

FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN



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AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

India's Continuing Need

"A MORAL OBLIGATION"

"Today India needs help. New confidence and understanding will grow out of this humanitarian effort. Our help today is a moral obligation; tomorrow it may prove to be a foundation of international goodwill." This statement is made by directors of American Relief for India who are now engaged in a campaign to raise over \$1,000,000 in order that relief to India's sufferers from the aftermath of famine may continue another year. These funds will go to the AFSC distribution program of milk, vitamins, and drugs and the rehabilitation program carried on in conjunction with the Friends Ambulance Unit.

* * *

Letter from Bengal

"In view of the magnificent assistance given by the American Friends Service Committee to the province of Bengal over the past year, I should like to extend, both on behalf of the Government and personally my very best wishes. The Honorable Minister in charge of Relief has, I believe, written to thank you for the assistance which the American Friends have already given. We very much hope that this assistance will continue.

"Famine conditions no longer prevail; but there is widespread malnutrition and debilitation as a direct result of the famine. Your multi-vitamins, milk and drugs are doing much to combat this.

"There are also the derelicts of famine, orphans, widows, and deserted women. The orphans will need care for several years to come. The women need above all to be trained for a new employment. The Bengal Government has set up orphanages, workhouses and village industrial centers; but in each of these spheres the contribution of the voluntary organization can be invaluable, by reason both of the individual care which it can give to the destitute and distressed, and of the freedom with which it can be pioneer in developing new types of work.

"I think your Committee has struck a most happy balance between Government and the non-official organizations in selecting its agencies for relief. Everywhere I go when touring in the distressed areas I find universal appreciation of this gesture of friendship from America to India, which I am confident will have a lasting value."

*—From a letter to the AFSC from J. R. Symonds
Special Officer, Relief and Rehabilitation,
Bengal Government.*

A.F.S.C. VITAMINS USED IN INDIA EXPERIMENT

Multivitamins sent to India by the American Friends Service Committee are being used by the All India Institute of Public Health and Hygiene in a scientifically controlled experiment on the effects of vitamins on undernourished Indian children. The Institute is using five schools near Calcutta and is making frequent and thorough examinations of about 335 school children over a period of three months ending in March.

Although reports of doctors and relief workers have been practically unanimous in stating that multi-vitamin tablets are amazingly effective in improving the health of the undernourished population of India, the experiment of the All India Institute will be the first of its kind ever made in India. The children who are receiving the vitamins needed them in any case; thus none are being wasted. The control group of children will also receive a course of vitamins when the experiment is over.

* * *

THE PROBLEM LIES DEEP

"At one of the canteens I saw a child of five years no larger than a child of two—due largely to lack of sufficient food. At several canteens we found that they were feeding more than the hundred children and mothers, as they said they just couldn't turn the others away and were giving them all slightly less than the prescribed amount of milk.

"At one canteen, the children and mothers were in worse condition than in any other inspected—they were people from an outcaste group, dressed in rags, thin, with skin disease, and generally in very poor condition. One wondered whether some of them had much in addition to the milk received at the canteen. They were a pathetic lot, and we were glad that there was even a little that could be done for them.

"Somehow one wished a more thorough job could be done and that we could get to the root of their troubles. This, of course, is the fundamental criticism of any feeding program—it is only a temporary expedient—and the real problem lies deeper. Certainly it is important, terribly important, to give them milk and vitamins; but either private agencies or the State must do more if their continuing problem is to be met."

—John Scott Everton, AFSC report, Travancore, India

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HEREIN MAY BE REPUBLISHED

Boats for India's Fishermen

by JOHN SCOTT EVERTON

John Scott Everton, American Friends Service Committee representative in India here describes a boat-building project at Chittagong, sponsored by Friends to assist in the rehabilitation of famine-ruined fishermen. Thousands of boats were destroyed in Bengal to impede invasion by the Japanese.

Chittagong has been an important center for Quaker work. Because of its proximity to Burma, conditions there have been seriously affected by the war and special problems of relief have been met.

The initial intention of the Friends Ambulance Unit was to develop a food canteen program here, but it was not long before it became clear that we could be helpful in other ways. The development of a boat yard, while financed by the government, has been supervised for some months by AFSC-FAU personnel; and recently John Bradshaw of the AFSC, temporarily on loan from the China Convoy, was made Officer-in-Charge of the project.

Origin of the Boat Yard

I spent some time at the boat yard, inspecting the work and discussing the problems relating to the building and selling of the boats. This project was put forward by Llewlyn Evans of the Friends Ambulance Unit and taken up by government with the intention of providing boats at a minimum cost to fishermen who were deprived of their craft when the threat of Japanese invasion resulted in the government buying up and destroying boats so that they would not fall into the hands of the Japanese. Owing to the famine, the fishermen have long since spent the money they were given in compensation, and they are buying these boats through a loan arrangement. Llewlyn Evans supervised the project with the assistance of Brother Flavien of the Holy Cross Roman Catholic Order until January of this year when John Bradshaw was appointed in charge. It is hoped that the loans will be repaid from the profits of the fishing, but it is unlikely that government will recover all of the money. It is regarded that part of this is in the nature of a subsidy to the fishermen to establish them on a secure basis. The boat yard is a good illustration of the way in which the FAU India Unit is able to initiate projects for rehabilitation that later gain the support of government.

How the Boats Are Made

The boats are dugouts. They are floated down from forest tracts and completed at the boat yard. In most cases the fishermen buy the completed boats, though they may buy the dugout and finish the work on it themselves. The finishing process includes subjecting the dugouts to heat from fires built alongside; and by means of weights and rigging a boat that is as narrow as thirty inches may be widened to four or five feet. It is hard to imagine that the wood will give so much, but the percentage

that develop cracks through the widening process is comparatively small. Out of 150 dugouts secured in October, 97 had been sold by the end of January. An additional 144 are now being completed. When the yard is running at top production, sixteen carpenters and seven day laborers are employed in addition to an office manager, junior clerk, supervisor, assistant supervisor and watchmen.

One of the problems faced by John Bradshaw was to get large dugouts up the channel from the river to the boat basin, as there was a narrow turn in the channel which could not be negotiated except at high tide. John solved the problem by employing men to dig a new channel which cuts out the bend. It was done at the remarkably low price of about ten dollars; and he estimates that they moved at least forty yards of dirt in two days by primitive methods.

They estimate that before the end of the year they should turn out eight hundred boats if they are to begin to supply the needs. The woods used for these boats include chapalesh, kandel, chamaful, and mango; most of it is fairly hard wood. A dugout type boat is wasteful, but it is cheaper than a boat made from hand sawed timber, and all of the timber in this part of the country is hand sawed. The spreading process by heat applied to the boats, also seasons the wood. In addition, a crude petroleum mixed with frankincense is used to fill cracks and to prepare the wood before the boats are finally launched. This was the first time I had seen frankincense or heard of it apart from the Christmas story, and I was interested to see it put to this very practical use.

Cooperation in Physical Work

One of the striking things about John Bradshaw's work here is that he actually learned to use the adze and other tools used by the men, and worked along with them, thereby winning their confidence and respect. Because he was unfamiliar with their tools, he found it difficult at first and threatened to ruin one boat; but after a good deal of hard work, he caught on to their methods and can now match their performance. You can hardly appreciate what this actual participation in physical work with the men means, unless you have lived in this country and know how little physical labor white men do or are supposed to do according to the standards here. It was really a very healthy thing for these carpenters to discover that white men are not afraid of getting their hands dirty. The resulting sense of joint effort is a good example of the Quaker workcamp "philosophy of work" in action.

Italians in Switzerland

by EDMOND AND YVONNE PRIVAT

Marjorie McClelland, AFSC representative in Switzerland, has sent the following report of the activities of Swiss Friends in behalf of refugees. The Swiss authorities, already overburdened with some 60,000 refugees from Central Europe, were hard pressed to provide even a minimum shelter program for the large numbers of Italians seeking refuge there.

Special funds have been provided for the use of the AFSC in behalf of Italians in Switzerland. The Quaker center in Geneva has allocated approximately \$600 monthly for the maintenance of a number of professional people who should play a significant role in the reconstruction of their country and who for reasons of health should not live in camps. A second part of this welfare program is sharing in the financing of medical relief for the refugees.

The following report was prepared by Edmond and Yvonne Privat, Swiss Friends, at the request of Marjorie McClelland, and describes the efforts of the Swiss Quakers in this work, made possible in part by the contributions of the AFSC:

Refugees from Italy arrived in two great waves into the southern part of Switzerland, particularly the region around Locarno. There was first the flight of Italian Jews in the autumn of 1943, and a little later long processions of families leaving their Italian villages near the frontier because that part of Italy (Val d' Ossola) had been liberated for a few weeks by the Partisans and then reconquered by Fascists and Germans. Many farms were burnt and the people feared reprisals at the hands of the Fascists, as they had sons or husbands enrolled for guerilla warfare. Many of the men arrived wounded; and they, with the women and children, were in a state of great misery.

Relief for the Refugees

Between these waves, a slow movement of prisoners of war, escaped from camps in Italy, brought Greeks, Serbs, Croats, Poles, Tunisians, South Africans, colored men from the Congo and Madagascar, Englishmen, and Italians into Switzerland. Many from these groups met around our Christmas tree at the hospital at Locarno. Later, we had also in our home Indians, German deserters, and an American airman fallen from the sky.

We had to buy great quantities of material and distribute clothes, underclothing, toothbrushes, combs, towels, soap, etc., to the people arriving in long and pitiful processions. We organized a library for refugees at the hospital in Locarno and constantly cooperated with Catholic or labor committees in other cities. Many cooperative women's organizations and many Friends from all parts of Switzerland sent us parcels of clothing and we are very grateful for the financial contributions which the American Friends Service Committee, through its representatives in Switzerland, so kindly sent us towards purchases of supplies.

"The Privilege of Friends"

In the more quiet months, we could do more personal work and follow each case, trying to reunite

scattered families and to correspond with those who had been sent to camps in other parts of Switzerland.

We daily visited the sick and wounded in the hospital, cabling to families and trying to get news, interceding with the authorities, listening to personal tales and wishes, discovering individual needs, and above all trying to help and encourage morale.

One of the refugees wrote: "Official action and Swiss goodwill would not be enough if there were not such proofs of personal fraternity and that particular help to those who need a 'hand on the shoulder' and the language of the heart to keep up their hope in a better future."

That is exactly the privilege of the Friends as we understand it.

* * *

COURAGE AND INITIATIVE

"In every Secours Quaker center I saw, I was deeply impressed by the spirit in which the work was carried out. Not only was it technically efficient, but the relationship of a cooperative brotherhood was to be found among all the workers, whether their contribution to the work was humble or important. All seemed to feel an earnest responsibility that the Quaker way of work and life should be the guiding influence throughout. I came to appreciate deeply the steady courage with which they had faced dangers and difficulties and were facing new ones that seemed to multiply daily. The initiative shown and the powers of dealing with them assured me that no responsibilities for future work would be too heavy for Secours Quaker to carry."

—Friends Relief Service report, London, based on Edith Pye's observations in France, November 1944 to January 1945

The South of France Re-Visited

by MARGARET FRAWLEY

Margaret Frawley writes of her visit to the Southern Delegations of Secours Quaker which she contrasts with the days of 1940 when she was in France also for the AFSC. During the years between then and now she was AFSC administrator of the French program from the Philadelphia office when the AFSC made continuous efforts to get supplies to France. She was the first AFSC relief representative to return to France.

Remembering the efforts to get food to the children of France during the years of occupation, it is a joy to see the *goûters* in Marseille, Perpignan, Toulouse and Montauban; to watch the children arriving with their bowls and spoons and sitting down to the good food. It is for that that contributions have been made across the seas, cables and long letters exchanged to get food to the hungry; it is for that that the Secours Quaker delegations turn to on Saturday afternoon and Sunday when word comes through that the wagons of milk are waiting at the railroad station. It is not a simple process in the midst of war, and yet it seems simple and right when the children gather around the table in one of these canteens.

At Marseille, the *Centre de Nourrissons* (started in 1940 by "Funds for France"), badly housed in a building damaged by bombardment, is struggling to combat the shortages which continue to threaten the health of young babies and their mothers. Sitting beside the doctor while she made her examination—she has no thermometer—one inevitably watched the mothers and their pride in their babies and their fear for them, and the smiles with which they greeted the nurse's report of the slight gain. Too often, the weight charts follow a curve below normal, and the supplies of milk and other food we have been able to make available are received as the source of life.

Children under six maintain a rounded contour, and may seem to be quite healthy in pictures, when it is possible to send them. However, the photographs will not reveal the dangerous pallor which one sees everywhere, and only the medical inspection pictures will show the thin, scrawny little bodies. At the *goûter* in Montauban, lodged in the school maintained by the Committee these last five years, we met Madeleine, the little girl whom Grace Lowry of the AFSC used to carry back and forth to the hospital when she was in Montauban in 1941. It was thought then that Madeleine would never walk again. She walks well now with a cane and sends warm greetings to her friend across the sea. As an afterthought we asked her age, estimating it at about eight. She is eleven.

Helene Rott de Neufville who directs the Secours Quaker children's canteen in Toulouse sat in her downstairs office surrounded by children. Those admitted to the *goûter* and mid-day canteen were having a school holiday and had brought their younger brothers and sisters to plead that they, too, might be able to come to the hospitable table. In the Midi

where everyone is needy, it is hard to refuse a child, but the stocks are so small in relation to the need that the Quaker offices do not now accept medical certificates from family physicians but only from doctors retained by each delegation to make the examination and to do the follow up work of periodic re-examinations. As Helene says, sometimes when it is too hard to turn a young supplicant away, she admits him for a week, "just to give him a taste."

Like a Pied Piper Call

The word is out in all the towns where Quaker delegations are working that food has arrived, and the children come as if responding to the call of the Pied Piper—into the old post office of Perpignan which now houses the Quaker office, into shabby, rambling, and hospitable No. 16 Boulevard Bonrepos in Toulouse, into the school house and the old factory building in Montauban, and to all the new centers established in Marseille. As soon as stocks and personnel are adequate, it is hoped that additional services can be undertaken in Nice, Montpellier, Nîmes, and other Mediterranean towns which are in particular need.

Assistance to the children in the *goûters*, the canteens, through a visiting service in their homes and in the Quaker Colonies at Vernet-les Bains, Castéra-Verduzan, and Brout-Vernet which house some 162 children is a work of hope.

The Joy of New Shoes

Fifty kilometres from Perpignan at Vernet-les Bains, some eighty-six children are under our care, lodged in what was once a fine resort hotel. These are children of those who have fallen, of prisoners, of deportees, and of men and women broken in health by the privations of war. The children, who range in age from two to fourteen years, live now in the sunshine, play tag in the great courtyard, and take their Sunday promenade in the new shoes which have just arrived and which gave them such pride and pleasure. They walk with their eyes on those fine new shoes and one goes back to childhood memories for the joy of that experience. The *vestiary* is again well-filled, and the beautiful new flannel is being made up into warm nightclothes for the children. Until a few weeks ago, the bedrooms were drab with only brown blankets to cover the cots. Now they are gay with the color of American patchwork quilts; and the young people and the staff rejoice in their gayety and this friendly gift from overseas.

Between Marseille and Perpignan we came by St. Remy to visit our good friends, Henri and Henriette Julien, who direct a colony there for the Save the Children Fund. The children were waiting eagerly for us, for they wanted to talk of New York and Philadelphia and to know about the children of the United States. They sang the songs of France and of other nations, ballads of the Provençal, the stirring songs of the French Resistance and the tragic chant of the deportees. While they sang or danced, our friends told us their stories: the little four-year old was the last of a family of ten—nine were deported; the little girl in a pink pinafore was orphaned now—her parents having been shot by the Militia; this one's father is a prisoner; that one has

a mother in a sanatorium; another has only the name given her in the colony, her parents being unknown.

"Swords Into Plowshares"

All the workers are tired and there is not enough personnel for the work, but everywhere there is cheerfulness because food and clothing warehouses have been filling up with the shipments from abroad. Of course, there are not enough blankets, layettes, or underwear, which are always the scarce items. The arrival of the trucks purchased from the Military assures distribution. As Mary Elmes of Secours Quaker in Perpignan says with a smile: "Truly it is swords into plowshares."



VICTIMS OF THE BATTLE OF MARSEILLE

Ted Randall of the Friends Ambulance Unit, now working with Secours Quaker in Marseille, describes some of the persons and families who have been victims of the bombing of May 27, 1944 and who have received relief from the Quaker delegation:

Little Julie Marton, five years old, one of the pre-tubercular children on our lists whose father is a prisoner of war in Germany, had her house partly blown up. She and her mother more or less camped for several weeks.

The Georges family saw their son and son-in-law killed. One daughter had her leg cut off, and another remained under ruins for fifteen hours and was taken out seriously wounded.

The three young Rochette children, also on our tubercular program, had their father killed in one of the bombardments, and the mother is trying with difficulty to make out alone.

The condition of tubercular and pretubercular cases is serious owing to the lack of facilities and supplies in the sanatoria.

The Abbé Morel, chaplain of a sanatorium at Roquefraiche, Lauris, Vaucluse, wrote us asking for some shirts for his patients. There is no heating in the sanatorium, and most of the men are workers from the Marseille region, poor, and very badly off as far as clothing goes. He gave us an example of one man, who to hide his poverty, had a shirt front and a pair of cuffs pinned to his vest.

M. and Madame Dupuis are very badly off. He was wounded three times in the raids, is in a bad

state of health and cannot move from bed. She has a hand paralysed since the bombardment and cannot work. They were suffering from lack of food when their needs were brought to our attention.

The Jouve family were evacuated from the old Port and had everything lost or stolen in the process. Madame Jouve is alone to support four children and an aged mother. She has an allocation of 41 francs a day for herself and 400 francs a month for the children. As the latter are young (5 to 12 years) and the mother ill, it is impossible for Madame Jouve to work.

* * *

WHERE IS "HOME"?

"Three heads around a candle: a bearded refugee, his son, and his grandson. They had fled from Belgrade when the Germans came because they were Jews. They were pursued in the early days in independent Croatia because they were Serbs; and when the Italian authorities took over the Dalmatian coast where they had finally sought refuge, they were interned because they were Jewish Yugoslavs. They are now trying to decide whether or not to be repatriated to Jugoslavia.

"The local Partisans had said that now was the time to go home, and if one didn't go with this opportunity, one would have to take the consequences. 'Home' would not be home, but only starving Dalmatia where they would be refugees still and without the assured food provided in their present refugee camp. And of what use would their skill as furriers be in the new order of things? And if not back to Belgrade eventually, what then?"

—AFSC report, Italy

FOOD SITUATION AT LE HAVRE

"The food situation at LeHavre has deteriorated and there are great shortages, particularly of fats and proteins. The work of the Secours Quaker delegation includes the distribution of seven tons of clothing and the feeding of undernourished school children. Plans are being made for the provision of summer camps for the children and the securing of foodstuffs from outlying country districts."

—Friends Relief Service report, London

News of the AFSC-UNRRA Group

Barclay Jones, American Friends Service Committee Commissioner in the Mediterranean Area, has moved his headquarters from Cairo to Italy.

Possibility of New Assignments

Members of the AFSC group, working under the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration with Yugoslav refugees in Egypt may soon be taking on new assignments as plans are developed to repatriate the refugees living in camps throughout the Middle East. UNRRA hopes to provide an "escort team," including specialists on health and welfare, with each one thousand refugees in transit. Some of the AFSC workers may be assigned to such teams.

Great complications are involved in repatriation plans: negotiations must be arranged between

UNRRA, the Allied Military, the Shipping Board, the governments of the countries, and the communities themselves. There are at least one hundred thousand refugees in the Middle East, a fact which indicates the extent of this undertaking in just one area.

William Taylor to Work on Rural Shelter

William Taylor has been transferred from camp welfare to the Industrial Rehabilitation Division in the Yugoslav Mission as architect and assistant engineer, with rural shelter as his particular field. His project of a central camp recreation hall at El Shatt has since been used as a model in other camps. At El Shatt, he also had responsibility for the workshops which included overseeing such activities as wood work, metal work, shoe repairs, dressmaking, toymaking, barber shop, and tent repair crew. He is probably now in Italy.

★ ★ ★

News of the China Convoy

During 1944 the Friends Ambulance Unit China Convoy fleet of trucks covered 240,000 kilometres. Four trucks and one station wagon were converted for use on charcoal, raising the number of vehicles in operation from twenty-one to twenty-six. The average number operating throughout the year was twenty-three. Of these, on the average, four were stationary in base throughout any month, while the remaining nineteen covered 20,000 kilometres or just over 1,000 kilometres for each truck.

The Luhsien Route

The China Convoy now has ten trucks operating on the new route from Kunming to Chungking through Luhsien. The change-over was made from the previous route through Kweiyang as the result of the Japanese push earlier in the year. The garage buildings have been completed at Luhsien, including two truck bays with office and store, engine room, carpenter and tinsmith shop, bunk room and kitchen.

Medical Teams Build Hospitals

The FAU medical teams are busy with the building of three hospitals. It was expected that the special work undertaken by the Unit to control an outbreak of plague would come to a close at the end of March.

The Unit took satisfaction in the completion of the Kutsing Delousing Station, being put to use where need is extremely great because of the large influx of soldiers into that region. Funds for this station have been provided by a grant from the British Red Cross to the Chinese Red Cross, and an excellent boiler for the station has been provided by the Szechuan-Yunnan railway.

Fuel for the Trucks

Three of the FAU trucks which set out from Chungking last autumn for the Kansu oil wells at Suchow near the Soviet border returned at the end of January. En route to Suchow, they distributed medical supplies and returned loaded with fuel oil. The round trip is over 3000 miles.

★ ★ ★

"THE GEORGE FOX"

In a room at the Paris Friends Center is a toy-boat, one yard high and one yard long, which stands as an expression of gratitude from the detainees who were at Romainville prison and were helped by the Quakers during the German occupation.

A communication accompanied the gift signed by the camp captain "for all the detainees and in their name."

"The detainees at Romainville camp have been told of George Fox and the origin and aim of the Society of Friends. The detainees at Stalag 122 declare their satisfaction and pleasure that they are acquainted with the charitable, peace-making, and social spirit which inspired the founder and still inspires its members. We owe a debt of gratitude for help received in great distress: food, medical supplies, clothing, various utensils, books, etc., material and spiritual help given without distinction. We offer the Quaker Friends our sincere thanks and a boat, carved in wood, to which we have been happy to give the name of 'the George Fox.' The Quaker red and black star is embroidered on one of the sails. The sad memory of our stay at Romainville will always be closely linked in our thoughts with the memory of kindness and light brought by the Friends."

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