

2,500,000 Donors Needed For Red Cross Expansion Project

Expansion of the American Red Cross blood donor program from an original 500,000 donors during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1943 to a minimum of 2,500,000 has been requested by the Surgeon General of the Army and Navy, the Red Cross has announced. Blood collected in this project is processed for use in transfusions by the armed forces.

This almost three-fold increase will require approximately 50,000 volunteer donations a week. In addition to dried plasma, blood collected is to be processed into a newly-developed substance, human serum albumin, also for use in transfusions. The Navy is particularly interested in this serum because it requires less storage space than plasma.

Donors Encouraged

As of June 30 last, donations to the Red Cross blood collection program for the armed forces totaled 461,493, representing more than 20,000 donations above the 200,000 requested for delivery by that time by the Army and Navy. In this connection, Major General James C. Magee and Rear Admiral Ross T. McIntire, Surgeons General of the Army and Navy, respectively, issued the following statement:

"The Army and Navy wish to compliment the American public on the generosity with which they have responded to the Red Cross appeal for donors. We are confident that this same generous public response will be given to the expanded program. It cannot be emphasized too strongly that the collection and processing of blood is a mass production job for which thousands of donors will be needed each week if our armed forces are to be fully supplied."

Giving blood is simple and painless and requires but a few moments of time. Doctors at the center always examine prospective donors to see if they are in proper physical condition to make their gift. Following the donation a short rest is advised, whereupon the donor may proceed about his usual occupation. Distinctive pins signifying their gift are provided to all donors.

Because of the specialized equipment needed for processing blood substitutes and the difficulty of obtaining this equipment, the number of laboratories engaged in this work is necessarily limited. Blood collected must be shipped in refrigerated containers and must arrive at the laboratory within 24 hours after being drawn, as it begins to deteriorate after that time. These factors combine to keep down the number of donor centers and to limit them to certain specific areas that are relatively near processing concerns. At present, Red Cross chapters in the following cities are operating donor centers: Milwaukee, Chicago, Cleveland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, Rochester, Indianapolis, Detroit, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Boston, Washington, D. C., Cincinnati, and Brooklyn.

Mobile Units

Through the use of fully equipped and staffed mobile blood-collecting units, operated by several donor centers, it has been made possible to cover a somewhat wider territory than is possible where donors must all report to one central location. The equipment carried by these mobile units can be rapidly set up at clinics in the outlying communities that are visited. Residents of these communities who would not have time to make the trip to the main donor center, 40 or 50 miles away, are yet afforded the glorious opportunity of contributing to this great cause. Those living in an area where blood collections are made need only call their Red Cross chapters for full information.

Chaplain Conducted Religious Services On 6 Sundays In 1 Month

WASHINGTON — The report of a Transport Chaplain, as quoted in the Circular Letter of Monsignor William E. Arnold, Chief of Chaplains of the United States Army, contains this remarkable bit of information:

"This chaplain conducted Religious Services during six Sundays this month—account one of the five Sundays was repeated as we crossed the 180th Meridian eastward bound!"

Serum albumin is a blood substitute was developed by Dr. Edwin J. Cohn, professor of physical chemistry, Harvard Medical School. It is prepared in liquid form, ready for use, and is put up in glass vials with rubber stoppers at both ends into which tubes are inserted in order to give the transfusion. The vial and necessary tubes and needles are enclosed in a tin container, and packed on each vial are complete directions for giving a transfusion.

The method of preparing serum albumin is at present regarded as a military secret. This, however, is not the case with dried blood plasma. In the preparation of this latter substance the red and white cells are removed by whirling in a centrifuge machine at a speed approaching 2,500 r.p.m. The plasma is then drawn from the bottle and sealed with silver plunger. After peeling the plunger is transferred to bottles of about 100 c.c. capacity, converted into a frozen state, and then subjected to a high and continued vacuum. This gradually draws off moisture, reducing the substance to a dry, powdered form. It is then vacuum-packed in the block, and can then be kept indefinitely without deterioration, even under the most adverse circumstances. When needed for a transfusion, all that is necessary is to add distilled water to the powdered plasma and it is ready for use.

The bottle of dry powdered plasma, along with a bulb of distilled water and the necessary tubes and needles for giving and maintaining the transfusion are packed in hermetically sealed tin. These are usually filled into a heavy cardboard carton to compose one so-called unit. Today these units are stored not only at coastal points, but in military and naval hospitals, aboard war shipping and patrol ships, and wherever else they may be needed. They are readily transported, and when their use is called for, it is only a matter of minutes to prepare the plasma and administer it.

The best teacher is one who makes you want to learn.

Cologne See's New Ordinary Consecrated By Nuncio In Berlin

LONDON — A Vatican radio broadcast heard here established the fact that the Very Rev. Joseph Frings has been consecrated Archbishop of Cologne in Berlin by His Excellency the Most Rev. Count Dr. Augustin Apostolic Nuncio in Germany.

Archbishop Frings succeeds His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Schuler, who died in 1941. Prior to his appointment as the new Archbishop of Cologne he was Bishop of the Major Diocese of Bamberg.



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