



Red Cross

The Red Cross played a very important role in World War II with their assistance to prisoners of war. The belligerent nations in the Western Europe allowed the Red Cross to carry out its work of supporting those who had been taken prisoner. The same was not as true in the Pacific and Eastern European theatres of war. The Red Cross established auxiliary hospitals. They were neutral and treated anyone in a conflict. It was an international expectation that warring nations would treat Red Cross personnel in the appropriate manner and that the hospitals were not legitimate targets.

POW's and their treatment extended to internees held by a warring nation. The devastating impact of the Third Reich Blitzkrieg on Poland on 1 Sept 1939 is a great example. In September alone, the Germans captured 500,000 Polish soldiers in just 22 days.

1940 World War II ~ Red Cross label issued in Paris. Block of 4



1969, 50th Anniv. of Polish Red Cross: Cachet on an used cover from Warsaw to Opole

