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September 18, 1917

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# THE AMERICAN RED CROSS WOMAN'S BUREAU

WASHINGTON, D. C.

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## Suggestions for Christmas Packets For our Men at Home and Abroad

By Christmas we shall have a large number of men in France, and 600,000 in the cantonments at home, beside the thousands in our regular Army posts and in our Navy, and everyone will be eager to help in giving them Christmas cheer.

No matter how generous a supply of gifts some of the men may receive from families and friends, it is believed that all Red Cross members will want to unite in sending to each man a Christmas packet filled with good things and good will.

In order that the men may be equally remembered and yet that there may be a pleasing variety in the packets, the following suggestions are made for preparing and assembling the Christmas parcels:

1. Nothing should go in them which will not keep fresh from the time of packing until Christmas.
2. Dried fruits and other food products should be packed in small tin or wooden boxes, one-quarter to one-half pound size.
3. Hard candy, including chocolate, would probably be safe in tin foil or heavy cardboard, but no soft chocolates nor anything that could possibly be crushed should be used, as the remaining contents of the package might be spoiled thereby.
4. Several dainties packed in oblong tin boxes holding each a quarter of a pound, will provide a better variety for a packet than a larger quantity of a single confection.
5. No liquids nor articles packed in glass should be placed in the package.
6. For wrapping the gifts use a khaki-colored handkerchief, twenty-seven inches square, and form the base of the packet by placing on the center of the handkerchief a pad of writing-paper about seven by ten inches.

7. Select a variety of articles either from the suggested list (or according to individual wishes) to an amount not exceeding \$1.50, and arrange them on the pad of paper so that the entire package shall be the width of the pad and approximately five or six inches high.

8. Wrap and tie with one-inch red ribbon and place a Christmas card under the bow of ribbon. A card bearing the greetings of the Chapter would be desirable.

9. Wrap the parcel again in heavy, light-brown Manila paper, tie securely with red, green, or gilt cord, and use Christmas labels or American flags as desired.

#### LIST OF ARTICLES SUGGESTED FOR CHRISTMAS PACKETS

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| *Khaki-colored handkerchief, twenty-seven inches square, for container   | *Red Cross Checkerboard (this is a combination set of checkerboard, checkers, chessmen, and dominoes made of heavy cardboard especially for the Red Cross and can be purchased after October 15th for 5c. apiece) |
| *Writing-paper pad, about 7 by 10 inches   | Other games   |
| Envelopes  | Tobacco   |
| Pencil   | Pipe and pipe cleaners  |
| Postals  | Cigarette papers  |
| Book (in paper cover)  | Water-tight match-box   |
| Scrapbook, home-made, containing a good short story, some jokes, etc.  | Chewing gum   |
| Knife, such as boy scouts use  | Fruited, chocolate, and other sweetened crackers, in original packages  |
| Mirror, steel  | Fruit cake  |
| Handkerchiefs, khaki-colored   | Preserved ginger  |
| Neckties   | Salted nuts   |
| Mouth organ  | Prunes  |
| Electric torch   | Figs  |
| Compass  | Dates   |
| Playing cards  | Raisins   |
| Mechanical puzzles (an assorted lot of twelve small mechanical puzzles can be bought at the rate of twelve for 50c.) | Hard candy  |
|  | Chocolate in tin foil   |
|  | Licorice  |

The articles which are marked with an asterisk in the above list will be purchased by the Red Cross Supply Bureau and can be bought from Chapters by the time Chapters are ready to pack the parcels. This leaflet is published early that

those interested may be gathering funds for the packets and assembling the small articles to go in them.

Chapters will receive directions from Division Managers as to the dates when packets should be shipped to France and also as to the dates when those intended for the home cantonments should be ready for distribution.

It is expected that money for the Christmas packages will be raised by Chapters, through contributions by individuals for this specific purpose.

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