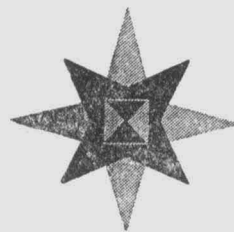


FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN



"IT IS SO KIND OF YOU AND OF ALL FRIENDS OVER THERE TO THINK OF US HERE, AND TO TRY TO DO SOME RELIEF WORK IN THIS OLD EUROPE WHICH IS SUFFERING UNDER THE BREAKDOWN OF WHAT WE USED TO CALL 'CIVILIZATION.'

I HOPE THAT VERY SOON THE WAY WILL BE OPEN FOR FRIENDS TO COME OVER AND STAY FOR A LONGER TIME—TO RENEW OLD PERSONAL CONTACTS AND TO MAKE NEW ONES. PEOPLE ARE OPEN FOR SUCH CONTACTS OF FRIENDSHIP, AND IT WOULD BE A VERY GOOD WORK OF RECONCILIATION. SOMETIMES I THINK SUCH A WORK MIGHT BE EVEN MORE NEEDED THAN RELIEF WORK."

—HANS ALBRECHT.

VOL. III, No. 2

MARCH, 1946

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

CRALOG for Germany

Early in February the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service received a report on the visit of its Mission of seven to Germany. For the American Friends Service Committee this has been supplemented by personal reports from James Read and Gilbert White, who served as members of the Mission and who returned on Washington's birthday. Clearly there is a place for relief work in Germany by American private agencies. Friendly contacts with outside people are also important for establishing the Germany of the future on a wholesome basis.

Following consultation with military authorities in Germany and with several branches of the government in Washington, eleven member agencies of the Council have obtained licenses from the President's War Relief Board to solicit and receive contributions for relief in Germany. These agencies, by agreement with the government, have formed a combined agency known as CRALOG (Council of Relief Agencies Licensed for Operation in Germany), to handle shipping of supplies and official negotiations. Its members, in addition to the AFSC, are the Brethren Service Committee, the Christian Science War Relief Committee, the Church Committee on Overseas Relief, the Federal Council of Churches of Christ, the International Rescue and Relief Committee, Inc., the Lutheran World Relief, Inc., the Mennonite Central Committee and the War Relief Service—National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Distribution of Relief Supplies

Authorization of these cooperating agencies for relief work in Germany was announced by the White House on February 19, with the further announcement that permission has been granted for the monthly shipment of up to 2,000 tons of relief supplies to the American Zone of occupation, provided that shipping and port facilities are available. While each agency is authorized to accept contributions for distribution in the American zone, none will be in a position to accept individually addressed relief parcels for delivery in Germany. Shipments through CRALOG will consist primarily of condensed, evaporated and powdered milk, sugar, fats, soap, clothing and shoes and medical supplies. These shipments will be in addition to the supplies, consisting principally of grain, brought in by the military government for German civilian consumption. They will be distributed by German voluntary relief agencies. American agencies will be permitted, in addition, to send a limited number of Americans to work with German agencies in service for reconstruction.

Visits by the Mission to the British and French zones of occupation resulted in authorization to send workers and supplies into those areas also. Voluntary agencies from Britain, Sweden and Switzerland are at work in the British zone, and the first AFSC worker has already joined British

Quaker teams there. Members of the Mission were not able to enter the Russian zone, but talked with a number of persons who were in touch with conditions in that part of Germany.

The Human Problem

"A service of friendship can be of tremendous help to the German people at this time," wrote Gilbert White from Le Havre. "I feel that Germany presents a problem of reconciliation more difficult than anything AFSC has tackled to date. Supplies are needed urgently. AFSC will need to send supplies as a sort of earnest of good will. But it made its real contribution in that direction twenty-six years ago. At best, the new distribution of goods will follow the policies established then. The greater need for AFSC understanding and methods is in the construction of a social life that is now wanting."

The Mission found a cordial response among German social workers. A Stuttgart newspaper, telling of a conference between representatives of German welfare organizations and members of the Council Mission, stated that the conference "had as its purpose informing the American representatives and making them acquainted with German efforts, and a guarantee that the charitable gifts would be distributed to sufferers without distinction as to race, religion or political affiliations." The presence of the American delegation, said the Chairman, was gratifying evidence of the fact that "the walls of destructive feeling which the unhappy war has left behind are now being penetrated with thoughts of humanity and love of one's neighbor."

* * *

FRIENDS IN FRANKFURT

Mary Forman, AFSC delegate to Austria, writes this note of a Friends' Meeting which she and George Fredericks attended enroute, in Frankfurt, Germany.

There are numerous tragedies in each family. But the Friends as a group seem not to be depressed—or hopeless—but cheerful and with great faith in God. We talked a bit with Karl H— and asked how the people had been able to stand up under such experiences as they had had. He said that you can always face reality, particularly if you are strong spiritually. Things which look impossible as you anticipate them can be met when the time comes. And always, he said, you are dealing with people and so every situation, no matter how bad, holds promise of good because of the human beings involved. Even though we could understand little of what was said in Meeting we were later told that much dealt with the need for help and kindness for the Nazis who are now suffering. Elizabeth M—, who used to be the principal of a large school, cannot return to her work because she is losing her sight but she is trying to make a contribution by joining with the Nazis in their suffering and helping them spiritually.

Hill of the Grindstones

by DAVID THACKERAY

David Thackeray is an FAU member of the Italian unit which has been working in Chieti Province.

Colledimacine, "the hill of the grindstones," stands on bare rolling slopes to the east of the River Aventino. Most of the peasants till the soil by hand; reaping and threshing, too, are extensively carried out by primitive manual methods. Many of them have been relatively prosperous, and in pre-war days Colledimacine and Montenerodomo exported considerable quantities of agricultural produce. In present conditions they can just support themselves, but until the housing is re-established to somewhere near normal, food production—and the surrounding areas which used to import—are bound to suffer.

Reconstruction was begun in the summer of 1944 on a small scale by the peasants themselves. Materials were salvaged on the spot or brought short distances by cart. When, at the end of April 1945, AFSC-FAU trucks arrived on the scene, better materials were brought longer distances, from brick furnaces in areas where there was not such a great demand.

The peasants lost nearly all their livestock during the war, and to them this means more than half their existence. If one is lucky enough to have saved a cow, it can easily be exchanged for the labor and materials required for a new house. But many in such circumstances prefer to begin their reconstruction by building a stall for their cattle. For instance, there is Guiseppe F—, with a family of four, who previously owned five houses and a considerable quantity of livestock, including four oxen. Houses and livestock have all disappeared, and the family is now temporarily housed in a room which forms part of the church. In the courtyard

outside he will proudly show you a minute stall, covered by second-hand tiles, for the first member of his post-war herd—a young goat.

Children Still Sing

The barefoot children, whom you can hear singing happily outside in the field, will have dim memories of their existence before the war came to the Aventino. It is for the present and the immediate future to determine whether the war is to cast a permanent shadow over their lives.

Strenuous efforts throughout the building season in Colledimacine have produced forty houses repaired, thirty-five totally reconstructed and another thirteen in process of reconstruction. We have given a little help to the contractors for the "palazzo" (expected to house twenty families this winter) and the school, charging for the transport; the proceeds were given to help one of the neediest families, a war widow with ten children.

The idea that any member of our group should leave the Aventino Valley to do reconstruction work in Germany is received with shocked surprise. It is easy enough for our uniform and trucks to give the impression that we are just one more foreign invader doing a military job. However, distribution of AFSC relief goods and of substitute glass for windows has taken us into the houses of all those families with whom we were not already acquainted in the summer reconstruction program. It has been made clear that the "Americani" are there to help them get back their homes, and that if we have any favorites we will choose from among the very poor.

Wider Service in Italy

A larger joint program is now beginning in Italy, covering not only the badly damaged villages in Chieti Province, but also the Florence and Frosinone areas. The Brethren Service Committee and the International Voluntary Service for peace will take an active part, and the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will provide sponsorship and equipment. Five men from the Brethren and a number of new AFSC members may mean as many as twenty-five new men in Italy for the expanded program by April first. It is hoped that Italian volunteers will join this group and that all will work in close cooperation with Italian local and national government agencies.

The Italian Government has aided the rebuilding program by repaying to the home owner fifty per cent of his expense when the work of rebuilding is completed. It has been possible to arrange credit for materials against these repayments when villagers could neither pay out the cash in advance nor exchange such commodities as firewood.

As interest grew along with the approach of winter, it became necessary to discourage new building which could not be finished before truck operations would have to be stopped or greatly limited. In January 1946, the unit began operating twenty UNRRA vehicles in the Ortona area on the Adriatic, where work has been based during the winter season. Work has started in Orsogna, on the coastal plain, and has continued in the mountain villages whenever roads were passable.

During the slack season unit members visited schools in the various villages and explored needs for buildings, heating, benches, blackboards and other furnishings. Unit trucks delivered the provincial allocation of school furniture to the Orsogna school, and thus eased a situation in which half the pupils had to stand while others sat on planks strung across piles of rubble. There were gifts of notebooks and of substitute window glass. At Christmas time special distributions of needles, soap and sweets were made in all the villages.

Highlights of an Indian Sojourn

The AFSC-FAU program in India, much of which has been emergency relief following the Bengal famine, was reviewed by Dr. W. Allen Longshore, Jr., with emphasis on the medical relief program, on his return from twenty-nine months of service with both the India and China units.

Adequately trained doctors and nurses are far too few to meet the great needs of the population. Drugs and other equipment are difficult to secure. The relief service brought in large supplies of four basic medicines: multivitamins, which were distributed particularly to growing children; atabrine, for malaria sufferers; sulfathiazole, for treating pneumonia and local infections; and sulfaguanidine, for dysentery. The list of medicines was gradually extended to thirteen, in order to treat other widespread diseases. Very noticeable improvement followed from the use of these medicines. Many children who received the vitamin treatment gained from one to three pounds within a short period, showing greater learning ability in school and improved general health. At first the children had to be urged to take the tablets, but when the results were seen, the "miracle pills" were in great demand.

How Medical Aid Worked

Medical aid was distributed through many agencies in order to reach places of need quickly. Any agency which would undertake to give relief on the sole basis of need was accepted for this purpose. Political, religious, communal and social organizations were enlisted in the distribution scheme provided they gave assurance that they would serve all, regardless of race, caste or creed. This made possible a very wide distribution. Another stipulation made by AFSC-FAU was that the medicines were to be given without charge. This at first caused some suspicion among the people, for it was almost unbelievable that good medicine—ordinarily very expensive—would be given away.

By December 1945, the unit had distributed fifty million multivitamin tablets, ten million tablets of atabrine, and three million each of sulfathiazole and sulfaguanidine, plus large quantities of the other nine medicines and invalid diet. In Bengal there have been over 5,000 distribution centers, of which 2,000 were Red Cross milk canteens, 712 were hospitals, 533 were schools and 543 were relief agencies. The hospitals are chiefly bamboo structures with mud floors, sometimes a mile distant from the source of water supply. They are inadequately staffed, but efforts are being made to raise standards.

Obstacles to Medical Relief

Medical relief workers found, however, that the effectiveness of the medicines was reduced by the lack of adequate diagnosis and of suitable invalid diets. One factor in inaccurate diagnosis was lack of proper equipment, which compelled the doctors

to rely on clinical symptoms alone. To remedy this, eighty microscopes were secured and courses were given in their use. After a good deal of perplexity in arranging invalid diets comfortable with Indian customs, supplies were obtained for this purpose. Basic ingredients were dried milk, powdered eggs and dextrose. Plans for the use of "pabulum" had to be abandoned when it was found to contain beef bone, as any beef product is forbidden strict Hindus because of the sacredness of the cow.

As transport space was scarce, getting supplies from place to place was a constant problem. Passengers even had to get permits to carry bundles on trains. Such a permit obtained for the initial conveyance might prove ineffective for the next train or boat—and in Indian travel transfers are frequent. Dr. Longshore described one trip into the interior of Bengal on which, after negotiating a few miles by train, twenty-three of the passengers walked across a dry river bed and were then taxied, in and on an old touring car, to the next train. After another river crossing and another "taxi" ride, over roads consisting of two ruts worn by ox-carts, the final trip into real rural areas was completed on bicycle and foot.

Cooperatives and Other Projects

In addition to the medical program, there are still thirty-five children's food canteens in operation, feeding 2,000 children at a cost of six cents per meal.

Other projects, of a more long-term nature, are children's homes, four of which in Bengal house about 185 children; industrial craft projects providing employment for widows and others with special problems; and rural cooperatives for fishermen, weavers and agricultural workers.

A Hindu girl, a unit member, who has been a moving spirit in several cooperative enterprises, recently persuaded twenty-five persons to join fifty-two strips of land for farming in common. The very tiny individual holdings have resulted from the inheritance system in which land is divided among many heirs. With a larger combined acreage the cooperative group can get better seed, grow new crops, use scientific fertilizers and carry on cooperative marketing. Despite a poor return the first season, the advantages were so obvious that the group was willing to go on trying.

Dr. Longshore believes that the medical aid program, in addition to its emergency value, has made a long-term contribution in two ways: (1) in setting models which native enterprise can follow; (2) in showing the possibility of bringing diverse groups together, erasing lines of class, caste, religion and race. This drug distribution, scheduled to close on April first, 1946, has been carried on in a tension area during a most difficult period. Whether that period is ended or not is uncertain, in view of the present outlook for renewed famine throughout India.

Food and Health in France

by MARGARET FRAWLEY

Quaker emergency services in France, representing large-scale distributions of food and clothing, will continue through June of this year. That there has been justification for the continuance of emergency services through the present winter is fully attested in reports received from the seven Quaker centers at Paris, Caen, Le Havre, Marseille, Montauban, Toulouse and Perpignan.

Urban centers such as Paris and Lyon, together with the southern departments bordering on the Mediterranean, are the areas where the health of children and young people has been most seriously affected by food shortages. Although transportation in France has improved in the year and a half since liberation, imports have been inadequate. Drought throughout the Mediterranean region last summer created a most serious shortage of potatoes and other staples. As contrasted with 350 grams of bread available daily during the winter of 1944-45, the daily ration since January 1 of this year has been only 300 grams.

Effects of protracted malnutrition are reflected in a recent medical survey by the Institut National d'Hygiene in the Paris area, where the average weight of children was five and a half pounds below that of 1938, and forty-eight per cent of the children examined showed an insufficient gain.

Survey at Perpignan

The physician attached to the Secours Quaker office in Perpignan has summarized his January study of the health of children in the Pyrenees Oriental, one of the departments where shortages have been most serious. The death rate in 1945 rose twenty per cent above pre-war averages. This was particularly marked among old people and babies. Whereas the peak period is usually during the winter months, the increase since 1943 has been in the summer because of the incidence of gastroenteritis.

During the last six months of 1945 the death rate of children from six to thirteen in the Pyrenees Oriental remained unchanged, but there was a sharp increase among young people between the ages of thirteen and twenty. Most of these latter were victims of lung tuberculosis. The chief causes of increase in the death rate among old people, according to the medical report, are "lacks of fuel, clothes, milk, and food in general—or, more exactly, the high prices of these things, which are often beyond the possibilities of these people."

"Among babies, the lack of milk is a crucial factor. Since the food restrictions, practically none of the mothers can feed their children completely. Their milk is lacking both in quantity and in quality. Moreover, the milk production in this department,

as elsewhere along the Mediterranean coast, is more than ever deficient this year because of the drought and the lack of feeding stuffs. One of the local centers which produced 2,000 liters per day in May now produces 200 liters. In summer the delay in collection and transport, and the worn-out utensils used, made the milk quite unsuitable for feeding small children.

"Children from three to six are entitled to half a liter of milk a day, but they get it less and less. Children from six to twelve have no allocation of milk. This is particularly to be deplored."

Among the children admitted to the Quaker feeding in Perpignan, average deficiency in weight varied between thirteen and eighteen pounds. Forty per cent showed a spinal curvature.

Report from Toulouse

Secours Quaker is providing daily food supplements to some 20,000 young people in canteens and special feeding centers. An additional 15,000 families and individuals receive food packages weekly and monthly. A careful medical examination of each child precedes admission to a feeding center, and periodic re-examination permits more specialized attention.

The Toulouse office has recently provided an analysis of 192 young people who are being fed in these centers. Of the total group 162 showed an average gain of approximately one and two-thirds pounds; thirteen lost some weight and seventeen showed no gains during the first month. It is generally agreed that a minimum period of three months feeding is essential if any appreciable improvement is to be achieved. Improvement is more marked during the second and third months.

* * *

FILMS AVAILABLE

The Hard Road Back. Child feeding, clothing distribution, transport, distribution of food in prisons and hospitals in France. Filmed during 1945 showing the work of Secours Quaker, the AFSC and FRS after the French liberation. Showing time: approximately 45 minutes (1,200 feet).

Devastation in Northern Finland and Return of Refugees. Black and white film. Very dramatic portrayal of the devastation caused by the retreating German army in 1944 in Northern Finland (Lapland) and the return of evacuees to their homes. Filmed 1944 in Finland—titles in English. Showing time: approximately 45 minutes (1,200 feet).

Address inquiries to Helen Mitchell, American Friends Service Committee, 20 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia.

Individual Services, New and Old

The division of Services to Individuals, of the Foreign Service Section of AFSC, which began as the Refugee Section, has carried on a varied work of deep human significance which was described in graphic detail in the issue of July 15, 1945. Changing post-war conditions have made possible the curtailment of some of the services which can now be obtained through other channels. Meanwhile new vistas appear in areas which were barred or in new ones just emerging, as shown by these comments from the staff.

Areas in which our work for individuals has expanded are the giving of information on communication and package service to European countries, location of relatives in Europe and the United States who have lost touch with each other, requests to our offices abroad for services to individuals there, and requests through those offices for similar activities on this side.

The Central Location Index, a clearing house through which inquiries about missing civilians can be channeled, is a center of expanding activity which is reflected in the increased number of inquiries coming to the AFSC as a member agency. Since many agencies receive inquiries and many sources provide related information, the effort has been made to consolidate all resources and queries. When an individual applies for help in locating relatives or friends abroad, if there is an office of a CLI agency in the inquirer's community he is referred to it direct. Otherwise the inquiry is handled by AFSC.

During October 1945, when a sample record of services was made, this department performed 728 services for 604 different cases, involving 32 countries.

Closing War-Time Services

The transfer of funds is one of the services being gradually closed. The French Transfer Account, which had been very active, has been almost completely liquidated, with the return to donors of almost all the funds that could not be delivered after the complete occupation of France. Out of \$22,000 in refunds, \$4,300 was returned to AFSC in the form of contributions.

During 1945, transfer service for North Africa, Spain, Portugal, Switzerland and Sweden covered a volume of \$33,000 sent out in 607 individual money transfers. The services to North Africa and Sweden are now discontinued. Spanish transfers have been cut down to refugees only, and it is expected that the work in Switzerland will be discontinued shortly.

Migration is another field from which we have been in the process of withdrawing for over a year. This area includes a wide variety of services, such as preparing documents, presenting visa applications, giving travel advice, helping arrange transportation, etc. New cases, other than those which have some special claim on Friends, are now referred to other agencies working in this field. Migration work with children under the care of the United States Committee for the Care of European Children has been transferred to the International Migration Service.

We are, however, continuing to work with old migration cases for which we have previously accepted responsibility, and these cases, together with the referral of new cases to the proper agencies, will keep us active in this field to a limited extent for some time to come. In areas abroad where AFSC workers are the only ones available to advise on migration, they naturally will perform this service and this will mean additional cases channeled through the Philadelphia office even if not directly served by that office.

We continue to be very deeply interested in the whole problem of displaced persons throughout the world and attempt to keep in close touch with developments in this field and with other agencies working on behalf of this group.

As the AFSC undertakes work in new foreign areas, it is inevitable that additional requests for individual services will come to us; and the Department may have to expand again to meet these new demands.

* * *

PLACEMENT FOR REFUGEES

A prominent European portrait painter has not had a single portrait commission since his arrival in America almost a year ago. This is only one example of the difficulty encountered by refugee artists, writers and scholars in finding suitable work opportunities. Many trained in creative fields have had to take miscellaneous jobs, which not only hinders satisfactory adjustment for the individual but spells a loss to society of the greater contribution he is prepared to make. The American Committee for Refugee Scholars, Writers and Artists has entered upon a vigorous organized effort to remedy this situation.

Files gathered by various agencies are being consolidated. A letter has been sent out by the joint chairmen of the Committee, Dr. Nelson P. Mead and Alphonse Miller, the latter an AFSC staff member, to 1,400 colleges and other educational institutions, offering panels of names of people qualified for many types of educational service. This seems to be a highly favorable moment for making mutually helpful contacts, since many schools are seriously understaffed. Henry Seidel Canby, a Committee member, is directing special efforts to help writers and artists find suitable outlets for their special abilities. A survey is under way of opportunities in research work and also, for refugees who have qualified as American citizens, in government service.

Northern "Lights"

(Excerpts from letters by Mary Barclay and Naomi Jackson from Rovaniemi, Finland)

Living is as complicated as only "simple living" can be. I find that the most important qualifications for a relief worker are knowing how to chop wood, haul water, fix carbide lamps, typewrite by candlelight, cook without recipes and with ingredients in containers with name and directions in languages one doesn't know.

The days are getting longer now; this afternoon at three o'clock when the lights went off we could still see our way around the room to find the candles. You never miss a sunrise or sunset for they both come in the middle of the day and are the climax of many hours of background twilight. The forests on the hills around are full of white fir trees which catch the crystal pink of the sun long before it is visible on the horizon. Then gradually, like a rose opening, the pink petals grow larger until the world becomes sheer magic with the glowing eye of the sun at its center.

At Sodankyla we had a very interesting meeting with the town dignitaries—Secretary of the Commune, the minister, the health sister, school teacher, post mistress, storekeepers, etc. Bill Fredrickson outlined the purpose of our visit and the spirit behind our work, with Stade Saarinen interpreting, and there was plenty of lively discussion. That district was very badly hit by the war; almost all the schools were burned, as well as the big houses in which school might now be held. Lack of clothing, especially shoes and the wherewithal to mend old shoes, means that children cannot attend school.

The health sister invited us to her house for dinner after the meeting—a small new frame house shared by two families. Then the other family asked us over for coffee (erstaz) and we admired the lovely Christmas decorations they had made of straw, and the few pieces of home weaving they had been able to rescue from destruction. They certainly are both admirable and likeable, these quiet, stout-hearted Finns who have come back to start over again from scratch.

* * *

FRIENDSHIP THROUGH THE SCHOOLS

A program to encourage understanding and friendship between American schools and schools abroad, to begin with correspondence between students and faculties, has been worked out jointly by the Overseas School Committee, Alfred E. Stearns, Chairman, and the American Friends Service Committee. Material aid such as food, clothing and

school supplies, may be sent from the American schools to those abroad as they become personally aware of the latter's needs. Later on it is hoped that the friendship will lead to exchanges of faculty members and students.

The OSC, with headquarters at 8 Beacon Street, Boston 8, Massachusetts, will be principally responsible for initial contacts and arrangements with American schools, while AFSC will be principally responsible for contacts and arrangements with the schools abroad. AFSC does not undertake to be the channel for shipping or distribution of supplies between schools; it will be glad to advise and assist any school in making its own shipping arrangements. Sponsoring schools in this country will not be asked to contribute funds to OSC or AFSC, but will be encouraged to raise and handle their own funds for meeting the needs of schools abroad.

The program is aimed to do thoroughly a small portion of the immense job that is open in this field.

* * *

A CHINESE GREETING

One of the magistrates in the Tengchung area of southwest Yunnan asked me to bring a message which ran something like this:

"Take our greetings with you over the thousand waters and the ten thousand mountains to the people in the city of brotherly love. Thank them for sending their good doctors [Perry and Loomis] and the other medical workers and their supplies to us in our great need after the war destroyed most of our city. Thank them from the people of Tengchung for the work that was done in building hospital facilities, caring for explosive cases, and working with and trying to prevent the evil diseases—relapsing fever, smallpox and plague.

"Before many years I shall send my third son to study medicine in your great country so that he can return and help his people in the same way that these friends have done."

—DAVID STAFFORD.

* * *

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Returned workers, members of the staff and other persons intimately acquainted with the Committee's work often are available for speaking engagements. If you would be interested in arranging public meetings in your community, please correspond with Ruth T. Cope, AFSC Speakers' Bureau, 20 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia. Though it is not always possible to furnish speakers on a given date, every effort will be made to cooperate with you.

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