



# SUPPLEMENT

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REVUE INTERNATIONALE  
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

ET

BULLETIN INTERNATIONAL  
DES SOCIÉTÉS  
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

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*VISIT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE TO ROME*

M. Paul Ruegger, President of the International Committee of the Red Cross, has visited Rome, in company with two of his assistants.

The object of his visit was to discuss a number of current problems, on the one hand with members of the Italian Government and the Italian Red Cross and on the other, with the Vatican. M. Ruegger also took advantage of his stay in Rome to renew his acquaintance with the Swiss colony in that city, whose interests he had represented during his term as Swiss Minister plenipotentiary in the period from 1936 to 1942.

On this occasion he delivered a lecture at the Palazzetto Venezia to the Italo-Swiss Cultural Association, presided over by Count Sforza, Minister for Foreign Affairs ; his subject was "The Red Cross and its Relations to Switzerland and Italy".

In the course of his remarks, M. Paul Ruegger made a point of stressing the spontaneous support given by the city of Rome to the Red Cross idea. "In no other city, in no other world centre, could a principle of universal application take root and flourish as that of the Red Cross did in Rome", he said. "The wide and lofty range of international activities which the Red Cross performs, under its device "Inter Arma Caritas"—although not only in time of war—will always draw greater strength from the spiritual support of Rome, and the ideas which radiate from that city".

After the address, which was much applauded, a reception was given by the present Swiss Minister in Rome, M. René de Weck.

A current subject of concern for the International Committee is, it will be remembered, the position of the indigenous poor of Jerusalem.

His Holiness Pope Pius XII was pleased to admit the President of the International Committee to a lengthy private audience. M. Paul Ruegger was thus able to deliver a memorandum on the subject to His Holiness, who took a lively interest in the problem and promised to recommend the greatest possible attention in the matter to the Vatican Secretariat of State.

M. Ruegger later had an interview with Mgr. Montini, Secretary of State substitute. The Committee's programme of aid, now of several months standing, in Jerusalem, thus enjoys the active support of the authorities of the Holy See.

M. Ruegger was glad to note the excellent relations existing between the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Vatican.

The President was also invited to a luncheon given by M. Einaudi, President of the Italian Republic, at the Quirinal, and to a dinner given by the Italian Red Cross Committee.

In the course of his discussions with the Italian authorities, and in particular with Count Sforza and M. Zanotti-Bianco, the President of the Italian Red Cross, M. Ruegger dealt with the allocation of travel permits by the Committee's delegate at Rome: these permits are required for emigration overseas by certain classes of displaced persons.

An agreement was concluded on this subject under the terms of which the International Committee's delegate at Rome will continue for a time to issue these permits, although he will seek to restrict their number as far as possible. It was understood that subsequent measures would be taken to protect such displaced persons who continue now, as much as before, to apply for these papers.

The delegation at Rome has in other respects wound up its operations, and when the liaison bureau remaining for the final settlement of the travel permit question is closed, its activities will cease altogether.

During his brief stay the President also consulted with the Italian authorities on a number of financial matters. The authorities gave most generous recognition to the services rendered by the Committee to Italy during the war.

Thus the bonds uniting the Italian Red Cross and the International Committee were strengthened, whilst relations with the Italian government were placed on a yet more cordial footing.

On his return to Geneva, M. Paul Ruegger stressed the warm-hearted welcome he had received in the Italian capital.

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*THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE HONOURS  
THE MEMORY OF HENRY DUNANT  
AT CASTIGLIONE AND SOLFERINO*

Nearly a century has passed since, shocked by the spectacle of thousands of wounded men lying unattended on the battle-field of Solferino, Henry Dunant conceived the idea of the Red Cross. Solferino and its surroundings are doubly famous, since it was this battle which decided the fate of Italy's unity and this battle-field which contained the seed of the world-wide international Red Cross movement. Yet until this year, it bore no tangible tribute to Henry Dunant's memory.

In March of last year, one hundred and twenty members of the International Committee's staff, together with a contingent of fifty representatives of other international organizations in Geneva, amongst them the League of Red Cross Societies, made a pilgrimage to Castiglione and Solferino. During this visit, it was resolved to set up two marble tablets in these localities, in commemoration of the fact that Dunant was here first seized with the ideas which later gave rise to the Red Cross and the Geneva Conventions.

The Committee made its suggestion known to the civil and ecclesiastical authorities of the province of Mantua and received their whole-hearted support. The Committee was also fortunate in finding a most devoted collaboration in the person of Count Magnaguti, President of the Mantua Branch of the Italian Red Cross; the Count took upon himself the work of obtaining the necessary official permits and of engraving the commemorative tablets.

It will be remembered that the wounded of Solferino were gathered in the churches of Castiglione, particularly in the

Church of Famedio, also known as Madonna of the Rosary. One of the tablets therefore has its natural place in this Church. The necessary ecclesiastical authority was most kindly given by the Bishop of Mantua. A further permit was required from the Custodian of Monuments for the provinces of Cremona and Verona, since the churches both of Solferino and Castiglione fall under the heading of historical monuments. In giving his consent the Custodian also agreed that the tablets should be engraved by his own technicians.

The Communal authorities of Castiglione themselves were delighted with the Committee's scheme; no less pleasure was shown by the President of the Solferino and San Martino Society, which is responsible for the Ossuary-Church and the historical museum. With this willing support the Committee was therefore able to carry out its plan this year. Two tablets bearing the following inscriptions in French were placed in position.

DANS CETTE ÉGLISE  
COMME DANS TOUTES LES ÉGLISES DE CASTIGLIONE  
AU LENDEMAIN DE LA SANGLANTE  
BATAILLE DE SOLFÉRINO

**HENRY DUNANT**

Citoyen de Genève  
(1828 à 1910)

SECOURUT LES BLESSÉS DES ARMÉES ADVERSES  
AVEC UNE MÊME COMPASSION FRATERNELLE.  
DE CELA EST NÉE L'ŒUVRE UNIVERSELLE  
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE

25 juin 1859

25 juin 1949

« TUTTI FRATELLI »

SUR LE CHAMP DE BATAILLE DE SOLFÉRINO

**HENRY DUNANT**

Citoyen de Genève  
(1828 à 1910)

CONÇUT L'IDÉE DE LA CROIX-ROUGE QUI A  
DÉPLOYÉ SON ACTION SECOURABLE DANS LE  
MONDE ENTIER

25 juin 1859

25 juin 1949

« INTER ARMA CARITAS »

The translation of these two inscriptions runs as follows :

I

In this Church and in the other churches of Castiglione, Henry Dunant, a citizen of Geneva (1828-1910) gave his aid, with impartial humanity, to the wounded of both armies on the morrow of the murderous Battle of Solferino. From this deed has sprung the international Red Cross movement.

June 25, 1859

June 25, 1949

“ Tutti fratelli ”

II

On the battle field of Solferino Henry Dunant a citizen of Geneva (1828-1910) first conceived the idea of the Red Cross which has extended its benefits to the entire world.

June 25, 1859

June 25, 1949

“ Inter Arma Caritas ”

On the 25th of June this year the tablets were unveiled. This was the ninetieth anniversary exactly of the day of which Henry Dunant himself called upon the goodwill of the population of Castiglione and set an example by giving to the wounded and dying the help they so tragically needed.

A delegation from the Committee, headed by Professor Paul Carry, therefore went to Castiglione, accompanied by M. Ledermann, head of the International Relations Bureau of the League of Red Cross Societies, and by two members of the Dunant family — M. Adolphe Dunant and Pasteur Robert Dunant, the nephew and grandnephew respectively of Henry Dunant.

The little Italian town, under warm and sunny skies, was decked for the occasion, and the inhabitants had gathered under the walls of the Famedio Church. The Vice-Prefect of Mantua represented the Italian Government and with him were the Mayor of Castiglione, the Archpriest of the Chiesa Maggiore, and the Presidents of the Milan, Mantua, Brescia and Verona Branches of the Italian Red Cross.

Whilst the Italian Red Cross Society (itself one of the oldest, since it was founded in 1864) had sent its Honorary President, Senator Ciruolo, Madame Menada, Inspector-General of the Italian Nursing Corps and the Deputy Inspector-General, Madame Maria Franca Anselmi, and the regional inspectors of Milan were also present, accompanied by a party of nurses from Mantua and Milan.

The ceremony was presided over by Count Magnaguti; Professor Carry unveiled the tablet in the Famedio Church and, after the blessing had been pronounced, delivered an address, the substance of which was as follows :

The name Castiglione recalls a resounding date in the history of human goodwill and justice. In and about that town, after the murderous battle of Solferino, churches and dwellings were all without exception transformed into hospitals; the entire population gave blankets, beds, mattresses, straw and the care of their hands to the wounded. And amongst them all, whether clergy or laymen, who ministered to the bodily need of the suffering, and recorded the last wishes of the dying, there was one who spent himself in good-doing

and whose white clothing distinguished him from the uniforms of the soldiers and the black dresses of the women, as a figure which has since grown to legendary stature.

Henry Dunant, minister to the sick by force of circumstances, could do no more than the others ; he supplied wants, gave food and drink, comforted the wounded, prayed with the dying. He organized his fellow helpers. But above all he sensed the true significance of the phrase upon the lips of the women of Castiglione : " All men are brothers ."

For three years, these words haunted Dunant's memory, together with the image of the dreadful scenes he had witnessed. Obsessed with the idea of reform, he set to work with feverish energy on his book " Un Souvenir de Solferino ", in which he appealed to the goodwill of his contemporaries. Beginning with an account of the suffering he had witnessed, he went on to describe the acts of devotion he had seen. He called urgently for the help of men of all nationalities. As the women of Castiglione had said : " All men are brothers ."

Hence the Voluntary Aid Societies he advocated had to be international bodies in the highest sense of that term ; their task would be to minister to all, without distinction.

After this, event followed close on event. In 1862 " Un Souvenir de Solferino " appeared, in 1863 the International Committee of Geneva was formed and the first Red Cross Conference was convened, in 1864 the Geneva Convention came into being. And each year thereafter, national Red Cross Societies were to spring up—and among the first the Italian Red Cross, in 1864.

Thus it is that in this town of Castiglione, with which we associate all the neighbouring cities, Brescia, Mantua, Verona, and many others, a tablet bearing the name of Henry Dunant has now been set up.

His appeal, those many years ago, to men of goodwill has been heard by all, and the movement he foresaw, that of the Red Cross, has spread across the entire world.

After Professor Carry, speeches by the Mayor of Castiglione, Mr. Walter Gnutti, representing the League of Red Cross Societies, Count Magnaguti, and MM. Adolphe and Robert Dunant were delivered.

At a particularly impressive point in the ceremony M. Adolphe Dunant presented a bouquet to the nurses attending the ceremony, as a symbolic tribute to the women of Castiglione. Before doing so, he made the following remarks :

At this ceremony in honour of my uncle Henry Dunant, before the church of Castiglione which after the Battle of Solferino was the scene of such great suffering and grief, I hasten to express my thanks to the International Committee of the Red Cross for its kindness in inviting me to be present. It was in this Church that my uncle, filled with compassion for the suffering men about him, spent three days and three nights at their side ; he staunched their wounds, quenched their thirst, instilled hope into the dying and took messages and farewells for their relatives. However, that was not all. For although it was here that he grieved at the spectacle of so many suffering men, bereft both of doctors and of ambulances, it was here also that, to his great joy, his own feelings were re-echoed—the women of Castiglione, young and old, instantly responded to his appeal and comforted the wounded of both nationalities, who were, in their own words : “ Tutti fratelli ”.

We should pay a tribute to the kindness and mercy of these women who aided Dunant so devotedly. They may be called “ the first Red Cross nurses ” ; their memory was a comfort and a source of pride in after years to the founder of the Red Cross movement.

After the ceremony the party moved to Solferino, where the tablet set up in the Ossuary-Church was unveiled. Mr. Carry then spoke as follows :

On June 24, 1859, ninety years ago exactly yesterday, one of the bloodiest battles of history took place on this hillside, and ninety years ago exactly today Henry Dunant, terribly moved by the sight of forty thousand men left dead or dying on the field, became the great humanitarian and reformer, the founder of the Red Cross.

A witness of the courage shown by these 320,000 men, locked in a murderous encounter, and of the dreadful sufferings and toll of death which was the price for one in every eight of them, Dunant changed in every fibre ; once a business man and a banker, he became the champion and the first practical exponent of reform.

Thus the International Red Cross Committee must on this spot honour and perpetuate his memory. But at the same time the Committee must salute the nameless victims of the battle, the dead in their thousands, who in giving their lives did more than fall for their country ; unwittingly they died for the formation of one of the great humanitarian movements of the world.

“ Inter Arma Caritas ” : the motto should remind us of the dead whose bones are gathered in this church ; for many of them, as Dunant described in his “ Souvenir de Solferino ”, set an example of chivalrous aid to their enemies, mortally wounded like themselves.

It was on these fields, on this hillside, that towards evening on the 24th of June 1859, the black flags, then the sign of the military ambulances, were seen fluttering weakly. But the ambulances proved too few, and even when overloaded, could not carry all those who needed their services ; and so, as at Castiglione on the ensuing days, it was the lack of medical aid which prompted Henry Dunant to action. And it was thanks to him that these sinister black flags were, five years later, to be replaced by the white flag with the red cross. In the words of the first Geneva Convention adopted on August 22, 1864 : " The flag shall be white and in its centre a red cross ."

This Convention, the product of Dunant's efforts and at that time ratified by twenty-four States, has since been repeatedly amended and enlarged. At this very moment delegates from all the nations of the world are in session at Geneva to discuss and revise that same Convention. In the course of their patient debates, the name and ideas of Henry Dunant are quoted time and again.

Moreover, there now exist in all the countries of the world national Red Cross Societies, which look to Dunant as their spiritual head.

This green and fertile country, the roofs we glimpse in the distance, the relics in this Ossuary remind us of so many humanitarian achievements and so many hopes for a world of peace and good-will. In homage to these ancient dead and in memory of him who drew a living idea from their sacrifice, the International Committee of the Red Cross offers to you this tablet, dedicated to the memory of Henry Dunant.

The tablet was then taken over by the President of the Solferino and San Martino Society. Finally, Senator Ciraoło spoke in moving terms on behalf of the Italian Red Cross. He described the present-day importance of the movement of which Dunant was the forerunner, and stressed the fact that Dunant was fortunate enough to find, on his return, a number of citizens in his own town, large-hearted and wise enough to lend practical effect to his convictions, and to give them concrete form in the Conventions, the first of which was signed five years after the battle. These Conventions were themselves a great testimony, on the part of the signatory nations, to the work of the " Committee of Five ", soon to become the International Committee of the Red Cross, which has never ceased continuing and extending the same work.

In passing, it may be remarked that the Italian speakers associated the name of Geneva and Switzerland with their tribute to Henry Dunant. The Committee's delegation was deeply appreciative of this courtesy, as it was also of the spontaneous and kindly welcome extended by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities and by the people of Castiglione and Solferino, who took a most warmhearted share in the two ceremonies.

The events of this day will live long in the memory of those who were privileged to be present. From now on the two towns of Castiglione and Solferino, enriched by a doubly historic past, will offer the visitor a reminder, in these marble tablets, of what was done here by the founder of the Red Cross.

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## *AID TO GERMAN AND AUSTRIAN PRISONERS OF WAR*

During the past year the International Committee of the Red Cross, although preoccupied by new and onerous tasks in China, Indonesia, Palestine, India and Pakistan, has still been able to provide extensive aid for the prisoners of the recent war who are still in captivity.

Some of the detaining Powers, and among them France, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and Poland, have, despite the best of intentions, not been able to meet all the requirements of these men, and the ICRC has therefore done what it could to fill the deficiencies. None the less, as Germany emerged from the war devoid both of a Government and a Red Cross Society, the ICRC was thrown on its own resources for the work of aiding German prisoners, and it was not always able to muster sufficient funds for the purpose. However, it did bring about a perceptible improvement in the circumstances of most of these men.

The repatriation of prisoners of war began, in France, in 1947, and in Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia and finally Poland in 1948. The operation was spread over a number of months, and the numbers of prisoners thus began to fall with increasing rapidity. Nevertheless, it was the Committee's duty to continue its aid until the last man had returned to his home. The effect was that, after the beginning of repatriation, the quantity of relief goods available to the PW increased in inverse proportion to their numbers, since as the PW camps in France were disbanded, the outgoing occupants handed over to the Committee a large amount of new or used material that they could not, or did not wish to take with them.

Thus, the remaining and less well-supplied prisoners received quantities of medicaments, dental equipment, books,

wireless sets, and sleeping bags. Some of the proceeds from PW camps were sent to repatriates and war-disabled in Germany and Austria.

At the beginning of July 1948, repatriation from France was nearing completion. The ICRC therefore decided to devote itself, in the period from July, 1, 1948 to July 1, 1949, to the prisoners of war in Czechoslovakia, Jugoslavia and Poland.

Relief supplies were due for dispatch in the late autumn when the situation suddenly changed. Firstly, the Committee's delegation in Prague was informed that all PW in Czechoslovakia were due to return to Germany by the end of December: secondly, the Yugoslav Red Cross which, in the absence of an ICRC delegate in that country, had been charged with the distribution of aid to German prisoners, informed Geneva that repatriation would begin on November 1, and would be completed by the end of the year. For these reasons, all available relief supplies at Geneva were sent to Poland, except for certain goods reserved for Germany and France, and about a ton of medical supplies which could be delivered in good time to the Yugoslav Red Cross.

As a result, the Committee's delegation in Warsaw received 12 wagons of goods for a total of 25-30,000 men; they comprised 11,850 undergarments (underpants and vests), 10,758 pairs of socks, 50,020 bars of soap and a quantity of toilet requisites.

The prisoners in Poland were also short of footwear, but Geneva could only find 6320 pairs, which though used, were in good condition. A shipment was therefore made of material for repair and maintenance, including glue for use in re-soling with disused tyres, grease for treating the leather, and various cobbler's items.

Funds for clothing supplies were also inadequate; the Committee therefore sent to Poland more than 30,000 sleeping bags retrieved in France. These bags were still in quite good condition and had been disinfected by the French Red Cross. They were accompanied by needles, thread, buttons and lining material, so that the men would be able to use the material to make themselves garments.

Four months later, a further and last consignment of three wagonloads left Geneva for Poland, destined for the men who were still in the camps on the delegate's most recent visits. For about 12,000 men, there were 12,040 underpants, 12,040 vests, 12,320 pairs of socks, 1002 dozen toothbrushes, 24,000 razor-blades, 50,080 bars of soap, a quantity of cigarettes and a final consignment of sleeping bags from the camps in France.

Besides the above supplies, the Committee's delegate in Warsaw received more than 17 tons of medicaments, restoratives, vitamin products and bandages. Special selections were made up for the prisoners working in the mines, whilst medical kits were issued to small, isolated working parties.

More than two tons of dental material were also sent off. Among them were 17 sets of equipment for the dental surgeries installed in the various camps, and six sets of equipment for workshops where dentures could be made and repaired. This equipment, together with the necessary instruments and apparatus, comprised all the usual items and was replenished whenever required from Geneva. The equipment was used by German dentists, supervised by doctors of the Detaining Power.

Many PW were given spectacles, and camp doctors, dentists and pharmacists were supplied with scientific text-books and medical reviews.

An idea of the magnitude of these relief operations may be gained from the fact that the value of the supplies sent to German PW in Poland is estimated at 250,000 Swiss francs.

Material was also recently sent to the Paris delegation for distribution during 1949, both by the delegate and by Red Cross Societies, to German PW confined in French, Belgian, Dutch and Luxemburg prisons. Each of these men received a toothbrush, two undergarments, two pairs of socks and ten tablets of soap; spectacles, dentures, special medicines and restoratives were also supplied.

Besides such material supplies, intellectual relief was also provided. Owing to lack of funds, the ICRC confined itself to subscribing to some dozen reviews for the PW camps in France, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Egypt and Germany: 443 subscriptions were paid, so that more than 16,000 copies of

scientific, literary, artistic and general reviews circulated in the camps. In addition, more than 20,000 volumes, presented to or bought by the Committee's Book Department, were sent. To simplify the delegates' work, particularly in Poland, small parcels were made up containing a selection of light reading matter, which the delegates deposited with the spokesmen on their visits to the camps.

The ICRC answered individual applications only in cases where prisoners wished to conduct classes. A total of 143 applications were met in this way. Apart from this, 1020 games and more than 12,000 stationery items were distributed to the camps in Jugoslavia.

In the same way, the ICRC reclaimed books, musical instruments and games from the German PW repatriated from French camps: these, when in good condition, were sent to the prisoners in Poland. Intellectual relief despatched to that country comprised in all 6210 books, 981 gramophone records, 1075 musical instruments, 275 games and 59 other items.

Intellectual relief recovered from PW camps in France was so abundant that Geneva could not undertake to distribute it, and accordingly presented the German Red Cross with about 21,000 books, 1304 gramophone records, 100 musical instruments and 300 assorted articles, for issue to repatriates' camps and invalid homes.

It may be of interest to note that the cost of handling, sorting and despatching the goods recovered was met almost entirely with the proceeds from the sale of valueless printed matter as waste paper.

The repatriates from France, Russia and other Eastern European countries are often, on arrival in Germany, in need of immediate assistance: however, although able to give initial aid, the authorities and the national Red Cross were sometimes unable to replace ragged clothing, furnish essential necessities or treat certain ailments.

The Committee is not, under its statutes, required to aid liberated prisoners. The German Red Cross, on being consulted as to the disposal of part of the funds collected by Geneva, had asked the ICRC to devote itself primarily to the prisoners of

war. As has already been seen, the ICRC has found itself in possession of substantial quantities of relief supplies, at a time when the number of PW was only some thirty thousand. The ICRC was therefore able, without detriment to these men, to divert to the repatriation camps, hospitals and sanatoria in Germany (mainly in the French Zone, in Berlin and in the Soviet Zone) a little over fifteen tons of medical supplies, comprising bandages, restoratives and other material. Shortly afterwards, it furnished the Red Cross Coordination Committees in Germany with 15,000 articles of warm clothing, 3800 pairs of socks, 30,000 cakes of soap and a quantity of cigarettes. Prisoners of war repatriated to Austria were not left out of account, and three tons of medical supplies, as well as toilet requisites, were sent to the Austrian Ministry of the Interior through the delegation in Vienna.

If the German prisoners of war held in Russia are disregarded, it may be estimated that all those taken during the War will have returned to their homes within a few months. The task of aiding them has throughout fallen solely upon the ICRC—a task rendered the more difficult by the absence of donors after the end of the war. Every sort of expedient had to be used to obtain funds: collections among well-off prisoners, particularly those in the United States, collections in the German colonies abroad, and used or excess supplies. Nevertheless, the aid given remained inadequate, so long as the number of prisoners was in any way considerable, and it was not until the past year, when there were merely thousands, instead of hundreds of thousands of Germans in captivity, that a relief programme of real efficacy could be set in motion. This at least meant that the relief given was in proportion to length of captivity.