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SUPPLEMENT

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

FIFTEENTH AWARD OF THE FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MEDAL

GENEVA, 12 May 1955

*408th Circular
to the Central Committees of National Red Cross (Red Crescent,
Red Lion and Sun) Societies*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

In its circular No. 403 of 23 August 1954, the International Committee of the Red Cross had the honour to invite the Central Committees of National Societies to send in the names of nurses and voluntary aids whom they judged qualified to receive the Florence Nightingale Medal. This invitation, which quoted Article 6 of the Regulations, was accompanied by questionnaires bearing various necessary headings for the candidatures.

As limited by the Regulations, which provide for the award of a maximum of 36 medals each two years, the International Committee, after having examined with the greatest care the files submitted to it, was concerned to make a choice among the candidatures presented. It was moreover obliged to keep strictly to the regulations to the effect that no nominations reaching Geneva after the time-limit prescribed will be taken into consideration. To make exceptions to this rule only delays the Committee's decisions and the award of the medal.

In this connection, the International Committee of the Red Cross would like to draw the attention of the Central Committees of National Societies to the fact that the first aim of the Florence Nightingale Medal is to pay tribute to exceptional devotion shown by nurses and voluntary aids in their care of the wounded and sick in the difficult and dangerous situations often prevailing in times of war and public disasters.

The International Committee is happy to be able to announce that for this fifteenth distribution the medal has been awarded to the following nurses and voluntary aids :

ARGENTINA

1. † *Señorita Blanca Julia Clermont*, Professional Nurse ; carried out several missions during disasters, caring for the victims in the true spirit of the Red Cross. After giving particularly distinguished service during the San Juan earthquake, she met her death while engaged in the evacuation of the wounded to Mendoza, through the crashing of the aircraft transporting the disaster victims.

AUSTRALIA

2. *Senior Sister Lucy Thelma Marshall*, Professional Nurse and Tutor Sister ; rendered eminent service in the R.A.A.F. during the Second World War, and in Korea, Japan and Australia, accompanying and attending to the wounded and sick of convoys under difficult and dangerous circumstances. Since the close of hostilities she has been instrumental in maintaining the high standard of training as a Tutor Sister in casualty air evacuation courses. Her gift of initiative and her devotion to duty are highly esteemed by those under whom she has served.

AUSTRIA

3. *Oberschwester Hermine Hansgirtl*, Professional Nurse ; worked in Merano Hospital from 1931 to 1939, and from 1939 to 1950 in the Reservelazarett, Graz ; she organised the evacua-

tion of the hospital in the last stages of the hostilities. At present Matron of Feldbach Hospital. Her career is marked by the true spirit of devotion to duty, and a gift of initiative ; she is loved and esteemed by her patients.

4. *Oberschwester Hertha Gröller*, Professional Nurse ; worked in various hospital services from 1931 to 1939. Throughout the war years she upheld the principles of the Red Cross with success in very difficult circumstances. During that period she served as Head-Nurse in Poland and Finland, and in Italy where she passed a year in captivity. After the war she organised courses in home nursing and infant welfare, with great personal initiative and professional skill ; she is at present at the head of a « Werkspital » which she has set up and organised.

CHILI

5. *Señorita Amelia Balmaceda Lazcano*, Voluntary Aid and Social Worker. She gave particularly eminent service in caring for earthquake victims, and the evacuation of wounded persons ; she rendered valuable assistance in the organisation of courses for army nurses and social workers, and blood transfusion. The Red Cross spirit is manifest throughout her work.

DENMARK

6. *Mademoiselle Maja Edel Foget*, Professional Nurse, Matron. She rendered distinguished service, at the risk of her life, during the evacuation of Danish and Norwegian internees from enemy territory. In 1945 she organised the transport of thousands of detained persons from German concentration camps to Denmark and Sweden. The civil defence authorities entrusted her with the care of 300,000 refugees in Denmark ; later she took an active interest in the study of the shortage of nursing personnel, and the re-organisation of nursing education. She made a valuable contribution to the plans for the re-organisation of the nursing services of her country, and the training of nurses.

7. *Miss Ruby G. Bradley*, Professional Nurse, Lt. Col. Army Nurse Corps, was taken prisoner in the Philippines by the Japanese in 1941, and was interned with other nurses for three years. Nominated Chief Nurse of the 8th Army in Korea in 1951, she served in the front line and saved thousands of lives. To young nurses she is a living example of courage, tenacity and devotion to duty. While in Korea she rendered valuable assistance for the organisation and training of the Korean Army Nurse Corps.

8. *Miss Isabel Maitland Stewart*, Professional Nurse, Professor and Director of Nursing Education. She successfully filled, in times of peace and of war, various important posts connected with nursing education, and is considered to be an indubitable authority in that field. She has rendered eminent service to the nursing profession on national or international levels.

FRANCE

9. *Mademoiselle Geneviève de Galard-Terraube*, Professional Nurse, Air Convoy Corps, gave most distinguished service during missions in Indo-China. The only nurse present in the entrenched camp of Dien Bien Phu during the battle, she won the admiration of all by her calm and cheerful courage and her absolute devotion to her duties. Amidst the wounded, in extremely difficult circumstances, she worked untiringly, night and day, with great professional skill and moral courage worthy of the highest praise. She was of valuable aid to the surgeons and helped to save numerous lives.

10. *Mademoiselle Geneviève Ponsot*, Head-Nurse and Social Worker, Head of the French Red Cross Emergency Service. Since 1942 she has lent her voluntary services in all dangerous relief actions; she gave most eminent service during the bombardment of Boulogne, Mantes and the Western District of

Paris. She volunteered for Hanoi in 1945 and cared for the wounded, and civilian population, in very dangerous and difficult circumstances, regardless of her health. Her great professional and moral qualities make her a most valuable member of her profession.

11. *Mademoiselle Jeanne Gavouyère*, Professional Nurse, was in charge of the Spanish refugees on board the « Maréchal Lyautey », in 1939. Returned to the army zone in 1940, then gave her services on behalf of the Youth Labour Organisation. After a mission in the Vosges, she left for Indo-China in 1946, and the Martinique in 1947 ; on these missions she carried out her duties with great competence. From 1949 to 1951 she was sent on her second and third missions to Indo-China, and once again in 1953. This nurse has won the admiration of all by her professional and moral qualities ; she has given voluntary service for many perilous missions.

GREECE

12. *Mademoiselle Despina Choursoglou*, Professional Public Health Nurse, gave distinguished service during the earthquake in Corinth, in 1928 ; during the Second World War, and civil disturbances, she organised and directed—regardless of danger—military hospitals and first-aid posts. She is now the Matron of the Greek Red Cross Hospital. She has always displayed the most exemplary abnegation and altruism.

13. *Madame Nina Carakiozides*, Voluntary Aid. From 1940 she was posted to the Athens and Agrinion military hospitals ; during the hostilities she was engaged in the evacuation of the wounded from the front ; later she organised the military hospital for airmen in Cairo, then the refugees' centres in Alexandria and Mount Sinai. In 1945 she participated in relief action for war victims, then proceeded, with the League of Red Cross Societies, to give assistance to Arab refugees in Syria. She was posted to the Greek Expeditionary Forces in Korea, and Tokyo, in 1951 ; she gave her services for 14 months and was promoted to the rank of Captain. Later she gave

eminent service, as Assistant-Director of the Greek Red Cross, during the earthquakes in the Ionian Islands.

INDIA

14. *Miss Margaretta Craig*, Professional Nurse and Midwife-Nursing Sister and Nursing Superintendent for about 10 years at Miraj Mission Hospital, then Director of the Delhi Nursing School and, since 1946, Principal of the College of Nursing, New Delhi. Her whole career has been devoted to the improvement of nursing in India. Her administrative ability, her wide professional knowledge and high sense of duty, added to her long experience of conditions in that country, have been invaluable to the development of the nursing profession in India.

15. *Miss Florence Taylor*, Professional Nurse, rendered valuable service for 20 years in mission hospitals in India, Korea and Manchuria. Dean of the School of Nursing, Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore, since 1946, she organised and developed courses for the higher instruction of nurses. Her keen mind, wide knowledge and experience have greatly contributed towards the improvement of the standard of nursing in the country.

JAPAN

16. *Miss Takeno Tanimoto*, Professional Nurse. Assistant-Director, Japanese Red Cross Central Hospital. During the First World War she was a member of a first-aid unit on a hospital ship carrying the wounded from China. Mobilised in 1932, she resumed the same duties. From 1937 to 1945 she cared for the wounded and sick of the armed forces. She gave distinguished service during the Tokyo earthquake in 1923. A model nurse who has shown great devotion to duty for forty years.

17. *Miss Haya Ishibashi*, Professional Nurse, Director of Nurses at the Matsuzawa Mental Hospital, which she helped to

organise. For fifty years she has cared for mental cases to the utmost of her ability ; when the hospital was destroyed by the earthquake in 1923 she was able to save several patients. Thanks to her professional and moral qualities, her composure and perseverance, she is a model nurse who has given exceptionally devoted service for the mentally deficient.

NORWAY

18. *Miss Ingrid Wyller*, Professional Nurse. Sister Tutor, Red Cross School of Nursing, Oslo, founder of the Tromsø School of Nursing and Supervisor of the Red Cross Schools of Nursing in Norway. Appointed Matron of the County Hospital of Molde in 1951, and Director of the Norwegian Nurses Association School of Advanced Nursing Education in 1952. With unflinching devotion and enthusiasm she has greatly helped to raise the standard of nursing in Norway.

19. *Matron Anna Holthe*, Professional Nurse. She has devoted herself to the care and rehabilitation of crippled and disabled persons. Since 1927 she has been on the Executive Board of the State Central Institute for Disabled Persons. She has played an important part in the founding of a training school for the crippled and a mentally deficient children's home. She is gifted with a fine understanding of the psychological problems connected with disabled persons, and has set up workshops and rehabilitation centres. By her efforts she has introduced modern principles of physical education for the disabled into Norway.

PAKISTAN

20. *Begum Ismat Khanum Shah*, Professional Nurse, Social Worker and Midwife. From 1931 to 1938, Superintendent of Punjab Health School and Inspector of Health Centres. She founded and organised a training school for welfare workers in rural districts. As Inspector of Health Services in the Punjab, she organised all the District Maternity and Child Welfare Red Cross Centres. She is now President of the Trained Nurses

Association of Pakistan and, thanks to her tenacity and zeal, she has greatly contributed to a higher standard of instruction for nurses and social workers.

GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

21. *Oberschwester Sofie Kienzle*, Professional Nurse, was attached to the Army Medical Services. For 40 years has given devoted and competent service to the German Red Cross and, in spite of her great age, she still assumes the duties of Directress of the Lorch Sanatorium, where she is loved and esteemed by the staff and management.

22. *Schwester Marie Schickinger*, Professional Nurse, has been in the service of the Red Cross since 1904. Her life has been entirely devoted to the care of cancer patients and, in spite of her great age, she still carries on her duties. By her eminent personal and professional qualities, and her great interest in scientific research for the prevention of cancer, she is highly esteemed by all at the Cerny Hospital, Heidelberg.

23. *Fräulein Gerda Dreiser*, Assistant Nurse, member of the staff of the German Red Cross management. She showed a great spirit of self-sacrifice in assisting war victims of various nationalities, often risking her own life. She took up the care of graves of foreign combatants, and organised relief action for repatriated persons and children suffering from malnutrition. Her work was characterised by her devotion to duty and to the Red Cross ideal.

UNITED KINGDOM

24. *Sister Ella Priscilla Jordan*, Matron B.R.G.S. at Irbid Hospital, worked with the Methodist Mission in China for eight years; she was interned for two and a half years before joining the British Red Cross China Mission, and was later posted to civilian relief in Germany. In 1949 she joined the Relief Commission in Transjordan; she organised and developed the work of the British Red Cross in Malay and in 1953 was

selected for special Civilian Relief in Korea. She re-established the Nurse Training School of the South Korean Red Cross Hospital. She is a most outstanding nurse, shows great initiative for difficult missions and incarnates the true Red Cross spirit by her abnegation and selfless devotion to duty.

SWEDEN

25. *Mademoiselle Eva-Ulrika Beck-Friis*, Professional Nurse. Member of the nursing unit of the hospital train for the transport of prisoners of war exchanged by Germany and Russia, 1917-1918. For the following ten years she worked in hospitals and sanatoria in Sweden and Austria; Matron of Sabbatsberg Hospital, Stockholm, for fourteen years. She was then nominated to the directorship of the Nurses Training School of the Swedish Red Cross. For nearly forty years she has followed her vocation with great success and extreme devotion to duty.

26. *Mademoiselle Verna Hagman*, Professional Nurse, worked in the operating theatre in Värnamo from 1923 to 1926, then in Betsaida Hospital, Addis Ababa for 7 years. For 4 years she gave training courses for the Swedish Red Cross, and from 1941 to 1945 she directed the Medico-Social Department of the Central Committee of the Swedish Red Cross. From 1948 to 1949 she was Assistant-Director of the Bureau for the international campaign against tuberculosis of the Swedish Red Cross, in Gelsenkirchen. She then participated in the relief action on behalf of Arab refugees, in Lebanon and Syria. From 1950 to 1952 she gave courses at the Nurses Training School of the Red Lion and Sun Society, in Teheran. Since 1952 she has filled an important post in the Gothenburg province.

SWITZERLAND

27. *Sœur Julie Fanny Lina Hofmann*, Professional Nurse since 1889. After working for 4 years in the Orthopaedic Hospital, Lausanne, she carried out her plan to found a home for mentally defective and incurable children. Although her work started

on a very moderate scale, by her enthusiasm, skill and perseverance she has gradually built up a series of model establishments, first for mentally defective and incurable children and later for adults. By her faith, her abnegation and her great courage she has given a home and enlightened care to the most unfortunate among the sick.

SOUTH AFRICAN UNION

28. *Sister Jane McLarty*, Professional Nurse, Sister Tutor. Appointed Matron in 1939 of the Non-European Hospital, she remained at her post until her retirement. She devoted her whole career to the instruction and the theoretical and practical training of the Non-European medical personnel of Baragwanath Hospital. By her perseverance she has brought the training of Non-European nurses to a remarkably high standard. She gave nurses unceasing encouragement in their work and inculcated in them the idea of the value of the nursing profession. Her great breadth of vision, tolerant yet firm attitude, have greatly contributed to the success of her fine career.

The medals and diplomas awarded to the above-mentioned nurses and aids will be sent as quickly as possible to the Central Committees of the respective countries. We shall enclose a photogravure reproduction of the portrait of Florence Nightingale. The International Committee of the Red Cross would appreciate an acknowledgement of the receipt of the medals and diplomas.

Committees are requested to give a character of solemnity to the award of the medal as its founders desired. The International Committee of the Red Cross will be glad to publish an account of the ceremonies.

We beg to remain

Yours faithfully,

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE
OF THE RED CROSS

PAUL RUEGGER

President.

SUNDRY ACTIVITIES

Comments of a delegate of the International Committee of the Red Cross on his return from Costa Rica

In our previous article on M. Pierre Jequier's recent work in Costa Rica, we stated that one of the objects of his mission was to assist, in his capacity as delegate of the International Committee, the Red Cross Society of that country, where disturbances had broken out shortly before his arrival. M. Jequier therefore worked in very close collaboration with this National Society which was facing an emergency on account of unforeseen events ; on the other hand, he also entered into contact with the Nicaraguan Red Cross Society during his stay in Managua, and on his way back did not fail to pay a visit to the National Societies of Panama and Venezuela. We do not wish to discuss here the mission on which he was engaged, but merely to obtain an idea of his impressions after being in contact with Red Cross circles in these various countries.

You were able to see, M. Jequier, the effort made by the Costa Rican Red Cross Society after the serious events of January. Can you tell us how it carried out its charitable mission ?

In the event of natural disasters—earthquakes or floods—the Red Cross Societies of the whole world unite their efforts. National Societies cannot, of course, always make such a spontaneous and rapid gesture of solidarity on the outbreak of an armed conflict, or revolution, and the Red Cross of the country

which is the theatre of such disturbances is often put to a severe test. The task which fell upon the Costa Rican Red Cross Society in January last was particularly onerous, considering that there was no regular army in Costa Rica at the time, and no army medical service. In consequence, while its volunteer troops were proceeding to the front line, the Costa Rican Government requested the National Red Cross to undertake all the relief measures which would be necessary on behalf of wounded and sick military personnel.

The Revue internationale has already described this work of transporting the wounded and collecting the dead on the battlefield. It presented great difficulties, due above all to the long distance to the front lines and the bad state of the highways...

I may say that the Costa Rican Red Cross overcame those difficulties with a maximum of speed and efficiency.

It was thus obliged, of its own accord or in conjunction with the military authorities, to take numerous initiatives of a practical nature. What resources and support were available within its own organisation?

The Costa Rican Red Cross is based on voluntary service, and its voluntary helpers bore the whole burden of the practical work done to carry out the task entrusted to it. At the San José headquarters, and in the local Branches, the voluntary helpers who, in time of peace, give permanent night and day service (in particular, they assume the entire duties of an ambulance unit) were unanimous in offering their services when called upon. The keen spirit which reigned among this voluntary personnel was such that—if I may say so—their directors who distributed the work had to take great care that no helper should feel that he was not being called upon to do his share.

On the conclusion of your mission, at the request of the Costa Rican Red Cross Society, you made a tour of the fighting areas and visited several First Aid Posts staffed by the voluntary workers...

That is so ; we visited, in particular, the local Branches in Cartago and Guadalupe, near the capital, and that of Puntarenas, a port on the Pacific coast. In those towns we saw Red Cross centres, built up entirely by the devoted efforts of people who understood the role such centres should play. The local Committees sometimes provide small dispensaries for giving first aid, but they all have an ambulance service, staffed by voluntary workers, the use of which is free to all who require its services. These were the young men—orderlies, stretcher-bearers and drivers—who were sent to the combat area. In the country, and in the neighbourhood of the village of Liberia, we visited the sites where the Costa Rican Red Cross had set up its field hospitals. Everything had to be improvised, and it is not hard to imagine how much goodwill and sacrifice were required of the workers who looked after these temporary installations.

In addition to the voluntary workers, whose courageous efforts you have just made clear to us, are there any other formations for relief purposes ?

The Costa Rican Red Cross Society has a section of women helpers, called the " White Ladies ", which is actively employed in social work. The White Ladies visit sick persons in hospitals, look after their families, help with isolated cases, distribute milk to children and make clothes for those in their care. I had the great pleasure of being present at one of their meetings, and of conversing with Mlle Mézerville who directs their work with great energy and intelligence.

During the events of January their charitable services must have been greatly appreciated...

Certainly ; they made the Red Cross flags for the hospitals and armlets for the voluntary workers ; they also supplied a great deal of the linen used in the hospitals. They looked after the combatants' families, and also the revolutionaries' families which were in distressed circumstances, thus giving an example of the true Red Cross spirit.

It goes without saying that the Costa Rican Red Cross Society was given the support of the civil and military authorities; but what was the attitude of the population towards its action?

The most pressing necessity was a blood bank for transfusions. On the first appeal so many donors were registered that within a few hours the blood bank was virtually constituted. In the same way, an appeal for funds launched by the Red Cross met with an unprecedented success. Thus, on two occasions, the population clearly showed its wish that the Red Cross should not lack the means required to carry out its mission.

Your mission also led you to Nicaragua, where you saw the work of another Red Cross Society. Which aspect of the work of the Nicaraguan Red Cross did you notice most particularly?

I was able to appreciate, in particular, the competence and devotion to duty of the Nicaraguan Red Cross Society, by its members' work on behalf of the wounded and sick Costa Rican revolutionaries interned in Managua. In fact, it had not only undertaken to look after them but also assumed the entire cost of their maintenance. I may say that this institution—represented during the events by Dr. Mora and Dr. Gonzalez—did all in its power to enable the internees to recover their health. It also cared for the unwounded internees, in particular by purchasing clothing and toilet articles for their use. Briefly speaking, the Nicaraguan Red Cross Society seemed to me to be in full progress; it is now devoting all its energies to building its new headquarters, which will no doubt be well suited to the duties it expects to perform; among other plans a blood transfusion centre, to give free service for all, is being discussed.

After Managua, let us speak of your return journey by way of Panama and Caracas...

As its principal activity, the Panama Red Cross Society has chosen to take charge of and care for abandoned children. Its main centre gives shelter to over a hundred children. Were

it not for these little ones' tragic circumstances, I might say that it was a joy for me to visit the well-organised and cosy home for these children, whose only family is the Red Cross. Medical consultations are given in the same building for mothers and infants. Three houses situated in other parts of the city have been converted into day-nurseries for children whose mothers have to go out to work. In addition the Panama Red Cross Society prepares each day about a thousand sandwiches which are distributed to the State schools and to the children of families in poor circumstances.

Before leaving the American Continent, I broke my journey at Caracas in order to visit the Venezuelan Red Cross Society. My visit proved to be most instructive. It enabled me to see a perfectly organised Red Cross Society at work, and its activities as a whole—nursing schools, hospital service, dispensaries, children's home and school, social assistance, etc.—give one a very clear idea of what can be achieved, on the practical level, by a National Society in full development. My visit coincided with the annual Red Cross Collection, and the animation which this event caused to reign in the streets added to the general impression of vitality which I gathered from my visit.

During my stay in Caracas, I attended a Plenary Session of the Inter-American Conference on Social Security which was then sitting. On that occasion, I had the pleasure of listening to a survey given by the Minister for Health and Social Welfare in Venezuela, which showed the importance attached to social questions in that country.

Were the representatives of other international organisations also present at the Conference?

I noticed, in particular, that delegates of the Organisation of American States (OAS) were present. In this connection, it is interesting to recall that this organisation, of which the existence was affirmed by a Conference held in Bogota in 1948, was in fact founded in Panama in 1826, during a first meeting of representatives of American States, convened by Simon Bolivar.

This step back into history has taken us slightly away from the subject of our talk...

The OAS brings us back to it, however, since during the Conference held by that organisation last year in Caracas, a resolution was adopted which "recommended to the Governments that they assure National Red Cross Societies the greatest autonomy and the greatest possible collaboration, with the object to strengthen said humanitarian organisations in the service of Society".

Are you under the impression that this resolution has already produced some effect? Has it strengthened the position of National Societies and made their collaboration more extensive?

In the countries which I have just visited, I found that in general, the Red Cross organisations are regarded as neutral bodies. The Red Cross emblem is known everywhere and is respected. I have the impression that Governments are becoming more and more conscious of the importance of National Societies being able to develop freely, without being bound by any political or religious ties. I should like to finish our talk by recalling one very auspicious and significant proof of the co-operative attitude of the National Societies—namely the meeting at Peñas Blancas, on the frontier between Costa Rica and Nicaragua, of the Red Cross representatives of both countries. The *Revue internationale* brought the matter to its readers' notice last month; but I must say how pleased and proud I felt, on that occasion, to be the representative of the International Committee.

R. M.