



Reference Number: **2016.0081**

Collection/Series Title: **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Creator	Australian Red Cross Society, National Office
Creator's Activity/Occupation	Community organisations - Charities

Creator's Historical Note

Note: University of Melbourne Archives holds records of the Australian Red Cross National Office and the Victorian Division of the Australian Red Cross. Records of other state Divisions are not held by the University of Melbourne.

Red Cross began in Australia on the 13th August 1914 in response to the start of the First World War nine days earlier. Modelled on the British Red Cross Society and initially established as a branch of that Society, it formed at the instigation of Lady Helen Munro Ferguson, wife of the Governor-General. Vice-regal patronage and a predominantly female membership continued to be features of the Red Cross throughout the twentieth century. The Australian society was recognised by the International Committee of the Red Cross as a national society in its own right in 1927 and was incorporated by Royal Charter in 1941.

In keeping with the international Red Cross movement of which it is a part, and the Geneva Conventions which govern and vest its wartime role, the Australian Red Cross primary objectives are to alleviate human suffering and protect life and health, especially during armed conflicts and other emergency situations. Principles of humanity, impartiality and voluntary service guide its programs, which have evolved over the years in response to international and domestic needs.

The organisations development throughout the twentieth century has been extensively documented (see references at the end of this note), however the following points may assist researchers wishing to use Red Cross records held by the University of Melbourne Archives.

The organisations initial structure, still largely in place in the early 21st century, included three tiers of administration and activity. Its National Headquarters (later known as National Office) has been based in Melbourne since 1914. Divisions were established in all states and territories, most of them within weeks of the formation of the national body, and these operated with substantial autonomy until at least the 1950s and continued to be the locus of much of the organisations emergency and social services program delivery beyond this date. A Papua New Guinea Division also operated between 1940 and 1973 and subsequently became an independent national society. The third tier of the Red Cross is the extensive network of local branches which also commenced during World War I. These have been particularly active in wartime and it is through these branches that large numbers of Australians engage with and support the work of the Red Cross.

The scope and dates of operation of some distinctive Red Cross programs are:

Voluntary Aid Detachments (VADs, later known as Voluntary Aid Service Corps or VACs) were first formed in 1915 to provide nursing and domestic services in Australian military hospitals and convalescent homes. In peacetime this largely female volunteer labour force has assisted during natural disasters and other emergencies. As an organisational entity VACs were phased out by the 1970s, however volunteer service continues to be integral to the organisations delivery of many of its programs.

Services to trace the whereabouts of missing and wounded service personnel were also first established in 1915. These services operated during both World Wars and after World War II evolved into services for tracing civilians displaced from their homelands in the aftermath of war and civil unrest. By the 1960s, with the growth of Red Cross role in disaster management, registration and enquiry services were set up to respond to inquiries about people displaced by natural disaster. The units responsible for this work and have been variously known as the Wounded and Missing Inquiry Bureau, Tracing Bureau, and the National Registration and Inquiry System. Like many Red Cross programs, administration of tracing services has gradually been centralised from state Divisions to national management. Note that Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau records from World War I are held by the Australian War Memorial.

Blood transfusion services were first established in 1929 in the Victorian Division and soon after in other states. These continued to be primarily state based services until 1996 although during the Second World War a level of national coordination was introduced to facilitate the supply of blood to the armed forces. In 1996, largely in response to the AIDS epidemic, the divisional services were amalgamated to form the Australian Red Cross Blood Service, a separate operating division of the Australian Red Cross.

References and Further Information

Melanie Oppenheimer: *The Power of Humanity: 100 Years of Australian Red Cross 1914-2014* (Sydney, Harper Collins, 2014)

Australian Red Cross web site: www.redcross.org.au (accessed June 2015)

Australian Red Cross Blood Service web site: <http://www.donateblood.com.au/about-us> (accessed June 2015)

Australian Red Cross has donated 100 years of archives to the University of Melbourne:

<http://www.redcross.org.au/gift-to-the-nation.aspx> (accessed June 2015)

Australian War Memorial, First World War Red Cross Wounded and Missing Files:

https://www.awm.gov.au/people/roll-search/wounded_and_missing/

Australian Womens Register entry for the Australian Red Cross:

<http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0715b.htm> (accessed June 2015). See also Register entries for individual women prominent within the Red Cross.

**Date Range of
Collection/Series**

1938-1944

Size/Extent

3 units (0.3m)

Access Conditions

Access: Open

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

Comprises 69 Glass Lantern Slides which are within three functional sets.

The first set (2016.0081.00001 2016.0081.00056) comprises 52 black & white slides used by the Red Cross for talks on activities in the war effort. Images of the activities including: Central Prisoner of War (POW) Agency, Switzerland; Red Cross staff using a Hollerith machine to calculate POWs; visits by International Red Cross Delegates to POWs camps to ensure conditions are met; packing medical supplies, Red Cross packing centres and warehouses, POWs receiving care packages. Activities within the camps: sport, music, peeling vegetables as well as labouring on road works. These photographs were compiled by the British Red Cross and St. John War Organisation and include a number of press sources photographs (see: 2016.0081.00056). Please note there are four slides missing from this set and are not held by UMA (2016.0081.00006; 2016.0081.00030 - 2016.0081.000032).

The second set (2016.0081.00057 2016.0081.00062) comprises 6 colour slides which were created by the Australian Red Cross Publicity Department for use in cinemas, with the aim of engaging the community about the need for membership, fundraising and blood donations.

The third set (2016.0081.00063 2016.0081.00073) comprises 11 colour slides with song lyrics of popular songs used in rehabilitation contexts post WW2. The lyrics of a chorus, or verse and chorus are typed; some of these slides are also illustrated.

Further photographic prints will be added to this series in the final transfer of records.

Researchers should note that under the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 protections govern the use of the Red Cross emblem. For further information see Archives staff.

Collection Category	Community and Political, organisations
This document dated	5/05/2017

Unit/Box	Item Reference Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00001	Hotel de la Metropole, Geneva, Switzerland	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-01
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00002	Central Commission members. (Left to Right) FRÉDÉRIC BARBEY-ADOR (membre du Comité international), MARGUERITE FRICK-CRAMER (membre du Comité international), LUCIE ODIER (membre du Comité international), JACQUES CHENEVIÈRE (président de la Commission cent	November 1939	Previous ARC Control: AV1-02
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00003	Office workers calculating POW capture cards using a Hollerith Machine, one of six owned by the ICRC	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-03
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00004	Palais du Conseil Général, the Central Prisoners of War Agency, Geneva, Switzerland	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-04
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00005	Filling out Red Cross Pro Forma from another information source	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-05
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00007	Prisoners of war camp: Stalag VIII B, Lamsdorf/Mechtal. Visit of the delegate ICRC Dr. Descoedres.	9 August 1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-07
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00008	Prisoners of War camp (for Italians): N° 306 "Middle East". ICRC delegate talking to a prisoner. Geneiffa, Egypt	8 October 1941	Previous ARC Control: AV1-08
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00009	Prisoners of war camp: Stalag XXI B/Z. Sick Bay. Skoki (Shokken), Poland	30 July 1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-09
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00010	Prisoners of war camp: Stalag XXI D. Dentist with patient. Posen, Poland	31 March 1941	Previous ARC Control: AV1-10
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00011	Reviewing patient xtrays doctor, ICRC delegate and German officers	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-11
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00012	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Group of men walking in the snow	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-12
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00013	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Group of men eating ice-cream.	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-13
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00014	Prisoners of war camp: Oflag IX A. Night call up in the castle yard. Rotenburg/Fulda, Germany	6 August 1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-14
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00015	Unidentified prisoners of war camp	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-15
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00016	Prisoners of war camp: Stalag XXI B. View of the camp yard with English prisoners of war. Schubin (Szubin), Poland	31 July 1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-16
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00017	Prisoners of war camp: Stalag XX A. Visit of the delegate ICRC Dr. Descoedres. Thorn, Poland	1 August 1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-17
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00018	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Group of men with stacked Red Cross care packages	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-18
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00019	Unidentified prisoners of war camp	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-19
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00020	Unidentified prisoners of war camp	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-20
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00021	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Group of men many in shorts and carrying towels being escorted by german officers	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-21 Compare 2016.0081.00021 with 2016.0081.00048
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00022	Postcard image of sanatorium for mentally and physically disabled persons. Used during WW1 as civil internee camp. Liebenau, Germany	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-22 See also 2016.0081.00048
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00023	Civil internees with Red Cross care packages. Sanatorium Liebenau, Germany	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-23
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00024	Unidentified prisoners of war camp	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-24
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00025	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: men walking in formation	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-25
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00026	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: dormitory interior	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-26
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00027	H.M. Queen Elizabeth I (1900-2002) president of British Red Cross visits a Red Cross care package centre	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-27
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00028	Red Cross warehouse, inspecting of tinned foods	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-28
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00029	Red Cross workers wrapping clothes parcels	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-29
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00033	Boxes in a warehouse with cloth covers with Red Cross emblem	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-33
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00034	Delivery of boxes from a truck [English Registration Plate AXX 943]	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-34
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00035	Red Cross International S.S. "Ambriz", carrying the supplies between Lisbon and Marseilles	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-35
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00036	Red Cross International S.S. "Ambriz", carrying the supplies between Lisbon and Marseilles	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-36
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00037	Red Cross International S.S. "Caritas I" loading parcels in Philadelphia, America for European relief	1942	Previous ARC Control: AV1-37
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00038	Men using machinery to assist in the stacking Red Cross parcels in a barn	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-38
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00039	Men carrying Red Cross parcels in single file	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-39
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00040	Pharmaceutical deposit. Sending aid to Finland. Geneva, Switzerland	1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-40
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00041	Prisoners of war camp: Stalag XX A. English Red Cross parcels being received and unloaded. Thorn, Germany	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-41
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00042	Prisoner of War Camp: British officers at Oflag camp [unidentified] gathered around a trolley of Red Cross parcels	17 September 1941	Previous ARC Control: AV1-42
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00043	Packing books for POWs St. John and Red Cross labels	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-43
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00044	Using a mimeograph printing machine in a library	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-44
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00045	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Boxing match watched on by large crowd of men	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-45
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00046	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Practising gymnastics/circus skills watched on by crowd of men	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-46
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00047	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Playing table tennis	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-47
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00048	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Group of men swimming & diving	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-48 Compare 2016.0081.00048 with 2016.0081.00021
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00049	Stalag VIII B, prisoners of war camp. Dance course in front of the hut. Lamsdorf, Poland	9 August 1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-49
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00050	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Portrait of band members with their instruments	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-50
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00051	Stalag IX C, English prisoners of war camp. Building works. Bad Sulza, Germany	07 August 1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-51
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00052	Stalag XX A, prisoners of war camp. Peeling vegetables. Visit of the delegate ICRC Dr. Descoedres. Thorn, Poland	1 August 1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-52
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00053	Display of items for POW parcels: Includes medical supplies, clothes, reading material, games and a watch	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-53
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00054	Unidentified prisoners of war camp: Medical dispensary with supplies	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-54
2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00055	Letter of thanks from British POW to Red Cross for parcels	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-55

2016.0081 Unit 1	2016.0081.00056	The [British] Red Cross and St. John War Organisation gratefully acknowledge the kindness of the following firms for allowing many of the pictures in this set to be used free of copyright charges: Topical Press Agency, Wide World, Harpers Bazaar, London N	c.1940	Previous ARC Control: AV1-56
2016.0081 Unit 2	2016.0081.00057	Caption: 'Red Cross needs your help. Through Red Cross you help /- Disabled ex-servicemen and women / Blood Transfusion Service / Tuberculosis Hospitals / and many other Services'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 2	2016.0081.00058	Caption: 'Where these's need - there's Red Cross Give NOW'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 2	2016.0081.00059	Caption: 'Help Red Cross in its work for disabled veterans Red Cross Give NOW'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 2	2016.0081.00060	Caption: 'Blood saves precious lives / are you a blood donor'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 2	2016.0081.00061	Caption: 'Share your Christmas Happiness / Buy a badge / Red Cross / Christmas Appeal'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 2	2016.0081.00062	Caption: 'First aid post of the world / Red Cross needs our help!'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 2	2016.0081.00063	Caption: 'Every man, woman and child should join the RED CROSS / Join your local branch now!'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00064	Lyrics: 'Soldiers of the King'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00065	Lyrics: 'You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00066	Lyrics: 'Round the Back of the Arhces'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00067	Lyrics: 'Salome'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00068	Lyrics: 'One-zy, Two-zy (I love you-zy)'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00069	Lyrics: 'The Band Played On'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00070	Lyrics: 'The Rose of No Man's Land'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00071	Lyrics: 'You Are My Sunshine'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00072	Lyrics: 'Yes We Have No Bananas'	c.1940	
2016.0081 Unit 3	2016.0081.00073	Lyrics: 'Nursie'	c.1940	

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