

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE'S ACTION IN THE YEMEN¹

In the field hospital set up by the ICRC in the desert in North-east Yemen, the day begins at 6 o'clock in the morning. At 10 o'clock work must stop because of the reflected heat which the shimmering sand makes insufferable. Work begins again at 4 p.m. and continues until 7 p.m. or later. In the morning and the evening the temperature is bearable, for the effect of the heat is not made worse by the humidity.

The stream of wounded is constant and each day the eight doctors and nurses treat an average of 85 wounded and sick, as well as about 200 persons who come to the dispensary for consultation. A rota has to be maintained in order to be able to give proper attention to the seriously wounded and sick and at the same time to give care to emergency cases.

The hospital equipment is operating in a very satisfactory manner. Thanks to the Swiss technicians accompanying the hospital team, all the machinery in the operating and X-ray theatres and in the laboratory are well looked after and are functioning without a hitch. The same applies to the water supply and refrigeration plant which had had to be sent to Jeddah for repairs.

The reports which are received regularly from the Uqhd hospital clearly show the spirit of devotion and solidarity prevailing among the staff whose efforts, in a country where doctors had never before been seen, have enabled numerous human lives to be saved. There is no doubt that the many wounded who have been treated at Uqhd would have perished where they fell, if they had not been carried across the desert to a place where they could be cared for and if Uqhd had not extended its feelers to enable it to reach the wounded near the fighting lines.

¹ *Plate.*

YEMEN



Escorted by a Royalist tribe, the ICRC expedition crossing the desert after passing through the Eastern front.

YEMEN



Mr. Rochat, head of the ICRC delegation, talking with an Egyptian prisoner of war.

It was in this manner that Dr. Maximilien Récamier and Dr. Jean-Pascal Grellety-Bosviel, seconded to the ICRC by the French Red Cross, were able to treat the wounded in the region of Beit Ehagueh following the fighting which took place there a month earlier.

English doctors at Uqhd.—In response to the International Committee's appeal, the British Red Cross has delegated several doctors and a male-nurse to the field hospital at Uqhd.

The presence of these two English doctors at the ICRC's hospital, will enable their Swiss colleagues to go more frequently and in greater strength to the forward areas in order to take care of the wounded and to organize their evacuation to Uqhd.

Return to Geneva of the Head of the mission.—Mr. André Rochat, who for the last six months has been Head of the ICRC Mission to the Yemen, arrived in Geneva in May to give a report to the International Committee by word of mouth. Mr. Rochat has come to the conclusion that the ICRC's humanitarian action is not only recognized, but is considered to be essential by both parties to the conflict.

The Head of the Mission returned to the Yemen, via Jeddah. Now that he has succeeded, after overcoming great difficulties, in being accepted as an ideal neutral intermediary in the fighting areas of the eastern Yemen, Mr. Rochat hopes shortly to organize an expedition to achieve the same result in the western sector. In the meantime, the two ICRC delegates at Sanaa have twice visited the 28 prisoners detained by the Royalist Naham tribe, to the North-east of the Republican capital. They distributed food and medicines and delivered family messages.