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Original paper



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## **The Activities of the American Red Cross Medical Personnel in Russia on the Southwestern and Caucasian Fronts during World War I**

### **Abstract**

This article attempts to examine the history of the American Red Cross mission in Russia aimed at providing medical care to sick and wounded Russian soldiers during World War I. Currently, in Russian and foreign historiography, humanitarian cooperation between Russia and the United States is presented in a fragmented and unsystematic manner, and this topic has not received the deserved academic attention. The author has identified the following objectives of this research: to analyze and supplement the existing material on the activities of the American Red Cross mission in Russia, to identify the features and mechanisms of its work, and to draw a general conclusion about the significance of this mission for the United States and Russian-American relations in particular. The article is based on materials from American periodical press and archival sources from the Russian State Historical Archive, Russian



State Military Historical Archive, and Russian State Archive of the Navy. The research concludes that under the conditions of an unprecedented war, this assistance could not play a significant role in establishing Russian sanitary corps. However, this objective is not the only measure of the mission's importance. In fact, the American Red Cross mission became one element of the indirect participation of the United States in the war before April 1917, as well as a tool for promoting the American Red Cross among the American population. In Russian-American relations, the mission was part of public diplomacy and international communication aimed at strengthening trust and mutual goodwill between both peoples.

**Keywords:**

American Red Cross; Russian Red Cross society; American hospital at Kiev; American hospital at Khoi; American colony at Petrograd; Edvard Egbert; Sophia Kiel; Lucy Minnigerode

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In the history of Russian-American relations, the presence of American medical personnel in Russia under the auspices of the American Red Cross (hereinafter — ARC) during the First World War was not the first and only instance of American assistance to the population and soldiers. Russian and foreign historiography has examined in detail the his-

tory of American doctors in Russian service on the Crimean War fronts<sup>1</sup> and the Russian expedition consisting of two squadrons under the command of Captain 1st Rank S.S. Lesovsky and Rear Admiral A.A. Popov to the coast of North America, which included humanitarian components expressed in the form of aid to the San Francisco population during a fire on October 23, 1863<sup>2</sup>. Also, thanks to the work of N. Saul and V.I. Zhuravleva, the topic of the first major foreign humanitarian action of the ARC in favor of the starving Russian population in 1891–1892 has been examined<sup>3</sup>. It should be emphasized that these two latter narratives remained in the memory of both peoples, becoming a moral and ideological motive not only for establishing dialogue to improve Russian-American relations, but also for subsequent humanitarian actions by the United States and the benevolent reception of these actions as acts

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<sup>1</sup> *Dvoichenko-Markov E.* Americans in the Crimean War // *Russian Review*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (Apr., 1954). P. 137–145; *Лобков Л.А.* Взаимоотношения русских и иностранных врачей в Крымскую войну // *Dictum — Factum: от исследований к стратегическим решениям.* 2020. №1. С. 87–96; *Id.* Письма Уильяма Рокуэлла Тролла и Уильяма Линна Макмиллена как источник изучения участия американских врачей в Крымскую войну // *Вестник Санкт-Петербургского университета. История.* 2023. Т. 68. № 2. С. 454–467; *Id.* Миф о бесполезности иностранных врачей в Крымскую войну, укоренившийся в отечественной историографии: критический обзор источников // *Миф в истории, политике, культуре.* Сборник материалов VI Международной научной междисциплинарной конференции / Под ред. А.В. Ставицкого. Севастополь. 2023. С. 427–448; и др.

<sup>2</sup> *Golder F.A.* The Russian Fleet and the Civil War. — *The American Historical Review*, October 1915. Vol. 20. No. 4. P. 801–812; *Saul N.E.* Distant Friends: The United States and Russia, 1763–1867. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1991. P. 339–354. For historiography of the issue, see: *Малкин М.М.* Гражданская война в США и царская Россия. М.-Л., 1939. С. 224–281; *Болховитинов И.И.* Историки в поисках истины: визит русского флота в США в 1863–1864 гг. — *Американский ежегодник*, 1994. М., 1995. С. 194–207.

<sup>3</sup> *Saul N.E.* Concord and conflict. The United States and Russia, 1867–1914. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2001. P. 328–374; *Журавлева В.И.* Общее прошлое русских и американцев. Курс лекций. М.: Изд-во РГГУ, 2021. С. 39; See also: *Журавлева В.И.* Из истории российско-американских отношений конца XIX века // *Американский ежегодник.* 1998. М., 1999. С. 148–164. *Id.*: Понимание России в США: образы и мифы 1881–1914. М., 2012. С. 209–257.

of goodwill by the Russian Empire. Subsequently, historiographical discourse shifted toward studying American administration policy toward Russia during the period of revolutionary turmoil and Civil War. In this direction, considerable attention was given to studying the American Red Cross mission, the activities of the American Administration of Relief, and the YMCA<sup>4</sup>.

In turn, humanitarian cooperation between Russia and the United States during the First World War is represented in historiography primarily by foreign research, sometimes fragmentarily and sometimes in an oversimplified manner. This situation allows us to examine these relations via the sources held in Russian archives, and to revisit the interpretation of existing sources in order to form a complete and unified understanding of the variety of forms and types of humanitarian connections between the two states. Currently, there is a very small list of works addressing various aspects of this question. First and foremost, it is necessary to note the work of the aforementioned American historian Norman Saul. In it, the humanitarian aspect of Russian-American relations is described as

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<sup>4</sup> *Рогачев И.В., Силин А.В.* Американские неправительственные организации и политика США на европейском севере России, 1914–1919 гг. // Вестник Нижегородского университета им. Н.И. Лобачевского. 2019. № 3. С. 50–58; *Ипполитов С.С.* «Я видел мертвых...»: Российское общество красного креста и Американский красный крест в Сибири и на Дальнем востоке в 1918–1920 гг. // Россия и современный мир. 2018. № 1 (98). С. 100–112; *Стельмак М.М., Петин Д.И.* Повседневность белогвардейского Омска в объективе американской кинокамеры 1919 г.: к вопросу атрибуции малоизвестного источника // Вестник архивиста. 2019. № 2. С. 357–374; *Шаламов В.А.* Неизвестные Тьюслер: руководитель Американского красного креста в Сибири и на Дальнем Востоке в годы Гражданской войны // Известия Иркутского государственного университета. Серия «История». 2020. Т. 33. С. 31–45; *Id.* Деятельность Американского красного креста в Восточной Сибири в годы Гражданской войны (1918–1920 гг.) // Новейшая история России. 2021. Т. 11. № 1. С. 56–71; *Смит Д.* Российская миссия. Забытая история о том, как Америка спасла Советский Союз от гибели / *Дуглас Смит*; Пер. с англ. Евгения Фоменко. М., 2021; *Saul N.E.* War and Revolution. The United States and Russia, 1914–1921. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2001; *Polk J.A.* Constructive Efforts: The American Red Cross and YMCA in Revolutionary and Civil War Russia, 1917–24: Ph.D. dissertation. University of Toronto, 2012; and others.

an independent theme, which is presented as a topic requiring further scholarly research<sup>5</sup>. This thesis was confirmed by the Russian historian V.I. Zhuravleva, noting that “the study of religious and humanitarian aspects of bilateral relations <...> still remains a promising direction of research”<sup>6</sup>.

Subsequently, American historians concentrated their attention on individual episodes of Russian-American relations in this field. Thus, Lyubov Ginzburg focused on studying the activities of the American colony in Petrograd, which had established a hospital in the city that served as a vehicle for public diplomacy among Russian soldiers<sup>7</sup>. Another American historian, Joshua Segal, examined the story of a group of American doctors and nurses that had worked on the Southwestern and Caucasian fronts, devoting more attention to the peculiarities of their life and work in hospitals in Kiev, Khoi (Khoi), and Qazvin, and noting the determining role of American capital and representatives of the American colony in maintaining cordial relations between Russia and the United States through humanitarian actions under the banner of the ARC<sup>8</sup>. Nevertheless, in our opinion, the history of the first ARC mission in

<sup>5</sup> Saul N.E. War and Revolution. The United States and Russia, 1914–1921... P. 36–53.

<sup>6</sup> Журавлева В.И. Изучение истории российско-американских отношений в XXI веке по обе стороны Атлантики: исследовательские подходы и практики // Новая и Новейшая история. 2022. Т. 66. № 4. С. 38.

<sup>7</sup> Ginzburg L. Confronting the Cold war legacy: The forgotten history of the American colony in St. Petersburg. A case study of reconciliation. Ph.D. dissertation. University of Kansas, 2010. P. 238; Id. Rediscovering the “Living Human Document” of a goodwill initiative: Letters from Russian Soldiers Cared for at the Citi Hospital of the American Colony in Petrograd, 1914–1918 // New Perspectives on Russian-American Relations. N.Y.: Routledge, 2015. Available at: file:///C:/Users/ztare/OneDrive/Рабочий%20стол/Канд.диссер/Красный%20крест/американская%20литература/New%20Perspectives%20on%20Russian-American%20Relations%20(Routledge%20Studies%20in%20Cultural%20History)%20by%20William%20Benton%20Whisenhunt%20&%20Norman%20E.%20Saul.epub. (Accessed 19 Dec. 2024).

<sup>8</sup> Segal J.E. American Humanitarian Volunteerism in Russia’s Military 1914–1917. Ph.D. dissertation. George Washington University, 2018; Id. American join the Russian Persia Expeditionary Force // The Journal of Russian-American Studies. 2023. No. 7.2. P. 125.

Russia (lasting from 1914 to 1916) can be expanded by taking into account new sources, and interpreted through a re-reading of existing materials. It should be separately emphasized that this topic cannot be exhausted in a single article and deserves closer attention from researchers.

From the first days of August 1914, the Old World plunged into the chaos of military preparations. At the same time, on the other side of the world, the situation was relatively calm. President W. Wilson and his administration chose a position of complete neutrality in the European conflict. The American public generally unanimously approved the policy of the newly installed president. However, Americans did not wish to demonstrate their alienation from world military-political events; on the contrary, they sought to manifest genuine sympathy for the fate of European peoples. Within the strict constraints of neutrality policy, the main form of indirect American participation in the war was humanitarian activity aimed at supporting widows, orphans, wounded soldiers, and prisoners of war. One form of such assistance was the organization and dispatch of American Red Cross missions to warring countries on both sides of the conflict.

Unit H under the leadership of Dr. Edward Egbert and Unit C headed by Dr. William Magill, later replaced by Dr. Philip Newton, were sent to Russia<sup>9</sup>. Each unit represented, as much as possible, a well-coordinated working team of one hospital. In the opinion of ARC leadership, such an approach significantly increased the efficiency of the unit's work in new conditions and saved time that could otherwise be spent on team cohesion, assembled from unfamiliar personnel members<sup>10</sup>. In September 1914, the American group reached the Scottish city of Dundee, from where they crossed the North Sea by ship and arrived at the coast of Norway, then through Sweden, headed to the Finnish city of Rauma, where they were met by A. Bobrinsky, representatives of the Russian Red Cross Society

<sup>9</sup> *Segal J.E.* American Humanitarian Volunteerism in Russia's Military 1914–1917... P. 56.

<sup>10</sup> *Wadsworth Eliot.* The Work of the Red Cross in the Event of War // *The American Journal of Nursing.* 1917. Vol. 17. No. 12. P. 1154.

(hereinafter — RRCS) and the U.S. embassy, who then accompanied them by train to Petrograd<sup>11</sup>. According to the recollections of Sophia Kiel, in the capital of the Russian Empire they were met by the head of the local branch of the RRCS Dr. Brinsky, who at the meeting paid attention to the mission, emphasizing that “they [the Russians. — V.T.] never forgot about the generosity of America, which had sent to Russia ships laden with flour”<sup>12</sup>.

While the fate of the ARC mission was being decided in Petrograd, the American personnel was stationed in one of the hospitals of M.P. von Kaufman Community of Sisters of Mercy. During this time, the Americans received honors both from American Ambassador George T. Marye and Consul North Winship, and from Her Imperial Majesty Maria Feodorovna<sup>13</sup>.

As a result, the ARC mission was incorporated into the RRCS as a special department. The American doctors officially entered the service of the Russian army: Doctors Egbert and Newton were given the rank of general, and the other (assistant) doctors became lieutenant colonels. In turn, the nurses of mercy received certificates certifying their status as RRCS nurses. Their future place of work became the city of Kiev (Kyiv)<sup>14</sup>, located in the rear of the South-western front.

The building of the hospital was a wing of the Polytechnic Institute. Here in November 1914, after the arrival of American personnel, a partial restoration and renovation of the premises was carried out at the expense of the RRCS<sup>15</sup>. The Americans had three floors at their disposal. The first was used for personnel, administration, and pharmacy premises. The other floors held wards, operating rooms,

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<sup>11</sup> *Minnigerode Lucy*. Experience of unit C at Kiev, Russia // The American Journal of Nursing. 1915. Vol. 16. No 3. PP. 220–221; Военная хроника // Русский инвалид. 1914. № 217. С. 2.

<sup>12</sup> *Kiel Sophia*. Experiences in Russia. Proceedings of the Twenty-First Annual Convention of the American Nurses' Association // The American Journal of Nursing. 1918. Vol. 18. No. 11 P. 1037.

<sup>13</sup> *Minnigerode Lucy*. Experience of unit C at Kiev, Russia... P. 221.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Russian State Military Historical Archive (РГВИА). Ф. 12733. Оп. 1. Д. 3. Л. 20–26.



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and dressing rooms<sup>16</sup>. Later, an X-ray cabinet, a physical therapy department<sup>17</sup>, and a dental office were opened at the hospital<sup>18</sup>. The latter enjoyed special popularity due to frequent maxillofacial injuries in the war.

The RRCS leadership also provided the American personnel with all necessary materials and equipment, and M.P. von Kaufman Community of Sisters of Mercy assigned several of their nurses fluent in English to assist the American hospital<sup>19</sup>. The administration of the Polytechnic Institute also provided assistance within its capacity<sup>20</sup>. Overall, it can be said that the Main Board of the RRCS provided all necessary support to the American mission; practically all justified requests from the doctors were satisfied in full. For example, at the doctors' request, 50 improved beds were purchased for the severely wounded, and in May 1915, the chief plenipotentiary of the RRCS for the armies of the Southwestern front B.E. Ivanitsky satisfied the request to increase beds to 800<sup>21</sup>. The

<sup>16</sup> *Minnigerode Lucy*. Experience of unit C at Kief, Russia... P. 222.

<sup>17</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 12733. Оп. 1. Д. 3. Л. 13, 38–38 об.

<sup>18</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 12677. Оп. 1. Д. 1. Л. 27.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* Л. 18, 20, 24.

<sup>20</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 12733. Оп. 1. Д. 3. Л. 12.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* Л. 40–41.

hospital was also supplied with 5 automobiles with all the necessary sanitary supplies<sup>22</sup>.

Of course, in turn, the head office of the ARC sought to support the work of its foreign missions. The main sources of financing for these purposes were membership fees and private donations from American citizens. With this money, the ARC provided for the maintenance of personnel and purchased all necessary equipment and medicines for its missions<sup>23</sup>. Local autonomous ARC branches also participated in this on their own initiative<sup>24</sup>. In particular, the American hospital in Kiev received support from the Pasadena and Princeton branches<sup>25</sup>.

In total, the American hospital in Kiev consisted of 36 employees: 5 American doctors — Edward Egbert, Philip Newton, Paul and Arthur Zinkhan, Brown McClintic, and the RRCS doctor Leonard Gintston attached to the mission; 26 American nurses: Helen Scott Hay, Lucy Minnigerode, Charlotte Burgess, Edwina Klee, Gertrude Heid, Margaret Maguire, Mary Hill, Mary Bauman, Alma Foerster, Alice Gilbourne, Martha Moritz, Anne Hansen, Frieda Hartman, Lucia Bartram, Margaret Pepper, Blanche Horner, Florence Snyder, Mary Frederika Farley, Rachel Torrance, Maud Metcalf, Helen Norwood, Florence Farmer, Helen Linderman, Sophia Kiel, Roberta Lee Crowell; 5 sisters of mercy from M.P. von Kaufman Community: Maria Pavlovna Meisner, Lidia Georgievna de Molinari, Olga Aleksandrovna Matveeva, Aleksandra Vilgelmovna Gartman, and Nadezhda Anatolyevna Zvorykina. The department also included RRCS plenipotentiary Fedor Anatolyevich Zvorykin, manager of economic affairs Vladimir Fedorovich Petersen, pharmacist Georgy Oskarovich Bunis<sup>26</sup>. Later appointed as clerk was student of Kiev Polytechnic Institute Ivan Karlovich Weber. In January 1915, the mission

<sup>22</sup> Honor Paid to U.S. Red Cross Corps on the Way to Duty at Kief, Russia // The Washington Post. 1914. 12 Oct. P. 2.

<sup>23</sup> Eight months of European relief work // The American Red Cross. Vol. 10. No. 5. P. 179.

<sup>24</sup> Wadsworth Eliot. Op. cit. P. 1155.

<sup>25</sup> Russian State Historical Archive (РГИА). Ф. 544. Оп. 2. Д. 424. Л. 18.

<sup>26</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 12733. Оп. 1. Д. 1. Л. 1-1 об.



Американские врачи, руководители миссии Американского Красного Креста — Филипп Ньютон (слева) и Эдварт Х. Эгберт (справа).

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was expanded by three more doctors: Van Din, M.M. Kadets, and head of the dental office L.I. Blank<sup>27</sup>. Subsequently, the composition of the hospital changed; in the summer of 1915, it had 43 members of medical personnel and 80 orderlies<sup>28</sup>.

The work at the American hospital in Kiev was, according to the testimony of staff members, not just difficult, but even heroic. The close proximity to the front meant an endless stream of wounded soldiers. As Dr. Zinkhan indicated in a letter to his father published in the Washington Post newspaper: “We receive our patients in batches of 10 to 250 people, strive to provide them with quick and quality medical care, and then send them into the interior of the country. Currently, our work schedule includes more than 400 operations per month, and during this time we use more than 10,000 sets of dressing materials” (all such quotations are back translations from Russian — *Editor*)<sup>29</sup>.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. A. 27.

<sup>28</sup> Busy in “Hell of war” // Washington Post. 1915. 2 Aug. P. 2.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

In newspaper publications they also described the nature of injuries requiring complex surgical intervention, which was due to the completely new impact of shells and weapons. According to American surgeons, there were cases of brain hernias the size of a “man’s fist”, serious bone fragmentation, and complicated extraction of bullets from the head and facial area<sup>30</sup>. Drs. Zinkhan even conducted his own statistics at the hospital, noting that “the largest number of injuries occurred to the thigh, the second most common were head injuries, and the third were forearm injuries”<sup>31</sup>.

While fulfilling their medical and nursing duties daily, the Americans discovered a completely different side of life in Russia. Thanks to communication with their patients, they became acquainted with Russian culture and mentality previously unknown to them. According to many recollections, Russian soldiers made only the most pleasant impressions. Nurse Lucy Minnigerode paid tribute to the resilience and patience of the soldiers: “they were very patient, made few demands, and did not complain. Under conditions of a limited number of nurses, caring for them would have been impossible if they had not possessed these character traits”<sup>32</sup>. Doctor Paul Zinkhan makes a comparison of the characters of Russians and Americans: “I have spent almost my entire life in hospitals, but here, in our hospital, I have never seen so few whiners and complainers among men as in our hospital, although the wounds and suffering of our patients would have shamed an equal number of our patients at home, in America”<sup>33</sup>. However, not only men but Russian women, too, earned American praise, noting their genuine self-sacrifice for the country. Here is how Dr. E. Egbert spoke of them: women “make all possible personal sacrifices and willingly perform any work for the common cause”<sup>34</sup>.

In addition to medical observation and patient care, American nurses strived to maintain the morale and spirits of patients at

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<sup>30</sup> Marvelous work by war surgeons // Evening Star. 1915. 2 Aug. P. 10.

<sup>31</sup> Drs. Zinkhan home from war service // Evening Star. 1915. 18 Nov. P. 13.

<sup>32</sup> *Minnigerode Lucy*. Experience of unit C at Kief, Russia... P. 224.

<sup>33</sup> Busy in “Hell of war” // Washington Post. 1915. 2 Aug. P. 2.

<sup>34</sup> Marvelous work by war surgeons // Evening Star. 1915. 2 Aug. P. 10.



Американский врач Артур Зинхан в окружении пациента и медсестер РОКК  
и АКК.

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a high level. They organized various events to brighten the routine of hospital life. For example, the hospital celebrated Catholic and Orthodox Christmas. At the latter “all soldiers, except those seriously ill, came to this celebration; bedridden patients were brought down together with their beds”<sup>35</sup>. The nurses also gave patients gifts: sweaters, socks, candies, and pastries. Several times a week, concerts were organized “when the men played and sang their folk and marching songs, performed local dances <...> these concerts were always a source of the greatest pleasure for us”<sup>36</sup>.

Upon closer acquaintance with the Russians and their stories from pre-war life or life at the front, Americans’ perception of Russia changed. This happened naturally, because “the Russian muzhik” made no effort to represent himself in a good, favorable image according to certain rules; the people acted naturally, in a genuine manner. The impression of American personnel about

<sup>35</sup> *Minnigerode Lucy*. Experience of unit C at Kief, Russia... P. 224.

<sup>36</sup> *Minnigerode Lucy*. The Heart of Hospital in Russia // The American Red Cross magazine. 1915. Vol. 10. No. 9. P. 314.

life in Russia was repeatedly raised in the press. Their texts are full of enthusiastic, vivid, and emotional expressions about traits of the Russian mentality, and each such report ended with words of gratitude to the Russian person. Here is a recollection of Lucy Minnigerode, published in *The American Journal of Nursing*: “Russia is a country so little known and considered difficult to access, so vast, with such a variety of races and religions, that it would take a whole lifetime to truly understand it, but even a brief stay in it is enough to convince a person that much of what is said about it is exaggerated, much else is false. In every sphere of life, a stranger crossing the threshold of their home is met with kindness and courtesy. Everyone may come and go as they please, provided that certain rules are observed. Their hospitality is boundless and natural, and the guest is literally given the whole house. They possess a broad outlook, are generous and have great hearts; for me it is a great honor to have the opportunity to acquaint myself with them in their own country”<sup>37</sup>.

These are the words of Dr. Paul Zinkhan: “Truly, this is a wonderful country, and the people there are also remarkable. The Russian peasant is the happiest man I have ever known. He is polite, and more than that, he is courteous. Everything he has belongs to you. How all this differs from our Western conception of Russia. At first you regard it with suspicion, then you begin to understand, and finally, you come to love Russia and the Russians”<sup>38</sup>.

In turn, the Russians were filled with mutual sympathy for the American personnel. Quite quickly, as Nurse Helen Scott Hay expressed it, in the hearts of Russian soldiers who became patients of the American hospital, an attachment was born “to all the American nurses, even the most querulous and irritable ones!”<sup>39</sup> The soldiers, answering questions from higher-ranking officials about the degree of contact and dialogue with the Americans, spoke well of them and noted that there was no need to understand, “since they [the Amer-

<sup>37</sup> *Minnigerode Lucy*. Experience of unit C at Kief, Russia... P. 226.

<sup>38</sup> Busy in “Hell of war”... P. 2.

<sup>39</sup> *Hay Helen Scott*. Meeting the Czar of all the Russias // The American Red Cross magazine. 1915. Vol. 10. No. 5. P. 185.

ican nurses. — V.T.] do everything for you”<sup>40</sup>. In other words, the care and attention of the American nurses spoke volumes to patients, making words superfluous.

Through their tireless work, American medical personnel also gained the recognition and goodwill of Russian authorities, which was expressed in an invitation to a meeting with Emperor Nicholas II. The meeting took place at a passenger railway station in the Tsar’s pavilion surrounded by guests and representatives of high-ranking nobility<sup>41</sup>. With his good manners and friendliness, the Emperor of All Russia made a very pleasant impression on them. As Nurse Helen Scott Hay expressed it: “He won us all over with his directness and simplicity”<sup>42</sup>. He arrived in a simple “colonel’s uniform, such as our young doctors wear. Doctor Egbert was a general, and the Tsar saluted him”. The Emperor shook hands with all the doctors, paid attention to each one as much as possible, to personally thank the Americans for the good care provided to Russian soldiers<sup>43</sup>.

Having dealt with the peculiarities of the American mission’s work in Kiev, particular attention needs to be paid to its significance both for the American personnel and for the organization in general. In this situation, one can speak of two levels of perception of the mission’s significance: the first, at the level of personal motives and the views of the Americans themselves; the second, at the level of objectives set before the organization, caused by internal needs and external circumstances.

In the first case, in the motives and actions of American medical personnel, a parallel can be traced with the history of American doctors in Russian service during the Crimean War. As described by Russian researchers V.N. Ponomarev and N.N. Bolkhovitinov, for the American doctors of that era, such an adventure “did not promise in reward either material gains or glory. It was enthusiasts who went, moved by a genuine desire to help the wounded and sick, as

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<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Высочайшее посещение г. Киева // Киевские епархиальные ведомости. 1915. LIV. № 5. С. 114.

<sup>42</sup> *Hay Helen Scott*. Meeting the Czar of all the Russias... P. 188.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

well as to acquire practical experience in medical practice”<sup>44</sup>. The same motives and desires can be traced in the ARC personnel. Thus, for many nurses, participation in a foreign mission became “the beginning of a career as a foreign nurse”<sup>45</sup>, and after arriving in Russia, the conditions faced by doctors and nurses in Kiev were assessed by them as “a challenge, not a cause for disappointment”<sup>46</sup>.

Moreover, in addition to feelings of compassion and a desire to be useful in the war, the personnel was guided by a sense of patriotism. They allowed the thought of possible American involvement in the European conflict, and from the point of view of working in a hospital near the front, this mission was perceived by them as invaluable experience both in organizing a team in extraordinary conditions and in personal professional development. “The value for us lies in the experience of simultaneously dealing with a multitude of patients, all of them tired, sick, hungry, and frozen, and all striving for swift recovery. To accomplish this task in the shortest time while maintaining the hospital routine requires a certain organization and system, and this I consider invaluable, among other things”<sup>47</sup>. When Dr. Egbert returned to the United States in the summer of 1915, he invited his colleague Dr. Malcolm Grow to go with him back to Russia. The main argument was obtaining invaluable experience that could be directed for the benefit of his own country: “I do not know, but we all feel, all of us who are in Europe, that America will inevitably be drawn into this great world conflict. If this happens, then the preparation and experience which you will gain in Russia will serve you well when the opportunity comes to serve your own country”<sup>48</sup>. These words were decisive in Dr. Grow’s decision to go to Russia.

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<sup>44</sup> Болховитинов Н.Н. Пономарев В.Н. Американские врачи в Крымской войне // США: Экономика, политика, идеология. 1980. № 6. С. 65.

<sup>45</sup> Kernodle P.B. The Red Cross Nurse in Action, 1882–1948. New York: Harper & Brothers, Publishers, 1949. P. 96.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid. P. 103.

<sup>47</sup> Minnigerode Lucy. Experience of unit C at Kiev, Russia... P. 226.

<sup>48</sup> Grow M.C. Surgeon Grow. An American in the Russian fighting. New York: Frederick A. Stokes company publishers, 1918. P. 5.

In turn, the tasks that the ARC set for itself differed from the views of the personnel and had a dual character. First, through the organization, dispatch, and work of foreign missions, the ARC intended to solve its own pressing problem associated with low popularity of the organization in the United States itself, which had led to a lull in membership and in organization of local regional branches in the States. Before the war, the organization had 17 thousand members and 107 branches. Periodic comparison of the capabilities and strength of other national Red Cross<sup>49</sup> societies and demonstration in the press of their own achievements at war and positive reactions, words of thanks from warring countries<sup>50</sup>, were supposed to show citizens that their donations and, together with that, the efforts of the ARC were not in vain and were bearing fruit. One can assume that such advertising could have contributed to an increase in the prestige of the ARC. The figures show that by the end of the war, the composition of the organization and its territorial coverage had increased significantly – 20 million people and 3,864 branches<sup>51</sup>.

At the same time, the activities of the ARC mission fully corresponded to the plans of President W. Wilson's administration, who was also president of the ARC, to create an exceptionally favorable image of the United States in the eyes of the warring European states. This action provided a unique opportunity for the American president to conduct a foreign policy PR move aimed at demonstrating the United States as a peacemaker and benefactor, especially since from the first months of the war the American president sought to bring warring countries to peace negotiations<sup>52</sup>.

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<sup>49</sup> The Campaign Grows by Leaps and Bounds // The American Red Cross magazine. 1916. Vol. 11. No. 3. P. 85, 88.

<sup>50</sup> Word from the Front // The American Red Cross magazine. 1915. Vol. 10. No. 1. P. 37–41: More Letters of Gratitude // The American Red Cross magazine. 1915. Vol. 10. No. 9. P. 320–325.

<sup>51</sup> American Red Cross. A Brief History of the American Red Cross. [online] Available at: <https://www.redcross.org/about-us/who-we-are/history.html> (Accessed 21 Dec. 2024).

<sup>52</sup> Шаццлло В.К. Россия и США: от Портсмутского мира до падения царизма. Очерки истории отношений. М., 2019. С. 168–200.

Second, the activities of foreign ARC missions also fit within the framework of public diplomacy, which was expressed in promoting among European medical services the high standards of work of American hospitals and nursing, thereby creating and consolidating a positive image of the country, indirectly confirming once again the status of a successful American model of statehood. Thus, in one of the issues of *The American Red Cross Magazine*, one can find confirmation that some European countries were greatly impressed by the work of the Americans, and decided to follow their example. In particular, in Budapest, the head of the “city mission” asked the leader of Unit E to acquaint a group of Hungarian women with the specifics and methods of teaching nursing and their work in the USA. The Queen of Greece intended to organize a nursing school, sending one of her subjects to study at the hospital in Philadelphia for this purpose<sup>53</sup>. As for Russia, during the cleaning of the premises of the newly established hospital in Kiev, American nurses demonstrated a professional approach to compliance with sanitary norms, which met with a positive response in local newspapers. Following the American example in the future were 20 representatives of Russian aristocracy. When opening another a hospital, they “cleaned it exactly as American nurses did, and bathed patients as they observed the Americans do”<sup>54</sup>.

The American personnel, in turn, also strove to create a favorable appearance of Americans in the eyes of the Russians. As Nurse Minnigerode expressed it in *The American Journal of Nursing*: “There is not a single soldier who, being a patient of the American hospital, did not report this at home and did not tell of the work done for him. Many of our patients sent us a message from home, and most often these letters contained words of thanks from their wives and mothers. <...> When we realize that the soldiers arriving to us come from all corners of Russia and that kind words about our hospital are sent to the homes of each of them in Siberia, in southern Russia,

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<sup>53</sup> Delano J.A. A chat about the nurses abroad // *The American Red Cross magazine*. 1915. Vol. 10 No. 2. P. 84–85.

<sup>54</sup> Kernodle P.B. Op. cit. P. 98.

in Poland or the Crimea, then comes the realization that the work done by the American Red Cross has not been in vain. News of our work from now on and in the future will be known and respected from one end of the Empire to the other and will be passed from father to son for many generations”<sup>55</sup>.

In these words, a parallel can be traced with the first charitable Christmas Ship action, the purpose of which was, in addition to bringing actual humanitarian aid, to leave a favorable impression in the memory of European peoples and their future generations, which in the future would make it possible to unite nations thanks to and around the United States<sup>56</sup>.

A parallel can also be traced with the activities of the American colony in Petrograd, which established its own hospital in the capital. Based on the array of letters of gratitude addressed to the Petrograd hospital, American researcher L. Ginzburg concluded that, despite insignificant assistance to Russian public health services, “it is difficult to overestimate the obvious and long-term contribution of America to the ongoing dialogue between the two countries in the course of the war-induced crisis. Through close relations with the Russians and direct participation in the life of the city, Americans brought themselves and their ideals to it, laying the foundation for public diplomacy”<sup>57</sup>. This remark can be fully applied to the activities of the American hospital in Kiev, since the nature of the Amer-

<sup>55</sup> *Minnegerode Lucy*. Experience of unit C at Kief, Russia... P. 226.

<sup>56</sup> War orphans send thanks for gift // *Evening star*. 1915. 15 Feb. P. 5; This thesis is also supported by the following sources: *Heaton F.G.* Taking old Santa to Armageddon // *The American Red Cross magazine*. 1915. Vol. 10. No. 1. P. 36; Bell L. *The story of the Christmas ship*. Chicago: Rand McNally & Company, 1915. P. 34.

<sup>57</sup> *Ginzburg L.* Rediscovering the “Living Human Document” of a goodwill initiative: Letters from Russian Soldiers Cared for at the Citi Hospital of the American Colony in Petrograd, 1914–1918 // *New Perspectives on Russian-American Relations*. N.Y.: Routledge, 2015. Available at: [file:///C:/Users/ztare/OneDrive/Рабочий%20стол/Канд.диссер/Красный%20крест/американская%20литература/New%20Perspectives%20on%20Russian-American%20Relations%20\(Routledge%20Studies%20in%20Cultural%20History\)%20by%20William%20Benton%20Whisenhunt%20&%20Norman%20E.%20Saul.epub](file:///C:/Users/ztare/OneDrive/Рабочий%20стол/Канд.диссер/Красный%20крест/американская%20литература/New%20Perspectives%20on%20Russian-American%20Relations%20(Routledge%20Studies%20in%20Cultural%20History)%20by%20William%20Benton%20Whisenhunt%20&%20Norman%20E.%20Saul.epub). (Accessed 19 Dec. 2024).

ican personnel's activities and the content of letters addressed to them were similar to the work of the Petrograd hospital.

This argument becomes even more compelling if one takes into account the fact that, due to the deterioration of the ARC's financial situation, the American mission in Kiev was supposed to be closed on October 1, 1915. Actually, this occurred even earlier, on September 15, because as a result of changes that had taken place in the summer of 1915 on the Southwestern front and the looming danger of German invasion of Kiev, the personnel, patients, and equipment of the American hospital were urgently evacuated, and everything else was destroyed<sup>58</sup>. During this period, some personnel returned to the United States, while the remaining group of Americans provided assistance to the wounded at dressing stations located in railway and tram depot buildings<sup>59</sup>.

The members of the American colony in Petrograd tried to improve the situation. They collected a small sum of 4,000 rubles in order to extend the work of the American personnel in Kiev for several months. However, this proved insufficient, and the American colony attempted to mobilize public forces in the United States again in order to attract the necessary funds. The main method of persuasion became the widespread description the results of the work of American doctors and nurses and the importance of their mission in establishing and strengthening Russian-American relations. As indicated in the bulletin *Preserving America's Prestige in Russia*, released by an American pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Russia and, concurrently, head of the American colony in Petrograd, George Simon, the American hospital in Kiev had gained a favorable reputation: "the qualified and tireless work done by the selfless group of doctors and nurses of the American Red Cross, in saving lives and alleviating the suffering of people, acquired considerable significance in promoting goodwill and deep respect on the part of the Russian government and the Russian people toward the United States of America <...> The

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<sup>58</sup> Segal J.E. American Humanitarian Volunteerism in Russia's Military 1914–1917... P. 121–122.

<sup>59</sup> Kiel Sophia. Op. cit. P. 1037–1038.



Тифозный госпиталь в Хое, Персия.

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American Red Cross Hospital in Kiev acquired the reputation of one of the model hospitals in Russia, and many of the worst cases were brought here for operations from the front”, and the closure of the hospital “could lead to a weakening of the constantly growing friendly feelings of the Russian government and people toward the United States of America”<sup>60</sup>. At the same time, on the pages of the September 1915 issue of *The American Red Cross Magazine*, a letter of similar content was printed, in which there was another appeal to make it possible to continue the American mission in Russia: “We know that the Russian authorities are very grateful for the assistance provided by the American Red Cross, and, if possible, would like this society to expand even further its charitable activities in this country <...> There can be no better way to strengthen the friendly ties <...> between the two countries and promote the development of good relations <...> than for the Americans to show active and generous interest in the work that is being conducted so brilliantly”<sup>61</sup>.

What is remarkable here is not only the content, but also the names of the persons who signed it. Among them we can see the

<sup>60</sup> РГИА. Ф. 624. Оп. 1. Д. 6. Л. 1–1 об.

<sup>61</sup> *Minnigerode Lucy*. The Heart of Hospital in Russia // *The American Red Cross magazine*. 1915. Vol. 10. No. 9. P. 311.



Группа беженцев под присмотром персонала американской больницы в Хое, Персия.  
 Фотография сделана коммерческим атташе США в Петрограде  
 Г.Д. Бейкером.  
*From open sources*

signatures of representatives of large and influential American companies. We find the names of American Consul in Russia Henry D. Baker; representatives and executive officers of *American Express Company*, *The Harley-Davidson Motor Company*, *Seattle Car and Foundry Company*, *Guaranty Trust Company*, and others<sup>62</sup>. This coincidence is not accidental.

From the beginning of the 20th century, American capital had begun to actively penetrate Russia, which was expressed in the interest of American industrialists in the country's rich internal resources. After the beginning of the Great War, the US were interested in increasing and deepening financial and trade relations between Russia and the United States, caused by the fact that they had the opportunity to take the place of Germany as the main trade and economic partner. First and foremost, the Americans attempted to resume negotiations regarding a new trade agreement and the establishment of financial relations<sup>63</sup>.

<sup>62</sup> Ibid.

<sup>63</sup> Ганелин Р.Ш. Россия и США, 1914–1917. Очерки истории русско-американских отношений. Л.: Наука, 1969. С. 22–28.

American businessmen understood that Russian authorities did not have the same desire, since all government actions were aimed at keeping the country in the war. In this situation, they chose to continue negotiations with the authorities and at the same time intensively prepare favorable ground via public opinion, so that after the end of the war, they would obtain agreement from the Russian government to American proposals and projects. One of the main tools was charity. It can be said that the Americans followed the thesis of Captain David Hough, expressed in *The Iron Age* magazine: “in order to be successful in Russia <...> one must be able to win over the Russians. <...> The Russians do not like it when foreign capital works exclusively for its own profit, but they are willing to work jointly with foreigners in the interests of Russia”<sup>64</sup>.

This same thought was expressed by the manager of the Petrograd branch of *National City Bank of New York* H. Fessenden Meserve in his reasoning about acquiring Russian railway construction. In particular, he stated that one must act “with special caution and consideration, in the same spirit as you yourselves would have acted if the Russians came to America and began building private railways with their own money. <...> In a foreign country, there is always a danger of accidentally turning people against yourself”<sup>65</sup>.

The relationship between American capital and charity was expressed most vividly by Henry Baker in November 1915 at a Thanksgiving celebration among members of the American colony: “such a policy, although it stems from pure altruism and Christian adherence to the golden rule, nevertheless has important significance for increasing foreign trade, which brings our country great power and prosperity. <...> It seems to me that at the present time it is extremely important that all Americans do everything possible to promote the development of even closer friendly ties between our country and the great Russian Empire. This Empire has special commercial

<sup>64</sup> Россия с точки зрения американского инженера и делового человека // Известия Общества сближения между Россией и Америкой. 1915. Вып. 1. С. 11; Hough D.L. Russian from the point of view of an American Engineer and Business Man // *The Iron Age*. 1915. Vol. 95. No. 12. P. 665–666.

<sup>65</sup> Ганелин Р.Ш. Оp. cit. С. 62.

and industrial problems requiring solution, in which American experience may prove to be of greatest value”<sup>66</sup>.

American industrialists and financiers did not limit their support to soldiers alone. They provided charitable assistance to affected populations and prisoners of war. In the first case, after news of the unfortunate incident in Bakaritsa, one of the ports of Arkhangelsk, three New York firms responded to aid the victims of the tragedy: *American International Corporation*, *Allied Contracting Company* (New York), and *National City Bank of New York*, which, together with the Russian joint-stock *Company of Technical Equipment and Structures*, sent 40,000 rubles to Russia<sup>67</sup>. In the second case, at a meeting of the Committee for Assistance to Russian Prisoners of War in Enemy Countries, in August 1915, a proposal was considered from *American Express Company* to provide material assistance to prisoners of war and facilitation in sending money transfers and parcels to Russian prisoners<sup>68</sup>.

Of course, the culmination of their charitable activities was support for the American Red Cross mission in Russia, or, more precisely, the remaining group of American doctors and nurses in Kiev, who would later demonstrate their skills and experience in the struggle for the lives of Russian soldiers in Khoy on the Caucasian front. The choice in favor of the ARC mission stemmed from the understanding that its activities were widely known in Russia, as evidenced by the aforementioned response from authorities and society.

At that point, the American personnel was housed at an evacuation point, and negotiations were being conducted in Petrograd about their future. At a meeting on September 21, 1915, the General Administration of the RRCS decided to send the Americans to the Caucasus at the disposal of the Head of the RRCS Golubev<sup>69</sup>. In

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<sup>66</sup> Providence, progress and prosperity // Христианский поборник. 1915. №84. С. 14.

<sup>67</sup> Russian State Archive of the Navy (РГА ВМФ). Ф. 417. Оп. 6. Д. 1057. Л. 1, 1 об., 9.

<sup>68</sup> РГИА. Ф. 525. Вн.оп. 225.2747. Д. 472. Л. 7.

<sup>69</sup> Полянская Е.Е. Российское общество Красного Креста на Кавказе и Кавказском фронте в 1905–1917 годах. Дис. ... канд. ист. наук: 5.6.1. М., 2023. С. 65.



Палатка, используемая для раздачи медикаментов беженцам в Хое, Персия.  
Главный врач госпиталя Американского Красного Креста в Хое  
доктор Лайл Хэзлетт (в центре).

*From open sources*

October 1915, the Russian Committee of the American Red Cross was created, which had the status of an affiliated organization of the ARC. The tasks of the Committee included maintenance, primarily financial, of the medical personnel remaining in Russia, on the Caucasian front. Replenishment of the fund was carried out thanks to donations from American citizens, membership fees, and contributions from various American firms represented in Russia<sup>70</sup>. At the same time, among the active group of the Russian Committee, in addition to American Consul Harry Baker and head of the American colony George Simon, there were representatives of large American companies: Mr. McAllister Smith, Captain David Hough, Mr. Brittenham, and Mr. Charles Preston. The number of subscriptions as of January 1916 provided for financing the American medical personnel group for the next six months<sup>71</sup>.

<sup>70</sup> Russian committee of American Red Cross // Христианский поборник. 1916. №88. С. 14–15.

<sup>71</sup> Russian committee of American Red Cross // Христианский поборник. 1916. №85. С. 15; See also: *Segal J.E.* American Humanitarian Volunteerism in Russia's Military 1914–1917... P. 116–126.

From Kiev, the medical personnel headed by the former commander of Ohio National Guard field hospital, experienced doctor H.H. Snively<sup>72</sup> (later the leadership of the group was taken over by Lyle Hazlett), arrived on October 21 (November 3) in the city of Tiflis, October 28 (November 10) — at Julfa station, and on the morning of October 29 (November 11) — in the Persian city of Khoy. It consisted of 19 personnel members, including 3 doctors, 5 American nurses, and 49 RRCS orderlies<sup>73</sup>. According to the instructions of General F.G. Chernozubov, the American hospital in Khoy was entrusted with servicing the line Kotur-Saray-Van<sup>74</sup>.

At the disposal of the Americans was a one-story main hospital of the RRCS in Khoy, which was a long mud-brick building; its technical condition was far inferior to the hospital in Kiev. Previously, the building had served as a caravanserai, where travelers would spend the night while animals were being cared for outside. The American detachment undertook the same first-priority measures as had been carried out in Kiev, to turn the building into a fully suitable hospital for medical and surgical activities. The premises were disinfected and renovated, and the building transformed into six large wards and one operating room<sup>75</sup>. In addition, the hospital had a dining room, a medicine storage, and staff rooms. Having established a system of drainage, the staff was also able to put in a bath and a laundry room. The kitchen with the nurses' room was located in a separate building. The large territory between the wards and the yard served as a reception area where patients were examined and their clothing sterilized<sup>76</sup>. From the Tiflis field warehouse, all medical supplies requested by the Americans were delivered. Having received all necessary supplies, the hospital, as follows from the report, was able to “deploy 150 beds, of which 25 were special surgical ones, in addition there were 25 beds in the typhus ward and

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<sup>72</sup> Vivat American Red Cross in Russia! // Христианский поборник. 1915. №83. С. 16.

<sup>73</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 127333. Оп. 1. Д. 2. Л. 16.

<sup>74</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 12685. Оп. 9. Д. 15. Л. 5.

<sup>75</sup> Segal J.E. American Join the Russian Persia Expeditionary Force... P. 134.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid. P. 131–132.



София В. Киль, сестра Американского Красного Креста.  
*From open sources*

25 more for sick Turkish prisoners of war. The hospital plans to increase its capacity to a total of 200 beds”<sup>77</sup>.

In Khoi, the Americans had to face new field conditions, devoting more time and effort to combating the spread of typhus, which was a tedious task for them at first, since their main specialty in Kiev was surgical treatment<sup>78</sup>. Nevertheless, the personnel quickly adapted to new circumstances. They also implemented a program for preventing and controlling various infectious diseases, which included sterilization of clothing, treatment with kerosene, waste disposal, and water boiling. These measures contributed to reducing the spread of infectious diseases, in particular typhus, among soldiers and refugees<sup>79</sup>. Moreover, a special typhus ward was opened at the hospital under the leadership of Dr. Dundua, who had had experience fighting the typhus epidemic in Serbia in the winter of 1914<sup>80</sup>.

<sup>77</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 127333. Оп. 1. Д. 2. Л. 16 об.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid. Л. 17.

<sup>79</sup> Segal J.E. American Join the Russian Persia Expeditionary Force... P. 133.

<sup>80</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 127333. Оп. 1. Д. 2. Л. 17.

As the hospital's position in Khoy strengthened, their functions extended beyond caring for wounded soldiers and typhus patients. Soon they began to supply Aysor refugees from Saidavar with food, having set up a nutrition-ambulatory point at the hospital<sup>81</sup>, and at three versts from the main hospital, an infirmary was opened for caring for Turkish prisoners of war<sup>82</sup>. On their own initiative, doctors and nurses provided assistance to the local population, which included Persians, Armenians, Syrians, and Tatars; they also conducted consultations for Persian doctors<sup>83</sup>.

The effectiveness of the American personnel's work stood at a measurably high level. According to interim reports, by March 6, 1916, 674 patients had passed through the hospital, of whom 175 people had required surgical intervention, while the remaining 499 patients had received general medical care. In total, there were 27 deaths during that period<sup>84</sup>, which was 4.01% mortality rate. Until May 6, 1916, the number of patients had been 535 people, of whom 207 required surgical intervention, 449 required general medical care, and there were 18 deaths in total, which amounted to 3.36% mortality rate<sup>85</sup>.

These indicators become even more significant if one takes into account the fact that the work of the American personnel in Khoy was complicated by various factors. In particular, those were due to the poor transportation network, great distance from supply depots and other hospitals<sup>86</sup>, the danger of contracting an infectious disease, which could and did lead to death of several orderlies, or to removal of doctors and nurses from duty<sup>87</sup>.

Throughout the entire period of the existence of the American hospital in Khoy, Russian military leadership strove, as much

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<sup>81</sup> Ibid.

<sup>82</sup> Good Samaritan work // Христианский поборник. 1916. № 92. С. 10.

<sup>83</sup> Graphic account of good Samaritan work of American hospital with Russian army // Христианский поборник. 1916. № 88. С. 13.

<sup>84</sup> Quarterly report of American field hospital Caucasian front, temporarily at Khoi, Persia // Христианский поборник. 1916. № 89. С. 13.

<sup>85</sup> American hospital helps Russian army // Христианский поборник. 1916. №90. С. 12.

<sup>86</sup> Segal J.E. American Join the Russian Persia Expeditionary Force... P. 129.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid. P. 136.

as possible, to pay favorable attention to the American personnel in order not only to demonstrate the significance of their work, but also to create a sense of American participation and inclusiveness in the Russian military corporation. Their actions were expressed in awarding American nurses medals and orders: one nurse, along with Russian nurses, was awarded the medal 'For Zeal', and nurses Florence Farmer, R. Lee Cromwell, and Sophia Kiel were awarded the Order of Saint Anne<sup>88</sup>. The favorable attitude of the military authorities was also expressed in inviting the Americans to celebrations of royal name days, where they were assigned "places of honor among other officers and the commandant of the garrison General Voronov", and also during a visit by the Chief of Staff of his Imperial Majesty's Governor in the Caucasus, the Commander-in-Chief of the Caucasian Army, Grand Duke Nicholas Nikolayevich, General N.N. Yanushkevich, who called the American hospital "the best among those located in the desert"<sup>89</sup>.

In late summer 1916, at the request of the Governor, who considered the presence of foreigners, even neutral ones, on the front undesirable, as well as due to changes in conditions for evacuating the sick and wounded, the American hospital was closed<sup>90</sup>. It was disbanded; the surgical part was transferred to the jurisdiction of the 492nd field military hospital, and the hospital itself was turned into a cholera ward<sup>91</sup>.

Thus, during the time of the American Red Cross mission, its personnel provided all possible—at times even heroic—medical assistance to wounded and sick Russian soldiers in the most intense

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<sup>88</sup> Three American Red Cross Nurses // Христианский поборник. 1916. №88. С. 16; РГВИА. Ф. 127333. Оп. 1. Д. 2. Л. 88; *Segal J.E. American Join the Russian Persia Expeditionary Force...* P. 142; *American Red Cross Nurse Sophia Valentine Kiel. Nursing Matters Past and Present // American Red Cross National Nursing Committee. 2022. Ed. 48. P. 10*; Many other American nurses were awarded gold and silver 'For Zeal' medals, to be worn on the chest on the St. Anne ribbon, for their service in hospitals in Kyiv and Khoi. See: Награды // Сенатские ведомости. 1916. № 54. С. 279.

<sup>89</sup> *Segal J.E. American Join the Russian Persia Expeditionary Force...* P. 135.

<sup>90</sup> *Полянская Е.Е.* Op. cit. С. 67.

<sup>91</sup> РГВИА. Ф. 12685. Оп. 9. Д. 15. Л. 124, 155.

sectors of the war, repeatedly earning the gratitude of both Russian authorities and their patients.

Of course, compared to the overall number of casualties in Russia during the war years (over 3 million people) the scale of American aid was modest: just over 4,700 soldiers passed through the hospitals in Kiev and Khoy. However, these figures are incomparable to the significance the American mission held in the history of the American Red Cross and in Russian-American relations.

The mission became one of the elements of the indirect participation of the United States in the war prior to April 1917, as well as a tool for increasing the popularity of the ARC among the American population. In Russian-American relations, the mission operated within the framework of public diplomacy and international communication, aimed at strengthening trust and mutual goodwill between the two nations.

### **Conflict of interests**

The author declares no relevant conflict of interests.



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