

of assistance the circumstances demanded. Often the request for aid was made direct to the chapter by the family, at times short-circuiting trouble before it could worry the soldier.

COMMUNICATION SERVICE

The Red Cross under special circumstances helped countless relatives of servicemen establish contact with men in the field when other means failed. As authorized by medical officers, it supplemented military communications regarding the seriously sick and wounded, and gave the family additional details about a man's illness or death.

Home Service lessened the strain of war for relatives of servicemen and other civilians by transmitting through the International Red Cross Committee messages and inquiries to and from persons in enemy or occupied countries. Greetings and family information were exchanged; illnesses, marriages, and deaths were reported; missing persons were located.

HOSPITAL SERVICE

As an adjunct of the Medical Departments of the Army and Navy, as prescribed by congressional charter and their regulations, the Red Cross was active in military and naval hospitals in the United States and in all theaters of operations.

Red Cross hospital workers saw the wounded soldier or sailor as soon as he was evacuated from the field of battle. They gave assistance to the men in maintaining communication with their families. They resolved worries caused by personal difficulties which threatened to retard recovery. Above all they helped crippled men face the future confidently; in group and individual discussions they gave knowledge of the extensive benefits offered by federal and state governments—pensions, vocational training, and opportunities for future employment in civil life.

In the wards volunteer Gray Ladies here and Red Cross staff aides overseas talked with patients, wrote their letters, did shopping and other errands, played games, or read aloud—and made the clock tick faster. Other workers gave