

# INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS

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## **Death of Lady Limerick**

The International Committee learned with great sorrow of the passing away on 25 April, at the age of eighty-three, of Lady Angela, Dowager Countess of Limerick, Vice-President of the British Red Cross Society and former Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross from 1965 to 1973.

Lady Limerick was very well known and appreciated by the entire Red Cross movement. Her service in the Red Cross spanned more than 60 years and two world wars, and thanks to her exceptional human qualities, untiring activity and wisdom, she exerted a prominent influence and played a leading role within our movement.

Angela Limerick entered the British Red Cross in 1915 during the First World War. Being officially too young for overseas service she falsified her age and was thus able to go and care for the wounded near the battle front in France.

In subsequent years she went on working for the British Red Cross and successively became the Director and President of its London Branch.

Her work in the Second World War was predominantly with the Red Cross, at the head of the London Branch throughout the Blitz and from 1942 onwards also as Deputy Chairman of the Joint War Organisation of the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John, in which capacity she visited several battle fronts and 14 different countries. In addition she found time to serve on several Government committees as well as to continue as the Privy Council representative on the General Nursing Council for England and Wales. Immediately after the war she was largely responsible for the rehabilitation work of the Red Cross in post-war Germany.

In the years which followed, as Vice-Chairman of the British Red Cross Society's Executive Committee in charge of its international and overseas operations, she visited most of the Society's overseas branches in East and West Africa, the Far East and the Caribbean, and made

personal visits to other national Red Cross Societies in 26 countries. She was a most active and articulate leader of the British delegation at all international Red Cross conferences and meetings from 1948 onwards, and her voice, in its uncompromising support of the fundamental principles and integrity of the Red Cross movement, was one which was heard with ever-growing respect.

In 1957 she was elected Vice-President of the League of Red Cross Societies; in 1965, at the Twentieth International Red Cross Conference in Vienna, she was appointed Chairman of the Standing Commission of the International Red Cross. She occupied both posts until 1973.

Simultaneously, Lady Angela continued her work at the British Red Cross. She was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Council in 1963 and became Chairman of the Council in 1974. She retired from the chair in 1976 when she was appointed Vice-President of the National Society by the Queen, who is its President.

In addition to her work for the Red Cross, Lady Limerick took an active part in many charity and humanitarian organizations, such as the International Social Service of Great Britain, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, the St. Giles Hospital for Lepers, the Family Planning Association and the Family Welfare Association, etc.

In acknowledgement of her untiring devotion and numerous activities Lady Limerick was honoured with high national British distinctions; over a score of National Red Cross Societies awarded her their decorations or medals of honour and in 1975 she received the highest International Red Cross distinction, the Henry Dunant medal.

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