

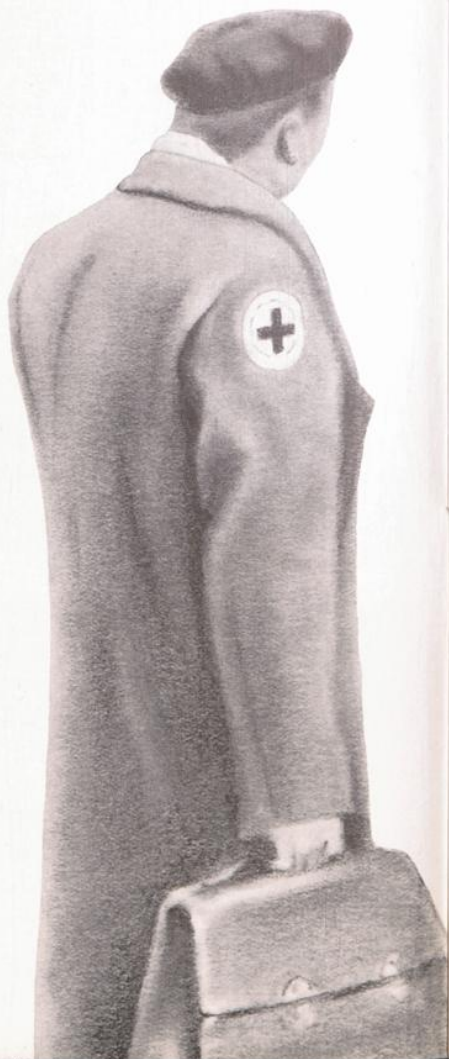
APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTIONS THE I.C.R.C. PROTECTS THE VICTIMS OF WAR

By tradition, the ICRC has its headquarters in neutral territory and is specially designated to act as a **neutral intermediary** between the opposing parties. Its intervention is intended solely to ensure respect for war victims in their capacity as human beings and to give them moral and material assistance.

ICRC delegates visit places of detention and inspect the conditions afforded to prisoners and internees. Their reports are transmitted to the Detaining Power as well as to the country of origin of the captives.

This transmission of objective reports to the Parties to the conflict, together with conciliatory action by the ICRC, results in marked improvements in the treatment and condition of war victims.

1939-1945: 11,000 camp visits.
Since 1945: In 35 countries, visits to civilian or military prisoners detained in over a thousand camps, prisons or hospitals following internal conflicts or disturbances.



1949

Geneva Convention relative
to the Protection of
Civilian Persons in Time of
War of August 12, 1949.



Geneva Convention of
July 27, 1929 relative to the
Treatment of Prisoners of War.
Revision: Geneva, 1949.

1929

Mortality among wounded and sick military personnel

Crimean War (1854–1856): 60 %

First World War: 7.5 %

Second World War: 2.3 %

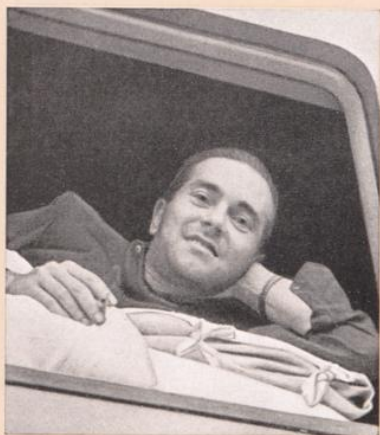
Deaths in captivity (1939–1945)

Prisoners of war protected by the Convention: 10 %

Political detainees (without legal protection): 90 %



Nicaragua, 1959.
An ICRC delegate in conversation
with political detainees.



A wounded prisoner of war is
repatriated under the auspices of the
ICRC (1944).



The Suez conflict. An ICRC delegate
visits a prisoner-of-war camp.