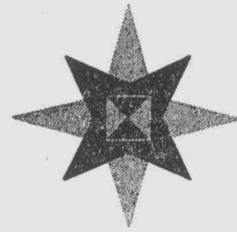


# FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN



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VOL. 1 NO. 2

JULY 25, 1944

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

# Hostel in Rural England

by JOHN JUDKYN

*Friends Relief Service in England maintains over forty hostels for individuals and families needing more specialized care than is provided under large scale government evacuation programs. John Judkyn of the American Friends Service Committee describes a recent visit to a hostel for crippled people.*

When I arrived at Cotebrook I found the staff of three busy preparing the evening meal which was served at five o'clock. It consisted of meat cakes, bread, butter and jam, fruit cake and cocoa. All the young guests were dressed and in wheel chairs with the exception of two who had to remain in bed. I felt at once that there was little of the "institution" atmosphere here, but rather a sense of informality and real contentment. Peggy, a victim of infantile paralysis, had lived alone with her mother in one tiny dark room, before she came to the hostel. Although she could only move her head, she had taught herself to write since coming to Cotebrook, by holding the pen in her mouth, and she could write quickly and well. She reads a great deal, turning the pages with a specially shaped stick held in her mouth. Her personality seems to inspire the other children, and when I saw her she was busy teaching another girl to read and talk.

## Patchwork Quilts

Everyone of the guests seemed to be busy doing something all the time. They were making gloves, doing embroidery, knitting, and making slippers, and yet out of ten only two could use both hands. On each bed was a patchwork quilt from the American Friends Service Committee. It seems to me that for the next hundred years or so Americans generally, and American Quakers in particular, will always be associated in the minds of the English with patchwork quilts. Every bed in every Friends Relief Service Hostel has a gaily colored American quilt on it, and they are to be found in every part of England where the bombing has been particularly bad. English people never imagined that Americans could be so old-fashioned as to make patchwork which has not been seen over here for fifty years.

## Road to Freedom

A shabby, lonely man wandered into the American Friends Service Committee office in Casablanca recently to ask for assistance.

Jakob is a German refugee, and for three years he had been wandering homeless and stateless with no possessions but the clothes on his back. He had been in internment camps in France, in prison in Spain, and on reaching North Africa was faced with the possibility of being forced to join the French Foreign Legion. Fortunately he had heard of the British Pioneer Corps, a labor group under the British Army, and the French authorities were willing to consider his joining this service. However, even if he could gain admittance to the Pioneer Corps, it would be a matter of some weeks. How and where could he live in the meantime? He had no money, no friends, no connections. As a foreigner without a job and without money, he was in danger of internment.

The Quaker office agreed to guarantee his maintenance, and that night Jakob went to the refugee

hostel operated jointly by the Service Committee and the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. The next morning he applied for admission to the Pioneer Corps. Then he came back to consult with the Quaker office as to what he could do until his application was acted on. Fortunately he is a skilled cabinet-maker, and it was possible to find him a good position right away. For the first time in three years Jakob was self-supporting, and in his new clothes supplied from one of the Service Committee's shipments from America, he said he began to feel again like a free man.

Two months later Jakob was accepted by the Pioneer Corps. Just before he went off, he came to the Quaker office to share his good news. The day before he had through the Quaker office in Philadelphia received a letter from an aunt in San Francisco. "It is good," he said, "to be useful again and to feel part of the world, to know that across the seas there are relatives to whom I belong."

THE FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE, 20 SOUTH TWELFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA 7, PA., FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND FRIENDS. ALL MATERIAL PRINTED HEREIN MAY BE REPUBLISHED.

# The Future of European Relief

by RODOLFO OLGATI

*The following article is a summary prepared from a talk delivered by Rodolfo Olgiati at Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pennsylvania. The complete text will be published shortly as a Pendle Hill pamphlet. Mr. Olgiati, a Swiss citizen, was for several years executive secretary of the Swiss Child Relief Committee, with which Friends have long cooperated. He has recently come to the United States for consultations with American church and relief leaders.*

To help Europe, we must know and understand something of the living experiences of her people these last years. The situation which we in Europe face has four fundamnetal aspects.

There has been great disintegration in human, social, and political life. Barriers have grown or been deliberately set up between different groups. In some countries an "atomization" of society has come about which has even extended down to and through the family group. In some countries, and to varying degrees, underground movements have helped to develop a new basis for unity.

Much disease and distortion have developed through long years of deprivation and degradation. This is not only true on the physical level, where it can eventually be cured to a large extent. People's minds and souls have suffered. They have lacked sound conditions for development. It is easier to control an epidemic disease ravaging a whole country than to cure a nation from dominating feelings of bitterness and revenge. It is much easier to know how to behave with a person suffering from a contagious disease than it is to find the right attitude and the right pattern of behavior towards a person whose emotions are distorted. This problem will have to be faced particularly with the youth, with the returning soldiers, and with all those who have suffered persecution.

The dire need of many of the basic elements necessary to secure a healthy life is critical. The magnitude of the requirements in food, clothing, and other material commodities is well known. To supply them is mainly a technical problem. But there is also the great need of truth, of knowledge, and of training. Without knowledge of the truth, the health of people's minds and of society cannot be restored. The deficiency of education has resulted in a lack of knowledge and training in millions of children and young people. For example, there is a whole generation in Germany who have not learned much more than to be soldiers.

Already the most conspicuous feature of Europe is destruction. It will take a long time to rebuild

that which has been destroyed on the material level. But the near future will show that there has also been destruction which cannot be made good, at least not for long years to come. I mean the wiping out of leadership in some countries.

It is easier to pour in trainloads of all sorts of goods, to fight epidemics in an efficient way, or to start out upon huge building programs than it is to heal the wounds inflicted by war on human beings. It is the human spirit which must be built up again, and building up is a long process.

## Sympathy Needed

The fundamental attitude which people must have, if they come to Europe or to any who suffer, is sympathy. Sympathy means feeling, suffering with; it implies equality in feeling. To overcome hatred, I see really only one approach, and that is the Christian approach. In discussing this postwar Europe with a Swiss friend some months ago, we both were aware that even in neutral Switzerland it will not be easy for many to forgive the terror which has been visited on us and to be without hate. If this is true among the Swiss people, who have really been outside the range of war, what must it be in the still occupied countries? Sympathy, which is so indispensable, is, I am sure, difficult to attain.

After the last war, some pacifists and Christians thought they were stressing the pacifist and Christian point of view by saying: "We have all been wrong." The idea readily follows that no one is guilty. This is a dangerous doctrine and will be brought forward again, and the real issues of guilt will become confused and tangled, so that repentance cannot find its way. We cannot overcome the guilt unless we start with repentance.

The second point of which we must be reminded in approaching the European countries in relief work is one for which I find no better term than that of the "ecumenical approach." In recent years the different denominations of the Christian Church the world over have come together not to melt

down into one world-wide denomination but to try to express their fellowship as children of one Father. Through such an approach they have the possibility of keeping their own individuality and particular interests without falling into a competitive attitude toward one another. Competition would produce great disillusionment for Europeans. They long for unity, but unity with the real aspiration and possibility of living in a liberal way. For so many years they have experienced false unity, they have had more than enough of it. One way to develop the cooperative attitude, which is the basis upon which to build any international organization, is to demonstrate its working as soon as possible.

### Self-Help

The third idea is one of which the Society of Friends has been particularly conscious—to help people to help themselves. Europe has experienced disintegration, disease, want, and destruction, but there are good and strong forces which can be used for reconstruction. It is like a sick body which develops counter-forces to overcome contagion. It is upon these counter-forces that we must count. In some countries, for instance, the Christian Church has become small and weak because of persecution. On the other hand, this church is strong in all those individuals who believe that the only alternative to what they have been experiencing for years is the Christian ideal. Many of them being without pastoral leaders have become themselves lay leaders, although they are frequently cut off from the fellowship of like-minded persons. Like the early Christians, they have won through adversity to spiritual strength. From these tested persons we have much to learn.

It is through the sound and healthy forces which are alive in every country that the direction for our efforts can come. In this way we will indeed be helping them to help themselves.

Some countries of Europe will present few, if any, problems which cannot be solved by national and community leaders. In others international relief will be called upon to make an important contribution which is quite apart from material goods. Germany will present the most difficult problems.

So much depends upon the feelings and attitudes of the outside world toward Germany and the Germans. Barriers have been built up not only between the Germans themselves but against the whole outside world. The idea and ideal of the ecumenical or cooperative approach to a solution no longer exist. They have been persuaded that only Germans have unity and therefore only Germans have efficiency. There has been a conscious disruption of internal relations and functions. Among many Germans there is bound to be a profound distrust of any international approach and every kind of international unit.

### Return to Freedom

Many people are so used to being dominated that they are no longer aware that they have no freedom. They have given up asserting their own individuality. When the pressure from outside is removed, we are likely to assume that they will immediately find an inward authority to replace that outward domination and will rejoice in freedom. Strong reactions are, however, likely to be displayed, and the brunt will be felt not by Hitler but by well-meaning English or American officers trying to establish order without bullying. People accustomed to domination must find their way to freedom slowly and painfully.

Nationalism and racism will not be overcome by the mere fact of victory over the Axis. They are evils with roots in all people in all countries. We will perhaps have to face the tragic fact that in some countries, not only occupied countries, where no nationalism had been felt before the war, this disease may develop in a dangerous way. We may bear in mind Friedrich Schiller's words:

"That in the curse of the evil deed

That in continuous engendering it will bring forth new evils."

In postwar relief work we shall need to be realistic, to be aware that it is easier to destroy than to rebuild. If we know that much depends on us and that we bear a great responsibility, we must also be aware that the result cannot be achieved merely by our human endeavor. That makes us both proud and humble.

### SERVICE IN INDIA

John Scott Everton, of the faculty of Grinnell College, has been appointed American executive of relief in India. He left the end of June for India where he will work in cooperation with the Friends

Ambulance Unit.

Eric W. Johnson, formerly associated with the Quaker relief service in Algiers, has already arrived in Calcutta.

## Food and Clothing for France

Military operations in France have heightened for many Americans their concern to help the French people. The food purchases which the Committee has been able to make in Portugal and Switzerland in recent weeks for the children in France may be expected to meet a critical need until more direct assistance is possible. Cables from the Quaker offices in Lisbon and Geneva provide a partial list of the food already purchased. The Swiss purchases include:

- 16 tons condensed milk
- 10 tons Ovomaltine
- 10 tons hacosan
- 10 tons Lactissa, powdered milk base for children's food.

The same office shipped on May 17 to the Quaker office in Toulouse 17 tons of white beans for the school canteens.

The Lisbon office cabled that two tons of sugar and two tons of milk are available in Spain and anticipated also early shipment of 200 cases of sardines in olive oil. What difficulties may be encountered in arranging transportation have not yet been indicated. Distribution of these food supplies to the children in France will be made by Secours Quaker under supervision of the International Red Cross.

The Committee has been granted two additional licenses for France. They provide for the transfer of \$25,000 each to Portugal and Switzerland for food purchases for displaced persons in France, both foreigners and nationals. Because additional food for export may not be obtainable in these neutral countries, actual transfer of funds is being delayed until Quaker workers can give assurance that supplies will be available.

The emergency period directly following military operations is generally conceded to be the one when clothing needs are most critical. The Committee is, therefore, making 10 tons of clothing available for use in this emergency period. This shipment, including clothing and shoes for men, women, and children, is expected to leave Philadelphia shortly.

A report, written in French, from the Toulouse office of Secours Quaker, describes a limited feeding service undertaken February 10 for 250 school children and emphasizes the importance of supplies to expand this service. This report, given below, outlines the program in only one city and only for



*Two French school children enjoy a supplementary meal*

the period from February 10 to February 29, during which 3,160 meals were served. The food distributed totaled 455 kilograms (about 994 pounds). Hope was expressed that the service might be continued through the summer. Indicative of the condition of the children is the fact that many could hardly eat at first. At the end of the month most of them were asking for seconds and sometimes even thirds.

### Quaker Supplementary Feeding Center

"The Supplementary Feeding Center, which opened on February 10, 1944, has as its aim to help the Toulouse children in grade school, who upon examination were found to be deficient because of lack of food. After consultation with the doctor-inspectors of the primary schools in Toulouse, we decided upon the following course of action: This Center is to be primarily for undernourished children with no other disorders or organic defects, such as tubercular or pre-tubercular children, the latter being sent to special organizations.

"The number of children to whom supplements were to be given was fixed at 250 when the Center opened. The children were chosen from different schools fairly near to our office, for technical reasons. The choice was made by doctor-inspectors assisted by social workers. The children sent to



our Center underwent upon entrance a complete medical examination, which was repeated regularly every fifteen days.

"The first examination of about 218 children showed:

1. More than two thirds of the children are much below the normal weight, the other third are underweight; in a few cases, the children are in a condition of cachexy.
2. A height lower than normal, in relation to age, and too small chest measurements.
3. Decalcification in half the cases (bad teeth, deformation of the frame, kyphosis, scoliosis, kypho-scoliosis).
4. In a third of the cases too feeble muscular development.
5. Acrocyanosis of the extremities and tropical disorders in 15 per cent of the cases.
6. Cervical and inguinal adenitis in 50 per cent of the cases.
7. Anemia in 5 per cent of the cases. A few rare cases of bradycardia.
8. Mental difficulties (bad work in school, bad memory, instability, emotionalism).

"In a general summing up, we cannot speak of illness caused by alimentary deficiency but of conditions which would be likely to bring on this type of illness.

#### Operation of the Center

"The meal is served at noon and takes the place of the lunch the child would receive at home. Our intention had been to serve it at four in the afternoon, but this was impossible on account of the hours of school.

"The children are taken from the school to the Center by the teachers, who eat with them, and they are taken back to school by the same teachers. In giving out the food, we have tried to serve meals rich enough in calories and at the same time balanced in carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. Naturally from time to time the menus are changed, according to supplies and kitchen facilities. The definitely deficient children have been put together at a special table, where three times a week they receive, in addition to the regular meals, 30 grams of lard, and on the other days 40 grams of Lactocao.

"The results obtained at the end of a month of operation are rather decisive and encouraging. Out of 218 children who came regularly, we found:

Gains in weight .....	154
Losses in weight .....	42
No change .....	22

Gains in Weight	No Change	Losses in Weight
100 grams....22	22	100 grams....13
200 " ....14		200 " ....11
300 " ....26		300 " .... 7
400 " ....29		400 " .... 6
500 " ....16		500 " .... 2
600 " ....10		600 " .... 2
700 " .... 5		900 " .... 1
800 " .... 8		
900 " .... 5		
1000 " .... 4		
1500 " .... 8		
2000 " .... 3		

"The losses in weight are largely explained by recurring illness or by difficulty of adjustment to the new program.

"The examination at the end of the month was devoted especially to the children who showed no change or who had lost weight. According to the individual case, we have planned for them:

1. A chest X-ray.
2. A tonic with a base of vitamins A and D.
3. An increase in the regular ration.

"In conclusion, although a month is not enough time to get a precise idea of the positive results which we hope to obtain, it seems that we can hope for a definite improvement in the condition of these children, in view of the gains in weight listed above.

"We hope that the number of children who can be given extra rations will be at least doubled, and that, in the same way, a meal can be served to the young students of the University of Toulouse, where the health condition from the point of view of nourishment leaves much to be desired. In order to continue and consolidate this work, our stocks in proteins and fats (cheese, Lactocao, jam, and milk) should be renewed in fairly large quantities. We realize that hundreds of other children should be receiving the same supplementary rations, but our supplies do not allow us to serve a second meal, something we would gladly do.

# The Promised Land

by LAWRENCE PARRISH

*All over the world, men and women driven from their homelands by persecution and war are seeking new homelands. Recently the Madrid office maintained by six American relief committees was able to wish godspeed to several hundred refugees bound for Palestine. Lawrence Parrish of the Quaker staff describes their departure.*

Negotiations had been under way for many months with the Portuguese Government to obtain a ship to take Jewish refugees from Spain and Portugal to Palestine. Finally the arrangements were made with all the interested parties, and we learned that the ship would leave Portugal around the twenty-first, stopping at Cadiz to pick up the people from Spain. Our office had the responsibility of negotiating with the Spanish Government and arranging for travel to Cadiz. The British Government was also involved, since the British control the issuing of visas for Palestine.

The last week was hectic. We were preparing hundreds of documents for the people who were to leave. There were close to 400 people to come from Barcelona, about 150 from Madrid, and about 50 from several camps and residences. All these people had to come through Madrid on their way to Cadiz. We engaged a special train for the trip, which left from Barcelona and picked up the rest of the crowd in Madrid.

We got through that week somehow. The train arrived from Barcelona Wednesday morning, the people from the camps in the north of Spain arrived the same day, and those from Madrid were getting ready to leave that evening. There was plenty of activity in our office.

## Long Train Journey

We finally all got on the train about midnight. The job of arranging the moving of a group of 550 to 600 people is a big one, as you can imagine. Boarding the train was slow but was finally accomplished, and we pulled out about midnight, destined to be on the road for some twenty-seven hours. The Barcelona group had already been on the train one night coming to Madrid. There were, of course, people of all ages, from three months to seventy years or more. All took it in good spirit and bore the discomforts with a minimum of complaining. We arrived at Cordoba about 2:30 in the afternoon of Thursday and stopped there for several hours while everyone went into town to eat.

We went on from Cordoba late in the afternoon, passed through Seville late that night, and arrived at Cadiz at about 3 A. M. The job of getting so large a group off the train moved slowly and was not completed until 7 o'clock. A man from Barcelona had been in Cadiz for a week before our arrival arranging for accommodations, and had succeeded in persuading the authorities to open a summer hotel for the occasion. Otherwise the town could not have accommodated us.

Our passengers bore up well, considering the length and toughness of the trip. These cars were not sleepers, of course, and sitting up for three nights is exhausting. There was a woman in my compartment who came over the Pyrenees from France in the winter and had her feet frozen. She had to have the front part of each foot cut off. Then there were families with several small children and some people who were sick.

## New Homeland

The ship arrived in Cadiz Monday afternoon. Our people started getting on board about 5 P. M., and when the last passenger had gone aboard shortly before midnight, the ship pulled out. They were a happy company and went off singing Palestinian songs and cheering. It was quite an experience to see them go. Let's hope they will have found a home at last. A number of refugees who had worked in our office in Madrid were in the party, and I felt I was losing some good friends.

It was touching to see these people who had been wandering for so long going out on another journey. There were children who had never had a nationality, old people who had almost forgotten their former homes because they had been through so much. One of the amazing things was how normal most of them were. Human beings apparently have an almost limitless ability to adjust themselves to new situations.

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