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Red Cross

AMERICAN RED CROSS

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

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-Red Cross Nurses-WWI

Red Cross nurses were not officially part of the US Army if their overseas service was at a Red Cross facility. However, most RC nurses became part of the military establishment. Nurses enrolled in the Amer RC Nursing Service constituted the peacetime reserve of the US Army Nurse Corps. In war, individual "reserve" nurses--with their consent--could be assigned to active duty with the Army. As Army Nurses, they would have been officially inducted into and discharged from the service. the American RC Nursing Service acted as the recruiting and enrollment agency for Army nurses, 1917-18, referring nearly 18,000 nurse candidates to the Army's Medical Dept. See:

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Regarding pay, American Red Cross nurses, as volunteers, received no compensation unless accepted by the War Dept for the sanitary service and then placed on active duty. Under those conditions, in 1917 the Red Cross nurses were paid \$50.00 a month in the United States and \$60.00 a month for overseas service. The pay rates were the same as the rates for nurse in the Army Nurse Corps. In 1918, the pay was increased \$10.00 a month. See:

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See also in the WWII veterans collection the responses from Edith Wynkoop, identified as a Red Cross nurse and many Army nurses, some of whom were probably recruited through the American Red Cross Nursing Service. Additionally, a newspaper clipping on file concerns the service of Birda H. Wood, who was assigned to Base Hospital 32 at Lille, France.

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See Chap. 2.

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