The Organization And Work Of A Base Hospital In France

Twenty-two Base Hospitals, organized and equipped by the American Red Cross, now are in operation in France. Five of these hospitals are back of the British lines, and were among the first to be sent from this country following the entry of the United States into war. The distribution of the other units which preceded the American Expeditionary Force or crossed contemporaneously with sections of Gen. Pershing's army, all of which ultimately may operate behind the American lines, is not at present information for general public knowledge.

There is a bureau of base hospitals and hospital units of the American Red Cross, which was created for the purpose of organizing base hospitals and hospital units; assembling the personnel; directing the purchase of their equipment; and acting as a clearing house for all matters pertaining to hospitals. To increase the efficiency of the units the policy has been to select a large hospital or university to act as a parent institution, and from its medical and nursing staff to choose a group of individuals who have been accustomed to work together.

The personnel of a 500-bed hospital unit consists of a commanding officer from the Army Medical Corps; a quartermaster from the quartermaster's reserve corps; twenty-two doctors, commissioned to the Medical Officer's Reserve Corps; two dentists, commissioned to the Dental Officer's Reserve Corps; sixty-five nurses enrolled as Red Cross nurses; one hundred and fifty-three men of the enlisted Reserve Corps of the Medical Department of the Army; six civilian employees, including a registrar, a dietitian, laboratory technicians and stenographers; and one chaplain who is commissioned under the Red Cross.

The equipment for a base hospital comprises everything which is essential to the operation of a five-hundred-bed hospital except housing. This equipment has been especially designed to meet the needs of modern warfare and has been found to cost upwards of seventy-five thousand dollars. Here is a list showing the things that are needed for the equipment of a base hospital: beds, bedding, ward furniture, drugs, surgical instruments, dental instruments, laboratory supplies and equipment, mess gear, sterilizers (ambulances, touring car, motor trucks, motor cycle), complete X-ray plant, kitchen, disinfector, surgical dressings and hospital garments. In some instances base hospitals have sailed with a complete refrigerating and laundry equipment, telephone system, and machine shop, necessary to the manufacture of plants, braces, and the repair of surgical instruments.

The base hospital, as its name indicates, stands in the same relation, practically speaking, to a hospital organization in the war zone, as a whole, that an army or division headquarters does to the fighting forces under a specific command. It is located many miles to the rear of the fighting front and, theoretically, is beyond the range of the heaviest guns of the enemy. But theory does not work in practice at all times, since guns began to shoot seventy-five miles or more, and in this particular war, moreover, the enemy, insatiable in his pursuit of frightfulness, has taken special delight in locating the resting places of the wounded and dropping bombs upon them from his aeoplanes and zeppelins.

But the base hospitals is comparatively safe—safe, it will be readily admitted, being a strictly comparative term—and with the wonders of modern surgical science and skill the chances of the wounded man who lives long enough to reach there are very good. Generally speaking, a patient reaches the base hospital, there to remain either until discharged because he no longer requires surgical or medical treatment, or else sent to some convalescent home or orthopedic institution where his crippled body may be remade and the man himself rendered fit for a life of usefulness in the years following his great sacrifice.

While the base hospital originally is equipped on a five-hundred-bed basis, emergencies of varying situations call for the doubling or greater of this capacity in actual operation. Many of the Red Cross base hospitals in France now are operating one thousand beds or upwards, most of the time.

Boys' Working Reserve

The United States Boys' Working Reserve is composed of young men between the ages of 16 and 21 years, who have been enrolled in the service of the U. S. Dept. of Labor to supply the demand for labor during the current season upon the farms of Maryland. In order that the members of the Reserve may be of real service to the farmers, and that both farmers and boys may be mutually benefited, it is necessary to keep certain fundamental facts in mind.

It must be borne in mind that the Boys' Working Reserve is a volunteer force. The young men composing it have offered their service to the farmers and to the Nation in the spirit of patriotic service, and not merely to obtain jobs.

The shipbuilding industries were obliged to force the same problem which now confronts the farmer. When it became imperative to produce ten times the tonnage that this country had ever built, the question of skilled shipbuilders had to be met, in order that our armies and their supplies could be transported to Europe. The adaptability of the American for any work that he is called upon to perform is established by his record since he has entered this new field. The "green" shipbuilders of three months ago are today breaking all the world records for speed in building the ships that the Government needs.

The young men who are willing to engage in farm work have been offered, in many instances, positions which would pay them $25.00 to $40.00 per week, and they are sacrificing their profit in order to do their best to add to the profits of the farmers of Maryland, so as to give the farmer every incentive to plant and harvest big crops, with the patriotic motive that our armies and those of our allies, as well as the nation at large, shall not have their efficiency impaired by lack of food.

As a rule, the young men are not accustomed to the severe labor involved in some of the farming operations. It will be necesary to recognize this fact, and allow a certain period within which they may become hardened to the work. They should be given lighter tasks, or be permitted for a few days to take the work rather easy. As they become accustomed to the heat of the sun, the unusual hours and the lighter work, they can gradually be transferred to tasks suited to their physicial strength. It will be of no advantage to either boy or farmer to break him down the first day or two on the farm. A little care and consideration may make him interested in his work and thoroughly able to perform it.

Young men who work faithfully and intelligently are entitled to good food, comfortable quarters and an envirenment calculated to bring out the best there is in them. The farmer who employs members of the Reserve assume the responsibility of seeing that the young men are well cared for physically socially and morally.

There is a mutual obligation. In return for the considerations noted on the part of the farmer, there is an obligation on the part of Reserve member to make himself useful, and, by close application to the tasks in hand, to render himself more and more efficient in farm work as the days go by. Service in the Reserve is neither a picnic nor a junketing trip. On the contrary, each of the young men is under oath to serve the farmer and the Nation to the best of his ability during the period of his employment. The national crisis is the occasion that demands the sacrifice on the part of the young men, and it will be the aim of the Federal State Director of the Reserve to keep the idea of national service before the young men at all times. Any failure of the men to measure up to the proper standard should be reported to the County Agent, or the County Director.

The object of the organization of the Boys' Working Reserve it to meet an emergency condition. Unless there were a great need for farm labor, the plan of having city boys volunteer for farm work would never have been attempted. If the farmer really need farm labor, it is hoped that they will accept the services of the Reserve in the spirit of cooperation in which the offer is made. Such a spirit will do much to establish satisfactory relations between these young volunteers from the city, who are serving their country in the midst of the Nation's crisis, and the farmers who are straining every effort to carry out the Nation's War Program by producing the food necessary to support the men who are fighting the battle that will make the world safe for democracy.

If you feel you need additional labor during the coming season, you should appeal immediately to the County Agent, or the County Director of the United States Boys' Working Reserve, stating your wants. These gentlemen will promptly communicate with the Federal Director, 601 Union Building, Baltimore, Maryland, who will use every effort to fill your demand.

The time to act is now. The demand from many counties for young men from the Reserve is very heavy.

The enrollment of young men will be greatly increased if they are assured that a definite position with a farmer is actually open.

Mary Opportunities Open For Specialists In War Department

There is a list of 137 occupations where the demand for men in the War Department constantly exceeds the supply.

A pressing need exists in the Army for men experienced in handling mules, and before all future needs are met a recruiting campaign may become necessary. No difficulty has been experienced in getting men who can buy and handle horses, but blacksmiths are scarce.

There is constant demand for butchers, and cooks are greatly needed. In several technical branches, particularly the Engineers, men for the higher positions are plentiful but the workers for the ranks are scarce. Experienced mechanics, especially those familiar with automobiles are always in demand.

More interpreters than can be used have applied for positions with the War Department, and applications for commissions as Army chaplains are also in excess of the need. The excess totals thousands in each case. Clerks for general work are plentiful, but there is demand for specialists. At present there is a surplus of dentists and pharmacists.

MARINE NOTES

Syracuse, N. Y. June—So impressed with the U. S. Marine recruiting literature sent him to give to prospective applicants was Carl H. Hamlin, postmaster at Helenta, N. Y., that he forsook his job and came here, where he enlisted himself in the Marine Corps.

Thus the Marine Corps lost a recruiter, Helena lost a postmaster, Recruiter Hamlin lost his fee for the enlistment of applicant Hamlin, but the Marines gained a patriotic recruit.

St. Paul, Minn.,—Isle, Minn., was a village of seventy five population, situated on the Soo line near Mille Lacs Lake, Minn. Not a small part of its population was of young men, so it had a baseball team and a brass band, just as any other really ambitious village should have. The past tense is used advisably. Isle, Minn., still is a village, situated just where it always has been. But in no other way can the past and present be compared. It is without its baseball team, its brass band—and its young men. For the baseball team and the brass band—twenty of 'em, have enlisted in the Marine Corps. "The town's simply shot pieces!" declared an elderly resident, one of the few left.

Troops Are Being Equipped With Browning Machine Guns

Enough heavy Browning machine guns for instruction purposes have been shipped to every National Guard training camp and National Army cantonment in the country where troops are in training. Heavy Browings for overseas training have been shipped.

Light Browning rifles sufficient in number to equip the machine-gun units of more than four Army divisions have been manufactured, and overseas shipment of one half has begun. The other half of the output goes to Army divisions in this country.

ADVERTISE IN THE SENTINEL

Walnut Timber For The Government

Since the announcement was made a few weeks ago, that the Government needed large quantities of walnut for the manufacture of aeroplane propellers and gun stocks, hundreds of offers of walnut timber have been received at the State Forester's office, Baltimore, and at the office of the Forest Service, Washington.

The largest quantities of walnut are in the middle West, and it is there that nearly all of the walnut manufacturing plants are located. It is evident, however, from these offers from Maryland, ranging anywhere from one tree, to a hundred trees, that there are considerable quantities of walnut in the State, and it is quite probable that local industries can be established.

Only trees of sufficient size to make a log, not less than ten feet long, and twelve inches inside the bark at the small end can be used. Any one having trees of suitable size the larger the better—that they are willing to sell, should communicate with F. W. Besley, State Forester, Baltimore, Maryland, who is co-operating with the United States Forest Service in securing local supplies of walnut.

The Government does not buy the timber, as this is done through agents, who have Government contracts. The State Forester is interested: first in aiding the Government to secure available timber, and second, in helping the owners to secure a fair price.

If desired, the State Forester will inspect the standing trees, and estimate their value, for the benefit of the owners, before it is offered for sale.

The Food Administration has sent out through all State administrators a warming to corn, barley, and oats millers and to wholesale and retail dealers in the products that at the present prices of these grains corn meal and oat meal should be selling at least 20 per cent below the price of wheat flour and that corn flour and barley flour should be selling at least 10 per cent below wheat flour.

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