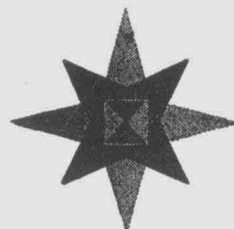


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VOL. II NO. 7

AUGUST 15, 1945

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Present Status of AFSC Foreign Operations

ENGLAND

The association between the AFSC and the service organizations of British Friends, Friends Relief Service, Friends Ambulance Unit, and Friends Service Council, continues to be very close.

Although with the decrease in need for emergency work for war sufferers the AFSC, at the suggestion of British Friends, first reduced and then discontinued its financial assistance, it is working even more closely than before with Friends in England in planning and executing relief operations in foreign countries and in intervisitation between American and British Friends to further mutual concerns.

Horace G. Alexander, noted English Friend, has spent several months in the United States, lecturing and visiting among Friends and devoting much time to consultation with the AFSC on work in India and China.

FRANCE

In devastated Normandy, in Paris, and in the cities of Southern France, French, British, and American Friends are working together under Secours Quaker. They are feeding undernourished and pretubercular children before whom looms another winter of malnutrition; they are giving transport, shelter and clothing to the bombed-out and the homeless; and they are providing what services they can for refugees, both in and out of camps.

Supplies from the neutral countries of Europe, from North Africa, and from America are helping to make this international relief program possible.

NORTH AFRICA

At the end of June, after more than two and a half years of service in French North Africa, the AFSC office there closed. During its existence, Quaker workers have provided financial and medical assistance, clothing, employment aid, and personal counseling to thousands of refugees, stranded in a strange land and often exhausted by months of internment.

ITALY

During the latter part of April 1945, the AFSC and the Friends Ambulance Unit undertook a project to provide transport for building materials needed in the reconstruction of homes in some of the seriously devastated villages in Chieti province. The unit now has a command car and five trucks.

Rations and petrol are being provided by the Allied Commission and the delegates have been given free lodging by an Italian family.

The work at first has been concentrated in the villages of Colledemacine and Montonerodomo where the group assist the villagers in working out a plan for exchanging firewood for brick, tile, and plaster. With the beginning of production in the local tile and brick kilns about the middle of June, the group hauled a total of 24,900 tiles, 2,350 bricks, 71 tons of plaster, three tons of beams, and 90 tons of wood. This material has facilitated the rebuilding of 56 houses, 14 of which were completed by the end of the month.

Tentative plans have been made to extend the work into the Castel di Sangro area as soon as additional personnel is available.

Nine tons of clothing went forward from the AFSC to Italy through the American Relief for Italy Committee, and AFSC and FAU members supervised the distribution.

One of the former AFSC delegates to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees in Italy is now working on the reconstruction project in Italy; the other has been assigned to France.

GERMANY

A representative of the American Friends Service Committee has arrived in the American zone in Germany to investigate whether there is some service it would be possible for Friends to render.

PORTUGAL

After four and a half years of service dedicated largely to helping refugees in their flight from the terrors of war in Europe, the AFSC office in Lisbon was closed on August 1. This was possible because the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees has agreed to assume financial responsibility for the stateless refugees on the Iberian Peninsula and will work toward a more permanent solution of their problem.

Arrangements have been made whereby the Unitarian Service Committee will serve as the channel through which IGCR financial assistance will reach the refugees previously cared for through the AFSC.

During the period of its existence, the Lisbon AFSC office rendered a wide variety of services to large numbers of refugees. In the first year, more

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than 1200 persons were helped in migrating to many countries and last year 204 persons were assisted in migrating to 15 different countries. Assistance rendered varied from support for a few days while waiting for a boat to sail, counsel in regard to registration at the local police or some consulate, to help on getting documentation in shape for emigration or guaranteeing support so that the authorities would release persons from prison.

Among those helped through the Lisbon office were several hundred children who were brought to the United States under the aegis of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children.

The office in Lisbon has played a valuable role in the purchase of food for the child-feeding program in France and in arranging for the transshipment of relief supplies from the United States to France, Switzerland, and Spain. Not the least of the tasks of this office was that of serving, during the war years, as liaison for Friends in Berlin, Vienna, Stockholm, Oslo, Rome, Paris, Marseille, Geneva, North Africa and Cairo. As long as it was possible, a food-parcel service was carried on for relief cases of desperate need in several European countries. The office has also handled money transfers from persons in America, Canada, Switzerland and South American countries to members of their families stranded in Portugal.

SCANDINAVIA

At present, Douglas Steere is renewing contact with Scandinavian Friends on behalf of the American Friends Service Committee. He arrived in Sweden the last week in June, and has spent several weeks in Finland. Before his return to the United States, it is hoped he will be able to visit Friends in Norway and Denmark.

During the war years, such aid as has gone forth from the AFSC has been channeled through Swedish Friends. By the end of 1944, \$10,000 (app.) was forwarded to named refugee beneficiaries, sent through the AFSC under government license from relatives and friends in America. Monthly amounts have averaged about \$800 a month.

In 1944, the AFSC sent 10 tons of clothing for distribution among refugees. \$1,600 went forward to Swedish Friends to cover administrative expenses, and \$5,000 was sent as a special gift for work with Finns, first in Sweden (\$350) and then in Finland (\$4,650).

Twenty tons of clothing leaves the AFSC store-room for Sweden this summer, and about 50 tons will begin to be dispatched this fall for relief of Finland which is reported to be in greatest need. Whether or not a more extended relief program in Scandinavia will be undertaken by the AFSC will depend on further reports of Douglas Steere's observations.

SPAIN

Work with stateless refugees in Spain which was first undertaken in 1943 has continued to be carried on by the AFSC in cooperation with five other agencies. The office in Madrid assists in arranging for release of refugees from camps and prisons and for their subsequent emigration. Weekly food parcels for stateless persons detained in prison and full or partial maintenance for those at liberty are provided, as well as counsel on a variety of individual problems.

The Committee's relief expenditures in Spain, exclusive of overhead, have averaged approximately \$10,000 a month. In January of this year, the AFSC and the other agencies participating in the Madrid office requested the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees to assume financial responsibility for the stateless refugees in Spain and Portugal. Favorable action was taken on this request and a representative of the IGCR is now in the Iberian Peninsula working out the plans. It is anticipated that the IGCR will use the facilities of the Madrid office in extending assistance to the refugees while working toward a more permanent solution of their problems.

SWITZERLAND

The AFSC continues, as it did throughout the war, to serve the needs of refugees who have found asylum among the generous and friendly Swiss people. Switzerland's hospitality extended to almost 100,000 refugees—thousands being in camps and special "homes" and thousands more permitted to live in pensions if they can maintain themselves.

The AFSC has rendered services to these people such as distributions of clothing sent from America to more than 6000 people of thirty nationalities in the Geneva area, to Italian refugees and others near Locarno, and to Central European refugees in Zurich. The transfer service, forwarding of money from relatives in the United States to persons in Switzerland, filled great need, especially during the war when this service was the only communication the refugees had with the outside world.

A recent letter from the AFSC representative in Geneva says: "Our relief money goes to pay for a convalescent leave from camp, to enable a young person to study and prepare to earn his living instead of staying in camp, to give a refugee mother a supplement of cod liver oil and fresh fruit for her child, to make up the difference in what a family needs to live together at liberty rather than separated in camps, to pay for dental care or special medicines not furnished by camps. . . . We feel that we have been immeasurably privileged, in the years which this world has just lived through, to have been engaged in a work of love and assistance."

The Geneva AFSC office has played an important role in purchasing food supplies for the children of France and the AFSC is helping Swiss Friends with the establishment of a relief project in France.

CHINA

The present membership of the China Convoy of the Friends Ambulance Unit is 137, an all-time high, including 18 Americans, 67 British, 20 Canadians, 22 Chinese, 2 New Zealanders, and 8 men seconded from other organizations.

Two of the medical teams working under the direction of the Chinese Red Cross and with the Chinese Army have recently completed their projects and have been dissolved. Civilian work occupies two teams, one of which completed its term in June and will be re-assigned. The second of these teams is rehabilitating the medical facilities of the re-occupied town of T'eng Chung. There a former temple has been converted to a hospital where 11 Chinese girls are enrolled in a nurses training course; special clinics have been established for the treatment of eye, ante-natal and gynaecological, venereal and skin diseases; a program for training midwives is progressing; and a public health program for the local schools is planned. Work continues at the local mission hospital at Kutsing, and two short-term teams are working on a project in southern Yunnan.

The transport section is now doing its main route haulage from Kutsing to Luhsien and the drugs are shipped down river to Chungking by boat. Twenty-five new Dodge trucks have been allocated to the Unit by the American Red Cross. These trucks will be used largely in the Chinese National Relief and Rehabilitation program under UNRRA in southern Kweichow where the Convoy has a group of about 12 transport personnel helping in the problems connected with the famine emergency in that area. An FAU medical team joined the CNRRA project last month in one of the area's hospitals.

INDIA

Emergency conditions resulting from war and famine are now largely over in India. The children's food canteens are being greatly reduced in number, and the neediest children are being selected for more intensive care in homes which are being set up by the Friends Ambulance Unit and will, after a short period, be turned over to Indian committees. The drug program (described in detail elsewhere in this issue), will continue until April 1946. It is felt that health conditions will have improved beyond the emergency stage by that time.

The principal emphasis of the India Section's work is now on rehabilitation projects which serve to re-establish in normal life destitute people who lost their means of livelihood during the famine. There are three industrial centers near Calcutta at each of which 50 people, principally widows and orphans, are taught skills of weaving, spinning, cane making, and similar occupations. They are paid a small wage and given a good meal each day. The centers are partially run by a working committee in each, and a central committee in Calcutta, where representatives from each center meet with

one FAU man who is in charge of the work. It is hoped that the centers can become entirely independent on a cooperative basis. Already they have showed a profit, although the FAU pays part of the expenses for management, technical services, and marketing. The workers are taking increasing responsibility for the operation of the centers.

The boat building project to help fishermen re-establish their means of livelihood continues successfully in Chittagong. To May 31, 211 boats have been built. In the Dacca area, loans are being made to artisans to help them get back into production: these include net makers, cane makers, and spinners.

Recently 35 farmers in India approached the Friends member in Bashirat, near Calcutta, and asked to pool their property and equipment in a cooperative farm. They wanted advice on how it should be done. An agriculturist was called in from the Friends work at Itarsi, Central India, and a farm was started. The first crops will be harvested this autumn.

There is approximately \$725,000 available for the AFSC-FAU India program for the rest of 1945, about \$250,000 of which will come from American Relief for India.

VISIT TO GANDHI

During the week of June 11, John Scott Everton of the American Friends Service Committee spent three days visiting Gandhi at Panchgani near Bombay.

Describing his visit in part, John Scott Everton says: "On Wednesday evening I had a talk with Gandhi concerning AFSC-FAU relief work in India. He expressed appreciation of the work that was being done and assured me that he hoped it would continue. He also said that he thought that, as Friends, we had a special opportunity to say things which could not be said as well by either official or unofficial groups and to take the initiative on some matters which he felt concerned the welfare of the people."

News of the AFSC-UNRRA Unit

After a year's service in the Balkan Mission of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, largely spent in the El Shatt camp for Yugoslav refugees, east of Cairo, all of the ten persons appointed by the AFSC and loaned to UNRRA have now moved on to other areas. Several of the AFSC group had just finished important duties in the repatriation of Greek and Yugoslav refugees to their respective homelands.

One of the group is working under UNRRA within Yugoslavia on problems of village rehabilitation. One member, a doctor, is now serving with the Friends Ambulance Unit in China. A third one of the group is in France working under Secours Quaker at Le Havre. A fourth has returned to the United States. The remaining members are in Paris awaiting re-assignment to Quaker relief operations elsewhere in Europe.

Effects of Medical Relief in India

by W. ALLEN LONGSHORE, JR., M.D.

W. Allen Longshore, head of the India Section of the American Friends Service Committee-Friends Ambulance Unit since the return of John Scott Everton to America last month, has prepared a report on conditions met by the AFSC-FAU medical relief program, the problems involved, and an estimate of the effectiveness of the supplies. He points out that this report, part of which is given here, is based on personal observations and reports of results sent in to the India relief headquarters, and it is not intended to be a scientific treatise on the subject.

In order to understand and appreciate the information that follows it is necessary to have some idea of the general health and medical situation as it existed in India before, and at the time of, the beginning of the medical program which the American people, through the AFSC-FAU, have made available here. That the drugs have been of tremendous value in combating and curing disease is admitted by all, but their exact medical value is much more difficult to analyze and must be considered superimposed on a rather difficult background.

Background of the Crisis

The Famine Inquiry Commission's Report on Bengal, released in May of this year, states: "In normal times, malaria, cholera and smallpox are endemic in Bengal and serious epidemics of these diseases are of frequent occurrence. The state of nutrition of a considerable section of the population was poor . . . The calamity of famine fell on a population with low physical reserves and circumstances were favorable for a flare-up of epidemic disease. The association between health conditions in normal times and the high famine mortality must be underlined." To go further, the association between health conditions during the famine and the high post-famine morbidity and mortality must likewise be underlined.

"All public health statistics in India are inaccurate," the Famine Inquiry report goes on to say. This statement must be continually borne in mind, as all vital statistics are collected in rural areas by Chowkidars who are untrained and poorly educated. They report the cause of deaths, a fact even more fantastic, as they have no medical training or knowledge. Hence statistics when available are at best unreliable but may indicate trends if nothing more. Official and non-official estimates place the deaths in Bengal during 1943 between almost two millions and three and one-half millions. The year 1944 is considered almost as disastrous as the previous one as far as excess mortality is concerned.

Effects of Multivitamins

The item which the AFSC-FAU has imported and distributed most widely is multivitamin tablets. These have been of several varieties and brands but have always been of the "multiple" type. From the start of the program in May 1944 until the present time, over thirty millions have been consumed in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Vizagapatam, Cochin, Malabar and Travancore. They have been

confined as far as possible to those persons who suffered most from the effects of the famine and remained in poor health: the sick, those illnourished due to war scarcity and high prices, the children, the expectant and nursing mothers. Wherever possible they have been given in conjunction with milk or other food.

That there are many millions of Indians who have sub-clinical vitamin deficiencies is not debated and the results that we have observed following the distribution of the multivitamins certainly would bear this out. Most of these reports are from workers in the mofussil areas and while in many instances doctors were not present to follow the results of the treatment the improvements were so marked as to be unmistakable. The following remarks are typical:

"We have noticed marked improvement—in run-down cases after malaria and in other cases of weakness; change in appearance in some of the cases; in most of them we have noticed better work in school, more energy, quicker in performing work in classes." "Effective in restoring general health. Weight gained, appetite improved." All the following conditions benefitted from vitamin therapy: "mouth sores," "ricketts," "constipation," "night blindness," "weakness," "skin ulcers," "anemia," "double vision," "poor lactation."

In order to obtain some scientific data on the effectiveness of multivitamins on the average Indian, child and adult, a supply was given to the All-India Institute of Health and Hygiene and a thorough study with controls was carried out by Dr. Sankaran of that Institute. (Editor's note: This experiment and its results were described in the April 1945 and the May-June 1945 issues of the Foreign Service Bulletin.) This experiment in general confirms the gross observations made by the relief workers in the field and gives substantiation to the belief that some millions of sub-clinical vitamin deficiencies exist throughout India and that some alteration in their diet or the addition of artificially prepared vitamins is essential if their general health standard is to be improved.

The Fight Against Malaria

Our distributions of the synthetic substitutes for quinine in combatting malaria, totalling 3,780,000, have produced very favorable reports of results obtained. We are unable to give any statistics as to the types of malaria which are responding as microscopes are one of the diagnostic items which are

almost non-existent in India. (A gift of 70 microscopes from American Labor has now reached India.) Mosquito control is an enormous problem, and malaria control in Bengal by the prevention of mosquito breeding is a formidable problem for which no solution has as yet been found. Anti-malarial measures are in some instances being carried out but are not extensive. Hence the only way of mitigating epidemics which arise is by supplying anti-malarial drugs and by treating as many patients as possible.

The Sulfa Drugs

Our third major item of medical relief is the group of sulfa drugs, sulfapyridine, sulfathiazole, and sulfaguanidine. These first two drugs are proving themselves of expected value in cases of pneumonia, sepsis, local infections (external application), etc. 967,000 have been distributed thus far. Sulfathiazole is also being used in cases of smallpox to prevent secondary complications, and reports are encouraging as it is usually the secondary complications which cause the mortality in the smallpox cases in India. It is likewise being used on a small scale to combat the spread of venereal disease.

Sulfaguanidine has been especially efficacious in cases of bacillary dysentery. We have also received reports that it is likewise effective against cholera in conjunction with intravenous saline. Further reports on its use in cholera will be forthcoming following the recent cholera epidemic in Calcutta where sulfaguanidine will be given a good trial. (749,000 have been used thus far.)

Other Items Distributed

We have distributed 1,492 pounds of sulphur

ointment which is being widely used in the treatment of scabies and is giving results, especially when combined with vitamin therapy.

Other items we are distributing are: Aysolate (ferrous sulphate) for anemia and as a tonic in debilitated persons, Emetine Hydrochloride for amoebiasis, Stiburamine to combat kala-zar, and Santonine as an anti-helminthic. It is too early to state the results which are being obtained by these items but the reports which we have received from the rural areas are most enthusiastic.

The "Best" There Is

All our drugs have the enviable reputation throughout the area in which we are distributing of being the best available and of the highest quality with the greatest possible effectiveness. The drug industry in India, unfortunately, does not attain the standards or receive the confidence that American Pharmaceutical companies receive. The psychological effect of receiving the "best" plays a definite role. The patients are treated with "good quality American medicines", hence the result of such treatment must be good. Production, that is, development of the local pharmaceutical industry, is an essential part of the health program which must be adequately met.

These medical supplies have filled a great need and on the whole have been well used. It is essential that such a program continue into the year 1946. After that time, I would consider the emergency medical supply needs to have been met and local official and non-official organizations might be expected to fill the needs at that time.



A Charcoal Burner in China

by COLIN BELL

The allocation of 25 liquid fuel trucks by the American Red Cross to the Friends Ambulance Unit marks the passage of an era for the China Convoy—the Charcoal Age in China's transportation. As the men put it in their Chungking News Letter: "In the past three years we have learned a lot about operating and maintaining charcoal trucks. We now have fewer trucks idle than ever before. The number of kilometers the trucks average in a month declines as they grow older and more tired, but it is still over 1000. The amount of haulage has been increased by a more efficient use of our repair facilities. The work never ends at the depots. We can now count on moving about 30 tons of drugs and medical supplies out of Kunming each month."

The new trucks will fill a great need in China, but the charcoal burners will continue to feed China's life-line until the time when they are beyond cannibalizing to make new trucks.

The following episode in the life of a charcoal truck is written by Colin Bell, chairman of the China Convoy:

I suppose Annan has been there a long time, 5000 feet up among the wild hills astride the Imperial Highway and market town for a patch of the shaggy province of Kweichow. Not many came to Annan—till the Road came. The manner of its coming, at least from west to east, is rather startling. A few kilos away one's truck moves along a narrowing valley, apparently heading into a complete dead

end. Then one sees the way out; the road goes straight on up the sheer sides of the mountain in 24 successive hair-pin bends, so regular that, from far below, the road appears as a huge coil spring standing on end. The sight is quite a forbidding one even for the rare liquid-fuel driver but for us on our ancient charcoal burning truck it may be hours before we reach the top. Much depends on whether

the fire is drawing well, but at best a charcoal burner on an up-grade is no speed model. Topping the final hairpin at very long last the truck picks up speed, rounds a bend—and there is Annan, grimy little town straggling along the Highway after the worst traditions of ribbon development, but welcome as the night's resting place after the struggle of the 24 Bends.

The Truck Thunders into Annan

The main and almost only street will already be lined with trucks bedded down for the night. Our truck thunders between the shops and restaurants which exist very largely upon the transients of the road, and in the last light of day noses into a space beside a Chinese Army truck. We passengers climb stiffly down from our platform above the cab. The charcoal fire glows white-hot through the opening of the tuyere or draught vent. After a few minutes we move off to a *fantien* (restaurant) with our driver, while the mechanic remains on guard. It is difficult to realize, looking back at our ramshackle pantechnicon, that this tired vehicle carries drugs valued in millions of Chinese dollars; that a wheel and tire are worth perhaps 900 greenbacks to any opportunist with a jack who can catch you off guard. That is why the truck is never left alone.

The Question of Bed

The question of bed poses alternatives. Upstairs are rooms for hire, but they are usually alive with a great many reasons which make this the least popular of the choices. The second idea is to wait until the restaurant closes about nine o'clock and arrange with "mine host" to draw two tables together, unroll your sleeping bag, push all your clothes down the inside of it together with yourself, and try to sleep. Mud-stained boots constitute a problem which is solved by placing each boot under a leg of the table on which one is lying. The trouble with this *fantien* arrangement is that sleeping is reduced to a minimum; for after the *fantien* closes to the public, the employees sit down to their meal. It may be an hour or two before the human population retires, leaving the floor to the rats, which can climb too, a fact of which we are sometimes reminded. Sleep comes eventually, to be dispelled in no uncertain fashion about five A. M. As the night thins out to grey, one or two of the *fantien* staff rise and go about their business of sweeping, washing plates, and removing the boards which form the shop front. Although there are a number of sleepers on tables or stools, this fact is not allowed to interfere with the morning bustle. The Chinese are inured to noise and in this respect neither give nor ask for quarter. Anyone who wishes to lift up his voice in song to the moon or to cry his wares throughout the night watches is at liberty to do so—and does.

The third alternative is to sleep on the truck, as the driver and mechanic invariably do. This only becomes a possibility if there is a gap of 15 to 20 inches between the cases of the cargo and the wooden roof. There is a technique required in removing layers of clothing while lying on one's back

in such an area. Once in the sleeping bag, however, one can look forward to a quiet night, broken only by the cry of some more than usually insistent "Kai shwei" (boiled water) seller.

Signs of Morning

Life begins in the morning as the first light seeps into the dingy street. Unkempt figures emerge from the long line of trucks. There is no truck here which would not call forth rude laughter from the beholders if it appeared on our roads at home, but for us there are significant differences. One or two may be real aristocrats running on gasoline; others, lesser gentry but still distinguished enough, will soon draw out of the line and stagger down the road under the influence of alcohol; a Diesel will move off, stinking horribly; but we of the charcoal burners have two hours' work before our ancient chariots will grind into action.

Charcoal ordered the night before is delivered, broken into small pieces, at the truck side. This is packed into the long hopper which stands just behind the cab. Extra sacks of charcoal for the day's journey are taken on board; yesterday's ashes have to be removed from the fire-box; radiator and drip-feed tank for the charcoal have to be topped up with water; the fire is lighted; plugs are taken out and warmed over the stove of a nearby restaurant; and a few glowing pieces of charcoal are deposited on the engine casing to assist in the general hotting-up process. All this activity is going on right down the street as day creeps up over the surrounding hills.

Another Day on the Road

As we eat our *mienn*, our ears are assailed by one of the most characteristic noises of war-time China—a noise which, in after years, will sound in the memory of Friends Ambulance Unit transport men with mingled repugnance and nostalgia. It will conjure up on one hand all the sweat and toil, the grime and discomfort of life on the road; and on the other the fine freedom of those days, the camaraderie, and the stark beauty of those wild uplands.

The sound comes from every truck along the street and is accompanied by an outpouring of thick grey smoke from the top of every hopper. How to describe that sound? It is a moaning, a sobbing thing, and its source is the forced-draught blower attached to the tuyere of every charcoal burner. For half an hour this irritating business goes on till the fire glows white under the hoppers. Suddenly, down the street, one engine roars into life and in a few minutes a truck pulls out. For awhile the moaning is drowned while the truck stutters uncertainly out of the town and on to the National Highway.

It is our turn next. The passengers climb onto the cab top. The mechanic swings her. The engine bites half-heartedly and then dies out like a giant sucking through his teeth. Another swing, and thunder shakes the street. A few minutes' acceleration by the driver to draw the fire, a shout of "O.K. up top?" and we lumber forward like a tired elephant. It is the beginning of a new day on the Road.

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