# AMERICAN RED CROSS CANTEEN-: SERVICE FOR NEGRO TROOPS



VER 65,000 women are now actively enrolled as workers in the 700 American Red Cross canteens extending from the most northern point in Canada to the most southern in the United States and from the Pacific to the Atlantic. Together with the canteen kitchens, medical supplies and small transfer hospitals, they comprise the equipment of the Canteen service, primarily organized to stimulate the morale of the soldiers and to let them know that the country is with them and appreciates the sacrifice they are making. It was also organized for the purpose of meeting emergencies which may arise with troops in transit-unavoidable delays, accidents, supplies exhausted, sudden illness or accidents to the men en route.

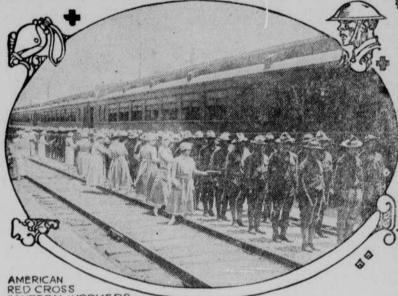
The American Red Cross Canteen Service is one branch of the service which, owing to its nature, requires a certain amount of secrecy. The United States is a tremendous country, with miles of track, and its troops are spread over tremendous areas. Men are sent from their home towns to camps, troops are moved from one camp to another, and they are shipped from camps to embarkation points and sent overseas, but wherever they are they find the American Red Cross has already blazed the trail and is there "on the job." This service, like all efforts in behalf of the soldiers, sailors and marines on duty in the armed service of the United States, both of this country and in Europe, is rendered to white and colored officers and enlisted men alike, without distinction.

Six hundred negro sold rs were erved recently by an American Red Cross canteen at a point in Arkansas. In a press report of the work it was stated: "It will be a long time before the activities of that great organization, the American Red Cross, will perform a better service, or one that gives the good women, both white and colored, more pleasure. They were enlisted colored men coming direct from their farms and homes in Louisiana, strange city and They were a timid set when they stepped off the train here like a drove of lost sheep, but there was a far different feeling when they left. The interest shown in them here made new and fighting men out of them. They will take their places in the trenches just like the white soldier, and every time one of them does it he takes the place of your boy or my boy. He's an American soldier, and all honor is due the splendid work of our Canteen women and their colored women helpers"

# Negro Auxiliaries.

ters on the ground floor of the Pythian fied-got ninety of them Germans!" Temple, owned entirely by negro capital. It has five large rooms, well equip-

anding fields. In some of the large teen service in emergencies. oad yards model canteen buildings



RED CROSS
CANTEEN WORKERS
GIVE THE SAME SERVICE TO NEGRO TROOPS,
AS TO WHITE MEN.

and efficiently.

tional field secretary to the national much disappointed not to find her at headquarters of the American Red the station, the boy's woe-begone ex-Cross, after a three months' transcon- pression attracted the attention of a varied cooling refreshments served the her car, found the mother, motored thrift in utilizing local resources to of witnessing a very happy reunion of menu for the boys. The prime re- overseas. quisite, of course, in the summer months was something cool, refreshing messages for the "folks back home" and perfectly harmless-inexpensive that are written on the post cards dis- 'way up in Washington. We haven't that a unit of fifteen women can serve and easy to prepare and serve in large tributed by the American Red Cross time to wire for extra money-and five hundred men, quantities on short notice. Soap and throughout its Canteen service. This there you are," said the lad with a water and towels, while not on the is done in cases where the men are menu exactly, were immensely appre- unable to write themselves. Recently ciated, and flowers were a real refresh- a distribution of the cards was made ment. All were enthusiastically re- to a number of colored troops, and the money sent to your next stop."

of the country find their way into the on our part, for when they returned registered just a few minutes before. national headquarters of the American from their exercises through the city insight into the work.

each nurse with a beautiful red rose. things that had ever happened to them. he got to where he was going.

He Got Ninety!

At another canteen station a lone Orleans is in charge of a very fine col- arm and the knee. And I got so mad

ped for rest and recreation, and to plied to the American Red Cross Can- coaches. After serving the sandwiches the Canteens, designated as "transfer the workers against cold while waiting date has entertained every batch of teen at a station for a more suitable and coffee we made the second trip stations," have immediate ambulance for the trains. negro selects leaving for cantonments. lunch for the men than could be found around, and each boy aboard received service for transferring sick and It is maintained by New Orleans Chap- in the regular lunch room. Service a Red Cross chocolate bar and ciga- wounded service men to hospitals, as Cross canteen is just exactly what a At some points, notably in Texas, Canteen service is maintained to give is but one of many instances that was the sweetest thing I ever saw."

and orderly, and their appreciation and orderly, and their appreciation are sick soldiers in transit.

All official American Red Cross Can-ly developed, while others embrace refreshments to the aviators at their demonstrate the efficiency of the Can-

have been erected, and all troop trains | er for years found he was to pass are switched on either side of them through his "home town" and wrote that the men may be served quickly her to that effect, asking that she meet him at the train. The message Upon the return recently of the na- did not reach her. Naturally, very tinental tour of the canteen stations, canteen worker. When she heard his a point in the west, "And if it weren't | Canteen worker, bearing the Led she presented a list of delightfully story she immediately started out in for one thing I and my chum could Cross insignia, is worn conspicuously troops-lists registering ingenuity and her to the station and had the pleasure

Canteen workers often supply the ceived by the men after a hot and dirty many of the Canteen workers were called upon to do the writing. In com- And as they boarded the out-going come to acknowledge that the Canteen Interesting "sidelights" on the Can- menting upon the incident one of the train they were quite a different look- is a unique addition to troop transporteen activities the length and breadth workers said: "The giving was not all ing expression from that which they tation. At a time when the whole ma-Red Cross and give one a very human the colored men were formed in a hol- ality but a "flash" of the great Can- cident and weather should result in low square by their Commandant and teen service in operation, one receives unforeseeable delay and discomfort-In one city where it was known that the 'talent' of the regiment ordered but the barest outline of the far-reach- the prolongation of journeys far benineteen nurses were to pass through out. The singing was beautiful and ing effect of this branch of the Ameri- youd their expected time often deon the train, en route overseas, twelve the clog dancing entertaining." The can Red Cross activities in this councanteen workers in uniform boarded colored men were so pleased with their try. the train on its arrival and presented treatment that several of them made speeches, and one spokesman stated The American Red Cross furnishes American Red Cross canteen service

"This is swell and helps a fellow a teen Workers are carefully investigat- the minimum equipment. All are dolot," said a big olive-drabbed boy after ed and enrolled under oath of alling a wonderful work in which it is a A soldier who had not seen his moth- partaking of canteen refreshments at legiance, and the woven shield of the pleasure to have a share.

come mighty near being happy now."

make an appetizing and attractive mother and son before duty called him fix it," smilingly encouraged a charm- and a mail clerk. The size of the Caning Canteen worker.

wistful smile.

"We'll send the wires for you and have ed the provisions of the Government

# Workers Take Oath,

They were quite overcome and declar- that he was going to have the Ameri- all commanders of troop trains, con- assists the officer conducting transed the courtesy was one of the nicest can Red Cross Canteen "writ up" when ductors and railway officials with a Canteen directory, embracing the "It was the supper hour, but my com- names of the chapters which have or- road by feeding the troops in the railmittee was at the station at work on ganized Canteen units. Upon being road yard, thus preventing congestion negro was served. He had been in ham sandwiches and preparing coffee given the briefest possible telegraphic at the station. Many cities of the South are ergan- France, had been wounded and was within twenty minutes after notifica- notice these chapters are prepared to izing colored auxiliary canteen com- sent home on a furlough to get well. tion of the time of arrival of the render assistance of all kinds to troops road ordered a freight car given the mittees. The colored canteen in New "Yessum," he said, "I was hit in the troops," says a Canteen captain in a en route. Troop train commanders, havrecent report. "When the train arriv- ing government funds for the purpose, with light and gas and placed on a ored woman of education and a gradu- when I was hit I grabbed my gun and ed my five ladies served nice fresh pay the government rate for rations or- side-track near the railway station. ate nurse. The canteen has headquar- I sure let her go. Yessum, I'se satis- country ham sandwiches from large dered. In cases of accident or sickness The canteen unit is thus able to keep trays garnished with lettuce. I had to occuring en route medical assistance the coffee hot and have refreshments En route to Waynesville hospital, a call in the husbands, as we had only and ambulance service are arranged on hand for the incoming troop trains, sergeant with six invalid soldiers aptwenty minutes to serve eleven for if requested in advance. Some of and it also serves as a protection to was given immediately and eggs, fruit, rettes. Every single boy was courteous well as specially prepared food for community decides to make it. Some

"Tell us about that one thing that Canteen unit includes a captain, first makes you unhappy. Maybe we can and second lieutenants, a supply clerk teen unit depends largely on the fre-"Well, we're broke, and no one can quency of the troop movements fix that but our dads, and they are through its location. It is estimated

At first both Army officers and railway men felt that the Canteen service "That's easy," said the Canteen girl. was not a necessity, in that it duplicatand the railroads. But observers in "Hurrah for you!" cried the boys, both Army and railroad service have chinery of travel is geared to an un From the foregoing, which is in re- heard-of speed, it is inevitable that acmous travel on the railroads often limits the available railway supplies. The portation by giving him an immediate depot of supplies and helps the rail-

In one city the president of the rail.

The equipment of an American Red

One objection to the employment of white men for unskilled work is that it may bar blacks from employment of any kind. White labor now has a monopoly of the skilled trades and there is a possibility that the high wages for white unskilled labor may cause employers to hire white men exclusively, as they refuse to pay the same

Washington, D. C., Oct. 25 .- Conservative estimates place the number

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vote for county commissioner. He is Now stand by him. all right.

the government, and Rufus Long, who we like him. We hope some of our places. Absorbs a good deal of mois- country. and is now on the way overseas. also vote for him. Pearce deserves re-election. Vote for him. We want positions and jobs, no: paltry denations and men who give feris is going to have a walk-away republican, democrat, socialist, prohi- our people employment should receive with Charles O. Lobeck have got an-

candidate or candidates you wish. You didate for municipal judge. In season ness to serve his constituents, irre- unskilled labor shall be the exclusive may vote straight or split your ticket. and out of season, he has done what- spective of party, race, religion or property of Kaffir natives or whether Charles Unitt should receive your help our people in any way he could. for any man. The probability is that work. There is considerable differ-

Edwin Huntley, editor of the Med- every vote he can get. Harry Pearce, register of deeds, lator, is a candidate for the legisgave employment to two competent lature on the democratic ticket. He Colored clerks, Guy Singleton, who frankly states that he wants votes. dull green color. Found in meadows in favor of educating white men to sides of the ocean at little less than

Those who think that Albert W. Jef- WHITES OBJECT TO other think coming. Congressman Lobeck has made many staunch and Don't forget Julius S. Cooley, can- fast friends by his cheerful willing- Transvaal is now discussing whether ever he could to find employment and color. This is a strong political asset white men shall be employed for such Jefferis will be elected, but it is going ence of opinion in the matter, and al-

resigned to resume his position with He's going to get our vote, because and pastures and in out of the way perform all important work of the 400,000.

was called to the colors in August friends who value our opinion will ture, but neither pigs nor cows will

NATIVES HAVING ALL UNSKILLED LABOR

Transvaal, S. A., Oct. 16.-The to take work to do it. He will need though certain interests oppose the employment of white men at comparatively high wages, several news-

money to blacks. NEARLY FOUR HUNDRED

THOUSAND SOLDIERS

of Colored soldiers now in the United Mullen, common, woolly weed of a papers and organizations are strongly States army establishment on both