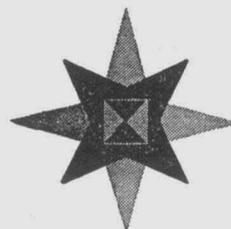


# FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN



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**VOL. II NO. 9**

**OCTOBER 15, 1945**

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE**

# Statement on the Occupation of Japan

To the President of the United States:

The occupation of Japan by the Allied Forces represents a turning point in the life of the American people without parallel in their history. Upon what is done now depends the future welfare not only of Japan but also of the world.

In your statements of the broad policies of occupation you have expressed a high-minded intention to develop a relationship between victor and vanquished based on justice and productive of a new and democratic life in the conquered nation. Upon the behavior of the rank and file of the occupying forces, however, hangs the success or failure of this great purpose. Though Japan stands today at the bar of judgment, in a deeper sense it is America that is on trial. We are the victors. We are a Christian nation. We are the exponents of a democratic way of life, and we have set before the world the ideal of the Four Freedoms. Not only Japan, a nation sensitive to national humiliation to an extreme degree, but all the countries of the Eastern world will watch us now to see whether we manifest in our conduct those principles of justice, humanity, and respect for the individual for which we have

fought and sacrificed.

Military occupation is inherently evil. The greatest effort will be needed to counteract lawlessness and license among the occupying forces and prevent the growth of destructive powers of hatred, contempt and distrust both in Japan and at home. We of the American Friends Service Committee urge upon you a steadfast reiteration of the high principles which you have already set forth, a careful selection of emotionally mature and self-disciplined men to carry out the occupation, and a determined insistence upon the exercise of courtesy and consideration, instead of ridicule and recrimination, in dealing with the defeated people.

We see with distress the wave of hatred and vengefulness spreading throughout this country. We wish to reaffirm our deepest conviction that only through good will and generosity of spirit can peace come to the world, and that by good alone can evil be overcome.

For the American Friends Service Committee

CLARENCE E. PICKETT,  
*Executive Secretary.*

September 18, 1945.

★ ★ ★

## PICTURES AND EXHIBITS

The Publicity Department of the American Friends Service Committee, 20 South 12th Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa., has available the following photographic and display materials illustrating the work of the Foreign Service Section. These may be obtained from the Publicity Department upon request. There is no charge for the use of this material:

### Foreign Service slides (Made 1945)

54 black and white 2" x 2" slides. Description of work of the AFSC in France, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, North Africa, Egypt (UNRRA), England, India, and China. A comprehensive script accompanies the slides.

Reconstruction in Italy, 25 black and white 2" x 2" slides with accompanying script. (In preparation.)

### Refugee film (Filmed 1943)

16mm. movie film, silent, Kodachrome, 1 reel, shows refugees vacationing at Sky Island, N. Y.

### Stamp Exhibit (Made 1945)

Interesting foreign stamps and covers mounted on 4 mats, 14" x 22", light grey background. Typical of those received and offered for sale by the AFSC.

### French Letters album

Album containing letters from children in France written in appreciation for food received in 1941 and 1942.

### Clothing Committee Exhibit (Made 1944)

Photographs mounted on black mats, 28" x 22". The story of the making, collecting, and distributing of AFSC relief clothing, here and abroad.

★ ★ ★

## MEN'S CLOTHING NEEDED IN FRANCE

Secours Quaker reports a serious need for men's clothing in France, particularly for deportees returning from the prison camps of Germany and for prisoners of war now being discharged from the French Army. Most needed are underwear, shirts, sweaters, and suits. Clothing can be received at the AFSC Clothing Storeroom at 1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, Penna.

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## AFSC Undertakes Program in Finland

On behalf of the American Friends Service Committee Dr. Douglas V. Steere, Professor at Haverford College, has spent the summer in Scandinavia, particularly studying relief problems in Lapland (northern Finland), where German armies ravaged the countryside, and in the Finnish cities where children exhibit serious evidences of malnutrition. On the basis of Dr. Steere's reports, some details of which appeared in the September 1945 Bulletin, the AFSC is now prepared to administer a limited relief program in Finland this winter, sending eight workers, shipments of used clothing and food for distribution by Suomen Huolto, the official Finnish relief agency.

### Help from Finnish-Americans

To finance this program, the AFSC is turning primarily to Finnish-American groups in the United States. Certain funds raised for civilian relief in the Winter War of 1939-40 and held by the Swedish Legation are expected to be turned over to the Friends for administration. Likewise, funds held in custody by the Finnish Relief Fund, Inc., which was organized by Herbert Hoover several years ago, will be released for immediate use. Authorization for these activities has been granted by the President's War Relief Control Board and several Finnish-American groups are now organizing to raise relief funds—notably Help Finland, Inc., headed by President V. K. Vickander of Suomi College, Michigan, and on which Mr. Hoover will serve as honorary chairman, and United Finnish Relief of which Mr. John Ranta is chairman.

### Relief Program Proposed

To help meet the desperate needs this winter, it is proposed that the AFSC carry out a supplementary school-feeding program at Rovaniemi and Kemijarvi in Finnish Lapland and in other villages in the devastated area. The Finnish State is expected to furnish some of the supplies. Powdered milk and cod-liver oil will be purchased in Sweden and it is hoped that fats and sugar may be secured from Denmark. The clothing situation is especially desperate. Finnish-Americans are now organizing the collection of 150 tons of clothing which is being assembled in Philadelphia and New York. The Friends plan to distribute 10,000 pairs of new shoes for school children. Transport and distribution within Finland will be under the care of Suomen Huolto of which the Finnish Red Cross is one of the participating agencies.

### "Living Symbol of Good Will"

Due to lack of housing in Finland, the AFSC will set up movable barracks as service centers and to accommodate the relief staff. It is hoped that these barracks would serve as community centers where people could gather for recreation as well as cen-

ters for clothing distribution. The Finnish Settlement movement, whose building in Rovaniemi has been completely destroyed, is willing to furnish an English-speaking Finnish worker to reside in each center and to share in the work. Douglas Steere writes: "Theoretically Finnish personnel would seem to be best fitted to carry out all of such a program, but in fact the vast weariness of the few people engaged in social work in Finland and the apparent hopelessness of their task this winter, makes the theory weak before the fact. The effect of a few fresh, strong, able workers possessing a variety of skills and with bold resourcefulness and coming to the Northern Finns as a living symbol of American good will is a condition of making effective such a program focused upon a limited area of acute need. This point has been emphasized again and again by Finnish officials from the Minister of Social Affairs downwards. 'Such a group would give us hope and courage' they say."

Swedish Friends have cabled their "hearty support proposed Finnish project and will cooperate counselling and Swedish arrangements." Douglas Steere's proposal also bears the endorsement of a number of Finnish leaders including Uno Hannula, Governor of Lapland; Heikki Waris, Executive Director of Suomen Huolto; Sigfrid Sirenus, founder of Settlement Movement in Finland; Rev. Aaro Ohinen, center and district administrator of the Finnish Red Cross; and Rev. Aaro Tolso, settlement worker in Lapland for 19 years.

\* \* \*

### Letter from Jean Sibelius, World-famous Finnish Composer

#### TRANSLATION

It is with feelings of deep gratification that the Finnish people have noted the real esteem and sympathy shown in recent years by the United States and its millions of citizens towards Finland, her sorely-trying inhabitants, democratic institutions and culture.

I know that hundreds of thousands of my countrymen are still enduring almost unbearable hardships. They do not lack the will to work for the rehabilitation of their hopes, their country and their civilization; but they do lack the material means. They are short of everything—clothing, shoes, building materials, transportation facilities, even a sufficiency of daily bread.

I have heard, to my boundless pleasure, that you are willing to help little Finland and her people. In learning this, my heart resounded with gratitude towards the great American democracy and its kind-hearted and generous citizens.

*signed by* JEAN SIBELIUS.

## From the Children of Nimes

*Secours Quaker provided a series of "goûters" or supplementary snacks for the school-children in Nimes, France, and many letters of appreciation have been received from the children and their teachers. A few of these are given here:*

"Gentlemen and Ladies:

"These are the French children who have the great joy of expressing to you their gratitude for the good deeds which you have lavished upon them. More than you know, we feel the generous gesture of our friends from over the channel and across the ocean. The war, with the invasion which followed it, caused us to lose all our former prosperity. We often lacked the necessary things of life. Then, in the fullness of your hearts, you came to help us in our distress.

"What touches us particularly in your generosity is not only the human unity which urges mankind to aid his like because he is his like without considering whether he is white or black, pagan or Christian, it is above all because we know that a higher feeling is at the source of your generosity. The apostle St. Paul said of himself and of the Christians of his time that the **charity of Christ was urging them on**. Certainly it is this which has urged you to aid the French children. May Jesus Christ, then, who has promised to repay even a glass of cold water given in His name, graciously repay you Himself!

"But to add our humble thanks to His, we insist upon telling you here that at the time when nations

are gathering together with so much difficulty to establish a real peace among men, you have shown yourself the finest and best ambassadors from free England and free America."

\* \* \*

"Sir:

"For six weeks I have been enjoying the nice snack given by our friends, the Quakers. I have a fine time with the good things which you offered to us. I have taken on weight and have worked better in class. I thank you with all my heart for your bounty toward little French school children who for four years have been hungry so often. My parents thank you also.

Affectionately and gratefully,  
JACQUES DUMAS."

\* \* \*

"Sir:

"I had been ill in the spring; I had grown very thin and my teacher chose me to benefit from the lunches offered by the American Quakers. I ate some good sardines, good cheese, and drank chocolate milk. It was a feast. Thanks to you, I am feeling much better, and I send you my greetings and my gratitude.

MAURICE DOUARD."

\* \* \*

## Madame S. Turns to the Quakers

"Some time ago, Madame S.'s husband, who was a key man in the Resistance Movement, was arrested by the Germans and tortured in order that his captors might secure names of other members of the Resistance Movement. He was tortured for 12 days, three of which were in the presence of his wife, and still he did not speak. Then on the 12th day when, among other things, he had been hanging by his thumbs for several hours, he was told that they would start to torture his wife and three children in order to force him to speak.

"In despair, Monsieur S. gave six names—names of people he knew to be absolutely innocent, because he thought that they would be released again after inquiry and that in the meantime his wife and his children would get away to safety. However the Germans deported all six along with him. They told the six that it was Monsieur S. who had denounced them, and the whole group was kept together on the train and in the concentration camp. Monsieur S. was desperate and did all he could for his innocent victims, giving them his bread ration and endeavoring to do some of their work.

"Three of the six died, and the other three who have come back are very bitter. Monsieur S. himself came back in June dying of tuberculosis due to

malnutrition because he had sacrificed his rations. He has since died, heart-broken, because of the hatred he found on his return.

"It was, of course, a terrible thing to denounce these innocent people—or to mention their names even if they had been connected with the Resistance—and it is almost impossible to put oneself at the same time in the position of the tortured man and of the wronged and bereaved families. However, to denounce people to the Germans is the greatest of all crimes in an occupied country; and the horror of this action causes people to show themselves hard and cruel towards his wife and children. None will help her, and the children cannot walk through the streets without hearing unkind remarks. This hatred and unwillingness to help is very understandable in a country where it must have been everybody's nightmare, this fear of being denounced with or without justification. That does not alter the fact that the wife and children need help and need it immediately. Even though the husband was a deportee and as such in due course there will be a pension from the government for the wife and children, these pensions take months to come through. In the meantime, Madame S. has turned to the Quakers."

—Mary Garrett, Secours Quaker, Paris, France.

## Displaced Persons in the Munich Area

The six members of the AFSC team working under the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in Germany have been assigned as follows: Viola Pfrommer is to be stationed at Regensburg; Russell Richie at Cham; Ima Lieven is to work at Tirschenreuth in the northernmost part of the Niederbayern-Oberfals (12th corps) area; Sarah Howells and William Edgerton have been sent to Passau in the southeastern corner of the area on the Austrian border; and Edward Wright will be working at Vilsbiburg near Landshut, south-east of Regensburg. All will be, along with other members of UNRRA, working to solve the many problems facing displaced persons.

Edward Wright reports: "In the brief time I have been in Vilsbiburg I have seen various sides of the displaced persons problem. There is much to be done before winter sets in and I am happy we are here to do our small share. I foresee fascinating as well as tragic situations arising out of the post-war mixture of displaced persons of all nationalities, German civilians, and American soldiers."

### Visit to Camps

Before receiving their assignments, members of the AFSC-UNRRA team were able to visit several camps for displaced persons in the Munich area and Edward Wright gives the following description:

"Our first interesting trip was to the UNRRA transient center for displaced persons located in the former Deutsches Museum in Munich. This center caters primarily to those passing through the city but there are a few Americans and other nationals who are remaining until a consul or other type of authority can facilitate their departure. We were impressed by the efficient quality of the service and by the different departments—dormitories, library, kitchen, theatre, church, children's room, vocational office, information bureau, legal service, etc.

"The next day we motored in our faithful truck to the Landsberg displaced persons camp about 55 kilometers to the west of Munich. It is a camp of some 6,000 persons, 5,000 of whom are Jewish. The people are housed in former German Army casernes or barracks. The majority of the people are Polish although there are also a considerable number of Hungarians. In one barrack there were nothing but Polish boys who had made their own way across Germany and who were largely taking care of themselves under their own leaders and organization. It is hoped that some of the children under 16 years in this, as in other camps in the Third Army Area, can take advantage of the offer of certain British agencies to go to England for special care in hostels.

"Our next trip took us to another camp at Feldsling about 40 kilometers due south of Munich. This camp has a lovely location on the Starnberger See

within sight of the Austrian Alps, but the ground around the buildings is mostly dirt and will be a regular sea of mud when rains set in. The present displaced persons population is about 5,000 although the buildings can only accommodate comfortably about 2,000. Some of the Hungarians will probably be returned to their country shortly, but it is expected that the camp will have around 5,000 people all winter. There seemed to be a great many displaced persons walking around in miserable clothing and a great many others just lying on their bunks—which suggested that employment programs and re-education in community living are essential needs.

### A Different Type of Problem

"At the Traunstein area we saw a very different type of displaced persons problem. Traunstein is a little town near Salzburg and we were able to follow the excellent *autobahn* southeast from Munich except for one tortuous detour which led us around a high bridge which had been blown up. We were struck by the beauty of the Bavarian countryside, the mountains with low-hanging clouds, the red-roofed villages, and the crowds of peasants on the move everywhere. Many of the people were in huge trucks or trailers with all of their possessions, others were on bicycles, while many were trudging along on foot. We assume that a great number of them are German refugees who are returning to their homes, especially in the cities; but it still remains a puzzle where so many of them are coming from and whither they are bound.

"At Traunstein we looked up Mrs. Hugo, the UNRRA team directress, who explained to us the problems which she and her associates were facing. In this area there are some 9,000 Austrians, Hungarians, Rumanians, Jugoslavs, French, Italians, Poles, Lithuanians, Latvians, and Estonians scattered in about 50 villages and communities. Each national group presents a different problem. For example, it is unlikely that some of the French or Italians will want to be repatriated because they came to Germany as 'free workers' or have married into German families; the Poles may or may not return to Poland, and so it goes. Naturally the scattered condition of these people, who have been receiving requisitioned lodging and food from the burgo-master, raises certain problems which are not so acute when large groups are gathered together in assembly centers. The problems of registration, feeding, clothing, health, education, billeting, as well as the relationships with the German civilians are all accentuated in such a diffuse situation. It is planned to assemble the people in a large camp before winter.

"We are deeply grateful for this opportunity to represent all of you in this area of tragedy and suffering."

# Conditions of Dutch Families in the Western Provinces

by MARIA VAN EVERDINGEN

*The following report is prepared by Maria van Everdingen, Clerk of Meeting for Sufferings of the Holland Society of Friends, who is engaged in relief activities at the Quaker Bureau in Amsterdam, Netherlands. This report, she explains, is not intended as a statistical documentation of relief needs but "a picture of conditions of the households in many towns, except in those districts where people could manage throughout the war with their stock."*

"The lack of soap and washing-powder, chemical cleaning and disinfecting agents has been a great difficulty for the Dutch housewives who have ever been so proud of their tidiness. This has really grown into a state in which the danger of epidemics is not shut out. Apart from this, every housewife has to spend hours and hours waiting for bread and vegetables and so she must neglect her home. I must confess in the time our social work calls us everywhere, my home is in a very bad state! One can guess how it is in the houses where a mother has to look after several children.

When one enters the house of our poor fellow-men, one will find in the house exactly so much wood left as is necessary for one table, a few seats, a bed, and as much of the staircase as is really needed to climb to the next floor; all has been burnt for fuel for heat and for the stoves in cooking.

What there has been of curtains, tablecloths, floormats, has been sold or bartered for food. We have not seen shoes for the last two years, except on the black market. For the babies there are no diapers nor any warm or washable clothes, no sheets, no blankets, in most cases only rags. There is no soap to wash the rags, no hot water, and not enough water in places where water has been rationed.

In the families who are suffering most, two or three of the children are quite undernourished, others are in a bad state of health. In the last weeks, the conditions of the little ones has improved though the babies don't grow very much and only recover slowly. Most of the young children did not grow at all during the last months before medical and relief teams could start their beneficial work. The stream of good food that now comes into our towns is amazing. People get things on their table they never tasted before. This is really being handled democratically, and it is a double pleasure to know that we all get the same things.

Still the immense shortage of food is not covered yet. In the first place, for the many patients, diabetics, tubercular people, those with internal diseases, expectant mothers and so on, it is very difficult to distribute special food in the best way. There is still a shortage of special baby food and it will take a long time before the weak people are used to food of high quality.

In Amsterdam, apart from medical teams of the Red Cross, Dutch teams for relief work visit the

families and strive intensely with trained workers to overcome the difficulties as described above in a few lines. More help from abroad is still wanted. Transport is the greatest difficulty.

\* \* \* \* \*

## RELIEF TO HOLLAND

The AFSC plans to support relief efforts of Dutch Friends both financially and with shipments of clothing which will shortly go forward.

\* \* \*

## JUST ONE FRENCH COASTAL CITY

"More people are arriving daily as workers return from the forced labor camps in Germany and women and children evacuated to the country during the bombing come back to the city. They come back to find their homes often damaged or destroyed, their chances of being able to earn a living problematical, and food and clothing obtainable only at bare subsistence levels.

"Some idea of the food situation can be gained by considering the activity of the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic order which is supported, I believe, entirely by begging. One of their activities in Le Havre has been to collect all the waste food from various restaurants in town. At home we would call it garbage. This food is all sorted. The worst of it is given to the pigs. That which is not quite so bad, such as wet or moldy bread, is dried and made into feed for the chickens, and the best of it, such as stale bread and so forth, is eaten by the old people who are cared for by the order.

"Another slant on conditions here is obtained when one learns that the government gives people who have no other means of support a pension of 200 francs a month. Yet it costs 350 francs to have a pair of shoes resoled.

"Fuel in Le Havre has been so scarce that there was not enough to heat even partially the maternity hospital. People are living eight and ten in a room and three or four in a bed. The tuberculosis rate is supposed to be one of the highest in France and such conditions make its continued rise inevitable. Many people are, of course, living in houses without roofs or with roofs that leak, and so the story goes. This is just one city on the coast of France."

*—From a letter by David Heath, AFSC appointee to the Friends Ambulance Unit in London, written from Le Havre, France.*

# Visit to Bengal Villages

by CHARLES FREEMAN

*Charles Freeman is an AFSC appointee to the Quaker work in India. Since his arrival there in May he has been engaged in the drug distribution program and also in the evacuation and resettlement of flood victims at Canning. Here he describes a visit which he made to the villages in Bengal where the Friends have undertaken a rehabilitation program:*

It is true what they say about villages—they are more interesting and certainly more purely Bengali than this polyglot combination of all India and all Europe that we call our fair city, Calcutta.

I spent several days with Stephen and Ruth Lee and the others of the AFSC-FAU group at Contai. The first day I visited the Industrial Center at Mihashagot and saw the work there and the dispensary that was set up last December with the cooperation of the FAU, the Bengal Civil Protection Committee, and the Bengal Government. I also saw the little village of huts built by the FAU at Hathiberya. Those two places, it seems to me, show a "right" way of going about things: there is nothing ostentatious about them, the houses are the kind that the people have always lived in but are neat and orderly. I hope the Industrial Center will be able to turn out finished products later instead of straight cloth such as they weave now. The doctor at the dispensary, a BCPC man, trained at the University of Calcutta, seemed to mean a lot to the community, especially to the children, quite apart from his work.

## Dedication of Village

One evening while I was there, the village had a feast for the dedication of the community, so we pushed and pulled the truck over the mud road to Hathiberya. We were invited for seven o'clock. We actually arrived at eight, and the eating began about eleven. When the cooks say, "Ektu deri" (a little bit late) it means one may start eating in two hours; when they say, "Hoyce gace" (all done), one knows it won't be more than an hour till eating time, maybe.

We played games with the children who were as bright and healthy-looking a group as I have seen on this side of the water or the other. I had been afraid that after seeing the precocious children of Calcutta that those in the villages would seem repressed or even a bit dull. In this particular village, they were well behaved and not repressed at all, and they were very quick. The little ones gathered around me as I squatted on the floor and sang song after song, some quite catching tunes and rhythms. Then they clapped as I sang. The feast was good. Afterwards we had to spend the night at Mihasagot, because the driver was justly afraid of the road. I slept on the floor quite comfortably, Arthur Dean of the FAU slept on a bed until its occupant came back from the feast, and then he took to the floor; Ruth Lee slept on a table because she was afraid of snakes; and Stephen Lee slept on the operating table.

## Condition of the Children

Considering all the lacks of the elementals of transportation and sanitation, the people seem remarkably healthy and interested in life. The children no longer have shrunken bodies nor do they lack energy. That is a sweeping statement and is not true in all cases. I did see two or three children who seemed definitely undernourished—one little fellow in particular was spindly and his little sister who was holding him was in need of a course of vitamins herself—but they were quite the exceptions. I speak of children I saw on the streets as well as those in the Friends' centers and in the government orphanage, although these especially privileged children are, of course, more robust.

It was most heart-warming to get to know three of the Bengalis connected with the work at the villages—Dr. Khan at Mihashigot, and Satru Chatterjee and Manik Das who are part of the FAU group with the Lees and Arthur Dean. Satru and Manik are of the Bratachari Society. They are livewires and get things done, and yet they do things in such a way as to offend nobody. For instance, Bratacharis make no distinctions on the basis of caste. Satru was in charge of last-minute preparations for the feast at Hathiberya and at the last minute someone raised a cry about having Brahmins eat first. Satru assured them that everybody would be seated in such a way that all would be pleased. They were all seated in a straight line and everybody was happy! I fear the white guests were shown special consideration, however—we were among the first to eat, so that we could get to sleep.

\* \* \*

## MICROSCOPES AID RELIEF

Albert Moorman, teacher and parasitologist, has arrived in India to join in the Quaker relief work there. He is assigned to the maintenance and inspection of the 80 microscopes which have been sent to India as the gifts of the labor groups and chemical engineers in the United States. Staff members of local hospitals and relief committees which are recipients of the microscopes are receiving refresher courses in microscopic technique.

According to Dr. W. Allen Longshore, Jr., head of the American Friends Service Committee-Friends Ambulance Unit relief program in India, the microscopes will be an invaluable aid to more effective use of relief drugs and medicines because of the former difficulties in accurate diagnosis of disease without microscopes which have been almost non-existent in India.

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