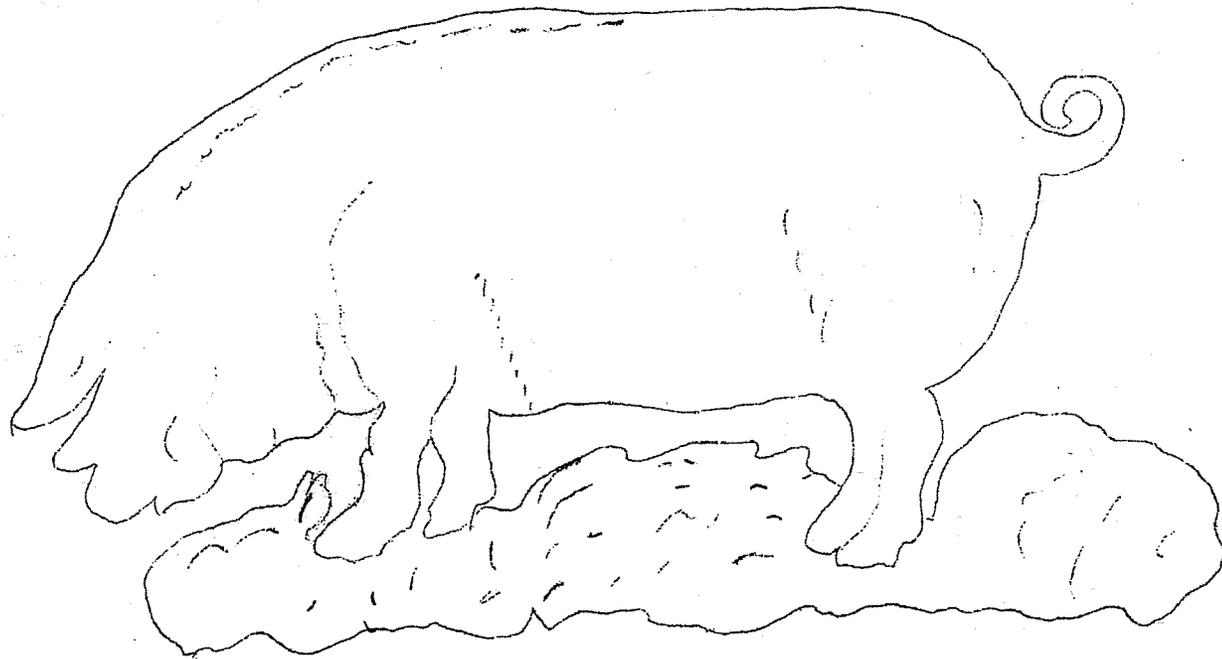


A THANK-YOU LETTER FROM A CHILD IN THE RUSSIAN ZONE FOR AFSC BACON GIFT

DEM AMERIKANISCHEN QUAKERN
UND INT. ROTEN KREUZ



FÜR DIE GÜTIGE FETTE SPENDE,
UNSEREN HERZLICHSTEN DANK!

DIE KINDER DER HEILSTÄTTE
FINNECK"

Im Namen aller kranken Kinder, (recht herzlichen Dank)

Annelies Köchwasser.

Bulletin No. 7

FUNDS AND SUPPLIES- FOR QUAKER RELIEF IN GERMANY -

The American Friends Service Committee, as the receiver of moneys and goods from German-American organizations, issues this bulletin for the information of participating agencies who are cooperating in a nation-wide effort to aid the Quaker relief program for Germany. Material in this bulletin may be reprinted without permission. Contributions of news items regarding German-American activities in behalf of Quaker relief for Germany will be appreciated.

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HOOVER'S SOMBER REPORT

A few days ago, Herbert Hoover returned from his mission to Germany with a report and a plan - a report that described the housing condition as the worst modern civilization has ever seen and the "deplorable condition of more than half of the children under six, the adolescents, and a considerable part of the normal consumer group." Hoover's plan would provide for soup kitchens to give 3,500,000 children hot meals, additional provisions for the 18,000,000 normal consumers, and a shipment of 400,000 tons of United States surplus potatoes, including sufficient seed to build up the 1947 harvest to 5,000,000 tons. The cost of this plan, to be shared by the United States and Great Britain, would be \$567,000,000. We are greatly encouraged by these plans, but even if they mature they cannot relieve us of our child-feeding responsibility for the next three or four months.

TRUMAN BACKS PRIVATE RELIEF

President Truman told the February 27th delegation of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service, which included a Service Committee delegate, that private war-relief work must be continued as a supplement to public help, and stressed that agency relief work is essential to complement whatever public program is worked out.

CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION IN GERMANY

AFSC clothing in Germany is distributed through several channels - CRALOG (Council for Relief Agencies licensed to Operate in Germany) and the agencies represented in the German Central Committee, the British Red Cross, and our own relief teams.

The most complete records come from reports on the distribution through our own team. These reports indicate that clothing has gone to individuals in the American, British, and French Zones whose need has been verified by official committees. Among the persons known to have received clothing are German prisoners of war in France, returned prisoners of war from Russia, refugees from the East (Sudetenland and Silesia, etc.); displaced persons; persons in old people's and children's homes; and in hospitals; pregnant women; victims of national socialism, the bombed-out and the generally needy and destitute.

A typical means of distribution follows this pattern. AFSC clothing is consigned to the German Central Committee, which allocates the clothing on the basis of verified need to the various Laender (or States). The neediest cities within the Laender set up a distribution system that endeavors to give clothing to individuals of greatest need, irrespective of race or creed. The need is vouched for by a special agency, consisting of representatives of public and private welfare agencies, assisted by volunteers. A welfare official of the city issues a special pass to the individual requesting clothing at the distribution center. In order to prevent duplication of gifts, the article received is entered on the pass.

AFSC SHIPMENT - AMERICAN ZONE

The Bavarian Red Cross, on behalf of its 143 district branches, addressed a letter to the American Friends Service Committee accounting for the distribution of shipment C-27-47-28, which contained 500 cans of canned food, 512 cases of beef stew, and 56 cases of reconditioned army shoes. According to the Bavarian Red Cross, these supplies were distributed to an old-age home, returned and ill prisoners of war from Russia, 14,000 refugees, and sickly children. The Bavarian Red Cross received distribution reports from all 143 district branches but sent only typical reports from Sonthofen, Kempten, Fuessen, and Wertingen. The last branch reports:

"With great satisfaction the district branch received the food gift sent by the AFSC. The misery is immense. The greater is the effect of each work of charity. The substantial preserves of meat, of vegetables, and of soups, as well as the evaporated milk, gave many malnourished and sickly children new strength. Also a number of crippled and infirm old people and refugees could be assisted. The recipients, most of them refugees, bear the donors abroad in their minds and feel thankful that compassionate human beings do not forget them. It means a great deal to the district branch to be allowed to distribute the foreign gifts to the needy who come day after day in big crowds in search of relief from their misery."

LIKE A DROP OF WATER ON A HOT STONE

The Bavarian Red Cross branches of Miesbach, Gemünden, Mindelheim, Kaufbeuren, and Aschaffenburg-Alzenau, American Zone, have sent in a folder to the American Friends Service Committee, full of clever pen-and-ink drawings and warm thank-you notes in appreciation of AFSC clothing and shoe shipments C 67-68 and C 69-71-81.

Expressions of gratitude and need speak for themselves in the following phrases:

"Pregnant women received diapers, vests, woolen covers and jackets for their babies."

"Children and adolescents who had nothing left except the clothes they were wearing were given at least enough to enable them to change their clothing."

"Women and mothers who lost their last possessions in the flight received the most needed clothes from this generous donation."

"We were able to give a few items to a small number of men who had lost everything through the war and imprisonment."

"These beautiful things were distributed to refugees without means, mothers in need, and the most needy of the population."

"Of course not all the 2,200 refugees from the Sudetenland and Silesia who are under our care could benefit by the 46 pairs of shoes received, but the joy of those

who did get a pair was that much greater. We have really distributed them among the most needy refugees from Fellen, Mittelsinn, and Obersinn."

"We received 30 pairs of shoes for the refugees who work in our factories."

"Shoes were distributed to returnees from Russia. The boys' shoes were given to boys who for some time have been unable to attend school for lack of shoes."

"The small quantity of working shoes distributed was like a drop of water on a hot stone."

"We thank the donors with a cordial "Vergelts Gott (God bless you)."

DONATION DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES

The Bavarian Red Cross, in accounting for shipment C 61-77, 150 boxes of dehydrated vegetables, advised that the vegetables had been given to "malnourished and distressed children, sick and old people, and refugees and discharged soldiers." These persons were reached through children's and old people's homes and refugees camps and feeding kitchens in Unterachtel, Egloffstein, Alexandersbad, Nürnberg, Zwiesel, Pröffening, Bad Gögging, Wegscheidt, Kötzing, Würzburg, Markt Oberdorf, Kempen, Illertissen, and Augsburg.

The Red Cross representative concluded with "We are told again and again how thankful people are to receive such gifts and not only because of the material assistance but also because it is proof that the poorest of the poor are not forgotten abroad in a spirit of humanity and love."

OATMEAL FOR 3,000 BAVARIAN CHILDREN

Three thousand needy children and a number of blind and mentally ill persons in Bavaria have benefited from 35 sacks of oats, a part of AFSC shipment C 61-77.

"The president of the Bavarian Red Cross begs to thank you cordially in the name of the needy for the magnanimous gift by which you have renewedly proved your unselfish readiness to help and your particular appreciation of the distress among the German children."

FRENCH-ZONE SUPPLIES ARRIVE

The first of the French-Zone supplies have arrived in Freiburg, and are safe in the warehouse, according to one of our relief workers in the French Zone. These supplies include chocolate sirup, shoe-repair equipment, canned food, 274 bales of used bedding and clothing, and 98 cases of shoes, remnants, and sewing kits. The shipment left New York harbor on January 8th, 1947, and arrived in Freiburg about February 20th.

It was especially heartening to hear the workers' description of the shipment:

"I wish that you would tell the members of the Clothing Committee and the workers in the clothing room how very grateful we are for all the work that has been put into the clothing bales. I have never seen clothing arrive in better condition or more perfectly packed. The bales are all clearly marked, well sewn, and really look quite beautiful stacked up high in our warehouse. They will look much better, however, when they are out and distributed."

A later communication tells of two distributions:

"Leaving Freiburg on Feb. 7, I have been moving northward with the food purchased in Switzerland. 500 kg. of Wheat Flour and 200 kg. of fine Danish lard (400- $\frac{1}{2}$ kg. packages) were left at Calw on Feb. 8, and the receipt was sent you from Ludwigshafen a few days later. The Freiburg distribution took place all in one day at 13 places on Feb. 14. H..... B..... told me over the phone at 2 P.M. that everything was progressing smoothly. The Koblenz distribution begins tomorrow, Feb. 19, and lasts till Feb. 22, all from one place this first time: the Swedish barracks on the Clemensplatz in the heart of town. We are tickled over these fine and ample quarters. The city's fine painting job on the interior was hardly dry when we moved in the furniture and then the supplies, all on the same afternoon. The Ludwigshafen distribution is to begin next Monday, Feb. 24, from 7 centers."

A SHOE MANUFACTURER WITH A BIG HEART

It's not so far from Koblenz to Minneapolis. One of our workers in Koblenz, French Zone, decided to do something herself about the tragic shoe shortage in Koblenz. Below is her account of the letter she sent to a friend in Minneapolis and the unexpected and happy results:

"I wrote to her some time ago about the disastrous shoe situation here, and since she is in the advertising business, I added a bit facetiously that she should look around for some shoe manufacturer who had a big heart, and persuade him to donate a lot of shoes to the AFSC for distribution in Germany. Now she writes that she went out and bought a small lot and later her mother went to the same place and bought another lot. Mother told them what she wanted them for and that she wanted as many as she could get for \$10. The manager was called, and he said he would look over his stock and give her what he could and would deliver them to the house. This morning the phone rang and it was the same man, saying he was coming out with the shoes. About an hour later he arrived by truck, with two other men to help unload. Altogether there were 3 packing cases of shoes...good shoes, all new, with good soles, plus button overshoes, men's rubbers, and slippers! Not only that, but he said he would have more, and would bring them out when they got around to getting them all together after inventory. We were overwhelmed, to say the least, so we served them some refreshments and they stayed for an hour. The manager had been all through the war - England, France, Germany, and was only too glad to help as soon as we whispered the magic work 'Quakers'We will send them to Philadelphia. Now I really am inspired!"

FROM DARMSTADT

"Dear American Quakers!

We children in the destroyed large cities are nearly all underfed and suffer greatly. Often my mother cannot give me any bread when I am hungry and she is very sad about it. Therefore we were all glad when we could benefit by your school feeding. Every morning we are waiting to be called for breakfast. Then we take our crockery and go to the distribution center. Everyone wants to be the first. We can hardly wait to see what good things are to be had. The other day we even had chocolate pudding; we like that best of all. I am particularly fond of milk soup and pea soup also. We do not get that at home. We know that the good food has been sent from you. We are very happy about it and wish to thank you cordially. It would be best if you could visit us at school some time, so that we could thank you personally."

Near personal thanks have come from this Darmstadt child and others in their Christmas gift to the American children. Twenty boxes of toys, which included trains, jointed dachshunds, jumping jacks, wizened dwarfs, and all kinds of cardboard, wooden,

and fabric fancies fashioned from the most meager materials were sent by nine Darmstadt schools in appreciation of the CRALOG child-feeding program.

GERMAN PRISONERS OF WAR IN FRANCE

For a number of months now Service Committee workers in France have been going to commandos, to camps, and to hospitals to bring good will, some supplementary food, and a few gift articles to a needy and forgotten group of men, the German prisoners of war in the vicinities of Toulouse and Caen.

During the month of December, Service Committee workers in France brought blankets, jackets, overcoats, scarfs, shirts, socks, shoes, trousers, soap, tooth paste, razor blades, and a small number of German books to these men. About \$2,500 a month has been set aside by the Service Committee for supplies for this work. Continuation of this work is dependent on the state of the German budget, at present alarmingly inadequate for the year's relief and rehabilitation plans.

One of the workers writes that "in every one of the commandos visited the reaction to our bringing these small gifts was much the same: the men were naturally thankful to receive some useful article at Christmas, but even more profoundly and heartily expressed was their gratification at not having been entirely forgotten; they were glad that someone had thought about them at this season enough to make the necessary effort to visit them behind the barbed wire."

REPORT FROM THE RUSSIAN ZONE

Recent reports from Germany stress the increase of tuberculosis and hunger edema everywhere. From the tuberculosis hospitals of Mecklenburg, Saxony, Mark Brandenburg, and Thuringia, all Laender in the Russian Zone, have come many thank-you letters and itemized reports of the distribution of an AFSC gift of 12,445 kg. of bacon by the International Red Cross. Also mentioned were cans of herring from the German prisoners of war in America.

Among the joyful letters from child victims of tuberculosis of the spine was this one:

"Dear Friends:

You should have been with us when we received your bacon for the first time. We attacked these rolls with bacon like wolves. I gobbled and swallowed and chewed and bit as hard as I could. One bite after another went down half chewed. The food here in Klotzsche is quite good, but American bacon -- that is much better. So it is no wonder that after 3 minutes nothing was left of this delicious meal. A pity that it was such a short one, but it tasted good.

Your delicious things lasted for more than a week. We lived like the high lords in fairyland. Every afternoon we received a ham sandwich and three times we had fish for supper. It was a real gavage!

Up to now I knew very little about you Quakers. I had no idea about your aims and humanitarian efforts. Through our teacher I found out a little more about you. You have done such wonderful work during the long war years of the past half century and you have taken such kind care of those who suffer. Every human being should act toward his fellow men as you do. This will take a long time to realize; the road is difficult and not everyone has the strength to take it.

Very many thanks for your delicious gift. I assure you that you have given us great joy. We shall never forget you.

Cordial greetings to you from Harald Hilde on behalf of the 7th grade of the institute for victims of tuberculosis of the spine.

(Institut fuer Wirbeltuberkulose
Klotzsche bei Dresden Goethestrasse)."