

Regd. No.

UNRRA (EUROPEAN REGION).

WE 583
58/3

Date of Paper	FROM WHOM
Date Registered	SUBJECT

RECORD

16

COPIES OF REPORTS FROM WELFARE OFFICERS ATTACHED TO
S.H.A.A.F.
D.P. OPERATIONS IN GERMANY.

NOTE. This file must always be passed on VIA the REGISTRY.

83528D) Wt P470/22 5m 7/44 HJR&L Gp 51

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
Miss Falk	5/4				
Miss Wood	10/7				
Miss Luxton	12/4				
Miss Aves	13/4				
Registry	18/7				
Miss Penman.	9/10.				
Registry	10/10				

16-73-10-26
16

NOTE.-Do not retain this File unnecessarily.

To: Miss G.M. Aves.

From: Anne Wood.

Attached is a report from Miss Pollak to Mr. Kettle.

In the old set-up we were responsible for taking action on the appropriate points and for acknowledging and answering the report. The machinery was for Mr. Marsh to circulate such reports for the persons concerned to be marked off on the form outside which paragraphs they were attending to and then for Mr. Marsh again to watch that all the various points were, in fact, dealt with. On this particular report practically all the points appear to be to be your concern. This would include paragraphs 1 and 2. On paragraph 3 you and Mrs. Paynton know the most recent position and perhaps you would keep Miss Pollak informed. This will be true also of Paragraph 4. Paragraph 5 appears to me to call for no comment except to say in accordance with Mr. Willis's pencilled note that we presume it has been dealt with by Mr. Kettle during his recent visit to SHAET.

Anne Wood

Anne Wood.
20.6.45.

AW/IHQ.

OUT FILE

WS58/3

Des: 10107.

To: Mr. E.E. Rhatigan, A.P.O. 757, U.S. Army,
(For the attention of Mr. Kettle and Miss Pollak)

From: Welfare Division, E.R.O.

Subject: Supplementary D.P. Registration Record.

1. Your note on this subject 25th July 1945.
2. In a note from Miss Aves, (chief child welfare specialist) to Mr. Rhatigan, for the attention of Miss Hani Pollak dated 14.7.45, Miss Aves discussed certain aspects of the Special Medical Form of the supplementary record and enclosed copies of the notes on The Medical Record of Physical Characteristics. It will be important to refer to this note in your discussions on the Supplementary D.P. Registration Form. In case it should have got lost in transit, I attach a copy.
3. Further discussions are progressing here between Dr. Russell Ellis and Mr. Parker in relation to this Record and we should be glad to have the benefit of your thinking and be informed of any steps you take.
4. We shall be sending additional copies of the Registration and Identification of Displaced Unaccompanied Children in Enemy Territory within the next few days. Your order for 300 has necessitated a re-roll which clashes with the Council priorities.

Anne Wood.
Welfare Programmes Co-ordination Officer
(Germany/Austria)

27.8.45.

AW/INQ.

WE50/3
WE150/12

OUT FILE

20th July, 1945.

Dear Mr. Gilbey,

Both Mr. Willis and I are very grateful for the report from Germany which is full of interest to us.

Many thanks for sending it to us.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Wood.
Welfare Division.

C.V.L. Gilbey, Esq.,
Information Dept.,
F.R.S.,
Friends House,
Euston Road,
London, N.W.1.

AW/IBQ.

WE 58/3/4
WE 35/1

OUT FILE

To: Mr. Rhatigan, A.P.O. 757, U.S. ARMY.
(For the attention of Miss Hansi Pollak)

From: Miss Aven, ~~Miss Aven, A.P.O. 757, U.S. ARMY.~~

In reply to your letter undated received by Miss Wood on July 9th, I hope the following information may be helpful:-

1) Special Medical Form: (question 11 of Supplementary Record). This Medical Record is still in draft form and is now with Mr. Parker who is dealing here with the whole business of central registration and tracing. Originally the idea had been to get the medical points included in the punch-card system which will be used in the Central Bureau. The idea is now rather that, instead of making these medical questions part of the punch-card system, a separate form should be sent in for each individual case and kept on the dossier relating to that person. Dr. Russell Ellis and I will be discussing this further with Mr. Parker next week, but in the meantime I think it is pretty clear that the completion of the Medical Record will have to be deferred. The fact that the record required under item 11 can quite well be made out at a somewhat later stage is covered by "Guidance note on filling in of record". I have ascertained from Miss Wood that you have not received the up-to-date copy of this form or the second draft of the Supplementary Record. I therefore enclose copies herewith which you can now make use of. I also enclose copy of the notes on Medical Record of Physical Characteristics etc. for information purposes only, and will let you know as soon as possible how this matter develops.

2) Finger prints: We do think that these have a real value, and here are Dr. Russell Ellis's comments which probably make things clear to you. She feels that these are very necessary in order to prevent changes of identity of un-identified and un-accompanied children once they have come under U.N.R.R.A. care and given an identity. Such changes can easily happen, e.g.: 2 small children under three years of age may be exchanged accidentally during a change in custody; or children of the mischievous kind may sometimes deliberately exchange identity tags etc. during travel. Confusion due to happenings of this kind was quite common among the Basque refugee children in this country and was by no means unknown among English evacuees. You will see that the arguments do not in fact relate to tracing but to preserving identity, and this in the case of children is of course of

equal/

OUT FILE

equal importance.

3) Lists of clothing: The value of a complete and detailed list would seem to be greater from the point of view of U.N.R.R.A. efficiency in seeing that individual children keep track of their possessions than as a means of tracing. There are, however, likely to be amongst children's clothing certain items which may facilitate tracing and on the whole the attempt to get lists seems justified. I quite agree with you that some discretion could well be exercised about these lists, but I think it is always difficult to put ideas across in an elastic form.

We have Miss Gwen Chesters here with us now as she responded to our urgent appeals to Cairo to send her at once, and I wait daily in the hope of hearing that the clearance has come from Mr. Edison and that she can proceed to her Child Welfare Specialist job at headquarters or at Zone as may be best in the first instance. Miss Chesters is of course in great demand in this country, and although at present she is quite philosophical about a short pause, I should not find it easy to deal with the situation if there were a long delay. However, I expect an answer will very shortly be on its way.

If your activities take you in the direction of Lubeck do look out for 127 Latvian orphans who are there pending some further plan. I should be so much interested to know how they are being looked after and whom by. This is not a matter for special enquiries unless you are on the spot.

I hope you will make a point of hammering away at me on any matter relating to the welfare of children or will pass on any information on that subject that comes your way, at any rate until Miss Chesters is in the saddle. It seems inconceivably difficult to make a start and yet I am painfully aware of all that really needs to be planned and done in relation to this group, be they large or small.

changes of identity of un-identified and un-recognized children once
5:41:17.1945.
small children under three years
of age may be exchanged accidentally during a change in custody; or
children of the subconscious mind may sometimes deliberately exchange
identity tags etc. during travel. Confusion due to happenings of
this kind was quite common among the Russian refugee children in this
country and was by no means unknown among English overseas. You will
see that the arguments do not in fact relate to tracing but to
preserving identity, and this in the case of children in all cases of

PS- Dear Mr. Mathiasen,

You may wish to acquaint other members of the Austrian Group as to how Mr. Lunn and I have fared since departure from London.

You may tell them that we are safely and happily situated in the village's most gorgeous hotel, on the fourth floor on a small hill which affords a pleasant view over the entire country side and to the sea.

There is a very pretentious swimming pool available to all of us at any hour of the day or night. It is called the Atlantic Ocean.

The food is excellent, provided by the US Army stores. My first meal, which happened to be in the evening comprised unlimited sugar, USA Coffee, a tremendous slice of beef off the favorite rib, potatoes-au-gratin, butter, cream as much as desired, and apple pie-a-la-mode. Breakfast provides the usual cereals, fried ham, etc.

In the large salons and reception rooms of the hotel, the Jerries painted double life-size portraits of women allegedly in the nude. When the American troops took over, the artist's corp. was called in and ordered to paint draperies and garments of sorts over the ladies. This did not detract from the original successes and artistry of the original portraits.

Please remember me to all the members of the group and Mr. Lunn sends his regards.

Lele

RECEIVED

13 JUL 1945

UPPER

FRIENDS RELIEF SERVICE

General Secretary: ROGER C. WILSON

EUSTON 8551

Telegraphic Address:
FREWARVIC, NORWEST, LONDON



FRIENDS HOUSE
EUSTON ROAD
LONDON, N.W.1

I/CG/MW

12th July 1945

Miss Anne Wood,
Displaced Persons Division
U.N.R.R.A.
170A Great Portland Street,
London W.1

WES8/3

Copy on
We 150/12

Dear Miss Wood,

I am attaching a report
from Germany in which I am certain you
will be interested.

Yours sincerely

Ernest L.V. Gilbey.

Information Dept.

*The recommendations under the heading
"Conclusion" are worth noting.*

RECEIVED

JUL 1945
U. N. R. R. A.
MAIL UNIT

DIEPHOLZ (Polish Jews) DISPLACED PERSONS' HOLDING CENTRE

PRESENT WORK.

i) Religious services. Eve and morning of Sabbath services have been conducted each week since leaving Belsen, by Rev. I. Richards C.F. and Rev. A. Goldfinger, Polish Army. These have had a very encouraging response. At first it was with difficulty that sufficient men could be found to make a minyan. This week between forty and fifty men attended and there was also a good attendance of women. At first a very small proportion of the men took part in the communal worship, now they all do. (We have only six prayer books). For two weeks we were able to supply one sabbath candle for each room, but we had not enough this week.

One woman member of our group died from tuberculosis in Diepholz Hospital last Monday, and the Rabbis conducted the funeral service at a Jewish cemetery some 20 kilometres away. UNRRA and the Army provided the transport, and there was a good attendance from the camp. The girl's sister and a cousin stationed nearby, who is in the Polish Air Force, attended. Shiva prayers were conducted by one of the Rabbis each evening following.

ii) Searcher Service Bureau. Some 500 Red Cross Enquiry Messages have been completed and sent to the Foreign Relations Branch of the B.R.C.S. and to the Jewish Refugees' Committee, London. Three or four D.P. clerks are employed daily in the stamping and checking of these forms. It is no easy task.

iii) Personal case-work. This consists almost exclusively in trying to obtain contact with relatives outside Germany who might be prepared to take these D.Ps. into their homes. I am also in touch with the Jewish Agency for Palestine, and one of the D.Ps. who was a leader of the Women's International Zionist Organisation in Warsaw, is collecting information with regard to those people who know the addresses of their relatives in Palestine, lists of whom will be sent to the Jewish Agency. This has given considerable encouragement to all in the camp, who have felt for some time that no steps were being taken for their release. A letter which I received recently from Dr. Adler Rudel, written on Jewish Agency note-paper, has certainly helped them to feel less forgotten.

iv) Distribution of clothing and gifts. The Rabbis, together with four D.P. men, have carried out distribution of clothing, which was requisitioned on our behalf, at Lingen. It was a pathetic distribution - the shoes were in a dreadful condition - there were 400 dresses for 900 women - we had to give tooth-brushes or enamel bas to those for whom we had no satisfactory clothing. The clothing situation is a terrible one, shoes, coats, under-wear, etc. Something must be done about this before the bad weather comes. Considering the difficulties, the clothing was surprisingly equitably distributed and there was surprisingly little grumbling - but it could not be

satisfactory and was a very exhausting business.

Other gifts have also been distributed, and there is a small stock in hand; blankets and other things from F.R.S. (my F.R.S. team) sweets soups, soap and toilet paper from the Jewish Relief Unit; gifts from soldiers, are arriving through the Rev. Levy, S.C.F. and include cigarettes, clothes, toilet articles, etc., toys from the Jewish Relief Unit; Rev. Richards arranged for two sacks of white flour which had been received from the Jewish Relief Unit to be baked at a local baker and Beth Clarkson and I organised the distribution of the 109 loaves.

900 Belgian francs and 600 French francs were received from Mr. Jean Newmann (Newmann) Director of UNHRA, whose particular department is D.Ps. Already 100 marks of this have been used to help a girl who is living with a German household, in Lingen, whilst her sister is seriously ill in Lingen Hospital - 40 marks have been spent on strawberries for hospital patients and the children - 17 marks were spent on the baking of the bread. It is useful to have some cash-in-hand for purposes such as this.

The Hampstead High School has sent a very generous parcel of stationery, books and jig-saws, which are being used by the school. Sewing materials brought by the Jewish Unit have been distributed.

Zionist material has been promised by the Zionist Federation of Great Britain, and will be invaluable.

The Friends' Relief Unit has obtained the use of a motor - bicycle for me, from their Mil. Gov. Detachment at Brunswick; this makes the work considerably less arduous, though somewhat more dangerous.

v.) Hospital visiting. Since leaving Belsen on 24th May last, with a so-called "fit" party of 1,000 people, 78 have gone as in-patients to hospitals, of whom four have already died, and more are expected to die. Most of the seriously ill patients are tubercular, for whom there is tragically inadequate materials for treatment. The patients are in the following hospitals:-

Bedburg (about 150 miles from here)
Oettrup (about 100 miles from here)
Lingen (about 50 miles from here)
Diepholz.

It is true to say that the only surviving relatives or friends of the patients in these hospitals, are in our camp. We have felt it essential for the peace of mind both of the patients and of those connected with them, to visit the hospitals fairly regularly. As can be imagined, this is a formidable task, particularly as the state of the roads in Germany is incredibly bad. Visits have been well worth while. It is our only way of keeping track of those who have died or are dying. It is our only way of helping the patients to trace their relatives through the Red Cross Enquiry Message scheme. Most important of all, under this impersonal military machinery, which regards D.Ps. as numbers and categories rather than as people, it is our only way of getting the D.Ps. back to us, when they are fit for discharge. The Military arrangement is for all Poles, irrespective of the whereabouts of the "holding centre" where their relatives may be, to be sent to a holding centre on the Eastern boundary of the British occupied zone. By a private arrangement with the hospital concerned, our patients

are held in the hospital until our next visit, and we bring them back with us (highly irregular and quite unofficial). This causes considerable relief, both to the patients remaining behind, and to our own group.

vi) Dentist treatment. An interesting side-light on the problem of working with ex-concentration camp inmates, is the situation with regard to dentist treatment. We have with us hundreds of people who have not seen a dentist for five or six years. The state of their teeth is appalling. The arrangement here is for an appointment to be made with a local German dentist, and the expenses to be paid for by the Burgomaster, anaesthetics, where necessary, being supplied by the Military. The machinery is now in working order, and all applicants for dental treatment are dealt with by one of our own D.Ps. who when necessary, takes the patient herself to the dentist. We have had too many applicants for one dentist, and she herself has found a second. The preliminary work connected with arranging for treatment was carried out by Beth Clarkson, and was considerable.

vii) Educational activities.

a) School. This has been re-started after the transfer to Diepholz. Its upper age-limit has been raised at the request of the children themselves, and there are now 29 pupils. Hewbrew singing and dancing has been added to the programme. Milk, and when possible, Bread and butter, are given out twice daily. The three teachers run the school on their own, and although there is much in it to be desired, it has good esprit de corps, and is, on the whole satisfactory.

b) Adult classes in English: In response to continued requests, a meeting was held of all those who wanted to learn English, and about 300 names were taken. Arrangements were made for two classes of one hour each, to be held daily, respectively by Rev. Richards and myself. Beth Clarkson was given the task of teaching "an advanced class" three evenings a week. One of the D.Ps. was elected to act as clerk of the Classes, keeping registers, etc. The classes have not been well attended. This is not surprising, considering that there are no chairs, no blackboards and no books. With some effort, however, it may be possible that attendance will become more regular and more punctual.

ENGLISH BOOKS, ELEMENTARY BOOKS FOR LEARNING ENGLISH, AND DICTIONARIES (either English/Polish or English/German) ARE URGENTLY REQUIRED.

viii) "Morale". There is a constant struggle to keep up "morale". Stealing is still rife, both stealing from the farms, and the buying of stolen goods. (It is interesting to note that one bedroom bought half a pig from a non-Jewish D.P. the other day.) We have agreed to eat food in D.Ps. rooms ourselves, telling them that, because their food is so bad, we will not take steps to inform the authorities when we are aware of casual pilfering, but that we will not eat pilfered food - this has some effect on the people concerned, we

We also make it known that we regard large-scale stealing or buying of stolen goods seriously, and will take serious steps to deal with it. (D.Ps. are liable to as much as 2 years' imprisonment for such offences.) The situation will never be satisfactorily dealt with until the food which is provided is improved in quantity and kind, and until the D.Ps. are moved to a neutral or friendly country, where they cannot claim that they have a "right" to obtain from the local people, some of the things which they themselves have been deprived by the Germans.

ix) Meetings

a) Polish Dayan. An important Polish Dayan visited the Camp recently and asked that a general meeting should be called. He had been liberated from Buchenwald, and was now living at a Polish Prisoners of War Camp. The meeting was not altogether a happy one; he was critical of the British administration of D.P. holding centres - and was anxious to inspire the D.Ps. to action. They were, however, whilst encouragingly loyal to us, interested in meeting him, and in his address.

b) Welcome to J.C.R.A. team. This meeting was addressed by the President of the D.Ps.' Committee, was well attended, and was helpful.

VISITORS.

Director of UNRRA. Mr. Jean Newmann, Director of D.Ps. branch of UNRRA, visited the camp last week, with the senior UNRRA doctor, Dr. Strothers, and a Czech lady. Mr. Newmann is an American Jew and asked to be presented with the J.C.R.A. badge, which I was wearing. He was impressed by the primitive conditions of the camp, and by the apparently fairly satisfactory way in which the people had settled themselves. He visited both the Polish and the Jewish blocks. Apart from the monetary gift which he gave me for the Belsen Poles, he promised to look into the problem of postal facilities, and to see whether it would be possible for the D.P. registration number to be used as an Army Post Office address. He appeared to be sympathetic and interested.

CONCLUSION.

Whilst every encouragement can be found in the unofficial statement that this group is likely shortly to be removed to a new country, it is to be hoped that this will be their last move before steps are taken for their permanent rehabilitation. They view real concern moves such as the one from Lingen to Diepholz, which involved an exhausting journey to conditions very little better than their last. They also view with considerable despondency, the

prospect of leaving their relatives and friends behind in the various hospitals, with a very slender chance of joining them, even when they are fit to travel.

I, personally, look forward to the day when administrators will view each displaced person as a person, and not as 1/250 of a group. Rehabilitation work under present circumstances is impossible, and I shall view my work at Lingen and Diepholz, with this group of people, who have come to mean so much to me, retrospectively, as palliative - constructive help must come at the next stage - "We do not want to be regarded as an experiment" said the president of our Committee, recently, "We want homes, and to be able to live, as people, once again."

Jane E. Levenson,
Friends Relief Service.

Personal Plan
sent forward,

als

Noted P2 12/7/45

Please use the A.P.O.
BCA address -
only takes 2 days!

9 JUL 1945
U. N. R. R. A.
MAIL UNIT

Appalachian
Ludra 85

WE
50/1/1

Dear Miss Wood,

Just a hasty S.O.S. We are
working flat out on the Supplementary
Record & I'm very hopeful we'll get it
adapted. However in all of the copies
you sent - you have forgotten the
Special Medical Form (question 11) I've
asked Mr. Edmison to cable for it - but I
rather think my letter may arrive first.

Could you immediately send some
copies - as we're trying to get it accepted
right away (question 11) None of us see the
value of a fingerprint? are we dumb?
What possible value can this be - are you
thinking that the mother will have a fingerprint
of the lost child? Please let me know at once
for failing some reason (that you must have
had) we cannot possibly see it's validity &
nobody likes it.

Furthermore no one here can see the
practical possibility of tracing a child through
retention of its old clothing. This would
only be of value if the articles could be
sent to every possible mother on a sort
of continental round. However we'll insist
on a record & the clothing being stored - but
I'm afraid this may under practical
operation prove unsuccessful. Miss de la

Kate & H. Carter do not think all the old clatching
can be stored with the Karachon Unit Files.
I think the clatching only has any sort of validity
where the child has become separated from the
mother during the past months - where it happened
years ago & the child has for years received clatching
from other sources, the recording, sterilizing, marking
& storing has absolutely no validity at all. I'm
sure you'll agree.

Excuse this hasty note - but am in a
heaving hurry.

I passed on most of the material to Mr.
Edmanson - he's putting in your notes in his
newsletter & says he'd appreciate your letting
him have anything you want in - but
please do write to him especially yourself.

I'm working flat out - mostly \$5 - so that
I just can't get down to Unkra work -
Bob Libattland wants me to try to do both
but I find it's physically impossible.

By the way do please send me another
bunch of the Operational Plan. I thought

you'd sent quite a number - but can
only lay my hands on 2 copies. I'm going
flat out next week to get it accepted.

I must be honest & say it would have
been inexpedient to press it before -

but I think the time is ripe now.

My best wishes Anne.

✓
OUT FILE

WE 50/1/1

3rd July, 1945.

Dear Miss Pollak,

I received your letter of the 27th June and have seen your letter to Miss Wood of the 28th June.

I write now only to say that in the light of what you tell us we fully appreciate your position at SHAEF. I think we always had it in mind that officially your functions would not be broad enough for you to deal directly with all the matters that we might refer to you. Our hope was, however, that your influence would extend beyond your nominal powers and that you would be able to guide the pennies we might put into the slot into the right receptacles in the rather complicated machinery.

All this, however, is now rather in the past tense. As you know matters have been put in train for UNRRA to take over from the military, and we shall shortly have our own operating section in Frankfurt. I gather from Mr. Kettle, whom I have seen today, that he expects to come out to take up his duties in the course of a week or so and that you will naturally discuss your position with him.

I am very much obliged to you for writing to me and for all that you have done. I am hoping that when you have overtaken the arrears of work that accumulated during your absence, you will be able to send us a longer report. I think you know how hungry we all are for information from the field.

There is a suggestion that I should myself go to Germany for a few weeks and make a report on the Welfare aspects of Assembly Centre work with particular reference to the provisions that should be made for the period after September. If this comes off I may meet you in Frankfurt before very long.

In the meantime my best wishes.
Miss H.A. Pollak
G.5 SHAEF Forward,
A.P.O. 757.

Yours sincerely

✓
OUT FILE

TO: Miss Hansi Pollak

File No.

WE 50/1 /1

Our Report No. 2

FROM: Welfare Division, E.R.O.

Date.

28th June, 1945

The following documents are attached for your information:

1. Welfare Division Progress Report for the week ending 16th June, 1945
2. CCE(45)73

W. Pallak NESB/3/3

Munna
S. S. Staff Howard
MB 454

28/6/85

INDEXED

Dear Miss Wood,

Many thanks for your letter
all of which I found on my desk when I
returned yesterday from Switzerland (on
the Buchenwald trip)

I hope you will understand the
fallowing position, which certainly limits
my possibility of taking any direct action
on personal correspondence from the E.R.O.

As you know I am not attached
to Mr. Edmison's staff (who is responsible
for Munna administration & all Munna
field operations), but to Colonel Hatfield's
staff. Consequently all matters
referring to Munna operations - i.e. the
whole question of welfare supplies,
inclusion of material in Mr. Edmison's
report, posting of welfare personnel,
additional projects for receiving
unaccompanied children in England etc.

should be reported to Mr. Edmison officially and not to me unofficially. I think you can readily appreciate that it makes the matter for Mr. Edmison extremely difficult to try & control the whole operation when he is not advised. ~~the~~

Consequently may I suggest that on any matters on which you require official action (such as posting of Unna personnel, inclusion in Mr. Edmison's news letter, question of welfare supplies, children's clothing, welfare operational plan) you please get this information to Mr. Edmison in the official way. If you want me to do any following up or endeavour to get you some unofficial information before you table anything officially I shall be only too glad to do so.

But I am sure you will see that it places both Mr. Edmison & me in a most difficult position when I receive in unofficial mail

matter to be taken up officially by
Mr. Edmison of which he has no
knowledge nor records.

The whole difficulty appears to
me that for the function we all at
E R O thought I was to fill I stalled as
on the Unna staff that on G 5
(where I am really seconded to the military)
As soon as Col. Shattland & Mr. Edmison
return we are going to have a triangular
discussion & I think there are only
2 possible alternatives a) I be transferred
to Mr. Edmison's staff & there undertake
the functions we planned, & be replaced
on G 5 by someone else or b) I remain with
G 5 & someone else on Major Edmison's staff
be appointed to co-ordinate & supervise
Unna welfare activities. Please keep this
last bit quiet as I would not like
E R O to get busy on it until
something has been decided here.

My own opinion is that it
is impossible at this stage to combine

the 2 functions, particularly as from the
point of view I shall repeatedly be
off on field trips.

I'll write shortly - I'm feverishly
trying to catch up with arrears.

I'm still endeavouring to find out
how many children we have in Germany
how many are unaccompanied - but
it appears to be hopeless. I'm told 10,000
children under 14 - but I don't believe
it's at all accurate as far too many
centres give a composite figure of say
10,000 with no age breakdown.
We've sent cables asking for the information
but the replies are not in.

Kindest ~~wishes~~ regards,
sincerely yours,

Hansi Pallas

INDEXED

W. Hallak W/5071/1
Munro
G. S. Hallak Forward
24/6/45

Dear Sir George,

I'm sorry I have not written to you for some time nor had an opportunity of dealing with the various matters referred to me from G.R.O.

I have been away for a fortnight at Bulkenwald + accompanying the 350 children who were taken to Switzerland. The matter raised by you this week will be answered officially.

May I once again endeavour to clarify the position I am in.

I am attached to Staff G. S. and am responsible for duty etc. to Colonel Shottland and am not in this capacity responsible for Munro personnel nor Munro

administration. Such duties would
have to be performed by somebody
on Mr. Edmison's staff. For the
time being owing to the
excellent relationships existing
between Mr. Edmison & myself
I am endeavouring to fulfill
both functions but I must be
honest & point out that
having been away 2 weeks
the letters were not even opened.

Col. Shattland is away at
present but when he returns
Mr. Edmison & I want to
discuss the matter very fully
May I suggest that pending
this no action be taken ~~on~~
at E R O.

Secondly as all of the matters
referred to me refer specifically
to Unna's policy administration
I strongly recommend that they
all be addressed to Mr. Edmison

(possibly attention Miss Ballak) so that Mr. Edmison is all fait with all that is being planned. Also that such matters receive attention at times that I be away.

With regard to the Swiss project arrangements have been made that at this stage that Mr. Alsopack (the D. P. representative in Switzerland) liaise with Mon Suisse in Switzerland. I am most strongly of the view that ~~in~~ as a result of relationships with Mon Suisse it would be undesirable at this stage to appoint an Unna welfare worker in Switzerland.

We are not in a position to carry on immediately in selecting further children under 12 to send to Switzerland. In spite of repeated cables to the field we do NOT have the

Knowledge a) if there are any
unaccompanied children under 12
+ b) if so where.

This is my first day in
the office + I have cleared with
Mr Edmison that Miss Desperines
who is here in Frankfurt
will be given this assignment
+ will first endeavour to obtain
the information + when it is
available effect preliminary
arrangements regarding the
assembly of such children
prior to movement to Switzerland.

It will consequently not
be necessary at this stage to
have additional welfare personnel
to carry through on the Lewis
project.

Forgive this hasty note but
I feel anxious to get you some
information right away. I shall
write again within the next few
days.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,
Hansi Palla

WE 50/1/1

OUT FILE

22nd June, 1945.

Dear Miss Pollak,

Thank you very much indeed for your letter of the 8th June. Since then you will no doubt have been having conversations with Mr. Kettle and possibly Mr. Rhatigan in Frankfurt, and you are no doubt much more acquainted with the present policy than I am. I hope very much that the Operational Plan has gone through. I am convinced that it would be one of the things that would help to tidy the thing up a little and give confidence to our field workers that there was a pattern in the operation as a whole. I see that you may have a certain amount of difficulty in getting over the situation created by Mr. Kennedy having got out a field manual of his own, but I shall be interested to hear what has happened.

On the question of information, we are very much better placed than we were. The reports are beginning to come through both from SHAEF and Mr. Edmison. They by no means provide the welfare information we require. It still seems to me that we need to devise a means whereby the Welfare Officers can make a welfare report through the proper channels to their Area and Zone Officers.

It is interesting that Col. Schottland and Ben Youngdahl feel that the problem of unidentified children is a small one. We never thought that the numbers would be great and I await with interest to hear the evidence and the facts on which their present information is based.

I hope it will make your position easier that the 10 Area people are not out in the field and that the Army Group ^{staff} are, I hope, now assigned. I am quite sure the difficulties are all very great and equally sure that you will surmount the lot.

About your bedroll and the radio. I am now doing my best to get these sent forward through SHAEF so I hope you will see them sometime. Major Brokenshire had hoped to bring the bedroll out with him but he has only been allowed a very small amount of weight which I think he consumes himself.

One point I wonder if you would take up for us - we have received one or two queries from welfare officers in private letters that really need answering generally, and it appears to me that the best medium is Mr. Edmison's news letter. I therefore attach one or two papers which I hope you will be able to persuade Edmison to include in his next issue. As well as answers, the actual queries give some factual information on recruitment and on supplies, particularly the bit on supplies will I hope be re-assuring not only to the Welfare Officers but to the teams generally. I should be glad to know either from you or from Mr. Edmison whether this suggestion is welcome and whether he thinks it is a right use of the news letter. Until I hear, I shall continue to send out any material to you. Please give him my good wishes.

My very good wishes to Marjorie Bradford also, and she appears to have got side tracked on to an extraordinarily difficult subject. Do tell her to write if she can. Please tell her from me that the final report on the Special Needs of Women and Girls was extremely well received by the Committee and is now in the final stages of revision and issuance.

I hope that my letters reach you. You will be aware that we are in the midst of a major organizational upheaval on which I propose to say nothing except that we are attempting to carry on with the work in spite of difficulties.

I attach a copy of a most unhappy report which the Jewish Committee for Relief Abroad has kindly allowed us to have. Could you take this up as a matter of urgency, and if the Camp still exists, see that some better

11/023W
arrangements are made. I am sure you will agree that this kind of th
very deplorable. *he are trying to make it a higher quality*

ON LIFE
You will see points I have made about supplies in my note for Mr. Edmison's news letter. This question of clothes for Assembly Centres is extremely elusive. Major Brokenshire is here and assures us on every occasion that supplies are more than adequate. On the other hand, every letter from Welfare Officers maintains that the supplies just do not reach the Assembly Centres. Major Brokenshire then says that it is probably a matter of distribution and that the Army does not intend to send supplies to transit camps. I have to point out that many of the complaints come from camps that have been established with a static population of as much as six or eight weeks. I think it would need a very strong push from you to get the military conscience working on disgorging this material. It is difficult for us and for the Welfare Officers when we are not allowed to procure because the military say they have got the stuff and yet the evidence on the ground is that the D.P.'s are simply not receiving it.

I am sending a copy to you of extracts from letters which have been received from the field. I am sure you will have many more of them, but I thought my ammunition might be useful.

With best wishes to you and good luck,

Yours sincerely,

Anne Wood.

Miss Hansi Pollak,

UNGRIA,

G-5 SHAEF FORWARD,

F.P.O.,

B.L.S.

AM/THQ.

[Handwritten signature]

OUT FILE

WE 50/1/1

Dear Miss Follett, on my return to the office after my absence of 15th June, 1945, I should have been able to tell you about the various matters which we discussed 2 weeks ago.

I feel I should have written to you before this on the follow-up of the various matters which we discussed 2 weeks ago.

You have been well informed I think, both at your end and from here about the various plans for the Temporary care of Displaced adults and children that have been developing with different countries. Getting Welfare and Child Welfare personnel into the field for the top assignments has been very difficult to deal with, largely because, if appointments were to be made wisely, it was most desirable to combine the information available here with the knowledge of individuals acquired at Granville. We are proposing to leave increasing responsibility with the staff at Granville for recommending all assignments - they have as you know made some already - and we are trying to get someone of high competence to help in making the individual assessments there - Anne Wood, in the first instance, I very much hope.

Miss Chesters was cabled to last week to return at once for a senior Child Welfare post. We had intended her for a Zone assignment. I should be glad to know if you think there is some other post where in the first instance her experience is more urgently needed.

For the scheme with Switzerland, we shall shortly settle with Granville (with whom we now have a daily telephone call) who shall take the supervisory post in Switzerland and who will be Miss Kasser's UNRRA colleague in Germany.

I think a scheme in which UNRRA will have a close participation is developing in this country, whereby 1,000 unaccompanied children will be cared for by voluntary bodies. Someone from the Welfare

1/10/52 EW

-2-
OUT FILE

Division will attend the initial meeting on June 18th. In the selection of children for this scheme, I hope we may rely on the cooperation of UNRRA Child Welfare personnel at Zone and area levels, though if at any stage you think some special person should be given the job of cooperation on the U.K. Scheme at the German end, perhaps you would kindly let me know. At this end, as in the Swiss scheme which you so usefully discussed, we shall probably appoint someone to exercise supervision for UNRRA.

I understand you hope Miss Pearce will in due course get her assignment to the 12th Army Group Child Welfare post.

Yours sincerely,

G. M. AVES

Miss Hattie Pollak,
Supreme Headquarters
Allied Expeditionary Force
8-5 Division (PWS)
Displaced Persons Branch.

Copies to:

- Mr. Kettle (For information)
- Miss Zimmerman "
- Mr. Willis "
- Miss Wool "

✓
OUT FILE

WE50/1/1

~~Copy to K~~
12th June, 1945.

Dear Miss Pollak,

1. Miss Bielogurskas. Miss Bielogurskas asks me to say that she has seen Mr. Youngdahl who has told her that you were considering asking for her to assist you at SHAEF. She will be very delighted with this proposition and asks me to say that the sooner she is called for the better since there are other suggestions here for her future which she would not like so much as coming out to work with you.
2. Supplies for Children. Major Brokenshire has just come back from the Continent and tells us that a). the number of small children, i.e. 0-4 is less than had been anticipated and b) that SHAEF supplies either in stock or afloat are quite adequate to meet requirements. This he admits is absolutely in contradiction to the statement he brought back in April of this year. As a result SHAEF consider it unnecessary and undesirable for UNRRA to procure clothes for children 0-4, on the Brokenshire lists. You will see the line that we have taken with SHAEF on this matter, but in the meantime we need guidance from you as to whether a) you agree from the records that the numbers of children 0-4 are less than it had been anticipated and b. that their needs are in fact being met and if they are not being met (and all the evidence in letters etc. from Welfare Officers in Assembly Centres is that they are not), is it caused by lack of supplies or poor distribution, and if it is all a question of distribution I am sure that you could do much to expedite things from your end. We have recently had word from a Miss Dingle in one Assembly Centre and she has been there for quite a month I think, in which case there seems little excuse for her demands not being met. It is all a question of standard. It appears to me understandable that Welfare Officers' requests for goods which the military have promised us they have a sufficient stock of should not be met within say a fortnight of an officer's demands but it is not good enough when that demand is not met for a month. If, on the other hand, you consider that procurement is absolutely necessary, will you let us know with supporting evidence and we will come back to attack.
3. Screening of Supply Problems. We are taking up with Major Brokenshire here how supply demands are at present screening and I believe that it will be very useful for you to pursue the subject at your end also. It appears to me probably that demands from Welfare Officers are not getting routed along the right channels, perhaps because nobody has explained what the right channels are. It would appear to me from this end that the more you can lay your hands on Welfare Officers' cri-de-couers for supplies the more likely they are to get attended to. One is deeply sympathetic with the military's problems, but the situation is hard for the welfare officers in the field. We seem to hear so often that the welfare officers having put in a request, received no kind of reply for weeks on end and that seems to me indefensible. It is always easier to carry on if you have no help for a certain period - it is more difficult when you just hear nothing at all.

Good luck to you and very best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

Anne Wood.

INDEXED

Sir George Reid
WE 50/1/1

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-5 Division
Displaced Persons Branch

SHAEF/G-5/DP/ 2726/2

8 June 1945

SUBJECT: Welfare Matters Affecting UNRRA.

TO : Mr. Edmison, Chief UNRRA Liaison Officer.

I am enclosing herewith a letter to Mr. Kettle,
(Attn: Sir George Reid). I should be grateful to you,
if after perusal, you would kindly forward it to ~~Mr~~ Kettle.

H. P. Pollak

H. P. POLLAK
UNRRA Officer

g. r.

WE 50/1/1

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS
ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCE
G-5 Division (FWD)
Displaced Persons Branch.

SHAEF/G-5/DP/2726/2.

8 June 1945.

TO : Mr. Fletcher C. Kettle, UNRRA, ERO (Attn: Sir George Reid).

SUBJECT : Welfare Matters affecting UNRRA.

I. With regard to the matters you requested, I follow up, I herewith submit the following information:-

1. Agreement with French Government concerning care of Buchenwald Children.

WE 50/2 An agreement has been signed between SHAEF and the French Government which does not, however, make provision for UNRRA supervision of the care of these children nor for UNRRA accepting the responsibility for their repatriation and/or resettlement. This has been, by agreement, referred to the Intergovernmental Committee on Refugees.

It will consequently not be necessary to deploy Miss Pearce for negotiation and supervision of this project.

2. Child Welfare.

In view of the agreement with the Swedish Government, and the present proposals of the Don Suisse, it is imperative to get UNRRA child welfare experienced workers into the field as soon as possible. The essential requirement is that these workers have language qualifications in order to make it possible for them to work with the children.

Miss Maria Liebeskind (Polish) and Miss Odette Despeigne have been strongly recommended by Capt. Patterson and Mr. Fisher and are being held at Granville. As I left for Frankfurt I was unable to interview them but have approved their nominations.

In order to expedite matters Mr. Edmison is endeavouring to get clearance to have one assigned to Belsenbergen and the other also to the 21 Army Group, to be deployed in accordance with specific need.

Endeavours will be made by Mr. Edmison to have Miss Pearce assigned to the 12 Army Group, although this may take some little time.

3. Supplementary Registration Card.

WE 35/1 From information available at the moment, it would appear that there is practically no "unidentified child" problem. In Buchenwald Mr. Youngdahl advised that all of the Jewish children (including the unaccompanied ones) had been identified. In his opinion, while there might eventually be a few isolated cases, it was not anticipated that this would constitute a major problem. As soon as the proposed supplementary registration card and instructions are received from ERO, the matter will be taken up.

4. Location Unit.

Mr. Carter is shortly returning to ERO and will personally advise you of the progress made regarding the setting up of the Location Unit and its relationship to the National Training Bureau and International Red Cross.

5. Negotiations with Voluntary Societies.

WE 50/14
The present stage of development regarding the agreements reached with the British Red Cross and SHAEF has already been advised to ERO. The present anomalous situation is viewed with considerable misgiving and constitutes one of the most urgent UNRRA problems in this operation. (X)

WE 15/15
Mr. C. Ernst who was responsible for negotiations with voluntary societies, has now assumed a Field appointment. On the urgent request of Col. Schottland, who considered that an experienced UNRRA officer assume the duty of contacting and negotiating with voluntary societies regarding the content of their projects etc. the services of Miss M. Bradford were requested for this duty. She will be assisted by Miss C. Grant who will be responsible for all the administration work regarding the mobilisation, equipment and calling forward of voluntary society personnel.

It was the strong request of Col. Schottland that this function of liaison with voluntary societies be undertaken by one UNRRA officer, who will be mobile and able to move to Brussels, Frankfurt, Holland, where required. In this way agreements can be expedited, co-ordination of all voluntary societies projects ensured and active contact maintained with field requirements.

6. Deployment of Army Group and Area Welfare Officers.

The following welfare personnel has been deployed:-

WE 6/11
Mr. A.E. Braunbridge - 21 Army
Miss M. Rackstraw - 21 Army
Miss E. Blackey - 12 "
Mr. D.B. Woodlinger - 12 "
Miss S. Lally - 12 "
Miss O. Biggar - 12 "
Miss Grace Sewell - 12 "
Mr. Martin Sherry - 6 "

The decision whether the above will be assigned to Army Group or Area posts will be made by the military authorities in each Army Group.

H. P. POLLAK
UNRRA Officer.

(X) Dealt with Mr. Kettle
Travelling to SHAEF 16th June
has been informed of
position with above
SHAEF

File 50/1/1

Miss Aves

.. ~~knows~~

Ar Berger

To see

~~Aves~~

9/6

This Aves

can we take
action in this
Pollak's suggestion?

Can you discuss
with Kettle?

aw

Ar Berger. Can we get copies
taken? X

WF50/1/1

Lunna

G 5 ~~Staff~~ D.P. Division

Staff Main

4.P.O.

B.C.A.

2/6/45

1 hour 20 min
979

Wed. 6/6

Dear Sir George,

INDEXED

Just a hasty note to let you know the "high lights" of the position here.

Arrived at Versailles on Thursday afternoon & was immediately told I should be moving on to Frankfurt on Wednesday. Colonel Shattland is leaving on ~~Monday~~ Tuesday.

As I knew you were planning to come over very shortly I thought it most desirable that you see Col. Shattland before he leaves. I arranged for Mr. Edmison to let Mr. Kettle know this in his telephone conversation yesterday (1st.)

I sincerely hope it will be possible for you to come over before the whole Division moves on, for I feel convinced that there are several important decisions to be taken which it would be far simpler for you to evaluate on the spot.

I shall officially communicate with you when I have had a better chance of summing up the whole position. But I feel I must point out now that I do not think, in the position I am filling now, that it will be possible for me to be operationally responsible for the Lunna welfare programme. I am definitely on the Staff G 5 D.P. staff - seconded to Staff & for all practical purposes a member of the staff in the same way as any of the military personnel. (The Appendix of the weekly report from Mr. Edmison to Mr. Kettle dated 26 May 1945 makes the position quite clear) when I have had an opportunity of discussing the matter fully with Mr. Edmison Mr. Youngdall I shall communicate officially with you.

The important things I feel I must let you know right away are:-

1) Children from Buchenwald.

That has accepted the French Gov. offer for temporary asylum. Unkra is not party to the negotiations & in fact the French Gov. claimed Unkra had no jurisdiction in this matter but recognizes the I. G. F.

All of the Buchenwald children will be moved within the next few days & the total is under 500. Most of them were 15, 16, & 17 years old boys (only 35 under 14 & none below 8) all boys.

All of them (according to my information) have been identified & most of them are Polish, Hungarian & Rumanian Jews.

Please treat this as confidential until you are officially advised thereof (but I understand Mr. Riddle has been officially advised by Mr. Geyrigsdahl)

2) Total position regarding children.

No accurate statistics as yet.

2 samples conducted over several A.C.

showed 29% under 14 in one large area & 9% in another.

A working estimate is roughly 59% of the total population, though it is probably less.

What will "probably" remain the hard core will be \pm 450,000 Poles

250,000 stateless & non repatriables

on the 59% ^{estimate} this will probably mean about 50,000 children - but may be more.

Even allowing for considerable margin of error the total long term problem should not be above 100,000 children.

3) Miss Leane will NOT be required here to work on relationship of the children with French Gov. I do however, most strongly recommend either that she be made available for posting to Army Group as Child Consultant or that special children's team under her leadership be appointed & made

available to staff.

- 1) I feel the most important thing we can do is to get our personnel into the field - the Buchenwald position indicates how necessary this is. Urusa staff (spearhead team) arrived only 3 days ago. At this stage it is more essential to get welfare staff on to the job than anything else.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to make a visit possible before we all become even less accessible.

With kind regards,

sincerely yours,

Harri Pollak.

The other most important activity concerns the relationship to voluntary societies - matter is rather unsatisfactory but I shall not know definitely what has happened until Mr. Ernst returns from Brussels.

Discussions with BRCS have taken place in both Brussels & London. Possible result is that BRCS will accept principle of URMAT Coordination, but that existing teams will continue to work directly with Belgium while URMAT is ready to take over in the field.

Harri.

Confidential

WE 51/3

Extracts from Report
for period 8th - 14th May,
1945

ASSEMBLY CENTRES IN GERMANY

Field Reports of Chief UNRRA Liaison
Officer to SHAEP (G5)

A Report from Germany

The first report from an UNRRA team actually in D.P. operations in Germany was forwarded to the UNRRA Liaison Officer at 21 Army Group by Assembly Centre Director A. Duncan-Johnston. It reads:

"We were very kindly received and had dinner in the mess the first night, which is in a farm house, or what is left of it.

The team is under canvas, cheerful but damp and muddy. We have had four tents allocated to us, one of which we use as a mess and cook tent. The cook, who is the sort of man used to cooking in a restaurant with an army of kitchen porters to fetch and carry was very helpless at first and had to be shown everything, but I hope in time he will shake down. We have just acquired a Polish kitchen maid who has started to clean the mess in the kitchen tent. This is really at present more or less a transit camp and has about five to six hundred French, Russians, Poles, etc.

Between the outgoing detachment and the incoming we haven't really got down to it yet, but the team has already got to work. The lorries have been hard at it under the Det. Supply officer bringing in supplies, as we have to get everything more or less for the D.P. from the countryside. I think our lorries are most welcome as the Det. isn't too well off for transport. They were disappointed we didn't bring any stores with us such as clothing, etc. The outgoing Det. has an UNRRA doctor Stillman attached to it, a team of French nurses and a Friends' Ambulance Unit of twelve, all men, with six Soya stoves, 24 lamps hurricane and three Tilley lamps, 1 six ton lorry, two 15 cwt. and 2 ambulances. They are well found. And talking of that, I don't think that our four hurricane lamps are at all sufficient, although we can carry on all right at present with one to each tent.

I am typing this at the door of my tent with a strong wind blowing, which makes typing difficult, so please excuse bad typing. What a jolly good thing we won the battle of the typewriters, for I don't think you would have ever read my writing.

To return to the subject of camp work, Miss Barton is attached for duty to the Det. Welfare Officer, which will be a help to him as I don't think he has ever done any and she has been hard at it issuing blankets and clothing. Ellison is working with the Det. quartermaster and learning the ropes and where and how to get things. Miss Pirrie is attached to the Camp doctor, a Belgian. The two drivers are working with the Supply Officer. I am keeping an eye on things generally, liaison with the O.C. Det. and acting as interpreter where and when needed. We have a number of liaison officers attached and two public safety officers.

As the outgoing Det. had and has the help of the Friends team and the French women's team, our Det is going to feel the difference with only our small spearhead to help, especially when the rush starts. Therefore, I hope you will bring my team up to strength as soon as you possibly can, and I may say that our other two lorries B.6 and E.6 will be specially welcome, as we have to get everything from the country and the Det. is badly found in transport.

We can hear the guns away to the north very plainly and the sky is lit up at night by the ubiquitous searchlight batteries.

Now I must stop as I am cold and damp and muddy. Shaving in the open with cold water is an excellent hardening process with a biting wind blowing from the North Sea. The country is flooded in parts and everything is frightfully damp. Our people came through here with flame throwers and the trees are all stripped and lifeless."

This matter-of-fact human recital is clearly indicative that the predictions made at the Reading Training School and E.R.O are true and that UNRRA workers in the field have left ease and luxury well behind them.

ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRES IN GERMANYField Reports of Chief UNRRA Liaison
Officer to SHARP (G5)A. Field Reports1. 21 Army Group (Mr. Robert Schlee, UNRRA Liaison Officer)

Mr. H.J. O'Driscoll, Director of Team No. 5 states that his camp at Becholt had been intended as one for Easterners who would be there for some time, but these plans were changed and a transit camp for Westerners established. The 3000 Russians were evacuated and between 5 - 21 April some 1500 French, Belgians and Dutch passed through. He says - "Miss Kerwin, our welfare officer, established a school nursery and playroom for children... Miss Thorne our nurse, was particularly keen in looking after the health of the small children, and records of weight and diet charts were made, which have been forwarded to the new camp where these children have gone. Miss Kerwin has already begun to organise the Welfare Department at our present camp, where there are at present about 80 children. A site for a school has already been arranged, and it is proposed to establish an Arts and Crafts School... The health of the members of the team continues to be good. Beyond a few slight indispositions due to overwork, there has been no illness. All the members of the team without exception have worked unsparingly and well, and I am very proud to be Director of such a team. The members appreciate the honour of being the first UNRRA team to cross the Rhine, and the first to get to work in helping displaced persons".

The Proposed Neustraeten Base

Mr. Schlee has put in an advance party who are making an inventory of supplies on hand and are 'keeping the place warm' should it be necessary to supplement Granville or move from there. In addition he is having the Royal Engineers make a report on conditions. These preparations are all in keeping with the UNRRA policy to be ready for all eventualities after the unconditional German surrender.

Mr. A. C. Duncan-Johnstone of Team No. 6 reports, in part, as follows - "In this camp, at Haldern, concerts and shows are organised by the UNRRA Welfare Officer..... The UNRRA team has organised a kindergarten school, and a school for older children... I found there a happy band of children singing and sailing and obviously getting away from their past horrors... A tailor's shop has been started with 9 sewing machines and a quantity of cloth from Becholt, where they were making shirts for ex-P.O.W. who were surely in need of them.... A good clinic is in operation and a sick bay in process of being made..... A very well attended Mass was held on Sunday, the first any of them had been to for years, and it was very much appreciated. It was packed to overflowing, and was conducted by a German priest from Haldern with the consent and at the request of the D.P.'s....."

Mr. W. G. Cowley, Assistant to Mr. Schlee, has made an extended visit to the field and has made particular emphasis on the generally very satisfactory co-operative relations between UNRRA personnel and the military. Concerning one team, No. 11 (Mr. O. Jerusalem, Director) Mr. Cowley states..... "The camp at Rheine is a mixed one and Mr. Jerusalem has done a good job. The D.P.'s are billeted in badly damaged houses. They were

clean and orderly, especially the Poles and Yugoslavs.... Mr. Jerusalem, having a good knowledge of languages, was able to give his instructions to all direct, and the D.P.s appeared very contented and happy.... There is only one doctor, a Belgian, in this camp and he appears very overworked.... There is an urgent need for UNHRA doctors, if possible one who speaks German....." Mr. Cowley recommends that there should be a reserve of uniforms, stockings for ladies etc. which "should be held in various sizes at Area H.Q.s and sent to teams on request. Because of the nature of the camps and the dirty work entailed, the scale brought from the U.K. is inadequate and soon ruined. An issue of overalls or denim suits would be a great asset....."

Mr. Schlee is very much concerned over welfare supplies for assembly centres and expresses himself as follows:-

"This matter has now become an urgent necessity. It is urgentmost strongly that the Welfare Packs, the supply of which was initiated by me in London some 5 months ago, be sent out without delay. At present the unfortunate Welfare Officers have to make bricks without straw, which results in a lot of time being wasted when there is no time to waste. In addition to the welfare packs proposed, there is a very urgent demand for tools, especially cobbler's tools and material (soles and heels).

There is no cigarette ration for D.P.s. Supply difficulties probably prevent this at present, but this matter should be pressed at every opportunity. The provision of UNHRA cigarettes would do more to put UNHRA on the map as far as D.P.s are concerned than anything, and would greatly ease the problems of teams."

2. 6th Army Group (Mr. Charles McDonald, UNHRA Liaison Officer)

Mr. A.C.A. Van den Bogaert, Director of Team No. 1 has sent to Mr. McDonald a long and most informative report, extracts from which are as follows - "The D.P. Camp 18 is at Humberg and is for Soviet nationals only, the population now being about 8000. The Russians have been well organised through their own Liaison Officers....."

Food Supply

Three bakeries had been located, and put into operation with all D.P. Russian personnel, on a 24 hr. a day basis. Total production has been reached 2700 loaves per day, of about 6000 lbs. A local miller furnishes 300 kilos of flour each day, white and black flour alternatively. There is no yeast available, salt is short. Regular truck service has been established between bakeries, mills on D.P. Camp 18..... The D.P.s administer one central Commissary, three separate dining and kitchen facilities, special rations for children under seven, and patients.....

Water Supply

No running water is available, and immediate prospects for re-establishment of the regular facilities is dim.... However, U.S. Army engineers constructed a 3000 gallon water tank which is served by the attached M water detail, with their 1500 gallon water carrier, truck for drinking and cooking. An emergency water line was further constructed with pipe and fire hose within the camp, for washing and other requirements.....

Sanitation

Latrines have been built on the extensive squares of the caserne. Individual German Box Seats have been utilized and wood panelling for enclosures. Five foot depth of the compost trenches have been more or less adequate, observes Dr. Scott, in the cool weather we've had. Work on this continues ...

Health

Dr. Scott observes that the general health status of the D.P.s is as expected. On arrival they are generally undernourished, lack tone. Yet even in the short time of their stay to date, improvement can be noted. In spite of the minimal amount of food consumed, the amount of energy expended by most in work, is not straining. Facilities are not as yet available for a thorough physical examination of each. A dispensary with thirty beds has been established with four Russian doctors, D.P.s and an adequate staff of willing nurses aides. Since our arrival a real improvement in these facilities can be noted, particularly with the acquiring of two carloads of hospital equipment from a bombed RR junction.

Epidemic Disease: One definite case of typhus, three probables have been discovered. The whole population has been dusted with DDT and repowdering has again begun.

A quarantine has been established on the building suspected of being the origin of the typhus cases. A requisition has been submitted to the U.S. Army GMC for Typhus Vaccine, which will be used should the situation become more serious.

A number of active TB cases have been discovered, though without S-Ray or other diagnostic equipment, an exact determination of TB incidence amongst the population is not known. The hospitalization of TB patients must be met.

V.D. is present in the camp.

The children are generally malnourished, several rachitics being observed.

Minor cases are treated at the camp hospital, the more serious being sent to German Government Hospitals. In this area no facilities have been found for treatment of VD and TB...

Leisure-time Activity

The Russian Command has been very appreciative of the need for leisure-time and recreational activity as well as co-ed activity. The unmarried males and females are being separated as far as living accommodations upon the arrival of the Russians. Twice a week, evenings, a mass activity programme is held, organized and produced by the D.P.s. A high Community Hall is being constructed. Sports for the men is a developing activity with reconstruction of the playing fields. Informal strolling of groups of friends along the streets at evening time make this Soviet city a happy looking place ...

Further Observations

The staff of UNRRA Team One have had the opportunity at regular daily conferences, and many informal chats to pool information, exchange ideas, to be fully informed, and in order to get the job done. This reports represents a synthesis of the thinking of our team officers and myself. Administrative Officer Faithful, Welfare Officer Warach, Medical Officer Scott and Nurse Mansbridge have performed well ...

Recommendations

UNRRA personnel should be fully prepared to do whatever is required regardless of classification.

Personnel with knowledge of languages are far more effective. German

-4-

being the "lingua franca" should be concentrated upon. Slavic-English interpreters are difficult to procure. French too is valuable

Personal PX type of supplies, such as cigarettes, razor blades and the like are extremely scarce. If a ration of five cigarettes per day could somehow be secured, they would be very useful forms of gratuity for work performed - over and above food and shelter.

UNRRA teams in the field should be kept thoroughly informed through regular channels of SHAEF directives on the subject of nationalities, status, and other matters on the status of Displaced Persons and ex P.W.s allied, and Italian".

Mr. Van den Bogaert concludes in this enthusiastic way - "We are all very happy and full of really worth-while work, and I take this opportunity of informing you that I and all my staff are receiving the fullest cooperation and assistance from every single person in the Allied Forces, be they officers or E.M. and regardless of their grade or function. Indeed their assistance is sometimes embarrassing.

Mr. McDonald is arranging a meeting of all his team directors on Sunday 13th May, at which mutual problems will be aired. Mr. Edmison has accepted an invitation to address this group on this occasion and enter into the discussions.

3. 12th Army Group (Mr. Vernon Kennedy, UNRRA Liaison Officer)

Mr. Kennedy writes in as follows - "Referring to Section H of your Report No. 9, entitled "Conflicting Views on UNRRA Spearhead Teams", to keep the record straight, there is no conflict. I most emphatically state that I am in complete agreement with Messrs. Schlee and McDonald that full UNRRA teams are preferable to spearhead teams. The old saying "A good big man is better than a good little man" is and always has been true. However, in view of the enormity of the problem of immediately doing something for the displaced persons and the small number of UNRRA personnel at present available, I feel that it is far better to have small teams in many centres than large teams in fewer centres. Therefore, as a matter of expediency and expediency only, I am advocating that we get as many UNRRA personnel in the field as soon as possible and cover as many camps as possible, even to the extent of having, if necessary, only one UNRRA officer in some of the camps. I believe it is our duty to have the maximum possible coverage of the camps and until such time as we have sufficient personnel to staff the centres with full teams, we should cover as many centres as we can with the personnel we can make available. So that others will understand my position, I request that this letter be published in your next report".

Mr. Paul J. Koussan, Director of UNRRA team No. 15, reports in part as follows - "Our two UNRRA teams, 14 and 15 were divided into four, 14-a and 14-b and 15-a and 15-b. We were deployed to D.P. camps, all in approximately the same general area, perhaps not over forty or fifty miles apart ... Dr. Rycklowski, Miss Perillieux (nurse) and I started almost operation. We made a thorough inspection. We found that there are about 16,000 D.P.s here. Living conditions are rather bad. Sanitation is horrid. Of the 16,000, about 5,300 are Italians, 9,000 Russians. These two groups, we are told, are likely to be permanent guests because there is no shipping East of the Rhine. The remaining 1,700 are composed of Poles, Czechs, Yugoslavs, Belgians, French and Dutch. There is very little illness among the group The new Captain has a large force of officers and men under his command, and as a result of a conference with him this morning, we, UNRRA, except for our doctor, are simply to observe - "lay low" as he put it. He has given Dr. Rycklowski charge of the infirmary. There he may use Madeline Perillieux if he wishes.

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Extracts from Report for
Period 22nd April - 26th
April, 1945

ASSEMBLY CENTRES IN GERMANY

Field Reports of Chief UNRRA Liaison
Officer to SHAEF (G5)

Travel Notes of Mr. J.A. Edmison

The Senior UNRRA Officer took a trip to the field 22 - 27 April inclusive, and hereunder are his memoranda. The six D.P. camps he visited were all under the jurisdiction of the 12th Army Group. He was joined by Mr. Vernon Kennedy, UNRRA Liaison Officer, 12th Army Group, in Germany on 23rd April, and the two made the subsequent inspections jointly.

Sunday, 22 April 1945

Talks with G-5 Personnel

At Headquarters 12th U.S. Army Group I had very satisfactory interviews with General Ryan, Colonel Page and Lt.-Colonel Brewer, of G-5. They expressed themselves as being pleased with the UNRRA teams now working in their jurisdiction, and made a strong plea for more of our personnel. "We will take full UNRRA teams - spearhead UNRRA teams and UNRRA individuals - with or without transport and even without full personal equipment - we want your UNRRA people - and we want them quickly" - such was the joint manifesto of the three key G-5 officers in the Army Group which has uncovered over 60% of all the displaced persons so far dealt with. They are fully aware of the supply difficulties which have hindered the UNRRA project in the past. It is clear that they consider a higher priority should be accorded us. (I reflected afterwards that, if all officialdom were as understanding as these three officers, the 63 tons of vital UNRRA supplies which since 29th March have been collecting dust at an embarkation port would have long since been in stricken humanity's service!)

Four UNRRA Trucks

This afternoon I passed four UNRRA trucks on the road and waved to the occupants. One might logically comment - "Why mention it? You passed or saw hundreds of other and finer trucks on that historic highway through the Argonne - so why make emphasis on these four?" I do so because I can picture all too vividly what has gone before ... the Conference at Atlantic City and Montreal - the endless desk work in Washington and London - innumerable interviews on supply problems, priority, personnel matters etc. etc. etc. those zealous lectures at the Reading Training School - the often exasperating waiting period in the United Kingdom - the final call-up - the feverish search for equipment and kit - the delays of processing and clearing of passports - the train and boat journeys - Paris, with or without smooth reception arrangements - Granville - the arrangement of teams - the great and perplexing problem of first obtaining vehicles and then of conditioning them - the excitement of the final departure day - "We're going to the 12th Army Group" - Good-bye to Mr. Paterson and Mr. Forster and their hard-working staff - the ruts and bumps of a crowded war-ravaged road system. And on their second day of travel and within a few hours of taking up the most strenuous social welfare campaign of all time I see these UNRRA team members in their transport nearing Germany and its victims. Hence, I have no apology to make for reflecting on those four trucks and on their significance!

H.Q. 15th Army

Through the lovely Duchy of Luxembourg into the land of the Nazis - and of the displaced persons. Long interview with Captain Lucas of G-5, 15th Army, who is very satisfied with the UNRRA teams he now has, but again and again pleaded for more of them - and soon. He confirmed Mr. Kennedy's opinion that there should be an UNRRA representative at his Headquarters.

UNRRA Team No. 62

Was pleased to meet this team as they were passing through their station. The Director, Mr. J. Franck is a Frenchman (the 1st French UNRRA team director I have met personally) - and he struck me as being most keen and efficient. His team members were in good spirits and anxious to get down to work.

Duisdorf No. 1

This is more than a D.P. camp - it is a thriving team of 10,000 people, mainly Western Europe. Here UNRRA team No. 43 (MMLA) is in operation and the Director, Miss Haour, is one of the busiest individuals I have met in a long time. I watched her in charge of "dusting" activities, then saw her supervise the departure of 20 French repatriates, and as I left she was giving the luncheon preparations a looking over. This is basically a transit camp. The UNRRA truck was busily engaged in drawing supplies and in transporting displaced persons. Miss Haour is very enthused about UNRRA and after observing her in action I should say that the admiration is mutual. The camp is located in a German barracks. The D.P.'s seemed very happy and songs I heard in several languages. The Dutch have taken over kitchen duties to the seeming satisfaction of all concerned. Before my departure I dropped into the chapel where a French D.P. was playing the organ - and in the strains lingered with me as I passed out from scenes which even Handel's imagination could not have envisaged.

Alsdorf

Here Mr. Primrose (Team No. 33) is the UNRRA director in charge. Some 1600 Poles and Italians are housed in four camps in the immediate area, mainly in German homes from which the occupants had fled. A school has been started with 61 children in attendance. Books, chalk, slates, pencils, etc. are sorely needed. Sanitation is good, as most of the houses have flush toilets, which army plumbers have repaired. I was present when large rolls of requisitioned German silk were brought in and a fair quantity of men's new clothing. Since this camp colony is presumably going to be a static one for some time, Mr. Primrose is keen to obtain cobblers' and carpenters' tools, gardening implements, vegetable seeds, and also sewing machines and knitting needles. He feels that a duplicator for a camp newspaper would also be very useful. There has been no tobacco issue from German stocks and Mr. Primrose said that such supplies would greatly aid camp morale. In this particular camp the woman cook the meals in the individual houses, and there are consequently home life touches not generally met with elsewhere in D.P. circles.

Brand

It is no exaggeration to say that at this camp the UNRRA Director, Mr. Westerman, has done a truly monumental job with his team, No. 4. They serve the needs of 11,000 displaced persons (10,000 Russians, 400 Italians, 350 Poles, 100 Yugoslavs and miscellaneous, including one Chinaman) - who are living in a German barracks. Here, Mr. Westerman's knowledge of the Russian language is of great utility. ("Without Mr. Westerman I would go crazy", the Camp Commandant said to me). Much work has been done to improve sanitation, which had previously been deplorable. The well-organised hospital has 170 bed patients and the UNRRA doctor is in charge of the outpatient department. There are 275 children under the age of 14 years and a school has been started, with a staff of 30 teachers recruited from among the displaced persons. A Day Nursery was also set up this week, and its quarters, like those of the school, are situated outside the camp.

grounds. Here the little children are served special meals. There is a vital need for school equipment of all sorts and at the present time the teaching library consists of 5 books which Mr. Westerman brought out from London. Recreational material of all kinds is badly needed - adult books, musical instruments, artists' paints, soccer balls, etc. - anything to help lift the boredom of life for 11000 displaced persons whose prospect of repatriation is not in the immediate future.

Euskirchen

I was privileged to spend the night of 24th April and the next morning at this camp, where Mr. McGonigal and his UNRRA team No. 8 work literally on a 24-hour day. When I arrived the population was 400 Russians - but during the night 235 more moved in and arrangements are being made for a total of 6000 in the next few days or weeks. It was interesting for me to watch the advent of the 235 - but not so interesting for Mr. McGonigal and staff as they had been warned to expect 24 only. They piled out of trucks and as a boy performed on a mouth organ they unloaded huge quantities of mattresses, bed clothing, beds, sewing machines, baby carriages, suitcases - and of course, babies. They quickly lined up on the parade ground where once had strutted Hitler's Panzer Grenadiers (this camp is also located in a barracks) and in short order were placed for the night. In the morning the UNRRA doctor commenced their 'dusting' and the UNRRA welfare worker their registration. Mr. Weiss, the UNRRA supply officer at this camp speaks Russian and in consequence his presence at this spot is indeed fortunate. Mr. McGonigal and Miss Biggar, the Welfare Officer, hope to organize a school and a day nursery - but are faced with a total lack of elementary supplies for these important purposes.

Wednesday, 25 April

Bitburg

A split UNRRA team - 14b is here under the direction of Mr. Maurice Forget who, along with a nurse, a welfare officer and a driver, is servicing the population of 1700 Poles. It is fortunate that this camp is shortly to move from these badly bombed German barracks as there is no running water (it is brought in by truck) and no electricity. There are 375 children under the age of 14 years and 450 women, 47 of whom are pregnant. The sanitation was bad here until the advent of an Engineering Unit. A school has been started with Polish D.P. teachers in attendance. The Polish Red Cross have supplied school books. German civilian doctors are in attendance every day and a German R.C. priest conducts services on Sunday. Last week 600 Polish men left this camp to guard prisoners in France, where they ~~have~~ are to be paid 9000 francs per month. There are 25 T.B. patients in segregation. The UNRRA staff are forced to live in a house over half a mile from the camp because of the lack of accommodation. I saw the new location outside Trier to which removal is planned next week, and it is more advantageous in every respect.

Trier

Mr. Edwards with his team No. 19 is in charge of UNRRA operations among the 9000 displaced persons in this German barracks (3000 Russians, 5000 Italians and miscellaneous). There are 7614 men, 986 women and 180 children. A school is just being started by the UNRRA welfare officer and supplies are sorely needed. There has been no registration yet - because while the cards are here there is no ink or pens. There are no lights and water is supplied at five points by military tanks. The U.S. Red Cross has given clothing items. The two UNRRA drivers and their trucks are kept very busy drawing supplies. Plentiful medical stores from captured German stocks. Concerts are held every evening.

General Observations

After such a tour of 939 miles one carries away impressions which may be in the long run more useful than any fleeting notes hastily scribbled on the spot. It is one thing to do D.P. work behind a desk by pen and by telephone. It is quite another to meet the problems face to face and I recommend that all UNRRA personnel at SHAEF do a term of duty in a camp, which even for a two week period would be of inestimable value to all aspects of their future UNRRA work.

Words are inadequate for me to express my admiration for the UNRRA members I saw in the field. They work under the most trying conditions and under most primitive living arrangements. Hot water is a luxury and sanitation facilities are most elementary. Their hours of sleep are most irregular, as displaced persons may be transported in on them at all hours of the night. Days off are unknown to them. Most I talked with had never set foot outside the camp since arrival, and even if they did have time for a walk, strolling in an enemy country has its limitations. Complete isolation is their lot - yet never a complaint did I receive. Their utter devotion to their work and to UNRRA objectives is what carries them along.

It should be recognized that at the present stage UNRRA teams are working the camps jointly with military personnel. In the six camps I visited the mutual help and cooperation was marked. The camp commandants were uniformly high in their praise and made such remarks as "We couldn't do without UNRRA now" - "We get along famously" - and "Those UNRRA folk sure are first class workers". A very important feature is that with the rapidly changing military picture these combat units are never long in one camp - often not for more than a few days. (I understand that 11 changes of commandant were made in 10 days in one camp). Consequently UNRRA personnel provide the only management continuity and incoming officers rely greatly on their counsel and knowledge of local conditions. This was impressed on me everywhere and is an aspect which should receive serious study. It is partly for this reason that Mr. Kennedy and the G-5 officers at the 12th Army Group are urging that we send as few as two UNRRA members to as many camps as possible so that continuity of policy can be maintained. (These of course to be reinforced at a later date by more UNRRA personnel).

I was rather agreeably surprised to note that the displaced persons I saw were generally fairly well personally equipped. They usually brought blankets and often mattresses with them and sometimes even beds. For those lacking in blankets the camps had a store of German military issue. Their clothing was adequate for this time of year, but cold weather will bring its problems. There is a boot shortage and leather and cobblers' tools are badly needed. The need of growing children for clothing is obvious, and no stores of such were observed.

The food situation is not as bad as I had feared. German steam kitchens are everywhere used and there is no lack of trained cooks among the displaced persons. Milk is only provided for children and expectant mothers. The general practice is for the UNRRA supply officer to inform the Commandant what is required and the latter obtains either military stores or requisitions from the Germans. (For instance, in one area a huge German store of potatoes had been uncovered). Bread is being baked at some of the camps.

Generally, the sleeping conditions are overcrowded, frequently 15 - 20 persons in a medium sized room. This is a problem which all concerned are working to overcome. The acquisition of army tents would help considerably in the larger camps. The segregation is by nationalities, special provisions are made to keep family groups together.

The displaced persons I saw were surprisingly happy under the circumstances. On all sides you would hear songs and see folk dancing. They put on plays and concerts and variety shows despite pitiful lack of facilities. An influx of books and recreational equipment would help greatly to maintain morale. Regular tobacco issue would be of untold value. If UNRRA welfare officers had the necessary supplies they could contribute even more to the D.P. operation - and the job they are doing now without such material assistance is a splendid one.

It is abundantly manifest to me that we should do everything possible to relieve the isolation of the UNRRA workers in the field. They are very anxious to learn of the experiences of other teams and an UNRRA field news sheet for general distribution among them is indicated. Delivery of mail has been slow and in some cases non-existent. The UNRRA Liaison Officers at all formations are being asked to explore all means of expediting delivery. Furthermore all teams should be visited at regular intervals by the appropriate UNRRA Liaison Officers or their representatives.

Confidential

W.E. 58/3

Extracts from Report
for period 15th - 21st
April, 1945

ASSEMBLY CENTRES IN GERMANY

Field Reports of Chief UNRRA Liaison
Officer to SHAEF (G5)

Report of UNRRA Liaison Officer 12 Army Group

Mr. Vernon Kennedy has sent a very interesting narrative report of a five day trip through Third Army territory, from which the following are pertinent extracts:

"One of the most interesting observations of the whole trip is that people are now trekking Eastward. We stopped a great number of trekking parties and found that a large percentage of them were homeless Germans. Among the groups trekking Eastward were Poles and Russians, following American Armies figuring that that was the direction of their homeland."

"Went from Lengenau to the displaced persons camp at Trier. They have some 9550 displaced persons under the command of Captain Amsterdam. The composition of the displaced persons at the time I visited the camp was 5,000 Italians, 2,500 Russians, 513 Poles and the balance mixed. The great difficulty that this camp was experiencing was the lack of water. The water system of Trier was knocked out at the time of the capture of the town and will take some time to be put into operation. The camp is at the top of a high hill outside the city limits and the water has to be brought up in trucks. It is extremely difficult to ration water. The result is that some of the displaced persons get up to five gallons a day while others get none. While they have some cases of illness, Captain Amsterdam was fearful of maintaining sanitation and preventing widespread disease in the camp."

"Arrived Frankfurt 1000 hours and met Major Schafer, Captain Davis and Colonel Lindley. Captain Davis said that two UNRRA teams had arrived several days before and that he had divided them in half, establishing teams 14-A and B and 15-A and B, and had put each new team in charge of a center. (Thomas, 14-A at the camp at Wittlich; Koughan, 15-A, at Trier. Forget, 14-B, at Bithorg; and Dent, 15-B at Lebach). Major Schafer stressed the need for more UNRRA personnel immediately. He said that he was not particularly interested in teams as he could give them the drill and they would develop very quickly under actual operating conditions if they had any sort of common sense, background and general experience. Spent the balance of the day with Captain Davis, visiting several displaced persons centres at Frankfurt, Mainz and Wiesbaden. The camp at Wiesbaden was particularly interesting. It is a camp with some 12,000 displaced persons of all nationalities and was administered by Lt. Butler and a Sergeant. All work was done by displaced persons who assumed administrative responsibility, and the camp was apparently run on a very efficient basis. The quarters were clean and the dining rooms were clean and orderly. The population of the camp at the time I visited it was 12,130 and of the following national compositions: Russians - 6,200, Poles - 2,500, French, 2,200, Belgians - 250, Dutch - 180, Italians - 700, and others - 100."

"As Captain Davis had to make a trip forward, I decided to accompany him and study displaced persons problems closer to the front and closer to actual time of liberation. Left Frankfurt at 900 hours. Stopped at a number of camps en route, most of which were occupied by small numbers of displaced persons without any military or outside supervision. They apparently were living off the country and were getting along all right. Arrived at Hersfeld at 1500 hours and met Major Heath who is in charge of displaced persons work in that area. Visited several displaced persons

camps there that were almost void of people as they had moved out some 8,000 that morning. This town being Army Headquarters, they were clearing the town of all displaced persons. That evening, I met a young Dutch doctor and his wife, who is a nurse. They were displaced persons and came to the office to volunteer their services. Captain Davis suggested that they go the next day to Wiesbaden and that he would do what he could to see that they were put on a salary basis. We checked with Captain W. Mommersteeg, the Dutch liaison officer with the Third Army, and he said that he thought they were in all respects honest and trustworthy people".

"Left Hersfeld at 900 hours and went to Eisenach. There are some seven or eight displaced persons camps in or around Eisenach with around 50,000 displaced persons. We visited a Russian camp in charge of a French MMLA Sergeant. They had no guards at the camp and only food sufficient for a bowl of soup that day. There was considerable illness and no medical staff. The Sergeant said that she was in touch with the military government and hoped to have relief. From Eisenach we went to Gotha and talked with G-5 of the 20th Corps. They described a number of displaced persons camps in and around the area, most of them without military supervision. From Gotha we went to Ohrdruf where they had had a concentration camp for Russians. Upon the entry of the American troops several days before the Germans had brought all the inmates of the camp out to the square in the centre of the camp and had killed them. Some of them were beaten to death, some were shot. The sight was so horrible that it hardly seemed real, with bodies crumpled where they had fallen all over the square. Two of the former guards, for some reason or other, had returned to the town that morning dressed in civilian clothes and were redognized by the Russians. What happened to the guards is best left undescribed.

From Ohrdruf we went to Meninger, headquarters for 12th Army Corps. They have several displaced persons camps in and around there, including a large one for about 3000, in the centre of town. The camp is being managed by an MMLA team of three people. The camp was orderly and conditions seemed to be good."

"Went to the camp at Wittlich. This camp has just been taken over by the 15th Army and is under the command of Captain Comulata with Lt. Skuldt as his executive officer. The UNRRA team is Wm. Thomas and Oskar Metel. Lt. Skuldt has the highest praise for the work of UNRRA and was apparently giving them complete freedom in the operation of the camp. Thomas said that they found conditions very bad when they came but had succeeded in organising the displaced persons into administrative and work details and that things were progressing satisfactorily. One of the problems incurred was keeping the children from playing with handgrenades. Lt. Skuldt said that they had removed several tons of live ammunition the day before and were getting a mine detector detail in to go through the basements of the barracks.

From Wittlich went to Trier and talked with Koughan who is in charge of the UNRRA team at that centre. The camp was under the command of Captain Corstin who had replaced Captain Amsterdam when the administration of the camp changed from Third Army to 15th Army. Captain Corstin had assumed active command of the camp and Koughan was acting more in a consulting capacity, although Koughan told me that prior to Captain Corstin's coming, Captain Amsterdam had turned the entire operation of the camp over to him. Koughan was satisfied with the results considering conditions, but was very much afraid of the health problem as they were still unable to get water in satisfactory quantities.

The seriousness of the problem of caring for displaced persons cannot be overemphasised. There are literally thousands of displaced persons camps scattered throughout conquered territory containing from a few dozen to several thousand displaced persons. The majority of the camps are not under supervision of any kind. So far, they are doing fairly well considering conditions. However, the problem of health is paramount and as people continue to live in the camps and as the population of the camps grows, the danger of epidemic increases. Second in importance is the matter of security. People living

in these camps are going to get food and provisions where they find them. It is vitally necessary that someone be in charge of the camps and that some of the camps that are unfit for habitation should be destroyed. The military are doing a marvellous job, but they lack personnel to cope with the situation."

"UNRRA's Role. There is a need for people to assist the military in coping with the situation. The need is for personnel rather than teams. Personnel should be gotten to the aid of the military as quickly as possible. They can be formed into small groups on the spot. A half-day's drill will permit them to take over and operate a camp and establish some sort of order and system. The displaced persons themselves are perfectly capable of doing all the work. All they lack is direction and someone to get them essential supplies. After talking with UNRRA people who have had some experience in the field and after talking with the military, and from my own observations, I believe that the UNRRA programme should be streamlined. There are a few fundamentals that must be understood by all UNRRA personnel coming into the field.

1. How to organize a camp. How to pick leaders and establish work details.
2. Sanitation. How to dig a pit latrine. How to accomplish sanitation with the minimum equipment and with a very minimum of water.
3. How to get along with the military. What are military channels and how do we ask for help from the military.
4. How to train teams of dusters. All UNRRA personnel should have actual dusting experience.

Simple directives and some drills on the above, coupled with common sense, will permit UNRRA to function efficiently and advantageously and to establish a reputation for itself, in addition to being of extreme service at a very critical time. The UNRRA team, regardless of size, has the following duties to perform: leadership, medical and sanitation, clerical and supply. Several of these duties may be assumed by an individual. I was impressed by the qualities of a number of displaced persons that I met who had assumed administrative responsibility in the camps. I believe arrangements should be made immediately to incorporate a certain number of outstanding displaced persons, who are willing to temporarily waive repatriation in order to work on this programme, into the UNRRA teams. This could be done by UNRRA taking them on its payroll or by the Army taking them on its payroll and assigning them to UNRRA. These displaced persons should be trained as part of the administrative staff and until they can be uniformed, they should be given distinctive armbands to identify them as administration, and to give them prestige in the camps. Coloured armbands are recommended for various camp functions such as security, sanitation, medical, etc. Sending cooks on UNRRA teams should be discontinued immediately as there is no opportunity for a cook for an administrative group to function as such. The administrative group will find itself messing with an Army unit or if it has its own mess, it will probably depend on displaced persons who will be glad to work in the mess. Furthermore, it will probably find that most of the food is Army rations and the sole task is opening cans and heating the contents. Also the UNRRA drivers, I believe, should be of much higher calibre, capable of assuming administrative or clerical functions. There is a minimum need for transport in the field and the actual daily time spent driving a vehicle is negligible. It would be advisable to hire drivers who have more knowledge of English as they could then be used as couriers and perform administrative duties that require a knowledge of English. It is vitally necessary that UNRRA teams be instructed in the keeping of a daily log in addition to daily statistical reports."