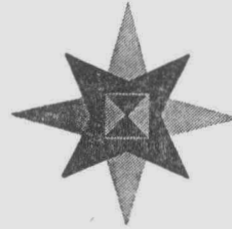


FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN



"AT THIS TIME OF CRITICAL EMERGENCY AND SPREADING FAMINE IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, MATERIAL RELIEF IS A FIRST NECESSITY. NEVERTHELESS, THE SPIRITUAL VALUES OF FRIENDLY INTEREST AND CONCERN FOR THE NEEDY ARE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT. FROM THE FIELD WE RECEIVE REPORT AFTER REPORT THAT THE LONG YEARS OF WAR AND SUFFERING HAVE LEFT THE SPIRITUAL RESOURCES OF PEOPLE DEPLETED. HOPE AND COURAGE TO BEGIN LIFE ANEW IN THE MIDST OF THE WAR'S GREAT DESTRUCTIVENESS SEEM TO BE THE PARAMOUNT NEEDS. EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE VALUE OF A GIFT DEPENDS UPON THE SPIRIT OF THE GIVER. 'A CUP OF WATER GIVEN IN MY NAME' IS MORE THAN A CUP OF WATER. IT BECOMES A SYMBOL OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ALL-EMBRACING HUMAN FAMILY."

CORNELIUS KRUSE

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APRIL, 1946

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

Asia Looks to the Christian West

by ERIC JOHNSON

Famine returns to India this year, on a deeper and wider scale. In 1943-44 a food shortage of only five per cent caused between one and two million deaths from starvation in Bengal. In 1946 there will be an estimated twenty-five per cent shortage in the Madras area, and a population larger than that of the United States will be affected by famine. Six million tons of food grains must be imported to prevent millions of deaths. Those with plenty must act quickly to share with the starving. An Indian child, with brown skin and spindly legs, suffers as much when he dies of hunger as the children we know and love. But it seems to require of us insight and breadth of concern to include these far-off children among those to whom we stretch out a helping and friendly hand. Yet, it is from these children that some of the leadership for a peaceful world in the next decades may come.

Reasons and Remedies for the Famine

Drought in South India has ruined crops, and distress has been aggravated by cyclones and a great tidal wave. In addition, the winter rains in the Northwest have been insufficient so that a normally surplus area cannot supply deficit areas. Burma, which in times past exported as much as two million tons of rice to India, this year, because of the war, has barely enough to feed herself. Surpluses in other parts of the world are far below normal, except principally in the United States.

The Government of India has established all-India rationing. Over large areas the rice ration has been reduced from one pound to twelve ounces (1,200 calories). In some places people are getting a total diet of as low as 450 calories. Famine has been declared in eleven districts in Madras and Bombay. A strong Food Delegation has placed India's case before the Combined Food Board in Washington. It is largely here and with the American people that the solution to the problem lies.

Friends' Plan for Aid

India's need is for supplies, which must be purchased outside of Asia. It seems likely that the government of India will furnish funds for any supplies that AFSC can procure over and above those obtained by the India Supply Mission. Thus our relatively small India budget will make possible the purchase and distribution of supplies worth many times the amount. There is unlikely to be sufficiently wide-spread interest in the plight of India to make a really large-scale supply program possible, although a cabled request for multi-vitamins and powdered milk and eggs has been received. AFSC will continue its basic \$40,000 budget for the maintenance

of twelve Friends' workers and additional Indian colleagues, and may send some food and additional relief workers if these steps are recommended by the field office.

Before the present emergency, Indian, British and American Friends' workers in Bengal had planned to carry on cooperative and self-help schemes for the rehabilitation of survivors of the Bengal Famine of 1943-44 on a non-emergency basis. Those projects are designed to show how to make India less vulnerable to famine and disaster. Now they will have to be carried on with only a skeleton staff, releasing Friends Service Unit workers to aid in the famine areas. Already a unit member has been sent to Delhi to assist the government and another member is in Madras surveying conditions. Their principal function will probably be, as in the previous famine, to coordinate non-official voluntary relief agencies with government plans. Friends, because of their strict aloofness from politics, enjoy the confidence of both government and people. Therefore, they can help bridge the gap that separates the two.

From a broader point of view, India herself stands at the cross-roads between the Eastern and Western world. She may act as a bridge between them, or her potential mistrust and hatred of the West may be nourished by neglect in this year of her crisis and she may turn her face entirely toward the East.

* * *

MESSAGE FROM THE CHINA CONVOY

We have just finished the shortest staff meeting in Convoy history, in a spirit of unity and of renewed dedication to the work. The Convoy is already well into what may be its last and most satisfying project, a service of direct relief embodying our concern for a clearly integrated community. While some projects are to continue in West China, headquarters and the major part of our work are to center in Honan.

We are tearing up roots, both spiritual and physical, in the China of our early history, but our calling is clear. Older members leaving China have passed on the work to newer men whose responsibility it will be to maintain the pacifist witness which has brought us together; we hope that the work which emerges may merit your faith in us. We would ask you, our friends at home, to forward our greetings to others under your sponsorship, who are engaged in the same service of reconciliation in other parts of the world.

—GRIFFITH LEVERING

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Our Field is the World

by CLARENCE E. PICKETT

Whenever the normal facilities of international life break down as they have in this war, an agency such as the Service Committee finds itself called upon to render a wide range of services stretching over enormous geographical territory. There is always a temptation to do more than it is possible to do well. However, with the freeing of men from Civilian Public Service, making available large numbers of able people who have heretofore been denied to us, and with the generous financial support of many individuals and groups, we have been able to meet more demands than might have been felt possible.

Food needs in many countries have now converged into a total picture of starvation or desperate hunger over great areas of the world. Recent crop failures have brought this fact into stark prominence, claiming the attention of statesmen and of all people of good will in the more fortunate countries. Under the shadow of hunger lie India, Japan, much of China and most of western, central and southern Europe. Famine and human suffering on such a global scale must be dealt with by governments, but the efforts of governments must be spurred and supported by the efforts of private citizens. Often the work of a voluntary agency can lead the way.

Continuing Program

Concluding a year and a half of relief work in Bengal, we see new famine facing India. How much service we can contribute in relation to that is yet uncertain. We have well over a hundred British, Canadian, New Zealand and American young men in China, some having been there for almost the entire period of the war, trucking medical supplies to out-of-the-way places and carrying on medical service. Anna Brinton, for the American Friends Service Committee, and Paul Sturge, for the London Friends Service Council, are visiting India and China to learn what continuing services may be rendered in these two areas following the emergency relief stage. In Italy we are supplementing the relief work of UNRRA by furnishing transport for materials to rebuild village homes. In France about twenty-five staff members work with Secours Quaker, the French relief organization, in the distribution of food and clothing and in prison visiting. About three hundred French citizens have joined with us in the administration of this relief. Here, too, we are beginning to raise the question as to the kinds of service which might follow the emergency period.

A visit by Douglas Steere to Finland and Poland, studying relief needs, opened the way to begin work in these countries. Seven people have been sent to Austria to distribute supplies of food and clothing and to explore further opportunities for service. A European Transport Unit is ready to work in any country where its help is needed.

Ever since the conclusion of the war in Europe, we have been concerned as to what might be done in Germany, to break down wartime barriers. First the way opened to send supplies from Sweden to the British zone. The visit to Germany of a delegation representing voluntary relief agencies in this country resulted in an arrangement for a permanent staff of eight representatives of these agencies to work in the American zone, authorized to receive supplies up to 2,000 tons per month and to arrange for their distribution through German relief agencies. Shipments now moving from Sweden, Denmark and the United States for this whole program include powdered milk, powdered eggs, vitamins, needed medicines and clothing, especially shoes.

The Question of Germany

We are grateful for this opportunity. However, the official policy of dividing Germany into four sections and not allowing free exchange of goods between those sections, along with the policy of uncertainty concerning recovery of industrial employment and production, tends to perpetuate the necessity for outside relief. It is our strong conviction that every possible effort should be made to eliminate the lines of demarcation separating Germany into zones, that there should be a centralized control, that goods should be allowed to move more freely throughout Germany and between Germany and her neighbors, and that there should be a definite policy of reviving industry and production. Otherwise, not only will Germany remain in poverty and degradation, but because she is the industrial heart of Europe she will drag the rest of Europe down with her. Already there are definite signs that this is happening. It is our conviction that if the American public would express itself vigorously in opposition to the punishment policy now being followed in Germany, our officials would change that policy.

Future Perspectives

Efforts are now under way to send urgently needed help to the people of Hungary. As this statement is being made, it seems likely that the opportunity will also open very shortly for voluntary relief to be sent to Japan. Here again we shall probably participate with a number of church agencies which are also interested. At first, aid will be in small quantities, but it is cheering to think that the healing process may be begun soon.

While we should feel profoundly grateful for all these opportunities, we should also seek devoutly and devotedly for a way of life which prevents the recurrence of these painful outbursts of the spirit of destruction and war. We should be even more moved to find ways for the voice of the spirit of reconciliation to be articulate in a world which has all too far lost its dependence on anything except force.

Post-War Sketches from Central Europe

I. TOWN AND COUNTRY—GERMANY

Reports from Trier, in the French zone of occupation, illustrate conditions to be found in many parts of Germany, as well as elsewhere in Europe. Trier, a town of some 60,000 inhabitants, has been completely cut off from the rest of Germany, with no direct communication with any of the larger towns and no practical means of transport for food, medicines and other essential goods. Thirty per cent of the town was totally destroyed by bombing, and thirty-five per cent partially destroyed.

Important medical supplies are completely missing. There is acute need for soap and washing powder. Equally urgent is the need for shoes, clothing and underwear for children, sewing materials, blankets and bed linen. The infant mortality rate is reported at twenty per cent, and children generally are undernourished and underweight. Their diet lacks milk, sugar and fats and is deficient even in bread and potatoes. Whereas the Allied Control Commission in Berlin has fixed 1,550 calories a day for the supply of the German population, the fixed rations in Trier are reported at 1,030 to 1,360 calories, according to age and circumstances. However, the amounts actually obtainable on these rations have been given as 616 to 761, up to January 23.

Since the number of calories available on rations are obviously insufficient, the question arises, what do people live on? Vivid answers to this query are quoted in the following paragraphs, one from a relief agency, the other from a government official.

"More and more parents are trying to send their children to the country as the food situation worsens. Many children have to go to school without any breakfast. As the small bread rations could not always be distributed, many people have had to live on potatoes only, until the potato stocks are nearly exhausted. Some families live only on the one meal they get in the city kitchen."

* * *

"Early in the morning groups of children and grown-ups leave the town to swarm through the country to 'snatch' food. It is a real cross-country competition, because every morning the farmers put baskets full of potatoes before their doors and each child is allowed to take one potato. In the evening the tired and hungry groups return to town with some potatoes for the next day. Sometimes the children stay away for several days and lead a very adventurous life till they return to town with filled rucksacks. The brethren and sisters of the hospitals and similar establishments do the same. But now the farmers are far less willing to give potatoes. The stocks are diminishing and soon the people's kitchen of the town will have to be closed. In this kitchen up to five thousand people have been fed daily—soup and three potatoes."

II. YOUTH AMID THE RUINS

The next two sketches are from the letters of William Hughes, an English Friend who traveled in the British zone of occupation in Germany during the autumn of 1945 to study relief needs.

A special problem of welfare in all German cities today arises from the large number of children and young people who are homeless—who have no parents or do not know where their parents are—and who wander about haunting bunkers and railway stations and living by begging, pilfering and black marketing. They are brought in by the police and social workers every day to the homes and institutions that can accommodate them, but are difficult to hold. I was amazed to hear that 12,000 of these wanderers—partly lost children from bombed homes but mostly refugees from the East—had been picked up in Hamburg alone in the six months May-October 1945. About ninety per cent of these were between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, but some were children as young as nine years. The great majority are boys. There are eighteen homes in Hamburg willing to receive such cases and they have over a thousand at present but are over-filled and cannot find staff enough to give the personal care required by each case. Some German Friends are working especially for these derelict children.

* * *

School in Cologne

The school was somewhat difficult to find amongst the ruins, but at last we found a courtyard, of which one side was occupied by a tall brick building, looking like a shell, with holes where windows had once been. This was the school and sounds of children's voices came from within. It has been found possible, partly through the labor of the teachers themselves, to glaze and patch up seven out of the eighteen classrooms. Stoves have been installed and enough desks saved to crowd these rooms. Apart from water dripping in from holes in the ceilings and a general sense of dirtiness and patching, the conditions are now passable. This was formerly a folk-school of one thousand places. It is now a double-shift school, like all others in Cologne, and the children come from a very wide area, formerly served by several schools.

Altogether eight hundred children are now attending—and there are fourteen teachers. This means classes averaging about sixty, and overcrowded rooms. Some of the teachers suspended for political testing are now coming back, so the staffing position may slightly improve. School attendance is not being enforced at present and the head teacher said that there were many homes from which the children were not coming because of distance, weakness and lack of shoes. In every class were a number of children with split, broken or almost soleless footwear. Some wore boots of adults and we were told of other cases in which two children shared one pair, coming to school on alternate sessions.

The supply of school books and material is very scanty. New reading books for the smaller children have appeared, but not for seniors. The whole of the teaching is concentrated on the elements, since most of the children have had no schooling for a number of years.

In some of the classrooms we had exchanges with the children and I was struck by their liveliness and a general lack of the depression one might have expected. One teacher told us that he had hesitated to set home-work, knowing how difficult it was for the children to find any place to work at home; but he found children often brought him twice as much work as he could set. They have some sense of past time to make up. On the whole, I came away cheered rather than cast down. Life, sprouting up through the ruins, is always lovely.

* * *

III. POLISH VILLAGES—FIELD FOR RECONSTRUCTION

This sketch is taken from letters of William Edgerton, AFSC representative in Warsaw, quoting partly his English colleague, Philip Zealey of Friends Relief Service, describing the area in which they will begin Quaker work in Poland.

The Kozienice District is the most northerly district of County Kielce, lying in the fork between the Pilica and the Vistula some one hundred kilometers south of Warsaw. Two Russian bridgeheads across the Vistula—one north of the Town Kozienice and one south—caused it to become a battlefield. The town itself, which escaped serious damage, has a present population of about 140,000, with some 81,000 needing help. In the whole district 45 per cent of the houses were destroyed, and 60 per cent of farm buildings. Of the 134 schools, 92 in a bad state of repair are now open. According to the Starosta's (district government leader's) statistics, 95 per cent of the pigs, 83 per cent of the cows, 71 per cent of the horses, and 67 per cent of the farm implements have gone. The economy of this area was based on a few hectares of land, a horse, a cow and a few pigs, so these figures give some idea of the present distress.

First Steps

We can obviously tackle only a fraction of the needs in this area and as a beginning we are agreed on the following suggestions based on the supplies we know are coming: (1) To help re-activate social welfare organizations in the district; (2) to organize supplementary pre-school feeding; (3) to distribute used clothing; and (4) to survey the problem of scabies and, if possible, take steps to combat it. Pre-school children were picked out because school children get some extra food at school, while the younger ones receive no supplement. The Polish YMCA is already caring for university students as a part of their work among young people generally.

A Village Close-up

We stopped at Mariampol, a totally destroyed village. It lay directly in the line of battle between the Germans and the Russians in the fall of 1944.

Sixty-five families totalling three hundred persons are now living where their village used to be. I have never seen such misery outside of Egypt, and even in Egypt there was no snow and freezing weather. Fifteen of the families have no men at all. They live too far from all forests to be able to get the necessary wood to rebuild their houses, and except for a very few shacks made of thatched walls and roofs the whole village is living underground in bunkers, which are built of sticks, stones and mud. It was not easy to stand there in my woolen underwear and socks, woolen uniform, heavy trench coat, boots and thick gloves, and talk to shivering, barefoot children.

According to figures published in "Wici," the newspaper of the Association of Rural Youth, within the Kielce District alone there are 634 destroyed villages. Of these 202 are in the little area around Kozienice. I am told that in all of Poland about five thousand villages have been destroyed.

* * *

IV. CHILD VICTIMS OF WAR—HUNGARY

The American Friends Service Committee is preparing to begin emergency relief in Hungary as soon as arrangements can be made to enter that war-wracked country. Figures drawn from Hungarian, Swiss and American sources reveal a tragic situation for Hungary's eight million people, over one million of whom live in the city of Budapest.

In November last it is reported seventy per cent of all babies born in Budapest were still-born. The infant mortality rate for the country as a whole was last reported as forty-two per cent. A prospect of death by starvation or by malnutrition and allied diseases faces 60,000 children under three years of age, for "no drop of milk can be found and their mothers, under-fed themselves, cannot feed them." There are something like 160,000 destitute orphans, and thousands of children roam the streets, begging.

Last December the Hungarian Prime Minister predicted that by the end of January all food supplies would have run out. White flour had been unknown for a year; corn meal stocks were about exhausted; even potatoes were seldom available and dried peas were the sole reliance. Milk supplies were insufficient even for babies, and fats were unavailable. Normally Hungary has exported food, but its agriculture has suffered from the devastation of lands, lack of fertilizer, and the loss of animals and implements. Stocks from the previous year's short crops were consumed by rival armies.

Cooperative Relief Efforts

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration has set up a program for feeding children under fifteen and expectant and nursing mothers, estimated to last through July only. American Hungarian Relief has secured and shipped some supplies from Sweden in collaboration with the Swedish and Danish governments, the International Red Cross and the Save the Children Federation. Relief operations have also been initiated by Hungarians in Switzerland, by the Unitarian Service Committee, and by the Joint Distribution Committee.

School Visiting in Lapland

by NAOMI JACKSON

Naomi Jackson is one of six AFSC staff workers now at Rovaniemi in northern Finland, helping with the distribution of clothing and of food supplies for the school lunch program which now reaches 16,500 school and pre-school age children.

In January I had the good fortune to accompany our Finnish drivers on seven of the first happy expeditions made by our two trucks, of which my favorite is the big open three-ton Swedish Volva. The precious freight for each day's delivery was loaded in good time each morning. (You can't say "bright and early" when it is still dark at nine A.M.) The truck piled high with extra cans of gas, big wooden crates of pork, boxes of milk and soup powder, packages of butter counted out carefully for each school and our sheaf of receipts in triplicate, "Big Volva" rolled along through forests and over the hills until we reached our first school. Once in a long while it might be a real school building that escaped burning; nearly always, however, there was nothing left of the old school except a chimney standing among ruins beside the road, while classes were held in a neighboring farmhouse, often in cramped and uncomfortable quarters, with pupils coming in two or three shifts during the day. We have encountered several cases where the owner of a house gives it up entirely to the school, and himself lives in one or two rooms of the long, low stable-barn—as many whose homes were burned are forced to do in any case.

At one of the schools we were welcomed with actual tears of joy by the little teacher, a refugee from Karelia who had lost all her possessions in the Winter War, and had come to this district with nothing but the rucksack she could carry herself. Within two years her school-house was burned to the ground and she and the school children were evacuated to Sweden for a year. Now they are back again, working in one room of a new farm house. She told us that their "state supply" had run out that very day, and she had told the children that there would be no lunch the following day. Then along we came in Big Volva and unloaded our food packages and a shiny new cooking pot, both of which ought to be very useful during the coming weeks.

Arctic Fashions

After each trip "on the road" I think to myself, this one was the best yet—and that holds true for the week recently spent up in the Sodankyla commune. I traveled with the "Tarkasta" (School Superintendent), who is new as inspector for this district and so we were both pathfinding to many of the schools. When we left Rovaniemi with a Finnish Red Cross driver, we were a well-dressed trio by northern standards, the driver wearing a huge fleece-lined coat, the Inspector a trim ski outfit with fur jacket (but his feet got cold in ski boots), I in Grand-Aunt Naomi's old black seal coat, under which I wore ski pants and several layers of wool

depending on the temperature, which ranged between zero and 38 below, Fahrenheit. My feet were never cold, as I wore three pairs of wool socks, felt inner soles inside of fleece moccasins, and on top of all this, knee-high felt boots which I usually removed before going into warm places, so that the snow on them would not melt. A big pile-lined marine helmet and wool-lined leather mitts finished off my outfit.

We took with us the February food shipment for fifteen schools—about two and a half tons. I should say. On the first part of the trip our delivering went quite briskly, as most of these schools had been visited several times before. My chief job was to check on how the January supplies had lasted; whether the number of pupils had increased, as more get clothes and are able to come to school; and how they prepared and liked our food. Our inquiries at most schools showed that our Danish salt pork was used most successfully in a thick soup made with the bean or pea powder, with or without potatoes. We were given samples whenever we landed in at lunch time! The pupils were everywhere very enthusiastic about their food; both health and attendance had already showed an improvement, according to the teachers.

A Burden Lifted

After seven or eight stops we came to Raudenjoki, whose name had lain like a stone on my mind. There are forty-odd school children in Raudenjoki who will have no school and no teacher until next September. In January we had to pass them by with our food since they naturally have no school kitchen either. And what made it especially hard was that we had left about 180 pounds of food with the father of five school-less boys—the plentiful supply of food for Vikajarvi school, eighteen kilometers away by horse and sled, where he had consented to transport our food free of charge. This time we stopped, as usual, at the barracks which houses both his family and the restaurant where the road workers eat. Something inspired me to ask the girl who cooks the meals there whether there would be any possibility of finding a place large enough to do some cooking in the neighborhood. And she said yes, she thought she could work it in, if the company would permit. The Inspector added his weight, both with the Roadworkers Union and with the commune, which will assist with supplements of porridge flour and potatoes, so that three times a week at least the Raudenjoki children will get a good hot meal.

The Kirkoherra Joins the Tour

At the end of our long and busy first day we rolled into the Kirkonkyla or Church Village, where our good friends, the Lutheran Dean of the Province of Lapland and his wife and family, extended a royal

welcome. Dean AK, or "Kirkoherra" as they call him up there, came to Sodankyla sixteen years ago and by now I think he knows every man, woman and child in the district, not to mention every inch of all the roads. He loves the North, and is a great skier, woodsman and hunter. Their home, like almost all in the village, was burned, but the church documents were saved—huge old leather-bound volumes with the history of the parish which is well over three hundred years old. Their present house, not entirely completed, they share with two other families. Then, in addition to their own husky family, they have given a home to two young boys so they can attend school, and to a little two-year-old girl, Tuulikki, a war orphan and everyone's darling. Never have I seen such a human dynamo—she can wear out the entire family, including three hunting-dogs and a few puppies, as well as any stray guests, of whom there are always many.

On Saturday the Kirkoherra, the Tarkasta, and the representative of the Quakers started off on a three-day jaunt away from the beaten track of the Arctic Highway and did a big eighty-kilometer circle to the west and north of the Church Village, taking in three villages that are accessible only by horse or reindeer sled in winter. To be sure we were able to do the first stretch in an old charcoal-burning truck, which crawled along roaring at about twelve miles per hour. We crossed some high hills—how, I don't know. We also passed the public health nurse, skiing along on duty bent. The road was so narrow that they had to phone ahead and stop all traffic in the opposite direction till we reached our first stop, Vaalajarvi. This ancient village was not reached by the Germans and stands intact with its old log houses black with age, and in every field the little "bow-legged" huts for storing hay. The sun was blazing on the white snow, sapphire shadows and diamond sparkles everywhere.

We continued our way by horse-sleigh, well-wrapped in reindeer skins and driven by a husky youth in Lapp costume. Ski-joring behind our sleigh was the strong pillar of the Lutheran church, wearing a huge, fleece-lined jacket, reindeer leggings with bright tassels, good old Lapp boots with turned-up points in front, bright red dog-fur mitts and a fur-lined cap well down over his even redder face. As he navigated the twists and curves of the narrow road with varying success, pithy remarks were exchanged between him and the lazy occupants of the sleigh. At nightfall we finally reached Jeesio, another undestroyed village, where the Kirkoherra was to hold a special church service next day.

Words from the Heart

Such a Sunday visit and service by the extremely popular Dean is a rare occurrence and the whole village flocked to hear him. Old men sat with their grandchildren on their knees, old women in kerchiefs. There were also many young people. The Inspector played the opening hymn on the little school organ and we saw our Kirkoherra in a new light as he led the prayer and delivered his sermon.

He chose as his text the theme as appropriate today as it was two thousand years ago—of dividing one's cloak with one's needy neighbor. The well-known, never worn-out words of comfort and warmth, of brotherly charity and forgiveness of one's enemies came with strength and directness, and I wish the whole world could be as moved by them as was that little Finnish audience in the far North.

They closed with the Lord's prayer and a very beautiful hymn. Then suddenly, before I was aware of it, that Kirkoherra had me up on the platform, old ski suit and all, in front of those two hundred or more people—my first adult audience in Finland. As I hadn't prepared a thing to say and had been very moved by the whole service, I just spoke "straight from the heart" as Tom Harvey once said he did. I can scarcely remember a word—only that I started out in *Finnish* and got along for a long time—maybe two minutes—before I had to turn to the Inspector for help. Whatever it was I said to these people we feel are our friends, and to whom we bring greetings from friends across the sea, I think it went right from my heart to theirs, and that divergencies of birthplace and time vanished under the impact of human kindness.

It was a good meeting and it continued in smaller groups long after the service, outside in the snow where their magnificent reindeer and pulkka were tethered. And then the long journey home, again by sleigh—circling back to the Arctic Highway. At one home we stopped to christen two babies and I stood as godmother for a fine fat Finnish boy who luckily slept through the whole performance. I could write indefinitely about the kindness and hospitality we encountered everywhere, but perhaps these notes will serve to give some picture of our experiences and the warm satisfaction we all feel about our work in the North.

* * *

WHAT IS NEW IN ETU

The European Transport Unit, with a 1946 budget of \$150,000, now owns nineteen trucks and three jeeps in Europe and one training truck here. Organized to assist in meeting the terrific transportation problems in Europe, the unit is expanding rapidly, having eight men and one woman worker in France, with four others on their way overseas and eleven in training or preparing to start training in the next few weeks. The British Friends Ambulance Unit is planning a training project at St. Nazaire, France, where ETU men can learn transport problems under experienced FAU guidance. It is hoped that, while all will start work in France, by the end of the year most of the thirty-man unit will have moved on to areas further east.

Headquarters have been established in Paris where a huge garage, commodious offices and ample living quarters have been obtained all in one location. The garage is being shared with other relief services. There have been short assignments to work with French Secours Quaker and with British FAU.

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