



## 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.



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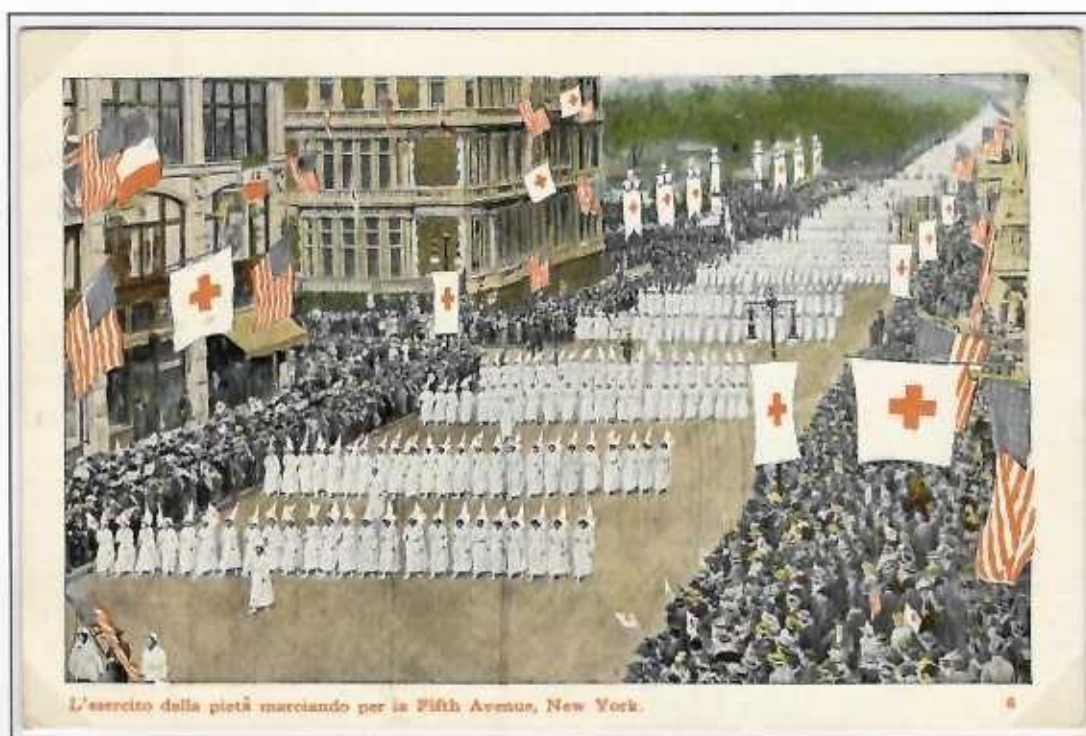
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L'esercito della piet  marciando per la Fifth Avenue, New York.

Piety Army



1.1 - Precursors

Basic 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

Postcard issued by Samariter Verein of Interlaken, which was a Samaritan Foundation / German Red Cross mixed organization





1.1 - Precursors

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 wars of conquest.

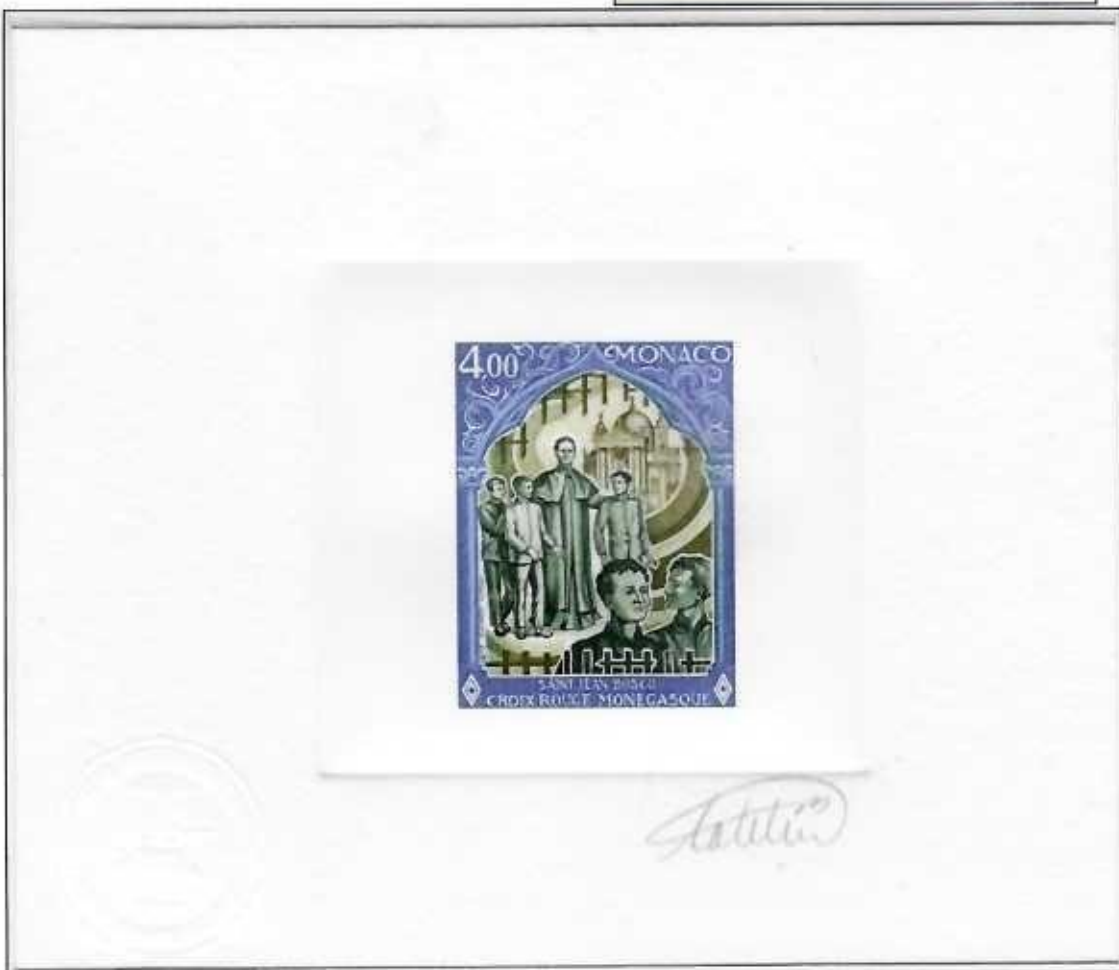
*Printing proofs in red colour with puncture holes* →



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

St. Giovanni Bosco, protector of young people.

*Definitive proof* →



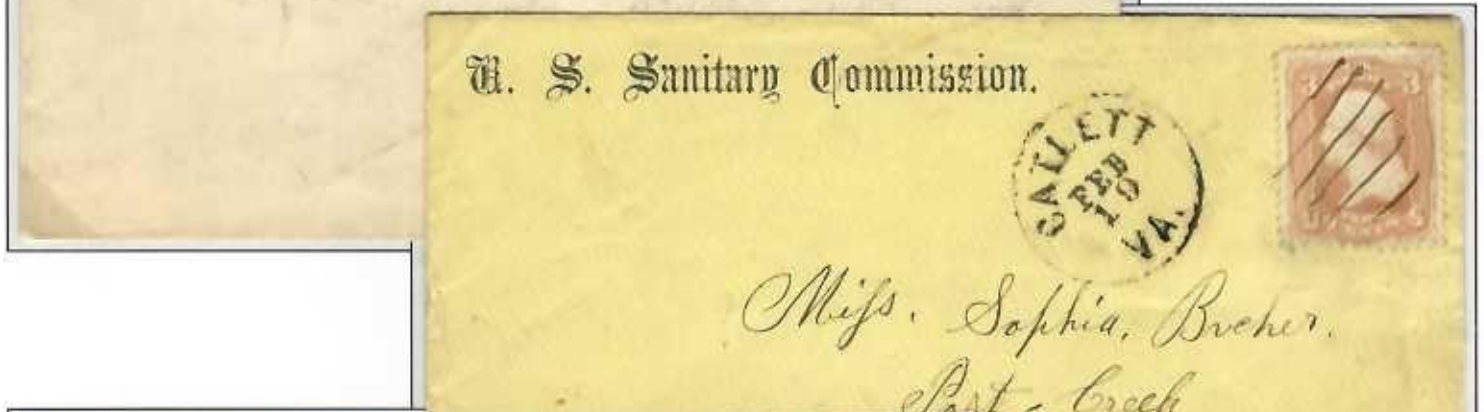
St. Bernardo da Mentone was very appreciated for the reason that he built in the 1050s an emergency point on Gran St. Bernardo mountain with the aim of assisting pilgrims.

*Colour proofs*



1.1 - Precursors

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 18<sup>th</sup>, 1861.



Taking advantage of public funding allocated for the war effort, these agencies provided assistance to the *Union Army* and *Confederate States* soldiers during the *Civil War*; their work proved invaluable for experimenting with the first rescue techniques on battlefields.



1.1 - Precursors

The Franco-Prussian War (years 1870-71) had 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



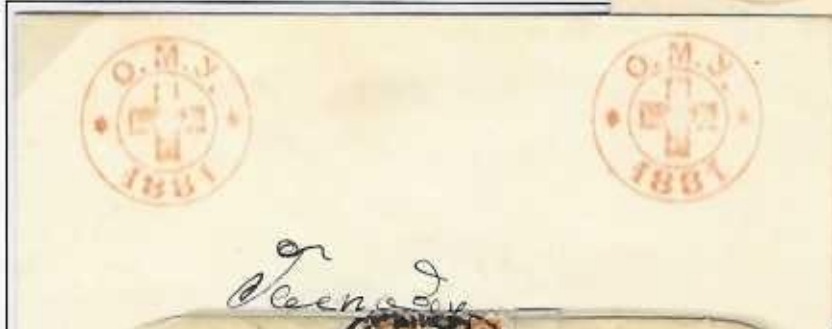
For the purpose of certifying the exemption from the postal taxation, the Swiss Post also issued three labels which were made available to the French soldiers interned in Switzerland.





1.1 - Precursors

In the ancient Soviet town of Odessa, in the period 1878-1884 the Red Cross Committee was authorized 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.



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





1.1 - Precursors

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".



In the following years, the Red Cross organized offices in all Countries with the aim of giving aids to injured and sick soldiers or prisoners during the wars of the period.

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

*Association Belge de Secours aux Militaires Blessés & Malades*







1.2 - Founder and Geneva Committee

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 raging.



Absent emblem

Print moved down

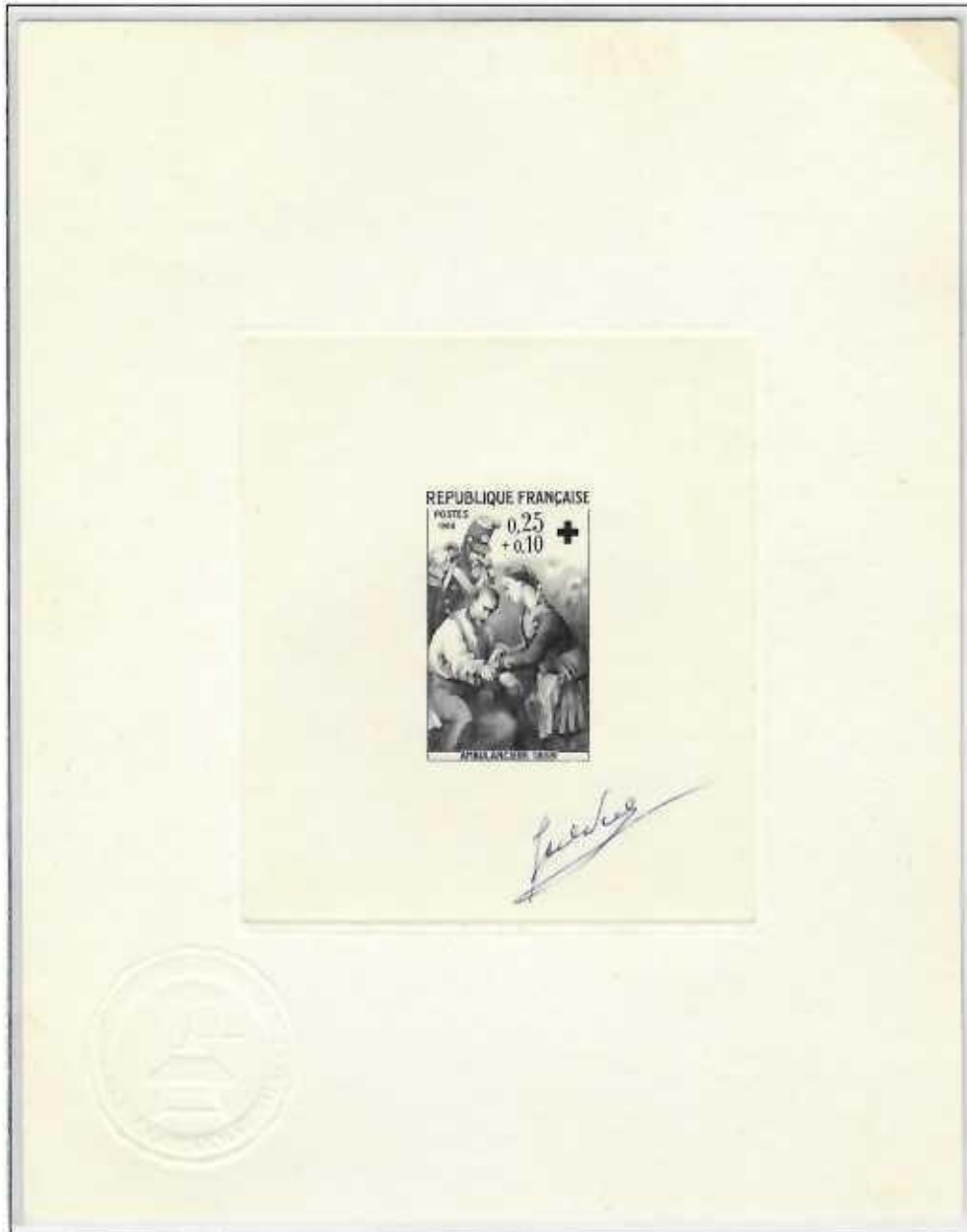


1859: II Independence War

Artist proof



1.2 - Founder and Geneva Committee



The battle of Solferino (June 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 many unprepared workers and thousands of soldiers abandoned without care, and, must of all, with deficient medical supplies. J. H. Dunant was deeply affected by the carnage: his destiny was practically sealed from that moment.



Colour proofs



1.2 - Founder and Geneva Committee



J. H. 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")

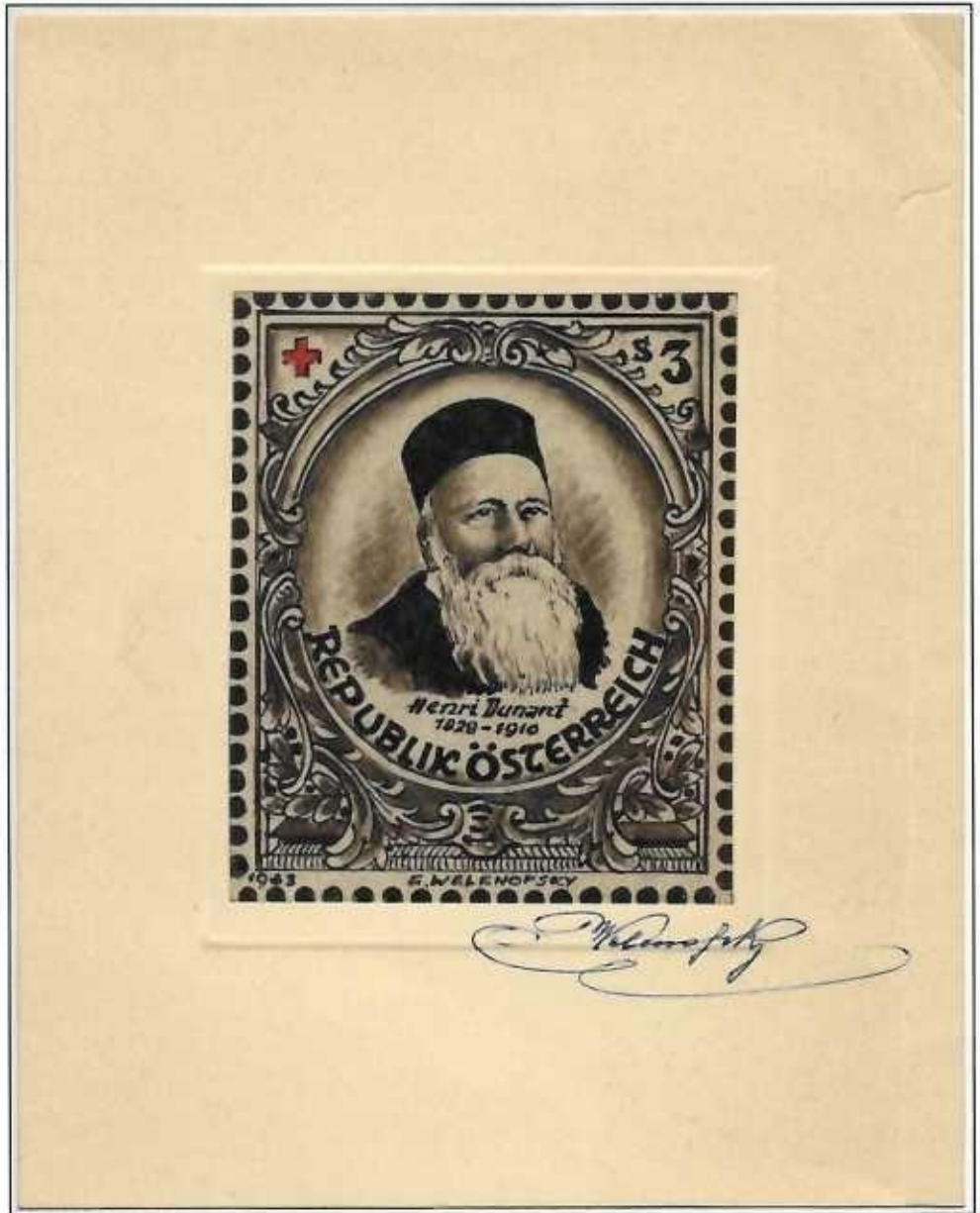
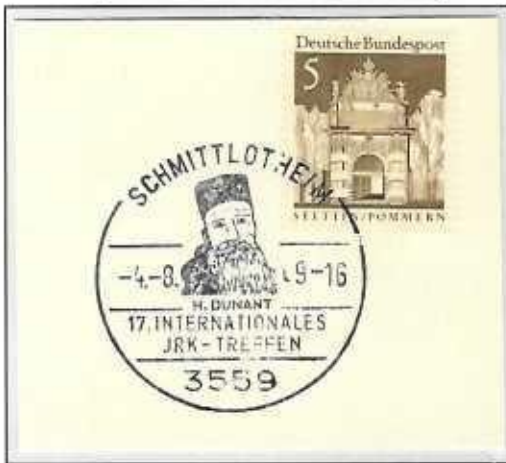
On his return to Geneva in 1862, he wanted to leave a written testimony of the terrible experience and therefore composed a book entitled "Un souvenir de Solferino", which immediately became a classic example of thought and action, entered into history by changing it and inspiring the creation of many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





1.2 - Founder and Geneva Committee

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, sinking into an implacable desperation.



Sketch of Austrian not adopted stamp



The esteem and appreciation attributed to Dunant by those who had known him during his previous years of philanthropism, protected him from a reality at the end made only by hardship.

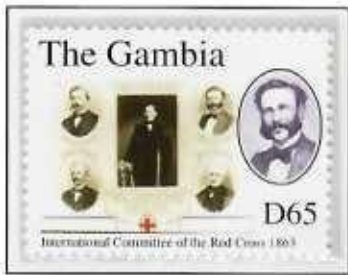
Misperforated

In fact, recognized by a noblewoman among the Parisian clochards, he was housed in the "Paradise Guesthouse" in Heiden (Switzerland), where he died in complete solitude on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 1910.





1.2 - Founder and Geneva Committee



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 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



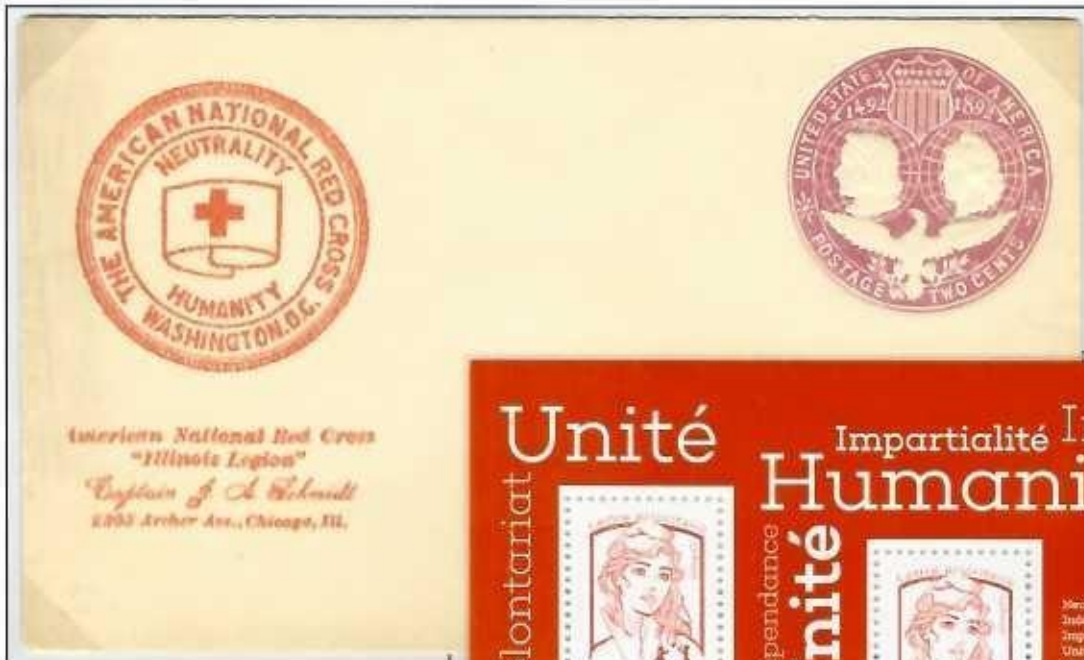
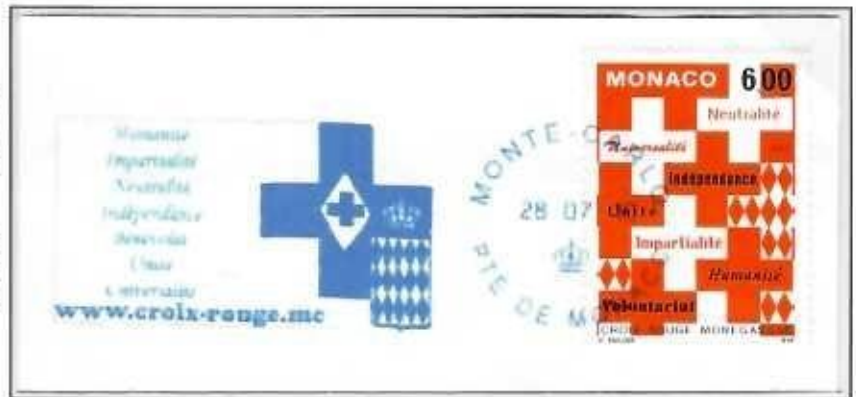
Gustave Moynier



1.3 - Fundamental ideological principles

To guide and guarantee Red Cross action, some fundamental principles have been identified -with binding character- that have constituted its spirit and ethics.

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.





1.3 - Fundamental ideological principles

Sometimes, however, some Countries have instrumentally forgotten the most important principle characterizing the International Red Cross (that's its neutrality), preferring to associate Movement ideas to political-military questions.

The armistice signed by Gen. Pétain at Rethondes on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1940, divided France into two parts: the northern one (capital Paris) occupied by Axis troops and called "Zone occupée"; the southern one (capital Vichy) politically allied of the Nazis and known as "Zone libre". All French colonies decided not to submit themselves to Nazi occupation.



*Saint Pierre et Miquelon, 1942. Issue overprinted with:*  
 -Red Cross emblem;  
 -OEUVRES SOCIALES in red colored words;  
 -FRANCE LIBRE F.N.F.L. in black words  
 (F.N.F.L.=Forces Navales Francaises Libres)



*French Equatorial Africa, 1943. Serie of 3 stamps with the indication: Afrique Francaise Combattante and Red Cross emblem surcharge overprinted*



*Sheet issued in 1957 by Dominican Republic, bearing the following overprints: Red Cross emblem; surcharge of +25 c.; wording ASISTENCIA REFUGIADOS HUNGAROS – PARA LAS VICTIMAS DE LA RECIENTE BARBARIE COMUNISTA. The National Red Cross was forced by local Government to take an official position against the invasion on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 1956, of Hungary by Soviet forces with the purpose of quelling the students protests*



1.4 - Geneva Conventions

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 apply.



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 - Protective symbols

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

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





1.5 - Protective symbols



*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 - Protective symbols



*Austrian Ministerial proof: issue on the occasion of the First Centenary of the International Red Cross (1963)*

*Belgium, 1959: the sword in defense of Red Cross principles. Ministerial proof*

*1944: 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ecuador Red Cross. Proofs with security puncture holes*





1.5 - Protective symbols

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



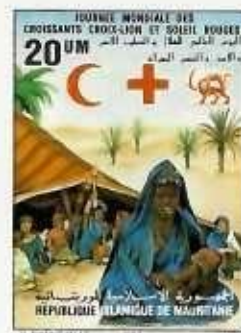
Iran



Iran also represented its dislike for **Red Cross** emblem: for this reason obtained an implementation of the 1<sup>st</sup> 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.





1.5 - Protective symbols



*Proofs on pink paper*

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



*Perforation errors*





1.5 - Protective symbols



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





1.6 - Unlawful use of emblems



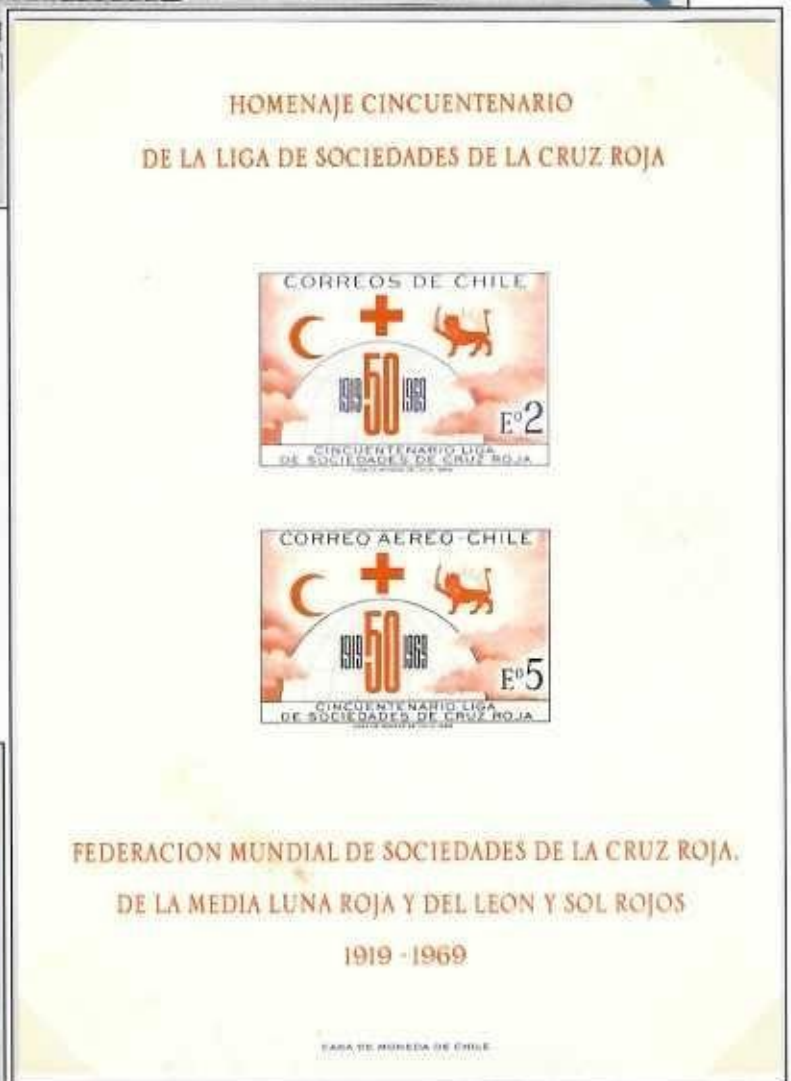
Unfortunately, the appreciation for Red Cross work causes very often unauthorized uses of its emblems by commercial entities operating in sanitary sectors as pharmaceutical shops, private hospitals, analysis laboratories and pharmacies.





2.1 - League of Red Cross Societies

On June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1919, Henry Pomeroy Davison -President of American Red Cross War Council- organized an International Medical Conference in Paris. On that occasion, he proposed to federate all national Red Cross Societies in the *Ligue des Sociétés de la Croix Rouge*, an institution very similar to United Nations (UN): this proposal was accepted by Italy, France, Japan, United States of America and Great Britain. On 1991 this League took the name of *Fédération Internationale des Sociétés de la Croix Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge*. Today, it's made up of 192 national Red Cross Societies.







2.2 - International Red Cross Committee



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



2.3 - International Red Cross Conference

XIV Conference:  
Brussels, 1930



XV Conference:  
Tokyo, 1934



The *Conférence Internationale de la Croix Rouge* is the Movement supreme Organ, which brings together the Delegates of National Committees every four years since 1863.

It deliberates on salient problems, ensuring unity and coordination for institution's efforts: all decisions are implemented by Conventions, binding on Statute revisions.

Its function has always had a fundamental importance during wartime, trying to resolve controversies which had arisen among signatory States.

XVII Conference: Stockholm, 1948



XX Conference: Vienna, 1965  
Ministerial proof



2.4 - Prisoners of War International Agency

This structure was created in Geneva on August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1914 by the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge* and operated till the end of the year 1925, taking care of the prisoners' postal correspondence, both military and civilian. It carried out an important search for missing persons, contacting their families or detention places, commands, municipal offices and hospitals.



Musée Rath



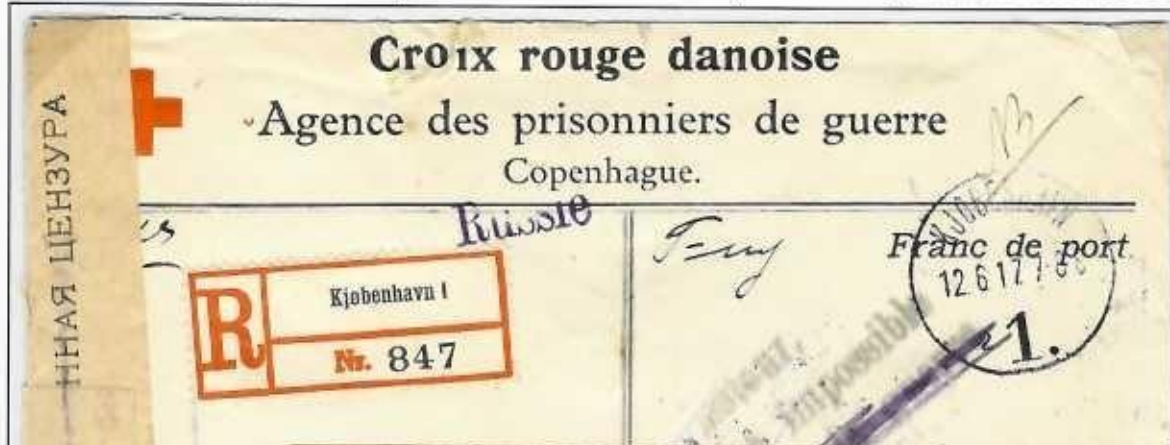
It began to operate in a small office in *Rue de l'Athenée* at Geneva, but the Municipal Authorities - considering the impressive proportions of work to be done - decided to make available a big hall situated in the *Musée Rath*, where about 120 employees initially served.

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



2.5 - Agencies in neutral States

The Copenhagen *Agence des Prisonniers de Guerre* was active from July 1915 to October 1917 exclusively with the purpose of assisting Russian captured soldiers in Germany or German prisoners in Soviet concentration camps.



The collaboration between the office of Stockholm and the other neutral States structures has been optimal, particularly to help refugees in periods following to World Wars.



Among all Belgian Red Cross Agencies, the one of Liege was the most committed to realize the numerous planned activities, thanks to directives imparted by Queen Elisabeth of Bavaria.





2.6 - Prisoners of War 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.



Because the *Agence Internationale des Prisonniers de Guerre* had been overloaded of work, the 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.



2.7 - National Committees and Delegations

The operational indications given by the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge* were implemented in the national territories through the Central Committees, created in the Countries which had found themselves -directly or not- involved in conflicts.

Postal envelope

In Austria, as in any other State, the location of Red Cross Central Committee was established in the capital



Meaningful the task performed by Delegations and aimed to coordinate the exchange of news through offices that each State made operational outside its own borders.

Delegation of Cruz Roja Espanola in Florence



2.8 - Congresses



1967

1946

First and Sixth Congresses held in Albania

Paris, 1957: Fifth Congress regarding Red Cross Hospitals

Congresses locally serve to explain directives and guidelines each time given by the International Red Cross Conferences.



Paris, 1950: Third Red Cross Security Congress



K. Marx Stadt, 1967: Eight Congress in East Germany (GDR)





3.1 - Sanitary systems pre-existing to 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 to World Wars

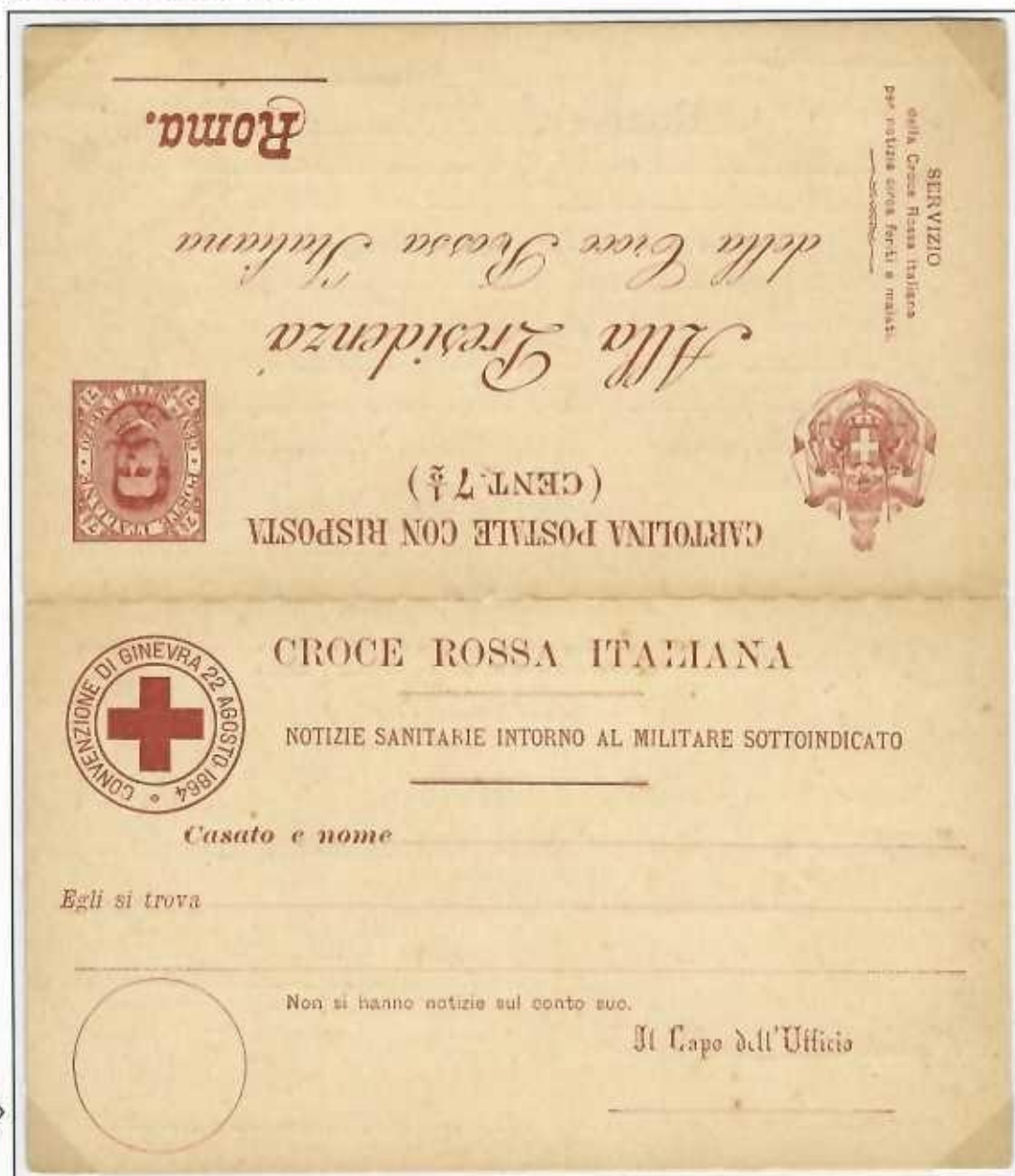
The first test for Italian Red Cross has been the Eritrean War (lasted 11 years, from 1885 to 1895), when four Bersaglieri Regiments were assisted by a sanitary team.



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 to World Wars

The Italian Royal Navy decided to structure the Hospital Ship "Regina Margherita" directly managed by the Knights of Sovereign Military Order of Malta. The crew was assisted by nurses of Charity Daughters of St. Vincent de Paoli.

This sanitary ship interacted with health-services operating along North Africa coasts, making 7 sea-crossing and repatriating 1.162 soldiers injured in the fightings of the Italian-Turkish War (1911, September 29<sup>th</sup> - 1912, October 18<sup>th</sup>).



46 GUERRA ITALO - TURCA	GUERRE ITALO - TURQUE	TURCO - ITALIAN WAR
S. A. R. la Duchessa d'Aosta assiste all'imbarco dei feriti nella nave ospedale Menfi a Tobruck	S. A. R. la Duchesse d'Aoste assiste à l'embarquement des blessés sur le navire-hôpital Menfi à Tobruck	H. R. H. the Duchess of Aosta is present at the embarkation of the wounded on the hospital ship Menfi at Tobruck

Free franking military postcard

The ship "Menfi" was transformed into a sanitary boat after its requisition by Italian Naval Forces. The Duchess of Aosta, Elena d'Orléans, together with several nurses of a Voluntary Corp, lent a meaningful work on board assisting wounded soldiers.



LA MEMFI - Nave Ospedale della Croce Rossa (Serie A - 1)



3.1 - Sanitary systems pre-existing to 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 - Assistance during armed conflicts



Postal envelope

Lower stamp: inverted center

At the front line and in the immediate rear, each Army employed sanitary Corps composed by doctors and operators having the task of providing urgent relief to injured or sick soldiers.



Summary interventions were always followed by 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 - Assistance during armed conflicts



Charity stamp



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.



Printing proof in red colour



3.2 - Assistance during armed conflicts



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





3.3 - 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.

Artist proof



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





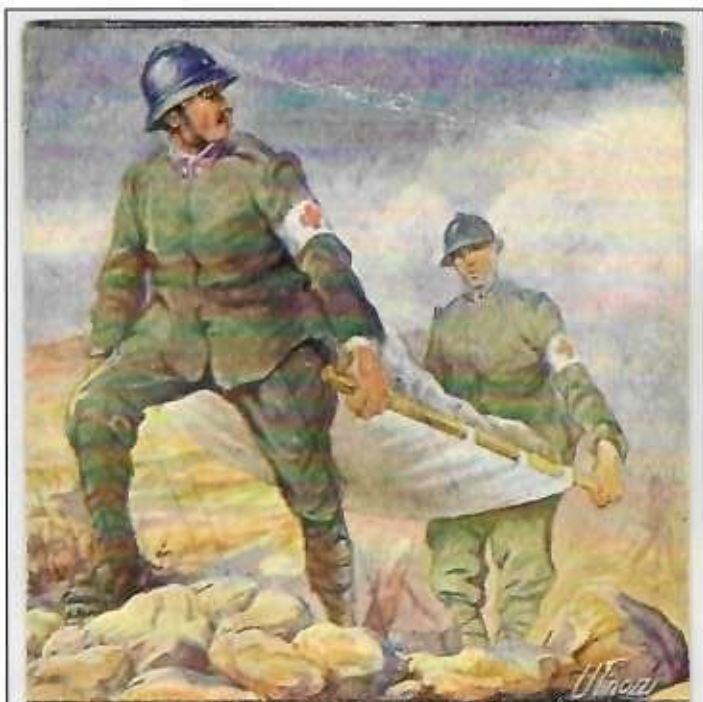
3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines



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.



*Prestate con animo fidente alla Patria i vostri risparmi, così come con fede noi diamo le giovani vite!*

*Dalla zona di guerra  
la famiglia abbia un  
cordiale saluto  
Augusto Di Pisa*



本郵票는 赤十字事業

을 援護하기 爲하야 發

行하였다

禮記四二八六年七月十日

大韓民國 憲信部

Free franking military postcard





3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines



At the outbreak of I World War, with the word "ambulance" it was indicated a mobile health unit, deployed with the troops and structured with medical officers and some nurses.

Among the equipment were included dressing tents for urgent treatments and wagons for transport of wounded and sick soldiers to the more well-equipped permanent hospitals facilities.

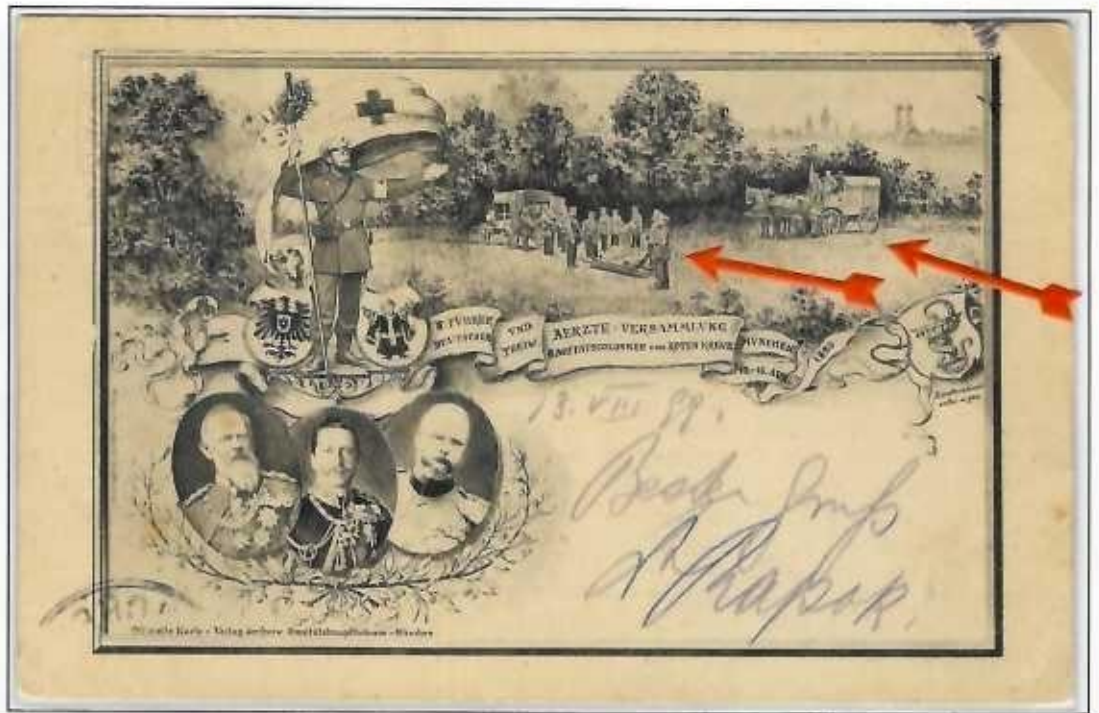
Baron Dominique J. Larrey, French military doctor from 1792 to 1802 during the war against Austria, has been the creator of the first ambulance models designed to become mobile health units: they were called "Ambulances Volantes".



The first American Red Cross ambulance in France was activated on August 1914 at "Pasteur" High School of Neuilly in accordance with the invitation of the French Government: it was called "Hopital Benevole n. 2-bis" and had 600 beds and 10 motor vehicles



3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines



German ambulance - Postal stationery



Dutch ambulances operational in France and Turkey





3.3 - Transport of wounded, sick and medicines

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 motor-trucks: this allowed a specialized medical intervention and increased the capacity to provide assistance in various sanitary areas.

In 1918 Italian Army had only 9 vehicles modified for on-board surgery and 17 radiological ambulances.



Maria Sklodowska, (known as Marie Curie) and her husband Pierre Curie focused their studies also planning radiological systems to be installed on ambulances. They managed to put X-ray devices on 20 vehicles (nicknamed *Petites Curie*) and 250 radiological workstations in many hospitals. These two chemical-physical scientists took care of training for dedicated, specialist doctors. French military radiology was emulated by many foreign Armies.

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

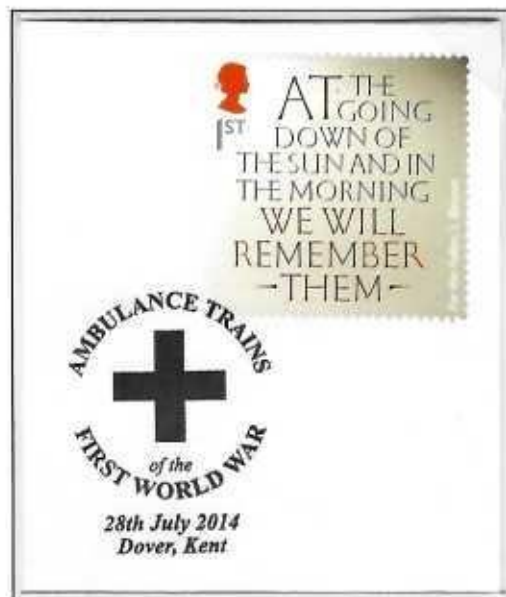
**Ambulanza radiologica della Croce Rossa**  
**10° Ospedale da Campo**  
**Cividale del Friuli**

Posteitaliane



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.



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.



Military free franking postcard



Postal stationery postcard



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 Hopital Flottant, made up of about one hundred "peniches ambulances".



Photographic postcard used in free franking postage

Phot. Expression - 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.



First-aid airport station equipped with sanitary tents

Voghera: refreshment point at the railway station



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.



H. CLAMART — 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.







3.5 - 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.



Postcard printed for utility of the Italian Field Hospital n. 242 medical staff and its patients. The card was utilized only in free franking postage





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 an hospital for wounded and sick soldiers*





3.5 - Mobile and permanent hospitals



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



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



Misperforated pair



3.6 - Humanitarian contribution by 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.



Albert I, King of Belgium (or "King of Belgians", as he preferred to be called)

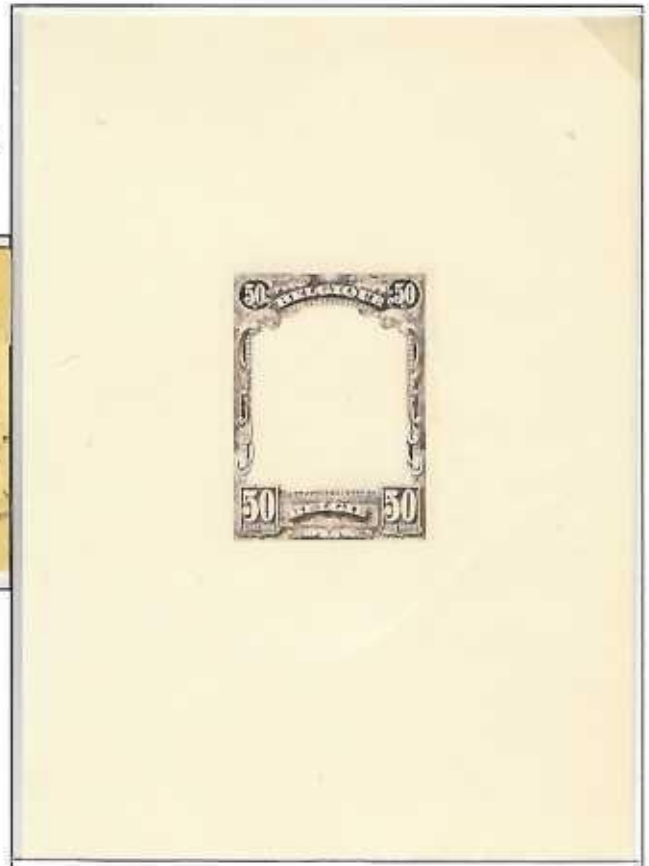


Colour proofs

He always 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



3.6 - Humanitarian contribution by 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 Carabinieri to verify emplacements along front lines, also bringing comfort to hospitalized soldiers.



Missis Angela Ceresa, noblewoman of Treviso, had 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.



3.6 - Humanitarian contribution by rulers and nobility

From July 1915 until the end of hostilities, "Quirinale" Hospital in Rome took care of injured and sick soldiers, in particular those of Army Corps located in the capital; inside the building were set up 205 beds, with a surgical room and a radiological laboratory.

This hospital took the name of "Ospedale Territoriale N. 1 C.R.I.-Roma Quirinale" and was endowed with a Red Cross administrative cancel, bearing below the word "Quirinale", which in some cases allowed to send correspondence with free franking postage (A).

(A) →



Normally, however, affixing of the cancellation had been useful only to identify shipments by the internal post office (B).

(B) →



Postage costs -if required to patients- were entirely covered by Queen Elena, who also organized the distribution of necessary tools to allow everyone to write to respective family.

Since April 1919, the "Quirinale" Hospital was utilized only to assist soldiers maimed or suffering from psychological afflictions.

During I WW, in Naples operated an hospital named after Queen Elena, where the Sovereign carried out -as Red Cross nurse- a constant charitable work.





3.6 - Humanitarian contribution by 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.



3.6 - Humanitarian contribution by 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





3.6 - Humanitarian contribution by rulers and nobility



Prince Rainier III has been President of Monaco Red Cross in the years 1949-1958. 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*





3.6 - Humanitarian contribution by 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*





3.7 - Internment, forced labor and extermination camps

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



In Austria, in the period 1915-18 another famous camp was that of Sigmundsherberg, which was utilized as coordinating postal center for prisoners' correspondence.





3.8 - Correspondence, food and money shipments

According to II Geneva Convention (July 29<sup>th</sup>, 1899), correspondence concerning military and internees was exempt from postal taxes and, in compliance with this prevision, since the beginning of I WW all States granted the benefit of free franking postage to their soldiers as well as to prisoners.

The procedure for preparation of *franc-de-port* envelopes and postcards was dictated by the *Comitè International de la Croix Rouge*, which commissioned the National Committees for distribution to war or detention places.



In the year 1916 Portuguese Red Cross was authorized to print 18.000 postcards to be distributed only to German civilians who were interned in the camp of Torceira, who could so take advantage of *porte franco* for their correspondence.

Because postcards were not sufficient for all prisoners, it was decided also to issue an auxiliary stamp, which was freely delivered.





3.8 - 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.





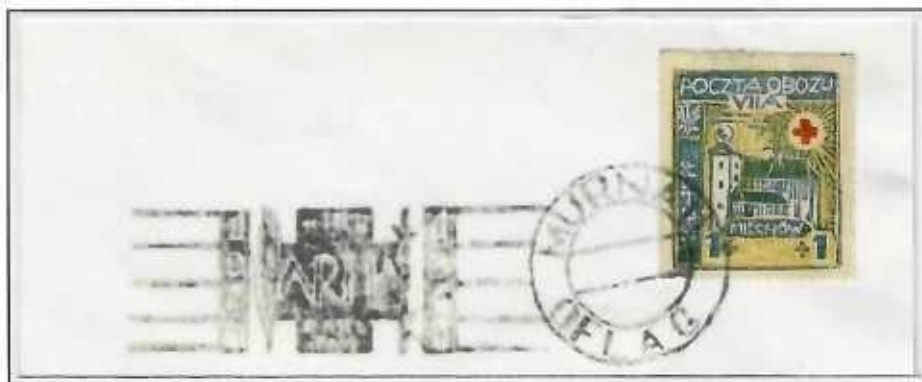
3.8 - Correspondence, food and money shipments

On September 29<sup>th</sup>, 1939, 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.

Only for Murnau camp, authorization to use own stamps was granted from November 6<sup>th</sup>, 1942, to April 28<sup>th</sup>, 1945.



Woldenberg has been the first camp to use its own stamps ( May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1942-January 25<sup>th</sup>, 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.



3.8 - Correspondence, food and money shipments

In occasion of all conflicts, keeping the correspondence channel alive has been an expedient to prevent soldiers from falling into isolation and depression.



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

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, 1945 -date of German capitulation- detention centers reserved to Wehrmacht soldiers were created in Austria: Tarp camp was one of these, granted of postal franchise exclusively for letters mailed to Denmark; expeditions were handled directly by Austrian Red Cross, who prepared postal exemption private stamps, issued with two different frames.

It was utilized the normal postal distribution channel until May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1946, date of cancellation of service by decision of Danish Government.





3.8 - Correspondence, food and money shipments



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 because of eyes or hands problems.



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

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



From Pvt Carl Kessel Jr 33964086  
Mar 25.  
Mr Beaumont, Hosp.  
El Paso, Texas



POSTMASTER

This is a Recordiogram Record  
Please cancel carefully  
Do not fold

Postage one 3 cents.



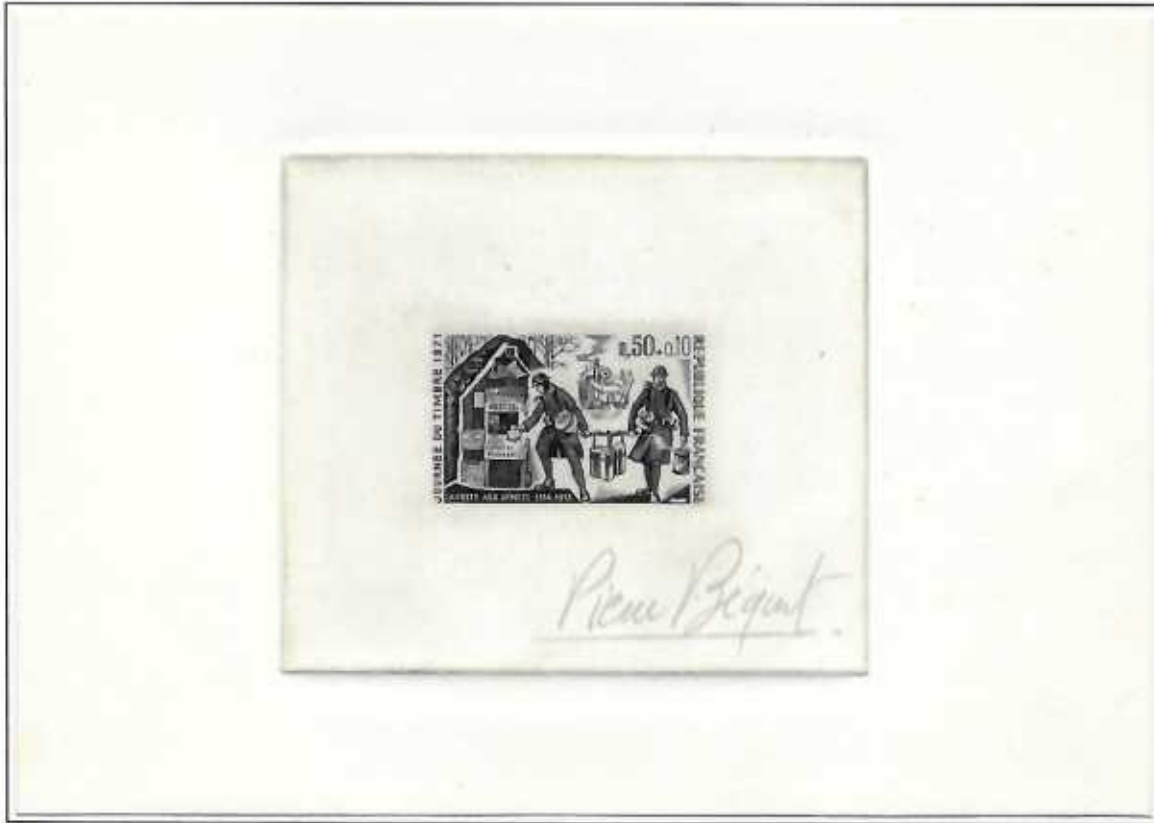
TO Miss Mary L Noel  
625 Clay Avenue  
Jeannette, Pa







3.8 - 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





3.9 - Collaborations during wartime

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.



Colour proofs



At the outbreak of I WW, the greatest charity partnerships had been recognized by the C.I.C.R. and authorized to use the Red Cross emblem. Each of them had its own and different denomination:

- *Société Française de Secours aux Blessés Militaires des Armées de Terre et de Mer*, founded in 1864, agnostic society;
- *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*



*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.



3.9 - Collaborations during wartime

Since Pope Benedict XV's appeals for peace in 1915 had been unsuccessful, the Holy See carried out a series of humanitarian operations, both directly on battlefields and through catholic organizations, such as the "Opera dei Prigionieri", institute which developed its efforts together with Red Cross in various forms of assistance to soldiers at front lines.



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

The Daughters of Charity of the St. Vincent Congregation provided assistance to sick and wounded soldiers who were in-patients on Italian hospital ships.





3.9 - Collaborations during wartime

On June 4<sup>th</sup>, 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 avoided organizing regular military formations and simply arranging a recruitment notice for sanitary volunteers to be included in the local Red Cross.





3.9 - Collaborations during wartime

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

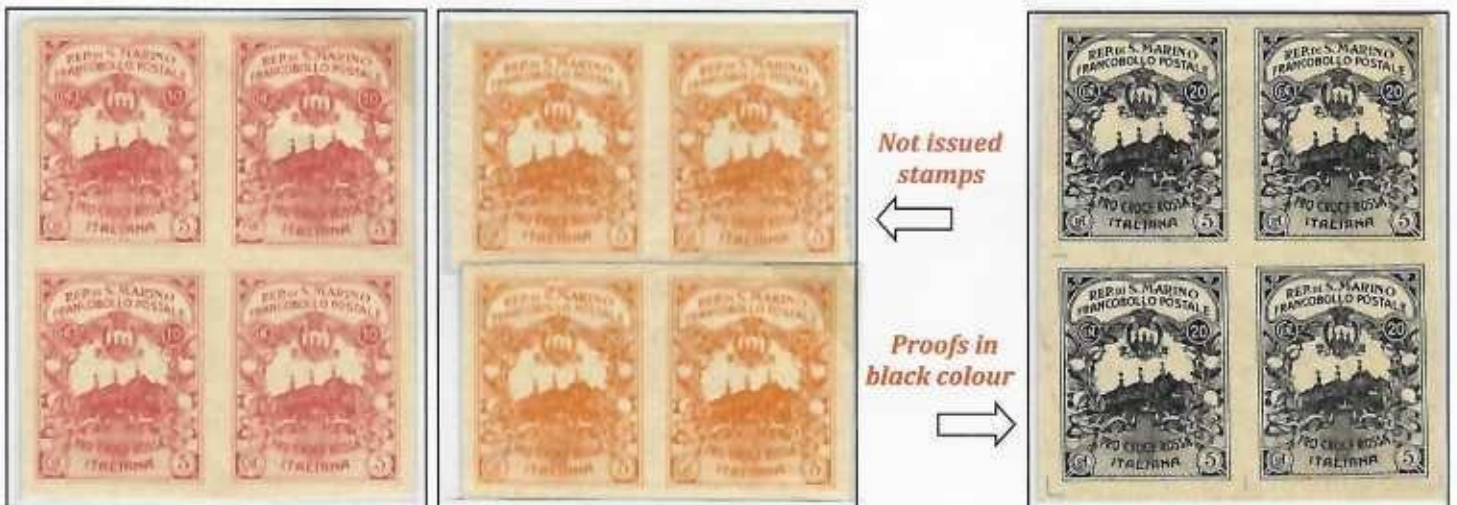


was initially concentrated at Florence and then sent to the front lines.

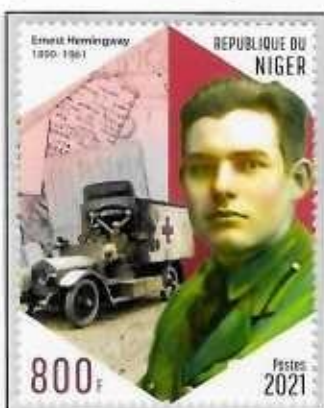


Monumental altar dedicated to volunteers

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 remain 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 withdrawn just before being issued due to speculative maneuvers carried out by two Florentine philatelic traders, who had secretly prepared 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.



3.9 - Collaborations during wartime

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 (WWII)

↑  
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)

At the behest of Grand Masters, were set up first aid and refreshment places next to Bologna, Padua, Milan and Rome railway stations with S.M.O.M. knights and dames, assisted by Italian Red Cross volunteers and several priests.





3.9 - Collaborations during wartime

In July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1914, British Red Cross and Order of St. John joined their efforts to provide sanitary aid to S.M. The Queen Army: the two organizations formed a mixed committee, performing identical functions to those that Comité International de la Croix Rouge was carrying out in all Countries already pulled into I WW.



Food parcel shipping-coupon addressed to a prisoner of war camp for officers in Germany



The Order of St. John volunteers, known as "Knights Hospitallers", wore uniforms and bracelets bearing a white Maltese star drawn with black background, sometimes accompanied by Red Cross emblem.



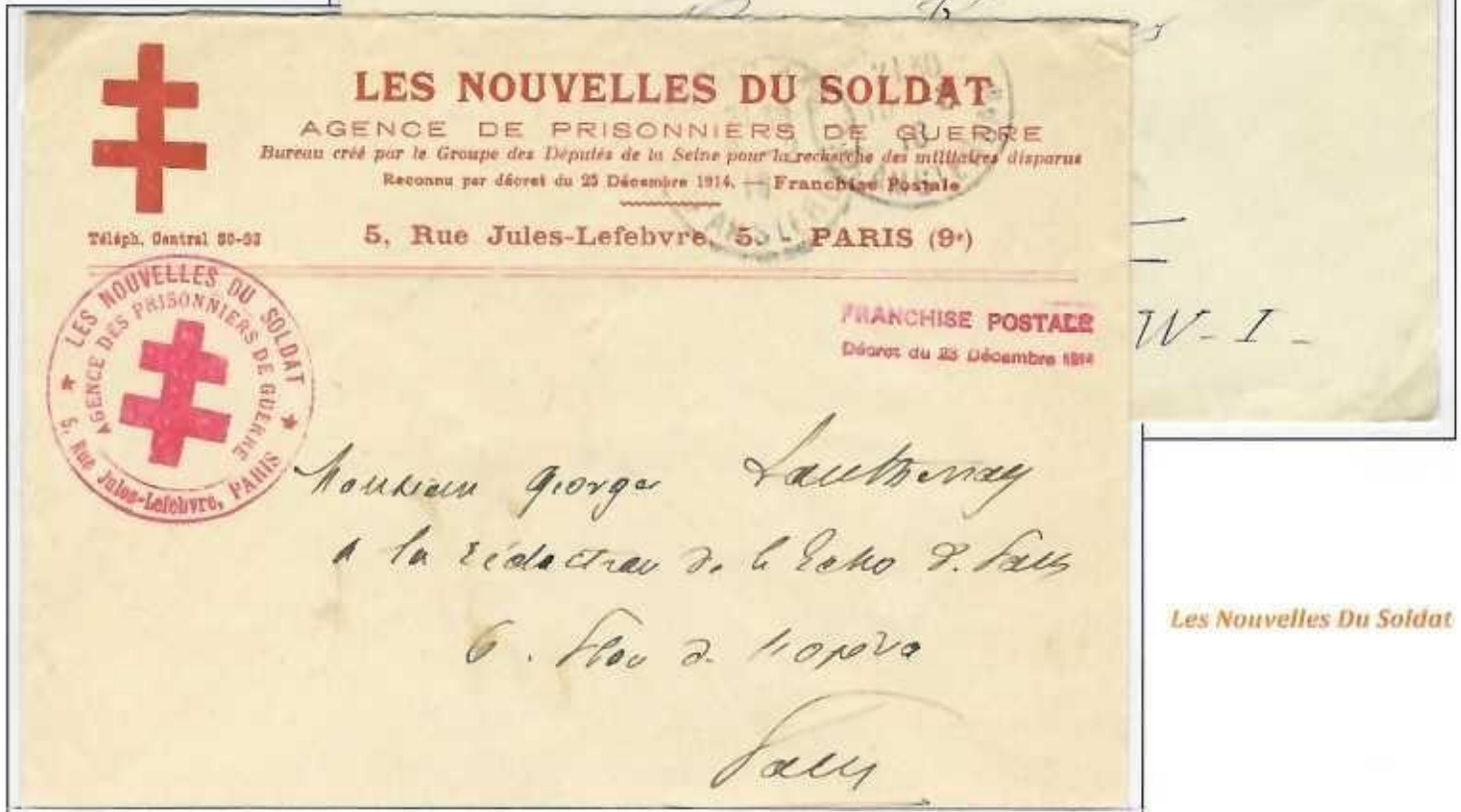


3.10 - Charitable associations with similar activities

During each world war, many international associations and agencies have been active in the same sectors of assistance to prisoners, refugees and main casualties of war, performing tasks very similar to Red Cross ones. Some of them appeared highly organized and structured, such as the *Young Men's Christian Association* (the Y.M.C.A. movement was born in London, but currently is based in Geneva), the French congregations *L'Aide Aux Soldats* and *Les Nouvelles Du Soldat* (both with their headquarters in Paris).



L' Aide Aux Soldats



Les Nouvelles Du Soldat





3.11 - Aid to civilians

II World War: French Red Cross  
Service for missing families



Major disasters that International Red Cross has tried to deal during all wars had been: carnages of civilians subjected to retaliations, forced mass exoduses, famines, all kinds of harassments, civilians and military deaths.

Geneve-Algerie **GENEVE**

**DEMANDEUR - ANFRAGESTELLER - ENQUIRER**

Nom - Name *Bourde*

Prénom - Christian name - Vorname *Honoré*

Rue - Street - Strasse

Localité - Locality - Ortschaft *Ain El Abba*

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).

*Donner nouvelles de vos santés.*

**A.C.O.**

Automobile Clubs also (label A.C. O.=Automobile Club de Oran) worked delivering to civilians messages and forms which Geneva Red Cross sent by post



Civilians Research Services of Swiss and Luxembourg Red Cross



**A. B. C. ANTWERPSCH BEMIDDELINGS CENTRUM**  
Inlichtingsbureel :  
2, STOOPSTRAAT (hoek Frankrijk) Antwerpen

**ENVOYER RÉPONSE | Stuur antwoord**  
Madame S'LV'Y-20, rue de Bary

**PARIS V III**  
**LES RECHERCHES pour les REFUGIES CIVILS**  
2, Rue Euler, 2  
Paris

**LIQUIDE**

**ENVOYER RÉPONSE | Schrijf ONDERAAN**  
l'adresse en Belgique | het adres in België

**Civils M. B.**

*Monsieur J. Bertuc*  
*Marie*  
*de i*  
*Salles*  
*Gironde*

A. B. C. - Stoopstraat 2, Antwerpen  
MECHELEN : Mr Hertsens, Graanmarkt 8  
TURNHOUT : Me Boons, Herenthalschest.  
BORGERHOUT : Wijneghemstraat 27  
of aan uw Gemeentebestuur

*Quana De Cleer*



4.1 - 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 aid also to *Confederate Forces* soldiers injured on battlefields. She inaugurated schools for volunteers, developing a very important sanitary career. In 1881 she founded the *American Red Cross*, becoming its first President. She died in April 1912, leaving medical teachings and knowledges, important for all women who three years later found themselves operating in health services at the outbreak of I WW.



USA precancel stamp Montague (California)

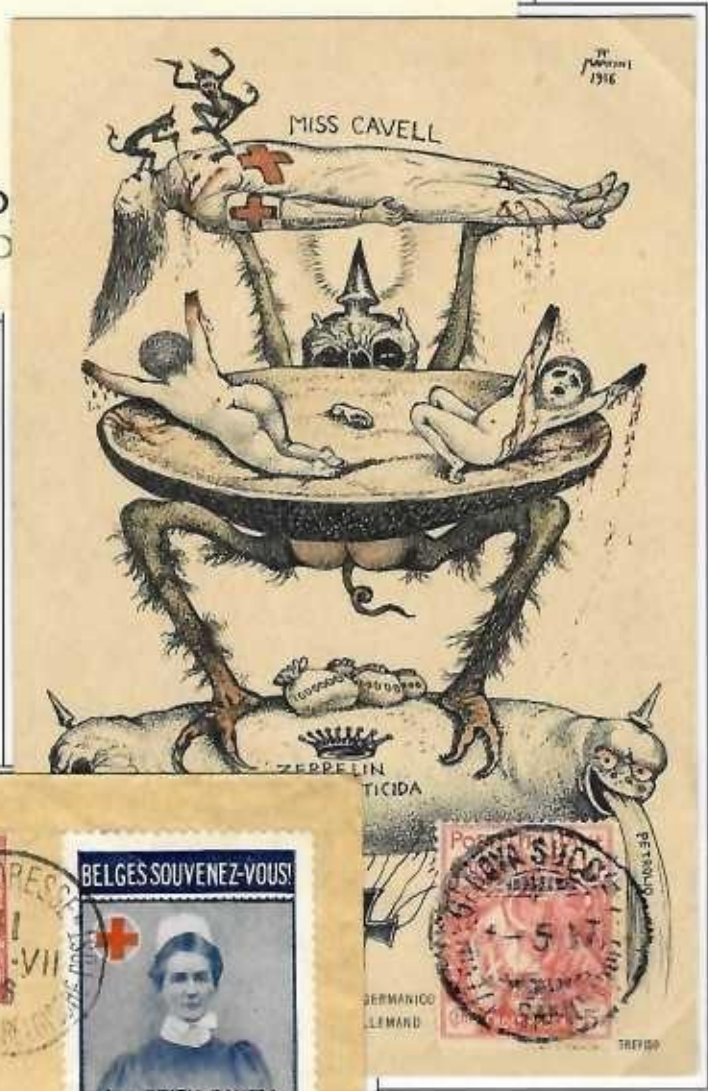


*Huber from Paris, no 1*  
*Apr 28/52*

*Etatis Unis d. Amerique*



4.2 - Edith Cavell, English heroine



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 12<sup>nd</sup>, 1915, at the "Tir National" in Brussels, where today is positioned a marble memorial.



Florence Nightingale and Edith Cavell -Muestra-



4.3 - Other great women 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 Auxliaire 52", became operational on January 5<sup>th</sup>, 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



4.3 - Other great women carved into memory



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.



Misperforated stamps



Specimen with security puncture holes



4.4 - Nursing Schools

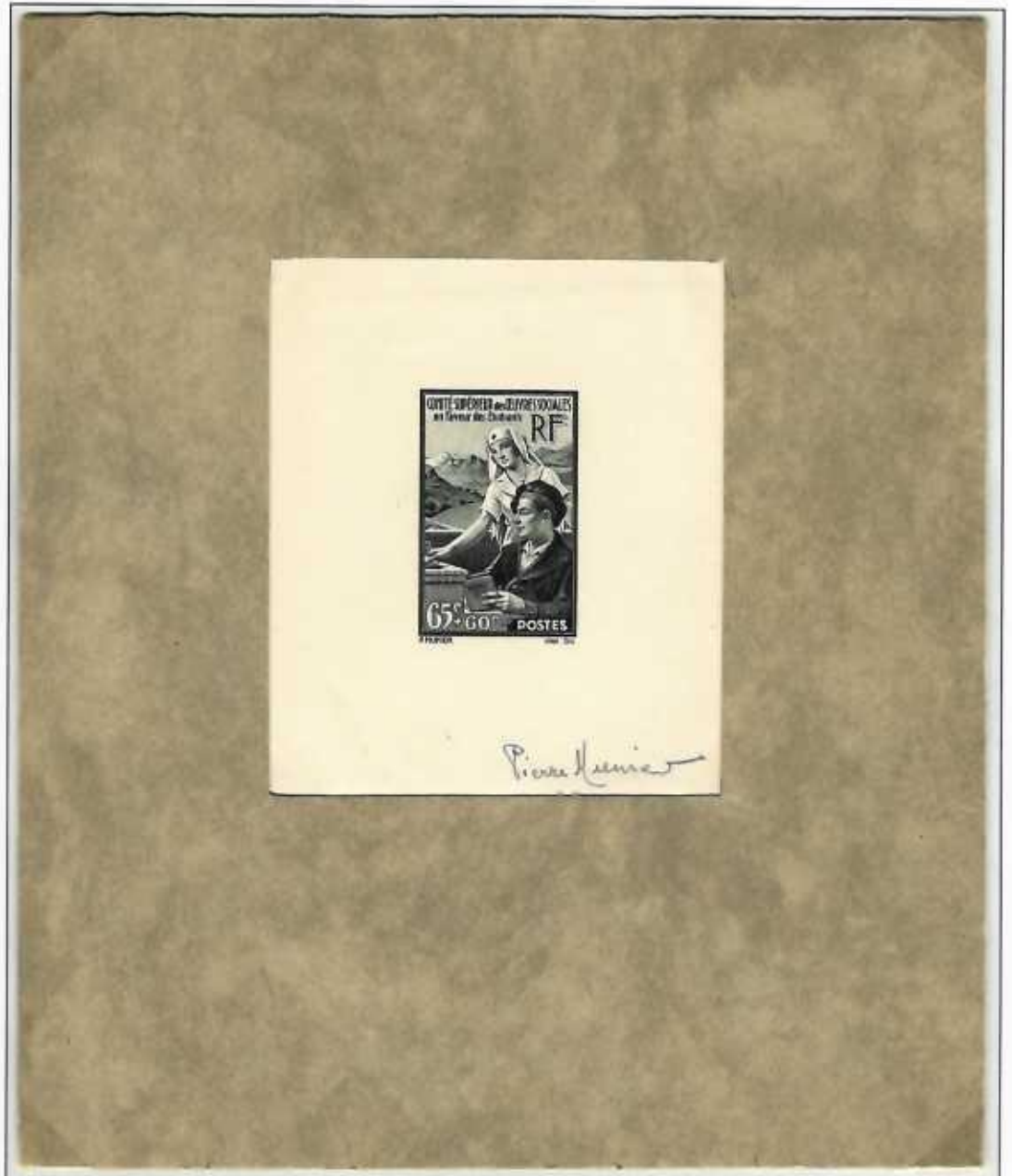


*"Helena Paderewsk"  
Nursing School  
in Warsaw*



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.





4.5 - Voluntary Service



Red Cross Women's Committee of Bayern ↑

Fundamental has been Red Cross nurses' work done at refreshment and rescue centers established in all maritime ports and railway stations.



← Free franking postcard





4.5 - 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







5.1 - Postwar interventions



Ministerial proof



During peacetime, Red Cross carries out many forms of assistance by humanitarian missions, with the purpose of bringing aid to populations affected by serious problems such as diseases, earthquakes, epidemics, famines and so on. In particular, the Movement manages with medical, social, psychological and welfare emergency tools.



Vertically imperforated pair





5.1 - Postwar interventions

On November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1918, the great massacre ended. Inside a railway wagon stopped on a dead track of Rethondes Station (in France), 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 and losers, slowly returned to their homelands, all deeply marked both in the physical and in the psyche 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: destructions, civilian victims, widows and orphans, injured, mutilated, famines, millions of unexploded munitions scattered all over the world, that would have kept alive for many years the memory of the great slaughter.



5.1 - Postwar interventions

A few months after outbreak of two WW, it was already clear what the final drama would be: to provide a frightening number of mutilate people. However, many seriously injured soldiers 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 .



Rehabilitation centers for mutilated soldiers have represented aftermaths of two global war, remaining operational for many years after signing of armistices. There've been more than 1.000.000 Italian soldiers injured in their faces or limbs, in need of treatment before discharges.



Ministerial proof





5.1 - Postwar interventions

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 house

Misperforated pair

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





5.1 - Postwar interventions



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.





5.1 - Postwar interventions



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.



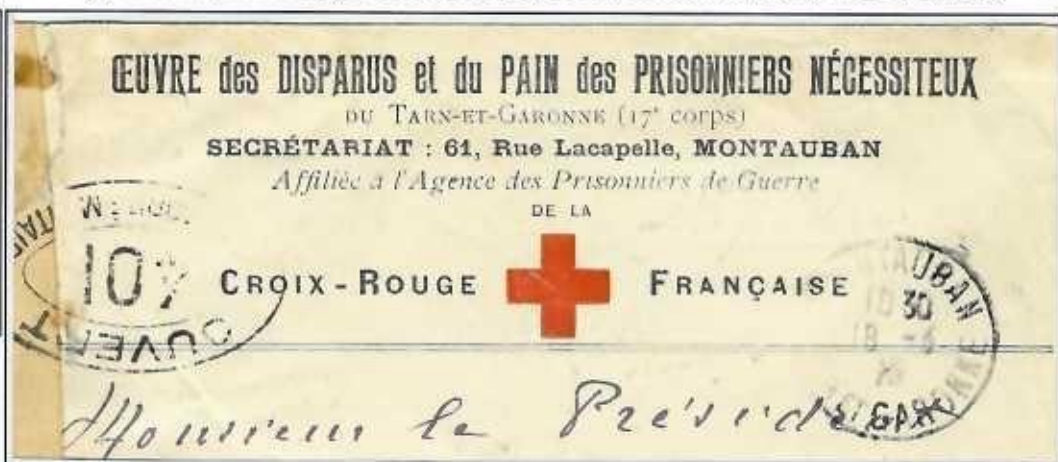


5.1 - Postwar interventions

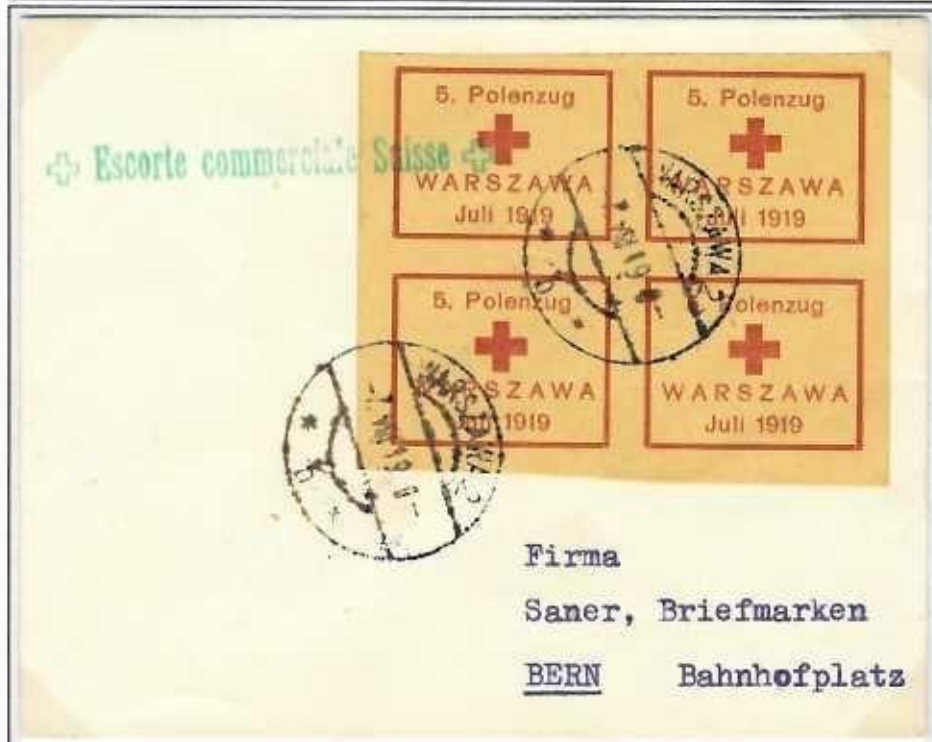
At the end of two global wars, Red Cross was particularly engaged in: providing assistance throughout liberation of concentration camps; searching missing persons; restoring broken contacts between soldiers and their families.



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



Many associations of private nature were born for two purposes: research of missing soldiers or civilians; letters and postcards transmissions. All these structures had to be registered to *Agence des Prisonniers de Guerre* at Geneva.



After I World War, in order to help the exhausted and starving Polish population, on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1919, an humanitarian aid train (5. Polenzug) -with a Red Cross staff 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 correspondence carried by the Polish Red Cross Train N. 5*



5.1 - Postwar interventions

In all Countries, Prisoner War Commissions carried out research of fighters who didn't return from battlefields, unfortunately often 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 and mutilated soldiers or civilians.

After the battles were ceased, all Governments had to face criticality both for victims and survivors, phase that remained characterized by the inconclusive aspects of civil reconstruction and inconsistent rearrangement of society.



← Colour proof

Artist 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 that would take place just after twenty years with a renewed global conflict.





5.2 - Staff training

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*



*Imperforate*



5.2 - Staff training



This methodology mainly consists in acquisition of new knowledges, skills and attitudes responding to growth of needs, in adapting to change of organization in health services and finalized to increase sanitary assistance quality and to refine models of prompt interventions.



Specimen

Printing proofs





5.3 - Medical research



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.



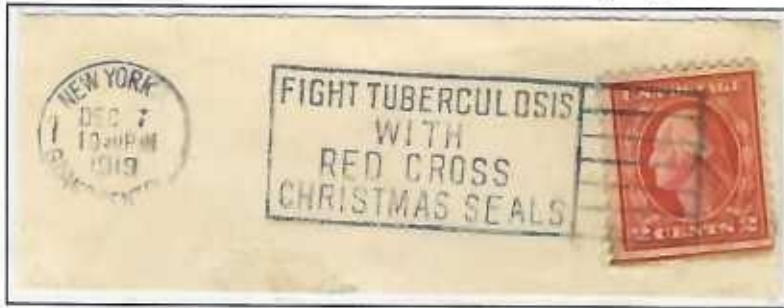
De luxe proof



5.4 - 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, tobacco addiction and illiteracy.

Cancer



Illiteracy



Tobacco addiction

World hunger

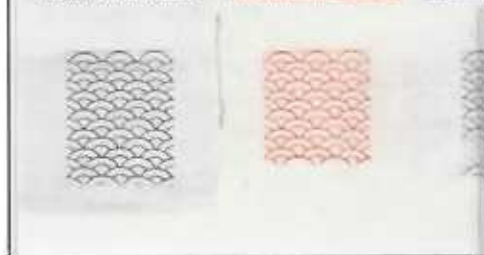
AIDS





5.5 - 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 aim 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 particularly at risk.



Artist proof





5.6 - 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





5.7 - Medical aid



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.





5.8 - 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







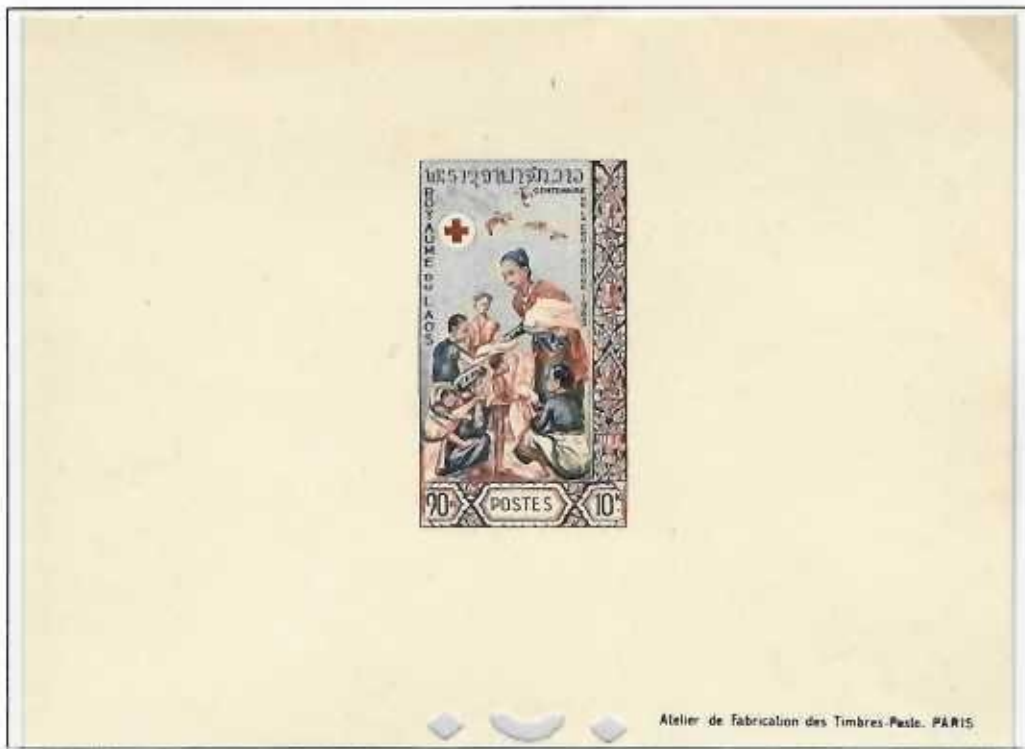
5.9 - Assistance to weaker categories



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



5.9 - 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 17<sup>th</sup>, 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



5.9 - 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.

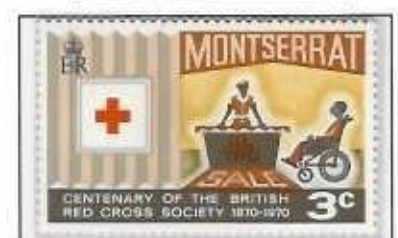


Artist proof

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.



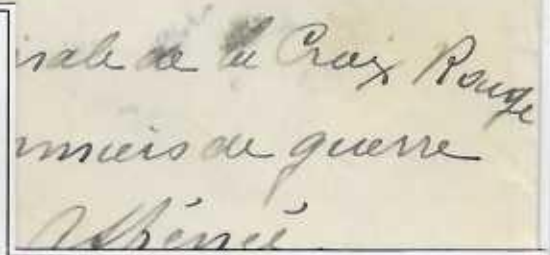
Specimen



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 other individuals.



5.10 - Rescue in natural disasters



Imperforated pair

← Artist proof

Since its foundation, the International Red Cross is particularly structured for providing in peacetime medical assistance in case of telluric shocks.



Postal stationery





5.10 - Rescue in natural disasters



On behalf of people affected by devastating inundations, Red Cross plans and activates many interventions, both for providing immediate support in complex scenarios and for collecting funds to be later used for restorations and reconstructions.

Nicaragua, tsunami (1992)



Romania, flood (1970)



Guatemala, seaquake (1976)



Rwanda, inundation (2012)

Usually, free franking postage has been granted in flooded areas.

Italian cancellation adopted during northern peninsula flood in 1951, which caused more than 100 dead completely submerging the city of Milan and Polesine regions



In the early 1930s became widespread the practice of sending by rocket basic necessities where it was not possible to ship using normal methods.



On Jun 6<sup>th</sup>, 1935, in India the River Roopnarain overflowed and a part of population was isolated. It was therefore decided to send by rocket foods, correspondence, and medicines. A label was glued on 110 letters and the special price of 2 rupees was printed to finance Indian Red Cross expenses



5.11 - Humanitarian missions

During II WW, Italian Red Cross activated a sanitaire cordon by using hospital ships and trains sent to Fiume (city today called Rijeka, because 1945 was last year of its belonging to Reign of Italy) with aim to bring aid to starving population, exhausted by armed conflict.



Mod. 3

Message

N. \_\_\_\_\_

**Demande de la Croix-Rouge Italienne**  
**COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL DE LA CROIX-ROUGE**  
 GENEVE (Suisse)

DIREZIONE SERVIZI POSTALI TELEGRAFICI RODI (EGED)

**RICHIEDENTE - DEMANDEUR - ENQUIRER**

Cognome - Nom - Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nome - Prénom - Christian \_\_\_\_\_  
 Indirizzo - Adresse - Ad \_\_\_\_\_

Stato - Pays - Country \_\_\_\_\_

**Testo da trasmettere - Message à transmettre - Mess:**  
 (Non più di 25 parole - solo notizie familiari) - (25 mots au m. caractères strictement personnel et familial) - Not over 25 words - family news of strictly personal character).

EMESSI IN RODI IL 18/2/1945 A RICORDO DEL 1°  
 ARRIVO DI VIVERI DI SOCCORSO DELLA CROCE ROSSA INTERNAZIONALE PER LA POPOLAZIONE CIVILE MORENTE DI FAME.-

IL CAPO DEI SERVIZI POSTALI ED ELETTRICI

Data - Date \_\_\_\_\_

DESTINATARIO - DESTINATAIRE - ADDRESSEE

Cognome - Nom - Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nome - Prénom - Christian name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Indirizzo - Adresse - Address \_\_\_\_\_

Stato - Pays - Country \_\_\_\_\_

RISPONDERE A TERGO      RÉPONSE AU VERSO      REPLY OVERLEAF  
 Si prega di scrivere leggibilmente      Prière d'écrire lisiblement      Please write clearly

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, 1945, Italian Post Office has issued a serie composed by 2 overprinted stamps in remembrance of these food aid missions



6.1 - Propaganda

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 an 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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





6.2 - Special flights

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, piloted by Jan and Nini Boesman. The 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*







6.2 - Special flights

"Plus Ultra"

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, 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



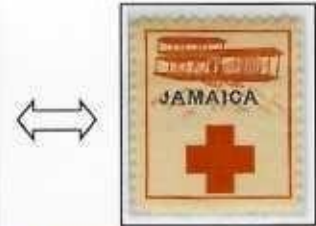
Inverted overprints

Double overprints



6.2 - Special flights

In order to collect funds to be sent to Polish Jews in need of some support, the newspaper "The Gleaner" of Kingston obtained from Jamaican Government the authorization to print charity stamps in occasion of a special flight: in the period end 1915/beginning 1917, they were sold at Post Offices as complementary and mandatory postage of *half penny* and the "Jamaica Patriotic Stamp League" took care of money transfer to Polish families.



A first kind of charity stamp was issued in December 1<sup>st</sup> 1915 and it didn't bear any nominal price. On March 11<sup>th</sup> 1916 the same value was reissued with the black overprint: JAMAICA Half penny

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 1939: special round-trip flight Geneva-Zurich on the occasion of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Geneva Convention (Treaty held on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1864, for amelioration of conditions of the wounded in battlefields).





6.3 - World Red Cross Day



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





7.1 - Fundraising campaigns

All over the world, young people of aristocratic and bourgeois extraction are organized into groups by various local Red Cross Committees: in particular, in addition to money they collect newspapers and archival waste to be sold to national paper industries, with the aim of making donations, especially clothing and food to be sent to those in need.



Obviously, the Movement anyhow prefers to receive money, because this modality represents a more direct way for immediate procurement of each kind of products.



Specimen

Official German Red Cross postcard, sent free of franking costs



Postal stationery





7.1 - Fundraising campaigns

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 20<sup>th</sup> to February 7<sup>th</sup> she organized a Fete to raise funds: for 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 around with the indication MINTO FETE CALCUTTA with time and date.



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 stamps were in any case sold and even postally used.



7.2 - Lotteries

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**

Free  
franking  
postage

Ill.mo Signor

Amministrazione

Via de

**Nürnberger Sanitäts-Lotterie**



München, Datum des Poststempels.

Unter Bezugnahme auf mein jüngstes Sirkular 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 Plakatstreifen ersehen haben werden.

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

Ich empfehle Ihnen meine am 29. Dezember zum Zuge kommenden Sanitäts-Lose und sehe gefl. Bestellungen hierauf gerne entgegen. Hochachtungsvoll und ergebenst  
**H. Pradarutti.**

Bitte Rücksendungstermin genau einzubalten.

Munich, October 16th, 1906.  
Postal stationery

**LOTERIA EM BENEFICIO DA CRUZ VERMELHA BRASILEIRA**  
 9.550:000 \$ 000 EM PRE  
 1º PREMIO 5.000:000

OFF. GRAPHICAS DA LIVRARIA F

MÜNCHEN 22  
 -2255- POSTKA  
 BAYERISCHES ROTES KREUZ  
 MÜNCHEN 17. WAGMÜLLERSTR. 16  
 DEUTSCHE BUNDESPOST  
 010

Munich, February 2nd, 1955.

St. Sebast da Estrellars (Brazil), May 29th, 1927: lottery for the benefit of Brazilian Red Cross, with the purpose of collecting funds for WWI wounded soldiers.



7.3 - Surcharged or overprinted issues

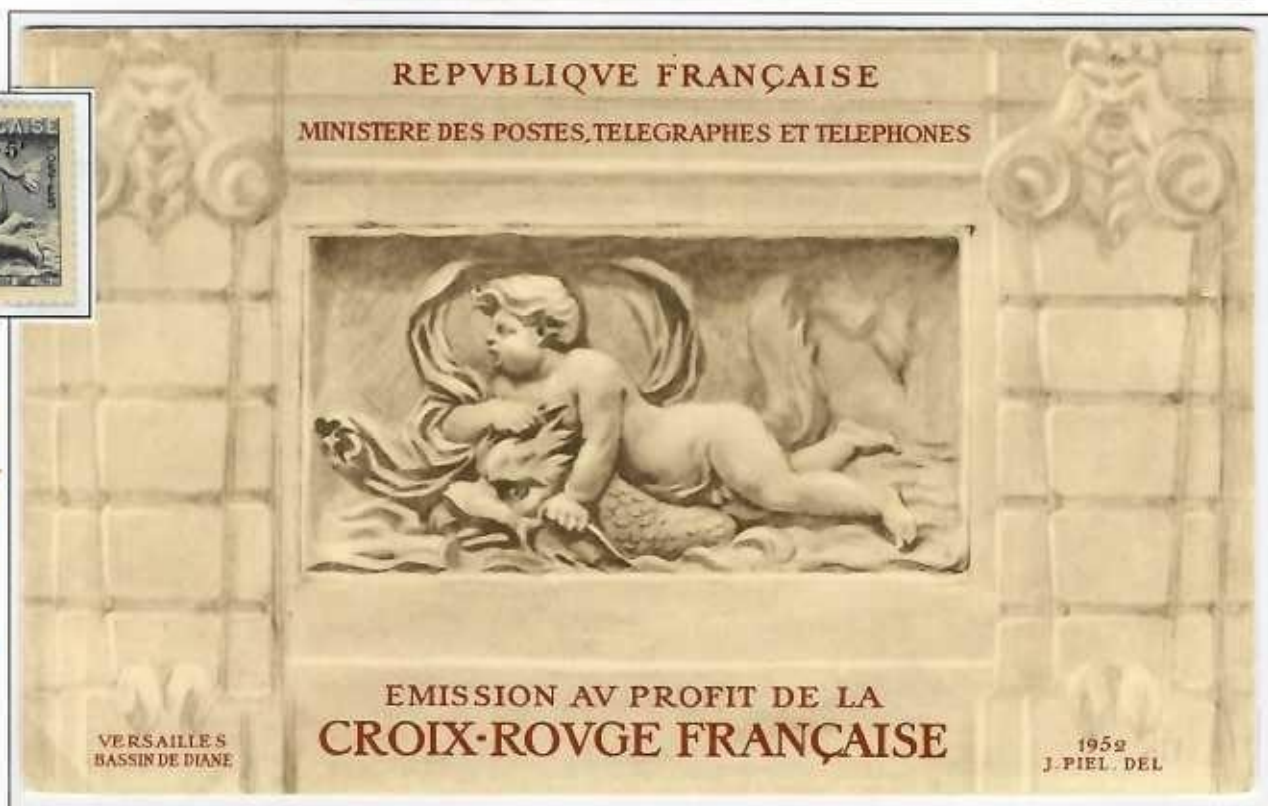
All Postal Administrations have issued stamps bearing surcharges in favor of the Institution, in many cases to be used only for internal mail or for postage to their own colonies: the France Post more than any others.



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



Again France has prepared a new stamp in 1952 for the benefit of Red Cross ( issued in booklets of 10 or in sheets of 25 indented 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



7.3 - Surcharged or overprinted issues

Trengganu, 1918

Malacca, 1917



Rambutan Estate  
 along Rambutan  
 Perak F.M.S.

Messrs Ewen's Colonial Stamp Market, Ltd.,  
 30 & 32 Palace Square,  
 NORWOOD,



Portugal, 1930  
 double overprints  
 (one of which inverted)



Liberia, 1941



inverted overprints



Oceania, 1918



France, 1914



Italy, 1906  
 not adopted  
 overprint





7.3 - Surcharged or overprinted issues



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 (EPIREIA 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





7.4 - Stamps for soldiers

Printed by Swiss Military Authorities and authorized by Berne Central Post Office, the *Soldatenbriefmarken* bore explanations of issuing related to military corps, whose divisions were equipped with special cancellations.

Stamp issued by the First Health Company, affixed on postcard free distributed to Swiss troops →



Envelope bearing two different stamps issued by the Second Healthcare Group ←



Feld Lazarett n. 17

The invitation presented to soldiers to use in every case these stamps -which took place by a Swiss Supreme Command disposition- was fully respected by troops. Not all *Soldatenbriefmarken* had a nominal price, but in any case, thanks to their sale Swiss Red Cross could give substantial subsidies to families of soldiers who had been sent for some years to protect Confederation borders.

*Soldatenbriefmarken* issued by Military Health Borders Service : they reported indications in French and German languages





7.5 - Semi-official charity stamps and labels

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 ½ 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 supplement or postage substitute.

During the show period, on all correspondence was affixed a pictorial cachet illustrated with the ship silhouette.



Sathbhai,  
 or State,  
 O R



7.5 - Semi-official charity stamps and labels

Charity stamp issued by Albania in the year 1947: its use was mandatory only during a week in the month of September. Proceeds of the 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. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1914) with a nominal value of 1 fraction (= ½ penny).



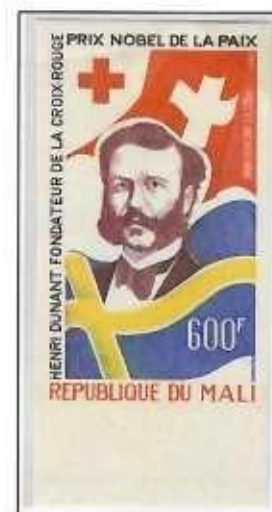
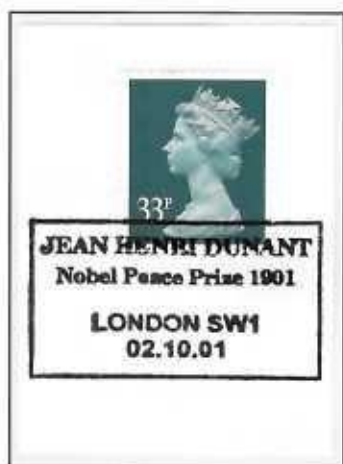
←  
Later it has been possible to continue affixing the label, but without any postage value



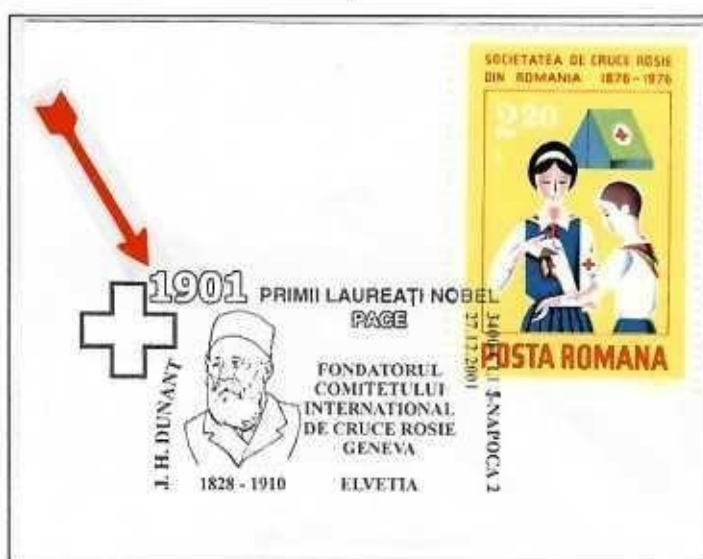


8.1 - Nobel Prizes

Jean Henry Dunant, founder of the Red Cross, has been unable to take any tangible benefit from the Nobel Prize for Peace -award received in the year 1901- since he decided to donate to Movement the corresponding, substantial amount of money provided for the golden statuette.



Unfortunately, the triumph of his ideas of impartiality and voluntary work came posthumous. In any case, in our days he is recognized -not only by the *Croix Rouge Internationale*- as the world icon of humanitarian sense.



1944

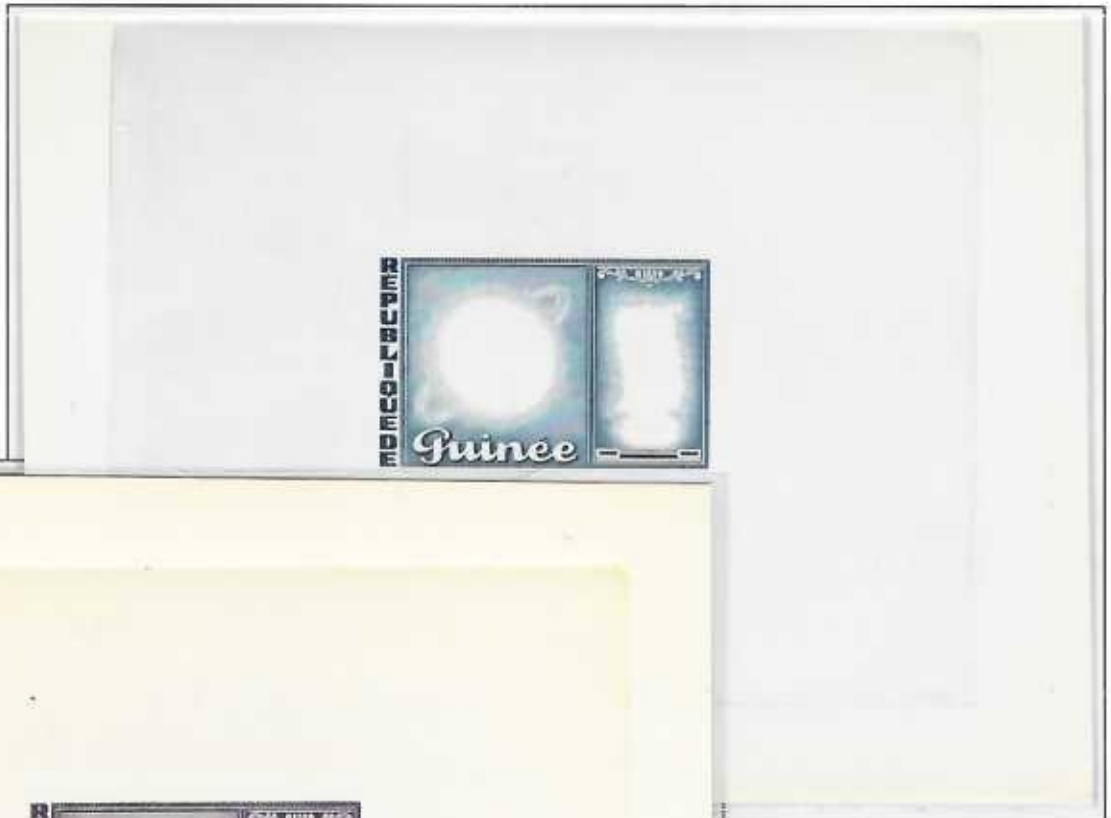


Among the 24 organizations awarded of Nobel Prizes for Peace, only the *Comité International de la Croix Rouge* has received this premium for three times, exactly in the years 1917, 1944 and 1963.



8.2 - Commemorations

In 1963, a century after subscription at Geneva of "La première carte fondamentale de la Croix Rouge Internationale", all Countries wished to give a philatelic award to this date through stamps and cancellations issues.



Guinea, proofs in blue or violet colours

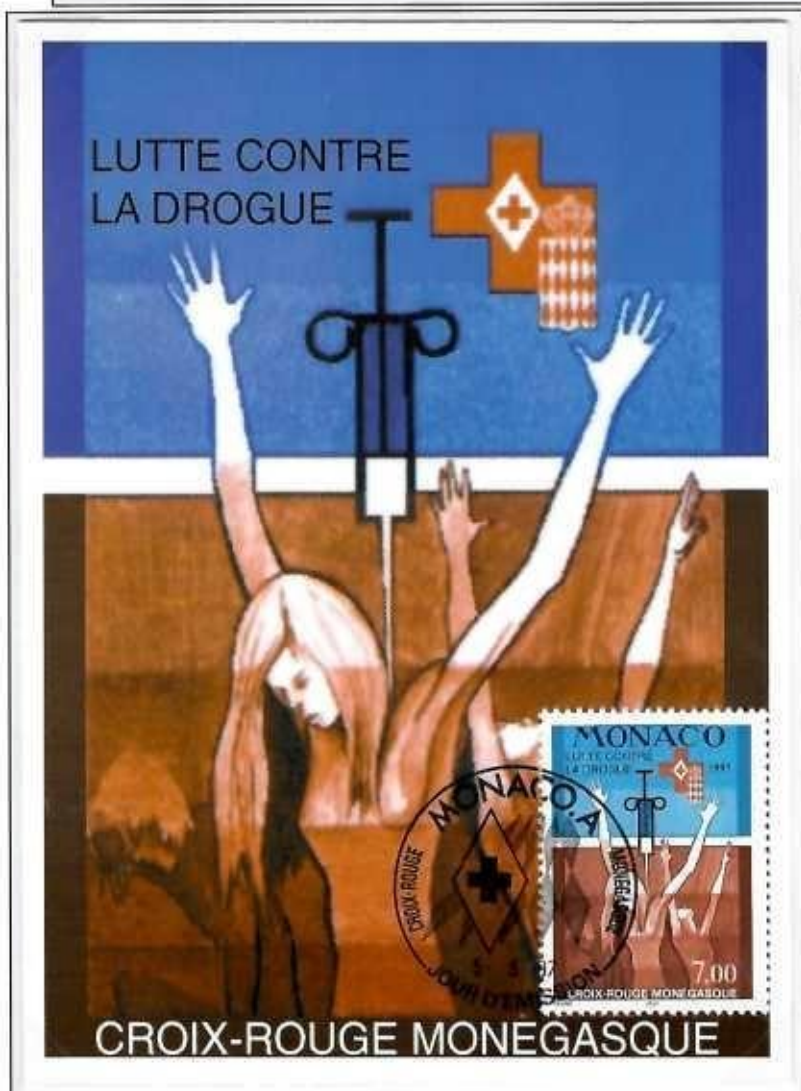


Vatican City, Red Cross emblem missing



9.1 - 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.





9.2 - 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").

