



REVUE INTERNATIONALE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

SUPPLEMENT

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MAX HUBER

When a man who was great in thought and action leaves us, the disciples whom he led feel forsaken and are often lost.

In face of this calamity they search their conscience and ask themselves if they will be able to do their duty as it should be done. Then comes to them, in all its force and clarity, the message of their lost leader. From Max Huber the message takes the shape of a presence, of a still creative mind and a heart which has not ceased to beat.

Max Huber's work was centred on the life of the most humane of men whose exceptional gifts never set him apart from his fellow-men nor spared him—despite his highest convictions—from the well-founded fears with which he had always to contend. He fought to the finish with ever-recurring zeal, a youthful mind and feeling.

In 1923 he was asked by Gustave Ador and his colleagues to join the International Committee of the Red Cross; he held the office of President from 1928 to 1944 and later became Honorary President.

To him fell the heavy burden of presiding over the International Committee for nearly the whole duration of the Second World War and during the equally difficult post-war years.

He was not only the moving spirit of the great charitable campaign against the powers of evil which ravaged the world. He was

also the central figure and the leader of the vast undertaking which the International Committee had to set in movement to perform its duties. Let us remember that this organisation had a staff of nearly four thousand workers, that the mail figures reached sixty million postal items received and as many despatched, that one hundred and eighty delegates throughout the world made eleven thousand visits to prisoner-of-war camps, that it dealt with the transport and distribution of relief supplies which, for prisoners of war alone, were worth three thousand million Swiss francs and that it had a fleet of forty-three vessels.

It can well be imagined that President Huber, more than anyone, was overwhelmed by the everyday work and the constant flow of new and unexpected tasks.

Nevertheless, although he kept fully abreast of current business, he and he alone within the institution carried on the work of creative thought—a remarkable feat.

This work had a threefold aspect.

Its purpose, first of all, was to define the Red Cross ideal, to state the bases and limits of the Red Cross and to provide it with principles on which to act. The doctrine thus evolved by Max Huber is mainly contained in his works: *The Red Cross, Principles and Problems*, *The Good Samaritan, Principles and Foundations of the Work of the International Committee of the Red Cross* and the notes and appeals sent by the Committee to States and National Societies.

The second aspect of this work is that Max Huber represented the juridical and moral conscience of the International Committee and the Red Cross as a whole. Most of the Committee's texts relating to fundamental problems were written by Max Huber himself. His writings are well constructed and full of significance.

He wrote in French and as it was not his mother tongue he asked his colleagues to revise his texts from the point of view of style. The passages relating to profound thinking were nearly always so perfect in form, however, that no change was necessary. His phrases, concise, clear and beautiful, resembled finely engraved medals; for instance "But if the Red Cross could be daunted by the gulf between what it would do and what it can do, it would have already given up in despair on the battle-field of Solferino".

The third aspect—the thinker and clear-sighted man—is shown by the fact that Max Huber could see far ahead. While he was constantly buffeted by the tempest raging throughout the world and was ever absorbed in new and urgent problems, he always kept in mind the need to organise and to assure the future of the institution, even on a long-term basis.

He understood, in particular, that it was essential, in view of the considerable extension of the International Committee's work, to establish a permanent administration composed of a carefully trained staff.

In conclusion, let us say a few words about the man; it can be said of him as it is said in the Scriptures that man's finest adornment is his kindness. He possessed, in fact, to the highest degree, the first of the Christian virtues, love for his fellow-men, not in the sense of an elective affinity but in the biblical sense of giving oneself.

One might even say that he personified the ideal of the Red Cross and identified himself with it absolutely. When the International Committee had to define its attitude towards some delicate matter, as was frequently the case, he always applied the golden rule he laid down for himself: first to consider the interests of the victims; all the rest—including the prestige of the institution—came after.

No human suffering was unknown to him. During the recent world conflict, when his duties brought him into direct contact with men's indescribable distress, he suffered greatly. Pity—true pity which has nothing in common with sentimentality, in the same way as true charity is not merely the giving of alms—was the motive of his acts. It aroused in him the wish to alleviate suffering, to help with all his might.

The guiding principles of the International Committee of the Red Cross were to bear the deep mark left by this man; from his legal training they have drawn their well-defined character, they find their expression in rules of law applicable in all organised societies, thanks to his extensive knowledge they are ready for application whenever rapid action needs to be taken; lastly, from his heart they have drawn the compassion and enthusiasm which make the Red Cross a unique and irreplaceable institution.

Since the time when, wearied by age, Max Huber made less frequent visits to Geneva, the Committee's field of action has never ceased to extend. In the civil wars, revolutions and disturbances which have caused upheavals among so many peoples it has intervened to protect the victims who doubtless suffer a more tragic fate than soldiers who fell in past wars between nations.

But his inspiration still remains. As we have already said, for us, his friends and disciples, for the Red Cross and all those who fight against suffering, Max Huber is still with us.

LÉOPOLD BOISSIER

President of the International Committee
of the Red Cross.

THE ASSIMILATION OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN AUSTRALIA

THE ROLE OF THE AUSTRALIAN RED CROSS

In 1946, following the close of the second World War, the population of Australia totalled seven and a half million. By 1957, it had grown to nine and three quarter million, and increased this year to 10,000,000.

A major problem in Australia is its small population in relation to its very large area consisting of 2,974,581 square miles. To this should be added its Territory of Papua amounting to 90,540 square miles while the Trusteeship of the United Nations to Australia for the administration of New Guinea adds an additional area of 93,000 square miles for so long as this trust is in operation. This makes a grand total of over 3,000,000 square miles, with distances east to west of 2,000 miles, and north to south of 2,500 miles.

This very large area which is almost as great as that of the United States of America, four-fifths of that of Canada, nearly three-fourths of the whole area of Europe, and about 25 times as large as Great Britain and Eire, would appear to be an ideal area to absorb a large population. This, however, is subject to severe limitations in that the country consists of one third good land, one third land of poorer quality, and one third desert. Australia has no large rivers, and over a great portion of its interior experiences a very low rainfall. Much has been done in water conservation, and irrigation, but the above factors, plus the ability of a small population to assimilate large numbers of migrants over a short period, with the essential provisions of housing and employment, has necessitated very careful handling and skilled planning.

A BOLD MIGRATION SCHEME

Shortly after the close of the second World War, the then Australian Government, launched a bold plan of migration which has been continued by successive governments, with great success and advantage to all concerned. The migration policy has had the support of the people, and many groups and organisations, including Australian Red Cross, have given practical assistance, all of which has helped materially in the problem of the satisfactory assimilation of the new arrivals, and the meeting of the various needs of large groups of people finding themselves in a new, and in some respects a strange, country.

From October 1945 to June 1958, the long term and permanent arrivals in Australia amounted to no less than 1,332,057, the detail of nationalities being :

<i>British</i>	632,819	<i>Latvian</i>	19,923
<i>American</i>	14,126	<i>Lebanese</i>	5,062
<i>Austrian</i>	15,275	<i>Lithuanian</i>	10,109
<i>Belgian</i>	827	<i>Norwegian</i>	1,501
<i>Bulgarian</i>	896	<i>Polish</i>	73,208
<i>Czechoslovak</i>	11,831	<i>Roumanian</i>	2,221
<i>Danish</i>	3,874	<i>Russian</i>	12,392
<i>Dutch</i>	100,123	<i>Ukrainian</i>	10,793
<i>Estonian</i>	6,218	<i>Syrian</i>	64
<i>French</i>	5,535	<i>Swedish</i>	862
<i>German</i>	60,561	<i>Swiss</i>	2,833
<i>Greek</i>	57,995	<i>Yugoslav</i>	29,836
<i>Hungarian</i>	26,477	<i>All others</i>	47,696
<i>Italian</i>	179,000		

It will be seen that this table accounts for approximately half of the population growth shown in the first paragraphs of this article, the balance being accounted for by the natural increase of births over deaths which averages the high figure of 14 per 1,000 of the population.

WHAT COULD RED CROSS DO?

On the launching of the new migration scheme by the Government it was necessary for Australian Red Cross to define its policy as to the extent to which it could assist in the reception and assimilation of the new arrivals, keeping in mind that a

large proportion would come under assisted or free passages, and would include refugees and displaced persons uprooted from their own country as a result of war.

The migrants therefore consisted of several categories: those able to pay their fares for the long ship journey to Australia, those coming under assisted passages, those sponsored by Australian residents, the displaced persons scheme, and those under the category of refugees.

As the sponsor was responsible for the provision of housing, the securing of employment and guaranteeing to the Government for two years that the person so sponsored would not be a charge on the Government, it was obvious that Australian Red Cross could not act as a sponsor, as it had no means of supplying accommodation or guaranteeing employment for the large numbers expected under the scheme nor had it the funds to undertake such an onerous obligation.

It was decided therefore, that Australian Red Cross would accept the following obligations in the way of auxiliary and emergency service to the migrants.

- a) Auxiliary medical service in the hospitals attached to the Holding Camps and Reception Centres, set up by the Government in the several States of the Commonwealth.
- b) Its teams of Red Cross Aids would meet all migrant ships at the port of arrival and accompany the migrants on the train journey to the holding camps and reception centres. This would provide a first aid service, and care particularly for the babies and children.

THE DISPLACED PERSONS PLAN

The above service continued for some time, and was appreciated by the recipients. Then came the decision of the Australian Government that it would take a large quota of the "displaced persons" being part of a comprehensive plan in which several countries co-operated.

With small beginnings in 1947 and 1948, and quite an acceleration in 1949 and 1950, Australia welcomed no less than 170,254 of these war victims, the last batch coming in 1952.

It was quickly realised that this class of migrant was in great need as compared with the sponsored and government assisted categories.

Australian Red Cross therefore decided that it should extend its policy and make greater provision for these displaced people, and to its service was added a comprehensive issue of clothing. This consisted of both new garments of various kinds, and used items of good clean and serviceable quality.

A THIRD PHASE

The general migrant plan commencing in 1947 is still being carried out, and the present intake of migrants of all categories is in the region of 115,000 persons each year. Many of these are not requiring Red Cross service, as there are operating many organisations and groups playing a very practical and constructive part in the assimilation of the new arrivals.

The recent "state of conflict" in Hungary, with the influx of so many refugees into Austria, which produced major problems for that country, created the need for Red Cross traditional action, first by the International Committee of the Red Cross in Hungary itself, and by the League of Red Cross Societies in Austria.

Australian Red Cross was able to assist in this major relief project by the provision of money and goods, and when the Australian Government agreed to take 15,000 of these refugees was decided that as much assistance as possible would be given them on their arrival in Australia.

This consisted of a comprehensive issue of clothing, and the full facilities of the Tracing Bureau as so many of the refugees were in doubt as to what had happened to members of their families in the great exodus from Hungary and from their subsequent transfer to any of the several countries who "took" their quota of such refugees.

THE "SKAUBRYN" DISASTER

The ship was en route to Australia last year, with 1080 migrants, when fire broke out in the vicinity of Aden, and the now well known but wonderful rescue of all hands took place.

The victims were provided by Governmental action at Aden with an issue of tropical type clothing, which of course was totally inadequate on their arrival in the much colder conditions of an Australian winter, particularly in the southern part of the country.

Discussions opened by Australian Red Cross with the Government, with a view to rendering adequate relief to the victims at once brought results. The Australian Government handed to Australian Red Cross Society, fifteen thousand pounds so that each victim, man woman and child, would receive an average of twenty five articles of clothing together with suitable containers to hold them.

On the arrival of the two ships bringing the victims from Aden to the first port of call in Australia, Fremantle, the requisite relief stocks were placed on board and distributed to the recipients by Australian Red Cross Aids, during the voyage round the Australian coastline to Melbourne, the major point of disembarkation.

The distribution consisted of: For men, two sets underclothing, two pairs pyjamas, trousers, socks, shoes, shirts, coat and woollen pullover. For women, two sets underclothing, night attire, wool cardigans, shoes, overcoat and frocks. Maternity garments were provided for the pregnant women, and the children were given adequate clothing for their needs. In addition all were given essential toilet requisites while there were, in addition, toys and books for the children.

To the purchases made with the Government grant were added many articles from the disaster relief stocks of the Society.

On arrival at the reception centres, additional service was given to these victims until they were transferred to other parts of the country where housing and employment had been arranged.

IN CONCLUSION

This is just a plain and simple story of some twelve years of traditional Red Cross service to people in need. It does however, accent several facts. Firstly, that the most helpful and practical service to those in need is the kind which is given quickly. It is therefore an obligation of Red Cross to follow the fundamental principle laid down by the our founder, Henri Dunant, and be in the position to render such help to victims at the greatest point of such need and that is as soon as the need arises. Secondly, that when the need does arise Red Cross can be sure of the support of its general public and thirdly that a Red Cross Society acting as the auxiliary to its Government and where necessary with the latter's financial support, can produce a project of mercy of the highest quality, and are capable of bringing to those in need, a welcome relief to their suffering.

It would be difficult to compute the cost in money of this twelve years endeavour, but the work was made possible by the continued financial support of the Australian people, and its Government, and the faithful and merciful work of so many Red Cross volunteers, all of whom are so ready to remember that all men are brothers.

ALFRED G. BROWN
National Commissioner
of the Australian Red Cross

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

INFORMATION CONCERNING VISITS TO PLACES OF DETENTION BY THE DELEGATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE

The recent publication in the Press of the report established by the International Committee of the Red Cross following the last mission of its delegates to Algeria has raised questions concerning the principles which govern its work in this field. The ICRC considers it advisable therefore to recall the traditional rules to which it usually conforms in this connection.

A distinction should first be made between two entirely different situations: armed conflicts of an international nature to which the provisions of the Geneva Conventions are applicable in full, and internal conflicts.

In the case of international conflicts the ICRC endeavours to carry out, through its delegates, systematic visits to camps and other places of detention where prisoners or internees are held. These visits constitute one of the essential features of its work since, according to innumerable testimonies received, they are highly beneficial to the captives. The inspection of places of detention, which includes interviews with detained persons without witnesses, enables the ICRC to ascertain the treatment accorded to them, to verify that the provisions of the Geneva Conventions are duly applied, to make impartial and objective reports to the Powers concerned, to improve the captives' conditions by representations made on the spot or by approaches to the Detaining Power, to organise relief actions and to supervise the distribution of relief supplies.

In an international conflict the specific provisions of the Geneva Conventions give the ICRC the formal right to proceed with such visits. As regards conflicts of a non-international nature, however, the Geneva Conventions merely contain a brief injunction to the Parties to the conflict to observe certain general humanitarian rules. Visits of the delegates of the ICRC are not expressly provided for ; this institution is, however, authorised to offer its services to the parties to the conflict.

The main object of these offers of service is to obtain authority to visit camps freely, as in the case of an international war. They imply an obligation ; that the points noted shall be communicated only to the Government which granted authority to visit the camps. As is known, since 1955, the French Government has given favourable response to the International Committee's offers of service in connection with the Algerian conflict.

The reports established following visits by the delegates of the ICRC are therefore communicated only to the Government of the Detaining Power (in the case of an international conflict the reports are also sent to the Government of the country of origin of the prisoners concerned.) This discretion is necessary for the action of the ICRC to be efficient since the detaining authorities must have full confidence in the ICRC and its delegates especially when the Committee is authorised to intervene in internal matters which often come within the sole competence of a State and for which no intervention of other international bodies is allowed. This confidence in the ICRC is also necessary because it must be able to express freely its views with regard to the conditions of internment and to make suggestions to the Government concerned, regardless of any controversy on the subject.

The ICRC does not therefore publish the reports of its delegates. The Governments to which the reports are sent are naturally at liberty to publish them if they think it is appropriate to do so, in which case the ICRC is usually consulted.

The ICRC also abstains from making public protest concerning any act attributed to any one Power or its civil or military authorities. Here again, experience has shown that

an action of this description would lead to no positive result and would only be detrimental to the charitable work which, in many instances, can only be carried out by the ICRC.

The International Committee does not confine its duties to the mere transmission of its delegates' reports; it continues to discuss the matter with the authorities concerned in order that situations which are contrary to the Geneva Conventions or the principles of humanity may cease to exist. These representations are renewed as frequently as circumstances require and in this manner the ICRC can render the most useful assistance to the victims of conflicts.

THE RELIEF ACTION OF THE ICRC IN ALGERIA

The International Committee of the Red Cross published recently a booklet (mimeographed) entitled "The ICRC and the Algerian Conflict" giving information which the *Revue internationale* has already had occasion to make known to its readers. The new edition contains further information on the subject, not published so far in the *Revue*, which we have pleasure in giving below:

I. *Assistance to French prisoners in the hands of the FLN*

Unfortunately, since the summer 1959, the ICRC has obtained very little information on French civilians or military personnel captured or still held by the ALN¹. Its efforts resulted in further releases in Algerian territory in November and, on December 30, 1959, the release of two French prisoners captured in the Ain-Seffra area in July, who were placed in charge of the

¹ ALN = "Armée de Libération nationale".

delegate of the ICRC at the headquarters of the Moroccan Red Crescent in Rabat. Thus, 45 French civilians and military personnel had been released under the auspices of the ICRC by the end of 1959.

The ICRC continues to transmit urgent requests for information concerning individual cases or groups of persons to the GPRA¹ in Tunis, to which approaches have also been made to obtain the notification of persons captured and the exchange of family news. The ICRC has also put forward suggestions for the unconditional release, as soon as possible, of civilians captured by the ALN.

Moreover, early in December 1959, the ICRC made another approach by letter to the President of the GPRA, asking for a reply to the humanitarian proposals it formulated in May and again in October, 1958. These proposals concern the humanitarian rules which the International Committee considers that the GPRA should observe in the Algerian conflict, in particular Article 3 common to the four Geneva Conventions of 1949.

At the present time, when acts of terrorism are increasing in Algeria, the ICRC attaches special importance to a satisfactory reply from the GPRA to its proposals.

In support of its approaches to the GPRA, at the end of January, 1960, the ICRC sent one of its delegates, Mr. D. de Traz, to Tunis. It is hoped that this further mission will lead to satisfactory results to enable the Committee to increase, as it would wish to do, its relief action in behalf of civilian and military prisoners held by the ALN.

2. *Assistance to the civilian population*

It will be recalled that since 1957 the delegates of the ICRC have given assistance to the displaced and resettled civilian population in Algeria by making limited distributions of emergency relief supplies (including clothing and foodstuffs) in the Bordj-Bou Arreridj, Kessabia, Ain-Hamiane and Duperré districts.

¹ GPRA = "Gouvernement provisoire de la République algérienne".

The cost of these distributions amounted to about four million French francs. As is known, in order to support the activities of the French Red Cross—which since summer 1959 has been engaged in relief actions, by means of mobile nursing teams, in behalf of women and children—the ICRC made gifts of polyvitamin tablets and eye-drops valued at ten million French francs. A further distribution was made in October 1959 which included concentrated cod-liver oil, eye-drops and blankets. These supplies (worth about 9,500,000 French francs) were distributed by the French Red Cross teams, as on the previous occasion, in the presence of a delegate of the ICRC.

Reference was made in the January (1960) issue of the *Revue internationale* to the seventh mission of the ICRC to Algeria, during which the delegates of the ICRC had interviews with the directors of the French Red Cross who informed them of their plans to extend their activities in behalf of the resettled population. Mr. Pierre Gaillard, delegate of the ICRC, then went to Paris where he met the President of the French Red Cross and informed him of the points noted during his mission in regard to the needs of displaced and resettled persons in Algeria. We may add that a third relief action was undertaken in January, 1960, by the ICRC; 140,000 vitamin tablets and 9,500 antineuralgic tablets were dispatched, as on previous occasions, to the headquarters of the French Red Cross in Algiers, to be placed at the disposal of the eleven mobile nursing teams of the French Red Cross and thus to assist this Society's medical-social work in behalf of women and children in the resettlement sectors in Algeria.

In January also, in response to an appeal from the President of the Committee of the Tizi-Ouzou Branch of the French Red Cross, a gift received enabled the ICRC to supply one thousand tins of condensed milk for the use of the resettled civilian population.
