



# THE BOMBAY CITY AMBULANCE CORPS

( FOUNDED 1930 )

(Registered under Acts XXI of 1860 and XXXIX of 1950)

## BRIGADE GAZETTE

GRATIS

No.674

May 2021

**8<sup>th</sup> May is International Red Cross Day: We remember and salute Henry Dunant a Swiss businessman for initiating Red Cross Movement**

### PART – I

#### NOTIFICATION 91st Foundation Day

Due to Covid 19 pandemic usual get together of all BCAC associates on June 2, 2021 to commemorate foundation day is not arranged for this year.

#### INSTRUCTORS' COURSES

The next Specialist Instructors' Course in First Aid to the Injured (July-December 2021 term), in English medium, has been postponed due to uncertainty created by Covid 19 pandemic BUT situation will be reviewed after May 15, 2021.

#### NEWS

##### Government Recognition and Permanent Grant

The Government of Maharashtra, Medical Education and Drugs Department, has been pleased to accord recognition to the College of Ambulance and to sanction the payment of the recurring TOKEN grant-in-aid of Rs. 30,000/- per year to the Society towards maintenance of the College, on a permanent basis, from the year 1983-84 onwards vide Government Resolution No.GHD-1082/2666/MED, 4-B dated the 28<sup>th</sup> July 1983. **The grant for the year 2020 -2021 was NOT received till date.**

##### Structural Audit

Structural Audit of our two buildings has been carried out by Doshi & Co., Licensed Surveyors, Mumbai and have submitted reports to authorities. Necessary repairs in phase manner will be carried out.

##### One day First Aid Condensed Course

No.	Date 2021	No. of Participants	Participants from
B/20/FA/3	March 3	15	Safepro Center for Training, Pune

##### Donations to Station Fund

We have received donation of Rs. 501/- from Narendra Khushalka on February 20, 2021 by UPI to the Station Fund of the Society.

##### Service Station's Statistics for the year 2020-21

Months 2020 & 2021	Calls Registered	Removal Services Performed	Services without donations	Donations Received		Run of Amb. Car No. 13 in Kilometers
				Removal Services (Rs.)	Station Fund (Rs.)	
April	00	00	00	0.00	00	00
May	00	00	00	0.00	00	00
June	00	00	00	0.00	00	00
July	13	22	07	4,000.00	00	238
August	20	37	23	6,550.00	0.00	499
September	11	19	09	6,200.00	0.00	281
October	16	30	13	8,900.00	0.00	396
November	15	31	19	5,300.00	12,000.00	419
December	24	48	37	2,600.00	0.00	421
2021						
January	29	55	38	8,000.00	0.00	548
February	21	36	28	1,600.00	501.00	181
March	15	25	22	900.00	0.00	231
TOTAL	164	303	196	44,050.00	12,501.00	2,999
Total services rendered till March 2021: 81120						
April	03	03	30	0.00	0.00	000
Total services rendered till April 2021: 81123						

#### Donations to Corpus Fund

We have received following donations to the Corpus Fund of the Society for Free Ambulance Services:

Date 2021	Amount Rs	Donations received from:
22-03-2021	10,000/-	Verma Trust for Prevention of Ind Accident
30-03-2021	4,500/-	The Harjivan Vassonji Charitable Trust

#### Donations to General Fund

We have received donation of Rs. 9,000/- from Aatmabodh Academy of Yoga on March 30, 2021 to the General Fund of the Society.

#### DONATION APPEAL

We have received meager amount as Service Station Fund Donations or General Fund Donations during the year April 2020-March 2021. We had to tap of our reserves. Philanthropist are requested to donate.

### PART II

#### Test your heart age

The heart forecaster reveals your age after getting your heart number, which is your blood pressure and your cholesterol ratio. With a few simple questions, the Heart age forecast will estimate the current condition of your heart. It will also give your insight into how healthy your heart is and also the effect that your lifestyle has on your body. You can do the test on [heartagecalculation.com.au](http://heartagecalculation.com.au) if you want to have very accurate answers, you need to submit your cholesterol levels and blood pressure. However, it will also do the calculations based on average numbers for your age and other risk factors.

#### Here's how to keep a healthy heart

1. If you have high cholesterol, avoid red meat
2. Avoid fried, junk, salty and oily food
3. Exercise regularly, go for a brisk walk, for 45 minutes to an hour, three to

- four times a week, it helps increase good cholesterol.
- 4. Avoid drinking too much alcohol, drinking in moderation is not harmful one or two pegs a day, two or three times a week, is okay
- 5. Check your weight and maintain it
- 6. Quit smoking and control BP and blood sugar levels

**THE CRY OF SOLFERINO**

(Note: May 8 is RED CROSS DAY)

June 24, 1859 the first day of the Battle of Solferino is a landmark in the history of the human conscience. It was while accidentally visiting this battle field that Henri Dunant, a Swiss banker of ordinary, unheroic character, first glimpsed the vision of what is today the greatest humanitarian organization in history the Red Cross.

There are many sensitive men who, when coming face to face with suffering, are so deeply touched that they resolve to do something about it. But once the even tenor of their lives is resumed, they either forget about it or dismiss it as a ghastly memory. Henri Dunant was not one of these; once his soul got on fire, he never rested till his idea had been put into practice and he had made the nations of the world realize the inhumanity of war.

It may surprise some that the man who first conceived the idea of the Red Cross was not a philosopher with a prophetic vision but an average, middle-class business man. Henri Dunant, born in Geneva on May 8, 1828, showed no remarkable traits in his youth. He was a banker by profession and was widely traveled in Europe as well as in North Africa. It was on one of his journeys, when he was traveling through Northern Italy that he chanced to pass the blood stained battle field of Solferino where he came face to face with all the horrors and sufferings of war. Thousands upon thousands of wounded, dying and dead lay there, unattended and uncared for, Dunant ceaselessly strove for three nights and three days bringing whatever comfort he could to these stricken souls.

**GREAT PROPAGANDIST**

In order to arouse the conscience of the world, Dunant wrote a book called A Recollection of Solferino in which he vividly described all that he had experienced on the battle field. The book created a sensation throughout Europe and Dunant's name became known in every capital. In February, 1863, a "commission" consisting of five members General, Dufour, Dr. Maunor, Dr. Appia, Gustave Moynier and Dunant was formed. These five members may be called as the originators of the Red Cross, and the adopter of a uniform emblem.

Dunant was a great propagandist and he knew how to mold public opinion. It was mainly due to him that a resolution discussed at a five men committee in Geneva was transformed into a world movement. He made both militarists as well as pacifists agree to the basic ideas of the Red Cross.

Strangely, the first significant support to him came from Prussia, the most warlike nation of Europe. The idea of the Red Cross appealed most to those who were usually thinking about war. The Russians, who had the best organized army, wanted "civilized" warfare. Dunant met King John of Saxony who promised to give him his support, "for surely any nation which does not participate in this humanitarian work will be outlawed by European opinion." He then met Emperor Francis Joseph of Austria who considered it a "splendid idea". Other monarchs of Europe-Napoleon III of France, Queen Isabella of Spain and the British Government agreed to send representatives to the Conference which was to meet at Geneva.

On Octobers 26, 1863, the First International Red Cross Conference was held in Geneva with 62 delegates from 16 nations. A conference was held again on August 8, a year later, to frame the Geneva Convention defining the status and treatment of soldiers who fall in the battle-field. The agenda has been reduced to just one formula by General Dufour who presided. He declared. "We want one thing only-the neutralization of the ambulances and sanitary

personnel by the belligerents." On August 22, the first Geneva Convention with the following clauses was signed.

- 1) The wounded or sick of the armed forces shall be sent to hospital and cared for;
- 2) Ambulances and military hospitals shall be safeguarded and respected, as well as their personnel;
- 3) The Red Cross on a white background is adopted as the distinctive emblem.

The Geneva Convention also safeguarded the life and liberties of the local population who brought help to the wounded on the battlefield. By the end of 1868, the convention had been ratified by 22 states.

Very soon after the Conference of 1864, the official representatives of the Red Cross were called upon to put the Geneva Convention into practice when the Prusso-Danish War broke out. At first a "neutral" arriving in the theatre of war aroused much suspicion and hostility on both sides Danish as well as Prussian but gradually it disappeared and the Red Cross representatives were allowed to make some headway. Again in 1866, war broke out between Prussia on one side and Austria was not a signatory to the Geneva. Convention, so she refused to let a neutral observer enter the battle-field. But Dunant's tact and diplomacy won the day and Austria and her allies signed the Convention. The Red Cross brought its full organizational strength in this war and ably demonstrated its efficiency.

Clara Barton, later founder of the American Red Cross, has given a verdict on the work of the Red Cross; "When I saw the work of the Red Cross in the field, when I saw how, through systematic organization, it accomplished in four months. Without its help we were unable to accomplish in four years-no confusion, but order, abundance, cleanliness and comfort wherever the little flag made its way a whole continent organizing itself under the Red Cross. When I saw all this, I said to myself; 'if ever I return to my country alive, I shall strive to make my people understand the Red Cross."

After 1867 when he became bankrupt, having spent his private wealth on his life's mission, Dunant spent many years in obscurity. In 1890 he settled in the Swiss village of Heiden and it was here that he received the homage of princes and prelates and the reward for his life-work-the Nobel Prize for Peace. Having got used to poverty, he gave away the prize money to philanthropic societies. The great humanitarian died on October 30, 1910, at the age of 82 and was buried in Zurich.

**LOFTY OBJECTIVES**

Dunant did not try merely to "civilize" or "humanize" war-he questioned its very ethics. He did not believe that peace was a continuation of war. In the world order that he envisaged mankind did not live between alternate periods of peace and war. Actually, his objectives went further than the principles of the Geneva Convention; it was to abolish war altogether.

Seldom has an idea conceived in the mind of one man taken concrete shape with such surprising rapidity as the vision of Henri Dunant. The Red Cross organization was the first manifestation and application in history of international law. Among all the international agreements arrived at by various countries, the Conventions of the Red Cross are more strictly adhered to than any others. The League of Red Societies has more member-states than even the United Nations or any other world body. Today, over hundred years after Solferino, we are still far away from the goal of universal peace that was the vision of Henri Dunant. But as long as that goal is still regarded as the highest aim of humanity and every effort made towards its attainment, men like Dunant will not have lived in vain.

**NAJOO BILIMORIA**

*Courtesy - Illustrated Weekly of India*

**KINDLY VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO READ BRIGADE GAZETTE - bcac.co.in**

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**BOOK-POST**

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