

ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM

COPY

XCOBSRA COPY

12th June, 1945

Dear Lady Falmouth,

You are, I understand, aware of the issue by SCAEF of a Directive (Appendix G to Administrative Memorandum No. 39) dated 7th May, relating to the use of United Nations voluntary welfare organizations under UNRRA coordination for displaced persons work in Germany.

In paragraph 12 of this Directive reference is made to the special position of the British Red Cross Society, and conditions are laid down as to the continuation by the Red Cross Society, after 1st June, 1945, of work in Germany in respect of displaced persons.

This Directive is not intended to require the immediate cessation by the Red Cross of this type of work, nor does it involve any change in the present arrangements. We are anxious that the Red Cross teams at present in Germany should remain and should continue the work which they are now doing. They would remain under the present military control until UNRRA's field offices are in operation and in a position to undertake the supervision and coordination of non-military personnel, both UNRRA and voluntary society, engaged in displaced persons work in Germany, as envisaged by the Directive. You will appreciate that, although the Directive lays down that UNRRA's functions under it commence on 1st June, the extent to which and the manner in which UNRRA will in fact exercise its functions of supervision and coordination will be gradual and will vary as local circumstances and the directions of the military authorities require.

With regard to the balance of the 50 teams requested by 21st Army Group, they would go forward into Germany in accordance with the arrangements made with 21st Army Group and the War Office. When in the field they would, of course, be in the same position as the teams already there and would come under the above arrangement.

As arrangements on these lines have already been made with the Continental Voluntary societies and as SCAEF is anxious to know that the position with regard to the British Societies has been clarified, I should, therefore, be glad if you would confirm as early as possible that the War Organization of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem will continue on the above basis the work on displaced persons now being done by the teams already in Germany so that we may inform SCAEF that the arrangements contemplated have been completed in accordance with the instructions set out in the Directive.

You will have seen that the SCAEF Directive lays down a procedure for voluntary society personnel who wish to go forward to Germany for displaced persons work after 1st June and, for your information, I enclose a copy of a letter which I am sending to COBSRA dealing with any future personnel which may be required or may be available for work in Germany.

Yours sincerely,
/s/ E.E. RHATIGAN
Deputy Director General
Department of Operations

Viscountess Falmouth,
Chairman, Civilian Relief Overseas
War Organization of the British Red Cross
Society & Order of St. John of Jerusalem
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CROSS REFERENCE SHEET

Order of St. John of Jerusalem

Subject	Date	Description	Filed In
Training Course on Pre-Armistice Civilian Relief Overseas	jan 1943	Printed pamphlet	Council of British Societies for Relief Abroad