

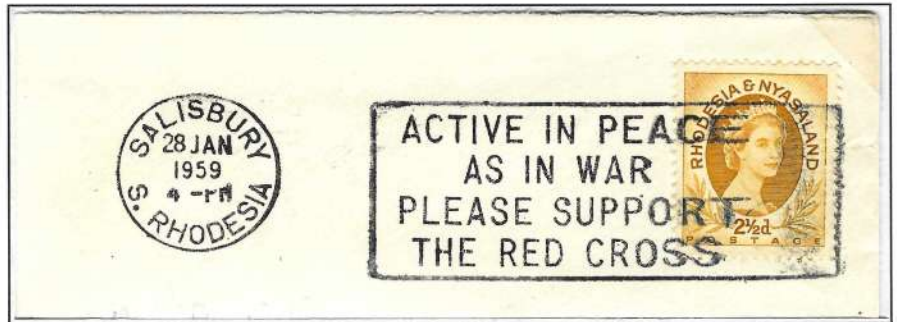


Introductory notes

Put a barrier to mankind cruelties and pains, both during war or peacetime: this is the purpose for which the International Red Cross was created in the second half of the XIX Century.

World Wars have represented two crucial events relatively to the history of this humanitarian institution, having established the first and authentic test benches for its organizing machine.

Great problems had to be faced and important measures were taken in the midst of battles -in a total absence of specific rules and health facilities- such as: first of all, some help to a large number of prisoners and wounded soldiers or missing civilians; secondly, a protection for volunteers bearing Red Cross emblems.



Differently, during peacetime the Movement carries out assistance in every context with interventions and rescue missions to populations affected by diseases, epidemics, famines, earthquakes and floods, managing medical, psychological, social and welfare emergencies.

Collection plan



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- 1.3 - Its fundamental ideological principles
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- 1.5 - Distinctive and protective emblems made its work recognizable
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1.1 - The origin of organized humanitarian assistance

Propensity to help those in need and strong sense of solidarity towards people -features characterising the lives of clerics and Saints recognized by the Catholic Church- are the main factors which keep forever alive the Movement.



Bartolomé de las Casas: was a priest who tried to oppose in the 1500s the extermination of indios during Spanish conquest wars.

Printing proofs in red colour with puncture holes →

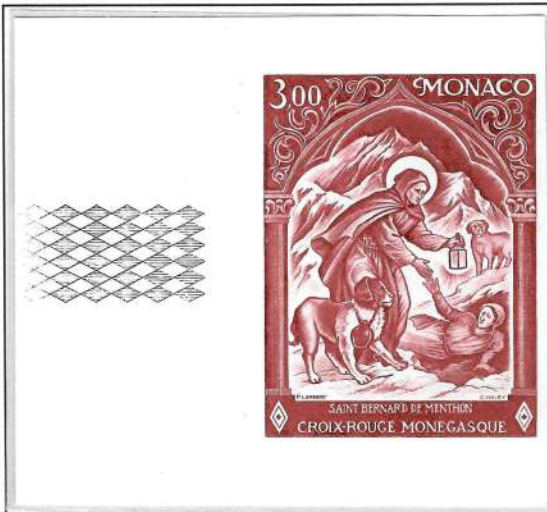
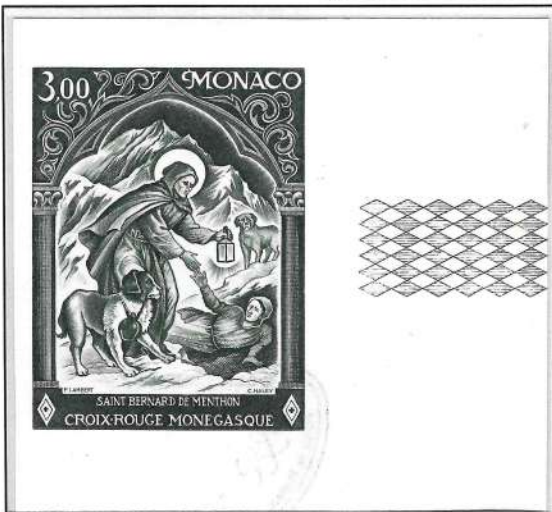


Pedro de Bethancourt - who belonged to the Franciscan Order - introduced in the 1600s the important concept of recovery in health sector.



St. Giovanni Bosco, Protector of Youth

Definitive proof →



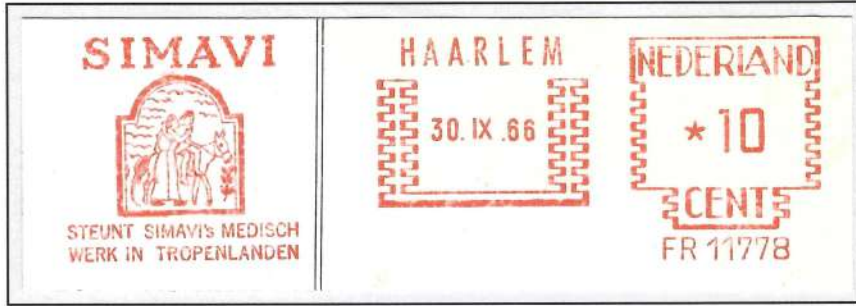
St. Bernardo da Mentone was very appreciated for the reason that he built in the 1050s an emergency point on Gran St. Bernardo mountain with the aim of assisting pilgrims.

Colour proofs

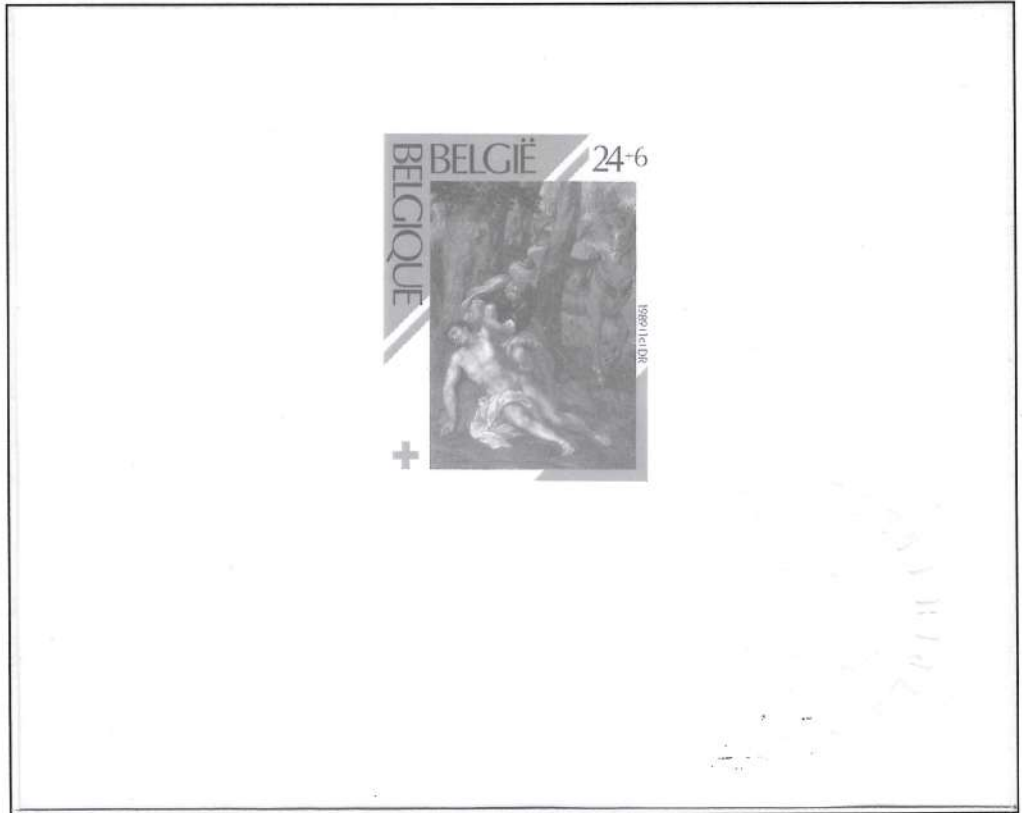


1.1 - The origin of organized humanitarian assistance

Fundamental principles derived from the work of Samaritans, people of the ancient Palestinian region of Samaria, who embraced the evangelical ideal of the Christian caritas, becoming a model of altruism and humanitarian commitment in the social sphere.



Ministerial proof



Vatican City:
Red Cross
emblem
missing



1.1 - The origin of organized humanitarian assistance

The *U.S. Sanitary Commission* and the *U.S. Christian Commission* were two private relief agencies with main offices respectively in Washington and in New York, authorized to carry out health activities thanks to a federal law of June 18th, 1861.



Precancelled stamp



Taking advantage of public funding allocated for the war effort, these two agencies provided assistance to the *Union Army* and *Confederate States* soldiers during the Civil War (April 1861 - June 1865).

Their work was important for experimenting with the first rescue techniques on battlefields.

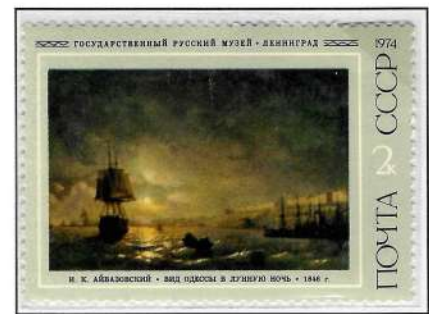
Photo-essay produced by the USPS (United States Postal Service) and sent out to provide information to newspapers and various types of publications concerning the issue of this stamp





1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross

In the ancient Soviet city of Odessa, the Red Cross Committee was authorized in the period 1878-1884 to use its cancellations (showing only the year) whose affixations allowed exemptions from postal charges forwarding of local correspondence. Otherwise, absolutely for shipments outside borderlines, the current postage was made mandatory.



Odessa depicted in an old painting



Nikolaj Pirogov (1810 -1881) is considered the father of military surgery in Russia. He directed the Odessa Red Cross Hospital for many years.

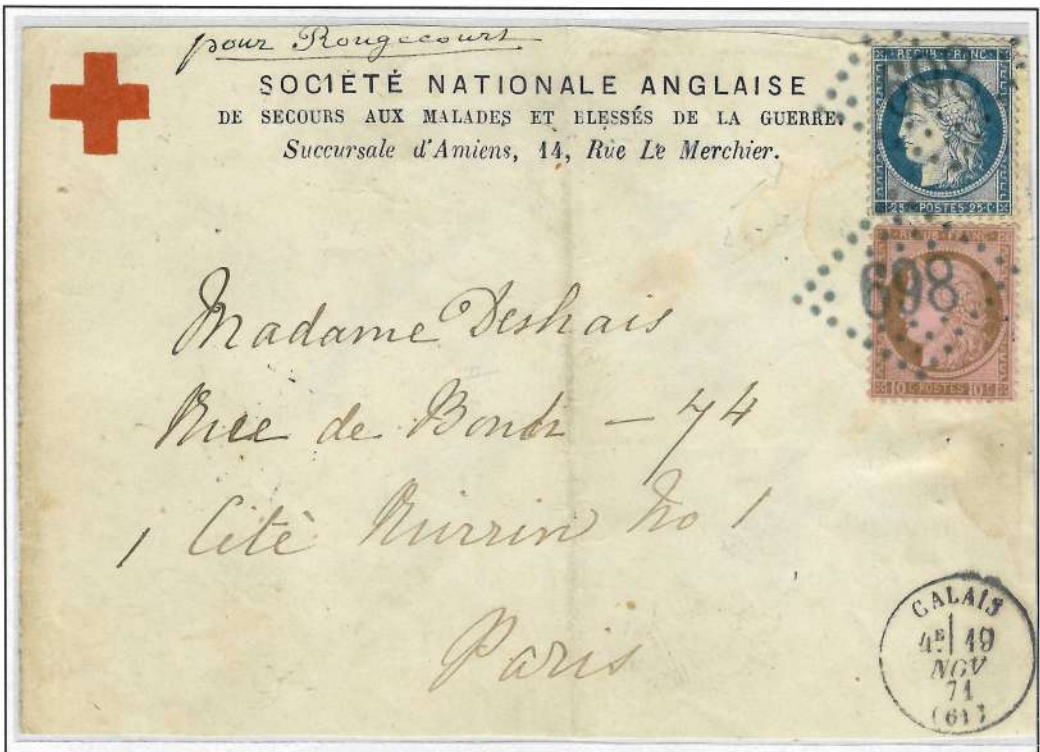




1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross

The first emergency station in Portugal was created by King Joao I d'Aviz in 1400s during the II Castilian War, when he ordered to give assistance even to wounded soldiers of Spanish enemy army. For this reason, he was nicknamed "John the Good".

Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa



In the second half of the XIX Century the idea of the Red Cross was launched and the first National Committees began to arise in all the States.

Société Nationale Anglaise de Secours aux Malades et Blessés de la Guerre

Association Belge de Secours aux Militaires Blessés & Malades





1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross

In the late Nineteenth Century, some philanthropic associations were starting to be born in France: they didn't benefit from any external contribution, having rather to manage each activity through self-financing.

Envelope sent in the year 1870 to a Protestant cleric who was accompanying the n. 1 French Ambulance, which was operating during the Franco-Prussian War



Colour proofs



(e)



Société de Secours aux Blessés Militaires des Armées de Terre et de Mer. Correspondence in 1870s period: envelopes sent from Versailles and Strasbourg



1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross



At the time of its establishment, the Italian Red Cross was named "Associazione Italiana di Soccorso per i Militari Feriti e Malati in tempo di Guerra". Its first Central Committee took place in Milan on June 15th, 1864.



A few years later, the Italian Red Cross decided to change its denomination and headquarter: it became "Associazione Italiana della Croce Rossa", with offices in Rome.



1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross

Jean Henry Dunant is believed to be the founder of the Red Cross, although he never conducted any medical study during his life.

Instead, he was a businessman who attempted to start a farm in the French colony of Algeria: in order to overcome obstacles in work, he wanted to talk with Napoleon III, when the Emperor was in command of his army, while the II Italian War of Independence was being fought.



Absent emblem



Print moved down



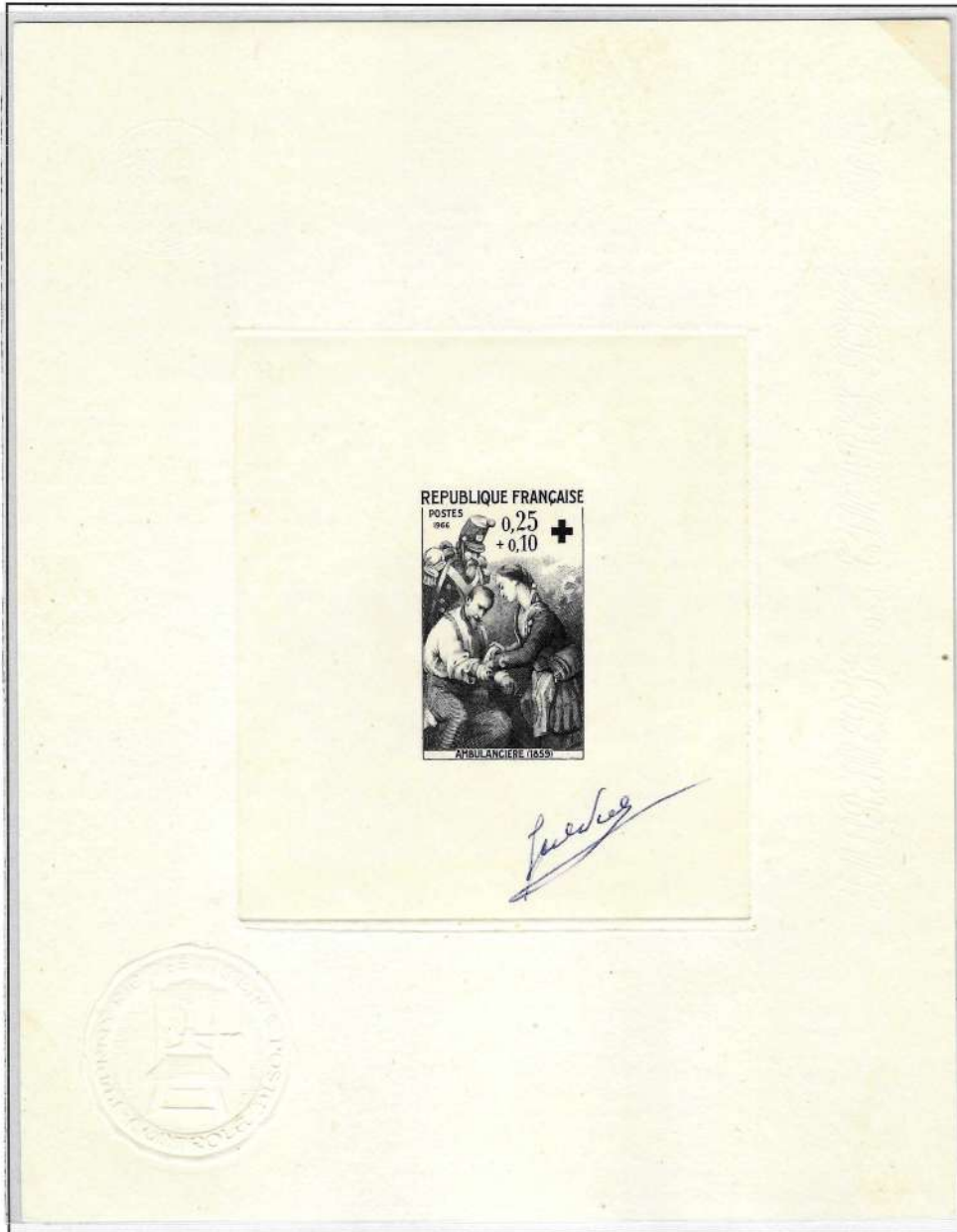
1859: II Independence War



Artist proofs



1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross



The battle of Solferino (June 24th, 1859) was the bloodiest of those fought for the unification of Italy.

The three armies in the field demonstrated the total inadequacy of their health services, with unprepared workers and thousands of abandoned soldiers without care, and, must of all, with deficient medical supplies.

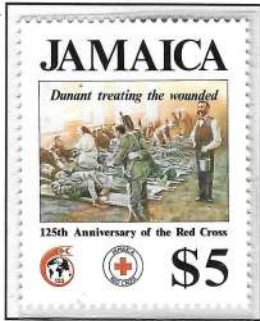
Jean Henri Dunant (known as Henry Dunant) was deeply affected by the carnage: his destiny was practically sealed from that moment.



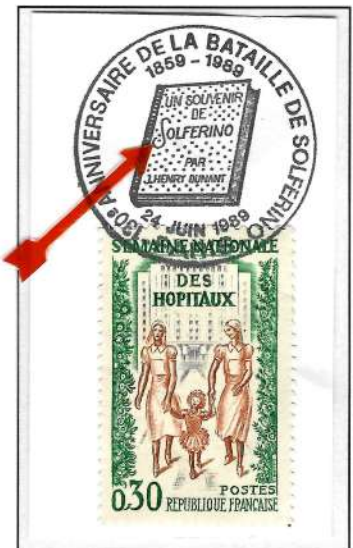

Colour proofs



1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross

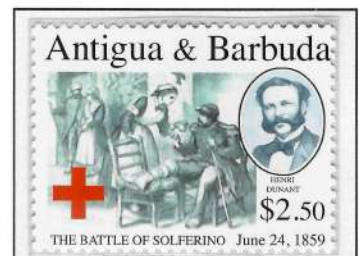


Dunant took the initiative to activate rescue by organizing the civilian population -in particular the female component- inhabitant in the nearby town of Castiglione delle Stiviere, at whose church he set up a makeshift hospital, thus giving comfort to hundreds of wounded soldiers.



"Un souvenir de Solferino" ("A memory of Solferino")

On his return to Geneva in 1862, he wanted to leave a written testimony of the terrible experience and therefore composed a book entitled "Un souvenir de Solferino", which immediately became a classic example of thought and action, entered into history by changing it and inspiring the creation of many charitable organizations.

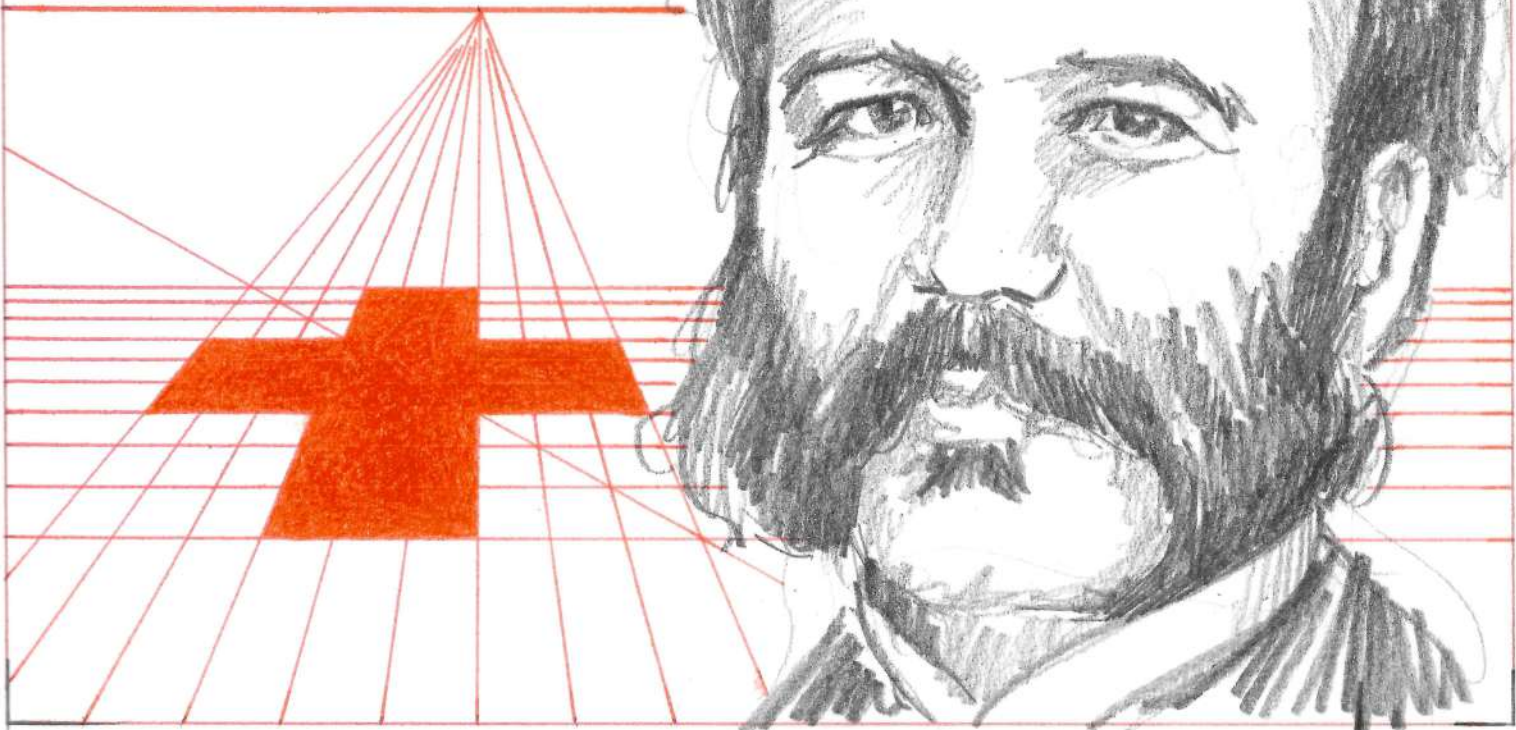




1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross

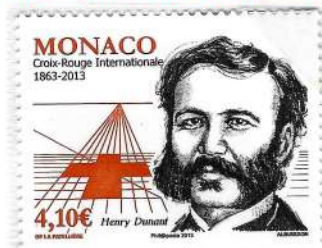
MONACO

Henri Dunant



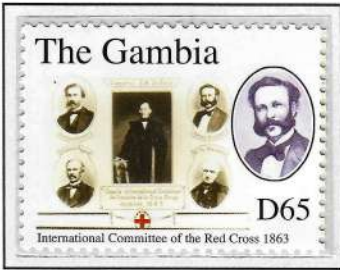
CYRIL DE LA PATELLIÈRE DEL.

Original artwork signed by the artist De La Patellière and definitive stamp issued by Principality of Monaco in the year 2013





1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross



Committee of Five

J. H. Dunant's altruistic ideas particularly impressed four eminent Swiss citizens: Gen. Guillaume Henri Dufour, lawyer Gustave Moynier, doctor Louis Appia and doctor Theodore Maunoir. Together they created in the year 1863 the *Comité des Cinq*, later called *Comité International de Secours aux Blessés*.



Gustave Moynier, Jean Henry Dunant and Guillaume Henri Dufour

This working group decided to carry out an humanitarian project, which had to be presented to European States Delegates on the occasion of I Geneva Convention in 1864, treaty intended to establish the conditions for improvement of injured soldiers on the battlefields and the rights of war victims: this laid the foundations for the birth of the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge*.



Theodore Maunoir with Louis Appia



Gustave Moynier



1.2 - Creation of the Red Cross

The last period of Dunant's life had very little to do with the youthful one, characterized by strong activism: for this reason, he was overwhelmed by the obsession to be recognized as the only Red Cross founder.

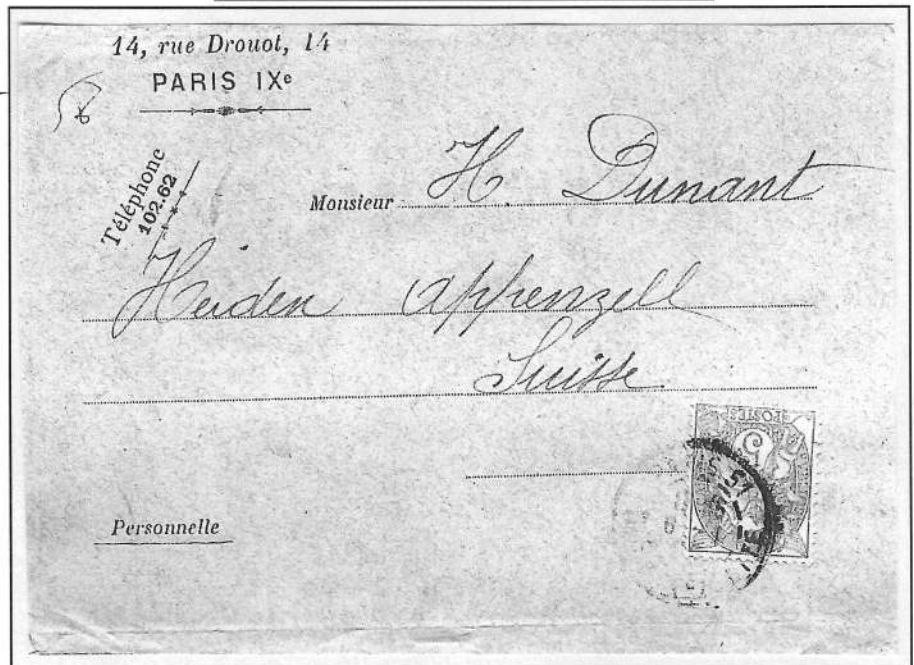
He began to feel betrayed, which is why ended up to isolate himself and sinking into a strong desperation.



Sketch of Austrian not adopted stamp



Misperforated



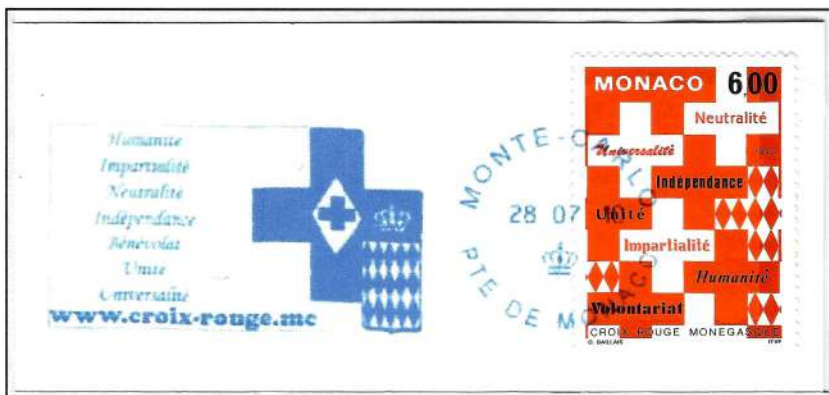
The esteem and appreciation attributed to Dunant by those who had known him during previous years of philanthropic activities, were of great help to him. In fact, he was recognized among the Parisian clochards and housed in the "Paradise Guesthouse" in Heiden, small village in Switzerland, where he died in complete solitude on October 30th, 1910.



1.3 - Its fundamental ideological principles

To guide and guarantee the Red Cross action, some basic principles have been identified -with binding character- that have constituted its spirit and ethic foundations.

Although enunciated since the First Geneva Conventions, their formal listing took place long after, precisely in 1965 at Vienna during the XX Conférence Internationale de la Croix Rouge.



Ministerial proof



The Movement is based on 7 rules: Impartiality, Independence, Universality, Neutrality, Humanity, Unity and Voluntary Service.





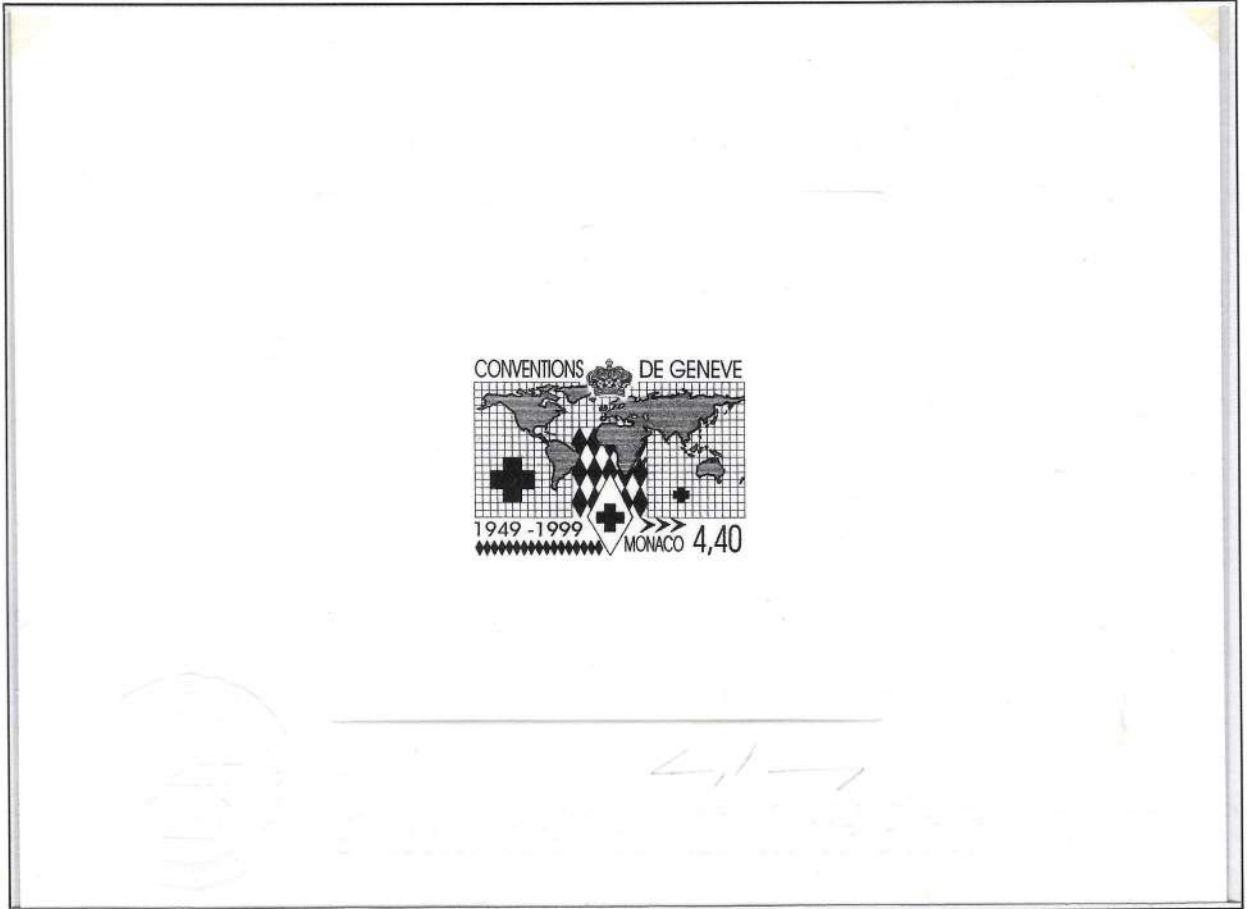
1.4 - Geneva Conventions laid down the rules of the organization

They consist in a series of treaties: the first one was adopted in 1864 by delegates of 12 Governments. Together they formed a legal set of rules that all signatory States decided to respect.



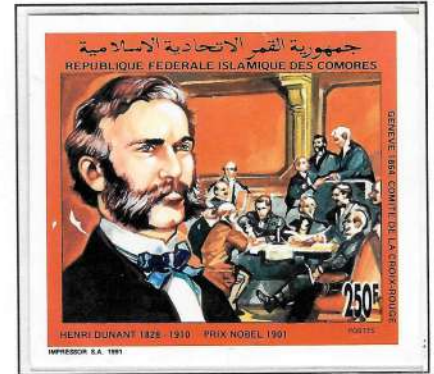
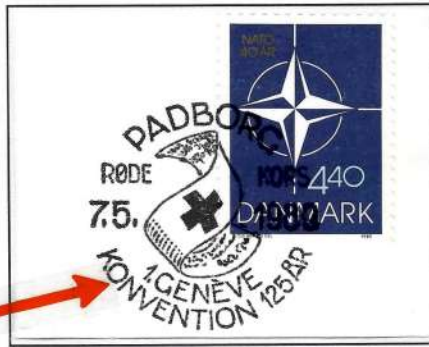
Proof in red colour

Artist proof



In the following years, additional protocols were signed in Geneva every four years, dictating to acceding Countries a series of rules aimed to improve the conditions of soldiers wounded in battles and to protect prisoners of war.

75th Anniversary



1864

CONVENTION DE GENÈVE

1939



1864

CONVENTION DE GENÈVE

1939



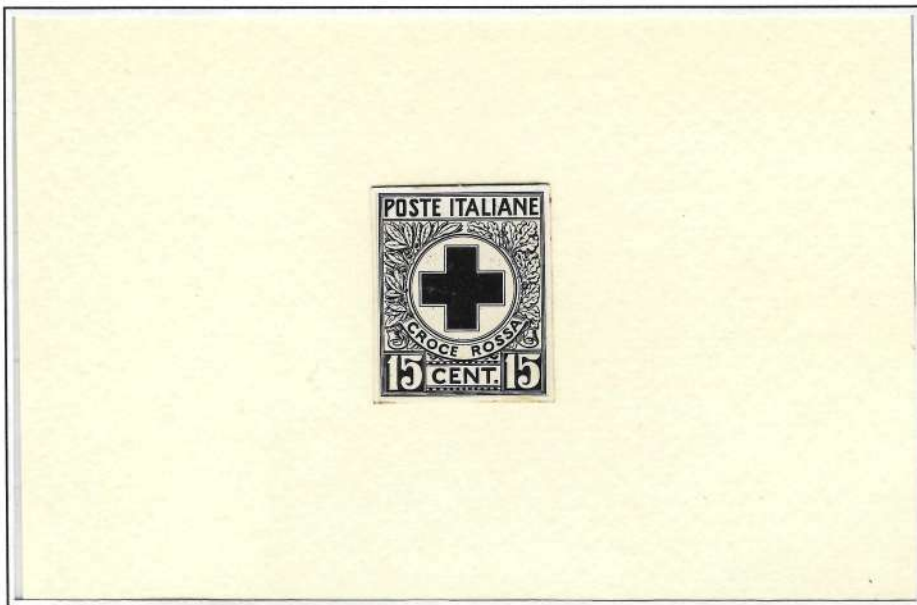


1.5 - Distinctive and protective emblems made its work recognizable

In the early Geneva Convention it was chosen a red coloured cross as Movement emblem.

This symbol -obtained by inverting the federal colours of Swiss flag- had the function of distinguishing health services of all armies.

This choice was considered like a way of gratitude to Switzerland, host Country of treaties works.



Almost all acceding Countries began immediately to print postal values with illustrations dedicated to the Movement, or overprinting with the red cross symbol stamps previously issued for other commemorations.

← *Not adopted Italian stamp*

(e)

Sketch for Italian Post Office of not adopted stamp designed by Corrado Mancioni, author of many illustrations used for postcards and stamps





1.5 - Distinctive and protective emblems made its work recognizable



Proofs on pink paper

Even the small St. Marino Republic adopted, as well as the other States of the Old Continent, the red cross as protection emblem for sanitary staff and their healthcare equipments.



Perforation errors





1.5 - Distinctive and protective emblems made its work recognizable



Austrian Ministerial proof: issue on the occasion of the First Centenary of the International Red Cross recurring in the year 1963

Belgium, 1959: the sword in defense of Red Cross principles



1944: 80th Anniversary of Ecuador Red Cross. Proofs with security puncture holes



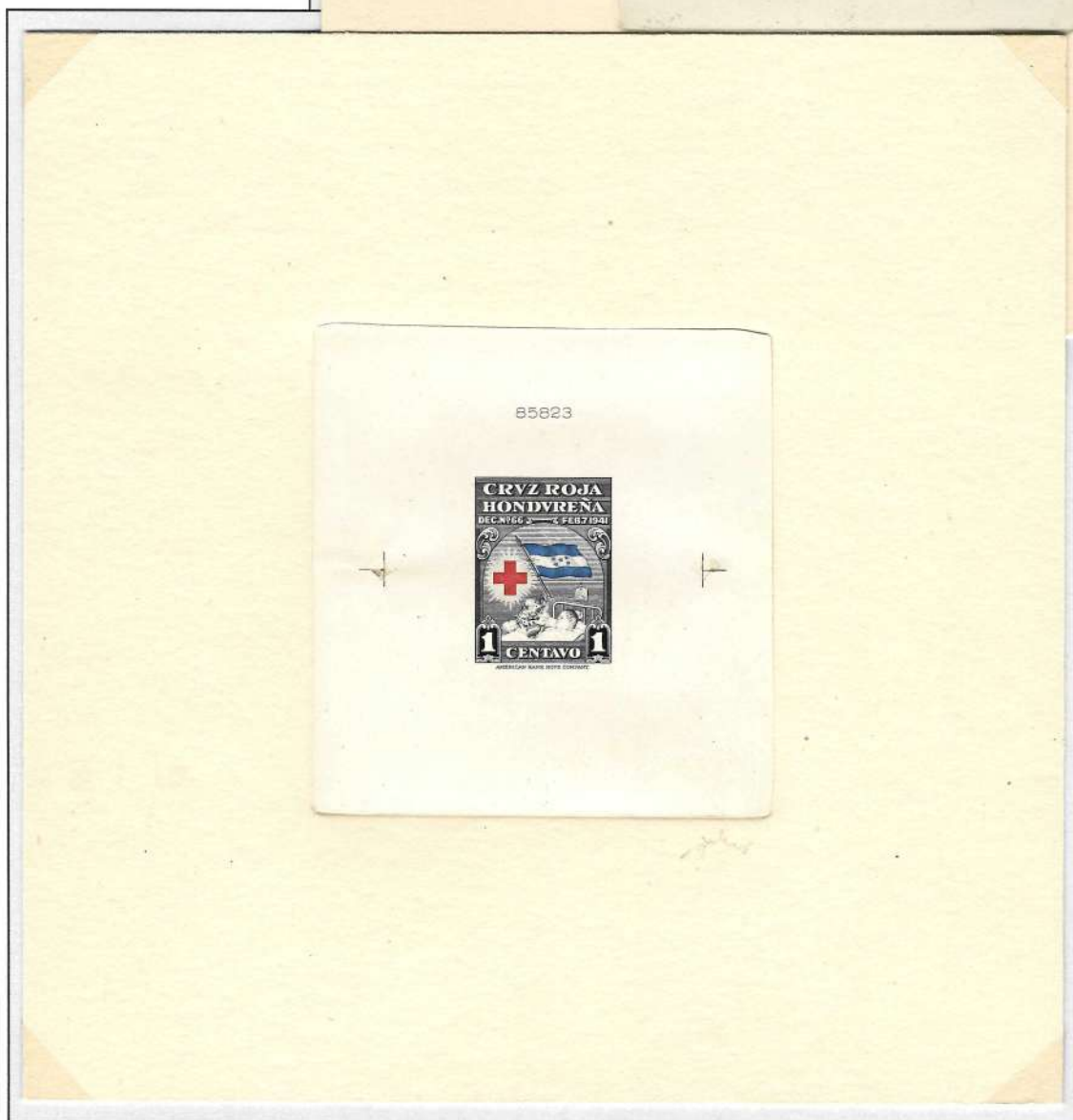


1.5 - Distinctive and protective emblems made its work recognizable



Stamp issued by the Postal Administration of Honduras in the year 1941 with the purpose of giving appreciation to the national Red Cross

Artist proof in black



Definitive artist proof



1.5 - Distinctive and protective emblems made its work recognizable



Printing proof of the 20 k + 30 value

With the Treaty of Versailles (June 1919) the State of Latvia acquired full independence from pro-Russian and pro-German occupation forces. In the year 1920 they were found large quantities of abandoned paper-money, at that moment completely out of the way and, above all, printed only on one side.

For this reason, it was decided to utilize the intact parts of those banknotes for issuing four stamps bearing the local Red Cross emblem.

Their sale was aimed at raising funds to be used in wartime for welfare purposes.



Bolshevik paper-money

Different types of paper-money were used for printing the four postal values, like denominations of 10 rubles obtained by sheets of Bolshevik Labor Council or denominations of 10 marks by German Army.

German banknotes





1.5 - Distinctive and protective emblems made its work recognizable

In 1876 the Ottoman Empire raised an objection regarding the **Red Cross** emblem and communicated to the Swiss Government -custodian of Geneva Conventions- the intention not to use it, believing that the cross sign could have a religious connotation and therefore offensive for Muslim soldiers.

To maintain the Movement unity, the International Red Cross Committee allowed the use of the alternative symbol -the **Red Half Moon**- which immediately was adopted by Islamic Countries, indifferently oriented to right or left side.



Turkey



Yemen colour proofs



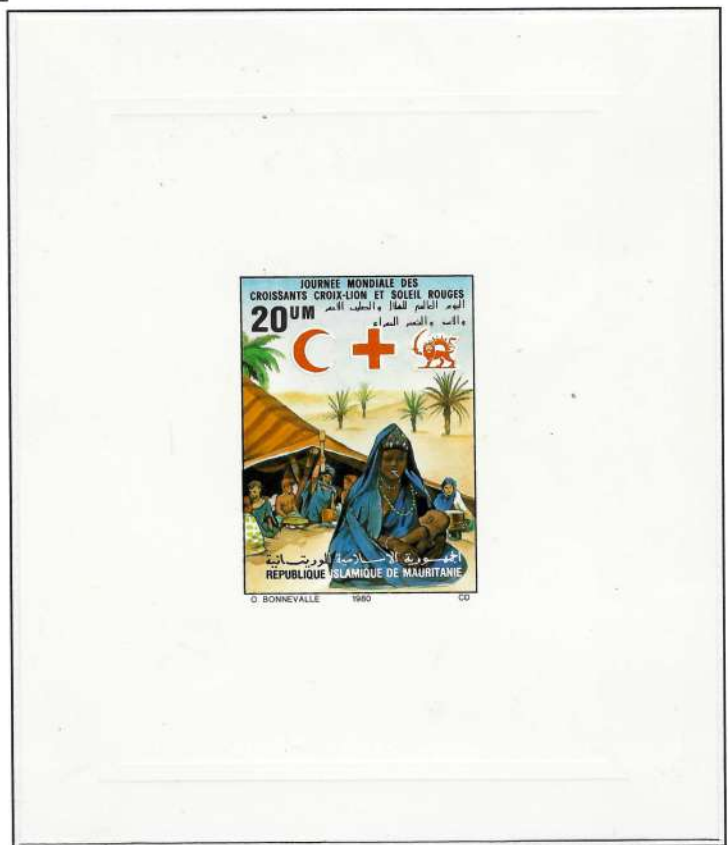
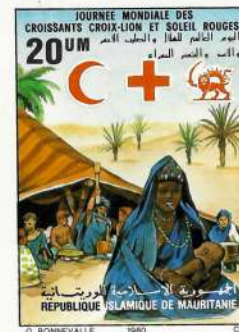
Iran



Iran also represented its dislike for **Red Cross** emblem: for this reason obtained an implementation of the list including another protective sign, tanks to approval of the **Lion With the Sun** illustration (which is the Iranian national reference image).



At the end of every agreements and comparisons, symbols recognized by Geneva Conventions and respected by all acceding States are three: they identify - in wartime and in peace - neutrality of health services.

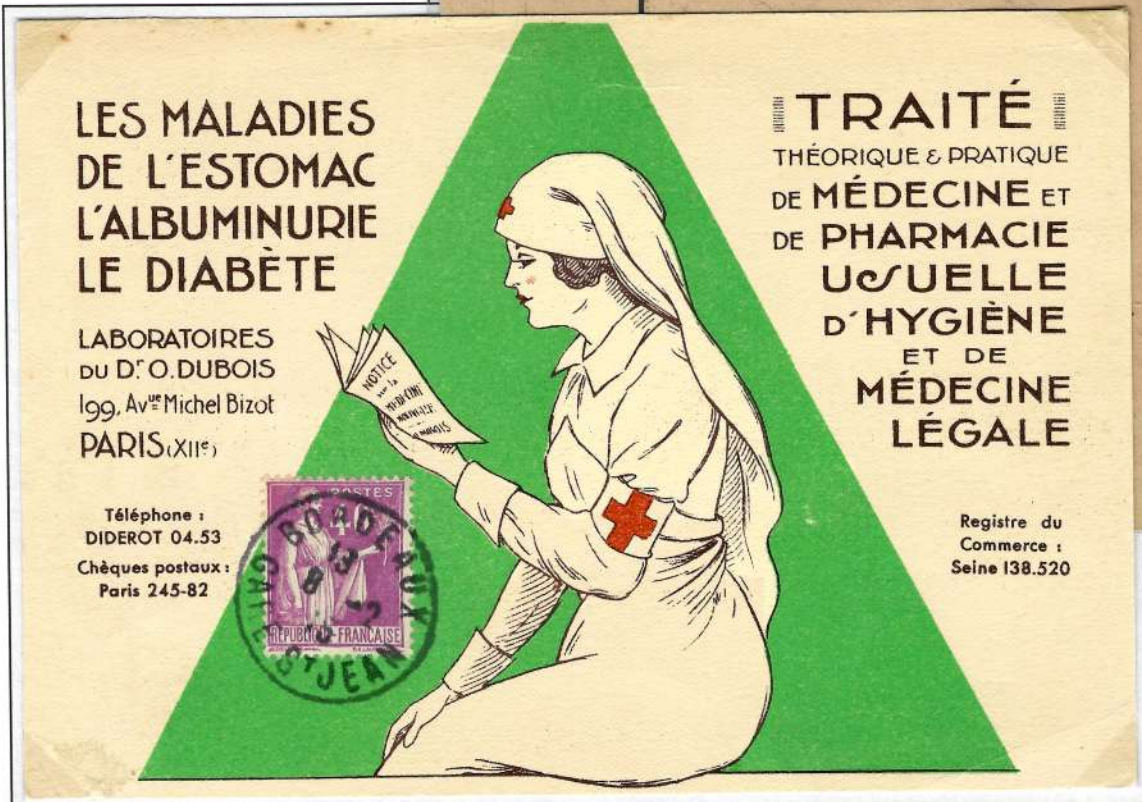




1.6 - Such symbols are sometimes used unlawfully

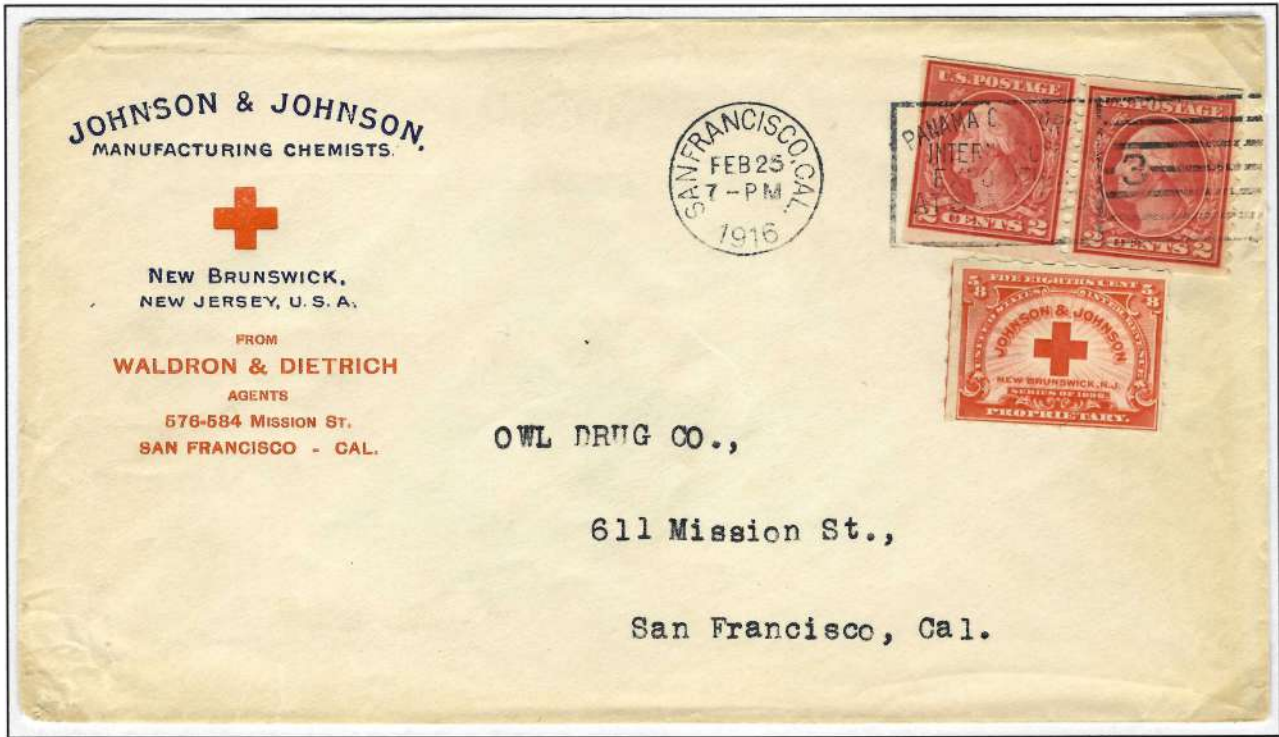


Unfortunately, the appreciation for Red Cross work causes very often unauthorized uses of its emblems by commercial entities operating in sanitary sectors as pharmaceutical shops, private hospitals, analysis laboratories and pharmacies.





1.7 - Claims to exclusive rights to use the Red Cross logo



The American pharmaceutical Company *Johnson & Johnson* affirms its ownership from the year 1887 of the red cross logo, which instead was already adopted by the International Red Cross since the I Geneva Convention, which took place in the year 1864. Even the shoes manufacture *Red Cross Shoe* says to have exclusives rights for using the brand for more than a century. The legal battles reasons are still under examination by the U.S. High Justice Court and there are no judgments in short time, while warnings and intimations are continuing to follow between the two contending parties.



"It bends with the foot"



apart



Red Cross Shoe

TRADE MARK

"It bends with the foot"



THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS ONLY

The Krohn-Fechheimer Co.,

Pendleton, Dandridge and Noah Streets.

CINCINNATI, OHIO.





2.1 - Committees, congresses and conferences



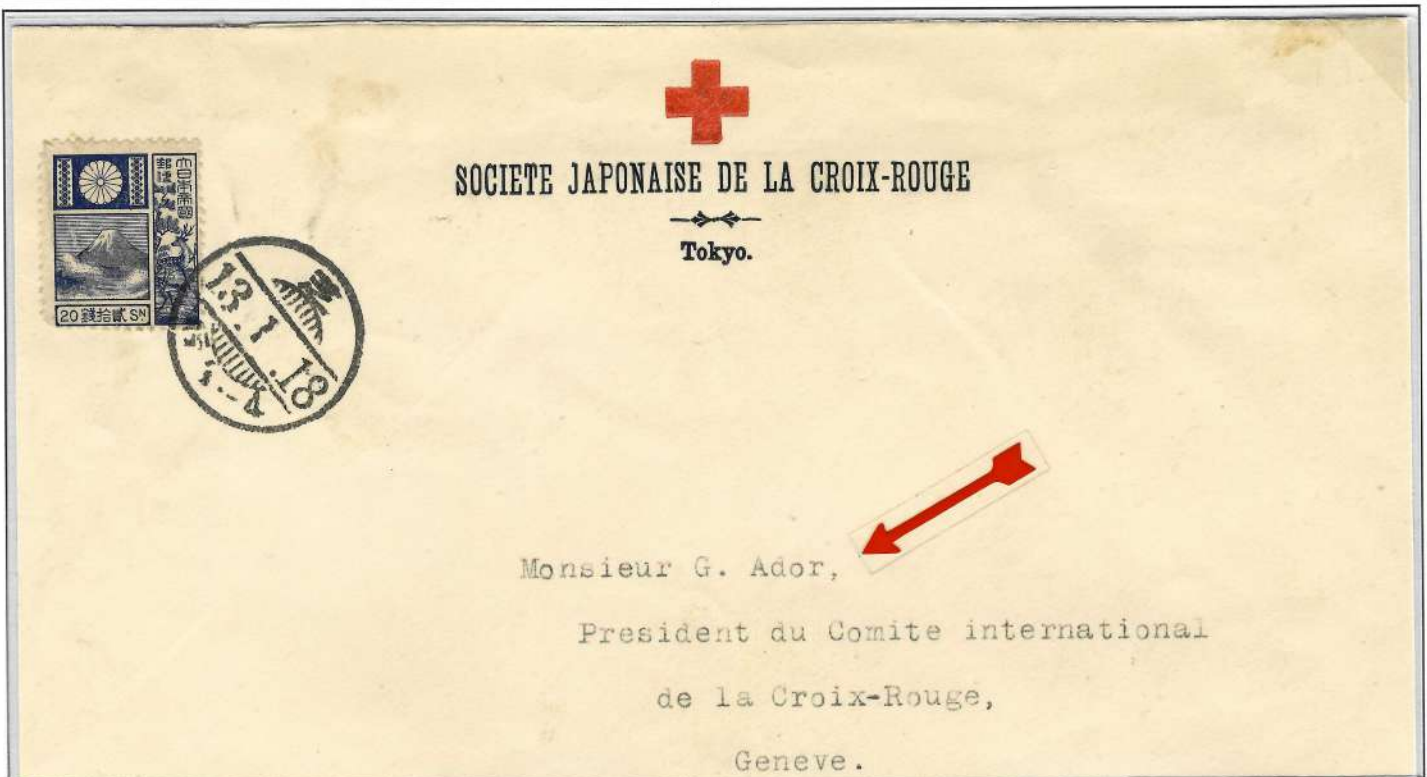
Within the Movement, the *Comité Internationale de la Croix Rouge* has the task of supervising the compliance of Conventions, all aimed at conducting aid and sanitary actions in occasion of armed conflicts, coordinating every kind of support for civilians victims of violences.



It has changed its headquarter addresses several times, but always remaining in Geneva : from the year 1863 to the end of First World War, the central offices were located at *Palace de l'Athenee, 3*.

For its operativity, the Committee has used various branches and internal structures, such as the *Dames de la Croix Rouge*, which held their work meetings in a building in Geneva at *Rue de Candolle, 18*.

← Free franking postcard



Envelope addressed to Gustave Ador, President of Comité International de la Croix Rouge (C.I.C.R.) from 1910 to 1928, position he held for the entire duration of I World War

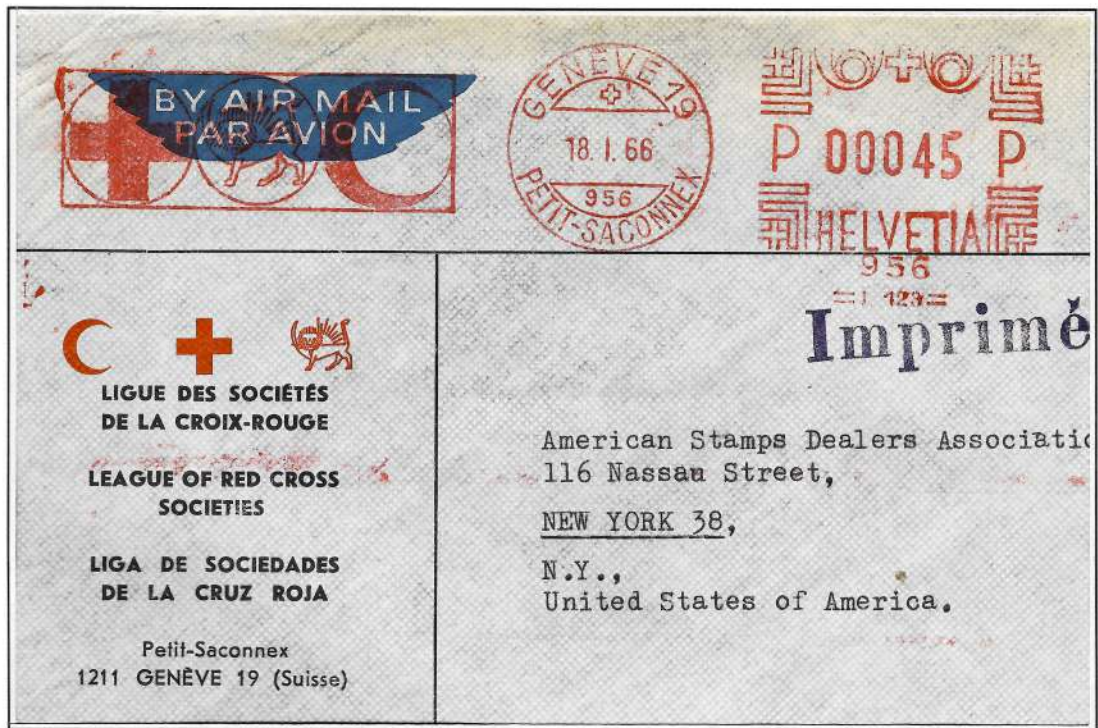


2.2 - League of Red Cross Societies

On June 15th 1919, Henry Pomeroy Davison -President of the American Red Cross War Council- organized an International Medical Conference in Paris.

On that occasion, he proposed to federate all national Red Cross societies into a *Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix Rouge*, an institution very similar to the United Nations (UN).

At first, this proposal was accepted only by Italy, Great Britain, France, United States of America and Japan.



On 1991 the League changed its name to *Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge*.

Today, it's made up of 192 national Red Cross Societies.



Colour proofs



2.3 - Delegations and local Sections

Operational indications given by Central Committees are everywhere implemented by Delegations and Subcommittees, responsible for their own areas.



Delegation of Cruz Roja Espanola in Florence



In Italy in the years when the Fascist regime was in power and in Germany during the Nazi period, the cancellations utilized by all local Red Cross Sections clearly showed with evidence the symbols of that historic moment, respectively the fasces and the swastika, as indeed also happened regarding stamps





3.1 - Sanitary systems pre-existing the two World Wars

The Franco-Prussian War (years 1870-71) has been the first large-scale conflict with which the International Red Cross had to engage. Since the fighting early days, some locations of the *Agence Internationale de Secours aux Blessés Militaires* were created in the Swiss towns of Basel and Geneva. These agencies were authorized to take advantage of the postal franchise for correspondence addressed to hospitalized soldiers and their family members, envelopes on which were placed oval-shaped cancellations and stamps.



Proof in black colour

For the purpose of certifying the exemption from the postal taxation, the Swiss Post also issued three labels which were made available to the French soldiers interned in Switzerland.





3.1 - Sanitary systems pre-existing the two World Wars

Some exemplars of Hospital Ships were built in the Seventeenth Century as lazarettos, quarantine-sites for soldiers affected by epidemics, thus limiting the risk of infections. These medical ships were created by transforming warships no longer suitable for fights. Initially, the American Unionist Army and the France State used permanently them for assisting troops located along the coasts.



“Red Rover”, the first Hospital Ship of the U. S. Navy, utilized on the Mississippi River during the four years of the Civil War

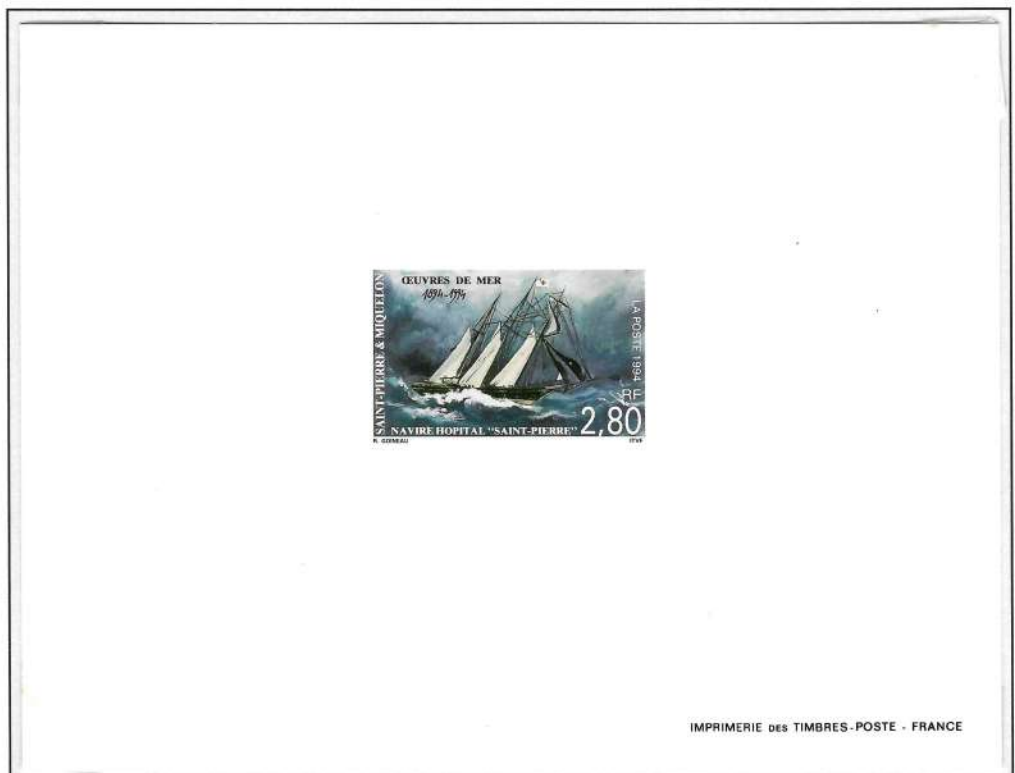


French Hospital Ships “Sainte Jehanne” and “Saint Pierre”

The *Société des Oeuvres de Mer* was born in 1898 with the aim of helping sailors embarked on French ships. However, during the First World War, this Company utilized seven Hospital Ships, saving castaways and convoys of all nationalities.



Jean Charcot, co-founder of the Société des Oeuvres de Mer





3.1 - Sanitary systems pre-existing the two World Wars

The first test for Italian Red Cross has been the Eritrean War (lasted 11 years, from 1885 to 1895), when four Bersaglieri Regiments were assisted by a sanitary team.



Askari soldiers: native volunteers drafted into the Royal Italian Army



Italian not issued postcard with pre-paid reply, which should have been used to ask for news about soldiers employed at the first lines of war



During the *Italo-Turkish War*, also known as the "*Libyan Campaign*" (1911-1912), Red Cross fielded its best forces:

12 war hospitals, 4 hospital ships, hundreds of warehouses with supplies, many ambulances and more than 2.000 doctors and nurses.

Italian War Hospital n. 36 operating in Tobruk.

Free franking postcard



3.1 - Sanitary systems pre-existing the two World Wars

During the two years of the war between Italy and Turkey, the Italian Royal Navy performed its health service particularly tanks to 4 Hospital Ships: "Regina d'Italia", "Re d'Italia", "Menfi" and "Regina Margherita", all together having the task of evacuating wounded and sick soldiers from North Africa coasts.



The Hospital Ship "Regina d'Italia" shuttled for thirty times between the ports of Naples and Tripoli: it made available 750 beds for sick or wounded soldiers during each mission



The "Washington", first Italian Hospital Ship



The merchant ship "Re d'Italia" in the year 1911 was transformed at the maritime military "Arsenale" at La Spezia seaport into a floating hospital and -identically to its sister "Regina d'Italia"- could have 750 beds: it made over 20 voyages between Libya and Italy, repatriating thousands of soldiers in need of treatment, before being again utilized only for troops and ammunition transportation



3.2 - A significant role in the battlefields



Postal envelope

Lower stamp: inverted center

At the front lines and in the immediate rears, the Red Cross employed sanitary corps composed by doctors and operators having the task of providing urgent relief to injured or sick soldiers.

In all cases, summary interventions were always carried with the difficult work of removing affected subjects from areas which were under enemy fire.

Postal stationery card



Red colour missing on stamps and on central label



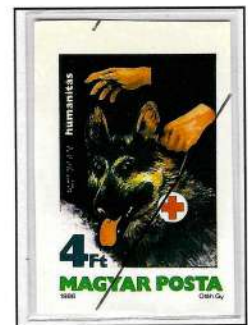
3.2 - A significant role in the battlefields



The utilisation of dogs has been decisive for identifying wounded soldiers during battlefields and for dragging sledges with stretchers. At the end of each conflict, thousands of animals died on mines or were killed by enemy fire.



Postal stationery postcard →



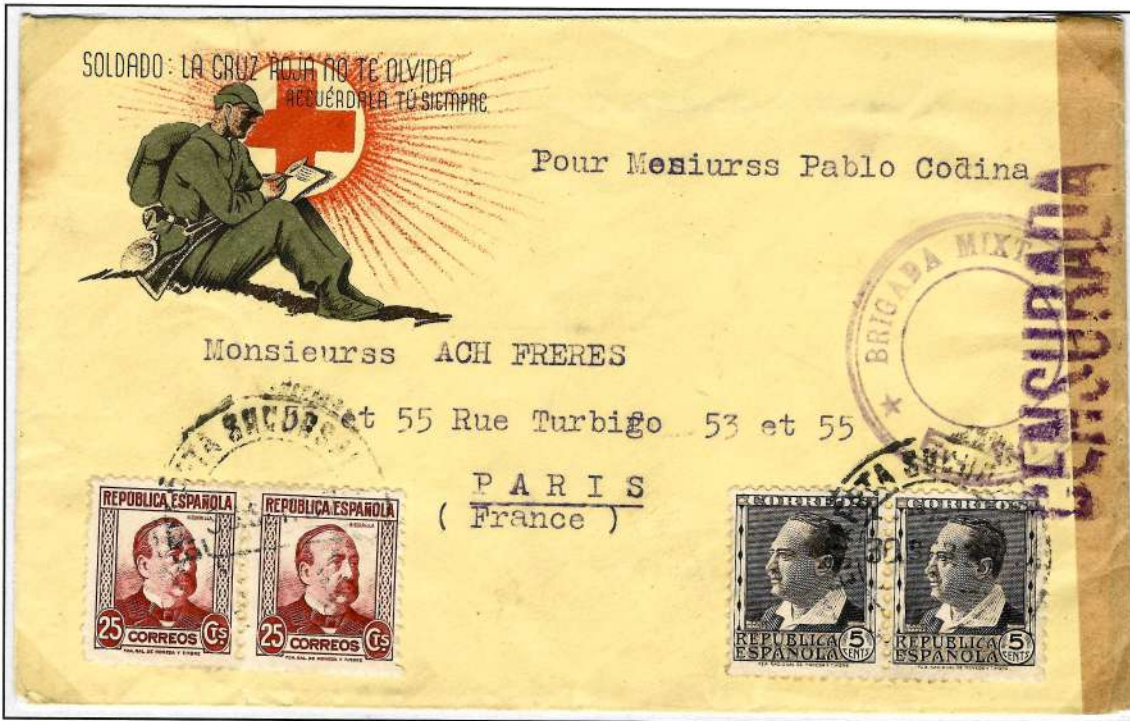
Printing proof





3.2 - A significant role in the battlefields

On occasion of every conflict, keeping the correspondence channel alive has always represented an expedient to prevent soldiers from falling into isolation and depression.



Letters were made travelling by all available means, even using carrier pigeons

43rd Mixed Brigade of the Republican Army during the Spanish Civil War: envelope sent by French volunteer

The International Red Cross worked to allow soldiers to communicate with their families in the event that they found themselves at front lines, or hospitalized and also in case they were taken prisoners in enemy Countries. As established by Geneva Conventions, the Movement prepared special forms, envelopes, postcards, all printed or bearing cancellations with the Red Cross logo to ensure delivery to recipients.



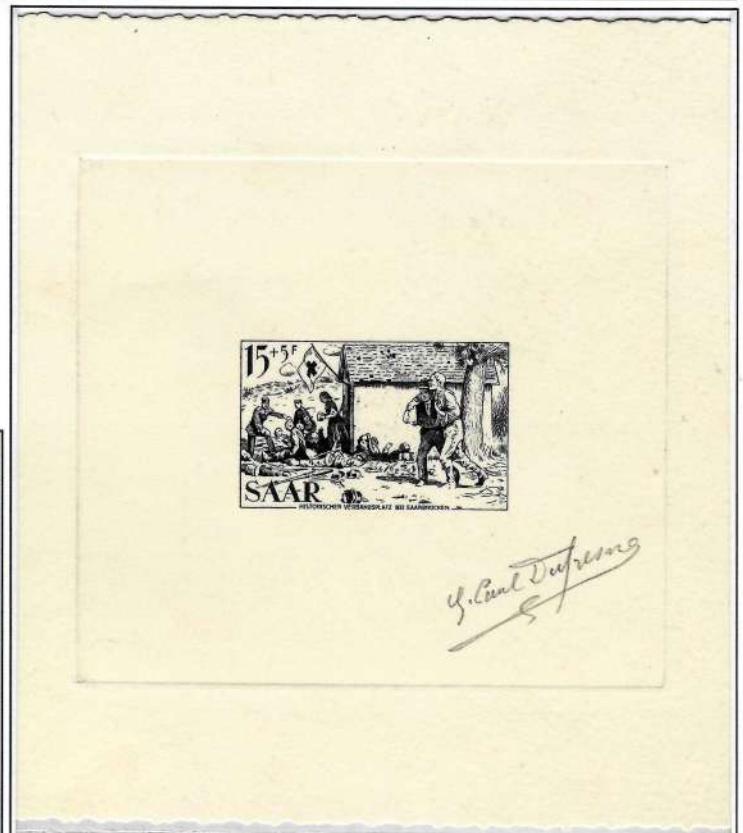
Envelope sent to Italy by an hospitalized soldier at the Field Hospital "D" attached to Mixed Brigade "Flechas Negras", military grouping which was operative in the Iberian Peninsula during the Civil War.

This Brigade was equipped with a Mobile Post Office (number 8) placed in its wake



3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines

The first health intervention as emergency consisted in removing wounded soldiers from war-lines and hospitalizing them in temporary locations, set up in backward areas.



Soldiers unable to walk without being supported, were transferred from the war-front mainly by arms, transported by volunteers or health personnel, when present.



Postal stationery



3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines



Not adopted Italian stamp



Stretcher-bearers following troops represented a definitely important component of Health Corps present in all Countries involved in wars. The human effort sustained by these volunteers has been essential for saving thousands of wounded soldiers, promptly identified and transported to ambulances or field hospitals located in the rear.



(e)



Free franking military postcard



3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines

Animal-drawn wagon used during I World War for transportation of medicines. Uruguayan stamp printed also in Braille

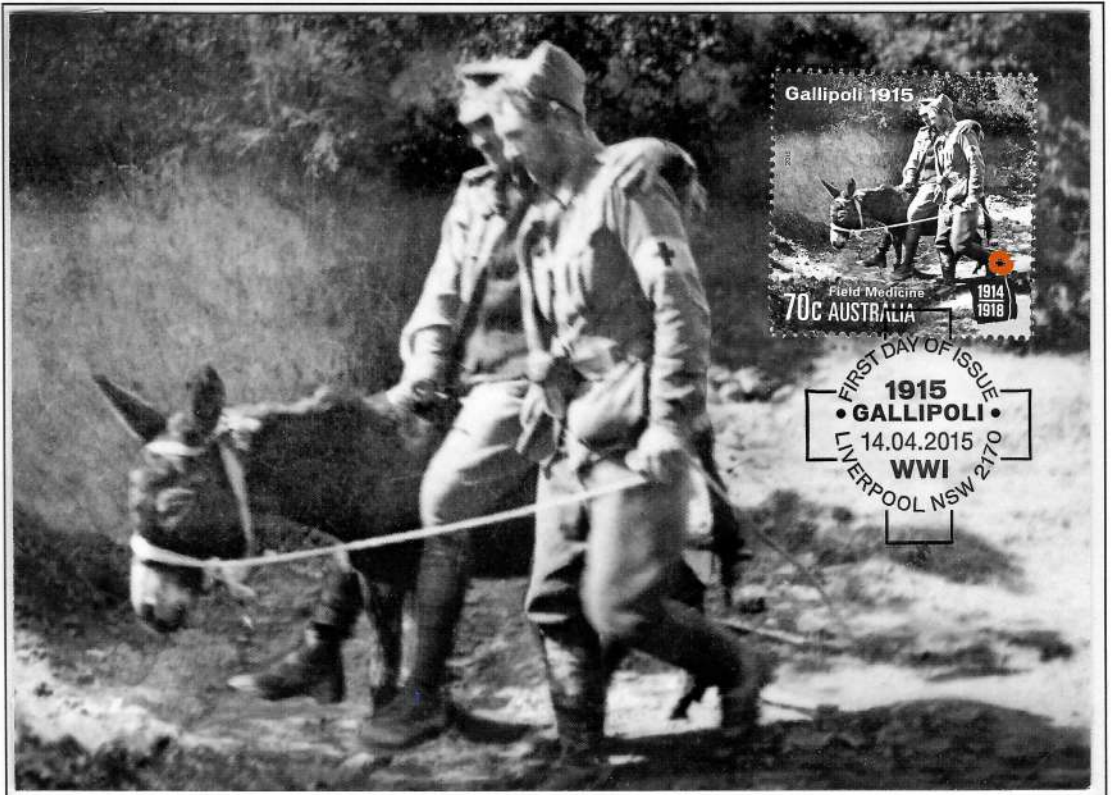


Thousands of animals were employed in support of troops in different ways: in particular, mules and horses had been useful for transportation of wounded soldiers, medicines, foodstuffs and much more.



In Africa camels were used to transport medical supplies

↑ **Italian Small Hospital with tents n. 112 carried by mules**

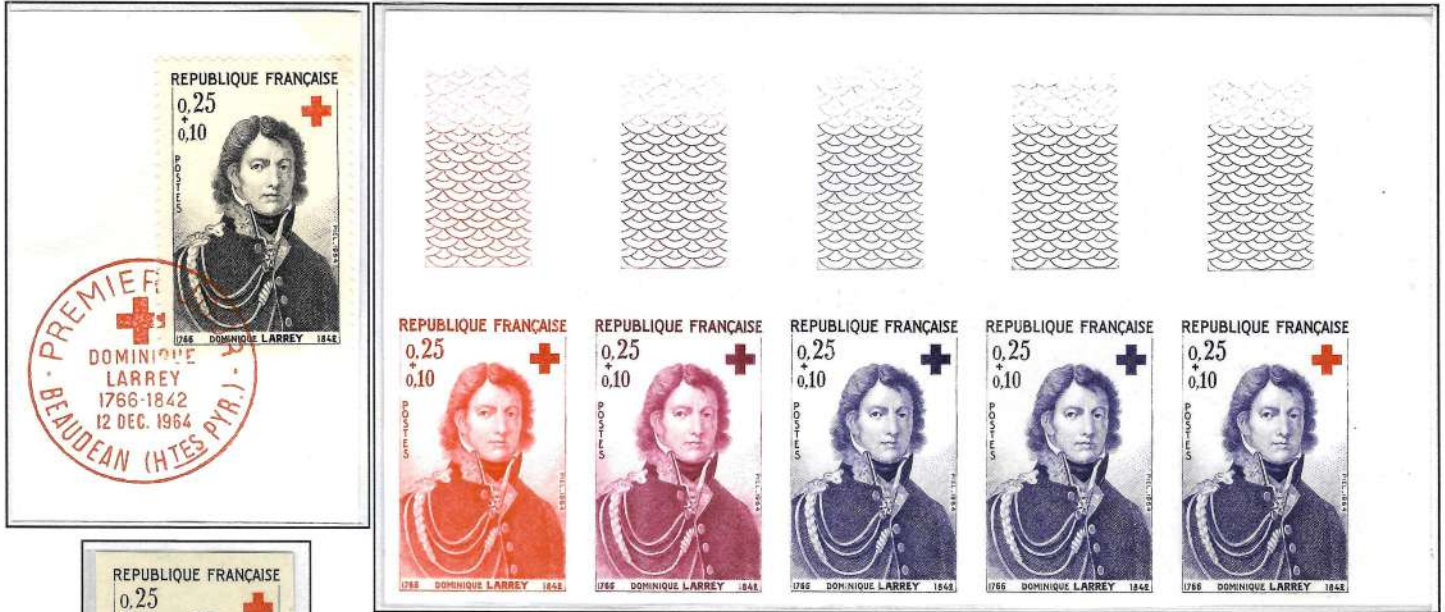


In Gallipoli peninsula took place in spring 1915 one of the bloodiest battles of I World War. This conflict is remained in history as the major military disaster for Allied Armies, recording 46.000 dead and 86.000 wounded soldiers. Many of them had been transported by mules to the beaches, waiting for evacuation by hospital ships.



3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines

At the outbreak of I World War, the word “ambulance” it was indicated a mobile health unit, deployed with the troops and structured with medical officers and some nurses. Among equipments were included dressing tents for urgent treatments and wagons for transport of wounded and sick soldiers to the more and well-equipped permanent hospitals facilities.



Baron Dominique Larrey -French military doctor from 1792 to 1802 during the war against Austria- has been the creator of the first ambulance model designed to become a mobile rescue crew: it was called “Ambulance Volante”.



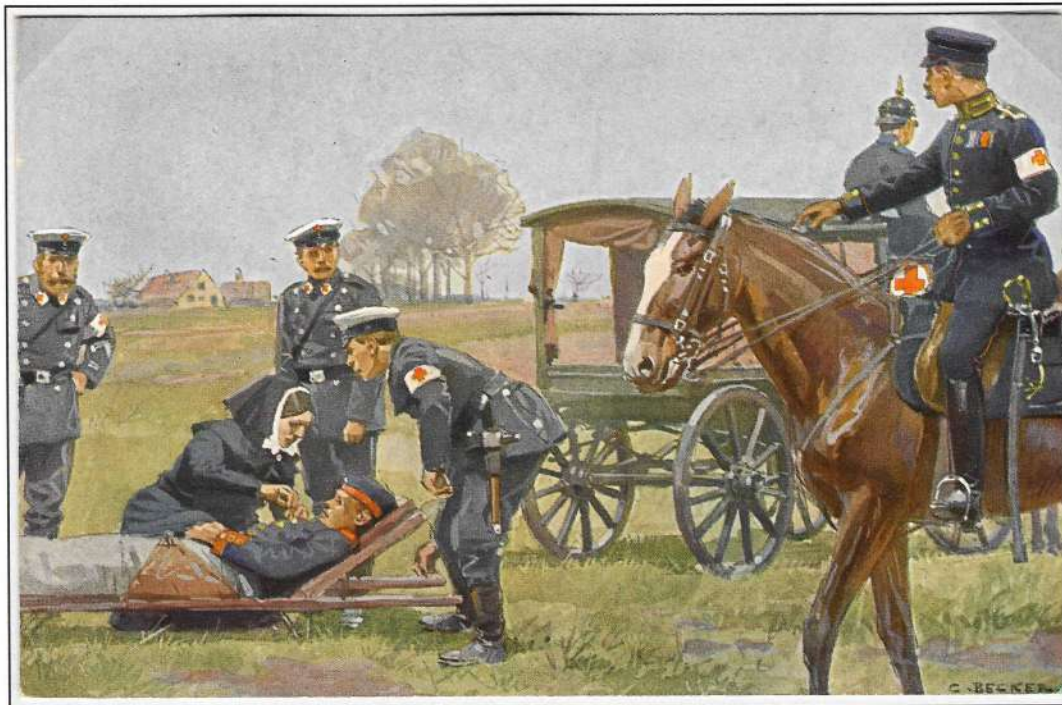
← The first American Red Cross ambulance in France was activated at the “Lycée Pasteur” of Neuilly on May 1916 depending on a specific request from French Government: it was called “Hopital Benevole n. 2-bis” and was equipped with 600 beds and 10 motor vehicles



3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines



Wounded, sick or deceased soldiers -carried on by arms or stretchers- were transported to animal-drawn ambulance wagons: the first and the second to be admitted to temporary hospitals, the last to find a proper burial.



Postal stationery

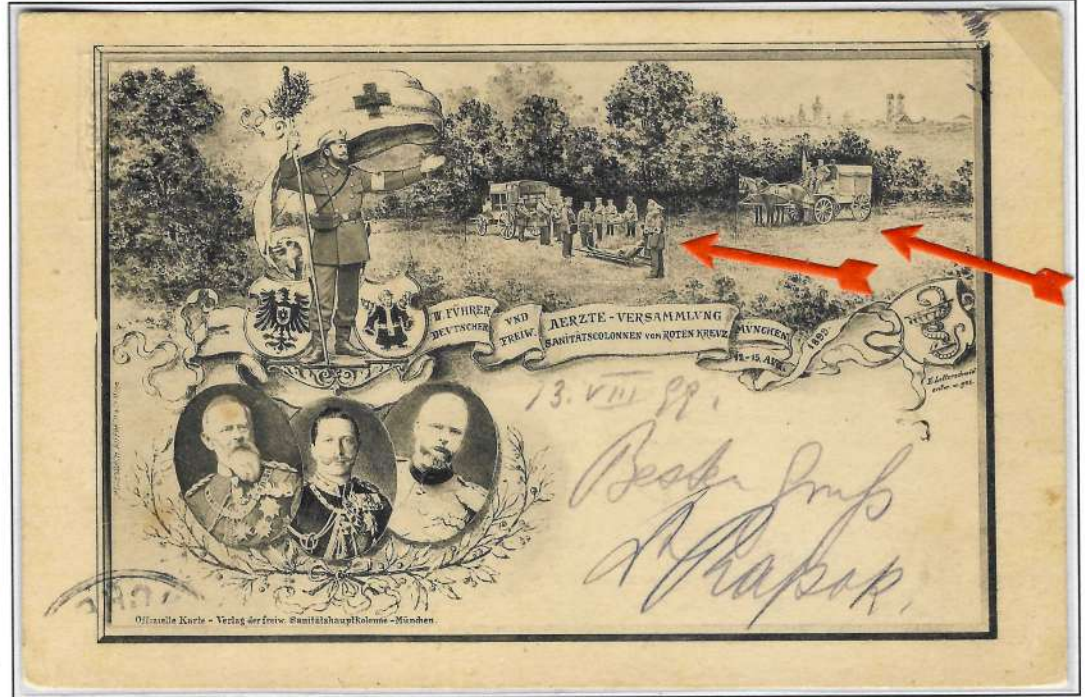


Feldpost





3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines



First World War :
German ambulance.
Postal stationery



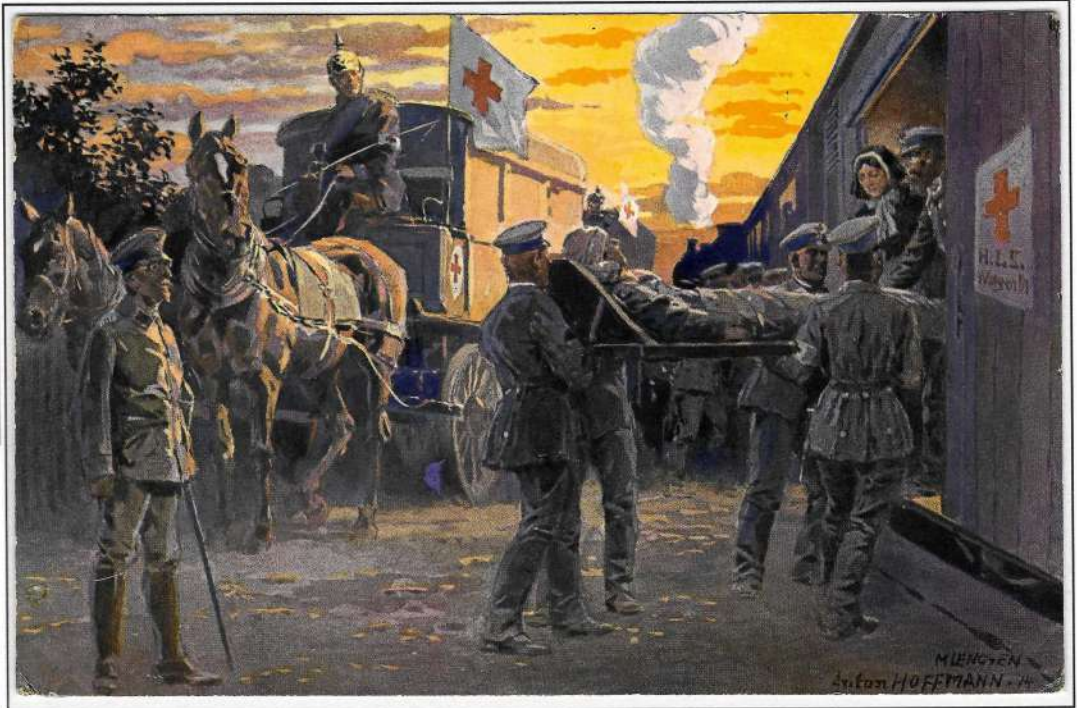
Dutch ambulances
operational in
France and
Turkey





3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines

Hospital trains were used to transfer wounded and sick soldiers to internal areas in the rear. They were also shunted on dead-end platforms near refreshment points, used as real hospitals on railway tracks.



Postal stationery

In 1914, when I World War dramatic events occurred, France disposed of 5 sanitary trains, Russia had 32 ones, those set up by Austro-Hungarians were 35, while Germans prepared 84 convoys just from the beginning of the conflict.



In total, Italian hospital trains had been 60, of which 24 managed by C.R.I., 4 by Military Corp of Sovereign Order of Malta and remaining ones directly by Italian Military Healthcare.

III Treno Ospedale





3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines

Sanitary ships have been utilized both by belligerent and neutral Countries, with functions of floating hospitals, designed to provide health care for troops operating near war zones.



← **The II Geneva Convention sanctioned the inviolability of "White Ships" in wartime**



Postcard issued in 1917 by the deutsche "National Committee for Nursing Profession at War". Its sale was aimed to raise funds for philanthropic purposes



← **Free franking postage**

During I World War, National French Marine activated about one hundred sanitary ships, built tanks to transformation of merchant convoys or steamers, some requisitioned to enemy and then modified.

French hospital ship "Sphinx": it was returned to its owner in the year 1918 and reused till 1939 for civil activity. Then, was captured by Axis Forces, but shortly thereafter had been sunk by USA bombings



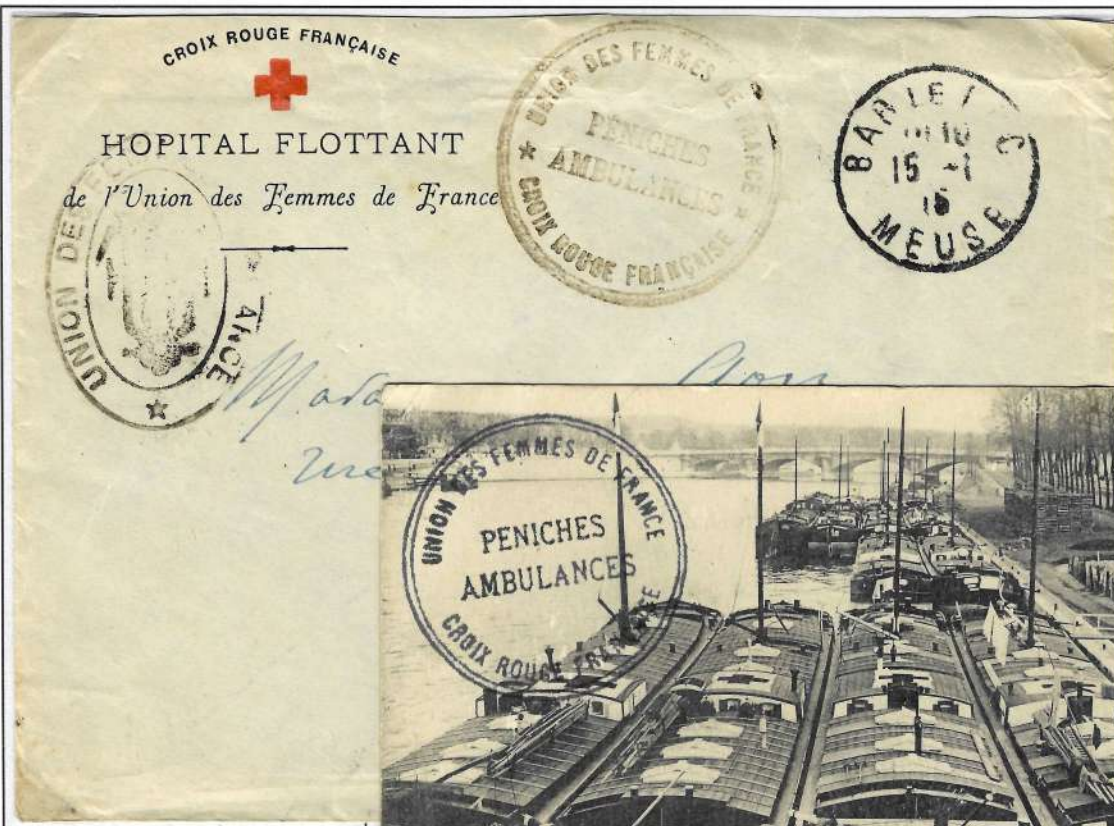


3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines

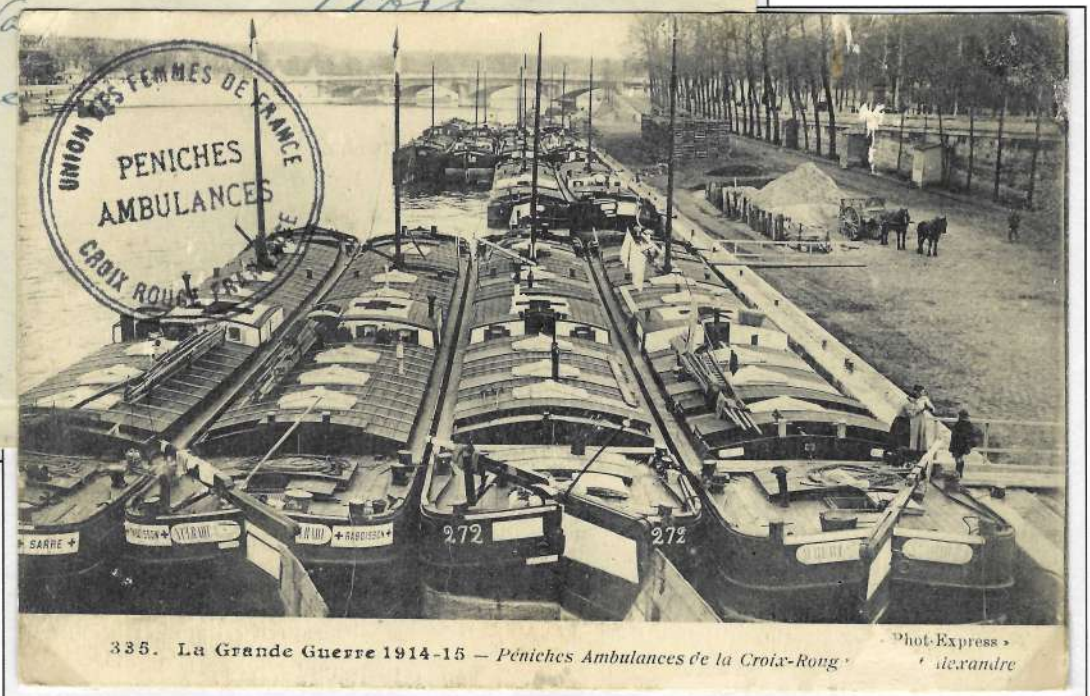
In Italy, taking advantage of the internal water system articulated around Maggiore and Como Lakes, barge services were organized, consisting of river ambulances: these boats allowed to transport sick and wounded soldiers without clogging roads and railway stations. Usually, floating convoys were composed by 10 boats each one, designed to accommodate about 400 persons, including medical staff.



First river ambulance in Italy was named "Litta", experimented in July 1915 in Polesine area. After check of reliability, C.R.I. ordered to create several convoys like that, to utilize also along the Po River



The French Red Cross decided to organize its own Hospital Flottant made up of about one hundred "peniches ambulances".



Photographic postcard used in free franking postage

335. La Grande Guerre 1914-15 - Peniches Ambulances de la Croix-Rouge

Phot-Express de Alexandre



3.4 - Rescue and refreshment stations

During two global conflicts, the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge* gave orders to local Committees to set up emergency and refreshment centers along railways, principal roads, seaports and State borders. These places had to be manned by health personnel and were structured to assist wounded and sick soldiers in transit, transported by sanitary trains or hospital ships, coming from war zones.



Italian Red Cross Railway Resting Place n. 65

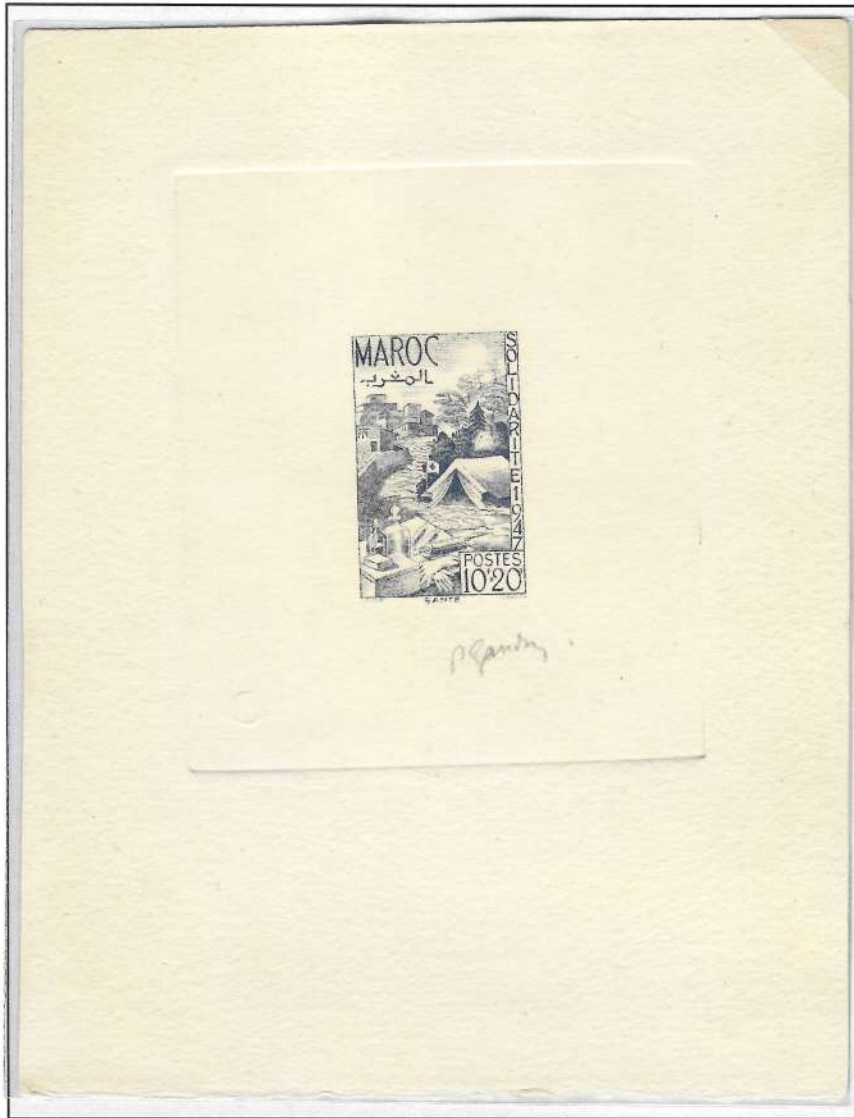


First-aid airport station equipped with sanitary tents

Voghera: refreshment point at the railway station



3.5 - Mobile and permanent hospitals

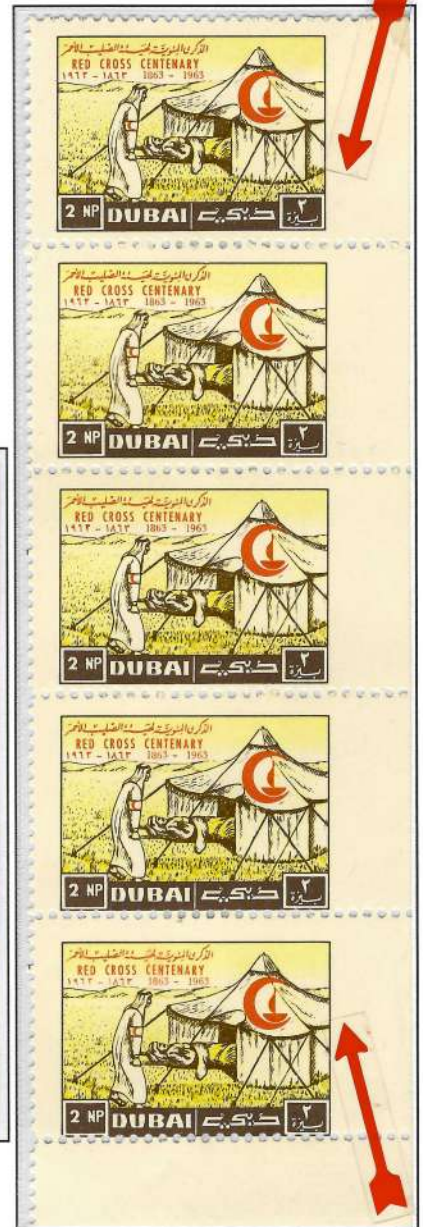


Artist proof



In both World Wars, all territories behind fire lines had been manned by sanitary structures, consisting of field hospitals for first medical interventions, provided to allow a quick rescue for soldiers or, in particularly serious case, their transfer to specialist centers organized in internal areas and equipped to face long-term cares. Soldiers resulting completely cured after medical treatments, were sent back to the front line in active service, escorted by Carabinieri to avoid defections.

Error of perforation



Italian Battlefield Hospital n. 51 operating in Montenegro during the Great War



3.5 - Mobile and permanent hospitals

In places far from battle lines, major health conformations were represented by hospitals obtained tanks to transformations of civil clinics, public buildings, aristocratic residences, convents and confiscated hotels; each Country named these permanent structures differently. Inside them were set up surgical departments, disinfection sections, bacteriological and chemical laboratories, radiological rooms. In many cases, treatment outcomes didn't allow to hospitalized soldiers to go back fighting.



Manchukuo (Japanese occupation of Manchuria): booklet containing 100 pieces of a Red Cross stamp issued in the year 1943

The "Alexandra" Hotel, like other similar buildings operating in the Monegasque, was transformed into a hospital for wounded and sick soldiers



Antoine



3.5 - Mobile and permanent hospitals



Wounded soldiers, after having been summarily treated, if unable to return to lines of battle or subsistence, were carried to permanent hospitals - named *Territorial* or *War Hospitals*- equipped with medication or shelter rooms and located further away from war zones.

Printing proofs in purple or brown colours (with or without the Red Cross emblem)



Misperforated pairs



Postcard sent by the Red Cross Colletteria in Trento (an auxiliary service of the Italian Post Office) from the Secretariat in Mezolombardo (Italy) for recalled and refugees to the Hospital in Tata-Tovaros (Hungary) for convalescent Austro-German soldiers



3.5 - Mobile and permanent hospitals



The problem of infections acquired during hospitalizations has been very serious and for this reason bacteriological laboratories almost always functioned in War Hospitals.



11. GLAMART — Hôpital Militaire PERCY
Laboratoire de Bacteriologie E. M.



However, thousands of lives were saved thanks to a vaporizer invented by Joseph Lister, British surgeon who introduced the principle of antiseptics, consisting in using carbolic acid in spray form, spread around operating tables and capable of breaking down bacterial infections.

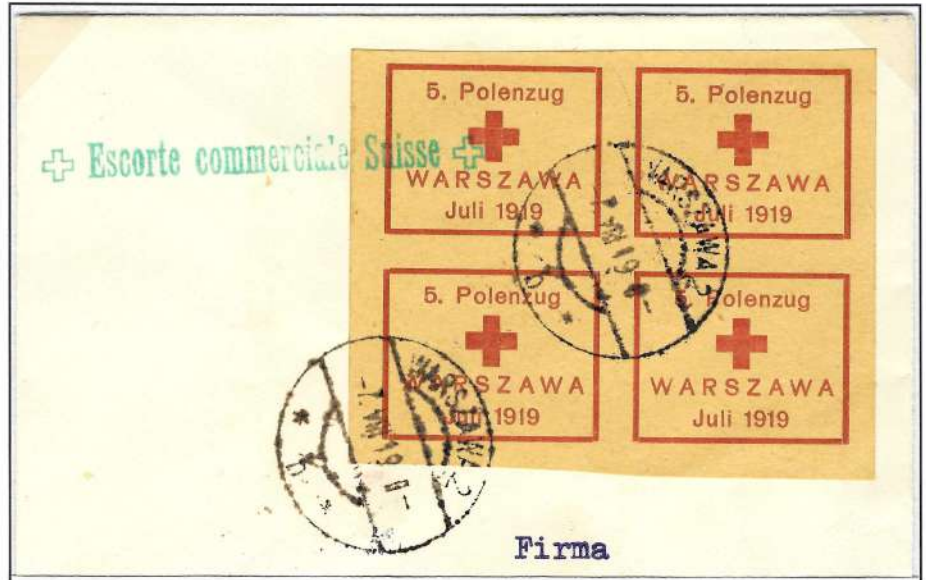




3.6 - Aid to civilians

After I World War, in order to help the exhausted Polish people, on July 22th 1919 an humanitarian aid train (named 5. Polenzug) -with a Red Cross medical team escorted by 32 Swiss soldiers- left from Bern headed to Warsaw carrying food, correspondence and medicines.

This label was specifically issued for free postage and utilized to allow exemption from fees for the correspondence carried by the Polish Red Cross Train n.5 →



During the German invasion of Russia in June 1941, troops commanded by Gen. Von Kuchler quickly conquered the city of Pskov (called *Pleskau* by occupying Army), before advancing towards Leningrad. A Post Office directly dependent from *Feldkommandantur* was activated, but in a few days it sold out a big quantity of specifically overprinted Russian stamps. For this reason, it was decided to print a new stamp -reproducing the statue "Virgin with her child" by the Soviet artist Lebjatow- whose surcharge was devolved to the local Red Cross for treatment of population affected by typhus.



Correspondence with this stamp could only be sent from areas which were occupied by German troops. On April 30th, 1942 local Authorities took the decision to stop printing individual stamps and full sheets.

Pair of imperforated stamps





4.1 - Internment, forced labor and extermination camps

The Red Cross was the only Institution that regularly managed to send its delegates to the prison camps in order to examine the conditions of detention and to request necessary improvements, especially trying to provide humanitarian aid to prisoners, but these possibilities were absolutely denied for extermination camps.



First World War: Red Cross Relief Committee in Cassel (Germany)



Second World War: Grumellina Camp (Italy) where about 3.000 South African, Greek, English, French and Yugoslav soldiers were interned from May 1941 to April 1945 by fascists





4.1 - Internment, forced labor and extermination camps

Mauthausen has been the greatest Nazi concentration camp built in Central Europe during the Great War and the last to be liberated by American troops.



In the years 1915-18 another famous camp was Sigmundsherberg, which was utilized as coordinating postal center for prisoners' correspondence.



4.2 - International Agencies and Commissions

The *Agence des Prisonniers de Guerre* was a structure created in Geneva on August 21st, 1914 directly by the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge*.

It operated till the end of the year 1925, taking care of postal correspondence, both of prisoners military and civilian.

Furthermore, carried out a great search for missing persons in many ways: contacts with families, offices, hospitals, detention places, commands.



Mechanical postmark of which was equipped the Prisoners of War Agency in Geneva



It began to be active in a small office in *Rue de l'Athenée* at Geneva, but the Municipal Authorities - considering the impressive proportions of work to be done - decided to make available a big hall situated in the *Musée Rath*, where initially served about 120 employees.

However, even this location became insufficient, it was decided to move it to the *Conseil General* in Geneva, where more than 1.200 volunteers worked remaining active even when the battle was long gone.



4.2 - International Agencies and Commissions

In each Country, these Commissions represented the decision-making bodies responsible for operating in specific areas. The Italian one was established in December 1914 by the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge* and started working five months later, engaging in diversified support activities for the armed forces.



Registered letter: the Italian Prisoners of War Commission was exempted from the obligation of postage for its outgoing mail

Insured letter



Because the *Agence Internationale des Prisonniers de Guerre* had been overloaded of work, the Italian Commission was invited to communicate directly with the Austro-Hungarian and German ones: so, these three Commissions accepted the request, becoming an example of bodies which -even if at war- did find forms of collaborations respecting the Red Cross flag.



4.3 - Correspondence, food and money shipments

According to II Geneva Convention (July 29th, 1899), correspondence concerning prisoner soldiers was exempt from postal taxes and, in compliance with this provision, since the beginning of I WW all States granted the benefit of free franking postage to their soldiers as well as to prisoners of every State. The procedure for preparation of *franc-de-port* envelopes, postcards and stamps was dictated by the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge*, which commissioned the National Committees for distribution to war or detention places.



Portuguese stamp to be applied on correspondence to obtain postal exemption during II World War

Postal card prepared by Soviet Authorities: it was sent in the year 1943 by an Italian prisoner to his family



4.3 - Correspondence, food and money shipments



In wartime the Red Cross has always provided for preparing special envelopes and postcards to be distributed to soldiers or prisoners. If printing specific documents was not possible, the correspondence was at least stamped with the wording *Service des prisonniers de guerre*.





4.3 - Correspondence, food and money shipments

Since during two World Wars all States had committed economic resources available in armaments, the task of sending food and correspondence to soldiers and prisoners was left to the International Red Cross: shipments were mainly made via neutral Switzerland.





4.3 - Correspondence, food and money shipments

Systematic correspondence censorship has been a I WW product: informations and words which should not arrive to destinations were erased using indelible inks or chemical substances; in most critical cases, mail was destroyed. Censorship effort was aimed to avoid leak of military knowledges: for this reason, it was particularly oppressive, representing one of the aspects that people had to face very often.



Transverse signs affixed with chemical substances served to demonstrate that postal documents had been verified by censorship offices

The II WW period saw an increased censorship density, related to every kind of mail (internal, foreign and military) and accentuating the character of psychological warfare, with the aim of countering panic and defeatism. In particular, foreign mail had to be presented non stamped, while postal staff personally affixed stamps after check of contents of the letters.

In any case, stamps were always removed before proceeding on delivery, for purpose of verifying that no words were hidden.



Italian Red Cross envelope sent on April 25th, 1943 to an army officer who was prisoner in the camp n. 26 at Bombay



4.3 - Correspondence, food and money shipments



The discs, inserted inside envelopes, were sent by Red Cross.

During II WW, German and USA Authorities activated a service consisting in mobile phonic studios equipped with vinyl supports for recording vocal messages directly near beds of hospitalized soldiers, unable to write to their families due to eyes or hands problems.



These phono-messages were known as "Speaking letters".



From Private Carl Kessel Jr 33964086
Hard 25.
Wood Beaumont, Miss.
El Paso Texas



POSTMASTER
This is a Recordiogram Record
Please cancel carefully
Do not fold

Postage due 3 cents.



TO Miss Mary L Noel
625 Clay Avenue
Jeannette Pa

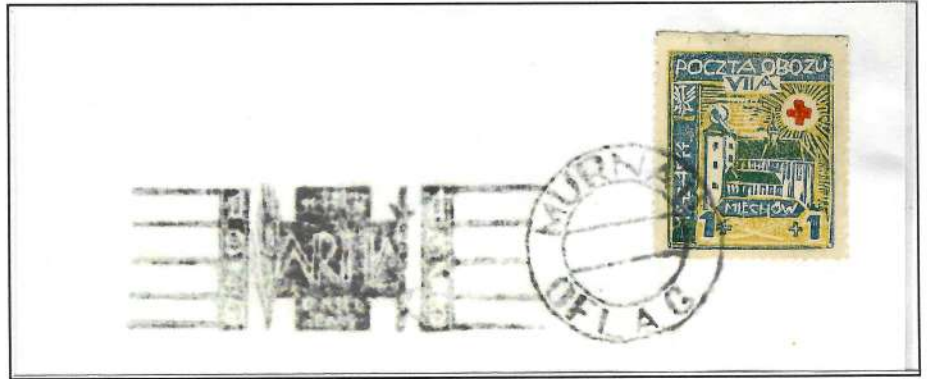




4.3 - Correspondence, food and money shipments

On September 29th, 1939, the Wehrmacht invaded Poland and captured 44.000 enemies, whose officers were interned in 5 concentration camps: Murnau, Woldenberg, Grossborn, Dossel and Neubrandenburg. Such a considerable number of prisoners forced to organize a postal service among these camps and, for this reason, since 1942 German Authorities and Postal Administration locally authorized the production of stamps, sheets, envelopes and cancellations, a printing work carried out in a rudimentary way by prisoners themselves. Dispatch of correspondence was in charge of local Red Cross, who also provided necessary paper and ink for printing postal documents.

Limited to Murnau, the authorization to use own stamps was granted from November 6th, 1942, to April 28th, 1945.



Woldenberg has been the first camp to use its own stamps (May 7th. 1942-January 25th, 1945).



Proof in black colour

On the occasion of camps liberation, it took place destruction of almost total unused stamps and envelopes, as well as clichés.



4.3 - Correspondence, food and money shipments



Mail, parcels, food, clothing and money were delivered to prisoners by soldiers with aid of Red Cross volunteers.

In order to implement directives of the Italian Prisoner War Commission, the Red Cross Committees of Bologna, Genoa, Milan and Novara organized a "Bread service": prisoners' families could provide themselves with special cards to make subscriptions of L. 7 (then increased to L. 8,50), acquiring the right to send two packets of bread every month to their relatives interned in enemy prison camps.



Swiss stamp for soldiers

Œuvre Avignonnaise du Pain du Prisonnier de Guerre

32, RUE DE LA MASSE
AVIGNON

RATTACHÉE A
L'AGENCE DES PRISONNIERS DE GUERRE
DE LA
CROIX-ROUGE FRANÇAISE

Correspondance des Prisonniers
(Franc de port)

CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA

MAGAZZINO GENERALE DI RIFORMIMENTO
SEZIONE PANE PRIGIONIERI GUERRA

Palazzo Museo, Piazza Francia

**RICEVUTO
TELENOVO
UN PACCO**

Handwritten: Tenente Claspoli Giuliano
7: fant: 1063 - Comp. Mitr.
Officina - Spangencampagna N° 115
Ellwangen

Expediteur (mittente)
Incorporation (corp.)
Adresse exacte (indirizzo preciso)



Avignon Foundation for bread to prisoners of war



5.1 - Humanitarian help from rulers and nobility

In the years 1911-12, tensions in Old Continent increased very much and almost all States began to conclude alliances, thinking of a possible war which could have involved the entire hemisphere.



Colour proofs

Albert I



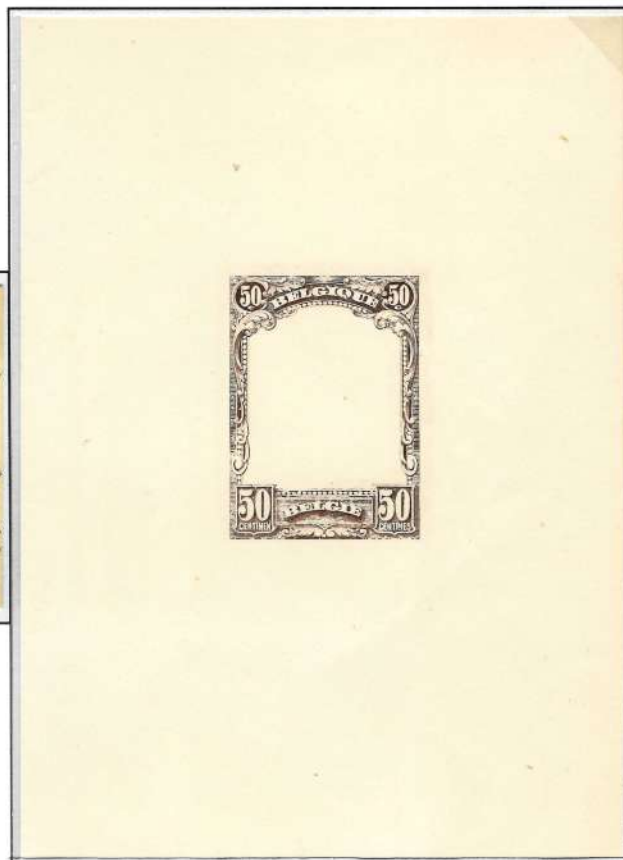
Definitive stamp

Albert I, King of Belgium (or “King of Belgians”, as he preferred to be called) reiterated both neutrality and impartiality of his nation, conditions he was able to maintain until September 1918. But population convinced him to enter the war alongside Allied Forces, participating with about 340.000 Belgian soldiers to battles of Flanders, Somme and Verdun.



During I WW, in territories not yet invaded by German armies, Red Cross was allowed to use mixed Franco-Belgian postage.

Frame board proof printing



In 1915, the Belgian Royal House established to prepare a philatelic issue to support the National Red Cross, but Sovereigns ordered the total destruction of these stamps, because their images had been illustrated in a way not satisfactory.



However, the printing house “Waterlow and Sons Ltd.” had already completed a small distribution of these stamps to Post Offices and a quantity of them was sold.



Emblem in green colour



Set of not issued stamps



Proof printing without Red Cross emblem



5.1 - Humanitarian help from rulers and nobility



Italian not adopted stamp

From the moment of the I World War outbreak, King Vittorio Emanuele III has been always present into range of enemy fire: for this reason, his nicknamed became "The fighting King". In fact, every morning he was accompanied by an escort of Carabinieri Corps to verify emplacements along front lines, also bringing comfort to hospitalized soldiers.



Missis Angela Ceresa, noblewoman of Treviso, has been appreciated by all her citizens because she provided substantial sums for transformation of "Zanotti" College in Red Cross Hospital: the structure was titled with her name.



In the years 1915-18, Umberto II Prince of Piedmont made his apprenticeship as king constantly followed by a dozen tutors, who prepared him for public life, particularly teaching rules within Red Cross. For this reason, an issue (extended also to Italian colonies) for his wedding with Princess Maria José of Belgium, was useful for donating to C.R.I. the sale proceeds, but concerning only 2 stamps of each serie.



5.1 - Humanitarian help from rulers and nobility

Particularly significant the work carried out by Spanish Royal Family for reorganization of National Red Cross and for assistance to hospitals operating throughout the Iberian Peninsula.



S. M. la Reina Doña Victoria Eugenia, Presidenta de la Cruz Roja Española



5.1 - Humanitarian help from rulers and nobility

María Feodorovna, Empress of Russia, devoted herself to charitable assistance, particularly to organize the National Red Cross: a benevolent attitude which, however, failed at the start of revolution in October 1917.

Anyway, before her exile, thanks to her wills, numerous hospitals and prisoners' research offices were built.



Russian hospital for wounded soldiers titled "Maria Feodorovna": it has been operational in France in the Gironde area since 1915 to the end of I WW



Entirely financed by Prince Poliakov - belonging to Romanov dynasty - during I WW an hospital for sick and wounded soldiers was created in Nice, equipped with surgical team and 110 beds.



5.1 - Humanitarian help from rulers and nobility

Elizabeth of Bavaria - consort of Albert I - gained the nickname "The Nurse Queen" because she decided to use her Royal Palace for hospitalizing and medicating wounded and sick soldiers. She arranged numerous transports for refugees, personally escorting them to other neutral countries.

Ministerial proof



Princess Joséphine-Charlotte (born 1927-died 2005) had a very strong nursing vocation.



5.1 - Humanitarian help from rulers and nobility



Prince Rainier III has been President of Monaco Red Cross from the year 1949 to 1958. His mother, Duchess Charlotte Grimaldi, was the greatest supporter of the Institution among her family members.

Complete set of four imperforated blocks issued in occasion of beginning of Rainier presidency



Indented serie





5.1 - Humanitarian help from rulers and nobility



Two years later, the same stamps were reissued with a new overprinted nominal price, entirely in favor of Red Cross. Otherwise, the 1949 previous issue had a surcharge for the benefit of the local Institution.



Indented block





5.2 - Charitable realities with similar activities

At the outbreak of I WW, some charity entities were recognized by French Red Cross and authorized to use its emblem. Each of them had its own and different denomination, such as: *Union des Femmes de France*, created in 1881, having protestant mold; *Association des Dames Françaises*, born in 1879, of catholic obedience; *Société Française de Secours aux Blessés Militaires des Armées de Terre et de Mer*, founded in 1864, agnostic society.

Société Française de Secours aux Blessés Militaires des Armées de Terre et de Mer



Union des Femmes de France

Association des Dames Françaises



These three associations were legitimated by French Government to find donations to send to soldiers at the front lines; furthermore, thanks to public and private funds, they set up hospitals and nursing schools.



5.2 - Charitable realities with similar activities

Since Pope Benedict XV's appeals for peace in 1915 remained without any listening, the Holy See carried out a series of humanitarian operations on battlefields through its Catholic organizations, such as the "Opera dei Prigionieri", Institute which developed big efforts together with Red Cross in various forms of aid to soldiers at front lines or locked up in prisons.



Significant has been the Vatican role, promoter of prisoners' exchanges among warring States.



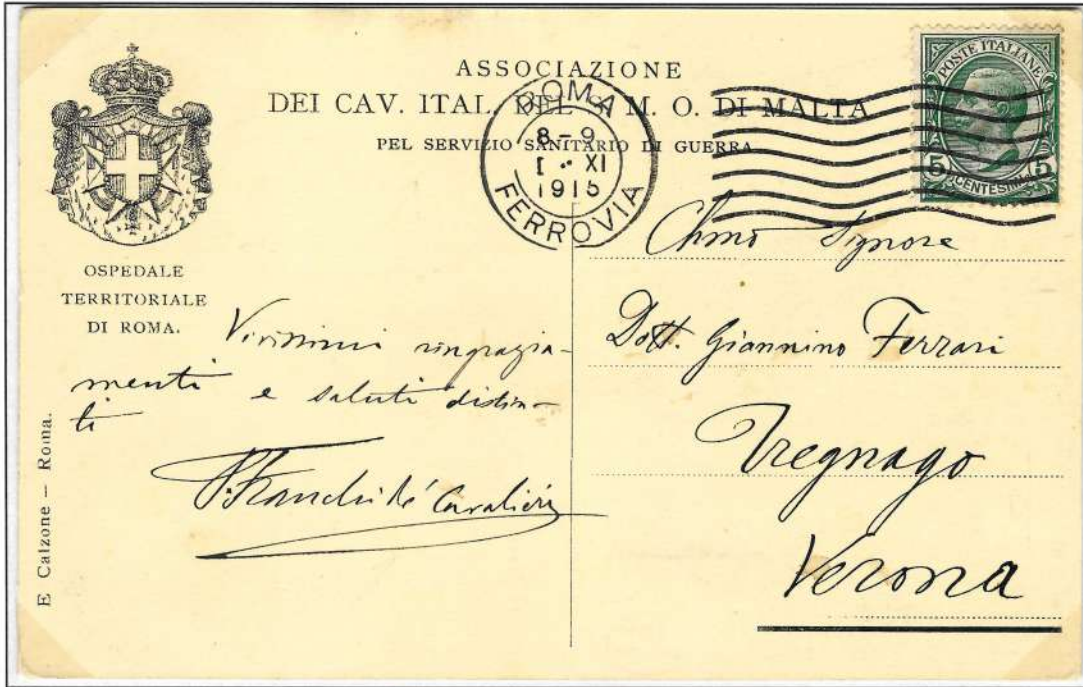
The "Daughter of Charity of St. Vincent Congregation" provided assistance to sick and wounded soldiers who were hospitalized on board the Italian sanitary ships.





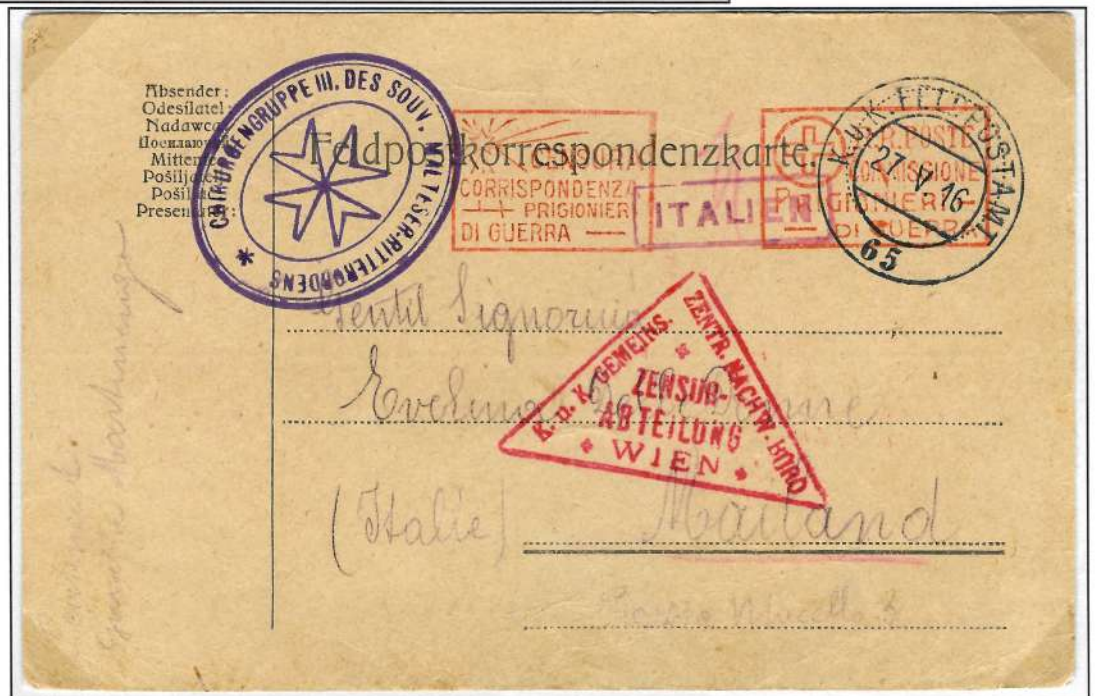
5.2 - Charitable realities with similar activities

The Sovereign Military Order of Malta -hospitaller international order- during the two World Wars rendered a significant medical assistance, connoted by impartiality and without any discrimination, therefore providing it on opposite war fronts.



S.M.O.M. Hospital Train (II WW)

S.M.O.M. Territorial Hospital activated in Rome during the First World War



III Hospital Train managed by healthcare personnel in gray-green uniforms and bracelet with two symbols (Red and Maltese Crosses)



IV Hospital Train

Refreshment and relief places were created at railway stations of Bologna, Padua, Milan and Rome with S.M.O.M. knights and dames, assisted by several Italian Red Cross volunteers and priests.





5.2 - Charitable realities with similar activities

The intention to create a War Hospital (cultivated by "Pro Fratelli Italiani Combattenti", Association together with the San Marino Red Cross Committee) became a reality in November 1916, when a sanitary staff was initially concentrated in Florence and then sent to the front lines.



Monumental altar dedicated to volunteers

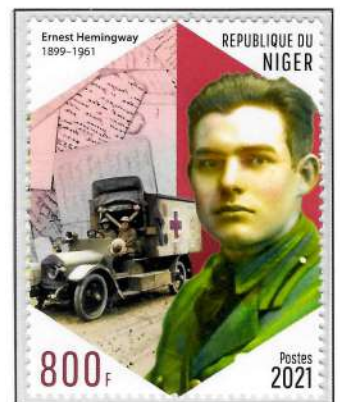
This hospital unit was placed under direct control of the Italian VII Army Corps and, like this one, suffered the consequences of Caporetto retreat, being completely destroyed: 140 volunteers died and their names remained carved on a commemorative altar, located in a central square at San Marino.



To finance the War Hospital construction, on September 1916 it was printed a serie of two stamps with a nominal value of 5 cents each one, but it was withdrawn just before being distributed due to speculative maneuvers carried out by two Florentine philatelic traders, who had secretly prepared about 40.000 peaces for their customers.



Among more than 3.000 soldiers treated in War Hospitals, there was the writer and U.S. volunteer Ernest Hemingway, who had a leg injured by a mortar shell. Upon return home, he wrote the famous book "Farewell to Arms", whose autobiographical plot was entirely inspired by his experience lived in sanitary structures.





5.2 - Charitable realities with similar activities

On June 4th, 1915, about ten days after Italian intervention in I WW, San Marino decided to provide welfare support, even if without taking an official position: in fact, the small Republic only organized regular military formations, simply arranging a recruitment notice for sanitary volunteers to be advertised by local Red Cross.





5.2 - Charitable realities with similar activities

At the outbreak of the two World Wars, a lot of Automobile Clubs decided to adapt their capabilities in order to support the rescue action carried out by the International Red Cross, since -during these conflicts- the needs linked to the use of four wheels had become important, even strategic.

Therefore, some Automobile Clubs decided to raise awareness among their members so that they could lend their help in several services, especially as drivers of ambulances and trucks for transportation of medicines, food parcels and correspondence to be delivered both to soldiers at the front lines and to those hospitalized in health structures or detained in prison camps.

Automobile Club de l'Ouest (France) →

COMITÉ DÉPARTEMENTAL D'ASSISTANCE AUX PRISONNIERS LANDAIS

ŒUVRE RATTACHÉE A LA CROIX-ROUGE FRANÇAISE (Agence des Prisonniers de Guerre)

Madame BIRABEN

négociant

rue des Carmes

DAX

5c
POSTES
FRANCE
LE 15 1943

AUTOMOBILE-CLUB DE L'OUEST

DEMANDEUR - ANFRAGESTELLER - ENQUIRER

Nom - Name *Bourde*

Prénom - Christian name - Vorname *Honore*

Rue - Street - Strasse _____

Localité - Locality - Ortschaft *Ain El Arba*

Département - County - Provinz *Oran*

Pays - Country - Land *Algérie*

Message à transmettre — Mitteilung — Message
(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).

*Donnez nouvelles de vos santés
ici allons tous bien - pensionnaires
tous rentrés Bel. Albert Pierre Brattier
rentré Cénoucheant tout va bien
pluie abondante - sous embrassons tous*

Date - Datum *22 janvier 1943*

DESTINATAIRE - EMPFÄNGER - ADDRESSEE

Nom - Name *Mademoiselle Chataignon*

Prénom - Christian name - Vorname *Hélène*

Rue - Street - Strasse *Avenue Maréchal Lyautey 79*

Localité - Locality - Ortschaft *Lyon*

Province - Country - Provinz *Rhône*

Pays - Country - Land *France*

ANTWORT UMSEITIG AU VERSO REPLY OVERLEAF
Bitte sehr deutlich schreiben lisiblement Please write very clearly

← Automobile Club de Oran (Algerie): message for civilians

↓ Automobile Club de Paris: ambulance

AUTOMOBILE-CLUB DE FRANCE

50 TIMBRE ÉCOLOGIQUE NATIONAL 50

10c
POSTES
FRANCE
MAY 19 1943



6.1 - Establishment of a proud tradition

The outbreak of the First World War radically changed women, making them more aware of their abilities.



While most of them took the place of men left for the war-front, those of bourgeois or aristocratic extraction chose to engage themselves to fundraising or to volunteer nursing.

Ladies' Committee of the Italian Red Cross in Callao (Perù) - Year 1916



Bavarian Women's Red Cross Association



Feminist Red Cross Information Office in Brussels - Year 1915



Proof in red colour



6.1 - Establishment of a proud tradition



Charity stamp



Shifted emblem

Colour proofs



The importance of Red Cross Nurses' task has been the main reason for which thousands of women were actively engaged in war theatres.

These female volunteers represented the first case which registered a mobilization of highly specialized personnel and, even if most of them worked in operating rooms or in post-surgical assistance, many others pushed their activity even to the front lines of combat, however paying to all conflicts a heavy tribute in terms of deaths.





6.2 - Clara Barton, founder of American Red Cross

Clarissa (" Clara ") Harlowe Barton, distinguished herself during the *American Civil War* when, as nurse of the *Union Army*, gave first aids also to *Confederate Forces* soldiers injured on battlefields. She inaugurated schools for volunteers, developing a very important sanitary career and in 1881 founded the *American Red Cross*, becoming its first President. She died in 1912, leaving medical teachings and knowledges, important for all women who three years later found themselves operating in health services at the outbreak of the I World War.



USA precancelled stamp utilized in Montague (California)



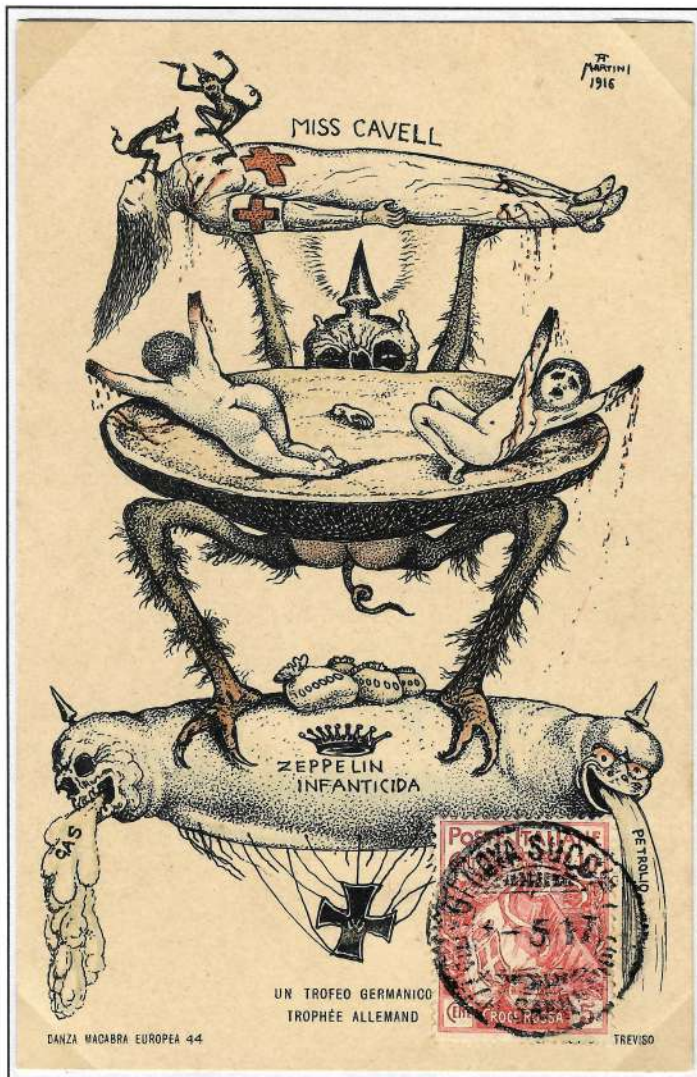
Huecees from Paris, no 1
Apr 20/12



6.3 - Edith Cavell, nurse-martyr of Great War



**Florence Nightingale
and Edith Cavell
- Muestra -**



Thanks to a brilliant nursing diploma obtained at Peterborough, Edith Cavell directed in the year 1907 l'Ecole des Infirmieres in Brussels, institute that she transformed into an hospital at the outbreak of I WW, deciding to assist soldiers of all nations: for this reason she was tried on charges of high treason and all intercessions to Germany Military Court by Belgian Ambassador and numerous politicians were useless. Found guilty of espionage, she was executed on October 12nd, 1915, at the "Tir National" in Brussels, where today is positioned a marble memorial.



The "Cavell Van" was a special wagon built in 1919, so named because it was utilized to transport the body of Edith Cavell when it was repatriated to the United Kingdom after the end of First World War. A year later, the van was again used to carry the remains of "The Unknown Warrior" from Dover to Westminster Abbey at London. Today the van is on display at the "Colonel Stephens Railway Museum" at Tenterden



6.4 - Florence Nightingale, the lady with the lamp



Misperforated pairs

Florence Nightingale was an English nurse nicknamed "The lady with the lamp" during Crimean War, having assisted even in the nights, incessantly, hundreds of hospitalized soldiers. Her nursing theory revolutionized all knowledges thanks to new applications which allowed to develop in a modern way the discipline, saving thousands of persons. In the year 1908 she was awarded the *Order of Merit*, an high and prestigious honor conferred by the Queen.



Specimen with security puncture holes



6.5 - Marie Curie and the radiological ambulances

The different forms of use of vehicles with combustion engines created a sort of revolution already at the beginning of the Twentieth Century, tanks to adaptation of trucks and various types of transportation: this allowed a specialized medical intervention and increased the capacity to provide assistance in many sanitary areas.



Maria Skłodowska, (known as Marie Curie) and her husband Pierre Curie focused some their studies planning radiological systems to be installed on ambulances. During the years of the Great War, they managed to put X-ray devices on 20 Red Cross vehicles (nicknamed *Petites Curie*) and 250 radiological workstations in many hospitals. These two chemical-physical scientists took care of training for dedicated, specialist doctors.

1a Guerra Mondiale
28 Luglio 1914 - 11 Novembre 1918
"La Grande Guerra"



Ambulanza radiologica della Croce Rossa
10° Ospedale da Campo
Cividale del Friuli





6.6 - Other female figures carved into memory



The *Société de Secours aux Blessés Militaires*, thanks to a donation concerning the property "Mont des Oiseaux" (near Hyeres), decided to create a sanitary centre for convalescent officers wounded in battlefields.



This structure, classified as "Hopital Auxiliaire 52", became operational on January 5th, 1915, with the health management of Nurse Gervais, hosting about 1.500 officers. The hospital ceased this kind of activity at the end of First World War and in the year 1919 was adapted to a climatic institute for civilians.



As sign of gratitude for a so great sacrifice, French Post Office issued a stamp in the year 1939 illustrated with a portrait of Nurse Gervais





6.7 - Nursing Schools

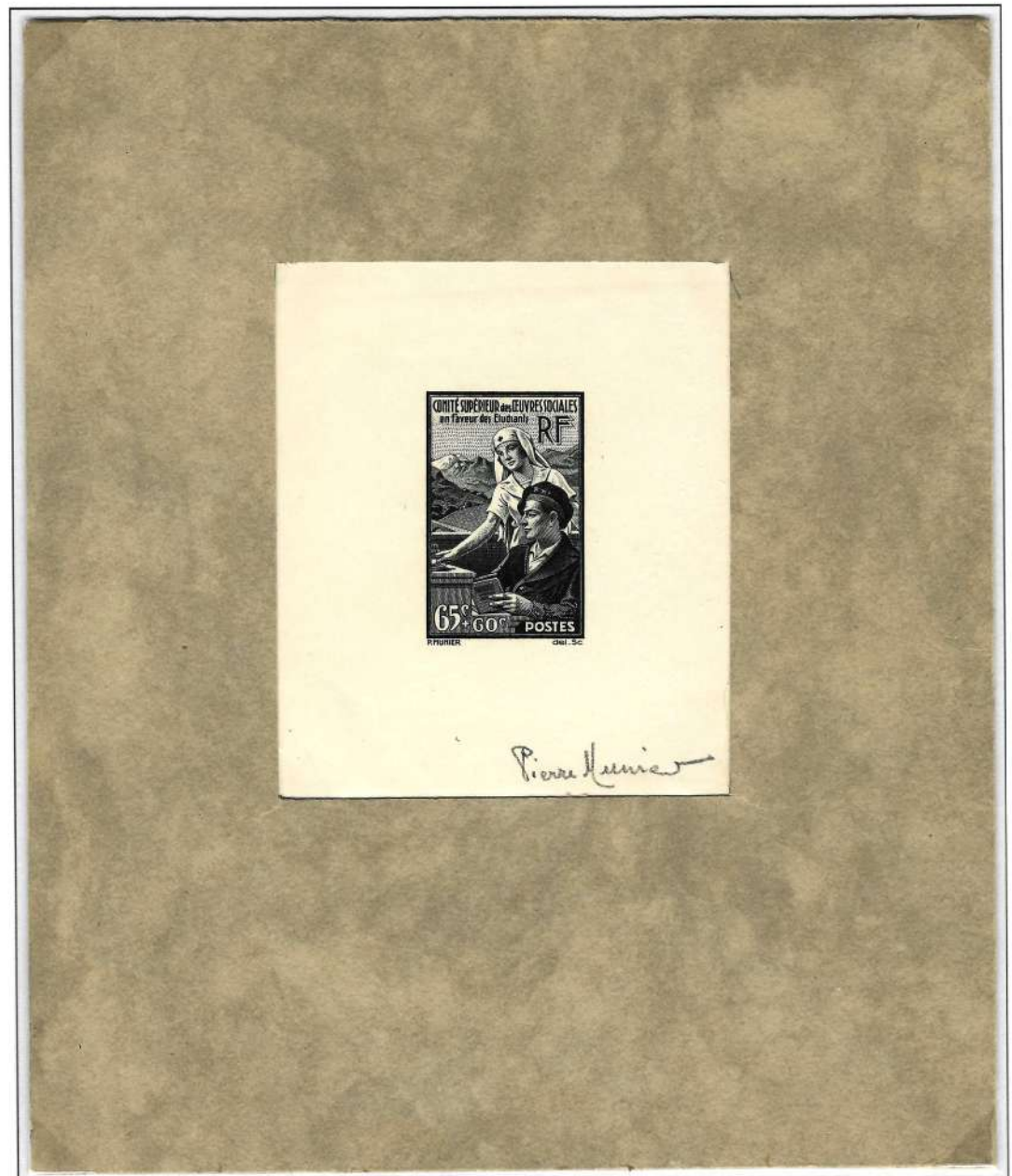


**"Helena Paderewsk"
Nursing School
in Warsaw**



At the outbreak of I WW, courses for nursing discipline multiplied in the international contest and became essential in consideration of dramatic and generalized deficiency of rescue structures and low preparation concerning health personnel employed by various military commands.

Doctors and nurses, thanks to their high degree of specialization, imparted important operational teachings to volunteers.





6.8 - Voluntary Service



Red Cross nurses' work has been fundamental at the rescue centers established in railway stations and maritime ports.



← Free franking postcard





6.8 - Voluntary Service



During wartimes -in both belligerent and neutral Countries- were set up Voluntary Nurse Corps and Red Cross Women's Committees: they took charge not only of health care, but also provided functionality of kitchens and wardrobes for all medical teams employed at front war-lines.



Adopted colours



Printing proofs



← Mrs. Jane Delano - founder of American Red Cross Nursing Schools - coordinated the work of about 20.000 voluntary nurses sent to operate in various States during the Great War



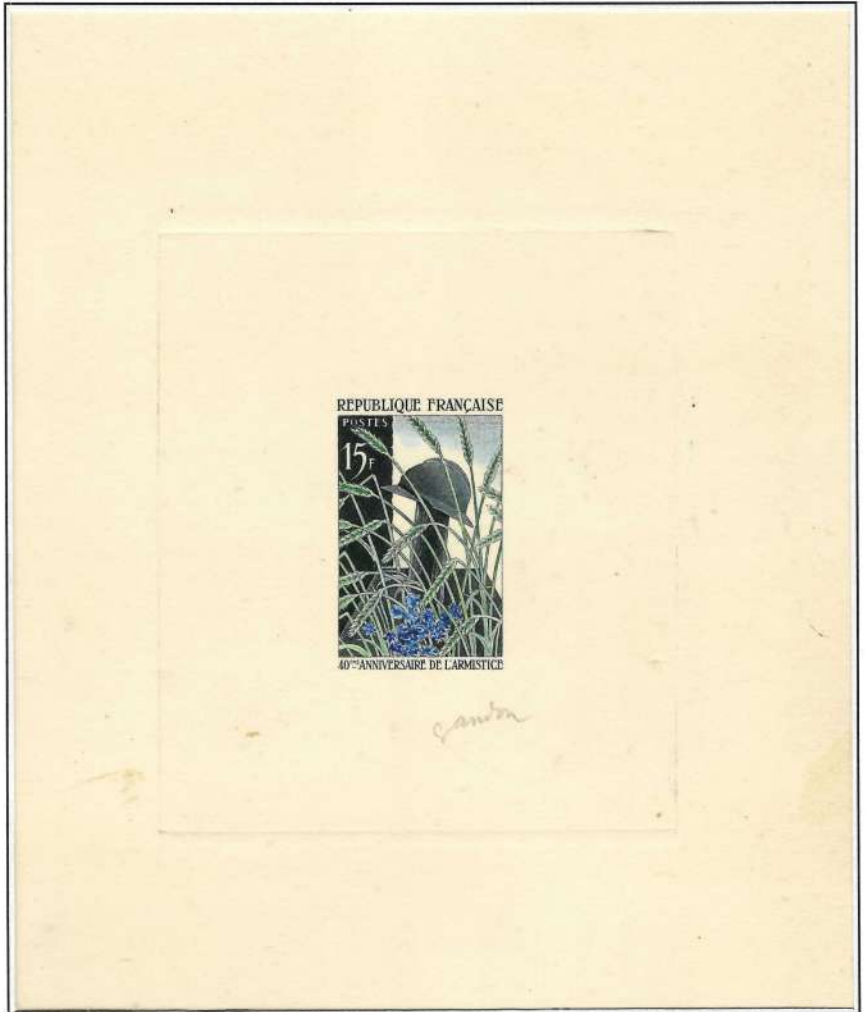


7.1 - The difficult reintegration into civilian life

On November 11st, 1918, the great massacre ended. Inside a railway wagon stopped on a dead track of Rethondes Station, the Armistice was signed between Germany (the last of Central Empires) and Allied Forces, a treaty which marked the finish of I WW battles in every context.



Artist proof



The surviving soldiers -winners or losers- slowly returned to their homelands, all deeply marked by an inhuman experience of violence.

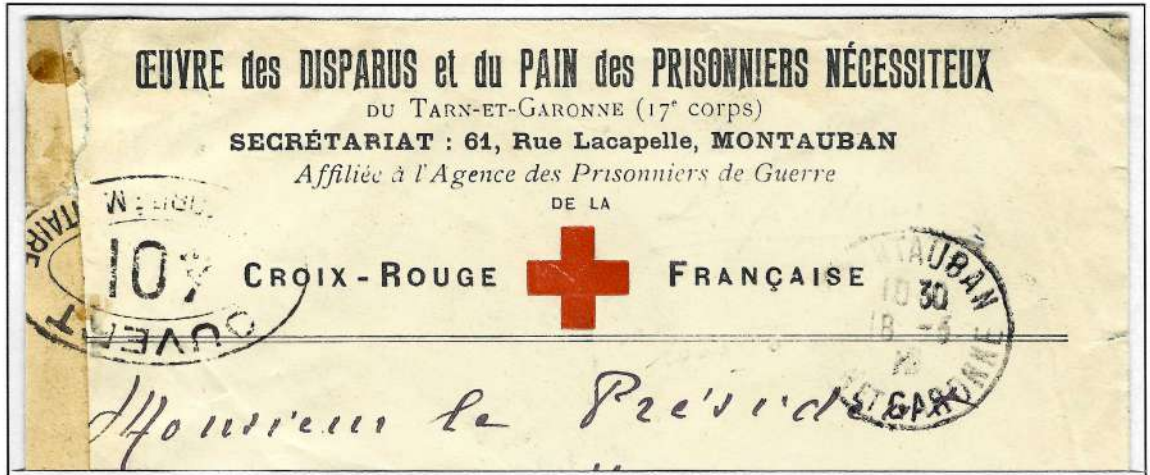
With a ritual constantly repeated in history, a great triumph was reserved for everyone, even if it was immediately clear a situation of widespread misery and so much marginalization.



Generalized disappointment and bitterness took over veterans, most of whom didn't understand what blood and acts of heroism were used for. The Great War was ended, leaving terrible aspects and devastating consequences: more than anything else, physical and psychological problems. The Red Cross focused its efforts on these two aspects, trying to reintegrate soldiers returning from the war into civilian life.



7.2 - Search for missing people



For both World Wars, the search for missing soldiers or civilians has represented the last front. In fact, everywhere they arose associations and offices -both public and private- to look for news about persons nowhere to be found. These structures were created thanks to State funds or financing by family members.



Missing Families Search Service activated in France at the end of II WW: mechanical postmark

Missing Persons Inquiries Office of the Polish Forces. Middle East Nr. 55 was a code for the Red Cross and was reported to Central Mediterranean Area during the Second World War





7.2 - Search for missing people

At the end of two global wars, Red Cross was particularly engaged in: providing assistance throughout liberation of concentration camps; searching missing persons; restoring broken contacts between soldiers and their families.



↑ **Froslev Nazi prison camp was liberated in 1944 by the local Resistance with help of Danish Red Cross**

→ **Freemasonry Congregation Office in Luxembourg operative in 1919 for the search of missing members**



1918: Bureau Zuricois pour la recherche des disparus



In London in the year 1946, a Section was established by the Warsaw Red Cross Committee aimed at searching for Polish soldiers or civilians whose traces had been lost in Great Britain after the end of the II World War.

To respond to requests for information received, this office was supplied with special postcards and equipped with a postal mechanical machine and a bilingual postmark.



7.2 - Search for missing people

In all Countries, Prisoner War Commissions carried out research of missing fighters who didn't return from battlefields, unfortunately in many cases concluding this work by sending relics to family members of deceased soldiers, together with lists of personal items found.



A balance of WW allows to give physiognomy to two tragedies of immense proportions, because were counted millions of dead, wounded, mutilated soldiers and civilians. After the battles were ceased, all Governments had to face criticality both for victims and survivors, phase that remained characterized by an inconclusive aspect of the civil reconstruction and inconsistent reorganization of the society.



Artist proof



← Colour proof

As a legacy of I WW remained trail of hate and strong desire of revenge, together with a complete incapacity by political forces to resolve enormous problems of all the people: poisons of carnage had planted the roots of a new tragedy which would take place just after twenty years with a renewed global conflict.



7.3 - Aid to refugees

1916: Secretariat for Trentine refugees in Vienna



During armed conflicts, forced migration of people has always been a concrete phenomenon, which has finished to overwhelm all States, with million of persons on the move to avoid advance of enemy armies. For this reason, at the end of hostilities, one of main Red Cross tasks has been to help refugees in repatriation operations.





7.4 - Care for convalescents

A few months after outbreak of two world conflicts, it was already clear what the final drama would be to provide a frightening number of mutilate people, both children, civilians and soldiers.

However, many injured military were sent back to war zones as soon as possible, to reinforce comrades' minds with their example; where this was not feasible, it was necessary try to reintegrate men into civilian works.



Proof print in black



Rehabilitation centers for mutilated civilians and soldiers have represented a huge consequence due to the two global wars, remaining operational for many years after signing of armistices or peace treaties. At the end of the two World Wars, there have been several million civilians and soldiers left disabled, in need of long medical treatments.



Ministerial proof



7.4 - Care for convalescents

In various contexts, Red Cross Committees widely built centers for convalescents, structures which had been useful to all States in rehabilitation of wounded soldiers and civilians affected by disabilities.



Convalescent Home in Andrezieux (France)



Misperforated pair

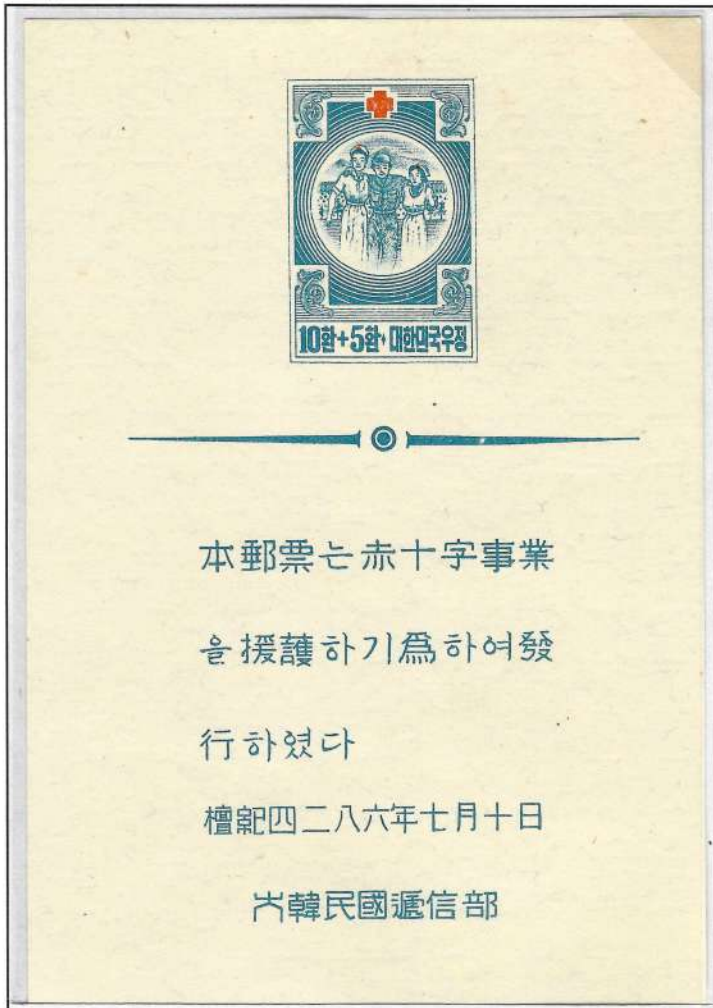


These efforts in health sectors strongly marked all delicate phases of following conflicts, whenever with political and social consequences, especially in Europe.

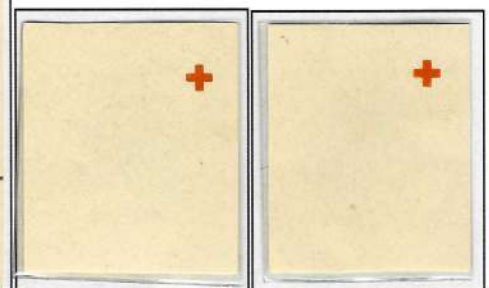




7.4 - Care for convalescents



The attempt to save lives and to alleviate sufferings of civilians or soldiers affected by physical and mental troubles has been a complex and impressive effort that developed throughout two global conflicts and many years after the end of World Wars.





8.1 - Staff training for the growth of skills



In peacetime the purpose of the International Red Cross is to provide assistance to civilian population (especially to the neediest classes) to deal with diseases and any kind of natural disasters.

Among the activities carried out, the main one is the staff training, which allows to the Movement to be ready for any eventuality.

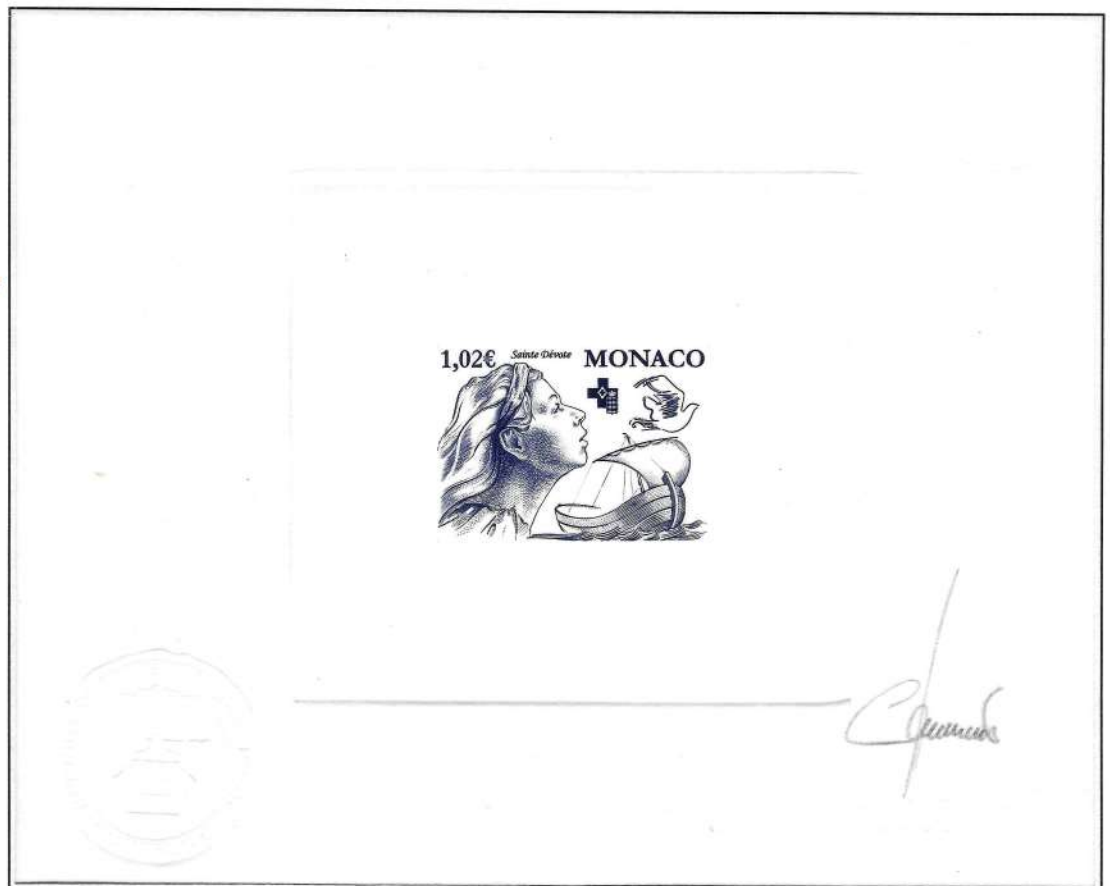


Ministerial proof

Vertically imperforated pair



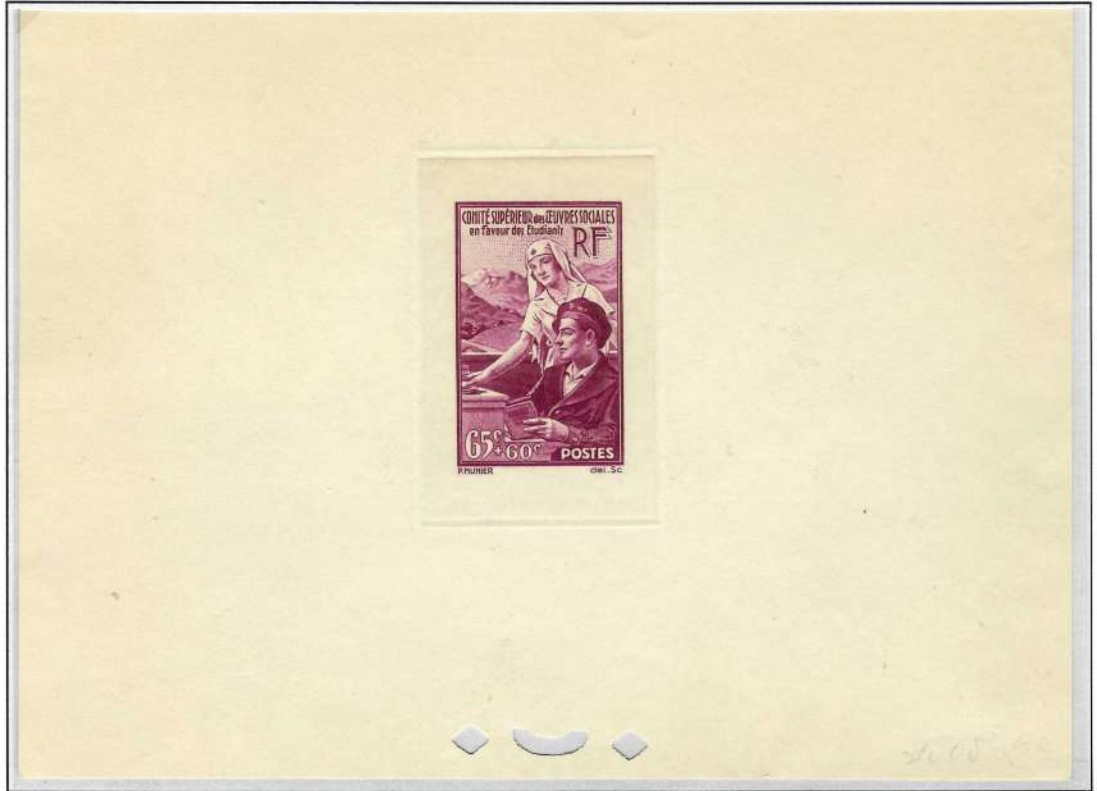
The dove as symbol of Peace





8.1 - Staff training for the growth of skills

Health education, which usually accelerates in wartime - due to demand of specialized personnel (involving Military Corps and civilian volunteers) - on the contrary represents a normal process during peacetime.



Deluxe proof in lilac colour

In order to restore the postal traffic stopped during tragic events of June 1940, occupying German Authorities prescribed to affix on the whole correspondence a rectangular cancellation bearing the words Besetztes Gebiet Nord Frankreich (Occupied Northern France Territory), but this ordinance was already revoked in the following month of August



(e)



Imperforate



8.1 - Staff training for the growth of skills



With the aim of responding to distress calls, Red Cross ensures rescue operations using specialized services and staff equipped with sea, air or land vehicles.

**КОМСОМОЛЕЦ!
ВСТУПАЯ В РЯДЫ
КРАСНОГО КРЕСТА
И КРАСНОГО
ПОЛУМЕСЯЦА**

ТЫ УКРЕПЛЯЕШЬ
САНИТАРНЮЮ ОБОРОНУ,
ПОМОГАЕШЬ В РАБОТЕ
ПО ОЗДОРОВЛЕНИЮ ТРУДА
И БЫТА ТРУДЯЩИХСЯ МАСС
СССР!

Над. НКПТ. Уп. Главл. 20/1 1932.
№ 143. Тир. 1.000.000 экз.
Москва. 1932. ГОЗНАК

ПОЧТОВАЯ КАРТОЧКА
ПОШТОВА КАРТКА
ПАШТОВАЯ КАРТКА
ԵՄՅՄԵՅՄ ԶԵԶԵՄ
Φ Π Ο Σ - Կ Α Ρ Σ
POSTA KARTY
کرتجگه پوچته کبی
CARTE POSTALE

10 коп

Куда
Куди
Куды
Ե՞տ
Ποϋ
Paraja
په کجا
Ou

Кому
Кому
Каму
Ե՞վ
Ποϋ
Qima
پرای
À qui



Deutsche Gesellschaft zur Rettung Schiffbrüchiger

FRANKFURT AM MAIN 18
-9.3.79
6

DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST
025

GEBÜHR BEZAHLT



8.2 - Medical research, prophylaxis and vaccinations



Colour proof



Artist proof



The International Red Cross continually invests important resources in medical research, growing its scientific and technological findings, with the purpose to be always ready to face interventions in most diversified contexts.

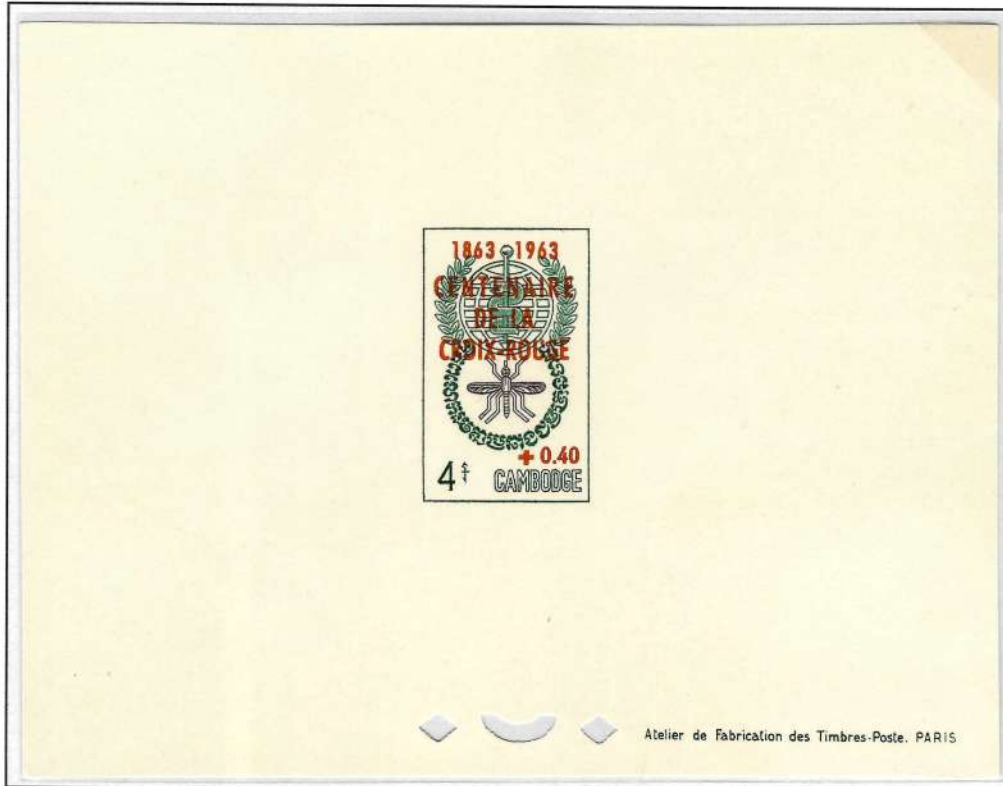


De luxe proof





8.2 - Medical research, prophylaxis and vaccinations



At the beginning of the twentieth century, the British Red Cross particularly stood out in fighting against *Anopheles Stephensi*, mosquito carrier for malaria



More than 500 million people worldwide suffer from malaria and about 1 million deaths are counted every year due to this disease, persistent and widespread in more than 100 Countries in tropical areas.

Even if unfortunately no prophylaxis treatment guarantees a total protection, however preventive medicine is useful in order to increase defenses of the immune system.



During years of Italian colonization in Africa, all soldiers and nurses had been vaccinated. Anti-malarial activity was especially carried out on board the hospital ships.





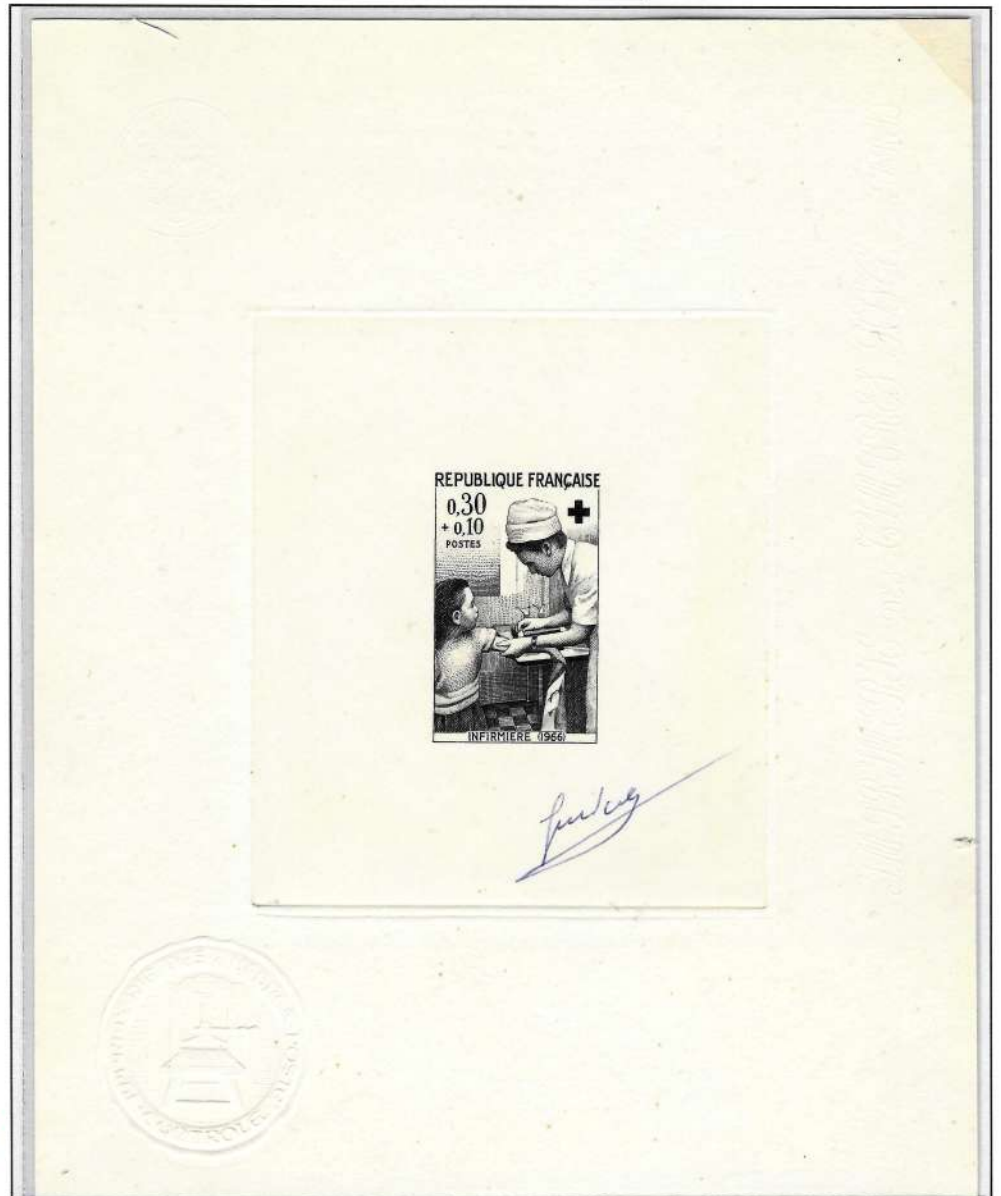
8.2 - Medical reasearch, prophylaxis and vaccinations

At the base of wide vaccination campaigns promoted by International Red Cross there has always been the strategy of trying to contrast development of diseases, in consciousness that prevention could well be better than cure.



Colour proofs

The purpose of prophylaxis is improving life quality: for this reason, vaccination centers in recent times have developed throughout all the world, with the primary purpose of protecting most vulnerable categories and people at risk.



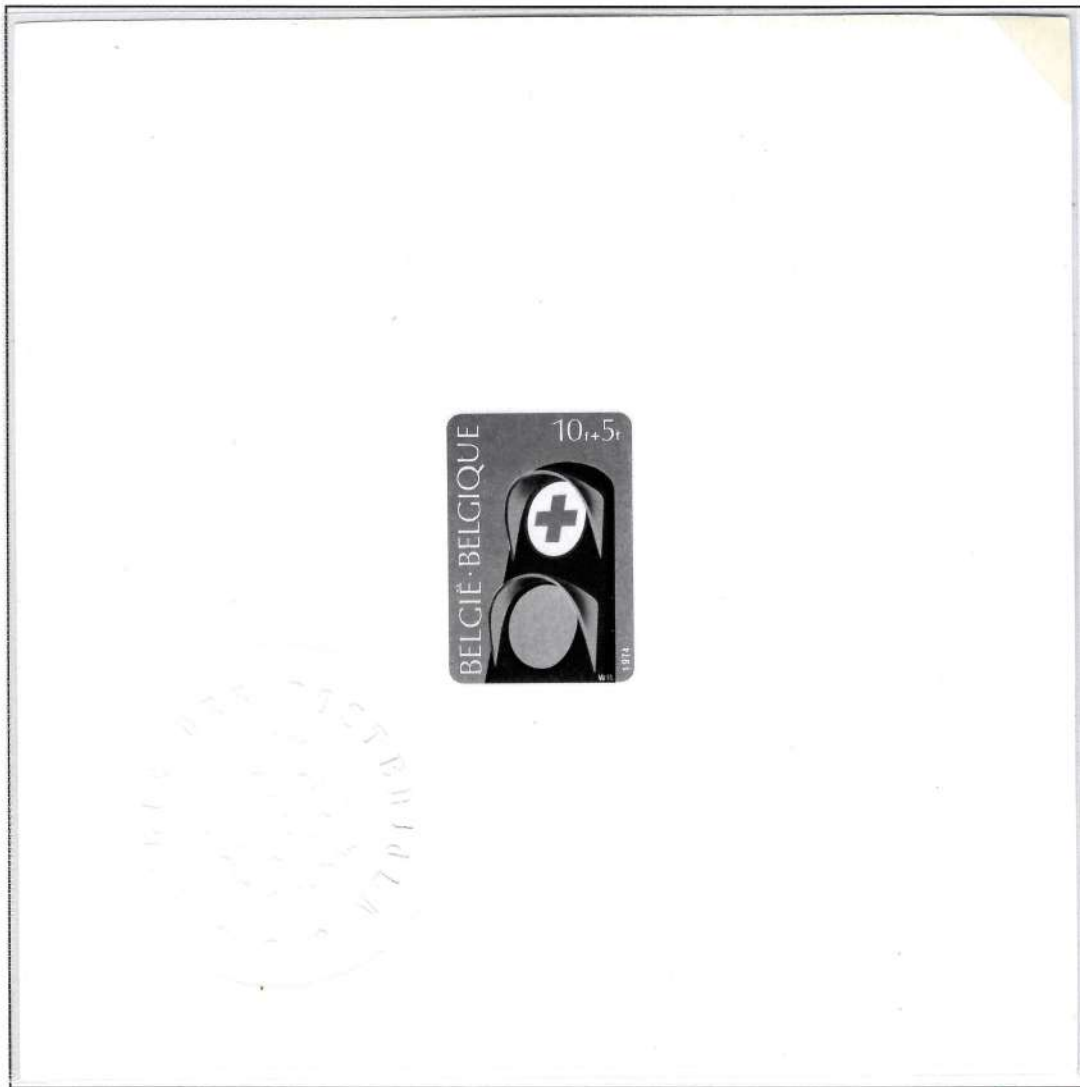
Artist proof



8.3 - Prevention of accidents



Red Cross, in addition to carry out first-aid interventions on the occasion of road accidents, is committed to spread a culture of prevention, especially through didactic teachings, aimed to a better knowledge of traffic rules.



Ministerial proof

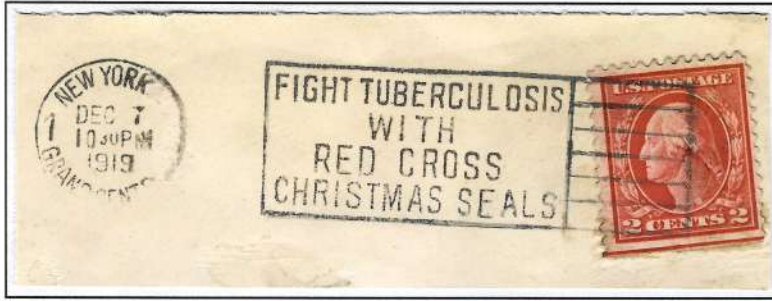




8.4 - Fight against diseases and addictions

Recently, Red Cross operators have directed many of their activities in trying to alleviate sufferings deriving from worldwide diseases, such as tuberculosis, cancer, AIDS and leprosy.

Tuberculosis



Leprosy

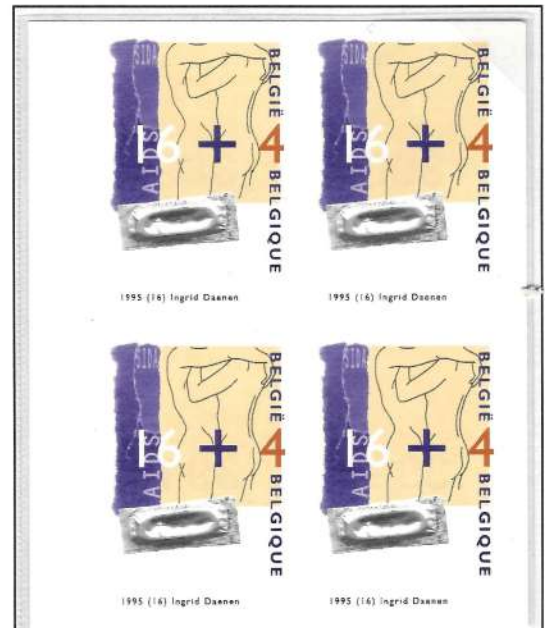
Very significant also fight against drugs, alcohol abuse, tooth decay, tobacco addiction and illiteracy.

AIDS

Cancer



Tobacco addiction



Tooth decay



Illiteracy



8.5 - Blood transfusion



Advertising campaigns are periodically promoted concerning blood donations, in consideration of the absolute social and sanitary importance of this practice, just characterized like a gesture of solidarity towards millions of people which are saved every year all over the world.



Australian stamps booklet





8.6 - Assistance to weaker categories

The International Red Cross has always considered older people not a burden on society, but an added value: for this reason, this weak group is everywhere entrusted with specialized voluntary services, providing concrete help in cases of complete lack of self-sufficiency.



Artist proof

As regards sphere of disabled people, all Movement forces are particularly engaged to provide these subjects with equal opportunities and dignity respect to contexts in which they live, ensuring processes of social participation.



In fact, the Institution throughout its history has always given a great attention to rights of people with disabilities, in order to guarantee them full chances in improving life quality, identically to all people.



8.6 - Assistance to weaker categories

In particular, during two global wars the International Red Cross provided assistance and conditions of safety to adolescents stayed sick, destitute or orphaned.



Colour shift error

Proof in red colour



On December 17th, 1941, Switzerland Red Cross specifically created its own branch called "Croix Rouge Suisse - Secours aux Enfants" with the aim of providing assistance both to children with deported parents and to war orphans. The three reception centers and clearinghouses of Zurich, Lucerne and Bern remained active till the end of 1947, managing to have an average of 40.000 children adopted every year.



Artist proof



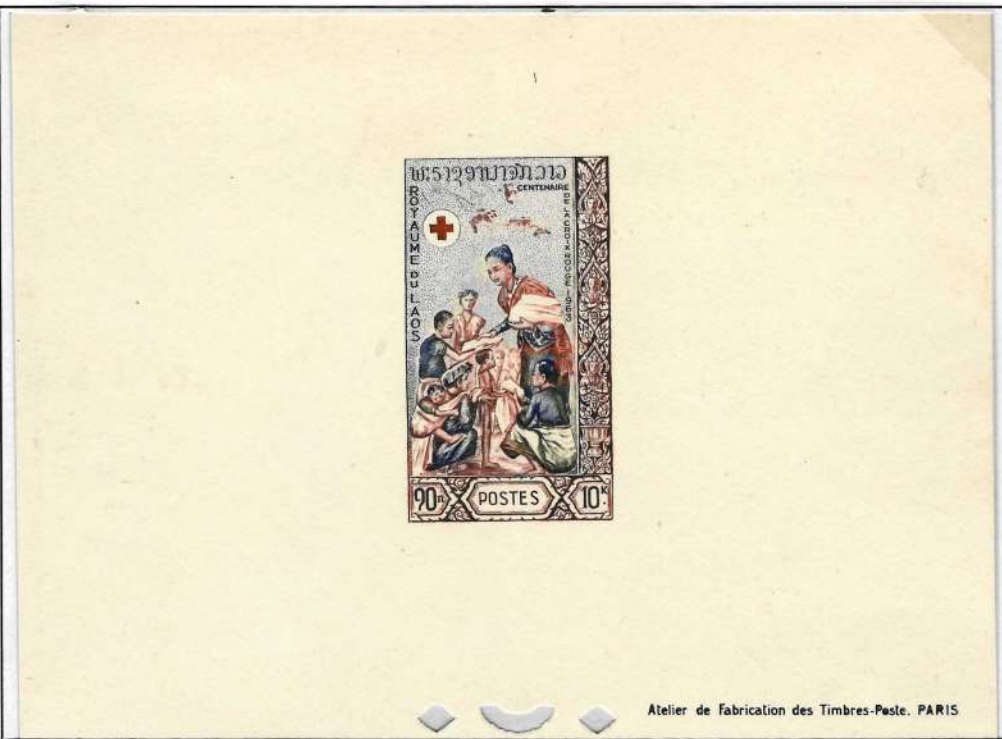
8.6 - Assistance to weaker categories



Specimen with security puncture holes



The Movement has always wanted to represent a lifeline for children worldwide who fall victims of disease, abandonments, abuse, ill-treatments, accidents and natural disasters.



Muestra



Colour proofs



9.1 - Earthquakes, flooding and management of natural calamities



Imperforated pair



Artist proof

Since its foundation, the Red Cross is particularly structured to provide medical assistance in case of telluric shocks due to earthquakes.



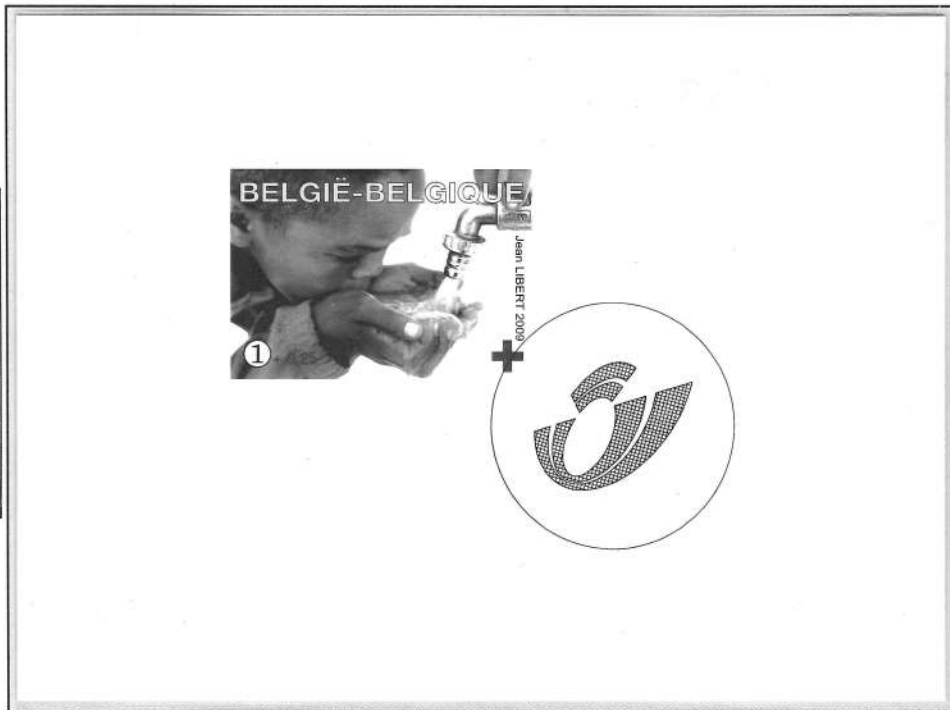
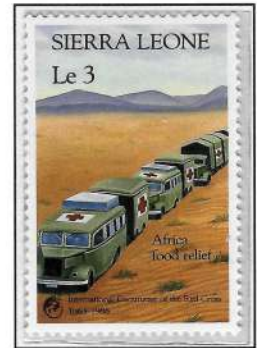
Postal stationery



9.2 - Hunger and thirst in the world: search for solutions



On occasion of natural disasters due to drought or lack of food, the International Red Cross promptly intervenes by sending convoys composed by specialized personnel, food, medicines and clothing stocks.



In the year 1981 the German Red Cross decided to buy the ship "Flora" with the aim of using it in Mozambique to help population hit by a strong drought. This sanitary boat was equipped with hospitals and some laboratories. Nine years later, the Lazarettsschiff was sadly put in disarmament.

DRK-Hilfsschiff FLORA



des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes
in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland
In Dienst gestellt am 1. September 1979

Technische Daten:
72 m lang, 11,50 m breit 1500 BRT, 1500 PS;
tägliche Reichweite 530 km,
Geschwindigkeit 12 Seemeilen pro Stunde

Besatzung:
Stammbesatzung 15 Personen,
im Einsatz 18 bis 35 Personen

Einrichtungen für:
1. medizinische Dienste an Bord
(OP, Röntgenraum, Labor, Krankenstation)
sowie ärztliche und soziale Dienste an Land
durch mobile Einrichtungen
2. technische Dienste an Bord und an Land
3. Versorgungsdienste

Heimatadresse:
Stiftung Hilfsschiff FLORA
des Deutschen Roten Kreuzes
Friedrich-Ebert-Allee 71 · 5300 Bonn 1



MOZAMBIQUE

DEUTSCHE SCHIFFSPOST
MS FLORA
10.12.81
Deutsches Rotes Kreuz
AFRIKAHILFE

Stur der Walfarther...
Deutsche Bundespost Berlin
100
SHEWERTLE







10.1 - Propaganda and associationism, the two souls of Movement

In the year 1895, even before the birth of Yugoslav Kingdom, a first model of hospital train was made operational on Balkan peninsula railway tracks. Currently, some carriages can be visited at the Belgrade Red Cross Museum.



ESPOSIZIONE 1914 - ROMA — TRENO OSPEDALE

One year before the call to arms for the outbreak of the I World War, in Italy was prepared a hospital train, realized thanks to knowledge acquired in occasion of previous Libyan War. The railway carriages were shown in May 1914 in Rome at Villa Borghese, during the exhibition for the 50th Anniversary of First Geneva Convention.

The neutral Switzerland -spared from hostilities during the two global conflicts- could concentrate its efforts on helping humanitarian associations: in the year 1944, the Cantonal Authorities allowed the Swiss Red Cross to exhibit an innovative hospital train model in the principal railway stations.



Illustrated plate used during the traveling exhibition





10.2 - Special flights, in the sign of maximum visibility

Since the beginning of Twentieth Century, most of National Red Cross Committees have utilized special air connections to advertise emblems or characters of the Movement.

In the period October-December 1918, the South African Red Cross organized six flights using an airplane piloted by commander Arthur H. Gearing, which landed in various Transvaal locations. At each airport were distributed two different types of postcards, called "Small Wing" and "Large Wing", bearing illustrations of Red Cross and of South Africa Air Force emblems



In the early 1950s, the members of the Haagsche Ballon Club of The Hague named "Henri Dunant" one of their balloons, habitually piloted by Jan and Nini Boesman.

This hot-hair balloon was useful for spreading the name of the Red Cross founder in occasion of numerous events in Asia, Europe and Africa. For each flight, they were prepared special postcards signed by pilots and bearing commemorative cancels





10.2 - Special flights, in the sign of maximum visibility

"Plus Ultra"

On January 26th, 1926, thanks to Spanish Red Cross, the first enterprise of Iberian Air Force was carried out, when a *Dornier* seaplane -named "Plus Ultra" and piloted by the national hero Ramon Franco Bahmonde- took off from Palos de la Frontera airport for a transatlantic flight to Buenos Aires: the raid covered 10.270 km, setting the world record.

Stopovers were made in seven different locations and Red Cross postal correspondence was delivered to each one. Spain has wanted to remember philatelically these flights.



Muestra



Waterlow & Sons Ltd. Specimen



In occasion of subsequent flights, this Airmail issue has been reissued with overprints in the year 1927



Inverted overprints

Double overprints



11.1 - Fundraising campaigns, when States fail to provide

Lord Minto became Viceroy of India in November 1905 and remained in office till 1910. His wife, Mary Caroline Grey, popularly known as Lady Minto, was very much involved in the works of the Indian Nursing Association. With the purpose of giving help, in the year 1907 from January 20th to February 7th she organized a Fete to raise funds: in that occasion, she arranged an issue of stamps bearing her portrait or the map of India.



A special postmark was also prepared to be affixed to all correspondence sent during the nineteen days of the Fete: it was designed in two ways, circular or square, with a red cross marked in the center and the indication **MINTO FETE CALCUTTA** on the edge.



Circular postmark



Square postmark

However, immediately the Edwardian Society in Calcutta denounced that the release of these stamps without the depiction of the King of England was an insult to the throne. Bowing to the strong objection, Lady Minto ordered that the stamps had to be withdrawn, but some of them were in any case sold and even postally used.



11.2 - Lotteries: an example of diversification in the search for resources

On May 6th, 1922, the Italian Red Cross organized in Rome the First National Lottery to raise funds for printing and distribution of a calendar, whose sale was useful to find money for care of war mutilated soldiers.

R. PREFETTURA DI ROMA
PRIMA LOTTERIA NAZIONALE
 per la diffusione del
Calendario della Croce Rossa Italiana
 (Decreto 5 ottobre 1920)
 ROMA - Via della Maschera d'Oro, 20 p. p. (Quart. Post. 11) - Telef. 40-58 - ROMA

Franchigia postale

Ill.mo Signor **PREFETTO** nel recapito alla

Free
franking
postage

Amministrazione
 Via de
 RR POSTE
 R. PREFETTURA DI ROMA
 Lotteria Nazionale
 pro Calendario
 CROCE ROSSA ITALIANA

Nürnberger Sanitäts-Lotterie

München, Datum des Poststempels.

Unter Bezugnahme auf mein jüngstes Zirkular erlaube ich mir, meiner besseren Orientierung halber, hiemit ergebenst anzufragen, wie groß zurzeit noch Ihr Vorrat an **Nürnberger Sanitäts-Losen** ist. Die Ziehung wird **garantiert unwiderruflich am 16. Oktober a. c.** stattfinden, wie Sie aus den Ihnen zugegangenen Plakattreifen ersehen haben werden.

Bei der großen Beliebtheit der Sanitäts-Lose glaube ich zwar, daß Ihr Quantum leicht fertig werden können; sollte das der Fall sein, so bitte ich, mir die Lose, welche Sie glauben bringen zu können, jezt schon zu retournieren, damit ich anderweitig unterbringen kann.

Ich empfehle Ihnen meine am 29. Dezember zum Zuge kommenden Sanitäts-Lose und sehe gefl. Bestellungen hierauf gerne nachachtungsvoll und ergebenst

H. Pradarutti.

e Rücksendungstermin neu eingehalten.

Munich, October 16th, 1906.
 Postal stationery

LOTERIA EM BENEFICIO DA CRUZ VERMELHA BRASILEIRA

9.550:000 \$ 000 EM PREMIOS
 1º PREMIO 5.000:000 \$

OFF. GRAPHICAS DA LIVRARIA P

MÜNCHEN 22
 -2 2 55 POSTKA
 BERLIN
 NOTOPFER
 DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST
 010
 BAYERISCHES ROTES KREUZ
 MÜNCHEN 27. WAGMÜLLERSTR. 16

Munich, February 2nd, 1955.

May 29th, 1927: lottery for the benefit of Brazilian Red Cross, with the purpose of collecting funds for I World War wounded soldiers.



11.3 - Surcharged or overprinted issues: financial contribution by philately

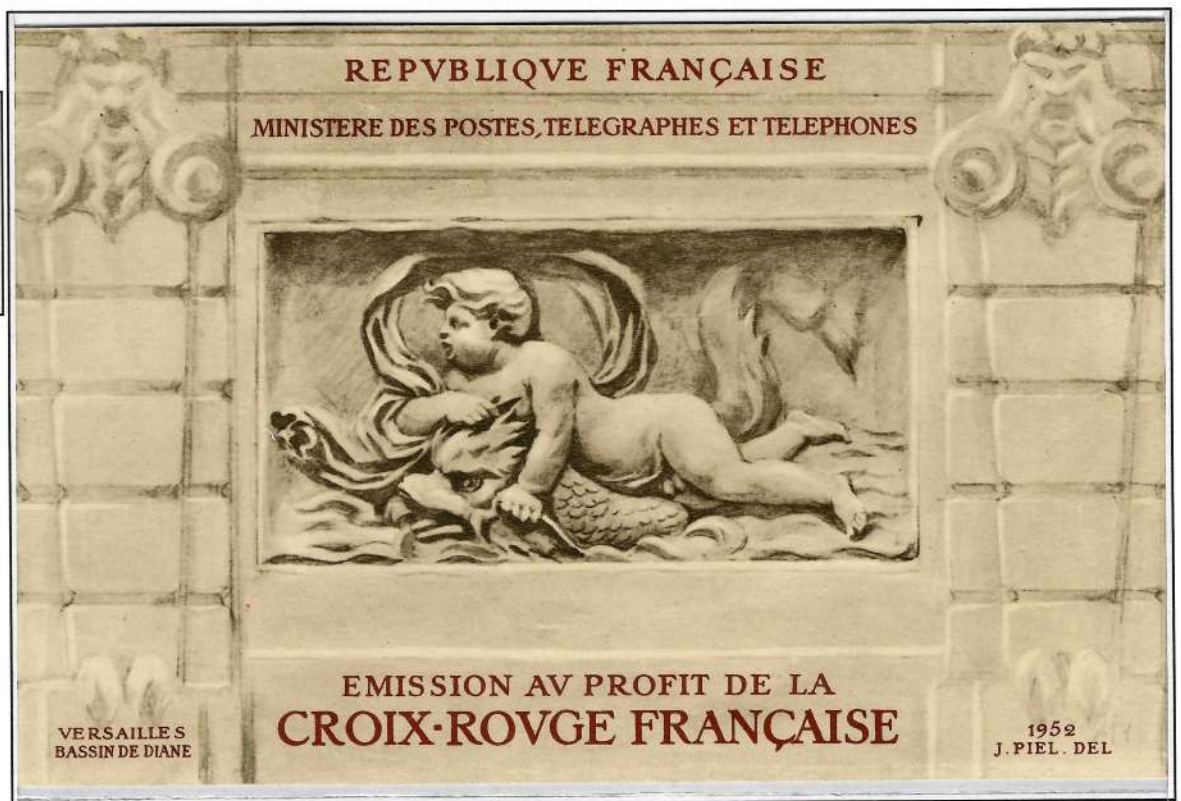
All Postal Administrations have issued stamps bearing surcharges in favor of the Institution, in many cases to be used only for internal mail or for postage to their own colonies: the France Post more than any others.



France, 1914 : stamp printed in booklets of 20 and in two joined sheets of 50 pieces each



The France Postal Administration has prepared another stamp in the year 1952 in favour of Red Cross, issued in booklets of 10 or in sheets of 25 values



But the expedient to reissue stamps with a price overprinted in favor of the Movement is everywhere most adopted, both because it's simpler and allows to dispose of unsold stamp stocks.



Czechoslovakia, 1920



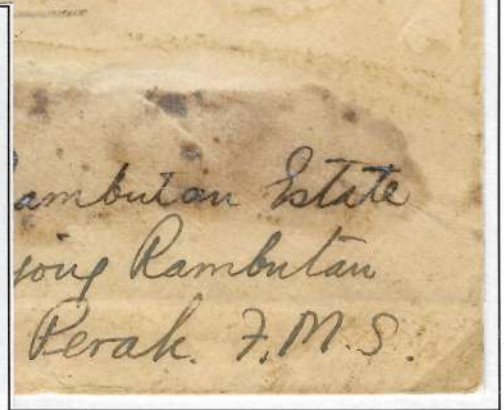
Overprint proofs on grey or salmon colored papers



11.3 - Surcharged or overprinted issues: financial contribution by philately

Trengganu, 1918

Malacca, 1917



Portugal, 1930
double overprints
(one of which inverted)



Liberia, 1941



inverted overprints



Oceania, 1918



France, 1914



Italy, 1906
not adopted
overprint





11.3 - Surcharged or overprinted issues: financial contribution by philately



Proofs in black colour

Cent 10 + Cent 5 on postcard sent to Switzerland



In the year 1915 the Italian Government decided to subsidize philatelically Red Cross, but rather than imposing an overprint on ordinary stamps already existing, preferred to issue a new serie composed by four stamps, to be used also in colonial territories.

Unusually, it was not established an identical date of issue for them, but the first tree stamps were distributed as soon as ready.

In 1916 postage costs increased due to the enormous war expenses: for this reason, it was necessary to reissue one of these stamps with an overprint concerning an increased nominal value.



Printing error: (EPITREA instead of ERITREA)

Inverted overprint

Initially, these four stamps were issued only for internal and colonial mail, however reciprocal agreements with four States (Belgium, Morocco, Switzerland and France) allowed to Italy their use for postage to those destinations.



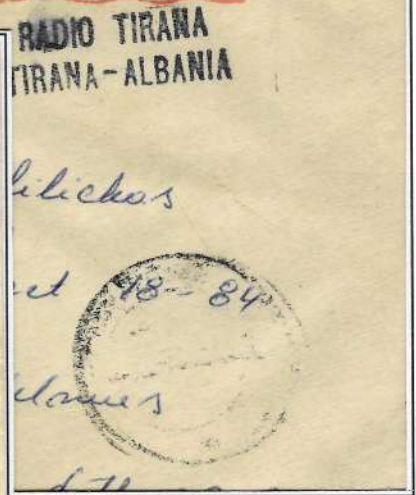
Stamps overprinted on occasion of Italian occupation of Tienstin, Region granted by China from the year 1902 until 1943



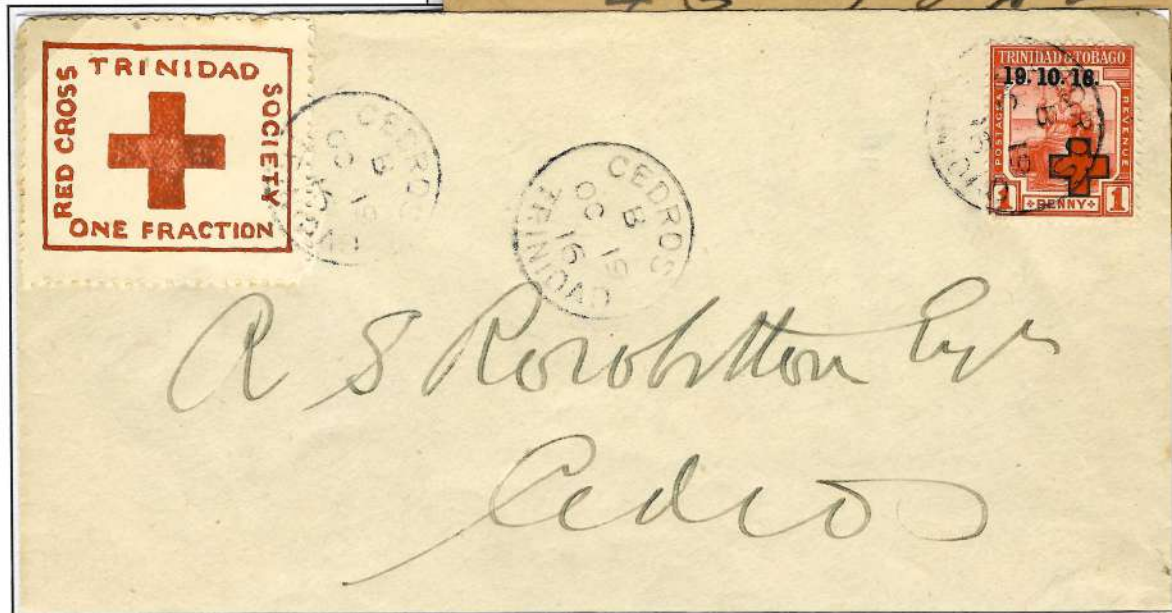


11.4 - Semi-official charity stamps

This charity stamp was issued by Albania in the year 1947 and its use was mandatory only during a week in September: all proceeds of sale were donated to Red Cross.



On occasion of a public meeting in the year 1914 at Port of Spain it was born a Women Committee with the purpose of raising funds to be sent to London Red Cross, because since a few days also England was entered in I WW. It obtained the permission to print a stamp, but the possibility of postage was only for one day (Sept. 18th, 1914) with a nominal value of 1 fraction (= ½ penny).



Later it has been possible to continue affixing the label, but without any postage value



11.4 - Semi-official charity stamps

5 and 10 lepta charity stamps whose use was made mandatory in the years 1914-15 by Greek Post Office during holidays to raise funds for families of soldiers who were died in Balkan War.



Offset on the reverse

During "Arts et industries" exhibition -held in 1916 in "Park Fair" at Madras- it was decided to sell a semi-postal value with the nominal cost of $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna, finalized to raise money to realize an hospital ship: the launched boat took the name of *Madras*, identically to the town of English Indies.

This charity stamp could be freely used as postage substitute or supplement. During this period, on all correspondence it was affixed a pictorial cachet illustrated with the ship silhouette.

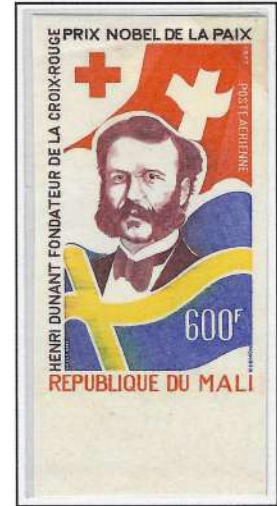
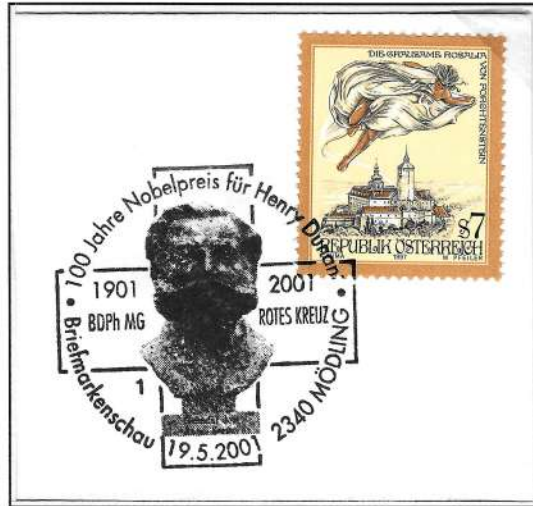
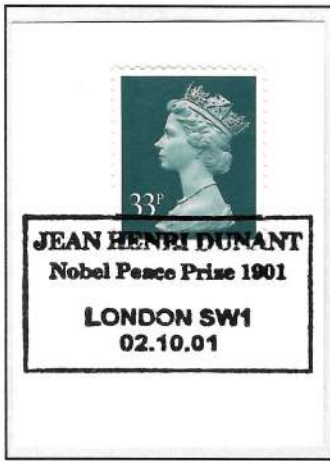


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or State,
D R

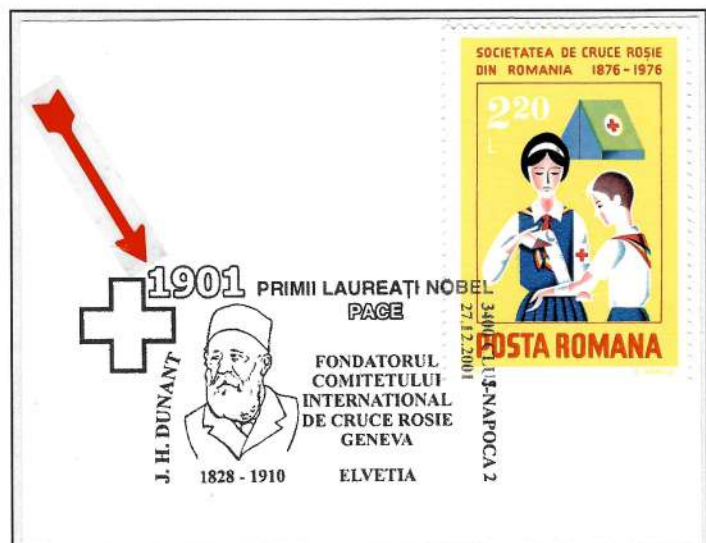
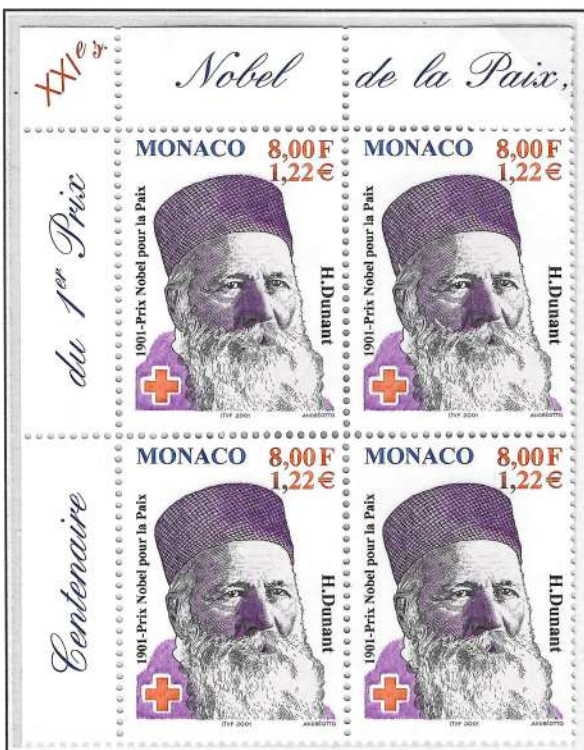


12.1 - Dunant and International Red Cross: Peace Nobel Prizes laureates

Jean Henry Dunant - founder of the Red Cross- won the statuette for the Nobel Peace in the year 1901, but he refused to receive the connected amount of money, deciding that it should be donated directly to the Movement.



The Comité International de la Croix Rouge has been awarded three times: in 1917 "For having carried out the protection of the rights of war prisoners, including that of contacts with their families"; in 1944 "For the excellent work done during the war"; in 1963 "For the protection of human rights in the 110 years since its foundation".



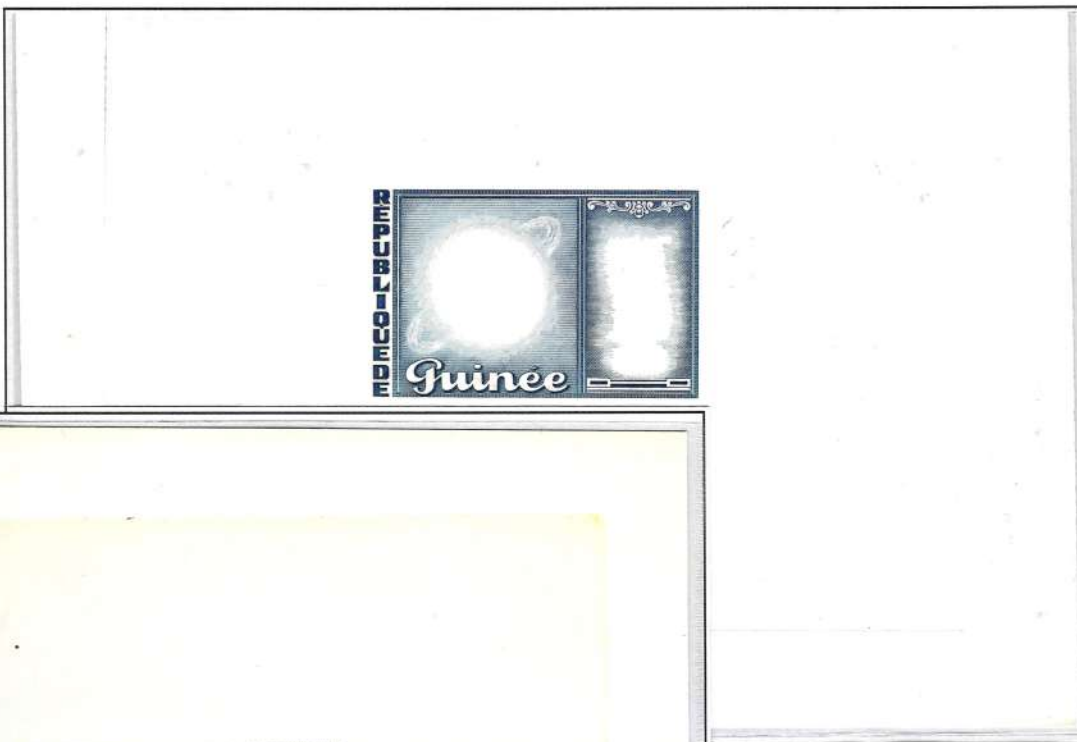


12.2 - World Red Cross Day and other celebrations

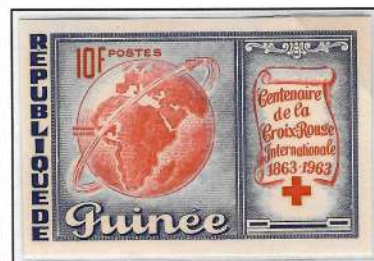


On May 8th, 1828, Henry Dunant -Red Cross founder- was born in Geneva. So, every year on the same day, celebrations take place all over the world, giving credit to the work daily done by many thousands of volunteers in the fields of rescue and social health services.

Since 1963, a century after the subscription at Geneva of "La première carte fondamentale de la Croix Rouge Internationale", all Countries want to give a commemoration to each Centenary through stamps and cancellations issues.



Guinea, proofs in blue or violet colours





13.1 - Third Millennium challenges

Considering fight against drugs as a priority, Red Cross constantly implements international prevention plans, including information campaigns and a tireless work for recovery and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

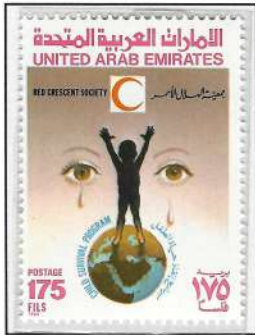


Although in recent times the global response to HIV/AIDS has made a tangible progress, the infection spread has not yet been contained. It's significant the commitment of the Movement in trying to combat and to curb -through scientific methodologies- sexually transmitted diseases, in these years the main causes of death in the world.





13.2 - A look into the imaginary



With the International Red Cross, we are in presence of an ancient organization, boasting an important past, which has always tried not only to keep knowledge updated, but more over to develop its reality in a modern and futuristic sense. For this purpose, thanks to an active synergy of its multiple components, are constantly carried out constructive comparisons to make innovative projects concerning interventions in most different contexts.



The strengths of the Movement are evident in its universality and determination to encourage the birth of a more just world, founded on respect of human dignity: these are characteristics which project the spirit of the International Red Cross beyond any time-limit and create the bases to face both new themes and challenges for the future.

Artist proof in green colour



The sentence on the label states: "Toujours plus haut vers Dieu" ("Always higher towards God").

