

The uniformed Brigade performs a very special function in wartime. At port cities it assists the regular R.C.A.M.C. doctors and nurses, helps in hospitals and merchant seamen's hostels and shipwrecked seamen. It largely staffs the First Aid Posts for A.R.P. Early in 1943 when Voluntary Aid Detachments were made an integral part of the Army Nursing Service the Brigade instituted a recruiting campaign to enlist V.A.D. or nurses' aides and many are now on duty in Army hospitals. Others are helping short-staffed civilian hospitals. All wear the grey and white uniform with the eight-pointed cross of St. John. Uniformed St. John Brigade members are to be found at all exhibitions, large demonstrations or wherever crowds gather. The training of Brigade members as blood-typing technicians was commenced in 1943. The entire personnel of large war industries are being typed so that, in the event of serious accident, blood transfusions may be given in the quickest possible time.

Early in 1943 an agreement was entered into between the Canadian Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Association whereby future training would come under a joint board consisting of representatives of both organizations and a chairman appointed by the Minister of War Services. Certificates are to be issued under the joint name. The object was to avoid duplication, pool instructors and make training available to as large a number of persons as possible. Further, under this arrangement, which has been approved by Order in Council, the finances necessary to carry on the St. John Association activity in Canada will come from the annual public appeal of the Red Cross.