

# IN THE RED CROSS WORLD

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## Australia

*The Australian Red Cross has recently informed the ICRC of the efforts it made in 1965 in helping to disseminate the Geneva Conventions in Australia and Papua—New Guinea. We now publish this information and we would always be pleased to produce news from other National Societies on their respective activities :*

There is a Division of our Society in each of the six States and three Territories. Earlier this year we took steps to get active Commissioners accredited to the Army Commands in each State and Territory with the exception of the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory. At present there is no need for a Commissioner in the former, and in the latter we have only just obtained a suitable person for the position.

We now have Commissioners accredited in all States and the territory of Papua/New Guinea, and one of the main duties with which these officers have been charged is the dissemination of the Conventions.

They are responsible to their Divisional Executives and to me as Chief Commissioner that lectures on the Conventions are given to all types of audiences within their Commands. They personally give lectures to members of the Armed Forces, concentrating on new entries and troops about to go overseas, and they encourage the Heads of Departments to lecture to other audiences such as Red Cross, schoolchildren, Police etc.

Particular attention has been paid to the National Service trainees who are sent to camps in New South Wales and Victoria

from all parts of Australia. In New South Wales our Commissioner has lectured to audiences consisting of 650 men.

A member of our Headquarters staff gave a talk on the Conventions in October to Senior Army doctors from throughout Australia while they were attending a conference in Victoria. They were encouraged to make full use of our Commissioners on return to their Commands, and to select officers under their command to study the Conventions and then lecture on them to their own personnel.

We have found the excellent film "Red Cross on a White Field" most useful to the Commissioners who report that it is always much appreciated by their audiences. We have ordered six copies of it, at a cost of £600, so each of our State Divisions may have their own.

In conclusion, we feel we have made a modest start in assisting the Government to carry out its legal obligation to disseminate the Conventions to the population as a whole, and we hope to be able to report further progress next year.

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## Cameroon

The Red Cross Society of Cameroon, whose President is Mr. S. Um-Um, organised a Red Cross week from November 21 to 27, 1965. The theme of this enterprise was the dissemination of the Geneva Conventions and a large number of events were arranged.

Programmes distributed on that occasion contained several extracts of the 1949 Conventions, which enabled the inhabitants of Douala and Wouri to have some idea of the activity of the Red Cross and of the significance of its emblem.