

Hadassah Hospital's New Techniques Saved Many Lives

Kiryat Hadassah, Israel....Hundreds of wounded soldiers were saved in the Yom Kippur War by the new medical techniques which were used in treating the wounded. This was revealed in a report of Dr. Kadman J. Mann, Director General of the Hadassah Medical Organization and senior physicians at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, to Faye L. Schenk, Hadassah Medical Organization Chairman.

The speed with which the wounded soldier was given treatment was recognized as a major factor in his survival. In this War, regimental doctors, practically all of whom are graduates of the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School, were accompanied by orderlies right into the front lines together with the combatant soldiers. When the bridge was established across the Suez Canal, doctors crossed with the soldiers into Egypt.

Their presence enabled them to provide emergency treatment at once in the form of first aid to stop the bleeding, to replace loss of fluid and blood with transfusions and to perform emergency operations, such as tracheotomies, in order to recommence breathing. Since the doctors operated from unarmored ambulances, they were exposed to heavy fire and casualties were high.

From the front lines, the casualties were transported as rapidly as possible to the field hospitals which were near the lines. These were staffed by many junior surgical specialists between the ages of 35 and 40 years. Most of these young specialists had been trained at Hadassah and had then been sent overseas by the Hadassah Medical Organization for further training. The field hospitals, which were within a short distance of the front lines, had all the facilities necessary to provide life-saving primary care to the wounded, including permanent operating theaters.

It was possible to save people wounded in the chest by the closure of holes and the use of special aspirant valves, invented by the Americans and used in the Vietnam war. This type of valve is used by the doctors to draw air and blood from the chest cavity

thus enabling the patient to breathe. Hundreds of lives were saved by this device. In addition, artificial respirators were used--sometimes for many days.

The replacement of blood loss by other fluids such as electrolyte salt solutions or concentrated red blood cells or thrombocytes was possible in the field hospital because of the excellent laboratory and blood-bank facilities.

Each case in the field hospital was speedily evaluated by a team of specialists. Wounds were cleaned and dressed, and ready for secondary care in the base hospitals. Antibiotics were administered. Where a patient could be sent by helicopter to the base hospital and operated on there, he was transferred, as soon as possible. However, if a soldier was too badly hurt to wait for more than two hours for an operation and traveling would endanger his life, the operation was performed immediately in the field hospital, where operating facilities were excellent. Since the field hospital was near the front lines, operations were sometimes performed under air-raid conditions.

Major operations were performed in the field hospitals with success. One soldier, who had been hit in the lung and had been declared dead because his heart had stopped beating, underwent massive surgery: the chest was first opened, the heart massaged and defibrillated, and then an operation performed and the lung removed. Today he is out of danger in the Hadassah University Hospital.

Dr. Ronnie Rozin and his Hadassah team regrafted a totally severed arm, which would be considered an achievement--even at a medical center. Dr. Mann says that severed arteries have been repaired "so elegantly" in the forward hospitals that the patients have been sent up directly to the recovery wards.

The specialists in the field hospitals were able to sort out the casualties according to the specialist treatment needed and then to notify the base hospitals as to the kinds of



JERUSALEM MAYOR, TEDDY KOLLEK, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SHAARE ZEDEK HOSPITAL, NACHUM PESSIN, COMFORTING ONE YEAR OLD TERRORIST VICTIM OF HAND GRENADE THROWN INTO MARKET PLACE OF OLD CITY NEAR JAFFA GATE.

patients they were sending by helicopter and the type of specialist treatment they required, before the patients actually arrived in the base hospital by "flying ambulances."

(CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)

There's still
one source
of power we'll
never be without

Happy Holidays!



PAT GINN
extends

Chanukah
GREETINGS



Pat's Chinese Kitchen
953-30 E. SAHARA
(COMMERCIAL CENTER)
735-5795