

Regd. No.

UNRRA (EUROPEAN REGION).

H 15/2.

Date of Paper	RECORD
Date Registered	14.2.46. REPORT ON MISS UDELL'S VISIT TO EUROPE.

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83528D) Wt P470/22 Sm 7/44 H J R & L Gp 51

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
Miss U. J. W. <i>W.</i>	8/3/46.				
Registry	19/3				
Miss Amy (W. J. W.)	19/3.				
Registry.	26/3.				
Rev. U. J. W.	7/10				

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(27628) Wt.P.470/22 5,000 7/44 A.& E.W.Ltd. Gp.745

THE REHABILITATION OF EUROPE

(2)

INDEXED

"Before the war nurses had the best international set up of any profession and UNRRA has provided the first experiment of international working: it is being 100 per cent. successful. Miss F.N. Udell, Chief of UNRRA Nursing Service Branch, European Regional Office, had just returned to London from a tour with Miss Lilian Johnston, Chief Nurse, UNRRA, Washington, to survey the nursing work of UNRRA in Europe, visiting nurses in Austria, ~~Dodecanese~~, Germany, Greece, Italy, the Middle East, ~~Poland~~ and Yugoslavia. They went to make contact with the nurses and help them work out their administrative problems. Twenty different countries are represented in UNRRA's 620 nurses; 300 are working among the million displaced persons who are cared for in ^{about} 360 camps; the other nurses, ~~[working with the UNRRA advisory committees]~~ are helping the nursing profession in the various countries to cope with the tremendous task of rehabilitation. In almost every case the UNRRA nurse works with her opposite number in the country, sometimes an interpreter is necessary, but very soon all language difficulties are overcome.

The problems they face are almost all immediate - the provision of ante and post natal care, ^{help for the sick,} protection against epidemics and persuasion of people and officials that such protection ^{, by immunization, etcetera,} is ~~essential~~ of utmost importance, ~~and help for the sick.~~ UNRRA nurses, Miss Udell said, have met no unanticipated difficulties and the problems, both major and minor, have been all those which were foreseen beforehand. They work under conditions which are hard compared to those in this country and their job is hard compared with the nurse's work over here but their standard of health is excellent: ~~[UNRRA's nursing services have no labour questions.]~~

Different countries present different problems. Greece was a country with certain specific nursing difficulties: she had only 400 trained

2 highly
nurses and although some were ~~maximally~~ qualified in teaching and administration the small number made the provision of even the minimum nursing activities difficult. Miss O. Baggallay, ^{UNRRA Chief Nursing, Consultant in Greece,}
Miss Udell said, was helping ^{to} ~~the~~ remedy the position by the year's concentrated nursing training now in operation. Another project which would have long term effects was the plan to bring 50 Greek nurses to Britain for general training and district nurse training so that they would be ^{skilled enough} ~~fully equipped~~ to undertake nursing work ^{even} in the wilder parts of Greece. Government grants, gifts from the American Greek War Relief ^{Association} ~~Fund~~ and the sponsoring by the Queen's Institute of District Nursing were making this possible. Other countries were offering post-certificate courses to Greek nurses. With the help of the British Council UNRRA planned to create a new ^{hospital and} school for nurses in Salonica comparable to those in this country, and the British Council would arrange for a few nurses to go out and help get it going.

^{Gne} The great problem in Yugoslavia is the need for expert plastic surgery to repair the damage done in the fierce hill fighting along the German lines of retreat. A British facio-maxillary team with three nurses in it is in Belgrade giving first hand information and help in this work in which Britain has during the war taken such a lead. Miss Udell saw the first all-Yugoslav team at work with the British team watching when she was there and was impressed with their work.

There is still a displaced persons camp in the Middle East consisting mainly of Yugoslavs and Greeks who have collected in Africa and are waiting for repatriation. Some Palestinians are helping here and there is good work going on training nursing aids who will be a great help to their countries when they return.

The major nursing problem in the 360 displaced persons camps in Germany and Austria, Miss Udell said, was to cope with the greatly

increased birth rate. Health varied in different camps but the infant mortality rate was no higher than average. Those in need of medical, surgical or psychological treatment were received in military or local hospitals outside the camp, where they had frequent visits from UNRRA personnel. The majority of these people were between the ages of 15 and 40, they were of all types, cultured and peasant and considering the mental and physical suffering they had been through they were stable^{and} hopeful and anxious to become useful citizens. There was a tendency to cling together, no doubt engendered by^{motives of} self defence but from which sprang the valuable and essential sociological factor, the family unit - a characteristic which was stronger in a displaced persons camp than in many other parts of the world.

"If the United Nations Organisation," Miss Udell concluded, "does not become purely political but leads to the getting together and the working together of people in the same trades and professions from all the various countries, our experiences in the UNRRA nursing service show that there is a tremendous hope for good international relationship."

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15/2
as from NURSING TIMES
Whitehall 883I
ext.36

Dear Miss Udell,

The information
you gave us was so wide,
scattered and interesting
I would be very grateful
if you would look through
this in case I have blund-
ered !

Would it be poss-
ible to ring up if there
is anything wrong on Mon-
day morning after 11 a.m. ?
I shall be at the College
until then. If we do not
hear we will go ahead and
hope all is well.

I do hope you are
all right after your travels
and perhaps one day will
write for us.

Yours sincerely

Fay Andrews

H 15/2 1.
INDEXED

To: Dr. Goodman, Director, Health Division.
From: Miss F.N. Udell, Chief Nurse.

Report of tour to Italy, Middle East and Greece -
21st October, 1945, to 27th December, 1945 - with
Miss Lillian Johnston, Chief Nurse, Washington.

1. Diary of tour.
2. Narrative Report, with special reports attached.
3. Summary, conclusions and recommendations.

1. Diary

Sunday, 21st October. Left London. Spent the night at the airport.

Monday, 22nd Held up at Marseilles. Spent night at airport there.

Tuesday, 23rd Held up at Naples. Visited UNRR office, saw Capt. Ida Boerstecher, U.S.P.H.S., Regional Nursing Consultant. Spent night at Sirena Hotel.

Wednesday, 24th Arrived Rome at lunch-time. UNRR Headquarters during afternoon. Conference with Miss Crowell, Chief Nurse, and later with Lt. Col. Reekie (USPHS) Director, Health Division (leaving 1st December), Dr. Benn, Deputy Director (who becomes Director on 1st December), and Miss Crowell. Discussion regarding our trip throughout Italy to see every nurse attached to the Mission, and on the general nursing position within the Mission, and the release of some nurses.

Thursday, 25th Meeting with Mr. Sorieri (Director of Relief Services), and later with Mr. Keeny (Chief of Mission) - Dr. Reekie present in each case. General discussion on nursing position. Talks with Miss Crowell and Capt. E. Gochanour, USPHS, (Regional Nursing Consultant, Rome), on general points connected with our visit.

Friday, 26th Meetings and individual talks with following nurses:- Miss I. Marshall, Miss O. Lee, Miss C. Dokken, Miss M. Shoemaker and Miss M. Ruoss. Further talks with Miss Crowell and Miss Gochanour.

Saturday, 27th Road travel to Florence - all day trip. Miss Crowell and Miss Gochanour accompanied us.

Sunday, 28th Discussions with Capt. A. McBride, USPHS, (Regional Nursing Consultant, Florence) regarding her personal position.

Monday, 29th Further discussion with Miss McBride and with Dr. Spackman, Regional Medical Officer, regarding the general position in that region, and the release of Miss McBride for assignment as Chief Nurse of the China Mission.

Tuesday, 30th Return to Rome. Talk with Miss McEwan, Regional Nursing Consultant, Sicily, regarding her personal position. ☒ Wishes to transfer to Greece Mission if L.C.C. consent to further period of secondment. (Subsequently reassigned to Greece Mission until 1st May).

Wednesday, 31st

Conferences with Miss Crowell and Miss Gochanour re:
- a) Employment of nurses recruited in Italy; b) Possibility of UNRRA scholarships for Italian nurses. Arrangements made for us to meet Miss Viotti, Nursing Consultant (Italian) at Ministry of Health. Arrangements completed for our visits to Lecce and Sardinia.

Thursday, 1st Nov.

Road travel to Naples. Discussion with Dr. Brown (Regional Medical Officer) and Miss Beerstecher regarding release of the latter for assignment as Regional Nursing Consultant in China.

Friday, 2nd Nov.

To Foggia. Called to see Lt. Jean Rehner and Lt. Ann Tilghman (USPHS) who were patients in the U.S. Military Hospital there, after a motor accident as a result of which a third UNRRA nurse, Lt. Imogene Long, died of injuries received. Miss Rehner will be fit to resume duty shortly, and Miss Tilghman will have to be invalided home. On to Lecce, and discussion with Lt. Col. Hamilton, USPHS, (Medical Officer in charge of camps) on the general position of nurses attached to these camps.

Saturday, 3rd

To Santa Louca camp. Visit to M.I. room and hospital. Talks with nurses collectively and individually. On to Santa Osaeria camp. Visit to hospital and talks with nurses there.

Sunday, 4th

To Santa Maria Dibagni camp. Visit to M.I. Rooms and hospital and talks with nurses there. Back to Bari for night.

Monday, 5th

Return to Rome from Bari - all day trip.

Tuesday, 6th

Conference with Dr. Benn and Miss Crowell to report on visit to camps, especially the following points:-

- a) Amenities for the staffs in the camps.
- b) Recreational transport facilities from these isolated areas.
- c) Winter uniforms for nurses recruited in Italy.

Conference with Miss Viotti regarding the general position of Italian nursing, and the possibility of obtaining some sort of "fellowships" for Italian nurses, who cannot be assisted by UNRRA because Italy is not a member government.

Wednesday, 7th

Complications in travel arrangements to Sardinia. Consultation with Miss Crowell on nursing and progress reports. Preparation of our report on the camp situation for Dr. Benn.

Thursday, 8th

Conference with Dr. Benn and Mr. Hutchings of Personnel Division, on the points raised in our report on the D.P. camps in the south of Italy. Immediate action promised (and taken) by Mr. Hutchings. Interview granted by Princess de Piedmont, who was extremely interested in UNRRA's nursing programme, and in general nursing matters.

Friday, 9th

Entire morning spent at airport, awaiting for a plane for Sardinia. No flying. Returned to hotel and had to retire to bed. Decided that Miss Johnston should go to Sardinia alone.

Saturday, 10th

Sunday, 11th

Monday, 12th

In bed, and recovering.

/Tuesday, 13th

Tuesday, 13th Miss Johnston returned last night, having only reached Naples. May take a week to get to Sardinia by R.A.F. In to office and decided to try Italian air line.

Wednesday, 14th Still waiting. Commenced preparation of report.

Thursday, 15th " " " " " "

Friday, 16th At lake-side 5 hours waiting for sea-plane to Sardinia. Returned to Rome.

Saturday, 17th At airport waiting land plane until 1 p.m. Returned to Rome.

Sunday, 18th To Sardinia at last. Discussions on general position with Capt. E. Sprague (Regional Nursing Consultant), 1st Lt. Norma Panton, and 2nd Lt. B. Ogden.

Monday, 19th Visits in Cagliari to:-
a) An orphanage. b) Feeding Centres(3). c) Children's Hospital.
Further talks with the three nurses.

Tuesday, 20th Trip to Carbonia. Visits to:-
a) The Mayor, (b) Old Civil hospital. c) New hospital building, for 150 beds, which can be opened as soon as UNRRA supplies and equipment are available. d) Nursery school and Children's Feeding Centre. e) Feeding Centre for expectant and nursing mothers.

Wednesday, 21st Return to Rome. Talk with Miss Gochanour regarding the possible recruitment of N.Z.E.F. nurses. Conference with Dr. Benn regarding the general situation in Sardinia, and the release of the three nurses.

Thursday, 22nd Conferences with Mr. Keeny and Mr. Soricori regarding the nurses' position in Sardinia. Written report prepared containing our recommendations as agreed with Dr. Benn. Talk with Miss Crowell, who was off duty sick.

Friday, 23rd Waiting travel to Cairo. Final talks with Miss Crowell and Miss Gochanour on reports, etc.

Saturday, 24th Still waiting travel. Talk with Dr. Benn on future of UNRRA nursing in Italy.

Sunday, 25th Still no travel. Some writing. Visit to Miss Crowell.

Monday, 26th Sudden travel to Cairo. All day trip. Arrived 10 p.m.

Tuesday, 27th In M.E.O. UNRRA. Conferences with 1st Lt. Helen Johnson, USPHS, acting as Chief Nurse; Major Finlay, Director of Health; Miss Gifford, Director of Relief Services; and Brigadier Waddington, Chief of Mission.

Wednesday, 28th To El Shatt camp, through a dust storm. Visits to camp hospital, M.I. Rooms, Infant Welfare Clinic, etc.

Thursday, 29th At El Shatt. General meeting with all nurses, and individual talks with each nurse. Visit to 13th (British Military) General Hospital. Tea with Principal Matron Whitehead (?) and Matron Allen.

/Friday 30th

Friday, 30th

From El Shatt to El Arish. All day trip due to severe dust storm.

Saturday, 1st December

Talk with two nurses at El Arish. Visit to camp hospital, M.I. Room, Infant Welfare clinic, etc. Return to Cairo. Dinner with Dr. Finlay.

Sunday, 2nd.

Sight-seeing tour. Dinner conference with Miss Gifford, Major Finlay and Miss H. Johnson. Agreement reached regarding reports, etc.

Monday, 3rd

Travel to Athens. Rested during the day. Talk in evening with Miss Baggallay (Chief Nurse) and Dr. Dodge (Lt. Col. USPHS, Deputy Director, Health Division.)

Tuesday, 4th

Interviews with individual nurses. Conference with Col. Lubbock, Director of Bureau of Relief Services. (Mr. Maben, Chief of Mission off sick). Arrangements made for field trip and visits. Attended meeting (with Miss Keene) at the Evangelismos hospital of the Education Sub-committee of the (Greek) Nursing Advisory Committee. Further talks with Miss Baggallay and Dr. Dodge.

Wednesday, 5th

Talks with individual nurses. Visit to Region A (Athens and surrounding district) headquarters office. Meetings with Dr. Boyd (Regional Medical Officer), Miss Henderson and Miss Kilpatrick (Regional Nursing Consultants) and the nurses in the Region. Visit to Hippocratin hospital to see especially arrangements for the nurses' home. Visit to Greek Red Cross hospital and training school for nurses. Miss Johnston taken ill in evening. Decided that she should go to 72nd British General Hospital instead of coming on the field trip.

Thursday, 6th

Left Miss Johnston with Dr. Dodge and Miss Michaelson to go to hospital. Miss Baggallay and I travelled to Patras - all day trip. Met Capt. C. Rosenwald, USPHS, (Regional Nursing Consultant) and Lt. Ruth Johnson, USPHS.

Friday, 7th

Discussion with Miss Rosenwald on general nursing work in Region C. Visits to:-

- a) Greek Red Cross T.B. Clinic
- b) Child feeding centre.
- c) Foundling home.
- d) General hospital.
- e) T.B. home.
- f) D.P. Camp.

Visit to home of Regional Director. Dinner with Dr. Forrest (Regional Medical Officer). Visit to Miss Holden (nurse attached to S.C.F.) who was off sick. Also met Capt. (Dr.) Lloyd Roberts, R.A.M.C., who is voluntarily assisting the UNRRA Regional health staff with orthopaedic and other work.

Saturday, 8th

To Messolognie. Met. 1st Lt. E. Erickson, USPHS. Visited hospital. Met. Capt. J. Snyder (Regional Nursing Consultant, Region D.) and 1st Lt. J. Harper, USPHS. On to Agrinion. Visits to Hospital, Infant Welfare Clinic, hospital and Clubs run by a Church Society, and a building being converted into Children's hostel by the Near East Foundation. General talk with the nurses during the evening.

/Sunday 9th

- Sunday, 9th Through an area of burnt villages all day to Gavelou to see the Red Cross hospital - no trained nursing staff. On to Amfissa to see hospital there. To Delphi for night.
- Monday, 10th To Lamia, Region A rural. Miss Henderson and Miss Kilpatrick met us there. Talk with them and 1st Lt. Ruth Ballam, USPHS, on nursing work of Region. Dinner with Major Hare - UNRRA representative for district.
- Tuesday, 11th Spent day with Miss Ballam who, at my request, did her ordinary day's work. Visits to - a) Nomiokos, b) P.I.K.P.A. clinic, c) Prison, d) Pharmacy, e) Child soup kitchen, f) Hospital, g) Village of Dhonokos.
- Wednesday, 12th Return to Athens. Miss Snyder with us. All day trip on extremely bad roads. Found Miss Johnston out of hospital and recovering. Dr. Dodge had left for Washington.
- Thursday, 13th Conference with Miss Johnston on field trip. Time spent carefully studying memoranda on supplementary projects, particularly the three British schemes. Meeting and talk to Health Division staff.
- Friday, 14th Interviews with individual nurses. Conference with Dr. Kopinaris, Chief Medical Officer, Greek Ministry of Health. Lunch with Col. Lubbock and Major Niblack, USPHS, (Deputy Director of Health). Further study of supplementary projects. Social meeting at Miss Baggallay's house with nurses - 16 present.
- Saturday, 15th Travel arrangements completed for return to London. Conference with Miss Baggallay on nursing vacancies. Agreement reached between Miss Johnston, Miss Baggallay and myself on allocations as between Washington and London.
- Dr. Vine arrived to take up duties as Director in the Health Division. Conference with Miss Bell Greve and Miss Kaiser on orthopaedic programme. Talk with Capt. M. Varley, USPHS, and Miss G. Cooper, Regional Nursing Consultants Regions E. & F.
- Sunday, 16th Dr. Vine to lunch and tea. Miss Johnston, Miss Snyder and Miss Cooper to tea. Trip to see Marathon Dam.
- Monday, 17th Waiting travel. Visit to State Maternity Hospital. Talk with Miss Papathanasion, UNRRA nurse acting as Matron. Began report of field trip in Greece.
- Tuesday, 18th) Still waiting. Frequent visits to Air booking office.
- Wednesday, 19th) Report progressing slowly.
- Thursday, 20th Still waiting! Visit to "Marika Iaiadore" private maternity hospital. Talk with Miss Kolea (Matron), and Professor Louros. Continued some work on report.
- Friday, 21st Position regarding travel still the same. Talk with Mr. Maben, Chief of Mission.
- Saturday, 22nd Still no hope of getting out. More writing!
- Sunday, 23rd - do -
- Monday, 24th Left Athens: arrived Rome.
- Tuesday, 25th Left Rome: arrived in Paris.
- Wednesday, 26th Still in Paris.
- Thursday, 27th Arrived London.

Narrative Report

1) Italy.

On arrival in Rome we found that considerable re-organisation was planned within the Health Division of the Mission. Lt. Col. Reekie was leaving on 1st December, and being succeeded as Director of the Division by Dr. Benn. Miss Crowell was relinquishing the post of Chief Nurse on 31st December, and would thereafter simply be available for a few days a month in a Consultant capacity on a daily basis. There was complete agreement within the Health Division that the Regional Nursing Consultants, working within the District offices, could be withdrawn from those posts because their work of surveying the need for medical supplies was almost completed, and, in any case, this having been the only type of work they had been able to do, they could not be said to be carrying out an UNRRA nursing programme.

It was agreed that Major Johnston and I should be allowed facilities to see all the UNRRA nurses in Italy and then discuss and plan their re-assignment. These facilities were given in the fullest measure, and we are extremely grateful for the help and co-operation received. We visited each District office (with the exception of Sicily), and the camps in the South, and did, in fact, see every UNRRA nurse in the country, 44 in all, including those 17 Italians and other nationals recruited by the Health Division of the Mission. Special reports in general terms were submitted by Major Johnston and myself while still in Italy, on our visits to the Southern Camps and to Sardinia, and are attached (A and B). Both these reports were acted upon before we left the country, though we had some difficulty in respect to the three nurses being used in Sardinia. Of the 27 U.S., Canadian and British nurses we saw, the following arrangements were finally made:

Remaining in Italy - 8. 7 in the camp programme and 1 (Miss Gochanour) at the Rome office as Acting Chief Nurse.
Transferred to ERO for re-assignment to D.P. Operations, Germany, 5.
Transferred to Greece Mission - 1.
Return to U.S. for re-assignment to China - 4.
Returning home for termination of appointment - 9 (including 3 from Philippeville).

Conferences were held with Miss Crowell and Miss Gochanour, as well as Col. Reekie, Dr. Benn, Dr. Hamilt, Mr. Sorieri and Mr. Keeny, on the general nursing position. It was with regret we found that no active programme of public health nursing had been possible, nor had it been considered advisable to attempt nursing educational work with Italian nurses, though at a discussion we had with Miss Viotti, the nursing consultant at the Italian Ministry of Health, we gained the impression that advice and assistance in such matters would have been welcomed in Italian professional circles.

The question of UNRRA fellowships for Italian nurses was also discussed, and we found considerable eagerness that professional post-graduate refresher courses should be made available to representative nurses, both in nursing education and in public health. Some doubt arose as to whether this was possible in view of the fact that Italy is not recognised as a member country - this I promised to investigate on my return to ERO.

Agreement was reached regarding the salaries and terms of employment of nurses recruited in Italy, and we agreed to supplement the nursing staff remaining in the D.P. camps as and when required.

In a talk with Dr. Benn before leaving, it was also agreed that the general position of the UNRRA nursing programme should be reviewed by him and Miss Gochanour at an early date, and that any necessary recommendations should then be submitted for consideration at ERO.

During our stay in Italy we were honoured by being received by the Princess de Piedmont, who was very interested in the work being done by UNRRA nurses in Europe.

2) Middle East

Miss Helen Johnson, 1st Lieut. USPHS, is acting as Chief Nurse in the Middle East Office, coming in from El Shatt camp as and when required.

On our arrival in Cairo a general discussion was held with her and Major Finlay, Director of Health, on the present position, as follows:-

Neursierat and Tolumbat camps have now been closed, leaving only two UNRRA D.P. Camps - El Shatt and El Arish.

At El Shatt there are approximately 9,000 D.Ps, most of them Yugoslavs. Nineteen nurses are on duty in the camp, including those engaged on "flight" duties, which may number anything from 1-7 nurses at a time. Seventy-eight Yugoslav nurses' aides have received instruction at the camp, and 15 are still on duty there. In addition 5 Greek nurses' aides and 1 Greek midwife are also employed.

El Arish is a small camp of about 500 persons, but as these are mostly Yugoslav Royalists, it is not possible to transfer them to El Shatt. Two nurses are at El Arish, and the constant need for some nursing and midwifery care makes it essential that these nurses should not be withdrawn.

Three nurses are also in East Africa, working in connection with the assembly camps for about 4,000 Greeks at Mombasa and Dar el Salaam. The possibility of Polish refugees being returned from East Africa through the Middle East had also to be taken into account in considering the needs for nurses.

Both the camps were visited, and all the nurses interviewed. The work being done in camps was also seen, including both the hospital and public health spheres. It is obvious that, with the exception of five, who had already resigned or sought re-assignment, no surplus staff is available for transfer at present. Of these five, three are returning home, one is being re-assigned to China, and one to the Greece Mission.

All the nurses are happy in their work and are willing to stay; conditions are reasonably good, and the question of supplying more nurses for the Middle East camps does not arise. In our opinion, the nursing staff are being well utilized and are doing a very fine job of work.

Conferences were held with Brigadier Waddington and Miss Gifford, as well as Major Finlay and Miss Johnson, on the general nursing position, and agreement was reached on the need to ensure a closer link with ERO and Washington regarding general and personal nursing reports.

3) Greece

It is impossible to find words to express adequately the pleasure and admiration Major Johnston and I feel after seeing the work being carried out by the nursing section of the Greece Mission under the magnificent leadership of Miss Baggallay.

There was no problem of poor morale for use to solve, no question arose of the wrong utilization of nurses, and apart from a few minor personal problems, our time was spent observing the way in which the nursing programme was being organised, and in discussing future plans.

Unfortunately, Miss Johnston was taken ill during our visit, and was unable to take the field trip into rural areas planned for us. However, on my return to Athens I prepared a detailed report for her and, as it shows the general plan of the nursing work in a typical Region, a copy is attached (C).

In addition to frequent talks and discussions with Miss Baggallay and members of the staff of the nursing section, conferences were held with Mr. Maben (Chief of Mission), Col. Lubbock (Director of Relief Services), Dr. Dodge (Deputy Director, Health Division), Miss Bell Greve, and later with Major Niblack (acting Director, Health Division) and with Dr. Vine on his arrival in Athens. We also met Dr. Kopinaris, Chief Medical Officer at the Ministry of Health, Professor Louros (Obstetrician), and several leaders of the nursing profession in Greece. All these talks included discussion on the extension of the UNRRA nursing programme and confirmed the need for additional nurses.

An important point raised by Mr. Maben was the need for UNRRA to provide quick and certain methods of transport to convey sick staff from isolated districts and the islands, and as promised to him, I attach a special minute on this question in view of the fact that this question had arisen particularly in connection with the original accident to the late Miss Catharine MacCarthy, U.S.P.H.S.

During our stay a total of 26 UNRRA nurses were seen, and time was spent with many of them observing their actual day-to-day work. Of special interest was a meeting of the Matrons and Sister Tutors of the 3 nurse training schools in Athens, under the leadership of Miss Keene (U.S.) forming a nursing education sub-committee of the Nursing Advisory Committee established by Miss Baggallay. At this meeting a plan was being discussed for an accelerated curriculum for the training of nurses, and for an affiliation scheme to include paediatrics in the general training.

Major Johnston and I both spoke to a meeting of the Health Division staff, and several visits were paid to Greek hospitals. The status of trained nurses is generally extremely low, and we were very impressed by the way in which this is being improved by the work of the UNRRA nurses, and by the example set within the UNRRA Mission generally by the obviously high position and regard in which the nursing section is held. I also studied with interest the draft of the new nursing law being drawn up with UNRRA advice. This law is, broadly speaking, based on the English Nurses' Act of 1943, and should do much to assist in raising the standard of nursing and the status of the trained nurse in Greece.

Time was spent studying the supplementary nursing projects at present being planned especially those three in which British voluntary societies are involved,

- a) The British Council project for the establishment of a nurses' training school in Salonika.
- b) The project being sponsored by the Greek War Relief to send 50 suitable Greek girls to this country to undertake a full general and district nursing training, for which the co-operation of training schools and of the Queen's Institute of District Nursing will be required.
- c) A project to be arranged between PIKPA and the Save the Children's Fund for the training of public health midwives to undertake work in the rural areas.

The Save the Children's Fund also have under consideration the organisation of a 40-bedded children's hospital in Patras.

I promised Miss Baggallay that I would do everything possible to assist these schemes through ERO.

ROME - ITALY

To: Dr. E.C. Benn
Through: Miss F. Elisabeth Crowell
From: Major Lillian Johnston and Miss F.N. Udell

SUBJECT: Visit to the Southern Camps - 2nd to 5th November, 1945

Visits were paid to Santa Maria di Louca, Santa Cesarea Terme and Santa Maria de Bagni. Talks were held with each group of nurses individually, and with each individual nurse. The following U.S. and British nurses have agreed to remain for camp duties where required:-

Santa Maria di Leuca

Miss Grace Augsburg	U.S. Vol. Soc.
Miss Estelle Bushlen	1st Lt. USPHS
Miss Olive Warren	British (U.K.)

Santa Cesarea Terme

Miss Petronella Cummins 1st Lt. USPHS

Santa Maria di Bagni

Miss Josephine De Brincat	Canadian
Miss Jean Rehner	1st Lt. USPHS (At present in hospital at Foggia)

A total of ten U.S. and British, and also eleven Italian, nurses were seen.

We were very impressed by the good work being done by the nurses in the camps, and also in regard to the improvisation which had been carried out in connection with the more routine items of equipment.

The isolated condition under which they are living - in common with all the workers in the camps - is deplorable, and should be given careful consideration. Any recreational facilities they have had, and many of their personal amenities, have previously been provided by U.S. and British army and air force services stationed in the locality. Now that these are no longer available it should be possible for UNRRA to undertake "staff welfare" on their behalf. Their feeling of being neglected by the Italian Mission has become more acute since camp personnel have paid visits to Rome and have seen the conditions under which staff in the office there are able to live. Not all the differences between the two levels of living conditions are unavoidable.

We would like to submit the following recommendations which we have already discussed with you and with Mr. Hutchings, and some of which have been the subject of previous reports. We are aware that action is being taken on these matters; we feel, however, that having expressed our opinions so strongly verbally, you would wish to have a written record of them: -

- a) Recreational transport should be provided for the use of camp personnel, as recommended in your report of 9th October, 1945.
- b) Some provision should also be made within the camps for recreational activities. The two items particularly mentioned by the nurses were wireless and reading material.
- c) At present the U.S. personnel have P.X. facilities, and the British have NAAFI, but it is probable that these will soon be closing down. Some similar facilities should be provided by UNRRA, and should be available to all paid employees, including Italian and other nurses recruited in this country.
- d) Nurses recruited in Italy are in urgent need of uniform. Seersucker uniforms can be obtained through UNRRA headquarters, and a signal has /already

already been sent to Washington, asking that a supply be sent direct, but warm uniforms are required immediately. We feel that it should be possible to obtain these through the Quartermaster's stores of either the U.S. or the British army. This has also been the subject of a strong report by Miss Crowell, dated 8th November, 1945.

ROME - ITALY

22nd November, 1945

To: Lt. Col. D.A. Reekie
Through: Miss F. Elisabeth Crowell
From: Major Lillian Johnston and Miss F.N. Udell

SUBJECT: Report on Visit to Sardinia, 18th-21st November, 1945

We arrived in Sardinia at mid-day on Sunday, 18th November, and spent the rest of that day discussing with Capt. Elfreda Sprague, 1st Lt. Norma Painton and 2nd Lt. Betty Ogden the work which they had done and are doing in Sardinia. It is obvious that they have organised and managed an extremely fine programme, but only a small portion of their task has even been connected with public health nursing, and that part is now completed. Each nurse is responsible for one of the three provinces of the island, and in addition Miss Sprague is in charge generally and acts as administrative officer, Miss Painton is responsible for messing and other staff arrangements, and Miss Ogden acts as Secretary to the group.

On Monday we paid visits in Cagliari to see an orphanage, the feeding programme for children and for expectant and nursing mothers and the Children's hospital. On Tuesday we visited Carbonia and, after a talk with the "Mayor" we saw the present civil hospital, the new hospital building which has never been opened, and the feeding programme for young children and for expectant and nursing mothers. On all these visits we were accompanied by one of the nurses, while the other two were engaged in administrative work, and in interviews and committees none of which were concerned with nursing. We also spent time each day reading copies of the reports on all the different aspects of the work being carried out in Sardinia, as previously submitted to Rome by Miss Sprague.

Our conclusions are as follows:-

There are three aspects of the work remaining to be completed on the island:

- a) The feeding programme for children and for expectant and nursing mothers. This is being arranged through Italian local committees, but some supervision is still required. By UNRRA policy such a programme is a Welfare problem.
- b) The distribution of supplies, including medical supplies. This can be supervised by the visits of a medical consultant as already arranged by the Health Division in Rome.
- c) The Carbonia project. This is really labour management and administrative work, and in our opinion requires to be handled by a man with knowledge of such administration. Miss Sprague has had to receive a delegation of miners, and generally to assist in solving industrial problems, which can in no way be considered as public health nursing.

All three nurses in Sardinia have asked for re-assignment, and have tendered their resignation from the Italian Mission as from 31st December, 1945.

While we cannot speak too highly of the amazing degree of initiative and adaptability shown by these nurses, and particularly by Capt. Sprague in the tact, diplomacy and ability she has shown in her handling of all types of local personalities, the world-wide shortage of nurses does not permit the continuation of their services in work of this kind when there are assignments available in their own sphere to which the nurses themselves wish to be transferred.

DETAILED REPORT OF FIELD TRIP IN GREECE

Leaving Athens on the morning of Thursday, 6th December, Miss Baggallay and I arrived at Patras, Headquarters of Region 'C' that night. We met and talked with Capt. C. Rosenwald, USPHS, and Lt. Ruth Johnson, USPHS.

Friday, 7th December, 1945

The next morning Miss Rosenwald explained the nursing programme of the Region, which very briefly is as follows:-

Total population of Region - approximately 1,000,200.
Largest Town - Patras, population 28,000.

There are six UNRRA and Voluntary Society Nurses in the Region and a total of eight Greek Graduate Nurses. Any other nursing care has to be provided by "practical" nurses, without any real training, or by Greek Red Cross volunteers. There are doctors and midwives in the Region.

The work can be divided under two headings -

a) Hospital Services:

Total hospitals of all kinds - 14
Bed capacity of largest hospital - 220
Total bed capacity in Region - 1300

Six graduate nurses are working as Matron in each of 6 different hospitals and are the only trained Greek nursing staff responsible for the care of these patients.

In Patras itself, there is a general hospital of 150 beds which has, in addition to the Matron, a staff of 28 nurse aides. (A 40 bedded hospital for Children is under consideration as a supplementary project of the Save the Children's Fund.) UNRRA supplies linen and kitchen equipment to all hospitals, but much other equipment is still needed in addition. UNRRA nurses supervise the nursing staff in these hospitals and have done much to improve conditions for both patients and nurses.

b) Public Health:

A Public Health law exists in Greece, but one of the chief difficulties is lack of nurses to carry out the work. There are two trained Greek Public Health Nurses in the whole Region, but both are working in Patras and one is engaged only in Tuberculosis work. Local health committees are formed, composed of Greek Government officials - the Medical Officer of Health, the Mayor, etc. Infant welfare centres are organised in each area and are run in co-operation with PIKPA - (A Greek Government Organization for Child Welfare); the plan being to provide a Greek Team consisting of doctor, public health nurse and midwife who will undertake Maternity and Child Welfare in the locality in which each clinic is set up.

Another scheme is being organized by the Greek War Relief, (an American Organization employing Greeks) planned in co-operation with the UNRRA Health Division staff both at Athens Headquarters and in the Regions. This scheme provides for a Greek Mobile Team (doctor, public health nurse and nurse's aide) to work in health clinics in rural areas.

School medical officers exist, but schools are not operating fully. In some areas school buildings have been taken over for other purposes, while in other localities the schools are only open for half of each day. There is no free education and the lack of clothing is having a serious effect on the attendances. The school feeding

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programme being planned, will include children of school age who are not attending school.

Other activities of the UNRRA Public Health Nurses include:-

- a) The distribution of drugs, working through local Greek Committees;
- b) The rehabilitation of cripples, working in co-operation with the orthopaedic section;
- c) Co-operation with Health Division Nutritionists in the feeding programme for children and for expectant and nursing mothers, organised through local committees which include representatives of PIKPA and the Greek War Relief;
- d) Scabies and Immunization clinics;
- e) Special tuberculosis teams, assisting in the Sanatoria, but working under the Regional Health Divisions. This scheme includes the future organisation of T.B. dispensaries;
- f) The supervision of midwives, not all of whom hold diplomas and whose standards generally are very low.

After this talk, visits were paid in Patras to:-

- a) The Greek Red Cross Clinic for tuberculosis. The wet weather prevented a large attendance of patients, but this gave us a better opportunity to examine their methods of record keeping and issue of medicines, which were simple and well thought out. The average daily attendance was 20-30, depending upon the weather. The staff consisted of 1 doctor, 2 Greek graduate public health nurses and about five Red Cross volunteers. Preparations were being made in other rooms in the same building for the provision of 6 first aid beds.
- b) Child feeding centre - the meal being served looked nourishing and appetising, and the children seemed to be in quite good condition.
- c) Foundling home at which an epidemic of measles was being coped with. The toddlers were reasonably well cared for, though clothing (particularly shoes) was a grave problem so far as the older children were concerned.

The babies were in poor condition, though obviously much improved by the efforts of Miss Ruth Johnson. One of the greatest problems for the care of these infants was the lack of staff to supervise the bottle feeds. Before Miss Johnson arrived, the practise had been to leave the babies to suck their feeds through teats in which the holes were much too big; as a result, the babies vomited the feed they had taken and nothing had been done to overcome this difficulty. The result of this had been a high proportion of infant deaths from what was virtually starvation. Weight charts had been instituted by Miss Johnson, and general conditions brought up to a more reasonable standard.

- d) General Hospital. Here the provision of UNRRA bed linen and of proper bed clothing for the patients, had produced a great improvement in the comfort of the patients; the work of the UNRRA Nursing Section, first in obtaining a graduate Greek Nurse as Matron and then in assisting her in the supervision of her "practical" and volunteer staff, had done much to improve the cleanliness and care of patients. The conditions under which the staff were living were extremely poor. The chief difficulty in this institution is the lack of co-operation from the lay director.
- e) T.B. Home, where no nursing care (other than that of two women of "cleaner" type and the patients relatives) was provided. Food and clothing seemed to be brought in from patients homes and general conditions were appalling. It was, in truth, merely a place where people were brought to die.

- f) D.P. Camp, consisting of tents, pitched on ground which the weather conditions had made almost into a swamp. Most of the occupants were Albanians. The camp is the responsibility of the Greek Government, UNRRA advice is given, though obviously not always taken.

Saturday, 8th December.

To Messologhe. Visit to Hospital. Many repairs are necessary and leaking roofs and sanitary plumbing are slowly receiving attention. (It appears to be a peculiarity of the Greeks that without constant supervision, a coat of paint or white wash can easily become of greater importance than these essential repairs). A Greek trained nurse has been placed in charge and arrangements are being made for Miss N. Eriksen, Lt. USPHS., to concentrate on the supervision of this hospital for a time, in order to bring about necessary changes.

On to Agrinion where visits were paid to the hospital, to the Infant Welfare Centre established by Miss Erikson and now excellently managed under her guidance by the Greek Organization PIKPA; to a small hospital and girls' and boy's clubs organized and well run by a private (church) society, and to a building which is being converted by the Near East Foundation, to a children's hostel.

Sunday, 9th December.

Through an area of burnt villages to Gavalou where the Greek Red Cross are running a small hospital on the top floor of a school building. This lacks trained nursing staff, but a comparatively reasonable standard of care is provided by the volunteers, and a high degree of improvisation has been carried out.

On to Amfissia to see another small hospital where the provision of UNRRA equipment and clothing, and the supervision of nursing personnel, has again produced a reasonably good standard of care and comfort for the patients.

Monday, 10th December.

All day journey to Lamia (Region A Rural). Talk with Miss M. Henderson and Miss H. Kilpatrick (Regional Nursing Consultants) and with Miss R. Ballam, Lt. USPHS, Public Health Nursing Adviser for the district. The general plan of the work in the Regions follows the same lines as that of Region C.

Thursday, 11th December.

Spent the whole day with Miss Ballam while she carried out a routine day's work. Visits were paid to the Nomiakos (M.O.H.) to ask him to give a lecture to the midwives and to present their "bags", to the Pikpa clinic (Infant Welfare); to the prison to meet the new director and to place before the prisoners' committee a suggestion of typhus inoculation, which they accepted immediately; to the public pharmacy run by UNRRA; to the Children's Soup Kitchen; to the hospital; and in the afternoon to the village of Dhomokos to interview the local drug distribution committee and make enquiries regarding a case of infantile paralysis. Talking to Miss Ballam, I was particularly interested to hear that there are quite a number of trained midwives in her district, that she has held a series of "refresher" classes for them and on completion of the course is presenting emergency midwifery bags to those who have attended. Another interesting individual activity of hers is the institution of a women's committee consisting of one representative from each of the villages in her area, who collect information on cripples, illnesses and other matters which it would otherwise be difficult to obtain.

General Conclusion:

During this trip I met seven UNRRA nurses, and had an opportunity of talking with them and seeing something of their work. I was very impressed /with

with their general ability and their eagerness to carry through the job in hand based on true UNRRA principles - to obtain the co-operation of the Greeks and to leave something behind which these colleagues can carry on, after UNRRA's personnel leave the country.

To judge from the conditions seen, the difficulties must have seemed insuperable when these nurses first arrived in the country, but it is obvious that their efforts have been untiring and inspiring, and that great improvements have been made in the nursing care given to the people, both in hospitals and in the field of Public Health.

I cannot speak too highly of the whole staff of the nursing section of the UNRRA Greece Mission. I have had the privilege of meeting 50% of this staff, of hearing of the work of the others and of reading their reports. Not least am I impressed by the truly wonderful International Relationships which they have established among themselves and with their Greek colleagues.

More nurses are required to assist in this work, and Major Johnston and I are leaving Greece happier in the knowledge that the nurses here are being properly utilized and determined to see that the additional staff is forthcoming from the U.S. and U.K. in the numbers agreed in conference with Miss Baggallay.

Conclusions and recommendations

a) Italy

- i) That Capt. E. Gochanour remain at Headquarters office of the Mission meantime as acting Chief Nurse, with duties to include the supervision of nursing personnel in the D.P. Camps.
- ii) That the Regional Nursing Consultants post be abolished meantime, pending a review of the general nursing programme by Dr. Benn and Miss Gochanour at an early date, after which the question of new recruitment of nurses would be considered in the light of any recommendations they may then make.
- iii) That nurses be recruited in Italy, to include Italian nationals if necessary, for posts in the Displaced Persons camps, such recruitment to be supplemented for the supervisory grade by recruitment through ERO and/or Washington as and when required.
- iv) I am investigating the question of Italian nurses being eligible for UNRRA "fellowships" for post-graduate study. If it is found that this is not possible I would like permission to make contact with other sources of financial assistance (e.g. The League of Red Cross Societies).

b) Greece

- i) The most important recommendation is that discussed with Mr. Maben regarding the provision of transport facilities for the conveyance of sick UNRRA staff from isolated districts and the islands. Mr. Maben himself has, I understand, made a recommendation on this subject, and a special minute is attached.
- ii) After seeing the work being carried out in Greece, and discussing future plans of the nursing section with Miss Baggallay, Major Johnston and I were convinced of the need to supply additional nurses according to the budget submitted by Greece. Agreement was reached on the division of recruitment between Washington and ERO, and is already well in hand.

In general conclusion I feel that our tour has been most useful and helpful and that closer personal contact is necessary between the nursing branch of ERO and nursing sections within the Missions and, in this connection, I would recommend that consideration be given to the possibility of Miss Haines making a field trip in the early summer.

MINUTE

To: Dr. Goodran, Director, Health Division,
From: Miss F.N. Udell, Chief Nurse
Subject: Provision by UNRRA of special transport for the conveyance of sick staff from the isolated districts and islands of Greece.

During a discussion held in Athens with Mr. Maben, Chief of UNRRA Greece Mission, the question arose of the provision of special transport for the conveyance of sick UNRRA staff into Athens from isolated districts and the Greek islands.

Mr. Maben has, I understand, already submitted a recommendation on this matter which includes the provision of sea transport for those on the islands, and some form of emergency transport for those in the isolated rural areas.

The roads in Greece are particularly bad, and difficulty had arisen particularly in the case of the late Miss Catharine MacCarthy, the USPHS nurse whose original accident, involving a broken leg, had necessitated a road journey to Athens taking many hours, during which she suffered such intense pain that the nurse-colleague accompanying her had to take the responsibility of administering morphine injections.

In view of the fact that this question had arisen more acutely than in any other case as it effected a nurse, and the consequent anxiety caused to the Health Division staff, I promised Mr. Maben that I would submit a special recommendation to you on my return in support of the communication already sent forward by him on this question.

11th January, 1946.