

For the year 1940, Red Cross overseas shipments to the United Kingdom totalled 87,347 cases, or the equivalent of 14,000 measurement tons. Shipments were also made to Iceland, Jamaica, Netherlands, West Indies, British West Indies, Roumania and Finland. The total value of the goods shipped amounted to \$2,944,928, the principal items being: Red Cross hospital supplies and comforts, \$1,736,490; civilian clothing, \$307,847; blankets, quilts and bed coverings, \$341,850; hospital equipment and furniture, \$69,760; ambulances, trucks and other vehicles, \$217,795; food, radios and tobacco, \$229,300. Losses caused by enemy action amounted to approximately 3 p.c.

Overseas activities embraced many services in addition to the distribution of supplies. At Taplow, England, the 600-bed hospital, built and equipped by the Canadian Red Cross, was completed and turned over to the military authorities in August. From the date of opening, this hospital, which is one of the finest and most complete military hospitals ever built, has been continuously busy. Two "Maple Leaf Clubs", residences for men on leave, were damaged by aerial bombardment in September and had to be closed. Several bureaus provide personal services to soldiers, trace missing Canadian and Allied soldiers and prisoners of war, and assist generally in solving an infinite number of personal problems.

Visitors see, regularly, all Canadian soldiers in hospital anywhere in the British Isles, bringing them added comforts, personal services, Canadian 'treats' and 'smokes', the home-town newspaper, and special 'cheer' at Christmas and on other festive occasions. In certain hospitals, special diets and therapeutic handicrafts are also provided.

A special department supervises the distribution of relief to civilian war victims; the extent of this distribution in the first three months of 1941 exceeded the entire distribution in 1940. In addition to British civilians, other groups aided by the distribution of over 500,000 articles of clothing and 283,000 tins or packages of food, included refugees from France, Finland, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Belgium, Holland, Gibraltar and the Channel Islands.

At the request of the British Red Cross, the Canadian Society undertook to pack and ship each week 10,000 prisoner-of-war parcels to British prisoners in Germany. By the end of the year, provision for packaging 5,000 parcels a week had been made, the remainder to be arranged for early in 1941.

The Canadian Red Cross and the Connaught Laboratories of the University of Toronto have extended the project for the preparation of dried serum which was begun in an experimental way in 1939, and is now a universally accepted means of processing blood; the Department of National Defence has requested that the Red Cross obtain 2,000 donors a week, arrange clinics for the taking of blood and the conveyance of the blood or its serum to the Connaught Laboratories for processing. This development was well under way at the close of the year: it fulfills both the war-time and peace-time purposes of the Red Cross.

A number of the peace-time activities of the Canadian Red Cross contribute to war services. The more important are: the continuing care of sick and disabled ex-service men; the operation of Red Cross outpost hospitals; the promotion of