caricature and water colours
by Italian Internees.

Eastern dance by an interneee amusingly got up as a harem beauty. At the end, everybody stands up, the band plays the Egyptian National Anthem, cheers being called for the King of Egypt. This is followed by the Italian "Giovinezza", with a "Saluto al Duce". Finally cheers for the Swiss Consul and the International Red Cross. Truly a «fritto misto»...

Programme reads as follows:

Carro di Tespi Chatby

Compagnia di Varieta

Programma della Spettacole del Sabato 3 Agosto XVIII ore 20,30

Impresa e Direzione Artistica

Nino CONSTANTINO

PARTE PRIMA :

10) INTRODUZIONE MARCIA

20) CHATBY PALACE HOTEL

(Bozzetto comico musicale di M. SPERANI)

PERSONAGGI

INTERPRETI

Il Direttore dell'Albergo M. BEVILACQUA

Il Cliente G. ALICO'

Coro dei Minorenni stagionati e orchestra argentina

30) Duetto dall'Opera "LA FORZA DEL DESTINO"

(Tenore E. LOMBARDO — Baritono A. GUERRA)

40) CAMPANE — Melodia per chitarra hawaiana

(E. SOLARO e G. RAIMONDI)

50) G. NONNARI

(Dicitore dialettale nel suo repertorio)

60) A. CAPRIOLO

(Il Canzoniere Napoletano)

70) AZIZA MENNO FI

(La grande attrazione orientale

Danze esotiche suggestive)

- 80) NON TI SCORDAR DI ME
(LOMBARDO, GUERRA e CORO
Al Piano: M^o C. FRAPPICINI

PARTE SECONDA:

- 10) VALZER MISCELLANEA
(Orchestra Argentina Vagabonda
Adattamento musicale di A. CAPPONI)
- 20) DA PECORA A LEONE
(Bozzetto comico di R. AVELLINO)

PERSONAGGI

INTERPRETI

La vecchia recluta N. CONSTANTINO
Il Capellone E. CASOLARO

- 20) Romanza dalla FANCIULLA DEL WEST
« Ch'ella mi creda . . . » — (Tenore: E. LOMBARDO)
- 40) TORNA A SURRIENTO — (Baritono: A. GUERRA)
- 50) “LA PALOMA” — per chitarra hawaiana
(E. SOLARO e G. RAIMONDI)
- 60) A. CAPRIOLO — (Il Canzoniere Napoletano)
- 70) G. NUNNARI — Dicitore dialettale)
- 80) CANTI DELLA PATRIA
A. GUERRA e CORO

Direttore di Orchestra . . : A. CAPPONI
Primo violino solista . . : R. BORGHESE
Fisarmonica : A GALLO

Since a few days, I have a private unpaid secretary, Heaven be praised, in the person of Mlle. Lucienne Villemin, a Swiss resident. She knows typing, shorthand and English well; as I have no funds to pay a staff, I am deeply grateful to her for her patience under trying conditions. Perpetual flow of enquiries, telephone never stops ringing, and I often have, to be able to dictate in peace, to lock my door.-

Aug. 9th.

Have just learnt of the capture in the Western Desert, while bathing, of an Italian Major whom I knew well some years ago; he was suddenly surrounded and hauled off in *bathing costume*. Most appropriate as he was formerly « *sindaco* » of a wellknown *watering* place in Northern Italy and many residents in Egypt are indebted to him for his efforts in making their stay a pleasant one. He appears to be very popular by the large number of parcels of comforts I am continually receiving for him; wish there were fewer for him and more for the others.

④

A well-known Spanish resident arrives in great distress. His wife and four children have disappeared. They sailed just before Italy entered the war, and were last heard of in Genoa where he had wired a substantial sum of money to their credit with the Spanish Consul there. Poor chap cannot contact either Consul in Italy or anybody in France where he fears they may be stranded. Hardly a C. I. C. R. job, but suggest his Legation wiring Madrid to get the police of all three countries to trace the good lady and her children.-

⑤

Official opening of the Red Crescent Hospital in Alexandria, Rue 1er. Khédivé, at 11 a.m. Speeches by Minister of Public Health, Aly Pasha Ibrahim, one of the most prominent surgeons of the East, and Ahmed Kamel. Aiterwards, we

visit the hospital where, however, a mishap which might have been serious, occurs; about ten or twelve visitors are hospitably invited to enter the hospital lift (never meant to accomodate anything more than a patient, a stretcher and a nurse or two.); the lift collapses, happily however, only dropping two or three metres.



Mme.—— arrives practically in tears. No news of her son, an Egyptian subject who manages a bank in Nice and for whom her vivid imagination has been conjuring up the most atrocious fate. I lecture her and she goes away smiling and comforted. Must some people always see the tragic side of things. (1)

Aug. 12th.

Major Stevens, of the General Hospital, writes asking me to express the Hospital's thanks to X—— an Italian of the Jewish persuasion, for his offer to be put on the list of voluntary blood donors.-



The S/S "Rodi", (which was captured and brought in to Malta, by the British,) had many Italian residents on board, and it is the devil trying to get their relations information. Some are interned at Malta, others in Palestine; some were last heard of going through Egypt, others being allowed to continue their journey to Italy. This means applying to different administrations and commands, all dovetailing one another with other fish to fry than answering my enquiries.-



(1) A few weeks afterwards, she got a wire from her son, viâ Zurich. Nothing had happened to him, and after a few months he landed in Egypt, safe and sound.-

Sent F.———, an Italian internee, copy of a letter to Major Barker in connection with enquiries made in view of tracing his wife and children who were passengers on board the S.S. "Rodi"

④

In the afternoon, three wives of the crew of a submarine rammed by an Italian battleship, are round anxiously inquiring about their relatives on board. Out of 27, 24 have been saved but the suspense for these poor women is awful. We get off a wire to Geneva enquiring asking for the names of these three.

Aug, 13th.

The Sub-Manager of the National Bank and the wife of a British Officer, presumably a prisoner in Italy, comes round about a remittance through Geneva to him and thanks to the arrangements with Hallett and the Exchange Control, we remit £ 5.-

④

Mme. Karam, one of our staff, tells me that the Italian Radio gave the names last night of the survivors of the British submarine including those of some of the wives who came in yesterday. Am therefore advising Vaucher to hold up their telegram to Geneva for a day or two so as to spare them the expense.

④

My suggestion of water melons for Italian wounded in hospital is not possible owing to risk of typhoid. I hear incidentally, that they are tabooed also on board battleships together with fresh milk. A navy man tells me it is all rot and merely an excuse for some Principal Medical Officer to get one back at an Admiral who loves water melons and hates condensed milk!

Aug. 14th.

One of the saddest things I have ever had to do ;

announcing to little Mrs. X—— that her husband about whom she was enquiring before yesterday, is one of the three, out of a crew of 27, who were killed when a British submarine was rammed. The poor thing is here writing one of our Red Cross messages to her husband when the Rev.——, the *Padre* of H.M.S.—— asks to see me. He has with him the names of the three killed and wants me to break the news to Mrs. X—— at once as the names will be given out to-morrow. I ask Mrs. X—— in, and, feeling like nothing on earth, with her two little children playing about, I ramble on about a phone message from Vaucher which is not very clear, but that apparently her husband is missing. We will in due course let her have further information. The poor soul understands at once but bears up magnificently. Padre most helpful and takes her away in his car.-



Ahmed Ezzat, the Commandant of the internee camp, rings up to say that he granted my application for three days leave to S... an Italian internee, for his wife's « *accouchement* » -



I was informed that, henceforth, my visits to civil internees must be authorized by Cairo, that is by the Under Secretary of the Minister of Interior. I hardly see how I can continue my work under such conditions? As however there is some talk of all the internees leaving Alexandria, I will, before acting, await events. Anyway, am advising Vaucher.



Air-Raid at 21 25.

Aug. 16th.

Mrs. X—— of whose husband's death we were notified yesterday, comes round to-day and tells Mme. Karam that she was perhaps unduly pessimistic about her husband's

fate, and that, on thinking it over, she wants to send a Red Cross message to her husband when found! She insists on writing it. Poor soul!

Aug. 17th.

Written to Mrs. Teddy Peel, wife of Colonel E. T. Peel. Regional Director of British Red Cross, as follows :

« Our Office, here, has been very busy with the
» families of the British Submarine “ ” of
» which almost all the crew have been saved and
» are now in Italy. Several of the wives have been
» in touch with me and I have already, with M. Vaucher
» in Cairo, made arrangements for remitting £. 5. a
» month, to every British prisoner whose family can
» afford to do so. You will, no doubt, have heard
» from your husband and from de Rougemont, my
» suggestion about getting the British Red Cross to
» tackle by cable the British Legation in Berne about
» getting our parcels of comforts for British prisoners
» to Italy. (1)

(1) Our “ Colis du Prisonnier ” was, subsequently, to receive the following letter from a British Colonel's wife from Palestine :

« Thank you so much for your letter and the
» receipts. I have just heard from home that the Xmas
» parcel you sent my cousin, arrived at Xmas time,
» and as far as we know, he got *all* of the contents,
» and was delighted. May I bother you again, please,
» to send him two parcels, one now and one in a
» month's time, also one to a friend? My cousin's
» address is slightly altered:

Flight Lieut.———,
No—— Stalag Luft. 1,
Deutschland.

« and my friend's address is :
Lt. Col.———,
No—— Oflag———,
Deutschland.

« On the other hand, I wonder whether it would
» not be useful for the British Red Cross to appeal
» for newspapers, magazines, puzzles, etc., to be sent,
» in some way, viâ Athens or Istambul, to British
» prisoners in Italy? If you think the idea feasible,
» perhaps you will deal with it?

« I am at your disposal to help in any way I
» can for, as you know, we are out to do all we can
» for both sides.

Peel is a well known business man and a keen yachtsman. Both his wife and he are very popular in Alexandria society where they entertain largely. She is a witty and pleasant woman with a «*flair*» for antiques and decoration. Active social helper and excellent organizer.

Aug. 19 th.

I have arranged with Mme. Kohler, Mme. Burckhardt and the Head Sister at the Anglo - Swiss Hospital that all Italian officers — as so far they have no pay — should, on discharge from hospital, receive a parcel containing:

a razor with blade,
a pair of shorts,
a towel,
soap,
a vest,
a tooth-brush,
tooth paste.

« From here one can only send ₣. 120. of food
» in a parcel, so if you can send some thing for me,
» I would be greatly obliged.

« My cousin's mother asks me to thank you very
» much. She is most grateful as he hardly ever gets
» the parcels from her. I enclose a cheque for L.P. 3.

“With many thanks.”

(S.) X—

Aug. 20th.

I have concluded arrangements with the National Bank of Egypt according to which remittances up to £. 5. per month may be sent to each Allied prisoner in Italy, through the C.I.C.R. Payments are to be effected «*per me*» to the National Bank of Egypt which will, in turn, transmit all amounts collected to the C.I.C.R. in Geneva for remittance to Italy.

Aug. 22nd.

More and more perplexed about what is allowed in parcels to Prisoners of War in Italy. Can get no information from Geneva whereas, as early as January 1940, the latter had already circulated German regulations about such parcels.

New head of the British Military Mission to Egypt, is General R.G.W. Stone, M. C., D. S. O., whom, with his delightful wife, I knew well in Rome where he was British Military Attaché. In despair, I write to him asking whether he ever came across any such regulations for future use during war?

Also write to Col. E.T. Peel, British Red Cross Regional Director in Alexandria, on the subject.



Air-Raid at 3 50

Aug. 23rd.

Write to an Italian prisoner at the General hospital suggesting *his* applying to Major Stevens, of that hospital, about remittances he would like to receive from the Argentine where he has funds. Stevens is an active person who talks French and Italian well. Keeps no chairs in his office where he apparently stands all day, callers themselves not being given a seat either. They thus do not feel inclined to stick...

Air-Raid at 2 15 a.m.

Long talk on phone with Heathcote-Smith, British Consul General, concerning possibility of parcels for British prisoners of war in Germany and Italy being sent via Constantinople and Ankara through the British Diplomatic and Consular Authorities.

Aug. 26th

Air Raid at 4. 15 a.m.

Aug. 28th.

General Stone replies regretting can give me no information concerning what parcels for Prisoners of War in Italy may or may not contain.

Air-Raid 4. 28 a.m.

Aug. 31st.

Have had postcards for Italian Prisoners of war printed and sent round to the British Hospital authorities. They can thus fulfil Art 36 of the Prisoners of War convention of 1929 providing for, within a week of his arrival in camp even in case of illness, every prisoner being able to send his family a postcard.



Writing to Vaucher to announce to him that I am no longer to be allowed to visit in hospital Italian Prisoners of War ; henceforth the only people allowed to do so will be the Apostolic Delegate, the Swiss Chargé d'Affaires and Vaucher. As if the latter had not enough work already ! ! !



Emil Cederkreutz, Finland's national sculptor and an

active Red Cross and Social worker whom I have known since my Paris student days, has replied to my letter, sent to him through the British Minister, Gordon Vereker; (an old Cheam and Eton school fellow whom we saw a lot of in the twenties at the British Residency in the Allenby days).

Cederkreutz' letter seems to have come pretty quickly via Russia. He writes :

« Many thanks for your kind letter which I
» received yesterday. It was dated the 20th of February.
» It is unbelievable what a long time the delivery of
» mail takes during war time. I have so far not met
» Mr. Vereker but I received the letter through
» friends of mine who know him.

« We have had a hard peace and much of our
» land has been ceded to the enemy. It was impossible
» to act otherwise. We had run out of ammunition
» and were receiving no assistance. Every eighth
» person is homeless as the eighth part of the population
» has been evacuated from the ceded territory.

« The inhabitants were free to choose whether
» they wanted to remain or to come over on our side.
» Our largest factories, many railway lines, electric
» power stations operated from big waterfalls
» irrespective of great cities, have all remained in
» Russian hands.

» We were obliged to give in as our troops were
» worn out, lacking guns and ammunition. After
» having held their own for three months and a half,
» disaster could not be avoided. 17.000 dead and
» twice as many wounded. The Russians have lost
» a million, between dead and wounded.

« We are busy dealing with the supplies for a
» quarter of a million of homeless people, among
» which are many who were used to riches and

- » luxury previously. Besides this, all our cities are
- » more or less in ruins.



By this time, all Italian internees have left the «*Scuole Littorie*» for Geneiffa on the Suez Canal.

Sept. 1st.

A most successful Racing Day at the Alexandria Sporting Club in favour of the Egyptian Red Crescent. Prince Mehemet Aly, the Heir Presumptive, attended. Goar one of the organizers had a good story about some Australian Tommies invading the Alexandria Zoo, releasing the monkeys and locking in the keepers instead... *Se non e vero e ben trovato!*-

Sept. 4th.

Wrote to Smart, Counsellor at the British Embassy and Chief Oriental Secretary, asking him for photographs (to be sent to Geneva) of the funeral of Capt.——, the Commander of the sunk Italian battleship “———” about whose funeral I stated that “I think that Geneva, and subsequently Rome, should know the courteous and sympathetic attitude of the British Naval Authorities.”-

Sept. 6th.

Glad to have been able to advise the wives of British prisoners of the submarine “———” that one of the men spoke at the Italian Radio, last night. All well and enjoying their bathing at Poveglia near Venice.



Air-Raid at 0 55 a.m.

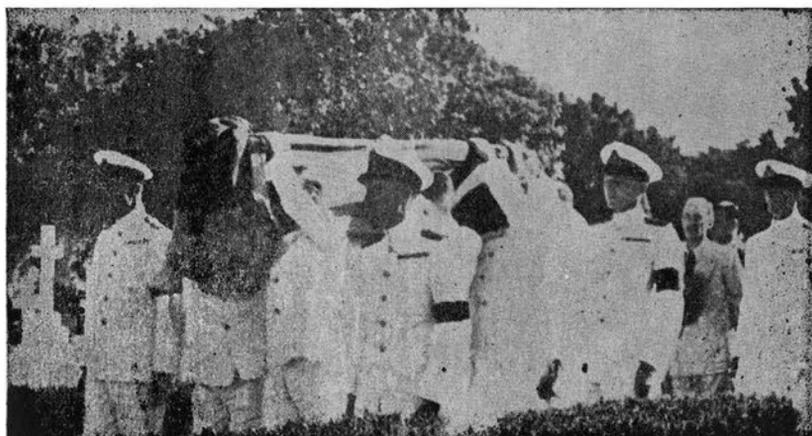
Sept. 7th.

Meeting at the Alexandria Fencing Club to discuss its liquidation. One of the members finds it necessary to air,



The aeroplane near which the Italian Pilot was buried

(Page 134)



British Naval Officers bearing the coffin of the Commander of an Italian Cruiser.

(Page 118)

from the Chair, his political views on the war. I state that I am there as a member to discuss Club questions *only*. Further, my representing in Alexandria an International organization acting for *all* belligerents, excludes, if I am to retain the confidence of *both* sides, my expressing any views whatsoever concerning the war and taking part also in a meeting where members discuss it instead of sticking to agenda business.



We sent off to-day our first batch of parcels for British prisoners in Italy. Egyptian Customs and Postal Authorities did all they could to assist us. Specially helpful were ; Yacoub Bey Saleh, (Director Gen. Alex. P. O.) Aly Bey Bahgat (Director Customs Tarif) Amin Effendi Kamel and Aziz Effendi of the Customs and Parcels Departments. Egyptian Red Crescent very kindly lent us its vans to deliver parcels to Cairo.



Major A. S. Duggan, Camp Commandant at the Italian and German Prisoners of War camp at Geneiffa, Suez Canal, writes thanking me "sincerely for the excellent care you are giving in the matter of comforts and for the nice useful articles" forwarded to him. He asks for the following :

Safety razor blades, urgently needed,
Safety razors, ditto
Tooth brushes, ditto
Tooth paste,
Toilet soap,
Sun glasses, ditto

Adds that he has obtained from the Authorities a full stock of clothing, hair clippers, scissors, etc.; also that a collection of footballs, basket balls, medicine balls, etc., have been received from the Red Cross.



Three Air-Raids: 5 40, 6 and 7 55 a.m.

Sept. 10th.

An Italian Prisoner of War has sent me a very nice letter thanking me for the trouble taken concerning his attempts to obtain a remittance from funds he has in the Argentine.-



Several Italian Officers had drawn my attention to the fact that they had so far not received the pay they are entitled to according to article 23 of the P. of W. Convention of 1929. Major Barker has with his usual punctuality, got the matter dealt with and writes as follows :

«Italian Generals are to receive ₣ 150 - a week (about £ 1 10|-)
 « Colonels and Majors „ „ ₣ 100 - a „ („ £ 1)
 Captains and ranks undr ₣ 50 - a „ („ £ 0 10|-)

As soon as these officers start receiving pay from the British, I shall discontinue our issue of comforts, bought with our "Italian Prisoner of War Fund", to them; I can thus concentrate on helping Italian privates and naval ratings.



Am put to all sorts of jobs. The British Authorities having authorized an Italian prisoner to receive the visit of his wife who is *enceinte*, I am instructed to bring her round to the General Hospital. Do so with the help of a midwife the Italian Hospital gives me, as apparently anything is liable to happen at any moment... Interview lasts two hours. Poor woman sobbing bitterly whole time. Everybody most kind and at the end of the interview she has a fit, assistance being afforded by British and Australian privates. Head sister approves of the husband who is now convalescent; "so useful at washing up dishes and doing odd bits of work"!

Sept. 11th.

Air-Raid at 21 35

Sep. 12th.

Our joint "Propaganda Committee" and "Comité d'Activité Sociale" of the Egyptian Red Crescent got up a bridge party at the Mohamed Club in Alexandria. Baroness Félix de Menasce, Mme. Théodore Karam, Capt. Jack Goar, Charles Schemel, (Editor and owner of "Al Bassir", a well known Arabic daily) Anthony Carr, (Hellenic Press Attaché, who finds time to be the Secretary of the two Committees) worked very hard. The whole thing a roaring success. We obtained a large amount of wines and spirits free from dealers so that we had very little general expenses. Baccarat tables also worked well! The day before the Chairman of the Club, and some prominent members had expressed to their "grave disapproval" of my suggestion to get up this bridge party. They expected a failure in receipts, as had been the case of the bridge party *they* had got up some months before for the Turkish refugees in Asia Minor.-

Many Italians very anxious about their small children who, before the outbreak of war, left for Italy on tours organized by Fascist Juvenile Organizations. I had been obliged to limit the number of International Red Cross messages which parents wanted to send them, owing to the congestion in Geneva. One family, without my knowing it, sent off four messages: father a message to each child, mother ditto. Had the cheek to come round a week afterwards, asking to send another message confirming the preceding four... He insisted, stating « *mia moglie e in pensiero* » (1)

(1) "My wife is anxious".

I suggested the good lady going round to see, at «Scuole Littorie», the crowd of Italian wives, mothers and sisters who, on certain days, are anxiously waiting to be allowed to visit their interned relatives; she will then see what it is to be «*in pensiero*»

Sept. 14th.

Sent Vaucher photographs of funeral, in Alexandria, of Capt.——, Commander of the Italian battleship “——” sunk some time ago, together with a letter to Commander’s family, stating, that «the funeral was very dignified and all honours were rendered by the British Naval Authorities to the remains of this gallant Officer . . .»

Air-Raid at 12 a.m. ⑥

Sept. 16th.

Air-Raid 3 10 a.m.

Sept. 17th.

Chargé d’Affaires of the United States of Brazil who, on several occasions, asked for information about Italian prisoners, writes: “to offer my thanks for the precise information you have given me so promptly and which is the result of the perfect organization of the office under your control”.-

Air-Raid 21 20 ⑦

Sept. 20th.

The news of my mother’s death was broken to me yesterday in a most kind and thoughtful manner. I wonder whether I was as tactful with little Mrs. X when breaking to her the news of her husband’s fate.? Last time she wrote, my mother said my brother-in-law, Col. de Saint-Vincent of the French Army, was missing. She seemed

terribly anxious; enquiries with the Intern. Red Cross in Geneva, so far, abortive. How I wish the poor soul had been spared this last anxiety...

Went to the Red Cross as usual, where all my voluntary helpers were most sympathetic: I deeply appreciate their attitude.



A well-known journalist and polemist called at the Office to interview me on the C.I.C.R. work. I refer him to Vaucher.-



Sept. 21th.

Air-Raid at 4 15

Sept. 22nd.

Air-Raid at 4 20

Cairo, Sept. 25th.

Flew to Cairo and lunched with the Vauchers, being introduced to most of the voluntary helpers of the C. I. C. R. Offices there.-



Dined with General Stone (now head of the British Military Mission to the Egyptian Government) and his pretty wife. He looks absurdly young for his job. Major Burton of the Black Watch who is his Assistant there too. Burton knows the Sudan well on which he has written a small text book with many useful Arabic words for beginners in that language. Mrs. Stone has lost neither her taste in dress nor in house decoration which I admired in Rome. Dinner excellent.-

Sept. 26th. Cairo.

Looked in at the C.I.C.R. to find Mme. Vaucher censoring a letter to a prisoner and gasping... She murmurs: "please

“censor this for me” which I do (1). It is one of the smuttiest letters I have ever read with a limerick which, although no doubt very witty, is really the limit for a woman to send a man. I lunch with the Vauchers and Mme. Vaucher, herself a poetess of distinction (!) quotes the limerick, adding: “Idiot ; qu’est-ce-que ca veut dire?” (2) Vaucher and I look down in our plates trying to look as if we also could not understand such wicked stuff... I suggest it is undignified for the C.I.C.R. to forward pornographic letters to prisoners. Shall I send for the lady who wrote the letter and tell her so? That pleasure is denied me !!!

Alex. Oct. 1st.

This morning I came across an acrimonious political discussion between one of our voluntary workers and a caller at the office. I tactfully convey that under no conditions must politics or the war be discussed here. If people of rival nationalities, brushing up against one another, start arguing among themselves, what is meant to be a haven of neutrality will no longer remain so.



Continuing my preparations for setting up an organization of parcels of food and clothing for Prisoners of War of all nationalities. Stenuit, Belgian Judge to the Mixed International Courts in Egypt, came to call with valuable information. Was a prisoner in Germany during the last war for several years in a camp where there were over 25.000 prisoners. Insists on how much parcels were appreciated by prisoners in last war who, without them, would have fared

(1) The C.I.C.R. accept letters to prisoners for transmission *via* Geneva but they naturally must know what they contain so that censorship by us is necessary.

(2) “Idiotic; what does it mean?”.

very badly. Urges us to persevere in our efforts; I ask him, when in Cairo, to call on Vaucher. Will send me a memorandum on the question.

Oct. 2nd.

My sister has now received from an N.C.O. an extremely moving letter confirming that her husband, Colonel de Saint-Vincent, died of wounds. I feel it my duty to his memory to record, in my Diary, the circumstances of his death which resulted in his being mentioned in French Army despatches. I can do no better than to quote *verbatim*, in French, extracts of the letter to which a translation fails to do justice:

« Si ceci peut être une légère atténuation à votre
» douleur, sachez, Madame, que nous avons fait une
» prise d'armes, à l'occasion de la mort de votre
» mari, dans les bois de l'Argonne, sous la mitraille,
» prise d'armes au cours de laquelle la citation
» suivante a été faite :

“ Colonel de Saint-Vincent ”

« Mort des suites de ses blessures ; blessé
« alors qu'il commandait son unité ; a refusé
« d'être évacué, a tenu son poste de
« commandement jusqu' à l'extrême limite de
« ses forces.

« Cité à l'ordre du jour de l'Armée.

« Cela m'est un plaisir personnel que de vous
» dire, Madame, que le Colonel était toujours le
» premier avec ses hommes, n'hésitant pas à montrer
» l'exemple lui-même, impassible et fier sous les dures
» rafales de mitraille. Sa mort a été accueillie avec
» étonnement, regret et douleur, par tous les hommes
» de son unité.

A very gallant gentleman!

Oct. 3rd.

A few days ago, I received a somewhat pessimistic document from a European financier in Cairo (in charge of an important business), concerning my scheme for parcels for prisoners. He appears to be against it, not only because of the rise of the cost of living but also, because of the "high postal and custom duties". This pessimistic gentleman is talking, or rather writing, through his hat because prisoners' parcels are, according to the International Convention of 1929, specially exempted from such dues. He suggests laying in stocks of food stuffs in neutral countries near the countries where the parcels are to be delivered. Switzerland is the only country fulfilling these conditions and, with the Allied blockade and the Axis counter-blockade, is in no position to export anything. His document is a good example of a cold water douche by somebody who knows nothing about his subject!

Oct. 4th.

Write to Vaucher that :

1. the National Bank has informed me verbally that the £ 5 monthly remittances to prisoners (which I had obtained last August) will no longer be authorized; in future, only parcels can be sent.
2. the question of parcels is more and more important and we should concentrate on it.

Oct. 8th.

E. G. Payne, of the P. of W. Bureau of the War Organization of the British Red Cross in the Middle East, writes to me:

« In reply to your letter of October 3rd. on the
» subject of parcels to Prisoners of War in Germany
» and Italy, I send you the following summary of

» what is being done by the British Red Cross War
» Organization in London in this matter:

« Food, soap, tobacco and cigarettes to a value
» of about ten shillings a week are sent regularly by
» the War Organization to every P. of W. in Germany.

« Parcels containing clothing are also sent, at the
» expense of the Organization, to prisoners whose
» relatives cannot bear the cost of purchasing these
» articles.

« Further, books on special subjects of study are
» sent to any prisoners who may have expressed
» desire for them.

« Finally, every month, the War Organization
» despatches to the Senior Officer of each Camp a
» consignment of drugs, bandages, lint, etc, and
» invalid comforts.

« I regret that I cannot give you the number of
» parcels sent under the above arrangements.

« A scheme on the above lines is under
» consideration here for the benefit of the British
» prisoners taken on the African fronts and interned
» in Italian territory; meanwhile I should be interested
» to have details of any scheme which you may
» have in mind.



Cairo Oct. 9th.

Went up to Cairo with Anthony Carr, Hellenic Press Attaché and joint Secretary of the Propaganda and Social Activities of the Alexandria Red Crescent. We call together on Omar Bey Sirry, late Egyptian Minister in Athens and now Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Acts for the Minister as the latter is Hassan Pacha Sabry, who is also Prime Minister and too busy for the routine work of

foreign affairs. Diplomat of the old school, Omar Bey is charming to deal with.

Oct. 10 th.

Was received in audience by the Prime Minister, Hassan Pasha Sabry. A sick man who attended with great difficulty to my business. (1)

Alex. Oct. 12th.

Ring up Group Captain Cull, D.S.O., of the Air Force, transmitting a request from a Mrs. X—— of Rhodesia that her son's pay, now a P. of W. in Italy, be sent to him. I draw his attention to article 23 of the P. of W. Convention, entitling Officers to receive, from the country detaining them, the same pay as its own Officers of corresponding rank. Cull was C.O. at Abukir in 1933, and, after retiring, stayed on in Alexandria where he and his charming wife have many friends. He was been called up at the outbreak of war and is popular as ever.

Have been enabled, thanks to our Committee of Social Activities of the Egyptian Red Crescent, to forward a certain amount of comforts to the Libyan Musulman Prisoners of War; Mme. Kamel Pasha, our President, and her helpers were very generous.-

Oct. 16th.

Air-Raid at 034 a.m.

Oct. 20th.

I have received the following letter from Captain———, Commanding a British Submarine Flottilla:

(1) He was a few weeks later, to drop dead, at the opening of Parliament, while reading the speech from the Throne.

« Your letter of 12th. September regarding the
» sending of presents of money and clothing to the
» survivors of H.M.S.—— has been forwarded to
» me by Rear-Admiral——

« In expressing my sincere gratitude to the
» Comité International and in particular to its
» representatives in the Near East, I need hardly say
» that I speak on behalf of all the Officers and men
» in His Majesty's submarines under my command.

» At a time when intense and unbalanced
» nationalism dominates the political scene and
» threatens the common aspirations of all civilized
» people towards a broad and friendly internationalism,
» it is profoundly reassuring to know that an
» organization can exist and flourish which is limited
» by no political frontiers but dedicates itself solely
» to the amelioration of suffering and the mitigation
» of hardships of modern war.

Does my European colleague of the Egyptian Red
Crescent Committee call that “working for our enemies”?-

②

Air-Raid 20 5

Oct. 21st.

Air-Raid 2 15 a.m.

②

Stenuit, the Belgian Judge, an ex 1914-1918 Prisoners of
War, has sent me a complete and interesting memorandum
on his experiences in a German camp from which I extract
the following:

« In each camp there was a “Kartothek”, or index-card
« filing system, concerning every prisoner. Day by day, the
« chief of a prisoners' hut advised the “Kartothek” as to

« movements of prisoners such as departures, transfers to
« other camps, admissions to hospital, etc. The “Kartothek”
« furnished the Geneva P. of W. Central Agency with the
« latest information thus avoiding delay in transmission of
« parcels and correspondence. There was an organization
« called “La Caissetté du Soldat Prisonnier” to which the
« public could apply for parcels to prisoners. Geneva, in
« those days, supplied standard types of parcels for prisoners
« which were cleverly thought out. Every large prisoners
« camp had a Mutual Assistance Office which received
« parcels from P. of W. Rescue Societies; they distributed
« these parcels to needy prisoners and supplied, also, information
« to anybody wishing to adopt a prisoner. Prisoners were
« not allowed to have German, or foreign money, in their
« possession being obliged, to prevent chances of escape,
« to hand it over to the camp authorities who delivered to
« them paper money for use in the camp only. »



Our system, for forwarding to Cairo letters to P. of W
in Italy and Germany, is now working very well thanks to
the accuracy and care taken by Mlle Villemin who acts as
my private Secretary. Every letter is registered and after
censorship by us, forwarded to Vaucher for transmission *viâ*
Geneva. I recommend typing letters which should be as
short as possible.



General (1) and Mrs. Stone, Major Burton, and a Madame
Montessier (Swede married to a French Officer) dined with
me at Pastroudis' Restaurant. I had asked several people to
meet them including Major and Mrs. Alwyn Barker, Jays Bey
and the Constantin Salvagos. Dinner remarkably good.



Long letter from Vaucher concerning parcels for prisoners,
in which he says :

(1) Head of British Mission to the Egyptian Government.



An Italian officer being treated
at the Anglo Swiss Hospital in Alexandria.

(Page 85)



Italian Prisoners in Greece drawing their rations

(Page 85)

« As far as parcels remitted by families are
» concerned, I think it necessary to repeat that it
» does not come within the scope of the Delegate
» of the C. I. C. R. to deal with their sending. We
» have neither the time nor the financial means to
» substitute ourselves to private individuals in
» applications they must make to the Post Office,
» the Customs Administration and, eventually, the
» Censorship.

« The C. I. C. R. does not do it in any country.
» We can only apply to the Authorities to simplify
» administrative formalities so as to help the prisoners'
» families. We have done so in Cairo and trust you
» can in Alexandria.

« If a working organization for prisoners parcels
» is to be set up, the British Red Cross should be
» the first to deal with the matter. If the Egyptian
» Red Crescent wishes to do so, it would also be
» very satisfactory.

Not if I know it! We shall stick to our guns and set up
the organization ourselves !

Oct. 22nd.

Our parcel scheme for prisoners has started working
very well and we sent off to-day a batch for Polish prisoners
in Germany, each parcel costing about £ 1, and not exceeding
5 kilogs. Hagop Topalian, Managing Director and part owner
of the Moharrem Press Company, very generously made us
a present of several hundreds of cardboard boxes for packing.
(1)

Ⓜ

(1) Topalian served as a private in the British Army on
the French front during the last war.

Air-Raid at 3 10 a.m.

Oct. 23rd.

Write to Vaucher that as it is not the job of the Delegate of the C.I.C.R. to found an organization for prisoners' parcels, I suggest the following :

- 1 My staff of voluntary helpers and I are *not* prepared to waive our rights to such magnificent work in favour of the British Red Cross, the Egyptian Red Crescent, or in fact of anybody who will do it no better than we will.
- 2 Our organization to be financially autonomous, profits if any, being on liquidation, donated to the International Committee.

Vaucher agrees, but prefers not to give us, in this preliminary and experimental stage, the official patronage of the Delegate to the Near East of the C.I.C.R. (1). In other words, if we fail, the C.I.C.R. will disown us!

However, with his concurrence and assistance, those responsible with me for our Alexandria C. I. C. R. Offices, and more especially Mme. Pierrette Gorra, Lily Karam, Alfred Catzeflis, Renée Schemeil and Lucienne Villemin, are founding "Le Colis du Prisonnier". It will be a self supporting charitable organization, independent of the International Committee in Geneva, for supplying parcels of comforts to P. of W's and Civil Internees (2) of all nationalities.

(1) The subsequent attitude of the C.I.C.R., more than a year afterwards, when confronted with the success of our "Colis du Prisonnier", is expressed by a letter written to Mme. Gorra on January 21st. 1942 by Mlle. Marthe Hentsch, one of the Geneva Delegates, who wrote as follows :

- « We insist, on behalf of our Delegation, on
- » congratulating you on the magnificent work which
- » you and your helpers have achieved concerning

Oct. 24th.

Air-Raid at 3 15 a.m.

Oct. 25th.

Had a visit from the Rev.—, an Anglican clergyman living in Alexandria who is at his wit's end about his son-in-law, a flying Officer in Libya, missing since some time. We get off a telegram to Geneva, and have a long talk on matters of religion. A very charming person with whom one *can* talk. No trace of bitterness!

②

Air-Raid at 4 10 a.m.

Oct. 27th.

Air-Raid at 22 10

Cairo, Oct. 28th.

Again in Cairo where I find the Ministry of Foreign Affairs all upside down owing to Italy's declaration of war on Greece. More trouble expected here. As for our office in Alex. how can we, in future, enforce my principle of no belligerents among our C. I. C. R. voluntary helpers? Some of my best elements are Hellenic subjects!

Oct. 29th.

X— calls about proposed remittances from Egypt to

-
- » the organization of the "Colis du Prisonnier" and
 - » we wish to thank you for your devotion in this
 - » work which goes towards lessening the hardships
 - » of Prisoners of War.

Such is life!

(2) We eventually had to give up supplying to Civil Internees.

an occupied country for a member of an Alexandria family of plutocrats. Can these remittances be made through the International Committee of the Red Cross? I explain that, since September, a scheme of £ 10 per head and per month is on foot about which negotiations with the Authorities are proceeding arduously. X—— replies that hitherto he used to remit monthly to this member of the family £ 500 so that the suggested £ 10 a month can be of little interest to him ;

Alex. Oct. 31st.

An advisory Committee on Italians to be released from internment has been set up in England with Sir Percy Loraine, ex-British Ambassador in Rome and late High Commissioner in Egypt as Chairman. Wish something of the kind could be set up here where the rule is, more or less, the following :

- a) On principle, all male Italians from about 18 to 45 years of age, to be interned.
- b) Jews and Moslem Libyans as well as Dodecanesians, to be exempted. However certain Italians, Jews, Moslem and even Italian women, irrespective of age, may be interned if the Authorities think fit.

Nov. 4th.

Sent Vaucher a copy of the letter of thanks to me from the Commander of the British Submarine Flottilla, drawing his attention to the fact that the British Navy evidently appreciates one of the several initiatives which I have taken and upon which he rather looked askance as, in his opinion, they were not within the scope of my duties!-

Nov. 8th.

②

Air-Raid at 1955

Nov. 9th.

Bridge-tea at the Hellenic Club for the Hellenic Red Cross. Tremendous success.-

Nov. 9th.

Air-Raid at 19 20

Nov. 10th.

Air-Raid at 22 20

Nov. 11th.

Air-Raid at 20 50

Nov. 12th.

Air-Raid at 22 20

Nov. 13th.

Air-Raid at 18 55

Nov. 14th.

Air-Raid at 15 15

Nov. 15th:

Greatly moved by all my voluntary helpers spontaneously turning up at a Requiem Mass for my Mother, which took place at the Russian Greek Orthodox Refugee Chapel. Most thoughtful of them. Singing magnificent. What a pity that those refugees, remnants of the Denikine and Wrangel anti-Bolshevist armies of 1920, evacuated from the Crimea by the British Government, should gradually be losing their singing traditions owing to the old people who knew Russia and its music, dying out . . . Our 1920 and 1921 Russian Refugee Committee (organized by Celia, Lady Congreve, wife of the G. O. C. British Troops in Egypt) which had the especial and vigorous backing of Winston Churchill, paid special attention to the musical side which enabled the refugees to give some very beautiful concerts of Russian music.

Air-Raid at 05 a.m.

Nov. 16th.

Air-Raid at 20 30

Nov. 17th.

Air-Raid at 0 20

Cairo Nov. 18th.

Up in Cairo to see Hassan Pacha Rifaat, Under Secretary of State to the Ministry of the Interior in charge of Civilian internment questions. He has the old world dignity and courtesy of the Turkish aristocrat.

Alex. Air-Raid at 10 a.m.

Alex. Nov. 19th.

Air-Raid at 0 15 a.m.

Alex. Nov. 20th.

Air-Raid at 2 20 a.m.

Nov. 21st.

Mme. de Schouleete de Tervaerent, wife of the Belgian Minister to Egypt, writes to me that her brother, a prisoner in Germany, received in September the 15 parcels which she sent him from Cairo in, or about, the 18th or 20th of August. He asks for books. All the French Classics are allowed, including the works of Charles Peguy, the French Catholic and nationalist poet killed in Sept. 1914.

Nov. 22nd.

When in Cairo, I had occasion to study carefully the card index system for Prisoner of War and internees which Vaucher has now started. As soon as the C. I. C. R. receive a list of P. of W., a card is filled up for each one with all the necessary details ; very easy to trace anybody one is looking for.

Nov. 23rd.

Since a few days, I have the assistance of a second secretary in the person of Mlle. Lotty Gasche, daughter of a prominent Swiss factory manager here. Rather wonderful to

see girls with looks, money and youth helping me in this dull grind.

②

Once more from Mme. de Schouteete :

« I am writing again to tell you that, yesterday,
» I received a letter from my brother saying that, on
» the 15th of October, he received 12 parcels from
» Cairo, which means 60 kilogs of food, all at a
» time and that he got the most serious indigestion
» of his life . . . I am very glad ; here, at last, is
» absolutely true evidence for those who do not
» believe in parcels being delivered.

②

Nov. 24th.

Air-Raid at 4 25 a.m.

Nov. 27th.

Vaucher delivered a very successful lecture on the C. I. C. R. at "l'Atelier". in Alexandria, The latter is an artists' club under a very energetic President, Prof. J. R. Fiechter, a prominent member of the Swiss Colony and the Editor of the "Journal Suisse d'Egypte et du Proche Orient". Lecture well attended, the Commander in Chief Mediterranean Station being represented by an Officer whom, because of his excellent accent, I took for a Frenchman.

Vaucher who speaks well, read out a letter from General Lastrucci, on behalf of the Italian Prisoners of War, expressing his thanks to the C.I.C.R., together with the letter the British Commander of the Submarine Flottilla wrote me thanking us for our work for British P. of W. in Italy. He finished up with an extract of a letter to himself from a British Army Chaplain :

« I am sending you some medals found on
» October 31st on the body of an Italian aviator.

» One of our chaplains sent them to us, and this is
 » what he writes :

« I buried him, and here are the medals he was
 » wearing. Will it be possible to find his mother's
 » address and send them to her? Tell her that
 » his death must have been instantaneous and without
 » suffering. I buried him on the 1st of November in
 » a grave near where his plane was brought down.
 » I said Mass the next day, Nov. 2nd, for the repose
 » of his soul ; I hope these details will go towards
 » relieving her grief.

②

Vaucher has sent me the following model of the postcards to be handed out to each Italian P. of W. on arrival. The postcard reads as follows :

<u>PRISONER OF WAR</u>		<u>Postage Free</u> Franco di Bollo
Nome		Sig.
Cognome		
No Matr.		
Grado		
Unità		
Data e luogo di nascita		
Nome { Padre :		aux soins du Dr. Georges VAUCHER Délégué du COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL de la CROIX ROUGE 21, Avenue Fouad 1er. LE CAIRE
madre :		
Indirizzo del Internato : Italian Prisoners of War Camp Egypt.		

A great improvement on the original type of postcard I had printed because it will ;

a) enable the British Authorities to comply with Article 36 of the Prisoners of War Convention of 1929 according



Voluntary workers at the "Colis du Prisonnier"
(Page 51)



International
Red Cross
vans with parcels
for Prisoners.
(Page 54)

to which they must supply every prisoner, within a week of arrival, with a postcard to give his family news of himself.

- b) greatly help the C.I.C.R. in their Prisoners index card system.

Nov. 28th.

A correspondent from Upper Egypt writes to ask particulars as to parcels for P. of W., and what hope there is of the prisoner receiving them? Mme. de Schouteete's letters appear to be the best reply. We still, however, have to fight against the bargaining tactics of the general public. After making up a parcel for an elderly couple, the lady asks Mlle Schemeil to be allowed to pay in *small* piastres; (1) that means reducing cost of 80 piastres (some 16 shillings) by half. She refuses sternly, so the old gentleman ogles, leers and says. «Won't you do this as a special favour *for me?*» He is old, bald, toothless and squints... but appears astonished at her remaining adamant!

Nov. 29th.

Write to-day to the Deputy Chief Censor, Capt. Moss, thanking him and his staff for their unfailing courtesy and sympathy shown to us all in the censoring of our parcels for P. of W. I add that it was only thanks to their rapid organization that our parcels which caught the boat at Beyrouth, were able to leave. Gordon Moss is a member of an old Anglo-Egyptian family which, I understand, is connected since several generations with Egypt where their family enjoys great esteem.

We often have to deal with one of his assistants, George

(1) The Egyptian «piastre tarif» is made up of two *small* (or *half*) piastres.

Marshall who, in spite of being very busy, is always most courteous and obliging to our lady helpers. The latter have now the assistance of Hugo Horwitz, a Swiss married to a cousin of mine, who, very kindly, calls on certain days with his car to assist in disposing of batches of parcels.

④

A letter from a P. of W :

« Forgive me if I have not written for several
» months. I am neither dead nor wounded in
» spite of shells and bullets; my tunic, trousers,
» and boots torn to shreds. Captured in the
» Somme and marched through France, Belgium
» and Holland, I often dropped out while
» marching with many of my pals who never
» got up again. After a month in a camp I got
» thinner and thinner; I then spent three months
» on a farm with some Poles, where, at any
» rate, I did have something to eat! Since
» yesterday, I have become a labourer and,
» with a squad of thirty Bretons, am breaking
» stones on the road-side. I might write a whole
» book on my tragic and sometimes comical
» adventures.»

④

Dec. 8th.

Since several days, an ald «*beau*» invades our offices and, under the pretext of some cock and bull story concerning a ten piastres message to his grandmother in Timbuctoo, monopolizes one of my most charming and efficient voluntary helpers. After 45 minutes on the third day, she kicks so that I suggest her touching him on a donation to the C. I. G . R. His temperature drops at once and he withdraws, somewhat crestfallen, after leaving a P. 10. (2)-) donation on the table !

Air Raid 23 25

Dec. 10th.

Frederie Knobel (who, though a diplomat, with the rank of Counsellor of Embassy, is in charge of the French Consulate General), needs for himself, his staff and charitable organizations (assisted by the French Government) from £. 800 to £. 1000 a month. On the other hand, applications in Alexandria by private persons for monthly £. 10 remittances through the C.I.C.R. in Geneva to persons in France, total about one hundred. I wonder whether it could not be possible for the Egyptian and British Authorities to come to an agreement with the French Government through the intermediary of the C.I.C.R. in view of setting up some sort of clearing arrangement? Applicants would pay to us and we to Knobel while the French Government would pay to the addressees the corresponding amount we received from applicants here. I submit the scheme to Vaucher, pointing out at the same time the pros and cons, including the difficulty of rate of exchange. Since August, we have been receiving applications for these remittances to enemy countries on behalf of people who must be literally starving and the Governments have not been able to come to any agreement on the subject. How would *they* like to find themselves cut off, from one day to another, with no means of subsistence?

②

Air-Raid starts at 21 45

Dec. 12th.

From a Russian, married to an Englishman, I get details about a Polish friend of hers who has been deported to Russia and *interned* on a farm. This may make it possible for the lady to count as a civil internee and, as such, to

receive parcels. She is suffering from malaria. Now, after the Egyptian Authorities have very kindly given me the necessary permit for exporting quinine to her, Vaucher writes that I must send the parcel *personally*. The C.I.C.R. can concern itself with parcels for P. of W. only; the «Colis du Prisonnier» remitting to that type of person may eventually lead to its position being misinterpreted. So all my trouble with the Egyptian Authorities has been wasted. Well!!! «Orders is orders.».

④

Vice Admiral R. Godefroy, commanding the French Naval Forces in Alexandria, writes to me as follows:

« In returning you the letters not handed to
» addresses having left Force «X», I must thank you
» for the devotion with which you assisted the naval
» ratings belonging to the latter.

» The steps you have taken have had a very
» favourable result with crews of the French ships
» in Alexandria and have proved, once more, to
» everybody the help and alleviation of suffering
» unflinchingly afforded by the Red Cross in the
» troubled times we are living in.»

⑤

Dec. 13th.

Geneva is following very carefully the position of French prisoners in German hands. As an example, I quote the following communiqué of September 3rd 1940, No. 63, sent to Vaucher by the C.I.C.R.

« Dr. Marcel Junod, the C.I.C.R. Delegate, has
» just been visiting occupied France. He was received
» by General-hauptquartiermeister Wagner and by
» Generalfuehrer Buss, representative of the German
» Red Cross in occupied France. He discussed with
» the occupation authorities the position of prisoners

» of war interned in France and more especially the
» question of correspondence with their families, the
» notification of their final internment and the visits
» to them by Delegates of the C.I.C.R.

«Dr. Junod has already visited different temporary
» depots for French prisoners and a hospital in
» Northern France where British and French prisoners
» are concentrated.

«He has been received by Professor Valery
» Radot, the new President of the French Red Cross,
» with whom he discussed comforts for prisoners
» of war. He has also been in touch in Paris with
» M. Pierre Caron, Director of the «Centre National
» d'Information pour les Prisonniers de Guerre», the
» offices of which are now at the «Archives
» Nationales» under the direction of M. Caron.

« He visited two railway relief stations opened
» by the German Red Cross where refugees returning
» to Belgium and North of France are cared for.

« Dr. Junod has completed, with the German
» occupation authorities and the French Postal
» Services, a scheme for the regular forwarding of
» mails concerning prisoners of war and their
» families, between the C.I.C.R. in Geneva and
» occupied France.



A member of the Polish Forces, serving with the British Army, called to-day to ask for a copy in French of the P. of W. Convention of July 27th 1929 for placarding it up in an Italian P. of W. camp of which he is in charge. According to art. 84 of this convention, P. of W. are to be able to refer to the text in their own language and the Poles will have it translated in Italian.



Since some time, owing to the British offensive in Libya, Italian prisoners are pouring in. Charitable organizations are absolutely swamped and the British Authorities at Moustapha Barracks are at their wit's end at this sudden inrush. They have suggested that, instead of members of the Italian Colony and others sending donations to Barracks, such donations should be collected by our C.I.C.R. Offices. It will then be up to me to arrange, from time to time, with them for delivery to Moustapha Barracks.

Dec. 14th.

Geneva has wired as follows to Vaucher:

«We are particularly grateful for parcels sent by
» you to British prisoners of war in Libya which
» we could not reach from Geneva stop we are
» transmitting parcels sent from London to British
» prisoners in Italy and Germany but will welcome
» extra parcels sent by Egypt».

This refers to a batch of parcels sent by us, via Beyrouth and Tunis, to British prisoners there, thanks to a French ship from Beyrouth calling at Bizerta. I doubt whether this will be possible very often.

Dec. 15th.

Vaucher writes that two Italian journalists captured in the Western Desert stated that British prisoners in Libya were very comfortable in the premises built for one of the Fascist colonies, but that they did not take kindly to Italian coffee substitutes.



Dec. 19th.

Have been unable, so far, to obtain confirmation of fact that U.S.A. Consulates in France are paying each British subject 10 dollars a month to help them to live. An officiat

announcement would do much to relieve the anxiety of British callers here.



Air-Raid at 2 46 a.m.

An Egyptian, of the Jewish persuasion, calls about a cousin of his, presumably interned in the South of France in a camp. Asks us to make enquiries *via* Geneva and, also, whether there is any possibility of his cousin being treated as a P. of W. so that parcels of comforts and food be sent to him from Egypt?

Dec. 24th.

Had written, some time ago, to the General and to the Anglo-Swiss Hospitals asking them what could be done about Xmas fare for Italian wounded? The reply was that the latter would receive the same Xmas fare as the British including drinks. This leaves me free to use Italian donations, collected in our offices, towards improving the special Xmas dinner the British Authorities at Moustapha are giving Italian prisoners.



Air-Raid starts at 4 45 a.m.

The Chief of Staff of the French Fleet writes as follows :

«I insist on expressing to you, without delay, our
» gratitude for the efficient results of your
» organization which enables members of families
» to be united again, at any rate by correspondence.
» The Red Cross has realized that healing moral
» wounds was as much within its scope as the
» healing of physical ones. Thanks to its powerful
» organization, and to the unfailing generosity of all
» its representatives, the Red Cross is fully qualified
» to succeed in this immense task. We see proofs
» of this every day.»

A Greek gentleman has lost his mother - in - law somewhere in Epirus... All Alexandria, Cairo and the C.I.C.R. in Geneva are to be mobilized to trace her. This is the first experience, in my varied career, of any man ever wanting to *find* his mother in law ! Mme. Karam explains that I have got it all wrong : what he wants is the certainty that the good (or bad?) lady is no more of this world ! !
Je comprends.



Owing to Greece now being a belligerent, Prof. Petrides, a Hellene, has been succeeded, as President of the Mixed Medical International Commission, by Dr Escher, of the Anglo-Swiss Hospital. Escher is an eminent Swiss surgeon with much Vienna experience ; I have had occasion to verify, personally, not only his high medical skill but also his conscientious way of dealing with the internee problem.



There is considerable dissatisfaction, on the part of senders of Red Cross messages to Italy, with the unaccountable delay in receiving replies. All I can say is that *Geneva* is certainly not to blame.



An Italian maid appeared with the object of making a donation of P. T. 10 (about 2 shillings) for Italian prisoners. All the more praiseworthy as she seemed very hard up.

Dec. 26th.

The Egyptian Gazette published, on Xmas Day, an article on the work of the C.I.C.R.



There appears to be a systematic campaign against parcels being sent to Allied prisoners in Germany and Italy, the reason given being that the «prisoners do not receive them». (1) I am anxiously awaiting the return of the first receipts for our parcels which, according to article 37 of the P. of W. Convention, the prisoner is supposed to sign personally. To Mme. X. who, though bemoaning her brother's fate in a prisoner's camp, said that she was not prepared to risk sending a parcel as *perhaps* the enemy might confiscate it. I replied: «It all comes to this: which is greater: your love for your brother or your hatred for the enemy?»



A neutral Legation has been enquiring repeatedly as to the fate of an Italian Officer who is missing since a tank battle. Conduct an exhaustive enquiry among his brother officers in Hospital and collect moving details as to how, during battle, the Officer, now missing, left his own tank, which was put out of action and tried to board another one.

Dec 27 th.

Office, apparently, to be used for any sort of case. A few days ago, Geneva, through Vaucher, enquired into the possibilities of return to Europe of a widow (Christian with passport of European country) together with

(1) See chapter on the «Colis du Prisonnier».

her small daughter (Moslem and, owing to her dual nationality, entitled to two passports, an European and an Egyptian one). The uncle who is the child's guardian, objects to her leaving Egypt and has notified the Egyptian Authorities to this effect. I discuss the matter at length with the mother and her Consulate without managing to get hold of the uncle. Long report to Vaucher for Geneva ; a delicate matter which does not, in my opinion, concern the C.I.C.R.

Dec. 28th.

After using the Swiss and Brazilian Legations, the family of Lieut. X. an Italian Officer (convalescent in Hospital) is now worrying the Vatican about him. I find the lost lamb discussing with a British sister the type of tomato sauce she is to buy him in town, as also the brand of *Spaghetti* he is standing his brother officers. I give all these details, while insisting on the excellent relations between Italian wounded and British hospital staff.



Mrs. X ———, mother in law of an Officer belonging to H.M.S. ——— sunk in the North Sea, «missing, believed killed», comes round with a pathetic story from a survivor who claims that the Officer was seen on the bridge with other Officers who were all subsequently saved. I willingly agree to write to Geneva so that her daughter can, at least, keep on hoping.

It is extraordinary how people cling to the slightest straw. In 1918, I often used to meet Mrs. Parker, Lord Kitchener's sister. She was convinced that her brother was alive, safe and sound, but that his whereabouts could not, as yet, be disclosed «for reasons of public policy».



Aleco Matzas, the Hellenic Vice-Consul, calls to enquire about a British Officer, confessing quite frankly that he has little hope. The Officer's wife is under the illusion that her

husband is safe and well, some other man being buried in France under his name. Once again, I will do all I can in the way of dope...



I bump into an animated discussion between a gentleman from Central Europe and Mme. Catzefflis, who resolutely refuses to countenance his illicit suggestions about food parcels to Poland for civilians who are not interned. I join in, adding icily that the C.I.C.R. cannot allow in its Offices even the academical discusslon of fraudulent methods. Central Europé guffaws rudely in my face, saying that he has practised fraud all his life and that honesty never got anybody anywhere, much less keeping one alive ! He is entirely unabashed by my frozen stare which he meets with a wink. I beat a hasty retreat !

Dec. 31st.

As agreed with British Authorities, I delivered at the P. ot W. Dept. at Moustapha Barracks, several cartloads of comforts for Italian prisoners received from all sides. As at Xmas, the British Authorities have been most generous ; all prisoners, officers as well as privates, to have their New Year's Dinner.



End of a busy year : I am dead beat after working, day after day, through the damp heat of July and August, often staying on late alone at the office. Thanks to my splendid, all unpaid, helpers, the office has been able to exist without asking the C.I.C.R. in Cairo for a penny. I have, further been able, thanks to the generosity of the public, to remit from time to time, quite substantial amounts to Cairo which needs them badly, all this without drawing on my «Italian Prisoners of War Fund» built up with donations specially earmarked for this purpose by their donors.



It is now about three months since Greece entered the war. Conduct of Hellenic members of my staff towards the many Italian callers here, despite their very strong feelings, above reproach. Not one of them has been complained of and I have personally ascertained the patient and sympathetic attitude of my Hellenic helpers towards nationals of a country with which their Government is at war. Last week brought an invasion of Italians who all claim to have heard authoritatively that such and such a relation of theirs was seen by reliable witnesses among the Italian prisoners. Time after time, this has proved to be inaccurate. For instance, X—— came to me with a cock and bull story about his son having been seen in a batch of wounded by a British officer (whom he names). Some time afterwards, he confessed having received from a neutral country a letter to the effect that his son was still waiting to be called up!

My helpers know of this incident ; yet never once have they failed to listen to this type of story, taking the trouble of jotting down carefully all details *qua* enquirer and the Prisoner of War supposed to have been seen. Their patience has been admirable.

1941

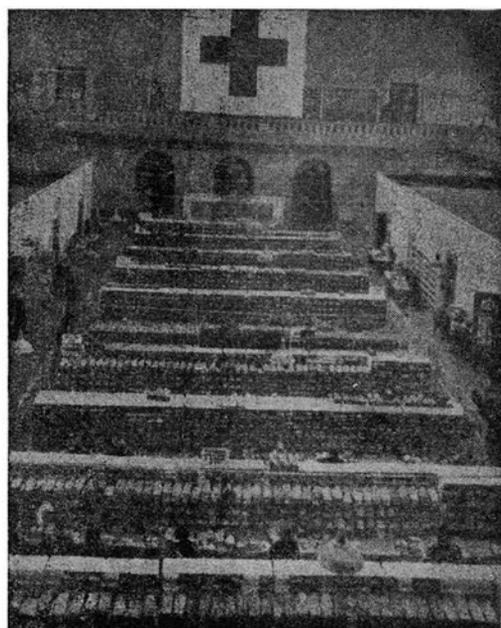
Jan. 1st.

New Year's wishes from Judge Francis M. J. Peter, the Swiss Counsellor of the Mixed Court of Appeal and late representative in Egypt, (before Vaucher) of the C.I.C.R. He has been kind enough, on several occasions, to acknowledge my efforts on behalf of International Red Cross work in Egypt, adding that he is writing to Geneva about us all.



Air-Raid 4 15 a.m.

A French prisoner writes :



A Section of the cards index
at the Central Agency for
Prisoners of War in Geneva.

(Page 17)



Spanish refugees
being assisted
by C.I.C.R.
Delegates.

(Page 17)



C.I.C.R. Messages to enemy countries.

(Page 78)

- ◀ My brother was killed on June 17th and my
- ▶ brother-in-law on the 18th, leaving my sister with
- ▶ four children between the ages of 6 years and 5
- ▶ months. My father's house burnt down. God's
- ▶ will be done and may, at the price of such sacrifices,
- ▶ my country be born again.

Jan. 3rd.

Ellis, (of the Prisoner of War Dept.) asked me, some time ago, to let him have black boards, text-books, pencils, etc., to start courses among the Italian P.O.W. as he is afraid of trouble starting if they are not occupied. Thanks to Father Jerome, the Army Chaplain, I have been able to obtain all the stuff from the Don Bosco Institute.

Jan. 4th.

I send up to Ellis, at Moustapha Barracks, some musical instruments for Italian P.O.W. Ellis is head over heels with work ; merely the censoring of correspondence, is in itself an overwhelming task.

Jan. 5th.

I write to Vaucher pointing out that the excellent article in the Egyptian Gazette of December 27th. on the C.I.C.R. cannot have attracted much attention, since a few days afterwards, an Englishman wrote asking to whom he might send a donation for Italian Prisoners.



The following letter is a good example of exaggerated Naval discretion :

- ◀ I have recently received a letter from a certain
- ▶ naval officer who wishes to obtain news of his
- ▶ mother who is still in the X—— Islands. He states
- ▶ he has placed this matter in your hands and I
- ▶ understand you are making enquiries on his behalf.▶

No names are given and, to cap it all, the signature is illegible. I instruct the Office to reply that we are unable to trace the matter unless we know the names of the enquirer and the enquired-for. He apparently fails to realize that we have hundreds of enquiries, each one indexed, name per name...

A story :

On arrivng in Heaven, X—, a victorious General, is told by St. Peter that he cannot enter on foot. His victories entitle him to enter mounted and St. Peter advises finding himself a horse. X— then meets a fellow General who complains that, after a series of defeats, he was booted out of Heaven ; might he take X— on his shoulders and get to Heaven as X—'s steed? At the gate, however, St. Peter, pointing with his keys to the defeated one, exclaims: «My dear General, I said a horse not *a donkey*».

Jan. 9th.

To day 73 years ago, a famous Prisoner of War, Napoleon III, passed away in exile at Chislehurst.

I remember, as a child, hearing about him from a Baron Richtofen who, in the course of his military career, had been associated with this poignant episode of the Napoleonic era. The Emperor notified his surrender to the King of Prussia by the following letter (1) which, translated, loses much of its dignity :

«Monsieur mon Frère. N' ayant pu mourir au milieu
» de mes troupes, il ne me reste qu'à remettre mon épée
» aux mains de Votre Majesté. Je suis, de votre
» Majesté, le bon frère,
«Napoléon»

(1) This letter is now at the *Museo Napoleonico* of Palazzo Primoli, in Rome.

According to Richtofen, Bismarck, himself no sentimentalist, had been much struck by the tragic course of events. Chancellor met Emperor on the high road and, uncovering respectfully, behaved as if he had been at St. Cloud. «Couvrez vous donc, Monsieur le Comte», said the Emperor and, in a cottage at Donchery, the surrender, as Prisoners of War, of an Emperor, 2200 officers and 108,000 men was arranged. Richtofen used to show us photographs of the Emperor in captivity at Wilhelsmhoehe and, more especially, a pencil sketch of the meeting between Napoleon and the King of Prussia. He often stressed the Emperor's dignity and fortitude in adversity by which, though a sick man under intense and daily physical pain, he proved himself worthy of his uncle at St. Helena and of the great people he had reigned over.

Jan. 11th.

The Egyptian Gazette publishes to day the following letter of mine which reads as follows :

«My attention has been drawn to a letter, in your
» issue of December 28, by an Alexandrian
» Correspondent, asking to whom he might hand
» over a donation «towards any funds for cigarettes
» or any articles as Christmas gifts for the Italian
» Prisoners.»

«As the Correspondent in Alexandria of Dr.
» George Vaucher, Delegate for the Near East
» of the International Red Cross Committee in
» Geneva, I trust I may be permitted to bring to your
» Correspondent's notice that :»

«Since the beginning of the present war, the
» International Committee is running the «Agence des
» Prisonniers de Guerre» which, from its headquarters
» in Geneva, deals with all questions pertaining to

» the welfare of Prisoners of War and civil Internees.
«Its offices gratefully receive donations for any
» matters dealt with by the International Committee.
» In Alexandria, for instance, thanks to the generosity
» of the public, we have been able, *with*
» *donations specially earmarked for this purpose,*
» to supply the British Authorities with comforts
» for the Italian Prisoners either in hospital or in
» camp ;»

«Quite recently, for Christmas, we handed over
» to the Prisoners of War Department at Mustapha
» — for whose sympathetic attitude we are deeply
» grateful — cigarettes, food, wine and games. I
» should like, also, to place on record the kindness
» of the Commanding Officer and staffs of the
» General and Anglo-Swiss Hospitals towards Italian
» Prisoners to whom Christmas fare, including
» drinks, was generously supplied ;»

«Since the outbreak of the war, Doctor Vaucher,
» and those collaborating with him, have been
» assisting in the remittance to the International
» Committee in Geneva of parcels of food, clothing,
» games and cigarettes etc., for Allied Prisoners and
» Civil Internees in Germany, Italy and Libya ;

« With the concurrence and assistance of Dr.
» Vaucher, those responsible with me for our
» Alexandria International Red Cross Committee
» Offices have founded «Le Colis du Prisonnier» —
» a self - supporting charitable organization
» independent of the International Committee — the
» object of which is to supply, at cost price, for
» remittance to the International Committee in
» Geneva, parcels of comforts to Prisoners of War
» and Civil Internees of all nationalities. Since some

› time, we have been remitting parcels to Allied
› Prisoners in Germany, Italy and Libya and have
› just started supplying them to Italian Prisoners in
› Egypt and elsewhere.»

« If your correspondent, or anybody else interested
› in the question, will call on us at the above
› address, we shall be pleased to give him all
› information concerning work carried on irrespectively
› of nationality race or creed.»

Jan. 16th.

Air-Raid 3 a.m.

Jan. 17th.

Major M... of the French Army, writes to me as follows:

«Since January 1940, I was in command of an
› artillery regiment when, after fighting in Lorraine
› since Easter, we were caught in the confusion of
› the retreat. Division and Regiment were driven
› back from Reims to Troyes and, after eight days of
› continuous fighting, were wiped out. They fought
› gallantly and only left their positions after being
› ordered to do so.

› How often did we say, and more especially
› in the marshes of St. Good (I was there on
› the 16th. in the morning, at the Chateau de
› Mandement, Foch's Head quarters at the Marne) :
› "are they not going to order us to stand and die
› for it?" Finally, with only two or three guns left,
› the Regiment fired its few remaining rounds in
› the suburbs of Troyes. On the 16th, I was
› captured and starved for five months, losing 21
› kilogs and weighing, on my release, 51 kilogs.
› My wife's persistence, the help of the C.I.C.R. and
› I am afraid, my brokendown state of health,

› obtained me my release and transfer to a neutral
› country.

«Remember me to X—; tell him that, in spite of
› what we are going through, we have the satisfaction
› of thinking that many of us fought honourably and
› that we are not demoralized by defeat.»

M— is of Scottish origin, and was, for some years, French Artillery Instructor at Woolwich under a Franco-British Instructor's exchange scheme. He must have been released under the Annexe to the P.O.W. Convention of July 27th 1929, providing for such cases being - according to their degree - dealt with, either by the return of the seriously wounded (or sick) prisoner to his own country, or by his transfer to a neutral country.



Au Raid 21 15

Jan. 18th.

Vaucher arrives from Cairo, and we have together a long confidential talk of the most cordial type.

I decide to resign for reasons I do not propose to give, at any rate, at present.

Jun. 19th.

Another conversation with Vaucher as to who will succeed me. I suggest Etienne Combe, a Swiss from the Canton de Vaud, who, after studying at Lausanne University and at the Sorbonne in Paris, was attached to the French Archeological Institute in Cairo. He was, some time afterwards, appointed tutor to H.R.H. Prince Abdel Moneim, now third Heir Presumptive to the Throne of Egypt. In 1916 the Alexandria Municipality nominated him Librarian; he has thus had full scope for all his activities on Assyrian and Egyptian Archeology, Geography, Musulman and modern

Egyptian history etc. He is a regular contributor to the Egyptian Geographical and Alexandria Archeological Societies. His many friends, all over Egypt and in Europe, and his experience both as a savant, an interesting lecturer and a man of the world, continually in touch with all nationalities, should be a great asset to International Red Cross work. He is President of the Alexandria Section of the «Nouvelle Société Hélietique». He is assisted by an amusing wife who helps him to entertain hospitably.

Jan. 20th

Proud to find that my office is in such up to date and working order that I can, on a few days notice, hand over to my successor whoever he may be and run up to Cairo for a rest.



Another of the many incidents proving the utter absence thank God, of bitterness between combatants out here :

Colonel X—, an Englishman was up in Cairo escorting an Italian general, now a P. of W., whom he took to lunch at the Gezireh Sporting Club. There is some controversy as to his propriety in having done so, especially as he was only a temporary member.

Jan. 21th.

Lunch with M. and Mme. Etienne Combe but do not mention the question of his succeeding me.



A. P. of W. writes :

« I have, at last, heard from my family for I finally
» received, all at once, 17 letters and postcards,
» together with 2 parcels. I had been without any
news since five months and blubbed like a child.»

Cairo, Jan. 23rd.

Up here for a rest I feel I need badly.

Jan. 23rd.

Tea with Mrs..... where I get tragic details about the death of X—— an Italian General. His unit was completely taken by surprise by a British tank attack. X—— made a rush for a machine gun which he worked gallantly until a tank crushed him. His son is now a prisoner in British hands but I have not come across him. The Italian gunners, I hear, on British authority, fought magnificently.

Air-Raid at 3 15

Feb. 5 th.

Air-Raid at 18 30

Feb, 11th.

Air-Raid at 4 29

Febr. 14th.

To day, 139 years ago, Captain Arthur Brice, of the Coldstream Guards, died of wounds in Alexandria, a Prisoner of War of the French Army of Occupation under Genera Menou who succeeded Bonaparte. Brice is buried in the Orthodox Church of St Saba, with the following inscription (reproduced here with all its mistakes) on his tombstone :

H. S. H.

«Arthurus Brice Anno Aetatis Suae XXXIII... ditum
» Britannicorum Sub-Praefectns Legio... de
» Coldstream et Praetoris in Aegypto du.... Stationes
» Extra Jacentes Visurus Pridie... Ides Mortis De Via
» Cumdessisset!.. noire Exrabundvs in Hostem
» Improviso.... Incidet Continuo Glande Plumbea
» emisspetitus Captus Mortuus Decimo Sexto Kal,
» Martio Anno Salutis Humane 1801. Hoc Marmor
» Vidua EJus Maerens Prosuit.»

Next to him lies a Scotsman, Thomas Hamilton, apparently of the 78th (Highland) Regiment of foot, the Rosshire Buffs who died some years afterwards on July 29th 1807 but, whether as a Prisoner of War or not, I do not know. I have, also, no idea as to why this church was chosen by those who buried these two officers.

Feb. 15th.

Geneva is apparently getting worried about a non Swiss running the C.I.C.R. Office in Alexandria. Vaucher gets off a wire that I have already resigned and that I will be succeeded by a Swiss, probably Etienne Combe.

Feb. 15th.

British prisoners in Italy are being well treated as I can see by this letter.

Campo du Concentramento,
Prigionieri di Guerra,
Fonte d' Amore,
Sulmona.

My dear C.....,

«It was really brilliant of you to arrange your
» parcel to arrive on Christmas Day. We had got
» your letter about a week before, so were looking
» forward to all the exciting things you had
» mentioued. And you couldn't possibly have chosen
» better things to send, because they are just the
» things that we did uot get in the parcels from the
» Red Cross, The biscuits are a real treat, the coffee
» is particularly welcome; we brew thick cups of it
all day long on the stove in our room. Who could
» fail to shave with that delicious soap that H...
» sent? And the pâté represented the absolute peak
» of mummy; we almost felt we ought to wear ties
» again while we were eating it; it is much too
» smart for our usual appearance !

«Will you please thank every one who contributed
» to the parcel! very much indeed. We couldn't read
» the names of all those who had sent things,
» as they had been scratched out. But tell them all
» how much we appreciated everything.

» This has been a ridiculously happy Christmas
» considering we are prisoners of war. Each one of
» us has had three parcels: from the Red Cross, one
» from the Italian Red Cross and one from the Pope
» besides private ones. Last Christmas I spent at
» sea and got nothing !

«The Pope's present was the answer to our
» prayers, a bottle of Scotch Whisky each.

«B... and I were furious at being captured
» especially when we so nearly got away with it.
» They kept us in Libya for three months, and then
» we came on here by luxurious liner. This is
» really most comfortable, and we are exceptionally
» well treated. Sometimes one almost forgets one is
» a prisoner.

«B... and I share a room and practically everything
» else of the huge store of clothes and rubbish that
» we have collected gradually. He is Senior prisoner (1),
» a difficult job which he does as well as only
» he could which makes things much easier for
» all of us. He is on the go the whole time and
» sets one a high standard of activity to live up to.
» He has practically panelled the room with shelves
» and cupboards of his own design and, between us,
» we have made curtains and chair covers, lamp
» shades and carpets, framed pictures, and made
» cooking utensils out of tins until we live now in

(1) i.e. « homme de confiance ».

» the height of comfort with a big stove to keep us
» warm.

» We get (when the weather is good) two walks
» a week, one in the mountains and a gentle one
» in the valley. Besides, there is gardening and
» looking after our farmyard of chickens and rabbits
» and learning Italian, and reading, we have a good
» library and painting, and doing wood inlay work;
» so you see we are not idle and the days go
» flashing by.

» The winter has come here. There is about two
» feet of snow in the garden and it is very cold.
» Thank God we got the stoves just in time! But,
» of course, all the pipes have frozen, so that means
» bathing in the snow, cooking with snow water,
» and drinking beer. We get our exercise in furious
» snow ball fights, organized on the best military lines.

«All sorts of hidden talents come to the surface
» in a place like this. Luckily we have a brilliant
» jazz pianist and a good classical one (who runs
» our choir) and we hire a piano from the town,
» An expert hairdresser has appeared too. He gets
» plenty of scope to express his artistic flair since
» nearly everyone here has a beard. I tried my
» experiment in Libya but disliked it so much that I
» soon cut it off again. B... grew one when we
» arrived here and persevered for two months with
» a Balbo style but got fed up with it just in time
» to be able to use the shaving cream.

«There is a dismal threat hanging over us that
» B... may have to go and live in another camp with
» senior officers but we are hoping that this will
» not happen. It would be a great pity if we
» should have to be separated after all this time and

» I am certain that the general happy state of the
» camp would also suffer. We are very lucky, on the
» whole, with the crowd we have got which
» includes many of my old shipmates from China
» as you probably know.

«I was so sorry, C..., that your country got
» involved in this business too and I hope all
» your friends and relations are safe. I wonder if
» A... is still in Alex.? If so, would you tell him
» that I will be writing to him and thank him very
» much for writing to my family. Remember me
» also to D... and H... and of course M...
» I hope we shall both be out of this place soon,
» when all of us must have a celebration, organized
» in the B... style. I suppose Alexandria is much
» the same, and that you are having the same
» riotous round of Christmas entertainment. You
» must remember us to Pastroudis, and drop him a
» gentle hint to send us some of his more special
» delicacies, reminding him of the vast amount of
» money he has had out of our pockets already.

Aldxandria, 19th.

Write to Vaucher that I have approached Combe concerning his succeeding me in Alexandria ; shall hold myself at his disposal for any assistance he may need when he takes over.



I trust I may, in this my Swan Song, be forgiven if I indulge in a somewhat smug complacency because :

- a) Combe will find an office with voluntary staff, all unpaid, about which there have been no complaints ;
- b) we have jogged along, financially and otherwise, independently of Cairo, and our offices here have not been



The cover of a Magazine edited by
British Prisoners of War.

obliged to ask Cairo for a penny ; on the contrary, besides retaining in Alexandria a fund built up with donations given to me expressly for Italian Prisoners of War, I have been enabled, almost day by day, to remit to the C.I.C.R. fairly important sums of money ;

c) we have founded the «Colis du Prisonnier», on an independent basis, for which we do not need the C.I.C.R.'s financial help.

All this I could never have done without such a splendid staff of voluntary helpers, together with the assistance of the Egyptian and British Authorities. General public also most generous and sympathetic.

④

A Real (?) Story

Private X——, considerably perturbed, asks to see his Company Commander and produces a telegram. His wife has had a baby but it is two years since he saw her last ; the Company Commander, after telephoning to the telegraph Co., ascertains that the telegram was dispatched under the «Expeditionary Force Message System». (telegram no]. So and so which stands for such and such a message, is telegraphed out, the receiving Telegraph Co. delivering to the addressee the corresponding text). An error by one of its clerks, «86» instead of «68», had resulted in Private X——'s wife advising him of the arrival, not of a parcel (telegram no] 68)remitted by him, but of a baby ; (telegram no] 86).

④

Mar, 11th.

Vancher writes as follows :

«Dear Monsieur de Zogheb,

While moving from our Offices of «La Genevoise»,
«to our new premises at the Société Royale d'
» Economie Politique, I must have put away your

» letter in some file so that I cannot to find it.

« I should like to tell you how grateful I am to
» you for the devoted work you did in Alexandria
» for the C.I.C.R.

«It was very gratifying to me to be able to rely
» on the cooperation of a figure as well known and
» as esteemed as you are in Alexandrian circles. I
» know how heartily you set yourself on helping all
» those who applied to you, whatever might have
» been their standing and their nationality.

«I hope to come to Alexandria, soon and I shall
» not fail to see M. Combe to whom you have been
» kind enough to say a few words about the help
» I intend asking him to give us.

«It is natural that, after a somewhat exceptional
» period during which your cooperation was most
» valuable, we should now ask a Swiss subject to
» give us his assistance.

«I remember that, at the end of your letter, you
» state your intention to help us still further by a
» donation to the C.I.C.R. Such a kind gesture
» moves me very much and will certainly be much
» appreciated by our mutual friends in Geneva.

«Thanks, once more, for your assistance and
» please believe, dear Monsieur de Zogheb, in my
» very cordial feelings.»

(s) G. Vaucher,
Hon, Delegate for the C.I.C.R
to the Near East.

March. 20th. Air-Raid 11 50 p.m.

Mar. 21st.

Write to Professor Max Huber, the well known International Jurist, now President of the International Committee that

I am making arrangements with a Swiss Bank for handing over to his Committee a certain sum. Dividends to be used as a prizes, year by year, for the best compositions on the International Red Cross by children of the Swiss School in Alexandria. The Swiss have a splendid heritage, and I should like, in my small way, to foster among their colony in Alexandria, the spirit which has proved such a godsend to all those embroiled in the trouble and distress of war...

Apr. 15th.

Write to Jacques Chenevière concerning my appointment, and resignation, including my letter to Prof. Huber, the President of the C.I.C.R., of March 21st.

Dec. 22nd.

Jacques Chenevière replies as follows

Geneva. October 20th 1941

«Mon cher Ami,

» I have received your long letter of April 15th
» which reached Geneva on the 8th of October,
» and which I have read with the greatest care.

» First of all, let me tell you how moved we are
» at your kind donation in favour of the C.I.C.R. ;
» M. Max Huber will write to you personally on
» the subject.

» On the other hand, I would not like there to be,
» between us, the slightest misunderstanding. That
» is why I insist on giving you all the explanations
» which appear useful to me.

» Firstly, I would like to thank you for the kind
» cooperation you gave us in Alexandria. You may
» be sure that if we have been unable to continue to
» avail ourselves of this cooperation, it is only to

» remain faithful to our principle which requires us
» to apply exclusively to Swiss citizens to represent
» us overseas.

» In this respect, I see that you recall a letter from
» me in which I said, among other things :

«We have decided, for the time being, to
» have recourse, until further notice, to the
» cooperation of Swiss citizens only. It is more
» than probable that we shall have to abandon
» this policy, later, but in examining each case
» one by one. This does not invalidate in
» anything, as far as you are concerned, the
» intentions of the Red Cross.

«It should be remembered that I wrote this letter
» at the beginning of September 1939, when nothing
» allowed us to suppose that the work in Alexandria
» would take a great extension. I even thought at
» the time, when you left Switzerland, that your
» cooperation would be limited to the sending or
» receiving of information generally. We accepted
» your kind offer at a moment when we did not
» clearly see yet what would be our obligations
» and possibilities. If we have found ourselves obliged
» to limit a cooperation which seemed to assume the
» character of a sort of «delegation», it was only to
» remain faithful to the principle you know of and
» which has proved more and more important.

«I need not tell you, my dear friend, that your
» person remains entirely unaffected by this decision
» which is one of general principle. You must also
» remain persuaded that this principle, which we
» are compelled to apply strictly, cannot diminish
» in any way, our gratitude towards yourself.

«It is with these feelings that I beg you to accept
» my best and faithful remembrances.

«(s) Jacques Chenevière

» Member of the

» Comité International de la Croix Rouge.»



Thus ends a Diary which - if of little importance -
remains, I venture to think, an example of what a
Red Cross worker in a war zone cosmopolitan town came
up against. As such I have given it to the Reader and as
such I ask him to deal with it leniently.

THE END

POST SCRIPTUM

I append the translation of a Memorandum, dated November 20th, which a Hellenic gentleman - recently arrived from Greece (where, for two years, he was intimately connected with the relief work of the C. I. C. R.) has just addressed to me.

It explains itself :

«RELIEF WORK BY THE C.I.C.R. IN GREECE»

A - *The Food Position in Greece,*

«The Hellenic people who, in normal times, were
» obliged to import foodstuffs, found themselves in
» the first days of the occupation practically starving.
» All foodstuffs in depôts were immediately
» commandeered while foodstuffs in possession
» of retail merchants were bought "en bloc", either
» by the middle class or the German Military
» Authorities for their units. Further, every German
» soldier is authorized to send by aeroplane to
» Germany, during the first month of occupation of
» a country, a parcel of 5 kilos per week and per
» head so that the Hellenic Ministry of Supply soon
» found itself deprived of the means of feeding the
» population.

«The Athens Government and the Occupation
» Authorities were, during the winter 1941-42, able
» to ensure only an insufficient and irregular daily
» ration of 30 drammia (1) of Indian corn bread.

(1) 312 drammia make up 1 kilo.

» Not only was the general health of the population
» affected, but also, the death rate among the poor
» and the working classes was seriously increased.
» According to statistics, deaths from hunger in
» Athens and Piraeus were as high as 3000 a day ;
» people worn out with fatigue and hunger lay on
» the pavements where they died without any help
» being given to them.

«The consequences of this famine were such that
» many, to be able to continue to use the bread
» cards of their deceased relations, failed to declare
» the death of the latter whom they buried secretly
» at night.

«Except for this small ration of Indian corn bread,
» no other foodstuffs were distributed to the populaton
» by the Government or by the Occupation
» Authorities.

» The middle classes sold any valuables they had,
» including their furniture, and thus managed to
» obtain from the provinces some foodstuffs, especially
» dried vegetables with which they managed to
» keep alive. The working classes, and small
» employees found themselves, however, literally
» condemned to die of hunger and they would have
» completely disappeared if the C.I.C.R. had not been
» able to supply them with one single scanty meal
» per day.

B) *Popular Soup Kitchens.*

«The representative of the C. I. C. R., M.
» Brunnel and an ex-Minister, M. Zanas, started
» organizing a Commission to handle the foodstuffs
» which the C.I.C.R. was to import in Greece.
» However, before this commission had been set up,

» foodstuffs began arriving from Turkey at Piraeus
» by S.S. «Kurtulus». Through different hospitals and
» charitable organizations, a daily distribution of 100
» drams of beans and of 100 drams of dried peas
» among the Athens and Piraeus populations became
» possible.

«As the C.I.C.R. foodstuff Commission was not
» yet organized, this distribution was left to the
» Ministry of Supply which, as it had not the necessary
» machinery for it, only succeeded in causing
» considerable dissatisfaction among the inhabitants.
» Many of the latter thought that the Occupation
» Authorities had got hold of these foodstuffs. The
» fault, however, was that of the Ministry of Supply
» and it is only fair to the Occupation Authorities
» to state that, in no case, did they deduct
» a victor's tithe.

«As soon as the foodstuffs arrived they were at
» once forwarded to these different soup kitchens
» which, during the winter of 1941-42, afforded
» relief to over 800,000 people. When the C.I.C.R.
» organization was at last set up in March 1942,
» it was found that the above figures were not as
» high as supposed since several people, by some
» means or other, managed to continue to get two
» and three meals a day. It would be unfair to
» criticize these unfortunate beings, who dying of
» hunger and lacking everything, had, besides
» physical want, to endure the moral suffering
» caused by invasion

«In spite of the fact that criticism should be
» avoided, it is necessary to examine how fraud
» was committed in the matter of meal distribution ;
» this was due to overcrowding in soup kitchens

» where it seems to have been possible, in the
» inevitable confusion and jostling, for the same person
» to have a soup bowl in each hand. The result
» was a steady current of public opinion against
» the soup kitchen system.



«The C.I.C.R. had every reason to think that the
» quantum of foodstuffs arriving would be increased;
» it decided, therefore, to abolish soup kitchens
» and to start a system for the distribution of raw
» foodstuffs. These were to be divided between
» Athens and Piraeus, that is a population of some
» 1,200,000. The advantages were obvious : the po-
» pulation received all at once its rations for several
» days and did not thus have to queue up every
» day in the cold and rain. Fraud became impossible
» as it was easy for the Authorities to superintend
» the distribution.



«The C.I.C.R. organized the following services for
» which were employed more especially officers on
» the reserve list and well known members of
» Athens society :

1) Inspection Service for popular soup kitchens
» under General Scandalis, who controls also the
» inhabitants' ration cards ;

2) Distribution of foodstuffs Service under Colonel
» Couroutsis ;

3) Transport and storage services under Major
» Aristide Tsaoussopoulos;

4) During August and September 1942, the
» following distributions of foodstuffs were
» successfully carried through :

a) 200 drams of white flour from S.S.
» «Sicilian» ;

b) 200 drams of macaroni and bye products
» made by the C.I.C.R. with flour from S.S.
» «Sicilian» and 100 drams of hazelnuts from
» S.S. «Toumblou Bounar» ;

c) 200 drams of flour from SS. «Sicilian,
» 100 drams of hazelnuts, together with 100
» drams of dried raisins ;

5) All these distributions were successfully carried
» out, nothing being squandered or stolen ; on the
» contrary, economies became possible as C.I.C.R.
» representatives controlled the different greengrocers
» entrusted with the distributions.

« This system was so successful that the
» population, on being reassured as to the authorities'
» good faith, demanded the abolition of soup kitchens.
» and the continuance of this system.

«Unfortunately, arrivals from Turkey of foodstuffs,
» instead of increasing to 8000 tons a month as had
» been hoped for, became rarer and rarer, the
» Turkish Red Crescent intimating finally that it
» could no longer continue its deliveries. This
» naturally caused some confusion but the C.I.C.R.
» at once took upon itself to request by telegraph
» deliveries of vegetables from Canada.

In the meanwhile, popular soup kitchens with
» small remaining quantities of Turkish foodstuffs,
» managed to carry on, but the different private
» soup kitchens belonging to factories and companies
had to close down.

6) As the Ministry of Supply had no flour of
» any sort, the C.I.C.R. was obliged, during

- » September 1942, to continue its distribution of bread
- » (besides that of foodstuffs). On the other hand,
- » the Occupation Authorities except for 60,000 tons
- » sent during the winter of 1941-42, (30.000 from
- » Italy and Germany each) had no other reserves,



- » During the winter of 1941-42, the C.I.C.R. had to
- » keep from 600,000 to 800,000 people alive on one
- » meal a day. For the winter of 1942-43, the Athens
- » Government is incapable of ensuring even 50
- » drams of bread a head so that the task of the
- » C.I.C.R. is a difficult one.

«To save the population of important centres,
 » with one ration a day, it will be necessary to :

- 1) Supply regularly 15,000 tons of wheat a month ;
- 2) » » 10,000 tons a month of vege-
 » tables, rice and foodstuffs rich in oil and fats ;
- » 3) increase the milk ration for children and for
 » sick people :
- 4) supply pharmaceutical products, such as quinine
 » vitamins, bandages, gauze, cotton wool etc.
- » 5) supply the C.I.C.R., with ten motor lorries
 » of 4 tons each, with 2 trailers (together with
 » the necessary allowance of petrol) so as to
 » ensure complete independence as regards the
 » Occupation Authorities.
- » 6) supply woollen clothing for children and the
 » poorer classes.

« If the Hellenic people are to be saved from
 » certain death owing to starvation and want, the
 » above deliveries should be made at once.»



I have quoted the above Memorandum in its entirety.
 To its tragic and brutal crudeness there appears to be
 nothing to add...

CORRECTIONS



- Page 8 Line 1 : « Squads » should read « Squad »
 » » Lines 25 & 26 : « d) » and « e) » should read « 6) »
 and « 7) »
 » 17 Line 3 : « of » to come in between « position » and
 « populations »
 » 20 » 2 : « agruesoome » should read « a gruesome »
 » 25 » 12 : « arousing » should read « giving rise to »
 » 28 » 16 : « that underdog » should read « those
 underdogs »
 » 29 » 9 : « notby » should read « not by »
 » 29 » 28 : « mæe » » » « made »
 » 29 » 29 : « priso ners » » » « prisoners »
 » 30 » 2 : « homour » » » « honour »
 » 30 » 9 : « uumber » » » « number »
 » 38 » 17 : « ezpenses » » » « expenses »
 » 39 » 22 : « change » » » « changes »
 » 39 » 31 : « Oct. 20th » » » « Oct. 21st »
 » 43 » 10 : « Belligerents enter » should read « Bellige-
 rents to enter »
 » 54 » 22 : « bat » should read « but »
 » 57 » 1 : « rewardhis wo rk » should read « reward
 his work »
 » 78 » 10 : « Locataire » should read « locality »
 » 81 » 4 : « puplic » » » « public »
 » 103 » 10 : « della spettacole » should read « dello
 spettacolo »
 » 134 » 28 : « lhad » should read « I had »
 » 140 » 31 : « 10 dollars a month » should read « 10
 dollars a week »
 » 145 » 19 : « To day » should read « To-day »
 » 154 » 17 : « To day » » » « To-day »
 » 161 » 7 : « scuh » » » « such »

POST-SCRIPTUM

- « Aecording » should read « according »
 « Populaton » » » « population »

I N D E X

I. Author's Foreword	Page
II. The Egyptian Red Crescent	1
III. The « Comité International de la Croix Rouge » . .	11
IV. Prisoners of War throughout History.	20
V. The Prisoners of War Convention of July 27th 1929	28
VI. The « Colis du Prisonnier »	51
VII. Author's « Red Cross and Red Crescent Diary » . .	56
Post-scriptum (Relief Work in Greece by C.I.C.R.).	
List of Corrections	

I L L U S T R A T I O N S

H.R.H. Prince Mohamed Aly.	Frontispiece
Egyptian Red Crescent Refugees and Red Cross hospital in Balkan War to face page	2
Egyptian Red Crescent Refugee camp. » » »	6
Distribution of flour to Moslem Libyan Pri- soners by the Egyptian Red Crescent » » »	6
Monks in the Middle Ages ministering to the wounded. » » »	14
The Battle of Solferino » » »	14
Henry Dunant » » »	18
General Dufour » » »	18
Monument in Bale commemorating the first C.I.C.R. Prisoners of War Agency » » »	18
St. Louis, King of France » » »	22

The late Gustave Ador, President of the International Committee (1910-1928)	to face page	26
International Committee Delegates inspecting a Prisoner's Camp	» » »	26
Prof. Max Huber, President of the International Committee.	» » »	26
St. Louis' prison at Mansourah	» » »	30
The Emperor Valerianus surrendering to Sapor King of the Persians	» » »	36
King Darius, after surrendering to Alexander the Great, dies of wounds with his head in the latter's lap	» » »	42
Francis I of France by Clouet.	» » »	50
A voluntary worker at the «Colis du Prisonnier»	» » »	54
A receipt for a parcel, sent by the «Colis du Prisonnier» signed by a Prisoner of War . .	» » »	54
The Villa Moynier, home of the former President of the International Red Cross Committee, now the latter's headquarters.	» » »	58
The Central Commission of the C.I.C.R. with M.M. Jacques Chenevière (President), F. Barbey, Mmes Frick Cramer, Odier, Borel. .	» » »	58
Dr. Theodore Maunoir	» » »	66
Dr. Louis Appia	» » »	66
Gustave Moynier	» » »	66
H.E. Ahmed Kamel Pacha, Director General of Alexandria Municipality, President of the Alexandria Section of the Egyptian Red Crescent.	» » »	70
The Duke of Brabant, now King of the Belgians, during the last War.	» » »	74

Mme. Ahmed Kamel Pacha	to face	page	94
Mme. Hussein Pacha Sabry, with Soliman Bey Yusri and other Red Crescent workers » » »			94
Caricature and water colours by Italian Internees » » »			102
The aeroplane near which the Italian Pilot was buried . . . , » » »			114
British Naval Officers bearing the coffin of the Commander of an Italian Cruiser. » » »			114
An Italian officer being treated at the Anglo- Swiss Hospital in Alexandria . . . , » » »			126
Italian Prisoners drawing their rations. . . » » »			126
Voluntary workers at the "Colis du Pri- sonnier" » » »			134
International Red Cross vans with parcels for Prisoners » » »			134
A section of the cards index at the Central Agency for Prisoners of War, in Geneva . » » »			146
Spanish refugees being assisted by the C.I.C.R. Delegates » » »			146
C.I.C.R. messages to enemy countries . . . » » »			146
The cover of a magazine edited by British Prisoners of War » » »			158