

Since the beginning of the War, 4,737,183 comforts and supplies have been given to the Armed Forces in training or stationed in Canada as well as to hospital patients.

Disaster relief organizations for shipwrecked seamen and casualties have been set up at seaboard and other vulnerable points in Canada. Soldiers and dependants arriving from overseas have received personal service and supplies from the Red Cross upon arrival and throughout the journey to their Canadian homes.

Financing of Red Cross Activities.—From the outbreak of war to Dec. 31, 1943, voluntary contributions from all sources to the Society amounted to \$46,344,330. The two major items of expenditures were for hospital supplies, comforts for the Armed Forces and hospital patients, clothing for civilian war sufferers, and for prisoners of war food parcels.

Section 5.—The St. John Ambulance Association

The origin of the St. John Ambulance Association goes back to the Crusades and the Knights of St. John and of Malta. His Majesty the King is supreme head of the Order which has headquarters at London and units in all parts of the British Empire. In Canada, the Governor General is the Knight Commander and meetings of the Order are held at Government House. At the head of the Canadian Branch is the Commandery of the Grand Priory of the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem, usually referred to as the Order of St. John.

The Canadian Branch has its headquarters and national offices in St. John House, Ottawa, with branches in every province and local centres in hundreds of cities and towns throughout Canada. There are two distinct branches: the Association whose members train instructors, conduct classes and issue various certificates; and the Brigade, members of which are in uniform under a form of military discipline receive constant supplementary training, and are available for call whenever the need arises. The Brigade strength is approximately 15,000 persons, about equally divided between the Ambulance Division (men) and the Nursing Division (women), and organized into about 300 divisions from coast to coast.

The primary purpose of the Association is to teach First Aid and Home Nursing to both civilians and the Armed Forces and to provide trained and organized personnel to help in time of disaster or national emergency. This work was started in Canada in 1895 and, since then, about 900,000 persons have received certificates, and other awards. Since 1940 the number has been close to, or above, 100,000 a year. During 1942, 118,490 certificates were issued and in 1943, 109,313. Many thousands of these went to members of the Armed Forces to which trained instructors and textbooks have been provided in large numbers. In 1942 an order was issued providing that every member of the Royal Canadian Air Force (men and women) must take St. John First Aid instruction. The railways of Canada and many large industrial concerns maintain their own St. John centres. The training of personnel of Air Raid Precaution in First Aid work has been a large wartime undertaking.