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Documents on Prisoners of War

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DOCUMENT NO. 29

**1899 HAGUE CONVENTION III FOR THE ADAPTATION TO
MARITIME WARFARE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE GENEVA
CONVENTION OF AUGUST 22, 1864
(29 July 1899)**

SOURCES

32 Stat. 1827
1 Bevans 263
91 BFSP 1002
1 AJIL Supp. 159

NOTE

In 1868 "Additional Articles" (DOCUMENT NO. 26) to the 1864 Geneva Red Cross Convention (DOCUMENT NO. 24) had been drafted, adapting to maritime warfare the provisions of the 1864 Convention applicable to the wounded and sick of armies in the field. These "Additional Articles" probably never entered into force. The 1899 Conference, meeting shortly after the end of the Spanish-American War (1898), which had been primarily a naval conflict, was more successful in obtaining acceptance of its adaptation of the 1864 Convention, with appropriate modifications and additions, to maritime warfare. Like all of the 1899 agreements, it was signed on 29 July 1899.

EXTRACTS

ARTICLE VII.

The religious, medical, or hospital staff of any captured ship is inviolable, and its members cannot be made prisoners of war. On leaving the ship they take with them the objects and surgical instruments which are their own private property.

This staff shall continue to discharge its duties while necessary, and can afterwards leave when the Commander-in-Chief considers it possible.

The belligerents must guarantee to the staff that has fallen into their hands the enjoyment of their salaries intact.

ARTICLE VIII.

Sailors and soldiers who are taken on board when sick or wounded, to whatever nation they belong, shall be protected and looked after by the captors.

ARTICLE IX.

The shipwrecked, wounded, or sick of one of the belligerents who fall into the hands of the other, are prisoners of war. The captor must decide, according to circumstances, if it is best to keep them or send them to a port of his own country, to a neutral port, or even to a hostile port. In the last case, prisoners thus repatriated cannot serve as long as the war lasts.