

# "Timely Red Cross Help Saved the Day in Italy"

**I**T is not too much to say that a considerable part of the credit for the successful Italian offensive this Spring should go to the American Red Cross. . . . The offensive was made possible only by the wonderful work which the Americans did in Italy last Winter. . . . The work must have been enormously expensive, but it was worth many times what it cost, by its remarkable effect on the morale, not only of the people at home, but of the men at the front."

*—Colonel Eric Barker, one of the Division of the British Ministry of Information.*

Throughout the Fall of 1917 German propaganda had been scolding the world of Italy. The spirit of a great and grand march was almost broken.

The great Italian drive on the Austrian front, made easier by the building of three miles of desert and movement, was lifting of Italy with banners, waving and inspiring songs.

That was the crisis that took the American Red Cross to Italy. From that moment its activities have never ceased.

Within a few hours after the arrival of the first Red Cross men in Rome last November, more than twenty refugees from the Frontiers plains had been fed with soup, receiving first-aid before being well-out of men provided with warm blankets.

Rolling canteens were dispatched to the front at once in numbers, each one capable of feeding 500 to 1,000 men a day.

More than 20,000 packages were distributed to the soldiers—soups, blankets, cigarettes and other useful things to cheer up the men in the trenches.

Hospitals were established — the wounded men given proper care.

Captives and men coming brought needed supplies to traveling soldiers.

Wounds were treated for refugees. The soldiers were sent to health centers. More than 15,000 men have been cared for in 14 months.

Relief was distributed to more than 400,000 needy families of soldiers.

Such assistance in getting into action saved the whole effort from being among Italy's losses. — T. W. H.

A COMPLETE SUPPLYING OF THE NEEDS OF GERMAN PRISONERS IN ITALY WAS AT ONCE CONSIDERED THAT AMERICA WAS AN ALLY AND WAS GOING TO BEER HER.

That work was instantly accomplished by those Red Cross representatives that went to Italy.

Soon, as a result of Red Cross work among the red population, letters to the address of the front contained happy news, glad tidings. Instead of bitterness and suffering, these letters bore a message of happiness and comfort among the Italian front.

The effect was magical. THE ITALIAN SOLDIERS WERE MADE OVER ALMOST IN A NIGHT. They became soldiers of men. The great American effort of this year is, MUST BE, a part of the splendid work of the American Red Cross—both in the war zone and in the homes of the soldiers who were fighting.

Nearly \$1,000,000 was expended all the best of July.

More than \$10,000,000 more will be used in December than of this year to carry on the wonderful work which already has such an excellent start and which has become such a characteristic feature.

In all of Italy there is no institution, no organization, which is left in such a condition, which has accomplished such a record of achievement in so short a time.

The work will continue. It is necessary the relations between the United States and Italy be allowed which will be an achievement of the entire participation that of American troops in the Italian front.

