

**Circular letter from the British Red Cross Society re their fund for aid to Balkan countries embroiled in the war against Turkey**

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## BRITISH RED CROSS SOCIETY,

Incorporated by Royal Charter, 1908.

9, VICTORIA STREET,

LONDON, S.W.

### BRITISH RED CROSS BALKAN FUND.

*October, 1912.*

DEAR SIR,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your generous contribution to the British Red Cross Balkan Fund, which has been organised by this Society to afford relief to the sick and wounded in the Near East.

It has been necessary to organise in the first instance complete male Units, each with a personnel of 18, consisting of three Medical Officers, three Dressers (Medical Students), and six Nursing Orderlies (one acting as Sergeant-Major), five General Duty Orderlies, and one Cook, and to despatch them with the utmost expedition to the seat of War, to meet the very urgent demands for help.

The Governments of Bulgaria, Greece, Montenegro, Servia, and Turkey have each accepted with gratitude the offer of the Society to raise funds in order to despatch assistance and the Foreign Office has sanctioned the Society's sending expeditions to the countries named.

Each Unit is furnished with a complete medical and surgical equipment and with ample stores.

Each Unit is self-contained and independent, and capable of taking duty either in the field or at the base.

The Society has appointed three Directors, officially known as Red Cross Directors, for controlling respectively all British



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Red Cross Work in the Northern States (Bulgaria, Montenegro, and Servia), in Greece and in Turkey. The names of these Directors are Surgeon-General G. D. Bourke, C.B., for the Northern States ; Colonel Charles Delmé-Radcliffe, C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G., for Greece ; Major Doughty-Wylie, C.M.G., for Turkey.

The following Units have already been despatched to :—

MONTENEGRO.

- 1 Unit under the command of Surgeon-General G. D. Bourke, C.B.

GREECE.

- 2 Units under the command of Colonel Charles Delmé-Radcliffe, C.V.O., C.B., C.M.G.

TURKEY.

- 3 Units under the command of Major Doughty-Wylie, C.M.G.

A further Unit is in process of formation, and will be despatched to Bulgaria at an early date.

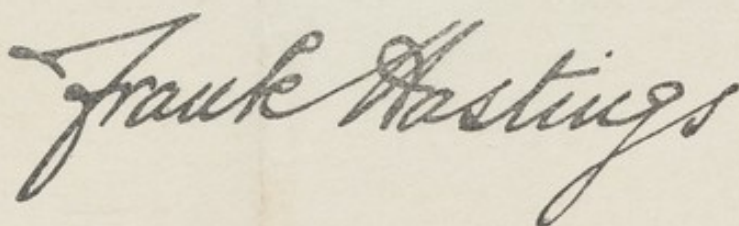
The cost of equipping and despatching a Unit is estimated not to exceed £1,500.

The cost of paying and feeding a Unit, and maintaining its supplies for 6 months, is estimated not to be less than £4,000, and may be considerably more, according to the extent of the relief afforded.

Funds are urgently needed to maintain the Units that are at present in service.

The wide extent of the fighting, the bareness of the country, the severe climate and the totally inadequate provision for the sick and wounded, make it inevitable that the suffering in the rear of the contending armies will be without a parallel in modern times.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Frank Hastings". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letter "F" being particularly large and stylized. The signature is written in a slightly slanted position.

Secretary.