

may belong, charged exclusively with removal of sick and wounded, is protected by neutrality; but the mere fact, noted on the ship's books, of the vessel having been visited by an enemy's cruiser, renders the sick and wounded incapable of serving during the continuance of the war. The cruiser shall even have the right of putting on board an officer in order to accompany the convoy, and thus verify the good faith of the operation.

"If the merchant ship also carries a cargo, her neutrality will still protect it, provided that such cargo is not of a nature to be confiscated by the belligerents.

"The belligerents retain the right to interdict neutralized vessels from all communication, and from any course which they may deem prejudicial to the secrecy of their operations. In urgent cases special Conventions may be entered into between Commanders-in-chief, in order to neutralize temporarily and in a special manner the vessels intended for the removal of the sick and wounded.

#### "ARTICLE XI.

"Wounded or sick sailors and soldiers, when embarked, to whatever nation they may belong, shall be protected and taken care of by their captors.

"Their return to their own country is subject to the condition that they are bound not to bear arms again during the war.

#### "ARTICLE XII.

"The distinctive flag to be used with the national flag, in order to indicate any vessel or boat which may claim the benefits of neutrality, is a white flag with a red cross. The belligerents may exercise in this respect any mode of verification which they may deem necessary.

"Military hospital ships shall be distinguished by being painted white outside, with green strake.

#### "ARTICLE XIII.

"The hospital ships which are equipped at the expense of the Aid Societies, recognized by the Signatory Powers to the Geneva Convention, and which are furnished with a commission emanating from the Sovereign, who shall have given express authority for their being fitted out, and with a certificate from the proper naval authority that they have been placed under his control until their final departure, and that they were then appropriated solely to the purpose of their mission, shall be considered neutral, as well as the whole of their staff. They shall be recognized and protected by the belligerents.

"They shall make themselves known by hoisting, together with their national flag, the white flag with a red cross. The distinctive mark of their staff, while performing their duties, shall be an armet of the same colours. The outer painting of these hospital ships shall be white, with red strake.

"These ships shall bear aid and assistance to the wounded and wrecked belligerents, without distinction of nationality.

"They must take care not to interfere in any way with the movements of the combatants. During and after the battle they must do their duty at their own risk and peril.

"The belligerents shall have the right of controlling and visiting them; they will be at liberty to refuse their assistance, to order them to depart, and to detain them if the exigencies of the case require such a step.

"The wounded and wrecked picked up by these ships cannot be reclaimed by either of the

combatants, and they will be required not to serve during the continuance of the war.

#### "ARTICLE XIV.

"In naval wars any strong presumption that either belligerent takes advantage of the benefits of neutrality, with any other view than the interest of the sick and wounded, gives to the other belligerent, until proof to the contrary, the right of suspending the Convention, as regards such belligerent.

"The Minister of Marine,  
(Signed) "SEGISMUNDO BERMEJO."  
"Madrid, April 24, 1898."

#### War Office, May 3, 1898.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the Decoration of the Royal Red Cross upon the undermentioned Ladies (under Clause 5 of Her Majesty's Warrant, dated 11th December, 1897), in recognition of their services in tending the sick and wounded:—

Mother Patrick.  
Mother Jacoba.

#### War Office, May 3, 1898.

THE Queen has been graciously pleased to confer the Volunteer Officers' Decoration upon the undermentioned Officers of the Volunteer Force, who have been duly recommended for the same under the terms of the Royal Warrant, dated 25th July, 1892:—

#### EASTERN DISTRICT.

##### RIFLE.

1st (Hertfordshire) Volunteer Battalion, The Bedfordshire Regiment.

Lieutenant-Colonel and Honorary Colonel Arthur Maurice Blake, C.B.

3rd Volunteer Battalion, The Bedfordshire Regiment.

Quartermaster and Honorary Captain George Overend.

2nd Volunteer Battalion, The Essex Regiment.  
Captain Henry Nathaniel Crozier.

1st Volunteer Battalion, The Northamptonshire Regiment.

Major the Right Honourable John Pointz, Earl Spencer, K.G., retired.

#### HOME DISTRICT.

##### RIFLE.

2nd Volunteer Battalion, The East Surrey Regiment.  
Surgeon-Major William Gandy.

1st Bucks Volunteer Rifle Corps.  
Captain and Honorary Major Henry George Rew  
1st Middlesex (Victoria and St. George's) Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Quartermaster and Honorary Captain Richard William Thornton.

22nd Middlesex (Central London Rangers) Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Captain and Honorary Major Alfred Fielder.

7th Middlesex (London Scottish) Volunteer Rifle Corps.

Captain and Honorary Major William Haworth Glynn Smith.

24th Middlesex Volunteer Rifle Corps.  
Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Matthew Hale.

#### NORTH-EASTERN DISTRICT.

##### RIFLE.

1st Volunteer Battalion, The Northumberland Fusiliers.

Captain and Honorary Major Roger Smith, retired.