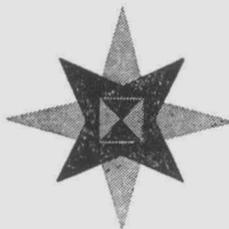


FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN



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AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Quaker Foreign Service Program

Europe

England. Since 1940, English Friends have been engaged in services for civilian war victims. American Friends have supported this program, which at present includes Quaker hostels for families, young children, and the aged. Expenditures during 1943 for this program totaled \$150,136.89.

France. With the permission of the American Government, the Committee is purchasing food supplies in Portugal and Switzerland for children in France. Distribution of these supplies will be made by Secours Quaker under the supervision of the International Red Cross.

Italy. In May, 1944, a service for refugees in Italy was undertaken in cooperation with the Inter-governmental Committee on Refugees.

Portugal. Individual services are provided to refugees in transit and in "forced residence." In 1943 expenditures totaled \$47,397.66.

Spain. The Madrid office maintained by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and the American Friends Service Committee is particularly concerned for stateless refugees. This involves arrangements for release from prisons and camps, financial assistance in "forced residence," migration counseling, medical care, help in communicating with relatives and friends abroad, serving of hot meals in certain prisons, sending parcels of food and clothing to prisons and internment camps. Distribution of twenty tons of clothing in Spain has been the special concern of the Madrid relief office. American Friends Service Committee expenditures in 1943 were \$134,830.30.

Switzerland. Substantial clothing shipments are being made to Switzerland for distribution among refugees. This assistance, as well as other services, has supplemented the excellent Swiss program for the care of refugees. During 1943, \$78,349.57 was spent for this program.

Asia

China. Friends Ambulance Unit trucks loaded with medical supplies for the sick and wounded roll

over the tortuous roads of Free China. In three first-aid stations and mobile dispensaries on the Yunnan front, FAU physicians and medical workers are caring for the sick and wounded. American expenditures in 1943 totaled \$191,472.20, provided through United China Relief, Incorporated.

India. In cooperation with Friends Ambulance Unit, milk, medical supplies, and vitamins are being distributed in famine-stricken areas of Bengal. Although the peak of the famine has passed, there is urgent need for supplementary feeding and medicines. This service is now operating on a budget for 1944 of \$1,200,000, provided through British War Relief Society of America and India Famine Relief Committee.

Africa

Algeria and Morocco. Quaker delegates are providing welfare services for foreigners who have been released from internment camps. These services include emigration aid, distribution of clothing, cash relief, medical service, job placement, hostels and social centers for Spanish expatriates, and aid to families of Italian internees. The Committee is cooperating with local French organizations in the establishment of a day nursery for children of working mothers in Algiers. Expenditures for this service during 1943 were \$95,032.01.

Egypt. A Committee delegate has been in Cairo since December, 1943, working in liaison with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in providing services for Greek and Yugoslav refugees in Egypt.

Refugees in the United States

Newcomers arrive from Europe with an eager desire to become part of an American community. Powell House, at 130 East 70th Street in New York City, is a hospitality center where new and more established Americans work and play together. Friendship parties sponsored by groups of Friends in Philadelphia and other cities, summer hostels, counsel on job placement and other questions through the Philadelphia office are some of the practical services provided for these new Americans.

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Children of India

by JAMES G. VAIL

Generous contributions from concerned Americans have made possible the shipments of milk, medicines, and vitamins to Bengal province, India. James G. Vail, Foreign Service Secretary of the Committee, is now visiting India to study conditions at first hand and to arrange, in cooperation with Friends Ambulance Unit, for the distribution of American supplies.

Calcutta, India, May 4, 1944.—Two greenish-yellow little lizards on the whitewashed wall by the lamp had good hunting as we watched them after a day of touring in the district where flood and cyclone had wrought havoc in 1942. One after another they stalked and caught the abundant anopheles. We, with modern insect repellents and good nets for sleeping, might have viewed the situation with unconcern, but our minds were full of pictures of unprotected people depleted by famine who were falling easy prey to malignant malaria and other diseases. Tonight, in hospitals, in assembly places for the destitute, and in the villages, the anopheles were making sure that exposure to the infection was complete. Long undernourishment reduces resistance to whatever danger may impend. Measles, smallpox, pneumonia, dysentery have a terror here not known at home, and we have seen them all. Cholera is coming.

Walking from village to village along the sea coast, the stranger notices a round white stone which seems out of place in the soft alluvium of the Gangetic plain. With a start we see it is a human skull, but the shock is dulled as we see hundreds singly or in groups as we travel from village to village by road or foot to learn the state of the community. Thousands of the flood victims were buried, but with about 20,000 lost, the task was beyond the strength of those that remained.

The Government has built numerous buildings for the relief of the people. All are more or less of the same pattern—a row of tall round posts—the trunks of coconut palm—the ridge poles between are of stout bamboo as are the rafters and all the framework. Ropes of jute tie the bamboo together, and over the frame is a heavy thatch of rice straw. The low side wall with broad overhanging roof is made of split bamboo woven into a coarse basket-like sheet and smeared with mud to make it tight.

Some of the buildings at strategic places are used for the storage of rice because when the rains come in June the roads will be impassable and starvation can come from lack of transportation. Other buildings, but slightly modified, are homes for the destitutes, two-thirds of whom are orphaned children.

Village Industries

In some of these, where leadership has lacked imagination and no work was available, the scene was depressing. In others, and notably those where the Friends Ambulance Unit has been introducing weaving and pottery, there is a feeling of hope, and one knows that constructive work is going on. The potter works with a most primitive wheel—a heavy circle about four feet in diameter with a central pin in a socket at floor level. Leaning over, the potter spins the wheel with his hand and works the clay on a plate at the hub until the momentum from his former efforts is spent. But he makes shapely vessels in the native style, and the young boys who are his pupils delight in the opportunity to make simpler forms according to their skill. The work has to be sent away for baking, but all the landscape is raw material for this work.

Weaving is naturally more complicated in its mechanical requirements, but the looms are fashioned of bamboo with only shuttles brought in from outside. About 30 rupees will build a loom on which the saris and the dhotis worn by women and men respectively can be made. The cloth is rather coarse cotton, usually with a border stripe or other simple pattern neatly executed. Both men and women can weave, and there is an almost unlimited market for their work. The sari is a yard wide and at least seven yards long, while the dhoti may be five yards. There are some who believe that even in the post-war period this village industry can compete with factory-made cloth.

Hospitals Fight Disease

The hospitals are in general of the same structure, with two rows of beds and an aisle between. Doctors are scarce, and nurses with more than rudimentary training are scarcer still. We saw cases of extreme emaciation equal to the worst famine pictures, numerous ulcer cases which indicate deficiency in vitamin C, the edema cases which I had not expected to see, cases of amoebic and bacillary dysentery, and everywhere malaria and scabies. The two hospitals in the town are under expert supervision, but those in remote places are not so good. There

are 900 beds in the Sub-Division which suffered worst from the flood and wind.

Water is another problem. The tanks in which the season's water is stored are used for bathing and drinking, so that by the end of the dry season they are pretty bad. They are large excavations in the clay soil, rectangular in shape and of various sizes up to about 100 feet on a side and ten feet deep. In one I saw deep crimson water lilies. The few tube wells are quite insufficient, and many villages have none. Friends Ambulance Unit is working on a project to pump out and clean tanks before the rains fill them again—a very useful scheme, but the equipment has to go in over no roads. Most of the country roads will be impassable during the rainy season.

Village Milk Distribution

About five one evening we set out to keep an appointment for the distribution of milk. Big black-faced long-tailed monkeys were coming in numbers across the fields to water. The FAU men and I were in a large truck of theirs with the cases of milk tins. We could see people coming across the paddy fields from all directions to the village, for this land is flat as a table top. We backed in between two thatched houses, which had to be done carefully to avoid either wrecking the houses or injuring any of the multitude that pressed around. There were some fine faces that showed suffering and fortitude. Their clothes were worn but mostly clean, except where continuous washing in muddy water has made a permanent stain. The children up to six or eight are naked. There was no impatience but no order until those without tickets were sent to the side of the

houses in front of the truck and those with tickets were seated in a long double row on the other side—about three hundred of them. Each ticket represented a baby. The babies are brought in for periodic inspection, but few of them were there this time. Two men checked the ticket against the list, dated the ticket, and recorded attendance. Then the line formed for the delivery of tins from the truck, and each was marked as delivery was made. This is done once a week.

Experienced relief workers may ask why not a canteen where the children could be fed on the spot. The answer is that babies need their milk daily, and if you had seen that company disperse miles in all directions across the sunset landscape, you would know it could not be done. Those three hundred people must have walked barefoot more than a thousand, perhaps fifteen hundred miles to get their milk. Their white figures quietly moving out of sight made an evening scene long to be remembered.

Inflation

Today I bought a shirt for the price of two. That is a minor hardship to me, but when applied to food and people who are very poor, the situation is catastrophic. Add the flood and famine, the salted fields which will yield a short crop, the loss of cattle on which they depend for ploughing, and the invasion of disease, and they have the strongest claim on our help. Nature and the war have combined to make their situation desperate. Both government and private agencies here are giving them a hand, but supplies are short. We have a great opportunity for a practical expression of good will.

Cooperation with UNRRA

American and British private relief agencies are cooperating with the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration for services to refugees in Egypt and later relief work in the Balkans.

J. Barclay Jones, Assistant Personnel Manager of Budd Manufacturing Company, will go to Cairo shortly to represent the Service Committee as Commissioner to the Middle East and Balkans.

Eleven appointees of the Committee are now enrolled in the UNRRA training program at the University of Maryland, which began May 1. These appointees include:

Roderic Davison, AFSC relief worker in unoccupied France, 1942, recently returned from internment at Baden Baden, Germany; William Edgerton, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages, Guilford College; Sarah Howells, Nurse at Civilian Public

Service Camp, Gatlinburg, Tennessee; Evarts Loomis, Assistant Medical Officer, Grenfell Mission, St. Anthony, Newfoundland; Oscar Marshburn, AFSC relief worker in France, 1918-1919; Director of Civilian Public Service Camp, Glendora, California; Viola Pfrommer, Chairman, Department of Health and Physical Education, Colby Junior College, New London, New Hampshire; Henry Russell, Instructor in Biblical Literature, Bowdoin College; Rebecca Taylor, Research Project Technical Assistant, Vanderbilt Medical School; William Taylor, architect in private practice; last year and a half design engineer, War Relocation Authority Project, Rivers, Arizona; Louise Tibbetts, Head Teacher, Child Care Center, New Haven, Connecticut; Edward Wright, AFSC relief worker in France, 1918-1919; Associate Professor of Accounting, University of Pennsylvania.

Health of Children in France

With the permission of our Government, the American Friends Service Committee is now purchasing food supplies in Portugal and Switzerland for the children in France. It is hoped that by the time this Bulletin reaches our friends and contributors, additional licenses will have been granted to transfer \$25,000 to Portugal and \$25,000 to Switzerland for refugees in France.

For three years the Centre d'Etudes d'Hygiene de Marseille has studied the effects of the food shortage in France on the health of school children. Thorough medical examinations have been given to the children and a careful check made of their diet for specified periods of time. In 1943 examinations were given to 233 children from three schools in Marseille.

The results of a diet insufficient in quality and quantity are, according to physicians of the Centre, evident in the impaired health of the children. The available food does not meet the needs of a child of ten, which was the average age of the children examined. A ten-year-old making few if any muscular exertions uses about 1,900 calories daily. These children were receiving 1,725 calories a day and were leading active lives.

Effects of Inadequate Diet

Summarizing the results of clinical examinations, the report reads:

"Our examinations show that a large number of school children are undernourished and are suffering from it. Only 50 per cent of the children were found absolutely normal in a clinical examination. A large number (18 per cent) are much underweight in relation to their height. As to the others, they present more or less marked signs of deficiency: poor posture, thinness, first tetanic stage, light anemia, signs pointing to vitamin deficiency, particularly vitamin A.

"In a certain number of cases, these signs are found even among children with normal weight. If the selection of deficient children were made only by weight, a number of needy children would probably be overlooked.

"If we compare this situation with that which we found in our investigations in 1941 and 1942, we have the impression that it has not grown noticeably worse during the last year. But the continuation of an unsatisfactory condition is a portent of serious trouble.

"Our investigation dealt with a limited number

of children. How far do we have the right to stretch our conclusions to the whole school-age population of Marseille? Taking into consideration the locations from which we chose our children, we think that what we have said is probably true for the majority of public schools in Marseille. Moreover, our studies in one private school show that signs of deficiency are also often seen among children in better circumstances.

Recommendations

"The conditions which we have described are probably not irreversible, but the food restrictions have been in force now almost three years, and we fear that if the situation continues, many children will have lasting traces of their present deficient state. It is clear that it is difficult at the present time to find a remedy. The attention of the school authorities has been drawn to the advantage of reducing the number of physical exercises requiring an important expenditure of muscular strength. In many cases they have modified the time-tables in order to lessen the tiredness of the children caused by their trips between home and school.

"It is clearly very hard to increase the rations of the children. Nevertheless, it must be done in any way that is possible, preferably by means of school canteens and vacation colonies. It is in this way that the children are most certain of receiving the supplementary food which is meant for them. There is also a great advantage in continuing the distribution of vitamins, to which should be added the distribution of lime salts.

"Finally, when there is a limited quantity of food, it would be important in our opinion not to distribute it to all the children, which would make each portion too small and without value for the deficient children, but to limit the distribution either to the age groups the most affected, or, better still, to the children who have suffered most from undernourishment. The selection of these children should not be difficult, and the supplementary food could be given to them in school canteens."

Journey into Egypt

by W. HOWARD WRIGGINS

Civilians are fleeing from the ravaged villages of Yugoslavia. The women, children and old men are crossing the Adriatic in small boats to Italy. From this half way station they are being evacuated to especially prepared assembly camps in Egypt.

W. Howard Wriggins, who has been representing the American Friends Service Committee in the Middle East, describes a journey from Italy to Egypt with 2,000 of these refugees, who preserve in exile their communal life.

I have never seen such a lovable group of refugees as these. They are well integrated into communities, even after their five weeks of wanderings, and have maintained their village pattern. Their schools, sings and village meetings continue as before. They are enthusiastic and uncomplaining and were amazingly helpful to us. The ship's officers said their ship had never been so clean as after they left.

Philip Sanford and I ate with several members of their main committee and had a good opportunity to get to know them. Language added a delightful if constant complication. Only one spoke some English. Their principal man spoke only Serbo-Croat. Phil speaks Spanish very well, and so was able to communicate with the Italian speaking doctor. One of them spoke French and another German, so that I managed to get along with them, although very haltingly in the latter. For important questions the conversation would have to stop and Serbo-Croat come into play for the unilingual man. I have never heard such a mixture, especially since whenever our second language would break down, we would revert to mother-tongue words. I do believe we were able to win their confidence and to make some good friends among them.

Registration of Evacuees

The specific job which the Middle East Relief and Rehabilitation Administration had asked us to do was to register the refugees and to give them identity numbers. This brought us into more or less direct contact with about every refugee and gave us a chance to make what might have been a tedious job, one which challenged their ingenuity and interest. We consulted with the committee of the refugees from the beginning and together we worked out the details of the procedure. They appointed an active little clerk to be head of the works. He gathered together ten teams of questioners and clerks, and Phil told them about the kinds of information required. I sat at the door as they came in and checked the numbers they had been given by the committee against a nominal roll which they had prepared, and wrote the first name of each family

unit on the correct number. An architect from Split who spoke a little English assisted us, and an engineer from Split sat beside me and helped with the knotty problem of determining who was mother, aunt, sister and daughter of the complicated family units which came in. After the two and a half days of more or less orderly turmoil were passed, the interpreter translated a little thank you message which Phil and I had written. With some coaching I read it over the loudspeaker system, much to their amusement.

As for health, the refugees had a good deal of skin disease and many were tubercular. On the whole they did not appear to be greatly undernourished, but they had already had a month on British army food before I saw them. Their clothes were in bad shape and if they had not received British Army uniforms in Italy, they would have suffered considerably on the journey down. Children's stockings and shoes are especially needed for them.

Mutual Understanding

Because we were thus able to know them and started with a will to understand, we were quickly in a position to be able to interpret their problems to the various officials involved. It is a question often of being on the spot when some little thing goes wrong and helping to explain to the official why there has been some deviation. On arrival in Cairo we were able to explain to the camp authorities before the refugees reached the camps that they were well organized, efficient communities, and we could urge officials to work completely with and through the committees the refugees had elected. This will make an important difference in the internal operation of the camps and will greatly help the refugees to maintain their independence, self-esteem and initiative.

It was a rare experience to have been with these people for a week and was most inspiring. I feel that our being there served to add a somewhat light touch to their journey and contributed toward establishing relations between the refugees and the authorities on the happiest possible basis.

Handbook for International Relief

INTERNATIONAL RELIEF IN ACTION — 1914-1943. Selected records, with notes by Hertha Kraus. With the Collaboration of The Research Center, 4035 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Sponsored by American Friends Service Committee, Brethren Service Committee, Mennonite Central Committee. 248 pages. The Herald Press, Scottsdale, Pennsylvania. Price: \$1.25 cloth, \$1.00 paper.

This volume of fifty-seven selected original reports from the files of a large number of agencies operating in the field of international relief makes absorbing reading. It should be an extremely useful book for anyone interested in these problems, for informal study groups as well as for class teaching, for students or experts, administrators or technicians, specialists or laymen.

The reports "have been selected as representative of typical situations within the great drama of international relief, rehabilitation, and reconstruction." Covering about thirty European, Far Eastern, and Central and South American countries, special attention has been given to using illustrations in many different foreign settings, describing "comprehensive collective arrangements, resulting in the improvement of the lot of many" as well as "a wide range of individualized and group services meeting vital human needs."

The book is divided into three main parts. The first, "Providing Basic Protection," presents, for example, an illustration for collective arrangements in the highly complicated, highly successful attempt of organizing a "white zone" in the midst of a battle area for several hundred thousand trapped Chinese civilians. This unique experiment might well be applicable in other settings.

The second section deals with "The Building of Community Services"—with distribution of food and clothing during the first-aid period and while tem-

porary emergency services are in action. The providing of shelter and housing, health services and sanitation, child care and employment aid, education, recreation, and leadership services are illustrated in forty projects. There is, for example, an experiment in "Two-way Passage; Poland, 1920," when thirty American girls of Polish descent, after training for relief work in New York, returned to Poland for devoted and efficient service.

Under the third heading, "Relocating Displaced People," migration services in countries of temporary refuge, repatriation and population transfers as well as group resettlement are illustrated by fourteen projects demonstrating types of problems rather different from those of the first two sections.

Each project record is annotated with an average of six to eight questions for teaching purposes. The questions cover a wide range, from just common-sense requirements to those of vision and experience.

Very useful for informal study groups as well as for class teaching are "Suggestions for a Course in International Aid to Social Reconstruction," as outlined in the Appendix. "Aspects of Discussion" add to the underpinning of a semester plan.

"Notes on Agencies" briefly describe about forty agencies of varied size and importance which are connected with one or the other of the project records. "Selected References," planned for students of different backgrounds and different levels of education, provide a carefully chosen bibliography following the subdivisions of the book's topics.

The book vividly and colorfully describing needs, planning, and operations in the relief field, should convey to the future relief worker insight to the multiplicity of problems he will have to face.

ANNELISE THIEMANN

Sky Island Opens June 26

One June 26 Sky Island, vacation hostel of the American Friends Service Committee, will open its doors for the sixth summer. For the second year it will be under the direction of Howard and Dorothy Platt of Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia. This summer hostel for newcomers to the United States is located at Nyack, New York, about an hour's bus ride from New York City. It provides a place where the newcomer who lives and works in the city can spend a two or three weeks' summer vacation in the country at modest cost. In a pleasant rural setting it offers him an opportunity to meet and

know Americans who want to help him become familiar with American traditions and ways of living.

During the two months' summer period Sky Island accommodates about a hundred and fifty refugee guests. The house is run cooperatively, each guest sharing in the housework and preparation of meals. Every week-day morning there are classes, for those who wish to attend, in such subjects as English conversation, citizenship, and American history. The afternoons are free for recreation—swimming, tennis, and hikes in the woods.

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