

Palestine REFUGEE RELIEF

of the American Friends Service Committee

(QUAKER



SERVICE)

Bulletin No. 1

March 1949

THE BACKGROUND STORY

Shortly before Christmas 1948, the United Nations invited the Service Committee to undertake direction of its refugee relief program in southern Palestine. On the narrow 25-mile strip of Egyptian-controlled territory stretching west along the Mediterranean shore and south along the Egyptian border, virtually the entire Egyptian army, a few local residents and about 200,000 Arab refugees were concentrated.

The Service Committee was one of three agencies asked by the United Nations to administer its relief program in the Middle East. United Nations relief for refugees in the Arab states is directed by the League of Red Cross Societies, while the International Committee of the Red Cross handles United Nations supplies in Israel. The Service Committee's agreement with the United Nations is scheduled through August 1949.

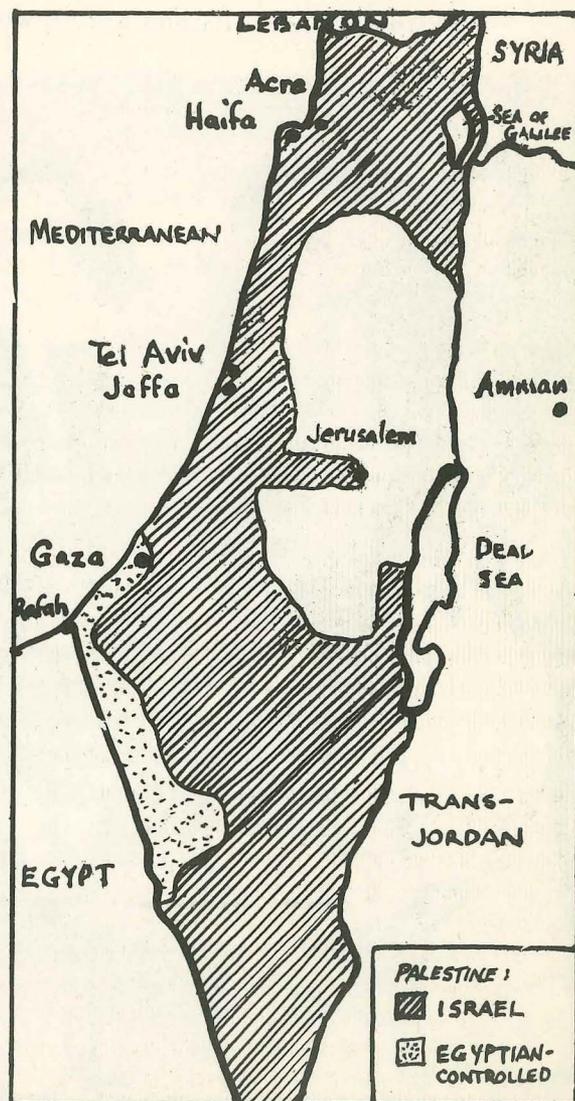
There are now 45 persons distributing food and other supplies from 12 centers. The Egyptian government admits supplies for southern Palestine customs free, transports them from Port Said to Gaza or Rafah for warehousing. Flour, wheat, sesame oil, canned meat, beans, dates, margarine, sugar and rice, are being distributed by the Quaker workers. More than 100,000 blankets and 1,300 tents have been distributed. Milk obtained through UNICEF is also made available to mothers and children.

A medical program staffed by three doctors and 11 nurses is underway, and plans are materializing for supervised recreation and schools for children. Locally-employed personnel working with the medical unit includes eight doctors, 30 nurses, 10 supply dispensers, a pharmacist and assistant, and a bacteriologist, administrator and store-keeper.

The United Nations Relief for Palestine Refugees program, created in November 1948, budgeted \$32,000,000 for this project. Of this amount subscribed by member nations of the United Nations, some has been received in the form of supplies. The United States share, \$16,000,000 is now being considered by Congress.

In the fall of 1948, the Committee began a small relief program in Israel, distributing food and clothing in five communities near Acre and setting up a sewing center in Acre. This program, AFSC sponsored and financed, is carried out in cooperation with the International Red Cross.

That some amity might be gained through its services among both Jews and Arabs in these projects is the Committee's hope. That United Nations efforts toward peace should be upheld in every way possible is the Committee's belief in undertaking direction of the UN program in the southern area.



THE REFUGEE STORY

The refugees streamed into southern Palestine last spring, summer and early fall from a hundred or more towns and villages. They came on foot, camel and donkey; in carts and busses. Most fled in fear and haste, bringing only what they wore, could carry or the cash they could scrape together at a moment's notice. The furnishings of their present tent or shack homes reveal their hasty choices—a baby cradle, a decorative lamp for which there is now no fuel, a family photograph now propped against the burlap side of a dugout-hut. A motley collection of pots and pans scattered outside one hut are the sole possessions of three families huddled in its shelter.

These uprooted people are now quartered as best they can be in and around Gaza. Although an accurate census has not yet been completed, it is known that the refugee population of Gaza is more than twice that of the native residents - who numbered about 30,000 at the last count. Refugees have sought shelter in every abandoned building; many live out on the dunes. These write "sky" on the line marked "shelter" on the census cards. Some have dug caves into the hillsides; hundreds cluster the mosque courtyards; three families live in Sampson's tomb.

"This life is no life," said Hassim, age 14, pointing to the tents and dugouts in the dunes of Rafah which are now home to some 30,000 or more refugees. Hassim's father was a farm laborer who died just before the family's flight from Yibna. Ten children share a tent with another family. His mother died shortly after their arrival at Rafah. Hassim wears a pair of blue cotton trousers, cut on the baggy Turkish style - making them was the last thing his mother did before she died. His coat, inherited from his father, is a miracle of patches on patches.

Some 150,000 refugees are crowded into the two tiny villages just north of Gaza (Jabalia and Ne-

sli), into Rafah and Khan Yunis, towns toward the Egyptian border, and into the camps at Deir el Belah, Magazi, Nuseirat and Breig, which lie between Gaza and Khan Yunis. Helemah Sadam, a pretty young mother, casually nurses little Musa Yusef as she trudges to the camp bakery, a pan of bread gracefully balanced on her head. Her husband was a farmer at Iqir, where the family lived in comparative comfort. Now they share a semi-wrecked building with 25 other families. Burlap partitions give what privacy there is. Thmal Raul and her eight children share one of these "apartments" with her brother-in-law's household. Thmal's husband is said to be a prisoner of war. At Breig tiny orphaned twins squall miserably in their blankets. Their aunt explains that their mother died a few days before, giving her last strength to the nursing infants.



Distribution of milk at camp in Breig, near Gaza. The milk is supplied in powdered form by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), and distributed by Quaker workers.

UN Photo



THE REFUGEE STORY continued

Quaker distributions of food, tents or blankets, which go on almost daily, are always busy and lively, often tempestuous, for the people are afraid the supplies will not last as long as the names on the list.

Although the Quaker unit includes American, English, French, Dutch, Swedish and both French and German-speaking Swiss, only one member speaks fluent Arabic. This does not prevent every worker from being surrounded constantly by dozens of Arabs with questions. A medical worker is interrupted in the seemingly endless treatment of sore eyes and skin diseases to see a new baby camel. A warehouseman is asked to pause in checking flour and beans to explain why relief workers don't carry swords. Everyone is invited to share the tiny store of tea or coffee in hut or tent. Altogether, the romantic notion of the solitary, brooding dweller of the desert is soon dispelled by these talkative, friendly people.

-Corrinne Hardesty
AFSC Correspondent, Gaza.



UN Photo

Dugout home in the sand dunes at Rafah.

THE PERSONNEL STORY

Within 24 hours of the United Nations invitation to undertake direction of its refugee relief program in southern Palestine, a Quaker representative was on the field. Three weeks later more than a dozen were well on the way to establishing an organized unit to carry out its purpose.

Today nearly 60 persons - in Egypt, Palestine, Geneva and Philadelphia - are working together to carry out the distribution of United Nations supplies in the Gaza area, and of AFSC supplies in Israel. In both areas their endeavor is to express as concretely as possible the conviction that people of diverse and often opposing points of view can find more things to unite than to divide them as human beings.

Colin Bell, Anthony Meager and George Mathues are in charge of the work in Philadelphia. In Geneva, Switzerland, Howard Wiggins acts as liaison with the United Nations. There are seven members comprising the present team in Israel, for Moses Bailey, Professor of Old Testament at Hartford Theological Seminary, who set up that program has returned to this country. In the United Nations project, there are 14 in the medical team and 33 on the staff distributing supplies and planning other services.

Lack of space makes it impossible to identify each team member. It must suffice to say that these working units of concerned individuals were culled from a variety of professions, of national, cultural, religious and political backgrounds. They come from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Holland, France, Switzerland, Egypt, England, the West Indies and the United States. Their names and jobs are listed on page 4.

DISPOSITION OF PERSONNEL ON UN-PALESTINE PROJECT

Field Director: Emmett Gulley

Liaison Director: Delbert Replogle

Geneva Liaison: Howard Wriggins

NORTHERN SECTION

Director	Emmett Gulley
Supp. Officer	Laurence Skeen
Transport	Douglas Cornog

Camp Directors

Deir El Baleh	Alwin Holtz
Breig & Magazy	Ray Hartsough
Nuseirat	Kelly Peckham
Gaza	Frances Morrisson
	Albert Chapel
	Ralph Hegenauer
	Ida Hegenauer
Jabalīs	Corrinne Hardesty
	Dorothy Hedley

GENERAL ASSIGNMENT - GAZA

UNICEF Distribution	Cordelia Trimble
Camp Activities & Sports	Lee Dinsmore
Publicity	Corrinne Hardesty
Regist. & Local Personnel	Dorothy Hedley
Office & AFSC Personnel	Betty Peckham
House Manager	Adele Holtz
Education	Abd - el - Hamid Zaki
	Rita Morgan

SOUTHERN SECTION

Director	Elden Mills
Supp. Officer	Dick Rhoads

Camp Directors

Rafah	Franck Revoyre
	Ruth Van Auken
Khan Yunis	Walter Johnson
	Marshall Sutton

CAIRO OFFICE

Finance Control	Elmon Benton
Accountant	Cassius Fenton
Office Manager	Avery Demond

PORT SAID OFFICE

Supp. Officer	Bernard Klausener
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En Route FOR ASSIGNMENT

Forrest Eisenbise	Camp. Prog.
Malcom Jackson	
Thornton Price	
Ian Robinson	

MEDICAL PROGRAM

Medical Director	Dr. Jerome Peterson	Nurse	Maire Halonen
Doctors	Dr. Berry	Nurse	Theodora Hodgkins
	Mrs. (Dr.) Berry	Nurse	Margaret Holt
Administration	Jesse Hillman	Nurse	Lucy Shepardson
Sanitary Engineer	David Walker	Nurse	Josina Burger
		Nurse	Rachel Ask
		Nurse	Annalisa Bergstrand
		Male Nurse	Vern Pings
		Male Nurse	Titus Lehman

DISPOSITION OF PERSONNEL AFSC-ISRAEL PROJECT

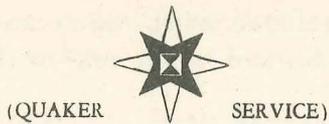
ACRE

Unit Leader	Levinus Painter
Clothing Distribution	Ruth Replogle
	Don Peretz
Reception of Supplies	Chas. Freeman

En Route FOR ASSIGNMENT

Mary Sime
Andreas Nielsen
Kirsten Nielsen

Palestine REFUGEE RELIEF



of the American Friends Service Committee

Bulletin No. 2

April 1949

IN A WORLD OF SAND AND CACTUS

In this world of sand and cactus, where many towns have lived until recently as they have for the past 2,000 years, the sudden influx of some 200,000 Arab refugees last year made many changes.

On the narrow strip of land in southern Palestine which remains under Egyptian control, the few existing towns have mushroomed to twice and three times their original sizes, and out of the very sands have sprung the huge tent villages housing thousands. Many villagers have become refugees in their own homes as facilities for providing shelter, food and water have become strained; and the newcomers have taken refuge in abandoned buildings, in huts made from branches and burlap bags, in caves, and in tents provided by the Egyptian army and from United Nations supplies.

Water is scarce; trees and shrubs have been stripped for use as fuel, destroying much future food. Many rations must be eaten uncooked. Other than a stool or chair there is little in the way of furniture in the refugee shelters. Warmer weather, which will bring relief from the misery of winter cold and exposure, may bring more devastating misery in the form of infectious diseases unless preventive measures are swift and thorough.

Some 45 Quaker workers are distributing United Nations supplies of food, blankets and tents among the refugees. They are also carrying on a medical program, setting up prayer tents (90 per cent of the refugees are Moslems), and endeavoring to meet the classroom needs of the 70,000 refugee children of school age.

Under the administration of the director of the Cairo School for Social Work, loaned to the Quaker Unit for halftime work, tent schools using refugee teachers and primers furnished by the Egyptian government have been set up.



Arab children receive the first allotment of blankets - one for each three members of a family. Tents and caves are cold on desert nights.

UN Photo

VISIT TO NUSEIRAT

The quiet of Nuseirat is one of the most striking aspects of this refugee camp which was once a British prison camp. The camp site lies close to the sea, south of Gaza, and is not near or in a town as in the case at several others.

As in all the camps, a great many people sit about doing nothing for hours on end. This seems completely acceptable to them, but strikes a busy westerner as a sad waste of human time and energy in the face of so many things which need desperately to be done. But the sitting about at Nuseirat seems peaceful and in harmony with the quiet fields which surround it on three sides and the dunes on the other. The countryside is now green in large patches. Around the camp, fields are being ploughed by donkey or camel.

The site of the camp itself is distressing. Ugly, naked chimneys rear up in jagged lines. The firm, stone buildings which composed the prison camp have been sold or looted until little remains but heaps of rubble, a few blocks of roofless buildings and some roadways. One block of roofless cells surrounds an open court. Some temporary roofs have been put up over them, and here hundreds of families have sought shelter, two or three families to a cell not larger than 10 by 15 square feet.

Quaker distributions at Nuseirat take place in a Quonset hut, which had been occupied by 20 families who were supplied with tents. It is probably the best distribution center in the whole area. The entire camp can be served in three days with three items, not including flour. It takes three days to distribute flour alone to the camp of 13,000 people.

Announcement of the distribution is made by a colorful character - a refugee with lungs of iron. Swarthy, merry, stocky and dressed in gorgeous purple trousers cut on the baggy Turkish style offset by a dark green jacket, he loves his work. As the thousands of refugees press around the barbed wire surrounding the clearing that sets off the distribution hut, he walks along the barrier on the inside, flourishing his stick, announcing the distributions according to village of origin, and occasionally harangues the crowd.

DESAKE FARRAJ AND FAMILY

Desake Farraj and his family - his wife, four children and his father - share half a cell at Nuseirat with another family of six. But Desake Farraj is lucky. His family has the front half of the cell with the doorway into the courtyard. There is no door and a burlap bag keeps out only some of the wind, but at least they are not completely cooped up.

The cell is divided by a stone partition which goes three-fourths of the way to the ceiling. An opening about 20 inches wide makes a passage from the front to the rear half. Each family has a tiny smudge fire of twigs burning between two bricks. On this they cook their bread and other food. There is no chimney. Their household furnishings are a few blankets and two pans. The Farraj family walked to Nuseirat from Lydda where Desake had been a merchant. He sold flour, sugar and rice, and he owned orange and olive groves.

*-Corrinne Hardesty
AFSC Correspondent, Gaza.*

THINKING BEYOND RELIEF

Clarence and Lilly Pickett have returned from a three month trip to the Middle East where they met with Egyptian, Israeli and United Nations officials, visited the AFSC-UN relief project in southern Palestine and the AFSC refugee relief program in Israel. Their mission carried them on to Beirut where they conferred with the League of Red Cross Societies serving Lebanon, Syria and Trans Jordan, on around the Mediterranean for 12 days of comparative rest, and to London to report to British Friends on their journey.

They returned to this country with a deep sense of the suffering of uprooted people, the suffering that must yet come to those caught in the dilemma of the Middle East, and with the conviction that beyond the relief services Quakers be concerned with thinking and planning for long-range solutions to the refugee problem.

In Clarence Pickett's own words: "If any effort is to be made in seriousness, we must insist on some prerequisites for discussion. First, the refugees must never be considered as possibilities for political bargaining. They are people who are in trouble and need help.

"The fact of the existence of the some 700,000 Arab refugees now in Palestine and the surrounding Arab states, must be accepted by Arab and Jew alike, and honest and sacrificial efforts made quickly to resettle them.

"We must help the refugees themselves face their situation realistically. Most of them are farmers, but they cannot return to their little plots of land, to the farming methods of the time of Jesus which they have been using. They must realize that if they return home they will live in a new state, a modern state, a state that is becoming more and more industrialized and which will insist, for its own material survival, that every plot be used to produce the maximum amount possible. The refugees are facing an industrial revolution and must make the necessary adjustments."



Refugees drawing water at one of the few taps at Breig camp near Gaza. The AFSC is endeavoring to get more taps installed at each camp.

UN Photo



THINKING BEYOND RELIEF, continued...

"Some refugees as they fled home left behind valuable properties. For those who do not return, there should be prompt and full indemnity for property loss. For those who wish to return to their business or professional life, early agreements should provide for repatriation.

"A public works program involving simple forms of employment should be devised promptly, pending development of longer-range projects, financed from the United Nations fund.

"Technical assistance in Farm Credit and modern agricultural methods must be made available to the governments of Israel and the neighboring Arab states to train the refugees for a substantial repatriation in Israel or for resettlement elsewhere.

"Naturally the Arab refugees want to go home. Home is now the Jewish State of Israel. It is my conviction that if the above steps are followed there is every reason to urge a substantial repatriation of Arabs into the State of Israel.

"Resettlement programs can be planned and executed successfully in Syria, Trans-Jordan and Iraq. However, these programs will call for great technical skill, planning and time. Large tracts of land will have to be irrigated so that they might become productive. Only by the extension of outside financing can these essential developments take place."

AFSC IN ISRAEL

Service Committee workers in the Old City of Acre, Israel, live in the midst of history. As they have written, "This city is mentioned as early as the 15th century B.C., when it was captured by an Egyptian king. The crusades left their mark---in fact, they left the vaulted foundations of a church, which we now use as a garage for our jeep.

"Recent Jewish immigrants are living in the New City of Acre, which looks like an American suburb. The Old City, surrounded on two sides by the sea and on all four sides by walls, is the sort of place where the stories of the Arabian Nights might have happened. Here are living some 3,000 Arabs, two-thirds of them refugees who are living in houses left vacant by the large numbers of people who fled. The Israeli government has been giving free rations for some 500 persons. The major problem now is unemployment...

"The ordinary people have suffered much. And the 'ordinary people' include Arabs, Jews of Israel, and the recent Jewish immigrants from Europe."

Since last fall, the Quaker team of six people has been distributing clothing and textiles to both Arabs and Jews in five Israeli communities near Acre, and carrying on a small program of individual services. A community center has been opened, to provide educational motion pictures, recreational facilities and sewing classes. The team also recently began the distribution of United Nations food for the International Red Cross in western Galilee. They are distributing flour, beans, peas, dates and other items to about 8,000 Arabs.

The program in Israel, AFSC sponsored and financed, is carried out in cooperation with the International Red Cross.

Palestine REFUGEE RELIEF

of the American Friends Service Committee

(QUAKER



SERVICE)

Bulletin No. 3

May 1949

MILK FOR ARAB REFUGEES

Cordelia Trimble

When I undertook to administer the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) milk program among Arab refugees in southern Palestine, I certainly did not know that it would lead me into the tin business, to become adept at harêm etiquette or to take up camel riding. All these were involved, however, in getting underway a feeding program designed to bring one litre of milk a day to more than 75,000 children, pregnant women and nursing mothers.

We thought to get an accurate count of these children and women, but that was before we understood the elusive quality of the Arab refugee. The refugees were in house groups, without self-government and with very little external authority.

How many children were there? How to count them? How to bring milk to them or them to milk? I rode camel-back among the peaceful, spacious dunes, visiting these people, finding out where and how they live, trying to figure out how to feed them.

Campbell Hays

Above: Milk distribution at Khan Yunis. Some 15,000 women and children receive a milk ration here every day.



Campbell Hays

Arab child with kettle for milk brings up the end of a line. Distribution begins about 8 A.M., mixing and other operations having been going on for over an hour already. Men and women line up separately. Since the milk is not consumed on the spot, anyone in the family may call for it.

Clothing distribution at Deir el Belah. Rita Morgan of the Quaker team distributes the few and almost entirely inappropriate garments which were all the team had to give out. Tents and food have also been distributed by the Quaker team.

Campbell Hays



MILK FOR ARAB REFUGEES continued....

The matter of getting equipment for this distribution became a contest with fate, a matter of making something out of nothing at all. In the midst of the desert, barren alike of native products and imported materials, we somehow had to find a way to mix powdered milk with hot, germ-free water, and see that it was poured into containers for drinking. This brought me into the tin business. Every tinsmith in the locality helped make oil drums into stoves. Other drums were cut down, their edges turned over neatly, the insides brightly tinned, and used for mixing milk and water. Old stoves yielded their magazines which were cleaned, tinned inside, and converted into kettles.

The market in Gaza produced three copper kettles. We had hoped for milk tins such as are used in the United States, to carry milk from mixing center to sub-station. No tinsmith in the area knew what they looked like nor could figure out how to make one from a sketch. We had to borrow the town's entire supply of milk tins. The tinsmiths also made scraps of tin into litre measures for all the distribution points. Some 15,000 distribution cards were scrounged from old files of the Red Cross and the Egyptian Army. These were stamped with the Quaker stamp so that the milk could be had while the unwieldy business of getting cards printed in Cairo and brought in by plane or train was going on. Sacks from the flour and wheat distributions were used on the floors of the mixing and distribution huts.

In an area where every habitable building was inhabited by three to ten times as many people as it could reasonably accommodate, the problem of getting enough space to set up a milk kitchen called for the miraculous. The Egyptian Army built several huts for us out of material we scrounged from abandoned buildings at the airport. The engineers got the first hut up in 48 hours, despite difficulties of transportation, scarcity of nails, and the vagaries of volunteer labor. In Gaza the mayor offered us the use of the mosques. In one locality we used the school, after school hours. Elsewhere we used a political club, the former quarters of the Moslem brotherhood, and even contemplated using a slaughterhouse. Five mobile kitchens given us by the British Middle East Mission had to be rebuilt, an operation which took weeks. Then they were lost in transit.

In the midst of trying to build the huts, the Egyptian Army, which had provided the engineering brains and assembled the laborers, began to move south and west in accordance with the armistice terms. The army was going south just at the time some of our building materials were coming north from Cairo, and the inevitable side-tracking occurred. Right at the high point of our need, 21 carloads of materials were lost. The engineer corps, which had been so helpful, had to leave us to install the army in its new location.

At the distributions centers there has never been any dearth of Arabs to volunteer their services for mixing, heating, carrying, dispensing, washing up and the rest of the chores. Problems rise from the fact that some of the women are veiled Moslems and that some of the work, such as tending the stoves, lifting heavy vats of milk or water, must be done by men and boys.

Refugee family outside makeshift "home" of twigs and branches at Khan Yunis. Many who had been fishermen now live on the beaches, their houses made of blankets or palm branches draped around an old oar or mast stuck in the mud. They had been used to living in houses and the exposure has been hard on them. One Muktar, who had been in charge of 100 families, lived in a 10-room house in Haifa. His home now is a sheetmetal hut of one room.

UN Photo



MEDICAL REPORT, SOUTHERN PALESTINE

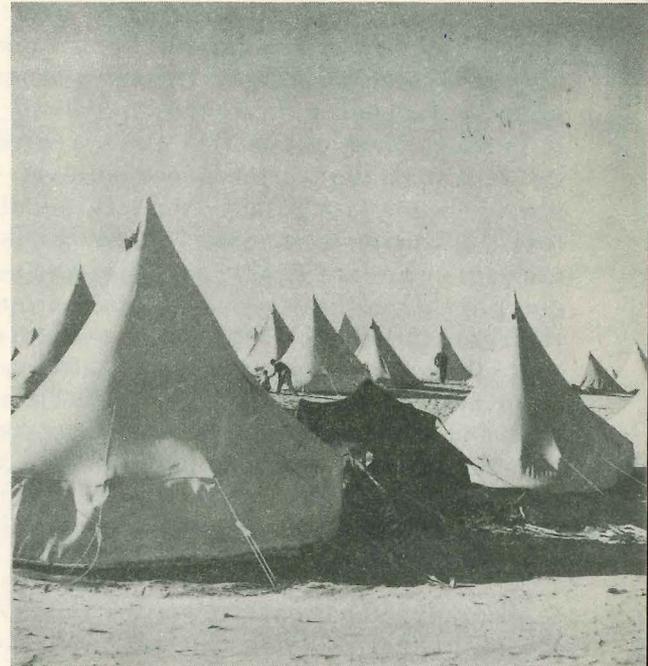
Jerome S. Peterson, M.D.

Our medical staff is made up of volunteer imported Quaker workers and hired local doctors, nurses and other personnel. Our health program is a continuation of the Palestine Public Health Department which had enjoyed a good reputation long before our arrival. We have supported two of the three hospitals in Gaza by providing some medical supplies, and the third by providing a surgeon for its staff. The Municipality of Gaza is soon to open a hospital to which we shall also give some support. All hospitals devote a large proportion, if not all, their beds to refugees.

In each of the nine refugee camps a clinic is maintained, provided partly by us and partly by the local government. The medical supplies are provided largely by UNRPR and UNICEF. So far, the clinic services have been limited to general medical, dressings and minor surgery, and immunization against typhoid and smallpox.

With the inauguration of a school program we shall enter the field of school health. With some recently-arrived diphtheria toxoid, immunization against this disease will be started. Venereal disease survey and treatment clinics will also soon begin. Schizomycosis and malaria surveys have already begun, with so far no findings. Mention of these last three diseases brings to mind the need for a laboratory. I am extremely proud to record that we now have one which will be of great value in diagnosing infectious diseases before they become epidemic. Typhus, reported in Hebron and one other village recently, is being studied and measures taken to prevent its spread.

The health of the refugees is not too bad. Statistics are very inadequate, but there are no epidemics or outbreaks as yet, and death rates do not seem above average for this area.



Campbell Hays

Tent schools supplement regular school facilities at Jabalyia. The children sit on the ground and learn lessons by rote. Quakers workers hope to provide them with benches or sacks to sit on.



DDT residual spraying (left), an anti-malarial measure, is part of the medical-sanitation program carried on by Quaker workers in southern Palestine. Providing an adequate number of latrines, sufficient water distribution points and with enough bathing facilities are also part of the program. At right is view of the Jabalyia clinic pharmacy.



Campbell Hays

REPORT FROM ISRAEL

"It has been quite an experience to observe at first hand a new state being formed," writes one of our workers in Israel. "Some people are almost hysterical about it, not realizing just what is happening or what is involved to make it lasting. Many claim that it is a miracle and let it go at that. Others are sure it was the strong young army that made it possible and feel a security in it. Some of the heads of government who are truly an able and educated group, realize that they must make friends with their neighbors if they hope to survive; also that they must overcome the bitterness and deep hate that always accompanies war ... We have found the government leaders we have come in contact with most cooperative and appreciative of our efforts to aid a bit in this great task of bridging the gap of hate and bitterness within Israel.

"Perhaps the most staggering observation is the effort that is being put forth by some 60,000 people not only to receive but to welcome and absorb into the new state 140,000 refugees who seem to be not welcome any other place on earth. Many of them have spent years in concentration camps and now find it difficult to make necessary adjustments."

The small Quaker team, with headquarters in Acre, is made up of American, British, Danish and Jewish personnel. The old town of Acre and nearby villages have been host to some 3,300 Arab refugees for the past year, and a number of the new Jewish immigrants. The refugees in the city moved into houses left vacant by others who fled. But they are confined without adequate food, clothing, medical or social facilities, and no jobs. Those living in the villages are crowded into the homes of the villagers.

The first job confronting the Quaker team was to distribute clothing. In mid-winter - the coldest in 30 years for that area - clothing, shoes and bedding were distributed to more than

15,000 people. Most of them had only summer clothes with them. About a third of the heavy clothing went to Jewish and the rest to Arab refugees. Several tons of clothing now on hand are to be distributed this summer.

In northwestern Galilee the Service Committee workers are helping distribute UNRPR food to some 6,100 persons in 24 towns and villages. Some of the food must be carried by camel to the towns in the hills near the Lebanon border. Overall responsibility for food distribution in Galilee is under the direction of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

The way seems to be open with the Israeli government for Friends to remain in Israel for an indefinite period to help in the tremendous reconstruction job there. It is hoped that the emergency measures now employed in food and clothing distributions can soon give way to more basic community rehabilitation projects. A community center is now in the planning stages. Sewing groups have already been started, in which articles sent from America are converted into clothing most acceptable to the recipients.

Intercultural activities are hard to carry out in Israel, where there are so many "concurrent" cultures. Among the Arabs of Galilee are Moslems, Druses and Christians. The Christian group is Maronite, Greek Orthodox, Greek Catholic and Roman Catholic, and a few Protestants. There is also a remnant of Bahai culture in Old Acre and in Haifa. These groups have often had separate schools, and in the villages there are Mukhtars representing each group. In larger towns each has its own courts for matters pertaining to religion, marriage, divorce.

In serving those in need the Quaker team has had to be in touch with many of the different groups. When planning clothing distributions it had the aid, for example, of an interfaith welfare committee composed of six women - three Moslems, two Catholics and one Protestant.

The UNITED NATIONS RELIEF FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES is administered in southern Palestine by the American Friends Service Committee. In northern Palestine UNRPR is administered by the International Committee of the Red Cross; in Arab states by the League of Red Cross Societies. All three administering organizations are accountable to the United Nations Director for UNRPR - Stanton Griffis, American Ambassador to Egypt.

Palestine REFUGEE RELIEF

of the American Friends Service Committee

(QUAKER



SERVICE)

Bulletin No. 4

June - July, 1949



SCHOOLS

Schools, some in tents, others in the open air and abandoned buildings, are maintained by Quaker workers and staffed largely by refugee teachers for some 20,000 Arab children of school age in southern Palestine. One third of the school program is supported by UNESCO funds.

At present there are few books or benches, no pencils and not enough blackboards and chalk. The children learn lessons by rote and project methods. Where dirt is prevalent and soap scarce, kindergartners in particular learn about combing hair and washing faces. Sewing classes for girls are part of of the effort made to revive native skills among the refugees.



MEDICAL SERVICES

Clinics, in each of seven refugee camps, form the basis of the purely medical services carried on in southern Palestine. Each is staffed with physician, nurse and midwife. Besides general medical attention, minor surgery is performed, pre-natal and infant care given, and eye treatment provided.

In the picture, top left, a Finnish nurse, member of the Quaker team, talks to patients queued inside the Jabalia clinic courtyard.

Aid in maintenance of three hospitals already at work in the area is another part of the program. In the Church Missionary Society of England Hospital, left center, 80 percent of the beds are now for refugees. The regular hospital staff carries on as usual, although the hospital was incorporated into the UNRPR medical program. Its capacity has been enlarged, its facilities increased and staff augmented. Even so, the tiny newborn baby in this picture has no crib and must lie at the foot of his mother's bed.

The Isolation Hospital, lower left, was, in December, one little hut and some tents on the sand dunes to the northwest of Gaza. It is now a series of huts, still primitive, but able to accommodate most patients with contagious diseases. Known as the "fever" hospital locally, it is under the direction of the Palestine Public Health Department. The patients in this picture use blankets on the floor because the 40 beds are all in use.

Mother and child, below, queue with others for clinic service.



MEDICAL SERVICES Continued...

When the Quaker team arrived in southern Palestine early this year, they found the refugees undernourished, living outdoors or crowded together in tents or abandoned buildings. An epidemic under those conditions would have been disastrous.

Existing medical and health services could not possibly meet the new needs. A diagnostic laboratory was quickly set up in the compound of the CMS Hospital by the U.S. Navy for diagnosis of diseases likely to be epidemic.

Above right, Dr. Jerome Peterson, director of the Quaker medical program on loan from the World Health Organization, examines slides in the new laboratory. At his left is laboratory director, an Armenian from Jerusalem. Supplies are from the WHO. Prior to the installation of this laboratory, it was necessary to make tests in Cairo, causing dangerous delays.

DDT spraying at Nuseirat refugee camp, second right, is part of the epidemic prevention plan. A date on each tent indicates when it was sprayed. Each spraying lasts about three months.

Digging pits for latrines, third right, job performed by the refugees at Jabalia, is another phase of the sanitary program. The buildings, prefabricated, were set up in a work yard and brought to each location ready to be put up.

Solar pumping station, lower right, was installed by Quaker team to augment water supply. Six gallons of oil are supplied daily to keep it running. One tank is for land irrigation, a second for personal use. Long queues of women and children line up daily to draw water.

Airlift between Cairo, Gaza and Jerusalem, lower picture, has been for transporting personnel and freight as well as medical supplies.



DISTRIBUTIONS

Food, blankets, tents, milk and some clothing are being distributed by Quaker workers in southern Palestine. At left, top to bottom, are scenes of Rafah warehouse where flour, beans and oil for cooking are brought by rail, sorted, then redistributed by truck to the seven refugee camps where distribution centers operate.

Below, left top, Quaker workers and clerks hear inevitable complaints. Other pictures show distribution of beans, oil and flour. Refugees present cards, and the amount they are allowed on the basis of number in family is called out to the man measuring the food.

Food distribution goes to some 250,000 Arab refugees in the Gaza area. The milk program, supplied through UNICEF, reaches more than 75,000 mothers and children daily.



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For further information and subsequent issues of this Bulletin address American Friends Service Committee, 20 South Twelfth Street, Philadelphia 7, Pa.

Palestine REFUGEE RELIEF



of the American Friends Service Committee

Bulletin No. 5

August, 1949

LAUNDRY AND BATHHOUSE were set up early in April when one of the 4 distribution centers in Gaza was moved to a mosque. Adjoining the mosque was a small unroofed room with foot bath for devout Moslems. Service Committee worker, Ida Hagenauer, asked local permission to turn the facilities into baby baths so that mothers waiting in line for food could scrub their youngsters.

Today there are 12 laundry tubs in addition to the 4 baby baths, and in a second room are 3 showers and several latrines.

Disposal pit and well had to be dug, pump and water storage tanks installed. Labor was provided by the refugees themselves.

The laundry was popular from the beginning, and showers are now in constant use, with 20 women permitted in the bathhouse at once for a 3 hour period. They may return only after 10 days' time because the demand is so great.

Pictures show laundry and bathhouse in use.



All photos in this Bulletin and in Bulletin No. 4 were taken by Campbell Hays.

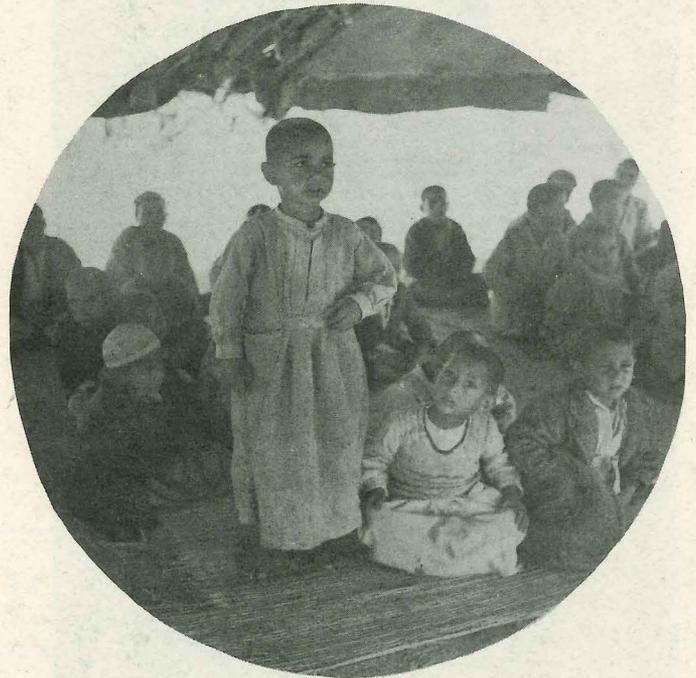
CARPENTRY SHOPS



In the Remel carpentry shop started by Quaker workers, Arab refugee volunteers make furniture for other refugees living primitively without beds, tables, chairs or other furniture. In the Gaza shop, not pictured here, more than 150 pieces of furniture have already been made.



SCHOOLS AND



THE OVERALL PROGRAM IN SOUTHERN PALESTINE

At the invitation of the United Nations, the American Friends Service Committee is administering a relief program in southern Palestine, where more than 200,000 Arab refugees are confined.

Food, clothing, tent and blanket distributions initiated the work early in the year. At present flour, beans and other foods are being distributed to all the refugees. Milk, supplied through UNICEF, is being distributed to 108,000 children and mothers.

A medical program includes clinic services in each of 7 refugee camps; aid in maintenance of 3 local hospitals; a newly-established diagnostic laboratory; and medical-sanitation measures such

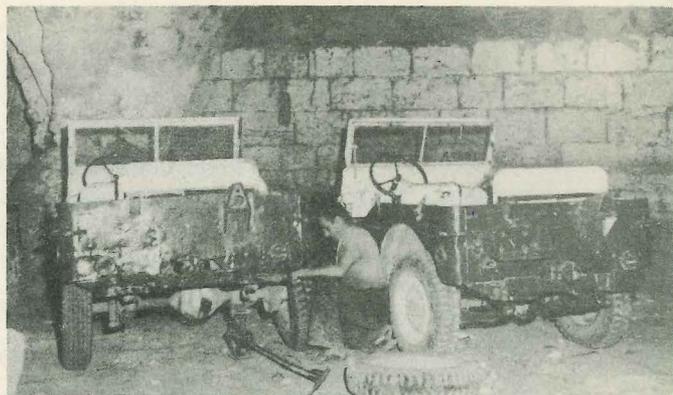
as DDT spraying, latrine construction, and careful watch over water supplies.

Wherever there is human need, one thing inevitably leads to another. What began as the above routine relief services has led to the setting up of laundry and bathhouse as shown on page one; to carpentry shops; and to schools and recreation for some 20,000 children as shown on these center pages. It has led as well to the setting up of prayer tents for Moslem worshippers, and to a plan whereby cotton mills standing idle in Gaza are now at work weaving cloth into garments for refugees, at the same time providing local residents with employment.

RECREATION



ISRAEL



In addition to the program in southern Palestine for Arab refugees, the Service Committee is carrying on its own program among both Jew and Arab refugees in Israel. The Committee is distributing food and clothing to both Jews and Arabs, and is organizing sewing groups, (above, left) among the Arabs. It is also distributing food sent by the United Nations to Arab refugees in western Galilee, in cooperation with the International Red Cross.

Mother and child, left, sort beans, a part of their ration provided through Quaker services. Clothing, above, must be carried from truck to distribution center through street too narrow for traffic. Quaker garage, top right, servicing personnel and distributions, is in foundations of church dating to time of the Crusades.

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