

#61

YALE UNIVERSITY
OSBORN ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORY
NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

April 29, 1916.

AMERICAN RED CROSS
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Pres. Harry P. Judson,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

I would ask your attention to an important matter, which has only casually come to light, but which deserves the widest publicity. It came to my knowledge through an official announcement of the American Red Cross which was received by persons who have sent hospital supplies to the Red Cross depot at Bush Terminal for shipment to Germany.

The announcement, of which a copy is enclosed, states that the British Government refuses hereafter to permit Red Cross supplies from America to the Central Powers to pass the blockade, and it indicates that the American Government has assented to this decision without having made it public.

Two matters of grave importance are involved. One is the far reaching effect of the decision itself, which virtually forbids the international activities of the Red Cross, in flagrant violation of the Geneva Convention. The other is the peculiar inaction of our Government in submitting to the nullification of the principles of humanity and neutrality in the relief of war suffering, when at the same time it proclaims our mission as "spokesmen for the rights of humanity", and threatens to break friendly relations with Germany because of alleged inhumane acts.

If the inconsistency and injustice of our Government's position can be clearly brought before the people, it surely must influence public opinion against our entering the war as the ally of one party, when both have offended against our rights.

Participation in the war would mean a country divided against itself. It would mean the outraging of the deepest convictions and affections of millions of our people. It would rend asunder our national unity for a generation.

Will you not use your influence to avert such a disaster, and help in every way you can to give publicity to this affair?

Very truly yours,

Ross G. Harrison
Professor of Comparative Anatomy,

Yale University.

April 29, 1916.

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(COPY)

A M E R I C A N R E D C R O S S
OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The American Red Cross has received notification through the State Department of the decision of the British Government that Red Cross supplies destined to enemy countries will not be passed through the blockade established by the entente allies. An exception is made of supplies intended for the use of hospital units maintained by the American Red Cross in these countries, but as these have been all withdrawn, the prohibition is in fact absolute.

In view of this fact, not only is the further contribution of supplies to the Teutonic allies not practicable, but it becomes necessary to make other distribution of those now on hand at the Receiving and Shipping Station of the American Red Cross, Bush Terminal, Brooklyn, N. Y.

It is proposed to ship these supplies, or such of them as may be appropriate for the purpose, to Siberia, to be distributed to German, Austro-Hungarian and Turkish prisoners in the prison camps of that country. It is therefore requested that you authorize the Red Cross to make this disposition of them; or, if for any reason this becomes impossible, to use these supplies for military preparedness at home, or for relief work in disasters in neutral countries. If neither of these dispositions is acceptable, please authorize their shipment, at your expense, to such address in this country as you may indicate.

Please sign the authority given below, and return to the Receiving and Shipping Station, American Red Cross, Bush Terminal, Brooklyn, N. Y., in the enclosed envelope.

Very respectfully,
(Signed) J. R. KEAN
Colonel, Medical Corps, U. S. Army,
Director General of Military Relief

April 18, 1916

(COPY)

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OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

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Very respectfully,
(Signed) J. E. KEAN

Colonel, Medical Corps, U. S. Army,
Director General of Military Relief

April 18, 1918

Chicago, May 4, 1916

Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 29th of April with enclosure is received. Before going into the matter to any serious extent I should prefer to hear the reasons of the State Department for concurring in the action of the British Government. On the face of it I should say that there is no violation of the Geneva Convention. If the question relates to blockade the Red Cross has no right to send material through blockade lines.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Professor Ross G. Harrison,
Yale University,
New Haven, Connecticut.

Chicago, May 4, 1916

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Dear Sir

5815 Maryland Ave. Chicago, April 27-17
Pres. Judson, University of Chicago,
Chicago.

Dear Sir: -

As student come to you in the summer, especially, from the country and small towns where they have no opportunity for Red Cross training, would it not be a great move toward preparedness for you to have at the University classes in Red Cross work? I intend to be in the University this summer. The time and energy spent on the car going from here down town to a class would be more than enough to do the work, were it in easy reach as the rest of the courses here will be.

If I have to go down town, I can not take Red Cross training. No doubt hundreds of others will feel the same way. Can you help us get what we so much need and want for the heavy duties that seem so inevitable, to me, before we have peace?

Very sincerely,

Alta R. Cox.

Wm. B. Orr

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Chicago

University of Chicago

to 5 Mayland Ave. Chicago, Ill. 5-11

Chicago

1000
1111
1222

1333
1444
1555

Chicago, May 2, 1917

Dear Miss Cox:

Your favor of the
27th of April was received. Whether
such work as you indicate can be
arranged depends on some circumstances
here which have not yet taken shape.
If it is possible to do the thing
properly we shall be glad of course to
arrange it.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Miss Alta R. Cox
5815 Maryland Ave., Chicago

Chicago, May 2, 1917

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Miss Alta R. Cox
5815 Maryland Ave., Chicago

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Washington, D.C.,
October 10, 1917.

Dr. Harry Pratt Judson
Pres. University of Chicago
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

The recent organization of the secondary schools of the country by the Red Cross on the basis of a junior membership calls attention to the lack of coordination between the higher schools and the Red Cross. Not that they have not worked together, nor that the colleges and universities have failed to do splendid Red Cross war work. But the Red Cross could and should reach the great college and university student body more directly and more intimately than it does. The communion would be of immense value to both and to the country at large.

To the Red Cross it would mean a large and earnest membership in the present and for the future; to the students it would mean the stimulation of character building and of citizenship through the appeal to patriotism and to world-wide sympathy with their fellow-man. To be Americans first; to be brothers of the peoples next - there is no room for hyphenation in such conception of citizenship, and such citizenship the Red Cross ideals and practice would develop in the youth of our country.

Why has not the Red Cross already done this work on a broad scale in our college life; why is it not doing it now?

Two reasons present themselves. One is that the Red Cross authorities have not been asked to do it. Another reason is that the present organization of the Red Cross rests fundamentally on its individual chapters. The thing to be desired is the free movement of the Red Cross spirit of helpfulness and love upon the responsive spirit of the student body of our college life; the actual condition is that the Red Cross is dependent on its chapters, of which the student body knows little and for which it cares less.

Here is an obstruction, a restriction which should be removed in some way. It may not interfere with equipping a Red Cross unit of university men nor with using the students of a given school at a given time for Red Cross work; it does hinder the formation of some sort of intercollegiate Red Cross brotherhood which should include our whole collegiate life and which would supplement without subverting college government and would foster the highest college ideals. The restriction

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Washington, D.C.
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Pres. University of Chicago
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and would foster the highest college ideals. The restriction

is hampering the freedom of reciprocal action between student body and Red Cross, and a true conception of well-ordered liberty is of the very essence of our life as a people today as never before in our history.

In conferring with various persons concerning this matter the writer has found both school authorities and Red Cross members (including officials) in hearty sympathy with the general tenor of this letter and he has also had the benefit of the sympathetic counsel of the Secretary of the National Educational Association.

This communication will be sent to about thirty universities and colleges in order to test to that extent the sentiment of our college world on the subject. Will you not be so kind as to send to the undersigned a prompt reply stating your desire or lack of desire to have the Red Cross bring about within well-considered lines some sort of college and university Red Cross organization that shall be wholly independent or partly independent, as may be found best, of the present restriction.

Upon receipt of the replies the whole matter will be referred to the Red Cross authorities for consideration and action.

Very respectfully,

Wm Taylor Thom

Address:

(U.S. Geological Survey.)

Wm. Taylor Thom,
2022 M Street N.W.,
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Wm. Taylor Thom
2022 M Street N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Chicago, October 13, 1917

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 10th inst. is received. The failure to maintain an active interest in Red Cross work in institutions of learning is due in my opinion exactly to the cause which you indicate. It is impracticable for the colleges and universities as a whole to tie up in a membership of the local Red Cross chapter. If there could be a distinct college and university Red Cross organization - and may I add, it might readily and properly extend to secondary schools - I am sure the result would be a great impetus to the good work, and moreover an education of our young people in the Red Cross ideals in a way that cannot fail to be beneficial to themselves, the Red Cross itself, and to the entire country.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. Wm. Taylor Thom
2022 N Street N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Chicago, October 18, 1917

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 10th inst. is received. The failure to maintain an active interest in Red Cross work in institutions of learning is due in my opinion exactly to the cause which you indicate. It is impracticable for the colleges and universities as a whole to tie up in a membership of the local Red Cross chapter. If there could be a distinct college and university Red Cross organization - and may I add, it might readily and properly extend to secondary schools - I am sure the result would be a great impetus to the good work, and moreover an education of our young people in the Red Cross ideals in a way that cannot fail to be beneficial to themselves, the Red Cross itself, and to the entire country.

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Mr. Wm. Taylor Thom
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Washington, D. C.