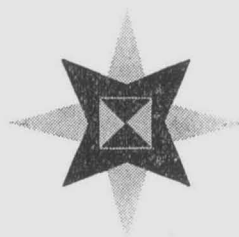


# FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN



*I asked myself this noontime, how was it that I was the one chosen to eat this food — and my neighbor to starve. I don't know — nor shall I ever. But it is certain my good fortune must be paid for with that humility and service which springs from a deep sense of responsibility, or else the world makes little sense.*

*That's it — do you see? — Responsibility. Perhaps I'm too close to where stark need cries for help to make theoretical generalizations, but this much is clear. We are in need of qualitative change, not a quantitative one—a fundamental change of heart and attitude, rather than a change in the potency of our destructive weapons. We must learn the hardest task of all, that of sharing guilt, not shunning it. We must walk the path of humility, with responsibility our motive, service our aim.*

—ROBERT GOOD  
AFSC worker in Italy

VOL. III, No. 4

MAY, 1946

**AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE**

# New Patterns for Quaker Work in France

by MARGARET FRAWLEY

Needs in France are changing and Quaker services will also be changing after June 30. In the belief that the French Government and re-established French private agencies are now better able to cope with reprovisioning and relief assistance, the Quaker program will center on morale and reconstruction services. These will be provided both for French civilians and for refugees.

Administratively the new program will mean the shrinkage of the present large organization of Secours Quaker. This committee, which has been under the administration of France Yearly Meeting, has provided a happy association for the joint efforts of French, British and American Friends during the emergency period extending from November 1944 to July 1946. In ensuing months more flexible programs will be developing and in order that there may be the fullest sharing of concerns a consultative committee to be known as Secours Quaker International is being established.

## Shape of the Future

Turning to the tasks of reconstruction, and with emphasis on services which a private group can most helpfully give, the program as at present outlined, will include:

- (1) Increased services, particularly for young people, in the International Center in Paris under sponsorship of French, British and American Friends.
- (2) Operation of community centers, with some specialized services for individuals, in Toulouse, Montauban and Perpignan, where there are large groups of refugees. This work will be administered jointly by British and American Friends.
- (3) A plan now under way to facilitate contact between school children in France and school children in the United States through the development of projects for French schools sponsored by American schools.
- (4) Transport service to assist in the reconstruction of communities damaged by Allied invasion and bombardment. Eight men with trucks from the Quaker European Transport Unit are now cooperating with French officials in the reconstruction of St. Nazaire.
- (5) Possible seconding of personnel to French organizations, including French Friends who will continue a prison service as a "Branche Francaise" of Secours Quaker International.

## Emergency Food Project—Cote D'Azur

This new program means that American and British Friends will not have continuing services in Marseille or Caen. However, the present emergency

situation on the Mediterranean Coast is such that a six weeks' intensified relief service through May 30 has been authorized. The work is under the direction of the Marseille office of Secours Quaker, and it was proposed to provide Quaker supervision and make distributions through local institutions and agencies. Harriet Marple of the Marseille staff, assisted by John Munsey, joint appointee of the Congregational Service Committee and AFSC, undertook a survey of more isolated communities early in April.

Two members of the Quaker transport team, with trucks, left Paris on April 20 with thirteen tons of supplies. These are part of the total of seventy tons of food stocks which are being allocated for this emergency program.

## An Interpretation

The shift from a supply program to one of services represents a change of emphasis from material relief to programs which seek to find healing for the deep spiritual suffering of France.

Present Quaker emergency services have been sustained for a period of twenty months. Yet they are part of a longer program extending over some seven years. During the dark years of war and occupation, stocks were husbanded for the most urgent situations. Child feeding, visiting in the Gestapo prisons, services to refugees facing deportation and death continued in the years when American and British Quakers had no direct communication with their associates in France. The friendly door stood open.

It is not easy, therefore, to withdraw from any of the communities in which we have been privileged to share the experiences of these years. It is not easy to turn from child-feeding at a time when so many thousands of children are still hungry, even when it is clear that the work now devolves on permanent French agencies which are equipped to bring assistance on a more nearly adequate scale. The fellowship which French, British and American Quakers have found together in Secours Quaker has been meaningful. That sense of sharing common concerns continues despite administrative changes.

Quaker workers remain in France to give testimony of love and friendship to a tired and harassed people. Through refugee services, they seek to help refugees who are without a homeland, and often without friends, find their way back to normal life. It is a small service and the needs are great. It is an effort to bind up the wounds of war, that men and women of many nationalities may find the way to live in peace one with another.

# The Shadow of Hunger

As "the dark wings of famine" spread over more and more of the world's people, we search for any hopeful note. Yet we cannot look away from the gloomy picture and try to believe it is not there. **Our Hungry World** is the title of a report published in April by the Office of Information of the United States Department of Agriculture, which not only summarizes the world situation but gives the country-by-country picture of food needs and of the prospects of filling those needs by ordinary or extraordinary means. Its opening paragraph gives the background:

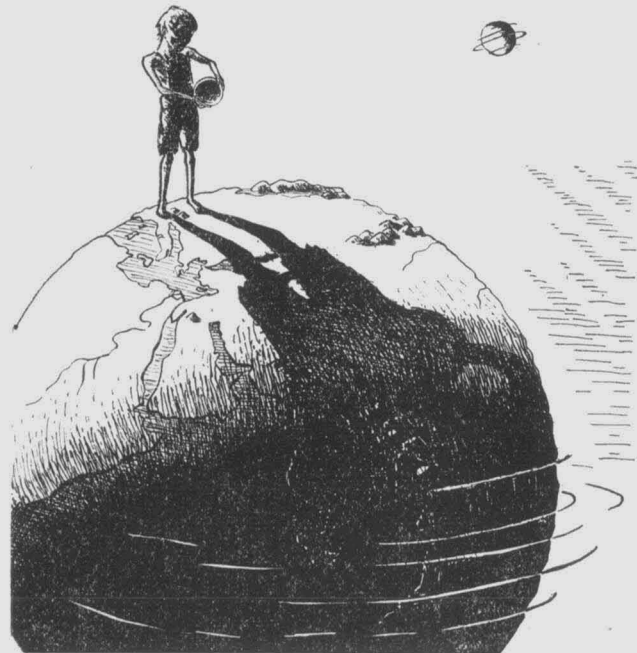
"A world crippled and strewn with the wreckage of war was hard put enough to feed its hungry. War breaks the web of international and domestic transport. It takes men from fields. It turns the factories to making swords instead of plowshares. It takes the fertilizer chemicals for munitions. It shatters the usual scheme of trade and values, so that money becomes worthless and food may become priceless. It empties the bins and storehouses of reserve food."

All this, it points out, had happened by the summer of 1945. Against this background came bad weather for crops in the past year. "When the world's bins and pantries were already swept bare by war, the world's harvests of 1945-46 brought forth one-eighth less food per person than in the average year before the war." And piled on top of all came difficulties of distribution.

For an interpretation of what this means in the lives of people, we quote from the White House Famine Broadcast of April 19. These are the words of Herbert Hoover, Honorary Chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee:

"Hunger has placed three words every hour of the day on the tongues of these 150 millions of people. The first is 'bread.' Bread has a reality as the symbol of life as never before in history. To reduce the bread ration is a symbol of calamity. It is now the symbol of the life of nations. The second word is 'fats,' for which there is an insatiable craving and physical need. The third word is 'calories.' That is the common denominator . . . .

"Do not forget that the caloric level of America is an average of about 3200 per person per day. Britain has about 2800. Experts say an average level of 2200 calories is the minimum at which public health and progress can be maintained in a nation. There are thirteen countries where the city populations have an average intake of less than 1900 calories. Of these, six countries are at, or below, the 1500 caloric level. There are millions of people below 1000 calories. Somewhere down these various levels starvation begins. And its immediate expression is the disease rate in children and in death rates of the infants and the old people."



## NOTES FROM BERLIN

If the four powers can agree to a plan of feeding Berlin it may become an important field. There is great hunger in Berlin at the present time and the situation is not improving.

This week we met with the entire staff of Public Welfare and found that most of the staff members were good social workers who took the same point of view that we do. Following discussions with officials of the British Zone, four of our men will visit there next week. We go to Stuttgart tomorrow for a two-day meeting of the German Central Committee for the American Zone, to plan the distribution of the first two thousand tons and to set up the procedure for further work.

We also spent two hours with the International Red Cross, which had an official statement from Russian officials, requesting the feeding of sixty thousand needy refugee children.\*

CLAUDE SHOTTS

*AFSC-CRALOG Representative in Germany*

\* EDITOR'S NOTE: Information on the request for food supplies for children in Brandenburg and Mecklenburg, in the Russian Zone, was cabled from Europe, and funds have been appropriated in Philadelphia for the immediate purchase of milk, bacon and cod liver oil, also medicines and blankets. Further aid may be extended in this zone on the basis of results from the initial experiment. The French Military Government in Germany has now approved relief work similar to operations in the American Zone.

# Quaker "Hilfe" — Austria

by the Staff in Vienna

The Viennese people are a distinct group in themselves. Figuratively speaking, you can knock a Viennese down, take his food away from him, smash his house—and the first thing he does when he gets up is to go to the opera. The stories we heard about the music in Vienna were not exaggerated. In spite of the condition of the theaters and music halls (hardly any escaped damage) the billboards advertise opera and symphony concerts for every day in the week. There are also numerous chamber music groups which give concerts and play in the restaurants to take the place of food.

Money doesn't mean anything because there is very little to buy. The things which distinguish one class of people from another are mainly ability, education and talents. Many of the people in high positions are in as great need of food as the ones in low positions. Simple trading is a widespread practice. A woman to whom we gave two bars of chocolate the other day gave one to her sick husband and the other she traded for a sack of potatoes. Her husband is to have an operation but the doctor doesn't want any pay for his work. He said he must have food in advance so that his hand would be steady enough to perform the operation.

## More Hunger

The food situation is growing worse—even bread is getting very scarce now. An Austrian woman told us, "The children have ceased to cry when hungry, for they know there's no food to still their hunger." At the south, around Wiener Neustadt, the ration is down to about 600 calories a day. In Vienna there is no milk except for small children. All the average Viennese seems to have to eat is a roll and a cup of "coffee" for breakfast, a slice of bread and a cup of "coffee" for lunch, and perhaps a dish of macaroni or dried peas for supper with a cup of krauter tea. Meat, vegetables, fruits, butter, and cheese are unheard of. This week the bread allowance is about half of what it was last week. What a month from now will bring no one can imagine.

The Austrian authorities and the Army say that the food situation will be worse before it's better. This means that in May and probably June, things will get worse before the new crop comes in and while last year's crop is dwindling. Vienna has no resources in sight for that month. It seems that UNRRA was to start operations, so the Army closed down its supplies. But when the Soviets were unwilling to stop their living from the land policy, UNRRA suspended plans for shipments.

Some of our cod liver oil is going to be distributed to children's hospitals and some to the forty-odd consultation stations for mothers of young children. The Red Cross has under way a program for babies. The Swedish Government is doing a fine job with

the feeding of children between three and six, and the Swiss are introducing supplementary feeding in the elementary schools. But the older children have had nothing in addition to their regular rations, which are sadly lacking in many things necessary for normal growth.

## Youth Work

Investigation points to the fact that young people over fourteen years of age, as a group, are in great need of assistance. We are doing supplemental feeding in two apprentice homes, one rest home, five "middle schools" and a workshop of the "Jugend am Werk" (Working Youth). The Jugend am Werk is a good organization with a broad program of activities. Their shop has 191 full-time workers and is engaged mostly in repair work for the city. The rate of pay is less than four dollars a month, which might possibly buy a pair of socks.

We, too, are making plans for training and work projects—a highly necessary program because of the breakdown of the apprentice system. This system has decayed on account of a lack of skilled craftsmen to act as masters for the apprentices. With the exception of a few projects in the city of Vienna, there have been no attempts to substitute any other systems of youth training. It will therefore be necessary to start all over again and try to develop a new generation of skilled workers. The labor leaders are very enthusiastic about the introduction of new hand skills which have not been developed in this country. One basic idea is to help break the deadlock which exists in international exchange. Austria can export nothing because of the lack of raw materials, tools, and clothing, and these items can be purchased only with exports. Hand skills require only a small initial outlay for equipment and there are plenty of products which require a high degree of skill and are scarce all over the world. It has now been decided at Labor Committee conferences to start the program with a glass-working project, because it is the most urgently needed and can be started with the least delay.

## Trade Schools and Apprentice Homes

This morning we visited a trade school where hundreds of young people from fourteen to eighteen are studying. The conditions were almost unbelievable. The school is a very large building, once the pride of Vienna. One third of it is in ruins from three direct bomb hits. It is impossible to heat the remaining rooms because the walls are full of holes and most of the windows are broken. However, the young people still want to learn and continue to study and work with their overcoats on.

The two apprentice homes which we have chosen to receive our supplementary supplies are operated by the city and have a combined enrollment of 164 boys and girls who are either orphans or partial



# The Shadow of Hunger

As "the dark wings of famine" spread over more and more of the world's people, we search for any hopeful note. Yet we cannot look away from the gloomy picture and try to believe it is not there. **Our Hungry World** is the title of a report published in April by the Office of Information of the United States Department of Agriculture, which not only summarizes the world situation but gives the country-by-country picture of food needs and of the prospects of filling those needs by ordinary or extraordinary means. Its opening paragraph gives the background:

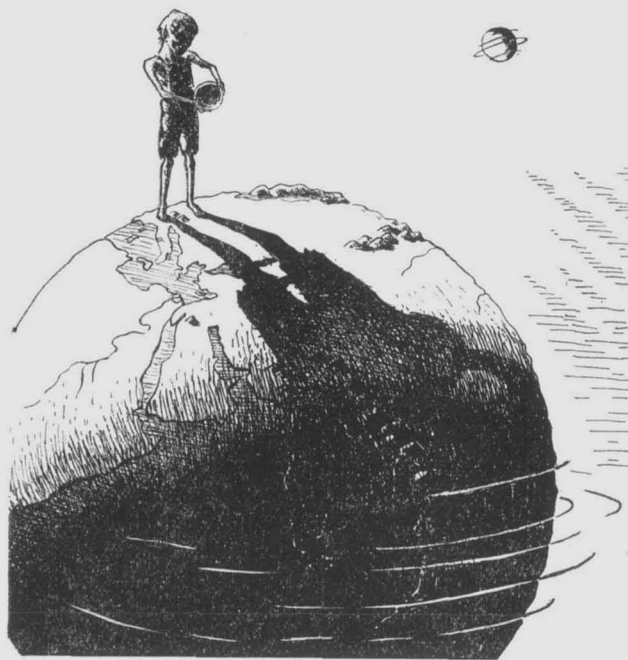
"A world crippled and strewn with the wreckage of war was hard put enough to feed its hungry. War breaks the web of international and domestic transport. It takes men from fields. It turns the factories to making swords instead of plowshares. It takes the fertilizer chemicals for munitions. It shatters the usual scheme of trade and values, so that money becomes worthless and food may become priceless. It empties the bins and storehouses of reserve food."

All this, it points out, had happened by the summer of 1945. Against this background came bad weather for crops in the past year. "When the world's bins and pantries were already swept bare by war, the world's harvests of 1945-46 brought forth one-eighth less food per person than in the average year before the war." And piled on top of all came difficulties of distribution.

For an interpretation of what this means in the lives of people, we quote from the White House Famine Broadcast of April 19. These are the words of Herbert Hoover, Honorary Chairman of the Famine Emergency Committee:

"Hunger has placed three words every hour of the day on the tongues of these 150 millions of people. The first is 'bread.' Bread has a reality as the symbol of life as never before in history. To reduce the bread ration is a symbol of calamity. It is now the symbol of the life of nations. The second word is 'fats,' for which there is an insatiable craving and physical need. The third word is 'calories.' That is the common denominator . . . .

"Do not forget that the caloric level of America is an average of about 3200 per person per day. Britain has about 2800. Experts say an average level of 2200 calories is the minimum at which public health and progress can be maintained in a nation. There are thirteen countries where the city populations have an average intake of less than 1900 calories. Of these, six countries are at, or below, the 1500 caloric level. There are millions of people below 1000 calories. Somewhere down these various levels starvation begins. And its immediate expression is the disease rate in children and in death rates of the infants and the old people."



## NOTES FROM BERLIN

If the four powers can agree to a plan of feeding Berlin it may become an important field. There is great hunger in Berlin at the present time and the situation is not improving.

This week we met with the entire staff of Public Welfare and found that most of the staff members were good social workers who took the same point of view that we do. Following discussions with officials of the British Zone, four of our men will visit there next week. We go to Stuttgart tomorrow for a two-day meeting of the German Central Committee for the American Zone, to plan the distribution of the first two thousand tons and to set up the procedure for further work.

We also spent two hours with the International Red Cross, which had an official statement from Russian officials, requesting the feeding of sixty thousand needy refugee children.\*

CLAUDE SHOTTS  
AFSC-CRALOG Representative in Germany

\* EDITOR'S NOTE: Information on the request for food supplies for children in Brandenburg and Mecklenburg, in the Russian Zone, was cabled from Europe, and funds have been appropriated in Philadelphia for the immediate purchase of milk, bacon and cod liver oil, also medicines and blankets. Further aid may be extended in this zone on the basis of results from the initial experiment. The French Military Government in Germany has now approved relief work similar to operations in the American Zone.

# Quaker "Hilfe" — Austria

by the Staff in Vienna

The Viennese people are a distinct group in themselves. Figuratively speaking, you can knock a Viennese down, take his food away from him, smash his house—and the first thing he does when he gets up is to go to the opera. The stories we heard about the music in Vienna were not exaggerated. In spite of the condition of the theaters and music halls (hardly any escaped damage) the billboards advertise opera and symphony concerts for every day in the week. There are also numerous chamber music groups which give concerts and play in the restaurants to take the place of food.

Money doesn't mean anything because there is very little to buy. The things which distinguish one class of people from another are mainly ability, education and talents. Many of the people in high positions are in as great need of food as the ones in low positions. Simple trading is a widespread practice. A woman to whom we gave two bars of chocolate the other day gave one to her sick husband and the other she traded for a sack of potatoes. Her husband is to have an operation but the doctor doesn't want any pay for his work. He said he must have food in advance so that his hand would be steady enough to perform the operation.

## More Hunger

The food situation is growing worse—even bread is getting very scarce now. An Austrian woman told us, "The children have ceased to cry when hungry, for they know there's no food to still their hunger." At the south, around Wiener Neustadt, the ration is down to about 600 calories a day. In Vienna there is no milk except for small children. All the average Viennese seems to have to eat is a roll and a cup of "coffee" for breakfast, a slice of bread and a cup of "coffee" for lunch, and perhaps a dish of macaroni or dried peas for supper with a cup of krauter tea. Meat, vegetables, fruits, butter, and cheese are unheard of. This week the bread allowance is about half of what it was last week. What a month from now will bring no one can imagine.

The Austrian authorities and the Army say that the food situation will be worse before it's better. This means that in May and probably June, things will get worse before the new crop comes in and while last year's crop is dwindling. Vienna has no resources in sight for that month. It seems that UNRRA was to start operations, so the Army closed down its supplies. But when the Soviets were unwilling to stop their living from the land policy, UNRRA suspended plans for shipments.

Some of our cod liver oil is going to be distributed to children's hospitals and some to the forty-odd consultation stations for mothers of young children. The Red Cross has under way a program for babies. The Swedish Government is doing a fine job with

the feeding of children between three and six, and the Swiss are introducing supplementary feeding in the elementary schools. But the older children have had nothing in addition to their regular rations, which are sadly lacking in many things necessary for normal growth.

## Youth Work

Investigation points to the fact that young people over fourteen years of age, as a group, are in great need of assistance. We are doing supplemental feeding in two apprentice homes, one rest home, five "middle schools" and a workshop of the "Jugend am Werk" (Working Youth). The Jugend am Werk is a good organization with a broad program of activities. Their shop has 191 full-time workers and is engaged mostly in repair work for the city. The rate of pay is less than four dollars a month, which might possibly buy a pair of socks.

We, too, are making plans for training and work projects—a highly necessary program because of the breakdown of the apprentice system. This system has decayed on account of a lack of skilled craftsmen to act as masters for the apprentices. With the exception of a few projects in the city of Vienna, there have been no attempts to substitute any other systems of youth training. It will therefore be necessary to start all over again and try to develop a new generation of skilled workers. The labor leaders are very enthusiastic about the introduction of new hand skills which have not been developed in this country. One basic idea is to help break the deadlock which exists in international exchange. Austria can export nothing because of the lack of raw materials, tools, and clothing, and these items can be purchased only with exports. Hand skills require only a small initial outlay for equipment and there are plenty of products which require a high degree of skill and are scarce all over the world. It has now been decided at Labor Committee conferences to start the program with a glass-working project, because it is the most urgently needed and can be started with the least delay.

## Trade Schools and Apprentice Homes

This morning we visited a trade school where hundreds of young people from fourteen to eighteen are studying. The conditions were almost unbelievable. The school is a very large building, once the pride of Vienna. One third of it is in ruins from three direct bomb hits. It is impossible to heat the remaining rooms because the walls are full of holes and most of the windows are broken. However, the young people still want to learn and continue to study and work with their overcoats on.

The two apprentice homes which we have chosen to receive our supplementary supplies are operated by the city and have a combined enrollment of 164 boys and girls who are either orphans or partial

orphans. The fathers of some are prisoners of war. Each day the apprentices go out to their work or to trade school—one day a week to school and the other days to their apprentice jobs. Physical examinations are being given to all the 18,000 young people attending the trade schools, and those found to be in the worst physical condition are being sent to rest homes for several weeks. The rest home at Krems, where we are also giving food supplements, is operated by the Vienna trade unions. They plan to open three more such homes shortly. For our supplementary feeding among the apprentices, all we have at present is canned fish and evaporated milk, but the youngsters think it is a banquet.

### German Refugees

A trainload of displaced persons who are in a critical condition has just been located near the West Bahnhof, and writing will have to be inter-

rupted while we care for the emergency. This displaced persons problem is a tough one, especially for the "Volksdeutsche." The military government, UNRRA and Red Cross are allowed to help only Allied nationals. The Germans are left to the mercy of civil authorities of whatever town they happen to be brought to, and the authorities are never too anxious to take the much needed food from their own people to give to these transients. In Vienna, there are always hundreds and sometimes thousands of people of German origin who have been thrown out of Hungary, Russia, Poland, Slovakia and Yugoslavia. The military government in Germany doesn't want them, and it seems nobody else does either, so they are shoved from one place to another without ration cards or visible means of support. All we can do is to add a bit to what they get from the city and try to cheer them up a little during the short time they are allowed to stay here.

\* \* \*

## International Effort in the Norwegian Arctic

The project that is now becoming a reality in northern Norway was foreshadowed when Douglas Steere, late last summer, wrote of his visits both to Oslo and to the far northern province of Finmark:

"The really ruined part of Norway is up in Finmark, north and east of Tromsø. Hammerfest itself is ninety-nine per cent destroyed. Western Finmark, like Lapland, is completely ruined. Houses, barns, roads, bridges, even piles of turf blocks they use for fuel—all destroyed. The people have come back and are living in tents and tending their little farms. This winter they hope to go into barracks, if these get up in time. The real building comes next summer.

"Erling Kjekstad, a Norwegian Quaker, has been very energetic to get some work going in this damaged province, and is aiding a plan for fifty Danish Peace Friends to work up there erecting barracks. The Norwegians are very interested in work camp possibilities next summer if this Danish venture works out well."

### And Summer Comes

Stephen Cary, one of the European Commissioners for the American Friends Service Committee, supplies the following report on current developments.

Present plans call for the main base camp of the Fredsvenners Hjelpetjeneste (Friends of Peace Relief Service) to be located at Lakselv, at the head of Porsanger Fjord. The area which this camp will serve covers a large section of central Finmark, extending roughly from Honnigsvaag in the North to Karasjok in the South, and eastward to Berlevaag, near the eastern edge of Tana Fjord. Since all of Finmark is laid waste, it is possible that the Norwegian government will change its plans and locate the Fredsvenners in another district, wherever it seems that this volunteer work can be most useful.

In addition to Norwegian personnel, there will be workers from five foreign agencies. The Danish Friends of Peace Relief Work, which sent twenty nurses last summer, as well as thirty or forty general relief workers in the fall, will send additional numbers this summer. The Friends Ambulance Unit, London, is sending two teams of ten and twelve. The Swedish Internationella Arbeitslag, which conducts training camps for pacifist youth, has already, with the cooperation of Swedish Friends, sent four workers. Four men and two women will represent the American Friends Service Committee. Two or more workers will be sent by the International Voluntary Service for Peace.

### Fitting Work to the Weather

For six or seven weeks in the summer months, the sun never sets, and on the contrary, never rises for six or seven weeks in December and January. In the latter period, however, it is not completely dark all the time—a twilight of varying depth and duration exists each day. Because of the presence of the Gulf Stream, the temperature never gets as low in Finmark as one would expect. In the winter, coastal temperatures range around twenty degrees Fahrenheit, while further inland they are down to zero. The most difficult weather factor is wind, which is likely to be especially severe during the autumn and spring.

The reconstruction of Finmark is expected to take four or five years and work may go on through the winter. The plan for this summer's building is to concentrate on the rough construction—foundations, walls, and roofs—with interior finishing left to the winter months, with the hope that electrification will be far enough advanced by that time to make operations possible.

# Chinese Panorama—the Convoy in Retrospect

by W. ANTONY REYNOLDS

*W. Antony Reynolds, a British Friend from Bridgeport, Dorset, will soon be returning to England. He was a municipal engineer before joining the China Convoy in 1941, and has served it in varying capacities over a wide area.*

The engine of the alcohol-burning truck I was to take down the road—almost the last of our fleet that had not been converted from liquid fuel to charcoal—was on the bench having its bearings checked. For days there had been troops marching down the road past the depot; they splashed through the mud that a month of continuous rain had produced, passed our garage gates and disappeared down the road to Kweichow.

As the transport of drugs and medical supplies is usually a one-way business, the FAU usually carried non-military commercial cargoes the other way. When we finally got the engine back into place, I ran the truck down to the bank of the Yangtze to load a cargo of salt for delivery to Kweiyang. We put on two tons, all packed in bamboo bales weighing 300 pounds apiece, and were away next morning at daybreak. We checked through the customs and Road Control station and made good time to Kikiang, where I found one of our American members with his truck, delayed by a broken spring. I lent him some leaves out of my spare one and after refuelling, pushed on into the hills.

It was dark before we reached the top, there to be stopped by soldiers of the border guard post who told us that we were not to go further because there were bandits on the road. We argued with them, protesting that we weren't scared, and they finally let us go on. In a village at the valley bottom we parked for the night, with Chi An, my Chinese assistant, curled up on the cab seat while I made myself as comfortable as possible on the salt bales in the back.

By five o'clock the weather had become colder, and from over the shoulder of the mountain a full moon lit the valley and made dark shadows under the houses and the lines of trucks in the street. The cold made starting difficult and when heating the plugs had proved ineffective, I soaked a rag in alcohol, wrapped it round the manifold under the carburetor and lit it. As soon as the alcohol in the float chamber was boiling, we tried again with the handle and the self-starter and she fired immediately.

The road from Sunkan runs on by the river with mountains on either side. As they come closer, they seem steeper and the sheer walls of striated limestone, covered with delicate bamboo fronds, drop straight to the river and the road. Even in the hottest summer, it is pleasant to rest and watch the redstarts, their dark blue and red plumage flashing above the water. Leaving the river, the road climbs up the side of the valley and is so cut into the rock wall that one must be careful not to catch the top of a highly loaded truck on the overhang. From the

foot of this slope to the top are the famous "72 bends," each of more than 90 degrees. From the top, if the weather is clear, there is a very fine view, but it nearly always rains here so that though I have been over the road many times, I have seen it only twice. In the sunshine, the mountains blue in the distance, one can imagine some playful young god had stood and taking a spool of his mother's white ribbon, had flung it down the slope for the joy of seeing it roll, and that now it has become permanent, a path for beetles that slowly grind their way up it.

Past Tungtze we began to meet refugees straggling along the road in family groups. Some of them had wheelbarrows, others were carrying all their possessions on their backs or on a carrying pole. Most of them were poorly dressed and cold in the biting wind; later on when it was no longer possible to buy places on the trucks, even quite rich people walked.

The Chinese words for refugees are "nan-min"—people suffering hardship. Small shopkeepers, artisans, peasants and school children, driven from their places where living was so hard as to be barely existing, were tramping toward an already overcrowded capital where there was little hope of work or even shelter, but going solidly on, the sick straggling and the babies being carried. The sun was shining and though it was cold, there was that to be thankful for. Not as later between Tushan and Kweiyang, where the weather was bitter with wind and rain and there was no food; where dead horses were stripped of flesh and new-born babies and their mothers died by the roadside.

We climbed up the steep road to the "gate of the mountains." There were several trucks stuck here unable to make the grade even in bottom gear without stopping, racing the engine and letting the clutch in with a bang, while a boy followed behind with a block to put under the back wheel as the engine stalled again. The hills here are almost perpendicular-sided sugar cones of rock with dark valleys in between where tigers used to live before the road came. We pushed on and over the hills to Tsunyi where we found two or three of our trucks that had just come up from Kweiyang. It seemed that there was danger that the road from here to Kweiyang might be cut, so I had to dump my load of salt and return to Chungking immediately with a load of medical supplies. We had come to the end of the journey out—a quick and easy one compared with most, and without incident. Perhaps that is as well, since the incident too often obscures the background against which we move, live and work.



orphans. The fathers of some are prisoners of war. Each day the apprentices go out to their work or to trade school—one day a week to school and the other days to their apprentice jobs. Physical examinations are being given to all the 18,000 young people attending the trade schools, and those found to be in the worst physical condition are being sent to rest homes for several weeks. The rest home at Krems, where we are also giving food supplements, is operated by the Vienna trade unions. They plan to open three more such homes shortly. For our supplementary feeding among the apprentices, all we have at present is canned fish and evaporated milk, but the youngsters think it is a banquet.

### German Refugees

A trainload of displaced persons who are in a critical condition has just been located near the West Bahnhof, and writing will have to be inter-

rupted while we care for the emergency. This displaced persons problem is a tough one, especially for the "Volksdeutsche." The military government, UNRRA and Red Cross are allowed to help only Allied nationals. The Germans are left to the mercy of civil authorities of whatever town they happen to be brought to, and the authorities are never too anxious to take the much needed food from their own people to give to these transients. In Vienna, there are always hundreds and sometimes thousands of people of German origin who have been thrown out of Hungary, Russia, Poland, Slovakia and Yugoslavia. The military government in Germany doesn't want them, and it seems nobody else does either, so they are shoved from one place to another without ration cards or visible means of support. All we can do is to add a bit to what they get from the city and try to cheer them up a little during the short time they are allowed to stay here.

\* \* \*

## International Effort in the Norwegian Arctic

The project that is now becoming a reality in northern Norway was foreshadowed when Douglas Steere, late last summer, wrote of his visits both to Oslo and to the far northern province of Finmark:

"The really ruined part of Norway is up in Finmark, north and east of Tromsø. Hammerfest itself is ninety-nine per cent destroyed. Western Finmark, like Lapland, is completely ruined. Houses, barns, roads, bridges, even piles of turf blocks they use for fuel—all destroyed. The people have come back and are living in tents and tending their little farms. This winter they hope to go into barracks, if these get up in time. The real building comes next summer.

"Erling Kjekstad, a Norwegian Quaker, has been very energetic to get some work going in this damaged province, and is aiding a plan for fifty Danish Peace Friends to work up there erecting barracks. The Norwegians are very interested in work camp possibilities next summer if this Danish venture works out well."

### And Summer Comes

Stephen Cary, one of the European Commissioners for the American Friends Service Committee, supplies the following report on current developments.

Present plans call for the main base camp of the Fredsvenners Hjelpetjeneste (Friends of Peace Relief Service) to be located at Lakselv, at the head of Porsanger Fjord. The area which this camp will serve covers a large section of central Finmark, extending roughly from Honnigsvaag in the North to Karasjok in the South, and eastward to Berlevaag, near the eastern edge of Tana Fjord. Since all of Finmark is laid waste, it is possible that the Norwegian government will change its plans and locate the Fredsvenners in another district, wherever it seems that this volunteer work can be most useful.

In addition to Norwegian personnel, there will be workers from five foreign agencies. The Danish Friends of Peace Relief Work, which sent twenty nurses last summer, as well as thirty or forty general relief workers in the fall, will send additional numbers this summer. The Friends Ambulance Unit, London, is sending two teams of ten and twelve. The Swedish Internationella Arbeitslag, which conducts training camps for pacifist youth, has already, with the cooperation of Swedish Friends, sent four workers. Four men and two women will represent the American Friends Service Committee. Two or more workers will be sent by the International Voluntary Service for Peace.

### Fitting Work to the Weather

For six or seven weeks in the summer months, the sun never sets, and on the contrary, never rises for six or seven weeks in December and January. In the latter period, however, it is not completely dark all the time—a twilight of varying depth and duration exists each day. Because of the presence of the Gulf Stream, the temperature never gets as low in Finmark as one would expect. In the winter, coastal temperatures range around twenty degrees Fahrenheit, while further inland they are down to zero. The most difficult weather factor is wind, which is likely to be especially severe during the autumn and spring.

The reconstruction of Finmark is expected to take four or five years and work may go on through the winter. The plan for this summer's building is to concentrate on the rough construction—foundations, walls, and roofs—with interior finishing left to the winter months, with the hope that electrification will be far enough advanced by that time to make operations possible.

# Chinese Panorama—the Convoy in Retrospect

by W. ANTONY REYNOLDS

*W. Antony Reynolds, a British Friend from Bridgeport, Dorset, will soon be returning to England. He was a municipal engineer before joining the China Convoy in 1941, and has served it in varying capacities over a wide area.*

The engine of the alcohol-burning truck I was to take down the road—almost the last of our fleet that had not been converted from liquid fuel to charcoal—was on the bench having its bearings checked. For days there had been troops marching down the road past the depot; they splashed through the mud that a month of continuous rain had produced, passed our garage gates and disappeared down the road to Kweichow.

As the transport of drugs and medical supplies is usually a one-way business, the FAU usually carried non-military commercial cargoes the other way. When we finally got the engine back into place, I ran the truck down to the bank of the Yangtze to load a cargo of salt for delivery to Kweiyang. We put on two tons, all packed in bamboo bales weighing 300 pounds apiece, and were away next morning at daybreak. We checked through the customs and Road Control station and made good time to Kikiang, where I found one of our American members with his truck, delayed by a broken spring. I lent him some leaves out of my spare one and after refuelling, pushed on into the hills.

It was dark before we reached the top, there to be stopped by soldiers of the border guard post who told us that we were not to go further because there were bandits on the road. We argued with them, protesting that we weren't scared, and they finally let us go on. In a village at the valley bottom we parked for the night, with Chi An, my Chinese assistant, curled up on the cab seat while I made myself as comfortable as possible on the salt bales in the back.

By five o'clock the weather had become colder, and from over the shoulder of the mountain a full moon lit the valley and made dark shadows under the houses and the lines of trucks in the street. The cold made starting difficult and when heating the plugs had proved ineffective, I soaked a rag in alcohol, wrapped it round the manifold under the carburetor and lit it. As soon as the alcohol in the float chamber was boiling, we tried again with the handle and the self-starter and she fired immediately.

The road from Sunkan runs on by the river with mountains on either side. As they come closer, they seem steeper and the sheer walls of striated limestone, covered with delicate bamboo fronds, drop straight to the river and the road. Even in the hottest summer, it is pleasant to rest and watch the redstarts, their dark blue and red plumage flashing above the water. Leaving the river, the road climbs up the side of the valley and is so cut into the rock wall that one must be careful not to catch the top of a highly loaded truck on the overhang. From the

foot of this slope to the top are the famous "72 bends," each of more than 90 degrees. From the top, if the weather is clear, there is a very fine view, but it nearly always rains here so that though I have been over the road many times, I have seen it only twice. In the sunshine, the mountains blue in the distance, one can imagine some playful young god had stood and taking a spool of his mother's white ribbon, had flung it down the slope for the joy of seeing it roll, and that now it has become permanent, a path for beetles that slowly grind their way up it.

Past Tungtze we began to meet refugees straggling along the road in family groups. Some of them had wheelbarrows, others were carrying all their possessions on their backs or on a carrying pole. Most of them were poorly dressed and cold in the biting wind; later on when it was no longer possible to buy places on the trucks, even quite rich people walked.

The Chinese words for refugees are "nan-min"—people suffering hardship. Small shopkeepers, artisans, peasants and school children, driven from their places where living was so hard as to be barely existing, were tramping toward an already overcrowded capital where there was little hope of work or even shelter, but going solidly on, the sick straggling and the babies being carried. The sun was shining and though it was cold, there was that to be thankful for. Not as later between Tushan and Kweiyang, where the weather was bitter with wind and rain and there was no food; where dead horses were stripped of flesh and new-born babies and their mothers died by the roadside.

We climbed up the steep road to the "gate of the mountains." There were several trucks stuck here unable to make the grade even in bottom gear without stopping, racing the engine and letting the clutch in with a bang, while a boy followed behind with a block to put under the back wheel as the engine stalled again. The hills here are almost perpendicular-sided sugar cones of rock with dark valleys in between where tigers used to live before the road came. We pushed on and over the hills to Tsunyi where we found two or three of our trucks that had just come up from Kweiyang. It seemed that there was danger that the road from here to Kweiyang might be cut, so I had to dump my load of salt and return to Chungking immediately with a load of medical supplies. We had come to the end of the journey out—a quick and easy one compared with most, and without incident. Perhaps that is as well, since the incident too often obscures the background against which we move, live and work.

# A Dutch Housecleaning Extraordinary

by E. VILLUMSEN and HILDE de VRIES

*The American Friends Service Committee has given a small amount of help to the efforts of Friends in Holland, who have valiantly applied themselves to helping their countrymen meet post-war emergencies. American aid largely took the form of equipment for English Friends Relief Service teams, of clothing and knitting wool, and of maintenance for some of the Dutch workers. The English teams, in turn, supplied transport for workers from the International Voluntary Service for Peace, who were helping the residents of Walcheren Island, flooded for many months due to the cutting of dykes during the war. This vivid account of the very practical and thorough house-cleaning aid given by a team of mixed nationalities, was received through the courtesy of Quaker-Bureau Amsterdam, to which AFSC is now sending a visiting Friend and later in the summer will send a staff representative.*

It is the usual weather of rain and storm, and when we come out at eight in the morning loaded with buckets, floor-coats, brooms, spades, etc., we can be sure of being fresh for the whole day. We are going to the house of an old woman, and when she opens the door, you can see that she is impressed by our appearance—for in our overalls we are looking very warlike!

The first thing to do is to look over the whole house, and we sigh when we see a deep cellar, filled with stinking mud from the floods. We look at the cistern (for in the old houses there is no water supply) and fill the first two buckets of the five hundred we shall have to use. Those cisterns cannot be used for drinking because they all contain salt water. They will have to be pumped out afterwards, and thoroughly cleaned. For sixteen months, the water has been standing here over the floors, and every time the flood brought new mud and seaweed and mussels, so we are not all astonished to find shrimps in our bucket and see the crabs flee from our broom.

In many cases, the inhabitants have already cleaned the mud out of the rooms, many, many wheelbarrows full. Then we can begin to pull the wallpaper from the walls. The upper pieces are easy to do, but lower down it is heavy work because, by the salt water, the seaweed and the mussels, the paper has been changed into a stony black substance. Meanwhile, others are cleaning the windows—if there are any left. Then we clean the cupboards and the slide-doors—heavy work, also, and afterwards the doors will not be usable because everything is rusted.

Of course, none of the doors of the rooms can be closed, and the triplex used for the cupboards is wholly rotten when we take it off. Everything below one meter has no color left, and we cannot clean the walls so well but that they will show a fantastic cartridge of black and white. W— has now

cleaned the ceiling; he was in luck because this woman has a very fine cobweb-brush with a long handle. We have resolved to "organize" it, to help the whole community. At half past ten, the woman comes to bring us a cup of coffee, and she looks a little anxious, for the floor is a big mud-splash with pieces of wallpaper and other dirty things. We scoop the mishmash out the door, hoping that Max, the horse driven by the "Community purification," is on the street and can take it away.

Now we are using the last thirty buckets of water and at last we can see the wooden shelves of the floor. With a fervent zeal we scrub and scrub. It is very helpful when there is a hole in the floor, so that we can sweep the water into it. When there is no hole, we have to scoop out the water with a spade and afterwards with a dustpan. Now we begin on the kitchen. The many little cupboards under the sink are troublesome obstacles, because there is too little room to creep into them; but on the other hand, there is no wallpaper and the walls are easier. Only, the mussels seem to like to live in the granite sinks . . . We are always very dirty and very hungry, going from house to house, but sometimes it happens that when we get home, a big cream-pie is waiting for us as thanks from the inhabitants of one of the cleaned houses. And the others have to console themselves with some sweets and an English cigarette, for the pie is not big enough for twenty-eight persons, as you will understand.

\* \* \*

## SUPPLIES FOR POLAND

William Edgerton, AFSC representative in Poland, in cooperation with a British Friends Relief Service team of six workers, is distributing relief food and clothing and helping to revive welfare activities in the Kozienice District south of Warsaw. This group will soon be joined by David Richie of Philadelphia with the first shipment of American supplies.

THE FOREIGN SERVICE BULLETIN IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE  
20 SOUTH TWELFTH STREET, PHILADELPHIA 7, PA., FOR CONTRIBUTORS AND FRIENDS. ALL MATERIAL PRINTED  
HEREIN MAY BE REPUBLISHED

AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE

20 SOUTH TWELFTH STREET

PHILADELPHIA 7, PA.