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Hemingway, the Red Cross, and the Great War

Steven Florczyk

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Ernest Hemingway's initiation into war

Ernest Hemingway's enlistment with the American Red Cross during World War I was one of the most formative experiences of his life, and it provided much of the source material for *A Farewell to Arms* and his writings about Italy and the Great War. As significant as it was, Hemingway's service has never been sufficiently understood. By looking at previously unexamined documents, including the letters and diary of Hemingway's commanding officer, Robert
W. Bates, official reports of the ambulance and canteen services, and section newspapers published by volunteers, author Steven Florczyk provides crucial insights into Hemingway's service.

The book opens by sharing tales of the volunteer ambulance units from the Western Front, which also led to the involvement of the American Red Cross in Italy. This was where Hemingway came to know many of the experienced drivers from France. In the spring of 1918 the young writer enlisted, serving first with an ambulance unit in Schio and then as a canteen worker at the Piave River until he was wounded. After the war when the volunteer outfits disbanded, Hemingway returned home where he took up his plan to earn a living as a writer.

Hemingway s Red Cross experience was a major influence on his development as a writer and a thinker. Through the power of words, Hemingway's journalism, short stories, and novels exposed the falsehoods of World War I propaganda. His involvement with the Red Cross led to some of the finest American literature on the Great War.

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Pierre Winter:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their sparetime with their family, or all their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic in the park. They actually doing same every week. Do you feel it? Do you need to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the publication untitled Hemingway, the Red Cross, and the Great War can be fine book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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